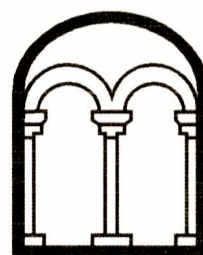


**SHORTSTOWN LOWER SCHOOL  
CANBERRA ROAD  
SHORTSTOWN  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**SHORTSTOWN LOWER SCHOOL  
CANBERRA ROAD  
SHORTSTOWN  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING**

Project: ST2343  
Document: 2014/28  
Version 1.1

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Ben Carroll, Christiane Meckseper, Jackie Wells	Gary Edmondson	Drew Shotliff

28th February 2014

Prepared for:  
CgMs Consulting Ltd



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## Preface

*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 document has been prepared by Benjamin Carroll (Project Supervisor), Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer), Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) and Gary Edmondson (Project Manager) and approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

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## Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	27th February 2014	n/a
1.1	28th February 2014	<i>Revised following comments from Myk Flitcroft</i>

## Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the project, describing the site's location, its archaeological background and the aims of the archaeological work. Section 2 describes the trial trenching methodology and Section 3 summarises the results of the evaluation. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 (Section 5) contains trench summary information and detailed contextual data.

## Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
AO	Archaeological Officer for Bedford Borough Council
BBC	Bedford Borough Council
Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority - Bedford Borough Council
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Kier Homes Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching at the site of the former Lower School in Shortstown. This was to fulfil the initial requirement of Condition 9 attached to the granting of planning permission by Bedford Borough Council (12/02512/MAF) for residential development of the site. The rectangular site, aligned NW-SE, is at the western margin of the settlement, off Canberra Road, centred on grid reference SP (5)0685 (2)4683.*

*The site is situated towards the western margin of a ridge, with the ground sloping down from c. 40m OD, to the west and south, as well as northwards into the valley of the Elstow Brook and River Great Ouse beyond. Within the site, the ground slopes gently down to the south, though modern surfaces associated with the school mask the original slope of the ground compared to the arable field immediately to the west.*

*At the time of the evaluation in mid January 2014, the site was still occupied by the main school building with surrounding surfaces and play area and a grassed playing field further to the north. Temporary structures situated immediately north of the school had been removed, though the associated base and conduits remained.*

*Landscaping and construction works associated with the school had the greatest impact in the southern part of the site, though even the northern part of the site had been impacted by landscaping. Below these deposits the former arable cultivation soil was revealed in the northern and western parts of the site, though no trace of medieval cultivation furrows were revealed, suggesting that recent farming had removed any trace of these features. A series of ditches and smaller gullies were identified in Trenches 2 and 5 to the north and west respectively of the main school building.*

*At least two phases of ditches were identified in Trench 5, west of the school, with a small assemblage of pottery indicating an early Iron Age date for this activity. Although the associated finds assemblage was small, it may indicate a focus of activity in the general vicinity.*

*Further north, the shallower gullies were undated, although they appear to correlate with vegetation marks visible in the playing field area. Further vegetation marks immediately south of Trench 2 were investigated by an extension to the trench. It was considered possible that these might have been a continuation of a prehistoric trackway, investigated previously further to the east. However, the features were found to correlate with changes in the geological strata, which probably led to differential vegetation growth.*

*In summary, the investigation revealed a small number of archaeological features to the north and west of the main school building. Those to the west of the school appear to date to the early Iron Age and define a series of enclosures. Some of the features to the north of the school appear to correlate with vegetation marks. Although truncated by medieval and later cultivation, these features have at least local significance, given the findings from the nearby site at the former RAF Cardington, further to the east.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

A planning application (12/02512/MAF) submitted to Bedford Borough Council for residential development of the former Lower School site in Shortstown has been approved, with one of the conditions (Number 9) relating to archaeology. This is detailed in the Scheme for Archaeological Trial Trenching (CgMs 2014), indicating that no development shall take place until an archaeological strategy for evaluation and if necessary, a further mitigation strategy based on the outcome of the evaluation, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the trial trenching in accordance with the approved CgMs Consulting Ltd scheme and trenching strategy, which had been agreed with the Archaeological Officer (AO) of Bedford Borough Council (BBC). This report presents the results of the trial trenching.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The site is located on the west side of Canberra Road, at the western margin of Shortstown. The rectangular parcel of land extends some 180m NW-SE by 60m, covering an area of 1.17ha, centred on OS grid ref TL (5)0685 (2)4683 (Figure 1). Shortstown is located approximately 3.5 km from the centre of Bedford, situated immediately to the south of the valleys of the Elstow Brook and River Great Ouse beyond. The site is immediately south of the elongated linear hamlet of Harrowden, which is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. In contrast, Shortstown is an early 20th-century creation.

The site is bordered to the east by the residential development of Canberra Road, with the other three sides extending into the adjacent arable field. Situated to the south of the Elstow Brook, and the River Great Ouse beyond, the site occupies the crest of a roughly E-W aligned ridge — the ground falling to the north, west and south. Within the site, the ground slopes down gently to the south, from *c.* 40m OD in the north to 39m OD in the south, though modern surfaces associated with the school (Figure 1 – solid grey areas) mask the original slope of the ground compared to the adjacent field. Temporary structures situated immediately north of the school had been removed, though the associated base and conduits remained (Figure 1 – grey hatched area).

Sheet 203 of the British Geological Survey indicates that the superficial geology of the area adjacent to the southern edge of the river valley is mostly composed of an extensive band of terrace deposits of the Stoke Goldington Member of the Ouse Valley Formation, extending NE-SW across the area. The site is situated towards the western margin of a band of sand and gravel of uncertain age, which forms the western part of the elevated ridge. These deposits overlie the Peterborough Member of the Oxford Clay Formation, which comprises brownish-grey organic rich mudstones.



### 1.3 **Archaeological Background**

A search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) of Bedford Borough Council identified a large number of heritage assets in the area. A large proportion of these relate to the hamlet of Harrowden, situated immediately to the north, principally its post-medieval settlement. Another cluster of HER sites to the east relates to the 20th-century settlement of Shortstown and the adjacent site of the former RAF Cardington. The only recorded heritage asset within the site is the school (HER 11921), built in 1957, with few other sites in close proximity. However, other HER sites do give an indication of the past landscape. The area has evidence of activity dating from the prehistoric period, with the continuation of the gravel ridge further east in RAF Cardington being utilised as a routeway from the Iron Age, with associated enclosure systems extending onto the heavier clay soils in the later Iron Age and Roman periods (Albion 2012). Iron Age and Saxon burials of regional and national significance were also present at this site.

The Ouse valley has been a focus of human activity from the prehistoric period onwards, with the gravel soils being relatively easy to cultivate. The area was a focus of ritual and funerary activity, with the Cardington causeway enclosure some 3km to the NE, while burial monuments, principally barrows are present in the Ouse valley as well as its tributary the Elstow Brook. The area was used for settlement, with the gravels favoured from the Neolithic to middle Iron Age in particular. To the NW of the site, a linear band of cropmarks (HER16642) define trackways and enclosures adjacent to the Elstow Brook; the forms suggest a prehistoric date. The routes of roughly N-S Roman roads are postulated in the vicinity — (HER 10476) to the west and (HER 10480), a short distance to the east. Elements of the medieval landscape comprise the site of Harrowden windmill (HER 3198), which is recorded in a document, though its exact location is unknown. It does, however, give its name to this area — Windmill Hill or Field.

Recent aerial images of the site show a series of vegetation marks in the grassed playing field area in the north of the site, comprising both linear and curvilinear bands of differential growth (Figure 2 – pecked grey lines). These are not recorded on the HER and do not appear to be the result of activities associated with the school.

### 1.4 **Historical Maps**

The Parish Survey contains transcriptions of several significant post-medieval maps, which provide an insight into the transition from the influence of the medieval open field to the creation of larger land parcels, through the process of enclosure. The earliest map of 1794 shows the remnants of the strips of lands, characteristic of medieval fields. The site is located within Hill Furlong of Windmill Field, at the southern margin of a series of strip landholdings associated with Harrowden, with trackways defining the northern and western margins of the site. The site is bisected longitudinally by a land division almost certainly two blocks of lands or cultivation strips of the former medieval field. Towards the southern margin of the site is a WNW-ESE boundary which cuts across the regular, roughly N-S alignment of land parcels. This would appear to be a





trackway, which connects to the more formal, rectilinear arrangement of trackways in the vicinity.

The 1808 ‘inclosure’ map indicates substantial amalgamation of former strips of landholding. The site now defines part of the eastern edge of a land parcel, the angular boundaries in the north being due to trackways and land parcels associated with Harrowden, immediately to the north.

By the 1883, when the first edition of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map was published, the field had been subdivided into three land parcels. The southern boundary of the northern partition would appear to correlate approximately with the line of the southern extent of the current site. These boundaries remained constant well into the 20th century.

### **1.5 Project Objectives**

The site had unknown potential to preserve archaeological remains. The purpose of the archaeological trial trenching was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present.



## 2. METHOD STATEMENT

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the approved WSI (CgMs 2014) and is summarised below.

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001)
• Archaeological Archives Forum	<i>Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2nd ed. 2011)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2008)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.</i> 2nd ed. (2011)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2008) and <i>finds</i> (2008)

The approved trenching strategy was designed to characterise the archaeological potential of the site, utilising six trenches of 20m or 25m length.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Any possible archaeological deposits were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. All archaeological excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion Archaeology staff. Following a site meeting with CgMs Consulting Ltd and the AO, two of the trenches were extended. Once investigation and recording were complete, the trenches were backfilled.



### 3. RESULTS

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#### 3.1 Introduction

The investigation commenced on Tuesday 11th February 2014, during a period of wet and windy weather. As a consequence of this, parts of the trenches became inundated with water, especially those where superficial clay geology predominated.

The site monitoring meeting on 13th February 2014 determined that Trench 2 should be extended to investigate vegetation marks comprising parallel linear features, possibly defining a roughly E-W trackway (Figure 2 – grey pecked lines). Trench 5 was also to be extended to further characterise the features, though the proximity of the main school building restricted the area available.

The results of the evaluation are summarised below, integrating the small quantity of finds data as appropriate. Contexts in brackets refer to deposits recorded on site. Cut features are in square brackets, for example [506] which defines a ditch in Trench 5; deposits or layers are in curved brackets, for example (507) defines the associated fill.

#### 3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The thickness of the overburden varied across site from 0.59–0.89m, generally becoming thicker the further downslope, especially in the vicinity of the main school building.

A distinctive dark topsoil deposit was identified in most trenches, apart from Trenches 4 and 6. This deposit varied from mid grey-brown to dark brown-grey clay silt, up to 0.34m thick. This would appear to be material used for landscaping the school grounds.

Made ground was identified in the vicinity of the building in Trenches 4, 5 and 6, being thickest in association with the external surfaces, particularly in the south in Trench 6, reaching 0.89m thick. This material incorporated modern bricks and tarmac.

A buried ploughsoil was identified in Trenches 1-3 in the north of the site, as well as in Trench 5 to the west, comprising dark grey-brown clay silt up to 0.41m thick. No finds were recovered from this deposit. Although this deposit is likely to date from at least the medieval period, no associated furrows, characteristic of medieval arable cultivation, were identified.

The superficial geological deposits varied from mid orange-brown to mid red-brown sand and gravel with increasing amounts of mid brown-yellow silt clay to the south of site. Where the clay became more dominant the gravel would tend to form bands, as seen in the extension to Trench 2 (Figure 3: image 1).



### 3.3 **Archaeological Features**

A total of five features comprising ditches and smaller gullies were identified in Trenches 2 and 5. All were sealed beneath the buried ploughsoil. Few finds were recovered to date the activity, with stratigraphic relationships, where they exist, being used to create a relative chronology. These features are discussed from earliest to latest.

#### 3.3.1 **Trench 2: Possible enclosure gullies.**

Two undated gullies were identified in the initial trench, which was subsequently extended to the SE by 8.5m to investigate two parallel linear vegetation marks, which might have defined a trackway. This extension revealed two bands of gravel within a patch of yellow-brown clay (Figure 3: image 1), which correlate with the vegetation marks.

Two linear gullies on contrasting alignments were identified. Gulley [203] was located towards the NW end of the trench. It was aligned NE-SW, up to 0.63m across with a concave profile 0.14m deep. No finds were recovered from the mid grey-brown fill, which sharply contrasted with the yellow-brown clay, suggesting material derived from an unstable upper soil profile. This was truncated by a land drain (red feature on Figure 2).

Gulley [205] was aligned E-W, with a well-defined western terminal. It was less substantial at 0.42m across, with a V-shaped profile 0.28m deep, containing a sequence of three fills (Figure 2: section 1 and Figure 3: image 2). The deposits varied from orange-brown to a mid brown grey-upper fill, indicating silting of material derived from a stable soil profile, with weathering of the adjacent geological strata resulting in formation of the lowest fill. The asymmetrical form of this deposit indicates formation in dry conditions and may suggest associated upcast or possibly a bank to the north.

#### 3.3.2 **Trench 5: Sequential ditches**

Located to the west of the main school building, a series of three ditches on contrasting alignments were revealed in the original trench (Figure 2). Following the site monitoring meeting the trench was subsequently extended both to the east and west, to further characterise the ditches. However, the proximity of the school building and adjacent trees restricted the areas available to extend the trench. The features in this area were sealed by at least 0.7m of overburden, including the buried ploughsoil. Limited hand investigation of the building footings indicated that they extended *c.* 0.7m below the ground level to a wider foundation raft, which sat on the undisturbed geological strata.

##### Earlier boundary ditch [504]/[506] and [512]

The ditch was well-defined in plan, at least 8.5m long, with a possible terminal in the north, masked by a drainage pipe associated with the school (Figure 2 - red feature). The ditch continued for *c.* 4.5m southwards before curving to the SW (Figure 4: image 3 and Figure 5: image 5). In section the ditch was 1.45m wide and up to 0.42m deep, with steep sides and a concave base (Figure 2: section 2 and Figure 4: images 4). The light to mid grey clay fill would appear to be derived from an unstable upper soil profile. A small assemblage of finds was



recovered from the two excavated sections, with nine undiagnostic pottery body sherds (17g) in predominantly sand-tempered fabrics (types F18, F19 and F29<sup>1</sup>) derived from the fill of [504]. All were highly abraded and fragmentary, with a mean sherd weight of only 2g; they are thought to be of early Iron Age date. Six abraded animal bone fragments (54g) comprise limb bones and loose teeth, the latter including a broken sheep molar. The sieved residues of environmental sample <1> yielded two pieces of burnt natural flint (8g), undiagnostic ferrous slag (1g) and a single charred cereal grain. The fill of [506] contained two undiagnostic sand-tempered pottery sherds (fabric F29: 30g), and two abraded animal bone fragments (16g). The small size of this assemblage precludes any detailed analysis.

At the southern end of the trench, ditch [510] was aligned NW-SE, perpendicular to [504]/[506] and [512] (Figure 2 – purple feature). It had a steep-sided concave profile 1.45m across and 0.4m deep, filled with mid orange-grey clay silt (Figure 2: section 3 and Figure 5: image 6). This deposit contained a single abraded pottery body sherd (7g) in sand-tempered fabric F29, suggesting an early Iron Age date for the ditch. This relatively dark material was probably derived from weathering of the upper soil profile.

#### Later boundary ditch [508]

Aligned ENE-WSW, this ditch truncated earlier ditch [510] (Figure 2 – light brown feature and section 3 and Figure 5: image 6). In section, it ditch had a concave profile, 1.5m wide and 0.24m deep, filled with dark grey to black clay silt, which contrasted sharply with adjacent deposits. No finds were recovered from the fill.

### **3.4 Summary**

Despite extensive disturbance associated with the construction of the school in the late 1950s, large parts of the site retained the former cultivation soil, which in turn sealed archaeological features. Trial trenching has revealed a small number of archaeological features comprising ditches and smaller gullies in the areas north and west of the main school building. Small quantities of finds from two of the ditches to the west of the school suggest that they date to the early Iron Age and define a series of enclosures. The shallower undated gullies to the north of the school appear to correlate to vegetation marks visible on aerial photographs. Two parallel vegetation marks, thought to possibly define the continuation of a roughly E-W prehistoric trackway, investigated previously on a site further to the east, were investigated by extending Trench 2. This only revealed variations in the geological strata, which had probably led to differential vegetation growth.

Although the site appears to have been under arable cultivation from at least the medieval period, based on historic maps, no furrows were identified, suggesting deep ploughing in more recent times has truncated the site.

The finds assemblage from the enclosure ditches to the west of the school suggests a focus of activity in the general area, though the form, nature and

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<sup>1</sup> Fabric types defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series



function of the individual enclosures is uncertain. Though truncated by later agricultural activity, they have potential to add to the understanding of the local economy, culture and wider landscape in the prehistoric period. The Iron Age sees significant changes in the landscape, with evidence from sites in the area suggesting that settlement develops rapidly from this period, expanding onto the heavier soils on the lower ground. Therefore, these remains are of at least local significance, providing an insight into themes identified in both the local (Oake et al 2007) and regional (Bryant 2000) research agendas.



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## 5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

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**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 50683: Northing: 24689)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 50681: Northing: 24688)

**Reason:** To evaluate area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Landscaped topsoil for school playing field, 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Ploughsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones 0.4m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones Some light grey irregular patches of root disturbance visible to NE end of the trench	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 33.50 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 0.7 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 50682: Northing: 24687)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 50683: Northing: 24685)

**Reason: To evaluate area**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
200	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Landscaped topsoil for school playing field, 0.34m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Ploughsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones 0.39m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Compact mid orange brown sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones Patches of yellowish brown clay within the gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.63m, max depth 0.14m, min length 1.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Gulley	Linear E-W sides: V-Shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.42m, max depth 0.28m, min length 1.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Lower fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay occasional small-medium stones Fill is up to 0.1m thick with an asymmetrical concave profile, suggesting material mainly derived from the north	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Fill	Firm light brown grey sandy clay occasional small-medium stones 0.08m thick, with a roughly concave profile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Upper fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones 0.1m thick. Form and nature of deposit suggests natural silting of material derived from upper soil profile.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 50684: Northing: 24684)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 50682: Northing: 24683)

**Reason: To evaluate area**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
300	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Landscaped topsoil for school playing field, 0.28m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Ploughsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones 0.41m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Compact mid orange brown sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones With patches of yellowish brown clay mixed within the gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 4

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 50686: Northing: 24683)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 50687: Northing: 24681)

**Reason:** To evaluate area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Tarmac	Cemented mid grey black tarmac Used for the playground surface, 0.06m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Brick rubble	Compact mid yellow red sandy rubble frequent small-medium stones Layer of brick and stone rubble 0.2m thick, used to level ground for playground surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Make up layer	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay frequent small-medium stones Make up layer 0.33m thick of sand and clay to build up ground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Natural	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones , with patches of yellowish brown clay that becomes more frequent towards the SE end of the trench	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 5**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.75 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 50686: Northing: 24683)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 50687: Northing: 24681)

**Reason: To evaluate area**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Landscaped topsoil, 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Make up layer	Friable dark brown grey clay silt frequent small-medium stones Make up layer 0.3m thick, for building up the ground level. Contains patches of redeposited natural, brick and tarmac fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey black clay silt frequent small-medium stones Former ploughsoil 0.3m thick, buried during landscaping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Natural	Firm mid brown yellow silty clay occasional small stones Patches of mid brownish orange sandy gravel increasing to the NW end of the trench	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.62m, max depth 0.27m, min length 8.25m Same as [506], general no. [512]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
505	Fill	Friable light blue grey clay silt frequent small-medium stones Finds comprise pottery and animal bone. Sample no. <1> taken from this context	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
506	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.42m, min length 8.25m Same as [504], general no. [512]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
507	Fill	Friable light blue grey clay silt frequent small-medium stones Finds comprise pottery and animal bone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
508	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, max depth 0.24m, min length 1.8m Cuts [510]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
509	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
510	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.45m, max depth 0.4m, min length 2.65m Cut by [508], may be associated with perpendicular ditch [504], [506] and [512] to west	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
511	Fill	Friable mid orange grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones A small sherd of pottery was recovered from the deposit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
512	General number	Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 1.45m, min length 8.5m Includes segments [504] and [506]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
513	General number	Friable light blue grey clay silt frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 6**

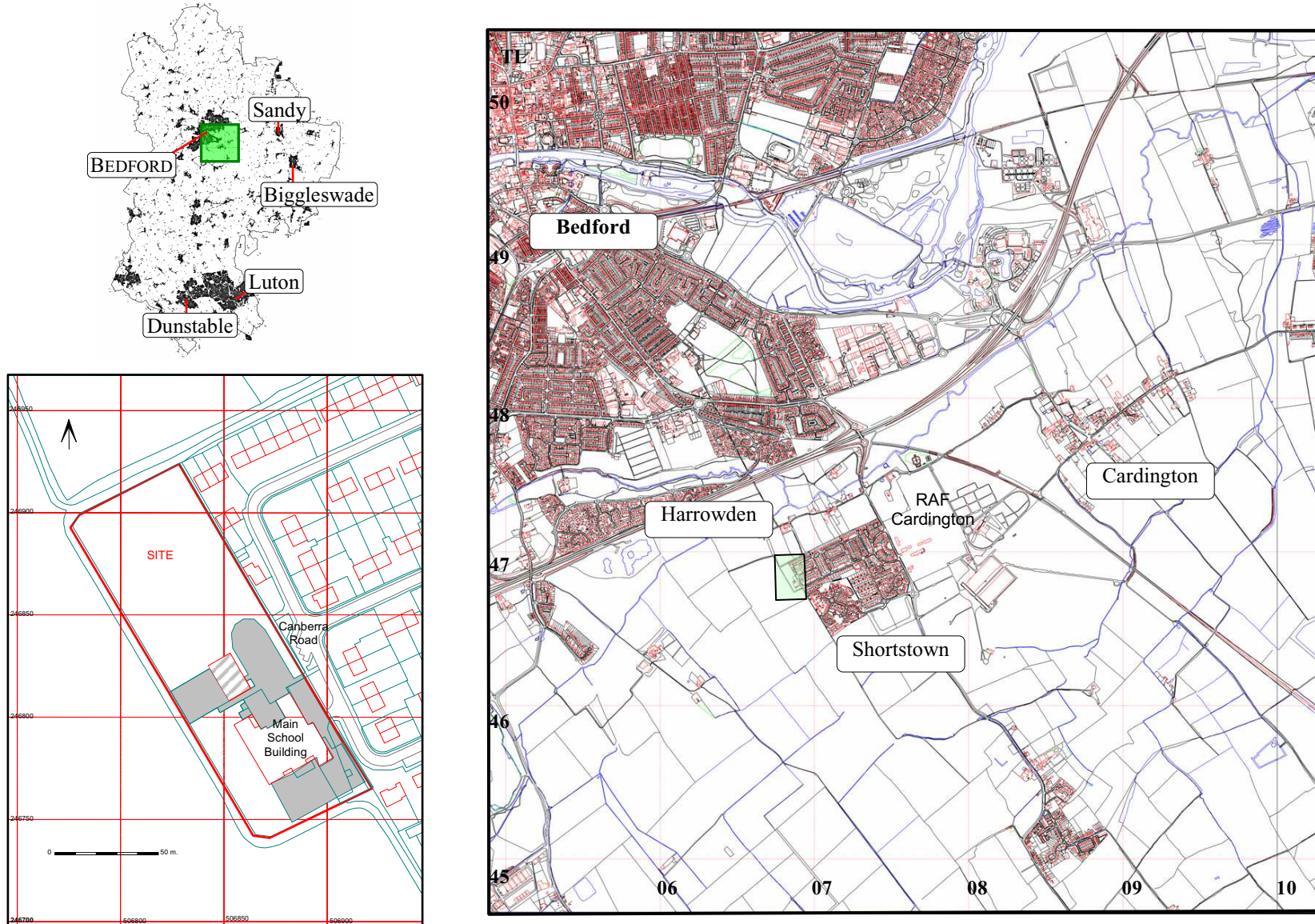
**Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 50689: Northing: 24676)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 50687: Northing: 24675)

**Reason: To evaluate area**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>		
600	Tarmac	Cemented dark grey black tarmac and play area, 0.09m thick	Tarmac surface for school playground	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
601	Brick rubble	Compact mid yellow red sandy rubble and stone rubble layer 0.22m thick, used to level ground for playground surface	frequent small-medium stones	Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Make up layer	Firm dark blue black clay silt layer 0.16m thick for levelling ground surface	occasional small-medium stones	Make up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Make up layer	Firm dark brown grey sandy clay layer 0.42m thick for building up ground surface	moderate small-medium stones	Make up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Natural	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay with pockets of reddish brown sandy gravel spread more or less evenly throughout the trench.	moderate small-medium stones	With	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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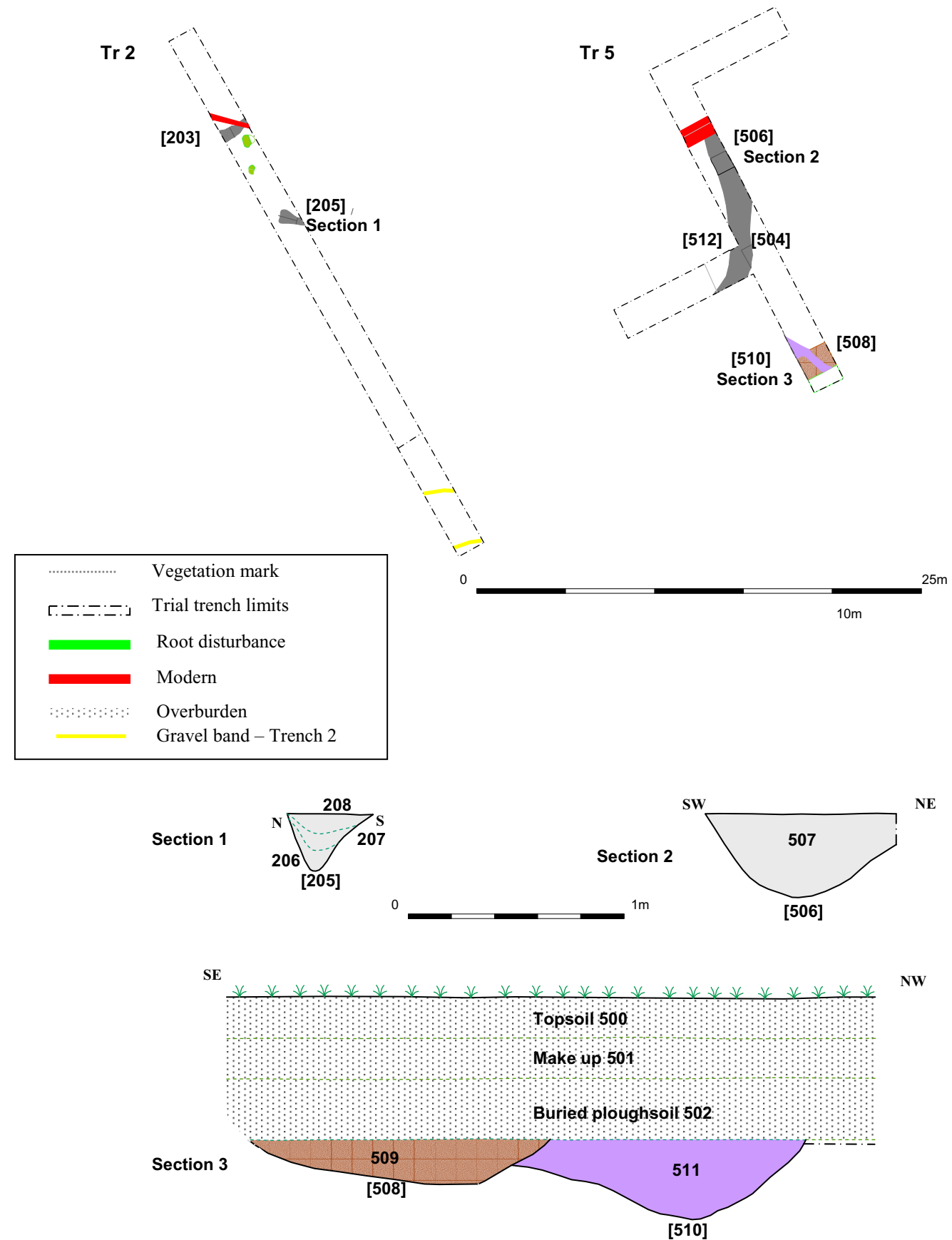
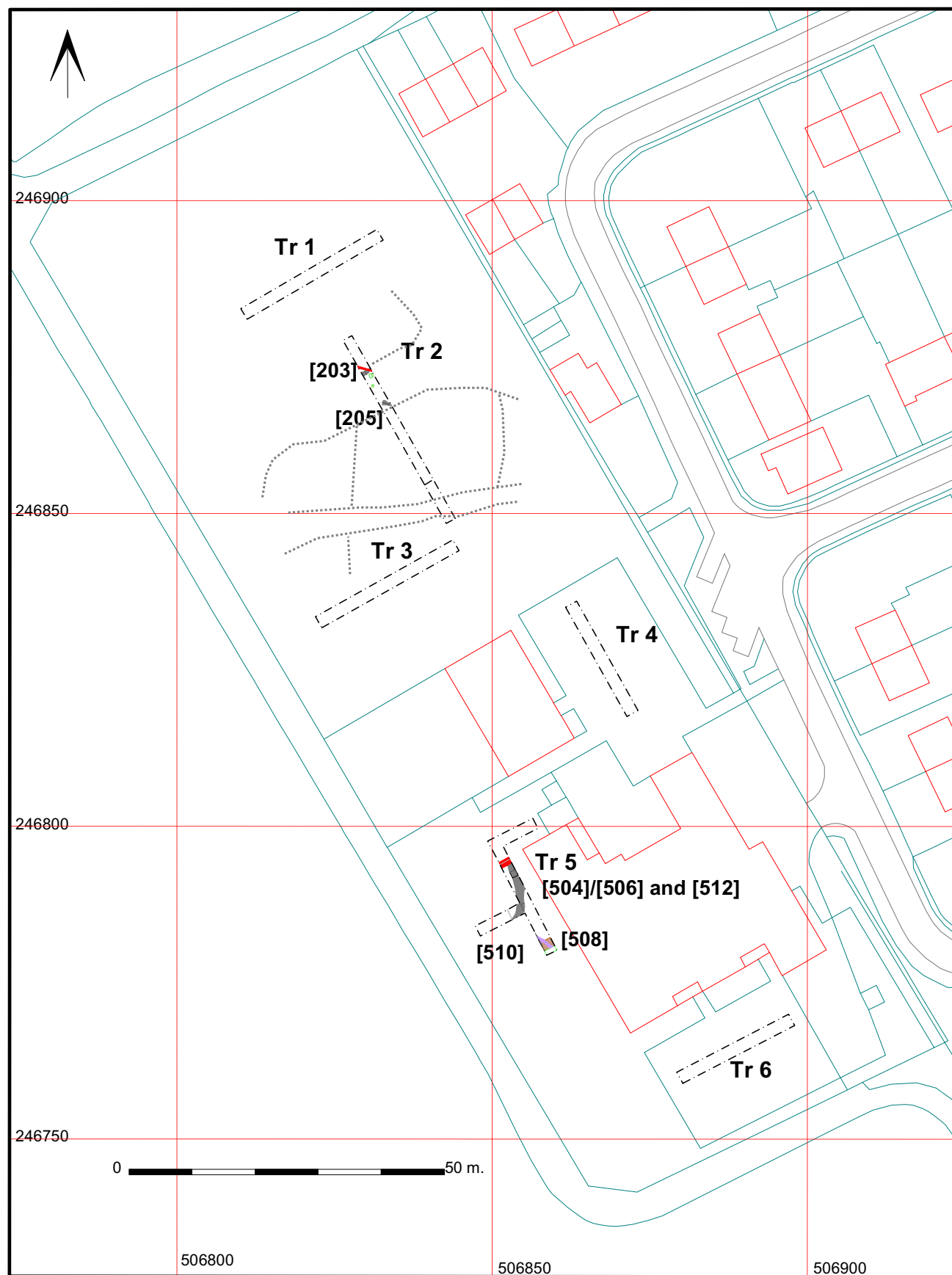


Figure 2: All features plan and sections





**Image 1:** General view of Trench 2, with southern extension in foreground showing variations in geological strata including orange gravel bands. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



**Image 2:** Section through V-shaped gully [205]. Scale 0.4m in 10cm divisions.

**Figure 3:** Selected images 1 and 2



**Image 3:** General pre-excitation view of the northern part of Trench 5, showing ditch [504]/[506] and [512] aligned roughly N-S and curving to the SW in the south.



**Image 4:** Section through ditch [506]. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 4:** Selected images 3 and 4



**Image 5:** General view of Trench 5 after extension, looking roughly northwards along ditch [504]/[506] and [512], showing marked curve to SW. The nearest trench section clearly shows the contrast between the dark landscaped topsoil (500) and the greyer underlying ploughsoil (502) which seals the ditch.



**Image 6:** Intercutting ditches at the southern end of Trench 5, with [510] aligned NW-SE across the trench and truncated by oblique ditch [508] extending to the ENE. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 5:** Selected images 5 and 6

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