

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COLLEGE
KINGSWAY
DUNSTABLE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
(STAGE 1)**

Albion
archaeology



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KINGSWAY
DUNSTABLE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
(STAGE 1)**

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Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| 1.1 Project Background | 4 |
| 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology | 4 |
| 1.3 Archaeological Background | 5 |
| 1.4 Project Objectives | 5 |
| 2. METHODOLOGY | 7 |
| 3. RESULTS | 8 |
| 3.1 Introduction | 8 |
| 3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits | 8 |
| 3.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits | 8 |
| 3.4 Modern Services | 9 |
| 4. CONCLUSIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE | 10 |
| 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY | 11 |
| 6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY | 12 |
| 7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM | 17 |

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench locations showing archaeological features

Figure 3: Trench 1

Figure 4: Trench 2

Figure 5: Trench 3

Figure 6: Trench 4

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.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Central Bedfordshire College 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), Gareth Shane (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor) and Allan King (Archaeological Technician), under the management of Rob Wardill (Project Manager). This report has been prepared by Ian Turner (Supervisor), 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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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 |
| IfA | Institute for Archaeologists |
| OD | Ordnance Datum |
| OS | Ordnance Survey |
| WSI | Written Scheme of Investigation |



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission has been granted for the development of land at Dunstable College (now Central Bedfordshire College). A condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) issued briefs (CBCA 2009a and b) requiring a staged approach for the archaeological investigation. This report presents the findings of the first stage of the trial trench evaluation within the area of the proposed car park in the north-west part of the site. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the CBCA.

Archaeological features were revealed in all four trial trenches excavated between 24th and 26th March 2014. These included seven substantial SW-NE aligned ditch segments containing a small number of artefacts, which suggest the ditches date to the Roman period.

The locations of six of these ditch segments suggest that they are parts of two parallel ditches, with one represented by ditch segments [103, 106, 203 and 305] and the other by [113 and 403]. Extending for a distance of at least 170m, they are likely to represent two sides of a c. 13m-wide, routeway. The alignment of a slightly smaller ditch [206] located to the north-west suggests it is either also associated with defining the routeway or perhaps represents a boundary to an enclosure respecting the routeway. The location and shallow depth of a gully [308] suggests that it could represent a wheel-rut.

The lack of other features, such as pits or post-holes, within the trenches and the paucity of artefacts recovered tend to suggest the site lies on the periphery of the Roman settlement within Dunstable rather than in the immediate vicinity of the settlement core. However, the alignment of the routeway does suggest it could well have served settlement activity related to the late 1st-century remains previously revealed at the site of the former Queensway Hall to the south-west, on its way to joining the perpendicularly aligned Watling Street.

The remains of the routeway are of some significance, adding to a growing body of knowledge regarding the overall layout of the Roman town of Durocobrivis. However, the site's apparent location away from the settlement core suggests any further remains within the site have only limited potential to address identified research themes associated with the characterisation of the settlement core or its function and role in the development of the Roman landscape (see Oake 2007, 11).

The project archive will be deposited with Luton Museum (Accession No. LUTNM: 2014/08). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (ref: albionar1-172133) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

South Bedfordshire District Council (now Central Bedfordshire Council) granted planning permission (SB/OUT/04/0166) in 2005 for development of land at Dunstable College (now Central Bedfordshire College). An extension of the time limit for development has been granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CB/10/02067/REN).

The proposed development comprises part demolition, alterations and extensions to the existing college, including: provision of amenity space and 192 parking spaces; and construction of residential development with associated parking, landscaping and public open space.

A condition attached to the planning permission (No. 24) stipulates that no development of the College Phase or the Residential Phase shall take place within the site of the relevant phase until the applicant or developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

These recommendations are in accordance with paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Policy 45 of the Development Strategy for Central Bedfordshire (pre-submission version, Jan 2013).

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) issued briefs (CBCA 2009a and b) which provided the basis for the preparation of the WSI. A staged approach is to be taken to the archaeological investigation (CBC 2009a, 5.2), with the possibility that further more detailed investigation might be required depending on the results of the evaluation/observation of demolition. Any such works would be agreed in advance with the CBCA by CgMs Consulting Ltd and secured by a further brief and / or WSI as appropriate.

This report presents the findings of the first stage of the trial trench evaluation within the area of the proposed car park in the north-west part of the site. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014) approved by the CBCA.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The Central Bedfordshire College, Kingsway Campus is located to the north of Dunstable town centre at TL 0203 2236 (Figure 1). The development site contains a mixture of buildings, car parking areas and grassed open areas. It is bounded by Kingsway and College Drive to the south and commercial properties and the Luton-Dunstable guided busway to the north.

This first stage of trial trenching is located within the grassed area proposed for car parking in the north-west part of the site.

The site lies on relatively level ground at a height of *c.* 140m OD. The



underlying geological deposits consist of middle chalk with localised shallow deposits of clay.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Dunstable is located where the major Roman road of Watling Street crosses the Icknield Way, a long distance track which originated in the prehistoric period.

A Roman settlement at Dunstable seems likely to have been based on the presence of this important road crossing. Archaeological investigations have not fully defined the extent or character of the Roman settlement. Investigations 150m to the south-west of the development area on the site of the former Queensway Hall uncovered ditches dating from the early Roman period. This site appears to have gone out of use by the late 1st or early 2nd century (Mudd 2004). Excavation at the New Venue site, c. 100m to the west of the development area, identified a 1st/2nd-century Roman cemetery with both inhumation and cremation burials and a pyre site (AOC 2006).

The town appears to have been abandoned in the Saxon period. In the early 12th century it was refounded by Henry I who established a royal residence and an Augustinian Priory, 400m to the south of the development area.

The historical and archaeological background to the town is summarised in an Extensive Urban Survey report (Albion 2003). A desk-based assessment of the site has been prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd (Smith 2008).

1.4 Project Objectives

The available background information shows that the development site is located in an area with the potential for heritage assets with archaeological interest. In particular, it may contain evidence relating to the Roman settlement. However, this potential is currently untested and, therefore, the objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- the date, nature, location and extent of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present in the development area
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present in the development area.

The results will provide information to assess the significance of any archaeological heritage assets and to inform strategies to protect the significance of those assets; e.g. further stages of archaeological work may be required to mitigate the loss of significance.

The local and regional research contexts are provided by Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000), Oake et al (2007) and Medlycott (2011).

The site is currently untested and the presence or absence of archaeological deposits is unknown. If archaeological remains are identified during the field evaluation or monitoring of demolition, they will be examined in relation to their local context and in relation to the local and regional research objectives to



determine their significance. The nearby investigations at the Queensway and New Venue sites both uncovered evidence of Roman activity. Evidence from this period would have considerable local interest and may have the potential to address local and regional research objectives (Oake 2007, 11).



2. METHODOLOGY

Four trial trenches, representing the first stage of trial trench evaluation at the site, were excavated between 24th and 26th March 2014 within the north-west part of the site. The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2014).

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were also scanned for the recovery of artefacts.

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. The trenches were backfilled following the approval of the CBCA.

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

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Albion Archaeology | <i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2 nd edn, 2001). |
| ALGAO | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14</i> (2003) |
| EAA | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003) |
| English Heritage | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2009) |
| | <i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition</i> (2011) |
| IfA | <i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i> |
| | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (updated 2012) |
| Luton Culture | <i>Procedure For Preparing Archaeological Archives For Deposition With Luton Culture 2010 - with minor updates July 2013</i> |

The project archive will be deposited with Luton Museum (Accession No. LUTNM: 2014/08). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (ref: albionar1-172133) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The results of the trial trenching are summarised below and shown on Figures 2–6. Details of all the observed features and deposits are contained in Appendix 1. Details of the few recovered artefacts are integrated within the text below.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The overburden generally comprised 0.25–0.44m of topsoil overlying 0.11–0.35m of mid brown grey silt subsoil containing occasional fragments of chalk and occasional fragments of post-medieval /modern roof tile. Only in Trench 3 did this differ, where a 0.10–0.24m thick demolition layer (301) (containing frequent fragments of modern brick and tile) and an underlying 0.08–0.21m thick buried topsoil (containing fragments of post-medieval / modern roof tile) were sandwiched between the current topsoil (300) and subsoil (303) layers.

The subsoil overlay undisturbed geological deposits of chalk with patches of light brown chalky silt.

3.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits

Archaeological features were revealed in all four trial trenches. They comprised seven substantial SW-NE aligned ditches with generally V-shaped profiles, as well as a much smaller, similarly aligned gully. Where their full extent was visible, the ditches were 0.95–1.98m wide and 0.27–0.69m deep.

All these features were sealed by the subsoil and contained generally similar fills, varying between light grey-brown silt with frequent chalk fragments and mid grey-brown silt. The limited artefactual evidence indicates that the features date to the Roman period.

The features and deposits are discussed by Trench below; their respective locations are shown on Figure 2.

3.3.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

A SW-NE aligned ditch [113] was identified at the southern end of Trench 1. It measured 1.38m wide and 0.53m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a narrow, concave base. It contained three fills which produced two artefacts — a 2nd-century pottery base sherd (7g), from a wheel-thrown sand-tempered vessel (fabric R18A¹), recovered from the secondary deposit (115) and a composite iron and copper alloy key (RA1) recovered from the uppermost fill (116). The key was recovered from immediately beneath the interface with the subsoil and comprised an incomplete L-shaped lift or slide key (length 115mm), with a two pronged bit, straight-sided rectangular sectioned stem, and a looped terminal at right angles to the bit, through which a copper alloy ring (diameter *c.* 32mm) is threaded. The key can only be assigned a broad date range, spanning the Roman period through to the 9th century.

¹ Fabric type defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series



A parallel ditch [103] and probable re-cut [106] were located to the north of ditch [113]. The latest ditch cut [106] had moderately sloping sides with a narrow flat base and measured 1.2m wide and 0.46m deep; the earlier ditch [103] appeared more concave in profile but was largely truncated by the later ditch. Neither ditch produced artefacts.

3.3.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Two ditches were revealed in Trench 2. With a similar profile and of similar size to that of ditch [106], the alignment and location of ditch [203] suggests it is a continuation of the ditch in Trench 1.

A further similarly aligned ditch [206] was revealed to the west. It too had moderately sloping sides with a narrow flat base but was slightly smaller. It was 0.95m wide and 0.35m deep and had a slightly darker hued fill.

Neither ditch produced artefacts.

3.3.3 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

The alignment, location and form of ditch [305] within the north end of Trench 3 suggests it is a continuation of ditches [203] and [106] to the south-west. It too had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base and measured 1.41m wide and 0.69m deep. Its primary fill (307) produced five pottery body sherds (fabric R06B: 54g) deriving from a cordoned vessel of 1st–2nd-century date.

A small gully [308], measuring 0.30m wide and 0.06m deep, was located immediately adjacent to, and parallel with, the ditch.

3.3.4 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

A single SW-NE aligned ditch [403] was located towards the northern end of Trench 4. It measured 1.98m wide and 0.59m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. Its alignment suggests it is a continuation of the similar, albeit slightly narrower, ditch [113] to the south-west. Its uppermost fill (405) produced four metapodial fragments (175g) of uncertain species. The surfaces of all pieces display extensive abrasion and root damage.

3.4 Modern Services

A NE-SW aligned modern trench for a sewer pipe was identified in Trenches 2, 3 and 4. British Telecom cables were identified in Trenches 1 and 2. In addition, the presence of an electrical cable was detected during CAT scanning within the area of the originally proposed north-east end of Trench 2; consequently the trench was moved slightly further to the south-west.



4. CONCLUSIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE

Archaeological features were revealed in all four trial trenches. These included seven substantial SW-NE aligned ditch segments, containing a small number of artefacts, which suggest the features date to the Roman period.

The locations of six of these ditch segments suggest that they are parts of two parallel ditches, with one represented by ditch segments [103, 106, 203 and 305] and the other by [113 and 403]. Extending for a distance of at least 170m, they are likely to represent two sides of a *c.* 13m-wide routeway. The alignment of a slightly smaller ditch [206] located to the north-west suggests it is either, also associated with defining the routeway or perhaps represents a boundary to an enclosure respecting the routeway. The location and shallow depth of a gully [308] suggests that it could represent a wheel-rut.

The lack of other features, such as pits or post-holes, within the trenches and the paucity of artefacts recovered tend to suggest the site lies on the periphery of the Roman settlement within Dunstable rather than in the immediate vicinity of the settlement core. However, the alignment of the routeway does suggest it could well have served settlement activity related to the late 1st-century remains previously revealed at the site of the former Queensway Hall to the south-west, on its way to joining the perpendicularly aligned Watling Street.

The remains of the routeway are of some significance, adding to a growing body of knowledge regarding the overall layout of the Roman town of *Durocbrivis*. However, the site's apparent location away from the settlement core suggests any further remains within the site have only limited potential to address identified research themes associated with the characterisation of the settlement core or its function and role in the development of the Roman landscape (see Oake 2007, 11).



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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.62 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1939: Northing: 22395)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1941: Northing: 22365)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 100 | Topsoil | Friable dark grey brown silt occasional medium CBM, occasional flecks chalk, occasional medium stones 0.35m to 0.44m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 101 | Subsoil | Friable mid brown grey silt occasional medium CBM, occasional flecks chalk, occasional medium stones 0.15 to 0.18m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 102 | Natural | Friable light white chalk occasional small-medium stones Frequent patches of light brown chalky silt. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 103 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.27m Cut by later recut [106] | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 104 | Primary fill | Friable light grey brown silt frequent flecks chalk 0.1m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 105 | Secondary fill | Compact mid grey brown silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional medium stones 0.1m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 106 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.46m Recut of [103] | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 107 | Primary fill | Friable light brown grey silt frequent flecks chalk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 108 | Secondary fill | Friable light brown grey silt moderate flecks chalk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 109 | Tertiary fill | Friable mid brown grey silt moderate flecks chalk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 110 | Main fill | Friable mid brown silt moderate flecks chalk, occasional small stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 111 | Upper fill | Friable light grey brown silt frequent flecks chalk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 112 | Upper fill | Friable mid brown silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional medium stones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 113 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.38m, max diameter 0.53m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 114 | Primary fill | Compact mid grey brown silt frequent flecks chalk, occasional medium stones 0.23m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 115 | Main fill | Friable mid grey brown silt moderate flecks chalk, occasional medium stones 0.44m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 116 | Upper fill | Friable mid grey brown silt occasional flecks chalk 0.16m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 24.60 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1980: Northing: 22413)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1951: Northing: 22407)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 200 | Topsoil | Friable dark grey brown silt 0.25m to 0.30m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 201 | Subsoil | Friable mid brown grey silt 0.2m to 0.25m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 202 | Natural | Firm light yellow white chalk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 203 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.44m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 204 | Lower fill | Friable mid brown grey silt moderate flecks chalk 0.17m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 205 | Upper fill | Friable mid brown grey silt 0.28m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 206 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW sides: V-Shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.35m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 207 | Lower fill | Friable mid brown grey silt moderate flecks chalk 0.12m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 208 | Upper fill | Friable mid brown grey silt 0.3m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.61 m. Max: 0.86 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 2007: Northing: 22457)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1997: Northing: 22428)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 300 | Topsoil | Friable dark grey brown silt 0.29m to 0.35m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 301 | Demolition layer | Compact mid brown grey silt frequent medium CBM, frequent flecks chalk 0.24m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 302 | Buried topsoil | Friable mid brown grey silt occasional fragments of post-medieval/modern roof tile. 0.08m to 0.21m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 303 | Subsoil | Friable mid red brown silt moderate flecks chalk 0.11m to 0.19m thick | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 304 | Natural | Hard light yellow white chalk | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 305 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW sides: convex base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 1.41m, max depth 0.69m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 306 | Primary fill | Compact mid grey brown silt frequent flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones 0.22m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 307 | Main fill | Friable mid grey brown silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones 0.6m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 308 | Gulley | Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.06m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 309 | Main fill | Friable mid grey brown silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones 0.06m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 2022: Northing: 22465)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 2038: Northing: 22440)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|----------|------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 400 | Topsoil | Friable dark grey brown silt 0.25m to 0.26m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 401 | Subsoil | Friable mid red brown silt occasional flecks chalk 0.32 to 0.35m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 402 | Natural | Hard light yellow white chalk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 403 | Ditch | Linear NE-SW sides: V-Shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.98m, max depth 0.59m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 404 | Lower fill | Friable mid brown grey silt moderate flecks chalk 0.25m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 405 | Upper fill | Friable mid brown grey silt 0.4m thick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-172133

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Central Bedfordshire College, Kingsway, Dunstable |
| Short description of the project | This report presents the findings of the first stage of the trial trench evaluation within the area of the proposed car park in the north-west part of the site. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the CBCA. Archaeological features were revealed in all four trial trenches excavated between 24th and 26th March 2014. These included seven substantial SW-NE aligned ditch segments containing a small number of artefacts that indicate they date to the Roman period. The locations of six of these ditch segments suggest that they are parts of two parallel ditches, with one represented by ditch segments [103, 106, 203 and 305] and the other by [113 and 403]. Extending for a distance of at least 170m indicates they are likely to represent two sides of a, c. 13m wide, routeway. The alignment of a slightly smaller ditch [206] located to the north-west suggests it is either, also associated with defining the routeway or perhaps represents a boundary to an enclosure respecting the routeway. The location and shallow depth of a gully [308] suggests the possibility it could represent a wheel-rut. The lack of other features, such as pits or post-holes, within the trenches and the paucity of artefacts recovered tend to suggest the site lies on the periphery of the Roman settlement within Dunstable rather than in the immediate vicinity of the settlement core. However, the alignment of the routeway does suggest it could well have served settlement activity related to the late 1st-century remains previously revealed at the site of the former Queensway Hall to the south-west, on its way to joining the perpendicularly aligned Watling Street. |
| Project dates | Start: 24-03-2014 End: 26-03-2014 |
| Previous/future work | No / Yes |
| Any associated project reference codes | CBC2328 - LBS No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | LUTNM:2014/08 - Museum accession ID |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Monument type | DITCHES Roman |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Significant Finds | SLIDE KEY Roman |
| Methods & techniques | ""Sample Trenches"" |
| Development type | Development of existing college and land |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE DUNSTABLE Central Bedfordshire College, Kingsway, Dunstable |



Study area 4500.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 0197 2242 51.8905508773 -0.518080126737 51 53 25 N 000 31 05 W
 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Albion Archaeology
 Project director/manager Robert Wardill
 Project supervisor Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Luton Museum
 Physical Archive ID LUTNM:2014/08
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
 Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","other"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Luton Museum
 Paper Archive ID LUTNM:2014/08
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Microfilm","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Central Bedfordshire College, Kingsway, Dunstable, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation
 Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Wells, J'
 Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Turner, I'
 Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Wardill, R'
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 Entered on 7 April 2014

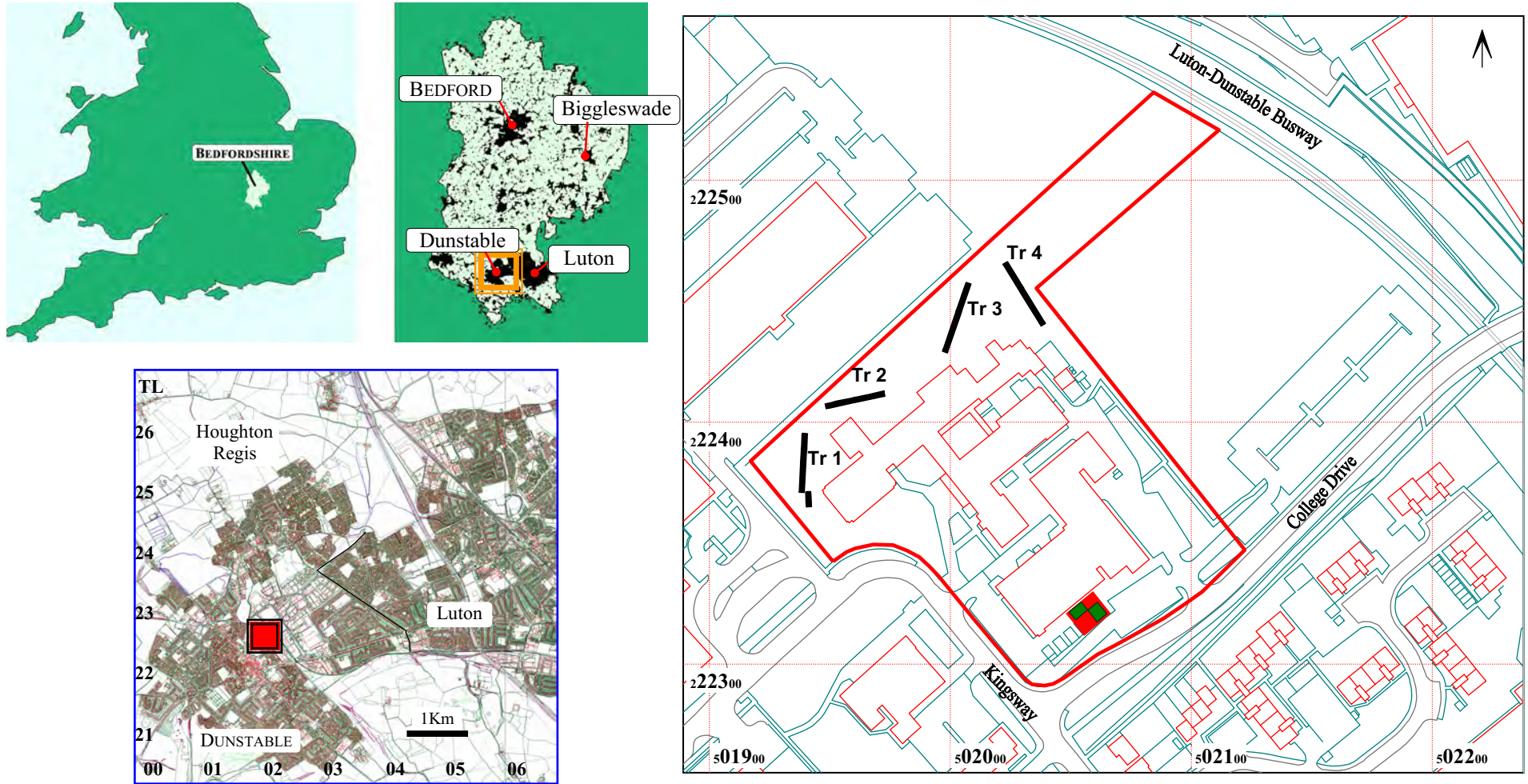


Figure 1: Site location

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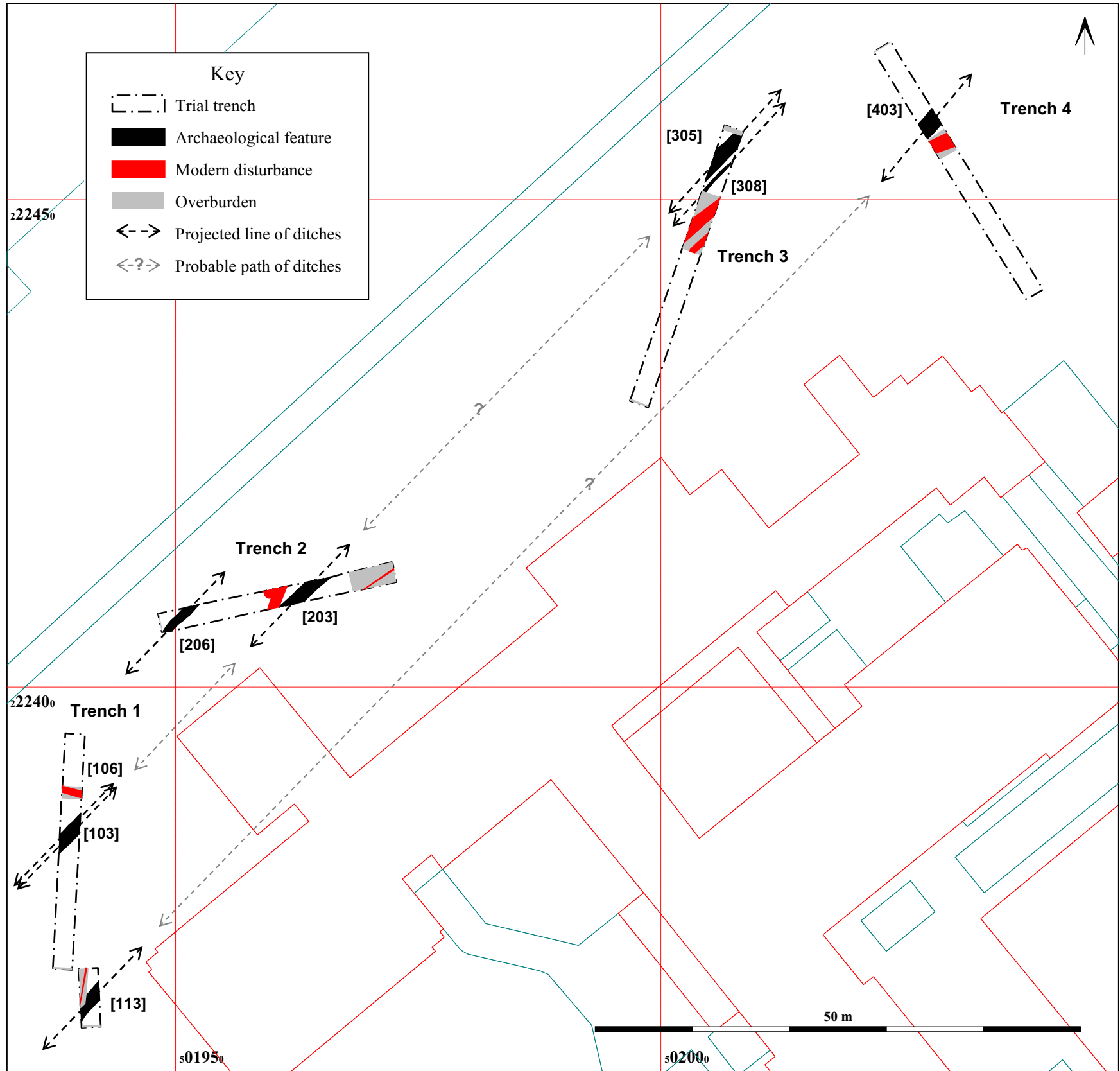
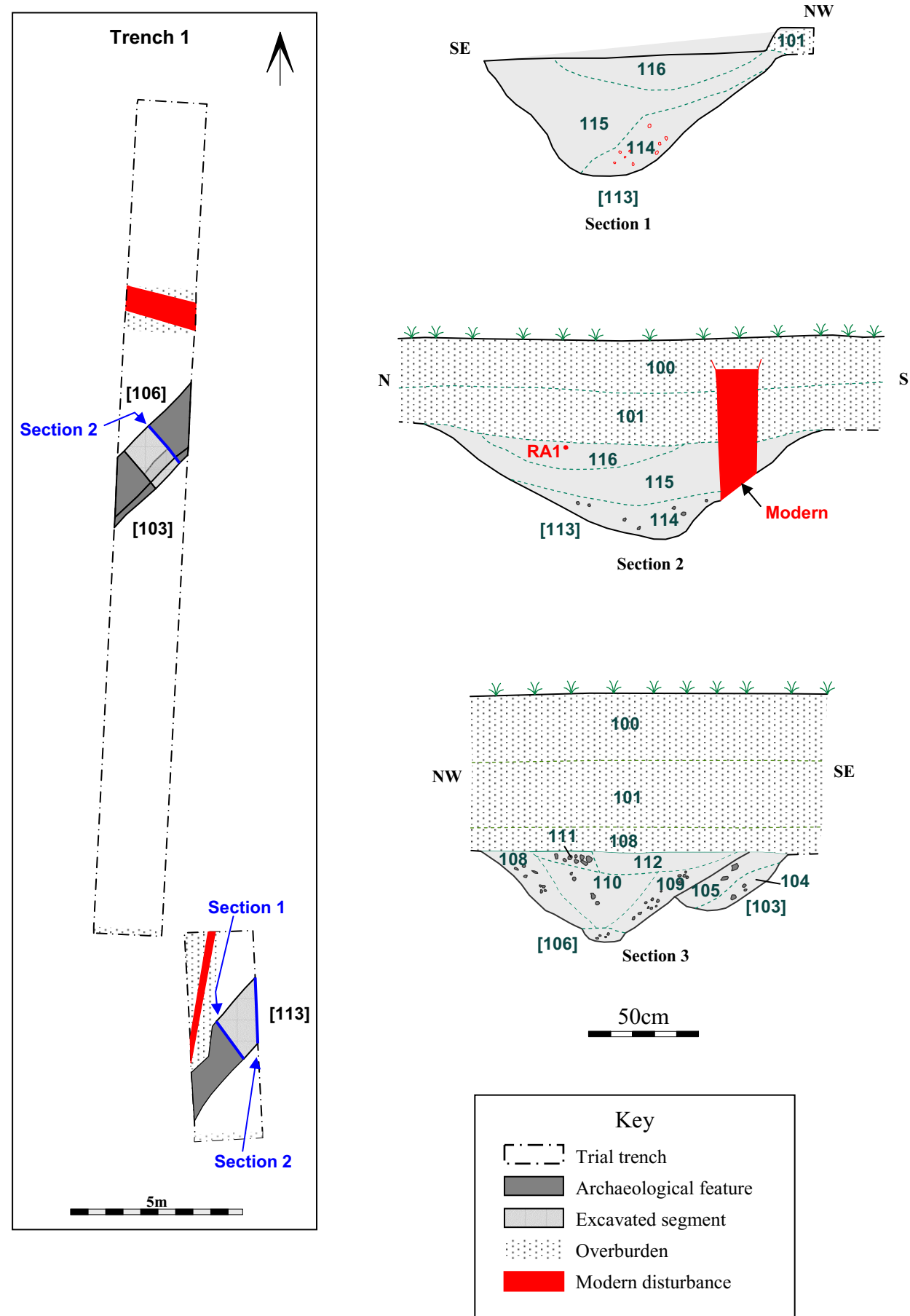


Figure 2: Trench locations showing archaeological features

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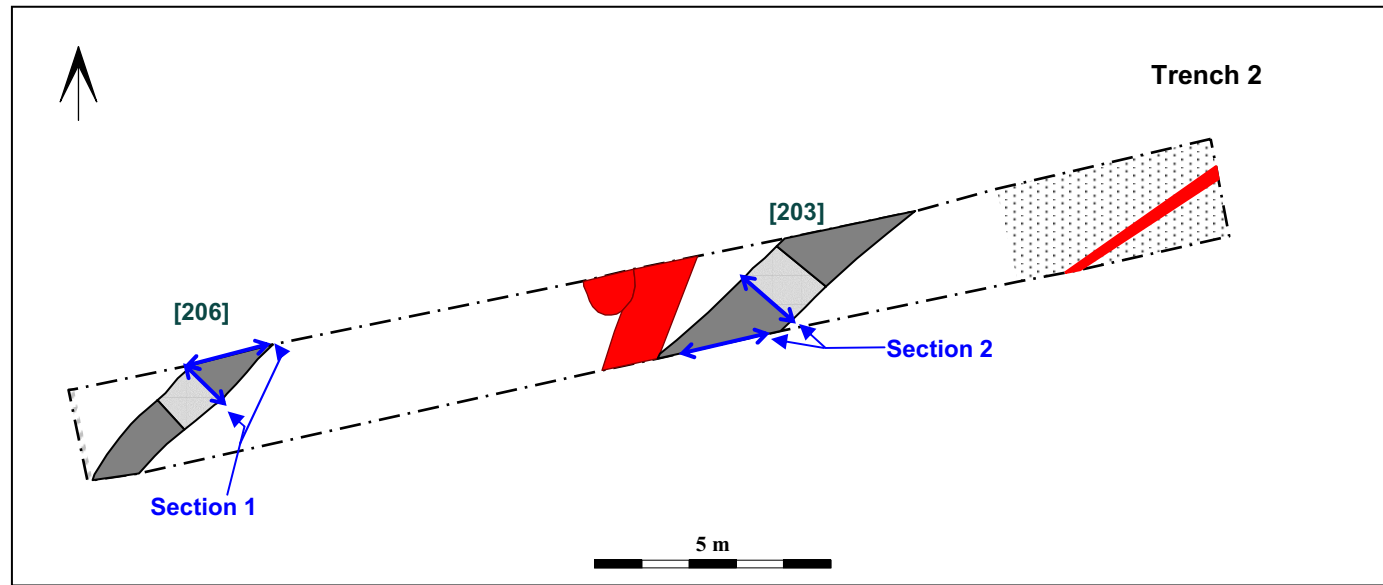


Ditch [113]. Scale 1m

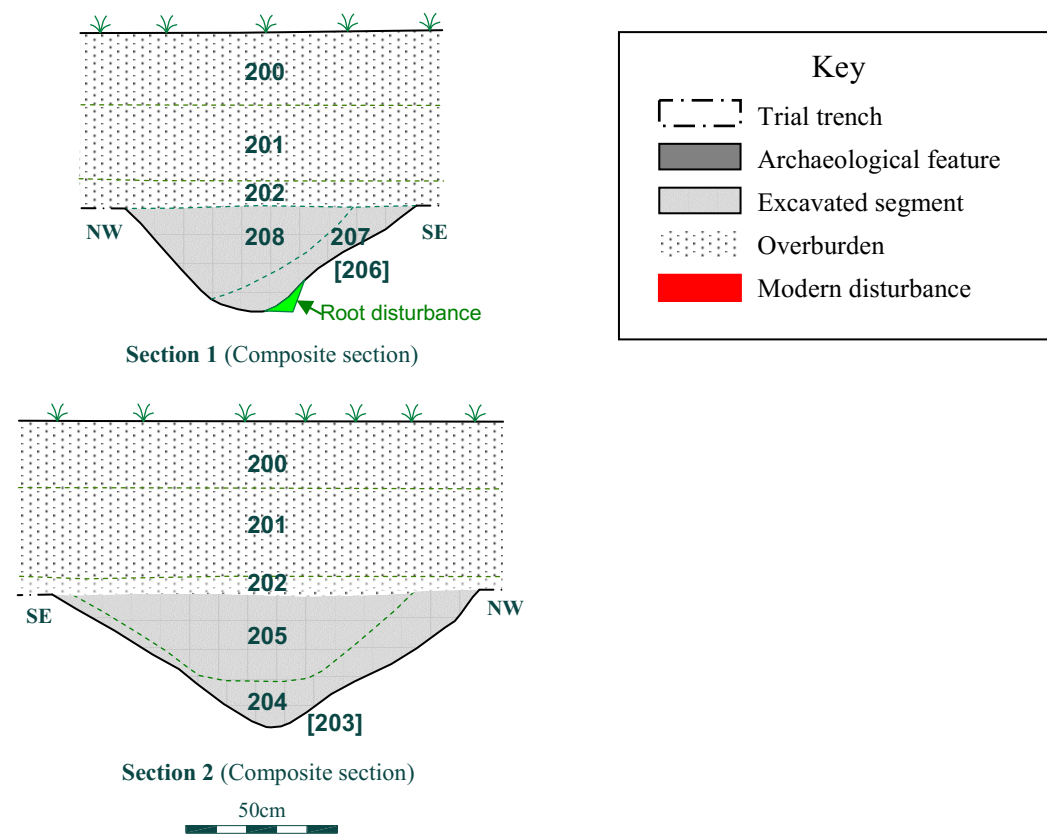


Ditches [103] & [106]. Scale 1m

Figure 3: Trench 1

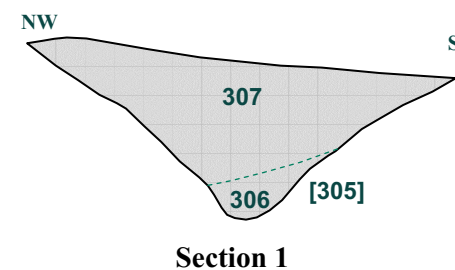
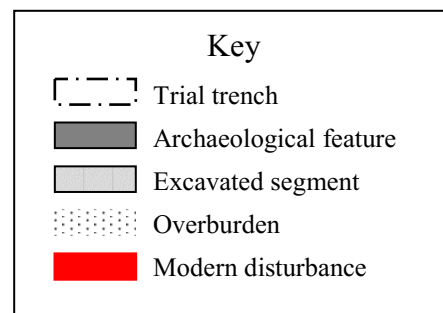
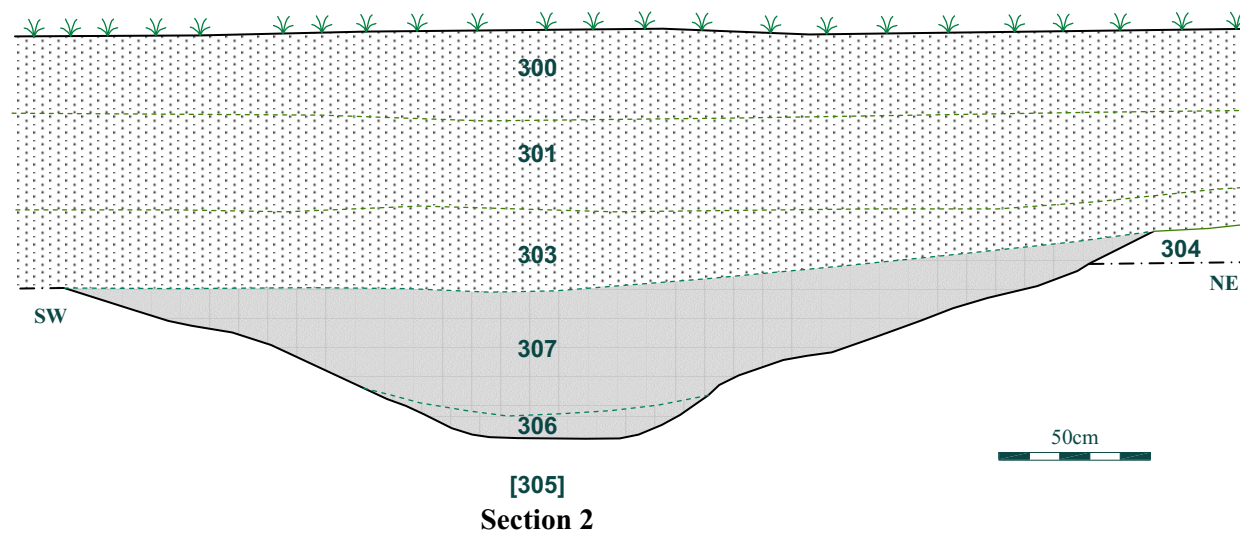
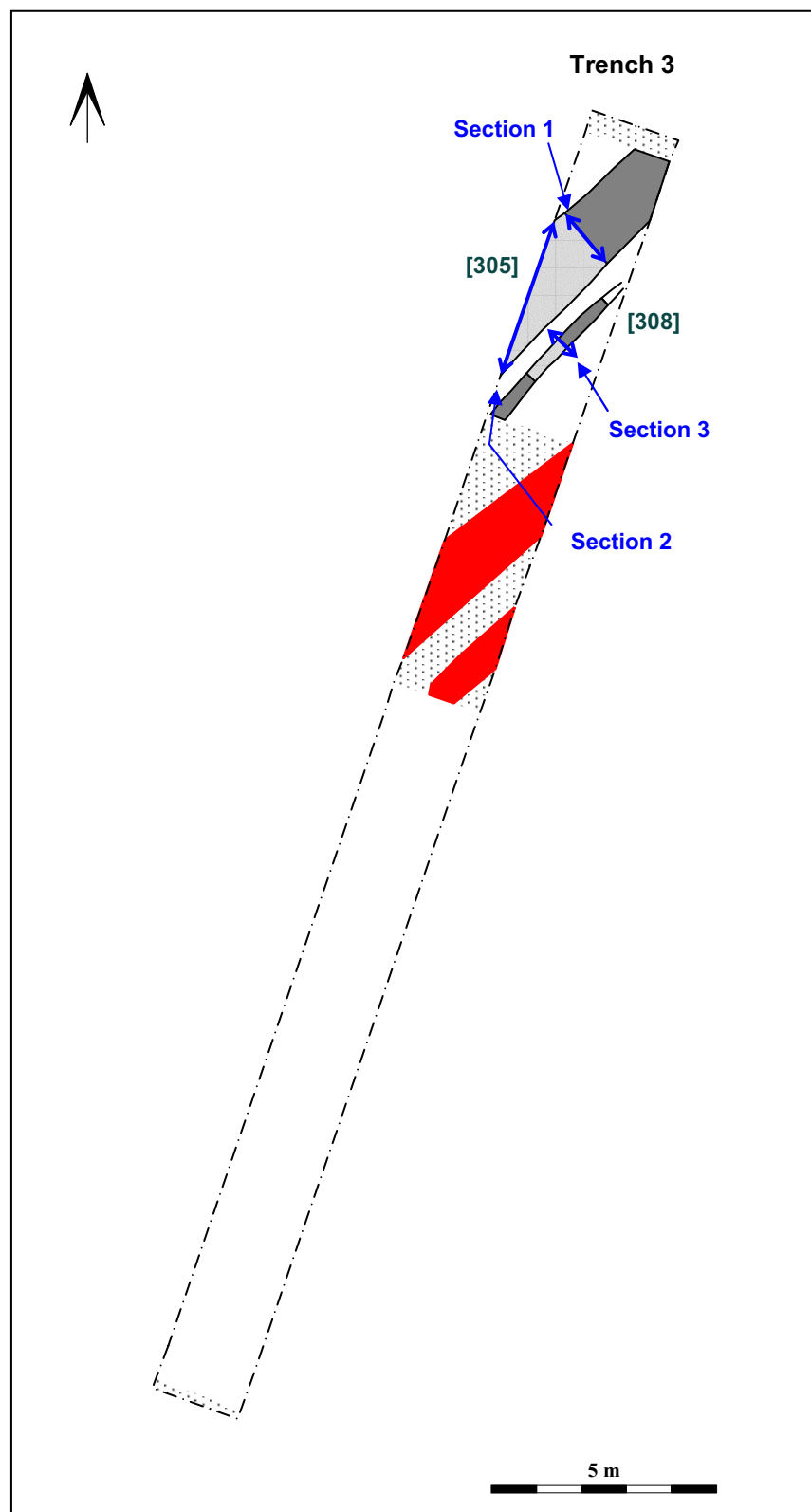


Ditch [206]. Scale 1m



Ditch [203]. Scale 1m

Figure 4: Trench 2



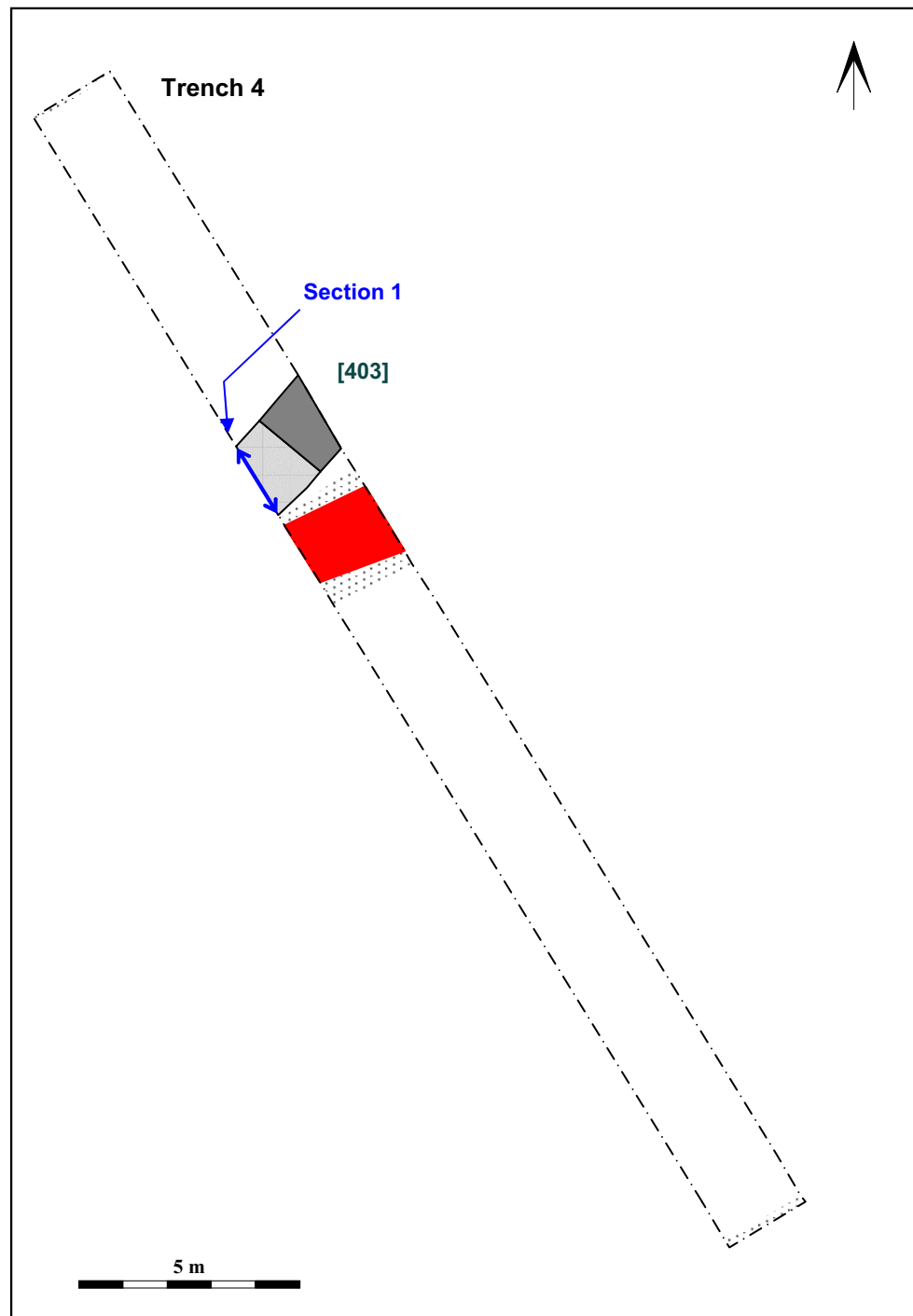
Ditch [305]. Scale 1m



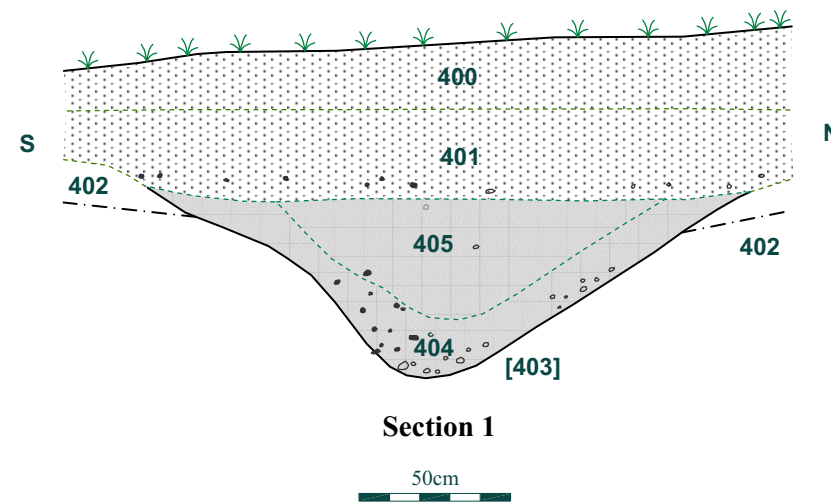
Gully [308]. Scale 40cm



Figure 5: Trench 3



| Key | |
|-----|------------------------|
| | Trial trench |
| | Archaeological feature |
| | Excavated segment |
| | Overburden |
| | Modern disturbance |



Ditch [403]. Scale 1m

Figure 6: Trench 4

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