LAND EAST OF HIGH STREET HENLOW BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





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Compiled by	Approved by
Mark Phillips	Drew Shotliff

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Preface

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

The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, (Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Gregson (Supervisor), Ben Carroll, Gary Manning, Adrian Woolmer (Assistant Supervisors) and Allan King (Archaeological Technician).

This report has been prepared by Mark Phillips with illustrations by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford. MK42 0AS

: 0300 300 8141 Fax: 0300 300 8209

e-mail: office@albion-arch.com Website: www.albion-arch.com

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Non-Technical Summary

CgMs Consulting Ltd are gathering baseline information on Land east of High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for a residential housing development. The proposed development area (PDA) measures c. 4.8ha in extent and is centred on grid reference TL 17870 39109. Previous work includes a desk-based assessment and detailed magnetic survey, which identified a number of linear and amorphous magnetic anomalies. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a trial trench evaluation (this report).

Sixteen trial trenches were positioned to test geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. Only one of the trenches, located in the north-west corner of the PDA contained no archaeological features. The majority of the revealed archaeological features consist of ditches and quarry pits located in the eastern half of the PDA with relatively few features found in the western half. The features were plough-truncated, cut into the underlying undisturbed geological deposit and sealed beneath a layer of subsoil. A few features in the south-east part of the PDA were found beneath a layer of alluvial silt which occurred along part of the eastern edge of the site.

The potentially earliest evidence consists of three pits located at the centre of the western side of the PDA. One of the pits produced an abraded late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery sherd. This sherd in itself does not represent conclusive dating evidence for the feature (or, by extension, the group of pits). However, it does represent possible evidence for settlement-related activity, perhaps on a short-term or non-permanent basis. The evidence is relatively slight, but could potentially make a minor contribution to regional research objectives relating to the characterisation of rural settlement and settlement patterns in this period.

The other identified features are likely to date from the medieval or post-medieval periods. These features produced a small artefact assemblage comprising pottery, tile, iron objects, lava quern, worked flints and animal bone. Most of the pottery dates from the early medieval period (1150–1250).

A small number of features in the western side of the PDA relate to a hollow-way with possible precursor ditches at the north of the area and a single ditched boundary at the south. An extremely small amount of medieval pottery was recovered from these features, reinforcing the impression that they are access/boundary features. The north-eastern part of the site contained a denser concentration of features, comprising quarry pits, ditches and a small number of other pits. One of the quarry pits and a non-quarry pit produced the majority of finds in this area. Again, most of the pottery was dated to the early medieval period. The south-eastern part of the PDA contained a moderate concentration of features, mainly ditches with a few pits in the extreme south-east. The ditches were mostly aligned north-south and produced very few finds. The ditches may be drainage or boundary features located away from activity areas; however, the presence of pits at the south-east of the site could indicate other activity in this area.

Study of medieval settlement patterns has been identified as a regional research objective. However, in the case of this site, the evidence appears to relate primarily to mineral extraction and boundary definition, outside of the main nucleus of Henlow. It has only low potential to contribute to regional research objectives.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

CgMs Consulting Ltd are gathering baseline information on Land east of High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for a residential housing development.

The proposed development area (PDA) lies at the north-east margins of the village to the rear of properties bordering High Street / Langford Road. The eastern side of the PDA borders a drainage ditch on the edge of the River Ivel floodplain.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) has advised that an archaeological field evaluation must be undertaken in order to obtain the heritage information required to accompany any future planning application.

This is 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 2012¹.

This report presents the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation. A desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013) and geophysical survey of the PDA have also been undertaken (Stratascan 2013).

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Henlow lies west of the River Ivel, *c*. 6km south-west of Biggleswade and *c*. 20km south-east of Bedford, north of the A507. It stretches northwards along the B695 (High Street).

The PDA measures c. 4.8ha in extent and is centred on grid reference TL 17870 39109. It lies on fairly level ground at around 40m OD. The underlying geology is Sandstone of Woburn Sands Formation; the superficial deposits are recorded as glaciofluvial sand and gravel of mid-Pleistocene origin.² The land is currently managed as hay meadow.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Geophysical survey

The PDA was subject to geophysical survey in November 2013 (Stratascan 2013). The work comprised a detailed magnetic survey. No probable archaeological anomalies were identified. The report concluded:

Across the central [sic] of the survey area, there are a number of weak linear and curvi-linear anomalies. These anomalies roughly correlate with field boundaries and tracks marked on historic mapping from 1901, so it is likely they relate to

.

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. ² Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2014].



agricultural activity from that period. There are also small areas of scattered magnetic debris, and patches of amorphous magnetic variation of a natural origin. The proximity of these anomalies to the drain and the course of the River Ivel along the eastern boundary of the site indicate that they may be caused by fluvial deposits from these watercourses.

1.3.2 Desk-based assessment

The archaeological and built heritage background is described in detail in the archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013), which was based on a 1km radius study area around the PDA. Its main points are summarised here.

Evidence for the early prehistoric period in the vicinity of the study area is scarce. However, further afield, flint artefact scatters are known from archaeological work undertaken in conjunction with the Arlesey-Stotfold Bypass to the south-west of the study area.

A Bronze Age burial ground (HER394) is known from the Clifton area, c. 800m to the west of the PDA. Five burials and a small amount of Beaker pottery were recovered. Other heritage assets thought to date to this period within the study area are solely known from cropmarks. These comprise linear, curvilinear and irregular enclosures at some distance to the east, west and north-west of the PDA. Most of these cropmarks, however, remain undated.

Recent excavations to the rear of no. 109–112 High Street, Henlow, have revealed evidence for prehistoric to early medieval settlement activity, including the remains of an Iron Age roundhouse (Albion Archaeology 2011, 7; Heritage Network 2011, 1). Though prehistoric occupation evidence within the study area remains relatively limited, more evidence for Iron Age settlements can be found further afield to the south-east of the PDA in the Arlesey/Stotfold area.

Within the study area some evidence has been recorded for the Roman period. However, the majority of heritage assets for this period comprise findspots. Explicit occupation evidence is still limited. Five Roman coins were recovered immediately to the north of the PDA (HER18405, 18407, 18409, 18505, 18506). Based on the work of the Viatores, the course of a Roman road has been postulated between Langford and Clifton. However, no hard evidence for this road has been discovered to date.

There is no definite evidence, in form of archaeological remains, for the Anglo-Saxon period from the study area. The name Henlow may derive from the Old English, 'haenna hlaw' — hens' hill (HER790), which might indicate the presence of a burial mound (HER790). The 1086 Domesday Book records four manors associated with Henlow, comprising 32 households and two mills, which can be considered quite a large settlement. Evidence datable to the Saxo-Norman period was recovered from investigations near Henlow High Street (Albion Archaeology 2011, 7; Heritage Network 2011, 1). In addition, Anglo-Saxon settlement activities have been recorded near Clifton to the west and in the Arlesey/Stotfold area to the south-east of the PDA.



The medieval core of Henlow lies to the south of the PDA and is concentrated along the High Street. Medieval stray finds have been recovered from the area north of the PDA (HER18404, 18406, 18507). Evidence for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation has been recorded c. 750m to the south of the site. As the PDA is at some distance from the centre of the medieval settlement it is likely that it was under cultivation as part of the settlement's agricultural hinterland.

The post-medieval period for the PDA is best recorded on historical maps. The 1798 enclosure map shows that the current day PDA comprises parts of 5 small to large-sized fields. By 1882 the western fields have been amalgamated into one large field reaching from the track at the northern boundary of the PDA down to St Mary's Church in the south. The eastern part of the PDA is taken up by small woodland and two small/medium fields. By 1921 part of the area along the western boundary fronting onto High Street has been developed with twelve cottages. The woodland in the north-east corner of the PDA has disappeared by 1976 and the fields have been merged into one.

Most designated and undesignated heritage assets within the study area are concentrated within the Henlow Conservation Area, at least 200m away from the PDA, which approximates to the medieval village core. Henlow Park, an 18th-century landscape park and pleasure ground, is located c. 150m to the south of the PDA, south of the parish church.

1.4 Project Objectives

The relevant research frameworks for the area are: *Bedfordshire Archaeology*. *Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake *et al.* 2007) and *A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

The PDA lies north of the medieval settlement of Henlow. Evidence for the prehistoric periods within the study area has been scarce. However, Roman stray finds have been recovered north of the PDA and limited evidence for prehistoric to early medieval settlement activity has been recorded within the medieval core of Henlow.

The research agenda for Bedfordshire states that little detailed work has been carried out on the characterisation of rural settlement activity from the Bronze Age to the Roman period and that there is also a need to understand more about the range of variation of settlements in these periods and their chronology (Oake 2007, 11).

With regards to the medieval period, the PDA lies a short distance north of the medieval settlement core. Post-medieval cartographic evidence has shown that the PDA was under agricultural use since at least the late medieval/early post-medieval period and lay within the hinterland of the medieval settlement. Recent excavations within the village have revealed late prehistoric to early medieval and Saxo-Norman settlement traces. The research framework states that generally few medieval rural settlements have been investigated in Bedfordshire but that in areas where investigations did take place they showed the potential for acquiring



information about the origins and development of villages from within or around the edges of existing settlements (Oake 2007, 14).

The site specific research objectives defined in the WSI were to:

- To assess if any heritage assets relating to the prehistoric period are present on the PDA;
- If any are present, to gain further insight into the settlement distribution and /or land use from the Bronze Age to Roman periods in this part of Bedfordshire;
- To assess if any heritage assets relating to the Saxon and medieval period are present on the PDA;
- To assess the nature of the medieval settlement and its development and the associated land use

The general purpose of the trial trenching 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

1.5 Methodology

The methodology for the archaeological works is set out in full in the WSI (Albion 2014). Sixteen trenches were excavated across the site with the distribution of trenches designed to target anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and elsewhere to test the apparently 'blank' areas.



2. RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

The results are summarised below by trench and illustrated in Figure 2. The northern half of the site is illustrated at a larger scale in Figure 3. Selected sections are illustrated in Figure 4.

2.1.1 Trench 1

This trench contained no archaeological features.

2.1.2 Trench 2

The west end of the trench contained a large quarry pit [208], 11.5m wide and at least 1m deep, dug into the underlying geology.

A pair of ditches in the middle part of the trench aligned approximately NE-SW, represent a ditch [211] and a subsequent deeper replacement [213] measuring 1.9m wide and 0.65m deep (Figure 4, Section 1). The sole fill of [213] produced a single sherd of early medieval pottery.

The eastern half of the trench contained six ditch cuts aligned approximately north-south [203, 205, 215, 217, 219 & 221]. Most were similar in size, c.1m or less in width and less than 0.45m deep. The two ditches at the eastern end of the trench were larger; [203] was 2.12m wide and [205] formed a probable re-cut on the centre-line of the earlier ditch. The only finds recovered from the ditches in the eastern half of the trench was a small amount of early medieval pottery from the fill of ditch [217].

2.1.3 Trench 3

This trench contained a hollow-way [302] aligned approximately east-west in the mid part of the trench. It aligns well with a linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey.

Ditch [304] was located 2m north of and parallel to the hollow-way. It was 1.37m wide and 0.9m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base (Figure 4, Section 2). No artefacts were recovered from the Trench 3 features.

2.1.4 Trench 4

The hollow-way (see above) extended across the mid part of Trench 4 (Figure 4, Section 3). Here the hollow-way [417] was 6.8m wide and up to 0.58m deep with a shallow, asymmetric profile. Four linear features were truncated by the hollow-way. A steep-sided ditch [403] towards the north side of the hollow-way probably corresponds to ditch [304] in Trench 3. A ditch with sloping sides [414] was found towards the south side and two smaller ditches were found beneath the middle of the hollow-way. It is likely that the two side ditches represent former drainage ditches defining the edge of a track that was eroded to form the hollow. A single sherd of early medieval pottery was found in the upper part of ditch [403] and a fragment of a horseshoe was recovered from the fill of one of the central ditches [411].



2.1.5 Trench 5

A feature identified in the middle of the trench [518] forms a continuation of the hollow-way seen in Trenches 3 and 4.

In the northern part of the trench was a clearly defined north-south aligned ditch [512] and the western edge of another possible ditch [510] — the steep, convex profile of the latter may represent the edge of a quarry pit.

The trench contained significant evidence of quarrying. The main quarry pit [507] occupied the majority of the trench; it was *c*. 30m long north to south and 1.1m deep. Other smaller quarry pits were found next to the main pit [505, 520 & 522].

The use and silting up of the hollow-way seen in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 appears to post-date the infilling of the main quarry pit seen in this trench. Quarry pit [507] produced a small number of finds: a small amount of early medieval pottery, animal bone, lava quern and a nail. A single sherd of early medieval pottery was recovered from possible ditch [510] and animal bone and tile from ditch [512].

2.1.6 Trench 6

This trench contained a possible linear feature [620] at its north end, a pair of parallel east-west aligned ditch cuts [611 & 613] and a single ditch in the south of the trench [606].

Evidence of quarrying consisted of discrete pits [602, 616, 622 & 626]. A pit [609] partly exposed in plan and section may have also have been quarry-related. Where investigated the quarry pits were steep sided and up to 0.83m deep.

A layer (615) of silty-clay up to 0.19m thick, identified in the northern half of the trench, could represent a continuation of the hollow-way seen in the trenches to the west.

Finds from the trench comprise a small amount of early medieval pottery and animal bone from ditch [611] and a moderate amount of material from quarry pits [622 & 626] which includes early medieval pottery, lava quern and animal bone.

2.1.7 Trench 7

At the northern end of the trench was north-south aligned ditch [736] which may correspond to one of the similarly aligned ditches in the eastern end of Trench 2.

The southern end of the ditch appeared to be truncated by an area of quarrying [718, 738] although the relationship was not completely clear. The southern edge of the same quarry appeared to truncate the northernmost ditch in a pair of NE-SW aligned ditches [713 & 715]. An east-west aligned ditch [732] was cut across the quarry following its disuse.

The southern half of trench contained a complex of ditches and pits. This includes a series of ditches which form the north-west corner to a possible enclosure or field [703, 705, 707, 709, & 711]. The cuts form a sequential series of re-cuts, indicating that the boundary was periodically renewed. A separate ditch [segments 724, 726 & general number 738] runs parallel to the NE-SW arm of the



enclosure and is cut by the NE-SW arm and may therefore be part of a precursor to the enclosure. Three pits [720, 728 and 736] found in the same area all appeared to be partly truncated by the enclosure/field ditches.

A layer (731) of yellow-grey, silty-clay 0.28m thick was recorded towards the southern end of trench.

A small amount of early medieval potter was recovered from ditches [707, 715, 726 & 732,] and pit [720]. Animal bone was recovered from some of these features with a moderate amount (1079g) being found in pit [720]. The fill of ditch [715] also contained unfired clay and fragments of lava quern.

2.1.8 Trench 8

The eastern half of the trench contained three pits [803, 805 & 807], each spaced c. 3m apart. All three were half-sectioned. They measured up to 0.75m in diameter and had shallow profiles up to 0.2m deep with concave or uneven bases. They contained similar fills — a single deposit of sandy silt with occasional small and medium stones. Pit [803] produced a single, abraded sherd (8g) of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery.

2.1.9 Trench 9

The eastern half of the trench contained seven, approximately north-south aligned ditch cuts [903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913 & 915].

The four ditches in the easternmost part of the trench [903 to 909] form a group of approximately similar-sized cuts, 0.65–0.8m wide, up to 0.5m deep. They could represent sequential recutting of a boundary.

Ditch [911] differed slightly in alignment from the others, lying closer to NW-SE. It was larger at 2.05m wide and 0.72m deep; it contained a single undifferentiated fill.

Ditch [915] was up to 1.8m wide and 0.8m deep, and forms a partial re-cut of a shallower ditch [913].

Artefacts comprise a small amount of early medieval pottery from ditches [909 & 913] whilst the fill of ditch [911] produced a small amount of tile and brick, suggesting a late medieval or post-medieval date.

2.1.10 Trench 10

This trench contained an east-west aligned ditch [1003] with a recut [1005]. Both had sloping sides forming approximately V-shaped profiles with narrow concave bases. The original cut was 0.98m deep and the recut 1.43m wide and 0.73m deep.

The fill of the recut produced a small amount of animal bone and a high medieval pottery (4 sherds, weighing 47g, from the same vessel).

This ditch (and its continuation in Trenches 11-13) corresponds with an anomaly recorded on the geophysical survey.



2.1.11 Trench 11

This trench contained a single east-west aligned ditch [1103]. It corresponds to the ditch seen in Trench 10 and was not excavated. It measured 2.1m wide. No finds were recovered.

2.1.12 Trench 12

This trench contained a single east-west aligned ditch [1203]. It corresponds to the ditch seen in Trenches 10 and 11 and was not excavated. It measured 2.5m wide. No finds were recovered.

2.1.13 Trench 13

This trench contained an east-west aligned ditch [1303] with a recut [1305]. The original ditch had straight sides and a narrow, flat base. The recut had asymmetric sides and an uneven base. The original cut was 0.6m deep and the recut 2.22m wide and 0.85m deep.

The only artefact recovered was a flint flake.

2.1.14 Trench 14

The eastern half of the trench contained a layer of alluvium (1403) which extended c. 15m from the east end of the trench. It comprised a light, grey silt deposit up to 0.5m thick.

A shallow linear feature [segments 1408 & 1411], possibly a ditch, was exposed by the partial removal of the alluvial layer. The feature has a projected width of c. 4m and was up to 0.4m deep with a wide, flat base.

A small, NW-SE aligned ditch [1406], 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep, was found in the middle of the trench. The alignment suggests a possible relationship with ditch [911] in Trench 9; however, their sizes are very different.

A large, north-south aligned ditch [1404] was found in the western half of the trench. It was 5.25m wide and more than 0.65m deep. It could not be fully excavated due to a high water table. The alignment of the ditch suggests it could be a continuation of ditch [903] in Trench 9.

Few artefacts were recovered from this trench and none are closely dateable. Fragments of tile were recovered from ditches [1406] and [1408] and a late medieval or post-medieval date is suggested for this material.

2.1.15 Trench 15

This trench contained a layer of alluvium (1502) which extended c. 11m from the eastern end of the trench.

A sequence of three, north-south aligned ditch cuts [1506, 1512 and 1513], located towards the eastern end of the trench, were cut through the alluvial deposit. The latest ditch [1506] was 1.85m wide and 0.72m deep with concave sides and base. It had largely cut away the remains of the two underlying ditches, [1512] and [1513].



Ditch [1510] was located 9m from the eastern end of the trench sealed beneath the alluvium (1502). The NNW-SSE aligned ditch was 0.8m wide by 0.23m deep with straight sides and a flat base.

Few artefacts were recovered from this trench and none are closely dateable. A small amount of animal bone and roof tile from ditch [1506] suggest a late medieval / post-medieval date. A fragment of unidentifiable pottery was recovered from ditch [1510].

2.1.16 Trench 16

Layer (1602), exposed in the base of this trench, was a sandy silt forming part of the alluvial deposit seen in the eastern part of Trenches 14 and 15. The features identified in this trench were cut into the alluvial layer and sealed beneath subsoil (1601).

Ditch [1607] at the eastern end of the trench was aligned roughly north-south and was steep-sided with a narrow base, measuring 1.45m wide and 0.92m deep.

Ditch [1607] partially truncated a shallower feature [1605] to its eastern side. This was a flat-bottomed cut, 0.46m deep, which is interpreted as a possible ditch.

Two sub-circular pits [1603 & 1610] were located to the west of ditch [1607]; pit [1603] was partly truncated by the ditch. The pits were up to 1.73m long and 0.4m deep with shallow, concave profiles.

Ditch [1613] in the mid part of the trench was north-south aligned, 2.2m wide. It was not excavated.

Artefacts recovered from features in this trench comprise a small amount of animal bone, antler and early medieval (1150-1250) pottery from pit [1610]. An extremely small sherd of abraded Roman samian pottery was recovered from the fill of ditch [1605].

2.2 Synthesis

The results of the trial trenching can be conveniently divided into three areas of the site based on the density and character of the archaeological remains.

2.2.1 Western half of PDA

The western half of the PDA was investigated by Trenches 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13. This part of the PDA contained a low density of archaeological features. The top of the archaeological features was found at a depth of 0.36–0.56m in this area. They survive as plough-truncated features cut into the underlying geological deposit, which consists of sandy gravel in this part of the PDA.

Trench 8, located centrally in the western half of the PDA, contained possible evidence of late prehistoric activity in the form of three pits. One of the pits produced a single abraded sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. This cannot be conclusively taken to date the pit — it may be residual, although no later datable material was recovered from the features. The other two pits are dated by association with the pit containing the pottery.



To the north is an east-west aligned track, evidenced by a series of parallel ditches and a subsequent hollow-way, corresponding with an anomaly seen on the geophysical survey. It is likely that the ditches seen in Trenches 3 and 4 formed boundary or drainage ditches that defined the original track. The ditches have been partially eroded away by the continued use of the track, leading to the formation of a hollow-way. The track leads towards a denser area of archaeological features in the north-east part of the PDA.

Few artefacts were recovered from the excavated sections of these features, reinforcing the impression that these are access/boundary features. The dateable material comprises a very small quantity of early medieval (1150–1250) pottery. The absence of later finds suggests that the ditches and hollow-way had silted up prior to the post-medieval period.

To the south a ditched boundary, aligned east-west, was seen in Trenches 10 to 13. It too corresponded well with an anomaly seen on the geophysical survey. Where it was excavated in Trenches 10 and 13 it consisted of a substantial ditch and a subsequent recut. A small amount of animal bone, a fragment of iron and four pottery sherds from a single vessel dateable to the high medieval period (1250-1400) were recovered from the recut.

2.2.2 North-eastern part of the PDA

The north-eastern part of the PDA was investigated by Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 7. This area contained a denser concentration of archaeological features comprising quarry pits, ditches and pits. The features were covered by 0.32–0.6m of overburden. The underlying geological deposit in this part of the site varied from clay-gravel to sandy silt. It is likely that some of the quarry pits identified in this part of the site are responsible for producing a number of the amorphous magnetic anomalies identified in the geophysical survey results.

A number of quarry pits were found in Trenches 5 to 7. These were up to 30m across and approximately 1m deep where excavated. Layered fills in the quarries (e.g. Figure 4, Section 4) may indicate deliberate backfilling or rapid silting from the sides.

The ditches in this area were mostly medium-sized features, aligned north-south and east-west. Some had been recut indicating continued use and maintenance. One group in Trench 7 appear to form the north-west corner of an enclosure or field. They had been recut multiple times, indicating extended use. The only non-quarry type pits were found in the area of the enclosure/field in Trench 7.

The finds density in this area was quite low with many excavated segments produced no artefactual evidence. The largest concentrations of artefacts were recovered from a quarry pit in Trench 6 [622, 626] and from one of the pits [720] associated with the enclosure/field in Trench 7. The finds includes pottery, lava quern and animal bone. Almost all of the pottery recovered in this area from quarry pits, ditches and other pits dates from the early medieval period (1150–1250). The finds and features in this area indicate a focus of early medieval activity, although its character is not clear, consisting as it does of a mixture of



quarrying, ditches and small amounts of domestic debris. One boundary ditch in the southern end of Trench 6 [606] produced post-medieval finds, indicating that at least some of the ditches belong to a later phase of activity.

2.2.3 South-eastern part of the PDA

The south-eastern part of the PDA was investigated by Trenches 9, 14, 15 and 16. This area contained a moderate concentration of features, almost all of them ditches. The archaeological features in this area were covered by 0.55–0.8m of overburden. The underlying geological deposit in this part of the site varied from yellow-brown to red-brown sandy silt. A layer of alluvial silt occurred in the eastern end of Trenches 14 and 15. Some archaeological features in these trenches were sealed by the layer of alluvium.

The great majority of the features found in this area were ditches aligned north-south or NW-SE. They were mainly medium-sized ditches with a fewer smaller gullies and one very large ditch [1404]. The only pits were two located at the southern edge of the area in Trench 16. Few artefacts were recovered in this area. Some of the ditches contained tile with a suggested late medieval or post-medieval date. The general absence of finds suggests a low level of activity in this area and the ditches may be boundary or drainage features.



3. SUMMARY AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

3.1 Summary

Sixteen trial trenches were positioned to test geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. Only one of the trenches, located in the north-west corner of the PDA contained no archaeological features. The majority of the features consist of ditches and quarry pits located in the eastern half of the PDA with relatively few features found in the western half. The features were plough-truncated, cut into the underlying undisturbed geological deposit and sealed beneath a layer of subsoil. A few features in the south-east part of the PDA were found beneath a layer of alluvial silt which occurred along part of the eastern edge of the site. It is likely that some of the areas of amorphous magnetic variation identified in the geophysical survey correspond to the areas of quarrying identified in the northeast of the PDA.

3.1.1 Possible late prehistoric activity

The earliest potential evidence consists of the three pits located at the centre of the western side of the PDA. One of the pits produced an abraded sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. If this provides reliable dating evidence for the pits (which is by no means certain), the evidence may indicate unenclosed, settlement-related activity. However, the small quantity of artefacts and features may suggest this took place on a short-term or non-permanent basis.

3.1.2 Medieval and later

The other identified features are likely to date from the medieval or post-medieval periods. These features produced a small artefact assemblage comprising pottery, tile, iron objects, lava quern, worked flints and animal bone. Most of the pottery dates from the early medieval period (1150-1250).

A small number of features in the western side of the PDA consist of a hollow-way with possible precursor ditches to the north and a single ditched boundary to the south. An extremely small amount of medieval pottery was recovered from these.

The north-east part of the site contained a denser concentration of features which comprise quarry pits, ditches and a small number of other pits. One of the quarry pits and a non-quarry pit produced the majority of the finds from this area. The three non-quarry pits were found in association with the corner of a possible enclosure/field with a complex sequence of recutting.

The south-east part of the PDA contained a moderate concentration of features, mainly ditches with a few pits in the extreme south-east. The ditches were mostly aligned north-south and produced very few finds. The ditches may be drainage or boundary features, located away from activity areas; however, the presence of pits at the south-east of the site could indicate other activity in this area.



3.1.3 Archive

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM 2014.24). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-175546).

3.2 Heritage Statement

The results of the evaluation indicate limited possible evidence for late prehistoric settlement-related activity. The evidence is relatively slight, but this could potentially make a minor contribution to regional research objectives relating to the characterisation of rural settlement and settlement patterns in this period (Oake 2007, 11).

A larger amount of evidence for medieval activity, mainly dated to the early medieval period (1150–1250), was recovered. The evidence includes a track/hollow-way, boundary features, a possible ditched enclosure/field, pits and quarry pits. Detailed study of the various elements making up the medieval settlement pattern has been identified as a research objective for this period in Bedfordshire (Oake 2007, 14). However, in the case of this site, the evidence appears to relate primarily to mineral extraction and boundary definition, outside of the main village nucleus. It has only low potential to contribute to regional research objectives.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.49 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17778: Northing: 39201)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17827: Northing: 39210)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones 0.31m thick.	V	
101	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones 0.16m thic	ek.	
102	Natural	Compact mid red brown silty sand		



Max Dimensions: Length: 57.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17854: Northing: 39222)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17903: Northing: 39230)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Compact mid grey black silt occasional small CBM, moderate small-mediun stones 0.3m thick.	n 🗸	
201	Subsoil	Friable mid brown brown silt occasional small-large stones 0.3m thick.	✓	
202	Natural	Friable mid yellow brown clay silt		
203	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.12m, ma depth 0.39m, min length 2.m	x 🗸	
204	Fill	Friable mid blue grey silt	✓	
205	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.17m, max depth 0.49m, min length 2.m		
206	Fill	Friable mid grey blue silty clay	✓	✓
207	Quarry	Assymetrical sides: 45 degrees dimensions: min breadth 2.1m, min depth 1.6m, max length 12.25m	✓	
208	Lower fill	Friable mid red grey silt 0.25m thick.	✓	✓
209	Redeposited natural	Firm light blue brown clay occasional small stones 0.15m thick.	✓	
210	Main fill	Friable mid brown grey silt $$ moderate small CBM, moderate small stones $$ 0.7m thick.	✓	✓
211	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.33m, min length 2.1m	✓	
212	Fill	Friable light grey brown silt moderate medium-large stones	✓	
213	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.9m, max depth 0.65m, min length 2.1m	✓	
214	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silt moderate small stones	✓	✓
215	Ditch	Curving linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.35m, min length 2.05m	✓	
216	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silt	✓	
217	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.05m, max depth 0.45m, min length 1.5m	V	
218	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silt	✓	V
219	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.95m max depth 0.45m, min length 2.m	, ✓	
220	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
221	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.2m, min length 2.m	✓	
222	Fill	Friable mid blue brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.46 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17778: Northing: 39176)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17778: Northing: 39126)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones 0.36m thick.	✓	
301	Natural	Compact light grey brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones		
302	Hollow way	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 7.9m, min length 2.m		
303	Fill	Friable mid blue brown sandy silt moderate medium stones, moderate small ston	es \square	
304	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.37m, max depth 0.9m, min length 2.m	✓	
305	Redeposited natural	Loose mid yellow brown sandy gravel 0.43m thick.	✓	
306	Main fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones 0.9m thick.	✓	\checkmark



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.41 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17809: Northing: 39183)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 17816: Northing: 39133*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt $$ moderate small-medium stones $$ 0.31m thick.	V	
401	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones 0.15m thic	ck.	
402	Natural	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel		
403	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.21m, max depth 1.01m, min length 2.m	✓	
404	Primary fill	Firm mid brown orange clay occasional small-medium stones 0.78m thick.	✓	
405	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.39m thick.	✓	
406	Redeposited natural	Firm light yellow brown sandy clay occasional small stones 0.46m thick.	✓	
407	Main fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	✓
408	Redeposited natural	Firm light yellow brown sandy clay occasional small stones 0.16m thick.	✓	
409	Gulley	Linear N-S sides: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.23m, min length 2.m	✓	
410	Fill	Firm light yellow brown sandy clay occasional medium-large stones	✓	
411	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.86m, max depth 0.52m, min length 2.m	V	
412	Primary fill	Firm light yellow brown sandy clay moderate small-medium stones 0.18m thick.		
413	Main fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones 0.26m thick	. ✓	✓
414	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.86m, max depth 0.52m, min length 2.m	✓	
415	Primary fill	Loose mid red brown sandy gravel 0.18m thick.	✓	
416	Main fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones 0.42m thick	. ✓	
417	Hollow way	Linear E-W sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 6.8m, max depth 0.58m, min length 2.m	✓	
418	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-large stones	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.44 m. Max: 0.68 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17842: Northing: 39190)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 17849: Northing: 39140*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones 0.3m thick	. 🗸	
501	Make up layer	Friable mid brown yellow clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
502	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones 0.3m thick.	✓	
505	Pit	Oval sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.m, max depth 0.64m, max length 1.02m	✓	
506	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
507	Quarry	Irregular sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 2.m, max depth 1.1m, max length 31.m	✓	
503	Redeposited natural	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones 0.18m thick.	✓	
504	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones 0.18m thick.	✓	
508	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones 0.74m thick.	✓	\checkmark
515	Lower fill	Friable mid green white silty silt 0.2m thick.	✓	
516	Lower fill	Firm mid blue grey clay silt 0.3m thick.	✓	
517	Main fill	Friable mid brown grey silt 0.6m thick.	✓	
509	Natural	Compact mid yellow yellow clay silt frequent small-medium stones		
510	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.88m, max depth 0.59m, min length 8.5m	✓	
511	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	✓
512	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.22m, min length 11.25m	✓	
513	Fill	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	\checkmark
518	Hollow way	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 6.6m, min length 2.m		
519	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt		
520	Quarry	Sub-oval dimensions: min breadth 1.45m, max length 2.8m		
521	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt		
522	Quarry	Irregular dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min length 2.75m		
523	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.32 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17868: Northing: 39182)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17874: Northing: 39133)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey silty clay 0.32m thick.	✓	
601	Natural	Firm mid orange brown clay gravel		
602	Quarry	Irregular sides: assymetrical base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.83m, min length 2.75m	✓	
603	Lower fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones 0.45m thick.	✓	
604	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones 0.28m thick.	✓	\checkmark
605	Main fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones 0.7m thick.	✓	✓
606	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.41m, min length 7.5m	V	
607	Lower fill	Compact mid brown grey clay gravel 0.24m thick.	✓	✓
608	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones 0.17m thick.	✓	✓
609	Pit	Sub-oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.33m, min length 1.55m	V	
610	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones	✓	
611	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.43m, min length 2.m	✓	
612	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones	✓	✓
613	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.14m, min length 2.m	✓	
614	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey silty clay occasional small stones	✓	
615	Layer	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones 0.19m thick.	✓	✓
616	Quarry	Sub-oval dimensions: min breadth 1.15m, max length 5.3m		
617	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay		
618	Quarry	Irregular dimensions: min breadth 2.m, max length 4.95m		
619	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay		✓
620	Ditch	Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 3.1m, min length 2.45m		
621	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay		
622	Quarry	sides: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.95m, max depth 1.38m, max length 2.m	h 🗸	
623	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	✓	✓
626	Quarry	sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.m, max depth 0.61m, mi length 3.45m	n 🗸	
624	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones 0.28m thick.	✓	~
625	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones 0.13m thick.	✓	✓



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.53 m. Max: 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17891: Northing: 39196)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17894: Northing: 39146)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty clay 0.35m thick.	✓	
701	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow grey silty clay 0.2m thick.	✓	
702	Natural	Compact mid orange sandy silt		
703	Gulley	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.39m, max depth 0.17m, min length 1.m	✓	
704	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey silty clay	✓	✓
705	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.61m, max depth 0.31m, min length 6.m	✓	
706	Fill	Friable mid grey blue clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	· •	
707	Gulley	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.33m, max depth 0.19m, min length 1.m	✓	
708	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	✓	✓
709	Gulley	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.25m, max depth 0.18m, min length 1.m	✓	
710	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	✓	
711	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.71m, max depth 0.31m, min length 2.5m	✓	
712	Fill	Friable mid grey blue clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	· •	
713	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth $0.35 m$, min length $2.45 m$	✓	
714	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey silt occasional small stones	✓	✓
715	Ditch	Linear NE-SW base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.31m, min length 1.75m	✓	
716	Lower fill	Firm dark grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.21m thick.	✓	✓
717	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey silt 0.21m thick.	~	
718	Quarry	sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.12m, min length 0.85m	✓	
719	Fill	Firm mid yellow grey silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	✓	
720	Pit	Sub-oval sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.74m, max length 1.18m	✓	
721	Main fill	Firm mid grey blue clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.66m thick.	✓	
722	Fill	Firm mid orange grey clay silt 0.39m thick.	✓	✓
723	Primary fill	Compact mid orange sandy silt 0.39m thick.	✓	
724	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: min breadth 0.15m, max depth 0.27m, min length $0.65\mathrm{m}$	✓	
725	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.53 m. Max: 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17891: Northing: 39196)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17894: Northing: 39146)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Fin	nds Present:
726	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.15m, min length 1.m	✓	
727	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	✓	✓
728	Pit	Sub-circular sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.37m, min length 0.75m	✓	
729	Lower fill	Firm mid grey blue clay silt occasional small stones 0.23m thick.	\checkmark	
730	Fill	Friable mid grey blue clay silt occasional small-medium stones 0.14m thick.	✓	
731	Layer	Friable mid yellow grey silty clay 0.28m thick.	✓	
732	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.6m, min length 2.m	✓	
733	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay	✓	✓
734	Quarry	sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.m, max depth 0.75m, max length 10.9m	✓	
735	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay	\checkmark	
736	Ditch	Linear N-S dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min length 7.25m		
737	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt		
738	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, min length 5.1m		
739	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.41 m. Max: 0.51 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17773: Northing: 39100)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17823: Northing: 39103)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones 0.33m thick.	✓	
801	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones 0.14m thic	ck.	
802	Natural	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel		
803	Pit	Circular sides: Assymetrical base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.15m, max diameter 0.71m	✓	
804	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	✓
805	Pit	Circular sides: Assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.51m max depth 0.1m, max length 0.6m	n, 🗸	
806	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	
807	Pit	Circular sides: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, mar depth 0.2m, max length 0.75m	x 🗸	
808	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17893: Northing: 39101)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 17843: Northing: 39099*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Topsoil	Firm dark grey silt moderate small-medium stones 0.3m thick.	✓	
901	Subsoil	Friable light brown silt moderate small stones 0.3m thick.	✓	
902	Natural	Loose light brown yellow silt		
903	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.84m, max depth 0.15m, min length 2.1m	✓	
904	Fill	Friable light grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	
905	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.5m, min length 2.1m	✓	
906	Fill	Friable light grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	
907	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.25m, min length 2.1m	✓	
908	Fill	Friable light brown grey silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
909	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8n max depth 0.35m, min length 1.3m	ı, 🗸	
910	Fill	Friable light brown grey silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	✓
911	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.05m, max depth 0.72m, min length 2.25m	✓	
912	Fill	Friable mid grey silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	✓
913	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.m, mdepth 0.52m, min length 2.m	ax 🗸	
914	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	✓
915	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.8m, min length 1.1m	✓	
916	Primary fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones 0.4m thick.	✓	
917	Main fill	Friable mid brown grey silt occasional small stones 0.65m thick.	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.56 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17757: Northing: 39067)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17758: Northing: 39018)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt 0.3m thick.	✓	
1001	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty clay 0.26m thick.	✓	
1002	Natural	Loose mid orange sandy gravel		
1003	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.7m max depth 0.98m, min length 2.m	, V	
1004	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones	✓	
1005	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.43m, max depth 0.73m, min length 2.m	V	
1006	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt	✓	✓



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17795: Northing: 39075)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17798: Northing: 39026)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt $$ moderate small-medium stones $$ 0.34m thick.	✓	
1101	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones 0.14m thic	k. 🗸	
1102	Natural	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel		
1103	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2.1m, min length 2.m		
1104	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.49 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17826: Northing: 39071)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17828: Northing: 39021)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
1200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt $$ moderate small-medium stones $$ 0.31m thick.	V	
1201	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones 0.11m thic	k. 🔽	
1202	Natural	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel		
1203	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, min length 2.m		
1204	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.49 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17849: Northing: 39064)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17850: Northing: 39015)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt 0.32m thick.	✓	
1301	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty clay 0.15m thick.	✓	
1302	Natural	Loose mid orange sandy gravel		
1303	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: Assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.6m, min length 2.1m	V	
1304	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty clay	✓	✓
1305	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: Assymetrical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.22m, max depth 0.85m, min length 2.1m	V	
1306	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17865: Northing: 39077)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17915: Northing: 39077)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey silt moderate small-medium stones 0.45m thick.	✓	
1401	Subsoil	Friable light brown silt occasional small stones 0.25m thick.	✓	
1402	Natural	Firm light yellow brown silt occasional small stones		
1403	Alluvium	Firm light grey silt 0.5m thick.	V	
1404	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees dimensions: max breadth 5.25m, min depth 0.65m, min length 2.m	✓	
1405	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
1406	Gulley	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.35m max depth 0.15m, min length 2.5m	, ✓	
1407	Fill	Friable mid grey sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	✓
1408	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.3m, min length 0.9m	✓	
1409	Primary fill	Firm dark grey clay 0.08m thick.	✓	
1410	Main fill	Friable mid grey clay silt moderate small stones 0.3m thick.	✓	✓
1411	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.45m, max depth 0.4m, min length 0.8m	✓	
1412	Lower fill	Friable mid grey clay silt moderate small stones 0.4m thick.	✓	
1413	Fill	Firm dark grey clay 0.4m thick.	✓	
1415	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW dimensions: max breadth 4.5m, min length 5.m		
1416	Fill	Friable dark grey clay silt moderate small stones		



Trench: 15

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.54 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17868: Northing: 39048)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 17917: Northing: 39043*)

Reason: To evaluate area and test geophysical anomaly.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt $$ moderate small-medium stones $$ 0.34m thick.	✓	
1501	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones 0.22m thick	k.	
1502	Alluvium	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	
1505	Natural	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel		
1506	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.73m, max depth 0.72m, min length 2.1m	✓	
1503	Primary fill	Friable mid orange grey clay sand occasional small-medium stones 0.32m thick		
1507	Lower fill	Friable mid red grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones 0.72m thick.	✓	✓
1508	Main fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.38m thick.		
1509	Fill	Friable dark red brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.26m thick.	✓	✓
1510	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.23m, min length 2.2m	✓	
1511	Fill	Firm mid grey sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	✓
1512	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.85m, max depth 0.15m, min length 2.m	✓	
1504	Fill	Firm dark grey clay occasional small-medium stones	~	
1513	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW sides: stepped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.66m, min length 2.2m	✓	
1514	Primary fill	Firm mid grey silty clay 0.13m thick.	✓	
1515	Main fill	Firm mid green grey clay silt 0.52m thick.	~	



Trench: 16

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17900: Northing: 39022)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 17940: Northing: 38993)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.4m thick.	✓	
1601	Subsoil	Friable mid brown sandy silt moderate small stones 0.4m thick.	✓	
1602	Natural	Firm light brown yellow sandy silt		
1603	Pit	Sub-oval sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.82m, max depth 0.15m, min length 1.05m		
1604	Fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	
1605	Ditch	Linear N-S base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.4m, max depth 0.46m, min length 2.25m		
1606	Fill	Friable mid grey clay occasional small stones	✓	\checkmark
1607	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.45m max depth 0.92m, min length 2.2m	n, 🗸	
1608	Primary fill	Friable dark grey silty clay moderate medium stones 0.25m thick.		
1609	Main fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Two pieces of unworked timber were found in situ and placed in a way that may have functione as a drain. 0.67 m thick.	d	✓
1610	Pit	Sub-circular sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.3m, ma depth 0.4m, max length 1.73m	x 🗸	
1611	Primary fill	Firm mid grey clay occasional small stones 0.15m thick.	✓	\checkmark
1612	Main fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones 0.25m thick.	✓	
1613	Ditch	Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, min length 2.5m		
1614	Fill	Friable dark red brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones		



6. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACTS SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

An assemblage comprising mainly pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone, and a small number of non-ceramic artefacts was collected (Table 1). This material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No artefacts were recovered from Trenches 1, 11 or 12.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date	Finds Summary	
2	205	Ditch	206	Undated	Animal bone (1g)	
	207	Quarry pit	208	Early medieval	Pottery (8g)	
	207	Quarry pit	210	Late medieval	Ceramic roof tile (160g); animal bone (152g)	
	213	Ditch	214	Early medieval	Pottery (8g)	
	217	Ditch	218	Early medieval	Pottery (11g)	
3	304	Ditch	306	Undated	Animal bone (165g)	
4	403	Ditch	407	Early medieval	Pottery (12g)	
	411	Ditch	413	Undated	Iron horseshoe (RA5)	
5	507	Quarry pit	508	Early medieval	Pottery (7g); lava quern (RA1); iron nail x1;	
					animal bone (2g)	
	510	Ditch	511	Early medieval	Pottery (4g)	
	512	Ditch	513	Late medieval	Ceramic roof tile (50g); animal bone (1g)	
6	602	Quarry pit	604	Late medieval	Ceramic roof tile (14g)	
	602	Quarry pit	605	High medieval	Pottery (125g); ceramic roof tile (12g)	
	606	Ditch	607	Late medieval	Pottery (12g); ceramic roof tile (35g)	
	606	Ditch	608	Post-medieval	Pottery (11g); ceramic roof tile (143g); brick (197g);	
					animal bone (1g)	
	611	Ditch	612	Early medieval	Pottery (60g); animal bone (5g)	
	615	Layer	615	Medieval	Ceramic building material (39g)	
	618	Quarry pit	619	Early medieval	Pottery (5g)	
	622	Quarry pit	623	Early medieval	Pottery (198g); animal bone (166g)	
	626	Quarry pit	624	Early medieval	Pottery (103g); lava quern (RA2); animal bone (2g)	
	626	Quarry pit	625	Early medieval	Pottery (24g)	
7	703	Ditch	704	Undated	Animal bone (5g)	
	707	Ditch	708	Early medieval	Pottery (158g); worked flint (2g); animal bone (15g)	
	713	Ditch	714	Early medieval	Pottery (15g)	
	715	Ditch	716	Early medieval	Pottery (71g); lava quern (RA3); burnt flint (21g); animal bone (9g)	
	720	Pit	722	Early medieval	Pottery (49g); animal bone (1.1kg)	
	726	Ditch	727	Early medieval	Pottery (80g); animal bone (44g)	
	732	Ditch	733	Early medieval	Pottery (3g)	
8	803	Pit	804	LBA / early Iron Age	Pottery (7g)	
9	909	Ditch	910	Early medieval	Pottery (58g); animal bone (67g)	
	911	Ditch	912	Late med / early post-med	Ceramic roof tile (324g); brick (673g); iron nail x1	
	913	Ditch	914	Early medieval	Pottery (45g)	
10	1005	Ditch	1006	High medieval	Pottery (47g); iron object (RA4); animal bone (89g)	
13	1303	Ditch	1304	Undated	Worked flint (5g)	
14	1406	Ditch	1407	Late medieval	Ceramic roof tile (162g)	
	1408	Ditch	1410	Late medieval	Ceramic roof tile (78g); animal bone (8g)	
15	1506	Ditch	1507	Undated	Animal bone (19g)	
	1506	Ditch	1509	High medieval	Ceramic roof tile (131g)	
	1510	Ditch	1511	Undated	Pottery (1g)	
16	1605	Ditch	1606	Roman	Pottery (1g)	
	1607	Ditch	1609	Late med / early post-med	Brick (156g)	
	1610	Pit	1611	Early medieval	Pottery (27g); animal bone (69g)	



Table 1: Artefact Summary by trench and feature

6.2 Pottery

Ninety-seven pottery sherds, weighing 1.1kg were recovered. They survive in good condition, with a mean weight of 12g, and are relatively unabraded. Twenty-three fabric types were identified, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type series (Table 2).

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill / Sherd No.
LBA / early Iron Age				
F01C	Flint and quartz	1	7	(804):1
Late Iron Age				
F39	Grog and flint	1	11	(608):1
Roman				
R01	Samian	1	1	(1606):1
Late Saxon				
B01A	St Neots-type (orange)	2	49	(624):1, (708): 1
B01C	St Neots-type (mixed)	3	25	(605):1, (624):1, (727):1
B04	St Neots-type (coarse)	3	12	(605):1, (708):2
Medieval				
B07	Shell	14	225	(612):7, (623):3, (624):1, (716):1;
				(727):1, (733):1
B09	Lyveden / Stanion ware	2	16	(605):2
C01	Sand	3	38	(605):1, (612):1, (708):1
C03	Fine sand	2	5	(511):1, (623):1
C05	Sand (red margins)	3	19	(605):1, (910):2
C59A	Coarse sand	14	193	(214):1, (508):1, (605):5, (607):2,
				(623):3, (624):1, (914):1
C59B	Harsh sand	9	87	(208):1, (218):1, (605):2, (623):3
				(624):1, (625):1
C60	Hertfordshire-type grey ware	5	27	(218):1, (605):2, (624):2
C61	Calcareous inclusions	7	111	(605):2, (619):1, (624):1, (708):1,
				(714):1, (716):1
C63	Flint	3	81	(508):1, (722):1, (1611):1
C64	Gritty oxidised	2	8	(605):1, (910):1
C67	Mixed inclusions	4	96	(708):4
C71	Buff-grey cored	13	89	(910):9, (1006):4
C75	Micaceous	2	14	(407):1, (625):1
E01	Late medieval reduced	1	4	(624):1
E02	Late medieval oxidised	1	31	(623):1
UNID	Unidentified / undatable	1	1	(1511):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

6.2.1 Late prehistoric and Roman

The earliest pottery comprises an abraded body sherd (7g) in a flint and quartz fabric (F01C). The sherd was the only find recovered from Trench 8, pit [803], and is datable to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age period. A late Iron Age grog-tempered body sherd (F39: 11g) occurred as a residual find in post-medieval ditch [608]. Early Roman samian ware (R01: 1g) represents the sole find from ditch [1605], although its fragmentary and poor condition precludes the sherd from providing a definitive date for the feature.



6.2.2 Late Saxon

Eight sherds (86g) of wheel-thrown, shell-tempered St Neots-type ware (fabrics B01A, B01C and coarse variant B04) occurred as residual finds in medieval quarry pits [602], [626], and ditches [707] and [726]. The fabric characteristics indicate a later date in the St Neots ware sequence, c. late 11th—early 12th century. Feature sherds are a bowl rim and a small rim fragment, probably from a jar.

6.2.3 Medieval

Twenty-one features (Trenches 2, 4-7, 9, 10 and 16) produced medieval pottery (85 sherds: 1kg), the largest assemblages deriving from quarry pit [622] and ditch [707]. The pottery comprises shell-tempered, wheel-thrown vessels of 12th–13th century date (B07), known to derive from production sites on the Beds./Bucks./Northants. borders. Contemporary sand-tempered wares (C01; C03; C05; C59A/B; C60; C61; C63; C64; C67; C71; C75) of local manufacture also occur, in both hand-made and wheel-thrown forms. Vessel types are jars with simple square, or everted rims; jugs; and bowls, one of the latter with an inturned rim (diameter 260mm). Decoration is restricted to sand-tempered vessels, and comprises thumbed base angles, and horizontal grooves. Sooting on the surfaces of a number of both sand and shelly sherds confirm their use as cooking pots.

Quarry pit [602] yielded two early 13th- to mid 14th-century sherds of Lyveden/Stanion ware (B09), an imported regional fine ware from Northamptonshire. They derive from a glazed jug with an applied white slip and characteristic grid stamp decoration.

Single sherds of wheel thrown pottery in the south-east Midlands late medieval reduced ware tradition (E01) and contemporary oxidised ware (E02) occurred as intrusive finds in early medieval quarry pits [622] and [626].

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

Nine sand-tempered pieces of medieval roof tile (607g) derived from ditches [512], [1406]; [1408], [1506]; and quarry pits [207] and [602]. They range in thickness from 12–15mm, with an outlier at 17mm. Two pieces retain partial square peg holes. A possible floor tile fragment (39g) c. 20mm thick, in a coarse sandy fabric derived from layer (615).

Late medieval and post-medieval building material (1.5kg) deriving from ditches [606], [911] and [1607] comprises three flat roof tiles, four stock-moulded brick fragments and a pantile, the latter of 17th-century or later date.

6.4 Other Artefacts

Early medieval quarry pits [507], [626] and ditch [715] yielded 24 lava rotary quern fragments (669g), manufactured from material imported from either Germany or France. Most are amorphous, although traces of a worn grinding surface are visible on some of the larger pieces. Their association with early medieval pottery suggests they are likely to be of similar date.

Iron objects of uncertain date comprise a horseshoe (ditch [411]), and a possible buckle frame (ditch [1005]). The remains of two timber nails, one with a flat rectangular head, derived from quarry pit [507] and ditch [911].



Two worked flints (secondary and tertiary flakes) occurred as residual finds in ditches [707] and [1303]. Ditch [715] contained a piece of unworked burnt flint (21g).

6.5 Animal Bone

Seventy animal bone fragments, weighing 1.8kg, were collected from nineteen features (Trenches 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 14-16), the largest assemblage (1.1kg) deriving from early medieval pit [720]. Individual pieces have a mean weight of 27g and survive in variable condition, many displaying extensive root erosion. Identifiable fragments derive from cattle, sheep, pig, deer and bird. Diagnostic bone elements are mainly limb bones. Scapula, rib, vertebra, pelvis, foot bones (phalanx) and cranial elements, the latter represented by loose teeth, antler and skull fragments occur in smaller quantities.



7. APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-175546 7.1

Project details

Project name Land to the east of Henlow High Street, Henlow

the project

Short description of CgMs Consulting Ltd are gathering baseline information on Land east of High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for a residential housing development. A detailed magnetic survey of the site identified a number of linear and amorphous magnetic anomalies (Stratascan 2013). Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a trial trench evaluation. Sixteen trial trenches were positioned to test geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. The majority of the features consisted of ditches and quarry pits located in the eastern half of the site with relatively few features found in the western half. The earliest evidence consists of the three pits located at the centre of the western side of the site, one of which produced an abraded sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. The other identified features are likely to date from the medieval or post-medieval periods; they produced a small artefact assemblage. Most of the pottery dates from the early medieval period (1150-1250). A small number of features in the western side of the site include a hollow-way, with possible precursor ditches. The north-east part of the site contained a denser concentration of features — quarry pits, ditches and a small number of other pits. The south-east part of the site contained a moderate concentration of features, mainly ditches with a few pits in the extreme southeast. The ditches may be drainage or boundary features located away from activity areas; however, the presence of pits at the south-east of the site could indicate other activity in this area.

Project dates Start: 31-03-2014 End: 14-04-2014

Previous/future work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

HE2377 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

BEDFM 2014.24 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type **QUARRY PIT Medieval**

Monument type **DITCH Early Medieval**



Monument type HOLLOW WAY Medieval

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Monument type PIT Early Medieval

Monument type PIT Early Iron Age

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type DITCH Medieval

Monument type QUARRY PIT Early Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Early Iron Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds POTTERY Early Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Medieval

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Significant Finds LAVA QUERN Early Medieval

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval

Methods & "Targeted techniques

"Targeted Trenches", 'Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process

Pre-application



Project location

Country England

Site location BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE HENLOW Land to the east of Henlow

High Street, Henlow

Study area 750.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 1787020 3910990 52.037415102 -0.281379167906 52 02 14 N 000 16 52 W

Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator

No Brief

Project design originator

Albion Archaeology

Project

director/manager

Robert Wardill

Project supervisor Richard Gregson

Project archives

Physical Archive

recipient

Bedford Museum

Physical Archive ID BEDFM 2014.24

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", 'Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient

Albion Archaeology

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", 'Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", 'other"

Digital Media available

"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"



Paper Archive

recipient

Bedford Museum

Paper Archive ID

BEDFM 2014.24

Paper Contents

"Animal Bones", 'Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Correspondence", 'Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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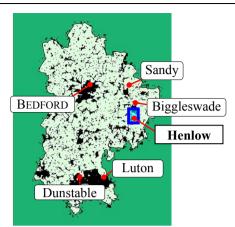
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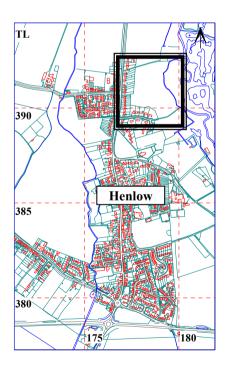


8. FIGURES









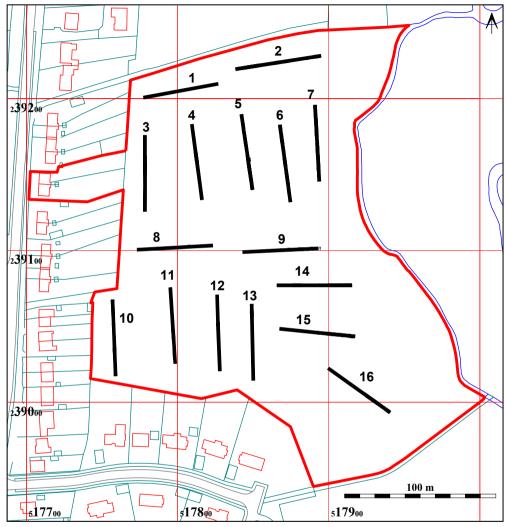


Figure 1: Site location plan

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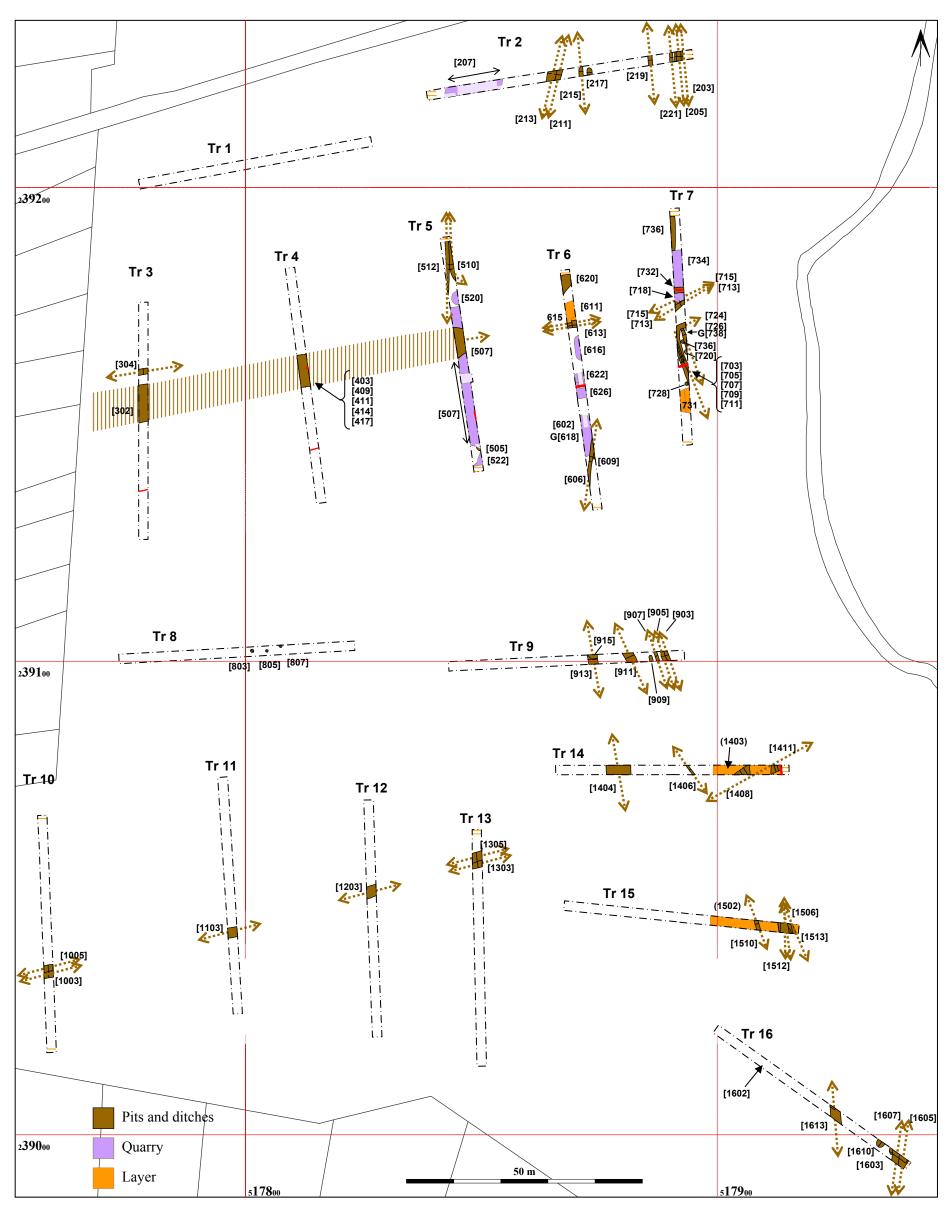
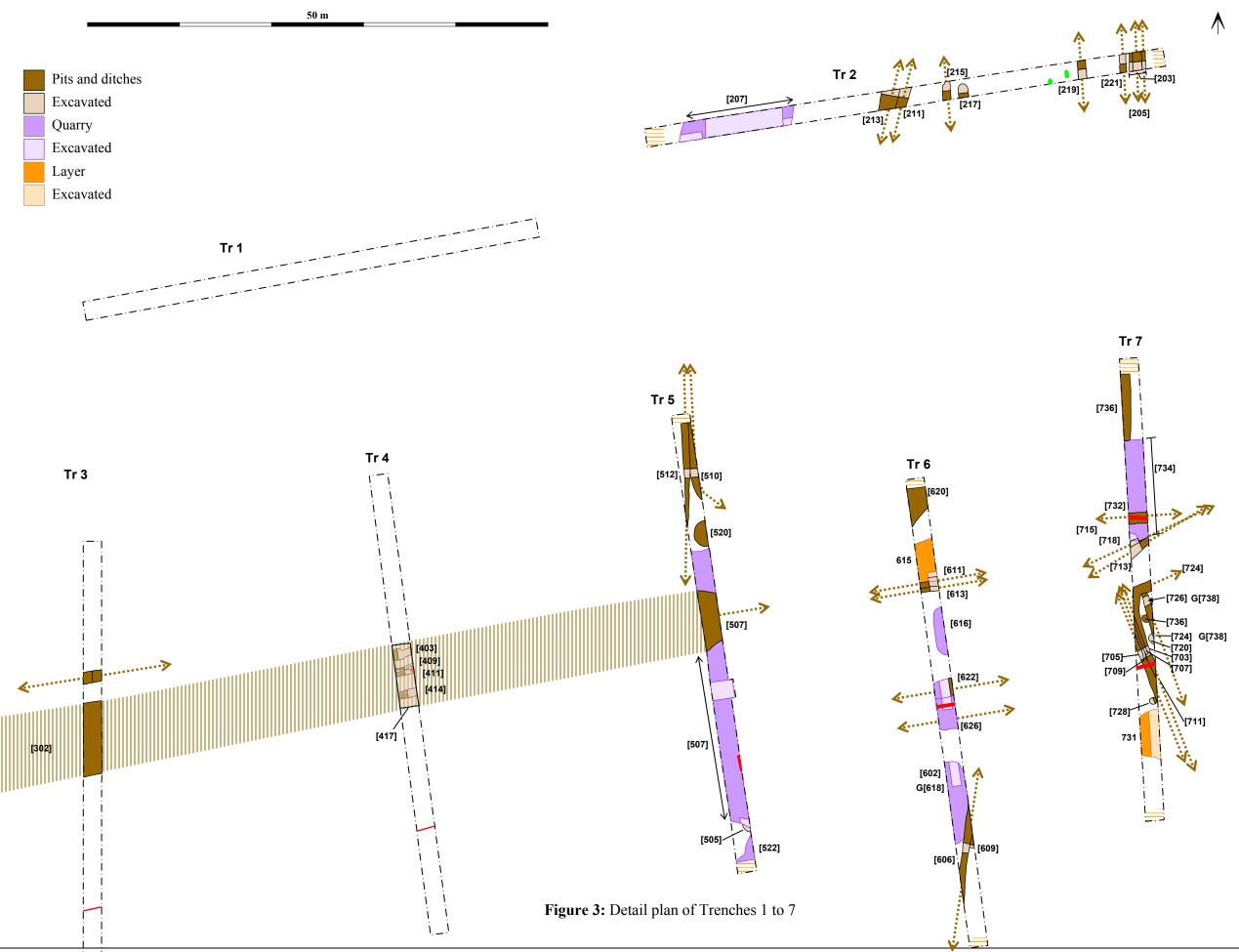


Figure 2: All features plan

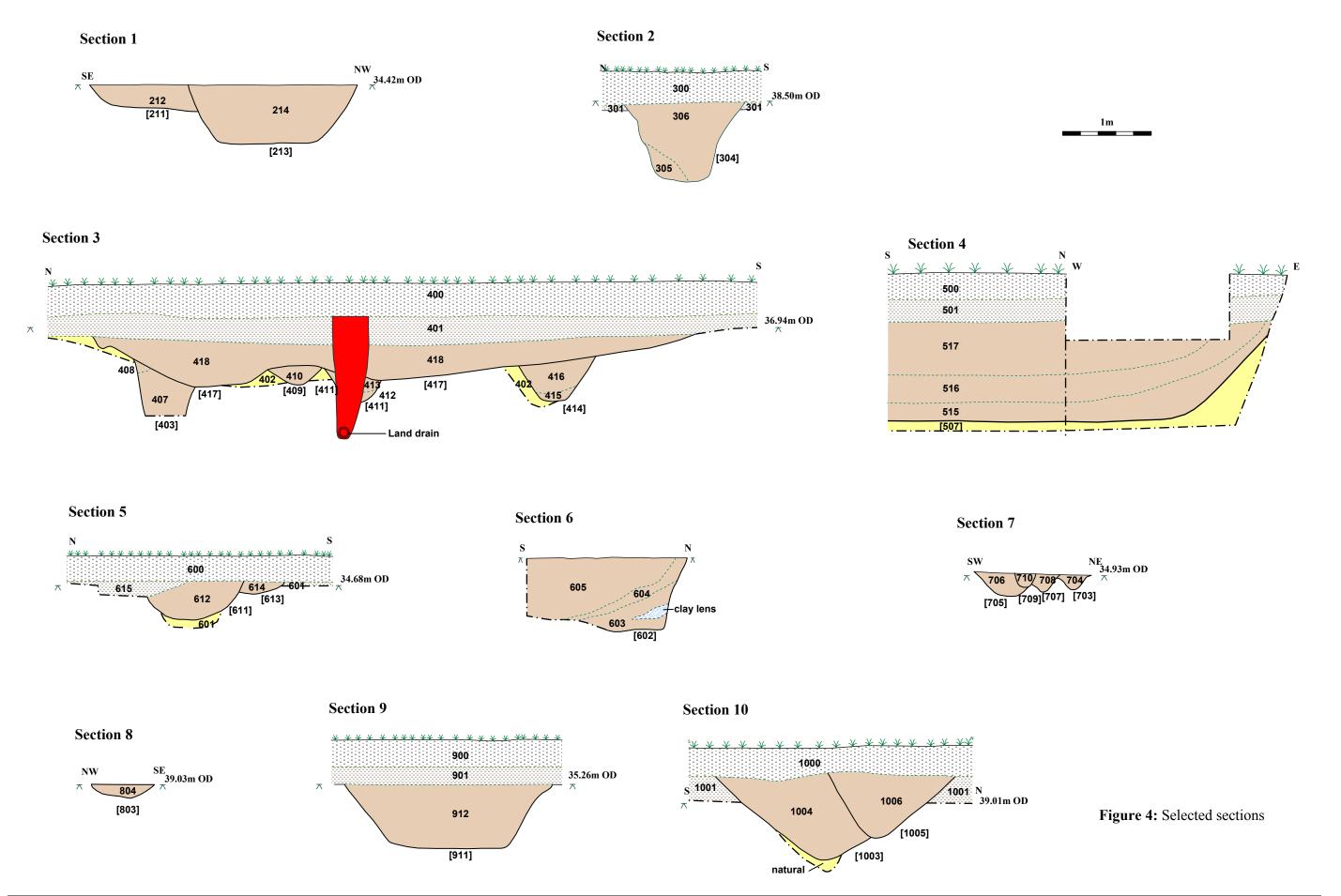
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Land East of High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation







Albion archaeology



Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford MK42 0AS **Telephone** 01234 294000 **Email** office@albion-arch.com www.albion-arch.com

