ETONBURY ACADEMY
STOTFOLD ROAD
ARLESEY
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion
archaeology

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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Preface

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

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the project by Morgan Sindall plc and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.

The project was managed for Albion by Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). David Ingham (Project Officer) conducted the fieldwork with the assistance of Allan King, Gareth Shane and Adam Williams (Assistant Supervisors) and prepared this report, which includes a contribution from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Joan Lighting (CAD Technician) digitised the drawn site records. The report was approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager), who is responsible for the overall management of all Albion projects.

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1.0	27/06/2014	n/a

Structure of the Report

Section 1 introduces the project, the results of which are described in Section 2. Section 3, comprise a Heritage Statement. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendices in Sections 5–8 contain detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits encountered, finds report, explanations of the criteria used for impact assessment and a summary OASIS record form.

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
HER	Central Bedfordshire Council's Historic Environment Record
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014)

Non-Technical Summary

Morgan Sindall plc is gathering baseline information in support of a planning application for the development of a new school building, all-weather pitch and car park at Etonbury Academy off Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Bedfordshire. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist requested that the application should be supported by a heritage statement. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey and trial-trench evaluation to provide the basis of the heritage statement, which is presented in this report.

Etonbury Academy, centred on TL 20434 37157, lies at a height of c. *40–50m OD on fairly level terrain just west of the parish boundary between Arlesey and Stotfold. The proposed development covers two areas: one of* c. *1000m^2 within the grounds of the Academy; and one of* c. *2ha in the field to the east. Glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel cover the underlying deposits of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation.*

Seven trial trenches were positioned to test geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. Four of these trenches revealed archaeological features, with evidence of two separate Iron Age settlements in the field to the east of the Academy. Not all of the identified archaeological features could be dated, but those features that did produce dating evidence appear uniformly to be either early–middle or middle Iron Age. The evidence recovered of Iron Age settlement has moderate to high potential to contribute to regional research objectives relating to the characterisation of rural settlement and settlement patterns in this period.

No evidence was found of archaeological remains within the evaluated part of the grounds of Etonbury Academy, although the equal lack of evidence for quarrying activity indicates the potential for undiscovered remains to exist beyond the confines of the evaluation trench.

The construction of sports pitches and car parking as part of the proposed development is generally expected to require shallow groundworks and is, therefore, predicted to have a low impact on the archaeological remains. The significance of the impact is considered slight *for the early–middle Iron Age and no more than* neutral/slight *for all other periods*

The foundations of the new school building will penetrate below the subsoil and could, therefore, have a high impact on any archaeological remains that might exist within the building footprint. However, as none are predicted the impact will be low. *The significance of the impact is, therefore, no more than* neutral/slight *for all periods.*

The only designated heritage asset within 500m of the proposed development is the Grade II listed Waterloo Farmhouse. This will not be affected by the proposals.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Morgan Sindall plc is gathering baseline information on behalf of Etonbury Academy off Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for the development of a new school building, all-weather pitch and car park.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that the planning application should be accompanied by a heritage statement, which describes the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposal. The CBCA also advised that an archaeological field evaluation must be undertaken in order to obtain the information required to compile the heritage statement. 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* (DCLG 2012).

The CBCA issued a brief (CBCA 2014) outlining the requirements for a staged evaluation comprising geophysical survey and trial trenching. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Morgan Sindall plc to undertake the evaluation in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014) that was approved in advance by the CBCA

This report presents the results of the trial trenching, and considers their relationship to the results of the geophysical survey. The full results of the geophysical survey have been reported elsewhere (Stratascan 2014), but a plot of the gradiometer data is shown on Figure 2.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Etonbury Academy lies to the south of Stotfold Road, *c*. 350m east of the Arlesey-Stotfold Bypass (A507) on the eastern periphery of Arlesey parish (Figure 1). The western fringes of Stotfold are *c*. 400m to the east of the PDA.

The development, centred on TL 20434 37157, affects part of Etonbury School grounds to the west, and part of an adjacent field to the east that lay fallow at the time of fieldwork. Two separate areas were investigated:

1. the northern half of the eastern field, which is *c*. 2ha in area; and
2. a smaller area within the school grounds covering *c*. 1,000m^2, which equates to the footprint of the proposed new school building.

The terrain is fairly level, with a slight gradient between heights of 40–50m OD. The underlying geology comprises West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, with superficial deposits formed through Mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Information from Central Bedfordshire Council's Historic Environment Record (HER) demonstrates that the proposed development area (PDA) is located within a rich archaeological landscape of Iron Age, Roman and Saxo-Norman remains. Archaeological investigations in recent decades, especially in conjunction with the Arlesey-Stotfold Bypass and residential developments in the area, have revealed a number of sites within the vicinity of the PDA.

Field survey and archaeological evaluations on the Arlesey-Stotfold bypass corridor (EBD188 and EBD599) revealed evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of residual flint scatters in areas to the north-west and south of the PDA (HER16096 and HER16083, respectively). A D-shaped enclosure (HER 3086) recorded through aerial photography on the field adjacent to the east of the PDA is thought to be of prehistoric date.

Evidence of human occupation from the late Bronze Age right through to the late Romano-British period was revealed at a site on Arlesey Road, Stotfold, *c*. 400m east of the PDA (Albion Archaeology *forthcoming (a)*). Further afield, excavations revealed evidence of Bronze Age settlement to the south of Stotfold (Albion Archaeology 2011); late Bronze Age to Roman occupation at Etonbury Farm, *c*. 1.3km north-west of the PDA (Heritage Network 2003); and late Iron Age to Roman settlement at Fairfield Park (formerly Fairfield Hospital), *c*. 1.8km south of the PDA (BCAS 1997; Webley *et al.* 2007; Albion Archaeology *forthcoming (b)*).

A 2012 geophysical survey within the grounds of Etonbury Academy (EBD969) revealed a series of rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures in the western half of the current playing field.

In the same year, ten 1m^2 test pits were excavated by school students and teachers of the Best Archaeological Society (BEST) along the northern and western perimeter of the site, with one pit excavated between the two larger pitches. These pits produced probable Neolithic flints, Iron Age and Roman pottery and a Roman coin (BEST pers.comm.).

Stotfold Road, which follows the northern boundary of the PDA, is thought to be in alignment with a possible Roman road (HER296), though not one postulated by the Viatores (1964). Traces of this road were reportedly recorded during road works in the 1970s.

Evidence for Saxon occupation was encountered in the area investigated to the south of the PDA (HER16083). Saxon pottery was recovered during fieldwalking of the bypass corridor; geophysical survey suggested the possible presence of sub-surface features characteristic of sunken-featured buildings (SFBs) north of the road corridor (GSoB 1993; BCAS 1995).

Arlesey and Stotfold are both mentioned in Domesday Book, and there is extensive evidence of late Saxon to post-medieval settlement in the area. Recent excavations in Stotfold (Albion Archaeology 2011) have revealed evidence of

extensive late Saxon/Saxo-Norman settlement at the southern margins of the present-day settlement, *c*. 1.4km south-east of the PDA.

A number of heritage assets dating to the post-medieval and modern period are located within close proximity of the PDA. These encompass two former gravel pits (HER 2932, HER5198); the Fox and Duck Public House (HER16307); and the site of a former gas works built in 1903 (HER6798). The Fox and Duck is a 19th-century building that was first licensed as a public house in 1858. It is located on the adjoining property to the east of the PDA (thus in Stotfold parish). Both former gravel pits are located south of Stotfold Road. Pit (HER2932) is located on the Academy premises, *c*. 80m north of the current buildings close to the northern boundary. Gravel pit HER5198 is located *c*. 90m to the west of the PDA adjacent to the Stotfold Road/A507 roundabout. The site of the former gas works (HER6798) is now a gas distribution station on the southern side of Stotfold Road, east of the roundabout with the A507. The majority of the original gas works have now been demolished leaving only boundary walls, gate piers and a dwelling house.

Waterloo Farmhouse (HER13680) dates from the 18th century and is Grade II listed. It lies *c.* 435m from the PDA and over 600m from the proposed new school building. A formerly listed onion drying shed (HER13681) at the farmstead has been demolished.

Etonbury School itself was built in the 1950s. The site, mid-way between Arlesey and Stotfold, was chosen because the school was to serve the two communities; the name was borrowed from the nearby medieval earthworks (HER 395) [1,2]. Many 1950s schools in the region — notably in Hertfordshire — are internationally recognised for their architectural merit (Saint 1987). However, Etonbury is not a listed building and is not even entered on the HER as a building of local significance.

1.4 Project Objectives

The WSI set out a series of research objectives, with reference to priorities identified in the relevant research frameworks for the area (Oake *et al*. 2007; Medlycott 2011). The specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- to assess whether any heritage assets relating to the Iron Age and Roman period were present on the PDA;
- to gain further insight into the settlement distribution in the early to late Iron Age and Roman period in this part of Bedfordshire;
- to assess whether any heritage assets relating to the Saxon and medieval period were present on the PDA.

The general purpose of the evaluation was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the PDA;

[1] http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/dblock/GB-520000-237000/page/6
[2] http://www.onthebuttonarlesey.co.uk/history.html

- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the PDA; and
- 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). The strategy for trial trenching was agreed with the CBCA, subsequent to the completion of the geophysical survey.

Trench 1 was placed to evaluate the footprint of the proposed new school building, but it had to be offset by between 2.5m and 8m to the south-east of the building site in order to avoid the school running track and cricket field. Trench 1 was excavated on 27th May 2014.

Trenches 2–7 were distributed across the adjacent field to target anomalies identified in the geophysical survey, as well as testing the apparently 'blank' areas. These trenches were excavated between 4th and 6th June 2014.

1.6 Archive

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM 2014.25). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-175548).

2. RESULTS OF TRIAL TRENCHING

2.1 Introduction

The results from the field to the east are summarised below and illustrated in Figures 3–5, with detailed information on individual features and deposits in Appendix 1. Detailed information on the finds recovered from them is provided in Appendix 2.

2.2 Site of Proposed Extension to Etonbury Academy (Trench 1)

Trench 1 within the grounds of the Academy revealed no archaeological features, while also betraying no signs of disturbance from gravel quarry HER2932. Undisturbed gravels were revealed along the full length of the trench (Figure 3). A *c* 0.6m-deep machine-excavated sondage at the south-west end of the trench demonstrated that the gravel was indeed *in situ* and not, for instance, an artificial blinding layer associated with the construction of the existing school buildings.

2.3 Northern Focus of Iron Age Settlement (Trench 2)

Evidence of ancient settlement in the northern area was restricted to Trench 2, which contained at least five ditches — [203], [205], [212], [219] and [221] — plus [215], which is more likely to have been the terminal of a sixth ditch than a pit. Too little was revealed of [210] to determine conclusively whether it was a ditch or a pit, but the latter interpretation is felt to be more plausible. These ditches ranged from *c*. 1.5–1.9m in width and were 0.43–0.95m deep, with evidence of rapid weathering of the sides and/or bank before a more gradual silting-up process took place. Ditches [203] / [205] are the only ones that were identified by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014).

Despite the size of the features in Trench 2, finds were largely restricted to ditch [205], which produced 58 sherds of a shell-tempered, heavily sooted middle Iron Age jar and two large pieces of animal bone. Ditch [203] was the only other feature to produce finds, although if the tentative assertion that this ditch was stratigraphically later than [205] is correct, then its single sherd of early–middle Iron Age pottery is residual. The ditch had a stepped profile that is unusual for ditches of an early or middle Iron Age date, although it appears that [215] may have been similar.

2.4 Central Area (Trenches 3–5)

The only probably manmade feature in Trenches 3–5 was [503], which appeared to be two shallow, opposing ditch terminals. While [507] in the same trench may also have been a ditch, its broad, shallow profile, sandy fill and slightly irregular appearance in plan suggest that it is more likely to have been a variation in the underlying geology. A thin scatter of tree-throws was also identified, but no finds were recovered from the excavated examples.

2.5 Southern Focus of Iron Age Settlement (Trenches 6–7)

As suggested by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014), Trenches 6 and 7 were located amidst a concentration of archaeological features that are indicative of settlement-related activity. Most of these were ditches, although two pits [603] and [706] and a post-hole [712] were also identified. [603] bore greater

resemblance when excavated to a ditch terminal than a pit, but the geophysical survey suggests the latter interpretation. Like [507], [714] may just have been a variation in the underlying geology rather than a manmade feature.

The ditches varied considerably in size: the smallest [607] was only 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep; whereas the largest [613] and its possible re-cut [617] was 2.9m wide and 1.1m deep. This latter ditch defined the large, rectangular enclosure that was identified by the geophysical survey, while [607] and [609] may have been gullies associated with a roundhouse. Most of the excavated features contained early–middle Iron Age pottery, with no finds from any other period. Broad contemporaneity therefore seems likely for the features in these trenches, although re-cutting and the presence of intercutting features demonstrate that there was more than one phase of activity. The features in Trench 6 produced a generally higher quantity of finds than those in Trench 7.

2.6 Discussion of the Results

2.6.1 Summary

Evaluation of the PDA at Etonbury Academy and in the adjacent field has identified two discrete areas of enclosed Iron Age settlement, with no remains positively dated to any other period.

The southern settlement, identified initially by geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) and confirmed by Trenches 6 and 7, is uniformly dated by the pottery recovered from its ditches to the early–middle Iron Age. However, more than one phase of activity within this period was evident. Most of the features observed were ditches, and no positive features such as banks or hearths were present, although possible structural features were identified in the form of potential roundhouse gullies [607] and [609] and post-hole [712]. A greater volume of finds was recovered from the features in Trench 6 than those in Trench 7, which may indicate that occupation was more concentrated in that area.

The northern settlement largely eluded the geophysical survey, which may be a result of the more sterile, naturally derived fills of the features that were recorded in Trench 2. Only two of these features produced finds, but the presence of much of a heavily sooted jar in ditch [205], alongside two large pieces of animal bone, points towards occupation here in the middle Iron Age. Although the other features in Trench 2 are essentially undated, it is reasonable to conclude that they also formed part of this enclosed middle Iron Age settlement. No positive features such as banks or hearths were present, nor were any structural remains.

Although a possible ditch was revealed in Trench 5, the area between the southern early–middle Iron Age settlement and the northern middle Iron Age one appears to be largely devoid of archaeological remains. The depth of subsoil across the site suggests that the remains within the two settlements have been subject only to historic, not modern truncation by ploughing.

Trench	Location within trench	Depth of overburden (m)
1	West	0.55
	East	0.65
2	North	0.40
	Centre	0.45
	South	0.50
3	North-west	0.50
	South-east	0.40
4	North-east	0.50
	South-west	0.55
5	North-east	0.50
	South-west	0.35
6	North-east	0.50
	Centre	0.4
	South-west	0.45
7	North-east	0.45
	Centre	0.45
	South-west	0.50

Table 1: Depth of overburden

No evidence of archaeological remains was found in Trench 1, although the lack of evidence within this trench for quarrying suggests that the overall area within the grounds of Etonbury Academy retains higher potential for the survival of archaeological remains than was previously believed.

The ground appeared to be well drained and there was no evidence of waterlogged deposits with any of the excavated features.

2.6.2 Assessment of significance

The results of the evaluation indicate the presence of settlement in the field east of Etonbury Academy during the early–middle Iron Age. The evidence comprises ditches, pits and a small number of structural features. Evidence of Iron Age settlement such as this has moderate to high potential to contribute to regional research objectives relating to the characterisation of rural settlement and settlement patterns in this period (Oake 2007, 11). These early–middle Iron Age settlement sites are, therefore, heritage assets of *regional significance*.

No evidence was found of archaeological remains within the evaluated part of the grounds of Etonbury Academy, although the equal lack of evidence for quarrying activity indicates the potential for undiscovered remains to exist beyond the confines of the evaluation trench.

There was no evidence relating to any other periods, but there is always a slight possibility that remains might survive that were not detected by either geophysical survey or trenching. If any remains of other periods were to survive, it is likely that they would be localised and fragmentary and, therefore, of no more than *local significance*. There are no significant modern remains (e.g. of industrial or military interest).

3. HERITAGE STATEMENT

3.1 Heritage Assets within the PDA

There are no designated heritage assets within the PDA.

Archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that there are sub-surface remains of extensive Iron Age settlement within the PDA, which are of *local* to *regional* significance. The remains will be vulnerable to groundworks penetrating below the subsoil (*c.* 0.45m below ground level). There was no evidence of waterlogged deposits containing organic remains whose preservation would be jeopardised by land drainage. The remains are located within the proposed sports pitches and car park areas, but are not likely to survive within the footprint of the proposed new building

Neolithic flints, Roman pottery and a Roman coin have previously been found in the school playing fields in the western part of the PDA. Early prehistoric artefacts and settlement evidence dating from the Roman to post-medieval periods have been also found in the vicinity of PDA. However, no remains dating from these periods were found during the present evaluation. This demonstrates that there is only slight potential that they might be encountered during the proposed development and that they are unlikely to be of more than *local* significance.

The construction of sports pitches and car parking as part of the proposed development is generally expected to require shallow groundworks and is, therefore, predicted to have a *low* impact on the archaeological remains that only survive below the subsoil. The significance of the development impact is considered *slight* for early–middle Iron Age, and no more then *neutral/slight* for other periods.

Period	Potential of finding asset	Significance of asset	Magnitude of impact	Significance of impact
Early prehistoric (before 650 BC)	Low	Local	Low	Neutral / Slight
Early–middle Iron Age (650–350 BC)	High	Regional	Low	Slight
Late Iron-Age and Roman (650 BC–AD 450)	Low	Local	Low	Neutral / Slight
Saxon, medieval and post-medieval (450–1900)	Low	Local	Low	Neutral / Slight
Modern (1900–present)	Low	Negligible	Negligible	Neutral

Table 2: Assessment of impacts of the sports pitches and car parking

The foundations of the new school building will penetrate below the subsoil and could, therefore, have a high impact on any archaeological remains that might exist within the building footprint, but as none are predicted the impact will be *low*. The significance of the impact is, therefore, no more than *neutral/slight* for all periods

Period	Potential of finding asset	Significance of asset	Magnitude of impact	Significance of impact
Early prehistoric (before 650 BC)	Low	Local	Low	Neutral / Slight
Early–middle Iron Age (650 – 350BC)	Low	Local	Low	Neutral / Slight
Late Iron-Age and Roman (650 BC–AD 450)	Low	Local	Low	Neutral / Slight
Saxon, medieval and post-medieval (450–1900)	Low	Local	Low	Neutral / Slight
Modern (1900– present)	Low	Negligible	High	Neutral

Table 3: Assessment of impacts of the new school building

3.2 Heritage Assets in the Vicinity of the PDA

Apart from Waterloo Farmhouse (a Grade II listed building) there are no designated heritage assets and no known undesignated assets of equivalent importance within 500m of the PDA. Waterloo Farmhouse lies *c.* 435m from the extreme north-west corner of the PDA and over 600m from the proposed new school building. It is highly unlikely to suffer any adverse effects as a result of the proposed development.

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5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 15.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.55 m. **Max:** 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 20409: Northing: 37189)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 20424: Northing: 37192)*

Reason: **Evaluate geophysical anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Firm dark brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones 0.35m thick	☑	☐
101	Subsoil	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones 0.3m thic	☑	☐
102	Natural	Firm light yellow orange gravel	☐	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: **Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 20527: Northing: 37206)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 20517: Northing: 37168)*

Reason: **Evaluate geophysical anomolies.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark brown sandy silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
201	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.1-0.2m thick**	☑	☐
202	**Natural**	**Firm mid yellow orange sandy gravel**	☐	☐
203	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.5m**	☑	☐
204	Fill	Firm mid orange grey sandy silt frequent small-large stones	☑	☑
209	Fill	Loose mid grey orange sandy silt frequent small-large stones	☑	☐
205	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.25m max depth 0.65m**	☑	☐
206	Fill	Loose light brown orange silty sand moderate small-large stones	☑	☑
207	Fill	Firm mid brown orange silty sand moderate small-large stones	☑	☑
208	Fill	Firm mid orange grey sandy silt frequent small-large stones	☑	☐
210	**Pit**	**sides: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.15m, min length 1.2m**	☑	☐
211	Fill	Firm mid brown orange silty sand moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
212	**Ditch**	**Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, max depth 0.43m**	☑	☐
213	Fill	Loose mid brown orange silty sand frequent small-large stones	☑	☐
214	Fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-large stones	☑	☐
215	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: stepped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.88m, max depth 0.95m**	☑	☐
216	Fill	Loose light yellow orange silty sand occasional small-large stones	☑	☐
217	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
218	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
219	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 1.15m**	☐	☐
220	Fill	Firm light orange brown sandy silt	☐	☐
221	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 1.5m**	☐	☐
222	Fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt	☐	☐

Trench: **3**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 20506: Northing: 37158)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 20534: Northing: 37130)*

Reason: **Archaeological evaluation.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey sandy silt 0.2-0.3m thick**	☐	☐
301	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt 0.2m thick**	☐	☐
302	**Natural**	**Firm mid red orange sandy gravel**	☐	☐
303	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
304	Fill	Loose mid grey silty sand occasional small stones	☑	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.58 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 20520: Northing: 37115)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 20495: Northing: 37099)*

Reason: **Archaeological evaluation.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey sandy silt 0.3m thick**	☐	☐
401	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.25m thick**	☐	☐
402	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange sandy gravel**	☐	☐
403	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.21m, max depth 0.43m**	☑	☐
404	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 40.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.33 m. **Max:** 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 20575: Northing: 37117)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 20544: Northing: 37092)*

Reason: **Archaeological evaluation.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.2-0.3m thick**	☐	☐
501	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.1-0.2m thick**	☐	☐
502	**Natural**	**Firm mid red orange sandy gravel moderate small stones**	☐	☐
503	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.88m, max depth 0.25m**	☑	☐
504	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☑	☐
505	**Treethrow**	**Linear NW-SE sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.27m**	☑	☐
506	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☑	☐
507	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.17m**	☑	☐
508	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☑	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: **Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 20533: Northing: 37080)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 20499: Northing: 37059)*

Reason: **Testing of geophysical anomolies.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey sandy silt 0.2-0.3m thick**	☑	☐
601	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.2m thick**	☑	☐
602	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange sandy gravel**	☐	☐
603	**Pit**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.57m**	☑	☐
604	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
606	Fill	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
607	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.47m, max depth 0.25m**	☑	☐
608	Fill	Firm dark grey sandy silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
609	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.82m, max depth 0.35m**	☑	☐
610	Fill	Firm dark grey sandy silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
611	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.03m, max depth 0.3m**	☑	☐
612	Fill	Firm mid grey silt moderate small stones	☑	☐
613	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.89m, max depth 1.09m**	☑	☐
614	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones	☑	☐
615	Ditch	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☑
616	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones	☑	☑
617	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.61m, max depth 0.59m**	☑	☐
618	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☑

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.48 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 20532: Northing: 37037)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 20568: Northing: 37053)*

Reason: **Testing of geophysical anomolies.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey sandy silt moderate small stones 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
701	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.2m thick**	☑	☐
702	**Natural**	**Firm mid red yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones**	☐	☐
703	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max depth 0.75m**	☑	☐
704	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty sand	☑	☑
705	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☑	☐
706	**Pit**	**Circular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.14m, max depth 0.29m**	☑	☐
707	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☑	☑
708	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.62m, max depth 0.38m**	☑	☐
709	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty sand moderate medium stones	☑	☑
710	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.41m**	☑	☐
711	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty sand moderate small stones	☑	☑
712	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.28m, max depth 0.12m**	☑	☐
713	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones	☑	☐
714	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.15m, max depth 0.15m**	☑	☐
715	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty sand	☑	☐
716	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 2.m**	☐	☐
717	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☐	☐
718	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.65m**	☐	☐
719	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☐	☐
720	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.8m**	☐	☐
721	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☐	☐
722	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.65m**	☐	☐
723	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty sand	☐	☐
724	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.45m**	☐	☐
725	Fill	Firm dark blue grey silty sand	☐	☐
726	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.05m**	☐	☐
727	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty sand	☐	☐
728	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.95m**	☐	☐
729	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand	☐	☐
730	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 1.55m**	☐	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.48 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 20532: Northing: 37037)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 20568: Northing: 37053)*

Reason: **Testing of geophysical anomolies.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
731	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty sand	☐	☐

6. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACTS SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

Eleven features across three trenches yielded an assemblage comprising hand-made pottery and animal bone (Table 1). No finds were retrieved from Trenches 1, 3, 4 or 5.

Tr.	Feature	Context	Spot-date	Finds Summary
2	203	204	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (10g); animal bone (31g)
	205	206	Middle Iron Age	Pottery (9g)
	205	207	Middle Iron Age	Pottery (2.9kg); animal bone (380g)
6	603	606	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (104g); animal bone (70g)
	607	608	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (321g); animal bone (144g)
	609	610	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (138g)
	613	615	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (243g); animal bone (128g)
	613	616	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (129g); animal bone (21g)
	617	618	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (27g); animal bone (125g)
7	703	704	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (85g); animal bone (225g)
	706	707	Undated	Animal bone (324g)
	708	709	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (22g); animal bone (9g)
	710	711	Early to middle Iron Age	Pottery (15g); animal bone (46g)

Table 4: Artefact summary by trench and feature

6.2 Pottery

The recovered assemblage comprises 115 early–middle and middle Iron Age sherds. Thirty-five vessels are represented, weighing 4kg. The pottery is well preserved, although displays variable fragmentation: the smallest sherd weighs 3g and the largest 345g. A mean sherd weight of 35g is atypical for pottery of this date, although this figure is skewed by the presence of several sizable sherds deriving from a single vessel. Eleven fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2). Wares contain a range of sand, flint, shell, grog, organic, glauconitic and calcareous inclusions, reflecting the diverse geology of the area.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherds	Wt (g)	Fill / Sherd No.
F01B	Fine flint	1	4	(606):1
F03	Grog and sand	6	22	(207):6
F04	Organic	1	3	(608):1
F16	Coarse shell	58	2,882	(207):58
F16B	Fine shell	1	15	(616):1
F20	Calcareous	2	59	(610):1, (704):1
F28	Fine sand	21	493	(204):1, (606):3, (608):3, (610):1, (615):3, (616):2, (704):7, (711):1
F29	Coarse sand	8	338	(608):2, (610):1, (615):2, (709):3
F30	Sand and calcareous	1	4	(709):1
F32	Sand and flint	1	30	(610):1
F38	Glauconitic	15	157	(206):1, (608):1, (610):1, (616):2 (618):6, (709):1, (711):3

Table 5: Pottery type series

Diagnostic forms are scarce and comprise variants of the slack- or round-shouldered vessels characteristic of early and middle Iron Age assemblages in the region. Rim forms are upright, rounded or flattened with an external ledge, and

range in diameter from 240mm to 330mm. Vessel wall thickness varies from 6mm to 17mm, indicating a range of vessel sizes. Most sherds are undecorated, although one is highly burnished, and five have smoothed / wiped surfaces.

The largest assemblage derived from middle Iron Age ditch [205], the middle fill of which yielded 58 sherds (2.8kg) from a large shelly jar. The vessel has a flattened rim with an external ledge (diameter 330mm). The rim, neck and upper body have vigorous scored and impressed fingernail and fingertip decoration, and the lower body is scored both vertically and diagonally. The entire flat base survives (diameter 210mm), although has uniformly broken off at the junction between the body and base. The rim and upper body are heavily sooted.

6.3 Animal Bone

Sixty-three animal bone fragments (1.5kg) were collected from eleven features, the largest assemblages (each exceeding 300g) deriving from ditch [205] and pit [706]. Individual pieces have a mean weight of 24g, and generally survive in good condition, with little surface erosion. Identifiable fragments derive from cattle, sheep and pig. Diagnostic anatomical elements are limb bone (tibia, metapodial), rib, pelvis, scapula, horn core, skull and mandible fragments, several deriving from immature animals.

7. APPENDIX 3: SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT CRITERIA

Criteria used for Assessing the Significance of Assets	
Significance of Asset	***Definition***
International	A designated World Heritage Site or place of equivalent 'outstanding universal value' and international significance
National	Designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments, Grade I or Grade II* listed buildings, registered Park or Gardens or battlefields) of national significance. Or: undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of potentially equivalent value. This includes assets which are: • rare in the heritage environment record or • are a good example of a type site or • have a high potential to add to regional and national research criteria
Regional	Designated heritage assets of regional significance (Grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Park or Garden or battlefield not associated with events of national significance). Or: undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of potentially equivalent value. This includes assets which are: • more commonly found in the heritage environment record or • have particular regional associations or may have important associations on a local or parish level (e.g. they have meaning to local population or embody something of the special identity of a locality) • have moderate potential to add to local and regional research criteria
Local	Assets which are: • relatively poorly preserved or • have limited significance on a local level • have a low potential to add to local and regional research criteria
Uncertain	Sites where there is evidence that a heritage asset may exist, but where there is insufficient information to determine its nature, extent and degree of survival given current knowledge (e.g. cropmarks untested by fieldwork or random finds spots).
Negligible	Where there is very authoritative evidence – usually backed up field evaluation – that there is no possibility that anything of archaeological or historical significance exists or where any potential surviving remains have no value within the context of the current study.

Criteria used for Assessing the Magnitude of Development Impacts	
Magnitude of Impact	***Effect of Impact***
High	Causes total destruction of or permanent change to most key elements of the asset that results in major loss of integrity and reduction in significance. Substantial change to the setting of the asset. Any such change would almost certainly considerably reduce the significance of the asset and would not normally be reversible.
Moderate	Either: causes permanent change to or loss of many key elements of the asset that lead to a moderate loss of its overall integrity and reduction in significance. Moderate change to the setting of the asset. Or: temporarily causes major loss of integrity and significance, e.g. through restricting accessibility and visibility, or by altering its setting.
Low	Either: causes permanent change to some key or peripheral elements of the asset, or changes to the setting of the asset, that lead to a slight loss of its overall integrity or significance. Or: temporarily causes moderate loss of integrity and significance, e.g. through restricting accessibility and visibility, or by altering its setting.
Negligible	Minor permanent or temporary changes to the asset that have no appreciable direct or indirect effect on the asset or its setting and do not affect its significance.
No change	No change to the asset or its setting.
Slightly Beneficial	Either: delivers some improvement to the asset that does not increase its overall integrity or significance. Or: arrests an existing process of adverse change.
Moderately Beneficial	Either: causes long-term improvement of the asset, involving some increase in its integrity or significance. Or: reverses an existing process of adverse change.
Highly Beneficial	Causes major benefit to the asset that increases its integrity and significance. Such change would almost certainly increase the significance of the asset.

Significance of Impact Matrix						
Significance of Asset	*International or National*	Neutral	Slight	Moderate	Large	Very Large
	Regional	Neutral	Neutral / Slight	Slight	Moderate	Large
	Local	Neutral	Neutral / Slight	Neutral / Slight	Slight	Moderate
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral / Slight	Slight
		No change	*Negligible*	*Low*	*Moderate*	*High*
		Magnitude of Impact				

8. APPENDIX 4: OASIS SUMMARY

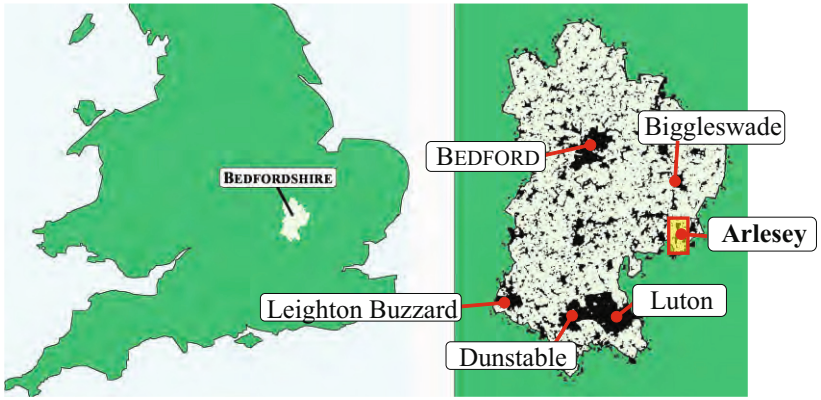
OASIS ID: albionar1-175548

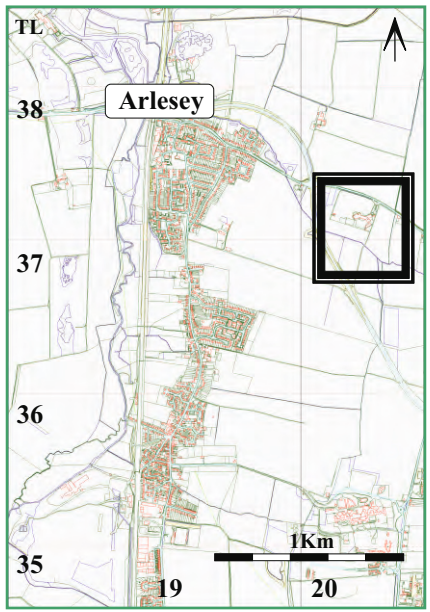
Project details	
Project name	Etonbury Academy
Short description of the project	Morgan Sindall plc is gathering baseline information in support of a planning application for the development of a new school building, all-weather pitch and car park at Etonbury Academy off Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Bedfordshire. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey and a trial-trench evaluation. Seven trial trenches were positioned to test geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. Four of these trenches revealed archaeological features, with evidence of two separate Iron Age settlements in the field to the east of the Academy. Not all of the identified archaeological features could be dated, but those features that did produce dating evidence appear uniformly to be either early-middle or middle Iron Age. The evidence recovered of Iron Age settlement has moderate to high potential to contribute to regional research objectives relating to the characterisation of rural settlement and settlement patterns in this period. No evidence was found of archaeological remains within the evaluated part of the grounds of Etonbury Academy, although the equal lack of evidence for quarrying activity indicates the potential for undiscovered remains to exist beyond the confines of the evaluation trench.
Project dates	Start: 27-05-2014 End: 06-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EA2349 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2014.25 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCHES Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PITS Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Early Iron Age
Monument type	POST HOLE Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Middle Iron Age
Methods & techniques	"'Sample Trenches'"
Development type	School Extension
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE ARLESEY Etonbury Academy
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 20434 37157 52.0193115291 -0.244703671073 52 01 09 N 000 14 40 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	Jeremy Oetgen
Project supervisor	David Ingham

Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Physical Archive ID	BEDFM 2014.25
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones",' 'Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Albion Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography",' 'Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Paper Archive ID	BEDFM 2014.25
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material",' 'Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Etonbury Academy, Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Ingham, D'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Wells, J'
Other bibliographic details	2014/119
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Description	A4 comb bound report

Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	20 June 2014





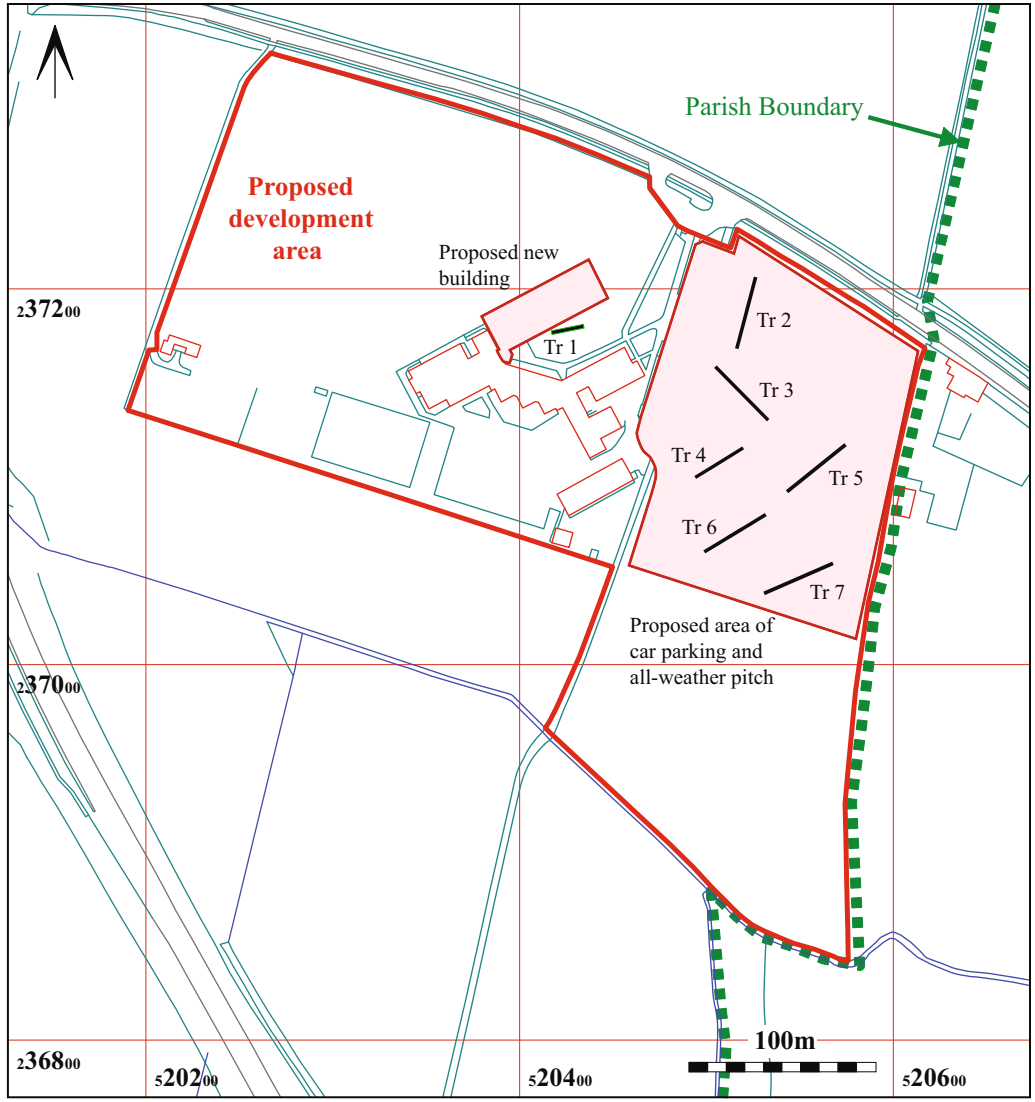


Figure 1: Site location

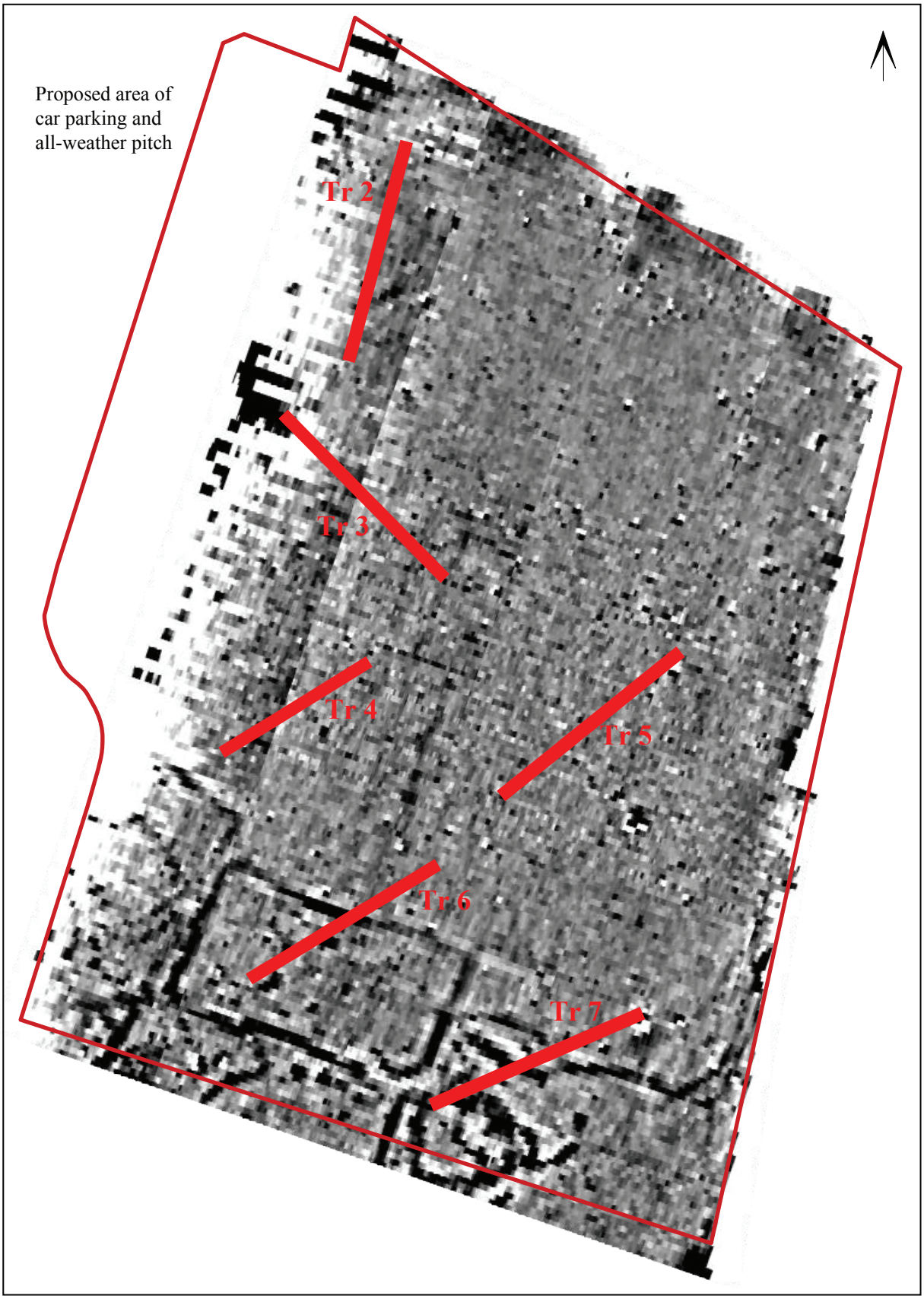
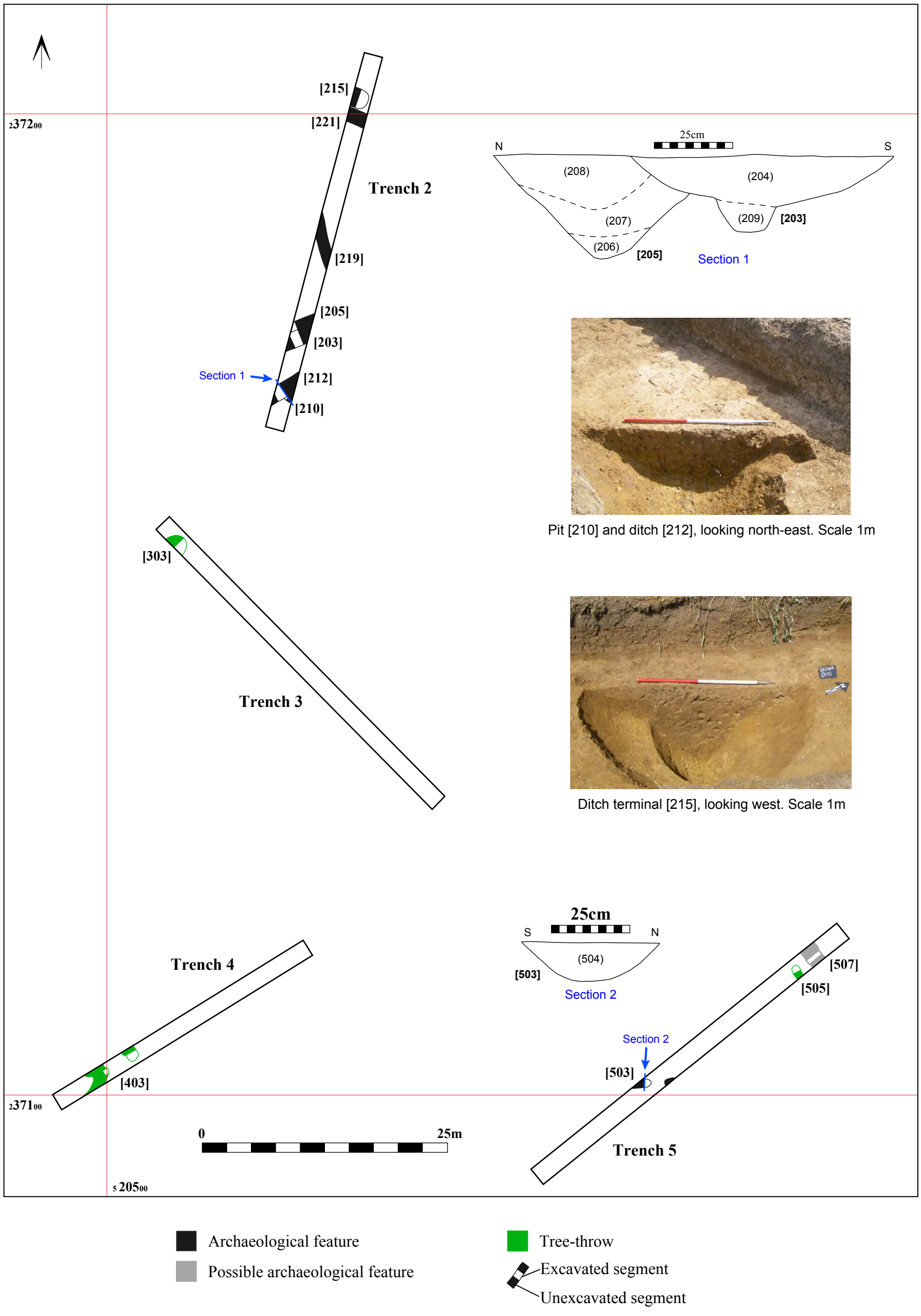


Figure 2: Trench locations overlain on geophysical survey data

Figure 3: Photograph of gravel deposits in Trench 1

(Looking east)



Pit [210] and ditch [212], looking north-east. Scale 1m

Ditch terminal [215], looking west. Scale 1m

Figure 4: Northern area (Trenches 2–5)

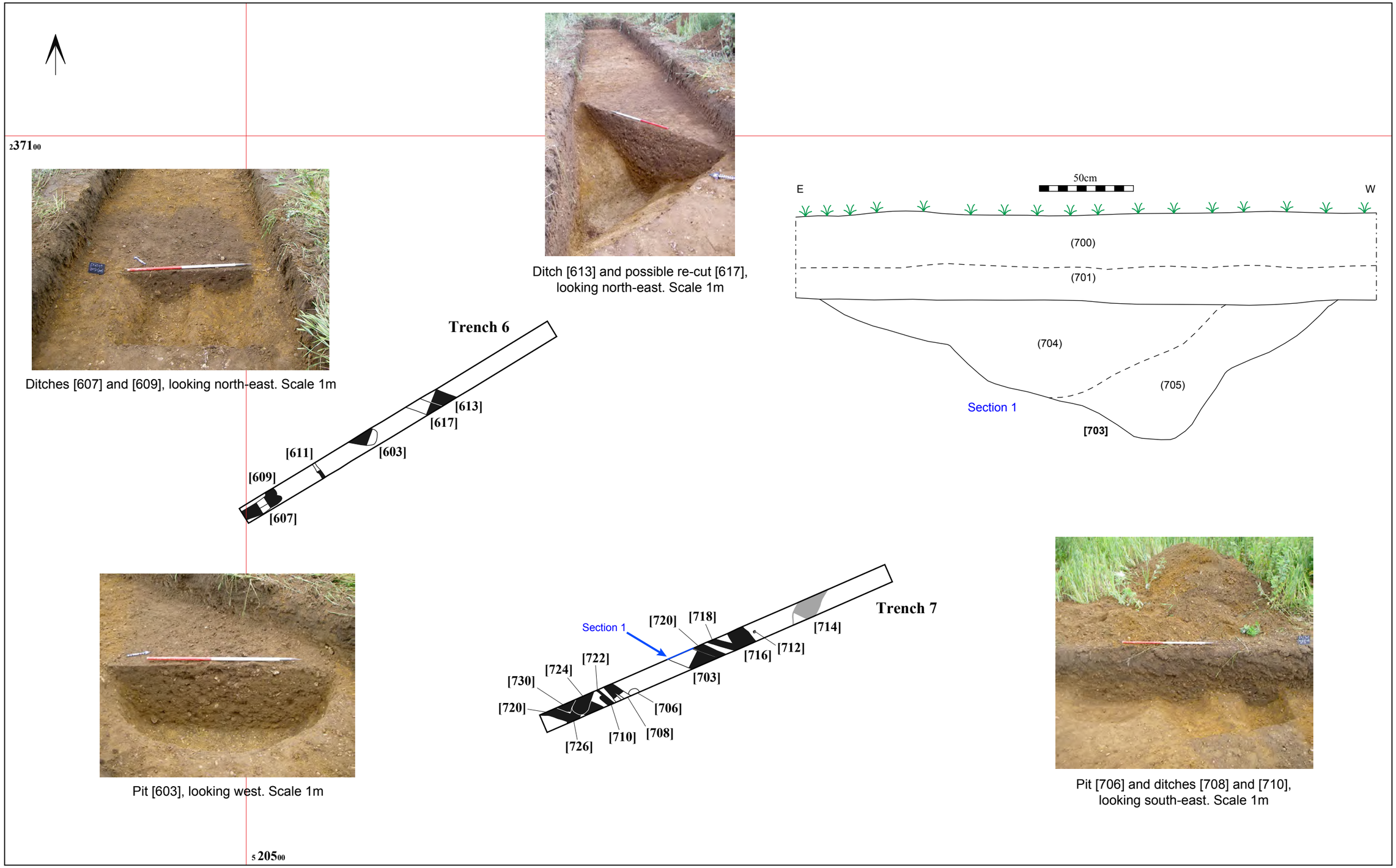


Figure 5: Southern area (Trenches 6–7)

Archaeological feature

Possible archaeological feature

Excavated segment

Unexcavated segment

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