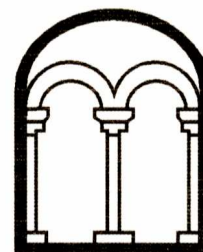


**KIMBOLTON SCHOOL NEW SCIENCE BLOCK  
KIMBOLTON  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION  
AND MONITORING**

**Albion**  
archaeology





**KIMBOLTON SCHOOL NEW SCIENCE BLOCK  
KIMBOLTON  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION  
AND MONITORING**

Project: KS2316  
HER event no. ECB4150  
OASIS ref: albionar1-175692

Document: 2014/167  
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19th September 2014

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On behalf of:  
Kimbolton School



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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.*

## Acknowledgements

*The project was commissioned by SDC on behalf of Kimbolton School. The work was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team.*

*The trial trenching was undertaken by David Ingham (Project Officer), Ben Carroll (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor) and Juha-Matti Vuorinen (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor). Archaeological monitoring was covered by Anna Rebisz-Niziolek, Slawomir Utrata (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors) and David Ingham. The project was managed for Albion Archaeology by Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). This report was prepared by David Ingham with illustrations by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and finds reporting by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer).*

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## Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	19/09/2014	n/a

## Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
HET	CCC Historic Environment Team
HER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
LPA	Local Planning Authority
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Huntingdonshire District Council has granted planning permission (1301248FUL) for the demolition of an existing classroom block and the construction of a new two-storey block and temporary classrooms at Kimbolton School, Castle Green, Kimbolton.*

*As the proposed development lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity, Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) requested that the applicant provide information (in the form of the results of an archaeological evaluation) on the potential impact of the proposal on archaeological remains. This is in line with the requirements of paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states that Local Planning Authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of heritage assets before they are lost; this can be achieved by imposing planning conditions or obligations as appropriate.*

*The evaluation entailed the excavation of three 20m-long trial trenches on the proposed sites of the new building and one of the temporary classrooms. It was subsequently agreed with the HET to conduct archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the second temporary classroom, rather than carrying out an evaluation beforehand, as this area was discovered to consist largely of a backfilled swimming pool.*

*This report presents the results of both the trial trenching and the monitoring, which were carried out between April and September 2014.*

*The evaluation identified a small number of modern features of no archaeological significance, as well as several amorphous features that are likely to represent tree throws. No features of archaeological origin were identified during the programme of archaeological monitoring.*

*The evaluation and monitoring produced no evidence for settlement within the development areas prior to construction of the school. The development areas have low archaeological potential, and no significant heritage assets are likely to be affected adversely by the development. The HET has consequently advised that no further archaeological work is required.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Huntingdonshire District Council granted planning permission (1301248FUL) for the demolition of an existing classroom block and the construction of a new two-storey block and temporary classrooms at Kimbolton School, Castle Green, Kimbolton.

Because of the archaeological sensitivity of the site, the following condition was attached to the planning permission:

7. Condition. No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.
7. Reason. To safeguard archaeological interests in accordance with Policy En12 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan, 1995.

Acting in its capacity as archaeological adviser to the local planning authority, the Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council (HET) requested that the applicant initially undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site (HET 2014). The results of the evaluation would then be assessed to determine whether further works were required to mitigate the constructional impacts on any archaeological remains. Albion Archaeology was appointed by SDC to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014a) and carry out the evaluation in line with it.

During preparation of the WSI, it was discovered that the proposed site of one of the temporary classrooms was occupied by a former open-air swimming pool, which had been backfilled in 2000 (Edward Valletta, Kimbolton School Bursar, pers. comm.). Two trial pits dug by engineers in November 2013 had demonstrated that disturbance related to the construction of the swimming pool extended up to 1.8m below ground level. Andy Thomas of the HET therefore advised that this area did not require evaluation, due to its significantly reduced archaeological potential, but recommended that a precautionary programme of archaeological monitoring be undertaken during construction of the temporary classroom in order to identify and record any archaeological remains that might have survived around the margins of the swimming pool. A second WSI (Albion Archaeology 2014b) was submitted in order to cover these works.

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken at various stages before and during the programme of enabling works for the development.

This report presents the results of both the archaeological evaluation and the monitoring.

### 1.2 *Site Location*

Kimbolton School lies on the south side of Kimbolton and *c.* 400m south of the River Kym. The school precinct covers a total area of *c.* 5ha, surrounded by





extensive open spaces at the north end of Kimbolton Park. The new Science Block will replace the classroom block known as the Spinney Building, to the south-east of the school precinct (Figure. 1).

The principal construction works were scheduled to occupy three separate locations within the precinct (Figure. 1):

- **Location 1** – Erection of temporary classroom (footprint *c.* 180m<sup>2</sup>) on the lawn south of the Donaldson Laboratories and west of the Queen Katherine Building, at grid reference TL 0986 6752;
- **Location 2** – Erection of temporary classroom (footprint *c.* 430m<sup>2</sup>) on the site of a former swimming pool, south-east of the Mews Music Rooms, at grid reference TL 1012 6773;
- **Location 3** – Demolition of the existing building at grid reference TL 0993 6756, followed by erection of the new Science Block (footprint *c.* 1,420m<sup>2</sup>).

The geology of the area comprises River Terrace Gravels overlying Oxford Clay, with the land surface lying at a height of *c.* 35m OD.

### 1.3 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

A summary of the data recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was supplied by the HET as an appendix to the Design Brief. Reference has also been made to the heritage statement submitted with the planning application (Alliance Planning 2013) and the information available from English Heritage via the National Heritage List for England (NHLE)<sup>1</sup>.

The site is located within the grounds of Kimbolton Deer Park, dating from the 16th century (HER 00255). It is possible that the park had a medieval precursor, and it contains an alleged medieval fishpond (HER 00238). Castle Hill, a motte dating from the 12th century, is located over 450m south-west of the development sites (HER CB15402); this is a scheduled monument (NHLE 1015013). The later Kimbolton Castle lies at the eastern end of the village (HER 00412). The present Grade 1 listed building dates from the 16th to 18th centuries, but is considered to be on the site of a medieval manorial residence. The location of the Saxon settlement in this area is currently unknown.

An evaluation carried out in 2006 prior to the construction of the present Queen Katherine Building revealed several ditches and a Roman pit (HER ECB2302; Bailey and Lodoen 2006). The ditches are thought to relate to post-medieval landscaping, although one very wide and deep ditch may have been associated with the medieval moat system (HER MCB17280).

An evaluation in 2008 for new sports pitches to the south-west of the school precinct revealed a post-medieval ditch and areas of tree-root disturbance (Albion Archaeology 2008). There was no evidence of Saxon or medieval settlement, as might have been expected in the vicinity of Kimbolton's historic core. Location 1 was used as a contractor's compound during the subsequent

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england> [accessed 20/03/2014]



construction of the sports pitches, but there is no record that any archaeological investigation took place as a consequence.

#### **1.4 Project Objectives**

The principal objective of the trial trenching was to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the three development locations and, if so, to establish their extent, condition, nature, date and significance. This information would then be used to inform decisions with regard to the impact of the proposed development on potential archaeological remains, and to help in the formulation of appropriate mitigation measures to protect any surviving remains either by preservation or excavation.

The broader objective of the project was to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of settlement in the area, and produce an archive report that fully described the archaeological works.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

A full methodology is provided in the WSIs (Albion Archaeology 2014a and 2014b). The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO (east)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i>
• CCC	<i>Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store</i> (HER 2004/1).
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> (2009)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i>

### 2.1 Trial Trenching

Trial trenching began on 23rd April 2014 (Figure 3). Trench 1, measuring 20m long and 1.6m wide, was excavated to the west of the Queen Katherine Building; it was moved 2m north-west of its proposed location in order to avoid a live service which ran parallel to it.

Trenches 2 and 3 were located within the footprint of the extant Spinney Building, and could not be excavated until after it had been demolished. Their excavation took place on 14th August and 3rd September 2014 respectively, after the removal of a concrete slab that had covered the area. Trench 2 was 20m long and 2m wide. Trench 3 was 20m long and 2.7m wide; it had to be moved southwards and rotated slightly in order to avoid obstacles on site. Following consultation with the HET, the eastern end of Trench 3 was extended laterally in order to investigate features of potentially archaeological origin that had been revealed.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were also scanned for artefacts. Detailed information on all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

### 2.2 Monitoring

The excavation of 35 foundation pits, individually measuring between 600mm x 600mm and 1m x 1m, was monitored between 12th and 17th June 2014. The pits were dug to a depth of *c.* 1.2m below the pre-existing ground level by a mechanical excavator, under close archaeological supervision. Excavation of



the pits that lay within the footprint of the former swimming pool was not monitored.

### **2.3 Archive**

The archive of records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under event number ECB 4150.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number albionar1-175692.



### 3. RESULTS

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#### 3.1 Introduction

The results of the evaluation and monitoring are summarised below by Location number. Detailed technical information on all archaeological features / deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

#### 3.2 Location 1

Trial-trench evaluation of Location 1 established that the area's previous use as a contractor's compound had not had any impact on archaeological remains, as the previous ground surface had been raised. A buried topsoil (108) and underlying subsoil (103) were identified, with a further layer (104) representing an interface between the subsoil and the underlying geology, possibly alluvial in origin.

The only features identified in Trench 1 were two modern land drains, and a stake-hole [106] which is similarly believed to be modern, perhaps related to the area's use as a constructor's compound (Figure 3). No artefacts were recovered from the fill of the stake-hole to assist in dating it.

##### 3.2.1 Finds

###### Subsoil (103)

One early medieval sand-tempered pottery body sherd (11g) was recovered.

###### Natural interface (104)

Three highly leached and abraded shell-tempered pottery sherds of possible late Saxon St Neots ware were recovered, weighing 8g in total.

###### Buried topsoil (108)

A sand-tempered fragment of post-medieval flat roof tile (42g) was recovered.

#### 3.3 Location 2

Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of foundation pits in the vicinity of the former swimming pool (Figures 4 and 5) revealed made ground, with undisturbed geological deposits only visible at the very base of some of the pits. No pre-modern artefacts were identified.

#### 3.4 Location 3

Trench 2 revealed no archaeological features (Figures 2 and 6). A geological deposit of blue-grey clay was directly overlain by a layer of limestone hardcore that had acted as a base for the concrete slab on which the Spinney Building had been built.

Trench 3 revealed more of the geological deposit of blue-grey clay, which contained only brick foundations (305) associated with the Spinney Building (Figures 2 and 6). At the east end of the trench, however, the geological deposits changed to yellow-brown clay, and were cut by a number of amorphous features [302] which contained small quantities of medieval pottery and slag. Extension of the trench revealed more of these features, which proved upon excavation to be similarly irregular in profile. These features are interpreted as tree throws, or other products of bioturbation (Figures 2 and 7).



### 3.4.1 Finds

#### **Fill (303) of tree throws [302]**

Five sherds of late Saxon St Neots ware were recovered, weighing 11g in total and representing four vessels. Two early medieval sand-tempered sherds weighing 5g in total were also recovered, one with a post-firing drilled perforation.

The tree throws also contained ferrous smelting(?) slag (114g); four pieces of vitrified clay (9g), possibly representing furnace/hearth lining; and an amorphous fragment of fired clay (8g).



## 4. HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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### 4.1 ***Significance of the Results***

The evaluation and monitoring identified no pre-modern features of archaeological origin within the three development locations. This suggests that these areas lay outside of any settlement prior to construction of the school. The recovery of late Saxon and early medieval pottery from the probable tree throws in Trench 3 is potentially indicative of activity of that date within the vicinity, but the origin of these features is uncertain, and it is unclear how the pottery sherds came to be incorporated within them. The three development locations consequently have low archaeological potential.

### 4.2 ***The Impact of the Proposed Development***

Monitoring of the excavations in Location 2 established that, due to the depth of made ground present, any archaeological remains that potentially exist there will have been preserved *in situ* beneath the development. No significant heritage assets are likely to be impacted by the development in Locations 1 or 3.

Due to the need to conduct the evaluation during the construction programme, rather than beforehand, it was agreed with the HET that development could proceed without the need for additional archaeological mitigation.

On the conclusion of each stage of fieldwork, the HET advised that no further fieldwork would be necessary and that there was no objection on archaeological grounds to the commencement of fieldwork. This advice was subject to confirmation by the planning authority.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Albion Archaeology 2008: *Kimbolton School Playing Fields, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Albion Archaeology Report 2008/115
- Alliance Planning 2013: *Kimbolton School, Proposed Science and Maths Building: Heritage Statement*
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- HER 2004: *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store: Guidelines*. HER 2004/1.
- HET 2014: *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Kimbolton School, New Science Block*, 18th March 2014





## 6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

<b>Trench: 1</b>		
<b>Length:</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>Width: 1.6m</b>
		<b>Depth: Min. 0.85 Max. 1.1m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt. Max. 0.2m thick
101	Make-up layer	Firm mid grey brown silty clay, occasional concrete. Max. 0.25m thick
102	Make-up layer	Firm mid green brown clay. Max. 0.1m thick
103	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay. Max. 0.4m thick
104	Natural interface	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay. Max. 0.15m thick
105	Natural	Plastic light blue grey clay, outcrops of light yellow orange sand and gravel
106	Stake-hole	Square, vertical sides, flat base. Width: 0.12m; depth: 0.07m
107	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay
108	Buried topsoil	Firm dark brown grey clay silt

<b>Trench: 2</b>		
<b>Length:</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>Width: 2m</b>
		<b>Depth: Min. 0.3 Max. 0.7m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
200	Make-up layer	Limestone hardcore. Max. 0.7m thick
201	Natural	Plastic mid blue grey clay

<b>Trench: 3</b>		
<b>Length:</b>	<b>20m</b>	<b>Width: 2.7m</b>
		<b>Depth: Min. 0.25 Max. 0.35m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
300	Make-up layer	Compacted mid brown grey clay, frequent large limestone blocks
301	Natural	West: plastic mid blue grey clay. East: plastic mid yellow brown clay
302	Tree throws	Irregular shapes and profiles. Depth: max. 0.2m
303	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay
305	Masonry structure	Red brick foundations. Width: 0.4m



## 7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

**OASIS ID: albionar1-175692**

### Project details

Project name	Kimbolton School
Short description of the project	Huntingdonshire District Council has granted planning permission (1301248FUL) for the demolition of an existing classroom block and the construction of a new two-storey block and temporary classrooms at Kimbolton School, Castle Green, Kimbolton. Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) requested a programme of archaeological works that would commence with a trial-trench evaluation, although this was amended for one of the three development areas so that only a watching brief was required. The evaluation entailed the excavation of three 20m-long trial trenches, and identified a small number of modern features of archaeological origin, as well as several amorphous features that are likely to represent tree throws. No features of archaeological origin were identified during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 23-04-2014 End: 03-09-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KS2316 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4150 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	POST HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	TREE THROW Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	SLAG Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE KIMBOLTON Kimbolton School
Study area	2030.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 0933 6755 52.2947867509 -0.396682875005 52 17 41 N 000 23 48 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 supervisor	Ben Carroll

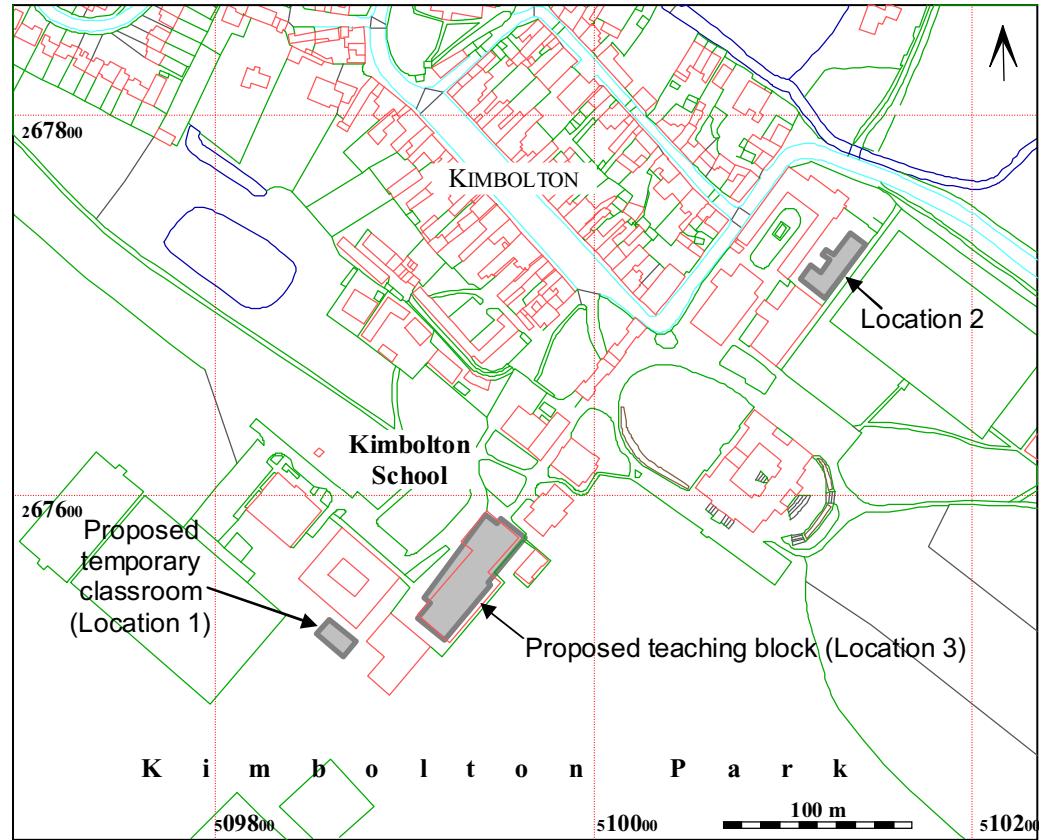
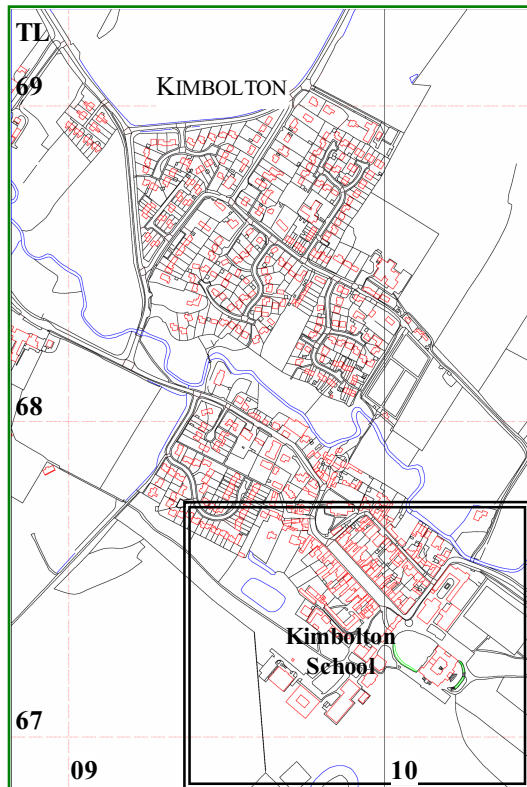
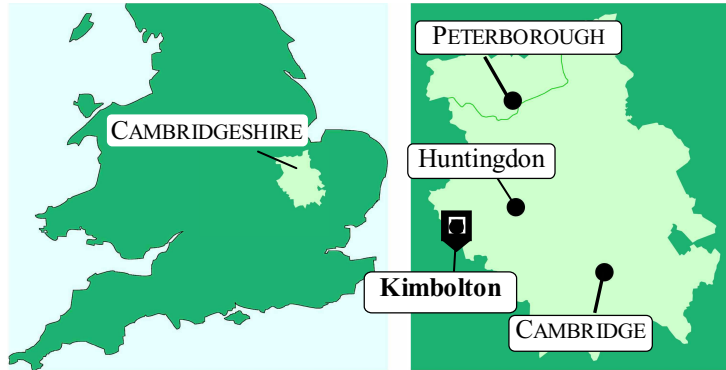
#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Stores
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Industrial"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Stores
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence",'Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph",'Report"

#### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Kimbolton School, New Science Block, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation and Monitoring
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Ingham, D. and Oetgen, J. and Lightning, J.'
Other bibliographic details	2014/167
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Description	A4 comb bound report
Entered by	David Ingham (dp.ingham@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	17 September 2014



**Figure 1: Site location**

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**Figure 2: Trench locations and all features (Location 1 and Location 3)**

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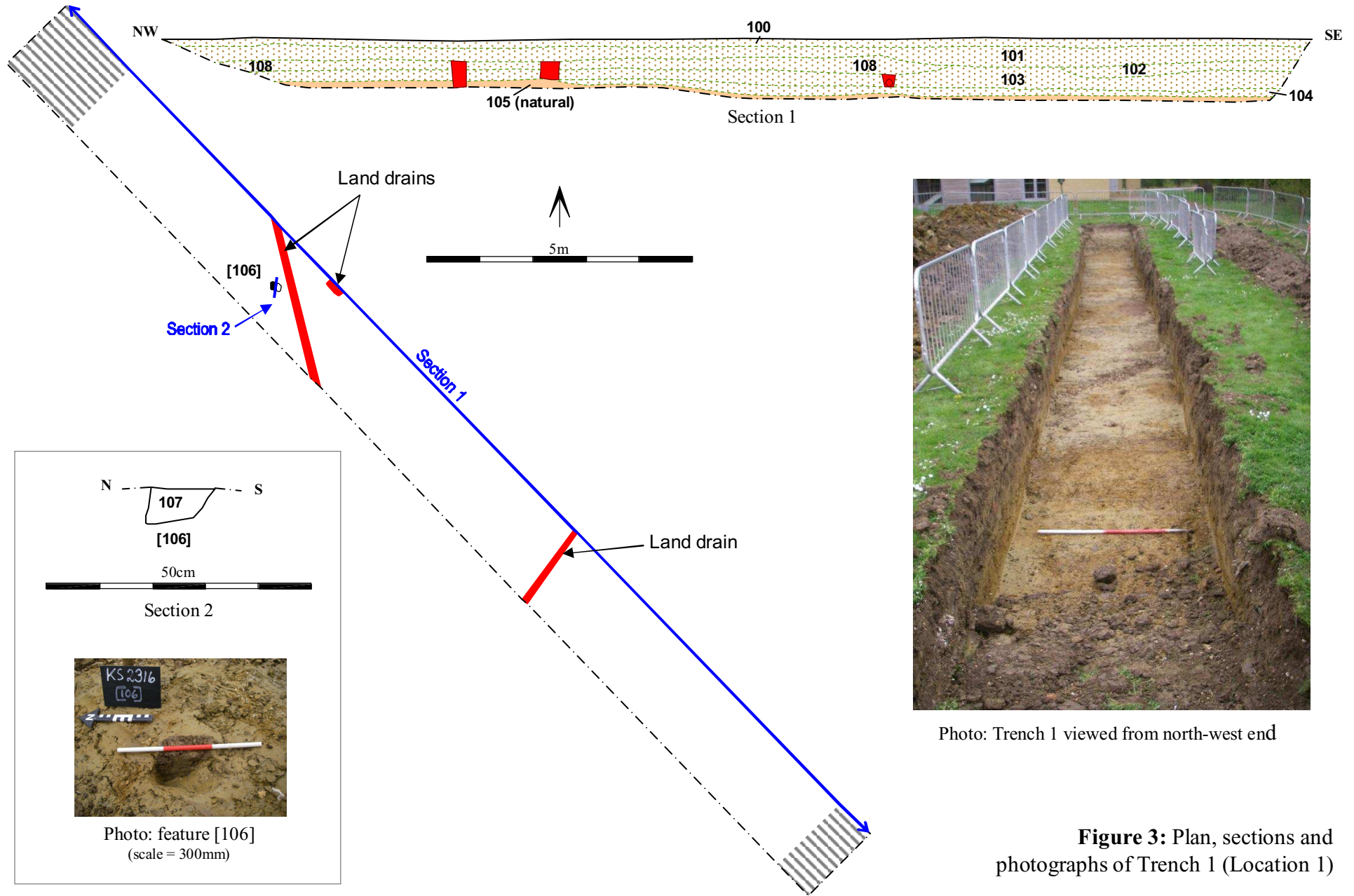
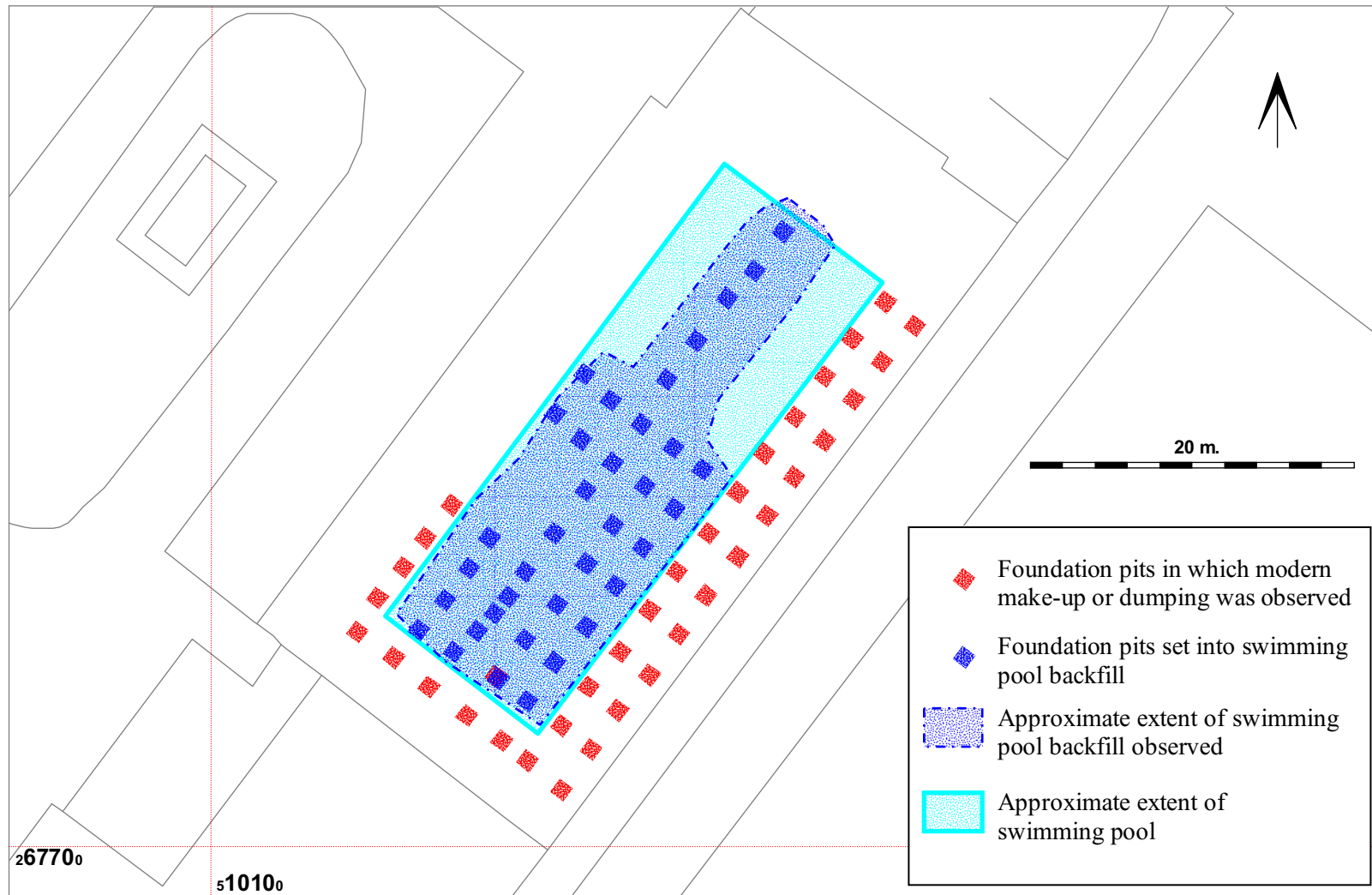


Photo: Trench 1 viewed from north-west end

**Figure 3:** Plan, sections and photographs of Trench 1 (Location 1)



**Figure 4: Observation of groundworks at the former swimming pool site (Location 2)**

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Typical made ground encountered in foundation pits around the former swimming pool



New formwork in place on top of intact blue concrete base of former swimming pool, with the material used to backfill the pool visible in the background

**Figure 5:** Photographs of made ground at swimming pool site (Location 2)





Trench 2 viewed from north-west end



Trench 3 viewed from south-west end

**Figure 6:** Photographs of Trenches 2 and 3 (Location 3)



Stripped area at east end of Trench 3, viewed from north-west



Detail of typical amorphous features in Trench 3  
(scale = 200mm)

**Figure 7:** Photographs of Trench 3 (Location 3)



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