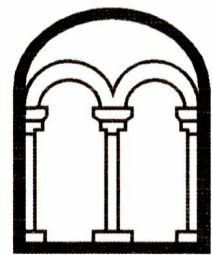


**LAND AT LANGFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**LAND AT LANGFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

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|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
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Produced for:  
CgMs Consulting Ltd



## ***Contents***

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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>                                      | <b>5</b>  |
| 1.1 Project Background                                      | 5         |
| 1.2 Site Location and Description                           | 5         |
| 1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background                | 5         |
| 1.4 Project Objectives                                      | 6         |
| <b>2. METHODOLOGY</b>                                       | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>3. RESULTS</b>   | <b>9</b>  |
| 3.1 Introduction  | 9         |
| 3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits          | 9         |
| 3.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits                    | 9         |
| <b>4. CONCLUSIONS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT</b>                | <b>11</b> |
| 4.1 Summary and Significance of the Trial Trenching Results | 11        |
| 4.2 Impact Assessment                                       | 12        |
| <b>5. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>                                      | <b>13</b> |
| <b>6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES</b>                      | <b>14</b> |
| <b>7. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACTS SUMMARY</b>                     | <b>20</b> |
| 7.1 Introduction  | 20        |
| 7.2 Ceramics  | 20        |
| 7.3 Animal bone   | 21        |
| <b>8. APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM</b>            | <b>22</b> |



## ***List of Figures***

**Figure 1:** Site location

**Figure 2:** Trenches and archaeological features overlaid with the geophysical survey results

**Figure 3:** Plans and sections – Trenches 1 and 2

**Figure 4:** Plans and sections – Trenches 3 and 4

**Figure 5:** Plan and section – Trench 5

*The figures are bound at the back of the report.*



## Preface

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

## Acknowledgements

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

*The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisor) Adrian Woolmer and Gareth Shane (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors) under the management of Rob Wardill (Project Manager). This report was prepared by Kathy Pilkinton and Wesley Keir with figures produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). Finds reporting was by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer).*

*All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

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## Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| CBC | Central Bedfordshire Council                               |
| BCA | Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist                 |
| HER | Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record |
| IfA | Institute for Archaeologists                               |
| PDA | Proposed Development Area                                  |



### **Non-Technical Summary**

*CgMs Consulting Ltd are gathering baseline information on land east of Station Road, Langford, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for a residential housing development. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that an archaeological field evaluation must be undertaken in order to obtain the heritage information required to accompany any future planning application. This was to comprise geophysical survey, completed in April 2014, and archaeological trial trenching.*

*Archaeological features were revealed in all five trial trenches, including five ditches dating to the early Iron Age associated with enclosures detected by the geophysical survey. Also revealed were ditches corresponding with former field boundaries marked on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps.*

*The evaluation demonstrated that the enclosures are associated with early Iron Age settlement; they are of moderate – high significance in light of regional research objectives regarding the characterisation of Iron Age settlements and their relationship with contemporary enclosure systems (Oake 2007, 11). The two groups of intercutting ditches corresponding with the locations of the former field boundaries marked on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps are of low significance, though the apparent longevity of the boundaries is of some interest with regard to the development of the historic rural landscape.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Project Background*

CgMs Consulting Ltd are gathering baseline information on land east of Station Road, Langford, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for a residential housing development.

The proposed development area (PDA) lies in the south-east part of Langford between Station Road, in Flexmore End, and the railway line. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that an archaeological field evaluation must be undertaken in order to obtain the heritage information required to accompany any future planning application. This was to comprise geophysical survey, completed in April 2014, and archaeological trial trenching.

This approach 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*<sup>1</sup>.

This report represents the findings of the trial trench evaluation which was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2014) approved by the CBCA.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Langford lies immediately east of the River Ivel, *c.* 3km south-west of Biggleswade and *c.* 20km south-east of Bedford, north of the A507 (Figure 1). It stretches northwards along the B695 (High Street and Church Street).

The PDA measures *c.* 5.5ha in extent and is centred on grid reference TL 18925 40625. It lies on fairly level ground which falls very slightly from east to west towards the River Ivel, from 45–40m OD. The underlying solid geology is Gault Formation Mudstone. The superficial deposits are recorded as Oadby Member Diamicton, characterised by lenses of sand and gravel, clay and silt with chalk and flint fragments.<sup>2</sup> The land is currently under arable cultivation.

### 1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

#### 1.3.1 *Geophysical survey of the PDA*

The PDA was subject to geophysical survey in March and April 2014 (MOLA 2014). The work comprised a detailed magnetic survey which covered the great majority of the PDA (Figures 1 and 2). The survey identified two adjacent large rectangular enclosures with a number of internal linear features. A more extensive, probable field boundary ditch was located to the north-east of the enclosures. The morphology of these anomalies suggested a possible farmstead of probable Iron Age or Roman date.

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<sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.

<sup>2</sup> Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2014].



### 1.3.2 Archaeological and historical background to the environs of the PDA

A review of archaeological sites and findspots recorded by the HER within a 1km radius of the site, together with a study of relevant historic maps, were recently undertaken as part of an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site (CgMs Consulting Ltd 2013). The following paragraphs summarise the principal features within the vicinity of the site.

A cropmark complex consisting of polygonal enclosures and an abutting linear feature (HER 16810), identified from aerial photographs to the north-east of Langford, may be prehistoric in date.

A Roman origin has been postulated for Cambridge Road to the south of the development site (*Viatores* No 176, HER 5342). A small number of Roman findspots have been recorded near Langford — a reputed item of Roman cavalry equipment (HER 16287) near the railway crossing to the south of Cambridge Road and two Roman coins (HER 19402 and 19447), recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) east of the village.

The village of Langford is of medieval origin or earlier. The earliest written mention of Langford comes from 944–6 (Coleman, unpublished). It has been suggested that Church End was Danish in origin, due to the presence of Danish names amongst its earliest recorded inhabitants.

Langford is recorded in Domesday Book of 1086 as having a manor assessed at 10 hides and held by Lewin, a thegn of Edward the Confessor. Two smaller manors, the manor of Holme with Langford and Langford Rectory, were offshoots of the main manor (Page 1908). A church is recorded in the parish from at least 1142, presumably on the same site as the 13th-century St Andrew's Church, situated in Church End (HER 1087).

The current elongated settlement combines a number of smaller medieval hamlets — Church End in the north (HER 17135), Water End (HER 17136) on the bank of the River Ivel in the south-west and Flexmore End (HER 17137) in the south-east. The HER records a number of standing buildings dating to between the 17th and 19th centuries within the postulated extents of Church End and Water End, including three Grade II listed houses (HER 5741 - 57431) located on Mill Lane and High Street.

Finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme dating to the medieval period consist of a medieval pilgrim badge (HER 19403) and a mount and pilgrim badge, dating to the medieval or post-medieval period (HER 19397 and 19401 respectively). These are part of a collection of finds retrieved from a field east of the village, including the Roman coins discussed above.

## 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 close to a potential Roman road and the geophysical survey undertaken on the site identified a possible contemporary settlement. 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).

The PDA also lies immediately to the east of the medieval settlement of Flexmore End as identified in the HER. The research framework states that generally few medieval rural settlements have been investigated in Bedfordshire, in particular settlements at the lower end of the medieval settlement hierarchy, such as “Ends” (Oake 2007, 14).

The specific research objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify, characterise and date the enclosure system identified in the geophysical survey;
- To gain further insight into the settlement character, distribution and /or land use from the prehistoric to Roman periods in this part of Bedfordshire;
- To assess if any heritage assets relating to the Saxon and medieval period, in particular relating to Flexmore End, are present on the PDA;

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 PDA;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the PDA;
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching took place between 22nd and 30th April 2014. A layout of five trenches, each measuring 2m x 25m, was agreed with the CBCA, targeting linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Figure 2). For ease of access, it was later agreed on site with the CBCA that the south-east end of Trench 5 could be shortened once the targeted linear near this end of the trench had been exposed.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff.

Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.* Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [\*\*\*] and round brackets to fills or layers (\*\*\*). The trenches were inspected by the CBCA prior to their backfilling.

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

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Albion Archaeology      | <i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).  |
| • Bedford Borough Council | <i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (2010)  |
| • EAA                     | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)  |
| • English Heritage        | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2009)   |
|                           | <i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition</i> (2011) |
| • IfA                     | <i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>   |
|                           | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> (updated 2013)  |
|                           | <i>Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (updated 2013)               |

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (Accession No. BEDFM: 2014.26). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (ref: albionar1-175814) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.



## 3. RESULTS

---

### 3.1 Introduction

The results of the trial trenching are summarised below and shown on Figures 3–5. Details of all the observed features and deposits are provided in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 provides details of the artefacts recovered.

### 3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Ploughsoil comprised dark brown grey clayey silt, 0.3–0.4m thick.

Subsoil comprised firm yellowish brown silty clay that was generally *c.* 0.2m thick, though in areas of Trenches 1–3, located close to the hedgeline, it was up to 0.36m thick.

The underlying geological deposits comprised firm, light brownish grey silty clay with occasional brownish orange sandy patches. Inclusions of moderate small-medium stones and flint fragments were present.

### 3.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits

Archaeological features were revealed in all five trial trenches, including five ditches dating to the early Iron Age associated with enclosures detected by the previous geophysical survey. All these features were sealed by the subsoil and contained generally similar fills, varying between mid grey-brown clayey-silt and mid yellow brown silty-clay with moderate amounts of chalk fragments.

Also revealed were ditches corresponding with former field boundaries marked on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps and a large undated ditch aligned E-W. A revealed shallow gully also produced no dating evidence.

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

#### 3.3.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

A V-shaped ditch [103] measuring *c.* 1.1m wide and 0.5m deep was revealed aligned NNE-SSW at the southern end of the trench. Only a small amount of animal bone was recovered from its single fill.

Four intercutting ditches [105, 107, 109 and 111] were revealed in the vicinity of a former E-W aligned field boundary recorded on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps. One of the three earlier ditches [107] contained four very small abraded pottery sherds, deriving from a single vessel likely to be of early medieval date. As opposed to the earlier ditches, which were sealed beneath the subsoil, the latest ditch in the sequence [111] cut the subsoil and contained two fragments of post-medieval roof tile. The earlier ditches were filled with single fills of sterile, brown grey silty clay, whilst the latest ditch [111] contained three fills including a distinctive gravel layer (112).

#### 3.3.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

Two V-shaped ditches [203] and [205] were revealed broadly aligned NE-SW, corresponding with two curvilinear enclosure boundaries detected by the



geophysical survey. They were of similar form, measuring *c.* 0.5m deep and 1.1–1.4m wide and were filled with a brown grey clayey silt. Though no artefacts were recovered from ditch [203], six pottery sherds from ditch [205] indicate both are likely to date to the early Iron Age period.

### 3.3.3 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

A WNW- ESE aligned ditch [303] was revealed towards the north end of the trench, corresponding with the extrapolated course of an enclosure ditch detected by the geophysical survey. It was larger than the early Iron Age ditches in Trench 2, measuring 2.5m wide and 1.06m deep, but also contained a sherd of early Iron Age pottery.

### 3.3.4 Trench 4 (Figure 4)

A small sub-oval pit [403] containing no artefacts, was revealed; it was 1.15m x 0.75m and 0.2m deep.

A large E-W aligned ditch [405], also containing no artefacts, was revealed to the north of the pit. It was 2.5m wide and 1.06m deep with steeply sloping sides and a wide concave base.

A sequence of intercutting ditches [408, 410 and 412], similar to that of ditches [105, 107, 109 and 111], was revealed at the north end of the trench, corresponding with a former E-W aligned field boundary recorded on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps. No artefacts were recovered from the ditches, though as with [105, 107, 109 and 111] the earliest ditches [408 and 410] were sealed by the subsoil in contrast to the latest ditch [412] which had been cut into the subsoil. The latest ditch contained a distinctive gravel layer (415) similar to that within ditch [111].

A small gully [416] was located immediately adjacent to and similarly aligned to boundary ditches [408, 410 and 412]; it produced no artefacts.

### 3.3.5 Trench 5 (Figure 5)

A large ditch [503] was revealed at the east end of the trench corresponding with a NE-SW aligned boundary identified by the geophysical survey. It measured 1.3m deep and 3.2m wide and had steeply sloping sides leading to a narrow, stepped base. It produced a number of early Iron Age pottery sherds, along with a very small abraded sherd of early Roman pottery; the latter was recovered from its upper fill and is likely to be intrusive.



## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

### 4.1 *Summary and Significance of the Trial Trenching Results*

The trial trenching has demonstrated that the enclosures identified by the geophysical survey are associated with early Iron Age settlement. A moderate amount of early Iron Age pottery was recovered from three of the four enclosure ditches targeted by Trenches 2, 3 and 5. Though no dating evidence was recovered from ditch [103], its almost identical size and shape to enclosure ditches [203] and [205] strongly suggest it too is associated with the early Iron Age enclosures.

The early Iron Age activity is of particular interest in light of regional research objectives regarding the characterisation of Iron Age settlements and their relationship with contemporary enclosure systems (Oake 2007, 11).

Two groups of intercutting ditches were revealed in Trenches 1 and 4 corresponding with the locations of two E-W aligned former field boundaries marked on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps. Visibly cutting the subsoil, the latest of these ditches [111 and 412] can be no earlier than post-medieval in date. In contrast, the stratigraphically earlier ditches were sealed beneath the subsoil which, along with four small abraded sherds of medieval pottery recovered from ditch [107], suggests a field boundary has been present in this location from possibly the medieval period onwards.

The evidence of these former field boundaries is of low significance, though the apparent longevity of the boundaries is of some interest with regard to the development of the historic rural landscape.

Three features containing no dating evidence were also revealed. Though ditch [405] corresponds with the extrapolated course of Iron Age enclosure ditch [303], its profile is perhaps more akin to the nearby and similarly aligned post-medieval field boundary [412], leaving the possibility that it could date to either period. Gully [416] to the north, also contained no artefacts, though its close location and similar alignment to boundary [408, 410 and 412] suggests the possibility it is of similar date. The only pit revealed, [405], produced no artefacts; it is sealed beneath the subsoil and is likely to predate the post-medieval period.

| Trench | Feature                    | Probable date            | Comments  |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1      | Ditch [103]                | Early Iron Age           | No dating evidence, though similar form to ditches [203] and [205].   |
|        | Ditches [105, 107 and 109] | Medieval – post-medieval | Sealed by the subsoil. Correspond with location of former field boundary marked on late 19th- and early 20th century OS maps. |
|        | Ditch [111]                | Post-medieval – modern   | Cuts the subsoil. Later re-instatement of boundary represented by [105, 107 and 109].   |
| 2      | Ditch [203]                | Early Iron Age           | Corresponds with curvilinear enclosure ditch detected by the geophysical survey.  |



| Trench | Feature               | Probable date            | Comments  |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
|        | Ditch [205]           | Early Iron Age           | Corresponds with curvilinear enclosure ditch detected by the geophysical survey.  |
| 3      | Ditch [303]           | Early Iron Age           | Corresponds with extrapolated course of enclosure ditch detected by the geophysical survey.                                   |
| 4      | Pit [403]             | Undated                  |   |
|        | Ditch [405]           | Undated                  |   |
|        | Ditches [408 and 410] | Medieval – post-medieval | Sealed by the subsoil. Correspond with location of former field boundary marked on late 19th- and early 20th century OS maps. |
|        | Ditch [412]           | Post-medieval – modern   | Cuts the subsoil. Later re-instatement of boundary represented by [408 and 410].  |
|        | Gully [416]           | Undated                  |   |
| 5      | Ditch [503]           | Early Iron Age           | Corresponds with enclosure ditch detected by the geophysical survey.  |

**Table 1:** Summary of archaeological features

#### 4.2 **Impact Assessment**

The evaluation has shown that early Iron Age remains of archaeological interest are present within the PDA. Groundworks or landscaping associated with residential development within the PDA will potentially have a direct negative impact on these heritage assets.

The ditches corresponding with the former field boundaries marked on the late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps are also likely to be impacted by any proposed development. However, these are of little archaeological interest beyond showing that field boundaries have been present in these locations since possibly as long ago as the medieval period; they have limited potential to address identified research objectives.



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## 6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

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**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.58 m. Max: 0.64 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL19082/40460**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL19096/40455**

**Reason: Evaluate area and in particular a linear geophysical anomaly**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b> | <b>Description:</b>   | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>               |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 100             | Ploughsoil   | Friable, dark brown grey, clayey silt<br>Thickness:0.3m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 101             | Subsoil      | Firm, yellowish brown, silty clay<br>Occasional small stones including flint and chalk fragments<br>Thickness:0.36m                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 102             | Natural      | Firm, light brownish grey, silty clay<br>Occasional brownish orange sandy patches<br>Moderate small-medium stones and flint fragments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 103             | Ditch        | Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth<br>1.12m, max depth 0.52m, min length 5.m                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 104             | Fill         | Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate flecks chalk, occasional small-medium<br>stones Thickness: 0.52m                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 105             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.66m,<br>max depth 0.38m, min length 2.m                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 106             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate flecks chalk, moderate small-medium<br>stones Thickness:0.38m                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 107             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.72m,<br>max depth 0.84m, min length 2.m                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 108             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate flecks chalk, moderate small-medium<br>stones Thickness: 0.84m                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 109             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.7m,<br>max depth 0.56m, min length 2.m                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 110             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones Thickness:<br>0.56m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 111             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 5.26m,<br>max depth 0.86m, min length 2.m                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 112             | Backfill     | Loose mid brown grey silty gravel Thickness: 0.42m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 113             | Backfill     | Friable dark grey black clay silt Thickness: 0.8m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 114             | Backfill     | Loose mid brown grey silty gravel Thickness: 0.26m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |



**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.6 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL19013/40396**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL19010/40372**

**Reason: Evaluate area and in particular two linear geophysical anomalies**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b> | <b>Description:</b>   | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>               |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 200             | Ploughsoil   | Friable, dark brown grey, clayey silt<br>Thickness: 0.4m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 201             | Subsoil      | Firm, yellowish brown, silty clay<br>Occasional small stones including flint and chalk fragments<br>Thickness: 0.2m                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 202             | Natural      | Firm, light brownish grey, silty clay<br>Occasional brownish orange sandy patches<br>Moderate small-medium stones and flint fragments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 203             | Ditch        | Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth<br>0.4m, max depth 0.51m, min length 2.m                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 204             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey clay silt Thickness: 0.51m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 205             | Ditch        | Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth<br>1.1m, max depth 0.44m, min length 2.m                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 206             | Fill         | Friable mid yellow brown clay silt Thickness: 0.09m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 207             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks chalk Thickness: 0.35m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.65 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL19020/40430**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL19015/40406**

**Reason: Evaluate area and in particular a linear geophysical anomaly**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b> | <b>Description:</b>   | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>               |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 300             | Ploughsoil   | Friable, dark brown grey, clayey silt<br>Thickness: 0.4m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 301             | Subsoil      | Firm, yellowish brown, silty clay<br>Occasional small stones including flint and chalk fragments<br>Thickness: 0.3m                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 302             | Natural      | Firm, light brownish grey, silty clay<br>Occasional brownish orange sandy patches<br>Moderate small-medium stones and flint fragments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 303             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: V-Shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.5m,<br>max depth 1.06m, min length 2.m                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 304             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness:<br>1.06m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



**Trench: 4**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL18994/40441**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL18994/40416**

**Reason: Evaluate area and in particular a linear geophysical anomaly**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b> | <b>Description:</b>   | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>    |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 400             | Ploughsoil   | Friable, dark brown grey, clayey silt<br>Thickness: 0.32m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 401             | Subsoil      | Firm, grey brown, silty clay<br>Occasional small stones including flint and chalk fragments<br>Thickness: 0.2m                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 402             | Natural      | Firm, light brownish grey, silty clay<br>Occasional brownish orange sandy patches<br>Moderate small-medium stones and flint fragments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 403             | Pit          | Sub-oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.2m, max length 1.15m                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 404             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey sandy clay Thickness: 0.2m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 405             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.1m, max depth 0.84m, min length 2.m                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 406             | Fill         | Firm mid grey brown sandy clay moderate small stones, occasional large stones<br>Thickness: 0.39m                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 407             | Fill         | Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 408             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.25m, max depth 0.5m, min length 2.m                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 409             | Fill         | Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.5m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 410             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.5m, min length 2.m                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 411             | Fill         | Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.5m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 412             | Ditch        | Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.9m, max depth 0.75m, min length 2.m                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 413             | Fill         | Friable dark brown grey clay silt Thickness: 0.34m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 414             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey clay silt Thickness: 0.22m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 415             | Fill         | Loose light brown yellow chalky gravel Thickness: 0.25m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 416             | Gulley       | Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.35m, max depth 0.06m, min length 1.5m                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 417             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey silty clay Thickness: 0.06m  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



**Trench: 5**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 14.50 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL19082/40460**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL19096/40455**

**Reason: Evaluate area and in particular a linear geophysical anomaly**

| <b>Context:</b> | <b>Type:</b> | <b>Description:</b>  | <b>Excavated:</b>                   | <b>Finds Present:</b>               |
|-----------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 500             | Ploughsoil   | Friable, dark brown grey, clayey silt<br>Thickness: 0.3m   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 501             | Subsoil      | Firm, yellowish brown, silty clay<br>Occasional small stones including flint and chalk fragments<br>Thickness: 0.2m                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 502             | Natural      | Firm, light brownish grey, silty clay<br>Occasional brownish orange sandy patches<br>Moderate small-medium stones and flint fragments    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 503             | Ditch        | Linear NNE-SSW sides: V-Shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth<br>3.19m, max depth 1.29m, min length 2.m                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 504             | Fill         | Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay moderate flecks chalk, moderate small<br>stones Thickness: 0.4m                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 505             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey sandy clay frequent flecks chalk, occasional flecks<br>charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.4m     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 506             | Fill         | Friable mid brown grey sandy clay frequent flecks chalk, moderate small-medium<br>stones Thickness: 0.16m                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 507             | Fill         | Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional medium burnt stones, occasional flecks<br>chalk, moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.35m | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 508             | Fill         | Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.34m  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



## 7. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACTS SUMMARY

### 7.1 Introduction

Four trenches yielded an assemblage comprising pottery, animal bone and ceramic roof tile (Table 2). No artefacts were recovered from Trench 4.

| Tr. | Feature | Description | Fill | Date           | Finds Summary                               |
|-----|---------|-------------|------|----------------|---|
| 1   | 103     | Ditch       | 104  | Undated        | Animal bone (7g)                            |
|     | 107     | Ditch       | 108  | Early medieval | Pottery (9g); animal bone (3g)              |
|     | 109     | Ditch       | 110  | Undated        | Animal bone (38g)                           |
|     | 111     | Ditch       | 113  | Post-medieval  | Ceramic roof tile (109g); animal bone (13g) |
| 2   | 205     | Ditch       | 207  | Early Iron Age | Pottery (457g); animal bone (28g)           |
| 3   | 303     | Ditch       | 304  | Early Iron Age | Pottery (3g)                                |
| 5   | 503     | Ditch       | 505  | Early Iron Age | Pottery (34g); animal bone (419g)           |
|     | 503     | Ditch       | 507  | Early Iron Age | Pottery (100g), animal bone (83g)           |
|     | 503     | Ditch       | 508  | Early Iron Age | Pottery (70g), animal bone (30g)            |

**Table 2:** Artefact Summary by trench

### 7.2 Ceramics

Thirty pottery sherds, representing fourteen vessels (673g) were collected. The assemblage displays variable fragmentation, with the smallest sherd weighing 2g, and the largest 376g (mean sherd weight 22g). Seven fabric types were identified, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 3).

| Fabric Type           | Common name            | Sherd No. | Wt (g) | Fill / Sherd No.          |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------|
| <i>Early Iron Age</i> |                        |           |        |                           |
| F16                   | Coarse shell           | 1         | 16     | (507):1                   |
| F18                   | Sand and shell         | 5         | 54     | (507): 3, (508):2         |
| F19                   | Sand and organic       | 1         | 15     | (507):1                   |
| F29                   | Coarse sand            | 3         | 45     | (304):1, (505):1, (507):1 |
| F38                   | Glaucanitic            | 15        | 532    | (207):6, (507):1, (508):8 |
| <i>Roman</i>          |                        |           |        |                           |
| R05B                  | Fine oxidised sand     | 1         | 2      | (508):1                   |
| <i>Early medieval</i> |                        |           |        |                           |
| C71                   | Sand (buff-grey cored) | 4         | 9      | (108):4                   |

**Table 3:** Pottery type series

#### 7.2.1 Early Iron Age

Twenty-five hand-made sherds (662g) collected from ditches [205], [303] and [503] are datable to the early Iron Age. Sandy wares dominate the assemblage, principally type F38, the latter containing the mineral glauconite, which is largely peculiar to the Lower Greensand, and occurs in local soils. Six sherds contain shelly inclusions. The assemblage is entirely undiagnostic, although variable vessel wall thickness, ranging from 5–27mm, indicates a range of vessel sizes. Feature sherds are a beaded rim and a flat base, slightly pinched out at the circumference. One vessel has a wiped / smoothed exterior. Three sherds (45g) deriving from a single vessel were collected from the tertiary and upper fills of ditch [503], suggesting the feature may have been rapidly infilled, using material from a single source.



### **7.2.2 Roman**

An abraded, sand-tempered coarse ware body sherd (2g), datable to the early Roman period, occurred as an intrusive find in the upper fill of ditch [503].

### **7.2.3 Post-Roman**

The fill of ditch [107] contained four abraded body sherds (9g) deriving from a single vessel, likely to be of early medieval date. Two sand-tempered pieces of post-medieval flat roof tile (109g) were collected from the upper fill of ditch [111].

## **7.3 Animal bone**

Forty-nine animal bone fragments (621g) were collected from six features (Trenches 1, 2 and 5), the majority (532g) from the secondary, tertiary and upper fills of ditch [503]. Individual pieces have a mean weight of 13g, and survive in variable condition, several displaying root erosion. Diagnostic elements are limb bones, pelvis, rib, skull and mandible fragments. With the exception of two well preserved cattle molars, the assemblage is too fragmentary for species identification.



## 8. APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-175814

### Project details

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project name                           | Land at Langford   |
| Short description of the project       | CgMs Consulting Ltd are gathering baseline information on land east of Station Road, Langford, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for a residential housing development. This was to comprise geophysical survey, completed in April 2014, and archaeological trial trenching. Archaeological features were revealed in all five trial trenches, including five ditches dating to the early Iron Age associated with enclosures detected by the geophysical survey. Also revealed were ditches corresponding with former field boundaries marked on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps. The evaluation demonstrated that the enclosures are associated with early Iron Age settlement; they are of moderate - high significance in light of regional research objectives regarding the characterisation of Iron Age settlements and their relationship with contemporary enclosure systems. The two groups of intercutting ditches corresponding with the locations of the former field boundaries marked on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps are of low significance, though the apparent longevity of the boundaries is of some interest with regard to the development of the historic rural landscape. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 22-04-2014 End: 30-04-2014  |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | LA2379 - Contracting Unit No.  |
| Any associated project reference codes | BEDFM 2014.26 - Museum accession ID  |
| Type of project                        | Field evaluation   |
| Monument type                          | DITCHES Early Iron Age   |
| Monument type                          | DITCHES Modern   |
| Monument type                          | DITCHES Post Medieval  |
| Monument type                          | DITCH Uncertain  |
| Monument type                          | PIT Uncertain  |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Early Iron Age   |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Early Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | ANIMAL BONE Early Iron Age   |
| Methods & techniques                   | "Targeted 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 LANGFORD Land at Langford |
| Study area    | 5.50 Hectares   |





Site coordinates TL 1895 4050 52.0496776615 -0.265158973149 52 02 58 N 000 15 54 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator none

Project design originator Written Scheme of Investigation Produced

Project manager Robert Wardill

Project supervisor Kathleen Pilkinton

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Bedford Museum

Physical Archive ID BEDFM 2014.26

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"

Digital Archive recipient Bedford Museum

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"

Digital Media available "Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Bedford Museum

Paper Archive ID BEDFM 2014.26

Paper Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Microfilm", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land at Langford, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Pilkinton, K'

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Keir, W'

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Wells, J'

Other bibliographic details 2014/80

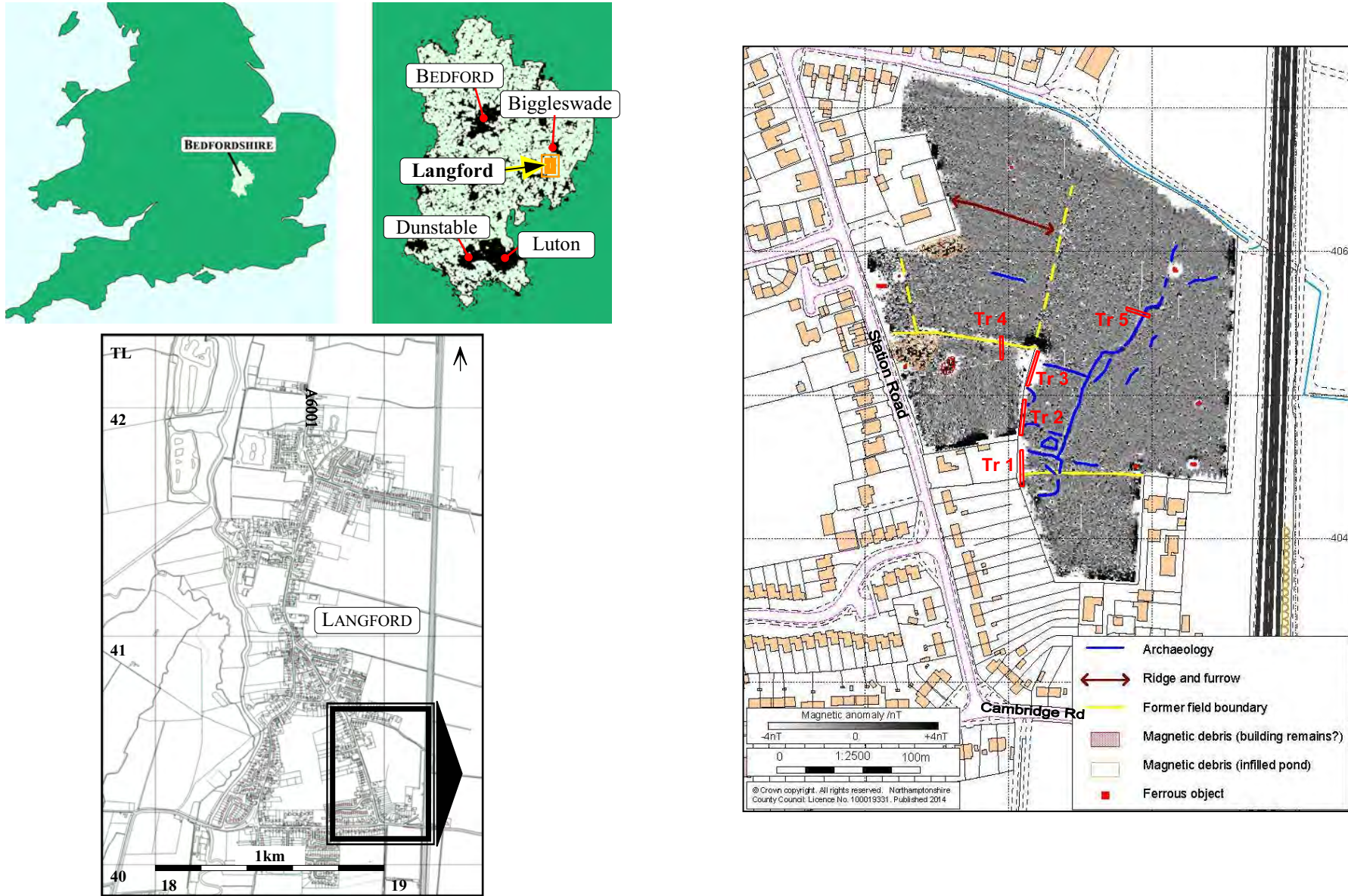
Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Bedford

Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

Entered on 19 May 2014



**Figure 1: Site location**

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**Key**

**Excavated Features**

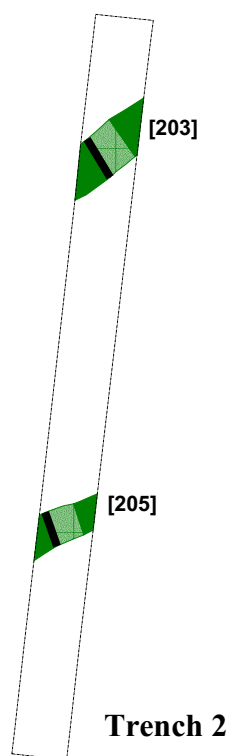
- Early Iron Age
- Medieval – Modern
- Undated

**Geophysics**

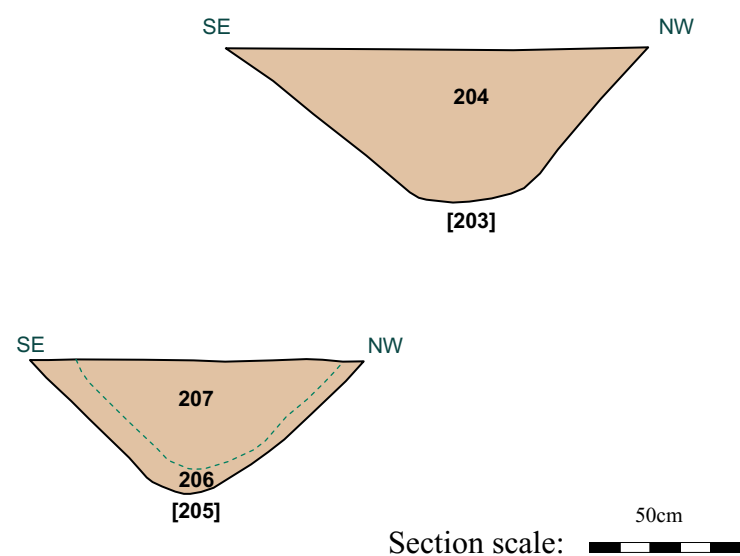
- Field boundaries marked on late 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps
- Archaeology
- Other anomalies

**Figure 2:** Trenches and archaeological features overlaid with the geophysical survey results

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Trench 2

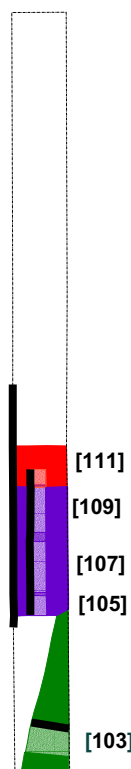
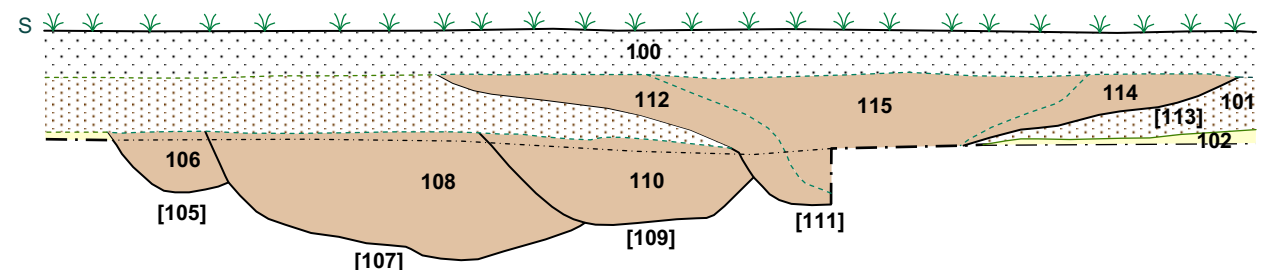
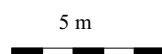


Section scale: 50cm

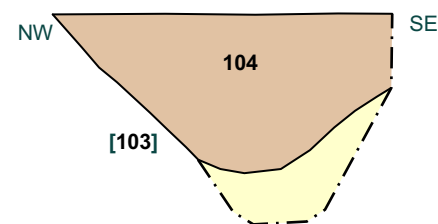


NE facing section of ditch [203]  
– 1m scale

Plan scale:



Trench 1



SSW facing section of ditch [103]  
– 1m scale

**Key**

**Excavated Features**

- Early Iron Age
- Medieval – post-medieval
- Post-medieval – modern
- Undated

**Figure 3:** Plans and sections – Trenches 1 and 2

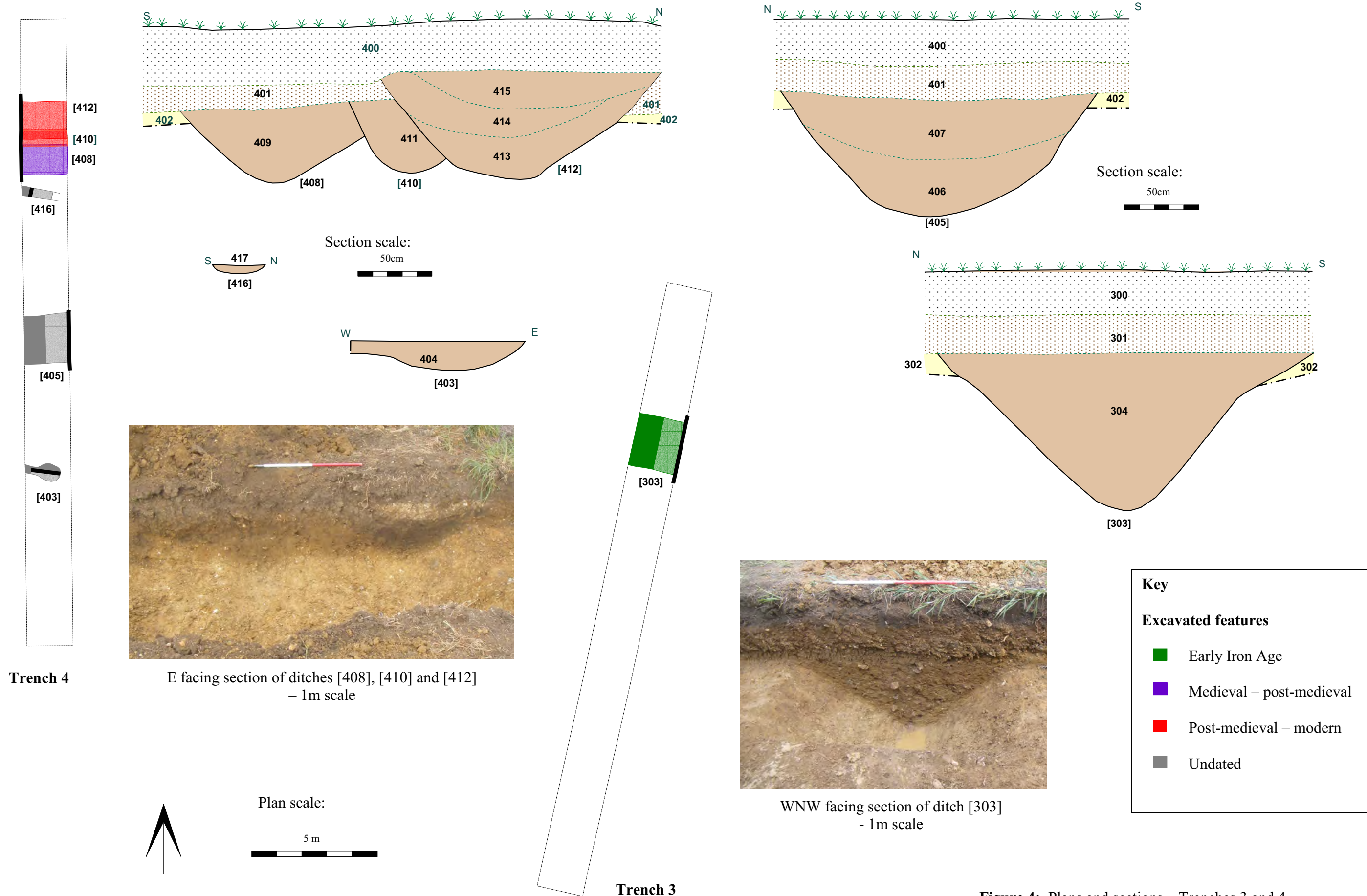
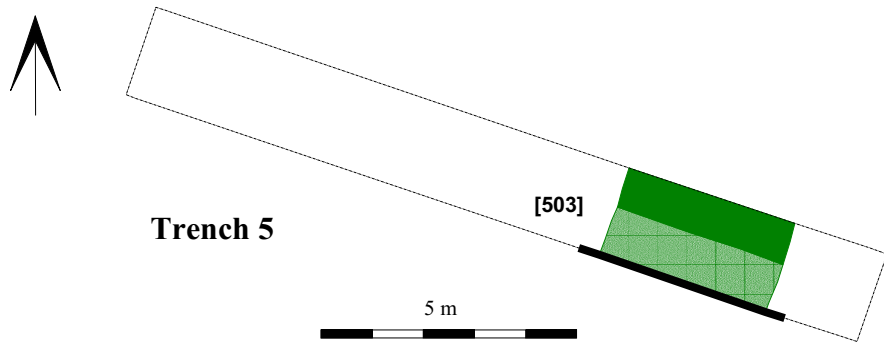


Figure 4: Plans and sections – Trenches 3 and 4



NNE facing section ditch [503]  
- 1m scale

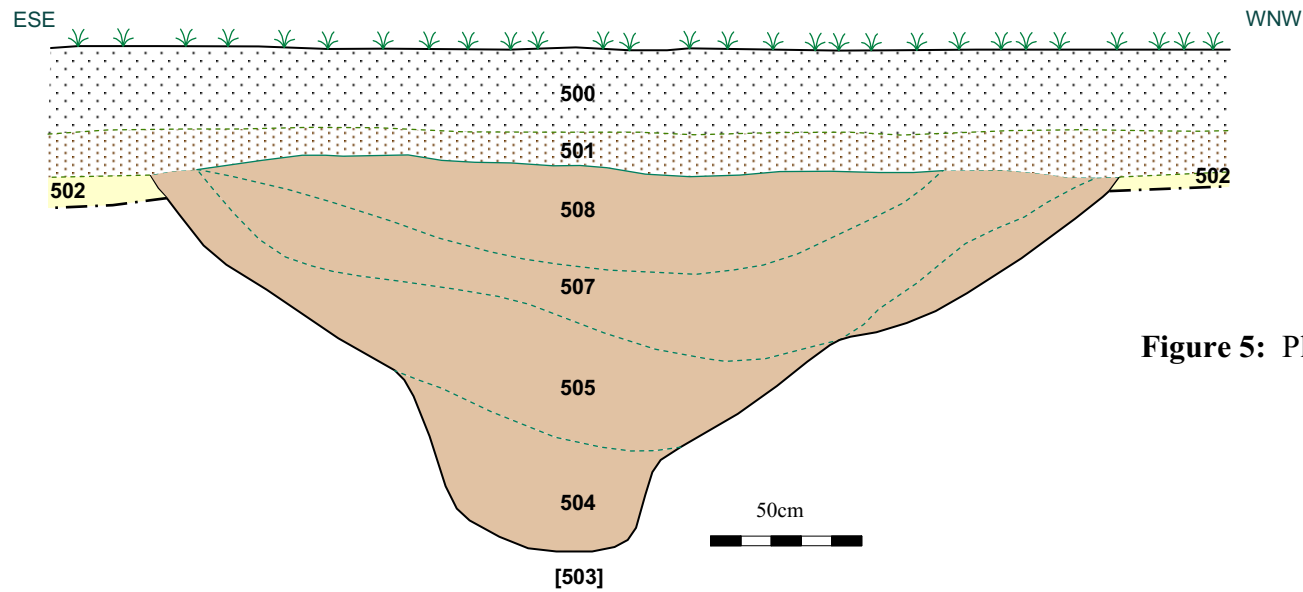


Figure 5: Plan and section – Trench 5

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