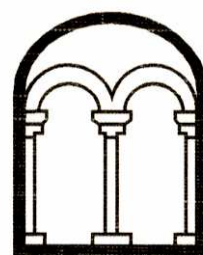


**WEST COTTAGE
HINXWORTH ROAD
EDWORTH
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS
AND PUBLICATION**

Albion
archaeology



**WEST COTTAGE
HINXWORTH ROAD
EDWORTH
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS
AND PUBLICATION**

Project: WC1891

Document: 2014/112

Version: 1.0

Bedford Museum accession no: BEDFM: 2014.38

OASIS reference no: albionar1-179148

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Slawomir Utrata and Gary Edmondson	Gary Edmondson	Drew Shotliff

24th June 2014

Produced for:
Mr Barry Mogridge
On behalf of:
Mr and Mrs Smythe



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Project Background	4
1.2 Site Location and Description	4
1.3 Archaeological Background	4
1.4 Project Objectives	5
2. METHODOLOGY	7
3. RESULTS	8
3.1 Introduction	8
3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits	8
4. CONCLUSIONS	9
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	10
6. APPENDIX: DETAILED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	11

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Archaeological observation results

The figures are bound at the rear of the document.



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

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works by Mr Barry Mogridge on behalf of Mr and Mrs Smythe. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.

Fieldwork was carried out by Slawomir Utrata (Archaeological Supervisor) who also prepared this report with Gary Edmondson. The document was edited by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager).

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

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford, MK42 0AS
 ☎: 0300 300 4937
 Fax: 0300 300 8209
 E-mail: office@albion-arch.com
 Website: www.albion-arch.com

Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
1.0	24th June 2014	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
HER	Central Bedfordshire Council's Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
DA	Development Area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (CB/11/04042/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the erection of a two-storey side extension at West Cottage, Hinxworth Road, Edworth, Bedfordshire.

As the development lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity, a condition was placed on the planning permission requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation during the groundworks.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works in accordance with the methodologies described in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014), produced in response to a brief prepared by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBC 2014).

Beneath modern deposits was a buried cultivation soil, which contained occasional small fragments of modern brick and tile, suggesting that it was in use until relatively recently. The continuation of the buried cultivation soil was also exposed during archaeological works associated with East Cottage. The buried soil was above an undated ditch, aligned roughly N-S. This land division does not appear on Ordnance Survey maps of 1882 or 1901, which pre-date the cottages.

No evidence of the Saxon or medieval settlement focus was revealed.

The results of the archaeological investigation have no further analytical or publication potential, beyond the summary presented in this report, which will be uploaded onto the OASIS website, reference no: albionar1-179148. The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no: BEDFM: 2014.38).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

Central Bedfordshire Council has granted planning permission (CB/11/04042/FULL) for the erection of a two-storey side extension at West Cottage, Hinxworth Road, Edworth, Bedfordshire. The existing building consists of a semi-detached former farm worker's cottage. The planned extension measured 5m by 5.4m, defining three sides of a rectangle. An associated open porch, extending from the western gable in the north, did not require any footings.

As the development site lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity, identified and described in a Heritage Statement accompanying the planning application (GC Planning 2012), a condition (3) was placed on the planning permission stating that:

“No development shall take place until the applicant or developer has secured the implementation of a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The said development shall only be implemented in accordance with the scheme thereby approved.”

This recommendation was in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of Policy 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works in accordance with the methodologies described in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014), produced in response to a brief prepared by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBC 2014).

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

Edworth is a small hamlet on the eastern side of the A1 trunk road, to the south of Biggleswade. The development area (DA) lies at the junction of Hinxworth Road and a track leading to Manor Farm, being centred on grid reference TL 2223 4099 (Figure 1).

Edworth lies at the base of two low topographical ridges, one immediately to the west, between the hamlet and the Ivel Valley, and one to the north-east. The DA itself is on level ground at an approximate height of 46m OD. The underlying geology is Gault Clay overlain by deposits of Boulder Clay.

1.3 **Archaeological Background**

The DA lies in a landscape rich in heritage assets. One of the most important of these is the site of Toplers Hill situated on the top of the ridge to the west of the site and the A1. An early to middle Iron Age settlement (HER 524) lies on the eastern side of Toplers Hill, overlooking Edworth, but evidence for an extensive co-axial field system (HER 3545) was found in the area, indicating that agricultural settlement was established around Edworth from at least the Bronze Age onwards.



The A1 trunk road lies on the line of a Roman road heading towards Sandy (HER 505) and a number of cropmarks have been identified around Edworth that on morphological grounds may represent prehistoric or Roman settlement sites (HER 9101 and HER 16825). The existence of a possible Roman villa (HER 522) has been suggested in the vicinity of The Rectory at Edworth. However, this is based on reports of finds of a mosaic and other material of which no evidence survives.

West Cottage lies in the core of the medieval village of Edworth (HER 17168) which is listed in the Domesday survey of 1086 and probably developed from a late Saxon manorial estate. Today Edworth is a deserted or shrunken medieval village. Until the 1980s substantial earthworks in the form of two moated sites, house platforms, croft boundaries and trackways as well as remains of ridge and furrow cultivation marks survived to the north and south of the DA (HER 1163, 1484, 2579, 2580, 2848, and 9596). Most of the earthworks are now levelled but substantial below-ground heritage assets may remain.

The medieval parish church of St George (HER 1051), a Grade I listed building which dates to the 13th century but may be earlier in origin, lies to the south of the DA. The site of The Manor and Manor Farm lie in close proximity to the church but it is unclear whether they are the remains of a medieval manorial site. The core of The Manor is 17th century in date and the Manor Farm complex accommodates an 18th-century barn and dovecot.

The remains of gravel pits (HER 1431) west of the Edworth rectory show that some pockets of gravel in the underlying clays were quarried in the post-medieval period.

West Cottage is one of a semi-detached pair of former farm workers' cottages that are associated with Manor Farm to the south. Archaeological observation of groundworks associated with the extension of the East Cottage in 2012 (Albion Archaeology 2012) revealed no archaeological features or deposits, though a single, probably residual, sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the former topsoil.

1.4 Project Objectives

The DA had the potential to reveal information on a number of research objectives identified in the research framework for Bedfordshire (Oake *et al* 2007). West Cottage lies in the core of the identified medieval settlement at Edworth and therefore the focus of research objectives for the site lay in the medieval period.

The research framework for Bedfordshire states that, in general, few medieval rural settlements, particularly with Saxon origin, have been investigated in the county (Oake in Oake *et al* 2007). Oake states a need for research into rural settlement on a micro-scale of investigation, in order to establish the chronology, structure and function of individual settlements as well as classes of settlement, ranging from the prehistoric to the medieval period.



The specific objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- whether any Saxon activity was present in this part of Edworth;
- whether any medieval activity relating to the levelled earthworks survived below ground on the DA and to identify its nature.

The general objectives of the investigation were to:

- determine the nature and date of any archaeological remains present at the site;
- determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present at the site;
- add to knowledge and understanding of the nature of rural settlements on the slightly heavier clay soils away from the main river valleys and produce an archive report that fully described the results of the archaeological works (this document).



2. METHODOLOGY

Archaeological observation of the groundworks was undertaken on 16th June 2014. All groundworks that had the potential to impact upon archaeological remains were archaeologically monitored. These comprised the excavation of a foundation trench measuring *c.* 0.6m wide and 1.3–1.5m deep, defining three sides of a rectangle, extending from the western gable of the cottage (Figure 1 and Figure 2: Image 1). An associated open porch extending from the western gable in the north did not require any footings.

A mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket was used to excavate the footings, with the exception of areas close to existing walls where hand digging was necessary. The works were undertaken under close archaeological supervision. Deposits encountered were investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*. Soil heaps were checked on a regular basis for the recovery of artefacts.

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2 nd edn, 2001).
• Bedford Borough Council	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (1998)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2006)
	<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 Watching Briefs and Field Excavations</i> (updated 2008) and <i>finds</i> (updated 2008)

A detailed methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2014).



3. RESULTS

3.1 *Introduction*

The excavation of the footing trenches revealed a sequence of deposits very similar to those observed during archaeological investigations at East Cottage (Albion Archaeology 2012). Beneath recent deposits associated with the cottage was a buried cultivation soil, which in turn sealed an undated ditch. All deposits and features are summarised below and detailed in the Appendix. Numbers in brackets refer to the contexts in the Appendix.

3.2 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits*

Overburden consisted of topsoil/garden soil (1) that was up to 0.2m thick, overlying a 0.1–0.15m thick subsoil (2). Only small fragments of modern brick and tile were seen in these deposits

3.3 *Buried Cultivation Soil*

The mid brown grey deposit (3) was up to 0.4m thick and contained occasional small fragments of modern tile (Figure 2: Image 2 and Section 1). It is not clear if this was an old ploughsoil, or the result of localised hand-digging — possibly a garden plot. This activity would appear to pre-date the present cottages given the proximity of the standing building. The continuation of this deposit was detected in the 2012 investigation of the footings for the extension to East Cottage. During the 2012 investigation, a single sherd of pottery from an 11th–12th-century jar was recovered from the deposit; it was probably residual, given the presence of modern tile.

3.4 *Undated Ditch*

Examination of the northern footing trench revealed a ditch [5] beneath the buried cultivation soil aligned NNW-SSE (Figure 2, Image 2 and Section 1). The southern continuation of the ditch would have been beyond the eastern extent of the footing trench. The ditch was 1.1m wide, but as it crossed the footing trench obliquely, it appears wider in section. The ditch had a faceted profile, possibly suggesting recutting, though no evidence for this was apparent within the dark undifferentiated fill of the ditch. This fill would appear to have been derived from an unstable upper soil profile; it produced no artefacts.

3.5 *Undisturbed Geological Deposits*

The undisturbed geological strata consisted of light yellow grey clay gradually turning into light blue grey clay (4) in lower parts of the footing trench.



4. CONCLUSIONS

Investigation of the footing trenches revealed the continuation of the buried cultivation soil identified at East Cottage, indicating an extensive deposit. It is not clear if this was a ploughsoil or the result of more localised activity, such as a garden plot. The soil appears to pre-date the cottages.

Beneath the cultivation soil was an undated ditch, aligned roughly N-S. The dark fill of the ditch suggests that it was a land division associated with arable cultivation. This boundary does not appear on Ordnance Survey maps of 1882 or 1901, which pre-date the cottages.

No evidence of the Saxon or medieval settlement focus was revealed.

The results of the archaeological investigation have no further analytical or publication potential, beyond the summary presented in this report, which will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (reference no: albionar1-179148). The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no: BEDFM: 2014.38).

.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology 2012 *East Cottage, Hinxworth Road, Edworth, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication* (Document reference 2012/77).
- Albion Archaeology 2014 *West Cottage, Hinxworth Road, Edworth, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication* (Document reference 2014/91).
- CBC 2014 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at West Cottage, Hinxworth Road, Edworth, Bedfordshire*. V1.1, 9th May 2014 - MKO.
- GC Planning 2012 *Heritage Statement: Proposed erection of a two-storey side extension at East Cottage, Hinxworth Road, Edworth, Biggleswade, SG18 8QY*.
- Oake, M 2007 "Research Agenda and Strategy" in Oake *et al* (2007) 7-20.
- Oake, M. et al 2007. *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.



6. APPENDIX: DETAILED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS



Area: 1

Extent (ha):

OS Co-ordinates: TL2222041000

Description: Footing trench for extension to building

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. Deposit up to 0.2m thick. Modern brick and tile present (not retained).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small stones. Deposit was 0.1-0.15m thick. Modern brick and tile present (not retained).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Buried topsoil	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones. Deposit was 0.3-0.4m thick. Modern brick and tile present (not retained).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Natural	Firm light yellow grey clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.42m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

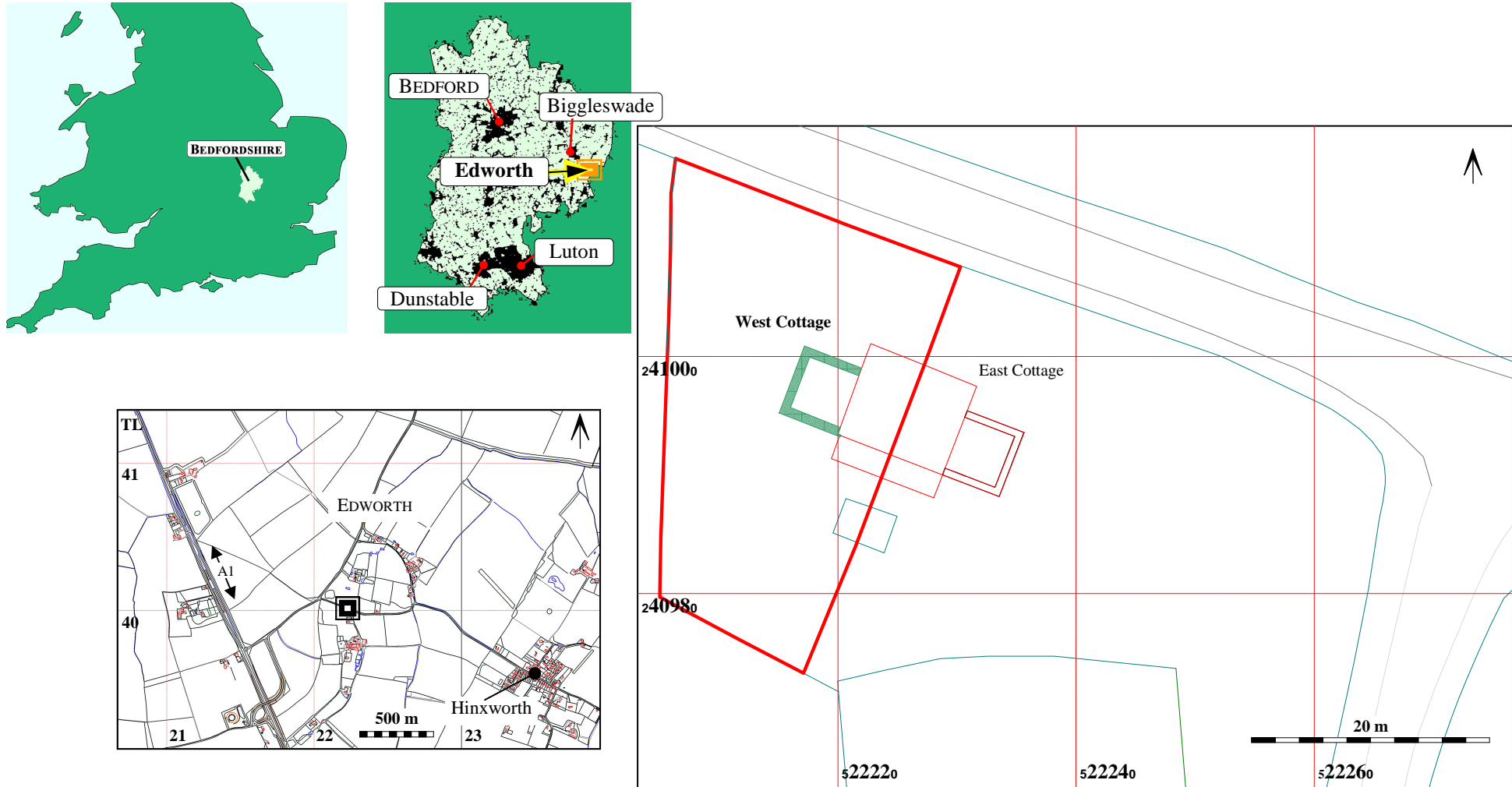


Figure 1: Site location

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

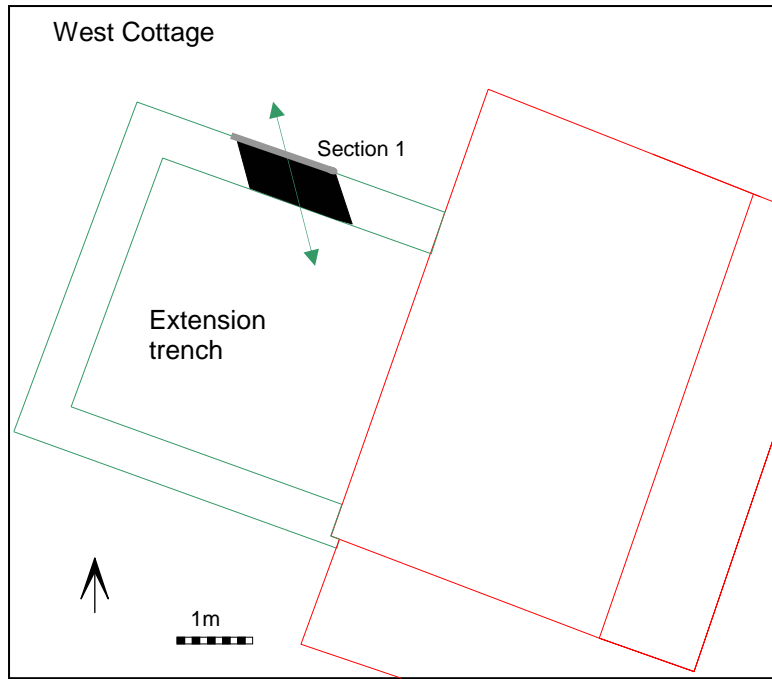


Image 1: General view of footing trench with gable end of West Cottage beyond



Image 2: Oblique section through ditch [5], with a distinctive grey fill, contrasting with the lighter colour of the geological strata. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

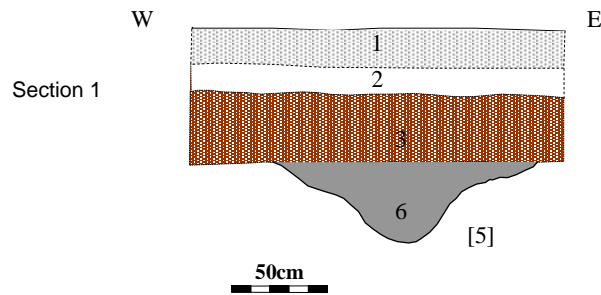


Figure 2: Archaeological observation results

Central
Bedfordshire

Albion
archaeology



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

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

