BASSMEAD MANOR
STAPLOE
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

Albion archaeology

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BASSMEAD MANOR
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Preface

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

The project was commissioned by Michelle Purnell of Lewandowski Willcox, architects, on behalf of P Squire Ltd. The work was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team and, in respect scheduled monument consent, by Will Fletcher, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Phillips (Project Officer), Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisor), Slawomir Utrata (Archaeological Supervisor) and Victoria Hainsworth (Assistant Supervisor). This report was prepared by Mark Phillips (Project Officer) with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and illustrations by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). The project was managed by Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
CI*f*A	Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists
HER	Bedford Borough's Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team
Procedures Manual	*Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd ed., 2001 Albion Archaeology
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

NB: on 1st April 2015 The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE), a non-departmental public body formerly known as English Heritage, became known as Historic England. The English Heritage brand has now been adopted by a new independent charity, the English Heritage Trust. Any reference herein to 'English Heritage' relates to HBMCE prior to 1st April 2015.

Non-Technical Summary

Planning consent was granted for the conversion, alteration, and extension of existing buildings to form a wedding venue at Bassmead Manor in the Bedfordshire parish of Staploe, c. *3km west of St Neots (Cambridgeshire), grid reference TL 14005 61185. The site is set within a moated medieval enclosure (scheduled ancient monument NHLE no. 1012067) and is therefore archaeologically sensitive. A programme of archaeological works was required by respective conditions of planning permission and scheduled monument consent. This report presents the final results of the programme of archaeological monitoring. It includes the results obtained during monitoring of preparatory works, trial trench evaluation and monitoring of construction works. It also draws on observations made during recording of the standing buildings. The archaeological works were carried out between July 2012 and January 2014.*

On the exterior, eastern side of the moat monitoring located three undated ditches and a layer that could represent the fill of a former eastern arm of the moat that appears on historic maps.

The main focus of the construction works was the south-east quadrant of the moat island. This showed a sequence from the base that consisted of:

- *clay drift geology; an open yard with a cobbled surface;*
- *mid-19th-century farmyard construction with layers of imported clay to level the area and an upper cobbled surface;*
- *evidence relating to* c. *1900s stock yards and shelter sheds in the form of postholes, wooden stakes and pits (one of which was timber-lined);*
- *mid-20th-century floors for farm buildings.*

Trial trench evaluation and monitoring was undertaken within the north-west quadrant of the island. This area contained two, probably contemporary, ditches and a large feature at least 8.5m wide, possibly a pond or quarry pit. One of the ditches produced 18th- or early 19th-century artefacts. The larger feature was not closely dateable but it appeared to have been deliberately in-filled, probably in the 19th century.

Monitoring during construction of two bridges over the east arm of the moat identified 19th-century features in one trench. These consisted of a drainage ditch with tile drains in its base and brick foundations for a wall, probably corresponding to a north-south aligned range of farm building shown on historic maps.

Evidence was recovered for the development of the agricultural function of the site through the post-medieval and modern periods and also confirmed details shown on historic maps. Potential for the survival of archaeological remains in both the scheduled and unscheduled areas of the site was demonstrated. A combination of archaeological works and the design of the foundations for the new building have protected the value of the scheduled monument, minimising any impact below the level of modern made-ground.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

On 1st March 2012 Bedford Borough Council (BBC) granted planning consent (11/02504/FUL) for the conversion, alteration, and extension of existing buildings to form a wedding venue at Bassmead Manor, Staploe in Bedfordshire. The development is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area and affects the scheduled ancient monument known as 'Bassmead Manor Farm moated enclosure' (NHLE no. 1012067).

The Historic Environment Team (HET) of BBC recommended that conditions be attached to the planning consent, following the guidelines provided in Planning Policy Statement 5 (since superseded by National Planning Policy Framework 2012) and in accordance with of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002 (Saved Policies BE19, BE24 and BE25) and the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan 2008 (Policy CP23).

Condition 10 stated that:
No development shall take place until an archaeological mitigation strategy has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The archaeological mitigation strategy shall include a timetable and the following components (the completion of each to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority will result in a separate confirmation of compliance for each component):

- *(i) fieldwork and/ or preservation 'in situ' of archaeological remains;*
- *(ii) a post-excavation assessment report (to be submitted within six months of the completion of fieldwork);*
- *(iii) a post-excavation analysis report, preparation of site archive ready for deposition at a store approved by the Local Planning Authority, completion of an archive report, and submission of a publication report (to be completed within two years of the completion of fieldwork).*

The archaeological mitigation strategy shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and timings [and] ...shall be in accordance with a brief procured beforehand by the developer for the Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment team.

Condition 12 stated that:
No development shall take place until a method statement of how the buildings will be recorded shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed method of recording shall be carried out prior to any conversion works and the results submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Given that part of the development was situated within a scheduled monument, consent for the works was also required under Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. An application for scheduled monument consent was submitted to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Following consultation with English Heritage the Secretary of State granted consent subject to the following conditions:

- *(i) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by English Heritage. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to John Ette, Inspector of Ancient Monuments in order that an English Heritage representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.*

(ii) No ground works nor building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage.

(iii) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner, occupier and/or developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation includes the requirement to obtain scheduled monument consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.

(iv) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument or ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.

A brief detailing requirements for archaeological evaluation and historic building recording was issued by the HET (BBC 2012). Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the evaluation and building recording. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared detailing the procedures and methods to be employed (Albion 2012). With the agreement of the HET, this WSI also included provision for archaeological monitoring and recording during enabling works, which included ground investigation, re-routing of services outside the moat and demolition of some of the existing farm buildings.

Trial trenching was completed in January 2013 and the results, augmented by observations made during demolition groundworks, formed the subject of an evaluation report (Albion 2013a). It was demonstrated that archaeological deposits survived within the development area. Accordingly the HET issued a design brief indicating the need for a further stage of archaeological mitigation work, namely 'detailed monitoring, recording and sample excavation by a professional archaeological contractor during all groundworks associated with the creation of a new wedding venue including any associated landscaping, car parking, access, service and soakaway groundworks' (BBC 2013). The brief formed the basis for a second WSI which outlined the methodologies and resources for the mitigation works, including the analysis and publication of the results (Albion 2013b).

The programme of historic building recording was undertaken between November 2012 and April 2013 (Albion Archaeology 2015).

At the time of writing, construction of the new garage/car port had not begun. The archaeological mitigation for this part of the permitted development will be agreed in due course and will be subject of a subsequent report.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Bassmead (or Basmead) Manor lies in the Bedfordshire parish of Staploe, *c*. 3km west of St Neots (Cambridgeshire) and the River Great Ouse (Figure 1). Its main access is from the south, along a straight access road forking off from the Staploe to Upper Staploe road, and a causeway leading across the moat.

The 15th-century Grade II* listed manor house stands in the north-west corner of the moated enclosure, adjacent to a late 19th-century barn and 20th-century farm buildings. Along the line of the southern moat, and flanking the entrance into the site, are 18th-century farm buildings. Much of the central and eastern part of the site is occupied by 20th-century farm buildings and concrete yards. A largely grassed garden with several mature trees exists along the western arm of the moat.

Externally the moat is bordered by arable fields (to the south and east) and by a small area of woodland, Home Wood (to the north and west).

The site lies on the western side of the Great Ouse Valley on the slightly higher clay lands. The underlying geology is till drift over Oxford clay formation mudstone.

The moated site lies at *c.* 47m OD near the top of a SE-facing slope, which overlooks the hamlet of Staploe and the Duloe Brook, a tributary to the Great Ouse. It is centred on grid reference TL 14005 61185.

In order to locate the various construction and archaeological works a number of zones (A to N) and trial trenches (1 to 7) were defined in the WSI documents (Albion 2012 and 2013b). The zones and trenches are shown in Figure 2 in this report with a key to indicate the nature of the works undertaken.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background was collated in a comprehensive desk-based heritage assessment for the proposed development (Albion Archaeology 2011). The results are summarised below.

1.3.1 Prehistoric and Roman

A small curvilinear enclosure (HER 16762) was identified from cropmarks in the field to the east of Bassmead Manor, just outside the development area. It could be a prehistoric enclosure; however, it has not been investigated. A number of overlapping curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures (HER 14058) have also been identified to the south of Bassmead Manor, just north of the Staploe road.

Roman pits and ditches were excavated in 1935 further east of the moated site (HER 496) and aerial photographs show polygonal enclosures in the same area. The line of a possible Roman road identified by the Viatores project (HER 736, Viatores 231) includes the farm track and footpath immediately south of Bassmead Manor. Many of the Viatores roads in Bedfordshire have since been discredited (Simco 1984) and the proposed line adjacent to the manor may be a later farm track.

1.3.2 Medieval

Staploe is a small hamlet which formerly lay in the parish of Eaton Socon, to the west of the Great North Road (A1) and close to the medieval Augustinian priory of Bushmead. It was only created as a separate parish in 1965, when Eton Socon was moved into Cambridgeshire.

Bassmead Manor was one of several manors held by the barony of Eaton. The earliest tenants of the manor were the de Bath or de Baa family who owned land in the parish from or before the reign of King John (1166–1216). Robert Wauton held the manor from the end of the 13th century and it appears to have been in the Wauton family until the beginning of the 16th century (Page 1912).

Bassmead Manor is a designated scheduled ancient monument (NHLE 1012067). It consists of a moated enclosure (HER 495) which forms a rectangular island, measuring *c*. 105m x 85m in size. It is surrounded on all sides by 8m-wide water-filled ditches with a causewayed entrance to the south. The manor house is a Grade II* listed building (HER 3272, NHLE 1321617) which lies in the north-west corner of the enclosure. It is of late 15th- to 18th-century date (Alcock and Addyman 1969, 43-4). Bassmead is an isolated moated site and not part of a readily identifiable larger settlement or estate. Brown and Taylor suggest that the origin of a number of sites of this type may be due to medieval assarting or settlement expansion in other ways (Brown and Taylor 1991, 29). The de Bath family, the earliest tenants of the manor, are first mentioned in connection with the parish of Eaton when Reginald de Bath acquired 26 acres of assart from Robert de Meisil (Page 1912).

1.3.3 Post-medieval/industrial period

The manor house was altered and extended from the 16th to the 19th century. A range of farm buildings along the southern arm of the moat includes an 18th-century aisled barn (HER 12498). Historical maps show that the interior of the moated enclosure was occupied by a sequence of farm buildings from at least the 18th century onwards.

A brickyard (HER 8722) in use from 1854–57 is believed to be associated with the estate although its location is not known.

1.3.4 Results of archaeological evaluation

A trial trench evaluation was carried out inside the moated area to investigate the potential development impact. The locations of the trenches are indicated in Figure 2. Note that with the agreement of the HET and the architect Trenches 1 to 4 were not opened during the evaluation, due to concerns about ground stability in proximity to the extant moat earthworks. Trenches 1 to 4 were opened later during the main construction phase of the project.

The results of the evaluation were reported with observations made during monitoring of preliminary works (Albion 2013a). The results are summarised below and, where relevant, are integrated with the results of the subsequent work detailed in Section 2.

Excavation of service trenches on land outside the moated enclosure (Zone A in Figure 2) indicated the presence of undated boundary ditches and a mottled clay deposit. These features may have formed part of a rectangular enclosure shown on historical maps. The mottled clay deposit may correspond with a water-filled ditch which first appears on a 17th-century map as an eastward extension of the south arm of the moat ('Manor of Basmey' manorial map dated 1671, BLARS ref: SQ113).

Monitoring of boreholes, demolition works and trial trench excavation was undertaken inside the moated area. Trial trenches in the south-east part of the island (Zone E in Figure 2) demonstrate that the ground in this area was deliberately raised during the later 19th century with a layer of imported clay. This deposit has sealed an earlier cobbled yard surface which lies directly on the underlying undisturbed geological deposit (boulder clay). Monitoring during the removal of modern intrusions showed that the deeper intrusions extended into the underlying geology but that a significant proportion of the slighter wall foundations did not extend below the earlier cobbled surface. The results here demonstrate the survival, and potential survival, of features cut into the underlying geological deposit which lies 0.3–0.7m below the current ground surface.

Trench 8 in the north-west quadrant of the island uncovered two intersecting ditches cut into undisturbed subsoil and boulder clay. These may have been for drainage, probably feeding into the north arm of the moat. The lower fill of one contained post-medieval ceramics and glass dateable to the 18th or 19th century.

1.4 Project Objectives

1.4.1 General project objectives

The general objectives of the observation and investigation works were to determine:

- The nature of any archaeological remains present (location, extent, date and character).
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits (condition, significance and quality).

1.4.2 Research objectives

Specific research objectives were formulated based on the following local and regional research agendas. Regional guidance is generally provided by *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties: Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) and specifically for Bedfordshire: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al 2007).

Specific research objectives identified in the WSI were as follows:

- The possibility of pre-moat settlement is suggested by the existence of a cropmark which is at present untested by archaeological excavation. If such remains are found, objectives linked to the published research frameworks will be formulated based on the dating and character of the remains.
- For medieval Bedfordshire an understanding of individual elements within the rural settlement pattern has been identified as a research objective (Oake et al 2007, 14). Isolated moated sites like Bassmead Manor form one of these elements. Investigation at site level can be used to examine chronology, structure and function with the wider research aim of understanding how they fit into the overall settlement pattern. Similar objectives have been identified at a regional level (Medlycott 2011, 70)

- For the post-medieval period in Bedfordshire the changes brought about by the agricultural revolution on large estates and the wider agricultural community have been identified as a possible area of research (Oake et al 2007, 16). Developments in the farmstead may be linked to these changes.

1.5 Methodology

A detailed methodology for the archaeological works is set out in the WSI documents (Albion 2012 and 2013b). The locations of the different development zones and archaeological interventions are shown in Figure 2.

Archaeological investigations undertaken during preliminary site works comprised: monitoring of boreholes and test pits (13th July 2012); monitoring during re-routing of services across Zone A and topsoil stripping in Zone K (26th to 30th July 2012); and monitoring of demolition works in Zones D to F (10th to 14th December 2012).

Archaeological test pits numbers 5 to 8 were excavated from 3rd to 8th January 2013. The resulting evaluation report incorporated results from the monitoring of the preliminary works (Albion 2013a).

A photographic and measured survey of the Long Barn and Bean Barn (Zones G and I) was completed on 27th March 2013.

Archaeological monitoring and investigation during construction works took place between 22nd May 2013 and 16th January 2014. An initial phase during the construction of the foundations for the new wedding barn in Zone D to F was completed on 29th May 2013.

1.6 Project Archive

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM:2012.34). The reports generated by the project will be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (trial trench evaluation: albionar1-131861), (archaeological investigation: albionar1-19365) and (historic building survey: albionar1-211345).

2. RESULTS AND SYTHESIS

2.1 Introduction

The results of the investigation are described below. They are ordered by Zone and where possible are presented in chronological order beginning with the earliest archaeological features and deposits. Figure 2 shows the location of the various archaeological interventions. Figure 4 provides an overview of the results within the moated enclosure.

2.2 Zone A

This area, to the east of the moat, was monitored during the preliminary works which were undertaken to relocate electrical mains services (Figure 3). The final part of the development works involved landscaping in Zone A to construct a new car park. This area had previously been under a mixture of hard standing for agricultural machinery storage and arable cultivation.

A small number of undated archaeological features and deposits were identified in this area during the preliminary works. The subsequent works during the construction phase, when the area was landscaped for car parking, were too shallow to produce archaeological observations. No artefacts were recovered from the features in this area.

The features in this area were identified at a depth of approximately 0.5m, below overburden comprising plough soil and subsoil layers. Three undated ditches were found, two aligned north-south [4] and [11], and one aligned east-west [8]. These are likely to represent drainage or boundary ditches. The alignment of these ditches is similar to that of the medieval moat and modern field boundaries.

A layer of mottled clayey silt (13) identified in the south of the area is undated but may correspond to the location of a former arm of the moat which appears on historic maps dating from 1671 to 1799.

2.3 Zone B (Trenches 3 and 4)

This area was monitored during the construction of foundations for a new pedestrian bridge across the east arm of the moat (see Figure 4 for location).

Outside the moat in Trench 3 there was 0.5m of overburden, topsoil and subsoil above undisturbed boulder clay. On the island side, in Trench 4, there was 0.28m of topsoil above undisturbed boulder clay. No features were identified and Trench 4 contained no evidence of the cobbled surfaces noted in the adjacent Zones D, E and F.

2.4 Zone C (Trenches 1 and 2)

This area was monitored during construction of foundations for a new vehicle bridge across the east arm of the moat (see Figure 4 for location).

Trench 1 on the outside of the moat contained 0.54m of topsoil and subsoil overburden above undisturbed boulder clay.

Trench 2 on the island side of the moat contained part of an east-west aligned ditch [2032] leading towards the moat and a north-south aligned brick foundation [2036]. The ditch contained two tile drains and had an upper fill with brick and tile rubble. The brick foundation included gault brick. Both features probably formed part of the late 19th-century developments when the farm buildings in the south-east quadrant of the island were extensively redeveloped.

2.5 Zones D, E and F

Zones D, E and F formed the location for the new wedding barn in the south-east corner of the moat island (see Figure 4 for overview and Figure 5 for detailed results). Prior to redevelopment this area was occupied by a group of buildings comprising a grain store, workshops and vehicle storage buildings constructed from the mid to late 20th century. The sequence of archaeological works in this area comprised: monitoring of geotechnical boreholes; monitoring during demolition of the 20th-century buildings; trial excavation; and monitoring during construction works.

2.5.1 Geological deposits

The geological deposit in this area consisted of boulder clay. Small areas of the deposit were seen in different parts of the area during the different phases of the works. It lay closest to the ground surface in the east, south-west and north-west corner of the area with a minimum depth of 0.5m at the eastern side (Image 5). At just over 1m below the ground surface, the deepest deposits occurred close to the southern edge of Trench 6. The evidence indicates a shallow depression in the surface of the underlying boulder clay.

An estate map (BLARS ref. SQ113) dating from 1671 shows a large, sub-circular feature in the south-east corner of the island that is hatched in a similar way to the nearby moat, indicating that was probably a pond, or perhaps a boggy hollow.

2.5.2 Lower cobbled surface

A cobbled surface (Image 1) recorded as contexts (104, 109, 1602, 1705, 1805, 2001 and 2012) was laid directly onto the underlying boulder clay. It was made from large flint nodules at the base with rounded stones up to *c*. 100–150mm in size and small pebbles forming a well-worn surface. The cobbles followed the shape of the underlying clay with a wide, shallow depression in the north-west of the area close to the location of Trench 6.

Across most of the area investigated the cobbles were covered by a deposit of dark grey clay or organic black silt forming a layer up to 100mm thick (103, 108, 110, 1704, 1804 and 2002). The layer is likely to be a build-up derived from accumulated organic material and soil, typical of farmyard muck.

The cobbles appear to represent an external yard surface and no evidence was found for buildings associated with this phase of activity. There is relatively little dating evidence for the construction of the surface; however, it must post-date the possible pond indicated on the later 17th-century map (ibid.). The surface was laid directly onto the boulder clay, which would imply that any soil had been stripped off before the surface was laid. No underlying features were identified. Broadly dateable material within the cobbles comprised fragments of gault brick

and tile incorporated into the surface at the south of the area. This material would have been available from around the mid-19th century. A few sherds of pottery were recovered from the black organic farmyard deposit above the surface. It comprised Transfer-printed blue willow pattern and Pearl Ware, suggesting a 19th-century date for the use of the surface. The enclosure map (BLARS ref MA20/2) of 1799 shows this as an open area with an east-west aligned range of buildings located to the north.

2.5.3 Mid to later 19th century

Above the cobbled surface a deposit of imported clay, closely derived from the underlying geology, was recorded (107, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1801 and 1802). The deposits are mostly described as mid yellow-brown clay. In Trench 7 it consisted of two layers (1801) and (1802) with a combined thickness of 0.25m. Brick or tile fragments were noted in many of the deposits, varying from occasional fragments to substantial amounts. The latter included yellow gault brick, similar to that used in some of the 19th-century buildings on the site.

Across most of the area, the upper deposits had been disturbed by the construction of buildings during the 20th century. At the south, however, close to the Long Barn, sections of another cobbled surface (105) remained intact at ground level, above the clay make-up/levelling layers.

An auction sales map (BLARS ref. WG2380) from 1851 shows that development had taken place in this area since 1799 with the addition of a range of buildings adjacent to the east arm of the moat. Further development is evident in the first edition OS map of 1884. The layers of imported clay appear to have been used to level up the yard area as part of the mid-19th-century construction phase. The new, level yard was separated from the moat by ranges of buildings to the south and east.

2.5.4 Late 19th century to early 20th century

A number of large postholes, wooden stakes and two rectangular pits were identified in the upper part of the stratigraphic sequence, with examples cutting the latest build-up layers described above.

Large postholes, mostly still containing remains of timber posts were found across the western side of the area [1707, 2016, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2012, 2023]. These were rectangular or circular in plan and contained squared or circular posts up to 200mm in section. Groups of posts formed north-south and east-west aligned rows.

A number of small wooden stakes [2020] were found in the west of the area. These partially decayed stakes were approximately 50mm in diameter. They formed north-south and east-west aligned rows and an apparently random cluster. The two rows of stakes had an apparent spatial relationship with the line of postholes [2018], running at right angles and parallel to the posts.

Two rectangular pits [2006, 2008] were found in the west of the area, close to Trench 6. Pit [2008] had timber lining formed from posts and planks and abutted pit [2006] to the east, the two being separated by the timber lining on the east side

of [2008]. Pit [2006] contained a soft, black organic silt fill (2007) that produced a small amount of extruded clay pipe, perforated brick and pottery, including some sherds of transfer-printed blue willow pattern. Pit [2008] contained a clean clay upper fill (2010), possibly a deliberate capping deposit. This was covered by a brick floor (2011).

The second edition OS map dating from 1901 shows that the south-east quadrant of the island had been partially in-filled by the addition of a number of open-fronted shelter sheds at this time. It is likely that the features described above relate to this phase of activity with the posts probably forming part of the sheds.

2.5.5 Mid-20th century

The latest deposits in this area consisted of concrete surfaces (100) above rubble hardcore (101), all of which was removed during the demolition phase of the project. These layers relate to mid-20th-century development when workshops, a large vehicle shelter and finally a grain store were erected.

2.6 Zones L and M

This area is located in the north-west quadrant of the island, close to the north arm of the moat (see Figure 6). The investigation area was located inside a standing building — a modern pole barn covering areas L and M; at the time of the investigation it was used as a storage area. Archaeological works undertaken in this area consisted of Trench 8 in Area M and monitoring of a service trench that was excavated through Areas L and M during the construction phase of the project.

2.6.1 Geological deposits

Undisturbed geological material (1908 and 2054) was found at a depth of 0.4–0.5m below the existing ground surface. It consisted of light yellow silty clay with moderate concentrations of fine gravel in places.

2.6.2 18th- or early 19th-century features

Two ditches were identified towards the eastern edge of this area. East-west aligned ditch [1909] ran into a north-south aligned ditch [1912, 2056] in a T-junction, indicating that these features are likely to be contemporary.

The north-south aligned ditch was up to 2m wide, 1m deep with a steep-sided profile and flat base (Images 2 and 3). Artefacts from the lower fill consisted of small amounts of brick, tile, animal bone, pottery and vessel glass. The pottery includes 18th- to early 19th-century cream ware. The vessel glass comes from the base of a wine bottle dating from the mid to late 18th century. The upper fill of the ditch contained a moderate amount of tile fragments. The east-west ditch contained similar fills but no artefacts. The ditches could have served as drainage or boundary features. Ditch [1912, 2056], if continued northward, would join the north arm of the moat.

2.6.3 19th- and early 20th-century features

A large cut feature [2052] was found in the western half of the service trench that cut across Areas L and M. It was at least 8.5m wide and more than 0.7m deep. The part of the feature that was exposed in the trench contained a single fill of

dark brown silty clay (2053) with occasional fragments of brick and tile rubble, including gault brick. A small amount of blue glazed pottery (not recovered) was noted towards the base of the trench. The brick and pottery suggest a probable mid-19th-century or later date for the in-filling of the feature. The size of the feature suggests that it could have been a pond or an extension of the moat; however, it is not shown on any historic maps and could be a short-lived feature such as a quarry pit. Localised settling in the north wall of the adjacent stable block suggests a possible southern continuation of this feature (Image 9).

Layers found above this large feature and the ditches described above consisted of a dark garden soil in the west of the trench (2051) and a series of probable build-up or levelling layers in the eastern part of the area (1903, 1904, 1905, 1916, 1917 and 2055). Deposit (1917) contained a large amount of brick rubble which appears to have been used to consolidate the ground following the settling of the fill of ditch [1912]

A north-south aligned brick foundation [2059] is likely to relate to outbuildings to the north of the stable which appear on the first edition OS map of 1884.

2.6.4 Late 20th-century construction

Rubble hardcore and concrete surface layers in this area (1900, 1901, 1902, 2049 and 2050) are part of the floor construction of the existing pole barn.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The heritage assessment (Annex A) prepared as part of the planning application concluded that the proposed development area (PDA) had potential to contain archaeological remains ranging in date from the prehistoric and Roman periods to the post-medieval period and 19th century, with the most significant remains likely to relate directly to the medieval moated enclosure.

The assessment also observed that part of the moated enclosure is excluded from the scheduled monument, reflecting the likely impact of late 20th-century farm buildings on the integrity of the below-ground remains. The majority of the proposed development was located within that area, so it was considered unlikely that nationally important archaeological remains would be affected. However, it was recognised that the extent and depth of 20th-century truncation was unknown, so there was still potential for significant impact even in the unscheduled parts of the monument. As a consequence, the programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication was undertaken as described in the present report.

Archaeological works carried out prior to and during development works identified *in-situ* archaeological deposits. A small number of undated features were found to the east of the moat (Zone A); probable 18th- and 19th-century features were identified in the north-west quadrant of the island (Zones L and M); and a sequence of archaeological deposits was recorded in the south-east quadrant of the island (Zones D, E and F). The deposits in the south-east quadrant (from earliest to latest) consisted of boulder clay; a cobbled surface; a thin layer of organic farmyard soil; layers of imported make-up material used to level the site and remnants of the latest cobbled yard surface. A number of features cut through the make-up layers represent the remains of late 19th- or 20th-century farmyard structures.

Examination of the standing buildings suggests that their earliest components date from the late 17th or 18th century. A major construction phase in the later 19th-century produced the present layout of farm buildings along the southern side of the island. The layers of imported make-up deposits recorded in the south-east quadrant of the island represent levelling of the site prior to the late 19th-century re-development of the farmyard.

Despite the potential for medieval remains on the site the only evidence from this period was single sherd of abraded 14th- or 15th-century pottery that was recovered from post-medieval ditch [1912] in Zone M. There are a number of possible reasons for this. The investigated areas may have been located in 'quiet' areas or where medieval remains have been removed by later activity. The presence of a subsoil layer cut by post-medieval features in Zone M clearly indicates the potential for archaeological survival. The new build element of the development was located above a former hollow that had been deliberately filled with imported clay during the 19th century. The design of the foundations for the new building meant that the majority of the groundworks were carried out within post-medieval made ground (Image 8).

Observations undertaken during demolition works and the subsequent construction phase demonstrated the potential for archaeological survival below modern agricultural buildings. Substantial areas of intact deposits survived below the concrete floor slabs, between strip footings, concrete piers and other modern intrusions.

No evidence was found related to any possible pre-moat settlement activity or to the medieval use of the site and, therefore, objectives linked to these subjects have not been examined.

As a result of the observations made during this programme of investigation, the potential for buried heritage assets on the unscheduled part of the moated site has been revised as follows (compare with Annex A, table 1):

Heritage Asset	Period	Potential for discovery	Significance
Potential buried remains	Prehistoric – Anglo Saxon	Low	Local to regional
Potential buried remains	Medieval (1066–1550)	Low to moderate	National (if well preserved)
Potential buried remains	Post-medieval (1550–1900)	High	Local
Potential buried remains	Modern (1900–present)	Low	Local to none

Table 1: Potential buried heritage assets and significance

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5. APPENDIX 1: DETAILED RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

This appendix provides detailed context information ordered by Zone and the archaeological phase of works.

5.2 Zone A: Monitoring During Preliminary Works

This area is located to the east of the moat. It was subject to monitoring during re-routing of underground electric cables (Figure 3). During the main construction works this area was the location for the site compound. In the final phase of works it was landscaped to form the car park for the wedding venue. These final works were too shallow to produce any useful archaeological observations.

5.2.1 Zone A: soil profile

The soil profile in Zone A consisted of 0.3m of plough soil (1) above a layer of mid reddish brown subsoil (2) up to 0.24m thick which lay above yellow-brown boulder clay (3) at approximately 0.5m below the ground surface. Part of the area had been covered with brick and concrete rubble to form an access track and hard standing for farm machinery stored in and around the large pole barn on the southern edge of the field.

5.2.2 Ditches [4], [8] and [11]

Three linear features were identified, two aligned approximately north-south [4] and [11] and one aligned approximately east-west [8]. These are likely to represent drainage or boundary ditches. The fills of these features were mostly derived from the geological deposits through which they were cut with some darker fills derived from the topsoil.

5.2.3 Layer (13)

In the south of the area was a layer (13) of grey clayey silt with brown mottling. The layer was at least 11m wide from east to west and extended below the base of the trench. The mottled appearance of the soil suggests that it has been affected by waterlogged conditions. The deposit may correspond to a former eastern extension of the moat which appears on historic maps.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	**Topsoil**	**Dark grey clay silt occasional small stones**	☑	☐
2	**Subsoil**	**Mid red brown sandy clay**	☑	☐
3	**Natural**	**Light yellow brown clay occasional small-medium chalk, occasional small-medium stones**	☐	☐
4	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 4.m, max depth 0.8m**	☑	☐
5	Upper fill	Dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
6	Fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay	☑	☐
7	Primary fill	Mid grey clay silt occasional small stones. With brown mottling	☑	☐
8	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep**	☑	☐
9	Secondary fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay	☑	☐
10	Lower fill	Dark grey clay silt	☑	☐
11	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.4m**	☑	☐
12	Fill	Dark brown clay loam occasional small stones	☑	☐
13	**Layer**	**Dark grey clay silt . With brown mottling**	☑	☐

5.3 Zone B: Bridge Foundations, Trenches 3 and 4

Zone B consisted of foundation trenches for a new pedestrian bridge across the eastern arm of the moat, adjacent to the new wedding barn (see Figure 4 for location). It was anticipated that these would be dug during the archaeological evaluation as Trenches 3 and 4. However, for technical reasons they were excavated late in the construction phase of the project.

No features were identified in these trenches and no evidence was found for cobbled surfaces like those noted in the adjacent Zones D, E and F.

Trench 3

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2040	**Topsoil**	**Dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-large CBM. Topsoil with modern demolition rubble spread from field track along east side of moat.**	☑	☐
2041	**Subsoil**	**Mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones**	☑	☐
2042	**Natural**	**Light yellow brown clay moderate small-medium chalk, moderate small stones. Contained chalk and angular flint**	☐	☐

Trench 4

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2038	**Topsoil**	**Dark brown clay silt occasional small stones**	☑	☐
2039	**Natural**	**Light yellow brown clay moderate small-medium chalk, moderate small stones. Contained chalk and angular flint**	☐	☐

5.4 Zone C: Bridge Foundations, Trenches 1 and 2

Zone C comprised foundation trenches for a new vehicle bridge across the eastern arm of the moat (see Figure 4 for location). These were intended to form part of the evaluation as Trenches 1 and 2. However, for technical reasons they were

excavated later in the construction phase of the project. In addition, two small trenches to link drainage to the moat were dug to the south of the bridge.

In Trench 1 on the outer side of moat there was 0.54m of overburden consisting of topsoil and subsoil above bolder clay.

Trench 2 on the island side of the moat uncovered part of a ditch [2032] and brick foundations [2036]. The ditch was aligned east-west, leading towards the moat. It contained two tile drains on the flat base of the ditch within the lower fill of dark grey clay silt (2031). The upper fill of the ditch (2030) was similar but contained brick and tile rubble. The brick foundations observed along the western side of the trench were aligned north-south and consisted of plain bricks, mostly red with some gault bricks.

The ditch and brick foundation found in Trench 2 probably date from the later 19th century. It appears from the surviving buildings (e.g. the Long Barn) and from historic maps that the farm buildings in the south-east part of the island were extensively redeveloped at this time. The brick foundation probably formed part of narrow north-south aligned range sited next to the east arm of the moat.

Trench 1 and drain trench context details

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2025	Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
2026	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
2027	Natural	Light yellow brown clay occasional large chalk, occasional large stones	☐	☐
2045	Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
2046	Natural	Light yellow brown clay moderate small-medium chalk	☐	☐

Trench 2 and drain trench context details

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2028	External surface	Light yellow brown gravel . Modern surface dressing	☑	☐
2029	Layer	Dark grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☐
2032	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: convex base: flat	☐	☐
2030	Upper fill	Dark grey clay silt frequent small-medium CBM. Contains brick and tile rubble	☑	☐
2031	Lower fill	Dark grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones. Contained two tile drains following alignment of ditch	☑	☐
2033	Layer	Dark grey clay silt moderate small stones	☑	☐
2034	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay moderate small stones	☑	☐
2035	Natural	Mid yellow brown clay frequent flecks chalk, moderate small stones	☐	☐
2036	Foundation trench		☑	☐
2037	Brickwork	North-south aligned brick wall foundation	☐	☐

2047	Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt occasional small stones. Deposit spills over the edge of the moat , forming a thick deposit filling the edge of the moat	☑	☐
2048	Natural	Light yellow brown clay moderate small-medium chalk	☐	☐

5.5 Zones D, E and F

Zones D, E and F together cover most of the south-east quadrant of the island (see Figure 4 for overview and Figure 5 for detailed results). Archaeological works undertaken in this area comprised: monitoring during the demolition of modern farm buildings; trial trench evaluation within the footprint of the proposed wedding barn; and monitoring during construction of the foundations of the wedding barn.

5.6 Zones D, E and F: Borehole Data

See Figure 2 for location of boreholes and test pits. The boreholes located undisturbed geology consisting of boulder clay at a depth of 0.5–1.2m below the existing yard surfaces. The greatest depth of build-up over the boulder clay occurred in the three westernmost boreholes (BH1 to 3). In the two boreholes in the eastern part of the area (BH4 and 5) the boulder clay lay closer to the ground surface, only 0.5m deep in BH5. Above the geological deposits a dark organic silty layer occurred at a depth of 0.4–0.6m below the ground surface. In BH1 this organic deposit lay above a distinct layer of pebbles.

5.7 Zones D, E and F: Demolition Works

The uppermost surface consisted mainly of modern concrete surfaces (100), either external yards or internal floor slabs, over a layer of rubble hardcore (101). Adjacent to the eastern half of the Long Barn, however, traces of a cobbled surface survived at ground level (105). This surface was seen in Test-pit C during monitoring of the boreholes. The level of this cobbled surface corresponds to the floor level of the Long Barn, the range of 19th-century farm buildings which runs along the south edge of the moated island.

A layer of imported yellow-brown clay (107) containing brick rubble was observed over much of the area below the concrete and cobble surfaces. This was a make-up or levelling layer used to raise and level the area. The deposit contained some fragments of yellow gault brick, similar to those used in the Long Barn. The levelling layer was thickest in the mid part of the demolition area and thinned towards the eastern edge, close to the moat on this side.

A layer of dark grey clay (108) or black silt (103 and 110) was noted in many places below the levelling layer. This dark material appears to be a farmyard deposit, probably a mixture of organic material and accumulated soil. It lay directly over an earlier cobbled yard surface (109 and 104). Where observed, this cobbled yard surface lay directly on the undisturbed boulder clay (102) with no trace of any subsoil deposit above the geological deposit.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Concrete	Concrete suface, layer 0.25m thick	☑	☐
101	Make up layer	Hardcore rubble sub-base below concrete layer (100), 0.35m thick	☑	☐
102	Natural	Firm light grey yellow silty clay occasional small chalk	☐	☐
103	Layer	Friable dark grey black silt . Thickness: 0.11m	☑	☐
104	Make up layer	Friable mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional large stones. Thickness: 0.15m	☑	☐
105	External surface	Cobbled surface. Large smooth pebbles. Probably contemporary with adjacent 19th century building. Thickness: 0.2m	☑	☐
106	Make up layer	Friable mid orange sandy gravel . Thickness: 0.2m	☑	☐
107	Levelling layer	Plastic mid brown yellow clay occasional small-medium CBM. Thickness: 0.2m	☑	☐
108	Levelling layer	Plastic mid blue grey clay occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small chalk. Thickness: 0.25	☑	☐
109	External surface	Cobbled surface. Consisting mostly of pebbles and stones 5-15cm with occasional brick fragments included	☑	☐
110	Layer	Friable dark black silt moderate medium-large CBM. Thickness: 0.23m	☑	☐
111	Make up layer	Loose mid grey silty gravel frequent medium-large CBM. Thickness: 0.3m	☑	☐
112	Make up layer	Friable mid grey silt occasional small-medium CBM. Thickness: 0.3m	☑	☐

5.8 Zones D, E and F: Trial Trench Evaluation

5.8.1 Zones D, E and F: Trench 5

The upper 0.3m of the trench comprised two layers (1600 and1601) which contained a large amount of brick and tile rubble. These overlay the remains of a cobbled surface (1602), up to 0.12m thick, made with closely packed rounded stones measuring 50–100mm. The surface was relatively poorly preserved in this area. The surface had been laid on grey-yellow clay with chalk inclusions (1603), i.e. undisturbed boulder clay.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1600	Make up layer	Rubble . Thickness: 0.11m	☑	☐
1601	Dump material	Loose black silty rubble . Thickness: 0.15m	☑	☐
1602	External surface	Compact . Cobbled surface. Consisting mostly of pebbles and stones 5-10cm with occasional brick fragments included. Poorly preserved in this area. Thickness: 0.12m	☑	☐
1603	Natural	Firm light grey yellow silty clay occasional small chalk	☐	☐

5.8.2 Zones D, E and F: Trench 6

Layers (1700–1703) represent demolition and build-up of the ground level prior to construction. Two layers of mid yellow-brown clay (1700) and (1703), 0.22m and 0.27m thick respectively, contained a relatively small amount of brick and tile. This material appeared to be imported boulder clay used to raise and level the ground surface. Layers (1701) and (1702) contained significantly more rubble suggesting that they could have incorporated some demolition material.

A cobbled surface (1705), corresponding to the one in Trench 5, was present. The cobbles were 50–150mm in size and were better preserved at this point. The level of the surface dropped towards the south end of the trench. It was overlain by a brown-black organic deposit (1704), up to 0.04m thick, probably comprising a farmyard trample deposit. The cobbles were left *in situ*.

A square posthole [1707] containing a large wooden post had been inserted through the cobbled surface. The cut was 0.8m square and the post had been packed with blue-grey clay (1708).

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1700	Levelling layer	Plastic mid yellow brown clay occasional small-large CBM. Thickness: 0.22m	☑	☐
1701	Dump material	Loose black silty rubble . Thickness: 0.18m	☑	☐
1702	Demolition layer	Loose mid grey silty clay frequent small-large CBM. Thickness: 0.1m	☑	☐
1703	Levelling layer	Plastic mid brown yellow clay occasional small-medium CBM. Thickness: 0.27m	☑	☐
1704	Layer	Dark brown black silty peat . Thickness: 0.04m	☑	☐
1705	External surface	Cobbled surface. Consisting mostly of pebbles and stones 5-15cm with occasional brick fragments included. Left in situ.	☐	☐
1706	Natural	Firm light grey yellow silty clay occasional small chalk	☐	☐
1707	Posthole	Large square post-hole, plan dimensions 0.8m by 0.8m	☐	☐
1708	Packing	Plastic light blue grey clay . Fill around post (1709)	☐	☐
1709	Timber	Rectangular timber post measuring 0.3m by 0.25m. Structural timber from building or fence	☐	☐

5.8.3 Zones D, E and F: Trench 7

This revealed similar deposits to Trench 6. A rubble and hardcore layer (1800), 0.13m thick, was probably associated with the construction of the most recent concrete surface, removed during demolition. Two layers (1801) and (1802) with a combined thickness of up to 0.25m probably comprised imported material used to raise and level the ground surface.

Cobbled surface (1805) was equivalent to that seen in Trenches 5 and 6 but was better preserved. As in Trench 6, it was overlain by a layer of organic material (1804) up to 0.08m thick, which related to its latest period of use. Part of the surface was lifted at the eastern end of the trench; this showed that it lay directly on undisturbed boulder clay (1806).

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1800	Demolition layer	Silty rubble . Thickness: 0.13m	☑	☐
1801	Levelling layer	Loose black tarmac . Thickness: 0.14m	☑	☐
1802	Levelling layer	Loose mid grey silt frequent small-large CBM. Thickness: 0.2m	☑	☐
1803	Levelling layer	Plastic mid brown yellow clay moderate small-large CBM. Thickness: 0.22m	☑	☐
1804	Layer	Compact dark brown black silty peat . Thickness: 0.09m	☑	☐
1805	External surface	Cobbled surface. Consisting mostly of pebbles and stones 5-10cm with occasional brick fragments included. C.2m removed at eastern end of trench. Thickness: 0.1m	☑	☐
1806	Natural	Firm light grey yellow silty clay occasional small chalk	☐	☐

5.9 Zones D, E and F: Construction Works

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the construction of the wedding barn. The works entailed general ground reduction over the L-shaped footprint of the building for laying of the foundation slab, followed by deeper excavation of strip footings for the wall foundations.

The demolition phase of works had already removed the uppermost levels comprising concrete floor slabs, concrete yard surfaces and remnants of a cobble surface at the south edge of the area next to the Long Barn. The deposits and features recorded during construction works are described below, beginning with the latest.

5.9.1 Structural features: postholes and wooden stakes

The western part of the area contained a number of structural features comprising large postholes and clusters of small wooden stakes.

All of the postholes, except [2014], still contained the remains of wooden posts. These were circular or squared and in some cases had clearly been cut-off at the top. Two in the north of the area [2016] along with posthole [1707] in Trench 6 formed a north-south aligned row of squared postholes up to 0.6m across. Four square-shaped postholes [2018] found towards the south of the area formed a north-south row. Other pairs of postholes forming remains of possible east-west rows were found towards the north of the area [2014 and 2021] and at the south [2023]. The postholes were found relatively high up in the stratigraphic sequence, cutting some of the latest deposits (2005 and 2013) found below the modern make-up and floor layers.

The wooden stakes were also all found in the western part of the area. They were all partially decayed and consisted of small round-wood stakes approximately 50mm diameter and driven directly into the ground. The northernmost five formed an east-west row. Three to the south of this formed a north-south alignment which may have extended southwards into a cluster of ten stakes. The rows of stakes appeared to lie perpendicular or parallel to the row of four large

postholes [2018] and occupied a similar position in the stratigraphic sequence with some driven through (2013).

The large posts could have supported structures such as shelter sheds or formed substantial fences dividing up the farmyard. The posts would have been much more ephemeral features, possibly for temporary fences.

5.9.2 Pits [2006] and [2008]

Two rectangular pits [2006] and [2008] were found next to each other in the north-west of the area.

Pit [2006] was an unlined pit measuring 3.25m by 2.25m. It was cut through layer (2005) and abutted the structure of pit [2008] on its west side. The pit was not excavated. Its uppermost fill was soft black silt (2007), which contained a moderate amount of brick and tile (not retained) and a small amount of pottery. The brick and tile included extruded drainage pipe and perforated brick. The pottery comprised Transfer-printed Ware (132g: fabric P45) including blue willow pattern and Pearl Ware (7g: fabric P43), both types dating from the modern period (post-1750). The extruded drainage pipes date from the late 19th century or early 20th century and correspond with the date of the pottery.

Pit [2008] was a timber-lined pit measuring 2.5m by 2m. It was cut through layer (2004) and abutted pit (2006) to the east. The upper part of a timber lining (2009) survived on the east and south side of the pit. On the south side the lining comprised vertical posts with horizontal plank lining. Plank lining on the east side extended south across the full width of the adjacent pit [2006], perhaps indicating that these two pits were in contemporary use. The upper fill of pit [2008] was mid grey-yellow clay (2010). It was covered by a brick floor made from handmade red bricks measuring 225mm x 111mm x 65mm which were reused, having traces of mortar adhering. Fill (2010) could represent either deliberate infilling of the pit following its disuse or possibly formed a base for the brick floor.

5.9.3 Make-up layers (2003), (2004), (2005) and (2013)

The western part of the area contained a series of layers within a shallow depression formed by a hollow in an underlying cobbled surface (see 2001, 2012 below).

The lowest of these was a layer of mid yellow-brown clay (2004). This was the most extensive layer, covering an area of at least 20m from north to south in the area stripped for the foundation raft of the new building. It corresponds to layer of clay with occasional fragments of brick that was identified during monitoring of demolition works (107) and in the trial trench evaluation (1703 and 1803). This layer was up to 300mm thick in the vicinity of Trench 6. It thinned gradually toward the south and the east and more rapidly at the north-west corner of the excavated area where it was truncated away by machining.

A layer of mid yellow-brown clay (2003) with moderate amounts of brick and tile rubble was found above (2004) in the northern part of the area.

Above the clay layers were two discrete layers of dark organic material. Layer (2005) found to the north of pit [2006] consisted of soft black silt with frequent brick and tile fragments. Layer (2013) found a short distance to the south of pits [2006 and 2008] consisted of soft black silt.

The two layers of clay (2004) and (2003) appear to represent deliberate infilling of an underlying hollow using imported clay with some brick and tile rubble in the upper part (2003). The two layers of organic black silt found above the clay layers are perhaps more likely to represent material derived from farmyard waste rather than deliberate levelling deposits.

5.9.4 Cobbled surface (2001) (2012) and associated organic silt (2002)

Underlying all of the other deposits in this area was a cobbled surface. It was recorded as (2001) across the larger part of the area and as (2012) at the south-west. It was found across the whole area with the exception of a few metres at the easternmost end of the foundation raft strip. The cobble surface was made from large flint nodules with a surface of well-worn, rounded pebbles. At the south the surface of (2012) included some small fragments of gault brick and tile. The cobbled surface was laid directly on top of the underlying boulder clay. It was not flat, but instead followed the contours of the underlying clay, rising close to the surface at the south and east sides and the north-west corner, forming a hollow that was later filled with imported layers of clay (2003, 2004, see above).

The cobbled surface was covered by organic black silt (2002) which formed a layer up to 100mm thick. A few small fragments of pottery were recovered — Nottingham Stoneware (24g: fabric P36B) and Transfer-printed Ware (3g: fabric P45) in a blue willow pattern print.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2000	Natural	Light yellow brown clay occasional small-medium stones	☐	☐
2001	External surface	Cobbled surface made of large flint nodules laid on natural clay with small rounded pebbles for surface.	☑	☐
2002	Layer	Spongy black silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
2003	Make up layer	Firm mid yellow clay moderate medium-large CBM, occasional small stones	☑	☐
2004	Make up layer	Mid yellow clay occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
2005	Make up layer	Spongy black silt frequent medium CBM	☑	☐
2006	Pit	Dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max length 3.25m	☐	☐
2007	Fill	Spongy black silt moderate small-large CBM	☐	☑
2008	Pit	Rectangular dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max length 2.5m	☐	☐
2009	Timber structure	Timber lining consisting of posts supporting horzontal planked lining	☐	☐

2010	**Fill**	**Firm mid grey yellow clay . Possible deliberate infill of disused timber-lined pit [208]**	☐	☐
2011	**Floor**	**Unmortared brick floor made from reused brick laid over clay capping in timber-liined pit**	☐	☐
2012	**External surface**	**Cobbled surface with large flint nodules below worn surface of rounded pebbles with brick and tile rubble**	☑	☐
2013	**Layer**	**Spongy black silt**	☑	☐
2014	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: vertical dimensions: min depth 1.3m, max diameter 0.95m. Large post-pit, cut through cobbles (2001) and layer (2002)**	☐	☐
2015	Fill	Firm mid grey clay occasional large stones	☑	☐
2016	**Posthole**	**Line of three large post-pits forming north-south aligment.**	☐	☐
2017	Fill	Dark brown occasional large CBM. Contained remains of cut-off posts and bricks used as packing	☐	☐
2018	**Posthole**	**North-south aligned row of four large post-pits.**	☐	☐
2019	Fill	Fill of large post-pits with remains of cut-off posts and brick packing	☐	☐
2020	**Posthole**	**At least 18 small wooden stakes in three groups which inlude N-S and E-W alignments.**	☐	☐
2021	**Posthole**	**Dimensions: min depth 1.m, max diameter 0.7m. Large post-pit, cut through cobbled surface (2001)**	☐	☐
2022	Fill	Mid yellow grey clay moderate medium CBM. brick rubble around remains of 200mm diameter wooden post	☑	☐
2023	**Posthole**	**Two large post pits**	☐	☐
2024	Fill	Fill of post pits [2023] containing remains of large wooden posts	☐	☐

5.10 Zones L and M

Zones L and M are located in the north-west quadrant of the moat beneath an existing pole barn (see Figure 6). The planned development included a proposal to remove the pole barn and construct a garage at some time in the future. Works in this area comprised: excavation of a trial trench within the footprint of the proposed garage building in Zone M; and archaeological monitoring of a new service trench which was dug through Zone L.

5.10.1 Zones L and M: Trench 8

This trench was excavated inside a modern farm building, a pole barn which forms Zone M. The concrete floor (1900) of the building overlay a number of levelling and consolidation layers. The upper layers (1901) and (1902), containing rubble and hardcore, extended to a depth of 0.2m and are probably associated with the construction of the concrete floor. Lower levelling layers (1903–1905) and (1916–1917) may also be associated with this or earlier levelling. Containing a large amount of brick rubble, layer (1916) in particular appears to have been used to consolidate the ground above the underlying ditch [1912].

Two ditches were present within this trench. The larger more visible of the two [1912] was 2.1m wide and 1.1m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. On a broadly north-south alignment the ditch lies perpendicular to the moat and may have originally joined the moat which is situated approximately 12m to the north. A thin layer of wood (1918) was found in the base of the ditch. A smaller east-west aligned ditch [1909], 1.5m wide and 0.7m deep, was partially visible in the

west side of the trench. This appeared to join the larger ditch and was probably broadly contemporary.

The ditches were cut through a thin layer of clay (1906) over undisturbed subsoil (1907) and boulder clay (1908).

A small, mixed artefactual assemblage was recovered from the lower fill (1913) of ditch [1912]. Pottery comprises an abraded late medieval reduced ware body sherd (21g: fabric E01[1]); a sherd of post-medieval brown salt-glazed stoneware (27g: fabric P36A); and two sherds (51g) of 18th- to early 19th-century creamware (fabric P38).

Sand-tempered building material datable to the post-medieval period totals two amorphous brick fragments (63g), and five pieces of flat roof tile (376g: thickness 15mm). Two vessel glass fragments (132g) representing the dome or bell-shaped kick base from a probable cylindrical wine bottle are datable to the mid-late 18th century. The feature also contained a long bone fragment (22g) from an animal of indeterminate species.

[1] Fabric type defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1900	**External surface**	**Concrete . Thickness: 0.6m**	☑	☐
1901	**Make up layer**	**Compact mid orange brown silty gravel frequent small CBM. Thickness: 0.2m**	☑	☐
1902	**Make up layer**	**Compact mid brown grey silty gravel frequent small CBM. Thickness: 0.17m**	☑	☐
1903	**Levelling layer**	**Plastic mid blue grey silty clay . Thickness: 0.15m**	☑	☐
1904	**Levelling layer**	**Firm mid brown yellow clay . Thickness: 0.1m**	☑	☐
1905	**Levelling layer**	**Firm mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium CBM. Thickness: 0.3m**	☑	☐
1906	**Layer**	**Plastic mid brown yellow clay . Thickness: 0.09m**	☑	☐
1907	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid brown silty clay . Thickness: 0.3m**	☑	☐
1908	**Natural**	**Firm light grey yellow silty clay occasional small chalk**	☐	☐
1909	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, max depth 0.7m, min length 0.7m**	☑	☐
1910	Fill	Friable dark grey clay silt occasional small CBM, occasional small stones. Thickness: 0.45m	☑	☐
1911	Fill	Plastic dark grey silty clay occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small stones. Thickness: 0.45m	☑	☐
1912	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.1m, max depth 1.1m, min length 2.m**	☑	☐
1913	Fill	Friable dark grey clay silt occasional large stones. Thickness: 0.55m	☑	☑
1914	Fill	Plastic dark grey silty clay occasional small CBM, occasional small stones. Thickness: 0.18m	☑	☐
1915	Backfill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium CBM. Thickness: 0.4m	☑	☐
1918	Lining	Thin layer of wood placed alond base of ditch. Thickness: 0.01m	☑	☐
1916	**Levelling layer**	**Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-large CBM. Thickness: 0.28m**	☑	☐
1917	**Make up layer**	**Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium CBM. Thickness: 0.8m**	☑	☐

5.10.2 Zones L and M: construction works

Machine excavation of a service trench was monitored on 16th January 2014. The trench, 17m long, 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep, was excavated inside the pole barn that occupies Zones L and M.

The upper part of the trench was cut through the existing floor of the building, concrete (2049) and its rubble base (2051).

The latest feature in the trench was the foundation of a north-south aligned brick wall (2059). This was abutted by the modern floor layers with its upper part visible in the floor. The brickwork consisted of plain (without frog) red brick.

Beneath the modern floor make-up at the western end of the trench was a layer of organic black clayey silt (2051), probably a former garden or farmyard soil. In the remainder of the trench was a mixed yellow and grey clay layer (2055) directly

beneath the modern floor. This appeared to consist of re-deposited boulder clay and is likely to be a levelling deposit associated with a phase of construction work.

Two cut features, a large hollow [2052] and ditch [2056] were identified.

Feature [2052] extended across the whole western half of the trench and was at least 8.5m wide. The base of the feature was not visible in the trench. Its upper part contained a single fill of dark brown silty clay (2053) with occasional fragments of brick and tile rubble including gault brick. A small amount of blue glazed pottery (not recovered) was noted towards the base of the trench. Evidence of subsidence in the rear wall of the brick stable block to the south of the trench suggests that this large feature extends southwards. The brick and pottery noted indicate a mid-19th-century or later date for the deposition of the fill. Its relatively uniform nature suggests deliberate infilling rather than a gradual silting process. The size of the feature suggests that it could have been a large pond or an extension of the north arm of the moat; however, nothing corresponding to it is shown on historic maps. An alternative interpretation could be that it was a relatively short-lived feature such as a quarry pit for the extraction of clay.

Ditch [2056] was found in the eastern part of the trench. It was north-south aligned with steep sides and was 1.95m wide. An upper disuse fill (2057) contained numerous fragments of plain roof tile whilst the lower fill (2058) was dark grey clay-silt. The base of the ditch extended beyond the lower limit of the trench at 1.2m below existing ground level. This ditch forms a southern continuation of ditch [1912] (seen in Trench 8), the lower fill of which contained artefacts dating from the 18th or early 19th century.

The underlying geological deposit was a mid yellow-brown clay and gravel (2054).

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2049	**Concrete**	**Concrete surface**	☐	☐
2050	**Make up layer**	**Brick rubble base for concrete floor (2049)**	☐	☐
2051	**Buried topsoil**	**Loose black clay silt occasional small stones. Probable former garden soil or organic farmyard build-up layer**	☑	☐
2052	**Pond**	**Dimensions: min breadth 8.5m, min depth 0.7m. Large cut feature partially exposed in trench. Subsidence visible in brick wall to the south of trench suggests that the feature may continue southwards. Possible arm of moat or pond.**	☐	☐
2053	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay occasional medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones. Fill contained brick and tile debris incl. gault brick. Some glaze blue earthenware was observed during machining but could not be recovered.	☑	☐
2054	**Natural**	**Light yellow silty clay moderate small stones**	☐	☐
2055	**Levelling layer**	**Occasional small-medium stones. Mixed mid yellow and grey clay that includes redeposited natural material**	☑	☐
2056	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: steep . Base of ditch not uncovered in machine**	☐	☐
2057	Upper fill	Mid brown clay silt frequent small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones. Contained demolition ubble consisting of fragments of plain clay roof tiles	☑	☐
2058	Lower fill	Dark grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
2059	**Brickwork**	**Base of demolished wall, aligned north-south**	☐	☐

6. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-193654

Project details

Project name	Bassmead (or Basmead) Manor, Staploe – Recording
Short description of the project	Planning consent was granted for the conversion, alteration, and extension of existing buildings to form a wedding venue at Bassmead (or Basmead) Manor. The site is set within a moated medieval enclosure. Monitoring in the south-east quadrant of the island identified a cobbled surface covered by a 19th-century imported clay levelling layer and evidence for c.1900s stock yards and shelter sheds in the form of postholes, wooden stakes and pits. Monitoring in the north-west quadrant of the island located a ditch and a large feature that appeared to have been deliberately in-filled during the 19th century. Monitoring during construction of two bridges over the east arm of the moat identified 19th-century features in one trench. These consisted of a drainage ditch with tile drains in its base and brick foundations for wall, probably corresponding to a north-south aligned range of farm buildings shown on historic maps.
Project dates	Start: 22-05-2013 End: 16-01-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BM1876 - Contracting Unit No. BEDFM 2012.34 - Museum accession ID albionar1-131861 - OASIS form ID albionar1-211345 - OASIS form ID 1012067 - NHLE No. 11/02504/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	COBBLED SURFACE Post Medieval DITCHES Post Medieval FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval POSTHOLES Post Medieval PITS Post Medieval SURFACES Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Test-Pit Survey","Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD STAPLOE Bassmead Manor archaeological monitoring
Study area	0.70 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 14005 61185 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 Mark Phillips
Project supervisor	Kathleen Pilkinton Slawomir Utrata

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Physical Archive ID	BEDFM 2012.34
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Albion Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Glass","other"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Paper Archive ID	BEDFM 2012.34
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass" ,"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence"," 'Microfilm", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph" ,"Plan", "Report" ,"Section"
Paper Archive notes	To be combined with records from other investigations from site

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Bassmead Manor, Staploe, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Phillips, M' 'Oetgen, J'
Other bibliographic details	2014/76
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	26 May 2015

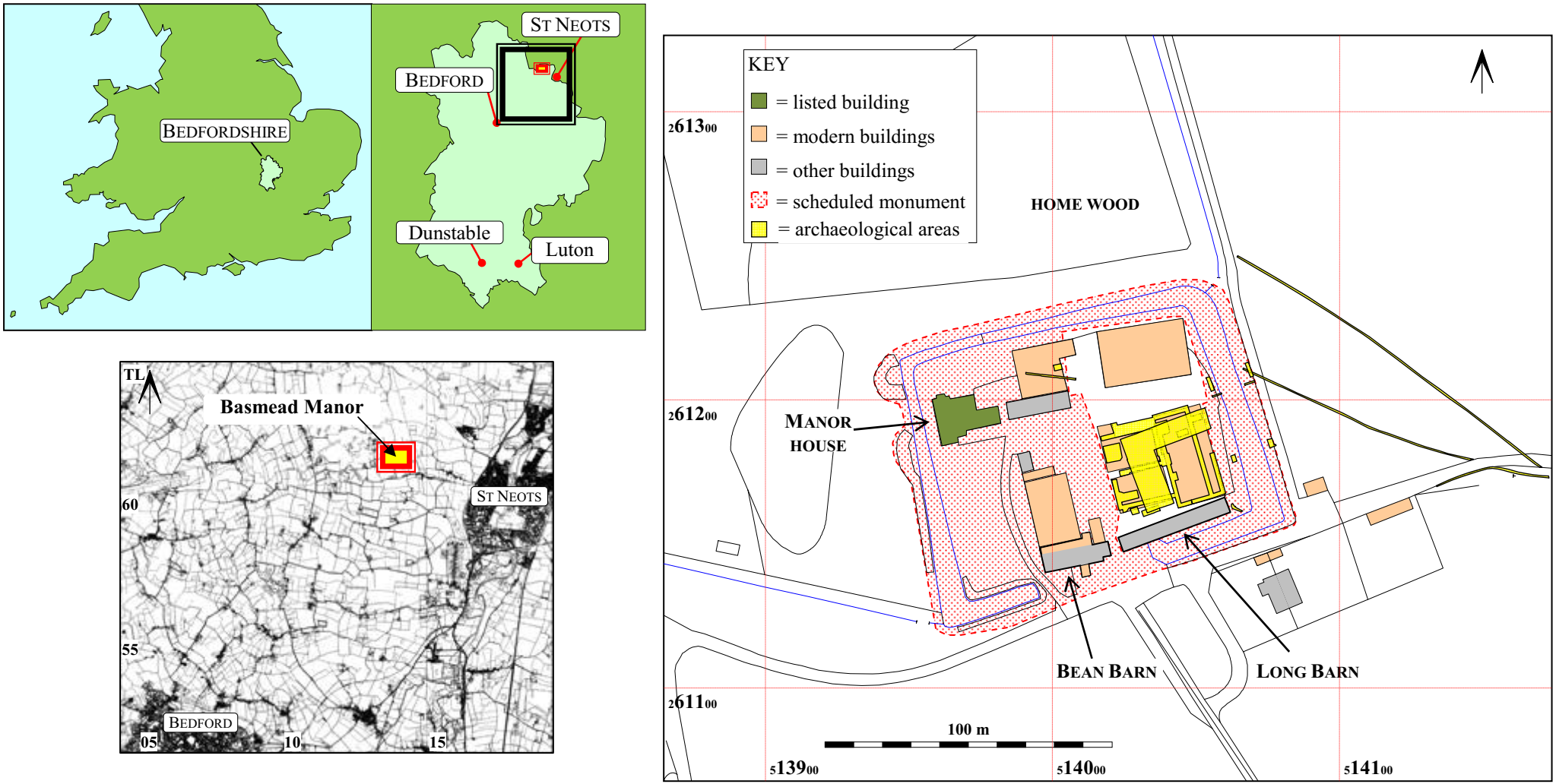


Figure 1: Site location plan

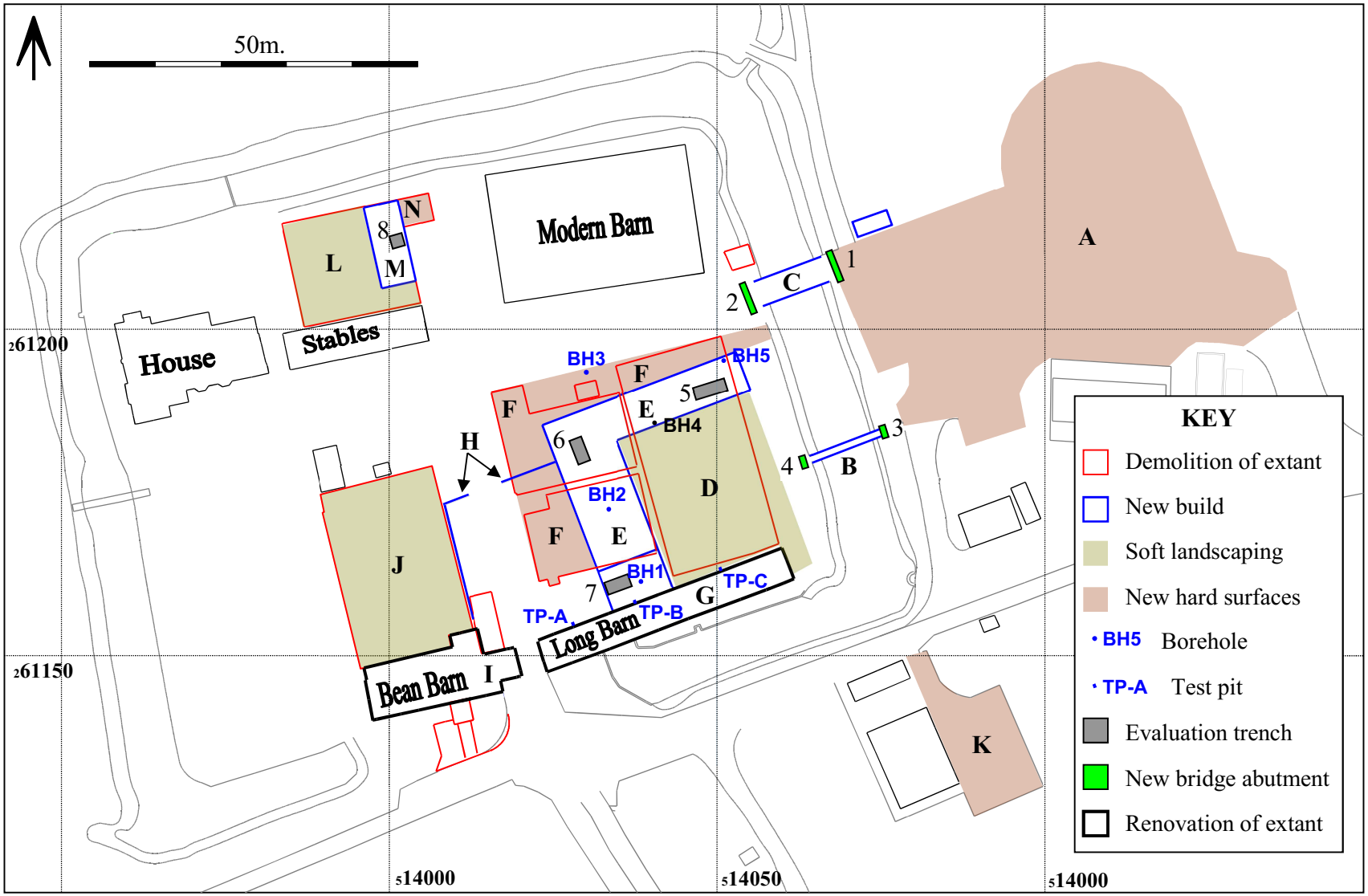


Figure 2: Location of development zones and archaeological evaluation trenches (excluding service connections)

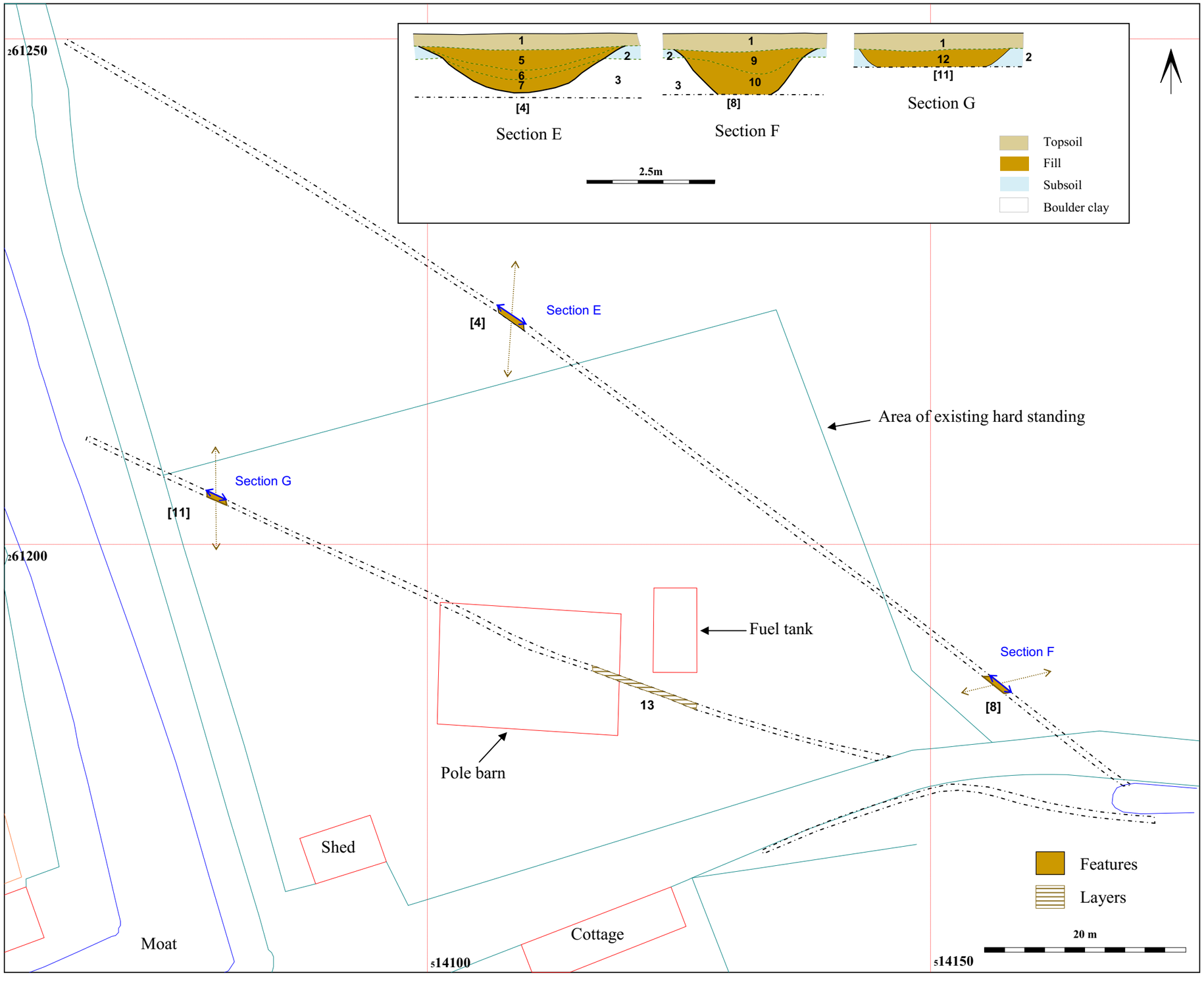


Figure 3: Zone A

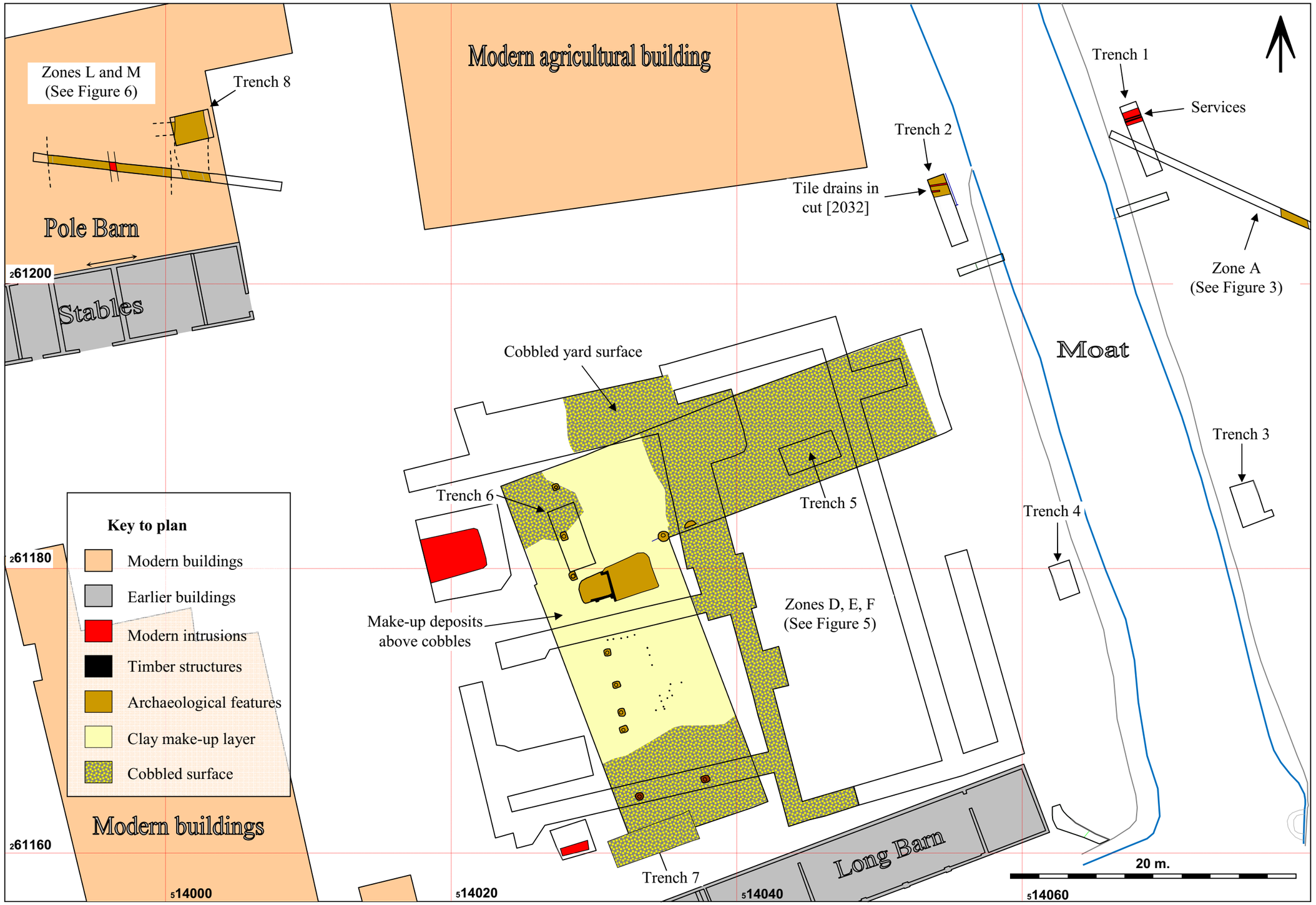
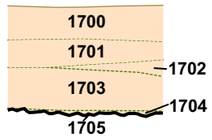
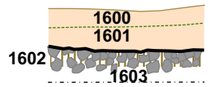


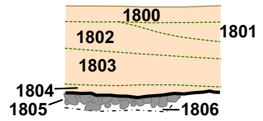
Figure 4: Zones B, C, D, E, F, L and M



Section B. Trial Trench 6



Section C. Trial Trench 5



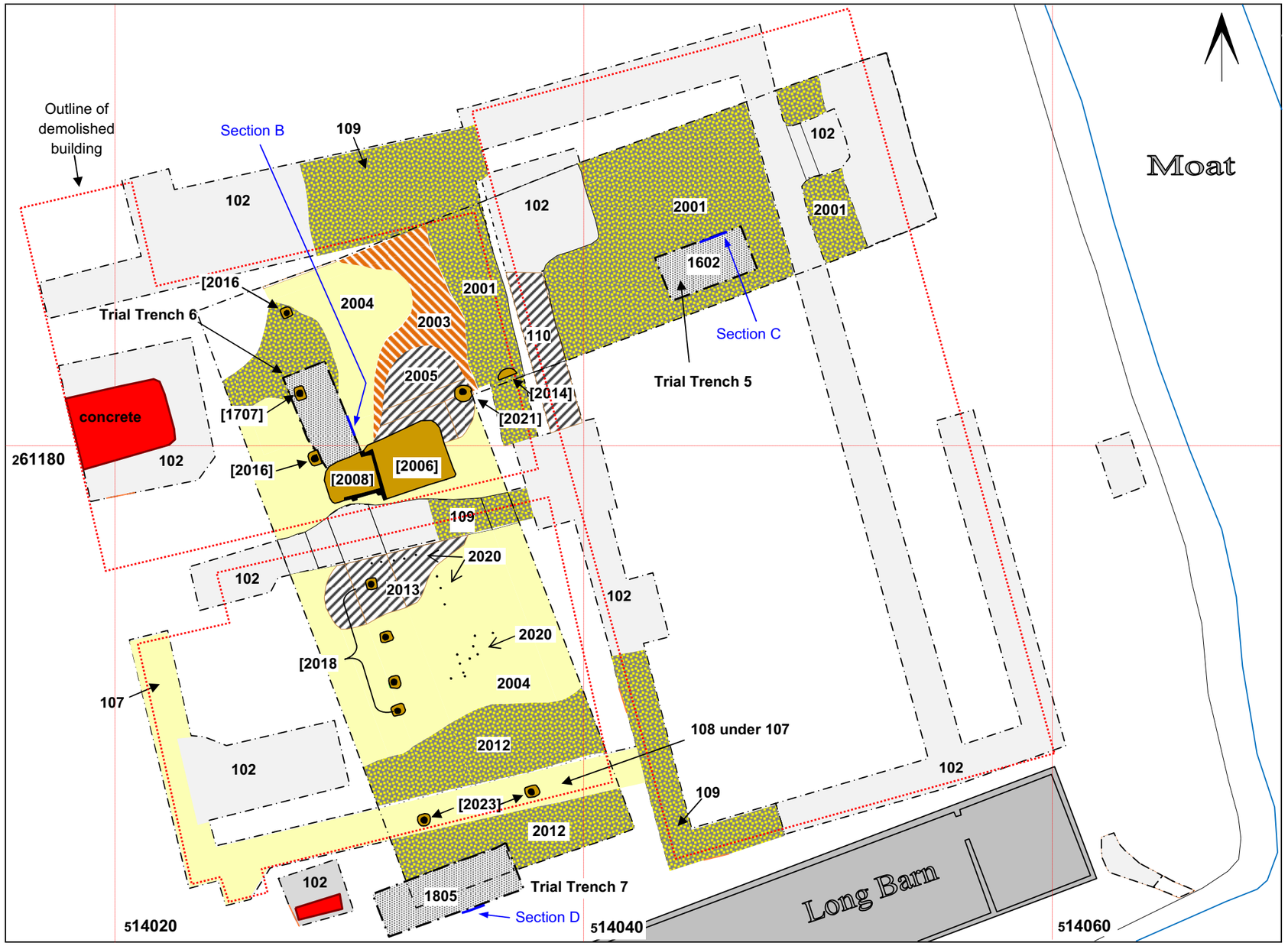
Section D. Trial Trench 7

Key to sections

- Layer
- Cobbled surface
- Boulder clay

Sections scale

1m



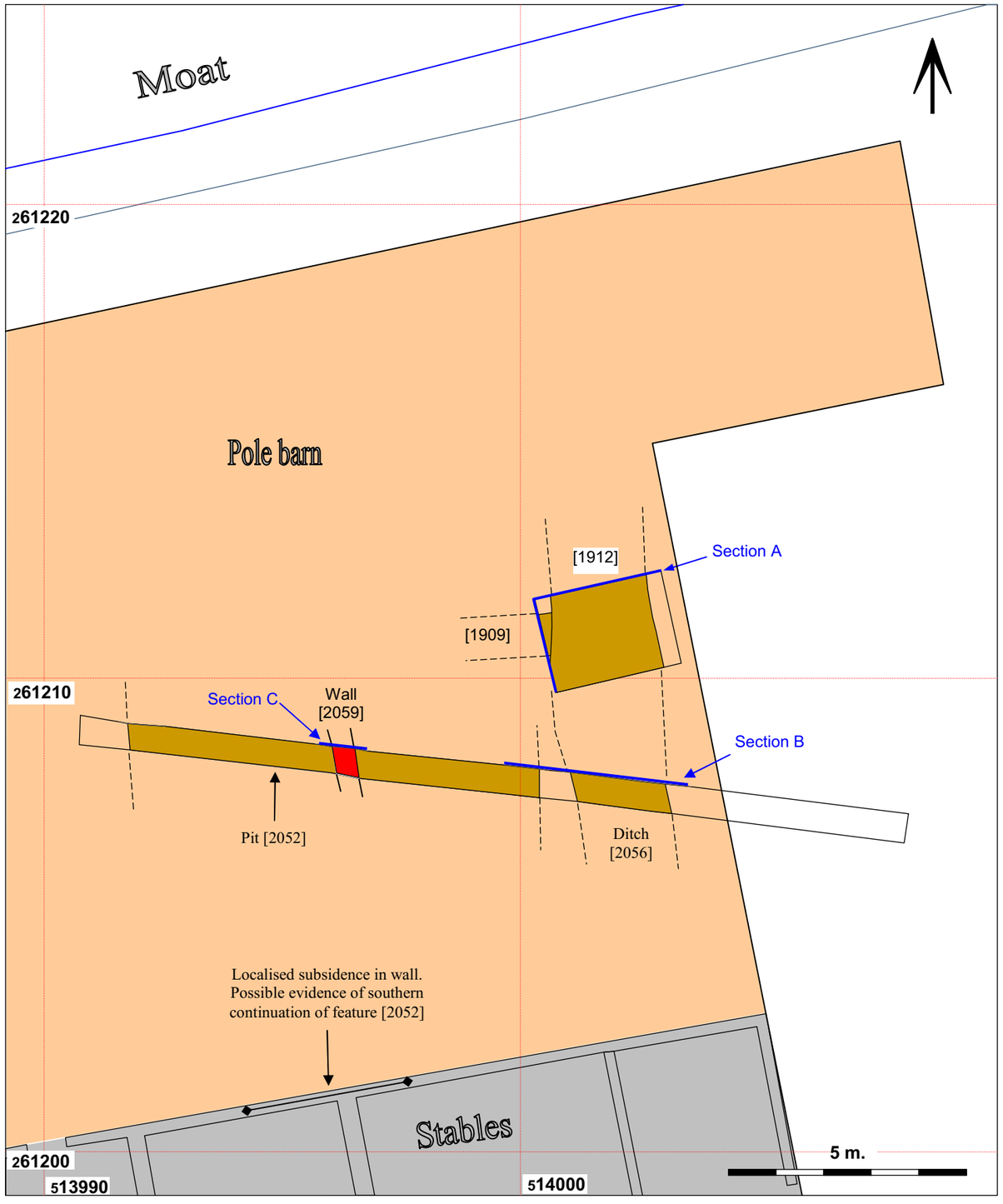
Key to plan

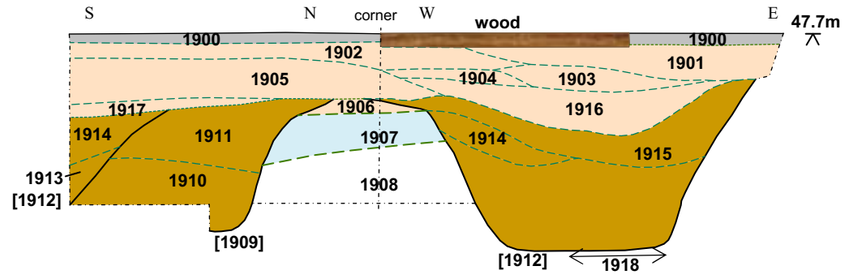
- Modern features
- Features
- Wood
- Black silt layers
- Clay and rubble make-up
- Clay make-up layer
- Cobbled surface
- Cobbled surface removed
- Undisturbed geological deposits

Plan scale

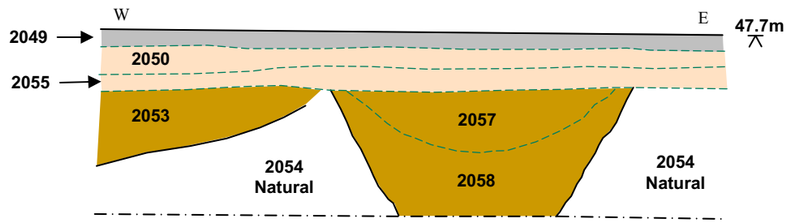
10 m

Figure 5: Zone D, E and F (detail)

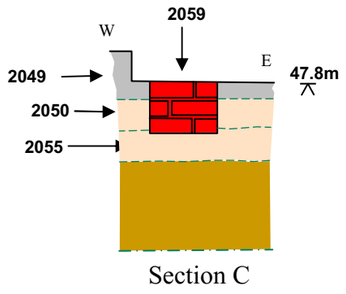




Section A



Section B



Section C

Key to sections

- Concrete
- Brick
- Layer
- Fill
- Cobbled surface
- Subsoil
- Boulder clay

Sections scale

1m

Figure 6: Zones L and M, plan and sections

Image 1: Zone D, E and F: Lower cobble surface

Image shows the lower cobbled surface covered by thin layer of organic silt. The clay layer, visible in section in the background, was imported material, used to level the site prior to a major phase of construction in the late 19th century.

Image 2: Zones L and M, Trench 8

Trial trench excavation within the pole barn in the north-west part of the site

Image 3: Zones L and M, Trench 8

Image shows section through ditch [1912]

Image 4: Zone E during the construction phase

The image shows the western arm of Zone E, looking towards the north. In the foreground is a dark soil above a cobbled surface. The yellow-brown material beyond is a layer of imported clay used to fill a hollow this part of the site prior to construction in the late 19th century.

Image 5: Zone E during the construction phase

Image shows the northern arm of Zone E, looking towards the west. The light deposit in the foreground is undisturbed boulder clay. The darker deposit beyond is a cobbled surface.

Image 6: Zone E during the construction phase

Timber-lined pit [2008] sealed by brick floor (looking west, scale 1m)

Image 7: Zone E during the construction phase

Pit [2006] with pit [2008] in the background (looking west, scale 1m)

Image 8: Zone E during the construction phase

Machining in the west arm of Zone E, showing the completed ground reduction for the floor slabs and partially excavated strip foundation trenches

Image 9: Zone L and M

The image was taken inside the pole barn during monitoring of a service trench. It shows settling in the north wall of the stables, providing evidence for a possible southern continuation of feature [2052].

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