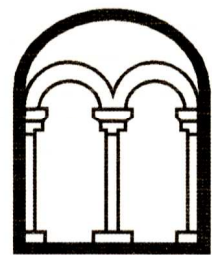


**THE PACK HORSE  
WATLING STREET  
KENSWORTH  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**THE PACK HORSE  
WATLING STREET  
KENSWORTH  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

Project: PH2471  
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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Kathy Pilkinton	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

24th April 2015

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



## Preface

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

## Acknowledgements

*The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathy Pilkinton and Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisors). This report has been prepared by Kathy Pilkinton with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The figures have been produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

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## Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	24/04/2015	n/a

## Key terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

BLARS	Bedford and Luton Archives and Records Service
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*A pre-application enquiry (CB/13/02379/PAPC) was submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council for the construction of a proposed new hotel and extension at the Pack Horse public house, Watling Street, Kensworth, Bedfordshire.*

*As the site is located in an area with the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist advised that an archaeological trial trench evaluation be undertaken.*

*The Pack Horse public house is located to the east of the village of Kensworth, adjacent to Watling Street (the A5) at the junction with the B4540 (Lynch Hill). The proposed development area (PDA) comprises the public house itself and land to the north-west, which includes the pub car park and a grassed area.*

*The trial trenching took place between 30th and 31st March 2015. It comprised the excavation of four trenches, each 2m wide and 20m long.*

*Trenches 2–4 revealed no archaeological features. Trench 1 revealed a large backfilled pit. This appeared to occupy a natural low point in the landscape, adjacent to the road. It was filled with a series of dark grey silt and chalk deposits that contained artefacts dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.*

*Nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey maps depict several pits along the line of Lynch Hill. A small sub-circular pit is marked in the south corner of the PDA, supporting the evidence revealed by the trial trenching. A similar pit to the south of the road is marked as a gravel pit, suggesting the feature revealed in Trench 1 is of similar origin.*

*Remains of relatively modern gravel extraction are fairly common in Bedfordshire and such evidence is of no more than local archaeological significance. The remains have no potential to address the published research frameworks for the area. The results of the trial trenching suggest, therefore, that the proposed development will have no impact on significant archaeological remains.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 *Project Background*

A pre-application enquiry (CB/13/02379/PAPC) was submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council for the construction of a proposed new hotel and extension at the Pack Horse public house, Watling Street, Kensworth, Bedfordshire.

As the site is located in an area with the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that an archaeological trial trench evaluation be undertaken. This advice was in accordance with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework and policy 45 of the Development Strategy for Central Bedfordshire (pre-submission version June 2014)

A Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2015) was produced in response to a brief (CBC 2014) issued by the CBCA.

This document details the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation. It appraises the significance of any heritage assets with archaeological interest found to be present within the proposed development area (PDA) and assess the impact of the proposed scheme.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The PDA is located in the parish of Kensworth in south Bedfordshire, close to the Hertfordshire border (Figure 1). It is situated *c.* 3.1km south of Dunstable and *c.* 6.7km south-west of Luton.

The Pack Horse public house is located to the east of the village of Kensworth, adjacent to Watling Street (the A5) at the junction with the B4540 (Lynch Hill). It is centred on NGR TL 04952 17980. The PDA comprises the public house itself and land to the north-west, which includes the pub car park and a grassed area.

Topographically the PDA is situated towards the base of the Chilterns ridge, close to the head of a valley running through the ridge and the purported site of the source of the River Ver. It lies at a height of *c.* 138 m OD.

The geology of the area is the Holywell Nodular and New Pit Chalk Formations of the Late Cretaceous period. Superficial deposits of both Clay-with-Flints and Head (clay, silt, sand and gravel) are recorded in the locality.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The PDA is situated adjacent to Watling Street (the modern A5, HER 5508), one of the main arterial roads in Roman Britain, connecting *Londinium* and the south-east with the north-western parts of the province. Approximately 3 miles to the north-west of the PDA, beneath modern Dunstable, lies the Roman town of *Durocbrivae* or *Durocbrivis* (HER 135 and 11284).



Roman towns had a complex relationship with their hinterlands, and it was commonplace to find a series of roadside settlements radiating out from the administrative centre of a town. A number of small roadside settlements have been recorded in nearby Luton (such as Limbury/Biscot HER 115 and Leagrave Marsh HER 165).

Visible traces of the road (HER7104, 5146) have been reported less than 2km to the north of the PDA. Roman material, such as cremated bone, urns, millstones and amphorae (HER 107) were recovered *c.* 700m to the south-west.

Prior to the Domesday survey of 1086, the parish of Kensworth (meaning Caegin's farm, enclosure or estate in Old English) was held by Leofwine or Lewin Cilt who had been a thane of King Edward and who had also held both the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire portions of the Caddington estate — all of Kensworth was at this time in Hertfordshire.

By Domesday, Kensworth was held by the Canons of St Paul's Cathedral. The survey records that there was enough arable land to support ten ploughs. There were eight villeins, three bordars and three serfs. There was pasture sufficient for livestock and woodland for 100 pigs. The recorded 14 heads of households suggest the settlement had a population of around 70.

By the mid-12th century the arable landscape in Kensworth was already established. There would have been a number of small closes but generally the parish was cultivated in large open fields. While no ridge and furrow earthworks have survived in Kensworth it is likely that HER 14106 (linear cropmarks), located within the PDA, represent the below ground remains of this medieval cultivation landscape.

The manorial focus of Kensworth was at Bury Farm (HER 12711), adjoining the largely 12th-century St Mary's Church (HER 1082) at Church End (HER 16959), *c.* 2.2 km north-west of the PDA. This is also likely to be one of the earliest settlement foci, although it was probably never much larger than it is today. Kensworth is a polyfocal parish with a number of separate but interlinked settlements (Kensworth Church End, Kensworth Common, Kensworth Green and Kensworth Lynch). Kensworth Common (HER 16960) is likely to have developed as early as the 13th century when population increases saw the creation of many new settlements along the edges of common or waste land.

At Kensworth Lynch (HER 17180), *c.* 500 m to the west of the PDA, most of the surviving buildings are 17th or 18th century in origin (with the exception of the modern infilled dwellings). Nevertheless, prior to Enclosure all the buildings at the Lynch fronted onto a northward funnel-shaped extension of Kensworth Common, occasionally referred to as "Lynch Green", a circumstance that has led to the unusual settlement pattern. The earliest documentary references to settlement activity at Kensworth Lynch date to 1322 (BLARS CRT 130/4/4). However, the topographical location of the settlement (a hollow at the junction of two dry valleys within which the River Ver rises and in a landscape where water supply was otherwise something of a problem), suggests that Kensworth Lynch is likely to have been a focus for settlement from an early period.



#### **1.4 Project Objectives**

The principal purpose of the evaluation was to gather information on possible sub-surface archaeological heritage assets at the site. The archaeological trial trenching endeavoured to determine:

- the date, nature, and extent of any archaeological remains present at the site;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present at the site;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the potential of any palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.





## 2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2015).

### 2.1 Methodological Standards

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

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edition (2001)
ALGAO	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , EAA Occasional Paper No. 14 (2003)
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> (2009)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , 2nd edition (2011)
CifA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2014)
Luton Culture	<i>Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Luton Culture</i> (2010 - with minor updates July 2013)

The project archive will be deposited at Luton Museum (Entry Number LTNMG 1132; accession number applied for). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-202620) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.

### 2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place between 30th and 31st March 2015. It comprised the excavation of four trenches, each 2m wide and 20m long. The trenches were positioned to achieve an even coverage of the footprint of the proposed new hotel building and adjacent car park.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff with external specialists consulted as necessary. Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.



## 3. RESULTS

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### 3.1 Introduction

Trenches 2–4 revealed no archaeological features. Trench 1 contained deposits dating to the 19th century.

All deposits revealed within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figure 2. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [\*\*\*] and round brackets to fills or layers (\*\*\*). Detailed information is provided within Appendix 1.

#### 3.1.1 Overburden and geological deposits

Topsoil comprised dark black-grey silt, up to 0.2m thick.

Subsoil comprised mid grey-orange clayey silt, with occasional stones and was 0.15–0.25m thick.

The underlying geological deposits comprised light grey-orange clay silt with gravel patches, varying to gravel in Trench 2 and clayey chalk in the deeper section of Trench 1. The gravel was comprised largely of medium flints.

#### 3.1.2 Gravel pit

Trench 1 (Figure 2) revealed a large backfilled pit [102], up to 1.1m deep. It appeared to occupy a natural low point in the landscape, adjacent to the road. It was filled by a series of dark grey silt and chalk deposits (103–108), which contained 18th-/19th-century artefacts.

Pottery (100g) collected from fills (106) and (108) comprises five sherds of transfer-printed earthenware (fabric type P45<sup>1</sup>) and a brown-glazed earthenware jug/pitcher spout (P100). The former includes sherds from two plates with Chinese-style blue willow pattern design (c. 1790–1814), and a vessel decorated with a sheet-pattern floral motif. A piece of sand-tempered peg tile (537g) and a fairly complete stock-moulded brick (2.5kg) derived from fill (108). The brick has a shallow frog, and measures L235mm x W110mm x D70mm.

Nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey maps (Figure 3) depict several pits along the line of Lynch Hill in the vicinity of the PDA. A small sub-circular pit is marked in the south corner of the PDA, supporting the evidence revealed by the trial trenching. A similar pit to the south of the road is marked as a gravel pit, suggesting the feature revealed in Trench 1 is of similar origin. Given its location adjacent to the former turnpike, gravel extraction for road maintenance was its most likely function.

### 3.2 Heritage Statement

The location of the PDA on a significant water source (see Section 1.3) had suggested a high potential for earlier occupation. However, any settlement may have been situated outside the flood plain of the River Ver on the drier ground.

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<sup>1</sup> Fabric types identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series.



The trial trenching revealed evidence of possible post-medieval/modern gravel extraction in the south corner of the site. Such evidence is fairly common in Bedfordshire and is of no more than local archaeological significance. The remains have no potential to address the published research frameworks for the area. The results of the trial trenching suggest, therefore, that the proposed development will have no impact on significant archaeological remains.



#### 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology 2015. *The Pack Horse, Watling Street, Kensworth, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation.*

CBC, 2014 *Brief for a programme of archaeological evaluation at The Pack Horse, Watling Street, Kensworth, Bedfordshire*



## 5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

### Trench: 1

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 0.2 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 4545: Northing: 17952)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 4941: Northing: 17952)

**Reason:** Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable, dark black grey silt, occasional small-medium stones. Thickness: 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Natural	Firm, mixed pinkish white and grey clayey chalk varying to light whitish yellow chalky clay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Quarry	sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 2.m, max depth 1.1m, min length 15.m Only small proportion of feature visible within trench	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Backfill	Firm mid brown grey clay gravel Thickness <0.75m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Backfill	Friable, dark brown grey silty clay. Moderate small-medium stones. Occasional small-medium CBM fragments. Thickness < 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Backfill	Friable, light greyish white chalk fragments and silt. Thickness <0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Backfill	Friable, dark brown grey silty clay. Moderate small-medium stones. Occasional small-medium CBM fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
107	Backfill	Compact chalk and dark grey silt. Thickness <0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Backfill	Friable, dark greyish black clayey silt. Moderate small-large CBM. Thickness <0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Trench: 2

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.3 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 4930: Northing: 17984)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 4939: Northing: 17967)

**Reason:** Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable, dark black grey silt, occasional small-medium stones Thickness <0.15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Friable, mid grey orange clayey silt, occasional medium stones Thickness <0.15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm, mid orange grey, clayey gravel. Large stones mostly flint. Patches of brown orange silty clay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.3 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 4922: Northing: 18008)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 4934: Northing: 17993)

**Reason:** Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable, dark black grey silt, occasional small-medium stones Thickness <0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Friable, mid grey orange clayey silt, occasional medium stones Thickness <0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm, light grey orange silt with gravel patches mostly flint	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Natural	Friable, light brown orange, clayey silt Variation in natural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 4**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.4 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 4931: Northing: 18017)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 4950: Northing: 18009)

**Reason:** Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable, dark black grey silt, occasional small-medium stones Thickness: <0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Friable, mid grey orange clayey silt, occasional medium stones Thickness <0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Firm, light grey orange silty clay with gravel patches mostly flint	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## 6. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

### OASIS ID: albionar1-202620

#### Project details

Project name The Pack Horse, Watling Street, Kensworth

Short description of the project A pre-application enquiry was submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council for the construction of a proposed new hotel and extension at the Pack Horse public house, Watling Street, Kensworth, Bedfordshire. Albion Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation to assess the impact of the proposed scheme. The trial trenching comprised four trenches, each 2m wide and 20m long. The trenches were positioned to achieve an even coverage of the footprint of the proposed new buildings, as far as reasonably practicable. Trenches 2–4 revealed no archaeological features. Trench 1 revealed a possible gravel pit, which appeared to occupy a natural low point in the landscape, adjacent to the road. The pit was filled with a series of dark grey silt and chalk deposits, containing a moderate amount of brick and tile dating to the 18th/19th century. Given its location, gravel extraction for road maintenance was the pit's most likely function. The remains have no potential to address the published research frameworks for the area. The potential archaeological impact of the proposed development is, therefore, assessed as neutral.

Project dates Start: 30-03-2015 End: 31-03-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes PH2471 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes (CB/13/02379/PAPC - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type GRAVEL PIT Post Medieval/modern

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval/modern

Methods techniques & "Sample Trenches"

Development type New hotel and car park

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process Pre-application

#### Project location

Country England

Site location BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE KENSWORTH The



Pack Horse, Watling Street, Kensworth

Study area 3250.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 04952 17980 51.8500865348 -0.476109118477 51 51 00 N 000  
28 33 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Albion Archaeology  
Organisation

Project originator brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project originator design Albion Archaeology

Project director/manager Robert Wardill

Project supervisor Kathleen Pilkinton

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Luton Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Physical Archive notes Museum to be consulted as to whether to retain the finds

Paper Archive recipient Luton Museum

Paper Contents "Ceramics" ,"other"

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

Paper Archive notes To be deposited when museum collecting again

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title The Pack Horse, Watling Street, Kensworth, Bedfordshire - Archaeological Field Evaluation

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

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Wardill, R'

Other bibliographic details 2015/55

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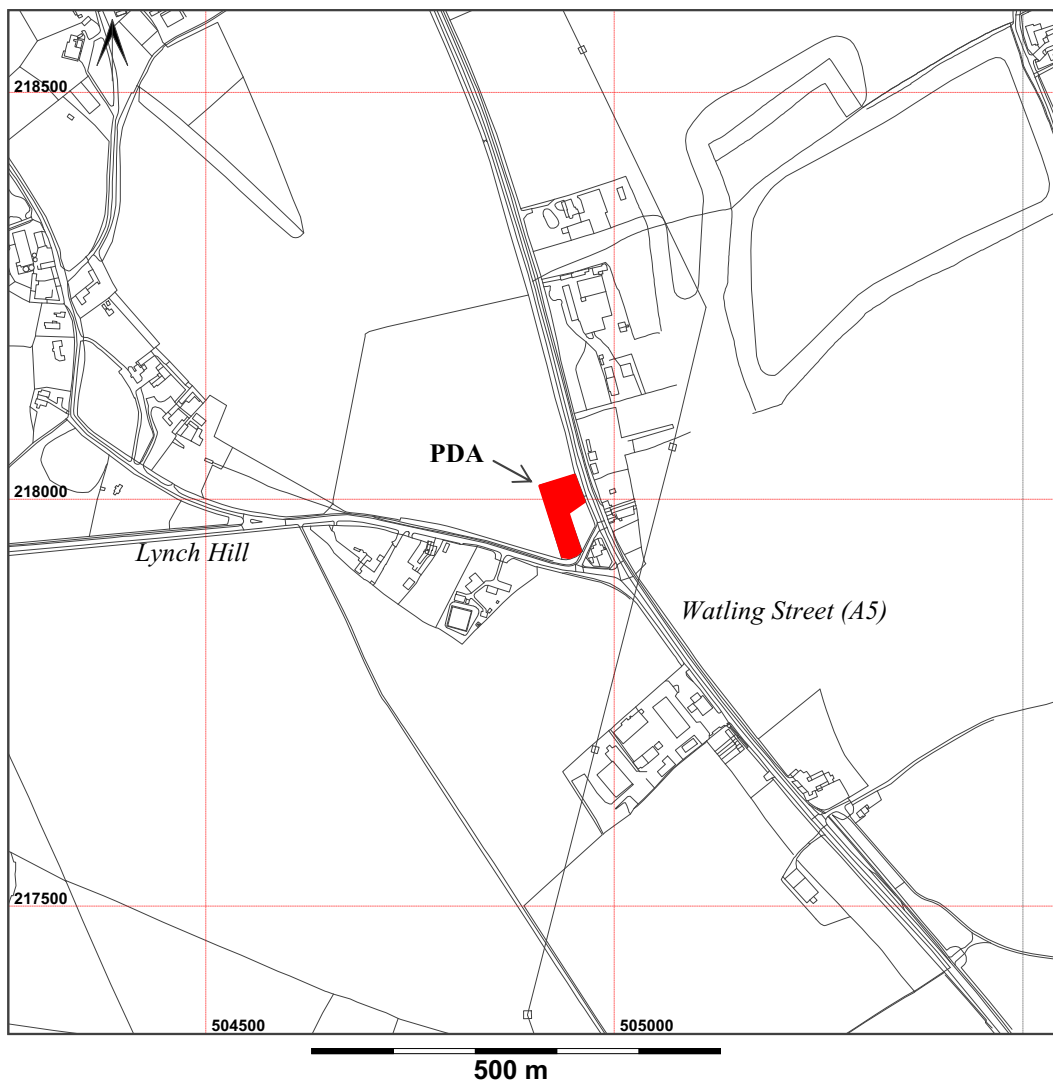
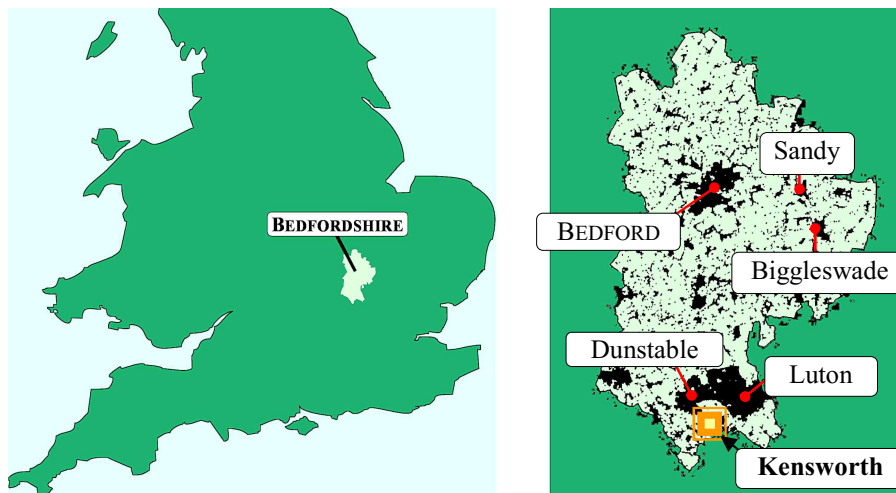
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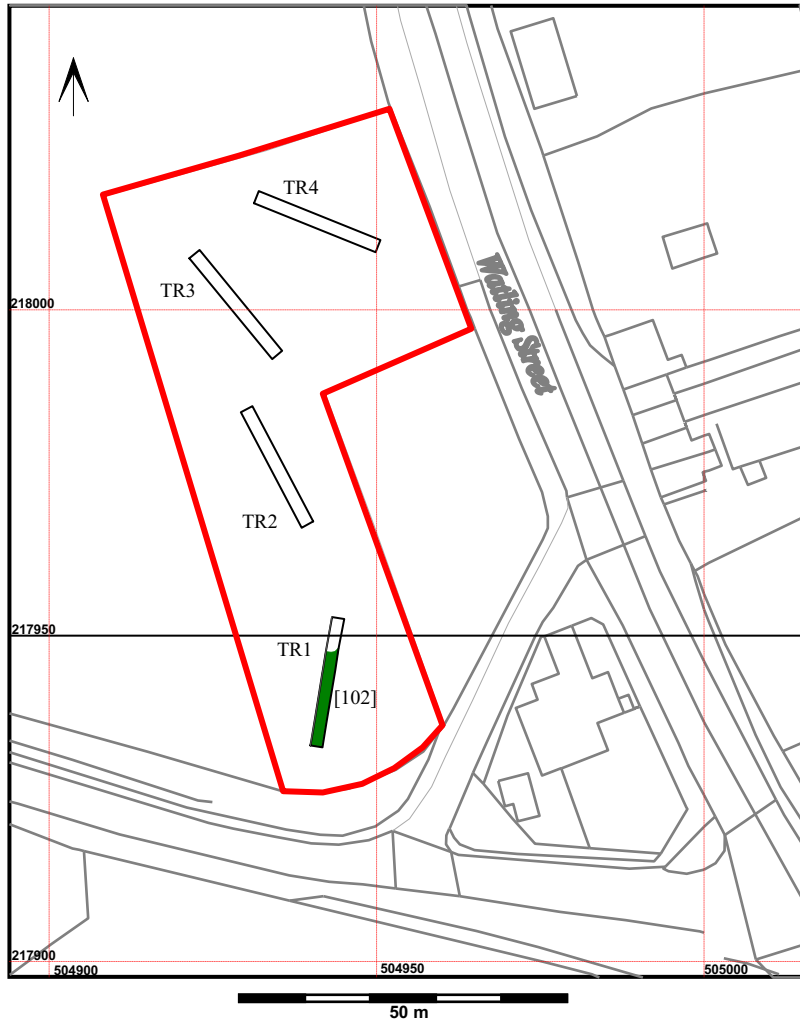
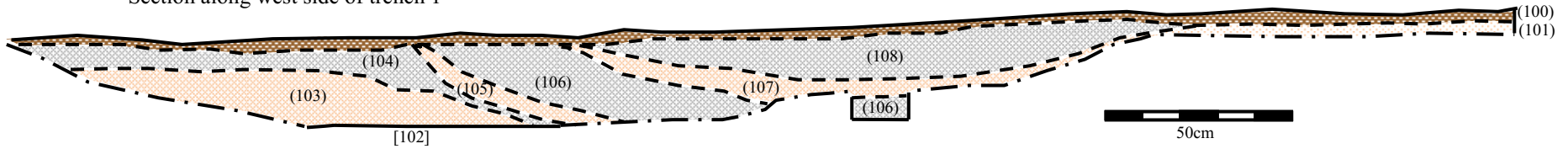


**Figure 1: Site location**

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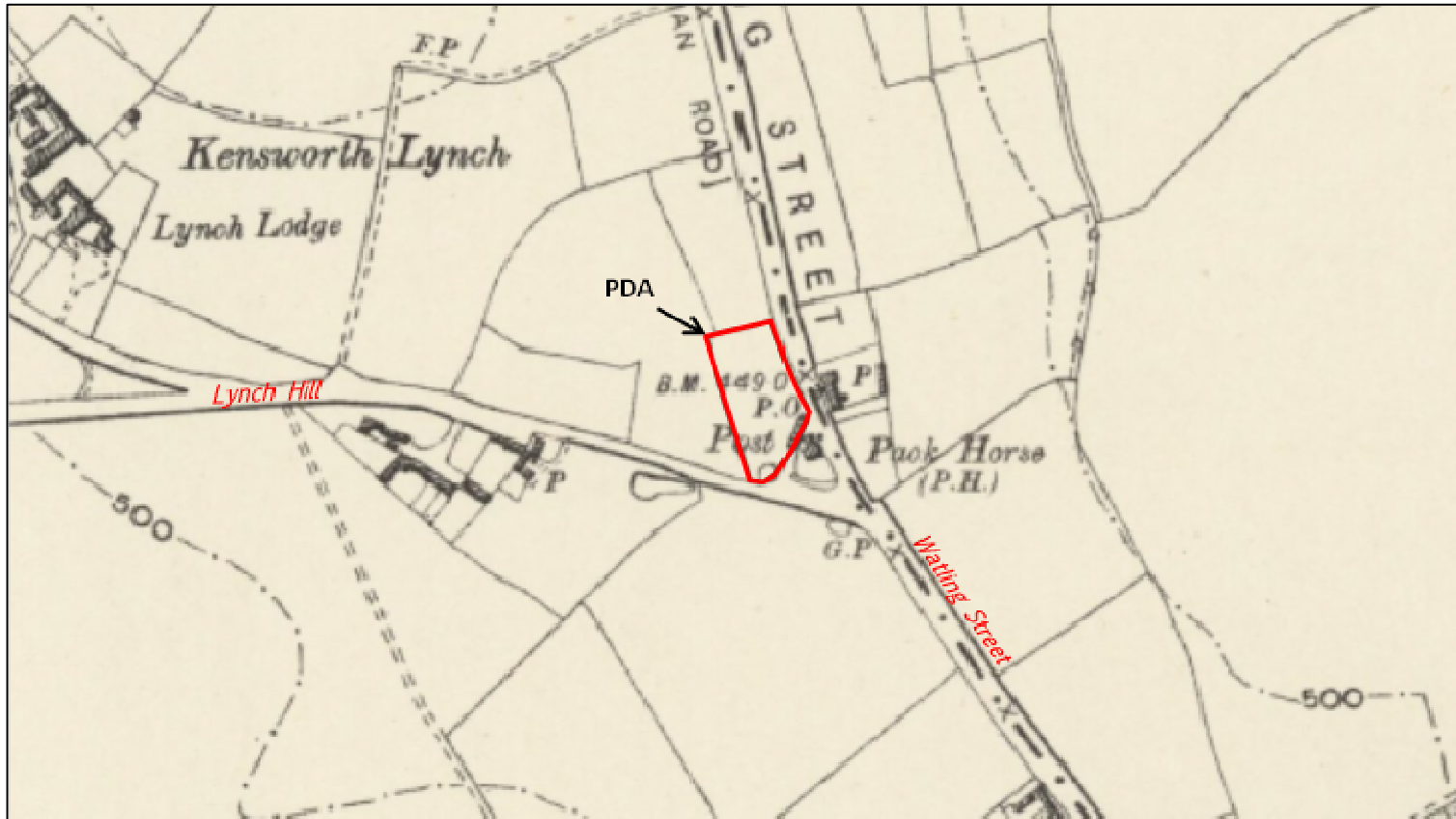


Section along west side of trench 1



Trench 1 from the north (scale 1m)

Figure 2: Results of trial trenching



**Figure 3:** 1899 Ordnance Survey map

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Bedfordshire

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