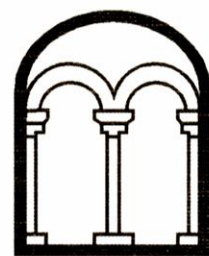


**FORMER D S SMITH SITE
REACH ROAD
BURWELL
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
PHASE 2**

Albion
archaeology



**FORMER D S SMITH SITE
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
PHASE 2**

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Preface

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

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The trial trenching fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor) Alan King (Assistant Supervisor), Krzysztof Ryniec, Marcin Synus and Heather White (Archaeological Technicians). This report was prepared by Ian Turner with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The project was overseen by Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer) and managed by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager) and Myk Flitcroft (CgMs).

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Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CHER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HET	Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council
LPA	Local Planning Authority



Non-Technical Summary

Outline planning permission (14/00046/OUM) has been granted for residential and employment development of land, formerly occupied by D S Smith factory at Reach Road, Burwell, Cambridgeshire.

One of the conditions of the permission related to archaeology and Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team issued a brief for an initial stage of archaeological field evaluation comprising trial trenching.

The initial phase of trial trenching took place in late November 2014. Twelve trenches were opened across the site, revealing a low density of archaeological features across the evaluation area in all but one of the trenches. The features comprised mainly ditches with two clusters of small pits. A small amount of pottery was recovered from three of the ditches dating to the medieval period, and particularly the early medieval period (1150-1250 AD).

Seven further trenches were excavated after the demolition of the DS Smith factory in March 2016. Similarly, this revealed a low density of ditches and one large pit. No dating material was retrieved from the ditches but, based on their alignment and proximity, they are thought to be broadly contemporary with a Saxon to medieval settlement excavated in 2002 adjacent to the DS Smith site. In particular the ditches excavated in Trench 17, close to the eastern boundary of the site, could represent a continuation of the main boundary ditch of the settlement.

Within the footprint of the demolished DS Smith factory in the centre of the site, the ditches were below a dark layer of soil which contained frequent mollusc shells. This was also observed in Phase 1 trenches and together the deposit forms a linear band of material c.80m wide, suggesting a wet, boggy area or an old channel.

The results of the trial trenching suggest that the site may have been agricultural land peripheral to the main medieval settlement excavated in Reach Road to the east. The features have potential to add to our understanding of former land-use at the periphery of a small Saxon to medieval settlement at the edge of Burwell, and more broadly to the origins and development of Burwell itself. Overall, the remains revealed by the evaluation are likely to be of local and, possibly, regional interest.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Outline planning permission (14/00046/OUM) has been granted for residential and employment development of land off Reach Road, Burwell, Cambridgeshire.

One of the conditions of the permission related to archaeology and Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) issued a brief for a programme of archaeological field evaluation (HET 2014) comprising trial trenching. The purpose of the evaluation phase is to determine the potential impact of the development proposals on archaeological remains in order to devise an appropriate mitigation strategy, if necessary.

An initial phase of trenching (Phase 1) was undertaken in late 2014 (Albion 2015) but at the time the footprint of the DS Smith factory could not be investigated as the building was still standing. Following demolition of the factory and clearance of adjacent areas Albion returned to investigate this area, together with the eastern and southern margins of the site, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2016).

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

Burwell lies *c.* 12km north-east of Cambridge and *c.* 4km north-west of Newmarket to the north of the A14. Reach Road lies to the south of Burwell and connects the B1102 Swaffham Road with the village of Reach to the north-west of Burwell (Figure 1).

The proposed development area lies on the south side of Reach Road. It comprises: the former DS Smith commercial site; two areas of rough grassland, lined with trees to the west and south; and a narrow access route from Swaffham Road in the south-east. It is bordered by modern residential properties along Swaffham Road to the south and Railway Close to the south-east, industrial units to the north and pasture and arable to the north-east and west.

Burwell lies on the edge of a chalk ridge which defines the change from the higher agricultural land to the south of the village and the lower ground to the north, which was fenland until its drainage in 1850 (Wareham and Wright 2002). The site lies on level ground at *c.* 10m OD. The underlying geology is West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation with no superficial deposits recorded. The site is centred on grid reference TL 585 657.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

A desk-based heritage assessment was compiled for the site as part of the planning application (Albion Archaeology 2014). The document reviewed known heritage assets in the vicinity of the site and a 1km-radius study area around it and assessed the potential for further assets on the site itself. Its main conclusions are summarised here.



A significant number of Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditches are scattered throughout the study area to the south of the site; the closest example lies c. 150m to the south-east.

Roman settlement evidence was recorded to the north of Reach Road. This consisted of large quantities of Roman pottery, box tiles and roof tiles revealed during deep ploughing of the field opposite the site (HER 04663). A wide scatter of Roman pottery and occupation debris was also recorded stretching underneath Burwell Castle, and recently a decorated lead vat was discovered by a metal detectorist (HER 06807).

A group of undated linear and square enclosure cropmarks lie between the site and the castle (MCB 16981) and an evaluation to the north-east of the site has revealed Iron Age and Roman settlement and burial evidence (MCB 17708).

Burwell is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a large manor in the hundred of Staploe with 63.5 households, land for 16 ploughlands and two mills. A stray find of a late Saxon coin was found in Spring Close, Burwell (CB 14760) and this area is suggested as a place for the late Saxon settlement. Earthworks suggesting the existence of enclosures and medieval houses lie to the north and east of the medieval castle to the south of Spring Close (HER 01775). Part of the settlement was obliterated by the construction of the castle in the 12th century (Wareham and Wright 2002).

The Devil's Dyke (HER 10550), a post-Roman bank and ditch of possible defensive purposes, lies at the south-west edge of the study area. It is a scheduled monument.

Burwell Castle (HER 01775) is a scheduled monument (NHLE 1015596). The castle lies at the southern edge of the village to the west of St Mary's Church and north of Reach Road, c. 300m north of the site. It is a motte and bailey-type castle, believed to have been constructed by King Stephen's forces in the mid 12th century.

Isolated finds of Bronze Age to post-medieval date, including a small Bronze Age metalwork hoard, are scattered throughout the study area.

Burwell is an elongated settlement with a medieval focus around the castle and at least two hamlets that grew into a combined village. Several listed buildings from the 16th to the 19th century line the High Street and The Causeway, the central spine of the village. Throughout the 19th century, with the increased drainage of the fens and availability of farmland, further farm buildings were added and the village expanded westwards

The railway line (HER 07633) was opened in 1884 and provided good transport links for the residents and industries in Burwell. The track of the railway crossed the southern part of the site and the station building was situated just to its south-east. Part of the platform (and the access to it) extended into the site. The station has now been replaced by a modern housing development.



Subsequent to the preparation of the heritage assessment, it was established that an archaeological excavation was conducted in 2002 in a plot of land to the east of the site. At the time of writing, this excavation is not listed in the HER and it is understood that no report has been prepared. However, a plan was obtained from the excavators (Figure 2) and reference is made to the findings of 11th- to 15th-century settlement activity, including the remains of a later medieval limekiln and a lode channel, in a later publication (Muldowney 2007).

The first phase of trial trenching of the DS Smith site in 2014 revealed a low density of features in the form of pits and ditches with a small amount of early medieval pottery (Albion 2015). This suggest that the site may have been agricultural land adjacent to the main focus of settlement excavated to the east.

1.4 Project Objectives

Archaeological evidence from the surrounding area and the site itself indicated that there was the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the development site.

The objective of this phase of the evaluation was to provide further information on any archaeological remains present and to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated, if necessary.

Information on the following was required:

- The location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present, in parts of the site not previously characterised fully.
- Determining the amount of truncation that may affect any remains, and whether palaeosols or 'B' horizons are present.

The report would also examine the significance of the results with reference to regional research frameworks, which for this area are *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).



2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching took place between 16th and 21st March 2016. Conditions were dry, cold and generally overcast or sunny. Seven trenches were opened, numbered from 13-19 to continue the sequence from the initial phase of trenching (Figure 2). Each trench was 20m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were opened by a tracked excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first.

Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 1300 for Trench 13, and 1400 for Trench 14 etc. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO (east)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i>
• Archaeological Archives Forum	<i>Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2nd ed. 2011)
• Cambs. County Council	<i>Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Cambridgeshire</i> (CCC 14/05/14).
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> (2009)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011)
• CfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i>

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Store under event number ECB4280.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number albionar1-208688.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

For the following discussion the investigation area has been split into three components comprising the area of the former building (Trenches 13 - 16), the eastern margin (Trench 17), and the southern area of the site (Trenches 18 and 19). Finds were few, limiting the potential to break the discussion down chronologically.

Modern finds in the form of brick crumbs and wood splinters were retrieved from samples taken from features located in the footprint of the demolished factory building. These are thought to be intrusive from the construction and demolition of the factory. Where present the finds are discussed in the main body of the text but they are also catalogued in Appendix 6.1.

Figure 2 gives an overview of the evaluation results from both phases of investigation, and Figure 3 provides details of all Phase 2 trenches which contained archaeological features. Figures 5-12 contain selected images. Detailed contextual information for features and deposits is contained in Appendix 6.3.

3.2 Area of the former building

The four trenches in this area (Trenches 13 - 16) were located in the footprint of the demolished DS Smith factory. As the site has a slight fall in OD height from south to north on the site the factory had been terraced into the ground in the south and removal of its foundations had left a marked cavity up to 1m deep.

Trenches 13-16 contained a variety of archaeological features comprising seven ditches, a shallow pit and a dark layer. A disparate group of predominantly modern artefacts derived mainly from the sieved residues of samples taken from these features. Following a site meeting with the HET and Consultant, it was agreed to fully excavate the exposed features in this area.

3.2.1 Overburden and geological strata

The overburden in these trenches was a layer of modern brick demolition debris mixed with mid-brown-grey clay silt. A series of brick-filled linear intrusions were revealed, and are interpreted as wheel/track ruts associated with the demolition process. No subsoil or topsoil deposits were present. The undisturbed geological deposit comprised yellow-white chalky clay.

3.2.2 Layer

Beneath the spread of brick demolition layer, a dark layer was revealed in Trenches 14, 15 and 16. In most cases the layer overlay the ditches, with the exception of ditch [1603], which appeared to cut it (Figure 4: Sections 5, 6 and 10, Figures 6 and 7). However, the layer was so similar in character to the ditch fills that the relationship was difficult to ascertain. It was carefully removed by machine to reveal the ditches within the natural chalky clay.



The layer, recorded as (1401), (1501) and (1601), comprised mid grey clay silt with frequent mollusc fragment inclusions and varied in surviving thickness from 0.08m to 0.30m. It contained no artefacts. Sample <2>, taken from (1501), contained abundant snails, though small quantities of modern intrusive material including brick fragments and flecks of coal were also present.

The presence of frequent mollusc shell fragments suggests that the deposit was formed within wet boggy ground. It is noted that an area of wet boggy ground with a small stream exists in the modern landscape immediately south west of the evaluation area.

The continuation of this deposit was revealed in Trenches 11 and 12 of the previous phase of trial trenching (Albion 2015). This suggests that the deposit is a broadly linear band of material formed within a shallow depression that is c. 80m wide, crossing the centre of the DA on a north-east to south-west alignment.

The layer is judged to be broadly contemporary with the ditches and thus accumulated during the medieval period, with the modern material being later intrusive artefacts probably from the recent demolition.

3.2.3 Ditches

The ditches were on two perpendicular alignments with the majority aligned north-east to south-west - [1306], [1403], [1505], [1603], [1605], [1607], [1612] and two aligned north-west to south-east [1302/1304] and [1507]. In section the ditches had concave profiles which varied from 0.15m to 1.15m wide and 0.05m to 0.28m deep, being truncated by modern disturbance associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of the factory building (Figure 3, Figure 4: Sections 3-10, Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8).

The ditches were filled with similar deposits of dark-grey clay silt with frequent small mollusc fragments (Figures 6, 7 and 8). These features were well defined against the light coloured geological strata.

Forty-two undiagnostic animal bone fragments (67g) were collected from [1505], [1507] and [1605]. All are highly eroded and survive in poor condition, with a mean fragment weight of only 2g. Ditch [1607] contained a (modern?) flat-headed iron nail. Modern brick crumbs (16g) and wood splinters (3g) derived from the sieved residues of samples taken from [1505], [1507], [1603], [1605] and [1607]. An undatable and highly abraded sand-tempered pottery sherd (4g) was collected from ditch [1505].

The ditches appear to define a regular system of land divisions, possibly also having a secondary drainage function in this area. The lack of finds suggests that this area was some distance from the focus of human activity. Although very poorly dated, these ditches could be associated with the early medieval date based on their similar alignments to the ditches revealed during the previous stage of evaluation, and the excavation of an early medieval site in 2002 immediately to the east of current investigation area.



3.2.4 Pit

A large shallow pit [1503] was identified in the central part of Trench 15 (Figure 3, Figure 4: Section 6, Figure 7). It truncated ditch [1507] and continued beyond the edge of the trench to the west. The pit had concave sides and a flat base, measured 2.87m long, 0.16m deep and was filled with dark-grey clay silt (1504) containing moderate mollusc fragments. The sieved residues of two samples taken from the feature contained tiny quantities of animal bone (1g), modern brick crumbs (6g), mortar (3g), and wood splinters (1g).

The function of the pit is uncertain, though it appears to have been dug into a marginal area at the edge of a land parcel, truncating an infilled boundary ditch.

3.3 Eastern margin of the site

Trench 17 was situated in an area at the eastern edge of site, in the former yard of the DS Smith commercial site, and close to the adjacent excavations undertaken in 2002.

3.3.1 Overburden and geological strata

This area had been landscaped in preparation for construction of the DS Smith commercial site with a layer of turf and topsoil (1700) over make-up layers (1701) and (1702), which in turn, overlay a buried mid-grey clay silt subsoil (1703) (Figure 4: Section 11). A 90 litre subsoil sample was sieved for artefacts, but none were present. The undisturbed geological deposit in Trench 17 was yellow-white chalky clay (1704).

3.3.2 Modern Features

Three broadly east-west aligned ditches [1709], [1716] and [1720] were present within Trench 17. The ditches contained modern brick, concrete, coal and bottle glass fragments and were features of recent date. A deep post hole [1712] was identified in the baulk section towards the south-east corner of Trench 17. The feature also contained coal and bottle glass, and was modern in date.

3.3.3 Ditches

Four north-east to south-west aligned ditches [1705], [1707], [1714] and [1722], were revealed towards the south-eastern end of Trench 17 (Figure 3, Figure 4: Sections 11 and 12, and Figures 9 and 10).

The ditches ranged from 0.60m to 2.90m wide and 0.12m to 0.80m deep with profiles varying from symmetric with a flat base to convex sides with a concave base. They contained similar deposits of light-grey clay silt and no dateable artefacts. The largest ditch [1705] contained two abraded pieces of animal limb bone (25g). Four tiny coal fragments (1g) derived from ditch [1707].

The ditches are thought to be boundary ditches associated with the early medieval activity based on their similar alignment to the ditches revealed during the excavation of 2002 to the immediate north-east of Trench 17, which



contained phases relating to middle Saxon and early medieval settlement. The ditches would appear to be at the margins of the settlement, based on the small quantity of finds being incorporated into their fills. These ditches have not suffered the degree of truncation associated with the ditches further west within the area of the former building.

3.3.4 Tree throw

Undated feature [1718] is a tree throw, based on its relatively sterile fill and irregular form.

3.4 Southern area of the site

Trenches 18 and 19 were situated in an area of open ground towards the south-eastern limit of the DA, which appeared to have been un-developed during its use as part of the former DS Smith commercial site. (Figure 2). Trench 18 contained no features (Figure 11).

3.4.1 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

The c. 0.26m thick dark brown grey clay silt topsoil overlay a 0.22m to 0.38m thick light grey clay silt subsoil. Both trenches had 90 litres of the topsoil and subsoil sieved from either end of each trench. Sieved topsoil (1800) at the south-east end of Trench 18 yielded an undiagnostic sand-tempered pottery sherd (9g), possibly medieval in date. Sieved topsoil (1900) and subsoil (1901) at the south-east end of Trench 19 respectively contained a sherd of 17th century glazed red earthenware (5g) and a probable early medieval oxidised coarse sandy sherd (9g).

The presence of the pottery is interpreted as the probable result of later period plough disturbance and artefact ‘shift’ from higher ground to lower ground, during the post-medieval and modern periods.

The undisturbed geological deposit in both trenches was yellow-white chalky clay.

3.4.2 Ditch

A single ditch, excavated in two segments [1903] and [1905], on a north - south alignment was located towards the south of the area in Trench 19 (Figure 3, Figure 4: Section 13, Figure 12). The ditch terminated within the trench. It had a concave profile, measured 0.75m wide, 0.23m deep and contained mid brown grey chalky clay silt. No artefacts were recovered. The feature is thought to be a peripheral field boundary, contemporary with the settlement to the north-east revealed in the 2002 investigation, due to its similar ditch alignment.

3.4.3 Tree throw

Undated feature [1907] is a tree-throw, based on its relatively sterile fill and irregular form.



4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

The Phase 2 evaluation of the former D S Smith site has revealed ditches and pits which are undated but, based on their alignment and proximity, could be associated with the medieval settlement previously excavated during an archaeological investigation in 2002 to the east of the site (Figure 2, HET 2014, Muldowney 2007). It has also provided information similar to and supplementing the evidence recorded during Phase 1 of the evaluation (Albion 2015).

On the eastern margin of the site, within Trench 17, four ditches were present. None of the ditches contained any dateable artefacts. However their alignment broadly corresponds with the alignment of the large settlement boundary ditch identified in 2002 and they could therefore represent a continuation of that ditch.

Seven ditches, a pit and a dark coloured layer were present towards the centre of the evaluation within the area of the former D S Smith building. The features contained frequent mollusc shell fragments but no dateable artefacts. The purpose of the ditches is not known. However the character of the ditch deposits suggests that they existed in a wet, boggy area and the ditches may have been excavated for drainage purposes so that the area could be utilised, perhaps for crop production. The ditches may thus have acted as both drainage and field system ditches, probably at a slight distance from settlement, which may explain the lack of pottery.

In addition to Trenches 14, 15 and 16, the dark coloured layer was also present in Trenches 11 and 12 of the previous phase of trial trenching (Albion 2015). This suggests that the deposit is a broadly linear band of material formed within a shallow depression that is c. 80m wide, crossing the centre of the DA on a north-east to south-west alignment.

Within the southern area of the DA, a single ditch was present within Trench 19. Based on its alignment, the feature is thought to be a peripheral field boundary, possibly also contemporary with the settlement to the north-east.

4.2 Statement of Significance

The evaluation has revealed ditches and pits of early medieval and unknown, but possibly contemporary, date. It is likely that the features represent agricultural boundary and drainage ditches and features peripheral to, but associated with the early medieval settlement excavated immediately to the east of the site.

Some truncation of features by the previous commercial development of the site has taken place but generally the archaeological features are in good condition and survive to a sufficient depth to allow artefact retrieval and an assessment of form and function.



As such, the development area has some potential to add to our understanding of former land-use on the periphery of this large fen-edge village. It could also add to several research objectives given in the regional research framework for the Eastern Counties (Medlycott 2011). This observes that small medieval hamlets are being discovered all the time and that targeted work in Cambridgeshire has confirmed a late Saxon origin for many existing settlements (Medlycott 2011, 70). More data from sites like the early medieval settlement and adjacent land use at Reach Road will add to our understanding of the way medieval places appear, grow, shift and disappear.

Overall, the medieval remains revealed by the evaluation are likely to be of low, local and possibly moderate, regional significance.



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¹ CAM ARC is Cambridgeshire Archaeology, the former Cambridgeshire County Council archaeological field unit, now Oxford Archaeology East. Report is available on OASIS.



6. APPENDICES

6.1 Artefacts Summary

By Jackie Wells

Finds were recovered from eleven deposits across five trenches (*Table 1*). Most derived from the sieved residues of eight environmental samples and are modern. They survive in poor, fragmented condition, and cannot be used to suggest a reliable date for the features in which they occurred. Sieved topsoil at the south-east end of Trench 18 yielded an undiagnostic sand-tempered pottery sherd (9g), possibly medieval in date. Sieved topsoil and subsoil at the south-east end of Trench 19 respectively contained a sherd of 17th century glazed red earthenware (5g) and a probable early medieval oxidised coarse sandy sherd (9g). Animal bone (93g) comprises eroded limb bones and a tooth fragment, none of which can be identified to species.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date range	Finds Summary
15	1503	Pit	1504	Modern	<2> Brick crumbs (4g); animal bone (1g) <6> Brick crumbs (2g); mortar (3g); wood splinters (1g)
	1505	Ditch	1506	Modern	Pottery (4g); animal bone (65g) <7> Brick crumbs (9g); wood splinters (1g)
	1507	Ditch	1508	Modern	<8> Brick crumbs (2g); wood splinters (2g); animal bone (1g)
16	1603	Ditch	1604	Modern	<5> Brick crumbs (3g)
	1605	Ditch	1606	Modern	<9> Brick crumbs (1g); animal bone (1g)
	1607	Ditch	1611	Modern	<10> Brick crumbs (1g); iron nail
17	1705	Ditch	1706	Undated	Animal bone (25g)
	1707	Ditch	1708	Undated	<3> Coal (1g)
18	1800	Topsoil (sieved)	-	Undated	Pottery (9g)
19	1900	Topsoil (sieved)	-	Post-medieval	Pottery (5g)
	1901	Subsoil (sieved)	-	Medieval?	Pottery (9g)

Table 1: Finds summary by trench and feature

6.2 Ecofacts Summary

By Gary Edmondson

A total of 10 samples was taken, with most of the samples being taken from ditch fills. Within the area of the former building (See 6.2.1 below) feature fills were excavated and sampled 100% to maximise finds retrieval.

An initial 10 litres of each sample were processed within the laboratory at Albion Archaeology. A preliminary discussion of the contents of the flots and residue, as assessed by eye, is given below. No specialist assessment has yet taken place due to time constraints. However, Alan Pipe at Museum of London Archaeology has been approached to assess the mollusc remains.

6.2.1 Area of Former Building (Trenches 13 – 16)

Sample <2>, taken from dark coloured layer (1501), contained abundant snails, though small quantities of modern intrusive material including brick fragments and flecks of coal were present. The deposit also contained occasional heat-cracked stone.



Sample <6>, taken from pit [1503], contained abundant snail shells including fragments, but is more mixed than most samples from the ditches, with fragments of mineralised wood. As with the other samples from this area, there is a variety of intrusive material including, brick and mortar fragments, coal and modern wood splinters.

The ditch fills generally contained abundant snails of several types as well as small quantities of modern intrusive material. Charcoal was generally absent though sample <8> from ditch [1507] contains a small assemblage of charred wood slivers. Very occasional charred grain was observed in sample <7> from the fill of ditch [1505]. Finds were rare from these samples with a possible flint from the fill of ditch [1603] – sample <5> and a heat-cracked stone from the fill of ditch [1605] – sample <9>.

Apart from the snails, the small quantities of charcoal and charred grain have no analytical potential; with the possibility that these are intrusive.

6.2.2 Eastern Margin (Trench 17)

Samples <3> and <4> contained significant quantities of snails, as well as small amounts of modern intrusive materials comprising small fragments of coal. A very small quantity of abraded charcoal was also present. Only the snails have analytical potential from these deposits

6.2.3 Southern Area (Trenches 18 and 19)

No samples were taken from features in those trenches.

6.3 Trench Summary

(see next page)



Trench: 13

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.66 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58572; Northing: 65732)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58577; Northing: 65712)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	Demolition layer	Max. 0.75m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1301	Natural	Firm mid yellow white chalky clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1302	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.35m Max. depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1303	Ditch	Firm mid grey clay Max. depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1304	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m Max. depth 0.10m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1305	Ditch	Firm mid grey clay Max thick 0.10m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1306	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m Max. 0.17m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1307	Ditch	Firm mid grey clay Max. thick 0.17m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1309	Wheel ruts	Linear dimensions: max breadth 1.4m Unexcavated modern wheel ruts associated with recent demolition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1308	Fill	Firm mid grey clay moderate medium mortar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 14

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 108.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.42 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58563; Northing: 65693)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58572; Northing: 65675)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1400	Demolition layer	Loose mid orange brown sandy gravel With frequent large modern brick fragments associated with recent demolition activity. C. 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1401	Layer	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small stones With frequent small mollusc shell fragment inclusions. 0.08m to 0.17m thick. Also recorded as (1405).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1402	Natural	Plastic light yellow white chalky clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1403	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.66m, min depth 0.21m Cut of a ditch terminal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1404	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1405	Layer	Firm dark brown black clay silt Same as layer (1401).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 15

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.24 m. Max: 0.76 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58600: Northing: 65712)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58606: Northing: 65693)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1500	Demolition layer	Loose mid orange brown gravel With frequent large modern brick fragments associated with recent demolition activity. c. 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1501	Layer	Firm mid grey clay silt With frequent small mollusc shell fragment inclusions. 0.23m to 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1502	Natural	Plastic light yellow white chalky clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1503	Pit	Sub-oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.87m, min depth 0.16m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1504	Fill	Friable dark grey clay silt With moderate small mollusc shell fragment inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1505	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.06m, min depth 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1506	Fill	Friable mid grey clay With moderate small mollusc shell fragment inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1507	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.64m, min depth 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1508	Fill	Friable mid grey clay silt With moderate small mollusc shell fragment inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 16

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58585: Northing: 65674)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58594: Northing: 65656)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1600	Demolition layer	Loose mid orange brown gravel With frequent large modern brick fragments associated with recent demolition activity. c. 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1601	Layer	Friable mid brown grey clay silt With frequent small mollusc shell fragment inclusions. 0.08m to 0.17m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1602	Natural	Plastic light yellow white chalky clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1603	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.46m, min depth 0.26m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1604	Fill	Firm dark brown black silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1605	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1606	Fill	Firm dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1607	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.22m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1608	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1609	Fill	Firm dark brown black clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1610	Fill	Firm light yellow grey chalky clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1611	Fill	Firm dark brown black clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1612	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.15m, min depth 0.04m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1613	Fill	Firm dark brown black clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 17

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 1.05 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58660: Northing: 65697)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58670: Northing: 65679)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1700	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones With occasional large modern brick fragments. - a modern landscaping layer from the D S Smith factory use of site. C. 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1701	Levelling layer	Loose light grey orange sandy silt With frequent large modern brick fragments. Pre-recent demolition - this layer is from the D S Smith factory use of site. C. 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1702	Levelling layer	Friable dark grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal Layer contained occasional modern grey roof slate and coal fragments. C. 0.37m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1703	Subsoil	Friable mid grey clay silt 0.23m to 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1704	Natural	Plastic light yellow white chalky clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1705	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 2.9m, min depth 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1706	Main fill	Friable light grey clay silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1724	Primary fill	Plastic light grey yellow chalky clay With small patches of light grey clay silt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1707	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: convex base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.15m, min depth 0.46m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1708	Fill	Friable light grey clay silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1709	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.5m Cut of a modern period ditch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1710	Lower fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal With occasional medium coal and coke fragments. A modern period ditch deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1711	Upper fill	Loose dark grey black silt With moderate charcoal fragments + occasional fragments of coal, grey roof silt and rusty iron artefacts. A modern period ditch deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1712	Posthole	sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, min depth 0.85m A deep modern post hole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1713	Fill	Loose mid brown grey clay silt Contained a complete modern bottle.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1714	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.12m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1715	Fill	Friable light brown grey clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1716	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.05m, min depth 0.35m Cut of a modern period ditch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1717	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small charcoal With large concrete fragments + bottle glass inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1718	Treethrow	Irregular sides: asymmetrical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1m, min depth 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1719	Fill	Friable light yellow white chalky clay With patches of mid grey clay silt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1720	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.35m, min depth 0.11m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1721	Fill	Friable mid grey clay silt With lenses of dark silt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1722	Ditch	Linear NE-SW Ditch edge visible at SE end of Trench. Not excavated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 17

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 1.05 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58660: Northing: 65697)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58670: Northing: 65679)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1723	Fill	Friable light grey clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 18

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.62 m. Max: 0.63 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58612: Northing: 65606)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58624: Northing: 65590)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1800	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones c. 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1801	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones A topsoil deposit, slightly different in colour from upper part of topsoil. Found in this Trench only. C. 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1802	Subsoil	Friable light brown grey clay silt c. 0.20m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1803	Natural	Plastic light yellow white chalky clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 19

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58713; Northing: 65625)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 58700; Northing: 65611)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1900	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt C. 0.28m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1901	Subsoil	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones C. 0.26m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1902	Natural	Hard light white chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1903	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: asymmetrical base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.75m, min depth 0.23m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1904	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1905	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.43m, min depth 0.12m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1906	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1907	Treethrow	Irregular sides: asymmetrical base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.57m, min depth 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1908	Fill	Firm light brown grey clay silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



6.4 OASIS Form

OASIS ID: albionar1-208688

Project details

Project name	Land off Reach Road, Burwell - Evaluation
Short description of the project	Seven evaluation trenches to complement trenches excavated in 2014 evaluation (OASIS id albionar1-192201) after demolition of DS Smith factory building. Trenches revealed ditches and one pit. No artefacts were recovered from any of the features. The similarity of alignment of some of the ditches suggests that they were part of a field system associated with the medieval settlement site excavated to the east of the evaluation site in 2002. A dark brown layer with frequent mollusc fragments in the centre of the site suggests a wet and boggy area that was subject to drainage.
Project dates	Start: 16-03-2016 End: 21-03-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	RR2486 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain PIT Uncertain DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	POT Modern POT Medieval POT Post Medieval MOLLUSCA REMAINS Early Medieval ANIMAL BONE Uncertain

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE BURWELL Land off Reach Road, Burwell - Evaluation
Site coordinates	TL 5858 6570 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill
Project supervisor	Ian Turner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer



Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	'Cambridgeshire County Store'
Physical Archive ID	ECB4280
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB4280
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	'Cambridgeshire County Store'
Paper Archive ID	ECB4280
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Microfilm", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Former DS Smith Site, Reach Road, Burwell, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Field Evaluation Phase 2
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Turner, I., Meckseper C., Wells, J.
Other bibliographic details	Report no: 2016/65
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Description	Ring bound report
Entered by	Christiane Meckseper (chmeckseper@gmail.com)
Entered on	5 April 2016

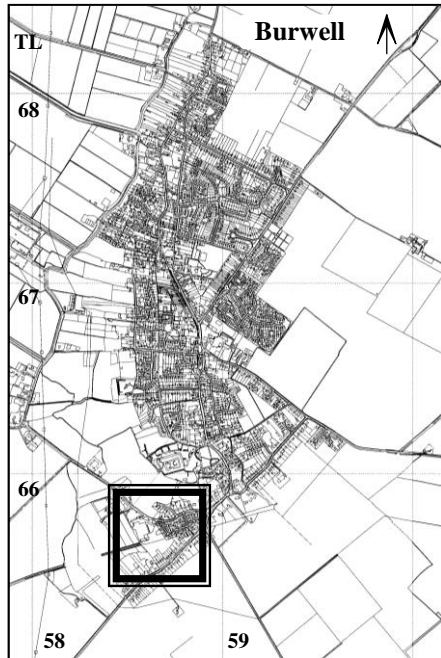
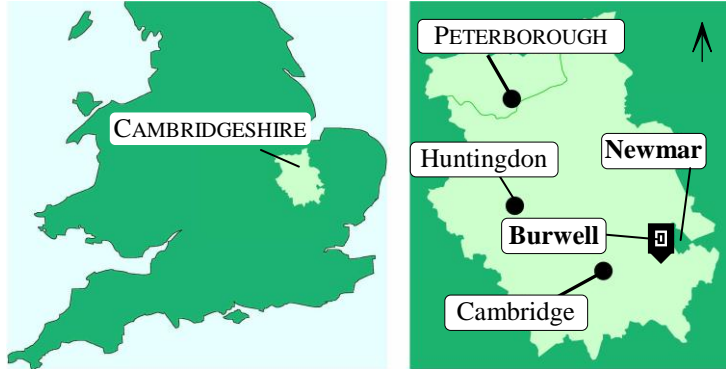
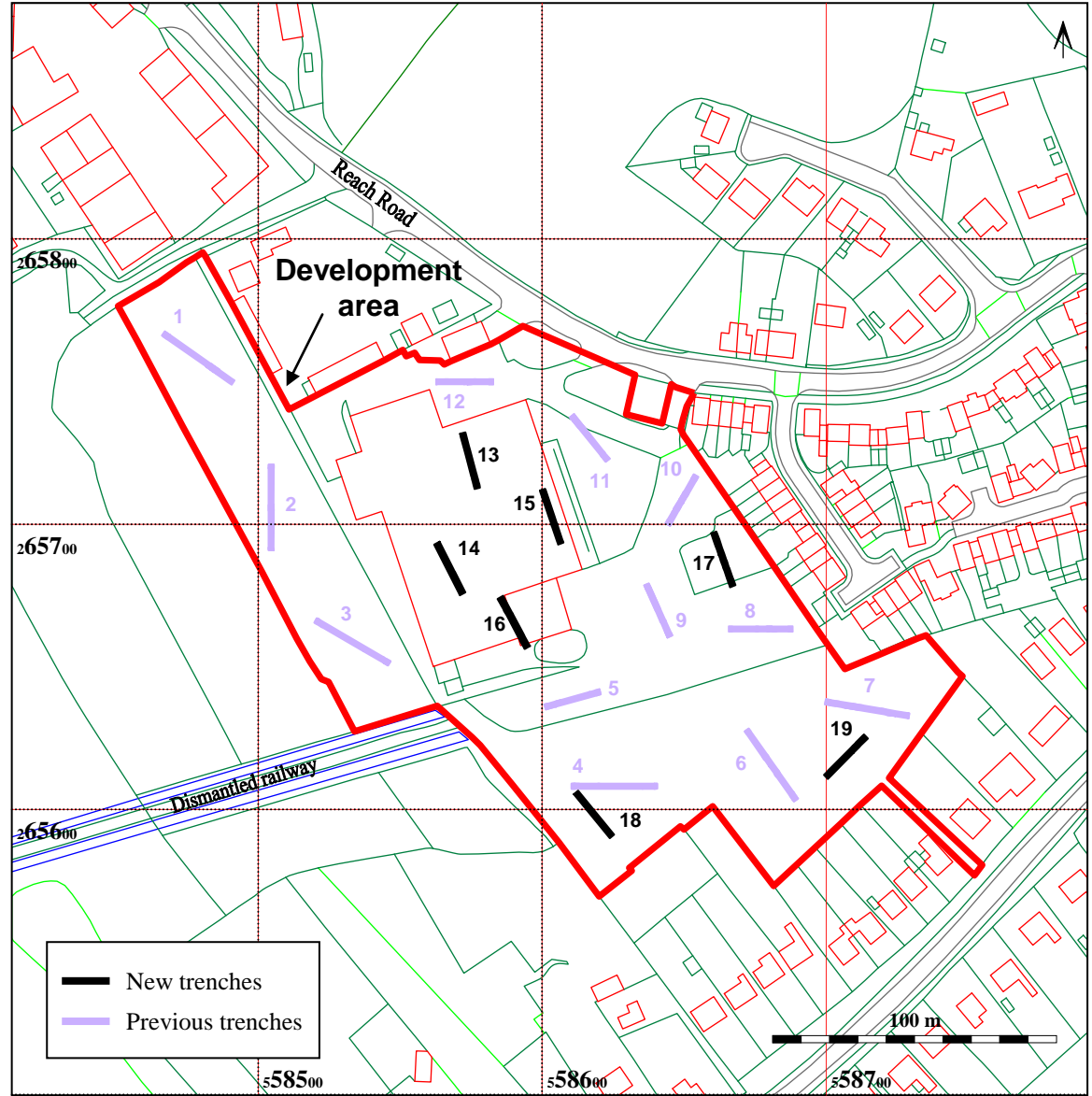


Figure 1: Site location

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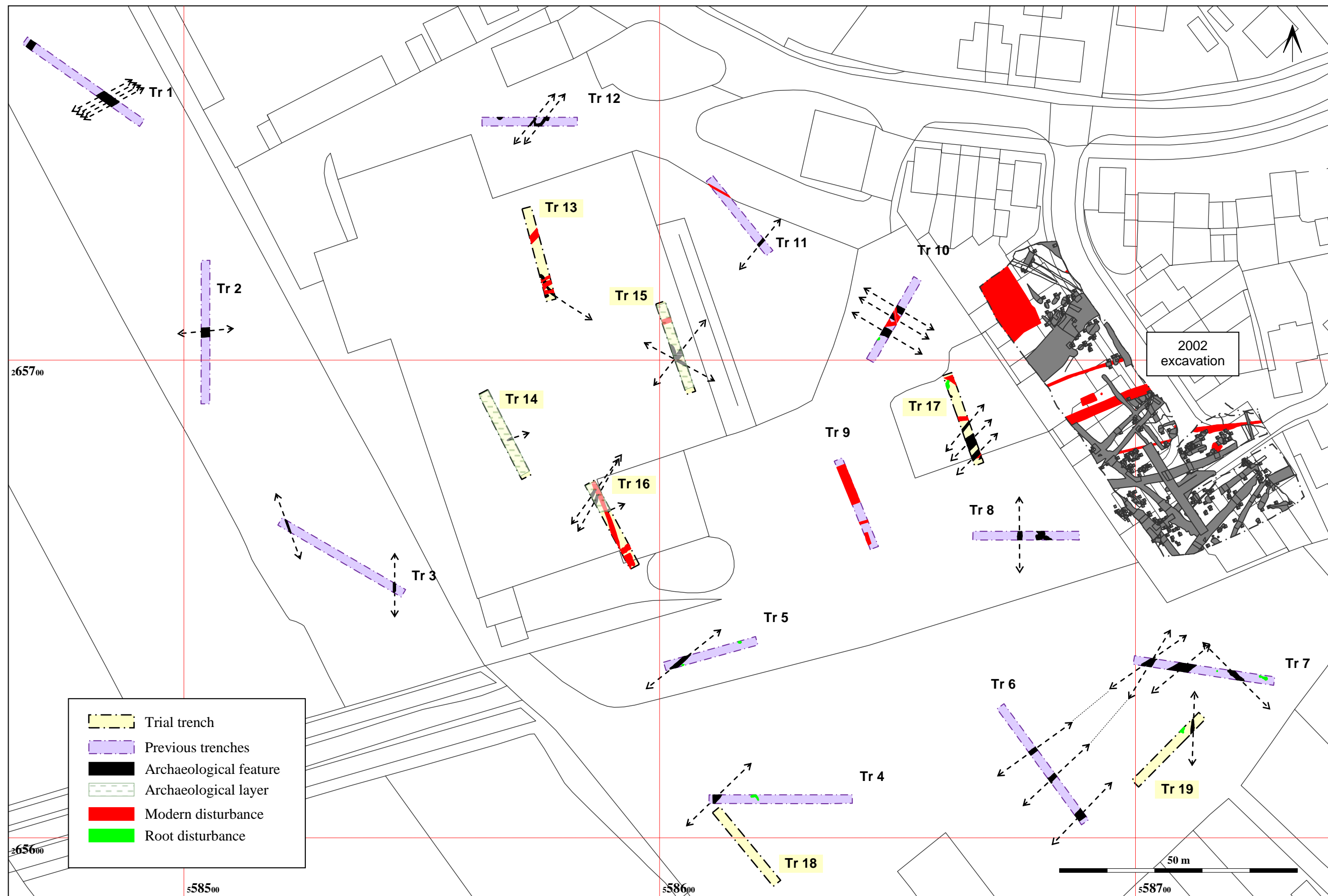
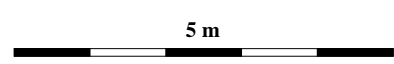
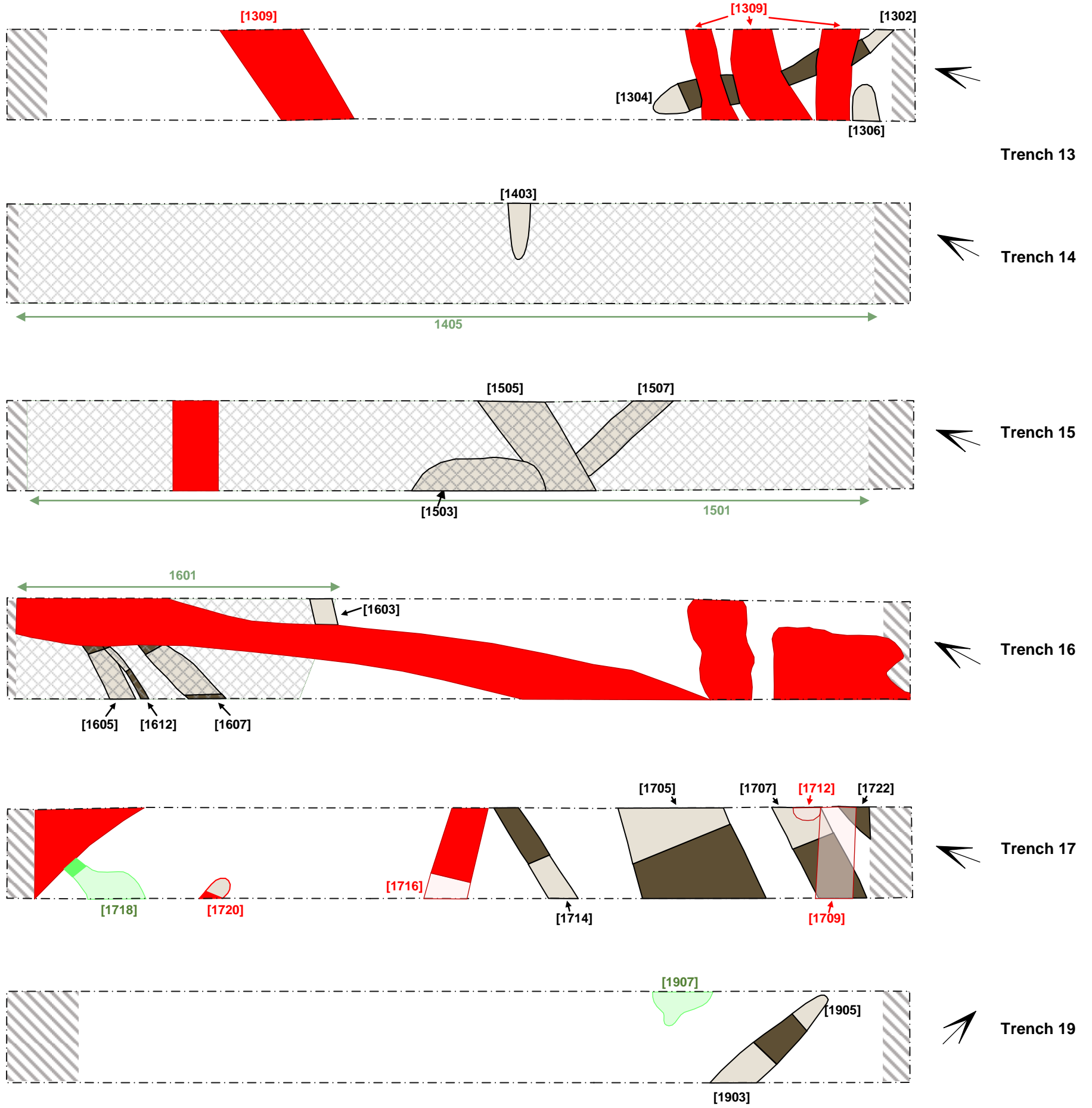


Figure 2: All features plan

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- Trial trench
- Sloping end of trench
- Modern disturbance
- Modern disturbance – excavated/removed
- Archaeological features
- Archaeological features – excavated
- Archaeological layer – removed
- Root disturbance
- Root disturbance – excavated

Figure 3: Detailed trench plans

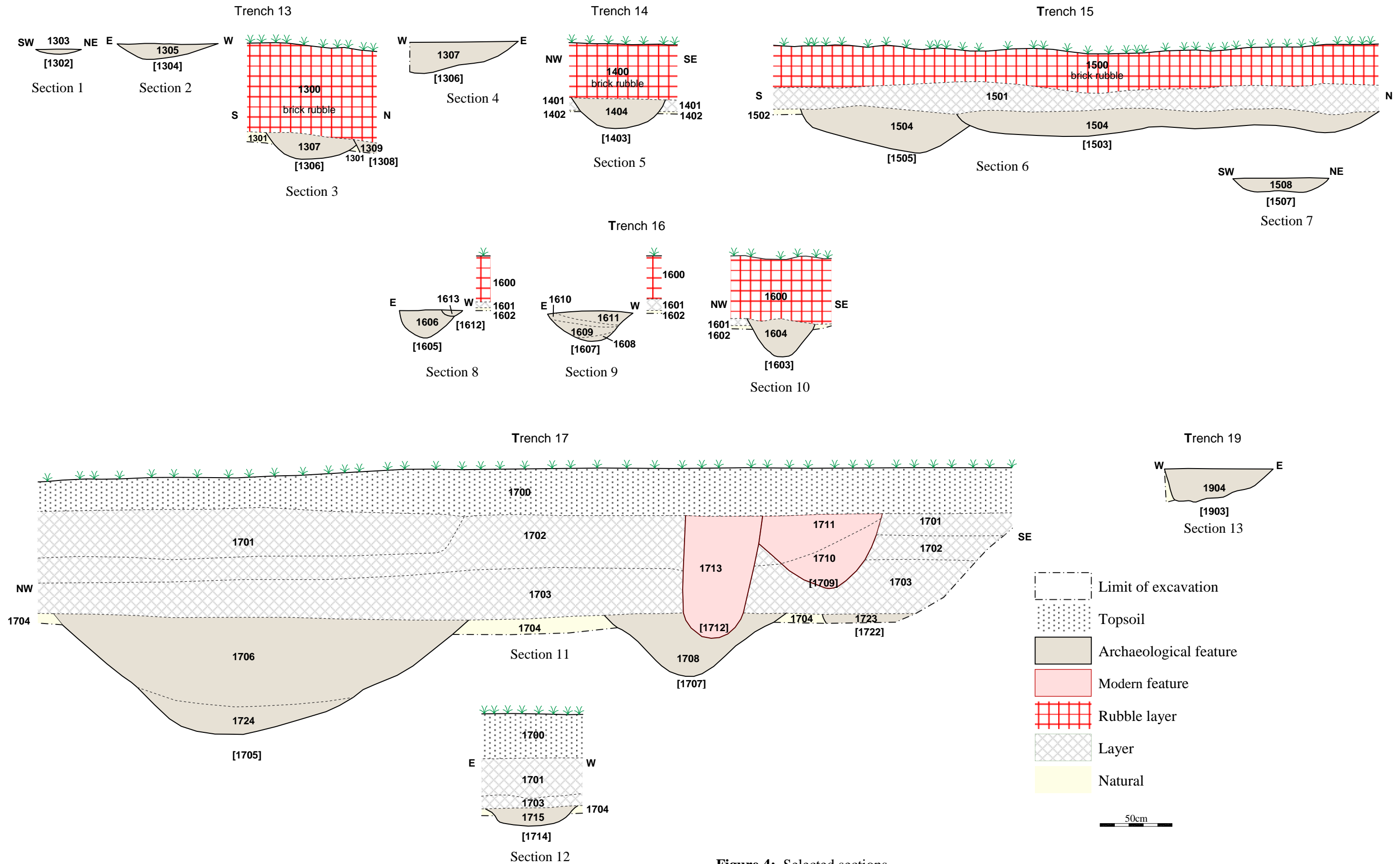


Figure 4: Selected sections



Figure 5: General view from the south end of Trench 15 looking northwards to the cluster of dark features [1503], [1505] and [1507]. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Figure 6: Tapering ditch [1403] fully excavated, with section showing the dark grey brown fill and similar adjacent layer (1401). Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Figure 7: General view of the clustered features in Trench 15 with pit [1503] to the near left and ditch [1505] crossing the trench. Layer (1501) extends across the area. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Figure 8: Excavated section through truncated ditch [1603]. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

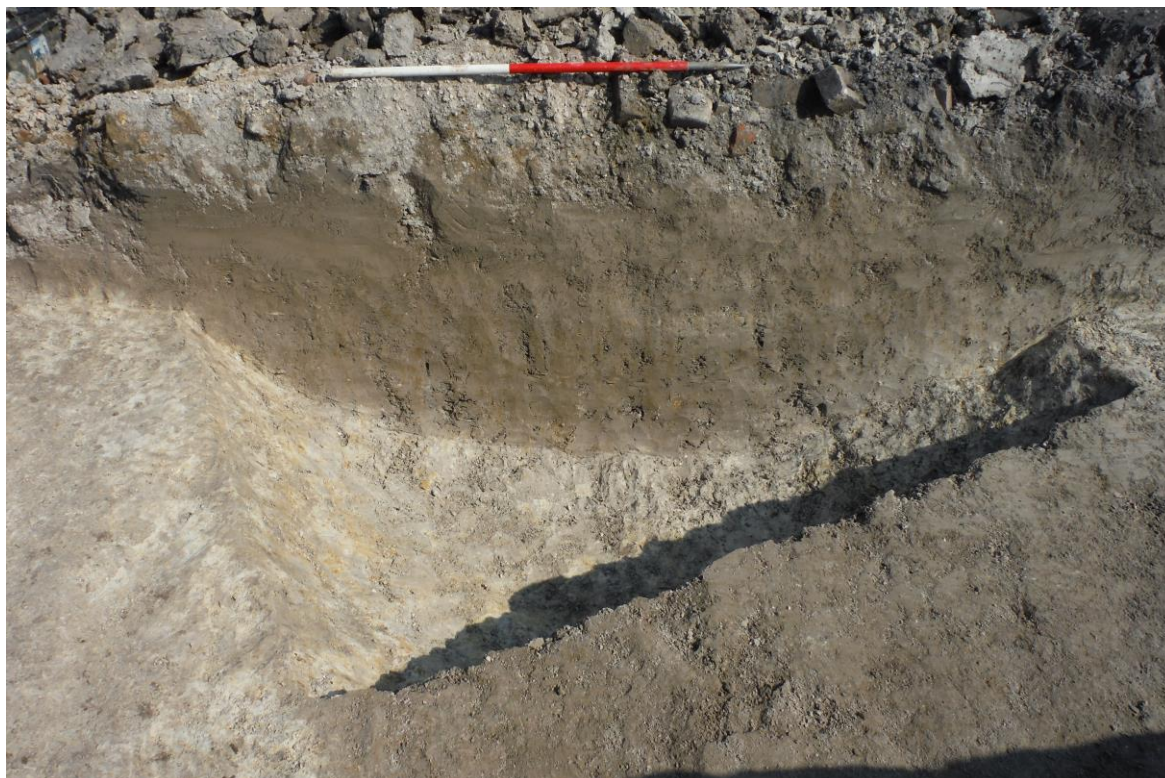


Figure 9: Section through ditch [1705]. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Figure 10: General view of the SE end of Trench 17 showing ditches [1705], [1707] and [1722] nearest the camera. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Figure 11: General view of undisturbed geological strata in Trench 18.
Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Figure 12: North-east end of Trench 19, with ditch [1903] / [1905]. Scale 0.4m in 10cm divisions.

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