STANFORD ROAD
SHEFFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND
HERITAGE STATEMENT

Albion archaeology

BLANK FOR DOUBLE-SIDED PRINTING

STANFORD ROAD
SHEFFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND
HERITAGE STATEMENT

Project: SRS2693

Document: 2015/207

Version 2.1

4th April 2016

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Jo Barker and Ian Turner	Jeremy Oetgen	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:
Woods Hardwick Planning

on behalf of
J. Gudgin and Bloor Homes Ltd

BLANK FOR DOUBLE-SIDED PRINTING

Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

List of Plates

The figures and plates are bound at the back of the document.

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 brief. 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.

This document has been prepared by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor) and Jo Barker (Project Officer), with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The figures were prepared by Joan Lightning. Fieldwork was led by Ian Turner. The field team comprised Allan King, Gareth Shane and Adrian Woolmer (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors).

Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 0300 300 8141
Fax: 0300 300 8209
E-mail: office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

Version History

Version	*Issue date*	*Reason for re-issue*
1.1	*01/02/2016*	*n/a*
2.0	24/03/2016	Revised to exclude windmill
2.1	04/04/2016	Amended client details

Key Terms

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

BLARS	Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Record Service
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CI*f*A	Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists
EBD	Events BeDfordshire
HELM	Historic Environment Local Management
HER	Historic Environment Record for Central Bedfordshire
NHLE	National Heritage List for England
NLS	National Library of Scotland
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OS	Ordnance Survey
PAS	Portable Antiquities Scheme
PDA	Proposed development area
SFB	sunken-featured building [a type of Saxon building]
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Non-Technical Summary

Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd, on behalf of J. Gudgin and Bloor Homes Ltd, have submitted a pre-application enquiry to Central Bedfordshire Council for residential development comprising c. *110 plots, on land to the south of Stanford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire. The site lies to the east of the historic medieval core of Shefford.*

This document reports the results of the evaluation of the site undertaken by Albion Archaeology in November and December 2015. It includes a heritage statement that appraises the significance of the heritage assets of archaeological interest present within the proposed development area (PDA) and assesses the potential impact of the proposed scheme on them.

Archaeological features were identified in thirteen of the fourteen trenches.

Two activity foci of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age date were identified: one in the north of the PDA; the other in the south on the edge of the floodplain of the River Flit. These features are interpreted as field system boundaries, some distance from settlement.

A single urned cremation burial was discovered; its age is imprecise and it can only be dated broadly to the prehistoric period. The burial was left in situ.

A number of pits and a posthole dispersed across the northern part of the PDA were undated due to an absence of any artefacts. They might have been contemporary and of similar date to the late Bronze Age / early Iron Ages ditches.

A ditch containing pottery of early-middle Saxon date was present at the west side of the PDA; it is probably on the eastern limit of an area of Saxon settlement excavated on the adjacent site to the west.

Medieval activity was represented by a single pit located at the extreme south-east of corner of the PDA. It contained a quantity of 12th–13th-century pottery that suggests nearby medieval settlement activity.

A series of post-medieval ditches were identified in trenches situated on the floodplain and are likely to be drainage features. One ditch containing modern artefacts corresponds to a field boundary depicted on early 19th-century maps.

Trenches located on the floodplain to the south of the PDA revealed dark-coloured peat-derived alluvial layers. Such layers have high potential for environmental analysis, which can inform the archaeological record.

A c. *30m-dia. circular geophysical anomaly and crop-mark was not related to any archaeological features identified by trenching. It is, therefore, concluded that the magnetic anomaly was contained within the topsoil or subsoil that was removed by machine stripping of the trench.*

Remains of post-medieval buildings and a watermill (HER 14545, 2633) might survive beneath existing commercial buildings and hardstandings in the south-west of

the PDA. The river on the southern boundary of the PDA was once part of the Ivel Navigation (HER 14539).

An assessment has also been undertaken of heritage assets in the vicinity of the PDA and the results included in the heritage statement. The impacts of the development are summarised in the table at the end of this section.

The likely impact of the proposed development on the setting of designated heritage assets has also been assessed. Shefford Conservation Area will not be affected and there are no listed buildings within 500m of the PDA. Therefore, there will be no discernible impact on the setting of any designated heritage assets within the vicinity of the PDA. The only extant building of historical interest in the vicinity of the PDA is the undesignated 19th-century windmill tower (HER 939).

Development of the type envisaged within the PDA typically involves groundworks, which could adversely affect archaeological heritage assets. The potential magnitude of this impact can be classed as low *to* high*, depending on the nature of the groundworks.*

Evaluation has identified sub-surface archaeological remains within the PDA, some of which are potentially of moderate *significance. The significance (before mitigation) of the potential impact of the proposed development on those remains has been assessed as no more than* moderate*. However, the construction of the pond on the adjacent to the floodplain will have a high impact on early prehistoric features so the significance of the impact before mitigation would be moderate/large It will be possible to mitigate any impacts by measures designed to ensure the continued preservation* in situ *of sub-surface remains or, where this is not possible, by the implementation of a further programme of archaeological works.*

Assets	***Potential for finding asset***	***Significance***	***Impact***	***Significance of impact (before mitigation)***
Prehistoric (pre-43 BC)	*High*	*Moderate*	*High*	*Moderate / Large*
Roman (43 BC–AD 410)	*Low*	*Low to moderate*	*Low to high*	*Slight*
Anglo-Saxon (410-1066)	*High (to the west) Low (to the east)*	*Moderate*	*Low to high*	*Moderate*
Medieval (1066- 1550)	*Moderate to high*	*Low to moderate*	*Low to high*	*Slight / moderate*
Post-medieval (1550 to 1750)	*Moderate to high*	*Low to moderate*	*Low to high*	*Slight / moderate*
Modern (1750 to present)	*Low*	*Negligible*	*Low to high*	*Neutral / slight*
Windmill HER939	*n/a*	*Low*	*High*	*Slight/moderate*
Ivel Navigation	*n/a*	*Low*	*Low*	*Slight*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd, on behalf of J. Gudgin and Bloor Homes Ltd, has submitted a pre-application enquiry (CB/15/01691/PAPC) to Central Bedfordshire Council for residential development comprising *c*. 110 plots, on land to the south of Stanford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire.

As the site is situated to the east of the historic medieval core of Shefford (HER17106) and is known to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation, comprising geophysical survey and trial trenching, be undertaken. This advice is in accordance with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the evaluation and prepared a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2015), which described the detailed methodologies to be employed.

The results of the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015) were used to formulate a trial trench strategy, which was implemented between 26th November and 3rd December 2015.

The combined results of the fieldwork form the basis of a heritage statement that appraises the significance of any heritage assets with archaeological interest found to be present within the proposed development area (PDA) and assess the potential impact of the proposed scheme on them. It is intended that the heritage statement will inform the development master plan.

1.2 Status of the Evaluation

This document presents the results of the archaeological field evaluation and integrates them with a desk-based heritage asset assessment and existing geophysical survey data to produce a heritage statement, assessing the potential impact of the proposed development.

1.3 Site Location

The PDA is located on the north-eastern edge of the parish of Shefford in the eastern part of Central Bedfordshire (Figure 1). The town of Hitchin is located 10km to the south-east and Biggleswade and the A1 (Great North Road) lie *c.* 7km to the north-east. The rivers Flit and Hit pass through Shefford from the west and south, converging to become part of the Ivel Navigation that borders the PDA to the south.

The PDA is *c.* 5.6ha in area and is situated on the south side of Stanford Road (centred on grid reference TL 14842 39528). A modern housing development borders the site to the west and arable fields lie to the east.

1.4 Landform, Geology and Soils

The PDA is situated on land that slopes gently downwards towards the Ivel Navigation situated on the southern edge of the site. At present the PDA is broadly divided into two areas: a 0.6ha commercial estate to the west and mown grassland (former arable land) to the east (Figure 2). A broadly east-west aligned track bisects the area of grassland; greenhouses and spoil heaps of unknown origin are situated on either side of it. The extant remains of a windmill and adjacent telecom mast are located near the eastern boundary of the PDA. A mix of mature trees and scrub define the majority of the boundaries of the PDA.

The underlying bedrock within the PDA is recorded as Gault Mudstone overlain by the Lowestoft Formation of sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 2015). A recent ground investigation has confirmed this geological profile across much of the PDA.

1.5 Archaeological Background

A detailed description of heritage assets within a 500m search radius of the PDA is presented in Section 3 and Appendix 1. Therefore, only a brief summary is provided below.

The PDA is located within an area of known heritage assets, comprising Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern activity. It is also situated *c.* 400m north-east of the Shefford Conservation Area and the historic core of the medieval town (HER17106) (Figure 2). The archaeological background of the town is summarised in the Extensive Urban Survey Assessment for Shefford (Albion Archaeology 2005).

The earliest recorded heritage asset on the east side of Shefford is a Neolithic axe (HER16009), recovered along Clifton Road. Surviving earthworks of a hillfort, ring ditch or small enclosure (HER2862), as well as other crop-marks (HER15369), have been identified in fields to the north-west of the town.

Discoveries made by Inskip during the 19th century indicated that an important Roman settlement (HER 379) existed to the west of Shefford, *c.* 1km south-west of the PDA (Luke, Preece and Wells 2010, 270–4). Since then, further archaeological investigations have identified a substantial ditch, which possibly originated in the late Iron Age, Roman buildings, boundary ditches, quarry pits, artefacts and ceramic building material, along with mortar and painted plaster indicating the presence of a high-status building. A boundary ditch uncovered during groundworks at Shefford lower School is considered to represent the western limit of the settlement's domestic focus (Luke et al. 2010).

To the east of Shefford the postulated course of a Roman road (Viatores no. 210, HER10480) that connected Ickleford and Bedford has been recorded, following the course of the modern Bedford Road. Adjacent to this road the base of a Roman greyware pot was found (HER16021).

No entry for Shefford exists in Domesday Book and it seems likely that Shefford as a village or town did not exist beyond a river crossing until the 12th century (Albion Archaeology 2003). Despite this, an Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building (SFB) (HER19879) was identified during archaeological trial trenching (EBD1193) on land immediately adjacent to the PDA. Since that time further SFBs, medieval ditches and a post-medieval field boundary have been uncovered during open-area excavation of the same site (MOLA 2014).

The medieval core of Shefford, as defined by HER17106, is centred on the crossroads in the centre of the town and extends north to the Ivel Navigation, south-east to the River Hit and west along the High Street to the former railway line. The extant Grade II listed 14th-century Church of St Michael and All Angels (NHLE 1321780) lies within the historic core. Medieval pottery was recovered from three pits uncovered during archaeological test-pitting *c*. 300m south-west of the PDA (EBD1233).

Post-medieval heritage assets, comprising two phases of watermill (HER 2633, 14545, 14572), the extant remains of a windmill (HER 939) and a wood (HER14572), known as 'Shefford Mill Bottom Spinney', are recorded within the HER. Two watermills (HER14545) dating from at least 1646–47 and owned by Chicksands Priory are thought to correspond to the location of a post-medieval watermill (HER939) that stood on the western side of the PDA. The Enclosure map of Southill dated 1800 depicts several buildings in the known location of the mill (HER939). Part of it was demolished in 1967 and it is now the site of a small commercial estate. The mill sluice and a depression corresponding to the cellar of the mill-house are all that have survived. The remains of an undesignated windmill (HER939) are situated on the eastern edge of the PDA. This structure is excluded from the development.

The canalisation of the River Flit between Shefford and Tempsford occurred in 1822 and an extant stretch of this navigable waterway borders the PDA to the south (HER14539).

2. PLANING POLICY AND RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS FOR HERITAGE

2.1 National Policy Framework

This evaluation report and heritage statement aims to implement the vision for the historic environment as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* (NPPF) that was published on 27 March 2012 (DCLG 2012) and replaces the previous *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.*

Annex 2 of the NPPF defines heritage assets as: 'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)'.

Designated assets comprise, amongst others, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas. Undesignated assets are any heritage assets that may formally be identified by the local planning authority to be important for the area, for example through local listing or as part of the plan-making process. These undesignated assets are still material in planning decisions and evidence of local listing and information on these heritage assets is held in the local Historic Environment Record (HER).

According to the NPPF the significance of heritage assets is demonstrated by their value to this and future generations because of their archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest and their setting.

National and regional planning policy and research frameworks provide the setting within which the heritage assets affected by the proposed development can be characterised and their significance assessed. The potential impact of the proposals on them can then be evaluated and, as necessary, appropriate mitigation measures proposed. This will include potential impacts on the setting of heritage assets within and close to the PDA.

2.2 Historic England Advice and Strategies

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE) is a non-departmental public body that advises national government on heritage issues. HBMCE currently operates under the name 'Historic England', but was formerly known as 'English Heritage'. However, on 1st April 2015 the English Heritage brand was adopted by a new independent charity, the English Heritage Trust. Unless otherwise stated, any reference herein to 'English Heritage' relates to HBMCE prior to 1st April 2015.

In some cases, local authorities are required to consult Historic England when they are considering proposals that affect heritage assets. These arrangements are set out in Government direction which came into force on 14 April 2015

(DCLG 2015a; 2015b). Historic England also administers the special heritage consents that are required by law for some heritage assets, for example scheduled monument consent[1]. Historic England's role is explained in more detail in its *Charter for Historic England Advisory Services* (Historic England 2011b).

2.2.1 Advice on the application of planning policy

Historic England's *Heritage Protection Guide* (2015b) explains in detail how planning law applies to historic buildings and places. This is currently only available online in html format[2].

Historic England has issued Good Practice Advice (GPA) notes (Historic England 2015d–f), which provide information to assist the relevant parties in implementing historic environment policy in the NPPF and the related guidance given in the national Planning Practice Guide. Historic England's advice acknowledges the primacy of relevant legislation, the NPPF and PPG; it supports the implementation of national policy, but does not constitute a statement of Government policy, itself. It is not intended to be prescriptive and alternative approaches may be equally acceptable, provided they comply with legislation, national policies and objectives.

Currently the documents comprise:
GPA1 – The Historic Environment in Local Plans
GPA2 – Managing Significance in Decision-Taking
GPA3 – The Setting of Heritage Assets

A fourth GPA on enabling development is forthcoming.

This advice supersedes previous guidance (English Heritage 2010; 2012a; 2012b). Also, the previous guidance on setting (English Heritage 2011) has been withdrawn.

2.2.2 Historic England's corporate philosophy and priorities

The philosophy underpinning Historic England's approach is set out in *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance* (English Heritage 2008a).

Historic England's own priorities up to 2018 are formalised in its Corporate Plan (2015h) and Action Plan (2015b). These follow on from the previous *National Heritage Protection Plan* (NHPP) (English Heritage 2013b), *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005–2010* (English Heritage, 2005a), *Research Agenda 2005–2010* (English Heritage, 2005b) and *Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes* (SHAPE) (English Heritage 2008b).

[1] http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/ (accessed 07/01/2016)
[2] http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/ (accessed 07/01/2016)

2.3 Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Policy

Consultation on Central Bedfordshire Council's draft Development Strategy closed on 26 August 2014. The first part of the examination on the Development Strategy was held in February 2015, following which the Inspector wrote to the Council setting out his conclusion that it had failed the Duty to Cooperate in preparing the Plan and it should therefore be withdrawn. The Council sought leave to judicially review this decision and a hearing was held on 16 June. The Judge determined not to grant the Council leave; however, it is now seeking to pursue this through the Court of Appeal. The outcome of this is not yet known and the Development Strategy remains a material consideration until such time it is withdrawn. Until then, development in northern part of the unitary authority (formerly Mid Bedfordshire District) is covered by the Central Bedfordshire – North Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF policies are set out in the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document adopted by the Council on 19th November 2009.

The LDF Policies relating to heritage matters are Core Strategy CS15 and Development Management Policy DM13
Core Strategy Policy CS15 Heritage (Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens and Scheduled Ancient Monuments) states that the council will:

- *Protect, conserve and enhance the district's heritage including its Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens and archaeology and their setting.*
- *Conserve and where appropriate enhance the quality and integrity of the local built and natural environment, including historic structures or open green spaces considered to be of special local interest.*
- *Designate and keep under review Conservation Areas in order to protect or enhance their special architectural or historic interest. This will include the implementation of an on-going programme of Conservation Area Character Appraisals to include a review of their special interest and boundaries;*
- *Monitor and survey the condition of Listed Buildings and periodically review and update a Register of Buildings at Risk, providing appropriate grant assistance to encourage their essential sympathetic repair.*

Development Management Policy DM13 Heritage in development (Conservation Areas and Historic Parks and Gardens) states that the council will ensure that:

- *Proposals for development relating to Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens will pay particular attention to the conservation of locally distinctive features and uses;*
- *Planning applications for development within Conservation Areas will be assessed against the Conservation Area appraisals and inappropriate development will be refused.*

2.4 Research Frameworks

English Heritage (now Historic England) has produced an extensive library of national guides covering a wide range of topics, and most of these are available for free download from the Historic England website[3].

Research frameworks that have been devised for the region are *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 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).

These documents provide a comprehensive chronological review of the historic environment as investigated so far within Bedfordshire and the eastern counties as well as establishing a research agenda and strategy for future investigations and for consolidating and integrating current knowledge. They are therefore vital tools for the assessment of any heritage asset within its local, regional and national historic environment setting.

[3]Historic England website: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/ (accessed 07/01/2016) .

3. DESK-BASED HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT

3.1 Methodology

This desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CI*f*A 2014) and Central Bedfordshire Council's *General guidance for the preparation of archaeological desk-based assessments* (CBC 2012).

The study identifies any known heritage assets within the PDA and within a 500m buffer of its boundary (Figure 2). This search radius is referred to as the *study area*. The assessment also considers the likely impact of development on hitherto unidentified heritage assets that may potentially be affected by development within the PDA.

The criteria for assessing significance and impact are based on those formulated by the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Part 3 (Cultural Heritage)[4]. They are listed in Appendix 3.

During the preparation of this document, the sources of information listed below were consulted.

3.1.1 Central Bedfordshire Council's Historic Environment Record (HER)

This is a database of archaeological information containing written and pictorial records of known archaeological monuments, previous archaeological investigations ('events'), find spots, including data collected by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), and buildings of historical and archaeological significance.

The HER contains information specific to Central Bedfordshire and is maintained by Central Bedfordshire Council, Chicksands.

A recent report for English Heritage/Historic England (Oakleigh Consulting 2014) has recommended that locally maintained HERs should be 'the first point of call for and primary trusted source of investigative research data and knowledge'.

Heritage assets referred to in this heritage statement are identified by their HER reference numbers. The HER search reference number for this study is 201516/169.

3.1.2 Previous archaeological investigations

Information on previous archaeological investigations is held in the HER and either catalogued under its relevant HER number and/or additionally under its own 'Event'. Information from previous archaeological investigations can

[4] Available at: http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/vol11/section3/ha20807.pdf (Accessed 11/01/2016)

give valuable insight into the presence, absence, nature and date of below-ground heritage assets within a given area of investigation.

3.1.3 Cartographic data

Early maps and other illustrations of an area can be a very productive area of research. Often they indicate dramatic changes in land use during the post-medieval and modern periods. This can be very helpful in appreciating how the archaeological resource may have been affected by the changes in farming practices and expansion of settlements that took place during the 19th and 20th centuries in particular.

The principal source consulted in this case was the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service (BLARS) and National Library of Scotland (NLS). The BLARS is maintained by Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. A digital source of the Ordnance Survey map series for England and Wales are available online by NLS. A list of the cartographic sources consulted for this assessment is given in Section 8.4.

3.2 Designated Heritage Assets

There are no scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, battlefields or world heritage sites within the study area.

3.2.1 Conservation Areas

The PDA lies *c.* 590m to the north-east of the eastern edge of Shefford Conservation Area (DBD3390). It was designated in 1971 and amended in 2004. The boundaries of the Conservation Area extend from the road junction in front of the White Hart Hotel westwards along the High Street.

The character of the Conservation Area is defined by commercial use along the High Street, Southbridge Road and Northbridge Road, including a weekly market that has been held since as early as the 13th century. The uninterrupted line of buildings that front onto these roads, and the fact that many are listed, are key aspects of Shefford's character. Part of Shefford's medieval core (HER 17106), as defined in the HER, is also included in the Conservation Area.

Modern housing and an industrial estate abut the Conservation Area on its northern, southern and eastern sides, adding to the sense of 'enclosure', which is also key to the character of the Conservation Area.

3.2.2 Listed Buildings

There are no listed buildings within the study area, but many are concentrated along the High Street, Northbridge Street and Southbridge Street in Shefford, *c*. 600m to the south-west of the PDA.

3.3 Known Archaeological and Historical Assets

Figure 2 should be viewed in conjunction with this text, which reviews the known archaeological and historical heritage assets within the PDA and wider study area. For the purposes of this document, the heritage assets listed below

are presented in chronological order from prehistoric to modern. Lists of all heritage assets and events recorded by the HER within the study area are contained within Appendix 1.

3.3.1 Previous archaeological investigations

No previous fieldwork is recorded within the PDA itself, but a number of archaeological investigations have taken place within the wider study area (Figure 2).

In 2011 a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation (EBD1193) was carried out on agricultural land to the west of the PDA (MOLA 2014). A possible early-middle Saxon sunken-featured building (SFB) and several possibly contemporary ditches were identified. A post-medieval field boundary was also revealed. More recently the same area was subject to open-area excavation in 2012, although it is not yet referenced in the HER. Further early-middle Saxon SFBs were uncovered, as well as NE-SW aligned medieval ditches and a post-medieval field boundary.

In 2014 a number of test-pits were excavated on the east side of Shefford (EBD 1233). Three pits, located *c.* 410m to the south-west of the PDA, contained a small quantity of medieval pottery, but no corresponding archaeological remains were identified.

3.3.2 Prehistoric (pre-43 BC)

No prehistoric heritage assets were recorded in the study area prior to the present field evaluation.

3.3.3 Roman (43 BC – AD 410)

The postulated line of a Roman road (HER 10480), recorded by the Viatores, lies *c.* 460m to the south-west of the PDA. The postulated route of Viatores 210 linked Ickleford and Bedford and part of its route followed Hitchin Street on the east side of Shefford and Bedford Road (B658) to the north. The existence of most of the roads identified by the Viatores project has since been discounted (Simco 1984) and so far this route has not been tested through archaeological investigation.

A findspot of Roman pottery has been recorded through the PAS scheme at the junction of the River Hit and Flit *c.* 400m south-west of the PDA.

3.3.4 Anglo-Saxon to medieval (AD 410–1550)

No entry for Shefford exists in the Domesday Book and it seems likely that Shefford as a village or town did not exist beyond a river crossing until the 12th century (Albion Archaeology 2003). Despite this, three early-middle Saxon SFBs, containing contemporary pottery and artefacts (HER 19879), were identified during archaeological investigation on land immediately adjacent to the PDA (EBD1193).

The medieval core of Shefford, as defined by HER17106, is centred on the crossroads in the centre of the town and extends north to the Ivel Navigation,

south-east to the River Hit and west along the High Street to the former railway line. The extant Grade II listed 14th-century Church of St Michael and All Angels (NHLE 1321780) lies within the historic core.

Medieval heritage assets within the study area comprise a series of ditches that were identified during archaeological excavation on land adjacent to the PDA (EBD 1193) and a small quantity of medieval pottery recovered from test-pits *c.* 410m south-west of the PDA (EBD1233).

3.3.5 Post-medieval (1550–1900)

Several undesignated post-medieval heritage assets recorded in the HER lie within the PDA and wider study area.

The only extant heritage asset comprises the remains of a brick-built tower windmill (HER939) situated on the eastern edge of the PDA. It has been dated to the 19th century, although by 1880 it was no longer in operation.

Two watermills (HER 14545) dating from at least 1646–47 and owned by Chicksands Priory are thought to correspond to the location of a post-medieval watermill (HER 2633) that stood on the western side of the PDA. The 1800 Southill Enclosure map depicts several buildings in the known location of the mill (HER 2633). Part of it was demolished in 1967 and it is now the site of a small commercial estate. The mill sluice and a depression corresponding to the cellar of the mill-house are all that have survived.

A wood (HER 14572), known as 'Shefford Mill Bottom Spinney', is recorded in the HER on the western edge of the PDA.

The canalisation of the River Ivel and its tributary, the River Flit, between Shefford and Tempsford occurred in 1822 and an extant stretch of this navigable waterway borders the PDA to the south (HER 14539).

It is clear from the study of cartographic sources (see below) that the river Flit has undergone considerable modification as a result of the construction of the navigation and watermills. The main modifications are indicated on Figure 2.

During archaeological investigation on land to the west of the PDA a substantial length of a post-medieval ditch (HER 198820) was identified and interpreted as a former field boundary. No corresponding above ground continuation of this boundary is visible.

The Shefford to Bedford road, *c.* 500m west of the PDA, is a known turnpike of 18th-century date.

3.3.6 Modern (1900-present day)

No modern heritage assets are recorded within the PDA, but an extant Baptist Churchyard (HER 8962), *c.* 500m west of the PDA, has been recorded in the HER. It was open by 1910.

3.4 Cartographic Evidence and Historic Landscape Character

3.4.1 1764 Thomas Jefferys's map of Bedfordshire (Figure 3)

The earliest known map of Shefford is Jefferys's map of Bedfordshire. The detail on this map is limited to roads, relief and river courses, with the main areas of development shown in simple form.

No buildings or field boundaries are depicted within the PDA, but a widening of the river could represent the location of the mill. The most interesting feature of this map is that it shows the River Flit meandering along what would have been its natural course prior to the completion of the Ivel Navigation.

3.4.2 1800 Southill Enclosure map (Figure 4)

The earliest known depiction of the mill buildings and the area of the proposed development is on the 1800 Southill Enclosure map. Three buildings are shown in the west side of the PDA, with the mill sluice straddling the River Flit. The river appears still to be following a natural meandering course. Nothing is shown south of the river, because this land was at the time within the neighbouring parish of Clifton

The area of the PDA is divided into three fields that according to the map lie within the Hamlet of Stanford.

3.4.3 1795–1806 plan of Shefford Mill Farm (Figure 5)

This map of Shefford Mill Farm accompanied a draft conveyance produced for either sale or mortgage in 1806. The map, however, is thought to have been produced anytime up to nine years earlier.

The general layout of the mill buildings and PDA is almost the same as the 1800 Enclosure map (Figure 4) but is in greater detail. The PDA is shown as two fields, which suggests that this map does predate 1800. The northern half of the PDA is labelled as a 'field' and the southern area a 'meadow'; the southern part of the latter appears to be shown as marsh with scattered trees. The mill pond is clearly depicted on the east side of the mill sluice and the River Flit is shown prior to completion of the Navigation.

3.4.4 First to third edition OS maps 1881–1950 (Figures 6–7)

The layout of the mill buildings and the PDA has changed by 1881. The earlier mill building, labelled 'Corn Mill', on the west side of the road has expanded, whilst the building previously depicted on the east side has been demolished. By 1950 additional buildings are shown on the west side of the road, but the overall layout is unchanged.

The mill pond is still visible to the east of the mill sluice, but an additional, larger mill pond is labelled to the south-west of the mill. The canalisation of the River Flit has also occurred by this time, with a new straight channel and lock cutting across the natural loop of the river that feeds the watermill and

continuing on a new course along the south side of the PDA. To the south of the Navigation a towpath and overflow leat are shown.

The majority of the PDA is shown as one broadly 'L'-shaped field, with a track running east-west across the centre. The extant windmill (HER 939) is also shown for the first time on the eastern extent of the PDA, but by 1950 it is labelled as 'disused'.

By 1950 two greenhouses, still present today, are depicted on the south side of the track.

3.4.5 10,000 OS map 1978 (Figure 8)

On the 1978 map the original Shefford Mill buildings have gone and a commercial unit stands in broadly the same location, on the west side of the road. A sluice is still present straddling the river, but is likely to correspond to a modern replacement commissioned by the current owners' family. Both millponds have disappeared, although land to the south-west of the commercial unit is marked as marshland. A house is also now situated on land adjacent to the PDA.

The PDA has remained unchanged since 1950. The windmill and track leading to it have remained and one of the greenhouses is also shown.

3.5 Modern Land Use and Setting

The NPPF defines setting as: '*The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, and may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral*' (NPPF 2012, Annex. 2).

The PDA is currently split into two fields of pasture. The larger field lies adjacent to Stanford Road and is bordered by a trackway to the east, a 20th-century house and associated driveway to the west and an east-west trackway and greenhouses to the south. The second area is broadly 'L'-shaped and lies to the south of the greenhouses and trackway. A large part of this field is floodplain situated on the north side of the Ivel Navigation (HER 14539).

The majority of the heritage assets in the study area are either findspots or buildings and woods that no longer exist as above ground remains. A length of the Ivel Navigation defines the southern extent of the PDA, but this is masked by trees along its course. At present the development master-plan excludes development on the floodplain and this will ensure that a green buffer exists between the proposed new houses and the river.

The nearest designated heritage assets, are situated in the centre of Shefford and will not be visible from the PDA, as they are hidden by trees and 20th-century housing (Plate 1). The same is true of the undesignated Baptist Churchyard which is screened from the PDA by houses and trees.

The only heritage asset whose setting might be affected by the proposed development, is the windmill tower (HER939), on the east side of the PDA (Plates 2–3); this building is not designated.

4. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

4.1 Summary Methodology for Magnetometer Survey

The geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015) was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and was carried out over all parts of the PDA that were suitable for survey; this equated to 3.3ha of grassland.

The survey comprised detailed magnetic gradiometry, conducted using a Bartington Grad 601-2 instrument with a typical depth of penetration of 0.5–1.0m. Readings were taken at 0.25m centres along traverses 1.0m apart. This equates to 3600m sampling points in a full 30m x 30m grid. A temporary grid was established across the entire survey area using wooden pegs at 30m intervals. A detailed method statement for the geophysical survey is provided in the WSI.

The specific aims of the geophysical survey were to determine the location, nature and extent of any below-ground potential archaeological features. The results of the geophysical survey were used to refine the trial trenching strategy.

4.2 Summary of the Results of Geophysical Survey

A number of anomalies were characterised as being of probable or possible archaeological origin. Others were attributed to geological or pedagogical variations (Figure 9). Numbers in brackets in the following summary relate to the numbering in the geophysical survey report (Stratascan 2015).

A 'probable' circular anomaly (1) was identified in the northern part of the PDA; it was considered to represent either a round barrow or a post-medieval windmill ditch. It corresponded well with a crop-mark visible on aerial photographs taken in 2003 and 2006[5]. An anomaly identified in the centre of the circle (2) was indicative of former disturbance and, therefore, also likely to be of archaeological origin. This anomaly was not associated with any archaeological features identified by trial trenching (see Section 5.2).

Three 'possible' discrete anomalies (3) in the northern half and one in the centre of the PDA were indicative of cut features that could be Saxon SFBs.

An area of medieval or post-medieval agricultural activity was indicated by closely spaced, parallel linear anomalies (4) in the northern field of the PDA.

The most substantial area of magnetic disturbance was identified adjacent to the southern boundary of the PDA (7). This related to alluvial deposits associated with the Ivel Navigation. Other anomalies of likely geological or pedological origin were scattered across the survey area (6), although the chance of them being backfilled pits or SFBs could not be discounted.

[5] Google earth - historical imagery

Other anomalies comprised magnetic debris and a number of magnetic 'spikes' of likely modern origin (10, 8), linear anomalies that corresponded to known underground services (5) and magnetic disturbance caused by ferrous metal objects (9).

5. TRIAL TRENCHING

5.1 Methodology

A full methodology was provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2015) which was approved by the CBCA prior to commencement of fieldwork.

Trial trenching took place between 26th November and 3rd December 2015. A total of fourteen trenches were excavated, twelve measuring 50m x 2m and two measuring 25m x 2m. The trenches were positioned to test areas and features of archaeological potential as indicated by the geophysical survey and to provide even coverage of the PDA (Figure 9).

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were also scanned for artefact recovery.

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

Features and deposits found within the trial trenches are described in chronological order and shown on Figure 9. A further selection of detailed plans and sections are shown on Figures 10–15. Any artefacts recovered from features are referenced in the text and discussed separately in detail in Section 5.4. Detailed contextual information on all deposits and features can be found in Appendix 2.

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

• Albion Archaeology	*Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001)
• ALGAO (East)	*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003)
• Archaeological Archives Forum	*Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2007)
• Bedford Museum	*Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* (Bedford Museum 2010).
• CI*f*A	*Charter and by-law* and *Code of Conduct* (2014)
	Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014)

• Historic England (formerly English Heritage)	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide* (updated 2015)
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (Campbell et al. 2011)

5.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The overburden was fairly consistent across the PDA and comprised topsoil and subsoil with a combined thickness of *c*. 0.5m. In Trenches 5 and 12 the overburden was 0.8–0.95m thick. The topsoil comprised dark brown-grey clayey silt. The subsoil consisted of mid orange-brown sandy silt.

A *c.* 30m-dia. circular anomaly identified by geophysical survey and also observed as a crop-mark was not related to any archaeological features (Trench 4), despite repeated hand cleaning of the trench base and sides, followed by additional machine excavation. The author of the geophysical survey report suggests that the anomaly was very strong and must have been relatively shallow and contained within the topsoil or subsoil that was removed by machine stripping of the trench (T. Richardson pers. comm.).

In the area of the lower-lying floodplain the overburden sealed a series of alluvial deposits. These were revealed within deep sondages in Trenches 11, 12 and 14. They varied from light grey-yellow clay to mid orange-brown organic silty peat. They are discussed in more detail in Section 5.3.9.

The undisturbed geological deposits were generally mid brown-orange silty sand that contained occasional linear patches of light orange-grey ironstone fragments. Towards the edge of the floodplain the deposits varied from light yellow sandy clay in Trenches 10 and 11 to mid-grey-brown sandy gravel in Trenches 12, 13 and 14.

5.3 Undiagnostic Prehistoric Cremation Burial and Pit

An isolated urned cremation burial [703], corresponding to a geophysical anomaly, was identified at the south-western end of Trench 7, in the north-eastern area of the PDA (Figure 11).

It comprised a circular grave [703] that was 0.4m in diameter. Placed centrally within the grave, and in an upright positon, was cremation urn (705) that was 0.3m in diameter. The urn contained a cremation deposit that comprised of occasional small fragments of burnt bone, mixed with mid grey-brown sandy silt and charcoal flecks. The burial was left *in situ*.

Oval pit [211] was present towards the centre of Trench 2, located in the north-west corner of the PDA (Figure 12). It was 1.8m long, at least 0.87m wide and 0.32m deep, with a concave profile. It produced a late Mesolithic or early Neolithic worked flint and a fragment of fired clay (3g).

5.4 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age Features

Two concentrations of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age features were identified: four ditches to the north-west in Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 7; and two ditches, a pit and a layer to the south-east in Trench 13.

5.4.1 Boundary ditches in the northern field

Two east-west aligned ditches [203] and [205], corresponding to a geophysical anomaly (Figure 9), were identified in Trench 2 (Figure 12). They continued on the same alignment [303] and [305] as far east as Trench 3. They were not, however, identified in Trench 4. The ditches were spaced up to 0.4m apart in Trench 3, but converged in Trench 2.

Another ditch [503], approximately aligned north-south, was identified in Trench 5 (Figure 12) and appeared to continue southwards to Trench 7 [708] (Figure 11). A linear geophysical anomaly was also identified on the same alignment between Trenches 5 and 7 (Figure 9).

The only dating evidence came from ditch [303], which produced two sherds of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery. However, all four ditches had similar gradual sloping concave profiles and were 0.90–1.7m wide and 0.1–0.36m deep. The ditches have been assigned to this period on the basis of their alignments and spatial location in relation to the better dated ditch [303].

The relatively low quantity of pottery suggests that these ditches were not directly associated with settlement activity and probably functioned as field boundaries associated with agricultural land use.

5.4.2 Boundary ditches on the edge of the floodplain

An east–west aligned ditch [1303/1307] corresponding to an area of geophysical anomalies (Figure 9), was identified in Trench 13, in the south-east area of the PDA (Figures 13 and 15). It was at least 15m long and terminated to the south-west, within the trench, possibly indicating the location of a crossing point in the boundary. The ditch was at least 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep, with steeply sloping concave sides and a flat base; it contained late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery (5g) and a large fragment of animal bone (73g).

Ditch [1303/1307] was partially truncated on its northern side by ditch [1305/1309], which followed a parallel course and terminated to the north-east, within the trench. At its south-west end it may have turned to the north and extended beyond the trench. An undiagnostic prehistoric worked flint was recovered from its sole fill (1306).

Based on their similar alignments and proximity these ditches are likely to have been contemporary and are interpreted as probable late Bronze Age / early Iron Age enclosure or field boundaries. It is likely that they were part of the same field system as the ditches identified in the northern part of the PDA.

5.4.3 Layer

A layer of homogenous (1314/1315/1316) mid blue-grey sandy clay silt, 0.36m thick, was identified at the west end of ditch [1303/1307]; it partially overlay ditch [1305/1309] (Figure 15). It was at least 15m long (ENE-WSW), extending beyond the limit of the trench to the north and south. It produced a small quantity of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery (6g).

The deposit may have accumulated as a result of erosion at the entrance defined by the terminus of ditch [1303/1307].

5.4.4 Pit

Part of an oval pit [1311] was identified to the south-west of the ditches in Trench 13. It was overlain by layer (1314/1315/1316) and extended beyond the southern edge of the trench.

It was at least 1.35m long, 1.10m wide and 0.38m deep, with slightly stepped concave sides with a flat base. No dating evidence was recovered but, given its proximity to the better dated late Bronze Age / early Iron Age ditches, it is likely to be of a similar date.

5.4.5 Possible tree throws

A cluster of four irregular features was identified at the south-east end of Trench 9 (Figure 9); they corresponded to a geophysical anomaly.

They were asymmetrical in profile and 0.55m–4.35m wide. They were generally shallow; [903] was the deepest at only 0.24m. It produced a single sherd of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery.

The shape of these features suggests that they are likely to be tree-throws or tree-root disturbance. However, given the presence of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age activity in this area of the PDA, it is possible that they represent ephemeral prehistoric pits.

5.5 Early-Middle Saxon Ditch

A NW-SE aligned ditch [603] at the north-east end of Trench 6 (Figure 11) was at least 2m long, 2.2m wide and 0.38m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. Eighteen sherds of early-middle Saxon pottery and 87g of animal bone were recovered from the upper fill of the ditch.

The feature is judged to be a ditch as its profile was fairly consistent along its excavated length, although it remains a possibility that it was an elongated pit. It is interpreted as an enclosure boundary ditch. The relatively high quantity of pottery and animal bone suggests that the enclosure may have been domestic in character.

5.6 Medieval Pit

A single oval pit [1403] was identified in Trench 14, in the south-eastern area of the PDA close to the course of the Ivel Navigation. It was 1.7m long, 1.3m wide and 0.12m deep, with gradual sloping concave sides and a slightly

uneven base (Figure 15). Four sherds of 12th- to 13th-century pottery were recovered from its fill.

The purpose of the pit is not known. The pottery is suggestive of medieval domestic activity in the vicinity. However, any such settlement focus is probably more likely to have lain to the north, away from the lower-lying floodplain.

5.7 Post-medieval Ditches

Post-medieval period features comprised four ditches in Trench 12 and a single ditch in Trench 10.

Four ditches, [1206], [1208], [1210] and [1212], were identified in Trench 12 (Figure 14). The ditches were roughly parallel on an east-west alignment and spaced 10–12m apart. They were 0.4–0.7m wide and 0.1–0.23m deep, with concave profiles. Ditch [1206] produced a fragment of post-medieval roof tile and the remaining ditches have been assigned to this period on the basis of their shared alignment and spatial location.

Two north-south aligned ditches [1003] and [1005] in Trench 10 were spaced 0.8m apart (Figure 10). They were at least 2m long, 2.2m wide and 0.1m deep, with gradual sloping concave profiles and slightly uneven bases. Seven fragments of post-medieval roof tile were recovered from ditch [1003].

5.8 Modern Ditch

Ditch [1109] in Trench 11 was aligned east-west and extended beyond the trench in both directions (Figure 14). It ditch was 1.43m wide and 0.64m deep, with steep sloping sides and a flat base. A modern brick fragment and the rim of an earthenware plant pot were recovered from the upper fill. The ditch had been recut [1113] slightly to the north of its original line.

5.9 Undated Features

A number of features remain unphased because they did not produce any datable artefacts and were not associated with dated features. They comprised; five pits, a posthole and layers encountered in trenches on the floodplain.

5.9.1 Two pits and layers containing charcoal-rich deposits

Two pits towards the centre of Trench 11 had been backfilled with a series of charcoal-rich deposits. They were sealed by a layer of sand and charcoal-rich material.

Both pits [1115] and [1121] continued beyond the edge of the trench to the north-east, thus their full dimensions and shape are not known. They were 1.35–1.43m long and 0.08–0.43m deep, with convex sides and concave bases. A sequence of alternating deposits of dark brown-grey sandy silt, containing frequent flecks of charcoal, followed by light orange-grey sand filled both pits. Fragments of burnt flint were also recovered from the charcoal-rich fills in pit [1115]. Ecofact sample <1> from fill (1118) in pit [1115] contained abundant

charcoal flecks, flakes and some lumps. The charcoal was fragmentary and abraded.

Overlying both pits was a 0.08m-thick sandy layer (1123) and a 0.25m-thick charcoal-rich dark brown-grey sandy silt (1124), similar to the material within the pits.

No *in-situ* scorching of the bases or edges of the pits was evident and this suggests that the rakings from a fire were deposited in the pits and spread across the area. The sand may have been used to achieve even heating or to dampen down hot embers that had been put into the pits.

Generally the appearance of the pits and the processes employed seem more typical of the post-medieval or modern period rather than those associated with earlier periods. However the pits and layers are undated and it remains a possibility that they pre-date the post-medieval period.

5.9.2 Two layers containing burnt flint, charcoal or ash

Two layers at the south-east end of Trench 14 comprised mid-grey-blue clay (1405) and dark grey silty clay (1406) (Figure 15). Charcoal was present in both layers; burnt flint was recovered from layer (1405). This material was very similar to the charcoal-rich layers in Trench 11, 160m to the west, and may have derived from the same activity.

5.9.3 Dispersed pits and postholes

Several dispersed pits and a posthole were identified in the northern part of the PDA, within Trenches, 1, 2 and 8. Only the pit in Trench 8 corresponded to a geophysical anomaly.

Pits [207], [211] and [803] were oval in shape, 0.6–1.6m long, 0.5–1m wide and 0.3m deep, with concave profiles (Figures 12 and 11). Pit [207] contained moderate amounts of charcoal, burnt stone and burnt flint in its upper fill. Pit [211] produced 3g of fired clay and a prehistoric worked flint.

A single posthole [103] represented the only feature in Trench 1 (Figure 12). It was 0.2m in diameter and 0.15m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base.

Despite the absence of datable artefacts, it is possible that the pits and posthole are contemporary with the late Bronze Age / early Iron Age ditches identified in this part of the PDA.

5.10 Alluvium

Trenches 11–14 were located in the low-lying area of the floodplain adjacent to the present course of the river. An extensive area of alluvium had been identified by the geophysical survey and Trench 12 was specifically placed to test its archaeological potential (Figure 9).

Where no archaeological features were present in these trenches 'sondages' (deeper sections) were excavated by machine. These exposed dark-coloured deposits indicative of waterlogged conditions that might preserve organic material. These deposits indicate that there is high potential for the survival of organic deposits within old river channels or formerly marshy ground in this part of the PDA.

5.10.1 Trenches 11 and 12

A sequence of dark-coloured layers (1104), (1105), (1106) were exposed by the sondages excavated towards the centre of Trench 11 and at the northern end of Trench 12 (1203), (1204) and (1205) (Figure 14).

The top of the layers was encountered at *c.* 35.12m OD, at a depth of *c.* 0.85m and 0.95m below the current ground surface in Trenches 11 and 12 respectively. The combined thickness of the layers in Trench 11 was *c.* 0.25m. Those in Trench 12 were 1.1m thick, suggesting the presence of a former river channel.

An additional sondage towards the south end of Trench 12 revealed the top of dark-coloured layer (1203) at 34.70m OD, at a depth of 1.18m below the current ground surface. This layer was not further investigated due to groundwater ingress.

The layers consisted of a lower dark grey peat (1104), overlain by a sequence of mid- to dark blue-grey and black silty clays (1105), (1204), (1205), (1106). In Trench 11 the latest in the sequence of deposits (1107) contained a horse tibia (385g).

In both trenches these lower layers were overlain by extensive alluvial layers (1107), (1108), (1202) that contained a higher silt and sand content. A sherd of undiagnostic pottery was recovered from layer (1202).

5.10.2 Trench 14

Dark-coloured layer (1412) was present in a sondage excavated at the south-east end of Trench 14. It was encountered at 34.61m OD, at a depth of 1m below the current ground surface.

It comprised dark orange-grey sandy silt and was 0.18m thick. It was sealed by a series of alluvial deposits (1405), (1406), (1407), (1409), (1410), (1411), similar in colour and consistency to those identified in Trenches 11 and 12. Below (1412) were sterile alluvial deposits (1413) and (1414).

5.11 Artefacts

Twenty deposits across ten trenches yielded an assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic building material, worked flint, animal bone, unmodified burnt flint and stone (Table 1). No finds were recovered from features in Trenches 1, 4, 5, or 8.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date range	Finds summary
2	207	Pit	210	Undated	Burnt stone & flint (162g)
	211	Pit	212	Prehistoric	Fired clay (3g); worked flint (1g)
3	303	Ditch	304	LBA/EIA	Pottery (49g)
6	603	Ditch	605	Saxon	Pottery (211g); animal bone (87g)
7	703	Cremation burial	704	Prehistoric	Pottery (15g)
9	903	Tree-throw	904	Undated	Pottery (2g)
10	1003	Ditch	1004	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (63g)
11	1107	Alluvium	1107	Undated	Animal bone (385g)
	1109	Ditch	1112	Modern	Pottery (3g); brick fragment (7g)
	1115	Pit	1118	Undated	Burnt flint (254g)
12	1201	Subsoil	1201	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (119g)
	1202	Alluvium	1202	Undated	Pottery (4g)
	1206	Ditch	1207	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (59g)
13	1303	Ditch	1304	LBA/EIA	Pottery (1g)
	1305	Ditch	1306	Prehistoric	Worked flint (4g)
	1307	Ditch	1308	LBA/EIA	Pottery (4g); animal bone (73g)
	1314	Layer	1314	LBA/EIA	Pottery (2g)
	1315	Layer	1315	LBA/EIA	Pottery (4g)
14	1403	Pit	1404	Early medieval	Pottery (114g)
	1406	Layer	1406	Undated	Burnt stone & flint (45g)

LBA/EIA – late Bronze Age / early Iron Age

Table 1: Finds summary by trench and feature

5.11.1 Ceramics

Thirty-eight pottery sherds (409g) representing approximately fifteen vessels were collected from Trenches 3, 6, 7, 9 and 11–14. The material displays variable fragmentation, with single sherds ranging in weight from 1g to 73g. Fabric types are identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2).

Fabric code	Common name	Sherd no.	Wt (g)	Fill:sherd no.
Prehistoric				
X01	Non-specific prehistoric	6	15	(704):6
F01A	Coarse flint	6	56	(304):2, (1304):1, (1314):1, (1315):2
F01C	Flint and quartz	1	4	(1308):1
Saxon				
A16	Coarse quartz	3	19	(605):3
A18	Fine quartz	2	16	(605):2
A32	Red quartz	13	176	(605):13
Early medieval				
C59B	Harsh sandy	4	114	(1404):4
Modern				
P100	Earthenware plant pot	1	3	(1112):1
UNID	Miscellaneous undated	2	6	(904):1, (1202):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series and quantification

Prehistoric

Seven flint-tempered late Bronze age/early Iron Age body sherds (60g) were recovered from ditches [303], [1303], [1307], and layers (1314) and (1315). All are small, fairly abraded, and of undiagnostic form.

Six grog-tempered body sherds (15g) representing disturbed fragments from cremation urn (705) may be early prehistoric, although full excavation of the vessel would be required to determine an accurate date.

Early-middle Saxon

The secondary fill (605) of pit [603] contained 18 quartz-rich sherds (211g) of early-middle Saxon date (*c*. AD 450–850). Three hand-made vessels are represented, although only one is sizeable enough to be identified as a globular form. Pottery of similar date was recovered locally from sunken-featured buildings excavated at Shefford Mill (MoLA 2014).

Medieval to modern

Four hand-made sand-tempered sherds (114g) of 12th–13th-century date were collected from pit [1403]. A sooted body sherd and three base angles are represented.

Ceramic building material comprises seven pieces of post-medieval flat roof tile (241g) collected from furrow [1003], alluvium (1201) and ditch [1206]. A modern brick fragment (7g) was recovered from ditch [1109]. The latter also contained a modern earthenware plant pot rim (3g). The fill of pit [211] yielded two amorphous fired clay fragments (3g) in a friable fine sandy fabric.

Unidentified

An abraded and undated grog-tempered (prehistoric?) body sherd (2g) derived from tree-throw [903]. Alluvial deposit (1202) yielded an abraded oxidised sand-tempered rim (4g) of uncertain date (possibly late Iron Age or early Roman?).

5.11.2 Other finds

Collected respectively from pit [211] and ditch [1305], worked flints comprise a secondary flake and a damaged tertiary flake, both fashioned from translucent grey-brown raw material. The former is soft-hammer-struck, and may be of late Mesolithic-early Neolithic date. Unmodified burnt flint (424g) and burnt stone (37g) derived from undated pits [207], [1115] and layer (1406).

Sixteen pieces of animal bone (545g) were collected from three features. Alluvial deposit (1107) and ditch [1307] respectively contained a horse tibia (385g) and a horse axis (73g), both virtually complete. Fourteen abraded and undiagnostic long bone fragments (87g) derived from Saxon ditch [603].

5.12 Discussion and Conclusions

Archaeological features were identified in thirteen trenches.

Two activity foci of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age date were identified in the northern area of the PDA (Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 7) and to the south in Trench 13, situated on the edge of the floodplain. The limited artefactual evidence recovered from these features suggests that they were field system boundaries at a distance from settlement.

The urned cremation burial which in Trench 7 can only be dated very broadly to the prehistoric period. It might be a solitary example, but there could potentially be further burials in this part of the site.

A ditch containing pottery of early-middle Saxon date was present to the west of the PDA in Trench 6. The amount of pottery is suggestive of settlement remains in the near vicinity, probably associated with similarly dated ditches and sunken-featured buildings uncovered in an adjacent excavation (EBD1193; MOLA 2014). Since no further remains of this date were identified within the PDA, it is likely that the ditch lies on the eastern edge of the Saxon settlement.

Medieval activity was represented by a single pit, excavated in Trench 14 and containing 12th- to 13th-century pottery. The quantity of pottery is suggestive of medieval settlement activity in the vicinity.

A number of pits and a posthole identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 8 were undated, due to an absence of any artefacts. They were, however, dispersed across the northern part of the PDA in the vicinity of several late Bronze Age / early Iron Ages ditches and could be contemporary.

Pits and layers of burnt, charcoal-rich material were uncovered in Trenches 11 and 14. Although no dateable artefacts were recovered, these remains may be of post-medieval or modern date. However, the proximity of a medieval pit in Trench 14 could suggest an earlier date for this activity.

Trenches 11, 12 and 14 were located in the low-lying area of the historic floodplain and deeper segments machined within the trenches revealed dark-coloured, peat-derived alluvial layers. Such layers have high potential for environmental analysis which can inform the archaeological record.

6. HERITAGE STATEMENT

This section appraises the significance of the heritage assets within the PDA and assesses the potential impact of the proposed scheme on them.

The criteria for assessing significance are listed in Appendix 3.

6.1 Archaeological Heritage Assets

6.1.1 Prehistoric (before 43 BC)

Prior to trial trenching no prehistoric heritage assets had been recorded within the study area. A prehistoric cremation burial and pit have now been identified within the PDA, in Trenches 2 and 7.

Pre-application advice (CB/15/01691/PAPC) has highlighted the potential of river valley locations to contain evidence of prehistoric settlement and ritual. Buried dark-coloured peat deposits were identified in trenches located on the floodplain. These have not so far been dated, but they could potentially be of an early date. In light of this evidence, there is *high* potential for further remains of prehistoric date to survive within the PDA.

If remains of this period did survive within the PDA, they would probably be of *moderate* significance depending on their age and state of preservation.

6.1.2 Roman (43 BC–AD 410)

The nearest Roman heritage assets to the PDA comprised the postulated route of Viatores 210 (HER 10480) and a Roman pottery findspot, both located over 400m to the west. No further evidence of Roman date was identified during trial trenching on the PDA.

In light of this evidence, there is *low* potential for further remains of Roman date to survive within the PDA. If remains of this period did survive within the PDA, they would probably be of *low* to *moderate* significance depending on their exact nature.

6.1.3 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066)

Three Anglo-Saxon SFBs were identified on land to the west of the PDA, during archaeological investigation in advance of a housing development. The only evidence of this date from the evaluation within the PDA was a ditch of the same date, identified in Trench 6. This suggests the focus of Saxon settlement lies to the west of the PDA.

In light of this evidence, there is *high* potential for further remains of Anglo-Saxon date to survive within the western part of the PDA. However, the potential will be *low* within the eastern part of the PDA.

The research frameworks for Bedfordshire state that evidence of rural Anglo-Saxon settlement is generally sparse (Oake *et al.* 2007, 91). A better understanding of site morphology is required and how settlement types and forms changed over this period (Medlycott 2011, 58). The influence of Anglo-

Saxon settlement and landscape organisation on the subsequent medieval landscape also needs to be explored (ibid).

If remains of this period did survive within the PDA, they would probably be of *moderate* significance depending on their exact nature.

6.1.4 Medieval (1066–1550)

The PDA lies *c.* 550m to the north-east of the medieval core of Shefford (HER 17106) and so no built heritage assets of this period are present within the site. However, evidence of medieval fields was identified during evaluation on land to the west of the PDA, where a series of NW-SE and NE-SW ditches were identified (MOLA 2014).

Trial trenching of the PDA revealed a single medieval pit in Trench 14, situated on the floodplain. Charcoal-rich layers and pits identified in Trenches 11 and 14 could also potentially be medieval in date.

In light of this evidence, there is *moderate* to *high* potential for further remains of medieval date to survive within the PDA.

The research framework for Bedfordshire states that in general few medieval rural settlements have been investigated in the county. It stresses the potential for acquiring information about the origins, diversity and development of villages from within or around the edges of existing settlements (Oake 2007, 14). In addition, 'how far can the size and shape of fields be related to agricultural regimes' (Medlycott 2011, 70).

If remains of this period did survive within the PDA, they would probably be of *low* to *moderate* significance depending on their exact nature.

6.1.5 Post-medieval (1550–1900) and modern (1900 to Present day)

Only one extant post-medieval building of historical interest is situated within the PDA: the 19th century windmill tower (HER 939) (see below). Other buildings, however, were situated to the west of the site and comprised several phases of watermill (HER 14545, 2633), the earliest being 17th century or early in origin. These have since been demolished, but elements of the foundations might survive beneath the existing commercial buildings and hard standings.

Part of a former field boundary (HER 198820) was identified during evaluation on land to the west of the PDA, but there is no indication that it would extended into the PDA. In any case, a post-medieval field boundary would be of *low* significance.

During trial trenching a series of closely spaced ditches were identified in Trenches 10 and 12. They do not correspond to any field boundaries marked on historical maps and could be the remains of a drainage system on the floodplain. Such features might be of local interest as they would be evidence of agricultural improvement in the area.

In light of this evidence, there is *moderate* to *high* potential for further remains of post-medieval date to survive within the PDA.

Potential for further archaeological study is low, since it will not significantly add to the information already available from documentary sources. Therefore, the significance of any potential post-medieval remains is assessed as *low*.

A modern ditch in Trench 11 could correspond to a field boundary depicted on the 1800 Southill Enclosure Map (Figure 4) and *c.* 1806 plan of Shefford Mill Farm (Figure 6). The significance of this and further potential heritage assets of this date is *negligible*.

6.2 Above-ground Heritage Assets

6.2.1 Brick-built 19th-century windmill (HER 939)

Currently, the immediate visual setting of the 19th-century brick-built windmill tower (HER 939) comprises the surrounding agricultural land and/or pasture and the B658 road (Plates 2 and 3). This open aspect has remained unchanged since its construction in the early 19th century and will be considerably affected by the proposed development. However, the building will remain visible over open land from the east. A thorough assessment of the visual impact of the development on the setting of the windmill is presented in the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment for the development (ACD Environmental 2016).

It should be noted that the setting of the structure has been compromised by the previous development of an adjacent telecommunications mast.

The loss of the nearby watermill (HER 14545) during floods in 1959 and subsequent 20th-century commercial and housing developments to the west have already had an adverse impacted on the windmill's historical setting.

The windmill is of *low* significance as it is not a designated heritage asset and is in need of some repair. It is a redundant building with little prospect of economic reuse in its current state.

6.2.2 Ivel Navigation (HER 14539)

The only other heritage asset on which the proposed development could have an impact is the disused canal of the 19th-century Ivel Navigation. This is located along the southern boundary of the PDA and is not a designated heritage asset so is of *low* significance. Its current setting is generally agricultural land with trees along its course. In the area of the proposed development it is masked by trees. Closer to Shefford town, modern housing developments exist to the north and south of the navigation, although the floodplain on either side has been retained. There is currently no public access to the north bank of the navigation.

The proposed development will retain open space alongside the navigation and will have the beneficial effect of enabling public access to the navigation at this point.

6.3 Shefford Conservation Area and Listed Buildings

The conservation area is so far from the PDA that the proposed development will have no discernible impact.

The PDA does not contain any buildings and there are no listed buildings within 500m of the PDA. The proposed development will have no discernible impact.

6.4 The Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of a residential development of 110 plots, on land adjacent to Stanford Road. Land adjacent to the Ivel Navigation is floodplain and the intention is to leave it undeveloped, but there will be a large pond constructed on the edge of the adjacent terrace.

The present application is for outline planning permission so the precise development plans are not available at the time of writing this assessment. The detailed development proposals will be agreed in due course as approval is sought for the reserved matters.

6.5 Direct Impact on Heritage Assets

Development of the type envisaged within the PDA typically involves groundworks, which could adversely affect archaeological heritage assets. The potential magnitude of this impact can be classed as *low* to *high*, depending on the nature of the groundworks. The development excludes the undesignated windmill (HER929).

Evaluation has identified sub-surface archaeological remains within the PDA, some of which are potentially of *moderate* significance. The significance (before mitigation) of the potential impact of the proposed development on those remains has generally been assessed as no more than *moderate* (Table 3). However, the construction of the pond on the adjacent to the floodplain will have a *high* impact on early prehistoric features so the significance of the impact before mitigation would be *moderate/large*. It will be possible to mitigate any impacts by measures designed to ensure the continued preservation *in situ* of sub-surface remains or, where this is not possible, by the implementation of a further programme of archaeological works.

6.6 Direct Impact on the Setting of Heritage Assets

There will be no development impact on the settings of any designated heritage assets. Two undesignated assets will be affected: the windmill tower (HER 939) and the Ivel Navigation (HER 14539) where it passes by the development.
Whilst the harm to the setting of windmill is potentially *high*, the structure itself is undesignated and of low significance and its setting has already been

compromised to some degree by the telecommunications mast. The significance of the impact will be *slight/moderate*.

The development will affect the visual setting of a short stretch of the Ivel Navigation. At worst this will be moderately harmful, but this harm will be balanced by the benefit of increasing public access to the north bank of the river/canal. The overall harmful impact will therefore be *low* and the significance of the impact *slight*.

6.7 Summary

The following table gives an indication of the relative significance of archaeological heritage assets, and their setting, and the development impact in the light of the trial trenching results. There will be no discernible impact on the setting of any designated heritage assets within the study area.

Assets	Potential for finding asset	Significance	Impact	Significance of impact (before mitigation)
Prehistoric (pre-43 BC)	High	Moderate	High	Moderate /large
Roman (43 BC–AD 410)	Low	Low to moderate	Low to high	Slight
Anglo-Saxon (410-1066)	High (to the west) Low (to the east)	Moderate	Low to high	Moderate
Medieval (1066- 1550)	Moderate to high	Low to moderate	Low to high	Slight / moderate
Post-medieval (1550 to 1750)	Moderate to high	Low to moderate	Low to high	Slight / moderate
Modern (1750 to present)	Low	Negligible	Low to high	Neutral / slight
Windmill HER939	n/a	Low	High	Slight/moderate
Ivel Navigation	n/a	Low	Low	Slight

Table 3: Assessment of the direct impacts on heritage assets

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

ACD Environmental, 2016 *Stanford Road Shefford: Landscape Visual Impact Assessment* (Unpubl. rep. WHK20129lvia)

Albion Archaeology, 2005 *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire: Shefford Archaeological Assessment* (Unpubl. rep. 2000/57)

Albion Archaeology, 2015 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological field evaluation: Stanford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire* (Unpubl. rep. 2015/147)

British Geological Survey, 2015 Geology of Britain viewer. Available: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed: 15th December 2015

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J., 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8

CBC, 2012 *General Guidance for the Preparation of Archaeological Desk-based Assessments 1*

DCLG, 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Medlycott, M., 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

MOLA, 2014 *Anglo-Saxon Settlement at Stanford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire* (Unpubl. Rep. 14/14)

Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P., 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy,* Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9

Oakleigh Consulting, 2014 *Heritage Information Access Strategy: Business Process Mapping of Historic Environment Information*, Report for English Heritage, final version 9 March 2015 (Manchester)

Stratascan, 2015 *Geophysical Survey Report: Stanford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire* (Unpubl. Rep. J9097)

8. APPENDIX 1: DESK-BASED SURVEY DATA

8.1 Designated Heritage Assets within a 500m-radius of the study area

8.1.1 Conservation Areas

HER no.	Name
DBD3390	Shefford Conservation Area

8.2 Undesignated Heritage Assets within a 500m-radius Study Area

8.2.1 Monuments and findspots

HER no.	Name	Description	Period
939	SHEFFORD WINDMILL	The remains of a brick tower mill, which stopped working in 1880.	Post-medieval
2633	SHEFFORD MILL	The site of a watermill, associated with windmill HER939, and demolished in the 1960s.	Post-medieval
14545	SHEFFORD (TYTHE) MILLS	2 watermills called the Tythe Mills were located in Southill and Clifton and were owned by Chicksands Priory.	Post-medieval
14572	SHEFFORD MILL, BOTTOM SPINNEY		Post-medieval
16021	ROMAN POTTERY, Junction of Rivers Flit and Hit	Base of a Roman jar	Roman
20043	MEDIEVAL POTTERY, Ivedale Drive	Sherds of medieval pottery were discovered in test pits in Ivedale Drive, along with two sherds of post-medieval pottery and eighteen Victorian sherds.	Medieval
14539	IVEL NAVIGATION	The Ivel Navigation ran from Tempsford to Shefford when completed in 1822. Origins lie in the Ivel Navigation Act of 1756 but the enterprise was wound up after the Ivel Navigation (Abandonment) Act came into effect in August 1876.	Post-medieval
8962	BAPTIST CHURCHYARD	Churchyard, opened by 1910	Post-medieval
10480	'ROMAN ROAD' (Viatores No. 210)	Supposed Ickleford to Bedford Roman Road suggested by the Viatores.	Roman
17106	SHEFFORD MEDIEVAL TOWN	The medieval town of Shefford	Medieval
19879	ANGLO-SAXON SFB, west of Shefford Mill	Archaeological investigations revealed the remains of an Anglo-Saxon SFB and associated ditches and gullies.	Anglo-Saxon

HER no.	Name	Description	Period
19880	POST-MEDIEVAL DITCH, west of Shefford Mill	A ditch, likely a former field boundary following the same route as the former footpath from Shefford to the mill was uncovered during archaeological works.	Post-medieval
14603	TURNPIKE ROAD, Shefford – Bedford road	An 18th-century road in the parish of Southill	Post-medieval

8.3 Events

EBD no.	Name	Date/organisation
EBD1193	Archaeological trial excavations were undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology at Stanford Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire. The trenching followed on from a geophysical survey that identified a number of curvilinear features and several possible pits. A Saxon SFB, containing early-middle Saxon pottery, was excavated. A number of possible boundary ditches may have been contemporary. There were further, scattered features in many of the trenches although the majority were undated. A substantial ditch aligned east to west, dates to the post-medieval period and could be a former field boundary.	2011/Northamptonshire Archaeology
EBD1233	Test-pits. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from three test pits, but the majority of the assemblage from the 13 test pits was post-medieval or Victorian.	2014/ Cambridge University Archaeological Unit

8.4 Cartographic Sources

Source	Description	Reference
BLARS	Jeffreys' map of Bedfordshire	BLARS reading room
	Southill Estate Map 1800	BRO:MA 19/1
	Plan of Shefford Mill Farm *c*. 1795-1806	HF 13/5/1
National Library of Scotland	First edition OS map 1881	Sheet XXII.SE
	OS map 1950	Sheet XXII.SE
Albion Archaeology	10,000 OS map 1978	Sheet TL 13 NW

9. APPENDIX 2: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: **1**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.48 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14830: Northing: 39607)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14785: Northing: 39587)*

Reason: **Targeted on circular geophysical anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown grey clay silt Depth: up to 0.36m**	☑	☐
101	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt Depth: up to 014m**	☑	☐
102	**Natural**	**Friable mid red brown silty sand Deposit also mid yellowish brown sandy silt with mid bluish grey clay patches**	☐	☐
103	**Posthole**	**Sub-circular sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.15m, max diameter 0.19m**	☑	☐
104	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☐

Trench: **2**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.48 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14805: Northing: 39577)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14825: Northing: 39532)*

Reason: **Targeted on circular geophysical anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt Depth: up to 0.37m**	☑	☐
201	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.18m. Contained fragments of ironstone**	☑	☐
202	**Natural**	**Loose mid brown orange silty sand Also large patches of light brown silt**	☐	☐
203	**Ditch**	**Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max diameter 0.23m**	☑	☐
204	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal Deposit very similar to subsoil	☑	☐
205	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.22m**	☑	☐
206	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Contained fragments of ironstone	☑	☐
207	**Pit**	**Sub-oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.1m, max length 0.57m**	☑	☐
208	Primary fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional medium stones Depth: up to 0.10m. Contained fragments of ironstone	☑	☐
209	Secondary fill	Friable light orange grey sandy silt Depth: up to 0.10m	☑	☐
210	Upper fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional medium stones Depth: up to 0.08m. Contained fragments of ironstone	☑	☑
211	**Pit**	**Sub-oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.87m, max depth 0.32m, max length 1.8m**	☑	☐
212	Fill	Loose mid orange brown silty sand	☑	☑

Trench: **3**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.55 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14856: Northing: 39591)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14838: Northing: 39545)*

Reason: **Targeted on circular geophysical anomalies**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	**Topsoil**	**Friable mid grey brown clay silt Depth: up to 0.35m**	☑	☐
301	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt Depth: up to 0.20m**	☑	☐
302	**Natural**	**Friable mid orange silty sand Contained fragments of ironstone**	☐	☐
303	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.33m, max depth 0.18m, min length 2.6m**	☑	☐
304	Fill	Compact mid yellow brown sandy silt	☑	☑
305	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.03m, max depth 0.2m, min length 2.4m**	☑	☐
306	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-large stones	☑	☐

Trench: **4**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.75 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14876: Northing: 39595)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14875: Northing: 39545)*

Reason: **Targeted on large ring shaped geophysical anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt Depth: up to 0.34m	☑	☐
401	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt Depth: up to 0.21m	☑	☐
402	Natural	Friable mid red brown silty sand Also patches of gravel	☐	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.76 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14901: Northing: 39633)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14894: Northing: 39583)*

Reason: **Targeted on circular geophysical anomalies**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark brown grey clay silt Depth: up to 0.30m**	☑	☐
501	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt Depth: up to 0.32m**	☑	☐
502	**Natural**	**Friable mid red brown silty sand moderate small stones**	☐	☐
503	**Ditch**	**Linear ESE-WNW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.1m, max length 3.m**	☑	☐
504	Fill	Compact mid yellow brown sandy silt	☑	☐

Trench: **6**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.34 m. Max: 0.47 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14850: Northing: 39533)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14837: Northing: 39512)*

Reason: **Targeted on circular geophysical anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown grey clay silt Depth: up to 0.36m**	☑	☐
601	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt Depth: up to 0.11m**	☑	☐
602	**Natural**	**Compact mid red brown silty sand Patches of light yellowish brown silty sand and fragments of ironstone**	☐	☐
603	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.22m, max depth 0.38m, min length 1.8m**	☑	☐
604	Primary fill	Compact mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones Depth: up to 0.36m	☑	☐
605	Secondary fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones Depth: up to 0.03m	☑	☑

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.55 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14931: Northing: 39557)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14886: Northing: 39534)*

Reason: **Targeted on circular geophysical and linear anomalies**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt**	☑	☐
701	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey orange sandy silt Depth: up to 0.20m**	☑	☐
702	**Natural**	**Friable mid brown orange silty sand Contained fragments of ironstone and gravelly silt**	☐	☐
703	**Grave**	**Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m Not excavated.**	☐	☐
704	Cremation deposit	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal Upper spit within cremation urn (705). Contained fragments of cremated bone	☐	☑
705	Finds deposit	Cremation urn 0.3m in diameter	☐	☐
706	Backfill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt	☐	☐
707	**Ditch**	**Linear sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, max depth 0.36m, max length 0.55m**	☑	☐
708	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silt	☑	☐

Trench: **8**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.53 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14937: Northing: 39529)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14914: Northing: 39520)*

Reason: **Targeted on linear anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt Depth: up to 0.40m**	☑	☐
801	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey orange sandy silt Depth: up to 0.16m**	☑	☐
802	**Natural**	**Friable mid brown orange sandy silt Contained fragments of ironstone**	☐	☐
803	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.99m, max depth 0.3m**	☑	☐
804	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: **9**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 0.50 m.** **Width: 2.00 m.** **Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m.** **Max: 0.54 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14876: Northing: 39516)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14916: Northing: 39486)*

Reason: **Test blank area and geophysical anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	**Topsoil**	**Firm mid brown grey clay silt Depth: up to 0.34m**	☑	☐
901	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid red brown sandy silt Depth: up to 0.13m**	☑	☐
902	**Natural**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt Patches of mid reddish brown silty clay and sandy gravel**	☐	☐
903	**Treethrow**	**Sub-oval sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.24m, max length 3.m**	☑	☐
904	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☑
905	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.15m, max depth 0.12m, max length 0.4m**	☑	☐
906	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Also associated with redeposited mid greyish brown clay natural	☑	☐
907	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 4.35m, max depth 0.08m, max length 0.8m**	☑	☐
908	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Also associated with redeposited mid greyish brown clay natural	☑	☐
909	**Treethrow**	**Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.04m, max length 0.55m**	☑	☐
910	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: **10**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.58 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14938: Northing: 39436)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14913: Northing: 39436)*

Reason: **Test geophysical anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt Depth: up to 0.38m**	☑	☐
1001	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey orange sandy silt Depth: up to 0.20m**	☑	☐
1002	**Natural**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy clay Also area of mid orangish brown sandy silt and gravel patches**	☐	☐
1003	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, max depth 0.11m, min length 2.m**	☑	☐
1004	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☑
1005	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, max depth 0.11m, min length 2.m**	☑	☐
1006	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 50.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.4 m. **Max:** 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 14944: Northing: 39426)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 14983: Northing: 39395)*

Reason: **Test geophysical anomaly**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1100	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown grey clay silt Depth: up to 0.30m**	☑	☐
1101	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey orange silty clay Depth: up to 0.15m**	☑	☐
1102	**Natural**	**Loose mid orange brown sandy gravel Also patches of light yellowish brown sand and mid reddish brown silty sand**	☐	☐
1103	**Natural**	**Firm mid yellow clay**	☐	☐
1104	**Alluvium**	**Plastic dark grey peat Depth: up to 0.26m. Width in section: 3.84m**	☑	☐
1105	**Alluvium**	**Firm mid grey clay Merges with (1106) in section**	☑	☐
1106	**Alluvium**	**Firm black silty clay occasional medium stones Depth: up to 0.17m.**	☑	☐
1107	**Alluvium**	**Plastic mid orange brown clay silt Depth: up to 0.43m.**	☑	☑
1108	**Alluvium**	**Firm light yellow grey silty clay Depth: up to 0.28m**	☑	☐
1109	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.43m, max depth 0.64m, min length 2.7m Cut by [1113]**	☑	☐
1110	Primary fill	Compact mid red brown sandy gravel Depth: 0.39m. Also patches of dark greyish brown clayey silt	☑	☐
1111	Secondary fill	Friable dark red brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.27m	☑	☐
1112	Upper fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.33m. Also patches of dark reddish brown sandy silt	☑	☑
1113	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.42m, min length 2.7m Recut of [1109]**	☑	☐
1114	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
1115	**Pit**	**Irregular sides: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.43m, min length 0.6m**	☑	☐
1116	Primary fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate flecks charcoal Depth: up to 0.10m	☑	☐
1117	Secondary fill	Friable light orange grey sand Depth: up to 0.14m	☑	☐
1118	Tertiary fill	Friable dark grey black sandy silt occasional small-medium burnt stones, frequent flecks charcoal Depth: up to 0.10m	☑	☑
1119	Upper fill	Friable mid brown grey sand Depth: up to 0.06m	☑	☐
1120	Upper fill	Friable dark brown grey silty sand moderate flecks charcoal Depth: up to 0.10m	☑	☐
1121	**Pit**	**sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.08m**	☑	☐
1122	Fill	Friable dark grey black sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal	☑	☐
1123	**Redeposited natural**	**Friable light orange grey silty sand Depth: up to 0.08m. Overlies [1115] and [1121]**	☑	☐
1124	**Dump material**	**Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.25m. Overlies (1123)**	☑	☐
1125	**Alluvium**	**Friable mid grey yellow sandy silt moderate small stones**	☐	☐

Trench: **12**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.95 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 15026: Northing: 39409)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 15026: Northing: 39359)*

Reason: **Test large geophysical anomaly likely to be flood plain related**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1200	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown grey clay silt Depth: up to 0.41m**	☑	☐
1201	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey orange silty clay Depth: up to 0.29m**	☑	☑
1202	**Alluvium**	**Friable light grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.38m. Upper deposit in sequence of layers investigated in sondage at north end of trench**	☑	☑
1203	**Alluvium**	**Friable dark brown grey silty clay Depth: up to 0.23m. Associated with organic, peat-like material. Deposit part of sequence of layers investigated in sondage at north end of trench**	☑	☐
1204	**Alluvium**	**Firm mid blue grey silty clay Depth: up to 0.10m. Deposit part of sequence of layers investigated in sondage at north end of trench**	☑	☐
1205	**Alluvium**	**Firm mid grey blue silty clay Depth: more than 0.21m. High organic content. Lowest deposit in sequence of layers investigated in sondage at north end of trench**	☑	☐
1206	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.52m, max depth 0.23m, min length 2.m**	☑	☐
1207	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☑
1208	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.38m, max depth 0.1m, min length 1.8m**	☑	☐
1209	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
1210	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.73m, max depth 0.21m, min length 1.8m**	☑	☐
1211	Fill	Firm light brown grey clay silt frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones	☑	☐
1212	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.05m, min length 1.8m**	☑	☐
1213	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: **13**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.42 m. Max: 0.46 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 15039: Northing: 39420)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 15087: Northing: 39433)*

Reason: **Targeted on circular geophysical anomalies**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	**Topsoil**	**Friable mid brown grey clay silt Depth: up to 0.32m**	☑	☐
1301	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid orange brown silty clay Depth: up to 0.21m. Deposit not visible towards center of trench**	☐	☐
1302	**Natural**	**Compact mid grey brown sandy gravel Deposit mid bluish grey silty clay towards wsw extent of trench. Also contained clayey gravel patches**	☑	☐
1303	**Ditch**	**Linear ENE-WSW sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.4m, max length 0.6m Same as [1307]**	☑	☐
1304	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt	☑	☑
1305	**Ditch**	**Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.27m, max length 0.85m Cuts [1307] Same as [1309].**	☑	☐
1306	Fill	Firm mid blue grey sandy clay occasional small-medium stones	☑	☑
1307	**Ditch**	**Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.91m, max depth 0.32m, max length 0.72m Cut by [1305] Same as [1303]**	☑	☐
1308	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt	☑	☑
1309	**Ditch**	**Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.3m, max length 0.45m Same as [1305]**	☑	☐
1310	Fill	Firm mid blue grey sandy clay occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
1311	**Pit**	**Sub-oval sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.38m, max diameter 1.35m Partially sealed by (1314)**	☑	☐
1312	Primary fill	Compact mid blue grey clay gravel Depth: up to 0.22m	☑	☐
1313	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey blue sandy clay occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.25m	☑	☐
1314	**Layer**	**Friable mid blue grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.36m. Partially seals [1311] in seg. Same as (1315) and (1316)**	☑	☑
1315	**Layer**	**Friable mid blue grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.36m. Deposit has very diffuse boundary with topsoil at this point. Same as (1314) and (1316)**	☑	☑
1316	**Layer**	**Friable mid blue grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones At least 15m long and up to 0.36m deep Same as (1314) and (1315)**	☑	☐

Trench: 14

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 0.50 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.45 m. **Max:** 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 15105: Northing: 39433)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 15146: Northing: 39403)*

Reason: **Targeted on circular geophysical anomalies**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1400	**Topsoil**	**Friable mid grey brown clay silt Depth: up to 0.35m**	☑	☐
1401	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown silty clay Depth: up to 0.15m**	☑	☐
1402	**Natural**	**Compact mid brown yellow silty gravel**	☐	☐
1403	**Pit**	**Sub-circular sides: assymetrical base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.12m, max diameter 1.65m**	☑	☐
1404	Fill	Friable mid blue grey clay silt	☑	☑
1405	**Dump material**	**Friable mid grey blue clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones Depth: up to 0.33m**	☑	☐
1406	**Dump material**	**Firm dark grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.40m**	☑	☑
1407	**Alluvium**	**Friable mid orange grey silt Depth: up to 0.33m**	☑	☐
1408	**Topsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt Depth: 0.45m. Deposit had disturbed appearance in sect.**	☑	☐
1409	**Alluvium**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt Depth: up to 0.40m**	☑	☐
1410	**Alluvium**	**Friable mid orange grey silt Depth: up to 0.12m**	☑	☐
1411	**Alluvium**	**Firm dark grey silty clay Depth: up to 0.14m**	☑	☐
1412	**Alluvium**	**Plastic dark orange grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Depth: up to 0.18m**	☑	☐
1413	**Alluvium**	**Plastic mid orange grey sandy silt**	☐	☐
1414	**Alluvium**	**Loose light grey orange sand**	☐	☐

10. APPENDIX 3: IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

10.1 Significance and Impact Criteria

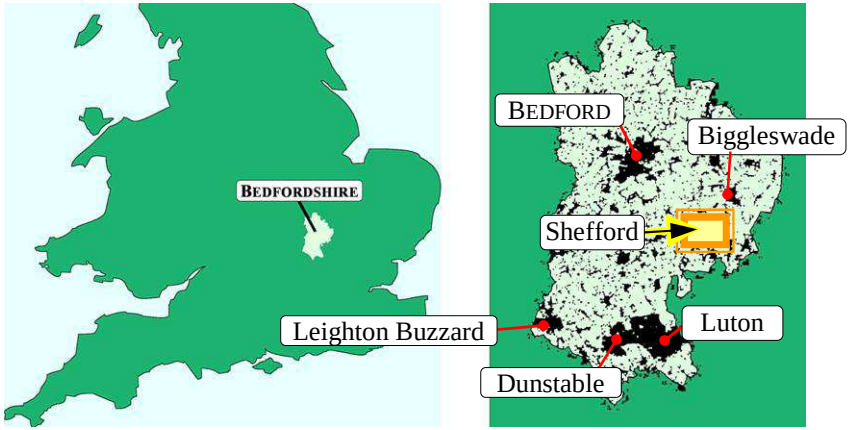
Criteria used for Assessing the Significance of Assets	
Significance of Asset	***Definition***
International (or Very High)	A designated World Heritage Site or place of equivalent 'outstanding universal value' and international significance
National or High	Designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments, Grade I or Grade II* listed buildings, registered Park or Gardens or battlefields) of national significance. Or: Undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of potentially equivalent value. This includes assets which are: • rare in the heritage environment record or • are a good example of a type site or • have a high potential to add to regional and national research criteria
Regional (or Moderate)	Designated heritage assets of regional significance (Grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Park or Garden or battlefield not associated with events of national significance). Or: Undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of potentially equivalent value. This includes assets which are: • more commonly found in the heritage environment record or • have particular regional associations or may have important associations on a local or parish level (e.g. they have meaning to local population or embody something of the special identity of a locality) • have moderate potential to add to local and regional research criteria
Local (or Low)	Assets which are: • are relatively poorly preserved or • have limited significance on a local level • have a low potential to add to local and regional research criteria
Uncertain	Sites where there is evidence that a heritage asset may exist, but where there is insufficient information to determine its nature, extent and degree of survival given current knowledge (e.g. crop-marks untested by fieldwork or random finds spots).
Negligible	Where there is very authoritative evidence – usually backed up by field evaluation – that there is no possibility that anything of archaeological or historical significance exists or where any potential surviving remains have no value within the context of the current study.

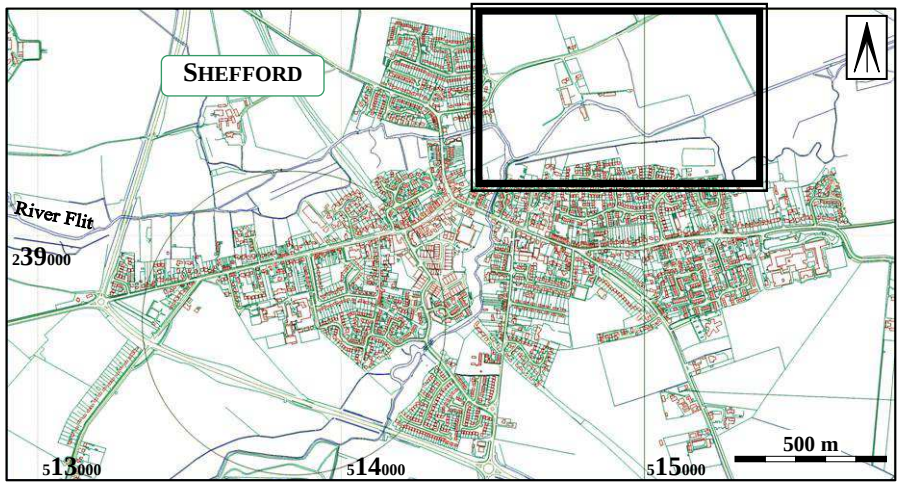
Criteria used for Assessing the Magnitude of Development Impacts	
Magnitude of Impact	***Effect of Impact***
High	Causes total destruction of or permanent change to most key elements of the asset that results in major loss of integrity and reduction in significance. Substantial change to the setting of the asset. Any such change would almost certainly considerably reduce the significance of the asset and would not normally be reversible.
Moderate	Either: causes permanent change to or loss of many key elements of the asset that lead to a moderate loss of its overall integrity and reduction in significance. Moderate change to the setting of the asset. Or: temporarily causes major loss of integrity and significance, e.g. through restricting accessibility and visibility, or by altering its setting.
Low	Either: causes permanent change to some key or peripheral elements of the asset, or changes to the setting of the asset, that lead to a slight loss of its overall integrity or significance. Or: temporarily causes moderate loss of integrity and significance, e.g. through restricting accessibility and visibility, or by altering its setting.
Negligible	Minor permanent or temporary changes to the asset that have no appreciable direct or indirect effect on the asset or its setting and do not affect its significance.
No change	No change to the asset or its setting.
Slightly Beneficial	Either: delivers some improvement to the asset that does not increase its overall integrity or significance. Or: arrests an existing process of adverse change.
Moderately Beneficial	Either: causes long-term improvement of the asset, involving some increase in its integrity or significance. Or: reverses an existing process of adverse change.
Highly Beneficial	Causes major benefit to the asset that increases its integrity and significance. Such change would almost certainly increase the significance of the asset.

Significance of effects matrix

Value/Significance	**Very high**	Neutral	Slight	Moderate /large	Large or Very Large	Very Large
	High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate	Moderate /large	Large or Very Large
	Moderate	Neutral	Neutral / slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate / large
	Low	Neutral	Neutral / slight	Neutral / slight	Slight	Slight / moderate
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral / slight	Neutral / slight	Slight
		No change	**Negligible**	**Low**	**Moderate**	**High**
		Magnitude of impact				

Criteria used for Assessing the Setting of Assets	
Value of Setting Attribute	***Effect on Setting of Asset***
High	Makes a major contribution to the significance of the heritage asset, for example because it is itself a significant heritage asset or because it is a very prominent feature of the setting. Substantial change to this attribute would almost certainly considerably reduce the significance of the setting as it relates to the asset and would not normally be reversible.
Moderate	Makes a moderate contribution to the significance of the heritage asset, for example, because it is itself a locally significant heritage asset or a notable feature of the setting. Substantial change to this attribute would almost certainly reduce the integrity of the asset's setting and to some degree reduce the significance of the setting as it relates to the asset. Such changes may be temporary or reversible, but might persist for a longer term.
Low	Makes a minor contribution to the significance of the asset, for example having no heritage value in itself or comprising a small element in the setting. Substantial change to this attribute might that lead to a slight loss of its overall integrity or significance of the setting of the asset The changes may be short term.
Neutral	Makes no apparent contribution to the setting of the asset.
Slightly Intrusive	Comprises a small intrusive element in the setting of the asset, or one that is itself a heritage asset. The intrusiveness may be limited to a short term. Removal of the attribute would not normally be justified but mitigation would be beneficial..
Moderately Intrusive	Detracts somewhat from the significance of the heritage asset, but is not a very prominent feature of the setting and does not involve large-scale activities or emissions. The attribute itself may have some heritage value, thus offsetting its intrusiveness. Removal or mitigation of the intrusion would increase the significance of the setting in relation to the asset.
Highly Intrusive	Detracts highly from the significance of the heritage asset and has no heritage value in its own right. This might be because it is a very prominent feature of the setting, involves large-scale activities or produces copious emissions. Removal or mitigation of the intrusion would almost certainly increase the significance of the setting in relation to the asset.





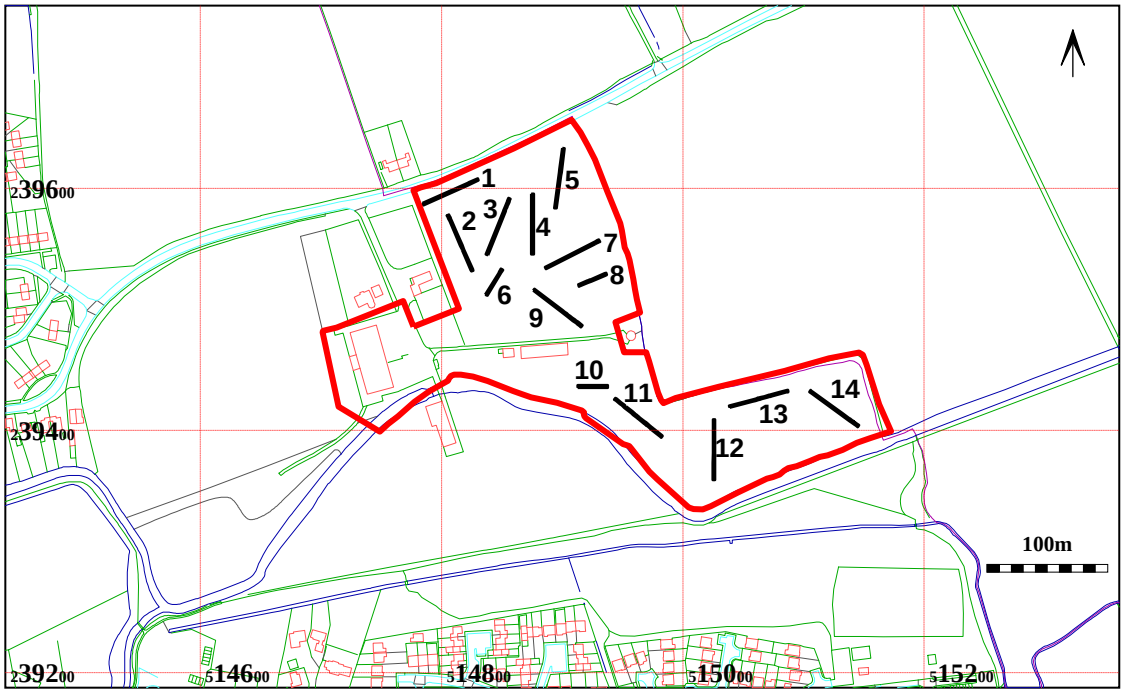


Figure 1: Site and trench location plan

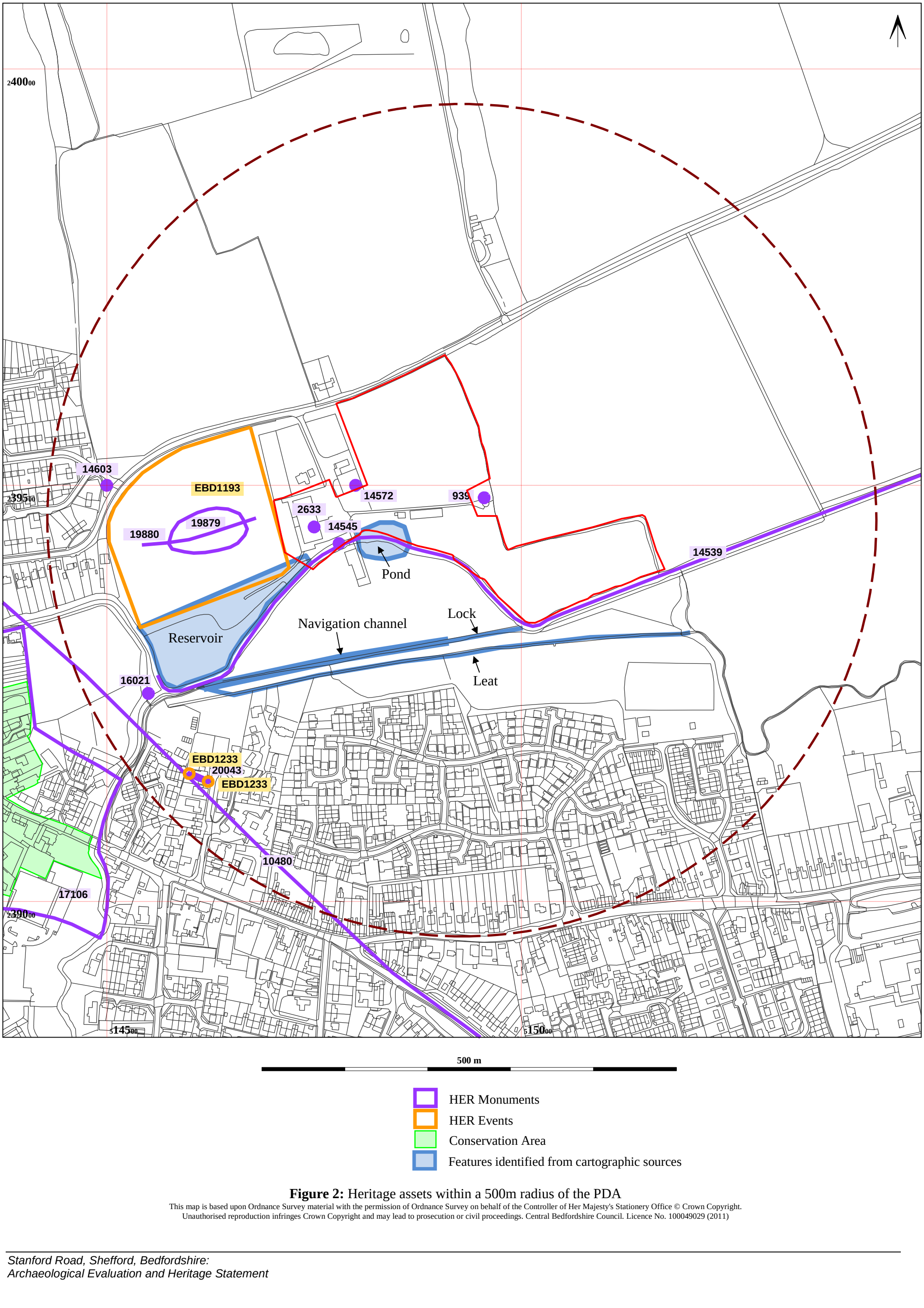


Figure 2: Heritage assets within a 500m radius of the PDA

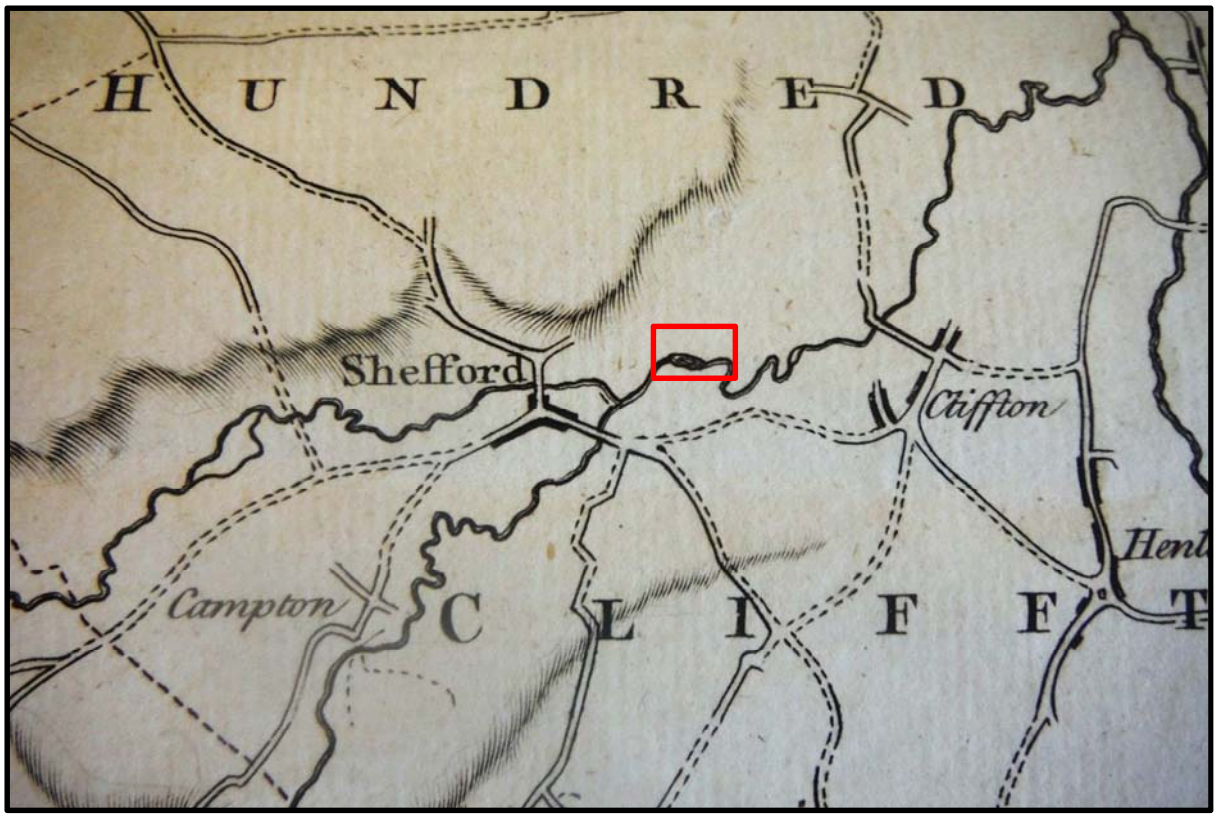


Figure 3: 1764 Jefferys's map of Bedfordshire
(Location of PDA is approximate)

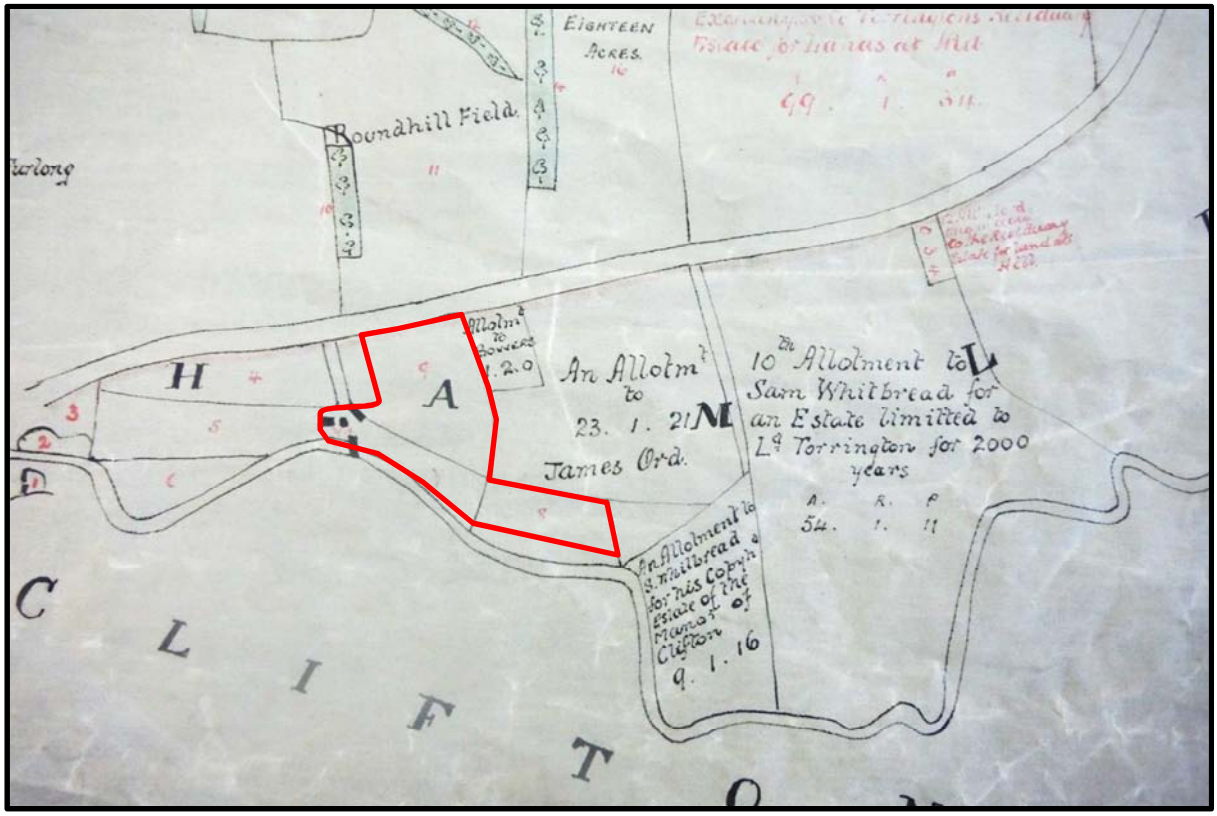


Figure 4: 1800 Southill Enclosure map
(Location of PDA is approximate)

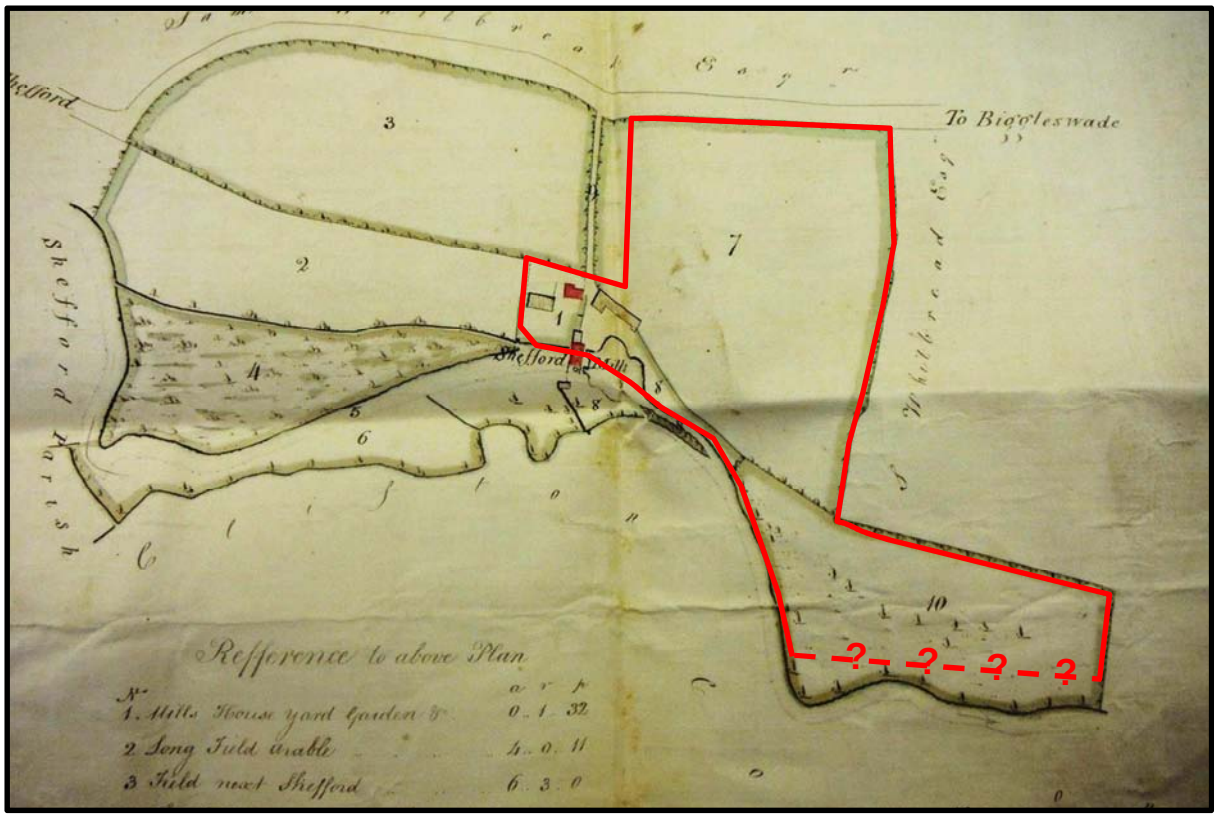


Figure 5: *c.* 1806 plan of Shefford Mill Farm
(Location of PDA is approximate)

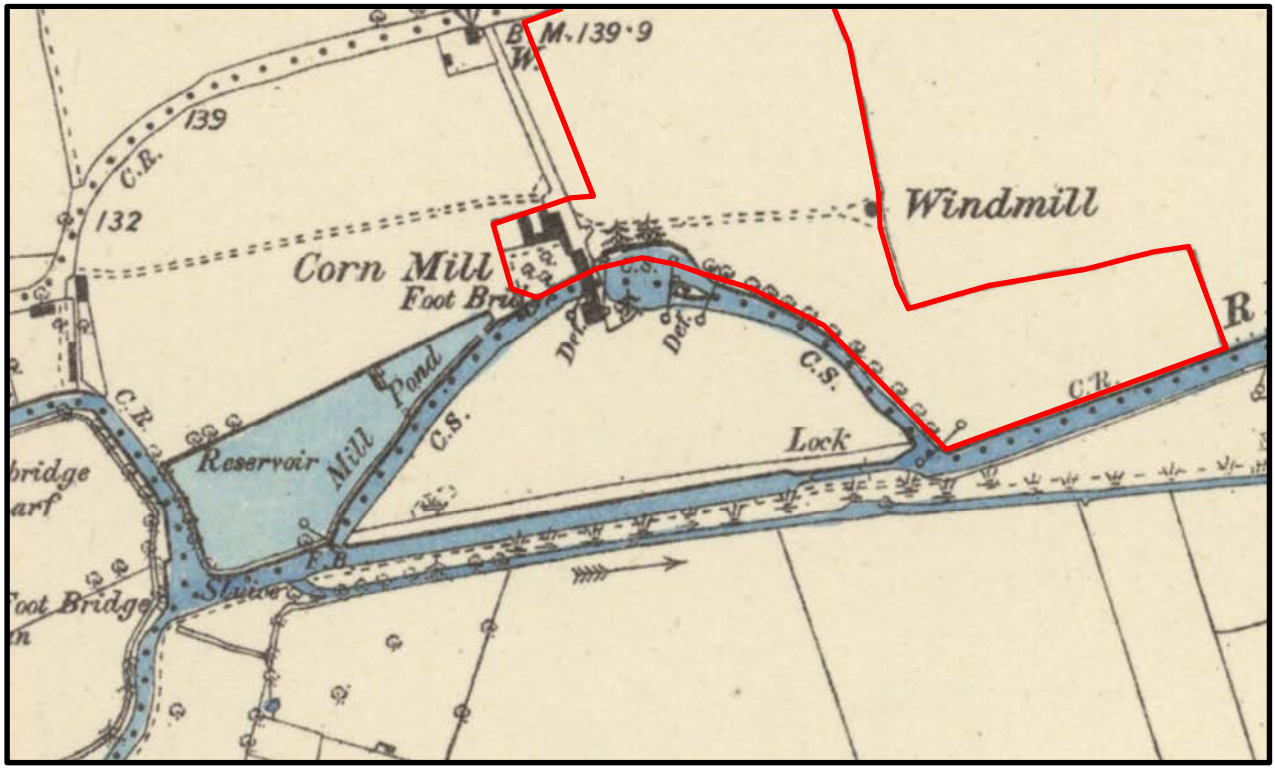


Figure 6: First edition OS map 1881
(Location of PDA is approximate)

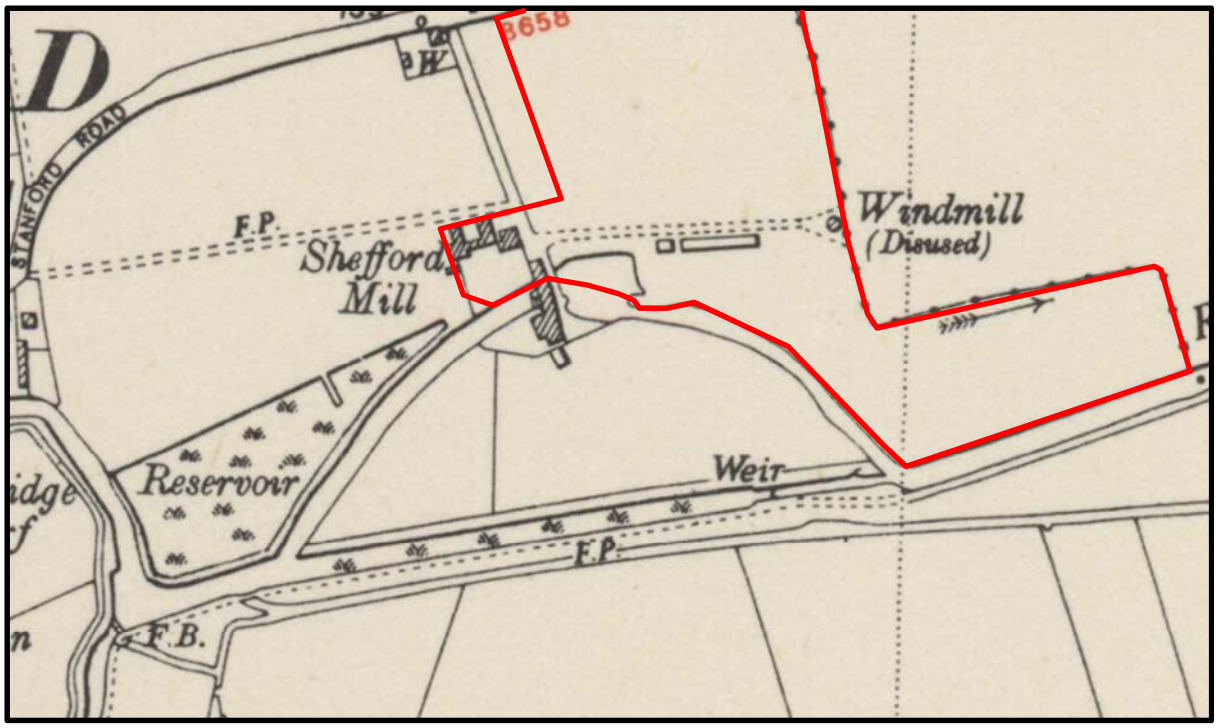


Figure 7: OS map 1950
(Scale and location of PDA are approximate)

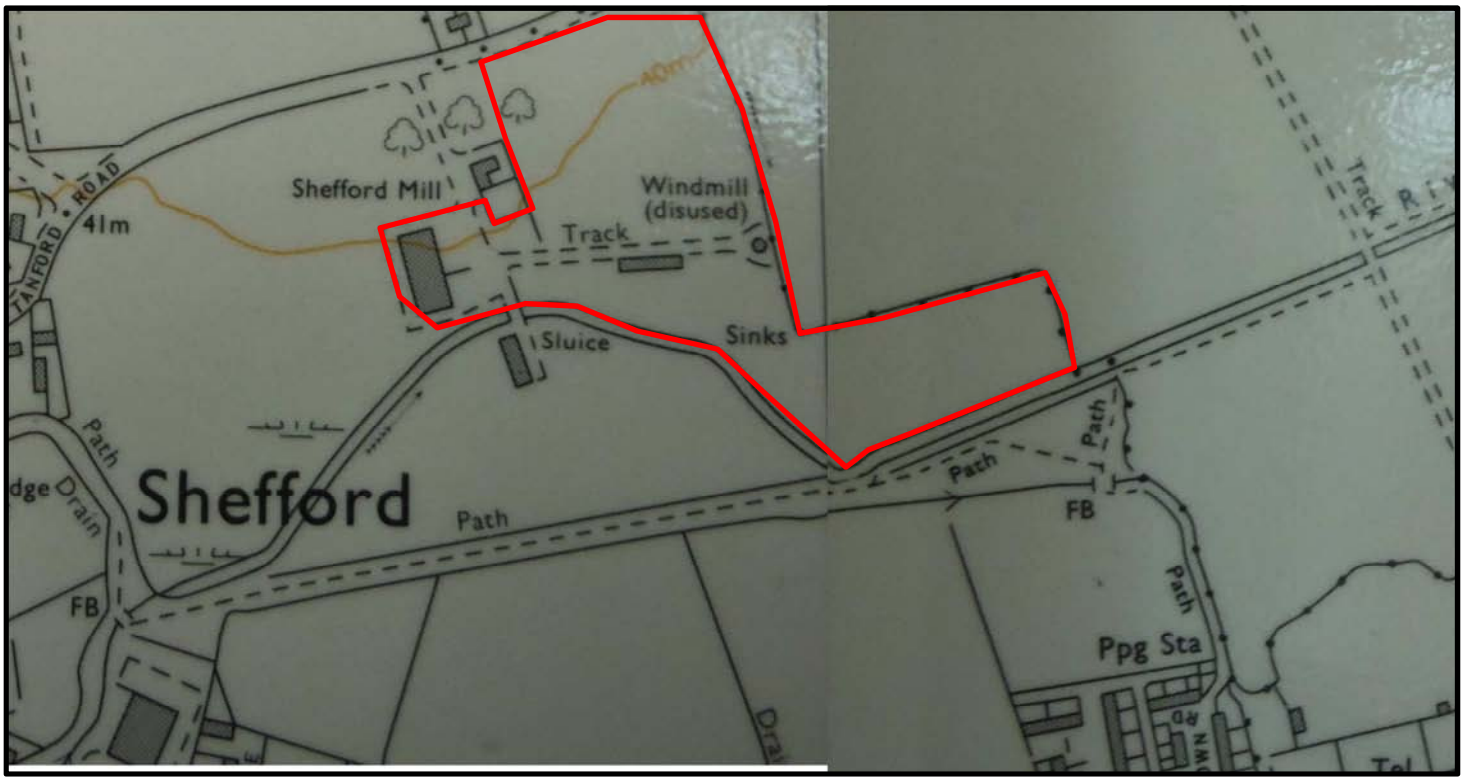


Figure 8: 10,000 OS map 1978
(Scale and location of PDA are approximate)

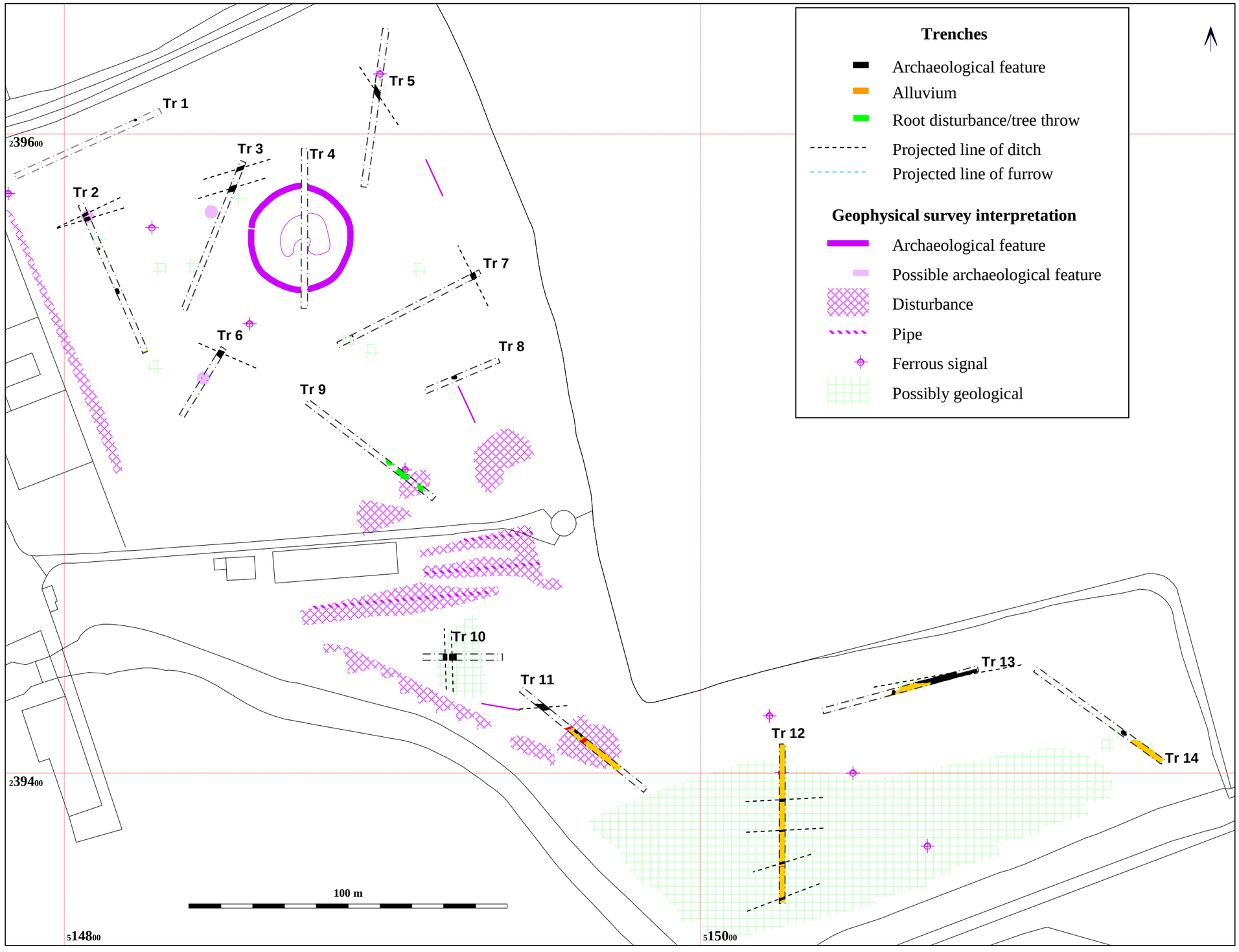


Figure 9: Plan of archaeological features and geophysical anomalies

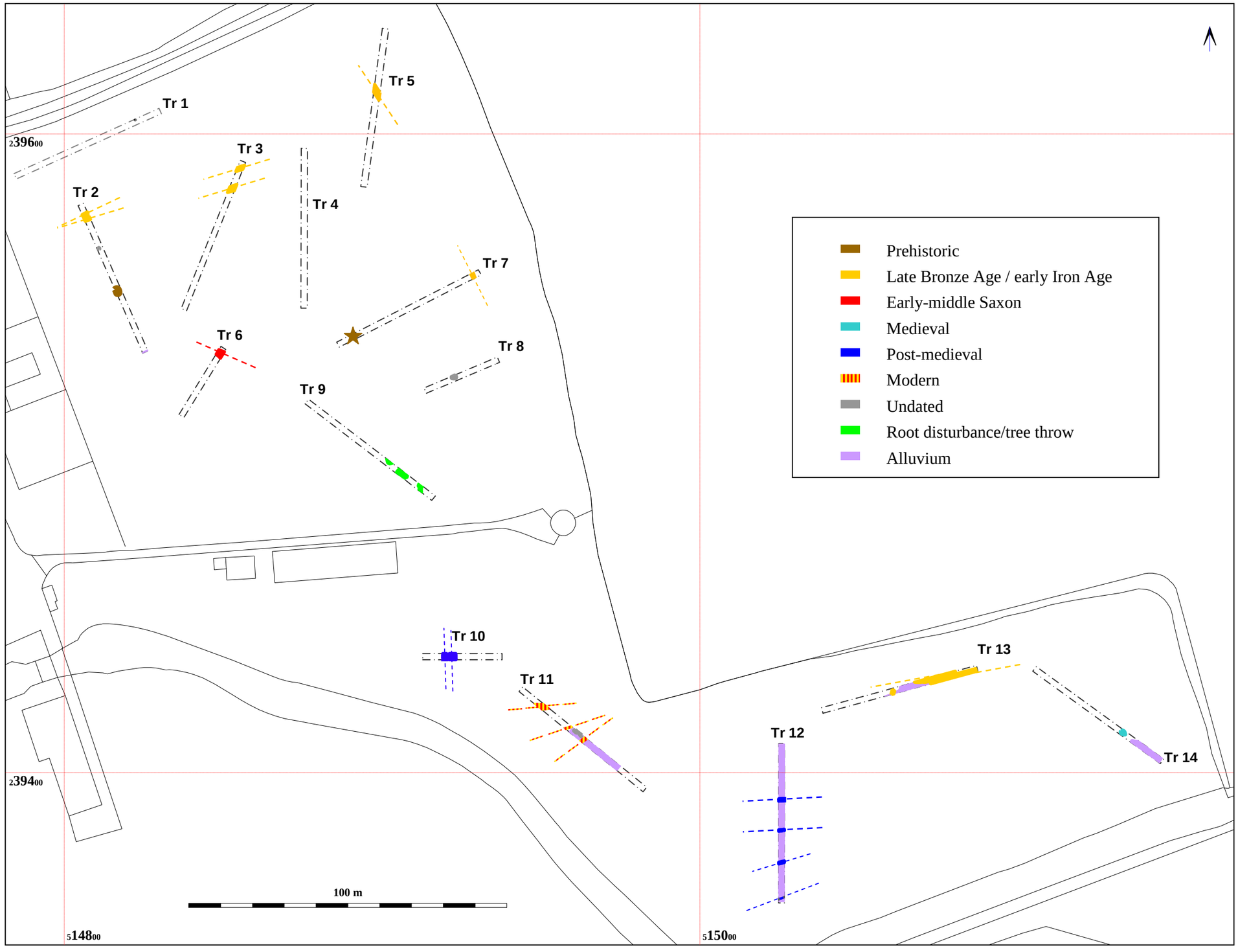
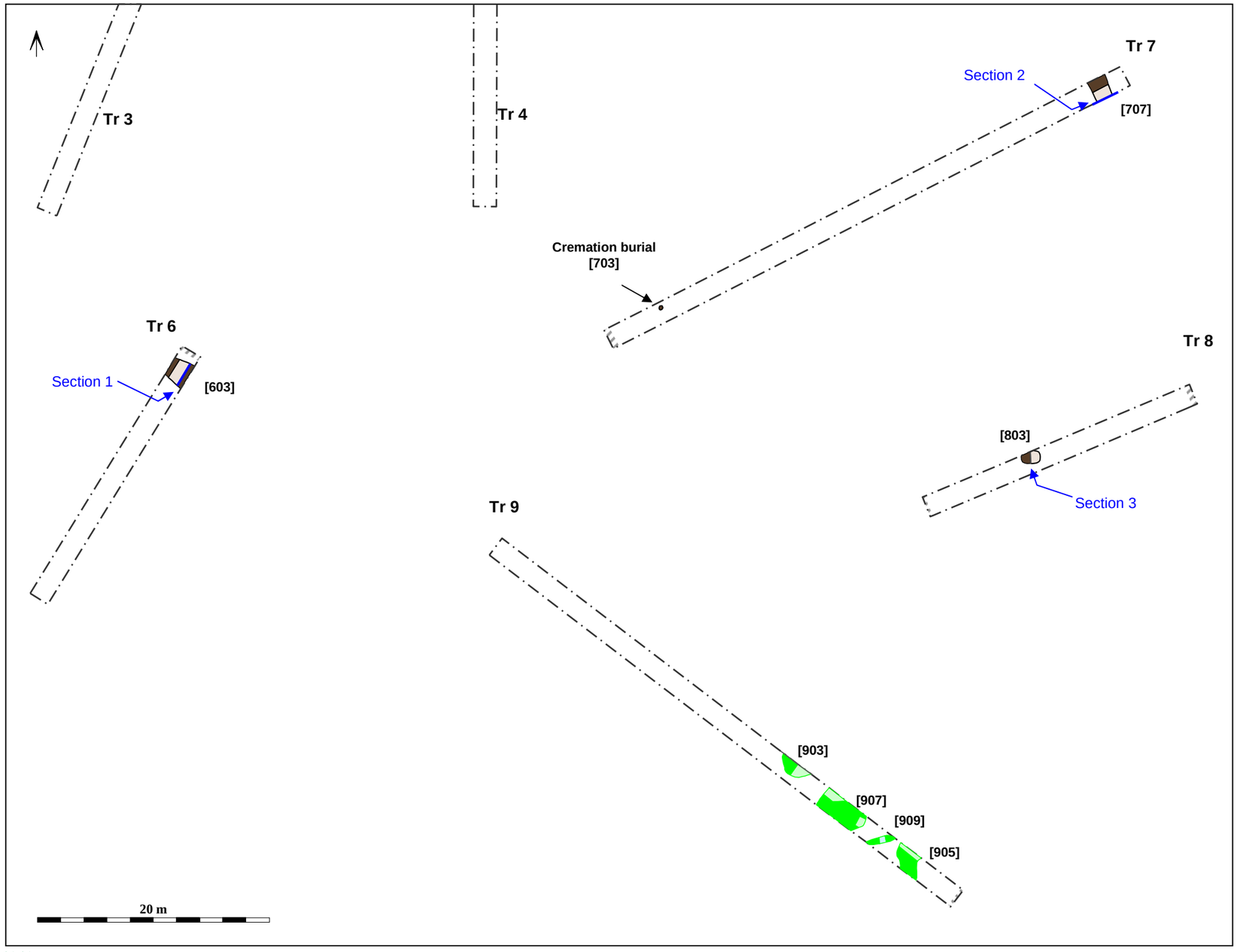
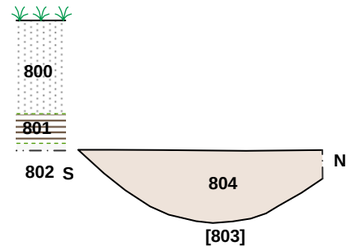


Figure 10: Phased all-features plan





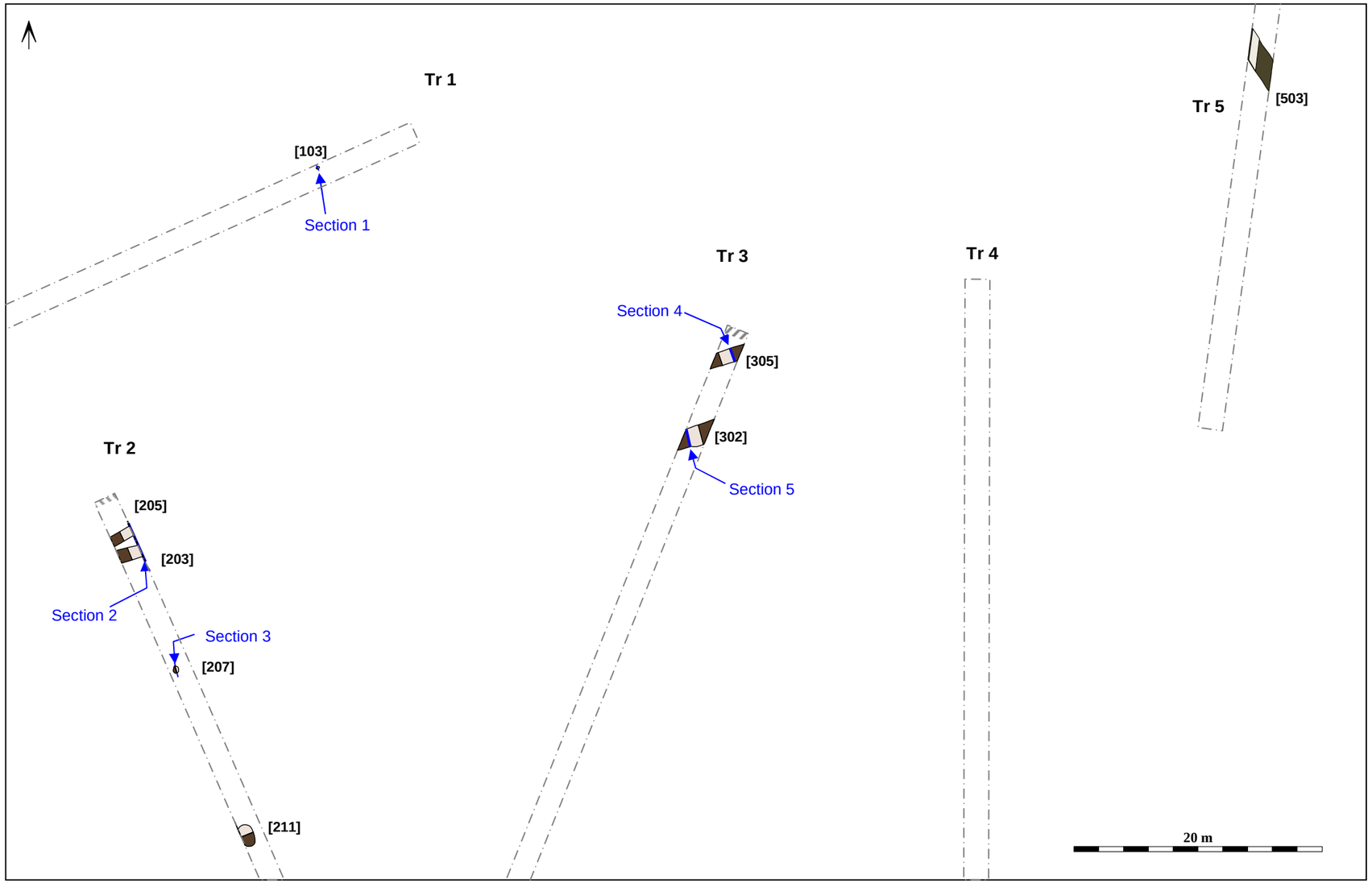
Section 3

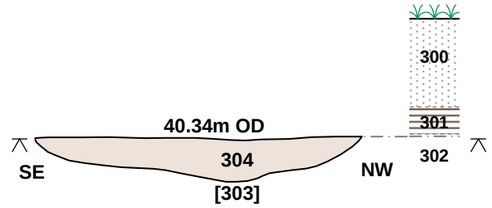
Trench 7: Cremation burial [703]
(Scale 40cm)

Trench 8: Pit [803], Looking west
(Scale 1m)

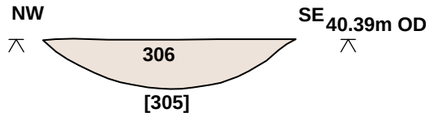
- Topsoil
- Subsoil
- Geology
- Archaeological feature
- Archaeological feature – excavated segment
- Furrow
- Root disturbance / tree-throw
- Geological feature

Figure 11: Detailed plan of Trenches 6–9



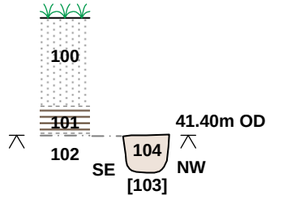


Section 4

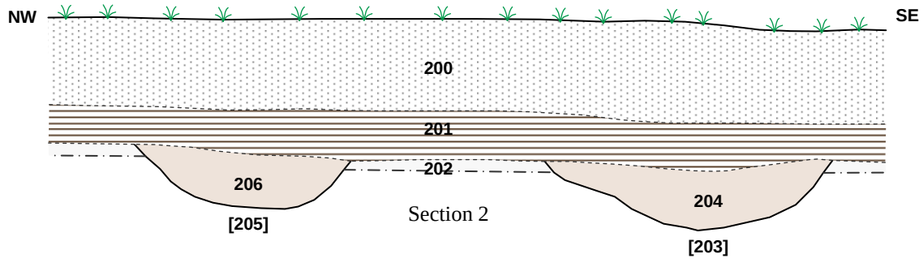


Section 5

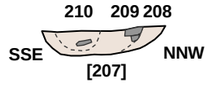
Trench 2: Ditches [203] and [205], looking north (Scales 1m)



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

50cm

Topsoil
Subsoil
Geology
Archaeological feature
Archaeological feature – excavated segment
Furrow

Figure 12: Detailed plan of Trenches 1–5

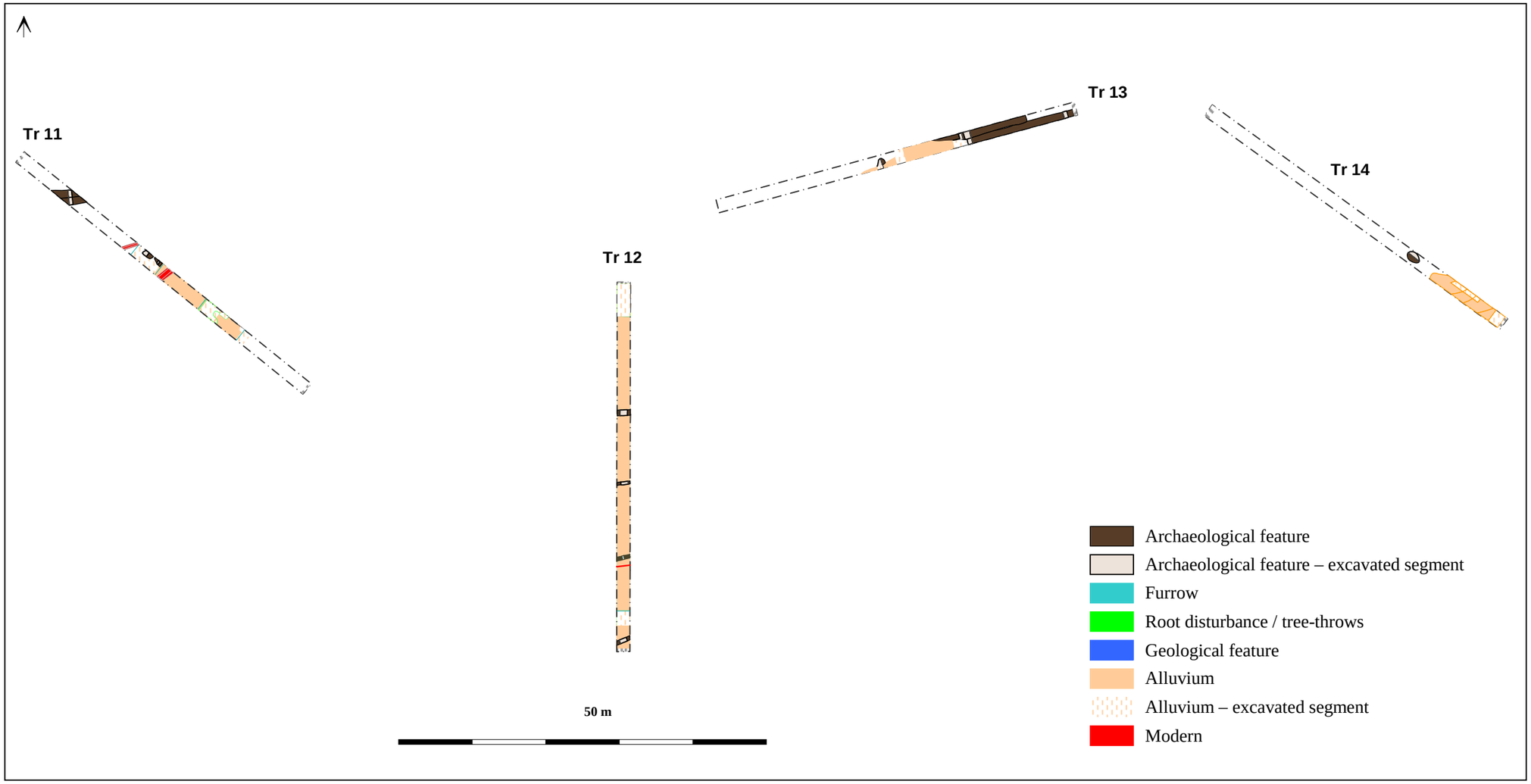
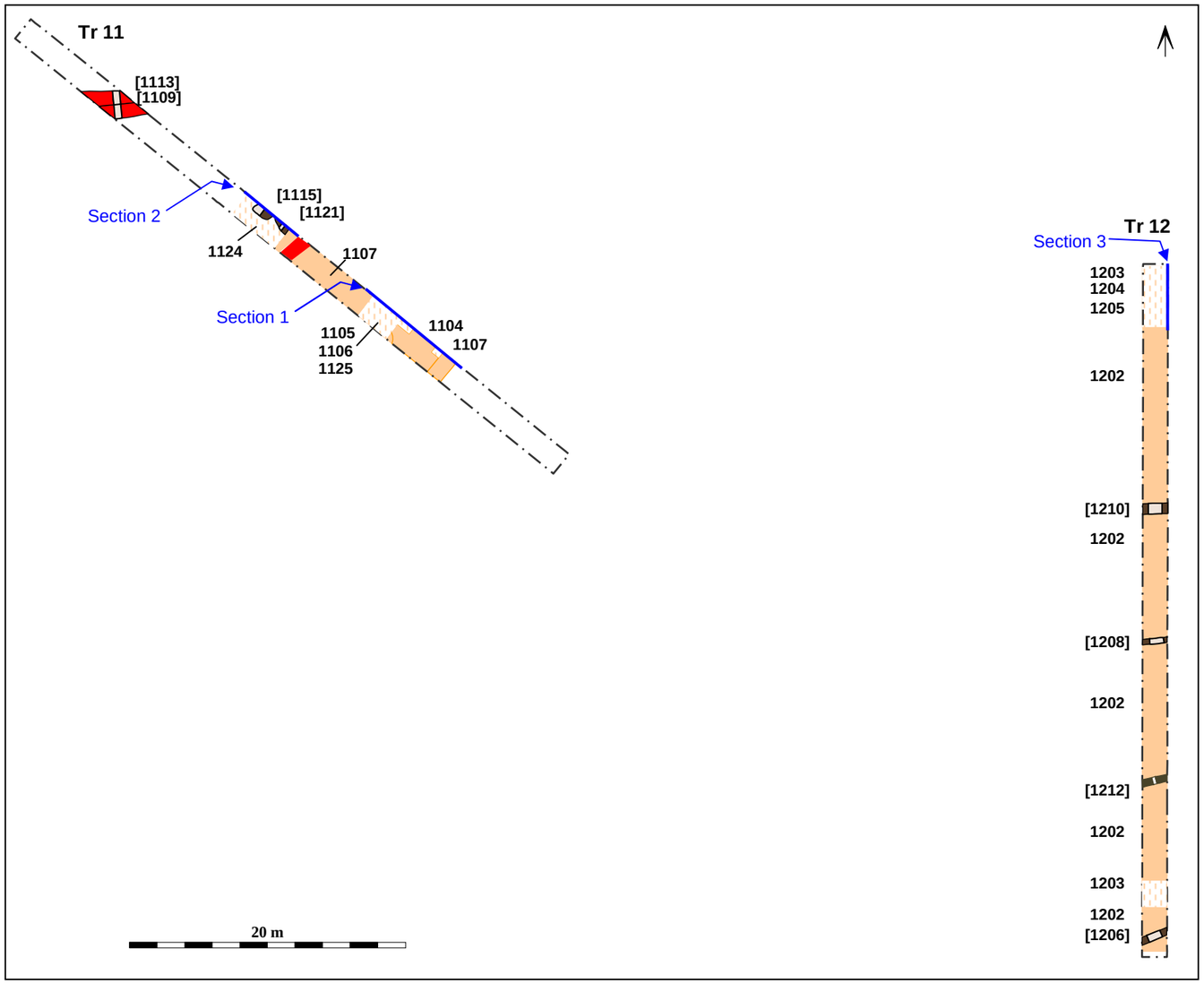
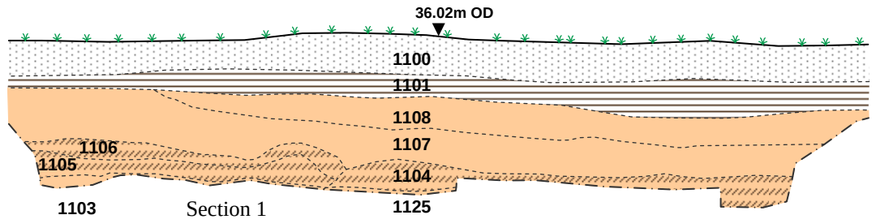
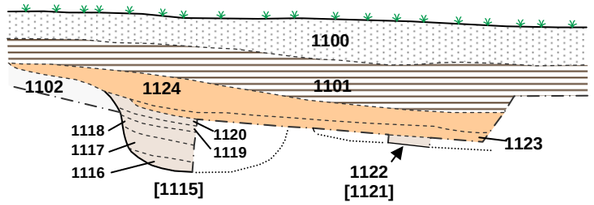
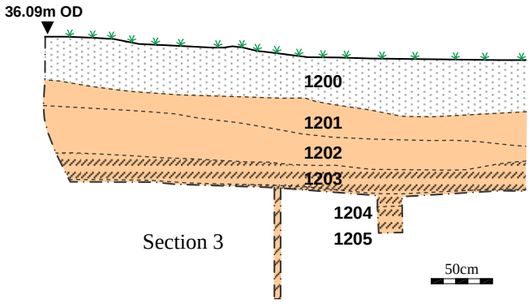


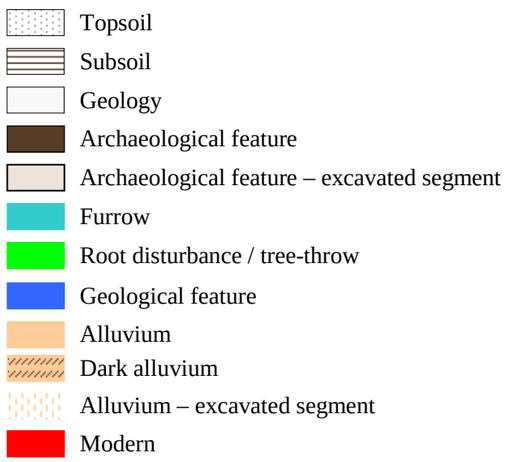
Figure 13: Overview plan of Trenches 11–14







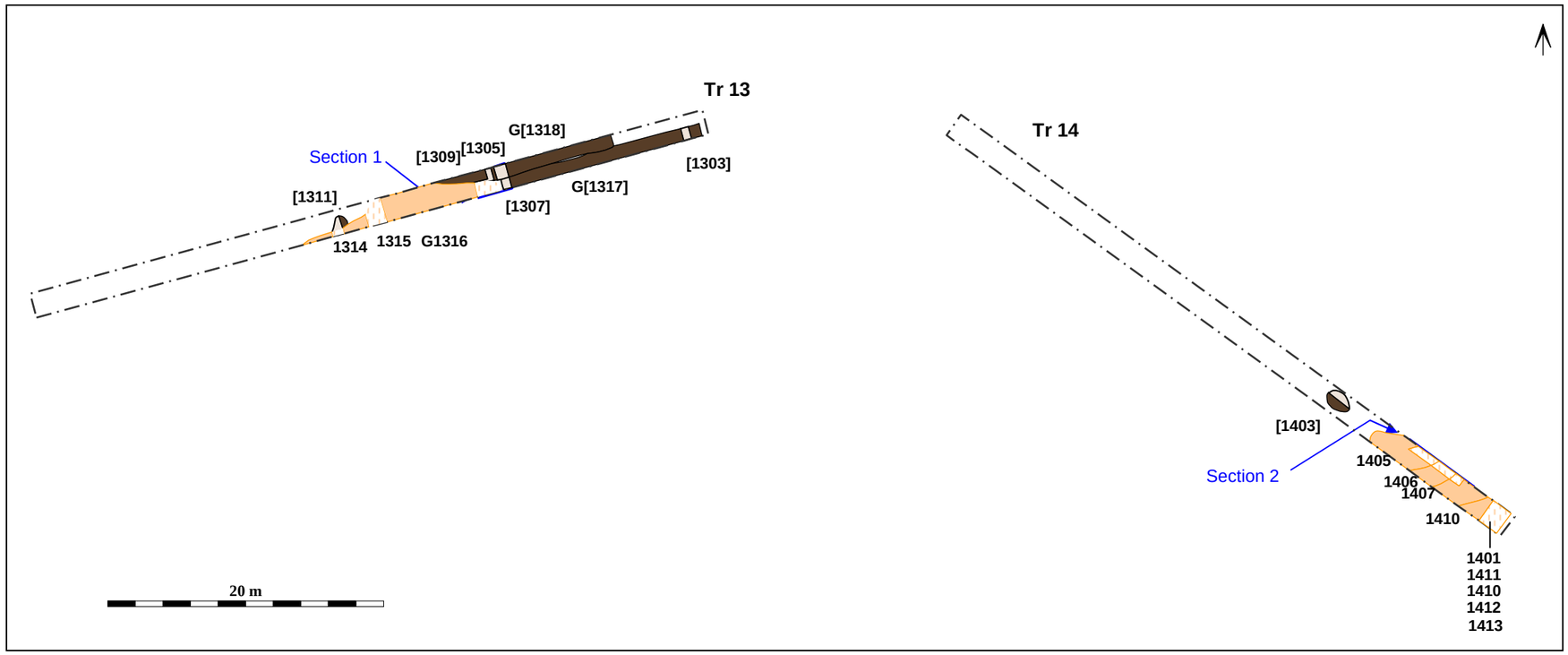




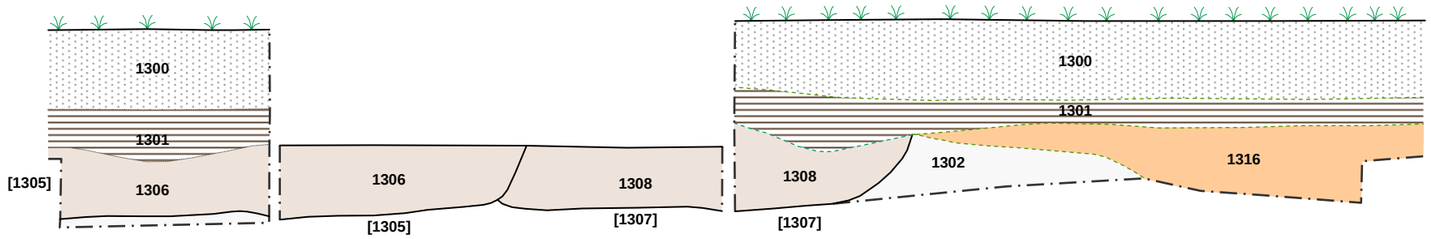
Trench 11: Modern ditches [1109] and [1113], looking west. (Scale 1m)

Trench 12: Post-medieval ditch [1206] looking south-west (Scale 0.4m)

Figure 14: Detailed plan of Trenches 11 and 12



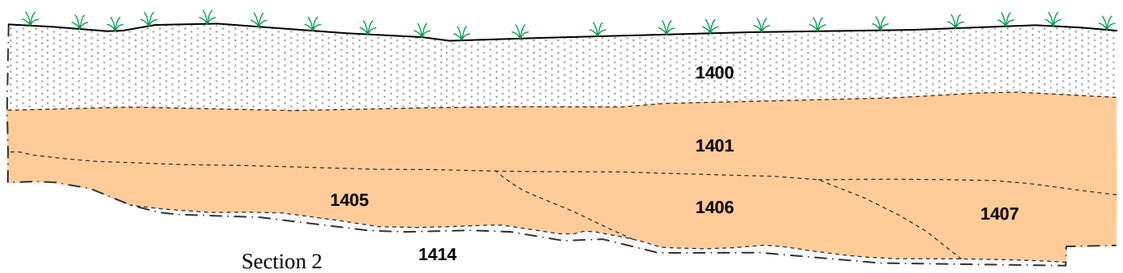
Topsoil
Subsoil
Geology
Archaeological feature
Archaeological feature – excavated segment
Furrow
Root disturbance / tree-throw
Geological feature
Alluvium
Alluvium – excavated segment
Modern



Section 1

Trench 14: Pit [1311], looking east
(Scale 1m)

Trench 14: Shallow pit [1403], looking south-west
(Scale 1m)



Section 2

Figure 15: Detailed plan of Trenches 13 and 14

Plate 1: View west towards Shefford, from the PDA

Plate 2: Windmill tower (HER939) from the north-west

Plate 3: Windmill tower (HER939) from the south-east

Central Bedfordshire

Albion archaeology

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

Telephone 0300 300 8141
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA