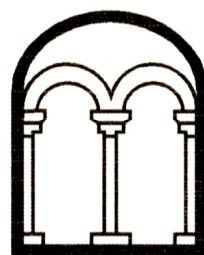


**FORMER ASHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
HIGH STREET NORTH
DUNSTABLE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Albion
archaeology



**FORMER ASHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
HIGH STREET NORTH
DUNSTABLE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Project: AMS2618
Luton Culture entry no.: LTNMG 1251
OASIS reference no.: albionar1-252912

Document: 2016/163
Version 1.0

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
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6th September 2016

Produced for:
CgMs Consulting Ltd



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Preface

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

Acknowledgements

The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Marcin Koziminski (Archaeological Supervisor) with the assistance of Gary Manning (Assistant Supervisors). This report has been prepared by Marcin Koziminski with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	06/09/2016	n/a

Key terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EBD	Event Bedfordshire
HER	Central Bedfordshire's Historic Environment Record
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

A pre-application planning enquiry was submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council for residential development (including the conversion of the existing school building to residential accommodation) on land at the former Ashton Middle School, High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 1NH.

As the proposed development area lies just outside the Roman town Durocbrivis and medieval core of Dunstable, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist advised that an archaeological trial trench evaluation be undertaken to support the planning application. The investigation took place between 15th and 17th August 2016 and comprised the excavation of six trenches that were 2m wide and 10–20m long.

The investigations revealed archaeological features in four of the six evaluation trenches. All the features are likely to date to the 19th or 20th centuries. No evidence for Roman or medieval occupation was found.

Three elements of probably the same modern feature were revealed in Trenches 1 and 6 in the north of the PDA. Two of them were on a NW-SE alignment and probably formed a right-angled structure with another one on a NE-SW alignment. They had near vertical profiles and contained two parallel lines of reinforced concrete slabs that were c. 1.5m apart. Conversations with the former school caretaker, trustees and locals indicate that a WW2 air-raid shelter was located in this part of the school. It is likely, therefore, that the remains uncovered form part of that structure.

A N-S aligned ditch revealed in Trench 2 had a near vertical profile with a flat base and its only fill produced no dating evidence. However, it is thought to be of a recent date as it was cut from the top of buried subsoil that produced small amount of brick/tile of late post-medieval or modern date.

A possible soak-away structure was revealed in Trench 5 in the west of the PDA. The structural cut continued beyond the limits of the trench at its NW end and contained a 'dome'-like round brick structure bonded with sandy mortar with a ceramic pipe at its apex indicating it collected water from a NW direction. This, in turn, suggests the soak-away was not associated with the school and likely pre-dates its establishment in 1887.

The results of the investigations suggest that the proposed development area does not contain archaeological remains that could contribute to the understanding of Roman or medieval Dunstable. However, the possible discovery of the school air-raid shelter may be of some local interest.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

A pre-application planning enquiry was submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council for residential development (including the conversion of the existing school building to residential accommodation) on land at the former Ashton Middle School, High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 1NH.

The proposed development area (PDA) lies just outside the Roman town *Durocobrivis* and medieval core of Dunstable, as recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER). For this reason the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that an archaeological trial trench evaluation be undertaken to support the planning application. This advice was in accordance with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2016) was produced detailing the scope of archaeological works.

This document details the results of the archaeological investigation.

1.2 **Site Location, Topography and Geology**

Dunstable is situated in southern Bedfordshire, with Luton 7km to the east and Leighton Buzzard 9.7km to the north-west. The north-eastern edge of Dunstable merges with Houghton Regis. The now redundant Ashton Middle School lies to the north of the centre of Dunstable, c. 400m north-west of the intersection of the town's two principal roads — the High Street (A5) and West Street/Church Street (A505) (Figure 1).

The PDA lies within the grounds of the former school. It is bounded to the south-west by High Street North (A5), to the north-west and north-east by residential areas and to the south-east by Grove House Gardens. At the time of the archaeological works it comprised school buildings, a playing field, sports pitch and hard standing areas associated with a playground and car-park.

Dunstable lies on the northern edge of the chalk escarpment of the Chiltern Hills, with an underlying solid geology of Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation¹. The topography of the area is undulating with a number of ridges and valleys. Dunstable town centre lies on relatively level, higher ground and the PDA lies at c. 144.6m OD. It is centred on grid reference TL 501609 222332.

1.3 **Archaeological Background**

In preparation of the WSI a search of the HER was carried out (ref.: 201617/62). The most salient information is reproduced below.

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC 2016



1.3.1 Prehistoric (before AD 43)

Prehistoric activity within Dunstable is best represented by the route of Icknield Way, which follows the line of West Street, c. 570m to the south of the PDA. To the south-west of the PDA a long barrow, round barrow and part of a trackway have been recorded, whilst a find spot comprising two Iron Age coins have been recovered c. 400m to the south-west. A circular cropmark (HER 12285), thought to be a ring ditch, is also known c. 440m to the north-east of the PDA.

The most relevant prehistoric heritage assets to the PDA, in terms of proximity, comprise Palaeolithic flakes and hand axes (HER 12286) found in the area of the school during 1888. They did not originate from this area, however, as they were imported with material used in the laying of gravel roads/paths, which was reported to have derived from Caddington. An Iron Age posthole was also uncovered during excavations in the landscaped park (HER 9431) to the east to the east of the PDA.

1.3.2 Roman (AD 43–410)

Dunstable lies at the crossroads of the Roman Watling Street (HER 5508) — running through Bedfordshire on its route from London to Holyhead on the line of the present-day A5, and the prehistoric Icknield Way. It is named as *Durocbrivis* (HER 135) in the Antonine Itinerary, a Roman road book describing routes throughout the Roman Empire and the towns along them (Simco 1984, 30). *Durocbrivis* was the name given by the Romans to the settlement at the crossroads of Watling Street and the Icknield Way, which is today called Dunstable.

Since the large-scale re-development and expansion of Dunstable from the mid-20th century onwards a considerable quantity of Roman remains have been excavated and recorded within the centre of the town, particularly near the crossroads, proving the existence of a sizable regional centre. The core of the Roman town seems to have radiated out for a distance of around 400m from the Icknield Way/Watling Street crossroads.

The PDA lies c. 530m to the north-west of the crossroads, just outside the core of the Roman town as defined by the Central Bedfordshire and Luton HER. However, it lies within 100m of Roman Watling Street (HER 5508), High Street North, which means that although it appears to be located some distance away from the Roman centre, the presence of associated Roman remains cannot be discounted. In particular, there is an increased likelihood of the presence of roadside burials. Under Roman law burial cemeteries were prohibited within the limits of urban settlement and, therefore, they tended to be located along the major routes in and out of the town. In particular, burials have been uncovered in two locations on Albion Street (HER 122, HER 150, HER 14964 / EBD727), within 220m of the PDA, and an early Roman cemetery was recorded west of High Street North (HER 17802/EBD 479, 763-4), c. 70m to the east of the PDA. A large cemetery uncovered at Friary Field (HER 11284/ EBD749), c. 150m south of West Street, and a single burial found adjacent to West Street (HER 19725), c. 760m west of the town crossroads, also attest to the presence of roadside burials in other areas of Roman Dunstable and on roads leading out from it.



Previous archaeological investigations to the south-east of the PDA, within 200m, include Former Queensway Hall (EBD 474, EBD694 and EBD471) and New Venue (EBD479) where a 1st–2nd-century cemetery (containing inhumations, cremation burials and a pyre site), ditches, pits and pottery of late Iron Age-early Roman date were uncovered.

Roman activity has also been found as far north as Dog Kennel Down, c. 900m from the Icknield Way/Watling Street crossroads and just 300m north of the PDA. These comprised a ditch and other possible Roman settlement activity revealed during a programme of archaeological investigations carried out in advance of the Luton Dunstable Busway (EBD1135, 1079).

There are also a number of recorded Roman find spots comprising pottery (HER11275) and metal objects (HER 11275, 11279, 11283, 11279), such as coins and a harness mount (HER 11283, HER 17796).

1.3.3 Anglo-Saxon (410–1066)

The decline of Roman *Durocbrivis* is likely to have taken place during the late 4th or 5th century when Roman urban life essentially came to an end. Dunstable is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 because it was part of the Royal Manor of Houghton Regis at this time. Evidence of Saxon activity identified so far has been restricted to the north-west part of the modern town (*e.g.* the Marina Drive cemetery, HER 152), some 1.6km from the PDA, and c. 2km to the north at Puddlehill. At present, there is little evidence for continuity between the Roman and Saxon settlements.

1.3.4 Medieval (1066–1550)

Henry I deliberately created Dunstable (HER 16986) as a market town in the early 1100s and encouraged settlers to the area by the promise of land and privileges. The town developed around the same Icknield Way/Watling Street crossroads as Roman *Durocbrivis*.

In 1109, the king established a royal residence, known as Kingsbury (HER 148), within the town; it was probably located on the north side of Church Street, east of the crossroads. At Christmas 1131–32 Henry I founded the Augustinian Priory of St Peter (HER 131, NHLE 1004676), c. 560m to the south-east of the PDA. The priory church (HER 132) still survives, surrounded by associated scheduled earthworks; Priory House (HER 6311) and the gateway (HER 6329) represent other elements of the upstanding priory remains, located within Priory Gardens.

Apart from the remains of the priory (see above), there are few other extant medieval buildings within the centre of Dunstable. One prominent example is the 15th-century Grade II listed building (HER 15496) on the north side of West Street; it originally comprised two buildings.

The PDA lies outside the northern boundary of the medieval core (HER 16986), as defined in the HER. Union Street, c. 90m to the south-west of the PDA, is considered to mark the northern boundary of the town that was enclosed by a ditch according to documentary sources (Albion 2003). However, the presence of



a town ditch at this location is yet to be confirmed through archaeological investigation.

Buried features, such as kilns, pits and ditches, have been recorded at a number of locations in Dunstable town centre, including on: Chapel Walk (HER 11280, EBD740) and St Mary's Street (HER 11273, 17723/EBD742, 746), c. 500m south of the PDA; either side of High Street North (HER 14964/EBD727 and HER16077/EBD720), c. 300m south-west of the PDA; and HER 15212/EBD1262, c. 200m south-east of the PDA. The faint remains of a medieval building (HER 16101) have also been identified at Blacksmiths Court, Mathew Street, c. 300m to the south of the PDA.

In the second half of the 12th century a cross (HER 134) was erected at the crossroads to commemorate Queen Eleanor, whose body was carried along this route to London, but it has since been demolished.

1.3.5 Post-medieval (1550–1900)

Dunstable's position on the A5 (Watling Street) meant that from the medieval period it prospered as a stopping point for coaches on the way from London to the north-west. From the 17th century onwards many coaching inns were constructed along High Street North and High Street South. A number of Inns and hotels still exist along the High Street and West Street and are now designated Grade II listed buildings, e.g. the Old Sugar Loaf Inn (HER 6255) and the Plume of Feathers (HER 6312).

One of the earliest plans of the town dates to 1762 and shows that it was relatively small at that time. By the beginning of the 19th century it had a population of only 1,296 people. The majority of the extant Grade II listed and undesignated buildings along the four main roads are of 18th–19th-century date. A number of undesignated buildings, recorded in the HER, also line the roads to the west of High Street North, such as Edward Street and Albion Street.

The most relevant heritage asset to the PDA is the Grade II listed Dunstable Grammar School (HER 6323), now Ashton Middle School. The school was established between 1887 and 1894 by E.R. Robson; it officially took on its middle school name and status in 1973. In 2014, Central Bedfordshire Council took the decision to close Ashton Middle School and two other Dunstable middle schools.

The list description of the main school building is as follows:

Free Tudor style. Built of red brick with stone dressings, tile-hanging and red tiled roof. Above the entrance is an octagonal tower surmounted by an octagonal bell turret. To left of entrance is hall with large mullion and transom windows and central octagonal fleche on roof. To right of entrance is 2 storey wing, ground floor of brick and stone, first floor tile-hung. Timber framed dormer.

A number of other school buildings, e.g. the gymnasium and the science block, within the school grounds are curtilage-listed by dint of their association with the former grammar school.



Prior to construction of the school, a gasworks (HER 4342) occupied part of the site (until 1838); a disused gasometer is shown on the first edition 25-inch OS map. The map also shows that the bulk of the PDA lay within Dunstable Park and was crossed by at least one tree-lined boundary. A footpath known as Dog Kennel Path is shown on the map and came to mark the eastern boundary of the school site.

The arrival of the railway in 1848 led to huge expansion of the town, particularly around the London and North-Western Station, but it also resulted in the rapid decline of the coaching industry. Towards the end of the 19th century the straw hat industry became one of the town's principal businesses. In many cases the factories took over redundant coaching inns and a number are known along High Street South, *e.g.* the Waggon and Horses (HER 6264), a public house with 19th-century origins at 183 High Street South.

1.3.6 Modern (1900-present day)

A number of modern designated and undesignated buildings are recorded in the HER and comprise public buildings, such as cinemas (HER 15790), fire stations (HER15632, 20220) and the site of an old post office (HER 1673).

The largest category of public buildings is religious houses, situated on West Street (HER 13540), High Street North (HER 13541) and Waterlow Road (HER 15553). A Grade II listed Methodist Church (HER 724/1/10000) and associated churchyard (HER 9008) also survives on the west side of High Street South.

1.3.7 Previous archaeological investigations

In April 2006, an archaeological watching brief (EBD 70) was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension at the school (NA 2006). A truncated natural substratum was revealed across the entire development area. However, no archaeological deposits were revealed and no artefacts were recovered.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal purpose of the investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains in their cultural and environmental setting and to determine the following:

- the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the PDA;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the local environmental conditions (through the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains).

Published research frameworks identifying the local and regional research objectives are provided by Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000), Oake *et al* (2007), Medlycott and Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011).

The PDA was considered to have the potential to contain archaeological remains associated with Roman, medieval and post-medieval Dunstable. Dunstable was a small town in the Roman period. Some parts of it are relatively well studied, but



more information is still needed on the character of the Roman town, any potential zoning of activities within it and the relationship of the town with its hinterland (Oake 2007, 10–12).

The research agenda also highlights the need for more information on Roman small towns in general, to further characterise this settlement type and its hinterland and to set it within a broader regional economic and social context (*ibid*). The transition from late Roman to Saxon to medieval settlement and any accompanying settlement shift and / or re-location is also a topic about which little is known.

For the medieval period the research framework for Bedfordshire states that, in general, few medieval settlements have been investigated in the county. Dunstable is specifically mentioned as, in contrast to other small towns within Bedfordshire, it is a royal foundation created on the site of a Roman small town. While remains of the medieval Dunstable Priory are still prominent within the town, details of its layout, development and overall medieval urban character away from the priory are not well understood and this is given as a research priority (Oake 2007, 12–15).

The growth and development of small towns in the post-medieval period and their impact on the landscape is a research topic that is highlighted in the regional research framework (Medlycott 2011, 79).

The specific objectives of the archaeological investigation were to determine:

- if there was any evidence for Roman and/or medieval occupation alongside Watling Street on the PDA (Oake 2007, 10–12) ;
- if there was any evidence for the layout, development and urban character of medieval Dunstable in areas away from the priory (Oake 2007, 12–15);
- if there was any below-ground evidence relating to the post-medieval use of the PDA (Medlycott 2011, 79).



2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion 2016).

2.1 Methodological Standards

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

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edition (2001)
CIfA	<i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
EAA	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)
Historic England	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , 2nd edition (2011)
Luton Culture	<i>Procedures for preparing archaeological archives for deposition with Luton Culture</i> (2013)

The project archive will be deposited at Luton Culture (Entry Number LTNMG 1251). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-252912) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

2.2 Archaeological Investigation

The investigation took place between 15th and 17th August 2016. It comprised the excavation of six trenches that were 2m wide and 10–20m long (Figure 1). The trenches were positioned to achieve as even coverage of the 2ha PDA as possible, although their layout was largely dictated by site constraints, i.e. access, existing buildings, buried services and the site of the 19th-century gasometer (see Section 1.3.5).

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff with internal specialists also consulted. Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro formae* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. The trenches were inspected by the CBCA on 16th August 2016 prior to their backfilling.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All significant deposits and features revealed within the trenches are described below by chronological period and shown on Figures 2–4. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***).

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features is provided in the Appendix.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Strata

The combined thickness of overburden across the PDA ranged from 0.38m in Trench 4 to 0.92m in Trench 6 and was in excess of 1.5m in Trench 5.

Topsoil and buried soil horizons were present in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6. The topsoil consisted of dark grey to brown-grey clay silt that was 0.11–0.37m thick. The buried soils comprised light grey-brown to dark grey-black sandy silt and silty clay with a thickness ranging from 0.06–0.39m.

In places, the overburden included a series of former surfaces and dumped material layers (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6) as well as levelling layers for construction of the present-day tarmac surfaces (Trenches 4 and 5).

Undisturbed geological strata were similar in all trenches and consisted of brown-white to white chalk.

3.3 ?19th-century Structure

A possible soak-away structure [503] was revealed in Trench 5. The structural cut was probably circular in plan, had near vertical sides and was in excess of 4m in diameter and 1.9m deep. It continued beyond the limits of the trench at its NW end. It was cut from the top of dumped material layer (502) (Figure 2 and Figure 4: Section 6). The cut contained a ‘dome’-like round brick structure (505) with orange-grey sandy mortar used as a bonding material. It was built in regular courses and had a ceramic pipe at its apex indicating it collected water from the NW side of the structure. Deposit (504) that infilled the interior of structure (505) and deposit (506) that sealed it were both similar and consisted of dark clay silt with moderate amounts of ceramic building material.

3.4 Modern Structures (1900-present day)

Features [105] and [603] as well as concrete slab (608) were revealed in Trenches 1 and 6. Linear remains [105] and (608) were probably part of the same feature on a NW-SE alignment; they possibly formed a right-angled structure with a NE-SW aligned feature [603] (Figure 2). The features were cut from the top of external surfaces (104) and (602) in Trenches 1 and 6 respectively (Figure 3: Section 1 and Figure 4: Section 7). They had near vertical profiles that were 2.1–2.52m+ wide by 0.6–0.94m+ deep and contained two parallel lines of reinforced concrete slabs (107) and (604) that were *c.* 1.5m apart; slab (608) had no visible cut as it was not fully exposed. All the slabs were squared, *c.* 220mm by 280mm



in cross-section. The structural remains were backfilled with a series of mixed deposits.

3.5 Undated Feature

N-S aligned ditch [202] was recorded in Trench 2 (Figure 3). It was 0.65m wide by 0.42m deep and had a regular, near vertical profile with a flat base (Figure 3: Section 2). The ditch was cut from the top of buried subsoil (201) and was sealed by buried topsoil (204). Its only fill probably derived from deliberate backfill and yielded no dating evidence. However, layer (201) produced three small and abraded fragments of sand-tempered ceramic building material (22g), which are thought to be of the late post-medieval or modern date.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological investigations have revealed archaeological features in four of the six evaluation trenches. All the features are likely to date to the 19th or 20th centuries. No evidence for Roman or medieval occupation was found.

Three elements of probably the same modern feature were revealed in Trenches 1 and 6 in the north of the PDA. Two of them were on a NW-SE alignment and probably formed a right-angled structure with another one on a NE-SW alignment. They had near vertical profiles and contained two parallel lines of reinforced concrete slabs that were *c.* 1.5m apart. Conversations with the former school caretaker, trustees and locals indicate that a WW2 air-raid shelter was located in this part of the school. It is possible, therefore, that the remains uncovered form part of that structure.

A N-S aligned ditch revealed in Trench 2 had a near vertical profile with a flat base and its only fill produced no dating evidence. However, it is thought to be of a recent date as it was cut from the top of buried subsoil that produced a small amount of brick/tile of late post-medieval or modern date.

A possible soak-away structure was revealed in Trench 5 in the west of the PDA. The structural cut continued beyond the limits of the trench at its NW end and contained a 'dome'-like round brick structure bonded with sandy mortar with a ceramic pipe at its apex which indicated it collected water from a NW direction. This, in turn, suggests the soak-away was not associated with the school and likely pre-dates its establishment in 1887.

The results of the investigations suggest that the proposed development area does not contain archaeological remains that could contribute to the understanding of Roman or medieval Dunstable. However, the possible discovery of the school air-raid shelter may be of some local interest.



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6. APPENDIX: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 0.89 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1614; Northing: 22344)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1603; Northing: 22334)

Reason: To assess archaeological potential of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Natural	Firm light white chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Buried subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay moderate flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones Occasional roots. Up to 0.28m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Buried subsoil	Firm light grey silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones Occasional roots. Up to 0.17m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Buried topsoil	Friable dark grey black sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.06m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	External surface	Firm mid grey sandy gravel moderate flecks chalk Up to 0.13m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Feature	Linear NW-SE sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 2.52m, min depth 0.94m, min length 2.m Construction cut of modern date. It truncates layer (104).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Backfill	Compact dark brown grey silty clay moderate small-large CBM, moderate flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones At least 0.31m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Concrete	Cemented mid grey concrete Parallel reinforced concrete slabs, c. 1.5m apart. They were squared, c. 220 x 280mm and 2m+ long. Likely same as (608).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Backfill	Compact dark brown grey silty clay moderate small-large CBM, occasional flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.73m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.37m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.71 m. Max: 0.82 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1649; Northing: 22308)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1638; Northing: 22298)

Reason: To assess archaeological potential of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Natural	Compact light brown white chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Buried subsoil	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, moderate flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones Moderate rooting. Up to 0.23m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.42m, min length 2.85m Feature was cut into buried soil (201).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Fill	Firm light brown white clay chalk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Buried topsoil	Compact mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones Moderate rooting. Up to 0.11m thick deposit that seals ditch [202].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	External surface	Firm mid grey white sandy chalk Up to 0.24m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Dump material	Firm mid yellow grey sandy chalk moderate small-large CBM Up to 0.18m thick deposit. Only visible in the SW half of trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.15m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3**

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.48 m. Max: 0.52 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1684: Northing: 22284)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1683: Northing: 22269)

Reason: To assess archaeological potential of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Natural	Compact light grey white chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Buried subsoil	Firm light grey brown clay silt moderate flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones Moderate rooting. Up to 0.21m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Dump material	Loose dark grey black Sandy cinder. Up to 0.2m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones Moderate rooting. Up to 0.11m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.42 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1627: Northing: 22200)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1642: Northing: 22197)

Reason: To assess archaeological potential of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Natural	Compact light white chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Make up layer	Firm mid grey brown sandy gravel moderate flecks chalk Up to 0.31m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Levelling layer	Firm light grey sandy chalk Up to 0.14m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Tarmac	Hard dark black tarmac Up to 0.05m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 5**

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.5 m. Max: 2.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1578: Northing: 22313)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1585: Northing: 22306)

Reason: To assess archaeological potential of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Natural	Compact light white chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-large CBM, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.4m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Dump material	Friable dark grey clay silt occasional small-large CBM, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.6m thick deposit. It was truncated by [503].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Soak-away	Circular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 4.m, max depth 1.9m It truncated layer (502).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Backfill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt moderate small-large CBM, occasional flecks chalk Up to 0.7m thick deposit within brick structure (505).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
505	Brickwork	'Dome'-like round brick structure bonded with orange grey sandy mortar. It was built in regular courses and had a ceramic pipe in the centre of apex in the NW of trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
506	Backfill	Firm dark grey clay silt moderate small-large CBM Up to 0.9m thick deposit that sealed structure (505) within the cut.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
507	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow orange sandy rubble Consisting of London Brick Company frogged bricks. Up to 0.3m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
508	Levelling layer	Loose light brown sand Up to 0.22m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
509	Tarmac	Hard dark black tarmac Up to 0.05m thick deposit of present day surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 0.92 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1629: Northing: 22325)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1609: Northing: 22324)

Reason: To assess archaeological potential of the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Natural	Compact white chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Buried subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.39m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	External surface	Compact mid grey white sandy chalk Up to 0.2m thick deposit. Truncated by [603]. Possibly same as (205).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Feature	Linear NE-SW sides: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 2.1m, min depth 0.6m, min length 2.7m Structural cut of modern date. Possibly same as [105]. It was cut into layer (602).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Concrete	Cemented mid grey concrete Parallel reinforced concrete slabs, c. 1.5m apart. They were squared, c. 220 x 280mm and 2.7m+ long. Likely same as (608) and (107).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
605	Backfill	Compact mid grey white silty chalk Up to 0.14m thick deposit of redeposited natural.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
606	Backfill	Friable mid grey clay silt moderate small-large CBM, frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.59m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
607	Backfill	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.28m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
608	Concrete	Cemented mid grey concrete Reinforced concrete slab, on a NW-SE alignment - squared, c. 220 x 280mm and 2.6m+ long. Likely same as (604) and (107). No cut visible as the structure was not fully exposed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
609	Topsoil	Friable dark grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.33m thick deposit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

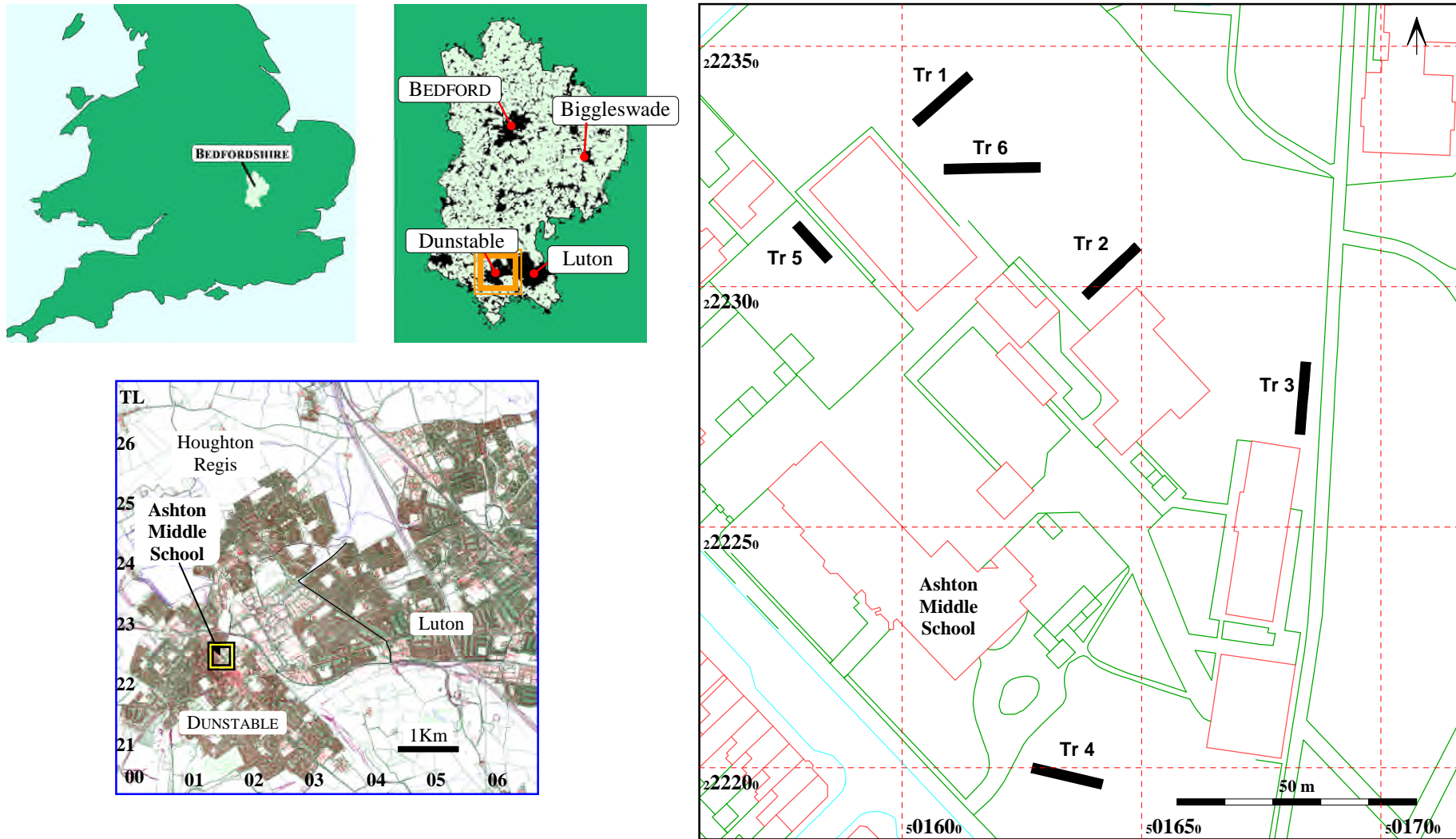


Figure 1: Site location plan

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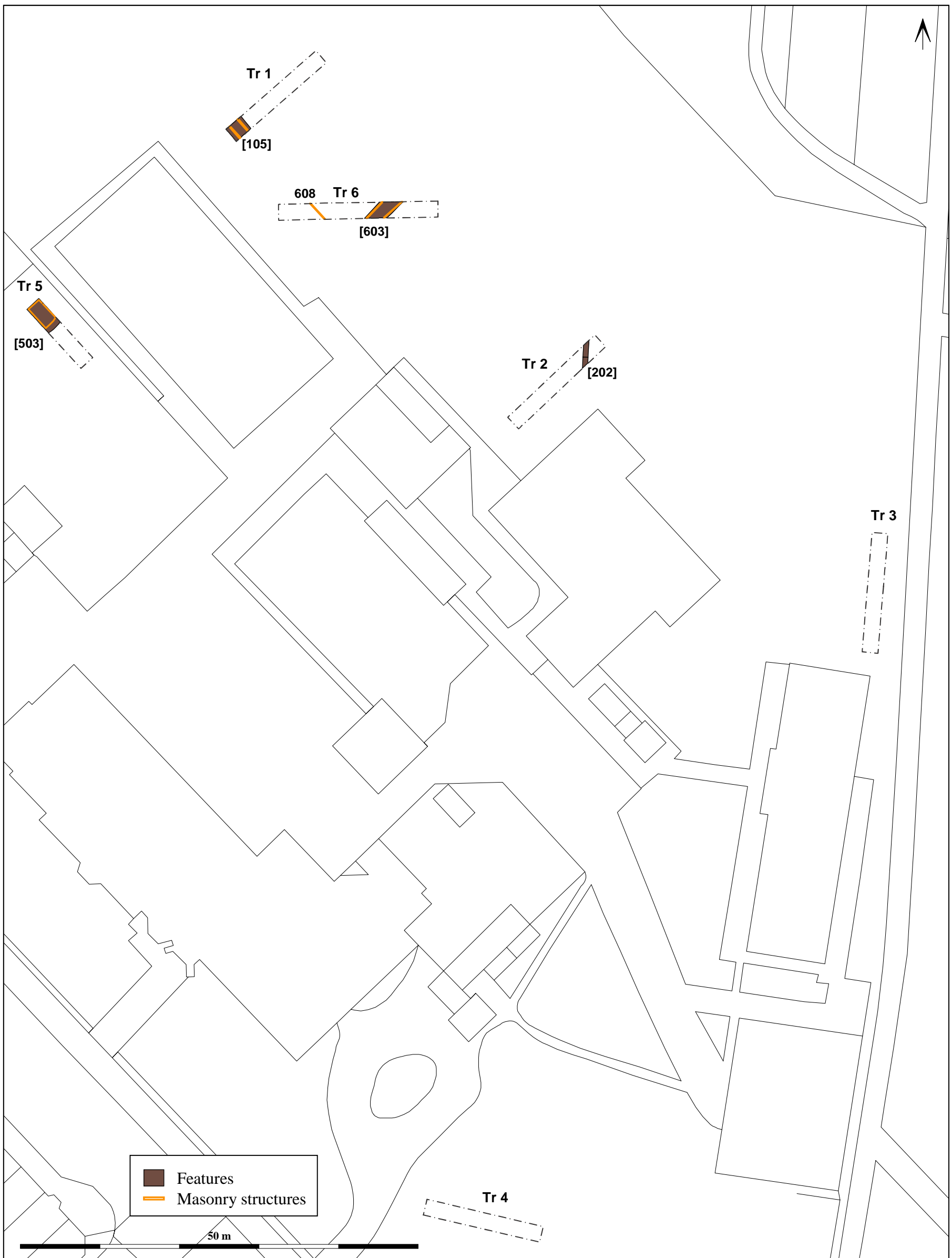
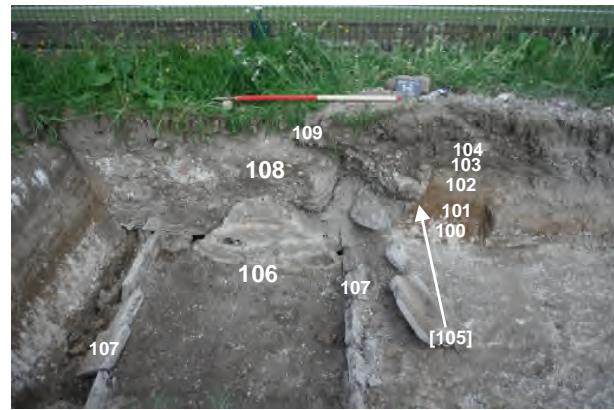
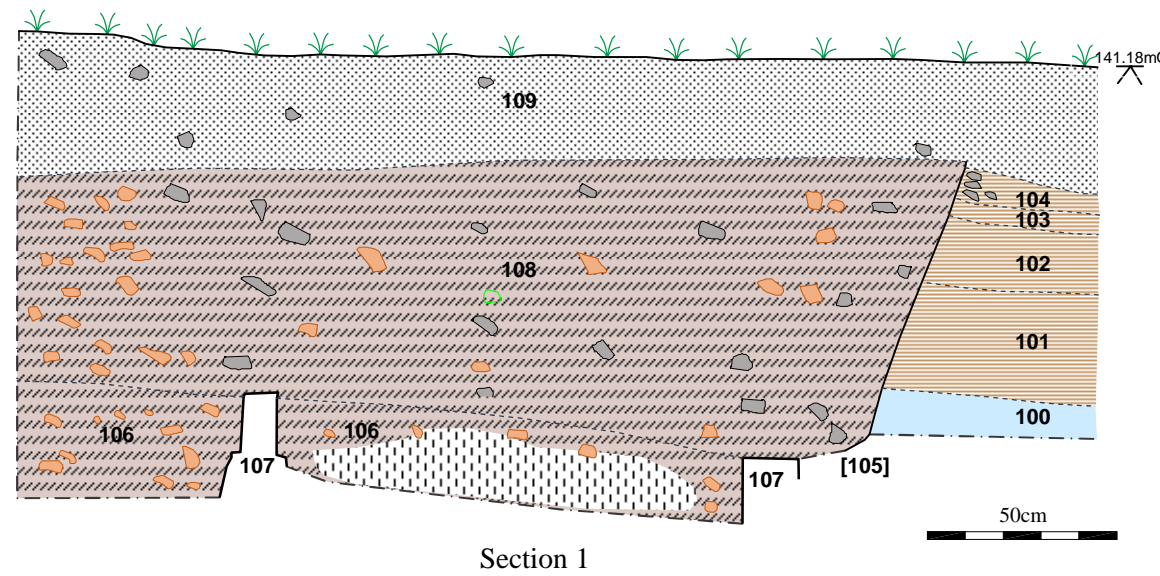


Figure 2: All-features plan

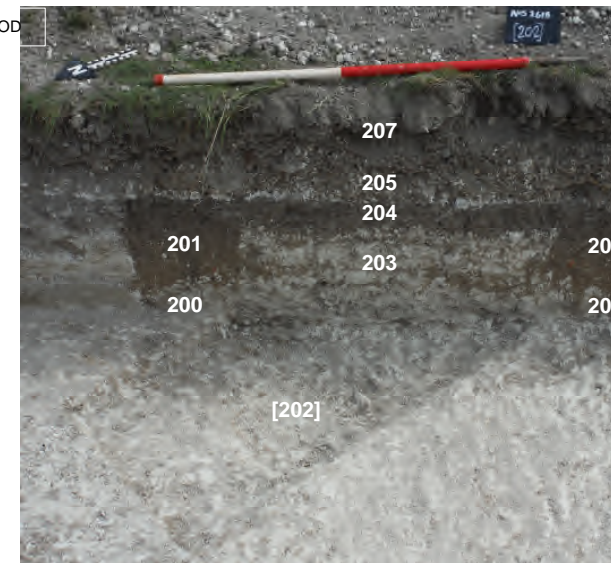
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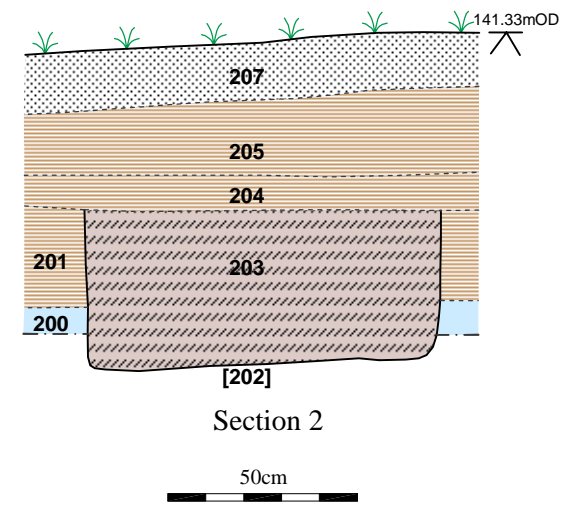
Photograph of [105]. Looking NW. Scale 1m



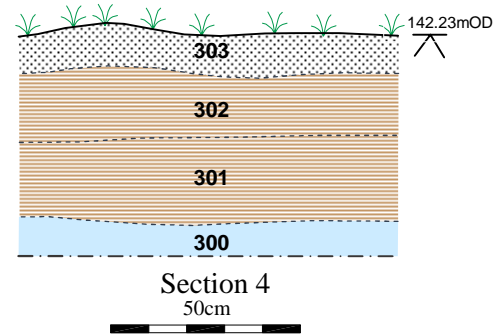
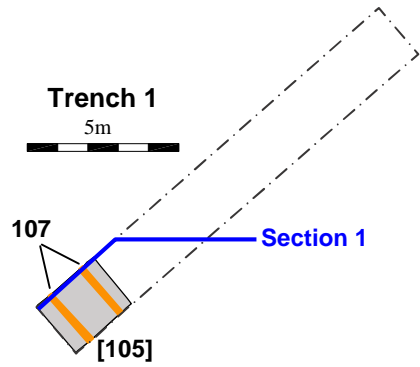
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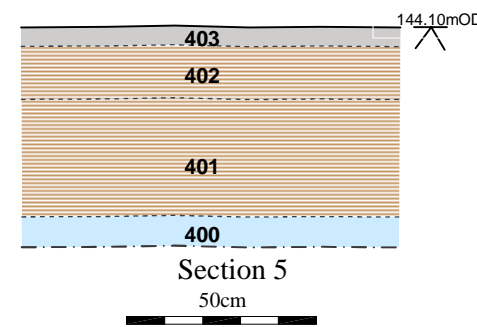
Photograph of [202]. Looking SE. Scale 1m



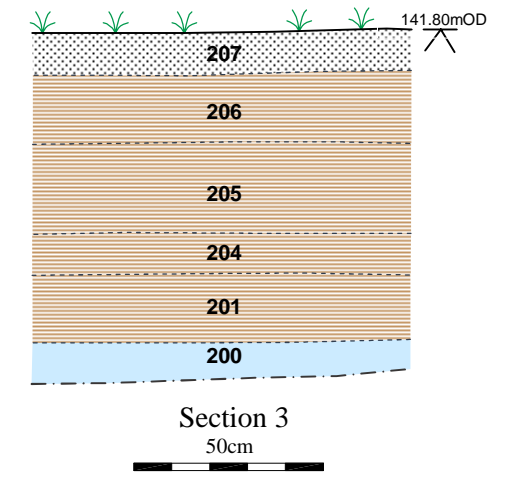
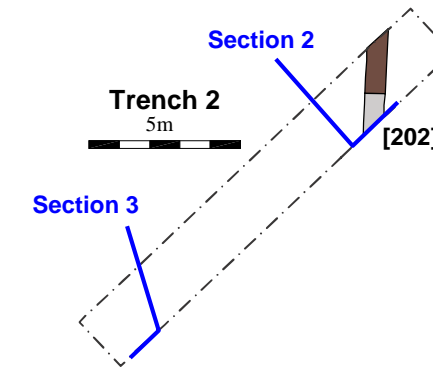
Section 2



Section 4



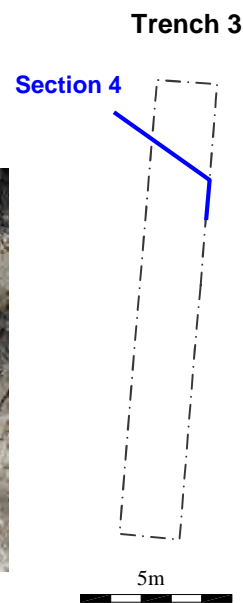
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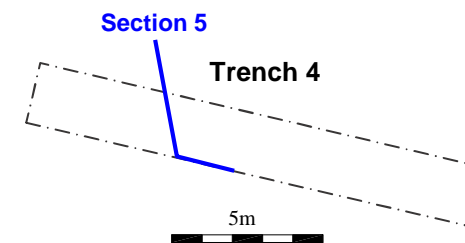
Section 3



Photograph of layers within Trench 3. Scale 1m

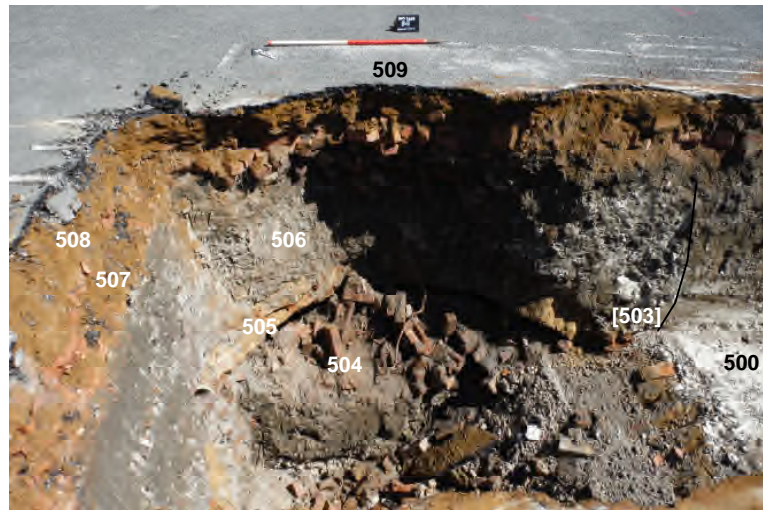
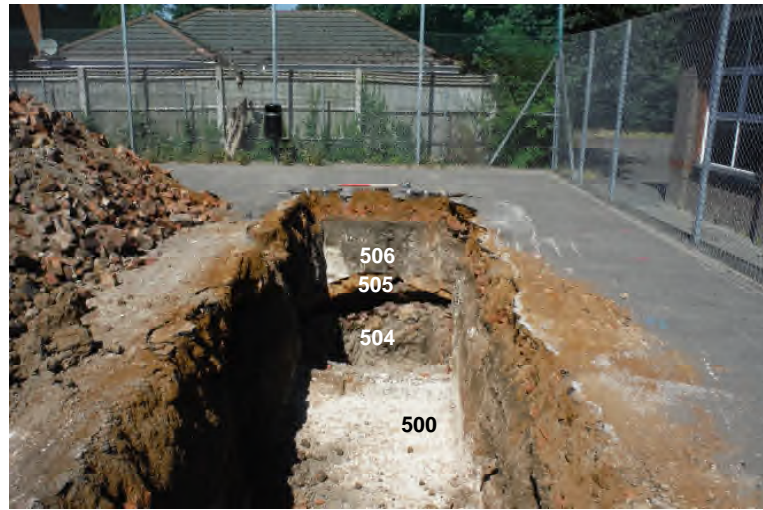


Photograph of Trench 4. Scale 1m

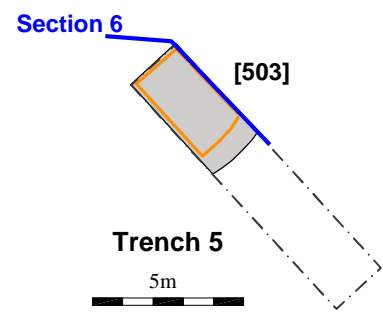
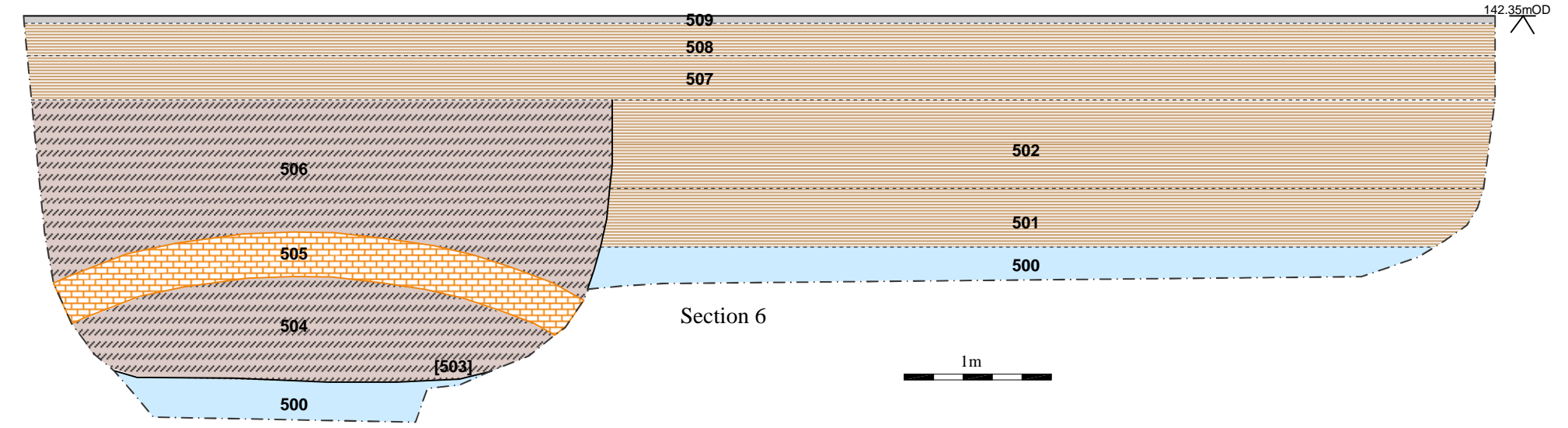


- Excavation limits
- Topsoil
- Tarmac
- Concrete rubble
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated segment
- Fill
- Layers
- Brick rubble
- Stones
- Geology

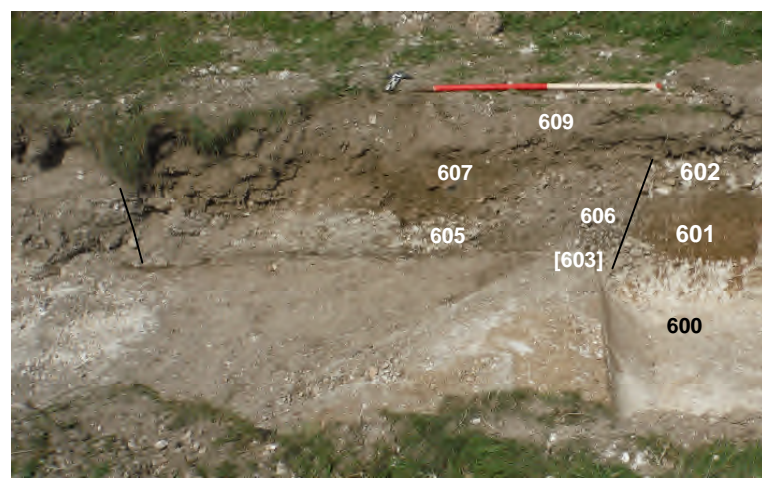
Figure 3: Trenches 1–4 detail



Photographs of [503]. Looking NW and NE. Scale 1m



- Excavation limits
- Topsoil
- Tarmac
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated segment
- Fill
- Brick structure
- Layers
- Brick
- Stones
- Geology



Photograph of [603]. Looking N. Scale 1m

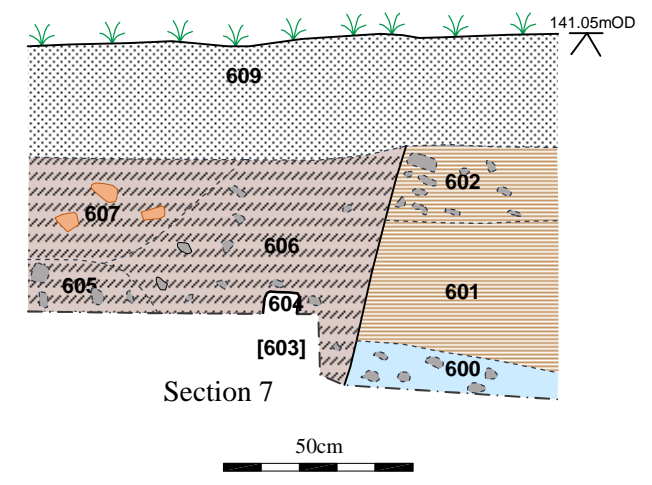
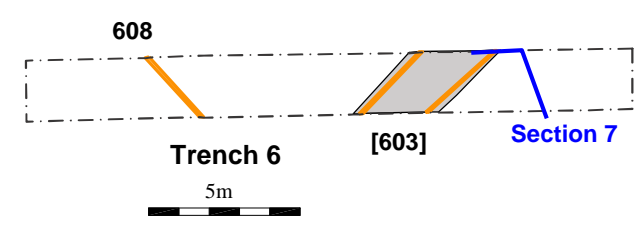
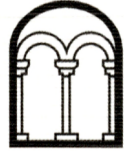


Figure 4: Trenches 5 and 6 detail

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