LAND ADJACENT TO THE GREEN MAN PH CLOPHILL BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

STAGE 1 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





LAND ADJACENT TO THE GREEN MAN PH CLOPHILL BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

STAGE 1 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Project: GM2874

Document: 2016/159 Version 1.0

Museum accession no.: BEDFM 2016.4265 OASIS reference no: albionar1-255613

22nd September 2016

Compiled by	Edited by	Approved by
Ben Barker	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

Produced for: Thomas Brothers (Excavation) Luton Ltd.



1

C_{Ω}	nte	nte
CU	IILE	IILS

1. IN	TRODUCTION	4
1.1	Background	4
1.2	Site Location and Description	4
1.3	Archaeological Background	5
1.4	Project Objectives	6
2. M	ETHODOLOGY	8
2.1	Methodological Standards	8
2.2	Trial Trenching	8
2.3	Location of the Archive	8
3. RI	ESULTS	9
3.1	Overburden, Made-Ground and Geological Deposits	9
3.2	Archaeological Features	9
3.3	Environmental Sample	10
4. IN	TERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS	11
5. BI	BLIOGRAPHY	12
6 C	ONTEXT DATA	14

List of Figures and Plates

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: All-feature plan and sections

Figure 3: Historical mapping

Plate 1: Ditch [104] – looking NNW Plate 2: Ditch [206] – looking NE

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



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation and submission of this document and all statements 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

This document has been compiled by Ben Barker (Project Officer) and approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). Figures were created by Joan Lightning (CAD Officer), the finds were processed and analysed by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and the environmental sample was assessed by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager). The fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Barker.

Albion Archaeology is grateful to Zoe and Andrew Burton of for commissioning the project. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance Hannah Firth and the staff of the Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Team.

Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford, MK42 0AS 2: 0300 300 8141 Fax: 0300 300 8209

E-mail: office@albion-arch.com Website: www.albion-arch.com

Version History

٠.	0.0.0		
	Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
	1.0	22/09/2016	n/a

Key Terms

A 11 ·

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

A 11 '

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



Non-technical Summary

Planning consent (CB/14/01302/FULL) was granted for the erection of two detached dwellings on land adjacent to the Green Man PH with associated alterations to the car parking area.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, a condition (no. 7) was attached to the planning permission requiring a scheme of archaeological investigation commencing with an initial stage of trial trench evaluation.

Two 3m wide by 10.7m long trial trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed buildings. The trenching produced limited archaeological evidence, comprising the remains of a probable ditched boundary that is likely to date to the medieval period. No associated evidence for occupation, industrial or agricultural activity was identified and there was no evidence for truncation that might have had an impact on feature survival.

The ditch is probably the remains of a medieval plot boundary that is likely to have continued from the High Street to beyond the limits of the development area. The lack of associated activity is likely to be a factor of the distance of the site from the High Street frontage, making it peripheral to the main areas of domestic activity.

The remains are of local significance as the boundary is not recorded on historical mapping; however, similar parallel plots are recorded in early estate and enclosure maps. As such, the ditched boundary adds to our understanding of the layout of medieval / post-medieval Clophill.

The findings of the evaluation suggest that the proposed development of the site will have little archaeological impact.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Planning consent (CB/14/01302/FULL) was granted for the erection of two detached dwellings on land adjacent to the Green Man PH with associated alterations to the car parking area.

A heritage statement was compiled to support the planning application (Collins 2014). Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition (no. 7) was attached to the planning permission requiring a scheme of archaeological investigation, using a staged approach of evaluation and, if necessary, mitigation prior to the construction works. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (March 2012).* The stages comprise:

- 1. Trial trench evaluation;
- 2. Appraisal of results of the evaluation and their significance with regard to the development site and the wider context;
- 3. The implementation of programme of further archaeological works, if required.

The Central Bedfordshire Council archaeologist (CBCA) advised that the amount of trenching required for the Stage 1 trial trench evaluation would be 64m² with a 32m² contingency.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Thomas Brothers (Excavation) Luton Ltd to carry out the evaluation in accordance with this advice. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), setting out a strategy for the Stage 1 archaeological evaluation by trial trenching (Albion 2016) was approved by the CBCA prior to the start of works.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The Green Man PH lies at the northern edge of Clophill village green, which is adjacent to the modern A6 and A507 roads to the west and south. The proposed development area (PDA) comprises the current pub car park to the rear of the pub and land to the rear of the adjacent properties to the west. The PDA is bordered by residential properties off Beverley Gardens to the north.

Topographically Clophill lies at the southern edge of the Greensand Ridge with the historic part of the village on lower ground adjacent to the River Flit. The PDA lies on level ground at *c*. 53m OD and centred on grid reference TL082377. The underlying geology comprises clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvial deposits over Woburn Sands Formation bedrock (British Geological Survey 2016).



1.3 Archaeological Background

A desk-based heritage assessment summarising the historical and archaeological background to the development area and its significance was submitted as part of the planning application (Collins 2014). In addition, during preparation of the WSI a search of the Historic Environment Record was undertaken for all heritage assets within a 500m radius of the PDA (HER search ref 201617/82).

The only pre-medieval heritage assets listed in the HER within the study area are a scatter of Mesolithic to Bronze Age flints (HER 15610) recovered from the site of a sand extraction quarry at the Simpsonhill Plantation to the southwest of the A6/A507 roundabout. Mesolithic flints were also found in archaeological investigations in the eastern part of the High Street (Archaeological Solutions 2012).

A 4th-century Roman coin (HER 3650) was found in the garden of a property along the High Street to the east of The Green. There are suggestions that the modern A507 follows the line of a Roman road (HER 5342, Viatores no. 176); however, many of the roads identified by the Viatores project in Bedfordshire have been disproved as they were based on unreliable evidence (Simco 1984).

The majority of heritage assets within the study area and in the vicinity of the Green Man PH date from the medieval to post-medieval periods. Only one previous archaeological investigation has taken place close to the PDA — an evaluation on land at no. 3a and adjacent to no. 3 High Street (EBD1331). This recorded three post-medieval pits.

An extensive archaeological and historical background to these periods was provided to the planning officer by the CBCA and detailed in the Planning Officer Delegated Report (archaeology reference HER/16998/HF) which is reproduced below.

Historical documentation indicates the presence of a settlement at Clophill prior to the Domesday survey of 1086 when the manor was held by two thegns. After Domesday, Clophill was combined with Cainhoe (to the south), and both were held by Nigel d'Albini, who went on to construct Cainhoe Castle (HER 225 and NHLE 1009248), a scheduled monument which lies c. 1.5 km south-east of the PDA.

It is, therefore, likely that a settlement existed at Clophill in the late Saxon period; however, the location of that original village is uncertain. The historic village recorded in the HER is linear in morphology, following the lower slopes of the Greensand Ridge. However, it has been suggested that the name, "Clophill", is associated with a hilltop settlement. One place name interpretation is "Tree-Stump Hill"; whilst another is "Cleft in the Hill"—neither of which particularly fits with the established settlement pattern (Allden 1978).



The uncertainty as to the location of the late Saxon settlement is compounded by the fact that the parish church of St Mary (HER 2476, NHLE 1113735) is located c. 700m north-east of the core of the village. Cartographic and aerial photographic evidence suggests the presence of a small number of buildings (probably dwellings) around the church. The present church may have been built by the de Grey family who acquired the Cainhoe and Clophill manor in 1415; it was completed by 1498 when there is a record of a request for a burial there. However, it has been postulated that some of the church's surviving structural elements are in fact considerably earlier than this date.

It was fairly common for the focus of medieval settlements to shift over time and many of Bedfordshire's villages show evidence of having contracted and expanded. The reasons for this are numerous; there were episodes of both population growth and decline during this period, with a number of episodes of decline in the 14th century. Equally, it may have been a more gradual process as there are still records of buildings around the church in the 17th and 18th centuries (Allden 1978). If the original late Saxon settlement was located to the north-east and the shift of focus related to the social and economic pressures of the 14th century, then it is probable that the earliest archaeological remains within Clophill itself date to the mid- to late medieval period.

Thus far there have been very few archaeological investigations within the linear settlement core and those that have taken place suggest truncation during the post-medieval period (Archaeological Solutions 2010 and ASC 2012).

1.4 Project Objectives

The relevant research frameworks for the area are: *Bedfordshire Archaeology*. *Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake *et al.* 2007) and *A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

The regional research framework states that few medieval rural settlements have been investigated in Bedfordshire. Research into rural settlement needs to be undertaken at the micro-scale of investigating the chronology, structure and function of individual settlements or classes of settlement and at the macro-scale of broad patterns of settlement (Oake 2007, 14). As stated in the background information provided to the planning officer by the CBCA, the origins of the settlement at Clophill are far from certain and the PDA has the potential to preserve further evidence about the development of the village.

The investigations at the Green Man PH had potential to inform the following research aims (Wade 2000; Oake 2007, 14; Medlycott 2011, 70):

- examination of diversity and distribution of rural Saxon and medieval settlements;
- characterisation of settlement forms to understand how they appear, grow, shift and disappear;



The principal purpose of the archaeological field evaluation was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the PDA;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the PDA;
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The trial trench evaluation was designed to be the first stage of a programme of archaeological investigation and was to be carried out as a condition of the planning permission (see section 1.1). The work was intended to provide the information needed to assess the potential archaeological impact of the proposed development and thus assist in the formulation of any further stages of archaeological investigation should they be deemed necessary by the CBC Archaeologist.



2. METHODOLOGY

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

2.1 Methodological Standards

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	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14 (2003)		
CIfA	Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct (2014)		
	Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation (2014)		
	Standard and guidance for the collection,		
	documentation, conservation and research of		
	archaeological materials (2014)		
EAA	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of		
	England (Gurney 2003)		
Historic England	Management of Research Projects in the Historic		
(formerly English	Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers'		
Heritage)	<i>Guide</i> (2015)		
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory		
	and practice of methods, from sampling and		
	recovery to post-excavation (2nd edn, 2015)		
The Higgins	Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives		
(formerly Bedford for Deposition with Registered Museums			
Museum)	Bedfordshire. Version 2.8 (2010)		

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching was carried out on the 10th and 11th August 2016. Two 3m wide by 10.7m long trial trenches were located within the footprint of the proposed buildings (Figure 1). The area of the trenches measured $64m^2$, as specified by the CBCA. The contingency allowance for an extra $32m^2$ of trenching was not utilised.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flatedged bucket, under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording was carried out by an experienced Albion Archaeology staff member. The trenches were inspected by the CBCA prior to backfilling.

2.3 Location of the Archive

The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum (Entry No: BEDFM 2016.42).



3. RESULTS

3.1 Overburden, Made-Ground and Geological Deposits

The topsoil (101) / (201) was consistently 0.3m thick and consisted of a sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and frequent rooting. The topsoil within Trench 2 contained frequent dumps of modern refuse including moulded glass bottles, china and plastics.

A 0.25m-thick make-up layer of sand (202) was identified below the topsoil layer at the south-western end of Trench 2. The sand overlay buried topsoil layer (203), 0.3m deep, which also contained modern refuse. Layer (202) is, therefore, likely to be of recent origin and is likely to have been re-deposited geological deposits derived from the landscaping of the adjacent car park.

A relatively thick subsoil (102) / (204) was identified in both trenches. It was 0.3-0.7m thick, becoming shallower towards the back of the plot (to the northeast). The deposit is likely to have derived through combination of cultivation and colluvial action.

Both trenches were dug down to the natural sands and gravels (103) / (205), approximately 0.5–1m below the existing ground level.

3.2 Archaeological Features

Two ditch segments [104] and [206] were identified approximately half-way along each trench (Plates 1 and 2). They were both around 2.2m wide by 0.6m deep, with similar, slightly convex-sided, profiles. Given their similarities and the fact that the two trenches were positioned approximately 7.5m apart, it is likely that the two segments are part of the same ditch.

The ditch segments did vary in that ditch [104] had a largely homogeneous sterile fill of mid orange-brown silty sand (105), which became slightly stonier toward the base, whilst ditch segment [206] contained two discrete fills. The second ditch [206] had a distinct primary fill (208). This was much less silty than the main fill (207), which was a mid grey-brown silty sand.

It is likely that the difference between the fill sequences in each ditch segment is the product of the inclusion of a greater quantity of domestic refuse within ditch [206] than in ditch [104].

Three abraded sherds (63g) of early medieval sand-tempered pottery (fabric types C05, C59A, C59B) and a miscellaneous shelly sherd of possible late Saxon or early medieval date (14g) were recovered from fill (207). An undiagnostic animal bone fragment (5g) derived from the same deposit.



3.3 Environmental Sample

A bulk environmental sample was taken from the upper fill (207) of ditch [206].

The flot was quite small and very rooty, with some roots up to 4mm in diameter. The sample contained very sparse charred grain, with examples of two grain types being present, as well as a weed seed. Charcoal comprised occasional large but very abraded fragments up to 12mm long, as well as frequent smaller abraded fragments (less than 5mm long) and flecks. The flot also contained a large insect egg case.

The majority of the charred plant remains floated, with only a very small quantity of charcoal being present in the residue. The residue also contained very small quantities of animal bone, glass and slag.

The very small assemblage of charred grain has no potential for analysis, whilst the abraded nature of the larger lumps of charcoal suggests reworking of this material. The smaller fragments of charcoal could potentially be intrusive given the size of the roots and have no potential for analysis.



4. INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation trenching produced limited archaeological evidence within the footprints of the proposed new dwellings. It comprised the remains of a probable ditched boundary that is likely to date to the medieval period. No associated evidence for occupation, industrial or agricultural activity was identified and there was no evidence for truncation that might have had an impact on feature survival.

The ditch is probably the remains of a medieval plot boundary that is likely to have continued from the High Street to beyond the limits of the development area. The lack of associated activity is likely to be a factor of the distance of the site from the High Street frontage making it peripheral to the main areas of domestic activity.

The remains are of local significance as the boundary is not recorded on historical mapping; however, similar parallel plots are recorded in early estate and enclosure maps (Figure 3). As such, the ditched boundary adds to the knowledge of the layout of medieval / post-medieval Clophill.

The findings of the evaluation suggest that the proposed development of the site will have little archaeological impact.



5. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Albion Archaeology, 2001 Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork. 2nd ed.
- Albion Archaeology, 2016 Land Adjacent to The Green Man PH, Clophill, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication. Stage 1: Trial Trenching. Albion Report 2016/125
- Allden, A., 1978 *Clophill*, unpublished Parish Survey in Central Bedfordshire HFR
- Archaeological Solutions Ltd., 2012 122A High Street Clophill, Bedfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation, report no: 4125
- Brown, D., 2007 Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation, Reading: Institute of Field Archaeologists on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum
- 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
- Campbell, G., Moffett, L. and Straker, V., 2011 *Environmental Archaeology:* A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edn, Portsmouth: English Heritage
- Collins, M., 2014 Heritage Asset Assessment and Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: Land behind the Green Man Public House, The Green, Clophill, January 2014
- DCLG, 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, (London: Department for Communities and Local Government)
- Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork Guide to Good Practice Second Edition: available online at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation
- Glazebrook, J., 1997 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1 Resource Assessment. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3
- Going, C., and Plouviez, J., 2000, "Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval (Urban)", in Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J., 2000, 19–22
- Gurney, D., 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14



- Historic England, 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide, version 1.2
- Medlycott, M. (ed), 2011 Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24
- Oake, M., 2007 'Research Agenda and Strategy', in Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P., *Bedfordshire*Archaeology Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment,

 Research Agenda and Strategy. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9, 7–20
- Wade, K., 2000 'Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (Rural)', in Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 23–26.



6. CONTEXT DATA

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.70 m. Width: 3.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: 508190237740

OS Grid Ref.: 508180237735

Reason: To test archaeological potential within the footprint of the new build.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones 0.3m thick.	✓	
102	Subsoil	Friable mid brown grey silty sand $$ frequent small stones, occasional large stones $$ 0.5m thick.	V	
103	Natural	Firm mid brown yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones Includes patches of pure sand.		
104	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.3m, max depth 0.5m, min length 3.m Same as ditch [206].	✓	
105	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand moderate small stones, occasional larg stones Becomes more stoney towards the base. 0.5m thick.	e 🗸	

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.70 m. Width: 3.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: 508194237731

OS Grid Ref.: 508185237726

Reason: To test archaeological potential within the footprint of the new build.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty sand occasional small-large CBM, frequent flecks charcoal Frequent modern refuse including china, glass, fabric and plastics. 0.25m deep.	V	
202	Make up layer	Friable mid brown orange sand occasional small stones Redeposited natural. 0.2m thick.	✓	
203	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Including modern refuse. 0.3m thick.		
204	Subsoil	Friable mid brown grey silty sand frequent small stones, occasional large stones 0.4m thick	✓	
205	Natural	Firm mid brown yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones Inxcludes occasional patchesof pure sand.		
206	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.2m max depth 0.55m, min length 3.m Same as ditch [104].	, v	
207	Main fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Becomes more stoney towards the base. 0.4m thick.	~	V
208	Primary fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones 0.10m thick.	✓	



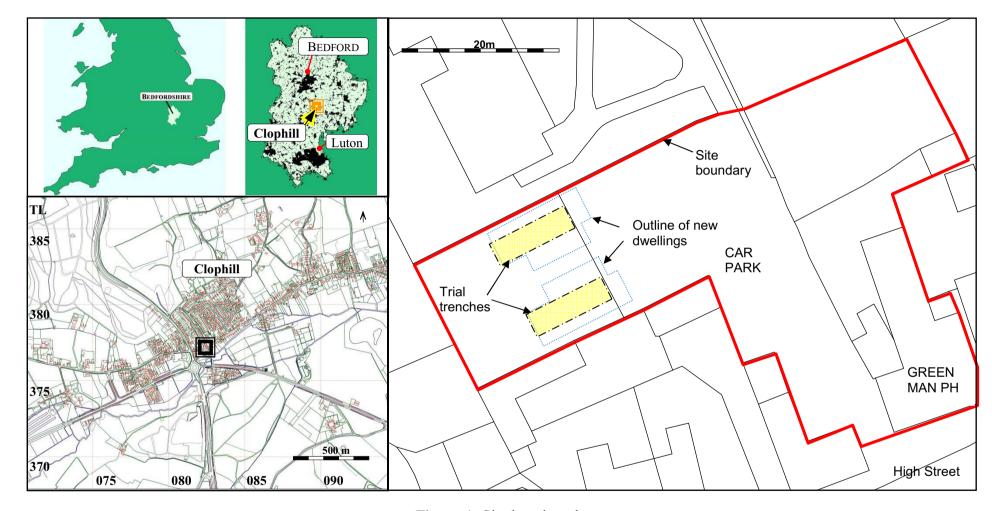


Figure 1: Site location plan

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



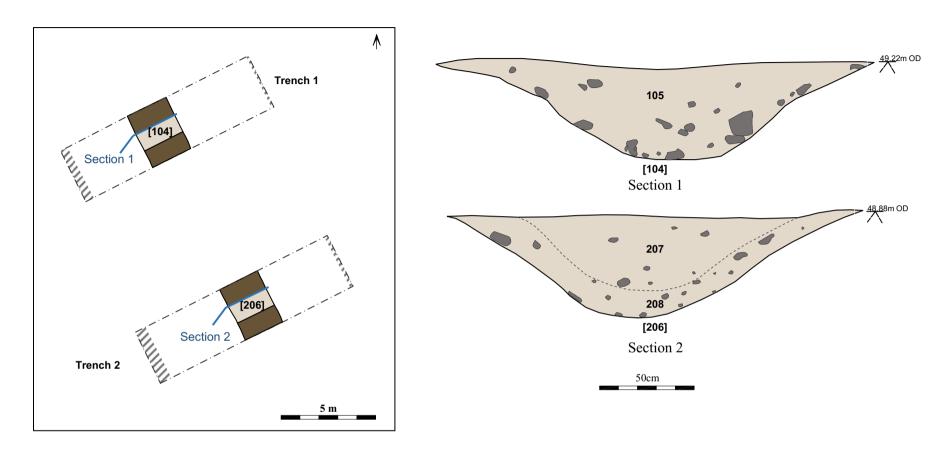
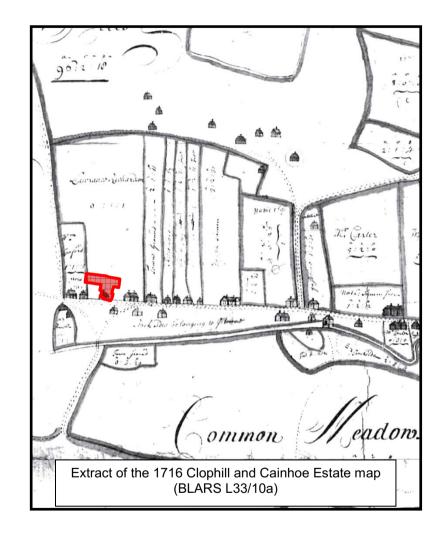


Figure 2: All-feature plan and sections

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.

Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)





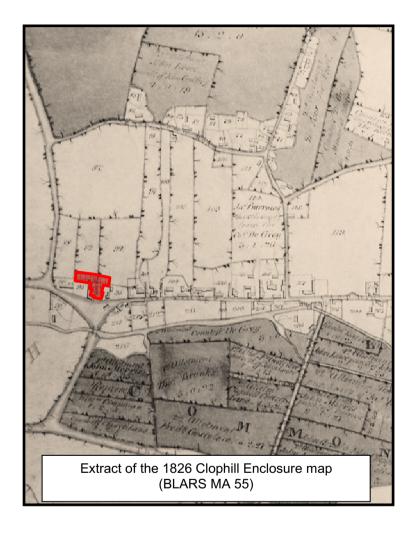


Figure 3: Historical mapping (scale and location of site boundary is approximate)





Plate 1: Ditch [104] – looking NNW (1m scale)



Plate 2: Ditch [206] – looking NE (1m scale)



Albion archaeology



Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford MK42 0AS **Telephone** 01234 294000 **Email** office@albion-arch.com www.albion-arch.com

