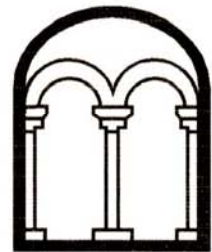


**LAND AT 118B HIGH STREET
CLOPHILL
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
AND HERITAGE STATEMENT**

Albion
archaeology



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CLOPHILL
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
AND HERITAGE STATEMENT**

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Preface

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

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

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Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

BARS	Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CIfA	Chartered Institute <i>for</i> Archaeologists
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Projectpart Homes Ltd are gathering baseline information on land at 118B High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for residential development.

The proposed development area (PDA) lies off the High Street within the eastern end of the historic core of Clophill. For this reason Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist advised the planning officer that a heritage statement based on the results of a trial trench evaluation should accompany any planning application (CB/16/03716/PAPC).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of eight 11m x 2m trial trenches. The trenches were positioned for even coverage across the proposed development site.

Archaeological features were identified in four of the eight trenches. The most significant remains were located in the northern part of the PDA, on the higher ground closer to the High Street frontage. A number of pits and ditches are likely to be associated with medieval settlement of the area. A series of E-W aligned boundary ditches are likely to demarcate the southern edge of a plot fronting onto the High Street to the north.

To the south of the boundary ditches was lower, boggy ground, prone to flooding, as indicated by thick alluvial deposits. The absence of archaeological features suggests that this area was used as fields or meadows in the medieval period and beyond.

The evaluation has confirmed that the PDA lies within the eastern end of the historic core of Clophill, which represents a non-designated heritage asset. The medieval archaeological remains within the northern half of the PDA are of moderate, regional significance and have the potential to contribute to local and regional research objectives relating to the layout and development of medieval settlement.

Ground reduction and foundations associated with the proposed residential development are likely to have a negative impact on the sub-surface archaeological remains within the PDA. However, it is likely that this impact can be mitigated.

In the event of planning permission being granted and, if required by the LPA, any direct impact of the development on buried archaeological remains could be mitigated by measures to investigate and record the presence/absence, nature and significance of the buried archaeological remains.

The northern half of the PDA falls within Clophill Conservation Area. The existing late 20th-century dwelling at 118B High Street (proposed for demolition) is of little architectural interest. As such, it makes a neutral contribution to the character of this part of the conservation area. Sympathetic design will ensure that the proposed development is in keeping with the character and appearance of the conservation area; by removing the existing dwelling, it will also make a minor positive contribution to the significance of the conservation area. The proposed development will have no impact on the setting of any designated heritage assets in the conservation area.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

Projectpart Homes Ltd are gathering baseline information on land at 118B High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for a residential development.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that an archaeological trial trench evaluation must be undertaken in order to obtain the information required to inform the heritage statement that would need to accompany any future planning application (CB/16/03716/PAPC). Albion Archaeology were commissioned to carry out the evaluation and prepare the heritage statement (Section 4.2 of this report) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2016a), approved by the CBCA.

This is in accordance with the *Central Bedfordshire Design Guide* (March 2014) and national planning guidelines in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, which was published on 27 March 2012¹.

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

The proposed development area (PDA) lies off the High Street within the eastern end of the historic core of Clophill. A dwelling, outbuildings and lawned area are currently located within the northern half of the site; the southern half comprises a fenced-off field. The site is bordered to the east and west by residential properties fronting the High Street and to the south, by fields backing onto the River Flit.

Topographically, Clophill lies at the southern edge of the Greensand Ridge with the historic part of the village generally lying on the lower ground adjacent to the River Flit. The PDA lies on level ground at c. 53m OD, centred on grid reference TL091381. The underlying geology comprises clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvial deposits over Woburn Sands Formation bedrock².

1.3 **Archaeological Background**

In preparation of the WSI, a search of the HER was carried out for all heritage assets within a 500m radius of the PDA (ref.: 201617/187). The most salient information from this is reproduced below.

The site lies within the eastern end of the historic core of the village, which is likely to date back to at least the medieval period. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of recorded heritage assets within the study area are related to the late medieval and post-medieval development of the village.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.

² <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Accessed 19/10/16.



Three archaeological investigations (EBD 645, EBD 1064 and EBD 1261) have previously been undertaken within the general vicinity of the study area.

1.3.1 Prehistoric to Roman (prior to c. AD 410)

A scatter of struck flints dating to the earlier Mesolithic period was revealed during an evaluation undertaken c. 85m to the east of the PDA (HER 19613; EBD 1064).

No other prehistoric or Roman heritage assets have yet been recorded within Clophill.

1.3.2 Anglo-Saxon (410–1066) and medieval (1066–1550)

Though the historic core of the village, as recorded by the HER, may only date back to the medieval period, historical documentation indicates that settlement at Clophill dates back to at least the late Saxon period. This issue was commented upon within the archaeological and historical background information provided to the planning officer by the CBCA and presented within the pre-application advice document:

Historic documentation indicates the presence of a settlement at Clophill prior to the Domesday survey of 1086 when the manor was held by two thegns (members of the royal household). 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), which lies around 900m south-east of the proposed development site.

It is, therefore, likely that Clophill as a settlement is late Saxon in date; however, the location of that original village is uncertain. The historic village recorded in the HER is linear in morphology, progressing along the lower slopes of the Greensand Ridge. However, the parish church of St Mary (HER 2476, NHLE 1005392) is located approximately 700m north-east of the proposed development site outside the historic village core. Cartographic and aerial photographic information suggest the presence of a small number of buildings (probably dwellings) around the church (HER 9145). The church, which is a ruin, has been dated to the 14th and 15th centuries, though it has been postulated that some of the surviving structural elements are in fact considerably earlier. The present church may have been built by the de Grey family who acquired the Cainhoe and Clophill manor in 1415 and it was completed by 1498 when there is a record of a request for a burial there.

If the original late Saxon settlement was located to the north-east and the shift of focus relates 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 only been a small number of archaeological investigations within the linear settlement core. In some cases evidence for severe truncation during the post-medieval period has been recorded (Archaeological Solutions 2010 and ASC 2012).

However, a recent trial trench evaluation in the centre of the village recorded a feature dated to the 13th/14th century (Absolute Archaeology 2015) and at



the western end of the village adjacent to the Green Man, a large ditch containing medieval pottery has recently been uncovered (Albion Archaeology 2016b).

In the vicinity of the study area one medieval pit, truncated by later landscaping, was recorded within the evaluation undertaken at 100 High Street (EBD 1261).

1.3.3 Post-medieval (1550–1900)

A number of heritage assets in close proximity to the PDA date to the post-medieval period and consist of standing or demolished buildings, part of the growing village of Clophill. The buildings consist of designated and undesignated 18th–19th-century houses, cottages (HER 3722, 13105 and 13103) and the Old Rectory (HER 3720).

The new parish church of St Mary's (HER 3721) was built between 1847 and 1849.

Due to the mixed underlying geology the area around Clophill was used for gravel and sand extraction. A number of sand and gravel pits are located in the vicinity of the PDA, e.g. HER 9134 to the north-west and HER 9137 to the south-east.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal purpose of the evaluation was to gather information on possible sub-surface archaeological heritage assets within the PDA.

The archaeological trial trenching endeavoured to determine:

1. the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the PDA;
2. integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
3. nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The relevant research frameworks for the region are: *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *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).

The investigations were considered to have the potential to inform the following specific research aims, the details of which are set out in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2016a):

- if there is any evidence for Mesolithic activity within the PDA? (Oake 2007, 9; Austen 2000, 6–7; Medlycott 2011, 6–8);
- if there is any evidence for Saxon occupation on the PDA? (Wade 2000, 24–25; Oake 2007, 14; Medlycott 2011, 70);
- if there is any evidence for the layout, development and origins of the medieval village? (Oake 2007, 14);



2. METHODOLOGY

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

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)
Bedford Museum	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire</i> (2010)
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>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
Historic England (formerly English Heritage)	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , 2nd edition (2011)

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM 2016.76). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-265841) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place from 12th to 15th December 2016. It comprised the excavation of eight 11m x 2m trenches (176m²). The trenches were positioned for even coverage across the proposed development site.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Lower-lying Trenches 1–3 immediately filled with water due to the high water table. All excavation and recording were carried out by experienced Albion staff. Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.



3. RESULTS

All deposits revealed within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figures 2–3. A selection of photographs of the excavated features is presented in Figure 4. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***)). Detailed information is provided within Appendix 1. Details of the finds recovered from the investigation are presented in Appendix 2.

3.1 *Overburden and Geological Deposits*

Topsoil comprising mid brown-grey sandy silt was present in all trenches. It was noticeably thicker in the southern part of the PDA, reaching 0.3–0.35m. In Trenches 6–8 in the northern part of PDA it was 0.15–0.28m thick.

The mid grey-brown clayey silt subsoil varied considerably in thickness across the PDA. It was 0.05–0.56m thick and was generally thickest within the trenches located in the northern part of the PDA. It was observed in all parts of the site, except Trench 3. In Trench 4 an additional layer of subsoil (402) of similar texture but slightly darker in colour was recorded.

Layers interpreted as alluvium were observed underlying the subsoil in all trenches. In Trenches 6–8 the alluvium consisted of mid blue-grey clayey silt, changing into plastic dark grey/black silty clay in the lower-lying part of the site to the south. The two southernmost trenches (1 and 2) also contained a second alluvial layer, comprised of light grey silty clay. The combined depth of these deposits ranged from 0.2–0.4m.

Undisturbed geological deposits comprised firm mid grey-yellow silty clay with inclusions of gravel and ‘patterned ground’ filled with material from overlying layers.

3.2 *Archaeological Remains*

Archaeological features were concentrated in the northern part of the PDA. Almost all, with the exception of pit [504], cut the alluvial layers. Trenches 1–4 contained no archaeological features.

Northernmost Trench 8 contained three substantial pits all of which produced artefacts dating to the medieval period. All three pits were only partially revealed within the trenches and it is possible, especially in the case of the two intercutting features [804], [806], at the north-east end of the trench that they could have been linear in character. The earlier of the two [804] was smaller (measuring 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep), while larger cutting feature [806] was at least 2m wide and 0.44m deep. Sub-oval pit [809] extended beyond the trench southwards; it was 1.9m wide and 0.6m deep. The area immediately to the west of it was truncated by modern intrusions [813] and [815], which are probably related to a now-demolished outbuilding.

Two more circular pits were identified in Trench 7. Both [710] and [712] were located at the north-west end of the trench but only the former was fully exposed and investigated. It measured 1m in diameter and was 0.46m deep. A



waterlogged deposit (711) in pit [710] produced a significant amount of medieval pottery along with animal bone and preserved wood, displaying cut marks indicative of the use of a billhook (Appendix 2).

To the south-east of the pits three shallow, parallel ditches were identified [704], [706], [708]. All were aligned approximately E-W. They were *c.* 1m wide and 0.11–0.24m deep. The ditches are roughly parallel to the existing road and most likely represent the rear boundary of the original street-fronting plot. The number of re-cuts together with the wide-ranging finds that they produced (post-medieval to modern) indicates that the boundary was long-lived and redefined at least twice.

In addition to boundary ditch [604] Trench 6 also contained NNW-SSE aligned gulley [606] and the base of a small posthole [608]. None of these features produced datable artefacts but the gulley [606] was truncated by both the ditch and the posthole.

The only features in the southern part of the PDA were located in Trench 5. The two pits produced no dating evidence. Pit [504] was oval / rectangular in shape and 0.35m deep. The two deposits within this pit (505/506) were markedly different from the fills of earlier features at the site as they were much more clay based. This suggested that feature [504] was modern in origin.

Sub-oval feature [507] at the north-west end of Trench 5 was at least 1.4m wide, 1.45m long and *c.* 0.25m deep. It was the only one on site to be sealed by alluvial deposits (502). This together with the similarity of its fill to the alluvium observed in Trenches 1 and 2 to the south (and the absence of finds in its fill) indicates that it is likely to be natural in origin.



4. SUMMARY AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

4.1 Summary of Results

Archaeological features were identified in four of the eight trenches. These comprised six pits, three parallel shallow ditches, one gully, one posthole and one feature most likely to be natural in origin. In addition, recent modern truncations were present.

Most of the significant remains were located in the northern part of the PDA, on the higher ground closer to the High Street frontage. Pit [809] and, in particular, pit [710], produced medieval pottery. Pit [710] also contained fragments of wood that had been preserved by the waterlogged ground conditions. The pottery sherds were abraded but sufficiently large to suggest that they had not travelled far from their original place of use before being deposited in the pits. Although undated, the gully and posthole in Trench 6 may also be associated with medieval settlement. The boundary ditches in Trenches 6 and 7 could demarcate the southern edge of a plot fronting onto the High Street. The presence of post-medieval pottery and tile in some of the features indicates continuing use of the area, including redefinition of the plot's southern boundary.

To the south of the boundary ditches was lower, boggy ground, prone to flooding, as indicated by the dark and thick alluvial deposits. The absence of archaeological features suggests that this area was used as fields or meadows in the medieval period and beyond.

4.2 Heritage Statement

4.2.1 Archaeological heritage assets

The evaluation has confirmed that the PDA lies within the eastern end of the historic core of Clophill, which represents a non-designated heritage asset. The medieval archaeological remains within the northern half of the PDA are of moderate, regional significance and have the potential to contribute to local and regional research objectives relating to the layout and development of medieval settlement (Oake 2007, 14).

No evidence was revealed for Mesolithic or Saxon activity within the trenches. The results of the evaluation have no potential to address the research objectives (Section 1.4) related to these periods.

Ground reduction and foundations associated with the proposed residential development are likely to have a negative impact on the sub-surface archaeological remains within the PDA. However, it is likely that this impact can be mitigated.

In the event of planning permission being granted and, if required by the LPA, any direct impact of the development on buried archaeological remains could be mitigated by measures to investigate and record the presence/absence, nature and significance of the buried archaeological remains.



4.2.2 Clophill Conservation Area

The northern half of the PDA falls within Clophill Conservation Area (DBD 3262), which covers the historic core of the village and is divided into three broad character areas. One of these is the High Street, which is defined as having relatively narrow pocket plots, mainly 5–10m wide and considerably longer. Buildings are set back a modest amount from the road and are predominantly built of red brick. Boundary walls along the pavement give a sense of unity to the High Street. The scale of buildings is domestic with the visible presence of domestic gardens to the front and side of plots. There is also some 20th-century infilling along the High Street.

The existing late 20th-century dwelling at 118B High Street (which will be demolished as part of the proposed development) is of little architectural interest. As such, it makes a neutral contribution to the character of this part of the conservation area.

Sympathetic design in terms of siting, scale, materials, details and landscaping (hard and soft) will ensure that the proposed development is in keeping with the character and appearance of the conservation area. In addition, by removing the existing dwelling, the proposed development will make a minor positive contribution to the significance of the conservation area.

Set back from the High Street and within mature, existing boundaries, the proposed development will also have no impact on the setting of any nearby designated heritage assets, the nearest of which is a Grade II-listed, 18th-century thatched and timber-framed house (with 20th-century alterations) (HER 3722) that lies *c.* 70m to the north-west at no. 97 on the opposite side of the High Street.



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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.85 m. Max: 0.95 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9147; Northing: 38089)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9157; Northing: 38095)

Reason: Archaeological Evaluation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.25-0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.1-0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Alluvium	Plastic dark grey black silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.25-0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Alluvium	Firm light grey silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.05m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Natural	Firm mid grey yellow silty clay moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9169; Northing: 38097)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9179; Northing: 38101)

Reason: Archaeological Evaluation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.15-0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Alluvium	Plastic dark grey black silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.2-0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Alluvium	Firm light grey silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Natural	Firm mid grey yellow silty clay moderate small stones Frequent gravelly patches.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9177; Northing: 38120)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9168; Northing: 38115)

Reason: Archaeological Evaluation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Alluvium	Plastic dark grey black silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.25-0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm mid grey yellow clay Orange mottles and occasional inclusions of gravelly clay. 'Crazings' filled with material derived from overlying layer (301).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9158: Northing: 38105)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9158: Northing: 38116)

Reason: Archaeological Evaluation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.05m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Layer	Friable dark brown clay silt Thickness: 0.15-0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Alluvium	Plastic dark grey black silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.2-0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Natural	Firm mid grey yellow clay Orange mottles and occasional inclusions of gravely clay. 'Crazings' filled with material derived from overlying layer (403).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9144: Northing: 38107)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9134: Northing: 38112)

Reason: Archaeological Evaluation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
502	Alluvium	Firm mid grey silty clay occasional small stones With brown grey mottles. Thickness: 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Natural	Firm mid grey yellow sandy clay occasional small stones With brown mottles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Pit	Oval sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.35m, max length 1.63m Feature machined away during opening of the trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
505	Fill	Firm dark grey black clay silt Thickness: 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
506	Fill	Firm mid orange yellow clay Thickness: 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
507	Feature	Sub-oval sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.25m, max length 1.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
508	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.11m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
509	Fill	Plastic dark grey black silty clay Thickness: 0.18m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 6**

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.60 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.66 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9143: Northing: 38127)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9151: Northing: 38135)

Reason: Archaeological Evaluation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.56m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Alluvium	Firm mid blue grey silty clay Thickness: 0.22m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Natural	Firm mid grey yellow sandy clay occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.52m, max depth 0.11m, max length 2.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
605	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay With orange brown mottling. Thickness: 0.11m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
606	Gulley	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.78m, max depth 0.26m, max length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
607	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.26m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
608	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.05m, max diameter 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
609	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay frequent small stones Thickness: 0.05m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.20 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9170: Northing: 38135)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9161: Northing: 38140)

Reason: Archaeological Evaluation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Alluvium	Firm mid grey silty clay Thickness: 0.22m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Natural	Firm mid grey yellow sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
704	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.24m, max length 2.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
705	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
706	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.13m, max length 2.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
707	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.13m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
708	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.11m, max length 3.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
709	Fill	Firm mid grey silty clay occasional small stones Thickness: 0.11m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
710	Pit	Circular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.46m, max diameter 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
711	Fill	Firm dark grey black silty clay moderate small stones Waterlogged deposit. Thickness: 0.46m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
712	Pit	Circular dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max length 0.35m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
713	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.45 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9150: Northing: 38149)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 9160: Northing: 38154)

Reason: Archaeological Evaluation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt Thickness: 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
801	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt Thickness: 0.53m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Alluvium	Firm mid blue grey silty clay Thickness: 0.23m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
803	Natural	Firm mid grey yellow sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
804	Pit	Sub-oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.2m, max length 0.95m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
805	Fill	Friable mid blue grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
806	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: min breadth 2m, min depth 0.44m, max length 1.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
807	Fill	Friable dark blue grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.21m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
808	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
817	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones With frequent brownish orange mottles. Thickness: 0.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
809	Pit	Sub-oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.6m, max length 1.9m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
810	Fill	Friable dark blue grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones With dark orange brown mottles. Thickness: 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
811	Fill	Friable mid blue grey sandy silt With dark grey mottles. Thickness: 0.26m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
812	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
813	Modern intrusion	Sub-circular dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, max length 1.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
814	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt Deposit contained pieces of broken garden tool and fragments of plastic sheeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
815	Modern intrusion	Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max depth 0.45m, max length 1.8m Feature machined out during opening of the trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
816	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Deposit contained modern bricks. Thickness: 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: FINDS SUMMARY

7.1 Introduction

Eight deposits across three trenches yielded an assemblage comprising mainly medieval pottery and ceramic building material (Table 1). No artefacts were recovered from Trenches 1–4 or 6.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date range	Finds summary
5	500	Topsoil	-	Modern	Pottery (27g)
	501	Subsoil	-	Modern	Pottery (4g)
7	704	Ditch	705	Post-medieval	Pottery (105g); ceramic roof tile (71g); animal bone (165g)
	708	Ditch	709	Modern	Plastic vessel (1g)
	710	Pit	711	Medieval	Pottery (699g); ceramic roof tile (47g); timber sample
8	800	Topsoil	-	Topsoil	Copper alloy coin
	806	Pit	808	Late medieval+	Ceramic roof tile and brick (207g); animal bone (5g); burnt stone (61g)
	809	Pit	810	Early medieval	Pottery (4g)
	809	Pit	811	Medieval	Pottery (52g); ceramic roof tile (178g)

Table 1: Finds Summary by trench and feature

7.2 Ceramics

Thirty-one pottery sherds (891g) representing 15 vessels were collected, mainly from the fill of pit [710]. For a predominantly medieval assemblage, the sherds, despite their abraded appearance, are atypically large, reflected in a mean sherd weight of 29g. Fabrics are identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2).

Fabric Code	Common name	No. Sherd	Wt. (g)	Fill/No. Sherd
<i>Medieval</i>				
C04	Coarse sand	5	189	(711):5
C05	Sand (red margins)	15	443	(711):13, (810):1, (811):1
C09	Brill/Boarstall ware	1	64	(711):1
C59B	Harsh sand	4	59	(711):1, (811):3
<i>Post-medieval & later</i>				
P03	Black-glazed earthenware	1	105	(705):1
P38	Creamware	3	24	(500):2, (501):1
P45	Transfer-printed earthenware	2	7	(500):1, (501):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series and quantification

The majority of the assemblage comprises 12th–13th century unglazed sand-tempered coarse wares (fabrics C04, C05, C59B) likely to be of local manufacture, although no specific kiln sites are known. Principal amongst the pottery collected from the fill of pit [710] are thirteen base and lower body sherds (425g) from a wheel-thrown jar or jug, five sherds (189g) from an undiagnostic vessel with a highly abraded exterior surface, and a glazed body sherd from a Brill/Boarstall jug (fabric C09), the latter a 13th–14th-century regional import from Buckinghamshire.

A complete base (diameter 87mm) from a 17th–18th-century black-glazed earthenware jar or bottle derived from ditch [704]. Topsoil (500) and subsoil (501) deposits in Trench 5 contained five sherds of 18th–19th-century Creamware and transfer-printed earthenware (31g).



Five sand-tempered pieces of flat roof tile (415g) and a brick fragment (88g) were collected from pits [710], [806], [809] and ditch [704]. All are battered and highly abraded and are likely to be of later medieval or post-medieval date.

7.3 Non-ceramic Artefacts

Seven roundwood timber fragments were collected from the waterlogged fill of medieval pit [710]. One piece has been longitudinally split and retains part of an angled cut with three facets, probably from a billhook. A second displays tool-marks, also likely to be from a billhook, and the remainder are unworked. It is possible they represent components of a hurdle.

An unstratified copper alloy penny, dated 1907, from the reign of Edward VII was recovered from Trench 8 topsoil (800). Modern ditch [708] yielded a piece of moulded blue plastic (not retained).

7.4 Animal Bone

Six pieces of animal bone (195g) were collected from pits [710], [806] and ditch [704]. They comprise the terminal of a large mammal limb bone, two worn horse incisors and an indeterminate pelvis fragment.

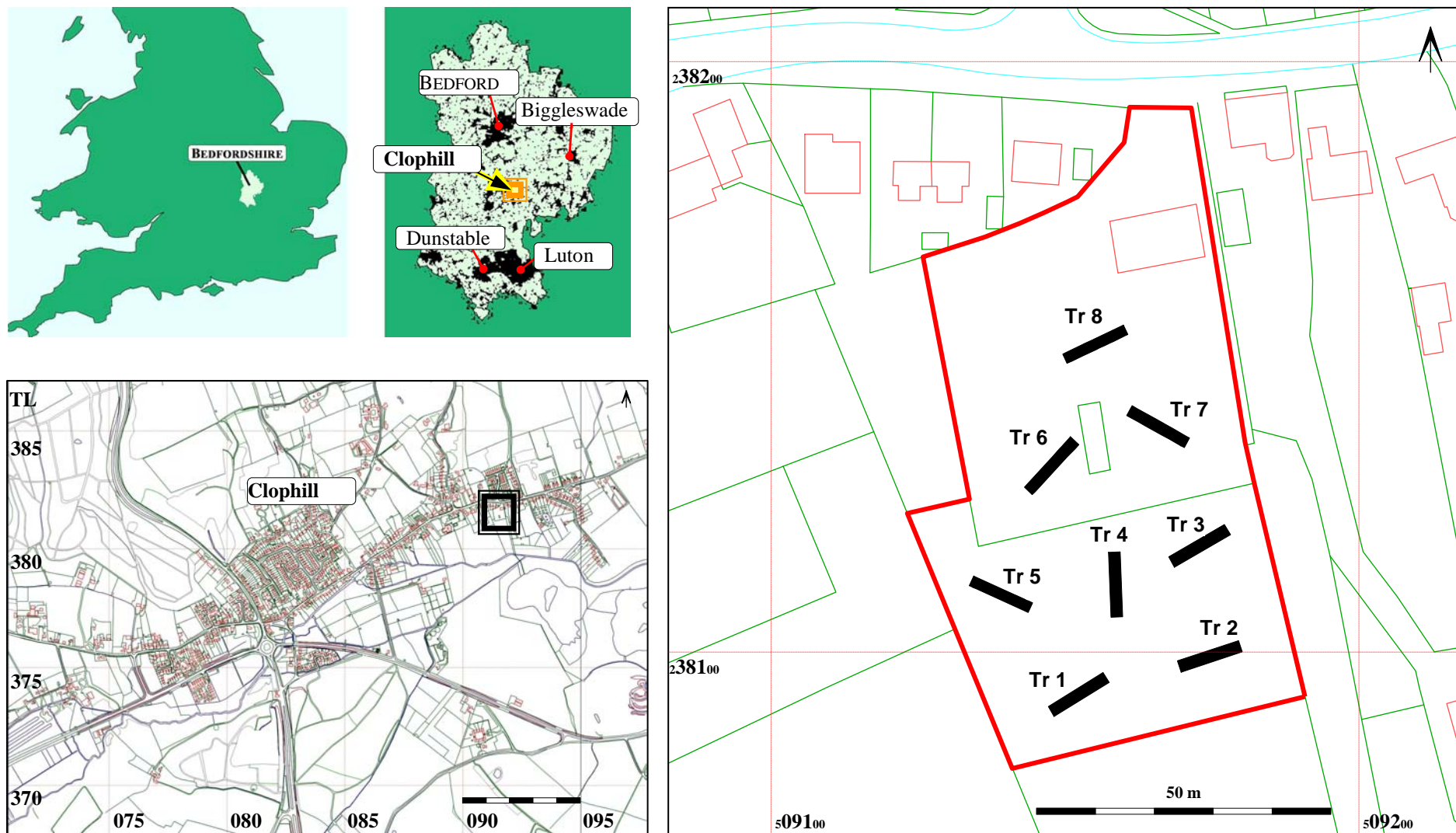


Figure 1: Site location and trench layout

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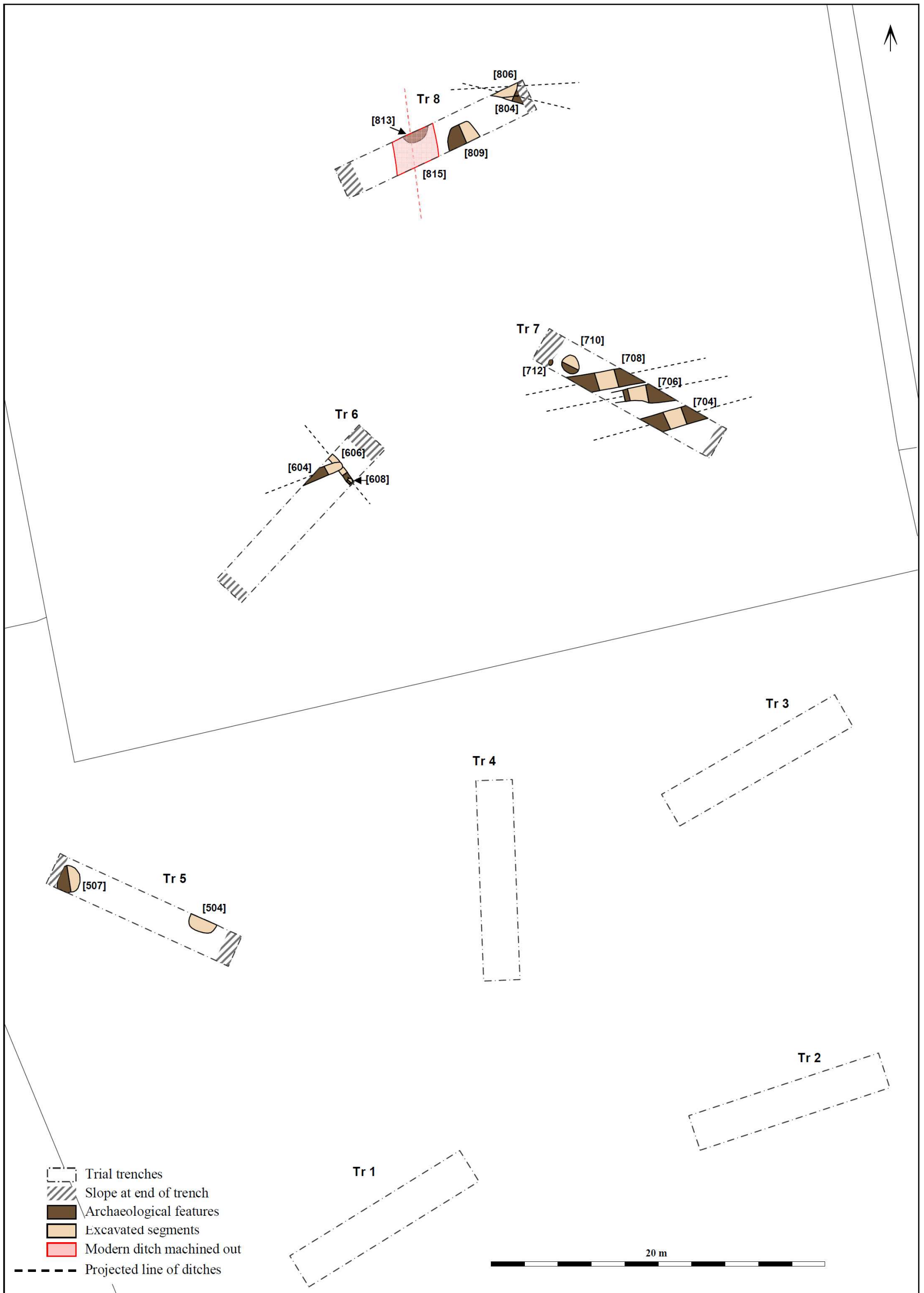


Figure 2: Trench plan

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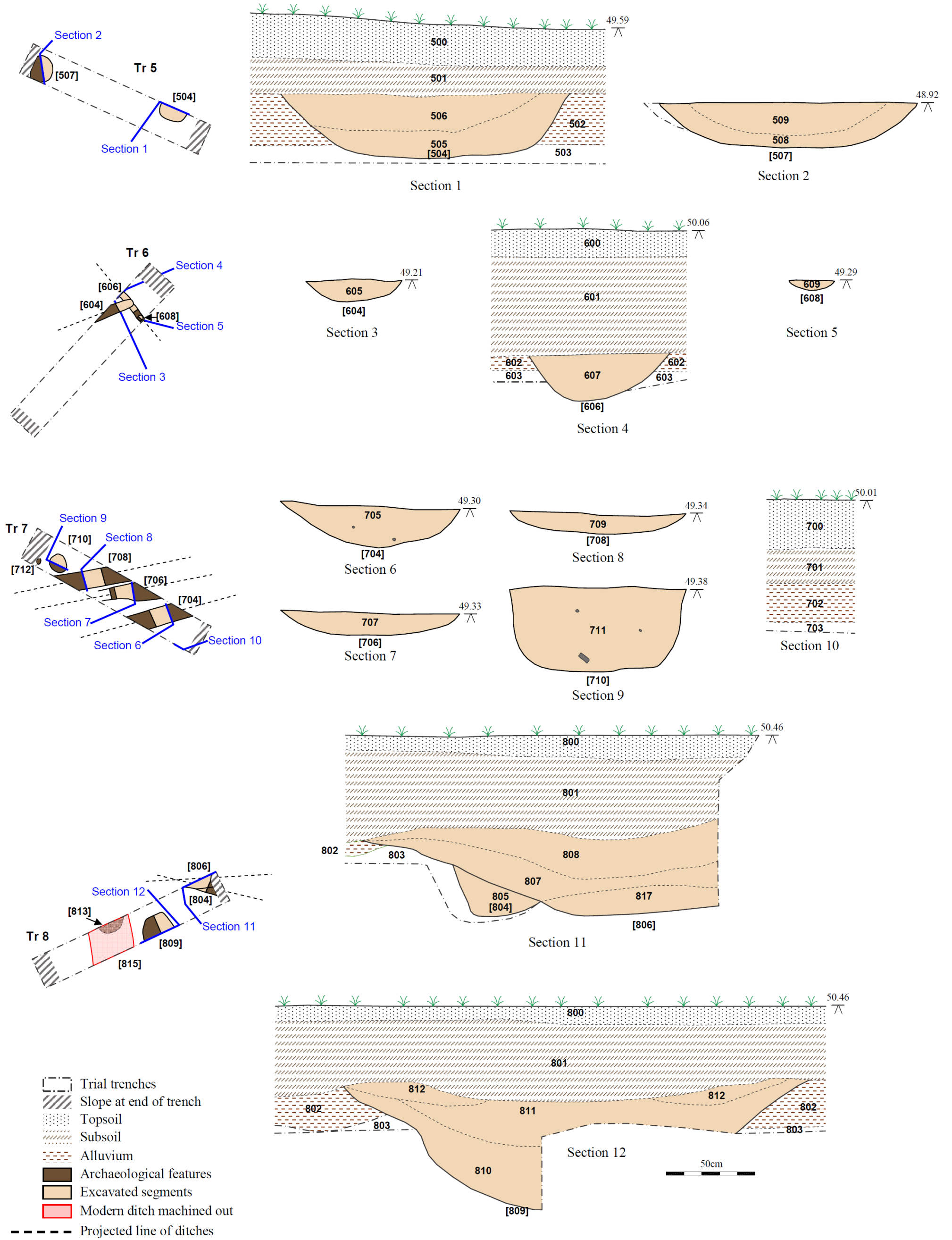


Figure 3: Section drawings



Trench 2 looking E. 1m scale



Trench 7 looking SE. 1m scale



Trench 8 looking SW. 1m scale



SE-facing Section 2. 1m scale



Excavated features in Trench 6 looking SW. 1m scale



SE-facing Section 9. 1m scale



SE-facing Section 12. 1m scale



Preserved wood with cut marks, deposit (711). 8cm scale

Figure 4: Photographs

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