AREA 5 KINGS REACH BIGGLESWADE BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





AREA 5 KINGS REACH BIGGLESWADE BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Project: KRB3048 Museum accession no.: BEDFM 2016.88 CBC HER search no.: 201617/217 OASIS reference no.: albionar1-269175

Document: 2017/10 Version 1.0

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Victoria Hainsworth	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

1st February 2017

Produced for: CgMs Consulting Ltd

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2017, all rights reserved

CONTENTS

1. IN	FRODUCTION	4
1.1	Project Background	4
1.2	Site Location and Description	4
1.3	Archaeological Background	4
1.4	Project Objectives	6
2. ME	THODOLOGY	7
2.1	Methodological Standards	7
2.2	Trial Trenching	7
3. RE	SULTS	8
3.1	Introduction	8
3.2	Overburden and Geological Deposits	8
3.3	Archaeological Features	8
3.4	Modern Features	9
4. CC	NCLUSIONS	10
4.1	Summary of Results	10
4.2	Significance of Results	10
5. BI	BLIOGRAPHY	11
6. AP	PENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES	12
lict of	Eiguroo	

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site and trench location plan
Figure 2: All-features plan
Figure 3: Details of Trenches 4, 7–12, and 14
Figure 4: Details of Trenches 26–30
Figure 5: Details of Trenches 6 and 15
Figure 6: Selected sections
Figure 7: Selected photographs of features

The figures are bound at the back of the report.

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 Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Victoria Hainsworth and Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisors) Gary Manning (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor), Dan Hobbins and Celia Orsini (Archaeological Technicians). This report has been prepared by Victoria Hainsworth with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and Kathy Pilkinton. The figures have been produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	01/02/2017	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
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



CgMs Consulting Ltd commissioned archaeological evaluation of land at Kings Reach, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, in connection with planning permission MB/03/01205/OUT for residential development of approximately 1450 dwellings, construction of Eastern Relief Road, Local Centre, primary school, public open space, structural landscaping, infrastructure including surface water balancing facilities and associated works.

The evaluation was confined to the eastern half of Area 5 of the Kings Reach development. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the works was agreed in advance with the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.

The Kings Reach development is located to the east of Biggleswade. It lies on the edge of the Ivel River Valley on generally level ground at 32m OD. The proposed development area (PDA) comprises c. 7.5ha of previously un-evaluated land, centred on grid reference TL 20539 45663. The PDA is located within a wider archaeological landscape with remains dating from the Neolithic period onwards.

The trial trenching took place between 19th December 2016 and 12th January 2017. It comprised the excavation of thirty trenches measuring 50m x 2m equating to a 5% sample of the c. 6ha accessible area of the PDA.

Archaeological features were identified in six of the thirty trenches. They comprised six ditches, one post hole and one pit. None of the features produced any dating evidence. No artefacts were recovered from the topsoil, suggesting that the PDA lies at some distance from any focus of former habitation. Two parallel ditches may represent a former trackway; other linear features may represent former field boundaries.

The small number of archaeological features found within the trenches are undated and appear to be of no more than local significance. They are likely to be related to farming practices on the periphery of settlement foci identified elsewhere within the Kings Reach development. They have only very limited potential to contribute to regional research objectives.

The scarcity of archaeological remains and the low significance of what was found (despite the 5% trenching sample) suggests that development within the PDA would have little or no archaeological impact.



1.1 Project Background

CgMs Consulting Ltd commissioned archaeological evaluation of land at Kings Reach, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, in connection with planning permission MB/03/01205/OUT for residential development of approximately 1450 dwellings, construction of Eastern Relief Road, Local Centre, primary school, public open space, structural landscaping, infrastructure including surface water balancing facilities and associated works.

The evaluation was confined to the eastern half of Area 5 of the development, an area that was previously un-tested pending legal agreement pertaining to the land sale. The works were in accordance with an alternative investigation strategy proposed for Area 5 within the Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management (OA 2007, 11) approved by the Bedfordshire County Council County Archaeological Officer in 2007.

The work was undertaken 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. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the works was agreed in advance with the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) (Albion 2016a).

1.2 Site Location and Description

The Kings Reach development is located to the east of Biggleswade. It lies on the edge of the Ivel River Valley on generally level ground at 32m OD. It is bounded on the west by the built-up area of Biggleswade and to the north, south and east by more modern housing development (Figure 1).

The proposed development area (PDA) comprises *c*. 7.5ha of previously unevaluated land in the eastern half of Area 5 of the development site, centred on grid reference TL 20539 45663. It is situated on former agricultural land bounded to the east by the newly established Eastern Relief Road (Baden Powell Way). The underlying geology consists of glaciofluvial sand and gravel, over Woburn Sands Formation bedrock². A small tributary stream to the Ivel flows south to north *c*. 100–500m to the east.

1.3 Archaeological Background

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 201617/217).

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 Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2014]

The PDA is located within a wider archaeological landscape with remains dating from the Neolithic period onwards. Although Area 5 has not been previously evaluated, it is partially within an area of sub-rectangular curvilinear enclosures and scattered linear features visible as cropmarks (HER3544) thought to date to the Roman period.

The earliest archaeological evidence within the wider area comprises Neolithic pits, a number of which were found near Potton Road to the north of the site (HER 13544; Northamptonshire Archaeology 2009). A single example was also found within the Stratton Residential Development Area to the south (Albion 2010, 6). Middle-Neolithic to early Bronze Age activity was also identified within Kings Reach Archaeological Area 6 as a cluster of small pits and postholes (Albion 2016b), *c*. 900m to the south.

Bronze Age activity is largely represented by a number of Bronze Age ring ditches, the closest being one investigated *c*. 100m to the south of the PDA. Archaeological investigations on Kings Reach Archaeological Area 4, undertaken in 2015, revealed the presence of a secondary inhumation burial within the ditch and a 'satellite' cemetery of at least three cremation burials (Albion 2016b).

Several areas of Iron Age settlement activity are known from the wider vicinity of the PDA. An area of dense early-middle Iron Age enclosure ditches, roundhouses and pits was excavated in 2010 within the Kings Reach Archaeological Area 3, *c*. 800m to the south of Area 5 (Albion 2016b). A lesser amount of late Iron Age/early Roman activity was also identified at the site. Remnants of a likely early-middle Iron Age farmstead and dispersed Iron Age features have also been revealed during investigations further to the south (Albion 2013; Albion 2010). Archaeological works in advance of the construction of a new rising main associated with the Kings Reach development identified a single middle Iron Age pit, along with a medieval quarry pit and several post-medieval ditches and trackways (Oxford Archaeology East 2015).

Evidence of Roman activity includes various cropmark sites (HER1615; HER15080; HER15327 and HER16160) likely to date from this period. A field system and dispersed features were found during the Stratton excavations (Albion Archaeology 2010, 6) *c*. 1.2km to the south of the PDA. Most recently investigations prior to the development of St Andrew's School (SA2425) in 2015 identified further evidence for late Iron Age and Roman settlement within 200m of the PDA (Albion 2016b). Also in this general area, Roman pottery was noted during a geophysical survey to the south of Dunton Lane (HER17738) and a fragment of a Roman brooch and a coin are recorded from the general area of Park Corner Farm (HER19357, HER19360).

Cropmarks (HER509) thought to the remains of the deserted medieval settlement of Kinwick have been identified to the north of Biggleswade Road, 350m to the north-east of the site.

The medieval settlement of Stratton, lying c. 1km to the south of the PDA, has been subject to extensive archaeological investigations between 1990 and 2003 (Albion 2010). The settlement appears to have been established by the 7th

century and developed through the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods. The evidence from the Saxon period comprises pits, sunken-featured buildings and wells, and two small inhumation cemeteries. In the later Saxo-Norman period the focus of occupation shifted eastwards, and a settlement of rectilinear enclosures alongside a street flanked by ditches was established. This settlement dated from the 10th to the 14th centuries. Some of the latest features were a series of waterlogged pits which produced material dating from the 14th to 16th centuries; the latest evidence included an assemblage of preserved organic objects: a leather bottle, shoes and a wooden work bench. One of the two known moated sites in the area, Stratton Park moat (HER520), survives as an earthwork. The moat and enclosures immediately to the west have been designated as a Scheduled Monument (SM11541). The Stratton settlement declined gradually in the 17th and 18th centuries. The latest activity in the site consisted of 18th- and 19th-century gravel pits, probably associated with road or railway building.

Historical mapping suggests that the PDA was generally under agricultural usage during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, although evidence for brickworks (such as HER7128) are recorded in the area, and evidence for quarrying was identified within Kings Reach Archaeological Area 4 (Albion 2016b). The site of a post-medieval beer house (HER13960), is located north-east of Biggleswade Hospital, *c*. 50m to the north-east of the PDA.

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. the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- 3. the local environmental conditions (through the recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains).

The investigations were considered to have the potential to inform the following specific research aims (Oake 2007; Edgeworth 2007), the details of which are set out in the WSI (Albion 2016a):

Neolithic/Bronze Age

- Understanding settlement variation in the region
- Understanding individual and groups of burial monuments
- Understanding the relationship between monuments and settlement
- Understanding changes to landscape associated with adoption and development of farming

Iron Age/Romano-British

- Characterisation of rural settlement
- Understanding settlement pattern and use of landscape

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion 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)
CIfA	Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct (2014) Standard and guidance for 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 (2003)
Higgins Art Gallery &	Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition
Museum, Bedford	<i>in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire. Version 2.8</i> (2010)
Historic England	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide (2009)
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition (2011)

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM 2016.88). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-269175) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place between 19th December 2016 and 12th January 2017. It comprised the excavation of thirty trenches measuring 50m x 2m equating to a 5% sample of the c. 6ha accessible area of the PDA.

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 were carried out by experienced Albion staff with external specialists consulted as necessary. 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

3.1 Introduction

All deposits revealed within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown in plan on Figures 2–5. Sections of selected features are shown on Figures 5 and 6. Photographs of a selection of representative features are presented in Figure 7. For a full description of trenches and features, see the Trench Summaries in Appendix 1. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***).

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

Topsoil comprising brown-grey sandy silt was present in all trenches and varied greatly between 0.1–0.6m thick. A distinct subsoil was observed as an orangebrown sandy silt within all trenches; it was 0.1–0.5m thick. All the archaeological deposits were sealed by the subsoil, though modern features and dumper wheel ruts penetrated the subsoil.

Undisturbed geological deposits comprised firm brown-orange sandy silt with orange gravel and yellow clay lenses. The archaeological features were clearly visible within the natural strata.

Features [402] and [803] had a similar V-shaped, asymmetrical profile and were filed with sterile, light orange-brown silty sand. They were *c*. 0.7m wide and *c*. 0.2m deep. Feature [603] had similar characteristics, with an asymmetrical profile and sterile fill; it was *c*. 1.2m wide and *c*. 0.15m deep. These features may be ice wedges, formed as a result of periglacial processes.

3.3 Archaeological Features

Archaeological remains were identified in six of the thirty trenches and in total comprised six ditches, one post hole and one pit. They were mostly located in the central third of the site; the linears were aligned mostly east-west.

Trench 8 revealed two parallel ditches, aligned NE-SW. Ditch [805] was c. 1m wide and c. 0.2m deep; ditch [807] was c. 1.5m wide and c. 0.2m deep. Both had an orange-brown sandy silt fill and contained no finds. Trench 9 contained two similar, parallel trenches. Ditch [903] was c. 1.25m wide and c. 0.3m deep; ditch [905] was c. 1.3m wide and c. 0.3m deep. Both had a brown-grey sandy silt fill and were undated. These features are likely to represent two parallel ditches spanning the site. The more southerly one may also cross Trench 12, where it was recorded as [1203] (c. 1.25m wide and c. 0.4m deep).

Trench 12 contained a second ditch [1206], which had a U-shaped profile and was aligned E-W. It was c. 0.7m wide and c. 0.2m deep, with a grey-brown sandy silt fill.

Trench 15 contained two ditches, [1503] orientated SE-NW and [1506] orientated SW-NE. These ditches may represent the corner of an enclosure lying to the south of the trench. Ditch [1503] was c. 0.95m wide and c. 0.35m deep; ditch [1506] was c. 0.9m wide and c. 0.35m deep. Both were undated.

Trench 26 revealed ditch [2605], which was c. 0.8m wide and c. 0.15m deep. It was undated but was also recorded in Trench 27 as ditch [2703]. There it was c. 0.9m wide and c. 0.2m deep. The overall ditch was aligned NW-SE and contained a grey-brown clay silt fill.

Trench 26 contained the only pit of archaeological significance within the PDA. It extended beyond the edge of the trench but was at least c. 1m long, c. 0.2m wide and c. 0.4m deep. It contained a dark brown-grey sandy silt fill but produced no finds.

Trench 8 contained a potential post hole [809], measuring c. 0.25m in diameter and c. 0.1m deep. No other similar features were identified within the trench.

3.4 Modern Features

Modern features were identified in four trenches.

Trenches 10 and 17 contained a potentially backfilled modern quarry pit. Both trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.2m below ground level but no archaeological remains survived at this depth. The modern fill covered c. 40% of Trench 10 and c. 80% of Trench 17.

Within Trench 28, two rectangular modern pits and a NW-SE orientated ditch [2803] were identified; they contained modern blue-glaze pottery and green bottle glass. Trench 30 contained two rectangular pits, which are most likely associated with those in Trench 28.



4.1 Summary of Results

Archaeological features were identified in six of the thirty trenches. They comprised six ditches, one post hole and one pit. None of the features produced any dating evidence. No artefacts were recovered from the topsoil, suggesting that the PDA lies at some distance from any focus of former habitation.

The two parallel ditches crossing Trenches 8, 9 and 12 may represent a former trackway; however, they remain undated. The other linear features may represent former field boundaries.

A number of probable periglacial features were identified towards the centre of the PDA in Trenches 4, 6 and 8.

A number of modern features were identified at the north end of the PDA in Trenches 28 and 30.

4.2 Significance of Results

The small number of archaeological features found within the trenches are undated and appear to be of no more than local significance. They are likely to be related to farming practices on the periphery of settlement foci identified elsewhere within the Kings Reach development. They have only very limited potential to contribute to the regional research objectives identified in the WSI.

The scarcity of archaeological remains and the low significance of what was found (despite the 5% trenching sample) suggests that development within the PDA would have little or no archaeological impact.

- Albion Archaeology, 2001. Procedures Manual Vol. 1: Fieldwork. 2nd edition
- Albion Archaeology, 2010 Stratton, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire: Project Design for Integrated Analysis and Dissemination. Report 2009/128
- Albion Archaeology, 2013 Land at Kennel Farm, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation. Report 2013/31
- Albion Archaeology, 2016a. Area 5, Kings Reach, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation. Report 2016/215, vers. 1.2
- Albion Archaeology, 2016b Kings Reach, Biggleswade, Area 3, Assessment and Updated Project Design. Report 2016/26
- British Geological Survey, 2016 *Map Viewer*. Available at: <u>http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html</u> (Accessed: 08/08/16)
- 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
- CIfA, Codes, Standards and Guidelines. Available at: <u>http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa</u>. Accessed: 08/01/17
- Gurney, D, 2003. *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England,* Occasional paper 14.
- Historic England, 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide, version 1.2.
- Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2009 Archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at Potton Road, Biggleswade. 09/146
- Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P., 2007. Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy, Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.
- Oxford Archaeology East, 2015 An Iron Age pit and post-medieval features on the route of the Kings Reach Growth Scheme pipeline, Biggleswade. Report 1797

6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench:	1				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20449: Northing: 45775)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20499: Northing: 45782)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pres	sent:
100	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.42m		
101	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.31r	ı 🗸	
102	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy gravel occasional small sand Orange grave and yellow clay lenses		

Trench:	2				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	37.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Eastin	g: 20438: Northing: 45760)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20452: Northing: 45726)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness:0.09m	
201	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.26m	
202	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy gravel Orange gravel and yellow clay lens	es 🗌 🗌

Trench:	3				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Eastin	g: 20468: Northing: 45721)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20468: Northing: 45671)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness:0.06m	
301	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness:0.22m	
302	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy gravel Orange gravel and yellow clay lens	es 🗌 🗌

_

Trench:	4				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m.	Max: 0.5 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20488: Northing: 45710)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20511: Northing: 45666)	

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.32m	\checkmark	
401	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.2m	\checkmark	
402	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: V-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.74m, ma depth 0.23m, max length 1.m Possible periglacial feature.	ıx 🔽	
403	Ditch	Firm dark orange brown silty sand moderate small stones Thickness: 0.23m	\checkmark	
404	Natural	Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses		

					8
Trench:	5				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Eastin	g: 20473: Northing: 45756)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20510: Northing: 45723)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.38m	
501	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.07m	
502	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

Trench:	6				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20517: Northing: 45759)		
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20559: Northing: 45733)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.33m	
601	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.24m	
602	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	
603	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.17m, max length 1.m Possible periglacial feature.	
604	Fill	Firm dark brown orange sandy silt frequent small stones Thickness: 0.19m	

					<u></u>
Trench:	7				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20584: Northing: 45722)		
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20539: Northing: 45700)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.34	
701	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.34m	
702	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

810

Fill

Trench:	8				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m.	Max: 0.5 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20526: Northing: 45707)		
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20534: Northing: 45658)	

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

depth 0.11m

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.43m	\checkmark	
801	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.31m		
802	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses		
803	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: V-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.22m, max length 1.m Possible periglacial feature.		
804	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty sand Thickness: 0.22m		
805	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.01m, max depth 0.21m, max length 1.m	\checkmark	
806	Fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.21m	\checkmark	
807	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.47m, ma depth 0.21m, max length 1.m	X V	
808	Fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.21m	\checkmark	
809	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.27m, ma	x	

Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.11m

✓

Trench:	9				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m.	Max: 0.6 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20480: Northing: 45651)		
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20480: Northing: 45601)	
	US Griu	Kel.: 1L	(Easin	g: 20480: Norining: 43001)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	:
900	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.4m]
901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.25m]
902	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses]
903	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.25m, max depth 0.29m, max length 2.05m]
904	Ditch	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.29m]
905	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.32m, max depth 0.32m, max length 2.2m]
906	Ditch	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.32m]

					<u>h</u>
Trench:	10				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20535: Northing: 45636)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20493: Northing: 45610)	
_					

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
1000	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness:0.32m	
1001	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.88m	
1002	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

					8
Trench:	11				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20557: Northing: 45687)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20558: Northing: 45637)	
_					

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
1100	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt Thickness: 0.42m	
1101	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.36	n 🔽 🗌
1102	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

Trench:	12				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m.	Max: 0.5 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20569: Northing: 45704)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20607: Northing: 45672)	

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Prese	nt:
1200	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.2m	\checkmark	
1201	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.51m	ı 🗸	
1202	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses		
1203	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.27m, max depth 0.39m, max length 1.9m	\checkmark	
1204	Ditch	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.24m	\checkmark	
1205	Ditch	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.21m		
1206	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.71m, max depth 0.21m, max length 2.1m		
1207	Ditch	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.21m	\checkmark	

					8
Trench:	13				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20599: Northing: 45709)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20633: Northing: 45672)	
-					

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
1300	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness:0.62m	
1301	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness:0.29n	
1302	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

					5
Trench:	14				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20618: Northing: 45666)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20572: Northing: 45647)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
1400	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.36m	
1401	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.15m	n 🗹 🗌
1402	Subsoil	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

Trench:	15				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m.	Max: 0.65 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20618: Northing: 45640)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20668: Northing: 45640)	

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pre	sent:
1500	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness:0.25m	\checkmark	
1501	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small stones Thickness: 0.4m	\checkmark	
1502	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses		
1503	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.96m, max depth 0.35m, max length 2.15m	\checkmark	
1504	Ditch	Friable dark red brown silty sand moderate small stones Thickness: 0.09m		
1505	Ditch	Friable light brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.19n	n 🗸	
1506	Ditch	Friable mid brown grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.19m	\checkmark	
1507	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.33m, max length 4.1m	\checkmark	
1508	Ditch	Friable dark red brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.11m	\checkmark	
1509	Ditch	Friable mid brown grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.22m		

M				
Max Dimensions:	Length: 50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20581: Northing: 45618)	
	OS Grid Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20631: Northing: 45618)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
1600	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickneelong	ess: 🔽 🗌
1601	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.2m	
1602	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

					5
Trench:	17				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20549: Northing: 45605)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20504: Northing: 45583)		
Reason:	Assess archaeological potential				

Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses

 Context:
 Type:
 Description:
 Excavated: Finds Present:

 1700
 Topsoil
 Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness:
 Image: Context = 1 and the second s

1702 Natural

					<u>ц</u>	4
Trench:	18					
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.	
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20527: Northing: 45558)			
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20544: Northing: 45511)			
D			• • • •			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
1800	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thicknee 0.36m	ess: 🔽 🗌
1801	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.1m	
1802	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

					8
Trench:	19				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20559: Northing: 45587)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20559: Northing: 45537)		

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
1900	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thicknee 0.4m	ess: 🔽 🗌
1901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.5m thick	
1902	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

Trench:	20				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20569: Northing: 45608)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20595: Northing: 45565)	

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present	t:
2000	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thicknee 0.36m	ess: 🔽	
2001	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.3m		
2002	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses		

					<u>н</u> ,
Trench:	21				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20617: Northing: 45559)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20572: Northing: 45536)		
Reason:	Assess archaeological potential				

Context: Type: **Description: Excavated: Finds Present:** 2100 Topsoil Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness:

		0.45m	
2101	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.2m	
2102	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow lenses	

 \checkmark

					<u> </u>
Trench:	22				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20610: Northing: 45593)		
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20647: Northing: 45559)	
P			1 4 4 1		

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
2200	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thicknes 0.35m	s: 🗹 🗌
2201	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.3m	
2202	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

-

					<u>B_</u>	
Trench:	23					
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.	
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20640: Northing: 45597)			
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	(Easting: 20690: Northing: 45597)		
D	•		1 4 4 1			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
2300	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thicknee 0.5m	ess: 🔽 🗌
2301	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.3m	
2302	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

-

					В.	-
Trench:	24					
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.	
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20701: Northing: 45590)			
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	(Easting: 20683: Northing: 45544)		
D	•		1 4 4 1			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
2400	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thicknes 0.6m	ss: 🗹 🗌
2401	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.3m	
2402	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Orange gravel and yellow clay lenses	

-

					н	4
Trench:	25					
Max Dimensions:	Length:	28.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: m.	Max: m.	
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Easting: 20663: Northing: 45542)			
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	(Easting: 20638: Northing: 45525)		
			• • • •			

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present	t:
2500	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness 0.3m	s: 🗹	
2501	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness: 0.3m		
2502	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt Oragne gravel and yellow clay lenses		

Trench:	26				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m.	Max: 0.5 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20343: Northing: 45900)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20367: Northing: 45856)		

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2600	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.33m	\checkmark	
2601	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.22m	\checkmark	
2602	Natural	Firm dark yellow orange sandy silt Orange gravel lenses		
2603	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.21m, max depth 0.42m, max length 0.97m	\checkmark	
2604	Pit	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness:0.42m	\checkmark	
2605	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.83m, max depth 0.16m, max length 1.8m	\checkmark	
2606	Ditch	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.16m	\checkmark	

Trench:	27				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.44 m.	Max: 0.44 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20364: Northing: 45908)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20392: Northing: 45866)		
Reason:	Assess ar	chaeologic	al potential		

Context: Type: **Description: Excavated: Finds Present:** \checkmark 2700 Topsoil Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.35m ✓ 2701 Subsoil Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.29m 2702 Natural Firm dark yellow orange sandy silt Orange gravel lenses \checkmark 2703 Ditch Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.89m, max depth 0.21m, max length 1.8m ✓ 2704 Ditch Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.21m \square

Trench: Max Dimensions:		50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m.	Max: 0.5 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Eastin	(Easting: 20318: Northing: 45919)	
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Eastin	(Easting: 20369: Northing: 45926)	

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2800	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thicknes 0.36m	s: 🗸	
2801	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.31m	\checkmark	
2802	Natural	Firm dark yellow orange sandy silt Orange gravel lenses		
2803	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.24m, max length 1.9m	\checkmark	
2805	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.46m, max depth 0.1m, max length 1.1m	\checkmark	
2806	Pit	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.1m	\checkmark	
2807	Pit	Sub-rectangular dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max length 0.3m		
2808	Pit	Firm dark brown grey clay silt		

2902

Natural

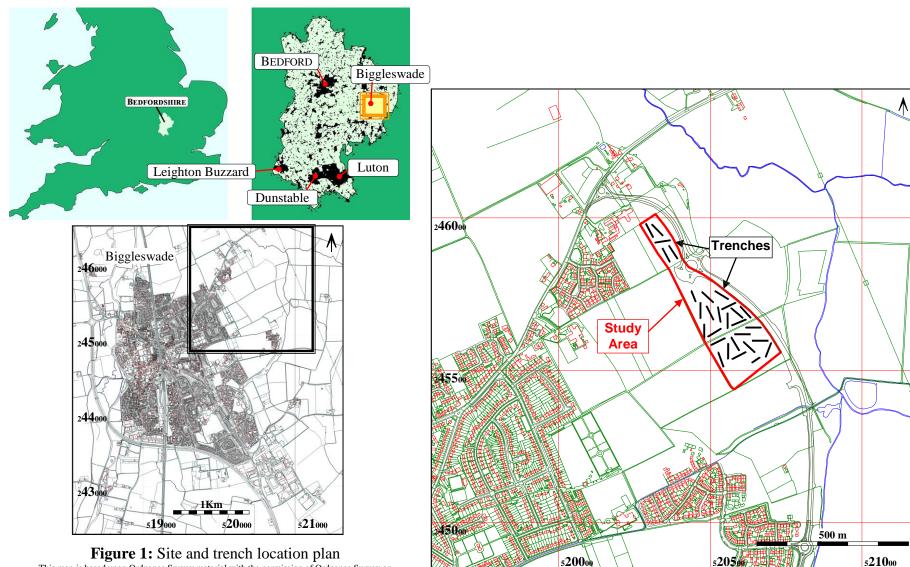
	Trench:	29					
Max D	imensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min:	m. I	Max: m.
Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL		Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20288: Northing: 45981)			
		OS Grid	OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 20312: Northing: 45936)				
	Reason:	Assess ar	chaeologic				
Context:	Type:	Ľ	Description	:		Excavated:	Finds Present:
2804	Ditch	Fi	rm mid grey br	rown clay silt occasiona	l small stones Thickness: 0.24m	\checkmark	
2900	Topsoil	Fi	rm mid brow	n grey sandy silt occas	ional small stones Thickness: 0.34m	\checkmark	
2901	Subsoil	Fi	rm mid orang	ge brown sandy silt occ	asional small stones Thickness: 0.28r	n 🗸	

Firm dark yellow orange sandy silt Orange gravel lenses

Trench:	30				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	50.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.58 m.	Max: 0.6 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 20308: Northing: 45978)		
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 20343: Northing: 45942)	
_					

Context: Type:		Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:	
3000	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.38m	\checkmark		
3001	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.27n	1 🗸		
3002	Natural	Firm dark yellow orange sandy silt Orange gravel lenses			
3003	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.72m, max depth 0.1m, max length 0.65m	\checkmark		
3004	Pit	Firm mid orange brown clay silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.1m	\checkmark		
3005	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.56m, max depth 0.06m, max length 1.45m	\checkmark		
3006	Pit	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness: 0.06m	\checkmark		

Albion Archaeology



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)

Albion Archaeology

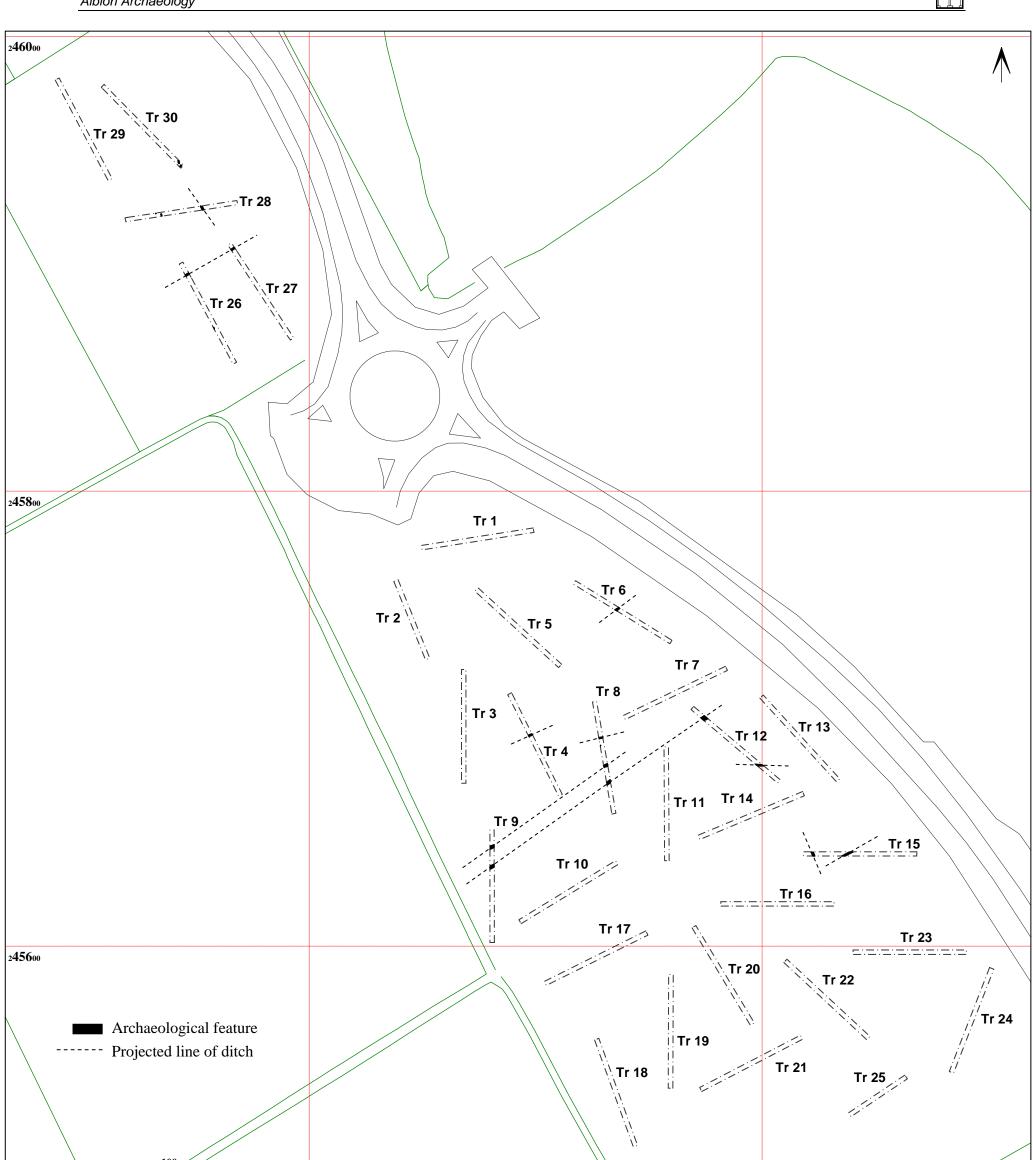




Figure 2: All-features plan This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

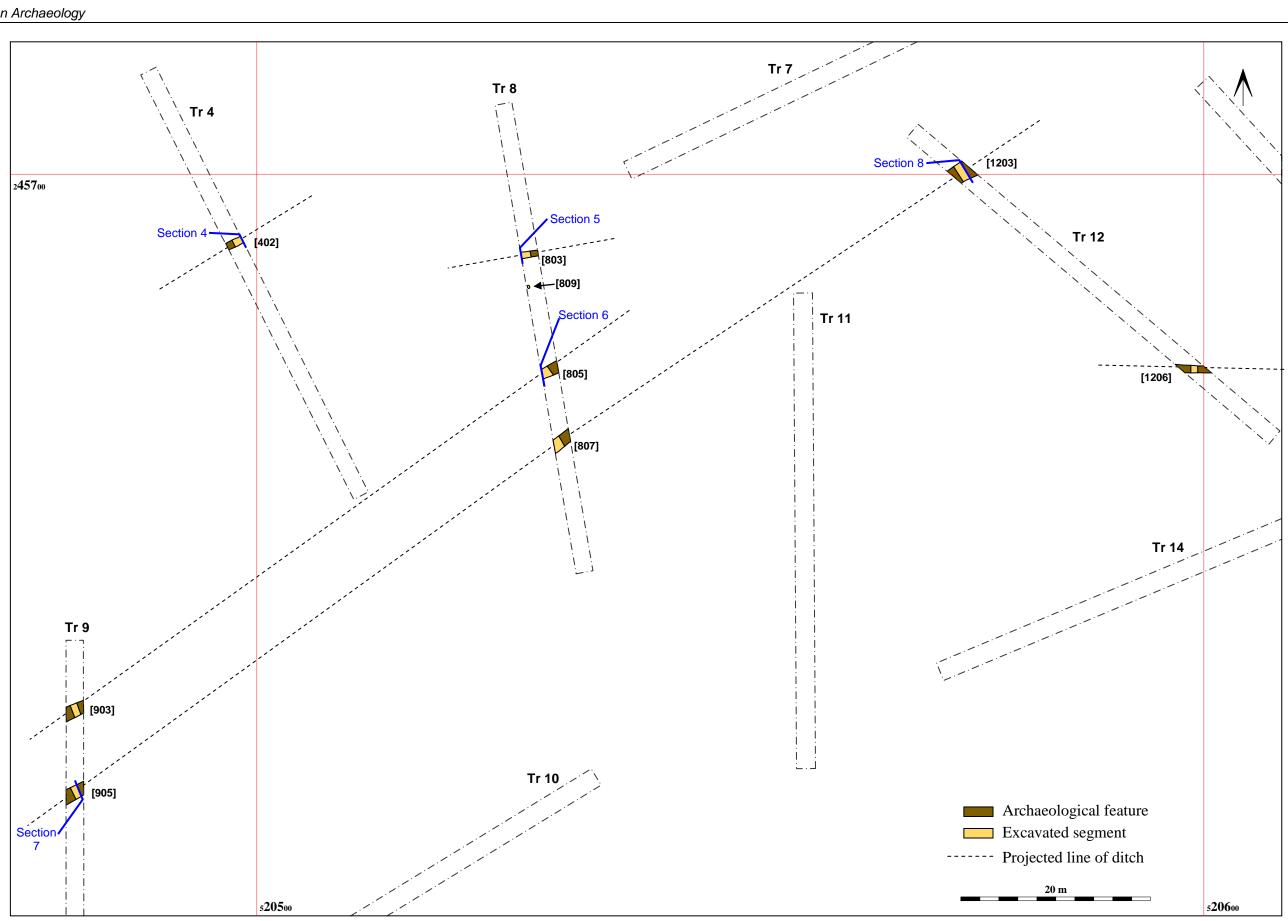


Figure 3: Details of Trenches 4, 7–12 and 14

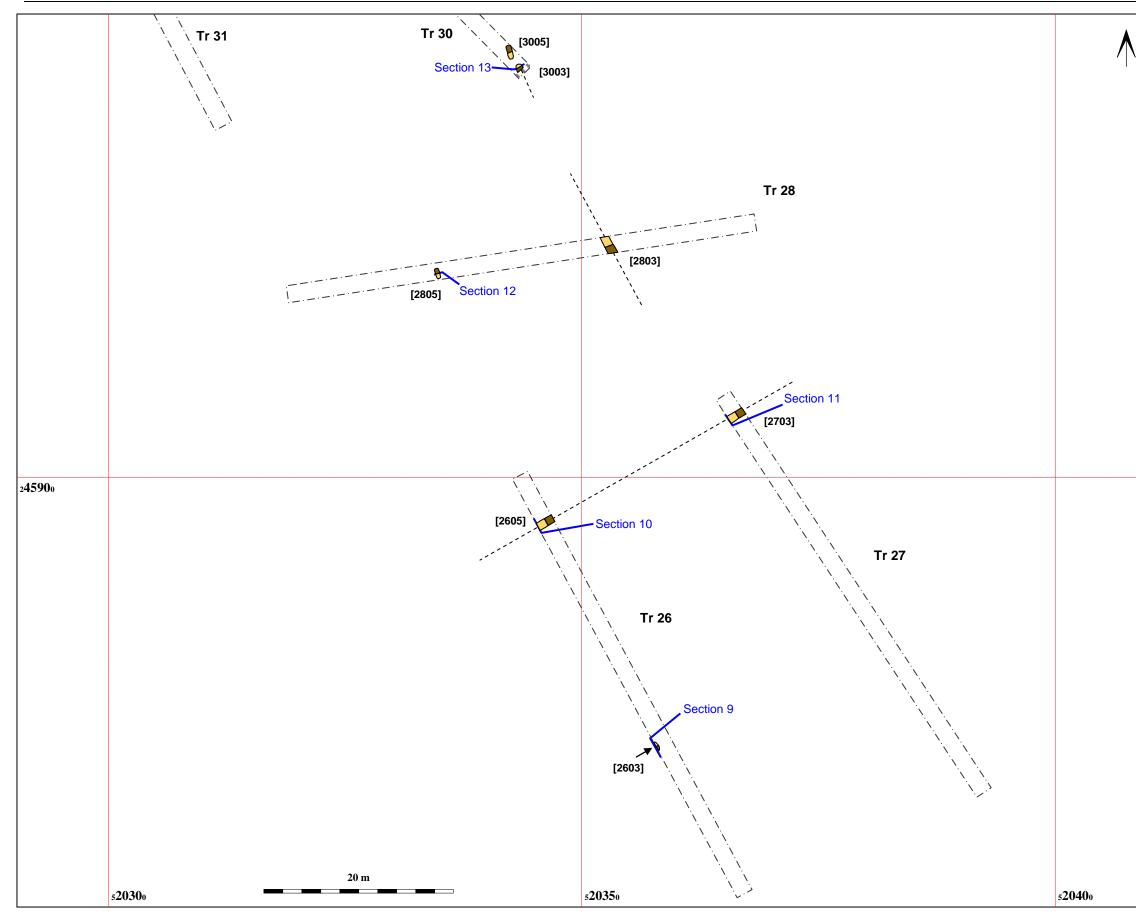
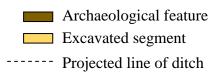
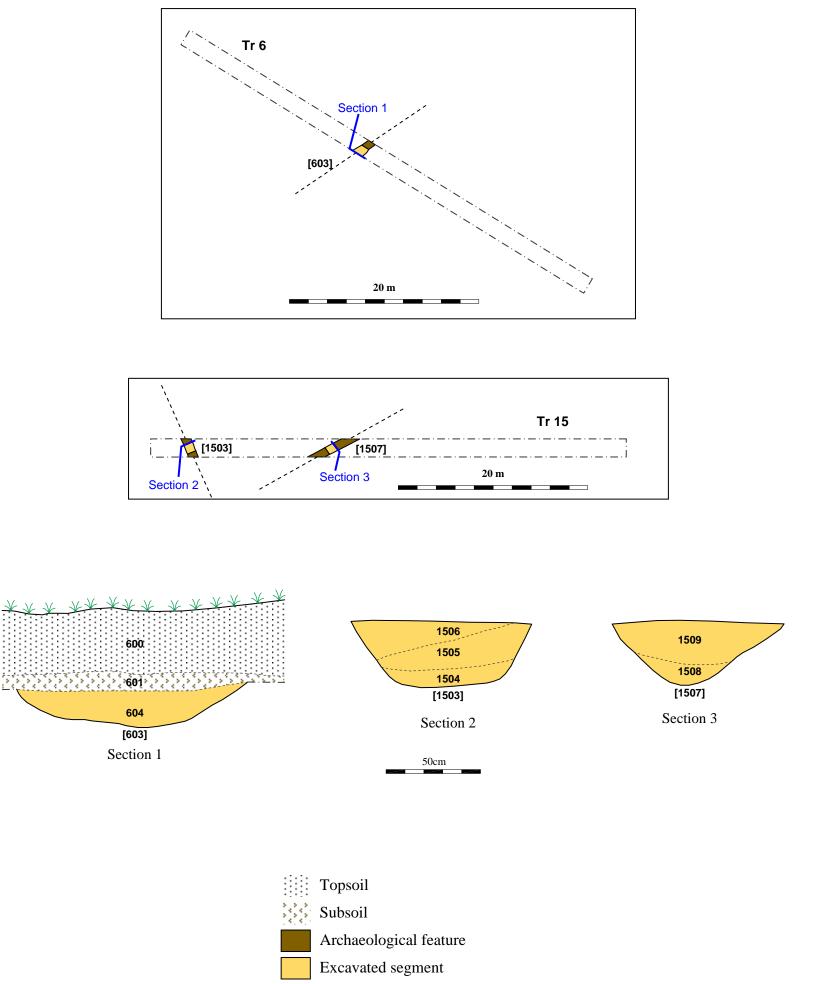


Figure 4: Details of Trenches 26–30





----- Projected line of ditch

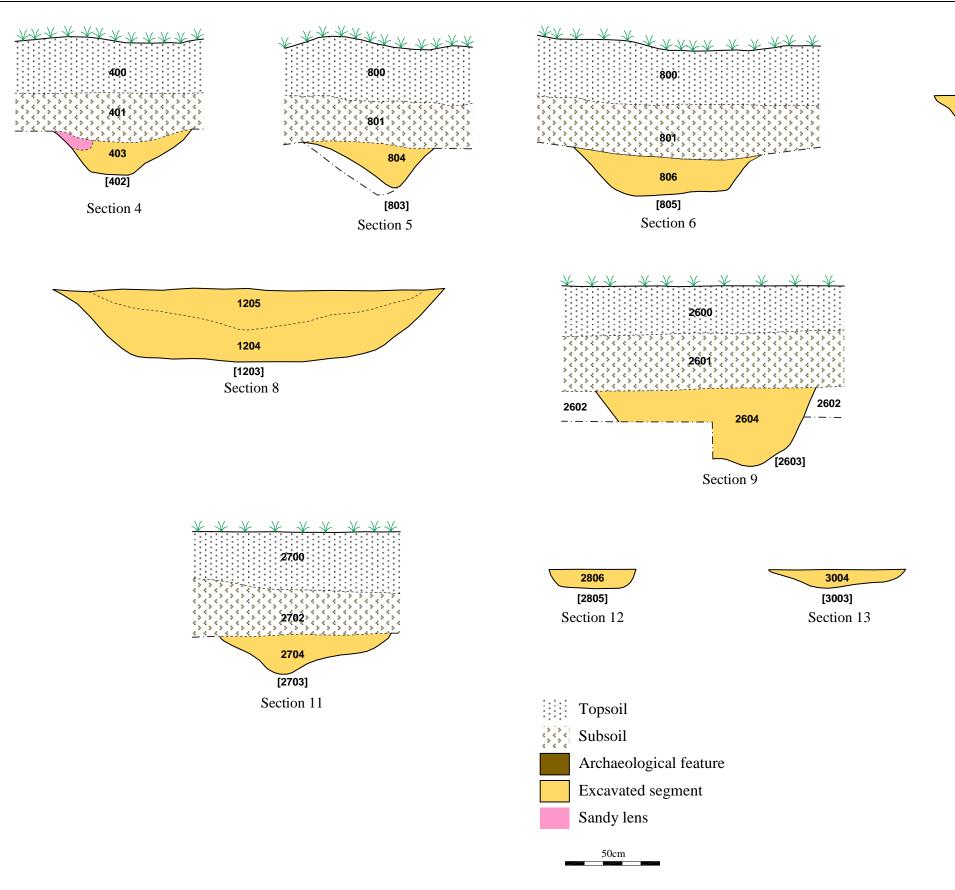
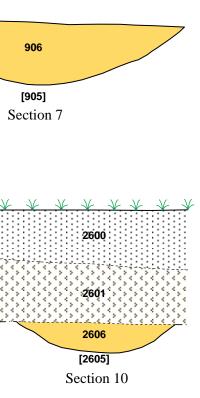


Figure 6: Selected sections (see Figures 3 and 4 for locations)





Ditch [805] east-facing section

Ditch [807] east-facing section



Ditch [903] SW-facing section

Ditch [905] SW-facing section





Ditch [1203] SW-facing section

Ditch [2703] NE-facing section

Figure 7: Selected photographs of features





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

