THE GREEN MAN HIGH STREET LIDLINGTON BEDFORDSHIRE

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. This document should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council).

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by DKP Developments Ltd.

This report was prepared by Kathy Pilkinton (Project Officer) and Wesley Keir (Project Manager), with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathy Pilkinton and Allan King (Archaeological Supervisor). Digitisation of site drawings and illustration were undertaken by Joan Lightning. The project was managed by Wesley Keir. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff.

Fieldwork was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Slawek Utrata (Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer).

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.1	19/11/2019	Section 3.4 amended following CBCA's comments and correspondence with the Curator of the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Museum regarding the deposition of the finds.
1.0	14/10/2019	N/A

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CBCAO	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer
CBM	Ceramic building material
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
LPA	Local planning authority
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written scheme of investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Central Bedfordshire Council granted planning permission (CB/16/01266/FULL) for the erection of three 3-bedroom dwellings and a garage block on land adjacent to The Green Man PH, High Street, Lidlington.

A subsequent variation (CB/18/01700/VOC) allowed for the addition of single-storey rear extensions to each dwelling and additional surface parking spaces. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site and on the advice of the CBC Archaeologist a condition (no.4) was attached to the 2018 consent requiring a staged programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the guidelines provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Stage 1 archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 11th and 12th September 2019. Three 2m-wide trenches were excavated, one measuring 20m in length, one measuring 10m in length and one shortened from 10m to c.9m in length due to on-site constraints.

Evidence of extensive landscaping during the modern period was revealed. Deep modern deposits along the north-east side of the site indicate the ground was raised to form a level area. The large amount of building material present within these layers is suggestive of demolished buildings in the area, although no in-situ building remains were present.

The natural geology does not appear to have been subject to extensive truncation, suggesting any archaeological remains at that level would have survived beneath the modern levelling layers; however, no features pre-dating the post-medieval period were revealed.

The only pre-modern features identified within the PDA, two drainage ditches and a soakaway, all date to the post-medieval/early modern period and are of low archaeological significance. Though the absence of archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period does add to our picture of the changing landscape within this part of Lidlington, there is no potential to address identified regional or national research aims.

On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2016.91).

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service. The OASIS reference for the project is albionar1-269790.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Central Bedfordshire Council granted planning permission (CB/16/01266/FULL) for the erection of three 3-bedroom dwellings and a garage block on land adjacent to The Green Man PH, High Street, Lidlington.

A subsequent variation (CB/18/01700/VOC) allowed for the addition of single-storey rear extensions to each dwelling and additional surface parking spaces. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site and on the advice of the CBC Archaeologist (CBCA) a condition (no.4) was attached to the 2018 consent requiring a staged programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the guidelines provided in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The condition is as follows:

No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation; that adopts a staged approach and includes post excavation analysis and publication, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The said development shall only be implemented in full accordance with the approved archaeological scheme.

Reason: To record and advance understanding of the heritage assets with archaeological interest which will be unavoidably affected as a consequence of the development.

Justification: This condition is required to be pre-commencement in order to record any heritage assets prior to development commencing and disturbing the ground.

Albion Archaeology prepared a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the first stage of the archaeological investigative works, i.e. a trial-trench evaluation. This report represents the results of the Stage 1 fieldwork.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The Green Man PH lies on the western side of the High Street at the southern edge of Lidlington. The permitted development area (PDA) comprises the former car park on the south-west side of the pub. It is centred on grid reference SP 9901 3897 and lies at a height of c.84m OD (Figure 1).

Lidlington lies on lower ground in the Marston clay vale at the foot of the Greensand Ridge but the southern edges of the village climb up the lower slopes of the ridge. The High Street, as it passes The Green Man, rises sharply from c.60 m OD in the vale to 130 m OD at the top of the ridge. The car park lies on a short, level contour which is part of this steep northwards slope.

The underlying geology comprises Stewartby Member and Weymouth Member mudstone, part of the Oxford Clay Formation (British Geological Survey 2016).



The proposed development comprises three new dwellings, set back from the High Street, with garden plots to their rear and a combined three-car garage block and car-parking to the front.

1.3 Archaeological Background

A heritage statement (no reference), based on an earlier heritage statement by Alliance Planning (2015), was submitted with planning application CB/16/01266/FULL. It focussed solely on standing heritage assets. Therefore, in preparation of the WSI existing records of the archaeology and history of the PDA and a 500m-radius study area was collated. The data was sourced from the Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) (search ref. no.: 201920/104), Historic England's National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and the Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service (BARS).

The Marston Vale is a landscape which was extensively settled in the prehistoric and Roman periods. Investigations along the Willington to Steppingley Pipeline, located $c.1 \, \mathrm{km}$ to the east of Lidlington, found evidence for several settlements and sites dating to these periods. Extensive Iron Age, Roman and some Saxon remains have also recently been uncovered at Marston Park, $c.1 \, \mathrm{km}$ to the north-east of the study area (Albion Archaeology 2012).

Beyond the study area, prehistoric to Roman heritage assets are known to the north-east of the Millbrook Proving Ground. Archaeological excavations in advance of clay extraction south of Rookery Pit near Stewartby revealed evidence of a late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement consisting of several ditches, pits and an undated roundhouse (Albion Archaeology 2016a). No prehistoric or Roman heritage assets have, however, yet been recorded within Lidlington itself.

Anglo-Saxon evidence within the study area is restricted to historical and placename evidence. The name of Lidlington probably originated in the 5th to 7th century, suggesting a Saxon origin for the village (HER 785). Lidlington is also mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. However, no Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains have yet been found within the village.

The present-day village (HER 16898) has at least medieval origins. Around 100m to the east of the PDA lies the site of the former medieval All Saints' Church (HER 32). The church was probably built in the 15th century or earlier; it was extended and repaired in the late 19th century. However, by the middle of the 20th century it had become ruinous and was demolished in the early 1960s. Its parish churchyard dates from the 18th century (HER 9024).

The extent of the medieval village (HER 16898), as defined in the HER, includes land on either side of the High Street and Marston Road and to the east of Church Street. The PDA falls inside this envelope of the medieval village.

The scheduled monument of Thrupp End medieval village and moated sites (NHLE 1010364) to the north of Lidlington represents another medieval settlement focus. The village site is known from low earthworks and aerial photographs, which clearly show a range of building plots extending for some



30–50m to the south-east of the lane leading to Thrupp End Farm. Long narrow fields, typical of medieval farming, extend for a further 100m beyond the house plots and there is a distinct boundary or headland (about 1m high) visible on the south-east edge.

Exploitation of the higher, hilly landscape of the Greensand Ridge are indicated by Combes or Lidlington Park (HER 9595), a deer park originating in the medieval period. Lidlington Wood (HER 13073) and Heydon Hill are two areas of ancient woodland. Coney Hill, in the same area, is the location of a medieval rabbit warren.

Post-medieval heritage assets within Lidlington comprise standing buildings, which are part of the growing village of Lidlington and the continuing exploitation of the landscape. The buildings consist of designated and undesignated 17th–19th-century cottages, farm buildings, a school house, the railway station and a former crossing keeper's house.

The Green Man PH is a Grade II listed building dating from the 17th century with 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century additions. Across the road from The Green Man are the Grade II listed 18th-century former Red Lion PH (NHLE 1311724), now two dwellings, undesignated post-medieval cottages at 15 High Street (HER 14414) and 18th–19th-century cottages at 17, 19 and 19A High Street (HER 5014).

Recent trial trenching at Greensand Ridge within Lidlington revealed two shallow, post-medieval / modern ditches (Albion Archaeology 2016b).

There are no modern heritage assets near the PDA.

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).

It was judged that potential heritage assets in the PDA were most likely to date to the medieval and post-medieval periods and comprise medieval 'backyard' activity of possible cottages on the street frontage, or remains and/or artefacts associated with The Green Man PH.

With regards to the investigation of medieval settlement, the regional research framework states the few medieval settlements have been investigated archaeologically within Bedfordshire and many elements of the settlement hierarchy require more detailed study. This needs to be undertaken at the microscale of investigating the chronology, structure and function of individual settlements (for example the PDA) and at the macro-scale of broad patterns of settlement (Oake et al 2007, 14).

In summary, the specific research objectives of the evaluation were:



- To determine if evidence for the medieval and post-medieval periods was present within the PDA.
- To assess if any heritage assets relating to earlier periods were present within the PDA.

The general purpose of the 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.



2. METHOD STATEMENTS

2.1 Methodological Standards

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2019), which was approved by the CBCA prior to commencement of the work.

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

Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn, 2003).
Bedford Borough Council	Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford (ver. 2.8, 2010)
• CIfA	Charter and by-law; Code of conduct (2014) Standard and guidance for archaeological 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)
Historic England	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide (2015) Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, (2nd edn, 2011)

2.2 Implementation

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 11th and 12th September 2019. Three 2m-wide trenches were excavated (Figure 2), one measuring 20m in length, one measuring 10m in length and one shortened from 10m to c.9m in length due to on-site constraints.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under constant archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording were carried out by experienced Albion staff with external specialists consulted as necessary. An appropriate level of environmental and other sampling was undertaken in accordance with standard guidelines.

A monitoring visit with the CBCAO took place on 11th September 2019.

2.3 Archiving

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be kept secure at all stages of the operation. All records and materials produced will be archived to the standards outlined in Historic England's Management of



Research Projects in the Historic Environment (2015) and those set out by Bedford Borough Council.

On publication of the final report, the project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2016.91).

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service. The OASIS reference for the project is albionar1-269790.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All significant deposits and features found within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figure 2. A representative selection of site photographs is presented in Figure 4. Where site recording numbers have been used they are distinguished by different bracket styles to indicate feature number = [***] and fill/layer number = (***). Context numbers reflect the trench number e.g. [305] is a feature within Trench 3 and, therefore, the trench number is only given where necessary.

Details of all observed deposits and archaeological features are provided in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and Geology

Overburden across the site measured between 0.42m and 1.15m thick with the deeper layers of overburden downslope on the north-east side of site.

The site was partially covered by a sand and gravel layer (100) in the south-west corner of Trench 1, (200) across Trench 2 and (300) along the east side of Trench 3. It measured c.0.3m thick and formed the surface of a recent car park.

A series of levelling layers containing moderate amounts of building rubble underlay the car park surface. Firm clayey silt layers (101) and (102) were present within Trench 1 and measured up to 0.28m and 0.1m thick respectively. A friable black clayey silt (201) underlay the modern car park surface in Trench 3 and contained medium and large-sized rubble fragments and measured up to 0.3m thick.

Buried topsoil (103) comprising dark-brown grey clayey silt was present in Trench 1. The same deposit (301) was visible on the surface of Trench 3. It measured 0.2–0.3m thick.

Subsoil (103) and (202) comprised mid-red-brown clayer silt; it was present in all three trenches and measured c.0.2m thick. The same deposit (302) in Trench 3 showed evidence of waterlogging.

Natural geological deposits comprised firm, yellow-grey clay.

3.3 Post-medieval Features

Two ditches containing post-medieval artefacts were revealed within Trench 2.

A large, vertical sided ditch [204] was present within Trench 2; it was 2.7m wide and at least 1.2m deep with a large drain at the base. Its fills included some initial slumping (205) followed by backfill deposits of dark-grey clayey silt, containing moderate amounts of building rubble (206 and 208) and re-deposited natural clay (207).



A smaller V-shaped ditch [209] contained an initial fill (210) of grey clayey silt with frequent large brick and stone fragments. The upper deposits (212) consisted of friable black clayey silt similar to deposit (201) directly above.

A post-medieval/modern soak-away [106] was identified within Trench 1. It was vertical-sided and filled with dark grey clayey silt and frequent large rubble fragments and post-medieval rubbish. A rubble filled drain was identified feeding into its north-west side.

Extensive rooting was present within Trench 1, with two large tree stumps buried under make-up layer (100) at the north end of the trench.

3.4 Artefacts

Artefacts collected from the two ditches within Trench 2 are well-documented find types of post-medieval and later date. They comprise four pottery sherds (229g), five pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 2.9kg, and a wine bottle base fragment (Table 1).

Feature	Fill	Date range	Find type	Qty.	Wt. (g)	Description
204	206	Post-medieval+	Pottery	1	196	Glazed red earthenware (P01*) bowl; late C17-19th
Ditch			Pottery	1	11	Mocha ware (P39) with dendritic pattern; late C18th+
			Pottery	1	3	Sponge-decorated earthenware (P39); 1820s-1860s
			CBM	1	259	Plain flat roof tile; sand-tempered
			CBM	1	112	Unglazed paver (33mm thick) with worn upper surface
209	210	Post-medieval+	Pottery	1	19	Black-glazed earthenware (P03) bowl; late C17-19th
Ditch			CBM	1	7	Plain flat roof tile; sand-tempered
			CBM	2	2,527	Stock-moulded bricks; C16-late 18th
			Vessel glass	1	33	Wine bottle base; C17th

^{*} Pottery fabric types defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire ceramic type series

Table 1: Finds summary by feature



4. DISCUSSION AND SIGNIFICANCE

The two post-medieval ditches identified within Trench 2 both appear to have performed a drainage function. The smaller ditch [209] was initially filled with large rubble fragments potentially to facilitate drainage of the area. The final backfilling of the ditch appears to be broadly contemporary with the levelling layer above, suggesting the ditch was finally filled in when the land was levelled to form a car park. Ditch [204] appears to be later suggesting the larger drainage ditch replaced the earlier drainage methods when the car park was constructed.

A soakaway and associated drain identified in Trench 1 produced post-medieval and modern material. It may have been associated with former buildings on the site, indicated on early OS maps. The maps indicate construction and demolition of several buildings between 1882 and 1924 (Figure 3).

Evidence of extensive landscaping during the modern period was also revealed. Deep modern deposits along the north-east side of the site indicate the ground was raised to form a level area. The large amount of building material present within these layers is suggestive of demolished buildings in the area, although no *in-situ* building remains were present.

The natural geology does not appear to have been subject to extensive truncation, suggesting any archaeological remains at that level would have survived beneath the modern levelling layers; however, no features pre-dating the post-medieval period were revealed.

The only pre-modern features identified within the PDA, two drainage ditches and a soakaway, all date to the post-medieval/early modern period and are of low archaeological significance. Though the absence of archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period does add to our picture of the changing landscape within this part of Lidlington, there is no potential to address identified regional or national research aims.



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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.62 m. Max: 1.15 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 99011: Northing: 38807)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 99001: Northing: 38790)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential, targeted on proposed building footprint.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Preser	
100	Make up layer	Compact light yellow brown sandy gravel moderate small-medium CBM Thickness: 0.3m	V	
101	Make up layer	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small CBM, occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.16-0.28m	V	
102	Make up layer	Friable dark brown grey clay silt Occasional re-deposited natural Thickness: 0.1m	V	
103	Buried topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.2m	V	
104	Buried subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness 0.15m	s: 🗸	
105	Natural	Firm mid yellow grey clay occasional flecks chalk		
106	Soak-away	Circular sides: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min depth 1.m	✓	
107	Backfill	Loose dark grey black clay silt frequent medium-large CBM Thickness: at least lm	✓	

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 9.25 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 99019: Northing: 38798)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 99017: Northing: 38789)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential, targeted on proposed car park area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Fi	inds Present:
200	External surface	Loose light yellow white sandy gravel Thickness: 0.35m	✓	
201	Make up layer	Friable dark brown black clay silt moderate small-large CBM Thickness: 0.3m	✓	
202	Buried subsoil	Plastic dark blue grey silty clay occasional small CBM Evidence of waterlogging Thickness: 0.15m	✓	
203	Natural	Firm mid yellow grey clay occasional flecks chalk		
204	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.7m, min depth 1.2m, min length 2.m	✓	
205	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt Thickness: 0.15m	✓	
206	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt moderate small-large CBM Thickness: 0.2m	✓	✓
207	Fill	Firm light yellow blue clay occasional small-medium CBM Thickness: 0.85m	✓	
208	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt occasional small-medium CBM Thickness: 0.65	m 🗸	
209	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.4m, min length 2.m	✓	
210	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt frequent medium-large CBM Thickness: 0.18m	✓	✓
211	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt frequent medium-large CBM Thickness: 0.4m	✓	



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.42 m. Max: 0.52 m.

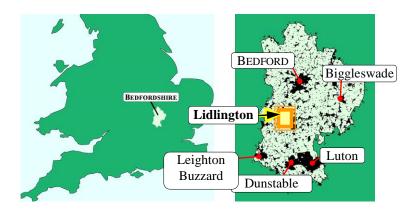
Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 99010: Northing: 38788)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 99019: Northing: 38782)

 $Reason: \quad Assess \ archaeological \ potential, targeted \ on \ area \ of \ proposed \ garage.$

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:		
300	External surface	Loose light yellow white sandy gravel Thickness: 0.18-0.25m	✓		
301	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.17-0.35m	✓		
302	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay Thickness: 0.2m	✓		
303	Natural	Firm mid vellow grev clay occasional flecks chalk			





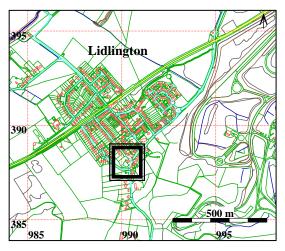
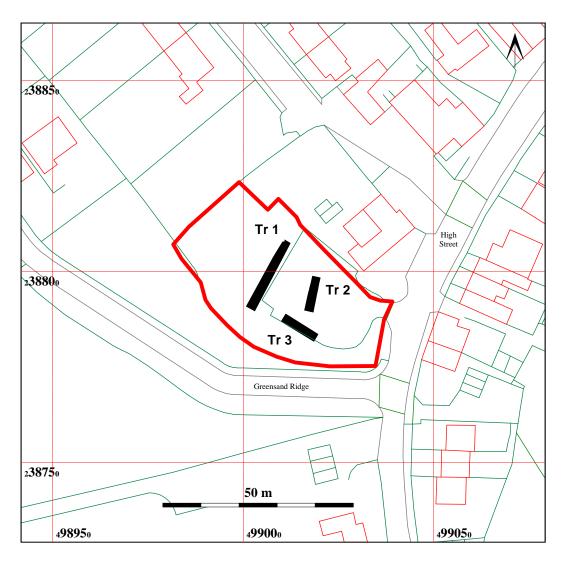


Figure 1: Site and trench location plan

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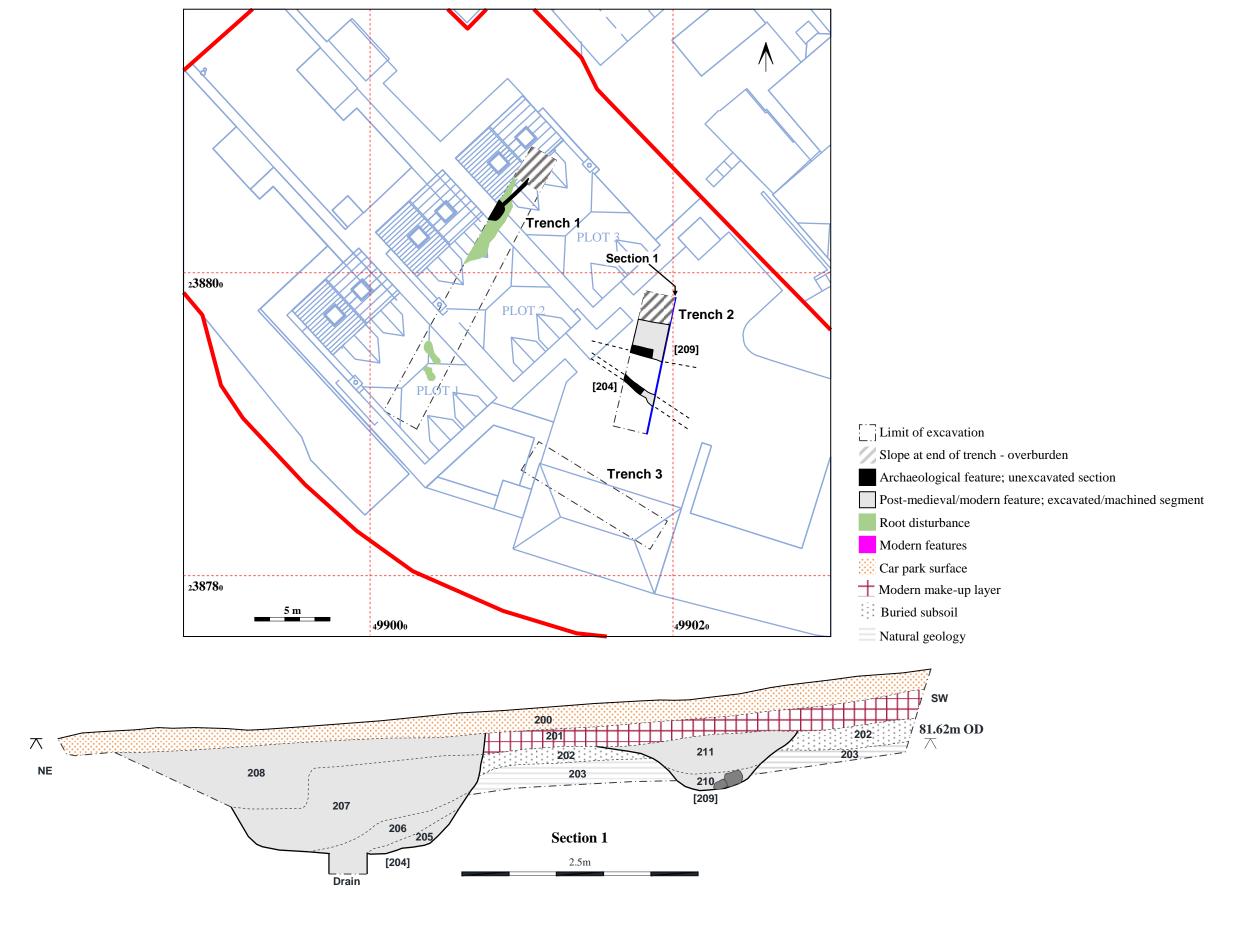


Figure 2: All features overlaid onto development plan



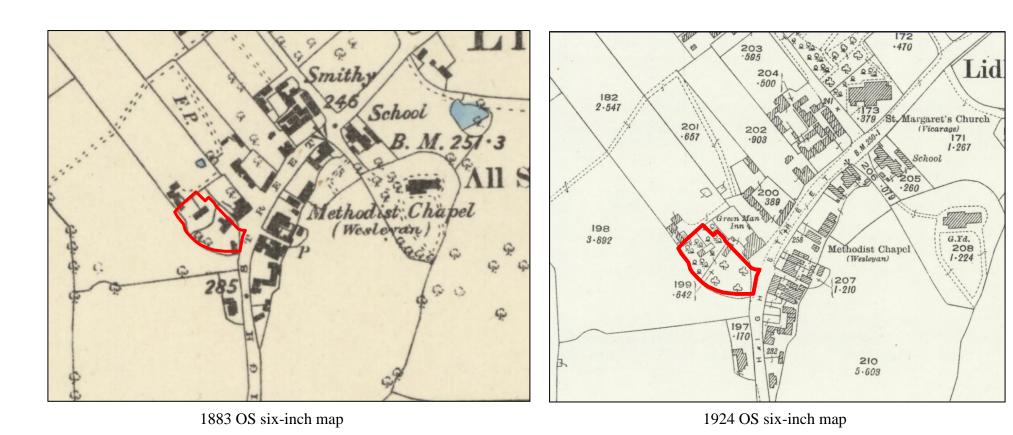


Figure 3: 1883 and 1924 Ordnance Survey maps





Trench 1 from SW (1m scale)



Trench 3 from NW (1m scale)



Trench 1 – SE-facing section of baulk (1m scale)



Trench 2 from N – ditches [204] and [209] (1m scale)



Trench 1 – SE-facing section of baulk showing soakaway and rooted natural clay (1m scale)



Trench 2 ditch [209] from NE (1m scale)

Figure 4: Selected photographs



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