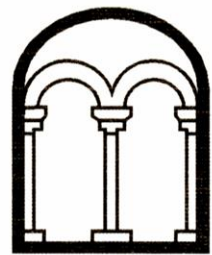


**LAND AT HIGH GABLES FARM
CLOPHILL ROAD
MAULDEN
BEDFORDSHIRE**

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Albion
archaeology



**LAND AT HIGH GABLES FARM
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MAULDEN
BEDFORDSHIRE**

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Produced for:
Gotzheim Associates

On behalf of Mr and Mrs S Lowe



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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. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose 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). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Gotzheim Associates on behalf of Mr and Mrs S Lowe, and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth of Central Bedfordshire Council.

The archaeological works were undertaken by Kathy Pilkinton, who also prepared the report, with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). The project was overseen by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

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1.0	30/06/2017	n/a

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Gotzheim Associates on behalf of Mr and Mrs S Lowe
HER	Historic Environment Record
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission was granted on appeal (APP/P0240/W/16/3154544), for the erection of a single-storey residential dwelling (CB/15/03296/OUT), on the site of a former agricultural building at Land at High Gables Farm, Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire.

The village of Maulden is located approximately 14km south of Bedford, Bedfordshire. The development area (DA) is situated to the eastern margin of the village, on the south side of Clophill Road, immediately to the rear of properties along Silsoe Road, centred on grid reference TL 0592 3774.

The DA occupies relatively flat land within an area that generally rises towards the Greensand Ridge to the north. The underlying geology comprises Woburn Sands overlain by a mixture of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. The development scheme comprises the demolition of an existing agricultural building at the rear of the site and the erection of a replacement single-storey dwelling, together with associated access, landscaping and parking. At the time of the evaluation the agricultural building had been demolished, leaving areas of gravel surfaces and grassed land.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition (no.7) was attached to the appeal decision, requiring a staged programme of archaeological investigation, commencing with the archaeological evaluation detailed in this report.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 14th June during a period of dry and generally bright weather conditions. Three trenches were opened, with Trench 1 and the SW part of Trench 2 investigating the vicinity of the former building and associated gravelled areas, whilst the remainder of Trench 2 and Trench 3 were beyond the modern activity in the grassed area.

The evaluation only identified modern features and deposits, most of which were associated with the former building. Beyond the activity associated with the former building, the soil profile indicates a former cultivation soil. The linear feature in Trench 3, which also contained modern material, would appear to correlate with one of the land parcel divisions shown on the 1797 Enclosure map; it subsequently became the northern limit of the orchard shown on the 1883 Ordnance Survey map. The continued use of the boundary may account for the presence of the modern finds.

The features and deposits revealed by the evaluation are modern in date and have no further potential to address research themes associated with the development of medieval or post-medieval Maulden.

This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website, reference no. albionar1-278475. The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford under accession number BEDFM 2017.20.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

On appeal (APP/P0240/W/16/3154544), planning permission (CB/15/03296/OUT) was obtained for the erection of a single-storey residential dwelling on the site of a former agricultural building at Land at High Gables Farm, Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition (no.7) was attached to the appeal decision, requiring a staged programme of archaeological investigation, in accordance with the guidelines provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The condition stated:

No development shall take place until a multi-stage written scheme of archaeological investigation; that includes provision for 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.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to formulate the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and undertake the trial trenching, the results of which are presented in this document.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Maulden is situated approximately 14km south of Bedford, Bedfordshire, with the DA located towards the eastern margin of the village, to the south of Clophill Road, immediately to the rear of properties along Silsoe Road (Figure 1). The site measures *c.* 0.35 ha, centred on grid reference TL 0592 3774.

The DA occupies a relatively flat piece of land at *c.* 76m OD, within an area that generally rises towards the Greensand Ridge to the north. The underlying geology comprises Woburn Sands overlain by a mixture of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (British Geological Survey 2017).

The development scheme comprises the demolition of an existing agricultural building at the rear of the site. A replacement single-storey dwelling will be built, together with associated access, landscaping and parking.

Immediately prior to the start of archaeological works, the site was cleared of standing buildings leaving it largely grassed, but with areas of gravelled hard-standing.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background of the site was discussed in detail in a heritage statement (Albion 2012), submitted with the planning application. This was subsequently updated for the Written Scheme of Investigation, with data was obtained from the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) (search no: 201617/331).



The DA is located adjacent to the historic core of Maulden (HER16995), and to the east of a designated Conservation Area (DBD3399). Its location suggests that it had the potential to contain archaeological deposits dating to the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval development of the village.

The HER contains a further 36 records within a 500m radius of the DA. Only one of these, the find-spot of a late Bronze Age arrow head (HER9811), pre-dates the medieval period. This suggests that the potential for remains from earlier (pre-medieval) periods within the DA was relatively low. The majority of the records relate to post-medieval buildings within the historic core of the village; several of which are Grade II listed. Beyond the historic core the locations of a former sand pit (HER2961) and a clay pit (HER2968) (located to the east and north-east of the site respectively) are recorded.

Historical mapping of the pre-enclosure landscape suggests that the DA was part of the common fields associated with the settlement of Maulden; such fields were likely to be medieval in origin. There was moderate potential for the presence of remains associated with agricultural activities of the medieval and post-medieval periods.

The 1797 enclosure map (Figure 2: Map 1) shows that the DA lies to the rear of three narrow land parcels aligned roughly east to west, fronting onto Silsoe Road. The central land parcel appears to contain buildings near the road. The size and shape of these parcels resemble medieval 'toft' and 'croft' plot layouts, where the 'toft' contained a house and small yard and the 'croft' (the area in which the DA is located) was typically used for growing crops.

By the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1883 (Figure 2: Map 2), the narrow plots had been merged into larger plots. The southern half of the DA formed part of an orchard, with the northern limit correlating to one of the land divisions shown of the previous map, which bisects the DA.

As the DA appears to have been used for agriculture since the medieval period, it was considered unlikely to contain significant post-medieval or later remains. However, some agriculture-related structures (e.g. those associated with market gardening) have been highlighted in the Bedfordshire archaeological research framework as of potential significance (Edgeworth 2007, 135). No such structures were known to survive within the DA.

Few modern heritage assets are recorded around the DA; the closest being the Victorian primary school building (HER7153) located c. 100m to the north-west of the site.

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).

Potential heritage assets within the DA could relate to the medieval and post-medieval development of Maulden; but the survival of prehistoric and Roman heritage assets could not be discounted.



For the investigation of medieval settlement, the regional research framework states that few medieval settlements have been investigated archaeologically within Bedfordshire, and that research is needed into the diversity, characterisation of settlement forms and the appearance, growth, shift and disappearance of settlements (Oake 2007, 14, Medlycott 2011, 70). This needs to be undertaken at the micro-scale of investigating the chronology, structure and function of individual settlements (for example the DA) and at the macro-scale of broad patterns of settlement (Oake et al 2007, 14).

Specific research aims would be derived from regional research frameworks (e.g. Brown and Glazebrook 2007; Oake et al. 2007; Medlycott 2011).

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 DA.
- To assess if any heritage assets relating to earlier periods were present within the DA.

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



2. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological evaluation took place on 14th June 2017, with three trenches being opened (Figure 1) in accordance with the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2017).

Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets.

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

- Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001).
- 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 an archaeological watching brief (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)
- English Heritage (now Historic England) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2nd edn, 2011)
- Historic England *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (2015)

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number albionar1-278475.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Trenches 1 and the SW part of Trench 2 were within the footprint of the former building and associated gravelled areas, whilst the rest of Trench 2 and Trench 3 were beyond the areas of activity associated with the former building, within the grassed land. The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the supervision of an archaeologist.

The results of the evaluation are summarised below. Detailed context data is presented in Appendix 1. A plan of the trenches with associated section is shown on Figure 3, whilst selected images are shown on Figures 4 and 5.

In the following summary, contexts in brackets refer to deposits recorded on site. Each trench was allocated a block of number, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc. Cut features are in square brackets, e.g. [303] identifies a linear feature in Trench 3. Deposits or layers are in curved brackets, e.g. (201) defined the subsoil in Trench 2.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Due to later disturbance, topsoil (200) was only present at the NE end of Trench 2 (Figure 4: image 2); it did, however, extend the full length of Trench 3 (300). It comprised dark grey silty sand and was 0.35–0.45m thick (Figure 5: image 3); the thickness of the deposit suggests that it represents a former cultivation soil.

Subsoil survived towards the NE end of Trench 2 (201) and in Trench 3 (301), comprising brown-orange silty sand that was 0.1–0.25m thick. The truncated continuation of this deposit survived beneath the footprint of the demolished building and gravel surface, where it was less than 0.1m thick (101).

The undisturbed geological strata comprised orange gravelly sand with grey clay patches (103, 204, 302).

3.3 Archaeological Remains

The small number of features and deposits revealed were either associated with the recently demolished building or contained modern finds.

Within Trench 1, compact mid yellow-grey gravel (100) up to 0.16m thick formed a surface at the west end of the trench, associated with the former building. Rubble (102), further to the east, was associated with the demolition of the former building. (Figure 4: image 1). The rubble was generally mixed with topsoil and subsoil. It was also present at the SW end of Trench 2 (202), with gravel (203) forming the associated surface in the central area of the trench.

Within Trench 3, linear feature [303] was aligned roughly east to west, with a shallow concave profile. It was 0.65m wide but only 0.05m deep (Figure 3, section 1 and Figure 5: image 4). The brown-orange fill contained modern tile fragments (not retained). This feature would appear to correlate with the



northern boundary of the central land parcel, shown on the 1797 Enclosure map (Figure 2: Map 1). This boundary was retained as the northern limit of a later orchard (Figure 2: Map 2). The orchard was in use in 1883 and so may account for the presence of the modern tile.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation only identified modern features and deposits, most of which were associated with the recently demolished building. Beyond the modern activity, the soil profile indicates a former cultivation soil.

The linear feature in Trench 3 appears to correlate to one of the boundaries shown on historical maps. This boundary defined the northern limit of a rectangular land parcel on the 1797 map, subsequently being retained to define the northern extent of the orchard shown on the 1883 map. This reuse may account for the wide yet shallow profile of the ditch, though alternatively, it may suggest origins as a cultivation furrow characteristic of medieval arable cultivation.

The features revealed are modern in date and have no further potential to address research themes associated with the development of medieval or post-medieval Maulden.

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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 0.26 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5910: Northing: 37723)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5929: Northing: 37716)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	External surface	Compact mid yellow grey gravel Confined to the western end of the trench. Thickness: 0.16m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Friable dark orange grey silty sand occasional small CBM Not retained. Thickness: 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Demolition layer	Loose Mid grey clay and orange sand and gravel with frequent small to large CBM - Not retained Thickness: 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Natural	Firm, mid grey clay with orange sandy gravel patches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5946: Northing: 37729)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5936: Northing: 37718)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Only present in the NE part of the trench. Thickness: 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty sand moderate medium-large stones Thickness: 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Demolition layer	Loose Mid grey clay and orange sand and gravel with frequent small to large CBM - Not retained. The deposit was confined to the SW part of the trench. Thickness: 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	External surface	Compact mid yellow grey gravel Located in the central area of the trench, the deposit was up to 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Natural	Compact red orange sand and gravel with grey clay patches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5940: Northing: 37739)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5937: Northing: 37729)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Thickness: 0.35-0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Compact mid brown orange silty clay occasional small-medium stones Thickness: 0.1-0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm, mid grey clay with orange sandy gravel patches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.05m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Fill	Compact mid brown orange silty sand Occasional post-medieval to modern tile fragments present - not retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

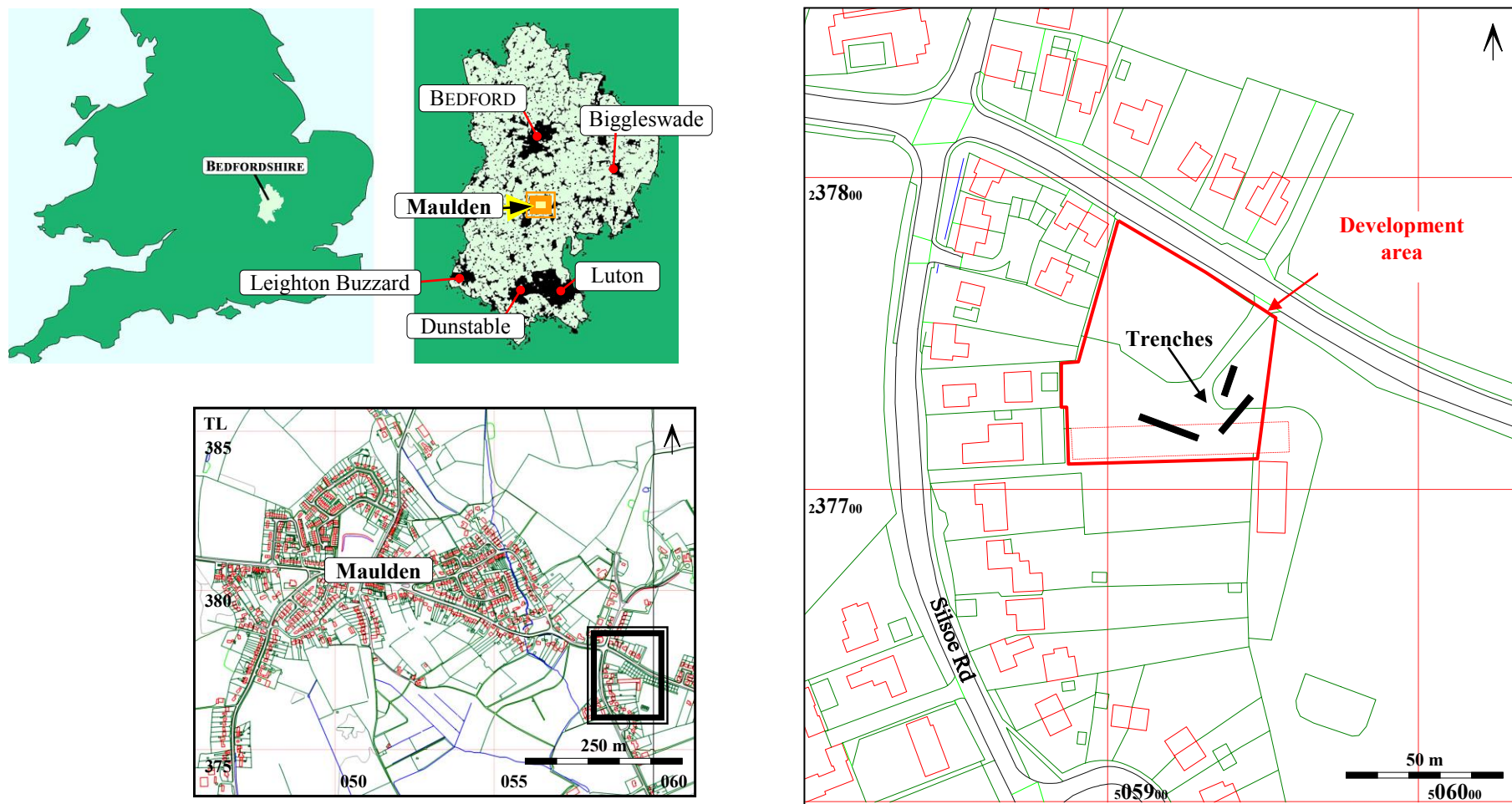
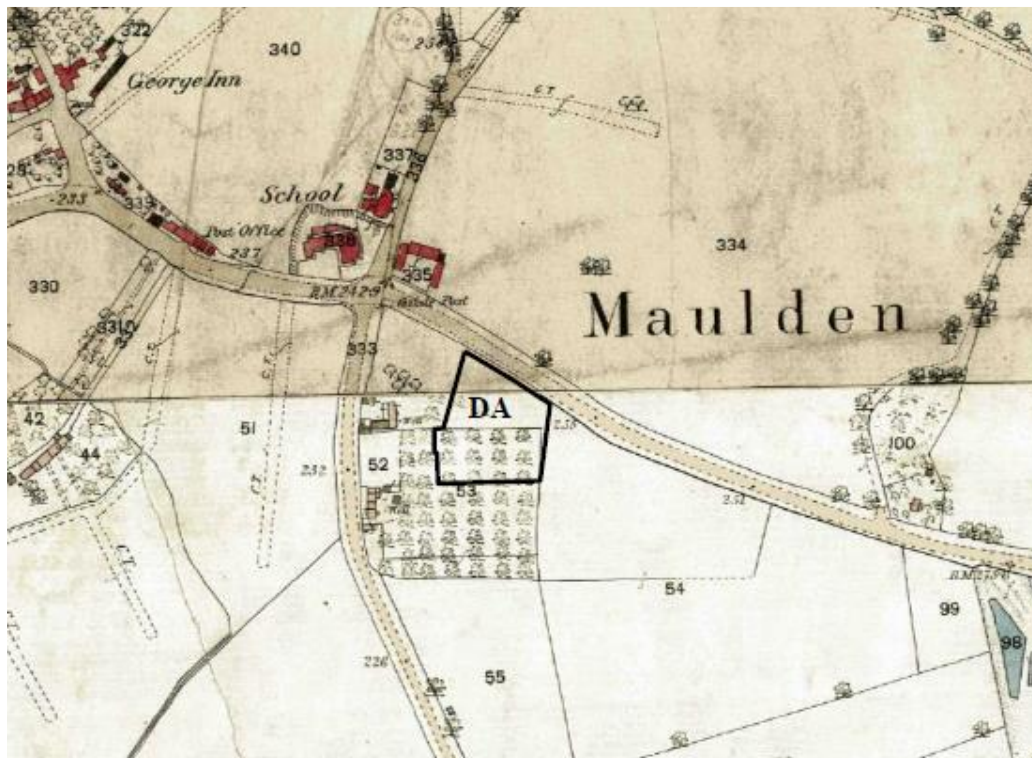


Figure 1: Site and trench location plan

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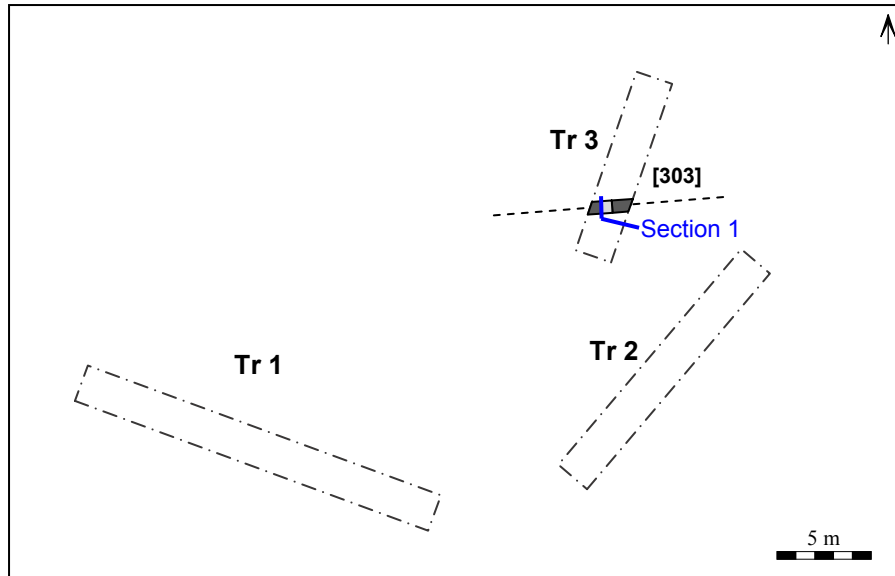


Map 1: 1797 Enclosure map (scale and position of DA are approximate)



Map 2: 1st edition OS map 1883 (scale and position of DA are approximate)

Figure 2: Historical maps



Photograph of shallow ditch [303]

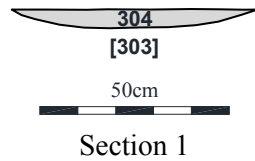


Figure 3: All-features plan and associated section

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Image 1: General view along Trench 1, looking westwards. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Image 2: General view along Trench 2, looking towards the NE. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Figure 4: Selected images 1 and 2 – Trenches 1 and 2



Image 3: Soil profile comprising a thick topsoil (300) and subsoil (301). Scale 40cm in 10cm divisions.



Image 4: General view of Trench 3 with shallow ditch [303] in centre of the image. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Figure 5: Selected images 3 and 4 – Trench 3

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