SCOTLAND FARM SCOTLAND ROAD DRY DRAYTON CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Project: SF3202 CHER event no.: ECB5173 OASIS ref: albionar1-289827

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Compiled by	Approved by
Ben Barker	Drew Shotliff

9th August 2017

Produced for: Mr J Peck PX Farms Ltd



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Preface

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by James Peck and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Barker (Project Officer), Chris Booth and Jess Stevenson (Archaeological Technicians). This report was prepared by Ben Barker, with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue	
1.1	09/08/2017	Incorporating comments from HET	
1.0	03/08/2017	n/a	

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CHER Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Client PX Farms Ltd

HET Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council

LPA Local Planning Authority
PDA Proposed development area



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission was sought for the erection of an agricultural general purpose, fertilizer and chemical storage building (S/1100/17/FL) and a new agricultural access from the A428 northern roundabout (S/0330/17/FL). Given the sites' proximity to each other, they are being dealt with as part of the same archaeological project; they are collectively referred to in this document as the proposed development area (PDA).

Because of the high archaeological potential of the PDA the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team Archaeologist issued a Design Brief for a programme of archaeological works, specifying an initial evaluation through trial trenching. The evaluation was carried out by Albion Archaeology in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

The evaluation was undertaken between 27th and 28th July 2017 and comprised the excavation of a total of four trial trenches across the footprint of the proposed building and access track. No archaeological remains pre-dating the medieval period were revealed. The trenches within the proposed route of the access track identified three furrows of probable medieval origin, an undated ditch terminus and an undated pit or large posthole. The trenches within the footprint of the proposed building identified an undated tree-throw hole, two further probable furrows and two modern plough scars.

The evaluation showed that in the medieval period the area around Scotland Farm was most likely within open fields, with the arable strips arranged at right angles to the Dam Brook and Scotland Road. The excavated remains are of negligible to low significance and have no potential to address any of the research priorities identified in the regional research framework. In conclusion, the proposed development is unlikely to have any significant archaeological impact.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Planning permission was sought for the erection of an agricultural general purpose, fertilizer and chemical storage building (S/1100/17/FL) and a new agricultural access from the A428 northern roundabout (S/0330/17/FL). Given the sites' proximity to each other, they are being dealt with as part of the same archaeological project; they are collectively referred to in this document as the proposed development area (PDA).

Because of the high archaeological potential of the PDA, the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) Archaeologist advised that a programme of archaeological investigation should be secured through the inclusion of a negative condition, stating that:

No demolition/development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* (March 2012).

The HET Archaeologist issued a Design Brief for the archaeological works, specifying an initial archaeological evaluation through trial trenching (HET 2017). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2017).

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Dry Drayton lies c. 7km to the west of Cambridge (Figure 1). Scotland Farm itself is situated c. 2.5km south-west of the village, to the west of Scotland Road, and immediately to the north of the A428 dual carriageway.

The underlying geological deposits primarily comprise Gault Formation and Oadby Member (HET 2017). The site lies at an approximate height of 61m OD and is centred on grid reference TL 3677 6014.

The footprint of the proposed agricultural building will be approximately 30.5m wide and 36.5m long, totalling c. 1,115sqm. It will be sited approximately 20m to the south-east of an existing farm building on land currently in use as pasture. The foundation design of the building has yet to be finalised. The 'red line' for this application (S/1100/17/FL) includes the existing farm access, from Scotland Road, although there are no plans to further develop this access.

The proposed new access track (S/0330/17/FL) will start from a new exit from the A428 roundabout, to the west of Scotland Road. The trackway will take a sinuous route northwards to the southern corner of the existing farmyard. The overall length of the trackway is likely to be $c.175 \,\mathrm{m}$ by $c.6 \,\mathrm{m}$ wide, although additional screening by tree planting is also proposed. The maximum depth of impact of the trackway is likely to be a $c.0.3 \,\mathrm{m}$, but a large portion of the



access is likely to be embanked (design not, as yet, finalised) in order to access the raised roundabout.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Data recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was supplied by the HET as an appendix to the Design Brief. The Design Brief also sets out the archaeological background to the site. These information sources are summarised below.

Buildings associated with Scotland Farm are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 (MCB20871), however, the area is believed to have been a settlement since the medieval period (Albion 2009). Archaeological investigations to the west of Scotland Farm have identified Iron Age settlement and occupation evidence as well as medieval ridge and furrow.

The archaeological excavations within the footprint of the existing grain store to the west of Scotland Farm (ECB2658 and ECB2765) revealed that cropmarks in this area (CHER 11441) partly related to a late Iron Age enclosure—the excavated parts contained a non-domestic roundhouse and a small number of settlement-related features including possible structural remains (Albion 2009 and Ingham 2008).

Additional enclosures, visible as cropmarks, are known 300m to the north of Scotland Farm (MCB21187). Although interpreted as medieval by the NHPP project, the features may be earlier — perhaps of an Iron Age or Roman date.

To the south of Scotland Farm, archaeological investigations along the A428 (ECB2935) revealed evidence of a middle to late Iron Age farmstead (MCB16338), occupation (MCB16811) and a Roman droveway (MCB18507) (Abrams and Ingham 2008, 20–33).

1.4 Project Objectives

Archaeological and historical evidence from the surrounding area indicated that there was the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the PDA.

The objective of the evaluation was to provide information on any archaeological remains present and to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated, if necessary.

Information on the following was required:

- The location, extent, nature, date and significance of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- Determining the amount of truncation that may affect any remains, and whether palaeosols or 'B' horizons are present;
- The presence, date and significance of any palaeochannels;
- General site formation processes.



The report would also examine the significance of the results with reference to regional research frameworks, which for this area are set out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).



2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching took place between 27th and 28th July 2017. Four trenches were opened as proposed in the WSI, with the exception of Trench 2 which was moved 2.5m to the south-east to avoid a modern service (Figure 2). Trenches 1 and 2 targeted the proposed access track and Trenches 3 and 4 formed a T-shaped trench with the footprint of the proposed building.

The trenches were opened by a tracked excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first.

Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 101 for Trench 1, and 201 for Trench 2. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

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

•	Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn,
		2001).

- ALGAO (East) Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.
- Cambridgeshire Deposition of archaeological archives in County Council Cambridgeshire (2014).

Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, Scotland Farm, Scotland Road, Dry Drayton. 4 July 2017.

- ClfA¹ 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).
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide (2015).
- English Heritage (now Historic England)
 Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice (2014).

¹ All CIfA codes, standards and guidelines are available at: http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa.



Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2011).

Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological Record (2015).

Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: A guideline for best practice for producing human osteological assessments and analytical reports (2004).

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store under event number ECB5173.

Details of the project and its findings have been submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number: albionar1-289827 (Appendix 2).



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All features and deposits found during the investigations are described below and shown in Figure 3. Detailed information on all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1. Photographs of the trenches are presented in Figure 4.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

All trenches were situated within a field used as a horse paddock. The landowner (Mr J. Peck, pers. comm.) confirmed that the field had previously been ploughed and had only recently been turned over to pasture.

A metal detector survey of the trenches and spoil was undertaken but did not produce any finds. Bucket sampling of the topsoil from each trench, in line with the WSI, also failed to produce any artefacts.

3.2.1 Topsoil

The topsoil (101)/(201)/(301)/(401) comprised dark greyish brown humic clayey silt that averaged 0.3m thick.

3.2.2 Subsoil

A very thin subsoil (102)/(202)/(302)/(402) was also present in all trenches; it consisted of a dark yellowish brown silty clay with small stones and chalk nodules. It was 0.05–0.15m thick and is likely to be the result of limited ploughing.

3.2.3 Natural geology

The undisturbed geological deposits (103)/(203)/(303)/(403) consisted of Gault Clay overlain in places by patches of Boulder Clay.

3.3 Archaeological Remains

No datable archaeological features were identified in any of the trenches; however, a small number of features of likely man-made origin but of uncertain date were identified.

3.3.1 Furrows

Trench 1 contained two fairly well-defined NW-SE orientated bands of subsoil within shallow linear depressions, [104] and [109]. The bands were spaced approximately 8m apart and were less than 0.15m deep with shallow, gently sloping profiles. Both bands of subsoil were *c*. 2.7m wide and are likely to be the remains of regularly spaced medieval furrows. No finds were recovered from the excavation of either furrow.

A similar band of subsoil-like material was identified in Trench 2; furrow [204] shared an identical NW-SE orientation to those in Trench 1. It was 1.7m wide and less than 0.1m deep. Its north-eastern side was defined by a smear of degraded chalk, which is likely to have been the product of disturbance of the natural geology by ploughing.



No furrows were identified within Trench 3, which was aligned parallel with the likely alignment of the strip fields. Trench 4 contained two spreads of subsoil-like material, c. 8.6m apart. Upon excavation features [404] and [405] proved to be less than 0.2m deep; however, the diffuse edges of the spreads within the trench makes it less certain that the deposits were associated with furrows rather than just natural variation in the underlying geology.

3.3.2 Ditch terminus

A ditch [105] was identified toward the centre of Trench 1. It was orientated NW-SE (parallel to the adjacent furrows), had relatively steep sides and terminated to the south-east within the trench. Although the ditch was relatively narrow, less than 0.9m wide by 0.4m deep, its irregular profile suggests that it may have been re-cut on at least one occasion. It had a basal fill (106) of redeposited geology, a slightly humic main fill (107), and a tertiary fill (108) similar to the subsoil above. No finds were recovered from the feature.

Whilst its central position between two furrows and slightly topsoil-like main fill may hint at a post-medieval date, this may be coincidental and the ditch may have just been aligned perpendicular to the local relief — draining in to the Dam Brook, directly to the north-west.

3.3.3 Pit / posthole

Trench 2 contained a poorly defined pit or posthole [205]. It was located towards the south-east end of the trench and extended beyond the north-east baulk. It was approximately 0.7m in diameter and less than 0.3m deep.

No finds were recovered from its mid-brownish black silty clay fill (206); however, it did contain a number of large stones towards the base that may support its interpretation as a large posthole. The slightly humic nature of the fill suggests that the feature may have been backfilled relatively recently.

3.3.4 Plough scars

Two parallel plough scars, [306] and [308], were present at the north-west end of Trench 3, c. 2.3m apart. They were aligned NE-SW and were less than 0.1m wide and were fairly ephemeral in nature. Sample excavation of the south-eastern of the two produced a fragment of slate roofing tile (not retained), which supports their interpretation as post-medieval/modern features.

3.3.5 Modern service

The modern machine-cut service trench that necessitated the adjustment to Trench 2 was also located at the intersection of Trenches 3 and 4. It is understood to contain live drainage (Mr J. Peck, pers. comm.) and was not excavated.



3.4 Natural Features

'Natural' features, although not anthropogenic in origin, are occasionally exploited by human activity or have the potential to provide significant palaeoenvironmental information.

A pit-like feature [304] was identified on the north-west edge of Trench 3; its irregular profile suggests that it was a tree-throw. It was a maximum of 1.4m in diameter and less than 0.15m deep, but extended beyond the limits of the trench. The part of the feature that was visible was sub-ovoid in plan with an irregular base. It was defined by a topsoil-like halo of fill, but on excavation it was found to contain a sterile mid yellowish brown silty clay (305). The feature did not contain any finds or environmental remains.



4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Summary of Results

The archaeological evaluation revealed no features or deposits that are likely to pre-date the medieval period. No evidence for domestic activity of any period was identified.

It is likely that the furrows in Trenches 1, 2, and 4 are remnants of a medieval open field system. The ditch terminus [105] in Trench 1 is also likely to have been agricultural in origin but it cannot be dated. The undated posthole [205] in Trench 2 may simply relate to the temporary subdivision of the current field (as visible in historical Google Earth imagery).

No significant features were found within the footprint of the building sampled by Trenches 3 and 4.

4.2 Significance of Results

The evaluation showed that in the medieval period the PDA was most likely to have been part of the open field system around Scotland Farm, with the arable strips arranged at right angles to the Dam Brook and Scotland Road. This scenario is mirrored by the evidence uncovered in recent investigations to the west of the brook (Ingham 2008).

The shallow depth of the subsoil and survival of sub-surface furrows suggests that the PDA has not been heavily ploughed in recent years. The absence of archaeological features is not, therefore, a product of modern truncation, but a real reflection of the absence of remains in this area. This is supported by the absence of unstratified finds within the topsoil and metal-detected artefacts.

In the absence of any dating evidence, the limited archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluation are of negligible to low significance and have no potential to address any of the research priorities identified in the regional research framework. In conclusion, the proposed development is unlikely to have any significant archaeological impact.



5. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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- Medlycott, M., 2011, Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper 24



6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36757: Northing: 60063)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36750: Northing: 60049)

Reason: To sample the footprint of the proposed access track.

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
101	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones		
102	Subsoil	Firm dark yellow brown silty clay frequent small chalk, frequent small-medium stones	✓	
103	Natural	Firm light yellow brown silty clay frequent small chalk, occasional small-large stones	46	
104	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.751 max depth 0.1m	n, 🗸	
105	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.4m, min length 1.m	✓	
106	Lower fill	Firm light yellow brown silty clay frequent small chalk	~	
107	Main fill	Friable dark brown silty clay occasional small stones	~	
108	Upper fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones	~	
109	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 2.65n max depth 0.15m	ı, 🗸	

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 16.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36765: Northing: 60124)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36770: Northing: 60110)

Reason: To sample the footprint of the proposed access track.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
201	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
202	Subsoil	Firm dark yellow brown silty clay frequent small chalk, frequent small-medium stones	V	III.
203	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, frequent small- medium stones		
204	Furrow	Linear NE-SW sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.08m, max depth 2.7m	V	
205	Pit	Sub-circular sides; steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth $0.71\mathrm{m}$, midepth $0.27\mathrm{m}$	ax 🔽	Facility P States of Control of C
206	Fill	Compact mid brown black silty clay occasional flecks chalk, frequent small- medium stones, occasional large stones	\checkmark	



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.35 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36788: Northing: 60144)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36798: Northing: 60138)

Reason: To sample footprint of proposed new store.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
301	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	V	
302	Subsoil	Firm dark yellow brown silty clay frequent small chalk, frequent small-medium stones	V	(1) (1) (2) (1) (3) (1)
303	Natural	Firm light yellow brown silty clay frequent small-medium chalk		
304	Treethrow	Sub-oval sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, ma: depth 0.15m	<u> </u>	
305	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small chalk, occasional small stones	\checkmark	
306	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.1m, min length 1.6m	✓	(2) (2) (4) (4) (4) (4)
307	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓	
308	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW $$ sides: V-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.1m, max length 1.6m $$. 🗸	Towns of the state
309	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓	

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36803: Northing: 60147)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36793: Northing: 60130)

Reason: To sample footprint of proposed new store.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
401	Topsoil	Firm dark blue brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
402	Subsoil	Firm dark yellow brown silty clay frequent small chalk, frequent small-medium stones	V	
403	Natural	Firm light yellow brown silty clay frequent small-medium chalk		
404	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: irregular base: flat dimensions: max breadth 3.m, ma depth 0.2m	az 🗸	
405	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides; irregular base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, max denth 0.1m	V	



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: albic	onar1-289827
Project details	
Project name	Scotland Farm, Dry Drayton - store and access
Short description of the project	Trial trench evaluation prior to construction of an agricultural store and access track. The evaluation comprised the excavation of a total of four trial trenches across the footprint of the proposed building and access track. No archaeological remains pre-dating the medieval period were revealed. The trenches within the proposed route of the access track identified three furrows of probably medieval origin, an undated ditch terminus and an undated pit/posthole. The trenches within the footprint of the proposed building identified an undated tree-throw hole, two further probable furrows and some modern plough marks.
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2017 End: 28-07-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SF3202 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5173 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	FURROW Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	TREE THROW Uncertain
Monument type	PLOUGH MARKS Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DRY DRAYTON Scotland Farm, Dry Drayton - store and access
Postcode	CB23 8AU
Study area	0.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3677 6014 52.222044119574 0.002480532787 52 13 19 N 000 00 08 E



	Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Gary Edmondson
Project supervisor	Ben Barker
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Stores
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Microfilm","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Scotland Farm, Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation
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Other bibliographic details	Report no. 2017/126
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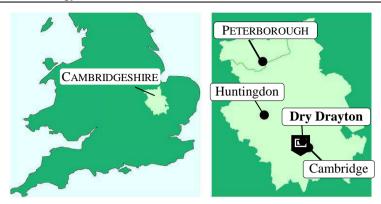


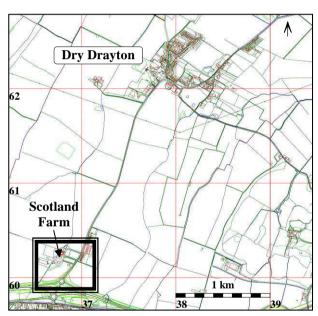
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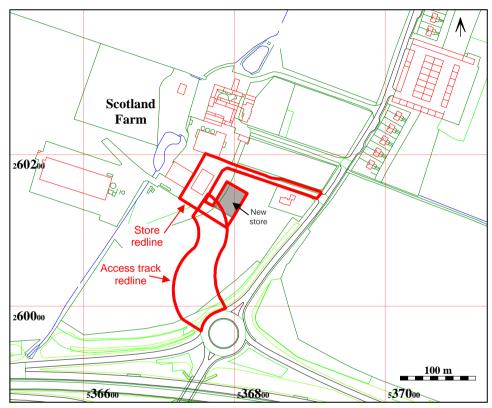
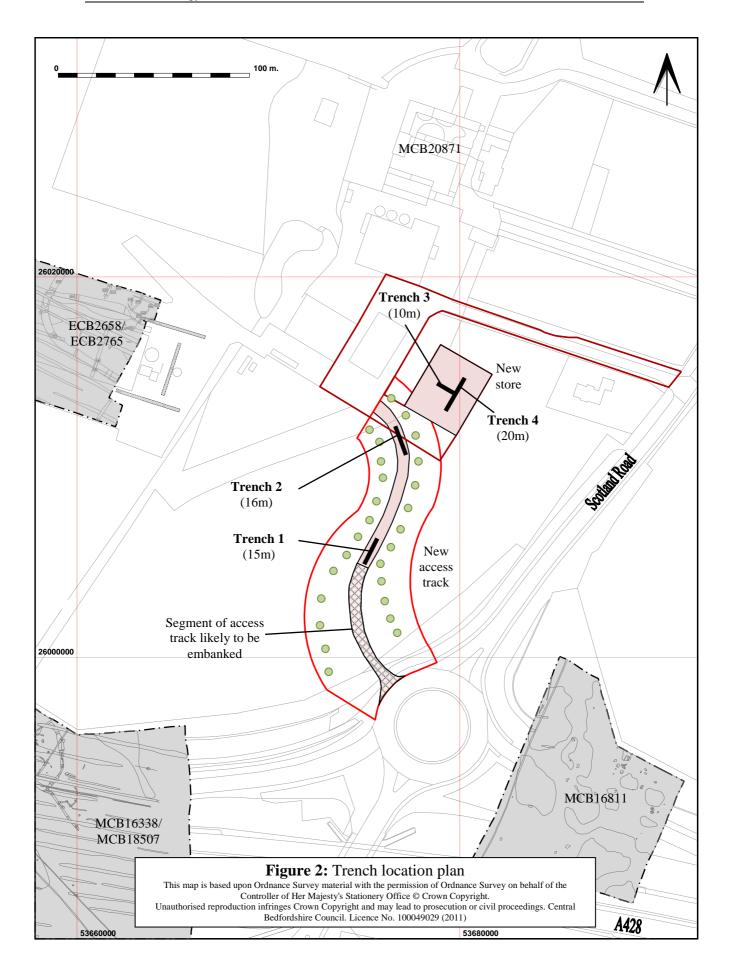


Figure 1: Site location plan

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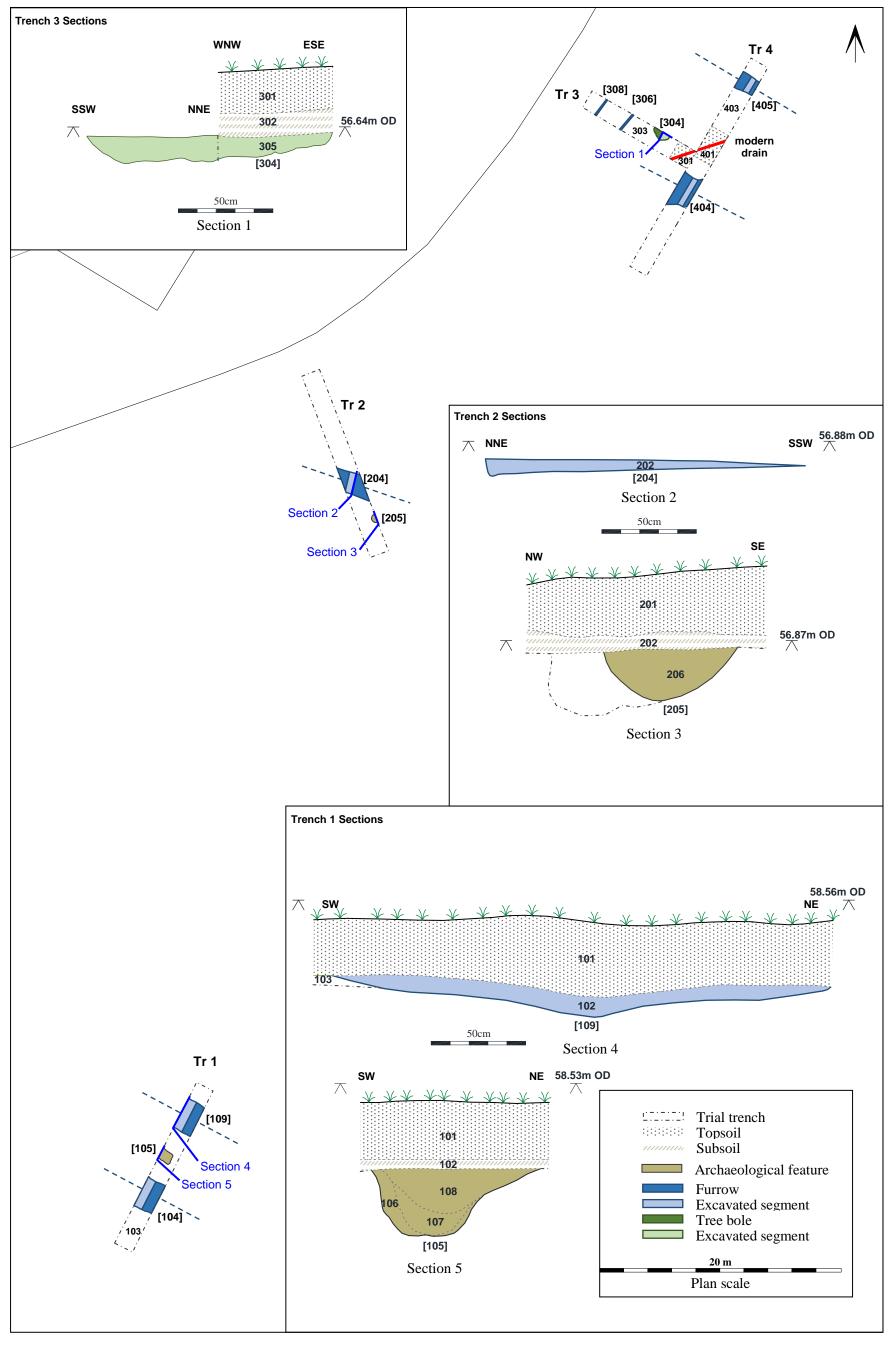


Figure 3: All-features plan and sections

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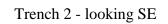
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Trench 1 - looking SW







Trench 2 - looking NW

Trench 1 - looking SW

Figure 4: Selected photographs



Albion archaeology



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