BEDFORD ACADEMY CARETAKER'S BUNGALOW MILE ROAD BEDFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

Albion archaeology





BEDFORD ACADEMY CARETAKER'S BUNGALOW MILE ROAD BEDFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

Project: BA3222 Museum accession no.: BEDFM 2017.92

OASIS no.: albionar1-293729

Document: 2017/155 Version 1.0

4th October 2017

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
B. Carroll	R. Wardill	D. Shotliff

Prepared for: MK40 Architects Ltd

On behalf of: HEART Academies Trust



Contents

	List	List of Figures2					
	List of Images						
	Pref	face	3				
	Vers	sion History	3				
	Non	n-Technical Summary	4				
1	II	NTRODUCTION	5				
•							
	1.1	Planning Background					
	1.2	Site Location and Description	6				
	1.3	Archaeological and Historical Background	6				
	1.4	Project Objectives	7				
	1.5	Methodology	8				
2	. F	RESULTS	9				
	2.1	Introduction	9				
	2.2	Trench 1	9				
	2.3	Trench 2	10				
	2.4	Geotechnical Trench 3	11				
	2.5	Geotechnical Trench 4	11				
3	. 8	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	13				
	3.1	Introduction	13				
	3.2	Late Iron Age and Roman Features	13				
	3.3	Modern Features	13				
	3.4	Conclusions	13				
4	. E	BIBLIOGRAPHY	14				
5	Δ	APPENDIX: TRENCH TABLES	15				



List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: All-features plan and sections

List of Images

Image 1: Trench 1, looking ENE Image 2: Trench 2, looking NNW

Image 3: Trench 1, Section 1, looking NNW

Image 4: Trench 2, baulk Section 2, looking WSW

Image 5: Geotechnical Trench 3, looking east Image 6: Geotechnical Trench 3, looking SE

Image 7: Geotechnical Trench 3, baulk section, looking south

Image 8: Geotechnical Trench 4, looking NE

Image 9: Geotechnical Trench 4, baulk section, looking north

The figures and images are bound at the back of the report.



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).

Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for any other purpose than the purposes for which it was commissioned. 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 current state of knowledge.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Benjamin Carroll (Supervisor). This document was written by Benjamin Carroll. The plans and figures were prepared by Joan Lightening and Benjamin Carroll. The project was managed by Rob Wardill (Project Manager). Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager) and Hester Cooper-Reade (Business Manager).

Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford, MK42 0AS \$\mathbb{\alpha}\$: 0300 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	04/10/2017	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team of BBC
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

HEART Academies Trust was granted planning permission by Bedford Borough Council for the demolition of the existing caretaker's bungalow and the erection of a two-storey office building with staff training facilities and ancillary areas at Bedford Academy, Mile Road, Bedford (17/001335/FUL).

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken as the initial stage of work required to address condition no. 7 on the permission. The work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation agreed with the Historic Environment Team of Bedford Borough Council. In addition to the trial trench evaluation, a watching brief was undertaken to monitor geotechnical investigations that broke new ground.

In all trenches the superficial geology comprised typical river terrace deposits of the Great Ouse floodplain, consisting of sands and gravels of the Felmersham Member. The depths at which the deposits occurred were broadly similar (0.61m and 0.7m below ground surface in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively).

In each trench, the earliest layers comprised mid-orange-brown sandy silt subsoil, overlying the natural geology. This is probably associated with agricultural use of the site since the medieval period. Trench 1 also contained buried topsoil pre-dating the bungalow construction, as did geotechnical Trenches 3 and 4.

Later sand and gravel layers, associated with the construction of the bungalow and various phases of patios, were present in both trial trenches; so too were turf and topsoil deposits associated with modern garden cultivation.

Late Iron Age / Roman remains were identified in both trial trenches. They comprised two ditches and two pits, containing pottery, tile and animal bone fragments. These remains are likely to be associated with contemporary settlement, known from other excavations and artefact find-spots in the vicinity. The features are of local and regional significance and have the potential to address regional research frameworks relating to settlement form, pattern and economy.

Trench 2 also revealed an 18th- to 19th-century ditch, associated with earlier land use on the site. It is of negligible archaeological significance.

No archaeological remains were revealed within the geotechnical trenches.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Planning permission (17/001335/FUL) for the demolition of the existing caretaker's bungalow and the erection of a two-storey office building with staff training facilities and ancillary areas at Bedford Academy, Mile Road, Bedford was granted by Bedford Borough Council (BBC).

Due to the high archaeological potential of the permitted development area (PDA) a condition (no. 7) was attached to the planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy. The condition reads as follows:

No development shall take place until an archaeological strategy for evaluation and if necessary, a further mitigation strategy based on the outcome of the evaluation, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The archaeological mitigation strategy shall include a timetable and the following components (the completion of each to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority will result in a separate confirmation of compliance for each component):-.

- (i) fieldwork and/or preservation 'In situ' of archaeological remains;
- (ii) a post-excavation assessment report (to be submitted within six months of the completion of fieldwork);
- (iii) a post-excavation analysis report, preparation of site archive ready for deposition at a store approved by the Local Planning Authority, completion of an archive report, and submission of a publication report (to be completed within two years of the completion of fieldwork).

The archaeological mitigation strategy shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and timings.

REASON: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely preservation and/or investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance with Saved Policies BE24 & BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002, Policy CP23 of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (2008) and according to national policies contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, March 2012). The Local Planning Authority is satisfied that the timing of compliance is fundamental to the development permitted and that the permission ought to be refused unless the condition is imposed in this form.



The condition was attached on the advice of the Borough Council's Historic Environment Team (HET), who specified that the first stage of the mitigation strategy should consist of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching.

The HET issued a brief for the evaluation (BBC 2017). Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2017) in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition and brief, and to carry out the evaluation.

The results of the evaluation and their appraisal by the HET will inform any further works that might be required for the mitigation of construction impacts on archaeological remains. If further archaeological investigations are required, they will be the subject of a separate WSI.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The PDA lies on the southern fringes of Bedford. It is situated within the Kingsbrook ward of the town, on the southern side of the eastern end of Mile Road, MK42 9TR.

The PDA lies c. 1.9km to the south-east of Bedford town centre and is situated between the River Great Ouse and the Elstow Brook tributary. It is centred on NGR TL 05968 47828 and lies at a height of c. 27.5m OD. The superficial geology consists of sands and gravels of the Felmersham Member. The underlying solid geology is Peterborough Member mudstone¹.

The PDA is c.0.06ha in extent and is located immediately to the west of the main entrance to Bedford Academy. At the time of the fieldwork the site was occupied by a late 20th-century bungalow with associated garden and hard-standing.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological brief (BBC 2017) states that "that the proposed development is located in an area of high archaeological interest within a historic landscape situated between the River Great Ouse and the Elstow Brook which contains extensive remains from the early prehistoric period onwards."

Archaeological excavations associated with the construction of the original Academy buildings, during the 1960s and 1970s, uncovered late Iron Age remains including enclosures and at least one building (HER 979). The remains of a late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery-production site were also uncovered to the west of the school, along with limited evidence of Saxon activity. To the east, archaeological investigations in advance of housing development in the 1990s identified evidence for Neolithic and early Bronze Age activity in the form of an oval barrow and hengiform monument (HER 18235).

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials ©NERC [2014]



The 2011 excavation at Bedford Academy (Ingham 2017) revealed part of a late Iron Age to early Roman agricultural settlement, overlying the fragmentary remains of prehistoric fields and late Neolithic activity. The excavated part of the settlement seems to have related primarily to the management of livestock, with a complex system of interconnecting enclosures that were reworked on several occasions. Few signs of human habitation were found, with no buildings conclusively identified, suggesting that the domestic part of the settlement lay elsewhere. There is no indication that the settlement continued in use beyond the early 2nd century AD, although the site was re-used for small-scale settlement in the early Saxon period. Evidence of post-Saxon activity was limited to medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, prior to the 20th century.

1.4 Project Objectives

The project objectives were outlined in the WSI and are discussed below.

The most 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).

The general purpose of the evaluation was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the PDA;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the PDA;
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The investigation was most likely to identify remains dating from the prehistoric to Saxon periods. As such, the work had the potential to contribute to the following research themes:

- Settlement form and pattern understanding of enclosed and unenclosed settlements, settlement distribution and association/utilisation of the surrounding landscape
- Settlement character settlement function and use of space
- Settlement continuity evidence for earlier and later settlement at the site
- Chronology development of regional pottery sequences, clarification of the dating of pottery sequences
- Economy nature of regional and local agrarian economy, identification of specialist production sites
- Material culture artefact distribution studies may add to understanding of regional cultural differences possibly representing tribal divisions
- Environment improve understanding of palaeoenvironmental resource, rate and extent of enclosure of landscape.



1.5 Methodology

The methodology employed for the investigation is detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2017). The site recording procedures are set out in the Albion *Procedures Manual* (2001).

Two trial trenches were excavated (Figures 1 and 2) over two days, 18th to 19th September 2017, in a period of mainly dry weather. Trench 1 was 9.3m by 2m and Trench 2 was 6.3m by 2m (Images 1 and 2). The trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. The trenches were machined down to a depth of 0.69–0.87m below the ground surface, through layers of modern (19th- and 20th-century) garden activity and earlier agricultural use.

Subsequent to the trial trenching, four narrow geotechnical trenches were excavated on 25th September 2017; at the HET's request they were archaeologically monitored. Two of the geotechnical trenches were located within the completed evaluation trenches and, therefore, did not require monitoring (Figure 1). Trench 3 was 4.1m by 0.5m and Trench 4 was 3.2m by 0.5m (Images 5–9). The trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator with a breaker and toothed bucket. They were machined down beneath the archaeological horizons, to a depth of between 1.2–3m below the ground surface, through layers of modern (19th- and 20th-century) garden activity and earlier agricultural use.



2. RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

The results are summarised below and the descriptions and interpretations should be read in conjunction with the figures and images bound at the back of the report. The results from each trench are presented below in chronological order.

All deposits recorded during the fieldwork are summarised below and shown on Figure 2 and Images 1–9. Context numbers in square brackets refer to cut features [**] and those in round brackets refer to fills or layers (**). Detailed context information is provided in the Appendix.

2.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 9.3m x 2m, and was located to the north of the existing bungalow.

Overburden extended down to between 0.61–0.66m below ground level to the top of the undisturbed geological horizon.

2.2.1 Modern overburden

Levelling layer (101) comprised loose, light yellow sand and gravel. It was present to a depth of 0.08m, forming a sand bed for concrete paving slabs.

Below levelling layer (101) was a turf line and topsoil (102), dark brown-grey sandy silt, which was present to a depth of 0.15m. They were similar to garden soil in composition and probably represent an earlier grassed area associated with the bungalow.

Levelling layer (103) comprised loose, mid-yellow-grey sand and gravel with occasional pieces of concrete paver. It underlay layer (102) and probably represents construction debris from the bungalow itself.

2.2.2 Buried topsoil and subsoil

Buried topsoil (104) was mid-brown-grey sandy silt, up to 0.25m thick. It sealed subsoil (105), which comprised mid-orange-brown sandy silt, up to 0.17m thick. These layers probably represent earlier agricultural use of the site.

2.2.3 Geological stratum

The natural stratum (106) comprised light yellow-orange sandy gravel, found at a depth of 0.66m below ground level.



2.2.4 Roman ditch and pits

Three features were identified and excavated within Trench 1. Ditch [109] was aligned SSE-NNW; it was up to 1.22m wide and 0.35m deep. It cut subcircular pit [107] and was itself cut by a similar pit [112]. Both pits were broadly 0.65m in diameter and 0.11m deep. The ditch contained twelve late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery sherds (fabric types F06B, F06C, F33²: 130g), representing five vessels, and an indeterminate animal bone fragment (1g). No datable artefacts were recovered from either pit.

2.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 6.2m x 2m and was located to the west of the existing bungalow. Deposits extended down to 0.7m below ground level to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits.

2.3.1 Modern overburden

The uppermost part of the trench contained a layer of dark grey-brown garden soil (201) up to 0.32m thick. The garden soil lay above a loose, light yellow-white sand and gravel deposit (202), up to 0.1m thick, associated with the construction of a paved area. Below this, layer (203) comprised mid-brown-orange re-deposited natural gravel. It was up to 0.15m thick and probably represents levelling of the ground surface before construction of the bungalow or paved area.

2.3.2 Subsoil

Unlike Trench 1, no buried topsoil was revealed; it is likely that the original topsoil was stripped during the construction of the bungalow leaving only subsoil (204) — a mid-orange-brown sandy silt up to 0.15m thick. This layer probably represents earlier agricultural use of the site.

2.3.3 Natural stratum

The natural stratum (205) comprised light yellow-orange sandy gravel, found at a depth of 0.7m below ground level.

2.3.4 Roman ditch

Ditch [206] was aligned SSE-NNW; it was at least 0.55m wide and 0.19m deep. It was substantially truncated by a modern ditch [208] and also extended beyond the NW corner of the trench. Its fill (207) contained three abraded shell-tempered pottery sherds (fabric R13: 84g), dating to the early Roman period.

2.3.5 Modern ditch

Broadly linear feature [208] most probably represents an E-W aligned ditch. It was up to 1.5m wide and 0.74m. Its upper fill (210) may derive from the erosion of the earlier ditch fill (207). Finds recovered from feature [208] comprise two 17th- to 18th-century glazed earthenware pottery sherds (fabric P01: 11g), a sherd of 19th-century transfer-printed ware (P45), two sand-tempered post-medieval flat roof tile fragments (35g) and two pieces of clay

_

² Pottery fabrics defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series.



tobacco pipe stem (5g). Ten abraded pieces of animal bone (52g) mainly comprising sheep/goat mandible fragments were also collected.

2.4 Geotechnical Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 4.2m x 0.5m, and was located to the north east of the existing bungalow. A gas pipe at the western end of the trench (approximately 0.4m below the ground surface) led to the trench being moved approximately 1m further east. During excavation of the eastern end of the trench an electrical cable (approximately 1m below the ground surface) was uncovered and further investigation was curtailed.

Deposits extended down to 1.1m below ground level to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits. No archaeological remains were found.

2.4.1 Modern overburden

The uppermost part of the trench contained a layer of mid-grey-brown garden soil (301) up to 0.5m thick, representing a grassed area associated with the bungalow.

2.4.2 Buried topsoil and subsoil

The garden soil (301) lay above firm dark brown-grey buried topsoil (302), up to 0.3m thick, below which was subsoil (303), mid-orange-brown sandy silt up to 0.3m thick. These layers probably represent earlier agricultural use of the site.

2.4.3 Natural stratum

The natural stratum (304) comprised light yellow-orange sandy gravel, found at a depth of 1.1m below ground level.

2.5 Geotechnical Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 3.2m x 0.5m and was located to the south of the existing bungalow. A cable was uncovered approximately 0.4m below the ground and the trench was moved 0.5m to the north.

Deposits extended down to 0.83m below ground level to the top of the undisturbed geological horizon. No archaeological remains were found.

2.5.1 Modern overburden

Tarmac driveway (401), cemented and dark grey, was present to a depth of 0.13m. It sealed levelling layer (402), a loose, mid-orange-yellow sand and gravel, present to a depth of 0.2m.

2.5.2 Buried topsoil and subsoil

The buried topsoil (403) was dark brown-grey sandy silt up to 0.2m thick, below which was subsoil (404), mid-orange-brown sandy silt up to 0.3m thick. These layers probably represent earlier agricultural use of the site.



2.5.3 Natural stratum

The natural stratum (205) comprised light yellow-orange sandy gravel, found at a depth of 0.7m below ground level.



3. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Introduction

Most areas of ground outside the footprint of the bungalow remained undisturbed and have revealed evidence of preserved archaeological remains. Features were identified in both trial trenches and included remains dating from the late Iron Age / Roman and modern periods. No archaeological remains were present in the geotechnical trenches. The principal features revealed and their significance are summarised below.

3.2 Late Iron Age and Roman Features

Archaeological remains linked to these periods were present in both trenches and comprised a small focus of late Iron Age / Roman activity, including two ditches on a broadly similar alignment and two associated pits.

The main evidence of activity for this period comes from the two ditches [109]/[206], which produced moderate amounts (214g) of small to medium-sized pottery sherds, as well as burnt stone fragments and small amounts of animal bone. Neither of the pits in Trench 1 produced any finds; they are assigned to the late Iron Age / Roman period on the basis of their relationship with ditch [109].

3.3 Modern Features

Evidence for an E-W boundary ditch [209] predating the bungalow construction was revealed in Trench 2. It contained small amounts of 17th- to 19th-century pottery sherds (12g), clay pipe (5g), tile (35g) and animal bone (52g). The feature is not visible on any early OS maps but it is possible that it was linked to land division for urban smallholdings or gardens in the area. It is of negligible archaeological significance.

3.4 Conclusions

In summary, regionally significant archaeological remains were discovered within the trial trenches. They represent evidence of late Iron Age / Roman activity in the vicinity of the site and are features of local and regional significance that have the potential to address regional research frameworks relating to settlement form, pattern and economy (see Section 1.4).



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology 2001, Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd ed.
- Albion Archaeology 2017, Bedford Academy Caretaker's Bungalow, Mile End Road, Bedford: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation. Document reference 2017/136.
- Archaeological Archives Forum 2007, Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation.
- Bedford Borough Council (BBC) 2017, Brief for a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation at Bedford Academy, Mile Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire. August 2017.
- Ingham, D., 2017 "Livestock management at Bedford Academy in the 1st century AD", *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, **27**, 105–35.
- Medlycott, M. (ed) 2011, Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the east of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
- Oake, M., 2007, 'Research Agenda and Strategy', in Oake et al. 2007.
- 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.



5. APPENDIX: TRENCH TABLES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 9.30 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.61 m. Max: 0.66 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05967/47835 OS Grid Ref.: TL 05958/47832

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
101	Levelling layer	Loose light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones Recent leveling for concrete patio slabs.	✓	
102	Turf line	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Recent turf and topsoil for the bungalow's garden.	✓	
103	Levelling layer	Loose mid yellow grey sandy gravel occasional small-medium concrete Recent leveling possibly for the bungalow construction.	•	
104	Buried topsoil	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	✓	
105	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	✓	
106	Natural	Compact mid yellow orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones		
107	Pit	Sub-circular sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.08m, max diameter 0.6m Cut by ditch [109].	✓	
108	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt moderate small stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	•	
109	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.22m, max depth 0.35m, min length 2.2m Cuts pit [107] and cut by pit [112	✓ .	
110	Lower fill	Firm light yellow brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	•	
111	Upper fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	✓	•
112	Pit	Sub-circular sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.11m, max diameter 0.65m Cuts ditch [109].	✓	
113	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	✓	



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 6.20 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.69 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05957/47829

OS Grid Ref.: TL 05959/47823

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
201	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Garden soil, heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	✓	
202	Levelling layer	Loose light yellow white sandy gravel moderate small stones Recent levelin for concrete patio slabs.	g 🗸	
203	Make up layer	Loose mid brown orange sandy gravel frequent small stones Re-deposited natural for making up the ground level prior to the construction of the patio	✓	
204	Subsoil	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt moderate small stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	i 🗸	
205	Natural	Compact mid yellow orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones		
206	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, min depth 0.19m, min length 0.8m Cut by ditch [208].	✓	
207	Fill	Friable dark grey black sandy silt occasional medium burnt stones, occasional small stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	✓	•
208	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, max depth 0.74m, min length 2.2m Cuts ditch [207].	✓	
209	Lower fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt moderate small stones Heavily disturbed by root intrusions.	✓	•
210	Upper fill	Firm mid brown black sandy silt moderate small stones Heavily disturbed by rocintrusions, causing contamination with material from ditch [207].	ot 🗸	•

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 4.10 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05974/47839

Reason: Geotechnical trench to test the geology.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
301	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Garden soil.	✓	
302	Buried topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt frequent small stones	✓	
303	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
304	Natural	Compact mid yellow orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones		

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 3.20 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05966/47818

Reason: Geotechnical trench to test the geology.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present	t:
401	Tarmac	Cemented dark grey black tarmac moderate small-medium stones	•	
402	Levelling layer	Loose light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones Part of the driveway construction.	V	
403	Buried topsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt frequent small stones	•	
404	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
405	Natural	Compact mid yellow orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones		



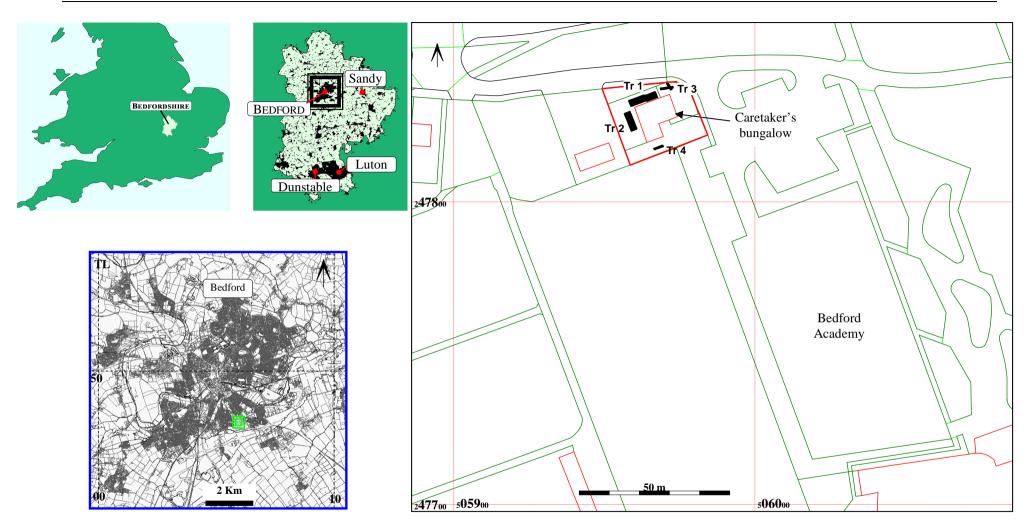


Figure 1: Site location

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)



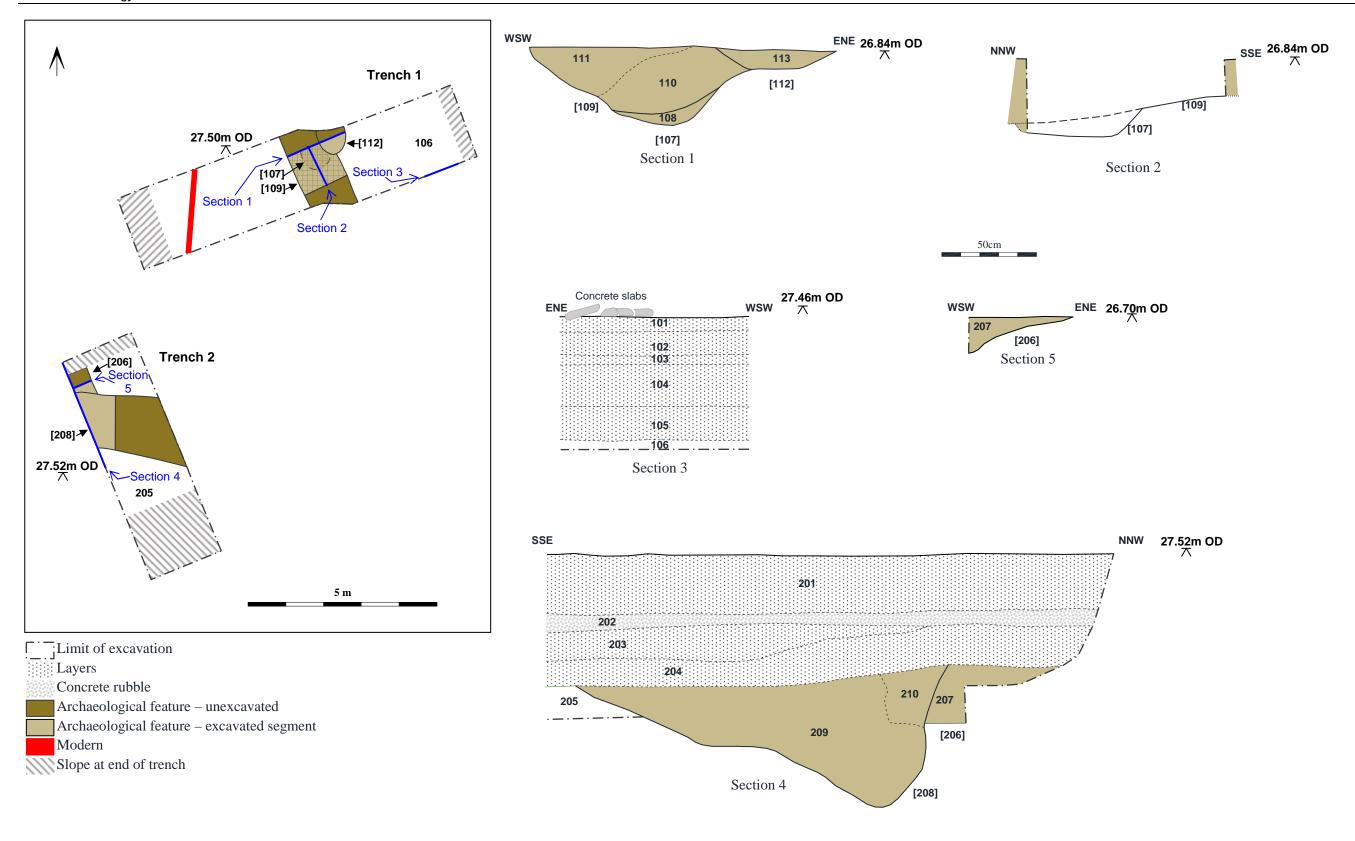


Figure 2: All-features plan and sections





Image 1: Trench 1, looking ENE

Shows Roman features, NNW-SSE ditch [109] and pits [107] / [112], and modern drain in the foreground



Image 2: Trench 2, looking NNW

Shows Roman NNW-SSE ditch [206] and modern E-W ditch [208]





Image 3: Trench 1, Section 1, looking NNW Shows Roman ditch [109] and pits [107] / [112]



Image 4: Trench 2, baulk Section 2, looking WSW Shows Roman ditch [206] and modern ditch [208]





Image 5: Geotechnical Trench 3, looking east



Image 6: Geotechnical Trench 3, looking SE



Image 7: Geotechnical Trench 3, baulk section, looking south Shows layers (301) – (304).





Image 8: Geotechnical Trench 4, looking NE Shows natural geology (405)



Image 9: Geotechnical Trench 4, baulk section, looking north

Shows layers (401) – (405)



Albion archaeology



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

