

134 LONDON ROAD  
CHATTERIS  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**Albion**  
archaeology



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CHATTERIS  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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## ***Contents***

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Non-Technical Summary	4
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Project Background	5
1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology	5
1.3 Archaeological Background	6
<b>2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. RESULTS</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Introduction	11
4.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits	11
4.3 Archaeological Remains	12
4.4 Finds Summary	13
<b>5. CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>16</b>
5.1 Summary of Results	16
5.2 Interpretation of Results	16
5.3 Significance of Results	17
<b>6. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7. CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>8. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM</b>	<b>24</b>



## **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: All-features plan

Figure 3: Section drawings

Figure 4: Trenching results overlaid onto plan of former garden centre

Figure 5: Selected photographs of Trenches 1–3

Figure 6: Selected photographs of Trenches 4, 7–9

Figure 7: 1887 25-inch OS map

*The figures are located at the back of the report.*



## Preface

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## Acknowledgements

*The project was commissioned by Mr M. Taylor 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 Benjamin Carroll (Supervisor), Mike Emra (Assistant Supervisor) and Krzysztof Ryniec (Archaeological Technician). This report was prepared by Benjamin Carroll, with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).*

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## Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CHER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Miltons (Wallpapers) Ltd
HET	Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council
PDA	Proposed development area



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Fenland District Council granted planning permission (F/YR16/0780/F) for the erection of a garden centre (with restaurant area) and change of use of an existing building to a 3-bedroom dwelling at 134 London Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6SG.*

*Because of the high archaeological potential of the proposed development area (PDA), the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) advised that a condition should be attached to the planning consent, requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken at the site. The HET 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 from 4th to 9th January 2018 and comprised the excavation of ten trial trenches across the 1.4ha site. No archaeological remains pre-dating the medieval period were revealed. The features identified comprised eight furrows, four modern ditches, five modern postholes and two modern wall foundations. Two of the ditches and all the postholes relate to the boundary of the old Black Jack PH in the south of the PDA and the remaining features are all drainage and structural elements linked to the demolished garden centre.*

*The evaluation showed that in the medieval period the area around the PDA was most likely within open fields, with the arable strips arranged at right angles to London Road. There was no evidence of any earlier land-use. The land surface was reduced as part of the construction of a garden centre in the 20th century.*

*The archaeological features and deposits identified by the evaluation have limited potential to provide information on the changing morphology of the village of Chatteris, and the surrounding landscape, during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The development of rural settlements types and the dynamics of medieval settlement have been highlighted as research objectives within East Anglia (Medlycott 2011, 70) but the results of the evaluation have no potential to address these objectives.*

*Details of the project and its findings have been submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number: albionar1-300098. The project archive will be deposited with the CHET under event number ECB5281.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Project Background

Fenland District Council granted planning permission (F/YR16/0780/F) for the erection of a garden centre (with restaurant area) and change of use of an existing building to a 3-bed dwelling at 134 London Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6SG.

Because of the archaeological potential of the proposed development area (PDA), the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) advised that a programme of archaeological investigation should be secured through the inclusion of a condition on the permission. Condition no. 4 states that:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. For land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI which shall include the following components, completion of each of which will trigger the phased discharging of the condition:*

- *Excavation fieldwork in accordance with the agreed WSI;*
- *Completion of a Post-Excavation Assessment report;*
- *Completion of analysis, preparation of site archive ready for deposition at a store approved by the Local Planning Authority, production of an archive report, and submission of a publication report: to be completed within two years of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason - To secure the provision of the investigation and recording of archaeological remains and the reporting and dissemination of the results in accordance with Policy LP18 of the Local Plan.*

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

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

### 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Chatteris is a small market town on the fen edge. It lies *c.* 20km north-east of Huntingdon, *c.* 11 km south of March and *c.* 15km north-west of Ely. The



town's focus is along High Street, Park Street, Huntingdon Road and the northern part of London Road.

The PDA lies on the northern side of London Road (B1050), *c.* 2.5km south of Chatteris town centre (Figure 1). It comprises the site of a former garden centre (Figure 4), which has been demolished, and an area of rough ground totalling approximately 1.4ha in extent. Fronting London Road is property no. 134 which is a semi-derelict former dwelling.

The site lies at an approximate height of 4.5–8.5m OD and is centred on grid reference TL 3851 8404. The underlying geological deposits primarily comprise West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formations. No superficial deposits are recorded for the location of the PDA but peat, clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits are present in the surrounding landscape<sup>1</sup>.

### 1.3 **Archaeological Background**

Data recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) within a 1 km radius of the PDA was supplied by the HET as an appendix to the Design Brief.

There are two undesignated heritage assets within the boundaries of the PDA — the Black Jack beer house (MCB23608) and evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation (HER11641). The Black Jack is recorded on the first edition OS map in the location of the current building at the front of the PDA. However, it is not clear if the present-day building corresponds with the beer house recorded on historical maps (Figure 7).

An area of surviving ridge and furrow is located at the northern end of the PDA. Further evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity in the area is recorded through more ridge and furrow cultivation on areas east of the Ferry (HER11640), south of London Road, and the moated site of Wood House (HER0197A), which lies *c.* 75m to the east of the PDA. A number of post-medieval public houses and a stud farm are recorded along London Road, including the Black Jack (MCB23608, MCB21369, MCB23609, MCB23610, MCB23611 and MCB23612). However, most of these buildings are no longer extant.

Chatteris is recorded in the Domesday Survey as a relatively large settlement. Both Ramsey Abbey and Ely Abbey held land; their combined holdings comprised 29 households.

Archaeological investigations in the area have produced evidence for late prehistoric to Roman settlement activity and isolated evidence for Saxon occupation. The prehistoric period is represented by cropmarks, featuring roundhouses and enclosures, which have been confirmed by intrusive archaeological investigations (ECB2900 and ECB3632), *c.* 1km to the north-east of the PDA. Further evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is

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<sup>1</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed 02/11/2017]





provided by find-spots of an Iron Age quern stone (HER01507), a Neolithic stone axe (HER03699) and worked flint (HER10909).

Heritage assets dating to the Roman period are mainly located between 50 and 100m to the north-east, east and south-east of the PDA. Roman jewellery, pottery and tesserae have been recorded (HER02026 and HER03674).



## 2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

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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;
- The amount of truncation that might affect any remains, and whether palaeosols or 'B' horizons are present;
- General site formation processes.

The results of the evaluation were to be assessed with reference to regional research frameworks. Relevant research frameworks are *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) and English Heritage has produced an extensive library of national guides covering a wide range of topics<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/> [Accessed 09/10/2017].



### 3. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching took place between 4th and 9th January 2018. Ten trenches were excavated, each 40m long and between 1.8m and 2.5m wide (Figure 1).

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 100 for Trench 1, and 200 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* (3rd edn, 2017).
- ALGAO (East) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.
- Cambridgeshire County Council *Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire* (2017).  
*Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, 134 London Road, Chatteris*. 14 August 2017.
- CIjA<sup>3</sup>
  - *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).
- Historic England *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide* (2015).
- Historic England *Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice* (2014).  
*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).

<sup>3</sup> All CIjA codes, standards and guidelines are available at: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>.



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

The project archive will be deposited with the CHET under event number ECB5281.

Details of the project and its findings have been submitted to the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS database under reference number: albionar1-300098 (Appendix 2).



## 4. RESULTS

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### 4.1 Introduction

All features and deposits found during the investigations are described below and shown in Figures 2–4. Detailed information on all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1. Photographs of selected features and trenches are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

### 4.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Trenches 1–7 were situated within the bounds of the former garden centre; while Trenches 8–10 were located to the north in an area of scrubland. There was evidence of disturbance associated with the garden centre and its demolition in all the trenches as well as root disturbance.

A metal detector survey of the trenches and spoil was undertaken and produced a medieval coin, a copper alloy coin or token and large quantities of modern material from the demolition of the garden centre. Bucket sampling of the topsoil and subsoil from both ends of each trench produced occasional artefacts dating to the late medieval period; those recovered were assigned to the appropriate context.

#### 4.2.1 Overburden

A make-up layer was present across most of the PDA in Trenches 1–2, 4–5, and 8–10. It consisted of debris from the demolition of the garden centre, levelling of the site and hard standing for car parking and a trackway.

Below the make-up layers partially surviving topsoil was present in Trenches 1–4, 6–7, and 9. It comprised friable dark grey-black clay-silt that was typically *c.* 0.2m thick, except at the western end of Trench 2 (around the house) where it was up to 0.54m thick. The deposit was very thin in places as the area had most likely had been cleared of topsoil prior to the construction of the garden centre. The topsoil that did remain contained a reasonable quantity of modern refuse.

Subsoil was present in all trenches, attesting to former cultivation of the site. It consisted of mid-grey-brown silty clay with moderate small stones and fragments of ceramic building material. It was *c.* 0.2m thick on average, and contained occasional evidence of contamination from the demolition of the garden centre.

Layer (404) was only present between the subsoil and underlying geology in Trench 4, filling in a slight depression at least 8.4m wide and 0.1m deep (Figure 3, Section 12). It consisted of light grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and may represent (redeposited) alluvium. It produced a few medieval and post-medieval artefacts. It does correlate with the footprint of the main garden centre greenhouse and, therefore these finds may be residual with the depression related to the construction/demolition of the greenhouse.



#### 4.2.2 Natural geology

The undisturbed geology was consistent across the PDA and consisted of mid-brown-grey to yellow clay with occasional small stones and chalk inclusions, typical of a Boulder Clay deposit.

#### 4.3 Archaeological Remains

Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 2–4 and 7–9. They comprised at least eight furrows, four modern ditches, five modern postholes and two modern wall foundations relating to the former garden centre.

##### 4.3.1 Probable furrows

Eight furrows [219], [303], [307], [309], [406], [806], [808], [904] were present in Trenches 2–4 and 8–9. Their alignment varied slightly but was broadly NW-SE. The few finds they produced were late post-medieval in date. Excavation revealed that they had shallow sides, flat bases and relatively sterile fills; they were nearly all associated with later land-drains. They most likely represent furrows within an open field system.

##### 4.3.2 Modern ditches and postholes

Ditch [207] was present in Trench 2. It had steep straight sides and a concave base. It was up to 0.81m wide and 0.24m deep and contained a deposit of dark black clay-silt. It contained post-medieval to modern material, cut three land-drains and is parallel to London Road to the south. It is likely to represent a boundary associated with the Black Jack PH shown on the OS map of 1887 (Figure 7).

Modern postholes [209], [211], [213], [215], [217] were present in Trench 2. They had steep straight sides and uneven bases, were up to 0.4m in diameter and 0.13m deep and contained friable dark grey silty clay and the remains of square cut posts. They run adjacent and parallel to ditch [207] and are most likely associated with the Black Jack PH boundary described above.

Ditch [305] in Trench 3 had steep, straight sides and a concave base. It was up to 0.36m wide and 0.22m deep and was filled with a deposit of dark clay-silt. It was parallel to London Road to the south and matches the alignment of ditch [207] in Trench 2. It is likely therefore to be part of the same boundary feature.

Trench 7 contained modern ditch [703]. It had steep straight sides and a flat base. It was 1.27m wide and 0.24m deep and contained dark grey-black silty clay. It contained a large amount of modern material, including plastic waste and oil contamination; because of the latter no finds were retained.

Modern ditch [804] was present in Trench 8. It was only partially excavated but had steep straight sides and contained dark grey-black silty clay. It contained a large amount of modern material, including plastic compost bags, concrete and metal cans; no finds were retained.

##### 4.3.3 Modern wall foundations

Two parallel concrete wall foundations were present in Trench 1, approximately 8m apart and 0.6m wide. They were below the hard standing



layer (101) and correlate with a greenhouse that was part of the garden centre, shown on a topographical survey of the site (Figure 4).

#### 4.3.4 Electric cable trench

Trench 5 contained a service trench for a disused UK Power Networks electric cable, which broadly matched up with plans showing the cable's likely route and test pits excavated by the client to find its exact location.

#### 4.4 Finds Summary

All finds were assessed by Albion Archaeology in-house specialists. Jackie Wells examined all finds excluding the metalwork which was assessed by Holly Duncan.

Seventeen deposits — mainly topsoil and subsoil — yielded an assemblage comprising predominantly 18th-century and later pottery, vessel glass and building materials (Table 1). A few unstratified finds date to the medieval period.

Tr.	Feature/Fill	Description	Date range	Finds Summary
1	102	Buried topsoil	Modern	Pottery (32g); clay tobacco pipe (2g)
2	204	Buried garden soil	Modern	Pottery (365g); engineering brick (212g); clay tobacco pipe (29g); concrete roof tile (28g); vessel glass (55g); copper alloy lace tag (RA3); sawn bone offcut (RA6); animal bone (195g)
	205	Buried subsoil	Modern	Pottery (53g); ceramic roof tile (69g); clay tobacco pipe (4g); roofing slate (90g); animal bone (49g)
	207/208	Ditch	Modern	Pottery (33g); brick fragment (261g)
3	300	Topsoil	Modern	Pottery (7g); brick fragment (9g); clay tobacco pipe (1g); concrete drainage pipe (120g); ceramic sewer pipe (93g); vessel glass (14g)
	301	Subsoil	Modern	Pottery (31g); brick fragment (19g); concrete roof tile (22g); ceramic land drain (51g); vessel glass (14g)
	305/306	Ditch	LM/PM	Ceramic roof tile (182g); iron nail x1
4	402	Buried topsoil	Post-med	Pottery (12g); clay tobacco pipe (2g)
	403	Buried subsoil	Modern	Pottery (1g); window glass (1g)
	404	Alluvium	Post-med	Pottery (25g); clay tobacco pipe (33g); silver coin (RA4)
5	502	Subsoil	LM/PM	Ceramic roof tile (58g)
6	602	Subsoil	Modern	Pottery (17g); clay tobacco pipe (3g); bone bead or button blank (RA2)
7	701	Subsoil	LM/PM	Pottery (5g); brick fragment (28g)
8	802	Subsoil	Modern	Pottery (17g); brick fragment (128g); ceramic land drain (114g); vessel glass (50g); silver coin (RA1); copper alloy coin/token (RA5)
9	901	Topsoil	Modern	Pottery (52g); ceramic roof tile (17g)
	904/905	Furrow	Post-med	Pottery (10g); brick fragment (126g)
10	1001	Subsoil	Modern	Pottery (76g); clay tobacco pipe (2g); ceramic land drain (53g)

LM/PM – late medieval/post medieval

**Table 1:** Finds Summary by trench and feature

##### 4.4.1 Pottery

Sixty-three sherds (736g) were recorded by basic description, weight, count and ware type (Table 2), in accordance with Museum of London fabric codes (<http://www.mola.org.uk/medieval-and-post-medievalpottery-codes>). Sherds have a mean weight of 12g and are generally battered and abraded, consistent with their recovery from topsoil and subsoil deposits.

The majority of the assemblage is unstratified and of Victorian and later date. The few sherds pre-dating this period — Grimston ware (glazed jug), late



medieval oxidised ware, German stoneware (drinking vessels), black-glazed earthenware (bowls) and some of the glazed red earthenwares — are residual and reworked and have little intrinsic value.

Fabric type	Date range	No. Sherd	Wt. (g)	Fill/No. Sherd
Black-glazed earthenware	Late 17th century +	2	87	(204):1, (301):1
Creamware	1740-1880	10	25	(102):1, (204):1, (208):1, (602):2, (901):3, (905):1, (1001):1
English porcelain	1745-1900	1	2	(300):1
German stoneware – Frechen	1550-1700	1	11	(301):1
German stoneware – Raeren	1480-1610	1	19	(205):1
Glazed red earthenware	Mid-16th–19th century	12	195	(102):1, (204):2, (301):1, (404):2, (602):2, (901):1, (905):1, (1001):2
Grimston ware	c. 1300-1500	1	5	(701):1
Late medieval oxidised ware	1400-1500	1	5	(802):1
Nottingham brown stoneware	1700-1800	2	17	(402):1, (1001):1
Pearlware	1770-1840	1	7	(205):1
Terracotta plant pot	Modern	8	94	(102):2, (204):1, (205):3, (208):1, (403):1
Tin-glazed earthenware	1600-1800	1	6	(802):1
Transfer-printed earthenware	1800+	11	42	(204):6, (208):1, (301):2, (901):1, (1001):1
White earthenware	1805-1900	7	25	(102):1, (204):1, (205):1, (300):2, (402):1, (802):1
Yellow ware	1820-1900	3	14	(204):2, (602):1

**Table 2:** Pottery type series and quantification

#### 4.4.2 Clay tobacco pipe

Twenty-three clay tobacco pipe stem fragments (76g) were collected from topsoil/subsoil in Trenches 1–4, 6, 10 and from deposit (404). All stems are plain, and as such, not closely datable, although in the context of the site are likely to be of 18th- or 19th-century date.

#### 4.4.3 Metalwork

Five metal artefacts comprise two silver coins, a copper alloy lace tag and coin or token, and an iron nail (Table 3).

Artefact	Feature	Date	Description
RA1: Coin	(802) Subsoil	1582–1602	Silver Elizabethan half groat, 5th or 6th issue (2 pellets behind bust). Obverse legend E.D.G. ROSA SINE SPINA. Reverse legend CIVITAS LONDON. Shield over long cross. Wt. 1g
RA3: Lace tag	(204) Buried garden soil	Modern	Copper alloy. Tapering cylindrical tube, machine-cripped on long axis creating groove down centre on both sides and figure-8 section. Two horizontal grooves 3mm from mouth and 3mm apart. L.22mm; W.7.5mm; Th. 4.2mm.
RA4: Coin	(404) Alluvium	1272–1470	Silver long cross (3 pellets in each quarter) farthing of Edward I-IV. Very worn obverse legend illegible. Reverse partly legible (CIVITAS LONDON?). Wt. 0.3g
RA5: Coin or token	(802) Subsoil	Modern	Copper alloy coin or token? Illegible. Size suggestive of third farthing (used in Malta). Diameter 14.2mm; Wt. 1.6g.
- Nail	[305]/(306) Ditch	Late med / early post-medieval	Iron nail with rectangular faceted head(?) and tapering rectangular sectioned shank (6 x 5.5mm), lower shank and tip missing. L. 51mm.

**Table 3:** Catalogue of metal finds

#### 4.4.4 Vessel glass

Five unstratified vessel glass fragments derived from (204), (300), (301) and (802). They comprise a partial base from an olive green cylindrical wine bottle with a conical basal kick (c. 1790–1820), an olive green wine bottle





body sherd of mid-17th to 19th-century date, a natural blue-green glass body sherd from a late 18th- to earlier 20th-century mineral water bottle, a colourless moulded base from a modern cylindrical vessel (tumbler) and a natural blue-green glass neck sherd from a 19th- to 20th-century moulded jar.

#### 4.4.5 Building materials

Ditch [305] and topsoil/subsoil in Trenches 2, 5 and 9 yielded eight Gault clay flat roof tile fragments (326g), broadly of late medieval to post-medieval date. Pieces of seven machine-made bricks (783g), including a perforated engineering brick derived from Trenches 2, 3 and 7–9; they are likely to be of mid-19th-century date at the earliest.

Portions of two modern concrete roof tiles (50g) occurred in buried garden soil (204) and subsoil (301); two pieces of roofing slate (90g) were recovered from buried subsoil (205).

A tiny, undated and poorly preserved sherd of iridescent pale yellow-green window glass was collected from buried subsoil (403).

#### 4.4.6 Sewer pipes and land drains

Fragments of three modern ceramic land drains, a salt-glazed ceramic sewer pipe and a cast concrete drainage pipe (total weight 431g) derived from topsoil (300) and subsoil (301), (802) and (1001). None were retained.

#### 4.4.7 Animal bone

Buried garden soil (204) contained eleven animal bone fragments (306g), comprising large mammal limb bones, ribs, a cattle calcaneus and a long bone offcut (RA6), sawn at both ends. A large mammal rib (49g) was collected from buried subsoil (205).

Subsoil (602) yielded a thin (1.7mm), centrally perforated lathe-turned bone disc (diameter 20.5mm) with concentric grooves on one side, representing a possible rosary bead or button blank (RA2) of late medieval to post-medieval date. Similar examples are known from St Peter's Street, Northampton (Oakley 1979, fig. 141, 100–1).



## 5. CONCLUSIONS

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### 5.1 *Summary of Results*

The archaeological evaluation revealed no features or deposits that are likely to pre-date the medieval period — eight furrows, four modern ditches, five modern postholes and two modern wall foundations.

The recovery of artefacts dating from the late medieval / post-medieval period close to Wood House moated site to the east, as well as ridge and furrow cultivation to the north and south, is not surprising. There is a strong possibility that these finds are residual (possibly from manuring) and do not specifically date the origin of the deposits from which they were recovered; however, they add weight to evidence of the land being used for agricultural purposes throughout these periods.

There was evidence for significant truncation of the features and it is likely that the depth of overburden covering the PDA had been reduced for the original garden centre's construction, as there was little topsoil remaining and this was contaminated or covered by demolition debris. There was no evidence for any palaeo-channels or buried surfaces/soil predating the medieval period. The bucket sampling and metal-detecting did not identify any residual artefacts of an earlier date than those recovered from the features.

### 5.2 *Interpretation of Results*

The evaluation showed that in the medieval period the PDA was most likely to have been part of an open field system. The broadly NW-SE aligned features may be the remnants of medieval furrows. The features themselves were all fairly shallow and poorly defined, and as such would have made poor drainage ditches or boundary markers.

The ditches [207]/[305] and postholes [209]–[217] have been interpreted as a boundary and fence line enclosing the old Black Jack PH, as illustrated on the OS 25-inch map of 1887 (Figure 7), with [207] existing as part of the garden centre boundary (Figure 4) until recently.

Ditch [703] is modern and relates to the garden centre, it is present on a topographical survey of the site (Figure 4), carried out in advance of demolition. Ditch [804] is also modern; it probably relates to the garden centre and may also be for drainage, although it is not visible on any surveys of the site.

The stratigraphic position of the two wall foundations and their correlation with the garden centre greenhouse indicate that they are relatively late in date.



### **5.3 Significance of Results**

In conclusion, the archaeological features and deposits identified by the evaluation have limited potential to provide information on the changing morphology of the village of Chatteris, and the surrounding landscape, during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The development of rural settlements types and the dynamics of medieval settlement have been highlighted as research objectives within East Anglia (Medlycott 2011, 70) but the results of the evaluation have no potential to address these objectives.



## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Oakley, G. E., 1979, 'The Worked Bone' in J. H. Williams, *St Peter's Street Northampton Excavations 1973-1976*, Northampton Development Corporation Archaeological Monograph No. **2**, 308–18



## 7. CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Source	Description	Reference
National Library of Scotland	OS 25-inch map 1887	Sheet: Cambridgeshire XXIV.4



## 8. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS

**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38501/84006

OS Grid Ref.: TL38492/83976

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
101	External surface	Compact mid yellow sandy gravel 0.20m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Buried topsoil	Friable dark grey silty clay moderate small CBM, moderate small stones 0.22m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
103	Buried subsoil	Friable mid grey silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.35m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Natural	Plastic light yellow clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.46 m. Max: 0.63 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38564/84000

OS Grid Ref.: TL38526/83988

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
201	External surface	Compact mid yellow brown sandy gravel 0.14m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Tarmac	Compact dark brown black tarmac 0.08m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Make up layer	Compact light grey sandy hardcore 0.22m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Buried topsoil	Friable dark grey black silty clay 0.54m thick deposit at the western end of Trench 2 only, within garden of vacant house.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
205	Buried subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay 0.32m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
206	Natural	Plastic light yellow clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.81m, max depth 0.24m, min length 23.5m Modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Fill	Friable black silty clay moderate small CBM, moderate small stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
209	Posthole	Sub-square N-S sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.11m, max diameter 0.3m Modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Fill	Friable dark grey silty clay occasional small stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Posthole	Sub-square NW-SE dimensions: max diameter 0.32m Modern in date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Fill	Friable dark grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Posthole	Sub-square N-S sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.13m, max diameter 0.4m Modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Fill	Friable dark grey silty clay occasional small stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	Posthole	Sub-square NW-SE dimensions: max diameter 0.32m Modern in date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Fill	Friable dark grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
217	Posthole	Sub-square NW-SE dimensions: max diameter 0.38m Modern in date.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
218	Fill	Friable dark grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
219	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.68m, max depth 0.14m, min length 2.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
220	Fill	Friable mid brown silty clay occasional small stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 44.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m. Max: 0.44 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38567/84040

OS Grid Ref.: TL38575/84001

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.20m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.24m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm light grey yellow clay moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Furrow	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.25m, max depth 0.21m, min length 0.84m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Fill	Firm light brown grey sandy silt moderate small stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.36m, max depth 0.22m, min length 1.m Modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
307	Furrow	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.48m, max depth 0.15m, min length 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Fill	Friable light yellow grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Furrow	Linear E-W	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 4**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.37 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38541/84030

OS Grid Ref.: TL38512/84003

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
401	External surface	Loose mid yellow sandy gravel Up to 0.13m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Buried topsoil	Friable dark grey silty clay moderate small CBM, moderate small stones 0.20m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
403	Buried subsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.07m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
404	Alluvium	Friable light grey brown silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
405	Natural	Plastic light yellow clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.9m, max depth 0.11m, min length 2.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
407	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
408	Natural	Compact mid brown blue silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 5**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38477/84044

OS Grid Ref.: TL38486/84005

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
501	Demolition layer	Friable dark brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium concrete, moderate small sand, moderate small stones Up to 0.35m thick deposit, demoliton material - stone, hardcore, churned into topsoil.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Subsoil	Friable dark grey silty clay moderate small CBM, moderate small stones 0.23m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
503	Natural	Plastic light yellow clay occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 6**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38530/84050

OS Grid Ref.: TL38494/84034

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
601	Topsoil	Loose dark brown silty clay moderate small CBM, moderate small stones Up to 0.28m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Subsoil	Friable dark grey clay silt moderate small stones Up to 0.06m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
603	Natural	Plastic light yellow brown clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 7**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m. Max: 0.6 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38537/84072

OS Grid Ref.: TL38554/84036

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable mid grey black silty sand moderate small stones Up to 0.20m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.17m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
702	Natural	Firm light brown yellow clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.27m, max depth 0.24m, min length 1.m Modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
704	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





**Trench: 8**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.69 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38520/84076

OS Grid Ref.: TL38483/84061

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
801	Make up layer	Loose dark grey silty clay frequent small-medium CBM, frequent small-medium concrete Up to 0.38m thick deposit, demolition material - brick, hardcore, churned into topsoil.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Subsoil	Friable dark grey clay silt occasional small CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.39m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
803	Natural	Plastic light yellow clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
804	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.m, min length 3.m Modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
805	Fill	Loose mid black silty clay Only partially excavated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
806	Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max depth 0.11m, max length 3.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
807	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty clay occasional small stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
808	Furrow	Linear NW-SE dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min length 3.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
809	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 9**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.71 m. Max: 0.85 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38526/84094

OS Grid Ref.: TL38486/84094

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Make up layer	Friable dark brown black silty clay frequent small-medium CBM, frequent small-medium concrete, frequent small-medium stones 0.43m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
901	Topsoil	Friable dark black clay silt occasional small stones 0.15m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
902	Subsoil	Friable mid blue grey silty clay occasional small stones 0.3m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
903	Natural	Firm mid brown yellow clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
904	Furrow	Linear N-S sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.11m, min length 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
905	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Sole fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 10**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL38465/84102

OS Grid Ref.: TL38469/84062

**Reason:** To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the PDA

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	External surface	Friable mid brown black silty gravel occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium concrete 0.3m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1001	Subsoil	Friable mid blue grey clay silt occasional small stones 0.21m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1002	Natural	Firm mid brown yellow clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## 9. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

### 10. OASIS ID: albionar1-300098

#### Project details

Project name	134 London Road, Chatteris
Short description of the project	Fenland District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a garden centre (with restaurant area) and change of use of an existing building to a 3-bedroom dwelling at 134 London Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6SG. The evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trial trenches across the 1.4ha site. No archaeological remains pre-dating the medieval period were revealed. The features identified comprised eight furrows, four modern ditches, five modern postholes and two modern wall foundations. Two of the ditches and all the postholes relate to the boundary of the old Black Jack pub and the remaining features are all drainage and structural elements linked to the demolished garden centre. The evaluation showed that in the medieval period the area was most likely within open fields, with the arable strips arranged at right angles to London Road. There was no evidence of any earlier land-use. The land surface was reduced as part of the construction of a garden centre in the 20th century. The results of the evaluation have no potential to address regional research objectives.
Project dates	Start: 04-01-2018 End: 09-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	F/YR16/0780/F - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5281 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	LRC3224 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	FURROWS Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	POST HOLES Modern
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Medieval
Methods & techniques	""""Sample Trenches""""
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition



Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND CHATTERIS 134 London Road, Chatteris  
 Study area 1.4 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 3851 8404 Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 4.5m Max: 8.5m

### 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 Robert Wardill  
 Project supervisor Ben Carroll

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambs County Archaeological Stores  
 Physical Archive ID ECB5281  
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"  
 Physical Archive notes After discussions the modern pottery, land drain, glass, iron nail and modern CBM were all discarded , all other finds were retained  
 Digital Archive recipient Cambs County Archaeological Stores  
 Digital Archive ID ECB5281  
 Digital Contents "other"  
 Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Cambs County Archaeological Store  
 Paper Archive ID ECB5281  
 Paper Contents "other"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet" ,"Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material" ,"Photograph" ,"Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title 134 London Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation



Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Carroll, B' 'Wardill, R' 'Wells, J' 'Duncan, H'

Other bibliographic  
details 2018/06

Date 2018

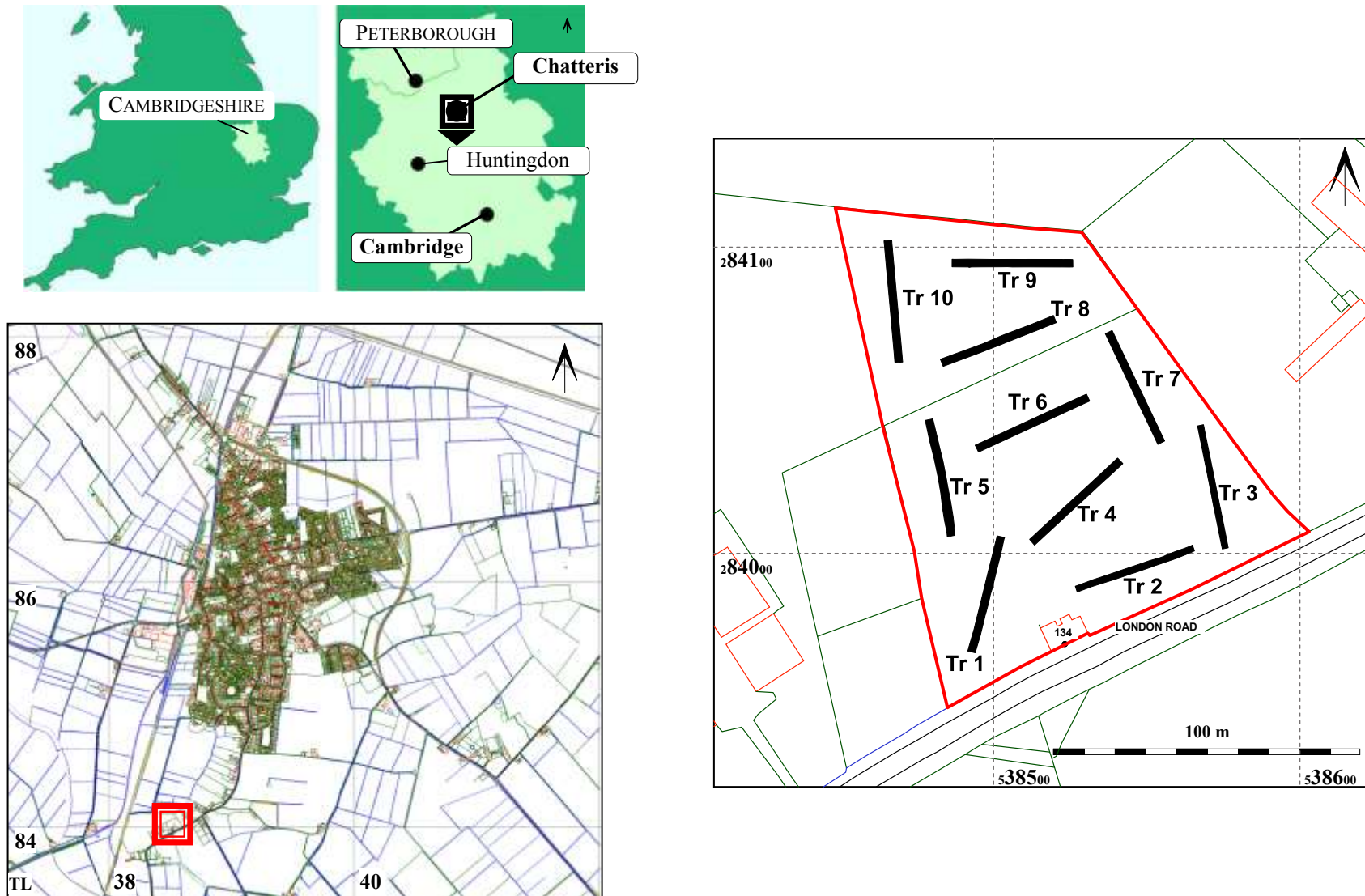
Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology

Place of issue or  
publication Bedford

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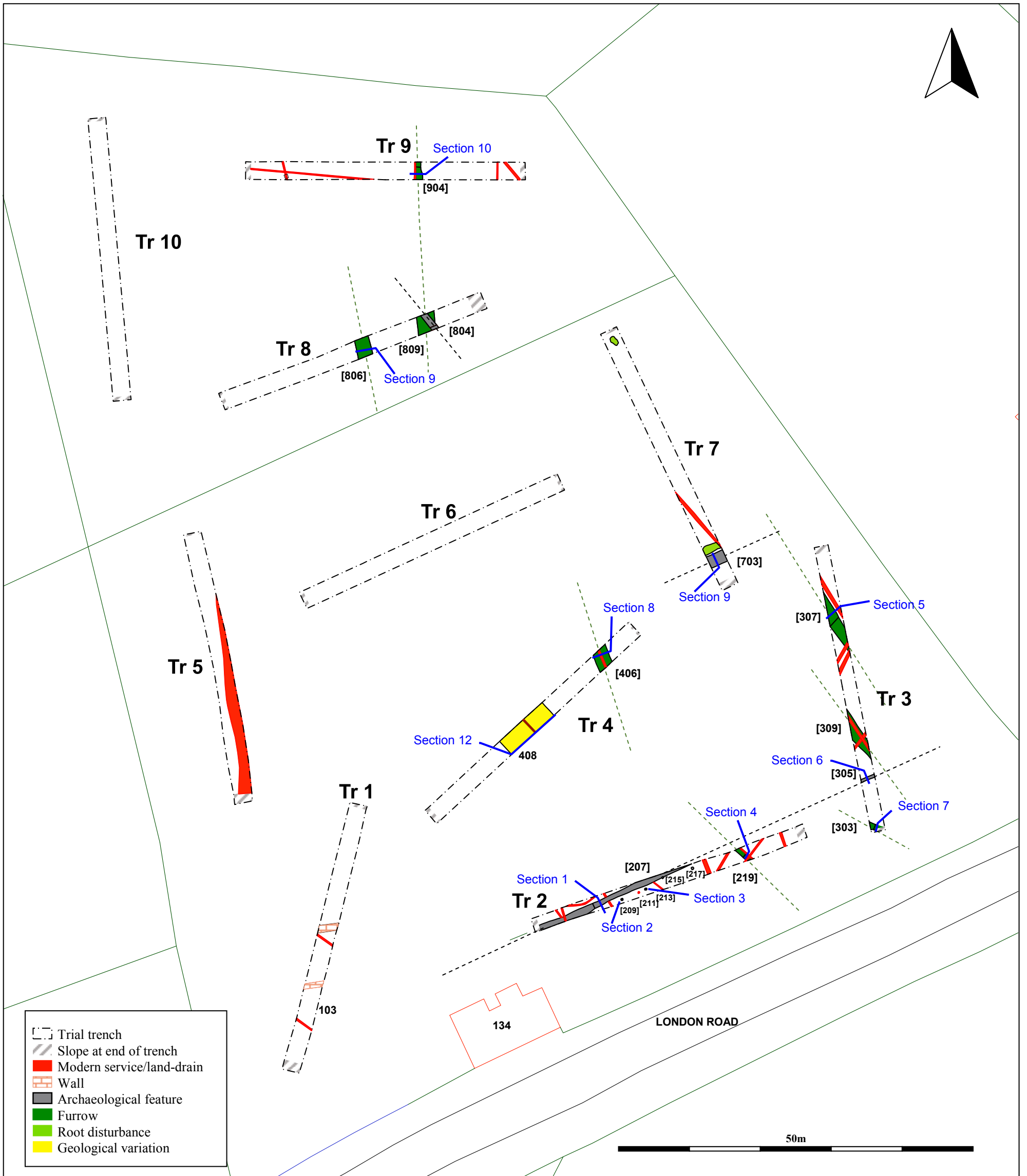
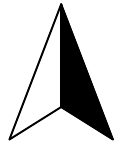
Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

Entered on 15 March 2018



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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**Figure 2: All-features plan**

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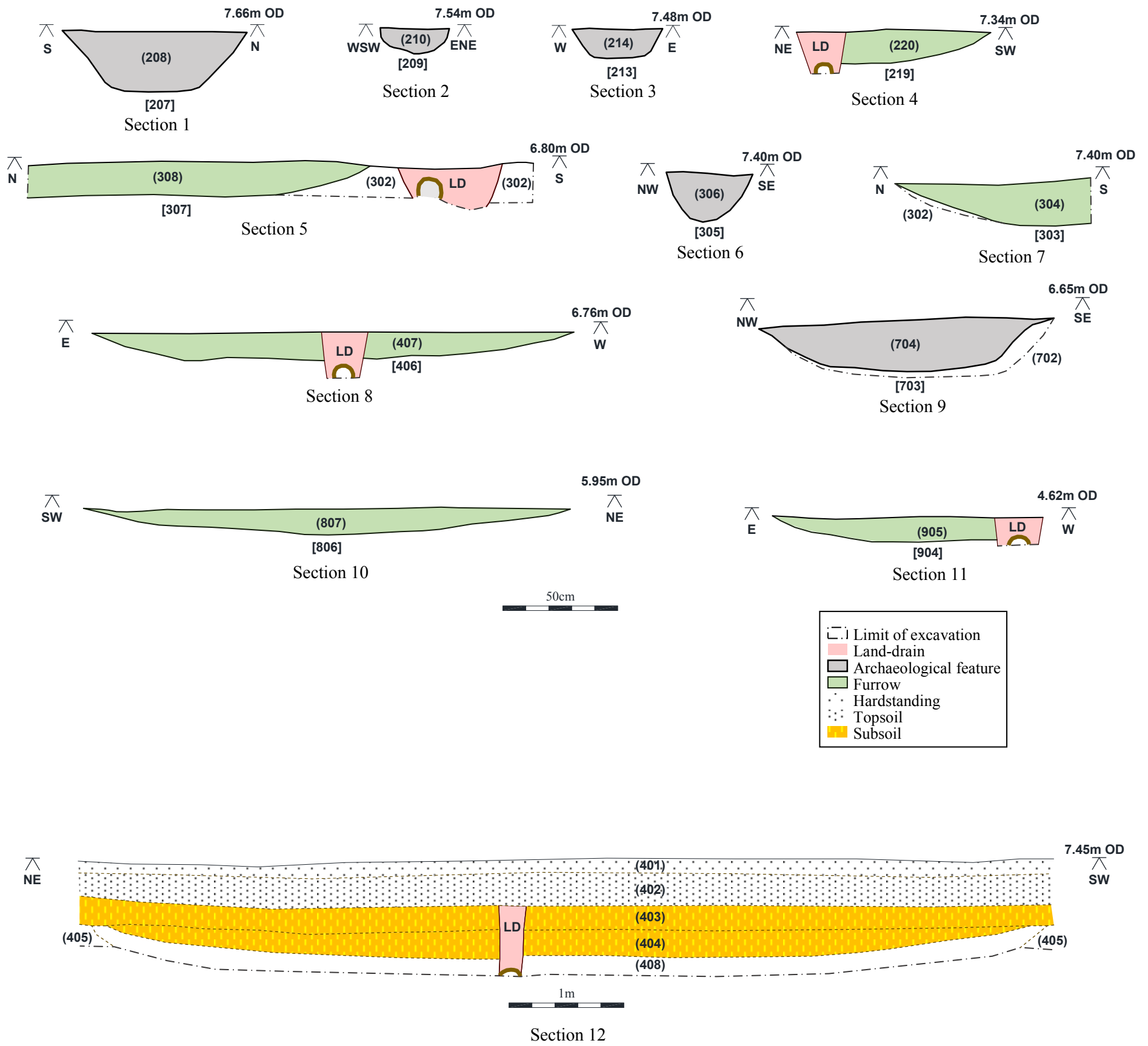


Figure 3: Section drawings



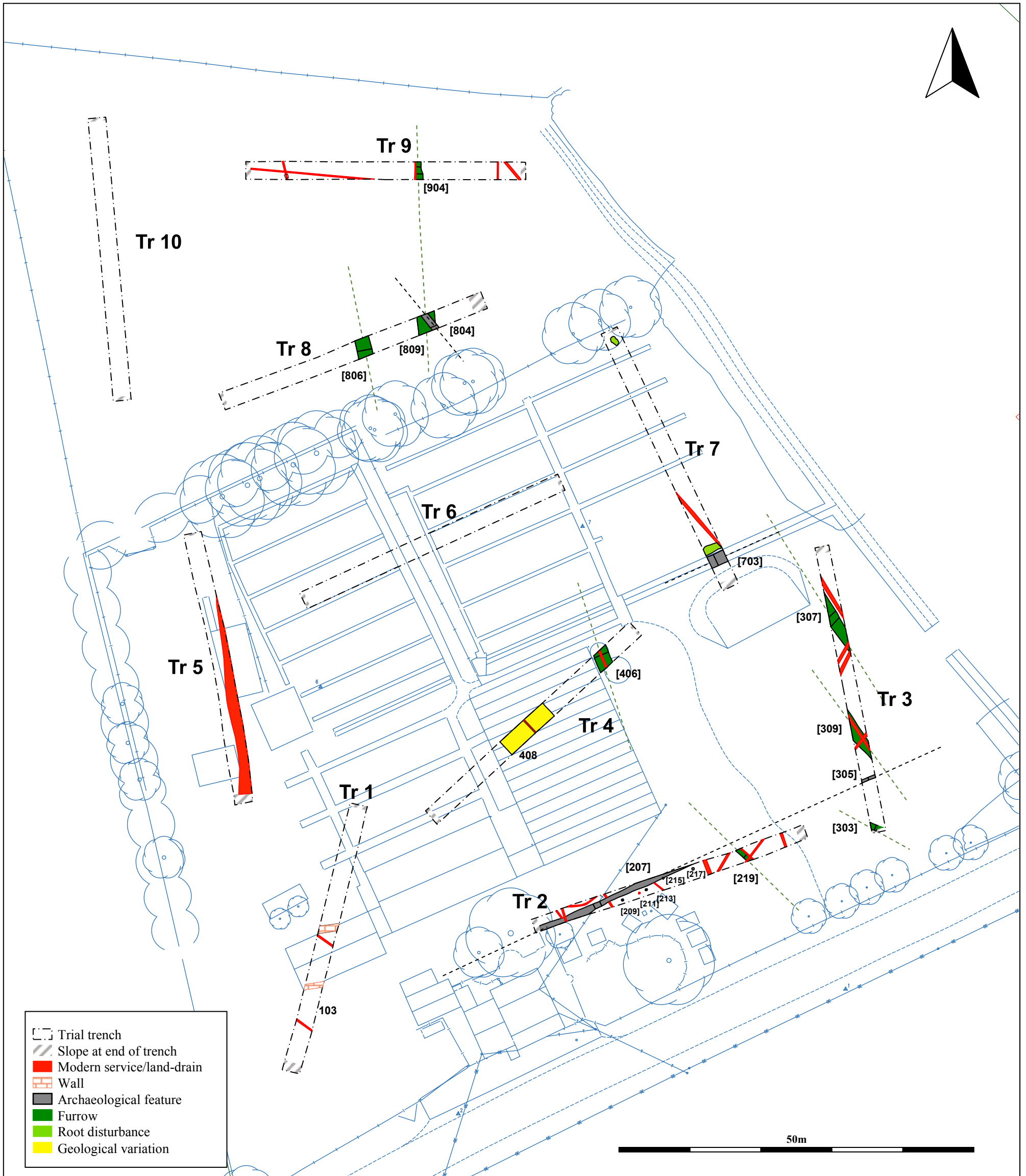


Figure 4: Trenching results overlaid onto plan of former garden centre (Glocal Surveys. Dwg no. 15479\_TOPO\_01\_2D)





**Trench 1:** Looking NE (1m scale)



**Trench 2:** Looking ENE (1m scale), modern ditch [207]



**Trench 2:** Looking SE (1m scale), modern ditch [207], modern postholes [209], [211] and [213]



**Trench 3:** Looking south (1m scale)



**Trench 3:** Looking SE (1m scale), furrow [307]



**Trench 3:** Looking NE (1m scale), modern ditch [305]

**Figure 5:** Selected photographs of Trenches 1–3





**Trench 4:** Looking south (1m scale), baulk section with layer (404)



**Trench 7:** Looking NE (1m scale), modern ditch [703]



**Trench 8:** Looking SW (1m scale), modern ditch [804] and furrow [808]



**Trench 9:** Looking south (1m scale), furrow [904]

**Figure 6:** Selected photographs of Trenches 4, 7–9



Figure 7: 1887 25-inch OS map

Central  
Bedfordshire

Albion  
archaeology



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