LAND ADJACENT TO
8 BEDFORD ROAD
COPLE
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion
archaeology

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Prepared for:
G C Planning

On behalf of:
Devine and Co Partners Ltd

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Preface

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by G C Planning and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Vanessa Clarke of the Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team. The fieldwork was undertaken by Benjamin Carroll (Archaeological Supervisor) and Alan King (Assistant Supervisor). The report has been prepared by Jo Barker and Benjamin Carroll with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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1.0	*24/04/2018*	*n/a*
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Key Terms

The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout this report:

BARS	Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service
BBC	Bedford Borough Council
BBHER	Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record
CI*f*A	Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists
HET	Historic Environment Team
NMP	National Mapping Programme
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Non-Technical Summary

A pre-application enquiry (17/00650/PREAPP) for residential development was made to Bedford Borough Council in relation to land adjacent to 8 Bedford Road, Cople, Bedfordshire. G C Planning is gathering baseline information in support of the development.

Archaeological trial trenching took place on the proposed development area (PDA) between 9th and 10th April 2018. Archaeological features were identified in one of the ten trenches, providing evidence of activity on the site dating from the post-medieval or modern periods.

Trenching has demonstrated that much of the PDA is probably devoid of archaeological remains apart from a palaeochannel (silted-up stream bed that did not did not contain any evidence of human activity) and a modern boundary ditch.

The proposed residential development and associated groundworks could potentially have a negative impact on any sub-surface remains on the PDA. However, the results of the field evaluation suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is low and, therefore, the potential impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains is negligible.

There is a slight risk that archaeological features, which were not detected by trial trenching, might survive within the PDA. Early prehistoric settlement evidence in particular is known in the vicinity of the PDA along the Elstow Brook and Great Ouse and by its nature is dispersed, ephemeral and difficult to detect (Oake 2007, 9). If appropriate and proportionate to the development impact, this risk could be mitigated by a conditioned programme of archaeological work, if required by the LPA.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

G C Planning is gathering data in support of a planning application for a residential development on land adjacent to 8 Bedford Road, Cople, Bedfordshire.

The pre-application response (17/00650/PREAPP) received from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) confirmed the recommendation of the Senior Archaeological Officer of Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team (BBC HET) that an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site was required due to its archaeological potential.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by G C Planning to carry out the evaluation to inform the LPA's assessment of the development impact upon any archaeological remains, the suitability and viability of the proposal in historic environment terms, and where appropriate, set-out necessary mitigation measures. The scope of work was described in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), agreed with the HET (Albion Archaeology 2018).

1.2 Site Location and Geology

Cople is a small town in the southern half of Bedford Borough Council Unitary Authority, 5.5km south-east of Bedford. The town of Sandy lies *c*. 6m to the east and Willington is situated 900m to the north-east.

The proposed development area (PDA) comprises an area of *c*. 2.3ha on the south side of Bedford Road (A603). It is bounded to the east by farm buildings and a track, to the west by residential properties and a spinney and to the south and south-east by open pasture and horse paddocks. At the time of the fieldwork the majority of the site was covered in low scrub, with an area of pasture at the northern end. The PDA is centred on TL 10596 49260.

The surface of the PDA and surrounding area is level and lies at 26m OD. The underlying bedrock is Peterborough Member – Mudstone, formed in the Jurassic Period. Overlying superficial deposits comprise Stoke Goldington and Felmersham Member (undifferentiated) sand and gravel[1].

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following text is taken from a desk-based heritage statement (Albion Archaeology 2017) that was commissioned by G C Planning to inform the planning process. It comprised a review of records held by the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (BBHER; reference BBHER 036 (2017-18)) pertaining to archaeological sites and historic and archaeological heritage assets situated within a 500m-radius of the PDA. This is referred to as the 'study area' in the following section. Cartographic sources held by Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service (BARS) were also consulted

[1] http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html [Accessed: 15/04/2018]

1.3.1 Prehistoric (pre-43 BC)

The PDA is situated south of a landscape rich in early prehistoric find-spots and Neolithic to early Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments, which extend along the banks of the Great Ouse.

The closest confirmed activity of this date has been identified to the north of Dog Farm, *c*. 600m north-west of the PDA, during a trial-trench evaluation (EBB670; MBB 8114). Here a series of Neolithic to early Bronze Age ring-ditches known from cropmark evidence were investigated and confirmed. Pits of Neolithic to early Bronze Age date were also identified. The majority of this activity was situated to the north of the Elstow Brook that flowed across the site.

Ring-ditches of probable late Neolithic to early Bronze Age date have also been identified from cropmarks *c*. 520m to the north of the PDA (BBHER 1618; NMP 968389 and NMP 1607232).

1.3.2 Roman (43 BC–*c*. AD 410)

Roman heritage assets within the study area comprise an area of extensive cropmarks indicative of a Romano-British 'village' complex, the postulated course of a Roman road (BBHER 1861) and a possible funerary monument (BBHER 1618).

Farmland to the south-east of the PDA contains cropmarks of a possible Roman villa, indicated by an area of regular enclosures, scattered groups of enclosures and straight ditches considered to represent the line of a Roman road (Viatores 224: BBHER 1861). The extent of these cropmarks, as defined by the BBHER, clips the south-east corner of the PDA. However, the BBHER mapping is an approximation; the actual cropmarks as plotted by the NMP lie *c*. 300m from the site (NMP 968471 and NMP 362720).

The postulated course of the Viatores Roman road 224 is situated *c*. 570m south of the PDA. The evidence for this road is based on cropmarks of a straight double ditch (BBHER 1861) and a length of ditch on the same alignment identified during archaeological trial-trench evaluation to the west of Cople (EBB904). The find-spot of a 4th-century Roman coin is also situated close to course of this road to the west of Cople (BBHER 14658). In 1962, an excavation to the north of Dog Farm, *c*. 520m north-west of the PDA, identified a ring-ditch considered to be late Iron Age or Roman in date. It enclosed a stone structure that contained the remains of a peat-fuelled funeral pyre (BBHER 1618).

1.3.3 Anglo-Saxon (*c*. AD 410–1066)

No definitive Anglo-Saxon heritage assets have been recorded in the study area. However, two inhumations were discovered in a late Iron Age/early Roman ditch during excavations in 1962 (BBHER 1618) *c*. 520m to the north-west of the PDA. They were considered to be Anglo-Saxon in date, although no finds accompanied them.

A settlement in Cople was well established by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 and could have at least late Saxon origins.

1.3.4 Medieval (1066–1550)

Cople appears in eight entries in Domesday Book[2]. The largest manor was in the lordship of an individual called Robert, with the tenant-in-chief being Hugh of Beauchamp. This settlement comprised six villagers, one smallholder and one slave, land for four ploughs, meadow for one plough and woodland for 100 pigs.

The historic medieval core of Cople, as defined by the HER, is situated *c*. 165m to the south-west of the PDA (BBHER17118). It takes a broadly north-south trajectory along Willington Road to Water End at the southern end of Cople. A westerly branch of the village comprises settlement either side of Grange Lane to the west of the medieval parish Church of All Saints. The current village of Cople is confined within the medieval boundaries, but the majority of the buildings along Willington Road are post-medieval or modern. An area of modern expansion exists at the northern end of the village, adjacent to Bedford Road, and is omitted from the historic core.

The site of a possible medieval manor in Cople has been recorded *c*. 480m to the south-west of the PDA and is known as 'Rowsacks' (BBHER 8109). Its location is defined by a single elongated pond, but historical maps show it as having two east-west arms. Two areas of possible medieval fishponds have been recorded on the east side of Willington Road (BBHER 14769) and at the northern end of the village adjacent to Bedford Road (BBHER 14770). These both lie outside the historic medieval core and could instead be hollows left after gravel extraction.

Traces of medieval ridge and furrow have been identified from cropmarks on the west side of Willington Road and in fields to the south and south-east of the PDA (NMP 1604377 and NMP 1604381). This suggests that the PDA may also have formed part of the medieval open field system of Cople.

The medieval historic core of Willington also lies within the study area, *c*. 360m north of the PDA (BBHER 17123). The site of a former 16th-century manor house has been recorded at the western end of Willington, *c*. 460m to the north of the PDA (BBHER 434). Little of the original structure survives, but the dovecote (BBHER 435) and stables (BBHER 995) remain intact. It was built in *c*. 1529 by Sir John Gostwick, who also owned land in Cople from 1539 (Page 1912, 238–42). The manor house was built on the site of an earlier medieval manor that was described in a survey of 1376 as being in a 'state of dilapidation'. The current house on the site is a post-medieval reworking of the original 16th-century structure and is Grade II listed (MDB54111). The early 16th-century parish church also forms part of the manor complex (MBD1150) and was built by John Gostwick.

[2] http://opendomesday.org

Further ridge and furrow has been identified from cropmarks on the west side of Willington medieval core (NMP 1604377).

1.3.5 Post-medieval (1550–1900)

The majority of post-medieval heritage assets recorded in the study area comprises extant and demolished buildings. Three buildings are Grade II listed and date from the 16th to the 19th century.

Remains of a post-medieval water-management system were identified during archaeological investigation on the west side of Cople village, *c*. 540m south-west of the PDA (BBHER 21764; Albion Archaeology 2015). It comprised a series of channels on an east-west alignment and a corresponding ditch situated parallel to the adjacent Cople Brook. This, together with evidence that the Cople Brook had been deliberately diverted in the past, indicated that this was a system designed to supply a water meadow.

Other post-medieval heritage assets comprise former gravel (BBHER 124), sand (BBHER 1358) and clay pits (BBHER 8115) situated on Bedford Road and Willington Road. Gravel Pit Spinney (BBHER 124) borders the PDA to the west.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal purpose of the archaeological field 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.

This information will be used by the HET to evaluate the significance of the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains that might survive within the site.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below; a full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2018).

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

• Albion Archaeology	*Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (3rd ed., 2017).
• Bedford Museum	*Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* (2010).
• CI*f*A	*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 PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (2015)
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2nd ed.) (2011).

The trial trenching took place between 9th and 10th April 2018 (Figure 1). Ten 40m x 1.8m trenches were excavated, equating to a 3% sample of the *c.* 2.3ha site. The trial trenches were positioned to give even coverage of the PDA.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical 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. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff. The bases and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. All features and deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc*. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. The trenches were inspected by a representative of the HET on 10th April 2018.

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2018.11). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no. albionar1-308407) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All significant deposits and features found within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figures 2–3. Context numbers in square brackets refer to cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). Archaeological features were identified in one of the ten trenches; Trenches 1–5 and 7–10 were devoid of archaeological remains.

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

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

In the vast majority of trenches the overburden consisted of topsoil and subsoil, with a combined thickness of between 0.44m and 0.93m. The greater depths were generally seen in the northern and western part of the PDA. Topsoil comprised a dark grey-brown sandy silt, between 0.25m and 0.33m thick. Below this the subsoil comprised loose, mid orange-brown sandy silt, between 0.12m and 0.3m thick, with occasional modern brick fragments observed.

Below the subsoil in Trench 3 a *c*. 0.4m-thick alluvial layer (302) was revealed.

Undisturbed geological strata within the eastern and southern part of the PDA comprised red-orange sandy gravel; deposits of predominantly orange-yellow sandy gravel were revealed within the remainder of the PDA.

3.3 Modern (later than c. AD 1750)

A north–south aligned ditch [603] was recorded in Trench 6 located in the centre of the PDA. The ditch was 1.11m wide and at least 3m long and extended beyond the boundaries of the trench. It had a steep U-shaped profile and was filled with mid grey-brown sandy silt, 0.4m thick. No dating evidence was recovered from the ditch, but it had been cut through the subsoil (601) indicating a relatively recent date.

Modern make-up layers (101) and (201) were revealed below the topsoil but above the subsoil within the north-western parts of Trenches 1 and 2. They comprised dark grey-black clay silt, up to 0.3m thick and contained brick fragments, glass, metal and tile.

3.4 Geological Features and Tree-throws

A possible palaeochannel [503]/[904] was indicated by a north-west to south-east aligned linear feature recorded beneath the subsoil in Trenches 5 and 9. It was 6.1m wide and 0.29m deep, with an irregular base and sides. No dating evidence was present.

At least thirteen tree-throws and root disturbances were revealed within the trenches, four of which were investigated by hand.

The tree-throws were generally sub-oval or irregular in plan and shared similar asymmetrical and irregular profiles. None of them yielded artefactual or ecofactual evidence and the majority were most likely linked to current and modern vegetation covering much of the site.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Summary of Results

The earliest feature of archaeological interest identified during the field evaluation was the palaeochannel (a silted-up stream bed) that extended across Trenches 5 and 9 in the southern part of the site. Sample investigation of the palaeochannel did not identify any dating evidence or associated human activity.

All other human activity encountered was modern in date and comprised a ditch in Trench 6 and layers of modern material in Trenches 1 and 2.

Undated tree-throws and root disturbance were also identified in a number of the trenches.

4.2 Significance of the Results

The trial trench evaluation has demonstrated that much of the PDA is devoid of archaeological remains and that the adjacent post-medieval quarrying did not extend onto the site. Of most significance was that the evaluation confirmed that the complex of late prehistoric and Roman cropmarks recorded to the south of the PDA (HER1861) does not extend as far as the PDA.

The sample investigation of palaeochannel [503]/[904] did not encounter any dating evidence or associated early human activity. Many paleochannels exist in this part of the Great Ouse Valley — identified from cropmarks or found during archaeological investigations. They are thought to be the remnants of numerous braided streams that flowed across the valley floor in the early Holocene (*c*. 10,000 years ago) before they eventually coalesced to form the River Great Ouse and its tributaries. Palaeochannels can be of archaeological interest where they are associated with human activity: for example excavations in advance of Eastcotts Flood Compensation Scheme, 2km to the south-west, identified dispersed Neolithic or early Bronze Age pits along the course of a palaeochannel (Luke and Barker in prep.). However, the results of the trial trenching suggest that the palaeochannel within the PDA is of low archaeological potential.

The tree-throws were undated, so have negligible potential as evidence of early land clearance for agriculture.

The modern ditch [603] is a very recent field boundary of negligible archaeological significance.

Overall, the results of the evaluation are of low significance in terms of regional research objectives (Oake 2007, 14), being principally associated with modern rural land management and division.

4.3 Impact of the Proposed Development

The potential archaeological impact of the proposed development is considered in detail in the heritage statement prepared for the planning application (Albion Archaeology 2017). This concluded that the proposed

residential development and associated groundworks could potentially have a negative impact on any sub-surface remains on the PDA. However, the results of the field evaluation suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is confined to a modern ditch and make-up layers and, therefore, the significance of the potential impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains is negligible.

There is a slight risk that archaeological features, which were not detected by trial trenching, might survive within the PDA. Early prehistoric settlement evidence in particular is known in the vicinity of the PDA along the Elstow Brook and Great Ouse and by its nature is dispersed, ephemeral and difficult to detect (Oake 2007, 9). If appropriate and proportionate to the development impact, this risk could be mitigated by a conditioned programme of archaeological work, if required by the LPA.

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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10587/49344

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10551/49326

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.25m thick.	☐	☐
101	Make up layer	Firm dark grey black clay silt frequent small-medium CBM, frequent small-medium stones The layer extends for approximately 15m from the western end of the trench and up to 0.3m thick.	☑	☐
102	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.22m thick.	☑	☐
103	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10543/49310

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10583/49302

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Up to 0.3m thick.	☑	☐
201	Make up layer	Firm dark grey black clay silt frequent small-medium CBM, frequent small-medium stones The layer extends for approximately 12m from the north-western end of the trench and up to 0.25m thick.	☑	☐
202	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick.	☑	☐
203	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10597/49323

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10611/49285

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.3m thick.	☑	☐
301	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.23m thick.	☑	☐
302	Alluvium	Friable mid orange grey clay silt occasional small stones Up to 0.4m thick.	☑	☐
303	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10577/49277

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10539/49265

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.3m thick.	☑	☐
401	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick.	☑	☐
402	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10550/49213

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10574/49245

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.3m thick.	☑	☐
501	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.15m thick.	☑	☐
502	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐
503	Palaeochannel	Linear NW-SE	☐	☐
504	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.31 m. Max: 0.33 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10597/49267

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10623/49238

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.33m thick.	☑	☐
601	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.15m thick.	☑	☐
602	Natural	Loose light red orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐
603	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.11m, max depth 0.4m, min length 3.m	☑	☐
604	Lower fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy gravel moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.36m thick.	☑	☐
605	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick.	☑	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10634/49267

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10653/49232

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.25m thick.	☑	☐
701	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.22m thick.	☑	☐
702	Natural	Loose light red orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10666/49209

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10626/49209

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.31m thick.	☑	☐
801	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.18m thick.	☑	☐
802	Natural	Loose light red orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.42 m. Max: 0.44 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10599/49231

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10593/49191

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.32m thick.	☑	☐
901	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.22m thick.	☑	☐
902	Natural	Loose light red orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐
903	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐
904	Palaeochannel	Linear NE-SW sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 6.1m, max depth 0.29m, min length 2.m	☑	☐
905	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 10565/49198

OS Grid Ref.: TL 10535/49172

Reason: To Investigate the Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Up to 0.32m thick.	☑	☐
1001	Subsoil	Loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.12m thick.	☑	☐
1002	Natural	Friable light red orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	☐	☐

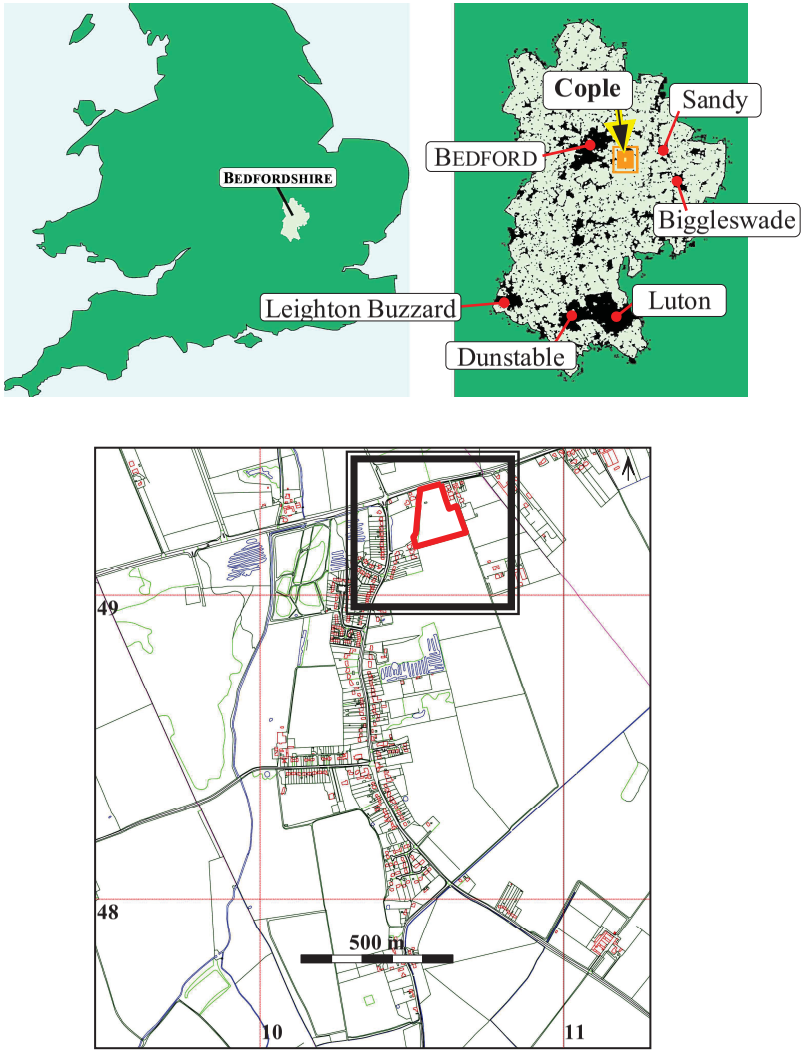
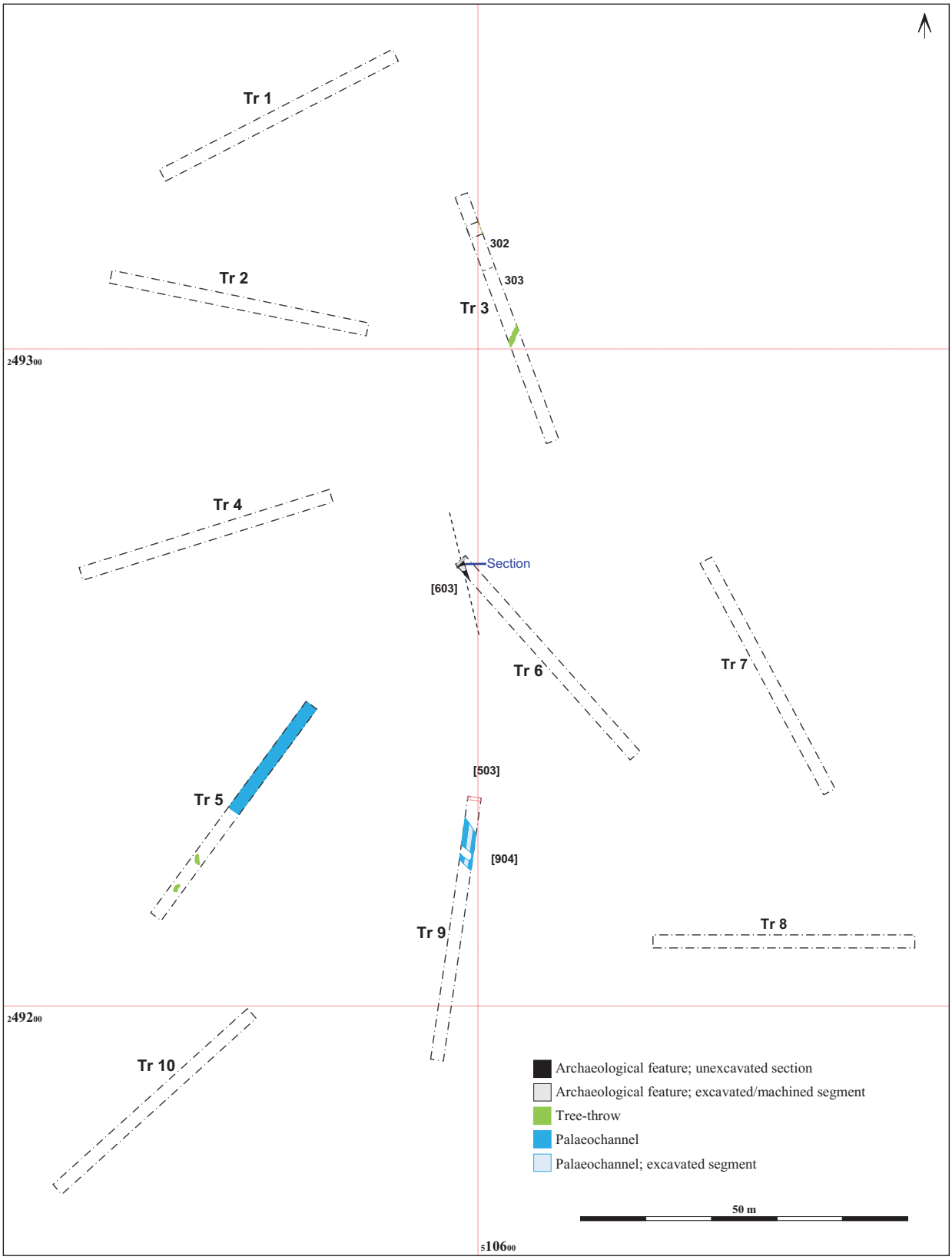
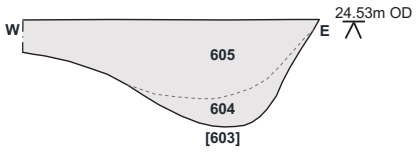


Figure 1: Site and trench location plan





Section of ditch [603] in Trench 6

50cm

Figure 2: All-features plan

Trench 8: looking west

Trench 6: looking NW

Trench 6: south-facing section of ditch [603]

Trench 3: alluvium (302), looking SSE

Trench 9: possible palaeochannel [904], looking SW

Figure 3: Selected photographs

Central Bedfordshire

Albion archaeology

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