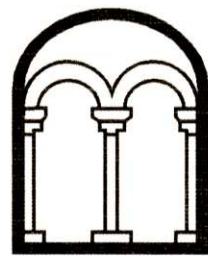


**41-43 CAUSE END ROAD
WOOTTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion
archaeology



**41-43 CAUSE END ROAD
WOOTTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
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Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Project Background	4
1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology	4
1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background	4
1.4 Project Objectives	5
2. METHODOLOGY	7
2.1 Methodological Standards	7
2.2 Trial Trenching	7
3. RESULTS	8
3.1 Introduction	8
3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits	8
3.3 Archaeological Features	8
4. CONCLUSIONS	10
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	11
6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY	12

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: All-features plan

List of Plates

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south-west and north-east

Plate 2: Trench 1, north-west facing baulk section, furrow [103] and layer (107)

Plate 3: Trench 1, north-west facing baulk section with gully [105] and layer (107)

Plate 4: Trenches 2 and 3, looking north-west

Plate 5: Trench 4, looking south-west and looking north-east

Plate 6: Trench 4, south-east-facing baulk section at north-east end of trench with
ditches [403] and [405]

The figures and plates 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).

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Acknowledgements

The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders (Bedford Borough Council Senior Archaeological Officer (Planning)). The fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Barker (Project Officer) and Wiebke Starke (Archaeological Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Wiebke Starke. The figures were compiled by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All finds were analysed by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
CBM	Ceramic building material
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
DA	Development area
HER	Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team (of BBC)
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (17/00375/FUL) for the refurbishment and extension of the existing cottages and the construction of three additional detached dwellings, together with off-road parking, private amenity space and associated landscaping at 41-43 Cause End Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire was granted by Bedford Borough Council. The planning permission contained a condition requiring a staged programme of archaeological work. The initial stage of this work comprised field evaluation by trial trenching.

The trial trenching took place on 6th March 2018. It comprised the excavation of four trenches, one measuring 10m and the other three measuring 15m in length and 1.8m in width, positioned to test the areas affected by the planned construction works within the development area (DA). Historical maps show that the DA has been used as a garden since at least the late 19th century.

The evaluation only identified archaeological features in Trenches 1 and 4; these comprised a probable furrow, a small gully and a probable roadside ditch. A modern make-up layer and some late post-medieval/Victorian make-up deposits were also revealed. Trenches 2 and 3 were devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

Ditches [403] and [405] at the north end of Trench 4 were parallel to Cause End Road, suggesting that they had a boundary function between the property and the road. A furrow and gully located in Trench 1 indicate that prior to the construction of the cottages the DA was probably part of the agricultural landscape surrounding Causeway End.

Overall, the findings of the evaluation suggest that the DA contains sparse archaeological remains, which are of no more than local significance and which have no potential to address regional research objectives.

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM 2018.12). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-308477) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission (17/00375/FUL) for the refurbishment and extension of the existing cottages and the construction of three additional detached dwellings, together with off-road parking, private amenity space and associated landscaping at 41-43 Cause End Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire was granted by Bedford Borough Council (BBC). The planning permission contained a condition (no. 7) requiring a staged programme of archaeological work, comprising an initial trial trench evaluation followed by mitigation works, if required.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by MFO Harewood Ltd to prepare a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (Albion 2018) in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition and the Borough's Historic Environment Team (HET) and to carry out the field evaluation of the site. This report presents the results of the evaluation.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The development area (DA) lies towards the centre of the modern village of Wootton, which is situated c. 6km to the south-east of the centre of Bedford (Figure 1).

The DA lies on the south side of Cause End Road, near the eastern junction with Lorraine Road. At the time of the fieldwork the site was occupied by a pair of a semi-detached 18th–19th-century, one-and-a-half-storey cottages and their associated gardens. The wider environs are occupied by a mix of largely post-medieval and 20th-century housing.

The DA is rectangular and approximately 0.25ha in extent. It is centred on NGR TL 00769 45390, at a height of c. 38m OD. The solid geology is Peterborough Member Mudstone¹. No superficial geological deposits are recorded.

1.3 *Historical and Archaeological Background*

There is evidence that the area of the Marston Vale has been a focus of human activity and settlement from the Palaeolithic period to the modern day. The Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) record several entries for the area around the DA.

The place-name Wootton is derived from the Old English *wudu tūn*, meaning a 'farmstead in the woods' (Mills 1998). Wootton is listed as a relatively large settlement in Domesday Book of 1086 with 26 households and 10 taxable geld units. It was also recorded as having woodland to support 400 pigs². Wootton is an amalgamation of several ends: Bott End (HER17026), Causeway End (HER17023), Taggs End (HER17022) and Church End (HER17021). The DA itself is situated within the medieval settlement of Causeway End (HER 17023). Two medieval moated sites are located to the south of the DA at Church End (HER 3435) and at Wootton Green (HER 8279)

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials ©NERC [2014]

² <http://opendomesday.org/place/TL0045/wootton/>



Few sub-surface archaeological remains are known within the immediate area. However, the DA lies within a wider landscape of settlement activity dating from prehistoric to medieval times. Investigations in advance of construction of the Bedford Western Bypass (EBB652), c. 1.5km east of the DA, revealed intensive settlement activity from the Bronze Age to the middle Saxon period. Other investigations at Marston Moretaine, in advance of A421 road scheme (EBB588), and at Marsh Leys Farm (EBD683), have demonstrated that land adjacent to the Elstow Brook (located only c. 1.75km east of the DA) was densely settled during Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

An archaeological evaluation at Canon's Close (EBD78), 350m north-west of the DA, recovered prehistoric worked flint (HER 13408). Sherds of Iron Age pot have also been recovered from that area (HER 5570), but their provenance is less certain. The Viatores identified the possible route of an agger (HER 10291) for a Roman road (HER 485) running 400m to the west of the DA; however, as with many putative Roman roads in Bedfordshire, this has been questioned. Fragments of Roman pot were found at 2 Keeley Lane, c. 600m north of the DA (HER 15804).

The majority of HER entries in the area comprise historic buildings within the settlement of Wootton. These range in date from the 16th to 19th centuries. Immediately to the west of the DA 49-51 Cause End Road represents a 16th-century, timber-framed house, which is Grade II listed (NHLE 1249235). To the north of the DA is the Grade II listed Manor Farm House, which is 17th-century in date (NHLE 1249236).

The cottages within the DA, nos 41-43 Cause End Road, are not nationally listed but are considered to be of local significance; they have a dedicated webpage on the Bedford Borough Council Community Archives website, where they are described as: "... attractive cottages comprising one storey and attics beneath an old clay tiled roof. They may date from the 18th or early 19th centuries. They are rendered which suggests they may be timber-framed; the brick porches are modern"³.

1.4 **Project Objectives**

Since the DA occupies street frontage within the medieval settlement envelope for Causeway End, as described in the HER (HER17023), it was thought that potential heritage assets on the DA might relate to the early-medieval to post-medieval development of the village. As such, the specific research objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine if evidence for the Saxon and medieval period relating to the development of Causeway End village was present within the DA.
- To determine if specific evidence relating to the post-medieval period was present within the DA.

3

<http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk/CommunityArchives/Wootton/41And43CauseEndRoadWootton.aspx> [accessed 08-02-2018]



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

In addition, the general 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 DA;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the DA;
- 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 2018).

2.1 Methodological Standards

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

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 3rd edition (2017)
Bedford Museum	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire</i> (2010)
CIfA	<i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> , ver.1.2 (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , 2nd edition (2011)

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM 2018.12). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-308477) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place on 6th March 2018. It comprised the excavation of four trenches, one measuring 10m and the other three measuring 15m in length and 1.8m in width. The trenches were positioned across the site to test the areas affected by the planned construction works within the DA (Figure 1).

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording was carried out by an experienced Albion archaeologist. Archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Archaeological features that were demonstrably of modern origin were recorded but not investigated. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All deposits revealed within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figure 2. Context numbers in round brackets refer to fills or layers (***). Detailed context information is provided in Appendix 1. Finds are summarised in Appendix 2.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The overburden across the site comprised dark brown-black clayey silt topsoil (102, 202, 302 and 402). In Trenches 2, 3 and 4 it overlay dark grey-brown clayey silt subsoil (201, 301 and 401). In Trench 1 the topsoil only overlaid subsoil in the north-west corner. The remainder of the trench featured make-up layer (107), which lay above subsoil (101) and below topsoil (102). The topsoil was 0.1–0.3m thick. The subsoil was 0.1–0.3m thick. Overburden deposits were thickest in Trench 4.

Make-up layer (107) comprised loose, brown-black silty gravel with frequent small stones and modern CBM. It was 0.1–0.25m thick. It represents modern building rubble and gravel used to create an area of hardstanding at the back of the property in recent times.

The geological deposit (100, 200, 300 and 400) comprised light yellow-brown to mid-grey-brown silty clay with inclusions of small stones.

3.3 Archaeological Features

Two features were identified in Trench 1: furrow [103] and gully [105]. Three features were identified in Trench 4: ditches [403] and [405], and layer (407)).

The remains of a furrow [103] were located at the north-east end of Trench 1 (Plate 2). It survived with a width of *c.* 1.45m and a maximum depth of *c.* 0.16m. It was orientated NW-SE in line with the existing property boundaries. The fill (104) was homogenous and sterile mid-grey-brown clayey silt.

A small gully [105] on a similar alignment was recorded *c.* 3.5m to the south of furrow [103] (Plate 3). The fill showed a similar texture and composition and yielded no dating evidence.

The remains of a re-cut, probable roadside ditch were uncovered at the north-east end of Trench 4 (Plate 6). Only a small portion of the earlier ditch [405] remained at the southern side of the boundary. The later ditch [403] was at least 1.8m wide and extended beyond the north-east end of the trench. The later ditch fill (404) was characterised by homogenous mid-grey-brown clayey silt, containing occasional flecks of charcoal and some medium-sized stones towards the base of the feature. A small amount of fragmentary animal bone was recovered from (404) but was not retained. No datable evidence was recovered from these features.

Trench 4 also contained two discrete patches of stones (407). These areas appeared to be extensions of the subsoil containing a concentration of medium to large



rounded stones and a few sherds of post-medieval/Victorian pottery (not retained). It is likely that these scatters represent a dump of material to fill softer areas in the former yard area of the cottages.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation identified archaeological features in Trenches 1 and 4, comprising a probable furrow and small gully and a probable roadside ditch. A modern make-up layer and some post-medieval/Victorian make-up deposits were also present. Trenches 2 and 3 were devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

Ditches [403] and [405] in Trench 4 are parallel to Cause End Road, suggesting that they may represent a boundary feature between the property and the road. The furrow and gully in Trench 1 suggest that the DA was part of the agricultural landscape around Causeway End prior to the construction of the cottages. Historical maps show that the DA has remained largely unchanged since at least the late 1800s and has been used as gardens for the two cottages.

Overall, the findings of the evaluation suggest that the PDA contains sparse archaeological remains, which are of no more than local significance and which have no potential to address regional research objectives.



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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.36 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00764 45367 (Easting: 764: Northing: 45367)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 00769 45381 (Easting: 769: Northing: 45381)

Reason: Spatial sample of development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Natural	Plastic light yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.1m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.1-0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.45m, max depth 0.16m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.16m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Gulley	Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.14m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Make up layer	Loose mid brown black silty gravel moderate large CBM, moderate small-medium CBM, frequent small stones Make-up layer present over most of the trench apart from NW corner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00755 45373 (Easting: 755: Northing: 45373)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 00741 45378 (Easting: 741: Northing: 45378)

Reason: Spatial sample of development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Natural	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.15m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.15m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00762 45407 (Easting: 762: Northing: 45407)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 00753 45410 (Easting: 753: Northing: 45410)

Reason: Spatial sample of development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Natural	Plastic light yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.1m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 4**

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00768 45408 (Easting: 768: Northing: 45408)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 00774 45422 (Easting: 774: Northing: 45422)

Reason: Spatial sample of development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Natural	Plastic light yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.2-0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.25-0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: irregular base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.78m, max depth 0.33m Boundary ditch, extends beyond NE end of trench	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones, occasional small stones C. 0.33m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
405	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.11m Truncated remains of earlier boundary ditch, truncated by [403]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones C. 0.11m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
407	Layer	Two areas where stones are loosely sitting on top of geology. Contained some post-medieval / Victorian pottery (not retained).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

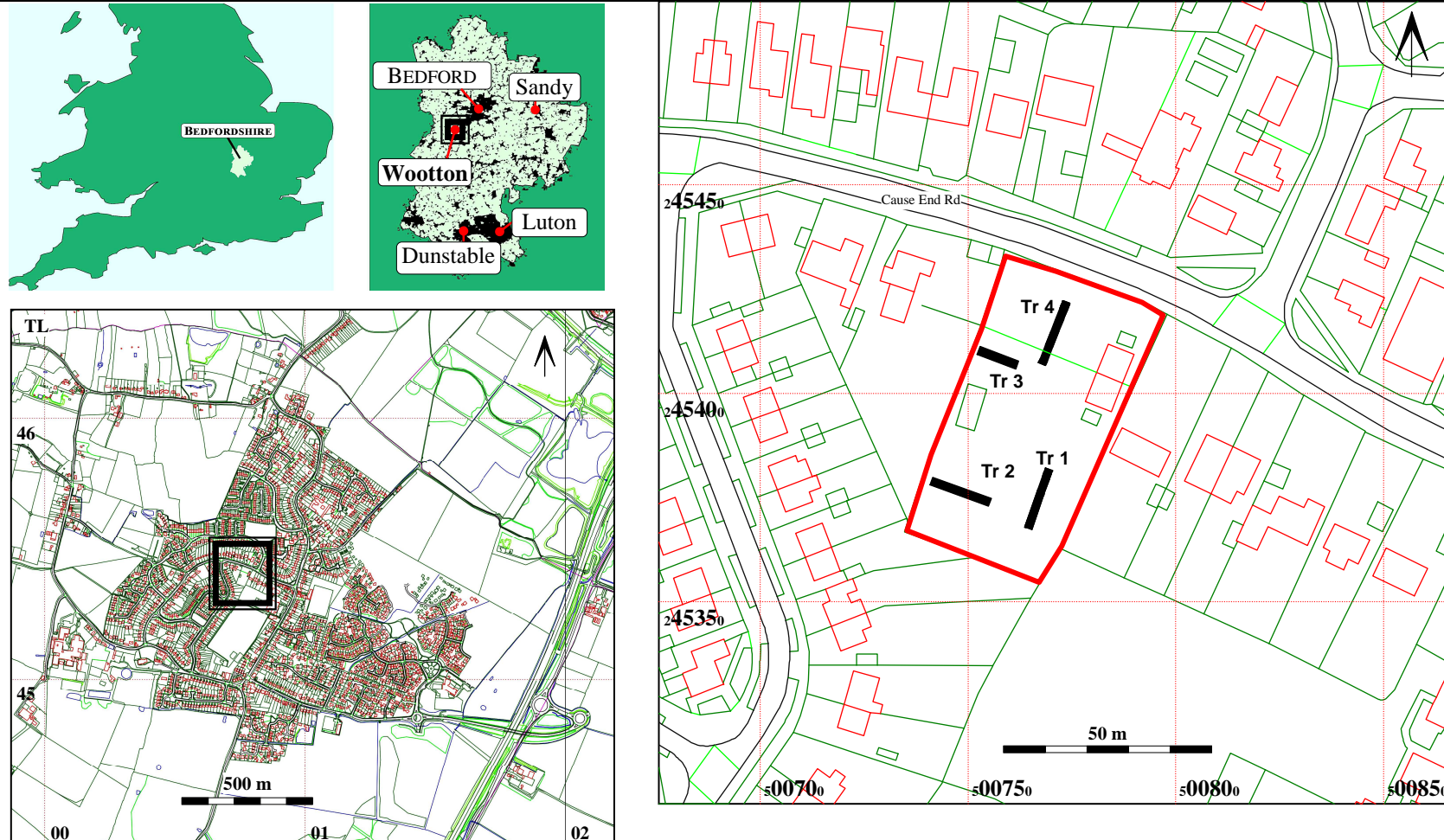


Figure 1: Site location plan

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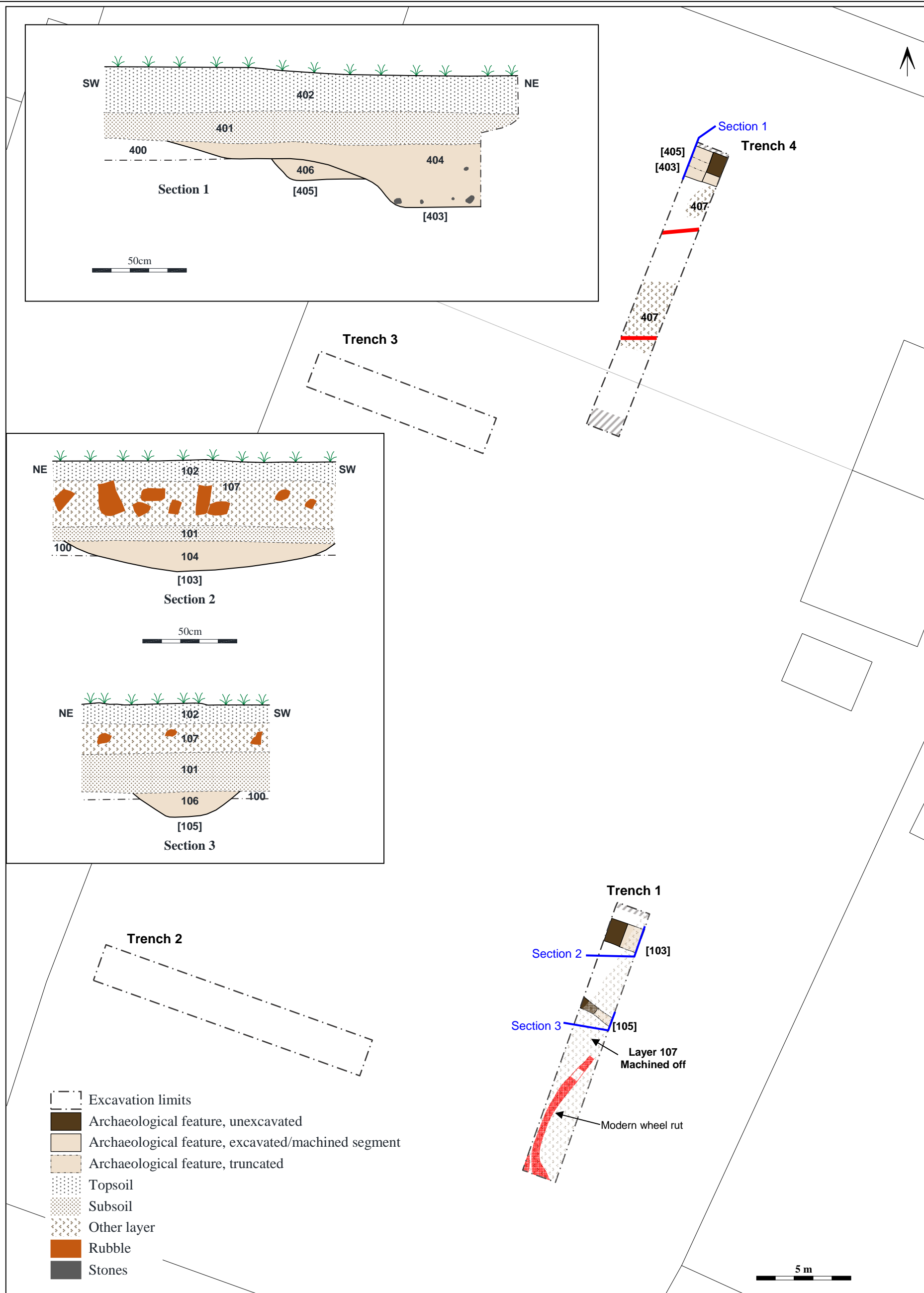


Figure 2: All-features plan

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Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south-west and north-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, north-west facing baulk section, furrow [103] and layer (107)



Plate 3: Trench 1, north-west facing baulk section with gully [105] and layer (107).



Plate 4: Trenches 2 and 3, looking north-west



Plate 5: Trench 4, looking south-west and looking north-east



Plate 6: Trench 4, south-east-facing baulk section at north-east end of trench with ditches [403] and [405]

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