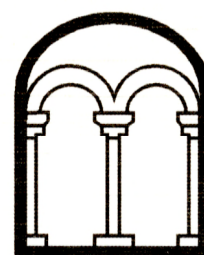


**41 HIGH STREET
HENLOW
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION,
RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Albion
archaeology



**41 HIGH STREET
HENLOW
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION,
RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

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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. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose 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). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Taylor French Developments Ltd and monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by Slawek Utrata (Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer). The fieldwork was undertaken by Allan King (Archaeological Supervisor) under the management of Wesley Keir (Project Manager). This report was prepared by Allan King with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician), Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and Irene Sala (analysis of soil samples). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBC AO	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Taylor French Developments Ltd
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
LPA	Local Planning Authority
PDA	Permitted development area



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the property at 41 High Street Henlow, Bedfordshire, SG16 6AA (CB/17/02373/FULL). The redevelopment comprised the conversion of the existing building into four flats, including the demolition and reconstruction of the rear part of the building; and the construction of seven new buildings, as well as associated access, parking and landscaping.

Due to the archaeological potential of the permitted development area (PDA) a condition (no. 12) was attached to the decision notice, requiring a staged programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the guidelines provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Albion Archaeology prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the first stage of the archaeological investigative works required by the condition — a trial-trench evaluation targeting the eastern half of the PDA (Albion Archaeology 2018) (the western half of the PDA had been evaluated in 2011 in connection with application CB/11/03465/OUT). However, the development was carried out without the implementation of the 2018 WSI. Accordingly, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer (CBC AO) advised that a programme of open-area excavation would be required within the PDA.

The archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2011 focused on the western half of the PDA. This revealed extensive make-up deposits of post-medieval to modern date, with occasional associated features comprising pathways and a ditch. A series of earlier archaeological features comprised shallow, perpendicular, ditched boundaries, which were tentatively dated to the Saxo-Norman period on the basis of a very small pottery assemblage.

The open-area excavation took place between 20th and 31st January 2020. It consisted of three areas totalling c.160m², located in the eastern half of the PDA. The open-area excavations revealed five pits, two ditches, remains of a cellar, one modern pit and two tree-throws.

The most significant remains within the open-area excavations comprised four pits revealed in Area 3 and one pit in Area 2, three of which produced sherds of 12th-13th-century pottery. Due to the similarity in form and the deposits they contained, the remaining two pits are assumed to be of a similar date. The moderate finds assemblage, which included pottery sherds, animal bone and cereal grains, suggests the features are likely to have been used as refuse pits associated with medieval domestic backyard activity. No related structural features were identified within the PDA, although this may be due to the limited nature of the excavations.

No earlier remains were revealed within the open-area excavations, suggesting that the possible Saxo-Norman activity recorded within the trial trenching was focused towards the brook in the western half of the PDA, although this may be the result of the limited nature of the excavations.

The limited nature of the recovered data suggests that the remains have only limited potential to address identified research themes. However, the medieval features revealed within the PDA do add to the body of evidence for settlement activity of this



period within Henlow and do indicate there is considerable potential for the survival of further medieval remains within the vicinity of the PDA.

This report will be uploaded onto the ADS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS ref: albionar1-357479). Following approval of this document by the CBC AO, the archive of materials (subject to the landowner's permission) and accompanying records will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM: 2018.33).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

Planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the property at 41 High Street Henlow, Bedfordshire, SG16 6AA (CB/17/02373/FULL). The redevelopment comprises the conversion of the existing building into four flats, including the demolition and reconstruction of the rear part of the building; and the construction of seven new buildings, as well as associated access, parking and landscaping.

Due to the archaeological potential of the permitted development area (PDA) a condition (no. 12) was attached to the decision notice, requiring a staged programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the guidelines provided in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The condition was as follows:

No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation, that adopts a staged approach and includes post excavation analysis and publication, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The said development shall only be implemented in full accordance with the approved archaeological scheme.

Albion Archaeology prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the first stage of the archaeological investigative works required by the condition — a trial-trench evaluation targeting the eastern half of the PDA (Albion Archaeology 2018) (the western half of the PDA had been evaluated in 2011 in connection with application CB/11/03465/OUT). However, the development was carried out without the implementation of the 2018 WSI.

Accordingly, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer (CBC AO) advised that a programme of open-area excavation would be required within the PDA. The CBC AO issued a brief detailing the required work (CBC 2019). This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), which requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) as a consequence of development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor French Developments Ltd to carry out the open-area excavation in accordance with a WSI approved in advance by the CBC AO (Albion Archaeology 2019). This report details the results of the excavation.

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

The village of Henlow lies in the eastern part of Central Bedfordshire on the south-west side of the River Ivel (Figure 1). The nearest towns are Biggleswade, 6km to the north, and Shefford, 3km to the north-west. Henlow is principally a linear settlement, situated along the north-south aligned High Street (B649). Henlow Park is situated to the east of the village and is



accessed from the High Street; the church is in the north of the village along the east-west aligned Church Road.

The PDA is situated on the west side of the High Street, towards the southern end of the village. Prior to the consented development it comprised a dwelling set back from the road with open ground to the rear. It is bounded to the west by a minor tributary of the Ivel.

The PDA is centred on grid reference TL 176253 383109 and lies on fairly level ground at c.40m OD. The underlying geology is Woburn Sand Formation sandstone, overlain by alluvial and glaciofluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel¹.

1.3 Status and Purpose of this Document

It was agreed with the CBC AO that this report would present all findings of the investigation, including a summary of the results from the 2011 evaluation and any required analysis of the results. Full details of the results of the evaluation are reported in Albion Archaeology (2011a).

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological and historical background to the PDA was discussed in detail in a heritage statement (Albion Archaeology 2017a), submitted with the planning application. In preparation of the 2018 WSI updated data was obtained from the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) (search no: 201819/045).

The PDA was partially evaluated in 2011 in connection with application CB/11/03465/OUT. The work targeted the undeveloped rear of the site. The evaluation revealed extensive make-up deposits of post-medieval to modern date, with occasional associated features comprising pathways and a ditch. At a depth of between 0.9m and 1.2m a series of earlier archaeological features were revealed, comprising shallow, perpendicular, ditched boundaries. These were tentatively dated to the Saxo-Norman period by a small assemblage of pottery.

The HER contains 59 records within a 500m-radius study area around the PDA. These include nine listed buildings, four events and forty-five monuments, the latter comprising find-spots, buildings and other heritage assets.

Heritage assets of prehistoric date comprise cropmarks (HER1888 and HER20340) and features identified during archaeological investigation (HER19889; EBD1214 and EBD1215).

The earliest asset comprises the cropmark of an oval enclosure and round barrow (HER20340) likely to be Bronze Age in date. They were identified from aerial photographs and are situated c.280m to the south-east of the PDA. Further cropmarks (HER1888), possibly dating to the prehistoric period, have

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



been recorded in a field on the opposite side of the stream from the PDA. They comprise linear and curvilinear features, but do not form any obvious enclosures.

Two truncated roundhouse drip gullies and several pits were identified during archaeological investigation on land to the rear of 109-113 High Street, c.480m north of the PDA. Pottery recovered indicates that they are late Iron Age in date. No heritage assets of Roman date have so far been identified in the study area.

The PDA is situated within the medieval core of Henlow (HER17111), as defined in the HER, although the village is known to have Anglo-Saxon origins. Evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement in Henlow is slight, although a settlement was already in existence at the time of the Domesday survey in 1086. The name 'Henlow' is thought to derive from the Old English 'Haenna Hlaw' meaning Hen's burial mound. This has led to the suggestion that an Anglo-Saxon burial mound once existed in the village, although its location has not been identified (HER790).

No heritage assets of medieval date have so far been found in the study area, although the Grade I listed Church of St Mary has 12th-century elements. Heritage assets of Anglo-Saxon date comprise a number of pits found during archaeological investigations to the west of the High Street to the rear of nos 109-113 (HER19887 and HER19889). Possible Saxo-Norman ditches were identified at the west end of the PDA in 2011 (see above) (HER18857 and HER19958). This evidence suggests the utilisation of land between the Ivel tributary and the High Street during the Saxo-Norman period.

The majority of the post-medieval heritage assets within the study area comprise buildings, one of which is the Grade II listed Mulberry House (HER 1113838) situated diagonally opposite the PDA at 44 High Street. Cartographic evidence indicates that the eastern end of the PDA has been occupied by buildings since at least as early as 1718. The western half of the PDA, however, remained undeveloped until the consented development (CB/17/02373/FULL) was implemented.

1.5 Research Objectives

The proposed development had the potential to reveal archaeological remains associated with Anglo-Saxon and medieval Henlow. Such remains would be of regional significance. Post-medieval/modern overburden, as seen in the 2011 evaluation, is likely to be of no more than local significance.

The research framework for Bedfordshire states that in general few medieval rural settlements have been investigated in the county. It stresses the potential for acquiring information about the origins, diversity and development of villages from within or around the edges of existing settlements (Oake 2007, 14). In addition, characterisation of settlement forms, understanding how they grow, shift and disappear is of local and regional importance (Wade 2000, 24–5; Oake 2007, 14; and Medlycott 2011, 70).



Based on the local and regional research agenda, the research objectives for the investigations within the PDA were as follows:

- How can any Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement remains be characterised in terms of their date, form and function?
- How were any Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement remains affected by alluviation associated with the tributary stream to the west of the PDA?

The general objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape;
- local environmental conditions via recovering palaeo-environmental remains.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Open-area Excavation

The open-area excavation took place between 20th and 31st January 2020. It consisted of three areas totalling c.160m², located within the east half of the PDA (Figure 2). With the consent of the CBC AO, Areas 2 and 3 were reduced in size from the plan proposed in the WSI so as to maintain a safe stand-off from the surrounding buildings and to avoid services associated with the current development.

The areas were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket—except where a toothed bucket was required to remove substantial slabs of concrete or tarmac—and 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 features and deposits were assigned a unique context number, commencing at 100 for area 1, 200 for area 2 etc. and subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

2.2 Methodological Standards

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to.

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd ed., 2017b).
• Bedford Borough Council	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (ver. 2.8, 2010)
• CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
• EAA	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)
• Historic England	Archaeology Guidelines and Standards ² ;
	<i>The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide</i> (2015)

The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum (accession No. BEDFM 2018.33). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (ref: albionar1-318441) in

² Historic England guidelines on a number of specialist fields and materials, including environmental archaeology, are available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/advice-and-guidance/>.



accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.



3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The results of the open-area excavations in the eastern half of the PDA are summarised below and shown on Figures 2–6. A summary of the results from the 2011 evaluation in the western half of the PDA has also been included and is shown on Figure 2. Where site recording numbers have been used they are distinguished by different bracket styles to indicate feature number = [***] and fill number = (***). Detailed finds and ecofactual information are contained in Appendices 1 and 2.

The features and deposits are discussed by area and feature type below; their respective locations are shown on Figures 2 and 3.

3.2 Archaeological Evaluation

Archaeological evaluation of the western part of the PDA, comprising the excavation of four trenches, was undertaken between 10th and 17th February 2011. The investigation revealed extensive make-up deposits of post-medieval to modern date, with occasional associated features comprising pathways and a ditch.

Within Trenches 2 and 3, at a depth of between 0.9m and 1.2m a series of earlier archaeological features were revealed, comprising shallow, perpendicular, ditched boundaries. These are tentatively dated to the Saxo-Norman period by a very small pottery assemblage. These features were severely truncated by later activity and very disturbed by extensive rooting.

The ditches truncated a series of thin alluvial deposits which extended across the site, becoming thicker towards the watercourse to the west. Alluvial and underlying dark silty deposits likely to be associated with an old water course extended across the entire extent of Trench 1. A small finds assemblage was recovered from the alluvial deposits which included Saxo-Norman pottery and animal bone. This material was mainly from the eastern part of the deposit, suggesting dumping of material from the adjacent bank.

No archaeological features were revealed in Trench 4.

3.3 Area 1

Area 1 was located at the east extent of the PDA on the street frontage and to the front of the building that was originally the Parachute PH. The excavation revealed the remains of a cellar with an associated linear feature, as well as a tree-throw.

3.3.1 Overburden and undisturbed geological deposits

The overburden comprised a tarmac surface with associated levelling and hard-standing layers, constructed to a total depth of 0.58m as part of the current development, overlying 0.32m of buried subsoil (mid-brown-grey clay-silt) (103) (Figure 3, Section 3).



The undisturbed geological deposits comprised mid-yellow-orange sandy gravel with patches of mid-brown-orange sandy clay. Two of the clay deposits were partially excavated to confirm that they were geological in nature.

3.3.2 Cellar

The remains of a modern cellar (112) were partially revealed in the south-west corner of the area, measuring c.3m by 2.45m. It appeared to be rectangular or square in plan with a protrusion along its eastern side that formed the stairs leading down to the cellar floor; a line of bricks on this side were observed to have visible wear and no mortar on their upper surface. The walls were constructed using bricks measuring 220mm x 100mm x 60mm with ashlar coursing and bonded with a light yellow sandy mortar, with at least seven courses surviving. The interior of the cellar had been backfilled with a mixture of dark and mid-brown-grey sandy silt and brick rubble during the demolition of the associated building.

A linear feature [105] extended from the north-east corner of the cellar to the north extent of Area 1, on the same N–S alignment as the cellar wall (Figure 3, Section 1). It measured 4.35m long and 1.3m wide up to the north and west limits of Area 1 respectively, and was 0.43m deep, with a steep side and slightly uneven base. Due to its alignment and location, it is likely to be a feature associated with the same building as the cellar.

3.3.3 Tree-throw

A single tree-throw [107] was identified along the north edge of Area 1 (Figure 3, Section 2). It had an irregular shape in plan and an asymmetrical profile, with under-cutting sides and a concave base. It measured 1.77m long, 1.29m wide and 0.58m deep. It contained deposits of mid-orange-brown and dark-brown-grey sandy silt, which produced fragments of animal bone.

3.4 Area 2

Area 2 was situated along the south edge of the PDA, at the rear of the property that faces onto the High Street. It was not excavated to the full extent outlined in the WSI due to the presence of services along the east and north sides, and previous deep excavations on the west side to lay hard-standing. The excavation revealed a pit along with modern features.

3.4.1 Overburden and undisturbed geological deposits

The overburden comprised four modern make-up and levelling layers constructed to a depth of 0.75m as part of the current development (Figure 3, Section 4). A further post-medieval make-up layer (204) was identified beneath these, measuring 0.31m thick and consisting of mid-grey-brown silt-clay and containing fragments of brick and clay pipe (not retained). These make-up layers sealed a buried topsoil (205) (dark-grey-brown clay-silt) and subsoil (206) (mid-yellow-brown silt-clay), which were 0.26m and 0.27m thick respectively.

The undisturbed geological deposits (207) comprised light-yellow-orange sandy gravel with patches of mid-grey silty sand.



3.4.2 Medieval pit

Pit [208] was revealed in the east half of Area 2 (Figure 3, Sections 4 and 5). The pit was cut from the top of the subsoil, and the centre of it was machine-excavated. It extended beyond the east limit of the area and appeared to be oval in plan, aligned E–W. It was 2.17m+ long, 1.86m wide and 0.36m deep, with steep sides and a slightly concave base. It contained a deposit of dark-grey-brown clay-silt, which produced pottery sherds of early medieval date, as well as animal bone and some residual sherds of late Saxon pottery. A small amount of cereal grains were recovered from a soil sample taken from the deposit.

3.4.3 Modern features

A modern wall and concrete footing, aligned approximately, N–S were revealed extending 3.3m from the south limit of Area 2, forming the east wall of a garage that had been demolished as part of the current development. Two oval features to the north of the wall represent intrusions resulting from the demolition; they contained concrete rubble from the removal of the footings.

3.5 Area 3

Area 3 was located in the centre of the PDA, in between two newly constructed properties. It was not excavated to the full extent outlined in the WSI due to the presence of services along the east and west sides, and to maintain a safe stand-off from the surrounding buildings. The excavation revealed five pits, two ditches and a tree-throw.

3.5.1 Overburden and undisturbed geological deposits

The overburden comprised four modern make-up and levelling layers constructed to a depth of 0.79m as part of the current development, to backfill an area that had been reduced for piling. These layers sealed a buried topsoil (dark-grey-brown clay-silt) (304) and subsoil (305) (mid-grey-brown clay-silt), which were 0.20m and 0.36m thick respectively (Figure 3, Section 6).

The undisturbed geological deposits comprised mid-yellow-orange sandy clay with patches of gravel (306).

3.5.2 Pits

Four pits of probable medieval date were revealed within Area 3 (Figure 3, Sections 7–10). Pit [315] had an oval shape in plan and U-shaped profile, with steep sides and a slightly concave base, similar in form to pit [208]. It was cut from the top of the subsoil, measuring 2.83m long, 1.47m wide and 0.51m deep. It contained a deposit of dark-blue-grey silt-clay, which produced early medieval pottery sherds. Fragments of an iron, whittle-tang knife and animal bone were also recovered, as well as a moderate amount of charred cereal grains.

Three pits [307], [311] and [313] each had a similar oval to circular shape in plan and U-shaped profiles that were 0.86–1.08m wide and 0.13–0.34m deep. They contained deposits that varied from dark-brown-grey silt-clay to mid-grey silt-clay. Pit [311] was truncated by [313] and produced early medieval pottery sherds; a soil sample taken from the pit contained a number of cereal



grains. Pits [307] and [313] produced no artefacts, but are likely to be of a similar date to the features that did.

A single, sub-circular, modern pit [319] was identified along the east extent of Area 3. It was 1.05m wide and contained a deposit of dark-grey-black clay-silt with brick rubble.

3.5.3 Ditches

Two contemporary ditches [317] and [321] were revealed at the north end of Area 3. Ditch [321] was aligned E–W, running parallel to the current property boundary. It was at least 0.4m wide and contained a deposit of dark and mid-grey-brown silt-clay that produced no artefacts. Ditch [317] was perpendicular to connected with [321]; it was 1.4m long, 0.55m wide and 0.4m+ deep with near-vertical sides (Figure 3, Section 11). This feature was not excavated to its full depth due to flooding. It contained a similar deposit to ditch [321].

3.5.4 Tree-throw

A single tree-throw [309] was revealed within Area 3. It had a sub-circular shape in plan, with concave sides and a concave base. It was 1.34m wide, 0.17m deep and contained a deposit of light-brown-grey silt-clay.



4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 *Synthesis of Results*

The archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2011 focused on the western half of the PDA. This revealed extensive make-up deposits of post-medieval to modern date, with occasional associated features comprising pathways and a ditch, as well as a series of earlier archaeological features, comprising shallow, perpendicular, ditched boundaries. These were tentatively dated to the Saxo-Norman period by a very small pottery assemblage.

The open-area excavations revealed five pits, two ditches, the remains of a cellar, one modern pit and two tree-throws.

Four pits were revealed in Area 3 and one in Area 2, three of which produced sherds of 12th-13th-century pottery. Due to the similarity in form and the deposits they contained, the remaining two pits are assumed to be of a similar date. The moderate finds assemblage, which included pottery sherds, animal bone and cereal grains, suggests the features are likely to have been used as refuse pits associated with medieval domestic backyard activity. No related structural features were identified within the PDA, although this may be due to the limited nature of the excavations.

Two ditches revealed at the northern end of Area 3 may represent boundary and drainage features. Ditch [321] follows the alignment of the current property boundary; while ditch [317] was probably used to drain water into this boundary to then run off towards the brook at the western side of the PDA. No artefacts were recovered from these features, and while the nature of the deposits contained within them would suggest a later date than the medieval pits, they may represent a long-standing property boundary.

Remains of a cellar were revealed in the western half of Area 1. This is likely to be associated with an L-shaped building—depicted on OS maps dating from 1881 to 1947 (Figure 6)—that fronted onto the High Street, with the cellar situated under the rear half of the building. Based on the OS maps, this building appears to have been demolished by 1978 for the construction of The Parachute PH, which was converted to flats as part of the current development.

No Anglo-Saxon remains were revealed within the open-area excavations, suggesting that the possible Saxo-Norman activity recorded within the trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2011a) was focused towards the brook in the western half of the PDA, although again this may be the result of the limited nature of the excavations.

4.2 *Significance of Results*

The limited nature of the recovered data suggests the remains have only limited potential to address identified research themes. However, the medieval features revealed within the PDA do add to the body of evidence for settlement activity of this period within Henlow and do indicate there is considerable potential for the survival of further medieval remains within the vicinity of the PDA. Early Medieval remains, including a trackway, field



systems and quarry pits, have also been revealed in The Millennium Field in Henlow, *c.*800m to the north (Albion Archaeology 2014). Much larger investigations at Stotfold *c.*4.2km to the south-east (Albion Archaeology 2011b) and at Langford *c.*3km to the north-east (Albion Archaeology, forthcoming) also demonstrate the potential for significant early medieval remains to survive within the wider vicinity of Henlow.

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6. APPENDIX 1: FINDS SUMMARY (2020 EXCAVATIONS)

6.1 Overview

Four features yielded an assemblage comprising medieval pottery, animal bone, a piece of ceramic roof tile, an iron knife and trace hammerscale (Table 1).

Feature		Fill	Date range	Finds summary
107	Tree-throw	109	Undated	Animal bone (82g)
208	Pit	209	12th-13th century	Pottery (15g); animal bone (23g); hammerscale (<1g)
311	Pit	312	12th-14th century	Pottery (179g); animal bone (53g); hammerscale (<1g)
315	Pit	316	12th-13th century	Pottery (113g); ceramic roof tile (48g); iron knife (RA1); animal bone; (162g); hammerscale (<1g)

Table 1: Finds Summary by feature

6.2 Pottery

Thirty-six pottery sherds (307g) representing twenty-two vessels were collected, the majority from pit [311]. Sherds have a mean weight of 9g and generally survive in good condition, displaying minimal abrasion. Fabric types are identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2).

Fabric code	Common name / date	Sherd No.	Wt. (g)	Feature/Sherd No.
B01	St Neots-type ware (10th-12th century)	4	7	[208]:3, [315]:1
B07	Shelly ware (12th-13th century)	1	5	[311]:1
C01	Sandy ware (12th-13th century)	7	59	[311]:6, [315]:1
C02	Sandy ware + red quartz (12th-13th century)	1	13	[315]:1
C03	Fine sandy ware (12th-13th century)	2	2	[208]:1
C04	Coarse sandy ware (12th-13th century)	1	1	[208]:1
C59A	Pasty sandy ware (12th-13th century)	4	43	[208]:1, [311]:2, [315]:1
C60	Hertfordshire-type grey ware (12th-14th century)	1	9	[311]:1
C61	Sandy ware + calc. inclusions (12th-13th century)	14	164	[311]:11, [315]:3
R06C	Roman fine sandy grey ware (2nd century+)	1	4	[311]:1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series and quantification

Early medieval pottery collected from pits [208], [311] and [315] mainly comprises locally manufactured sandy coarse wares, and five shell-tempered sherds, the latter including St Neots-type ware. Sherds derive from both hand-built and wheel-thrown vessels, although no feature sherds (rims, bases etc.) or diagnostic forms occur. Most sherds are plain, although one has boldly executed wavy combed decoration and two display linear combing. Sooting on the exterior of several sherds indicates they represent cooking pots.

An abraded Roman grey ware body sherd (4g) occurred as a residual find in medieval pit [311].

6.3 Other Finds

Early medieval pit [315] contained two joining pieces from an incomplete iron whittle-tang knife. The object has a triangular-sectioned blade broken towards the tip, with a fairly straight back and gently sloping shoulder; and a tapered



rectangular-sectioned tang for insertion into the handle (L tang 60mm; L blade 88mm). The exact form is obscured by corrosion product/accretions, although is likely to be medieval in date (cf. Cowgill *et al.* 1987, fig. 54). This object will be x-rayed in line with archival requirements.

An abraded piece of plain flat ceramic roof tile (48g) collected from the same feature is considered to represent an intrusive find.

The sieved residues of environmental samples taken from pits [208], [311] and [315] yielded traces of flake and spheroidal hammer scale (<1g), to which little significance can be attached.

6.4 Animal Bone

The faunal assemblage totals 47 fragments (320g) most deriving from pit [315]. The material is well-fragmented, with a mean fragment weight of only 6g and displays variable surface erosion. Diagnostic elements mainly comprise indeterminate limb bone shafts (including a metapodial), rib fragments and a toothless mandible; pieces identifiable to species are a cattle horn core, pig phalanx and pig molar fragments.



7. APPENDIX 2: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES (2020 EXCAVATIONS)

7.1 Sampling and Processing

Three samples (20l each) were collected, all of them from pit fills. All the material was processed using a flotation tank with the flot captured on a 300 micron sieve, whilst a 1mm mesh was used for the residue. The material was then air-dried before being examined.

7.2 Sorting and Identification

7.2.1 Tabulated Summary of the charred plant remains

	Period	MEDIEVAL		
	feature	P	P	P
	cut number	311	315	208
	context number	312	316	209
	sample number	1	2	3
	vol sample (l)	20	20	20
	vol flot (ml)	100	80	30
	% sorted	100%	100%	100%
	% scanned	100%	100%	100%
LATIN NAME	ENGLISH			
Cereal grains				
<i>Avena</i> spp.	oat	21	2	
cf. <i>Avena</i> spp.	oat?		10	1
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	hulled barley	16	5	2
cf. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	hulled barley?	2		
<i>Secale cereale</i>	rye	3		
cf. <i>Secale cereale</i>	rye?		6	
<i>Triticum aestivum/durum</i>	free-threshing w heat	39	57	13
cf. <i>Triticum aestivum/durum</i>	free-threshing w heat?	27	64	
Cerealia	indet. cereal	225	444	7
Cerealia	indet. cereal fragments	105	654	15
Other plant/weed seeds				
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel nut shell fragments		9	1
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers		1	
cf. <i>Lens Culinaris</i>	lentil	3	7	1
cf. <i>Vicia sativa</i>	common vetch	5		
<i>Vicia</i> spp.	vetch		30	
<i>Pisum/Vicia</i>	pea/vetch	10	3	
<i>Lathyrus/Pisum</i>	vetchling			1
<i>Poaceae</i> indet.	grasses	4	2	
indeterminate	seed/fruit	3	3	
indeterminate	wood charcoal (>/<2mm)	+ /+++	+ /+++	+ /++
Other				
	"Amorphous charred objects" *	++	+	++
	TOTAL	463	1297	41
	item density (per litre of processed soil)	23	65	2

Item frequency: + =1-10; ++ = 11-50; +++ = 51-150; ++++=151-250; +++++ = 250+items

P=pit

* Amorphous charred objects = some are possibly food remains, such as fruit pulp / cereal based products; however, no clear traces of tissues was identified.



7.2.2 Sample <1>

The sample was collected from the sole fill of a small pit [311] that contained medieval pottery (12th-13th century). The whole flot had a volume of c.100ml and contained mostly charred plant remains, which consisted largely of cereal grains and charcoal, with much smaller amounts of other plants and a moderate presence of amorphous remains of unclear composition. Occasional small snails and modern uncharred plant remains were also present.

Most of the cereal grains were heavily deformed or incomplete and so unidentifiable. The identified varieties consist mostly of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum*), with less frequent presence of oat (*Avena* spp.) and hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and occasional rye (*Secale cereale*).

The other charred plant remains consist mostly of small/medium-sized legume seeds, such as peas and vetches (*Pisum/Vicia*, cf. *Vicia Sativa*) and possibly lentils (cf. *Lens culinaris*). Occasional grasses seeds (*Poaceae* indet.) and a few unidentified seeds/fruit, probably from wild plants, were also found.

The sample also contained a moderate amount of amorphous charred remains, which resemble the category known as “Amorphous charred objects” (Heiss 2014), often identified as food remains (fruit pulp/cereal-based products); however, when examined with the stereomicroscope the remains did not show clear traces of fruit/grains tissues.

7.2.3 Sample <2>

The sample was collected from the sole fill of a large pit [315] that contained medieval pottery (12th-13th century).

The whole flot had a volume of c.80ml and showed a similar composition to sample <1>, with the only exception of a higher frequency of small legume seeds (*Vicia* spp.) and the occasional presence of hazel nut shell fragments (*Corylus avellana*). A single cleaver seed (*Galium aparine*) was also identified.

7.2.4 Sample <3>

The sample was collected from the sole fill of a pit that contained a small amount of medieval pottery (12th-13th century). The whole flot had a volume of c.30ml and showed a very similar composition to samples <1> and <2>; the slightly less variety of species probably due only to the smaller amount of material.

7.3 Summary

Even though the limited nature of the investigation does not allow for a detailed understanding of the agricultural/economic trends of the site, some broad observations can be made.

The charred plant remains appear to show that free-threshing wheat was the main cereal being cultivated within the vicinity during the 12th/13th century, while hulled barley, oat and rye appear to have been only minor crops. Also the legume seeds identified may belong to cultivated pulses, used either as



fodder or in food preparations (bread/pottage), while occasional hazel nut remains represent the only evidence for the gathering of wild foodstuff. The remaining sparse seed/fruit remains, of which only one was precisely identified, are likely to belong to wild plants/weeds.

These charred plant assemblages appear to represent mainly debris from the final stages of crop-cleaning and processing, with some of the grains being accidentally burnt while being dried.

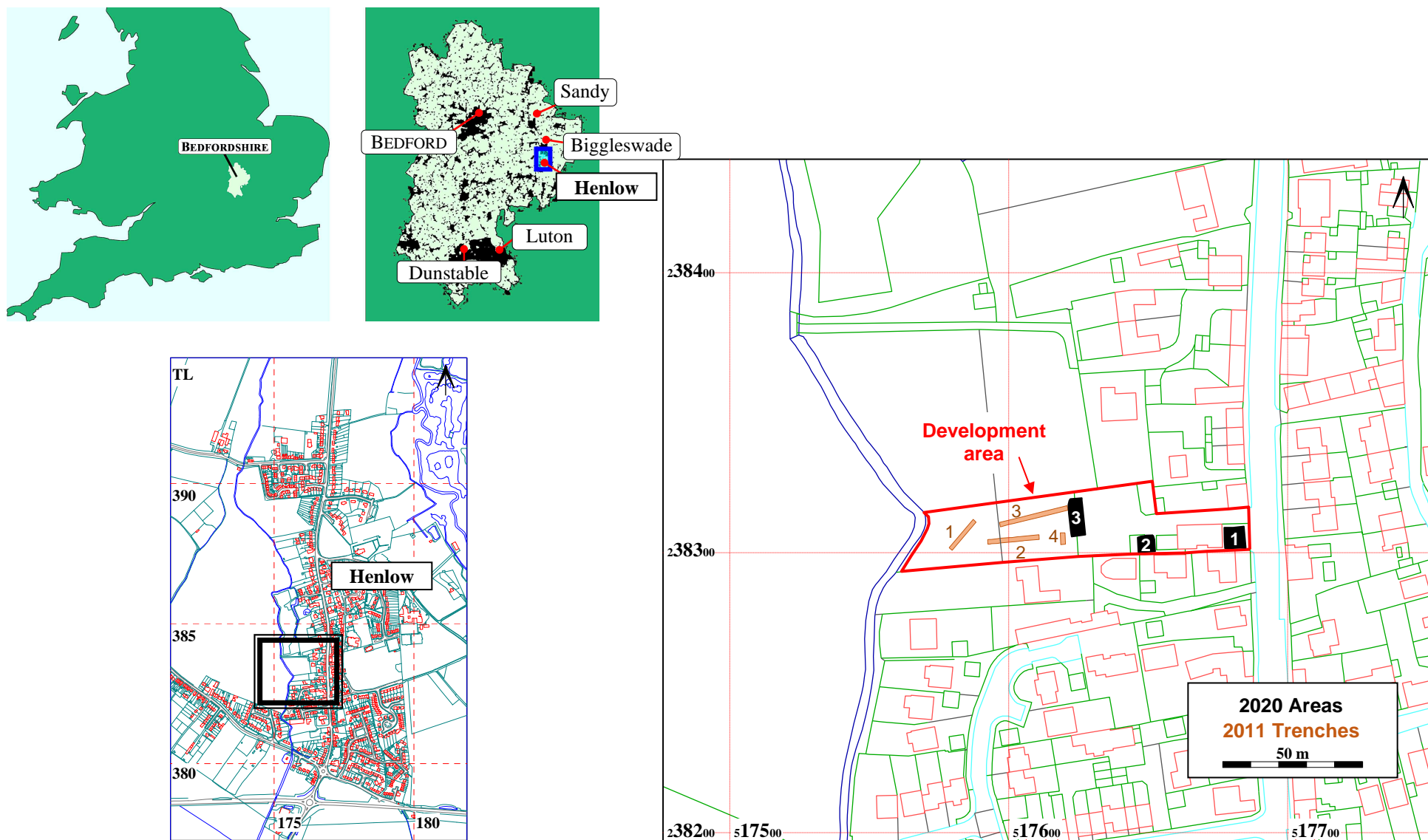
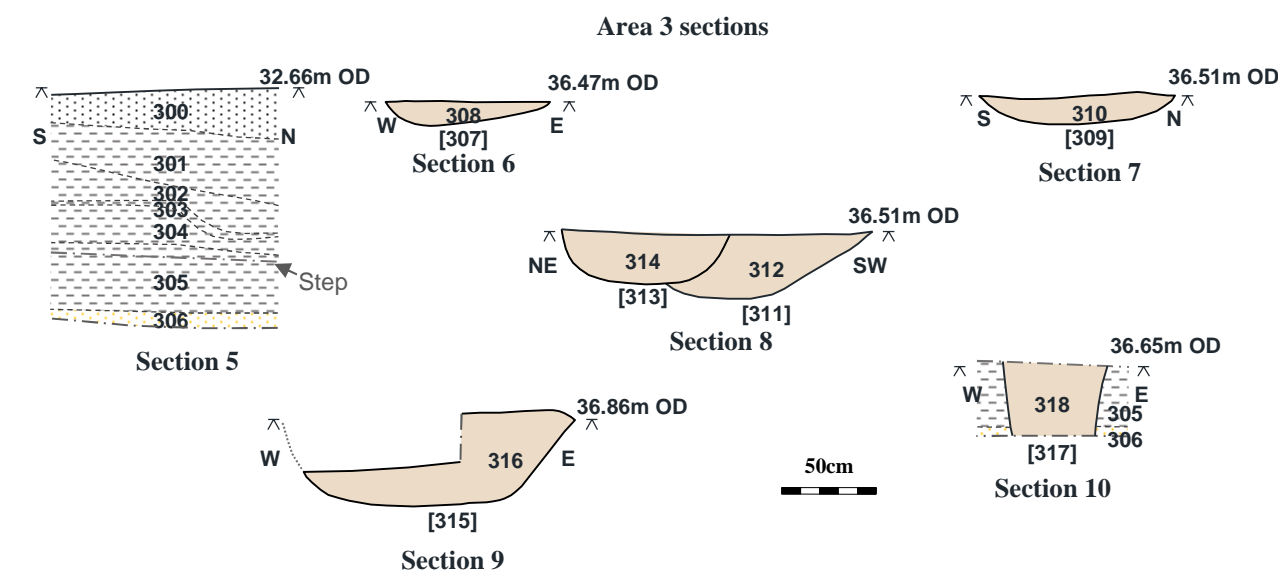
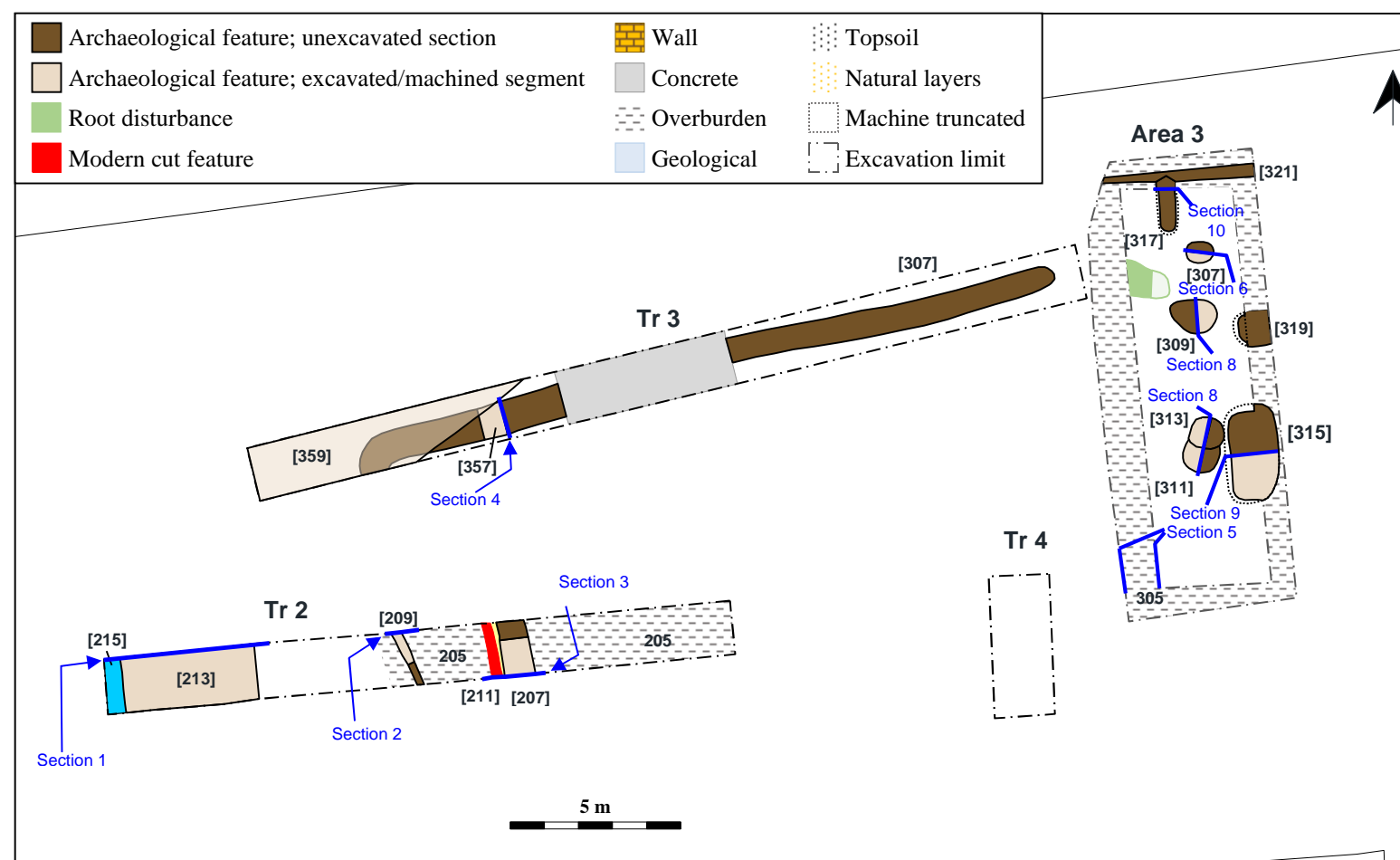


Figure 1: Site location

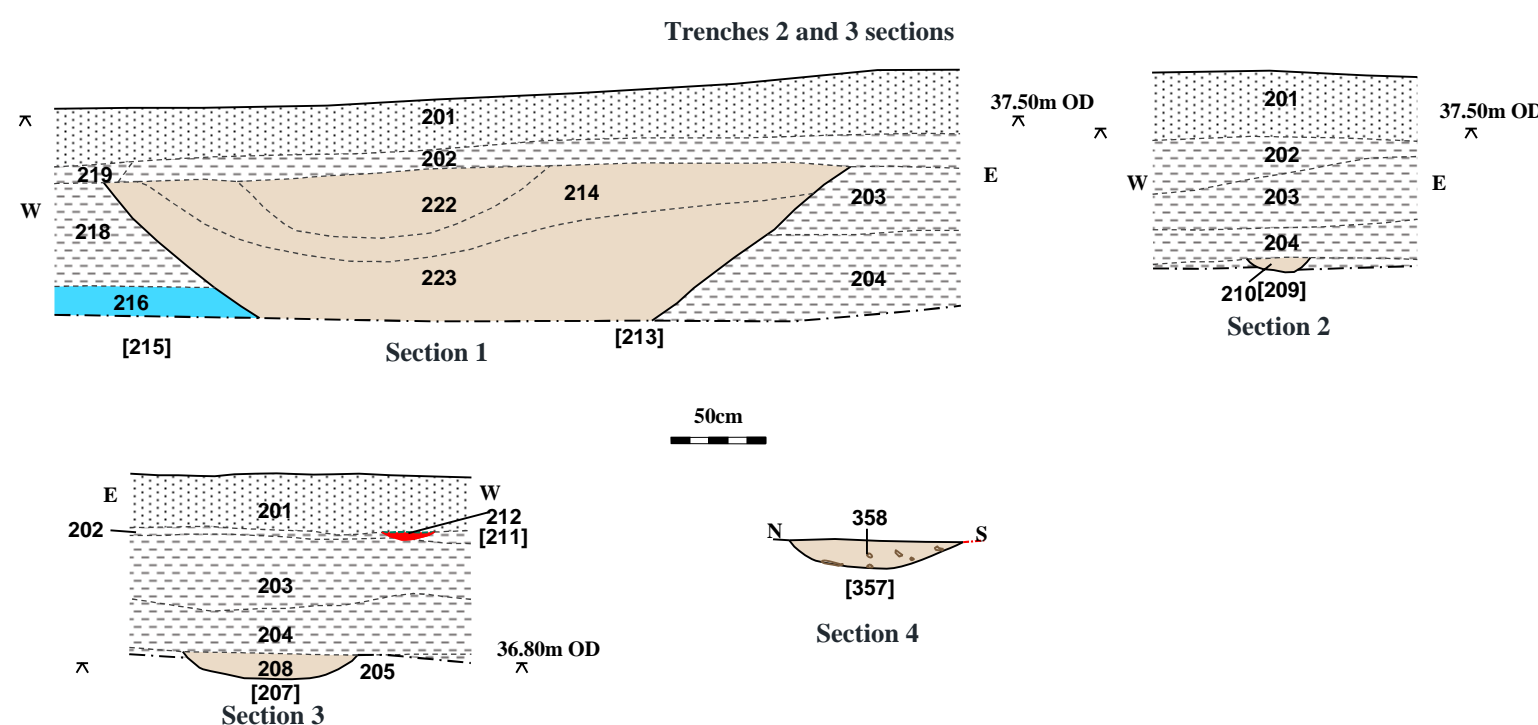
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Early ditch [307] in the western part of Trench 3, truncating the adjacent lighter alluvium (306). Looking East



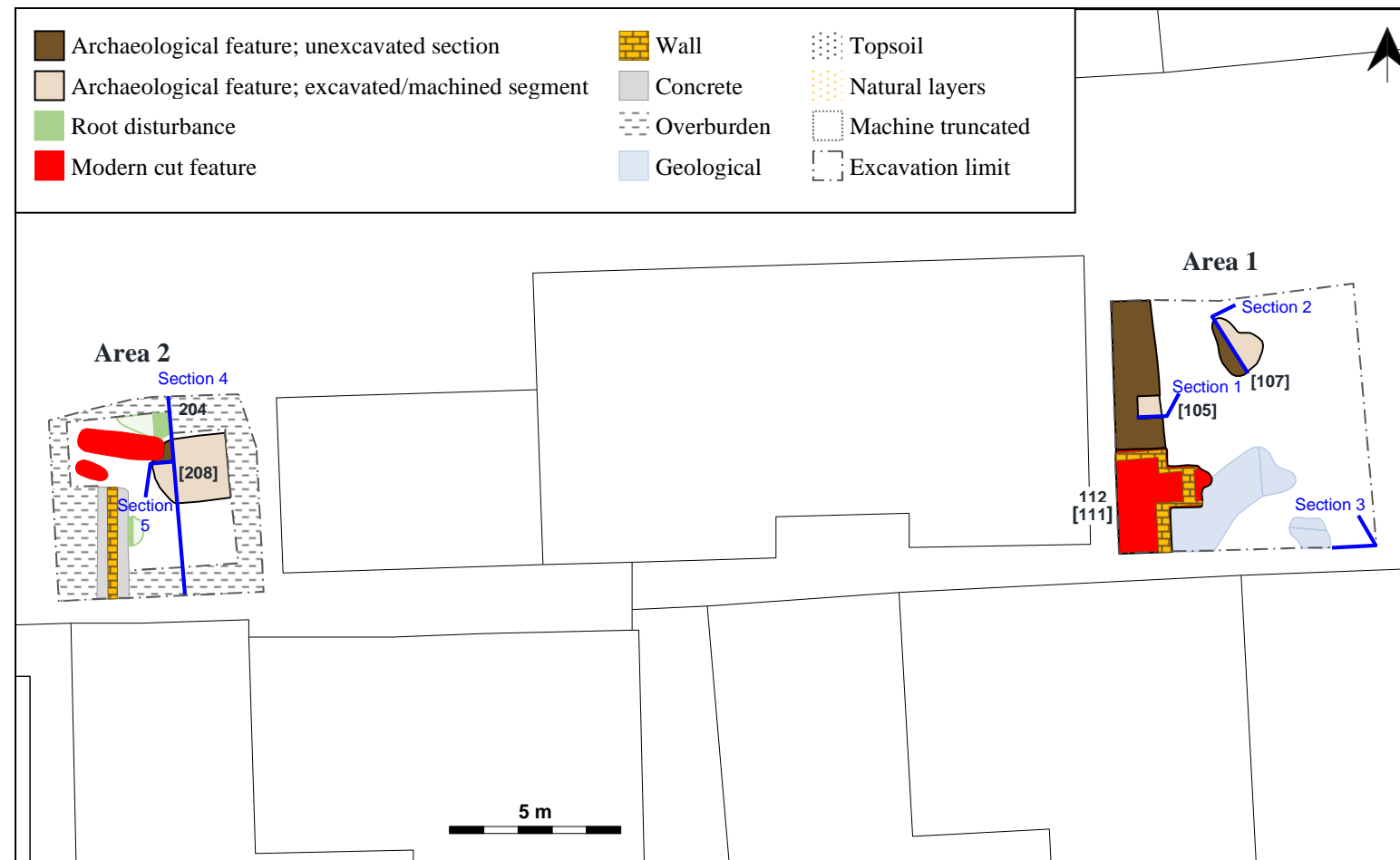
Early ditches [207] and [209] in Trench 2. Scale 1m. Looking West.



Area 3 looking N

Figure 2: Features revealed within 2011 Trenches 2–4 and 2020 Area 3

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Area 1 looking NW



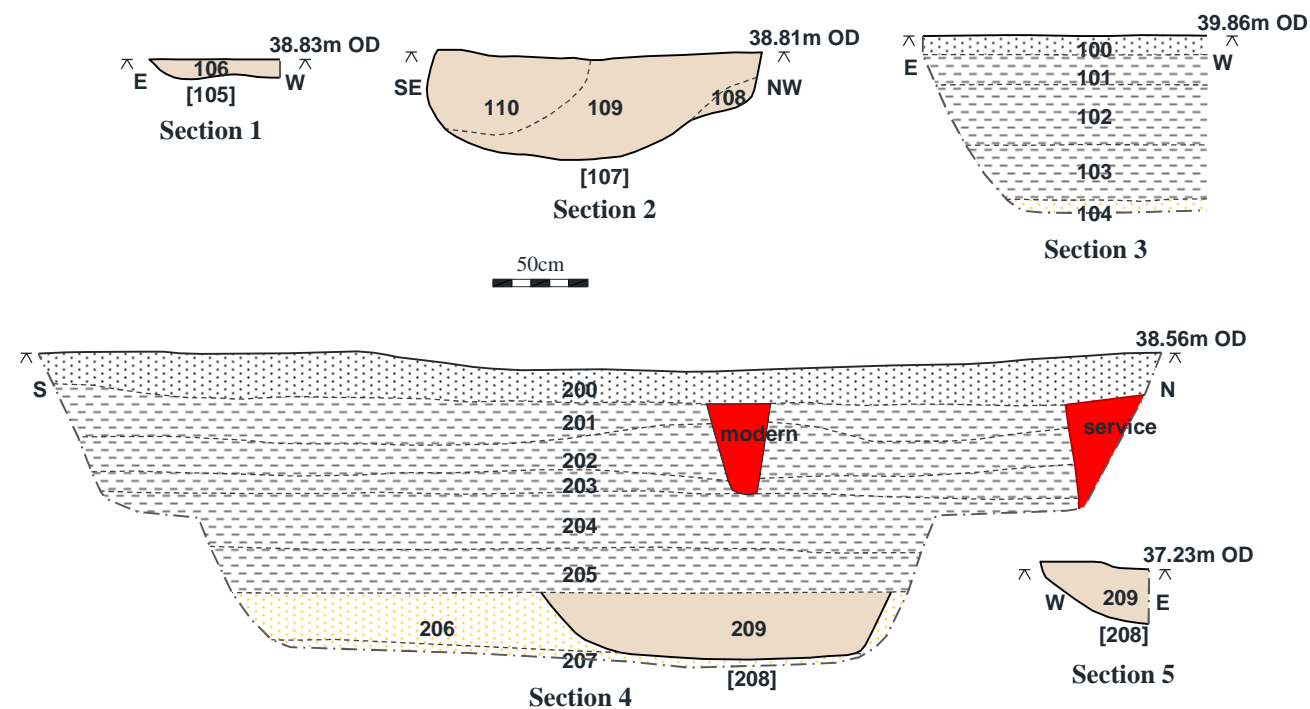
Area 2 looking NW



Area 1. Cellar [111] overview. Scale 1m. Looking E



Area 1. Cellar step. Scale 40cm. Looking W



Area 2. E-facing section of Area 2 before extension. Looking W. Scale 1m



Area 2. Pit [208]. Scale 40cm. Looking N

Figure 3: Features revealed within 2020 Areas 1 and 2

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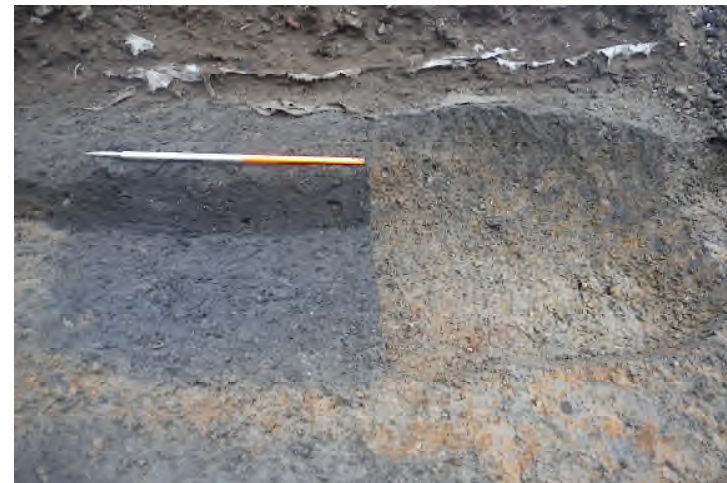
Pit [307]. Scale 40cm. Looking N



Pits [311], [313]. Scale 1m. Looking SE



Pit [315]. Scale 40cm. Looking N

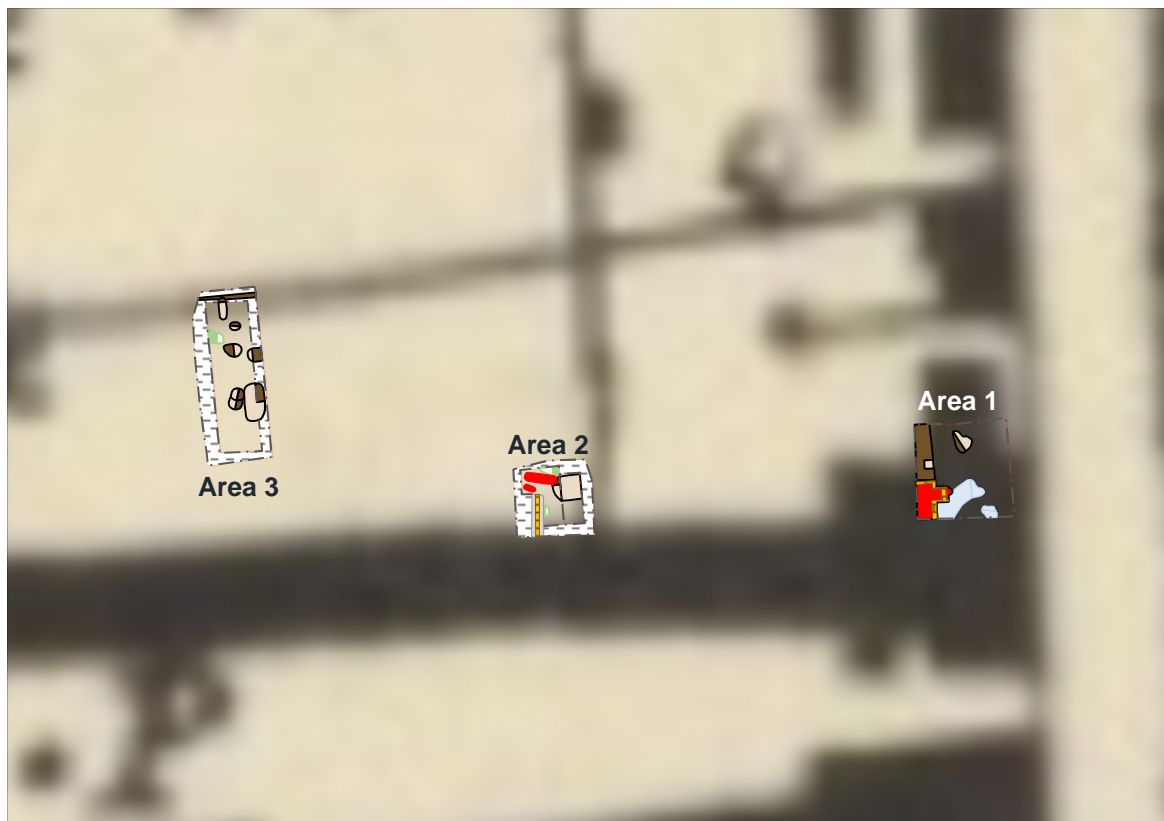


Pit [315]. Scale 1m. Looking E

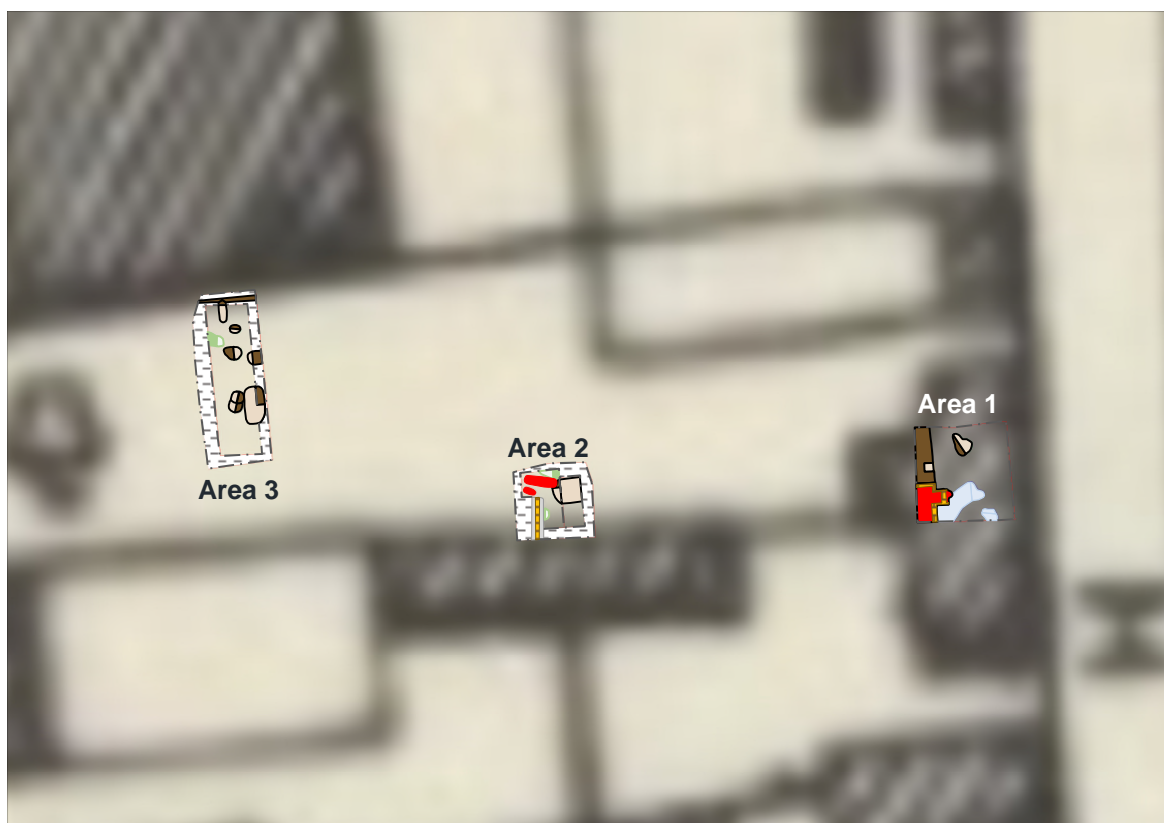
Figure 4: Selected photographs of 2020 Area 3



Figure 5: Detail from 1798 Enclosure Map overlaid with the PDA
(approximate location of development area shown in red)



1881 OS map



1947 OS map

Figure 6: 2020 Areas overlaid onto historical maps (not to scale)

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