AMPTHILL GREAT PARK
BEDFORDSHIRE

A COMMUNITY-LED SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION, RECORDING ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

Albion archaeology

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Preface

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Ampthill Town Council.

This report has been prepared by Adam Williams (Archaeological Supervisor), with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and Gary Edmondson (Project Manager: ecofact samples). The report was edited by Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). The fieldwork was supervised by Adam Williams and undertaken by over 40 local volunteers, supported by Albion Archaeology staff (Catie Watts, Helen Parslow, Jack Eldridge and Lewis Busby).

Digitisation of site drawings was undertaken by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning and Adam Williams. Artefacts were photographed by Adam Williams. The project was managed by Jeremy Oetgen. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff.

Fieldwork was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Slawek Utrata and Hannah Firth (Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists).

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Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CBM	Ceramic building material
CI*f*A	Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
SFB	Sunken-featured building
WSI	Written scheme of investigation

Non-Technical Summary

In July and August 2018 a community-led archaeological investigation took place in Ampthill Great Park. It was part of Ampthill Town Council's HLF-funded 'Parks for People' project. The Grade II registered park (NHLE 1000378) is of considerable historical and archaeological significance. It was once a deer park surrounding a late medieval palace known as 'Ampthill Castle' (scheduled monument NHLE 1009630). The palace was famously the residence of Queen Catherine of Aragon during her divorce from Henry VIII. In the 18th century Lancelot 'Capability' Brown remodelled the park (Phibbs 2016) and Ampthill Town Council's project aims to restore Brown's landscape as well as promote the awareness of all aspects of the park's heritage.

The community excavation was overseen by professional archaeologists from Albion Archaeology. Over 40 volunteers took part and more than 1,000 visitors came to see the work in progress.

The investigations targeted four areas of interest.

1) A possible Anglo-Saxon settlement east of Ampthill Castle (TL) 0257 3840
Trial trenching in 2009, focused the site of Ampthill Castle itself, had unexpectedly found early-middle Saxon pottery. In 2018, a further trial trench confirmed the evidence for a middle Saxon settlement, which was characterised by boundary ditches, pits, postholes and a sunken-featured building. The finds assemblage from the new trench predominantly comprised Saxon pottery and animal bone. The finds included a Saxon loom weight, a copper alloy fragment (possibly part of the arm from a set of tweezers) and a Roman melon bead. Although based on small-scale trenching, the results of the Ampthill Park investigation would suggest the remains survive of an extensive Saxon settlement that is relatively well preserved, not having been subjected to the effect of modern arable farming

2) 'The Standing', a late medieval or early post-medieval tower in Laurel Wood (TL) 0304 3860
A trial trench targeted the presumed site of a hunting lookout tower that was later used as a feature in Capability Brown's landscaped park. The aim was to confirm the location of the building and find out if it was the 16th-century tower or another built a century later. Fragmentary evidence for a late medieval to early post-medieval timber structure was found, with post-medieval ceramic building material, lime mortar, pottery and animal bone. A possibly Tudor copper-alloy dress pin, an iron nail, clay pipe fragments and glass fragments were key finds.

3) Possible evidence for Neolithic, Mesolithic and Bronze Age occupation in Laurel Wood (TL) 031 386
Eight 1m-square test pits were hand-dug and recorded by teams of volunteer, seeking evidence that might help interpret a significant assemblage of worked flint held in The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford, The material had been collected in Laurel Wood by the late Cyril Woodcraft.

Late Mesolithic and Neolithic/Bronze flints were recovered from three test-pits, possibly evidence for prehistoric activity on the Greensand Ridge. However, it is possible that they might have been imported to the site along with the aggregate used in the

construction of a path through the wood. A variety of other artefacts of different periods were also found.

4) Trial trenching at the supposed location of an ice house associated with Ampthill Park House (TL) 025 384

An exploratory dig (Trench 3) was attempted to confirm the location of the remains of the ice house serving the late-17th-century Ampthill Park House. The structure was situated on the north-facing scarp of the Greensand Ridge; it had been revealed following a land-slip in 2017 but had been rapidly reburied for safety reasons. The trench was hand-excavated by professional archaeologists due to the steepness of the slope. Unfortunately, the work had to be abandoned because the slope was too steep and rendered unstable by numerous rabbit burrows.

During the investigations, several artefacts were found that related to 20th-century military activity in Ampthill Park, notably the of the army camp that stood in Ampthill Park between 1914 and 1919. These included a heel iron from a WW1 army boot, a silver-plate copper-alloy table fork engraved with the owner's name, an iron drop handle, and WW2 rifle cartridge case. There was also a considerable amount of early 20th-century refuse on the scarp slope near the ice house site, probably dating from the WW1 camp.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Ampthill Town Council secured a 'Parks for People' (PfP) grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in 2014. The funding enabled the park's Lancelot 'Capability' Brown landscape to be restored, together with initiatives aimed at increasing the awareness of the park's heritage. A community-led archaeological excavation was identified within the activities plan as part of the PfP grant (CBC 2018).

Ampthill Great Park contains a number of local to nationally significant heritage assets dating from the prehistoric period to World War II, including the scheduled monument of Ampthill Castle (NHLE 1009630/ HER 810). A previous community-led excavation in the park also identified evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity and uncovered remains within the scheduled area associated with the Castle (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2009; 2011).

A further scheme of community-led archaeological investigation was proposed by Ampthill Town Council, which was to be undertaken as part of the PfP package. The scope of the investigation was agreed with the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA), who issued a brief for a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication (CBC 2018). On the advice of Historic England no further works were proposed within the scheduled area, so scheduled monument consent was not required.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to manage the programme and to take professional responsibility for its delivery in accordance with the required standards. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared (Albion Archaeology 2018) and this was approved by the CBCA. The Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments was also asked to vet the WSI; he confirmed that the proposed works did not impact on the scheduled monument.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Ampthill Great Park is situated on the north-west side of Ampthill town (Figure 1) in Central Bedfordshire Council authority. It occupies a prominent position on the Greensand Ridge, overlooking Bedford Vale to the north. The majority of the town, however, lies on the southern dip-slope of the ridge, and developed around the junction of Woburn Street, Bedford Street, Dunstable Street and Church Street. The town of Flitwick lies *c*.2.4km to the south and the county town of Bedford is situated *c*.12km to the north-east.

The park (centred on TL 0247 3839) is situated on the north side of Woburn Street, which runs westwards from the centre of the town. It comprises an area of public open space, including grassland and woodland.

The geology of Ampthill is Woburn Sands Formation Sandstone, with outcrops of West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation (undifferentiated) Mudstone. Topographically, Ampthill Great Park is situated just below the crest of the Greensand Ridge escarpment, at a height of *c*.100m above OD.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The early origins of Ampthill Great Park (NHLE 1000378/HER 1369) lie in its use as a deer park associated with the scheduled late-medieval 'Ampthill Castle' (NHLE 1009630/ HER 810). The house was commissioned by Sir John Cornwall (later Lord Fanhope) in the early 15th century as a palatial magnate's residence, rather than a defensive castle, and was described at the time as a 'sumptuous building'. A magnate's residence 'is a very high status residence of domestic rather than military character. Such dwellings were the houses or palaces of the highest ranks in society, acting as both residences for the elite and their large retinues and as the settings for meetings. These monuments were formed as a complex of buildings, usually of stone, and in general comprised a great hall or halls, chambers, chapels, kitchens, service rooms, lodgings and a gatehouse, usually arranged around a single or double courtyard' (Historic England) . Due to their rarity and connections to high ranking individuals they are considered to be of national importance.

Ampthill Castle was purchased by King Henry VIII in 1524 and housed Katherine of Aragon during the divorce proceedings of 1533. It had fallen into decay by 1555 and in 1649 it was reported as demolished. The site of Ampthill Castle was scheduled by English Heritage (now Historic England) in 1992 and the Great Park is on the Register for Historic Parks and Gardens; it has Grade II status.

Geophysical anomalies pertaining to the castle were detected during a survey carried out in the park (EBD594; Fadden and Turner 2003; 2011) and later confirmed during a community-led archaeological trial-trench evaluation as robbed-out building foundations relating to a 15th-century structure (EBD1671; Northamptonshire Archaeology 2011). A memorial known as Katherine's Cross (HER 14350) was erected in 1773 on the site of Ampthill Castle to commemorate the time Catherine of Aragon stayed here.

Ampthill Great Park continued as a deer park throughout the reigns of the Stuart monarchs and in a survey of 1649 was recorded as 650 acres in size, including 200 acres of meadows, gardens, orchards and 76 fallow deer. After the Restoration the deer were gifted to Lord John Ashburnham, who also held the lease. It was during the ownership of the park by Robert Bruce (Lord Ailesbury) that the brick standing in Laurel Wood was built. The Standing comprised a two-storey pavilion used to watch deer.

A new house, now known as Ampthill Park House (NHLE 1137595/HER 4290), was commissioned during the 17th century by Lord Ashburnham. It is now a Grade II* listed building. Formal walled gardens, terraces, fruit trees, summerhouses and paths were laid out around the house, whilst an ice-house (HER 15660) was situated on the south side of the reservoir ('the Rezzy'). The ice-house is depicted in the OS 25-inch First Edition published in 1883; it was partially exposed in a land-slip in the 1970s and then in an exploratory excavation in 2017, but was since reburied for safety reasons (Horton 2017). The rest of the park appeared to be wood pasture. After a succession of owners it was sold to Lady Gowran (mother of the Earl of Upper Ossory) and as a result became associated with the Fitzpatrick family. The second Earl of Ossory

commissioned work at the end of the 1760s and it was at this time that the first of two substantial commissions (1770 to 1772 and 1773 to 1775) was given to Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the landscape designer or 'place-marker'. Key features of the Brown landscape are described in two slightly different editions of a recent guide (Phibbs 2012 and 2016)

Human activity on the ridge prior to the creation of the late-medieval deer park is indicated by an assemblage of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints (HER 18269) discovered in Laurel Wood by the late Cyril Woodcraft. His collection and notebooks are now held by The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford. The CBCA commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake a rapid assessment of the material (Duncan 2010). The assemblage comprises cores, blade cores, scrapers, notched flakes, retouched flakes, serrated flake, piercer/awl a possible microlith and numerous flint debitage.

During the community-led trial-trench evaluation in 2009 evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity (HER 18265 and Northamptonshire Archaeology 2009; 2011), comprising possible beam slots and partitions, was identified on what was considered to be the site of Ampthill Castle. Contemporary remains in the form of a possible sunken-featured building, a large ditch and other structural remains were also found in the vicinity. An entry for Ampthill manor in Domesday Book indicates that it was a well-established settlement by AD 1066 and the Old English meaning of Ampthill is 'anthill' or 'hill infested with ants'.

In the late 19th and early 20th century Ampthill Great Park was used for military purposes. In the 1890s the Bedfordshire Militia began to hold summer training camps in the park. Then, in 1914, the Duke of Bedford established a permanent training camp (commemorated by the Memorial Cross, HER 214). During the Second World War, the south-eastern area of the park housed another military training camp and subsequently a camp for German prisoners of war (HER 17815).

2. METHOD STATEMENTS

2.1 Methodological Standards

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2018), which was approved by the CBCA prior to commencement of the work.

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

• Albion Archaeology	*Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (3rd edn, 2017).
• ALGAO (East)	*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
• Bedford Borough Council	*Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford* (ver. 2.8, 2010)
• CIfA	*Charter and by-law; Code of conduct* (2014)
	Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation (2014)
	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014)
• Historic England	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide* (2015)
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2nd edn, 2011)

2.2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the investigations were described in the WSI.

In summary, the general objectives of the archaeological investigation were to recover information on the:

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

The principal objectives of the community-led archaeological investigation sought to build on some of the outcomes of fieldwork carried out in Ampthill Great Park in 2009 (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2009), as well as identifying new objectives relating to the 17th-century park and earlier land-use. They comprised:

- Investigate the area identified in 2009 as containing Anglo-Saxon remains.
- Determine if sub-surface heritage assets corresponding to flint artefacts found in Laurel Wood are present.
- Determine the location of the ice-house associated with Ampthill Park House.
- Establish the location of the early post-medieval brick-built standing in Laurel Wood and any associated features and deposits.

2.3 Implementation

The fieldwork was undertaken between 25th July and 22th August 2018. A total of three trenches were excavated (Figure 1), together with eight test-pits (Figure 7). The detailed methodology is given in the WSI and was implemented as summarised below. The work was monitored throughout the course of the project by the CBCA to ensure compliance with the WSI. Monitoring visits took place periodically while fieldwork was in progress.

Trench 1 was located between the 'T'-shaped trench (2009 project Trench 1) excavated in 2009 and the scheduled monument. It was 40m long by 4m wide. It was placed to target any further Anglo-Saxon remains in the area and was aligned north-south to maintain a stand-off from the edge of the scheduled area. No work was undertaken inside the scheduled area.

With the agreement of the CBCA, the trench was extended to the north by 7m to expose a feature encountered at the end of the trench. The trench was opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket, operated by an experienced driver, under close supervision of Albion Archaeology staff. Features within the trench were excavated by hand by a team of volunteers, under close archaeological supervision. To maximise artefact recovery, all excavated deposits were hand sieved on site, which was relatively easy because the deposits were all soft sand.

Trench 2 was located approximately 100m inside Laurel Wood, within a small clearing on top of a promontory that would have overlooked the escarpment to the north-west. This location was identified by Phibbs (2012, 2) as the possible site of The Standing.

Light probing of the ground with an auger was undertaken to test for buried masonry but no definite targets were identified. One volunteer also tried dowsing but without success. Therefore, an initial trench was set out on a roughly east-west alignment within the clearing, avoiding tree roots. This trench was 6.8m long by 4m wide. It was hand-excavated by a team of volunteers, under close archaeological supervision. The layers within the trench were excavated within *c.*1m-wide slots to a depth of up to *c.*1.2m. The trench was then extended by hand to the south-east creating an offset box measuring *c.*3m by 2m. To maximise artefact recovery, all excavated deposits were hand sieved on site, which was not as easy as it was in Trench 1 because the deposits were not as fine.

Trench 3 was sited at the approximate location of a structure thought to be the ice-house that was recorded in 2017 (Horton 2017) on the steep north-eastern slope of the Greensand Ridge escarpment. Before the trench was laid out a metal-detector survey was carried out to trace the source of metallic rubbish observed in previous investigations; however, no concentration of metallic artefacts was identified. Quantities of 20th-century rubbish were observed in rabbit burrows all along the slope.

Probing of the ground with an auger was also undertaken to test for buried masonry but this did not assist the investigation — only soft ground was encountered. The trench was, therefore, laid out close to the GPS coordinate recorded in 2017. It was 3.25m long and 1m wide, running down the slope. The trench was hand-excavated by a team of professional archaeologists. Excavation was hampered by the steepness of the *c.*45° slope, unstable nature of the sandy ground and the presence of numerous rabbit burrows and, potentially, the ice-house itself. It was, therefore, agreed with the CBCA that the trench should be excavated in steps and be no wider or deeper that *c.*1m at any given point so as to reduce the risk of trench collapse and/or land slips.

Test-pit excavation consisted of eight 1m by 1m hand-dug test-pits, located throughout Laurel Wood. Placement of the test-pits was guided by the work, particularly the sketch plans, of the late Cyril Woodcraft, whose own investigations into Laurel Wood resulted in the collection of an assemblage of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints (HER 18269). His collection and notebooks, now held by The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2006.241), were consulted. The test-pit locations were agreed with the CBCA.

Hand-excavation was undertaken by a team of volunteers, under close archaeological supervision. Pits were dug in 10cm spits for the recovery of artefacts. Initially, ten test-pits had been planned but Test-pit 3 was abandoned due to insufficient depth of topsoil and subsoil deposits and the location of Test-pit 8 could not be determined due to the removal of the marker peg. All deposits were recorded in a unique number sequence, using pro forma sheets, following the 'Carenza Lewis' method[1] as detailed in the WSI. To maximise artefact recovery, deposits were hand sieved on site.

2.4 Public Engagement and Interpretation

Over 40 volunteers took part and more than 1,000 visitors came to see the work in progress, either on informal visits or during the two open days.

2.5 Archiving and Publication

The project archive of finds and records generated during the project has been compiled in accordance with Historic England (MoRPHE) standards. It will be deposited, subject to the landowner's consent, at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no.: BEDFM: 2018.42). As part of the archiving process all records are microfiched. Details of the project have been entered on

[1]] Document no longer available online. A new guide can be downloaded from http://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Leicestershire-Fieldworkers-Fieldwork-Guide-3-How-to-dig-an-archaeological-test-pit.pdf (accessed 16/03/2020)]

the OASIS database and the reports will be uploaded in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service (reference no.: albionar1-264569).

An article summarising the results as detailed in the present report has been published in *South Midlands Archaeology* (Oetgen & Williams 2019).

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The following section summarises the results, focussing on Trenches 1–3 and the eight test-pits. Trench 1 revealed early-middle Saxon settlement activity east of the Scheduled Monument. Trench 2 revealed late medieval/early post-medieval structural remains within Laurel Wood. Trench 3 revealed evidence for post-medieval to modern activity, accumulated by deliberate dumping or natural colluvial processes on the north-east slope of the Greensand escarpment. Test-pits 1–8 revealed residual evidence for Mesolithic activity within the area of Laurel Wood.

The results are presented below under the following sections: features / deposits, artefacts and ecofacts. Where site recording numbers are used they are distinguished by different bracket styles to indicate feature number = [***], fill number = (***) and environmental samples <*>. Context numbers reflect the trench number e.g. [3004] is a feature within Trench 3 and, therefore, the trench number is only given where necessary. Unexcavated portions of large features are also assigned 'general' context numbers, to distinguish them from their excavated segments.

Detailed descriptions of each individual context are provided in Appendix 1. All archaeological features in Trenches 1 and 2 are illustrated in Figures 2–6. The test-pit locations are shown on Figure 7. Deposits in Trench 3 are illustrated in Figure 8. The locations of features within Trench 1 are shown in relation to the results of an earlier magnetometer survey in Figures 9 and 10.

3.2 Trench 1: Early-Middle Saxon Settlement

3.2.1 Overview

Trench 1 (Figure 2) produced clear evidence for early-middle Saxon settlement at the top of the dip-slope of the ridge. This settlement was characterised by boundary ditches, pits, postholes and a sunken-featured building. The ditches extended beyond the confines of the trench and it is likely that the settlement extends further, particularly to the east in the area not covered by the Scheduled Monument.

The extent of the enclosures could not be defined within this single trench. However, understanding of the settlement's layout has been greatly assisted by the results of the magnetometer survey (EBD594; Fadden and Turner 2011, fig. 7), which have been georeferenced by Albion Archaeology. All the linear archaeological features within the trench corresponded with anomalies located by the magnetometer survey (Figures 9 and 10). This suggests that they comprise the ditches of an extensive system of enclosures, perhaps defining the boundaries of a settlement and associated fields.

The finds assemblage from Trench 1 predominantly comprised Saxon pottery (2.5kg) and animal bone (272g). In addition, a Saxon loom weight, a copper alloy fragment (possibly part of the arm from a set of tweezers and a Roman frit

melon bead (dated to the 1st/2nd century). Finds tended to be concentrated to the centre of the trench near a domestic focus, comprising a sunken-featured building and a nearby refuse pit, although all the ditches produced pottery sherds to varying quantities. Datable artefacts suggest that the settlement was occupied during the early-middle Saxon period (*c.*AD 550–850).

3.2.2 Overburden and geological deposits

The overburden in Trench 1 was *c.*0.5m thick. It comprised topsoil (1000), (representing parkland/grassland soils) that was *c.*0.15m thick, overlying a distinct subsoil layer (1001) that was *c.*0.35m thick.

Artefacts recovered from the subsoil included an iron drop handle and a silver-plate copper-alloy table fork that had the name of the owner ('Barker') engraved into the handle. These finds probably relate to the military training camp located within the park during the late 19th and early 20th century. They are significant for their intrinsic historical interest but they were not from archaeological features and, therefore, have little value for archaeological interpretation. The presence of these artefacts within the subsoil deposit might indicate that the parkland/pasture soils had been disturbed to some degree by activity related to the military training camp.

The geological stratum in Trench 1 consisted of clean, fine-grained, homogenous sand (1002), typical of that associated with the Greensand Ridge.

3.2.3 Ditches

The magnetometer survey (Figure 9) indicated that a number of inter-linked, sub-rectangular enclosures were present in the vicinity of Trench 1. The trial trench confirmed that these enclosures were defined by ditches.

The geophysical survey shows that the main enclosure consisted of three, broadly parallel, NE-SW aligned ditches, forming a large sub-rectangular enclosure (Figure 10: **A**), *c.*120m long and 40m wide. It was situated just south of the edge of the Greensand escarpment. Further linear anomalies might indicate internal sub-divisions within the larger enclosure: **B** (*c.*65m length and 25m wide) and **C** (*c.*50m long and 25m wide).

Trench 1 showed that the southern edge of the enclosure **A** was formed by two parallel ditches [1060] and [1056], suggesting that this side of the enclosure may have been skirted by a trackway or that the enclosure itself had undergone significant remodelling. The excavated segments show that both ditches were of a similar size and profile, suggesting that they may be contemporary at least at their inception. However, the segment [1014] shows a single cut and fill (Figure 3, Section 5), suggesting that ditch [1060] had gradually silted up, whereas the multiple fills of [1029] show that ditch [1056] became filled through more active deposition processes (Figure 3, Sections 5 and 10; Photographs 2 and 4). This would accord with the interpretation that ditch [1056] formed the inner boundary of the settlement enclosure.

The northern ditch [1054] was much shallower than [1060] and [1056] and the sides sloped at a gentler gradient (Figure 3, Section 9). This ditch coincided

with the geophysical anomly representing the possible sub-division **B** within the larger enclosure **A**.

The enclosure ditches are dated by the pottery they contained. In total, the three ditches produced 606g of early to middle Saxon pottery.

A NW-SE aligned ditch [1058], towards the south end of the trench, corresponded to the north-east side of a smaller sub-rectangular enclosure detected by geophysical survey anomaly (Figure 6: **D**). This suggests it was *c.*40m long and 20m wide, located on the south slope of the escarpment below the main enclosure and extending to the west into the scheduled monument. It was a large, steep-sided ditch, which was hand-excavated to a depth of 1.25m. For safety reasons it could not be excavated to the bottom, but it was augered to estimate a total depth of 1.75m. The size and depth of this ditch along with a variation of the fills suggests a certain degree of longevity to the feature (Figure 3, Section 14; Photographs 7 and 8). Dating evidence for this ditch comprised Saxon pottery (163g).

3.2.4 Settlement structures and related features

A sunken-featured building (SFB) was identified near the middle of the trench. It consisted of a shallow, oval pit ([1003], [1010], [1012] and [1016]) that was >3.95m long and 3.65m wide (Figure 4, Sections 1 and 4; Photographs 9 and 10). It extended slightly beyond the eastern limit of excavation.

Four postholes were present in the base of the pit: two larger postholes [1005] and [1046] of 0.45m diameter, located at each end; and two smaller postholes [1048] and [1050] of 0.2m diameter along the northern edge (Figure 4, Sections 3 and 21–23; Photographs 11–13). This suggests a relatively small asymmetrical structure, perhaps with a wall along the north edge and a pitched roof descending to ground level on the south side.

Dating evidence from the pit included Saxon pottery (484g), an early-middle Saxon loom weight fragment (RA 12) and a copper alloy fragment (RA10), possibly part of the arm from a set of tweezers. The presence of the loom weight is notable, as this kind of artefact is often found in conjunction with features of this type, suggesting an association with textile weaving. There was no evidence of a hearth. A soil sample, <1>, produced abundant charcoal, but this was abraded so not in primary deposition. The remainder of the deposits were hand-sieved on site.

A Roman melon bead dated to 1st/2nd century was also recovered from the fill of the pit. Although this find could be dismissed as residual, artefacts of this type have been found in conjunction with Saxon contexts in the past, suggesting that it might well have been a curated artefact that was still in use. The pit fills also produced a residual late Neolithic/early Bronze age flint flake (RA 13).

The postholes did not produce any finds; however, they can be dated to the Saxon period by their structural association with the SFB.

Three postholes [1033], [1044] and [1052] were located towards the north end of the trench, close to ditch [1054]. They ranged from 0.2m to 0.6m in diameter and were no more than 0.21m deep. Although these features did not appear to form any kind of discernible structure, they do suggest settlement activity at the north end of the trench. No dating evidence was recovered from these postholes.

Also at the northern end of the trench was a pit [1035] of uncertain function. It was truncated by ditch [1054] and measured 1.75m wide, 0.39m deep and extended under the east side of the trench. Dating evidence consisted of Saxon pottery (266g).

Located 2.85m to the south of the sunken-featured building was a refuse pit, [1018], *c*.2m in diameter and 0.86m deep (Photographs 1 and 2). This feature produced the bulk of the dating evidence for the trench, including Saxon pottery (1.3kg), animal bone (82g), daub fragments (119g). The latter retained wattle or lath imprints and provided further evidence for nearby structures. The feature is interpreted as a refuse pit, due to the large quantity of dumped material recovered and its several distinct fills — including a deposit of soil that had been burnt or strongly heated, providing further evidence of domestic activity.

This pit also produced two moderately large, flat slabs of quartz-rich, ferruginous sandstone (RA14 and RA15). Both displayed evidence of a worn surface, which may indicate their use as quern stones. Although their surfaces were too rough for the grinding of grain for human consumption, the stones might have been used to grind meal for livestock, process raw material to produce dyes or grind tempering material for the production of pottery.

The pit's lower fills also produced some residual late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery. This feature was cut into the top of ditch [1058], indicating that the ditch had gone out of use before the refuse pit was dug.

3.3 Trench 2: Possible Site of The Standing

Trench 2 was excavated in four stages (Figure 5, inset) and it contained evidence for a late medieval to early post-medieval structure. This consisted of a substantial make-up deposit of re-deposited geological substrate and structural features such as postholes. Structural evidence was confined to the south-east extension of the trench and would appear to extend beyond its limits to the south-west. However, nearby trees prevented any further extension in this direction.

The finds assemblage from Trench 2 predominantly comprised ceramic building material (CBM) (11.4kg) and mortar (1.8kg), with a relatively small amount of pottery (122g) and animal bone (105g). In addition, a copper alloy pin, an iron nail, clay pipe fragments and glass fragments were identified. The finds were concentrated in the south-east extension of the trench.

3.3.1 Overburden and geological deposits

The overburden in Trench 2 was *c*.0.85m thick. It included a woodland topsoil layer (2000) that was *c*.0.1m thick. Artefacts recovered from the topsoil

included a rifle cartridge case from a fired bullet (date-stamped 1941), mortar, clay pipe, CBM, pottery and glass.

Below the topsoil was subsoil (2001), which was *c.*0.32m thick, and a further buried subsoil (2002), which was *c.*0.45m thick. Both layers produced a mixture of artefacts ranging from late medieval pottery to post-medieval pottery, CBM and clay pipe. A series of c. 2m-wide trenches were excavated through [2002] to test its composition and to investigate the underlying deposits.

The underlying geological substrate consisted of a homogenous sandy deposit (2006), similar to that identified in Trench 1. It sealed a thin clay deposit (2004), which overlay a deposit of mixed sandy material and frequent medium to large stones (2005) (Photograph 15).

3.3.2 Structural features

Located on the south-east edge of the trench two postholes with post pipes were identified: posthole [2012] and postpipe [2021] (Figure 6, Sections 16 and 17); posthole [2015] and postpipe [2019]) (Figure 6, Section 19). Posthole [2015] lay beneath pit [2022], which must have been an erosion cone around the postpipe. Photographs 18–22 show these features before, during and after excavation. Dating evidence from these features consisted of CBM (7505g), mortar (5.4g) and a single iron nail all dating from the late medieval/early post-medieval periods. These postholes appeared to cut into a compacted make-up layer (2011), consisting of a mixture of clay, sand and medium sized stones, which also contained late medieval/early post-medieval CBM (772g). Although these two potholes did not necessarily form part of a building, they do provide clear evidence for relatively substantial late-medieval/post-medieval structure and the most likely structure to have existed in this location is The Standing.

3.3.3 Peripheral features

Located towards the south-east end of the trench, a pit [2020] of uncertain function was identified. This was at least 2.82m long and 1.7m wide (as exposed in the trench) and was poorly defined due to disturbance by a tree throw [2024] (Photograph). Artefacts recovered consisted of mortar (979g), CBM (801g), pottery (14g), animal bone (14g) and a copper alloy pin. These artefacts were dated to post-medieval period and may be related to the period just after the construction of The Standing and certainly within its lifetime as an upstanding structure.

Two possible features [2007] and [2009] were tested and found to be shallow, poorly defined and irregular, probably the result of tree rooting (Figure 6, Section 12; Photograph 24).

3.4 Trench 3: Post-medieval Ice-house

3.4.1 Overview

Trench 3 was intended to locate and identify the ice-house thought to be associated with Ampthill Park House and believed to be located on the north-eastern slope of the Greensand Ridge escarpment (Photograph 28). However, the only deposits revealed were layers of colluvium accumulated relatively recently

(Figure 8; Photograph 29). The depth of excavation had to be limited for safety reasons, preventing excavation below the colluvial deposits. It was not possible, therefore, to establish the location of the ice-house.

3.4.2 Overburden and geological deposits

The overburden in Trench 3 was c. 1.05m thick. It comprised a topsoil layer, (3000), representing park land/grass land soil up to 0.18m thick on top of a subsoil (3001) up to 0.23m thick, sealing a buried topsoil deposit (3002) up to 0.31m thick. Underlying these deposits were three colluvium deposits (3003), (3004) and (3005); these were formed by a combination of slow, downhill creep of sandy material on the north-facing slope of the Greensand escarpment and the up-cast of material from animal burrows. The finds assemblage recovered form trench 3 included late medieval CBM (1.317kg) which is unsurprising given the trench location near to the site of Ampthill Castle, mortar (90g), vessel glass (58g) and modern pottery, including willow pattern, (21g). In addition copper alloy bullet cartridge case, a short length of aluminium tubing and a fragment of clay pipe were recovered. All artefacts were dated between the late medieval/early post-medieval periods to the modern period which suggests that the colluvium deposits were relatively recently formed.

Hand-collected and metal-detected finds recovered from topsoil deposit in the vicinity of Trench 3 comprised a 19th-/20th-century heel iron and a robust rectangular-sectioned iron peg or spike with a damaged tip, thought to be a tent peg, and probably of similar date. The shoulder and partial neck of a wide-mouthed colourless embossed glass pickle jar was also collected. All might be associated with the occupation of the WW1 military camp in the vicinity and indicate that the scarp slope was used for refuse disposal at the time.

3.5 Laurel Wood Test-pits

The deposits identified during test-pitting in Laurel Wood (Figure 7) showed no direct evidence of human activity in the form of archaeological features. However, residual artefacts recovered provide evidence of ongoing human activity within the confines of the wood. Photographs 25-27 show some of the test-pits under excavation.

3.5.1 Overburden and geological deposits

The overburden was similar in all tesp-pits. Topsoil comprised a sandy, humic deposit consistent with a woodland topsoil layer that was c. 0.1m in thickness; overlying a subsoil layer, maximum 0.2m thick and a buried subsoil deposit, maximum 0.2m thick. The underlying geology consisted of a homogenous sandy deposit similar to that identified in Trench 1, (1002), except in Test-Pit 2, which exposed a firm, light yellow-grey clay

3.5.2 Artefact distribution

Test-pits showed a range of finds of various periods distributed across Laurel Wood (Table 1). Only finds of sufficient intrinsic interest are discussed in more detail in Serction 3.6. Finds across all periods were distributed through all spits of the test-pits, where artefacts were collected suggesting significant soil disturbance in keeping with a woodland setting. Test-pit 7 produced no artefacts.

Test-pit	Date Range	Finds Summary
1	Post-medieval	Pottery (1g); CBM (19g); vessel glass (3g); clinker (8g); coal (4g)
2	Late medieval	Pottery (3g)
4	Modern	Pottery (11g); CBM (61g); worked flint (4g); vessel glass (17g)
5	Post-medieval	Pottery (4g) CBM (84g)
6	Post-medieval	CBM (29g); worked flint (2g); burnt flint (3g)
9	Undated	Fired clay (3g)
10	Post-medieval	Pottery (3g); CBM (119g); worked flint (45g)

CBM - ceramic building material

Table 1: Summary of test-pit finds

The post-medieval to modern finds, mainly CBM and vessel glass, appeared to be concentrated in Test-pits 4, 5, 6 and 10, alongside the main path running from Bedford Road, South west into the main area of the park. This may related to the construction of the central path, with waste CBM being used to consolidate the ground. Post-medieval and modern finds were also recovered from Test-pit 1 which was located near to Trench 2; which also produced a substantial quantity of post-medieval artefacts.

Late medieval finds were identified in Test-pits 2, 4, 5 and 10. These appeared to be located more on the periphery of the wood with a single find-spot located centrally.

Prehistoric finds were confined to Test-pits 4, 6 and 10 and consisted of a Late Neolithic/Late Bronze age flint core and a Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint blade. These pits produced several other flint artefacts and, although they were identified as man-made, they did not show enough diagnostic features to produce an accurate date. It is entirely possible that these finds are residual evidence prehistoric activity in the locality, however it is also feasible that, given their location, they may be imported finds mixed in with construction material for the central path through the woodland.

Additional finds of unknown date include clinker (the stony residue from burnt coal or from a furnace), coal and a fired clay fragment.

Surface finds from Laurel Wood comprise three squat hard hammer struck flakes (7g) in patinated light grey-brown flint, datable to the late Neolithic-Bronze Age. These were found near the path, in the vicinity of Test-pit 6.

3.6 Artefacts

3.6.1 Introduction

An assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic building material, worked flint, animal bone and a disparate range of mainly post-medieval and modern non-ceramic artefacts was collected from trenches, test-pits and unstratified deposits across the study area. The majority of the material was derived from features assigned to Trenches 1 and 2. Unless they are of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint) finds from the test-pits are not included here, because they were not recovered from secure archaeological contexts.

Tr.	Feature		Fill	Date Range	Finds Summary
1	1001	Topsoil	-	Modern	Pottery (20g); CBM (3.1kg); clay tobacco pipe (2g);vessel glass (2g); table fork; iron handle; iron door stud; worked flint (5g); burnt flint (23g); animal bone (4g)
	1003	SFB	1004	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (50g); copper alloy strip fragment; flint flake
	1007	Ditch	1008	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (156g); animal bone (7g)
	1010	SFB	1011	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (11g); ceramic loom weight
	1012	SFB	1013	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (60g); frit bead; flint flake
	1014	Ditch	1015	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (13g)
	1016	SFB	1017	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (97g)
	1018	Pit	1019	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (7g); flint flake
	1018	Pit	1020	Undated	Fired clay (97g); stone fragment
	1018	Pit	1021	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (1.2kg); fired clay
	1018	Pit	1022	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (28g); stone fragment; animal bone (2g)
	1029	Ditch	1030	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (134g); worked flint (7g); animal bone (43g)
	1029	Ditch	1031	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (32g)
	1035	Pit	1038	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (228g)
	1035	Pit	1039	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (30g)
	1035	Pit	1040	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (8g)
	1041	Ditch	1042	Early to middle Saxon	Pottery (445g); animal bone (36g)
2	2000	Topsoil	-	Modern	Pottery (79g); CBM (201g); clay tobacco pipe (5g); mortar (5g); ferrous slag (404g); vessel glass (17g); rifle cartridge case
	2001	Subsoil	-	Post-medieval	Pottery (72g); CBM (1.6kg); clay tobacco pipe (41g); mortar (670g); animal bone (44g)
	2002	Buried subsoil	-	Post-medieval	Pottery (3g); CBM (431g); clay tobacco pipe (4g); mortar (219g); animal bone (46g)
	2007	Tree throw	2008	Late med / post-med	CBM (23g)
	2009	Tree throw	2010	Late med / post-med	CBM (19g)
	2011	Make up layer	-	Late med / post-med	CBM (772g); animal bone (1g)
	2012	Posthole	2013	Late med / post-med	CBM (2.2kg)
	2015	Posthole	2016	Late med / post-med	CBM (5.1kg)
	2015	Posthole	2017	Late med / post-med	CBM (19g); worked flint (2g)
	2019	Post pipe	2018	Late med / post-med	CBM (24g); iron nail x1
	2020	Pit	2003	Post-medieval	Pottery (14g); CBM (801g); mortar (979g); copper alloy pin; animal bone (14g)
	2021	Post pipe	2014	Late med / post-med	CBM (164g) mortar (5g)
3	3001	Colluvium	-	Modern	Pottery (9g); CBM (342g); aluminium tubing
	3003	Colluvium	-	Modern	Pottery (12g); CBM (648g); clay tobacco pipe (4g); iron nail x1
	3005	Colluvium	-	Late med / post-med	CBM (327g); mortar (90g); rifle cartridge case; vessel glass (58g)

CBM - ceramic building material

Table 2: *Artefact Summary by trench and feature*

3.6.2 Pottery

A total of 153 pottery sherds (2.9kg) was collected, the majority associated with Saxon features in Trench 1. Fabric types are of Iron Age, Saxon, late medieval/post-medieval and modern date and are identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 3).

Fabric Code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt. (g)	Feature: Sherd No.
Iron Age				
F03	Grog and sand	5	132	[1018]:5
F16B	Fine shell	1	8	[1018]:1
F22	Grog and organic	1	18	[1041]:1
F29	Coarse sand	2	180	[1018]:1, [1041]:1
Early to middle Saxon				
A01	Organic	12	197	[1018]:1, [1035]:1, [1041]:10
A16	Coarse sand	34	644	[1010]:1, [1012]:4, [1018]:22, [1029]:1, [1035]:2, [1041]4

A18	Fine sand	48	999	(1001):1, [1003]:2, [1007]:1, [1010]:2 [1012]:2, [1014]:1, [1016]:3, [1018]:18 [1029]:3, [1035]:7, [1041]:8
A19	Sand and organic	9	400	[1003]:1, [1007]:2, [1016]:1, [1018]:3, [1035]:2
Late medieval				
E01	Reduced sandy ware	14	44	(1001):1, (2001):5, (2002):1, (5000):1 TP2:1, TP4:2, TP5:2, TP10:1
E03	Oxidised sandy ware	1	22	(2001):1
Post-medieval				
P01	Glazed red earthenware	2	7	(1001):1, (2001):1
P14	Blackware	1	5	[2020]:1
P25	Frechen stoneware	1	1	(2000):1
P28C	Midland Purple	3	62	(2000):2, (2001):1
P30	Staffordshire slipware	1	3	(2001):1
Modern				
P19	Mottle/speckle glazed ware	6	29	(2001):4, (2020):1, TP1:1
P38	Creamware	5	107	(2000):2, (4000):3
P45	Transfer-printed white earthenware	4	17	(3001):2, (3003):1, TP4:1
P50	Stoneware	1	21	(2000):1
P55	White earthenware	2	8	(3003):2

Table 3: Pottery Type Series

Mid-late Iron Age

Eight abraded body sherds and a partial handle representing five hand-built vessels (338g) occurred as residual finds in Saxon features [1018] and [1041]. Wares contain sand, grog, shell and organic matter: one sherd is lightly striated, characteristic of middle Iron Age scored wares across the Midlands. A single Iron Age sherd was identified from the previous investigtion (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2011, 23), and the presence of material of this date suggests low level later prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

Early to middle Saxon

An assemblage totalling 101 sherds (2.2kg) and representing a minimum of 80 hand-built vessels derived entirely from features in Trench 1, principally refuse pit [1018], with smaller quantities from the SFB disuse fills, ditches [1007], [1014], [1029], [1041] and pit [1035]. The material survives in good condition, reflected in a mean sherd weight of 21g, although displays variable firing, attested by a high proportion of partially oxidised examples. The majority of the pottery (89 sherds) occurs in quartz-rich fabrics reflecting the use of raw material from the Greensand ridge: the remainder contain organic matter. The assemblage mainly comprises plain body sherds, eighteen of which are burnished. Forms are globular jars and bowls with either upright or everted rims. Two flat-angled bases occur. Typical examples are illustrated in Photographs 30 and 35–7

In broad terms, an absence of earlier Saxon decorated wares and characteristic middle-Saxon pottery, such as Maxey-type ware, perhaps suggests a date range between the late 6th- and mid-7th centuries, although this remains highly speculative, given the small size of the assemblage.

Post-Saxon
Fourteen wheel-thrown body sherds (44g) in the south-east Midlands late medieval reduced ware tradition, and a sherd of contemporary oxidised ware (22g) were collected from Test-pits 2, 4, 5, 10; and subsoil deposits in Trenches 1 and 2. All are highly abraded and fragmented, with a mean sherd weight of only 4g.

Unstratified sherds of Midland Purple ware (*c*. 1450-1600), 16th-/17th-century glazed red earthenware, German stoneware, Blackware and 17th-/18th-century Staffordshire slipware were collected mainly from Trench 2 (8 sherds: 78g).

Mass-produced earthenwares and stonewares of 19th- to early 20th-cnetury date (18 sherds: 182g) derived from Test-pits 1, 4, unstratified Trench 2 deposits and Trench 3 colluvium (3003). Possibly associated with military activity, they include flatwares, some decorated with the ubiquitous blue willow pattern, and a plain cup.

3.6.3 Building materials

Ceramic roof tile and brick
Fragments of approximately 174 late medieval / post-medieval unglazed plain flat tiles (13.1kg) in an oxidised coarse sandy fabric were recovered: the largest deposits from Trench 2 postholes [2012] and [2015]. Typical examples are illustrated in Photograph 39. Although there are no extant lengths, widths typically range between 140-175mm and depths between 12-16mm. Peg holes are either circular or square indicating attachment by wooden pegs or iron nails. Traces of lime mortar survive on a few examples. Most had been reused as hardcore or packing in makeup layers or postholes. The uniformity of the roof tiles suggests they may be the product of a single local kiln complex: sixteenth century tile kilns are known to have operated in Ampthill (Baker *et. al*. 1979, 254), and may be a source for much of the assemblage.
Six black-glazed pantile fragments (1.1kg), broadly dating from the 17th century onwards were collected from subsoil across Trenches 1and 2, and from pit [2020].

Subsoil and colluvium in Trenches 1 and 3 respectively yielded seven incomplete stock-moulded brick fragments (1.9kg), likely to be contemporary with the roof tiles.

Fired clay
Two daub fragments (119g) with wattle / lath impressions and finger-smoothed surfaces were recovered from Saxon pit [1018] (Photograph 31).

Mortar
With the exception of a small quantity (90g) collected from colluvium (3005), mortar fragments (1.8kg) derived entirely from Trench 2, principally post-medieval pit [2020]. Occurring in an off-white fabric with a fairly coarse aggregate, several pieces retain flat surfaces and brick impressions; a few with brick slivers still attached.

3.6.4 Other artefacts

Prehistoric

Worked flints (65g) occurred in Test-pits 4, 6, 10, subsoil (1001), and residually in ditch [1029] and posthole [2015]. They comprise seven flakes (primary, secondary and tertiary examples), a utilized blade (Test-pit 4 spit (42)) and a single platform flake core (Test-pit 10 spit (105)), all fashioned from translucent grey-brown raw material; some patinated. A Mesolithic or early Neolithic date can be suggested for the utilized blade, and a late Neolithic to late Bronze Age origin for the core and a number of hard hammer-struck flakes. Although they are not considered to be from their primary contexts these finds are of interest for their spatial distribiution

Roman and Saxon

The disuse fills of the SFB yielded a turquoise frit melon bead (RA19; Photograph 34) of mid-1st- to mid-2nd-century date and a tiny green-tinged glass base fragment. The latter may derive from a Roman unguent bottle or jug, although is too small to be positively identified. A cast copper alloy tapering strip fragment (RA10; Photograph 32), possibly part of a Roman or Saxon tweezer arm; and an incomplete early to middle Saxon ceramic loom weight (RA12; Photograph 33) of either annular or intermediate form (estimated diameter 120mm) derived from the same feature.

Late / Post-medieval and modern

The remains of two late medieval to post-medieval iron nails, one with a faceted rectangular head (Goodall 1980, type 4) derived from colluvium (3003) and post-pipe [2019].

A damaged copper alloy pin with a wire wound head and drawn shank (RA17; Photograph 40) of 16th/17th or later date was recovered from pit [2020].

The small vessel glass assemblage (10 fragments: 148g) derived almost entirely from test-pits, topsoil, subsoil and colluvial deposits, and largely comprises post-medieval or modern body sherds. These include olive green neck and body fragments from a probable wine bottle of mid-17th century or later date, and clear and coloured moulded or machine-made modern bottles; some embossed.

Unstratified pieces of 18th-/19th-century clay tobacco pipe (56g) were collected from all trenches, the majority from subsoil (2001). They comprise 15 stem fragments and a complete plain bowl with a flat heel.

Two unstratified spent rifle cartridge cases one bearing the head stamp '.303 WRA 1941' (Photograph 42) derived from Trenches 2 and 3. Subsoil (1001) also yielded a post-medieval/modern iron door stud (RA25: Goodall 1980, type 6), modern iron drop handle (RA23) and a silver plated table fork (RA24) with the surname 'BARKER' scratched onto the front of the handle (Photograph 38).

Undated

The upper fills of refuse pit [1018] yielded two sizeable flattish quartz rich, ferruginous sandstone slabs (RAs14-15). The worn surfaces on both examples may indicate various uses; perhaps as rudimentary quern stones; or for the

processing of raw material to produce dyes; or as paving stones. This, however, remains speculative and they may simply represent naturally occurring sandstone.

Unstratified ferrous smelting slag (883g) derived from Trench 2 and the vicinity of Trench 3.

3.7 Faunal and Environmental Evidence

3.7.1 Animal bone

A total of 101 fairly uninformative animal bone fragments (377g) derived from five Saxon deposits in Trench 1 (272g) and three post-medieval features in Trench 2 (105g). All material displays surface erosion/weathering and is generally well-fragmented, with a mean bone weight of only 3g. Anatomical elements are mainly post-cranial: principally meat-bearing limb bone shafts and a small number of rib and vertebrae fragments of indeterminate species. A few tooth remnants occur: they mainly comprise partial horse molars collected from Saxon ditch [1041].

3.7.2 Ecofact samples

The excavated deposits generally appeared to have negligible potential for environmental study. The light, sandy deposits in Trench 1, were exceptionally clean and this was confirmed qualitatively by the hand sieving undertaken on site. Seven bulk soil samples were taken, from four contexts in Trench 1 and three from Trench 2. The results were generally fairly poor — three samples (<2>, <6> and <7>,) had occasional charred grain <2>, <6> and <7>, but not in significant quantities to warrant analysis. Although samples <1>, <6> and particularly <2> contained abundant charcoal the fragments were often abraded, which suggest they were not primary deposits.

Sample	Feature	Context	Sample type	Charcoal	Charred seeds	Volume (litres)	Processed
			Trench 1				
1	1012	1013	Control	4	0	20	✓
2	1018	1020	CPR	5	3	17	✓
6	1018	1023	CPR	4	3	10	✓
7	1007	1009	Control	2	1	20	✓
			Trench 2				
3	2012	2013	Control	0	0	3	×
4	2020	2003	Control	2	0	4	✓
5	2021	2014	Control	2	0	3	✓

CPR (charred plant remains). Abundance: 0 (none); 1 (v. sparse); 2 (sparse); 3 (moderate); 4 (abundant); 5 (v. abundant)

Table 4: Ecofact samples

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

Four areas of differing archaeological character have been identified centred on the investigation trenches. Trench 1 represents Saxon settlement activity, whilst Trench 2 potentially pin points the position of a Tudor Standing. Trench 3, while intended to locate the position of the post-medieval ice-house demonstrates the ongoing soil formation via natural process. The test-pitting represents low-level, 'background', multi-period activity within the confines of Laurel Wood.

4.2 Early–Middle Saxon Settlement

Trench 1 confirmed the presence of an early–middle Saxon settlement, characterised by ditched enclosures and structural features located in a prominent position on the west hill in Ampthill Great Park.

By combining evidence from geophysical survey, feature distribution, finds distribution and the nature of the filling deposits it is possible identify a likely 'domestic focus' of the settlement, where domestic and craft activities took place and area of 'peripheral' activity associated with livestock and/or agriculture lower down the hill on the outskirts of the settlement.

Given the limited scope of the investigation it would be difficult to state definitively the occupation of inhabitants of the settlement, however it is probable that they comprised a farming community who also engaged in craft activities; specifically textile production (we all need clothes). The relative importance of animal husbandry as opposed to arable farming is impossible to determine on the basis of the evidence from the excavation trench.

Overall the evidence recovered is consistent with rural Middle Saxon settlements found in Central Bedfordshire. These often occur on sites primarily focus of interest is Iron Age or Roman settlement, as at Flitwick (Luke 1999) or as at Stratton, Biggleswade, excavated in the 1990s (Albion Archaeology, in prep). A more recent investigation of a significant Saxon settlement took place at Stotfold (Albion Archaeology 2011). Although based on small-scale trenching, the results of the Ampthill Park investigation would suggest the remains survive of an extensive Saxon settlement that is relatively well preserved, not having been subjected to the effect of modern arable farming.

4.3 The Tudor Standing

Trench 2 demonstrated that a substantial late medieval/early post-medieval structure once stood within a clearing on the western edge of Laurel Wood. This would have been a prominent topographical setting and suitable location for a hunting tower such as The Standing.

Based on the features revealed in the trench and the subsequent south east extension evidence for a timber framed structure on a hard standing was identified. Features identified include substantial postholes and a compacted make-up deposit. Frequent CBM artefacts were recovered suggesting their use in the construction – perhaps as brick infill? It is also evident that the structure was

probably centred to the south west of the excavated trench in what is now an area of dense vegetation.

The artefact assemblage from the excavation suggests construction from 1500s to 1750s which puts the structure within the correct historical time frame for The Standing.

4.4 Post-medieval Ice-House

Trench 3 did not locate the position of the ice-house on the north slope of the Greensand escarpment due the constraints placed upon the excavation by health and safety concerns.

The artefact assemblage from the excavation reflects occupation in the vicinity between 1500 and the present day. Given the nature of the deposits (colluvium) and the apparent instability of the soils on the escarpment it is probable there has been considerable accumulation of artefacts on the slope as a result of ongoing erosion gradually dragging material downslope. This process might also have been exacerbated by the deliberate deposition of refuse from the military camp.

4.5 Multi-period Activity

The test-pitting confirmed the presence of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints within the confines of Laurel Wood and concentrated along the central north-east to south-west ride. It is possible that these finds are residual evidence prehistoric activity in the locality however given their location next a relative recent path and their recovery from contexts

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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 46.75 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.82 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50257: Northing: 23842

Easting: 50258: Northing: 23838

Reason: Identification and evaluation of Anglo-Saxon activity on the hill near the Duke of Bedford Memorial Cross.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey black silty sand occasional small stones Depth 0.15m**	☑	☐
1001	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Depth 0.35m**	☑	☑
1002	**Natural**	**Loose mid yellow sand occasional small stones Natural Geology.**	☐	☐
1003	**Sunken-featured buil**	**Sub-rectangular E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.27m, max length 1.95m Quarter section of Sunken Featured Building.**	☑	☐
1004	Fill	Friable mid pinkish brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones Max length 1.95m. Max breadth 1.8m. Max depth 0.27m.	☑	☑
1005	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.3m, max diameter 0.29m Posthole cut into base of SFB.**	☑	☐
1006	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty silt Max diameter 0.29m. Max depth 0.3m.	☑	☐
1007	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: V-shaped dimensions: max breadth 2.4m, max depth 1.75m, max length 1.1m Feature only partially excavated for safety reasons. Max excavated depth 1.25m. Max depth ascertained by augur 1.75m.**	☑	☐
1008	Fill	Loose mid pinkish brown silty sand Max breadth 2.40m. Max depth 0.5m.	☑	☑
1009	Fill	Loose mid orange brown silty sand Max breadth 1.7m. Min thickness 0.75m, max thickness ascertained by augur 1.25m.	☑	☑
1010	**Sunken-featured buil**	**Sub-rectangular E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.75m Quarter section of Sunken Featured Building.**	☑	☐
1011	Fill	Loose mid yellow brown silty sand Max breadth 1.75m. Max thickness 0.3m.	☑	☑
1012	**Sunken-featured buil**	**Sub-rectangular NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.83m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.9m Quarter section of Sunken Featured Building.**	☑	☐
1013	Fill	Friable mid pinkish brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones Max breadth 1.83m. Max thickness 0.3m.	☑	☑
1014	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, max depth 0.56m, max length 2.11m Ditch length.**	☑	☐
1015	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Max breadth 1.7m. Max thickness 0.56m.	☑	☑
1016	**Sunken-featured buil**	**Sub-rectangular NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.82m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.95m Quarter section of Sunken Featured Building.**	☑	☐
1017	Fill	Friable mid pinkish brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones Max breadth 1.82m. Max thickness 0.3m.	☑	☑
1018	**Pit**	**Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.86m, max diameter 2.m Rubbish pit.**	☑	☐
1019	Fill	Firm light pinkish grey silty sand occasional small stones Max breadth 1.41m. Max thickness 0.41m.	☑	☑
1020	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty sand occasional large stones Max breadth 1.38m. Max thickness 0.37m.	☑	☑
1021	Fill	Firm dark blue grey silty sand moderate small stones Max breadth 1.10m. Max thickness 0.16m.	☑	☑

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length: 46.75 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.82 m.**

Co-ordinates: **Easting: 50257: Northing: 23842**

Easting: 50258: Northing: 23838

Reason: **Identification and evaluation of Anglo-Saxon activity on the hill near the Duke of Bedford Memorial Cross.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1022	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Max breadth 1.7m. Max thickness 0.12m.	☑	☑
1023	Fill	Firm mid brown red silty clay moderate small stones Max breadth 0.47m. Max thickness 0.06m. Evidence of burning possible dumped hearth material.	☑	☐
1024	Fill	Firm mid grey grey silty sand moderate small stones Max breadth 1.08m. Max thickness 0.2m.	☑	☐
1025	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: convex dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.43m, max length 0.5m Ditch length. Heavily truncated by [1018].**	☑	☐
1026	Fill	Firm light orange brown silty silt Max breadth 0.16m. Max thickness 0.26m.	☑	☐
1027	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.26m, max depth 0.27m, max length 1.m Ditch length.**	☑	☐
1028	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones Max breadth 1.26m. Max thickness 0.27m.	☑	☐
1029	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.69m, max length 1.m Ditch length.**	☑	☐
1030	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional large stones Max breath 1.3m. Max thickness 0.36m.	☑	☑
1031	Secondary fill	Firm light grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Max breadth 1.1m. Max thickness 0.14m.	☑	☑
1032	Primary fill	Firm light orange brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones Max breadth 1.3m.Max depth 0.27m.	☑	☐
1033	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.17m, max diameter 0.23m Posthole.**	☑	☐
1034	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty sand Max breadth 0.23m. Max thickness 0.17m.	☑	☐
1035	**Pit**	**Oval NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.73m, max depth 0.39m, max length 1.95m Pit of uncertain function.**	☑	☐
1036	Primary fill	Loose mid orange brown silty sand occasional small stones Max breadth 0.45m. Max thickness 0.04m.	☑	☐
1037	Secondary fill	Loose mid orange brown silty sand occasional small stones Max breadth 0.95m. Max thickness 0.07m.	☑	☐
1038	Tertiary fill	Compact dark blue grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Max breadth 1.14m. Max thickness 0.13m.	☑	☑
1039	Fill	Loose light brown grey silty sand occasional medium-large burnt stones, moderate small stones Max breadth 1.75m. Max thickness 0.24m.	☑	☑
1040	Fill	Loose mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Max breadth 1.40m. Max breadth 0.07m.	☑	☑
1041	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: V-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.31m, max depth 0.28m, max length 1.6m Ditch length.**	☑	☐
1042	Fill	Compact dark brown grey silty sand moderate small stones Max breadth 1.31m. Max thickness 0.28m.	☑	☑
1043	**Natural**	**Loose light pinkish grey sandy sand Variation in natural below (1002).**	☐	☐
1044	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.21m, max diameter 0.55m Posthole.**	☐	☐

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 46.75 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.82 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50257: Northing: 23842

Easting: 50258: Northing: 23838

Reason: Identification and evaluation of Anglo-Saxon activity on the hill near the Duke of Bedford Memorial Cross.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1045	Fill	Friable dark grey brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones Max diameter 0.55m. Max thickness 0.21m.	☑	☐
1046	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.27m, max diameter 0.44m Posthole in base of SFB.**	☑	☐
1047	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Max diameter 0.44m. Max thickness 0.27m.	☑	☐
1048	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.08m, max diameter 0.2m Posthole in base of SFB.**	☑	☐
1049	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Max diameter 0.2m. Max thickness 0.08m.	☑	☐
1050	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.12m, max diameter 0.2m Posthole in base of SFB.**	☑	☐
1051	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Max diameter 0.2m. Max thickness 0.12m.	☑	☐
1052	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.19m, max diameter 0.56m Posthole.**	☑	☐
1053	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silty sand occasional medium stones Max diameter 0.56m. Max thickness 0.19m.	☑	☐
1054	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.61m, max length 4.24m Unexcavated ditch length.**	☐	☐
1055	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones Max breadth 1.61m.	☐	☐
1056	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, max length 4.m Unexcavated ditch length.**	☐	☐
1058	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 2.4m, max length 7.3m General ditch cut.**	☐	☐
1059	Fill	Loose mid pinkish brown silty sand Max length 7.3m. Max breadth 2.4m.	☐	☐
1060	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, max length 4.5m General ditch cut.**	☐	☐
1061	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Max length 4.5m. Max breadth 1.7m.	☐	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 9.00 m. Width: 7.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.43 m. Max: 0.86 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50301: Northing: 23862

Easting: 50302: Northing: 23862

Reason: Identify and locate the Medieval "Standing".

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2000	**Topsoil**	**Loose mid grey brown silty sand Overlying woodland topsoil. Frequent rooting and organic matter. Max thickness 0.1m.**	☑	☑
2001	**Subsoil**	**Compact mid orange brown silty sand occasional small CBM Compact woodland subsoil. Max thickness 0.2m.**	☑	☑
2002	**Buried subsoil**	**Compact mid yellow brown silty sand occasional medium CBM Compact buried subsoil. Max thickness 0.3m.**	☑	☑
2020	Pit	Sub-rectangular NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.45m, max length 2.2m Pit of uncrtain function.	☑	☐
2004	**Natural**	**Firm mid blue grey clay Distinct clay deposit. Natural geology, glacial. Max thickness 0.16m.**	☑	☐
2005	**Natural**	**Loose mid red orange sand frequent small-large stones Distinct sand deposit with frequent small - large rounded stones. Natural deposits formed as a result of glacial action.**	☑	☐
2006	**Natural**	**Loose light orange yellow sand occasional medium stones Patially excavated natural sand deposits. Max thickness 0.28m.**	☑	☐
2007	**Treethrow**	**Oval E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.58m Small treethrow/rooting.**	☑	☐
2008	Fill	Loose mid brown yellow silty sand Treethrow/rooting fill. Max breadth 0.58m. Max thickness 0.05m.	☑	☑
2009	**Treethrow**	**Oval NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.04m, max diameter 0.38m Small treethrow/rooting.**	☑	☐
2010	Fill	Loose mid brown yellow silty sand Treethrow/rooting fill. Max breadth 0.38m. Max thickness 0.04m.	☑	☑
2011	**Make up layer**	**Firm mid orange brown clay sand occasional small CBM, occasional flecks chalk, moderate medium stones Redoposited natural. Possibly used as a make up layer. Max breadth 2.63m. Max thickness 0.45m.**	☑	☑
2012	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.12m, max diameter 0.9m Post pit. Truncated by post pipe [2021].**	☑	☐
2013	Fill	Compact mid yellow red clay sand frequent medium CBM, frequent small-medium stones Post pit fill. Max breadth 0.9m. Max thickness 0.12m.	☑	☑
2015	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.26m, max depth 0.44m, max length 0.55m Posthole. Truncated by post pipe [2019].**	☑	☐
2016	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional small CBM, frequent small stones Upper posthole fill. Max breadth 0.2m. Max thickness 0.2m.	☑	☑
2017	Fill	Loose dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Lower posthole fill. Max breadth 0.29m. Max thickness 0.18m.	☑	☑
2019	**Postpipe**	**Circular sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.37m, max diameter 0.42m Postpipe. Truncates by post pipe [2015].**	☑	☐
2018	Fill	Friable light brown gravel frequent small stones Post pipe fill. Max breadth 0.42m. Max thickness 0.37m.	☑	☑
2003	Fill	Cemented mid yellow brown silty sand occasional medium CBM Medieval pin recovered. Max breadth 0.8m. Max thickness 0.46m.	☑	☑
2021	**Postpipe**	**Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.43m, max depth 0.21m Postpipe. Truncates [2012].**	☑	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 9.00 m. **Width:** 7.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.43 m. **Max:** 0.86 m.

Co-ordinates: **Easting: 50301: Northing: 23862**

Easting: 50302: Northing: 23862

Reason: **Identify and locate the Medieval "Standing".**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2014	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silt occasional small CBM, occasional small stones Postpipe fill. Max breadth 0.42m. Max thickness 0.21m.	☑	☑
2022	**Pit**	**Circular sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.15m Pit of uncrtain function (possible post removal pit).**	☑	☐
2023	Fill	Firm mid grey green sandy silt frequent medium CBM Pit fill. Max breadth 1.2m. Max thickness 0.15m.	☑	☐
2024	**Treethrow**	**Asymmetrical NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.6m, max depth 0.28m, max length 2.6m Treethrow.**	☑	☐
2025	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty sand occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small stones Threethrow fill. Max breadth 2.6m. Max thickness 0.28m.	☑	☐

Trench: **3**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 3.30 m.** **Width: 0.90 m.** **Depth to Archaeology Min: m.** **Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **Easting: 50253: Northing: 24847**

Easting: 50254: Northing: 23848

Reason: **Identify and locate Post-medieval ice house.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3000	Topsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty sand Topsoil located on North facing slope of Greensand escarpment. Heavily rooted. Max thickness 0.18m.	☑	☐
3001	Subsoil	Firm light grey brown silty sand Subsoil located on North facing slope of Greensand escarpment. Heavily rooted. Max thickness 0.23m.	☑	☑
3002	Buried topsoil	Compact dark brown grey silty sand Buried topsoil located on North facing slope of Greensand escarpment. Heavily matted with roots. Max thickness 0.31m.	☑	☐
3003	Colluvium	Firm light yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones Colluvial or soil creep deposits on North facing slope of Greensand escarpment. Max thickness 0.38m.	☑	☑
3004	Colluvium	Firm mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones Colluvial or soil creep deposits on North facing slope of Greensand escarpment. Max thickness 0.26m.	☑	☐
3005	Colluvium	Firm light yellow white clay sand moderate small stones Colluvial or soil creep deposits on North facing slope of Greensand escarpment. Max thickness 0.25m.	☑	☑

Trench: **10**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 1.00 m.** **Width: 1.00 m.** **Depth to Archaeology Min: m.** **Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **Easting: 50304: Northing: 23865**

Reason: **Test pit 1. Artefact collection and identification.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
11	Layer	Firm mid brown grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones Uppermost test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☐	☐
12	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
13	Layer	Firm mid orange brown occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
14	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
15	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
16	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Frequent rooting. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐

Trench: 20

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50306: Northing: 23870

Reason: Test pit 2. Artefact collection and identification.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
21	Layer	Firm dark brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Uppermost test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
22	Layer	Firm light blue grey silty clay occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
23	Layer	Firm light yellow grey clay occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐

Trench: 40

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50316: Northing: 23867

Reason: Test pit 4. Artefact collection and identification.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
41	Layer	Firm dark brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☐	☑
42	Layer	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
43	Layer	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
44	Layer	Firm mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑

Trench: 50

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50312: Northing: 23862

Reason: Test pit 5. Artefact collection and identification.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
51	Layer	Firm dark brown black silty sand moderate small stones Uppermost test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
52	Layer	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones	☑	☐
53	Layer	Firm dark brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
54	Layer	Firm light brown grey silty sand frequent small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑

Trench: 60

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50307: Northing: 23857

Reason: Test pit 6. Artefact collection and identification.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
61	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silty sand Uppermost test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
62	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
63	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
64	Layer	Firm dark grey orange Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
65	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
66	Layer	Firm light blue grey clay Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐

Trench: 70

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50314: Northing: 23853

Reason: Test pit 1. Artefact collection and identification.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
71	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
72	Layer	Firm light orange brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
73	Layer	Firm mid grey brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
74	Layer	Firm light grey brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
75	Layer	Firm light orange brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐

Trench: 90

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50320: Northing: 23863

Reason: Test pit 9. Artefact collection and identification.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
91	Layer	Firm dark orange brown silty sand occasional small stones Uppermost test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
92	Layer	Firm mid brown orange silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
93	Layer	Firm mid orange brown silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑

Trench: 100

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 50303: Northing: 23856

Reason: Test pit 10. Artefact collection and identification.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
101	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Uppermost test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
102	Layer	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
103	Layer	Firm mid brown grey silty sand Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
104	Layer	Firm light brown grey silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐
105	Layer	Firm light grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☑
106	Layer	Firm light grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Test pit spit. Max thickness 0.10m.	☑	☐

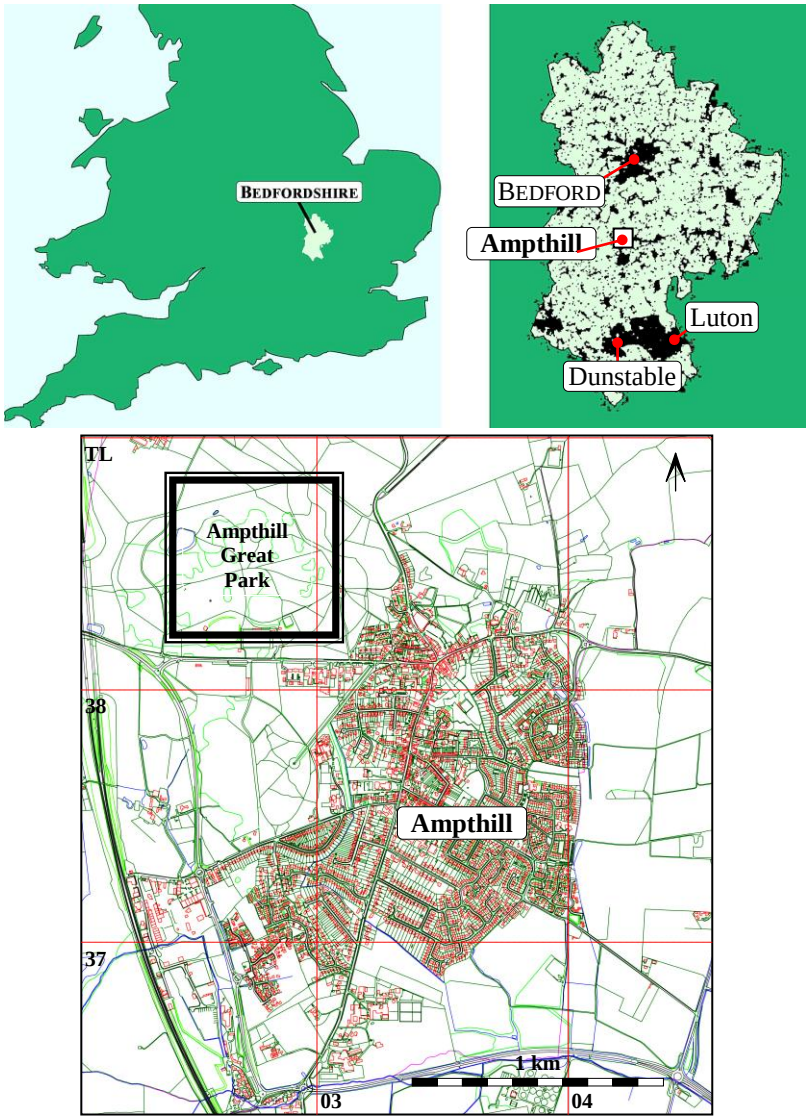


Figure 1: Site location plan

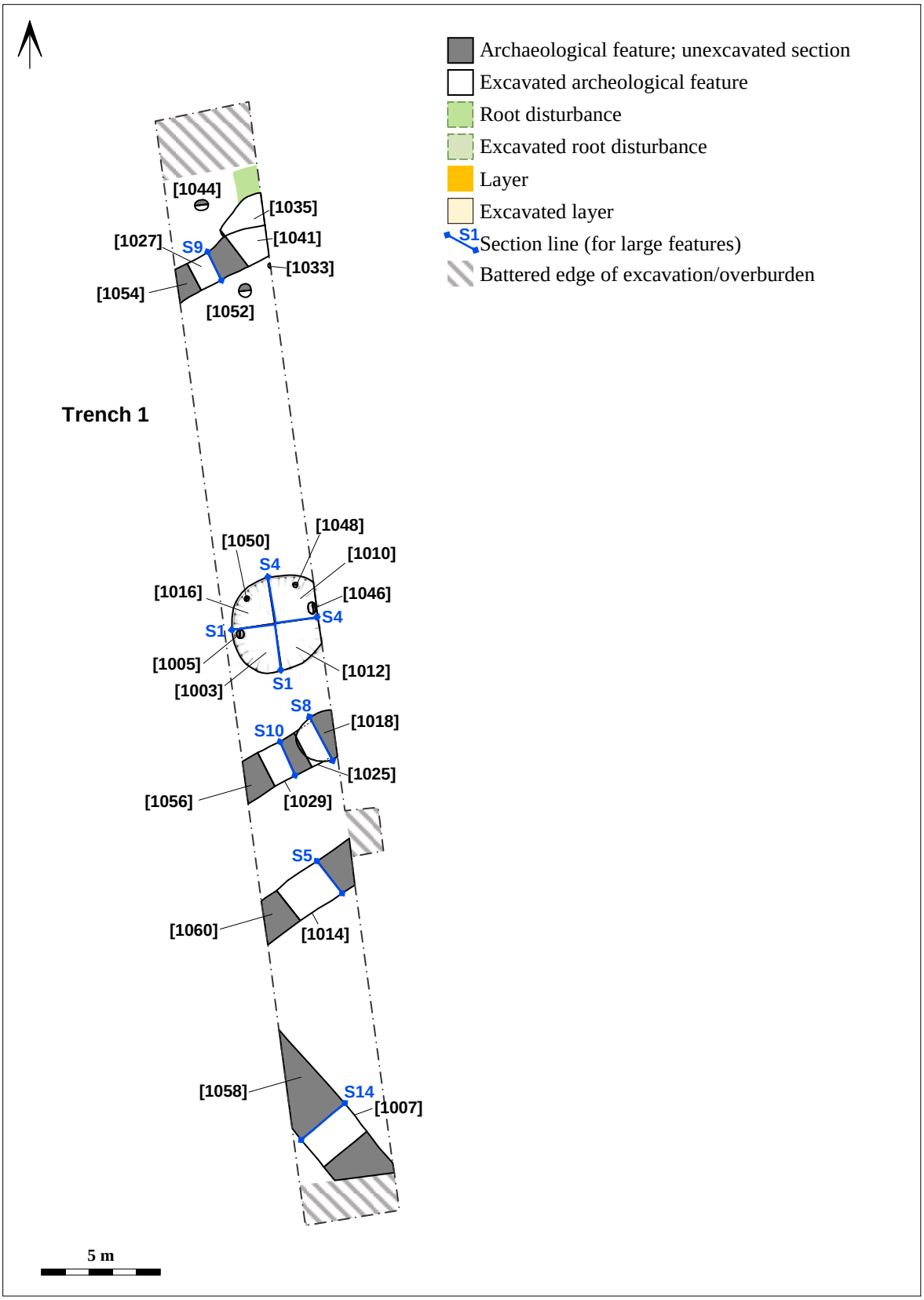


Figure 2: Plan of all features in Trench 1

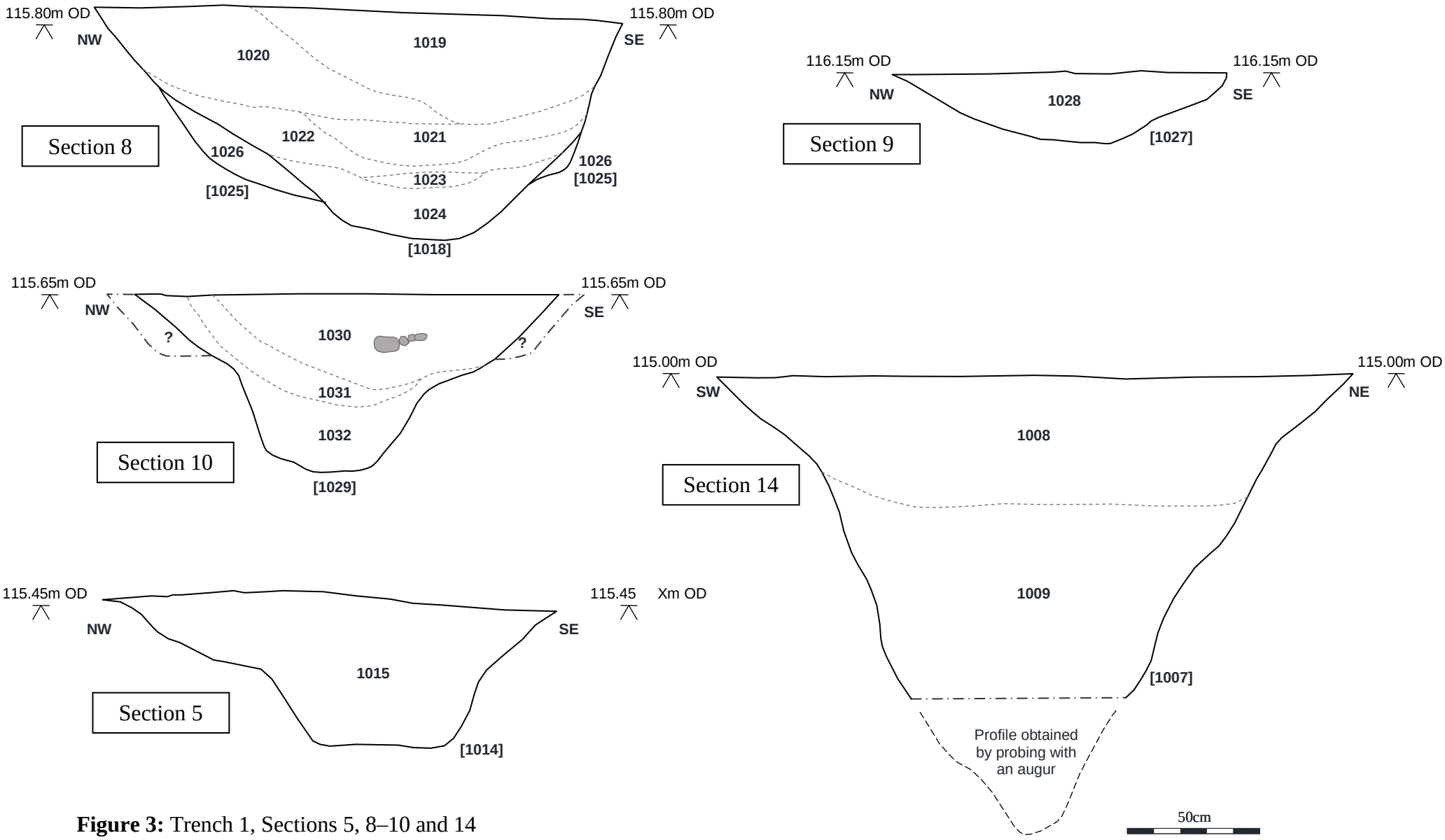


Figure 3: Trench 1, Sections 5, 8–10 and 14

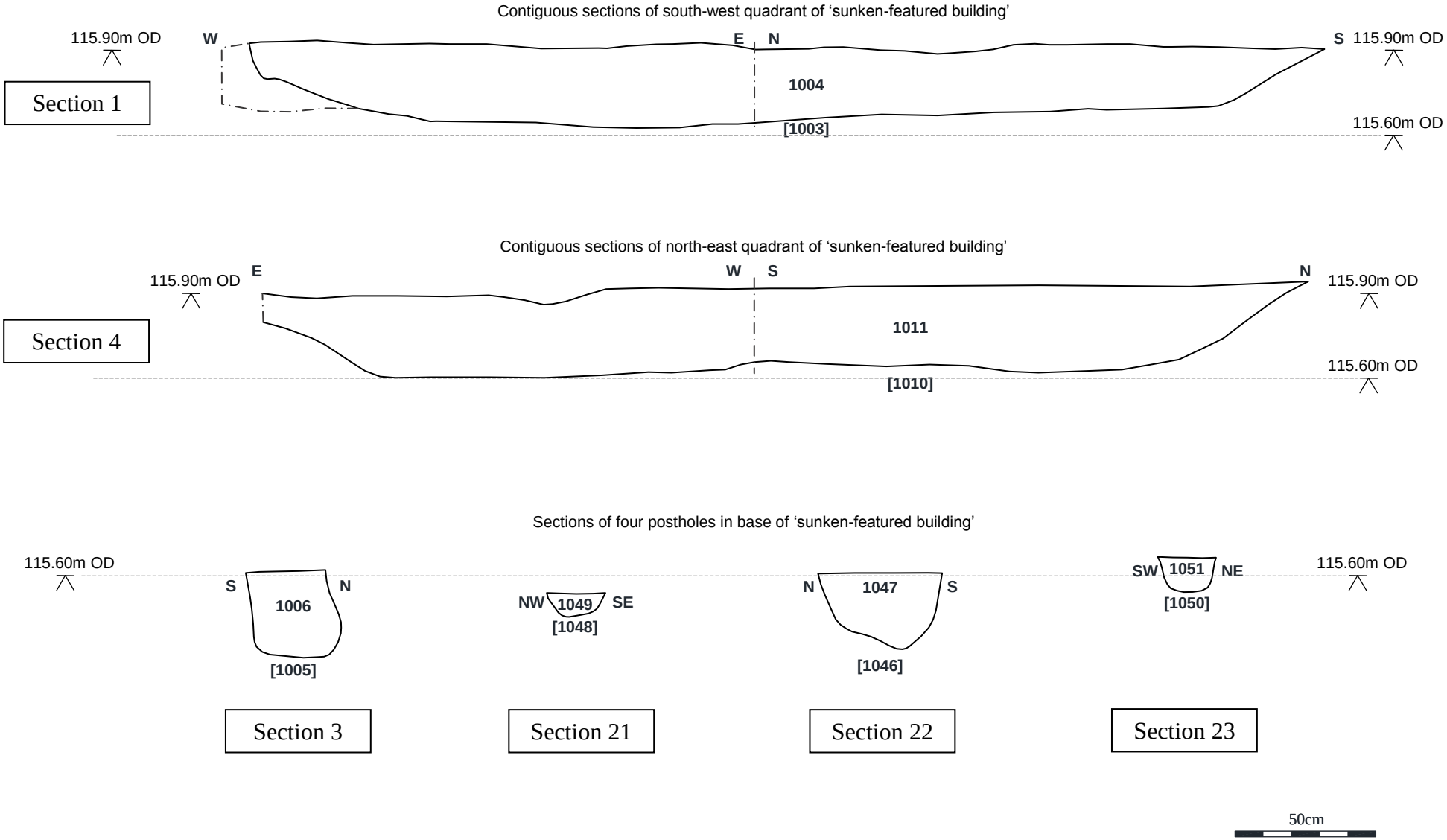
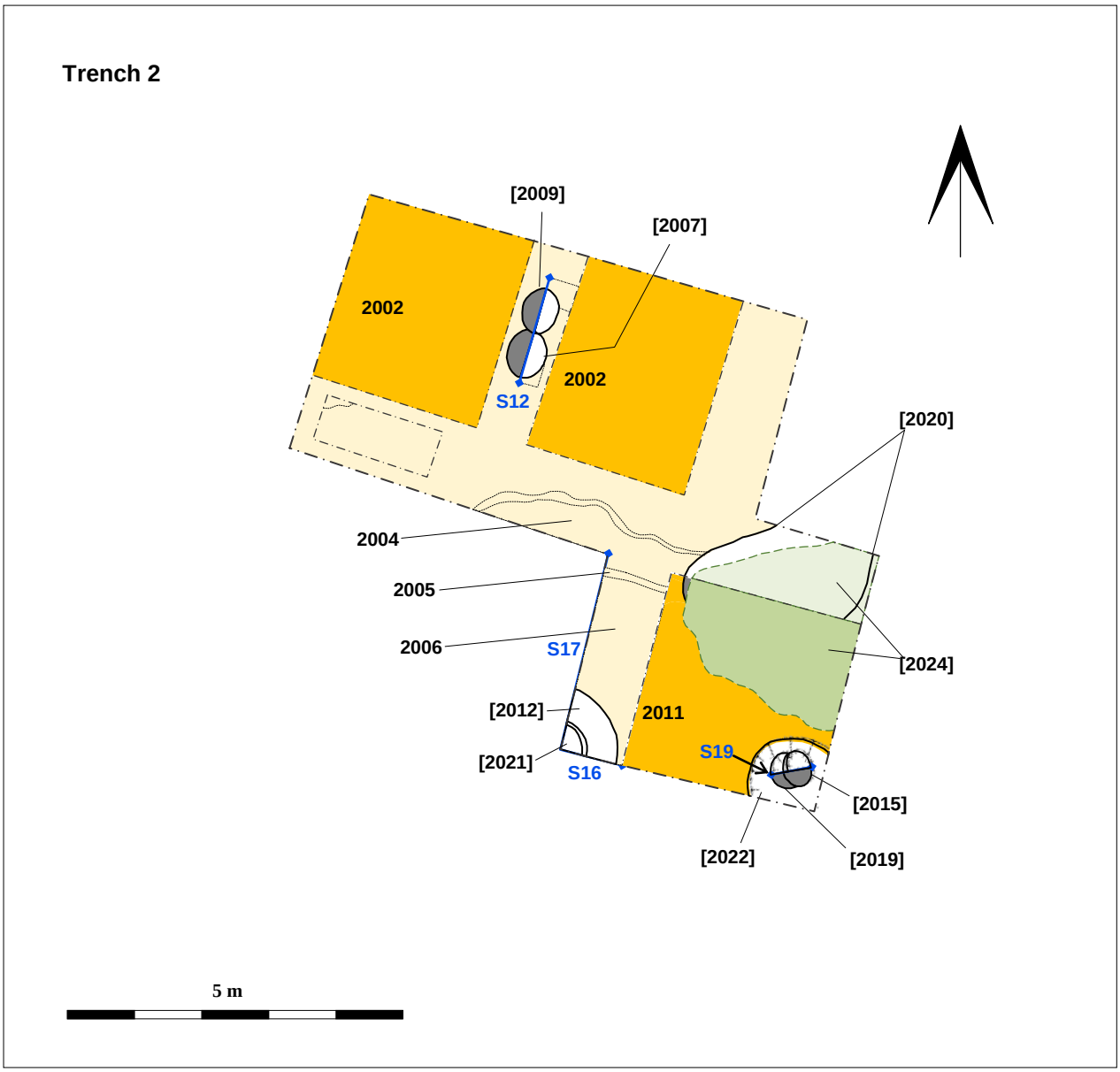


Figure 4: Trench 1, Sections 1, 3, 4 and 21–3



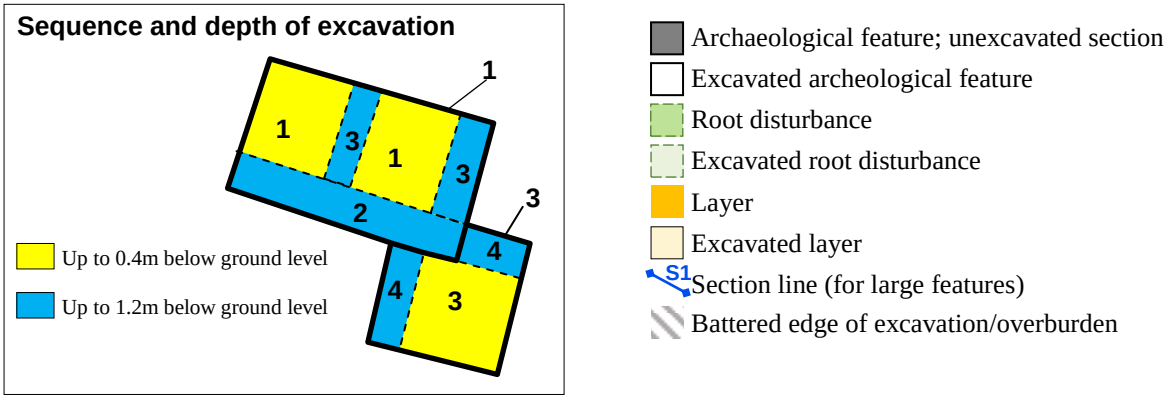


Figure 5: Plan of all features in Trench 2

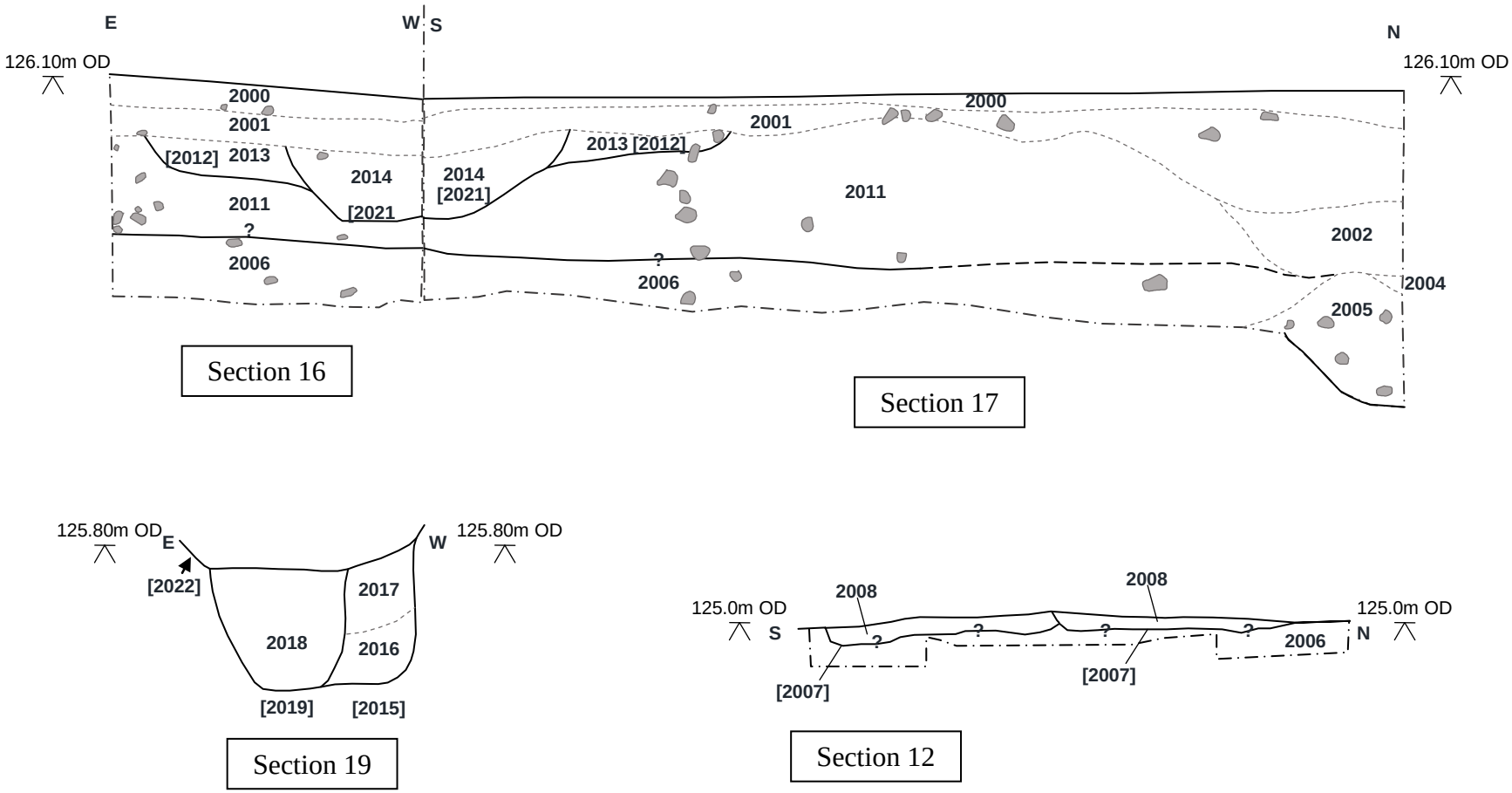


Figure 6: Trench 2 sections 12, 16, 17 and 19

50cm

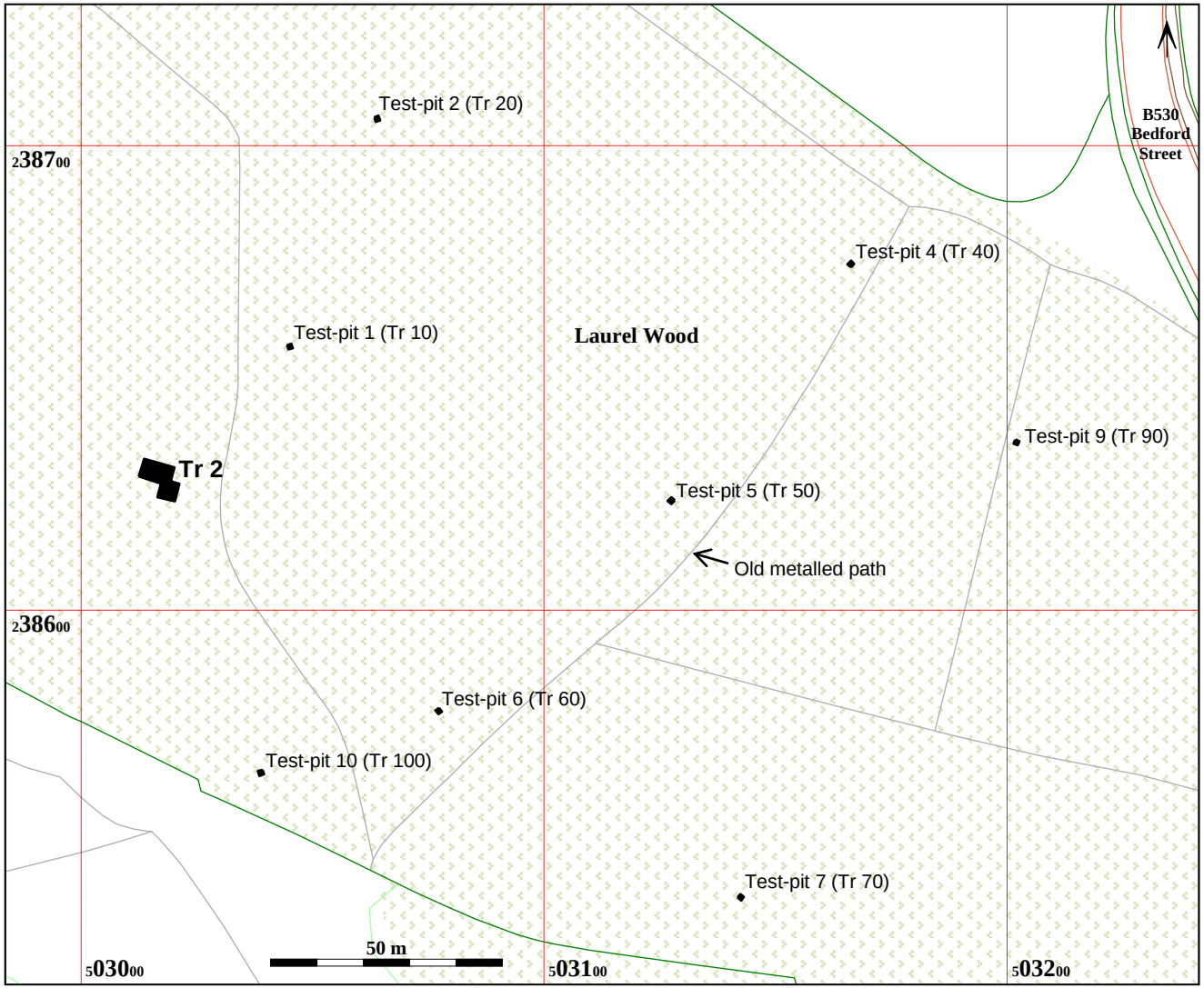


Figure 7: Test-pit locations

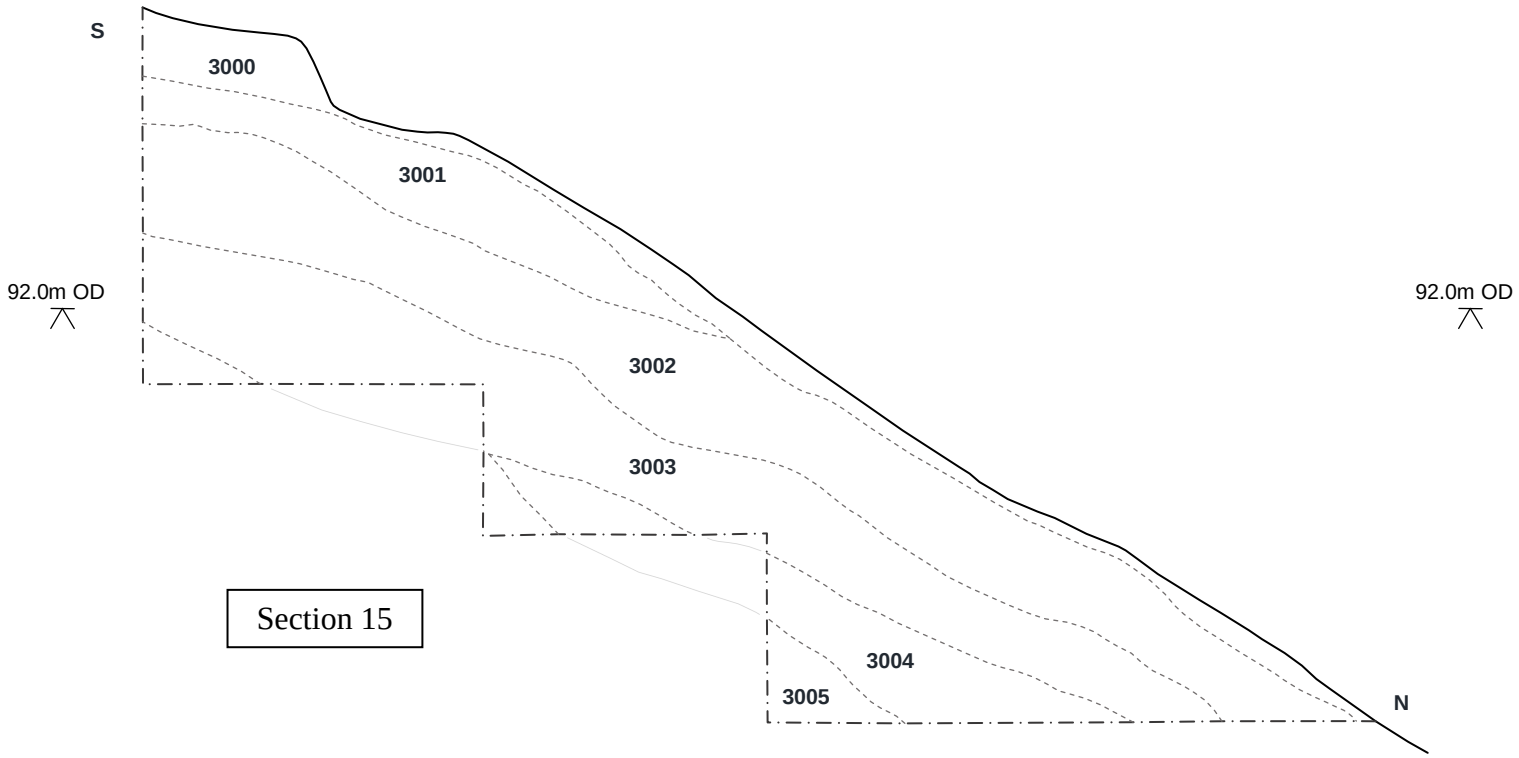


Figure 8: Trench 3 section

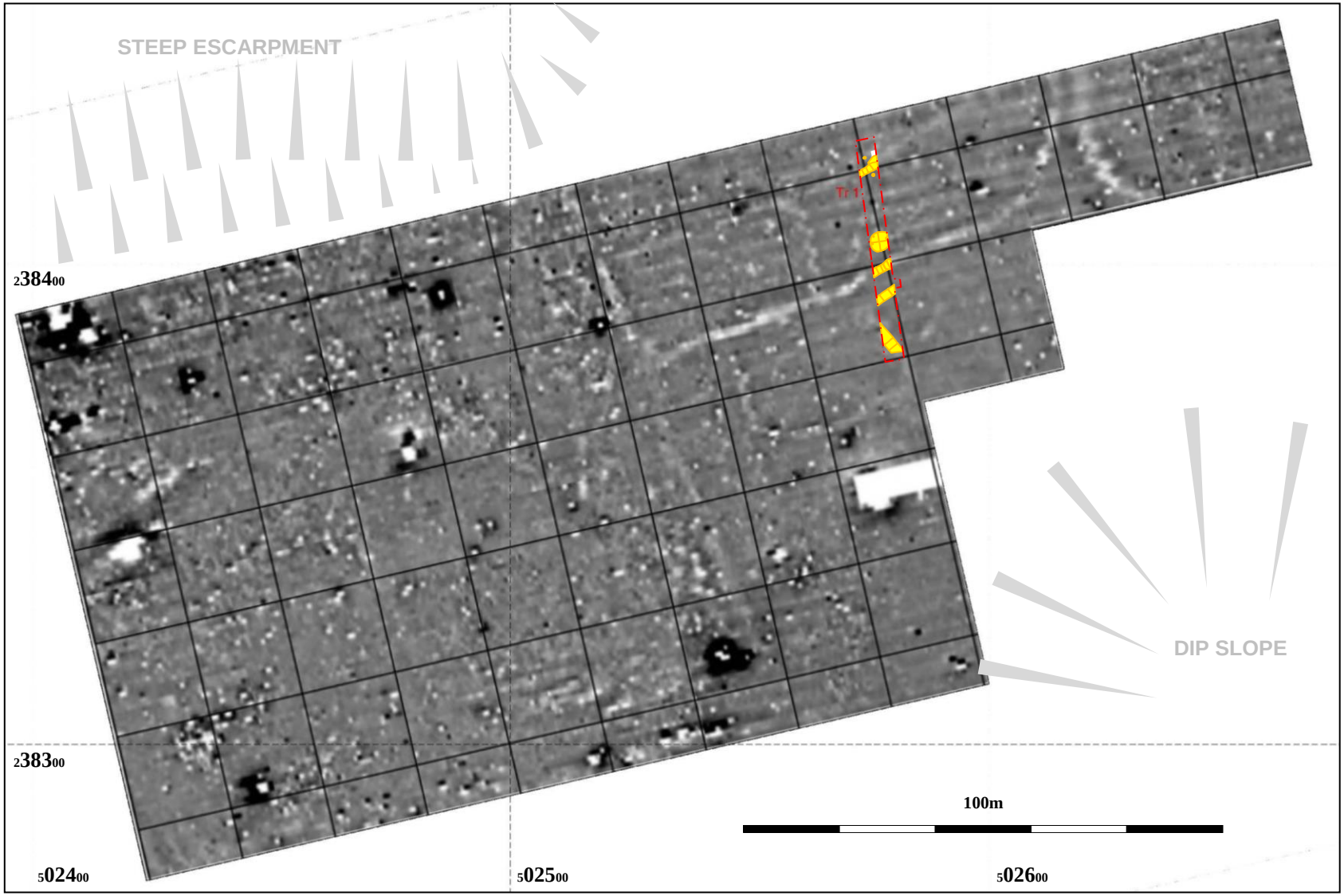


Figure 9: Trench 1 overlaid onto the magnetometer survey greyscale plot (Fadden and Turner 2011, fig, 7)
Survey georeferenced using measurements provided in original report.

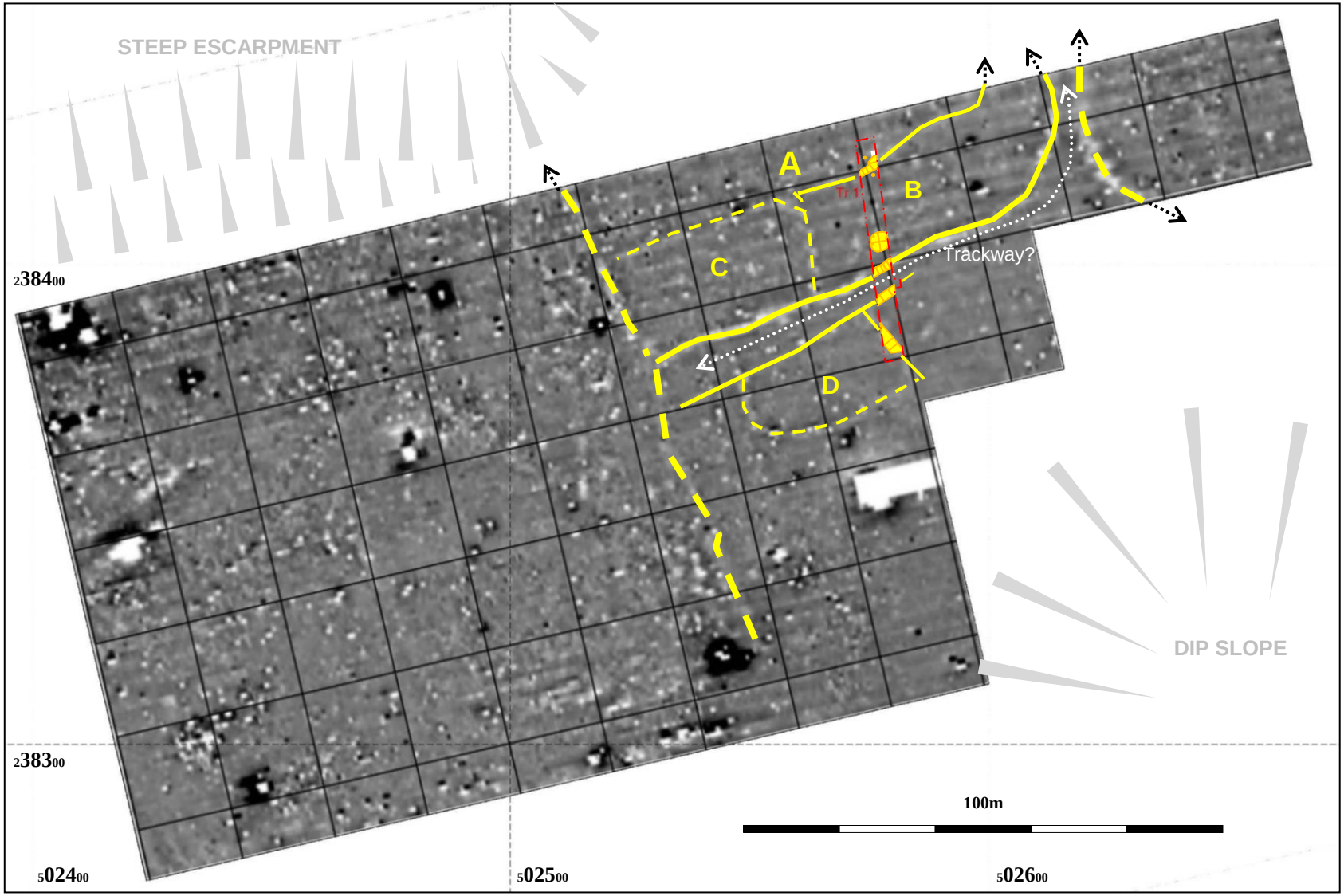


Figure 10: Conjectural interpretation of the magnetometer survey greyscale plot (Fadden and Turner 2011, fig, 7) with reference to trial trench data.

Solid lines indicate anomalies that correspond with excavated features

Survey georeferenced using measurements provided in original report.

Photograph 1: Trench 1, digging a segment across inner ditch [1025] and pit [1018]

Photograph 2: Trench 1, completed segment of inner ditch [1029], with ditch segment [1025] and pit [1018] in the background

Photograph 3: Trench 1, outer ditch segment [1014] under excavation

Photograph 4: Trench 1, completed segment of outer ditch [1014]

Photograph 5: Trench 1, northern ditch segments [1035]/[1041] under excavation

Photograph 6: Trench 1, northern ditch segments [1035]/[1041] under excavation

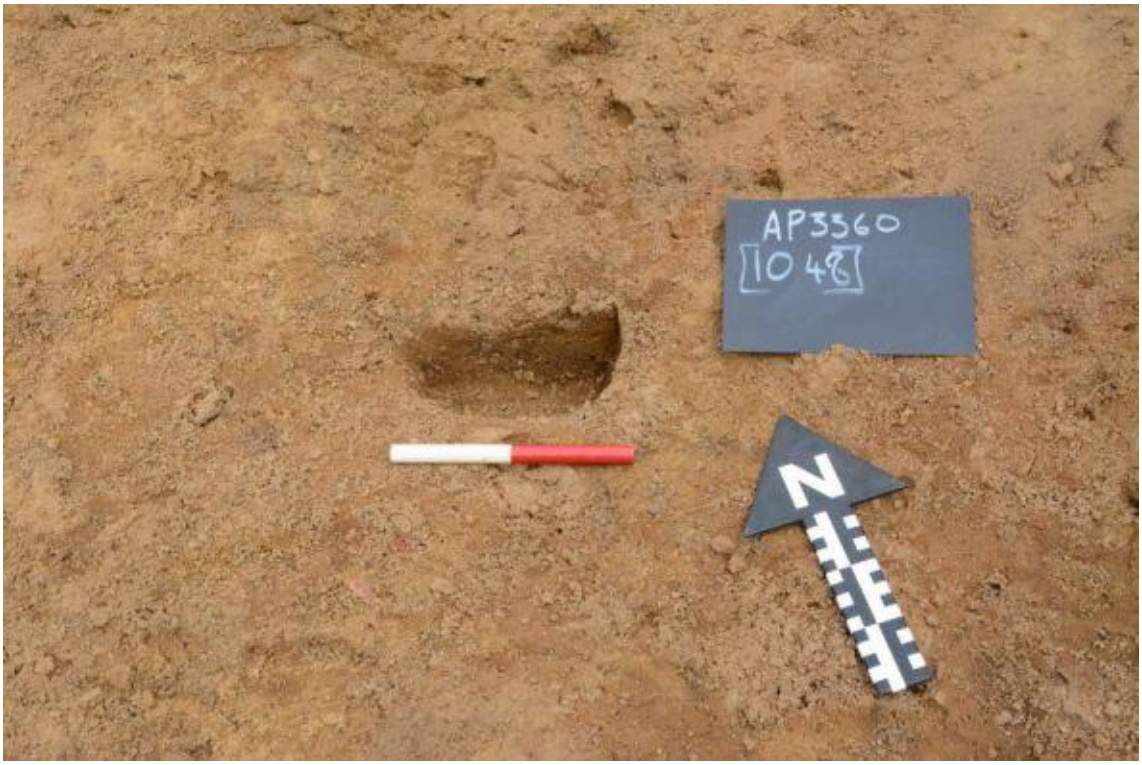
Photograph 7: Trench 1, beginning excavation of the large ditch [1007]

Photograph 8: Trench 1, limit of excavation of the segment of the large ditch [1007]

Photograph 9: Trench 1, excavating the south-western quadrant of SFB [1003]

Photograph 10: Trench 1, the fully-excavated SFB [1003 etc.] with four postholes

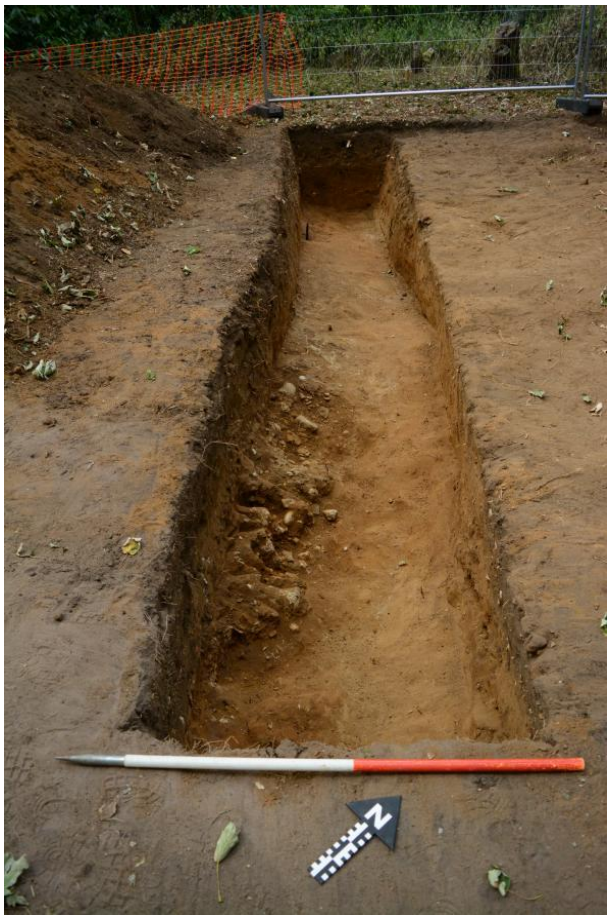
Photograph 11: Trench 1, SFB posthole [1046]



Photograph 12: Trench 1, SFB posthole [1048]

Photograph 13: Trench 1, SFB posthole [1050]

Photograph 14: Opening up Trench 2 by hand. Looking SW



Photograph 15: Initial stage of Trench 2, looking SW, before excavation of lateral extensions, showing the variation in natural geological deposits.

Photograph 16: East end of Trench 2 before extension, poorly defined pit [2020] visible in section

Photograph 17: Opening the extension to Trench 2; the team worked in all weathers

Photograph 18: Trench 2, excavating posthole [1019]/[1015]

Photograph 19: Trench 2, posthole [1019]/[1015] before removal of fill (2018)

Photograph 20: Trench 2, posthole [1019]/[1015]

Photograph 21: Trench 2, posthole [1021] before removal of fill (2014)

Photograph 22: Trench 2, posthole [1021]

Photograph 23: Trench 2, final stage, showing deposits in Section 17

Photograph 24: Trench 2, box sections of ephemeral features [2007] and [2009]

Photograph 25: Test-pit soil sieving

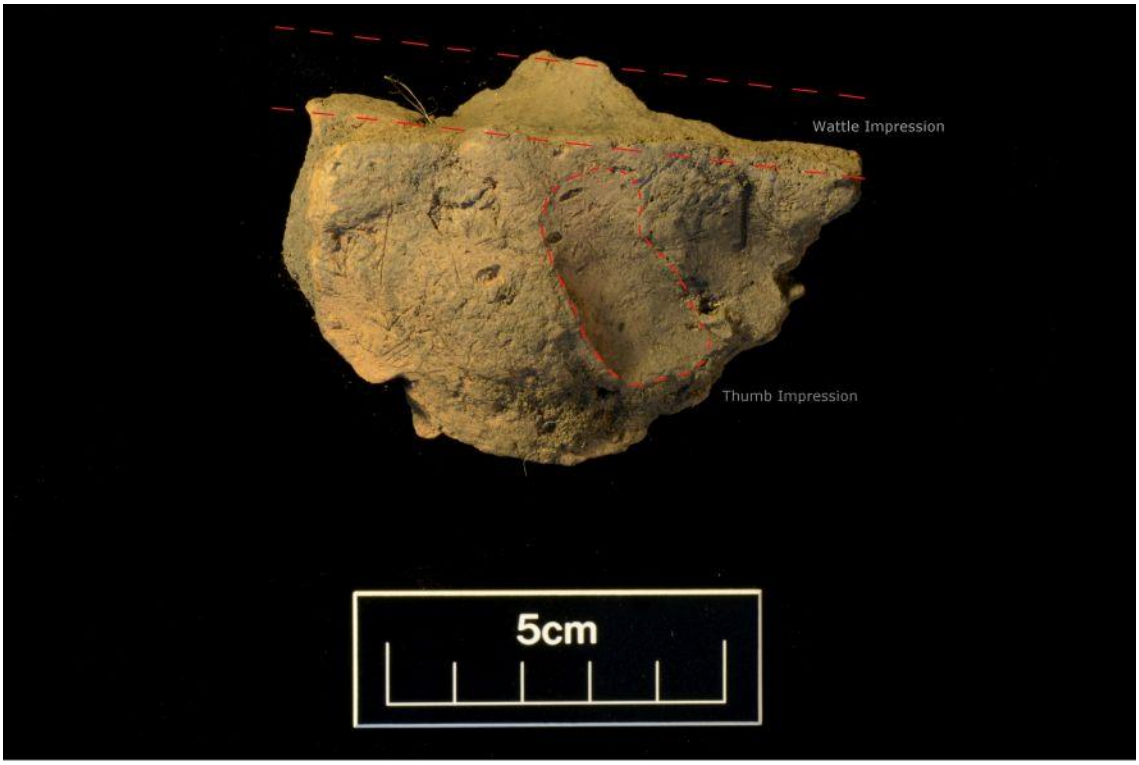
Photograph 26: Test-pit excavation

Photograph 27: Test-pit excavation

Photograph 28: Setting of Trench 3

Photograph 29: Trench 3

Photograph 30: Middle Saxon pottery rim from Trench 1.



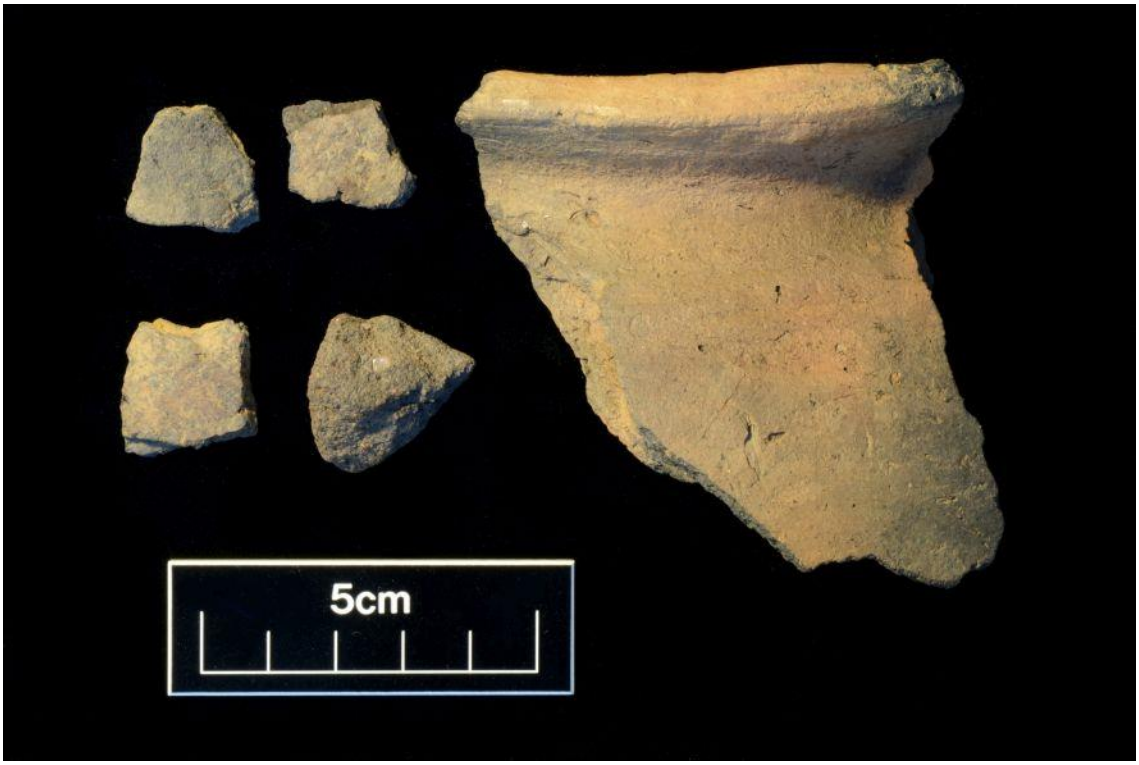
Photograph 31: Daub material with thumb-print and wattle impressions from pit [1018] in Trench 1

Photograph 32: Fragment of Saxon tweezers recovered from SFB segment [1003], Trench 1

Photograph 33: Saxon loom weight recovered from SFB segment [1010], Trench 1

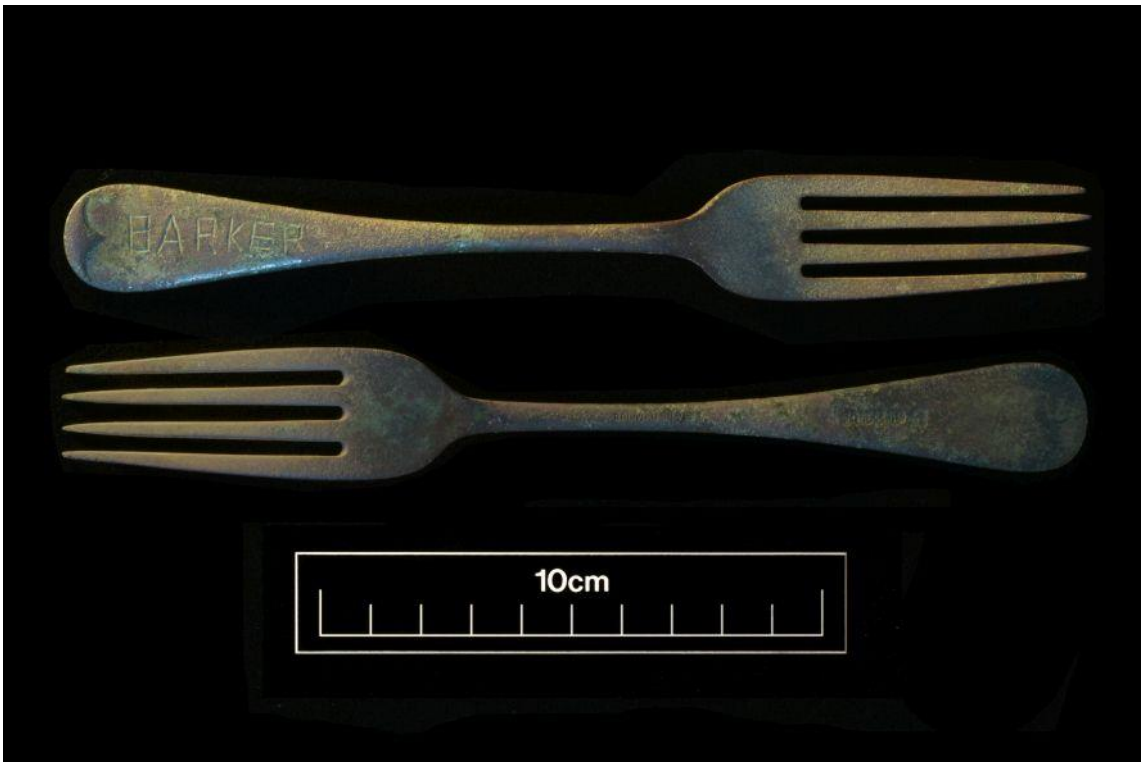
Photograph 34: Roman 1st-century 'melon' bead recovered from SFB segment [1012], Trench 1

Photograph 35: Part of the Saxon pottery collection from Trench 1



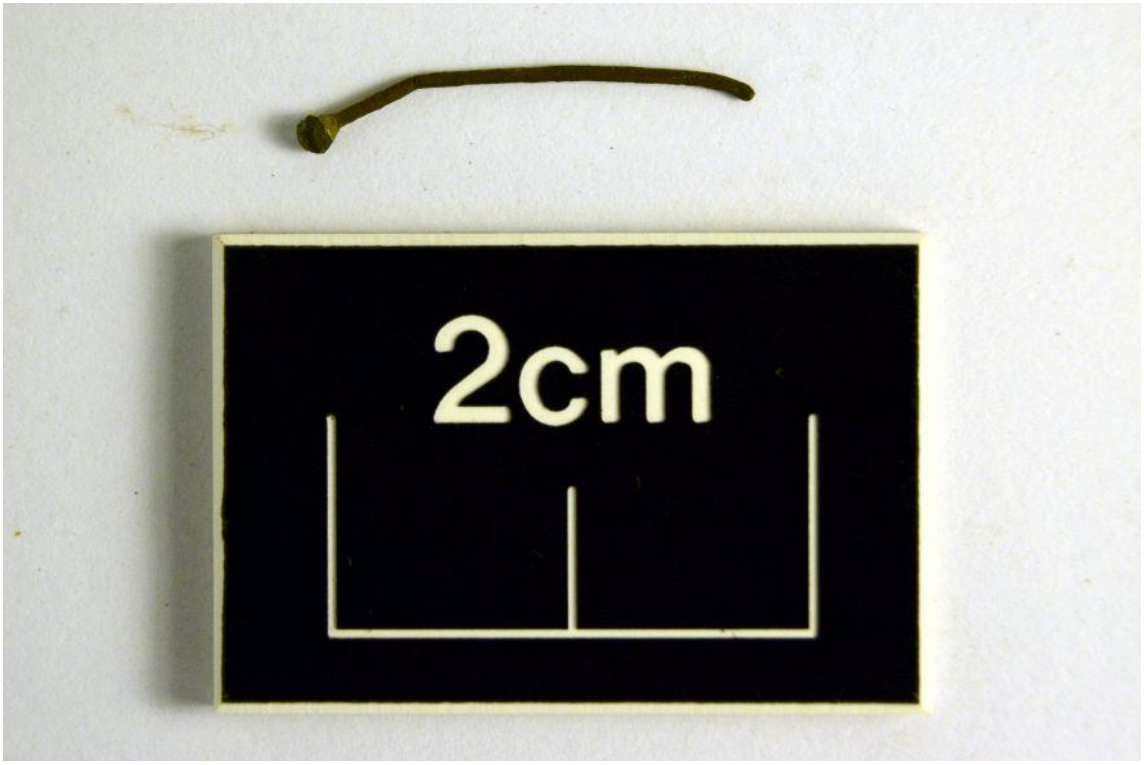
Photograph 36: Part of the Saxon pottery collection, incl. a rim sherd, from Trench 1

Photograph 37: Part of the Saxon pottery collection from Trench 1, showing burnished and un-burnished pottery fabrics.



Photograph 38: WW1-period fork engraved with the name 'Barker' (Trench 1)

Photograph 39: Collection of roof tile from 'The Standing' site (Trench 2)



Photograph 40: Post-medieval dress pin from pit [2020] at 'The Standing' site (Trench 2)

Photograph 41: WW1-period boot-heel iron (surface find from Trench 3 area)

Photograph 42: WW2-period rifle cartridge Trench 2

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