LAND AT THE FORMER BRITANNIA IRONWORKS KEMPSTON ROAD BEDFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Project: BR1299

Document: 2007/91
Version 1.0

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Matthew Smith Joe Abrams	Joe Abrams	Drew Shotliff

1st November 2007

Produced for:
WN Developments Ltd

Contents

List of Figures

All figures are bound at the back of this report.

Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The project was commissioned by Edmond Daly of W N Developments Ltd and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Lesley-Ann Mather, County Archaeological Officer, Bedfordshire County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by James Newboult (Archaeological Supervisor), Anthony Clifton-Jones (Assistant Supervisor), Annette Hughes, Gary Manning and George Demetri (Archaeological Technicians). This report has been prepared by Matthew Smith (Project Officer) and Joe Abrams (Project Manager) with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and Joan Lighting (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 01234 294001
Fax: 01234 294008
e-mail: office@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	01/11/07	n/a

Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location, archaeological background and the aims of the project. Section 2 describes the trial trenching methodology and Section 3 summarises the results. Section 4 provides a synthesis of the results and assesses their significance within local and regional frameworks. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Appendix 1 is an artefact summary and Appendix 2 contains trench summary information and detailed contextual data.

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CAO	Bedfordshire County Council's, County Archaeological Officer
BLARS	Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service
HER	Historic Environment Record
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists

Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (03/1928/FUL) has been granted by Bedford Borough Council, to construct 260 residential flats and associated services on land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford. Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological Officer (CAO) advised that the area being considered for development was archaeologically sensitive. This land comprised the upstream/water feature site and the downstream site. The latter had already been archaeologically evaluated (Albion Archaeology 2006).

On 17th September 2007 Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a project design (Albion Archaeology 2007a), undertake the evaluation of the site and prepare a report (this document) on the results.

The development area lies c.1km south-west of Bedford town centre and covers a total area of c.2.44 ha; the upstream/water feature site is 1.36 ha in size. It lies at c.26m OD and is centred on NGR TL 0453 4914.

Previous investigations within the development area had highlighted the presence of a medieval boundary to the south-east of the development area and Bedfordshire's Historic Environment Record marks an area of land immediately to the south-west as the site of Cauldwell Priory, a medieval monastic institution of which (archaeologically) very little is known.

The evaluation revealed part of a medieval building, a small quantity of pre-modern human remains and modern structural remains associated with the Britannia Ironworks. A small quantity of residual middle Iron Age pottery was also recovered.

The medieval structural remains were probably part of the medieval monastic complex of Cauldwell Priory. If so, the identification of surviving elements of the Priory is highly significant as its actual physical location has never been conclusively demonstrated before.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Planning permission (03/1928/FUL) has been granted by Bedford Borough Council for the construction of 260 residential flats and associated services on land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford. Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological Officer (CAO) advised that the area being considered for development was archaeologically sensitive. This land comprised the upstream/water feature site and the downstream site. The latter had already been evaluated (Albion Archaeology 2006).

As a result, a condition was attached to the planning permission, requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation. The CAO issued two briefs (BCC 2007a, b) outlining a three-staged approach to the programme of archaeological investigation required in the upstream/water feature site:

- Stage I – archaeological field evaluation.
- Stage II – appraisal of the results of the archaeological field evaluation.
- Stage III – implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording (if required, following completion of Stage II).

On 17th September 2007 Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a project design (Albion Archaeology 2007a), undertake the evaluation of the site and prepare a report (this document) on the results.

In addition to the above, an interim summary of the fieldwork results (Albion Archaeology 2007b) was submitted to the CAO immediately after the completion of fieldwork.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The development area lies *c.*1km south-west of Bedford town centre and covers a total area of *c.*2.44 ha; the upstream/water feature site is 1.36 ha in size. It lies at *c.*26m OD and is centred on NGR TL 0453 4914 (Figure 1).

The upstream/water feature site is located at the western end of the development area. Demolition rubble, hard-standing and the visible foundations of the former Britannia Ironworks formed the ground surface during the fieldwork.

The generalised succession of deposits within the site was as follows: upper 0.5m furnace waste/made ground, 0.5m to 3m alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel, 1m to 3m, river terrace gravels (WN Developments 2000).

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological background of the development area and its immediate environs has been fully described in the CAO's brief (BCC 2007a) and the Extensive Urban Survey, undertaken by English Heritage and Bedfordshire

County Council (Albion Archaeology 2002). The following data is of specific relevance to the works.

A ditch containing medieval pottery sherds was encountered immediately south of the upstream/water feature site during an earlier archaeological investigation (ASC 2003). Other nearby (broadly contemporary remains) include the putative site of Cauldwell Priory (HER 250) thought to lie to the immediate south-west of the development area (Figures 3 and 5). Its lands extended from the King's Ditch (to the east of the development area) to Kempston (to the west). It is possible this ditch marked the eastern extent of the Priory's lands.

The buildings of the Priory remained in use after the Dissolution. At this time, it was described as "consisting of all messages, outbuildings, barns, dovecotes, gardens, orchards, gardinis, lands and grounds" (Freeman 2006, 42). By the 18th century the land was referred to as Cauldwell Farm. Consideration was given to the possibility of finding structural remains relating to either the Priory complex or the farm which post-dated it; as either could conceivably have extended into the development area.

Britannia Ironworks was established during the 19th century. Its initial construction, subsequent growth and final decline have dominated the character of this land parcel until recently. Cartographic and photographic sources (BLARS) demonstrate that the layout of these works changed several times during its lifetime (Figure 5). The possible existence of associated cellars, concrete footings and slabs of considerable depth had been anticipated during the works. A significant quantity of modern truncation, and compaction, of archaeological remains was anticipated in parts of the upstream site.

Notwithstanding this, the presence of medieval archaeological remains to the immediate south (ASC 2003) demonstrated the potential for this somewhat truncated land parcel to retain at least pockets of archaeological potential. The previous evaluation at the downstream site (Albion Archaeology 2006) also recorded relatively good levels of preservation for the pre-Ironworks soil profile, suggesting that 19th/20th century construction works might not have completely removed all earlier sub-surface archaeological remains within the upstream site.

1.4 Project Objectives

The layout of the trenches was discussed with and approved by the CAO. It was designed to ensure even coverage of the site whilst avoiding known utilities, areas of thick hard-standing, foundations and known 'hotspots' of hydrocarbons or other contaminates. In particular, it was designed to gain information on:

- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present; and to
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching took place between the 1st and 8th October 2007. Seven of the proposed nine trenches were opened. Trenches 5 and 9 remained unexcavated due to the presence of substantial building foundations, voids and hydrocarbon 'hotspots' being identified within the debris. The remaining seven trenches were not opened in the exact locations, or to the dimensions, set out in project design (Albion Archaeology 2007a) for the same reasons (Figure 1). The CAO was notified of the changes to the original trench plan.

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

- IFA's *Code of Conduct (1999a)*
- IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (1999b)*
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (2001)
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991)

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation. Overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to either substantial building foundations, the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand in order to clarify the nature of potential archaeological remains. The deposits and any potential remains were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn, and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 et*c.*

The trenches were inspected by the CAO prior to backfilling.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order. Allocated context numbers are prefixed with the trench number they were recorded from, *i.e*. contexts (701) and (702) are from Trench 7.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in Appendix 2.

3.2 Overburden and undisturbed geological deposits

The undisturbed geological deposits were river terrace silts, sands and gravels. Only in Trench 8 were these deposits not identified; in this instance it was due to the extent of modern intrusions.

Overburden was homogenous across the site. It comprised a silty soil matrix with consistently high quantities of concrete, red brick and other modern building materials. It varied in thickness from 0.25m to 0.75m.

3.3 Prehistoric

The earliest archaeological remains consisted of a small quantity of residual middle Iron Age pottery (Appendix 1, Section 6.1.1) recovered from modern quarry pit [603].

3.4 Medieval

Structural remains comprising two adjoining walls (621) and (626) formed an 'L' shape within Trench 6 (Figure 2). They were constructed with roughly hewn limestone blocks set in uneven courses with a mortar bonding. Wall (621) had eight courses in total and was generally three stones in width; although some internal parts were in-filled with rubble. Wall (626) had been partially robbed out except for a section at the western end. This section was seven courses deep set on cut (shaped) geological limestone (629) which formed a foundation.

Robber trench [617] was 6m wide. The eastern edge abutted the internal right-angle formed by the walls. The western edge was roughly straight forming an oblong shape when it turned southwards before being masked by modern disturbance. [617] contained a relatively large quantity of medieval artefactual material (Appendix 1).

3.5 Modern

Structural remains and voids associated with the now demolished Britannia Ironworks are present across the entire site. While interesting in their own right (as part of the 19th/20th century industrial landscape of Bedford) these buildings and yard areas have removed areas of pre-19th century remains over much of the site.

Only the south-western part of the site contained significant, undisturbed pre-modern remains (Figure 4). In this small pocket of land, modern activity was present, but its effects were not entirely destructive leading to the preservation of significant medieval remains (Section 3.4).

An episode of modern levelling (702)/(703) was also recorded in this south-western part of the site. This is probably associated with the later phases of the construction of the Ironworks. These two phases of levelling were 0.22m- 1.2m thick and contained lenses of buried soils from which disarticulated pre-modern human remains were recovered (Section 3.6).

3.6 Undated

The pre-modern human remains recovered from modern levelling layers (702)/(703) remain undated. However, their proximity to three other human bone findspots (found during the construction of the Britannia Ironworks, Figure 3) suggests the Ironworks was built within an area of post-medieval (or earlier) burial. It is likely these burials were associated the medieval Cauldwell Priory, although this link remains unproven.

4. SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

4.1 Summary

The development area contained part of a medieval building, a small quantity of pre-modern human remains and modern structural remains associated with the Britannia Ironworks. A small quantity of residual middle Iron Age pottery was also recovered.

The presence of medieval structural remains and associated pottery and ceramic building material within 30m of the putative site of Cauldwell Priory (Figure 3) is archaeologically significant. The remains are likely to have formed part of the Priory complex, which included a variety of outbuildings (Section 1.3). Support for this suggested association may be gleaned from early 19th century observations of the extent of (still visible) remains of the Priory: "The Lysons, writing in 1806, said that there was a farmhouse on the site and traces of conventual buildings **in a field adjoining**" (Freeman 2006, 42). The investigations in Trench 6 were clearly limited in nature; even so, valuable data on the construction material, technique and character of the one of these buildings has been recorded.

Land immediately surrounding the north-western end of Trench 6 clearly retains the potential to contain further, contemporary remains. An attempt to depict the limits of this *zone of archaeological potential* has been made with Figure 4. This shows how modern disturbance to the south-east, north-east and south-west defines a *c.*20 x 15m area/zone.

Within this zone, preservation will be relatively good and the significance of any remains relatively high (Section 4.2). This is based on the standard of the exposed walls and the surrounding associated deposits. This preservation may be explained by this area being previously located under a large machine plinth, which may have acted as a protective barrier (Figure 4).

The undated human remains are thought to be associated with the medieval Cauldwell Priory. The potential for finding further undisturbed human remains in the zone of archaeological potential should also be considered as high.

Residual Iron Age pottery sherds recovered from within the backfill of a modern quarry pit or basement do not significantly augment our knowledge of activity during that period. The potential for further remains and their level of preservation, even if *in situ*, must be considered low due to the levels of medieval, post-medieval and modern truncation across most of the site.

4.2 Significance

The structural remains and associated deposits are probably associated with the medieval monastic complex of Cauldwell Priory. If so, the identification of surviving elements of the Priory is highly significant as its actual physical location has never been conclusively demonstrated before. The extensive modern disturbance in this part of Bedford increases the significance of these remains, as it is far from certain that other elements of the Priory still survive in the vicinity.

The remains may be characterised as of regional significance. The *Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000) notes that the role the church played within urban culture, society and its economic power represent major research themes. Specifically, the following are identified as areas of potential further research:

- *ecclesiastical development within growing towns (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, p31, IV Research Topics: Culture and Religion)*

- *the impact of ecclesiastical institutions upon the urban environment and urban living (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, p31, IV Research Topics: Culture and Religion)*

On a county level, the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Research Agenda* (Oake, forthcoming) states that an important theme to emerge from previous investigation of ecclesiastical monuments was the significance of out buildings and temporary buildings *(*p25*, The Medieval Period, Ecclesiastical, Monasteries)*

In summary, the medieval structural remains within this site, albeit physically limited in extent, have the potential to address significant regional research issues.

The small quantity of Iron Age remains were re-deposited, unremarkable and are considered to be of local significance only.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASC 2003. *Archaeological Evaluation of the site of the Britannia Ironworks, Bedford.* Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd report BKR02/2.

Albion Archaeology 2001. *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd ed.

Albion Archaeology 2002. *Extensive Urban Survey*, undertaken by English Heritage and Bedfordshire County Council.

Albion Archaeology 2006. *Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford: Archaeological Field Evaluation.*

Albion Archaeology 2007a. *Land at the Former Britannia Ironworks: Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation.*

Albion Archaeology 2007b. *Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford; Archaeological Field Evaluation Interim Report.*

Bedfordshire County Council 2007a. *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation of Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire.*

Bedfordshire County Council 2007b. *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire.*

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties: Research Agenda and Strategy* (EAA Occ Pap 8)

EH 1991. *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition.* English Heritage (London).

Freeman, I 2006. *From Saxons to Speed: A new history of old Bedford*. (The Book Castle)

IFA 1999a. Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct.*

IFA 1999b. Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents *(Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.

Oake, forthcoming, *Bedfordshire Archaeological Research Agenda*

WN Developments 2000 *Britannia Ironworks Kempston Road Bedford: Environmental Statement in respect of proposed development subject of planning applications dated 21 July 1999 submitted on behalf of WN Developments Ltd.*

6. APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Artefact and Ecofact Summary

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and animal bone (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No artefacts were recovered from Trenches 1-3, or 8.

Tr.	Feature	Feature type	Context	Spot date*	Pottery	Other finds
4	402	Modern intrusion	403	Modern	1:4	Animal bone (22g); worked flint (9g); brick fragment (3g)
6	600	Overburden		Late medieval	2:8	Animal bone (40g)
	602	Demolition layer	602	Post-medieval		Animal bone (7g); roof tile (6g)
	603	Quarry pit	604	-		Human remains (4g)
	603	Quarry pit	606	-		Animal bone (140g); oyster shell (6g)
	603	Quarry pit	614	Modern	15:81	Animal bone (172g); vessel glass (11g)
	617	Robber trench	618	High medieval	2:30	Animal bone (87g); roof tile (18g)
	617	Robber trench	619	Early medieval	11:179	Animal bone (1g)
	617	Robber trench	620	High medieval	8:66	Animal bone (214g); roof tile (413g); oyster shell (14g)
	617	Robber trench	622	-		Animal bone (6g)
	617	Robber trench	624	High medieval	13:132	Animal bone (7g); roof tile (39g)
7	702	Levelling layer	702	-		Human remains (508g); animal bone (3g)
				Total	**52:500**	

***** - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context
(sherd count : weight in grammes)

Table 1: *Artefact summary by trench and feature*

6.1.1 Pottery

Fifty-two pottery sherds, weighing 500g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small (average weight 9g) although not particularly abraded. Fifteen fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

The earliest pottery recovered comprises fourteen abraded base and lower body sherds (78g) from a single vessel. Fabric type and scored decoration suggest the pottery may date from the middle Iron Age. The sherds occurred as residual finds in the fill of modern quarry pit [603], which also contained an undiagnostic sherd (3g) of 19th century white earthenware.

The majority of the pottery (34 sherds, weighing 407g) derived from the fills of robber trench [617]. Fabric types represented range in date from the 11th-14th century, and include Saxo-Norman shell tempered sherds in the St Neots-type tradition, locally manufactured sand and shell tempered vessels of early medieval date, and high medieval glazed 'imports' from Brill/Boarstall (Buckinghamshire) and Lyveden (Northamptonshire). Two sooted body sherds (8g) in the late medieval reduced ware tradition derived from overburden (600). Vessel forms

include jars with everted, square and hook rims, glazed jugs with applied decoration and a stabbed strap handle from a jug.

The fill of modern pit [402] contained a highly abraded and leached shell tempered sherd (4g) of uncertain date.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Early to Middle Iron Age			
Type F15	Coarse mixed inclusions	**14**	(614):14
Saxo-Norman			
Type B01	St Neots-type ware	**1**	(620):1
Type B01C	St Neots-type (mixed)	**1**	(618):1
Type B04	St Neots-type (coarse)	**1**	(620):1
Medieval			
Type B07	Shell	**9**	(619):8, (624):1
Type B09	Lyveden/Stanion ware	**3**	(618):1, (620):2
Type C01	Sand	**3**	(619):2, (624):1
Type C03	Fine sand	**2**	(620):2
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall ware	**11**	(624):11
Type C59A	Coarse sand	**1**	(620):1
Type C75	Micaceous	**1**	(619):1
Type E01	Late medieval reduced ware	**2**	(600):2
Type C	Non-specific medieval	**1**	(620):1
Modern			
Type P55	White earthenware	**1**	(614):1
UNID	Unidentified/undatable	**1**	(403):1

Table 2: *Pottery type series*

6.1.2 Other finds

Ceramic building material (12 pieces, weighing 479g) derived mainly from the fills of robber trench [617], and included four pieces of 13th-14th century glazed ridge tile and an unglazed piece of flat roof tile, deriving respectively from kilns at Lyveden and Potterspury, Northants. The feature also contained six pieces of sand tempered peg tile, of probable local manufacture.

A worked flint flake (9g) was collected from modern pit [402] and three pieces of oyster shell (20g) from quarry pit [603] and robber trench [617].

6.1.3 Human remains

Eighteen pieces of human bone (508g) were recovered from levelling layer (702). They comprise abraded rib fragments and incomplete leg (femur and tibia) and arm bones (radius and ulna). Quarry pit [604] yielded a single phalange from a hand.

6.1.4 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises ninety-eight fragments weighing 699g, and occurs in features of medieval, post-medieval, modern and uncertain date, the majority deriving from robber trench [617], and including two burnt pieces of long bone. Fragments are small (average weight 7g), although bone preservation is generally good. Diagnostic elements are long bone, rib, vertebrae, phalange, pelvis and mandible fragments, the latter deriving from dog and sheep/goat.

6.2 Appendix 2 – Trench Summaries

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 4.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: EAST END *(Easting: 50455638: Northing: 24918554)*

OS Grid Ref.: WEST END *(Easting: 50451645: Northing: 24918487)*

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Modern overburden	Compact mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones dumped/demolished material derived from modern building activity, thickness = 0.79m	☑	☐
101	Modern intrusion	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate medium-large ceramic building material, occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small stones, occasional medium stones remains of in situ demolition.	☑	☐
102	Natural	Firm light grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones river borne deposit with occasional snail shells and sandy patches	☐	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 34.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: S.E END *(Easting: 50456403: Northing: 24914860)*

OS Grid Ref.: N.W END *(Easting: 50453608: Northing: 24916824)*

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Modern overburden	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones red brick and gravel patches. Dumped/demolished material derived from modern building activity, thickness = 0.65m	☑	☐
201	Natural	Compact light brown yellow clay silt with high concentration of sand and gravel, derived from river borne materials	☐	☐
202	Modern Intrusion	Cemented light brown red silty clay moderate small-medium stones wall and foundations of the now demolished Britannia Ironworks	☑	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 22.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: WEST END *(Easting: 50450081: Northing: 24914827)*

OS Grid Ref.: EAST END *(Easting: 50451712: Northing: 24916391)*

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Modern overburden	Compact dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones other inclusions include frequent brick and occasional coke. Modern overburden	☑	☐
301	Modern Intrusion	Cemented modern drain, exposed dimensions: L = 2m W = 0.3m D = 0.3m	☑	☐
302	Natural	Firm mid orange brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones natural alluvium	☐	☐
303	Modern disturbance	Loose dark grey black sandy silt	☑	☐
304	Demolition layer	Compact mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones modern deposit derived from industrial debris	☑	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 35.00 m. Width: 4.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.66 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: NW END *(Easting: 50452211: Northing: 24913130)*

OS Grid Ref.: SE END *(Easting: 50455738: Northing: 24913064)*

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	**Modern overburden**	**Compact dark brown grey silty clay moderate small-large ceramic building material, frequent medium-large concrete, frequent small concrete modern overburden derived from demolished buildings**	☑	☐
401	**Natural**	**Firm light brown yellow clay silt frequent small sand, frequent small stones natural riverine deposit with sand and gravel inclusions**	☐	☐
402	**Modern Intrusion**	**Rectangular profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 1.m, min length 3.5m vertically sided pit, not fully excavated**	☑	☐
403	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones upper deposit of pit , fill the result of natural silting process	☑	☑
404	**Modern Intrusion**	**Cemented mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-large ceramic building material, frequent small-large concrete matrix surrounding modern intrusion of building rubble, foundations and demolished walled structures**	☐	☐

Trench: 5

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

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: E END** *(Easting: 50452876: Northing: 24910923)*

OS Grid Ref.: W END *(Easting: 50452876: Northing: 24910930)*

Reason: **This trench was not excavated due to presence of large concrete obstructions and possible soil contamination**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
			☐	▣

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 42.60 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.72 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: N.W END *(Easting: 50445595: Northing: 24910999)*

OS Grid Ref.: S.E END *(Easting: 50448816: Northing: 24908627)*

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	**Modern overburden**	**Firm dark grey brown clay silt frequent small stones dumped building material 0.5m thick**	☑	☑
601	**Natural**	**Loose light brown orange sandy silt occasional small-medium stones derived from riverine activity**	☑	☐
602	**Demolition layer**	**Firm mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones modern building debris associated with demolition activity**	☑	☑
603	**Modern intrusion**	**Sub-circular profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.9m, min depth 0.72m, min length 35.m quarry pit or basement**	☑	☐
604	Fill	Loose light yellow orange sandy gravel occasional flecks charcoal 0.4m thick	☑	☑
605	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones dumped material/backfill	☑	☐
606	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty silt moderate small stones	☑	☑
608	Fill	Loose light yellow orange sandy gravel occasional flecks charcoal 0.4m thick	☑	☐
609	Fill	Loose light yellow orange sandy gravel occasional flecks charcoal 0.2m thick	☑	☐
610	Fill	Loose light yellow orange sandy gravel occasional flecks charcoal 0.15m thick	☑	☐
611	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones 0.1m thick	☑	☐
612	Fill	Loose light yellow orange sandy gravel occasional flecks charcoal 0.2m thick	☑	☐
613	Fill	Compact light grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones 0.2m thick (not bottomed)	☑	☐
614	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones	☑	☑
615	Fill	Compact light grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
616	Fill	Firm dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones dumped material 0.4m thick	☑	☐
617	**Robber trench**	**Circular profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 1.03m, min depth 1.2m, min length 1.1m robber trench not bottomed**	☑	☐
618	Fill	Firm light grey brown silty clay moderate small stones 0.28m thick	☑	☑
619	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones 0.68m thick, primary fill derived from riverine deposits	☑	☑
620	Fill	Compact dark brown orange sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.71m thick	☑	☑
622	Fill	Compact mid brown red silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones quarry backfill 0.3m thick	☑	☑
623	Fill	Loose mid brown orange silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.55m thick	☑	☐
624	Fill	Loose mid brown orange sandy clay frequent small-medium stones 0.33m thick	☑	☑
625	Fill	Compact dark grey black silty clay frequent flecks charcoal band of charcoal forming a layer 0.6m thick	☑	☐
628	Fill	Compact dark grey black silty clay frequent flecks charcoal 0.06m thick	☑	☐
621	**Wall**	**Limestone wall (eight courses), roughly hewn with uneven courses and loose mortar bonding**	☑	☐
626	**Wall**	**Limestone wall, roughly hewn and unevenly coursed with mortar bonding**	☑	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: **Length: 42.60 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.72 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: N.W END** *(Easting: 50445595: Northing: 24910999)*

OS Grid Ref.: S.E END *(Easting: 50448816: Northing: 24908627)*

Reason: **To evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
629	Natural	Cemented mid brown yellow limestone natural geological limestone	☐	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length: 18.00 m. Width: 7.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: EAST END** *(Easting: 50451312: Northing: 24909170)*

OS Grid Ref.: WEST END *(Easting: 50448451: Northing: 24906342)*

Reason: **To evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Modern overburden	Loose dark orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones thickness 0.3m	☑	☐
701	Demolition layer	Compact mid brown orange silty sand frequent small-large ceramic building material, frequent small-medium stones demolition layer comprising partially demolished modern intrusions 0.3m thick.	☑	☐
702	Levelling layer	Firm dark orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones levelling layer comprising redeposited material, 0.22m thick	☑	☑
703	Levelling layer	Compact light brown orange silty sand frequent small-medium stones levelling layer, hand excavation ceased due to hydrocarbon contaminant, machined to 1.2m	☑	☐
704	Natural	Loose mid orange brown sandy gravel riverine deposit	☐	☐

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 0. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: NNE END *(Easting: 50454008: Northing: 24910734)*

OS Grid Ref.: SSW END *(Easting: 50453509: Northing: 24909337)*

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Modern overburden	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium concrete, frequent small-medium stones modern make up layer derived from demolition of Britannia Ironworks 0.25m thick	☑	☐
801	Modern Intrusion	Firm dark brown black silty clay frequent medium ceramic building material, moderate small-large ceramic building material walls and concrete foundations at least 0.6m thick excavations ceased due to contamination	☑	☐

Trench: 9

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

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: N.E END** *(Easting: 50457757: Northing: 24910691)*

OS Grid Ref.: S.W END *(Easting: 50454551: Northing: 24908296)*

Reason: **This trench was not excavated due to presence of large concrete obstructions and possible soil contamination**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
			☐	▣

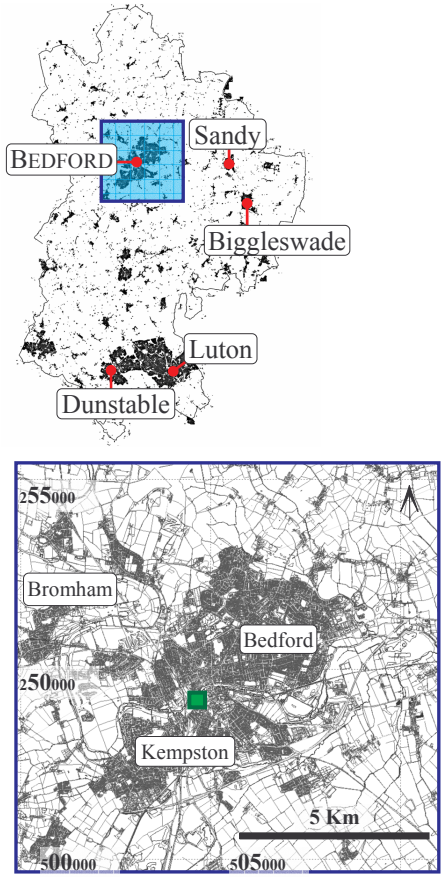
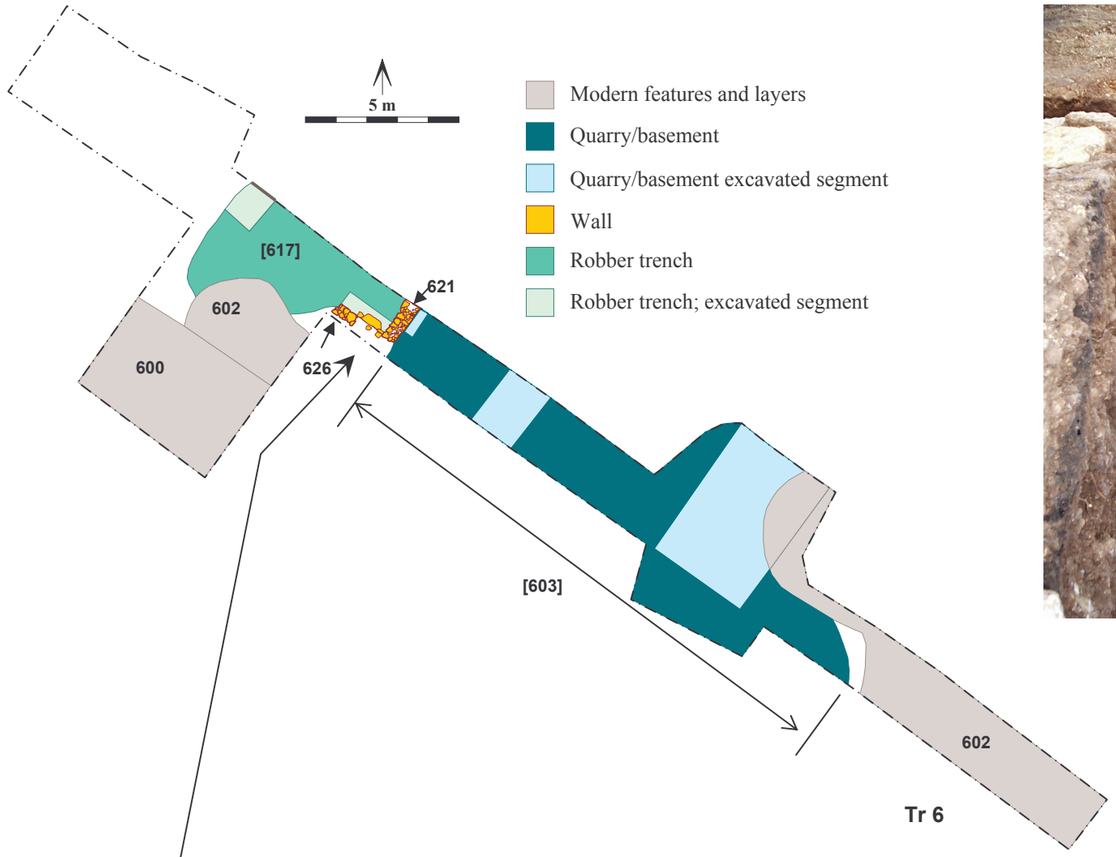
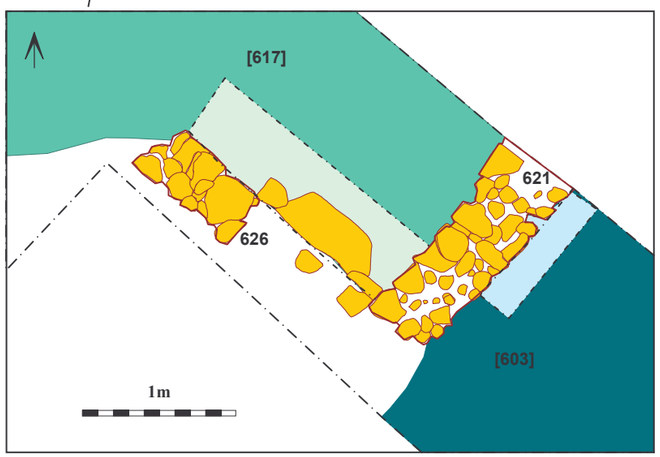


Figure 1: Site and trench location plan





Wall 621, looking north-west.
Scale 40cm

Walls 621and 626, looking north-east.
Scale 1m

Walls 621and 626, looking north-west.
Scale 1m

Figure 2: Trench 6 detail

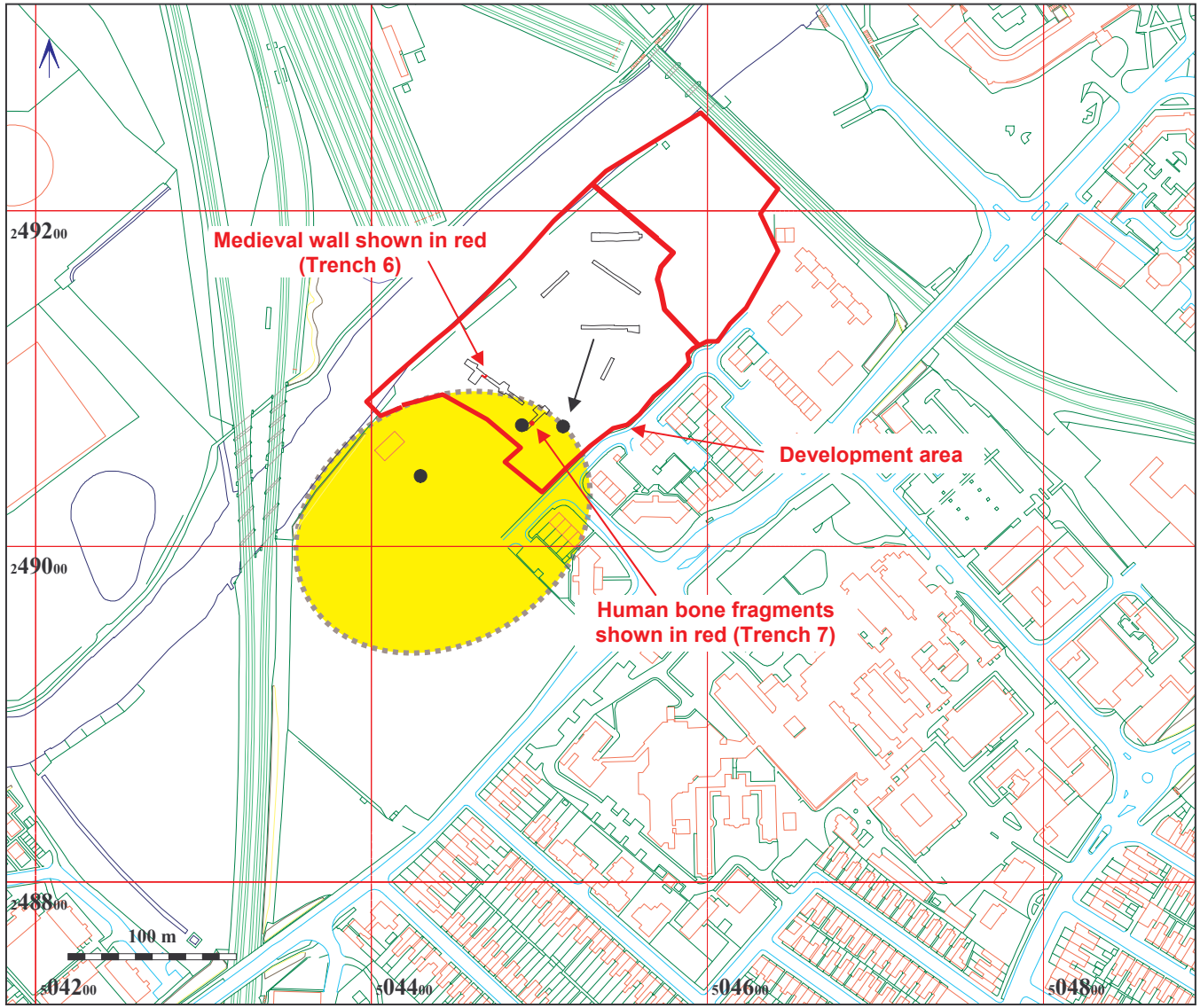


Figure 3: Putative location of Cauldwell Priory in relation to the development area

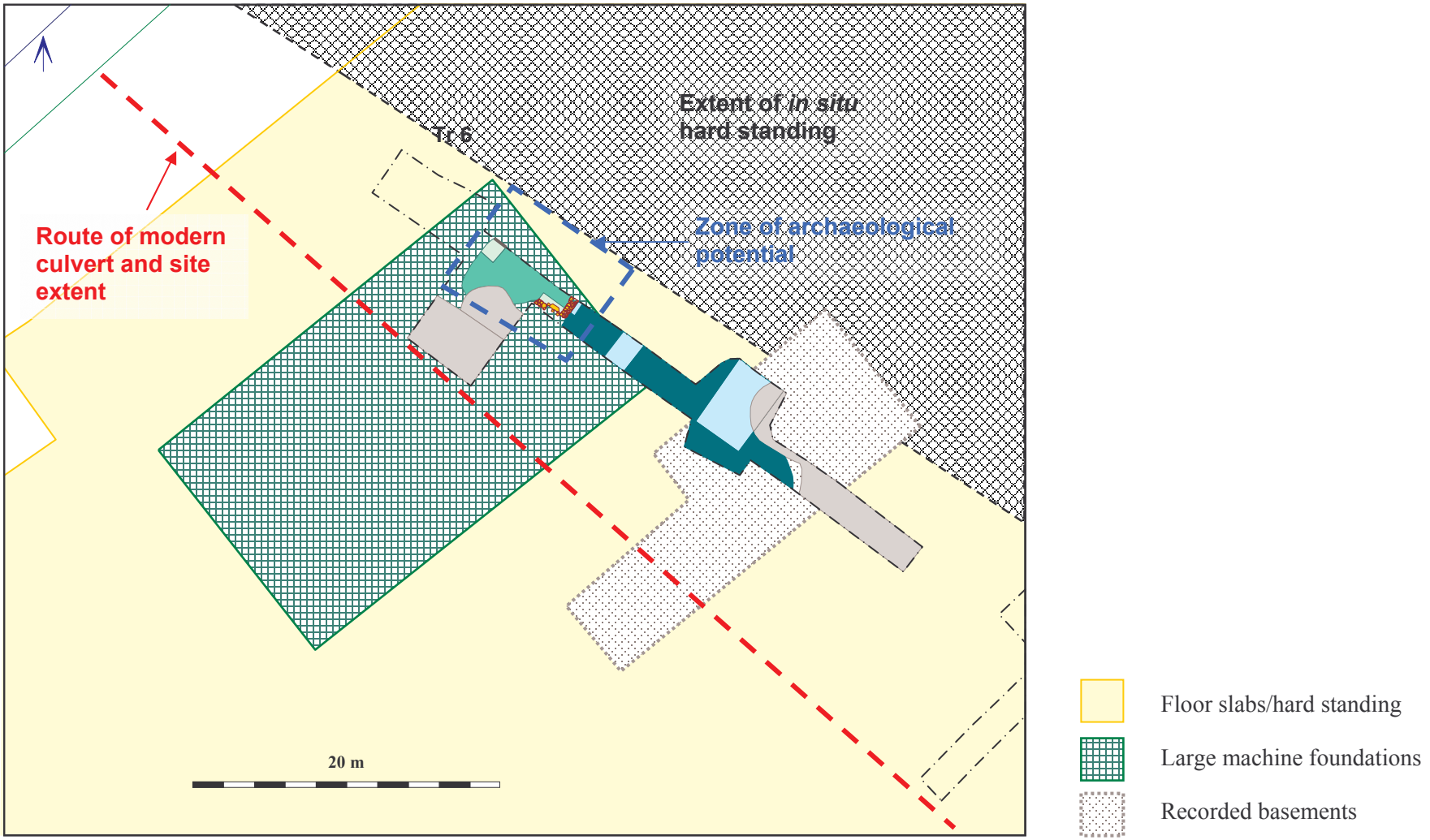


Figure 4: Trench 6 overlain onto machine plinth and modern basement
(Based on Parkman drawing 'Existing Foundations' number 17649/0A/08)

Figure 5: Modern buildings, superimposed onto 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1884)