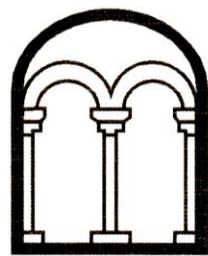


**LAND TO THE REAR OF 7-8 MOAT FARM CLOSE
GREENFIELD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
AND HERITAGE STATEMENT**

Albion
archaeology



**LAND TO THE REAR OF 7-8 MOAT FARM CLOSE
GREENFIELD
BEDFORDSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
AND HERITAGE STATEMENT**

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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Gareth Shane	Jo Barker	Drew Shotliff

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Produced for:
Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd

On behalf of:
Status Homes Ltd



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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. This document should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council).

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Acknowledgements

The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Slawek Utrata (Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer). The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Barker (Project Officer) and Ben Carroll (Archaeological Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Gareth Shane. The figures were compiled by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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<i>1.2</i>	<i>09/05/2019</i>	<i>Updated site layout</i>
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<i>1.0</i>	<i>22/02//2019</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBC AO	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team (of CBC)
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd, on behalf of Status Homes Ltd, is gathering data in support of a planning application for residential development on land to the rear of 7-8 Moat Farm Close, Greenfield, Bedfordshire.

The pre-application response (CB/18/02805/PAPC) received from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) confirmed the recommendation of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer (CBC AO) that an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site was required due to its archaeological potential.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd, on behalf of Status Homes Ltd, to carry out the evaluation to inform the LPA's assessment of the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains that might survive within the site. The scope of work was described in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), agreed with the CBC AO (Albion Archaeology 2018).

The evaluation comprised 8 trial trenches that were investigated on 23rd and 24th January 2019. The trenches were 25m long and 1.8m wide and evenly spread over the proposed development area (PDA).

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the investigation, although a layer of rubble was spread across the southern half of the investigation area beneath the topsoil (Trenches 5–8).

Overall, the findings of the evaluation suggest that the site is unlikely to contain significant archaeological remains. The proposed development of the site for housing will involve ground reduction and excavation of foundations. It is likely that the proposed development would have a negative impact on any sub-surface archaeological remains that did survive within the PDA. However, based on the negative result of this evaluation, it can be concluded that the proposed development will not have any impact on sub-surface archaeological remains.

The project archive will be deposited with Luton Culture (Accession no.: LUTNM 2019/10). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no. albionar1-335647) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd, on behalf of Status Homes Ltd, is gathering data in support of a planning application for residential development on land to the rear of 7-8 Moat Farm Close, Greenfield, Bedfordshire.

The pre-application response (CB/18/02805/PAPC) received from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) confirmed the recommendation of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Officer (CBC AO) that an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site was required due to its archaeological potential.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd, on behalf of Status Homes, to carry out the evaluation to inform the LPA's assessment of the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains that might survive within the site. The scope of work was described in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), agreed with the CBC AO (Albion Archaeology 2018).

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

Greenfield is a small village in Central Bedfordshire Council Authority, c.2km east of Flitwick. The village is largely a linear settlement that has developed along the Westoning to Flitton road and along Mill Lane that leads to the River Flit on the north side of Greenfield. The PDA lies to the south of High Street that turns into Westoning Road to the west of the village (Figure 1).

The PDA comprises a 7,800sqm area situated immediately to the west of modern housing associated with Moat Farm Close. The site is centred on TL 04941 34510 and comprises grassland. The PDA is accessed directly from High Street via a gate in the north-east corner. A gravel track is situated on the east side of the PDA; it defines an area of trees situated close to the eastern boundary of the site. A separate field has also been fenced off on the northern boundary, also accessed by a gate.

The PDA is situated on fairly level ground lying at c.64.9m OD. The underlying geology is Woburn Sands Formation sandstone and is overlain by superficial deposits of Head clay, silt, sand and gravel associated¹.

1.3 *Historical and Archaeological Background*

In preparation of the WSI, data was obtained from the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER search no: 201819/198). The following text is a review of documents and records located within a 500m-radius of the PDA (the 'study area'), which are held by the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) and Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service (BARS).

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



1.3.1 Prehistoric

Prehistoric remains recorded in the study area comprise a Mesolithic and a Neolithic flint scraper (HER 3870 and HER 2764), found in separate locations on the floodplain of the River Flit, *c.*300m and 510m to the north-west and west of the PDA, respectively. Similar finds have been made elsewhere along the river course and indicate the exploitation of riverine resources during these periods. The low-level of artefacts, however, reflects the lack of archaeological fieldwork within the study area rather than a true representation of Mesolithic and Neolithic activities (CBC 2011, 170–1).

1.3.2 Roman (43 BC– *c.*AD 410)

The postulated course of a Roman road identified by the Viatores group (HER 5020; Viatores 170b) is situated *c.*150m to the north-west of the PDA. It is recorded as following the line of High Street, but changes to a south-east course just east of the PDA. So far this road has not been confirmed by archaeological investigation, but a find-spot of nineteen Roman coins (HER 18662) has been recorded close to its course, *c.*250m south of the PDA.

1.3.3 Anglo-Saxon and medieval (*c.*AD 410–1550)

Greenfield is not mentioned in Domesday Book as during this period it was associated with Pulloxhill that was recorded during the survey of 1086. So far no activity predating the medieval period has been recorded in the study area, but it remains a possibility that the settlement may have earlier origins.

By the medieval period Greenfield is referred to as an outlier to Pulloxhill. The historic medieval core of Greenfield (HER 17000), as defined by the HER, encompasses the High Street and Mill Street. The western boundary partially extends onto the PDA, whilst to the east it extends as far east as Pulloxhill Road. The High Street has also been recorded by the HER as the historic main route through Greenfield (HER 19562).

The majority of buildings in Greenfield are post-medieval in date, but the Grade II listed Greenfield Farmhouse (NHLE 1113907/ HER 3627) at 41 High Street, *c.*210m to the north-east of the PDA, has been dated to the 16th century. Closer to the PDA is a possible moated site (HER 7870), *c.*60m to the east. No earthworks have been identified in this area, but a possible ‘L’-shaped moat is depicted on the First Edition OS map 1881² in association with the former Moat Farm (HER 7869).

Evidence of medieval agriculture is indicated by cropmarks of ridge and furrow in a field *c.*200m north-east of the PDA. These have not been recorded in the HER, but are visible on aerial photos taken in 2006³.

1.3.4 Post-medieval (1550–1900)

Most of the heritage assets recorded by the HER within the study area date to the post-medieval period and comprise undesignated buildings of 17th- to 19th-century date situated along High Street and School Lane.

² <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101568299>

³ Google Earth Pro – historical imagery 2006



1.3.5 Modern (1900–present)

The PDA formed part of a field until at least 1978 (1:10,000 OS map). Currently the PDA is divided into three separate enclosures.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal purpose of the archaeological field evaluation was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the PDA;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the PDA;
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

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

Had significant archaeological remains been recovered during the evaluation, their significance would have been assessed against the published research frameworks for the region. The relevant documents for the region are provided by *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Essex) (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

In addition to these regionally focused documents, work has also specifically been done on the county of Bedfordshire: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake *et al* 2007).



2. METHODOLOGY

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

2.1 Methodological Standards

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn, 2017).
• CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , (2nd edn, 2011)
• Luton Culture	<i>Procedures for preparing archaeological archives for deposition with Luton Culture</i> (2013)

The project archive will be deposited with Luton Culture (accession no.: LUTNM 2019/10). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-335647) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place on 23rd and 24th January 2019. It comprised the excavation of eight trenches, measuring 25m in length and 1.8m in width. The trenches were evenly spread to test the areas affected by the proposed development layout within the PDA (Figure 2).

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



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

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

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The soil sequence across the site was predominantly: topsoil, overlying subsoil, overlying undisturbed geology. However, a significant portion of Trenches 6, 7 and 8 (and a lesser extent Trench 5) revealed a layer of modern rubble directly below the topsoil.

The overburden across the site comprised friable, dark brown-black, sandy silt topsoil (100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, and 800), which varied in thickness between 0.2m and 0.5m (Figure 2, section 2). Directly beneath this lay subsoil (802, 702, 601, 501, 401, 301, 201 and 101) consisting of friable to firm, mid-brown sandy silt (0.2–0.50m thick), mixed with occasional stones.

The underlying geology (102, 202, 302, 402, 502, 603, 703 and 803) comprised firm orange-brown clay. Occasional patches of firm red-brown clay gravel (602) were also present.

3.3 Modern Deposit in Trenches 5–8

A deposit consisting of concrete rubble / hard-core mixed into dark brown sandy silt (varying in thickness from 0.20–0.40m) was observed in Trenches 5–8 (Figure 2, section 1). This material (801, 701, 604 and 503) lay between the topsoil and the subsoil across the NW end of Trench 6, NE end of Trench 7 and the SW end of Trench 8; it was also seen to a lesser extent in Trench 5. No evidence for the origins of this material could be located on any historical maps or aerial photographs. Whilst the exact purpose of this material is unknown, its deposition is considered likely to be a recent event, possibly associated with the construction of adjacent housing between 1996 and 2007.

3.4 Archaeological Features

No archaeological features or deposits were observed on site, and no finds were recovered from the excavated soils.



4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

4.1 *Summary of Results*

During the evaluation no archaeological features were identified. The only traces of prior human activity on site comprised land drains and a layer of rubble, all of which are modern in date. The natural geology across the eight trenches was consistently clean and free of modern disturbance and contamination, other than land-drains. No artefacts were found within the trenches, suggesting that no archaeological features or deposits are likely to be present within the PDA.

4.2 *Heritage Statement*

The evaluation suggests that the PDA is unlikely to contain significant archaeological remains, despite its proximity to the historic medieval core of Greenfield (HER 17000) and the potential for a medieval moated site to exist in the vicinity (HER 7870). No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts with the potential to address local and regional research objectives were recovered or observed.

The proposed development of the site for housing will involve ground reduction and the excavation of foundations. It is likely that the proposed development would have a negative impact on any sub-surface archaeological remains that did survive within the PDA. However, based on the negative result of this evaluation, it can be concluded that the proposed development will not have any impact on sub-surface archaeological remains.



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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 04888/34532

OS Grid Ref.: TL 04913/34532

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 04911/34517

OS Grid Ref.: TL 04933/34530

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.45m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 04944/34537

OS Grid Ref.: TL 04945/34562

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.4m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.38m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 04970/34558

OS Grid Ref.: TL 04982/34537

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.4m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 04966/34514

OS Grid Ref.: TL 04942/34519

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.35m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.5m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Make up layer	Compact mid yellow brown sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent medium-large concrete, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 04910/34504

OS Grid Ref.: TL 04924/34483

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Natural	Firm light red brown clay gravel moderate flecks manganese staining, frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Make up layer	Cemented moderate small-medium CBM, frequent medium-large concrete, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 04936/34473

OS Grid Ref.: TL 04944/34496

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.45m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Make up layer	Cemented moderate small-medium CBM, frequent medium-large concrete, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 04957/34478

OS Grid Ref.: TL 04979/34491

Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.45m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
801	Make up layer	Cemented moderate small-medium CBM, frequent medium-large concrete, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Subsoil	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
803	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks manganese staining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

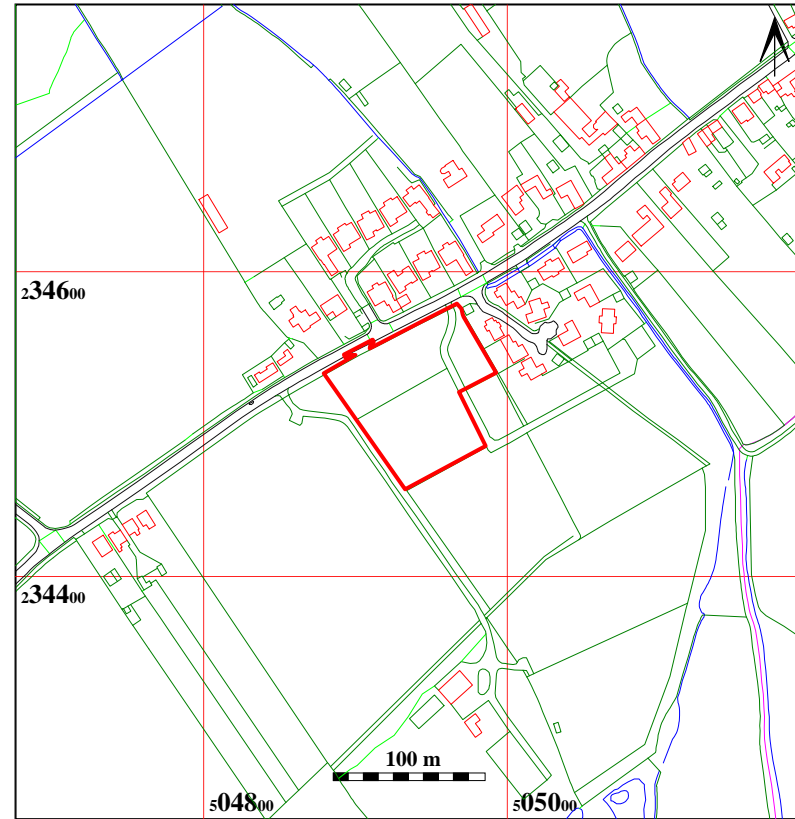
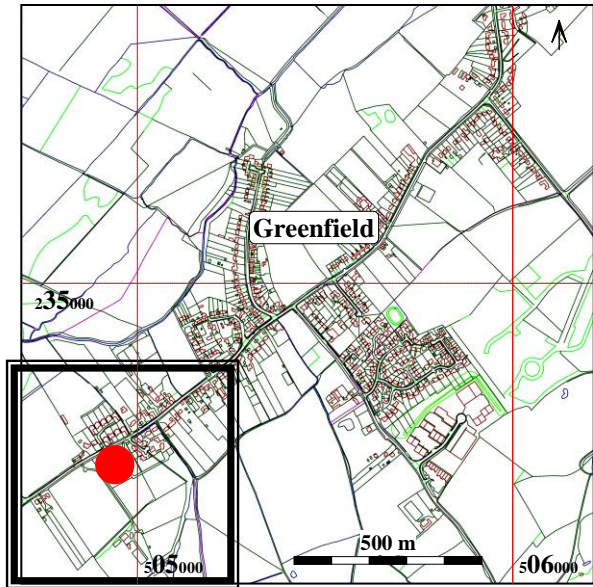
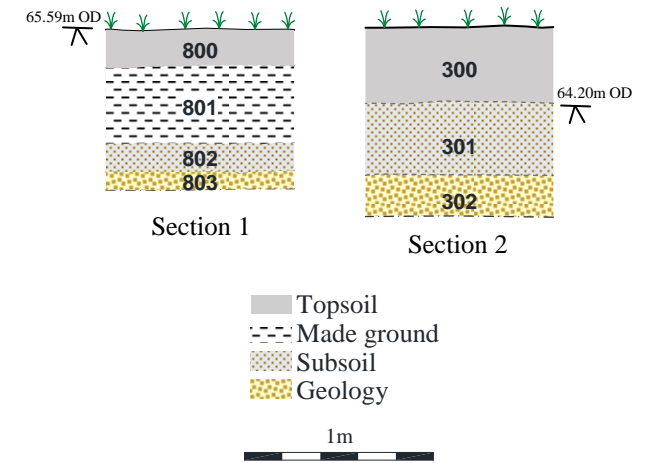
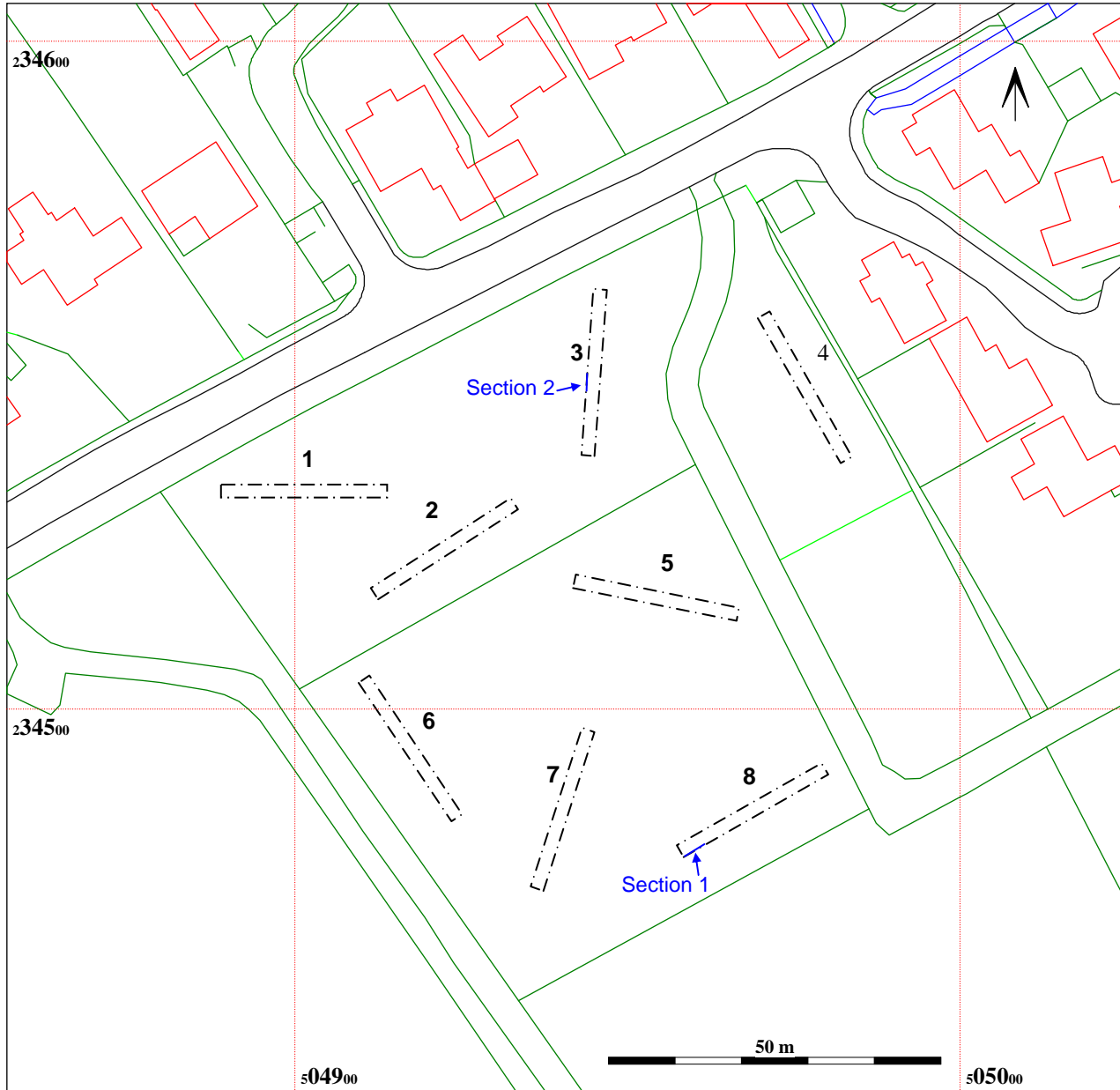


Figure 1: Site location plan

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Modern deposit in Trench 6

Figure 2: Trench location plan and selected sections

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Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-east

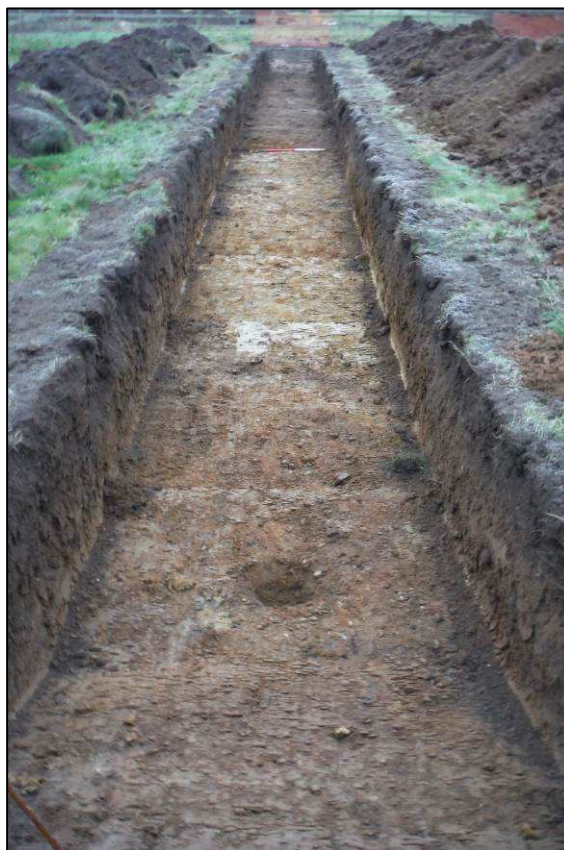


Plate 3: Trench 3, looking south



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking south-east



Plate 5: Trench 5, looking north-west



Plate 6: Trench 6, looking south-east



Plate 7: Trench 7, looking south-west



Plate 8: Trench 8, looking north-east

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