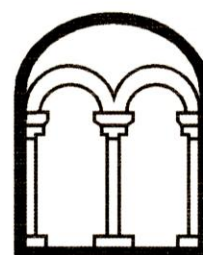


**LAND AT FAIRHILL  
GREAT OUSE WAY  
BEDFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION,  
EXCAVATION AND OBSERVATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**LAND AT FAIRHILL  
GREAT OUSE WAY  
BEDFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION,  
EXCAVATION AND OBSERVATION**

Project: FH3509  
Museum accession no.: BEDFM 2019.50  
OASIS ref.: albionar1-349489

Document: 2019/72  
Version 1.0

Compiled by	Edited by	Approved by
Allan King and Gareth Shane	Iain Leslie	Drew Shotliff

25th July 2019

Prepared for:  
Bedford Borough Council



## ***Contents***

---

<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Version History</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Non-Technical Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Planning Background	6
1.2 Site Location and Geology	6
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	7
1.4 Project Objectives	10
<b>2. METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3. RESULTS</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1 Introduction	13
3.2 Overburden and Geological deposits	13
3.3 Late Iron Age/Early Roman Activity	13
3.4 Medieval Furrows	13
3.5 Undated Ditch	14
3.6 Modern Features	14
3.7 Archaeological Observation	14
3.8 Finds	14
<b>4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>5. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7. APPENDIX 2: AREA A SUMMARY</b>	<b>27</b>



### **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: All-features plan

Figure 3: Plan of Area A

Figure 4: Selected sections

Figure 5: Selected photographs

*The figures are bound at the back of the report.*



## Preface

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

*Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for any other purpose than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will, by such use or reliance, be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the current state of knowledge.*

## Acknowledgements

*The project was commissioned by Bedford Borough Council and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders of the Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team.*

*The fieldwork was undertaken by Lewis Busby, Allan King, Ernie Rizzo, and Gareth Shane (Project Supervisors) and Adrian Woolmer (Assistant Supervisor). The report was prepared by Allan King and Gareth Shane with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The project was managed by Iain Leslie (Project Manager). 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  
 ☎: 0300 300 8141  
 e-mail: [office@albion-arch.com](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)

## Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	25/07/2019	n/a



## **Key Terms**

The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout this report:

AO	Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Officer
BBC	Bedford Borough Council
BBHER	Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute <i>for</i> Archaeologists
HET	Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Brownhill Hayward Brown Architects, on behalf of Bedford Borough Council (BBC), prepared a hybrid planning application for the erection of a microbrewery with access road and ancillary works and Outline proposals with all matters reserved, except access, for mixed used development, to include employment land B1, B2, B8, leisure (D2), A3, A4 and hotel uses on land at Fairhill, Great Ouse Way in Bedford (18/00555/MDC4).*

*The application was subsequently approved with an archaeological condition (no. 6), requiring a programme of archaeological works. Archaeological trial-trench evaluation was carried out over part of the permitted development area (PDA), the 'Brewery Site', in July 2018. Albion Archaeology was subsequently commissioned by the client to carry out the archaeological evaluation for the remainder of the PDA.*

*During the archaeological evaluation an area of archaeological potential was identified. At the request of the BBC Archaeological Officer, a Method Statement was prepared outlining a programme of further works, including open-area excavation and archaeological observation. This report presents the integrated results of the evaluation and further works*

*The archaeological trial-trenching identified archaeological remains in seven of the eight trenches. A re-cut late Iron Age/early Roman boundary ditch was identified in Trench 8, whilst medieval furrows were present in Trenches 1–5. Elsewhere a single undated ditch was identified in Trench 6 and evidence for modern activity, including ditches, was present in Trenches 2–4 and 8.*

*Additional investigation in the north-west part of the PDA (designated Area A) revealed more of the late Iron Age/Roman boundary, which was shown to curve to the north-west and east, presumably enclosing an area to the north beyond the limits of the PDA. An additional contemporary ditch and a post-hole were also identified. A modest finds assemblage suggests domestic activity was taking place nearby and that, therefore, the features were associated with a late Iron Age/Roman settlement.*

*Previous investigations identified evidence for a late Iron Age/Roman farmstead c.100m to the north of Area A. It is reasonable to assume that the remains identified within Area A might be associated with those identified to the north, possibly representing the southern limits of the farmstead.*

*The results suggest that there is low potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the PDA, with the exception of those within Area A, which have already been subject to further investigation as part of the current project. The revealed features are of moderate significance but have some potential to address regional research objectives relating to late Iron Age/Roman rural settlement; their significance is enhanced by their apparent association with the contemporary farmstead to the north.*

*The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no.: BEDFM 2019.50). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-349489) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Brownhill Hayward Brown Architects, on behalf of Bedford Borough Council (BBC), prepared a hybrid planning application for the erection of a microbrewery with access road and ancillary works and Outline proposals with all matters reserved, except access, for mixed used development, to include employment land B1, B2, B8, leisure (D2), A3, A4 and hotel uses on land at Fairhill, Great Ouse Way in Bedford (18/00555/MDC4).

The consultation response (dated 20/03/2018) from the Archaeological Officer (AO) of Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) recommended a draft condition for a programme of archaeological works. The AO indicated that the first stage work should be an archaeological trial-trench evaluation, the results of which would be used to inform the requirement for, and scope of, any further work.

The application was subsequently approved with an archaeological condition (no. 6). Archaeological trial-trench evaluation was carried out over part of the permitted development area (PDA), the 'Brewery Site', in July 2018 (Albion Archaeology 2018a). Albion Archaeology was subsequently commissioned by the client to carry out the archaeological evaluation of the remainder of the PDA. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2019a) was prepared and approved by the AO.

During the evaluation an area of archaeological potential was identified. At the request of the AO, a Method Statement was prepared outlining a programme of further works, including open-area excavation and archaeological observation (Albion Archaeology 2019b). Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the further work. Due to the relatively limited extent of the works it was agreed that the results should be integrated into the evaluation report.

This report presents the integrated results of the evaluation and further works.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Geology*

Fairhill is situated in the Great Ouse valley, on the north-west side of Bedford (Figure 1). It lies 1.8km north-west of Bedford town centre, *c.* 1.8km north-east of Biddenham and 1.4km south-east of Oakley.

The PDA comprises two land parcels on opposite sides of Great Ouse Way (A428), *c.* 20m west of its junction with the A6. It is centred on TL 03432, 50943 and is bordered to the north by the river Great Ouse, to the west by the railway line and to the north and east by the A6 and retail units. The ground surface is overgrown, but in general it is fairly level at *c.* 35m OD. Part of the southern half of the PDA was previously occupied by a large electricity distribution site, dismantled in 1986, and remains of the wall footings and car parking spaces are still present on the PDA. The land parcel to the north of Great Ouse Way was evaluated in connection with a previous planning





application (Figure 1) (Albion Archaeology 2013). The brewery site, part of the southern land parcel, was also previously subject to archaeological evaluation (Albion archaeology 2018a) (Figure 1).

The underlying geology comprises Kellways Sand Member sandstone and siltstone interbedded. The northern edge of the PDA is situated on Kellways Clay Member mudstone. No superficial deposits have been recorded for this area<sup>1</sup>.

### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

Archaeological trial-trench evaluation was carried out over part of the PDA, the 'Brewery Site' (Figure 2), in July 2018 (Albion Archaeology 2018a). Archaeological remains were identified in three of the six trenches. Evidence for post-medieval/modern quarrying was identified, whilst an undated and heavily truncated ditch also survived. Elsewhere only modern ditches were present.

The results suggested that there was low potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the 'Brewery Site'. The absence of remains suggested that the late Iron Age and Roman farmstead identified to the north and west of the PDA (Albion Archaeology 2015) and in the northern land parcel of the PDA (Albion Archaeology 2013) did not continue south into the 'Brewery Site'. Whilst no contemporary remains were present within the 'Brewery Site', the recovery of a worn late Roman coin is testament to the presence of activity of this date in the wider vicinity

The following text is taken from an earlier desk-based heritage statement (Albion Archaeology 2018b) and is a review of documents and records located within a 500m-radius of the PDA, which are held by the Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (BBHER) and Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service (BARS) (BBHER search reference number: BBHER 040 (2017-18). The search radius is referred to as the 'study area' in the following section.

Of most significance to the PDA were the remains of a late Iron Age-early Roman farmstead, including enclosures, a trackway and domestic core, which was identified within the footprint of a balancing pond to the north and west of the PDA (EBD821; Albion Archaeology 2015, 18–19). The easterly continuation of the farmstead activity was demonstrated by the archaeological trial-trench evaluation on the site of the proposed hotel, north of Great Ouse Way (EBD870; Figure 2; Albion Archaeology 2013, 18–19). Ditches identified in the trenches were encountered at a depth of 0.7–1.1m below ground level. Previous evaluation within the PDA showed that the farmstead did not continue into the 'Brewery Site' (Albion Archaeology 2018a).

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 15/05/2018]



### 1.3.1 Prehistoric (pre-43 BC)

Residual prehistoric artefacts and late Bronze Age-early Iron Age pottery were recovered during archaeological investigations on the northern half of the PDA (EBD870) and on the site of the balancing pond (EBD821).

Other prehistoric heritage assets recorded within the study area comprise the site of an Iron Age roundhouse (MBD 329) and early Iron Age pottery on the west side of the PDA and another post-built roundhouse c. 520m to the north (MBD565). The roundhouse on the PDA was discovered in allotments and subsequently excavated. Part of it was found to have been truncated by the railway line. Early Iron Age pottery reportedly found in this area cannot be accurately located.

The find-spot of a gold coin of Cunobelinus has also been recorded on the PDA (HER 11988). It was discovered in allotments in 1982, but its exact location is unknown. Cunobelinus was a king in pre-Roman Britain and ruled from the late 1st century BC to AD 41.

### 1.3.1 Late Iron Age to Roman (43 BC–AD 410)

Late Iron Age to Roman heritage assets are well-represented in the study area, comprising the remains of a farmstead, the postulated route of two Roman roads, Roman buildings, cremation burials and a find-spot.

The PDA is situated c. 330m north of the junction of two postulated Roman roads: Viatores 173 (HER 485) and Viatores 210 (HER 10480). The Viatores were a group of 1950s' researchers, dedicated to finding and mapping Roman roads in the modern landscape. However, in recent years many of these roads have been dismissed, as parts of their routes were inferred from post-medieval boundaries and because of an absence of archaeological evidence. The postulated roads crossing the study area have not been proven through archaeological investigation, but the number of Roman sites in the vicinity suggest that at least one road may have existed in the vicinity.

As well as a late Iron Age-early Roman farmstead on the site of the balancing pond, contemporary pottery and structural remains have also been identified c. 400m to the east of the PDA on either side of Manton Lane (HER 21732). Pottery and two possible Roman walls were identified during development works and archaeological excavation at Edith Cavell Lower School and a new care home.

Cremation burials dated to the Romano-British period were discovered on land c. 90m to the north-east of the PDA (HER 5124). They were excavated in the 19th century, but their exact location remains unclear.

### 1.3.2 Medieval (1066–1550)

Medieval heritage assets recorded in the study area comprise extensive evidence for ridge and furrow (HER 2590). Sub-surface remains of furrows were identified during open-area excavation on the site of the balancing pond (Albion Archaeology 2015). Further evidence of ridge and furrow has been recorded by the National Mapping Programme to the north,



north-east and east of the PDA (NMP1606023, NMP1606025 and NMP1606035). Domesday Book (1086) recorded medieval manors at Biddenham, Clapham and Bedford. Based on modern parish boundaries it is likely that the PDA formed part of the open field system of Biddenham during the medieval period.

Evidence for a medieval bank and ditch, known as ‘Green Ditch’, has been recorded on the north-east side of the PDA and is considered to be a potential former parish boundary (HER 8657).

### 1.3.3 Post-medieval (1550–1900)

The majority of post-medieval heritage assets in the study area are undesignated buildings situated along Shakespeare Road and Clapham Road and evidence of quarrying and brickworks adjacent to the river Great Ouse. All the buildings, extant or demolished, lie 70–500m from the PDA.

Extensive areas of post-medieval quarrying for gravel, limestone and clay for brick-making is represented by several records in the HER and has more recently been mapped during the National Mapping Programme. To the north-east and south-east of the PDA the site of former brick and tile works (MBD2872 and MBD2888) and a brickyard (MBD8551) have been recorded on Clapham Road. The location of a former stone quarry on Clapham Road has also been identified from historical maps, *c.* 270m east of the PDA (MBD5085; NMP 1605976). Limestone quarrying *c.* 350m west of the PDA has been indicated by cartographic sources and by the discovery of a lime kiln during archaeological investigations along the Bedford Bypass – Northern Section (MBD168/ NMP1605976; Albion Archaeology 2015). An extensive area of post-medieval gravel extraction has also been mapped in the loop of the Great Ouse, *c.* 500m north of the PDA (NMP1605924).

A pit containing post-medieval debris has been recorded on the north-eastern edge of the PDA (MBD18201).

The National Mapping Programme has identified five areas of earthworks pertaining to possible post-medieval ridge and furrow (NMP1606017, NMP1606022, NMP1606023, NMP1606025 and NMP1606035) to the north, east and west of the PDA. Whilst some of this is likely to be medieval in date, some furrows were found to post-date post-medieval quarry pits. The majority of the earthworks have since been built on, but ridge and furrow within the Ouse Valley Golf Course to the east of the PDA could still be extant in places.

### 1.3.4 Modern (1900–present day)

Only one modern heritage asset has been recorded in the study area — the site of a former wind-pump (MBD10174), *c.* 470m north-east of the PDA.

In addition, the National Mapping Programme has identified a WWII defended locality from aerial photographs on either side of Clapham Road, *c.* 500m north-east of the PDA. The defences comprised a pillbox and two sections of slit trenches enclosed by a curvilinear barbed-wire entanglement.



#### **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 were present within the proposed development site;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that were present at the proposed development site.
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below; a full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2019a) and Method Statement (Albion Archaeology 2019b).

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 ed., 2017).
• Bedford Museum	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire</i> (2010).
• CIfA	<i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014).
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2014).
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014).
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2nd ed.) (2011).

The trial trenching took place between 29th April and 1st May 2019. Three 50m-long, four 25m-long and one 30m-long trench were excavated, all measuring 2m wide. The alignment of Trenches 1, 5 and 8 was altered due to on-site ground conditions. Trench 7 was shortened from 50m to 30m, and the alignment altered to avoid overhead cables.

Between 9th and 13th May, at the request of the AO, an area of 20m by 15m was excavated in the vicinity of Trench 8. Archaeological observation (watching brief) was carried out on 13th May to monitor excavation of a trench for the installation of an underground electricity cable.

The trenches and excavation area were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first. During the archaeological observation, where no archaeological deposits were observed, excavation stopped at the construction formation level.



All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff. The bases and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. All features and deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.* Each trench and the further works were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no.: BEDFM 2019.50). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-349489) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



### 3. RESULTS

---

#### 3.1 Introduction

All significant deposits and features found within the trial trenches and further works are summarised below and shown in Figures 2–4, with a representative selection of photographs in Figure 5. Context numbers in square brackets refer to cuts [\*\*\*] and round brackets to fills or layers (\*\*\*).

Details of all observed deposits and archaeological features are provided in Appendix 1.

#### 3.2 Overburden and Geological deposits

Overburden generally consisted of topsoil and subsoil, with additional modern make-up layers observed in Trenches 1 and 2. The topsoil was generally 0.3–0.4m thick and comprised dark brown-grey sandy silt. The subsoil was generally 0.15–0.3m thick and comprised mid-grey-brown clay silt. The modern make-up layer in Trenches 1 and 2 overlaid the topsoil and was the result of levelling for the current haul road and storage areas.

#### 3.3 Late Iron Age/Early Roman Activity

Three inter-cutting ditches [803] [805] [807] were present in the north-west end of Trench 8. They were on an E-W alignment and were up to 2.3m wide and 0.6m deep. Ditches [803] and [805] had a similar U-shaped profile and flat base, whilst ditch [807] had a concave base.

In order to further investigate the ditches and any potential additional remains in the vicinity, Area A was stripped to the archaeological level. The ditches were found to be gently curving to the north-west and east, presumably representing a boundary enclosing an area to the north. The ditches were recorded as [908] [910] and [912]; they were similar in size and profile to those seen in Trench 8.

A further smaller ditch [904] [906] extended north-east from the larger boundary and was probably contemporary. No internal features were present to the north of the boundary, although a single isolated post-hole [914] was present immediately to the south.

The ditches and post-hole are all thought to be contemporary; the pottery recovered from them suggests a date in the 1st century AD. A total of 472g of pottery, 403g of animal bone and 34g of fired clay was recovered from the features within Trench 8 and Area A.

#### 3.4 Medieval Furrows

Eight furrows were identified across Trenches 1–5. All were on a similar N-S to NNE-SSW alignment with shallow U-shaped profiles and concave bases. They were up to 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep. No finds were recovered from these features.



### 3.5 Undated Ditch

An undated ditch was present in Trench 6. Ditch [603] was aligned E-W and was 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. The ditch had a U-shaped profile with steep sides and a concave base.

### 3.6 Modern Features

Three modern ditches were present in Trenches 2–4. The E-W aligned ditches were visible on the surface and were probably associated with the allotments that previously occupied this part of the PDA.

An area of modern disturbance [916], containing concrete, brick and plastic, was present within Area A.

### 3.7 Archaeological Observation

A trench was excavated for the installation of an underground power cable immediately to the north and west of Area A. The trench was *c.* 0.7m wide by 0.9m deep. The ground had been heavily disturbed by modern activity, both a continuation of the disturbance identified in Area A and root disturbance from the adjacent trees. No additional archaeological features were identified within the trench.

### 3.8 Finds

The boundary ditches in Trench 8 and Area A yielded an assemblage comprising pottery, fired clay and animal bone (Table 1). No finds were recovered from features in Trenches 1–7.

	Feature	Fill	Date range	Finds summary
<b>Tr. 8</b>	803	804	1st century AD	Pottery (123g); fired clay (34g); animal bone (169g)
	805	806	1st century AD	Pottery (22g)
	807	808	1st century AD	Pottery (14g); animal bone (9g)
<b>Area A</b>	902	903	Undated	Animal bone (18g)
	904	905	1st century AD	Pottery (5g)
	906	907	1st century AD	Pottery (63g)
	908	909	1st-2nd century AD	Pottery (182g); fired clay (12g); animal bone (207g)
	910	911	1st century AD	Pottery (20g)
	912	913	1st century AD	Pottery (43g)

**Table 1:** Finds Summary by trench, area and feature

#### 3.8.1 Ceramics

Thirty-eight pottery sherds (472g) datable to the 1st and early 2nd century AD were collected from eight deposits. With a mean sherd weight of 12g, the material displays variable fragmentation, although is uniformly abraded. Single sherds range in weight from 1g to 81g. Eight fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2).





Fabric code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt. (g)	Feature/Sherd No.
<i>Late Iron Age</i>				
F05	Grog and shell	5	36	[803]:1, [807]:2, [906]:1, [908]:1
F06B	Medium grog	10	97	[805]:1, [906]:1, [908]:6, [910]:2
F07	Shell	7	107	[803]:3, [805]:1, [906]:3
F09	Sand and grog	5	40	[803]:1, [807]:1, [904]:1, [908]:1, [912]:1
F34	Sand	3	28	[805]:1, [912]:2
<i>Early Roman</i>				
R01	Samian	1	1	[908]:1
R06C	Fine grey ware	2	7	[803]:1, [908]:1
R13	Shell	5	156	[803]:2, [906]:1, [908]:1, [912]:1

**Table 2:** Pottery Type Series and quantification

The majority of the assemblage comprises hand-built and wheel-thrown wares in a range of grog-, shell- and sand-tempered fabrics (30 sherds: 308g). Forms are two everted-rimmed jars and a bowl with an upright rim. One vessel is cordoned, characteristic of the late ‘Belgic’ Iron Age and one has faint linear combing.

Locally manufactured early Roman coarsewares comprise five shell-tempered sherds (156g) and two highly abraded grey ware body sherds (7g). Shelly forms are two jars with simple everted rims and a lid-seated vessel. A tiny samian ware sliver (1g), representing a continental import, also occurs.

Two abraded sand-tempered fired clay fragments (46g), one with a wattle/lath impression, were collected from ditches [803] and [908].

### 3.8.2 Animal bone

Four ditch fills (*Table 1*) yielded 53 animal bone fragments (403g), the largest deposits (>100g) from [803] and [908]. Individual pieces have a mean weight of 8g and generally survive in poor condition. Diagnostic bone elements are mainly large/medium mammal limb bone shafts. A number of fragmented molars also occur, deriving from cattle, horse and sheep/goat.



## 4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

---

The archaeological trial trenching identified archaeological remains in seven of the eight trenches. A re-cut late Iron Age/early Roman boundary ditch was identified in Trench 8, whilst medieval furrows were present in Trenches 1–5. Elsewhere a single undated ditch was identified in Trench 6 and evidence for modern activity, including ditches, was identified in Trenches 2–4 and 8.

Additional investigation in the north-west part of the PDA (designated Area A) revealed more of the late Iron Age/Roman boundary, which was shown to curve to the north-west and east, presumably enclosing an area to the north beyond the limits of the PDA. An additional contemporary ditch and a post-hole were also identified. A modest finds assemblage suggests domestic activity was taking place nearby and that, therefore, the features were associated with a late Iron Age/Roman settlement.

Previous investigations identified evidence for a late Iron Age/Roman farmstead *c.*100m to the north of Area A (Albion Archaeology 2015, 18–19). It is reasonable to assume that the remains identified within Area A might be associated with those identified to the north, and given the absence of contemporary remains elsewhere in the PDA, might represent the southern limits of the farmstead.

The presence of the medieval furrows suggests that the PDA was open fields in this period, utilised for strip cultivation.

The results suggest that there is low potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the PDA, with the exception of those within Area A, which have already been subject to further investigation as part of the current project. The revealed features are of moderate significance but have some potential to address regional research objectives relating to late Iron Age/Roman rural settlement; their significance is enhanced by their apparent association with the contemporary farmstead to the north.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

- Albion Archaeology, 2013 *Fairhills Site, Cut Throat Lane, Bedford: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation* (Unpubl. Rep. 2013/29)
- Albion Archaeology, 2015 *Bedford Western Bypass Northern Section, Bromham Road, Bedford: Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design* (Unpubl. rep. 2015/44)
- Albion Archaeology, 2018a *Land at Fairhill, Great Ouse Way, Bedford, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Unpubl. rep. 2018/112)
- Albion Archaeology, 2018b *3295 Fairhills Development Site, Great Ouse Way, Bedford, Heritage Statement* (Unpubl. rep. 2018/56)
- Albion Archaeology, 2019a *Land at Fairhill, Great Ouse Way, Bedford, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation* (Unpubl. rep. 2019/55)
- Albion Archaeology, 2019b *Land at Fairhill, Great Ouse Way, Bedford, Bedfordshire. Addendum to WSI 2019/55: Method Statement for Archaeological Excavation and Observation* (Unpubl. rep. 2019/59)



## 6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

---



**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.7 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 3562: Northing: 50805)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 3587: Northing: 50802)

**Reason: To assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Make up layer	Firm mid grey brown silty clay With patches of gravel. 0.23m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.19m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Natural	Firm mid red orange sandy clay With patches of light yellow brown and light blue grey clay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Furrow	Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.27m, max depth 0.12m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small stones . 0.12m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 2

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: 0.77 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3547: Northing: 50802)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3564: Northing: 50783)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Make up layer	Firm mid grey brown silty clay With patches of gravel. 0.40m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.31m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Natural	Firm mid red orange sandy clay With patches of light yellow brown and light blue grey clay and occasional patches of gravel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Furrow	Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.36m, max depth 0.11m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small stones . Occasional inclusions of coal. 0.11m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Furrow	Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.29m, max depth 0.11m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small stones . Occasional inclusions of coal. 0.11m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 3

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.43 m. Max: 0.5 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3531: Northing: 50800)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3508: Northing: 50790)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.22m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm mid red orange sandy clay With patches of light yellow brown and light blue grey clay and occasional patches of gravel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Furrow	Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.08m, max depth 0.1m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small stones . 0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Furrow	Linear NNE-SSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.16m, max depth 0.1m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small stones . 0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 4

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 50.50 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m. Max: 0.46 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3439: Northing: 50816)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3484: Northing: 50794)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.21m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay With patches of light blue grey clay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Furrow	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.83m, max depth 0.1m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Fill	Firm mid orange grey sandy clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones . 0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
405	Furrow	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.54m, max depth 0.3m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Fill	Firm mid orange grey sandy clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones . 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





**Trench:** 5

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.58 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3461: Northing: 50816)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3486: Northing: 50815)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones . 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones . 0.26m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Natural	Firm mid grey orange silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Furrow	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.01m, max depth 0.31m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Fill	Firm mid orange grey sandy clay occasional small stones . 0.31m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 6**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.65 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 3442: Northing: 50886)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 3442: Northing: 50836)

**Reason: To assess archaeological potential**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones . 0.36m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones . 0.29m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Natural	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay With patches of light blue grey clay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.59m, max depth 0.2m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Fill	Firm mid orange grey sandy clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones . 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 7

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.62 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3430: Northing: 50927)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3450: Northing: 50904)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones . 0.38m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones With patches of dark brown grey silty clay. 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Natural	Firm light yellow orange sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 8**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.48 m. Max: 0.66 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 3380: Northing: 50909)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 3405: Northing: 50865)

**Reason: To assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-large CBM, occasional small-medium stones . 0.66m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
801	Subsoil	Firm mid blue brown silty clay With patches of mid orange brown silty clay. 0.22m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Natural	Firm light grey blue clay With patches of mid brown orange sandy clay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
803	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.33m, max depth 0.56m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
804	Fill	Firm mid grey blue silty clay occasional flecks charcoal With moderate patches of mid green brown staining and occasional lenses of light grey blue clay. 0.56m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
805	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.4m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
806	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones With moderate patches of mid orange brown staining. 0.40m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
807	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, max depth 0.6m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
808	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay occasional medium burnt stones, occasional flecks chalk, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones With moderate patches of mid orange brown staining. 0.60m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



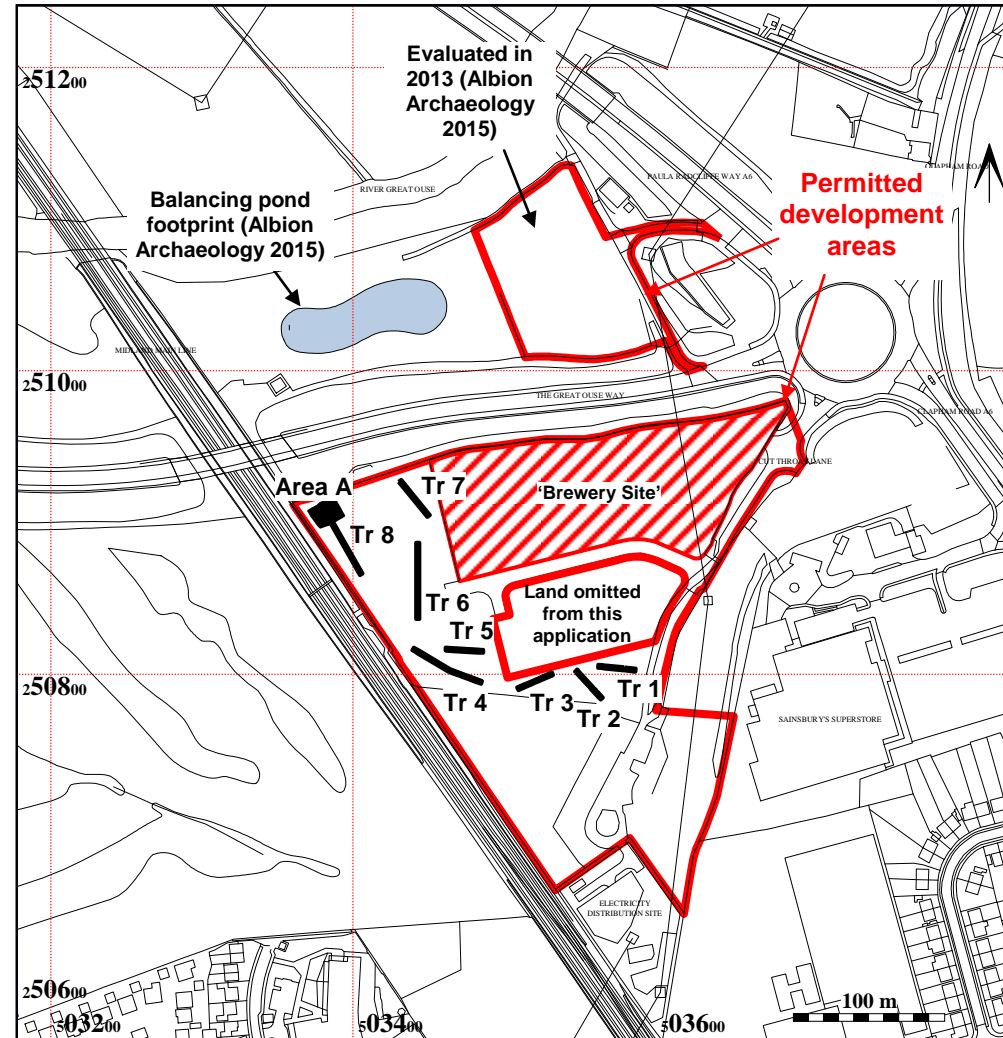
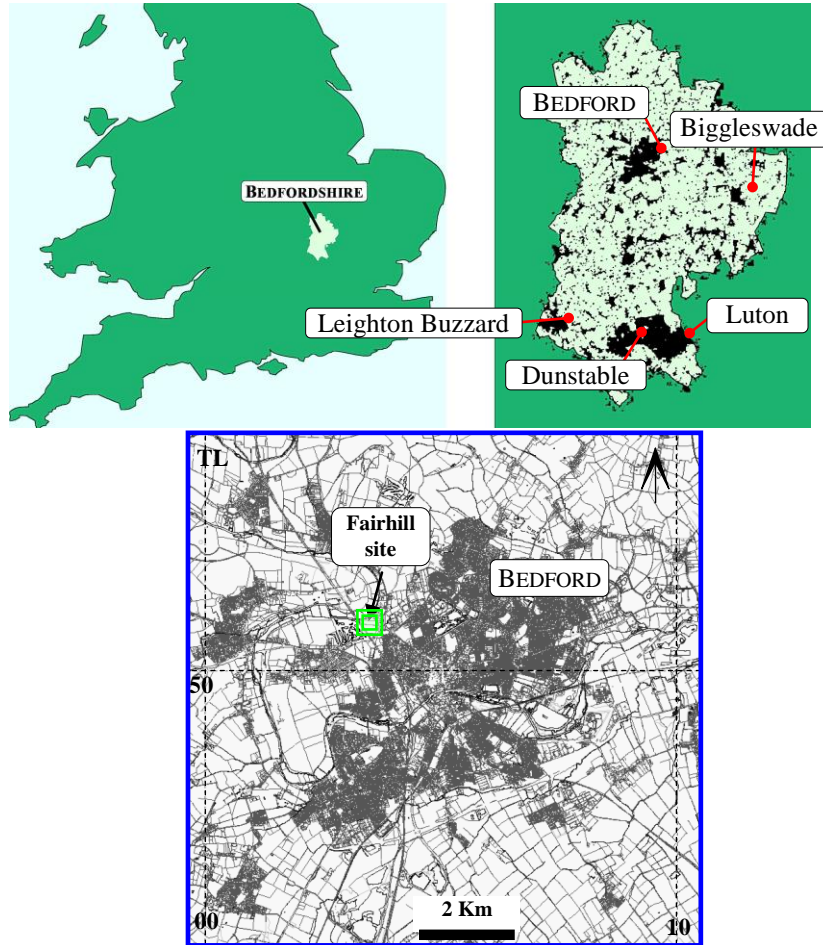
## 7. APPENDIX 2: AREA A SUMMARY

---



**Area:** A  
**Extent (ha):** 0.03  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL0338050909  
**Description:** Area to further expose features in Trench 8

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt . Thickness 0.65m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
901	Natural	Firm mid grey blue silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
902	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.48m, max depth 0.09m, max length 0.95m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
903	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
904	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.18m, max length 0.65m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
905	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
906	Ditch	Curving linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, min depth 0.32m, max length 0.85m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
907	Fill	Firm mid grey blue silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
908	Ditch	Curving linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.69m, max depth 0.67m, max length 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
909	Fill	Firm mid grey blue silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
910	Ditch	Curving linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.45m, max length 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
911	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
912	Ditch	Curving linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.97m, max depth 0.45m, max length 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
913	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
914	Pit	Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max length 0.44m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
915	Fill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
916	Modern disturbance	Irregular sides: irregular dimensions: max breadth 7.95m, max length 7.55m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
917	Fill	Firm mid grey yellow silty clay . Unexcavated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
918	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay . Thickness 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Figure 1: Site location**

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

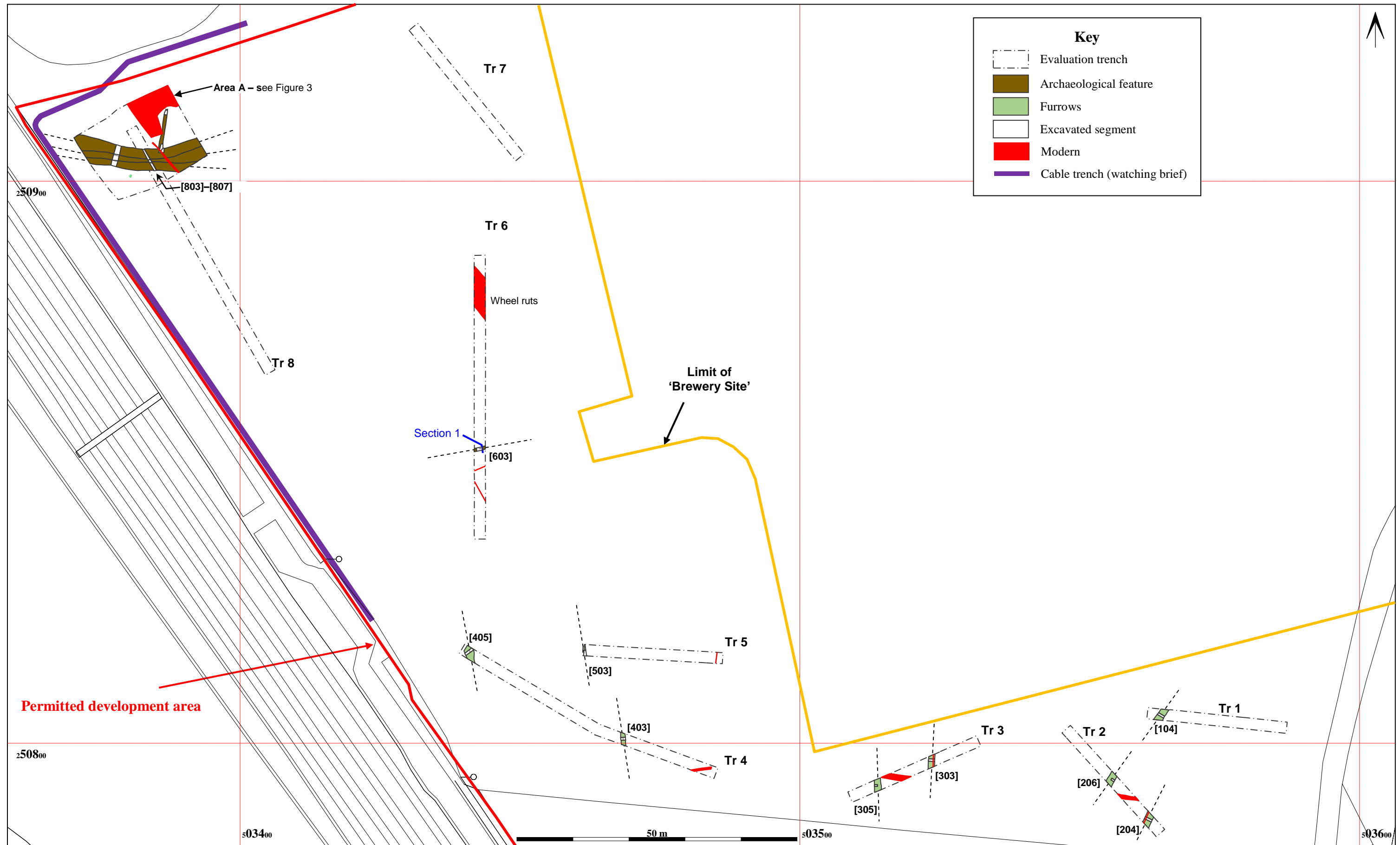
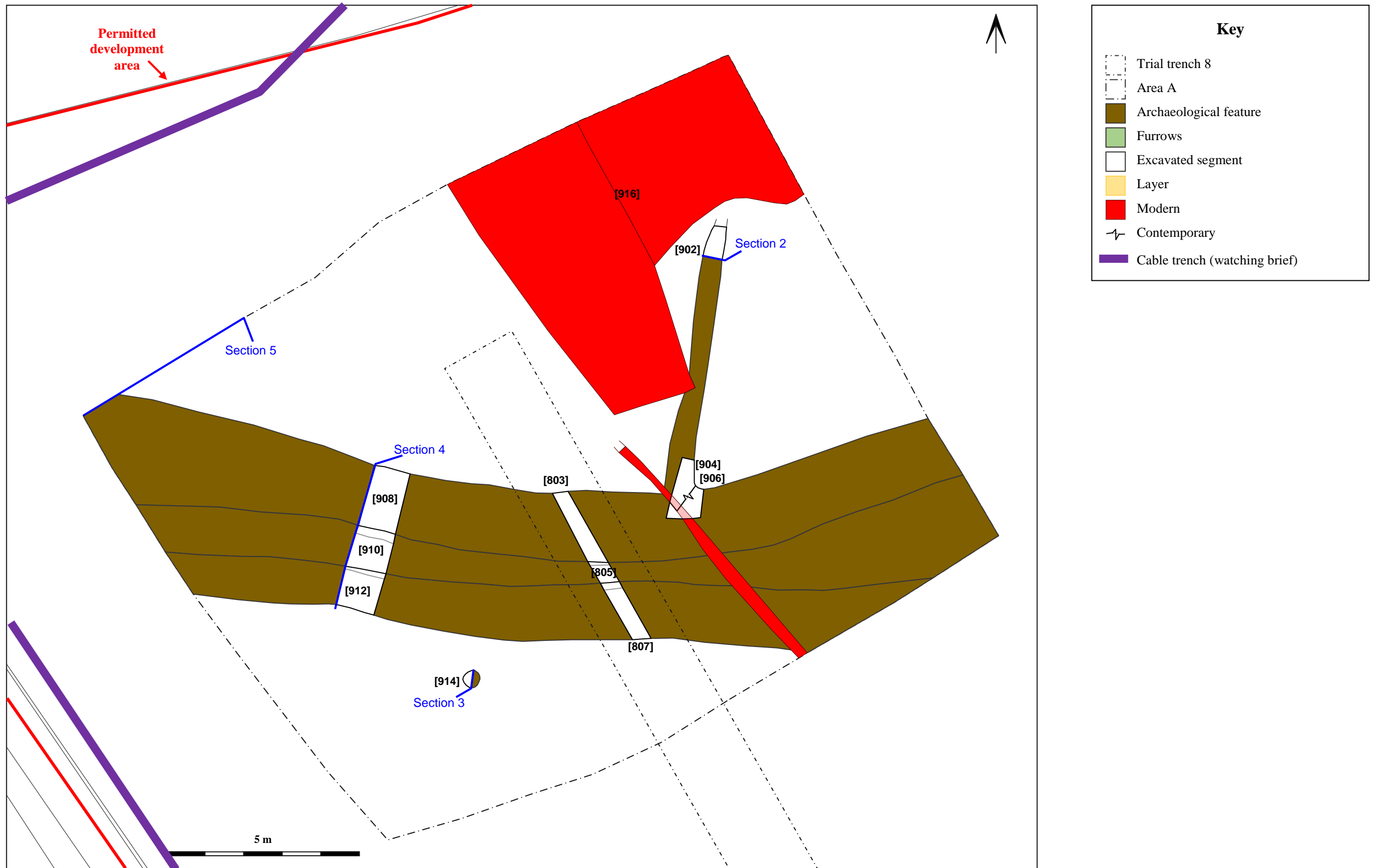


Figure 2: All-features plan

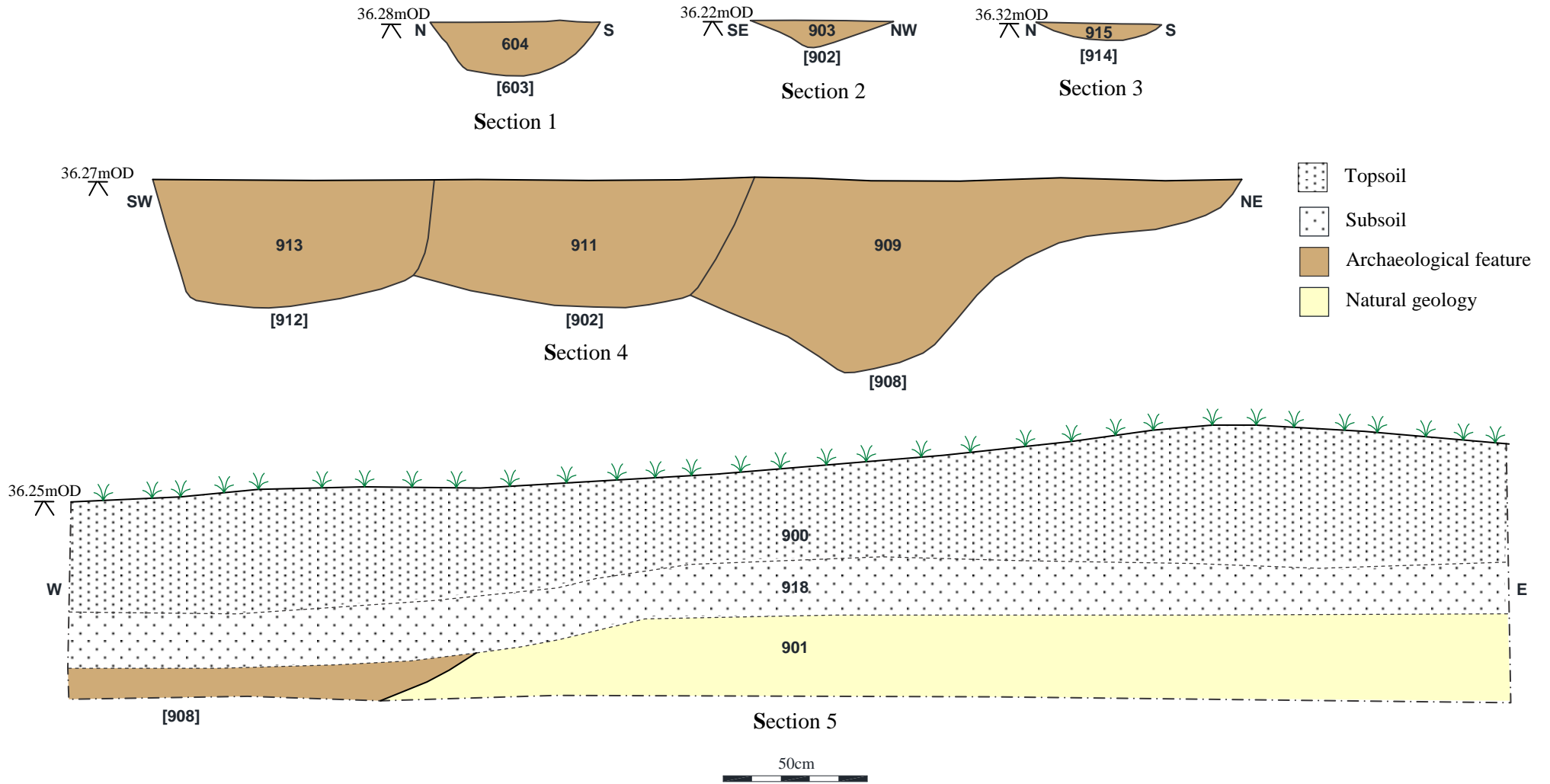
This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)





**Figure 3: Plan of Area A**

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



**Figure 4:** Selected sections (See Figures 2 and 3 for section locations)

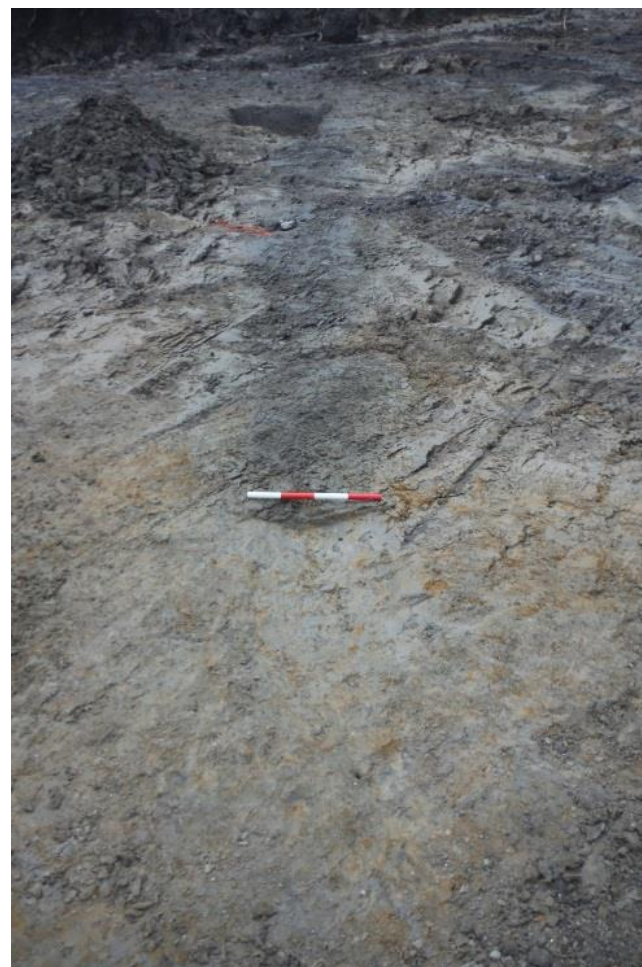




Ditches [803]–[807], looking north



Ditch [603], looking east



Ditch [902], looking south-west



Area A, looking north-west

**Figure 5:** Selected photographs





**Albion**  
archaeology



Albion Archaeology  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Street  
Bedford  
MK42 0AS

**Telephone** 01234 294000  
**Email** [office@albion-arch.com](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)  
[www.albion-arch.com](http://www.albion-arch.com)

