

**LAND ADJACENT TO THE MANOR HOUSE
AIRTON
NORTH YORKSHIRE
SD 9021 5919**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Project: AM 1288

Document: 2008/02
Version 1.0

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
David Ingham	Jeremy Oetgen	Drew Shotliff

21st January 2008

Produced for:
Elite Property Services

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2008, *all rights reserved*





Contents

Preface	5
Structure of the Report	5
Key Terms	5
Non-Technical Summary	6
1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Project Background	7
1.2 Site Location and Description	7
1.3 Landform, Geology and Soils	7
1.4 Archaeological Background	8
1.5 Objectives of the Evaluation	8
2. METHODOLOGY	9
3. RESULTS	10
3.1 Overburden and Colluvium	10
3.2 Trench 1	10
3.3 Trench 2	10
4. SYNTHESIS	11
4.1 Summary and Significance of Archaeological Remains	11
4.2 Recommendations for Mitigation	11
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	12
6. APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY	13
7. APPENDIX 2 – ARTEFACT SUMMARY	14
7.1 Introduction	14
7.2 Pottery	14
7.3 Other Finds	14
8. APPENDIX 3 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY	15



List of Tables

- Table 1: Trench summary
- Table 2: Trench 1 — context summary
- Table 3: Trench 2 — context summary
- Table 4: Finds summary by feature type
- Table 5: Pottery type series
- Table 6: Contents of archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Trench 1 — all features plan
- Figure 3: Selected photographs
- Figure 4: Selected photographs

List of Photographs

- Photograph 1: Cobbled surface in Trench 1, looking south (Fig. 3)
- Photograph 2: Construction cut and cobbled surface in Trench 1, looking north. Scale 1m (Fig. 3)
- Photograph 3: Machining of Trench 2 (Fig. 4)
- Photograph 4: Trench 2, looking east. Trench 1.5m wide (Fig. 4)



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation and submission of this document and all statements 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 Elite Property Services. It was monitored by Miles Johnson of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, on behalf of the YDNPA's Senior Conservation Archaeologist.

Fieldwork for this project was undertaken by Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager) and David Ingham (Project Officer). This report has been prepared by David Ingham, with contributions from Joan Lighting (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). It was edited by Jeremy Oetgen. 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 294003
 Fax: 01234 294008
 e-mail: office@albion-arch.com

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	21/01/08	n/a

Structure of the Report

Section 1 is an introduction to the project. The methodology and results of the fieldwork are presented in Sections 2 and 3. Section 4 comprises a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork. Section 5 is a bibliography. Appendices 1 and 2 contain detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded, and the artefacts and ecofacts recovered. Appendix 3 lists the contents of the archive.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Client	Elite Property Services
Brief	<i>Land Adjacent to The Manor House, Airton, North Yorkshire SD 90215919: Archaeological Evaluation, V1 14/6/2007</i>
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1: Fieldwork, 2nd edition, 2001, Albion Archaeology</i>
SCA	Senior Conservation Archaeologist
YDNPA	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority



Non-Technical Summary

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Senior Conservation Archaeologist (SCA) advised that an archaeological field evaluation was required to help assess the archaeological impact of the proposed construction of a new domestic dwelling on land adjacent to the Manor House at Airton, North Yorkshire. The SCA issued a Brief (YDNPA 2007) specifying the requirements of the evaluation.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Elite Property Services to prepare a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2007) and undertake the evaluation.

The development site lies immediately north of the Manor House, in the centre of Airton village at SD 9021 5919 (Fig. 1). The site comprises a vacant plot of 306m², located on the east-facing hillside overlooking the village green. The land falls away gently towards the River Aire, but the site itself comprises a relatively level terrace, lying at c. 174m OD.

The geology at Airton consists of boulder clay over Carboniferous limestone. Adjacent ground-works had previously demonstrated a considerable build-up of cultivated garden soil, associated with the site's use before 2006 as an orchard. Since 2006, the site was used to stockpile spoil from ground-works associated with the recent renovation of the Manor House.

The township of Airton is recorded in Domesday; its name denotes a farmstead on the River Aire. The Jefferys map appears to show buildings on the site in the 1770s, although this may be due to the map's simplified, conventional style of depicting settlements. Ordnance Survey maps depict the site as open ground belonging to the Manor House, a Grade II listed building which is thought to date from the early 19th century, though several apparent phases of extension may signify an earlier origin. The house is fairly modest in proportion, and it is possible that the name 'Manor House' may be an affectation, rather than an indication that it was once a seigneurial residence.

The evaluation revealed the north-western corner of a cobbled surface at the southern edge of the development area, which had been cut into the hillside. Two modern features were also identified: one, a probable garden wall foundation, cut through the cobbled surface; the other was immediately north of it.

The remains identified are considered only to be of local interest, with no regional or national significance, and no additional archaeological mitigation is recommended.

The project's documentary archive will be held by the YDNPA's Historic Environment Record. The Craven Museum has indicated that the artefacts recovered do not merit retention, and they have been discarded.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Elite Property Services are applying to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) for planning permission to construct a new domestic dwelling on land adjacent to the Manor House at Airton, North Yorkshire.

The YDNPA's Senior Conservation Archaeologist (SCA) advised that an archaeological field evaluation was required in order to provide further information on the archaeological impact of the development. The SCA issued a Brief (YDNPA 2007) specifying the requirements of the evaluation.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2007) and undertake the evaluation in accordance with the Brief. The results of the evaluation and their implications for the proposed development are contained within this report.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The development site is located to the north of the Manor House, which is situated in the centre of the medieval village of Airton at SD 9021 5919 (Fig. 1). The site comprises a small, vacant plot of 306m², bounded on three sides by dry-stone walls. At the time of fieldwork, there was no definitive boundary at the southern end of the site, but its extent has been determined with reference to the architect's plan¹.

Since 2006, the site was used to stockpile spoil arising from ground-works associated with renovation of the Manor House. The depth of this spoil ranged from *c.* 0.5m at the southern end of the site to *c.* 2m at the north. Before 2006, the site had been part of a private garden or orchard, and the remains of several fruit trees were still visible amongst the recent spoil.

1.3 Landform, Geology and Soils

Airton lies in the upper reaches of the valley of the River Aire. The Manor House and the adjacent development site occupy the east-facing hillside overlooking the village green. The land falls away gently towards the river, but the site itself comprises a relatively level terrace, lying at *c.* 174m OD.

The geology at Airton consists of boulder clay² overlying Carboniferous limestone³. Works to the outbuildings of the Manor House had previously demonstrated a considerable build-up of cultivated garden soil; the amount of post-1800 domestic refuse in the soil suggests that the area has also been used as a midden.

¹ OCP Architects, April 2007, Plan no. JC-101

² BGS, 1977, Geological Survey Ten Mile Map: South Sheet 1st ed. (Quaternary). Scale 1:625000

³ BGS, 1979, Geological Survey Ten Mile Map: South Sheet 3rd ed. (Solid). Scale 1:625000



1.4 Archaeological Background

The township of Airton is recorded in Domesday. Its name derives from the Old English *Airtone* (Mills 1998), which denotes a farmstead on the River Aire. The Jefferys map of Yorkshire⁴ transcribes the name as ‘Air Town’.

The Jefferys map appears to show buildings on the site in the 1770s, although this may be misleading: Jefferys generally adopted a fairly simplified, conventional style in his depiction of settlements. No buildings are shown there on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale map, nor on the subsequent 1:2,500 scale surveys⁵, which both depict the site as open ground, apparently forming part of the curtilage of the Manor House.

The Manor House, formerly the Manor Hotel, is a Grade II listed building. It is thought to date from the early 19th century, but several phases of extension and alteration are apparent both internally and externally, and the building may therefore have earlier origins. It is fairly modest in proportion, compared with a number of other houses in the village, so it is possible that the name ‘Manor House’ may be an affectation, rather than an indication that it was once a seigneurial residence.

1.5 Objectives of the Evaluation

Section 1.2 of the Brief (YDNPA 2007) required the evaluation to provide enough information to allow the archaeological impact of the development to be assessed. To achieve this, it was necessary to determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the development area, as well as their integrity and state of preservation.

⁴ Thomas Jefferys, 1771 (1772), *The county of Yorkshire survey'd in MDCCLXVII, VIII, IX and MDCCLXX, Engraved by Thomas Jefferys, geographer to his majesty MDCCLXXI*, scale 1in to the mile. Available online at <http://www.kirkbymalham.info/KMI/malhamdale/jeffery.html>

⁵ Available online at <http://www.old-maps.co.uk/indexmappage2.aspx> (accessed 04/05/07)



2. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching took place between 7th and 10th January 2008. Two trenches were opened, covering an area of 11m² (Fig. 1). The location of the trenches was agreed on site by the YDNPA before work began. Trench 1 was subsequently extended, in order to clarify the archaeological remains identified therein.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

The base and sides of Trench 1 were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Due to the depth of modern overburden and the consequent concerns regarding health and safety, no cleaning or hand excavation was undertaken in Trench 2, which was recorded from outside the trench. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 10 for Trench 1 and 20 for Trench 2.

A full methodology is provided in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2007).

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

- Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001)
- English Heritage *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*
- IFA *Code of Conduct*
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation
- UKIC Archaeology Section *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*
- YDNPA *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*

The trenches were only backfilled following consultation with the YDNPA.



3. RESULTS

All the deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below. Their location and extent are shown on Figure 2. Detailed technical information on all archaeological features / deposits and artefacts can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

3.1 *Overburden and Colluvium*

The site's previous use as a private garden or orchard had led to the accumulation of a 0.45–0.85m thick deposit of topsoil (10) / (20). Even allowing for the presence of intrusive material from the modern spoil tip, enough domestic refuse was visible to suggest the practice of localised middening. A particular concentration of pottery, clay pipes and animal bone (not retained) was observed at the north-east corner of Trench 1.

Quaternary geological deposits were not exposed within either trench. The natural stratum (11) / (22) comprised a sandy clay, which is likely to represent an early prehistoric colluvial deposit derived from further upslope. In Trench 2, a 0.15m thick subsoil (21) derived from the colluvium was present beneath the topsoil.

3.2 *Trench 1*

Excavation of Trench 1 revealed the north-western corner of a cobbled surface (13) (Figs 2 and 3). A single skin of squared stones, the largest of which was 220mm x 160mm x 90mm in size, had been placed along the outer edge of the surface, whereas the interior comprised a rough assortment of cobbles of various shapes and sizes. Much of the surface had been eroded or otherwise removed, with cobbles only surviving at or near the very corner.

Overlying the cobbles was a thin layer of dark grey silt (14), which contained a high concentration of small fragments of slate. This layer extended beyond the southern and eastern limits of the trench.

The cobbled surface had been cut into the hillside. Its construction cut [12] was up to 0.3m deep (Fig. 3). The land was subsequently built up again when the cobbled surface was no longer in use; this backfill or levelling layer (15) incorporated a high density of crushed or decayed mortar, and contained thirteen sherds, weighing 1015g, of 18th century pottery.

Part of the cobbled surface had been destroyed by modern feature [16] (Fig. 2), which had been dug through the backfill or levelling layer (15). This curvilinear feature was packed with stones and cobbles, and is most likely to represent the foundation of a garden or retaining wall, up against which the concentration of refuse observed in the topsoil (Section 3.1) was deposited. Pottery recovered from its infill indicates that the wall was constructed no earlier than the late 19th century.

Another feature [18] was observed in the northern extension of the trench. Only a small part of it was revealed, but it had vertical sides, and pottery from its infill suggests it was broadly contemporary with modern wall [16].

3.3 *Trench 2*

No deposits or features of archaeological significance were revealed in Trench 2. Substantial modern disturbance was evident at the western end of the trench, cutting through both the subsoil (21) and topsoil (20), which are described above (Section 3.1).



4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 *Summary and Significance of Archaeological Remains*

The evaluation revealed the presence of a cobbled surface (13) at the southern edge of the development area (Fig. 2), which had been cut into the hillside. The southern and eastern extent of the surface is unknown, as only the north-western corner was exposed, but it probably once extended along the front of the Manor House, with which it is likely to have been associated. The survival of only the corner of the surface is not surprising, as the corners and edges of such cobbled yards would have suffered least erosion from the movement of people, animals and carts.

The dark grey layer (14) that overlay the cobbles perhaps represents resurfacing of the area once the majority of the cobbles had been lost; the fragments of slate within it were too small to be suggestive of demolition rubble, and too numerous to indicate an occupation layer. Deposit (15), however, did have the appearance of demolition debris, perhaps derived from works on the Manor House.

The two modern features [16] and [18] appear to have been broadly contemporary, created in the late 19th / early 20th century. Although [16] is most likely to have been a wall foundation, its shape in plan suggests that it was part of a garden wall rather than a building. This is supported by the absence of any buildings shown on Ordnance Survey maps of this date.

Only Trench 1 contained archaeological remains, and none predating the 18th century were revealed by the evaluation. The remains identified are considered only to be of local significance, in helping to trace the development of the land surrounding the Manor House.

4.2 *Recommendations for Mitigation*

The evaluation has revealed archaeological remains at the southern edge of the development area which are of local interest, but which do not have any regional or national significance. No archaeological remains were identified to the north.

Although the cobbled surface is of interest in tracing the early development of the Manor House, its high degree of erosion away from the north-western corner, and the proximity of Trench 1 to the limit of the development area, makes it unlikely that further excavation would be able to provide significant additional information. The remaining features at the southern end of the site were late 19th / early 20th in date, and do not merit further excavation.

The evaluation has succeeded in achieving its objectives of determining the location, extent, nature and date of the archaeological features and deposits within the development area, as well as their integrity and state of preservation. It is recommended that no archaeological mitigation is required.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology, 2001 *Procedures Manual Volume 1: Fieldwork*, 2nd edition
- Albion Archaeology, 2007 *Land Adjacent to the Manor House, Airton, North Yorkshire: Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Report no. 2007/119
- English Heritage 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. (London). Available online at:
<http://www.eng-h.gov.uk/guidance/map2/index.htm>
- IFA, 1999a *Code of Conduct*
- IFA, 1999b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- Mills, A.D., 1998 *A Dictionary of English Place Names*, 2nd ed. (Oxford)
- UKIC Archaeology Section, 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*
- YDNPA, 2007 *Land Adjacent to the Manor House, Airton, North Yorkshire: Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*



6. APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

Trench	Maximum length (m)	Maximum width (m)	Depth to archaeology		OS grid ref.	
			Min. (m)	Max. (m)		
1	5.65	2.0	0.45	0.45	SD 90228 / 59181	SD 90233 / 59183
2	3.2	1.5	1.0	1.05	SD 90220 / 59195	SD 90223 / 59195

Table 1: Trench summary

Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds present
10	Topsoil	Friable dark grey sandy silt, 0.45m thick, frequent small–medium stones and modern debris	✓	
11	Natural	Firm mid-orange–brown sandy clay, frequent medium–large stones		
12	Construction cut	Steep convex sides, flat base, >3.2m long, >1.8m wide, 0.3m deep	✓	
13	Cobbled surface	Squared stones along edge, rough cobbles within		
14	Surface	Firm dark grey sandy silt, frequent fragments of slate	✓	
15	Backfill	Loose light grey sandy silt, frequent small–medium fragments of crushed mortar, frequent small stones	✓	✓
16	Construction cut	Curvilinear, concave sides, flat base, maximum 0.5m wide, 0.15m deep	✓	
17	Backfill	Loose dark grey sandy silt, frequent large stones, occasional fragments of mortar	✓	✓
18	Pit	Vertical sides, >1.5m long, >0.35m wide, >0.2m deep; not bottomed	✓	
19	Fill	Firm mid-orange–grey sandy silt, occasional small stones	✓	✓

Table 2: Trench 1 — context summary

Context	Type	Description	Excavated	Finds present
20	Topsoil	Friable dark grey sandy silt, 0.85m thick, moderate small stones and modern debris	✓	
21	Subsoil	Firm mid-brown sandy clay, 0.15m thick	✓	
22	Natural	Firm mid orange–brown sandy clay, frequent medium–large stones		

Table 3: Trench 2 — context summary



7. APPENDIX 2 – ARTEFACT SUMMARY

7.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery (Table 4). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition, and, where possible, date range. No artefacts were recovered from Trench 2.

Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
12	Cobbled surface construction cut	15	18th century	Pottery (1015g)
16	Wall foundation trench	17	Late 19th century	Pottery (22g); clay pipe stem (4g); window glass (2g)
18	Cut feature	19	Late 19th century	Pottery (19g)

* based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 4: Finds summary by feature type

7.2 Pottery

Twenty-three pottery sherds weighing 1.1kg were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The sherds are moderately small (average weight 46g) and largely unabraded. Six fabric types were identified and are listed below (Table 5). The majority derive from deposit (15) and comprise 18th-century black-glazed earthenware vessels (bowls and a single drinking vessel handle). Five small, undiagnostic sherds of modern, mass-produced wares were recovered from deposits (17) and (19).

Common name	Sherd no.	Context:sherd no.
Black-glazed earthenware (Halifax)	18	(15):13, (17):3, (19):2
Mocha ware	1	(19):1
Transfer-printed ware	1	(19):1
White earthenware	1	(19):1
White stoneware	1	(19):1
China	1	(17):1

Table 5: Pottery type series

7.3 Other Finds

A small piece of colourless modern window glass (2g) and a fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem (4g) were recovered from deposit (17).



8. APPENDIX 3 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY

Class	Type	Number
Bulk finds (boxes)	Pottery	1 (discarded)
Photographic data	Digital images	41
	35mm B&W negatives	8
Structural data	Contexts	13
	Field drawing sheets	1

Table 6: Contents of archive



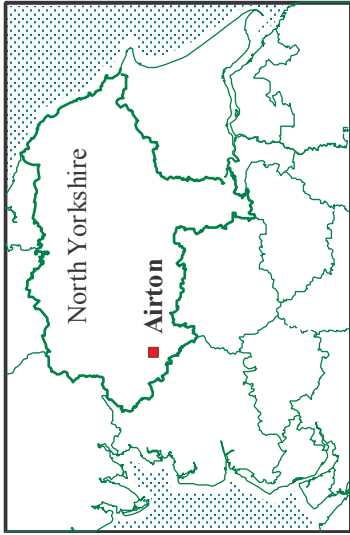
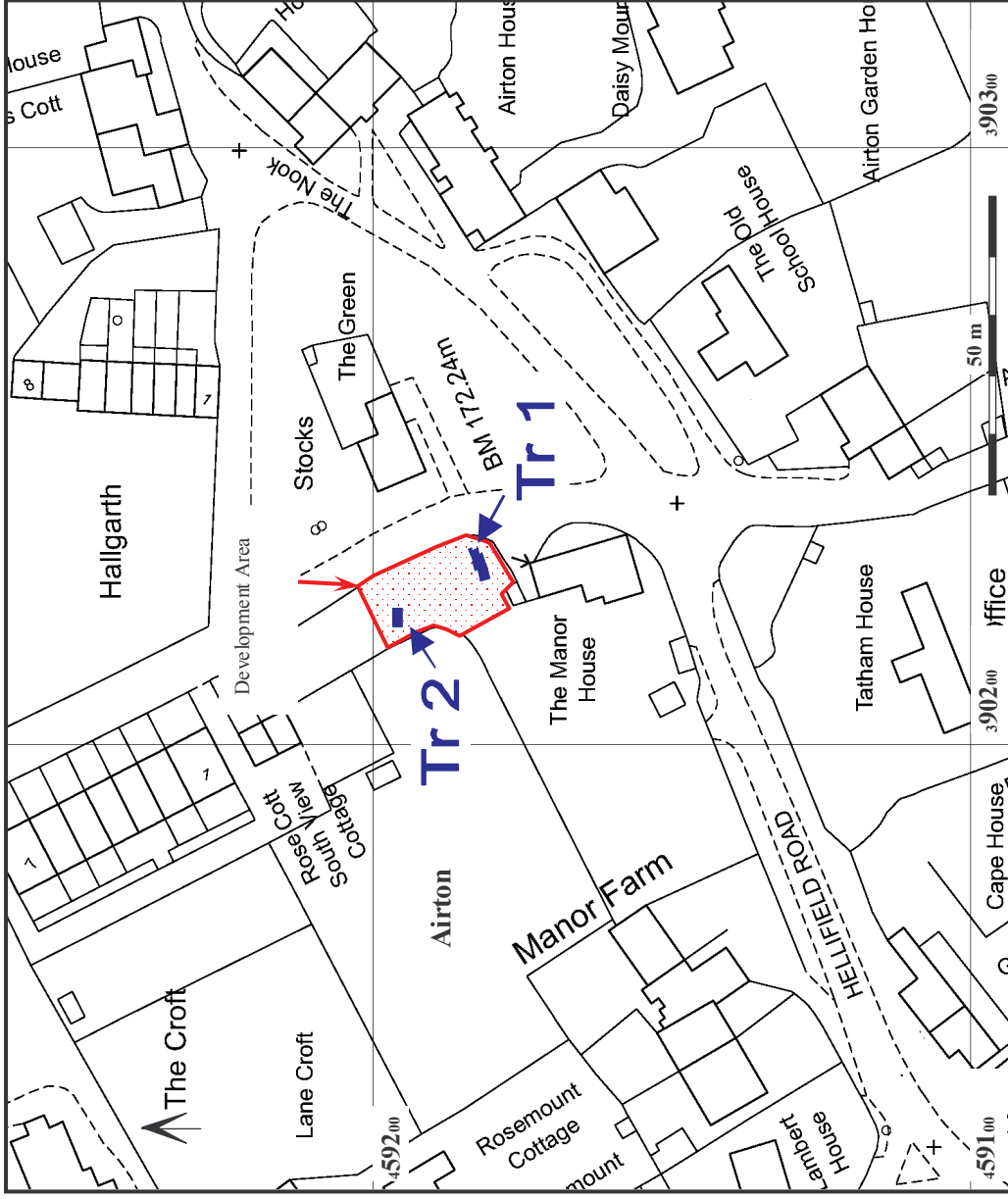
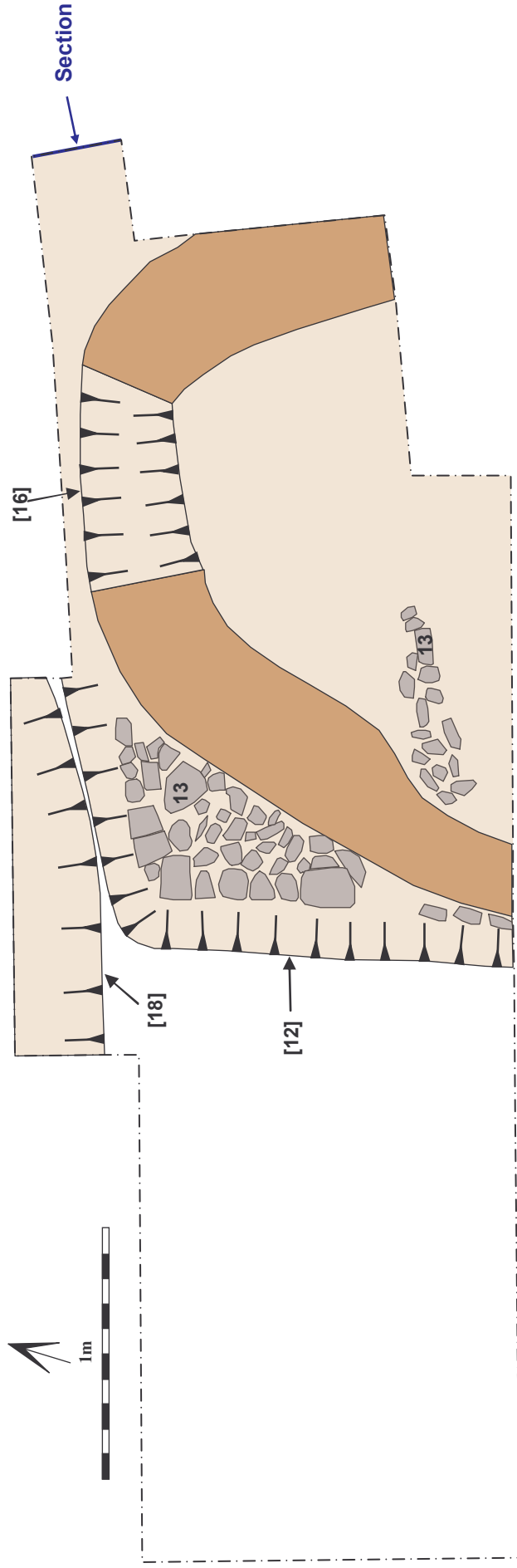


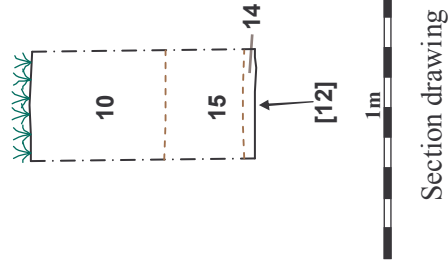
Figure 1: Site location plan

Ordnance Survey map data reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358 (LA). © Crown Copyright.





Key Plans	
	Limit of excavation
	Unexcavated portion of feature
	Excavated portion of feature
	Slope arrow
	Stone surface
Section	
	Limit of excavation
	Boundary between fills/layers
	Edge of feature
	Ground surface



Trench 1 features, looking north;
scale 1m

Figure 2: Trench 1 — all features plan





Photograph 1: Cobbled surface in Trench 1, looking south



Photograph 2: Construction cut and cobbled surface in Trench 1, looking north;
Scale 1m

Figure 3: Selected photographs





Photograph 3: Machining of Trench 2



Photograph 4: Trench 2, looking east. Trench 1.5m wide

Figure 4: Selected photographs