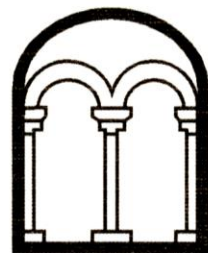


**LAND AT NORTH-WEST END OF
FORMER ANGLIAN HOUSE SITE
AMBURY ROAD SOUTH
HUNTINGDON
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

Albion
archaeology



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

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Contents

Preface	5
Acknowledgements	5
Version History	5
Key Terms	5
Non-Technical Summary	6
1. INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Planning Background	7
1.2 Site Location and Description	7
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	8
1.4 Project Objectives	10
2. METHOD STATEMENT	12
2.1 Standards	12
2.2 Archaeological Trial Trenching	12
2.3 Archiving	13
3. RESULTS	14
3.1 Introduction	14
3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits	14
3.3 Palaeochannel	14
3.4 Well	15
3.5 Other Features	15
3.6 Artefacts	15
Table 1: Finds summary by trench and feature	15
3.7 Palaeoenvironmental Evidence	16
4. DISCUSSION	17
4.1 Summary and Significance of the Archaeological Remains	17
4.2 Impact Assessment	17
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	18



6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES	19
7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY FORM	25

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Plan and sections of all features and deposits

Figure 3: Trench 3 showing machine-excavated segment through palaeochannel [305]

Figure 4: Trench 2 during machine excavation, palaeochannel [205] visible to left of image

Figure 5: Trench 2 palaeochannel [205] and modern well [207] visible to the right of frame

Figure 6: Trench 1 baulk section, no archaeological features present

Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map, sheet XVIII SW, 1886 (surveyed 1885)

The figures are bound at the back of the document.



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 commissioned by Parrott Construction Ltd., and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Thomas and Leanne Robinson Zeki of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CHET).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Catie Watts (Archaeological Supervisor). The report has been prepared by Catie Watts with contributions from Jackie Wells (finds) and Irene Sala (palaeoenvironmental evidence). Figures were produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). The project was managed for Albion Archaeology by Benjamin Carroll (Assistant Archaeological Manager) and Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Version History

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Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBM	Ceramic building material
CI/A	Chartered Institute <i>for</i> Archaeologists
CHER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
CHET	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team
ECB	Events CamBridgeshire
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MCB	Monuments CamBridgeshire
PDA	Permitted development area



Non-Technical Summary

Huntingdonshire District Council granted planning permission (17/01926/FUL) for the erection of 10 residential properties, car parking and associated landscaping on land at the north-west end of the former Anglian House site, Ambury Road South, Huntingdon.

Because of the high archaeological potential of the permitted development area (PDA), the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) recommended a condition was attached to the planning consent (Condition 4), requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation. This document presents the results of the initial evaluation of the site.

The trial trenching was undertaken between 15th and 17th February 2021. It comprised the excavation of five c.5m x 5m trial trenches. The trenching found no evidence for any former settlement within the PDA, and historical maps confirm that the site remained undeveloped until c.1980. Alluvial deposits and palaeochannel silts indicated that conditions were probably far too wet to support the significant expansion of the town along Ambury Road in the medieval or post-medieval periods. A late-19th-century well was the only structure identified, and this was probably within a private garden.

The results of the evaluation ultimately corroborate the extent of the medieval town, as postulated in the Huntingdon Extensive Urban Survey. This contributes to our knowledge of the development of the town and its layout. However, beyond this, there is negligible potential within the PDA for further archaeological investigation to address regional research objectives. Construction of the permitted development will not lead to any loss of significance to any archaeological remains, so the impact of the development on archaeological remains is considered to be insignificant.

The project archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Store (Event no.: ECB6416). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no. albionar1-409893) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Planning Background**

Huntingdonshire District Council granted planning permission (17/01926/FUL) for the erection of 10 residential properties, car parking and associated landscaping on land at the north-west end of the former Anglian House site, Ambury Road South, Huntingdon.

Because of the high archaeological potential of the permitted development area (PDA), the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) recommended a condition was attached to the planning consent, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation.

Accordingly, the LPA attached the following condition (no. 4):

No demolition/development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing and the development shall only proceed in accordance with the approved WSI.

For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI which shall include:

- *the statement of significance and research objectives;*
- *the programme (including the timetable for the investigation in the details of the scheme) and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works and*
- *the programme for post-excavation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination, and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*

The CHET, acting in the capacity of archaeological adviser to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), issued a Design Brief for the archaeological evaluation, specifying the use of trial trenching or test-pitting to “adequately sample all expected construction impacts within the development area” (CHET 2020). Albion Archaeology was appointed to carry out the evaluation in accordance with the CHET’s Design Brief.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2020) was prepared and agreed with the CHET. The results of the trial trenching are set out in this report to assist the CHET in advising the LPA on the potential archaeological impacts of the development, and on any further mitigation works that might be required.

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

The PDA is situated in the historic core of Huntingdon, c.120m north of the 13th-century All Saints’ Church and c.700m north-west of the River Great Ouse (Figure 1).



It lies on the south-east side of Ambury Road South and is surrounded by built development, except to the north-east where the Town Park is located.

The PDA is centred on TL 2378 7201 and lies at a height of *c.* 15m OD. It comprises 0.25ha of surface parking that formerly served the adjacent Anglian Water Headquarters. It is surrounded by brick walls on three sides and a close-boarded fence along the south-east boundary.

The underlying geology of the site consists of Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone, overlain by sands and gravels of the first and second Great Ouse river terraces¹. The (now culverted) Barracks Brook runs *c.* 100m to the north-east of the PDA, and the north-east portion of the PDA is within the historic floodplain of the brook².

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The planning application was accompanied by a heritage impact assessment (BKHC 2017), which considered the implications of the proposals for nearby built heritage assets and the setting of the Huntingdon Conservation Area. As part of the CHET Design Brief (CHET 2020), a search of the CHER was carried out, and in 2014 a desk-based assessment (DBA) was carried out by Oxford Archaeology East (2014) for the entire Anglian House site. These three documents along with the Huntingdon Conservation Area Character Assessment (Huntingdonshire District Council 2007) and the Cambridgeshire Extensive Urban Survey for Huntingdon (Cambridgeshire County Council 2015) form the basis for this section.

1.3.1 Prehistoric and Roman

There is limited evidence for occupation of Huntingdon in prehistory; however, several flint finds are recorded in the CHER, and various excavations, including those at Walden Road (ECB1804) and Pathfinder House (ECB2599), found evidence of prehistoric deposits.

The major Roman road, Ermine Street, ran through the historic core of Huntingdon, and is preserved in what is now the High Street, less than 100m from the PDA. However, little evidence for Roman settlement survives; it is limited to occasional finds, such as Roman pottery from evaluations on the High Street (ECB3680) and St Germain Street (ECB885).

1.3.2 Anglo-Saxon and Viking

The EUS (Cambridgeshire County Council 2015) gives the first historic mention of Huntingdon as being a charter purportedly from AD 656 and subsequently recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. This date is considered unreliable, but by the start of the 10th century, the Chronicle relates that Huntingdon had developed into a Viking settlement. It was retaken by Edward the Elder in 917, and the contents of various charters tell us that by the 970s Huntingdon had a mint, a market and several churches.

Excavations south of St Germain Street (ECB885) (*c.* 200m from the PDA) tentatively identified late Anglo-Saxon ditches and pits. Residual late Anglo-Saxon or Saxo-

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed: 07/12/20]

² <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/76292bec-7d8b-43e8-9c98-02734fd89c81/historic-flood-map> [Accessed: 23/02/21]



Norman pottery has been identified in excavations throughout the historic core of Huntingdon, including on the corner of Hartford Road and the High Street (ECB935; ECB2004) and between Walden Road and Princes Street (ECB1804; ECB2608). It is suggested in the EUS (CCC 2015) that late Anglo-Saxon activity would have been focussed on St Mary's Church, and that a substantial boundary ditch revealed by excavations at the site on the corner of Hartford Road and the High Street may have represented a northern boundary of late Anglo-Saxon settlement in the town; this boundary would have been *c.*400m south-east of the PDA.

1.3.3 Medieval

By the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, Huntingdon was a substantial settlement, with 256 burgage plots, two churches and a mill, as well as the Norman castle built in 1068. The town remained prosperous, despite a small decline during the wars of Stephen and Matilda, until the Black Death of the 14th century, and by 1363 a quarter of the town was uninhabited and abandoned. Huntingdon recovered a little towards the end of the medieval period, but was sacked by a Lancastrian army in 1461 as part of the Wars of the Roses.

The medieval period is also the first period for which significant archaeological remains have been identified within the vicinity of the PDA. Excavations at Chequers Court (ECB3912; Mustchin 2016; OAE 2013), *c.*300m south-east of the former Anglian House site, revealed a number of drainage ditches dated to between the 12th and 14th centuries, likely marking the first time this area of land could be kept sufficiently dry for cultivation.

Huntingdon is thought to have been laid out within burgage plots ranged along Ermine St and High Street (CCC 2015, fig. 4; Huntingdonshire District Council 2007, table 1). The excavations at Chequers Court found evidence that burgage settlement expanded along roads running east of the town during the High Medieval period (*c.* 12th century); however, this was short lived, with the site apparently abandoned after the medieval period (Mustchin 2016, 72). Perhaps this abandonment was a response to wetter conditions at the onset of the 'Little Ice Age'?

The PDA's proximity to the 13th-century All Saints' and St John the Baptist's Church (CB14832) and the High Street suggested that it had the potential to preserve significant archaeological remains related to the medieval and post-medieval development of the town. Such potential has been demonstrated by a number of archaeological investigations in the vicinity. Trial-trench evaluation at George Street revealed deeply stratified deposits from the early medieval period through to the 20th century (ECB4491). Trial trenching at the aforementioned Chequers Court (MCB20116, MCB20317, MCB20321) and at St Germain Street (CB15040) identified dense concentrations of intercutting and discrete pits dated between the 11th and 15th centuries, alongside other medieval and post-medieval remains. Archaeological evaluation of land between Ferrar's Road, Dryden's Walk and Edison Bell Way (MCB22113) (*c.*300m west of the PDA) revealed a water channel and former course of the Barracks Brook, alongside layers of alluvial clay and mixed evidence for medieval activity. Further medieval activity was identified nearby, e.g. along the High Street (CB15332, CB15333, CB15334) and at the Old Post Office (MCB21228).



Approximately 100m south of the PDA, three burials were identified during work on the Probation Services building in 2003; these are thought to be associated with the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist (ECB1451).

1.3.4 Post-medieval and modern (post-1750)

A 1572 survey of Huntingdon records the presence of 281 buildings in the town, and John Speed's 1610 town map³ (reproduced in the Oxford Archaeology East DBA, (OAE 2014)) similarly shows that the town spread only a little away from the High Street – the area of the PDA appears to be open land. The same is true on Thomas Jefferys's 1768 map of Huntingdon⁴. Thereafter, successive editions of Ordnance Survey maps show that development of Huntingdon was piecemeal, generally adhering to a single "ribbon" of occupation along the High Street, and certainly leaving the area of the PDA as open land through the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. In fact, the PDA is consistently depicted as an enclosed garden from 1886 (OS 6-inch 1st edition, surveyed 1885; Figure 7) until 1966 (OS 1:10560) and it probably remained as such until the construction of the Anglian Water building in c.1980.

20th-century flood data⁵ and aerial photography⁶ show that the PDA has flooded relatively frequently.

Excavations close to the PDA have invariably uncovered at least some degree of post-medieval and modern activity, and it has been identified in most of the excavations mentioned above, including significant post-medieval quarrying on the land around Chequers Court and St Germain Street (MCB20116, MCB20317, MCB20321, CB15040). Further examples of late Anglo-Saxon to post-medieval occupation has also been identified at Cromwell Walk (MCB20474, MCB19576), to the rear of Gazeley House and Lawrence Court (MCB20247, MCB16321), and on Huntingdon Library car park (MCB16322).

1.4 Project Objectives

The objective of the evaluation was to provide information on any archaeological remains present within the PDA, thus allowing an appropriate strategy to be formulated, if necessary, to mitigate any developmental impact.

In particular, the evaluation sought to establish:

- The presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits;
- The character of deposits and their contents within negative features;
- The presence/absence of palaeochannels;
- General site formation processes.

³ https://huntingdon.ccan.co.uk/content/catalogue_item/old-map-of-huntingdon-by-john-speed-1610 [Accessed 15/02/2021]

⁴ https://huntingdon.ccan.co.uk/content/catalogue_item/jefferys-map-of-huntingdon-in-1768-source-c-dunns-book-of-huntingdon [Accessed 15/02/2021]

⁵ <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/76292bec-7d8b-43e8-9c98-02734fd89c81/historic-flood-map> [Accessed 26/02/2021]

⁶ <https://britainfromabove.org.uk/en/search?keywords=Huntingdon&country=global&year=all> [Accessed 26/02/2021]



This report examines the significance of the evaluation results with reference to regional research frameworks. Relevant research frameworks are *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) and English Heritage has produced an extensive library of national guides covering a wide range of topics⁷.

⁷ <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/> [Accessed 15/06/2018].



2. METHOD STATEMENT

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2020).

2.1 Standards

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albion Archaeology 	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd ed., 2017).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALGAO (East) 	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003). Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridgeshire County Council 	<i>Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire</i> (2020).
	<i>Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Land at north-west end of former Anglian House Site, Ambury Road South, Huntingdon</i> (2020).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIfA⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Charter and By-law</i> (2014); <i>Code of Conduct</i> (2019). <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2020). <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2020). <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> (2020) <i>Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives</i>⁹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic England 	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015).
	<i>Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice</i> (2014).
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2011).
	<i>Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological Record</i> (2015).

2.2 Archaeological Trial Trenching

Trial trenching was undertaken between 15th and 17th February 2021; it comprised the excavation of five c.5m x 5m trial trenches, targeted on the location of the planned building works, and representing a c.5% sample of the c.0.25ha PDA (Figure 2).

⁸ All CIfA codes, standards and guidelines are available at: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa> .

⁹ <https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit>



During setting-out, service trenches were visible in the car park surface, and two trenches were relocated from their planned positions to avoid these: Trench 2 was shifted c.2m to the south-west to avoid an electric service; Trench 4 was shifted c.1m to the north-west to avoid a communications cable.

The trenches were investigated and recorded in accordance with the WSI. They were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a breaker (for removal of the tarmac surface) and a flat-edged bucket. No archaeological features were found, so the overburden was removed down to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits or to a maximum safe depth (in the case of deeper alluvial deposits).

Excavation was undertaken after a period of exceptionally wet weather and the water table was very high. Groundwater began to seep into the trenches at c.0.3m below the surface, which made meant that investigation and recording had to be undertaken quickly.

Photographs of the trenches were inspected by Andy Thomas of the CHET prior to their backfilling. Trench instability and water ingress necessitated rapid backfilling.

2.3 Archiving

The project archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Store (Event no.: ECB6416). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no. albionar1-409893) 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 are summarised below and shown on Figure 2. A representative sample of photographs is shown in Figures 3–6. Context numbers in square brackets refer to cut features [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). Details of the very sparse finds assemblage is incorporated into the following summary, whilst details of all observed deposits and archaeological features are contained in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

Overburden was fairly consistent across the site. In Trenches 2, 4 and 5, the tarmac car-park surface overlay a brick and limestone make-up/levelling layer. The make-up had been laid directly on top of the topsoil that had previously covered the site. This topsoil overlay a layer of alluvium. Trenches 1 and 3 were situated partly within decorative flowerbeds within the car park, and a recently cultivated topsoil was thus observed across a large portion of these trenches.

The tarmac ((100), (200), *etc.*) was generally a very thin layer – up to 0.1m in most trenches. The make-up layer (0.25–0.5m thick; (101), (201), *etc.*) comprised loose mid-yellow limestone within a silty sand matrix, and a large number of London Brick Company bricks; these were mostly present in the eastern part of the PDA, and formed the majority of the levelling layer in Trenches 2 and 3.

The topsoil within the flower beds in Trenches 1 and 3 ((103) and (302)) was a friable mid- to dark-brown clay silt, up to 0.3m thick. The topsoil beneath the car-park surface ((104), (202), *etc.*) was notably darker and more compact than the topsoil within the flower beds, though still friable; it was a dark brown-grey clay silt, up to 0.65m thick. A single sherd of “willow-pattern” pottery was found in this layer (502) in Trench 5, but was not retained.

Beneath the topsoil lay a plastic, mid-dark grey alluvial layer of silt, 0.2–0.5m thick, ((105), (106), (204), *etc.*). In Trenches 1 and 5, two layers of alluvium could be distinguished, the lower of which contained a higher proportion of gravel, and likely derived from the action of water flowing over the natural strata, which suggests a formerly active floodplain environment that gradually silted up. The cumulative thickness of overburden was generally between 1m and 1.45m across the site. Very few artefacts were found within the alluvium.

Undisturbed geological strata comprised a mid-yellow-orange silty gravel with a significant sand component. Hydrocarbon contamination (identified by a strong smell) had caused staining of the geological strata in the east part of Trench 4.

3.3 Palaeochannel

Within Trenches 2 and 3, a possible NW-SE aligned palaeochannel [205] and [305] was identified. It was notably absent from Trench 1, and it is therefore suggested that it followed an irregular course.



Machine-excavation of the palaeochannel was carried out, because it was unsafe to hand-excavate due to the depth of the trenches and rapid ingress of groundwater.

In Trench 3, a machine-excavated slot showed the profile of the palaeochannel, with slightly concave, approximately 45-degree sides and an uneven (but broadly flat) base. The position of the palaeochannel in Trench 4 made it impossible to safely excavate a slot perpendicular to the profile, and thus a machine-excavated slot to establish depth was considered sufficient. The palaeochannel was at least 5m wide and 1.1m deep.

3.4 Well

A brick-lined well with a lead pipe [207] was machine-excavated in Trench 2. It was overlain by the layers of material related to the car park (make-up and tarmac), but had been cut through the underlying buried topsoil. The fill of the well appeared to have been an incidental accumulation, rather than deliberate backfill. The well had an external diameter of 1.5m and was at least 1.6m deep.

The bricks used for construction of the well were identified on site as “Arlesey White”, comprising a Gault clay fabric and dated to the late 19th century. Historical maps show the well was some distance from any buildings, so it was presumably used as a source of water for the garden.

3.5 Other Features

Modern features, including a square pit and a disused service trench, both cut through the buried topsoil were also identified. These features were observed only in section and not investigated further, due to their modern date.

3.6 Artefacts

A small assemblage of ceramic building material, pottery, clay tobacco pipe and animal bone was collected from Trenches 2 and 3, most deriving from geological deposits (*Table 1*). Given that the artefacts are post-medieval or modern in date and do not make a significant contribution to the understanding of the site, it is proposed that the negligible assemblage is not retained, following consultation with the CHET.

Tr.	Feature	Fill	Date range	Finds Summary	
2	201	Make-up layer	-	Modern	Brick fragments (4.3kg)
	204	Alluvium	-	Post-medieval	Pottery (2g); clay tobacco pipe (3g); animal bone (158g)
	205	Palaeochannel	206	Modern	Brick fragment (943g)
3	304	Alluvium	-	Undated	Animal bone (19g)
	305	Palaeochannel	306	Undated	Animal bone (29g)
5	502	Topsoil	-	Modern	“Willow pattern” pottery (not retained)

Table 1: Finds summary by trench and feature

3.6.1 Ceramics

Make-up layer (201) yielded a virtually complete fletton brick stamped ‘LBC’ (London Brick Company) and post-1900 in date. Two pieces of stock-moulded brick (W100 x D65mm) bonded with lime mortar, and of 18th- or 19th-century origin derived from the same deposit. A possible worn paviour fragment (W105 x D50mm)



of similar date was collected from palaeochannel [205]. A single sherd of “willow-pattern” pottery was observed in topsoil (502) Trench 5, but was not retained.

Post-medieval finds collected from alluvium (204) are two tiny glazed red earthenware pottery body sherds (2g) and two fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem (3g).

3.6.2 Animal bone

Ten abraded animal bone fragments (206g) were recovered from alluvium (204), (304) and palaeochannel [305]. They comprise indeterminate skull fragments and limb bones (including a metapodial), and three pieces of pig mandible, deriving from an immature animal.

3.7 Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

Two soil samples were taken during the trial trenching: Sample <1> (2 litres) was collected from the fill (306) of palaeochannel [305] and Sample <2> (1.7 litres) from an alluvial layer (204), that could be either an upper fill of the palaeochannel or a separate flood event. Neither deposit was securely dated. The samples were entirely processed using a flotation tank and produced relatively rich, albeit uncharred, flots, which were analysed for an archaeobotanical assessment.

Although some potentially intrusive remains were present (roots/rootlets), the large majority of the plant material was likely to represent a waterlogged deposit. This consisted mostly of small fragments of wood and unidentifiable leaves but it also contained a good amount of seeds, all from wild plants. Thanks to the good preservation, most of the seeds were identified with precision, showing a predominance of wetland/marshes species such as horned pondweed (*Zannichellia*), docks (*Rumex*), buttercups (*Ranunculus*), sedges (*Carex*) and probably water hemlock (*Cicuta*).

Further proof of the interpretation of the site as a persistently boggy area was the presence of a very high number of egg pouches (*Ephippia*) from small planktonic crustaceans commonly known as water-fleas (*Daphnia*). Finally, the unsuitability of the area for human occupation appears to be confirmed also by the complete absence of any charred remains in the samples.



4. DISCUSSION

4.1 *Summary and Significance of the Archaeological Remains*

Evaluation of the PDA revealed evidence for a palaeochannel and associated flood plain silts. This palaeochannel would have been aligned approximately parallel with the modern course of the Barracks Brook. The evaluation found no evidence of any settlement within the PDA, and historical maps confirm that the site remained undeveloped until c.1980. The accumulated alluvial deposits and palaeochannel silts indicate that conditions were probably far too wet to support the significant expansion of the town along Ambury Road.

Although no archaeological deposits were encountered, the evident absence of any historical settlement within the PDA enhances our understanding of the development of Huntingdon in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The accumulated alluvial deposits and palaeochannel silts indicate that this area would have been boggy and unsuitable for building, explaining why the east side of town remained open ground even as the core of Huntingdon expanded away from the High Street.

Similar results were found in archaeological evaluation c.300m to the west, where trial trenching revealed the possible former course of the Barracks Brook, and further alluvial layers (OAE 2016). However, the evidence from the PDA contrasts with that from excavations at Chequers Court to the south-east, where settlement was shown to have expanded along roads running east of the town during the High Medieval period. Perhaps the latter site was slightly drier land – but perhaps it proved unsustainable for habitation in the long run, since the settlement was short-lived, with the site apparently abandoned after the medieval period (Mustchin 2016, 72). Wetter conditions might well have occurred in the later medieval period with the onset of the ‘Little Ice Age’.

The results of the evaluation ultimately corroborate the extent of the medieval town, as postulated in the Huntingdon Extensive Urban Survey (CCC 2015, fig. 4). This contributes to our knowledge of the development of the town and its layout, and is thus relevant to regional research objectives (Medlycott 2011, 70). However, beyond the establishment of the absence of settlement (achieved by the trial trenching), there is negligible potential within the PDA for further archaeological investigation to address regional research objectives.

4.2 *Impact Assessment*

Construction of the permitted development will not lead to any loss of significance to any archaeological remains, so the impact of the development on archaeological remains is considered to be insignificant.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 23772 72030

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23776 72060

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23776 72022

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23768 72025

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Tarmac	Hard black tarmac Up to 0.08m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Make up layer	Loose mid orange yellow silty limestone moderate small-medium CBM Up to 0.5m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small CBM, occasional small stones Up to 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Topsoil	Firm dark brown grey clay silt moderate small stones Up to 0.55m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Alluvium	Plastic mid grey silt occasional small stones Up to 0.27m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Alluvium	Loose mid grey orange silty gravel moderate small sand Up to 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Natural	Loose mid yellow orange sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.4 m. Max: 1.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 23782 72019

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23786 72016

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23783 72012

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23779 72015

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Tarmac	Hard black tarmac Up to 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow limestone frequent small-medium CBM Up to 0.45m thick. CBM content is largely modern bricks stamped with "LBC".	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
202	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small CBM, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small stones Up to 0.36m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Alluvium	Firm mid grey silt occasional flecks CBM Moderately stained with organic material. Up to 0.45m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
205	Palaeochannel	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 5.m, min depth 1.3m, min length 5.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Fill	Firm mid grey silt occasional flecks CBM Moderate organic staining present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
207	Well	Circular sides: vertical dimensions: min depth 1.6m, max diameter 1.5m Base of well not reached in trench. A lead pipe running from the top of the well continued through make-up layer (201) to the south-east.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Well lining	Bricks are predominantly identified as "Arlesey White" bricks, formed of Gault clay. Occasional red bricks also apparent. Very little mortar present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Backfill	Loose grey clay silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional small-large stones Only limited backfilling apparent - incidental, rather than a deliberate event.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Natural	Loose mid orange yellow silty gravel frequent small sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1.12 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 23788 72010

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23792 72006

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23789 72002

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23784 72005

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Tarmac	Hard black tarmac Up to 0.08m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Make up layer	Loose light yellow limestone frequent small-medium CBM CBM content of make-up layer is predominantly modern LBC bricks. Up to 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small CBM, moderate small stones Up to 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Alluvium	Firm dark grey silt occasional flecks CBM Moderate organic staining. Up to 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
305	Palaeochannel	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 3.5m, min depth 1.1m, min length 5.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Fill	Firm dark grey silt occasional flecks CBM Moderate organic staining. Excavated by machine due to trench flooding.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
307	Natural	Friable light orange yellow silty gravel moderate small sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 23763 72002

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23767 71999

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23764 71995

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23760 71998

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Tarmac	Hard black tarmac Up to 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow silty limestone moderate flecks sand Up to 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Service Trench	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.5m, min length 4.4m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Backfill	Loose mid yellow silty limestone moderate flecks sand Up to 0.2m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Backfill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small-medium CBM, frequent small-medium stones Up to 0.5m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
405	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small CBM, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.65m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Alluvium	Firm mid grey silt occasional flecks CBM, occasional small stones Occasional organic staining. Up to 0.55m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
407	Natural	Friable mid orange yellow silty gravel moderate flecks sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 23756 72013

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23761 72010

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23758 72006

OS Grid Ref.: TL 23754 72009

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Tarmac	Hard black tarmac Up to 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow silty limestone occasional small CBM, moderate flecks sand Up to 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks CBM, moderate small-medium stones Willow-pattern china recovered, not retained. Up to 0.6m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Alluvium	Firm mid grey silt occasional small CBM, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Alluvium	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt frequent small stones Up to 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
505	Natural	Loose mid orange yellow silty gravel moderate flecks sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
506	Modern intrusion	Rectangular NW-SE sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.75m, max length 0.9m Cut through topsoil, not investigated further.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
507	Backfill	Friable mid brown clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-409893

Project details

Project name	Ambury Road South, Huntingdon
Short description of the project	Huntingdonshire District Council granted planning permission for the erection of 10 residential properties, car parking and associated landscaping on land at the north-west end of the former Anglian House site, Ambury Road South, Huntingdon. Because of the high archaeological potential of the permitted development area, the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team recommended a condition was attached to the planning consent, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation. The trial trenching comprised the excavation of five c.5m x 5m trial trenches. The trenching found no evidence for any former settlement and historical maps confirm that the site remained undeveloped until c.1980. Alluvial deposits and palaeochannel silts indicated that conditions were probably far too wet to support the significant expansion of the town along Ambury Road in the medieval or post-medieval periods. A late-19th-century well was the only structure identified, and this was probably within a private garden.
Project dates	Start: 15-02-2021 End: 17-02-2021
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	AR3690 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB6416 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	WELL Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. as a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE HUNTINGDON Ambury Road South, Huntingdon
Study area	0.25 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 2378 7201 Point

Project creators



Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Jeremy Oetgen
Project director/manager	Ben Carroll
Project supervisor	Catie Watts

Project archives

Paper Archive recipient	Cambs County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"other"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at North-West End of Former Anglian House Site, Ambury Road South, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire:
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Watts, C'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Oetgen, J'
Other bibliographic details	2021/35
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	16 March 2021

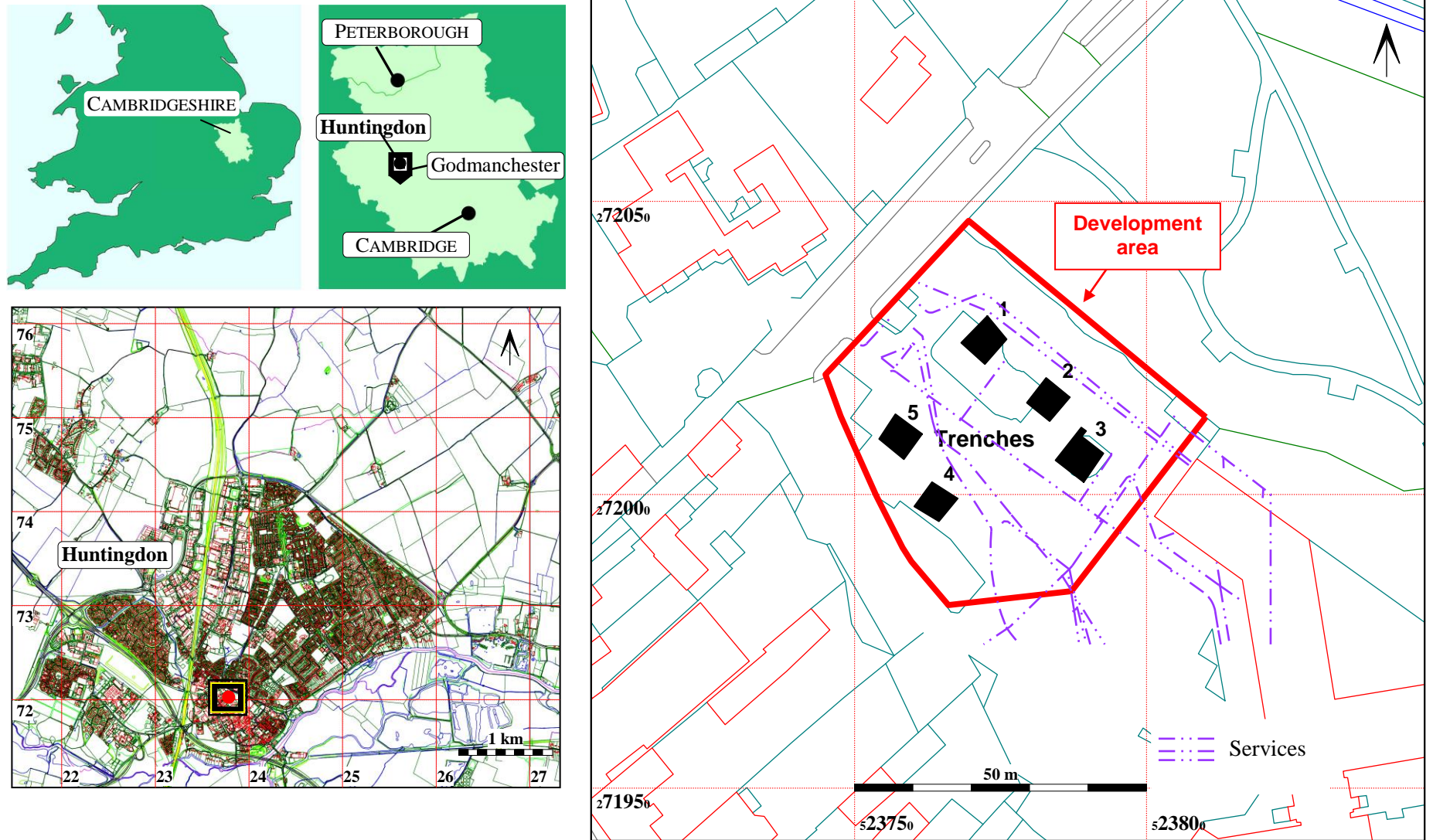


Figure 1: Site location plan

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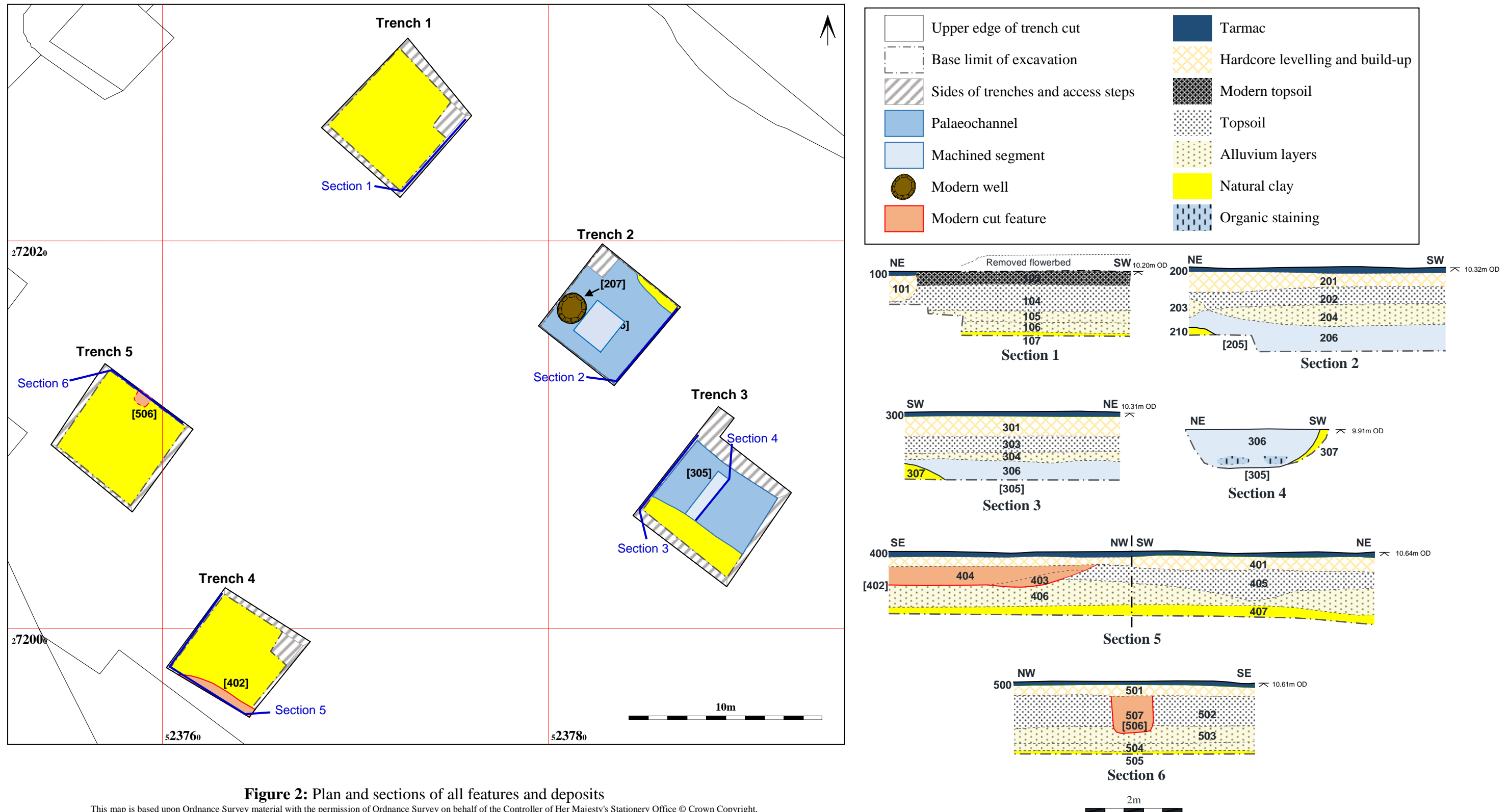


Figure 2: Plan and sections of all features and deposits

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Figure 3: Trench 3 showing machine-excavated segment through palaeochannel [305]
Looking south-east, 1m scale.



Figure 4: Trench 2 during machine excavation, palaeochannel [205]
visible to left of image
Looking north-west.



Figure 5: Trench 2 palaeochannel [205] and modern well [207] visible to the right of frame
Looking south-west, 1m scale.



Figure 6: Trench 1 baulk section, no archaeological deposits present
Looking south-east, 1m scale.

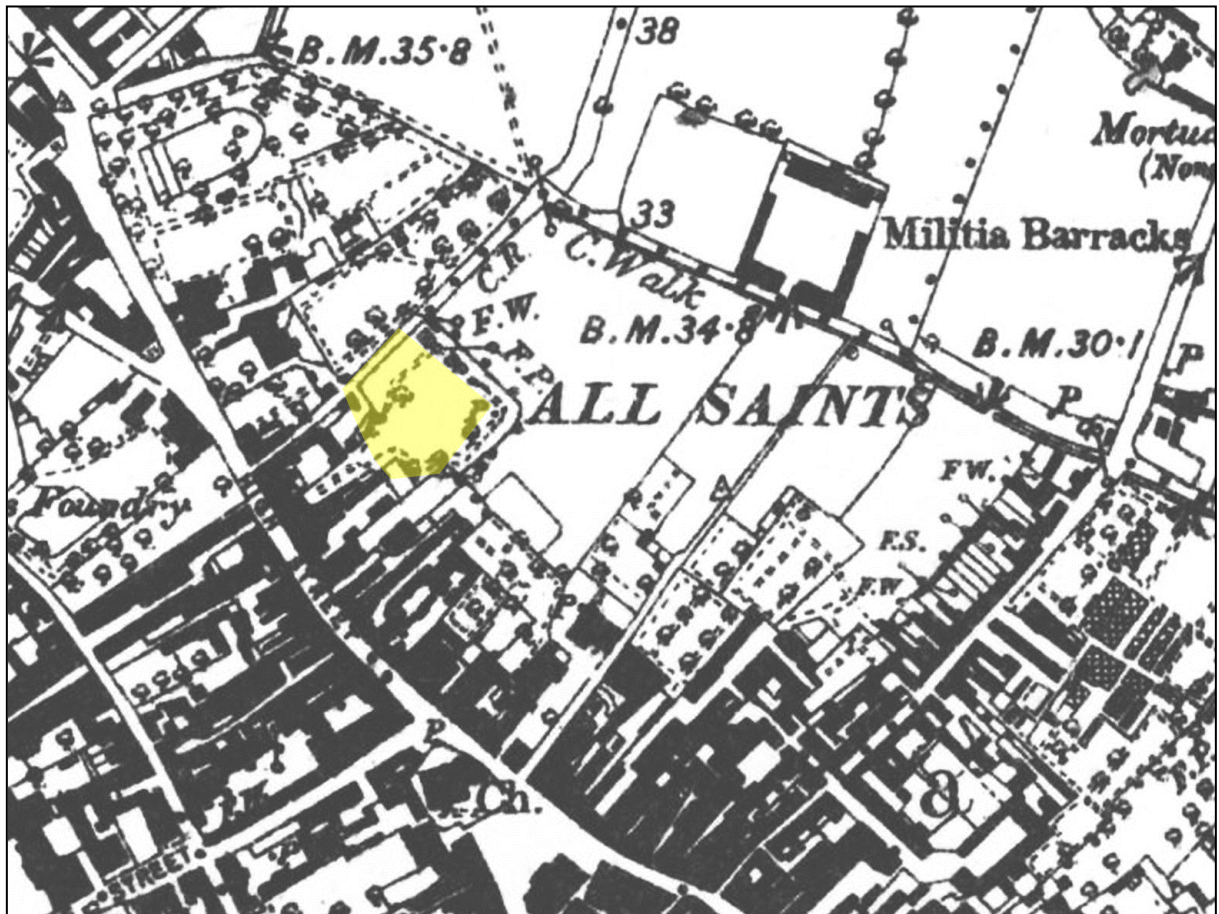


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map, sheet XVIII SW,
1886 (surveyed 1885)
Permitted development area highlighted in yellow (approximate location).

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