

**BLETCHLEY LANDFILL SITE  
MILTON KEYNES**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

<b>Town</b>	Milton Keynes
<b>Parish</b>	Bletchley
<b>Address</b>	Nr Slad Farm, Bletchley, Milton Keynes
<b>NGR</b>	48717/23181
<b>Size</b>	0.2ha
<b>Land use</b>	Farmland

Document 2005/72  
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Produced for:  
Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick Ltd  
On behalf of:  
Waste Recycling Group





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## **Preface**

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

## **Acknowledgements**

*This report has been prepared by Mike Luke (Project Manager), Tracy Preece (Project Officer), Matt Smith (Archaeological Supervisor) and Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). Digitisation and report illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).*

*Hand excavation and recording were undertaken by Matt Smith (Archaeological Supervisor) and Tracy Preece (Project Officer). Finds processing was carried out by Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer).*

*Albion Archaeology would like to acknowledge the co-operation of Sean Steadman (Senior Archaeological Consultant) of Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick and Co Ltd, along with the assistance of Brian Giggins (Archaeological Officer) of Milton Keynes Council. In addition, thanks are due to Mike Abbott and Colin Richardson (Waste Recycling Group) and K & J Fuller & Sons (the farmer).*

## **Key terms**

Throughout this project the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
Client	Waste Recycling Group
Consultant	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick Ltd
WSI	Document: Bletchley Landfill Site, Milton Keynes, Written Scheme of Investigation (September 2005)





## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Archaeological investigations were undertaken during November 2005 by Albion Archaeology in advance of a new access route, associated with the Bletchley Landfill site. The site comprised the area of a proposed roundabout and is located to the south-west of Bletchley (NGR: 48717 23181).*

*The only known archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the site were two large concentrations of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint artefacts discovered by fieldwalking. Therefore, in line with Planning Policy Guidance 16 and Local Plan Policy additional archaeological investigation was requested by Milton Keynes Council's Archaeological Officer. Following discussions with Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick Ltd, it was agreed that the area of the proposed roundabout would be subject to an archaeological "strip, map and record" exercise in the first instance. This report presents the results of those investigations.*

*An area of c. 0.2ha was mechanically stripped of topsoil and subsoil under archaeological supervision. Following the removal of the overburden the area was subsequently examined for archaeological remains. Any sub-surface features encountered were subjected to hand excavation in order to ascertain their nature and date.*

*A small range of archaeological features were recovered comprising a pit, two postholes, six tree-throw holes and two furrows. The pit and postholes occurred towards the centre of the site within an area of 10m. Some of the features contained charcoal flecks and one contained a broken flint flake. However, while they may be broadly contemporary and could be associated with the flint scatter identified during fieldwalking, the absence of firm dating evidence makes this uncertain.*

*The features were considered to be of low significance in terms of regional research priorities. Following their investigation to the satisfaction of the Consultant and the Archaeological Officer the site was backfilled.*







## 1. INTRODUCTION

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This report details the archaeological investigations undertaken by Albion Archaeology in advance of the construction of a new access route associated with the Bletchley Landfill site.

### 1.1 Project location (Figure 1)

The site lies adjacent to the West Coast Mainline Railway to the south-west of Bletchley and *c.* 2km east of the village of Newton Longville (NGR: 48717 23181). The area to the east of the site is largely built up with housing, whilst to the north-west are the site of the former Newton Longville brickworks and extensive derelict clay extraction pits. At the time of the investigations the site was farmland which had previously been under arable cultivation.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

The underlying geology comprises Oxford Clay. The present course of the River Ouzel is situated approximately 1km to the east. The site is located towards the base of a north-east facing slope, which falls from approximately 96m OD to the extreme west of the site, down to 78m OD to the north. The site of the proposed roundabout is located at approximately 80m OD.

### 1.3 Planning history

Milton Keynes Council has granted outline planning permission for mixed housing and commercial development to the south of the landfill site. Waste Recycling Group (WRG) is proposing to construct an access road to be shared with this development. A previous planning application (MK/806/95-withdrawn) for construction of a new access route associated with the landfill site (but on a slightly different alignment) would have been subject to a condition (number 22) requiring archaeological investigation. Following consultation with the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer, a suitable scheme of archaeological works<sup>1</sup> was agreed to address the previous planning condition. This was consistent with the advice in the Department of Environment *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*.

### 1.4 Archaeological background

The relevant archaeological background is summarised below. More detailed information is contained in the WSI<sup>1</sup> and the Environmental Statement<sup>2</sup>

Fieldwalking, conducted several years ago, located two large concentrations of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flint artefacts that partially coincide with the line of the proposed access route. In the wider landscape, archaeological evidence for the Bronze Age period in this area is characterised by ring ditches located in the valleys of the River Great Ouse and the River Ouzel.

Several large Iron Age settlements have been excavated in the Milton Keynes area. Those closest to the site include Lakes Estate to the east and Holne

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<sup>1</sup> Scott Wilson, 2005, *Bletchley Landfill Site, Milton Keynes: Written Scheme of Investigation*

<sup>2</sup> Babbie, 2003, *The Green MK Centre-Environmental Statement*



Chase to the north. It is believed that the whole of the area around the Roman small town, *Magiovinium* (Dropshort) just over 2km to the north-east was extensively settled and farmed during the Roman period.

Newton Longville is mentioned in Domesday Book, indicating it originated in the late Saxon period, but it is located *c.* 2km to the west of the site. During the medieval period, the site is presumed to have been utilised as fields. The brickworks to the north-west were constructed in 1933 originally known as the Bletchley Flettons, but were renamed in 1950 as the Jubilee Works. The brickworks closed in 1990.



## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 Introduction

Albion Archaeology, an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO), was commissioned on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2005 to undertake the investigations on the site of a proposed roundabout that was integral to the proposed access route.

### 2.2 Aims and objectives

The general aim of the investigation was:

- To identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains on the site which may be affected by the proposed development.

The objectives were as follows:

- To determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, character and date of any archaeological deposits or features;
- To determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features;
- To determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- To determine the overall significance of any archaeological remains present;
- To inform any future mitigation strategies which may be required to fulfil the planning conditions.

### 2.3 Methodology

The archaeological recording strategy was developed in consultation with Milton Keynes Council's Archaeological Officer. All investigations were undertaken in accordance with the agreed WSI and Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork*.

The area of the proposed roundabout was subject to an archaeological "strip, map and record" exercise. A hymax fitted with a toothless bucket, working under direct archaeological supervision, removed topsoil and subsoil between 24<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005. The resulting surface was inspected for possible archaeological remains.

Hand excavation was then undertaken to clarify the nature, character and date of the features identified. All pits, postholes and other isolated features were half-sectioned. Between 2% and 5% of the linear features interpreted as furrows were excavated.

All onsite archaeological investigations were completed by 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005.



## **2.4 Monitoring**

The investigations were monitored by the Client's Consultant on 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October, and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005. Milton Keynes Council's Archaeological Officer attended the final monitoring meeting.



### 3. RESULTS

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#### 3.1 Introduction

Topsoil and subsoil were mechanically removed from an area of approximately 0.2ha. Hand excavation and recording were undertaken on potential archaeological features during earthmoving.

#### 3.2 Results of the archaeological investigations (Figure 2)

A total of one pit, two postholes, six tree-throw holes and two furrows were investigated and recorded. These are described by feature type below. For more detailed context descriptions see Appendix 1.

##### 3.2.1 Topsoil (100) and subsoil (101)

On average, the topsoil was 0.25 to 0.3m deep. The subsoil was generally 0.5m deep, but increased in depth to around 0.8m to the east. The subsoil yielded a broken and patinated flint flake, weighing 2g.

All features investigated were sealed by the subsoil.

##### 3.2.2 Pit [103]

One possible pit was investigated that was located in the centre of the site close to possible postholes and tree-throw holes.

Sub-circular pit [103] was located in the centre of the site, *c.* 14m from the western limit. It was 0.61m in diameter with its V-shaped profile reaching a depth of 0.36m. Its sole fill (104) comprised a mid brown grey silt clay. Neither of these features contained artefacts.

##### 3.2.3 Postholes [124] and [126]

Circular postholes [124] and [126] were situated 0.15m apart, 10m to the northwest of pit [103], within 5m of the western limit of the site. They had a diameter of 0.4m with similar concave profiles leading to flat bases but were under 0.1m deep. Their sole fills (125 and 127) were similar, comprising a mid grey brown silty clay; neither contained any artefacts.

##### 3.2.4 Tree-throw holes [110], [113], [115/117/119] and G[122]

A total of six possible tree-throw holes were investigated. Tree-throw holes [113] and [115/117/119] were located adjacent to the northern limit of the site within 5m of one another. Tree-throw holes [115/117/119] appeared to be sub-oval and had uneven concave sides. It is uncertain if they represent one, two or three tree-throws. They were filled by slightly different deposits, although they all contained charcoal flecks. Tree-throw hole [113] was oval in plan, 1.2m long, 0.35 wide and 0.12m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill (114) comprised a mid grey brown silty clay and contained a broken flint flake, weighing 2g.

Elongated tree-throw holes [110] and G[122] were located within 3.5m of each other towards the centre of the site. Tree-throw hole [110] was 1.25m long,



0.5m wide and 0.15m deep while tree-throw hole [122] was 1.63m long, 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep. They were filled with similar deposits, comprised of a red brown silt clay. However, the secondary fill (112) of tree throw-hole [110] comprised a dark brown grey silt clay with charcoal flecks.

### **3.2.5 Furrows G[134] and G[136]**

Furrows G[134] and G[136] were the only features to be located in the eastern part of the site. They were broadly parallel on a NE-SW alignment and were between 8.5m-9m apart (diverging slightly to the north). The easternmost furrow G[136] varied in width between 0.5m and 0.75m and it had a concave profile and flat base. The adjacent furrow G[134] was between 0.6m and 0.7m wide with a concave profile and concave base. Both contained a single fill of firm mid orange brown silty clay that produced fragments of modern land drain.

### **3.3 The archive**

A total of 38 contexts, 2 plan sheets, 10 sections and 24 photographs were recorded during the investigations. In addition, two flint flakes were recovered. These will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum under the accession number 2005/36.



#### 4. SUMMARY

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The previous section has presented a summary of the results. A limited range of features were discovered and their general appearance suggests that, with the exception of the tree-throw holes, some may be of human origin. They have been interpreted as pits, postholes and furrows.

With the exception of the furrows, no dating evidence was recovered. However, given that the features occur in two discrete clusters *c.* 22m apart, it is possible that those within each cluster are broadly contemporary. Charcoal flecks were present in the fills of several of the features but the absence of other kinds of “domestic” debris makes it unlikely that these features are associated with settlement.

While some of the features could be associated with the flint scatter identified during fieldwalking, the absence of firm dating evidence makes this uncertain. Given that the features are undated and cannot easily be interpreted they are considered to be of low significance in terms of regional research priorities.







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## **APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

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**Area:** 1  
**Extent (ha):** 0.2  
**OS Co-ordinates:** SP4871723181  
**Description:** Strip and map investigations at Bletchley Landfill Site

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones. Averaging in depth between 0.25-0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small-large stones. Average depth was 0.5m although it was as much as 0.8m on the eastern extremities of site.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Firm light brown red sandy clay moderate small-large stones. With patches of Oxford blue clay and areas of sandy clay with gravel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Pit	Sub-circular profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max depth 0.36m, max diameter 0.61m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Treethrow	Sub-oval NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.19m, max length 1.63m. Segment of general tree-throw hole number [122]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Primary fill	Friable red brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones, moderate medium stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Treethrow	Sub-oval NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.32m, max depth 0.19m, min length 1.63m. Segment of general tree-throw hole number [122]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Fill	Firm grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Treethrow	Sub-oval NE-SW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.15m, max length 1.25m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Primary fill	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small-large stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Secondary fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay moderate flecks charcoal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Treethrow	Oval NE-SW profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.35m, max depth 0.12m, max length 1.2m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
115	Treethrow	Sub-oval profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.09m, max length 0.85m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Treethrow	Sub-circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.1m, max diameter 0.5m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Treethrow	Sub-oval E-W profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.17m, max length 0.95m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Primary fill	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
122	Treethrow	Sub-oval NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.15m, max length 1.63m. General number for elongated tree-throw hole segments [105] and [108].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty clay moderate small stones. Unexcavated number for tree-throw hole fill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



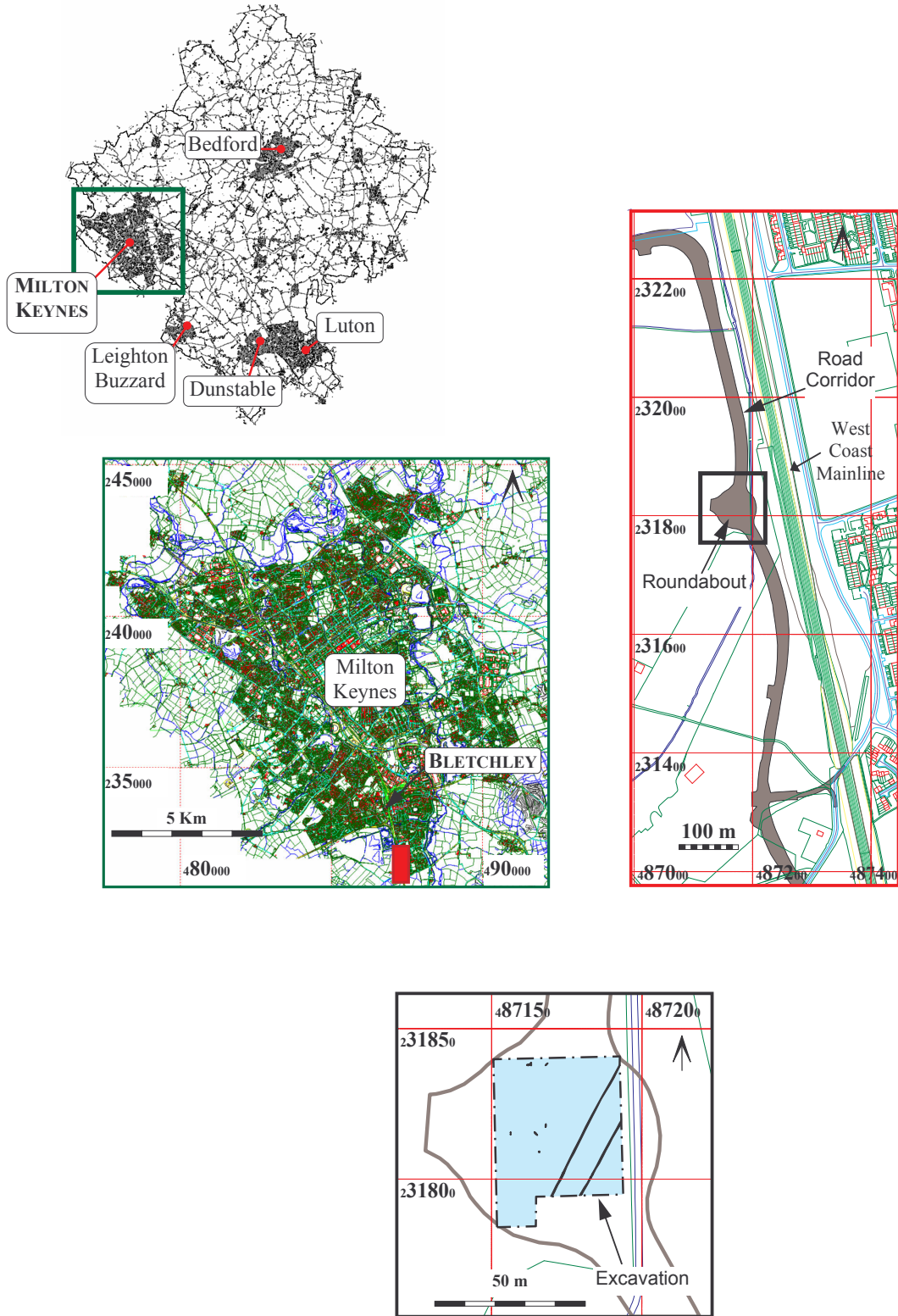
**Area: 1**

**Extent (ha): 0.2**

**OS Co-ordinates: SP4871723181**

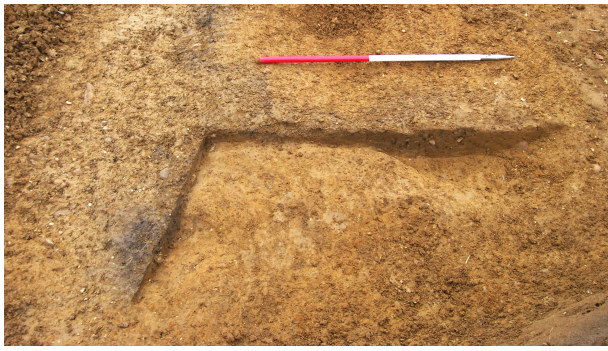
**Description: Strip and map investigations at Bletchley Landfill Site**

124	Posthole	Circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.07m, max diameter 0.4m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	Posthole	Circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.1m, max diameter 0.4m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
128	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max diameter 0.21m. Segment of general furrow number [136]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
129	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.2m. Segment of general furrow number [136]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
132	Furrow	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.2m. Segment of general furrow number [134]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
133	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
134	Furrow	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, min breadth 0.5m, min length 49m. General number for furrow segments [132]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
135	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones. Unexcavated number for furrow fill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	Furrow	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, min breadth 0.6m, min length 28m. General number for furrow segments [128] and [130]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones. Unexcavated number for furrow fill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

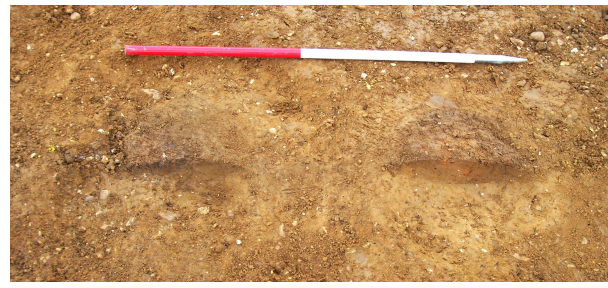


**Figure 1: Site location map**

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.



Photograph showing features [115], [117], and [119]. Scale 1m



Photograph showing features [126] and [124]. Scale 1m

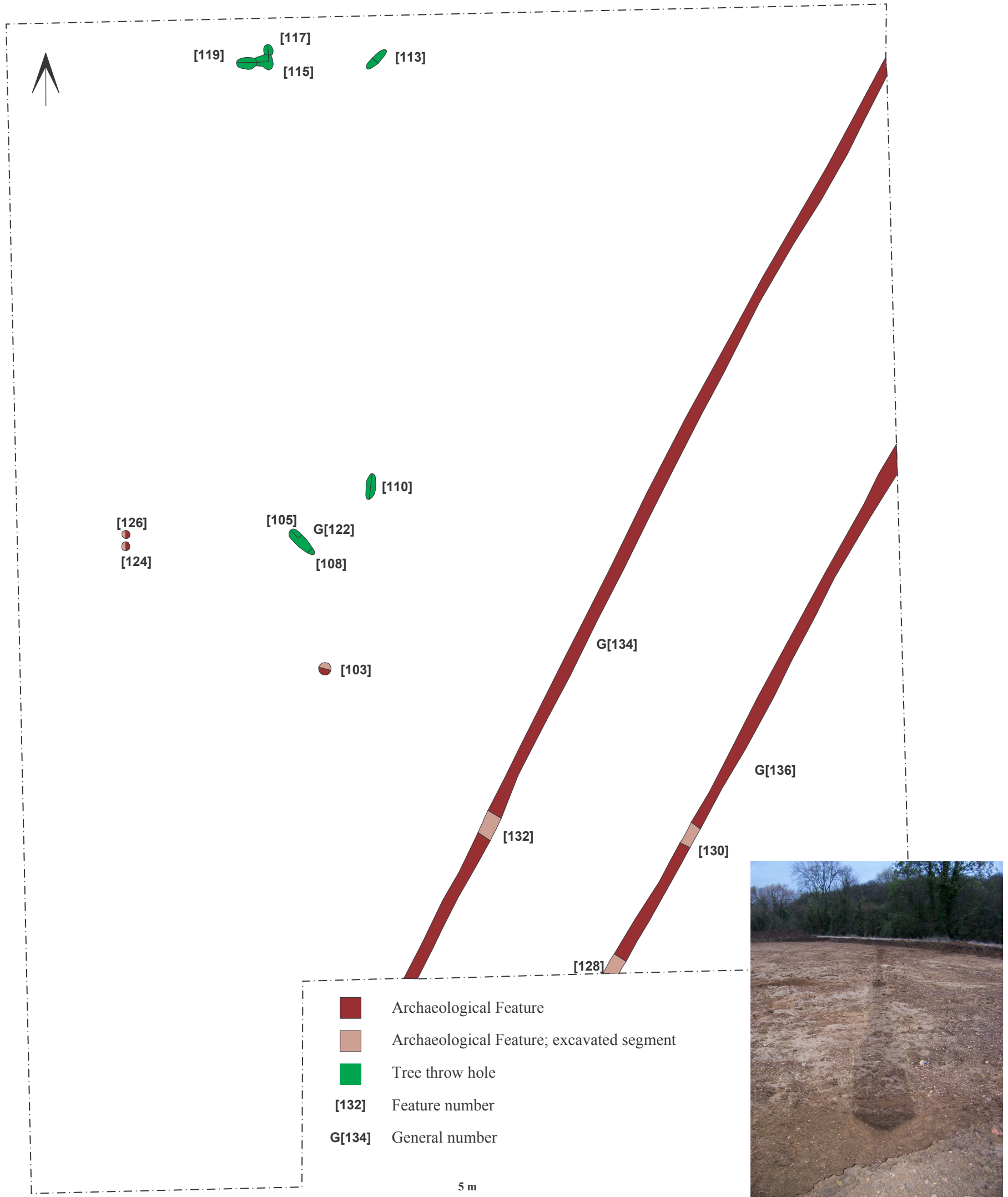


Figure 2: All features plan