

**LAND EAST OF SAXON DRIVE
BIGGLESWADE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION**

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the specification. 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.

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Albion Archaeology would like to acknowledge the assistance of the staff of Stringer + Jones, particularly Mr T Stringer, Andrew Wilson and the County Archaeological Officer, Lesley-Ann Mather.

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Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, a summary of the recorded archaeological remains in the vicinity of the present site is presented in Section 2. The results of the trial excavation are discussed in Section 3, followed by a brief conclusion (Section 4). Section 5 is a bibliography.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
Client	Stringer + Jones for Matrix Medical Ltd.
GPS	Global Positioning System
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
CAO	County Archaeological Officer
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001</i>



Non-Technical Summary

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Stringer + Jones on behalf of Matrix Medical Ltd., to undertake the archaeological evaluation of approximately 3 hectares of land situated on the south-eastern outskirts of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. The site is located within the valley of the River Ivel, centred on National Grid Reference TL (5/2) 2045 4430. Topographically the site occupies gently sloping ground close to the eastern side of the Ivel valley at c.35m OD. The geology of the site consists of glacial gravels and boulder clay above Lower Greensand. The site is located within an area of extensive Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement, which has been the focus of archaeological investigation since the 1990s. Traces of earlier occupation have also been revealed in the vicinity.

The trial excavation was undertaken between 22nd January and 9th February 2007, with a total of nine trenches being opened. Six of the nine trenches contained archaeological remains. These were divided into two archaeological areas (western and southern) with a third blank Eastern Area. The Western Area contained Trenches 3, 4 and 6, the Southern Area Trenches 8, 9 and 10 and the Eastern Area Trenches 2, 5 and 7. Trench 1 could not be opened as the excavation licence issued by the landowner (Bedfordshire County Council) did not permit damage to trees and shrubs, which were present in this part of the site.

In the Southern Area, twenty ditches were identified along with associated pitting. Quantities of Romano-British pottery were found in several of the ditches and pits. However, the contrasting alignment of some of the ditches is likely to reflect the presence of both Roman and medieval activity in this area. There was evidence of sequential activity as several of the ditches had been redug indicating long-term use.

A series of ditches were identified in the Western Area, some of which appear to be associated with a hollow way, a sunken routeway, probably defining a back lane to the settlement. Other features included two large pit-type features thought to be ponds and a smaller pit. At least three phases of activity were defined; they are probably associated with the eastern margin of the later medieval / post-medieval settlement.

The evaluation has revealed well-preserved remains of both Roman and medieval date. The presence of Roman features is significant as it confirms the continuation into this area from the south of previously identified activity. Preservation of the archaeological remains was generally good across the site, indicated by the both the presence of features such as postholes, and the depth of surviving features.

The Roman activity has the potential to address issues concerning the origin and evolution of the settlement. These are general issues identified both in national and regional research agendas. The continuation of medieval and later features into the area will allow examination of the eastern margin of the settlement.

It is essential that the above summary is read in conjunction with the main body of the report.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Stringer + Jones on behalf of their client Matrix Medical Ltd., to undertake pre-application archaeological evaluation of approximately 3 hectares of land situated on the south-eastern margin of Biggleswade, centred on OS grid reference TL (5/2) 2045 4430. The site is located to the east of Saxon Drive, Biggleswade, beyond a belt of trees (Figure 1). The area is of archaeological significance as it is the site of the former medieval settlement of Stratton, which has been the subject of intensive archaeological investigations.

Following discussions with the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer (CAO), a *Method Statement* was prepared by Albion Archaeology, to provide the CAO with a means to monitor and assess the archaeological work. It was approved by the CAO on 29th December 2006.

1.2 Site Location and Description (Figure 1)

In plan, the site has a rectangular form extending 225m north-south by 170m wide, situated in the east of a large land parcel, defined by a track to the north and east and by Saxon Drive, a short distance to the west. A wide surface drainage ditch defines the south of the site. The western margin of the site comprises a linear belt of trees, which extends to the highway boundary for Saxon Drive. This area was the subject of an archaeological excavation prior to planting. The rest of the area beyond the tree belt, c.3 hectares in extent, was a grassy field which had been under arable cultivation until recently.

1.3 Landform, Geology and Soils

The site lies on the eastern side of the valley of the River Ivel, which flows some 2km to the west. In this area the valley side is gentle, attaining a maximum elevation of approximately 50m OD. A series of tributaries of the Ivel dissect the valley side. Within the site the land is fairly level at c.35m OD. The area north of the surface drain is at the base of a slope, with the ground rising to the north beyond the site. To the south of the drain the ground slopes down gently to the east, towards a watercourse orientated roughly north-south. In the north-eastern part of the site a wide, shallow depression is just discernable, sloping down to the east. The geology of the site consists of glacial gravels and boulder clay above Lower Greensand.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE AREA

2.1 Introduction

To gain an indication of the archaeological potential of the landscape surrounding the site, a rapid examination of known archaeological remains in the vicinity was undertaken.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

The adjacent area is the site of the deserted Saxon and medieval settlement of Stratton, recorded on the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record as HER 518. For over a decade, archaeological investigations have been undertaken as an integrated part of the scheme for the Stratton Residential Development Area (SRDA). The western, northern and southern margins of the area have been the subject of previous archaeological works comprised of evaluation and open area excavation undertaken by Albion Archaeology (Albion 2003). These have revealed extensive Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains as well as evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity.

2.3 Historic Maps

Several boundaries or enclosures within the site are delimited by lines of trees depicted on the 1884 Ordnance Survey Map. It would appear that at least some of these alignments of trees define old boundaries, as they have a similar alignment to linear vegetation marks, though there is an east-west discrepancy in the location.

2.4 Aerial Photographs

Aerial photograph (76-1932) revealed a series of vegetation marks in the central part of the area that show as a series of linear features. Some of these are likely to be the continuation of known ditches detected to the west, in the previous open area excavation. At least two contrasting alignments of ditches and their vegetation mark continuations can be discerned, reflecting Roman and later enclosure systems.



3. TRIAL EXCAVATION

3.1 Introduction

The trial excavation strategy was approved by the CAO on 29th December 2006. A total of nine trenches were opened (Figure 1); the objectives of the individual trenches are listed in Appendix 1. Trench 1 could not be opened due to the limit of the tree belt being more extensive than anticipated. The evaluation was undertaken between 22nd January and 9th February 2007.

3.2 Methodology

- The trenches were opened using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket. An experienced archaeologist supervised the operation of this machine.
- The trenches were set out using differential GPS to ensure accurate location.
- Overburden was removed by machine down to the top of the uppermost archaeological deposit or the undisturbed geological stratum, whichever, was encountered first.
- Each trench was issued a unique block of numbers for recording purposes.
- All spoil was scanned by metal detector and eye for artefacts.
- Backfilling of the trenches only occurred after the CAO had inspected them.

All archaeological and geological deposits (contexts) were assigned an individual number in a single sequence, commencing at (100). Numbers in brackets within the text refer to the context number issued on site. Within this report context numbers referring to cut features are expressed [**], layers or deposits within cut features are expressed (**).

Each trench was issued with a unique block of numbers. For example (200) identifies ploughsoil in Trench 2 and [817] identifies the construction cut for a ditch in Trench 8. Details of all contexts are listed in Appendix 2.

3.3 Results of the Trial Excavation

Six of the nine trial excavation trenches contained archaeological features. The results of the evaluation will be discussed according to the archaeological areas shown on Figure 1.

3.3.1 Geological Stratum

The undisturbed geological stratum showed slight variation across the site, though generally the deposit consisted of a mid orange to yellow sandy gravel, with variable amounts of small and medium stones, including chalk.

3.3.2 Western Area (Figure 2)

This area extended approximately 100m north-south by approximately 40m wide, encompassing Trenches 3, 4 and 6. The main concentration of features was located within Trench 3 where a series of ditches and a hollow way were



identified. Two large pit type features were located in Trenches 4 and 6 with a smaller pit in Trench 6. The features are summarised in Table 1.

3.3.2.1 The Overburden

The uppermost layer in each of the trenches consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (300), (400) and (600). This deposit was between 0.27m and 0.45m thick. It was noticeably thinner to the north, towards the top of the gentle slope of the site, and also to the west of the site. Generally the ploughsoil was directly above the archaeological deposits, however, in Trench 6 there was a mid orange brown clay silt subsoil (605), ranging from 0.32 to 0.45m thick in the north was present.

3.3.2.2 Archaeological Deposits

A total of thirteen features were identified in this area, comprising:

Trench	Ditch	Hollow way	Pit	Pond	Layer	Surface	Furrow	Total
3	6	1	-	-	-	1	1	9
4	-	-	-	1	1	-		2
6	-	-	1	1	-	-		2
Total	6	1	1	2	1	1	1	13

Table 1: Summary of features in Western Archaeological Area

3.3.2.3 Ditches

A total of six ditches were identified in Trench 3 (Figure 2). Two of the ditches [308] and [313] were aligned north-south with [308] being a later, narrower recut of ditch [313]. Four of the ditches [316, 319, 321 and 336] were aligned north-west to south-east. Ditches [316] and [336] (Figure 7: Photograph 1) are likely to be the flanking ditches of a routeway, as a hollow way was identified between them (see Section 3.3.2.4). The ditches varied in width from 0.8m to 4.8m wide with stepped sides and were between 0.4m to over 1.2m deep.

Their infilling deposits ranged from mid brown to dark grey brown. All of the ditches with the exception of [321] contained thin, clayey, fairly dark and organic primary fills overlain by grey brown secondary fills. The nature of the deposits suggests that the fills mainly accumulated naturally. Ditches [308] and [313] contained a further two or three upper deposits indicating that they were probably exposed for a longer period of time. The infilling deposits (304), (310) and (334) of ditches [308], [313] and [336] contained a piece of undated roof tile and a total of 351g of animal bone.

3.3.2.4 Hollow way

In Trench 3 a relatively thin layer of compacted gravels (327), *c.* 0.17m thick was identified. It overlay an uneven surface that is likely to be an erosional interface, associated with people and animals continuously walking over the ground to create a hollow way [333] (Figure 7: Photograph 2). This hollow way was bounded to the east by ditch [316] and to the west by ditch [336]. The creation of



the hollow way may have been marking an older boundary or routeway, which over the course of time was made more visible and permanent with the construction of ditches [308] and [313]. Within the depression of the hollow way, a brown clay silt (322) 0.7m thick accumulated. This deposit contained 262g of animal bone.

3.3.2.5 Pits

A sub-circular pit [602] was located at the southern end of Trench 6. It was 1.55m in diameter and 0.6m deep with a concave profile (Figure 6: Section 4). It was infilled with a light grey orange silty sand primary fill overlain by a mid grey silty clay secondary fill, neither of which contained any artefacts.

3.3.2.6 Ponds

Two large features were partially uncovered in Trenches 4 [406]/[408] and 6 [606]. They ranged in size from a minimum length of 8.5m in Trench 4 to a minimum length of 16.50m in Trench 6, continuing beyond the limit of the evaluation trenches. The southernmost pond [606] is shown on the 1884 Ordnance Survey Map, though being of considerably smaller extent at this time. Both ponds had stepped concave edges with uneven bases and varied from 0.3m to 0.6m deep.

The infilling of the ponds was very similar with both containing primary, secondary and tertiary fills. Pond [406]/[408] contained a 0.29m thick, dark brown primary fill of peat (404/405), suggesting deposition in stagnant or slow moving water. An environmental sample <1> from (405) contained various types of seed and fragments of mineralised wood. Overlying this was a 0.11m thick mid grey silty clay (409) and a thicker, mottled orange grey silty clay 0.26m thick (403). Fill (403) contained a partially articulated animal skeleton and fill (404) contained a sherd of late medieval pottery.

The primary fill (610) of pond [606] comprised dark orange sandy silt that contained a small quantity of roof tile and animal bone. The remaining fills (608) and (609) comprised similar dark grey silty sand deposits, although (609) was sandier and less gravelly. During the 20th century, the depression created by the partly infilled pond was reused as a dump for builder's waste (607).

3.3.2.7 Layer

Trench 4 contained layer (410), which was up to 0.18m thick at the junction with pond [408] and tapered in thickness to the south-east. The deposit was composed of mixed sandy, silty clay. Although this deposit appears to have been formed prior to construction of the pond, it is possible that this is churning of the ground, associated with the early use of the pond.

3.3.2.8 Other Features

Undulations in the undisturbed geological strata were observed in Trench 3 [338], possibly defining the furrows characteristic of medieval ridge and furrow arable cultivation. If these undulations are correctly identified as archaeological features, they indicate cultivation predating the hollow way. There is, however, no



evidence from other trenches or previous investigations to support the presence of such features in this area.

3.3.3 Southern Area (Figure 3)

This area extended approximately 60m north-south by approximately 85m wide, encompassing Trenches 8, 9 and 10. The main concentration of features was located within this area (see Table 2). Twenty ditches in total were identified. Of these, seventeen were orientated on either north-east to south-west or east-west alignments, whilst three were orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment. Other features included four pits in Trench 8 and a large sub-circular feature at the southern end of Trench 10.

3.3.3.1 The Overburden

The uppermost layer in each of the trenches consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil (800), (900) and (1000). This deposit was between 0.31m and 0.35m thick. Below the ploughsoil was a mid grey brown silty clay subsoil (801), (901) and (1001), between 0.12m and 0.2m thick. This deposit was thinner to the east of the site, being 0.12m thick in Trench 9, while to the west it was 0.2m thick.

3.3.3.2 Archaeological Deposits

A total of twenty-six features were identified in this area comprising:

Trench	Ditch	Pit	Quarry	Posthole	Total
8	9	4	-	1	14
9	6	-	-	-	6
10	5	-	1	-	6
Total	20	4	1	1	26

Table 2: Summary of features in Southern Archaeological Area

3.3.3.3 Ditches

Nine ditches were identified in Trench 8; they were generally aligned east-west. In Trench 9, four ditches were identified on an east-west alignment, with two [913] and [911] being on a north-west to south-east alignment, suggesting an unrelated phase of activity at a different time to the other ditches. Five ditches were located in Trench 10 of which two [1007] and [1009] (Figure 8: Photograph 3) were the continuation of [904] and [909] in Trench 9. Evidence of sequential activity was identified as several of the ditches were found to be intercutting (Figure 5: Section 1). They varied in width from 0.44m to 3.4m with either concave (Figure 5: Section 2 and Figure 6: Section 5) or asymmetrical convex profiles (Figure 6: Section 3) and were between 0.16m and 0.7m deep.

The predominantly sandy clay ditch fills ranged in colour from mid brown to dark grey brown. Most were infilled with a single deposit with thin primary fills in two of the ditches. The nature of the deposits suggests that the fills mainly accumulated naturally, from an unstable upper soil profile. Eight of the ditches contained sherds of Roman pottery. Environmental samples were taken from fills of three of the



ditches (805), (818) and (908). They contained reasonable assemblages of snails and charred seeds, including grain.

3.3.3.4 Pits

A total of four pits and a quarry pit were identified, the majority of which were in Trench 8. The pits in Trench 8, [815], [819], [822] and [829] were either circular or oval in plan. They were between 0.5m and 1.65m in diameter and up to 0.3m deep with concave profile and flattish bases, e.g. [822] and [829] (Figure 5: Section 2). They were all infilled with a single deposit comprised of a mid grey brown sandy silt. Three of the pits contained sherds of Roman pottery and fragments of animal bone.

In Trench 10, a large sub-circular pit [1013] measuring over 4.3m wide, and extending beyond the eastern, southern and western limits of the trench was identified (Figure 8: Photograph 4). It had near vertical sides and an uneven base and was infilled with two distinct fills; a 0.1m thick yellow brown sandy clay primary fill (1015), with a 0.45m thick, very loose greyish brown silty clay upper fill (1014). The latter contained a sherd of modern pottery, bottle glass, slate and animal bone. This pit was cut into the geological strata, composed of sandy gravels, and it is likely that it was originally dug as a quarry pit for gravel extraction and was later reused as a rubbish pit.

3.3.3.5 Other Features

A single posthole [811] was identified in Trench 8. It was c.0.3m in diameter and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Figure 5: Section 1). It truncated the infilled ditches [803] and [809] suggesting a later date for the posthole. The fill comprised a mid blue orange silty clay that contained no artefacts.

3.3.4 Eastern Area (Figure 4)

This area of the site extended approximately 140m north-south by 40m wide and contained Trenches 2, 5 and 7. No archaeological features were observed in any of the trenches within this area.

3.3.4.1 The Overburden

The uppermost layer in each of the trenches (200), (500) and (700) consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay ploughsoil. This deposit was between 0.27m and 0.35m thick. Below the ploughsoil was a mid grey brown silty clay subsoil (201, 501 and 701) generally around 0.17m thick to the north of the site (Trench 2) and 0.28m thick to the south (Trenches 5 and 7).

3.4 Artefacts

3.4.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone (Table 3). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No artefacts were recovered from Trenches 2, 5 or 7; Trench 1 was not opened.



Area	Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spotdate *	Pottery	Other Finds
W	03	303	Drain	302	Modern	3:24	Roof tile (180g) Animal bone (190g) Animal bone (262g) Animal bone (161g)
		308	Ditch	304	-		
		313	Ditch	310	-		
		322	Hollow way	322	-		
		336	Ditch	334	-		
	04	408	Pond	403	-	1:20	Animal bone (1234g); horseshoe (RA 1) Roof tile (63g) Animal bone (6g)
		408	Pond	404	Late/post-med		
		408	Pond	405	-		
	06	606	Pond	608	Modern	4:86	Brick fragment (1616g); wire frags x 2
		606	Pond	609	Modern		
606		Pond	610	Post-medieval		Animal bone (108g); roof tile (31g)	
S	08	803	Ditch	804	Roman	4:22	Animal bone (80g); roof tile (62g) Animal bone (50g) Animal bone (4g); burnt flint (6g) Animal bone (22g) Animal bone (8g) Animal bone (17g) Animal bone (18g); roof tile (136g)
		803	Ditch	805	Roman	4:3	
		809	Ditch	810	Roman	1:3	
		815	Pit	816	Roman	1:3	
		817	Ditch	818	-		
		819	Pit	820	-		
		822	Pit	823	Roman	2:5	
		824	Ditch	825	Roman	1:10	
		827	Ditch	828	Roman	1:7	
		829	Pit	821	Roman	3:22	
	09	904	Ditch	905	Roman	15:276	Animal bone (606g); roof tile or brick (60g)
		904	Ditch	906	Roman	4:112	Animal bone (355g); roof tile (298g)
		904	Ditch	907	Roman	11:299	Animal bone (317g)
		904	Ditch	908	Roman	2:3	Animal bone (8g); burnt flint (41g)
		911	Ditch	916	Roman	19:422	Animal bone (33g)
		913	Ditch	914	-		Animal bone (4g)
		917	Ditch	918	Roman	2:26	Animal bone (28g)
	10	1002	Ditch	1003	Roman	2:59	Animal bone (319g); roof tile (194g) Animal bone (4g) Animal bone (176g); roof slate (385g) bottle glass (364g)
		1004	Ditch	1005	Roman	5:156	
		1004	Ditch	1006	Roman	1:21	
1009		Ditch	1010	-			
1013		Quarry pit	1014	Modern	1:8		
Total						92:1605	

* - spotdate based on date of latest artefact in context RA = Registered Artefact
(sherd/fragment count : weight in grammes)

Table 3: Artefact Summary by Trench and Context

3.4.2 Pottery

Ninety-two pottery sherds, weighing 1.6kg were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are fairly small (average weight 19g) and in most cases, are abraded. Sixteen fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 4) in chronological order.

3.4.2.1 Roman

Pottery of 2nd-4th century date comprises 76 sherds (1.4kg) and derives exclusively from features in the Southern Area, principally ditches [904] and [911]. A sherd of



micaceous greyware occurred as a residual find in modern quarry pit [1013]. Fabrics are predominantly of local manufacture and include shelly wares and reduced and oxidised sand tempered wares. Late Roman regional imports are represented by six sherds of Nene Valley colour coat and eight sherds of oxidised ware (colour coat and mortaria) from Oxfordshire. The range of fabric types is comparable with those recovered from earlier episodes of excavation in the vicinity and casual pottery finds from the nearby allotments. The pottery is abraded and highly fragmented, with few vessels being represented by more than single sherds. Diagnostic forms are 'dog dishes', flanged bowls, jars with everted and triangular rims, mortaria, bowls with rectangular rims and a single flagon or beaker. Decoration is restricted to rilling on shell tempered sherds, rouletting and slipping.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Roman</i>			
Type R05A	Orange sandy	4	(804):1; (805):3
Type R05C	Orange micaceous	1	(905):1
Type R06B	Coarse greyware	6	(905):1, (916):4, (1003):1
Type R06C	Fine greyware	2	(905):1, (907):1
Type R06D	Micaceous greyware	4	(916):3, (1014):1
Type R07B	Sandy blackware	3	(905):1, (907):2
Type R11	Oxford oxidised ware	4	(823):1, (905):1, (916):1, (1006):1
Type R11D	Oxford colour coat	2	(916):1, (1005):1
Type R11F	Oxford mortaria (red)	2	(905):1, (1003):1
Type R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	6	(823):1, (905):3, (906):1, (916):1
Type R13	Shell	46	(804):3, (805):1; (810):1, (816):1, (821):3, (825):1, (828):1 (905):6, (906):3, (907):8, (908):2; (916):12, (1005):4 (918):2
Type R18	Pink gritty	2	(918):2
<i>Medieval</i>			
Type C59B	Sandy	1	(404):1
<i>Modern</i>			
Type P43	Pearlware	1	(608):1
Type P55	White earthenware	4	(302):3, (608):1
MOD	Miscellaneous modern	4	(608):2, (609):2

Table 4: Pottery Type Series

3.4.2.2 Post-Roman

An undiagnostic sand tempered base sherd (20g), datable to the 12th-13th centuries and of probable local manufacture, occurred in pond [408]. Modern pottery is represented by nine sherds (128g) recovered from drain [303] and pond [606]. Fabrics represented are white earthenware, pearlware and white stoneware. Recognisable forms include fragments from a saucer and a teapot lid.

3.4.3 Brick and tile

Five abraded pieces of sand tempered Roman roof tile (*tegulae*), weighing 750g were recovered from Southern Area ditches [803], [904], [1004] and pit [829]. All are approximately 20mm in thickness and one has a shallow flange. Two abraded sand tempered roof tile fragments (180g) recovered from ditch [308] may either be Roman or late medieval in origin.

Western Area ponds [408] and [606] yielded seven sand tempered flat roof tile fragments (290g) of late medieval/post-medieval date, a modern pantile (196g) and



a gault clay brick fragment (1.6kg) of uncertain date. The latter is 107mm wide and 60mm deep and is heavily mortared.

3.4.4 Non-ceramic finds

The branch and heel of an iron horseshoe (Registered Artefact 1) was recovered from the tertiary fill of undated pond [408]. At least one shoeing nail remains *in situ*. The object requires x-ray to confirm type and date range. Four iron wire fragments derived from the fills of modern pond [606]. Five pieces of a roofing slate (385g) and the base and lower part of a green glass wine bottle, both of modern date, were recovered from quarry pit [1013].

3.4.5 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 294 fragments weighing 4.1kg. The majority of the material was recovered from the fills of Roman ditch [904], and undated pond [408], which each yielded 1.2kg. The tertiary fill of the latter contained a partially articulated cow skeleton. The assemblage comprises small pieces (average fragment weight 14g), although the material is not particularly abraded and generally survives in good condition. Diagnostic elements are predominantly long bones, although vertebrae, scapulae, teeth, mandible and skull fragments also occur. Identifiable species are horse, cow and sheep/goat. A single avian long bone derived from pond [408].

3.5 Summary

The trial excavation revealed archaeological features and deposits extending across much of the site. There is good correlation between the features revealed during the evaluation and the vegetation marks visible on aerial photographs, historic map information and the projected lines of features identified from archaeological investigation of the tree belt area to the west. Datable artefacts indicate activity in the Roman and late medieval periods.

The investigation has revealed a pattern of shifting focus of activity, associated with changing utilisation of the landscape over time. The Roman activity is focussed on the lower ground in the south of the site; it comprises both ditches and pits. The presence of considerable quantities of pottery from the ditches, together with the presence of pits suggests a focus of human activity, rather than just field boundaries. The presence of well-preserved animal bones and charred material is also significant for understanding of the nature of the probable settlement activity.

In the medieval/post-medieval period, a larger area of the site was utilised, though this area seems to have been dynamic, undergoing several phases of change, with evidence of enclosures, a hollow way, which may define a back lane to the settlement before subsequently becoming a boundary, as well as later ponds. There is also tentative evidence for arable cultivation in the form of furrows, though as the identification of these features was confined to one area, it is possible that this was a variation in the geological stratum.

The eastern margin of the site was apparently devoid of archaeological remains, with none of the projected ditch alignments continuing in this area. This would



suggest that this area was at the periphery of both the Roman settlement and the medieval / post-medieval enclosures. It does, however, remain of potential significance, as peripheral areas are important to understanding the expansion and contraction of settlement, being most sensitive to changing circumstances.



4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Overview

The evaluation has defined the north-western extent of an area of Roman settlement, which is confined to the lower part of the site. The pottery and bone recovered from the features has the potential to characterise the range and duration of activities on the site. The pottery in particular would enable patterns of trade with the local area and region to be established, with vessels from modern-day Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire being amongst the identified sources. The Roman activity has the potential to address issues of the origin and evolution of the settlement, which are themes identified for investigation both by national and regional research agendas. The Roman landscape is poorly understood in this area, with the relatively well-preserved remains uncovered here having significant potential to enhance understanding of this period, together with its impact on the subsequent development of the area.

In the medieval / post-medieval period, the site was more extensively utilised particularly the higher ground in the west. This area defines the eastern margin of the site, with several sequential phases of development and change being identified. This will assist in the understanding of the changing utilisation of the landscape in response to the changing fortunes of the wider settlement of Stratton, especially its relative decline in the late post-medieval period.

4.2 Significance of the Archaeological Remains

Elements of the evaluation have identified archaeological remains of regional significance. These remains are reasonably well preserved and have the potential to address a number of national and regional research priorities. Both English Heritage and the East Anglian research agenda identified a number of themes (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), which the site has the potential to address, these include:

- Characterisation of Roman activity, which would appear to be spatially confined, suggesting that it may define a focus of activity in the landscape.
- The presence of Roman features and pottery in an area of medieval settlement may indicate continuity of use of this area. Continuity and change is a key regional and national research priority for this period. This would add to the significance of this already very important settlement in terms of research potential.
- The associated artefacts would allow investigation of the spatial ordering of the settlement as well as trade links. Assessing the trading links for the Roman period is particularly significant.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**APPENDIX 1**

Trenching strategy

Trench	Length (m)	Reason for trench
2	30	General coverage
3	30	General coverage
4	30	General coverage
5	30	General coverage to the east
6	35	To investigate possible complex cropmarks
7	30	General coverage to the east
8	30	To investigate possible cropmarks
9	30	To investigate possible cropmarks
10	30	To investigate possible cropmarks



APPENDIX 2

Trench summary



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.4 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2042943742 Ref. 2: TL2043343447

Reason: General Coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Ploughsoil	Friable mid brown grey clay silt Deposit was 0.27m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Friable mid brown orange silty clay Deposit was 0.17m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Friable mid yellow orange sandy gravel moderate small chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 0.3 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2039243242 Ref. 2: TL2042243284

Reason: General Coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Ploughsoil	Firm dark brown black clay silt frequent small-medium stones Deposit is 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Drain	Linear profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.26m, max depth 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt The deliberate backfill contained modern pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
308	Ditch	Curving linear N-S profile: stepped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.64m, max depth 1.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Fill	Compact dark grey brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones The fill contained roof tile.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
305	Tertiary fill	Firm dark brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Primary fill	Firm dark grey black clay frequent small charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: stepped dimensions: max breadth 4.8m, min depth 1.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	Tertiary fill	Friable dark red brown clay silt occasional small stones The fill contained animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
311	Secondary fill	Firm dark grey brown clay frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	Primary fill	Firm mid grey black clay frequent small charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
316	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.4m Relationship with [319] is unknown.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
314	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
315	Primary fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
319	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: stepped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.73m Relationship with [316] is unknown.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
317	Secondary fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
318	Primary fill	Firm dark grey silty silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
321	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: stepped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 1.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
320	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
322	Layer	Friable light brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones Fill of hollow way, the deposit contained animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
324	Hollow way	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 0.87m, max depth 0.17m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
323	Hollow way	Compact dark red grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
326	Hollow way	Linear NW-SE profile: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.76m, max depth 0.17m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
325	Hollow way	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
327	External surface	Compact dark grey gravel frequent small-medium stones Mettaling in the base of the hollow way.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
328	Hollow way	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.17m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 0.3 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2039243242 Ref. 2: TL2042243284

Reason: General Coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
329	Hollow way	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, max depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
330	Hollow way	Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
331	Hollow way	Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.09m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
332	Hollow way	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
333	Hollow way	Linear NW-SE profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 9.1m General number for hollow way, includes numbers (327) - [332].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
336	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: stepped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.44m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
334	Secondary fill	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small stones The fill contained animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
335	Primary fill	Compact dark grey clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
338	Furrow	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 28.85m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
337	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
339	Natural	Friable mid yellow sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.23 m. Max: 0.34 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2042543115 Ref. 2: TL2043542832

Reason: General coverage

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay loam moderate small-medium stones Deposit is 0.34m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Natural	Loose mid yellow orange silty sand moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Pond	Base: uneven dimensions: min length 8.5m, min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.56m Same as [408].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
407	Fill	Firm mid grey silty clay frequent small stones Deposit is 0.1m thick and is the same as (409).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
408	Pond	Base: uneven dimensions: min length 8.5m, min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.57m Same as [406].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Tertiary fill	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Deposit was 0.26m thick, containing animal bone and a horseshoe (RA 1).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
404	Primary fill	Firm dark brown brown peat frequent small stones Deposit is 0.29m thick and is the same as (405). The deposit contained roof tile and pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
405	Primary fill	Firm dark brown brown peat frequent small stones Deposit is 0.23m thick ,and is the same as (404). The fill contained a small quantity of animal bone. Environmental sample <1>.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
409	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey silty clay frequent small stones Deposit is 0.11m thick and is the same as (407).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
410	Layer	Firm light yellow orange silty clay frequent small stones Deposit is up to 0.18m thick. Possible trample associated with pond [408], based on the tapering profile of the deposit in section.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.51 m. Max: 0.55 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2046143268 Ref. 2: TL2045642970

Reason: General coverage to the east.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Ploughsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Deposit was 0.45m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional medium stones Deposit was 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.61 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2041942687 Ref. 2: TL2043042404

Reason: To investigate possible complex cropmarks.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty clay occasional medium stones Deposit was 0.34m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Natural	Friable mid orange yellow sandy silt occasional medium chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Pit	Sub-circular E-W profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: max diameter 1.55m, max depth 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Primary fill	Friable light grey orange silty sand occasional small-medium stones Fill was 0.21m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Secondary fill	Friable mid grey silty clay occasional small stones Fill was 0.41m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
605	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small stones Deposit is 0.45m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
606	Pond	Profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min length 16.5m, min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.5m This deposit consisted of modern building rubble and plastic. The presence was recorded on site, but none of the material was retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
607	Dump material	Firm dark brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones This deposit contained modern brick fragments and plastic. The presence of these finds was noted, but none were retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
608	Tertiary fill	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones The deposit contained modern brick fragments, pottery and wire.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
609	Secondary fill	Firm mid yellow grey silty sand frequent medium stones The deposit contained animal bone, modern roof tile, pottery and fragments of wire.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
610	Primary fill	Firm dark grey orange sandy silt occasional small stones The deposit contained animal bone and post-medieval roof tile.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 28.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.62 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2045342657 Ref. 2: TL2048342627

Reason: General coverage to the east.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty clay occasional medium stones Deposit was 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Friable mid brown silty clay occasional medium stones Deposit was 0.28m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Natural	Friable mid yellow brown sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2044742255 Ref. 2: TL2043841972

Reason: To investigate possible cropmarks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Ploughsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Depoist was 0.35m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
801	Subsoil	Friable mid grey orange silty clay occasional medium stones The deposit was 0.20m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Natural	Firm light yellow orange clay occasional flecks chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
803	Ditch	Irregular NE-SW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min length 0.44m, min breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.38m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
804	Primary fill	Firm mid blue orange silty clay occasional flecks chalk The deposit contained animal bone, Roman pottery and roof tile.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
805	Secondary fill	Friable mid orange grey silty clay occasional medium stones The deposit contained Roman pottery. Environmental sample <4>.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
806	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 1.3m, max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.29m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
807	Primary fill	Friable light orange brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
808	Secondary fill	Friable light blue brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
809	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max length 0.83m, max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
810	Fill	Friable light grey orange clay silt occasional small stones The deposit contained Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
811	Posthole	Circular E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 0.31m, max breadth 0.2m, max depth 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
812	Fill	Friable mid blue orange silty clay moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
813	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 0.55m, min breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.23m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
814	Fill	Friable mid grey orange silty clay occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
815	Pit	Circular E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 0.6m, max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.23m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
816	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional medium stones The deposit contained animal bone and Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
817	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.79m, max depth 0.39m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
818	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand moderate flecks chalk, frequent small stones, moderate medium stones The deposit contained animal bone and burnt flint. Environmental sample <3>.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
819	Pit	Sub-circular E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
820	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones The deposit contained animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
822	Pit	Circular E-W profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max length 1.65m, max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.18m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
823	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty sand frequent small stones The deposit contained animal bone and Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
824	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min length 1.12m, min breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.3m ditch terminus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2044742255 Ref. 2: TL2043841972

Reason: To investigate possible cropmarks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
825	Primary fill	Friable mid blue brown silty sand occasional medium stones The deposit contained Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
826	Main fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
827	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.31m, max depth 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
828	Fill	Friable mid blue brown silty sand occasional small chalk, occasional medium sand, moderate small stones The deposit contained animal bone and Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
829	Pit	Circular E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 1.1m, max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.17m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
821	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small stones The deposit contained animal bone, roof tile and Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
830	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: min breadth 0.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
831	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy clay moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
832	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 3.4m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
833	Fill	Firm dark brown black silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.5 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2049642373 Ref. 2: TL2049642373

Reason: To investigate possible cropmarks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Ploughsoil	Firm dark brown grey sandy clay occasional small-medium stones Deposit is 0.33m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay occasional small-medium stones Deposit is 0.12m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
902	Natural	Friable light grey yellow sandy clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
903	Natural	Loose mid orange brown sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
904	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.4m, min depth 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
905	Primary fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy clay moderate small-medium stones Fill is similar to (906). The deposit contained animal bone, roof tile or brick and a large quantity of Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
906	Primary fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy clay moderate small-medium stones Fill is similar to (905). The deposit contained animal bone, roof tile and Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
907	Secondary fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy clay moderate small-medium stones The deposit contained animal bone and a large quantity of Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
908	Tertiary fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy clay occasional small-medium stones The deposit contained animal bone, burnt flint and Roman pottery. Environmental sample <2>.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
909	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 2.65m, max depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
910	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy clay moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
911	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.96m, max depth 0.44m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
912	Lower fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
916	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay moderate small stones, occasional medium stones The deposit contained animal bone and a large quantity of Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
913	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.52m, max depth 0.16m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
914	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional medium stones The deposit contained animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
915	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: min breadth 0.75m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
919	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
917	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.88m, max depth 0.29m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
918	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey silty clay moderate small stones, occasional large stones The deposit contained animal bone and Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.55 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2046742275 Ref. 2: TL2048042006

Reason: To investigate possible cropmarks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	Ploughsoil	Firm dark blue brown sandy clay occasional small-medium stones The deposit was up to 0.31m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1001	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional medium stones The deposit was up to 0.19m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1002	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: stepped dimensions: max breadth 1.41m, min depth 0.31m base unknown as partially excavated due to end of trench	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1003	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay frequent flecks chalk, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones The deposit contained Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1004	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 3.27m, min depth 0.32m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1005	Main fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy clay frequent flecks chalk, occasional small charcoal, frequent small-large stones The deposit contained animal bone, roof tile and Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1006	Primary fill	Firm light brown grey clay frequent medium stones The deposit contained Roman pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1007	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.52m, max depth 0.26m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1008	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy clay occasional small charcoal, frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1009	Ditch	Linear E-W profile: stepped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.61m, max depth 0.58m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1010	Fill	Firm mid blue grey clay moderate small stones The deposit contained animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1011	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.73m, max depth 0.31m ditch terminus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1012	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1013	Quarry	Profile: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 4.3m, max depth 0.56m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1014	Refuse deposit	Loose mid grey brown silty clay frequent medium stones The deposit contained animal bone, roofing slate, bottle glass and modern pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1015	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1016	Natural	Loose mid yellow orange sandy gravel occasional small manganese staining	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



FIGURES

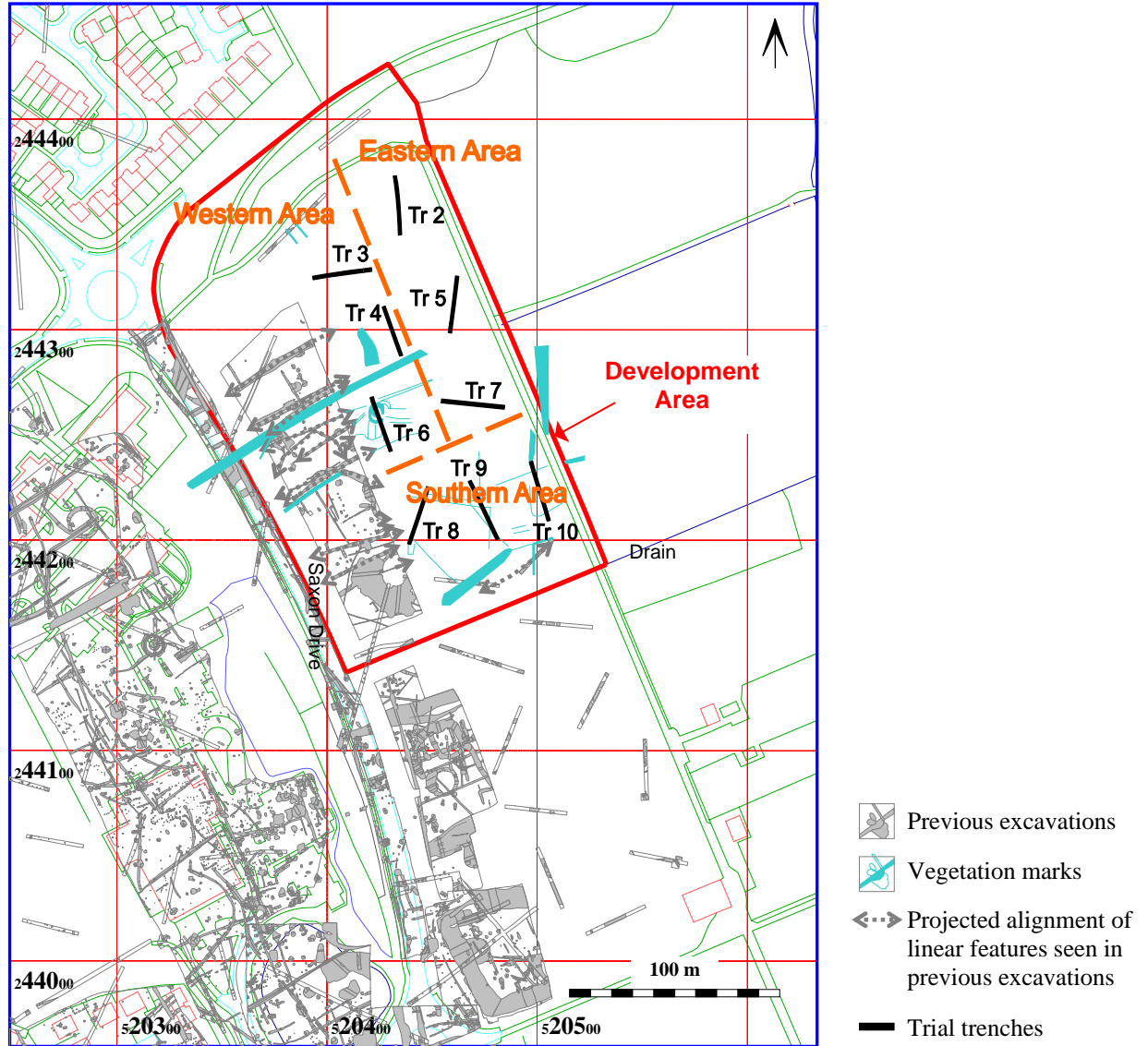
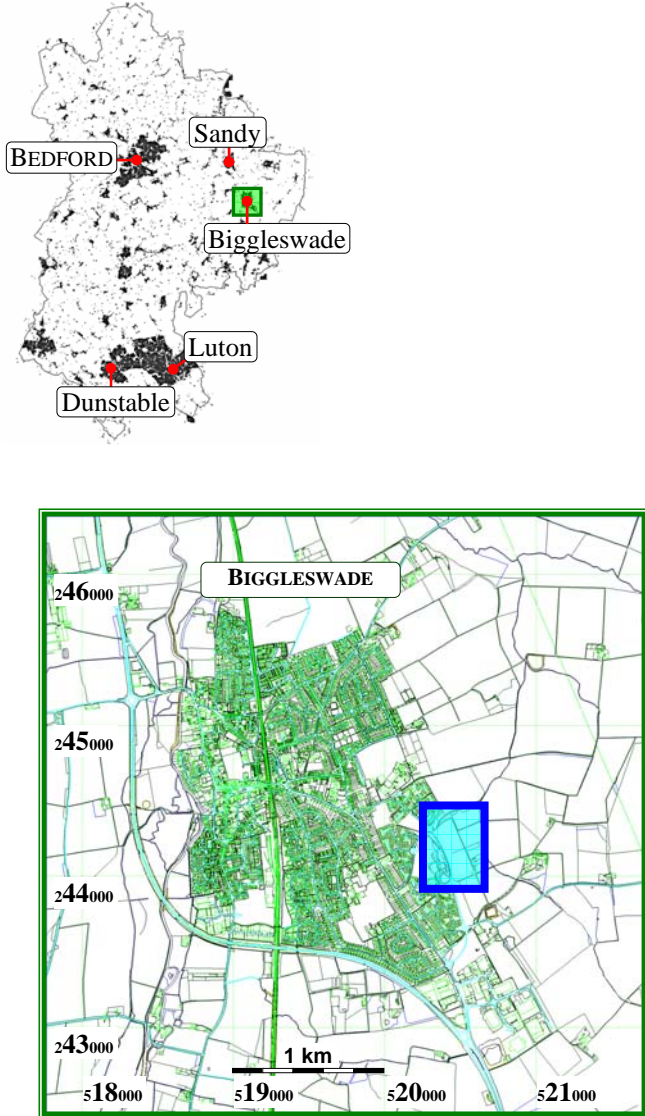


Figure 1: Site location map

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358. © Crown Copyright.

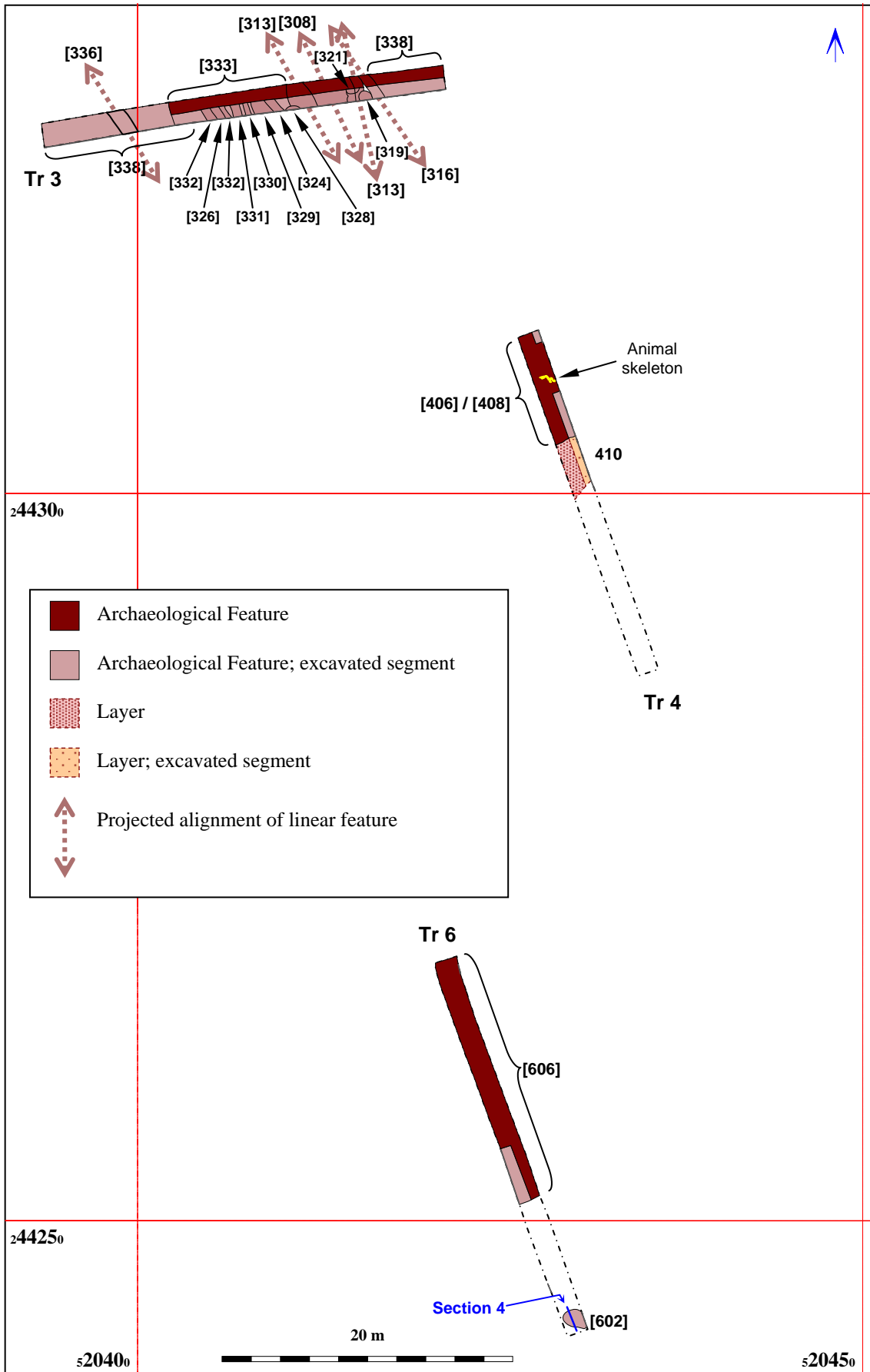


Figure 2: Western Area

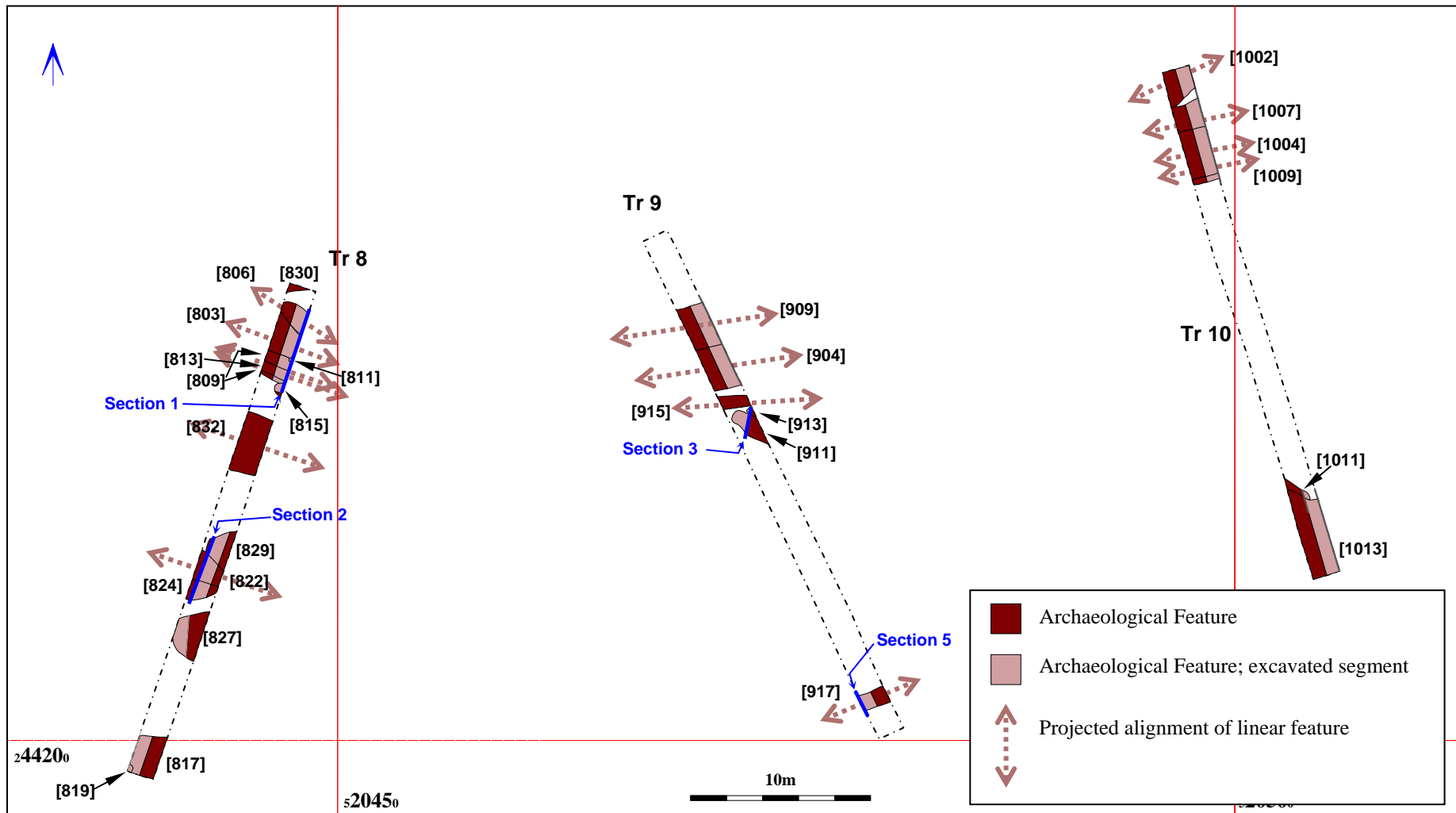


Figure 3: Southern Area

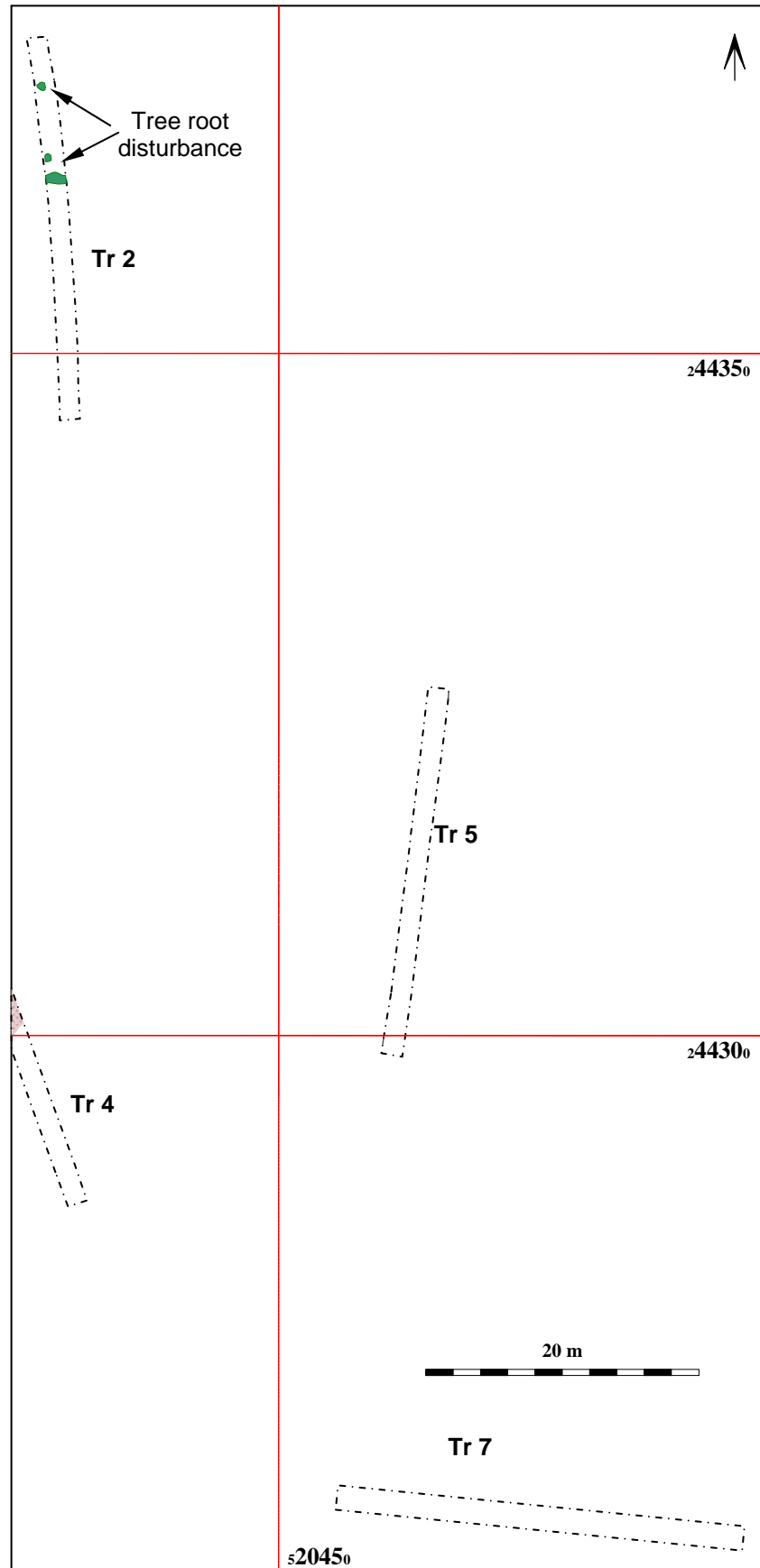


Figure 4: Eastern Area

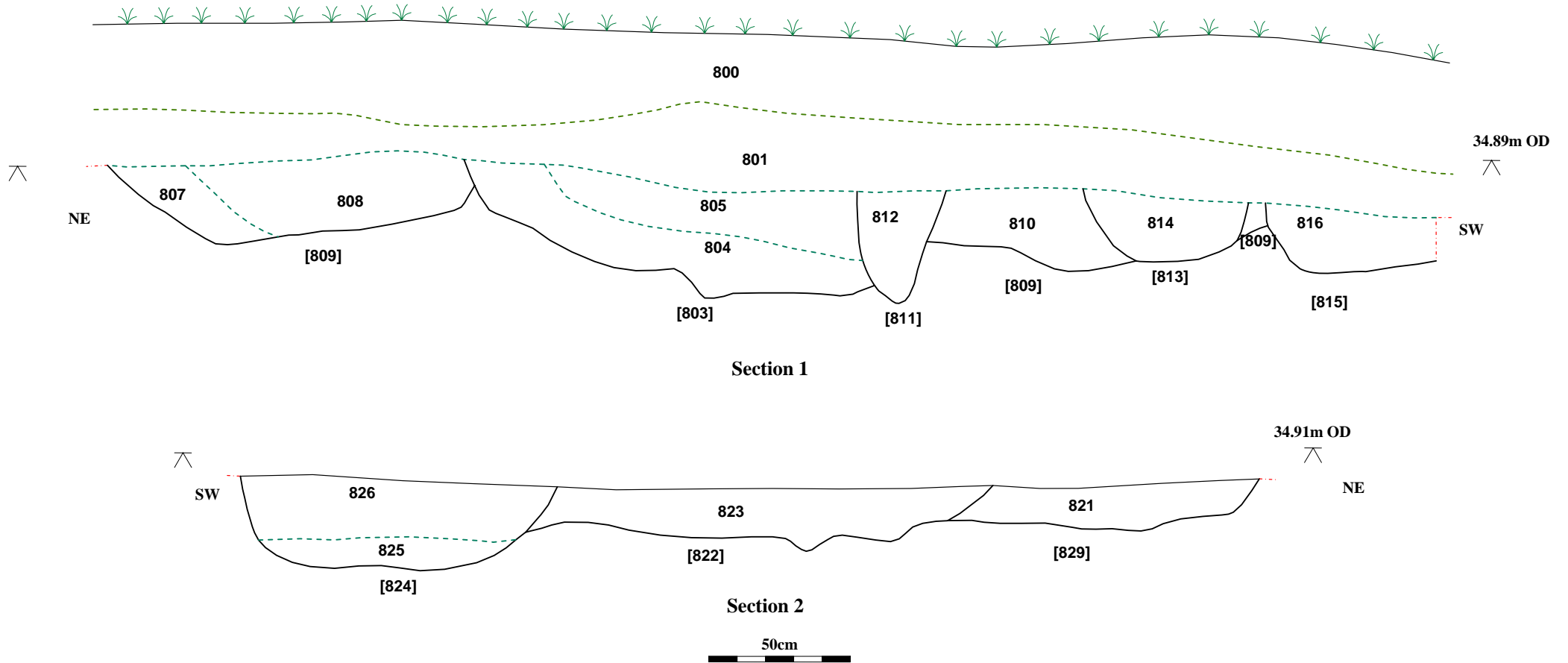


Figure 5: Selected sections

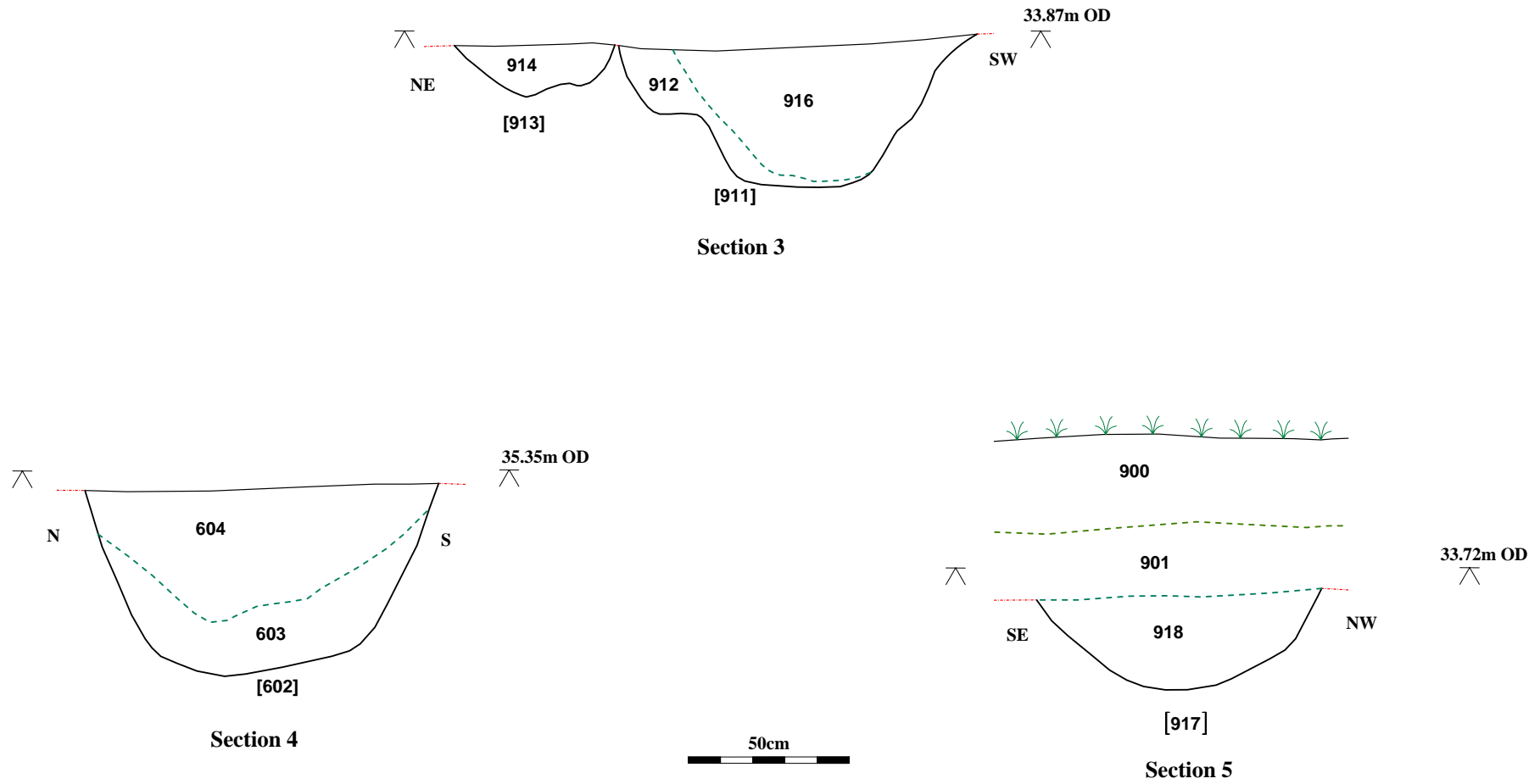


Figure 6: Selected sections



Photograph 1: Ditch [336]; Scale 1 metre in 0.5m divisions



Photograph 2: Hollow way [333]; Scale 1 metre in 0.5m divisions

Figure 7: Selected photographs; Western Area



Photograph 3: Ditch [1009]; Scale 1 metre in 0.5m divisions



Photograph 4: Quarry pit [1013]; Scale 1 metre in 0.5m divisions

Figure 8: Selected photographs; Southern Area