

**LAND AT 13-21 OLNEY ROAD, LAVENDON,  
MILTON KEYNES**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELD EVALUATION**

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Produced for:  
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## ***Contents***

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<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Structure of the Report</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Key Terms</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Non-Technical Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Background	7
1.2 Site Location and Description	7
1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background	8
1.4 Standing Buildings	8
<b>2. RESULTS OF THE TRIAL EXCAVATION</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Methodology	9
2.3 Results of the Trial Excavation	9
<b>3. CONCLUSION</b>	<b>17</b>
3.1 Overview	17
<b>4. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3</b>	<b>28</b>



## **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: Detail of site from 1882 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 3: Photographic comparison of old and recent views of the street frontage

Figure 4: Photographs 1 and 2 Standing structures eastern and western elevations

Figure 5: All features plan

Figure 6: Photographs 3 and 4 Western Area; northern cottage

Figure 7: Selected sections 1 and 2 (A and B)

Figure 8: Photographs 5 and 6 Western Area; northern cottage associated features

Figure 9: Photographs 7 and 8 Western Area; southern cottage

Figure 10: Photographs 9 and 10; early features

Figure 11: Selected sections 3 and 4

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Trenching Strategy

Appendix 2 Trench Summary

Appendix 3 Finds Summary

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



## 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 thank the staff of Shenley Park Homes Ltd and the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer Mr B Giggins for their assistance. The old photograph of Lavendon is reproduced with kind permission of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.*

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## Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, a summary of the trial excavation results is presented in Section 2, followed by a brief conclusion (Section 3).

## Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>MKAO</i>	Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer
<i>Client</i>	Shenley Park Homes Ltd
<i>SMR</i>	Milton Keynes Sites and Monuments Record
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, 2001</i> Albion Archaeology
<i>The site</i>	<i>Area of archaeological investigation</i>



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Shenley Park Homes Ltd to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a site, situated within the core of the medieval settlement of Lavendon. This investigation was undertaken in order to determine the archaeological potential of the site in advance of development of the former Highways depot. Planning permission has been granted for the application (01/00803/MKCOD3) with a condition for archaeological evaluation, in order to inform possible mitigation.*

*The village of Lavendon is located near the northern edge of the Borough of Milton Keynes, within a valley of a tributary of the River Great Ouse. The site is roughly rectangular in plan measuring approximately 25 metres by 21 metres, fronting the eastern side of Olney Road, centred on National Grid Reference SP (4/2) 9164 5351.*

*Examination of historic maps identified the location of a block of cottages which occupied the site until the 1950s, the site subsequently being used as a council depot for the Highways Department. The historic maps defined the cottages fronting the street, with associated outbuildings to the north and open space behind the buildings to the east. This information was utilised to formulate a trial trenching strategy, which was approved by the Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer prior to the start of the investigation. The evaluation was undertaken between 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004, with a total of three trial trenches being opened. The evaluation revealed that the demolition of the cottages and subsequent creation of the Highways depot had not significantly damaged the archaeological remains.*

*The undisturbed geological stratum, which comprised fragments of horizontally bedded limestone in clay, was only exposed in a small area of the site at a depth of 1.20m below the current ground level. Two undated features were identified below deposits associated with the construction and use of the cottages. An undated boundary ditch, orientated roughly north-south was recut on several occasions. It was only possible to investigate a part of the feature, though it was at least 3.2m wide and 0.8m deep, with evidence for several phases of recutting and modification. The initial ditch in the west was relatively insubstantial, being enlarged when recut, truncating the cornbrash limestone. The full profile of this form of the ditch was not revealed, though evidence from the fills indicates that limestone fragments eroded from an associated bank to the west. Subsequently the ditch was recut and lined with clay, allowing water to collect.*

*Further north in the central part of the site, perpendicular pitched limestone footings for walls of a building were identified, sealed beneath a horizontal layer of limestone fragments and crushed lime mortar. This deposit is probably associated with the demolition of the building. Only a small area of the footings could be investigated, though the method of construction and the roughly north-east to south-west alignment, with a perpendicular element to the south-east indicates that this was not associated with the cottages. This would appear to define an earlier though undated phase of occupation of the site. A limestone culvert truncated the associated demolition spread, though again, the contrasting alignment to the cottages may suggest that it was not associated.*



*The construction of the cottages fronting Olney Road resulted in a significant modification to the site. It is possible that at this time the terrace, aligned parallel to Olney Road was created, cutting into the rising ground to the east. The ground appears to have been levelled, truncating the upper fills of the earlier ditch, though having less impact in the area of the wall footings. A series of dumps of material were used to raise and consolidate the ground, particularly in the south and south-western part of the site. Immediately east of the southern cottage a series of construction deposits up to 1m thick were revealed. It was possible to recover the plan of the former block of cottages, with the north-western trench revealing both the gable wall and rear wall to the cottages. The northern building in the block revealed evidence of two rooms with an elongated back room orientated north-south measuring at least 2.5m by 2.3m wide (7½ feet), with another room to the west, separated by a limestone wall. Investigation of the back room in this building revealed an extended structural history with a sequence of two tiled floors, the lower of which was associated with a sub-floor limestone capped drain. To the rear of the cottages the external surfaces associated with the northern and southern cottages contrasted, with pitched limestone fragments in the north, whilst horizontal limestone slabs were replaced by tarmac in the south. To the east of the cottages above the consolidation layers, deposits had been dumped to create a 'garden', with evidence for the digging of a rubbish pit.*

*The cottages had been demolished to the level of the wall footings. Creation of the yard for the Highways depot involved the dumping of a layer at least 0.22m thick above which tarmac was laid. This protected the archaeological remains with only relatively small areas being damaged by the inserting of service pipes. The depot shed which occupied the northern part of the site incorporated the earlier outbuildings depicted on the historic maps. These buildings were enlarged and heightened with contrasting construction materials, in order to serve their new function.*

*The evaluation indicates that the site had been utilised for an extended period of time, with evidence for a substantial boundary ditch and foundations for a building which predated the cottages. The cottages which occupied the site until the 1950s were part of an extensive row of uniform appearance. The features suggest that these were all constructed as a single development in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A significant amount of work was required to modify the area of the current investigation in order to erect these cottages.*

*The site archive, which contains all records of the project (Project number LOR 1044) is currently stored at the offices of Albion Archaeology and will be transferred to Buckinghamshire County Museum on completion of the project - Accession Number 2004.129.*

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



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Background

Albion Archaeology was commissioned Shenley Park Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed site for residential development and associated car parking. The Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer (MKAO) indicated that the site was in an archaeologically sensitive area within the historic core of the village. In late 2001 planning permission was granted for the development (Application No. 01/00803/MKCOD3), with a condition attached for a programme of archaeological investigation. As there was insufficient information available to determine the impact of the development, or to allow an appropriate mitigation strategy to be devised, the initial stage would involve an archaeological evaluation of the site. The MKAO issued a Brief for this work<sup>1</sup>. In response Albion formulated a Method Statement detailing the methodology and associated trenching strategy.

The purpose of the evaluation is to characterise any archaeological remains and establish their extent and condition, so that their importance can be assessed.

### 1.2 Site Location and Description

Situated near the northern edge of the Borough of Milton Keynes, Lavendon is located 3.5 km from the market town of Olney. The village is situated within a valley of a tributary of the River Great Ouse. Situated near the junction of High Street (A428) and Olney Road, near the heart of the village, the roughly rectangular site is centred on National Grid Reference SP (4/2) 9164 5351 (Figure 1). In plan the site measures 25m north-south by 21m, with the western long side fronting Olney Road, bounded by blocks of cottages to the north and south. To the east a tall boundary wall defines a distinct terrace with higher ground beyond. The terrace extends beyond the current site to the north and south.

The site is roughly flat at approximately 64m above Ordnance Datum. This area is recorded as being on the margin of an area of cornbrash limestone, with later alluvial deposits associated with the stream identified in the area to the west. Boulder clay is identified further to the north and east.

The existing site contains a variety of structures located at the margins of the area, with a central tarmac surfaced 'yard'. These structures are constructed of various materials. At present the site is vacant, but previously served as a Highways depot. Traces of insubstantial footings of two buildings were identified. A small concrete hard-standing located in the north-eastern corner of the site, adjacent to the eastern shed. The roughly square area measured 2.4m north-south by 1.8m. The second structure had been keyed into the boundary walls in the south-east corner of the site. Measuring approximately 14m north-south by 3.8m wide, only patches of the unbonded brick floor of this probable outbuilding survived.

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<sup>1</sup> Milton Keynes Borough Council 2003 13-21 Olney Road Lavendon Brief for Archaeological Evaluation



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

Historic maps indicate that this area, which is within the presumed medieval core of the settlement, underwent considerable change, unlike the adjacent areas. The first detailed map dating to 1882 indicates a row of buildings fronting the road with a small passage at the northern edge, which provided access to an open area behind the cottages (Figure 2). An old photograph (Figure 3) indicates that the roadside buildings were of similar form and construction to the adjacent surviving buildings.

In the post-war period the cottages were condemned, being demolished in the 1950s. The area was subsequently utilised for a council Highways depot, with creation of a central tarmac surfaced yard and erection of associated structures.

Immediately prior to the start of the evaluation and in accordance with guidance supplied by Albion and approved by the MKAO, Shenley Park Homes Ltd arranged for a contractor to secure and clear the site of vegetation and extensive dumps of material which had accumulated in recent years.

### **1.4 Standing Buildings**

The northern margin of the site was occupied by two 'sheds' associated with the Highways depot. However, inspection indicated that the fabric of the sheds incorporated earlier limestone structures which had been enlarged and heightened with modern building materials for their new role in the depot. The original limestone structures were 5.2m wide extending from the northern limit of the site. The elevations indicated sloping roofs 2.5m high in the north dropping to 2.1m in the south (Figure 4: photographs 1 and 2). These structures correspond to outbuildings depicted on the 1882 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 2). The original southern extent would have defined a roughly 6 foot wide passageway, allowing access to the rear to the area. The continuation of this row of outbuildings could be detected in the eastern boundary wall of the site. A contrast in the construction of this wall in the south, possibly suggests a blocked access to the area further east.





## **2. RESULTS OF THE TRIAL EXCAVATION**

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### **2.1 Introduction**

The proposed trenching strategy was approved by the MKAO on 14<sup>th</sup> October, prior to the commencement of work. A total of three trenches were defined, utilising the 1882 Ordnance Survey maps to target both the structures and the adjacent open space to the east (see Appendix 1).

The evaluation was undertaken between 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004, during a period of dry, bright weather conditions.

### **2.2 Methodology**

- The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m toothless bucket. The operation of this machine was supervised by an experienced archaeologist.
- The trenches were set out by hand, using the adjacent buildings to locate the trenches.
- Modern 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, commencing with Trench 1.
- All spoil was scanned by eye for artefacts.
- Backfilling of the trenches only occurred after the MKAO and client had been given a report on the results and opportunity to inspect the open trenches.

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 (100) identifies the make-up layer for the recent Highways depot yard in Trench 1, whilst [209] identified the cut for a pit in Trench 2. Details of all contexts are listed in Appendix 2.

### **2.3 Results of the Trial Excavation**

Modern disturbance will be initially summarised, followed by a sequential discussion (latest to earliest) of the archaeological features, commencing with the cottages in the western area (Figure 5).

#### **2.3.1 Modern Disturbance associated with the Highways depot**

Demolition of the cottages and conversion of the site to a Highways depot resulted in limited disturbance to the western area. Following controlled demolition of the cottages make-up deposits were spread across the site in order to raise and level the area (100, 210, 300). This was subsequently tarmaced (117, 200).



Associated with the change in use of the site, two drains were installed as well as a water pipe (red features on Figure 5). Surface water drainage for the yard consisted of a drain [106] near the street frontage, orientated roughly north-south, truncating deposits associated with the northern cottage. Adjacent to the eastern wall of the sheds was an inspection pit with manhole cover.

Two segments of pipe trench [204]/[206] and [320], which contained ceramic brown glaze pipe, were revealed in the central part of the site (Figure 5), though the associated disturbance was minimal. A narrow diameter water pipe [317] would appear to have supplied the sheds. Although causing minimal damage this pipe was left in place limiting investigation of the underlying deposits in the vicinity.

The pit for a wooden telegraph pole disturbed the north-western margin of Trench 1.

### 2.3.2 Western Area

Both Trenches 1 and 2 revealed remnants of the former cottages, comprising limestone walls and associated internal and external surfaces (Figure 5). The two trenches will be discussed separately as contrasting structural histories were revealed in the northern and southern cottages.

#### 2.3.2.1 Northern cottage (Trench 1)

The main features of this trench are the remnants of the footings of three limestone walls, with (108) and (118) defining the gable and rear walls of the building, whilst (102) defined an internal partition (Figure 5). The walls are associated with two separate phases of tiled flooring, the lower of which overlies a drain parallel to wall (108). The area to the east beyond the building consisted of a rough limestone yard surface (109).

##### 2.3.2.1.1 Walls (102), (108) and (118)

Wall (102) is aligned roughly north-south, at least 1.6m long by 0.4m wide (1 foot 4 inches), composed of horizontally laid slabs of limestone between 0.30m-0.46m long by 0.15-0.40m wide and an average of 0.10m thick, bonded by a sandy mortar. There was no evidence for a rubble core. The well defined wall was bounded by two internal surfaces (101) to the west and (103) to the east (Figure 5). In contrast the perpendicular external walls (108) and (118) were wider at 0.6m, containing larger limestone slabs, up to 0.52m by 0.4m, generally bonded with brown clay. The rear wall (108) was traced for over 4m north-south. The two parallel north-south aligned walls (102) and (108) defined a narrow back room 2.3m wide (approximately 7½ feet).

All of the walls had been carefully robbed to the level of the upper tiled surface (101), (103), without significant disturbance to this horizon (Figure 6: photograph 3).



#### 2.3.2.1.2 Upper tiled surface (101), (103)

The flooring (103) within the back room was composed of three sizes of floor tiles, ranging from square types 0.21m (8¼ inch) and 0.16m (6¼ inch) across to rectangular tiles approximately 0.22m long by 0.10m (8½ by 4 inches). Three rows of the larger square tiles defined the northern limit of the floor. South of this the tile pattern consisted of alternate blocks of smaller square and rectangular tiles (Figure 6: photograph 3). There was little obvious wear to this surface and no associated occupation horizons survived. This surface had been disturbed by modern drain [106].

The small area of tiles (101) in the north-west corner of the trench (Figure 5) indicates that the western (front) room had a similar type of floor at a similar height to that of the back room. This area had been badly disturbed by insertion of a telegraph pole.

In order to investigate this area of the building a section was excavated through the upper surface (103).

#### 2.3.2.1.3 Bedding layer (104)

The tiles of (103) were laid on onto a yellowish brown clay 0.07m thick (Figure 6: photograph 4). To the southern margin of the excavated section the clay was approximately 0.05m thick, with a deposit of granular lime mortar directly beneath the upper tiles (103). No artefacts were recovered from this layer, which directly overlay the lower tiled surface (see section 2.3.2.1.4 below).

#### 2.3.2.1.4 Lower tiled surface (105)

An area measuring approximately 1.6m by 1m of the lower tiles floor (105) was exposed (Figure 5 and Figure 6: photograph 4). This floor contrasted with the upper tiled surface in that it showed evidence of wear, with traces of lime mortar adhering to the upper surface of the tiles (Figure 6: photograph 4). The surface was undulating with a distinct linear depression parallel to the rear wall (108). The rectangular tiles 0.22m long by 0.10m wide by 0.03m thick (8½ by 4 by 1¼ inches) were laid onto make-up layers (115/116). The tiles were aligned east-west in a staggered bond, across the width of the rear room. A distinct break in this pattern was visible as a band extending up to 0.5m from the inner face of the rear wall (108). In this area the arrangement of the bonding was slightly more irregular, though with a distinct western limit which coincided with an area of settling of the tiles (Figure 6: photograph 4). A section of tiles in this area was removed in order to investigate the cause of this settling.

#### 2.3.2.1.5 Drain [112] and associated deposit (113)

Removal of a section of the lower tiled surface (105) revealed a silty clay (115) generally 0.08m thick. This deposit covered the limestone capping (113) of a drain of V-shaped profile, 0.13m wide and 0.08m deep (Figure 7: section 1 and Figure 8: photograph 5). This was aligned parallel to the rear wall (108) of the cottage.

#### 2.3.2.1.6 Associated activity

To the east of the rear wall of the cottage was an external surface (109), consisting of small to medium sized fragments of slabby limestone in a red



brown silty clay matrix (Figure 8: photograph 6). This had been truncated by a shallow ditch/gully [110] 0.7m (2 foot 4 inches) from and parallel to the rear wall of the cottage (Figure 5). In section the feature had an asymmetrical profile 0.32m across and 0.1m deep, filled with mid greyish brown silty clay. Modern artefacts, including two undiagnostic pottery sherds (10g), roof tile fragments (19g), window glass (1g) and animal bone (3g), were recovered from the feature.

### 2.3.2.2 *Southern cottage (Trench 2)*

The structural remains were confined to the western end of the trench, where the rear of the cottage was exposed (Figure 5). The rear wall (219) had been robbed to the level of tiled surface (220).

#### 2.3.2.2.1 Limestone wall (219) and tiled surface (220)

The wall was similar in construction to (108) to the north, though at approximately 0.3m wide, this was significantly narrower than the northern continuation. The reason for this contrast is uncertain. In the south of the trench the wall thickened to 0.5m, possibly defining the location of a threshold for a doorway (Figure 9: photograph 7). To the west, part of an internal tiled surface (220) approximately 0.8m wide was revealed. This consisted of rectangular red tiles 0.22m long by 0.10m wide (8½ by 4 inches), with the long axis aligned parallel to the rear wall of the cottage. These tiles were arranged in a staggered pattern. This surface showed little evidence of wear or post-demolition disturbance.

#### 2.3.2.2.2 External surface

Associated with the cottage were traces of sequential external surfaces extending a short distance east of the cottage (Figure 7: section 2A).

#### **Tarmac (211)**

The upper surface consisted of a thin tarmac deposit up to 0.07m thick. The insubstantial, undulating nature of this deposit suggests that this was associated with the cottages rather than the Highways depot. The absence of a firm basal layer for the deposit resulted in settling, creating the uneven surface.

#### **Limestone slabs (212)**

Immediately below (211) was a second surface composed of horizontally laid limestone slabs (212). Individual slabs were up to 0.34m across. Traces of this surface were identified between 0.8 and 1.45m from the external face of the rear wall of the cottage, approximately 0.30m below the present ground level. These rested on the top of a series of distinctive deposits discussed below (see section 2.3.2.2.3).

#### 2.3.2.2.3 Dumped deposits (213-218 and 223)

Trench 2 revealed a sequence of dumps of material associated with the construction of the cottage, extending approximately 2.7m east of the rear wall, having a combined thickness of approximately 1m (Figure 5, Figure 7: section 2A and Figure 9: photographs 7 and 8).



The basal deposit (223) was extensive, extending at least 2.8m east-west, composed of sub-angular to rounded small and medium stones in a dark blue grey matrix. In section the layer was up to 0.4m thick (Figure 7: section 2A) fading out to the east. This deposit was 1m below the present ground level, directly above earlier features. This suggests that extensive terracing of the area, which removed the upper part of the natural soil profile was associated with construction of the cottages. This event is identified by cut [224] (Figure 7: section 2).

Subsequently a series of generally yellowish brown deposits were dumped in the western part of the trench, associated with the construction of the cottages (Figure 9: photograph 8). The eastern extent of this deposit was characterised by a series of larger stones. This differentiated the limit of the area of consolidation dumps from the 'garden' soil in the area to the east.

Some of the western dumps may be derived from the different phases of construction of the cottage. Based on the pattern of deposits (Figure 7: section 2A and Figure 9: photograph 8) it is possible to interpret the formation in terms of modern construction practice. The earliest deposit in the sequence (218) is a mound of mixed debris in the east, which probably accumulated during the early phase of construction. This would have been located away from the walls so as not to hinder construction, and access to any external scaffolding. After completion of the exterior wall, any scaffold would be removed, leaving a space between the rubble dump (218) and the rear wall. The next phase of dumping could be derived from work within the cottage, being derived from activities such as walling; wall plastering and rendering. This may account for the series of thinner layers (210-217) filling the void between that and the rear wall (Figure 7: section 2A). Layers (210) and (216) respectively contained a late medieval/early post-medieval pottery jar rim (17g), and two fragments of post-medieval vessel glass (24g). These dumps would assist in consolidating the ground for the external surfaces associated with the cottage.

### 2.3.3 Eastern Area

#### 2.3.3.1 Garden deposits and associated activity

The eastern part of the trench contained two horizontal deposits which contrasted with the material described in section 2.3.2.2.3 above. The lower mid grey brown silty clay (222)/(302) was at least 3m long and up to 0.2m thick, with the western part overlying the distinctive stony layer (223). This relationship indicated that the material in this part of the site was also dumped. The upper darker 'topsoil' horizon (221)/(301) consisted of a dark grey brown silty clay. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery (32g) and three modern sherds (12g) were recovered from (221). The layer also contained a modern iron horseshoe and two pieces (107g) of land drain.

#### **Rubbish pit**

The small sub-circular pit [209] was approximately 0.7m across and 0.25m deep with a concave profile. The pit contained a variety of materials including rakings



from a fire and fragments of window glass (the presence of the glass was noted but none was retained).

### 2.3.3.2 *Earlier features*

#### 2.3.3.2.1 Trench 2 Recut ditch

Removal of deposit (223) in the central area of Trench 2 revealed a series of bands of material rather than the anticipated cornbrash limestone geological stratum. Investigation was confined to the centre of the trench, revealing a sequence of ditches orientated roughly north-south (Figure 5). Despite careful hand excavation and the sampling of deposits with potential to contain datable artefacts, none were recovered. Although investigation was limited due to the depth, it was possible to identify at least four phases of activity (Figure 7: section 2B and Figure 10: photograph 9) which will be summarised from earliest to latest.

The earliest form of the ditch [225] was located in the west. Only the basal part of the ditch survived, having a roughly V-shaped profile at least 0.5m wide and at least 0.65m deep. Most of the surviving part of the ditch was cut into the horizontally bedded limestone of the cornbrash, the angled stoned within the mixed reddish brown silty clay fill assisting in defining the feature.

Only part of the western edge of the intermediate form of the ditch [227], was exposed. This indicated that the feature was considerably more substantial being at least 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep, continuing below the limit of investigation (Figure 10: photograph 9). The segment of ditch investigated contained three fills, which were generally yellowish brown in colour, containing variable amounts of limestone inclusions. Fill (230) consisted of a band of tightly packed slabby limestone fragments which sloped down the western side of the feature. This would appear to have been material derived from erosion of an adjacent bank to the west. The material being upcast, derived from material excavated from the lower part of the ditch profile.

Recut [231] had a steep profile which appears to have truncated the stony fill (230). This recut appears to have significantly altered the form of the ditch, being apparently narrower and shallower. However, the most significant difference was the associated compact yellow clay fill (232), which was up to 0.25m thick. This clay would appear to have been a deliberate dump of material in order to line the ditch, allowing it to hold water.

The final form of the ditch [233] had a distinctive faceted form at least 1.8m wide by 0.7m deep. This can be clearly seen in Figure 10: photograph 9, where it truncates the upper horizon of the yellow clay (232) of the previous form of the ditch. This indicates that the recut penetrated the clay lining. The reddish brown silty clay fill (234) became greyer with depth, with evidence for horizontal lamination of the deposit in the lower part of the cut. This suggests that the material, particularly the lower part



accumulated gradually in a water filled feature. Sampling was concentrated on this deposit <1>, with only a very small fragment of glass (less than 4mm across) and two flecks of ceramic building material of similar size being recovered. As roots were noted in this deposit, it is likely that given the small size of these fragments, the material is likely to be intrusive.

The instability of the trench sections and the possibility that further intrusion could destabilise the ground meant that a full profile of these features could not be established. However, the information recovered indicates a sequence of ditches moving from west to east, with the total combined width measuring at least 3m wide.

#### 2.3.3.2.2 Trench 3 culvert and wall footings

The sequential features were identified in the north-eastern part of the trench (Figure 5).

##### **Drain [306] and pit [323]**

Aligned roughly north-east to south-west, the drain was at least 1.4m long and 0.24m wide, with vertically set limestone slabs (307) defining the edges of the feature. It is probable that originally the upright limestone slabs would have supported a limestone capping. An excavated section indicated that the feature was up to 0.15m deep, filled by greenish brown silty clay (308). No dating evidence was recovered from the fill, though the alignment, which contrasted with the adjacent cottages, may suggest an earlier phase of activity.

An oval pit [323] was located at the southern limit of the culvert, measuring approximately 1m north-east to south-west by 0.9m. The pit contained fragments of ceramic building material. It is possible that this acted as a soakaway for the culvert.

##### **Limestone wall footings and associated layer**

In the north of the trench a band of white material containing small limestone fragments (309/310/311) was initially thought to be the geological stratum, which had been truncated by culvert [306]. However, further investigation in the area to the south-west revealed this to be a roughly horizontal band of material between 0.11 and 0.28m thick. This deposit overlay two features containing large quantities of pitched limestone fragments, set in a mid reddish brown sandy clay (Figure 10: photograph 10 and Figure 11: sections 3 and 4). The roughly north-west to south-east feature [312] was 1.1m wide and 0.42m deep, with the pitched limestone concentrated in the northern 0.75m of the feature. The investigation revealed another deposit to the north (314), though it was not clear if this was the fill of an earlier feature or a variation in the geological stratum. The northern section of the deeper excavation contained another concentration of pitched limestone fragments (316) (Figure 11: section 3), the associated cut being approximately 1.2m wide [315]. The general alignment of the stones would suggest a north-east to south-west alignment for the feature.



This would suggest that [312] and [315] were perpendicular pitched limestone footings for a substantial building, which had an alignment that contrasted with the cottages to the west. The layer which sealed these features is tentatively interpreted as a demolition spread composed of limestone fragments and lime mortar, derived from demolition of the walls of the building. The horizontal nature of this deposit suggests that it was used as a surface.





### 3. CONCLUSION

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#### 3.1 Overview

The evaluation has revealed a complex, though poorly dated sequence of activity. The early phases of use of the site are tantalising, though undated. There is evidence for the establishment and recutting of a substantial boundary ditch, apparently aligned north–south. At least one form of these ditches was associated with a bank to the west, whilst a later form appears to have been deliberately lined with clay, presumably to allow it to retain water. This feature is not shown on any historic maps.

The other early feature on the site consisted of segments of pitched limestone fragment, set in trenches. These would appear to have been the footings for a previously unrecorded building, with an alignment that contrasted with the recorded buildings on the site. This building appears to have been of stone; the only trace of which is inferred by a horizontal demolition deposit. This deposit was initially mistaken for cornbrash, though it actually sealed the wall footings.

It would appear that the current form of the site, which is basically an extensive terrace parallel to Olney Road, was associated with the construction of the cottages. These cottages which occupied the site until the 1950s, were part of an extensive row of uniform appearance. The features suggest that these were all constructed as a single development in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. As part of the construction activity, the site appears to have been levelled, exposing the fills of the sequential ditches. Material was then deposited in order to consolidate the ground in this area, prior to erection of the cottages. These were located adjacent to the street frontage, avoiding the sequential ditches, which are situated to the rear of the buildings.

The investigation revealed evidence for modification to both the cottages and the area to the rear. The associated outbuildings situated at the northern margin of the site on the 1882 Ordnance Survey map were found to survive, being modified for a new purpose when the cottages were demolished and the site used as a Highways depot. However, there was no evidence for the north-south path depicted on the 1828 map, though evidence of pitting in this area was revealed.

Demolition of the cottages appears to have been controlled with the floor plan of the buildings surviving. When the site was converted to the Highways depot, most of the central area became a yard, construction of which involved raising the level of the ground with a series of dumps of material, which generally protected the underlying deposits. The evaluation suggests that most of the disturbance associated with the Highways depot was caused by the insertion of services, especially drains.

The investigation indicates that the ground level, particularly in the vicinity of the street frontage, had been raised by up to 0.8m in the post-medieval period. This activity was almost certainly associated with erection of the cottages in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The current development plans for the site involve erection of dwellings in the area adjacent to the street frontage, in the vicinity of the former cottages.





## 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## APPENDIX 1

### TRENCH STRATEGY

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Length (metres)</b>	<b>Objective</b>
<b>1</b>	6	To investigate former street frontage buildings
<b>2</b>	10	To investigate southern margin of site
<b>3</b>	10	To investigate open interior of site, as shown on historic maps



## **APPENDIX 2**

### **TRENCH SUMMARY**

**Trench: 1****Max Dimensions: Length: 6.70 m. Width: 1.85 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.14 m. Max: 0.22 m.****OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9163653516 Ref. 2: SP9163825350****Reason: To investigate former street frontage buildings**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
100	Make up layer	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay frequent small-large ceramic building material, frequent small-large stones Maximum thickness 0.22m. This would have originally been sealed by tarmac (117).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Floor	Internal floor composed of ceramic tiles with maximum dimensions 0.16m x 0.16m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Wall	Composed of limestone slabs with maximum dimensions of 0.50m x 0.15m x 0.10m. Bonded by yellow brown sandy mortar. Bounded by internal surfaces (103) and (105). An internal wall orientated roughly north-south parallel to external wall (108). The wall was at least 1.6m long by 0.4m wide.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Floor	Internal floor composed of tiles of several sizes, both square and rectangular, with the maximum size being 0.21m x 0.21m. Upper floor of back room.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Make up layer	Compact mid yellow brown silty clay Maximum thickness 0.07m. Separated upper and lower floors (103) and (105). Bedding layer for upper tiled floor (105).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Floor	Internal floor composed of rectangular tiles with maximum dimensions of 0.22m x 0.10m. Lower floor in back room.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Drain	<b>Surface water drainage pipe with associated hopper. The drain was orientated roughly north-south. This was associated with yard area of Highways depot.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Backfill	Mixture of concrete capping and building debris.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Wall	Brown clay frequent medium stones, moderate large stones Composed of limestone slabs with maximum dimensions of 0.50m x 0.40m x 0.10m, bonded by brown clay. The rear wall of the northern cottage. This had been robbed to the level of the wall footing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	External surface	Compact mid red brown frequent small-medium stones An external yard surface to the rear of the northern cottage. This was composed of small subangular limestone fragments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Ditch	<b>Linear NNE-SSW dimensions: max breadth 0.32m, max depth 0.1m, max length 1.2m Truncates external surface (109).</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Maximum thickness 0.10m. The deposit contained small quantities of pottery, roof tile, window glass and animal bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
112	Drain	<b>Linear N-S profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.13m, max depth 0.08m, max length 0.32m Sealed below lower surface (105) parallel to inner face of rear cottage wall (108).</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Lining	Composed of limestone slabs which form the capping to the drain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay Maximum thickness 0.08m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Make up layer	Friable mid brown silty clay Maximum thickness 0.08m. Levelling layer directly above drain [112].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Make up layer	Friable mid brown silty clay Maximum thickness 0.08m. This appears to have been a levelling layer for the lower tiles floor (105). This deposit was similar to (115), though this material is situated beyond the drain in the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Tarmac	Maximum thickness 0.12m. The tarmac surface in this area was removed prior to the start of the evaluation, as part of ground clearance - tree roots had broken the surface. This would have been above (100).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Wall	Composed of limestone, bonded with yellowish brown clay. This defines the northern gable wall of the block of cottages, orientated roughly east-west, with internal surfaces to the south and the limestone passage (119) to the north.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	External surface	Composed of limestone slabs with maximum dimensions of 0.24m x 0.12m x 0.03m. This defines the passage at the northern end of the row of cottages.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.26 m. Max: 0.42 m.**

**OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9163353502 Ref. 2: SP9164353499**

**Reason: To investigate southern margin of site**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	External surface	Black frequent small stones Tarmac surface for Highways depot, maximum thickness 0.12m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Service Trench	Maximum thickness 0.76m. Truncates backfill of old service trench [206].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay moderate small stones Upper fill of modern service trench Maximum thickness 0.32m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Pipe	Ceramic glazed service pipe 0.16m in diameter.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Levelling layer for service pipe (202). Maximum thickness 0.22m in east, thinning to west .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Service Trench	Truncated earlier form of service trench, comprising eastern side and base, remainder lost to later feature on similar alignment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Backfill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay frequent medium ceramic building material Concentration of rubble in upper eastern part of the deposit. Backfill of old service trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Pit	<b>Sub-circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, max depth 0.5m, min length 0.45m Rubbish pit dug in the 'garden' area to the rear to the cottage. The relationship with a component of topsoil (221) may not be reliable, as the thin band of topsoil sealing the upper pit fill may be redeposited. It is likely that the pit truncated this deposit.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Upper fill	Loose red brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Upper pit fill up to 0.28m thick. The deposit contained frequent fragments of modern window glass. The presence of the glass was recorded, though no fragments were retained. The deposit also contained rakings from a fire.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Lower fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Maximum thickness 0.28m. The deposit was mixed varying in colour from grey to yellow brown. Fragments of window glass were noted in this deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Dump material	Firm mid yellow grey silty sand frequent small stones The deposit was located to the rear of the cottage, extending at least 2.6m east-west by 0.12m thick. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
211	External surface	Compact black frequent small stones Situated to the rear of the cottage, the deposit was least 1.45m long east-west by 0.07m thick. This is a tarmac surface associated with the cottage. Replacement for limestone surface (212) below.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	External surface	Occasional large stones A series of horizontal limestone slabs up to 0.34m long and generally c.0.04-0.06m thick. An external surface situated to the rear of the cottage.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Make up layer	Firm yellow brown clay silt frequent small stones One of a series of make-up layers situated immediately east of the cottage. The deposit is thicker in the west at 0.09m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Make up layer	Loose dark blue grey clay sand frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small stones The deposit is roughly horizontal up to 0.06m thick. This material is probably associated with construction of the cottage situated immediately to the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	Make up layer	Friable mid yellow brown clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones Roughly horizontal deposit at least 1.45m long and up to 0.12m thick situated immediately to the east of the cottage. Although fragments of ceramic building material (Post-medieval to modern brick / tile were noted) none were retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, moderate flecks chalk, moderate small stones The deposit was roughly horizontal at least 0.6m long and up to 0.29m thick, situated immediately east of the cottage. A number of fragments of possible bottle glass were recovered from this deposit. One of a series of deposits in this area which raised the level of the ground to the rear of the cottage.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
217	Make up layer	Firm light yellow brown clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium sand The roughly horizontal deposit extended c.0.6m east of the rear wall of the cottage, being up to 0.13m thick. An early deposit in the sequence of make-up layers in this area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 2****Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.26 m. Max: 0.42 m.****OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9163353502 Ref. 2: SP9164353499****Reason: To investigate southern margin of site**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
218	Make up layer	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones distinctive deposit situated to the east of the rear wall of the cottage. In section the deposit was up to 2.1m long, being a maximum 0.6m thick in the east, whilst tapering rapidly to the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
219	Wall	Frequent medium-large stones A well defined roughly linear band of limestone at least 1.6m long, orientated roughly north-south, the width ranging from 0.3m wide in the north, to 0.5m in the south, marked by an angular bulge. The wall is composed of two rows of limestone slabs arranged to form a straight face, there was no evidence for either a rubble core or bonding material. This is the rear wall of the southern cottages, associated with internal floor (220) to the west.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
220	Floor	Frequent large ceramic building material An internal surface composed of rectangular tiles measuring 0.22m by 0.10m by 0.03m thick. The tiles were arranged in a staggered pattern with the long axis parallel to the rear wall of the cottage (219).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
221	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small sand An extensive deposit at least 4.8m long situated in the east of the trench. The deposit was generally 0.22m thick. A horseshoe and fragments of pottery were recovered. This the upper part of a dumped soil profile to create a 'garden' area to the rear of the cottage.  The recorded relationship with pit [209] may not be reliable, as the thin band of topsoil sealing the upper pit fill may be redeposited. It is likely that the pit truncated this deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
222	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay silt frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones A dumped deposit associated with the creation of a 'garden' area to the rear of the cottages. The roughly horizontal deposit was up to 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
223	Make up layer	Loose grey silty clay frequent small-medium stones An extensive layer at least 5.8m long and up to 0.4m thick. The deposit mainly consists of small gravel in a compact grey silty clay matrix. As this deposit contrasts with the adjacent material it would appear to have been deliberately brought to the site.  This deposit appears to be the basal consolidation layer associated with the construction in the post-medieval cottages.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
224	Feature	<b>Linear N-S profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.6m, min depth 0.6m, min length 11.m This is a tentative identification of terracing of the area prior to construction of the cottages and associated 'garden' to the east. The basal layer in the cut being the consolidation gravel horizon (223). All of the earlier features below this level had a horizontal upper horizon indicative of truncation.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
225	Ditch	<b>Linear N-S base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.65m, min length 1.6m Earliest form of recut ditch, only base and lower part of western edge survives.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
226	Fill	Red brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones The deposit is up to 0.65m thick, containing lenses of blue clay and abundant slabbly limestone fragments. The slabs are orientated parallel to the sides of the cut. The truncated basal fill of the ditch, probably naturally accumulated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
227	Ditch	<b>Linear N-S profile: stepped Feature continued below limit of excavation. Only the upper western edge survives truncation. Intermediate recut of ditch.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
228	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay frequent medium-large stones Situated on west edge of ditch 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
229	Fill	Firm light yellow brown silty clay frequent small stones Weathering down west side of ditch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
230	Fill	Compact light yellow brown silty clay frequent medium-large stones Flat limestone fragments angled towards base of ditch. Appear to have derived from bank to the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.26 m. Max: 0.42 m.**

**OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9163353502 Ref. 2: SP9164353499**

**Reason: To investigate southern margin of site**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
231	Ditch	<b>Linear N-S profile: convex dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, min length 1.6m</b> Western edge of recut ditch. Cuts through angled limestone fragments(230) in earlier ditch. An intermediate form of the ditch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
232	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay Fill of western side of recut ditch, very sterile with no inclusions. The deposit was at least 0.2m thick forming a lining against the upper western edge of the ditch, contrasting with the stones of (230). This would appear to have been a deliberate lining which allowed the ditch to retain water.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
233	Ditch	<b>Linear N-S profile: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.5m, max length 1.6m</b> The undulating base of the feature suggests recutting. Final form of the ditch in the east of the sequence.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
234	Main fill	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones The deposit becomes greyer with depth, being indistinguishable between the two undulations in the base of the cut. There is evidence of lamination in the base of the deposit indicative of deposition in water. The deposit had been disturbed by roots. Sample <1> was taken to try and obtain dating evidence, though only a very small fragment of glass was recovered which is considered to intrusive.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
235	Fill	Plastic mid blue grey clay clay Lens of blue grey Oxford clay up to 0.2m thick. This deposit contrasted with the deposits above and below. Possibly a small scale dump of material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
236	Fill	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones Separated from main fill by lens of blue clay (235). The deposit was at least 0.1m thick continuing beyond the limit of excavation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3****Max Dimensions: Length: 11.80 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.45 m.****OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9164053505 Ref. 2: SP9164953512****Reason: To investigate open interior of site, as shown on historic maps**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
300	Make up layer	Mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material Extensive rubble layer up to 0.28m thick. Make-up layer for yard of Highways depot.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones The deposit is up to 0.12m thick. This appears to have been a dump of material brought into th site to create a 'garden'.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones The deposit is up to 0.21m thick. This appears to have been a dump of material brought into th site to create a 'garden'.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Feature	<b>NW-SE profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.49m, min length 1.6m Truncated demolition spread [311] - purpose uncertain. Possible disused service trench.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Lining	Frequent medium stones Composed of limestone fragments, concentrated in the south-western part of the feature against the edge and also in the upper part of the fill. This is probably a component of the backfill of the cut rather than a lining.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay The deposit is up to 0.49m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Drain	<b>Linear NE-SW profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.24m, max depth 0.15m, min length 1.4m This small drain was lined with limestone fragments (307). This is possibly associated with pit [323] which defines the southern extent of the drain. The drain truncates surface (311), which consists of demolition material.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Lining	Firm mid green brown silty clay Composed of limestone fragments, which lined the edge of the cut. These slabs probably originally supported a limestone capping.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Fill	Firm mid green brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Surface	Friable light yellow orange sandy silt moderate small-medium stones This is the same as (310) and (311), varying in thickness from 0.11-0.28m. The deposit contains frequent small flecks and lumps of limestone. This is interpreted as a demolition spread which seals the pitched stone footings [312] and [315]. Deposit originally thought to be geological stratum The horizontal nature of the deposit suggests that it was used as an external surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	Surface	Friable light yellow orange moderate small-medium stones Same as (309) and (311).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
311	Surface	Friable light yellow orange moderate small-medium stones Same as (309) and (310).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	Foundation trench	<b>Linear NW-SE profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.42m, max length 1.4m Foundation trench containing pitched limestone fragments.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	Fill	Composed of compacted limestone fragments bonded with a mid red brown sandy clay. Majority of stones confined to northern 0.75m of feature - lesser quantity of stones to south Sealed below (309).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
314	Layer	Friable mid yellow sandy clay The deposit was identified in the area of deeper machining extending at least 1m to the north-east. In section the deposit was up to 0.45m thick, tapering sharply to the north. This may be a variation in the natural stratum rather than associated with [312].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
315	Foundation trench	<b>Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.4m, min length 2.5m Perpendicular to [312] to the south-east.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
316	Fill	Composed of compacted limestone fragments bonded with a mid brown sandy clay.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
317	Service Trench	<b>Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, min length 1.8m Cut for trench containing small diameter water pipe. This appears to have been associated with the Highways depot.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
318	Pipe	Diameter 0.02m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 11.80 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.45 m.

**OS Co-ordinates:** Ref. 1: SP9164053505 Ref. 2: SP9164953512

**Reason:** To investigate open interior of site, as shown on historic maps

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
319	Backfill	Gravel Backfill of water pipe trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>320</b>	<b>Service Trench</b>	<b>Linear E-W profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.64m, min length 1.8m Trench for ceramic pipe. This feature was not fully exposed.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
321	Pipe	Ceramic pipe diameter 0.2m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
322	Backfill	Mid yellow brown occasional medium ceramic building material, frequent small stones Backfill of pipe trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>323</b>	<b>Pit</b>	<b>Sub-oval NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.18m, max length 1.m Situated at southern limit of drain [306]. This feature truncates surface (309 -311). Possible soakaway for the drain.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
324	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones The deposit contained a number of limestone slabs, especially towards the edge of the feature.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
325	Natural	Firm mid red brown silty clay Probable upper part of natural stratum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
326	Natural	Plastic red brown clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## APPENDIX 3

### FINDS SUMMARY

Tr.	Feature	Feature type	Context	Spotdate*	Pottery	Pottery fabric type**	Other finds
1	110	Ditch	111	Modern	2:10	MOD	Animal bone (3g), roof tile (19g), window glass
2	210	Dump material	210	Late medieval	1:17	E03	vessel glass (24g) Iron horseshoe, land drain (107g)
	216	Make up layer	216	Post-medieval	-	-	
	221	Topsoil	221	Modern	5:44	P01, P36A, P45, MOD x 2	
<b>Total</b>					<b>8:71</b>		

\* - based on the date of the latest artefact in the context

\*\* - defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology

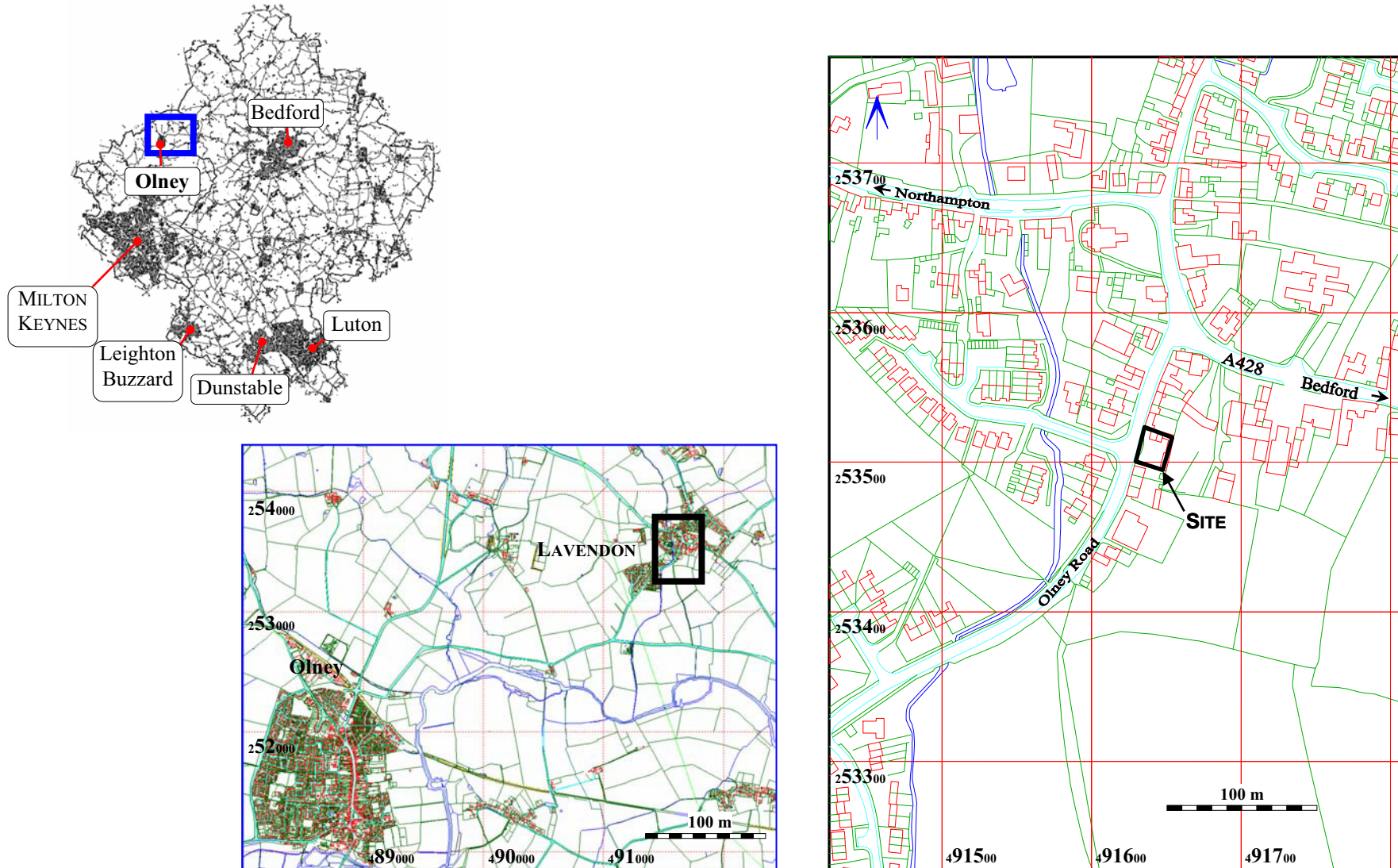
15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century: E03 – smooth oxidised

17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century: P01 - fine glazed red earthenware      P36A - brown salt-glazed stoneware

19<sup>th</sup> century+: P45 - transfer-printed ware      MOD - miscellaneous white stoneware

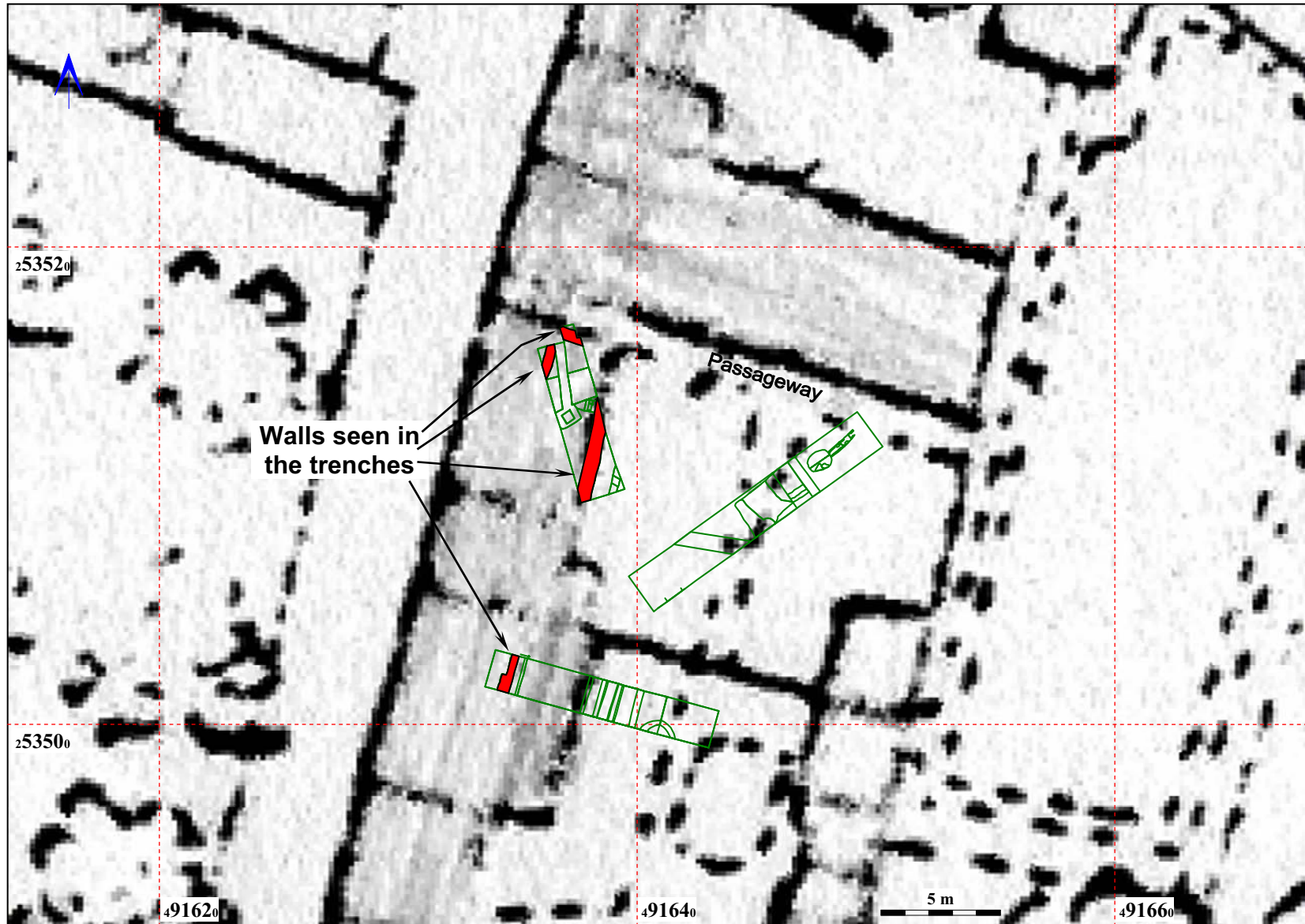


## **FIGURES**



**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.



**Figure 2:** Detail of site from 1882 Ordnance Survey Map



The complete row of cottages looking towards the center of the village. The taller gable to the center of the image defines the northern limit of current site. Reproduced with kind permission of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies (Image Lav 033)



General view of remaining cottages immediately prior to site clearance in 2004. The gable end of the building at the left side of the image corresponds to the taller gable in the upper image.

**Figure 3:** Photographic comparison of old and recent views of the street frontage





Photograph 1 Eastern elevation of shed, showing incorporation of earlier limestone outbuilding.



Photograph 2 Western elevation of standing structure showing earlier limestone building incorporated into shed.

**Figure 4:** Photographs 1 and 2 Standing structures eastern and western elevations

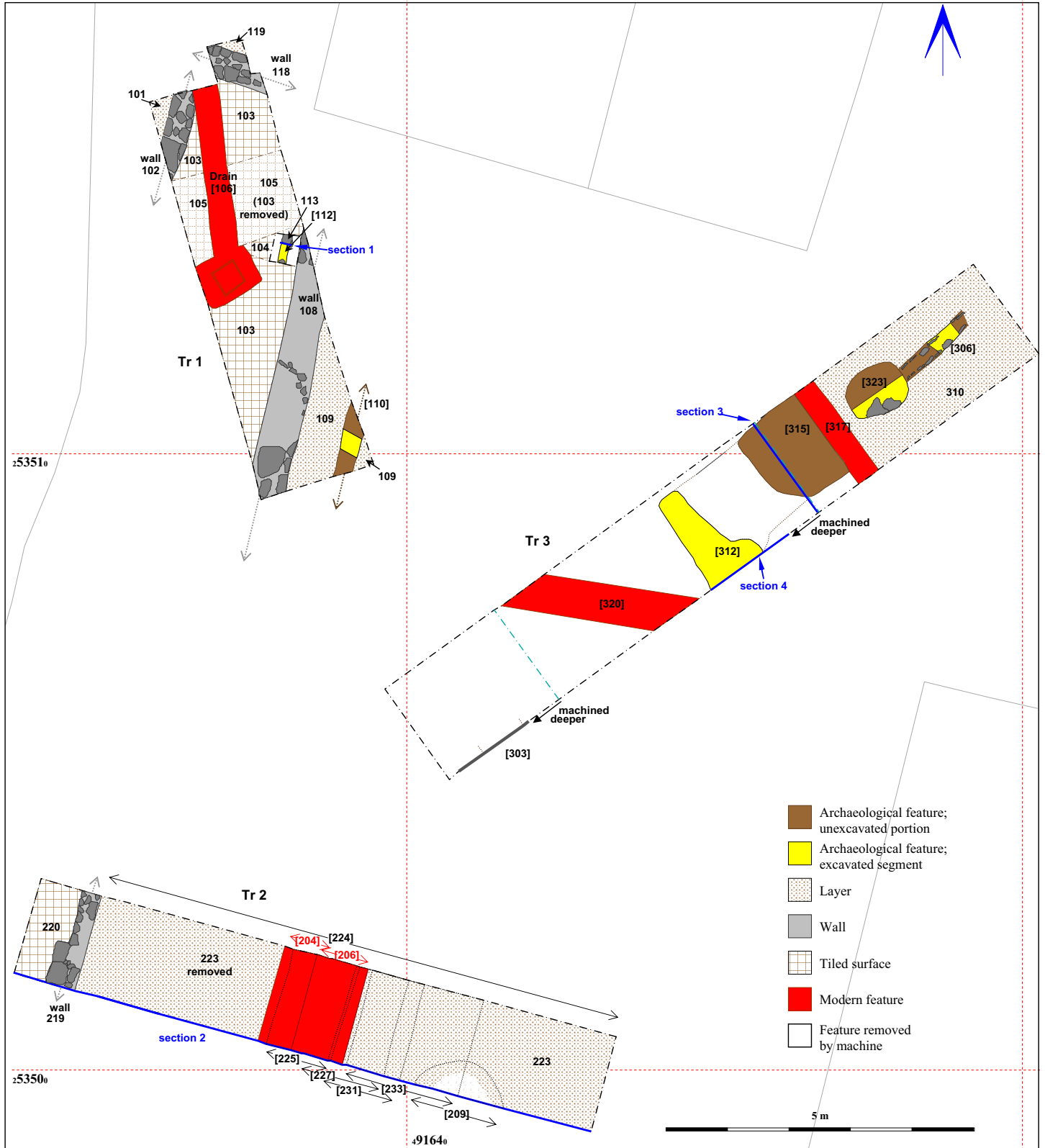


Figure 5: All features plan



Photograph 3 Structural elements of northern cottage within Trench 1, with lower floor revealed beyond drainage grid. Scales 2m and 1m in 0.5m divisions.



Photograph 4 Detail of sequential floors (103) and (105) in Trench 1, separated by intermediate layer (104), with several courses of limestone of rear wall (108) exposed to left. Scale 1m in 0.5m divisions.

**Figure 6:** Photographs 3 and 4 Western Area; northern cottage

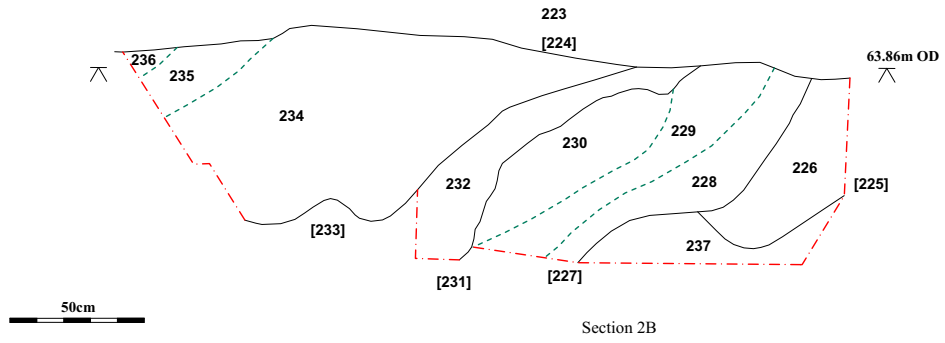
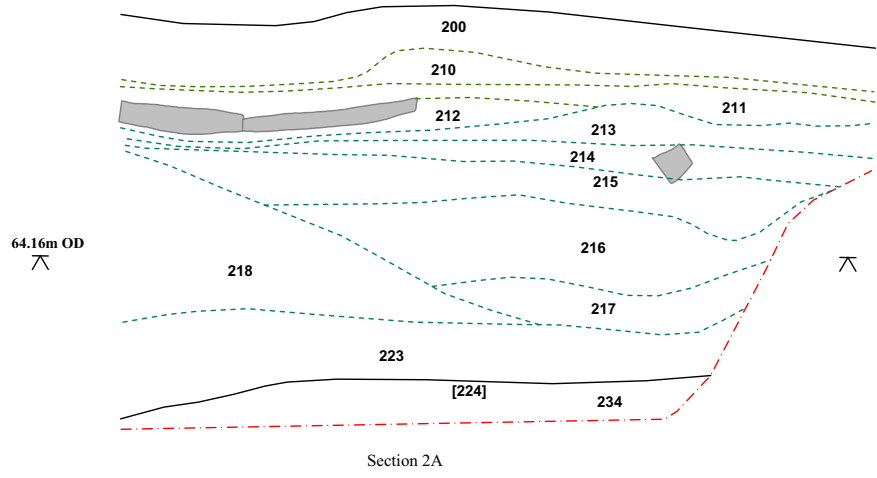
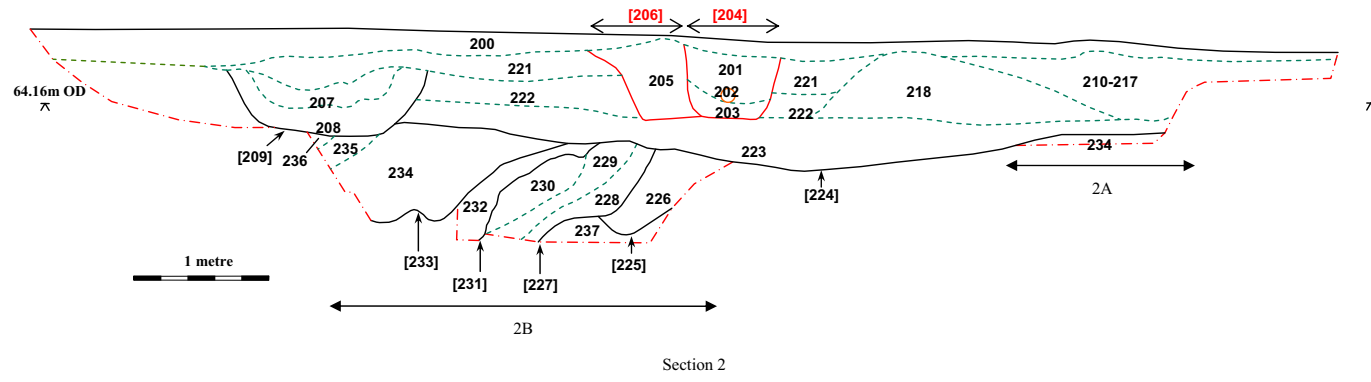
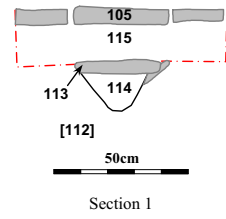


Figure 7: Selected sections 1 and 2 (A and B)



Photograph 5 Limestone capping (113) of drain [112], with distinctive arrangement of tiles of lower floor (105). Scale 1m in 0.5m divisions



Photograph 6 Shallow ditch [110] truncating external surface (109) with rear wall of northern cottage (108) to left. Scale 1m in 0.5m divisions

**Figure 8:** Photographs 5 and 6 Western Area; northern cottages associated features



Photograph 7 Western end of Trench 2 showing rear wall of cottage (219) and associated internal tiled surface (220) with construction deposits to left. Discoloration in base of trench is upper surviving fills of the recut substantial ditch. Scales 1m in 0.5m divisions



Photograph 8 Southern section of Trench 2 with rear cottage wall (219), yellow brown construction related deposits in center of image and garden deposits beyond. Note sharp boundary between construction and garden deposits

**Figure 9:** Photographs 7 and 8 Western Area; southern cottage

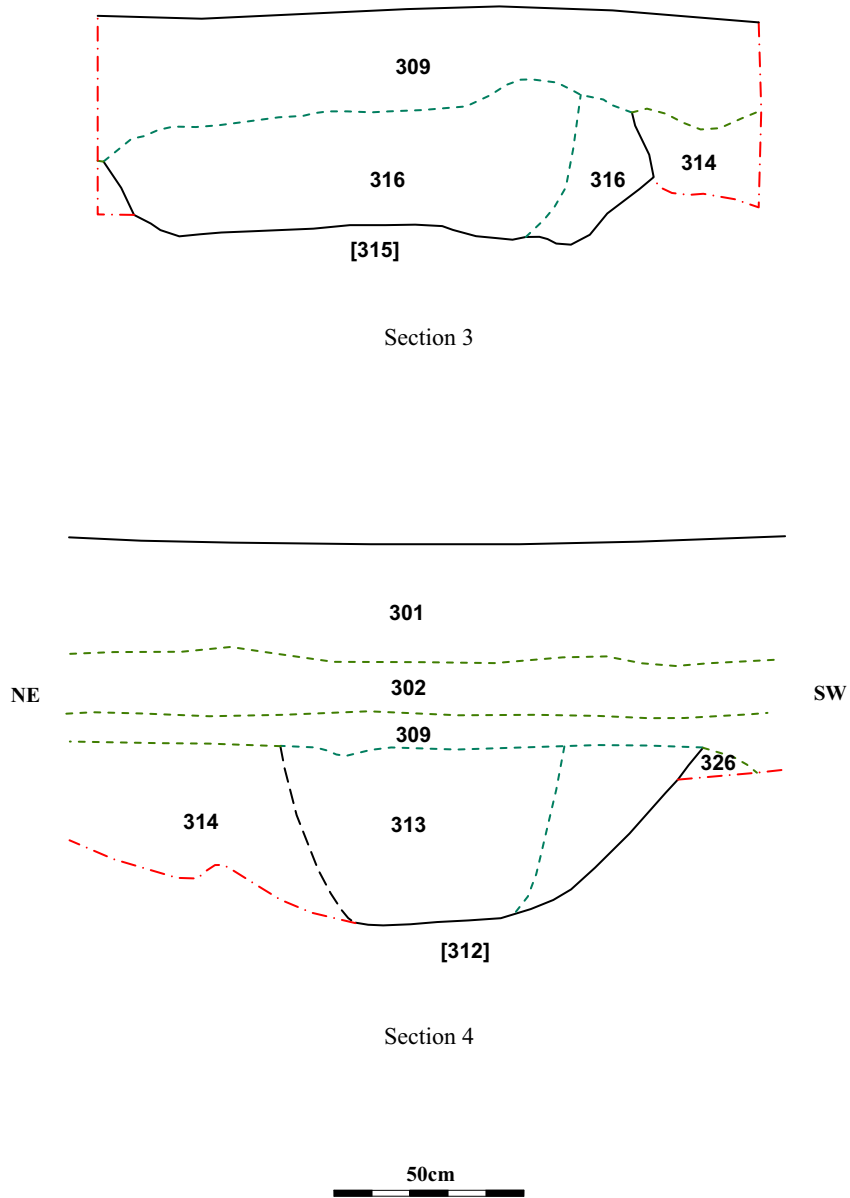


Photograph 9 Investigation of recut ditch in Trench 2 , with yellow clay lined intermediate form [231] clearly defined



Photograph 10 Pitched limestone footing [312] robbed out wall. Overlying band of material (309) would appear to have been associated with robbing. Scale 2m in 0.5m divisions

**Figure 10:** Photographs 9 and 10; early features



**Figure 11:** Selected sections 3 and 4