LUTON AQUATIC CENTRE
STOPSLEY
LUTON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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Version 1.2

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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 method statement. 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.

Albion was commissioned to undertake the project by RPS Planning, on behalf of Wates Construction Ltd. Close co-operation was maintained throughout the project with Simon Blatherwick of RPS Planning, and with Steve Shoobridge of Wates Construction Ltd in regard to the implementation of safe working practices. Fieldwork was monitored by Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeological Officer, Martin Oake, on behalf of Luton Borough Council.

The project was managed for Albion by Joe Abrams (Project Manager) and David Ingham (Project Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). Fieldwork was supervised by David Ingham, and was undertaken with the assistance of Ian Turner and Adam Williams.

This report has been prepared by David Ingham, with contributions from Joan Lighting (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). It was approved by Drew Shotliff.

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Structure of the Report

Section 1 is an introduction to the project, the methodology for which is described in Section 2. The results of the fieldwork are presented in Section 3, with a summary in Section 4. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits encountered can be found in Appendix 1, while Appendix 2 contains information on the recovered artefacts.

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CAO	Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeological Officer
HER	Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record
Client	RPS Planning, on behalf of Wates Construction Ltd
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2009)

Non-Technical Summary

The construction of Luton Aquatic Centre is proposed on the eastern part of Stopsley Common, Luton, an area previously considered (through baseline sources) to be of significant archaeological potential. The proposed Centre comprises a large sports building containing an Olympic-size swimming pool and other facilities, with associated car- and coach-parking, services, and road improvements.

A trial-trench evaluation was proposed in order to assess the area's archaeological potential, thus enabling Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeological Officer to make an informed recommendation to Luton Borough Council with regard to the planning application. RPS Planning, on behalf of Wates Construction Ltd, commissioned Albion Archaeology to carry out the evaluation in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2009).

Stopsley Common lies in an area of extensive archaeological remains. The Bradgers Hill Lynchets (HER 209) and two sets of crop-marks (HER 3351 and 12418) on the western side of the Common are thought to be prehistoric, while limited Bronze Age and more extensive Iron Age field systems have been recorded to the east (Albion Archaeology 2005; Luke and Preece, forthcoming). The deserted medieval settlement of Swifts Green (HER 17099) is recorded in the HER as being located to the east of the Common, while earthworks in the north-eastern part of the Common may have been associated with the medieval Hayes Manor (HER 3341). The medieval settlements of Butterfield Green (HER 12399) and Stopsley (HER 17100) are also located nearby, and medieval field systems have been excavated at Vale Cemetery to the east (Albion Archaeology 2005). In the post-medieval period, the north-eastern part of the Common was occupied by Swifts Farm until the end of the 19th century, with possible remains of an associated dovecote (HER 12658) and a 19th-century brick water cistern (HER 14069).

The evaluation revealed a small concentration of archaeological remains of varying significance. The earliest date to the late Iron Age, with some suggestion of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age activity, though most of the remains are essentially undated. A few post-medieval remains associated with Swifts Farm were discovered, but no evidence was found of Swifts Green medieval settlement within the evaluated area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The construction of Luton Aquatic Centre is proposed on the eastern part of Stopsley Common, Luton, directly adjacent to Hitchin Road and Butterfield Green Road (Fig. 1). The proposed Centre comprises a large sports building containing an Olympic-size swimming pool and other facilities, with associated car- and coach-parking, services, and road improvements. This would serve as a replacement for the Regional Sports Centre on the southern edge of Stopsley Common, which would be demolished and the area returned to grass.

The Regional Sports Centre was constructed on a former brickworks and clay pits, and it is therefore considered that its demolition will not have any impact on archaeological deposits. In contrast, desk-based assessment of the site identified significant potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the 2.57ha area to be affected by construction of the Luton Aquatic Centre (RPS 2009a). Entries within the Historic Environment Record (HER) database indicated that the Commons was regarded as an Archaeological Notification Area. Based on this information, Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeological Officer (CAO) requested that a pre-determination trial-trench evaluation was conducted, in order to assess its archaeological potential and enable him to make an informed recommendation to Luton Borough Council with regard to the planning application.

RPS Planning, on behalf of Wates Construction Ltd, produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the scope of the evaluation and the methods to be used (RPS 2009b). Albion Archaeology was then commissioned by RPS Planning to carry out the evaluation, in line with the WSI; the results are presented in this report.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The proposed new development area, centred at (NGR) TL 106 243 (Fig. 1), is bounded by Hitchin Road to the south-east, Butterfield Green Road to the east, Manor Farm to the north, and a linear north-south area of rough grass with some trees to the west, representing a former field boundary. It mostly lies at a height of *c*. 167m OD, rising slightly to 168m OD in the north-west corner and falling to 166m OD in the north-east.

The new development area is currently used as playing fields. The underlying solid geology comprises Upper Chalk of the Upper Cretaceous period, overlain by Clay-with-flints.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological background to the development area has been described in detail in a separate document (RPS 2009a). A summary is provided below.

The Bradgers Hill Lynchets on the western side of the Common (HER 209) are thought to be Iron Age (or possibly Neolithic) in origin. A rectangular crop-mark (HER 3351) and two linear crop-marks (HER 12418) on the same side of the Common may also be prehistoric in date. To the east of the Common,

limited Bronze Age and more extensive Iron Age field systems have been recorded at Vale Cemetery (Albion Archaeology 2005) and Butterfield Green Business Park (Luke and Preece, forthcoming).

Although Roman field ditches were recorded at Vale Cemetery, and a stone-lined pit and gully at Butterfield Green Business Park, there is no known Roman settlement activity in the area. There is a similar dearth of evidence for Saxon occupation; it is possible that the settlements at Butterfield Green, Swifts Green and Stopsley had their origins in the Saxon period, but a single field boundary containing Saxon pottery at Butterfield Green Business Park is the only evidence for activity from this period.

The deserted medieval settlement of Swifts Green (HER 17099) is recorded in the HER as being located to the east of the Common, with a possibility that it extended into the proposed development area. Earthworks in the north-eastern part of the Common may have been associated with the medieval Hayes Manor (HER 3341; now Manor Farm). The medieval settlements of Butterfield Green (HER 12399) and Stopsley (HER 17100) are close to the proposed development area, and medieval field systems have been excavated at Vale Cemetery to the east (Albion Archaeology 2005).

Swifts Farm was present in the north-east corner of the Common until the end of the 19th century (Fig. 3). Some of the earthworks associated with the farm still exist within the proposed new development area, while the remains of an associated dovecote (HER 12658) and a 19th-century brick water cistern (HER 14069) are also thought to be present there. Aside from an area of brickworks and clay pits which has subsequently been built over by the Luton Regional Sports Centre, the remainder of the development area has remained as open land through the post-medieval period. It is probable that some of the land within the proposed new development area was levelled during the 20th century in order to create sports pitches.

1.4 Project Objectives

The general aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and function of any archaeological features within the proposed new development area, and to determine the need for a programme of archaeological mitigation.

Specific research aims for the evaluation were as follows:

- Does the Bronze Age/Iron Age activity identified at Vale Cemetery and Butterfield Green Business Park extend as far as Stopsley Common?
- Is there any evidence for the survival of Swifts Green medieval settlement, or remains associated with the medieval Hayes Manor (now Manor Farm)?
- What evidence is there for the post-medieval Swifts Farm, and in particular, are there any remains of the dovecote or brick cistern present?

2. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching took place between 6th and 19th January 2010. An initial layout of fourteen trenches — eleven 50m, one 40m and two 25m long — covering 5% of the proposed new development area (Fig. 1) was agreed with the CAO before fieldwork began. Minor alterations had to be made to the location of Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 10 in order to avoid fixed obstacles, while extensions were made to Trenches 12 and 14; the revised layout is shown on Figure 1.

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

The bases and sides of all trenches were cleaned as necessary by hand. Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc*.

A full methodology is provided in the WSI (RPS 2009b).

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

- IfA — *Code of Conduct*; *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- Albion Archaeology — *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edition, 2001).
- ALGAO (east) — *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*
- English Heritage — *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*

Trenches were inspected by the CAO and RPS prior to their backfilling.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All the deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order. Their location and extent are shown on Figures 2–7. Detailed technical information on all archaeological features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Trenches 1 and 2 were located in a car park, which had a 0.1m thick tarmac surface with a 0.2–0.3m thick brick rubble substrate. Trenches 3–14 were all located in grass playing fields, with mostly *c*. 0.3m of topsoil; this only differed in Trench 14, where the topsoil was up to 0.7m thick as a result of modern landscaping. The underlying subsoil in Trenches 3–14 — a deposit of mid-orangey brown clay apparently derived from the natural — was 0.15–0.3m thick. In addition, a layer of rubble separated the topsoil and subsoil in the northern half of Trench 3, possibly related to the demolition of Swifts Farm; the subsoil here also contained small fragments of brick, and may have had a more modern origin than that in the rest of the grassed area.

The uppermost geological stratum mostly comprised a fairly uniform deposit of brownish orange clay, varying primarily in its level of flint content. The only exception to this was in Trench 1, where the clay ranged in colour from orange to grey, with a small outcrop of the underlying Upper Chalk also revealed.

3.3 Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age

Seven highly abraded sherds of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery were recovered by the evaluation (Appendix 2), one of which (from post-medieval ditch [703]) is clearly residual. Five more are probably also residual, as ditch segment [1009] is likely to represent the same feature as [803], which produced late Iron Age pottery (see below). It is possible, however, that the sherd recovered from ditch [820] (Fig. 5) was contemporary with the feature, although residuality even for this cannot be entirely ruled out by the absence of later pottery.

3.4 Late Iron Age

Three excavated segments of ditch — [505], [803] and [812] — yielded late Iron Age pottery; [803] also contained a possible nail shank (Appendix 2). The largest of these features was [803], measuring 2m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig. 5), whereas the others were 1.2–1.35m wide and 0.15–0.34m deep (Figs 4–5). It is likely that ditch [803] represents the same feature as [1009], since their alignment and profile correspond; this would make the late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery recovered from the latter residual (see above). For similar reasons, ditch [505] is considered likely to be the same feature as [407] in Trench 4, although their alignments do not match quite as closely in this case.

3.5 Late Medieval / Early Post-medieval

Despite the indicated baseline potential of the new development area to contain medieval archaeological remains, no features identified by the evaluation can confidently be assigned to this period. The only features that contained medieval

pottery (albeit a single sherd each) were tree-throw [303] and ditch [1404] (Fig. 7); however, the latter also contained late medieval / early post-medieval roof tile (Appendix 2), and artefacts within the fill of a tree-throw rarely provide a secure indication of the feature's date. The ditch had a cavity [1406] in its north-western side which may represent a posthole, although root disturbance cannot be ruled out.

Two sherds of pottery recovered from ditch [1208] may also be medieval; however, their poor condition does not preclude a possible Roman date. The ditch was perpendicular to [1404], however, and it is possible that the two were connected; a third side of this putative enclosure may have been defined by undated ditch [1204] (Fig. 6), which was parallel with [1404].

3.6 Post-medieval / Modern

Two parallel features at the northern end of Trench 3 — [305] and [308] (Fig. 4) — contained numerous whole or broken bricks. Although not closely datable, the bricks appear post-medieval in date; furthermore, the features' location corresponds with that of buildings shown on the 1842 Luton Tithe Map (Fig. 3). The wider feature was primarily composed of a single layer of randomly compacted bricks and clay, suggestive of a wall foundation; the narrower feature, 4m away, may have had a similar function.

Two post-medieval ditches in Trenches 4–7 correspond with boundaries shown on the 1842 Luton Tithe Map (Fig. 3). The larger one, [502]/[611]/[703], was up to 2.8m wide and 0.74m deep; modern bricks present in the top of the ditch indicate that it was backfilled in the latter half of the 20th century. Ditch [404] in Trench 4 still survives beyond the trench as a shallow earthwork.

3.7 Modern

The only modern feature identified was one that occupied the whole of Trench 2. Its precise nature is undefined, though the feature appeared to be linear in a broadly north-to-south direction; its proximity to the boundary shown on the 1842 Luton Tithe Map suggests it may have been associated with a subsequent version of this. Its infill dates to the latter half of the 20th century and perhaps relates to ground-works associated with construction of the car parks along Butterfield Green Road.

3.8 Undated

Many of the features revealed by the evaluation remain undated. Most of these are ditches; the remainder comprise a small pit [606], and possible structural remains in Trenches 10, 12 and 14.

The ditches were all small, with the largest, [814], just 1.2m wide and 0.43m deep (Fig. 5). A range of alignments was evident, and only a few can tentatively be identified with ditches in adjacent trenches (Fig. 2).

Although no artefacts were recovered from these ditches that would help to date them, a relative date can be suggested for a few. Ditch [807] and its re-cut [809] were both stratigraphically earlier than late Iron Age ditch [812] (Fig. 5), while ditch [1408] (and its putative continuation [1226]) was earlier than late medieval

/ post-medieval ditch [1404]. In addition, ditch [603] and possibly [822] (Fig. 5) had been dug through the subsoil, whereas the other undated ditches all appeared to be sealed by it.

Although Trenches 10 and 14 each contained a small post-hole — [1015] and [1412] respectively — the main structural feature was located in Trench 12 (Fig. 6, inset). Measuring 3.5m long and *c*. 0.5m wide, with steep sides, a roughly flat base and at least four post-holes along it, it appears to have been a slot designed to hold a ground beam.

4. CONCLUSION

Evaluation of the proposed new development area at the eastern end of Stopsley Common has revealed a moderate concentration of archaeological remains of varying significance. The lack of dating evidence for many of the features is problematic, but enough exists to enable limited answers to the three specific questions that this evaluation set out to answer.

4.1.1 Does the Bronze Age/Iron Age activity identified at Vale Cemetery and Butterfield Green Business Park extend as far as Stopsley Common?

A few ditches were identified which can be dated with reasonable confidence to the late Iron Age. Many more features are undated, including structural remains, but stratigraphic evidence and their geographical clustering suggest that most are more likely to belong to this period than a later one. The reduction in the number of such features towards the north-eastern corner of the proposed new development area suggests that this activity was separate to that previously identified at Vale Cemetery and Butterfield Green Business Park, though it may have been contemporary. The discovery of a previously unknown late Iron Age settlement, albeit one whose dearth of cultural material suggests a lack of intensive occupation, would be of regional significance (Bryant 2000, 14); yet only a local significance can be attached to many of the features in their currently undated state.

Evidence of earlier activity is provided by the few sherds of highly abraded late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery that were recovered, along with the small number of struck flints, though only one feature is tentatively suggested to date from this period. Settlements of this period are often unenclosed and therefore notoriously difficult to identify through trial-trench evaluations, and the potential remains that features from which this material derived exist beyond the trenches. Such a discovery would be of regional significance, since settlements of this period — particularly in areas of clay geology — are still rare in Bedfordshire (Bryant 2000, 14; Dawson 2007, 59–60).

4.1.2 Is there any evidence for the survival of Swifts Green medieval settlement, or remains associated with the medieval Hayes Manor (now Manor Farm)?

No evidence was found that the proposed new development area is located within the site of a deserted medieval settlement. One ditch was found in the south-western corner of the area that may be medieval in origin, and it is possible that some of the undated remains referred to above are also medieval, yet the recovery of only two sherds of medieval pottery from the whole evaluation suggests that they only relate to field systems on the edge of a settlement. Such remains are of local significance.

4.1.3 What evidence is there for the post-medieval Swifts Farm, and in particular, are there any remains of the dovecote or brick cistern present?

A few ditches and possible wall foundations were revealed that correspond with features shown on the 1842 Luton Tithe Map (Fig. 3), as well as one or possibly two other ditches. No archaeological remains were found in the northern end of Trench 1, however, where the Tithe Map shows buildings to have existed; this may be due to modern disturbance from when the car parks were created along Butterfield Green Road. The shallow nature of the wall foundations and the

absence of any structural remains in Trench 1 suggest that little remains of Swifts Farm. However, it is possible that relatively small structures such as the dovecote and brick cistern lie undisturbed in areas outside the trial trenches; such remains would be of local significance (Edgeworth 2007, 123).

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RPS 2009b: *Luton Aquatic Centre. An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*

6. APPENDIX 1

6.1 Context Summary

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.4 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 10638: Northing: 24432)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10652: Northing: 24395)*

Reason: **Evaluate archaeological potential of development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Tarmac	Friable black tarmac 0.1m thick	☑	☐
101	Make up layer	Compact mid orange brown silty clay frequent large ceramic building material 0.2-0.3m thick	☑	☐
102	Natural	Firm mid grey orange chalky clay	☐	☐

Trench: **2**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.45 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 10653: Northing: 24377)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10655: Northing: 24327)*

Reason: **Evaluate archaeological potential of development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	**Tarmac**	**Compact black tarmac 0.1m thick**	☑	☐
201	**Make up layer**	**Compact dark orange brown silty clay frequent large ceramic building material 0.25m thick**	☑	☐
202	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange clay**	☐	☐
203	**Modern disturbance**	**Irregular sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 1.8m, min depth 0.4m, min length 50.m Covered the whole trench.**	☑	☐
204	Backfill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt Contained large amounts of modern rubbish.	☑	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10611: Northing: 24435)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10616: Northing: 24385)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
301	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.15m thick**	☑	☐
302	**Natural**	**Firm mid brown orange clay**	☐	☐
303	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.3m, max length 2.3m**	☑	☐
304	Fill	Friable dark orange brown clay silt	☑	☑
305	**Foundation**	**Linear NE-SW sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 3.65m, max depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
306	Fill	Loose white chalk	☑	☐
307	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt frequent large ceramic building material	☑	☑
308	**Foundation**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.65m**	☐	☐
309	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt frequent large ceramic building material	☐	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 10585: Northing: 24405)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10596: Northing: 24383)*

Reason: **Evaluate archaeological potential of development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
404	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.65m**	☑	☐
401	Upper fill	Firm dark brown clay silt	☑	☐
402	Secondary fill	Firm mid brown orange silty clay	☑	☐
403	Lower fill	Firm mid brown clay silt	☑	☐
405	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.2m thick**	☑	☐
407	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: stepped base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.27m**	☑	☐
406	Fill	Firm mid orange brown clay silt	☑	☐
408	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange brown clay**	☐	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10642: Northing: 24373)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10592: Northing: 24373)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
502	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: max breadth 1.4m**	☐	☐
501	Fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☐	☐
503	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.2m thick**	☑	☐
505	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.34m**	☑	☐
504	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☑	☑
506	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange clay**	☐	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m.** **Width: 1.80 m.** **Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m.** **Max: 0.6 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 10641: Northing: 24340)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10591: Northing: 24340)*

Reason: **Evaluate archaeological potential of development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
603	**Ditch**	**Linear NNE-SSW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.42m**	☑	☐
601	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☑	☐
602	Primary fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☑	☐
604	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid orange brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
606	**Pit**	**Sub-oval sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.12m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
605	Fill	Firm mid red brown silty clay	☑	☐
608	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.12m**	☑	☐
607	Fill	Firm mid pinkish brown silty clay	☑	☐
609	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange brown clay**	☐	☐
611	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: max breadth 1.95m**	☐	☐
610	Fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☐	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 10625: Northing: 24316)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10575: Northing: 24316)*

Reason: **Evaluate archaeological potential of development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
701	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.2-0.3m thick**	☑	☐
702	**Natural**	**Firm mid brown orange clay**	☐	☐
703	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.8m, max depth 0.74m**	☑	☐
704	Primary fill	Friable mid orange grey clay silt	☑	☑
705	Lower fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay	☑	☐
706	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	☑	☐
707	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt	☑	☐
708	Upper fill	Loose mid brown grey clay silt	☑	☐

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10584: Northing: 24340)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10538: Northing: 24319)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
801	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.15m thick**	☑	☐
802	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange clay**	☐	☐
803	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max depth 0.5m**	☑	☐
804	Primary fill	Firm light orange brown clay	☑	☑
805	Secondary fill	Firm mid orange brown clay silt	☑	☐
806	Upper fill	Friable mid brown clay silt	☑	☑
807	**Ditch**	**Linear NNE-SSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
808	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	☑	☐
809	**Ditch**	**Linear NNE-SSW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.33m**	☑	☐
810	Primary fill	Friable light yellow grey clay silt	☑	☐
811	Main fill	Friable light orange brown clay silt	☑	☐
812	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.15m**	☑	☐
813	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	☑	☑
814	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.43m**	☑	☐
815	Primary fill	Friable mid orange silty clay	☑	☐
816	Secondary fill	Friable mid orange grey clay silt	☑	☐
817	Upper fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	☑	☐
818	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.35m**	☑	☐
819	Fill	Friable mid brown clay silt	☑	☑
820	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
821	Fill	Friable dark orange brown clay silt	☑	☑
822	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.24m**	☑	☐
823	Fill	Friable light orange brown clay silt	☑	☐
824	**Treethrow**	**Irregular dimensions: min breadth 1.4m, max length 2.6m**	☐	☐
825	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	☐	☐

Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: **Length: 50.00 m.** **Width: 1.80 m.** **Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m.** **Max: 0.55 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 10523: Northing: 24315)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10523: Northing: 24265)*

Reason: **Evaluate archaeological potential of development area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick	☑	☐
901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty clay 0.2m thick	☑	☐
902	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay	☐	☐

Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10546: Northing: 24288)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10595: Northing: 24283)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
1001	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.2m thick**	☑	☐
1002	**Natural**	**Firm mid brown orange clay**	☐	☐
1003	**Bedding trench**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.4m Probably a hedgerow**	☑	☐
1004	Primary fill	Firm light brown orange clay	☑	☐
1005	Fill	Firm light grey orange clay	☑	☐
1006	Fill	Friable light orange grey silty clay	☑	☐
1007	**Treethrow**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: irregular base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.21m, max depth 0.36m Probable extent of hedgerow's roots during growth**	☑	☐
1008	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	☑	☐
1009	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.65m, max depth 0.48m**	☑	☐
1010	Primary fill	Firm light brown orange clay	☑	☐
1011	Secondary fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	☑	☑
1012	Upper fill	Friable light brown orange clay silt	☑	☑
1013	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
1014	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	☑	☐
1015	**Posthole**	**Oval sides: concave base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.23m, max depth 0.13m, max length 0.26m**	☑	☐
1016	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	☑	☐
1017	Fill	Friable light grey orange clay silt	☑	☐
1018	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.3m**	☐	☐
1019	Fill	Friable mid orange grey clay silt	☐	☐
1020	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: concave base: uneven General number for tree-throws / root holes**	☑	☐
1021	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt	☑	☐

Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10616: Northing: 24302)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10616: Northing: 24252)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1100	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
1101	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid orange brown silty clay 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
1102	**Natural**	**Firm mid orange clay**	☐	☐
1103	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.65m, max length 3.2m General number for tree-throws / root holes**	☑	☐
1104	Fill	Firm mid orange grey silty clay	☑	☐

Trench: 12

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10526: Northing: 24249)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10576: Northing: 24249)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1200	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
1201	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.2m thick**	☑	☐
1202	**Natural**	**Firm mid brown orange clay**	☐	☐
1204	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
1203	Fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☑	☐
1206	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.5m**	☐	☐
1205	Fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☐	☐
1208	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.37m**	☑	☐
1207	Fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☑	☑
1210	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.41m, max diameter 0.48m**	☑	☐
1209	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☑	☐
1212	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.24m, max diameter 0.25m**	☑	☐
1211	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	☑	☐
1214	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.22m, max diameter 0.25m**	☑	☐
1213	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☑	☐
1216	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.18m, max diameter 0.15m**	☑	☐
1215	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☑	☐
1218	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.18m, max diameter 0.4m**	☑	☐
1217	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	☑	☐
1220	**Beamslot**	**Linear sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.31m**	☑	☐
1219	Fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☑	☐
1222	**Beamslot**	**Linear sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.57m, max depth 0.22m**	☑	☐
1221	Fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☑	☐
1224	**Beamslot**	**Linear dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max length 3.5m General number for beamslot [1220]/[1222]**	☐	☐
1223	Fill	Friable dark brown silty clay	☐	☐
1226	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: max breadth 0.35m**	☐	☐
1225	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☐	☐

Trench: 13

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10586: Northing: 24278)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10586: Northing: 24228)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
1301	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.15-0.3m thick**	☑	☐
1302	**Natural**	**Friable mid orange clay**	☐	☐
1303	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.24m**	☑	☐
1304	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay	☑	☐
1305	**Treethrow**	**Irregular dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max length 1.25m**	☐	☐
1306	Fill	Firm light orange grey clay silt	☐	☐

Trench: 14

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10586: Northing: 24216)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 10560: Northing: 24220)*

Reason: Evaluate archaeological potential of development area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1400	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown clay silt 0.4-0.7m thick**	☑	☐
1401	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt 0.15m thick**	☑	☐
1402	**Natural**	**Firm mid brown orange clay**	☐	☐
1404	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.55m, max depth 0.46m**	☑	☐
1403	Fill	Firm mid pinkish brown silty clay	☑	☑
1406	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.27m, max diameter 0.3m Possibly natural in origin**	☑	☐
1405	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay	☑	☐
1408	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.12m**	☑	☐
1407	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	☑	☐
1410	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.05m**	☑	☐
1409	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	☑	☐
1412	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: near vertical base: v-shaped dimensions: max depth 0.21m, max diameter 0.21m**	☑	☐
1411	Fill	Firm dark brown silty clay	☑	☐
1414	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: concave base: uneven**	☑	☐
1413	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay	☑	☐

7. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACT SUMMARY

7.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery, although brick, tile, worked flint, burnt unworked flint and an iron object were also recovered (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spot-date*	Finds Summary
3	303	Tree-throw	304	Late medieval/post-medieval	Pottery (5g); roof tile (42g); burnt flint (16g)
	305	Foundation	307	Post-medieval	Brick (2,500g)
5	505	Ditch	504	Late Iron Age	Pottery (1g)
7	703	Ditch	704	Post-medieval	Pottery (3g); brick (67g)
8	803	Ditch	804	Late Iron Age	Pottery (5g)
	803	Ditch	806	Late Iron Age	Pottery (17g); worked flint (60g); iron ?nail shank
	812	Ditch	813	Late Iron Age	Pottery (5g)
	818	Ditch	819	Undated	Worked flint (11g)
	820	Ditch	821	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	Pottery (5g); burnt flint (2g)
10	1009	Ditch	1011	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	Pottery (10g); burnt flint (60g)
	1009	Ditch	1012	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	Pottery (5g); worked flint (16g); burnt flint (18g)
12	1208	Ditch	1207	Undated	Pottery (6g)
14	1404	Ditch	1403	Late medieval/post-medieval	Pottery (3g); roof tile (67g)

***** spot-date based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature

7.2 Pottery

Eighteen pottery sherds were recovered, weighing 65g. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The pottery is highly fragmented, with an average sherd weight of only 3g, and survives in poor condition. Their fragmentary nature suggests they cannot be used to provide entirely reliable dating for the features from which they derived.

Seven fabric types were identified, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age			
F01B	Fine flint	**3**	(1011):1, (1012):2
F01C	Flint and quartz	**4**	(704):1, (821):1, (1011):2
Late Iron Age			
F06B	Medium grog	**4**	(806):3, (1207):1
F09	Grog and sand	**2**	(504):1; (804):1
F39	Grog and mica	**1**	(813):1
Medieval			
C60	Hertfordshire-type grey ware	**2**	(304):1, (1403):1
UNID	Unidentified/undatable	**2**	(1207):2

Table 2: Pottery type series

The earliest pottery comprises seven undiagnostic flint-tempered sherds (23g) of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date (Table 2), all of which survive in poor condition and are highly abraded. Seven sherds (29g) were also recovered of undiagnostic grog-tempered pottery in the late 'Belgic' Iron Age tradition (*c.* 50BC–AD100) derived from ditches [505], [803], [812] and [1208].

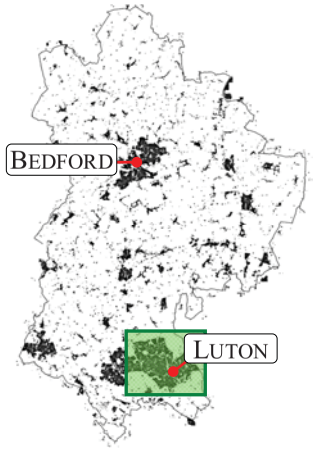
Medieval pottery occurred in tree-throw [303] and as residual material in ditch [1404], and comprises two undiagnostic sherds of Hertfordshire-type grey ware (8g) datable to the 12th or 13th century. Ditch [1208] also yielded two abraded sherds (5g) in a coarse sand-tempered fabric which may be either medieval or Roman, but their poor condition precludes positive identification.

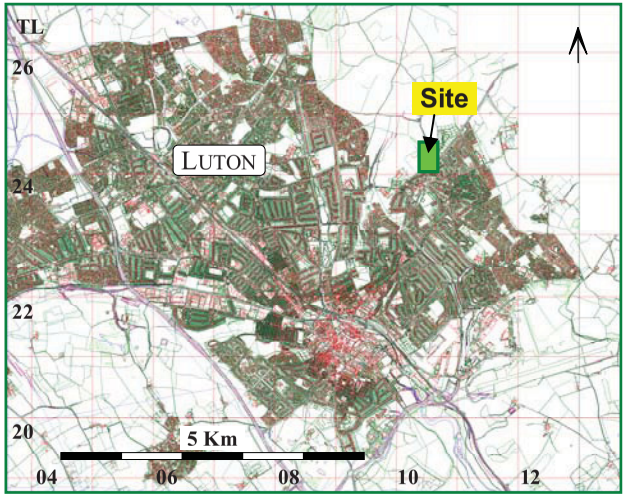
7.3 Other finds

Three sand-tempered pieces of abraded late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (109g) derived from ditch [1404] and tree-throw [303]. Post-medieval ditch [703] contained three brick fragments (67g), while a complete brick taken as a sample from foundation [305] measured 220 x 100 x 50mm.

An iron object identified as a possible nail shank derived from ditch [803].

Seven worked flints (88g) were identified, all of which are likely to be residual. Three flakes and a core tablet occurred in late Iron Age ditch [803]; and two flakes and a secondary flake derived from ditches [1009] and [818] respectively. Six pieces of unworked burnt flint (97g) were also recovered.





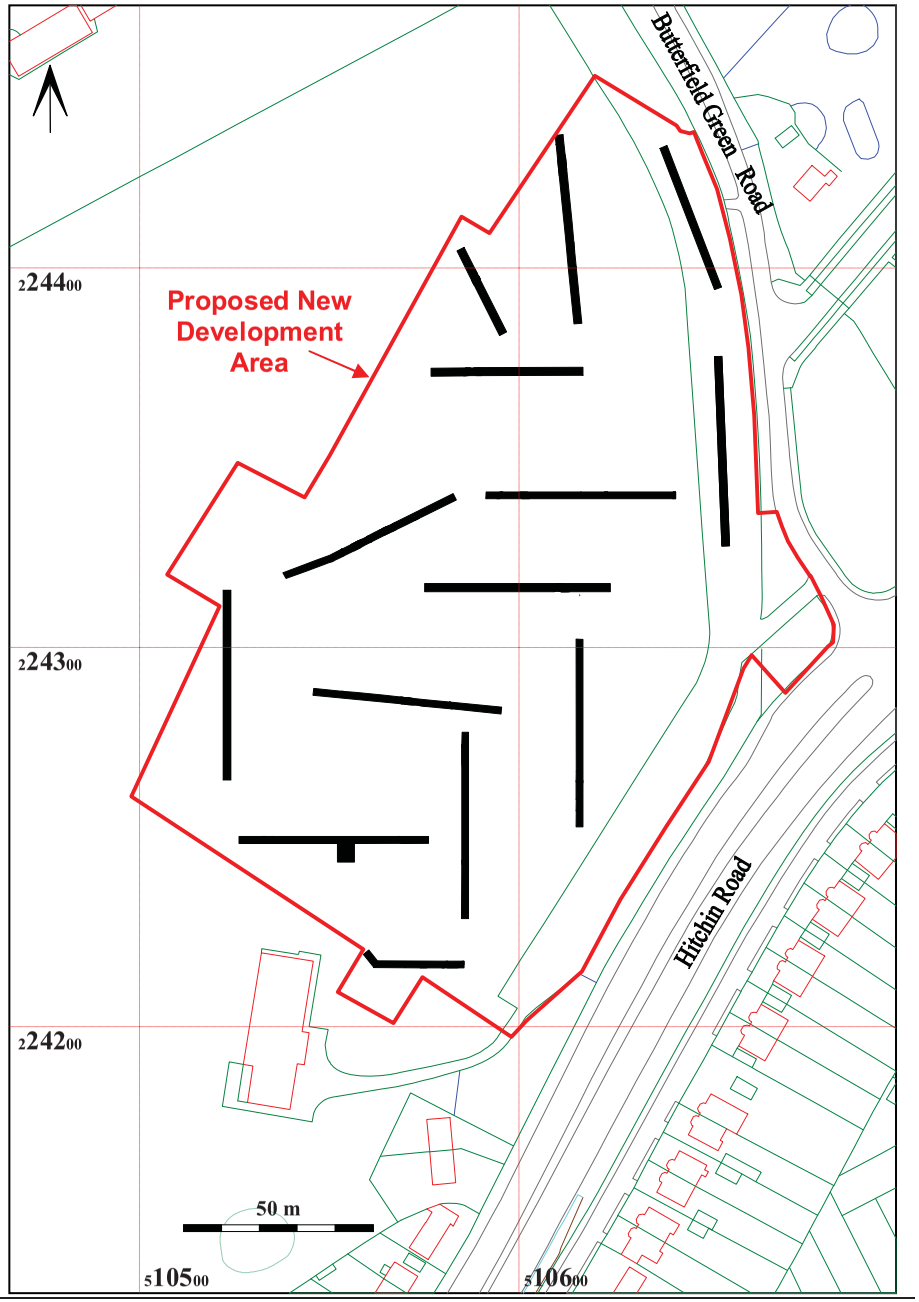
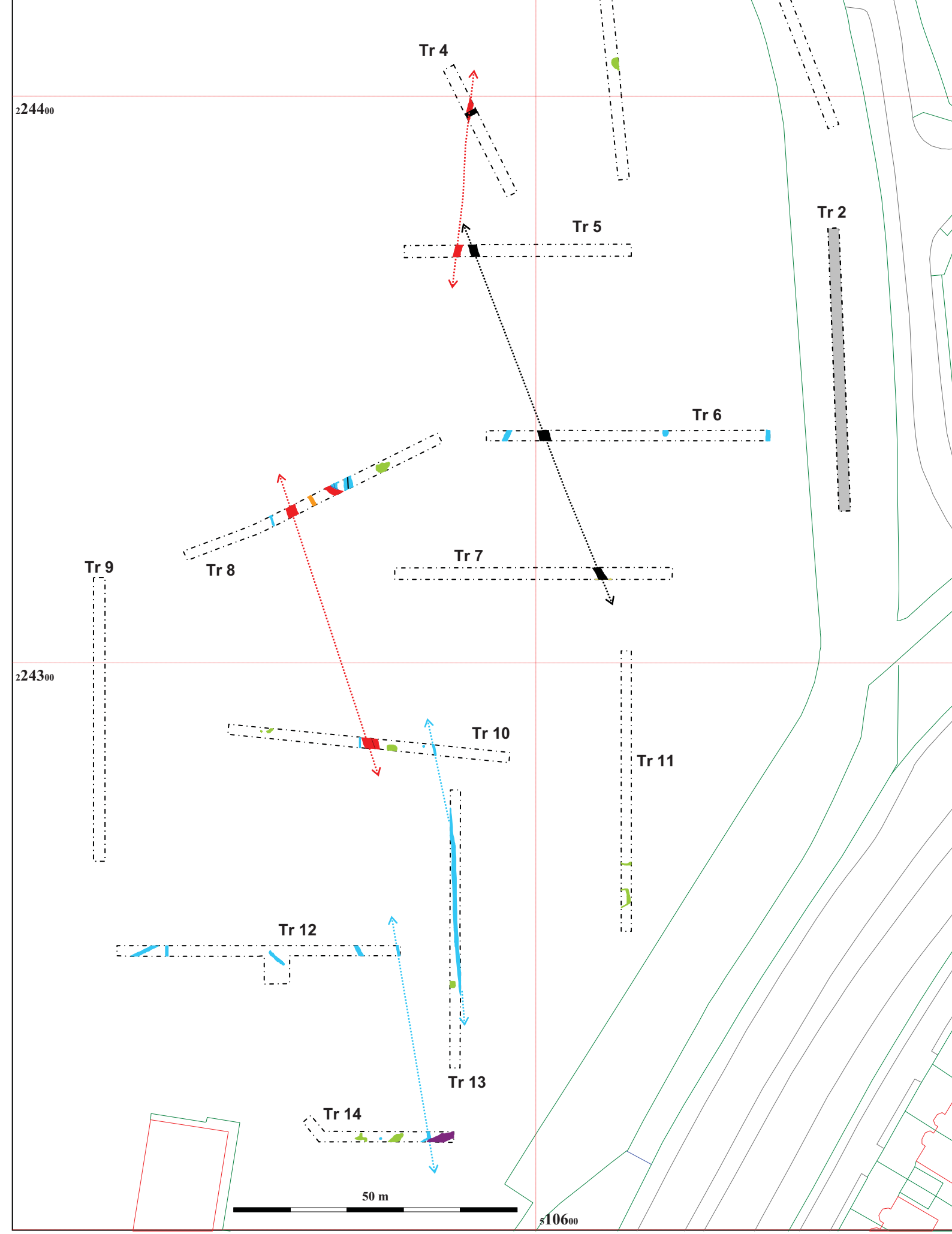


Figure 1: Site location

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Albion Archaeology, Central Bedfordshire Council,. OS Licence No. 100017358(LA). © Crown Copyright.



Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age

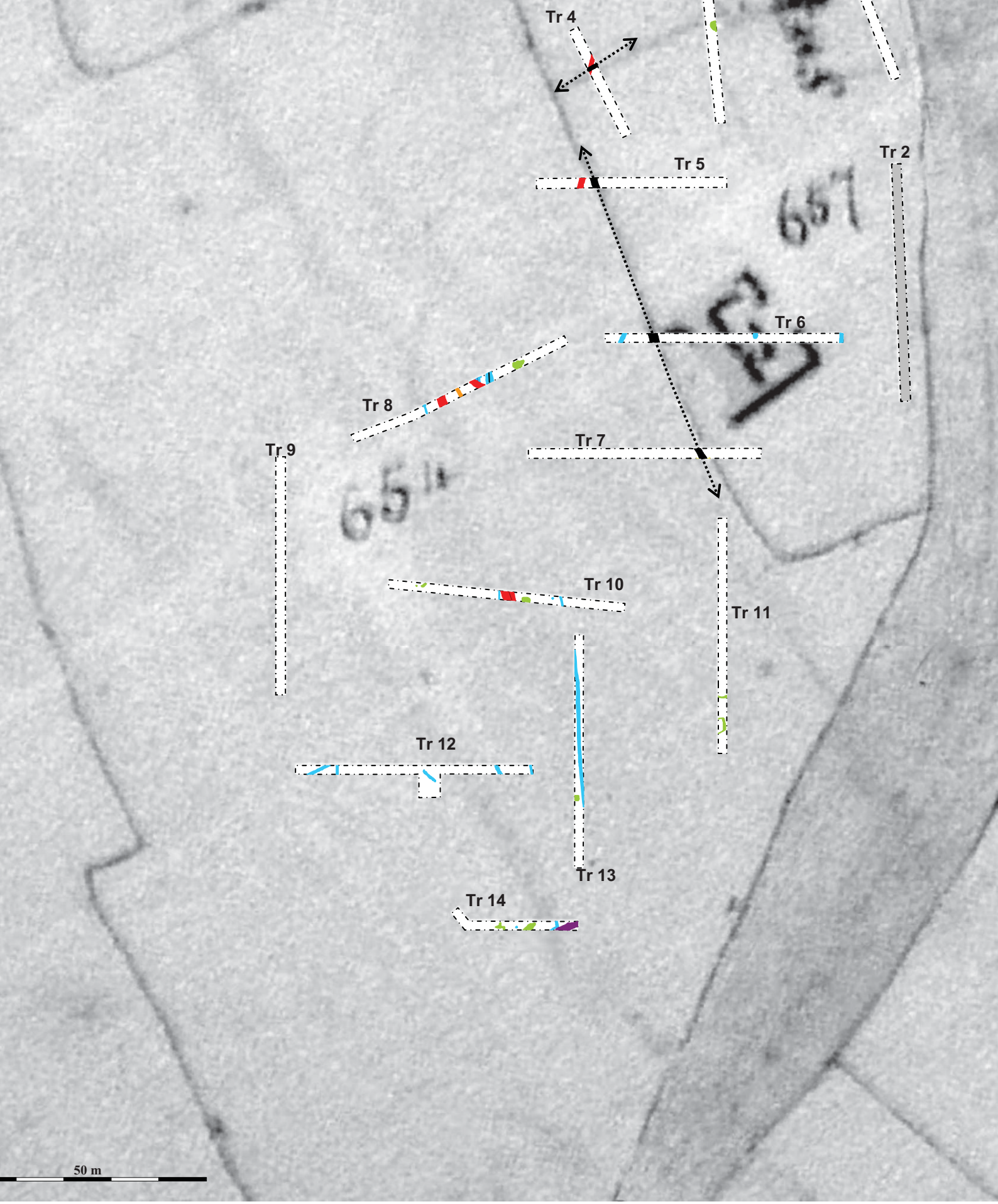
Late Iron Age

Late medieval / early post-medieval

Post-medieval structural remains

Tree-root disturbance

Undated



- Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age
- Late Iron Age
- Late medieval / early post-medieval
- Post-medieval ditches
- Post-medieval structural remains
- Tree-root disturbance
- Undated
- Modern

ological feature

ological feature; excavated segment

row hole

row hole; excavated segment

ed alignment of linear feature

20 m

[305]

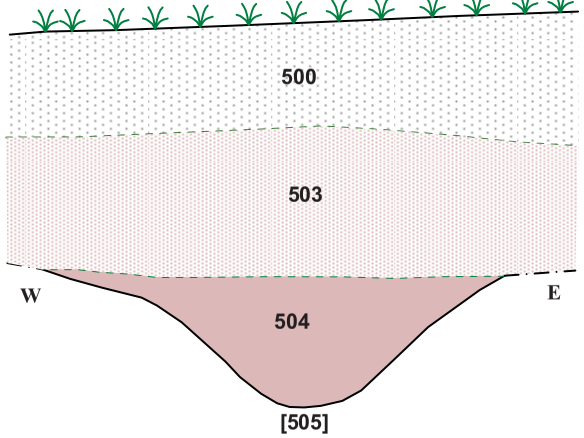
[303]

Tr 4

[407]

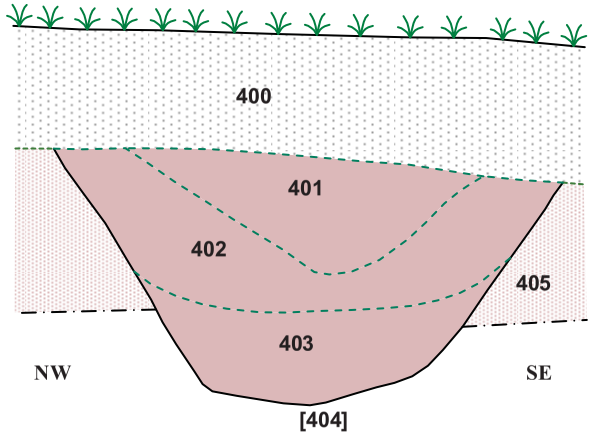
[404]

Section 2



Section 1

50cm



Section 2

[807] [809] Section 1 [824] [812] [820] [818] [814] [803] [822]

Archaeological feature
Archaeological feature; excavat
Tree-throw hole
Tree-throw hole; excavated segr
Projected alignment of linear fe

Tr 7 [703] Section 2

20 m

5106 00

19 817 W 815 816 [814]

Section 1

50cm

700 708 E W 701 707 702 705 706

Ditch [803], looking NW. Scale 1

l feature; excavated segment

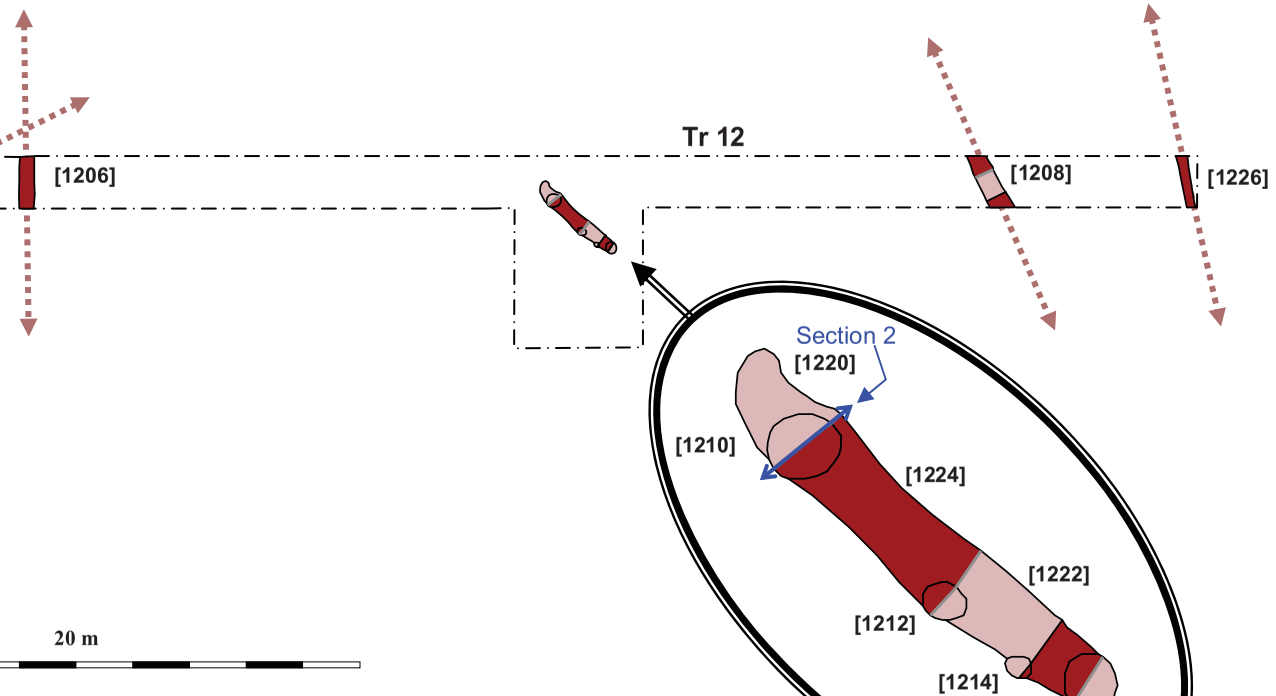
le

le; excavated segment

nment of linear feature

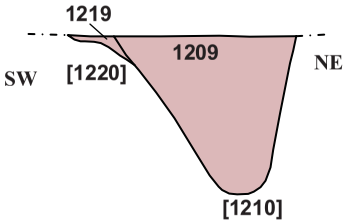
h 13, looking south. Scale 20cm

Ditch [1009] and hedgerow [1003]/[1007], looking north-west.



Section 1

50cm



Section 2

Beam-slot [1224], looking n
Scale 40cm

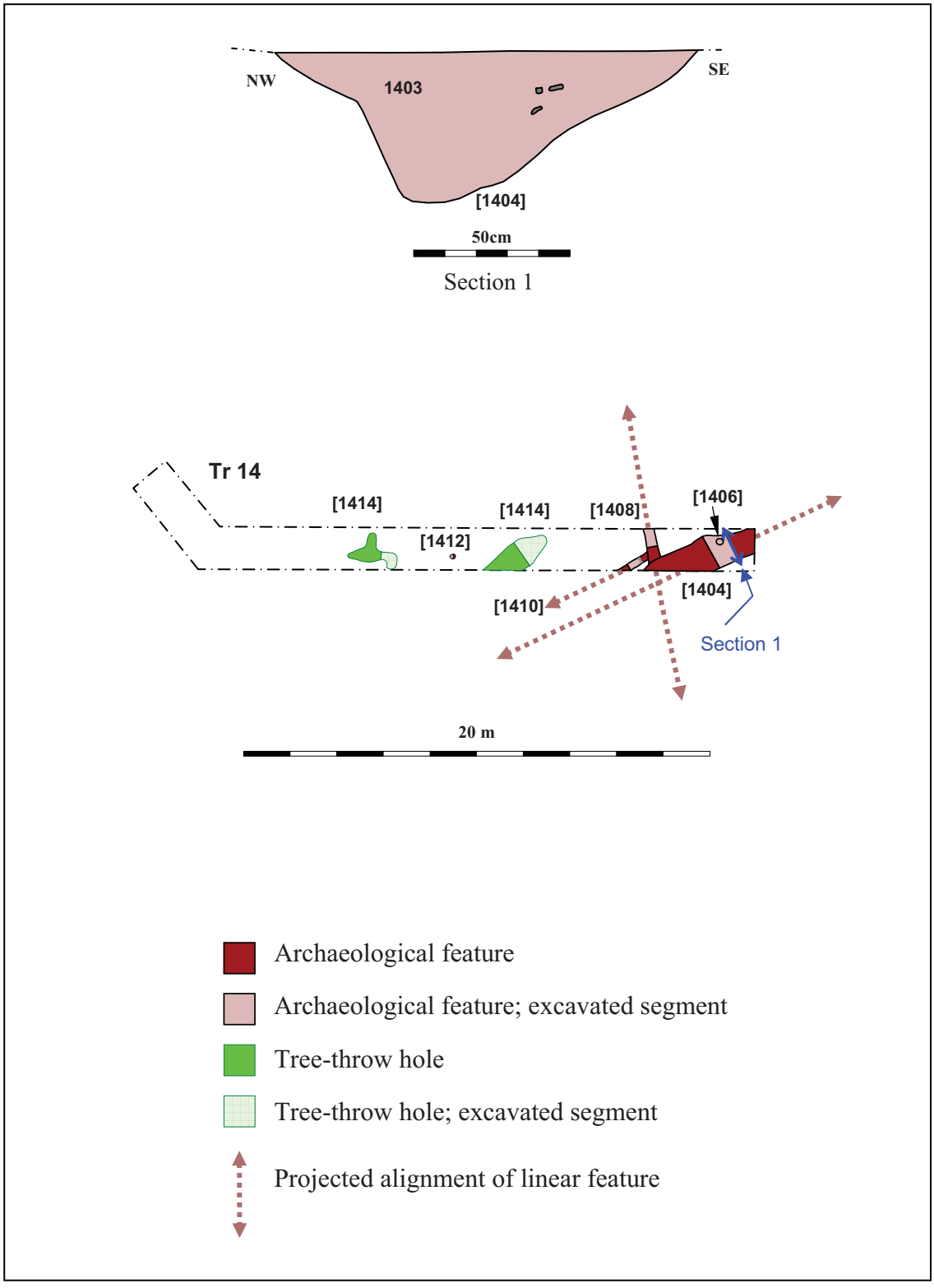


Figure 7: Trench 14