LAND AT LITTLE WALDEN ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Project: SWLWR10

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the 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.

The project was commissioned by ORS plc, and monitored on behalf of the Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management Team (HEM) by Richard Havis and Teresa 0'Connor. The fieldwork was undertaken by Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer). Site support and assistance was provided by Robert Wardill (Project Manager) and Ben Carroll (Archaeological Technician). The surveying was undertaken by Souterrain Ltd.

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Albion Archaeology is grateful to ORS plc for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Tony Carter, local metal detectorist, for sharing his knowledge and for metal detecting the spoil heaps.

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Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location, archaeological background and the aims and methodology of the project. Section 2 presents the results, which are synthesised in Section 3. Section 4 is a bibliography. Detailed trench summaries and contextual data are given in the Appendix (Section 5).



Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ECC Essex County Council

Client ORS plc

HER Historic Environment Record

HEM Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management

Team

IfA Institute for Archaeologists
LPA Local Planning Authority

Procedures Manual Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd edn, 2001

Albion Archaeology



Non-Technical Summary

The evaluation trenches on land at Little Walden Road exposed very few archaeological remains. One pottery vessel, dating to the late prehistoric period and deposited on the edge of an ancient watercourse, was revealed within the Development Area (DA). The deposition of the vessel probably represents the result of an isolated and chance ritual event.

The rest of the DA was characterised by a post-medieval boundary ditch and several large post-medieval quarry pits. The quarry pits were mainly concentrated to the west of the Madgate Slade where the geological deposits are more homogenous and consist of rich sand and gravel seams below a thick layer of sterile "loamy" alluvium which may also have been quarried.

The exposed geological layers to the east of the stream were much more mixed and revealed a multitude of palaeochannels, running parallel to the existing stream but also collecting water off the hillside and channelling it into the valley bottom.

The evidence for the thick layers of alluvium and ubiquitous water courses suggests that the area was always too wet and prone to flooding to sustain any permanent occupation in the past.

Maintenance of the Madgate Slade and improved drainage of the adjacent fields may have led to the increased exploitation of the area through agriculture, indicated by the establishment of field boundaries in the early 19th century.

The low density of metal finds within the DA suggests that the local market, postulated on the basis of quantities of artefacts from the area of the football field c. 50m to the west of the site, did not extend into the DA.

The findings of this evaluation seem to complement the historical and cartographic evidence, which suggested that the DA was part of the agricultural hinterland of medieval and later Saffron Walden (Albion Archaeology 2009).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Planning application (UTT/0407/09) for the development of 15 residential units, public open space, sports and community uses and flood attenuation measures on land at Little Walden Road was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in March 2009.

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Albion Archaeology 2009) was first prepared in 2005 in order to provide baseline information for the client. The assessment highlighted the potential for archaeological remains within the area (Section 1.3). The document was updated in 2009 and was submitted as part of the planning application to Uttlesford District Council.

Subsequently, a brief for archaeological field evaluation, in the form of trial trenching, was prepared by the HEM (ECC 2010). A Written Scheme of Investigation for the works was submitted by Albion Archaeology (Albion 2010) and approved by the HEM. The objective of the evaluation was to determine the extent, condition, date, nature and significance of any archaeological remains within the DA.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The DA is situated on the northern edge of Saffron Walden and is currently in use as arable farmland (Figure 1). It is c.6ha in size and is centred on NGR TL 5390 3930.

The DA is bordered to the west by Catons Lane and Saffron Walden football ground whilst to the south and east lies a mix of hedgerow and fencing, forming the boundary to housing and gardens beyond. To the north is a less substantial line of trees and hedgerow. A stream, the Madgate Slade, runs through the western part of the site dividing it into two parts.

The geology of the area comprises superficial "head" deposits, consisting of mixed clay, silt, sand and gravel. The underlying bedrock consists of Lewes nodular chalk formation, Seaford chalk formation and undifferentiated chalk.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological potential of the DA and its wider study area (a radius of 1km around the central point of the DA) was presented in detail in Albion's deskbased assessment (Albion Archaeology 2009). The following paragraphs provide a summary.

A number of sites and findspots, consisting of prehistoric flint and pottery, and Roman pottery and coins are recorded within the wider study area. Despite the existence of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery c. 700m to the south of the DA, the land at Little Walden Road is situated some distance from the core of the Saxon settlement in Saffron Walden and has low potential for finds from that period.



The DA lies closer to the medieval historic centre of Saffron Walden and a higher number of archaeological sites dating to this period are recorded within the study area. However, few of these records are within 200m of the DA and generally have little bearing on the likelihood for archaeological remains surviving within the site. The DA is situated to the north of the castle and the medieval town core; it is likely that this land would have been part of the wider medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape around the town.

Significant finds include a collection of artefacts, found during metal detecting following levelling work on the football pitch located c.50m to the west of the DA (HER 45356). These include several Roman coins and a brooch, medieval coins and cloth seals, post-medieval coins ranging from Elizabeth I through to James I and beyond, trade tokens, clothing hooks, buckles and lead cloth seals. The post-medieval finds suggest that a local market may have been sited here, the extent of which could have continued beyond the football pitch. Over a hundred pistol balls were also found as were a scatter of tile and fragments of window lead.

The archaeological potential of the DA from the prehistoric to the modern periods was summarised in the following table, which also gave an indication of the relative significance of any remains from those periods when considered on a regional/national basis. The conclusions presented within the table have not been significantly altered by the current investigation (Section 3).

Period	Potential for finding	Relative significance of
	archaeological remains	archaeological remains
	(Low, Moderate, High)	on a regional/national
		level
		(Low, Moderate, High)
Prehistoric (before AD43)	Low-Moderate	High
Roman $(AD43 - c.AD450)$	Low	High
Anglo-Saxon (c.AD450-AD1066)	Low	High
Medieval (AD1066-AD1550)	Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate
Post-medieval (AD1550-AD1900)	Low	Low
Modern (AD1900-present)	Low	Low



2. TRIAL TRENCHING

2.1 Introduction

Trial trenching took place between 18 and 29 October 2010, comprising the excavation of 34 trenches generally measuring 40m in length (Figure 2). To the east of the Madgate Slade the trenches were 2m wide and to the west they were 1.6m wide — a smaller machine (with a smaller ditching bucket) had to be hired in order to cross the fragile bridge over the stream.

Trenches 18 and 19 were located in an area of established grassland; they were not dug on the request of the landowner. Trench 21 was reduced to 50% of its proposed length due to the existence of a buried power cable along the western perimeter of the site. All alterations to the trench layout were approved by the HEM.

A total of 4% of the c. 6ha DA was sampled by the trenches.

2.2 Methodology

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IfA's Code of Conduct (2010)
- IfA's Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2008)
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork* and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2001)
- English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)

The locations of the trenches were marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation. Overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating under close archaeological supervision. The deposits were removed down to either the top of archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

Any potential archaeological remains were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn, and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc*. Deposits revealed during the trial trenching are summarised below.

The trenches were backfilled following the agreement of the HEM.

2.3 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Overburden consisted of a friable dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional small and moderately sized flint pebbles and occasional small chalk pebbles and charcoal flecks.



All trenches also contained a subsoil which was 0.15–0.35m deep and consisted of a friable mid orange brown silty gravel with moderate flint pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks. The subsoil grew progressively deeper towards the lower lying ground near the Madgate Slade, suggesting that it had, at least partly, formed through colluviation.

To the west of the stream the underlying geological "head" deposits were represented by a mixture of reddish brown silt, sand, silty gravel and white chalk gravel. To the east of the stream they consisted of compact yellow brown silty sand with seams of reddish brown gravel. No bedrock was reached.

2.4 Palaeochannels and Alluvium

The deposits within all trenches were greatly affected by and / or derived from the Madgate Slade in the western part of the DA.

All trenches to the west of the stream (Trenches 20 - 27) contained a thick layer of sterile light to mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small flint and chalk pebbles. This was 0.30-0.60m deep and its clean and homogenous nature suggests it represents a thick layer of alluvium (Figure 3). Apparently, the Madgate Slade is prone to flooding, even today, as it serves a wide catchment of water channels.

Trenches to the east of the stream had a variety of mid reddish brown silty gravel and silty sand deposits measuring up to 0.50m deep. These were removed by machine to reveal the underlying mixed silt and chalk gravel natural. This displayed a large numbers of palaeochannels filled with reddish gravel and occasionally with a sterile pinkish silt (Figure 3), which either ran parallel to the Madgate Slade or fed into it on a perpendicular alignment from the higher ground to the west.

2.5 Pottery Vessel

Part of an isolated pottery vessel, filled with burnt flint and charcoal and deliberately deposited on the edge of a palaeochannel, was identified in Trench 28 (Figure 4). The vessel dates to the late prehistoric period (Section 2.8). Processing of the soil within the vessel, and a soil sample taken from the trench section just above it, revealed that it was filled with very small fragments of burnt flint.

The western edge of Trench 28 was extended around the vessel by an area of 3.5m x 3.8m and the northern end of the trench was extended by a further 3m, but no further archaeological features were revealed.

As the vessel was located near an ancient water channel and contained burnt remains, it is possible that it was deposited as part of a ritual process, although to what precise purpose remains unclear.



2.6 Boundary ditches

Two segments of the same ditch, on an E-W alignment, were excavated in Trenches 30 and 35 (Figures 3 and 4). The ditch was up to 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep with sides sloping at 45 degrees to a concave base. It contained a yellowish brown sandy silt deposit with several fragments of post-medieval tile, modern pottery and glass fragments.

The ditch runs parallel to northern the boundary of the DA and is first shown on the Tithe map in 1840 and ultimately on the second edition 25-inch OS map of 1897. The fact that it is not shown on the Enclosure Map of 1825 suggests that any boundaries in this area are later than 1825, a conclusion that is supported by the modern (c.1800 - present) artefactual material within the ditch.

2.7 Quarry pits

A number of large pits were revealed and partially excavated by machine in Trenches 20, 22, 27 and 28 (Figure 5). They were 7m to >18m wide and up to 1.80m deep. A sondage was excavated by machine at the southern edge of pit [2703] in Trench 27 and reached a depth of 2.0m. The centre of the pit may well have been deeper.

The pits were backfilled with a variety of re-deposited natural sandy silts and gravels. Pits [2703] and [2808] were capped with a distinctive layer of re-deposited chalk gravel (Figure 5 photo). The size and depth of the pits, and the fragments of post-medieval tile found within their fills, suggests they were quarry pits.

Local anecdotal evidence suggests that the field used to be intensively quarried for its sand and gravel seams and was even called "Quarry Field" by the townspeople. No historical evidence has been found to corroborate this claim specifically for the DA. However, a number of "Chalk Pit Field" and "Clay Pit Acre" place-names, and descriptions of "clay pits" and "loompits" (loam pits) have been recorded in the Essex Place-name Database within the parish of Saffron Walden (Essex Society for Archaeology and History 2003). This highlights the exploitation of the area's geological deposits through quarrying.

2.8 Artefacts

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and ceramic building material (Table 1).

2.8.1 Ceramics

Twenty-eight prehistoric pottery sherds (250g) deriving from a single, hand-made vessel were recovered from pit [2804]. The sherds survive in good condition and are from a well-made vessel in a sand- and coarse grog-tempered fabric. Absence of diagnostic elements such as decoration, rim or base fragments precludes accurate dating and the vessel has been assigned a date range spanning the late Bronze Age to Iron Age.



Post-medieval ditch [3004] yielded five sherds from a glazed earthenware bowl and a single pearlware plate rim.

Ceramic building material comprised twelve sand-tempered post-medieval peg tile fragments (696g) and three contemporary pieces of brick (237g), recovered from features [2204], [2703], [2707] and [3003].

2.8.2 Non-ceramics

Eight unstratified copper alloy items and two lead objects were collected from topsoil deposits in Trenches 28, 30 and 36. The former comprise four flat, cast blazer/livery buttons, three with cone shanks indicating an 18th-century date, and one with a simple loop shank, of 19th-century origin. An incomplete domed composite button was also recovered. Composite buttons are known from medieval deposits in London (1270–1350), although continued to be manufactured into the post-medieval period.

Other copper alloy finds are an incomplete cast strap mount with an integral rivet, of a type well attested from medieval and post-medieval deposits, and an unidentified machine-made object which may be part of a modern gearing or release mechanism.

Lead objects comprise a pistol (?) ball of 17th-century or later date, and two undated, irregular waste fragments.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
22	2204	Quarry pit	2205	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (144g)
27	2703	Quarry pit	2705	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (106g)
	2707	Pit	2708	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (165g)
28	2800	Topsoil	2800	Modern	Copper alloy button; lead shot
	2804	Pit	2806	Late prehistoric	Pottery (250g)
30	3000	Topsoil	3000	Modern	Copper alloy strap mount/rivet; lead waste;
	2002	D': 1	2004	D . 11 1	copper alloy button
	3003	Ditch	3004	Post-medieval	Pottery (202g); ceramic roof tile & brick
					(518g)
36	3600	Topsoil	3600	Modern	Copper alloy button x 3; copper alloy sheet;
					copper alloy object

^{* -} spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature



3. SYNTHESIS

The evaluation of the DA has exposed very few archaeological remains. One late prehistoric pottery vessel, deposited on the edge of an ancient watercourse, was revealed. The deposition of the vessel probably represents the result of an isolated and chance ritual event.

The rest of the DA is characterised by the presence of a post-medieval boundary ditch and several large post-medieval quarry pits. The latter were mainly concentrated to the west of the stream where geological deposits are more homogenous and consist of rich sand and gravel seams below a thick layer of sterile "loamy" alluvium. Exposed geological layers to the east of the stream were more mixed and revealed a multitude of palaeochannels, running both parallel and perpendicular to the existing stream.

The thick layers of alluvium and ubiquitous water courses suggest the area has always been wet and, therefore, prone to flooding. This is likely to have made it unattractive for permanent occupation in the past.

Maintenance of the Madgate Slade and improved drainage of adjacent fields may have led to the increased exploitation of the area through agriculture. This is indicated by the establishment of field boundaries in the early 19th century and seems to confirm the historical and cartographic evidence, which suggested that the DA was part of the agricultural hinterland of medieval and later Saffron Walden (Albion Archaeology 2009).

The trenches were detected for metal finds. However, the results were not comparable in number or quality to the finds collected during the work on the football club (Albion Archaeology 2009). That area of the DA to the west of the Madgate Slade, bordering the football club, generally has a much lower density of metal finds than even neighbouring fields to the west (Carter pers. comm.). It is, therefore, unlikely that the possible post-medieval local market, postulated to have existed in the area of the football club, extended into the DA.

As a result of the trial trenching, the table summarising the archaeological potential of the DA can be revised as follows:

Period	Potential for finding archaeological remains (Low, Moderate, High)	Relative significance of archaeological remains on a regional/national level
		(Low, Moderate, High)
Prehistoric (before AD43)	Low	High
Roman $(AD43 - c.AD450)$	Low	High
Anglo-Saxon (c.AD450-AD1066)	Low	High
Medieval (AD1066-AD1550)	Low	Low - moderate
Post-medieval (AD1550-AD1900)	Low-moderate	Low
Modern (AD1900-present)	Low-moderate	Low



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5. APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH SUMMARIES



Max Dimensions: Length: 38.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53884: Northing: 38989)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53884: Northing: 38953)

Context	t: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	resent:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	✓	
101	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
102	Natural	White chalk with large silty gravel patches.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53901: Northing: 38969)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 53864: Northing: 38969*)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
201	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
202	Natural	Chalk with large orange brown silty gravel patches.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53913: Northing: 39028)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53913: Northing: 38988)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pres	sent:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
301	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel. Only present in southern part of the trench.	V	
302	Natural	Chalk gravel.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53913: Northing: 39008)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53913: Northing: 38988)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
401	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
402	Natural	Dirty chalk gravel.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.58 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53859: Northing: 39023)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53859: Northing: 38982)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	resent:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	✓	
501	Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel.	✓	
502	Natural	Chalk gravel with silty gravel patches. In southern end is a large patch of		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53876: Northing: 39023)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53836: Northing: 39023)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
601	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
602	Natural	Chalk with large channels of orange brown silty gravel and patches of small orange white peagritty chalk gravel.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53859: Northing: 39066)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53819: Northing: 39066)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	~	
701	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	~	
702	Natural	Chalk peagritty gravel with orange brown silty gravel patches and a pinkish silty channel in western end.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53834: Northing: 39107)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53834: Northing: 39066)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	esent:
800	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
801	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
802	Natural	Chalk with small patches of yellow brown peagritty chalk gravel.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39093)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39053)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	esent:
900	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	✓	
901	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
902	Natural	Chalk with silty gravel patches.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53919: Northing: 39073)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53879: Northing: 39073)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	esent:
1000	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
1001	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
1002	Natural	Chalk.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53909: Northing: 39128)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53909: Northing: 39088)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
1100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
1101	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
1102	Natural	Chalk.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53889: Northing: 39111)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53849: Northing: 39111)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds l	Present:
1200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	Y	
1201	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	~	
1202	Natural	Chalk with large patches of pinkish silt, orange brown silty gravel and peagrit.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39168)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 53869: Northing: 39128*)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
1300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
1301	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
1302	Natural	Mid orange brown gravel with chalk patches and peagrit patches.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53929: Northing: 39148)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53889: Northing: 39148)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
1400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
1401	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
1402	Natural	Chalk with a large channel of pinkish silt in western end.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53909: Northing: 39204)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53909: Northing: 39164)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
1500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
1501	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
1502	Natural	Chalk with patches of orange silty gravel.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53889: Northing: 39186)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53849: Northing: 39186)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
1600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
1601	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
1602	Natural	Mid orange brown silty gravel with patches of chalk and peagrit.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39226)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39186)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds F	Present:
1700	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	V	
1701	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
1702	Natural	Orange brown silty gravel with chalk patches. In northern end silty paleochannel.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53784: Northing: 39208)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53784: Northing: 39248)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Prese	ent:
2000	Topsoil	Friable dark brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	✓	
2001	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small chalk, occasional small charcoal, moderate small stones Darker than (2002)	✓	
2002	Alluvium	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones Very homogenous, clean and sterile	V	
2003	Natural	Compact mid yellow silty sand occasional small stones		
2004	Pit	Sub-circular sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.8m, min length 5.4m Pit cut. Probably for brick waste material.	V	
2005	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate large ceramic building material, moderate medium ceramic building material, occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones Primary deposit within pit [2004].	✓	
2006	Fill	Friable light orange brown silty sand frequent large ceramic building material, occasional small ceramic building material	V	
2007	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	\checkmark	



Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53784: Northing: 39248)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 53774: Northing: 39248*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
2100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	
2101	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	
2102	Alluvium	Friable light to mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional very small stones and charcoal flecks. Near sterile.	
2103	Natural	Compact light to mid yellow silty sand with occasional small stones.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 35.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.1 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53806: Northing: 39282)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 53771: Northing: 39282*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
2200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	V	
2201	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small chalk, occasional small charcoal, moderate small stones	✓	
2202	Alluvium	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	\checkmark	
2203	Natural	Compact dark yellow silty sand moderate small stones		
2204	Quarry	Sub-circular sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, max depth 0.6m, max length 6.7m	\checkmark	
2205	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small chalk, moderate small stones	\checkmark	✓
2206	Fill	Friable mid brown sandy silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	~	
2207	Quarry	Irregular sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, max depth 1.2m, max length 10.7m	V	
2208	Fill	Friable dark red brown sandy silt moderate small stones	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53771: Northing: 39323)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53771: Northing: 39282)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
2300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	
2301	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	
2302	Alluvium	Friable light to mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional very small stones and charcoal flecks. Near sterile.	
2303	Natural	Compact light to mid yellow silty sand with occasional small stones.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53785: Northing: 39323)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53746: Northing: 39323)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
2400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	
2401	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	
2402	Alluvium	Friable light to mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional very small stones and charcoal flecks. Near sterile.	V
2403	Natural	Compact light to mid yellow silty sand with occasional small stones with patches of gravel and peagrit.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53739: Northing: 39373)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53739: Northing: 39332)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
2500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	V
2501	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	
2502	Alluvium	Friable light to mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional very small stones and charcoal flecks. Near sterile.	
2503	Natural	Compact light to mid yellow silty sand with occasional small stones with small gravel and chalk patches.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53739: Northing: 39373)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (*Easting: 53771: Northing: 93973*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
2600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.	V	
2601	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, ceramic building material and charcoal flecks.		
2602	Alluvium	Friable light to mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional very small stones and charcoal flecks. Near sterile. Natural not revealed in this trench.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.95 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53771: Northing: 39393)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53771: Northing: 39368)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2700	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	✓	
2702	Natural	Mid red brown silty gravel	✓	
2703	Quarry	Sub-circular sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, min depth 2.m, malength 41.m	V	
2704	Fill	Mid pinkish brown clay silt	✓	
2705	Fill	Loose mid yellow sandy gravel occasional small ceramic building material	✓	✓
2706	Fill	Friable brown white chalky sand occasional small ceramic building material, frequent medium chalk, occasional small charcoal	✓	
2709	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand frequent small stones		
2710	Fill	Friable brown white chalky sand occasional small ceramic building material, frequent large chalk, occasional flecks charcoal		
2707	Pit	Rectangular sides: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.13m, max length 1.3m	✓	
2708	Fill	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small charcoal, moderate small stones Fill of [2707]	✓	✓



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.78 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53810: Northing: 39369)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53810: Northing: 39329)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2800	Topsoil	Friable dark green brown sandy silt moderate small stones	✓	~
2801	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	
2802	Palaeochannel	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt frequent medium stones, frequent small stones Slightly darker than (2801).	✓	
2803	Natural	Friable mid orange brown silt frequent small stones Natural geological deposits. No chalk in this trench. Chalk reached at a depth of 1.80m in sondage in southern end, at base of deep pit [2808].		
2804	Pit	Sub-circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.22m, max depth 0.13m, max length 0.24m Cut to accommodate pot and fill (2806).	✓	
2805	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stone Primary deposit within cut [2804].	es 🗸	
2806	Fill	Firm dark brown black silty sand frequent small burnt stones, frequent small charce	oal 🗸	~
2807	Fill	Friable mid orange brown moderate medium charcoal, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Moderate small pieces of burnt flint.	✓	
2808	Quarry	dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, max depth 1.8m, min length 7.5m Cut in southern part of trench. Machine sondage showed it to be 1.80m deep. Not fully excavated. Quarry pit for gravel. Similar to [2703].	✓	
2809	Fill	Friable sandy silt occasional small stones Unexcavated deposit within the northern edge of pit [2808].		
2810	Fill	Mid red brown silty sand frequent small stones Unexcavated. Deposit within pit [2808]. Re-deposited natural. Deliberate backfill.		
2811	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Machined. Deliberate backfill o pit [2808].	✓	
2812	Fill	Friable light brown white chalky sand frequent large chalk Topfill/capping of pit [2808]. Very similar to (2706).	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 0.95 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53849: Northing: 39363)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53889: Northing: 39363)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
2900	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	✓	
2901	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
2902	Natural	Chalk with large patches of pinkish silt.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39353)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39313)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: F	inds Present:
3000	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones	✓	✓
3001	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones	V	
3002	Natural	Chalk in north, gravel in south.		
3003	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.87m, max depth 0.33m, max length 2.1m Modern 19th-century ditch (field boundary or drainage). Similar to trench 35 [3503].	V	
3004	Fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt moderate medium stones, occasional large stones All stones sub-angular. Clear with natural. Deposit similar to that in T35 (3504).	✓	\checkmark



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53889: Northing: 39308)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53849: Northing: 39308)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
3100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	~	
3101	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
3102	Natural	Gravel with patches of chalk gravel and pinkish silt.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.85 m. Max: 0.93 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39303)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53869: Northing: 39263)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
3200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	✓	
3201	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
3202	Natural	Chalk and gravel.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53909: Northing: 39273)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53909: Northing: 39242)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
3300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	✓	
3301	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
3302	Natural	Chalk.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53929: Northing: 39273)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53889: Northing: 39273)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
3400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	✓	
3401	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
3402	Natural	Silty with chalk patches.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 1. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53909: Northing: 39326)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53909: Northing: 39286)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones	✓	
3501	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	
3502	Natural	Mid orange brown silt frequent small stones Chalk.		
3503	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m max depth 0.4m, max length 2.2m Modern 19th Century ditch field boundary on drainage) Similar to [3003].	, v	
3504	Fill	Friable light yellow brown sandy silt moderate medium stones Stones subangular. Clear with natural. Trowel and mattock excavated. Fill similar to (3004). Fill from rubbish and alluvial processes.	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.7 m.

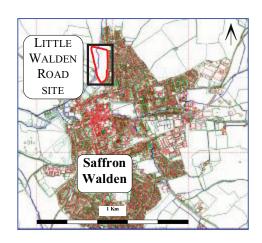
Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53929: Northing: 39336)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 53889: Northing: 39336)

Context	: Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
3600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small flint pebbles.	✓	~
3601	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty gravel.	✓	
3602	Natural	Chalk and gravel.		







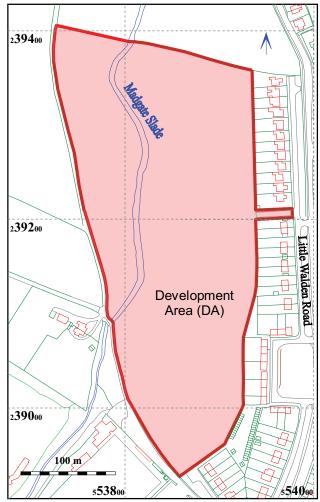
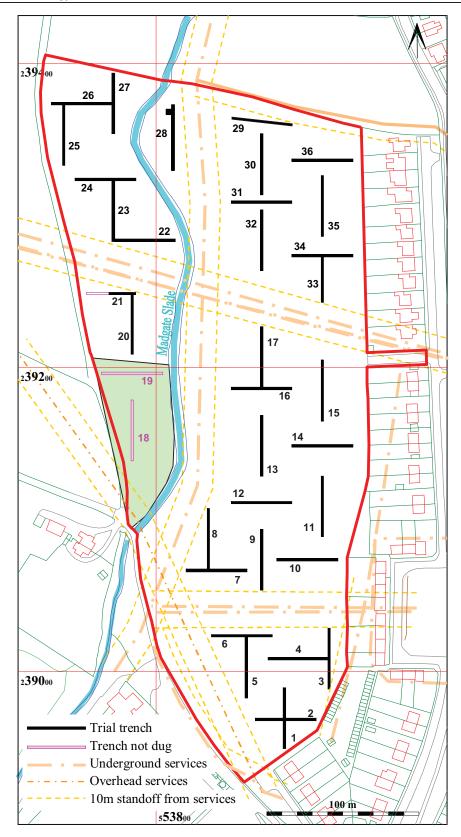


Figure 1: Site location plan

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 $\label{eq:Figure 2: Trench locations} Figure \ 2: \ Trench \ locations$ 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.



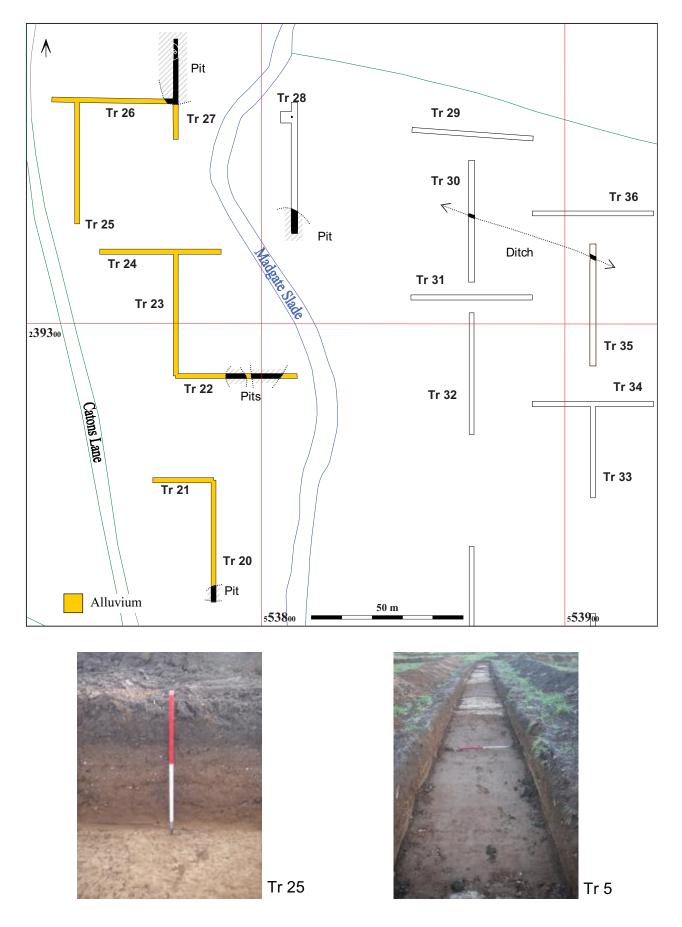
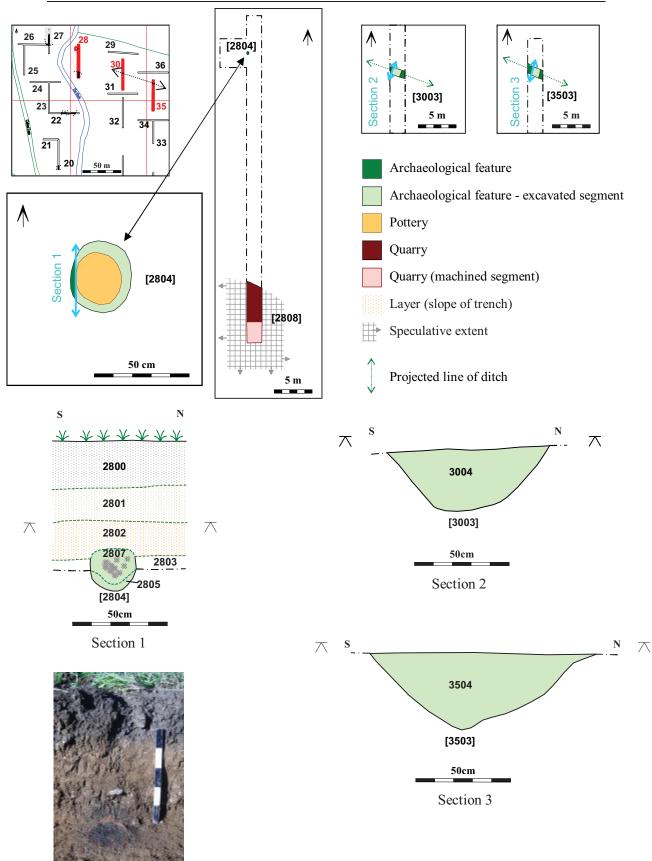


Figure 3: All features plan, alluvium (photo left) and palaeochannels (photo right)

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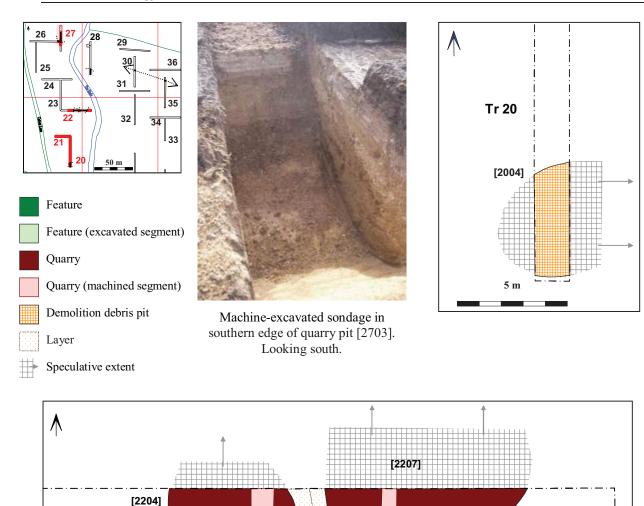


Photograph of pot [2804] before extension of trench. Scale 50cm.

Figure 4: Prehistoric pottery vessel and boundary ditches, Trenches 28, 30, and 35

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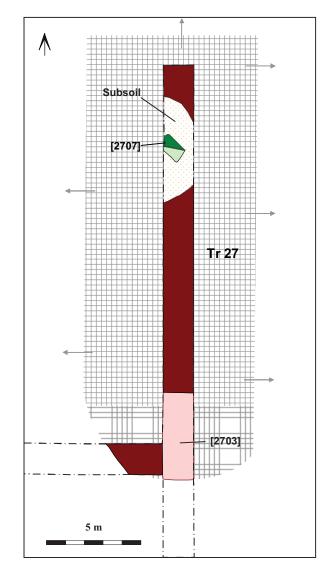


Figure 5: Quarry pits, Trenches 20, 22, and 27 Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Albion Archaeology, Central Bedfordshire Council. OS Licence No. 100017358(LA). © Crown Copyright.