LAND AT 41 HIGH STREET
HENLOW
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Project: HSH1737

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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Richard Gregson, Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson	Gary Edmondson	Drew Shotliff

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Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

All figures are bound at the back of this report

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 Collins & Coward Limited on behalf of their client Champneys Henlow Limited. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth, a Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Gregson (Project Supervisor) assisted by Ben Carroll (Archaeological Technician). The samples were processed by Slawomir Utrata (Archaeological Technician). This report has been prepared by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager), Richard Gregson and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The figures were produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion would like to thank the staff of Champneys Henlow Limited and Mr Collins for their kind help and co-operation during the investigation. The advice provided by the project ecologist Michael Jennings is gratefully acknowledged, as is the assistance provided by Stephen Coleman of the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record and staff of the Bedford and Luton Archive Record Service.

Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford.
MK42 0AS

☎*: 0300 300 6867*
Fax: 0300 300 8209
e-mail: g.edmondson@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com

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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 of the project. Section 2 describes the trial trenching methodology and Section 3 summarises the results. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains a finds summary, with trench summary information and detailed contextual data contained in Appendix 2.

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
Agent/Client	Mr Collins of Collins & Coward Limited for Champneys Henlow Limited
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
Procedures Manual	*Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd ed, 2001 Albion Archaeology

Non-Technical Summary

A pre-application enquiry has been made regarding the conversion of an existing office building into flats and the erection of seven houses at 41 High Street, Henlow (CB/10/02811/PAPP). The proposed development area (DA) lies within the historic core of the village. As this is a known heritage asset, within a wider archaeological landscape, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist advised that an archaeological field evaluation should be undertake in order assess the impact of the proposed development. This recommendation is in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

Henlow is situated on the western side of the valley of the Rive Ivel, approximately 6km south-west of Biggleswade. The DA is located towards the centre of the village on the western side of the High Street. In plan the DA is roughly rectangular, extending 120m westwards from the street frontage to a tributary of the River Ivel, and <21m wide, reducing to 16m near the street frontage. The eastern part of the DA contains a series of buildings and associated car parking, with only a small rectangle of open ground, immediately to the west of the narrow part of the land parcel. The development proposal will retain the main building and convert it into flats. The western part of the site is open, rough grassland, with trees defining the margins of the land parcel. Originally, five trenches were proposed to investigate the open ground beyond the standing buildings and associated car park and access road. However, only Trenches 1-4 could be opened, as the vicinity of Trench 5 contained services which were likely to be disturbed by removal of the tree stumps within the proposed trench.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 10th and 17th February 2011. The investigation revealed extensive make-up deposits of post-medieval to modern date, with occasional associated features comprising pathways and a ditch. At a depth of between 0.9m and 1.2m a series of earlier archaeological features were revealed, comprising shallow, perpendicular, ditched boundaries. These are tentatively dated to the Saxo-Norman period by a small pottery assemblage. These features were severely truncated by later activity and very disturbed by extensive rooting. The ditches truncated a series of thin alluvial deposits which extended across the site, becoming thicker towards the watercourse in the west. In this area, below the alluvium were a series of dark deposits possible filling an old watercourse. A small finds assemblage was recovered, which included Saxo-Norman pottery and animal bone. This material was mainly from the eastern part of the deposit, suggesting dumping of material from the adjacent bank. As the top of the deposit was exposed at a depth of 1.1m, it was necessary to restrict investigation to the recovery of artefacts.

In summary, the evaluation revealed deeply buried deposits dating from the Saxo-Norman period onwards, although the assemblage of datable pottery is small. Whilst the remains are mainly of local significance, with limited potential to address regional research themes relating to the form and development of settlements in this period, the deeply buried early deposits are very truncated and disturbed by rooting, which tends to reduce their significance. Due to the deep overburden, the impact of the proposed development is likely to be limited to only the deepest components of the groundworks.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

A pre-application enquiry has been made regarding the conversion of an existing office building into flats and the erection of seven houses at 41 High Street, Henlow (CB/10/02811/PAPP). The proposed development area (DA) lies within the historic core of the village. As this is a known heritage asset, within a wider archaeological landscape, it is necessary to submit a description of its significance and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development in support of a planning application. This is in accordance with *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that an archaeological field evaluation should be undertaken.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared in response to a brief for the archaeological work issued by the CBCA (2010), detailing the requirement for the DA to be evaluated by trial trenches. The trial trenching forms an initial stage of archaeological investigation, the results of which will inform future decisions concerning the archaeological potential of the site with regard to the proposed development.

1.2 Site Location and Description

Henlow is situated on the western side of the valley of the Rive Ivel, approximately 6km south-west of Biggleswade. The DA is located towards the centre of the village on the western side of the High Street, at NGR TL (5)17625 (2)38310 (Figure 1). It is roughly rectangular in plan, extending 120m westwards from the street frontage to a tributary of the River Ivel, and <21m wide, reducing to 16m near the street frontage. The tributary is an 'Arterial Watercourse' (number 146) of the Bedford Group Inland Drainage Board; a 10m stand-off was observed during the archaeological investigation (Figure 1 – grey area). The eastern part of the DA contains a series of buildings and associated car parking (Figure 1 - yellow area), with only a small rectangle of open ground, immediately to the west of the narrow part of the land parcel. The development proposal will retain the main building and convert it into flats. The western part of the site is open, rough grassland, with trees defining the margins of the land parcel. Towards the western margin of the land parcel, three relatively immature trees form a north-south line, possibly following an old land division.

The DA is relatively flat at *c*.39m OD, with a slight slope down to the west, towards the watercourse. It is on the eastern margin of an ancient buried channel, with superficial glaciofluvial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation occupying the majority of the site, whilst the western margin near the watercourse comprises a linear north-south band of alluvium. However, a recent evaluation at Town Court Farm approximately 100m to the north indicated that alluvial deposits extended significantly further to the east. A short distance further south is Till (British Geological Survey 2001, Biggleswade, England and Wales Sheet 204 Solid and Drift).

1.3 Archaeological Background

The Domesday survey of 1086 indicates settlement at Henlow, with the linear north-south form of the village developing in the medieval period. A 1km-radius search of the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) revealed approximately 66 previously recorded heritage assets. The majority of these were of post-medieval or later date, principally buildings. Of the remaining ten, four date to the prehistoric period, two to the Saxon and three to the medieval period; one is of unknown date.

The majority of the four prehistoric heritage assets are in the adjacent parish of Clifton, situated to the north-west of the DA. These consist of a series of inhumation burials (HER 394), one of which was associated with a Beaker vessel. The other two Clifton parish heritage assets (HER 15095 and HER 15096) are cropmarks, visible on aerial photographs, which define enclosures. The nature of these enclosures suggests that they are of prehistoric date. A series of linear and curvilinear cropmarks (HER 1888) are located approximately 260m to the north-west of DA; their form suggests that they may also be of prehistoric date. During archaeological works at 109-113 High Street, Henlow evidence of prehistoric features was revealed, including a possible Iron Age roundhouse.

Evidence for Saxon activity consists of a pottery vessel (HER 393), found in 1930, close to the Beaker inhumation burials mentioned previously. This clustering may suggest that a prehistoric barrow continued to be used in the Saxon period, although no traces of this putative monument survived into the modern period. HER 790 is place-name evidence, as the Old English for Henlow suggest the location of a possible burial mound. The archaeological works at 109-113 High Street, revealed a series of Saxo-Norman rubbish pits, suggesting activity in the vicinity.

Medieval heritage assets in Henlow include the church (HER 1071), which contains a reused Norman window, although the earliest standing fabric dates from the 12th century onwards. The medieval linear village (HER 17111) is on the line of the modern High Street, although it should be noted that the church is set back from this routeway to the east. This may suggest a shift in the location of the settlement during this period. There is a back lane to the east of the High Street, now known as Park Lane, although there is no corresponding back lane on the west side of the settlement. Traces of arable ridge and furrow cultivation (HER 1773) have been identified to the south of the village, defining one of the settlement's five open fields.

Finally, HER 4490 defines a linear earthwork of unknown date, located to the north-west of the DA.

1.4 Historical Maps

The 1798 enclosure map indicates that the DA comprises elements of two land parcels, separated by a channel which drained to the north (Figure 2). Although no sign of the ditch is visible today, it may correspond to three trees situated in the western part of the land parcel. This map indicates that the channel originated at the southern margin of the DA, with a line of buildings extending eastwards from

the channel all the way to the street frontage. These would appear to be located to the south of the DA. Within the DA, buildings were confined to the vicinity of the street frontage.

The first edition OS map of 1882 clearly defines the DA, with a series of buildings lining the street frontage. Generally, the buildings would appear to correspond to those shown on the 1798 map, apart from replacement of the building immediately to the north of the site. At this time, the plot is larger with a constant width to the street frontage. A singe building occupies the northern part of the frontage, corresponding to the present-day building. This replaces a larger, elongated east-west building shown on the 1798 map. A boundary is shown extending to the west of this building, but there is no northern continuation to define a separate land parcel. Beyond a central access, three buildings form an inverted 'T'-shape with the long axis aligned east-west. None of these would appear to correspond to the existing building. Beyond a boundary, which defines the eastern third of the land parcel, the rest of the area is open, apart from a double row of trees aligned north-south, continuing the projected line of a watercourse seen beyond the DA to the north.

1.5 Project Objectives

The general objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- The location, nature, date and extent of any archaeological remains;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.

The specific objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- if there was any evidence for prehistoric or Roman occupation of the site;
- if Saxon remains, relating to the origins of the current settlement were present;
- if medieval or early post-medieval remains were present;
- the nature and extent of any alluvial deposits.

This information is to be used to assess the impact of the development on any identified heritage assets and assist in the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy, if required.

The project had the potential to add to knowledge and understanding of the utilisation of the valley of the River Ivel and the development of the medieval and later settlement at Henlow.

The currently limited knowledge of the archaeological potential of the vicinity of the site hindered the formulation of more detailed site-specific research aims at this stage of the investigations.

2. TRIAL TRENCHING METHODOLOGY

The original scheme involved the opening of five trenches (Figure 1), focusing on the undeveloped western part of the DA which extends beyond the car park to the watercourse. A 10m stand-off from the watercourse was observed. The trees within the site and the hedges at the margins of the site were avoided, so as to minimise the impact on wildlife, in accordance with advice provided by the project ecologist. The investigation was undertaken between 10th and 17th February 2011.

The investigation revealed an extensive series of modern and post-medieval make-up deposits; earlier deposits were identified at 0.95–1.15m below the present ground level. Water percolation, due to a high groundwater table, was encountered from approximately 0.4m below the present ground level. Due to the risk of trench edge collapse (through a combination of unstable ground and water percolation) excavation was halted for safety reasons at a depth 0.95–1.2m below ground level, even where undisturbed geological strata had not been reached.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket and operated by an experienced driver under the supervision of an archaeologist. In accordance with the approved strategy, when alluvial deposits were revealed, the trench was initially opened to the top of this horizon and a check made for features cutting the deposit. Once this had been completed mechanical removal of the alluvial deposits continued in the western trenches.

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 site was visited by the CBCA on 11th February 2011, and permission was given to backfill the trenches once the agreed work was completed.

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM: 2011.17).

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Trenches 1-4 were opened, with all but Trench 4 containing archaeological remains. As noted previously Trench 5 was not opened due to the risk of disturbing live services. Due to the presence of an extensive concrete slab, Trench 3 was split into two components. The results of the investigation are summarised below. More detailed information on the finds and deposits revealed in the trenches can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

3.2 Geological Strata

On the lower ground at the western margin of the site in Trench 1, a small sondage revealed undisturbed geological strata consisting of light blue grey clay. Further to the east the deposit changed to light yellow orange sandy gravel.

3.3 Archaeological Remains

The results of the investigation are discussed chronologically, from earliest to latest, using the stratigraphic sequence to combine the results from the trenches. Only a small finds assemblage was recovered which does not provide completely reliable dating evidence In the following discussion context numbers in brackets refer to the cuts [ ] and associated fills ( ) recorded on site.

3.3.1 Palaeochannel – old watercourse

Extending the length of Trench 1 and containing into the western margin of Trench 2 [104]/[215] (blue feature on Figure 3, Figure 3: section 1), the dark blue grey silty clay fills were distinctive, contrasting with other deposits (Figure 4: image 1). This material probably accumulated in slow-moving or stagnant water. Due to the depth of the deposits below present ground level, investigation was limited to the recovery of a small assemblage of pottery and animal bone. It was noticeable that anthropogenic materials, such as charcoal, fired clay and oyster shell fragments, were more abundant to the east, suggesting low-intensity dumping of waste from adjacent dry land. The small amount of pottery suggests a Saxo-Norman date for this activity.

3.3.2 Alluvium

Mid-dark orangey brown alluvial deposits (101/(102) provided a contrast to the earlier, darker palaeochannel fills (Figure 4: image 1). Towards the western margin of the site, the deposits had a combined thickness of *c.*0.9m. This indicates a change in the regime of the watercourse, with swifter-flowing water depositing fine sediment, derived from the area upstream. The alluvium appeared to extend across the investigation area, being identified in Trenches 2, 3 and 4. To the east the deposits were much thinner at 0.6–0.2m. Away from the watercourse, they were also finer-grained and lighter in colour.

3.3.3 Early truncated ditches

Trenches 2 and 3 in the central part of the DA revealed a series of very truncated, roughly perpendicular ditches [207], [209], [307]/[357] (red features on Figure 3).

The ditches were at least 0.9m below the present ground level (Figure 3: sections 2 and 3), with truncated, shallow, concave profiles, 0.07–0.14m deep. The fills were relatively dark, ranging in colour from dark grey brown to black, contrasting with the underlying alluvium (Figures 4, 5 and 6: images 2-5). A small quantity of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from the ditches, similar to that from the fill of the palaeochannel. The ditch fills had been heavily disturbed by intrusive bramble roots, <30mm in diameter, which were preserved in the waterlogged conditions. A soil sample from ditch [358] produced charred cereal grain and charcoal, as well as fired clay, hammerscale and slag. However, given the root-disturbance, it is possible that some of this material was introduced from later deposits.

3.3.4 Make-up deposits and later activity.

Above the early ditches were a series of make-up deposits, interleaved with a small number of features, with a combined thickness of at least 0.9m. These appear to represent poorly dated, post-medieval to modern activity (Figure 3: sections 1-3).

Early make-up layers

A series of mid to dark grey deposits (203), (304), (352), (402) and (204), (305), (353) and (403) were identified in the area to the east of the alluvium (Figure 3: section 1). The deposits had a combined thickness of up to 0.75m and appear to be a series of extensive dumps, probably an early attempt to raise the ground level. It is possible that they were subsequently cultivated, either by hand-digging or even ploughing, resulting in the truncation of the early ditches (see Section 3.3.3 above).

Ditch

A large ditch [213] at the western end of Trench 2, possibly continuing into Trench 3 [359] (Figure 3: light brown feature and Figure 3: section 1) truncated the boundary between the alluvium and the early make-up layers. In section the ditch was at least 4m wide and 0.8m deep, with an apparently curving alignment in plan.

The ditch had steep sides and contained a series of fills (Figure 3: section 1). The profile of the lower fill (223) suggests that it accumulated naturally in water. It is possible that the blue grey colour of the intermediate fill denotes accumulation in standing water. The upper fill (222) may be the result of deliberate infilling. No finds were recovered from the fills, although investigation was hampered by groundwater percolation. This ditch appears to be a boundary defining land near the watercourse, whilst also serving to drain the adjacent land. The location of [213] appears to roughly correspond to the channel shown on the 1798 Enclosure Map. The apparent origin of the channel at the southern margin of the site (Figure 2) may suggest a spring was upwelling in the vicinity.

Modern features

The other features revealed below the modern topsoil are themselves almost certainly modern in date.

A shallow, north-south running ditch [211] (grey feature on Figure 3) contained a large assemblage of pig foot bones. They were not retained due to the presence of dead maggots amongst them. It is likely that they derive from relatively recent butchery.

In the vicinity of the concrete slab which subdivided Trench 3 were several gravel surfaces (301) and [220]/(221), which appear to have defined paths.

3.4 Summary

The investigation of the available western part of the DA revealed a series of archaeological deposits apparently dating from the Saxo-Norman period, sealed below a series of post-medieval and modern deposits with a combined thickness of at least 0.9m. The small assemblage of datable pottery recovered from the early deposits makes the dating tentative. The deposits relate to the utilisation of the margins of the watercourse and provide an insight into the historical interaction between the western margin of the village and the watercourse. Despite inundation from the watercourse, continued attempts were made to divide and utilise the area, eventually raising the ground level above contemporary flooding.

Characterisation of the heritage assets revealed by the investigation, particularly the early features, has been hindered by the depth of the overlying deposits and the truncated and disturbed nature of the fills. The remains are mainly of local significance, relating to the extent and development of Henlow from the early medieval period. They have only limited potential to address regional research themes relating to the form and development of settlements from the medieval period onwards. Their analytical potential is limited as the more significant and deeply buried, early deposits are both very truncated and disturbed.

Due to the deep overburden, the impact of the proposed development is likely to be limited to only the deepest components of the groundworks.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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5. APPENDIX 1 - FINDS SUMMARY

5.1 Introduction

The finds assemblage comprised mainly pottery, with smaller quantities of brick and tile, fired clay, industrial residues and animal bone (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No artefacts were recovered from Trench 4. Trench 5 was not opened due to the presence of live services in the vicinity.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
1	104	Palaeochannel	105	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (4g); animal bone (254g)
2	201	Topsoil	201	Early medieval	Pottery (26g)
3	353	Make-up layer	353	Post-medieval	Roof tile (112g)
	357	Ditch	358	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (1g); fired clay (305g); ferrous slag (1g); hammerscale (1g); animal bone (11g)
	359	Ditch	360	Post-medieval	Pottery (7g); brick (744g)

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

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature

5.2 Ceramics

Four wheel-thrown pottery sherds, weighing 38g were recovered. Sherds are small, with an average weight of 9g, and survive in fair condition. Three fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology (Table 2).

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Saxo-Norman			
B01B	St Neots-type (fine)	**2**	(105):1, (358):1
Early medieval			
B07	Shell	**1**	(201):1
Late medieval/post-med transitional			
E03	Oxidised smooth	**1**	(360):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

Two undiagnostic, shell-tempered sherds of St Neots-type ware (5g) were recovered from palaeochannel [104] and ditch [357]. The abraded sherds are datable to *c*. AD 900-1100; a partial base is the only feature sherd. Topsoil (201) yielded a shell-tempered jar rim (26g) with a diameter of 200mm, datable to the 12th-13th centuries. A fine sand-tempered body sherd of 15th-16th century date derived from the fill of ditch [359].

A sand-tempered, post-medieval peg tile fragment (112g) was recovered from make-up layer (353). The tile is 14mm thick and retains a partial circular hole for a wooden peg. Post-medieval ditch [359] yielded an incomplete gault clay brick (744g), 105mm wide and 60mm deep. Amorphous fired clay fragments (305g) in a buff sand and organic fabric derived from the same feature.

5.3 Non-ceramics

The sieved residue of a soil sample from ditch [357] yielded small quantities of ferrous slag and spheroidal hammerscale (total weight 2g), indicative of iron

working. Undiagnostic, abraded animal bone fragments weighing 11g were collected from the same feature.

Recognisable bone elements are long bone, phalanx, and vertebra fragments, and a broken incisor, all likely to derive from large mammals. The fill of palaeochannel [104] yielded four animal bone fragments (254g). Diagnostic bone elements mainly represent post-cranial meat-bearing parts (two limb bones and a scapula). Cranial elements are represented by a fragmentary cattle horn core from a young animal.

6. APPENDIX 2 - TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length: 13.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.15 m. Max: 1.2 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17589: Northing: 38312)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 17580: Northing: 38301)*

Reason: **To investigate western margin of site, near watercourse**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones 0.24m thick. The deposit contained modern brick fragments and glass - not retained.**	☑	☐
101	**Upper alluvium**	**Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones 0.5m thick.**	☑	☐
102	**Lower alluvium**	**Firm dark orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones 0.41m thick.**	☑	☐
103	**Natural**	**Firm light blue grey clay occasional small stones**	☐	☐
104	**Palaeochannel**	**dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, max depth 1.8m, min length 13.m Possible old watercourse.**	☑	☐
105	Fill	Firm dark blue grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Fill of old watercourse. Finds recovered from the top of the deposit comprised pottery and animal bone. Oyster shell also observed.	☑	☑

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 18.50 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.02 m. Max: 1.2 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 17595: Northing: 38304)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 17614: Northing: 38306)*

Reason: To investigate central area of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
201	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.34m thick. The deposit contained pottery, with modern brick fragments and glass observed but not retained**	☑	☑
202	**Make-up layer**	**Loose mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small CBM, frequent small stones 0.2m thick. Modern brick fragments were present - not retained.**	☑	☐
203	**Make-up layer**	**Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small CBM, moderate small-medium stones 0.41m thick. Occasional brick fragments were present - not retained.**	☑	☐
204	**Make-up layer**	**Firm dark grey black silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.43m thick.**	☑	☐
205	**Upper alluvium**	**Firm mid yellow grey silty clay occasional small stones 0.14m thick.**	☑	☐
206	**Lower alluvium**	**Firm light yellow grey silty clay frequent small-medium stones At least 0.04m thick.**	☑	☐
207	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.93m, max depth 0.14m, min length 1.6m Truncates alluvium (205).**	☑	☐
208	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional flecks fired clay, moderate small-medium stones The fill was heavily disturbed by waterlogged bramble roots. Ecofact sample <2>.	☑	☐
209	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.34m, max depth 0.07m, min length 1.6m Truncates alluvium (205).**	☑	☐
210	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
211	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.29m, max depth 0.05m, min length 1.6m Revealed below topsoil (201).**	☑	☐
212	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small CBM, occasional small stones	☑	☐
213	**Ditch**	**Curving linear N-S sides: 45 degrees dimensions: max breadth 3.9m, min depth 0.84m, min length 1.6m Revealed below make-up layer (202).**	☑	☐
214	Fill	Friable dark blue grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Concave profile 0.17m thick.	☑	☐
222	Upper fill	Firm mid orange brown clay silt occasional small CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.17m thick.	☑	☐
223	Lower fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium CBM, occasional flecks charcoal Concave profile 0.3m+ thick.	☑	☐
215	**Palaeochannel**	**dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, min depth 0.2m, min length 1.6m Revealed below lower alluvium (218). Continuation of [104].**	☑	☐
216	Fill	Firm dark blue grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
217	**Natural**	**Loose light yellow orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones**	☐	☐
218	**Lower alluvium**	**Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones 0.56m thick.**	☑	☐
219	**Upper alluvium**	**Firm dark orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones 0.05m thick**	☑	☐
220	**Pathway**	**Linear N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.76m, max depth 0.07m, min length 1.6m Revealed below topsoil (201).**	☑	☐

Trench: **2**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 18.50 m.** **Width: 1.60 m.** **Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.02 m.** **Max: 1.2 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17595: Northing: 38304)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 17614: Northing: 38306)*

Reason: **To investigate central area of site**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
221	Fill	Firm mid brown yellow silty gravel frequent small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.93 m. Max: 1.2 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 17600: Northing: 38310)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 17524: Northing: 38316)*

Reason: To investigate central area of site - subdivided east and west of concrete slab

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones 0.22m thick. Located east of concrete slab.**	☑	☐
301	**External surface**	**Friable mid yellow brown silty gravel occasional small CBM, frequent small-medium stones 0.13m thick. The deposit contained occasional brick fragments - not retained.**	☑	☐
302	**Buried topsoil**	**Friable dark grey black clay silt moderate small-medium stones 0.26m thick.**	☑	☐
303	**Make-up layer**	**Loose mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small CBM, frequent small stones 0.12m thick.**	☑	☐
304	**Make-up layer**	**Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small CBM, moderate small-medium stones 0.15m thick. The deposit contained occasional brick fragments - not retained.**	☑	☐
305	**Make-up layer**	**Firm dark grey black silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.05m thick**	☑	☐
306	**Alluvium**	**Firm mid yellow grey silty clay occasional small stones 0.07m thick.**	☑	☐
307	**Ditch**	**Linear ENE-WSW dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, min length 9.7m Truncates alluvium (306). Continues west of of concrete slab as [357].**	☐	☐
308	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	☐	☐
350	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.31m thick. Located east of concrete slab.**	☑	☐
351	**Make-up layer**	**Loose mid yellow brown silty sand occasional small CBM, frequent small stones 0.23m thick.**	☑	☐
352	**Make-up layer**	**Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small CBM, moderate small-medium stones 0.38m thick.**	☑	☐
353	**Make-up layer**	**Firm dark grey black silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.05m thick. The deposit contained roof tile.**	☑	☑
354	**Upper alluvium**	**Firm mid yellow grey silty clay occasional small stones 0.07m thick.**	☑	☐
355	**Lower alluvium**	**Firm light yellow grey silty clay frequent small-medium stones**	☐	☐
356	**Natural**	**Loose light yellow orange sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones**	☐	☐
357	**Ditch**	**Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.14m, min length 6.26m Truncates alluvium (355). Same as [307].**	☑	☐
358	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones The fill was heavily disturbed by waterlogged bramble roots. Ecofact sample <1> contained small quantites of pottery, animal bone, fired clay, hammerscale and slag.	☑	☑
359	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees dimensions: max breadth 4.m, min depth 0.8m, min length 3.8m Revealed below make-up layer (351). May continue as [213].**	☑	☐
360	Fill	Friable dark blue grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones The deposit contained pottery and CBM.	☑	☑

Trench: 4

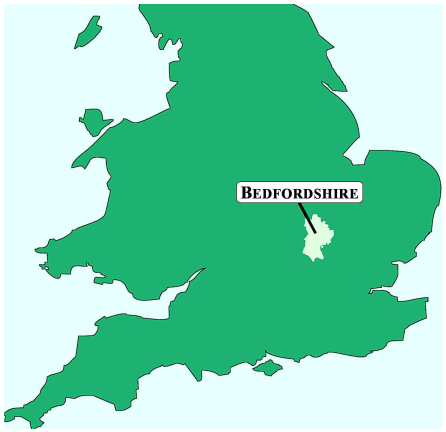
Max Dimensions: Length: 4.60 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

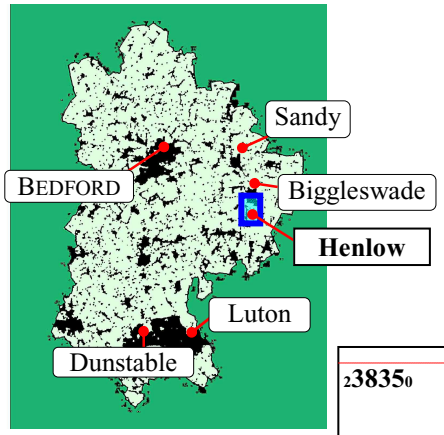
Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 47622: Northing: 38307)*

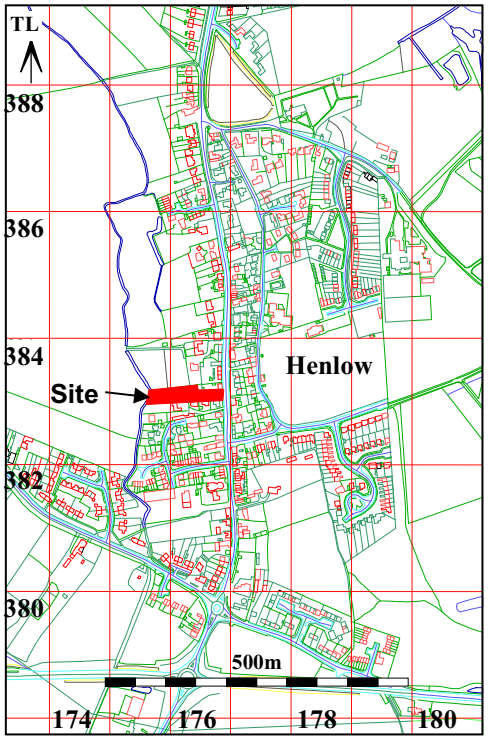
OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 17623: Northing: 38303)*

Reason: To investigate central area of site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Make-up layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.15m thick. Deposit contained occasional modern brick fragments - not retained.	☑	☐
401	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones 0.45m thick. Deposit contained occasional modern brick fragments - not retained.	☑	☐
402	Make-up layer	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones 0.41m thick. Deposit contained occasional brick fragments - not retained.	☑	☐
403	Make-up layer	Firm dark grey black silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.34m thick.	☑	☐
404	Upper alluvium	Firm mid yellow grey silty clay occasional small stones 0.14m thick.	☑	☐
405	Lower alluvium	Firm light yellow grey silty clay frequent small-medium stones 0.02m thick.	☑	☐







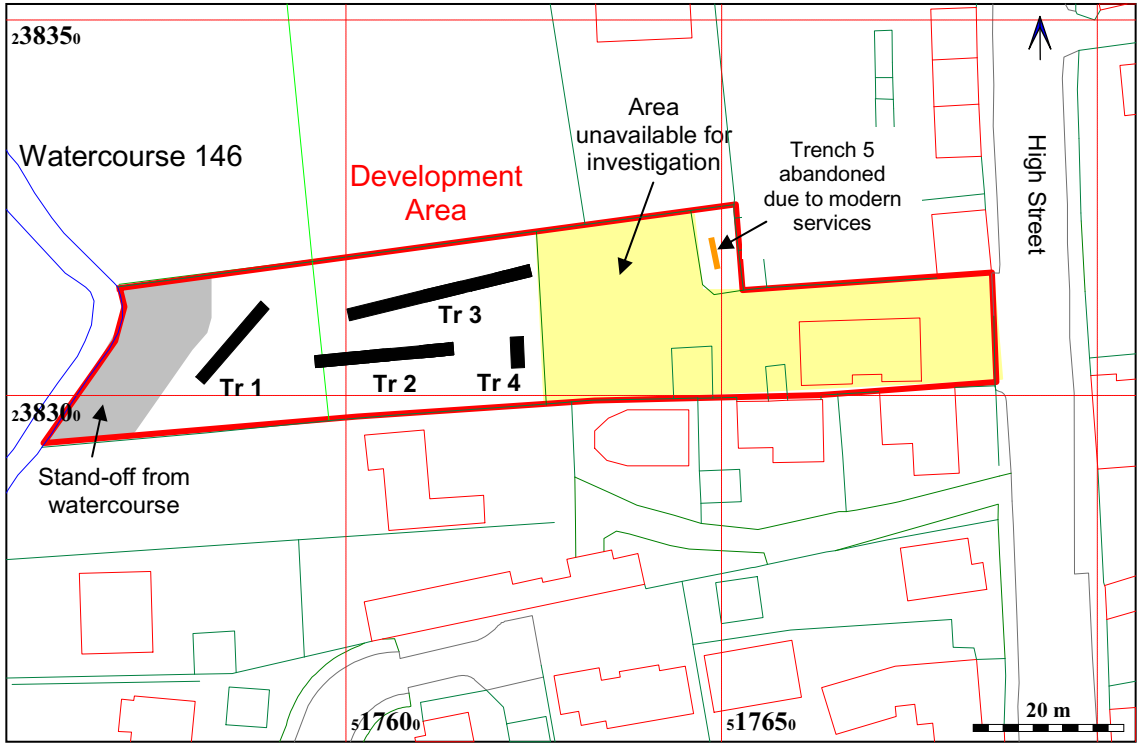
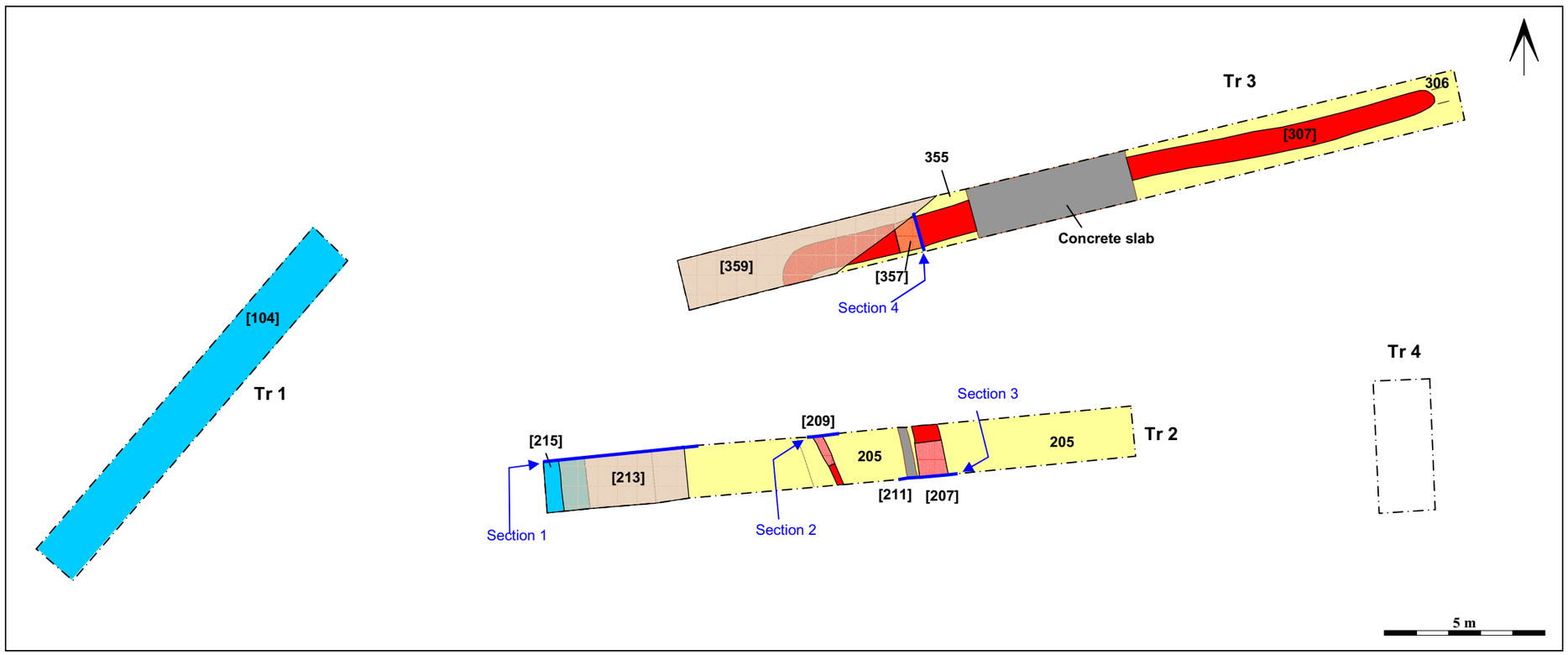
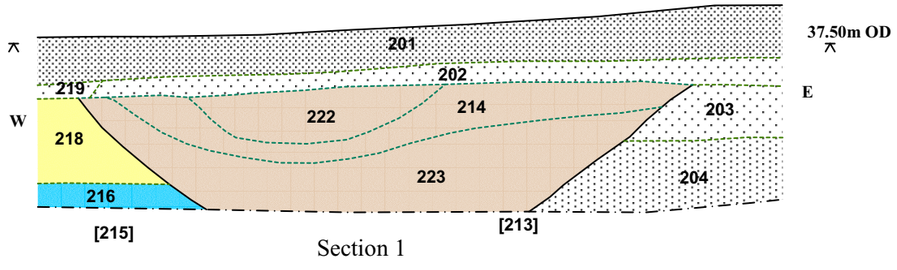


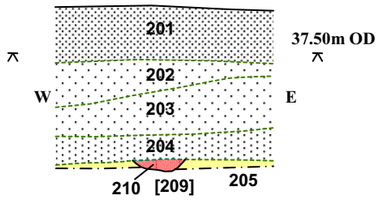
Figure 1: Site location and trench plan

Figure 2: Detail from 1798 Enclosure Map
(approximate location of development area shown in red)





Section 1



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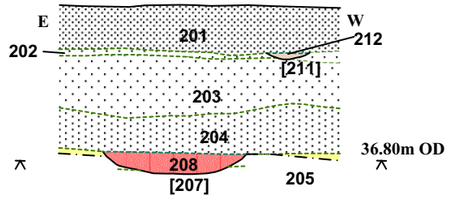
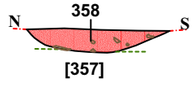


Section 3

50cm



Section 4

Modern
Topsoil
Layers
Layers
Alluvium
Palaeochannel
Early ditch; unexcavated section
Early ditch; excavated segment
Ditch

Figure 3: All features plan and sections

Image 1: Opening of Trench 1 revealed a series of yellow brown alluvial deposits, sealing the dark blue grey fill of palaeochannel [104]

Image 2: Early ditch [307] in the western part of Trench 3, truncating the adjacent lighter alluvium (306)

Figure 4: Images 1 and 2

Image 3: Excavated section through early ditch [357]. Water percolation hampered the investigation. Waterlogged roots are visible to the right of the image. Scale 1m in 0.5m divisions

Image 4: Early ditches [207] and [209] in Trench 2. Scale 1m in 0.5m divisions

Figure 5: Images 3 and 4

Image 5: Early ditch [207] in Trench 2.
Scale 1m in 0.5m divisions

Figure 6: Image 5