



**LAND AT RILEY ROAD
MARLOW
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION**

Project: RR1762
Oasis No: albionar1-94384

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CgMs Consulting

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Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd



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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.

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The fieldwork was undertaken by James Newbould (Project Officer) who also prepared this report. Finds were identified by Anna Slowikowski (Artefacts Manager). Figures were produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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<i>1.0</i>	<i>10/03/2011</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>1.1</i>	<i>06/04/2011</i>	<i>Clarification of artefact data in results section</i>

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 provides a synthesis of the results and assesses their significance. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Supplementary project data is provided in the appendices.



Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
APO	Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Planning Officer
Client	CgMs Consulting on behalf of Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology



Non-Technical Summary

Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd have been granted planning permission (09/05165/FUL) for redevelopment of land at Riley Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire. This land is henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA).

An archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2008) identified the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains within the DA and recommended intrusive (trial trenching) evaluation.

On the advice of Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Planning Officer a condition was placed on the planning permission for a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, to be approved by the Local Planning Authority.

CgMs produced and secured approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation for trial trenching (2011) and commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake the work and prepare a report (this document) on the results.

The evaluation revealed the remains of three pits datable to the post-medieval and modern periods. They were sealed by 0.45–0.62m of modern overburden and make-up layers.

The largest post-medieval pit contained peg tile, ceramic building material, animal bone and an abraded residual sherd of possible Roman pottery. The function of these pits is unclear. However, they may be related to the use of this land as the gardens or back-plots of houses and shops on West Street as shown on the 1843 Great Marlow Tithe map and the 1st edition OS map of 1876 (CgMs 2008). They are considered to be of local significance.

The presence of a possible Roman sherd within the largest pit does not necessarily indicate contemporary activity within or immediately adjacent to the DA. The sherd was extremely abraded and appeared within a securely dated post-medieval deposit containing post-medieval tile.

The modern pit may be associated with the construction of 19th- and 20th-century ancillary buildings first shown on the OS map of 1876. Alternatively it may represent re-deposited 19th–20th-century material moved during the construction of the supermarket in the 1970s. These remains have no archaeological significance.

The record will be archived at Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury under accession number AYBCM: 2011.139.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd have been granted planning permission (09/05165/FUL) for redevelopment of land at Riley Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire. This land is henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA).

An archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2008) identified the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains within the DA and recommended intrusive (trial trenching) evaluation.

On the advice of Buckinghamshire County Council's (BCC) Archaeological Planning Officer (APO) a condition was placed on the planning permission, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, to be approved by the Local Planning Authority.

CgMs produced and secured approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation for trial trenching (2011) and commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake the work and prepare a report (this document) on the results.

1.2 *Site Description and Archaeological Background*

The DA comprises land occupied (at the time of archaeological evaluation) by the former Waitrose supermarket, Riley Road, Marlow and is centred on (NGR) SU 28479 8659 (Fig. 1). Land within the DA slopes down toward the south-east from c. 34.9–33.1m OD. The underlying geology comprises gravels of the Taplow river terrace.

The archaeological potential of the DA is summarised in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2008). Potential for finding remains from prehistoric and Roman periods within the DA was considered to be low. Potential for medieval to modern remains was considered to be moderate.

1.3 *Project Objectives*

The layout of the trenches was designed by CgMs and approved by BCC's APO. Trenches were arranged to maximise their ability to test the archaeological potential of the DA. The overall objectives of the work were to gain information on:

- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present and the likely impact of past land-use, and to;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



2. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching took place between 1st and 4th March 2011. Both of the proposed trenches were opened. However, Trench 2 was broken due to the presence of underground utilities (Figs. 1 and 2).

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

- IfA's *Code of Conduct (1999a)*
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (1999b)*
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2001)*
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)*

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

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand in order to clarify the nature of potential archaeological remains. The deposits and any potential remains were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. 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.*

The archaeological remains were inspected by BCC's APO prior to backfilling.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The remains of three pits were identified within Trench 1. No archaeological remains were encountered within Trench 2.

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order. Allocated context numbers are prefixed with the trench number they were recorded from, *i.e.* contexts (100) and (101) are from Trench 1.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in Appendix 1 (Section 6.2). The record will be archived at Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury under accession number AYBCM: 2011.139. The Oasis number is: albionar1-94384.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

The existing ground surface comprised tarmac and reinforced concrete (101, 201). This overlay sandy silt make-up layers (102, 103, 202 and 203) which are likely to be associated with the construction of the supermarket in the 1970s. These were thickest at the north-west end of the site where material had been banked up to raise the former ground level toward Riley Road (Fig. 1). The combined thickness of overburden was between 0.45m at the south-east end of the DA and 0.62m at the north-west end.

Undisturbed geological deposits comprised brown orange silty and sandy gravels of the Taplow river terrace (100 and 200).

3.3 Post-medieval Pits

The remains of two circular pits [104 and 108] were identified in Trench 1 (Fig. 2). The larger pit [104] was over 1.8m in diameter and contained sandy silt deposits derived from the Taplow gravel (105, 106 and 107). The upper fill (107) produced oyster shell, disarticulated animal bone and pieces of post-medieval roof tile (CBM) (Table 1).

The lower fill (105) also produced animal bone and post-medieval roof tile together with a single, heavily abraded sherd of possible Roman pottery. This may be from a 3rd-century East Gaulish samian ware dish. The extreme levels of abrasion on the sherd and its presence within a deposit containing post-medieval artefacts demonstrates that it is residual.

Pit [108] was much smaller (0.4m in diameter) and contained similar deposits to those of [104]. However, no artefactual material was present.



Context	Find type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comments
105	Animal bone	4	48	
	CBM	6	483	Flat roof tile; 1 paw print - dog? Fox?
	Pottery	1	3	Fabric R01 possible East Gaul; dish DR 79; late 2ndC- 3rdC; very abraded with crazed glaze
107	Animal bone	4	33	
	CBM	11	920	Flat roof tile; 2 with peg holes
	shell	1	2	Oyster

Table 1: Summary of artefacts from pit [104]

3.4 Modern Pit

A large, shallow, irregularly shaped pit [110] was identified at the southernmost end of Trench 1 (Fig. 2). Its fill (111) was derived from the Taplow gravels but contained charcoal staining, fragments of chalk, modern CBM, bottle glass and 19th–20th-century white glazed pottery. These remains are likely to represent modern activity within the DA prior to the construction of the supermarket in the 1970s. Indeed, they may be associated with ancillary structures shown on OS maps from 1876 onwards. However, it is possible that they represent re-deposited material moved during the construction of the supermarket.



4. SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

4.1 *Summary*

Evaluation revealed the remains of three pits of post-medieval and modern origin. The function of the post-medieval pits is unclear. However, they may be related to the use of this land as gardens or back-plots of houses and shops on West Street as shown on the 1843 Great Marlow Tithe map and the 1st edition OS map of 1876 (CgMs 2008).

The presence of a single sherd of possible Samian ware within the largest pit [104] does not necessarily indicate Roman activity within or immediately adjacent to the DA. The sherd was small and extremely abraded and appeared within a securely dated post-medieval deposit (105) containing post-medieval tile.

The modern pit [110] may be associated with the construction of 19th- and 20th-century ancillary buildings first shown on the OS map of 1876. Alternatively, they may represent re-deposited 19th–20th-century material moved during the construction of the supermarket in the 1970s.

4.2 *Preservation and Significance*

The survival of the remains encountered was good. However, the revealed archaeological deposits were directly overlain by 0.45–0.62m of modern overburden. Any former topsoil and subsoil had been removed, indicating some truncation of archaeological remains in the modern era.

The post-medieval pits are located in what were the back-plots of houses and shops on West Street. They are likely to be associated with domestic activity related to these buildings. They are considered to be of local significance.

The modern pit is likely to be related to 19th- or 20th-century construction activity within the DA. It has no archaeological significance.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology 2001. *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd ed
- CgMs 2008. *Land at Riley Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*.
- CgMs 2011. *Land at Riley Road, Marlow, Buckinghamshire: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*.
- EH 1991. *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London)
- IfA 1999a. Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*
- IfA 1999b. Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*



6. APPENDIX 1 - TRENCH SUMMARIES



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.62 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SU (Easting: 84763: Northing: 86611)

OS Grid Ref.: SU (Easting: 84769: Northing: 86560)

Reason: To evaluate archeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Undisturbed geology	Loose mid brown orange sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	External surface	Reinforced concrete and tarmac 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Make-up layer	Firm mid yellow sandy silt occasional small CBM, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Make-up layer	Firm dark grey sandy silt moderate small-large CBM, frequent flecks chalk, frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Pit	Circular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.47m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Topsoil-derived fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent small-medium stones 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
106	Re-deposited natural	Loose mid orange sandy silt 0.04m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Topsoil-derived fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt moderate small-large CBM, frequent small-medium stones 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
108	Pit	Circular sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, min breadth 0.38m, max diameter 0.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Backfill	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Pit	Irregular NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 3.5m, max depth 0.42m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Backfill	Hard dark grey sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent flecks chalk, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-large stones 0.42m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SU (Easting: 84770: Northing: 86618)

OS Grid Ref.: SU (Easting: 84780: Northing: 86618)

Reason: To evaluate archeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Undisturbed geology	Loose mid brown orange sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	External surface	Reinforced concrete 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Make-up layer	Firm mid brown sandy silt moderate flecks chalk, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones 0.4m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Make-up layer	Firm dark grey sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent flecks chalk, frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2 – OASIS DATA FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-94384

Project details

Project name	Land at Riley Road, Marlow
Short description of the project	An archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2008) identified the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains within the site and recommended intrusive (trial trenching) evaluation. The evaluation revealed the remains of three pits datable to the post-medieval and modern periods. They were sealed by 0.45-0.62m of modern overburden and make-up layers. The largest post-medieval pit contained peg tile, ceramic building material, animal bone and an abraded residual sherd of possible Roman pottery. The function of these pits is unclear. However, they may be related to the use of this land as the gardens or back-plots of houses and shops on West Street as shown on the 1843 Great Marlow Tithe map and the 1st edition OS map of 1876 (CgMs 2008). They are considered to be of local significance. The presence of a possible Roman sherd within the largest pit does not necessarily indicate contemporary activity within or immediately adjacent to the area. The sherd was extremely abraded and appeared within a securely dated post-medieval deposit containing post-medieval tile. The modern pit may be associated with the construction of 19th- and 20th-century ancillary buildings first shown on the OS map of 1876. Alternatively it may represent re-deposited 19th-20th-century material moved during the construction of the Waitrose store in the 1970s. These remains have no archaeological significance.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2011 End: 04-03-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RR1762 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AYBCM: 2011.139. - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)



Project location

Country England
 Site location BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WYCOMBE MARLOW Land at Riley Road, Marlow
 Study area 45.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates SU 8479 8695 51.5745546914 -0.776330189945 51 34 28 N 000 46 34 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology
 Project brief originator Consultant
 Project design originator No project Design
 Project director/manager Robert Wardill
 Project supervisor James Newbould

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Buckinghamshire County Museum
 Physical Contents 'Ceramics'
 Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology
 Digital Contents 'other'
 Digital Media available 'Text'
 Paper Archive recipient Buckinghamshire County Museum
 Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Microfilm','Miscellaneous Material','Report'
 Paper Archive notes To be stored at Albion until deposition

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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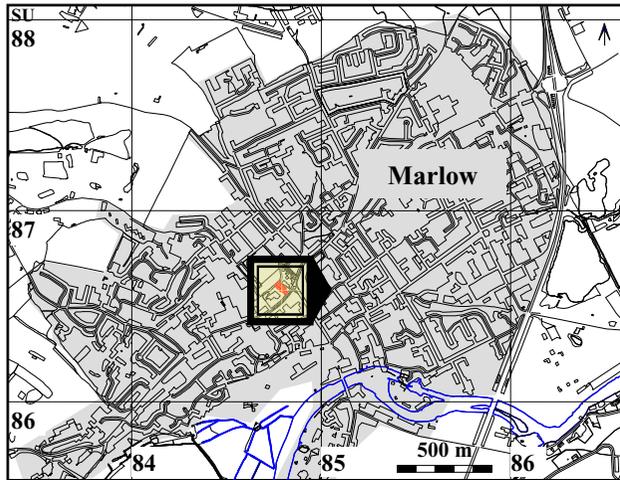
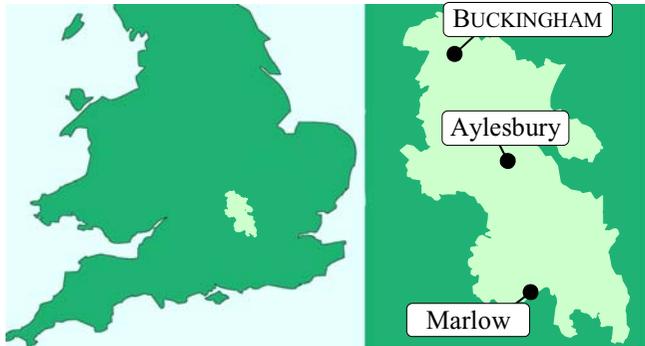


Figure 1: Site location plan

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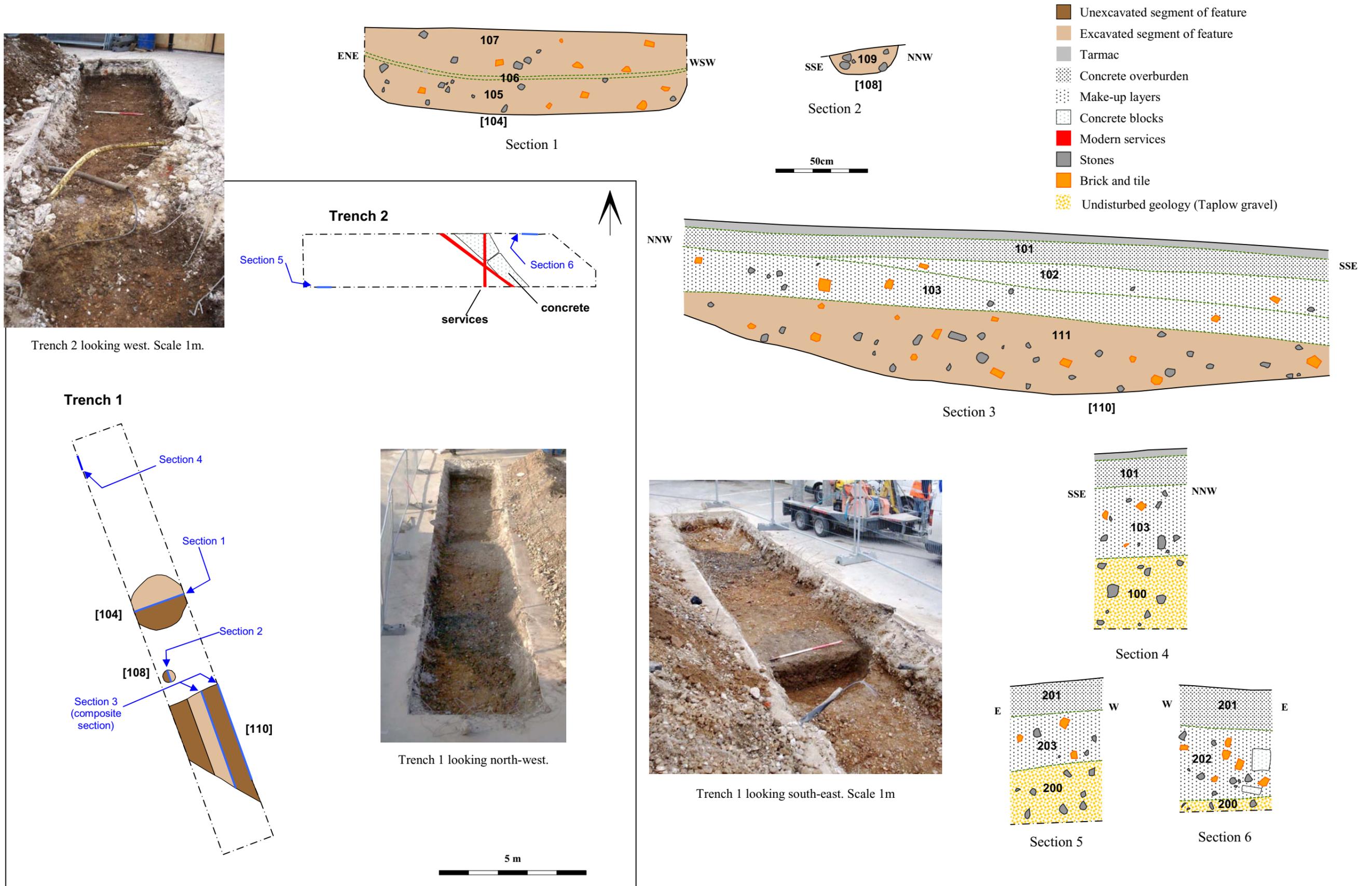


Figure 2: All features