

**Land off Goldington Road
Bedford
Bedfordshire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Lanpro Services

on behalf of
Lidl UK GmbH

CA Project: 660906
CA Report: 17312

June 2017



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Bedford
Bedfordshire

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land off Goldington Road
Location:	Goldington Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire
NGR:	08462 50835
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	17–19 May 2017
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford
Accession Number:	BEDFM 2017.46
Site Code:	LGR17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2017 at Land off Goldington Road, Bedford. The evaluation was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the development of a Lidl foodstore and associated infrastructure at the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Lanpro Services Ltd. at the land off Goldington Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire (centred at NGR: 08462 50835; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd, on behalf of Lidl UK GmbH.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application to Bedford Borough Council (BBC), the local planning authority for the development of a Lidl foodstore and associated infrastructure at the site. The scope of the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of six evaluation trenches, was carried out in accordance with a request by Vanessa Clark, the Senior Archaeological Officer for Bedford Borough Council, the local planning authority (LPA), and with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) (Lanpro 2017), which was approved by Vanessa Clark. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015). It was monitored by Paul Gajos MCIfA, Director (Lanpro Services Ltd.) in consultation with Vanessa Clark.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 1.35ha in extent, situated c. 3.5km to the north-east of Bedford town centre. The westernmost c. 1ha of the site is occupied by soil bunds and balancing ponds created during the construction of the neighbouring Waitrose store. The remaining part of the site comprises agricultural land delineated by hedgerows (Lanpro 2017). The site is bounded by Goldington Road to the north, retail development to the west, and open fields to the south and east. The site lies at approximately 27m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north, dropping to c. 23m in the south (Lanpro 2017).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Peterborough Member mudstone with no superficial deposits, although alluvial sand, silt and clay deposits on the floodplain of the River Great Ouse are recorded to the south (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 No formal desk based assessment of the site has been undertaken although the Historic Environment data has been obtained for the site and a surrounding 1km search area (Lanpro 2017). Within a 1km radius of the site there are numerous examples of early prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman remains recorded on the HER, reflecting the intensive occupation of the valley of the River Great Ouse during the prehistoric period. Much of this evidence lies to the south of the river, but it does include the Neolithic/Bronze Age monuments investigated in advance of the construction of the Goldington Tesco superstore and adjacent housing located c. 500m to the west of the site (Lanpro 2017).
- 2.2 In the medieval period, the site was roughly equidistant between the villages of Goldington to the west, and Risinghoe Castle to the east (Lanpro 2017).
- 2.3 Recent archaeological excavation undertaken by Albion Archaeology within the western part of the site (Land off Perkins Road) have revealed remains of the southern margins of an Iron Age/Roman settlement (Albion Archaeology 2014). Subsequently, from the medieval period, the land was utilised for agriculture.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as detailed within the WSI (Lanpro 2017), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains.
- 3.2 This information gathered will enable the LPA, Bedford Borough Council, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

- 3.3 The specific aims as outlined within the WSI were:
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
 - To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
 - To assess the impact of previous land-use on the site
 - To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence
 - To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
 - To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum, and to provide information for accessions to the Bedfordshire HER

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6 trial trenches, each 20m in length and 1.8m wide (Fig. 2). None of the trench locations required alteration during the course of the fieldwork. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Higgins Art Gallery and Museum under accession number BEDFM 2017.46. A summary of information from this project, set out within

Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results and detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate was broadly similar across the site, comprising mixed mid-orange brown sandy clay with frequent angular stones and a mid-brown orange sandy clay with occasional stones at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil measuring c. 0.2m thick and sealed by a dark-grey brown sandy clay topsoil with an average depth of 0.1m.
- 5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within the six trial trenches with the exception of one north-west to south-east-orientated plough furrow within Trenches 1 and 3 and two north-west to south-east-orientated plough furrows within Trench 5. A test section was excavated through the plough furrow within Trench 3, and it measured 2.5m wide and 0.09m deep. A modern field drain was also recorded within Trench 4. Despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the development area (Section 2), the evaluation revealed no archaeological remains. The absence of archaeological deposits suggests that the archaeological remains revealed within the western part of the site (Albion Archaeology 2014) do not extend to the east, or may have been removed by truncation as a result of agricultural use of the land.
- 6.2 Evidence for ridge-and-furrow cultivation was recorded across the site. As no artefacts were recovered in association with the plough furrows, this means they can only be assigned a broad medieval/post-medieval date.



7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Whelan, assisted by Callum Ruse and Molly Clyne. The report was written by Andrew Whelan. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Michelle Collings.

8. REFERENCES

Albion Archaeology 2014 *Land off Perkins Road, Bedford. Assessment of Archaeological Potential and Updated Project Design* Report 2013/148

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 30 May 2017)

CifA 2014 *Standards and Guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

HE (Historic England) 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment; the MoRPHE Project Managers Guide*, Swindon, Historic England

Lanpro 2017 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation: Land off Goldington Bedford* Landpro Services Ltd. Report Reference LID002/0700/01

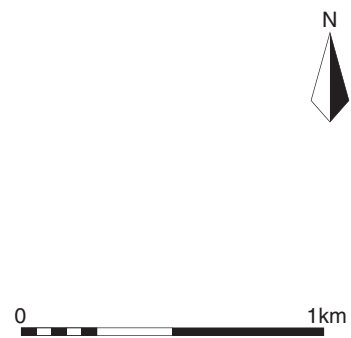
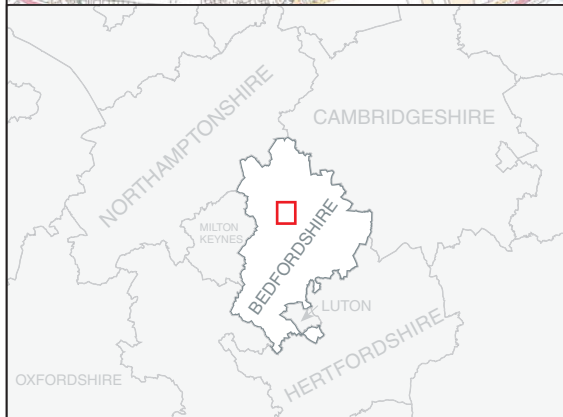
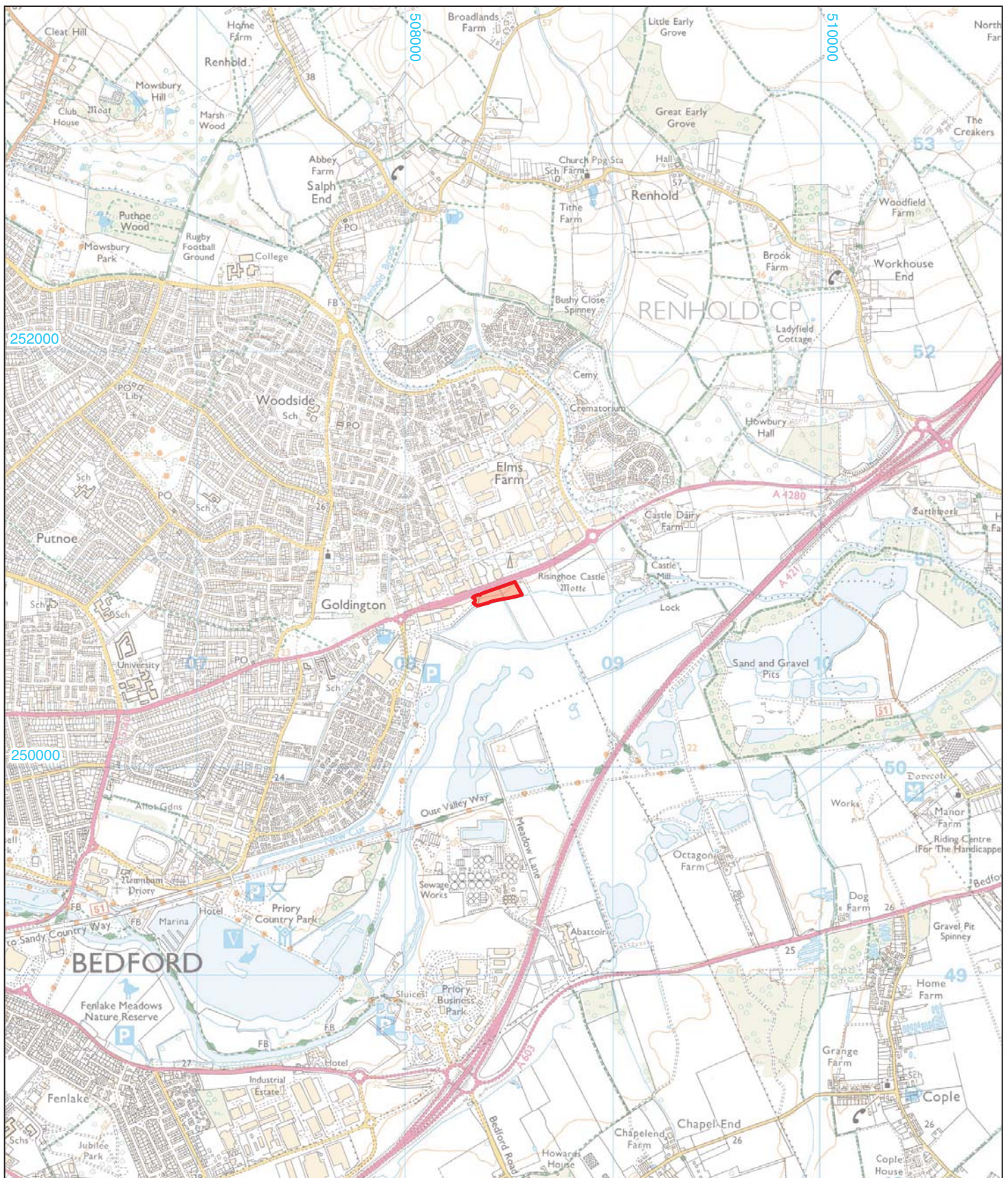


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	20	1.8	0.1
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay	20	1.8	0.18
1	102	Layer	Natural	Mixed deposits of mid-orange brown sandy clay, and mid-brown orange sandy clay	20	1.8	>0.1
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark-grey brown sandy clay	20	1.8	0.2
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay	20	1.8	0.15
2	202	Layer	Natural	Mixed deposits of mid-orange brown sandy clay, and mid-brown orange sandy clay	20	1.8	>0.07
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark-grey brown sandy clay	20	1.8	0.2
3	301	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay	20	1.8	0.16
3	302	Layer	Natural	Mixed deposits of mid-orange brown sandy clay, and mid-brown orange sandy clay	20	1.8	>0.12
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Dark-grey brown sandy clay	20	1.8	0.15
4	401	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay	20	1.8	0.1
4	402	Layer	Natural	Mixed deposits of mid-orange brown sandy clay, and mid-brown orange sandy clay	20	1.8	>0.1
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Dark-grey brown sandy clay	20	1.8	0.2
5	501	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay	20	1.8	0.07
5	502	Layer	Natural	Mixed deposits of mid-orange brown sandy clay, and mid-brown orange sandy clay	20	1.8	>0.1
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Dark-grey brown sandy clay	20	1.8	0.2
6	601	Layer	Subsoil	Mid-grey brown silty clay	20	1.8	0.2
6	602	Layer	Natural	Mixed deposits of mid-orange brown sandy clay, and mid-brown orange sandy clay	20	1.8	>0.1

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Goldington Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2017 at the Land off Goldington Road, Bedford. The evaluation was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the development of a Lidl foodstore and associated infrastructure at the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	17–19 May 2017	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Recent archaeological excavation undertaken within the western part of the site have revealed remains of the southern margins of an apparently low-status Roman rural settlement, with evidence of earlier Iron Age activity and a potential Bronze Age barrow (Lanpro 2017, unreferenced).	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off Goldington Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	08462 50835	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Bedford Borough Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Lanpro Services Ltd.	
Project Manager	Michelle Collings	
Project Supervisor	Andrew Whelan	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper	Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford/BEDFM 2017.46	Trench recording sheets, Site diary, photo registers
Digital	Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford/BEDFM 2017.46	Database, digital photos, Survey data.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land off Goldington Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 17312</p>		



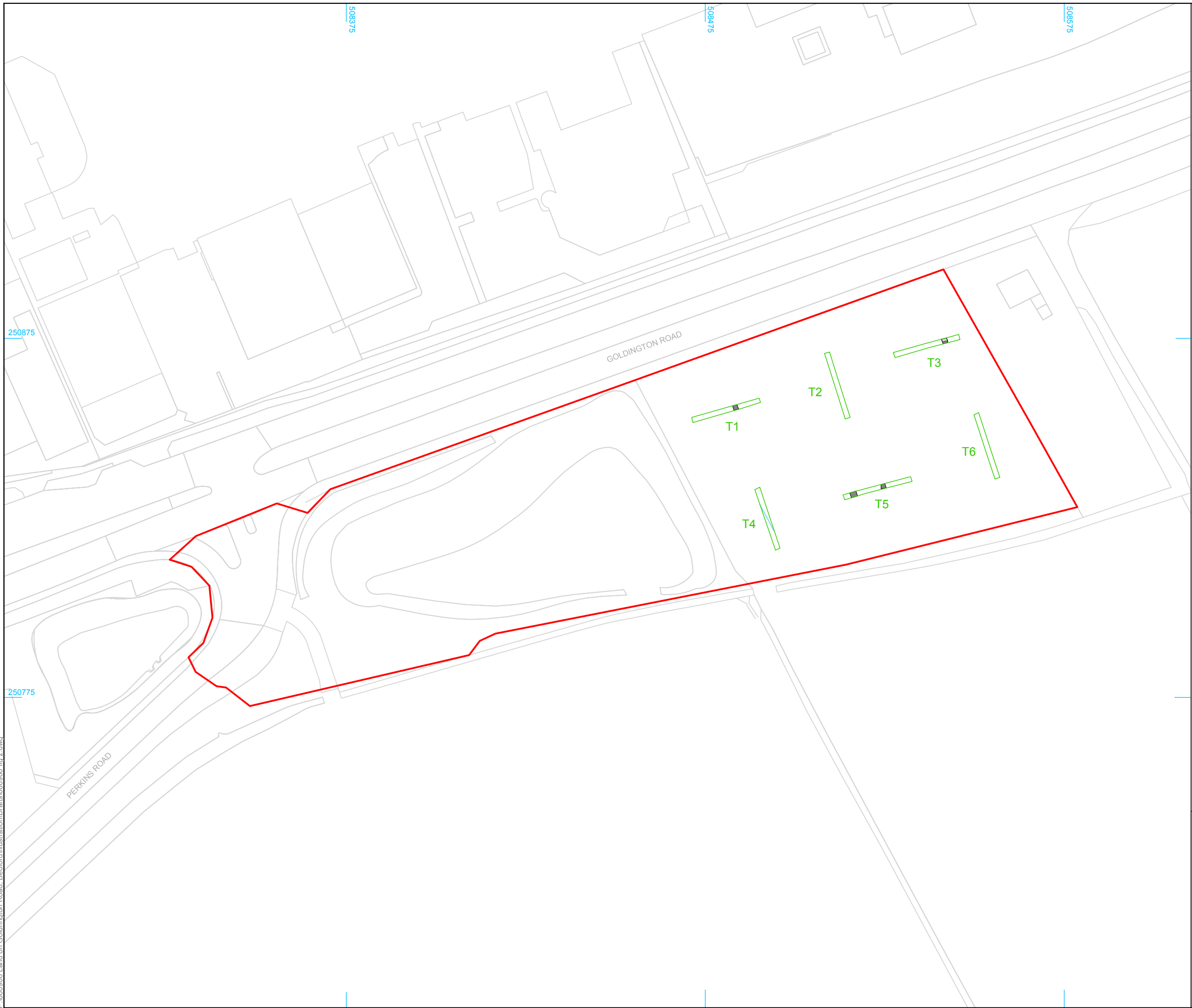
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Goldington Road, Bedford,
 Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY CP	PROJECT NO. 660906	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 30/05/2017	
APPROVED BY MC	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- plough-furrow
- field drain



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PROJECT TITLE
Land off Goldington Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	660906	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	01/06/2017	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:1000	2

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General view of site, looking north-east from field entrance in the south-west



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Land off Goldington Road, Bedford,
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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3



Trench 1, looking south-west (scales 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: photograph

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Trench 3, looking south-west (scales 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: photograph

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Trench 6, looking north-west (scales 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6: photograph

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