

Archaeological Investigation
at No.1 & No.4 Bryant's Close
High Street, Upper Dean,
Bedfordshire, PE28 0LU

(NGR TL 048 678)

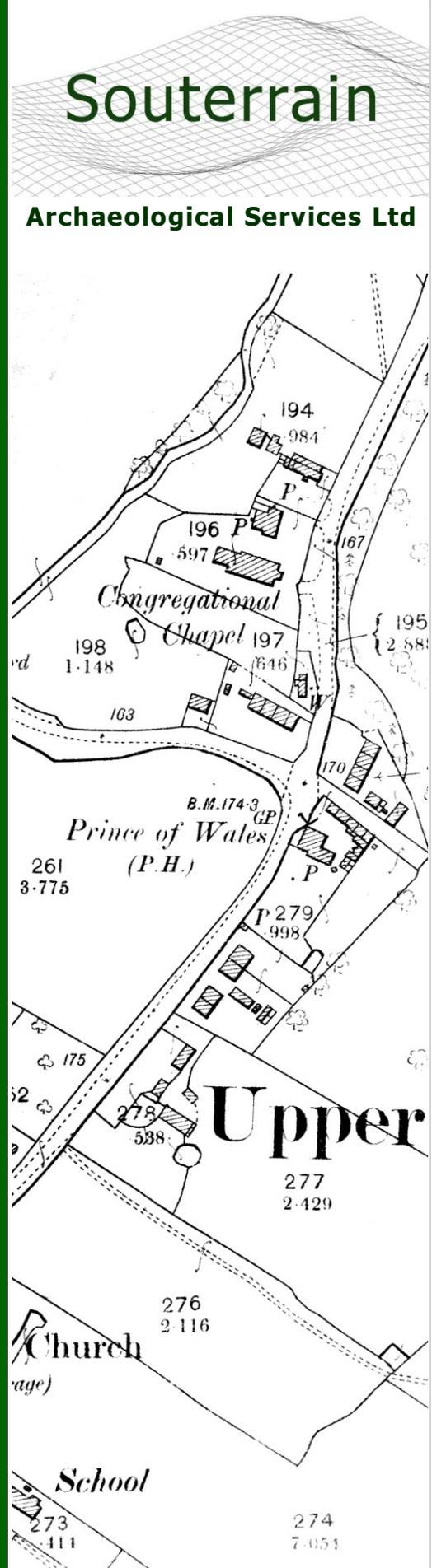


September 2016

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

for

David Soul Esq.



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
(WATCHING BRIEF)
AT NO.1 & NO.4 BRYANTS CLOSE,
HIGH STREET, UPPER DEAN,
BEDFORDSHIRE, PE28 0LY
(NGR TL 048 678)**

September 2016

Project: SOU16-453

Planning Application No. 14/01459/DC3

Produced for

David Soul Esq.

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Registered Office: 15 Grove Place, Bedford MK40 3JJ

Registered in England and Wales No. 03394485

e-mail: gps@souterrain.biz

www.souterrain.biz

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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) 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.

Fieldwork

Martin Wilson BA Hons, MCIFA, MIEnvSc, MEAGE, FSASc
Marcin Koziminski MA

Report:

Martin Wilson

Summary

Over a period of ten days in June and July 2016, Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited carried out investigation and recording during ground preparation at proposed house plots in the historic core of the village of Upper Dean, Bedfordshire. The plots, which are approximately 35 m apart, are referred to as Plot 1 (south) and Plot 2 (north). They are located on the southwest corner formed by a junction of the village's main road (High Street) and a side road (Shay Lane).

The investigation followed on from an evaluation (trial trenching) of the Application Site in March 2016, at which time a wide embankment earthwork was identified running around the roadside perimeter of the site. The evaluation revealed a sparse number of medieval features (gullies, a possible pit, and a pit or post-hole), including a gully dated to the 12th / 13th century and encountered two layers that were considered to be part of the make-up of the embankment on the northern perimeter of the site. In the interim between evaluation and construction groundwork a detailed archaeological topographical survey was undertaken of the earthwork.

A specific objective of the subsequent investigation (watching brief) was to ascertain the date and physical attributes of the earthwork. The broader objectives of the investigation are to ensure that the archaeological interest of the site is safeguarded and to recover information that may contribute to our understanding of the origin of settlement at Upper Dean.

Sections cut through the earthwork enabled its detail examination and the recovery of artefacts and plant macrofossils. The construction of the earthwork is understood to have taken place at some time in the 12th / 13th century. At least two phases are identified, with possible evidence of a revetment structure in the earliest phase. The pottery dates are supported by assemblages of carbonised cereal grains and other plant macrofossils which are congruent with the medieval period.

Further residual evidence was found pertaining to domestic activity or occupation at the site during the early to middle Anglo-Saxon period (5th to the 11th century).

To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of evidence of its kind found at Upper Dean.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report documents the results of an archaeological investigation carried out by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) during the preparation of ground for two new houses, at Nos 1 and 4 Bryant's Close, High Street, Upper Dean, Bedfordshire (the Application Site; Figs 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The investigation was undertaken on behalf of David Soul, the landowner and planning applicant, to assist in the discharge of a planning condition. It was implemented subsequent to an archaeological evaluation of the Application Site, by trial trenching, in March 2016. The evaluation trenches had revealed a small number of dug features (e.g. gullies, pits), one dated to the 12th / 13th century, the others broadly to the 'medieval' period. In addition, an earthen embankment of uncertain function was identified on the northern and eastern perimeter of the Application Site. Two of the trenches cut through the inner edge of the embankment, broadly dating it to the medieval period, but also revealing that Anglo-Saxon domestic deposits had been disturbed during the creation of the medieval embankment.
- 1.3 The follow-up investigation took the form of a watching brief during groundwork at the two separate house plots, which are located about 45 m apart and are referred to respectively as Plot 1 and Plot 2. The investigation was undertaken intermittently over the course of ten days between the 8th of June 2016 and the 10th of July 2016. The investigation was preceded by a comprehensive archaeological topographical survey of the embankment earthwork at Plot 2 (Wilson & Planas 2016).

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (14/01459/DC3) has been granted subject to Conditions on the 2nd October 2014 to Bedford Borough Council for the erection of two houses on land at No.1 and No.4, Bryants Close Upper Dean, PE28 0LY. The areas of proposed development are defined on the drawings (latest revisions) by Bedford Borough Council Design Services associated with the planning application. The Planning Background is detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, a Condition (No. 2) has been attached to the grant of planning permission for the implementation of a programme of archaeological works, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). The purpose of the Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest encountered during groundwork are properly examined and recorded.
- 2.3 The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Souterrain 2016a) approved prior to the commencement of work by Geoff Saunders, Archaeological Officer for Planning Services Bedford Borough Council (hereafter 'AOBBC').

3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT

- 3.1 Upper Dean is located within the parish of Dean and Shelton which lies on the northern boundary of the county, about 15 miles north of Bedford. The Application Site is situated in the historic core of the village at the southwest junction of High Street and Shay Lane, which is within the Designated Conservation Area of Upper Dean.

- 3.2 The Application Site comprises two plots of land, one at either end of a 20th century terrace, at Nos. 1 and 4, Bryants Close. Each of the plots has latterly been in use as a garden. They are broadly rectangular with their frontages on High Street to the southeast and are bordered by residential properties. They are referred to respectively as Plot 1 and Plot 2.
- 3.3 Plot 1 is located at the southwest end of the terrace. It is centred on NGR 504819, 267814 (Fig. 2) and is approximately 490 sq.m. The ground height is generally around 52.70 m OD with a gradient at the north-western end to c. 51.61 m OD.
- 3.4 Plot 2, at northeast end of the terrace (Fig. 2), is centred on NGR 504843,267860 and is approximately 930 sq.m. The northeast side of Plot 2 is flanked by Shay Lane. There is a slight gradient from around c. 52.34 m AOD at the southeast end, to 52 m AOD at the northwest end. Beyond its northeast boundary there is steep fall in height of almost 2 m to Shay Lane, the latter which has the appearance of a former sunken lane.
- 3.5 The rear gardens of Nos 3 to 4 Bryants Close, and the west side of Plot 2 is bounded by a field of pasture called Brian's Meadow (Fig. 3) which used for grazing horses. The field contains the earthworks of uncertain function¹ that are believed to date from the medieval period (*post.* 4.3)
- 3.6 The underlying solid geology is comprised of an Oxford Clay formation of the Jurassic period.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Early Medieval and Medieval Settlement at Upper Dean

- 4.1 The earliest mention of a settlement at *Dene* is in the Domesday survey of 1086, at which time there were thirty households spread over two lordships (see Open Domesday 2016; Page 1912), known as Overdean and Netherdean. These were to become known respectively as Upper Dean and Lower Dean. The Application Site is understood to lie within the former lordship of Overdean. The origin of the settlement at Upper Dean is uncertain, though we might assume that a regular system of tofts and crofts was formally laid out in the mid-10th century, during a period of widespread reorganization, whereby dispersed settlements were brought together to be centralized around a church and manor house surrounded by a planned open field system (*e.g.* Lewis 2006, 191; Edgeworth 2007, 93). The purpose of such large scale re-planning is open to speculation, but may have been to improve social cohesion and increase productivity (*op.cit.* Lewis 2006). The oldest extant building at Upper Dean is the 14th century parish church of All Saints² (c. 210 m SW of Plot 1), although this does not preclude an earlier foundation of the church. Adjacent to the church is a field of pasture which is believed to be a surviving fragment of the green at the centre of the medieval village³.
- 4.2 Such a planned system of tofts and crofts may be deduced from a pre-inclosure survey map of Upper Dean, drawn up in 1800⁴ (and now held at Luton & Bedford Archives), which probably reflects the general layout of the village as it was during the later medieval period. The arrangement of the roadways, with its main road and back lanes, and the formation of closes alongside the roadways, is indicative of a planned nucleated settlement. It is a type that may be identified throughout the north of Bedfordshire where medieval settlement was commonly

¹ HER 15020

² HER 925, MBD925, TL 0467 6764

³ HER 8309, MBD830 Butt Green, TL04606744

⁴ *A Plan of the Parish of Over and Nether Dean in the County of Bedford as Divided and Inclosed under an Act of Parliament passed in the Year 1800*, Luton & Bedford Archives MA21/2

located in the valleys of the Ouse and its tributaries, with manor and village sited close to a river (Edgeworth 2007, 93). Depicted on the east side of High Street, facing the Application Site (Plots 1 and 2) is a distinct succession of rectangular closes perpendicular to the roadside, some with dwellings though not all. The arrangement is resonant of a former pattern of croft homesteads flanking the roadside. The shape and the shared alignment of each of land parcel, or 'close', suggests that at some juncture they were 'taken in' from amalgamated selions (cultivation strips) in the common fields, as was frequently the case. In support of this hypothesis, there are a number of narrower strip fields sharing the same alignment on the northwest and northeast side of the junction of High Street and Shay Lane, one of which is named Long Croft. Across Shay Lane to the northwest (c. 100 m NW of Plot 2) is a field called 'The Tofts' (Fig. 3), illustrating a further extent of the former planned nucleated village.

- 4.3 The area of the Application Site equates to the western side of a large field of pasture known since at least c. 1800 as Brian's Meadow (Fig. 3). In the surviving portion of this field (c. 1.6 ha) there are extent earthworks of uncertain origin, (c. 60 m SW of Plot 2), which may relate to a medieval system of water management⁵.

Archaeological Discoveries

- 4.4 A small number of Anglo-Saxon personal items have been found as a result of metal-detecting in a field some 700 m to 800 m to the northwest of the Application Site. The objects consist of a 6th century copper alloy wrist/sleeve clasp⁶, a c. 10th century copper alloy strap end with symmetrical openwork decoration⁷, a large key of 8th - 11th century style⁸, and a piece of an 11th century openwork stirrup strap⁹. Prior to the archaeological evaluation at the Application Site in March 2016, there have been no known archaeological discoveries in the historic core of the Upper Dean. This lack of discoveries is, however, most likely to be a reflection of a lack of archaeological fieldwork rather than a genuine absence of archaeology, particularly if the present village is situated above the medieval settlement.

Summary of 2016 Evaluation Results

- 4.5 Four trenches were excavated in March 2016 by Souterrain, providing a representative coverage of the areas of proposed developmental impact. One trench was located at Plot 1, the other three at Plot 2. Archaeological features and/or layers were found in each of the trenches, all of which are understood to pertain to occupation or land-use in the medieval periods, with residual signs of occupation or activity in the Anglo-Saxon period. The locations of trenches are included on Figures 4 and 10 of the present report.

Medieval Domestic Activity

- 4.6 The evaluation trench at Plot 1 revealed a small ditch and roughly-cobbled path. Despite the absence of dateable artefacts in either features, the ditch could be assigned broadly to the medieval period on account of assemblages of carbonised cereal grains and plant *taxa*, whilst the cobbled surface was thought likely to date from the same period on account of its stratigraphic relationships.
- 4.7 At Plot 2 there was a large gully (see Fig. 10, T3, [304]) containing a small assemblage of 12th / 13th century pottery sherds and fragments of animal bone. The date of the deposit was corroborated by an assemblage of carbonised cereal and plant remains that is typical of a

⁵ HER 15020 - MBD15091; also interpreted as a series of rectilinear earthworks thought to be an enclosure

⁶ HER MBB2107

⁷ HER MBB2107

⁸ HER MBB2115

⁹ HERMBB21073

medieval farming economy. Collectively, the material is indicative of domestic discard, possibly from a nearby dwelling. Three undated cut features were also found at Plot 2 (Fig. 10, T4): gully, a possible post-hole and a probable pit. Again, all of the features contained carbonised cereal and plant remains which suggest a medieval date. All of the archaeological features were cut into the geological stratum of clay.

Embankment Earthwork

- 4.8 During the evaluation, an embankment earthwork was observed to run around the northern and eastern perimeter of Plot 2 and the eastern boundary of Plot 1 (Fig. 2). Evaluation trenches 2 and 3 (Fig. 10) encountered two clay deposits of anthropogenic origin, with an overall thickness of c. 0.8 m, which were interpreted as make-up layers of the embankment. The layers were dated broadly to the medieval period. Notably, the aforementioned 12th / 13th century gully (*ante*. 4.7) was sealed beneath the proposed make-up layers.
- 4.9 The suspected embankment make-up layers are given detailed consideration again here, since one of the main objectives of the subsequent mitigation investigation (i.e. the watching brief) has been to examine the physical characteristics of the earthwork and to attempt to determine its age. In Trench 2 (Fig. 10, T2), the lowermost layer (**203**) of the embankment consisted of orange-brown slightly gravelly clay, horizontally bedded and between c. 0.24 m and c. 0.3 m in thickness. A single sherd of residual early Saxon pottery (c. AD 400 – AD 850) was found. The soil sample analysis revealed cereal grains, including free-threshing wheat, the predominant crop of the medieval period. The presence of a single glume base of emmer / spelt was considered to have derived from Anglo-Saxon activity on the site, having been incorporated into the deposit through natural or anthropogenic disturbance. The upper make-up layer (**202**) of the embankment consisted of a mid grey-brown silty clay, up to c. 0.6 m thick. Two small non-diagnostic sherds of medieval shell-tempered pottery were found. A soil sample produced carbonised cereal grains (barley, wheat and oat) indicative of a medieval farming economy. Additionally, there were arable weeds consistent with an autumn sown wheat crop on heavy fertile soils. The uppermost layer (**202**) was sealed by a layer of very dark brown silty-clay topsoil (**201**), c. 0.2 m in thickness, which was notably devoid of artefacts.
- 4.10 A comprehensive archaeological topographical survey record was subsequently made of the extent of the earthwork at Plot 2 prior to construction groundwork for the new house.

5. PURPOSE AND AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 5.1 The evaluation has shown that the Application Site has the potential to yield data to augment current archaeological research themes and priorities addressed by regional research agenda (i.e. Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Oake et al, 2007; Glazebrook 1997; Medlycott & Brown 2008; Medlycott 2001). Primarily, the site has been considered to have the potential to recover further information that may contribute to our understanding of the origins and developmental history of the nucleated village of Upper Dean (Over Dean). The purpose of the Watching Brief was thus, to investigate, record, sample and characterize any surviving archaeological remains within the areas of the proposed development.

6. FIELD PROCEDURE

- 6.1 The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation (*ante*. 2.3) and the Chartered

Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Rev. 2014).

- 6.2 Ground reduction and trenching was monitored throughout by an archaeologist, with the facility to make investigations and records as appropriate. Deposits of archaeological interest were investigated using hand tools. An archaeological context recording system was used for registering textual descriptions and stratigraphic relationships of deposits, and photographic record (black and white and digital) was made of each trench. This includes shots which represent more generally the nature of the site and the fieldwork. Archaeological features were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum by RTK differential GPS. All records are referenced with the Bedford Museum Accession number BEDFM 2016.10.

7. INVESTIGATION RESULTS

- 7.1 In the descriptions which follow, context numbers in square brackets denote 'cuts' (i.e. dug features), whilst those in round brackets denote layers, deposits, fills or structures.

Plot 1

- 7.2 The ground reduction in Plot 1 was confined to the removal of topsoil (Fig. 6). Trenching for the foundations of the new house revealed a further extent of a roughly cobbled path (Fig. 4, context 504) which was previously exposed in evaluation Trench 1 (*ante.* 4.6). There were no associated artefacts. The track-way was sealed below c. 0.18 m of subsoil at approximately 52.25 m OD (Fig. 5, Section 1 and Fig. 7).

Plot 2

Embankment Earthwork: Section 2

- 7.3 In the south-eastern part of the plot, ground reduction took place to create a pedestrian access for the new house (Fig. 10). This comprised partial reduction of the embankment earthwork on the site perimeter, which at this point stood to a height of c. 0.8 m (Fig. 11). The machine-cut section was approximately 3.5 m long by c. 1.86 m wide, to an overall depth of c. 0.48 m from the top of the embankment, whereby topsoil (600) and part of the uppermost make-up layer (601) of the embankment were removed (Fig. 11, Section 2).
- 7.4 The excavated area and sections were cleaned using hand-tools, following which a slot trench was hand-excavated along the southern side of the machine cut, in order to ascertain the thickness and character of the earthwork and to extract soil samples for analysis. The uppermost geological horizon was reached c. 51.95 m OD. The geology (604) consisted of firm mid-brown to orange gravelly sandy clay.
- 7.5 Four successive archaeological deposits/layers were revealed overall. Above the geological stratum was a deposit of firm grey clay with occasional charcoal flecks (603), c. 0.12 m in thickness which was understood to be the initial make-up layer of the embankment. Although there were no artefacts recovered, grains of carbonised wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were present within the layer. It was overlain by a thin layer (c. 0.09 m) of light buff to grey firm clay (602) with frequent small pieces (< 0.08 m) of white calcareous stone. This, in turn, was overlain by a banked layer (601), comprised of firm mid-brownish-grey, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, representing the upper make-up layer of the embankment. Pottery sherds dating to the 12th / 13th century were present both within the upper make-up layer (601) and impressed into its surface (*post.* 8.4, Table 1). The soil sample revealed a range of carbonised cereal grain (free-threshing wheat, wheat and oat) all of which were dominant in England during the medieval period (*post.* 8.12 - 8.15 and 8.20, Table 4)

Embankment Earthwork: Sections 3 to 6

- 7.6 Machine-excavation of the vehicle access in the north-western part of Plot 2 (Fig. 10) presented the opportunity to examine and record sections through the earthwork at a point where it is most prominent alongside Shay Lane; a height of almost 2 m from the road side. Between 8 and 9 metres (lengthwise) of the earthwork was removed during the works. The excavation was carried out in two stages, with the recording of sections executed accumulatively, in step with the groundwork. The remainder of the new driveway was stripped only of topsoil (Fig. 9).
- 7.7 The geological stratum (616) in this area comprised firm mid-brown to orange gravelly sandy clay. The topography to the north (i.e. facing Shay Lane) had been modified to produce a slope of 35° – 40°, thus forming the lower part of the earthwork (Fig 12, Section 5, [630]; Fig. 14, Section 6, [623]). A modern service trench [628] along the roadside had truncated the base of the embankment, although at Section 6 the modified slope was observed to terminate at a near-horizontal toe or step (Fig. 14, [623]). The geological stratum was directly overlain by a layer of orange-brown to dark grey gritty and silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks (615), between c. 0.36 m and 0.4 m in thickness. The layer extended over the northern slope, where it narrowed to c. 0.1 m (see also Fig. 14, Section 6, (625)). There were no dateable artefacts present, although analysis of the soil revealed a frequency cereal grains typical of a medieval agricultural economy, including hulled barley, barley, free-threshing, wheat and rye. In addition, there was a single large cotyledon of a pea or bean (*post.* 8.20, Table 4).
- 7.8 Above layer (615) there was a very similar layer of dark grey to orange-brown gritty silty clay with charcoal flecks (614). The division between the two layers was poorly defined and in the opposite section the division was less uncertain (see Fig. 14, Section 4, (609)). Layer (614) was between c. 0.15 m and 0.18 m thick and also appears to have overlapped the north slope of the embankment, where it narrowed to c. 0.18 m (633). There were no dateable artefacts.
- 7.9 In the opposite section, bone fragments of livestock, including pig and sheep, were present in the upper part of layer (609), (*post.* 8.8, Table 3). The soil analysis revealed only slight evidence of cereal farming (*post.* 8.20, Table 4).
- 7.10 Although a precise correlation with the lower embankment layer (203) recorded during in the evaluation was not determinable (*ante.* 4.9), there is a general correspondence to be made between (203) and layers (609, (614) and (615) with regard to carbonised botanical remains and soil constituents. A possible reason for this could be that different sources of material were used in the make-up layer of the embankment, yet not all deposits were clearly distinguishable during excavation.
- 7.11 On top of layer (614) in the west-facing section (Fig. 12, Section 3) was the remains of decayed oak (613). The section was cleaned back by trowel to reveal the wood, which had a flat-cut west face. This was between. c. 0.05 m and 0.08 m thick and horizontally lain. It extended throughout the width of the embankment for a distance of approximately 5 m, becoming increasingly perished and less discernible as timber towards the south and the west. Closer examination of a portion of the wood indicated a squared edge of a cut timber (Fig. 13, c). It is thus possible that the wood represented the remains of part of a structure upon the embankment (Fig. 12, Section 3; Fig. 13, a and b). There was no corresponding feature in the opposite section (Fig. 14, Section 4).
- 7.12 Towards the rear (south) of the embankment a small shallow flat-bottomed trench [632] had been cut into layer (614) (Fig. 12, Section 3). A corresponding feature of similar proportions was present in the opposite section (Fig. 14, Section 4, [631]), cut into layer (609). The feature was between 0.1 m to 0.15 m deep and c. 0.2 m to 0.32 m wide at its base. It is possible that it

represented a revetment trench for the embankment. In the west-facing section (Fig. 12, Section 3) the trench was filled by decayed timber (613), whilst in the east-facing section (Fig. 14) its fill was undifferentiated with that of layer (608) (*post.* 7.12).

- 7.13 The uppermost make-up of the embankment was composed of grey silty clay (612 /608). The layer was c. 0.3 m in thickness, narrowing to c. 0.14 m above the northern slope. A small number of pottery sherds were recovered, suggesting that the layer was formed at sometime during the 12th or 13th century (*post.* 8.4, Table 1, (608)). The pottery assemblage included residual Anglo-Saxon wares. Fragments of the bones and teeth of livestock were also present, including cattle, sheep/ goat and pig, some with butchery marks (*post.* 8.8, Table 3). The analysis of a soil sample revealed the presence of cereal grains typically cultivated in England during the medieval period. The sample also included wheat emmer/ spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*) and a single glume base (*post.* 8.20, Table 3), which possibly represent residual material from earlier (i.e. Anglo-Saxon) activity at the site.
- 7.14 Within the east-facing section (Fig. 14, Section 4) there were two cut features of uncertain date ([621] and [619]) which penetrated the lowermost make-up (609) of the embankment. Both of the cut features had the appearance of post-holes or large stake-holes. It was not possible to determine the level from which the features had been cut due to extensive root and animal disturbance and the crumbly nature of the material above layer (609). Equally, the fills of the features had suffered considerably from tree root disturbance. There were no artefacts present
- 7.15 Above layer (612)/(608) was topsoil comprised of dark brown silty, clayey soil between c. 0.24 m and c. 0.3 m in thickness. It was devoid of finds of any period.

House footprint

- 7.16 Ground reduction for the new house plot comprised the removal of topsoil, to the required construction level (Figs. 8, 16 and 17). The interface with underlying subsoil was poorly-defined throughout. Archaeological features found in the evaluation of Plot 2 were sealed beneath the subsoil layer, at a depth of c. 0.5 m to c. 0.68 m. There were, however, no archaeological features or artefacts observable during the excavation of the foundation trenches.

8. THE FINDS

The Medieval Pottery

by Jackie Wells MA & Martin Wilson

- 8.1 The medieval pottery identification and dating was done by Jackie Wells MA. A total of 20 pottery sherds, with an overall weight of 351 grams, were recovered during the investigations; primarily from stratified contexts. The pottery sherds in Table 1 are arranged by Context Number. The pottery falls broadly into three periods – the Early Anglo-Saxon period (5th – 9th century), the Middle to Late Anglo-Saxon period (8th to late 9th century) and the 12th / 13th century. The minimum number of vessels (MNV) represented is 13 (Table 2).
- 8.2 The Anglo-Saxon sherds are residual material. They are most likely derived from nearby domestic waste deposits, having been dug up during the creation of the embankment in the 12th or 13th century. They include a rim fragment from a Maxey-type jar (8th – 9th century), found in the uppermost layer (608), and a rim sherd of a large jar imported from the Ipswich area.
- 8.3 The 12th / 13th century assemblage includes lightly abraded fragments of St Neots-type ware, probably derived from cooking pots and a rim sherd from a bowl or jar from Lyveden, Buckinghamshire.

8.4 **Table 1. Pottery: Types and chronology**

(Note: Fabric codes used in descriptions refer to those of the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series).

Context No.	Description	Period
600	2 sherds, misc. medieval shellyware, cooking pots	medieval
600 (surface of (601))	6 body sherds, orange, shelly with mixed inclusions, very abraded. St Neots-type ware. Possibly Fabric B016, cooking pots. Fabric B7	C12 / C13
601	4 body sherds, abraded. Fabric B7	C12 / C13
607	1 rim sherd, orange-ware with mixed inclusions, large cooking pot, flat rim with finger impression decoration. Fabric C67 Probably contemporary with B7	c. C12 / C13
	1 rim sherd, greyware, sand-tempered. Slow-wheel-made. Large jar. Probably Ipswich ware (import)	C8 – C9
608	1 rim sherd, Maxey-type shellyware, jar. Fabric A11	C8 / C9
	1 rim sherd, Lyvedenware (Bucks), jar/bowl. Fabric B9	C13
	1 body sherd, coarse sandyware, fairly worn. Cooking pot or jar. Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon (probably towards the later period). Fabric A16	C5 - C9
	1 rim sherd, St Neots-type ware, cooking pot or jar. Late Anglo-Saxon. Fabric B1.	C9 – C11
	1, body sherd – sand-tempered with abundant red quartz, neck of jar, grooved decoration. Fabric C2	C12 / C13
	1 body sherd, fine sandyware, cooking pot. Early-Middle. Anglo-Saxon Fabric A18.	C5 - C9

8.5 **Table 2. Medieval Pottery Quantification** (MNV= minimum number of vessels)

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (grams)	MNV
600	8	114	3
601	4	11	2
607	1	74	1
	1		1
608	1	37	1
	1	34	1
	1	38	1
	1	12	1
	1	22	1
	1	9	1
Totals	20	351	13

8.6 **Other Finds**

Three fragments of vitrified clay were recovered from (context 608), weighing 105 grams.

Animal Bones by Matilda Holmes Phd, ACIfA

8.7 A very small assemblage of animal bone was excavated from 12th – 13th century contexts (Table 3). Bones were in good condition, with two incidences of butchery, and a single gnawed fragment from context (609). Bones and teeth of cattle, sheep/ goat and pig were represented, coming from all parts of the body (head, torso, limbs and feet) likely resulting from a mixture of butchery and food refuse. The sample is too small to make further comment.

8.8 **Table 3. Animal bones**

Context	Description	Comments
608	2x Large mammal rib	1 sawn
	4x large mammal fragments	
	2x large mammal vertebra fragments	
	5x medium mammal ribs	
	Large mammal skull fragment	
	Mammal fragment	
	Bird long bone	2 refit
	Large mammal scapula fragment	Probably cattle
	Sheep/ goat pelvis	Left
	Cattle lumbar vertebra	
	Cattle phalange	Fused
	Sheep humerus	Distal end present, fused
	Pig incisor	
	Cattle upper 1 st / 2 nd molar	
609	Sheep/ goat tibia	Right, 2 refit
	Large mammal pelvis	Gnawed and butchered
	Pig thoracic vertebra	Unfused

Assessment of bulk sample light fractions by John Summers Phd**Introduction**

8.9 Six bulk soil samples were taken for the purpose of environmental archaeological assessment. The samples were submitted to Archaeological Solutions Ltd for processing and assessment. The sampled deposits are understood to be medieval (12th / 13th century AD) in date and complement results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from the trial trench evaluation of the site (Summers 2016). The aim of the present investigation was to add further detail to present understanding of the site's arable economy.

Methods

8.10 Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500 µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1 mm. The dried light fractions were sorted under a low power stereomicroscope (x 10-x 30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979;

Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

8.11 The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 4.

Plant macrofossils

8.12 Carbonised plant macrofossils were recovered from five of the six samples, predominantly in the form of cereal caryopses. Remains of free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type) were dominant, accompanied by hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*). A single emmer/ spelt wheat (*T. dicocum/ spelta*) glume base was recovered from (608), which adds to the small assemblage of glume wheat remains from earlier investigations (Summers 2016). As was noted for previous specimens, these remains could be residual from earlier activity at the site. However, a medieval origin cannot be ruled out and spelt remains have previously been recovered from deposits dating to the 12th - 13th century at West Fen Road, Ely (Ballantyne 2005, 108).

8.13 Free-threshing type wheats (bread wheat, including club wheat, and rivet wheat) were dominant in most parts of England during the medieval period, which is reflected in the samples from Upper Dean. The less common remains of barley, oat and rye are also likely to have been cultivated during this period. The low representation of oat and rye in particular may reflect a use for fodder rather than human consumption.

8.14 Also present was a single pea/ bean (large Fabaceae) cotyledon in (615) which is also likely to have been cultivated. A similarly low-level representation of pulses was recorded in the evaluation (Summers 2016). In addition, a single common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) seed was recorded in (615). This has been recorded elsewhere during the medieval period and can be seen as a fodder crop cultivated as part of a crop rotation system (e.g. Ballantyne 2005, 104; Straker et al. 2007, 880). However, the evidence of a single specimen is insufficient for detailed interpretation.

8.15 Non-cereal *taxa* included stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), which is common on heavy clay and loam soils that are well suited to bread wheat cultivation. Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) is often seen as a typical weed of autumn-sown cereals, such as wheat and rye. The assemblage of probable weed *taxa* was less extensive than that recovered during the evaluation but does concur with the original findings.

Charcoal

8.16 Charcoal remains were present but generally in low concentrations. Charcoal fragments were recorded as common in (615), where an assessment of vessel patterns in transverse section confirmed the presence of oak (*Quercus* sp.). A sample was taken from a length of carbonised timber (613) which was laid horizontal between medieval layers in the embankment at Section 5 (*ante* 7.10; Fig. 12). The material was identified to be oak (*Quercus* sp.) heartwood, displaying weak ring curvature and tyloses deposits in the vessels. The charcoal may represent the charred exterior of a timber, which could originally have had a structural role. Incompletely burnt fuel wood is also a possibility.

Terrestrial molluscs

8.17 A small number of terrestrial molluscs were present, including grassland *taxa* (*Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.), along with those characteristic of ground litter (*Oxychilus* sp. and *Trichia hispida* group). The concentration of shells was too low for detailed analysis.

Contaminants

- 8.18 Modern contaminants were present in the form of rootlets, seeds, insects, burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) and earthworm egg capsules. In general, these were only present in low concentrations and are unlikely to reflect significant biological disturbance of the sampled deposits. An exception was (601), which contained abundant rootlets. Although every effort was made to disaggregate the root mass, it is possible that some smaller carbonised remains were overlooked during the sorting of this sample.

Conclusions and statement of potential

- 8.19 The carbonised remains from the six samples taken during the watching brief have added further to the pattern of a mixed arable economy, building on data from the evaluation phase of the project. The arable economy incorporated the cultivation of a range of cereals, most notably free-threshing type wheat and hulled barley, accompanied by possible fodder crops oat and rye. Pulses, in the form of pea/ bean, are likely to have contributed to the diet, while common vetch may also have been grown as a fodder crop as part of a crop rotation system.

8.20 Table 4. Environmental samples: data from the bulk sample light fractions

Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); E/S = emmer/ spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain); GB = glume base.

Context	Spot Date	Volume (litres)	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa	Charcoal			Molluscs	Contaminants					
			Cereal grains	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
601	C 12 / C13	20	XX	FTW (2), Trit (3), Oat (1), NFI (3)	X	<i>Stellaria media</i> (1), <i>Galium aparine</i> (3)	-	X	-	X	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	XX X	X	X	X	X
603	C 12 / C13	20	X	Trit (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	X	-	X	-
608	C 12 / C13	30	X	Trit (1), Trit tail (1), NFI (2), E/S GB (1)	X	<i>Anthemis cotula</i> (1)	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
609	C 12 / C13	30	X	FTW (1), Trit (2)	X	<i>Potentilla</i> sp. (1), <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (1), Asteraceae (1), <i>Carex</i> sp. (1), Medium Poaceae (1)	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
614	C 12 / C13	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
615	C 12 / C13	5	XX	HB (4), Hord (1), FTW (5), Trit (1), Rye (1), NFI (4)	X	Large Fabaceae (1), <i>Vicia sativa</i> (1), <i>Galium</i> sp. (1), <i>Bromus</i> sp. (1), Small Poaceae (1)	-	X X	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	X	X	-	-	-

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

9.1 To date, the discoveries at Bryant's Close represent the most significant body of archaeological evidence for 12th / 13th century settlement activity in the historic core of Upper Dean. Equally, it is the first indication of Anglo-Saxon occupation within the village.

Medieval earthwork

9.2 The creation of a vehicular access at Shay Lane (Plot 2) enabled a detailed examination to be made of the embankment earthwork. At this point the earthwork stands to a height of 2 m. The section cut through the earthwork revealed that the natural topography had been modified prior to the construction of the embankment, enhancing its slope. Pottery sherds within the uppermost make-up layer (608 / 612) suggest that the embankment is likely to have been formed at some juncture during the 12th or 13th century, while a plant macrofossil assemblage reinforces this date, being typical of the medieval agrarian economy in most parts of England.

9.3 Although medieval pottery was not recovered from the lowermost make-up layer it is considered that the embankment was formed broadly during the same period (i.e. the 12th or 13th century). Significantly, during the evaluation, a small ditch or gully [304] was found cut into the geological stratum (see Fig. 10, T3) and sealed by a lower formation of the embankment (*ante*. 4.7). The fill of the ditch or gully yielded a small number of unabraded pottery sherds that are unequivocally dated to the 12th to 13th century. Notably, the sherds were either unabraded or only very lightly abraded, suggesting that domestic occupation had been nearby.

9.4 The embankment is likely to have been built in at least two phases. A shallow flat-bottomed trench ([631]/[632]) cut along the rear side the lowermost make-up layer appears to have been for a revetment structure. In the northwest facing section (Fig. 12 Section 3) the remains of decayed oak timber lay horizontally above the lowermost make-up layer, covering and filling the postulated revetment trench. The disposition of the timber can only be postulated. Possible hypotheses are: part of a retaining structure, perhaps collapsed; a walkway above the embankment; or casual discard of burnt wood.

9.5 A limited investigation of the embankment at High Street (Plot 2) produced comparable date for the creation and usage of the earthwork. The investigation was enabled by the creation of a pedestrian access to the new house. At this point, the embankment stood to about 0.76 m and was comprised of three make-up layers (603 to 601) below an accumulation of topsoil. Pottery of 12th / 13th century date was found impressed into the surface of the uppermost layer (601) signifying that it was probably a buried occupation horizon of that period. The make-up layer (601) itself also contained 12th / 13th pottery, suggesting that embankment was constructed at some stage within the same period.

9.6 The purpose of the earthwork was not ascertained. Its course, shown as a green line on Figure 3, has been traced by perambulation. It runs north-westwards along Shay Lane, where it is present on either side a small brook (a tributary of the River Ivel). It then turns south-westwards along Brook Lane, before fading mid way along the lane. The embankment encloses two fields which contain linear earthworks of uncertain origin or function: in Brian's Meadow on the southeast side of the brook (HER 15020) and in a field of pasture (Pickbones Meadow) on the northwest side of the brook. Unfortunately, as yet, here has been no analytical earthwork survey of either of these fields (Fig. 3). One preliminary hypothesis is that the earthwork represents part of a

boundary of a magnate enclosure, a little known type of early medieval monument, comprised of an extensive ditch and or bank enveloping church and manor house and certain demesne grounds. There are three known Bedfordshire villages where possible examples of such a monument exists: Melchbourne, 3.3 km SW (c.f. Shotliff, 1998); Shelton¹⁰, 2 km NW; and Meppershall, c. 16 km SE of Bedford (see Edgeworth 2007, 10). A related hypothesis is that the earthworks form a part of a medieval water management system, comprised of dams and fish (?and eel) ponds on either side of the brook.

Anglo-Saxon Period

- 9.7 Five diagnostic sherds of residual Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from the overall investigation (i.e. evaluation and watching brief) at Plot 2. The pottery is residual and ranges in date from the 5th to the 11th century. Four of the sherds were recovered from the uppermost layer (608 / 612) of the embankment and include a rim sherd of a large jar imported from the Ipswich area. The other sherd was found in the lowermost layer (203) of the embankment; in evaluation Trench 2. The pottery is most likely to have derived from nearby domestic waste deposits, having been dug up during the creation of the embankment in the 12th or 13th century. Plant macro-fossils were also present which are regarded as residual deposits. A single emmer/ spelt wheat (*T. dicoccum/ spelta*) glume base, a wheat species which commonly occurs in the Anglo-Saxon period, was recovered from the uppermost make-up layer (608). This complements a similar find which came from the lowermost layer (203) of the embankment during the evaluation. The assemblage of carbonised cereal grain and arable weeds in the lowermost layer of the embankment included free-threshing bread wheat, which by the end of the Anglo-Saxon period had become the most dominant of all cereals. Fairly recent statistical analysis (Banham & Faith 2014) has shown that free-threshing bread wheat has been found on 73 % of sites in the 10th and 11th centuries (a rise from 38 % in the 5th to 7th centuries, and 50 % in the 8th and 9th). The presence of Anglo-Saxon material points to the presence of occupation, either at or in the near vicinity of the Application Site, which pre-dates the later nucleated settlement of Upper Dean (the development of which may have taken place in the mid-9th century (Knight, Vyner. & Allen 2012; Lewis 2006; for a discussion of origins see Oosthuizen 2010) .
- 9.8 There is no potential for further assessment and analysis of artefacts or faunal remains.
- 9.9 There was no evidence of occupation or land-use earlier than the Anglo-Saxon period.

10. ARCHIVE

- 10.1 The Bedford Museum's Accessions Number for the project is BEDFM 2016.10. The paper archive comprises field drawing sheets, monochrome photographs and digital photographs. All artefacts will remain the property of the landowner.
- 10.2 The English Heritage OASIS Data Collection Form ID for this project is souterra1-262764.

11. COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 11.1 Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the Owner in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the WSI. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

¹⁰ Reconnoitered by the author in 2016

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- 11.2 Souterrain undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Applicant's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that owners respect Souterrain's and the Institute for Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

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Historic documents

A Plan of the Parish of Over and Nether Dean in the County of Bedford as Divided and Inclosed under an Act of Parliament passed in the Year 1800, Luton & Bedford Archives MA21/2

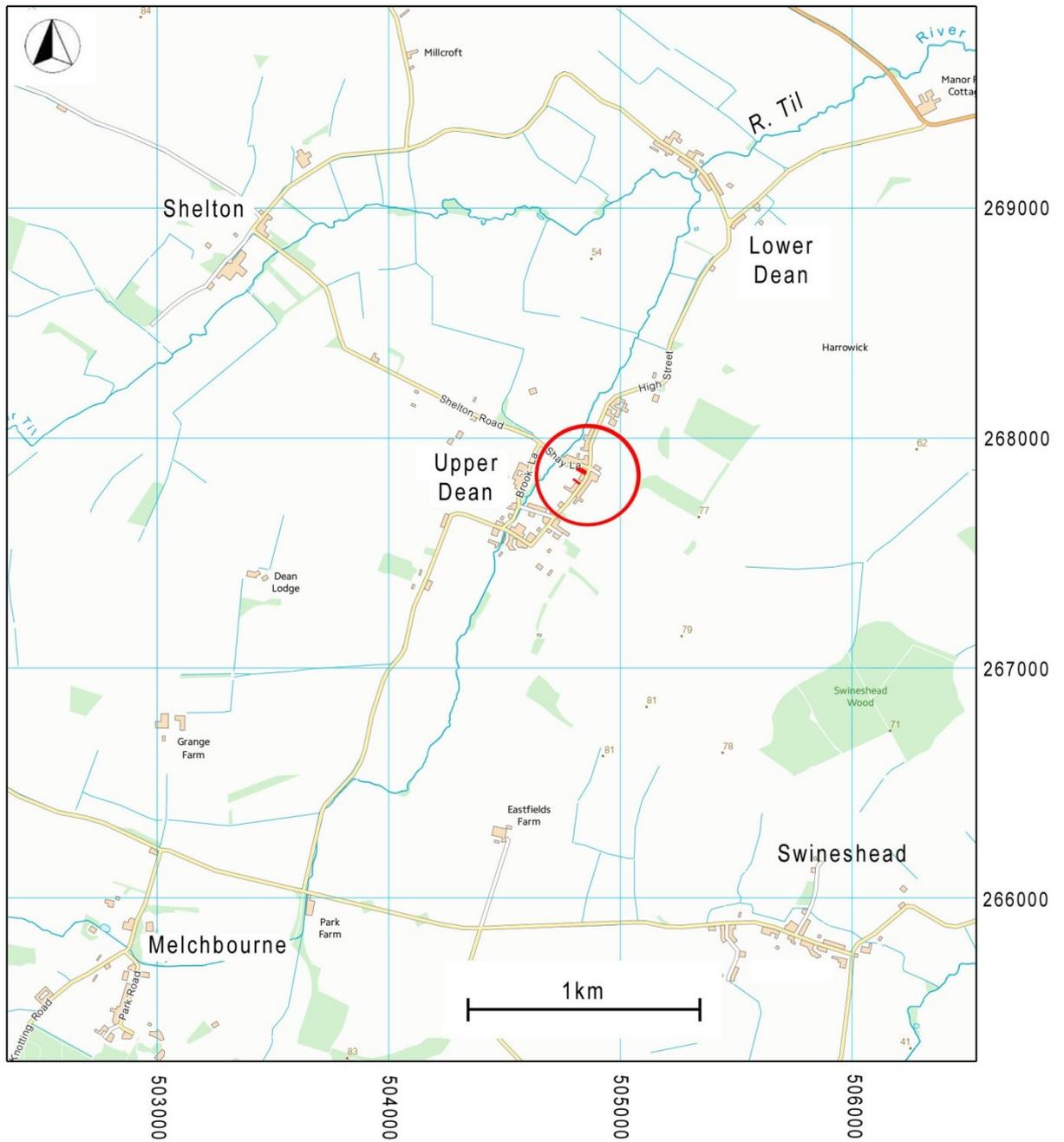


Figure 1. Location of Site

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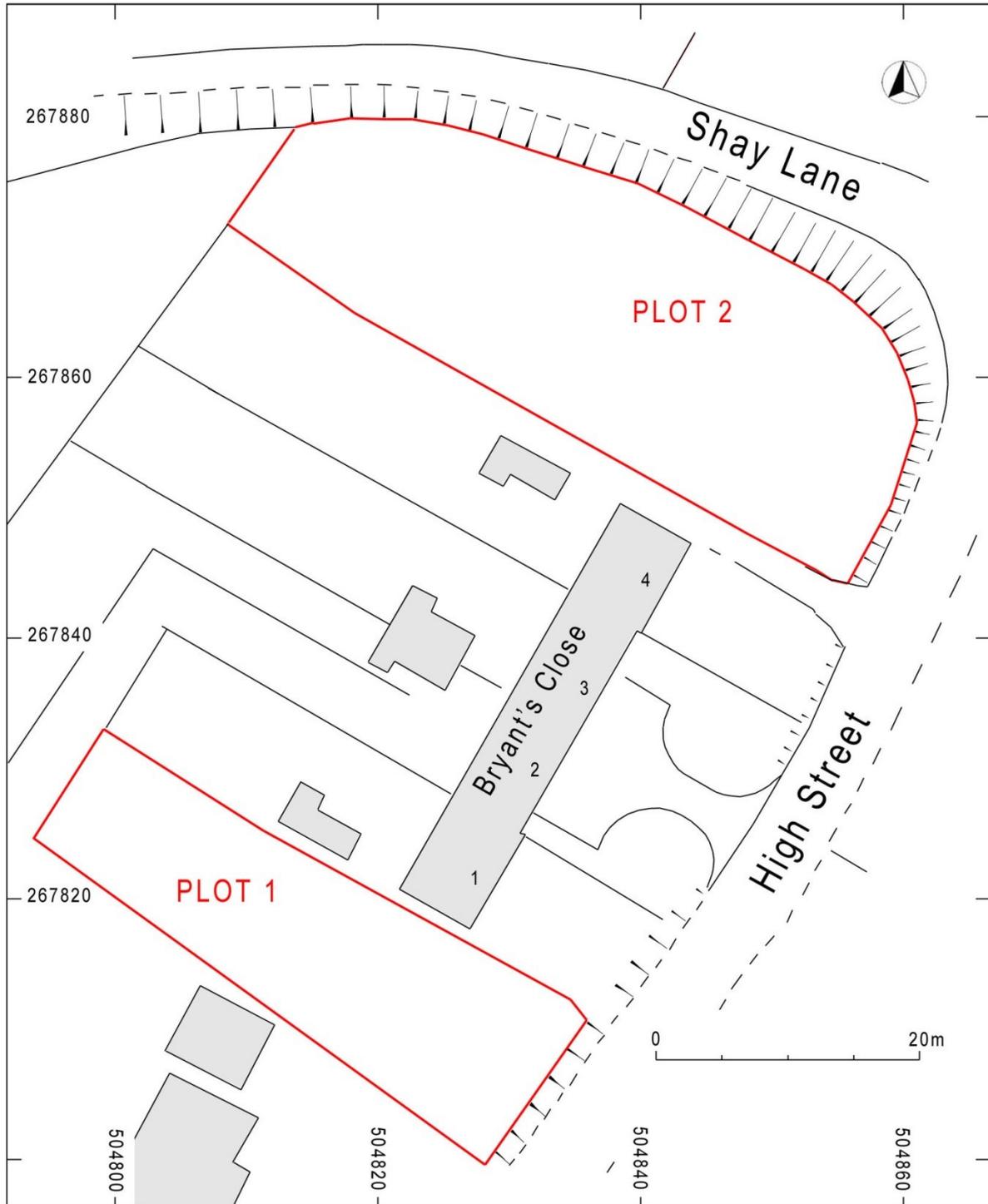


Figure 2. Location of Application Site: Plots 1 and 2

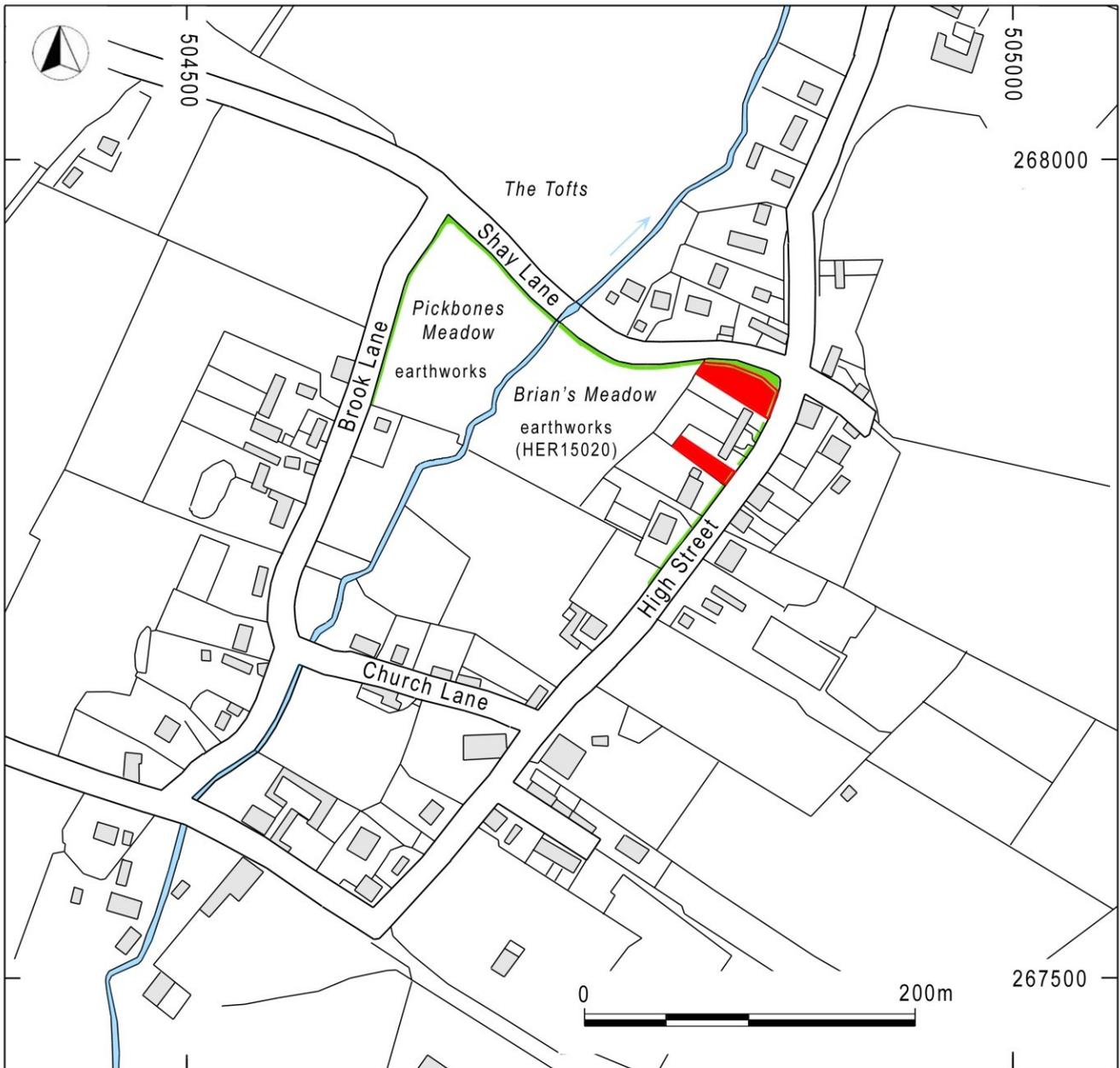


Figure 3. Location of Application Site (red) and perimeter earthwork (green)

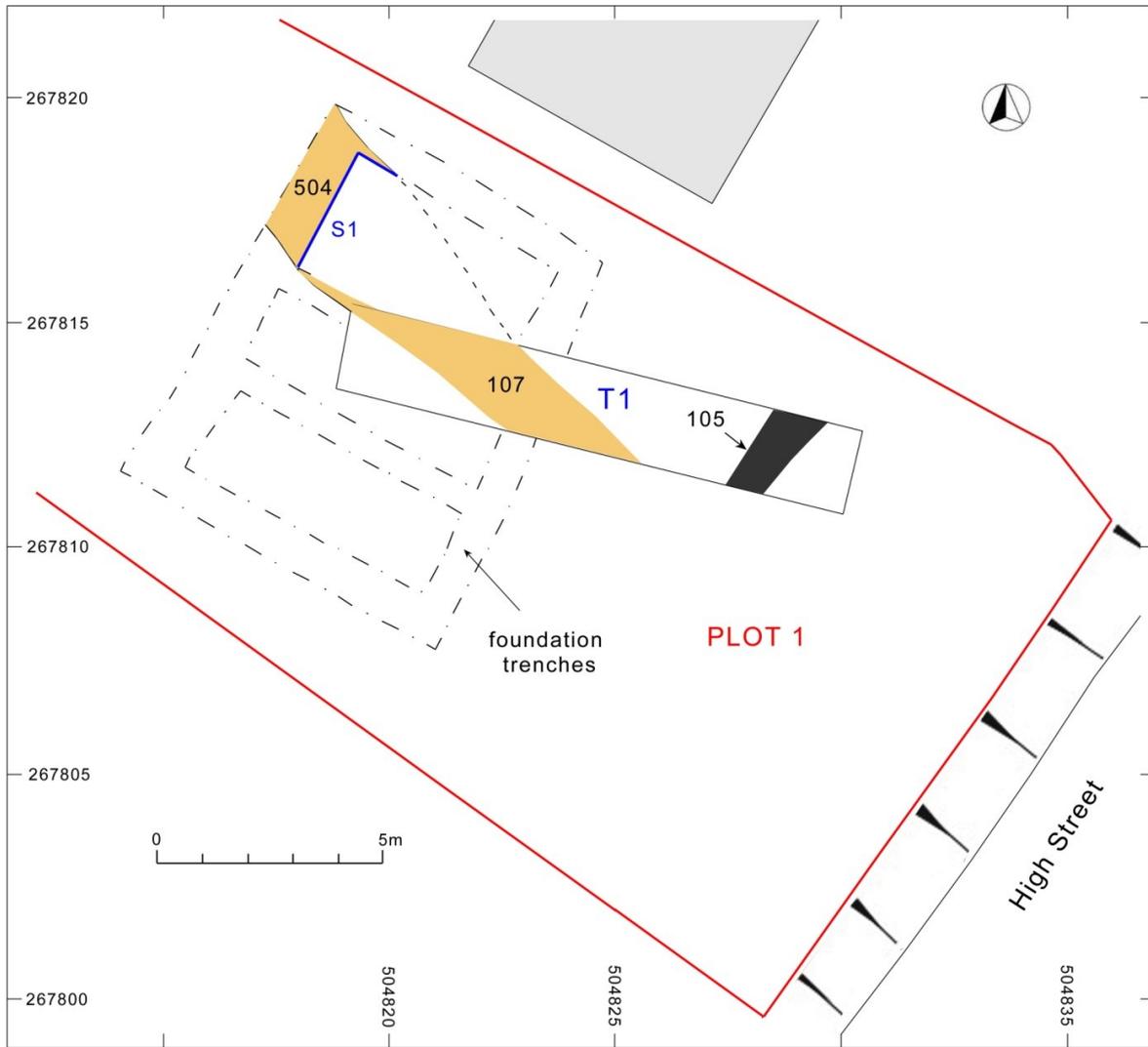


Figure 4. Plot 1. Extent of cobbled path (505)/(107) as revealed in foundation trenches and evaluation trench T1, showing location of Section 1

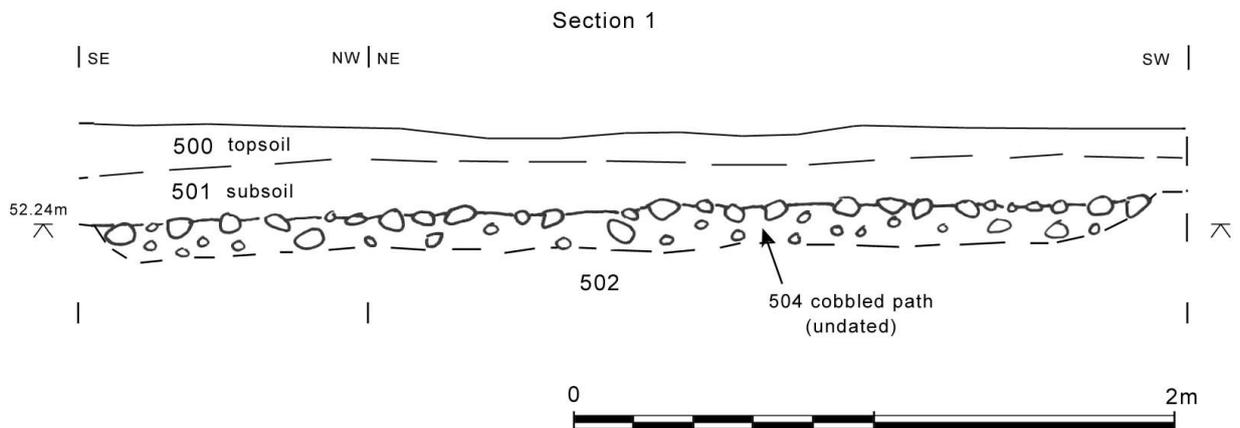


Figure 5. Plot 1, Section 1

Figure 6. Plot 1. Overview of stripped area. Facing SE



Figure 7. Plot 1. Overview of cobbled path (504) in foundation trench. Facing NE

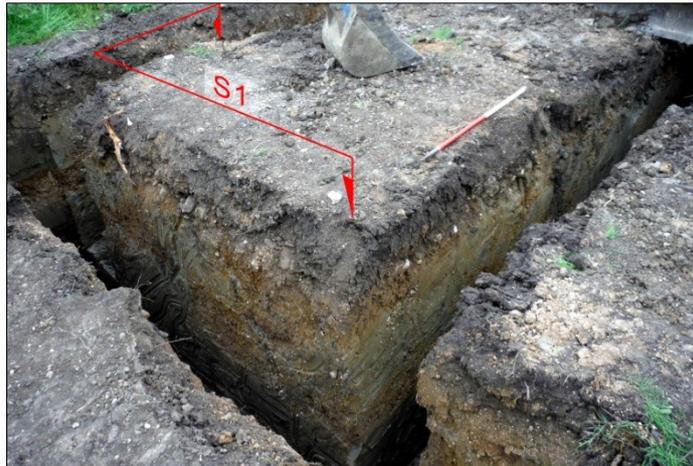


Figure 8. Plot 2. Extent of soil strip (housing plot). View from SE corner of site

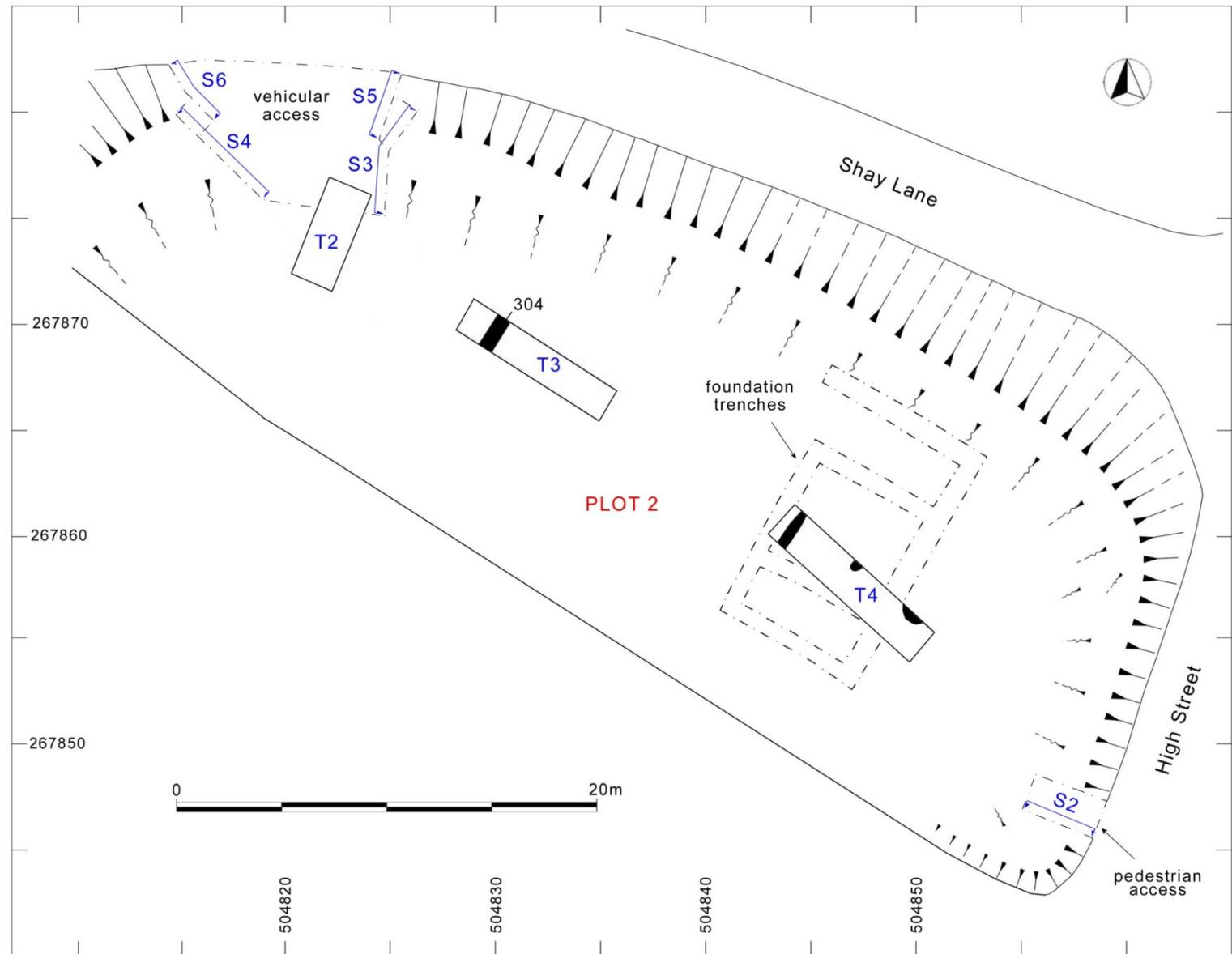


Figure 9. Plot 2. Soil strip of vehicular access. View from NW corner of site



Figure 10.

Plot 2. Location of excavated areas and sections S2 to S6; also showing position of



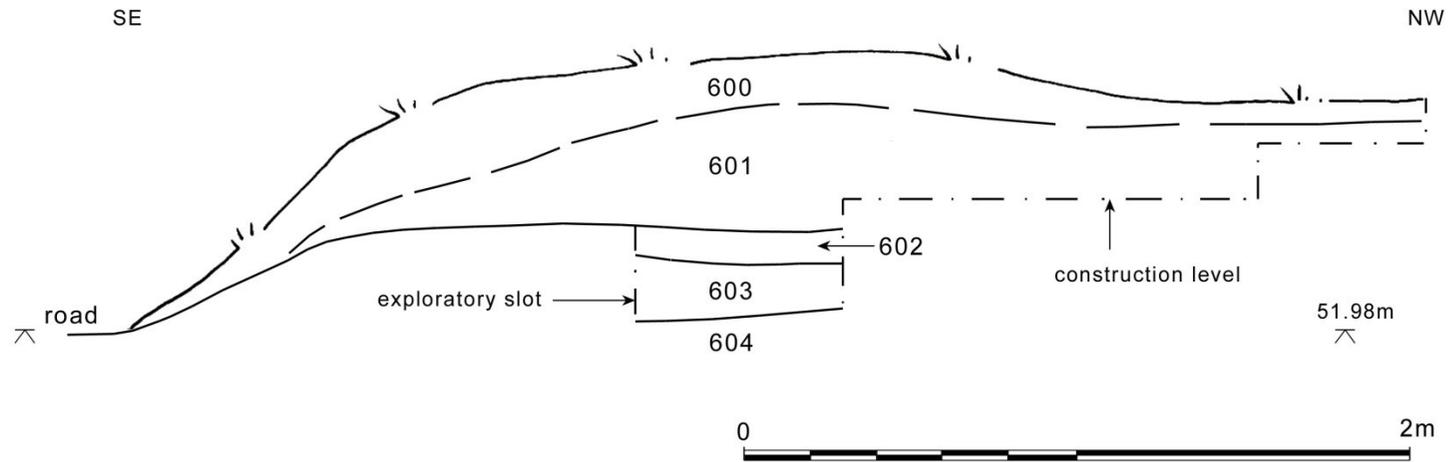


Figure 11. Plot 2, Section 2



Section 2, facing SW



Section 2, facing SSW

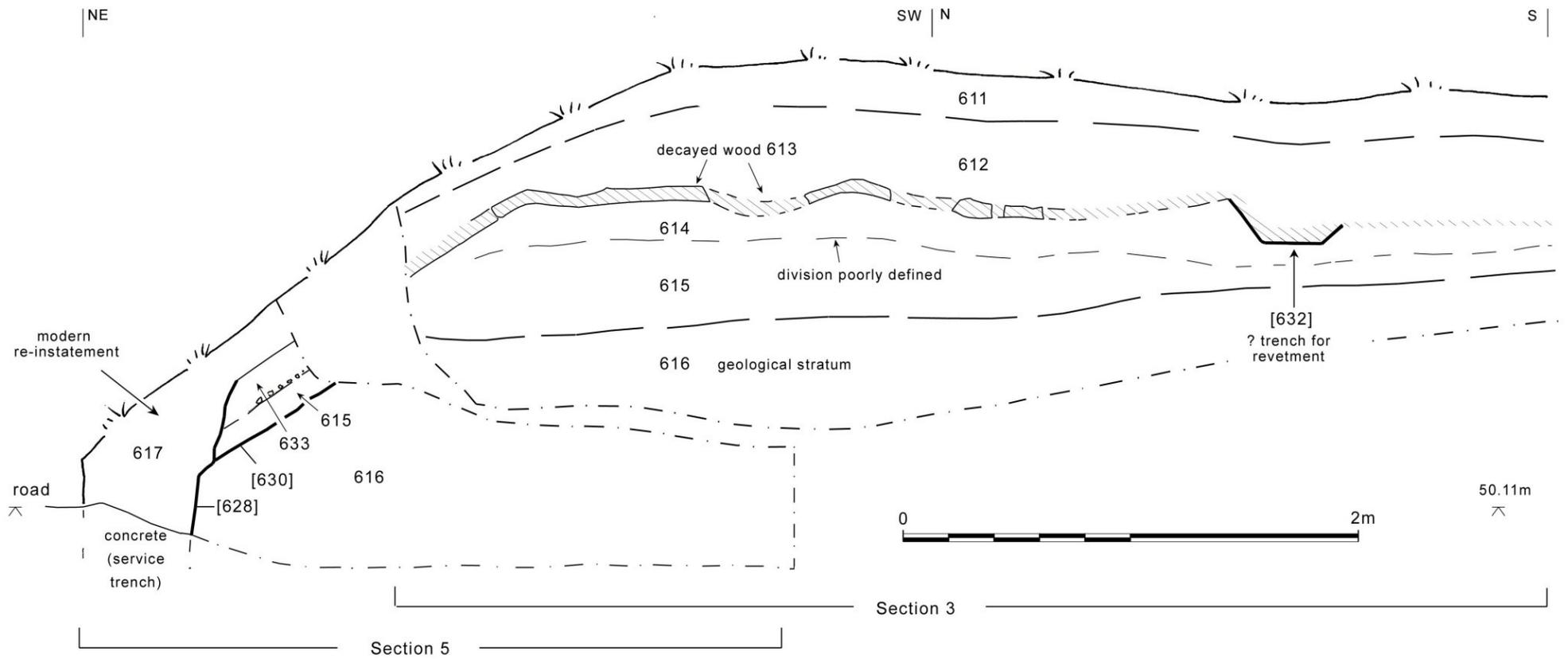


Figure 12. Plot 2, Sections 3 and 5



Figure 13. Plot 2

a. Section 5 & part of Section 3. Facing SE

b. Section 3. Facing SE

c. Section 3, decayed timber (context 613)

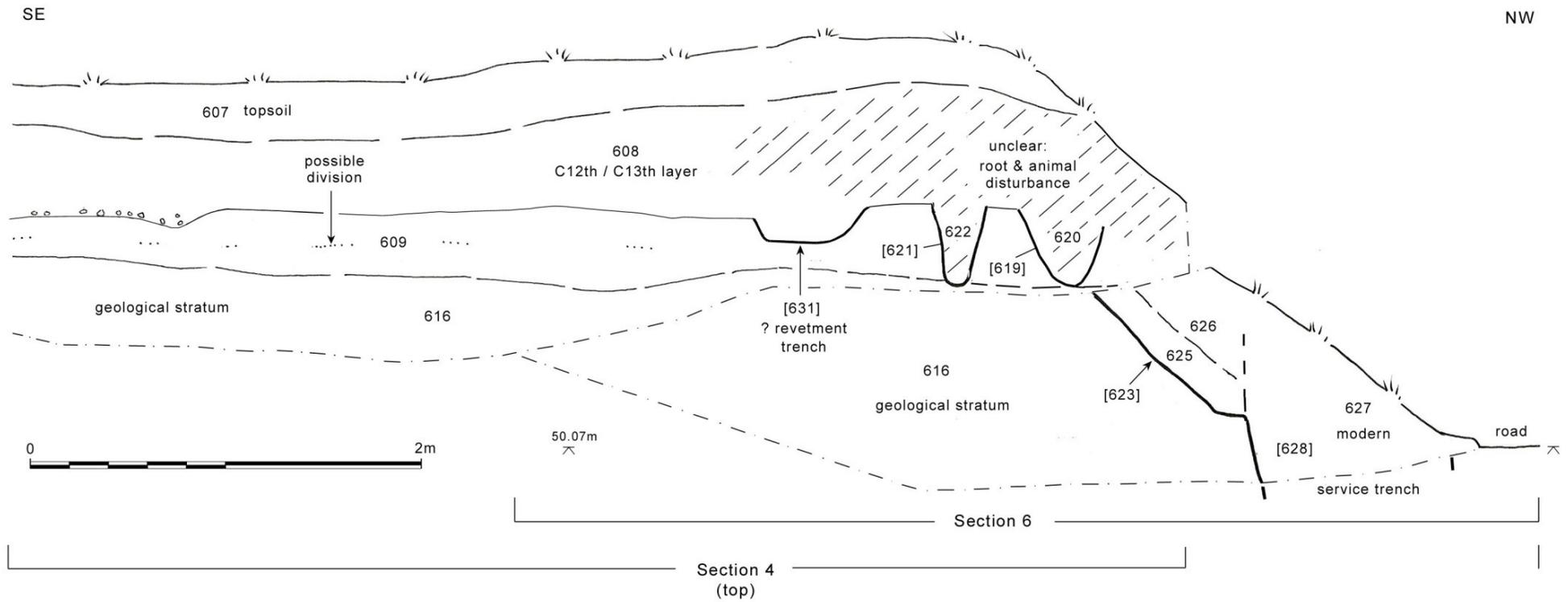


Figure 14. Plot 2. Sections 4 and 6



a



b



c

Figure 15. Plot 2

a. Section 6. Facing W

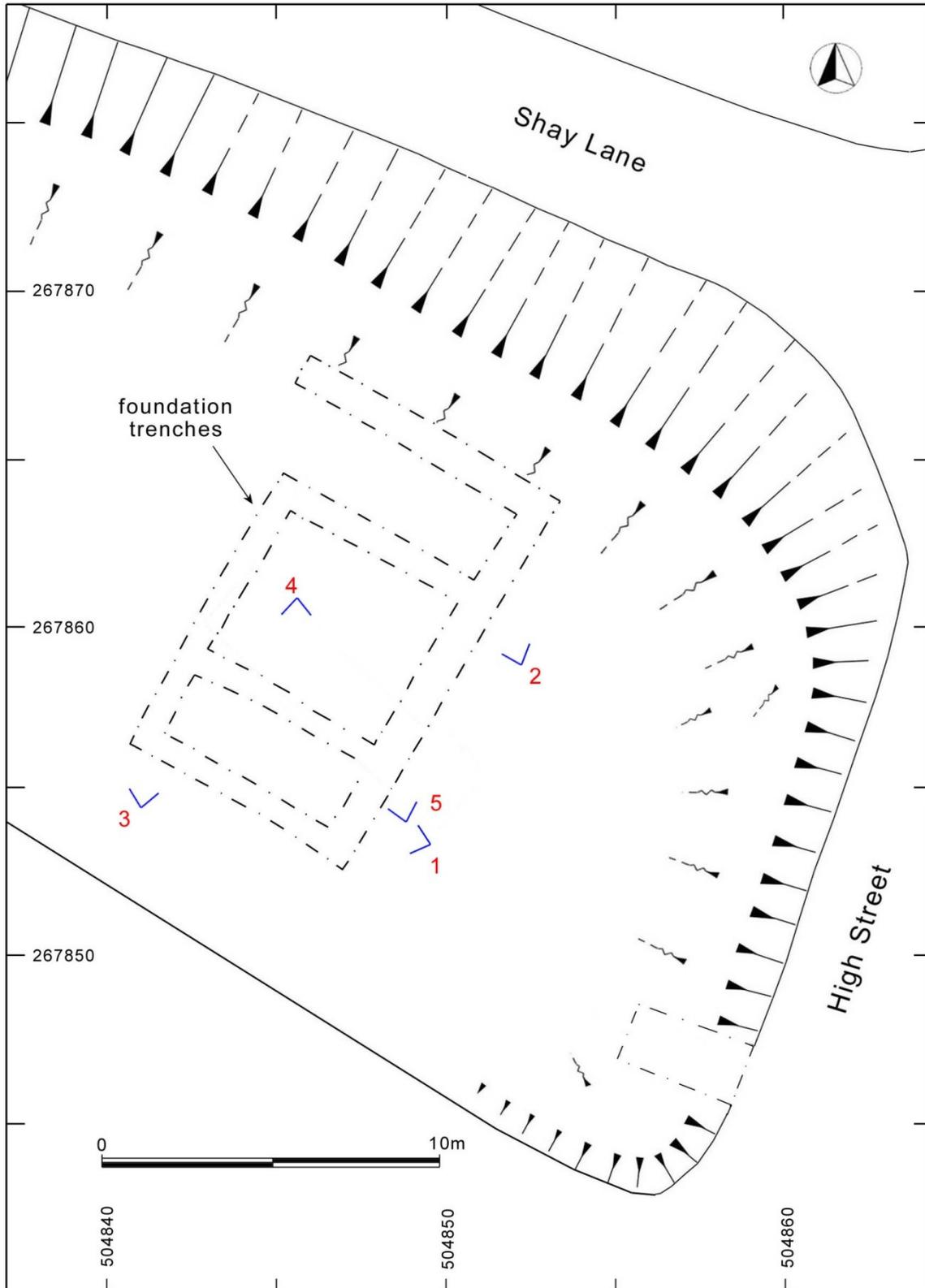


Figure 16. Plot 2. Foundation trenches: direction of photographs



1



3



2



4



5

Figure 17.

Plot 2. Overviews of foundation trenches (see Fig. 16 for viewpoint location)

APPENDIX 1 List of Contexts

KEY: Relationships: **a.** above; **abt.** abuts; **b.** below; **c.** cuts; **cub.** cut by; **co.** contains; **wi** within
 Dimensions: **le.** length; **wid.** width; **de.** depth; **th.** thickness

Context No.	Location/ Drawing	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Soil sample	Suggested Period	Artefacts	Date of record
500	S1	layer	Friable, dark grey- black clay silt, frequent rooting. Topsoil.	a.(501)	Th. c. 0.08 – c. 0.1 m;	-	-	-	08.06.2016
501	S1	layer	Firm, mid grey- brown silty clay, occasional small-medium stones, moderate rooting. Subsoil	b.(500); a.(504)	Th. c. 0.12 – c. 0.18 m;	-	-	-	08.06.2016
502	S1	layer	Firm mid-brown to orange gravelly sandy clay with mid blue-grey clay pockets. Geological stratum	b.(504), (501)	-	-	-	-	08.06.2016
Not used		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
504	S1	layer	Linear feature aligned NW-SE. A shallow, uneven, flat base. Small to large naturally-rounded stones within a matrix of mid grey clay. External surface - footpath	b.(501); a. (502)	Th. c .0.10 – c. 0.16 m; c. 1.4 m wide	-	-	-	08.06.2016
600	S2	layer	Topsoil. Dark brown silty, clayey soil. No artefacts	a.(601);	Th. 0.14 - 0.20 m, thinning to c. 0.06 m on lower slope	-	Medieval to C 21	-	10.06.2016
601	S2	layer	Firm layer of mid-brownish-grey, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Upper make-up layer of embankment.	b.(600); a.(602)	Th. up to 0.36 m in centre of embankment	√	C 12 / C 13	Pottery: C 12 / C 13	10.06.2016
602	S2	layer	Light buff to grey firm layer of clay with frequent small pieces (< 0.08 m) of white stone (calcareous)	b.(601); a.(603)	Th. c. 0.09 m (in exploratory slot)	-	C 12 / C 13	-	10.06.2016
603	S2	layer	Firm layer of grey clay with very	b.(602);	Th. c. 0.12 m to c.	√	C 12 / C 13	-	10.06.2016

Context No.	Location/ Drawing	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Soil sample	Suggested Period	Artefacts	Date of record
			occasional charcoal flecks. Similar in colour and constituents as (601).	a.(604)	0.2 m (in exploratory slot)				
604	S2	layer	Firm mid-brown to orange gravelly sandy clay. Geological stratum	b.(603)	Th. not determined	-	-	-	10.06.2016
605-606	-	Not used	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
607	S4	layer	Topsoil. Dark brown silty, clayey soil. No artefacts. Same as (611).	a.(608)	Th. c. 0.24 m & c. 0.3 m	-	-	-	22.06.2016
608	S4	layer	Dark grey silty clay. Increased charcoal flecking towards base of the layer. Buried soil – upper layer of embankment. Extends throughout section, c. 6 m. Same as (612).	b.(607); a.(618)	Th. c. 0.24 m & c. 0.5 m (crest of bank).	√	C 12 / C 13	Pottery: Anglo-Saxon; medieval (C 12 / C 13); animal bone	22.06.2016
609	S4	layer	Dark grey to orange-brown gritty silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. A very vague division is suspected. Probably the same as (614) and (615) yet not so defined. Make-up layer of the embankment. Extends throughout section, c.6 m.	b.(618); a.(616); cub [631], [619], [621]	Th. c. 0.22 m & c. 0.38 m	√	C 12 / C 13	animal bone	22.06.2016
610	-	Not used	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
611	S3	layer	Topsoil. Dark brown to black silty, clayey soil. Abundant roots. No artefacts. Same as (607)	a.(612)	Th.c.0.24 m on top of the bank, c. 0.08 -0.1 m above slope	-	C 12 / C 13	-	21.06.2016
612	S3		Dark grey silty clay. Buried soil – upper layer of embankment. Same as (608)	b.(611); a.(613)	Th. c. 0.3 m, (c. 0.14 m above slope)	√ (608)	C 12 / C 13	-	21.06.2016
613	S3	deposit / poss. structure	Rotted / carbonised timber. Structure increasingly decayed towards the S and W. It also lies above the outer slope of the embankment to the N and fills a	b.(612); wi.[632]; a.(614)	Th. c. 0.05 – 0.08 m;	√	C 12 / C 13	-	21.06.2016

Context No.	Location/ Drawing	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Soil sample	Suggested Period	Artefacts	Date of record
			possible revetment trench [634] to the south. Visible width of c. 5 m.						
614	S3	layer	Dark grey to orange-brown gritty silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks. The division between (615) is poorly defined and was noticed after weathering out. Probably the same as the upper part of (609). Make-up layer of the embankment	b.(613); Cub.[632]; a.(615)	Th. c.0.15 – 0.18 m	√ (609)	C 12 / C 13	-	21.06.2016
615	S3	layer	Orange-brown to dark grey gritty and silty clay with charcoal flecks.	a.(616); b.(614)	Th.0.36 m to 0.4 m above bank, thinning to c. 01 m to S.	√ (609)	C 12 / C 13	-	21.06.2016
616	S3; S4	layer	Geological stratum. Firm mid-brown to orange gravelly sandy clay with mid blue-grey clay pockets.	b.(615), (609); cub.[620], [621], 623], [626]	Th. not determined	-	-	-	21.06.2016
617	S5	fill	Friable, dark brown to black silty soil. Fill of modern service trench and re-instatement of embankment Same as (627).	Wi.[628]	Wid.c.0.6 m; th. c.up to c. 0.96 m	-	-	-	06.07.2016
618	-	Not used	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
619	S4	cut	Appears to be a stake or post hole with subsequent extensive root disturbance within its fill. Similar to [621]. Its date is uncertain. The top of the cut is difficult to determine due to root disturbance and animal burrow disturbances in the ground above.	c.(609), (616) Co.(620)	De. c.0.4 m; Wid. top: c. 0.22 m, base: c.0.12 m	-	Medieval or modern	-	22.06.2016
620	S4	fill	Compact silty clay soil with extensive root disturbance (friable dark grey to black silty soil)	Wi.[619]	th. c.0.4 m;	-	Medieval or modern	-	22.06.2016
621	S4	cut	N section through embankment (NE-	c.(609);	De. up to c.0.6 m;	-	Medieval	-	22.06.2016

Context No.	Location/ Drawing	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Soil sample	Suggested Period	Artefacts	Date of record
			facing). Appears to be a stake or post hole with subsequent extensive root disturbance within its fill. Its date is uncertain. The top of the cut is difficult to determine due to root disturbance and animal burrow disturbances in the ground above.	co.(622)	Wid. top: c. 0.34 m, base: c.0.12 m		or modern		
622	S4	fill	Friable dark grey to black silty soil as a result of extensive tree or shrub root action.	Wi.[621]	th. up to c.0.6 m	-	Medieval or modern	-	22.06.2016
623	S6	cut	Original (buried) north slope of the embankment which has been formed by cutting through the geological stratum at an angle of 35° – 40°. The base of the slope in this side terminates at near-horizontal toe/step cut into the geology (616) Same as [630].	c.(616); b.(625) cub.[628]	Vis. Up to c .0.9 m	-	-	-	06.07.2016
624	-	Not used	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
625	S6	layer	layer of compact orange-brown to dark grey gritty and silty clay with charcoal flecks. It lies directly above the original embankment cut [623] A buried soil above the north slope of the embankment. Possibly part of (615).	a.[623], b.(626); cub.[628]	Th.c.0.17 m		Possibly medieval	-	06.07.2016
626	S6	layer	Dark grey silty clay. A buried soil above the north slope of the embankment. Possibly part of (612).	a.(625) b. topsoil; cub.[628]	Th.c.0.16 m	-	Possibly medieval	-	06.07.2016
627	S6	fill	Friable, dark brown to black silty soil. Fill of modern service trench and re-instatement of embankment. Fill of modern service trench. Same as (617).	Wi.[628]	Wid.c.0.6 m; th. c.up to c. 0.96 m	-	C 20	-	06.07.2016
628	S5; S6	cut	Cut of modern service trench. Runs along roadside. There is a concrete	C. (615), (616), (625),	Wid.c.0.6 m; de. c.up to c. 0.96 m	-	C 20	-	06.07.2016

Context No.	Location/ Drawing	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Soil sample	Suggested Period	Artefacts	Date of record
			evident above the cut. The embankment has subsequently been re-instated. The presence of a service trench at this location was recalled in advance by a local informant.	(627), (633); co.(617)/(617)					
629	-	Not used	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
630	S5	cut	See [623]	c.[628], (616); b.(615)	Le. visible up to c.0.64 m	-	-	-	06.07.2016
631	S4	cut	Possible revetment trench at the rear (interior) of the embankment. N edge c. 0.2 m deep, slopes at c. 60 ° to flat base, 0.32 m wide; S edge c. 0.1 m deep. This appears to correspond with [632], but had not been observable during the soil strip of the driveway.	c. (609); Co. (608)	De. 0.1 to 0.15 m; Wid. 0.5 m (top), 0.32 m (base) (NB. Not sectioned perpendicular to feature)	-	-	-	06.07.2016
632	S3	cut	Possible revetment trench at the rear (interior) of the embankment. N edge c. 0.2 m deep, slopes at c. 60 ° to flat base, 0.24 m wide; S edge c. 0.1 m deep. This appears to correspond with [631], but had not been observable during the soil strip of the driveway.	c. (614); co. (613)	De. 0.2 m; Wid. 0.4 m (top), 0.2 m (base)	-	C 12 / C 13	-	21.06.2016
633	S5	layer	possibly the same as (626) and a possible continuation of (614). Buried soil on outer slope (N) slope of embankment.	a.(615); b.(617); cub.[628]	Th. c.0.18 -0.2m	-	Possibly medieval	-	06.07.2016