



Test Pits and Trial Trenches at Swaffield Close, Ampthill, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



July 2010

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**Test Pits and Trial Trenches at Swaffield Close,
Ampthill, Bedfordshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

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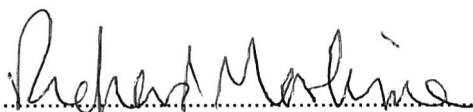
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Summary

Between May and June 2010 Oxford Archaeology East conducted a scheme of Archaeological Test Pitting and Trial Trenching at land off Swaffield Close, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, centred on National Grid Reference TL 033 383.

The test pits and trial trenches were targeted in order to assess the impact of a proposed residential development on the site. A sequence of predominantly modern and post medieval finds and deposits were recorded during the course of the work. Low levels of Prehistoric and Medieval finds material were also recorded within the bounds of the development area but none of this came from in situ features or deposits. The high level of post-medieval and modern soil build-up and disturbance in evidence is the result of colluvial soil movement, construction works, post-medieval dumping and the development of the site as allotments in the 20th century.

On the high ground towards the south of the development area a number of modern ditches were recorded that may well have been dug during the early 20th century when Ampthill Park was used as a military training camp.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land off Swaffield Close, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, centred on National Grid Reference TL 033 383. The site is approximately 1.4 hectares in size, and is currently uncultivated having previously been in use as allotments.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting on behalf of the Trustees of the Bedford Estate, following initial consultations and an outline scoping of works with Martin Oake and Hannah Firth, Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeologists.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in assessing the archaeological interest of the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Bedford Museum in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the north side of modern Ampthill, and comprises two grassed fields separated by a hedged footpath leading from the town to Russetts Lodge in Ampthill Park. The site is bounded by the woodland of Laurel Wood and Russetts Plantation to the north and west.
- 1.2.2 The south western field, south of the footpath, is flat with ground levels lying at around 112m OD. North of the footpath, ground levels fall from 111m OD to a lowest point of 101m OD adjacent to the end of Swaffield Close, before rising again to 105m OD along the northern side of the site and continuing to rise within Laurel Wood to the north of the site. Thus the northern half of the development site effectively forms a small east-facing dry valley cut into the Greensand ridge.
- 1.2.3 The site is underlain by Woburn Sands Formation, represented by grey to yellow brown loose rounded quartz or sandstone with silty or clayey seams. Some Head deposits of glacial origin occur in the area (BGS, summarised in Listers geo-technical report - see below).
- 1.2.4 Geotechnical survey of the site commissioned as part of the current development scheme (Listers Geotechnical Consultants) has confirmed the published geological information, and established a soil profile comprising topsoil overlying localised 'Made Ground' above the Woburn Sands Formation. Topsoil was recorded across the site to depths between 0.2m and 0.7m depth, with an average thickness of 0.3m. It comprises dark brown organic-rich clayey silty sandy soil with abundant rootlets and localised inclusions of glass, pottery, coal, red brick and plastic pipe.
- 1.2.5 Made Ground was encountered in parts of the site, with an average thickness of 0.3m. In general the Made Ground was represented by loose brown silty sand with occasional red brick fragments, coal, red tile, topsoil and pipe fragments; the geotechnical report suggest this is essentially a reworking of the upper part of the Woburn Sands Formation.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background for this report is largely drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) issued by CgMs Consulting (Flitcroft, 2010).
- 1.3.2 Little information on the flint collection from Laurel Wood is currently available in the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record, but detail supplied by Hannah Firth confirms the size and archaeological significance of this collection. The Laurel Wood assemblage forms part of a large collection of material donated to Bedford Museum by a local amateur archaeologist following collection from sites in Ampthill area over a 30 year the period 1969-2000. One of the largest parts of the collection comprises over a 1,000 flints, including finished tools and waste recovered from Laurel Wood to the north of the development site. The collection has not been fully assessed, but work to date by Central Bedfordshire Council's archaeologists and the British Museum indicate that there is a significant Mesolithic period component to the assemblage as well as large Neolithic and Bronze Age components. Within the collection there are also some small quantities of Roman and Medieval ceramics recorded from the same area. The collector kept meticulous records and each item was marked with its location so whilst the Museum does not at present know the full extent of the collection it can be georeferenced. The HER records the centre point of the Laurel Wood assemblage (HER ref 18269) at TL 0319 3861, approximately 220m north of the development site, but it is understood that the material has come from various parts of Laurel Wood, including the areas closer to the development site (Hannah Firth pers. comm.). Although the collection is understood to contain material recovered from a number of locations across Ampthill over a considerable period of time, there is currently no indication that the collection contains any material from the development site itself.
- 1.3.3 The Laurel Wood flint collection forms the largest of a number of flint scatters recorded in the HER across the Greensand Ridge around Ampthill, and the development site area is considered to have potential for further finds.
- 1.3.4 The HER records the recent discovery of Saxon period occupation evidence (HER 18265) within Ampthill Park, 600m west of the development site. The occupation remains may include a large post-built hall of Middle Saxon date. The English Heritage/Bedfordshire County Council-funded Extensive Urban Survey report for Ampthill (Albion Archaeology 2005) indicated that there were no known Saxon sites within the town of Ampthill itself, although documentary and place name evidence suggest a Late Saxon or earlier Middle Saxon origin for the settlement. The EUS report suggested that the earliest settlement was likely to have been focused around the parish church of St Andrew on the eastern edge of the town. The development site is considered to have a general, non-specific, potential in relation to evidence for other Saxon precursors to Ampthill.
- 1.3.5 The HER's mapping of Ampthill medieval settlement (HER 16994) shows the south east part of the development site lying within the settlement area, although the basis for this mapping is uncertain. The map regression and interpretation of former settlement extent provided in the Extensive Urban Survey report for Ampthill does not show the same extent of settlement, with the development site shown outside both medieval and post-medieval settlement areas. It is therefore suggested that any medieval evidence within the development site area is more likely to relate to the rear parts of settlement plots rather than settlement remains themselves.
- 1.3.6 During the medieval period, the development site area is believed to have lain within part of The Warren, an open heathland area which surrounded the town to north, west and south, or possibly partly within enclosed lands on the periphery of the town (see

previous paragraph). The land to the west of the site formed part of Ampthill Great Park, a probable deer park created in the 15th century around Ampthill Castle (HER 810) to the north west of the town.

- 1.3.7 One archaeological monument is currently recorded within the development site: HER7369, a Clay Pit identified from mid 18th century Russell Estate maps. However further examination of the estate map has established that the current location of the clay pit site mapped in the HER is inaccurate, and that the clay pit actually lay outside the development site. A location in the vicinity of Russett's Lodge within Ampthill Park, 200m north west of the development site has been established as a more accurate location.
- 1.3.8 The HER also records a number of historic buildings lying outside the development site boundary, on Bedford Street and Park Street/Park Road; a Second World War military base of Prisoner of War camp (HER 17815) is recorded to the north of Woburn Street, 350m west of the development site. None of these recorded monuments have any particular relevance for further discoveries within the site itself.
- 1.3.9 Documents supplied by the Bedford Estate indicate that the whole of development site has previously been under cultivation as allotments from at least the 1940s..

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Bedford Estates who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting produced the Written Scheme of Investigation. The evaluation was visited and monitored by Martin Oake and Hannah Firth, Central Bedfordshire's County Archaeologists and Myk Flitcroft. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. Chris Thatcher directed and supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of Graeme Clarke, Chris Faine, Ross Lilley, Tom Lyons and Julian Newman. The illustrations were produced by Severine Bezie and Louise Bush.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 2.1.2 In response to the artefact scatters previously recovered from Laurel Wood, a further aim of the investigation was to examine the potential for archaeological artefacts within the topsoil/subsoil, as well as the potential for earth-cut features beneath the topsoil and subsoil horizons.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that two stages of investigation be carried out. Firstly a series of 1x1m test pits were excavated on a 10m grid. In the event a total of 103 test pits were excavated and all the excavated material (topsoil and subsoil) was sieved with a 5mm mesh and scanned for finds. All finds have been retained.
- 2.2.2 This was followed by a programme of trial trenching. A total of 15 trial trenches were excavated across the development area and were located in consultation with Martin Oake and Hannah Firth, Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeologists. The trench dimensions were to be 25m x 2m, however, as a result of the depths of deposits recorded during the test pit phase the shape of a number of the trenches were revised to 6 x 6m squares in order to facilitate stepping the sides to mitigate the increased soil depths anticipated there.
- 2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.4 The site survey was carried out in two stages. Taleyna Fletcher located the test pits according to the test pit location map from the WSI using a Lieca GPS and Rachel Clarke surveyed the trial trenches using a Lieca GPS.
- 2.2.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously of 20th century date.
- 2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.7 Ground conditions on site were favourable throughout with predominantly dry and bright weather interspersed by showers.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in two stages and the results are presented below accordingly.

3.2 Test Pits

- 3.2.1 A total of 103 1x1m test pits were excavated on a 10m grid (Figs 1, 2 & 4). All the excavated topsoil and subsoil was sieved with a 5mm mesh and all the finds retained.
- 3.2.2 The excavation of the test pits revealed a soil sequence that varied in depth from approximately 0.50m to well over a metre down to natural deposits - Health & Safety considerations dictated that test pits were dug no deeper than 1m. The deepest soil sequences were recorded at the base of the slope in the central northern part of the development area.
- 3.2.3 Topsoil deposits were fairly consistent across the site at between 0.30m and 0.40m thick. In the deepest test pits the subsoil deposits recorded were markedly thicker and some banding of material was noted. This was presumably attributable to down slope movement of deposits.
- 3.2.4 A fairly even spread of finds dating predominantly to the late post-Medieval period (late 18th - early 20th centuries) were recovered from the test pits, alongside a smaller assemblage of later medieval and transitional 16th/17th century ceramics. Much of the later material is thought to have been derived either as a direct consequence of the allotments recorded on the site or to be material entering the site as a result of activities associated with the surrounding late 18th and 19th century developments in the surrounding area.
- 3.2.5 The full quantification, with counts and weights, of all topsoil and subsoil sieved finds is presented in Appendix B3 and set out in context order. A plan of the test pit numbers and their corresponding topsoil and subsoil contexts is presented in Fig 4. Table 1 below gives the total counts and weights for all finds types within the sieved sample.
- 3.2.6 There was a fairly consistent background scatter of later Medieval pottery, consisting of small sherds relatively heavily abraded. The Medieval and transitional ceramics are presented in Appendix B2 and are referenced to the Bedfordshire Fabric Codes.
- 3.2.7 A plan of the distribution of the Medieval pottery assemblage is presented in Figure 5.
- 3.2.8 A small and mixed assemblage of worked flint was recovered from across the site. A slightly higher frequency of worked flint was noted on the high ground in the south eastern corner of the site. The assemblage was broadly representative of low key activity, including core reduction, tool use and discard on site, dating to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and to the Later Neolithic periods (App. B.1).
- 3.2.9 A plan of the distribution of the struck flint assemblage is presented in Figure 6.

Find Type	Topsoil		Subsoil	
	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery (P-M & Modern)	1032	5709	681	5194
Pottery (Late Medieval)	17	78	93	549
CBM	91	3696	179	5892
Flint	19		30	
Animal Bone	97	532	420	3174
Iron (Fe)	116	1984	204	1618
Brass	-	-	1	1
Clay Pipe	223	618	272	743
Vessel Glass	183	1495	163	1855
Window Glass	5	10	3	4
Copper (Cu)	12	106	7	43
Stone	16	299	108	746
Rubber	1	9	-	-
Slate	5	72	-	-
Lead (Pb)	6	49	1	44
Aluminium (Al)	1	2	1	3
Shell	5	34	24	212
Plastic	8	108	2	2

Table 1: Test Pit Finds Quantification

3.3 Evaluation trenches

3.3.1 A total of 15 evaluation trenches and open areas were excavated, of these nine were 25m by 2m in dimensions and five were 6m by 6m box trenches. Trench 6 was only 21m long due to the danger of trench edge collapse caused by the unstable nature of the deposits.

Trench 1

3.3.2 Trench 1 was located in the far south western corner of the development area in an isolated plot bounded by houses to the south and a hedged footpath to the north. It was 25m long and aligned northwest to southeast.

3.3.3 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench. An area of modern disturbance recorded in the southeastern part of the trench was identified as part of a geotechnical test pit.

Trench 2

3.3.4 Trench 2 was situated on the high ground in the south eastern corner of the development area. It was 25m long and aligned southeast to northwest.

3.3.5 A total of five linear features were recorded (**4014**, **4048**, **4063**, **4064** & **4066**). There was a wide variation in the shape of the features but all appeared to follow a similar curvilinear alignment that spanned the entire length of the trench.

- 3.3.6 Ditches **4063** and **4064** lay in the northern end of the trench. No finds were recovered from **4063** which was particularly shallow and ephemeral, whilst **4064** contained post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) within its single fill (4065).
- 3.3.7 To the south of these features were three intercutting ditches. The largest of these, **4014**, was 1.2m wide by 0.6m deep. Four deposits filled the ditch (4015, 4016, 4017 & 4018) the variations between the fills were fairly subtle but glass, brick and tile were recovered from the primary deposit of a second section (**4061**) excavated through the ditch. Ditch **4014** was clearly cutting from the top of the subsoil level (see Plate 1) – a subsoil that contained significant numbers of post-medieval artefacts - and the presence of post-medieval to modern finds in its basal fills would suggest that this feature is of a relatively modern date.

Trench 3

- 3.3.8 Trench 3 was perpendicular to Trench 2 adjoining it halfway along its southern side to form a T-shape. At the north eastern corner of the trench the ground level began to slope away and fairly extensive modern disturbance was recorded at this point in the soil profile. Several putative features were noted along the length of the trench but upon excavation these were found to be natural depressions.
- 3.3.9 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trench.

Trench 4

- 3.3.10 This trench was located on a north facing slope in the southern part of the development area. Two pits (**4013** & **4024**), both over 1m in diameter, were recorded protruding from the south east facing trench edge. Although these features continued beyond the limit of excavation both appeared to be sub-circular in plan.
- 3.3.11 Upon excavation pit **4013** was found to be ephemeral, being only 0.16m deep. Its single fill (4012) was found to contain large quantities of post-medieval/modern CBM.
- 3.3.12 In contrast pit **4024** had a far more definite profile 1.7m in diameter by 0.62m deep with fairly steep concave sides. A single deposit (4023) containing CBM, animal bone, glass and post-Medieval pottery was recorded filling the pit.

Trench 5

- 3.3.13 Trench 5 was situated on the break of slope in the central part of the development area and aligned northwest to southeast. In the northernmost part of the trench modern landscaping in the form of a bank was recorded, this may have dated to the construction of the residential development bounding the eastern part of the site. A slot was excavated through the banked material (**4030** & **4031**), which revealed that at the northern limit of the trench the landscaping had raised the ground level to over 1m higher than the original profile of the slope.
- 3.3.14 In the central part of the trench a ditch (**4026**) was recorded that traversed Trench 5 perpendicular to its axis. This feature contained two fills (4028 & 4029), both of which appeared to be naturally derived and contained animal bone and post-medieval/modern CBM. Fill 4028 contained a single sherd of residual Late Medieval pottery. It is possible that this ditch was a drainage feature associated with the allotments.
- 3.3.15 A modern dog burial (**4025**) that was cut from the topsoil was also recorded in the southern part of the trench.

Trench 6

- 3.3.16 It was not possible to excavate Trench 6 to its full length as a result of its situation on one of the steepest parts of the slope in the centre of the development area. Down slope, the depth of deposits increased markedly and the instability of the sandy deposits coupled with the sharp gradient meant that the sides of the trench became unstable and it was unsafe to continue excavation at approximately 21m along the length of the trench.
- 3.3.17 In the southernmost part of the trench two large areas of relatively modern disturbance were recorded underlying the top and subsoil deposits (at a depth of c. 0.60m). These extended across the entire trench and appeared to be aligned with the contour of the slope. Late post-medieval/modern pottery and brick rubble was recorded within these areas and it is suggested that they were associated with the creation of the allotments, perhaps as a form of terracing.

Trench 7

- 3.3.18 Trench 7 was located in the far northwestern corner of the development area aligned north to south. At the northern end of the trench the depth of deposits was no more than 0.5m, a shallow amorphous pit (**4004**) was excavated here. Pit **4004** contained small quantities of post-medieval/modern CBM and probably represents an infilled natural depression rather than a deliberately cut feature.
- 3.3.19 Approximately 10m from the northern limit of the trench the level of the natural sand began to dip away sharply and the depth of overburden increased to over 1m. In consultation with Central Bedfordshire's Council Archaeologist the southern end of the trench was boxed out, in order to test the depth of deposits. A 6m x 4m box was excavated perpendicular to the end of Trench 7 and stepped at 1m depth. Natural white grey natural sand was recorded at 1.7m below ground level.
- 3.3.20 It is suggested that this sharp change in the level of the natural may represent the edge of a palaeochannel running northwest to southeast across the site.

Trench 8

- 3.3.21 Possible further evidence for the line of a palaeochannel was recorded within Trench 8 which lay to the southeast of Trench 7 in the northern central part of the development area. The trench was aligned east to west. Running across it at an acute angle was a sharp change in the natural subsoils from light yellow-orange sand to darker banded sands (**4078**) this may have represented the northern edge of the putative channel recorded in Trench 7 (Figure 2).

Trench 9

- 3.3.22 Trench 9 lay parallel to the northern boundary of the development area. The trench was 25m long and two shallow modern pits, containing modern scrap metal and plastic detritus were excavated at either end. A high frequency of root disturbance was observed throughout the trench, which was on average 0.8m deep.
- 3.3.23 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trench.

Trench 10

- 3.3.24 Trench 10 was located in the far north eastern corner of the development area. The test pits dug in this part of the site suggested a significant depth of deposits and the shape

of the trench was revised to a 6m x 6m box. The trench was stepped at 1m depth and natural light brown orange sand deposits were recorded at a depth of 1.7m.

- 3.3.25 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trench.

Trench 11

- 3.3.26 This trench was located approximately 12m to the south of Trench 10. A 6m x 6m configuration was also used here and the trench was stepped at 1m. Underlying the subsoil deposit was a sequence of buried soils (4036, 4037 & 4043) and despite careful machining followed by hand excavation no finds were recovered. The natural sand was recorded at a depth of 1.70m below modern ground level.
- 3.3.27 A modern sub-rectangular pit (**4039**) was recorded cutting from the top of the subsoil. The feature was assigned a modern date as a result of the modern CBM recorded within the subsoil (4035). This feature was 0.96m deep with near-vertical sides, its fill (4038) contained no finds.

Trench 12

- 3.3.28 Trench 12 was situated on the eastern side of the development area approximately 20m south of Trench 11. It was 1.45m deep and, as with Trenches 10 and 11, its dimensions were 6m x 6m. The topsoil (**4052**) contained a high frequency of modern detritus and overlay a dump of modern material (**4053**) that included brick, tile, glass and ash. Given its close proximity to Swaffield Close it seems possible that the material recorded here was waste derived from the construction of the modern houses.
- 3.3.29 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trench.

Trench 13

- 3.3.30 Trench 13 was located almost at the base of the slope in the central part of the development area. It was anticipated that the soil deposits would be particularly deep at this point and a 6m x 6m trench was excavated should the trench have needed to be stepped in order to reach the natural deposits.
- 3.3.31 In the event natural white grey sand deposits were recorded at 1.2m below ground level. Two thin mid to light grey brown buried soil layers were recorded overlying the natural (**4042** & **4044**). No finds were recovered from these soils.
- 3.3.32 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trench.

Trench 14

- 3.3.33 Lying approximately 15m to the north west of Trench 13, Trench 14 was also excavated as a 6m x 6m square. The underlying natural in this trench lay at a depth of 1m and comprised white sands very similar to those recorded in Trench 13. A single layer of somewhat diffuse buried soil (**4057**) 0.35m thick was recorded at the base of the soil profile. No finds were recovered from this layer.
- 3.3.34 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the trench.

Trench 15

- 3.3.35 This trench was located in order to investigate the area encompassed by the footprints of buildings situated along the western boundary of the development area. It was 20m long and aligned north to south.

- 3.3.36 Two linear features (**4073 & 4075**) were recorded immediately adjacent to one another in the northern part of the trench. These were both 1.5m wide by 0.30m deep and the sections excavated through them revealed single naturally derived fills (4074 & 4076) containing modern CBM along with fragments of glass and plastic. It is suggested that these were associated with the recent allotments. A third linear was recorded approximately 4m to the south (**4083**). It was smaller in dimensions than the other features (1.00m in width by 0.12m deep) and although it contained no finds, it was cut from the same height as **4073** and **4075** (the base of the subsoil), which would suggest a similar modern date.

3.4 Finds Summary

Pottery

- 3.4.1 Large quantities of Post-Medieval to Modern pottery (late 18th - early 20th centuries) were recovered from the test pits right across the development area, alongside a smaller assemblage of later Medieval and transitional 16th/17th century wares. There was a fairly consistent background scatter of Medieval pottery, consisting of small sherds of relatively heavily abraded material and probably representing manuring scatters from the areas surrounding the site, collecting in the hollow within the colluvial plough soils. A total of 110 sherds of Medieval pottery, primarily comprising Sandy Grey wares dating to the 13th to 15th Centuries, were recovered. A single sherd of heavily abraded Roman pottery was also recovered from Test pit 42 in the central part of the site.
- 3.4.2 The Medieval and 16th/17th Century wares have been identified according to the Bedfordshire Fabric Codes and these results are presented in Appendix B.2. A full quantification of the Post Medieval pottery is presented in Appendices B.3 & B.4, the trial trenches produced a total of 5 sherds of Post Medieval pottery and 1 sherd of Late Medieval Pottery.
- 3.4.3 A plan of the distribution of the Medieval pottery assemblage is presented in Figure 5.

Lithics

- 3.4.4 A total of 47 struck flints and 2 burnt flints, broadly dated to the Mesolithic to Bronze Age, were recovered during the test pitting phase. The majority of the assemblage comprised flakes and debitage, however 5 cores and a number of reworked pieces have also been identified. Two blades were recovered, from Test Pit contexts 188 and 313, whilst cores were recorded in contexts 153, 194, 261 and 305. Two pieces of burnt flint were also noted in, contexts 123 and 3112.
- 3.4.5 An assessment of the worked flint recovered during the test pitting is presented in Appendix B.1.
- 3.4.6 A plan of the distribution of the struck flint assemblage is presented in Figure 6.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

Modern Disturbance

- 4.1.1 The evaluation at Swaffield Close identified a predominantly post-Medieval to modern sequence. The features recorded within the trial trenches were overwhelmingly modern

in date and it seems likely that many of these are attributable to activities associated with the allotments known to have been located on site in the recent past.

- 4.1.2 The features identified in Trench 2 were the only deposits not easily explainable by recent allotment-associated activity. The principal feature, ditch **4014** was clearly identified as cutting from the top of the subsoil layer (see Fig 3 & Plate 1) and the finds recovered from its fills, along with the finds recovered from the subsoil in the surrounding test pits, were of late post-medieval to modern date.
- 4.1.3 One possible explanation for these ditches might be as evidence for activity taking place during the early part of the last century when Ampthill Park was used as a military camp. A badge recovered from Test Pit 69 showing a Cockerel standing over another unidentified bird may well be of military origin. There are also numerous earthworks in and around the park which are attributed to the military training exercises that took place during the First World War (Fairbairn, pers. comm.).

Medieval Pottery

- 4.1.4 A relatively small assemblage of Medieval pottery, dating pre-dominantly to the 13th and 14th centuries, perhaps into the 15th, was recovered during the test pitting programme. This assemblage reflects the fact that the development area lies in close proximity to the known limit of the medieval settlement and much of the surrounding land would have been under plough at this time. There were no medieval pits or large, fresh assemblages of pottery recorded to suggest occupation in the immediate vicinity and the medieval pottery would probably have been introduced as part of the general manuring scatter.
- 4.1.5 There is some conjecture as to where the limit of the Medieval Ampthill lay and the lack of any settlement evidence dating to this period, coupled with the small size of the pottery assemblage recorded during the evaluation appears to support the theory that the development site lay in the hinterland of the Medieval town.
- 4.1.6 It is however possible that later disturbance by the allotments has led to the truncation of earlier medieval features or deposits. The extent of this disturbance is attested to by the highly mixed nature of the finds recovered from the test pits. It should also be noted that although Medieval pottery was found in conjunction with more modern material throughout the topsoil and subsoil across the entire development area, the finds from the test pitting phase show an apparent concentration of medieval pottery in the central part of the site.

Lithic Assemblage

- 4.1.7 A small assemblage of worked flint was recovered during the test pitting phase from both the top and subsoil deposits. The quality of the material was generally not particularly high, which is characteristic of other lithic finds in the vicinity (H Firth, pers comm).
- 4.1.8 Of particular note were two pieces dated to the Later Neolithic period. These were an unusually large chisel-type transverse arrowhead from context [188] and a finely retouched blade from context [313] displaying invasive flaking along its left lateral margin (Appendix B.1).
- 4.1.9 A total of 5 cores were also identified, which suggest that some primary flint working was being undertaken in the vicinity of the site. There was a slight bias in the concentration of worked flints towards the high ground at the southern end of the development area.

4.2 Conclusions

- 4.2.1 The evaluation revealed a background of low-level Medieval and Prehistoric finds although no *in situ* deposits or features were identified. It should be noted here that in the areas (Test Pits 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14) where earlier and well-sealed buried soil was recorded, no finds materials were recovered from within them - all the earlier material recovered would appear to be arriving with the colluvial soils from higher areas surrounding the development site, which may go some way to explaining the apparent concentration of Medieval material at the base of the slope in the centre of the development area. There is considerable evidence for extensive post-medieval to modern disturbance and dumping as a result of landscaping, surrounding building works/occupation and recent land-use, such as the 20th century allotments. There was also evidence for intrusive activity possibly associated with the military encampment in Ampthill Park during the First World War.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
No archaeological remains. Geological test pit recorded in the south eastern part of the trench					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4069	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
4070	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
5 x curvilinear features were recorded spanning trench. Ditch 4014 was cut from the top of the subsoil.					Avg. depth (m)	25
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4014	Cut	1.2	0.6	Curvilinear ditch	-	modern
4015	Fill	0.2	0.1	Tertiary fill (4014)	-	modern
4016	Fill	0.6	0.2	Penultimate fill (4014)	-	modern
4017	Fill	1	0.2	Secondary fill (4014)	-	modern
4018	Fill	0.6	0.2	Primary fill (4014)	-	modern
4019	Fill	0.6	0.2	Ditch fill (4048)	-	modern
4020	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4021	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil	-	-
4022	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4048	Cut	0.6	0.2	Ditch	-	modern
4058	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil (same as 4021)	-	-
4059	Fill	1.2	0.36	Tertiary fill (4061)	Glass, Brick, Tile	modern
4060	Fill	1.6	0.56	Primary fill (4061)	Brick/tile	modern
4061	Cut	1.6	0.56	Ditch cut (same as 4014)	-	modern
4062	Fill	0.5	0.09	Ditch fill (4063)	-	modern
4063	Cut	0.5	0.09	Ditch cut	-	modern
4064	Cut	0.9	0.1	Ditch cut	Brick/tile	modern
4065	Fill	0.9	0.1	Ditch fill (4064)	-	modern

4066	Cut	1.6	1.2	Ditch cut	-	modern
4067	Fill	1.6	1.2	Ditch fill (4066)	Glass, Brick, Tile	modern
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Extensive modern disturbance was recorded in north eastern corner of the trench this point. Several natural depressions noted. No archaeological features were recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	0.80m
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4007	Layer	-	0.36	Modern disturbance	Brick/glass /tile/plastic	-
4008	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
4009	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Two pits containing CBM, animal bone, glass and Post Medieval pottery was recorded filling the pit.					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	35
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4010	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
4011	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4013	Fill	1.2	0.16	Fill of pit (4014)	CBM	modern
4014	Cut	1.2	0.16	Pit cut	-	modern
4023	Fill	1.1	0.62	Fill of pit (4024)	CBM/glass /pot/bone	modern
4024	Cut	1.1	0.62	Pit cut	-	modern
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Modern landscaping in the form of a bank recorded In the northernmost part of the trench. 1 x ditch recorded contained animal bone and modern CBM.					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date

4025	Cut	0.48	0.12	Modern pit cut	-	modern
4026	Cut	1.9	0.67	Modern ditch	-	modern
4027	Fill	0.48	0.12	Fill of animal burial (4025)	Bone	modern
4028	Fill	1.9	0.35	Primary fill (4026)	Bone	modern
4029	Fill	0.4	0.32	Tertiary fill (4026)	CBM	modern
4030	Layer	-	0.12	Landscaping	-	modern
4031	Layer	-	0.32	Landscaping	-	modern
4032	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
4033	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
2 x areas of modern disturbance recorded. Modern pottery and brick rubble recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	1
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	21
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4045	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil	-	-
4046	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench depth increased markedly halfway along length, possibly demarcating edge of palaeochannel. Trench boxed at southern end to 6m x 4m white grey sand natural recorded at 1.7m below ground level. No archaeological features recorded					Avg. depth (m)	-
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	21
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4001	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4002	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
4003	Fill	0.5	0.06	Natural depression (4004)	-	-
4004	Cut	0.5	0.06	Natural depression	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Possible line of a palaeochannel recorded. No archaeological features recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
					Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4079	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4080	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4077	Fill	-	-	Palaeochannel fill (4078)	-	-
4078	Cut	-	-	Palaeochannel cut	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Two shallow modern pits were excavated at either end. High frequency of root disturbance observed. No archaeological features were recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4050	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
4051	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	-
6m x 6m box. Trench stepped at 1m depth, sand deposits recorded at a depth of 1.7m. No archaeological features were recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	1.7
					Width (m)	6
					Length (m)	6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4005	Layer	-	0.8	Topsoil	-	-
4006	Layer	-	0.89	Subsoil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	-
6m x 6m Trench stepped at 1m. Sequence of buried soils. Modern sub-rectangular pit recorded cutting from top of subsoil, contained no finds.					Avg. depth (m)	1.6
					Width (m)	6
					Length (m)	6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4034	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-

4035	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil	-	-
4036	Layer	-	0.46	Buried Soil	-	-
4037	Layer	-	0.1	Buried Soil	-	-
4038	Fill	0.56	0.96	Fill of pit (4039)	-	Modern
4039	Cut	0.56	0.96	Pit Cut	-	Modern
4043	Layer	-	0.24	Buried Soil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12

General description	Orientation	E-W
6m x 6m Trench stepped at 1m. Sequence of buried soils. Topsoil contained a high frequency of modern detritus and overlay a dump of modern material that included brick, tile, glass and ash. No archaeological features were recorded.	Avg. depth (m)	1.45
	Width (m)	6
	Length (m)	6

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4052	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
4053	Layer	-	0.1	Modern Dump Deposit	CBM/Glass /Plastic	Modern
4054	Layer		0.85	Subsoil		
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	-
6m x 6m trench. Natural white grey sand deposits recorded at 1.2m below ground level. No archaeological features were recorded.	Avg. depth (m)	1.2
	Width (m)	6
	Length (m)	6

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4040	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4041	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
4042	Layer	-	0.2	Buried Soil	-	-
4044	Layer	-	0.22	Buried Soil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	E-W
6m x 6m Trench Natural at 1m comprising white sands. Single layer of buried soil. No archaeological features were recorded.	Avg. depth (m)	1
	Width (m)	6
	Length (m)	6

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4055	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4056	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
4057	Layer	-	0.45	Buried Soil	-	-
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Two linear features recorded in northern part of the trench, contained modern CBM, glass and plastic. Possibly associated with the modern allotments.					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4071	Layer	-	0.55	Topsoil	-	-
4072	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil	-	-
4073	Cut	1.5	0.2	Modern ditch	-	modern
4074	Fill	1.5	0.2	Fill of ditch (4073)	Pot/glass	modern
4075	Cut	1.4	0.3	Modern ditch	-	modern
4076	Fill	1.4	0.2	Fill of ditch (4075)	CBM/Pot	modern
4081	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4082	Fill	1	0.12	Fill of (4083)	-	modern
4083	Cut	1	0.12	Modern ditch	-	modern

APPENDIX B. FINDS

B.1 Lithics Assessment

By Barry John Bishop

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 The Archaeological Investigations resulted in the recovery of 47 struck flints and a small quantity of unworked burnt flint. This report quantifies and briefly describes the material (see Table 2 & 3), offers some comments on its significance and recommends any further work needed for it to attain its full research potential.
- B.1.2 All of the pieces came from unstratified deposits. This report therefore treats the assemblage as a single entity.

Methodology

- B.1.3 Each piece of struck flint was examined by eye and X10 magnification and catalogued by context according to a basic typological/technological scheme. Details of raw materials, condition and, where possible, dating are also provided (see Appendix 1). All metrical descriptions follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification

Decorification Flake	Chip	Flake	Broken Flake/Blade	Blade-like flake	Prismatic Blade	Non-prismatic Blade	Conchoidal Chunk	Core	Retouched	Burnt Flint (No.)	Burnt Flint (wt:g)
1	10	9	10	1	1	2	4	5	4	2	25

Table 2: Quantification of Lithic Material

- B.1.4 Forty-seven pieces of struck flint and two pieces of unworked burnt flint were recovered. The struck assemblage includes flakes, blades, cores and retouched implements

Raw Materials

- B.1.5 The struck pieces are all manufactured from flint of variable colour that includes translucent grey, brown and black, and opaque grey, flint. One piece of 'bullhead bed' flint is also present. Surviving cortex consists of either an orange-brown smooth worn type or is weathered but still rough. The bulk of the raw material is likely to have been relatively small alluvial pebbles that would have been easily obtainable from the Gravel Terraces present in the locality. A few pieces with thicker and less weathered cortex may have come from sources closer to the parent chalk, which outcrops c.10km to the southeast of the site.

Condition

- B.1.6 As is not surprising from a predominantly residually deposited collection, the struck flint is in a variable but frequently chipped and abraded condition and in some cases this is

quite pronounced. There is also a high proportion of broken flake/blade fragments and the majority of flakes have some degree of edge breakage.

- B.1.7 Only one piece, a flake from context [334], had fully recorticated. A few other pieces show the first signs of incipient recortication.

Technology / Typology

- B.1.8 The assemblage is small and has few chronologically diagnostic pieces. However, the few diagnostic pieces that are present and the technological attributes of the assemblage as a whole indicate that it was manufactured over a long period.
- B.1.9 The earliest flintwork includes blades and blade cores that can be attributed to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. Probably of a comparable date is a truncated blade or blade-like flake from context [1121] that has bi-directional retouch transversely truncating its distal end, along with further sporadic retouch removing part of its striking platform.
- B.1.10 Perhaps the most notable pieces, however, can be dated to the Later Neolithic period. These include a large chisel-type transverse arrowhead from context [188]. This is slightly chipped and has part of its cutting edge broken off, but it still weighs 11g and has a “t” measurement of 60mm and an “r” measurement of around the same, making it substantially larger than most of those recorded by Green (1980; 1984). Unlike some chisel-type examples, it does not appear to have been made on a Levallois flake. Also notable and of a similar date is a finely retouched (non-prismatic) blade from context [313] that has invasive flaking along its left lateral margin. It is comparable to undeveloped plano-convex knives and measures 67mm by 21mm and is 8mm thick. The remaining flakes are less diagnostic but are generally compatible with Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age industries.

Significance and Potential

- B.1.11 The lithic assemblage from Swaffield Close is small and widely distributed in low densities, but represents activity that can be broadly dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and to the Later Neolithic periods. It indicates core reduction and tool use and discard occurring at the site, although the size of the assemblage would be generally compatible with low-key activity. The presence of the arrowhead and invasively retouched knife is of interest in that these implements are often regarded as prestigious and associated with ceremonial or funerary activity. The assemblage’s potential for contributing to an in-depth understanding of the nature, dating and duration of the occupation during these periods is, however, limited by the small size of the assemblage, the paucity of diagnostic implements and the lack of secure contextual associations.

Recommendations

- B.1.12 Due to the small size of the struck flint assemblage and the lack of secure contextual associations, the assemblage’s interpretative potential is limited and this report is all that is required for the archive.
- B.1.13 No further analytical work is recommended but as the assemblages does have the potential to contribute to a wider, synthetic, understanding of prehistoric landscape use in the region, it is recommended that a brief description of the assemblage should be deposited with the local Historic Environment Record and included as part of any published account of the fieldwork.

Bibliography

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Context	Ref	Decortication Flake	Chip	Flake	Broken Flake/ Blade	Blade- like flake	Prismatic Blade	Non- prismatic Blade	Conchoidal Chunk	Core	Re- touched	Burnt Flint (No.)	Burnt Flint (wt:g)	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Dating	Comments
123												1	22	Unknown		Burnt	UD	
133				1										Black translucent	Smooth worn	Chipped	UD	
141			1											Black translucent	Rough weathered	Slightly chipped	M- EBA	
144									1					Grey Translucent	Thermal	Chipped	UD	Possibly natural
153									1					Red/brown translucent	Smooth worn	Chipped	UD	Possibly natural
153										1				Black translucent	Slightly weathered rough	Slightly chipped	M/EN	Two platformed 'front' type narrow flake core 59g
159			1											Black translucent	Smooth worn	Slightly chipped	UD	
171			1											Black translucent	None	Chipped	UD	
178					1									Opaque grey	Thermal	Slightly chipped	UD	
182				1										Black translucent	None	Slightly chipped	M- EBA	
186				1										Opaque grey	Thermal	Chipped	UD	Thick flake fragment
188											1			Black translucent	None	Chipped	LN	Large finely made chisel type transverse arrowhead
188														Opaque grey	Thermal	Chipped	M/EN	Medial segment
194	TP9 4									1				Black translucent	Smooth worn	Chipped	UD	very battered - unsure of original form 17g
261										1				Grey	Chattermark	Chipped	UD	Core fragment

														Translucent	ed			poss used as a hammerstone/pou nder, could be natural damage
301			3											Black translucent	None	Slightly chipped	UD	
301							1							Opaque grey	Smooth worn	Chipped	M/EN	
305				1										Black translucent	Thermal	Slightly chipped	LNEB A	?recently broken in two
305										1				Black translucent	None	Chipped	UD	Steeply retouched flake fragment
305					1									Black translucent	Rough weathered	Chipped	UD	Thick flake fragment
305									1					Black translucent	Slightly weathered rough	Slightly chipped	M/EN	Blade core with ? additional steep retouch 28g
313										1				Black translucent	Smooth worn	Slightly chipped	LN	Knife: finely made invasively retouched (non-prismatic) blade. 67X21X8mm
323				1										Black translucent	Bullhead	Slightly chipped	M-EBA	
334				1										Grey Translucent	None	Slightly chipped	M-EBA	Heavily recorticated
348							1							Opaque grey	Thermal	Slightly chipped	M/EN	
356				1										Grey Translucent	Slightly weathered rough		M-EBA	
356					1									Grey Translucent	Thermal	Slightly chipped	UD	
357					1									Grey Translucent	Rough weathered	Chipped	UD	
357			1											Black translucent	Thermal	Slightly chipped	UD	

357			1										Opaque grey	Smooth worn	Chipped	UD	
360				1									Opaque grey	None	Chipped	UD	
362				1									Opaque grey	None	Slightly chipped	UD	Small fragment, possibly natural
370									1				Opaque grey	Thermal	Chipped	M-EBA	Small single platform blade/narrow flake 11g
370							1						Opaque grey	Rough weathered	Chipped	M/EN	Distal segment
378			1										Brown opaque	Rough weathered	Slightly chipped	M-EBA	
389								1					Opaque grey	Thermal	Chipped	UD	?core fragment
1121	TP1 21									1			Black translucent	None	Slightly chipped	M/EN	Truncated flake/blade. Bi-directional retouch truncating distal end and further, irregular retouch removing striking platform
1122			1										Brown translucent	Rough weathered	Slightly chipped	UD	
1126				1									Black translucent	Rough weathered	Slightly chipped	UD	
1126				1									Black translucent	Smooth worn	Slightly chipped	UD	
1127			1										Opaque grey	None	Chipped	M-EBA	
3111				1									Opaque grey	Thermal	Slightly chipped	UD	
3111			1										Black translucent	Rough weathered	Slightly chipped	M-EBA	
3111								1					Grey	Thermal	Chipped	UD	Possibly natural

														Translucent				
3112												1	3	Unknown		Burnt	UD	
3122					1									Opaque grey	None	Chipped	UD	
3122					1									Black translucent	None	Chipped	M-EBA	
3127						1								Black translucent	None	Chipped	M-EBA	

Table 3: Lithics Quantifications

B.2 Medieval and 16th/17th Wares

By Dr Paul Spoerry PhD, BTech, MIFA

Context	Context date	Material	Beds fabric	Common Name	Number of Sherds	Weight (g)	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Vessel Forms	Rim/ base/ other	Comment
140	1350-1500	Mpot	E01	Late Medieval Reduced ware	1	11	1350	1500	Bowl	R	
141	1350-1500	Mpot	E02	Late Medieval Oxidised	1	4	1350	1500			
141		Mpot	E01	Late Medieval Reduced ware	2	12	1350	1500			
158	1350-1500	Mpot	E01	Late Medieval Reduced ware	1	8	1350	1500			
158		Mpot	E01D	Late Medieval Reduced (buff-red margins – Brickhill?)	1	6	1350	1500			
158		Mpot	E01	Late Medieval Reduced ware	1	7	1350	1500			EXT CLEAR GLAZE
160	1550-1700	Xpot	P01	Glazed Red Earthenware (fine)	10	30	1550	1700			
310	1100-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	1	2	1100	1350			
318	1350-1500	Mpot	E08	Late Medieval Sandy	1	5	1350	1500			
323	1600-1700	Xpot	P07	Coarse slip-decorated Earthenware	3	122	1600	1700	Bowl		TRAILED SLIP
323		Mpot	C01	Sandy	2	5	1100	1350	Jar	R	FLANGED
334	1350-1500	Mpot	E08	Late Medieval Sandy	2	14	1350	1500	Jar	RX2	FLANGED
337	1100-1500	Mpot	C01	Sandy	3	7	1100	1500			
340	1300-1500	Mpot	C10	Potterspury type	1	3	1300	1500	Jug		G GLAZE

341	1100-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	11	41	1100	1350	Jug	R B	JUG RIM ALSO JAR FRAGS
342	1100-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	1	4	1100	1350			
344	1100-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	6	57	1100	1350	Jar	B	thick k trimmed base and scored bs
346	1350-1500	Mpot	E02	Sandy	2	13	1350	1500		B	
346		Mpot	C01	Sandy	1	2	1100	1350			
346		Mpot	E01		2	8	1350	1500			
348	1100-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	7	16	1100	1350			
349	1550-1750	Mpot	E01D	Late Medieval Reduced (buff-red margins – Brickhill?)	1	9	1350	1500			
349		Xpot	P25	Frechen	1	4	1550	1750			
350	1400-1550	Mpot	E08	Late Medieval Sandy	7	20	1350	1500			1 SHERD HAS SPOT OF SLIP
350		Mpot	B09	Lyveden/Stanton type	1	41	1400	1550			
353	1600-1700	Xpot	P07	Coarse slip-decorated Earthenware	1	22	1600	1700	Jug	H	SLIP TRAILED HANDLE
356	1100-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	7	27	1100	1350	Jar	R	
357	1350-1500	Mpot	C01	Sandy	5	12	1100	1350			
357		Mpot	E01		1	4	1350	1500			
358	1100-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	5	33	1100	1350			ASSORTED VESSELS
360	1480-1550	Mpot	E02	Late Medieval Oxidised	1	13	1350	1500	Jar	F-T RIM	
360		Mpot	P23	Raeren	1	3	1480	1550	Jug	B	
360		Mpot	C01	Sandy	3	11	1100	1350			
361	1350-1500	Mpot	E02		1	2	1350	1500			

361		Mpot	C01	Sandy	2	5	1100	1350			
378	1110-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	1	1	1100	1350			
389	1100-1350	Mpot	C01	Sandy	1	1	1100	1350			
3122	1100-1350	Mpot	C05	Sandy (red margins)	1	5	1100	1350			
3122		Mpot	C01	Sandy	2	1	1100	1350			
3123	1350-1500	Mpot	E01D	Late Medieval Reduced (buff-red margins – Brickhill?)	4	20	1350	1500			ASS BS
3123		Mpot	C01	Sandy	4	16	1100	1300			ASS BS

Table 4: Medieval Pottery Identifications

B.3 Test Pit Finds Quantification Tables

Topsoil Finds Quantification Table

	Plastic Weight	Plastic Count	Shell weight	Shell Count	Al Weight	Al Count	Pb Weight	Pb Count	Slate Weight	Slate Count	Rubber Weight	Rubber Count	Stone Weight	Stone Count	Bone Weight	Bone Count	CBM Weight	CBM Count	Cu Weight	Cu Count	Window Glass Weight	Window Glass Count	Vessel Glass Weight	Vessel Glass Count	Clay Pipe Weight	Clay Pipe Count	Fe Weight	Fe Count	Medieval Pottery weight	Medieval Pottery Count	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Context
	1	101																					20	5	1	1	5	1			24	10	
		102													20	2									8	4					39	23	
		104	4	1																			3	3	3	1					19	13	
		105																	2	1					3	2							
		106																					60	5	9	3	7	1			77	22	
		107													1	1									2	1					11	8	
	1	110													1	1	175	8					1	1			10	1			43	16	
		111															238	3							6	1					20	4	
		112																			2	1	8	6	6	2	27	2			3	2	
		113																							5	4	15	1					
		114													1	1							3	1	3	1					62	9	
		115													3	1									5	2	24	2			40	19	
		116																	6	1			13	2	10	5	3	2			127	39	
		118																							2	1	34	3			53	18	
		119											10	2											4	3	23	1			43	8	
		120																							8	2					1	1	



	Plastic Weight	Plastic Count	Shell weight	Shell Count	Al Weight	Al Count	Pb Weight	Pb Count	Slate Weight	Slate Count	Rubber Weight	Rubber Count	Stone Weight	Stone Count	Bone Weight	Bone Count	CBM Weight	CBM Count	Cu Weight	Cu Count	Window Glass Weight	Window Glass Count	Vessel Glass Weight	Vessel Glass Count	Clay Pipe Weight	Clay Pipe Count	Fe Weight	Fe Count	Medieval Pottery weight	Medieval Pottery Count	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Context		
															5	1							61	3	4	1							151		
													4	1	5	1															3	1	152		
																							16	3	9	3						45	10	153	
																	12	1	4	1					5	1	39	1					155		
																							15	3	22	6						16	15	156	
															83	3									14	6	11	1				21	6	157	
																									15	7			21	2		53	4	158	
																							8	1	2	1						36	6	159	
															1	1							5	1	67	3			30	10		59	15	160	
															2	1									6	3						786	12	162	
															2	1							27	7	4	3	29	3				110	38	163	
																					2	1		7	1	2	2	84	12				20	4	164
															1	2							1	1	10	3	8	2				85	23	166	
															1	2							31	3	20	9						142	48	169	
																									2	2	30	5				43	18	170	
															16	5							45	5	7	5	60	4						171	
															1	2			3	1			11	3	5	2	8	1				19	5	172	
														2	1	1							11	4	11	4						34	19	173	
														1	1			8									5	1				110	17	174	
														2	2	1							2	1	10	5						134	30	175	

[illegible]

Subsoil Finds Quantification Table

Plastic Weight		
Plastic Count		
Shell weight		
Shell Count		
Al Weight		
Al Count		
Pb Weight		
Pb Count		
Slate Weight		
Slate Count		
Rubber Weight		
Rubber Count		
Stone Weight		
Stone Count		
Bone Weight		12
Bone Count		10
CBM Weight		
CBM Count		
Cu Weight		2
Cu Count		1
Window Glass Weight		
Window Glass Count		
Vessel Glass Weight	6	27
Vessel Glass Count	12	6
Clay Pipe Weight	2	2
Clay Pipe Count	1	1
Brass Weight		
Brass Count		
Fe Weight	32	31
Fe Count	2	7
Med Pottery Count		
Med Pottery Count		
Pottery Weight	2	21
Pottery Count	1	11
Context	301	302



	Plastic Weight	Plastic Count	Shell weight	Shell Count	Al Weight	Al Count	Pb Weight	Pb Count	Slate Weight	Slate Count	Rubber Weight	Rubber Count	Stone Weight	Stone Count	Bone Weight	Bone Count	CBM Weight	CBM Count	Cu Weight	Cu Count	Window Glass Weight	Window Glass Count	Vessel Glass Weight	Vessel Glass Count	Clay Pipe Weight	Clay Pipe Count	Brass Weight	Brass Count	Fe Weight	Fe Count	Med Pottery Count	Med Pottery Count	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Context
303																			3	1															
304															8	9									4	1			9	2			11	8	
305			6	1			44	1					14	6	1	2								1	3			86	9						
306															8	3								1	2			27	4						
307																								1	3										
310															344	4	124	8						2	1			24	8	2	1				
311																	157	11							9	3		39	4						
312															12	14								1	6			52	3						
313															4	1								2				21	2						
314																								1	5			18	4						
315			10	1											8	2									4	4		10	2						
316																									2			25	4						
317															2	1									2	2		5	1						
318															6	2														5	1				
319															99	52								4	12			26	3						
320			10	2										199	107	13								1	5			6	1						
321															2	1								1	4										
322															3	1	164	6						2	5			31	7						
323															2	8								3	6			18	1						
324																	1814	32						3	66										
325															1	1																			
327															227	2								1	16			85	6						
328															13	5												24	5						
329																								1	2										



Report Number 1191

	Plastic Weight	Plastic Count	Shell weight	Shell Count	Al Weight	Al Count	Pb Weight	Pb Count	Slate Weight	Slate Count	Rubber Weight	Rubber Count	Stone Weight	Stone Count	Bone Weight	Bone Count	CBM Weight	CBM Count	Cu Weight	Cu Count	Window Glass Weight	Window Glass Count	Vessel Glass Weight	Vessel Glass Count	Clay Pipe Weight	Clay Pipe Count	Brass Weight	Brass Count	Fe Weight	Fe Count	Med Pottery Count	Med Pottery Count	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Context	
331			30	1											42	6							447	2	71	15			18	3			331	20		
332													109	21	51	7							17	1	19	7			30	6			137	8		
333													29	2									20	4	5	2			7	1			10	1		
334															105	11							5	2	75	17			13	6	14	2	15	6		
335													37	3	88	7			16	1			3	1	1	1							14	3		
337			9	2									28	4	32	5							29	2	13	6					7	3	41	11		
339																									11	4							6	3		
340															18	5									7	3			41	10	3	1	55	13		
341													5	2	77	9									9	4	1	1	1	1	41	11	6	3		
342															28	9									5	1					4	1	25	2		
344													2	2	3	9									5	1					57	6	8	3		
346															32	7									1	1			27	4	23	5	54	6		
347			8	1									119	21	34	11									14	5			12	2			16	1		
348			26	1											58	6										11	7			66	11	7	2			
349																									5	2					13	2				
350															14	2	828	25							2	1			16	1	61	8	14	3		
351															176	14								2	1	50	10			9	1			22	2	
352															9	1								4										6	3	
353															12	1															22	1				
355															2	1																	31	5		
356															86	10								3	1	24	9			27	4	27	7	37	6	
357													24	1	58	9	232	9					4	1	7	5			128	1	16	6	31	5		
358															1	1									7	2					33	5	90	3		
359															16	6	692	24											9	1			20	5		



Report Number 1191

Plastic Weight	Plastic Count	Shell weight	Shell Count	Al Weight	Al Count	Pb Weight	Pb Count	Slate Weight	Slate Count	Rubber Weight	Rubber Count	Stone Weight	Stone Count	Bone Weight	Bone Count	CBM Weight	CBM Count	Cu Weight	Cu Count	Window Glass Weight	Window Glass Count	Vessel Glass Weight	Vessel Glass Count	Clay Pipe Weight	Clay Pipe Count	Brass Weight	Brass Count	Fe Weight	Fe Count	Med Pottery Count	Med Pottery Count	Pottery Weight	Pottery Count	Context	
														14	8									10	6			7	2	27	5	11	5	360	
														3	1	263	8													7	3	14	3	361	
														175	1							1	1	6	2			27	3			18	7	362	
																							3	4	2			20	2			54	20	363	
																742	16					1	38					11	2			95	2	364	
																							1	8	4							42	21	369	
														16	3							4	3	2	1			48	10					370	
												1	1			111	5					1	2	4	6			65	1			47	11	372	
														224	10							5	121	5	12	5		8	1			246	14	375	
														1	1							5	38	5	6	2		10	2	1				378	
														7	3									2	1									381	
														3	4			1	1			9	19	2	2			89	6			43	12	382	
														7	4							4	18	3	3			25	1			72	20	384	
														1	1												3					39	14	387	
																														1	1				389
												1	3	2	2							2	4	8	2			25	2			182	22	391	
														1	1																			392	
																						7	12									28	13	393	
														461	15							1	8									11	2	394	
														2	2	39	4					4	13	5	2			8	1			54	17	398	
														8	5							3	242					6	1			1105	50	399	
																						5	14	2	1							11	7	405	
													1	51	26	491	20					5	159	10	4			87	18					3100	
														6	3							1	21	5	1							41	12	3101	

B.4 Evaluation Trench Finds Quantification Table

Context	Bone Count	Bone Weight	CBM Count	CBM Weight	Clay Pipe Count	Clay Pipe Weight	Glass Count	Glass Weight	Stone Count	Stone Weight	Shell Count	Shell weight	Pottery Count	Pottery weight	Pottery Date Range	Pottery Type
4003	1	1							1	116			3	3	1720 - 1770 1780 – 1900	1 x P37 (White Salt-Glazed Stoneware) 1x P55 (Blackware) 1xC20 Plant pot
4012			5	1724												
4023	3	102	11	829			1	28					2	128	1500 – 1800 1600 - 1700	1 x P10 (Red Earthenware) 1 x P14 (Blackware)
4027	47	864														
4028	48	3686	2	143									1	10	1350 – 1500	1 x E02 (Late Medieval Oxidised)
4030			12	633	1	4			2	71						
4035			1	75												
4059			5	1					1	10	1	1				
4060			1	2												
4065			19	634												
4077	3	18	5	339												
	102	4671	61	4380	1	4	1	28	4	197	1	1	6	151		

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

By Rachel Fosberry

4.4 Introduction and Methods

- 4.4.1 Three bulk samples were taken from a buried soil of unknown date from within the excavated area.
- 4.4.2 The total volume of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 4.

4.5 Results

- 4.5.1 The results are recorded on Table 4.

Sample No.	Context No.	Sample volume (L)	Flot Contents	Residue Contents
1	4036	20	Charcoal only	No finds
2	4037	10	Charcoal only	No finds
3	4043	10	Charcoal only	No finds

Table 4. Results

- 4.5.2 Preservation is by charring. Charcoal is present in each of the three samples.

4.6 Discussion

- 4.6.1 The only form of plant remains recovered from the samples is wood charcoal up to a maximum size of 1cm³. It may be possible to use this charcoal fragment for radiocarbon dating and species identification.

4.7 Further Work and Methods Statement

- 4.7.1 No further work on these samples is required unless it is decided to carry out identification and/or dating of the charcoal.

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Flitcroft, M 2010 Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation for a Field Evaluation,
Land off Swaffield Close, Ampthill, Bedfordshire

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-79647		
Project Name	Land off Swaffield Close, Amptill		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	24-05-2010	Finish
			14-06-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XBDSCA10	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Bedfordshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	Swaffield Close, Amphill, MK45 2HJ
District			
Parish	Amphill		
HER			
Study Area	1.4ha	National Grid Reference	TL 033 383

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Myk Flitcroft
Project Design Originator	Myk Flitcroft
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Beds County Archive	Beds County Archive	Beds County Archive
BEDSM2010.13	BEDSM2010.13	BEDSM2010.13







Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

Plans

Limit of Excavation	—————
Deposit - Conjectured	- - - - -
Natural Features	—————
Sondages/Machine Strip	- . - . - .
Intrusion/Truncation	-
Illustrated Section	<u> S.14 </u>
Archaeological Feature	
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Deposit	
Possible line of Paleochannel	
Brick	
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117

Sections

Limit of Excavation	- . - . - .
Cut	—————
Cut Conjectured	- - - - -
Deposit Horizon	—————
Intrusion/Truncation	-
Top Surface/Top of Natural	—————
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -
Cut Number	117
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD X

Convention Key

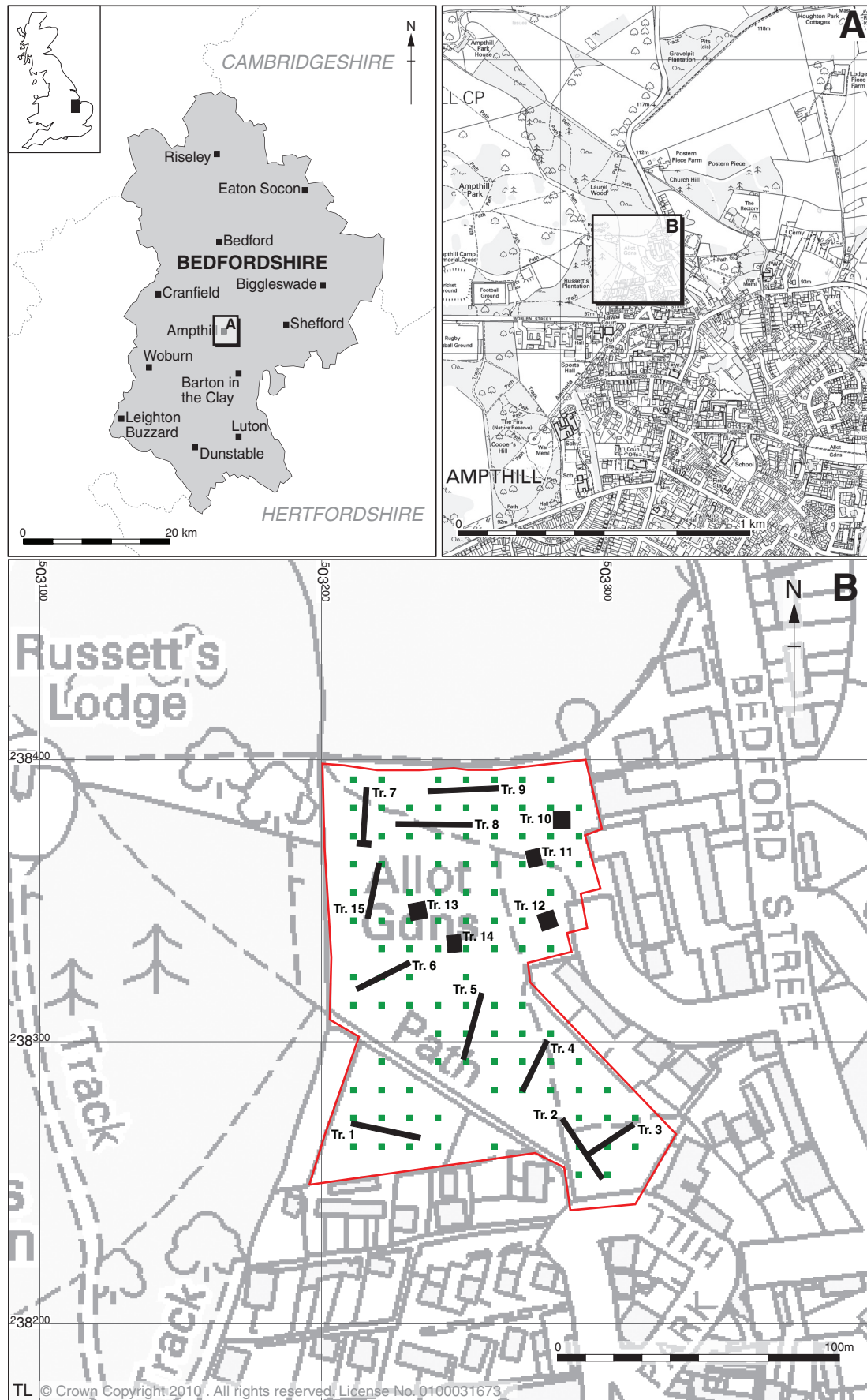


Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) and test pits (green) with the development area outlined (red)

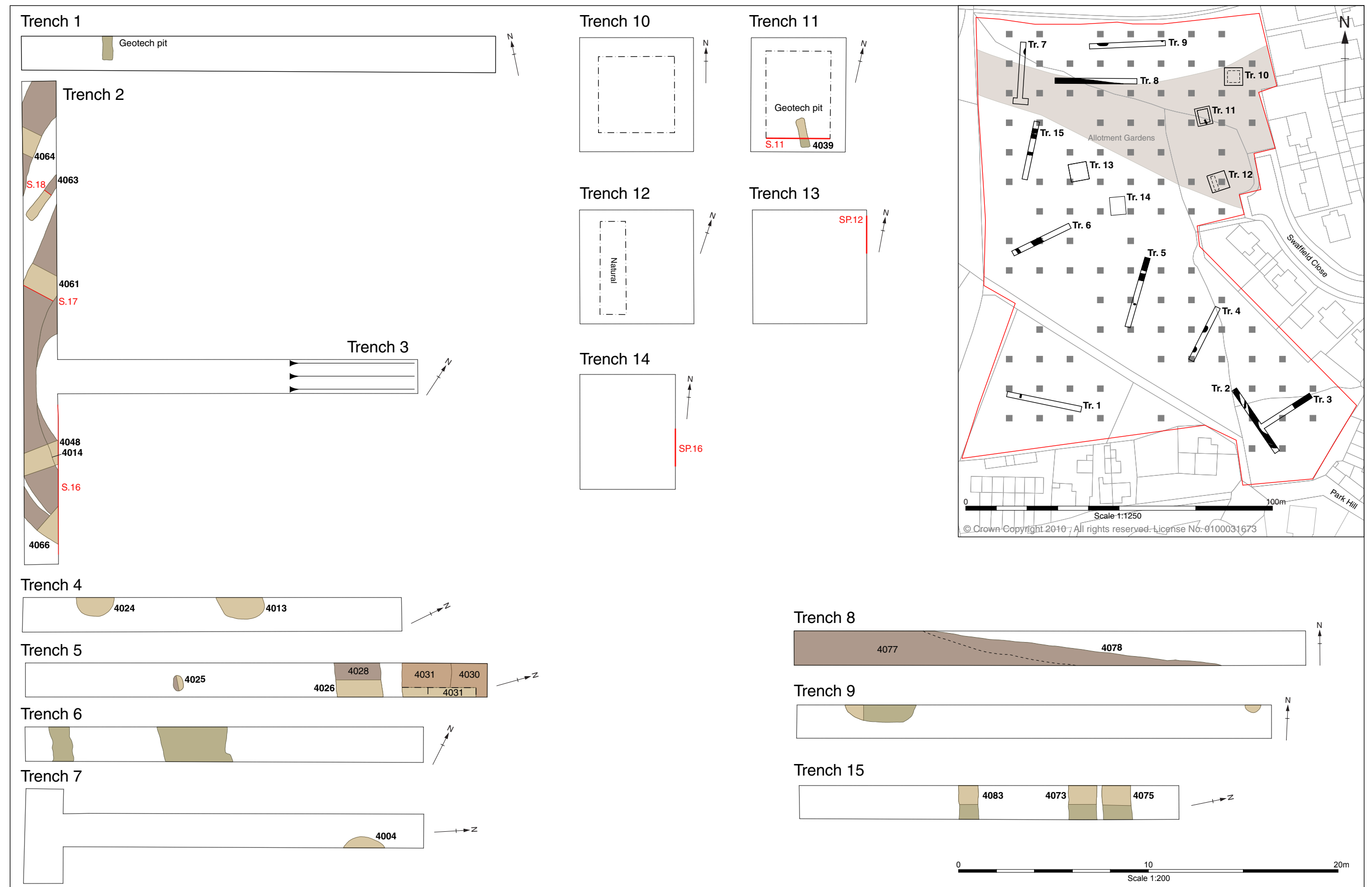


Figure 2: Trench plans

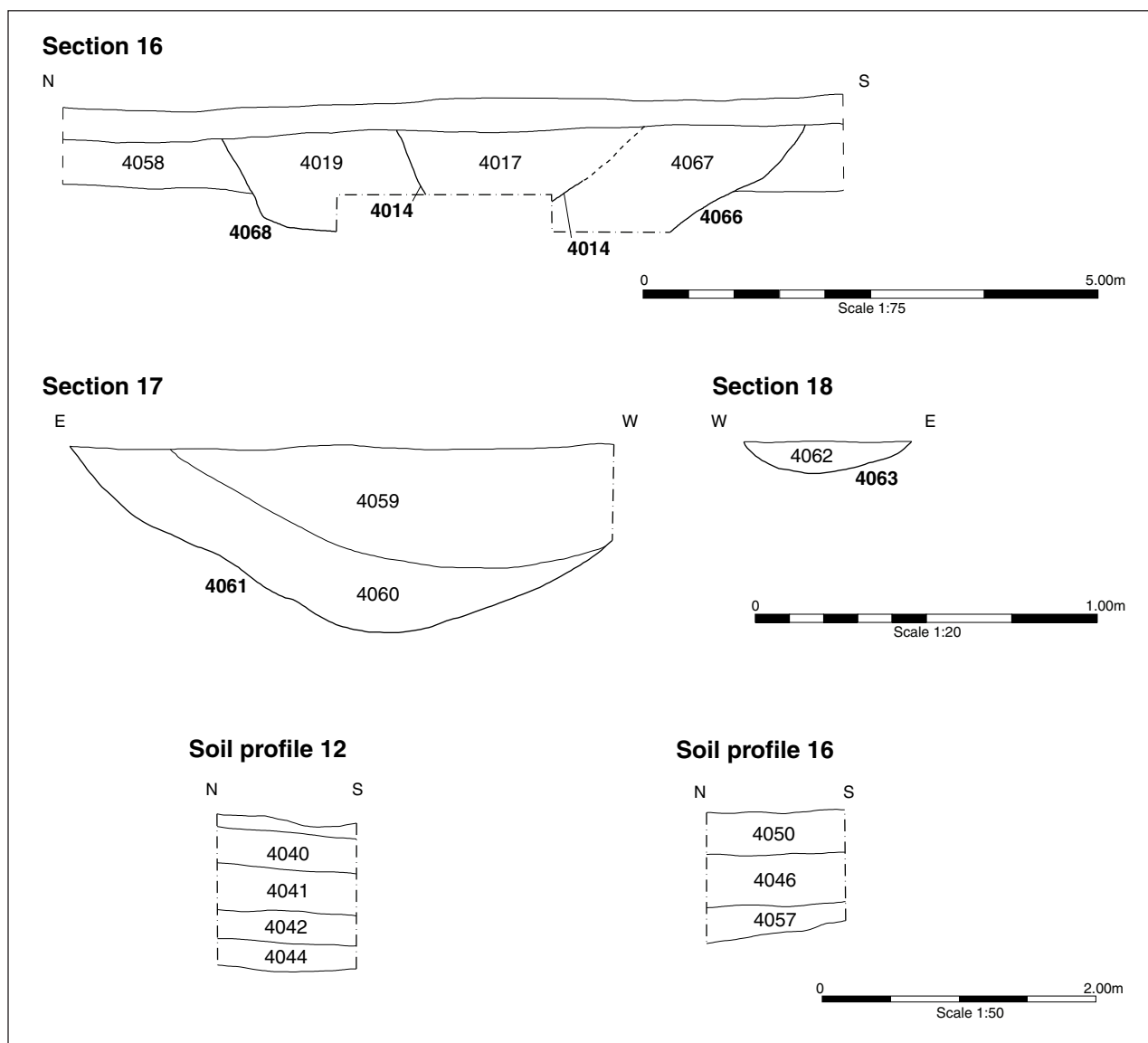


Figure 3: Section drawings

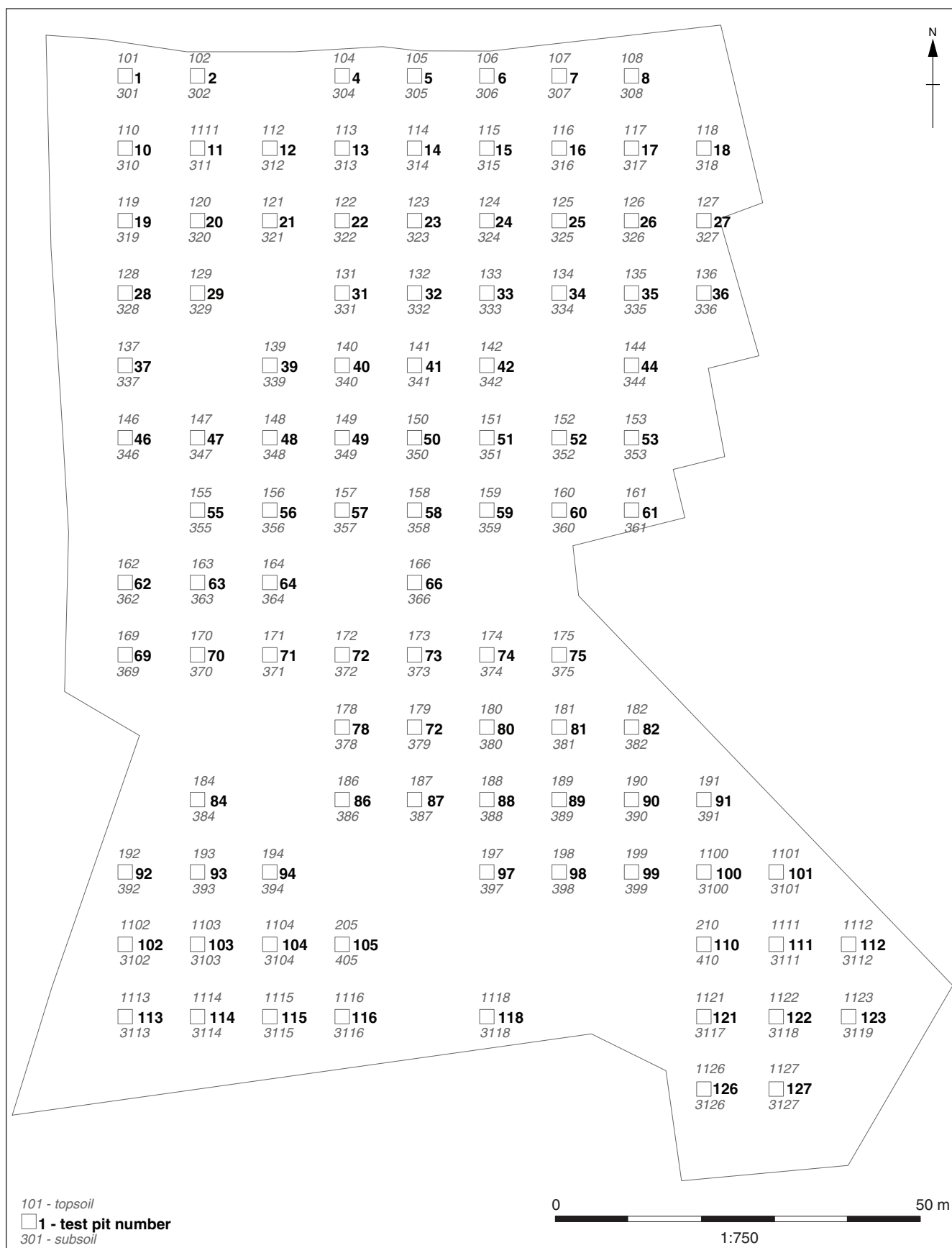


Figure 4: Test pit numbering

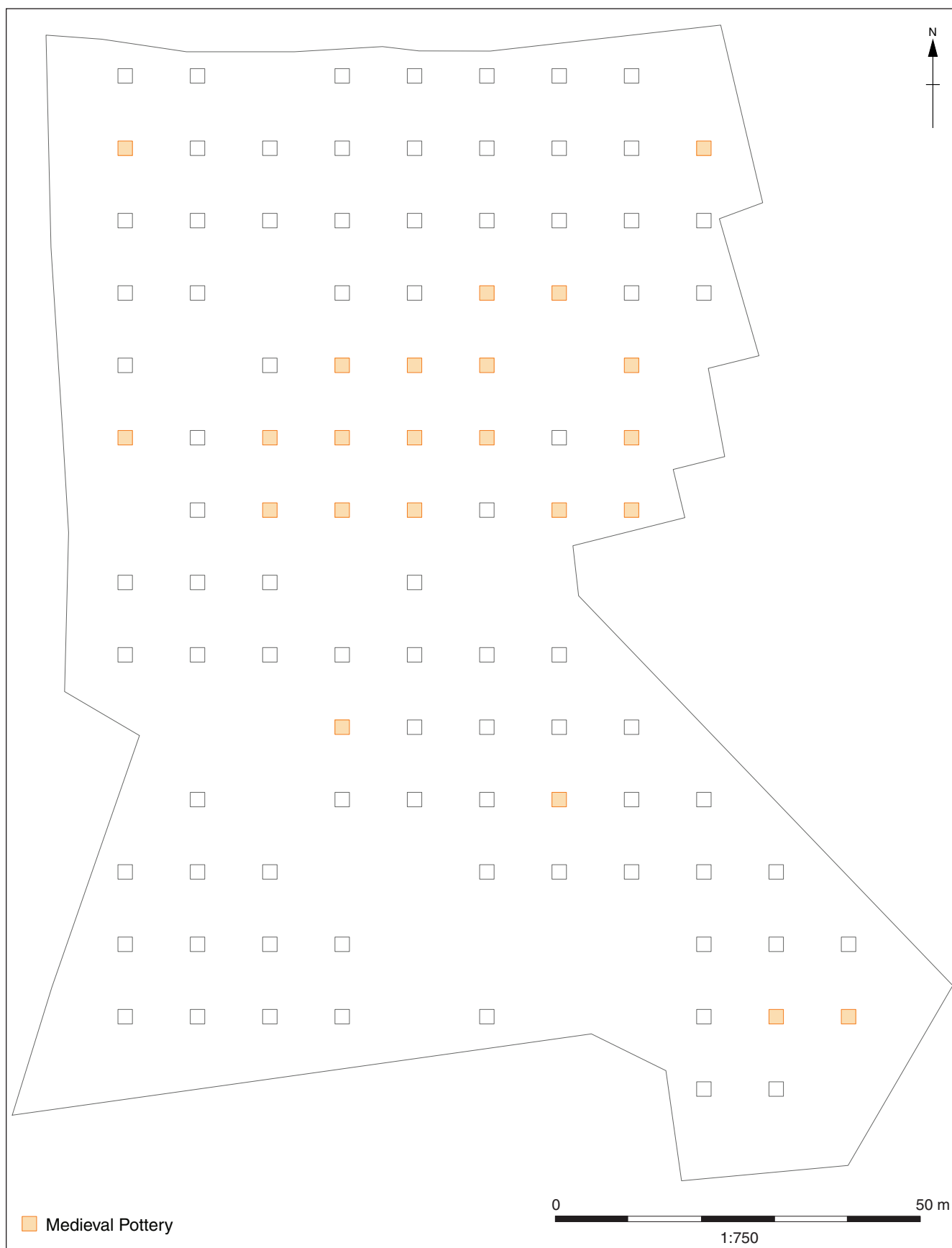


Figure 5: Distribution of Medieval Pottery

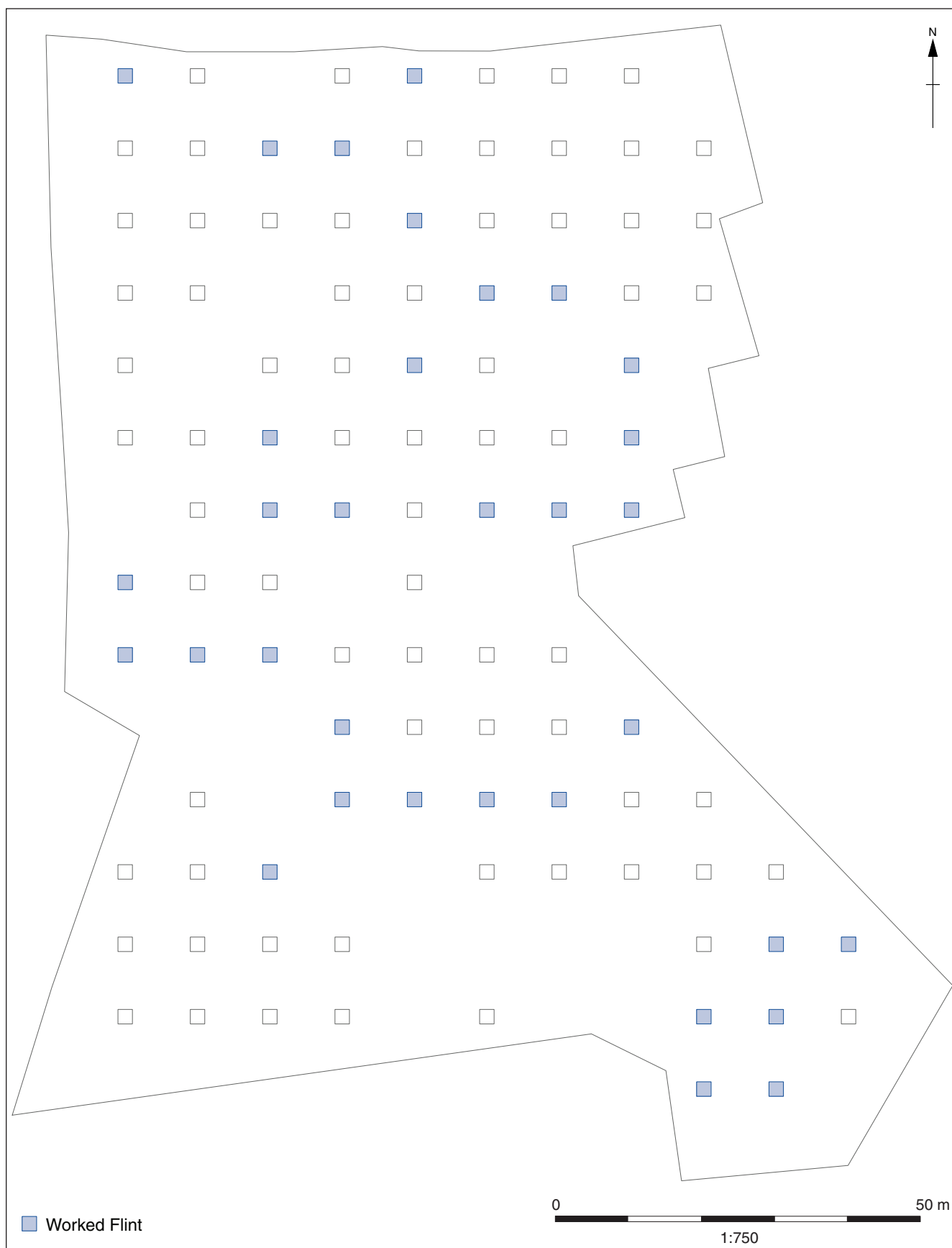


Figure 6: Distribution of Worked Flint



Plate 1: Ditch **4014** showing cut extending from base of Topsoil



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