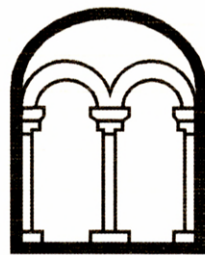


**FEOFFEE ALMSHOUSES
AMPHILL
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND
PUBLICATION**

Albion
archaeology



**FEOFFEE ALMSHOUSES
AMPTHILL
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND
PUBLICATION**

Project: FF3351
HER search ref. no.: 201819/018
Museum accession no.: BEDFM 2014.43
OASIS ref. no.: albionar1-315728

Document: 2018/87
Version 1.0

25th June 2018

Compiled by	Authorised by
Wiebke Starke	Drew Shotliff

Prepared for:
Barry Wright Partnership

On behalf of:
Amphill Feoffee Estate Charity

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Background	6
1.2 Site and Development Description	6
1.3 Archaeological Background	6
1.4 Project Objectives	7
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	9
3. RESULTS	10
3.1 Foul-drain Trench	10
3.2 Artefacts	10
4. CONCLUSION	11
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	12

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 1: All-features plan

List of Plates

Plate 1: North side of No. 5 Feoffee Almshouses, prior to the works

Plate 2: North side of No. 1 Feoffee Almshouses, prior to the works

Plate 3: Foul-drain trench, looking east

Plate 4: West end of foul-drain trench, looking east

Plate 5: Western section of foul-drain trench, looking south

Plate 6: Western section of foul-drain trench, showing foundation of No. 1 Feoffee Almshouses, looking east

Plate 7: Post-medieval clay pipe, wig curler and pottery fragments from the trench (not removed from site)

The figures and plates are bound at the back of the document.

Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. The material contained in this document does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

The archaeological works were undertaken by Wiebke Starke MA ACIfA (Archaeological Supervisor). This report was prepared by Wiebke Starke, with figures by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician), and approved by Drew Shotliff MA MCIfA (Operations Manager).

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 0300 300 8141
E-mail: office@albion-arch.com*

Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.1</i>	<i>25/06/2018</i>	<i>N/A</i>

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CIfA	Chartered Institute <i>for</i> Archaeologists
HER	Historic Environment Record
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NHLE	National Heritage List for England
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Non-technical Summary

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Barry Wright Partnership to provide a precautionary 'watching brief' attendance during the installation of a length of foul drain and a manhole immediately to the north of No 1 Feoffee Almshouses, Ampthill, within the churchyard of St Andrew's parish church, which dates to the 14th–15th centuries.

The Feoffee Almshouses are located in the eastern part of Ampthill off Church Street and Rectory Lane within the medieval settlement envelope and Ampthill Conservation Area. The trench lay on the southern boundary of the churchyard.

Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was undertaken on 8th May 2018. The groundworks were carried out by the building contractor and the trench was hand-dug.

The foul-drain trench was c.5m long and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m. Its excavation only disturbed topsoil and previously dug soils around the existing manhole and the foundations of No. 1 Feoffee Almshouses, which was underpinned in 1997. A small number of artefacts were retrieved from the graveyard soil and were reburied at the base of the trench. These comprised a small assemblage of disarticulated animal and human bone fragments as well as post-medieval pottery and clay pipe fragments and a pipe-clay wig curler.

In summary, monitoring of the groundworks revealed typical graveyard deposits. No in-situ human burials were encountered and no significant archaeological remains were revealed.

This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no.: albionar1-315728) and the site records will be archived with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2014.43).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Background**

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Barry Wright Partnership to provide a precautionary ‘watching brief’ attendance during the installation of a length of foul drain and a manhole immediately to the north of No 1 Feoffee Almshouses, Ampthill. The new drain will connect the proposed upstairs toilet with an existing foul drain and manhole immediately to the north of No 5 Feoffee Almshouses.

1.2 **Site and Development Description**

The Feoffee Almshouses are located in the eastern part of Ampthill off Church Street and Rectory Lane in an area with archaeological interest. The site is situated within the medieval settlement envelope of Ampthill and within Ampthill Conservation Area. It lies on the southern boundary of the churchyard of St Andrew’s parish church, which dates to the 14th–15th centuries and is adjacent to the 14th–15th-century parish church of St. Andrew. The works were carried out at the southern periphery of the churchyard (Figure 1, Plates 1 and 2).

The Feoffee Almshouses are centred on NGR TL03710 38236 and lie at an approximate height of 100m OD. The underlying solid geology consists of Woburn Sands formation sandstone dating back to the Cretaceous period, 101–126 million years ago. No superficial geology is recorded.¹

The development comprised a domestic foul drain and a manhole connecting the proposed upstairs toilet at No. 1 with the existing manhole behind No.5.

1.3 **Archaeological Background**

The Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) record several entries relevant to the archaeological potential of the PDA.

St Andrews’s Church, which is Grade I listed, is recorded in the Historic Environment Record as a medieval parish church, dating to the 14th–15th centuries with restorations in the 19th century (NHLE1114420); the list description is given below. The church is situated within St Andrew’s parish churchyard (HER8848), which dates from the medieval period to the 19th century. The church and churchyard are located towards the north-eastern extent of the medieval town of Ampthill as described within the HER (HER16994) and within Ampthill Conservation Area (DBD3248).

St. Andrew’s Parish Church c. 14th-15th century: C14 nave, chancel, C15 aisles, west tower, south porch; interior twice restored and reseated in C19. Brass to Sir Nicolas Harvey (attended Queen Catherine at Ampthill Castle) 1532. Cornice marble monuments of 1672 and 1681 to Richard Nicolls of Ampthill Park who captured New

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials ©NERC [2018]

Amsterdam 1664 and renamed it New York. Marble column, reputedly ancient Roman, placed in chancel on inscribed pedestal to Second Earl of Upper Ossory (1745-1818).

Parish Church of St Andrew forms a group with Nos 24 and 26 as well as Nos 34 and 36. Little Dynevor Nos 1 to 7 (consec.) (Feoffee Almshouses), Church Street.

The dwellings known as Feoffee Almshouses are Grade II listed (NHLE1114444) and are seen as a group with the parish church (NHLE1114420), Brandereth House (NHLE1114441), Dynevor House (NHLE1137916) and Little Dynevor (NHLE1137948), which are all located at the southern end of Rectory Lane. The almshouses form part of the southern boundary of the churchyard. The list description is given below:

Gothic style almshouses with jetty, 16th-century origin, with restoration and additions, especially in the 19th century. Various dates much restored. West range includes 3 dwellings and a C19 Gothic arched entrance: one south with gables above lighting an attic. Each dwelling a plain door and one window (some diamond leaded casements). An older section (? C16) at north-west corner is half-timbered and has an overhanging upper storey, jugged out on a curved wooden corner post strut. Some brickwork in English bond shows at the back. Tiled roof. North range largely of later work, but perhaps not earlier than C18. Brick one storey. Slate roof.

The town centre did not develop around the parish church but around the marketplace. The majority of buildings along Church Street between the church and the marketplace to the west are listed.

A small watching brief was undertaken in 1997 during underpinning works for the northern wall of No. 1 Feoffee Almshouses. A trench was dug within the churchyard along the wall of the building. Post-medieval pottery and human remains were encountered during the works and subsequently reburied by the Vicar within the churchyard.

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken at various locations to the east of the PDA in recent years. They mainly confirmed medieval and post-medieval activity in the area. Investigations associated with St Andrew's Church indicated the presence of an earlier structure below the present-day building.

1.4 Project Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to make a full record of any archaeological remains impacted by the development, and to place them within their cultural and environmental setting. The specific aims of the archaeological work were therefore to:

- monitor all groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains.

- investigate the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological deposits encountered within the groundworks.
- pay particular attention to ensuring minimal disturbance of any articulated human remains encountered during the groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

The project adhered throughout to the standards set out in the following documents:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn., 2017).
• APABE	<i>Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England</i> , (2nd edn., 2017)
• Bedford Borough Council	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (ver. 2.8, 2010)
• CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014)
	<i>Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains</i> (2017).
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , (2nd edn, 2011)

Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was undertaken on 8th May 2018.

The groundworks were carried out by the building contractor and the trench was hand-dug. The position of the trench and the exposed archaeological contexts were recorded on Albion's pro forma recording sheets. A digital photographic record was made showing the location of the works and the nature of the exposed deposits.

3. RESULTS

The results of the monitoring and the nature of the deposits observed are summarised below. The location of the trench is shown in Figure 2.

3.1 Foul-drain Trench

The foul-drain trench was *c.*5m long and was aligned east-west. It was parallel to the concrete kerb north of No. 5 Feoffee Almshouses and turned south for *c.*1.2m towards the corner of No. 1 Feoffee Almshouses, where the trench cut into the area previously excavated in 1997.

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m at the existing manhole and to between 0.3 and 0.4m throughout its remainder. The terrain generally sloped down towards the east, so that there was a height difference of *c.*0.5m between the western and eastern ends of the trench. (Figure 2, Plates 3–6)

The excavation only disturbed topsoil and previously dug soils around the existing manhole and the foundations of No. 1 Feoffee Almshouses, which was underpinned in 1997.

3.2 Artefacts

A small number of artefacts were retrieved from the graveyard soil during the archaeological observation and were reburied at the base of the trench. These comprised a small assemblage of disarticulated animal and human bone fragments as well as post-medieval pottery and clay pipe fragments and a pipe-clay wig curler (Plate 7). Wig curlers of this type have quite a long date range from around the mid-17th to the 19th century. The clay pipe bowl shows a worn but recognisable mulberry or orange tree pattern with remnants of rouletting around the top. Similar decorations are known from Bedford and have been dated to the late 17th to early 18th century (Baker et al. 1979, 242, 250, fig. 145.1035).

4. CONCLUSION

The limited depth of the excavation revealed only topsoil deposits on the main length of the trench. The deposits at the west and east ends of the trench had been disturbed in the 20th century in conjunction with either foundation works or other service installations associated with the Almshouses.

The thickness of the topsoil (c.0.4–0.5m) is characteristic of a long-lived graveyard, in which the ground has been repeatedly dug over an extended period of time. The presence of disarticulated and fragmented human remains within the topsoil is characteristic of graveyard soils.

The more domestic finds (animal bone, wig curler, clay pipe and pottery) can be associated with use of the graveyard and the close proximity of the dwellings at the Almshouses.

In summary, monitoring of the groundworks revealed typical graveyard deposits. No *in-situ* human burials were encountered and no significant archaeological remains were revealed.

This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no.: albionar1-315728) and the site records will be archived with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2014.43).

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2017, *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 3rd edn.

Albion Archaeology, 2018, *Feoffee Almshouses, Ampthill Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*. Report no. 2018/54.

APABE, 2017 *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England*, 2nd edn.

Baker, D., Baker, E., Hassall, J. and Simco, A., 1997, "Excavations in Bedford 1967–1977", *Beds. Archaeol. J.*, **13**

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.), 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties: Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8**

DCLG, 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Medlycott, M., 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the east of England*, EAA Occasional Paper no. **24**

Mitchell, P.D. and Brickley, M., 2017 *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, CIfA

Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P., 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*, Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **9**

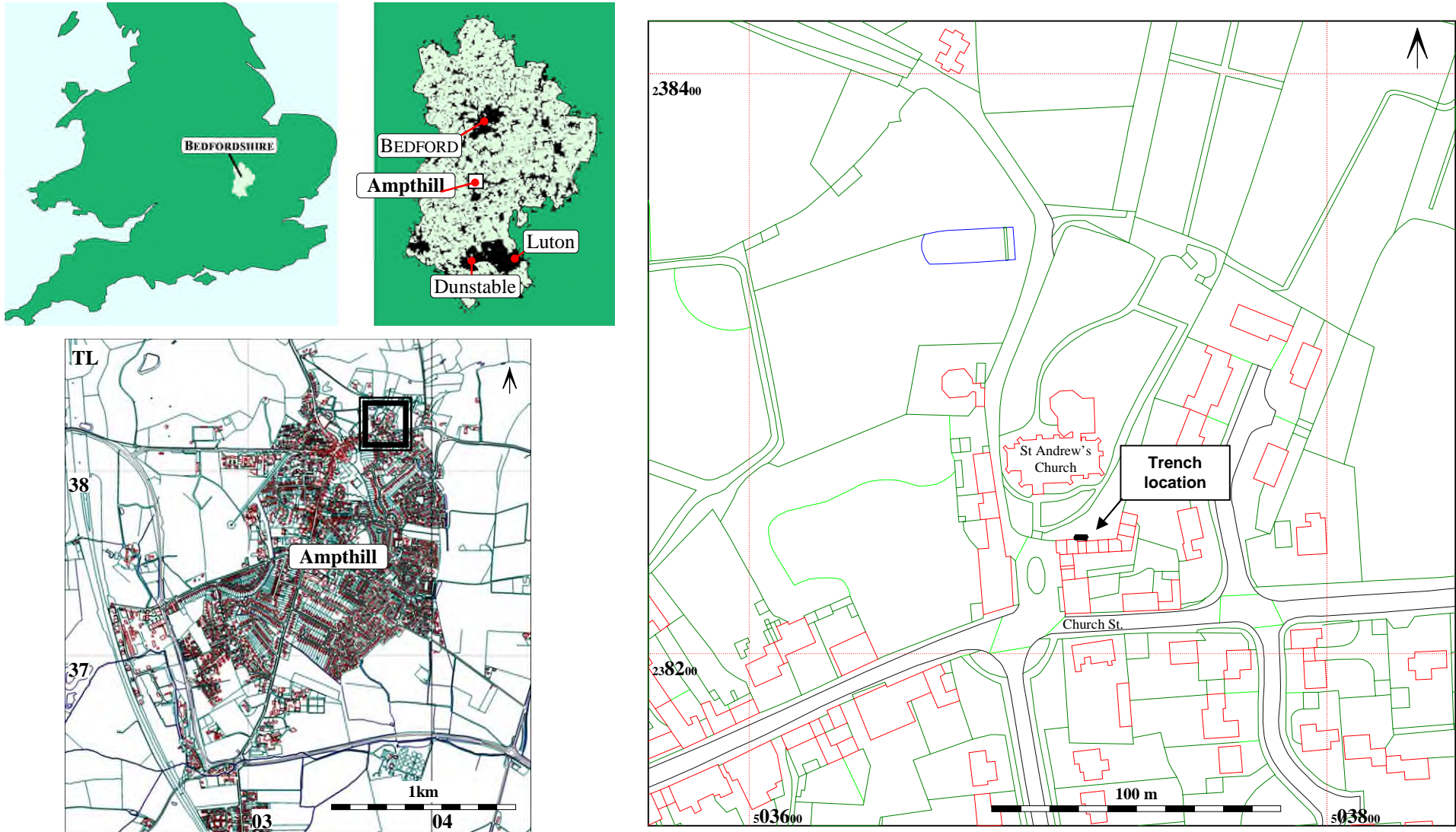


Figure 1: Site location plan

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

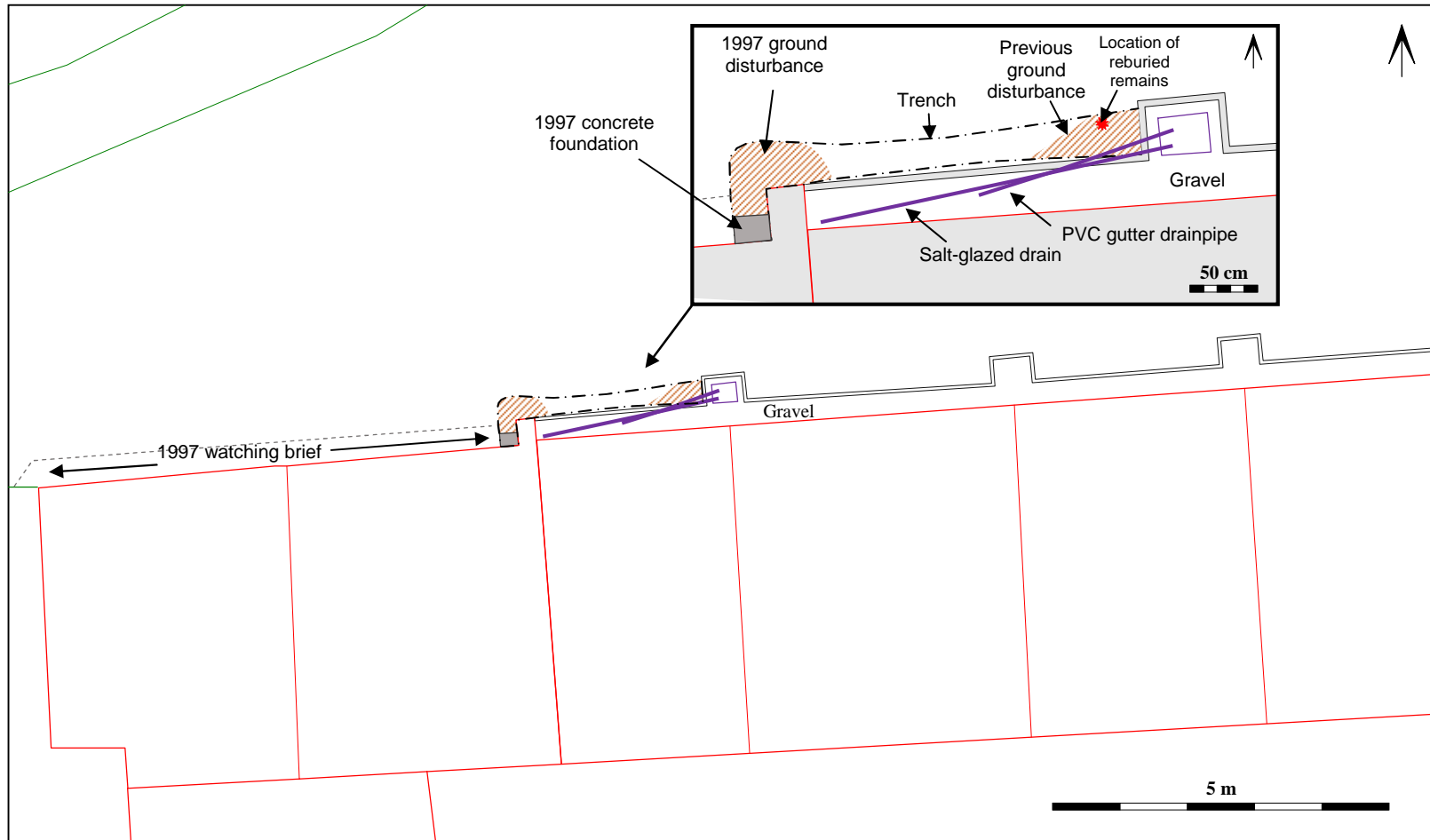


Figure 2: All-features plan

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



Plate 1: North side of No. 5 Feoffee Almshouses, prior to the works



Plate 2: North side of No. 1 Feoffee Almshouses, prior to the works



Plate 3: Foul-drain trench, looking east



Plate 4: West end of foul-drain trench, looking east (scale 0.4m)



Plate 5: Western section of foul-drain trench, looking south (scale 0.4m)



Plate 6: Western section of foul-drain trench, showing foundation of No. 1 Feoffee Almshouses, looking east (scale 0.4m)



Plate 7: Post-medieval clay pipe, wig curler and pottery fragments from the trench (not removed from site) (scale 0.2m)

Central
Bedfordshire

Albion
archaeology



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

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

