

**35 CHAPEL LANE, WILLINGTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Project: CL 1159

Document: 2008/91
Version: 1.0

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Ian Turner	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

1st October 2008

Produced for:
Acorn Building Services (Luton) Ltd
Churchview
Rectory Farm Barns
Barton Road
Lower Gravenhurst
MK45 4JR

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2008, *all rights reserved*



Contents

Non-Technical Summary	5
1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Background	6
1.2 Site Location and Description	6
1.3 Archaeological Background	6
2. RESULTS OF OBSERVATION AND RECORDING	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Methodology	7
2.3 Extent and Nature of Groundworks	7
2.4 Results	8
3. SYNTHESIS	10
3.1 Summary	10
3.2 Interpretation and Significance	10
4. BIBLIOGRAPHY	11
5. APPENDIX – CONTEXT SUMMARY	12



List of Figures

- 1: Site location map
- 2: All features plan

List of Photographs

- 1: Trench 1. Quarry [105] looking south-west. Scale 1m.
- 2: Trench 6. Well/soakaway [137]. Scale 1m.
- 3: Trench 6. Ditch [129], looking north. Scale 2m.

The figures and photographs are bound at the back of the report.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	1 st October 2008	n/a

Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 01234 294006
Fax: 01234 294008
e-mail: office@albion-arch.com

Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, there is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 2, followed by a discussion of the results in Section 3. Section 4 is a bibliography, and Section 5 (Appendix) contains detailed context data.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BCC	Bedfordshire County Council
CAO	County Archaeological Officer
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Furgus Doyle of Acorn Building Services (Luton) Ltd and the fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner.

This report was prepared by Ian Turner with contributions by Joan Lightning (illustrations) and Jackie Wells (finds). All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).



Non-Technical Summary

A planning application was submitted to Bedfordshire County Council for a residential development at 35 Chapel Lane, Willington, Bedfordshire.

The development site lay within a landscape rich in archaeological remains and there was high potential that the site contained hitherto unknown archaeological evidence.

As a consequence, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring that a programme of archaeological works comprising observation, investigation and recording be carried out as part of the development.

The archaeological works identified a number of features within the area of the development that have been interpreted as modern. The features included a quarry pit, a ditch, pits and other features that were probably associated with recently demolished buildings.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

Planning permission was granted by Bedford Borough Council for a residential development at 35 Chapel Lane, Willington, Bedfordshire.

Because of the archaeological potential of the site, a condition was attached to the permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work comprising the observation of groundworks and the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains uncovered. This was in accordance with advice received from the planning authority's archaeological advisor, the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer (CAO), who also prepared a brief for the work (BCC 2007).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works in accordance with a project design (Albion Archaeology 2007) that was prepared and approved by the CAO prior to commencement of fieldwork.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The proposed development lies in the north east of the village of Willington, and is centred on grid reference TL11497 50224 (Figure 1). It comprised the construction of three detached dwellings, associated garages and services.

Prior to the commencement of the present development works, the site was occupied by a collection of sheds, workshops and houses of late 20th century construction.

The geology of the area comprises gleyed brown earths and river gravels with the land surface lying at a height of around 23-24m OD.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The development lies within a landscape rich in archaeological remains and the CAO advised that there was high potential that the site contained hitherto unknown archaeological remains.

Adjacent to the site are cropmarks (HER 985) comprising a series of ditches and a pit alignment which passes to the east of the application area.

To the west is a medieval moated site (HER 769) which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument known locally as the Danish Docks.



2. RESULTS OF OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

2.1 Introduction

The archaeological observation was undertaken intermittently between 29th November 2007 and 21st May 2008. During this period, all groundworks which required monitoring were completed.

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of a series of foundation trenches for three houses and two garages, and the reduction of the ground within the internal area of the planned buildings by 200mm.

A mechanical excavator was used to excavate the foundation trenches and reduce ground levels. Identified archaeological features were excavated by hand where possible.

2.2 Methodology

The archaeological works adhered to the standards and methods set out in the project design (Albion Archaeology 2008) and brief (BCC 2008), specifically:

1. Any stripping of overburden or excavation was monitored to identify archaeological deposits.
2. All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
3. Any identified archaeological deposits were to be investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*.
4. All works were planned at a suitable scale on base plans that were tied in to the OS national grid.
5. A photographic record was kept.

Throughout the project, the standards set out in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Codes of Conduct* and Standards and Guidance documents (specifically *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, September 1999), in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) and in Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* were adhered to.

2.3 Extent and Nature of Groundworks

The foundation trenches (1, 2 and 4-6) for the five buildings and a drainage pipe trench (7) were excavated to a depth of between 0.6m and 1.15m below ground level and between 0.5m and 0.6m wide (Figure 2). An additional pit (trench 3), measuring 6m long, 4.5m wide and 1.7m deep, to remove an obsolete fuel tank was also excavated.



2.4 Results

Detailed descriptions of all contexts are contained in Appendix 1.

2.4.1 Soil Profile

A topsoil layer (100)/(147) of dark brown grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium stones, 0.28 - 0.40m thick, overlay natural alluvial silts and gravels. The alluvial deposits comprised mid brown orange sandy silt (102), mid orange sandy silt and gravel (112), light white yellow sandy silt (103) and light white yellow sand and gravel (104).

2.4.2 Archaeological Deposits

2.4.2.1 Modern

A number of features of probable modern date (AD1750 onwards) were revealed by the groundworks. They included seven pits, a ditch, and a well/soakaway.

A large pit [105] was identified in foundation trench 1 to the south of the site. The pit had convex sides, was at least 1.10m deep and contained a lower deposit of mid orange brown sandy silt and an upper deposit of dark brown grey sandy silt. Pieces of coal and post-medieval brick and tile fragments were present in the fill. The pit continued to the south and is probably represented in the neighbouring field as a visible depression, giving the pit a diameter of at least 50m.

An animal burial [108] was identified cutting the upper deposit of the large pit towards the south-east corner of trench 1. The bone comprised fragments of pelvis, scapula and vertebrae (total weight 32g) deriving from a young animal, probably a dog.

A slightly curving ditch [113]/[129]/[141] was identified in trenches 2 and 6 to the east of the site. The ditch was at least 28m long, 2.5m wide, 0.8m deep and contained three sandy silt deposits. The primary and upper fills, (130) and (132), from the northern end of trench 6 contained a piece of sand tempered post-medieval roof tile (177g), five long bone fragments (63g) from an animal of indeterminate species, and single pieces of clinker, coal and tarmac.

Five pits [119], [123], [127], [133], [135] containing modern bottle glass, concrete, brick or coal fragments were identified in trenches 3, 5 and 6 to the centre of the site. The pits ranged from 0.8m to 2.20m in width and 0.5m to 0.8m in depth.

A well or soakaway [137] of 1.8m diameter was identified at the southern edge of Trench 6. The sides were constructed using machine-made, frogged modern brick (138) measuring L225 x W110 x D70mm.

A levelling layer (144)/(145) of sand and modern brick fragments was identified in trenches 6 and 7 and is judged to be contemporary with recently demolished buildings at the site.



Two modern, plastic water pipe trenches [117], [125] and a concrete lined fish-pond [148] were also identified in trenches 2, 5 and 7 during monitoring. These features were associated with the demolished dwelling.

2.4.2.2 *Un-dated*

A pit [139] was identified in trench 4 on the western edge of the site. The pit was 1.4m wide, at least 0.7m deep and was concave sided in profile containing alternate lenses of dark grey brown sandy silt (similar to top-soil) and loose re-deposited natural sand and gravel suggestive of deliberate back-filling rather than gradual silting. The feature contained no artefacts but the nature of its infilling suggests it is modern.



3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Summary

The building groundworks uncovered a number of archaeological features within the area of the development all of which are probably modern in date.

3.2 Interpretation and Significance

The modern remains comprise a large probable quarry pit, a curving linear ditch and a number of other features associated with a recently demolished house. All of the features are of very limited archaeological significance.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2007. *Project Design for Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication.*

BCC, 2007. *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 35 Chapel Lane, Willington, Bedfordshire.*



5. APPENDIX: CONTEXT SUMMARY



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 53.00 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.16 m. Max: 1.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 11497: Northing: 50224)

Reason: House foundation trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Topsoil containing modern brick and glass fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Make up layer	Loose light yellow brown sand Levelling layer comprised sand and modern bricks and brick fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Alluvium	Friable mid brown orange sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Alluvium	Friable light yellow sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Natural	Loose light yellow sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Quarry	profile: convex dimensions: min breadth 4.5m, min diameter 101.m, min length 50.m Cut of a large quarry pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Lower fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Upper fill	Loose dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Animal grave	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.96m, min depth 0.14m Modern animal burial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Animal skeleton	Articulated small animal skeleton - partly exposed at top of foundation trench	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
110	Backfill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Backfill of modern animal grave	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Make up layer	Friable dark grey black sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Alluvium	Loose mid orange sandy gravel A natural band of gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 46.00 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 1. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 11497: Northing: 50224)

Reason: Foundation trench for double garage block

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
113	Ditch	Linear profile: 45 degrees dimensions: min breadth 1.94m, min depth 0.58m, min length 12.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Lower fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Secondary fill	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Upper fill	Friable dark orange grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Modern intrusion	Linear profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.2m Modern plastic pipe trench	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Fill	Loose gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3**Max Dimensions: Length: 6.00 m. Width: 4.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.1 m. Max: 1. m.****Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 11497: Northing: 50224)**Reason: Trench excavated to remove diesel tank**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
119	Pit	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, min depth 1.12m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand moderate small stones Deposit contains small modern concrete fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4**Max Dimensions: Length: 26.00 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 1.1 m.****Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 11497: Northing: 50224)**Reason: Foundation trench for single garage block**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
139	Pit	profile: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.34m, min depth 0.8m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
140	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Deposit is a 50/50 mix of lenses of sandy silt / loose re-deposited sand and gravel. No finds.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 64.00 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0. m. Max: 1.25 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 11497: Northing: 50224)

Reason: House foundation trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
123	Pit	profile: vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 1.1m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
124	Fill	Friable dark grey black sandy silt Deposit contains lenses of re-deposited natural gravel and modern glass and brick fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	Modern intrusion	Linear profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.12m, min length 12.m Cut for modern plastic water pipe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	Fill	Friable dark grey black sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	Pit	profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
128	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt Deposit contained modern coal 'coke' and brick fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 68.00 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 1. m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 11497: Northing: 50224)

Reason: House foundation trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
129	Ditch	dimensions: min breadth 2.5m, min depth 0.8m, min length 30m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Primary fill	Friable dark orange grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
131	Secondary fill	Friable dark orange grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
132	Upper fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
133	Pit	profile: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.55m, min depth 0.75m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
134	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt Deposit contains lenses of natural sand and gravel and modern brick and tile fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
135	Pit	profile: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, min depth 0.8m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Deposit contained modern glass and brick fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	Well	Circular profile: vertical dimensions: min diameter 1.8m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
138	Well lining	Well lining comprised of frogged modern bricks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
141	Ditch	Linear profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.4m, min depth 0.7m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
142	Primary fill	Friable dark orange grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
143	Upper fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
144	Levelling layer	Loose yellow sand Sand with frequent modern brick fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 38.00 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 11497: Northing: 50224)

Reason: Sewage pipe trench

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
145	Levelling layer	Loose mid brown orange sandy gravel Deposit contains frequent modern bricks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
147	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones A disturbed top-soil. Deposit contained modern brick and tile inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
148	Modern intrusion	profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.8m, min depth 0.65m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
149	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Deposit contained modern bricks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
150	Concrete	Concrete lining to modern feature - probably a fish-pond	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

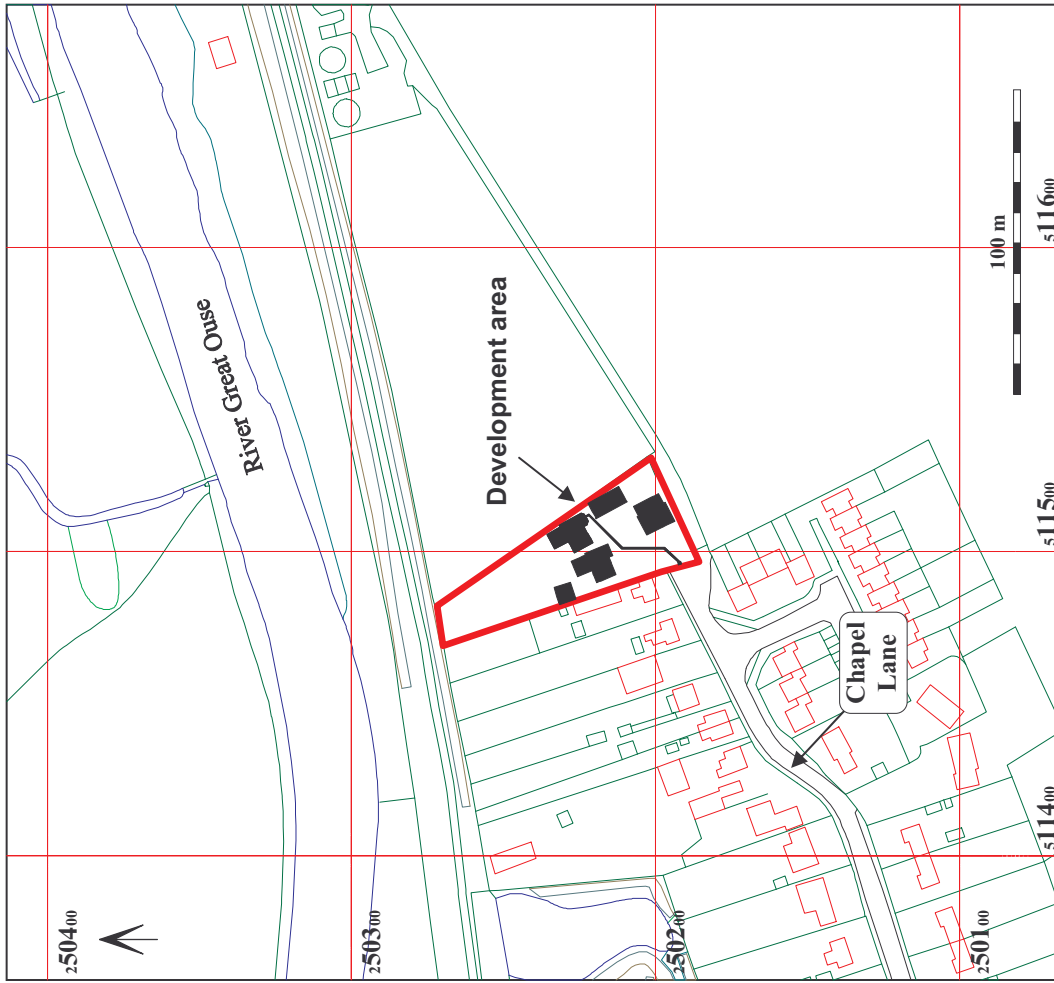
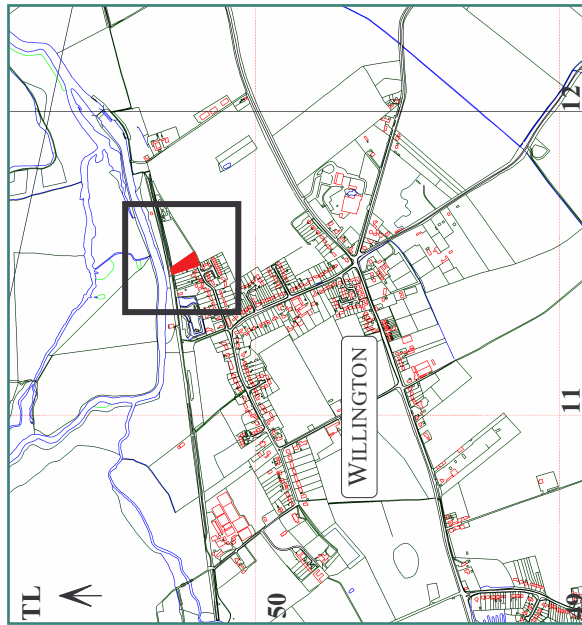
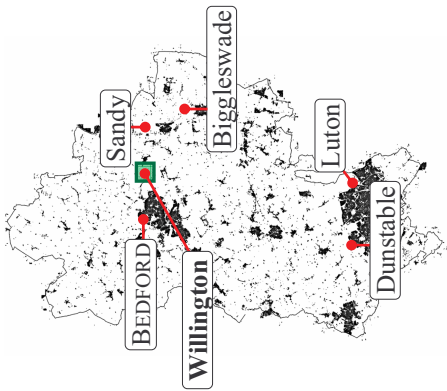
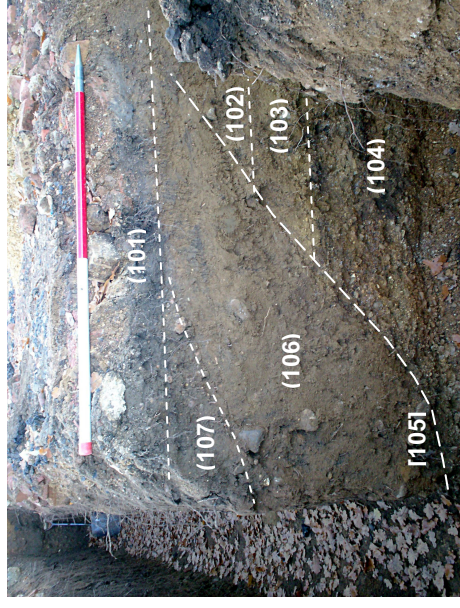
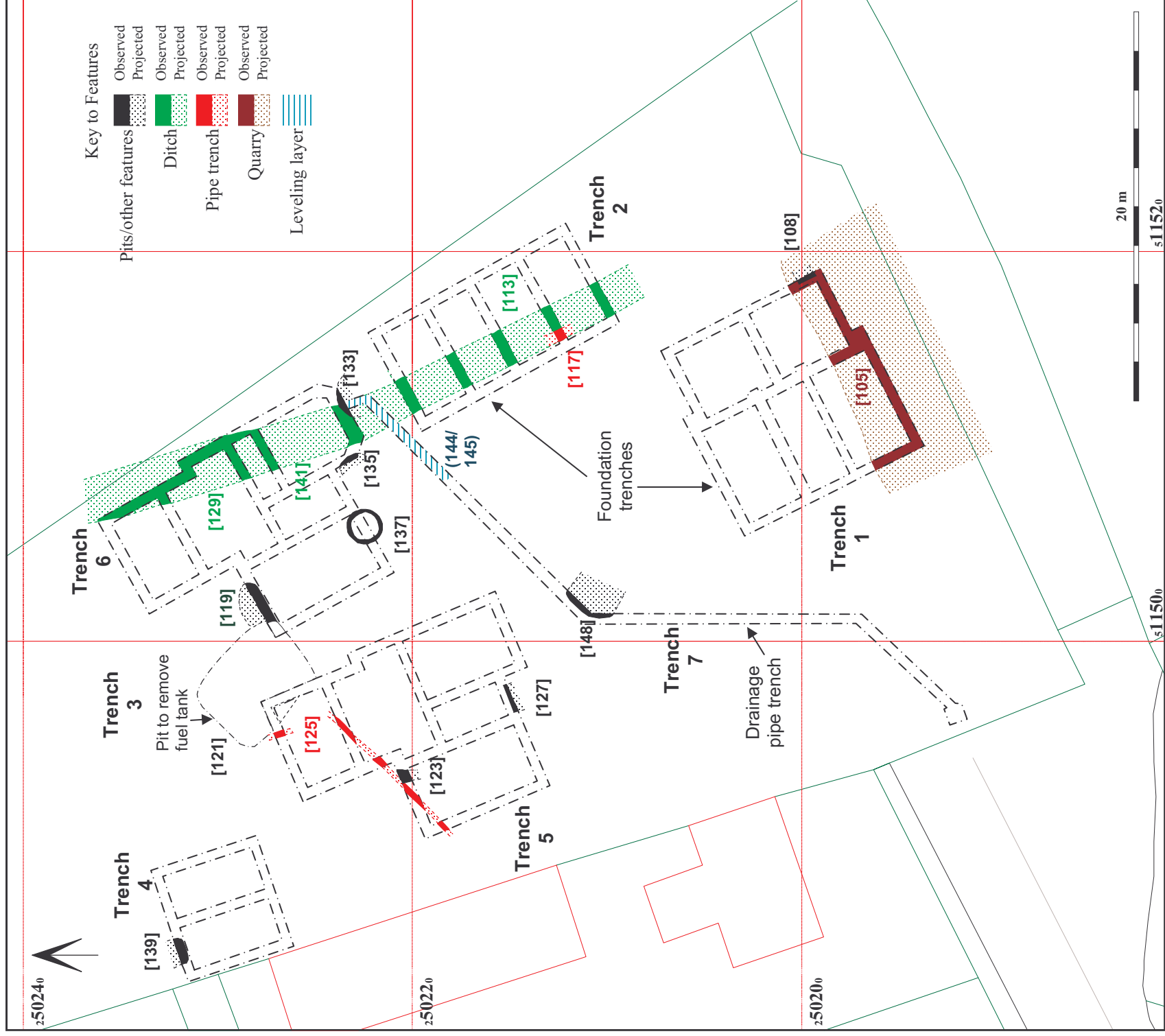


Figure 1: Site location map

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358. © Crown Copyright



Photograph 1: Trench 1. Quarry [105]
looking south-west. Scale 1m.



Photograph 2: Trench 6. Well/soakaway [137].
Scale 1m.



Photograph 3: Trench 6. Ditch [129],
looking north. Scale 2m.

Figure 2: All features plan

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the
Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council,
County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358. © Crown Copyright