

**BUCKINGHAM KNOWLEDGE CENTRE,
VERNEY CLOSE,
BUCKINGHAM**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

JE **JACOBS BAPTIE**



Document: 2005/79
Project: BK1119

31st January 2006

Produced for:
Jacobs Babtie

On behalf of
Property Services, Buckinghamshire County Council

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2006, *all rights reserved*



Contents

List of Tables	2
List of Figures	2
Preface	3
Structure of this report	3
Key Terms	3
Non-Technical Summary	5
1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Planning Background	6
1.2 Site Location and Description	6
1.3 Archaeological Background	6
1.4 Objectives	7
1.5 Location of the Archive	8
2. TRIAL EXCAVATION	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Methodology	9
2.3 Results of the Trial Excavation	10
2.4 Trench 1	10
2.5 Trench 2	11
2.6 Trench 3	12
3. ARTEFACT ASSEMBLAGE	14
3.1 Introduction	14
3.2 Pottery	14
3.3 Ceramic building material	14
3.4 Other finds	14
4. SYNTHESIS	16
4.1 Introduction	16
4.2 Summary and Discussion of Results	16



4.3	Significance of Results	16
5.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	18
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARIES BY TRENCH	19
	APPENDIX 2: TRENCH MATRICES	24
	Trench 1 Matrix	24
	Trench 2 Matrix	25
	Trench 3 Matrix	26
	APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE DETAILS.....	27

List of Tables

Table 1: Artefact Summary by trench and context	14
---	----

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: All features
- Figure 3: Trench 1
- Figure 4: Trench 2
- Figure 5: Trench 3
- Figure 6: Trenches overlaid on 1st ed OS map c. 1885
- Figure 7: Trenches overlaid on Jeffrey's map 1770

All figures are bound at the back of the report



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. 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.

This report has been prepared by Ben Barker (Project Officer), and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) produced the figures and Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager) edited the document. Trial trenching, hand excavation and recording were undertaken by Alison Bell (Site Supervisor) with assistance from Ben Barker. Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology would like to acknowledge Adam Brossler of Jacobs Babbie and David Radford of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service for their co-operation during the course of this project.

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 01234 294001
Fax: 01234 294008
e-mail: office@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com*

31st January 2006

Structure of this report

After the introductory Section 1, the results of the fieldwork are presented in Section 2. Section 3 presents a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded on the site. Appendix 2 contains the trench matrices. Appendix 3 provides details of the archive.

Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>BCC's AO</i>	Buckinghamshire's County Council's Archaeological Officer
<i>BCAS</i>	Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service
<i>SMR</i>	Buckinghamshire's Sites and Monuments Record
<i>CBS</i>	Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies (the county records office)
<i>Client</i>	Property Services, Buckinghamshire County Council
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2 nd ed, 2001 Albion Archaeology





Non-Technical Summary

This document has been prepared by Albion Archaeology for Jacobs Babbie, who are acting on behalf of Property Services, Buckinghamshire County Council. It represents the report on an archaeological field evaluation of a new build on the site of the current library and former magistrates' court in Buckingham. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 69692 34018. It is proposed to develop the land in order to provide a new Knowledge Centre for the town.

Buckingham is on the site of a double burh constructed by Edward the Elder in AD 915. The development site is close by the market place, the main focus of the medieval town and medieval and post medieval finds have been found during excavations in the vicinity. Therefore it was thought that the site might contain archaeological features related to medieval, post-medieval, modern, and possibly Saxon, periods.

Because the work has the potential to disturb archaeological remains, a brief for an archaeological field evaluation was issued by Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Officer (BCC's AO). A Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2005) set out how the requirements of the brief were to be met, and was approved by BCC's AO. The document proposed the excavation of 30m of linear trenching to be followed by a programme of post excavation analysis and reporting to determine the location, extent and nature of any archaeological features and to assess their integrity and state of preservation.

The evaluation has successfully demonstrated the nature and state of preservation of the deposits encountered. These were largely post-medieval and modern in origin and highly truncated; they included wall foundations, domestic refuse pits, levelling layers and a probable quarry pit. There was no evidence for medieval or earlier occupational, industrial or agricultural exploitation of the proposed development area.

On completion of the project, the site archive will be kept in secure storage at the offices of Albion at St Mary's Church until deposition with Buckinghamshire County Museum can be arranged.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

The property services section of Buckinghamshire County Council has obtained planning permission to develop land on the site of the existing magistrates' court and library (planning application no. CC\11\05). The development will provide a new Knowledge Centre for Buckingham. A planning condition states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority.

A brief has therefore been issued by Buckinghamshire County Council's, Archaeological Officer (BCC's AO, BCAS 2005) and a *Specification for a Written Scheme of Investigation and Trial Trenching* has also been prepared by the consultant, Jacobs Babbie (2005). A *Project Design for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Albion Archaeology 2005) was approved by BCC' AO on 20th October 2005.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Jacobs Babbie, acting on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council, to undertake the evaluation of the site, and to prepare a report on the results. This document serves that purpose.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The development area lies within Buckingham town centre east of the market place. The development area is 266m² in extent. It is centred on grid reference SP 69692 34018. The site is rectangular in plan (Figure 1) and lies at an average height of c.81m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

The footprint of the new building lies partially within the within that of the magistrates' court. The magistrates' court was demolished prior to the start of the archaeological works.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological background to the site was summarised in the brief for the works (BCAS, 2005) and the *Specification for a Written Scheme of Investigation and Trial Trenching* (Jacobs Babbie, 2005).

A double-*burh* was constructed at Buckingham by Edward the Elder in AD915. Although the defences of this *burh* have yet to be located by excavation, it seems most likely that the principal *burh* lay in the bend of the river occupied by Castle Hill and the site of the medieval church to the southwest of the hill. The church is believed to have originated as a late Saxon 'minster' – it became an important place of pilgrimage associated with the cult of St Rumbold. Buckingham acquired a mint in the late 10th and early 11th centuries and was recognised as a borough



and the county town at the time of the Domesday Survey (1086). A castle was built sometime after the Norman Conquest, but it had become ruinous by the early 17th century. Two hospitals were founded in the town. Following the collapse of the medieval church tower, a new church was built on Castle Hill in 1777–81, although the graveyard remained on its medieval site. The main focus of the medieval town was the market place on its east side, which was important from at least the mid-14th century. Buckingham was closely connected to the wool trade, having Draper's Hall in the market place. By the 15th and 16th centuries this trade and the town itself were in decline with market stalls unlet and houses fallen into decay. In 1725 the town was devastated by a major fire, which destroyed 138 of its 387 houses. Despite protests, through the medieval and post-medieval periods Buckingham slowly relinquished its status of county town to Aylesbury.

An evaluation to the rear of the Grand Junction Hotel by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2002 identified a series of pits and ditches dating from the 11th–13th centuries (CgMs, 2002). An evaluation further north at Stratford House by Oxford Archaeology in 2002 demonstrated the survival of medieval pits indicative of occupation between the 11th and 14th centuries, along with post-medieval (17th–18th century) pits and associated domestic refuse (OA, 2002). These medieval deposits are of interest because they currently represent the maximum extent of known medieval growth of the county town along the High Street away from its Saxon core before possible contraction of the settlement in the later medieval period. A key question is whether the Market Place was a post-conquest planned development added to the Saxon core or a more piecemeal evolution.

1.4 Objectives

Although the main objective of the work was to assess the archaeological potential of the site as part of the planning process, a number of additional 'research' objectives were identified. The projects research objectives are set out in the brief (BCAS, 2005) and *The Specification for a Written Scheme of Investigation and Trial Trenching* (Jacobs Babbie, 2005).

- i. Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- ii. Establish the condition or state of preservation of the remains;
- iii. Establish the depth of burial, thickness and degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy of the remains;
- iv. Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- v. Recover palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- vi. Establish (as far as is practical) the chronology, plan form and function of archaeological features affected by the development and interpret the results in terms of the documented history and historical topography of Buckingham. In particular the work may provide further information on the extent and development of the medieval and post-medieval town.



1.5 Location of the Archive

The project archive will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum.
Details of its contents are provided in Appendix 3.



2. TRIAL EXCAVATION

2.1 Introduction

Trial trenching took place between 27th October and 2nd November 2005. A total of three trenches were opened in order to gain a representative sample of the site (Fig. 1).

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features discussed below can be found in Appendix 1. None of the trenches contained significant archaeological deposits.

2.2 Methodology

Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* have been adhered to. Also those standards outlined in Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (1996), the IFA Code of Conduct and English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) were complied with.

Appendix 1 defines the main objectives of the individual trenches. The main points with regard to the trial excavation methodology were as follows:

- The location of each trench was marked out on the ground in advance of machining using offset measurements from mapped features on the current Ordnance Survey map.
- The trench configuration differs from that proposed in the Project Design due to the presence of modern services. At the request of the County Archaeological Officer a third trench was located in an area thought to be less affected by modern truncation.
- All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist and was undertaken using a JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by machine down to the top of archaeological deposits, or clean natural deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- The spoil tips and any archaeological features were scanned for artefacts. Artefacts recovered from spoil tips, were assigned to the relevant context number for the trench.
- Recording took place on standard Albion Archaeology pro-forma sheets.
- All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc.
- The trenches were available for inspected by the LPA's Archaeological Advisor, but were backfilled at the end of each day due to health a safety consideration.
- Access to all of the trenches was restricted due to their excessive depth and lack of space in which to step the trench sides. For safety reasons, Trench 3 was recorded from the side of the trench.



2.3 Results of the Trial Excavation

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order by trench. An all feature plan is shown in Figure 2; further detailed descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

2.4 Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned NW to SE and cut through the footprint of the former magistrates' court and the land adjacent to the library (Figure 1). Preliminary investigation indicated that there was in excess of 1.5m of overburden within the footprint of the court house and that the original ground surface had been heavily truncated. For this reason, only the part of Trench 1 that lay within the library grounds was excavated to final depth. No significant archaeological features were revealed within this trench (Figure 3) other than modern intrusion and late 18th/early 19th century wall foundations.

An undisturbed geological deposit (102) of yellowish brown silty clay was identified at a depth of 1.1m below current ground level (*c.* 79.54m AOD) towards the centre of the trench.

Geological deposit (102) was cut to the north by a large pit [108]. The fill of this feature (109) contained china, tile and frequent charcoal flecks. Its full extents were not visible as it extended further north below the gas pipe. It is likely that this feature is a 19th century domestic refuse pit.

Pit [108] was itself truncated by a steep sided cut, [110], which traversed the trench. This was filled by deposit (111), which overlay a possible remnant of a robbed out stone wall (123), represented by a layer of redeposited natural that contained frequent irregular limestone fragments. (See also Trench 3, layer (315))

Layer (107), although mixed, was slightly organic in nature and is likely to represent buried garden soil. It was truncated by the foundation cut [112] for wall (115). This was constructed of soft red, machine made bricks that are likely to be 19th century in date. The foundation cut was filled by deposits (113) and (114) which contained modern china that supports this date.

The foundation cut [112] was itself partially truncated by a straight sided modern pit [121] that contained occasional brick fragments and charcoal flecks. No datable pottery was recovered from this feature, but its stratigraphic position indicates that it was of modern origin, possibly related to the demolition of the building that wall (115) was part of.

Cut [117] formed the foundation cut for a second soft red brick wall (119) that is likely to be of a similar date, if not contemporary with, wall (115). The backfill between the two walls (116) was similar to that of the backfill (118) of the construction cut [117]. Both were found to contain fragments of coal and modern glass.

Most of the current ground surface was tarmac (101); this had been laid on a base of sand and gravel (104). Adjacent to the former courthouse was an area of concrete (100) that is likely to have been associated with a series of steps that led



down to the library car park. This transition was marked by gully [105] which contained frequent lumps of concrete and may have once been associated with drainage. Layer (103) represented a mixed tile and brick backfill above service runs along the edge of the building. These were not excavated, due to the limited space and the likelihood that the area had been heavily truncated by the foundation cut for the courthouse.

The northern 3.4m of Trench 1 was obscured by the presence of modern services (gas and water). These were not disturbed by the archaeological investigation due to the possibility that they were still live. The southern 2.5m of the trench contained a ceramic foul-water pipe that is believed to serve a soak-away associated with the library; this also was preserved *in situ*.

2.5 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned SW to NE and was located in the northern part of the proposed development area (Figure 1). The trench was excavated and recorded in two halves to an average depth of *c.* 2m. No significant archaeological features were revealed within this trench. One large pit post-medieval pit was identified towards the centre of the trench (Figure 4).

An undisturbed geological deposit (200) of yellowish brown silty clay was identified at a depth of 1.7m below current ground level (80.04m AOD) at either end of the trench. At the eastern end of the trench the geological deposit was overlain by a thin layer of mortar-like material (201). This layer, in association with the excessive depth, indicates that the original ground surface may have been truncated.

A more substantial (0.7m deep) silty clay layer, (202), overlay layer (201) to the east. This contained machine made brick fragments and is likely to represent a modern garden soil that has, perhaps, been imported onto site.

Layer (202) was cut by an extremely large pit [203]. This was in excess of 4m wide and its full extent was not visible within the trench. Limited hand-excavation revealed that it was greater than 1.2m deep and contained at least four fills. The upper fill (204) contained frequent large stones, tile fragments and charcoal flecks, but no closely datable material. (205) was a thin band of chalky lime-like material and may have the same origin as (201). Deposit (206) was a thin layer of charcoal immediately below (205). These layers may represent an attempt to cap the pit. The basal fill (207) yielded frequent fragments of tile, animal bone and 1 sherd of post-medieval pottery. Additional machine excavation revealed that pit [203] extended to 3.3m below the current ground surface, but no datable material was present. It is likely that this feature represents a backfilled post-medieval quarry pit.

A further large feature, [209] was identified at the north-eastern end of the trench. This was only partially visible but contained lumps of concrete and was clearly of modern origin. To the south-west pit [203] was truncated by another modern pit [228]. This relationship was not clear, but there was sufficient variation between fills (204) and (229) to suggest that pit [228] was a later intrusion.



Both pits, [203] and [228] were overlain, to the south-west, by a levelling layer of sand and gravel, (208), on top of which were traces of a cobbled surface. This undated surface (223) had been truncated by two modern wall foundation trenches [217] and [221]. The brick walls within these were set on concrete foundations and are likely to be 20th century in date. Two contemporary brick surfaces (219) and (220) were associated with each wall. These are likely to represent external yard surfaces and it is possible that walls (211) and (218) are external walls of the same building. The shallow depth of the foundations, however, suggests that they are likely to have been garden walls.

Two defunct modern service trenches were identified within Trench 2: a ceramic foul water pipe and a lead water pipe. These modern intrusions were identified below the various levelling layers for the courthouse, (225) (226) and (227), and are likely to be related to a building that pre-dates the recently demolished building.

The western end of the trench a further revealed a more substantial service pipe that had been concreted over. This was aligned with a foundation wall for the courthouse and is likely to be contemporary with the building. This unidentified service was left in situ and the remaining 2.5m of the trench was unexcavated; the foundation for the wall was utilised to shore this end of the trench.

2.6 Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned NE to SW and was excavated at the request of the BCC's AO, to compensate for the agreed shortened length of Trench 1. This trench was located at right-angles to Trench 1 in an area where the natural was less likely to have been truncated by modern disturbance (Figure 5). It was *c.* 4m long after initial hand-cleaning, the trench sides were judged to be unstable and it was recorded without accessing the trench. No archaeological features that were identified were regarded as requiring further excavation, due to their obvious modern date.

An undisturbed geological deposit (300) of yellowish brown silty clay was identified at a depth of 1.4m below current ground level (*c.* 79.24m AOD) towards the eastern end of the trench.

A poorly defined patch of natural (315) containing fragments of stone was identified at the eastern end of the trench. This was partially covered by an isolated patch of topsoil-like material (301), and it is likely that it represents the base of a robbed out wall, associated with deposit (123) in Trench 1.

Pit [302] represents a continuation of pit [108], identified in Trench 1. More modern china was recovered from its fill (303), which adds further confidence to its interpretation as that of a 19th century refuse pit. The late medieval pottery recovered from this feature is likely to be residual.

The western end of the trench was heavily disturbed by a ditch or, more likely foundation trench that crossed the trench: [304]. Three fills were visible in the



trench floor, with a further two likely to be associated with this feature visible in section. The outer (and presumably earliest) fills contained a mixture of stone, clinker and transfer decorated pottery. It is likely that this feature represents 19th/20th century intrusion. The upper fills, (318) and (319) were loose and clearly modern and may represent later backfill of this feature.

A further episode of disturbance, [308], was identified that truncated the top of cut [304]. This was only identified in the southern section and it is likely that this area was subjected to pitting before being roughly levelled-off. This appeared to have been achieved by the deposition of a sandy gravel/ clay mix (309) that was dumped into pit [308] and also above pit [302]. A layer of unburnt coal waste (310) appears to have built up, suggesting the area was used for fuel storage.

Layer (311) represents a further stage of backfilling, using sand and gravel. The presence of a thin topsoil layer (312), at the west end of the trench may suggest a temporary return to garden usage.

Layer (313) was equivalent to layer (104) in Trench1 and represents the sub-base of sand and gravel underlying the modern tarmac surface (314).



3. ARTEFACT ASSEMBLAGE

3.1 Introduction

As most of the artefacts encountered were demonstrably modern, artefacts were only recovered from archaeological features questionable date, or, if present, from the earliest stratigraphic deposits. Finds recovery was also restricted due to the excessive depth of the trenches.

The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage comprising pottery, roof tile, iron objects, animal bone and oyster shell, the majority deriving from a single feature in trench 2 (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Finds summary
01	112	Wall foundation cut	113	Modern	Pottery (60g); oyster shell (7g)
02	203	Quarry pit	204	Post-medieval/modern	Roof tile (866g)
	203	Quarry pit	207	Post-medieval/modern	Pottery (22g); roof tile (223g); animal bone (36g); iron objects x2
03	302	Rubbish pit	303	Modern	Pottery (186g)

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context
(sherd / frag count: weight in grammes)

Table 1: Artefact Summary by trench and context

3.2 Pottery

Thirteen pottery sherds weighing 268g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The assemblage ranges in date from the late medieval period to the present day. Sherds have an average weight of 20g and are moderately abraded. Five fabric types were defined in accordance with the published Milton Keynes medieval and post-medieval type series (Mynard 1991).

The basal fill of quarry pit [203] yielded a single sherd (22g) of 17th-18th century lead glazed earthenware (PM8). Six sherds (60g) of 18th-19th century creamware (PM23), white earthenware (PM25) and miscellaneous modern decorated tea cup were recovered from wall foundation cut [112]. Rubbish pit [302] contained a piece of modern flower pot (38g) and five sherds (148g) from a late medieval reduced ware lid-seated jar (TLMS3). The latter is likely to be residual.

3.3 Ceramic building material

Ceramic building material derived entirely from quarry pit [203]. The upper fill (204) contained two sand tempered fragments of peg tile (404g) and a possible nib tile (183g) of late medieval/post-medieval date, a piece of late medieval glazed ridge tile (93g) from Potterspury (Northants.), and a fragment of modern flat roof tile (186g). The basal fill (207) yielded two late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile fragments (223g).

3.4 Other finds

A piece of oyster shell (7g) derived from the fill of modern wall foundation cut [112]. Animal bone comprises a metatarsal and horn fragment (36g) of unknown



species, recovered from the basal fill of quarry pit [203]. The latter also contained two iron objects, provisionally identified as pieces of a strap hinge and chest or casket fitting, both of probable post-medieval or modern date.



4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 Introduction

The fieldwork took the form of three trenches that excavated a total of 24 linear metres (38.4m²). This equates to approximately 14% of the development area, although access to c.6m of trench was restricted by the presence of utility services. No significant palaeo-environmental remains or artefact assemblages were encountered. No datable evidence of any significant archaeological activity was identified, other than late post-medieval/modern pits and wall foundations.

4.2 Summary and Discussion of Results

Trenches 1 and 3 indicate that there is over one metre of modern build-up in the area immediately adjacent to the library and it is probable that this sample is representative of the whole of the area adjacent to the library. The original ground surface has been heavily truncated by 19th and 20th century activity. This activity has been shown to include pitting and the construction of substantial building foundations. There was little evidence of earlier activity in the form of residual artefacts, and the only suggestion of structural remains is represented by a stony layer of redeposited natural that was tentatively interpreted as robbed-out remains of a limestone wall foundation (layer (123) in Trench 1). This was less than 0.1m deep and poorly preserved. Given the nature of the deposit, and ready availability of this type of material in this area, these possible foundations cannot be dated.

Trench 2 suggested that the footprint of the former magistrates' court contains over 1.8m of modern build-up. Much of this is associated with the foundations of this building itself; however, there the remains of an earlier 20th century building also survive. It is likely that the entire area has been heavily truncated and that any activity, earlier than the late post-medieval period, has been lost. Much of this truncation can be attributed to one large pit [203] of uncertain function. The size and lack of domestic refuse within this feature can only suggest an industrial use for this feature, perhaps as a quarry pit. The lack of finds itself may indicate that this area was not intensively occupied until the 19th century. This situation is supported by the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6), which does not show any buildings along the current alignment of Verney Close in 1885.

The Jeffreys map of 1770 (Fig. 7), however, does show a range of buildings along the south-western side of the proposed development area, but that the majority of Trench 2 would have fallen within the back-yard. The earlier buildings must have been demolished during the following century, with the land reverting to open space, before being built on again. The wall foundations located in Trench 1 are likely to relate to this later phase of activity. Such relatively recent episodes of repeated redevelopment and levelling activity are likely to account for high level of truncation recorded across the site.

4.3 Significance of Results

The results of the evaluation suggest that the majority of the study area is likely to have been truncated by modern activity and that the development area is unlikely



to contain material remains dating from before the late 18th century. Therefore, the deposits on the site have little potential to answer any questions about the early historical topography of the town of Buckingham.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology, 2001, *Procedures Manual Vol 1: Fieldwork*.
- Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, 2005, *Brief for an Archaeological Field Excavation (Trial Trenching)*.
- Buckinghamshire County Museum, 1999, *Procedures for the Deposition of Archives*.
- CgMs, 2002, Archaeology Desk-Based Assessment and Trial Trench Evaluation: Land at the Grand Junction Hotel, Buckingham.
- EH, 1991, *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA, 1999a, Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA, 1999b, Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.
- Jacobs Babbie, 2005, *Buckinghamshire Knowledge Centre: Archaeological Works, Specification for a Written Scheme of Investigation and trial Trenching*. Jacobs Babbie.
- Mynard, DC, 1991, 'The Medieval and Post-medieval pottery' in DC Mynard and RJ Zeepvat, *Excavations at Great Linford 1974-80*, Bucks. Arch. Soc. Monograph Series No. 3, 245-286.
- Oxford Archaeology, 2002, *Archaeological Evaluation at Stratford House, Buckingham*.



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARIES BY TRENCH

**Trench: 1**

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.92 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 1.1 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP6968734024 Ref. 2: SP6969534017

Reason: Spatial sample of proposed development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Concrete	Cemented 0.12m thick layer of modern concrete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Tarmac	Cemented Modern tarmac layer, 0.07m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Plastic mid red brown clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Brick Rubble	Compact grey silty rubble frequent medium-large ceramic building material, occasional small concrete Backfill adjacent to courthouse wall >0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Make up layer	Compact yellow sandy gravel moderate large stones Levelling layer 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Gulley	Linear NW-SE profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min length 2.m, max breadth 0.86m, max depth 0.36m modern cut at between tarmac and concrete surfaces.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Backfill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay frequent large concrete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silty clay frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small sand, frequent small stones Possible buried garden soil, 0.30m deep.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Pit	Irregular profile: irregular dimensions: min length 2.m, min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.7m Irregular pit, full extent not visible, truncated by [110].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Main fill	Friable dark grey brown silty clay occasional small-large ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Robber trench	Linear NE-SW profile: near vertical dimensions: min length 2.m, min breadth 1.36m, min depth 0.84m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Backfill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay frequent flecks charcoal Backfill of robber trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Foundation trench	Linear NE-SW profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min length 2.m, min breadth 0.8m, max depth 1.m Foundation cut for wall (115).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Backfill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay frequent small-large ceramic building material, frequent medium-large stones 0.45M deep primary backfill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
114	Backfill	Compact yellow sandy gravel 0.68M deep secondary backfill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Wall	Compact red Soft-red, unfrogged, brick wall. 4 bricks wide. (0.42m wide by 0.98m deep)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Make up layer	Compact dark grey brown silty clay occasional medium-large ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal Build-up layer between walls (115) and (119). 1.2m wide by >0.34m deep.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Foundation trench	Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees dimensions: min length 2.m, min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.58m Foundation cut for wall (119). Cut by modern service trench, full extent not visible.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Backfill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay frequent medium-large ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Backfill of Foundation cut.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Wall	Cemented red Soft red, unfrogged brick wall. Similar to (115).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Layer	Compact dark grey brown silty clay frequent medium-large ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones Demolition/build-up layer >0.50m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Pit	Rectangular dimensions: min length 1.1m, min breadth 0.48m Possible rubbish pit of modern origin.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
122	Fill	Firm dark grey brown silty clay occasional medium-large ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal Unexcavated pit fill of modern origin.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Layer	Firm light red grey silt frequent large stones Dirty natural containing large fragments of unworked stone. Possible rubble out wall foundation <0.05m deep.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 2****Max Dimensions: Length: 12.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1.7 m.****OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP6968634032 Ref. 2: SP6967834023****Reason: Spatial sample of proposed development area.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
229	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
200	Natural	Plastic mid yellow brown silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Layer	Firm light grey white sandy chalk Layer of mortar-like material less than 0.05m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Make up layer	Compact mid grey brown silty clay frequent medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium concrete Modern build-up layer, 0.65m deep. Relationship with pit [203] unclear.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Pit	Sub-circular profile: vertical dimensions: min diameter 5.3m, max depth 2.2m Large pit. Partially excavated by machine to a depth of 3.3m BGL.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Backfill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay frequent flecks charcoal, frequent large stones Upper fill of [203].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
206	Fill	Compact dark grey black frequent small-medium charcoal Thin layer of charcoal sealing fill (207), less than 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Backfill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium ceramic building material Primary fill of pit [203], c.1m deep.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
208	Levelling layer	Compact sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Feature	Dimensions: min length 1.2m, min breadth 0.6m Unexcavated modern pit or linear feature. Full extent not visible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Fill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay occasional small-large concrete	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
217	Foundation trench	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.6m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Concrete	Cemented Concrete foundation for wall (218).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	Backfill	Compact grey silty sand frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Backfill	Grey silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
218	Wall	Cemented red Modern brick wall on concrete foundation (214).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
219	Surface	Compact sandy gravel frequent large ceramic building material Modern brick surface on sandy gravel sub-base.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
220	Surface	Compact sandy gravel frequent large ceramic building material Modern brick surface on sandy gravel sub-base.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
221	Foundation trench	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.7m, min length 1.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Wall	Cemented red Soft red brick wall. Modern.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Backfill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay frequent small-large ceramic building material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Backfill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium ceramic building material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
222	Concrete	Cemented Concrete wall foundation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
223	Surface	Compact mid grey brown silty clay frequent medium-large stones Possible cobbled surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
224	Make up layer	Compact dark grey brown clay silt frequent medium-large ceramic building material, occasional small-medium concrete Included frequent modern demolition rubble.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
225	Make up layer	Compact grey sandy silt frequent small-large ceramic building material, frequent small-large concrete Rubble layer.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
226	Make up layer	Compact sandy gravel Sub-base for concrete layer (227).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.00 m. Width: 2.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1.7 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP6968634032 Ref. 2: SP6967834023

Reason: Spatial sample of proposed development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
227	Concrete	Cemented concrete Concrete slab. 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
228	Pit	Profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.5m Possible pit that truncates pit [203]. Relationship unclear, full extent not seen.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Fill	Compact light grey white silty chalk Thin layer of lime-like material, less than 0.1m thick above (206).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

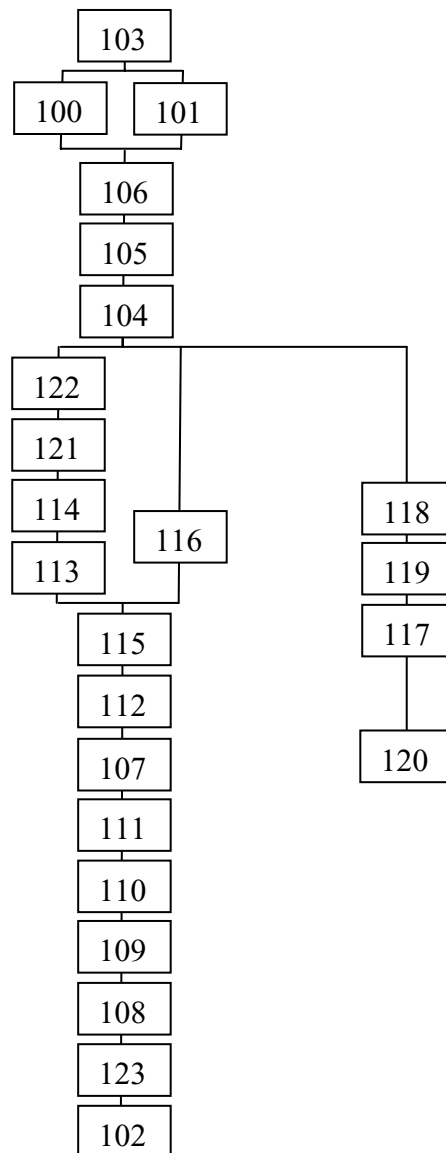
**Trench: 3****Max Dimensions: Length: 4.50 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.4 m. Max: 1.4 m.****OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP6969034019 Ref. 2: SP6968734016****Reason: Excavated at request of BCC AO to improve archaeological sample of proposed development area.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Natural	Plastic mid yellow brown clay Undisturbed geological layer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Buried topsoil	Compact dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones Probable buried topsoil.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Pit	Rectangular dimensions: min length 1.3m, min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium ceramic building material Pit fill of domestic refuse. Same as (109).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
304	Foundation trench	Linear NW-SE profile: vertical Modern cut not fully excavated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Backfill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Modern backfill including glass, china and clinker. Modern finds not retrieved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Backfill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal Modern backfill. Very similar to (305).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Backfill	Compact mid orange brown silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
316	Fill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
318	Fill	Loose dark brown grey silty clay frequent large stones Relation ship with 319 unclear. Modern China present but not recovered.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
319	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay Relationship with 318 unclear.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Pit	Sub-circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 1.4m, max depth 0.55m Modern pit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Fill	Loose mid yellow brown sandy silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	Layer	Loose black Layer of coal waste generally less than 0.1m deep, becoming deeper to NE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
311	Levelling layer	Compact dark orange brown sandy gravel Levelling layer, generally 0.1m thick but deeper at NE end.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	Buried topsoil	Loose dark grey brown clay loam Truncated by (313).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	Brick Rubble	Firm sandy gravel frequent medium-large ceramic building material Levelling layer for tarmac surface (314)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
314	Tarmac	Black Modern tarmac surface, 0.07m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
315	Layer	Mid yellow brown silty clay frequent large stones Dirty natural containing fragments of unworked limestone and mortar.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
317	Layer	Compact silty clay frequent small sand, frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



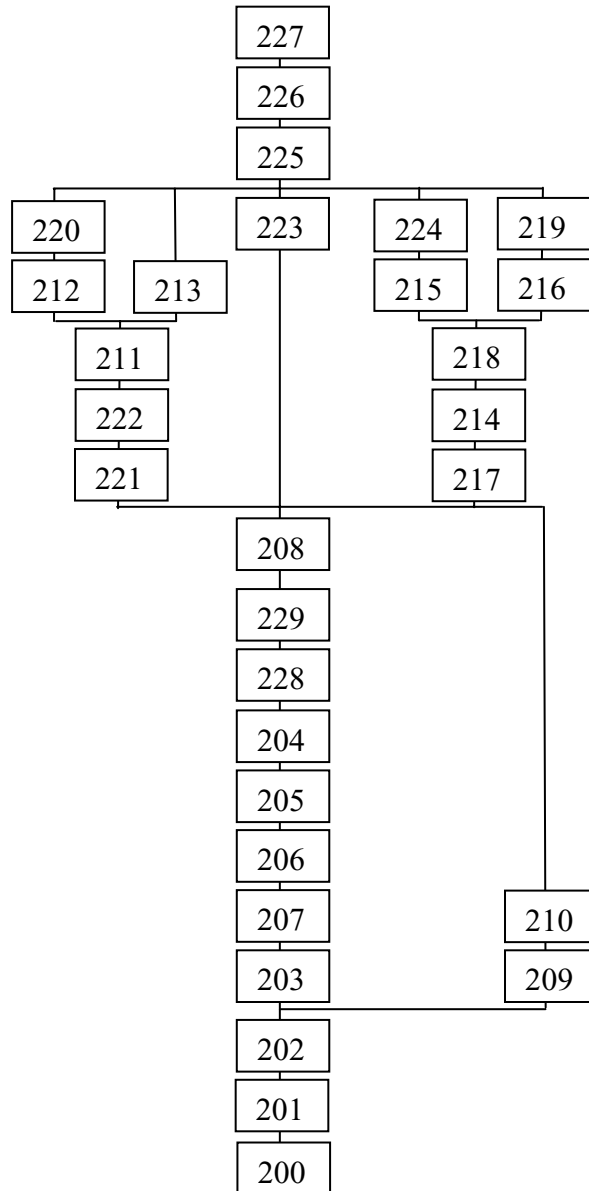
APPENDIX 2: TRENCH MATRICES

Trench 1 Matrix



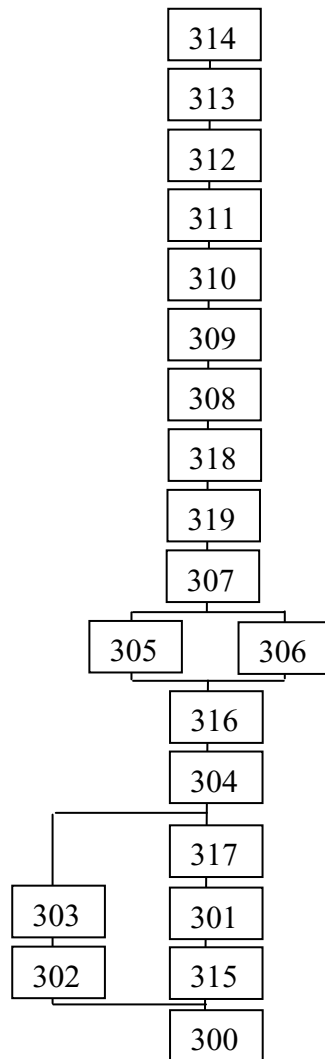


Trench 2 Matrix





Trench 3 Matrix





APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE DETAILS

Archive Summaries for Buckinghamshire Knowledge Centre

Site Code: BK119 **Albion Project:** 1119 **Project Type:** Archaeological
Evaluation

County: Buckinghamshire **Parish:** Buckingham
Project Officer: Ben Barker

OSGridRef SP69693401 **Work Stage:** Awaiting Archive
Start 20/10/2005

Museum Buckinghamshire County Museum **Accession No.:** 2006.1

Archive, Reporting and Bibliography

Albion Archaeology Report Details

Report No.: 2005/49 **Report Type:** Design
Title: Buckingham Knowledge Centre, Buckinghamshire: Tender for Archaeological Trial Trenching

Report No.: 2005/58 **Report Type:** Design
Title: Buckingham Knowledge Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham: Written Scheme of Investigation

Report No.: 2005/79 **Report Type:** Evaluation
Title: Buckingham Knowledge Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham: Archaeological Field Evaluation

Find and Archive

CLASS	TYPE	NUMBER
Bulk finds (boxes)	all finds	1
Photographic data	digital image	1
	film	1
Structural data	context	74
	field drawings	3
	management & project records	1

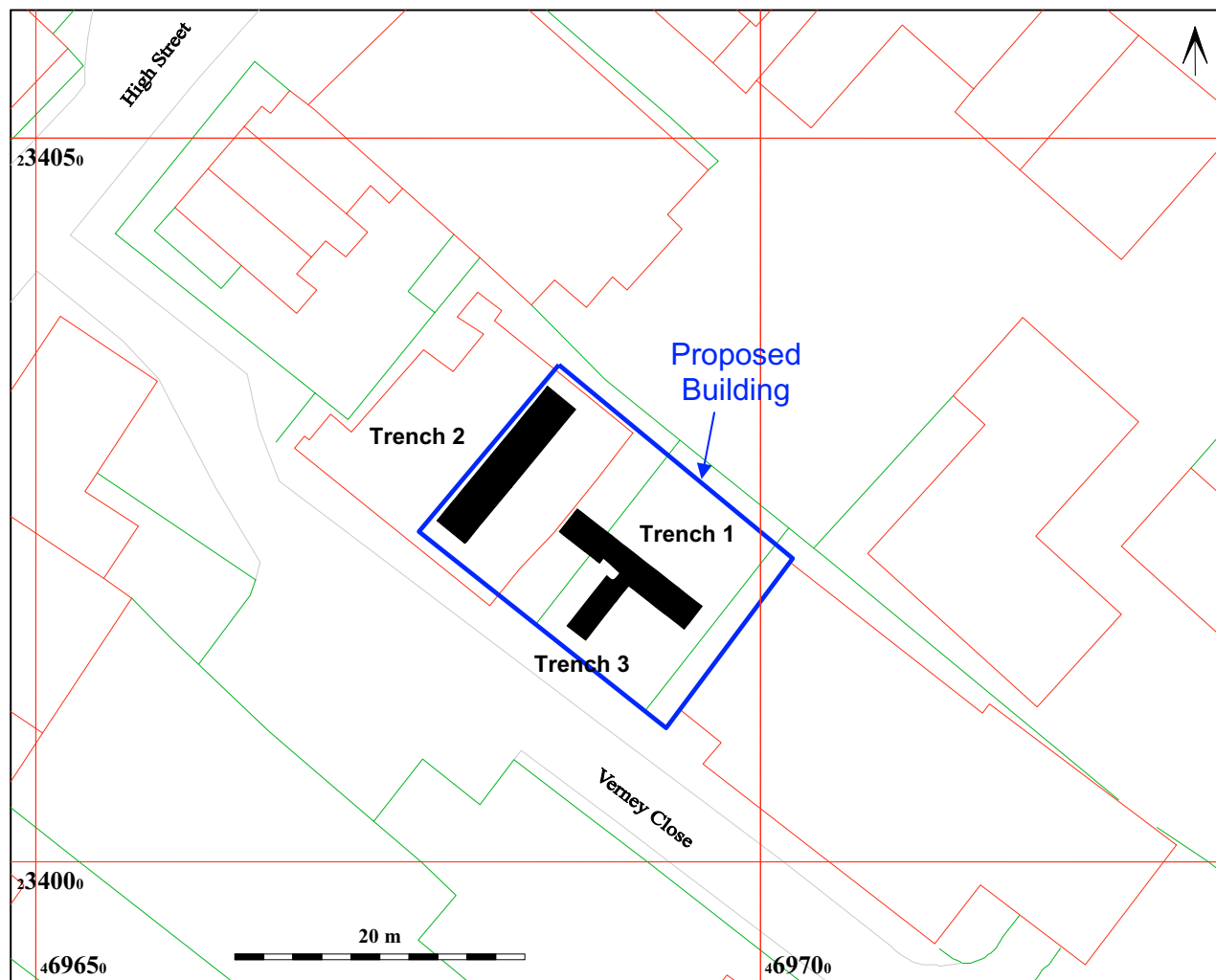
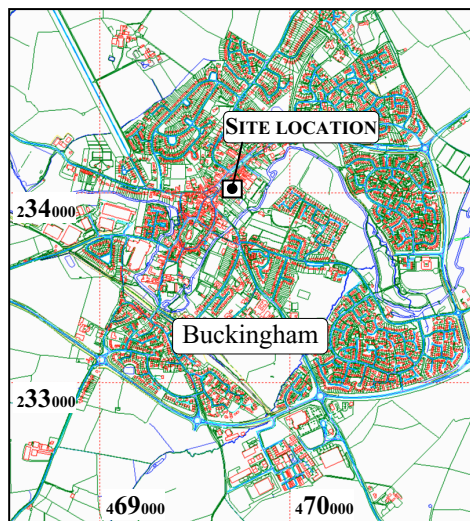
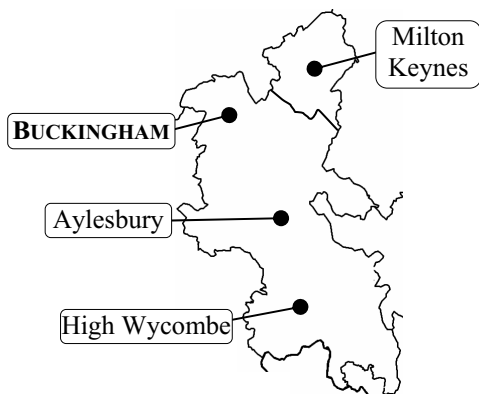
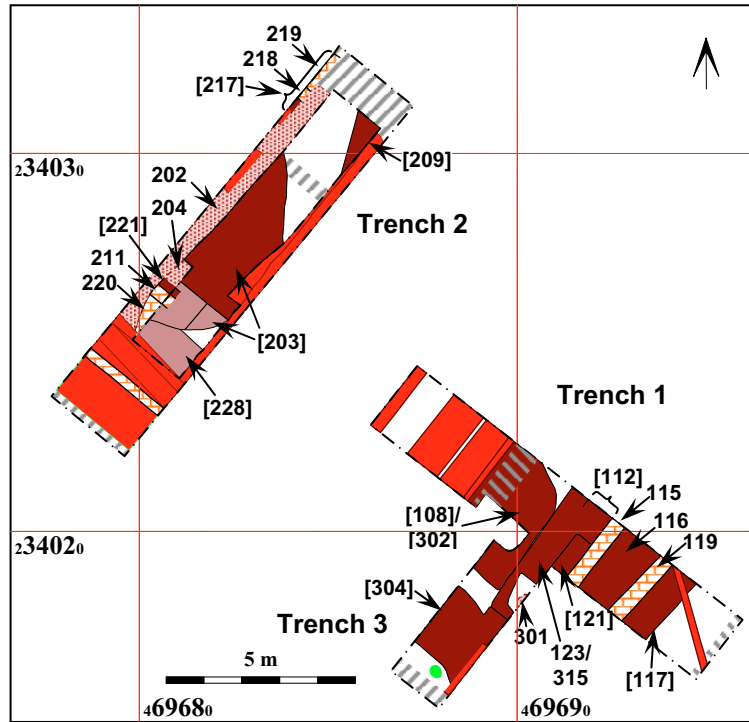


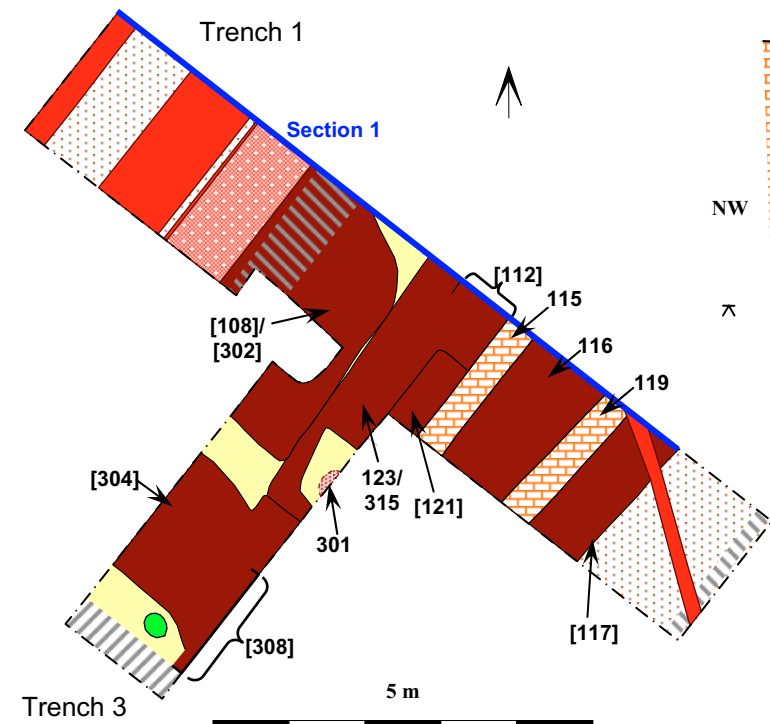
Figure 1: Site location

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. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.

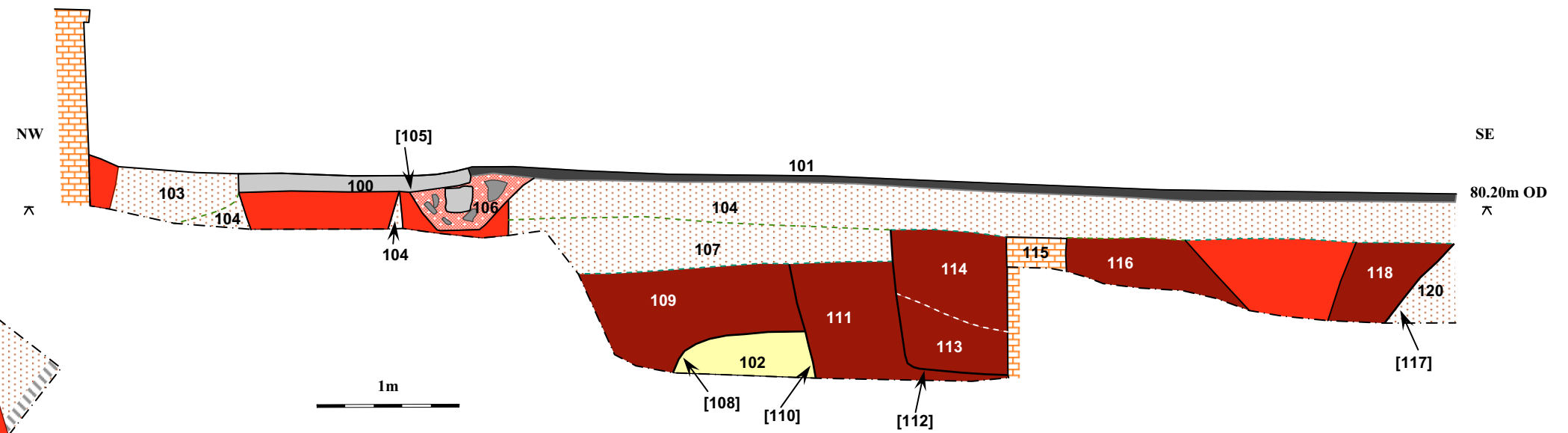


- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Feature; excavated segment
- Masonry
- Modern feature / service
- Tree throw hole
- Layer
- Steeply sloping change in level/edge of trench

Figure 2: All features



Plan of trenches 1 and 3



Section 1: South-west facing section of trench 1



Photograph showing cuts [105], [110], and [112]



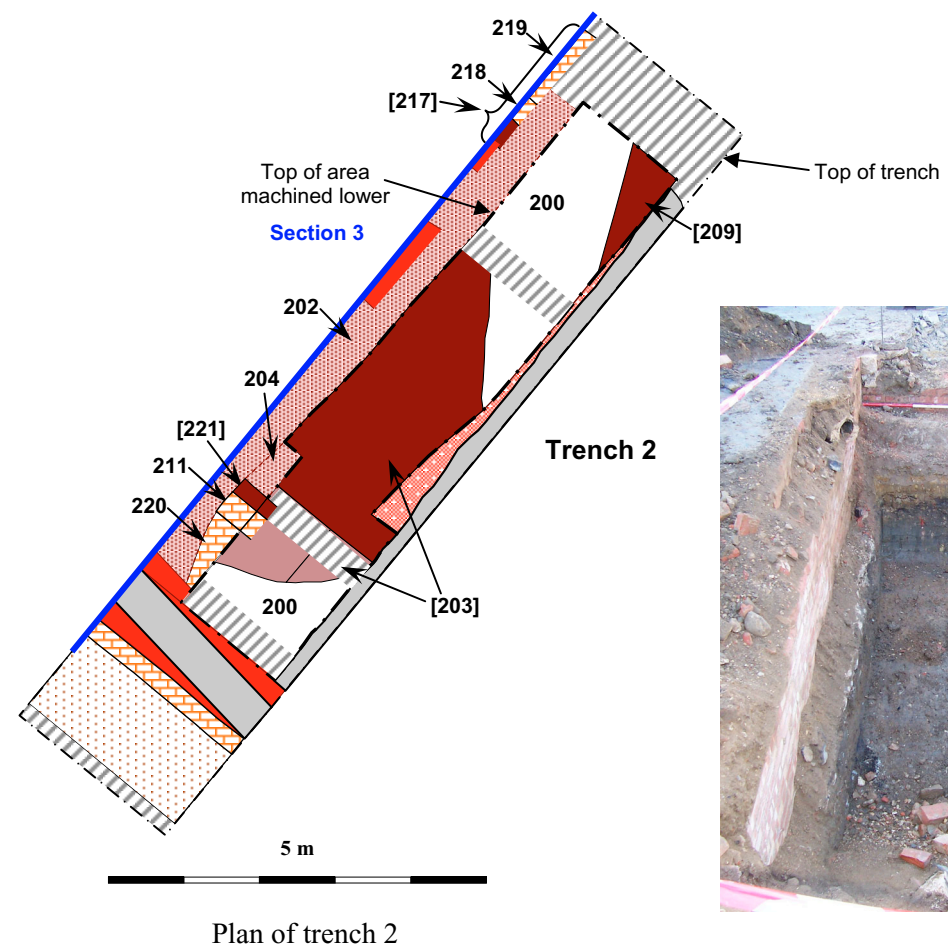
Trench 1, looking north-west. scale 1m



Trench 1, looking south-east. scale 1m

- Archaeological Feature
- Masonry
- Layer
- Natural
- Service
- Modern feature
- Concrete
- Tarmac
- Stones
- Root hole
- Steeply sloping change in level/edge of trench

Figure 3: Trench 1



Trench 2, south-west half, looking south-west. scales 2m



Photograph showing cuts [228], [221], and [203] scales 2m



Photograph showing cuts [217] and [203] scales 2m



Machine-dug sondage through cut [203]



Hand-dug segment of [203]. scale 1m

Trench 1, looking north-west. scale 1m

- Archaeological Feature
- Excavated archaeological Feature
- Masonry
- Layer
- Natural
- Service
- Modern feature
- Concrete
- Steeply sloping change in level/edge of trench

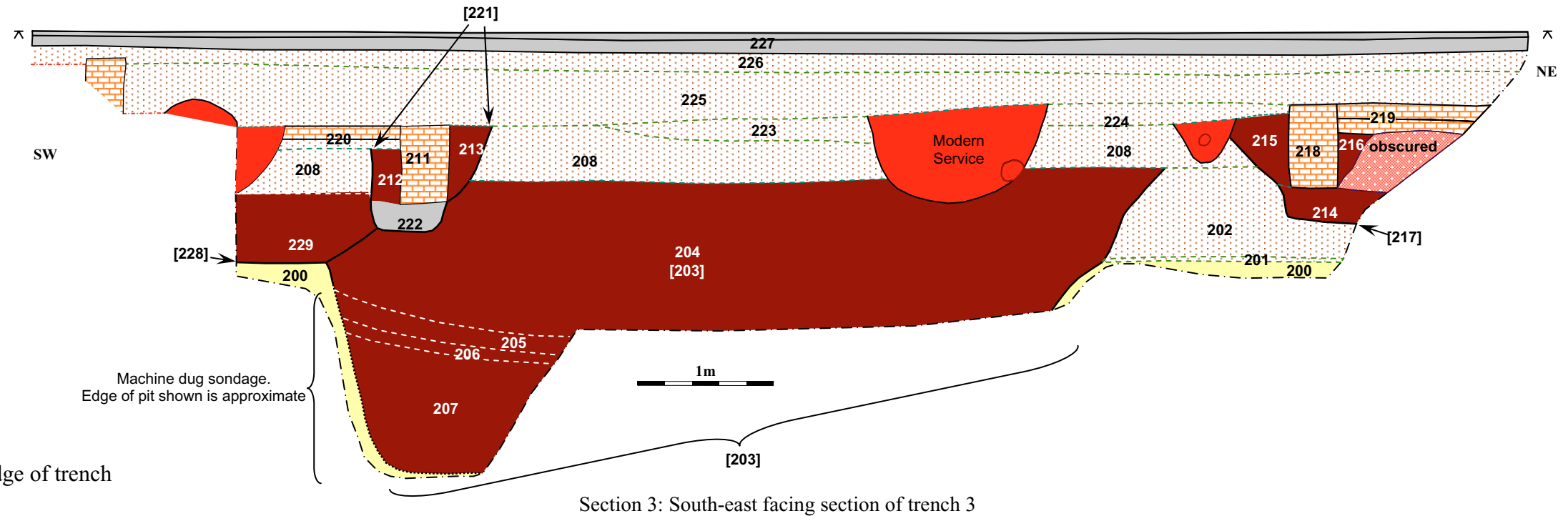
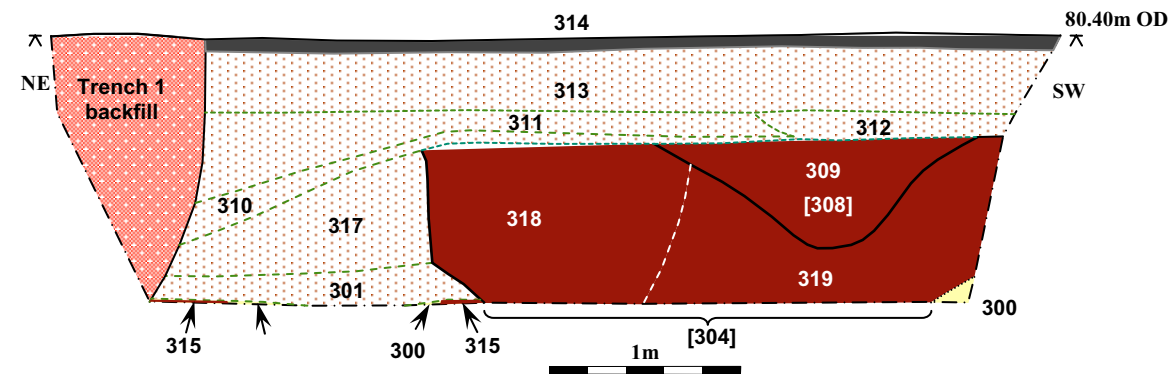
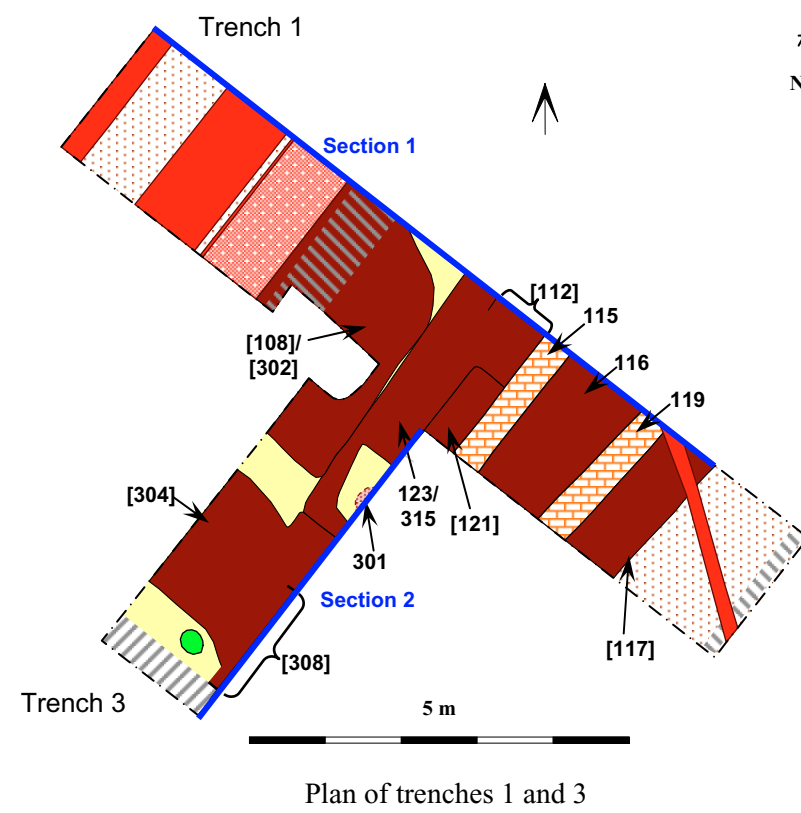


Figure 4: Trench 2



Photograph showing cuts [304] and [308]. scale 2m



Trench 3, looking north-east. scale 1m

- Archaeological Feature
- Masonry
- Layer
- Natural
- Service
- Modern feature
- Concrete
- Tarmac
- Root hole
- Steeply sloping change in level/edge of trench

Figure 5: Trench 3

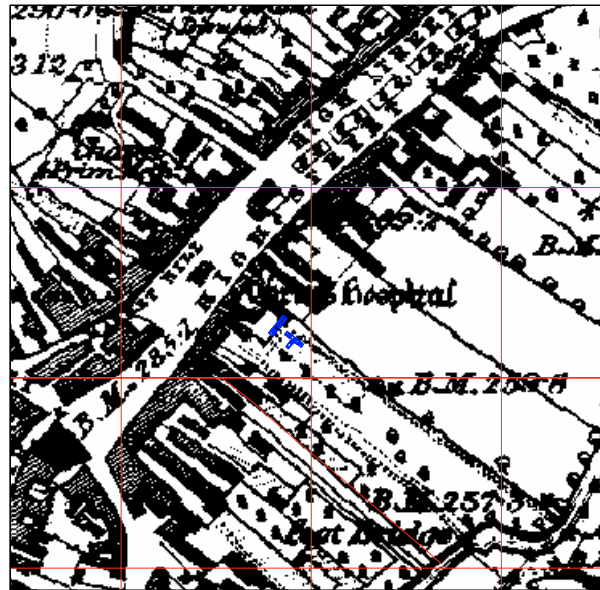


Figure 6: Trenches overlaid on 1st ed os map



Figure 7: Trenches overlaid on Jeffrey's map 1770