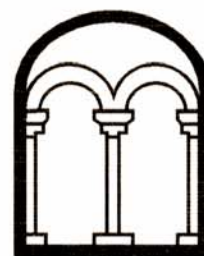


**SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL  
SCHOOL LANE  
SHEFFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OPEN AREA EXCAVATIONS  
AND OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING 2012-2013  
FINAL REPORT**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL  
SCHOOL LANE  
SHEFFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OPEN AREA EXCAVATIONS  
AND OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING 2012-2013  
FINAL REPORT**

Project: SLS 2012

Document: 2014/50  
Version: 1.0

25th March 2014

Produced for:  
Central Bedfordshire Council

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2014, *all rights reserved*



## ***Contents***

---

<b>NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Project background	7
1.2 Status and purpose of this report	7
1.3 Site location and description	7
1.4 Archaeological background	8
1.5 Project/research objectives	9
<b>2 FIELDWORK IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Car park	11
2.2 Northern playground	11
2.3 Southern playground	11
2.4 Tank area	11
2.5 Eastern extension	11
2.6 Western extension	12
2.7 Drainage pipe trenches	12
<b>3 RESULTS BY AREA</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1 Car park – Area 1	13
3.2 Northern playground – Area 2	13
3.3 Southern playground – Area 3	14
3.4 Drainage pipe trenches – Area 4	15
3.5 Tank area – Area 5	16
3.6 Eastern extension – Area 6	16
3.7 Western extension – Area 7	17
3.8 Internal works - Area 8	18
<b>4 FINDS SUMMARY</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1 Pottery	19
4.2 Ceramic building material	22



4.3	Fired clay	22
4.4	Non-ceramic finds	23
4.5	Registered Artefacts	23
4.6	Ecofacts	24
<b>5</b>	<b>CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY</b>	<b>25</b>
5.1	Romano-British settlement	25
5.2	Medieval	26
5.3	Modern	26
<b>6</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA BY AREA</b>	<b>29</b>

### ***List of Figures***

Figure 1: Site location and location of fieldwork components

Figure 2: Area 1 — car park extension

Figure 3: Area 2 — northern playground

Figure 4: Areas 3 — southern playground

Figure 5: Area 4 — drainage pipe trench

Figure 6: Area 5 — tank area

Figure 7: Area 6 — eastern extension

Figure 8: Areas 7 and 8 — western extension and internal works

Figure 9: Simplified plan showing basic layout of the Roman settlement, based on all archaeological investigations in the vicinity

*The 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 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.*

## **Acknowledgements**

*The project was commissioned by Helen Konstantinidi of Central Bedfordshire Council Assets and managed by Mike Luke (Project Manager) and Ben Barker (Project Officer) for Albion Archaeology. All fieldwork was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.*

*Thanks are due to Barton Civils, Modplan, Rowan Groundworks and SDC for their co-operation and assistance over the course of the project.*

*The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Barker (Project Officer), Jo Barker, Kathy Pilkinton and Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisors), with the assistance of Victoria Hainsworth, Gary Manning, Gareth Shane, Chris Tombe, and Juha Vuorinen (Archaeological Technicians). GPS surveying was carried out by Mercedes Planas and metal detecting by Archie Gillespie.*

*Ben Barker prepared this report with contributions from Joan Lightning (illustrations), Jackie Wells (ceramic finds), Holly Duncan (non-ceramic artefacts). The report was edited by Mike Luke (Project Manager) and approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

## **Version History**

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>25/03/2014</i>	<i>n/a</i>

## **Key Terms**

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council archaeologist
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Between December 2012 and December 2013 Albion Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording and two open area excavations at Shefford Lower School, School Lane, Shefford, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0903 4624). This report presents the results of these investigations.*

*The school lies in an area of a known heritage asset comprised of a Roman settlement which is known to contain several buildings including an aisled building with heated rooms, potential temple and burial ground. For this reason a condition was attached to the planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2012) that was approved by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.*

*The two extensions to the school were investigated as open area investigations. Improvements to the existing car park, internal works and the construction of two additional playgrounds, a tank area, and associated drainage pipe trench were monitored and investigated. Whilst the car park improvement did not impact on the archaeological horizon, the two playground areas revealed a large expanse of Roman quarry pitting, boundary ditches and traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Investigation of the tank area and drainage trenches identified an extensive Roman boundary which is likely to have defined the western limit of the settlement's domestic focus (Luke et al. 2010). Investigation of the eastern school building extension identified another boundary ditch which, given its substantial nature, may have defined the eastern boundary of the domestic focus. It produced a significant artefact assemblage dating mainly to the 2nd to 3rd century AD. The western extension was heavily disturbed by modern activity but yielded additional evidence for internal boundary ditches and quarry pits. The limited internal works within the present school buildings identified a posthole associated with a significant dump of Roman building material. This was further evidence for post-built buildings found in previous investigations.*

*The investigations have confirmed that, despite considerable modern disturbance, Roman features do survive within Shefford Lower School. The features and artefacts add to the existing knowledge of the Roman settlement and are relevant to a number of regional research objectives. However, given that the earlier, more substantial investigations of the settlement have already been published in the county archaeological journal, no further analysis and reporting of the recent work is required, beyond that presented in this document. Summaries of the work will be published in the relevant journals and the archive will be deposited in Bedford Museum under accession number BEDFM: 2012.46.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 *Project background*

Shefford Lower School were granted planning permission (CB/12/00938/FULL) for extensions and alterations to the existing school buildings, the creation of two new outdoor play areas (involving the removal of an existing soil bund) and the extension of existing car parking.

The school lies in an area with a high density of known heritage assets, characterised by a high status Roman settlement, including an aisled building, potential temple and burial ground (see Section 1.4). For this reason a condition (5) was attached to the planning consent, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication prior to the development.

This is in accordance with the national planning guidelines in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, which was published on 27 March 2012 and replaces the previous Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

The CBCA issued a brief for the works (CBC 2012) which stipulated that the archaeological works were to comprise a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication.

Central Bedfordshire Council commissioned Albion Archaeology to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2012) for the required works which was then approved by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.

### 1.2 *Status and purpose of this report*

This document presents the results of the archaeological investigations undertaken between December 2012 and December 2013, as required by the CBCA and in compliance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2012). It also describes the background to the project, and the scope and implications of the work, which sometimes had a bearing on whether or not the archaeological level was reached.

### 1.3 *Site location and description*

Shefford Lower School lies on the western side of Shefford, to the south of the Ampthill Road (Fig. 1). The development works were to the west and north of the school with an additional new structure in the south-east part of the building complex. School buildings, playgrounds, grassed open areas and a soil bund occupied the site of the proposed works. The site of the school is centred on TL 1376 3873.

Topographically the site lies on the north-facing slope of a low east-west ridge between the River Flit (to the north) and a tributary stream to the south at a height of c.40m OD. The geology of the site is Lower Greensand with Valley Gravels and alluvium associated with the River Flit and localised deposits of Boulder Clay.



## 1.4 Archaeological background

Shefford Lower School is situated within an area of known archaeological remains (HER 379). These have been investigated on various occasions over the last 200 years and are summarised below.

During gravel extraction in 1826 a local antiquarian, Thomas Inskip, identified what he believed to be a walled Roman cemetery (Inskip 1850). The location of his investigations has been estimated, based on his sketch maps, to be in the vicinity of 95 Amphill Road which lies 150m to the north-west of Shefford Lower School (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 2). The cemetery included cremation burials, grave goods including complete pottery vessels, such as Samian ware and amphora, as well as glass and bronze vessels with coins and other metal objects.

In the 1830s Inskip examined an area some 220m south-east of the cemetery (Dryden 1845). Here he located a possibly rectangular Roman building, interpreted at the time as a temple. An assessment of his description of the location of his finds would place this building in the immediate vicinity of the original Robert Bloomfield Primary School, less than 50m north of the present site (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 2).

Artefacts continued to be found in this area of Shefford. There are unconfirmed reports of the discovery of Roman armour during the construction of the new school (present location of Shefford Lower School) to the south in 1872.

Later, in the summer of 1940, Edgar Gray excavated two trenches during levelling of the school field (recorded in the Victoria County History). Behind the garden of 77a Amphill Road he located the remains of a Roman building which included a hypocausted room. Simco believed this building was the same as that previously claimed by Inskip as a temple (Simco 1984).

More recently, in 1976, artefacts and material of Roman date were found during the construction of a school extension.

After the implementation of PPG16 in 1990 all subsequent development in the vicinity of HER 379 was subject to archaeological evaluation. A large number of these were carried out by Albion Archaeology and comprise Albion project numbers 244, 365, 412, 583, 665, 694 and 773. Three of these, projects 244, 694 and 773 proceeded to detailed investigations. The findings of these investigations and a re-interpretation of Inskip's and Gray's discoveries have been published in Bedfordshire Archaeology (Luke *et al.* 2010).

Project 365 comprised trial trenching and test pitting, undertaken in 1993 in advance of construction of a new school access road and car park (BCAS 1993). Roman features including ditches, pits and postholes were identified. The recovered artefacts included a wide range of pottery and metal objects. Although no Roman buildings were clearly identified the recovery of tile, brick, *opus signinum*, mortar and painted wall plaster suggests that 'high status' Roman buildings existed in the vicinity. A subsequent watching brief (Project 445), carried out during construction of the car park, located a 4m-wide Roman ditch but the ground was not taken down to archaeological levels over the whole area.





In 2001, excavations in advance of housing development on land immediately to the north of the school (Project 773, Albion 2001), revealed substantial Roman remains. These included an aisled building, cobbled surfaces, a substantial boundary ditch and a substantial quantity of pottery, ceramic building material including hypocaust tile, along with mortar and painted plaster (Luke *et al.* 2010).

Archaeological evaluation undertaken in February 2003 (Albion 2003) in advance of major building work for the school revealed coherent Roman remains. The evaluated areas were examined in advance of construction during January-May 2004 (three areas) and January 2005 (one area) (Project 893, Albion 2005).

The earliest firm evidence for settlement was in the form of a substantial ditch which possibly originated in the late Iron Age but continued in use throughout the Roman period (Luke *et al.* 2010, 323 and fig. 18). A post-built building, pits and gullies dated to the Roman period were also located within the settlement enclosure during the 2004 investigation (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 6). A second enclosure was located to the west of a possible routeway and this contained a large number of quarry pits and a dog burial (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 6). The investigations recovered a substantial quantity of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, along with mortar and painted plaster indicating the presence of a high status building.

Excavations on the school playing fields to the south of the school revealed further archaeological remains in the form of a field boundary ditch, probably some distance from the main settlement. The ditch contained a small fragment of a 1st-century glass vessel (Walker 2007). Further excavations revealed two smaller Roman boundary ditches and substantial disturbance by modern services (Flavell 2010 and Jones 2012).

### 1.5 **Project/research objectives**

English Heritage has produced an extensive library of national guides covering a wide range of topics, and most of these are available for free download from the HELM website.

Research frameworks that have been devised for the region are Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011) and specifically for Bedfordshire: Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy (Oake *et al.* 2007).

Both documents come in two parts: the first provides a comprehensive chronological review of the historic environment as investigated so far within Bedfordshire and the eastern counties; the second establishes a research agenda and strategy for future investigations and for consolidating and integrating current knowledge.

The development area is part of a high status Roman settlement with evidence for Roman burials nearby and ceramic evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age and potentially even Saxon occupation of the site.

Both the local and regional research agendas state that little detailed work has so far been carried out on the characterisation of Iron Age and Roman rural settlements, specifically on the form and significance of Roman farms (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19; Oake *et al.* 2007, 11). Medlycott particularly highlights the question of the



frequency of aisled buildings within the region and their use (Medlycott 2011, 47). Questions of the Iron Age to Roman transition within the county could also be addressed (Medlycott 2011).

The development areas at Shefford Lower School lie both within and outside the main Roman settlement enclosure ditch identified in previous investigations.

The specific research objectives of the investigation were:

- To further characterise settlement features within the enclosure and to add to our knowledge of the form and character of the settlement;
- To identify the nature of potential occupation outside the main settlement enclosure ditch;
- To reveal potential further evidence of the trackway and quarry pits to the west of the enclosure and possible activity by the side of the trackway;
- To potentially identify the nature and location of the Iron Age and/or Saxon settlement components.

The general purpose of the archaeological investigation was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the application site;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the application site.
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



## 2 FIELDWORK IMPLEMENTATION

---

The construction works that were subject to archaeological monitoring and investigation comprised ground reduction for alterations to the car park, two new playgrounds, building extensions, and a holding tank with an associated system of drains.

The works were undertaken by Modplan and SDC, on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council. Albion Archaeology liaised with the contractors to ensure that safe and appropriate access to the works was maintained. The archaeological investigation was undertaken intermittently, linked to the different constructions works.

This report will use the following key terms to distinguish the different areas of archaeological investigation: car park, northern playground, southern playground, tank area, eastern extension, western extension and drainage pipe trenches. Their locations are shown on Figure 1.

### 2.1 *Car park*

Four areas were subject to ground reduction of 0.2–0.5m before the construction of additional parking bays.

### 2.2 *Northern playground*

Following the removal of an existing bund, the area was reduced from the pre-existing ground surface by 0.25–1.15m. This area was later crossed by three adjoining drain pipe trenches, measuring 0.45m wide x 0.9m deep with a combined length of *c.* 47m.

### 2.3 *Southern playground*

This area was reduced from the pre-existing ground surface by 0.25–0.8m after the removal of a bund. The drainage pipes for this area were situated within the make-up/levelling deposits of the new playground construction and did not impact on the archaeological horizon.

### 2.4 *Tank area*

The tank area was 20m long and 10m wide. It was stripped to the archaeological horizon, at a depth of *c.* 0.8m below ground level to facilitate archaeological investigation before being further reduced to formation level.

### 2.5 *Eastern extension*

The eastern extension (Orchard Classroom) comprised an area of *c.* 10m by 8m. It was stripped to the archaeological horizon, at a depth of *c.* 0.8m below ground level, and was archaeologically investigated before being further reduced to formation level.

A *c.* 7.5m by 2.25m extension to an existing classroom immediately to the north-east of the Orchard Classroom was also investigated. A machine-dug test pit demonstrated that the formation level of the extension was *c.* 0.4m above the archaeological horizon. Given the negligible impact of the works, the CBCA gave consent that in this area only the strip foundation trenches required archaeological observation.



## **2.6 Western extension**

The western extension (Dining Room) comprised an investigation area of *c.* 35m by 17.5m. It was stripped to the archaeological horizon, at a depth of *c.* 0.8m below ground level, and was archaeologically investigated before being further reduced to formation level. Some parts of the area had been heavily disturbed by previous construction works and part of it had been previously investigated. The south-west corner of the extension comprised a canopy that was constructed on pads and, therefore, only the excavation of the construction pits was monitored.

## **2.7 Drainage pipe trenches**

The most extensive drainage pipe trench was *c.* 450m long and ran from Shefford Lower School, through the Robert Bloomfield Academy sports field to the A507. It ranged from 0.5m wide by 1m deep by the A507 to 1m wide by 3m deep at the northern end within the school. It was interrupted at directional change points by eight manholes which were *c.* 2.8m square and *c.* 3m deep. The depth of the trench and use of shoring boxes prevented any archaeological cleaning or investigation of the sides of the trench beyond a depth of 1.2m.

A smaller drainage pipe trench ran to the north-east side of the southern playground. It was 10.5m long, 0.45m wide and *c.* 0.9m deep. At its western limit, a 0.9m deep 1.5m wide manhole pit was excavated.

Further drainage trenches were excavated in the summer of 2013 during the second phase of the development project. These comprised a drain run along the southern edge of the existing school and a foul sewer trench that linked in to the existing eastern outfall system at the eastern end of the school.



### 3 RESULTS BY AREA

---

For ease of reference the following section describes the results of the investigations within the associated construction area. Where archaeological features were identified these are, where possible, linked to previous investigations to provide a wider sphere of reference.

In addition, an attempt has been made to make clear where areas, or parts of areas, were not reduced to the level of the natural geology — thereby allowing no possibility to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological features. This was typically the case where there was a proven presence of a buffer of at least 0.3m between the construction foundation/formation level and the underlying geology — such a buffer being sufficient to protect underlying deposits (as detailed in the WSI). In addition, in the case of the quarry pits, which were proved to be amorphous and deep features, only upper fills were investigated as that was all that was required to mitigate any constructional impacts. Each occurrence of this was agreed on site with the CBCA.

#### 3.1 Car park – Area 1

(Fig. 2)

Although spatially relatively large, the depth of the formation level within the four areas was usually only 0.4m below the current ground surface. Therefore, an archaeological test pit was dug to ascertain the thickness of modern make-up (88) overlying the possible archaeological horizon. This determined that undisturbed natural geology occurred at a depth of 0.5m below the formation level and, therefore, all construction work and their impacts would take place within made ground. Once this had been established within each area of the car park, archaeological monitoring ceased.

#### 3.2 Northern playground – Area 2

(Fig. 3)

##### 3.2.1 Overburden and natural geology

The topsoil (89) within the area of the northern playground was a dark brownish black silty loam; the subsoil (90) consisted of a mid orange-brown silty clay. Together these were c. 0.5m thick and over most of the area they overlay the natural geological layer (94) which was a light yellowish brown silty clay. A modern make-up layer (91) existed in the north-east corner of the playground area and was not removed. It consisted of dark brownish black silty clay with patches of modern brick, concrete and bottle glass fragments.

##### 3.2.2 Roman quarry pit

After machining to formation level, a large subsoil-like deposit was exposed occupying the majority of the eastern side of the playground. This is likely to have been the homogeneous upper fill of an expanse of multiple inter-cutting quarry pits [53]. No definition of individual pits was possible. The pitting covered an area of approximately 14m east to west, by 24m north to south and continued eastwards beyond the limit of investigation.



A machine-dug test pit demonstrated that there was no change in the composition of this deposit for at least 0.3m below formation level, so no further archaeological hand excavation was undertaken. However, the monitoring of drainage pipe trenches dug through the area as part of a later stage of construction works identified a dark charcoal-rich deposit (55) that contained a small quantity of domestic refuse. This comprised one sherd (38g) of 2nd-century Roman pottery, a possible quern fragment (RA 2), a tiny fragment (1g) of vessel glass and 37g of animal bone.

### 3.2.3 Medieval furrows

Three parallel NNW-SSE aligned furrows (92) were located within the northern playground area. They were *c.* 4m wide by 0.3m deep.

## 3.3 Southern playground – Area 3

(Fig. 4)

### 3.3.1 Overburden and natural geology

The topsoil (6) within this area was a dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional modern brick, tile and bottle glass fragments. The subsoil (8) consisted of mid brown-orange silty clay with occasional small stones and modern ceramic building material. Together these layers were *c.* 0.5m thick and over most of the area overlay the natural geological layer (9), which comprised a light orange silty clay. It was only exposed in to the north and west of the play area where the formation level was deeper than the subsoil (8) and levelling layer (7). Modern levelling layer (7) was present in the eastern part of the area, possibly associated with a previous construction compound. It consisted of dark grey brown clay silt with modern concrete, brick, tile and bottle glass fragments. A test pit demonstrated that in places the subsoil and levelling layer were at least 0.3m below formation level, so archaeological investigations were restricted to the shallower area to the west.

### 3.3.2 Roman quarry pits

A group of at least six inter-cutting pits [11], [20], [23], [32], [43] and [47] cut into the natural geological layer was identified. However, the homogeneity of their backfill probably means that a greater number were present. Where visible the pits were sub-oval in plan with steep sides. The quarry pits continued beyond the limit of excavation and hand excavation ceased at a depth of 1.2m for health and safety reasons.

The pits contained deposits that varied from light grey orange silty clay to dark brown grey clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks. The fill sequence was often irregular in section, suggesting deliberate and rapid backfilling. They contained small quantities of domestic debris, for example pits [11], [23] and [32] only produced three sherds of Roman pottery. They also produced a single fragment of Roman brick, animal bone, burnt stones and coal.

The large extent of the pits, their inter-cutting nature, and the fact that they had been deliberately back-filled (though not with domestic debris) suggest that they represent quarrying. The presence, albeit in small numbers, of only Roman finds and the proximity of a Roman boundary ditch (see Section 3.5.3) indicate that they are of this period. It is likely that as each new pit was quarried, any unwanted material was simply thrown back into an existing open pit. Although it is uncertain what exactly



was being quarried, a light grey seam of clay was observed in this area and may have sought after as a building material, possibly for wattle and daub type construction.

### **3.4 Drainage pipe trenches – Area 4**

(Fig. 5)

#### **3.4.1 Overburden and natural geology**

The topsoil (1) was a dark grey brown clay silt; the subsoil (2) was mid brown orange silty clay. These overlay the natural geological layer (3)/(4), which comprised mid orange grey clay. A sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from a modern make-up layer (170) in a pipe trench in the vicinity of the eastern extension to the school.

#### **3.4.2 Geological anomaly**

A sudden change in deposits within the sports fields, c. 60m south of the southern playground, suggested the presence of a large feature [50] (for location see Fig. 1). However, the 3m depth of the pipe trench prevented access for hand investigation. Observations suggest that no definite edges to the feature were visible but it may have been c. 15m in extent. The machine-excavated spoil was examined for artefacts but none were found. This, the indeterminate edges and thin horizontal laminations of slightly different colour observed in its fill suggest that the feature is likely to have been geological in origin.

#### **3.4.3 Roman ditches**

Monitoring of the E-W drainage run to the south of the school identified three NE-SW aligned Roman ditches: [82], [162] and [165].

To the east, ditch [165] was 0.8m wide, 0.3m deep and contained four fragments of Roman tile and three sherds of Roman pottery. It is probably the continuation of a ditch found in the 2011 investigations, although the latter is shown as a curving feature (Jones 2012, fig. 3). Ditch [162] was located c. 22m to the west was c. 1.5m wide by 0.9m deep. It contained over 6kg of Roman tile, three sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of stone roof tile. It is likely to have been the continuation of ditch G101 in the 2006 investigations further to the north (Luke *et al.* 2010, 282 and fig. 6). Ditch [82] was located c. 24m west of [162] and was also found in Area 5 (see below where it is described in more detail).

#### **3.4.4 Modern features**

Feature [84] was identified towards the southern limit of the main drainage pipe trench (Fig. 1). It was 0.70m wide, 0.24m deep and contained a dark brown grey clay silt deposit similar to the topsoil; it produced no artefacts. The feature is interpreted as a ditch of probable modern date based on the nature of its infilling deposit.

A modern levelling layer (5) was identified in the northern half of the sports fields. It was a light grey yellow silt, c. 0.1–1m thick. This material is likely to be re-deposited subsoil, imported to create the current terraced pitch surface.



### 3.5 Tank area – Area 5

(Fig. 6)

#### 3.5.1 Overburden and natural geology

The topsoil (79) was a dark grey brown clay silt *c.* 0.25m thick; the subsoil comprised layers (77) and (78) and was *c.* 0.5m thick. These overlay the natural geology (76) which was light orange silt clay.

#### 3.5.2 Geological anomaly

After initial hand excavation feature [86] was thought to be a possible quarry, although it contained no Roman domestic debris and was cut by a Roman ditch (see below).

Due to this uncertainty a 2m-wide machine-excavated slot was dug to a depth of 1.2m (still within the formation level of the tank). This revealed a fill sequence (64–75) that mirrored the variations in the underlying geological strata. Thus the feature is likely to be of geological origin, perhaps formed under periglacial conditions.

#### 3.5.3 Roman boundary

A NW-SE aligned ditch [80] was identified. In the two excavated segments, [59] and [61], it had a concave profile and was filled by a mid grey brown clay silt which contained sherd of undated pottery, Roman roof tile, an iron axe socket (RA1) and animal bone.

The ditch was on the same alignment as ditch [82] found within the drainage trenches to the north-west and corresponds with the projected line of Roman ditch G105, identified in the 2006 investigations further to the north (Luke *et al.* 2010, 282 and fig. 6).

### 3.6 Eastern extension – Area 6

(Fig. 7)

#### 3.6.1 Overburden and natural geology

The new Orchard Classroom was located in an area that had previously been playground but it had also been heavily disturbed by modern services and tree roots. Approximately 0.8m of modern overburden, comprising tarmac and hoggin, sealed a yellowish brown silty clay natural geological layer (122). A similar layer (153) was found within the foundation trench for the extension to the existing classroom immediately to the north-east. This was sealed below a buried modern topsoil (151), subsoil (152) and modern levelling layers (150).

#### 3.6.2 Roman boundaries

Two ditches were identified, although their stratigraphical positions indicate that they are not contemporary: NW-SE aligned ditch [110] was earlier than N-S aligned ditch [112].

Ditch [110] was *c.* 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep. Both excavated segments, [100] and [106], contained Roman tile, pottery and glass, as well a very small quantity of animal bone.





Later ditch [112] was initially interpreted as a quarry pit because it continued beyond the limit of the excavation area. It had a steep-sided, asymmetric, V-shaped profile. At more than 2.2m wide and 1.15m deep, it was significantly more substantial than ditch [110]. It is possible that the eastern edge of the ditch is represented by feature [156], observed at the western end of the nursery extension trench. If this were correct, it would make the ditch *c.* 4m wide and, therefore, the most substantial found to date within the Roman settlement.

The fills of both excavated segments through this ditch contained large quantities of domestic debris. The northern excavated segment [102] contained *c.* 6kg of pottery and *c.* 2kg of animal bone. Although the southern segment [114] contained less pottery at *c.* 1.5kg, it was still a significant quantity. Other finds from the ditch included ceramic roof tile and brick, a fragment of wall plaster, a copper alloy ring (RA 3), a copper alloy vessel handle (RA4), an iron knife (RA 6) and two fragments of quern (RAs 7 and 8).

### **3.7 Western extension – Area 7**

(Fig. 8)

#### **3.7.1 Overburden and natural geology**

The western extension of the main school building had been partially excavated within the earlier SLS893 and RB445 investigations (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 2), but it was clear that a larger area than investigated had been disturbed. Approximately 0.6m of modern overburden, comprising tarmac and Type 1 granular sub-base (205) was removed from the northern car park area and 0.2m of similar material from the playground area to the south.

Archaeological features were identified only in the southern part of the strip, in the area of the old playground. They were cut into a yellowish brown silty clay natural geological layer (206). The northern car park area had been heavily impacted by modern drainage. Several small gully-like features were investigated but discounted as natural patterned-ground formations of periglacial origin.

#### **3.7.2 Roman features**

The southern area contained an area of quarry pitting [201], a NE-SW aligned ditch [203], and the suggestion of another probable ditch [210] within one of the canopy pad pits.

Ditch [203] was aligned NE-SW but due to modern disturbance at each end was only visible for *c.* 6m. It was *c.* 1m wide by 0.5m deep and had a U-shaped profile. Three sherds of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery and a small quantity of animal bone were recovered from its sole fill (204).

The quarry pit [201] appeared to continue the alignment of ditch [203] to the southwest. It was *c.* 3m wide by 0.7m deep, with a very irregular profile and mixed fill (202). It contained two sherds of late pre-‘Belgic’ Iron Age pottery. The feature’s relationship with ditch [203] was not observed but it seems likely that the quarry represents an enlargement of the ditch for the purpose of clay extraction.

Ditch [210] was located in one of the construction pits dug for pads supporting a new canopy. The ditch at least 0.9m wide, extending beyond the limit of the pit, and was



over 0.9m deep. No finds were recovered but its alignment suggests that it could be the continuation of ditch [203].

### **3.8 Internal works - Area 8**

(Fig. 8)

#### **3.8.1 Roman posthole**

Despite the high level of disturbance present within the footprint of the existing school building the excavation of a construction pit within the internal courtyard area revealed the presence of a posthole [160] containing Roman roof tile fragments. This was found in the same area as previous investigations identified a possible building L21 (Luke *et al.* 2010, 292 and fig. 10) and it is almost certainly associated with the same structure.



## 4 FINDS SUMMARY

Twenty-two deposits within the investigation area yielded an assemblage comprising mainly pottery, ceramic building material, and animal bone. A small quantity of oyster shell and a number of non-ceramic objects were also recovered. The material was examined to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range (Table 1).

Feature	Description	Fill	Date range	Finds Summary
6	Topsoil	6	Roman	Pottery (34g); ceramic brick and tile (238g)
8	Subsoil	8	Post-medieval	Pottery (4g); ceramic roof tile (15g)
11	Quarry pit	16	Undated	Animal bone (8g)
	Quarry pit	17	Undated	Burnt natural flint (208g)
	Quarry pit	19	Roman	Pottery (1g); burnt stone (13g); garden snail (15g)
23	Quarry pit	27	Undated	Burnt stone (9g)
	Quarry pit	28	Undated	Pottery (4g); burnt stone (7g)
	Quarry pit	31	Undated	Coal (1g)
32	Quarry pit	35	Undated	Burnt stone (2g)
	Quarry pit	37	Roman	Pottery (1g); burnt stone (2g)
	Quarry pit	41	Roman	Brick (44g)
53	Quarry pit	55	Roman C2	Pottery (38g); possible quern fragment (RA 2); vessel glass (1g); animal bone (37g)
59	Ditch	60	Undated	Pottery (5g)
80	Ditch	81	Undated	Ceramic roof tile (35g); iron axe (RA 1)
82	Ditch	83	Undated	Animal bone (459g)
100	Ditch	101	Roman C2-3	Pottery (65g); ceramic roof tile (800g); vessel glass (1g); animal bone (1g)
102	Ditch	103	Roman C2-3	Pottery (1.4kg); animal bone (114g); charcoal (1g)
	Ditch	104	Roman C2-3	Pottery (702g); fired clay (66g); animal bone (305g); burnt stone (67g)
	Ditch	105	Roman C2-3	Pottery (3.7kg); ceramic roof tile & brick (390g); fired clay (97g); copper alloy finger-ring (RA 3); vessel glass (13g); animal bone (1.5kg); oyster shell (545g)
110	Ditch	111	Roman	Ceramic roof tile (1kg)
112	Ditch	119	Roman C1-2	Pottery (1.3kg); fired clay (31g); wall plaster (34g); iron nail x1; copper alloy vessel & strip (RAs 4 & 5); iron knife (RA 6); quern fragments (RAs 7 & 8); animal bone (789g); oyster shell (196g); charcoal (1g)
114	Ditch	115	Roman C2	Pottery (1kg); iron nail x1; animal bone (983g); burnt stone (36g)
		116	Roman C2	Pottery (473g); ceramic roof tile (158g); animal bone (435g); oyster shell (437g)
160	Post hole	161	Roman	Ceramic roof tile (4.6kg)
162	Ditch	164	Roman C2-3	Pottery (61g); ceramic roof tile (6kg); stone roof tile (2kg)
165	Ditch	166	Roman C2-3	Pottery (32g); ceramic roof tile (424g)
170	Make-up layer	170	Post-medieval	Pottery (57g)
180	Make-up layer	180	Roman	Ceramic roof tile (206g)
200	Trial trench backfill	200	Roman	Ceramic roof tile (92g)
201	Quarry pit	202	Iron Age	Pottery (5g)
203	Ditch	204	Iron Age	Pottery (50g); animal bone (61g)

**Table 1: Artefact summary by feature**

### 4.1 Pottery

An assemblage of 653 sherds, weighing 9.1kg was recovered. Pottery displays variable abrasion and fragmentation, with a mean sherd weight of 14g.

Forty-eight fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Types Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology (Table 2).



Fabric Type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Iron Age</i>			
F32	Sand and flint	2	(202):2
F05	Grog & shell	6	(103):2, (104):1, (105):3
F06A	Grog – fine	1	(104):1
F06B	Grog – medium	40	(103):31, (104):4, (105):4, (115):1
F06C	Grog – coarse	9	(103):4, (105):1, (119):4
F07	Shell	3	(104):2, (105):1
F09	Sand & grog	43	(103):7, (104):12, (105):4, (115):16, (119):1, (204):3
F15	Coarse mixed	4	(104):4
F34	Sand	1	(104):1
F39	Grog & mica	2	(104):2
<i>Roman</i>			
R01	Samian ware	19	(105):3, (115):11, (116):3, (119):2
R02	Mica-gilded ware	4	(105):1, (119):3
R03A	White ware (VRW)	18	(103):1, (105):13, (119):4
R03B	Gritty white ware	2	(1):1, (116):1
R03C	Smooth white ware	1	(105):1
R05A	Fine orange ware	4	(104):1, (105):1, (116):1, (119):1
R05C	Micaceous orange ware	2	(19):1, (103):1
R06A	Nene Valley grey ware	11	(105):11
R06B	Coarse grey ware	160	(6):1, (104):3, (105):98, (115):16, (116):10, (119):30, (164):1, (166):1
R06C	Fine grey ware	58	(103):3, (104):4, (105):23, (115):10, (116):5 (119):11, (164):2
R06D	Micaceous grey ware	19	(101):2, (103):2, (104):1, (105):6, (115):2 (116):1, (119):5
R06E	Calcareous grey ware	17	(105):15, (119):2
R06F	Grog & sand grey ware	1	(103):1
R06G	Silty grey ware	30	(105):16, (116):2, (119):12
R06H	White-slipped grey ware	1	(105):1
R07B	Sandy black ware	29	(55):1, (103):4, (105):13, (116):2, (119):9
R07C	Gritty black ware	4	(105):4
R07F	Silty black ware	1	(105):1
R10A	Gritty buff ware	2	(104):1, (166):1
R10B	Fine buff ware	7	(105):7
R10D	Micaceous buff ware	1	(103):1
R11	Oxford oxidised ware	8	(105):8
R13	Shell	27	(101):2, (103):22, (104):2, (105):1
R13B	Shell with limestone & sand	1	(119):1
R14	Sand (red-brown harsh)	82	(104):3, (105):69, (115):2, (116):1, (119):7
R17	Smooth orange ware	1	(166):1
R18A	Gritty pink ware	11	(103):2, (104):1, (105):7, (119):1
R18B	Fine pink ware	1	(105):1
R19	Amphora (unknown)	1	(104):1
R19A	Amphora (Dressel 20)	1	(105):1
R29	Fine sand & calcareous	2	(105):2
R33	Mortaria (VRW)	2	(105):2
R36	Gritty orange ware	8	(104):1, (115):7
R38	Colour coated ware (unknown)	2	(37):1, (105):1
<i>Medieval</i>			
C09	Brill/Boarstall ware	1	(8):1
C59A	Coarse sandy ware	1	(8):1
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	1	(170):1
UNID	Indeterminate / Undatable	2	(28):1, (60):1

**Table 2: Pottery Type Series**

#### 4.1.1 Iron Age

Forty-one vessels, represented by 109 sherds (2.1kg) are datable to the late Iron Age (c.100 BC–AD 50). Sherds have a mean weight of 19g, and survive in fair condition. The majority (84 sherds) occur in mixed deposits with Roman pottery in ditch [102], with smaller assemblages in ditches [112] and [114]. Three late Iron Age sherds



(50g), and two early to middle Iron Age sherds (fabric F32: 5g), respectively represent the only pottery recovered from ditch [203] and quarry pit [201]. These quantities may, however, be too small to provide an accurate date for the features in which they occurred.

Forty-seven percent of the assemblage (by sherd count) occurs in grog-tempered fabrics, attesting the large-scale adoption of grog-tempering during this period. Vessels in mixed grog- and sand-tempered wares total 39%; mixed grog/shelly/calcareous fabrics constitute the remainder. Most Iron Age wares are judged to be of local manufacture and distribution — the site is well placed for exploitation of raw materials from the Lower Greensand, Oxford clays, and river gravel deposits.

The vessels are either entirely wheel-thrown; part hand-made with a wheel-finished shoulder and rim; or entirely hand-made. Diagnostic forms, although poorly attested, are in the 'Belgic' tradition, the appearance of which in the south-east Midlands is conventionally dated to *c.* 50 BC. They comprise jars with simple everted or lid-seated rims, ranging in diameter from 160–220mm. Single examples of a narrow-necked jar, butt beaker, neckless jar, and a partial pedestal base also occur. Several larger sherds with combed and wavy incised decoration are likely to derive from storage-type vessels.

#### 4.1.2 Roman

Roman pottery, mainly of 2nd- and 3rd-century date totals 240 vessels, represented by 538 sherds (7kg). Although similarly abraded, the Roman assemblage is more fragmented than the Iron Age material, evidenced by a lower mean sherd weight of 13g.

Eleven features yielded Roman pottery, the majority deriving from the fills of ditches [102], [112] and [114]. Smaller assemblages, each weighing less than 100g were collected from quarry pits [11], [32], [53]; ditches [100], [162], [165]; and topsoil (1) and (6).

Locally manufactured sand-tempered coarse wares (mainly reduced, although some oxidised) total 80% of the assemblage (by sherd count), reflecting the exploitation of raw materials deriving from the Greensand Ridge. Shelly coarse wares, some likely to derive from kilns at Harrold, north Bedfordshire, total 5%. Traded wares from further afield (11%) include vessels from the Nene Valley (grey ware), the Verulamium region (white / pink ware), Oxfordshire (oxidised ware) and Essex (colour-coated ware). Mica-gilded ware of uncertain source is also present.

Vessel forms indicate a low status, typically utilitarian assemblage. They mainly comprise narrow-necked and neckless jars with simple everted, lid-seated or triangular rims. The latter range in diameter from 160–220mm, with an outlier at 280mm. A single carinated jar occurs.

Bowls have flat, square and reeded rims, and range in diameter from 130–200mm. Single examples of a straight-sided bowl, and a hemispherical bowl, the latter with 'London- style' incised decoration are represented. Other forms are flagons, mortaria, lids, a platter and a folded beaker. A standard range of decorative elements occur, and



include combed, rouletted, incised, burnished (lattice and zig-zag panels), and cordoned examples, the latter reminiscent of the late Iron Age tradition.

Continental imports (4%) are represented by two sherds of amphorae (including a Dressel 20 form), and 19 predominantly late 1st- and 2nd-- century Gaulish samian sherds, representing 13 vessels. Forms are bowls (form 37) and cups (form 27, 35). No stamped vessels occur.

The late Iron Age and Roman pottery compares well with the larger assemblages recovered from adjacent excavations (Wells 2010).

#### **4.1.3 Post-Roman**

Post-Roman pottery recovered from subsoil (8) comprises an undiagnostic coarse sand-tempered sherd (C59A) of local manufacture, and a glazed body sherd of 13th–14th-century Brill/Boarstall ware (C09), the latter a traded ware from Buckinghamshire. Both are small (total weight 4g) and highly abraded, consistent with their recovery from an unstratified deposit. A 17th-century fine glazed red earthenware bowl rim (57g) derived from post-medieval make-up layer (170).

Quarry pit [23] and ditch [59] each yielded single body sherds of undiagnostic sand tempered pottery (total weight 9g). Both are worn and abraded, and cannot be further classified with any degree of certainty.

#### **4.2 Ceramic building material**

Roman building material totals 78 fragments (14.6kg), the majority deriving from ditch [162] and post hole [160]. Although uniformly abraded, pieces are sizeable, with a mean weight of 188g, and occur in variants of an oxidised sand-tempered fabric. The building material is thought to be of local manufacture, although no specific production sites are known.

Roof tiles comprise 37 *tegulae* of standard form, ranging in thickness from 20–27mm. Nine retain flanges, which are either shallow D-shaped, or square. Two have knife-cut rebates, and two display signatures, in the form of fingertip impressed concentric circles/rings. Twenty-five *imbrex* fragments, measuring between 15mm and 20mm in thickness occur.

Five pieces of flue tile (15mm thick), two with combed keying patterns and one with a sooted/burnt interior, the latter indicating use, were collected. Topsoil (6) yielded a worn piece of brick; the remainder of the assemblage comprises abraded, indeterminate brick or roof tile fragments.

Single fragments of post-medieval peg-tile (total weight 101g) occurred as intrusive finds in Roman ditch [100] and in subsoil (8).

#### **4.3 Fired clay**

Eight fired clay pieces in an organic fabric (194g) derived from ditches [102] and [112]. Five are amorphous and abraded, and three (with surfaces), may represent portions of hand-made slabs. Such objects are commonly found on late Iron Age and early Roman sites, although their function remains unclear. Suggested uses include bake stones, pre-fabricated furniture in domestic ovens or hearths, and cattle salt-licks.



## 4.4 **Non-ceramic finds**

### 4.4.1 **Building material**

The secondary fill of ditch [162] yielded a piece of sandy limestone roof tile (2kg), measuring 315mm (length); 210mm (width) and 23.5mm (thickness).

A plain wall plaster fragment (34g) with a thickness of *c.* 15mm, and characterised by a smooth pinkish-buff upper surface, derived from the upper fill of ditch [112]. The feature also contained a tapering square sectioned shank from a poorly preserved iron timber nail. A second nail, represented by a flat squared head and short portion of rectangular sectioned shank, derived from ditch [114].

### 4.4.2 **Vessel glass**

Quarry pit [53] contained a fragment of yellow-brown glass (1g) deriving from a vessel of indeterminate form. Vessel glass of this type was produced from the 1st into early 2nd century (Price and Cottam 1998, 15). Two pieces of clear blue-green glass (12g), probably deriving from a cylindrical bottle, and datable from the 1st to 3rd centuries, derived from the fill of ditch [102]. Ditch [101] yielded a fragment of clear colourless soda glass (1g) of uncertain date

## 4.5 **Registered Artefacts**

Eight registered artefacts were collected from four features (detailed below). The fill of ditch [80] yielded an iron axe socket (RA1), of possible post-medieval date. Five fragmentary artefacts, all of probable Roman date, derived from the upper fill of ditch [112]. They comprise a cast copper alloy bowl handle (RA4), a copper alloy strip, possibly from a brooch catchplate (RA5), an iron knife blade (RA6), and two rotary quern fragments (RA7, RA8). The fill of quarry pit [53] yielded a further piece of quern (RA2). A copper alloy finger ring (RA3) was collected from the upper fill of ditch [102].

### 4.5.1 **Registered Artefacts catalogue**

(Identifications by Holly Duncan)

**RA1** Ditch [80]. Iron axe. Sub-rectangular socket formed by wrapping band of iron round the eye and hammer welding it against the back of the blade. Socket lacks lugs and poll, having a curved butt. Only start of blade survives. Blade straight on the fore edge, marked curve on rear edge. A nail, used to tighten haft in socket, is corroded in place in lower socket. L.66mm; w.blade 58.5mm; socket 36.5mm; thickness blade 13mm, socket 7mm. ?Post-medieval.

**RA2** Quarry pit [53]. Quartz conglomerate quern(?) fragment, no original surfaces, of quartz conglomerate. Source Forest of Dean, Wye Valley, S. Wales. Dimensions 48mm by 48mm by 28mm. ?Roman.

**RA3** Ditch [102], upper fill. Copper alloy finger ring. Plain rectangular sectioned band, ends overlapped slightly. Ring external dimensions 20mm by 19mm. Hoop dimensions width 2mm, thickness 3mm. ?Roman.

**RA4** Ditch [112], upper fill. Cast copper alloy vessel handle from shallow bowl? Hemispherical knob terminal, handle halved in thickness, forming D-shaped section, and starts to curve into inverted U-shape. L. 40mm; w. (terminal) 14.6mm; thickness terminal 13mm; handle 5mm. Parallels found at Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 76 nos. 2039 and 2044) in 1st century deposits and also from early to mid-2nd century grave at Bingen (Como 1925, Abb1, 1-6). Roman.



**RA5** Ditch [112], upper fill. Uncertain. Narrow, flat, rectangular copper alloy strip, broken both ends, slight protrusion/extension just before one broken end. Possibly part of catchplate from fibula brooch? L. 14mm; w. 2.4mm (max. 2.8mm at protrusion); th.1.2mm. ?Roman.

**RA6** Ditch [112], upper fill. Iron knife blade. Narrow, triangular sectioned, blade back and edge straight and parallel, back starting to turn down to tip. Handle area encased in corrosion. Possibly Manning type I? (1985). Length c. 163; blade width 18.5mm. X-ray required to determine handle type. Roman.

**RA7** Ditch [112], upper fill. Millstone grit or fine quartz conglomerate rotary quern.. Upper stone, coarsely pecked upper surface, small portion edge of central feeder, worn grinding surface. Outer edge does not survive. Dimensions 220mm by 214mm by 64mm. Roman.

**RA8** Ditch [112], upper fill. Ferruginous sandstone(?) rotary quern(?) - no diagnostic features survive beyond a worn grinding surface. Dimensions 175mm by 215mm by 67mm. Roman.

#### **4.6 Ecofacts**

A total of 376 animal bone fragments, weighing 4.8kg, was collected from nine features — the largest assemblages from the fills of ditches [102] and [114], which respectively contained 2kg and 1.4kg. The assemblage represents the general accumulation of domestic refuse, generated by processing, preparation and consumption of livestock. Individual pieces have a mean weight of 13g, and are generally abraded.

Species represented include cattle, sheep/goat, horse and pig. Both mature and immature animals are represented. Diagnostic bone elements comprise post-cranial meat-bearing parts (limb bones, ribs, scapulae). The presence of a number of phalanges, vertebrae, and cranial elements, the latter represented by loose teeth, horn cores, mandible and skull fragments, suggests on-site butchery. Cut marks were noted on a number of long bone, rib and pelvis fragments recovered from ditch [102]. There is, however, no apparent evidence for splitting the long bones for marrow extraction.

Oyster shell fragments weighing 1.1kg were collected from Roman ditches [102], [112] and [114]. An ecofactual sample taken from quarry pit [55] yielded land snail fragments weighing 2g.





## 5 CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

---

As anticipated, the most significant archaeological assets found within the investigation area represent sub-surface features and finds associated with a known Roman settlement in this part of Shefford (Luke *et al.* 2010). In addition, some evidence for medieval strip farming was identified along with a considerable amount of modern activity associated with the school.

### 5.1 Romano-British settlement

The investigations have confirmed that, despite considerable modern disturbance, Roman features do survive in close vicinity to the upstanding walls of the modern school. The features and artefacts add to the existing knowledge of the Roman settlement (Luke *et al.* 2010). Based on the large quantity (*c.* 2kg) of late Iron Age pottery recovered, the investigations have confirmed that the settlement originated in this period. The identification of features such as ditches and quarry pits has added to our understanding of the layout of the settlement (Fig. 9).

The majority of the ditches identified are likely to be continuations of ones seen in previous investigations. However, their discovery is significant because they provide a better understanding of the layout and extent of the enclosures within the settlement. It is likely that the westernmost ditch identified within the investigation marks the western limit of the domestic part of the settlement. Previous investigations have suggested that the ditch may have defined part of a Roman trackway (Luke *et al.* 2010, 283) but this has not been confirmed by the recent work.

One surprising discovery, given it was found within the present school building, was a posthole and significant dump of Roman building material. This is further evidence for a post-built building tentatively identified in previous investigations (Luke *et al.* 2010, 332-3).

The quarry pits found towards the west of the investigation area are similar to those previously investigated (Luke *et al.* 2010, 332-3), but were found to be more extensive; they covered an area of at least *c.* 70m by 25m. Their location would appear, based on current evidence, to be just outside the domestic focus of the settlement. They comprised a series of sequential, intercutting pits rather than one large pit and were probably dug to extract clay and/or pockets of sand for use in building construction within the settlement. Areas of intercutting quarry pits (for gravel) often parallel with ditched boundaries were found on the periphery of one of the contemporary farmsteads at Marsh Leys, Beds. (Luke and Preece 2011, 158 and fig. 9.4). Quarry pits adjacent to a major boundary were also found at Roughground Farm, Oxon. *c.* 150m from the main villa buildings (Allen *et al.* 1993, 109-10).

The nature of the investigations and the archaeological features that were revealed means that, in general, the finds, whilst interesting, do not add to significantly to the assemblage from the previous investigations. Nor can they add to the existing discussion of the status and/or wealth of the settlement's occupants (Luke *et al.* 2010, 336). One of the few contrasts worth noting is that regional imports were better represented than in the previous investigations (11% compared to 4%), although continental imports were similar. As with the previous investigations, large quantities of building material (roof tile, flue tile, brick and wall plaster) were present. Whilst



this is likely to have derived from the known aisled building (Luke *et al.* 2010, 325–332), it is not impossible that another substantial buildings existed within the settlement, especially as the deposit of 6kg of roof tile within ditch [162] is located *c.* 75m to the south of the known aisled building.

## **5.2 Medieval**

The identification of medieval furrows demonstrates that this part of Shefford comprised strip fields during this period. They were on a broadly similar alignment to the Roman ditches, which respected the downward slope of the ground to the north.

## **5.3 Modern**

There was considerable evidence for make-up layers and service trenches associated with the present-day Shefford Lower School.



## 6 REFERENCES

---

- Albion Archaeology, 2001 *77-81 Amphill Road, Shefford, Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Report 2001/48.
- Albion Archaeology, 2003 *Shefford Lower School, Shefford, Bedfordshire, Archaeological Evaluation*. Report 2003/13.
- Albion Archaeology, 2005 *Shefford Lower School, Bloomfield Drive, Shefford, Bedfordshire: Assessment of potential and updated project design*. Report 2005/24.
- Albion Archaeology, 2012 *Shefford Lower School: Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*. Report 2012/112
- Allen, T.G., Darvill, T.C., Green, L.S. and Jones, M.U., 1993 *Excavations at Roughground Farm, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: a Prehistoric and Roman landscape*. Thames Valley Landscapes monogr. 1
- BCAS, 1993 *Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford: Archaeological Evaluation*. Report 93/23.
- 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.
- CBC, 2012 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Shefford Lower School, Bloomfield Drive, Shefford, Bedfordshire*. V2 26th June 2012 MKO.
- Como, J., 1925 'Das Grab eines römischen Arztes in Bingen', *Germania*, 9, 152-162
- Crummy, N., 1983, *The Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2
- Davey, N., 1961 *A History of Building Materials*. Phoenix House Ltd, London.
- Dryden, H., 1845 'Roman and Romano-British remains at and near Shefford, Bedfordshire', *Cambridge Antiquarian Society quarto publication*.
- Flavell, N., 2012 *Archaeological Investigation at Acorn Pre-School, School Lane, Shefford, Bedfordshire*. Northants Archaeology Report 10/118.
- Going, C. J. and Plouviez, J., 2000 "Roman" in Brown and Glazebrook 2000: 19-22.
- Goodall, I. H., 1980 *Ironwork in Medieval Britain: An archaeological study*. Unpublished PhD thesis University College, Cardiff.



- Inskip, T., 1850 'On ancient relics collected in Bedfordshire', *Associated architectural societies reports and papers* 1, 165-172.
- Jones, C., 2012 *Archaeological excavation at Shefford Lower School, Shefford, Bedfordshire*. Northants Archaeology Report 12/04.
- Luke, M., Preece, T., & Wells, J., 2010 'A Romano British aisled building associated settlement south of Amphill Road, Shefford', *Bedfordshire Archaeology* Vol. 26, 269-346.
- Luke, M. and Preece, T., 2011 *Farm and Forge, Late Iron Age/Romano-British farmsteads at Marsh Leys, Kempston, Bedfordshire*. East Anglian Archaeology 138
- Manning, W. H., 1985 *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*. British Museum.
- Medlycott, M., 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Papers 24.
- 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.
- Price, J., and Cottam, S., 1998 *Romano-British Glass Vessels: a Handbook*, CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology 14.
- Simco, A. 1984 *Survey of Bedfordshire. The Roman Period*.
- Walker, C. 2007 *Excavation of a Romano-British ditch at Shefford Lower School, Shefford, Bedfordshire*. Northants Archaeology Report 07/191.
- Wells, J., 2010 'Pottery', in Luke *et al.*, 299-306



## 7 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA BY AREA

Area: 1

Extent (ha): 0.01

OS Co-ordinates: TL1377638780

Description: Car Park Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
87	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black silty loam occasional small stones. Less than 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
88	Make up layer	Compact mid grey brown silty clay frequent medium-large CBM, occasional small concrete, frequent small-large stones. General number given to layer of disturbed natural and imported make-up material exposed during car park extension. Greater than 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area:** 2  
**Extent (ha):** 0.03  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL1366938687  
**Description:** Northern Playground

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
53	Quarry	Dimensions: min breadth 14.m, min depth 0.9m, min length 24.m. A probable quarry pit identified in the the northern playground deeper ground reduction (design change) and later partly exposed by drainage trenches. Full size and shape in plan not visible as feature continues beyond stripped area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
54	Backfill	Friable light brown orange clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
55	Backfill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. This charcoal rich dark layer is probaly a dumped deposit - possibly hearth debris ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
56	Backfill	Friable light brown orange clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
57	Backfill	Friable mid brown orange clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
58	Modern overburden	Loose occasional medium CBM, frequent medium stones. Builders make-up layer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
89	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty loam occasional medium-large CBM, occasional small-medium stones. C. 0.26m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
90	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones. C. 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
91	Make up layer	Compact dark brown black silty clay frequent medium-large CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, occasional large concrete. Area of disturbance in NE corner of northern play area containing lots of modern contamination. Greater than 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
92	Furrow	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 5.m, max depth 0.32m, min length 20.m. General number given to the remains of four highly truncated furrows.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
93	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
94	Natural	Compact light yellow brown silty clay frequent small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Area: 3  
 Extent (ha): 0.13  
 OS Co-ordinates: TL1371338690  
 Description: Southern Playground

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
6	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate medium CBM, moderate small-medium stones. Modern roof tile, brick and concrete fragments were contained in the topsoil in the new playground area. C. 0.26m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Levelling layer	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate medium CBM, moderate flecks charcoal. Modern roof tile, brick and concrete fragments were contained in this levelling layer in the new playground area. C. 0.15m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Subsoil	Friable mid brown orange silty clay occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal. A subsoil layer in the new playground area that is contaminated with intrusive modern roof tile, brick and concrete fragments. C. 0.22m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Natural	Friable light orange clay silt moderate small chalk. With occasional patches of light grey clay silt. A natural deposit in the new playground area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Quarry	Sub-oval sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 1.94m, min depth 1.2m, min length 2.2m. Section excavated through a quarry pit revealed a steep southern side. Northern limit and full shape in plan not visible as feature continues beyond stripped area. Base was deeper than 1.20m limit of excavation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Backfill	Friable light orange brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Backfill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Backfill	Firm light grey orange silty clay frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Backfill	Firm light grey orange clay silt occasional medium-large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Backfill	Friable light orange clay silt occasional small-large stones. With patches of mid orange brown clay silt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Backfill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Backfill	Friable light orange grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Fill	Friable mid brown orange clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20	Quarry	The edge of a second quarry pit was identified during the excavation of quarry pit [11]. This second pit was not excavated thus its dimensions are not known.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Backfill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Backfill	Firm light orange grey clay moderate small-large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area: 3**  
**Extent (ha): 0.13**  
**OS Co-ordinates: TL1371338690**  
**Description: Southern Playground**

23	Quarry	<b>Sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 3.6m, min depth 1.2m, min length 5.1m. Section excavated through a quarry pit revealed a steep south-west side. Eastern limit and full shape in plan not visible as feature continues beyond stripped area. Base was deeper than 1.20m limit of excavation.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Backfill	Compact mid orange brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Backfill	Firm mid orange brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Backfill	Compact mid grey blue sandy clay moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Backfill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Backfill	Friable light yellow orange sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Backfill	Compact mid orange brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32	Quarry	<b>Sub-oval sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 2.75m, min depth 1.2m. Section excavated through a quarry pit revealed a steep north-west side. South-eastern limit and full shape in plan not visible as feature continues beyond stripped area. Base was deeper than 1.20m limit of excavation.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Backfill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Backfill	Firm light blue grey silty clay frequent small chalk, frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35	Backfill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
36	Backfill	Friable mid grey blue silty clay occasional small chalk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37	Backfill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay occasional large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
38	Backfill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay frequent medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Backfill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Backfill	Mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
42	Backfill	Mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
43	Quarry	<b>Sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.45m. Small test section excavated through a quarry pit revealed a steep south-west side. Full size and shape in plan not visible as feature continues beyond stripped area.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	Backfill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
45	Backfill	Friable light grey yellow clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46	Backfill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47	Quarry	<b>A machine excavated test pit revealed the presence of a probable quarry pit beneath the southern playground formation level. A test pit machined 4m to the north revealed undisturbed natural thus the northern edge of the feature must fall within 4m. The full extent and shape of the feature is not known.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
48	Backfill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
49	Backfill	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





Area: 4  
 Extent (ha): 0.04  
 OS Co-ordinates: TL1381338553  
 Description: Drainage Trenches

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones. Topsoil observed along pipe trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Subsoil	Firm mid brown orange clay occasional small stones. C. 0.20m thick. Subsoil observed along pipe trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Natural	Firm mid orange grey clay frequent small chalk, occasional small stones. C. 0.20m thick. Natural stratum observed along pipe trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Natural	Firm light grey yellow silt . 2.50m + thick. Natural stratum observed along pipe trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Levelling layer	Firm light grey yellow silty clay moderate small chalk. With occasional patches light grey clay silt.. Make up layer of re-deposited natural used to form a level surface for northern school sports fields. The terrain is naturally slightly sloping so a pronounced bank is visible at the southern edge of this deposit, half way up the sports fields.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50	Natural interface	Dimensions: min breadth 15.5m, min depth 3.m. A sudden change in deposit suggestive of a large feature was identified within the pipe trench that was excavated running the length of the sports fields. No definite edge to the feature was visible and the 3m depth of the pipe trench prevented safe cleaning and examination of the feature. The change in deposit was observed for c. 15.50m. Spoil from the feature was examined and found to comprise thin horizontal laminations of slightly different colour. The spoil was also monitored for artefacts - none were present. The feature is judged to be a natural sinkhole - a geological event.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
51	Natural	Firm mid orange brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
52	Natural	Firm light grey clay occasional small-large stones. A natural layer identified in the pipe trench similar to (3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
82	Ditch	Linear NW-SE . General number for cut of ditch observed crossing pipe trench. This ditch was previously excavated in the soakaway area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
83	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay . General number for fill of ditch observed crossing pipe trench. This ditch was previously excavated in the soakaway area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
84	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
85	Fill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones. 0.24m deep. Similar composition to topsoil -probably of recent origin.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
162	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.5m, max diameter 0.9m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
163	Primary fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
164	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
165	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
166	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay frequent medium-large CBM, frequent small-medium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



**Area: 4**  
**Extent (ha): 0.04**  
**OS Co-ordinates: TL1381338553**  
**Description: Drainage Trenches**

167	Natural	Firm light yellow brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
168	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
169	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
170	Make up layer	Compact dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium CBM. Unstratified finds.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Area: 5

Extent (ha): 0.02

OS Co-ordinates: TL1375938681

Description: Water Tank

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
59	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: convex base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.4m, min depth 0.54m, min length 26.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
60	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
61	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.82m, min depth 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
62	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
63	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
72	Natural	Friable mid grey brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
77	Colluvium	Friable light orange clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
78	Colluvium	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
79	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones. This layer contained occasional modern brick, roof tile and bottle glass fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
80	Ditch	Linear NW-SE dimensions: min length 26.m. General number for cut of ditch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
81	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay . General number for fill of ditch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
86	Natural interface	Irregular sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 20.m, min depth 1.2m. Likely periglacial feature.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
64	Natural	Friable mid grey brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
65	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay occasional small-medium stones. With orange yellow sandy streaks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
66	Natural	Firm mid yellow grey clay occasional small-medium stones. With orange yellow sandy streaks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
67	Natural	Friable mid grey brown silty clay . With orange yellow sandy streaks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
68	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay . With orange yellow sandy streaks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
69	Natural	Friable mid yellow grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
70	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
71	Natural	Friable mid grey brown silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
73	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
74	Natural	Friable mid orange grey clay silt occasional small-large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
75	Natural	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
76	Natural	Friable light orange clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Area: 6

Extent (ha): 0.01

OS Co-ordinates: TL1379038746

Description: Eastern Extention

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.26m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones. Sole fill of ditch, c. 0.26m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
102	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: V-Shaped base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.2m, max depth 1.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Secondary fill	Friable mid orange brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal. C. 0.73m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones. 0.19m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
105	Upper fill	Friable dark grey black silty clay occasional small stones. 0.24m thick, very rich in finds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
124	Primary fill	Friable mid brown orange clay silt occasional flecks charcoal. 0.22m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.2m. Ditch cut by large boundary ditch [108]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones. 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.75m, min depth 0.35m. Partial segment of linear feature in relationship slot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. 0.35m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	General number	Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 1.m, min length 8.m. Boundary ditch extending beyond LoE, general unexcavated number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	General number	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, moderate medium stones. Unexcavated fill of ditch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
112	General number	Linear N-S dimensions: min breadth 2.5m, min length 11.m. Unexcavated part of ditch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	General number	Plastic dark orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Upper fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones. Excavated for finds recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
114	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.55m, max depth 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Lower fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones. 0.6m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
116	Upper fill	Friable dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones. 0.4m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
117	General number	Linear N-S dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min length 11.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	General number	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Buried topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silty clay moderate small stones. Buried topsoil beneath tarmac surface, 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Subsoil	Plastic dark red brown silty clay . 0.12m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
122	Natural	Plastic mid red brown silty clay moderate medium stones. Underlying Geology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Tarmac	Hard dark blue black . Tarmac layer, machine excavated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area: 6**

**Extent (ha): 0.01**

**OS Co-ordinates: TL1379038746**

**Description: Eastern Extention**

150	Make up layer	Friable mid yellow brown sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones. 0.5m thick layer associated with current block paved playground surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
151	Buried topsoil	Loose dark brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones. 0.2m thick. Contains intrusive modern CBM from construction of school.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
152	Buried subsoil	Friable dark orange brown clay silt occasional small stones. 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
153	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
154	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.m, max diameter 0.2m, min length 0.45m. Heavily truncated by modern service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
155	Main fill	Plastic mid grey black silty clay occasional flecks charcoal. 0.2m thick. Machine excavated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
156	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.m, max depth 0.2m, min length 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
157	Main fill	Plastic mid grey black silty clay occasional flecks charcoal. 0.2m thick. Machine excavated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



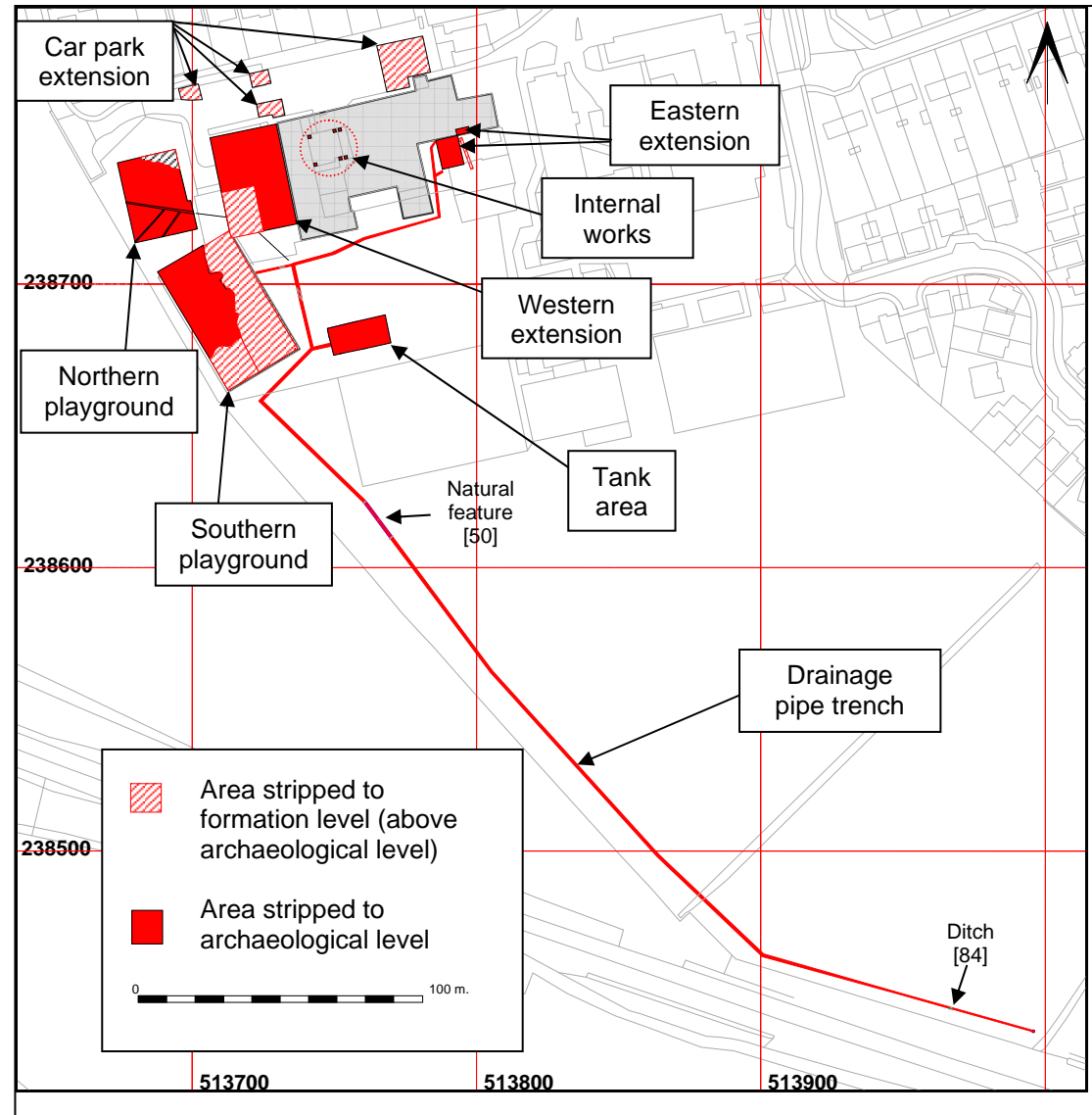
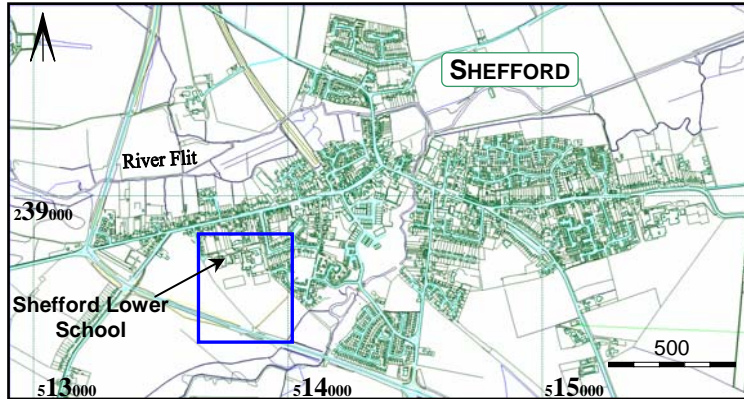
Area: 7  
 Extent (ha): 0.05  
 OS Co-ordinates: TL1371938739  
 Description: Western Extension

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Backfill	Loose dark brown grey silty clay moderate medium-large CBM, occasional small sand, occasional small-medium stones. Number assigned to unstratified finds recovered from the backfill of an earlier archaeological trial trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
201	Quarry	Irregular NE-SW sides: irregular base: flat dimensions: max breadth 3.05m, max depth 0.7m, min length 7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
202	Backfill	Friable mid orange brown clay sand. With patches of yellow mottles. Less than 0.7m deep. Intrusive modern building material impact into surface of this deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.5m, min length 6.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones. Poorly mixed with yellow patches of clay. 0.5m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
205	Make up layer	Compact mid brown grey sandy hardcore occasional medium-large CBM, frequent small-medium concrete. 0.2m - 0.6m thick layer of 'Type 1' associated with car park and playground surface. Sealed below modern tarmac surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Natural	Firm light yellow brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones. Heavily impacted by modern disturbance. Also displays periglacial 'patterned ground' formations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.87m, min depth 0.92m, min length 1.m. Segment of ditch identified in pad base. Excavated by machine. Extends beyond limits of the 1m by 1m pad pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Fill	Firm mid grey orange clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. 0.92m thick, but extends beyond limits of pad pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area: 8**  
**Extent (ha): 0.001**  
**OS Co-ordinates: TL1374638747**  
**Description: Internal Works**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
160	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.2m, max diameter 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
161	Fill	Firm dark yellow brown silty clay frequent medium-large CBM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
180	Make up layer	Compact dark grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones. Residual finds from internal drainage works.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



**Figure 1: Site location and location of fieldwork components**

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 (2013)





**Figure 2:** Area 1 — car park extension



Eastern car park extension



Central northern car park extension



Test pit within eastern car park extension



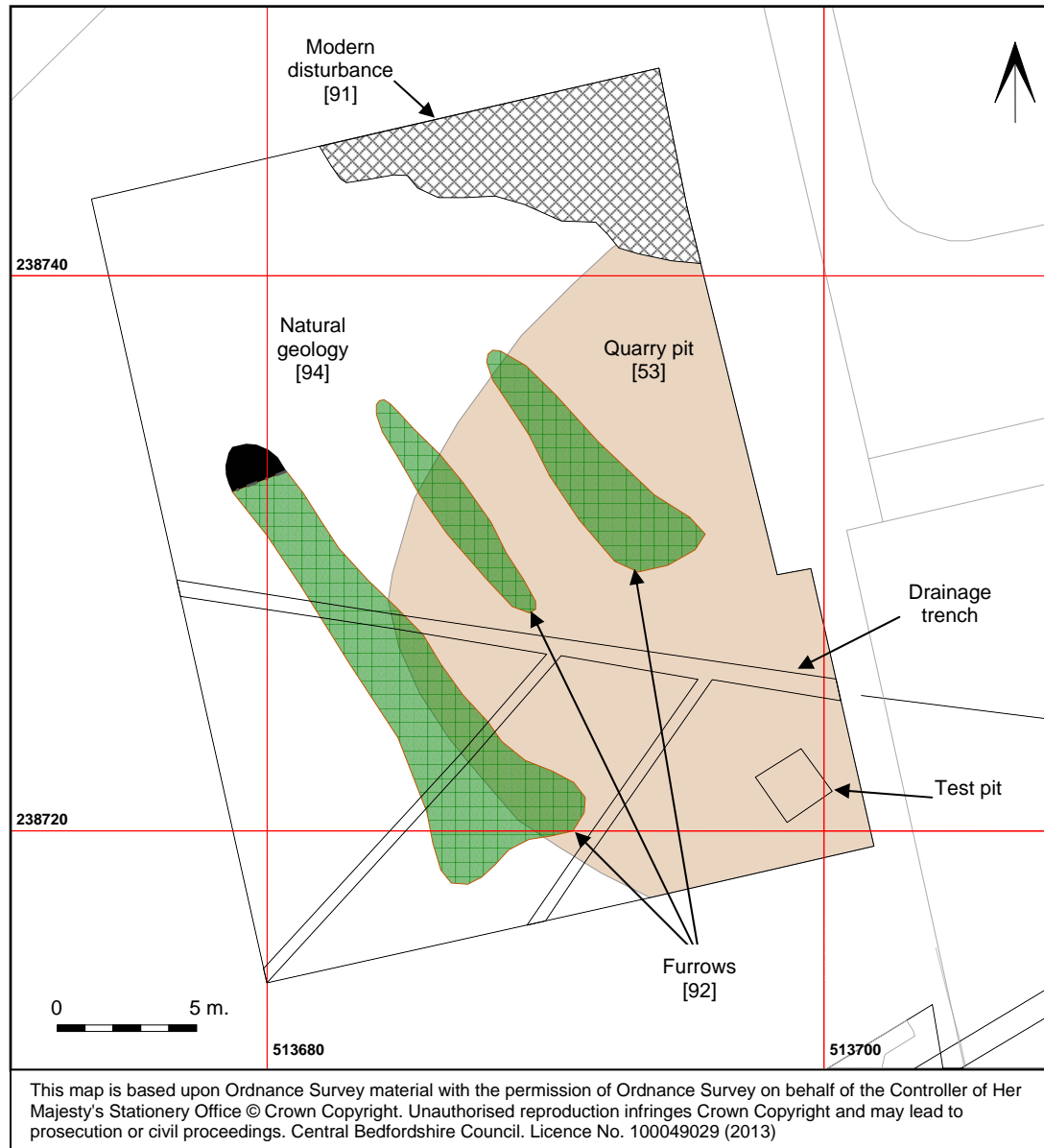
Western car park extension



Central southern car park extension



**Figure 3:** Area 2 — northern playground



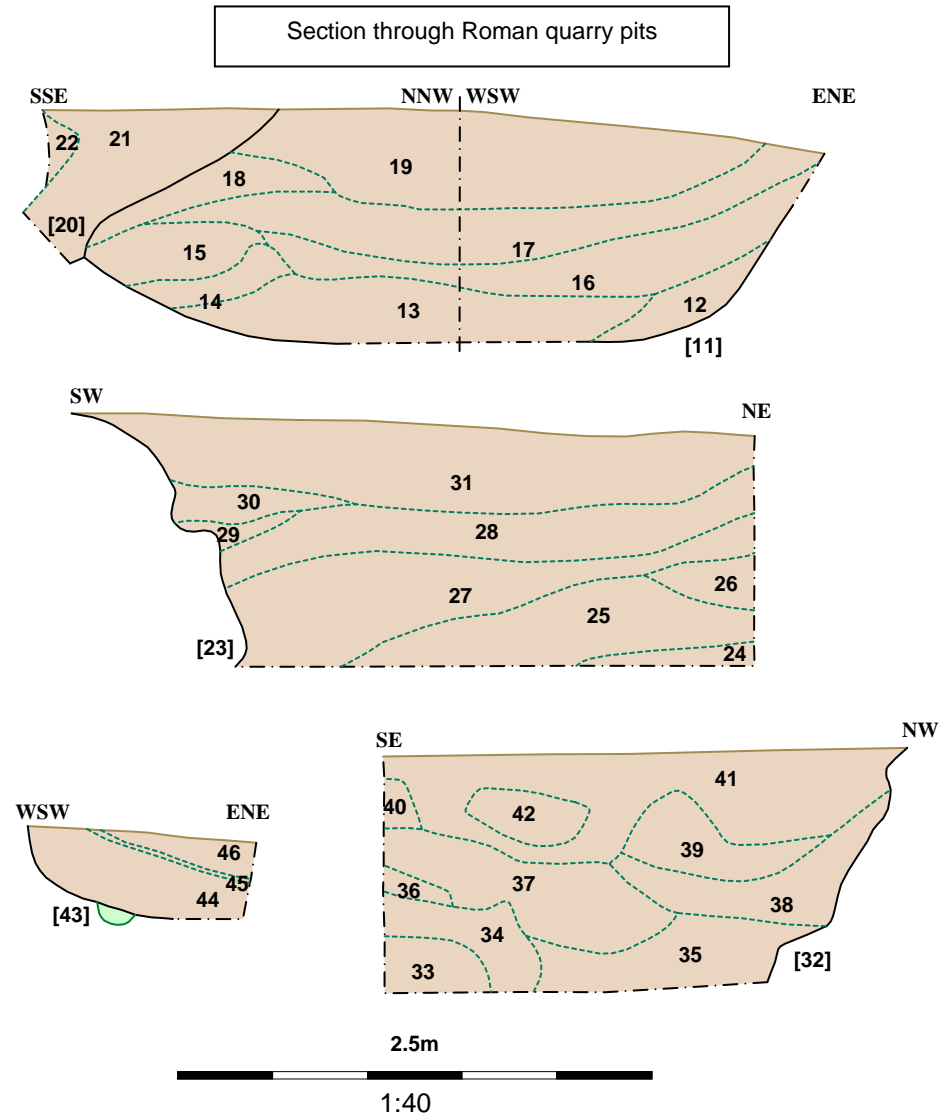
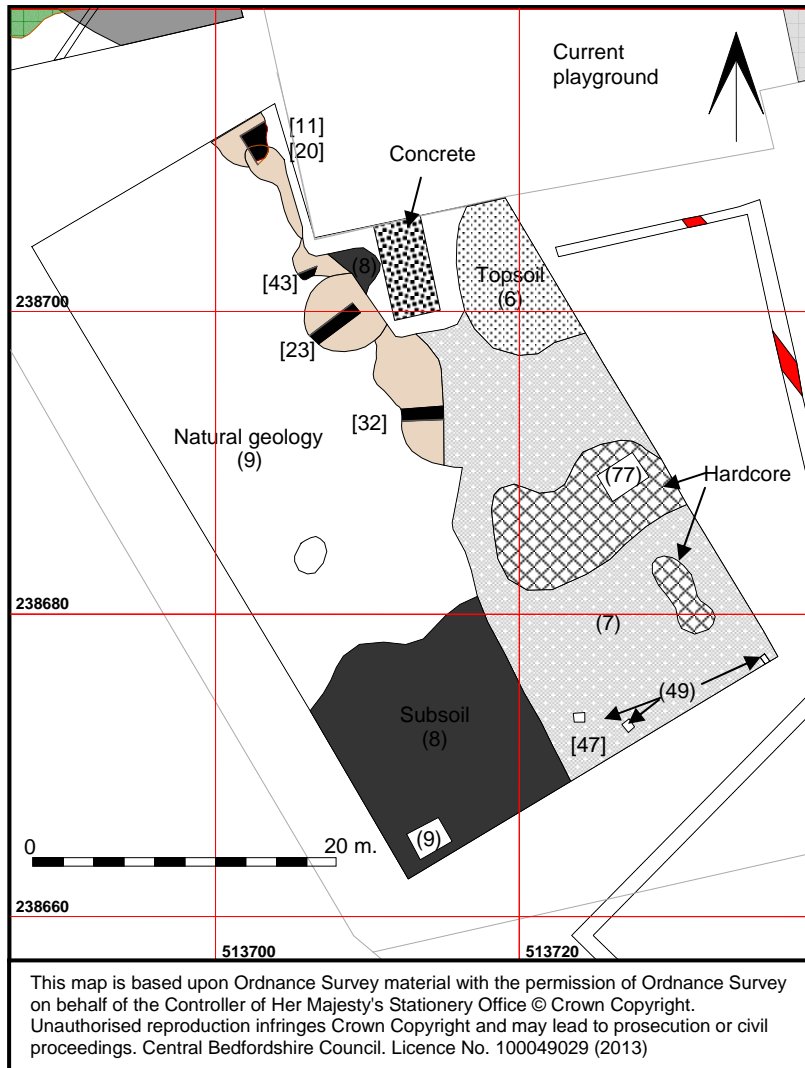
Section through furrow [92]



Post-ground reduction shot looking NE

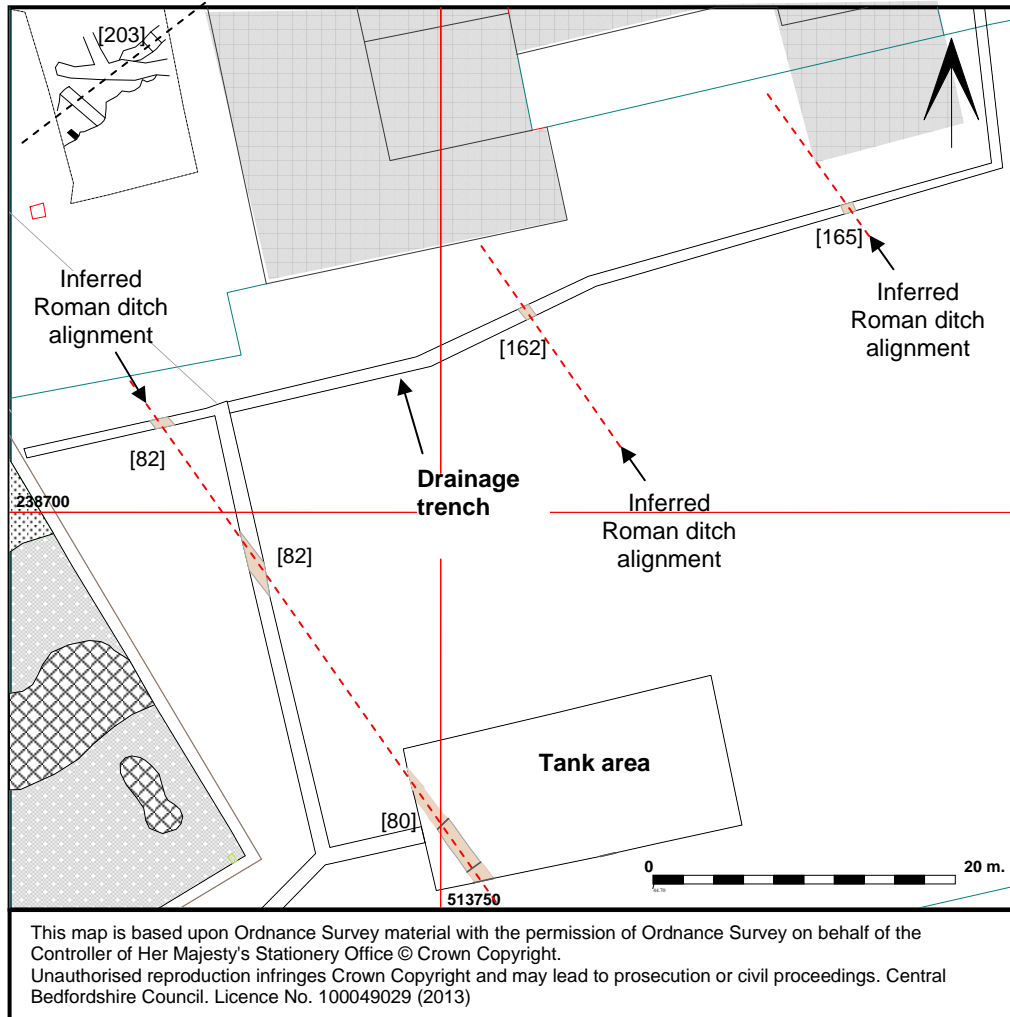


**Figure 4:** Area 3 — southern playground





**Figure 5:** Area 4 — drainage pipe trench



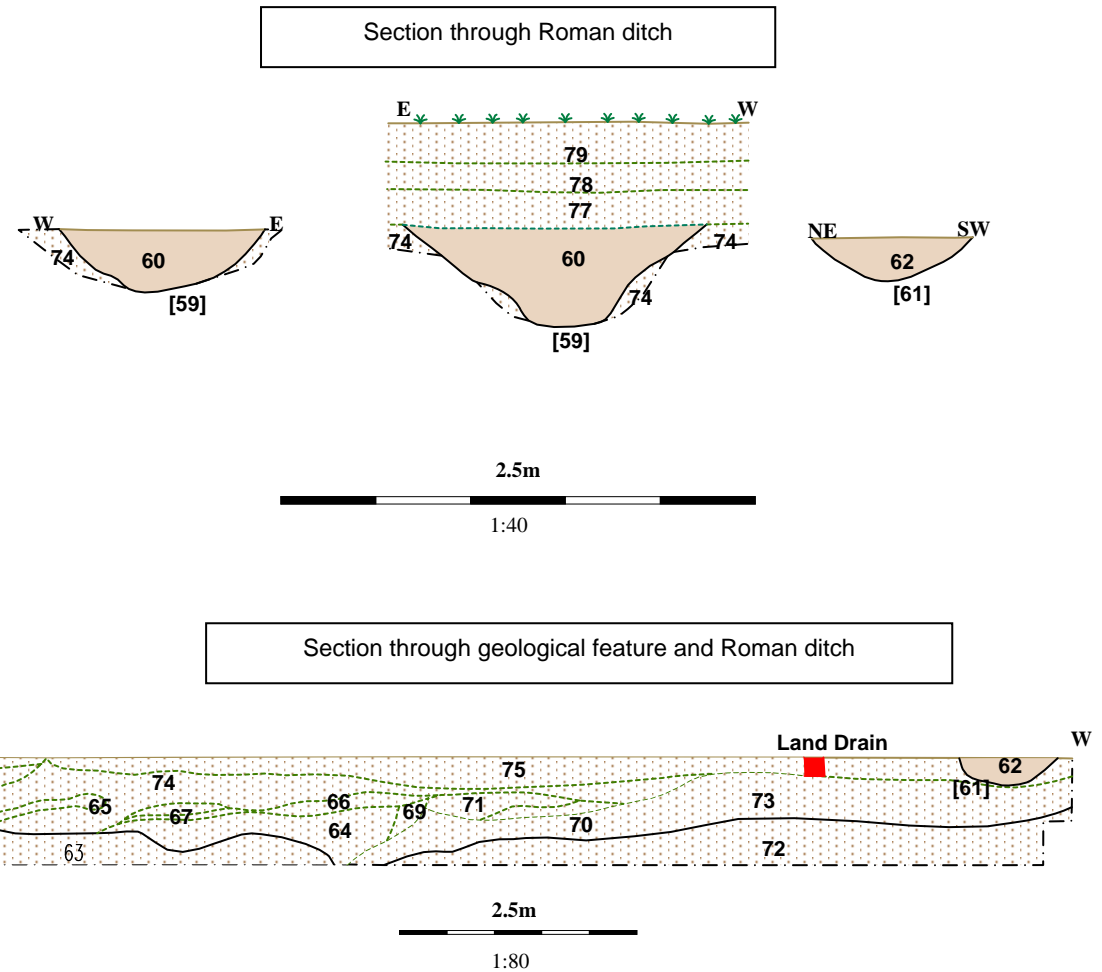
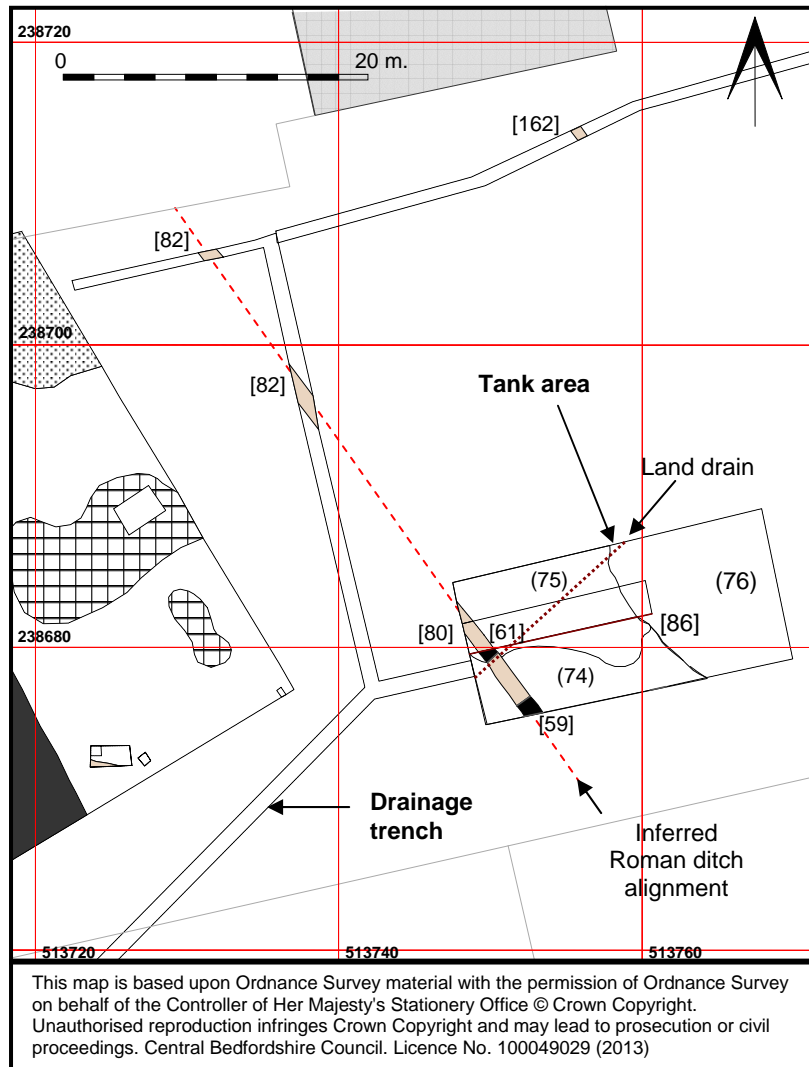
Ditch [162] looking SE



Ditch [165] looking SE

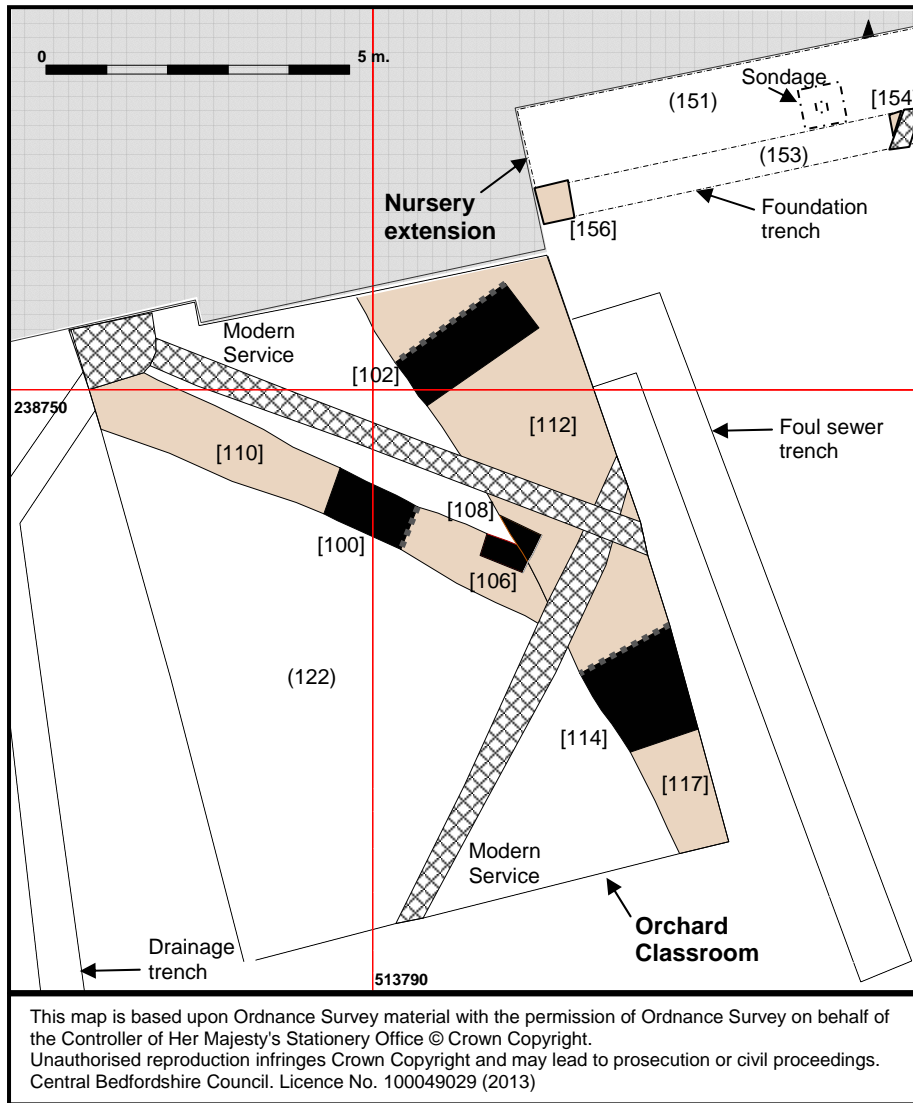


**Figure 6: Area 5 — tank area**





**Figure 7:** Area 6 — eastern extension



Stitched panorama of eastern extension area



Ditch [102] looking NW



Ditch [100] looking SE

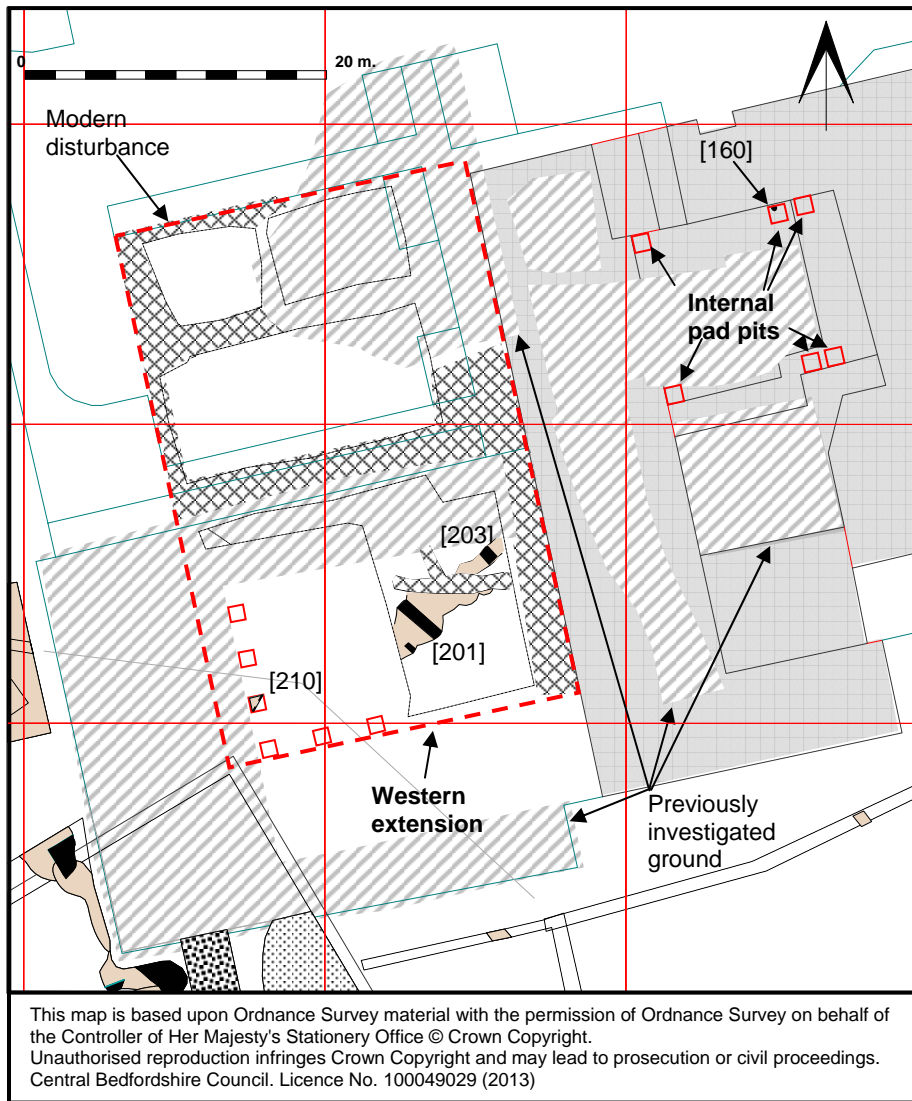


Extension to nursery area, showing sondage (left) and subsequent foundation trench (right), looking W





**Figure 8:** Area 7 and 8 — western extension and internal works



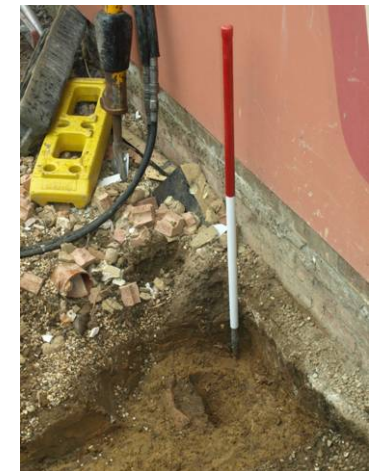
Stitched panorama of western extension area



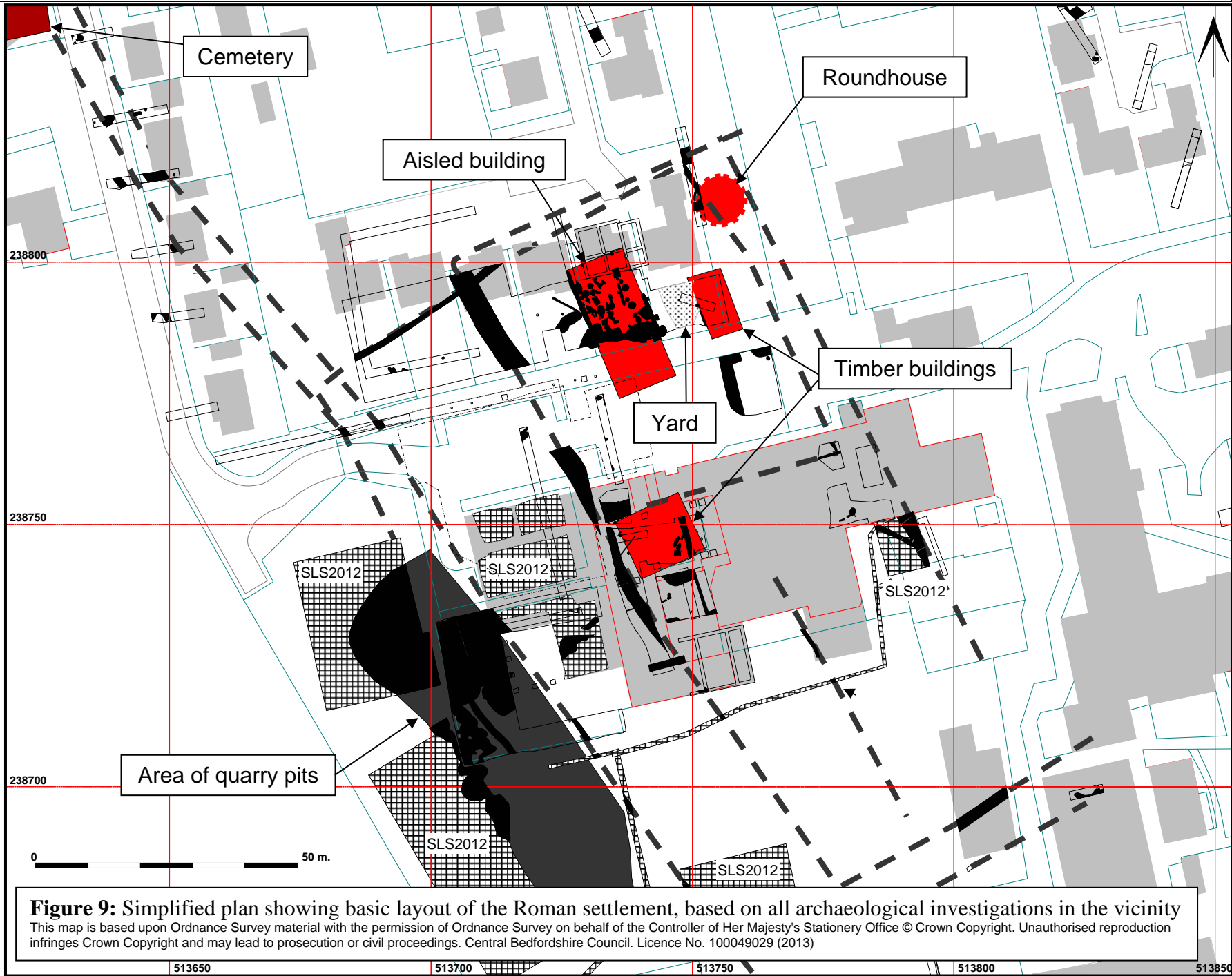
Quarry pit [201] looking S



Ditch [203] looking NE



Post hole [160] looking NW



**Figure 9:** Simplified plan showing basic layout of the Roman settlement, based on all archaeological investigations in the vicinity  
 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 (2013)