

**LAND AT LEIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION,
RECORDING, ANALYSIS
AND PUBLICATION**

Document: 2006:50
Project: LM 1176

21st June 2006

Produced for:
Mouchel Parkman UK Ltd
on behalf of:
Bedfordshire County Council



Contents

List of Figures.....	3
Preface.....	4
Structure of this Report.....	4
Key Terms.....	4
Non-Technical Summary.....	5
1. INTRODUCTION.....	6
1.1 Planning Background.....	6
1.2 Site Location and Description.....	6
1.3 Archaeological Background.....	6
2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY.....	7
2.1 Introduction.....	7
2.2 Methodology.....	7
2.3 Objectives.....	7
3. RESULTS.....	8
3.1 Introduction.....	8
3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits.....	8
3.3 Post-Medieval Remains.....	8
3.4 Undated Remains.....	9
4. SYNTHESIS.....	10
4.1 Interpretation.....	10
4.2 Significance.....	10
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	11
6. APPENDIX 1 - TRENCH AND CONTEXT SUMMARIES.....	12
7. APPENDIX 2 – ARTEFACT SUMMARY.....	18
7.1 Introduction.....	18
Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and context.....	18



7.2	Pottery	18
	Table 2: Pottery type series	18
7.3	Animal bone	19
7.4	Other finds	19



List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: All features

Figure 3: Selected sections

Figure 4: Selected sections

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 an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been prepared by Ian Turner and Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisors). It was edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). The observations and investigations were carried out by Richard Gregson and Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisors). The figures were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology is grateful to Roy Phelan of Mouchel Parkman UK Ltd for commissioning the project. We would also like to acknowledge the comments of Lesley-Ann Mather, County Archaeological Officer who monitored the site on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council.

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

Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location, archaeological background and the aims of the project. The methodology is described in Section 2 and the results of the trial trenching are discussed in Section 3. While Section 4 provides a synthesis of the results, and states their significance within the surrounding landscape. Section 5 is a bibliography and Appendix 1 contains summary information for all the trenches. Appendix 2 contains an artefact summary.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>CAO</i>	Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer
<i>Client</i>	Mouchel Parkman UK Ltd
<i>HER</i>	Historic Environment Record
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2 nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology



Non-Technical Summary

Bedfordshire County Council has granted planning permission (2005/39) for alterations and an extension to form a new classroom and music rooms at Leighton Middle School.

Leighton Middle School lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, at the western end of the historic core of Leighton Buzzard within the town centre Conservation Area. It is bounded by Bridge Street to the north and Church Square to the east.

During April 2006 Albion Archaeology carried out a programme of fieldwork on the site of the new classroom to mitigate the archaeological impact of the development.

A series of post-medieval/modern remains were recorded within the development area. These consist of land boundaries marked by ditches, walls and (probably) wooden post-built fences. Rubbish pits, cobbled surfaces and a small brick-built structure were also recorded.

The development area lies a short distance south of an important post-medieval/modern road. This was lined with houses and business premises making the site of the new classroom an ideal location for backyard activities such as garden plots and the digging of rubbish pits.

Apart from a single sherd of residual medieval pottery, no earlier remains were encountered during the works.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Bedfordshire County Council has granted planning permission (2005/39) for alterations and an extension to form a new classroom and music rooms at Leighton Middle School.

Given the archaeological sensitivity of the development area, a PPG 16 para. 30 condition was attached to the planning permission. The County Archaeological Officer (CAO) advised that the site of the new classroom should be subject to a programme of strip, map and sample. While the music rooms, which were in an area of greater modern disturbance, should be subject to a programme of observation and recording.

Albion were commissioned to undertake the strip, map and sample works on 10th April 2006. This document is a report on the results of those works. The programme of observation on the Music Room was not necessary as this stage of construction has not taken place.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Leighton Middle School lies at the western end of the historic core of Leighton Buzzard within the town centre Conservation Area. It is bounded by Bridge Street to the north and Church Square to the east.

The development works are adjacent to existing school buildings. The site of the new classroom is centred on SP 9186 2497 and has a footprint of c.70sqm (Figure 1).

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological background to the town of Leighton Buzzard is summarised in the Extensive Urban Survey (Albion Archaeology 2005). The school lies within what was probably the late Saxon settlement core, and certainly the medieval settlement core (HER 16871). It is close to the bridge over the River Ouzel, which is first documented in the 14th century. The original crossing point would clearly be much older.

The site of the new classroom lies immediately to the north of the site of the prebendal mansion. This was an important element in the town from at least the late 12th century, when Leighton was made into a prebendal stall, right up to the 19th century, when the latest house was demolished. The prebendal mansion was no doubt rebuilt several times before its final demolition. A surviving painting depicts the position of the post-medieval mansion and associated buildings and gardens in relation to the church. Structural remains, in the form of infilled cellars, have been encountered by excavation within the western part of the churchyard. The site of the new classroom probably lies just beyond a series of gardens laid out to the north of the mansion itself.



2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The programme of archaeological observation was undertaken on several different dates between April 12th and April 26th 2006. During this period all excavations which required monitoring were completed. A mechanical excavator was used to open the footing trenches.

2.2 Methodology

The observation works adhered to the standards and field methods set out in Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* (Albion Archaeology 2000). In summary:

- 1 Any stripping of overburden and excavation of footing/service trenches was monitored to try to identify *in situ* archaeological deposits.
- 2 All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
- 3 Any excavated features and deposits were fully recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*.
- 4 All archaeological observations were recorded at a suitable scale on base plans that were tied in to the Ordnance Survey national grid.
- 5 A photographic record was kept of all significant features.

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

2.3 Objectives

The overall objective of the archaeological works outlined in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2006) was to fully define, investigate and record any archaeological deposits which would be destroyed in the course of the development.

It was considered possible that remains revealed within the development area would shed light on the early development of the town in the vicinity of the River Ouzel crossing. The development of urban centres from the late Saxon period to the present-day has been identified as a regional research priority (Glazebrook 1997, 59-64; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 27-32, 45).

Although the footprint of the building work was relatively small, it was clearly in an area of high archaeological potential. The specific aims of the investigation were to:

- i. Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development areas;
- ii. Establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- iii. Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- iv. Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The new classroom comprised three phases of groundworks, these were recorded as three different trenches (Figure 2), as follows:

- Trench 1 - Footprint of sunken floor level for new classroom

A 15.50m by 7.85m trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m over the entire footprint of the new classroom.

- Trench 2 - Footing trenches for new classroom

Three footings trenches were excavated within the footprint of Trench 1. These trenches reached a further 1.00m below the base of Trench 1, meaning the base was a maximum of 2.10m below the existing ground level.

- Trench 3 – Soakaway and associated trenches

A soakaway and associated drainage pipes were excavated to the west of Trenches 1 and 2.

Detailed technical information on all the deposits and archaeological features referred to below can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Undisturbed geological deposits consisted of mid orange, sandy alluvial gravels and sands. Where no post-medieval and/or modern disturbance had taken place, this was sealed by a dark brown grey sandy silt subsoil.

The topsoil layer was a dark brown black sandy silt layer. This occurred in relatively undisturbed parts of the development area.

A layer of concrete, a cobbled surface and several make up layers were recorded within, and to the west of building [104] (Figure 2). These are thought to relate to the construction of this, and possibly other buildings on or near this location during the late post-medieval and modern periods.

3.3 Post-Medieval Remains

3.3.1 Three N-S aligned ditches (Figure 2)

Three N-S aligned ditches (G[300], G[302], G[304]) were stratigraphically the earliest features. They run parallel to each other and are thought to be broadly contemporary. They mark the location of a land boundary to the east of, and parallel to, the river Ouzel.

Artefactual material recovered from these ditches (Appendix 2) consists of the remains of a well preserved, articulated horse skeleton. The good bone condition suggests the horse was dumped in the still partially open ditch during the post-medieval period. Cartographic evidence dating to AD1819 (B.Bevan Junor's Map, in: Albion Archaeology 2002) also records a significant N-S aligned



boundary on this location. This provides further evidence of a post-medieval origin for these features.

3.3.2 Pits and postholes (Figure 2)

Five pits ([108], [119], [157], [159], [146]) and two postholes ([125], [153]) were revealed.

These features contained dateable artefactual material (Appendix 2) suggesting a post-medieval/modern date for their period of use. Pit [146] contained a single sherd of residual medieval pottery, suggesting earlier activity in close proximity.

Their function remains unknown. However, pits in this area may well have been associated with rubbish disposal from nearby houses. Postholes may be associated with fence lines dividing garden plots or other land boundaries in this busy urban context.

3.3.3 N-S aligned boundary wall (Figures 2 - 4)

An N-S aligned wall [111] was recorded towards the eastern end of the development area. The upper part of this wall was constructed from post-medieval ceramic bricks (112) built on top of an earlier roughly hewn, sandstone block wall (124).

It is tempting to see this lower wall as substantially earlier. However, ceramic bricks were present in small numbers within it, suggesting the stone may have been re-used from an earlier wall.

This wall broadly follows the alignment of the three boundary ditches which lay either side of it (Section 3.3.2). It is possible that one or more of the ditches were open at the same time as this wall was in use. The combination of ditches and walls, or ditches and hedges, is often used to emphasise boundaries.

3.3.4 Structure built against N-S aligned boundary wall (Figure 2)

A brick built structure ([104]) was recorded in the central northern part of the development area. The base of this wall was recorded during the works. This wall butted against wall [111] (Section 3.3.3) which formed its eastern side. Wall [104] truncated make up layers which sealed ditches G[300] and G[302].

The structure and the floors associated with it dated to the mid 19th century and later. This confirms that wall [111] was standing during the modern period.

3.4 Undated Remains

3.4.1 Pits and postholes (Figure 2)

Posthole [148], pits [168] and [162]/[164] contained no dateable artefactual material. Despite this they are most likely to date to the post-medieval period and may have served a similar purpose to the pits and postholes described in Section 3.3.2.

3.4.2 Tree-throws and features of natural origin (Figure 2)

A tree-throw [166] and a small circular rooting depression [115] were also identified within the study area.



4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 *Interpretation*

A series of N-S aligned boundary features (comprising a wall and three ditches) were recorded. Building material within the wall and artefactual remains recovered from one of the ditches confirm a post-medieval date is likely for all of these features.

They represent the presence of a land boundary running parallel with the river Ouzel (c.150m west) and also located a short distance from the High Street (c.50m north-east) and immediately north of the site of a prebendal mansion (Section 1.3).

Other remains comprised broadly contemporary (post-medieval) pits, postholes, cobbled surfaces and make-up layers. A minor structure was built up against the large N-S wall (above) and truncated the three N-S ditches demonstrating that at least some changes/developments in land-use had occurred during the late post-medieval/modern period.

Given the proximity of this land to the historic High Street, it is to be expected that it would contain remains dating to these periods. It served as backyard land during the post-medieval and modern periods. Such land (especially close to rivers) is often used for the excavation of wells, disposal of rubbish in pits etc. The presence of minor fences dividing land and the presence of cobbled surfaces or minor lanes would also be typical. The remains recorded at Leighton Middle School fit easily into this pattern of land-use and are all thought to be broadly contemporary.

Little earlier evidence relating to the development of this historic town was present. In particular, no evidence relating to early roads (perhaps leading to a bridge over the Ouzel) was found.

4.2 *Significance*

The remains encountered at the site are of local significance.

They comprise the remains of several stages in the use and development of late post-medieval/modern backyards. The land lies a short distance south of an important post-medieval/modern road. This was lined with houses and business premises making the development area an ideal location for backyard activities such as garden plots and rubbish disposal areas.

These remains have successfully been tied in with historical map evidence confirming the likely character of this area during the late post-medieval/modern period.

One sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from a post-medieval pit, suggesting that the remains of earlier activity may have been destroyed by later truncation.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology 2000, *Procedures Manual, Volume 1: Fieldwork. 2nd Edition.*

Albion Archaeology 2005, *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire: Leighton Buzzard Archaeological Assessment.*

Albion Archaeology 2006, *Land at Leighton Middle School, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. Project Design for a programme of Archaeological Works.* Document 2006:41.

Brown, N, and Glazebrook, J, 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy.*

Glazebrook, J, ed., *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment.*



6. APPENDIX 1 - TRENCH AND CONTEXT SUMMARIES

**Trench: 1****Max Dimensions: Length: 15.50 m. Width: 7.85 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.58 m. Max: 0.66 m.****OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9186024971 Ref. 2: SP9187524980****Reason: Sunken floor level for new building.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt frequent small-medium ceramic building material 0.70m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
101	Floor	Cobbles. 0.07m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Levelling layer	Loose mid brown orange sandy gravel 0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Make up layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt occasional small-large ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Foundation trench	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max length 7.35m, max breadth 3.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Wall	Bricks and mortar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Drain	Linear E-W profile: vertical base: flat 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Backfill	Friable light brown grey sandy silt frequent small-large ceramic building material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Pit	Rectangular E-W dimensions: max length 1.m, max breadth 0.65m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Refuse deposit	Friable light brown grey sandy silt frequent small-large ceramic building material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
110	Make up layer	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Foundation trench	Linear NNE-SSW profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min length 7.5m, max breadth 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Wall	Bricks, sandstone blocks and mortar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
124	Wall	Rough hewn, sandstone blocks and mortar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
113	Subsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones 0.40m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Natural	Loose mid orange sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Natural Interface	Circular profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max diameter 0.25m, max depth 0.04m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: convex dimensions: min depth 1.2m, max breadth 3.75m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Upper fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks ceramic building material, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	Lower fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Pit	Irregular E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 2.82m, min breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.58m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Backfill	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional flecks ceramic building material, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
129	Primary fill	Loose mid brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Foundation trench	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical dimensions: min length 1.m, min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
122	Wall	Bricks and mortar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Floor	Bricks and mortar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	Posthole	Square dimensions: max length 0.35m, max breadth 0.35m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	Fill	Loose dark grey silty sand moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
127	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: stepped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.68m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.50 m. Width: 7.85 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.58 m. Max: 0.66 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9186024971 Ref. 2: SP9187524980

Reason: Sunken floor level for new building.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
128	Upper fill	Loose mid brown grey sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Lower fill	Loose dark yellow grey sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
133	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.96m, max depth 0.54m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
134	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
135	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.53m, max depth 0.27m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	Fill	Loose mid brown grey sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 14.35 m. Width: 7.25 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.34 m. Max: 0.66 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9186024971 Ref. 2: SP9187524980

Reason: Footings for new building.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
138	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: convex dimensions: max breadth 3.25m, min depth 0.59m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
139	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
140	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
141	Lower fill	Compact mid brown grey sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
151	Upper fill	Compact mid grey brown sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
152	Animal skeleton	Horse head and torso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
142	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: convex dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, min depth 0.82m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
143	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
144	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
145	Fill	Compact mid brown grey sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
146	Pit	Rectangular N-S profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.27m, max depth 0.21m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
147	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
148	Posthole	Circular profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max diameter 0.4m, max depth 0.46m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
149	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
150	Make up layer	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-large ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
153	Posthole	Square profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max length 0.56m, max depth 0.69m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
154	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
155	Foundation trench	Rectangular E-W profile: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: min length 0.86m, min breadth 0.2m, max depth 0.61m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
156	Backfill	Loose mid brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
157	Pit	Sub-oval profile: irregular base: flat dimensions: max length 3.05m, max depth 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
158	Refuse deposit	Friable mid grey sandy ash frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
159	Pit	Rectangular N-S profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.54m, max depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
160	Primary fill	Compact mid yellow brown silty sand moderate flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
161	Backfill	Loose mid orange sand occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
162	Pit	Oval profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.48m, max depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
163	Fill	Compact mid yellow brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
164	Pit	Oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 1.95m, max depth 0.75m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 14.35 m. Width: 7.25 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.34 m. Max: 0.66 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9186024971 Ref. 2: SP9187524980

Reason: Footings for new building.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
165	Fill	Compact dark yellow brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
166	Treethrow	Irregular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 0.94m, max depth 0.84m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
167	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
168	Pit	Rectangular N-S profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
169	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
170	Service Trench	Curving linear profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min length 20.m, max breadth 0.35m, max depth 0.38m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
171	Levelling layer	Loose mid orange sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
172	Backfill	Friable dark brown black sandy silt frequent small-medium ceramic building material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
173	Concrete	0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
300	Ditch	Linear N-S dimensions: min length 7.3m, max breadth 0.7m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Fill	Loose mid yellow grey sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Ditch	Linear N-S dimensions: min length 6.2m, max breadth 3.75m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks ceramic building material, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Ditch	Rectangular N-S dimensions: min length 3.35m, min breadth 0.7m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty sand frequent small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 4.80 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: SP9185324974 Ref. 2: SP9185924974

Reason: Soakaway and utility trench for new classroom

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
174	Natural	Compact light yellow white sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
175	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
176	Natural	Loose light yellow white sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
177	Natural	Loose light brown orange sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
178	Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
179	Natural	Mid yellow orange sandy gravel frequent medium stones, frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
180	Subsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
181	Dump material	Friable dark brown black sandy silt moderate small-medium stones A modern mound of former topsoil containing post-medieval bottles and brick fragments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2 – ARTEFACT SUMMARY

7.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage comprising pottery, brick fragments, clay pipe, window glass and animal bone (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Finds summary
01	100	Topsoil	100	Modern	Clay pipe (24g)
	108	Pit	109	Modern	Pottery (193g)
	119	Pit	120	Modern	Pottery (1g); clay pipe (8g); animal bone (6g); window glass (1g)
	125	Posthole	126	Modern	Pottery (2g)
	127	Ditch	130	-	Animal bone (64g)
	133	Ditch	134	-	Animal bone (157g)
02	140	Ditch	152	-	Animal bone (1716g)
	146	Pit	147	Medieval	Pottery (10g); brick fragment (2g)
	150	Make-up layer	150	-	Brick fragment (72g)
	157	Rubbish pit	158	Post-medieval	Pottery (39g)

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and context

7.2 Pottery

Nine pottery sherds weighing 245g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds survive in good condition and have an average weight of 27g. Eight fabric types were identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology, and are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Total Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Medieval</i>			
Type C60	Hertfordshire-type greyware	1	(147):1
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
Type P03	Black-glazed earthenware	1	(109):1
Type P36A	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	1	(109):1
Type P	Non-specific post-medieval	1	(158):1
<i>Modern</i>			
Type P38	Creamware	1	(126):1
Type P43	Pearlware	1	(109):1
Type P45	Transfer-printed ware	2	(120):1, (126):1
Type P55	White earthenware	1	(109):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

The earliest pottery derives from the fill of pit [146] Trench 2, and comprises a sand tempered rim sherd (10g) of Hertfordshire-type greyware, datable to the 12th-13th centuries. The sherd is abraded and may be residual in a later feature. Single undiagnostic sherds of 17th-18th century glazed earthenware, salt-glazed stoneware and probable Staffordshire ware were recovered from pits [108] and [157] Trenches 1 and 2 respectively. Pits [108], [119] and posthole [126] Trench 1, yielded five 19th century sherds, including creamware, pearlware and transfer-printed ware.



7.3 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 163 fragments, weighing 1.9kg, the majority deriving from undated features. The largest assemblage was recovered from the fill of ditch [140], which contained a partial horse skeleton (1.7kg) comprising vertebrae, rib, long bone and mandible fragments.

7.4 Other finds

Three clay tobacco pipe bowls and a stem fragment of 17th-18th century date were recovered from topsoil (100) and modern pit [119], Trench 1. The latter also yielded a small piece of modern window glass. Two post-medieval/modern brick fragments (total weight 72g) derived from pit [146] and make-up layer (150), Trench 2.

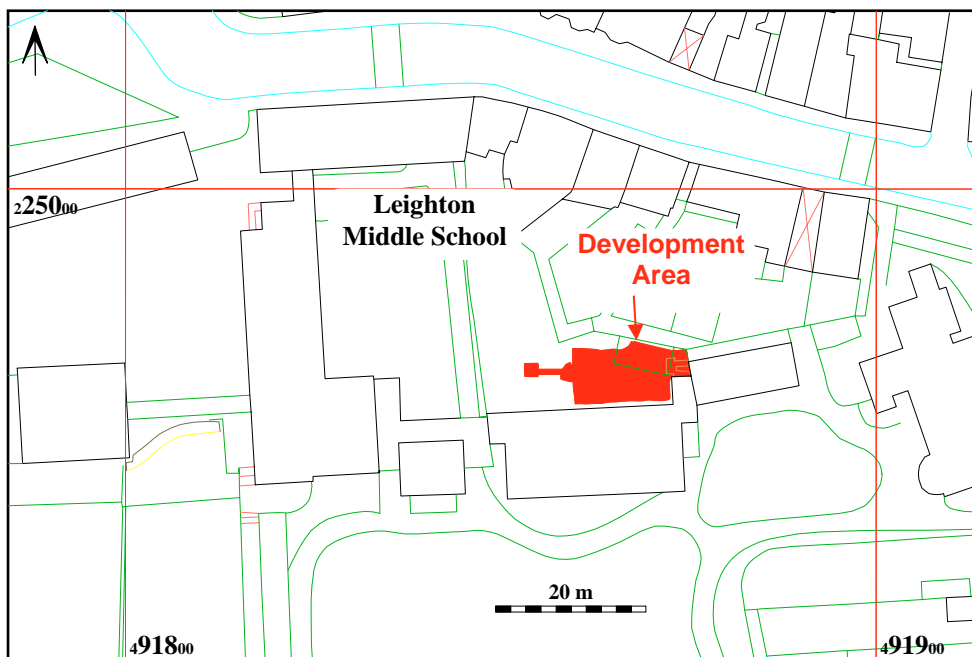
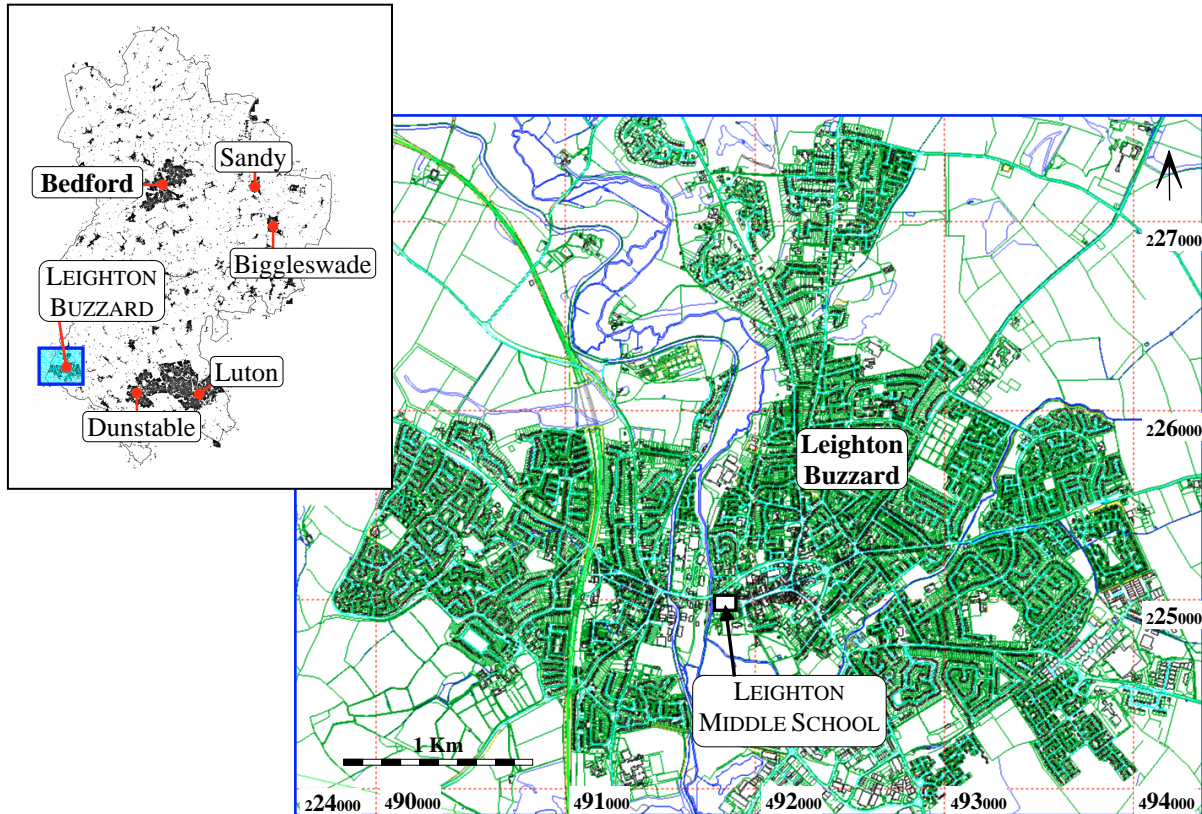


Figure 1: Site location map

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.

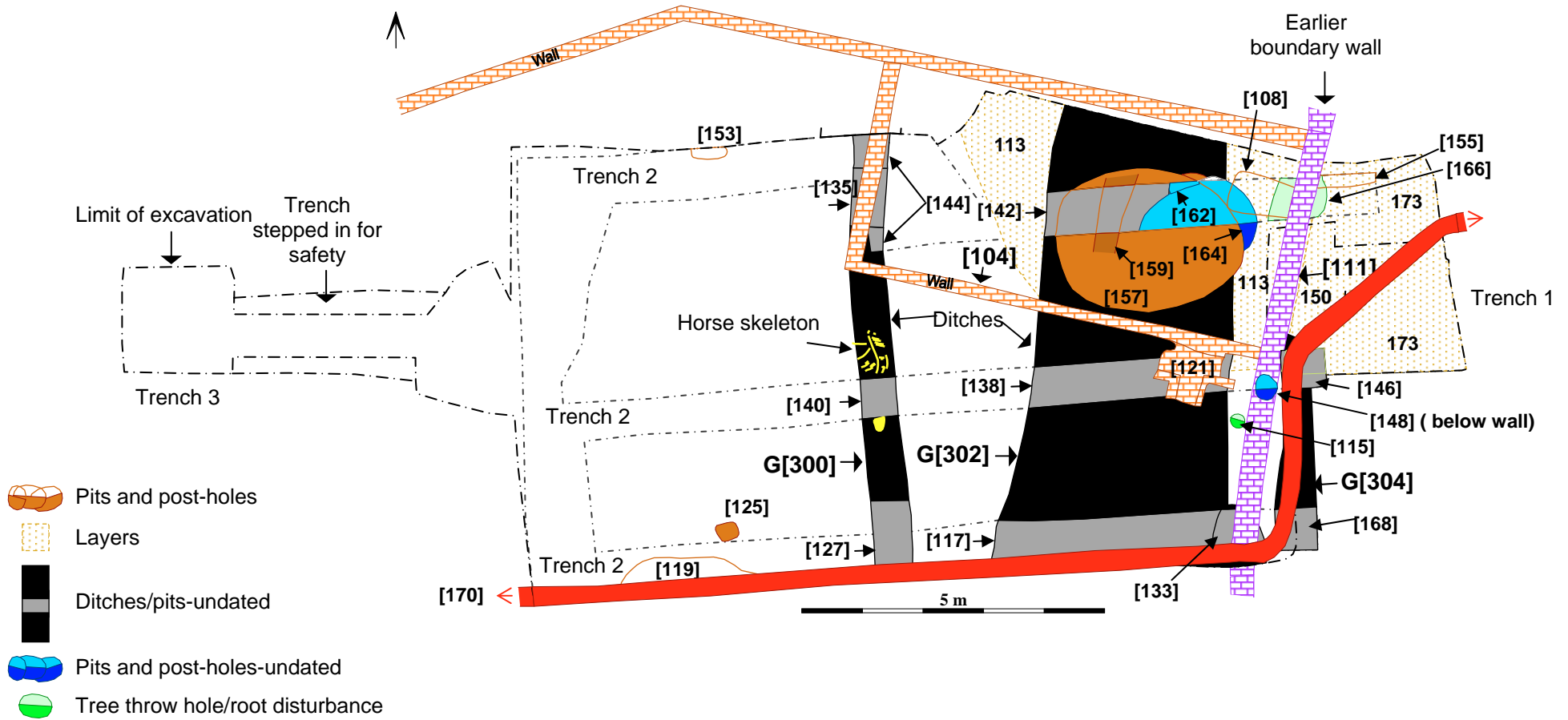
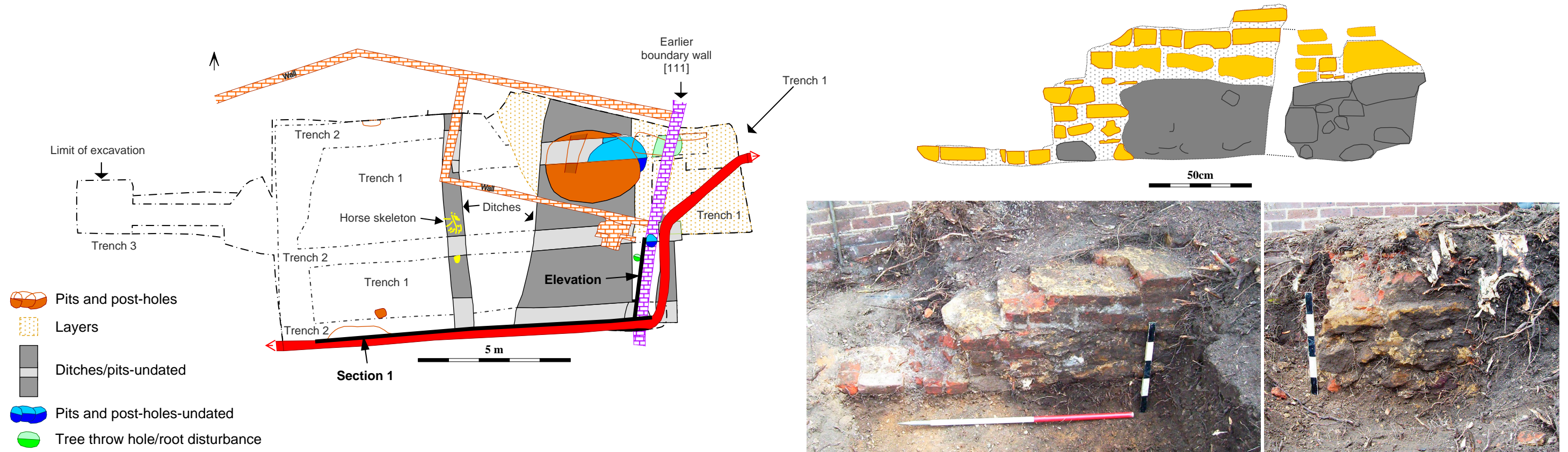


Figure 2: All features



Elevation and photographs of part of the earlier boundary wall

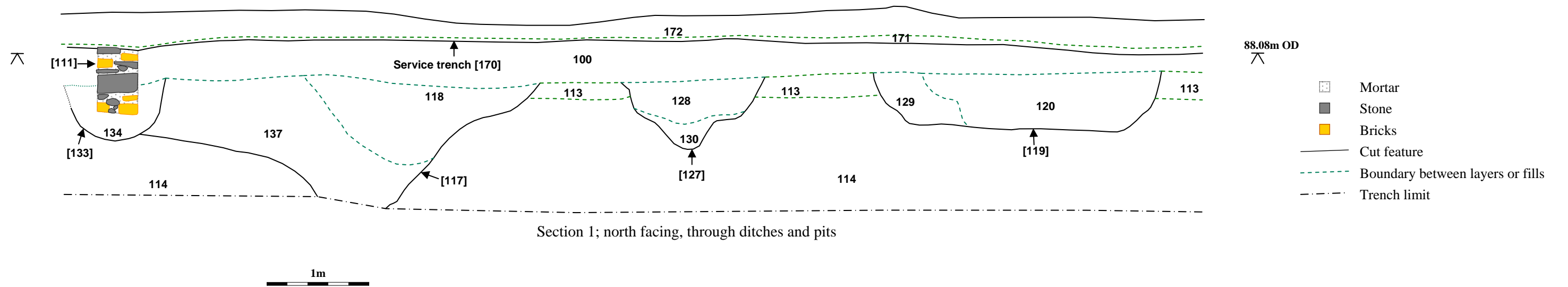


Figure 3: Selected sections

