LAND AT ST JOHN'S STREET
BEDFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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8th September 2005

Produced for:
Bedford Properties Ltd

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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.

This report has been prepared by Ben Barker (Project Officer), Lennard Anderson (Archaeological Supervisor) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The text was edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager) and Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) produced the figures. Trial trenching, hand excavation and recording were undertaken by Lennard Anderson with assistance from Ewen Rutter and Zoë Clarke (Archaeological Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Structure of the Report

After the introductory Sections 1 and 2, the results of the fieldwork are presented in Section 3. Section 4 presents a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork. Section 5 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded on the site. Appendix 2 contains a summary of the artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the fieldwork.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
Client	Bedford Properties Ltd
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
Procedures Manual	*Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001*. Bedfordshire County Council

Non-Technical Summary

In August 2005 Albion Archaeology undertook an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching on land at St John's Street Bedford. The work was occasioned by a pre-application enquiry, submitted to Bedford Borough Council by Bedford Properties Ltd, regarding a development scheme for a mixture of both commercial and residential refurbishment and new build.

The proposed development area lies in Bedford town centre, on the south side of the River Great Ouse, within land currently occupied by Telephone House. The application area is c. 0.72ha in extent and centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 0509 4925.

It lies within the bounds of the historical southern burh *of Bedford, first described in an Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry for AD915. However, excavations on the eastern side of St John's Street (Baker et al 1979) suggest that this part of the town may have been occupied from at least the middle Saxon period (6^{th} – 8^{th} centuries AD).*

The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of archaeological features within the footprints of both proposed new buildings and the play area. It has also successfully demonstrated the nature and state of preservation of the deposits within these features.

Multiple periods of activity were represented from the Saxo-Norman period to the post-medieval period. The features identified included refuse pits, wells and gravel extraction pits. Deposits within these features contained artefactual material indicative of industrial activity: probably horn and metal working. In addition, remains were encountered which suggest that the site has been in continuous occupation since the 10^{th}-12^{th} centuries onwards.

Preservation of the significant deposits was generally good. This included probable buried topsoil surviving below 1.0m of post-medieval and modern build-up. However, the earliest deposits may have been truncated by gravel quarrying in the western part of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Bedford Properties Ltd are proposing to redevelop a former commercial site on St John's Street, Bedford.

In the course of the planning application, Albion Archaeology (2005) produced a report summarising the known archaeological potential of the site. The Local Planning Authority (LPA), on the advice of Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological Officer (CAO), has requested that further information be made available on the archaeological potential of the site. This will enable an assessment of the potential impact of the development to be made and, as necessary, allow an appropriate mitigation strategy to be developed. This is in line with Local Plan policy and the guidance contained in PPG 16, *Archaeology and Planning.*

Following discussions with the CAO, Albion Archaeology prepared a project design for archaeological field evaluation to provide the required information. The document outlined the circumstances of the project and indicated the scope of the work required. It included a detailed schedule of works, methodologies and resources so that the proposed work was quantifiable and could be monitored by the CAO.

The archaeological field evaluation is now complete – this document is a report on the results.

1.2 Site Location

The proposed development area lies in Bedford town centre on the south side of the River Great Ouse. To the east and south respectively, its limits are defined by the St John's Street frontage and the link road between Kingsway and St John's Street. To the north and west it borders onto adjacent commercial properties.

It is *c.*0.72ha in extent, centred on NGR TL 0509 4925 (Appendix 1, figure 1). It is currently occupied by Telephone House, another office building, and areas of car parking. The development scheme provides for:

- conversion of Telephone House to residential use;
- two blocks of new build flats in the north-east and north-west corners of the site;
- creation of a LEAP play space between the new blocks of flats;
- refurbishment of the other office building;
- retention of the areas of car parking.

Topographically the site is essentially level and lies at a height of around 26m AOD. The underlying geology comprises river gravel terrace deposits, overlying cornbrash limestone.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background of the area has been summarised in a separate report (Albion Archaeology 2005). This drew on the county's Historic Environment Record, historical maps held by the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service, and other published sources including the Extensive Urban Survey, undertaken by English Heritage and Bedfordshire County Council (Albion Archaeology 2002).

In summary, the development area lies within the bounds of the southern *burh* of Bedford, first described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry for AD915. However, excavations on the eastern side of St John's Street (Baker *et al* 1979) suggest that this part of the town may have been occupied from at least the middle Saxon period (6^{th} – 8^{th} century AD).

Cartographic evidence shows that the western part of the development area has remained open space since at least the early 1600s. In contrast, the St John's Street frontage has been repeatedly redeveloped. It is probable that 19^{th} and 20^{th} century redevelopment has substantially destroyed earlier building remains. A one-day watching brief in 1985 during redevelopment of the office building in the south-eastern corner of the site did reveal boundary ditches, walls, postholes and a well (associated with medieval and post-medieval pottery). It is likely that similar remains still survive within the development area, particularly away from the St John's Street frontage.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

In line with the requirements of the CAO's brief (BCC 2005, Section 4), the aims of the trial trenching were to gain information on:

- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present.

2. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

Trial trenching took place between 15h and 25th August 2005. A total of three trenches were opened.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features discussed below can be found in Appendix 1. All trenches contained archaeological remains.

2.2 Methodology

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:
IFA's Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation;

- Albion Archaeology's Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2000);
- IFA's Code of Conduct;

The main objectives of the trial trenching have already been summarised in Section 1.4. The trenches were located in order to effectively sample the parts of the site which will be subjected to the biggest impact.

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground using hand tapes in advance of machine excavation. Tarmac, where present, was cut with a diamond-toothed saw. Underlying deposits were mechanically removed by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket. This was conducted under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits, undisturbed geological deposits, or a safe working depth, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand. The deposits and any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc.

Further mechanical excavation was carried out in Trench 3, beyond 1.2m, to a depth at which significant archaeological deposits were visible. Its depth precluded safe access to this trench and recording was carried out from the surface.

The trenches were inspected by the CAO prior to backfilling.

3. RESULTS

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below, by trench, in chronological order. Further detailed descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

3.1 Trench 1

3.1.1 Undisturbed Geological Deposits and Overburden

Undisturbed geological deposit (104) was identified at a height of *c.*25.6m AOD. This is 0.9m below current ground level. Machine excavation to a depth of 1.2m was necessary in order to produce clear definition of the archaeological features which truncated it. It is likely that layer (104) incorporated an interface produced by root disturbance.

A 0.7m thick layer (103) of humic material lay directly above layer (104) and formed a possible buried garden soil. It produced forty-one sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, animal bone, slag, traces of limestone flux, vitrified clay, and fuel ash slag. Although much of this material is likely to have been residual, it does indicate the likely presence of early domestic and industrial activity in this part of the site.

Layers 100 – 102 represent build-up layers associated with the construction of the car park.

3.1.2 Undated

The earliest archaeological feature was a small segment of gully [132]. It had been truncated to the north by a modern well [105] and to the south by an intercutting pit complex [114], [118] and [119]. No dating evidence was recovered.

Deposit (131) within [132] was very similar in character to three patches of subsoil (108), (109), and (111). However, the regular V-shaped profile of gully [132] suggests that it is likely to have been created by deliberate human action.

3.1.3 Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval

Posthole [150] was identified against the western edge of the trench. Partial excavation of this feature revealed postpipe [148]. This feature produced one sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery and three sherds of medieval pottery. Although this material came from the fill of the postpipe (110) and may be residual, an early medieval date is likely for this feature.

A large part of this area of Trench 1 was occupied by three relatively large pits. The earliest of these [114] was the largest and contained a variety of dumped deposits: pottery, animal bone and ash, typical of household domestic waste. This indicates that it was a refuse pit and probably dates to the Saxo-Norman period, although fragments of later intrusive roof tile were also recovered.

Pit [118] truncated [114] and was of a similar form. It contained an equally large number of dumped deposits. Nineteen sherds of pottery were recovered from three deposits within the pit, (115), (116) and (124), which date the feature to the

10th-12th centuries. Slag recovered from deposit (115) also indicates possible iron-working in the vicinity.

3.1.4 Post-medieval

Pit [119] truncated pit [118] and was only partially revealed within the trench. Compared to the two earlier pits, [119] was more elongated and displayed a steeper profile with fewer fills.

One sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from fill (121). This is likely to be residual, as twenty-two sherds of post-medieval pottery were also retrieved from the pit's upper fill (117). Vessel glass recovered from (117) dates it to the late 16th-17th century. The function of this pit is also likely to be for refuse disposal.

Pit [153] truncated the northern end of pit [119]. It was only partially excavated, due to its depth. It yielded animal bone and one sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery. Its stratigraphic relationship with pit [119] indicates that the pottery is residual and it is likely to be a post-medieval refuse pit.

A post-medieval date is also likely for well [152] which truncated the southern end of pit [119]. This was stone-lined and backfilled with modern material including slate, floor tile and a brass coat hook. One sherd of 18th-19th century English stoneware was also recovered.

Well [105] is of 19th century origin; it was brick-built and concrete-lined. It had been backfilled with building rubble including a fragment of modern floor tile that was also recovered from well [152]. It is possible that both features were backfilled at the same time. This feature was not fully excavated due to its relatively modern date and safety implications.

3.2 Trench 2

3.2.1 Undisturbed Geological Deposits and Overburden

Undisturbed geological deposits (210) and (232) were identified at 25.5m AOD, *c.* 0.9m below current ground level.

A 0.3m thick layer (209), possibly a buried soil horizon, lay directly above the gravels, although this was heavily truncated by later activity.

Contexts 200-205 represent modern build–up and levelling layers associated with the construction of the car park.

3.2.2 Post-medieval

Most of the south-western corner of the trench was occupied by a large pit [231]. This was identified at a height of 25.88m AOD. It contained twelve distinct deposits (219)-(230), which indicated protracted use of the feature for the dumping of waste. The green colour of some deposits (219, 221, and 223) suggested that it was a cess pit, which was also filled by intermittent dumping of household waste.

Although six sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, three sherds of medieval and three sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered, the majority of the pottery (twelve sherds) was post-medieval in date. A 17th century date is also supported by pipe and glassware fragments. Environmental samples taken from a 'cess'-rich deposit (219) and charcoal-rich domestic waste deposit (220) did not contain any significant ecofacts (Appendix 2).

Traces of an undated pit [237] were identified in the south-eastern corner of the trench. This was not visible in the trench section and was not excavated due to its location and depth (*c.* 25.43m AOD). The stratigraphic position of this feature may indicate an early post-medieval origin.

Pit [208] was identified against the south-eastern baulk. It truncated layer (209) and pit [237]. This vertically sided feature was filled with a large number of horn cores that appeared to have been stacked in a radial pattern (within deposit 207). This feature was not bottomed for safety reasons, but it was in excess of 0.65m deep and contained over 300 horn cores. Although the deliberate arrangement of these horn cores is unlikely to have been significant, it is evidence of industrial activity within the study area. Eight sherds of pottery, dating from the medieval to post-medieval period, were also recovered, but fragments of roof tile support a post-medieval date for this feature.

Both pits were sealed by a *c.*0.3m thick layer of humic silt (206) that is likely to have been very mixed garden soil. Bricks recorded within the trench section suggest a post-medieval origin for this deposit.

The southern and western sections of Trench 2 revealed that layer (206) had been heavily disturbed by later activity associated with the construction and demolition of walls (contexts 211 – 218). The quantities of brick recorded, coupled with the lack of any floor surfaces suggest that foundations [233], [234] and [236], within the wider construction cut of [216], are likely to be associated late post-medieval/modern garden walls.

3.3 Trench 3

3.3.1 Undisturbed Geological Deposits and Overburden

Trench 3 was originally machined to a depth of 1.2m (*c.*25.6m AOD), with a 0.5m by 0.8m test pit dug 0.9m down in the centre of the trench.

Undisturbed geological deposit (329) was encountered at a height of *c.*25.35m AOD, although this figure may represent localised truncation.

Layers 300 – 302 represent build-up layers associated with the construction of the car park.

3.3.2 Undated

The earliest feature within the trench is likely to be a small pit [321], which was located in the south-east corner of the sondage. Unfortunately this yielded no dating evidence and its function is unclear.

Pit [321] was heavily truncated by two large pits: [319] and [317]. Re-machining of the trench, to a depth of 1.5m, revealed that [319] was the earlier of the two features and ran north-south along the western side of the trench. The steep sides of this feature suggest that it was unlikely to have been utilised as a ditch (unless it was shored).

Pit [317] was confined to the north-eastern corner of the trench. A machine-dug test pit revealed that it was *c.*1.65m deep but failed to produce any artefactual material. The relatively large size of these features and the sterility of their fills suggest that they may represent backfilled quarry pits, dug to extract gravel.

3.3.3 Post-medieval

Layers (312), (315), and (330) represent build-up layers, after the backfill of the quarry pits. Layer 312 covered the majority of the base of Trench 3. It was particularly thick (0.6m) and may represent a gradual accumulation of garden soil. Layer (315) is likely to be an interface between this and the sterile subsoils. Re-machining of the trench to a depth of 1.5m revealed that layer (312) masked a large, 19th century pit, [332], in the south-eastern corner of the trench. This contained transfer decorated china, and is likely to have been a household refuse pit.

A number of later features truncated layer (312): these included two animal burials [325] and [328], identified in the eastern trench section; an east-west aligned garden wall [309], a service pipe trench [311] and a small refuse pit [314]. Although pit [314] contained one sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery, all three features are likely to be 19th century in date. The section also displayed evidence of cobble, brick and tile surfacing (304), (305), and (306), which were either buried under a successive layer of garden soil or lay directly below a demolition layer (303).

4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 Discussion

This evaluation has demonstrated the presence of Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval remains within the development area. This is supported by the findings of a one-day watching brief carried out in 1985 in the south-eastern part of the site (HER 15251).

4.1.1 Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval

Trench 1 revealed the presence of intercutting Saxo-Norman refuse pits [114] and [118]. These contained domestic refuse and slag, indicative of iron working. Comparable pits, which also contained evidence of metal working, dated to the 10th-12th centuries, have been identified at Caudwell Street (Baker *et al* 1979). Noteworthy quantities of Saxo-Norman pottery were also recovered from buried topsoil layer (103). Similar buried topsoil layers were identified in Trench 2 and these may be of an equally early date. Residual sherds of 10th-12th century pottery, recovered from later features indicate that there was Saxo-Norman activity in the vicinity of Trench 2.

An early medieval posthole [150] was recorded in Trench 1. This may provide evidence for the presence of structures along the St John's Street frontage at this time. The site's archaeological potential (Albion Archaeology 2005), coupled with the lack of truncation, suggests that the relative lack of medieval features within the trenches may, or may not, be representative of the wider development area.

4.1.2 Post-Medieval

The majority of the post-medieval activity was confined to Trench 2, which contained a large 17th century refuse pit [231] and a pit [232] containing a large number of horn cores. Whilst the refuse pit was domestic in origin, the horn-core pit is evidence of specialist industrial activity occurring within the development area.

Other domestic post-medieval refuse pits were found in both Trenches 1 and 2. Continued occupation of the area is also suggested by the presence of two wells within Trench 1 and is consistent with the cartographic evidence outlined in the summary report on the site's potential (Albion Archaeology 2005).

4.1.3 Undated

The lack of artefactual material from the gravel quarry pits in Trench 3 prevents this activity from being dated. The lack of finds may itself suggest an earlier date than the post-medieval period: when this area was more heavily exploited and residual material would be more likely to have been introduced. Alternatively, it is possible that they are post-medieval, or later, in date.

The trenches confirm the expected pattern of the earliest and densest activity being closest to the road frontage to the east. The less concentrated, garden-type features were located further west. The presence of pit [208], which contained

waste from horn working, and the implied mix of industrial and domestic exploitation of the area is significant but not atypical (cf. Steadman 1999).

4.2 Summary

The evaluation has suggested that archaeological features might be anticipated throughout the proposed development area. It has also successfully demonstrated the nature and state of preservation of the deposits within these features.

Multiple periods of activity were represented from the Saxo-Norman period to the post-medieval period. The features identified included refuse pits, wells and gravel extraction pits. Deposits within these features contained artefactual material indicative of industrial activity, including horn and metal working. In addition, remains were encountered which suggest that the site has been continuously occupied from the 10th-12th centuries.

Archaeological features of this type have the potential to address regional and national research priorities, specifically the development and nature of Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval urban centres (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

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6. APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1, Context Summary

Trench: 1
Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1. m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0511949282 Ref. 2: TL0511749277
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the development areas.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Tarmac	Cemented Surface for carpark.	☑	☐
101	Concrete	Compact light yellow white Bedding layer for (100). Mixed with loose concrete.	☑	☐
102	Levelling layer	Cemented mid orange red Modern broken bricks. Levelling layer for (100).	☑	☐
103	Buried topsoil	Spongy dark brown grey silty loam moderate small charcoal, moderate small stones	☑	☑
104	Natural	Loose mid red orange sandy gravel Natural river gravel.	☐	☐
105	**Well**	**Circular E-W profile: vertical dimensions: min depth 0.85m, max diameter 1.6m Cut for well (106).**	☑	☐
106	Well lining	Ten courses of brick, mortared, circular, english bond, mortared, not frogged, concrete lined. A well wall.	☑	☐
107	Backfill	Loose light grey orange silty sand frequent small-large ceramic building material, frequent medium concrete Backfill of well (106).	☑	☑
108	Subsoil	Friable dark red black clay silt frequent small stones Subsoil lens in base of trench.	☐	☐
109	Subsoil	Friable dark red black clay silt frequent small stones Subsoil lens in base of trench.	☐	☐
111	Subsoil	Dark red sandy clay frequent small stones Subsoil lens in base of trench.	☐	☐
114	**Pit**	**Rectangular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.7m, min depth 0.6m, min length 2.4m Rubbish pit, smooth sides, assymetrical.**	☑	☐
112	Fill	Friable light brown silty clay frequent small stones Redeposited natural.	☑	☐
113	Fill	Friable light grey white moderate small charcoal Hearth material / fire ash. Charcoal lumps and fragments.	☑	☑
126	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt	☑	☐
128	Fill	Friable mid grey clay silt Contains fine ash.	☑	☐
129	Fill	Light grey brown clay silt Very fine, soft compaction primary fill.	☑	☐
130	Fill	Friable light grey red clay silt moderate small stones	☑	☐
137	Fill	Friable light brown clay silt frequent medium stones	☑	☐
138	Fill	Friable dark red grey clay silt frequent small sand	☑	☐
139	Fill	Friable grey silty ash	☑	☐
151	Fill	Friable dark grey clay silt	☑	☐
118	**Pit**	**Rectangular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.6m, min length 1.4m Rubbish pit.**	☑	☐
115	Fill	Friable light grey black clay silt Mottled with ash, charcoal and bone.	☑	☑
116	Fill	Friable light grey green clay silt Green indicates animal slurry, deposited manure.	☑	☑
122	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt	☑	☐
123	Fill	Friable light brown sandy silt	☑	☐
124	Fill	Friable light grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	☑	☑
125	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty ash	☑	☐
127	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt Very ashy.	☑	☐

Trench: 1
Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1. m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0511949282 Ref. 2: TL0511749277
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the development areas.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
119	**Pit**	**Rectangular profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.6m, min length 2.3m Rubbish pit.**	☑	☐
117	Natural	Friable dark grey clay silt frequent small stones Sand in fill.	☑	☑
120	Fill	Light green clay silt	☑	☐
121	Fill	Friable grey black clay silt	☑	☑
132	**Gulley**	**Irregular N-S profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.3m, max length 0.7m Gully**	☑	☐
131	Fill	Friable dark red clay silt frequent small stones	☑	☐
140	Make up layer	Friable	☑	☐
141	Layer	Friable light grey black clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones	☑	☐
142	Layer	Friable dark grey black clay silt	☑	☐
143	Layer	Friable light grey clay silt Ashy and similar to (141).	☑	☐
144	Layer	Friable yellow grey clay silt Very ashy, similar to (145).	☑	☐
145	Layer	Friable light grey clay silt Similar to (144).	☑	☐
146	Layer	Friable light grey brown clay silt Similar to (145).	☑	☐
148	**Postpipe**	**Circular profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.26m, min depth 0.14m**	☑	☐
110	Postpipe	Dark grey black clay silt frequent small stones Soft compaction, 20mm diameter	☑	☑
150	**Posthole**	**Circular profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, min depth 0.15m**	☑	☐
149	Backfill	Friable dark black clay silt frequent small stones	☑	☐
152	**Well**	**Sub-circular profile: vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.9m, min length 1.5m**	☑	☐
133	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt	☑	☐
134	Well lining	White and blue limestone, rough stones, some finishing, four courses or more as excavated 150mm in depth, no mortar.	☑	☐
135	Fill	Friable mid orange brown frequent small-medium ceramic building material Contains building material,plaster, mortar, brick, crushed brick.	☑	☑
153	**Pit**	**Curving linear dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min length 0.6m**	☑	☐
136	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt	☑	☑

Trench: 2
Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.2 m. Max: 1.2 m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0509849284 Ref. 2: TL0509549279
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the development areas.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Tarmac	Cemented frequent small stones Carpark surface.	☑	☐
201	Layer	Loose dark black tarmac Soft black tarmac dust.	☑	☐
202	Layer	Friable dark orange white sandy chalk	☑	☐
203	Layer	Friable light pinkish red hardcore	☑	☐
204	Tarmac	Black frequent small stones Soft thin layer.	☑	☐
205	lens	Friable mid orange hardcore Small dump of brick. Part of (206).	☑	☐
206	Layer	Dark brown grey silt frequent small ceramic building material, frequent small chalk Contaminated with clay, chalk and brick.	☑	☐
208	**Pit**	**Circular profile: vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.85m, min depth 0.65m, min length 1.56m Partially under east baulk. Refuse pit for horn cores.**	☑	☐
207	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt Tile fragments, mortar lumps. Contains 100+ cow horn cores.	☑	☑
209	Buried topsoil	Light grey brown silt moderate small stones Humic, garden soil.	☑	☐
210	Natural	Dark orange sandy gravel Natural gravel.	☐	☐
216	**Foundation trench**	**N-S profile: vertical dimensions: min depth 0.62m Foundation trench for wall.**	☑	☐
211	Fill	Brown grey silt frequent small ceramic building material, frequent medium concrete Rubble infill.	☑	☐
212	Fill	Light grey orange silty sand moderate small stones Striated, infill.	☑	☐
213	Fill	Mid yellow orange sandy gravel frequent small stones Infill.	☑	☐
231	**Pit**	**Circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.75m, min depth 1.7m, min length 0.8m Pit of dumped material and animal slurry.**	☑	☐
219	Fill	Light brown grey sandy silt moderate small stones contained cess lenses and bone fragments.	☑	☑
220	Fill	Dark grey black silt frequent flecks charcoal Charcoal rich fill	☑	☑
221	Fill	Light grey brown silt occasional small stones Humic , hint of green.	☑	☐
222	Fill	Mid grey brown silt occasional small stones Green and humicin platches.	☑	☑
223	Fill	Light green brown silt Similar to (221).	☑	☐
224	Fill	Dark grey black silt frequent flecks charcoal	☑	☐
225	Fill	Loose light grey yellow sandy gravel Thin layer.	☑	☐
226	Fill	Mid grey black silt frequent flecks charcoal	☑	☐
227	Fill	Loose light orange grey sandy gravel	☑	☐
228	Fill	Loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel Very similar to (225).	☑	☐
229	Fill	Light grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☐
230	Fill	Loose dark orange sandy gravel Very crumbly.	☑	☐
232	Natural	Loose light yellow sandy gravel	☐	☐
233	**Foundation trench**	**Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.75m, min depth 0.4m Cut for wall foundation material.**	☑	☐

Trench: 2
Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.2 m. Max: 1.2 m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0509849284 Ref. 2: TL0509549279
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the development areas.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
218	Fill	Compact dark yellow orange sandy gravel Wall foundation. Equal to (235).	☑	☐
234	**Foundation trench**	**Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.56m, min depth 0.58m, min length 0.6m Cut for wall foundation.**	☑	☐
235	Fill	Hard mid yellow orange gravel frequent small stones Equal to (218).	☑	☐
236	**Pit**	**N-S profile: concave dimensions: min depth 240.m, min length 350.m Base not defined, no shape in plan. May equal [216].**	☑	☐
214	Fill	Dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
215	Fill	Mid brown orange sandy gravel Gravel fill.	☑	☐
237	**Pit**	**Circular dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min length 1.03m**	☐	☐
238	Pit	Firm mid grey black silty clay	☐	☐

Trench: 3
Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.3 m. Max: 1.3 m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0506649288 Ref. 2: TL0506449283
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the development areas.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Surface	Friable light orange gravel	☑	☐
301	Layer	Brown grey clay silt frequent medium ceramic building material Hardcore and brick fragments.	☑	☐
302	Layer	Friable light orange gravel Earlier carpark surface.	☑	☐
303	Layer	Mid grey clay silt Brick fragments with clay lenses.	☑	☐
304	Layer	Compact brown clay silt moderate medium ceramic building material Slate and mortar inclusions.	☑	☐
305	Surface	Heavy quarry tile surface / path on mortar bed.	☑	☐
306	Surface	Grey brown clay silt moderate medium stones Large water-rolled flint cobbles.	☑	☐
309	**Foundation trench**	**Linear E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.51m, max depth 0.3m, min length 0.4m Foundation cut for wall (307).**	☑	☐
307	Wall	Mortar bonded brick wall, three course high. East- west boundary wall.	☑	☐
308	Fill	Mixed rubble, tile and mortar.	☑	☐
311	**Service Trench**	**Linear E-W dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.26m**	☑	☐
310	Fill	Mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, moderate small stones	☑	☐
312	Buried topsoil	Mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones Garden soil.	☑	☑
314	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular NW-SE profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.38m, max depth 0.3m, max length 0.56m Victorian pit up against wall (307).**	☑	☐
313	Fill	Dark grey sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, moderate small stones	☑	☑
315	Buried subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones	☑	☐
317	**Pit**	**Profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.95m, min depth 0.9m, min length 1.15m Gravel extraction pit.**	☑	☐
316	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones	☑	☐
333	Fill	Dark grey silty clay moderate small stones Lower pit fill, five lumps of limestone in pit, no tool marks.	☑	☐
319	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.58m, min depth 0.8m, min length 1.3m Gravel extraction pit.**	☑	☐
318	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small fired clay, moderate small stones	☑	☐
321	**Pit**	**Sub-circular base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.32m, min length 0.9m Shallow pit, pre-dating gravel extraction pits.**	☑	☐
320	Fill	Friable grey brown silty sand frequent small stones	☑	☐
322	Layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks chalk Brick fragments or tile fragment layer.	☑	☐
325	**Animal grave**	**Dimensions: max depth 0.4m, min length 0.6m Dog grave, rooting obliterated dimensions.**	☑	☐
323	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
324	Animal skeleton	Partially truncated animal skeleton, upper of two burials against wall (307).	☑	☑
328	**Animal grave**	**Dimensions obliterated due to rooting.**	☑	☐
326	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	☑	☐

Trench: 3
Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.3 m. Max: 1.3 m.
OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0506649288 Ref. 2: TL0506449283
Reason: To test the archaeological potential of the development areas.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
327	Animal skeleton	Animal burial.	☑	☑
329	Natural	Orange sandy gravel River gravel.	☐	☐
330	Layer	Compact orange sand Colluvium.	☐	☐
332	**Pit**	**Dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, min length 2.m**	☑	☐
331	Pit	Dark grey brown clay sand	☑	☐

6.2 Appendix 2, Artefact and Ecofact Summary

6.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipe, vessel glass, metalworking residues, animal bone and oyster shell, the majority associated with features in trench 1 (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Pottery	CBM	Animal bone	Other finds
01	103	Buried topsoil	103	Saxo-Norman	41:207		57:539	Charcoal (1g); shell (2g); slag (264g)
	105	Well	107	Post-medieval		2:996		
	114	Pit	113	Late med/post-med	5:42	5:422	15:380	
	118	Pit	115	Saxo-Norman	11:167		12:136	Slag (2g)
	118	Pit	116	Saxo-Norman	6:79		1:7	
	118	Pit	124	Saxo-Norman	2:37		1:7	
	119	Pit	117	Post-medieval	22:190	5:211	34:263	Vessel glass (3g); slag (152g)
	119	Pit	121	Saxo-Norman	1:18		1:33	Shell (11g); slag (37g)
	148	Postpipe	110	Early medieval	4:15			
	152	Well	135	Modern	1:29	1:75		Slate (44g); ca coat hook; floor tile (75g)
	153	Pit	136	Saxo-Norman	1:4		3:20	
02	208	Rubbish pit	207	Post-medieval	8:215	7:1132	325:20416	Shell (5g); slag (36g); mortar (253g)
	231	Pit	219	Post-medieval	19:452	33:2678	31:662	Vessel glass (8g); shell (72g); clay pipe (28g)
	231	Pit	220	Post-medieval	1:49	2:93		Vessel glass (159g)
	231	Pit	222	Post-medieval	5:68	7:401	11:479	Ca binding; shell (15g); clay pipe 15g
03	312	Buried topsoil	312	Modern	8:100		6:19	Clay pipe (2g)
	314	Pit	313	Saxo-Norman	1:2			
	325	Animal grave	324	-			33:16	
	328	Animal grave	327	Post-medieval	1:51		39:149	
				Total	137:1725	62:6008	569:23126	

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

CBM = ceramic building material

(sherd / frag count : weight in grammes)

Table 1: *Artefact summary by trench and context*

6.2.2 Pottery

A total of 137 pottery sherds weighing 1.7kg was recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are fairly small (average weight 13g) and exhibit variable degrees of abrasion. Few vessels are represented by more than single sherds. Twenty fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman period to the present day, with the bulk of the assemblage being of Saxo-Norman and early medieval origin.

Saxo-Norman

Saxo-Norman pottery constitutes 61% of the assemblage and comprises 84 wheel-thrown shell tempered sherds (770g) in the St Neots-type tradition, datable to the 10th-12th centuries. Forms include everted rim jars, and bowls with hammerhead and inturned rims. The exterior surfaces of several sherds are sooted, indicating their use as cooking pots. The majority of the pottery was recovered from the deposits of pit [118], with smaller amounts deriving from pit [314] and buried topsoil layer (103), Trench1. Several residual sherds occurred in post-medieval pits [119] and [231], Trenches 1 and 2 respectively.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Saxo-Norman			
Type B01	St Neots-type ware	**13**	(103):4, (113):1, (117):5, (219):2, (313):1
Type B01A	St Neots-type (orange)	**56**	(103):26, (110):1, (113):4, (115):11, (116):6, (117):3, (121):1, (136):1, (219):2, (220):1
Type B01B	St Neots-type (fine)	**15**	(103):11, (117):1, (124):2, (219):1
Medieval			
Type B07	Shell	**1**	(219):1
Type C01	Sand	**4**	(110):3, (117):1
Type C03	Fine sand	**1**	(117):1
Type C05	Sand (red margins)	**3**	(117):2, (219):1
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall type (fine)	**2**	(117):1, (207):1
Type C60	Hertfordshire-type greyware	**1**	(219):1
Type C	Non-specific medieval	**2**	(117):1, (312):1
Late medieval			
Type E01	Reduced sand	**9**	(117):4, (207):1, (312):4
Type E02	Oxidised sand	**7**	(207):4, (219):3
Post-medieval			
Type P14	Blackware	**4**	(207):1, (219):3
Type P28C	Midland Purple	**1**	(219)
Type P52	Late Brill	**6**	(117):3, (219):3
Type P54	Mottled glazed	**4**	(222):4
Type P	Non-specific post-medieval	**3**	(207):1, (219):1, (327):1
Modern			
Type P43	Pearlware	**1**	(312):1
Type P45	Transfer-printed ware	**2**	(312):2
Type P48	English stoneware	**2**	(135):1, (222):1

Table 2: *Pottery type series*

Medieval

Twenty-two percent of the pottery assemblage is datable to the medieval period and comprises 30 sherds, weighing 415g. The material comprises predominantly hand-made sand tempered sherds of probable local manufacture, datable to the 12th-13th centuries. A single shell tempered sherd of similar date was also recorded. Pottery of 13th-15th century date is represented by two wheel-thrown sherds of glazed Brill-Boarstall ware, a regional import from Buckinghamshire. The late medieval period is represented by sixteen wheel-thrown oxidised and reduced sand tempered sherds of 14th-15th century date. Diagnostic forms are rare and comprise an everted rim jar and a plain strap handle from a jug. Three early medieval sherds (10g) were recovered from post-pipe [148], Trench 1. However, most medieval sherds are either unstratified

(buried topsoil (312) trench 3) or residual within post-medieval pits [119] Trench 1, [208] and [231] Trench 2.

Post-medieval and modern

Post-medieval pottery constitutes 13% of the assemblage and comprises 18 sherds (426g), the majority deriving from the deposits of pit [231]. They include four sherds of 16th-17th century blackware, ten sherds of late Brill and mottled glazed ware, both of 17th-18th century date, and single sherds of Midland Purple and miscellaneous slipware, the latter of probable 18th century origin. Three unstratified sherds of 19th century pearlware and transfer-printed ware were recovered from garden soil layer (312) and single sherds of 18th-19th century English stoneware from well [152] and pit [132].

6.2.3 Ceramic building material

Ceramic building material comprises 59 sand tempered pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (4.6kg) and a brick fragment (689g), deriving mainly from pits [208] and [231]. No building material was recovered from Trench 3. Roof tiles range in thickness between 12-15mm, and types with round peg holes and square nail holes occur. A large piece of pantile and a modern floor tile fragment stamped 'EXCELSIOR' were recovered respectively from well [105] and [152].

6.2.4 Clay pipe

Seven clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered from pit [231] and a single piece from buried topsoil (312). Stem bore diameters range between 2.4-3mm, suggesting a late 17th century date for the fragments.

6.2.5 Non-ceramic finds

Metal objects

Metal artefacts comprise a copper alloy binding strip fragment, recovered from post-medieval pit [231] and a possible modern coat hook recovered from well [152].

Metalworking residues

Ferrous slag indicative of small-scale smelting processes (mainly tap slag) weighing 491g was recovered from pits [118], [119], [208], and Buried topsoil layer (103). The latter also contained a small quantity of smithing slag, traces of limestone flux, vitrified clay, and fuel ash slag. All fragments are redeposited.

Vessel glass

Pit [119] contained two fragments of beaker rim decorated with honeycomb moulding, datable to the late 16th-17th century. A kick base and angular shoulder fragment from a late 17th century wine bottle were recovered from pit [231].

6.2.6 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 569 fragments weighing 23.1kg, and occurs in features of Saxo-Norman and post-medieval date. Of particular interest is a collection of 319 cattle horn cores and skull fragments (19.8kg) recovered from post-medieval rubbish pit (208) trench 2. The assemblage is similar to a post-medieval horn-working deposit thought to derive from improved short horn

cattle, recovered during excavations to the rear of 29-41 High Street, Bedford (Steadman 1999).

Bone preservation is variable, with some fragments displaying greater surface erosion than others, although the material generally survives in good condition. Apart from horn cores, other diagnostic elements are long bones, scapulae, ribs and vertebrae, many of which have been deliberately chopped. Twenty-six pieces of a dog skull were recovered from buried topsoil (103), and the partial skeleton of a post-medieval juvenile sheep or goat from burial [328]. A piece of cut antler derived from pit [231].

6.2.7 Environmental samples

Two thirty litre samples were taken from the fills of post-medieval pit [231], one for the extraction of charred plant remains and the second as a control. They were processed by bulk flotation in a peroxide solution. Flots were taken from both samples on a 300 micron meshed sieve. The residues were passed through a 5.6mm, 2.0mm and 1.0mm sieve stack. The 5.6mm residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts, while the 2.0mm and 1.0mm residues were retained unsorted.

Sample 1 (219): sterile apart from a small quantity of charcoal observed in the flot and residues.

Sample 2 (220): a small quantity of charcoal was observed in the residues. The flot contained abundant fine ash and modern root material.

Figure 1: Site location plan.

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

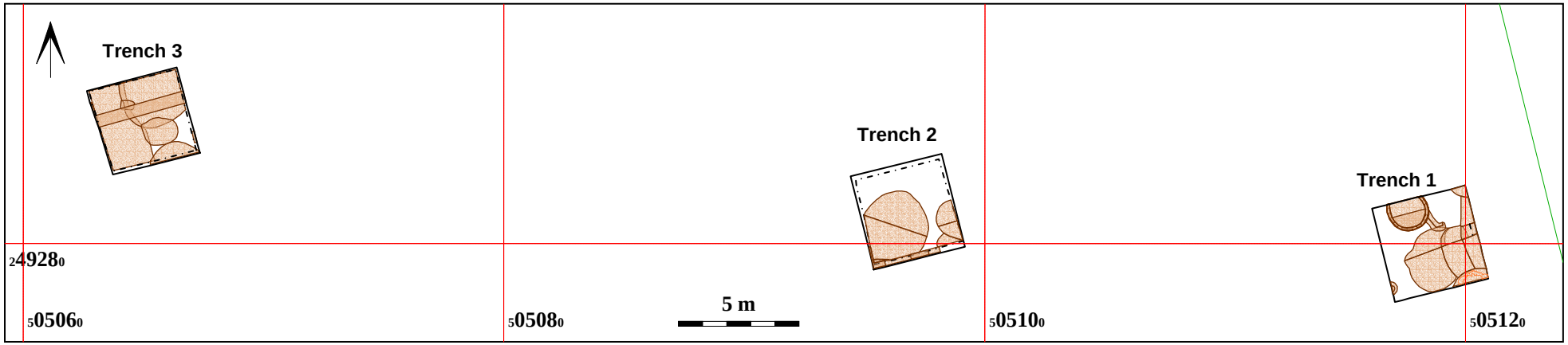
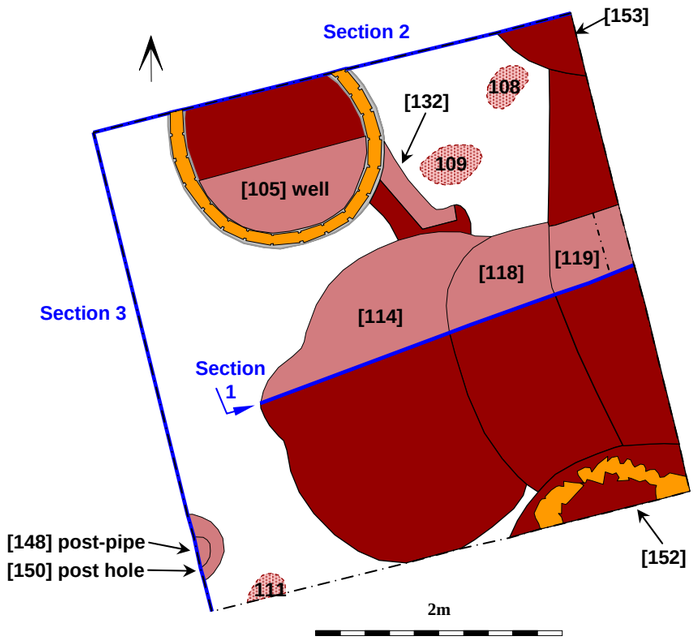


Figure 2: All features.

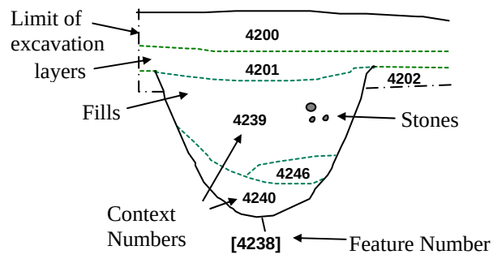
Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.

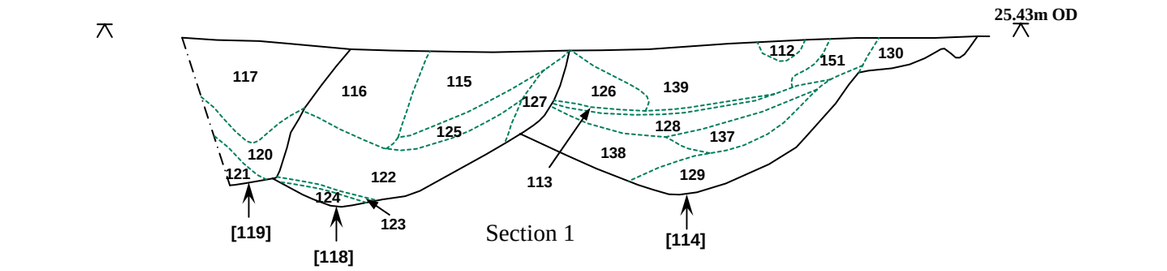


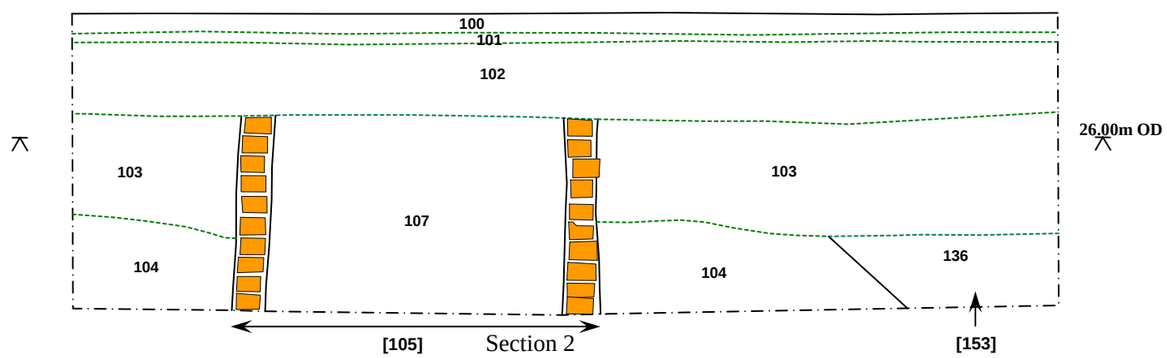
Key to Plan

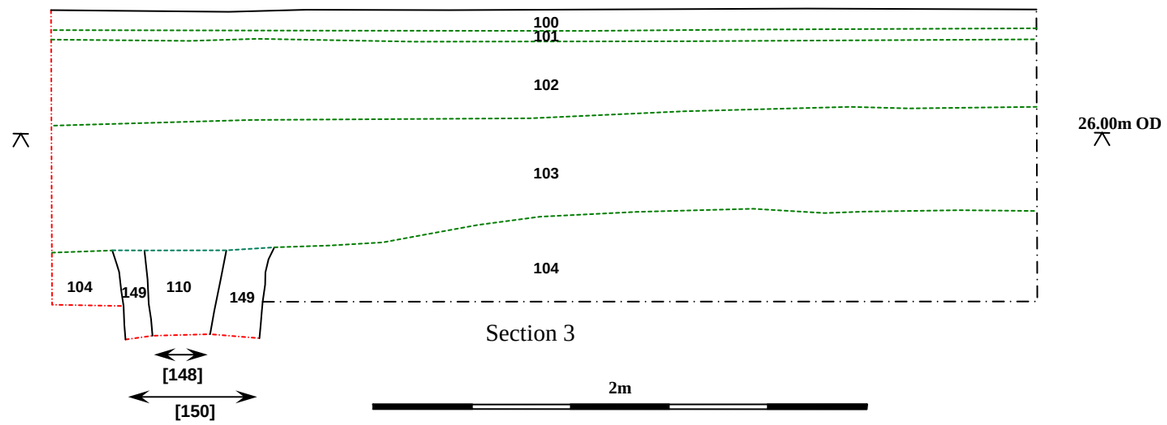
- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Feature; excavated segment
- Masonry/Stonework
- Cement
- Layer
- Top of trench
- Base of trench

Key to Section Drawings





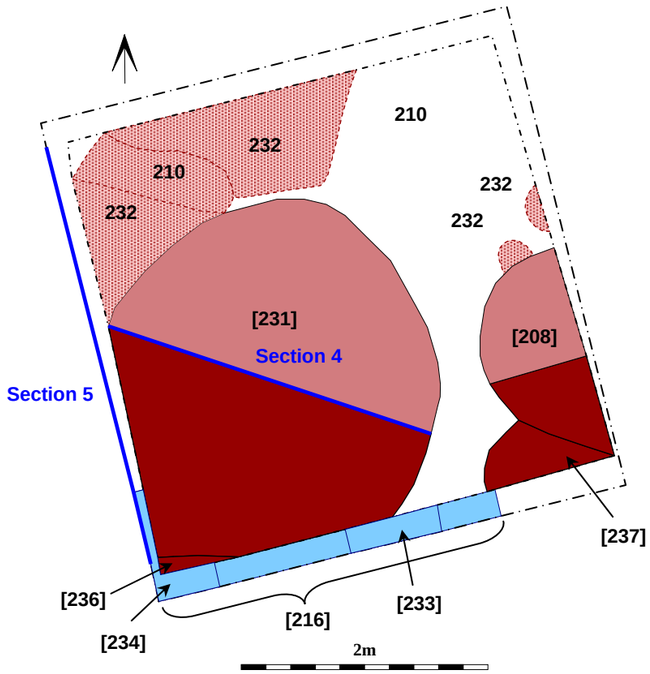




Photograph showing pits [114], [118], [119] and [152]
scale 2m

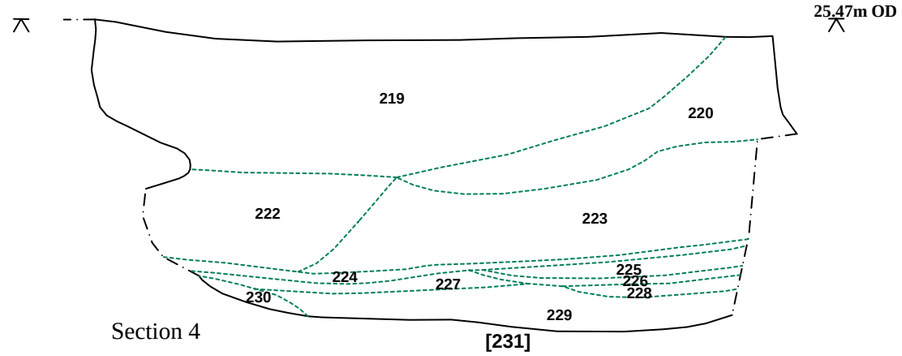
Photograph showing well [105]
scale 2m

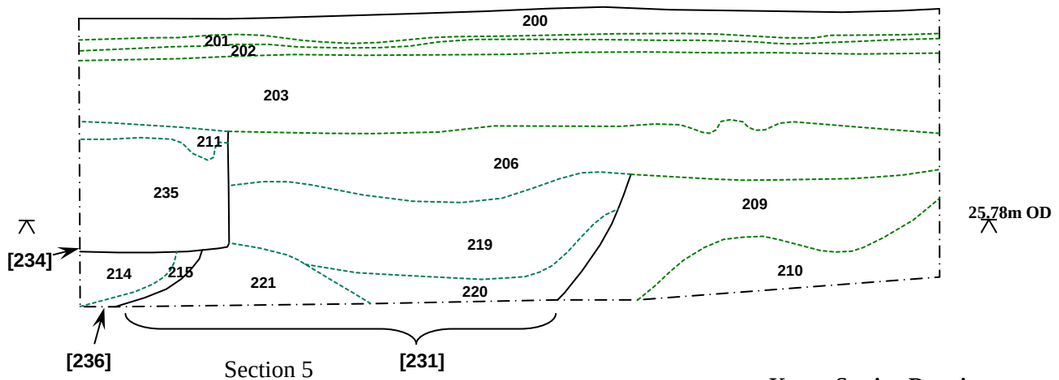
Figure 3: Trench 1; All features plan with selected sections and photographs



Key to Plan

- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Feature; excavated segment
- Features only visible in section
- Cement
- Layer
- Top of trench
- Base of trench





Photograph showing pit [231]
scale 2m

Photographs showing horn pit [208]
scale 1m

Key to Section Drawings

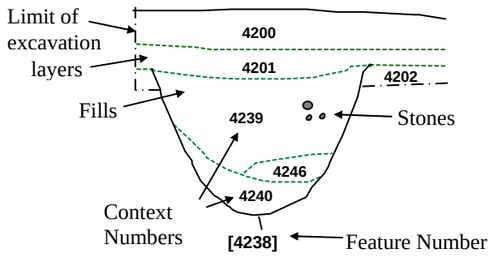
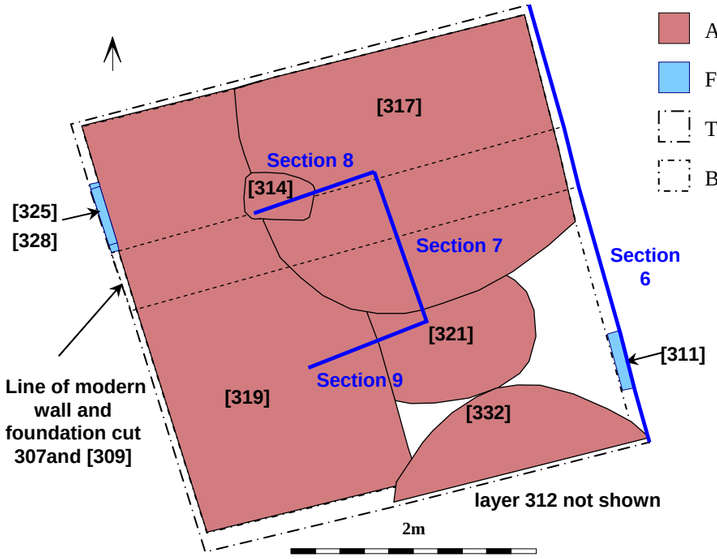
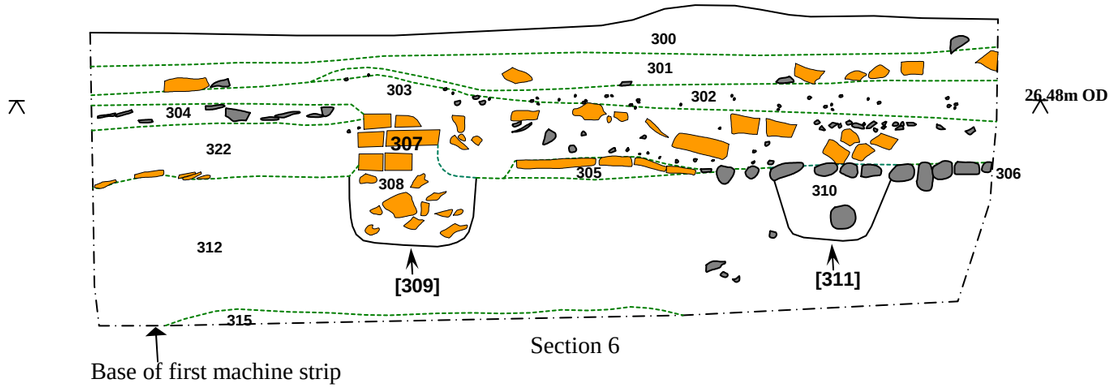


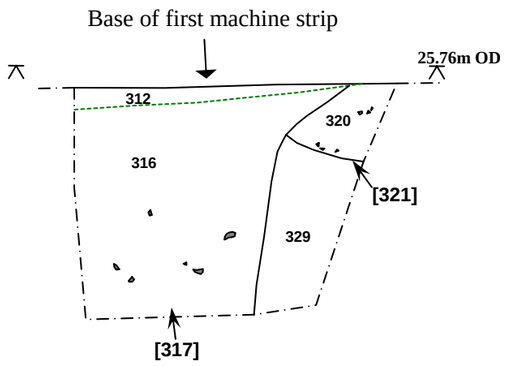
Figure 4: Trench 2; All features plan with selected sections and photographs

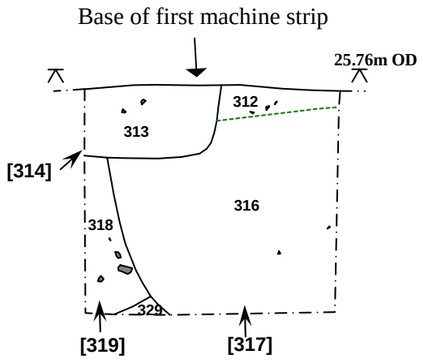


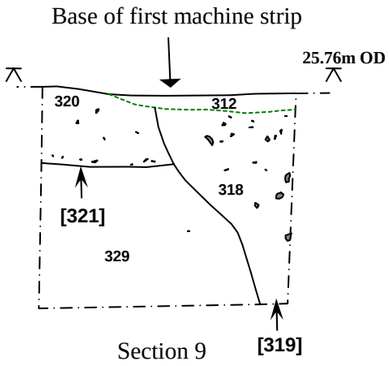
Key to Plan

- Archaeological Feature; machine excavated segment
- Features only visible in section
- Top of trench
- Base of trench



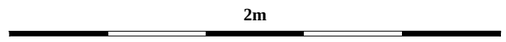






Photograph showing base of first machine strip and initial sondage into pits [314], [317], [321], and ditch [319].
Shadowed areas slightly enhanced
scale 2m

Photograph showing machined sondage into pit [317] after second machine strip.
Wall 307 and foundation cut [309] visible in trench section



Key to Section Drawings

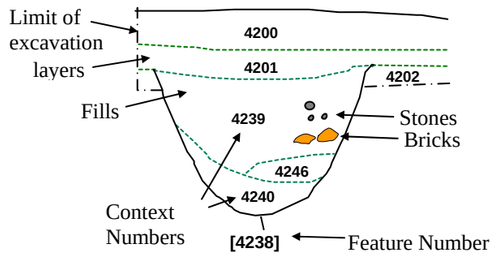


Figure 5: Trench 3; All features plan with selected sections and photographs