

**LAND AT ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
ST CUTHBERT'S STREET
BEDFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

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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.

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Albion Archaeology is grateful to Bedford Borough Council for awarding the contract and for the co-operation of Cranfield Construction during the investigation. Martin Oake (County Archaeological Officer) monitored the works on behalf of the Planning Authority.

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Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, there is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 2. A synthesis of the results and their significance is presented in Section 3. Section 4 is a bibliography. Detailed information on the recovered artefacts and the contextual data is presented as appendices in Section 5.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
BCC	Bedfordshire County Council
BCAS	Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
CAO	County Archaeological Officer
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001.</i> Bedfordshire County Council



Non-technical Summary

Bedford Borough Council was granted planning permission (06/00673/LBC) to undertake enhancement works in and around the churchyard of St Cuthbert's Church in Bedford.

Due to the archaeological sensitivity of the site, Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological Officer (CAO) issued a Brief (BCC 2003) for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording during the works. The Brief was amended by the CAO in a letter to Albion Archaeology, dated 23.06.06. Because St Cuthbert's churchyard is still a consecrated burial ground, permission to carry out the enhancement works, together with the archaeological investigation, was obtained from the Diocese of St Albans. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Bedford Borough Council to prepare a project design (Albion Archaeology 2006) and undertake a programme of archaeological observation, recording, analysis and publication of the site.

St Cuthbert's Church is located on the eastern edge of the historic core of Bedford at the southern end of St Cuthbert's Street. The churchyard comprises an island surrounded by a road, which serves as a roundabout. The churchyard is c.600sqm in area and is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 0529 4982.

The programme of archaeological observation was undertaken between 19th September 2006 and 29th December 2006. During this period, all groundworks that required monitoring were completed. The groundworks included:

- *ground reduction within the churchyard adjacent to specific areas of the churchyard wall;*
- *rebuilding certain sections of the churchyard wall and repairs to the rest of the wall;*
- *resurfacing the pavements around the churchyard.*

The archaeological investigation largely revealed features and deposits associated with the current 19th century church. However, a build-up of deposits up to c. 1.5m thick was observed. This indicated that the level of the churchyard had been deliberately raised in two stages, initially in the medieval period and later in the post-medieval period. Beneath these deposits, early medieval layers were revealed, which were probably soil horizons pre-dating the establishment of the churchyard.

Iron working waste was recovered from the early medieval deposits, reinforcing the idea that this area of Bedford was an industrial quarter at that time. In addition, fragments of lime mortar allude to the presence of masonry structures in the vicinity at this time.

The investigation has demonstrated the potential for the survival of further well preserved archaeological remains on the site that pre-date the churchyard and that may contribute to our knowledge of the development of the late Saxon and medieval core of Bedford. However, such remains would appear to lie well below the present ground surface.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

Bedford Borough Council was granted planning permission (06/00673/LBC) to undertake enhancement works in and around the churchyard of St Cuthbert's Church in Bedford.

Due to the archaeological sensitivity of the site, Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological Officer (CAO) issued a Brief (BCC 2003) for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording during the works. The Brief was amended by the CAO in a letter to Albion Archaeology, dated 23.06.06.

Because St Cuthbert's churchyard is still a consecrated burial ground, permission to carry out the enhancement works, together with the archaeological investigation, was obtained from the Diocese of St Albans. In granting permission for the works to proceed, the Church requested that any human remains disturbed as a result of the work be reburied at the time of the excavations.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Bedford Borough Council to prepare a project design (Albion Archaeology 2006) and undertake a programme of archaeological observation, recording, analysis and publication of the site.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

St Cuthbert's Church is located on the eastern edge of the historic core of Bedford at the southern end of St Cuthbert's Street. The churchyard comprises an island surrounded by a road, which serves as a roundabout (see Figure 1). The churchyard is c.600sqm in area and is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 0529 4982.

The land within the churchyard is fairly level and lies at approximately 29.5m OD. The surrounding highway is lower and the level falls from c. [98ft] 29.87m OD north of the church to [91ft] 27.74m OD to the south of the churchyard.

The site is located within the valley of the River Great Ouse. The soils of the area are derived from the underlying alluvial deposits comprising alluvium and gravels that overlie cornbrash limestone.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological and historical background of this area has been fully described in a recent Extensive Urban Survey (Albion Archaeology 2001a) funded by English Heritage. The known archaeological potential of the development area has been summarised in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2006).

Little evidence has been found to suggest there was significant activity prior to the Saxon period within the historic core of Bedford, but archaeological remains



suggest that some kind of settlement had been established in the area by the 6th – 8th century AD

The present St Cuthbert's church dates to the 19th century. However, it is possible that this was originally a Saxon foundation, as is suggested by its dedication, though there is no archaeological or documentary evidence to support this hypothesis. Saxon structural remains and occupational evidence have been found at Bedford Museum (formerly Bennett's Works), which is located *c.*100m to the south-west, in Castle Lane. Archaeological recording of contractor's trenches revealed slots, postholes and hearths, which were sealed by a turf line (Baker 1986).

Excavations have also revealed evidence of Saxo-Norman activity in the immediate vicinity of the church. At St Cuthbert's Street, rubbish pits and a stone structure suggested an area of settlement and, at Mill Street, large amounts of slag and ashy deposits indicated the location of a possible industrial quarter (Albion Archaeology 2001a).

A 12th century school owned and run by Newnham Priory is thought to have been situated halfway down the north side of Mill Street (Crawley and Freeman 1997, 97), whilst a horse mill for grinding malt (known as Trinity Mill) was situated at the eastern end of Mill Street on the present site of the Bunyan Meeting House.

The line of the Saxon and medieval boundary for the town is thought to pass close to the location of St Cuthbert's Church, and it has been postulated that a gate into the town once lay on the north side of the site of the church (Albion Archaeology 2001a).

By the early 13th century, records indicate that a stone church existed on the site. The chronicler Ralph de Coggeshall records that it was pulled down, along with St Paul's Church, by Falkes de Breaute to provide stone to re-fortify the nearby Bedford Castle around 1216. Following the siege of the castle, in 1224, the church was rebuilt, probably re-using the stones from the demolished castle (Albion Archaeology 2001a).

Evidence of the later medieval town has been found during excavation at 43 Mill Street, where stone footings of three or more buildings dating from the 15th century were found (Albion Archaeology 2001a).

The medieval church was demolished and re-built as it stands today in 1848.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

The overall objective of the archaeological works outlined in the Project Design was to fully define, investigate and record any archaeological deposits that would be destroyed in the course of the development.

Increasingly, Bedford is being recognised as one of the earliest of the Saxon towns, and of great potential value to our understanding of the process of urbanisation during what was a formative period in this country's history. The potential of towns for dramatically increasing knowledge of past society and



economy has been emphasised in the research frameworks set for the East Anglian region (Glazebrook 1997, 59-64). It was concluded that the ‘...urban potential of deposits, buildings, artefacts, ecofacts and palaeo-ecological diversity ensures that towns remain priority areas for research.’ The role of the church as an important influence on urban development was specifically identified (Glazebrook 1997, 63).

The study of human remains has also been identified as an important regional theme for research (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), in particular Saxon inhumation cemeteries. The possibility that Saxon human remains may exist on the site cannot be discounted.

The location of the site is also relevant to important areas of archaeological themes as identified in the *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire* (Albion Archaeology 2001a) and *An Archaeological Research Framework for Bedfordshire* (Oake, in prep.). These are in particular, the development of the late Saxon and medieval settlement core and the location of the boundary of the late Saxon and medieval town. Information recovered during the investigation, even if it is of low importance in its own right, will contribute to our understanding of the nature and extent of archaeological deposits in this area of Bedford, which in turn will assist predictive modelling of the significance and survival of archaeological deposits.

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 area;
- ii. Establish the relationship of any remains found to the historic town;
- iii. Recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- iv. Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- v. Recover human burials and human remains disturbed by the proposed works.
- vi. Recover information that would contribute to modelling of archaeological deposits in this area of Bedford.



2. RESULTS OF OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

2.1 Introduction

The programme of archaeological observation was undertaken between 19th September 2006 and 29th December 2006. During this period, all groundworks that required monitoring were completed.

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

2.2 Methodology

The archaeological works adhered to the standards and field methods set out in Section 5 of the brief (BCC 2003), together with the associated amendments (dated 23.06.06), and in the Project Design (Albion 2006), specifically:

- 1 Demolition and ground works were monitored to try to identify *in situ* archaeological deposits.
- 2 All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts, and material removed from dismantled structures was examined in order to identify any archaeologically significant architectural fragments.
- 3 Archaeological deposits were investigated to characterise and date them (by determining stratigraphic relationships and recovering artefactual dating evidence).
- 4 Human remains were dealt with in accordance with the Brief and the requirements of the Diocese. Exposed human remains were screened from public view and any that were disturbed were re-buried within the churchyard as close to the original place of interment as possible.
- 5 All archaeological features and deposits that were encountered were fully recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual* and the detailed requirements in section 5 of the Brief.
- 6 All archaeological observations were recorded at a suitable scale on base plans tied in to the OS national grid.
- 7 Significant archaeological features and deposits were photographed. Frequent 'working shots' were also taken to record the building works.

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IFA's *Code of Conduct* (1999)
- IFA's *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2001)
- IFA's *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2001b)
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork 2nd Edition* (2001b)
- *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* (Bedford Museum and Luton Museum 2002)
- *Standards for the Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003)

The overall project management will follow the principles set out in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991).



2.3 **Extent and Nature of Groundworks**

The works included:

- ground reduction within the churchyard adjacent to specific areas of the churchyard wall;
- rebuilding certain sections of the churchyard wall and repairs to the rest of the wall;
- resurfacing the pavements around the churchyard.

The development also necessitated the removal of tree roots and the grubbing out of vegetation.

A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket was used to undertake the excavation of specific areas adjacent to the churchyard wall, which are henceforth referred to as Trenches 1 to 5 (Figure 2). The trenches measured between 1.2m and 1.4m wide and varied between 0.25m and 1.9m deep, depending on the extent of the necessary repairs to the wall. The deeper trenches were stepped to allow safe access. A further 0.3m deep sondage was excavated by Albion in the base of Trench 1 in order to characterise the deposits.

2.4 **Results**

The programme of archaeological observation largely revealed features and deposits associated with the post-medieval and modern use of the churchyard. However, four of the trenches revealed a substantial layer of clay that may have been laid down in the medieval period in order to level up the churchyard. All these features and deposits are discussed in more detail below.

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

2.4.1 **General deposit model**

The current ground surface within the graveyard is up to *c.* 1.4m higher than the pavement surrounding it. Within the graveyard the current ground surface slopes from 29.9m OD in the north-eastern corner, down to 29.3m OD in the south-western corner. Outside the perimeter of the graveyard, the ground slopes in a similar direction but much steeper, and is as much as 1.4m below the adjacent ground surface within the churchyard.

The overburden comprised graveyard-derived topsoil and subsoil deposits that were between 0.6m and 1.2m thick. A copper alloy jetton dating to *c.* AD1525-1625 was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 3. In Trench 1, the graveyard soils were sealed by a levelling layer (101) associated with the current path. Natural geology was only observed in Trench 1, at a depth of 27.47m OD, within a small hand-dug sondage (see Figure 3). This consisted of hard, dark red clay with frequent small stones. Elsewhere, the deposits comprised made ground, suggesting that the churchyard has been deliberately raised. All the graves that were observed had been cut through these make-up layers. The ground raising had occurred in two distinct phases, one ceasing at *c.* 28.4m OD and the other at *c.* 29.2m OD.



2.4.2 Early medieval layers pre-dating the churchyard

Three layers revealed near the base of Trench 1 (Figure 3, contexts (123), (124) and (125)) contained pottery dating from between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. They all appeared to be the remains of buried soil horizons, and they extended to both sides of the current churchyard wall.

Layer (123) consisted of dark brown clay-silt and extended for the length of the trench at 27.9m OD. The composition of the deposit suggests it is likely to be the remains of a buried soil horizon and its thickness, up to 0.3m, is indicative of a cultivated soil.

The layer also contained a large amount of iron-working residues that included slag derived from smelting and smithing processes. Charcoal, rather than coal or coal derivatives, had been used as the fuel. Metal working waste in the form of hammerscale was recovered from an excavated sample of the deposit. It is probably the result of dumping of material derived from a mixture of iron working processes, but it does indicate that iron working was being carried out in the vicinity in the 12th–13th centuries. Large amounts of slag and ashy deposits dating from the 10th–12th centuries were revealed 400m to the west of St Cuthbert's, in excavations at the Howard Congregational Chapel on Mill Road (BCAS 1996a). Further evidence of iron working was found to the rear of 29-41 High Street (BCAS 1996b). This abundance of evidence for iron working has led to the suggestion that the south-eastern corner of the northern *burh* of Bedford, within which the site lies, was an industrial quarter in the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods (Albion Archaeology 2001a).

Small fragments of lime mortar were also recovered from the excavated sample of layer (123), suggesting masonry structures existed nearby at this time.

Layers (124) and (125) appear to be the remains of subsoil deposits sealed beneath layer (123). Layer (125) overlay the natural geology (126).

2.4.3 Medieval make-up layer for the churchyard

A hard, brownish-orange sandy-clay layer (118), (202), (303), and (402), was revealed in Trenches 1–4. It was up to 0.7m thick (see Figure 3 for deposit in Trench 1). The top of the deposits lay at between 28.43m OD and 29.16m OD. They appear to have been laid to level up the ground for the churchyard and as such probably extended across the whole of the churchyard.

The layer contained no datable artefacts. However, the fact that it sealed the early medieval deposits in Trench 1 and was sealed by the later graveyard soils, suggests it was laid at a similar date to the construction of the 13th-century church. It also contained small fragments of lime mortar, as found in the medieval layer (123) (see above).

The built-up nature of the churchyard compared to the ground level outside, can be clearly seen in a painting of *c.*1820 by Thomas Fisher (CHAG 1992, 42).

2.4.4 Post-medieval / modern dumped material

Further dumps or make-up layers were recorded on top of the medieval make-up layers. In Trench 1, layers (115) – (117) were probably associated with the



construction of the current church and the backfill of a 19th century service trench [122].

In Trench 2, layer (201) contained frequent small fragments of slag. The slag comprised smaller fragments and was different in character to that revealed in layer (123). The deposit possibly represents a post-medieval or modern dump of industrial waste or make-up layer.

A thinner layer (401) was present in Trench 4. This consisted of a stony clay-silt that contained occasional fragments of ceramic building material. This too may represent a post-medieval or modern make-up layer.

2.4.5 19th century service pipe

A service trench [122], containing a hexagonal clay drain pipe measuring 0.2m in diameter, was revealed in Trench 1 (Figure 3). The service trench was cut through medieval make-up layer (118). It was largely backfilled with a brownish-grey clay-silt (121) that contained a relatively large amount of disarticulated human bone. The leached out nature of this fill suggests it may be derived from medieval graveyard soils rather than the later darker soils associated with the post-medieval and modern graveyard soils.

The service pipe appears to be associated with the current church and probably connects with a rainwater down pipe.

2.4.6 Graves

Within Trench 1, five graves orientated east-west were visible. As graves [104], [107] and [109] appear to have been cut from near the current ground surface, they are unlikely to predate the construction of the current church in 1848. However, grave [127] and grave [130] that is truncated by grave [104] may pre-date the current church. Grave [107] was only visible in section and did not extend into the trench.

Of the four inhumations that were revealed, only the one in grave [109] appeared to have been placed within a coffin. The form of the remainder suggests that they may have just been wrapped in a shroud.

Of note was a probable further grave cut [133] orientated north-south that appears to have been squeezed in next to the churchyard wall, though no inhumation was visible. It was cut through grave [104], so is also contemporary with the current church.

2.4.7 19th century brick tomb

The corner of a modern brick structure (403) was partially revealed in Trench 4. It appeared to consist of a single skin of bricks that post-dated subsoil (404) but were sealed by topsoil (400).

Its location and form suggest it may be the north-eastern corner of a 19th century tomb orientated east to west.



2.4.8 Current churchyard wall

The current churchyard wall largely dates to the latter half of the 19th century. However, historical maps (Figure 4) show that the southern curve of the churchyard boundary was a mid 20th century alteration and that the boundary was previously more rectilinear in plan.

There was no evidence of any earlier boundary structures, such as the stone wall depicted in 19th century paintings. However, between wall piers 'Q' and 'J', the brick wall had been reinforced from behind with sandstone. This stone was possibly reused from elsewhere.



3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Discussion

The archaeological investigation largely revealed deposits and features that were associated with the use of the current church. However, a probable medieval make-up layer for the churchyard and early medieval layers pre-dating the churchyard were also revealed.

The earliest deposits were layers dating from the 10th-13th centuries that were encountered at the base of Trench 1. These layers appeared to have been early medieval cultivated soil and subsoil deposits and contained an abundance of iron-working waste. The latter correlates with evidence from previous excavations, which suggested that this part of Bedford was an industrial quarter in the early medieval period. The uppermost of these deposits contained small fragments of lime mortar, indicating the presence of masonry buildings in the vicinity.

A thick layer of clay overlay the early medieval deposits in Trench 1 and a similar deposit was revealed across the site. Though it contained no datable finds, the stratigraphy indicates it is likely to date to the medieval period and it is interpreted as a make-up layer laid to level up the ground for the churchyard. The deposit also contained small fragments of lime mortar, similar to those contained in the early medieval deposits.

Apart from some possible post-medieval make-up or dump layers in Trenches 2 and 4, the remaining deposits and features revealed appear to date from the 19th century or modern period. These included graves and a service pipe in Trench 1, and the edge of a probable brick tomb in Trench 4.

Though maps indicate that at least since the 17th century the churchyard has remained largely the same shape as it is now, no evidence of a wall earlier than the current 19th century construction was revealed.

3.2 Summary of Significance

The early medieval industrial activity on the site probably pre-dates the establishment of the churchyard. Iron-working waste recovered from these deposits occurs frequently on excavations in the area, which reinforces the idea that the south-eastern corner of Bedford's northern *burh* was an industrial quarter in the early medieval period.

No early medieval structures were found, but fragments of lime mortar allude to the contemporary presence of masonry structures in the vicinity.

The existence of a site-wide make-up deposit sealing the early medieval deposits is interpreted as a deliberate phase of ground-raising and levelling that may have been undertaken when the churchyard was established. This make-up layer is probably of low archaeological potential itself, but it means that the underlying deposits are well protected, reducing the likelihood that grave



digging and other groundworks have had a significant adverse impact on the early medieval remains.

The results of this investigation demonstrate that there is a high likelihood that further, well preserved, early medieval remains survive within St Cuthbert's churchyard. These remains pre-date the churchyard, and have a high potential to contribute to our knowledge of the development of the late Saxon and medieval core of Bedford. In particular, the presence of industrial material on the site in the early medieval period suggests that the evinced change is very significant with the early medieval remains indicating an industrial rather than ecclesiastical land use.



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IFA 2001b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Oake, M. (ed), in prep., *An Archaeological Research Framework for Bedfordshire*



5. APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1 - Context Summary





Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 1.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05275 49837

OS Grid Ref.: TL 05276 49833

Reason: To facilitate repairs to church wall between piers 'V' and 'U'.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	External surface	Current path comprising concrete slab.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Levelling layer	Compact sandy gravel Levelling layer for current path (100). 0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Foundation	Sandstone foundations of current church.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Grave	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.9m Post-medieval / modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Human skeleton	Articulated. Extended. Only lower part of torso survives - upper part of torso appears to have been truncated by grave [133]. Lies at 28.69m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Backfill	Dark brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Grave	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.9m Post-medieval / modern in date. Only visible in section. Indistinguishable from grave [104] in section.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Backfill	Dark brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Grave	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.9m Post-medieval / modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Human skeleton	Articulated. Extended. Skull at western end. Appears to be a juvenile. Lies at 28.82m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Coffin	Fragments of iron fittings of coffin.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Backfill	Dark brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Foundation trench	profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.3m Foundation trench associated with current church. Only partially visible in section.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Fill	Hard mid brown orange sandy clay frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Make up layer	Hard brown grey clay silt frequent small-medium stones Make-up layer associated with current church. 0.15m thick. 29.47m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Make up layer	Hard brown orange sandy clay occasional small ceramic building material, frequent small-medium stones Make-up layer associated with current church. Up to 0.3m thick. 29.37m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Make up layer	Hard brown grey clay silt Make-up layer associated with current church. Up to 0.2m thick. 29.22m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Make up layer	Hard brown orange clay Make-up layer associated with current church. 0.4m thick. 28.97m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Make up layer	Hard brown orange sandy clay moderate flecks chalk, occasional small stones Up to 0.7m thick. 28.62m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
122	Service Trench	Linear E-W profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, min depth 1.m Trench dug to contain hexagonal clay drain pipe. Probably connects to rainwater down pipe on the church.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Backfill	Firm brown grey clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Backfill	Firm brown yellow sandy clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Backfill	Loose brown grey clay silt frequent small-medium stones Contained a large amount of disarticulated human bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Buried topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt moderate flecks charcoal Contained lenses of mottled orange sandy clay. 0.2m thick. 27.92m OD. Contained early medieval pottery and slag.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 1.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05275 49837

OS Grid Ref.: TL 05276 49833

Reason: To facilitate repairs to church wall between piers 'V' and 'U'.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
124	Layer	Friable brown orange clay 0.15m thick. 27.72m OD. Contained early medieval pottery.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
125	Layer	Friable dark brown clay silt frequent flecks charcoal 0.05m thick. 27.57m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
126	Natural	Hard dark red clay moderate small stones 27.50m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	Grave	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max depth 1.1m Post-medieval / modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
128	Human skeleton	Articulated. Extended. Skull at western end. Only upper part of torso visible. Lies at 28.50m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
129	Backfill	Dark brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Grave	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max depth 1.1m Post-medieval / modern in date.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	Human skeleton	Articulated. Extended. Skull at western end. Only upper half visible. Lies at 28.60m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
132	Backfill	Dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
133	Grave	Rectangular N-S profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, max depth 1.1m, min length 1.5m Post-medieval / modern in date. Appears to have been squeezed in next to churchyard wall and as a result is orientated N-S. Truncates grave [104].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
134	Backfill	Dark grey brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
135	Topsoil	Loose dark brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	Topsoil	Loose dark brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 6.00 m. Width: 1.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05307 49837

OS Grid Ref.: TL 05307 49831

Reason: To facilitate repairs to church wall between piers 'G' and 'E'.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Loose dark brown clay silt 0.6m thick. Contained occasional disarticulated human bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Dump material	Loose mid brown red silty sand frequent small stones 0.3m thick. 29.31m OD. Contained frequent small fragments of slag. A dump of imported industrial waste.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
202	Make up layer	Hard dark orange clay occasional small stones At least 0.60m thick. 29.10m OD. Possibly equivalent to layer (118).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 16.00 m. Width: 1.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.9 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05279 49824

OS Grid Ref.: TL 05291 49814

Reason: To facilitate repairs to church wall between piers 'S' and 'O'.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Loose dark brown clay silt 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid brown grey clay silt Up to 0.8m thick. Contained disarticulated human bone and a copper alloy jetton dating to c. AD1525-1625.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
302	Layer	Firm dark brown clay silt At least 0.45m thick. Contained lenses of orange sand. Area of disturbance caused by construction of existing wall and plinth.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Make up layer	Hard light orange brown clay occasional flecks chalk At least 0.3m thick. 28.43m OD. Probable make-up layer equivalent to layer (118).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.9 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05294 49814

OS Grid Ref.: TL 05306 49827

Reason: To facilitate repairs to church wall between piers 'H' and 'N'.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Loose dark brown clay silt 0.5m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Layer	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small stones 0.15m thick. 29.00m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Make up layer	Hard mid orange sandy clay At least 0.4m thick. 28.85m OD. Probable make-up layer equivalent to (118).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
403	Wall	Partly visible corner of a modern brick wall - appearing to be comprised of a single string of bricks. Possible corner of a tomb aligned E-W. Overlain by topsoil (400).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Subsoil	Firm mid brown clay silt 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 1.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 05277 49833

OS Grid Ref.: TL 05278 49828

Reason: To facilitate repairs to church wall between piers 'T' and 'U'.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Loose dark brown clay silt At least 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



5.2 Appendix 2 - Artefact Summary

5.2.1 Introduction

The investigation produced a small finds assemblage comprising pottery, metalworking residues and animal bone (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spotdate *	Other Finds
01	123	Layer	123	12 th -13 th century	Pottery(140g); animal bone (50g); vessel glass (6g); ferrous slag (3100g)
	124	Layer	124	11 th -12 th century	Pottery (15g)
	125	Layer	125	12 th -13 th century	Pottery (32g); animal bone (18g)
03	301	Layer	301	16 th - 17 th century	Copper alloy jetton (RA 1)

* - spotdate based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and context

5.2.2 Pottery

Twenty-nine pottery sherds, weighing 187g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small (average weight 6g) and in most cases, are abraded. Four fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Saxo-Norman</i>			
Type B01A	St Neots-type (orange)	11	(123):8, (124):1, (125):2
Type B01B	St Neots-type (fine)	1	(123):1
Type C12	Stamford ware	2	(125):2
<i>Early medieval</i>			
Type B07	Shell	15	(123):12, (125):3

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

The majority of the assemblage comprises wheel-thrown shell tempered vessels in the St Neots-type tradition, likely to date from the late 11th-12th centuries, and developed St Neots-type sherds of 12th-13th century date. Two sherds of 10th-12th century Stamford ware, a regional fineware import from Lincolnshire, were also identified. Diagnostic forms are fine-walled everted rim jars and a bowl with an inturned rim.

5.2.3 Non-ceramic finds

Layer (301) yielded a complete copper alloy jetton (Registered Artefact 1), used as a token in reckoning accounts. RA 1 is of a type manufactured in Nuremburg c.1525-1625 and can be ascribed to the workshop of Hans Schultes (*c.f.* Barnard 1916, pl XXXIII, 82). A vessel glass fragment (6g), broadly datable to the post-medieval period occurred as an intrusive find in layer (123). The latter also contained iron working residues weighing 3.1kg. These include hammerscale, dense slags with low vesicularity and tap slag with a characteristic 'ropey' structure, indicative of smelting processes.



5.2.4 Animal bone

Seven pieces of animal bone weighing 68g were recovered from layers (123) and (125). The assemblage is fragmentary (average fragment weight 9g), although the material is not particularly abraded and generally survives in good condition. Diagnostic elements are long bone fragments and a phalange of indeterminate species

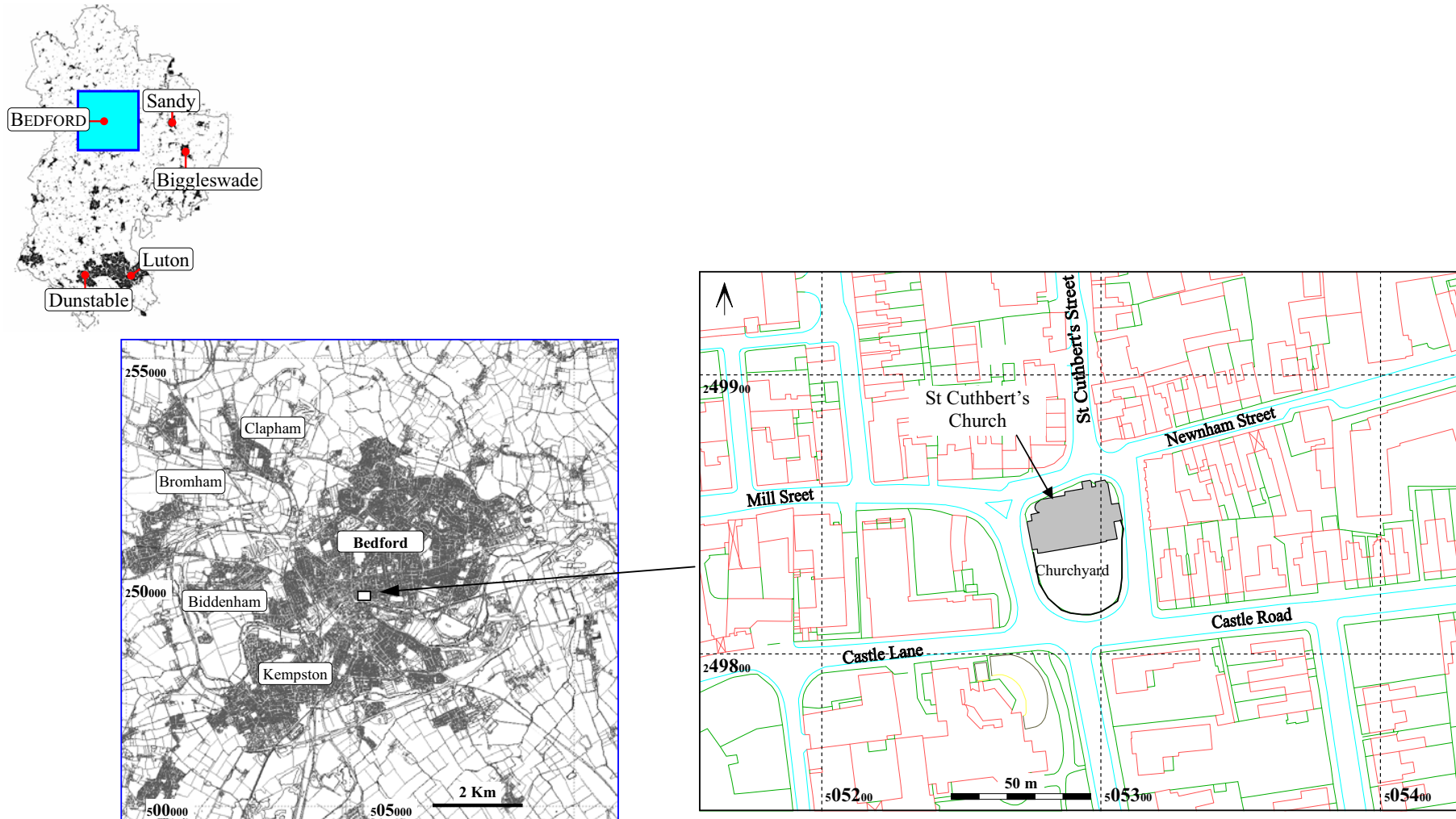


Figure 1: Site location map

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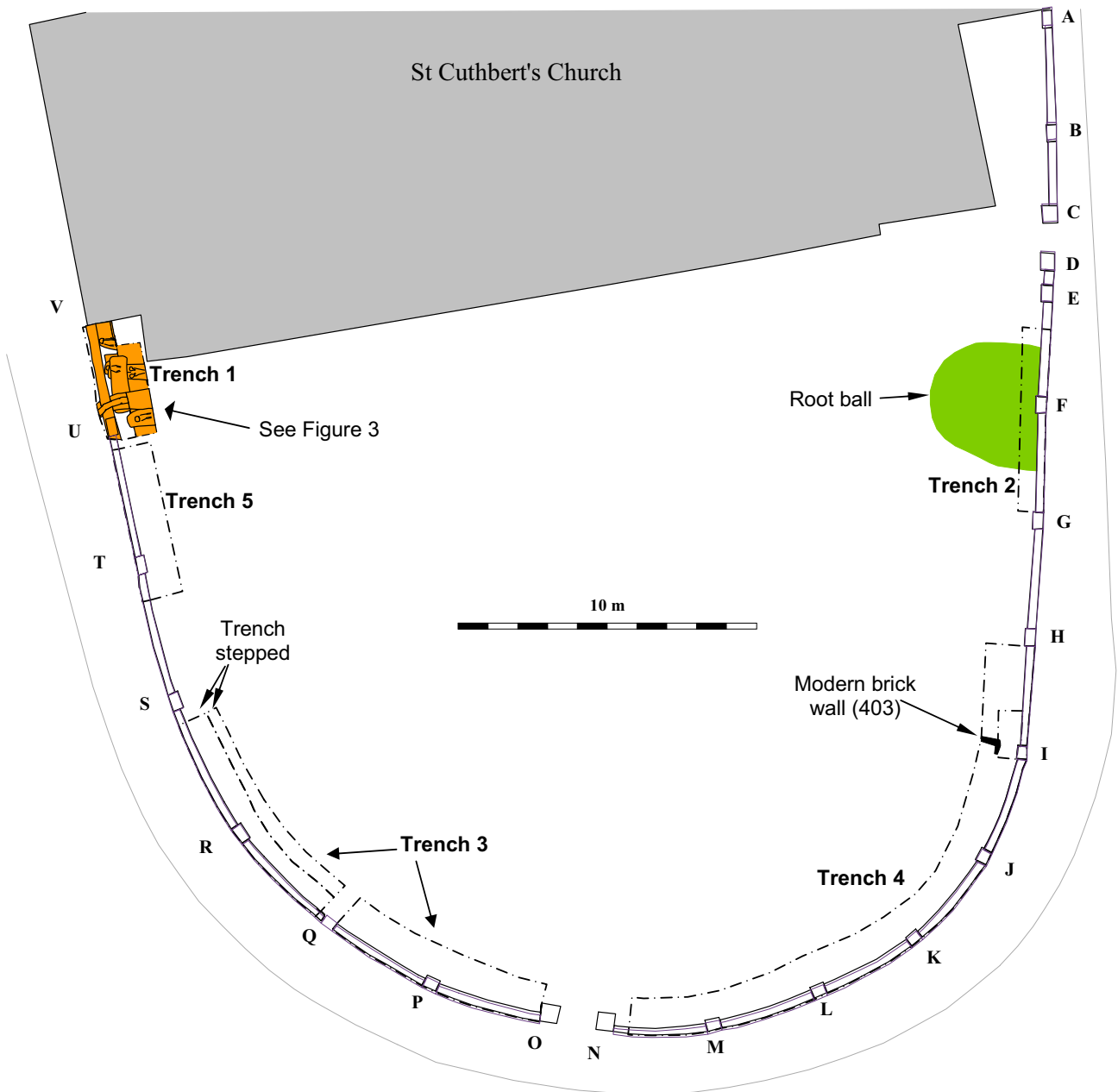
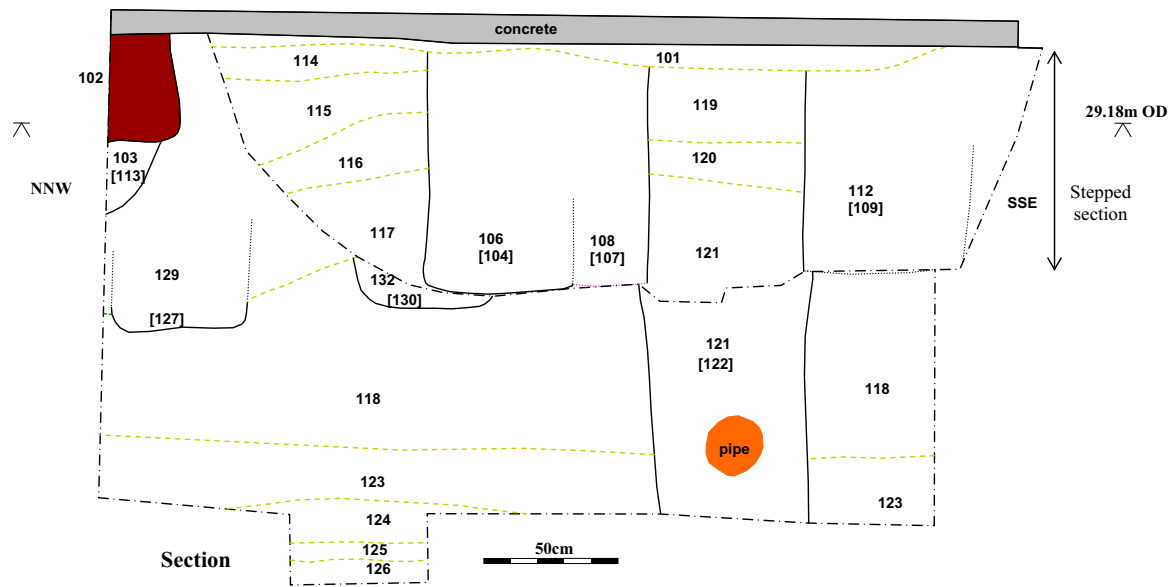
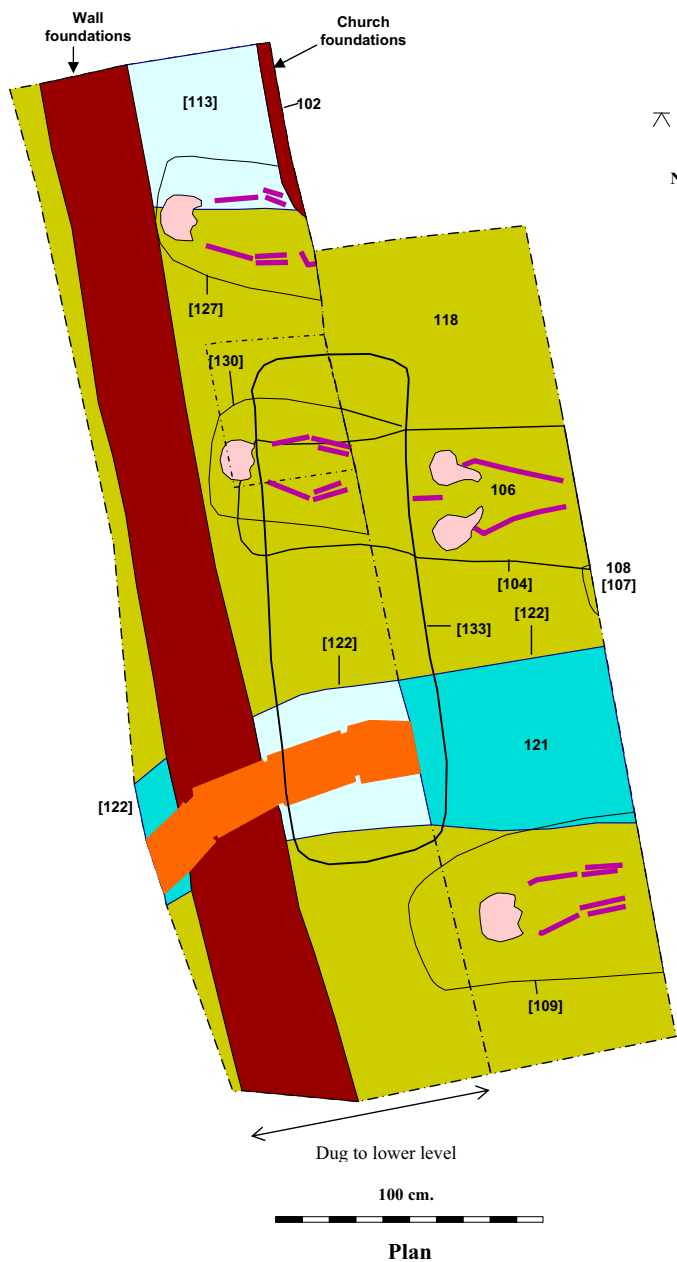
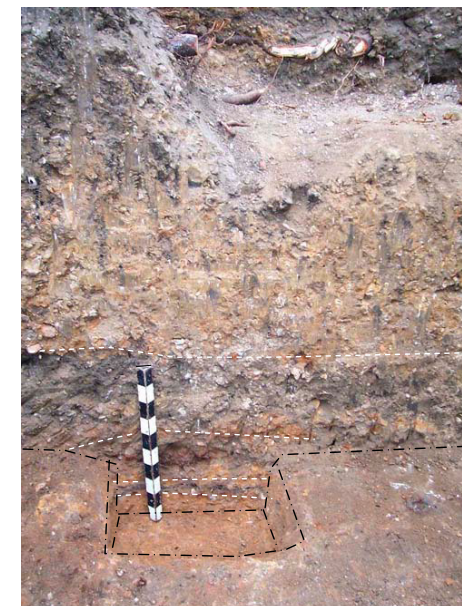


Figure 2: All features

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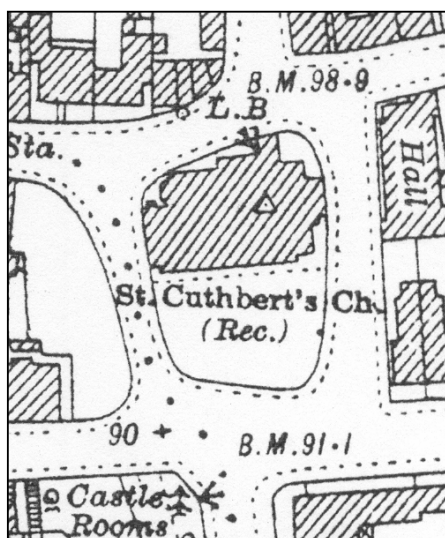


Photograph of Trench 1, with features marked. Scale 50cm in 5cm increments

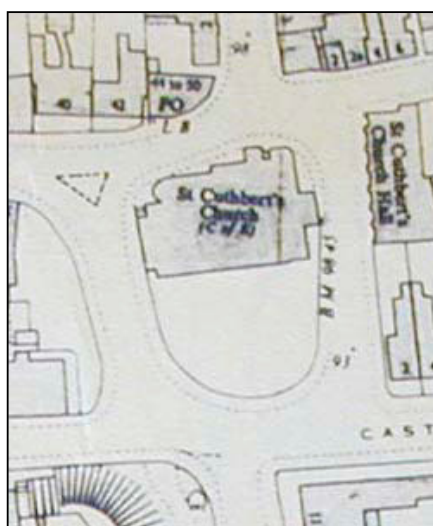


Photograph of sondage into layer 124
Scale 50cm in 5cm increments

Figure 3: Trench 1



1924 25 inch OS 3rd edition



1968 OS map

Figure 4: Historical maps

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