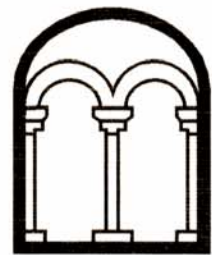


**BEDFORD COLLEGE LLDD CENTRE  
ST MARY'S STREET  
BEDFORD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology





**BEDFORD COLLEGE LLDD CENTRE  
ST MARY'S STREET  
BEDFORD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

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## Preface

*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.*

*Please note that all ordnance datum heights cited in this report are indicative and should not be relied upon without prior consultation with Albion Archaeology.*

*This document has been prepared by Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisor) and Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). Figures were prepared by Jaon Lightning (CAD Technician). Albion Archaeology would like to acknowledge the assistance of Geoff Saunders of the Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team. We are also grateful Mark Eustace (Estates Department, Bedford College) for commissioning this evaluation.*

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## Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
HER	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Record
HET	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Bedford College has applied for planning permission to build a centre for Learners with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties (LLDD) on land at the St Mary's Street frontage of the Bedford College campus. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the college to undertake a programme of archaeological field evaluation in accordance with a brief issued by Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team (HET).*

*A single trial trench 7m long by 3.2m wide was excavated near the south end of the proposed development area (PDA).*

*Beneath the existing car park surface and make-up (c. 0.3m thick) were the remains of buildings demolished in the 1970s. The foundations of these 19th- to 20th-century buildings cut down into relatively thick deposits of demolition/occupation debris, containing late medieval or post-medieval ceramic building material. A single stone hearth was recorded in section, 0.8m below the existing ground level. At the base of the trench, c. 1.2m below ground level, features cut into undisturbed subsoil comprised a substantial ditch, pits, and post-holes. All the pottery recovered was late Saxon or medieval in date, with the bulk of the assemblage being the earlier, late Saxon wares. The lack of post-medieval or later pottery suggests that, apart from the foundations of the buildings demolished c. 1970, this part of the PDA has suffered little from post-Industrial intrusions.*

*The evaluation has demonstrated that the PDA retains moderately well-preserved archaeological remains of an ordinary range of urban settlement activity from the late Saxon period onwards. There was no evidence that the former church of St Peter de Dunstable, or its churchyard, extended into the PDA, so the medieval remains are likely to relate to secular urban settlement of the type encountered on numerous archaeological investigations in the centre of Bedford.*

*The ceramic building material assemblage indicates a high potential for the survival of building remains dating from the later medieval and early post-medieval periods. Any 19th- and 20th-century cellars are likely to have been small.*

*With the prior agreement of the HET, an engineering test pit for infiltration testing was also excavated at a location c. 7m west of the PDA. This was 2m long by 0.7m wide and 2.2m deep, so recording was constrained by safety requirements. No structures or cut features were observed and the sequence of deposits comprised demolition spreads containing late medieval and early post-medieval ceramic building material. Beneath these, at 1.3–1.9m below ground level was a layer that might have been a remnant of cultivated soil.*

*The most important remains identified during the evaluation are those of the late Saxon period, which are of regional significance. Later medieval and post-medieval remains are considered likely to be of local to regional significance, depending on their state of preservation. The remains of 19th- and 20th-century buildings may still be of local significance.*

*The results of this evaluation will contribute to an archaeological assessment being prepared by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedford College.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Bedford College applied for planning permission to build a centre for Learners with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties (LLDD) on land at the St Mary's Street frontage of the Bedford College campus (Figure 1). Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Bedford College, to prepare an assessment of the likely development impacts on archaeological heritage assets.

During pre-application consultations, Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) advised that a programme of archaeological field evaluation would be required in advance of determination of the planning application. This is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012) and the Bedford Borough Local Development Framework.

Consequently the HET issued a brief (HET 2014) outlining the requirements of the evaluation. The brief stated that the evaluation should cover 'all areas of the development that will be subject to intrusive groundworks' and that it should comprise trial trenching equivalent to 4% of that area (plus a further 3% contingency to examine areas in more detail if required). It is accepted in principle that if the proposed building is to be constructed as three separate staged projects over a number of years, then the evaluation work may be similarly staged (i.e. the first project must be evaluated prior to determination of the planning application, but subsequent projects could be evaluated post-determination).

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2014a) was prepared in accordance with the brief and approved by the HET.

Subsequent to the agreement of the WSI, a proposal to excavate a test pit for infiltration tests was received from Scott White and Hookins LLP. Geoff Saunders of the HET advised that this test pit should be monitored by an archaeologist and any archaeological remains recorded where safe to do so. At the request of the client, the test pit was excavated under the supervision of Albion Archaeology, to the specification provided by Scott White and Hookins.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

For the purpose of this evaluation, the PDA was defined as the footprint of the proposed building. The building is to be located in the eastern part of the Bedford College campus, on its St Mary's Street frontage and is centred on grid reference TL 05070/49430 (Figure 1). It is designed to be built as three separate projects. On completion of Project 3, the proposed building would be c. 50m long, filling the street frontage between College House at the south and other college buildings to the north.

The proposed location of the new building is currently part of an open-air car park, comprising tarmac hard standing. It is separated from the pavement on St Mary's Street by a wooden fence on brick footings. Some buildings depicted on the Ordnance Survey 2012 Landline map (Figure 1) have recently been demolished.



The existing ground surface lies between 27.05m and 26.49m OD, which is more than 0.25m higher than the pavement on the west side of St Mary's Street. The superficial geology consists of alluvium and gravels. The underlying bedrock is of the Great Oolite Group, comprising limestone and argillaceous rocks.

### 1.3 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The archaeological and historical background of this area has been collated and information obtained from the Historic Environment Record. Particular reference has also been made to the Extensive Urban Survey (Albion Archaeology 2005)

Historical documents and archaeological investigations show that Bedford originated in the Saxon period. The historic core to the north of the river shows evidence in its street pattern for a planned layout.

The PDA lies within the historic core of the town on the south side of the river. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry for AD 915 records that King Edward the Elder 'ordered the borough on the south side of the river to be built'. A large D-shaped enclosure known as the King's Ditch defined the southern burh of the Saxon settlement. The King's Ditch still survives as an earthwork in places or as a drain in a culvert which runs below parts of the town, including the western side of the Bedford College site.

Buildings which formerly stood on the site were demolished in the early 1970s, but records suggest some of these had relatively early origins. The property at 17–19 St Mary's Street was a timber-frame building that probably dated from the 17th century (Baker *et al* 1979, 137–8).

Previous archaeological investigations on the college site have included:

- excavations on plots of land, immediately west of St Mary's Street and north of Cauldwell Street (Baker *et al* 1979);
- an evaluation on the site of the present car park east of the Southbank Building, north-west of the PDA (BCAS 1996);
- an evaluation comprising seven test pits spread across the college site (Albion 2009) as part of the preparation of the master plan for the college;
- archaeological monitoring during construction of the Southbank Building (Border Archaeology 2004 and Albion Archaeology 2006) and
- archaeological monitoring of the Energy Centre cooling system (Albion Archaeology 2013).

The 1970s investigations on other land, immediately west of St Mary's Street, included an excavation at 17–19 St Mary's Street (BSM 72 38), which is now within the PDA. These excavations recorded the presence of probable domestic and/or industrial remains dated to between the 13th and 15th centuries (Baker *et al* 1979). If remains of similar character still survive within the PDA, they are likely to be considered of significant local and/or regional interest.

Test Pits 1, 2 and 3 of the 2006 evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2009) were located closest to the PDA. Each pit revealed a sequence of medieval and post-medieval deposits, beneath *c.* 0.2–0.5m of modern overburden. In Test Pit 1,





which was located within the western edge of the PDA, medieval deposits were not encountered until *c.* 1.3m below the existing ground surface; the top of the geological deposits was encountered at a similar depth.

Land outside the PDA, to the south of College House, is documented as the site of the churchyard of the medieval church of St Peter de Dunstable. A trench excavation (Baker *et al* 1979, 143-145) and watching brief (Hall 1971) have demonstrated that burials survive in this area. It is noted that Saxon and early medieval cemeteries were often more extensive than later churchyards, as has been demonstrated in Bedford at St Paul's Square and also at St Mary's Church.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Field Evaluation**

The principal aims of the field evaluation were to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the PDA and, if so, to determine their location and extent, date, character, significance and quality. This information will be used to inform decisions with regard to the impact of the proposed development on potential archaeological remains, and to help in the formulation of appropriate mitigation measures to protect remains either by preservation or excavation.

Due to the location of the proposed development there was a possibility for archaeological remains dating from the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. The research framework for Bedfordshire states that, while there have been many archaeological investigations in the centre of Bedford the chronology and character of the town, with the exception of the castle quarter, is still not well understood (Oake 2007, 15). The development of towns, changes in their internal layouts and housing densities, and their role as centres of supply and demand have been identified as subjects in need of further study (Medlycott 2011, 70).

The specific objectives of the investigation were to determine if there was:

- Evidence for occupation or industrial activity in the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.
- Evidence relating to the nature and date of urban development within the circuit of the King's Ditch.

Any archaeological remains discovered as a consequence of the proposed development had the potential to add to our knowledge and understanding of Bedford in the Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.



## 2. METHOD STATEMENT

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2014a).

A single trial trench, for the evaluation of 'Project 1' (the first stage of the proposed development), was excavated between 8th and 10th July 2014 within the south part of the PDA (Figures 1 and 2). It measured 7m in length, was 3.2m wide and up to 1.2m deep. On 10th July 2014, a test pit for soil infiltration testing was opened on behalf of structural engineers Scott, White and Hookins. This measured 2m long, 0.7m wide and 2.2m deep and for engineering reasons was placed *c.* 6m outside the PDA. Figure 1 also shows the full extent of the 2m square of tarmac that was broken out for Trench 2.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Hard surface, hardcore and modern foundations were dismantled using a breaker attachment. Otherwise, all excavation was undertaken using a flat-edged bucket down to the top of the archaeological deposits. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff with external specialists consulted as necessary.

Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, and 201 for Trench 2 etc. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [\*\*\*] and round brackets to fills or layers (\*\*\*). Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. The trenches were backfilled following the approval of the HET.

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

Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn, 2001).
ALGAO (East)	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (2003)
Bedford Museum	Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire (2010)
English Heritage	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide (2006)
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2011)
IfA	By-Laws and Code of Conduct Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, Field Excavations and Finds

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (Accession No. BEDFM 2014.47). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the



OASIS database (ref: albionar1-181924) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.



### 3. RESULTS OF TRIAL EXCAVATION

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#### 3.1 Introduction

The results of the trial trenching are summarised below and shown on Figure 2. Summary descriptions of all the observed features and deposits are contained in Appendix 1. Please note that all ordnance datum heights cited below are indicative and should not be relied upon without prior consultation with Albion Archaeology.

#### 3.2 Trench 1

##### 3.2.1 Overburden and Natural deposits

Modern tarmac (100) and hardcore (101) were present to a depth of *c.* 0.3m. These overlay demolition layer (102).

Undisturbed geological deposits (131), comprising reddish silty sand and gravel, overlaying loose river gravels, were reached at a depth of 1.1–1.2m below ground level.

##### 3.2.2 Remains of buildings demolished in the 1970s

Machine excavation of Trench 1 revealed extensive foundations and other remains of the buildings demolished in the 1970s. An intact red and black quarry-tiled floor (176) survived beneath layer (102) at the south end of the trench. The floor lay at a depth of *c.* 0.3m below ground level (*c.* 26.4m OD).

Layer (102) comprised largely brick and tile rubble associated with the demolition of the buildings and beneath this and the tile floor, on the north and east sides of the trench, were earlier demolition layers (103), (104) and (112) comprising friable limestone rubble. This would suggest an earlier phase of building including stone elements. Limestone foundations (109), (114) and (123) extended from beneath layers (102), (103) and (104) up to a depth of *c.* 1.2m below ground level (*c.* 25.7m OD), cutting through early post-medieval or late medieval deposits. A possible robbed-out foundation trench [117] may have contained footings of similar depth; however, it may have been a construction trench contemporary with the foundation (114).

Other foundations, (107), (121), (126) and (128) were of less substantial depth, but their bases were all at *c.* 0.8m below ground level (*c.* 26m OD).

Whilst these buildings were probably extant from the 19th century onwards, it is possible that they were much older, in part at least. Certainly, surviving elements of early post-medieval timber framing were recorded by David Baker within the building that once stood at the north end of the PDA (Baker *et al* 1979, 137).

##### 3.2.3 Fragmentary remains of early post-medieval or late medieval buildings

A layer of dumped material (105) containing late medieval/early post-medieval brick and tile was found at the north and west of the trench. This was probably associated with demolition of late medieval/early post-medieval buildings.



Various relatively substantial deposits are interpreted as demolition spreads, occupation deposits or undiagnostic layers: (110), (111), (118), (119), (129) and (130). They did not contain any datable artefacts.

The remains of a pitched-stone hearth (132), partially truncated by foundation trench [120] survived at a depth of 0.8m below ground level in the west-facing section of the trench (*c.* 26.0m OD). The hearth appeared to be associated spatially with a vertical-sided, sharply curving linear [161], which contained some burnt material and large limestone fragments. The two features may have been separated stratigraphically by layer (119), but this sequence was not absolutely certain.

### 3.2.4 Features cut into undisturbed subsoil

A number of features were cut into the undisturbed soils at the base of the trench. They lay beneath post-medieval or late medieval dumped deposits at a depth of 1–1.2m below ground level (*c.* 25.8m OD). These largely produced artefacts dating to the late Saxon period (see Section 3.4), but a single sub-oval pit [155] produced post-medieval tile and pottery. It was steep-sided and 0.75m deep relative to its top edge. A similar steep-sided oval pit [159] produced late Saxon pottery and a small amount of slag. Both were filled with similar loose gravely silt deposits. Pit [155] lay below the demolition layer (105) so the post-medieval artefacts might be intrusive.

A shallow, steep-sided, sub-oval pit [165] had depressions in its base, which possibly indicate post settings in each corner. It contained late Saxon pottery.

Four postholes [157], [167], [170] and [172] were revealed in the centre of the trench. Of these only [170] produced any dating evidence — five sherds of late Saxon pottery. It was filled with orange-brown sandy silt (171), in contrast to the darker fills within the three undated postholes. Posthole [167] was substantially deeper at 0.45m deep, relative to its top edge.

A fifth posthole [153] was truncated by ditch [150] and may be associated. A similar posthole appeared to be present on the south side of the ditch but this was too close to the side of the trench to permit safe excavation.

The north end of the trench was dominated by the substantial, vertical-sided ditch [150]. It was 2m wide and was excavated to a relative depth of 0.6m; investigation with an auger revealed a further 0.65m of fill. The ditch was largely filled with dark-grey sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and large limestone fragments. It also contained late Saxon pottery. The vertical sides of the feature suggest that it might originally have been revetted with timber or wattlework that has not survived; alternatively, the ditch could have been a robber trench for the removal of a substantial stone wall.

An oval pit with an amorphous projection [174] was not excavated for safety reasons.



### 3.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Figure 1) was machine-excavated to depth of *c.* 2.2m (*c.* 25m OD). For safety reasons it was not permitted to enter the trench once it was excavated below 0.6m. Hand cleaning of the sides was undertaken using a long-handled shovel and a sketch section was drawn by measurement from the top of the trench (not illustrated). No structures or cut features were observed and the sequence of deposits was as follows:

- Existing tarmac and make-up layers (201, 202 and 203) to a depth of 0.5m below ground level (*c.* 26.5m OD).
- Layers (204) and (205), which contained tile and brick probably derived from demolition of late medieval or post-medieval buildings, were encountered at 0.5–1.7m below ground level (*c.* 26.7–25.5m OD).
- Beneath these, at 1.3–1.9m below ground level (*c.* 26.7–25.3m OD), a layer of subsoil (206) was observed that might be a remnant of cultivated soil. The layer was *c.* 0.2m thick
- Undisturbed river terrace gravel was encountered at a minimum depth of 1.9m (*c.* 25.5m OD)

The deposits recorded in Trench 2 must be interpreted with caution because of the circumstances of their observation within a deep, narrow trench. However, it is tentatively suggested that they represent a build-up of deposits in the back plots of medieval and later properties fronting onto Cauldwell Street. Layer (206) was probably a remnant of cultivated garden soil that became buried beneath demolition deposits in the post-medieval period.

### 3.4 The Artefact Assemblage

#### 3.4.1 Introduction

Ten deposits across two trenches yielded a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery, ceramic building material, ferrous slag, and animal bone (Table 1).

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date range	Artefacts summary
1	105	Demolition / occupation spread	105	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Brick and tile (733g)
	121	Masonry structure	121	Early medieval	Pottery (11g)
	150	Ditch	151	Late Saxon	Pottery (135g); iron knife (RA2); animal bone (327g)
	150	Ditch	152	Late Saxon	Pottery (581g); copper alloy tack/rivet (RA1); animal bone (152g); oyster shell (48g)
	155	Pit	156	Post-medieval	Pottery (12g); ceramic roof & floor tile (931g); iron object (RA3); animal bone (74g)



Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date range	Artefacts summary
	159	Pit	160	Late Saxon	Pottery (10g); ferrous slag (68g)
	161	Ditch	164	Late Saxon	Pottery (13g); ferrous slag (300g); animal bone (30g)
	165	Pit	166	Late Saxon	Pottery (58g); animal bone (82g)
	170	Post hole	171	Late Saxon	Pottery (240g)
2	204	Layer	204	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (18g); ceramic roof tile (102g)
	205	Layer	205	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (118g); brick and tile (1.1kg)

**Table 1:** Artefact summary by feature

### 3.4.2 Pottery

Forty-six pottery sherds (1.1kg), the majority datable to the late Saxon period (c. 900–1150) were recovered. Thirty-nine vessels are represented. Sherds survive in good condition, with a mean weight of 26g, and are largely unabraded. Five fabric types were identified, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2).

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill / Sherd No.
<i>Late Saxon</i>				
B01	St Neots-type ware	6	92	(151):2, (152):1; (166):2, (204):1
B01A	St Neots-type ware (orange)	2	25	(151):1, (166):1
B01B	St Neots-type ware (fine)	36	950	(151):10, (152):17, (156):1, (160):1, (164):2, (171):5
<i>Medieval</i>				
C59A	Coarse sand	1	11	(121):1
E02	Late medieval oxidised	1	118	(205):1

**Table 2:** Pottery type series

Late Saxon pottery totals 44 wheel-thrown, shell-tempered St Neots-type sherds (fabric B01 and variants), weighing 1kg. The largest assemblage (716g) derived from the fills of ditch [150]. Vessel forms are a standard range of jars and bowls, many with sooted surfaces, indicating their use as cooking pots. Jars have simple everted rims ranging in diameter from 160–200mm. Bowls have characteristic inturned or hammerhead rims; diameters range from 240–300mm, with a sizeable outlier at 400mm. A less common form is represented by the complete base and lower part of a lamp (cf. Baker and Hassall 1979, fig 106, 193).

Sand-tempered medieval pottery comprises a 12th–13th-century jar rim (fabric C59A), and a 15th–16th-century base sherd (fabric E02: diameter 160mm), recovered respectively from masonry structure (121) and layer (205).



The pottery compares well with larger assemblages recovered from a number of excavations in the town (cf. Baker *et al* 1979, Albion Archaeology 2009a and 2014b).

### 3.4.3 Brick and tile

Seven sand-tempered flat roof tile fragments (1.1kg), spanning the medieval to post-medieval periods, were collected from rubble-rich layers (204), (205) and occupation / demolition spread (105). They range in thickness from 13–15mm, and three pieces retain square holes for the insertion of iron nails for attachment to a roof. Several have mortared surfaces, indicating use. Layer (205) and spread (105) contained four pieces of moulded brick (856g), the most complete example measuring D60mm x W110mm.

A glazed piece of curved or ridge tile (71g) with a thickness of 14mm derived from post-medieval pit [155]. The feature also contained a pavioir (860g), of probable 16th–17th-century date. The object has mortared edges and underside, a highly smoothed / worn upper surface, and measures W115mm x D40mm (cf. Baker and Hassall 1979, fig 161, 1087).

### 3.4.4 Other artefacts

The fills of late Saxon ditch [150] contained an incomplete iron knife blade of ‘angle back’ form (registered artefact 2) and a flat-headed copper alloy rivet or tack (registered artefact 1). The former ranges in date from the later Roman period to the 11th century; the latter is undatable. An iron object (registered artefact 3), possibly deriving from a small knife or shears blade, was collected from post-medieval pit [155]. Ferrous smelting slag (368g) derived from the fills of late Saxon pit [159] and ditch [161].

#### Catalogue

RA1 Copper alloy tack/rivet. Flat head, hollow shank formed by rolling tapering sheet and folding end over, head presumably formed by folding over sheet and hammering flat. L. 17.5mm. Ditch [150] (152). Undated.

RA2 Iron knife blade, encased in corrosion by-products. Angle back, angle close to tip. L. 83.3mm; w. (est) 13mm; th. 5mm. Unclear whether form A1 or A2. Ditch [150] (151). Later Roman to 11th century.

RA3 Iron object. Junction of tang and blade of small shears/knife? Broken both ends, one end rectangular (8mm x 3.5mm), opposite end (4mm by 3.5mm). Encased in corrosion, and bent. L. 27mm. Pit [155] (156). Undated.

### 3.5 Ecofacts

Forty-seven animal bone fragments (665g) were collected, the largest deposit (479g) from the fills of late Saxon ditch [150]. A single oyster shell (48g) was collected from the same feature. Individual bone pieces have a mean weight of 14g and generally survive in good condition. Fragments identified to species represent horse, cattle and sheep, some deriving from immature animals.

Anatomical elements comprise limb bones, foot bones (astragalus; phalanges - including a coffin bone from a horse), rib, scapula, vertebra, pelvis, horn core, teeth, skull and mandible fragments. Cut / chop marks were noted on a number of





long bone and rib fragments, although there is no evidence for splitting the long bones for marrow extraction. None of the well preserved bones appear to have been gnawed.

Occasional small fragments of oyster shell were noted in the Trench 2 spoil heap and thought to be from demolition spread (205); these were not collected because their provenance was uncertain.



## 4. SYNTHESIS AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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### 4.1 *Synthesis*

It is notable that all the pottery recovered from Trench 1 was late Saxon or medieval in date, with the bulk of the assemblage being the earlier, late Saxon wares. No post-medieval pottery or later was recovered, even from the upper demolition deposits. This suggests that, apart from the foundations of the buildings demolished *c.* 1970, this part of the PDA has suffered little from post-Industrial intrusions. Relatively thick deposits of demolition/occupation debris beneath the latest building might represent the demolition and levelling of post-medieval structures in late 18th and 19th centuries, leading to a build-up of material on the site that has helped to protect earlier medieval and late Saxon remains. The latter are negative features (pits, post-holes and ditches) cut into the undisturbed subsoil. Such features have considerable potential as evidence of the earliest settlement in the southern burh of Bedford. The presence of pits, post-holes and ditches suggest that the remains are likely those of earth-fast timber structures and boundaries and the activities conducted on the site.

Although only one hearth was identified and its date is uncertain, evidence from nearby excavations (notably those reported in Baker *et al* 1979) suggests it is highly likely that further hearth structures survive within the PDA. These can provide important evidence of the industrial and/or domestic processes undertaken in the past.

There was no evidence that the former church of St Peter de Dunstable, or its churchyard, extended into the PDA. The evaluation, therefore, indicates that the late Saxon and medieval remains within the PDA are likely to relate to secular urban settlement of the type encountered on numerous archaeological investigations in the centre of Bedford.

The deposits containing ceramic building material (brick and roof tile) indicate a high potential within the PDA for the survival of building remains dating from the later medieval and early post-medieval periods.

It also appears from the evidence of this trial trench that the 19th- and 20th-century buildings did not have large cellars. However, small cellars similar in size to that under College House may exist — possibly alongside St Mary's Street.

### 4.2 *Significance*

The evaluation has demonstrated that the PDA retains moderately well-preserved archaeological remains of an ordinary range of urban settlement activity from the late Saxon period onwards.

The most important remains are those of the late Saxon period, which are relatively well preserved beneath later deposits and will be at least of *regional significance*. They will have potential to address regional research objectives for the study of the origins and nature of Saxon and early medieval settlement in one of the most important early towns in the east of England.



Later medieval and post-medieval remains will have been more prone to truncation by 19th- and 20th-century structures (being closer to the surface). They are likely to be of *local to regional significance*, depending on their state of preservation, because of their potential to address regional research objectives for the study of the development of towns from their medieval origins to the Industrial revolution.

The heritage value of the remains of 19th- and 20th-century buildings has largely been lost, due to their demolition in the 1970s. However, their below-ground remains may still be of *local significance*, for example providing evidence to augment and validate historical maps and documentary sources. Any small cellars — if they exist — might retain architectural features of historical interest or contain evidence pertaining to the former usage of the demolished buildings.



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## 6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 7.00 m. Width: 3.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 1.2 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5080: Northing: 49416)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5082: Northing: 49409)

Reason: Test depth and nature of archaeology present

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
100	Tarmac	Tarmac Thickness - 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Make up layer	Loose light yellow sandy limestone Thickness - 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Demolition layer	Friable mid brown red rubble moderate small-medium CBM, moderate medium stones Thickness - 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Demolition layer	Friable light brown orange sandy limestone Thickness - 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Demolition layer	Friable mid brown orange sand Thickness - 0.08m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Dump material	Dark grey brown clay sand frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones Thickness - 0.66m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
106	Foundation trench	Just visible in corner of trench, extent unclear	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Fill	Loose occasional small-large mortar, moderate small-medium stones Thickness - 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Foundation trench	sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Foundation	Limestone and mortar Thickness - 0.57m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Dump material	Friable mid grey brown clay sand moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Thickness - 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Dump material	Friable mid yellow brown clay sand moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Thickness - 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Make up layer	Light yellow red rubble frequent small mortar Thickness - 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Foundation trench	sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Foundation	Limestone and mortar Thickness - 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Feature	sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.65m, max depth 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Fill	Loose light brown sandy gravel Thickness - 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Fill	Friable mid brown clay sand moderate small charcoal, frequent small stones Thickness - 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness - 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt Thickness - 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Foundation trench	sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.38m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Foundation	Limestone and mortar Thickness - 0.38m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
122	Foundation trench	Partially visible in SE corner of trench. Dimensions unclear.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Foundation	Limestone Thickness - 0.9m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
124	Backfill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small-medium CBM Thickness - 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	Foundation trench	Linear sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.5m, max length 5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
126	Foundation	Limestone and rubble. Thickness 0.58m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	Foundation	Rubble Thickness - 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 7.00 m. Width: 3.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 1.2 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5080: Northing: 49416)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5082: Northing: 49409)

Reason: Test depth and nature of archaeology present

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
128	Foundation	Cemented Large area of concrete foundation Width - 1.8m Thickness - 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
129	Layer	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional medium-large CBM Thickness - 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Layer	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt Thickness - 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	Natural	Friable mid orange red silty sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
132	Hearth	Limestone hearth. Stones set on end. Evidence of burning above and beneath stones. Visible only in east side of trench. Thickness - 0.18m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
150	Ditch	Linear sides: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 2.m, max depth 1.05m, min length 2.75m Excavated depth - 0.6m. Auger - c.0.65m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
151	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal Thickness - 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
152	Fill	Loose mid orange grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness - 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
153	Posthole	Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.29m, max diameter 0.26m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
154	Posthole	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt Thickness - 0.29m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
155	Pit	Oval sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.75m, max length 1.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
156	Fill	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness - 0.75m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
157	Posthole	Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.18m, max diameter 0.33m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
158	Fill	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness - 0.18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
159	Pit	Oval sides: steep dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.4m, min length 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
160	Backfill	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Thickness - 0.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
161	Ditch	Curving linear sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.21m, max depth 0.3m, min length 2.25m Associated with hearth feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
162	Backfill	Friable mid brown brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal Thickness - 0.23m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
163	Backfill	Loose mid orange brown sandy gravel Thickness - 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
164	Ditch	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt Thickness - 0.45m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
165	Pit	Rectangular sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.35m, max length 1.2m Possible post-holes in base	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
166	Backfill	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Width - 1.24m, Depth - 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
167	Posthole	Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.44m, max diameter 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
168	Backfill	Firm mid orange brown silt Thickness 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
169	Backfill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt Thickness - 0.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 7.00 m. Width: 3.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 1.2 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5080: Northing: 49416)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5082: Northing: 49409)

**Reason:** Test depth and nature of archaeology present

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
170	Posthole	Circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.13m, max diameter 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
171	Posthole	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel Thickness - 0.12m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
172	Posthole	Sub-circular dimensions: max diameter 0.3m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
173	Fill	Loose mid orange brown silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
174	Pit	Oval dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, min length 0.7m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
175	Backfill		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
176	Internal surface	Floor surface made up of 6-inch (150mm) red and black quarry tiles laid in chequerboard pattern. Tiles 5/8th inch (22mm) thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 2.00 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5064: Northing: 49406)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 5066: Northing: 49407)

**Reason:** Geotechnical test pit (infiltration testing) excavated on behalf of engineers Scott, White and Hookins to their specification. Excavated by machine under archaeological supervision. No entry into trench for safety reasons.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
201	Tarmac	Tarmac	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Make up layer	Orange gravel over black cinders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Make up layer	Brown sand frequent medium CBM, occasional small mortar, frequent medium stones Occasional limestone fragments (<100mm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Demolition layer	Mid grey-brown sandy silty clay with frequent small stones, occasional mortar, stone and brick fragments. Thicker to west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
205	Demolition layer	Mixed light and mid grey-brown silty sand, very loose, with frequent brick and tile (sample retained) and small limestone frags. Occasional small fragments of oyster shell (found in spoil heap, so not retained). Thicker and tipping down slightly to the west.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
206	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silty clay with moderate small stones and gravel. No finds, but occasional charcoal flecks suggest anthropogenic modification. Probably a subsoil cultivated or otherwise disturbed by human activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Natural	Loose light orange brown gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





## 7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

### OASIS ID: albionar1-181924

#### Project details

Project name	Bedford College LLDD
Short description of the project	<p>Bedford College has applied for planning permission to build a centre for Learners with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties (LLDD) on land at the St Mary's Street frontage of the Bedford College campus. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the college to undertake a programme of archaeological field evaluation. A single trial trench 7m long by 3.2m wide excavated near the south end of the proposed development area. Beneath the existing car park surface and make-up (c. 0.3m thick) were the remains of buildings demolished in the 1970s. A single stone hearth was recorded in section, 0.8m below the existing ground level. At the base of the trench, c. 1.2m below ground, features cut into undisturbed subsoil comprised a substantial ditch, pits, and post-holes. All the pottery recovered was late Saxon or medieval in date, with the bulk of the assemblage being the earlier, late Saxon wares. The lack of post-medieval or later pottery suggests that, apart from the foundations of the buildings demolished c. 1970, this part of the PDA has suffered little from post-Industrial intrusions. The ceramic building material assemblage indicates a high potential for the survival of building remains dating from the later medieval and early post-medieval periods. Any 19th- and 20th-century cellars are likely to have been small.</p> <p>An engineering test pit for infiltration testing was also excavated at a location c. 7m west of the PDA. This was 2m long by 0.7m wide and 2.2m deep, so recording was constrained by safety requirements. No structures or cut features were observed and the sequence of deposits comprised demolition spreads containing late medieval and early post-medieval ceramic building material.</p>
Project dates	Start: 08-07-2014 End: 10-07-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BC2301 - Contracting Unit No.
Associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2014.47 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	BUILDINGS Modern
Monument type	HEARTH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	KNIFE Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Test Pits"



Development type	College extension
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Prompt	Local Development Framework
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD BEDFORD Bedford College LLDD
Study area	800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 0490 4950 52.1334153108 -0.467218329672 52 08 00 N 000 28 01 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Jeremy Oetgen
Project supervisor	Kathleen Pilkinton

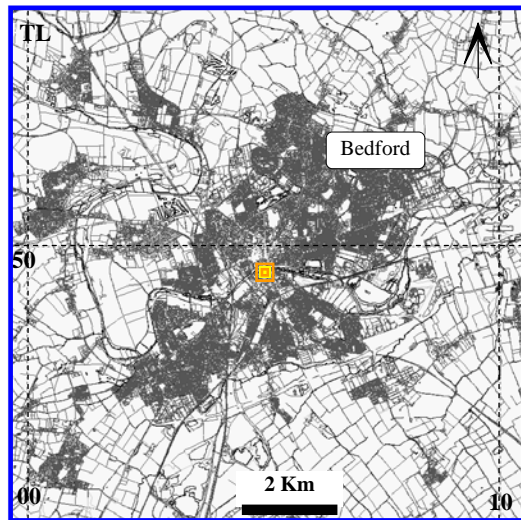
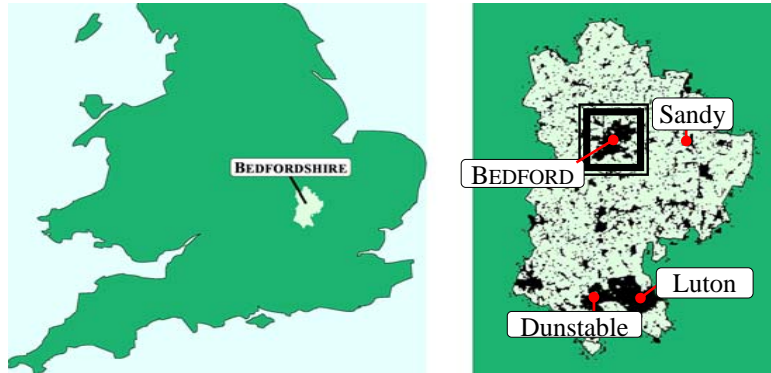
### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Physical Archive ID	BEDFM 2014.47
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal"
Physical Archive notes	To be stored at Albion until deposition and until ant selection policy discussed
Digital Archive recipient	Albion Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Industrial", "Metal", "other", "Environmental"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Paper Archive ID	BEDFM 2014.47
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial", "Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Paper Archive notes	To be stored at Albion until deposition



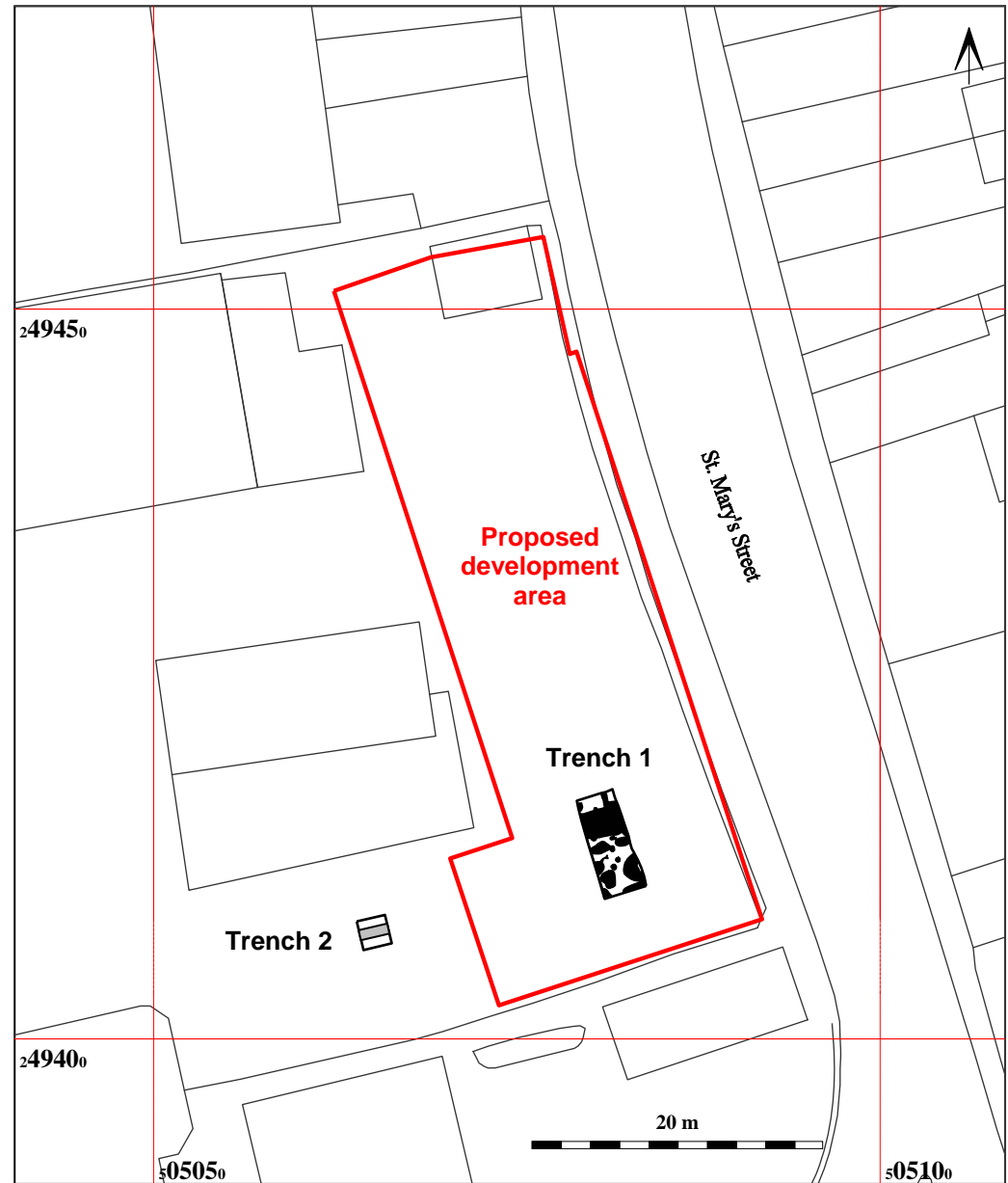
**Project  
bibliography 1**

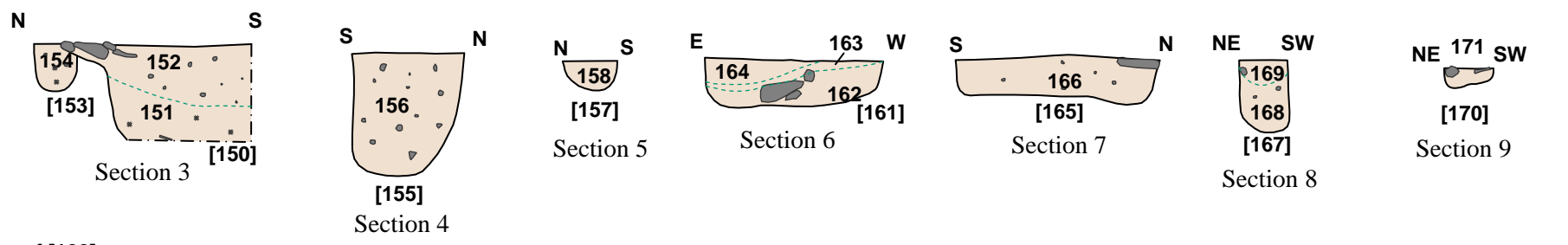
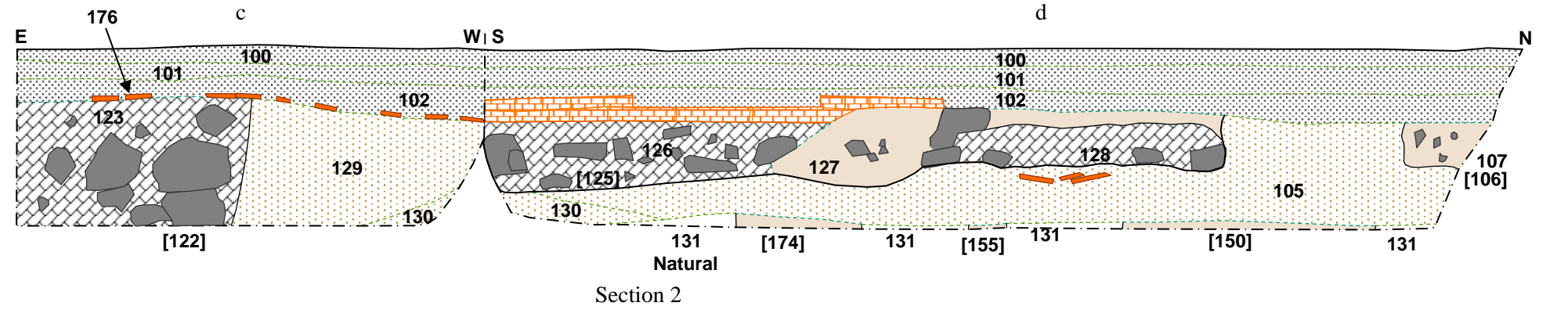
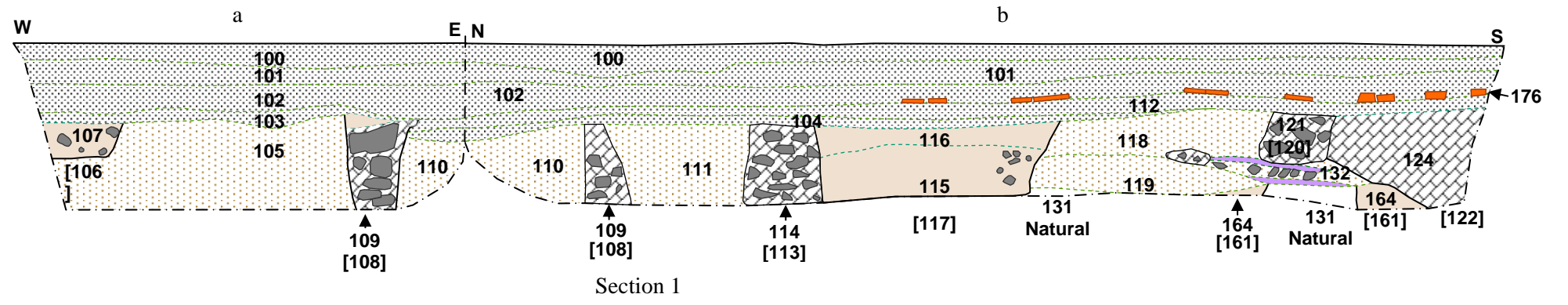
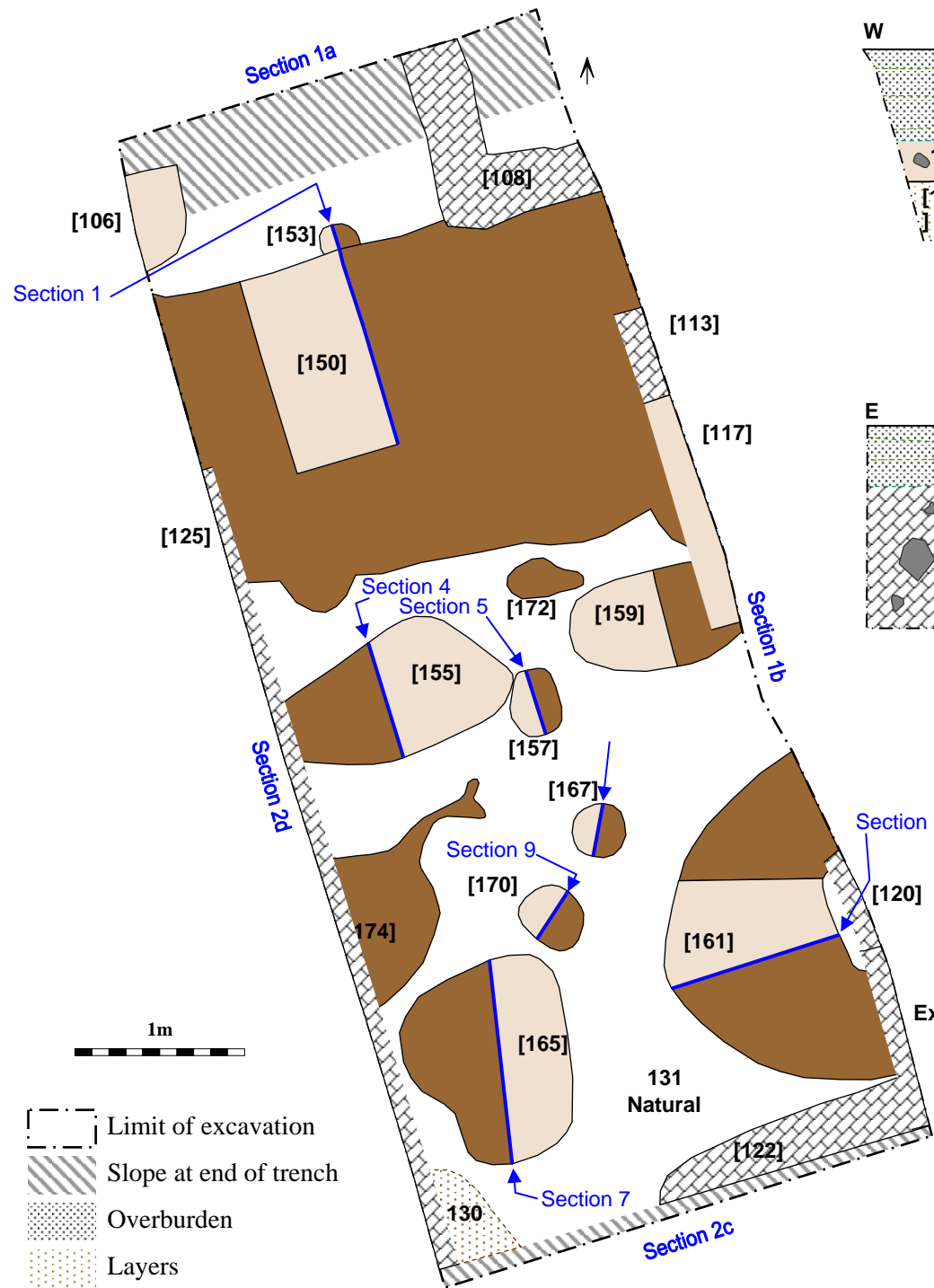
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Bedford College LLDD Centre, St Mary's Street, Bedford: Archaeological Field Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Pilkinton, K'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Oetgen, J'
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Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
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Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	22 July 2014



**Figure 1: Site location**

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Trench 1 – Facing north  
1 x 1m scale



Trench 1 – West facing section  
1 x 1m scale

Figure 2: Trench 1, all features



Central  
Bedfordshire

**Albion**  
archaeology



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