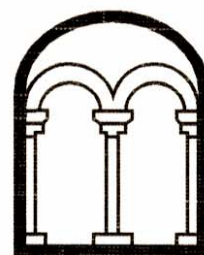


**HARROLD LOWER SCHOOL
THE GREEN
HARROLD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



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INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS
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Preface

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

The project was commissioned by Kier Construction and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders, (Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Phillips (Project Officer), who also prepared this report. The illustrations are by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Mark Phillips. All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

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<i>1.0</i>	<i>13/10/2014</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

DA	Development Area
HER	Historic Environment Record
HETO	Historic Environment Team Officer (Bedford Borough Council)
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (14/01327/DC3) was granted by Bedford Borough Council for the erection of two new classroom blocks, following the removal of a temporary classroom unit, at Harrold Lower School, The Green, Harrold, Bedfordshire. The Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) issued a brief outlining their requirement for a programme for archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks (HET 2014). Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Kier Construction to carry out the archaeological works.

The machine excavation of foundation pits within the areas for the two new classroom blocks were subject to archaeological monitoring during groundworks undertaken between 6th and 8th August 2014.

No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

In the area of the western classroom block undisturbed geological deposits were uncovered in all trenches. The geological deposit was found at a depth of between 0.65m and 1m below the ground surface. Above the geology the deposits consisted of buried topsoil below made-ground consisting of re-deposited geological material probable derived from construction elsewhere on the site.

The area covered by the eastern classroom had been subject to significant disturbance during the 20th century. This area contained a deep, brick-lined cistern and a large concrete slab, edged along its southern side by a brick wall.

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM 2014.52). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-185678).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (14/01327/DC3) was granted by Bedford Borough Council for the erection of two new classroom blocks, following the removal of a temporary classroom unit, at Harrold Lower School, The Green, Harrold.

The Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) issued a brief outlining their requirement for a programme for archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks with (HET 2014).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Kier Construction to carry out the archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion 2014), prepared in response to the brief. The WSI details the methodology used during the works.

This report presents the results of the archaeological monitoring works.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

Harrold Lower School lies to the south of the High Street on the west side of the village green at grid reference SP 94962/56740. The development work comprised the removal of a temporary classroom building on the north side of the school site and construction of two permanent buildings in that area (Figure 1).

The site is generally level at a height of *c.* 44m OD. The underlying geology comprises sands and gravels of the Felmersham Member (First Terrace) of the Ouse Valley formation.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The development site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The Borough's Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the school is on the suspected site of the medieval manor of Harrold (HER6757) and inside the extent of the medieval settlement (HER16942). Previous archaeological investigations within the village indicate that the river terrace around Harrold has been occupied from the early prehistoric period to the present day.

Investigations on the site of the adjacent Middle School's science laboratory revealed well preserved, stratified remains dating to the medieval period (Figure 1: HPM874). These included cobbled surfaces and building remains. Significant quantities of Harrold shelly ware (a recognised medieval pottery type) were recovered (Duncan et al. 2012, 77–108).

Investigations to the south on the site of the Lower School library extension also revealed good potential for archaeological survival (Albion Archaeology 2004) (Figure 1: HL1022).



1.4 Project Objectives

The full project objectives are detailed in the WSI. The general objectives were to identify and characterise any archaeological remains present and to produce an archive report detailing the results.

The results of the observations produced no information that is relevant to the objectives identified in the local and regional research agendas (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Oake et al 2007 and Medlycott 2011). The limited results of the investigation are insufficient to support further post-excavation analysis and the full results are presented below.

1.5 Methodology

The methodology for the archaeological works is set out in full in the WSI (Albion 2014). The site works were monitored between 6th and 8th August 2014 during the machine excavation of pits for concrete foundation pads. The pits were excavated under archaeological observation down to the depth of either the undisturbed geological strata or significant modern intrusions (Figure 2). No significant archaeological deposits were identified in the pits and no artefacts were recovered from the pits or monitoring of the spoil. The Historic Environment Team Officer (HETO) agreed that no further archaeological attendance was required during the remaining limited groundworks for the installation of services.



2. RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

The results are summarised below and are illustrated on Figures 2–6.

2.2 Area 1

This was the larger of the two areas and was the location for an L-shaped building, 20m long by up to 12m wide. Prior to the development it was an open area under a mixture of concrete slabs and grass. The foundations for the new building consisted of concrete pads. The foundation pits were 1–2m across and 1.2–1.5m deep. The revealed deposits are illustrated in sections A to E in Figure 2. .

2.2.1 Geological deposits

Geological deposits consisted of an underlying layer of sandy gravel (5) beneath 0.3–0.4m of sandy clay subsoil (4). The depth to the top of the geological deposits below ground surface varied from 0.65m at the south (Sections A and B) to a maximum of 1m at the north (Sections C and D).

2.2.2 Buried soil

Above the subsoil was a layer of dark silt (3) or clay (8) loam. It was 0.3–0.4m deep over most of the area (Sections A, B, E) but increased to 0.5–0.7m deep in the northern foundation pits (Sections C and D). No artefacts were recovered from this deposit. Some fragments of what appeared to be fired clay with white flecks (ash?) were noted towards the base of the deposit in Section D.

2.2.3 Made ground

The uppermost part of the profile was made-ground covered by an uneven layer of turf and topsoil (1). The made-ground included some dark soil (7), yellow sandy gravel (2) and orange sandy clay (6) with the last two probably derived from the underlying terrace deposits and subsoil layers respectively.

2.2.4 Modern intrusions

Modern disturbance included a service trench which ran along the southern edge of the area and a pit [9] in the north of the area (Section D). Pit [9] had near vertical sides and was at least 1.2m deep. It appeared to be cut through part of the made-ground. Its fill (10) consisted of loose, uncompacted soil with fragments of modern building debris, including concrete paving slabs, brick, tile and tarmac.

2.3 Area 2

Area 2 was the location for a new rectangular building measuring approximately 11m by 7m. Prior to the start of the development works this area was an outdoor play area with a tarmac surface. As in Area 1 a series of pits of varying sizes were excavated for concrete foundation pads. The revealed deposits are illustrated in Section F.

2.3.1 Geological deposit

The geological deposit (14) was mid yellow brown sandy clay, similar to the natural subsoil deposit (4) recorded in Area 1.



2.3.2 Modern structures

A large part of Area 2 contained remains of disused brick and concrete structures.

Foundation pits excavated across the western half of the area uncovered the extensive remains of a concrete slab which lay at a depth of 0.8m below the ground surface. The slab terminated at a curving brick wall towards the south end of Area 2. The upper parts of the wall had been demolished and the area above the slab filled with soil.

Excavation for one of the foundations on the west side of Area 2 uncovered a large brick-lined cistern. It was aligned ENE-WSW and extended beyond the development area towards the west. It was 1.4m wide and approximately 2.5m deep. It was constructed from red brick in English bond and had been lined with a layer of cement render. Cast iron rungs set in the brickwork in the south wall of the pit formed an access ladder. The disused feature had been filled with brick rubble which included some larger blocks of brickwork and fragments of concrete and other debris.

2.3.3 Made-ground

The upper part of the soil profile consisted of layered deposits (11), (12) and (13) (Section F). These may be imported levelling deposits; they were, however, different to those seen in Area 1 which included clean re-deposited geological material. These soil layers occupy a similar stratigraphic position to the buried soil deposit seen in Area 1 above the undisturbed subsoil.



3. CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features were identified; the only features found were modern. Close monitoring of the groundworks and scanning of the spoil failed to identify any artefacts.

The nature of the individual foundation trenches presents some possible limitations but also presented a reasonable sample that was evenly spread across the development. In Area 1 undisturbed geological deposits were identified in all of the trenches, providing a high level of confidence that no archaeological features or deposits were present. Area 2 had been subject to significant disturbance in the modern period and it is possible that the intrusive modern features could have removed or obscured archaeological deposits.

The results, particularly from Area 1, indicate a significant soil build-up above the undisturbed geology which lay at a depth of 0.65–1m below the ground surface. Overburden consisted of buried topsoil beneath layers of made-ground. The made-ground included material that appeared to be derived from the underlying terrace deposits and it is likely that this is material derived from groundworks associated with levelling up this part of the site. The level of the geological deposit becomes deeper towards the northern edge of Area 1, suggesting that a slight natural slope down towards the north has been buried beneath later levelling deposits.

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM 2014.52). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-185678).



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5. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Area 1: Context Summary

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Redeposited natural	Light yellow sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Buried topsoil	Dark grey silty loam occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Subsoil	Mid orange sandy clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Natural	Light yellow sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Make up layer	Mid orange sandy clay moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Make up layer	Dark grey sandy silt moderate small stones. With occasional fragments of limestone and mortar.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Buried topsoil	Dark grey brown clay loam occasional small stones. With a few fragments of fired clay mixed with white flecks (ash?) towards the base of the deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Pit	Sides: near vertical . Partially exposed in edge of trench. Full extent or form unknown.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt . With frequent mortar fragments, occasional concrete paving, brick and tile fragments and slabs of tarmac.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Area 2: Context Summary

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
11	Make up layer	Dark grey sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Make up layer	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Make up layer	Mid yellow brown sandy silt frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



6. APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: albionar1-185678

Project details

Project name	Harrold Lower School
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted by Bedford Borough Council for the erection of two new classroom blocks, following the removal of a temporary classroom unit, at Harrold Lower School, The Green, Harrold, Bedfordshire. The Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) issued a brief outlining their requirement for a programme for archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks (HET 2014). Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Kier Construction to carry out the archaeological works. The machine excavation of foundation pits within the areas for the two new classroom blocks were subject to archaeological monitoring during groundworks. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered. In the area of the western classroom block undisturbed geological deposits were uncovered in all trenches. The geological deposit was found at a depth of between 0.65m and 1m below the ground surface. Above the geology the deposits consisted of buried topsoil below made-ground consisting of re-deposited geological material probable derived from construction elsewhere on the site. The area covered by the eastern classroom had been subject to significant disturbance during the 20th century. This area contained a deep, brick-lined cistern and a large concrete slab, edged along its southern side by a brick wall.
Project dates	Start: 06-08-2014 End: 08-08-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HLS2455 - Contracting Unit No. BEDFM 2014.52 - Museum accession ID 14/01327/DC3 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	CISTERN Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD HARROLD Harrold Lower School
Study area	320.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 9499 5675

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design	Albion Archaeology



originator
 Project director/manager Drew Shotliff
 Project director/manager Mark Phillips
 Project supervisor Mark Phillips

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
 Paper Archive recipient Bedford Museum
 Paper Archive ID BEDFM 2014.52
 Paper Contents "other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", 'Drawing', "Microfilm" "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Harrold Lower School, Harrold, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication
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7. FIGURES

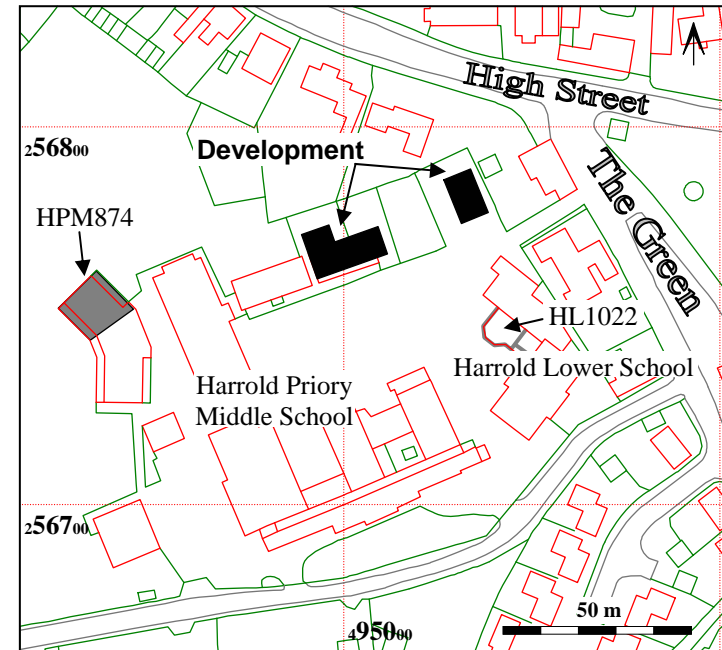
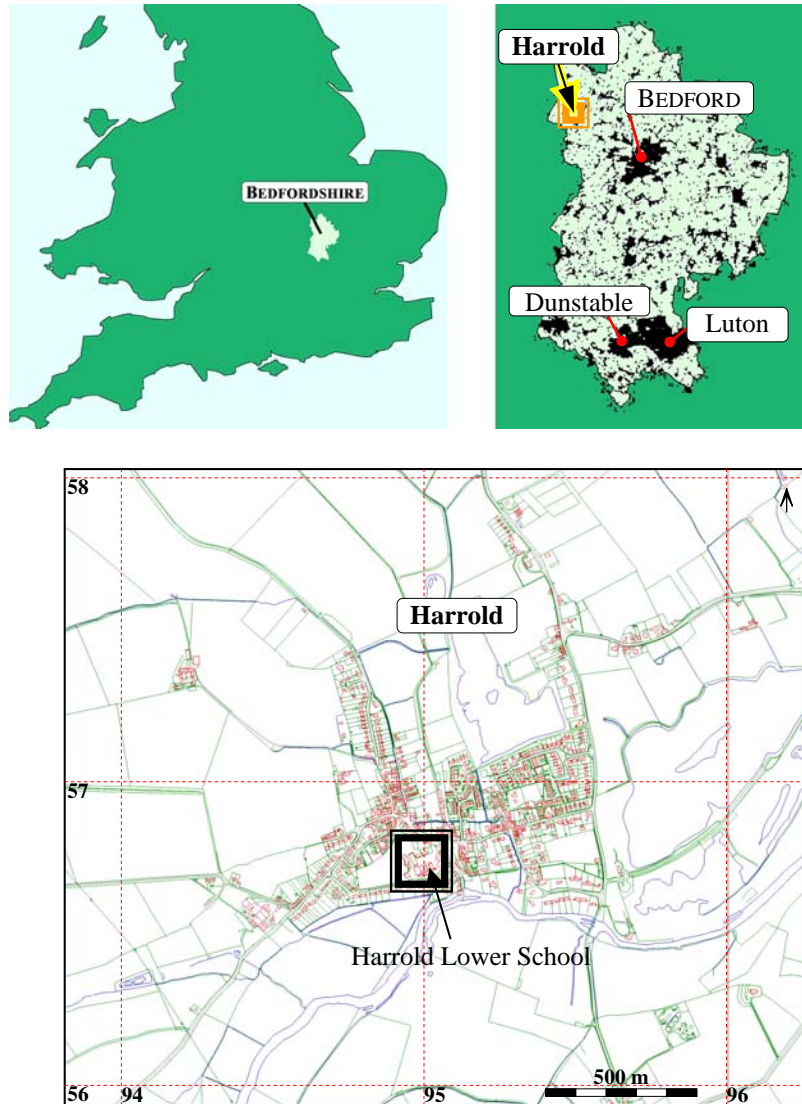


Figure 1: Site location

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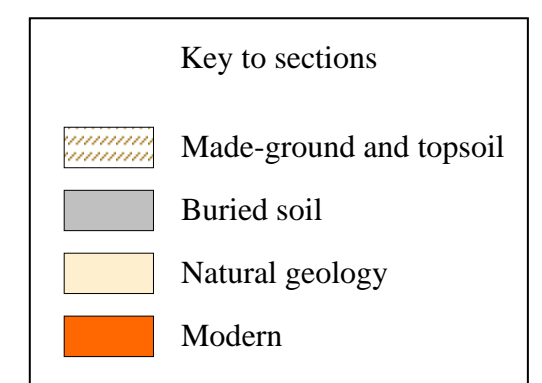
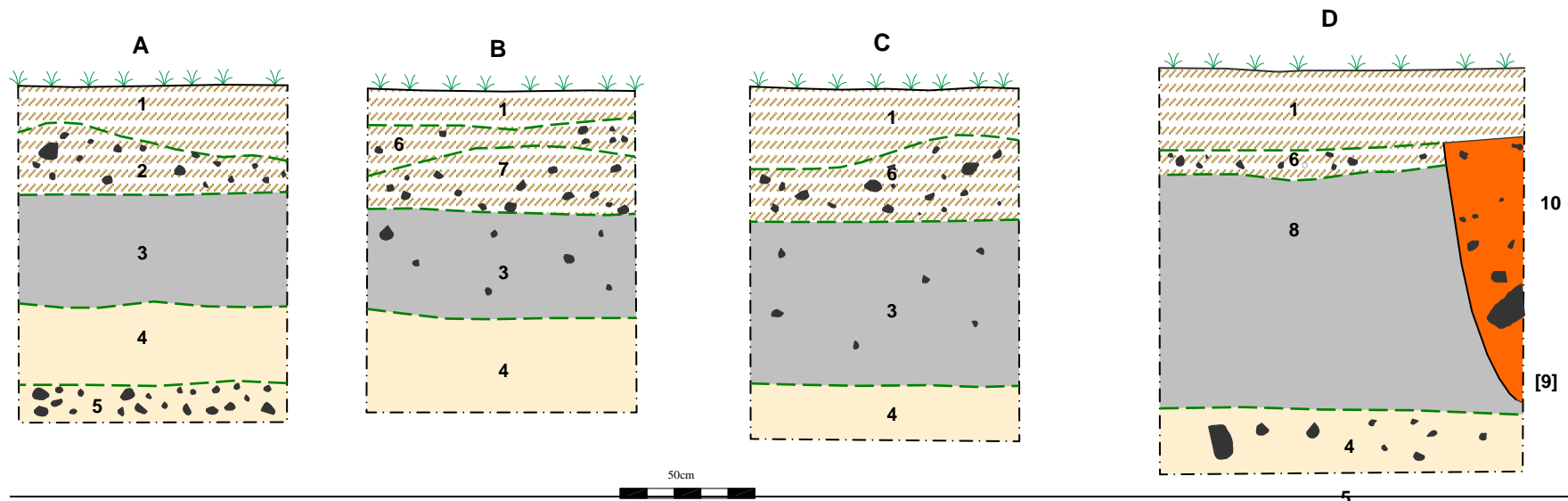
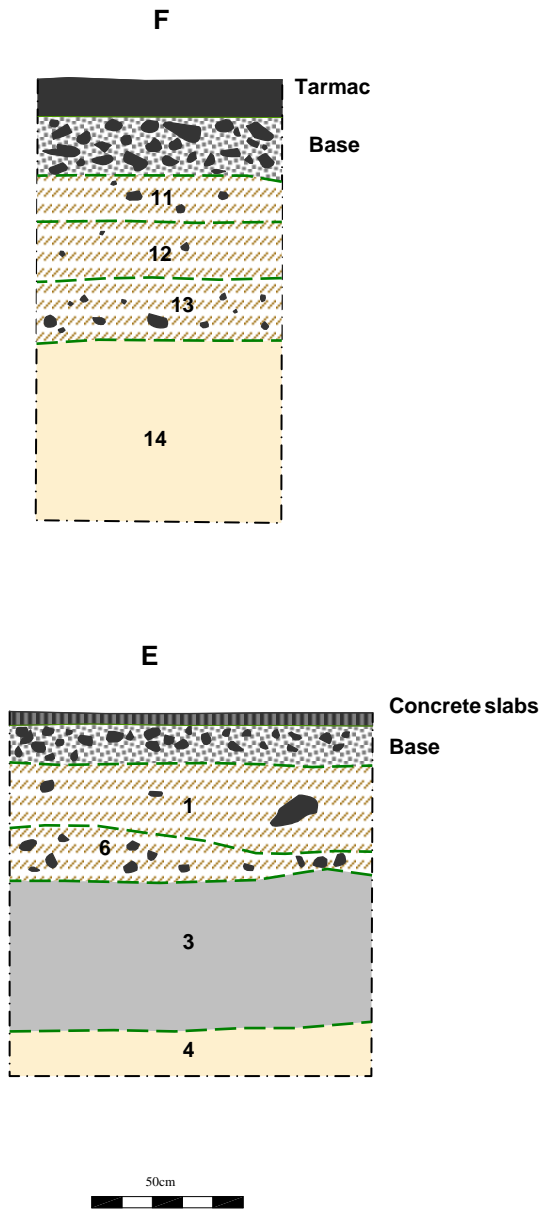
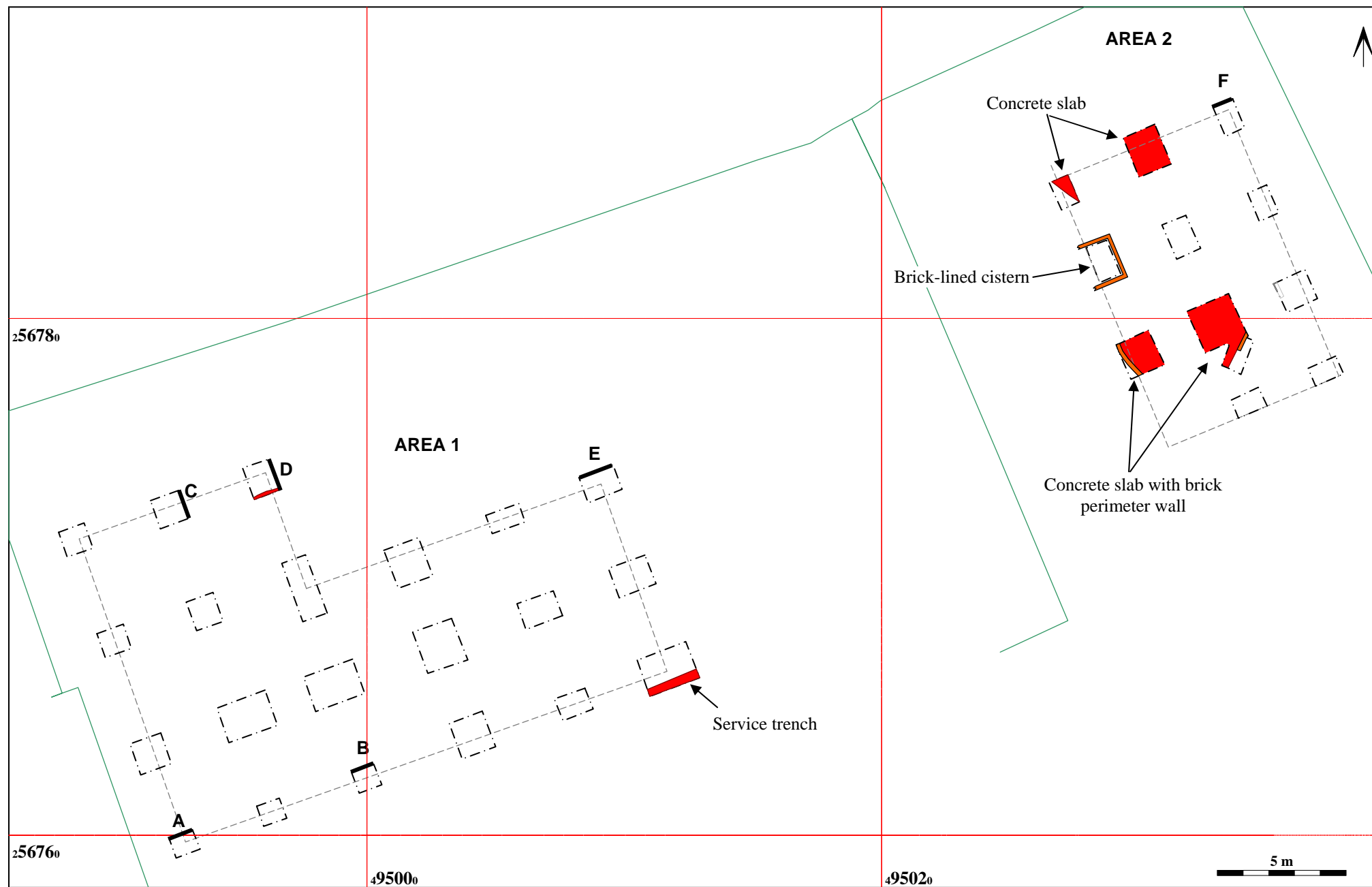


Figure 2: All features plan and sections



Figure 3: Area 1, view looking towards the south-west



Figure 4: Area 1, Section B
(Photograph shows from the base: geological deposits, buried topsoil, made-ground and topsoil. Scale 1m)



Figure 5: Area 2, view looking towards the south-west



Figure 6: Area 2, brick-lined cistern
(Looking south. Scale 1m)

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