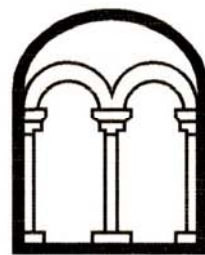


**LEIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTENSION
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



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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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The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Marcin Koziminski (Archaeological Supervisor) with assistance of Allan King, Gareth Shane, Adrian Woolmer (Assistant Supervisors) and Mike Emra (Archaeological Technician). This report has been prepared by Marcin Koziminski with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer), Holly Duncan (Artefacts Manager) and Joan Lightning (CAD Illustrator); soil sample processing was carried out by Adrian Woolmer. All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Key terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CB/15/03064/REG3) for the construction of two new classroom blocks, remodelling and refurbishment of the existing dining block and the creation of additional car parking spaces at Leighton Middle School, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

As the site is located in an area with the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) recommended a condition be attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological works be carried out. Two trenches were investigated between 21st and 22nd December 2015; both were 2m wide and 17.5m long.

Trench 1, on higher ground, contained a landscaping/levelling deposit possibly associated with the construction of lawn tennis courts between 1855 and 1879/80. The majority of the remains within the trench pre-date the deposition of that layer and are of late post-medieval and modern date; they were cut into the buried subsoil and yielded datable artefacts. A large millstone fragment datable to the late medieval / post-medieval period, recovered from a pit, is believed to be residual in that context. An undated tree-throw that was truncated by that pit may have derived from the period when this area was an open space known as “Freemans Close”.

Trench 2 contained substantial layers of buried topsoil and subsoil that sealed archaeological features in the form of two ditches that joined at right angles and were probably contemporary. Based on the size and spatial position of the ditches they are thought to have served as a possible enclosure boundary with a contemporary sub-division. A soil sample taken from the NNE-SSW aligned ditch produced a small and abraded pottery sherd of possible late Iron Age date. Given its size and condition, the sherd is likely to be residual in the ditch and cannot provide a secure date for it.

The majority of the revealed remains are of local significance and relate to the development of the grounds of the former manor from the post-medieval period through to the 19th century. However, the presence of thick buried soils, and the fact that they sealed earlier (though essentially undated) features in Trench 2 suggest there is the potential for the survival of more significant remains within the school site, particularly in the immediate proximity of the River Ouzel / ‘mill race’. The recovery of the millstone fragment suggests that a late medieval / post-medieval mill was located in the vicinity.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CB/15/03064/REG3) for the construction of two new classroom blocks at Leighton Middle School, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The development will also include the remodelling and refurbishment of the existing dining block and the creation of additional car parking spaces.

As the site is located in an area with the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) recommended a condition (no. 6) be attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological investigation be carried out. This advice was in accordance with Paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2015) was produced in response to a brief (CBC 2015) issued by the CBCA.

This document details the results of the archaeological investigation and appraises the significance of the heritage assets with archaeological interest found within the development area.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

Leighton Middle School lies next to the River Ouzel near the centre of Leighton Buzzard. At the time of the evaluation the development area was the site of two hard-surfaced tennis courts surrounded by chain link fencing located adjacent to the River Ouzel and centred on grid reference SP91799/24941.

The tennis courts were at two different levels, divided by a retaining wall. The lower western court lay at *c.* 83.3m OD and the upper eastern court at *c.* 84.5m OD.

The geology of the area comprises alluvium of clay, silt and sand which overlie sandstone of the Woburn Sands Formation.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The bulk of the following background information has been taken from the CBCA brief (CBC 2015).

The town of Leighton Buzzard almost certainly has its origins in the Saxon period and the early settlement is likely to have developed around the bridging point over the River Ouzel in or around the 7th century AD. At present there is no direct earlier Saxon evidence from inside the core of the town; however, two Saxon cemeteries have been recorded to the immediate north (HER 1 and 3) of the town and contemporary material has been found at Grove Priory (HER 1870) to the south.

Leighton (Buzzard was added sometime after the late 13th century) is well recorded in later Saxon and medieval documents and they indicate that it was a



Royal Manor which had the right to hold a weekly market by the time of the Domesday survey in 1086. The Thiodweg (HER 10843), a Saxon trade route, also runs through Leighton and its earliest mention is in a charter dating to 926, adding further weight to a Saxon origin for the town. In addition, recent archaeological investigations on North Street indicate that domestic Saxo-Norman activity (10th–11th centuries) relating to this early settlement does survive within the modern town (PCA 2014).

There was also an ecclesiastical presence within Leighton by Domesday with the Bishop of Lincoln holding 4 hides including the church. This estate was centred on the Prebendal Manor, the site of which is located to the immediate north and east of the development site (HER 11056). It is likely that one of the early focal points of the town was the Bishop's property and the church, and while the present church of All Saints (HER 1088, NHLE 1321404: Grade I) dates from the 13th century, it almost certainly overlies an earlier building.

At some point in the early medieval period (probably during the 12th century) the market was expanded, thereby improving the economic prospects of the town. It was this success which led to the creation of a new "planned" town. The new town was Y-shaped in form, encompassing Bridge Street, High Street, Lake Street, North Street and Hockliffe Street. These were carefully laid out in accordance with the natural topography with the High Street, Hockliffe Street and Lake Street all meeting at the highest point in the town, creating the triangular market place. The intention was to draw all the traffic heading for the bridge over the River Ouzel together well before it reached the crossing point by deliberately funnelling it through the Market Square and the High Street, the town's main trading area (BCC 1996).

To date, there have only been a limited number of archaeological investigations in Leighton Buzzard. However, in addition to the works on North Street in 2014, archaeological remains dating to the medieval period, including a large pit were recorded on Lake Street in 2000 (HAT 2000). Later medieval and early post-medieval remains were found in 1996 on the land to the rear of 4 Market Square (BCAS 1996). Some archaeological investigation has also already been undertaken at Leighton Middle School (for the new building located to the immediate south of Bridge Street) which uncovered post-medieval boundary features and a horse skeleton (Albion Archaeology 2006).

More recently (and in relation to the current development) an evaluation comprising two trial trenches was carried in the school playing fields (Albion Archaeology in prep.). One trench contained a series of alluvial deposits and a possible palaeochannel, indicating a fluvial or flood plain environment. Above the alluvium were two layers of similar composition that may have accumulated through the dumping of material scoured from the river Ouzel or the Clipstone Brook. The upper of these two layers was truncated in the west of the trench by the probable remains of a rectangular pond shown on the 1804 plan of the estate.

The second trench contained a buried subsoil layer overlain by two thick make-up layers. The lower make-up layer contained material that may have related to the demolition of the Prebendal House in the early part of the 19th century. The



upper deposit contained sand and gravel possibly brought in from one of the quarries in the area.

The Bishops of Lincoln played an important role in the development of the town of Leighton Buzzard. Historic documentation (including some maps) give us a reasonable indication of the extent and location of the post-medieval Prebendal Manor House and some of the surviving buildings within the grounds of Leighton Middle School (notably the Music Room/Library, HER 4553, NHLE 1321402: Grade II*) were associated with that particular building. In the early 19th century, the Prebendal Manor House was demolished and sub-surface remains relating to that building including demolition layers are known to survive within what is now the parish churchyard (BCAS 1999). The post-medieval Prebendal Manor House was almost certainly a re-build of the earlier manor house constructed for the Bishops of Lincoln; however, we cannot be sure whether the medieval manor was located in the same place within the estate as its successor.

The property that is now known as Leighton Middle School forms part of the former Prebendal Manor estate. In 1851, much of the land holding was purchased by John Dollin Bassett and in 1855 he built “The Cedars” as his family home (HER 4551, NHLE 1321405: Grade II). Bassett surrounded the house with landscaped pleasure grounds, by expanding on and improving the original designed landscape associated with the Prebendal Manor.

In 1920, Bedfordshire County Council purchased The Cedars, with “The Cedars School”, opening in 1921. Following the re-organisation of the school system in Bedfordshire in 1968, The Cedars became an Upper School and was moved to larger purpose-built premises in Linslade in 1973, after which the site has housed Leighton Middle School.

The two new teaching blocks and the additional car parking are to be located on a pair of existing hard-surfaced tennis courts located to the west of the main school buildings. Prior to the purchase of part of the Prebendal estate by John Bassett, this part of the site was recorded as “Freemans Close” and on the Enclosure Map it appears as open space (BLARS: MA79/2/1-2). By the time the first edition Ordnance Survey map was published (1879–80), Bassett had built the Cedars and undertaken significant landscaping and this included the tennis lawns. Sales particulars for the property from 1897 describe the grounds as including “...a Terraced Walk overlooking Extensive Tennis Lawns which are approached by a flight of Stone Steps leading to a broad Gravelled Walk surrounding the Lawns.” (BLARS: BML 10/42/365). By the 1890’s the ironstone wall that divides the two courts had been constructed, with an inscription on one of the stones suggesting it was constructed in 1889. A photograph, *c.* 1903 (BLARS: BML 10/42/336) looking across the mill race (the “ornamental water” of 1897) towards The Cedars shows the tennis courts laid to grass and with the surviving wall separating the two courts. At what point in time the courts were hard-surfaced is not known.

1.4 Project Objectives

Published research frameworks identifying the local and regional research objectives are provided by Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000), Oake et al (2007) and Medlycott (2011).



The relevant research objectives for the project were set out in the brief (CBC 2015). The extension site lies within the Prebendal Manor Estate of Leighton Buzzard and the postulated core of the medieval town. It was therefore considered to have the potential to contain archaeological deposits relating to the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval development of the town. Research into the origins and development of small towns, their inter-relationships with their hinterlands and early town planning from the Saxon through to the early post-medieval periods are local and regional archaeological research objectives (Ayers 2000, 27–32, Oake et al 2007, 14 and Medlycott 2011, 58, 70 & 79).

In addition, the site of the Leighton Middle School remains one of the key locations in Leighton Buzzard and may contain some of the earliest settlement remains in the town (BCC 1996).

The principal purpose of the investigation was to determine whether or not archaeological remains were present within the site and to determine the following:

- the date, nature, and extent of any archaeological remains present at the site;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the potential of any palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2015).

2.1 Methodological Standards

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

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edition (2001)
CBC	<i>Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, analysis and Publication at Leighton Middle School Extension, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire</i> . Version 1, 19/11/15.
CifA	<i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
EAA	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , 2nd edition (2011)
Luton Culture	<i>Procedures for preparing archaeological archives for deposition with Luton Culture</i> (2013)

The project archive will be deposited at Luton Museum (Entry Number LTNMG 1169). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-230393) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

2.2 Archaeological Investigation

The investigation took place between 21st and 22nd December 2015. It comprised the excavation of two trenches, both 2m wide and 17.5m long. The trenches were positioned to achieve coverage of the footprint of the proposed classroom block and take into account ecological and environmental constraints, e.g. TPOs, contaminated ground, buried services, wildlife habitats etc.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff with internal specialists also consulted. Any potential archaeological features were



investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. The trenches were inspected by the CBCA on 22nd December 2015.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All significant deposits and features revealed within the trenches are described below and shown on Figures 2 and 3. They are discussed by trench rather than by chronological period due to the presence of a variety of overburden deposits in the trenches and a variety of stratigraphical relationships between them and the archaeological remains. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***).

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features is provided in the Appendix.

3.2 Geological Strata

Undisturbed geological strata were similar in both trenches and consisted of yellow-orange sandy clay to brown-orange clay sand with patches of orange-yellow gravelly clay.

3.3 Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m. The top of archaeological remains was revealed at 0.4–0.57m below existing ground level.

Overburden consisted of four layers (in stratigraphical order from top to bottom):

- external surface (100) comprising black tarmac;
- levelling layer (101) of compact sandy rubble;
- make-up layer (102) comprising friable sandy silt with lenses of sand;
- buried subsoil (103) of friable sandy silt.

In the south-eastern corner of the trench a sub-oval pit [105] was recorded (Figure 2: Section 1 and Figure 3). It was more than 0.67m wide and 1.80m long, extending beyond the trench sides to the south and east. It had a steep-sided profile and was 0.80m deep. The lower fill (106) produced a large fragment of millstone, broadly datable from the 14th to 17th centuries¹. The deposit also contained a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem fragment, single pieces of ceramic roof tile (19g) and mortar/plaster (20g); and eleven animal bone fragments (73g). The latter mainly comprise abraded limb bone fragments, and a sheep (?) metapodial and phalanx.

Large elongated tree-throw [110] (Figure 2: Section 3) was truncated by pit [105] and modern intrusion [108] (Figure 2: Section 2). The latter contained two pieces of modern ceramic roof tile (49g).

¹ Fashioned from either millstone grit or quartz conglomerate, the object has a diameter in excess of 1.1m. No feeder or evidence of rynds survive. Grinding surface retains part of 3 harps, one retains 8 furrows and 7/8 lands; one with two lands and the other with 4 lands. Reverse surface roughly pecked and chiselled, with *c.* half a square recess along one broken edge (60 x 40mm; depth 60mm). Grinding surface partially flaked off. Both obverse and reverse surfaces appear to have been burnt. Current dimensions 560mm x 495mm, thickness 243mm (max.), 100mm (min.). Furrow width *c.* 2.3, lands between 40–45mm wide.



Two pits [116] and [118] were located towards the centre of the trench, with the latter being truncated by the former (Figure 2: Section 6). They had concave to steep-sided profiles and were 0.75–1.28m wide by 0.26–0.73m deep. Pit [116] was only observed in a baulk section. The fill (119) of [118] contained an indeterminate roof tile or fired clay fragment (16g).

Archaeological remains in the northern half of the trench were represented by pit [112] and post hole [114]. The pit was 0.62m wide by 0.20m deep and had a concave profile (Figure 2: Section 4). Post hole [114] had near vertical sides and measured 0.50m wide by 0.42m deep (Figure 2: Section 5 and Figure 3).

All the archaeological features within Trench 1 were cut into buried subsoil (103) and preceded the deposition of make-up layer (102). The sole exception was feature [108] that appeared to cut through the stratigraphically higher deposits.

3.4 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m. The top of archaeological remains was revealed at 0.92–1.05m below existing ground level.

Overburden consisted of four layers:

- external surface (200) comprising black tarmac;
- levelling layer (210) of loose tarmac with moderate amount of small stone inclusions;
- buried topsoil (201) comprising spongy silty clay;
- buried subsoil (202) of friable silty sand.

Below the buried subsoil (202) was a NNE-SSW aligned ditch [206/208] that extended beyond the northern and western limits of the trench. It was at least 5.35m long with a minimum width of 0.55m; it had a concave profile and was 0.6–0.7m deep (Figure 2: Sections 8 and 9; Figure 3). At roughly right angles to the ditch was an ESE-WNW ditch [204] that was at least 1.35m long, 0.75m wide and had a V-shaped profile that was 0.54m deep (Figure 2: Section 7). Both ditches joined within the trench and their diffuse fills suggest that they are contemporary.

The fill of ditch [208] was sampled for environmental and datable remains. An abraded grog-tempered pottery sherd (1g) of possible late Iron Age date as well as small amount of undiagnostic animal bone fragments were collected from the sample residue. No environmental remains were present in the sample.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological remains within the two trenches showed a number of contrasts.

Trench 1, on higher ground, contained a landscaping/levelling deposit possibly associated with the construction of lawn tennis courts between 1855 and 1879/80. Almost all of the 'cut' features pre-date the deposition of that layer and are likely to be of late post-medieval and modern date as they were cut into the buried subsoil and yielded datable artefacts. The large millstone fragment datable to the late medieval / post-medieval period, which was recovered from pit [105], is believed to be residual in that context. The undated tree-throw that was truncated by that pit may have derived from the period when this area was an open space known as "Freemans Close".

Trench 2 contained substantial layers of buried topsoil and subsoil that sealed archaeological features in the form of two ditches that joined at right angles and were probably contemporary. Based on the size and spatial position of the ditches they may have served as a possible enclosure boundary with a contemporary subdivision. The NNE-SSW aligned ditch produced a very small and abraded pottery sherd of possible late Iron Age date. Given its size and condition, the sherd is likely to be residual in the ditch and cannot provide a secure date for it.

The majority of the revealed remains are of local significance and relate to the development of the grounds of the former manor from the post-medieval period through to the 19th century. However, the presence of thick buried soils, and the fact that they sealed earlier (though essentially undated) features in Trench 2 suggest there is the potential for the survival of more significant remains within the school site, particularly in the immediate proximity of the River Ouzel / 'mill race'. The recovery of the millstone fragment suggests that a late medieval / post-medieval mill was located in the vicinity.



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6. APPENDIX: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 17.50 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.57 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 91808: Northing: 24945)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 91808: Northing: 24928)

Reason: To assess the area prior to construction of a new school building.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Tarmac	Hard black tarmac 0.11m thick desposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Levelling layer	Compact light yellow grey sandy rubble Up to 0.17m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small CBM, occasional medium sand, moderate small stones 0.38m thick desposit. Occasional lenses of yellow-orange sand, increasing in frequency towards north end of the trench. Deposit seals all features.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Buried subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones Up to 0.29m thick desposit. Heavily rooted. All features cut into it.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Natural	Compact mid brown orange clay sand Patches of mid orange-yellow gravelly clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Pit	Sub-oval sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.67m, max depth 0.8m, min length 1.8m It truncates tree throw [110].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Lower fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional large stones, occasional small stones Up to 0.53m thick desposit. It contained millstone fragment - FD (120).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
107	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small CBM, frequent small mortar Dumped in material - up to 0.37m thick. Neither ceramic building material nor mortar retained.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Finds deposit	Stone near top of fill (106). Hand excavated. Large fragment of a millstone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
108	Modern intrusion	Sub-square sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.13m, max diameter 0.3m Possible modern bore-hole. It truncates tree throw [110].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
110	Treethrow	Irregular sides: asymmetrical base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.97m, max depth 0.6m, min length 3.4m Truncated by bore hole [108] and pit [105].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Pit	Sub-circular sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.2m, max diameter 0.62m Feature not fully exposed in trench. Observed only in baulk section.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silty clay occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Posthole	Sub-circular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.42m, max diameter 0.5m Feature not fully exposed in trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Fill	Friable dark brown grey silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones Accumulation after post removed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Pit	Sub-circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.26m, max diameter 0.75m Feature not fully exposed in trench. Only observed in baulk section. It truncates pit [118].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Fill	Friable dark brown grey silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Pit	Sub-circular sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.73m, max diameter 1.28m Feature not fully exposed in trench. Truncated by pit [116] in baulk section.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate medium stones, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 17.50 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.92 m. Max: 1.05 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 91791: Northing: 24949)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 91791: Northing: 24931)

Reason: To assess the area prior to construction of a new school building.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	External surface	Hard black tarmac 0.10m thick desposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Buried topsoil	Spongy mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small sand, moderate small stones Between 0.45-0.52m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Buried subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Between 0.33-0.38m thick deposit. It seals all features within trench	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Natural	Friable light yellow orange sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW sides: V-shaped base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.54m, min length 1.35m Relationship with ditch [206] uncertain - likely contemporary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Fill	Friable mid grey yellow silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.63m, max depth 0.7m, min length 1.5m Ditch not fully exposed in trench. Relationship with [204] unclear - likely contemporary. Same as [208].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Fill	Friable mid grey yellow silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.6m, min length 1.m Same as [206].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Fill	Friable mid grey yellow silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
210	Levelling layer	Loose black tarmac moderate small stones Levelling layer prior to tarmac surface (200). Up to 0.15m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

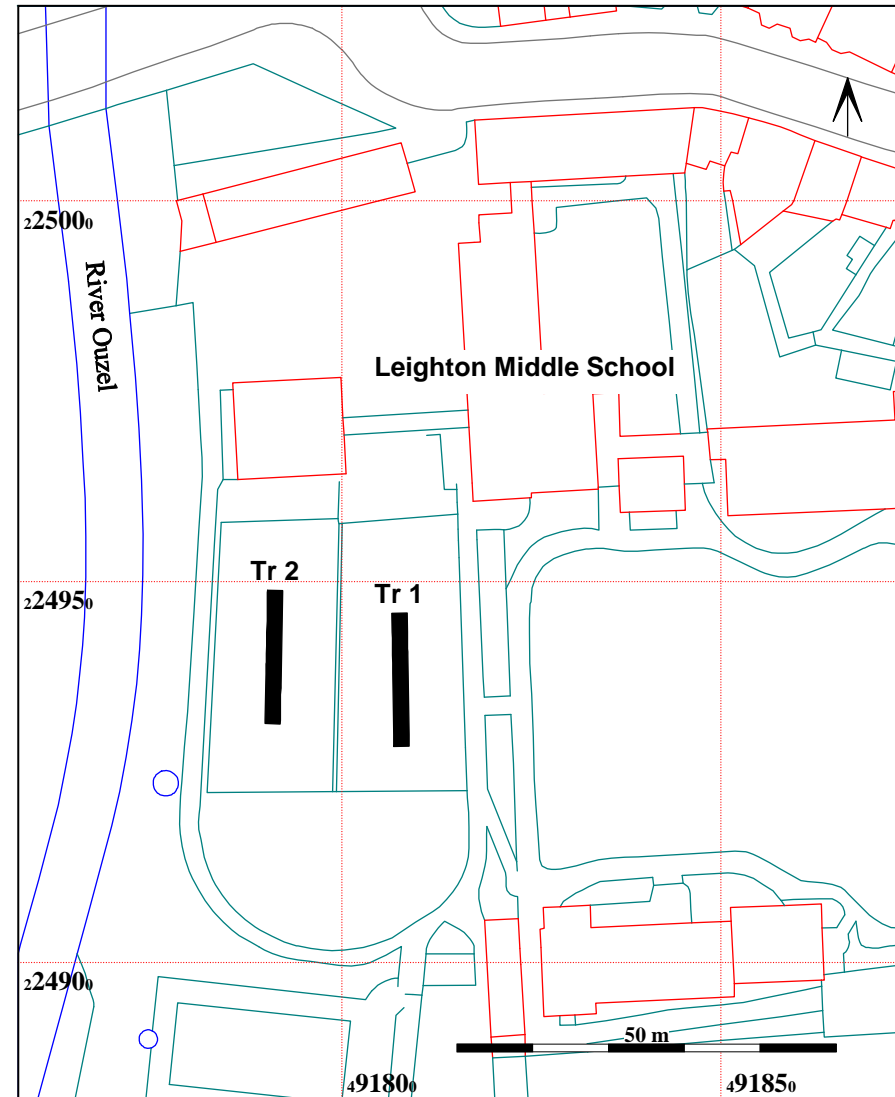
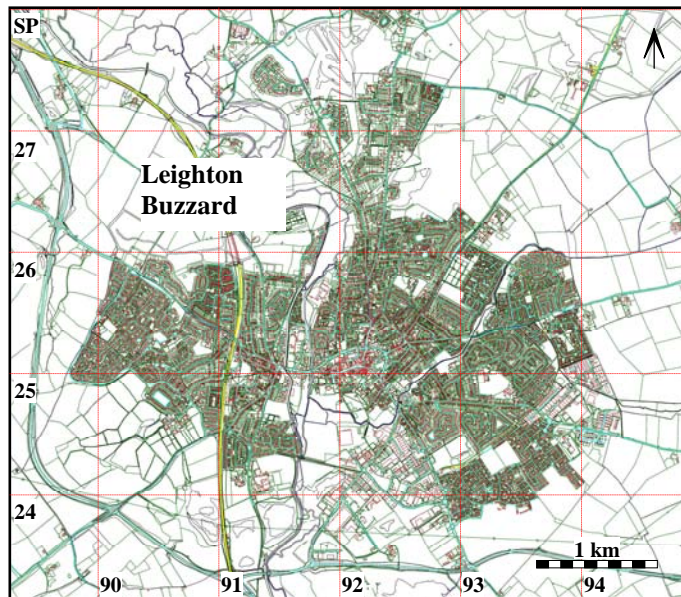
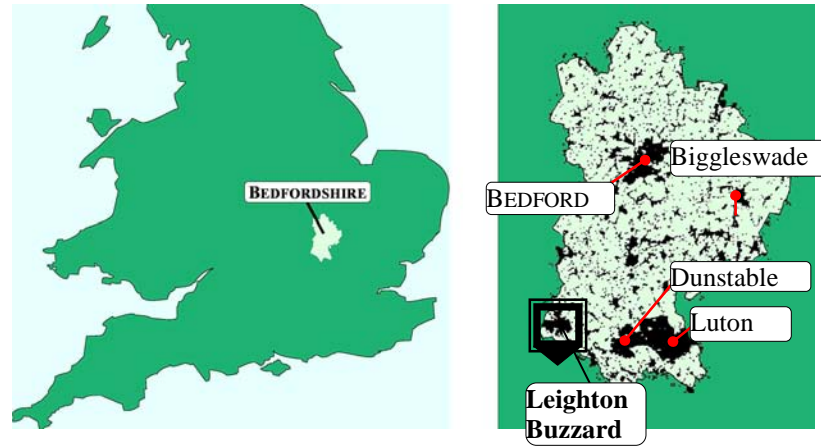


Figure 1: Site location

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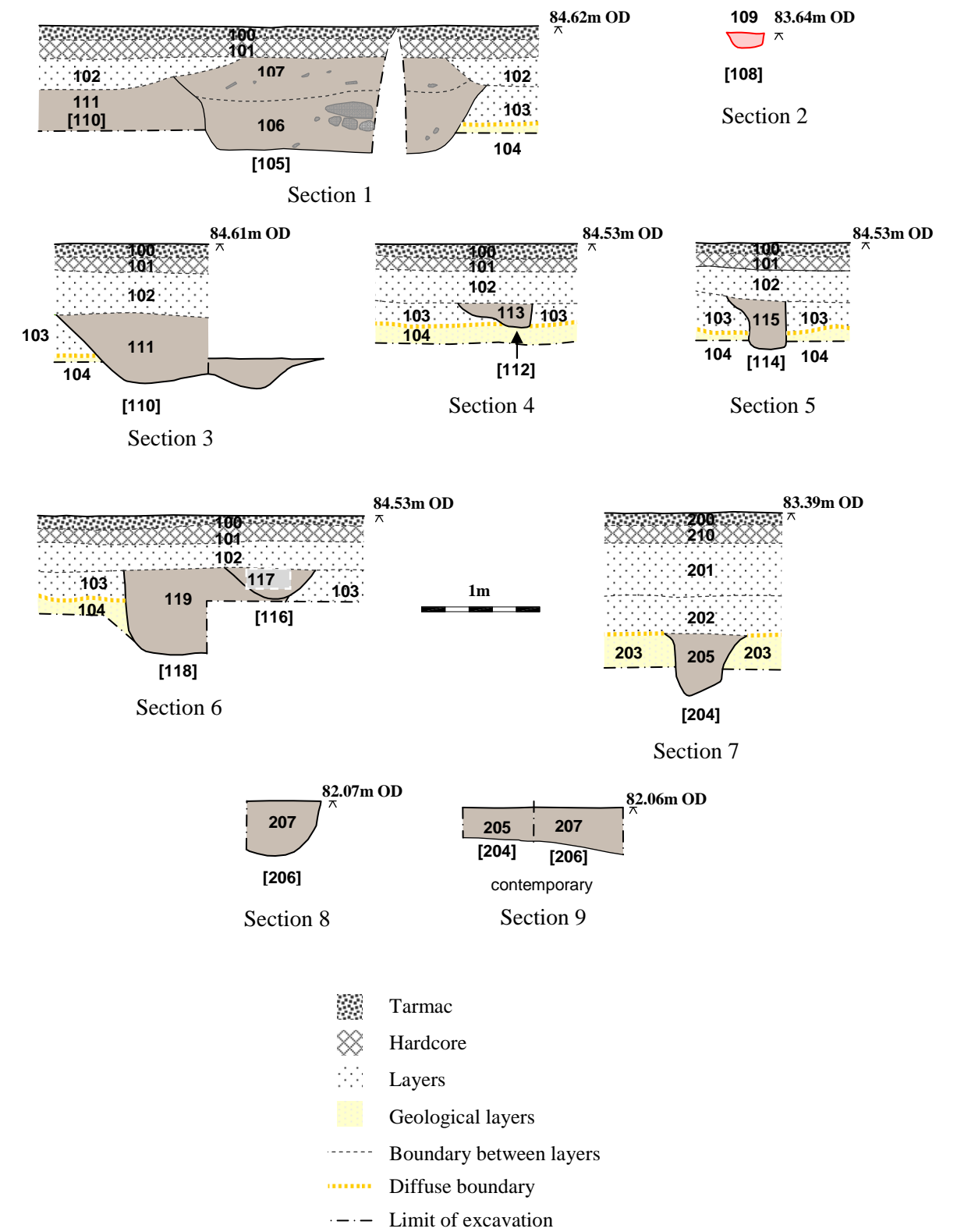
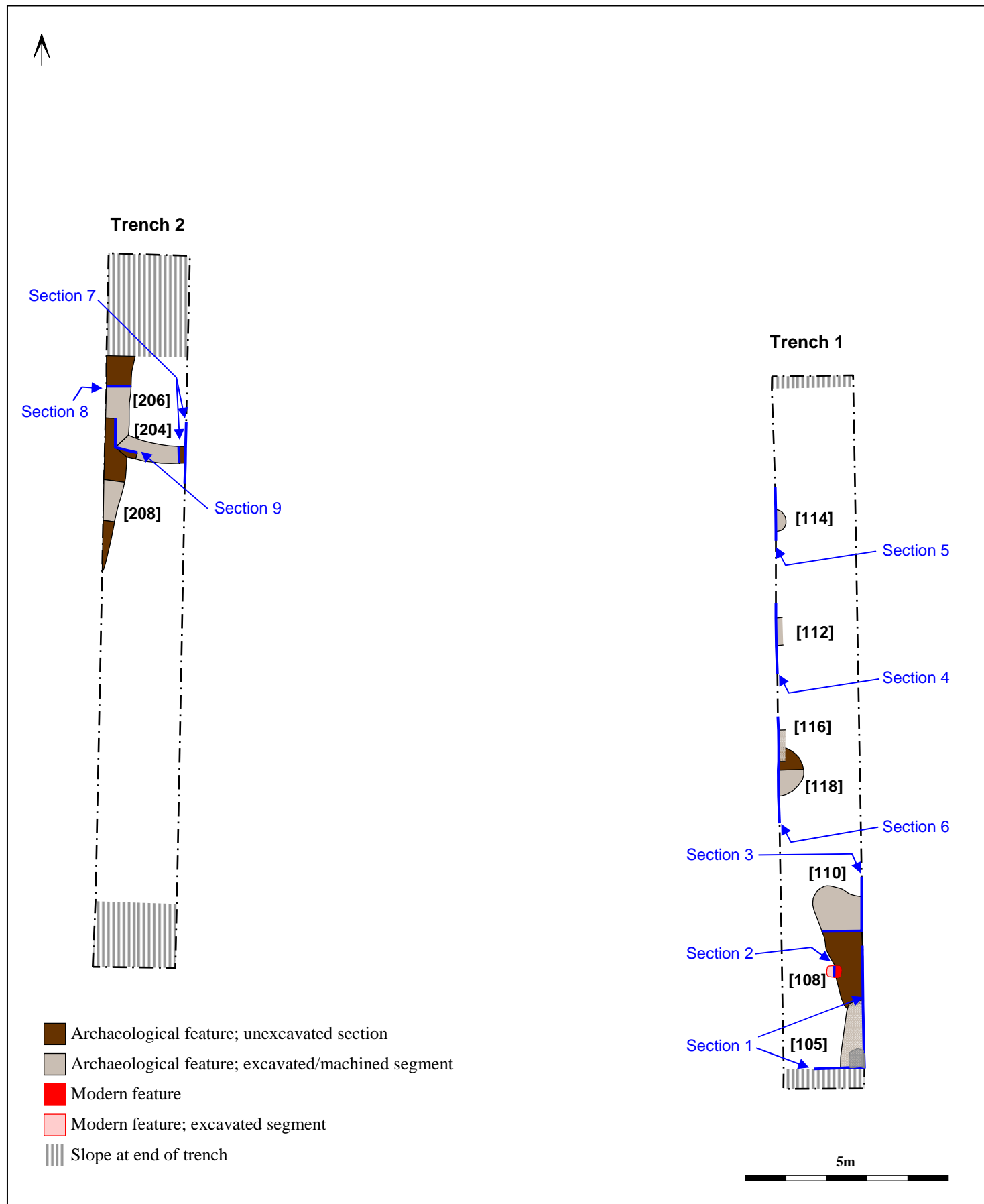


Figure 2: Trenching results



Pit [105] with millstone (120) *in situ* in Trench 1 – looking east; 1m scale.



Trench 1 – looking north; 1m scale



Pit [105] in Trench 1 – looking east; 1m scale.



Ditch [208] (foreground) and ditches [204] and [206] (background) in Trench 2 – looking north; 1m scale



Post hole [114] in Trench 1 – looking west; 1m scale



Trench 2 – looking south; 1m scale

Figure 3: Selected images

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