

**4-6 UNION STREET
NEWPORT PAGNELL
MILTON KEYNES**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

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Town / Parish	Newport Pagnell
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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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Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, there is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 2, followed by a conclusion (Section 3). Section 4 is a bibliography, and the appendices contain detailed information on contexts and finds.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

MKAO	Milton Keynes Archaeological Officer
Client	Ark Developments
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Andrew Rooney of Ark Developments and managed on their behalf by Isabel Lisboa of Archaeologica Ltd.

The works were monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Nick Crank of Milton Keynes Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor) who also prepared the report with contributions by Joan Lightning (illustrations) and Jackie Wells (Finds).

All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).



Non-Technical Summary

A planning application was submitted to Milton Keynes Council for the construction of a residential building to the rear of 4-6 Union Street, Newport Pagnell.

The development site lay within an area of archaeological sensitivity, within the medieval core of Newport Pagnell.

As a consequence, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological works be carried out at the site.

An evaluation carried out at the site in 2007 found two large late medieval/early post-medieval pits, and a sequence of pits and structural remains that dated from the early post-medieval period to the Victorian era.

The subsequent monitoring of construction groundworks, and the subject of this report, identified further archaeological features within the area of development. They comprised ditches and pits of probable medieval date and post-medieval features that included pits, a ditch, a demolition layer and three robbed out foundation trenches.

Modern features uncovered included levelling layers, pits, post-holes and robbed-out foundation trenches.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Planning permission was granted by Milton Keynes Council for the construction of a new dwelling block and area of hardstanding at 4–6 Union Street, Newport Pagnell.

Because of the archaeological potential of the site, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) attached a condition to the planning permission requiring the development be subject to a programme of archaeological works. This was in accordance with advice received from the Milton Keynes Council Archaeological Officer (MKAO).

The MKAO issued a brief (MKAO 2007) outlining a staged approach to the required programme of archaeological investigation:

- Stage I – archaeological field evaluation;
- Stage II – appraisal of the results of the archaeological field evaluation;
- Stage III – implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording (if required, following completion of Stage II).

The Stage I evaluation was carried out by Albion Archaeology in 2007 and subsequently reported on (Albion Archaeology 2007). Following a review of the results of the evaluation and foundation design of the proposed building, the MKAO recommended that construction be subject to continuous archaeological monitoring.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Ark Developments to carry out this work in accordance with a project design approved by the MKAO (Albion Archaeology 2008).

1.2 Site Location and Description

The area of the proposed development comprises *c.* 78m² of land located to the north of the High Street and to the south of 4-6 Union Street, Newport Pagnell, centred on NGR SP 8767 4400 (Figure 1).

The planned development of the site comprised the construction of a single block of two storeys. Prior to development, the area was laid to a mixture of tarmac, hardcore, and concrete slab, containing a 20th-century brick-built workshop and garage block.

The underlying geology of the site is Oxford Clay and the land itself slopes gently northwards towards Union Street and the River Great Ouse.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site of the development is situated in the medieval core of Newport Pagnell, within the area suggested to have been occupied by the Saxon burgh. Although the burgh defences have proven elusive to date, evidence for Saxon occupation



was revealed during a watching brief at Bury Lawn just 50m to the north-west in 1990.

The High Street frontage (Nos 38–42) to the south of the site comprises two 17th-century buildings. The development site itself shows a similar layout today as shown on the 1880 to 1925 Ordnance Survey 25” maps. A (clearly earlier) building occupies the approximate location of the former workshop unit, with a greenhouse apparently attached to its southern side.

Archaeological investigations in the vicinity have been largely small-scale watching briefs revealing limited evidence of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity. However, most significant to this site is a watching brief conducted to the rear of 40–42 High Street in 2001 (Archaeologica 2002). It was just 30m to the south of the proposed development and revealed over 0.8m of stratigraphy, including a 13th–14th century cesspit and evidence for 14th–15th century ironworking and later stone foundations.

The evaluation of the site in 2007 (Albion Archaeology 2007) found two large late medieval/early post-medieval pits, and a sequence of pits and structural remains that dated from the early post-medieval period into the Victorian era. The structural remains are likely to relate to outbuildings located to the rear of house plots fronting Union Street and the High Street.



2. RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 Introduction

The archaeological works were undertaken between 7th and 15th May 2008. During this period, all groundworks which required monitoring were completed. The groundworks consisted of the excavation of a group of foundation trenches and the reduction of the ground within the internal area of the new building footprint.

2.2 Methodology

The archaeological works adhered to the standards and field methods set out in the project design (Albion Archaeology 2008) and comprised the following:

- 1 Any stripping of overburden or excavation of service trenches was monitored to identify *in situ* archaeological deposits.
- 2 All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
- 3 Any exposed archaeological deposits were fully recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*.
- 4 All archaeological observations were drawn at a suitable scale on base plans that were tied in to the OS national grid.
- 5 A photographic record was kept.

Throughout the project, the standards set out in the Institute of Field Archaeologists Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance documents (specifically *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, September 1999), in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) and in Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* were adhered to.

2.3 Extent and Nature of Groundworks

Seven adjoining foundation trenches were excavated (Figure 2). The two north-south orientated trenches (3 and 4) were excavated to a depth of between 1100mm and 1200mm and a width of 800mm. The five east-west orientated trenches were excavated to a depth of between 450mm and 500mm and a width of 800mm. The area within the trenches that formed the base of the building and was reduced by 300mm.

2.4 Results

The groundworks revealed a number of layers and features of probable medieval, post-medieval and modern date. The features were excavated by the machine during the formation of the foundation trenches. A small number of artefacts were recovered by cleaning back the sides of the foundation trenches and these finds taken together with a consideration of the character of the deposits, have been used to make a judgement as to the likely date of the layers and features.

Generally, the geological and archaeological deposits were identified in the two deeper north to south orientated foundation trenches 3 and 4. The five east to west orientated trenches were relatively shallow at c.450mm deep, and did not penetrate below the post-medieval demolition layer (440) discussed below, and thus added little to the understanding of the archaeology of the site.



2.4.1 Geological/Natural Deposit

The undisturbed geological deposits comprised firm light grey orange clay (403) with vertical streaks of grey clay. In the south of Trenches 3 and 4 a lower natural layer (404) of firm light orange grey clay was observed (Figures 4 and 5).

2.4.2 Archaeological Deposits

2.4.2.1 Medieval

Above the clay natural, two layers, and six features of probable medieval date were identified (Figures 2-5).

Layer (417) was identified in both north to south orientated trenches (Trenches 3 and 4), lying above the natural clay layer (403). It comprised a light green grey clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks and contained a sherd of Saxo-Norman (AD850-1150) pottery. The layer appeared to be disturbed natural, possibly a cultivation layer, beneath layer (439).

Layer (439) was also identified in Trenches 3 and 4. It was dark black grey clay silt with moderate charcoal flecks and fragments, occasional small stones, and contained a sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery. This layer probably represents a repeatedly disturbed humic layer and is suggestive of an urban environment. The layer is typical of the dark earth deposits encountered during excavations at medieval urban sites.

A pit [424] was identified in the east side of Trench 3. It was 1.22m wide, 0.3m deep, convex sided with a concave base in profile and contained mid brown grey clay silt and a pottery sherd of Saxo-Norman date.

A probable ditch [468] / [494], orientated north-east to south-west, was identified in both sides of Trench 4. Only the base of the ditch had survived, the upper part having being destroyed by later features; wall foundation [487] and demolition layer (440). The ditch was at least 2m long, 0.7m wide, 0.2m deep with 45 degree sides and a flat base, and contained a dark green grey clay silt deposit with occasional charcoal flecks and a pottery sherd of early medieval date (AD1150–AD1250).

A ditch [476], orientated north-east to south-west, was identified at the south end of Trench 4 (Photograph 1). The ditch was 1.15m wide, 0.7m deep and contained two deposits varying from mid green grey to dark green black clay silt with moderate charcoal flecks and a piece of pottery of high medieval (AD1250-1400) date. The ditch was not identified in Trench 3 thus the length of the feature is not known.

A pit [479] was identified towards the south end of the east side of Trench 4 (Photograph 2.). The feature had vertical sides and continued downwards beyond the base of the trench, measuring 0.6m wide and at least 0.6m deep contained frequent large fragments of un-worked limestone, light grey orange clay (480) and a pottery fragment of high medieval date. The purpose of the feature is not known, it may simply be a stone filled pit, or the trench may have exposed the outside edge of a well or a soak-away.



A stake-hole [418] and a probable post-hole [420] were identified at the south end of the west side of Trench 3. The features ranged from 0.24m to 0.4m wide, 0.2m to 0.28m deep, concave to 45 degree sides with a 'v' shaped base in profile and contained deposits of mid orange grey clay silt occasional charcoal flecks. These features contained no artefacts and were sealed by medieval layer [439].

2.4.2.2 Post-medieval

A number of post-medieval (AD1500-1750) features were identified during the groundworks (Figures 2-5). These comprised a ditch, a demolition layer, a remnant of a wall foundation, two robbed out foundation trenches, eight pits and a post-hole.

A ditch [433] / [481], orientated east to west, was identified at the north end of Trenches 3 and 4. The ditch was at least 6m long, 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep with a vertical-sided, flat-based profile containing dark grey black clay silt and a fragment of roof tile of post-medieval date.

A layer of mid orange brown silty sand (440), 0.2m to 0.45m thick, containing large un-worked limestone fragments, post-medieval pottery, brick, tile and mortar fragments was identified above the medieval layers (417) and (439). Two layers of mortar (455) / (457) were identified above layer (440). They contained post-medieval brick, wall plaster and lead window frame. These layers are probably deposits of demolition material associated with the destruction of earlier structures that once occupied the site.

The probable lower layer of a wall foundation (405) within a cut [429] on an east to west orientation was identified towards the centre of the east side of Trench 3. (Photograph 3.) The cut truncated earlier pit [426]. The wall foundation comprised a group of three large un-worked limestone blocks which appeared to have been set flat on the clay natural. Above the stones, the foundation cut contained a deposit of dark orange brown clay silt (430) and a fragment of post-medieval roof tile.

Two foundation trenches [449] and [443], were observed at the north end of Trench 3; they contained post-medieval brick and tile fragments. Both of these features were identified during the evaluation and were numbered [135] and [126] respectively. A small pit [441] was identified cutting the lower deposit [443] of the south end of foundation trench.

A group of four pits [426], [431], [435], [437] were identified towards the centre of the east side of Trench 3. Pit [426] was truncated by pit [437] and foundation cut [429] which was in turn truncated by pits [431] and [435]. The pits ranged from 0.52m to 1.95m wide, 0.22m to 0.46m deep, varied from concave to 45 degree sides with an uneven base in profile, and contained deposits that ranged from dark grey black clay silt to dark grey brown silty sand. The pits are judged to be post-medieval in date based on pottery artefact evidence and their stratigraphic relationship with post-medieval foundation cut [429].



A pit [422] was identified towards the south end of the western side of Trench 3. It was 1.05m wide, 0.3m deep with 45 degree sides, an uneven base and contained mid grey brown clay silt and a fragment of post-med roof tile.

A post-hole [452] was identified at the south end of the eastern side of Trench 3. It was 0.7m wide, 0.7m deep, with vertical sides, a concave base and contained mid yellow grey clay silt and a fragment of post-medieval roof tile.

Three small pits [466], [470], [472] were identified on the east and west sides of Trench 4 towards its north end. The pits ranged from 0.55m to 0.6m wide and 0.12m to 0.18m deep, concave to vertical sides with a flat base in profile, and contained deposits that varied from dark orange grey to grey brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Pits [466] and [472] contained post-medieval brick or roof tile fragments.

2.4.2.3 Modern

A number of modern features (dated after 1750) were revealed by the groundworks. They comprised a topsoil layer, a levelling layer and a layer associated with the drive-way west of the development, a limestone wall foundation, a robbed out foundation trench, a pit and three post-holes.

A layer of dark grey brown sandy silt (458), 0.28m to 0.48m thick, containing modern willow pattern pottery, bottle glass and clay pipe fragments was identified above the post-medieval demolition layer (440) and levelling layer (463). The deposit was possibly bought in from another location and deposited above the demolition layer in order to bring the ground back into use as a garden.

A probable levelling layer (463) of dark brown grey silty sand, 0.10m thick, was identified beneath layer (458) in the northern half of the site. It was situated above post-medieval layer (440) and is judged to be modern rather than post-medieval in date as it appeared to be similar in character to (458).

A probable robbed-out foundation trench [490], orientated north-north-east to south-south-west, was identified at the south end of Trench 4 and was observed on the surface cutting modern layer (458). The foundation trench was at least 13m long, 1.05m wide and 0.58m deep with a concave sided, flat based profile containing loose light yellow sand and frequent large fragments of brick and tile fragments.

A wall foundation that comprised large un-worked limestone fragments in loose silty sand mortar (488), within a trench [487], was identified beneath a modern brick wall on the west side of Trench 4. A section of the original limestone wall above the foundation was observed as an extant property boundary feature to the south of the development. A second modern foundation trench [446], identified during the evaluation as feature [131], was identified on the east side of the northern end of Trench 3.

A make-up layer (489) of light orange brown silty sand, associated with the drive-way behind the development, was observed to the west of the foundation trench cut [487] in the west side of Trench 4.



A pit [459] containing two post-holes [461], [464], was identified at the south end of Trench 3 which cut modern layer (458). A pit [492] was identified at the south end of Trench 4, also cutting layer (458), which contained modern roof tile and slate.

2.4.2.4 *Un-dated features*

Two features contained no artefacts and are un-dated. They may be either medieval or post-medieval in date

A small pit [474] was identified towards the south end of the west side of Trench 4, measuring 0.6m wide, 0.16m deep with convex sides and a flat base containing mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.

A post-hole [483] was identified truncating layer (439) on the west side of the north end of trench 4 measuring 0.2m wide, 0.3m deep and had vertical sides and a concave base.

2.4.2.5 *Natural feature*

A probable tap root [485] was identified towards the centre of the west side of Trench 4. It comprised a narrow hole with concave sides that dropped to become near vertical finishing with a sharp pointed base at a depth of 0.34m.



3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Summary

The building groundworks revealed a number of archaeological features within the area of the development. Probable medieval layers and features were identified above the undisturbed natural deposit. These included two ditches set on a north-east to south-west orientation.

Post-medieval and modern features were also identified across the site. These comprised; pits, ditches, robbed-out foundation trenches and a demolition layer.

3.2 Interpretation and Significance

The two ditches set north-east to south-west may hint at the orientation of house plots or enclosures of the medieval period in this area of Newport Pagnell. The 'dark' accumulated layer is suggestive of intensive urban activity.

This medieval deposit and similarly dated features were encountered at c.900mm below the modern surface. This is relatively deep and suggest that other intact medieval remains may well survive in pockets beyond the site.

The post-medieval remains are interpreted as evidence of continued urban domestic activity with the robbed out foundation trenches indicating the probable location of a demolished building and green-house that appear on 19th and 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping.

The medieval and post-medieval features are of local and regional significance as they provide evidence for the medieval origin and later development of Newport Pagnell.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology, 2008. *Land to the Rear of 4-6 Union Street, Newport Pagnell: Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Archaeologica, 2002. *Report on a Watching Brief at High Street, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.*

MKAO, 2007. *Rear of 4–6 Union Street, Newport Pagnell: Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, Milton Keynes Council.



5. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY

**Trench: 3**

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.15 m. Width: 0.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 1.05 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 8767610: Northing: 4401160)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 8767430: Northing: 4399960)

Reason: Foundation footings trench for building

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Concrete		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Brick rubble		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Natural	Firm light grey orange clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Natural	Firm light orange grey clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
417	Layer	Firm light green grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
418	Posthole	profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.24m, min depth 0.2m A stake-hole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
419	Fill	Firm mid orange grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
420	Posthole	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
421	Fill	Firm mid orange grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
422	Pit	NE-SW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.05m, min depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
423	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
424	Pit	NE-SW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.22m, min depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
425	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
426	Pit	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.52m, min depth 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
427	Lower fill	Friable dark green brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
428	Upper fill	Firm mid orange brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
429	Pit	profile: convex base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.85m, min depth 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
405	Stone setting	Light grey limestone Un-worked lime stone blocks set flat on clay natural on two levels, as if stepped.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
430	Fill	Friable dark orange brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
431	Pit	profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, min depth 0.46m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
432	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
433	Ditch	profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.5m Also see [481] in trench 4. Ditch is heavily truncated by later features [443] and [449].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
434	Fill	Firm dark grey black clay silt occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
435	Pit	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.05m, min depth 0.22m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
436	Fill	Friable dark grey brown silty sand moderate small charcoal, moderate medium stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
437	Pit	profile: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.95m, min depth 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
438	Fill	Firm dark grey black clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
439	Layer	Friable dark grey black clay silt moderate small charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3**

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.15 m. Width: 0.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 1.05 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 8767610: Northing: 4401160)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 8767430: Northing: 4399960)

Reason: Foundation footings trench for building

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
440	Demolition layer	Friable mid orange brown silty sand moderate large ceramic building material, moderate flecks charcoal, occasional large stones A layer containing Post-medieval brick, tile and mortar fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
441	Pit	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.4m, min depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
442	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
443	Robber trench	profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.8m, min depth 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
444	Lower fill	Firm mid orange brown clay silt Layer contains large post-medieval brick and tile fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
445	Upper fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional medium ceramic building material, occasional small-medium stones Layer contains medium sized post-medieval brick and tile fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
446	Foundation trench	E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.95m, min depth 0.36m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
447	Lower fill	Friable light orange grey silty sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
448	Upper fill	Loose light yellow sand moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
449	Foundation trench	E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, min depth 1.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
450	Lower fill	Friable dark orange grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal Lower fill contains moderate flecks of mortar.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
451	Upper fill	Loose light yellow grey silty sand Deposit contains frequent post-medieval brick tile and mortar fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
452	Posthole	profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, min depth 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
453	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
455	Demolition layer	Firm light grey yellow silty sand A deposit of dumped mortar.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
457	Demolition layer	Firm light grey yellow silty sand A deposit of dumped mortar.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
458	Layer	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
459	Pit	profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
460	Fill	Loose light orange sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
461	Posthole	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.28m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
462		Friable dark brown grey silty sand moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
463	Make up layer	Friable dark brown grey silty sand moderate flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
464	Posthole	profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.22m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
465	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.45 m. Width: 0.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 1.2 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 8767040: Northing: 4401270)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 8766850: Northing: 4400040)

Reason: Foundation footings trench for building

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
466	Pit	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
467	Fill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
468	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
469	Fill	Firm dark green grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
470	Pit	profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.15m Deeper sides of feature may be caused by disuse phase plant rooting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
471	Fill	Firm dark orange grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
472	Pit	profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.16m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
473	Fill	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
474	Pit	profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.16m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
475	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
476	Ditch	profile: convex base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.15m, min depth 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
477	Lower fill	Firm mid green grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
478	Upper fill	Firm dark green black clay silt moderate flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
479	Pit	profile: vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.6m Stone filled pit of unknown function.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
480	Fill	Firm light grey orange clay frequent large stones Large unworked limestone fragments in re-deposited natural clay.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
481	Ditch	E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, min depth 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
482	Fill	Firm dark orange grey clay silt frequent flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
483	Posthole	profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.2m, min depth 0.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
484	Fill	Friable dark green grey clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
485	Natural interface	profile: convex base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.2m, min depth 0.34m A probable tap root	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
486	Fill	Firm dark orange grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
487	Foundation trench	profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.8m, min length 10.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
488	Foundation	Light grey limestone Large unworked limestone blocks in a loose silty sand mortar.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
489	Make up layer	Light orange brown silty sand Deposited in lenses - associated with driveway behind this development.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
490	Foundation trench	Linear NNE-SSW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.05m, min depth 0.5m, min length 13.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
491	Fill	Loose light yellow sand frequent medium ceramic building material Deposit contains post-medieval brick, tile and stone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
492	Pit	profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
493	Fill	Loose light yellow sand frequent medium ceramic building material Deposit contains post-medieval brick, tile and stone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.45 m. Width: 0.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 1.2 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 8767040: Northing: 4401270)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 8766850: Northing: 4400040)

Reason: Foundation footings trench for building

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
494	Ditch	profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, min depth 0.2m, min length 10.m Also see [468].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
495	Fill	Firm dark green grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



6. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACT AND ECOFACT SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

The watching brief produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and ceramic building material (Table 3). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Feature type	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
3	417	Layer	417	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (6g)
	422	Pit	423	Post-medieval	Roof tile (200g)
	424	Pit	425	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (18g); animal bone (17g)
	426	Pit	428	-	Brick (47g)
	429	Pit	430	Post-medieval	Roof tile (33g)
	431	Pit	432	-	Animal bone (56g); copper alloy dress pin
	433	Ditch	434	-	Animal bone (9g); fired clay (7g)
	437	Pit	438	Post-medieval	Animal bone (2g); brick or roof tile (4g)
	439	Layer	439	Early medieval	Pottery (40g); animal bone (2g)
	440	Demolition layer	440	Post-medieval	Pottery (84g); brick and roof tile (3241g)
	441	Pit	442	-	Animal bone (24g)
	452	Post hole	453	Post-medieval	Roof tile (58g)
	455	Demolition layer	455	Post-medieval	Brick (114g); wall plaster (3g); lead window came
	458	Levelling layer	458	Modern	Pottery (29g); clay pipe (3g); wall tile (3g); land drain (20g)
	466	Pit	467	Post-medieval	Brick or roof tile (1g)
	468	Ditch	469	Early medieval	Pottery (5g)
4	472	Pit	473	Post-medieval	Roof tile (1g)
	476	Ditch	478	High medieval	Pottery (109g)
	479	Pit	480	High medieval	Pottery (23g)
	481	Ditch	482	Post-medieval	Roof tile (62g)
	490	Foundation trench	491	Post-medieval	Brick and roof tile (413g)
	492	Pit	493	Modern	Roof tile (32g); roof slate (4g)

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

Table 3: Artefact summary by trench and feature

6.2 Pottery

Sixteen pottery sherds, weighing 314g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small, with an average weight of 19g, although not particularly abraded. Eleven fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 4) in chronological order. Where possible, concordance with the Milton Keynes post-Roman pottery type series (Mynard 1992) has been made (bracketed alpha-numeric codes).

Two undiagnostic Saxo-Norman shell tempered sherds in the St Neots-type tradition occurred as residual finds in layers (417) and (439). A single abraded St Neots-type sherd was the only pottery recovered from ditch [424]. Medieval pottery comprises seven sherds in locally manufactured sand and shell tempered fabrics of 12th-13th century date, and two sherds of Brill-Boarstall ware, datable from the mid to late 13th - 15th centuries. Vessel forms are a square rim jar and a plain strap handle from a jug. The medieval assemblage derived from layer (439), ditches [468], [476] and pit [479].

Post-medieval pottery comprises two sherds from a locally manufactured black-glazed earthenware bowl, recovered from demolition layer (440). Levelling layer (458) yielded an undiagnostic sherd of 18th-19th century creamware and a piece of modern flower pot.



Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Saxo-Norman</i>			
Type B01 (SNC1)	St Neots-type ware	1	(417):1
Type B01A (SNC1)	St Neots-type ware (orange)	1	(439):1
Type B01B (SNC1)	St Neots-type ware (fine)	1	(425):1
<i>Medieval</i>			
Type B07 (MC1)	Shell	4	(439):1, (478):3
Type C01	Sand	1	(478):1
Type C03	Fine sand	1	(469):1
Type C09 (MS9)	Brill-Boarstall ware	2	(478):1, (480):1
Type C59A	Coarse sand	1	(439):1
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
Type P03 (PM16)	Black-glazed earthenware	2	(440):2
<i>Modern</i>			
Type P38 (PM23)	Creamware	1	(458):1
Type P100	Flower pot	1	(458):1

Table 4: Pottery type series

6.3 Other finds

Ceramic building material (twenty-one pieces, weighing 4.2kg) derived mainly from demolition layer (440), and includes oxidised sand tempered brick fragments and pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile, the latter comprising peg tiles and a single nib tile. A handmade stock-moulded brick measuring L218 x W117 x D33mm is the only complete piece of building material. Demolition layer (455) contained a fragment of gypsum wall or floor plaster and a portion of milled lead window came, the latter datable to the mid 17th-mid 18th centuries. A complete copper alloy dress pin with a drawn wire shank and wire wound head was recovered from pit [431], and is broadly datable to the 15th-17th centuries. A post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem fragment derived from levelling layer (458). The feature also contained a piece of land drain and a fragment of modern ceramic wall tile.

6.4 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises eleven fragments weighing 110g, and occurs in Saxo-Norman, post-medieval and undated features, the majority deriving from undated pit [431]. Fragments are small, with an average weight of 10g, although bone preservation is generally good. Diagnostic elements are long bone and phalange fragments of indeterminate species. Saw marks are visible on a rib or scapula fragment from pit [441], and a long bone fragment from layer (439) is burnt.

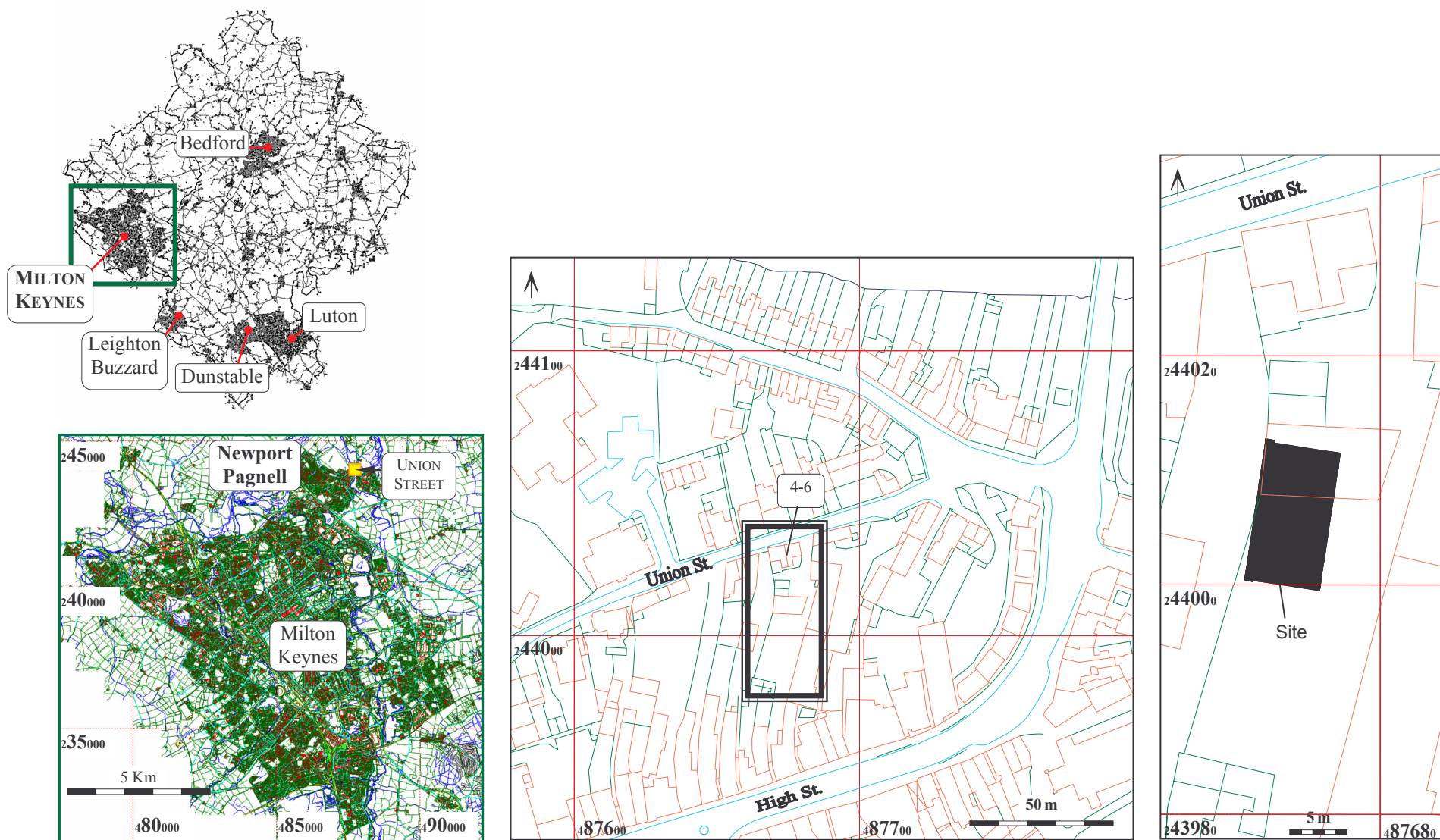


Figure 1: Site location map

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358. © Crown Copyright.

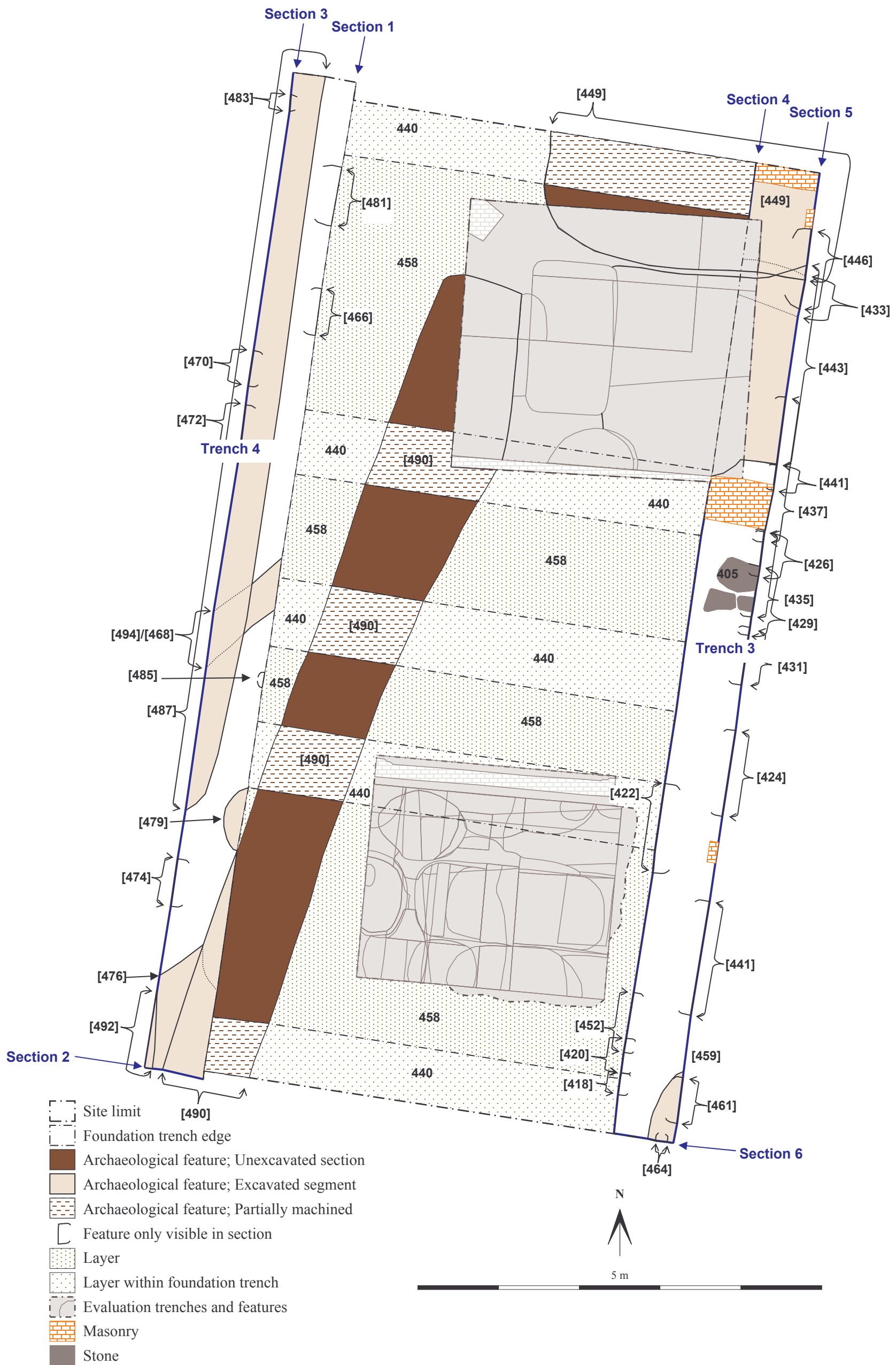


Figure 2: All features

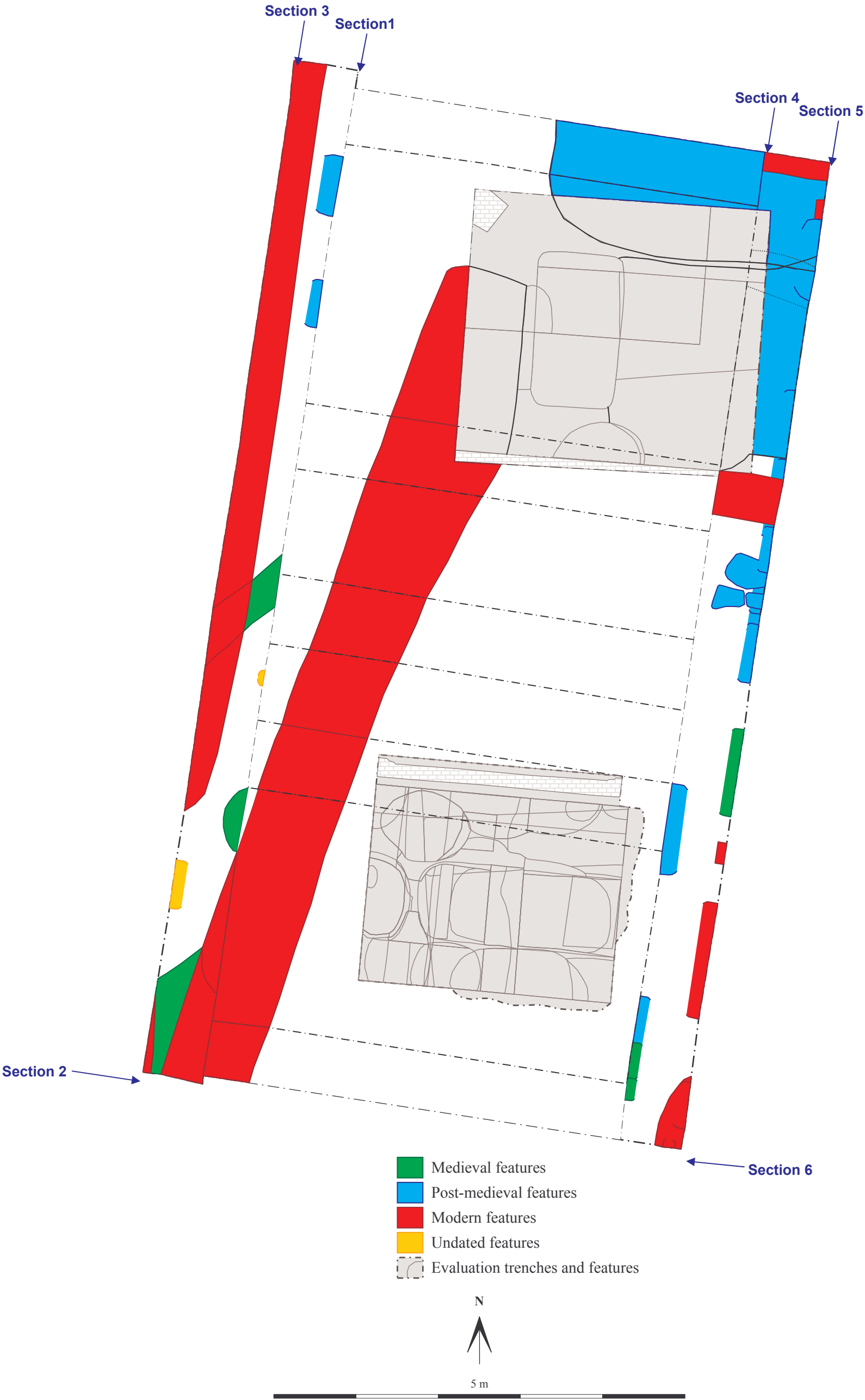


Figure 3: Phasing

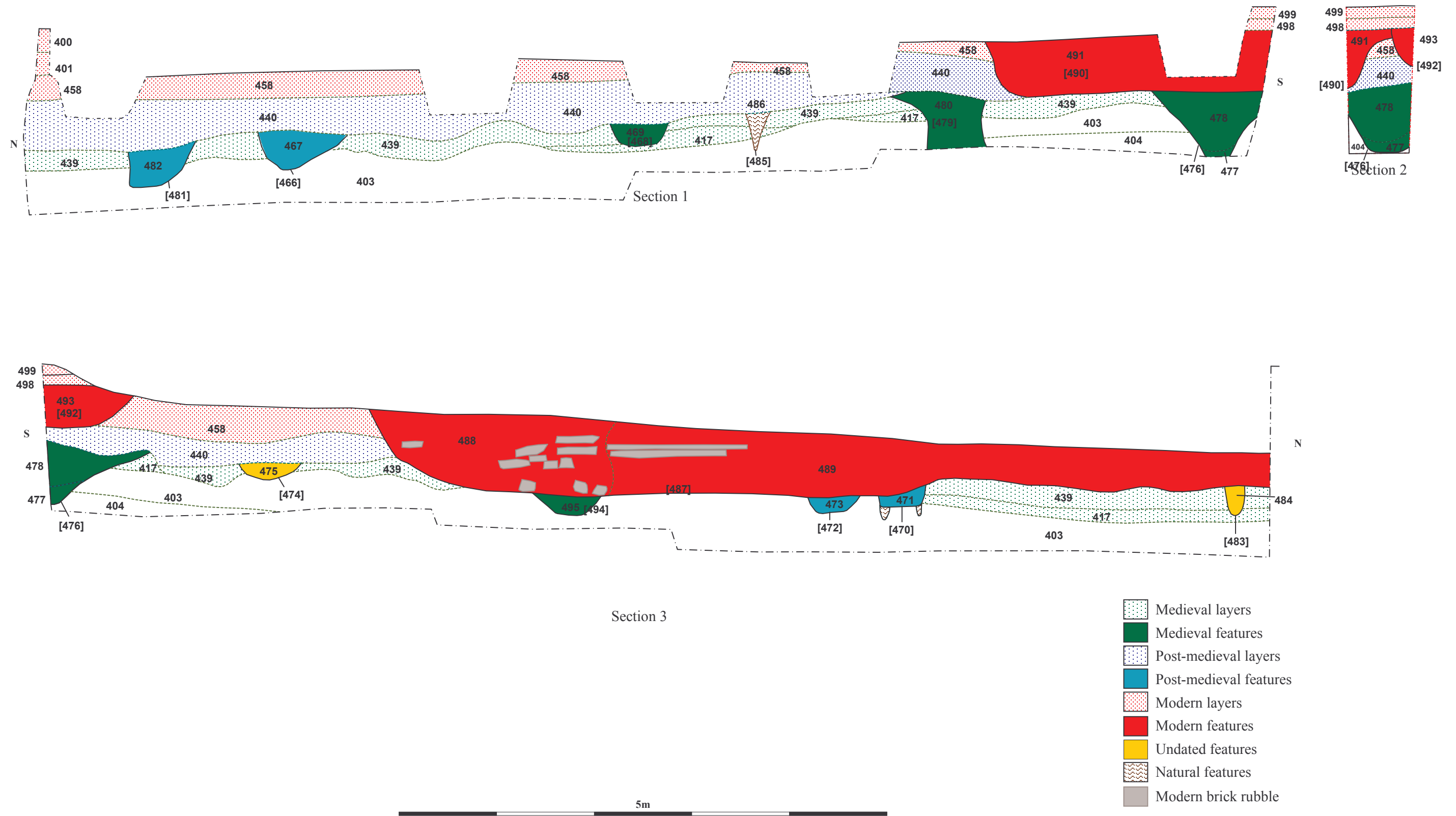
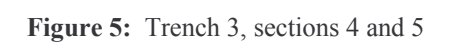


Figure 4: Trench 4, sections 1 and 3





Photograph 1. Ditch [476].



Photograph 2. Pit [479].



Photograph 3. Post-medieval wall foundation [429] / (405)