

**LAND TO THE REAR OF
STANBRIDGE LOWER SCHOOL
TILSWORTH ROAD
STANBRIDGE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

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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 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.

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The mitigation works were carried out by Alison Bell (Archaeological Supervisor) and Gareth Shane (Archaeological Technician).

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Structure of the report

Following the introduction (Section 1), Section 2 presents the original research objectives of the project. Section 3 provides a provisional summary of the results of the fieldwork. In Section 4, the various types of evidence (data) are discussed individually. The potential of the data to address the original research objectives is discussed in Section 5, while Section 6 describes the research objectives for analysis, with the means of achieving them set out in the updated project design (Section 7). Section 8 represents a bibliography. Three appendices (Sections 9 to 11) detail the method statements and resourcing for the completion of the analysis, publication and archiving.



Key terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CAO	Bedfordshire County Council's, County Archaeological Officer
Client	Mouchel Parkman Services Ltd on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council
HER	Historic Environment Record, maintained by Bedfordshire County Council
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MSRG	Medieval Settlement Research Group



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission was granted by Bedfordshire County Council for the construction of a single storey extension to form three classrooms and ancillary areas at Stanbridge Lower School, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire (Application No: BC/CC/2006/38). A condition attached to the permission required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Mouchel Parkman Services Ltd on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council to undertake the archaeological work required to discharge the condition.

An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trial trenches was undertaken in August 2006. The results indicated that archaeological remains of the early medieval period were present within the development area.

On the basis of these results, the CAO recommended further archaeological investigation. In December 2006, Albion Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological mitigation works. This consisted of an open-area excavation, c. 99m² in extent, within the footprint of Phase 1 of the school extension, which comprises one classroom with ancillary areas.

This document presents an assessment of the results of the archaeological investigations which took place within the development area. The remains comprised ditches forming part of a series of enclosures (which were re-cut on at least one occasion) and a single pit. All of the features are dated by pottery to the early medieval period (AD1150–1250). The ditched enclosures are likely to be the boundaries of closes associated with settlement ranging along the northern edge of a former village green. The excavation produced no evidence for activity post-dating the early medieval period, suggesting that domestic activity ceased at that time.

The data recovered from the investigations have the potential to address a number of local, national and regional research aims. The methodologies and resources required to complete the project are detailed in this document. The end product will be the publication of the results in the county-based archaeological journal, Bedfordshire Archaeology, and the deposition of the project archive with Luton Museum (Accession No. 2007/92).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (BC/CC/2006/38) was granted by Bedfordshire County Council for the construction of a single storey extension to form three classrooms and ancillary areas at Stanbridge Lower School, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire.

During the application process, Bedfordshire County Council's, County Archaeological Officer (CAO) advised that the development lay within an area of archaeological sensitivity, and that information was required to assess the proposed development's potential archaeological impact. Accordingly, the CAO issued a brief (BCC 2006a) to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation. The brief outlined a three-staged approach to the programme of archaeological works:

- 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).

In August 2006, Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2006a), undertake the Stage I evaluation of the development area, and prepare a report (Albion Archaeology 2006b) on the results. The results of the evaluation indicated that archaeological remains of the early medieval period (AD1150–1250) were present within the development area.

Based on the results of the evaluation, the CAO issued a second brief (BCC 2006b) to secure the implementation of Stage III of the programme of archaeological investigation. The client commissioned Albion Archaeology to design (Albion Archaeology 2006c) and implement a programme of archaeological works for an initial stage of construction (Phase 1) comprising one classroom and ancillary area (Fig. 1). Albion Archaeology implemented the programme of mitigation works in December 2006. An assessment of the archaeological potential of the remains encountered within the development area is provided below.

1.2 *Site Location*

The development area is located to the rear of Stanbridge Lower School, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge. Overall, the planned addition of three classrooms and ancillary areas to the north-eastern part of the existing building affects an area of *c.* 390m², centred on (NGR) SP 9674 2432. However, the Phase 1 development that occasioned the archaeological works described in this report covered an area of *c.* 100m², measuring *c.* 11m long by 9m wide.

1.3 *Topography, Geology, Soils and Land Use*

The development area is situated at an average height of 109m OD on the northern side of Tilsworth Road, on land that rises up towards the north. To



the south of Stanbridge, the ground drops into a slight valley formed by a tributary stream of the River Ouzel. Calcareous gleyed soils overlie geological deposits of Lower Chalk in this part of Bedfordshire.

The development area was part of the grassed school play area at the time of the archaeological investigations.

1.4 Archaeological Background

The school sits within the historic core of the village of Stanbridge (HER 16886). It also lies within a field formerly known as Great Bury Close, with Little Bury Close to the west. An aerial photograph (RAF1946 3265_3) taken in 1946 shows earthworks (levelled in 1975) of former ditched boundaries within the field. They comprise a north–south aligned ditch and a series of east–west ditches that adjoin its eastern side (Fig. 1). Historic maps indicate that the development area lies on the northern side of the former village green.

Situated *c.* 380m to the north-west of the development area is the earthwork of a former windmill mound, within a large area of ridge and furrow and other earthworks (HER 535). The church of St John the Baptist is *c.* 200m to the south-west of the school, the oldest parts of which date back to the late 13th century. The church originated as a dependent chapelry of Leighton Buzzard.

Within the vicinity of Stanbridge, a number of find-spots of Roman pottery are known through fieldwalking. At Stanbridge Hill, *c.* 1km to the north-west of the village, a spread of Roman pottery, tile and oyster shell (HER 1434) suggests occupation during this period. A number of other find-spots of Roman pottery have been recorded on the plateau of higher ground to the north of Stanbridge and Tilsworth. Roman Watling Street lies 2km to the east.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken in September 2006 demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains within the development area (Albion Archaeology 2006b). The remains comprised two ditches and a pit, pottery from which indicated that they were in use during the early medieval period (12th to 13th century). Artefactual and ecofactual remains suggestive of nearby settlement activity were also recovered.

The ditches represent the boundaries of medieval closes that fronted on to the area now occupied by Tilsworth Road. The artefactual and ecofactual remains recovered from these ditches are likely to have been generated as domestic refuse, originating within these medieval closes.

1.5 Purpose of this Report

This report assesses the results of all stages of the archaeological investigations. It includes an Updated Project Design, listing all the tasks that will be required to analyse, publish and archive the results of the fieldwork. The completion of these tasks will fulfil the criteria stipulated in the CAO's brief (BCC 2006b). This will allow the discharge of the archaeological planning condition by the LPA.



2. ORIGINAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

2.1 Introduction

A series of research aims were established in the project design (Albion Archaeology 2006c). These were necessary to ensure that the investigations were appropriately targeted in accordance with local, regional and national research priorities.

2.2 National and Regional Research Frameworks

Broad national research priorities have been formalised by English Heritage in *Exploring our Past* (1991), updated in their draft Research Agenda (1997). On a regional level, a resource assessment and research agenda is now available for Bedfordshire (Oake *et al*, 2007) and is clearly of relevance to the development area.

A period-specific paper *Medieval Rural Settlements – A Policy on their Research, Survey, Conservation and Excavation* (MSRG, 1996) is clearly of relevance to a site of this type.

The County Archaeologists of East Anglia have published a resource assessment (Glazebrook 1997) and a subsequent research agenda and strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) for the eastern counties. This study covers the adjacent counties of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, rather than specifically Bedfordshire. Nevertheless, topographical and historical similarities (at a regional level) between these counties make the document a useful tool for assessing the significance of the archaeological remains within the development area.

The archaeology of the Chilterns was the subject of a conference in the early 1990s (Holgate 1995). A series of papers on the Archaeology of the Great Ouse Valley (Dawson 2000) is also of relevance, although the development area is peripheral to this region.

A number of research objectives, both generic and for the medieval period, were considered relevant to the work at Stanbridge Lower School. They are set out below.

2.3 Original Objectives

2.3.1 General (Objectives 1–2, Table 1)

Limited archaeological work has been undertaken within Stanbridge. Establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the site offers an insight into the development of the village. It also allows the possibility of establishing relationships with surrounding contemporary landscapes.



2.3.4 Medieval (Objectives 3–6, Table 1)

Medieval settlements and field systems are a familiar part of the archaeological landscape in Bedfordshire. One of the key research objectives for the medieval period is characterisation of rural settlement forms and functions.

The Phase 1 development area contains ditches which the evaluation suggests are the boundaries of closes that were situated on the northern edge of a former village green.

- Artefacts recovered from the evaluation suggested medieval occupation may have been located nearby. Is there any structural or other evidence for occupation within the development area?
- Can the artefactual/ecofactual evidence give a clearer indication of what activities took place in this part of the village? Evidence of domestic, agricultural, commercial or manufacturing-related deposits will be paid particular attention. Environmental sampling will be employed where appropriate.
- The results of the evaluation suggest that the stratified deposits date from the 12th to 13th centuries. Does the evidence suggest that this close or land parcel was not occupied after this period? Is this evidence of settlement shrinkage or changing land-use?

2.3.2 Summary of original research objectives

Objective	Period	Research Aims	Source
1	General	Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development area	Objective generated internally
2	General	Establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes	MSRG 1996, Section: Research and Survey, point 1, page 5
3	Medieval	Characterise rural settlement forms and functions	Edgeworth 2007 'Anglo-Saxon' and Medieval Bedfordshire – AD400-1550, Section: Deserted and Shrunken Villages, page 101. In: Oake <i>et al</i> 2007.



Objective	Period	Research Aims	Source
4	Medieval	Recover palaeo-environmental and artefactual remains to determine what activities took place in this part of the village	Wade, 2000 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (Rural) Section: Agrarian Economy, page 25, in: Brown and Glazebrook, 2000
5	Medieval	Record evidence of medieval occupation structures	MSRG 1996, Section: Research and Survey, point 3, page 6
6	Medieval	Recover evidence of land-use change/abandonment	MSRG 1996, Section: Research and Survey, point 2, page 5

Table 1: Summary of original research objectives



3. PROVISIONAL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Land-use entity	Chronological Period	Activity Type
1	Early medieval	Colluvium
2	Early medieval	Enclosure ditch
3	Early medieval	Enclosure ditch
4	Early medieval	Pit

Table 2: Summary of features by Land-use entity

3.2 Early Medieval AD1150-1250

Archaeological remains revealed within the development area (Fig. 2) comprised a boundary ditch (L2), which was re-cut by ditch L3, and pit (L4). These appear to have been broadly contemporary, containing pottery dating to the 12th to 13th centuries. All were dug through a layer of colluvium (L1) that was identified in various parts of the development area (Fig. 2) and all were sealed by subsoil.

There is a strong correlation (Figs 1 and 2) between the location of ditches L2/L3 and the rectilinear earthworks shown on an aerial photograph (Section 1.4).

3.2.1 L1: colluvium

A colluvial deposit of mid orange–grey silty clay was identified. It contained a small amount of heavily abraded late Iron Age/early Roman and early medieval pottery.

3.2.2 L2: enclosure ditch and primary deposit

Limited evidence for this enclosure ditch survived, since it was truncated by re-cut L3. The surviving section had maximum dimensions of 0.6m deep and 0.9m wide, and formed part of a right-angled turn. Its primary infill was similar in character to the colluvial and geological deposits through which the ditch was cut, and is likely to have been deposited shortly after the ditch's original construction, probably through natural erosion or slumping.

L2.01: middle deposits of ditch L2

Overlying the primary infill was a thick layer of darker material, which may have been derived, at least in part, from bioturbation and erosion of the surrounding colluvium and topsoil. It is likely that this material was deposited whilst the ditch was in use, or possibly as it went out of use.



L2.02: upper deposits within ditch L2

The uppermost deposit within the ditch was orange–grey clay. This deposit may have accumulated *via* natural infilling through erosion of the surrounding colluvium, which was similar in colour. It is possible that it formed over a relatively short period, since the ditch was subsequently reinstated by a re-cut (L3) on the same line.

3.2.3 L3: re-cutting of enclosure ditch and primary deposits

L3 consisted of two ditches, one aligned north–south (G7) and one east–west (G8). The latter extended westward, from the eastern edge of the investigation area, until it intersected with ditch G7. It is reasonable to suggest that both ditches were contemporary as they shared similar character and morphology.

The ditches were 1.9–2m wide and 0.57–0.9m deep. Their profile was generally U-shaped although in parts the sides were stepped. These variations are probably due to collapses in the sides of the ditches soon after they were originally excavated.

The primary infill of the ditches comprised grey–brown or orange–brown sandy clay, likely to have resulted from natural slumping or erosion shortly after the construction of the ditches. In the east–west aligned ditch, G8, they were located on the northern side of the ditch. A small quantity of intrusive late medieval pottery in the primary deposit of G7 was caused by disturbance from an animal burrow.

L3.01: middle deposits in enclosure ditch L3

The secondary deposits of enclosure ditches L3 comprised mid greenish grey clays and dark brownish grey silty clays. In addition, a mixed deposit of orange–grey sandy clays and blue–grey clays was excavated on the northern side of the east–west aligned ditch (G8). This mixed deposit may have derived from the erosion of bank material on the northern edge of the ditch.

It is likely that these deposits were deposited whilst the ditch was in use, or possibly as it went out of use.

L3.02: upper deposits in enclosure ditch L3

The uppermost deposits varied from mid greenish grey to dark greyish brown silty clay. They are likely to have formed as a result of natural silting processes. The particular similarity of the uppermost deposit within north–south ditch G7 to the colluvial deposit (L1) through which the ditch was cut may be the result of cultivation or bioturbation in antiquity, or an effect of the earthworks' levelling in the modern period.

3.2.4 L4: construction and primary deposit of pit

A single pit was recorded in the south–east part of the excavation area (Fig. 2). It was elongated in plan, aligned east–west, measuring 2.9m long, 0.75m wide and 0.9m deep. Its primary deposit consisted of mid blue–grey sandy clay.



L4.01: lower deposits within pit 4.00

The deposit in the lower part of pit L4 consisted of mid orange/blue–grey clay. It was closely derived from the surrounding natural strata and is likely to have formed through a process of erosion and slumping from the sides. It is unclear whether the pit was still in use when it formed.

Although early medieval pottery was recovered from this deposit, the dating of the pottery from this pit and from ditches L2 and L3 is insufficiently refined to tell with which ditch (if either) the pit was contemporary.

L4.02: upper deposits within pit 4.00

The upper deposit of the pit consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay. As with the upper deposits of L3, this deposit was very similar in character to the surrounding colluvium.



4. DATASET QUANTIFICATION

4.1 Introduction

For the following discussion the datasets recovered during the investigations have been divided into three main classes: contextual; artefactual; and ecofactual.

Contextual data relate to the identification of individual events such as the digging of a ditch, its primary infilling *etc.* These have been recorded as context records during excavation. All contexts have a detailed record sheet; most have a plan and section drawing along with photographs.

Artefactual data comprise human-made objects recovered during excavation. These have been divided for ease of discussion into pottery, ceramic building material and other artefacts (including metallic, lithic and organic artefacts).

Ecofactual data comprise natural materials found within excavated deposits. These are able to yield information on the nature of past human activity and its environmental setting. They include animal bones, and information obtained from environmental samples (for example charred plant remains).

Contextual data is discussed first in the following sections, as this has provided the framework for the preceding summary of results and the subsequent dataset discussions. The methodological approach taken with each dataset is discussed, followed by sections dealing with quantification, provenance (spatial and chronological) and also condition. All these factors are important in deciding the potential of the material for analysis.

4.2 Structural Data

4.2.1 Quantity of records

	Evaluation	Excavation	Total
Contexts	19	40	59
Plan sheets	2	3	5
Section drawings	6	5	11
Photographs	36	69	105

Table 3: Quantity of records

4.2.2 Methodological approach to assessing contextual data

The contextual data were rapidly assessed in order to establish whether they would provide a coherent spatial and chronological framework. A total of fifty contexts were assigned to provisional Groups, *e.g.* construction of early enclosure ditch, construction of pit (see Table 4). The decision over whether to assign contexts to Groups or not was made on the basis of the following criteria:



- Do the contexts form a coherent spatial unit, *e.g.* ditch length, pit group?
- Do the contexts represent key positions within the stratigraphic sequence?
- Do the contexts contain suitable dating material?

Groups were assigned to a number of episodes (Land-use entities) of human activity corresponding to broad, chronological divisions, *e.g.* medieval or post-medieval, based on their artefactual assemblage (see Table 2).

Much of the discussion in Section 3 and the following dataset discussions are based on the Land-use entity and Group assignments.

Land-use entity	Group	Description	No. Contexts
1.00	3.00	Colluvium	3
2.00	6.00	Construction and initial use of early enclosure ditch	8
2.01	6.01	Use/disuse of early enclosure ditch	1
2.02	6.02	Disuse of early enclosure ditch	1
3.00	7.00	Construction and initial use of north–south ditch	9
	8.00	Construction and initial use of east–west ditch	7
3.01	7.01	Use/disuse of north–south ditch	6
	8.01	Redeposited natural strata within east–west ditch	1
	8.02	Use/disuse of east–west ditch	6
3.02	7.02	Disuse of north–south ditch	1
	8.03	Disuse of east–west ditch	1
4.00	5.00	Construction and initial use of pit	3
4.01	5.01	Use of pit	2
4.02	5.02	Disuse Of pit	1
Total			50

Table 4: Group descriptions (ordered by Land-use entity) with count of assigned contexts

The remaining nine context units have not been assigned to any Group or Land-use entity. These units describe the topsoil, subsoil, undisturbed geological deposits and an animal burrow.

4.2.3 Survival and condition of features/deposits

Some truncation of archaeological earthworks occurred in this part of Stanbridge during the 1970s. Despite this, archaeological deposits within the development area were generally well preserved and significant quantities of artefactual and ecofactual material were recovered.

4.3 Pottery

4.3.1 Methodology

For each context, pottery was recorded and dated by fabric type, and quantified by minimum sherd count and weight. This information was entered onto the Context Assemblage Table in the project database. The date of the latest sherd from each context was used in the provision of an overall context spot-date, to assist in the establishment of a provisional site chronology.



4.3.2 Quantification

A total of 258 sherds, weighing 2.1kg, were collected, the majority associated with L3 enclosure ditches G7 and G8.

4.3.3 Range and variety: the pottery type series

Fabrics are listed below (Table 5) in chronological order, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf on Bedfordshire County Council. Bracketed figures represent total percentage (by sherd number) for each chronological period. One new fabric type was identified.

Fabric Type	Common name	Sherd No.
Late Iron Age/early Roman (4.0%)		
Type F06B	Medium grog	2
Type R03B	Gritty white ware	2
Type R05A	Orange sandy	1
Type R06B	Coarse grey ware	2
Type R06C	Fine grey ware	1
Type R13	Shell	1
Type R14	Sand (red-brown harsh)	1
Type R18	Pink gritty	1
Saxo-Norman (1.2%)		
Type B01A	St Neots-type (orange)	3
Early and high medieval (94.8%)		
Type B07	Shell	10
Type B13**	Chalk	41
Type C02	Red quartz	13
Type C03	Fine sand	1
Type C04	Coarse sand	3
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall ware (fine)	2
Type C10	Potterspury ware	1
Type C11	Brill/Boarstall ware (gritty)	1
Type C53	Sand (pasty)	18
Type C59A	Coarse sand	21
Type C59B	Sand	58
Type C60 (incl. fine, coarse & flint variants)	Hertfordshire-type grey ware	60
Type C63	Flint	3
Type C75	Micaceous	1
Type C	Non-specific medieval	1

** new fabric type

Table 5: Pottery type series

4.3.4 Provenance, phasing and date range

The assemblage comprises late Iron age/early Roman, Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery, with the majority being of *c.* 12th–13th century date. The material generally survives in good condition and the incidence of abrasion is fairly low. Overall, the degree of fragmentation is high (average sherd weight 8g) and few vessels are represented by more than one sherd. Fourteen features (67% of pottery-producing contexts) contained less than 100g, and no features yielded in excess of 400g.



Land-use entity 1

Colluvial deposit L1 yielded 162g of pottery, including three undiagnostic late Iron Age/early Roman sherds (6g) in grog- and sand-tempered fabric types F06B and R03B respectively. Both are highly abraded. Medieval pottery comprises single sherds of sand-tempered reduced ware (type C03), Hertfordshire-type grey ware (type C60), and chalky ware (type B13). Diagnostic medieval forms are a flat-rim bowl with an applied vertical thumbed strip.

Land-use entity 2

Three undiagnostic sherds (45g) of Hertfordshire-type grey ware (type C60) and sand-tempered wares (types C and C53) were associated with the lower deposits of early enclosure ditch L2. One sherd has a sooted exterior, indicating its use as a cooking vessel.

Land-use entity 3

The L3 assemblage comprises 199 sherds (1.6kg), including hand-made and wheel-thrown examples. The earliest pottery comprises two wheel-thrown shell-tempered sherds in the St Neots-type tradition (type B01A), likely to be post-Conquest in origin (c. 11th–12th century).

Material of 12th–13th century date comprises predominantly sand-tempered vessels of probable local manufacture, comparable with pottery recovered from nearby excavations at Grove Priory (Baker *et al.* in prep.) and Chalgrave (Pinder and Davison, 1988). Nine shell-tempered sherds (type B07) of similar date were also recorded, and thirty-eight sherds in a distinctive chalky calcareous fabric type (B13), the latter representing a new addition to the Bedfordshire fabric series. The type has been frequently observed in the Leighton Buzzard and Linslade area and at Stoke Hammond, Bucks., (A. Vince pers. comm.). It appears to have a restricted distribution in the south of the county, although interestingly does not occur at Grove Priory.

Pottery of 13th–15th century date is represented by three wheel-thrown sherds of glazed Brill-Boarstall ware (types C09 and C11), a regional import from Buckinghamshire. Diagnostic forms are rare and comprise everted and flat rim jars and bowls, some decorated with applied thumbed strips. Seven abraded Roman sherds (61g) occurred as residual finds.

Land-use entity 4

Thirty-three early medieval sherds, weighing 199g, were associated with the construction and use of this pit. Fabrics are predominantly sand-tempered types comparable with those recovered from L3, although there is no residual pre-medieval material. No diagnostic forms occur. One sherd has an applied thumbed strip and four have thick internal white limescale(?) residues.

Land-use entity	Group	Description	Sherd No: Weight (g)
1	3	Colluvium	6:162
2	6	Construction and initial use of early enclosure ditch	2:32
2.01	6.01	Use/disuse of early enclosure ditch	1:13



Land-use entity	Group	Description	Sherd No: Weight (g)
3 3.01	7	Construction and initial use of north–south ditch	28:177
	7.01	Use/disuse of north–south ditch	91:751
3.02	8.01	Redeposited natural within east–west ditch	4:25
	8.02	Use/disuse of east–west ditch	65:626
	8.03	Disuse of east–west ditch	11:83
4 4.01	5	Construction and initial use of pit	13:114
	5.01	Use/disuse of pit	20:85

Table 6: Quantity of pottery by Land-use entity and Group

4.4 Other Artefacts

4.4.1 Methodology and quantification

For each context, artefacts were assigned a simple name and functional category in accordance with the Bedfordshire Artefact Typology and quantified by number and/or weight. Where possible, artefacts were dated, and this information contributed to the overall context spot-date.

Material	Quantity (artefact no. or weight)
Antler	1
Ceramic (building material)	364g
Flint (worked)	1
Flint (burnt)	5g
Iron	6
Stone (burnt)	674g
Stone (worked)	2

Table 7: Registered and bulk artefacts by material

4.4.2 Range, variety, provenance and date

Iron artefacts

Iron artefacts comprise three timber nail shanks, a tack, a strip fragment and a shoeing nail, the latter probably of 13th–14th century date. Dating may be clarified once the find has been x-rayed to determine its form. All were recovered from ditch G7 (L3), with the exception of the shoeing nail and strip fragment, which respectively derived from the deposit within pit L4 and colluvium L1.

Organic artefact

A partial worked tip of antler tine or walrus tusk recovered from the deposit within pit L4 may be a possible unfinished amulet, similar to early medieval examples recovered from York.

Ceramic roof tile

Two sand-tempered flat roof tile fragments (15g) of probable late medieval date were recovered from colluvial deposit L1. Three pieces (345g), ranging in thickness from 12–15mm, derived from L3 enclosure ditches G7 and G8.02. The crude manufacture of one tile recovered from the latter suggests it may be of earlier medieval origin. G8.02 also yielded an amorphous fired clay fragment (4g) in a micaceous sandy fabric.



Lithic material

Worked flint comprises a patinated, retouched flake (2g) recovered from colluvial deposit L1. Three pieces of heat affected natural flint (5g) derived from the deposit within pit L4. The upper deposit within ditch G7 (L3) contained two pieces of locally occurring clunch (202g), one with a possible dressed surface.

4.5 Animal Bone

Assessment of the animal bone assemblage was undertaken by Mark Maltby of The School of Conservation Sciences, Bournemouth University.

4.5.1 Methodology

All bones were recorded individually onto a relational database, which forms part of the site archive. In the main table, when appropriate, the following information was recorded on each fragment: species; anatomy (element); part of bone present; percentage of bone present; gnawing damage; erosion; weathering; charring; fusion data; other comments. Separate tables linked to the main table by an individual identification number were created for metrical, butchery and tooth-ageing data.

4.5.2 Sample size and preservation

A total of 125 animal bone fragments were recovered, mainly from ditch re-cut L3. Of these, only fifty-two were identifiable to species. The sample is too small to derive more than basic information about the species present in the assemblage. However, bone surface preservation is generally good, with only one sheep/goat bone being recorded as eroded. Fish bones have also survived. Five sheep/goat and five cattle bones have gnawing damage, indicating they were accessible to dogs prior to deposition. Only one (unidentifiable) fragment is burnt.

4.5.3 Results

Mammals

A total of forty-four animal bones were identified. These comprise sheep/goat, cattle, equid, pig and dog. A high percentage of the remains (66%) belong to sheep/goat.

The sheep/goat remains are biased towards the preservation of the denser elements, with fewer fragile elements surviving. They include evidence of cut-marks associated with skinning and dismemberment. Two sheep/goat remains include two mandibles with tooth-ageing evidence and only one bone for which measurement data could be recorded. The cattle bones provide limited metrical data but no evidence of ageing or butchery. Pig is represented by two elements only, which include a mandible. Equids are represented by a single third metatarsal. Two dog bones recovered from the same context may represent parts of the same animal.



Birds

Three bones were identified as goose. The surprising absence of domestic fowl bones may be a reflection of the small sample size.

Fish

Sieving produced the only evidence for the presence of fish, mostly in the form of small precaudal vertebrae. Four species were identified by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer. These comprise eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), 3-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), a cyprinid vertebra and herring, the latter indicating the exploitation of preserved fish brought to the settlement.

4.6 Plant remains

4.6.1 Methods

Six samples taken from a range of early medieval (12th–13th century) contexts were processed by Albion Archaeology using bulk flotation, with the flotation fraction (flot) collected on a 300micron (0.3mm) mesh. Analysis of the flots was undertaken by Alistair Hill of the University of Leicester Archaeology Service. The flots were scanned and sorted using a binocular microscope with magnification settings of between x7 and x40. The carbonised plant remains (except charcoal) were separated from the flots and stored separately as either cereal grain, chaff or weed seeds prior to being identified further. The plant names and order follow Stace (1997).

The numerical quantification was undertaken using the following methodology. For cereals, each grain present in the assemblage was counted as one. Where fragments of grain were present, an estimate of the number of whole grains this would have represented was made by combining fragments. The weed seeds were counted as one unless they could be identified as fragments of a fractured large weed seed.

4.6.2 Preservation

In general, the charred/carbonised remains are in a poor state of preservation, being relatively intensely burnt and distorted. Three uncharred elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds from samples 1 and 10 (pit L4) are representative of modern contamination.

4.6.3 Results

All six samples produced plant assemblages (Table 8). A total of 128 charred items were identified in the samples.

The wheat grain present in the assemblages was identified as being a free-threshing variety. However, due to the poor quality of preservation and the lack of cereal rachis, identification could not be made to species level. Two grains of six-row hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were identified in sample 10 (pit L4). Barley was also tentatively identified in three other samples (1: pit L4; 11 and 13: ditch L3).



Weeds and wild plants

All of the samples covered in this analysis contained seeds from weeds and/or wild plants. A total of forty charred/carbonised weed seeds were found, including goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.) sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), vetches (*Vicia* sp.) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). All of these species are plants typical of disturbed ground and are common arable weeds that could have grown locally.

Sample No	1	10	11	12	13	14		
Land-use entity	4.01	4.01	3	2	3.01	3		
Context	104	315	320	323	332	333		
Feature	103	313	319	322	330	331		
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch		
Grains							Totals	
<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i>			2	1	16		19	Free-threshing wheat
<i>T. cf. aestivum/turgidum</i>	2		7				9	cf. Free-threshing wheat
<i>Triticum</i> sp(p)			7	1			8	Wheat
cf. <i>Triticum</i>	10						10	Wheat
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>		2					2	Barley
cf. <i>Hordeum</i>	1		1		4		6	cf. Barley
<i>Cerealia</i> indet.	12	5	13		3		33	Cereal
Chaff								
Culm node		1					1	Cereal stem
Wild Plants								
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	1				1		2	Goosefoots
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	2		1				3	Docks
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.					1		1	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Hypericum</i> sp.	1	1	1	1	2	1	7	St John's wort
<i>Vicia</i> sp(p).	1	5	1		4		11	Vetches
small legumes	5			2	1		8	Small legumes
<i>Lamiaceae</i> sp.		1					1	Dead-nettle family
* <i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	1*	2*					3*	Elder
<i>Asteraceae</i> sp.					1	1	2	Daisy family
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.		4	1				5	Stinking chamomile
cf. <i>Avena</i> L.				2			2	Oat (wild)
small grass		1					1	Grasses
Totals	35	20	34	7	33	2		
Sample vol. (l)	10	10	20	20	30	20		
Flot vol. (ml)	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10		
Items per litre	3.5	2	1.7	0.35	1.1	0.1		
Weed/grain ratio	0.4	1.7	0.1	2.5	0.4	0.0		
Charcoal	+	+	-	-	+	-		
Shells	-	-	+	+	++	++		

* uncharred

Table 8: Plant remains

4.6.4 Conclusions

The majority of the samples (1, 10, 11 and 13) are rich in cereal grain (low weed-to-grain ratio). However, due to the limited numbers of grain and weed seeds present in the assemblages, it can only be surmised that the deposition of



charred remains in each context was probably associated with domestic waste stemming from the preparation and consumption of cereals on or near the site, as opposed to the residue of cereal processing. Such low-density scatters are usually associated with the slow accumulation of material over time. The low ratio of weeds to cereal grains present in samples 1, 10, 11 and 13 would also suggest that cereals had been subjected to a degree of crop cleaning/hand sorting to remove extraneous material prior to food preparation. The cereals present in the samples, free threshing wheat and barley, are generally characteristic of medieval plant assemblages.



5. ANALYTICAL POTENTIAL OF THE DATA

5.1 Introduction

In this section, the analytical potential of each dataset is reviewed against the original research objectives. Their potential is summarised in Tables 9 and 10.

	Objective	Contextual	Ceramic	Other artefacts	Animal bone	Plant remains	Documentary sources
1	Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development area. Source: Objective generated internally	High	High	Low	Moderate	Low	–
2	Establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes. Source: MSRG 1996, Section: Research and Survey, point 1, page 5	Moderate	–	–	–	–	High
3	Characterise rural settlement forms and functions. Source: Edgeworth 2007 ‘Anglo-Saxon’ and Medieval Bedfordshire – AD400-1550, Section: Deserted and Shrunken Villages, page 101. In: Oake <i>et al</i> 2007.	–	–	–	–	–	Low
4	Recover palaeo-environmental and artefactual remains to determine what activities took place in this part of the village. Source: Wade, 2000 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (Rural) Section: Agrarian economy, page 25. In: Brown and Glazebrook, 2000	–	–	–	Moderate	Low	–
5	Record evidence of medieval occupation structures. Source: MSRG 1996, Section: Research and Survey, point 3, page 6	–	–	–	–	–	–
6	Recover evidence of land-use change/abandonment/ Source: MSRG 1996, Section: Research and Survey, point 2, page 5	Moderate	Moderate	–	–	–	–

Table 9: Potential of recovered datasets to address the original research objectives



Relevance of dataset	Definition
High	Dataset is able to contribute direct, significant and rare/unusual data which can expand our knowledge in this area.
Moderate	Dataset can contribute direct data. This data will be relatively standard for this chronological period and region.
Low	Dataset has relatively low potential to augment our knowledge of this subject. It may help to add to a database of 'less significant evidence' which, when combined, is useful in recognising patterns e.g. pottery assemblages, settlement types.
–	Dataset has no potential to provide any useful information on this subject.

Table 10: Definitions of levels of potential

The continued relevance of each of these original objectives was challenged during the production of the following text, and a revised set of research objectives for analysis was created and is described in Section 6 (Table 11). The changes have been implemented as a result of the quality and type of data recorded during the investigations, which are, inevitably, different in certain ways to that predicted prior to the mitigation works.

5.2 Contextual Data

Archaeological remains comprised 'negative' cut features such as ditches and pits. There was no evidence of 'positive' features such as floors or external surfaces. The land-use, topography and excavation data suggest that the site has been subject to truncation, probably during construction works on the school or levelling of the playing field.

The site can be characterised as having a moderate density of archaeological features, consisting of partially truncated negative features. Approximately two-thirds of the features recorded on the site shared stratigraphic relationships with other features and all produced artefactual material dated to the early medieval period (AD1150–1250).

The contextual dataset has high potential to assist in establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development area (Table 9, Objective 1). This objective has been modified to give two separate, more specific updated research objectives (Table 11, Objectives 1 and 2).

The dataset has moderate potential to establish the relationship of the excavated remains to their contemporary landscape (Table 9, Objective 2; Table 11, Objective 3) and to examine the reasons behind the lack of evidence for later activity (Table 9, Objective 6; Table 11, Objective 4).

The excavation produced no evidence of structures (Table 9, Objective 5). The dataset from this excavation alone is also insufficient to assist in the characterisation of rural settlement forms and function (Table 9, Objective 3), but it can be compared with the available medieval settlement evidence for Stanbridge (Table 11, Objective 3).



5.3 Ceramics

The pottery assemblage is relatively small. It mostly comprises medieval pottery of *c.* 12th–13th century date, with a small amount of Saxo-Norman and residual late Iron age/early Roman material. The medieval assemblage generally survives in good condition and the incidence of abrasion is fairly low.

This dataset has a high potential to assist in dating and characterising the site (Table 9, Objective 1; Table 11, Objectives 1 and 2) and a moderate potential to assist in explaining an apparent absence of later medieval/post-medieval settlement activity (Table 11, Objective 4). It also has potential to enhance knowledge of medieval ceramic fabrics and forms within the south of the county (Table 11, Objective 6).

5.4 Other Artefacts

A small assemblage of other artefacts was recovered from the site, some of which are undiagnostic. The size of the dataset allows only very limited conclusions, and it has low potential to assist in characterising the site and determining what activities took place there (Table 9, Objective 1; Table 11, Objective 2).

5.5 Animal Bone

A small assemblage of relatively well preserved mammal, bird and fish bone was recovered. The small size and fragmentary nature of the bone limits the number of identifiable fragments available for analysis, and also the amount of ageing, metrical and butchery data available from those fragments that can be identified to species.

The faunal assemblage has moderate potential to assist in characterising the site (Table 9, Objective 1; Table 11, Objective 2) and determining the economy and diet of its people (Table 9, Objective 4; Table 11, Objective 5).

5.6 Plant Remains

A small amount of charred plant remains were recovered from soil samples. These are interpreted as being derived from domestic waste stemming from the preparation and consumption of cereals on or near the site, as opposed to cereal processing residue. The low number of charred plant remains per sample (<50) is probably unrepresentative of the site's population, as has been widely recognised in the case of plant assemblages.

The plant assemblage therefore offers only limited possibilities for interpreting the site and comparing the assemblage with typical collections from the early medieval period. It has low potential to assist in characterising the site (Table 9, Objective 1; Table 11, Objective 2) and determining the economy and diet of its people (Table 9, Objective 4; Table 11, Objective 5).

5.7 Documentary sources

An aerial photograph RAF1946 3265_3 shows earthworks (levelled in 1975) of former ditched boundaries within the field. They comprise a north–south



aligned ditch and a series of east–west ditches that adjoin its eastern side (Fig. 1). Historic maps indicate that the development area lies on the northern side of the former village green.

This data will be given further consideration during analysis, and it is anticipated that it has a low potential to assist in the characterisation of medieval rural settlement (Table 9, Objective 3) and a high potential to connect the archaeological remains investigated in this development area with the surrounding contemporary landscape (Table 9, Objective 2; Table 11, Objective 3).



6. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES FOR ANALYSIS

6.1 Introduction

Six research objectives for analysis have been identified. These refine, amalgamate and build on some of the original objectives listed above in Table 9. The potential (low, moderate, high) for each dataset to contribute to these revised research objectives was discussed in Section 5 (Table 10) and is summarised below in Table 11. The purpose of the following text is to clearly define these revised objectives, which will provide a structure for the forthcoming publication text.

6.2 Research Objectives

Objective	Contextual	Ceramic	Other artefacts	Animal bone	Plant remains	Documentary sources
1 Determine the date range for the medieval use of the site Source: Objective generated internally	High	High	-	-	-	-
2 Characterise the site and determine what activities were undertaken in the medieval period Source: Edgeworth 2007 'Anglo-Saxon' and Medieval Bedfordshire – AD400-1550, Section: Deserted and Shrunken Villages, page 101. In: Oake <i>et al</i> 2007.	High	High	Low	Moderate	Low	-
3 Establish the relationship of the medieval remains to the contemporary landscape Source: MSRG 1996, Section: Research and Survey, point 1, page 5	Moderate	-	-	-	-	High
4 Consider whether absence of later activity is evidence of settlement contraction Source: MSRG 1996, Section: Research and Survey, point 2, page 5	Moderate	Moderate	-	-	-	-
5 Determine the nature of the economy and diet in the medieval period Source: Objective generated internally	-	-	-	Moderate	Low	-



Objective	Contextual	Ceramic	Other artefacts	Animal bone	Plant remains	Documentary sources
6 Add to existing knowledge of medieval ceramics from the south of Bedfordshire Source: Objective generated internally and identified in Edgeworth 2007 'Anglo-Saxon' and Medieval Bedfordshire – AD400-1550, Section: Material Culture and Technology, page 106. In: Oake <i>et al</i> 2007.	-	Moderate	-	-	-	-

Table 11: Research objectives for analysis and potential of datasets

6.2.1 Objective 1: Determine the date range for the medieval use of the site

The archaeological features contained medieval pottery, a small amount of residual earlier pottery, and a number of other artefacts. The analysis will examine the datable artefacts, particularly the ceramics, in relation to the contextual data to determine the likely date range for the construction, use and final disuse of the features. This dating will help to place the site within its social, economic and historical context and enable comparison with rural settlement evidence of similar date.

6.2.2 Objective 2: Characterise the site and determine what activities were undertaken in the medieval period

This investigation provided a limited opportunity to examine the site in plan (Figs 1-3). The features present comprised part of a re-cut ditched enclosure system and a pit; examination of aerial photographic evidence as part of Objective 3 will enable the ditches to be viewed as part of a wider system of enclosure. Artefactual and ecofactual remains recovered during the investigation will reflect activities carried out on the site, and the site's possible function. This may also augment our knowledge of the function of that wider system of enclosure.

6.2.3 Objective 3: Establish the relationship of the medieval remains to the contemporary landscape

The features identified include medieval ditches that represent probable land boundaries. Aerial photographic evidence for Stanbridge (Section 1.4) records earthworks of possible medieval origin, some of which appear to correspond to the excavated remains. Examination of the photographic evidence may enable correlation of the ditches and earthworks, thereby aiding the interpretation of both sets of remains.

6.2.4 Objective 4: Consider whether absence of later activity is evidence of settlement contraction

Initial results suggest that all of the excavated features date from the early medieval period (12th–13th centuries). Documentary and other evidence indicates that many villages decreased in size or were deserted during a period of economic decline and agricultural recession in the 14th century. A study of the Bedfordshire evidence suggests conditions of agricultural recession by



AD1341, with some evidence for the contraction of arable land and population reduction in the preceding decades (Baker 1970).

Dating evidence for the final disuse of the site will be examined in relation to existing sources to evaluate whether the site contains evidence of settlement contraction.

6.2.5 Objective 5: Determine the nature of the economy and diet in the medieval period

The datasets of animal bones and plant remains are relatively small, limiting the scope of any analysis. However, analysis of these datasets will help to establish the diet and economic base of the site. Analysis of the animal bone assemblage will enable comparison with other rural medieval assemblages, and broad characterisation of animal husbandry and economic activity in this part of the settlement. Basic information on crops being used during the early medieval period may be deduced from analysis of the cereal grains obtained from the samples.

6.2.6 Objective 6: Add to existing knowledge of medieval ceramics from the south of Bedfordshire

The majority of this small ceramic assemblage dates to the early medieval period. The main value of this material lies in its potential to augment our knowledge of early medieval ceramics from the south of Bedfordshire. These are, with the exception of material from the Grove Priory excavations (Baker *et al.*, in prep.) and Chalgrave (Pinder and Davison, 1988), generally poorly represented. Of particular interest is the occurrence of distinctive chalky calcareous fabric type B13, which represents a new addition to the Bedfordshire fabric series that was not present in either the Grove Priory or Chalgrave assemblages. A similar early medieval chalky ware has recently been identified from the course of the A4146 Linslade Bypass, and from other sites in Leighton Buzzard and Buckinghamshire (Alan Vince, pers. comm.).



7. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

7.1 Introduction

Albion operates a fully integrated, computer-based system for analysing archaeological data. All contextual, artefactual and ecofactual information is entered onto an Access database. Plans and section drawings are digitised. The databases and digital drawings are interfaced via a GIS system (Gsys) allowing all chronological, spatial and material groupings (and any combination thereof) to be viewed and manipulated. In addition, all photographs are held in a digital format, allowing them to be viewed on screen with database and digital drawings.

The system enables rapid and flexible analysis of the project's datasets. It also facilitates the output of a series of text reports, supported by plans and other graphic forms. These will form the basis for the final publication report.

7.2 Publication

The editor of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, a county-based journal, has agreed in principle to include in a future volume a report on the results of the investigations. The suggested format is set out below (Table 12), with indicative page and figure counts; it may be altered during the analysis and pre-publication stages if the results warrant it.

	Summary	No. pages	No. figs
1.	Introduction		
	• Site location and conditions	1	1
	• Archaeological background	1	1
	• The archaeological investigations	1	
	• Structure and terminology in this article	0.5	
2.	Results of the investigations		
	• Medieval (inc. documentary evidence)	3	3
3.	The artefactual assemblage		
	• Pottery	1	1
4.	The ecofacts		
	• Charred plant remains	0.75	
	• Animal bone	0.75	
5.	Discussion	2	
6.	Conclusions	1	
	Acknowledgements	0.25	
	References	1	
	TOTAL	13.25	6

Table 12: Provisional outline of the publication

The chronological development of the site will provide the basic structure for the site narrative, with the text organised by Land-use entity and Group.



Artefactual and ecofactual information will be integrated with the text as appropriate. Evidence from documentary, cartographic and photographic sources will also be integrated into this chronological framework.

The discussion will concentrate on the medieval evidence, focussing on its extent and development compared to documentary sources. Comparisons for this type of site will be sought regionally and nationally, if these prove relevant.

7.3 **Timetable**

Following acceptance by the client and CAO of the Assessment and Updated Project Design, Albion would like to proceed rapidly with the analysis and publication of the results. This would enable the results to be made more widely available at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Detailed method statements, with task numbers and resource levels, are provided in Appendix 1. Table 13 sets out the five key stages within the analysis and publication programme. An indication of the maximum time required to reach the first three key stages is indicated, and these could serve as appropriate monitoring points, if required.

Completion of	Description of tasks	Time
Key stage 1	Structural analysis	2 months
Key stage 2	Artefactual and ecofactual analysis and illustration	3 months
Key stage 3	Completion of 1st draft followed by circulation to client, CAO and referees	4 months
Key stage 4	Completion of final draft and submission to <i>Bedfordshire Archaeology</i>	1 month
Key stage 5	Publication and archiving	*

Table 13: Provisional timetable to complete the project

*Publication, and therefore deposition of the archive with Luton Museum, will be dependent on the operational timetable of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*.

7.4 **Archiving**

On publication of the final report, the archive of materials (subject to the landowner's permission) and accompanying records will be deposited with Luton Museum, Accession No. 2007/92.



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9. APPENDIX 1: METHOD STATEMENTS FOR ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING

9.1 *Analysis of Contextual Data*

9.1.1 **Liaison meetings**

On-going discussion will take place between the principal members of the project team throughout the analysis and publication stages. These will involve discussion over the nature of the work required, commissioning of the work and addressing any queries that arise during the course of the project.

9.1.2 **Analysis of documentary, cartographic and photographic sources**

The Historic Environment Record and Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service will be examined to provide background information on medieval archaeological sites in the vicinity. All available historic maps, photographs and documents will be examined in an attempt to correlate archaeological features located within the investigation area to features known from documentary sources.

9.1.3 **Computerisation**

The size of the datasets means that they would benefit from computerisation. Albion operates a fully integrated computer-based system of structural analysis using databases (through Access) and a mini GIS (Gsys) for interrogation. Basic contextual information has been entered into a database table and has been successfully utilised within this report.

The digitised all-features drawing produced for the assessment will require checking and correcting to ensure it is linked correctly with the contextual database. Once this is complete, the drawings can be fully interrogated and manipulated by any database table.

Once this is achieved, it will be possible to rapidly interrogate datasets within the Gsys programme. For example, it would be possible to plot the distribution of specific find types, or all features that are considered to be contemporary. This type of interrogation will greatly enhance the analysis of data and is, therefore, likely to assist in the interpretation of the archaeological remains. It also enables basic publication figures to be produced rapidly.

Any relevant historical maps will be geo-referenced and digitised to permit examination with the all-features drawing.

9.1.4 **Structural analysis**

Each context will be assigned to a single Sub-Group, consisting of one or more (usually several) contexts that are closely related both stratigraphically and interpretatively. The Sub-Group to which each is assigned will be determined by analysis of the primary contextual information, specifically context sheets and section drawings that were produced during fieldwork.

The deposits within features will be assigned to separate Sub-Groups from their cuts. The only exceptions to this are for deposits interpreted as packing or lining, and for primary deposits that formed only a short time after the feature was constructed. For deep features that may have filled up over a long period of time, more than one Sub-Group will be used in order to separate their lower and upper deposits. However, to ensure that their spatial location is easily identifiable, they will be issued a Sub-Group number comprising a decimal point of the 'containing' Sub-Group. For example, the non-primary lower deposits within enclosure SG7 would be assigned to SG7.1, and the upper deposits to SG7.2.

Cuts/deposits will be classified as:

- ◆ Construction (default code for all cuts)



- ◆ Naturally derived infilling
- ◆ Deliberate infilling

The Sub-Group allocation for each context will be entered into the contextual database table. A Sub-Group text will then be written directly into the Sub-Group database table so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a factual, descriptive section as well as an interpretative section, setting out the rationale behind the definition of the Sub-Group. It is not envisaged that Sub-Group plans will be produced, but this information will be available via the relational database tables.

Any Sub-Groups which have limited or no further analytical value (*e.g.* features/deposits of geological origin) will not be subject to any further analysis. Each remaining Sub-Group will be assigned to a single Group representing a higher level of interpretation. It is possible that some Groups will comprise multiple Sub-Groups that are all similar both stratigraphically and interpretatively.

When assigning Sub-Groups to Groups, the artefactual and ecofactual assemblage recovered from each Sub-Group will be considered. This will identify any that contained significant assemblages which may need to be referred to in detail in the descriptive section of the publication text. Such Sub-Groups will be separated out at Group level. For example, the Sub-Groups for four ditches that formed an enclosure and had sterile deposits might all be assigned to G4, yet if one contained a large amount of pottery, then this would be assigned to G5 and the Sub-Groups for the other three to G4.

The assessment of the Stanbridge data suggests that the construction and primary deposit Sub-Groups will be assigned to the following Group types:

- ◆ Enclosure
- ◆ Single Pit

Sub-Groups containing non-primary deposits will be assigned to separate Groups, in order to reflect the likelihood that these may be considerably later in date than the construction/primary deposit Groups, and would therefore need to be analysed separately. However, to ensure that their spatial location is easily identifiable, they will be issued a Group number comprising a decimal point of the 'containing' Group. For example, the non-primary deposits of enclosure G7 would be assigned to G7.1.

The Group allocation for each Sub-Group will be entered into the Sub-Group database table. A Group text will then be written directly into the Group database table, so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a descriptive section as well as an interpretative section. It will form the basis for any detail required in the descriptive section of the publication text. A plan will be produced for each Group, with the location of all relevant Sub-Groups marked.

Each Group will be assigned to a higher level of interpretation known as a Phase, which will represent a chronological period and may contain one or more broadly contemporary Groups. Each Phase will represent the sum total of archaeological remains at a given stage in the site's development. The phase allocation for each Group will be entered into the Group database table.

The completion of the structural analysis represents a key stage in the analytical programme, and is the precursor to the production of publication text and illustrations.

◆KEY STAGE 1

9.1.5 Final phasing/publication liaison

Once the provisional structural analysis is complete, it will be examined in light of artefactual material. When the final phasing has been checked, the various specialists will be informed. Each will receive a report known as *Final Phasing Information for Specialist*. This will



include the structural hierarchy, format of their publication text (with a guide number of words) and other information that they may require.

9.1.6 Site narrative text

The site narrative will form the basis of the descriptive section of the publication text. It will be organised by Phase, Group and, where appropriate, Sub-Group.

9.1.7 Structural illustration

The digitised plan and section data will be interrogated via the relational database tables to produce mock-up publication illustrations. Plans will be produced to show all features in each Phase with Groups and Sub-Groups identifiable.

◆KEY STAGE 2

Structural Analysis		
Task	Staff	Days
Liaison meetings	Illust.	1
Analysis of documentary <i>etc.</i> sources	PM	1
Structural analysis	PO	1
◆ KEY STAGE 1		
Site narrative	PO	4
Assistance with site narrative	OM	1
Structural illustration	Illust.	2
Assistance with illustration	PO	1
◆ KEY STAGE 2		

Table 14: Summary of structural analysis tasks

9.2 Analysis of Pottery

9.2.1 Quantification and recording of pottery

Pottery will be laid out in context order. It will be quantified by minimum vessel and sherd count, and weight. Pottery fabrics have already been identified according to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Types Series, and these will be checked. All attributes such as decoration, evidence of function (sooting, wear marks *etc.*) and manufacturing techniques (firing characteristics *etc.*) will be recorded. All quantified data will be entered onto the relevant table within the site database.

9.2.2 Production of technical text for pottery

The pottery will be described in detail, including fabric and form definitions. Pottery vessels for publication-standard illustration will be selected, according to the following criteria:

- all fabrics and forms previously unknown in the county and therefore unpublished;
- better examples of those types already published;
- vessels from specific features or groups of features;
- vessels of intrinsic interest

◆KEY STAGE 1

9.2.3 Phasing/publication Liaison

See Section 9.1.5.



9.2.4 Pottery publication text

A specialist text will be produced summarising the pottery assemblage by fabric type, forms, decoration and attribute. The text will refer to comparative assemblages (published or unpublished). Where appropriate, discussion of the pottery assemblage will be broken down by elements of the structural hierarchy, *e.g.* Groups.

9.2.5 Pottery illustration

Illustration of the material selected for inclusion in the technical text will be carried out by the Illustrator, in consultation with the artefact analyst.

◆ KEY STAGE 2

Pottery Analysis		
Task	Staff	Days
Liaison meetings	FO	1.5
Quantification and recording	FO	2
Technical text (type series)	FO	3
Thin section analysis	External	10
◆ KEY STAGE 1		
Phasing/publication Liaison	FO	0.1
Publication text	FO	3
Illustration	Illust	2
◆ KEY STAGE 2		

Table 15: Summary of pottery analysis tasks

9.3 Analysis of Animal Bone

9.3.1 Phasing/publication liaison

See Section 9.1.5.

9.3.2 Animal bone publication text

The report will consist of a discussion of species representation, preservation and provenance. The animal bone will be considered with reference to typical medieval rural assemblages.

◆ KEY STAGE 2

Animal Bone Analysis		
Task	Staff	Days
Publication text	External	0.5
◆ KEY STAGE 2		

Table 16: Summary of animal bone analysis tasks

9.4 Analysis of Charred Plant Remains

9.4.1 Phasing/publication liaison

See Section 9.1.5.

9.4.2 Charred plant remains publication text

The publication text will detail the analysis of the samples. The results will be tabulated and interpreted in terms of the formation, taphonomy and significance of the assemblage.



◆KEY STAGE 2

Charred Plant Remains Analysis		
Task	Staff	Days
Publication text	External	1
◆KEY STAGE 2		

Table 17: Summary of charred plant remains analysis tasks

9.5 Overall Publication, Archiving and Project Management

9.5.1 Editing publication text including specialist reports

The entire publication will be read and edited to ensure a consistency in approach.

9.5.2 Production of synthesis

A synthetic text will be produced discussing the key elements of the site, probably within the major chronological periods.

9.5.3 Amendments and queries in consultation with specialists during article preparation

During the production of the synthesis it is likely that a number of questions will arise that the various specialists will need to address.

◆KEY STAGE 3

9.5.4 Albion refereeing process

Albion has a policy of circulating the first draft of articles intended for publication to the client, AO and any other interested parties. This task includes time for any required discussion with the referees.

◆KEY STAGE 4

9.5.5 Submission of article and amendments resulting from editors comments to publication text and figures

Amendments to publication text and figures based on comments received from Albion's refereeing process, following submission of the publication article to the editor of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*.

9.5.6 Printing and proof reading

The printing of the article will be arranged by the editor of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, although proof reading will be necessary.

9.5.7 Archiving and accessioning

Upon completion of the report, the written and material archives will be prepared for accessioning to Luton Museum. The cost of transfer includes transport, liaison and storage charges.

9.5.8 Project management

All project tasks have been identified from Albion's generic task list menu. These have been entered onto the Albion's Time Recording System (TRS) so that expenditure and resources can be tracked throughout the life of the project. The management of the project includes monitoring the task budgets, programming tasks, checking timetables and liaising with all members of the project team.



Overall publication, archiving and project management		
Task	Staff	Days
	PM	3
	PM	1
◆	KEY STAGE 3	
	OM	2
◆	KEY STAGE 4	
	PM	3
	External	N/A
	PM	1
	PO	1
	AO	1
	External	N/A
	PO	1
	PM	2
	OM	2
◆	KEY STAGE 5	

Table 18: Overall publication, archiving and management tasks



10. APPENDIX 2: THE PROJECT TEAM

To ensure a consistency of approach, the same specialists will be used who have been involved in the assessment stage of the project.

Task	Org.	Title/Organisation	Name
Overall management	Albion	Operations Manager	Drew Shotliff
Project management	Albion	Project Manager	Joe Abrams
Daily management	Albion	Project Officer	Mark Philips
Structural analysis	Albion	Archaeological Supervisor	Alison Bell
Ceramic analysis	Albion	Finds Officer	Jackie Wells / Anna Slowikowski
Other artefact analysis	Albion	Artefacts Manager	Holly Duncan
Animal bone	external	Bournemouth University	Mark Maltby
Charred plant remains	external	ULAS*	Angela Monckton
Illustration	Albion	Illustrator	Cecily Marshall
Thin section analysis	external	AVAC**	Alan Vince

*ULAS: University of Leicester Archaeological Services

**AVAC: Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy

Note: Detailed staff CVs were presented in the Project Design, and are therefore not repeated here.

Table 19: The project team



11. APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF ALL TASKS

Description	Staff	Days
Liaison meetings	PO	0.2
	FO	1.5
	AM	1
	Illust	1
	External	0.2
Analysis of documentary <i>etc.</i> sources	PM	1
Structural analysis	PO	1
Pottery quantification and recording	FO	2
Pottery technical text	FO	3
Pottery thin section analysis	External	10
Keystage 1: completion of analysis		
Phasing/publication liaison: pottery	FO	0.1
Site narrative	PO	4
Assistance with site narrative	OM	1
Pottery publication text	FO	3
Pottery illustration	Illust	2
Animal bone publication text	External	0.5
Charred plant remains publication text	External	1
Structural illustration	Illust	2
Assistance with structural illustration	PO	1
Keystage 2: completion of all specialist text		
Production of synthesis	PM	3
Amendments and queries in consultation with specialists during article preparation	PM	1
Keystage 3: completion of 1st Draft		
Albion's refereeing process	OM	2
Keystage 4: Submission to <i>Bedfordshire Archaeology</i>		
Amendments resulting from editor's comments	PM	3
Printing	External	N/A
Proof reading	PM	1
Archive preparation (structural data)	PO	1
Archive preparation (artefact data)	AO	1
Archive transfer (storage costs)	External	N/A
Archive transfer	PO	1
Project management (overall)	PM	2
Project management (Albion)	OM	2
Keystage 5: end of project		

Table 20: Summary of all tasks

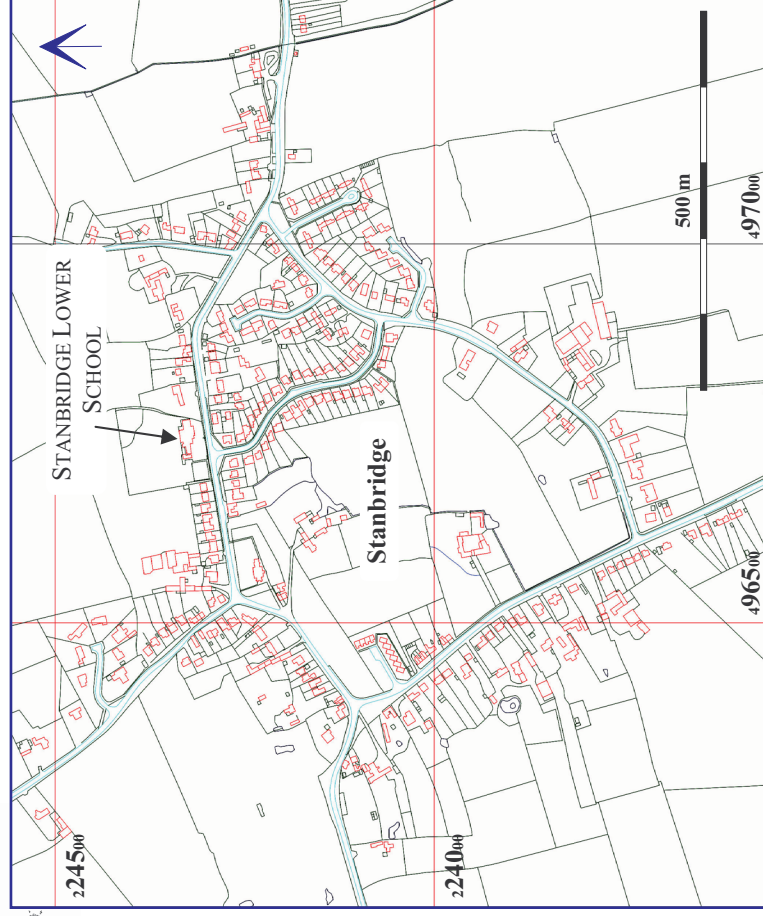
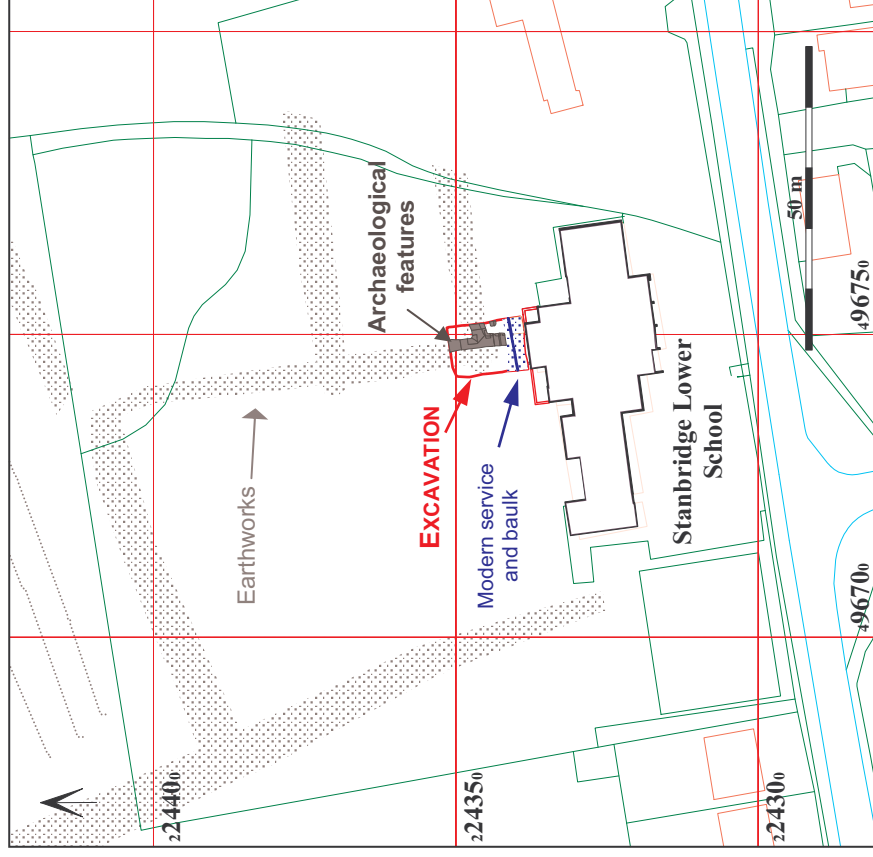
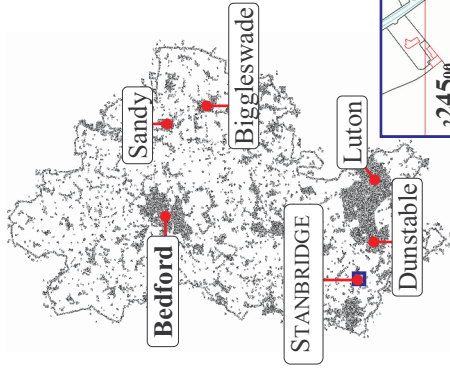


Figure 1: Site location map

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford, Bedfordshire. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.

*Land to the rear of Stanbridge Lower School, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire
Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design*

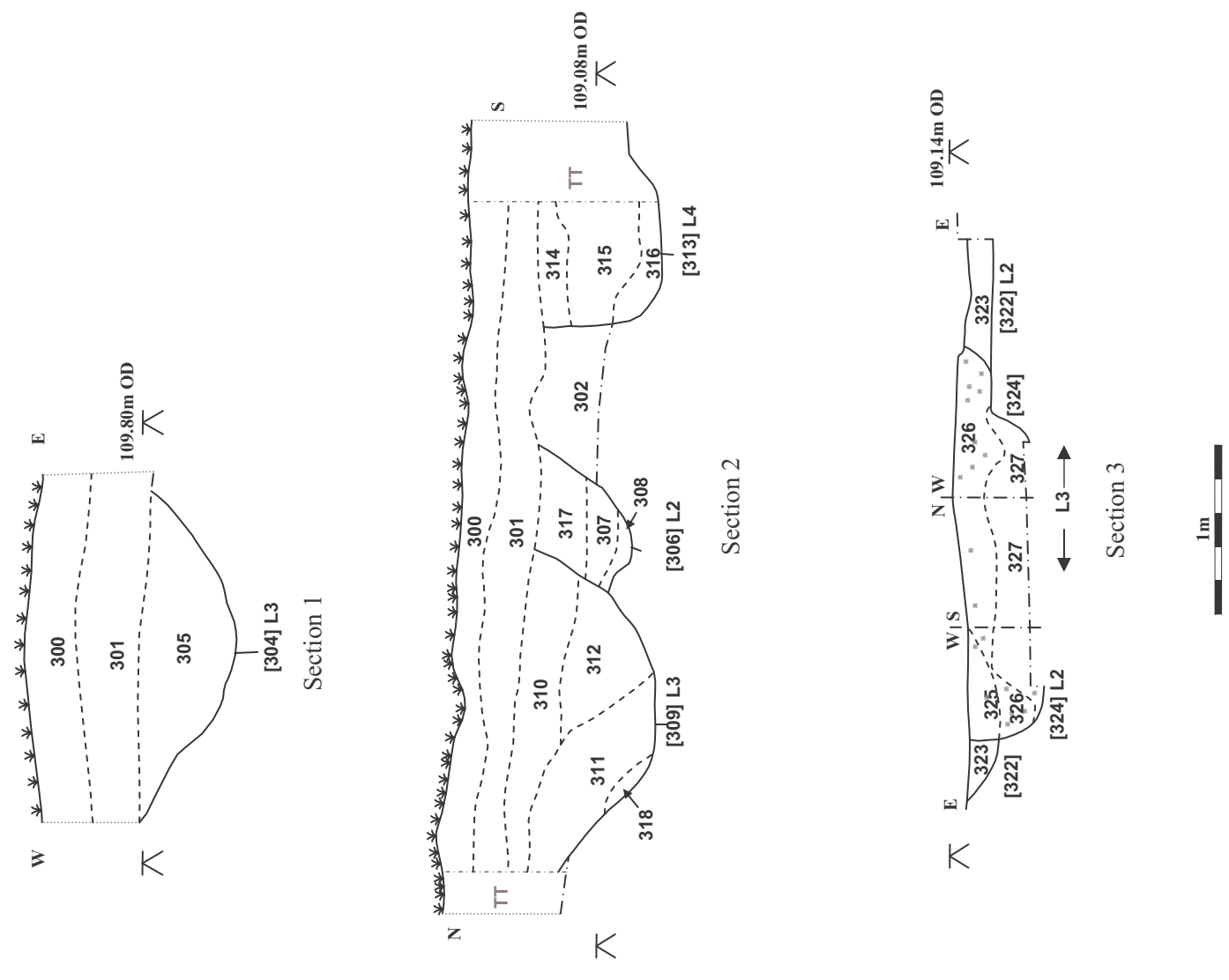
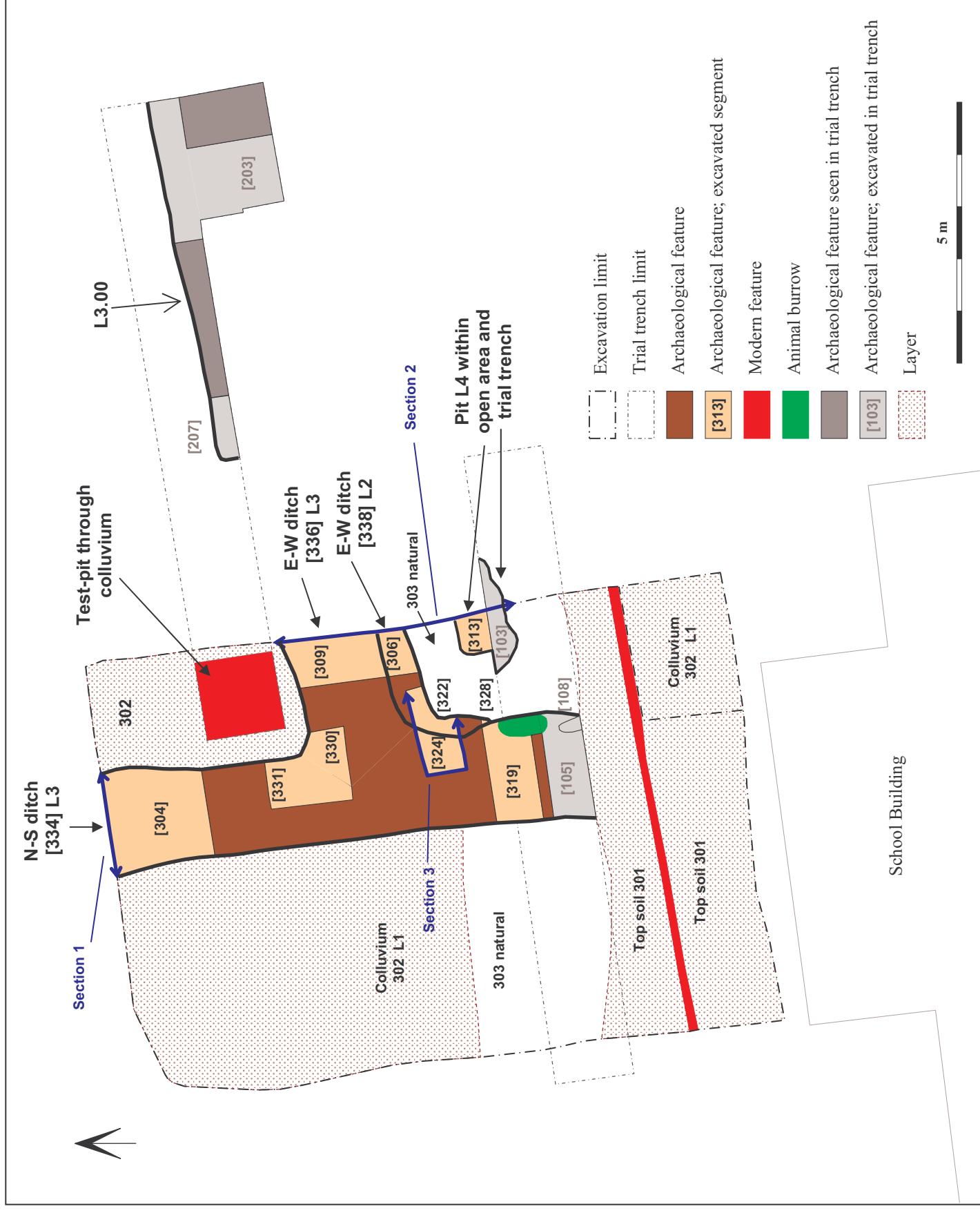


Figure 2: All features plan and sections



Pre-excavation, looking south-east.
Scale 1m



Ditch segments [309] and [306], looking east.
Scale 1m



Post-excavation, looking south-east



Ditch segments [324], [322], and [319], looking south
Scale 1m

Figure 3: Selected photographs