

**LAND AT 29–31 ST JOHN’S STREET  
BEDFORD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

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3-Sixty Construction

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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.*

*This report has been prepared by David Ingham (Project Officer), with contributions from James Newbould (Archaeological Supervisor), Joan Lighting (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). It incorporates the results of an earlier evaluation of the site (Albion Archaeology 2005b) by Ben Barker (Project Officer) and Lennard Anderson (Archaeological Supervisor). The report was edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). Fieldwork for this second evaluation was undertaken by David Ingham, James Newbould and Liz Davis (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor); the earlier evaluation was undertaken by Lennard Anderson with assistance from Ewen Rutter and Zoë Clarke (Archaeological Technicians). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

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## Structure of the Report

Section 1 comprises an introduction to the project. Section 2 details the methodology used for the fieldwork, the results of which are given in Section 3. Section 4 summarises the results and discusses their significance. Section 5 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded on the site, while Appendix 2 contains a summary of the artefacts and ecofacts that were recovered.

## Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>BCC</i>	Bedfordshire County Council
<i>CAO</i>	Bedfordshire County Council's, County Archaeological Officer
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual, Volume 1: Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edn, 2001. Albion Archaeology
<i>SARM</i>	<i>Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management</i>





## **Non-Technical Summary**

*An application for the redevelopment of a former commercial site on St John's Street, Bedford led to the undertaking of a trial trench evaluation in 2005 (Albion Archaeology 2005b). A subsequent planning condition requiring the implementation of a Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management (SARM) led to additional trial trenching in 2008, which Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake by 3-Sixty Construction. The combined results of the two evaluations are presented in this report.*

*The development area, c. 0.72ha in extent, lies on the southern edge of Bedford town centre. It occupies an area of level ground, and is centred on (NGR) TL 0509 4925 (Fig. 1). At the time of fieldwork, the land contained two tower blocks and an area of car-parking. The underlying geology comprises river terrace gravel deposits.*

*The development area lies within the bounds of the southern burh of Bedford, first described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry for AD 915. However, excavations on the eastern side of St John's Street (Baker et al. 1979) suggest that this part of the town may have been occupied from at least the middle Saxon period (6th–8th century AD).*

*Cartographic evidence shows that the western part of the development area has remained as open space since at least the early 1600s. In contrast, the St John's Street frontage has been repeatedly redeveloped. A watching brief in 1985 in the south-eastern corner of the site revealed boundary ditches, walls, postholes and a well, in association with medieval and post-medieval pottery.*

*The evaluation revealed Saxo-Norman rubbish pits and an early medieval posthole and buried topsoil near the St John's Street frontage, with evidence of domestic and industrial activity. Evidence of similar activity was also found for the post-medieval period in the eastern and central parts of the site; a large assemblage of horn cores in pit [232] is evidence of specialist post-medieval industrial activity within the development area. Two 19th-century wells were also revealed near St John's Street, while the remains of modern gardens were found in the centre of the site.*

*The western side of the development area produced no remains conclusively earlier than the 19th century. This area appears to have been subject to intensive modern quarrying, which is likely to have destroyed the majority of any earlier archaeological remains that may have existed there.*

*The evaluation revealed the presence of regionally significant archaeological remains within the eastern and central parts of the site. These remains have the potential to add to our knowledge of the Saxo-Norman to post-medieval development of the southern burh of Bedford, helping to address the identified research aim concerning the development and nature of Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval urban centres (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). The remains identified on the western side of the development area have little intrinsic archaeological value, although it is possible that currently unidentified earlier remains may survive in isolated pockets amidst the quarrying.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Project Background

In 2005, the Local Planning Authority, on the advice of Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer (CAO), requested that further information be made available on the archaeological potential of a former commercial site on St John's Street, Bedford, which was being targeted for redevelopment. As a result, Albion Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of the site (Albion Archaeology 2005b).

A condition attached to planning permission for the redevelopment requires the implementation of a Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management (SARM), for which the CAO issued a brief (BCC 2007). This recommended that, due to the limited scope of the 2005 evaluation, further trial trenching should be carried out in the car parking area and at the southern end of Block B (Fig. 1).

3-Sixty Construction commissioned Albion Archaeology to prepare a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2007) for the additional trial trenching, and to undertake the required work. The combined results of both phases of the evaluation are presented in this report.

### 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The development area, *c.* 0.72ha in extent, lies on the edge of Bedford town centre, to the south of the River Great Ouse. It occupies an area of level ground at a height of *c.* 26m OD, and is centred on (NGR) TL 0509 4925 (Fig. 1). At the time of fieldwork, the land contained two tower blocks and an area of car-parking.

The underlying geology comprises river terrace gravels, over cornbrash limestone.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background of the area has been summarised in a separate report (Albion Archaeology 2005a). In summary, the development area lies within the bounds of the southern *burh* of Bedford, first described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry for AD 915. However, excavations on the eastern side of St John's Street (Baker *et al.* 1979) suggest that this part of the town may have been occupied from at least the middle Saxon period (6th–8th century AD).

Cartographic evidence shows that the western part of the development area has remained as open space since at least the early 1600s. In contrast, the St John's Street frontage has been repeatedly redeveloped. It is probable that 19th- and 20th-century redevelopment has substantially destroyed earlier building remains. However, a watching brief in 1985 during redevelopment of the office building in the south-eastern corner of the site did reveal boundary ditches, walls, postholes and a well, in association with medieval and post-medieval pottery.

### 1.4 Aims and Objectives

In line with the requirements of the CAO's brief (BCC 2005, Section 4), the general aims of the trial trenching were to gain information on the location, extent, nature, date, integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits within the development area.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

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Trial trenching initially took place between 15th and 25th August 2005, when three trenches were opened (Fig. 1). Two further trenches were excavated on 11th and 12th February 2008.

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation using tape measures. The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed either to the top of the archaeological or undisturbed geological deposits, or to a safe working depth, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

The bases and sides of all trenches were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.*

Further mechanical excavation was carried out in Trenches 3 and 5, in order to clarify the nature of the archaeological features or deposits that had been revealed. Trench 3 was initially machined to a depth of 1.2m, after which a test-pit was dug by hand; the trench was then re-machined to a depth of 1.5m, and a second test-pit excavated by machine. A test-pit was also excavated mechanically in the base of Trench 5. The resultant depth of the trenches precluded safe access, and recording was carried out from the surface.

A full methodology is provided in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2007). Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in Appendix 1.

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

- IFA *Code of Conduct Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001).
- English Heritage *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*

The trenches were inspected by the CAO prior to backfilling.



## 3. RESULTS

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### 3.1 Introduction

All the deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order. Their location and extent are shown on Figs 2–6. Detailed technical information on all archaeological features / deposits and artefacts can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

### 3.2 Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Undisturbed geological deposits of river terrace gravel were encountered in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 at a depth of *c.* 0.9m below ground level. They were not reached until 1.05m below ground level in Trench 5 and 1.45m in Trench 3. The increased recorded depths in Trenches 3 and 5 are likely to be the result of greater localized truncation by archaeological features, rather than representing the original depth at which such deposits would otherwise have been encountered.

### 3.3 Saxo-Norman / Early Medieval (10th–12th Centuries)

Trench 1 yielded the only identifiable evidence of *in situ* Saxo-Norman/early medieval remains (Fig. 3). The trench contained two relatively large pits [114] and [118], of which the former was the earlier and larger. It contained an assemblage of pottery, animal bone and ash, which is suggestive of a domestic rubbish pit; the fragment of later roof tile recovered from it is thought to be intrusive. Pit [118] also produced an assemblage which is characteristic of domestic waste, while the presence of slag might indicate iron-working in the vicinity, although it may have been intrusive from post-medieval pit [119].

A short length of V-shaped gully [132] in the northern half of the trench was cut by pit [114]. Although it contained no datable artefacts, its stratigraphic relationship with [114] establishes a *terminus ante quem*, and the absence of any pottery from the site earlier than Saxo-Norman in date suggests the two features were broadly contemporary.

Early medieval posthole [150] was identified at the western edge of the trench, and contained postpipe [148]. Although the few sherds of pottery from it came from the fill of the postpipe and may be residual, an early medieval date is thought likely.

These features were all sealed by a probable buried topsoil layer (103), which contained a significant quantity of Saxo-Norman pottery. Although there is a chance that this pottery was residual, the absence of any later material makes it likely that the layer was early medieval in date.

### 3.4 Post-medieval (16th–18th Centuries)

Trenches 1 and 2 both contained evidence of activity in the post-medieval period, in the form of pits and some possible garden features (Figs 2–4).

The two pits of greatest archaeological interest were revealed in Trench 2 (Fig. 4). The full dimensions of pit [208] are unknown, as it was only partially revealed within the trench, and could only be excavated to a depth of 0.65m due to safety concerns. The pit had vertical sides, and was filled with more than 300 cattle horn cores,



indicating the presence of industrial activity nearby. Its stratigraphic relationship with unexcavated pit [237] was undetermined, but it is likely that they were broadly contemporary.

Pit [231] was 2.75m wide and 1.7m deep, and contained twelve distinct deposits, suggesting a protracted period of use. A greenish tinge to some of these deposits suggests that the feature was a cesspit, although soil samples taken from the pit did not show any signs of mineralization (Appendix 2). The presence of pottery, animal bone, shell, vessel glass and clay tobacco pipes suggests that it was also used for disposing of domestic waste, which perhaps acted as a capping layer. It was truncated by another pit [236], which contained no datable artefacts but is thought to have been broadly contemporary.

All three pits in Trench 2 were sealed by a *c.* 0.3m thick layer of humic silt (206), which is likely to have been a garden soil. It had subsequently been disturbed by the construction and demolition of wall foundations [233] and [234], within the wider construction cut of [216], which are likely to have been associated late post-medieval/modern garden walls.

In Trench 1, pits [119] and [153] were only partially revealed (Fig. 3). The former contained post-medieval pottery, animal bone, slag and a fragment of late 16th–17th century vessel glass, and appears to have been used as a rubbish pit. Its northern end was truncated by [153], which contained animal bone and a sherd of residual Saxo-Norman pottery.

### **3.5 Modern (19th–early 20th Centuries)**

Two wells [105] and [152] were revealed in Trench 1 (Fig. 3), neither of which could be excavated to its base due to safety concerns. The former measured 1.6m in diameter and was brick-built and concrete-lined, while the latter was stone-lined. Too little of [152] was exposed within the trench to determine its diameter. Both wells had been backfilled with building rubble, and the presence in each of a fragment of the same floor tile suggests they were backfilled simultaneously.

Two rubbish pits, one [332] large and one [314] small, were revealed in Trench 3 (Fig. 5), along with an east-west aligned garden wall [309] and the cut for a service pipe trench [311]. In addition, two animal burials [325] and [328] were visible in the western section of the trench, while evidence of cobble, brick and tile surfaces (304), (305) and (306) could be seen in the eastern section. These features, with the exception of [332], all post-dated buried topsoil layer (312) that was 0.6m thick.

Two large pits [401] and [503] were revealed in Trenches 4 and 5 respectively (Fig. 6), the former pit cutting through the buried topsoil (410). Both were too large to characterize definitively within the confines of the trenches, but their homogeneous, relatively sterile infill and irregular shape and profile suggest that they were quarry pits.

A second large feature in Trench 4 [403] had been dug through the infill of quarry pit [401]. Although only part of it was revealed in the trench, and its base could not be reached due to safety concerns, what could be seen of its profile suggests it may have



been an underground structure (such as a cellar). It contained a layer of mostly early 20th-century ceramics overlying a spread of brick rubble, suggesting that it was backfilled deliberately.

### **3.6 Undated**

Three pits [317], [319] and [321] occupied most of Trench 3 (Fig. 5) and contained no artefactual dating evidence. The first two pits were large and steep-sided, and were only partially revealed within the trench; an exploratory machine-dug sondage in [317] revealed that it was *c.* 1.65m deep.

The three pits were stratigraphically earlier than 19th-century pit [332]. The large size of [317] and [319] and the sterility of their infill suggest they were quarry pits; it is therefore possible that they were of a similar date to 19th-century quarry pits [401] and [503]. Pit [321], the earliest feature stratigraphically in Trench 3, was significantly smaller, and may have been contemporary with the post-medieval pits in Trench 2. However, in the absence of any datable artefacts from the three pits, they remain undated.

No datable artefacts were recovered from probable buried topsoil layers (209) and (410) in Trenches 2 and 4 respectively, which were 0.4–0.7m thick. They were similar to modern layer (312) in Trench 3, yet also bore a resemblance to early medieval layer (103) in Trench 1. An undated buried subsoil layer (315) was also recorded beneath (312).

### **3.7 Overburden**

The modern surface comprised a mixture of tarmac and compacted gravel, overlying associated levelling or build-up layers. Their combined thickness was 0.35–0.5m.





## 4. SUMMARY

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### 4.1 Discussion

This evaluation has demonstrated the presence of Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval remains within the development area. However, it has also shown that some parts of it have been heavily truncated by modern activity.

Saxo-Norman refuse pits in Trench 1 have provided evidence of both domestic and industrial activity. Comparable 10th–12th-century pits that also contained evidence of metal working have been identified on Caudwell Street (Baker *et al.* 1979), while other local sites have revealed a mixture of industrial and domestic activity (Steadman 1999). Trench 1 also contained an early medieval posthole [150], which may provide evidence for the presence of structures along the St John's Street frontage at this time.

Although residual Saxo-Norman pottery was also recorded in Trenches 2 and 5, no features of this date were recorded except in Trench 1. However, ceramic evidence suggests that buried topsoil layer (103) in Trench 1 was early medieval in date. It is also possible that layers (209) and (410) were contemporary with (103). Although they produced no artefacts and were similar to modern layer (312), deposit (410) was truncated by a modern quarry pit thought to be contemporary with the ones sealed by (312), suggesting the layer was pre-modern in date.

Post-medieval activity was mostly confined to Trench 2. The large 17th-century refuse pit [231] is likely to have been domestic in origin, while the large number of horn cores in pit [232] is evidence of specialist industrial activity within the development area. Two smaller post-medieval pits and two wells in Trench 1 are evidence of continued domestic activity near the St John's Street frontage through the post-medieval period and into the 19th century. The area further away from St John's Street contained modern, garden-type features, while the western side of the development area was dominated by 19th-century quarrying.

### 4.2 Significance of the results

The evaluation revealed the presence of regionally significant archaeological remains within the eastern and central parts of the site. Evidence of domestic and industrial activity from the 10th–12th centuries onwards was identified in Trench 1 near the St John's Street frontage, while similar types of activity from the post-medieval period were identified further west in Trench 2. These remains have the potential to add to our knowledge of the Saxo-Norman to post-medieval development of the southern *burh* of Bedford, and would help to address the identified research aim concerning the development and nature of Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval urban centres (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

The remains along the western edge of the development area identified in Trenches 3 to 5 have little intrinsic archaeological value. They suggest that this area was quarried extensively in the 19th century, destroying any archaeological remains that may have existed there. It is possible that archaeological remains may survive in isolated pockets between the quarry pits. However, only one sherd of pre-modern pottery was recovered from the backfill of the quarries, suggesting that this part of the development area lay at a distance from any settlement activity in the Saxo-Norman to post-medieval periods.



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## 6. APPENDICES

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### 6.1 Appendix 1: Context Summary



**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1. m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0511949282**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL0511749277**

**Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of Block A**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Tarmac	Cemented Surface for carpark.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Concrete	Compact light yellow white Bedding layer for (100). Mixed with loose concrete.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Levelling layer	Cemented mid orange red Modern broken bricks. Levelling layer for (100).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Buried topsoil	Spongy dark brown grey silty loam moderate small charcoal, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
104	Natural	Loose mid red orange sandy gravel Natural river gravel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Well	Circular E-W profile: vertical dimensions: min depth 0.85m, max diameter 1.6m Cut for well (106).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Well lining	Ten courses of brick, mortared, circular, english bond, mortared, not frogged, concrete lined. A well wall.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Backfill	Loose light grey orange silty sand frequent small-large ceramic building material, frequent medium concrete Backfill of well (106).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
108	Subsoil	Friable dark red black clay silt frequent small stones Subsoil lens in base of trench.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Subsoil	Friable dark red black clay silt frequent small stones Subsoil lens in base of trench.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Subsoil	Dark red sandy clay frequent small stones Subsoil lens in base of trench.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Pit	Rectangular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.7m, min depth 0.6m, min length 2.4m Rubbish pit, smooth sides, asymmetrical.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Fill	Friable light brown silty clay frequent small stones Redeposited natural.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Fill	Friable light grey white moderate small charcoal Hearth material / fire ash. Charcoal lumps and fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
126	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
128	Fill	Friable mid grey clay silt Contains fine ash.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
129	Primary fill	Loose light grey brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Fill	Friable light grey red clay silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	Fill	Friable light brown clay silt frequent medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
138	Fill	Friable dark red grey clay silt frequent small sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
139	Fill	Friable grey silty ash	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
151	Fill	Friable dark grey clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Pit	Rectangular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.6m, min length 1.4m Rubbish pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Fill	Friable light grey black clay silt Mottled with ash, charcoal and bone.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
116	Fill	Friable light grey green clay silt Green indicates animal slurry, deposited manure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
122	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Fill	Friable light brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
124	Fill	Friable light grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
125	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty ash	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1. m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0511949282**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL0511749277**

**Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of Block A**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
127	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt Very ashy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Pit	Rectangular profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.6m, min length 2.3m Rubbish pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Natural	Friable dark grey clay silt frequent small stones Sand in fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
120	Fill	Light green clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Fill	Friable grey black clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
132	Gulley	Irregular N-S profile: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.3m, max length 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	Fill	Friable dark red clay silt frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
140	Make up layer	Friable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
141	Layer	Friable light grey black clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
142	Layer	Friable dark grey black clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
143	Layer	Friable light grey clay silt Ashy and similar to (141).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
144	Layer	Friable yellow grey clay silt Very ashy, similar to (145).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
145	Layer	Friable light grey clay silt Similar to (144).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
146	Layer	Friable light grey brown clay silt Similar to (145).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
148	Postpipe	Circular profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.26m, min depth 0.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Postpipe	Loose dark grey black clay silt frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
150	Posthole	Circular profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, min depth 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
149	Backfill	Friable dark black clay silt frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
152	Well	Sub-circular profile: vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.9m, min length 1.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
133	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
134	Well lining	White and blue limestone, rough stones, some finishing, four courses or more as excavated 150mm in depth, no mortar.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
135	Fill	Friable mid orange brown frequent small-medium ceramic building material Contains building material, plaster, mortar, brick, crushed brick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
153	Pit	Curving linear dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min length 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
136	Fill	Friable dark grey black clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.2 m. Max: 1.2 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0509849284**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL0509549279**

**Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the LEAP area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Tarmac	Cemented frequent small stones Car park surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Layer	Loose dark black tarmac Soft black tarmac dust.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Layer	Friable dark orange white sandy chalk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Layer	Friable light pinkish red hardcore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Tarmac	Black frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	lens	Friable mid orange hardcore Small dump of brick. Part of (206).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Layer	Dark brown grey silt frequent small ceramic building material, frequent small chalk Contaminated with clay, chalk and brick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Pit	Circular profile: vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.85m, min depth 0.65m, min length 1.56m Partially under east baulk.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt Tile fragments, mortar lumps.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
209	Buried topsoil	Light grey brown silt moderate small stones Humic, garden soil.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Natural	Dark orange sandy gravel Natural gravel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Foundation trench	N-S profile: vertical dimensions: min depth 0.62m Foundation trench for wall.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Fill	Brown grey silt frequent small ceramic building material, frequent medium concrete Rubble infill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Fill	Light grey orange silty sand moderate small stones Striated, infill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Fill	Mid yellow orange sandy gravel frequent small stones Infill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
231	Pit	Circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.75m, min depth 1.7m, min length 0.8m Pit of dumped material and animal slurry.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
219	Fill	Light brown grey sandy silt moderate small stones Contained cess lenses and bone fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
220	Fill	Dark grey black silt frequent flecks charcoal Charcoal rich fill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
221	Fill	Light grey brown silt occasional small stones Humic, hint of green.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
222	Fill	Mid grey brown silt occasional small stones Green and humic in patches.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
223	Fill	Light green brown silt Similar to (221).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
224	Fill	Dark grey black silt frequent flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
225	Fill	Loose light grey yellow sandy gravel Thin layer.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
226	Fill	Mid grey black silt frequent flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
227	Fill	Loose light orange grey sandy gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
228	Fill	Loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel Very similar to (225).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
229	Fill	Light grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
230	Fill	Loose dark orange sandy gravel Very crumbly.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
232	Natural	Loose light yellow sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
233	Foundation trench	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.75m, min depth 0.4m Cut for wall foundation material.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
218	Fill	Compact dark yellow orange sandy gravel Wall foundation. Equal to (235).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.2 m. Max: 1.2 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0509849284**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL0509549279**

**Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the LEAP area**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
234	Foundation trench	Rectangular E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.56m, min depth 0.58m, min length 0.6m Cut for wall foundation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
235	Fill	Hard mid yellow orange gravel frequent small stones Equal to (218).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
236	Pit	N-S profile: concave dimensions: min depth 240.m, min length 350.m Base not defined, no shape in plan. May equal [216].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Fill	Dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	Fill	Mid brown orange sandy gravel Gravel fill.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
237	Pit	Circular dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min length 1.03m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
238	Pit	Firm mid grey black silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.3 m. Max: 1.3 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL0506649288

OS Grid Ref.: TL0506449283

**Reason:** To evaluate the archaeological potential of Block B

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Surface	Friable light orange gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Layer	Brown grey clay silt frequent medium ceramic building material Hardcore and brick fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Layer	Friable light orange gravel Earlier car park surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Layer	Mid grey clay silt Brick fragments with clay lenses.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Layer	Compact brown clay silt moderate medium ceramic building material Slate and mortar inclusions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Surface	Heavy quarry tile surface / path on mortar bed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Surface	Grey brown clay silt moderate medium stones Large water-rolled flint cobbles.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Foundation trench	Linear E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.51m, max depth 0.3m, min length 0.4m Foundation cut for wall (307).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Wall	Mortar-bonded brick wall, three courses high. East-west boundary wall.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Fill	Mixed rubble, tile and mortar.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
311	Service Trench	Linear E-W dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.26m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	Fill	Mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	Buried topsoil	Mid grey sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones Garden soil.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
314	Pit	Sub-rectangular NW-SE profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.38m, max depth 0.3m, max length 0.56m Victorian pit up against wall (307).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	Fill	Dark grey sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
315	Buried subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
317	Pit	profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.95m, min depth 0.9m, min length 1.15m Gravel extraction pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
316	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
333	Fill	Dark grey silty clay moderate small stones Lower pit fill, five lumps of limestone in pit, no tool marks.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
319	Pit	Sub-rectangular profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.58m, min depth 0.8m, min length 1.3m Gravel extraction pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
318	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small fired clay, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
321	Pit	Sub-circular base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.32m, min length 0.9m Shallow pit, pre-dating gravel extraction pits.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
320	Fill	Friable grey brown silty sand frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
322	Layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks chalk Brick fragments or tile fragment layer.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
325	Animal grave	dimensions: max depth 0.4m, min length 0.6m Dog grave, rooting obliterated dimensions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
323	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
324	Animal skeleton	Partially truncated animal skeleton, upper of two burials against wall (307).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
328	Animal grave	Dimensions obliterated due to rooting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.3 m. Max: 1.3 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0506649288**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL0506449283**

**Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of Block B**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
326	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
327	Animal skeleton	Animal burial.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>329</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>Orange sandy gravel River gravel.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>330</b>	<b>Layer</b>	<b>Compact orange sand Colluvium.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
332	Pit	dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
331	Pit	Dark grey brown clay sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 4**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m. Max: 1. m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0506949265**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL0507349266**

**Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of Block B**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
400	Natural	Loose dark brown orange sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Quarry	profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min length 4.m, min breadth 4.m, min depth 0.94m Total extent unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Backfill	Firm dark grey clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
409	Backfill	Firm dark yellow brown silty clay moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Foundation trench	profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min length 2.2m, min breadth 1.7m, max depth 0.95m Total extent unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Brick rubble	Rubble frequent small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small concrete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
405	Backfill	Friable mid brown grey sandy clay moderate small ceramic building material, frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Backfill	Friable mid brown sand moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
407	Levelling layer	Friable dark yellow sandy gravel occasional small-medium ceramic building material 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
408	Surface	Friable dark yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium ceramic building material 0.32m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
410	Buried topsoil	Firm dark brown grey clay silt moderate small stones 0.43m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
411	Levelling layer	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones 0.24m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





**Trench: 5**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 4.00 m. Width: 4.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.59 m. Max: 0.81 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0506349239**

**OS Grid Ref.: TL0506749239**

**Reason: To evaluate the archaeological potential of the car park**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
500	Surface	Hardcore moderate small-medium ceramic building material 0.45m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Layer	Firm dark brown grey silty clay moderate small ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small stones 0.42m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Layer	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones 0.21m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Quarry	profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min length 4.m, min breadth 4.m, max depth 1.06m Total extent unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
504	Fill	Firm dark grey clay loam occasional small ceramic building material, moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
505	Natural	Loose dark brown orange sandy gravel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## 6.2 Appendix 2: Artefact and Ecofact Summary

### 6.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipe, vessel glass, metalworking residues, animal bone and oyster shell, the majority associated with features in Trench 1 (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Context Date	Pottery	CBM	Other finds
1	103	Buried topsoil	103	Saxo-Norman	41:207		Animal bone (539g); charcoal (1g); shell (2g); slag (264g)
	105	Well	107	Post-medieval / modern		2:996	
	114	Pit	113	Saxo-Norman	5:42	5:422	Animal bone (380g)
	118	Pit	115	Saxo-Norman	11:167		Slag (2g); animal bone (136g)
	118	Pit	116	Saxo-Norman	6:79		Animal bone (7g)
	118	Pit	124	Saxo-Norman	2:37		Animal bone (7g)
	119	Pit	117	Post-medieval	22:190	5:211	Vessel glass (3g); slag (152g); animal bone (263g)
	119	Pit	121	Post-medieval	1:18		Shell (11g); slag (37g); animal bone (33g)
	148	Postpipe	110	Early medieval	4:15		
	152	Well	135	Modern	1:29	1:75	Slate (44g); Cu alloy coat hook
	153	Pit	136	Post-medieval	1:4		Animal bone (20g)
	2	208	Rubbish pit	207	Post-medieval	8:215	7:1,132
231		Pit	219	Post-medieval	19:452	33:2,678	
231		Pit	220	Post-medieval	1:49	2:93	Vessel glass (8g); shell (72g); clay pipe (28g); animal bone (662g)
231		Pit	222	Post-medieval	5:68	7:401	Vessel glass (159g) Cu alloy binding; shell (15g); clay pipe 15g; animal bone (479g)
3	312	Buried topsoil	312	Modern	8:100		Clay pipe (2g); animal bone (19g)
	314	Pit	313	Modern	1:2		
	325	Animal grave	324	Modern			Animal bone (16g)
	328	Animal grave	327	Modern	1:51		Animal bone (149g)
4	401	Quarry pit	402	Modern	1:9	2:43	Animal bone (17g)
	403	Rubbish pit	404	Modern	48:3,255		Clay pipe (2g); vessel glass (29g)
5	503	Quarry pit	504	Modern	2:25		Animal bone (14g); slag (3g)
<b>Total</b>					188:5,014	64:6,051	

CBM: ceramic building material  
sherd / fragment count : weight in grammes

**Table 1:** Artefact summary by trench and context

### 6.2.2 Pottery

A total of 188 pottery sherds weighing 5.0kg was recovered, ranging in date from the Saxo-Norman period to the present day. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Most of the sherds are fairly small and exhibit variable degrees of abrasion; the high average weight of 27g is skewed by a few large sherds from modern pit [403]. Few vessels are represented by more than single sherds. Twenty-seven fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

#### *Saxo-Norman*

Saxo-Norman pottery constitutes 45% of the assemblage and comprises 85 wheel-thrown shell-tempered sherds (787g) in the St Neots-type tradition, datable to the



10th–12th centuries. Forms include everted rim jars, and bowls with hammerhead and inturned rims. The exterior surfaces of several sherds are sooted, indicating their use as cooking pots. The majority of the pottery was recovered from the deposits within pit [118], Trench 1, with smaller amounts deriving from pit [314], Trench 3 and buried topsoil layer (103), Trench 1. Several residual sherds occurred in post-medieval pits [119] and [231], and a single sherd in modern quarry pit [503].

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Saxo-Norman</i>			
Type B01	St Neots-type ware	14	(103):4, (113):1, (117):5, (219):2, (313):1, (504):1
Type B01A	St Neots-type (orange)	56	(103):26, (110):1, (113):4, (115):11, (116):6, (117):3, (121):1, (136):1, (219):2, (220):1
Type B01B	St Neots-type (fine)	15	(103):11, (117):1, (124):2, (219):1
<i>Medieval</i>			
Type B07	Shell	2	(219):1, (504):1
Type C01	Sand	4	(110):3, (117):1
Type C03	Fine sand	1	(117):1
Type C05	Sand (red margins)	3	(117):2, (219):1
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall type (fine)	2	(117):1, (207):1
Type C60	Hertfordshire-type greyware	1	(219):1
Type C	Non-specific medieval	2	(117):1, (312):1
<i>Late medieval</i>			
Type E01	Reduced sand	9	(117):4, (207):1, (312):4
Type E02	Oxidised sand	7	(207):4, (219):3
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	1	(404):1
Type P14	Blackware	4	(207):1, (219):3
Type P28C	Midland Purple	1	(219)
Type P36A	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	3	(404):3
Type P52	Late Brill	6	(117):3, (219):3
Type P54	Mottled glazed	4	(222):4
Type P	Non-specific post-medieval	3	(207):1, (219):1, (327):1
<i>Modern</i>			
Type P19	Mottled/speckled glazed	1	(404):1
Type P37	White salt-glazed stoneware	6	(404):6
Type P39	Mocha ware	9	(404):9
Type P43	Pearlware	8	(312):1, (404):7
Type P45	Transfer-printed ware	15	(312):2, (404):13
Type P48	English stoneware	2	(135):1, (222):1
Type P55	White earthenware	3	(402):1, (404):2
MOD	Misc mass-produced wares	6	(404):6

**Table 2:** Pottery type series

### *Medieval*

Sixteen percent of the pottery assemblage is datable to the medieval period and comprises thirty-one sherds, weighing 423g. The material comprises predominantly hand-made, sand-tempered sherds of probable local manufacture, datable to the 12th–13th centuries. A single shell-tempered sherd of similar date was also recorded. Pottery of 13th–15th century date is represented by two wheel-thrown sherds of glazed Brill-Boarstall ware, a regional import from Buckinghamshire. The late medieval period is represented by sixteen wheel-thrown oxidised and reduced sand-tempered sherds of 14th–15th century date. Diagnostic forms are rare and comprise an everted rim jar and a plain strap handle from a jug. Three early medieval sherds (10g) were recovered from postpipe [148], Trench 1. However, most medieval sherds are residual within post-medieval pits: [119], Trench 1; [208] and [231], Trench 2; and modern quarry pit



[503], Trench 5. Some were also recovered from modern buried topsoil (312), Trench 3.

#### *Post-medieval and modern*

Post-medieval pottery constitutes 12% of the assemblage and comprises twenty-two sherds (426g), the majority deriving from the infill of pit [231]. They include four sherds of 16th–17th century blackware, fifteen sherds of late Brill, mottled glazed ware, brown salt-glazed stoneware and glazed red earthenware, all of 17th–18th century date, and single sherds of Midland Purple and miscellaneous slipware, the latter of probable 18th-century origin. Three sherds of 19th-century pearlware and transfer-printed ware were recovered from garden soil layer (312) and single sherds of 18th–19th century English stoneware from well [152] and pit [132]. Modern rubbish pit [403] yielded forty-eight sherds (3.2kg) including stonewares, transfer-printed wares, pearlware, mocha ware, and miscellaneous mass-produced wares dating predominantly from the 19th–20th centuries. Forms comprise a range of plain and decorated saucers, cups, plates *etc.* and part of a teapot.

### **6.2.3 Ceramic building material**

Ceramic building material comprises sixty sand-tempered pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (4.6kg) and two brick fragments (689g), deriving mainly from pits [208] and [231], Trench 2. No building material was recovered from Trenches 3 or 5. Roof tiles range in thickness between 12–15mm, and types with round peg holes and square nail holes occur. A large piece of pantile and a modern floor tile fragment stamped 'EXCELSIOR' were recovered respectively from well [105] and [152].

### **6.2.4 Clay pipe**

Seven clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered from pit [231] and single pieces from buried topsoil (312) and modern rubbish pit [403]. Stem bore diameters range between 2.4–3mm, suggesting a late 17th century date for the fragments.

### **6.2.5 Non-ceramic finds**

#### *Metal objects*

Metal artefacts comprise a copper alloy binding strip fragment, recovered from post-medieval pit [231], and a possible modern coat hook recovered from well [152].

#### *Metalworking residues*

Ferrous slag indicative of small-scale smelting processes (mainly tap slag), weighing 491g, was recovered from pits [118], [119], [208], and buried topsoil (103). The latter also contained a small quantity of smithing slag, traces of limestone flux, vitrified clay, and fuel ash slag. A fragment of cinder/fuel ash slag (3g) was recovered from modern quarry pit [503]. All fragments are redeposited.

#### *Vessel glass*

Pit [119] contained two fragments of beaker rim decorated with honeycomb moulding, datable to the late 16th–17th century. A kick base and angular shoulder



fragment from a late 17th-century wine bottle were recovered from pit [231]. Modern rubbish pit [403] yielded a fragment from a modern moulded octagonal bottle.

### 6.2.6 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 571 fragments weighing 23.1kg, and occurs in features of Saxo-Norman, post-medieval and modern date. Of particular interest is a collection of 319 cattle horn cores and skull fragments (19.8kg) recovered from post-medieval rubbish pit (208), Trench 2. The assemblage is similar to a post-medieval horn-working deposit, thought to derive from improved short horn cattle, which was recovered during excavations to the rear of 29–41 High Street, Bedford (Steadman 1999).

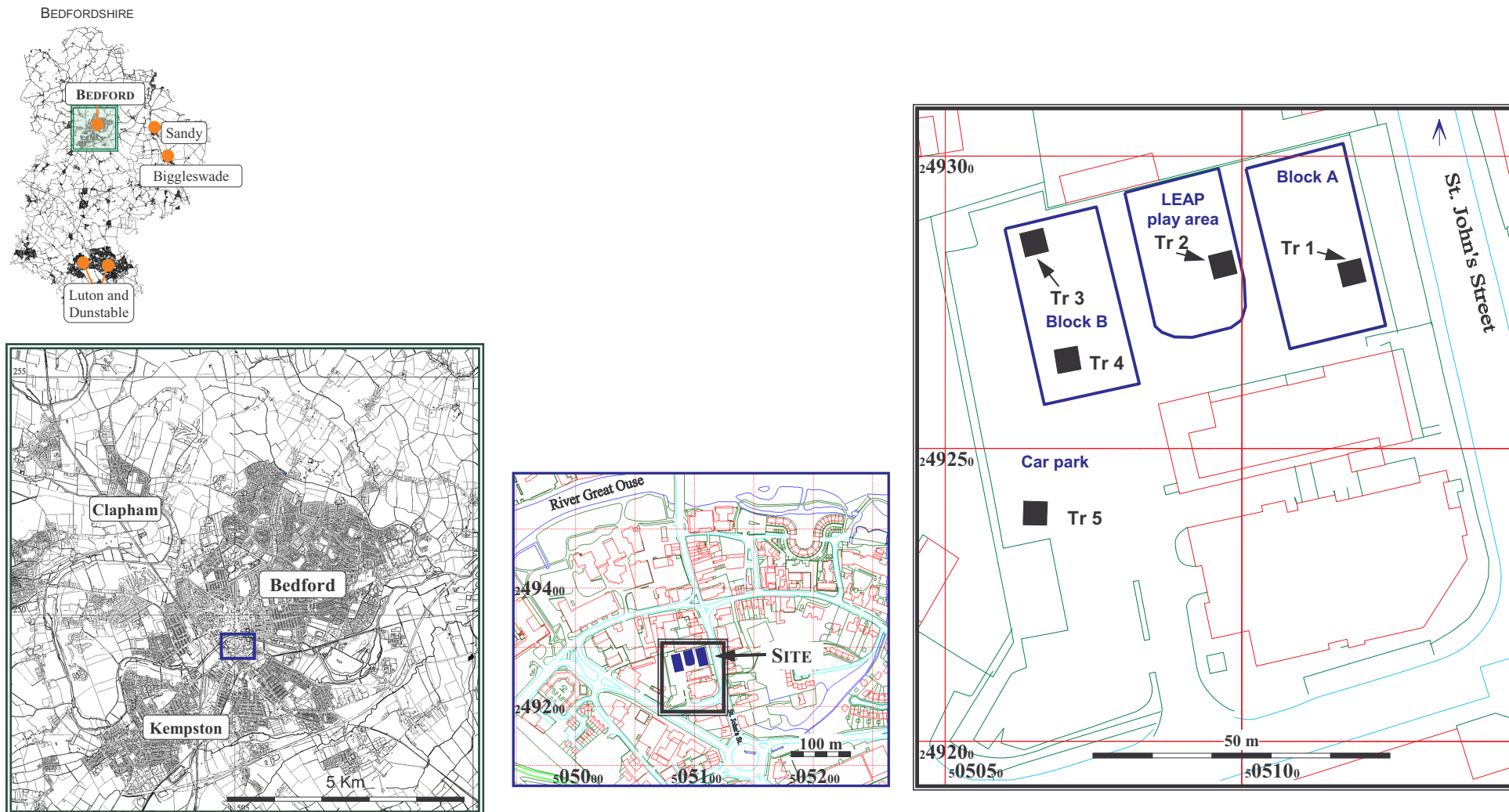
Bone preservation is variable, with some fragments displaying greater surface erosion than others, although the material generally survives in good condition. Apart from horn cores, other diagnostic elements are long bones, scapulae, ribs and vertebrae, many of which have been deliberately chopped. Twenty-six pieces of a dog skull were recovered from buried topsoil (103), and the partial skeleton of a post-medieval juvenile sheep or goat from burial [328]. A piece of cut antler derived from pit [231].

### 6.2.7 Environmental samples

Two thirty litre samples were taken from post-medieval pit [231], one for the extraction of charred plant remains and the second as a control. They were processed by bulk flotation in a peroxide solution. Flots were taken from both samples on a 300 micron meshed sieve. The residues were passed through a 5.6mm, 2.0mm and 1.0mm sieve stack. The 5.6mm residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts, while the 2.0mm and 1.0mm residues were retained unsorted.

*Sample 1 (219)*: sterile apart from a small quantity of charcoal observed in the flot and residues.

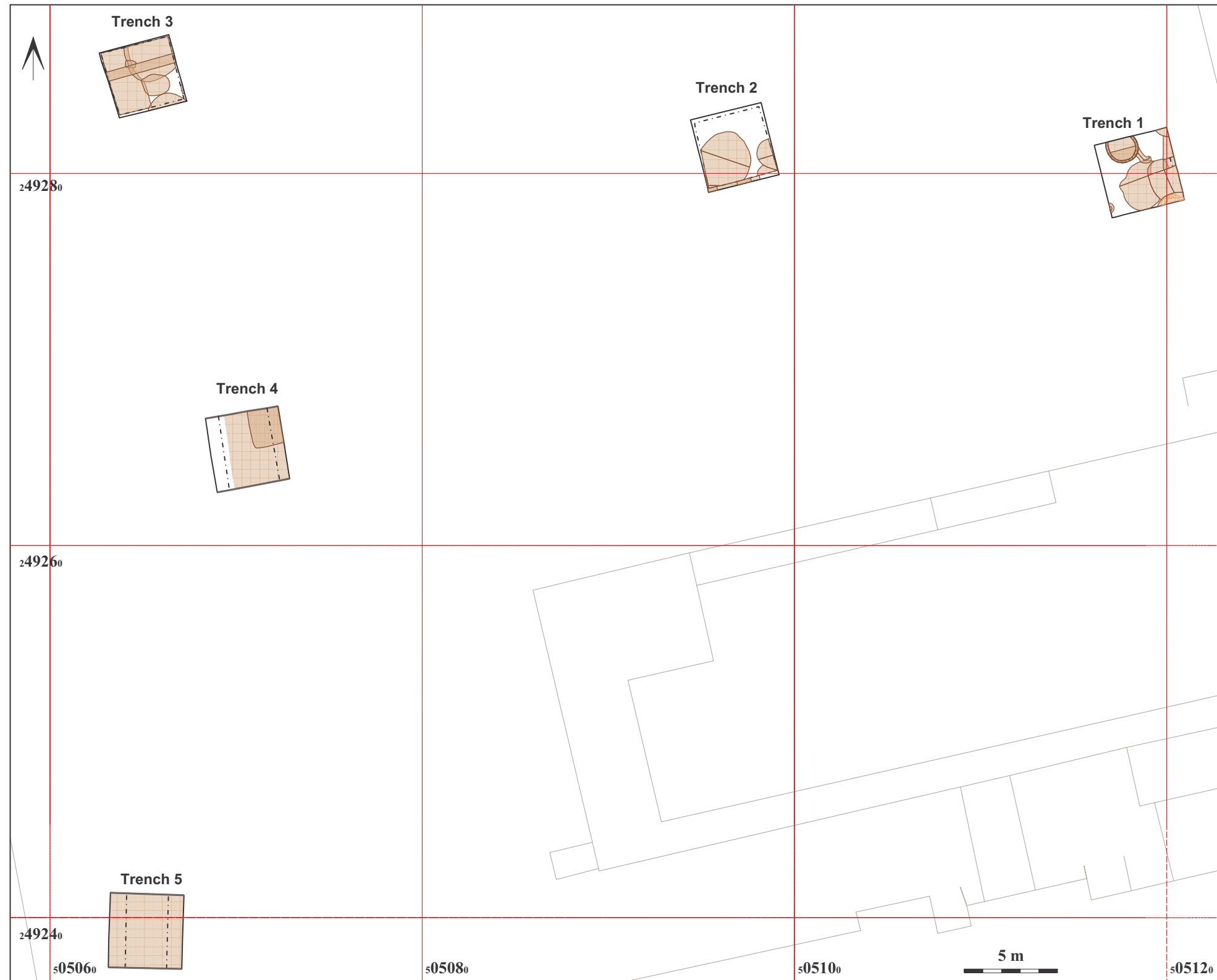
*Sample 2 (220)*: a small quantity of charcoal was observed in the residues. The flot contained abundant fine ash and modern root material.



**Figure 1:** Site location plan.

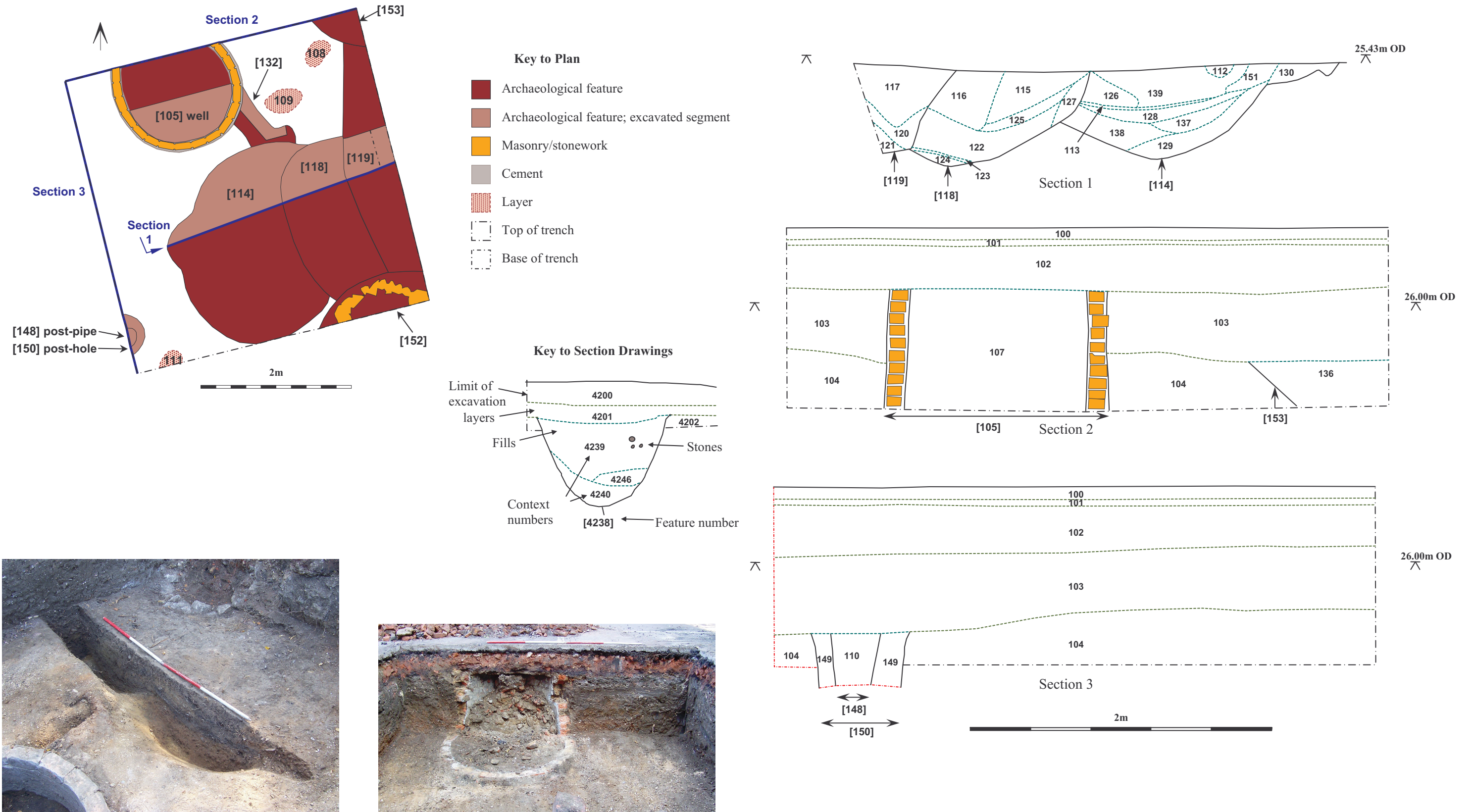
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**Figure 2: All features**

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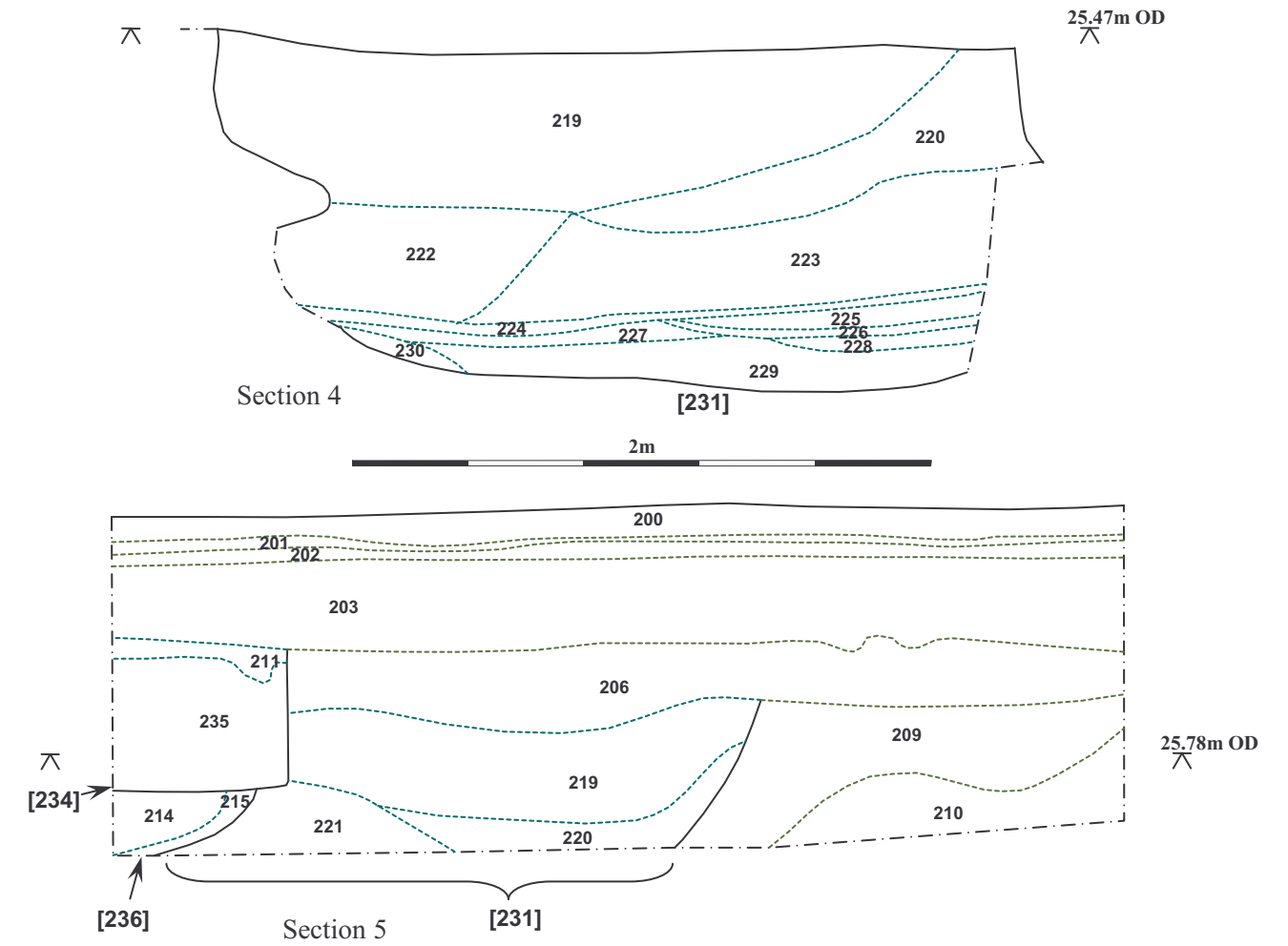
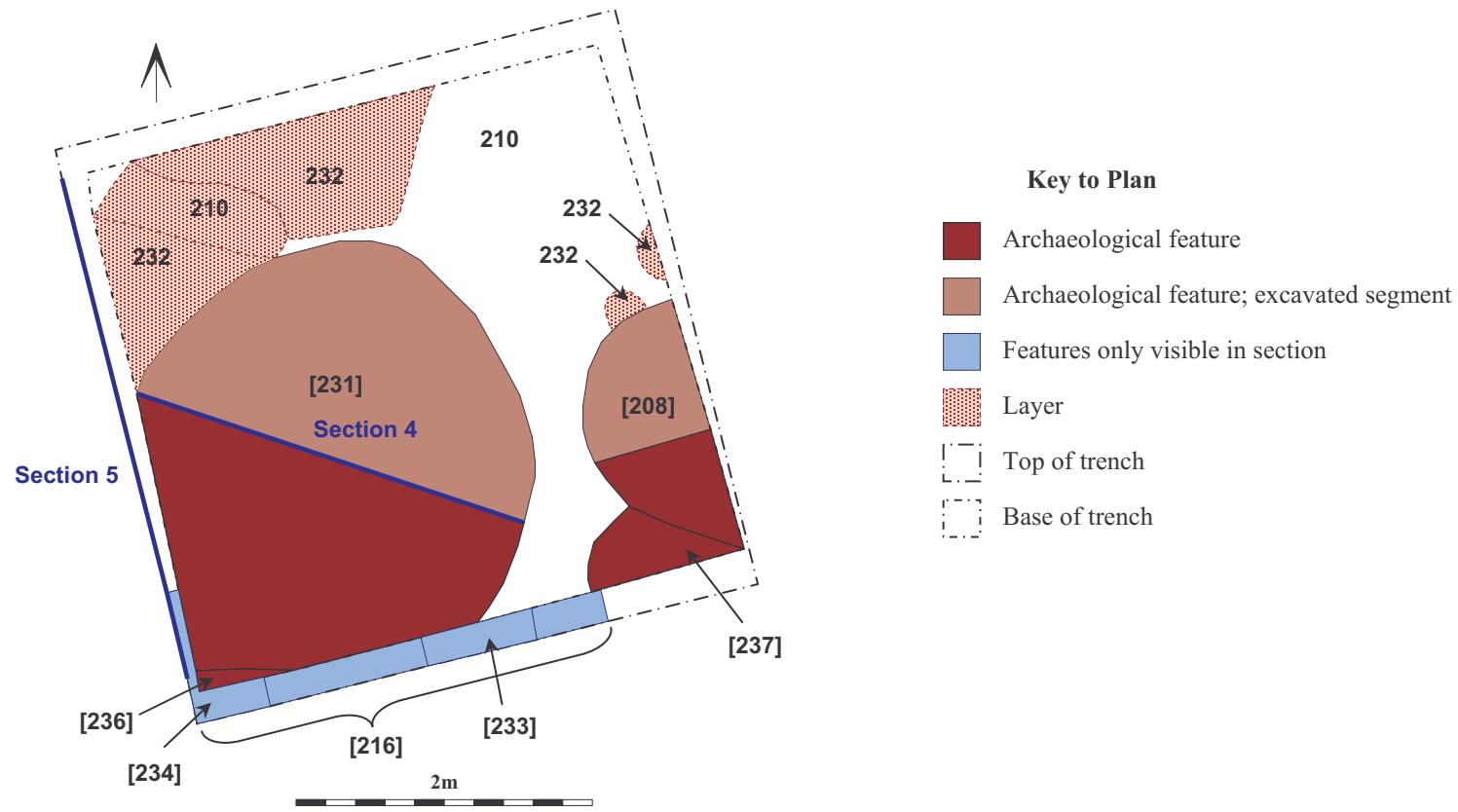


Photograph showing pits [114], [118], [119] and [152].  
Scale 2m

Photograph showing well [105].  
Scale 2m

**Figure 3:** Trench 1; all-features plan with selected sections and photographs

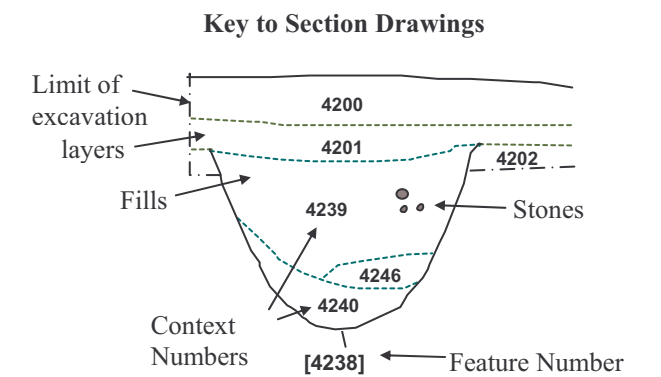




Photograph showing pit [231].  
Scale 2m

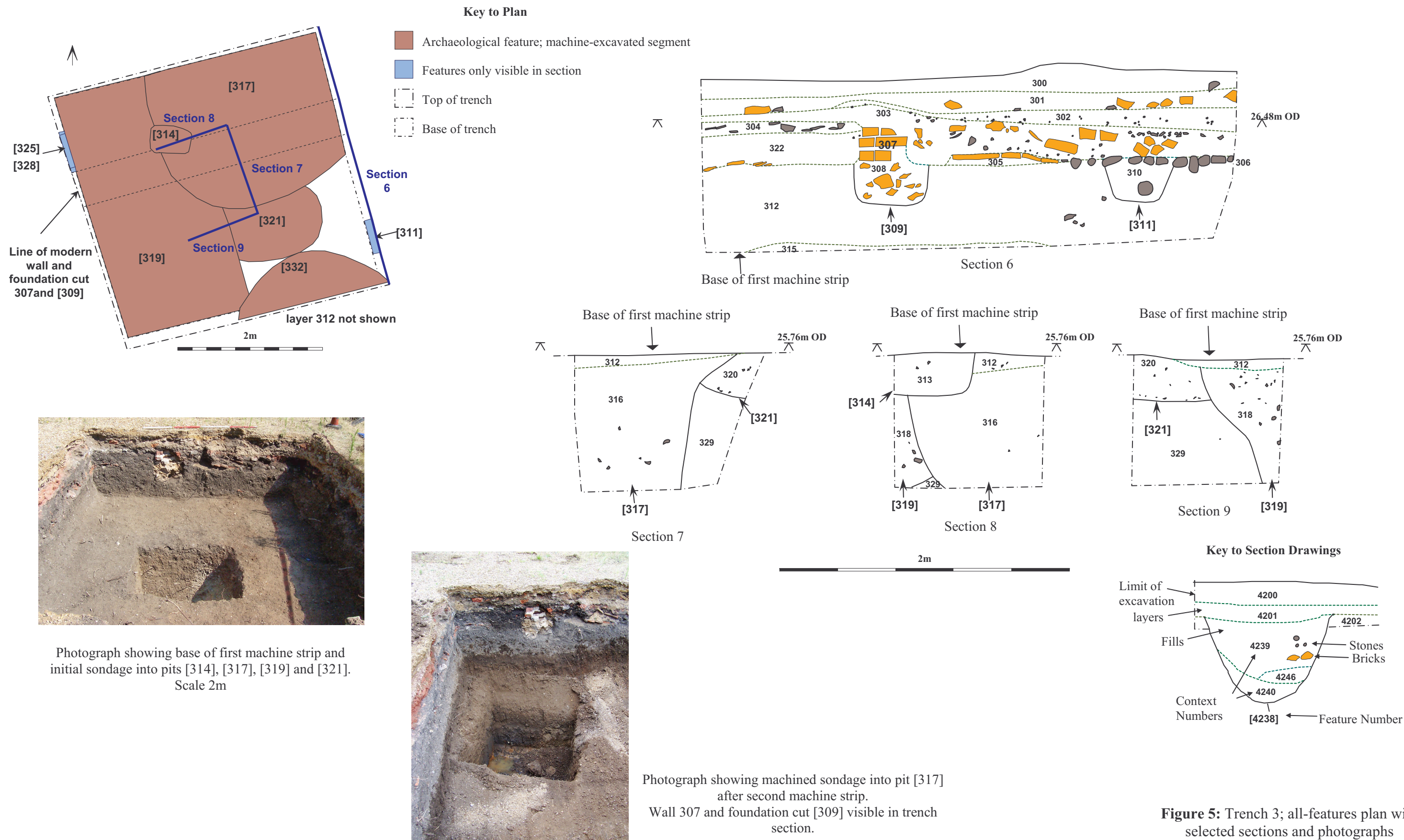


Photographs showing horn pit [208].  
Scale 1m



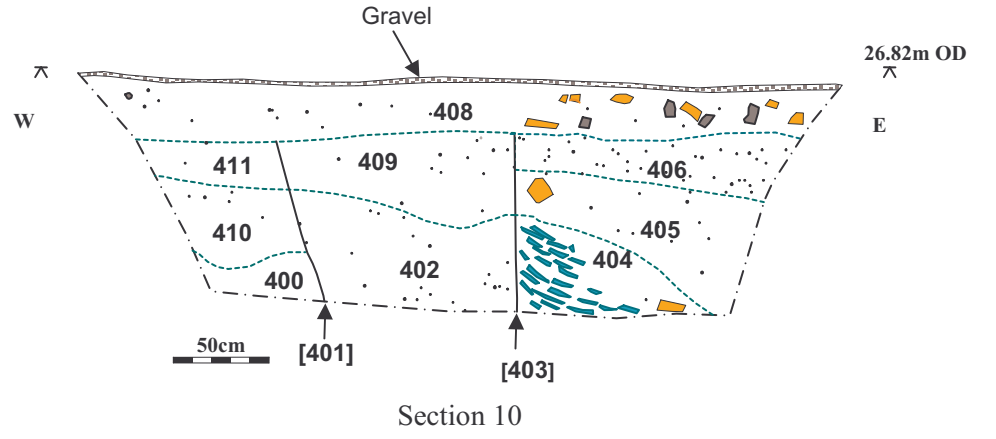
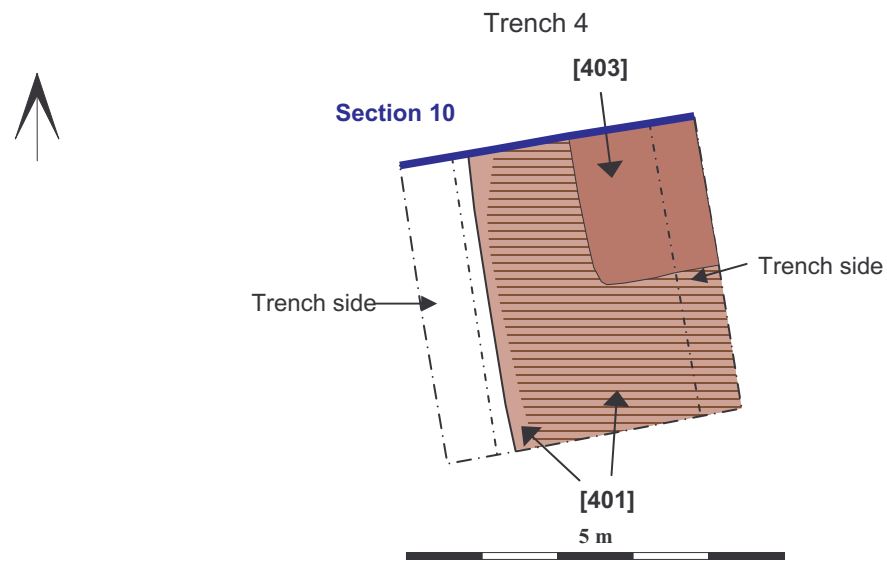
**Figure 4:** Trench 2; all-features plan with selected sections and photographs





**Figure 5:** Trench 3; all-features plan with selected sections and photographs



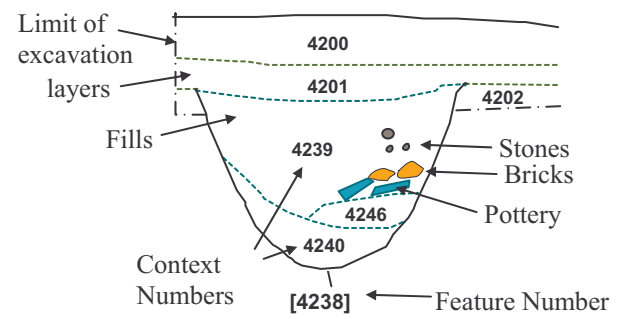


Trench 4; South-facing section. Scale 1m

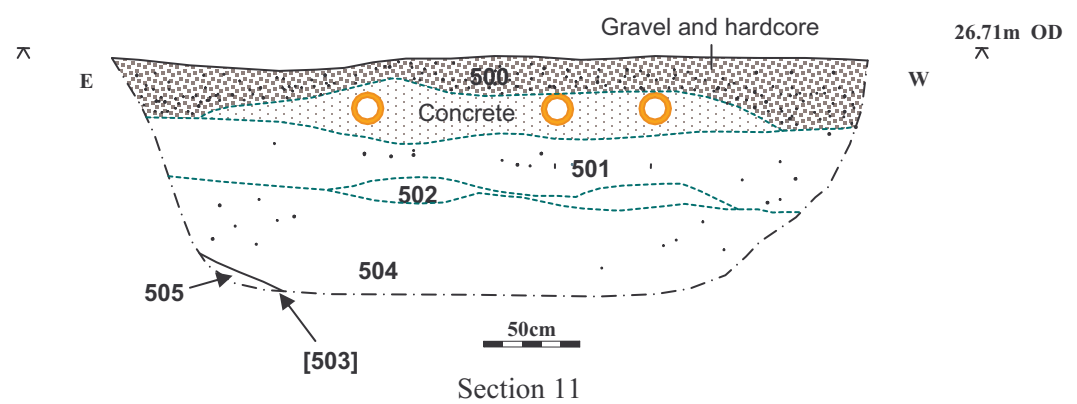
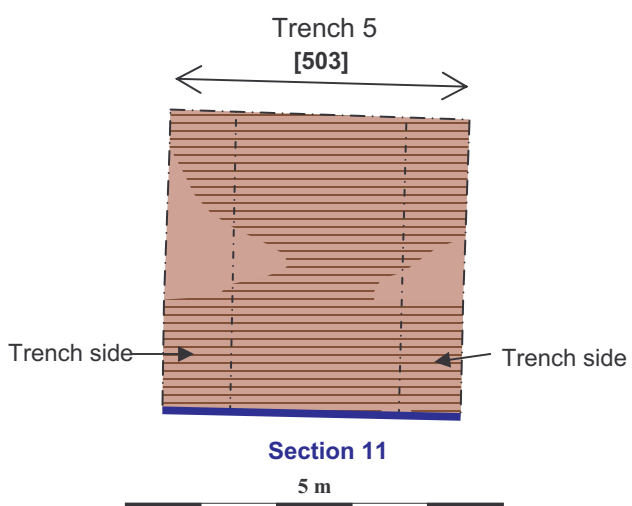
**Key to Plans**

- Archaeological feature; machine excavated portion
- Archaeological feature; unexcavated portion
- Later archaeological feature
- Top of trench
- Base of trench

**Key to Section Drawings**



Trench 5; looking south-west. Scale 1m



**Figure 6:** Trenches 4 and 5; all-features plans with selected sections and photographs