

72–74 HIGH STREET, BEDFORD

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

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All figures are bound at the back of the report



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 Ian Beswick (Archaeological Supervisor) and Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer). The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Beswick. Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager) produced the figures. Artefacts were identified and reported on by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The project was managed by Christiane Meckseper, as delegated by Jeremy Oetgen. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology is grateful to Simic Associates for commissioning the work on behalf of Indigo Properties Ltd and to Steve Bennett, building contractor, for facilitating access to the site during their groundworks. Thanks are also due to Lesley-Ann Mather (Archaeological Officer, Bedfordshire County Council) for approving the investigation strategy on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

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Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, there is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 2, followed by a brief Synthesis of the results (Section 3). Section 4 is a bibliography. The appendices in Section 5 contain summary descriptions of all archaeological contexts and a detailed report on the finds that were recovered.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BCC	Bedfordshire County Council
bfl	below floor level
CAO	County Archaeological Officer
Client	Indigo Properties Limited
HER	Historic Environment Record
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	Albion Archaeology, 2001. <i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2 nd ed.



Non-Technical Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Albion Archaeology at 72–74 High Street, Bedford.

The observations were made during the excavation of six trenches, which were dug by building contractors in order to consolidate the foundations and underpin the existing walls prior to redevelopment. The site is in an archaeologically sensitive location, falling within the limits of the original Saxon burh.

In summary, the observations of archaeological significance were:

- *An area of pitting (probable refuse pits) that contained animal bone, tile, and pottery dating from the Saxo-Norman period through to the post-medieval period.*
- *A buried soil horizon that contained animal bone, tile and pottery dating from the Saxo-Norman and High Medieval periods.*
- *Post-medieval and modern levelling, make-up layers and wall foundations.*

These observations demonstrate the potential for the presence of Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval remains in this part of the burh. Although most of the artefacts were residual in later features, their presence demonstrates a continuity of settlement in the vicinity. It also suggests that features from these periods are likely to survive in this part of Bedford between areas of post-medieval and modern disturbance.

The project archive will ultimately be deposited with Bedford Museum under Accession Number 2008.06.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Bedford Borough Council has granted planning permission (04/736) for a first-floor rear extension to form two flats and a ground floor rear extension to the existing buildings at 72–74 High Street, Bedford.

As the area being affected by the development is archaeologically sensitive, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation as a consequence of the development. A brief (BCC 2008) was issued by the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) outlining the required archaeological works.

A Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological investigation during groundworks was prepared by Albion Archaeology (Albion Archaeology 2008) and approved by the CAO.

Albion Archaeology was then commissioned by Simic Associates, Chartered Building Consultancy, on behalf of Indigo Properties Limited to undertake the necessary monitoring works.

This document has been prepared by Albion Archaeology and presents the results of the programme of archaeological investigation.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The site is located on the western side of the High Street, to the north of Silver Street and to the south of Lime Street (Figure 1). The street frontage of the High Street in this part of the town consists of a row of densely built 19th-century houses with converted and modernised shop fronts. Many of the buildings have been converted and extended to the rear during the course of the last century, and 20th-century extensions have been observed at the rear of 72–74 High Street.

The buildings are centred on grid reference TL 0501 4992.

1.3 *Historical and Archaeological Background*

The archaeological and historical background has been reviewed most recently in the Extensive Urban Survey for Bedford (Edgeworth 2005). The most significant observations are summarised below.

Bedford was probably established as a settlement in the second half of the 8th century as one of the fortified *burhs* (boroughs) created by King Offa along the frontier of his Mercian kingdom. Remains of a ditch were found running along Silver Street to the south of the development. However, it is unclear if this ditch represents the northern boundary of an early middle Saxon *burh*, or if it functioned as an internal boundary of the *burh* in the later Saxon period.

The northern boundary of the later Saxon *burh* may have run east–west, along what is present-day Lime Street, and expanded northwards during the late Saxon and Saxo-Norman period. The *burh* was extended south of the river by order of King Edward the Elder, who visited the town in AD910.



The property at 72–74 High Street lies within the conjectured boundaries of the later Saxon *burh* and fronts onto what has always been the main north–south thoroughfare of the settlement (Figure 1).

Pottery of St Neots-type ware, which is indicative of settlement sites dating from the 10th to the 12th centuries, has been found throughout the centre of town, including at several sites along the High Street, Silver Street and St. Peter’s Street. Evidence of pits backfilled with domestic refuse dating to the Saxon and medieval periods has been recorded during investigations at 13, 23–27 and 29–41 High Street, indicating the presence of yards to the rear of properties fronting onto the main street.

A watching brief in Lime Street also uncovered rubbish pits containing pottery and animal bone dating from the 9th to 13th centuries.

The church of St Peter, at the northern end of the High Street is known to be of pre-Conquest origin and parts of a middle Saxon cemetery were excavated to the south of the development during a watching brief at 14–15a St Paul’s Square.

Bedford lay on the edge of the Danelaw and for a short period was held by the Danes. In AD1010 it was raided and pillaged by Danish invaders. The population of Bedford was most likely to have been made up of a mixture of Saxon and Danish elements during this period.

The establishment of Bedford Castle, constructed just before the end of the 11th century on the northern bank of the River Great Ouse, had a significant historical impact, but probably altered little of the structural layout of the town in the area north-west of the High Street.

During the medieval period and into the early post-medieval period, Bedford was mainly an agricultural town. Speed’s map of 1610 (BLARS X1/88) shows no buildings fronting the road in the area of 72–74 High Street. The fortunes of the town were revived after the River Great Ouse was made navigable all the way to Bedford in 1689. On Jefferys’s map of 1765 (BLARS *ibid*), the western front of the High Street in this part of town is seen as a continuous line of properties, with open space to the rear.

The town continued to expand significantly during the following centuries, with intense building and industrial activity in the Victorian period.



2. RESULTS OF OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

2.1 Introduction

The programme of archaeological observation was undertaken between 4th and 20th February 2008. During this period, all groundworks which required monitoring were completed.

The groundworks consisted of six trenches that were hand excavated in order to investigate and consolidate the foundations below the present building prior to its refurbishment.

2.2 Methodology

The removal of floor finishes, floor slabs and the excavation of the underlying make-up was carried out by the building contractor, under archaeological supervision. Excavation proceeded to 500mm below the foundations of the existing building (where possible) or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

Working conditions were extremely difficult due to lack of space, the depth of the trenches and the need to underpin the walls and shore the sides of the trenches. For reasons of health and safety, excavation was mainly carried out by the contractor under close archaeological supervision.

The location of each excavation was recorded with reference to the architect's plans of the existing building and the proposed structural modifications. In Figure 2 the trenches are illustrated in relation to the plan of building after the proposed alterations.

Artefacts were collected in order to characterise and date the deposits.

The archaeological works followed the standards and field methods set out in Section 5 of the brief (BCC 2008), specifically:

- 1 Any removal of overburden or excavation of trenches was monitored in order to identify *in situ* archaeological deposits.
- 2 All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
- 3 Excavated deposits were recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual* and the detailed requirements in Section 5 of the brief.
- 4 All archaeological observations were recorded at a suitable scale on base plans that were tied in to the OS national grid.
- 5 A photographic record was made of all significant deposits.

Throughout the project, the standards set out in IFA's *Codes of Conduct* (Revised edition 2006), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (2001), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2001), and *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2001) were adhered to.



2.3 **Extent and Nature of Groundworks**

The groundworks, as originally proposed, were to comprise nine trenches. However, Trench 1 was not excavated and Trenches 5 and 7 were incorporated into Trench 6. Trenches 2 and 3 were located adjacent to the north and west walls of the building. Trench 2 was intended to be a single trench, but the two segments dug on either side of the existing wall were never joined up. Trench 4 was located in the southwest corner and Trenches 6, 8 and 9 were adjacent to the southern wall (Figure 2).

2.4 **Archaeological Deposit Model**

2.4.1 **Modern floor surfaces and undisturbed geological deposits**

The modern floor surfaces in each trench located inside the building consisted of 100mm of concrete and 100mm of hardcore. Externally they consisted of 500mm of decayed tarmac above 100mm of compacted hardcore.

Geological strata were observed in the base of Trenches 2 and 3. This was a red-brown sandy gravel, which occurred at between 1.20m and 1.40m below existing floor level (bfl) (*c.*29.9m OD). None of the other trenches was deep enough to reach this level.

2.4.2 **A possible buried subsoil**

A layer of mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent small- to medium-sized stones (21) was observed in the interior segment of Trench 2. It was identified at a depth of 1.10m bfl (*c.* 29.7m OD) and was at least 200mm thick. It was homogenous in nature and had a clear horizontal boundary with layer (20) above. This may indicate that it is a buried subsoil. Pottery dating from both the Saxo-Norman and high medieval periods was recovered from the deposit.

2.4.3 **Pits**

Three pits were identified in Trench 3 at a depth of between 1.20m and 1.80m bfl (*c.* 29.8m and 29.1m OD). The features were considerably truncated by modern services, disused pipe trenches and 19th-century wall footings. Each pit was oval in plan, but remained only partially exposed within the confines of the trench. The pits cut into the underlying gravels.

Pit [33] was identified at the south end of Trench 3, at a depth of 1.20m bfl (*c.* 29.8m OD) within the current building. Only the north edge was visible within the confines of the trench. It had an estimated diameter of between 1.20m and 1.50m, but was probably much larger. It was infilled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (34) with frequent small-medium sized stones. No datable evidence was recovered, but it was probably contemporary with pit [35] or [37].

Pit [35] was identified at the east end of Trench 3 at a depth of 1.80m bfl (*c.* 29.2m OD) on the external side of the north wall of the current building. Only the eastern and western edges of the pit were visible within the confines of the trench (Figure 5). It had an estimated diameter of between 0.70m and 1.00m, but was probably larger. It was excavated by hand a further 0.10m until the contractor's formation level was reached. The pit was infilled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (36) with frequent small-medium sized stones. This contained a small amount of animal bone



oyster shell and three sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery.

Pit [37] was identified at the west end of Trench 3 at a depth of 1.70m bfl (*c.* 29.3m OD) on the external side of the north wall. Only the east edge was visible within the confines of the trench (Figure 4). It was between 0.70m and 1.00m in diameter. It was excavated a further 0.50m until the contractor's level was reached. The pit was infilled with a mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent small-medium sized stones (38). Two sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery were recovered together with animal bone, but the pit also contained a piece of clay pipe as well as a large number of medieval and post-medieval pottery fragments.

2.4.4 Post-medieval wall foundations and make up deposits

Several layers consisting of mid grey-brown silty clay with moderate small- to medium-sized stones were observed in each of the trenches. They occurred at a depth of between 1.40m and 1.70m bfl (*c.* 29.6m and 29.3m OD) and varied from 0.22m to 0.50m in thickness.

The layers were heavily truncated by modern services, disused pipe trenches and 19th-century wall footings. Artefacts recovered from the layers suggest this was material imported from an unknown source during the 19th century to level the ground prior to building construction.

The nature of the 19th-century wall foundations of the existing building was exposed in Trenches 2 and 6. Here, relieving arches were visible below 100mm of concrete flooring (Figure 5). These were constructed of three courses of yellow brick headers forming a shallow arch 1.50m wide and 0.40m thick. Where visible, they extended to a depth of 0.70m bfl (*c.* 30.3m OD). It is assumed that they sprang from concrete or brick piers, but none of the piers were encountered within the confines of Trench 2, and in Trench 5 they had been truncated by modern services. The depth of the brick foundations and service pipes in each of the trenches varied from 0.30m to 1.50m bfl



3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Interpretation

The archaeological features and deposits revealed by the trenches represent tentative evidence for medieval and post-medieval settlement along the western side of the High Street.

3.1.1 Saxo-Norman (AD850–AD1150)

A moderate amount of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered. However due to the amount of ground disturbance this was rarely attributable to individual features. Pit [35] and possible buried subsoil (21) did contain Saxo-Norman sherds without any later material, but these items could still be residual. Their presence, however, does suggest settlement in the vicinity during this period.

The subsoil possibly indicates horticultural activity, while the pit is most likely to have been used for the disposal of domestic refuse.

3.1.2 Medieval (AD1150–AD1500)

Artefacts dated to the medieval period were contained in the backfill deposits of foundation trenches for the 19th-century wall footings. These artefacts were re-deposited during the construction of the wall footings and may indicate the presence of layers or features of medieval date in the immediate vicinity that were disturbed during the construction of the foundation trenches. However, it is also possible that the backfill deposits were imported from another location and the artefacts are alien to this site.

3.1.3 Post-Medieval (AD1500 – AD1750) to Modern

19th-century footings up to 1.50m in depth were identified in each of the trenches, including relieving arches in Trenches 2 and 6 upon which the north and south walls of the existing building stand. These were highly disturbed by modern services and pipe trenches, some of which remain in use.

3.2 Limitations of the Archaeological Investigation

The nature of the groundworks was not ideal for archaeological observations. Each trench extended under the foundations of the existing building and for health and safety reasons underpinning and shoring of the trenches took priority over archaeological investigation. The trenches were also very narrow (0.5m-0.6m in width) and contained live services which had to be avoided and left *in situ*.

3.3 Significance

The nature of the trenches only allowed a limited view of archaeological features present at 72–74 High Street. Most of these consisted of post-medieval disturbance and wall foundations. However, three pits and a possible buried subsoil of earlier date were also recorded. None of these features can be dated with any certainty, but it is suggested that the buried subsoil and one of the pits were Saxo-Norman in date.

These findings compare well with the results of other watching briefs and excavations along the High Street. As discussed above (Section 1.3) evidence of pits backfilled with domestic refuse dating to the Saxon and medieval periods has been recorded during investigations at nos.13, 23–27 and 29–41 High Street.



Larger scale excavations at 29–41 High Street (Steadman 1995) and recently at 23–27 High Street (Albion Archaeology in prep.) also demonstrated significant activity to the rear of properties on the east of the High Street dating from the 10th to the 16th centuries.

At 72–74 High Street, the possible subsoil was located *c.* 20m west of the modern street frontage, with the pits between *c.* 22m and *c.* 27m west of the frontage. This area is at the rear of the historic property as indicated by boundaries recorded on 19th-century maps (*e.g.* Reynolds's map of 1841, see Figure 6). The archaeological evidence is admittedly sparse and incomplete, but it is consistent with the sorts of activities that would historically have been undertaken at the rear of tenements, *e.g.* gardening and digging of rubbish pits. The artefacts tentatively suggest that these activities may date back to the early medieval period, but there is insufficient evidence from the present investigation to conclude that present day property boundaries originated in the Middle Ages.

While the investigations at 72–74 High Street did not reveal any substantial features which might help elucidate the nature of early settlement within this part of Bedford, the relatively high proportion of Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery (Appendix 2) suggests that features of this date certainly existed on the site or in its immediate vicinity. This would tend to support the hypothesis that the *burh* had been extended this far north before the Saxon-Norman period.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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5. APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1: Trench Summary





Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 2.40 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.1 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: WEST (Easting: 50500213: Northing: 24991966)

OS Grid Ref.: EAST (Easting: 50500607: Northing: 24991891)

Reason: To provide concrete foundation P2. This trench has both interior and exterior segments.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
20	Modern overburden	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate medium-large ceramic building material, frequent small-medium stones . Top layer below floor surface in Trench 2. This material was heavily disturbed on all sides by deep wall footings 1.0m deep and service pipes 0.5m deep. It contained brick, tile, glass and pottery. All appeared 19th century or later. Only a selection was kept. A small amount of animal bone was also present. The south facing wall was constructed on an earlier brick relieving arch foundation. This material is interpreted as modern disturbance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Buried subsoil	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay frequent small stones . Layer in Trench 2 observed at a depth of 1.10m below modern disturbance (20). Only 0.2m excavated. It was less disturbed than material above and contained a small amount of pottery, CBM and animal bone. This layer is interpreted as a possible buried archaeological horizon.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	Natural	Compact mid yellow brown sandy gravel . Layer in base of Trench 2 on the exterior of building. No finds were recovered from cleaning of this material. This material is interpreted as the natural geology and was visible only in the exterior section of the trench.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3**

Max Dimensions: Length: 4.90 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.2 m. Max: 1.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: EAST (Easting: 50500209: Northing: 24992080)

OS Grid Ref.: WEST (Easting: 50499939: Northing: 24992055)

OS Grid Ref.: NORTH (Easting: 50499885: Northing: 24992035)

OS Grid Ref.: SOUTH (Easting: 50499885: Northing: 24991767)

Reason: To provide concrete foundation P3. This trench has both interior and exterior segments.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
30	Make up layer	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate medium ceramic building material, frequent small-medium stones . Top layer below floor surface in Trench 3. This material was 0.70m-1.0m thick and heavily disturbed on all sides by deep wall footings. These were between 1.0m-1.3m deep and the service pipes 0.5m-1.0m deep. It contained brick, tile, glass, clay pipe and pottery. All appeared Victorian or later and were not kept. This material is interpreted as modern disturbance from building construction.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Make up layer	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, frequent small stones . Second layer below floor surface in Trench 3. This material was heavily disturbed on all sides by wall footings 1.0-1.3m deep and service pipes 0.5-1.0m deep. It contained brick, tile, glass and pottery which all appeared 19th century or later. Only a selection was kept. A small amount of animal bone was also present. It appeared to lay above pits [33] [35] [37] and was quite similar material to the pit fills. This material is interpreted as a levelling layer for building construction.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32	Natural	Hard light yellow brown sandy gravel frequent small stones . Layer in base of Trench 3 on the north corner. No finds were recovered from cleaning of this material. It was cut both by modern E-W wallwall footings at a depth of 1.3m but more significantly by pit [33] in the interior section and pits [35] and [37] in the exterior segment. This material is interpreted as the natural geology and was visible in both the interior and exterior sections of the trench.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Pit	dimensions: min depth 0.5m, min diameter 1.5m . An almost vertical cut was observed in the centre of the interior segment of Trench 3 at a depth of 1.3m, cutting the natural geology to the north. Only this edge was visible in the confines of this trench indicating its diameter was more than 1.3m. It was filled by (34) and 0.5m of this material was excavated. This feature is interpreted as a pit used for refuse disposal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones . Fill of cut [33] containing a moderate amount of animal bone. The pit fill was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. This material is interpreted as a refuse deposit within pit [33].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35	Pit	Irregular dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, min depth 0.5m, min length 1.m . Shallow edge of cut observed on east corner of the external Trench 3. Identified at a depth of 1.8m. Only the south side was visible and this had a shallow break of slope at the top. 0.1m of this material was excavated; finds recovered included animal bone and pottery. This feature is interpreted as a pit used for refuse disposal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	Fill	Spongy mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones . Moderate amount of small stones. Only 0.1m was excavated; finds recovered included animal bone and pottery. This material is interpreted as a refuse deposit within pit [35].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 4.90 m. Width: 0.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.2 m. Max: 1.8 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: EAST (Easting: 50500209: Northing: 24992080)

OS Grid Ref.: WEST (Easting: 50499939: Northing: 24992055)

OS Grid Ref.: NORTH (Easting: 50499885: Northing: 24992035)

OS Grid Ref.: SOUTH (Easting: 50499885: Northing: 24991767)

Reason: To provide concrete foundation P3. This trench has both interior and exterior segments.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
37	Pit	<p>dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.5m, min length 1.m . Line of cut visible in the west end of the exterior segment of Trench 3. It had a steep east side visible in section at a depth of 1.7m. Corresponding edge in interior segment not visible. Probably truncated by footings. It was excavated by hand to a depth of 2.2m on the west side and was not bottomed.</p> <p>This feature is interpreted as a pit used for refuse disposal.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	Fill	<p>Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small stones . Moderate brick, tile and animal bone were present, although some of this may be residual. Only 0.50m excavated by hand.</p> <p>This material is interpreted as a refuse deposit within pit [37].</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 0.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: CENTRE (Easting: 50499875: Northing: 24991460)

Reason: To provide concrete foundation P4.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
40	Make up layer	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium ceramic building material, frequent small-medium stones . Top layer below floor surface in Trench 4. This material was heavily disturbed on all sides by deep wall footings 1.0m deep and service pipes 0.5m deep. It contained brick, tile, glass and pottery which all appeared Victorian or later. Only a selection was kept. A small amount of animal bone was also present. This material is interpreted as modern disturbance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Make up layer	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones . Second layer below floor surface in Trench 4. This material was heavily disturbed on all sides by deep wall footings 1.0-1.3m deep and service pipes 0.5-1.0m deep. It contained brick, tile, glass and pottery which all appeared Victorian or later. Only a selection was kept. A small amount of animal bone was also present. 0.3m was excavated but the feature was not bottomed. This material is interpreted as a levelling layer.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 4.70 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: WEST (Easting: 50500201: Northing: 24991478)

OS Grid Ref.: EAST (Easting: 50500537: Northing: 24991459)

OS Grid Ref.: NORTH (Easting: 50500488: Northing: 24991698)

Reason: To provide concrete foundation for P5 P6 P7.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
60	Make up layer	<p>Plastic mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium ceramic building material, frequent small-medium stones . Single context below floor surface in Trench 6. This material was heavily disturbed on all sides by deep wall footings 1.0m-1.87m deep and service pipes 0.5m-1m deep. It contained brick, tile, glass and pottery which all appeared 19th century or later. Only a selection was kept. A small amount of animal bone was also present. The west end where it has been excavated under the standing wall was dug to a depth of 2.2m and modern rubble was still present. The north facing wall had been constructed on an earlier shallow brick arch foundation that had been bricked up probably when the present building was constructed.</p> <p>This material is interpreted as modern disturbance from building construction. The extreme depth of the west end may be an indication of a backfilled well.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: CENTRE (Easting: 50500916: Northing: 24991622)

Reason: To provide concrete foundation P8.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
80	Make up layer	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium ceramic building material, frequent small-medium stones . Single context below floor surface in Trench 8. This material was heavily disturbed on all sides by deep wall footings 1.0m deep and service pipes 1.0m deep. It contained brick, tile, glass and pottery which all appeared Victorian or later. This material is interpreted as modern disturbance from building construction.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: Length: 1.00 m. Width: 0.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: CENTRE (Easting: 50501408: Northing: 24991639)

Reason: To provide concrete foundation P9.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
90	Make up layer	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones . Single context below floor surface in Trench 9. This material was heavily disturbed on all sides by deep wall footings 1.0m deep and service pipes 1.0m deep. It contained brick and tile which appeared Victorian or later and was not kept. This material is interpreted as modern disturbance from building construction.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



5.2 Appendix 2: Artefact Summary

5.2.1 Introduction

The investigations produced a finds assemblage comprising pottery, brick and tile, clay pipe, vessel glass, ferrous slag, a whetstone, animal bone and oyster shell, the majority associated with features in Trench 3 (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Pottery	Other finds
2	20	Make-up layer	20	Modern	13:387	Animal bone (117g); oyster shell (8g); coal (11g), clay pipe (5g); roof tile (27g)
	21	Make-up layer	21	High medieval	7:238	Animal bone (248g); roof tile (88g)
3	31	Make-up layer	31	Modern	15:395	Animal bone (1144g); oyster shell (38g); whetstone (154g); mortar (12g); clay pipe (20g); roof tile (71g); brick (1042g); ferrous slag (71g)
	35	Pit	36	Saxo-Norman	3:70	Animal bone (43g); oyster shell (18g)
	37	Pit	38	Modern	20:694	Animal bone (576g); clay pipe (39g); roof tile (36g)
4	41	Make-up layer	41	Modern	4:45	Animal bone (29g); vessel glass (309g); oyster shell (39g); roof tile (43g)
6	60	Make-up layer	60	Modern	19:514	Animal bone (340g); vessel glass (9g); oyster shell (16g); land drain (60g); coal (9g); clay pipe (17g); brick (1741g)

* spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

Sherd / fragment count : weight in g

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and context

5.2.2 Pottery

Eighty-one pottery sherds weighing 2.3kg were recovered. They were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are fairly small (average weight 29g) and exhibit variable degrees of abrasion. Few vessels are represented by more than single sherds. Twenty-two fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman period to the present day, with the bulk of the assemblage being post-medieval and modern in origin.

Saxo-Norman

The earliest pottery comprises 17 wheel-thrown shell-tempered sherds (547g) in the St Neots-type tradition, datable to the 10th–12th centuries. Forms include everted-rim jars, and bowls with plain rounded, flat and hammerhead rims. With the exception of three sherds (70g) recovered from the fill of pit [35], all occur as residual material in later features in Trenches 2, 3 and 6.

Medieval

Medieval pottery comprises five sand-, and seven shell-tempered coarseware sherds (total weight 356g), datable to the 12th–13th centuries. One sherd of sand-tempered 14th–15th century reduced ware (20g) was also identified. Diagnostic forms are an everted-rim jar and a plain strap handle from a jug. All are residual within later features in Trenches 2, 3 and 4.



Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Saxo-Norman</i>			
Type B01	St Neots-type ware	5	(20):2, (21):2, (31):1
Type B01B	St Neots-type (fine)	11	(20):4, (21):1, (31):1, (36):3, (38):1, (60):1
Type B04	St Neots-type (coarse)	1	(38):1
<i>Medieval</i>			
Type B07	Shell	7	(21):1, (31):3, (38):2, (41):1
Type C01	Sand	1	(21):1
Type C59A	Coarse sand	3	(21):1, (31):1, (38):1
Type C71	Sand (buff-grey cored)	1	(21):1
<i>Late medieval</i>			
Type E01	Reduced sand	1	(41):1
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
Type P01	Glazed red earthenware	3	(20):1, (31):1, (60):1
Type P03	Black-glazed earthenware	6	(31):1, (38):2, (41):1, (60):2
Type P30	Staffordshire slipware	1	(31):1
Type P33	Tin-glazed ware	8	(38):7, (41):1
Type P36A	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	1	(20):1
<i>Modern</i>			
Type P19	Mottle/speckle-glazed ware	4	(31):1, (38):2, (60):1
Type P37	White salt-glazed stoneware	2	(60):2
Type P38	Creamware	10	(20):3, (60):7
Type P39	Mocha ware	1	(60):1
Type P42	Red Basalt	2	(31):2
Type P43	Pearlware	3	(20):1, (31):2
Type P45	Transfer-printed ware	2	(60):2
Type P55	White earthenware	2	(60):2
Type P100	Flower pot	5	(20):1, (31):1, (38):3
MOD	Misc. Earthenware	1	(38):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

Post-medieval and modern

Post-medieval pottery comprises 19 sherds (458g), the majority deriving from features in Trench 3. The assemblage includes glazed earthenwares bowls, tin-glazed earthenware, and single sherds of brown salt-glazed stoneware and Staffordshire slipware.

Thirty-two sherds (962g) range in date from the 18th century to the present day, the majority deriving from make-up layer (60). They comprise a range of mass-produced wares, including pearlware, mocha ware, transfer-printed wares (including willow pattern), creamware, earthenware, salt-glazed stoneware, mottle/speckle-glazed ware and two pieces of a red basalt teapot. The sherds represent a range of tablewares, including cups, saucers and dinner plates. Four fragments of flower pot were also recovered.

5.2.3 Brick and tile

Three brick fragments (1.0kg) and 6 sand-tempered pieces of medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (265g) were recovered. The latter include two examples from Potterspury (Northants). Roof tiles range in thickness from 10–16mm and brick fragments from 40–45mm. Three fragments from a modern stamped engineering brick (1.7kg) were recovered from make-up layer (60).

5.2.4 Clay pipe

Eighteen clay tobacco pipe stem fragments and an incomplete bowl with a flat heel were recovered from modern features in Trenches 2, 3 and 6. Stem bore diameters range from 2.4–3mm, suggesting a late 17th-century date for the fragments.



5.2.5 Non-ceramic finds

A fragment of mortar/plaster (12g) and a piece of dense ferrous smelting slag (71g) were recovered from modern make-up layer (31). The latter also contained a primary whetstone made from sandstone. The object is incomplete and has worn surfaces, through use. None of these artefacts are datable. Make-up layer (41) yielded a base and two body sherds from a cylindrical green glass wine bottle datable to between 1750 and 1800. A shoulder and neck fragment, also from a green glass wine bottle of mid 18th-century date was recovered from make-up layer (60).

5.2.6 Animal bone

Ninety-five animal bone fragments, weighing 2.5kg, were recovered, the majority deriving from the fills of modern features. Bone preservation is variable, with some fragments displaying greater surface erosion than others, although the material generally survives in good condition. Diagnostic elements are skull and mandible fragments, long bones, horn cores, scapulae, ribs and vertebrae, several of which display cut marks. Species represented are likely to be cattle.

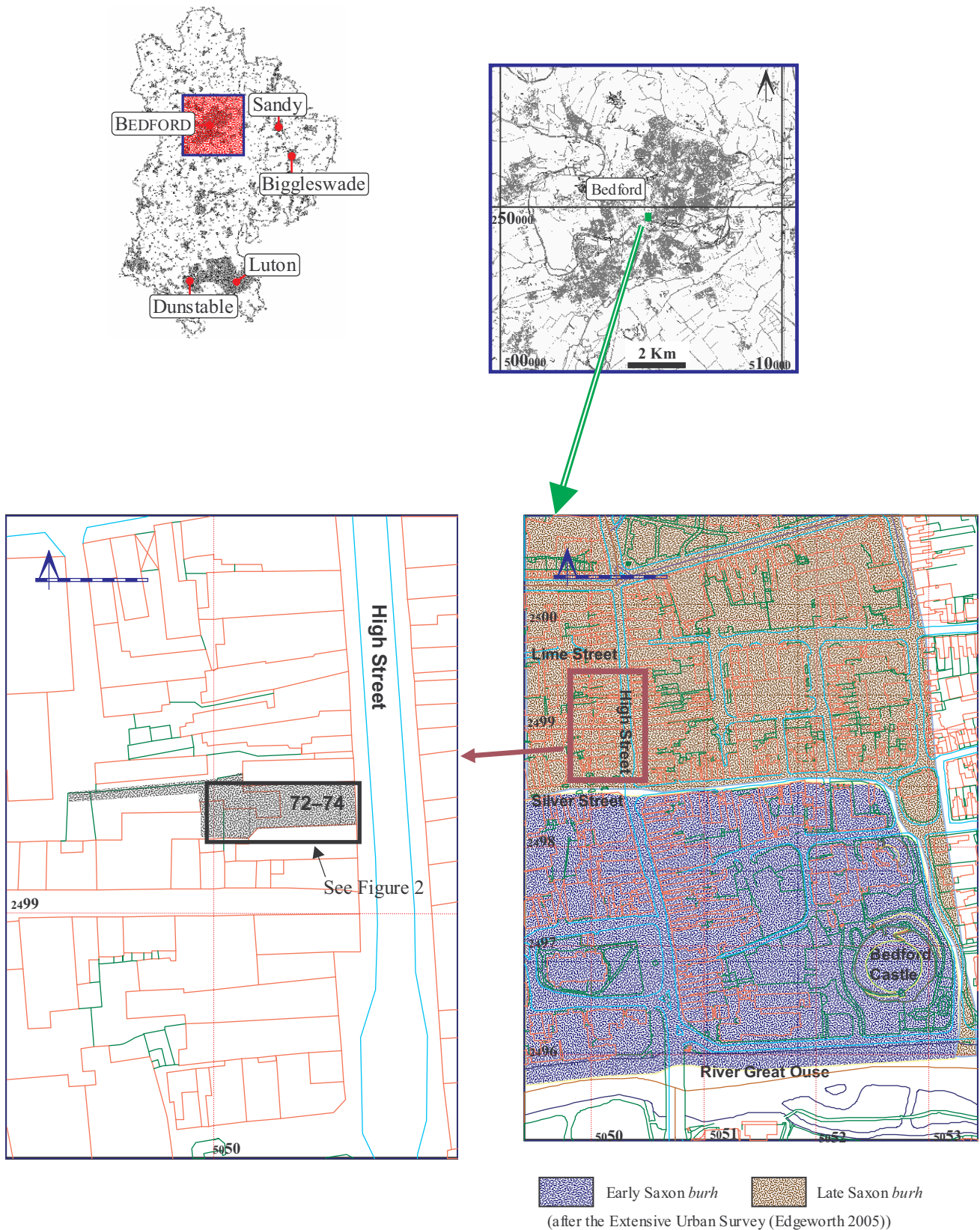


Figure 1: Site location map

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. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.

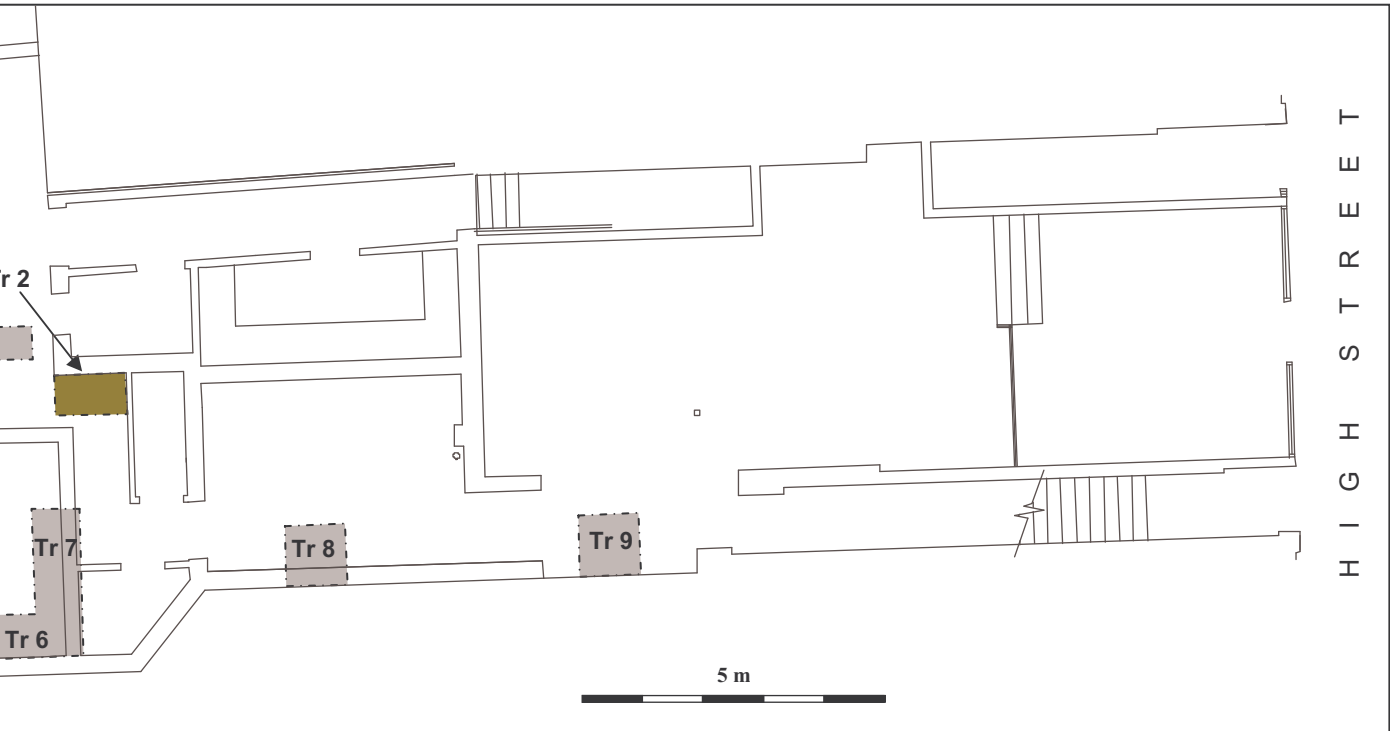


Figure 2: Trench location plan

Proposed development taken from Simic Associates, Chartered Building Consultancy, drawing 06409 : 02C.

e)



Figure 3: Trench 3 pit [35]



Figure 4: Trench 3 pit [37]



Figure 5: Trench 2 relieving arch of post-medieval wall foundation



Figure 6: The approximate location of the site in relation to properties depicted on Reynolds's map of Bedford in 1841 (Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service, ref. X1/88/5)