BEDFORD SHIRE HALL AND SURROUNDING SITE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Document: 2005/67 Project: MC1018

18th November 2005

Produced for:
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NB: some photographs used to illustrate this report have been digitally enhanced to improve clarity



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been written by Jeremy Oetgen BSc MIFA (Project Manager), with contributions by Jackie Wells MA (artefacts summary, Section 3.4) and Ian Beswick (borehole survey, Section 0). Illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). Joan Lightning also carried out the interpretive analysis of historic map evidence.

The borehole monitoring and supervision of machine excavation of test pits was undertaken by Ian Beswick (Archaeological Supervisor). Hand excavation and recording was completed by Adam Lee (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor), Anthony Clifton-Jones, Tim Sandiford (Archaeological Technicians), with assistance from Caroline Pudney (Trainee Archaeological Technician) and Adam Williams (Archaeological Technician). The project was managed by Jeremy Oetgen, with the assistance of Mark Phillips (Project Officer) under the oversight of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology is grateful for the contribution of HF Bull & Sons (who supplied the plant and reinstated the site on completion). We would also like to acknowledge the kind assistance and forbearance of the staff of the Magistrates' Court, in particular Dennis Charles, Phil Drewery, David McDonald and Terry Keens.

The evaluation was undertaken on the instructions of Loh Koon Tan and, initially, Paul Seller of IBM Business Consulting Services. The overall standard of the archaeological work was monitored by Martin Oake (County Archaeological Officer for Bedfordshire).

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18th November 2005



Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BCC's CAO Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological

Officer

Client The Department for Constitutional Affairs

HER Historic Environment Record

[Bedfordshire's sites and monuments record]

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd edn, 2001

Albion Archaeology



Non-Technical Summary

This document has been prepared by Albion Archaeology for IBM Business Consulting Services, on behalf of the Department for Constitutional Affairs. It reports the results of an archaeological field evaluation at Bedford Shire Hall and surrounding site. The work has been occasioned by proposals to re-develop the Magistrates' Courts through a PFI scheme.

The site is centred at NGR TL 0501 4961 on the south side of St Paul's Square, immediately to the north of the river Great Ouse. It lies within the historic core of Bedford, next to the main street and the Town Bridge, a scheduled ancient monument on the site of the former ford, from which the town derives its name.

Because the proposed work has the potential to disturb archaeological remains, a specification has been issued by Feilden + Mawson LLP for an archaeological evaluation of the site. Albion Archaeology prepared a Project Proposal in response to the specification, setting out how its requirements would be met.

The evaluation initially comprised a desk-based archaeological assessment, completed in February 2005. Subsequently, in the same month, a geotechnical borehole survey provided an opportunity for archaeological monitoring and recording of the deposit profile at six sample points distributed across the open area of the site. This information was used to formulate a programme of trial excavation with the aim of characterising archaeological survival across the site, thereby providing the data that will allow the impact of the proposed development to be assessed.

The trial excavation comprised two test pits located in the present car park area. Each test pit measured 4m square at the surface, but for safety reasons was reduced to 2m square at a depth of c. 1.2m. The test pits revealed a sequence of limestone walls and other structures, in places surviving to a level just below the modern surface and extending down below the limits of the excavation. These walls comprised the remains of the buildings that stood on the site until the 19th century, and some elements may date from the medieval period. The walls were surrounded and overlain by rapidly deposited dumped layers containing building material fragments – probably the residue of the demolition of buildings on the site. Associated with the walls were several fragmentary surfaces or floors at different levels. Below a depth of between 0.6m and 1.1m the dumped deposits gave way to more compacted deposits of dark brown to dark grey soil. These represent more gradually accumulated deposits with a high organic content. The water table was encountered at 1.6m (south side) and 1.2 (north side). Below these depths, the deposits contained abundant organic material, including wood and leather. Some timbers were identified as stakes or posts associated with structures buried in the organic deposits. These structures were not fully exposed, as this would have compromised their integrity and increased their exposure to decay processes.

Finds ranged in date from the Saxon-Norman period onwards, as would be expected for a site within the historic core of Bedford. However, the earliest are probably residual. There was no evidence of Romano-British or prehistoric occupation.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Bedfordshire County Council, the Department of Constitutional Affairs and the Bedford Magistrates' Court Committee are jointly undertaking a project to develop an integrated justice centre on the current Magistrates' Court Site. A combination of refurbishment of existing buildings and new build is proposed.

An archaeological evaluation of the site is required to help inform the detailed design stage of the project. A specification for the work was issued by Feilden + Mawson (2004). On the basis of its tendered project proposal, Albion Archaeology (2004) was appointed to carry out the evaluation, which comprised:

- Stage 1: desk-based archaeological assessment; and
- Stage 2: trial excavation, the scope of which was agreed on the basis of the results of the desk-based assessment.

All stages of the archaeological evaluation have been monitored by the County Archaeological Officer to ensure conformity to the specification.

Stage 1, the desk-based archaeological assessment, was completed in February 2005 (Albion Archaeology 2005). Later that month, a geotechnical borehole survey provided an additional opportunity for archaeological monitoring and recording of the deposit profile at six sample points distributed across the open area of the site. This information was used to formulate a programme of trial excavation with the aim of characterising archaeological survival across the site and providing the data that would allow the impact of the proposed development to be assessed.

1.2 Purpose and Structure of this Document

The present report has been prepared by Albion Archaeology for IBM Business Consulting Services, on behalf of the Department for Constitutional Affairs. It presents the results of the trial excavation, supplemented by the information obtained from archaeological monitoring of the borehole survey. The report is intended to contain sufficient detail to enable the results of the evaluation to be interpreted without recourse to the site archive. It includes tabulated contextual and finds information.

The report is laid out as follows: Section 1 provides a general introduction (including site location and description, planning background, archaeological background); Section 2 summarises the method statement, noting any constraints and limitations that affected the work; Section 3 presents the results of the fieldwork; Section 4 summarises the results and assesses their significance; and Section 5 lists bibliographic references for sources cited in the text. Appendices contain a summary of the borehole observations and list all archaeological contexts recorded in the boreholes and test pits.



1.3 Site Location and Description

The site is centred at NGR TL 0501 4961, at approximately 26.20m AOD, on the south side of St Paul's Square, immediately to the north of the river Great Ouse. It lies within the historic core of Bedford, next to the main street and the Town Bridge, a scheduled ancient monument (SAM no. BD 91) on the site of the former ford from which the town derives its name

The site is currently occupied by Shire Hall and a series of other buildings fronting onto St Paul's Square. To the rear of the frontage is a tarmac and brick-paved area, used for car parking. The eastern end of the site is significantly higher and forms part of the public pavement.

The underlying geology was expected to comprise river terrace gravels, overlying cornbrash limestone. However, in the northern half of the site a considerable depth of alluvial clays and silts was also anticipated.

1.4 Archaeological Background and Research Objectives

1.4.1 Archaeological Background

Existing historical and archaeological knowledge of the site and its immediate area was summarised in the desk-based assessment (Albion Archaeology 2005), which was undertaken as part of this evaluation. The archaeology of the town of Bedford as a whole has been summarised by means of an extensive urban survey, undertaken by English Heritage and Bedfordshire County Council (Albion Archaeology 2001a, 2002). It is clear from these studies that the Shire Hall site is not only of archaeological significance in its own right but is also important for the wider understanding of the development of the river frontage, the ford/bridge, the market square and indeed the town as a whole.

Very little archaeological work has been undertaken within the site itself. In 1982, during insertion of a foul water sewer pipe at the back of the Shire Hall extension, deep deposits of alluvial silt, interspersed with some tipping layers of burnt material, were observed. At a depth of 1.50m below ground level a vertical wooden pile was visible within these deposits.

In 1996 a slit trench (5m long, 0.50m wide and 1m deep) was excavated along the east side of the building at 1 St Paul's Square. At the base of the trench a possible wall footing was observed, sealed by post-medieval made ground.

1.4.2 Research Objectives

Increasingly, Bedford is being recognised as one of the earliest of the Saxon towns, and of great potential value to our understanding of the process of urbanisation during what was a formative period in this country's history. The potential of towns for dramatically increasing knowledge of past society and economy has been emphasised in the research frameworks set for the East Anglian region (Glazebrook 1997, 59-64). It was concluded that the '...urban potential of deposits, buildings, artefacts, ecofacts and palaeo-ecological diversity ensures that towns remain priority areas for research.'



One of the gaps in the archaeological exploration of Bedford, identified by the extensive urban survey, is precisely the waterfront at the core of the historic town. Any surviving archaeological deposits of the Saxon, medieval or post-medieval waterfront area, so close to the market square and the centre of the town, would undoubtedly be of major importance, adding to national as well as local and regional knowledge.

Within this framework, the objectives of the archaeological evaluation were as set out in section 4 of the specification. Information on the following was sought:

- i. The location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- ii. The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present.



2. FIELDWORK METHODS

2.1 Archaeological Monitoring of Borehole Survey

Six boreholes were sunk between 26th February and 12th March 2005. They were distributed evenly across the open areas of the site (see Figure 2), including the former bank site (within the modern pavement). The survey provided a good opportunity to gauge the depth of and distribution of deposits in advance of trial excavation, so Albion Archaeology maintained a watching brief on the drilling. The observations are included in the present report and the records will form part of the project archive.

The borehole locations were tied in to the Ordnance Survey plan by offset measurements from the adjacent standing buildings. The sequence of deposits encountered in each borehole was described by an archaeologist (in accordance with Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual*) based on observations of the material brought to the surface. Each borehole was recorded using a unique sequence of numbers, to avoid confusion.

The relative depth below the surface of the respective deposits was recorded. Equivalent OD heights were then calculated using levels recorded on the client's measured survey of the site.

2.2 Trial Excavation

2.2.1 Summary Method Statement

The full method statement is set out in Albion Archaeology's Project Proposal (2004). Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (1999b) and Guidelines for Finds Work (2000) have been adhered to, in conjunction with those outlined in Albion Archaeology's Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2001), the IFA Code of Conduct (1999a), and English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects (1991). The project archive will be deposited in accordance with Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire (Bedford Museum and Luton Museum, 2002).

The location of the two test pits was marked out on the ground in advance of machining, and their position was surveyed in relation to the Ordnance Survey map using a total station theodolite and offsets from standing buildings. (See Figure 2).

Each test pit measured 4m square at the surface, but to enable excavation to continue safely below a depth of c. 1m the sides were benched, reducing the working area to 2m square in the centre of each test pit. Excavation ceased once groundwater was reached and /or when a maximum safe working depth was attained.



Recent dumped deposits were excavated using a JCB under constant archaeological supervision. Once deposits of archaeological significance were encountered, deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand. After scanning for artefacts, the spoil was removed from site and disposed of at an approved tip.

Archaeological features or deposits were excavated sufficiently to provide the information required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation. To ensure the integrity of archaeological remains or features, the maximum possible pre-excavation recording was undertaken and key relationships between features were investigated in such a way as to minimise unnecessary destruction.

All excavated features and deposits were recorded in accordance with Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual*. As for the borehole survey, the records for each test pit were assigned unique blocks of numbers for ease of identification.

On completion of hand excavation and recording, the test pits were inspected by BCC's CAO to ensure that the fieldwork had been completed in accordance with the specification. The pits were backfilled with MOT Type 1 and compacted. The surfaces were finished with either replaced block paving or 75mm of tarmac.

2.2.2 Working Conditions

Fieldwork was undertaken between 30th July and 30th August 2005. In order to minimise disruption to the operations of the Magistrates' Court, the test pits were excavated separately in succession and machining/backfilling was undertaken at weekends and holidays. During excavation of Test Pit 1 the weather was warm, sunny and dry; on the other hand, Test Pit 2 was undertaken in wet weather.

As the fieldwork took place in high summer, it is assumed that the water table was encountered at its normal minimum level. It is assumed that permanently waterlogged conditions currently exist below this level.

2.2.3 Constraints

The location of the trial excavations was constrained by the presence of live services and by the need to allow the Magistrate's Court car park to remain in use during the fieldwork.

Groundwater could not be pumped out of the test pits because there was nowhere suitable for the discharge of dirty water.

2.2.4 Publicity

It was recognised in the Project Proposal that archaeological work on the site, which lies within the town could generate considerable public interest and curiosity. In the event, public interest was not aroused, but Albion Archaeology conducted presentations and site tours for the staff of the Magistrate's Court, enabling them to see first hand the excavations in progress.



2.3 Liaison with the County Archaeological Officer

It was recognised that responsibility for monitoring the project and ensuring both adherence to this Project Proposal and the maintenance of professional standards, lay with BCC's CAO. The CAO visited the site to monitor the work as necessary.



3. RESULTS OF THE FIELD EVALUATION

3.1 Presentation of the Results

3.1.1 General

This section summarises the results of the borehole survey and test pit excavation, characterising the remains encountered and discussing the finds recovered. Comprehensive indexes of all features and deposits recorded are included in the Appendices (Sections 7 and 0). Details of the artefacts recovered by excavation, and their date ranges, can be found in Section 3.4.

3.1.2 Recording conventions

Boreholes are referred to by number (1–6) and the trial excavation as Test Pit 1 (which was located to the south of the site) and Test Pit 2 (located to the north).

All archaeological and geological deposits (contexts) were assigned an individual number. Numbers were assigned in batches reflecting the borehole or test pit in which they were located. Boreholes 1 to 6 were recorded using numbers from 100 to 600, respectively. Numbers starting at 1000 were used for Test Pit 1, while those for Test Pit 2 began at 2000. Throughout the report the following conventions are used to distinguish between context types:

Numbers in brackets within the text refer to the context number issued on site. Within this report context numbers referring to cut features (i.e. pits, ditches etc.) are expressed [***], layers or deposits within cut features are expressed (***). Contexts assigned to structures (i.e. masonry, timbers etc.) are boxed [***]

3.1.3 Stratigraphic diagrams

The sequential relationships between respective deposits and features are represented graphically in Figures 4 and 5. This type of diagram is known as a 'Harris matrix'. It is a form of flow chart in which all observed stratigraphic relationships are reduced to the simplest expressions of 'earlier than' or 'later than', with the earliest deposits at the bottom of each string. This allows complex stratigraphy to be analysed in a logical way, which is particularly useful for archaeological excavations in urban situations where the intensity of past human activity has left deep sequences of deposits and/or fragmentary structural remains with evidence for many phases of building and re-building. It also makes it possible to place undated contexts (i.e. those without datable artefacts) in a date 'bracket' by identifying relationships with other, dated, contexts.

The stratigraphic diagrams used in this repost have been enhanced with colour-coded conventions identifying various types of deposits and features (see the figure key and Section 3.3, below.



3.2 Borehole Data

See Figures 2 and 3.

As recorded in Appendices 1 and 2, the deposits were quite varied, but it is possible to characterise them into eight broad categories.

Туре	Description
Modern	Modern surface and make-up, dumped building
	material or rubble probably associated with post-
	1900 construction.
Aerobic deposits	Soil deposits whose red/yellow colouration
	indicates that they are well aerated and not
	waterlogged. These have low potential for
	preservation of organic remains.
Building materials	Deposits containing building materials that do not
	appear to relate to modern activity and which may
	be of archaeological significance.
Gleyed, possibly organic deposits	Soil deposits whose grey colouration suggests that
	they are to some degree anaerobic with moderate
	potential for preservation of organic remains.
Dark, probably waterlogged organic deposits	Dark grey soil deposits with visibly organic, fibrous
	inclusions that demonstrate high potential for
	preservation of organic remains.
Gravel	Probably a remnant of river terrace gravels (or
	possibly a sand bar), but gravel may have been
	deliberately deposited during land reclamation.
Boulder clay	Natural Pleistocene clay
_	
Limestone	The natural bedrock

Table 1: Characterisation of deposits encountered in the boreholes

All six boreholes encountered limestone bedrock at between 3m and 5m below the surface (22.5 and 23m AOD). In Boreholes 2, 3 and 6 the limestone was covered by thick clay, probably Pleistocene clay. Boreholes 1, 4 and 5 were closest to the modern river channel and it is likely that fluvial erosion has stripped the clay from the bedrock. If so, there seems to have been little erosion of the bedrock as the upper interface of the limestone is relatively level.

Amounts of undisturbed alluvial material with the potential for preservation of artefacts were recorded at a depth of c.1.5m–2.2m (23m and 23.5m AOD) closer to the river and c. 1.9m (24.2m AOD) closer to St Paul's Square. It would seem likely that significant archaeological horizons may still survive in this material.

3.3 Test Pit Results

Detailed descriptions of all deposits and features are included in Appendix 3 and stratigraphic relationships illustrated in Figures 4 and 5. Overall plans of each trench are provided in Figures 6 and 7, respectively, and references to the detailed illustrations are given where appropriate throughout this Section of the report. The following discussion concentrates on the most diagnostic features, which are covered, as far as possible, in chronological order. The majority of contexts



comprised dumps and layers, probably laid down to level up the site during the later stages of its evolution. The artefacts associated with them suggest that they are relatively recent in date (certainly late medieval or post-medieval, if not 19th century or later).

3.3.1 Test Pit 1

Possible revetment wall

A limestone wall 1075 ran parallel to the river and was therefore interpreted as a possible foreshore revetment (see (Figures 12 and 16 and also Figure 25). Only the upper coursing of this wall was revealed, and this survived to a minimum depth of c. 1.8m (24.6m AOD).

Alluvial deposits

A sequence of alluvial deposits (1064) (1063), (1062), (1061), and (1076) was encountered to the south of wall $\boxed{1075}$. It is probable, but not proven, that the alluvium had built up against the wall. Wall $\boxed{1077}$ was probably a damaged portion of wall $\boxed{1075}$.

Structural timbers

The upper portions of three vertical timbers [1081], [1082] and [1083] were found in a cluster within the alluvial deposits. They were roundwood (with bark present) and between 30mm and 70mm in diameter. The surrounding deposits were excavated to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.3m below the tops of the timbers, but they remained firmly embedded and were therefore left *in situ*. The three timbers are interpreted as stakes, but it is not known whether they belonged to a single structure or whether their proximity is coincidental.

A fourth timber 1084 was identified as plank, 60mm thick, that protruded from the unexcavated deposits at an angle of about 60° to the horizontal. This too was firmly embedded and was left *in situ*. A fragment of this plank was identified as a sawn plank of 16th century or later date.

All four timbers were thought to have post-dated the alluvial layer (1063), and been sealed by (1064), although this must be accepted with caution, as observed stratigraphical relationships of timber structures, particularly driven stakes, are often misleading.

Numerous other small fragments of wood were noted (see 3.4.12) but only one of these showed evidence of working.

Buildings

Another limestone structure 1022 was possibly the remains of the south-western corner of a building (Building 1) that initially respected the line of the earlier possible revetment wall (see Figures 8, 9 and 18). It comprised a north-south wall with an east-west return. The top of the wall survived to a minimum depth of c.0.6m (25.8m AOD). The interior could not be fully excavated, for safety reasons, but a small (c. 0.75m x 0.5m) test pit was dug in an attempt to establish



the floor level. Excavation ceased at a depth of c.1.6m (24.8m AOD), at the top of a layer of demolition rubble (1056).

The building was later extended to the south by the addition of wall 1020 (Figures 9, 10 and 18). The base of this wall was shallower than the original building, suggesting that the extension was undertaken after a phase of land raising. The wall was bedded on layers (1071), (1072) and (1074).

A distinct clay layer (1070) (Figures 14 and 15) was interpreted as a floor surface; it lay at a depth of c. 1.1m (25.3m AOD) to the west of Building 1. It is not clear how this surface related to Building 1, but it is likely that a clay surface would been used for an interior space. A comparison of the excavated evidence with the buildings depicted on Reynold's map suggests that, in 1841, there were two adjoining buildings on the site, separated by a party wall on the same alignment as walls 1020 and 1022 (see below, Section 4.1.4, and Figure 25). Neither structure appears on the 1883 Ordnance Survey map, which implies that they were occupied until the mid 19th century.

Earlier maps are not accurate enough to allow reliable concordance of depicted buildings with archaeological structures, but Arnald's painting of 1811 certainly appears to show two large gabled buildings in the same location.

Limestone culvert

A limestone culvert 1087, comprising walls 1031 and 1038 and base 1057, emerged from the north-east corner of Test Pit 1 (see Figures 8, 9, 14, 17 and 18). Although damaged by the later insertion of a drain pipe 1025 (cut [1026]), there was sufficient of the culvert surviving to suggest that it flowed southwards along wall 1022. It is possible that the interior of Building 1 formed a sump or tank. A limestone culvert of similar construction, 2051/2052, was also found in Test Pit 2. Because of their alignment and similar construction, it is likely that the two recorded culverts are elements of a single structure. The line of the culvert also corresponds closely with the line of the boundary between the present buildings at nos. 1 and 3 St Paul's Square, and it is possible that it represents a drain running from the square to the river, between two adjacent properties.

Modern drain

A modern ceramic drain -(1024), $\boxed{1025}$, and $\boxed{1026}$ - ran across the north-east corner of Test-Pit 1 (see Figure s 8 and 9).

Modern intrusion

A vertical-sided pit or trench [1006] (see Figure 11) in the western side of Test Pit 1 was filled with rubble, including modern concrete. The feature was at least 1.5m deep. This is interpreted as a service trench, probably associated with a building that formerly stood in the area between Test Pit 1 and the Magistrates' Court. (A photograph of this building was shown to the site team by an employee of the Court).



Traces of a limestone culvert on a similar north-south line were found in Test Pit 2. This culvert 2051/2052 had been largely removed (or replaced?) by a red brick wall 2050.

3.3.2 Test Pit 2

Alluvial deposit

At a depth of about 1.2m (25.2m AOD) the base of Test Pit 2 revealed a dark grey clay layer with a visibly high, fibrous organic content (2022). This could not be excavated because of standing water in the bottom of the test pit, however, the deposit was observed to be rich in pottery, bone and waterlogged wood.

Limestone culvert

Traces of a limestone culvert 2051 2052 and 2031 on a similar north-south line were found in Test Pit 2 (see Figures 19–21 and 23). This culvert had been largely removed (or replaced?) by a relatively modern red brick wall 2050 2032 and was only observed in the sections on the north and south sides of the trench. The eastern side of the culvert seemed to have been demolished and it is likely that its components were used to form the rubble makeup layer (2041).

The culvert was stratigraphically later than the alluvium (2022) but, as no foundation trench could be identified, it was not clear whether or not the culvert had been cut through the surrounding landfill deposits or if they had been built up against the culvert.

The red brick wall 2050/2032 was later inserted along the line of the west wall of the culvert 2052/2031. The red brick was of a type introduced from the 19^{th} century in Bedford. The wall appeared to be a re-build.

Levelling deposits/dumps

This alluvium was sealed by a succession of layers comprising alluvial deposits, dumps of soil and demolition rubble. The general nature of the deposits on either side of the line of the culvert was very different. This suggests that the respective sides of the line had different histories of use and corroborates the view that the culvert ran between two discrete landholdings.

West of the culvert, the sequence included a fragmentary, tiled floor surface 2025 and its construction horizon [2064] (see Figure 23). This lay at a depth of c. 0.3m (26m AOD). This floor may well have been associated with one of the buildings in the range which extended back from the St Paul's Square frontage in the nineteenth century (see Section 4.1.4 and Figures 25 and 26).

Near the top of the sequence, a cut [2060] marks the start of the latest phase of ground preparation for the present car park surface.



3.4 Artefact Summary

3.4.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipe, metal, stone and leather objects, metalworking residues, vessel and window glass, shell, wood and animal bone (Table 2). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Feature	Туре	Spot date*	Pottery	CBM	Other finds
204	Alluvium	-			Animal bone (184g)
1022	Wall	Post-medieval			Animal bone (16g); vessel glass (12g)
1030	Demolition spread	Saxo-Norman	1:20		
1053	Demolition spread	Late medieval+		41:7780	
1054	Demolition spread	Late medieval+		35:8325	Animal bone (5g); burnt stone (978g)
1055	Demolition spread	Late medieval+	1:36	9:1314	Mortar (455g)
1058	External dump	Post-medieval	2:25	6:943	Animal bone (5g); clay pipe (13g); clinker (5g);
					coal (6g); stone roof tile (1019g)
1059	External dump	Post-medieval	1:15	1:19	Animal bone (793g); iron staple; clay pipe (15g)
1060	Alluvium				Animal bone (12g)
1062	Alluvium	Post-medieval	29:592	27:2358	Animal bone (1176g); charcoal (1g); coal (57g);
					iron nail (45g); shell (682g); slag (41g); stone
10.50					roof tile (281g); unworked wood fragments
1063	Alluvium	-			Unworked wood fragments
1064	Alluvium	Late medieval	2.12	2 206	Leather shoe fragment
1066	Makeup layer	Post-medieval	2:12	2:296	Animal bone (762g); iron nail (4g); lead flashing;
					clay pipe (4g); shell (29g); slag (219g); window
2017	M-1 1	T . (1 1		4.461	glass (3g)
2017 2022	Makeup layer Alluvium	Late medieval Modern	20.101	4:461	Vessel glass (4g); window glass (2g)
2022	Alluvium	Modern	20:181	6:408	Animal bone (478g); shell (1g); slag (282g); vessel glass (77g)
2030	Alluvium				
2030	Makeup layer	Modern	1:41		Animal bone (59g); clay pipe (5g)
2035	Demolition spread	Medieval	1.41		Stone mortar
2041	Makeup layer	Late medieval	1:67	1:44	Stone mortar
2042	Demolition spread	Modern	1.07	1.11	Window glass (7g)
2042	Makeup layer	Saxo-Norman	1:40		Shell (15g)
2044	Demolition spread	-	1.10		Animal bone (14g)
2052	Wall (fill 2053)	Post-medieval	2:61	8:564	Animal bone (3g)
2052	Wall (fill 2057)	Late medieval		1:75	
2055	Alluvium	Saxo-Norman	1:29	,0	
2080	Layer	Modern	24:325	2:132	Animal bone (246g); iron nail (92g); clay pipe
					(59g); bathroom tile (24g); shell (47g); slag
					(172g); vessel glass (187g)
	•	Total	86:1444	143:22719	

^{* -} spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

CBM – ceramic building material

(sherd / frag count : weight in grammes)

Table 2: Artefact summary by feature type

3.4.2 Pottery

Eighty-six pottery sherds weighing 1.4kg were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are fairly small (average sherd weight 16g) 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, held by Albion Archaeology. Fabrics are listed below (Table 3) in chronological order. The pottery ranges in date from the



Saxo-Norman period to the present-day, with the bulk of the assemblage being of medieval and post-medieval origin.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Saxo-Norman			
Type B01A	St Neots-type (orange)	9	(1030):1, (1058):1, (2022):2, (2080):5
Type B04	St Neots-type (coarse)	4	(2022):1, (2055):1, (2080):2
Type B04A	St Neots-type (hand-made)	1	(2043):1
Early medieval			
Type B07	Shell	5	(2080):5
Type C01	Sand	10	(2022):9, (2080):1
Type C03	Fine sand	4	(1062):1, (2080):3
Type C04	Coarse sand	1	(1066):1
Type C53	Sand (pasty)	1	(2022):1
Type C	Non-specific medieval	2	(2022):1, (2080):1
High medieval	_		
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall type (fine)	3	(2022):3
Type C60	Hertfordshire-type greyware	1	(2041):1
Late medieval			
Type E01	Reduced sand	7	(1062):7
Type E02	Oxidised sand	8	(1055):1, (1058):1, (1059):1, (1062):4, (2080):1
Post-medieval			
Type P13	Tudor Green	3	(2022):3
Type P01	Fine glazed earthenware	16	(1062):14, (2053):2
Type P03A	Slipped black glazed earthenware	1	(2080):1
Type P25	Frechen stoneware	4	(1062):3, (2080):1
Type P53	Potterspury slipware	1	(1066):1
Type P	Non-specific post-medieval	2	(2080):2
Modern			
Type P36A	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	1	(2080):1
Type P39	Mocha ware	1	(2080):1
Type P43	Pearlware	1	(2035):1

Table 3: Pottery type series

Saxo-Norman

Saxo-Norman pottery comprises 14 shell tempered sherds (250g) in the St Neots-type tradition, datable to the 10th-12th centuries. Vessel forms include wheel-thrown jars with everted rims and a hand-made bowl. Most Saxo-Norman sherds occur as residual finds in later deposits.

Medieval

Pottery datable to the medieval period totals 42 sherds weighing 473g. The material comprises predominantly hand-made sand tempered sherds of probable local manufacture, datable to the 12th–13th centuries. Five shell tempered sherds of similar date were also recorded. Pottery of 13th–15th century date comprises three wheel-thrown sherds of glazed Brill-Boarstall ware (a regional import from Buckinghamshire) and a sherd of Hertfordshire-type greyware. The late medieval period is represented by 15 wheel-thrown oxidised and reduced sand tempered sherds of 14th–15th century date. Vessel forms are rarely identifiable and, where observed, comprise jars with simple everted rims and glazed jugs with thumbed decoration. Most medieval sherds are residual within post-medieval and later deposits.

Post-medieval

Twenty-seven post-medieval sherds (586g) were recovered, the majority deriving from alluvial deposit (1062). They include 16th–17th century glazed



earthenwares, German stoneware and Potterspury slipware, and three sherds of Tudor Green, the latter of late 15th–16th century date. Forms are large bowls, a pancheon and a lobed cup.

Modern

Three sherds (119g) of 19th century Pearlware, Mocha ware and salt-glazed stoneware were recovered from layers (2035) and (2080).

3.4.3 Ceramic building material

Ceramic building material comprises 133 pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (18.6kg), five curved or ridge tiles (2.7kg) and five hand-made brick fragments (1.3kg). The majority occur in an oxidised coarse sand tempered fabric, and the remainder in vitrified and vesicular sand tempered fabric types, similar to those identified from the Bedford excavations (Baker and Hassall 1979, 254). Fragments are sizeable (average weight 155g) and several tiles are represented by more than one fragment. No complete examples were recovered, although sizeable portions of flat roof tile were recorded. Dimensions of the latter range between 148–170mm (width) x 12–16mm (thickness). Evidence for attachment in the form of round peg holes (10mm diameter) and square nail holes (c.12 x 12mm) was noted. The majority of the brick and tile assemblage derived from demolition spreads (1053) and (1054) which contained 7.7kg and 8.3kg respectively. Two pieces (one glazed) of late medieval flat roof tile from Potterspury (Northants.) were recovered from deposits (2017) and (2080). Brick fragments measure between 103mm (width) x 43mm (thickness) and were collected from deposits (1053), (1055), (1058) and (2017).

Selected examples are illustrated in Figure 28.

3.4.4 Stone roof tile

Three incomplete limestone roof tiles were recovered from post-medieval deposit (1058) and alluvial layer (1062). The pieces range in thickness between 10–20mm and all have countersunk holes near one end for a fixing nail. The largest fragment is illustrated in Figure 28.

3.4.5 Clay pipe

Eighteen clay tobacco pipe fragments (15 pieces of stem and three bowls) were recovered, the majority occurring as residual finds in modern layer (2080), which contained eight stem fragments and two bowls. One of the latter is complete, undecorated, and has a forward incline and flat heel suggesting a date range between *c*.1660–80. Three joining pieces of a 19th century example from the same deposit are stamped 'F. COVINGTON. BEDFORD.' (*c.f.* Baker and Hassall 1979, fig 155/1037). A complete bowl was also recovered from post-medieval deposit (1058). This bowl has a forward incline, flat heel and angled rim decorated with a plain ring, typical of the 17th century. Diagnostic features of the stem fragments (thickness and bore diameter) suggest the assemblage ranges in date from the early 17th to the late 19th century.

Selected examples are illustrated in Figure 29.



3.4.6 Non-ceramic finds

Alluvial deposit (1064) yielded a leather sole fragment, provisionally identified as deriving from a shoe of welted construction (see Figure 30). The latter is a method of shoe construction introduced into this country c.1500, which comprises the attachment of a welt (narrow strip of leather sewn around the lasting margin of a shoe upper) to a sole and insole (Thornton 1971).

Two large joining pieces of a shelly limestone mortar were recovered from demolition layer (2040) (see Figure 31). The object has two broad rectangular lugs and may be part of a handled mortar. Typologically datable to the 13th–14th centuries, the find may be residual, as the durability of the artefact type often ensures its survival into later contexts.

Post-medieval makeup layer (1066) contained a piece of roofing lead (100g), which has been cut and perforated, possibly for reuse as a weight. Other metal finds comprise a rectangular iron staple recovered from external dump (1059), and portions of seven flat-headed iron timber nails, collected from post-medieval deposits (1062) and (1066), and modern layer (2080).

3.4.7 Vessel glass

Seven vessel glass sherds (280g) were recovered, the majority from deposit (2080), which contained a partial kick base from a 17th–18th century wine bottle, two bulbous neck pieces from a late 18th–19th century machine-made wine bottle and a piece of modern decanter stopper. Single post-medieval wine bottle rim and body sherds derived from wall (1022) and alluvium (2022), while makeup layer (2017) yielded a small body sherd from an undiagnostic late medieval vessel.

3.4.8 Window glass

Makeup layers (1066) and (2017) yielded three translucent pieces of natural green window glass, all 1mm thick, suggesting a late 16^{th} – 17^{th} century date. Staining from the lead came is clearly visible on the edge of the fragments from deposit (1066). A piece of modern frosted glass (5mm thick) was recovered from demolition layer (2042).

3.4.9 Metalworking residues

Dense ferrous slag weighing 714g was recovered from alluvial deposits (1062) and (2022), post-medieval makeup layer (1066), and modern deposit (2080). The material is indicative of small-scale smelting processes and comprises mainly tap slag. All fragments are redeposited.

3.4.10 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 303 fragments weighing 3.7kg and occurs in deposits of late medieval, post-medieval and modern date. The largest assemblages derived from alluvial layer (1062) which contained 1.1kg, and external dump (1059) and makeup layer (1066) which each yielded approximately 800g of bone. The assemblage comprises small pieces (average fragment weight 12g), although the material is not particularly abraded and



generally survives in good condition. Diagnostic elements are predominantly long bones (mainly metatarsals), although ribs, phalanges, vertebrae, teeth, mandible and skull fragments also occur. Some of the vertebrae have been deliberately chopped. Identifiable species are pig, cow and sheep/goat.

3.4.11 Shell

Eighty-five shell fragments (774g) were recovered, the majority deriving from alluvial layer (1062), which contained 67 shells (678g). With the exception of three mussels, all are oysters.

3.4.12 Wood

A number of unworked roundwood pieces and root fragments were recovered from alluvial layers (1062) and (1063). The latter also contained a small piece of a sawn plank of 16th century or later date.

3.4.13 Environmental data: potential of the deposits

The majority of the excavated deposits were unsuitable for sampling, as they were associated with building construction or demolition/levelling. In contrast, the amount of organic material (wood, leather, plant 'macrofossils') in the observed waterlogged, alluvial deposits demonstrated their high potential for the recovery of environmental data without the need to recover samples for off-site processing.



4. SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS AND ASSESSMENT OF THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

This section synthesises the results of the evaluation with reference to the provisional deposit model (Section 2.3.1 of the Project Design) and Section 5.3 of the Desk-Based Assessment. This section synthesises the results of the evaluation and considers the significance of the findings in local, regional and national terms.

4.1 Archaeological Deposit Model

4.1.1 General topography and ground conditions

The borehole data tends to confirm the prediction that the Old Bank Site, to the east of the site, has been both heavily truncated and subsequently built up by the widening of the bridge and High Street in 1938–40. No waterlogged deposits were encountered in the southernmost borehole (BH5). However, it was not possible to confirm these observations by test pit excavation.

As the fieldwork took place in high summer, it is assumed that the water table was encountered at its normal minimum level. In Test Pit 1 this was c. 1.6 m below ground (24.7m AOD) and in Test Pit 2 c. 1.2m (25.2m AOD). It is assumed that permanently waterlogged conditions currently exist below this level, although it is likely that this will have been affected in the past by the changing management of the River Ouse watercourse.

Deposits below this level are well preserved and waterlogged. These deposits, therefore, have very high potential for the preservation of organic artefacts (wood, leather, textiles etc.) and ecological indicators (pollen, seeds and other plant remains). Deposits of this type are significant for all periods for our understanding of the historic exploitation of the River Ouse (particularly its management as a navigable waterway – was it used for transport and trade before the creation of the post-medieval Navigation?). Such deposits will also be particularly important for the study of the environment and economy of Saxon and early medieval Bedford, one of the earliest English towns.

Above the waterlogged horizon, deposits of greyish brown soils were encountered. The test pit evidence suggests that these are dumped layers, probably used to further raise the ground level against flooding.

The latest layers comprise made ground containing various quantities of rubble and building materials. They were encountered across the whole site, ranging in thickness from c. 0.5m to 1m.

4.1.2 Artefactual evidence and dating

Although St Neots ware pottery of the 10th–11th century was recovered during the evaluation (see Artefact Summary, Section 3.4.1), this was 'residual' – found in contexts that were stratigraphically later than deposits containing post-medieval and modern artefacts. This suggests that one or other processes has occurred:



- post-medieval activity on the site has intruded into earlier deposits, bringing earlier material to the surface;
- material used for landfill was obtained by the clearance of early medieval deposits elsewhere in the town;
- erosion of river banks or the collapse of revetments has given rise to 'inverted' stratigraphy where 'earlier' deposits from the top of the bank or terrace are re-deposited on top of 'later' deposits at the foot of the bank.

Residual Saxon and earlier medieval artefacts within the later landfill may make a small contribution to the understanding of domestic and commercial activity relating to Bedford, but they would be less significant than if they were found *in situ* in contemporary deposits.

Post-medieval and modern artefacts were found in the statigraphically earliest alluvial deposits that were excavated. Although this suggests that the accumulation is fairly recent, the excavation conditions (working below the water table in the cramped conditions of a test pit) mean that contamination of earlier deposits by later material cannot be ruled out. This contamination can occur, for instance, where small intrusive features (such as stakes and postholes) allow artefacts to be introduced deep within earlier deposits. In difficult conditions, small features may not be recognisable during excavation, particularly if the fill of the features is very similar in composition to that of the layers through which they are cut. Contamination can also occur naturally, particularly in soft alluvial deposits, where artefacts are able to move down through the layers.

4.1.3 Waterfront and evidence for land reclamation

The evaluation confirmed the prediction of the provisional deposit model that extensive and deep river / waterfront deposits survived on the southern part of the site. In fact, the evidence from Test Pit 2 suggests that waterlogged silts occur at a similar level on the northern part of the site. Figure 25 depicts the 'maximum' extent of the waterlogged organic alluvial deposits that can be evinced by the results of this evaluation.

These deposits represent a significant phase of the development of Bedford, when a considerable tract of land – at least 30m wide – on the waterfront was reclaimed. It was not possible to examine the earliest deposits, so the date of the start of the reclamation process and the reasons behind it have not been elucidated.

The evaluation did not find conclusive evidence that the reclamation was successive, with a series of waterfront structures gradually moving out into the river. However, the fact that vertical timbers were found in both test pits suggests that that there are several phases of timber structures surviving below the water table. A possible limestone revetment wall 1075 was identified in Test Pit 1, lying about 10m north of the present embankment wall. Only a short length of the wall was exposed, but the extrapolated line (see Figure 25) suggests that the contemporary river was wider upstream and narrowing slightly towards the Town Bridge.



The deposits accumulated during this reclamation seal and protect the earlier foreshore and the archaeological remains of human activities that took place there. These underlying deposits will contribute to the understanding of the development of Saxon and early medieval Bedford.

4.1.4 Structural sequence and land use

Contrary to expectations, Test Pit 2 demonstrated that stratified archaeological deposits on the northern part of the site were at least 1.2m deep, although masonry structures were not identified below c 0.8m.

Timbers were found *in situ* in both test pits. Those on Test Pit 1 were partially exposed and recorded, although it was not possible (or desirable) to remove them. It was not possible to determine the nature of the structures to which they belonged. The unexcavated deposits in the base of Test Pit 2 contained several timber fragments, but these could not be recorded due to the amount of water in the bottom of the pit.

Test Pit 1 revealed a sequence of limestone structures to a depth of below 1.7m. The earliest 1075 was possibly a waterfront revetment wall (see above). Subsequent buildings respected the line of wall 1075, but the latest wall 1020 extended the building line southwards. The highest surviving wall courses were just below the makeup for the present car park surface. The dating of the construction of these walls is uncertain, but the succession of building phases suggests their longevity (possibly running from at least the early post-medieval period, c.16th century to the early 19th century). Fragmentary red brick structures and floors associated with these limestone walls suggest that the latest alterations were made in the 19th century.

Buildings marked on 19th century maps of the area have been transcribed onto the modern OS base map and compared with the excavated evidence by Joan Lightning. Her study has concluded that there is a strong correlation between the excavated structures and buildings shown on the Reynolds map of 1841 and also the Ordnance Survey First Edition of 1883 (see Figure 25). Corroboration of this is identification is found in the panorama drawing of St Paul's Square by Dawson (dated 1833) and the painting by Arnald (dated 1811) – see Figures 26 and 27.

The culvert $\boxed{1087}$, and $\boxed{2031}$ / $\boxed{2051}$ / $\boxed{2052}$, which was encountered in both test pits, supports the suggestion that the lanes leading down from St Paul's Square to the river may have served as 'kennels' or drains. The culvert possibly represents the 'under-grounding' of a formerly open drain running between the two properties (see Figure 25).

There was no evidence of extensive rubbish pitting, such as often occurs to the rear of medieval and early post-medieval domestic properties. This may be because of the unsuitable nature of the made ground. Alternatively, and perhaps more plausibly, it may be because the area between St Paul's Square and the river was used for more commercial activities. However, it should be recognised that



the test pit excavation strategy adopted is less reliable for detecting isolated features such as pits.

Industrial evidence, in the form of iron slag form the test pits, is redeposited. However, it indicates that iron was being smelted in the vicinity, probably in the post-medieval period.

No accumulation of cultivated soil was identified, so any significant period of use of the land as a garden can be discounted.

4.1.5 Potential for evidence of religious/mortuary use

No trace of human burials has been identified. Given the evidence cited above that the majority of the site is on reclaimed land, it is unlikely that the earlier cemeteries associated with St Paul's Church extended this far south. However, due to the limitations of the evaluation strategy, it is possible that burials do survive in areas of the site that were not examined by the test pits.

None of the buildings demonstrated features suggestive of a religious function.



4.2 Assessment of Significance

Nature of evidence	Comment	Significance	Comment on Significance	Vulnerability to development
Palaeotopography and environment	Evidence for the changing environment of the Great Ouse and its role in development of the regional urban economy	Regional	Important evidence for understanding the development of the Great Ouse for navigation and trade	Highly vulnerable to ground reduction, piling, and dewatering
Artefacts/industrial activities	Evidence for the economy and development of Bedford as a market and industrial centre	Regional	Important evidence for understanding the development of the Great Ouse for navigation and trade	Highly vulnerable to ground reduction; moderately vulnerable to piling
Waterfront development	Important evidence for the development of Bedford as a riverside market town	Regional	Important evidence for understanding the development of the Great Ouse for navigation and trade	Highly vulnerable to ground reduction; moderately vulnerable to piling
Structural land use evidence	Late medieval/post- medieval stone buildings; evidence for town planning and economy	Local	Late medieval / post-medieval urban development of Bedford	Highly vulnerable to ground reduction; moderately vulnerable to piling
	Early medieval/Saxon timber buildings; evidence for town planning and economy	Regional	Early English towns: Bedford's early medieval/Saxon development of regional importance	Highly vulnerable to ground reduction and piling
Religious/mortuary activity	None identified	Negligible/ Local	Some potential for isolated remains of local importance, due to limitations of evaluation.	n/a

Table 4: Significance and Vulnerability of the Archaeological Deposits



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6. APPENDIX 1: SITE DIARY FOR BOREHOLE WATCHING BRIEF

Borehole 1: 26/02/05.

Situated 1.70m north of door to magistrates' courts, some 15m north of the riverfront and 35m south of the street frontage onto St Paul's Square. A 0.50m diameter hole was excavated by hand using a wrecking bar to a depth of 1.10m through brick rubble and pea gravel exposing a ceramic water pipe. A 20cm diameter metal cylinder was then inserted and rammed to a depth of 3.4m.

Below the pipe to a depth of 2.20m was (105) a mid grey clayey silt with frequent fine gravel, a moderate amount of blue-grey mottling and occasional pieces of charcoal. The layer beneath this (106) was a dark blue-grey clayey silt with frequent fibrous material that overlaid a physical limestone obstruction at a depth of 3.4m. As the drillers were unable to go deeper this borehole was abandoned. It is likely that the limestone obstruction encountered is the natural bedrock of this area further work should confirm this.

Borehole 2: 5/03/05.

This is the repositioned hole that was abandoned the previous week. It was 40 cm in diameter and situated on the cobbled area 3.5 m east of the cell wall. A sequence of deposits, similar to that encountered in the original borehole was observed. The top 1 m consisted of modern brick rubble, below which a soft mid grey clayey silt with a moderate amount of small stones (202) continued to a depth of c.1.90 m. This sealed a deposit of a darker grey clayey silt, with a moderate amount of charcoal (203). This in turn changed into (204) a stony dark blue grey fibrous clayey silt with a moderate amount of charcoal at a depth of c.3 m. Some animal bone was recovered from this material. Below this 0.20 m of yellowish grey Boulder Clay overlay the limestone bedrock

As with the original borehole the solidity of the limestone bedrock was impossible to penetrate with the equipment in use and boring ceased at a depth of 3.50m.

Borehole 3: 5/03/05.

This was situated 3.50m south of the building on the northern side of the main car park. It was 0.40m in diameter. A layer of brick rubble overlay a yellow brown sandy clay with brick fragments. These deposits were hand excavated to a depth of 0.60m. Below this a light grey clayey silt (303) darkening with depth extended to a depth of 3.20m. This was immediately above a yellowish grey Boulder Clay (304).

As with the other boreholes, the solidity of the limestone bedrock was impossible to penetrate with the equipment in use and boring ceased at a depth of 3.85m.

Borehole 4: 6/03/05.

This was situated on the southern side of the main car park area c.4m from the footpath. It was 2m east of the present building on an area of block paving. This and the associated sand and gravels were excavated by hand to a depth of 0.40m. A large slab of concrete was encountered on the north side. This proved impenetrable so a smaller cylinder, 15cm in diameter, was used on the south side. Below the concrete was a grey brown brickearth to a depth of c. 1.50m and the water table. All this material is probably associated with an earlier extension to the present building. Below this at a depth of c.1.70m a grey clayey silt with frequent stones and moderate charcoal (404) overlay a similar but darker blue grey clayey silt (405). At a depth of 2.00m this material changed to a very dark fibrous grey brown clayey silt (406) which overlay limestone bedrock at a depth of 3.80m

Borehole 5. 12/03/05

Situated to the east of shire hall car park at the entrance to Chantry Way close to the bridge. Modern deposits associated with the bridge widening were encountered to a depth of c. 3.50m. Below this, river gravels (504) continued to a depth of 5.00m where a limestone obstruction (505) was encountered. This overlay a silty / gravely alluvial deposit (506), which was directly above the limestone bedrock at a depth of c. 5.20m.



Borehole 6. 12/03/05

This was situated c.3.50 east of the shire hall car park entrance, c.5m south of St Paul's Square. Below the tarmac to a depth of 0.50m was a layer of modern brick and crushed limestone which sealed an alluvial deposit (602). This continued to a depth of 4.00m where it overlay yellow grey Boulder Clay (603). Limestone bedrock was encountered at a depth of c.4.40m.

Borehole 7. 21/03/05

A different borehole crew with a rotary drill excavated another c 2.00m west of borehole 5. Limestone bedrock was again encountered at a depth of 5.00m. The bedrock was drilled for a further c.10.00m. Occasional lenses of clay were recorded within the bedrock.

Summary Observations

Boreholes 2, 3 and 6, which were situated further from the river, revealed boulder clay overlying the limestone bedrock. This clay was absent from Boreholes 1, 4 and 5. This may be the result of river action, which has eroded the Boulder Clay, prior to the deposition of the clayey silty deposits. There does not, however, appear to be a significant erosion of the bedrock closer to the river; its depth was relatively consistent in all parts of the site.

Amounts of undisturbed alluvial material with the potential for preservation of artefacts were recorded at a depth of *c*. 2.00-2.50m closer to the river and 3.00-3.50m closer to the square. It would seem likely that significant archaeological horizons may still survive in this material.



7. APPENDIX 2: BOREHOLE SUMMARY



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.50 m. Width: 0.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1. m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0500149608 Ref. 2:

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Tarmac		✓	
101	Concrete	Concrete	V	
102	Brick Rubble		V	
103	Packing		✓	
104	Pipe			
105	Alluvium	Mid grey green clay silt moderate small charcoal, frequent small stones	V	
106	Alluvium	Dark blue grey clay silt occasional small stones	V	
107	Bedrock	Compact light brown grey		



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.40 m. Width: 0.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: 1. m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0499849615 Ref. 2:

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
200	Paving	Cobbled yard.	✓	
201	Brick Rubble		✓	
202	Alluvium	Mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones	✓	
203	Alluvium	Mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones	✓	
204	Alluvium	Spongy dark grey brown clay silt moderate small stones contained mineralised ani bone at a depth of 1.10m	mal	✓
205	Natural	Firm light yellow grey moderate small-medium stones		
206	Bedrock	Compact light yellow grey		



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.40 m. Width: 0.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0503249633 Ref. 2:

Context:	: Type: Description:		Excavated: Finds Pr	resent:
300	Tarmac		✓	
301	Brick Rubble		✓	
302	Dump material	Loose mid yellow brown sandy clay	✓	
303	Alluvium	Light grey brown clay silt moderate small stones	✓	
304	Natural	Plastic light yellow brown clay clay moderate small-medium stones		
305	Bedrock	Light brown grey		



Max Dimensions: Length: 0.40 m. Width: 0.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1. m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0502449603 Ref. 2:

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
400	Paving	Block paving	✓	
401	Brick Rubble		✓	
402	Concrete	Concrete foundation to demolished extension.		
403	Brick Rubble		✓	
404	Alluvium	Mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks ceramic building material, moderate sm stones	all	
405	Alluvium	Dark blue grey clay silt frequent small stones	✓	



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 0.40 m. Width: 0.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 3.5 m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0506049607 Ref. 2:

Reason: 8 inch borehole

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pres	sent:
500	Tarmac		\checkmark	
503	Brick Rubble		✓	
504	Alluvium	Loose mid grey brown sandy gravel	V	
505	Layer	Limestone obstruction at a depth of 5m above alluvial silts.	\checkmark	
506	Alluvium	Spongy mid grey brown clay silt frequent small stones	✓	



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 0.40 m. Width: 0.40 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0505649639 Ref. 2:

Reason: 8 inch borehole

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pres	ent:
600	Tarmac			
601	Demolition layer	Associated with building demolished in 1950's	✓	



8. APPENDIX 3: TEST PIT SUMMARY



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549605

Context:	Type:	Description: Excava	ted:	Finds Present:
1000	External surface	Cemented mid grey concrete. Grey brick layer of car park surface.	✓	
1001	Make up layer	Loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel . Make up layer to rest 1000 on.	✓	
1002	Make up layer	Compact mid pinkish red hardcore . Make Up layer	✓	
1006	Modern Intrusion	Rectangular E-W profile: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, min depth 0.78m, min length 1.m. Base uncertain. Overlain by stones (1005). Modern Drain.	✓	
1003	Demolition layer	Compact dark grey rubble occasional small-medium ceramic building material. Demolition layer/ backfill.	✓	
1004	Fill	Compact light yellow brown rubble . Modern Backfill deposit of compact, light yellow brown, stones	V	
1005	Fill	Loose concrete frequent medium-large stones. Flat surfaced cut stones. Construction debris. Dump of stones in the base of a modern drain. Backfilled deposit.	V	
1007	Demolition layer	Compact mid orange grey clay silt occasional medium ceramic building material, occasional small chalk, frequent small-medium stones. Demolition Layer. Associated with [1094]	✓	
1013	Pit	Profile: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.1m. Sharp break of slope (top). Truncates (1014) and physically truncates wall [1020] Uncertain use, possibly a pit.	✓	
1009	Demolition layer	Compact dark blue grey clay silt frequent small ceramic building material, frequent small stones, occasional medium stones. Demolition layer associated with [1013]	✓	
1010	Demolition layer	Compact light orange grey clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, frequent medium stones, frequent small stones. Occasional mortar, tile, and wood. Demolition Layer	✓	
1011	Demolition layer	Loose dark grey silt occasional small ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small fired clay. Common coal inclusions and clay pockets. Demolition layer	✓	
1012	Fill	Compact mid orange grey sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, frequent small stones. Backfilled deposit of construction debris	✓	
1014	Demolition layer	Compact dark grey brown clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones, occasional small stones. Demolition layer. Rare slate inclusions.	✓	
1015	Demolition layer	Compact light orange grey clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, moderate medium-large stones, occasional small stones. Common medium worked stone inclusions. Demolition layer.	✓	
1018	Floor	Compact light orange yellow frequent medium fired clay. Tile floor with materials ranging from 60mm to 150mm in size. Square finished and regular coursed with occasional mortar. The bonding is a light orange yellow, compact mortar. There are 3 courses of tiles visible in sections 1/2 and 2/3. It overlies wall [1020] (physical relationship only), and is possibly truncated by [1013] (pit) as well as a possible unrecorded cut E of the upper tile course. It is most likely a heavily truncated floor level.	✓	
1017	Demolition layer	Compact light grey orange silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small fired clay. Demolition layer with occasional mortar and general cbm inclusions.	✓	
Podford 9	Shira Hall and Su	rrounding Site (MC1018)		40



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549605

1019	Demolition layer	Compact dark orange grey silt frequent medium fired clay, occasional small stones. Demolition layer with occasional medium sized worked stone inclusions.		
1020	Wall	Cemented mid orange yellow limestone occasional small sand, occasional small stones. Limestone wall, squared finish and random coursed. Direction of face is N. Bonding material is mortar (a fine, orange yellow mortar, with occasional small surrounded stones). There are 4 separate courses, one on top of another. Two are visible in section 1/2 only. Two courses are visible in middle of length only. It extends to only three metres North and is built over an earlier wall/structure [1022]. The interpretation of it is a medieval wall situated in the E side of TP1 and physically truncates [1022].	▽	
1021	Demolition layer	Compact light grey orange clay sand occasional medium ceramic building material, occasional small fired clay, occasional medium stones. Demolition layer with inclusions of frequent worked stone and occasional tile. Overlies (1023), (1058).	✓	
1022	Wall	Compact light brown orange limestone moderate small sand. Limestone wall. Materials range from 100mm - 750mm in size and are square finished and random coursed. Six courses are visible. The bonding material is a compact, light brown orange, sandy mortar. The S and W facing sides are roughly faced and are probably the outer walls. The N and E facing sides are smooth faced with a rendering of mortar, and suggest a likelihood for being the interior walls. It is physically truncated by wall [1020]. Related contexts [1038], [1031] and [1057], form Culvert [1087] which is situated at the North-Eastern corner of Area 1.		V
1023	Demolition layer	Compact mid grey orange silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, occasional medium stones. Demolition layer slumped against [1022] containing occasional medium worked stones.	V	
1026	Modern Intrusion	Linear NW-SE profile: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.86m, min length 2.2m. Construction cut for land drain ("modern").	✓	
1024	Backfill	Compact mid pinkish grey rubble occasional small-medium ceramic building material, frequent small stones, occasional medium stones. Backfill to seal drain [1025] with inclusions of rare medium worked stones.	✓	
1025	Drain	Cemented mid pinkish red concrete . Land drain.		
1027	Demolition layer	Firm dark orange brown silty clay frequent small ceramic building material. Demolition layer with occasional cbm and mortar fragments.	✓	
1028	Demolition layer	Friable dark grey black occasional small ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoalDark orange black, charcoal with frequent cbm. Demolition spread	V	
1029	Demolition layer	Loose light grey yellow sand occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small fired clay. Demolition layer with occasional worked stone, and cbm inclusions.	V	
1030	Demolition layer	Firm mid orange brown silty clay moderate medium ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal. Demolition layer with root disturbance.	✓	✓
1031	Culvert	Limestone frequent small sand. Culvert lid. Limestone slab set against walls [1031] and [1038]. It physically seals (1032). Square finished and random coursed, it is bonded with a sandy mortar. Situated in the NE corner of TP1 it is damaged by machining. Void is in filled with (1032). Related contexts are [1038], [1057] and [1022].	V	



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549605

1032	Alluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones. Natural silting of void in culvert [1087].	✓	
1033	Demolition layer	Firm light brown yellow sandy clay occasional small stones. Demolition layer	✓	
1034	Demolition layer	Compact dark orange grey silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small stones. Demolition layer	✓	
1035	Demolition layer	Compact mid orange brown clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, frequent small stones. Demolition layer with inclusions of occasional small wood.	✓	
1036	Demolition layer	Compact light orange yellow silty sand . Demolition layer of mortar	✓	
1037	Demolition layer	Friable dark orange grey silty clay occasional small stones. Demolition layer	✓	
1038	Culvert	Mid yellow orange sandy limestone. Interior limestone wall of a culvert. Materials range in size from 60mm to 300mm and are square finished. The feature is regular coursed and W facing. The bonding material is a mid yellow orange sandy mortar. It is situated in the NE corner of TP1 (Area 1) and is possibly truncated at the S extent by a land drain [1026] overlain by [1031]. Related contexts are [1031] and [1057]. Part of Culvert [1087].		
1040	Wall	Compact mid brown orange sandy limestone. Corner of limestone walled building consisting of square finished regular coursed slabs bonded with mortar. The materials range from 100mm x 200mm - 200mm x 260mm in size The feature faces both E and S. The majority of the building is orientated E-W and is possibly related to building [1022]. Situated at the N side of TP1 it is visible in the S facing section 2/4. Overlies Foundation Cut [1092].		
1041	Demolition layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy gravel . Demolition layer	✓	
1042	Demolition layer	Compact light orange grey silty clay frequent small-large ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large stones. Demolition layer	✓	
1043	Demolition layer	Compact dark orange grey silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal. Demolition layer	✓	
1044	Demolition layer	Compact mid orange grey clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small fired clay, occasional small stones. Demolition layer with elements of occasional mortar, rare cbm, and rare pot shards present.	✓	
1045	Demolition layer	Compact dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material. Demolition layer with occasional mortar.	✓	
1046	Demolition layer	Compact mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material. Demolition layer	✓	
1047	Demolition layer	Compact dark grey brown clay silt occasional small ceramic building material. Demolition layer.	✓	
1048	Demolition layer	Firm light orange yellow sandy chalk occasional flecks charcoal. Demolition layer made of sandy mortar with occasional charcoal.	✓	



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549605

1049	Floor	Friable light orange yellow chalky limestone occasional small ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent large sand. Limestone floor. Worked stone slabs bonded with mortar forming a flat surface. The materials range from 50mm x 100mm x 200mm - 80mm x 250mm x 350mm and are square finished and randomly coursed. Two courses are visible. The bonding is a sandy chalk with various inclusions as described on page1. It is situated in the NW corner of TP1 and is truncated by a modern footing. It possibly extends further to the South but is physically truncated by Modern Intrusion [1006].	✓	
1050	Pit	Sub-circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.57m, max depth 0.41m. Concave shaped pit of unknown use.	✓	
1051	Backfill	Compact mid brown grey clay silt frequent small ceramic building material. Backfill with occasional mortar and frequent cbm inclusions.	✓	
1052	Demolition layer	Compact mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Demolition layer	✓	
1053	Demolition layer	Compact dark grey orange silty clay frequent small-medium ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones. Demolition layer within building with occasional worked stone, frequent tile, and occasional charcoal inclusions.	V	✓
1054	Demolition layer	Friable light yellow grey sandy clay occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small fired clay. Demolition layer containing collapsed stone flooring(?) within building [1022]. Layer has inclusions of occasional pot shards, frequent tile, occasional charcoal, and worked stone (in-situ).	✓	✓
1055	Demolition layer	Friable dark yellow grey sandy silt occasional small fired clay. Demolition layer within interior of building with inclusions of occasional worked stone (collapsed flooring), and occasional tile.	V	✓
1056	Demolition layer	Firm light orange yellow occasional small fired clay. Demolition layer within interior of building with inclusions of mortar, rare tile, and rare worked stone (collapsed flooring?).		
1057	Culvert	Hard mid red orange sandy limestone . The limestone base of Culvert [1087], situated in the North-Eastern corner of Area 1 (Test Pit 1). A single course of limestone slabs, extending 0.85m South of section2/4, where it has probably been truncated by Land drain [1026]. Worked stones found in-situ in demolition layers (1054-6).		
1058	Dump material	Firm dark brown black clay silt moderate small-large ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. Dump of material abutting the exterior of wall [1022] with a high level of root disturbance. Mixed deposit of a dark black brown clay with patches of mid orange yellow sandy silt.	V	✓
1059	Dump material	Firm dark brown black clay silt moderate small-large ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones. Layer observed next to wall [1022]	✓	✓
1060	Dump material	Loose light orange yellow moderate medium-large stones. Deposit seems to be a dump of material abutting stone wall [1022] and is frequented by moderate medium/large lumps of limestone.		V



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549605

1061	Alluvium	Friable dark blue brown silty clay . Waterlogged silting deposit associated with wall [1075]. Together with a high humic content and a noticeable smell it has a very high finds content.		
1062	Alluvium	Firm dark blue brown silty clay . Same as (1061).		✓
1063	Alluvium	Friable dark blue brown silty clay. A mottled deposit of dark blue/brown and mid blue/grey silty clay with a high humic content. A noticeable smell and patches of plastic clay. Contains preserved wood and appears to be a waterlogged silting deposit associated with wall [1075].		
1081	Timber	Wooden stake, with vertical sides, and circular shape. In good condition. Found in-situ (1063), left in-situ. Possible relationship to stakes [1082], [1083].		
1082	Timber	Good condition stake. Related to [1081], [1083]. Found in-situ (1063), left in-situ.		
1083	Timber	Wooden stake, with vertical sides, circular shape. In good condition. Found in-situ (1063). Left in-situ.		
1064	Alluvium	Friable dark blue brown silty clay frequent small stones. Waterlogged humic deposit associated with wall [1075]. It has a high humic content, with a noticable methane odour. Pea Grit present may suggest seasonal flooding of the river.		✓
1066	Make up layer	Friable dark blue brown silty clay frequent small ceramic building material, frequent small stones, moderate large stones. Mixed deposit, dark blue brown, silty clay, with a frequent humic consistency. Mottled with yellow brown, plastic clay, frequent small angular stones, frequent cbm, and moderate large flat stones. A build up of disturbed ground. A make up layer.		✓
1067	Make up layer	Compact mid blue black $$. Course particles of coal. Discreet lens of material within (1066).		
1068	Alluvium	Friable dark blue brown silty clay frequent small stones, occasional medium stones. Very mixed layer, probably a humic deposit which was disturbed. Inclusions of small pebbles and small patches of clay occasional pieces of small angular sandstone.		
1070	Floor	Plastic mid green grey clay . This layer seems to have been placed on a bedding deposit (1069) and is interpreted as a floor layer.	✓	
1073	Foundation	Frequent large ceramic building material. Regular course of modern brick overlying three courses of mortar and mixed mortar/stone layers. Foundation (modern footing).		
1075	Wall	Limestone . Square finished wall of regular course orientated East/West. Abutting [1077] a roughly hewn, unfaced wall. Appears to adjoin to the lower layer of [1077] with a collapse destruction phase overlying the eastern edge. A physical relation only-ACJ 01/09/2005.		
1076	Alluvium	Plastic mid grey blue sandy clay . Mid grey blue plastic clay with green mottling. Slump of material abutting Wall [1075]. Naturally deposited.		
1084	Timber	Wooden planking in good condition. Left in-situ (1076) at 60 deg. Tangentially faced, possible chisel points on both sides.		
1077	Wall	Roughly hewn, random coursed wall, with a grey sandy clay bonding. Possibly collapsed unfaced wall, or part of a destruction phase. Lower level abutts [1075].		



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549605

1078	Foundation	Frequent medium-large ceramic building material. Mixed brickwork of red clay and light pink yellow bricks. Foundation or floor.		
1079	Wall	Limestone moderate medium ceramic building material, moderate small stones. Situated in the northern corner of test pit 1 (area 1). A square finished, random coursed limestone wall. Embedded with a compact, dark orange brown, silty sand, with moderate brick fragments, moderate charcoal flecks, and moderate small subangular stones.		
1080	Wall	Limestone . Light yellow limestone wall, random coursed, roughly hewn, with a compact, light brown orange sandy mortar. Situated in the SE corner of area 1. Visibly abutts wall [1020], but seems to be haphazardly placed in more than one course. Possibly an earlier wall		
1086	Demolition layer	Compact mid yellow grey sandy clay		
1087	Culvert	Group context for Masonry sheets associated with Culvert, including [1031], [1038], [1057].		
1088	Foundation trench	Linear N-S profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min length 1.67m. Foundation cut for wall [1020].		
1071	Make up layer	Compact sandy gravel frequent small stones, occasional large stones. Bedding material for wall [1020].		
1072	Make up layer	Compact sandy gravel frequent large stones, occasional small stones. A continuation of bedding layer (1071) for wall [1020].		
1074	Make up layer	Compact sand occasional small stones. Sand and chert fragments and small pebbles with a little mortar. Upper bedding layer of [1088], for wall [1020].		
1089	Foundation trench	Rectangular N-S profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.2m. Foundation cut for modern footing [1073].		
1090	Foundation trench	Rectangular profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.76m, max depth 0.2m, max length 1.1m. Foundation cut for floor [1070].		
1069	Make up layer	Mid yellow white occasional small charcoal. Appears to be a bedding material for clay floor layer [1070]. Mortar with a high sand content. Overlies [1090].		
1091	Foundation trench	Linear profile: vertical base: flat . Foundation cut for wall [1022].		
1093	Foundation	Bedding layer for wall [1022].		
1092	Foundation trench	Linear N-S. Foundation cut for wall [1040].		
1094	Pit	Profile: irregular base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.65m, min length 1.75m. Sharp break of slope facing West, gradual b.o.s. base, flat base.		
1008	Fill	Compact dark orange grey clay silt occasional medium ceramic building material, frequent medium-large stones. Demolition layer. Associated with [1094]	✓	
1095	Pit	Profile: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m. Sharp sided feature , visible in section $1/2$ only. Pit of unknown usage.		
1016	Fill	Compact mid orange grey clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small stones. Rare worked stone inclusions. Demolition layer with a coal lens.	✓	
1096	Foundation trench	Dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.23m. Foundation cut for wall [1079].		



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549605

1098	Foundation trench	Linear N-S. Foundation cut for wall [1080].		
1099	Make up layer	Light grey yellow sandy mortar. Make up layer.	✓	
1100	Foundation trench	Cut for foundation [1085]		
1085	Foundation	Dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.2m, max length 0.25m. Modern brick foundation.		



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549627

Description: Second Test Pit, located at north side of car park

Type:	Description: Excav	ated:	Finds Present:
External surface	Cemented dark blue blue tarmac . Tarmac for Car Park.		
Make up layer	Compact light yellow grey gravel frequent small stones. Make-up layer for Tarmac (2000).	✓	
Foundation trench			
Foundation	Compact dark grey black . Dark grey-black coal, fill of [2002]. Bedding for a structure.		
Make up layer	Loose mid yellow red silty sand frequent medium ceramic building material. Make-uplayer. In addition to stated inclusions are Occasional, small Coal and Occasional, medium Bricks) [
Make up layer	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt occasional medium ceramic building material. Makup layer. The CBM inclusions were composed of modern brick.	e-	
Brick Rubble			
Wall	The wall construction material was Limestone 120-370mm in length, 100-200mm in breadth and 100mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and randomly coursed with occasional bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a wall with an east facing. The bonding material was a mid grey yellow, sandy clay which was of a firm consistancy. The dimensions of masonary as found we 0.55m in length, 0.20m in breadth, and 0.30m in depth.		
Brickwork	The wall construction material was a mixture of brick and limestone 300mm in length, 130mm in breadth and 150mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and regularly coursed with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a floor with an east facing (in section). The bonding material was a fine, mid orange yellow, sand which was of a firm compaction. The dimensions of masonary as found were, 1.22m in breadth, and 0.13m in depth.		
Demolition layer	Compact mid brown red sand frequent medium ceramic building material. Mix Victorian rubble mainly composed of brick and tile. Demolition spread	ed 🗌	
Make up layer	Loose mid yellow brown sand occasional medium ceramic building material, occasional small stones. Make-up layer.		
Make up layer	Firm dark green brown silty sand occasional small ceramic building material, frequent small stones. Make-up layer		
	Compact mid brown grey clay occasional small stones. Excavator felt that this layer could represent some sort of bonding deposit as there appeared to be brick work visible (2012).		
Make up layer	Loose light grey orange sand frequent small stones, occasional small-medium stones. The occasional small-medium stones appeared to be worked. Make-up layer		
Make up layer	Compact mid yellow red silty sand occasional medium ceramic building material		
	External surface Make up layer Foundation Foundation Make up layer Brick Rubble Wall Brickwork Demolition layer Make up layer Make up layer	External surface Cemented dark blue blue tarmac . Tarmac for Car Park. Compact light yellow grey gravel frequent small stones. Make-up layer for Tarmac (2000). Foundation trench depth 0.43m. Sharp 90 degree initial cut with a sharp North B.O.S and a gradual southern slope to base. Modern cut for foundation of some kind. Compact dark grey black . Dark grey-black coal, fill of [2002]. Bedding for a structure. Make up layer Loose mid yellow red silty sand frequent medium ceramic building material. Make-up layer. In addition to stated inclusions are Occasional, small Coal and Occasional, medium Bricks Firm mid brown orange sandy silt occasional medium ceramic building material. Make up layer. The CBM inclusions were composed of modern brick. Firm mid brown orange sandy silt occasional medium ceramic building material. Make up layer. The CBM inclusions included modern brick which accounted for approx. 50 of the fill. Wall The wall construction material was Limestone 120-370mm in length, 100-200mm in breadth and 100mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and randomly coursed with occasional bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a wall with an east facing. The bonding material was a mid grey yellow, sandy clay which was of a firm consistancy. The dimensions of masonary as found we 0.55m in length, 0.20m in breadth, and 0.30m in depth. The wall construction material was a mixture of brick and limestone 300mm in length, 130mm in breadth and 150mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and regularly coursed with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a floor with an east facing (in section). The bonding material was a fine, mild orange yellow, sandy dim material was a firm compaction. The dimensions of masonary as found were, 1.22m in breadth, and 0.30m in depth. Demolition layer Compact mid brown red sand frequent medium ceramic building material, occasional small stones. Make-up layer Loose mid yellow brown sand occasional small cera	External surface Cemented dark blue blue tarmac . Tarmac for Car Park. Compact light yellow grey gravel frequent small stones. Make-up layer for Tarmac (2000). Foundation trench Assymetrical profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions; max breadth 1.34m, max depth 0.43m. Sharp 90 degree initial cut with a sharp North B.O.S and a gradual southern slope to base. Modern cut for foundation of some kind. Foundation Compact dark grey black . Dark grey-black coal, fill of [2002]. Bedding for a structure. Make up layer Loose mid yellow red silty sand frequent medium ceramic building material. Make-up layer. In addition to stated inclusions are Occasional, small Coal and Occasional, medium Bricks Make up layer Firm mid brown orange sandy silt occasional medium ceramic building material. Make-up layer. The CBM inclusions were composed of modern brick. Firm mid brown yellow frequent medium ceramic building material. Possible robbed out floor layer. The inclusions included modern brick which accounted for approx. 50% of the fill. Wall The wall construction material was Limestone 120-370mm in length, 100-200mm in breadth and 100mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and randomly coursed with occasional bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a wall with an east facing. The bonding material was a mid grey yellow, sandy clay which was of a firm consistancy. The dimensions of masonary as found we 0.55m in length, 0.20m in breadth, and 0.30m in depth. Brickwork The wall construction material was a mixture of brick and limestone 300mm in length, 130mm in breadth and 150mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and regularly coursed with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a floor with an east facing. The bonding material was a fine, mid orange yellow, sand which was of a firm compaction. The dimensions of masonary as found were, 1,22m in breadth, and 0.13m in depth. Compact mid brown red sand frequent medium ceramic building material. Comp



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549627

Description: Second Test Pit, located at north side of car park

Make up layer	Firm light grey yellow sandy clay occasional medium stones. Make-up layer		
Make up layer	Loose mid orange brown sand occasional medium stones. Make-up layer		
Make up layer	Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional medium charcoal, occasional medium stones, occasional small stones. The occasional, medium stone inclusions appeared to be worked. Make-up layer	✓	✓
Make up layer	Friable mid orange brown clay sand frequent small stones. Make-up layer		
Make up layer	Firm dark brown black sandy silt occasional small charcoal. Make-up layer		
Make up layer	Loose dark grey black . Make-up layer		
Make up layer	Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional medium ceramic building material. Make-up layer for [2066]		
Alluvium	Spongy dark blue grey silty clay . This was a waterlogged deposit which covered the whole area of Test Pit.2. The layer contained a high organic content and although a silty clay by nature it also had a fibrous element. (2022) contained relatively high concentrations of pottery shards, animal bone metal working slag and preserved wood. The field interpretation of this deposit is that it is alluvial in nature.	✓	✓
Make up layer	Compact mid orange grey sandy gravel . Occasional Lime mortar on base. Make- up layer		
Make up layer	Loose light orange grey sandy gravel . Make-up layer		
Floor	The wall construction material wasbrick, 230mm in breadth and 50mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and regularly coursed with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a floor with a north facing (in section). The bonding material was a fine, dark orange brown, sand which was of a firm consistancy. The dimensions of masonary as found were 1.15m in breadth, and 0.05m in depth.		
Make up layer	Compact light yellow brown sandy gravel occasional small ceramic building material. Make-up layer		
Foundation trench	Assymetrical profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.32m, max depth 0.32m. This is the foundation cut for the construction of wall [2032] and also foundation [2031] which could be the foundation for wall [2032].		
Fill	Compact mid orange grey silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones. This is the only fill of foundation cut [2028]. The occasional medium stone inclusions appear to have been worked and could be due to the truncation and demolition of an earlier structure by foundation cut [2028].		
Fill	Friable dark brown black silty clay moderate small stones. Fill of [2028], coulds possible be the distirbed continuance of (2027) before it was truncated by structural cut [2028]. The fill (2075) appears to contain quite high levels of coal dust as a componant.		
Alluvium	Loose mid orange brown silty sand occasional medium stones. The excavator felt that this alluvial layer was most likely to have been deposited as a result of seasonal flooding of the Great River Ouse	✓	✓
	Make up layer Alluvium Make up layer Floor Make up layer Foundation trench Fill	Make up layer Loose mid orange brown sand occasional medium stones. Make-up layer Make up layer Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional medium charcoal, occasional medium stones, occasional small stones. The occasional, medium stone inclusions appeared to be worked. Make-up layer Make up layer Friable mid orange brown clay sand frequent small stones. Make-up layer Make up layer Loose dark grey black . Make-up layer Make up layer Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional medium ceramic building material. Make-up layer for [2066] Alluvium Spongy dark blue grey silty clay . This was a waterlogged deposit which covered the whole area of Test Pit.2. The layer contained a high organic content and although a silty clay by nature it also had a fibrous element. [2022] contained relatively high concentrations of pottery shards, animal bone metal working slag and preserved wood. The field interpretation of this deposit is that it is alluvial in nature. Make up layer Loose light orange grey sandy gravel . Occasional Lime mortar on base. Make-up layer Floor The wall construction material wasbrick, 230mm in breadth and 50mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and regularly contest with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a floor with a north facing (in section). The bonding material was remained in the section of the structure would appear to be a floor with a north facing (in section). The bonding material was fine, dark orange brown, sand which was of a firm consistancy. The dimensions of masonary as found were 1.15m in breadth, and 0.85m in depth. Make up layer Compact high yellow brown sandy gravel occasional small ceramic building material. Make-up layer Foundation trench Assymetrical profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.32m, max depth 0.32m. This is the foundation cut for the construction of wall [2032]. Fill Compact mid orange grey silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones. This is the only fill of foundation cut [Make up layer Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional medium stones. Make-up layer Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional, medium stone inclusions appeared to be worked. Make-up layer Make up layer Friable mid orange brown clay sand frequent small stones. Make-up layer Make up layer Firm dark brown black sandy silt occasional small charcoal. Make-up layer Make up layer Loose dark grey black . Make-up layer Make up layer Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional medium ceramic building material. Make-up layer for [2066] Alluvium Spongy dark blue grey silty clay . This was a waterlogged deposit which covered the whole area of Test Pit.2. The layer contained a high organic content and although a silty clay by nature it also had a fibrous element. (2022) ontained relatively high concernations of pottery shards, animal bone metal working slag and preserved wood. The field interpretation of this deposit is that it is alluvial in nature. Make up layer Compact mid orange grey sandy gravel . Occasional Lime mortar on base. Make-up layer The wall construction material washrick, 230mm in breadth and 50mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and regularly coursed with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a floor with a north facing (in section). The bonding material was fine, dark orange brown, sand which was of a firm consistancy. The dimensions of masonary as found were 1.15m in breadth, and 0.05m in depth. Make up layer Compact light yellow brown sandy gravel occasional small ceramic building material, Make-up layer Foundation trench Asymetrical profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.32m, max depth 0.32m. This is the dough of the doubt on the runcation and demolition of an earlier structure by foundation cut [2028]. The fill (2075) appear to contain quite high levels of coal data sa componant. Alluvium Loose mid orange gray skily clay occasional medium stones. Fill of [2028], coulds possible be the distribed continuance of (2027) helo



Area: 2 Extent (ha): 0.0016 OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549627 Description: Second Test Pit, located at north side of car park The wall construction material was sandstone of between 350-50mm in length, 100-2031 Wall 40mm in breadth and 110-80mm in depth. The blocks were roughly hewn and irregularly coursed with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a wall foundation. The bonding material was a firm mid orange yellow, sand with occasional brick and ceramic tile inclusions. The dimensions of masonary as found we 0.47m in length, 0.05m in breadth, and 0.46m in depth (as visible in section). 2032 Wall The wall construction material was red brick 204mm in length, 101mm in breadth and 68mm in depth. The blocks were squared and had ashler coursing with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a wall with an unknown facing. The bonding material was a mid grey yellow mortar which was sandy. The dimensions of masonary as found we 0.36m in length, 0.21m in breadth, and 0.48m in depth (as visible in section). The wall appears to be of a modern construction type and runs approximetly North-South. The wall [2032] sits apon a foundation deposit [2031]. However it is possible that that this foundation may not belong to this phase of construction and is the reminants of an earlier structure, however this seems very unlikley. The wall construction material was red brick 110mm in length, 225mm in breadth 2033 Wall and 60mm in depth. The blocks were square finished and regularly coursed with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a wall with an unknown facing. The bonding material was a mid grey yellow, sand with frequent limestone inclusions (c.45%) which was of a firm consistancy. The dimensions of masonary as found we 0.70m in length, 0.35m in breadth, and 0.07m in depth. The wall appears to be of a fairly modern construction type and consists of one course of modern brick and is bedded into a mix of concreate/mortar. **V** 2035 Friable mid yellow brown clay sand moderate small ceramic building material, Make up layer occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small stones. Make-up layer. The small stone inclusions were angular and rounded chert fragments and also the layer had occasional small angular fragments of ceramic tile. It should be noted that the colour of the layer was mottled but mainly mid yellow-brown. 2036 **Dump material** Friable mid yellow sandy clay moderate small stones. Mortar type material. The small stone inclusions were angular pieces of Limestone 2037 Friable sandy clay. Frequent lenses of material, mottled in colour but mainly Layer mid brown and mid yellow, also some blue-brown due to the presence of coal inclusions. Inclusions present were occasional medium degraded Limestone, occasional small ceramic building materials, occasional small chert fragments and occasional small fragments of coal. The interpretation of this layer is uncertain however it would seem consistent with either a demolition or make-up layer, more probably the former rather that the latter. 2038 Friable dark grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small Laver stones. Silting layer built up against [2039]. The areas of charcoal flecking in this layer were discrete and concentrated mainly towards the top of the layer. Occasional small stones were rounded sandstone. 2039 **Demolition layer** Friable sandy clay moderate medium ceramic building material, occasional small

stones. This demolition spread is mottled in colour but mainly mid yellow-brown

Friable dark blue brown clay gravel occasional medium ceramic building

material, occasional medium stones, occasional small stones. Demolition layer

Demolition layer

2040

and mid grey-brown.

✓



Extent (ha): 0.0016

OS Co-ordinates: TL0503549627

Description: Second Test Pit, located at north side of car park

	•	,		
2041	Make up layer	Friable dark brown blue clay occasional small stones. Make-up layer. The inclusions present in the fill were small rounded pebbles and frequent small, medium and large limestone fragments also occasional small angular chert. It is possible and likely that the limestone inclusions in this layer are related to the North-South running culvert comprised of [2068], [2051], [2052]		✓
2042	Demolition layer	Loose mid orange brown silty sand frequent small ceramic building material. Mixed demolition layer. The excavator also noted a mottling in the spread which was consistent with a mortar type material.	V	✓
2043	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay occasional small stones. Make-up layer. The excavator also noted large patches of a mid yellow-grey clay within the layer.	✓	✓
2044	Demolition layer	Firm silty clay occasional large ceramic building material. Demolition spread. The layer was a mottled mid yellow-brown and dark black-brown	✓	✓
2045	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow brown sandy clay frequent small stones. Make-up layer, abutts [2051].		
2046	Alluvium	Friable dark grey brown sandy clay occasional small stones		
2047	Alluvium	Loose mid yellow brown sandy gravel frequent small stones. This layer was interpreted as a naturally deposited alluvial layer associated with the Great River Ouse.		
2048	Alluvium	Friable mid brown sandy clay occasional small stones. This layer was interpreted as a naturally deposited alluvial layer associated with the Great River Ouse.		
2049	Demolition layer	Firm dark brown black sandy silt occasional medium charcoal. This layer is interpreted as a possible demolition spread. SAME AS (2019)		
2050	Wall	The wall construction material was red brick of between 70mm in breadth and 160mm in depth. The blocks were squared and irregularly coursed with bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a wall. The bonding material was a compact white-grey concreate type material with no inclusions. The dimensions of masonary as found were 0.35m in breadth, and 0.79m in depth (as visible in section).		
2051	Wall	The wall construction material was limestone of between 330mm in breadth and 98mm in depth. The blocks were roughly hewn and were arranged into irregular string coursing with no bonding material present. The form of the structure would appear to be a wall. No bonding material appeared to be present. The dimensions of masonary as found we 0.47m in length, 0.05m in breadth, and 0.46m in depth (as visible in section).		
2054	Make up layer	Frequent medium ceramic building material, frequent medium stones. This make- up layer is mottled in colour varying between dark brown-black, loose, silty clay (approx. 60%) and a mid yellow-brown, firm, silty-clay (approx. 40%).		
2055	Alluvium	Firm dark grey brown silty clay occasional small stones. The excavator interpreted this layer as being a alluvial deposit associated with the Great River Ouse.		✓
2056	Alluvium	Firm mid orange brown silty clay moderate small stones. This layer was interpreted as a naturally deposited alluvial layer associated with the Great River Ouse.		





Figure 1: Location map with inset showing Shire Hall site and building numbers used in this report.

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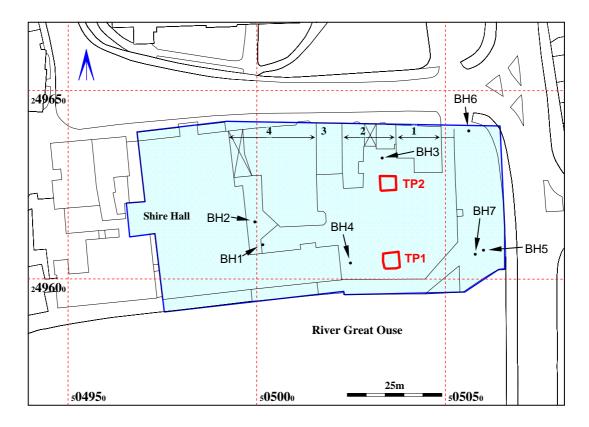


Figure 2: Location of borehole sample points and test pits

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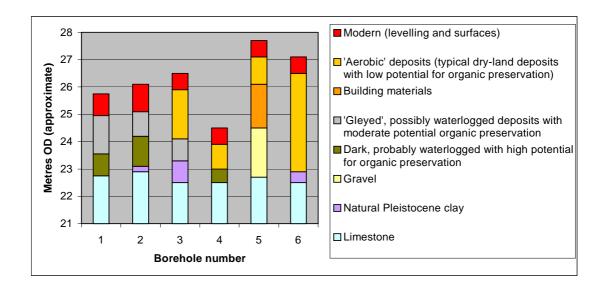


Figure 3: Graphical representation of borehole results (archaeological interpretation)



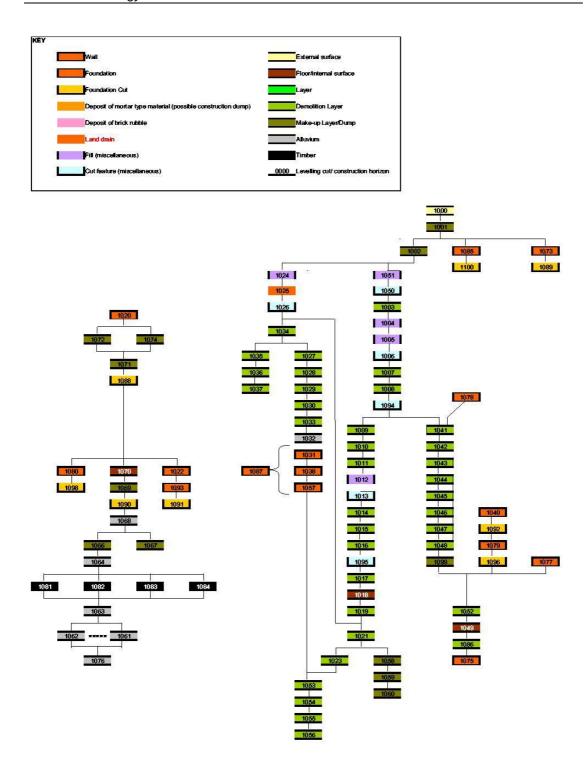


Figure 4: Stratigraphic diagram (Harris Matrix) of deposits in Test Pit 1



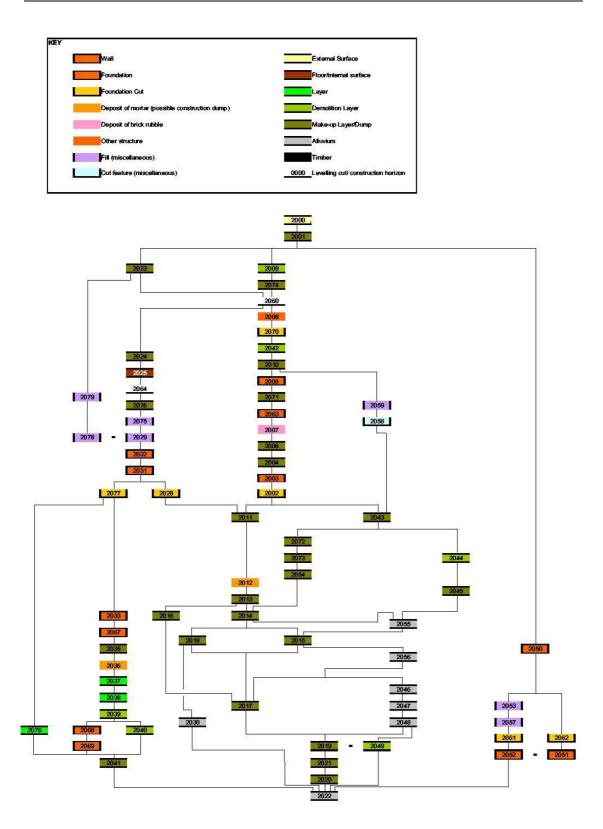


Figure 5: Stratigraphic diagram (Harris Matrix) of deposits in Test Pit 2



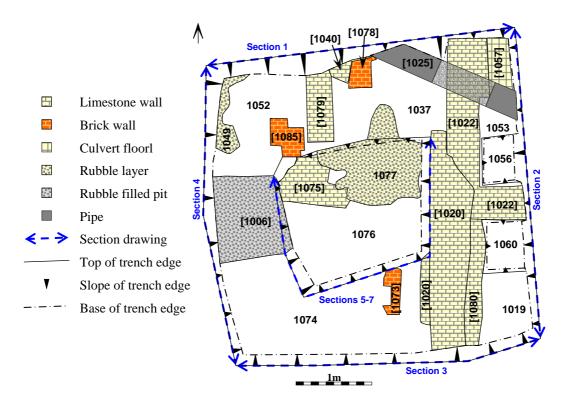
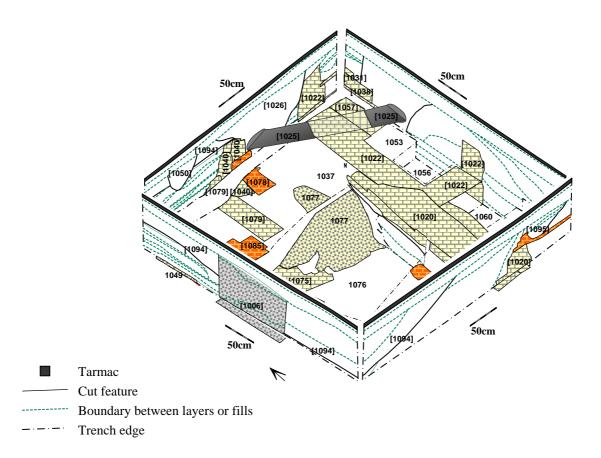


Figure 6: Plan of Test Pit 1, with locations of sections





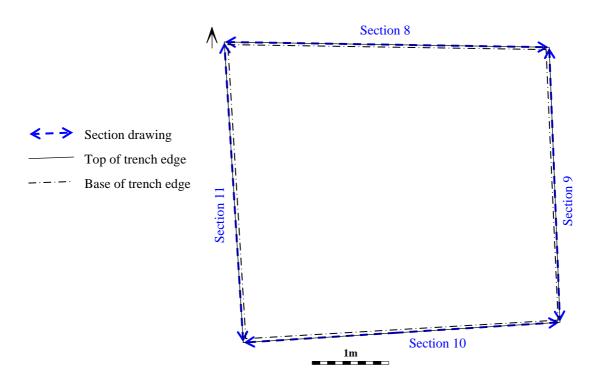
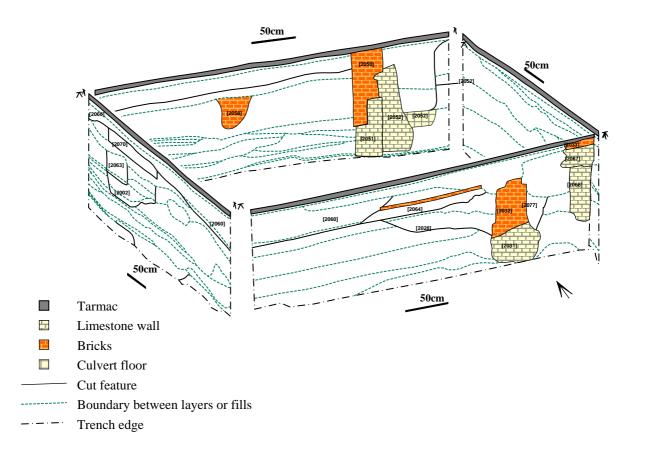


Figure 7: Plan of Test Pit 2, with locations of sections







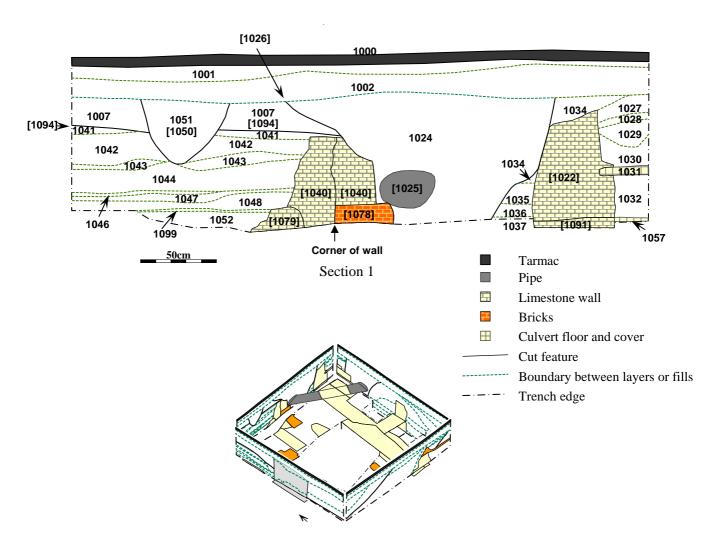


Figure 8: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the south facing section on the north side of Test Pit 1





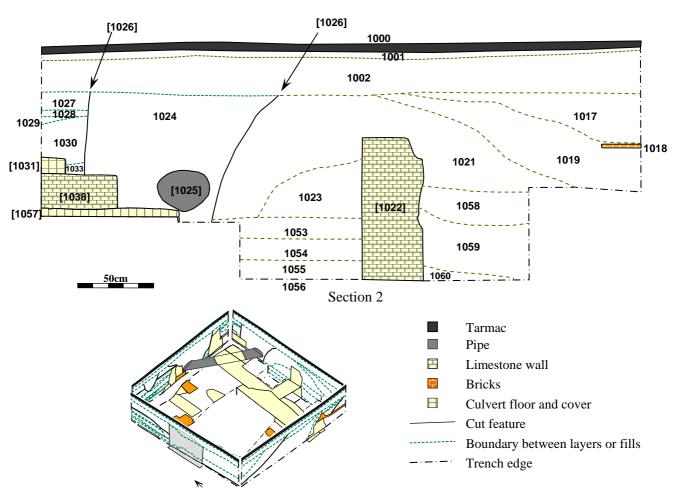


Figure 9: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the west-facing section on the east side of Test Pit 1





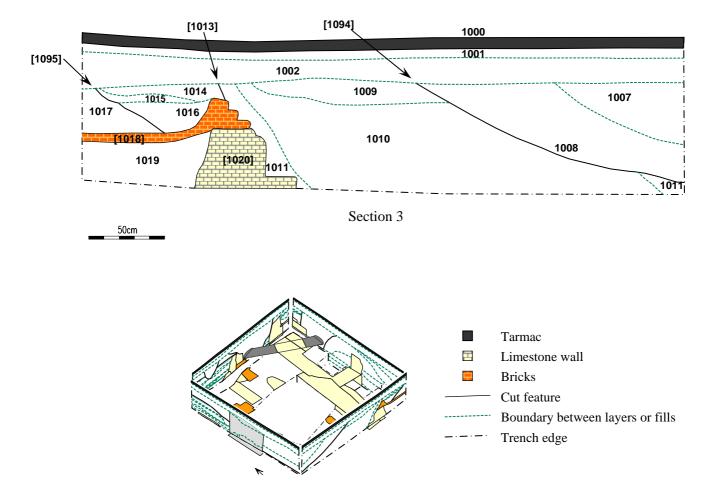
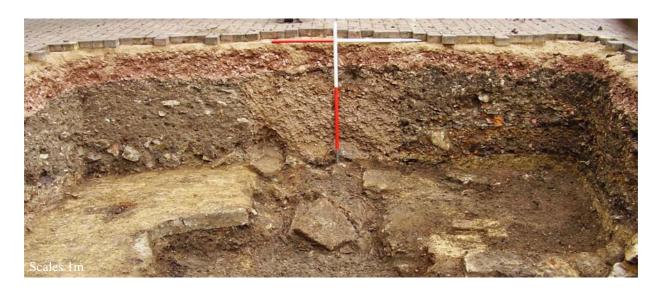


Figure 10: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the north-facing section on the south side of Test Pit 1





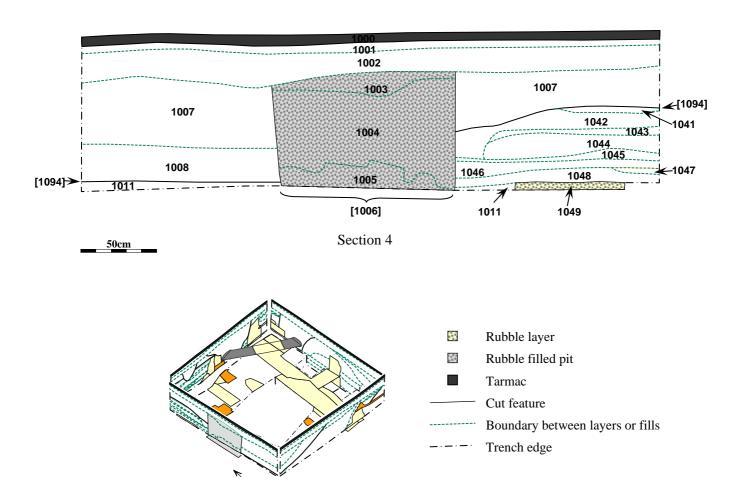


Figure 11: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the east-facing section on the west side of Test Pit 1



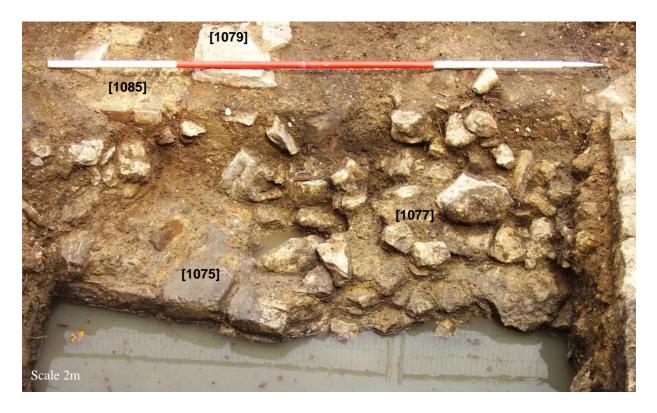
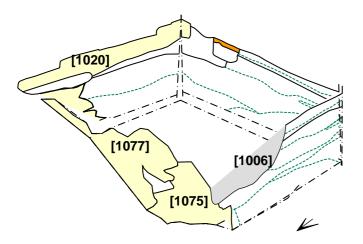


Figure 12: Photograph of the archaeological deposits in the south-facing section on the north side of the sondage in Test Pit 1

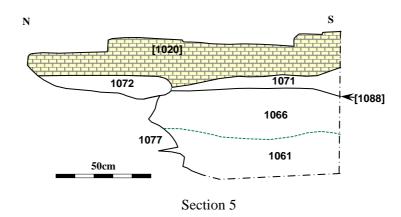




Composite photograph showing sondage north side archaeological deposits in relation to nearby structures







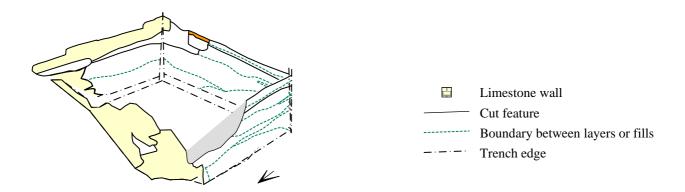


Figure 13: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the west-facing section on the east side of the sondage in Test Pit 1





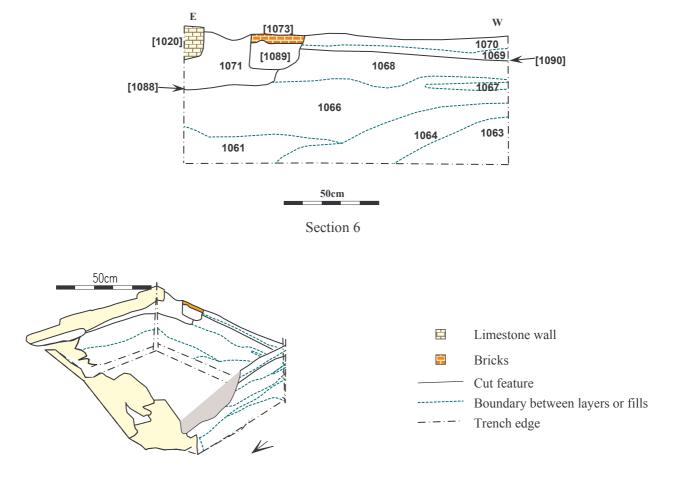
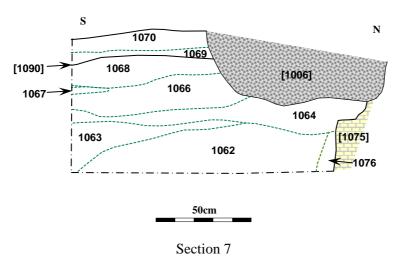


Figure 14: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the north-facing section on the south side of the sondage in Test Pit 1







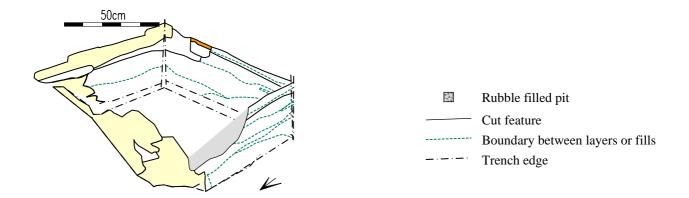


Figure 15: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the east-facing section on the west side of the sondage in Test Pit 1





Figure 16: Possible revetment wall in the bottom of Test Pit 1 (Viewed from the south. Scale 2m)



Figure 17: Limestone culvert in the north-east corner of Test Pit 1 (Viewed from the south. Scales 1m)





Figure 18: Stone building remains in Test Pit 1 (Viewed from the north, Scale 1m)





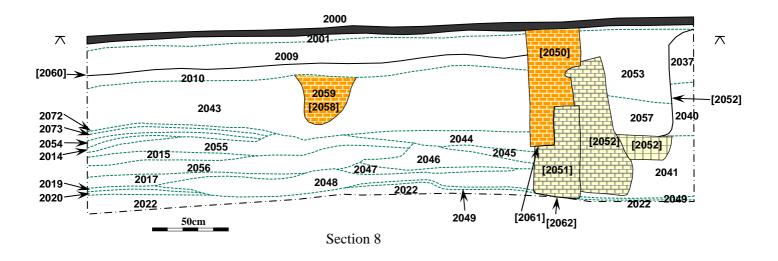
Figure 19: Culvert in north-eastern corner of Test Pit 2 (Viewed from the south. Scale 1m)



Figure 20: Limestone culvert in the south-east corner of Test Pit 2 (Viewed from the north. Scale 1m)







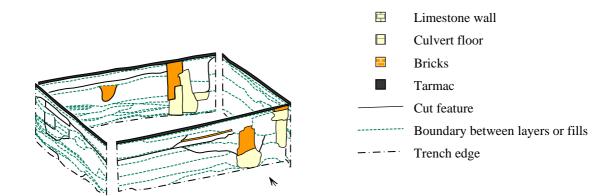
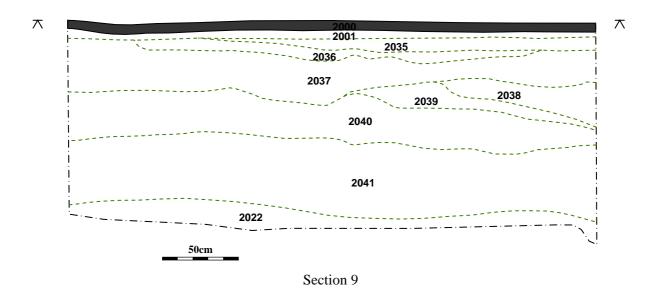


Figure 21: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the south-facing section on the north side of Test Pit 2







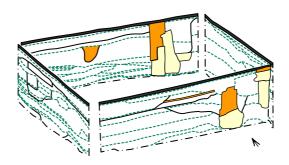
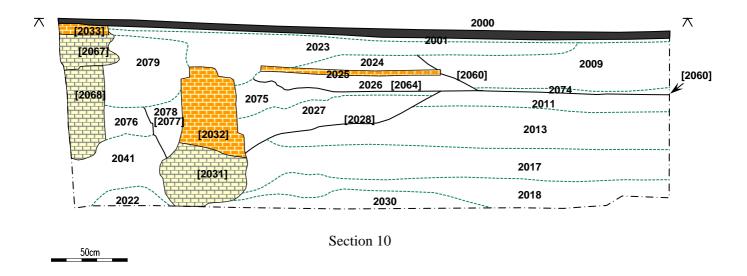


Figure 22: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the west-facing section at the east side of Test Pit 2







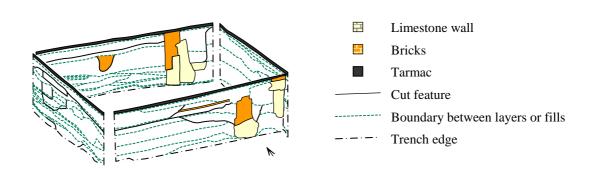


Figure 23: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the north-facing section at the south side of Test Pit 2





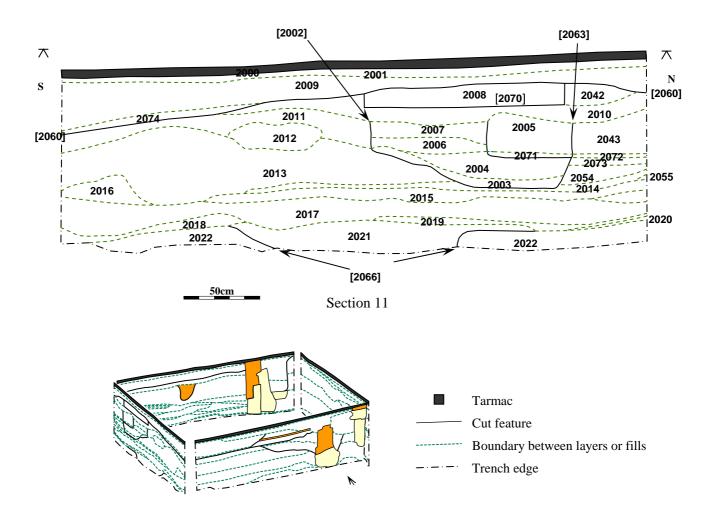


Figure 24: Photograph and drawing of the archaeological deposits in the east-facing section at the west side of Test Pit 2



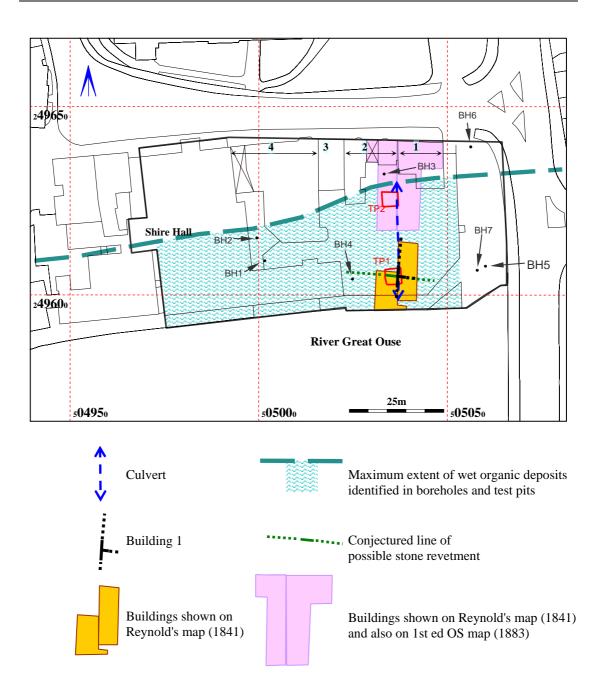


Figure 25: Interpretation

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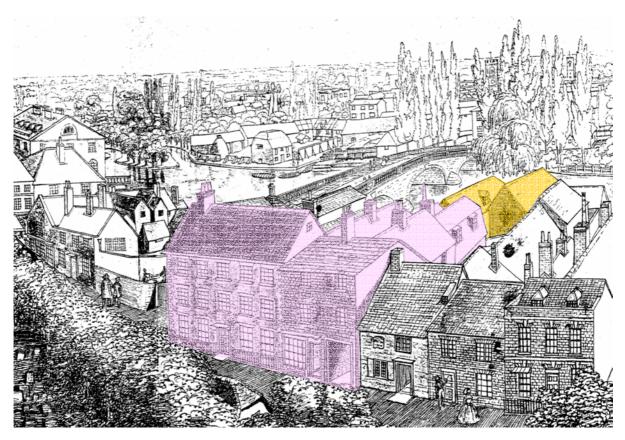


Figure 26: Buildings on the site in 1833, as depicted in Dawsons panorama Image reproduced with permission of Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service

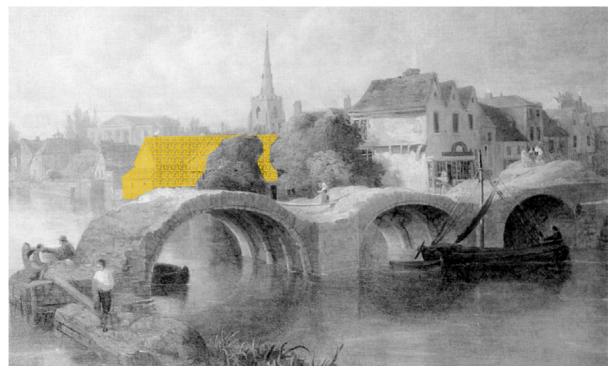


Figure 27: Arnald's painting of 1811, possibly indicating the river frontage elevations of buildings on the site Image reproduced with permission of Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service





Figure 28: Miscellaneous examples of stone and clay roof tile fragments recovered from the test pits. Note peg holes (*top row*) and the glazed finish (*bottom left*)



Figure 29: Clay tobacco pipes recovered fro the test pits. Note stamped bowl (*centre right*)





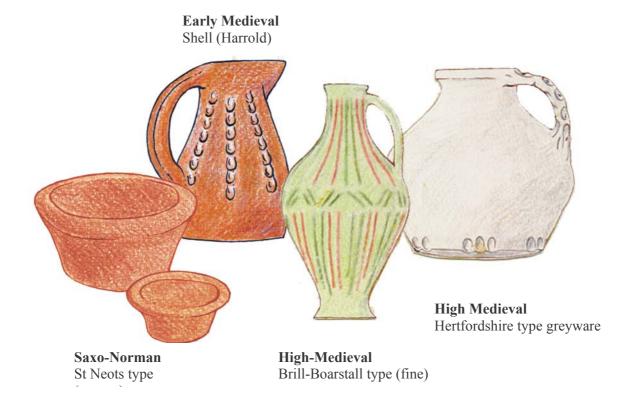


Figure 30: A fragment of a shoe sole recovered from deposit (1064) in Test Pit 1. The photographs show the inner and outer sides, respectively. The impressions left by the stitching of the welt can clearly be seen on the outer side (*right*)



Figure 31: Part of a stone mortar recovered from demolition layer (2040) in Test Pit 2





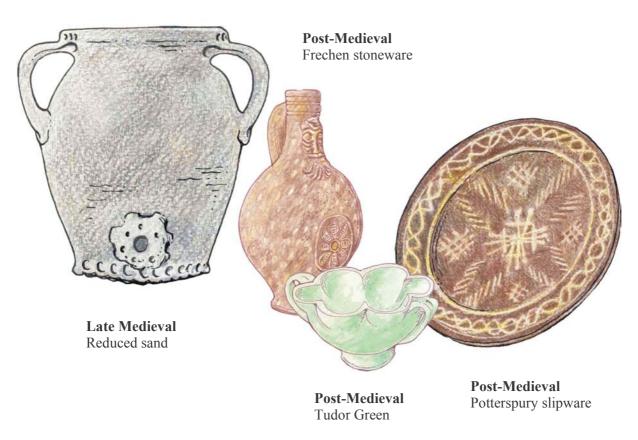


Figure 32: Artist's reconstructions of typical examples of the pottery wares of different periods. The small fragments found during the evaluation will have come from similar sorts of vessels.

Drawings by Cecily Marshall