

**13 BEDFORD STREET
WOBURN
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION**

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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.

The project was commissioned by Project Design Studio Ltd on behalf of the Bedford Estates and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth, County Archaeological Officer, Bedfordshire County Council.

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Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location, archaeological background and the aims of the project. Section 2 describes the trial trenching methodology and Section 3 summarises the results. Section 4 provides a synthesis of the results and assesses their significance within local and regional frameworks. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Appendix 1 is an artefact summary and Appendix 2 contains trench summary information and detailed contextual data.



Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CAO	Bedfordshire County Council's, County Archaeological Officer
Client	Project Design Studios Ltd on behalf of the Bedford Estates
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
BLARS	Bedfordshire and Luton Records Service



Non-Technical Summary

Project Design Studio Ltd (acting on behalf of the Bedford Estates) prepared a planning application for the construction of almshouses on land at the rear of 13 Bedford Street Woburn, henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA). In July 2008, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) granted planning permission for this development (08/259/FULL).

Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological officer (CAO) recognised that the proposed development lay within an archaeologically sensitive area and advised the LPA that a condition should be attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation. On 4th November 2008, the CAO issued a brief (BCC 2008a), outlining a programme of archaeological work. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a project design (2008), undertake an intrusive evaluation of the site and prepare a report (this document) on the results.

The DA lies on the north-eastern side of Woburn, to the rear of 13 Bedford Street, within the town's historic core (HER16902). It lies at c.120m OD and the land within it slopes gently downwards to the north-east away from Bedford Road. It is centred on SP 9493 3334 and covers an area of c.1850sqm. The underlying substrate comprises Lower Greensand on gravel.

The extant town of Woburn is a largely Georgian creation with some 19th-century and modern additions. Despite this Woburn may date back to the Anglo-Saxon period. The town is referred to as 'Woburninga Genaere' in an Anglo-Saxon charter of AD 969 and is mentioned in the Domesday Survey. No remains from this early period have yet been found in the town. The medieval town is likely to have developed in the 12th century as a consequence of the foundation of the Cistercian Abbey, c.2km to the south-east. Much of the medieval town is thought to have been lost in a series of fires between the 16th and 18th centuries, prompting the Georgian redevelopment.

In the southern and western parts of the DA, the evaluation revealed the remains of post-medieval and modern activity in the form of ditches, pits and structures of probable Georgian date. In the north-eastern part of the DA, the remains of late medieval/early post-medieval field systems were encountered. Also in the north-eastern part of the DA, evidence was revealed for Roman settlement from the 1st-3rd centuries AD. This included evidence for late 1st-early 2nd century industrial pottery production in the form of wasters, seconds, fragments of kiln discs/plates and large quantities of pottery.

The discovery of 1st-3rd century Roman settlement and industrial activity has pushed back the origins of Woburn by almost one thousand years and it represents the discovery of a hitherto unknown Roman settlement in the eastern region. Despite the evident plough truncation within the DA, the presence of a nearby kiln cannot be ruled out. Similarly, the presence of 2nd-3rd century brick demonstrates the potential for significant structures in the vicinity. These remains are considered to be of regional significance and have the potential to significantly add to our knowledge of Roman settlement and local pottery production in Bedfordshire and the east of England.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Project Design Studio Ltd (acting on behalf of the Bedford Estates) prepared a planning application for the construction of almshouses on land at the rear of 13 Bedford Street Woburn, henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA). In July 2008, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) granted planning permission for this development (08/259/FULL).

The proposed development lies within an archaeologically sensitive area. As a result, Bedfordshire County Council's County Archaeological officer (CAO) advised the LPA that a condition should be attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation. On 4th November 2008, the CAO issued a brief (BCC 2008a), outlining a three-staged approach to a programme of archaeological work:

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

The CAO also issued a brief (BCC 2008b) detailing the requirements for the Stage I archaeological field evaluation.

Albion Archaeology has been commissioned by Project Design Studio Ltd to undertake the evaluation and to prepare a report (this document) on the results.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The DA lies on the north-eastern side of Woburn, to the rear of 13 Bedford Street (Fig. 1). It lies at *c.*120m OD and the land within it slopes gently downwards to the north-east away from Bedford Road. It is centred on SP 9493 3334 and covers an area of *c.*1850sqm. The underlying substrate comprises Lower Greensand on gravel.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The overall archaeological potential for Woburn is outlined in the Extensive Urban Survey or EUS (Albion Archaeology, 2000). The most significant components are briefly summarised below.

The DA sits within Woburn's historic core (HER16902). The south-western part of the DA lies within the Woburn Conservation Area, designated in 1979 (Fig. 1). Despite its extant Georgian appearance, Woburn's origins may date back to the Anglo-Saxon period. The town is referred to as '*Woburninga Genaere*' in an Anglo-Saxon charter of AD 969 and is mentioned in the Domesday Survey (Albion 2000). No remains from this early period have yet been revealed and it is possible that Anglo-Saxon and early medieval Woburn may have been centred on Birchmoor, a deserted medieval village to the north of the town.



The medieval town is likely to have developed in the 12th century as a consequence of the foundation of the Cistercian Abbey, *c.* 2km to the south-east. Much of the medieval town is thought to have been lost in a series of fires between the 16th and 18th centuries, prompting the largely Georgian redevelopment (Albion Archaeology 2000).

Various historical maps of the area show a complex of structures within the DA. These date back to at least 1738, when they appeared on an estate map (R1/275). They survived until the late 20th century when they last appeared on the 1960 Ordnance Survey map.

Other buildings adjacent to the DA chiefly date from the 17th and 18th centuries, with some 19th- and 20th-century additions. These developments lie outside the limits of the town detailed on Moore's map of 1661. However, it is not yet known how closely the 1661 layout resembles that of the medieval town. Very few archaeological interventions have been made in the town and, therefore, its archaeological potential is largely unknown. Given the DA's proximity to the historic core, it was believed that there was a high potential for finding archaeological remains from the early medieval through to the modern periods.

1.4 Project Objectives

The layout of the trenches was discussed with and approved by the CAO. The trenches were arranged specifically to test the archaeological potential within the footprints of the proposed buildings and other areas of intrusive works. The overall objectives of the work were to:

- determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



2. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching took place between 6th and 14th January 2009. All three proposed trenches were opened. Trench 3 was moved to avoid a water main. The CAO was notified of the changes to the original trench plan.

The trenches comprised the following: two 12.5m (Trenches 2 and 3) and one 25m trench (Trench 1). All were 2m wide. Trenches 1 and 3 targeted the footprints of the proposed buildings. Trench 2 provided general coverage of the DA.

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IfA's *Code of Conduct (1999a)*
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (1999b)*
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2001)*
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)*

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation. Overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to either the top of the archaeological deposits, undisturbed geological deposits or to a maximum safe working depth of 1.2m, whichever was encountered first. Features below 1.2m were investigated using slots in the centre of the trenches (Plates 5 and 9).

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand in order to clarify the nature of potential archaeological remains. Deposits and any potential remains were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Some modern features were investigated using slots less than 1m wide (Plates 5 and 9). Trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc.

Trenches were inspected and approved by the CAO prior to backfilling.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order. Allocated context numbers are prefixed with the trench number they were recorded within, *i.e.* contexts (201) and (202) are from Trench 2.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in Appendix 2. The site record will be archived at Luton Museum and Art Gallery under accession code 2008/75.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Undisturbed geological deposits consisted of a combination of silt and clay sands of the Greensand formation.

Overburden varied across the site. In Trenches 1 and 3 it consisted of well-mixed dark brown topsoil overlying silty sand subsoil. Together these deposits were up to 0.92m thick. The northern end of Trench 2 contained a sequence of buried subsoil and topsoil, overlain by a modern metalled surface to a total depth of more than 1.5m below ground level. Modern overburden had been used to significantly raise the ground level to the west of the extant N-S aligned brick-wall. The land to the east of this wall followed the natural slope.

3.3 Late Iron Age

Sixteen sherds of late Iron Age (*c.* 50BC-AD100) pottery of various fabrics (Appendix 1, 6.1.2) were recovered from a series of early Roman features at the north-western end of Trench 1. A single sherd was also recovered from the basal deposit of a probable 2nd-3rd century Roman ditch [104].

These artefacts were few in comparison to the large volumes of unabraded early Roman pottery recovered from Trench 1 (Section 3.4). Their small numbers, in comparison to the Roman pottery, suggest they might be residual. Equally, the broad date range for these fabric types could mean they are contemporary with the early Roman material.

3.4 Roman

A sequence of inter-cutting linear remains was encountered at the north-western end of Trench 1 (Plates 1, 2 and 8). The earliest in the sequence consisted of three NE-SW aligned gullies [122, 124 and 137] and a large rectangular pit [139] (Figs. 2-3). The gullies may have been cut for drainage, given their relationship with the natural NE-SW slope. Pit [139] remained unexcavated, but contained similar deposits to the surrounding features. This group was truncated by a sequence of three inter-cutting ditches [126, 129 and 156]. These were aligned NE-SW and appeared to terminate in the north-eastern corner of the trench (Figs. 2-3 and Plate 8).



Deposits throughout the entire sequence contained large quantities (589 sherds) of late 1st-early 2nd century Roman pottery of local fabric types (Plate 6). Amongst these artefacts were several wasters, useable seconds and a large quantity (2.3kg), of kiln disc and kiln plate fragments (Appendix 1, 6.1.3). This material points to the probable existence of a pottery kiln in the vicinity. Many of the sherds may represent damaged or waste items, though some show clear signs of sooting from use. It is likely that a combination of both industrial activity and domestic use led to the deposition of this material. It is unclear whether the ditches containing these deposits were directly associated with these activities. However, the recutting of these features, through existing 'midden' deposits, demonstrates that people were revisiting and reworking them during this early period.

Toward the centre of Trench 1, immediately south of ditch [109], a shallow inter-cutting linear feature [104] was revealed (Figs. 2, 4 and Plate 4). It contained 2nd-3rd century Roman pottery (including mortaria), and a large quantity of ceramic building material (CBM). Its low depth to width ratio (Fig. 4 and Plate 4) suggests that it had been truncated by later activity, such as ploughing, related to the use of post-Roman /medieval subsoil (101). Despite its concave profile, [104] follows the natural downward slope of the land to the north-east and may have functioned as a drainage ditch.

Between [104] and the north-western end of Trench 1, a subsoil layer (101) was recorded beneath subsoil (102). This deposit sealed both the 1st-2nd century remains at the northern end of the trench (Fig. 3) and the 2nd-3rd century ditch [104] toward the centre of the trench (Fig. 4). It contained a single sherd of post-medieval pottery. However, (101) was truncated by a large medieval ditched boundary [109] and the sherd may be intrusive. These relationships suggest that (101) formed between the Roman and medieval periods. The depth of the Roman features beneath it, particularly that of [104], suggests that (101) may be a ploughed layer, accounting for the apparent truncation of these remains.

Another layer (121) was also encountered in the vicinity of the pits and ditches at the north-western end of the Trench 1. It was sealed by the lower subsoil (101) and appeared to have been derived from the materials contained within these remains. It contained two sherds of late 1st-early 2nd century and a single sherd of late Iron Age pottery. It may represent a ploughed horizon, post-dating the early Roman activity in this area.

3.5 Transitional (Late Medieval to Early Post-Medieval)

A large, NE-SW aligned ditch [109] was revealed in the centre of Trench 1 (Figs. 2, 4 and Plates 3, 7). Naturally derived deposits suggest that it may have functioned as a drainage ditch and, indeed, it follows the natural downward slope towards the north-east. A secondary deposit (111) contained decayed organic materials including woody fragments which contained chloroplasts (agents of photosynthesis). This demonstrates that the remains originated from above-ground dwelling plants rather than sub-surface root systems. There was no evidence to suggest that the deposit had been waterlogged and the preservation of organics is more likely to have resulted from the water-retaining properties of its clay matrix.



Deposits (111, 112, 113 and 114) contained late-medieval/early post-medieval tile and pottery. This suggests an element of deliberate backfilling, possibly derived from nearby late-medieval/early post-medieval structures. A series of fires affected Woburn in 1595, 1642 and 1724 (Albion 2000, 13), all of which occasioned periods of demolition and rebuilding. Although the quantities of tile recovered from [109] are not large enough to indicate demolition deposits, the history of remodelling in the vicinity suggests that the introduction of late-medieval/early-post-medieval materials into the ditch could have taken place at any time between the 15th and 18th centuries.

Pre-enclosure map evidence for this area lacks detail. However, both Moore's 1661 (R1/282) map and the estate map of 1738 (R1/275) shows strip field systems at the back-plots of the houses lining Bedford Street. Indeed, [109] is parallel to a similarly sized, extant ditched boundary to the south-east of the DA, also following the natural slope of the land.

It is likely that ditch [109] represents the remains of a medieval field boundary. This boundary was apparently reinforced by a brick-built wall, evinced by a NE-SW aligned robber trench [118] containing brick rubble. This wall had been removed by 1881 (1st edition Ordnance Survey), prior to which the current shape of the DA had been formed.

3.6 Post-medieval and Modern

At the southern end of Trench 2 (Plates 10 and 12), the buried topsoil and subsoil was truncated by two modern pits [213] and [215] and the foundation trench [204] and wall [205] of a large, brick-built structure. This formed the northern wall of a complex of buildings shown on the 1881 1st and 1901 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 5). They consist of an L-shaped block, aligned SE-NW and SW-NE, with an apparently separate group of smaller buildings to the north-west.

The earliest cartographic evidence for these buildings is an estate map of 1738 (R1/237). They may have formed part of the Georgian rebuild of Woburn after a major fire in 1724. However, pre-18th-century map evidence is insufficient to support or refute this. The structures survived into the late 20th century when they are shown as a continuous, 'dog-leg' shaped structure on the 1960 edition Ordnance Survey map. After 1960, these structures were demolished and replaced with garages and car parking areas.

No evidence of any demolition deposits was encountered across the DA, suggesting that the building materials were taken off-site. The complete absence/removal of the buried soil deposits (202-203) to the south of the wall (inside the building) suggests that it may have had a cellar. At the northern end of Trench 2, post-medieval/modern deposits were encountered at a depth of 1.5m below the modern surface, suggesting truncation in this area (Plate 11).

Trench 3 and the southern end of Trench 1 contained several modern features (Fig. 2, Plates 5 and 9). These included a large NE-SW aligned ditch [143/312], a NE-SW aligned gully [306] and several pits [148, 150, 304, 308, 310]. The presence



of modern pot and CBM was noted within the deposits of these remains but they were not collected. [143] also contained a single sherd of medieval pottery, a late medieval/early post-medieval clay pipe fragment and a small quantity of roof tile of the same period. However, these are likely to be residual. Gully [306] also contained fragments of glass and articulated animal bone. Its state of decomposition suggested that it was also modern.

3.7 Undated

A large, steep-sided pit [132] truncated both the Roman features and the lower subsoil (101) at the north-western end of Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Plates 1-2). Although its deposits contained 1st-2nd century pottery, this is likely to have derived from the materials through which the pit was dug. Its relationship with the upper subsoil (102) was unclear, although it was clearly stratigraphically later than the true Roman deposits, sealed by (101) and is likely to be a later intrusion.



4 SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

4.1 Summary

The north-eastern part of the DA contained the first documented evidence for Roman activity in Woburn. This comprised the remains of several inter-cutting ditches at the north-west end of Trench 1 (Figs. 1-2, Plates 1, 2 and 8). These contained large quantities of late 1st- early 2nd century pottery made from local materials as well as evidence of industrial pottery production in the form of wasters, seconds and fragments of kiln discs/plates (Appendix 1).

In the centre of Trench 1, the remains of a truncated NE-SW aligned probable drainage ditch were also revealed. It contained 2nd-3rd century pottery and abraded brick, suggesting lengthy Roman settlement in the vicinity.

The remains of a NE-SW aligned medieval drainage ditch/field boundary were also encountered in Trench 1; it contained late-medieval and early modern pottery and CBM (Appendix 1). It followed the natural downward slope of the land and was parallel to a current field boundary ditch of similar proportions, to the south-west of the DA. These remains probably represent part of the pre-enclosed medieval landscape of Woburn.

The foundations of a brick-built structure of probable early Georgian date were revealed in Trench 2. They can be related to a complex of buildings shown on the 1738 estate map (R1/237), which survived until the late 20th century. Undisturbed geological deposits were revealed at a depth of 1.5m below the modern surface at the northern end of Trench 2 where no archaeological remains were encountered.

Evidence for other modern activity was revealed in the southern part of Trench 1 and Trench 3. This comprised two NE-SW aligned ditches and several pits containing modern pot, CBM, glass and animal bone. No evidence of any earlier remains was encountered in this part of the DA.

4.2 Preservation

Within the DA, the area of archaeological potential has already been significantly impacted by post-medieval and modern activity in the form of walls and (probably) cellared structures (Fig. 5). The southern part of the DA has been heavily disturbed by modern pits and ditches, although there is no evidence that any earlier remains were present in this area. In the western part of the DA (to the west of the N-S wall) much of the area within the footprint of the proposed building has been truncated by 18th-century construction and is covered by at least 1.5m of modern overburden. Although the potential for post-medieval (particularly 17th-18th century) activity is high, the potential for the preservation of earlier archaeological remains in these areas is considered to be low.

The north-eastern part of the DA is relatively undisturbed and has a high potential for preservation of archaeological remains from the Roman and late medieval periods. The Roman deposits in this area appear to have been partially truncated by post-Roman ploughing, although they remain largely undisturbed by modern



activity. They are relatively shallow and are likely to be heavily impacted by future development within the footprint of the proposed building.

4.3 Significance and Research Potential

The late-medieval/early post-medieval field boundary is evidence of Woburn's medieval agricultural landscape. The alignment and shape of this boundary suggests that some of the adjacent extant landscape features may also represent surviving relics of the town's medieval past. These remains are considered to be of local significance.

The evidence for a long standing 1st-3rd century Roman settlement and 1st-2nd century industrial activity have pushed back the origins of Woburn by almost one thousand years and represent the discovery of a hitherto unknown Roman settlement in Bedfordshire. The presence of wasters, seconds, kiln discs/plates and large quantities of pottery is compelling evidence for nearby pottery production and despite the evident plough truncation within the DA, the presence of a nearby kiln cannot be ruled out. Similarly, the presence of 2nd-3rd century brick demonstrates the potential for structural remains in the vicinity.

Willis (1997, 42) and Going and Plouviez (2000, 19) cite the lack of properly analysed and published regional and local pottery production centres in the eastern region as a major problem. The 1st and 2nd century assemblage at Woburn has the potential to address these regional-scale gaps in our knowledge.

On a county scale, the pottery from within the DA could be compared to nearby, early pottery production sites such as Stagsden and Warren Villas which may have provided pottery for military consumption (Dawson, 2007, 72). Similarly, comparison of the Woburn fabrics with assemblages from nearby medieval pottery production centres such as Heath and Reach, Great Brickhill and possibly Flitwick would be beneficial from a technological perspective (Slowikowski pers. comm.).

Overall, the Roman remains at Woburn are considered to be of regional significance and have the potential to significantly add to our knowledge of settlement and local pottery production in Bedfordshire and the east of England.



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Willis (1997) *Research Frameworks for the Study of Roman Pottery*. Study Group for Roman Pottery

5.1 Documents Consulted at BLARS

R1/282 - Moore's 1661 map

R1/237 - 1738 Woburn Estate map

MAT52 - 1851 Tithe map of Woburn

1881 1st edition Ordnance Survey map

1901 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map

1960 edition Ordnance Survey map



6. APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Artefact and Ecofact Summary

6.1.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery. Small quantities of brick and tile, fired clay, animal bone and single pieces of clay pipe, vessel glass, worked flint and oyster shell were also recovered (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No artefacts were recovered from Trench 2.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
1	101	Subsoil	101	Post-medieval	Pottery (20g)
	104	Ditch	105	Roman: 2nd-3rd century	Pottery (482g); brick (1.3kg)
	109	Ditch	111	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (5g); roof tile (588g); animal bone (5g)
	109	Ditch	112	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (22g); roof tile (505g)
	109	Ditch	113	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (74g); roof tile (2kg); fired clay (23g); oyster shell (2g); animal bone (164g)
	109	Ditch	114	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (156g); roof tile (126g)
	121	Occupation debris	121	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (116g)
	122	Ditch	123	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (131g); fired clay (148g)
	124	Ditch	125	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (304g); fired clay (45g)
	126	Ditch	127	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (240g); fired clay (16g)
	126	Ditch	128	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (4.5kg); fired clay (900g); animal bone (15g)
	129	Ditch	130	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (731g); fired clay (43g); animal bone (1g)
	129	Ditch	131	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (4.4kg); fired clay (1kg.); worked flint (11g)
	132	Pit	134	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (281g)
	132	Pit	135	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (623g); roof tile (63g); fired clay (208g); animal bone (31g)
	137	Ditch	138	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (33g)
139	Pit	140	Roman: late 1st-early 2nd century	Pottery (21g)	
143	Ditch	144	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Pottery (4g); roof tile (130g); clay pipe (4g)	
3	306	Ditch	307	Modern	Pottery (17g); bottle glass (9g)

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

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature

6.1.2 Pottery

Six hundred and thirty-two pottery sherds, weighing 12.2kg were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The pottery is moderately fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 19g, and survives in fair to good condition. Twenty-four fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

The majority of the assemblage is datable to the late 1st-early 2nd centuries AD, with the remainder comprising late Iron Age and post-Roman material of medieval and later date.

Seventeen sherds of late Iron Age pottery (343g) in sand (type F34), grog (types F06B/C), grog/sand (type F09) and grog/shell (type F05) tempered fabric types



datable to *c.* 50BC-AD100 were recovered. Diagnostic vessel forms are a cordoned jar and bowl, large storage jar rim and two platters.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Late Iron Age</i>			
Type F05	Grog and shell	1	(105):1
Type F06B	Medium grog	1	(121):1
Type F06C	Coarse grog	1	(135):1
Type F09	Grog and sand	10	(125):1, (128):3, (130):5, (131):1
Type F34	Sand	4	(127):3, (128):1
<i>Roman</i>			
Type R03B	Gritty whiteware	2	(105):1, (128):1
Type R05A	Orange sandy	6	(105):2, (130):1, (135):3
Type R06B	Coarse greyware	8	(105):1, (127):1, (128):1
Type R06C	Fine greyware	1	(131):1
Type R07B	Sandy blackware	22	(125):1, (127):2, (128):19
Type R09A	Pink grogged	5	(105):5
Type R10A	Buff gritty	10	(128):10
Type R10B	Fine buff	2	(105):1, (125):1
Type R11E	Oxford mortaria (white)	4	(105):4
Type R13	Shell	2	(105):2
Type R14	Sand	2	(121):1, (307):1
Type R40	Reduced sand	540	(105):3, (112):1, (113):3, (114):1, (121):1, (123):11, (125):14, (127):7, (128):217, (130):26, (131):204, (134):15, (135):34, (138):1, (140):1, (307):1
<i>Medieval</i>			
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall ware	4	(111):1, (113):1, (135):1, (144):1
Type E01	Late medieval reduced	2	(113):2
Type E01D	Late medieval reduced (red margins)	1	(113):1
<i>Late medieval/post-medieval transitional</i>			
Type E03	Oxidised smooth	1	(114):1
Type P12	Cistercian ware	1	(114):1
<i>Post-medieval</i>			
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	1	(101):1
<i>Modern</i>			
Type P38	Creamware	1	(307):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

Pottery datable to the early Roman period comprises 604 sherds, weighing 11.6kg, the majority deriving from the fills of ditches [128] and [129] which respectively contained 4.7kg and 5.1kg. Within these deposits, a number of vessels are represented by more than single sherds and several full vessel profiles are reconstructable, suggesting the vessels have not moved far from their place of origin.

The assemblage is primarily local in character, and is dominated by vessels in reduced sand tempered coarse ware type R40, which constitutes nearly 90% of the pottery. The quantity of this single type, coupled with the presence of waster sherds and seconds (see below) and the low proportion of vessels bearing evidence for use suggests the pottery may represent production waste from an as yet unlocated kiln in the vicinity. Lid-seated jars are the dominant vessel form, supplemented by smaller quantities of cordoned and narrow-necked jars, bowls and platters. Decoration is rare and comprises rilling, combing and single sherds with burnishing and comb impressed motifs. The majority of the R40 pottery is



wheel-thrown, although a blackware variant within the group comprises vessels which have hand-made bases and lower bodies, and wheel-finished rims. Well-made greywares and less competently manufactured blackwares appear to be the desired products, although the assemblage includes a number of oxidised and variably fired sandy wares, which are likely to have occurred accidentally. A proportion of the assemblage comprises waster sherds and usable seconds, attested by the presence of crazed, cracked and spalled examples. Although the latter could have resulted from use, the absence of functional attributes suggests they are more likely to have occurred during firing in the kiln.

Other coarse wares comprise reduced (types R06, R07, R14) and oxidised sand tempered fabrics (types R05, R10) and two shell tempered sherds (type R13). Diagnostic forms are narrow-necked and neckless jars, and a flagon handle. Regional imports are scarce, and comprise two sherds of 2nd century whiteware (type R03B) from the Verulamium (St Albans) industries, five sherds of pink-grogged ware (type R09A) from Caldecotte, Bucks., and four whiteware mortarium sherds (type R11E) from Oxfordshire, the latter of late 2nd century or later date. Sooting visible on a few sherds (both R40 and other coarse wares) suggests they may represent the potters' domestic debris.

Post-Roman pottery recovered mainly from the deposits within ditch [109] comprises seven sherds of high and late medieval date, including Brill/Boarstall ware (type C09) and sherds in the late medieval reduced ware tradition (types E01/E01D), and single sherds of late medieval/transitional post-medieval date (types E03 and P12). A sherd of 17th-18th century glazed earthenware (type P01) derived from subsoil (101) and a piece of modern creamware (type P38) from ditch [306].

6.1.3 Ceramic Building Material

The deposit within ditch [104] yielded five abraded Roman brick fragments (1.3kg) in mixed sand, organic and grog tempered fabric types, ranging in thickness between 32-40mm.

Forty-three sand tempered pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (3.4kg) derived mainly from the fills of ditch [109]. Four pieces occurred as intrusive finds in Roman pit [132]. Most tiles are made in a similar fabric to the Roman pottery (type R40), suggesting they may also be of local manufacture. Fragments range in thickness between 13-15mm. No complete examples occur.

One hundred and fifteen fired clay fragments, weighing 2.3kg were recovered, the majority deriving from the fills of early Roman ditches [126] and [129].

Fragments are uniformly made in a coarse sandy fabric similar to pottery type R40, to which quantities of organic matter have been added. The addition of the latter improves the binding and adherence properties of the clay, and would be a desirable quality for material used in the construction of a kiln or similar structure. Both reduced and oxidised examples occur. The assemblage is generally fragmented and amorphous, with an average piece weighing 20g, although a number of highly organic examples from ditch [129] have finger smoothed surfaces and edges, and some appear to represent kiln plates (used to support



pottery during firing) and discs (forming part of the kiln roof). A sand tempered fragment from a possible kiln bar was recovered from pit [132].

6.1.4 Other finds

The deposits within ditch [143] yielded a fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem (4g). A broken flint flake (11g) derived from the deposits within early Roman ditch [129] and a piece of modern brown bottle glass (9g) from ditch [306].

6.1.5 Ecofacts

The faunal assemblage comprises 14 fragments weighing 216g, and occurs in features of early Roman and late medieval/early post-medieval date. The majority of the assemblage derived from the fills of ditch [109], which contained 169g, including a sheep/goat mandible and cow horn core. Other diagnostic elements are long bone, rib and vertebrae fragments of indeterminate species. Fragments are small, with an average weight of 17g and generally abraded. Ditch [109] also yielded an abraded piece of oyster shell (2g).

Environmental samples

Four control samples, ranging in volume between 8-10 litres, and a single phosphate sample were taken. The control samples were processed in accordance with the *Procedures Manual* (Albion Archaeology 2001) and the resulting flots and residues scanned to determine their potential. The results are summarised below (Table 3). The phosphate sample was retained for possible future analysis. Occasional to abundant modern plant fibres were observed in the flots from samples 1-3 and the residue from sample 3. Varying amounts of charcoal and charred seeds were present in all samples.

Sample	Sample type	Feature	Context	Charred seeds	Charcoal
1	Control	Ditch [129]	131	1	3
2	Control	Ditch [129]	130	1	3
3	Control	Pit [132]	134	1	2
4	Control	Ditch [109]	111	1	2

1 = very sparse; 2 = sparse; 3 = occasional; 4 = frequent; 5 = very frequent

Table 3: Summary of environmental samples



6.2 Appendix 2 – Trench Summaries



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 94922: Northing: 33352)

Reason: To evaluate area of proposed development

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Natural	Firm mid red orange sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones 0.27m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
102	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty sand occasional small stones 0.34m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silty sand occasional small ceramic building material, occasional small stones 0.31m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Ditch	Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 3.7m, max depth 0.38m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Lower fill	Firm mid brown grey silty sand moderate small stones 0.19m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
109	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 4.2m, max depth 1.71m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Lower fill	Loose light yellow silty sand Iron panning, 0.11m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Backfill	Firm mid blue grey silty clay 0.10m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
112	Weathered interface	Loose light brown yellow silty sand 0.23m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
113	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-large ceramic building material 0.19m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
114	Upper fill	Firm light grey brown sandy silt 0.34m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
115	Pit	profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.39m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Lower fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand 0.39m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Upper fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt 0.30m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	Robber trench	Linear NE-SW profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.93m, max depth 0.52m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
119	Lower fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt moderate medium-large ceramic building material 0.20m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Upper fill	Firm light red brown sandy clay moderate medium-large ceramic building material 0.34m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	Layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt Occupational debris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
122	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.12m, max depth 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones 0.20m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
124	Ditch	Linear NE-SW base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.15m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones 0.15m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
126	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.48m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	Lower fill	Firm mid grey sand occasional small stones 0.12m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
128	Upper fill	Firm dark grey black silty sand occasional small stones 0.36m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
129	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
130	Lower fill	Firm mid grey sand moderate small sand 0.15m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 94922: Northing: 33352)

Reason: To evaluate area of proposed development

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
131	Upper fill	Hard dark grey black silty sand occasional small stones 0.24m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
132	Pit	Rectangular NE-SW profile: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.19m, min depth 0.69m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
133	Lower fill	Firm mid blue yellow silty sand occasional small stones 0.13m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
134	Fill	Firm dark yellow black silty sand occasional small stones 0.14 thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
135	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones 0.33m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
136	Upper fill	Firm mid orange brown silty sand occasional small stones 0.29m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	Ditch	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.45m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
138	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
139	Pit	Rectangular dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, min length 2m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
140	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
141	Posthole	Square dimensions: max breadth 0.35m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
142	Backfill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
143	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 4.7m, min depth 1.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
144	Lower fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-large ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal 0.84 thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
145	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal 0.21m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
146	Backfill	Loose mid orange sand 0.32m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
147	Upper fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-large ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.25m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
148	Pit	profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.65m, max depth 0.81m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
149	Backfill	Friable light grey brown sandy silt moderate medium-large ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal 0.81m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
150	Pit	Rectangular profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.9m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
151	Backfill	Friable light yellow orange clay sand 0.40m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
154	Backfill	Firm mid brown red sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal 0.20m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
155	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional medium-large ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.50m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
156	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.25m, max depth 0.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
157	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty sand occasional small stones 0.14 thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.50 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.5 m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 94917: Northing: 33340)

Reason: To evaluate area of proposed development

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
201	Natural	Firm light orange yellow sandy clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Buried subsoil	Firm mid grey brown sandy clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Buried topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-large ceramic building material, occasional small stones 0.28m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Foundation trench	Linear NE-SW profile: stepped dimensions: max breadth 2.34m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Foundation	Red brick, squared, regular courses. Partially robbed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Make up layer	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt frequent small ceramic building material, frequent small charcoal 0.31m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Make up layer	Loose light grey brown clay sand occasional small stones 0.62m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Make up layer	Firm dark grey black silt frequent small-large charcoal 0.12m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Robber trench	Linear NE-SW profile: concave base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 1.53m, max depth 0.93m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Backfill	Firm dark yellow grey sandy silt frequent small ceramic building material, frequent small charcoal 0.93m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Make up layer	Firm light orange silty sand frequent small-large ceramic building material 0.20m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Make up layer	Compact dark grey sandy gravel 0.17m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Pit	profile: vertical dimensions: min depth 0.8m, min length 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Backfill	Friable dark grey black sandy silt occasional small-large ceramic building material, moderate flecks charcoal >0.80m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	Pit	Rectangular NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max length 0.75m Basal remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional medium ceramic building material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.50 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.17 m. Max: 1.2 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 94917: Northing: 33340)

Reason: To evaluate area of proposed development

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Make up layer	Friable dark brown sandy silt occasional small-large ceramic building material, occasional medium-large stones 0.48m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-large ceramic building material, occasional small-medium stones 0.23m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.51cm thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Natural	Loose light orange yellow silty sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Pit	Sub-rectangular NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.61m, max length 1.35m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Fill	Friable mid blue brown sandy silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.2m, min length 2.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small stones 0.20m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
308	Pit	Sub-rectangular E-W dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max length 1.28m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	Pit	profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.8m, min length 3.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
311	Backfill	Friable dark brown sandy silt moderate small-large ceramic building material, occasional small stones 0.80m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees dimensions: min breadth 2.2m, min depth 0.65m, min length 2.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	Lower fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small stones 0.45m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
314	Upper fill	Loose light orange sand 0.35m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

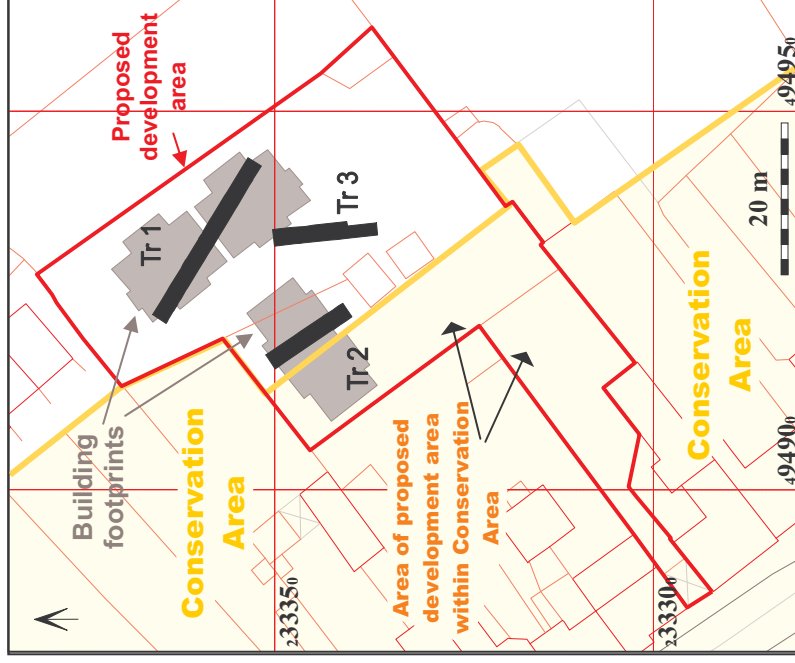
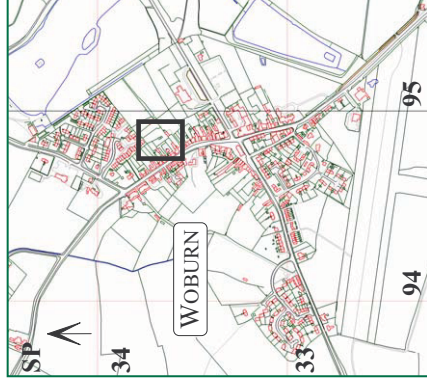
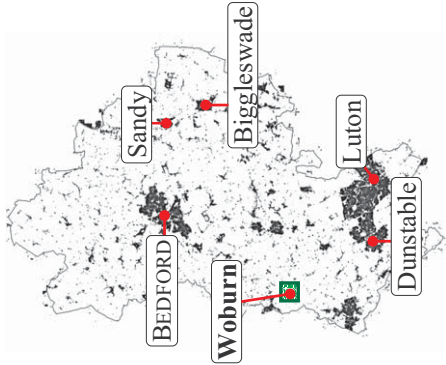


Figure 1: Site location plan

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

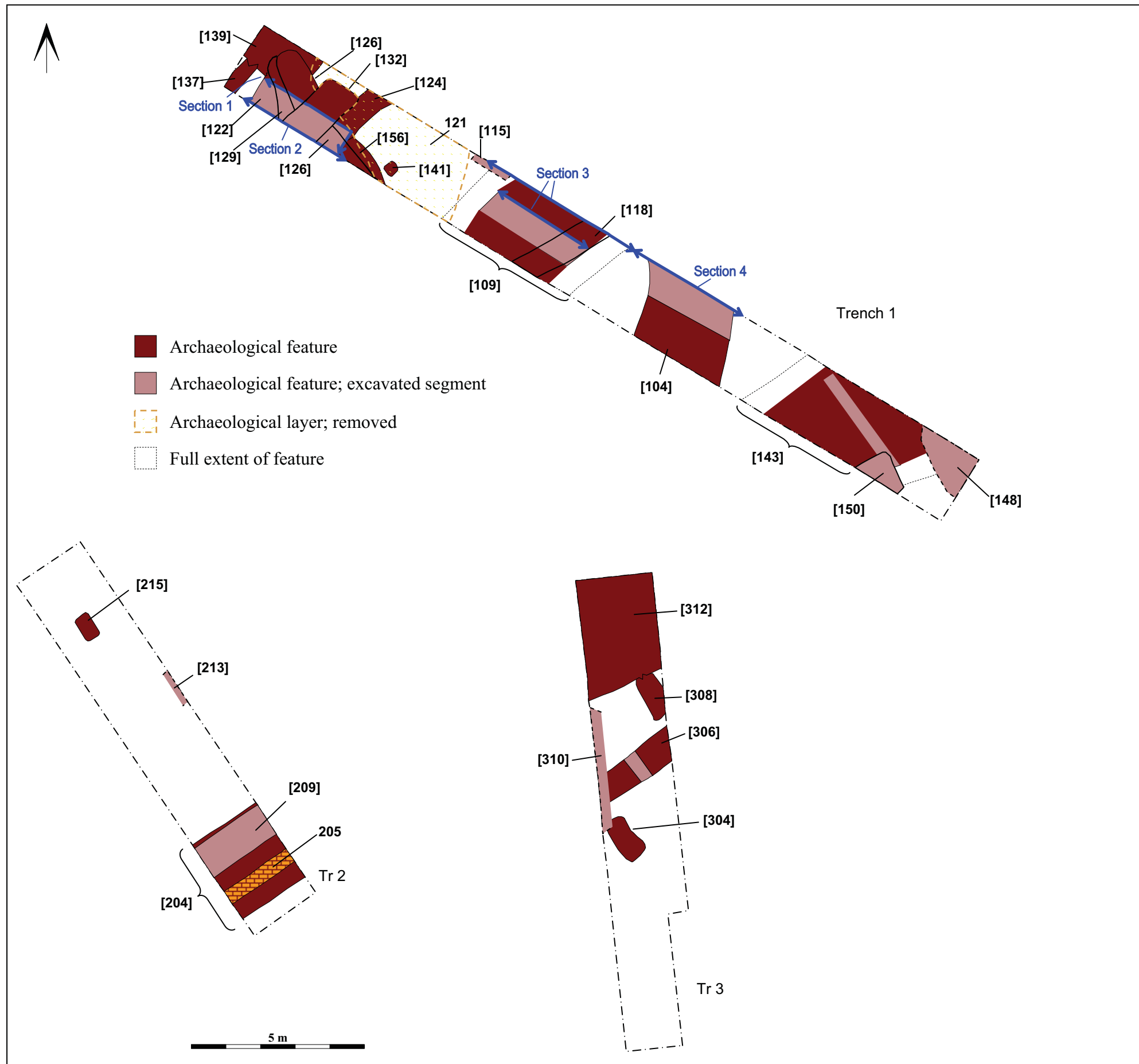


Figure 2: All features plan

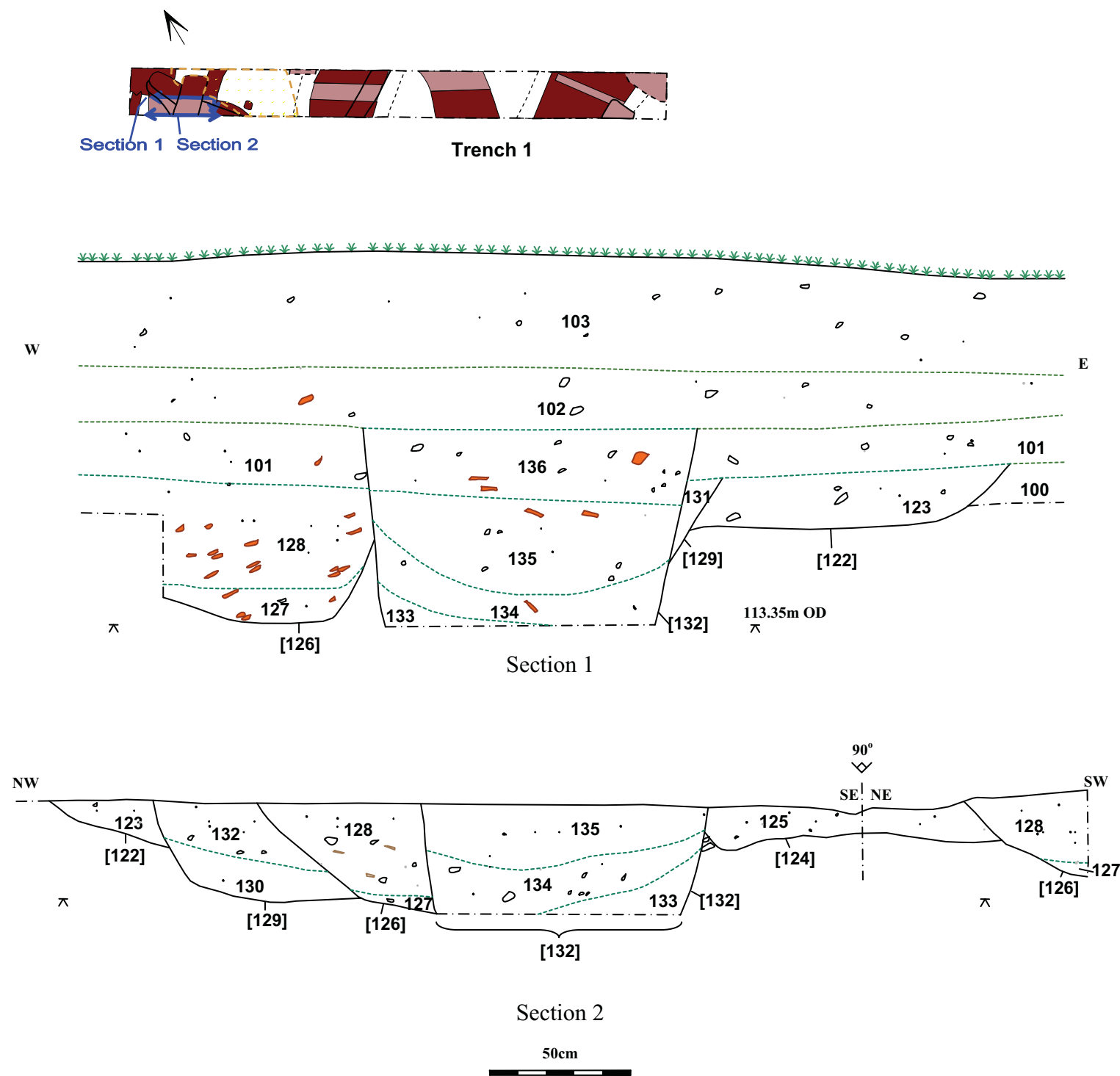


Plate 1: North-east facing section of ditches. 1m scale



Plate 2: South-east facing section of ditches. 1m scale

Figure 3: Detail of remains from north-western end of Trench 1

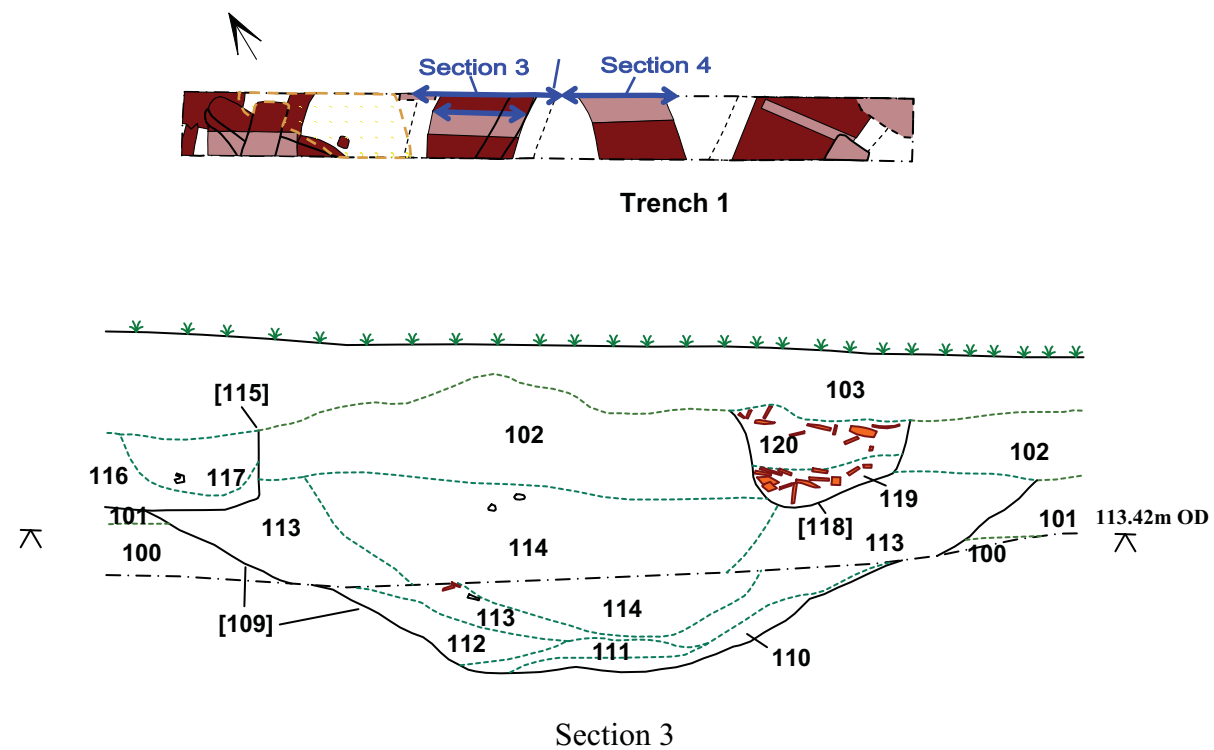


Figure 4: Detail of remains in centre of Trench 1



Plate 3: Medieval boundary ditch [109]. 1m scale



Plate 4: Shallow truncated Roman ditch [104]. 1m scale

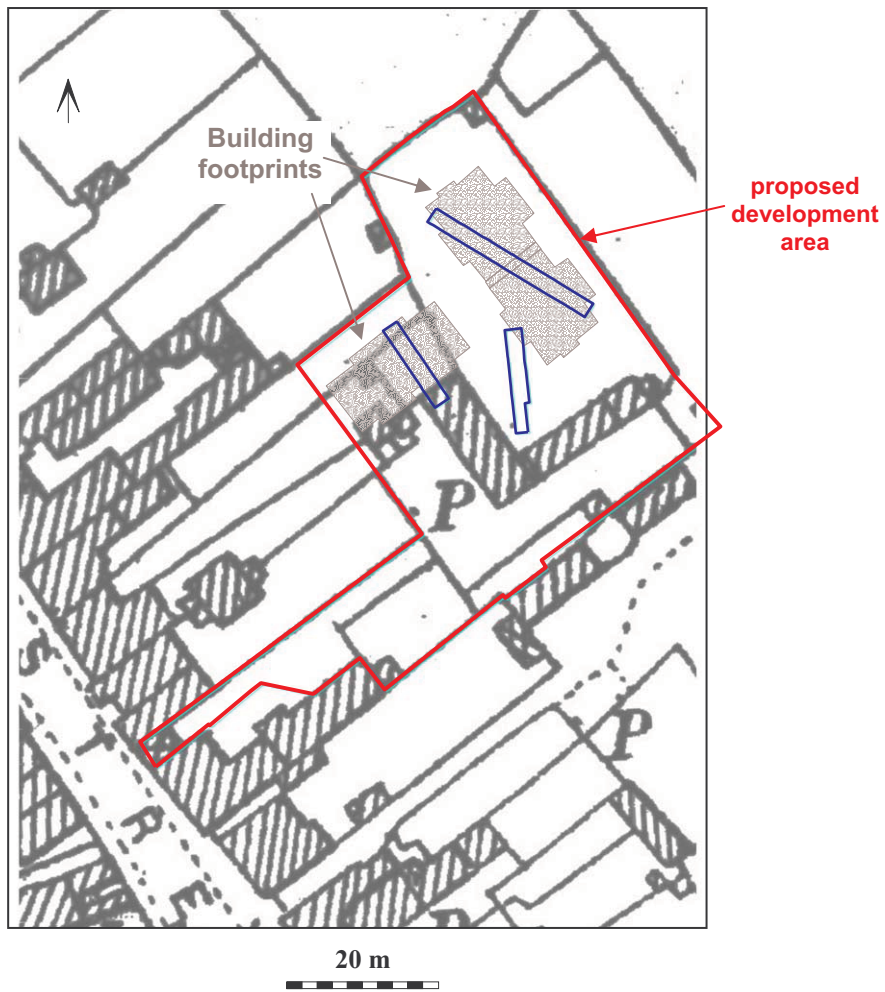


Figure 5: Development area overlaid onto 1901 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map



Plate 5: Trench 1 facing north-west, showing modern ditch [143] in foreground. 1m scale



Plate 6: Deposit of pottery in ditch [129]. 20cm scale



Plate 7: Medieval field boundary [109] and robbed out wall [118]. 1m scale



Plate 8: Trench 1 facing south-east. 1m scale



Plate 9: Trench 3 facing north. 1m scale



Plate 10: Trench 2 facing north-west. 1m scale



Plate 11: North-western end of Trench 2, showing geological deposits and overburden



Plate 12: South-eastern end of Trench 2, showing foundation [205] of Georgian building. 1m scale