2a CASTLE LANE, BEDFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND FIELD EVALUATION

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Preface

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 document was written by Mark Phillips (Project Officer) and edited by Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). The figures were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). The project was managed by Jeremy Oetgen. Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager) was responsible for quality control.

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Key Terms

Throughout this report the following abbreviations are used:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
BLARS	Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service
Client	Bedford Borough Council
HER	Historic Environment Record
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NM	National Monument
NGR	National Grid Reference
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument

Non-technical Summary

Bedford Borough Council proposes to develop land at 2a Castle Lane, Bedford. The site is situated within the limits of the scheduled ancient monument of Bedford Castle Mound and Gardens (National Monument no. 20412). The Local Planning Authority (LPA) Archaeological Advisor has indicated that the land is very archaeologically sensitive and is known to contain important archaeological remains. The LPA Archaeological Advisor issued a Brief for an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation of the Study Area (BCC 2008). The results of the desk-based assessment and field evaluation will inform emerging development proposals for the land and will provide information that can accompany any subsequent application for planning consent and SMC.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation in order to determine the nature, likely date and significance of the archaeological remains on the Study Area. This report presents the results of the desk-based assessment and field evaluation.

The Study Area covers approximately 850sqm and is centred at NGR TL 0521 4978, at approximately 27.20m OD, within the south-eastern quarter of the historic core of Bedford (Figure 1).

The results demonstrate that there is high potential for archaeological features dating from the Saxo-Norman period onwards to survive throughout the Study Area. Some late Saxon and possibly middle Saxon features may also survive.

The only feature identified as part of the castle itself is the moat, which lies beneath the northern perimeter of the Study Area. No trace of a rampart survived, but evidence of medieval timber buildings and settlement was found.

A brick-lined well-shaft was an unexpected discovery; this was probably a well used by the 19th-century Castle Brewery.

The central part of the Study Area contained deposits of dumped soil c.0.5m thick that dated from post-1750. These deposits have low archaeological value, but they provide evidence for the relatively recent use of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Bedford Borough Council proposes to develop land at 2a Castle Lane, Bedford. Accordingly, it requires information on the likely archaeological impact of development to feed into the design process. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) Archaeological Adviser has indicated that the land is very archaeologically sensitive and is known to contain important archaeological remains. The site is situated within the limits of the scheduled ancient monument of Bedford Castle Mound and Gardens (National Monument no. 20412). In response to the proposal the LPA Archaeological Advisor (then the County Archaeological Officer of Bedfordshire County Council) issued a Brief for an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation of the Study Area (Bedfordshire County Council 2008). At the request of the Bedford Design Group, architects for Bedford Borough Council, Albion Archaeology prepared a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2009a) for a programme of archaeological work in accordance with the Brief. The Project Design detailed the methodology for the desk-based assessment and trial trenching.

Because trial trenching was proposed within the scheduled monument, consent had to be obtained in advance from the Department for Culture Media and Sport. To ensure that the consent gave adequate scope for the investigation, the Project Design specified the maximum extent of the likely intervention. The application was submitted on 12th February 2009 and scheduled monument consent (SMC) was granted on 1st May 2009.

As a result of local government reorganisation on 1st April 2009, Bedfordshire County Council was abolished and Bedford Borough Council became a unitary authority. Pending the appointment of its own archaeological officer, the Borough Council commissioned archaeological consultancy, Archaeologica Ltd, to act as Archaeological Advisor to the LPA.

Before approving the Project Design the LPA Archaeological Advisor asked for the desk-based assessment to be completed to provide sufficient information to agree a detailed trenching strategy. The results of the desk-based assessment were prepared as a separate document (Albion Archaeology 2009b). A revised Project Design was then submitted based on the agreed trenching strategy (Albion Archaeology 2009c).

The results of the desk-based assessment and field evaluation are intended to inform emerging development proposals for the land and will provide information that can accompany subsequent application for planning consent and SMC.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The Study Area is centred at NGR TL 0521 4978, at between 27.2m OD and 29.4m OD, within the south-eastern quarter of the historic core of Bedford. It is situated within the north-eastern limits of the scheduled ancient monument of Bedford Castle Mound and Gardens (NM 20412) (Figure 1). It lies within the northern boundary of a plot of ground referred to historically as Castle Close.

The Study Area covers approximately 850m^2. The southern and eastern sides of the potential development area contain buildings (Figure 2, Areas B–F) and the north-eastern quadrant is a yard/car park with a raised loading platform (Figure 2, Area A). The plot is bounded on its south side by the buildings of Bedford Museum and to the east by the yard to the rear of the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, while the northern and eastern perimeters are defined by a *c*.2m high brick wall. Within the proposed development area is a narrow strip comprising *c*.170m^2, which is designated the 'extra over area' by the Client.

Topographically the Study Area lies on the northern bank of the River Great Ouse on land that rises slightly towards the south and, for that reason, ground floor levels vary within the Study Area (*see* Figure 2). The underlying geology consists of alluvium and river terrace gravels overlying oolitic limestone.

For many years the premises have comprised an annex of Bedford Museum and the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and, until 2007, most of the buildings were leased by BCAS/Albion Archaeology. The history and architecture of the museum complex have been summarised in a conservation plan for the Castle Lane area (FAS 2001).

1.3 Objectives of this Report

English Heritage is the body that advises the government on matters affecting ancient monuments and listed buildings. English Heritage's Charter advises developers and others to provide as much relevant information as possible at the earliest stage in the development process (English Heritage 2005). It also indicates the range of information that may be required to assist them to advise on proposals affecting nationally important heritage assets.

In accordance with this advice, the purpose of this document is to provide an assessment of the archaeological potential of the Study Area, based on the results of field evaluation and the results of previous archaeological interventions in the area and information from all relevant historical documents and plans.

This document seeks to:

- Characterise the nature, likely date and potential for survival of archaeological deposits beneath the existing buildings and within the curtilage.

2. METHOD STATEMENT

2.1 Desk-based Assessment

An archaeological desk-based study is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing archaeological, historical and topographical information.

This desk-based study was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (2001). It reviews the available documentary, cartographic and archaeological evidence relating to the Bedford Castle quarter (i.e. the area between High Street and Newnham Avenue, Mill Street and The Embankment), focusing on Castle Close.

The archaeological and cultural heritage significance of the Castle Close area has been summarised in a number of reports, including the Castle Lane Conservation Plan (FAS, 2001), the Extensive Urban Survey for Bedford (Albion Archaeology, 2005), and the Castle Mound improvement Scheme and Management Plan (Albion Archaeology, 2002b).

2.1.1 Previous archaeological investigations

This section reviews all previous archaeological investigations that have been carried out in the vicinity of Castle Close. Bedford Castle has been a focus of archaeological investigation from the late 1960s onwards. All archaeological work on the castle to date has been carried out by Albion Archaeology or its predecessor organisation, Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service, which was itself formed by the team that led the first excavations of the castle site. Reference has also been made to information held in the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.1.2 Cartographic data

Early maps and other illustrations of an area can be a very informative. Often, they indicate dramatic changes in land use during the post-medieval and modern periods. This can be very helpful in appreciating how the archaeological resource may have been affected by urban development, particularly as a result of the expansion of settlements that took place during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The principal source consulted in this case was the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service (BLARS).

2.2 Field Evaluation

The field evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of a series of trial trenches within the proposed development area. The work was undertaken in accordance with the terms of the Scheduled Monument Consent dated 7th May 2009, the Brief (Bedfordshire County Council, 2008) and revised Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2009c). The approved trenching plan outlined in

the revised Project Design was designed to minimise impact on archaeological deposits whilst providing sufficient information to characterise the nature, likely date and potential for survival of archaeological deposits.

During the excavation some trench locations were modified slightly from the project design as follows:

- Trench 1 was relocated to the west to avoid services located by CAT scanning
- Trench 2 was extended to the east at the request of the LPA Archaeological Advisor to characterise the deposits
- Trench 4 was re-aligned following advice from the LPA Archaeological Advisor and the client's structural engineer.
- Excavation within Trench 5 was constrained by the discovery of a deep well shaft
- Only three sides and the base of the inspection pit (Trench 6) were removed. The north side retaining wall was left in place on the advice of the client's structural engineer.
- Trench 7 was an additional trench requested by the LPA Archaeological Advisor.

English Heritage's Inspector of Ancient Monuments was informed of the above changes to ensure that they were within the terms of the SMC.

The actual trench locations are shown in Figure 3.

Overburden layers were removed by the client's contractors working under archaeological supervision. Modern floor layers were removed with the aid of a mechanical breaker. A mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket was used where possible, i.e. for removing the overburden in Trench 1 and the lining of the inspection pit (Trench 6). Restricted access in most trenches meant that the overburden had to be removed by hand digging. Artefacts were collected during the removal of the overburden.

The opened trenches were cleaned and a sample of the archaeological features, agreed with LPA Archaeological Advisor, was excavated. A drawn, written and photographic record was then produced according to the standards detailed in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2009c).

3. SUMMARY OF DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT RESULTS

This section consists of a summary of the results from the desk-based assessment arranged chronologically. The full details of the desk-based assessment can be found in Appendix 1.

3.1 Pre-Medieval (pre-AD1066)

No evidence dating to the prehistoric or Roman periods has so far been encountered in the area of Castle Close.

A few Roman artefacts (pottery and flue tile) were recovered from the Castle Lane excavations (Baker *et al* 1979, 20) and tile fragments were found in recent excavations to the rear of 23–27 High Street (Albion Archaeology *in prep*. (b)). Some form of settlement in the area is not unlikely, given the number of later Iron Age and Romano-British settlements that have been found along the Great Ouse Valley.

Saxon features were recorded at Bennett's Works in 1980 (Baker, E, 1986). These provide evidence for settlement from the early middle Saxon period (possibly as early as AD650) to the 11th century. The phases were separated by distinct soil horizons, which have considerable potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis. Evidence for timber buildings found in a test pit on the Castle Close lawn in 2003/04 may possibly also date from the late Saxon period.

Any evidence for pre-medieval occupation of 2a Castle Lane is potentially very significant as it will contribute to our knowledge and understanding of the early origins and development of the town of Bedford. Whilst evidence for Saxon settlement has been found elsewhere in Bedford, the remains within Castle Close appear to be much better preserved than elsewhere. This is probably due to the fact that the Study Area has not been as densely developed as other areas within the town centre, as evinced by the historical maps.

3.2 Medieval (AD1066-AD1550)

The special significance of the medieval remains in the area of the 2a Castle Lane is recognised by the site's status as a scheduled ancient monument of national importance. The scheduling relates to the remains of Bedford Castle.

The history of Bedford Castle has been covered in detail in Baker *et al* 1979 and need only be summarised here.

Bedford Castle itself was a Norman 'motte and bailey' castle. It is first mentioned in historical sources in the 1130s and throughout its early history was in the possession of the de Beauchamp family. In 1215 the castle was taken from William de Beauchamp by Falkes de Bréauté after a brief siege. De Bréauté refortified the castle in order to defend it against Henry III, but it was taken and subsequently destroyed by Henry's troops in 1224.

Current interpretation of the layout of Bedford Castle, based largely on the archaeological evidence set out in Section 8.2, indicates that 2a Castle Lane lies within the outer bailey, just inside the northern boundary of the castle (Figure 4). Excavations to the west and east of 2a Castle Lane at the Castle Quay development and Bedford Gallery have located the inner edge of the moat that formed the northern limit of the defences. The projected course of the moat would place its southern edge within the Study Area at 2a Castle Lane.

An earthwork mound, situated 30m to the east of 2a Castle Lane, which forms the foundation of the Hexagon Building, was probably originally part of the rampart of the outer defensive perimeter of the castle. A trench excavated through the north-eastern slope of the earthwork in 1970 suggested that its earliest phase is dated to *c*. 1100–50, with a secondary earthwork and possible stone-lined ditch that may date to after 1216 (Baker 1979, 53). Investigations in 2008 showed the deposits on the north face of the earthwork to be entirely post-medieval, but this does not disprove the view that the core is medieval.

Based on current understanding of the layout of the castle, the earthwork probably originally ran westwards, parallel with Castle Lane, but it has been largely destroyed by the cellars of the Bedford Gallery. Within 2a Castle Lane, post 1800 truncation of the deposits has not been as destructive.

The excavations conducted between 1969 and 1973 found that the main buildings of the castle lay within the inner bailey, centred on land to the south of Castle Lane and to the west of Castle Mound. This was confirmed by the 2007 excavations, but the foundations of a very large stone building of uncertain function were also recorded on the northern perimeter of the outer bailey (Figure 4).

After the destruction of the castle and the dismantling of much of its stonework for building stone, the Study Area remained vacant until the late 19th century.

3.3 Post-medieval (AD1550-AD1900)

During much of the post-medieval period a large proportion of the former castle site remained as an open space. At the beginning of the 17th century some masonry remains of the castle still survived. Speed's map of 1610 shows what appear to be substantial ruins close to the river and the castle mound (Figure 5).

Development of the former castle site proceeded slowly throughout this period, spreading initially from the west and along Castle Lane. This process is illustrated in the cartographic evidence of the 17th and 18th centuries (Figures 5–7).

No development occurred in the eastern part of the castle site until the 19th century. Brayley's map of 1807 (Figure 8) shows the area as an open plot

labelled as 'Castle Close' with only the castle mound, which was used as a bowling green by this time. The first buildings constructed in Castle Close were situated in the north-eastern part of the plot. The Hexagon Building, which was constructed as a militia depot sometime after 1804, and a small structure described as an 'engine house' first appear on the Dewhurst and Nichols map of 1836 (Figure 9).

The boundaries of the plot now occupied by 2a Castle Lane were defined by the mid 19th century with the construction of a brewery to the south and a building later known as the Bedford Gallery to the east.

The brewery, later known as the Castle Brewery, was founded in 1837 on land leased from the Duke of Bedford by Charles Higgins, the inn holder of the Swan Hotel (Collett-White 1981, 313–14 and Osborne 2004, 9–11). A plan of 1840 shows the brewery arranged in a quadrangular plan around a central yard with a brewhouse along the west side and a malthouse on the east side (Figure 10). A residence for the brewery owner, the Higgins villa, was built by 1846 on an adjacent plot to the south of the Hexagon building.

The building that is now called the Bedford Gallery was constructed in 1840 and is labelled on a map of the same date as a Whig club (Figure 10).

The plot later occupied by 2a Castle Lane remained an open space into the late 19th century. It is still shown in detail on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 as a garden area with paths and trees (Figure 14).

3.4 Modern (AD1900-present)

The development of the Study Area began in the early part of the 20th century with the expansion of the brewery. The building in the south-western part of the plot was erected to provide a cellar and barrel store. Structural plans, dated 1899, survive (Figure 15) and the building is shown on the Ordnance survey map of 1900 (Figure 16). A wall dividing the open part of the plot into two halves on the 1900 map may correspond to a difference in height within the yard noted in later drawings (see Section 8.4).

The Ordnance Survey map of 1924 (Figure 17) indicates that the building had been extended along the southern side of plot. The final building to be added was the square building that occupies the north-east of the plot. It was created for Higgins & Sons Ltd as an extension to their bottling store according to building plans which were approved in December 1926 (Figure 18).

Details of the various brewery buildings were recorded as part of the valuation undertaken following the 1925 Valuation Act (BLARS ref. DV1/R43). The survey noted that 'The brewery is old but has been modernised to a certain extent with regard to plant'.

On 31st December 1928 Higgins & Sons Limited was purchased by Wells & Winch, who owned the Biggleswade brewery and numerous public houses in

the area. Brewing at the Castle Brewery ceased on 5th October 1928 and the brewery buildings were subsequently sold. The buildings within 2a Castle Lane were purchased by Consumers Teas and the company proposed or undertook a number of documented alterations to the premises (Figures 19 and 20). Traces of the advertising sign for Consumers Teas can still be seen on the gable of the former extension to the bottling store. Other parts of the brewery were bought by Bedford brewer Charles Wells. These consisted of a maltings, offices, bottle washing shed, residence and garden.

The main part of the brewery buildings to the south of 2a Castle Lane became Bennett's Clothing Factory and then a General Post Office sorting office before it was converted to house Bedford Museum in 1982.

4. CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF TRIAL TRENCH EXCAVATION RESULTS

This section presents a summary of the results of the trial excavation arranged in chronological order. The full details can be found in Appendix 2.

4.1 Geological Deposits

These generally consisted of sands and gravels or a clay-gravel mix. In some of the trenches these deposits were overlain by finer grained deposits consisting of clay or clay-silt.

The sand and gravel comprised layers of relatively clean material in horizontal bands interspersed with occasional lenses of finer-grained material. Banded layers of sand and gravel were observed in the sides of the deeper cut features in Trench 1 (163) and Trench 2 (213), whilst the deepest layer in Trench 6 consisted of clean sand (606). The appearance of these deposits suggests that they represent fluvial deposits laid down by relatively fast-flowing water. In some of the trenches the geological deposits consisted of a clay-gravel or clay-sand mixture. It is likely that these deposits form the upper part of the fluvial deposits at the transition to deposition of finer sediments. In Trench 6 a clay gravel mix (605) contained pockets of red-brown clay in its upper surface and was overlain by probable alluvial layers. The geological deposits in Trenches 4 and 7 consisted of mixed materials.

Layers of fine-grained material were observed above the layers of sand and gravel in Trenches 1 and 6. These consisted of red-brown clay (162) in Trench 1 and silt-clay layers (603 and 604) in Trench 6. These are likely to be alluvial deposits.

4.2 Medieval Deposits

Features dateable to the Saxo-Norman and early medieval periods were found widely distributed. The northern part of the evaluation area produced evidence that may confirm the line of the castle moat (Trench 1) and concentrations of pits and postholes adjacent to the moat (Trenches 1 and 2). A smaller number of features dated to this period were located in the southern half of the evaluation area (Trench 4 and, possibly, Trench 3), but this may be because of the relatively small size of the trenches.

The possible inner edge of the northern moat of the castle is represented by a linear feature in Trench 1 (Figure 22: [109]). No dateable artefacts were recovered from its fill, but its position, alignment and constructional details correspond closely with evidence from previous investigations nearby.

The possible moat is the only feature that can be assigned to the castle phase (*c.* 1130 to 1224). The other medieval features could variously date from the late Saxon period, castle period or post-castle period, since the pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early medieval periods.

The other features considered to date from the medieval period are:

Trench 1	Figure 22	post holes [111], [133], post-pipe [131] and pit 129]
Trench 2	Figure 23	pits [214], [219], [223], [225] and [232]
Trench 3	Figure 24	a shallow pit-like feature [310] may be assumed to be medieval, if it is accepted that a small (9g) fragment of coal is intrusive.
Trench 4	Figure 25	a possible ditch [408] and a possible pit [410] were identified in plan but not excavated. A small amount of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from the surface of ditch [408].

4.3 Post-medieval Deposits

Deposits dated to this period consisted of pitting or quarrying in the northern part of the evaluation area (Trenches 1 and 2) and a hard packed gravel surface in south-east of the area (Trenches 3, 5 and 7).

Two pits in Trench 1 (Figure 22: [104] and [127]) contained material dated to this period. The pits were steep-sided, medium to large features, up to 2m across. They may have been excavated as quarry pits for sand and gravel. Trench 2 contained an extremely large cut feature (Figure 23: [203, 208]), which extended beyond the limit of excavation on three sides and occupied the majority of the trench. The one side that fell within the trench was vertical and auguring showed that the feature was 1.7m deep. The fills contained post-medieval material with some modern finds in the upper part. The vertical edge suggests rapid infilling, before the sides had begun to erode.

Hard-packed gravel layers in Trenches 3, 5 and 7 (Figure 24: (307), Figure 26: (513) and Figure 25: (708)) form distinct horizons in the south-east of the evaluation area and lie beneath layers of soil containing post-1750 debris. The gravel layers appear to represent former ground surfaces, probably external yard areas. The surfaces lie at between c. 27.5m and 27.7m OD in Trenches 3 and 7 and at c. 28.9m OD in Trench 5, suggesting a change in contemporary ground level.

4.4 Modern (post-1750) Deposits

Modern deposits were found throughout the evaluation area. These are mainly floor or yard construction layers which were found in all of the trenches and are fairly shallow. A limited number of deeper intrusive features, related to the modern use of the Study Area, were also found (Trenches 5 and 7). In the south-east corner of the evaluation area the ground level was built up with soil dump deposits that contained modern occupation debris (Trenches 3 and 7).

Trench 1 contained a brick structure aligned north to south along the eastern edge of the trench. This lay close to a former break in ground level in the yard area and was probably the foundations for a low wall, possibly the retaining wall on the west side of the yard shown on the plan of 1930 (Figure 19).

Trench 5 contained a square, brick-lined well (Figure 26: (503)) and a brick-lined pit (Figure 26: (505)) enclosing a control valve on a pipe leading from the well. The construction of the well and the associated cast iron pipes and fittings suggest a date in the later 19th century during the Study Area's use as a brewery. The well is not shown on any of the plans examined for the desk-based assessment.

Trench 7 contained a substantial brick structure that was aligned east to west (Figure 24: (704), within a construction cut [702]). This is interpreted as a drainage culvert.

Trenches 3 and 7 contained layers of dumped soil that contained 19th-century occupation debris. The process was clearest in Trench 3 where successive soil layers sloped down towards the north end of the trench (Figure 24: (304), 305), (306) and (315)). It is likely that this material represents a combination of refuse disposal and excavated spoil used to build up the ground level, perhaps to match the contemporary height of land to the south.

5. CHARACTERISATION OF INVESTIGATION AREAS

5.1 Yard: Investigation Area A, Trial Trench 1

The existing ground surface in Area A was level at c. 27.16m OD. The modern surface consisted of a layer of concrete above rubble with a combined thickness of approximately 0.30m. This study suggests that beneath the formation level for the modern surface a comparatively dense concentration of archaeological features survives, cut into the underlying natural deposits. The top of the archaeological and geological deposits lies between 26.8m and 26.6m OD.

The archaeological features consisted of a ditch aligned east-west and a series of pits and post holes. The linear feature is interpreted as the southern edge of castle moat, which ran along the northern edge of the Study Area. Features situated to the south of the moat consisted of structural features (post-holes) and pits dating from the Saxo-Norman and early medieval periods. The later features in the stratigraphic sequence consisted of medium-sized pits dating from the post-medieval period or later. The base of the deepest of features to be investigated extended down to 25.85m OD. However the castle moat is likely to be much deeper. Sections through other moats on the castle site have been up to 4m deep (Baker et al 1979, fig. 6 and fig. 17), cut into the underlying bedrock.

Previous archaeological excavations east and west of the Study Area have demonstrated a similar pattern, with numerous medieval and post-medieval pits and other archaeological features located to the south of the castle moat.

Historical maps indicate that Area A remained undeveloped until c. 1900. In the earlier 19th century it was open ground on the north side of the Castle Brewery, becoming a walled garden in the late 19th century. The eastern half of Area A was levelled to form a yard sometime before 1926, but the western half survived at a higher level until at least the 1930s, being shown on a plan for a cycle shelter of 1931 (Figure 20). It is possible that the raised loading platform (Figure 2) retains a remnant of the truncated deposits, but this could not be tested by excavation for safety reasons.

5.2 Basement: Investigation Area B, Trial Trench 4

The existing floor surface in Area B lay at 26.63m OD. The floor surface consisted of concrete and rubble with a combined thickness of between 0.2m and 0.25m. The floor lay above a series of soil dump layers that tipped down towards the north. These deposits are best interpreted as backfill of a large feature whose edges lay beyond the limits of Trench 4.

The dump layers sealed two archaeological features which were seen in plan in the base of the trench, one of which contained medieval pottery. It was unsafe to investigate these further so they cannot be reliably interpreted. However, they demonstrate that some archaeological features survive below *c.* 26m OD.

The features were cut into a geological deposit with a sloping upper surface, the top of which varied between 26.17m OD and 25.75m OD.

Historical map data shows that the basement was constructed around 1899 as a cellar with a barrel store above. Prior to the extension of the brewery buildings the area had been within a walled garden, presumably attached to the Higgins Villa.

5.3 Garage: Investigation Area C, Trial Trench 6

The existing floor surface in Area C lay at 28.66m OD. The floor surface consisted of concrete and rubble with a combined thickness of between 0.2m and 0.3m, with one concrete-filled modern intrusion extending to 0.42m below the ground surface.

Deposits sealed beneath the floor survived to a maximum height of 28.46m OD and consist of what appears to be a degraded topsoil layer above a series of subsoil, alluvium and fluvial deposits of sand and gravel.

No archaeological features were present within the trench but the presence of undisturbed geological deposits indicates that there is high potential for the survival of medieval and post-medieval archaeological features, comparable with those excavated on the opposite side of Castle Lane, within the lime kiln chamber of the Castle Quay development..

The development of the brewery buildings as indicated on historical maps suggests that Area C was incorporated into the brewery buildings around the time of the construction of the new cellar and barrel store that forms Area B. This could have been achieved by roofing across the intervening space between the extension and the existing buildings, resulting in very little disturbance of this area below ground.

5.4 Upper Store: Investigation Area D, Trial Trench 5

The existing floor surface in Area D lay at 29.4m OD. The floor surface consisted of a thin bituminised finish layer above layers of concrete with a combined thickness of approximately 0.2m. A rubble layer beneath this, observed within a limited area, appeared to be associated with modern construction and extended to a depth of 0.35m below the existing ground surface.

The trench in this area was mainly occupied by a large brick-lined well and associated structures probably associated with the 19th-century brewery. The construction of the well is likely to have destroyed the majority of the earlier archaeological deposits in the vicinity but, depending on the construction technique used, the impact of the well could have been confined largely to the well shaft itself, with the possibility of only limited disturbance to adjacent deposits.

A small area in the south-west corner of the trench had not been disturbed by the well construction. This contained an extremely hard packed gravel surface which lay 0.47m below the modern floor surface at 28.93m OD. Given that undisturbed natural survived in Area C to 28.46m OD, it is likely that natural deposits lie at the same level in Area D, with equivalent potential for the survival of medieval and post-medieval remains.

5.5 Middle Store: Investigation Area E, Trial Trench 7

The existing floor surface in Area E lay at 28.25m OD. The floor surface consisted of a thin bituminised finish layer above layers of concrete with a combined thickness of up to 0.2m. Excluding the large post-1750 culvert or wall footing, which occupied most of Trench 7, deposits in Area E are likely to comprise soil layers containing post-medieval occupation debris, c. 0.4m thick, above a compacted gravel surface, the top of which lay at between 0.55m and 0.65m below the existing floor surface (c. 27.7m OD). The gravel surface is probably equivalent to that observed in Area F.

Beneath this surface, there is a high potential for the survival of medieval and post-medieval features cut into the geological deposits.

Undisturbed geological deposits in the base of the trench sloped down from the south side of the trench from 27.75m OD to 27.4m OD at the north.

Historical maps show Area E as an open area in 1900 (Figure 16) but built over in 1924 (Figure 17). Certainly, the existing building was already standing in 1926 (Figure 18). The plan of 1899 (Figure 15) may depict a building on the site of Area E, but this is unclear. It perhaps shows an enclosure or yard.

5.6 Middle Store: Investigation Area F, Trial Trench 3

The existing ground surface in Area F lay at c. 28.22m OD. The modern internal floor surface consisted of concrete over rubble with a combined thickness of 0.15m.

The floor lies above a series of soil dump layers, up to 0.5m thick, containing 19th-century occupation debris. Below the soil layers was a hard, compacted gravel surface, lying at 27.57m OD. The gravel surface is probably equivalent to that observed in Area E.

The gravel surface lay above a buried soil layer (c. 0.3m thick) which in turn sealed a shallow, irregular pit-like feature cut into the underlying geological deposits, which lay at 27.1m OD.

As with Area E, historical maps show Area F as an open area or possible yard until the 1900s (Figures 15 and 16) but built over in the 1920s (Figures 17 and 18).

5.7 Lower Store: Investigation Area G, Trial Trench 2

The existing ground surface in Area G was level at c. 27.3m OD. The modern internal floor surface consisted of concrete 0.2m thick. Removal of the floor uncovered a dense concentration of archaeological features and a small area of undisturbed geological deposit truncated by the floor construction. The uppermost surviving archaeology lay at 27.16m OD.

The archaeological features consisted of an extremely large post-medieval pit or quarry which truncated a group of small- to medium-sized medieval pits on its eastern edge. The base of the post-medieval pit lay at 25.35m OD (augured) and the base of the lowest excavated medieval pit lay at approximately 26.3m OD.

Historical maps show Area G as an open area until the construction of an extension to the brewery bottle store during the mid 1920s (Figure 18). The plan of 1899 (Figure 15) may depict a building on the site of Area G, but this is unclear. It perhaps shows an enclosure or yard. It is likely that topsoil deposits were stripped from this area for the construction of the present building. As a result, the archaeological features in this area lie directly beneath the existing floor. Previous archaeological work in the Bedford Gallery immediately east of this area uncovered a similar concentration of pits. It is likely that the medieval pits in Trench 2 form part of an extensive area of pitting which also extends into Trench 1 (Area A).

5.8 Characterisation of the Study Area as a Whole

Figure 27 shows OD heights at which deposits were encountered in the different parts of the Study Area and Figure 28 illustrates how evaluation trenches relate to the surviving blocks of stratigraphy. In an attempt to relate the data from the respective trenches, a series of indicative deposit profiles have been generated (Figures 29–31).

Overall, the impression gained from the evaluation is that the topography of the Study Area, which rises from north to south, is largely artificial. Finer deposits of natural sand and clay, which survive in Area C, do not occur on the north side of the Study Area, indicating that levels have been considerably truncated. However, this truncation was not necessarily caused by construction of the existing buildings – soil layers beneath a possible surface in Areas E and F suggest that the ground levels were much lower prior to the construction of the present building.

The archaeological features encountered on the north side of the Study Area (Areas A and G) were probably the lower portions of features dug when the ground level was somewhat higher (perhaps by about a metre, based on the historical plans discussed in Section 8.4). A remnant of the overburden may survive beneath the loading platform in Area A.

The basement area (Area B) contained deposits and features that were much deeper than those encountered elsewhere within the Study Area. However,

features of similar depth have been found on other parts of the castle site, for example the Castle Quay lime kiln (Figure 27), the base of which lies at c. 26m OD. In other areas, large quarry pits have also been found that were much deeper than adjacent medieval features.

In Areas E and F, a build-up of up to 0.5m of dumped soil dating from the Industrial period (post-1750) protects the earlier archaeological deposits.

Although no archaeological deposits were encountered in Area C, the survival of the upper, finer geological sediments means that there is a high potential for the survival of any features cut into the natural deposits. This is particularly the type of deposit where earlier Saxon remains have been found in other areas of the castle site.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE AND POTENTIAL

6.1 Assessment of Archaeological Value

The archaeological value of the remains encountered within the Study Area is assessed according to the following criteria, with examples:

Nationally important remains comprise:
- Characteristic elements of the medieval castle
- Evidence relating to the construction, use and destruction of the medieval castle
- Well preserved remains of Saxon urban/proto-urban settlement

Regionally important remains comprise:
- Evidence of late Saxon and medieval urban settlement
- Well preserved features relating to post-medieval use of the castle site
- Well preserved structures associated with post-1750 industrial processes

Locally important remains comprise:
- Fragmentary evidence of post-medieval use of the castle site
- Fragmentary structures associated with post-1750 industrial processes
- Features relating to other post-1750 use of the castle site

6.2 Assessment of Potential

The results of the desk-based assessment indicate that there is high potential for archaeological features dating from the Saxo-Norman period onwards to survive throughout the Study Area. Although none of the features investigated are known to date from earlier periods, it is likely that some late Saxon and possibly middle Saxon features also survive, because they have been found in other areas of the castle site. Middle Saxon remains are most likely to survive in the southern part of the Study Area, where the finer geological sediments are present.

The only feature that can be confidently identified as part of the castle itself is the moat, which lies beneath the northern perimeter of the Study Area. However, the medieval pits or post-holes found in Trenches 1 and 2 also represent evidence for medieval timber buildings and settlement.

No evidence of rampart material was found. This would have been very distinctive, comprising layers of compacted earth, gravel or rubble, and would have been expected in Areas A, E, F or G. If a rampart once existed in this area, it must have been completely removed – either as part of the deliberate destruction of the castle following the 1224 siege or in more recent times. Some of the postholes found in Trench 1 may have held timbers that formed part of the rampart structure, similar to those found in 1970 (Baker *et al* 1979).

The well-shaft in Area D provides important evidence for the later history of the area, adding to what is known from documentary records. The well is probably associated with the 19th-century Castle Brewery.

The central part of the Study Area contained deposits of dumped soil c.0.5m thick that post-dated 1750. These deposits have low archaeological value, but they provide evidence for the relatively recent history of the site.

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8. APPENDIX 1: RESULTS OF DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

8.1 Historic Environment Records

(see Figure 32)

HER No.	Description	Comments
298	Bedford Castle (inc. antiquarian references to a supposed Roman villa).	This is a general record covering Bedford Castle. Antiquarian suggestions of a Roman villa on Castle Lane are now discounted. The main excavations have separate records (see below, 14373 etc).
1241	Swan Hotel.	Built late 18th century on site of old Swan Inn.
1243	Timber-framed building with jettied upper storey.	19th-century front but some parts of structure may be as old as 16th century. Still standing.
1244	Nos 12 and 14 Castle Lane, late 18th-century front.	Now demolished.
1245	16-18 Castle Lane.	Demolished.
3069	See HER 14378.	
4055	Restaurant, Ram Yard (rear of 47 High Street), 19th-century.	
4056	Schoolroom, back of Howard Congregational Chapel, 19th-century.	
4057	56-60 Castle Lane, now the garage.	
4115	Former Century or Plaza cinema, 20th century.	Demolished.
4116	Former Bedford Modern School Museum, 20th century.	Demolished.
4117	Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, The Embankment, mid 19th century.	Formerly Higgins House or Castle Close. Built 1846. Incorporates the hexagonal militia building of c.1804.
4274	Bedford Museum (Bennett's Works), Castle Lane.	Former Higgins Brewery, built 1837.
7336	Medieval lime kiln, 12th–13th century.	Situated immediately west of 2a Castle Lane.
14373-7, 14379-80, 14385-87, 14394	Bedford Castle. (BC 69-72) Forty-four trial trenches opened over three seasons.	Saxon features. Medieval castle features included a range of Norman buildings, inner bailey ditch, the motte and the smaller earthwork to the NE.
14378	43 Mill St and Litson's Timber Yard (BMS 71-2).	At least three buildings with stone footings, dating from 15th century on. Ceramic 'knight and rider' roof finial found, dated to about 1450.
14379	Litson's Timber Yard, Castle Lane (BCL 71).	Footings for post-medieval cottage found.
14397	Bennett's Works, excavation in advance of work at Bedford Museum.	Slots, postholes and hearths dated to early-middle Saxon period, sealed by turf line. This was cut by later Saxon occupation features, which were sealed by a thick 'black earth' layer of Saxo-Norman date.

15788	Site of Providence Chapel, built 1830s, went out of use in 1890s.	Demolished in 1960s.

Table 1: Historic Environment Records for the area of Castle Close

8.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

(See Figures 2 and 32)

8.2.1 Overview

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity of Castle Close; these are listed in Table 2.

Project Code	Name	Type	Report Reference
–	Bennett's Works	Salvage excavation	Baker, E. 1986
BC69–72	Bedford Castle	Excavation	Baker *et al* 1979
BCL 73	Bedford Castle (Lime Kiln)	Excavation	Baker *et al* 1979
BCAS 426 ASC BHC 01	Howard Chapel	Evaluation and Watching Brief	
BHS 265	Rear of 29-41 High Street	Excavation	Steadman, S. 1999
BMS 72 –BCL 71	Litson's timber yard	Excavation	Baker, D. et al 1974
CH 1209	Bedford Gallery and Hexagon Building	Excavation	Albion Arch. in prep (d)
CLB 965	Castle Quay Development	Excavation	Albion Arch. in prep (c)
CMB 799	Castle Mound Regeneration	Misc.	Albion Arch. in prep (a)
HS 1139	23-27 High Street	Excavation	Albion Arch. in prep (b)
SC 1023	Land at St Cuthbert's Church	Watching Brief	Albion Archaeology Report 2007/19
WB 105	Swan Hotel/embankment		
WB 115	Bedford Museum Car Park	Watching Brief	Albion Archaeology WB115, HER 298
WB237	Bedford 2A Castle Lane	Watching Brief	Albion Archaeology WB237, HER 298

Table 2: Excavations in the vicinity of Castle Close

A series of investigations took place in Bedford town centre from 1969 to 1973 (Baker *et al.* 1979) (BC 69-72). Trenches within the Castle Close area included over twenty trenches in the area to the west and south-west of the museum and a single trench at the north-east of the art gallery (Baker et al. 1979 fig 4). Four trenches were excavated to the north of Castle Close in 1971, three on the Mill Street frontage and one fronting on to Castle Lane, opposite the Study Area (Baker 1974, 99-128).

During 1980, two further trenches were excavated in the courtyard of Bennett's Works (formerly the Higgins Brewery and now Bedford Museum) (Baker 1986, 59-67).

Watching briefs were undertaken during works south of Bedford Museum (WB 115) and the excavation of a service trench in Castle Lane outside what is now the BCA Gallery (WB 237).

Limited archaeological investigation was undertaken during the Castle Mound Regeneration project, undertaken in winter 2003/04 (Albion Archaeology *in*

prep. (a)). The majority of the work involved surface stripping in advance of footpath repair and construction, but some small-scale excavations were undertaken, including a 2m by 2m test pit located in the centre of the lawn to the south of the gallery (Figure 4: Trench 1).

Archaeological observation and recording were undertaken during the reconstruction of the wall around the churchyard of St Cuthbert's (SC 1023) between September and December 2006.

Large scale archaeological excavations (CLB 965) were undertaken in 2007 as part of the Castle Quay Development in advance of housing and commercial development (Albion Archaeology *in prep* (c)).

Archaeological works were undertaken in 2008 on land to the east of the Study Area during the renovation of the Bedford Gallery and the Hexagon Building (Albion Archaeology *in prep* (d)).

8.2.2 Excavations in the vicinity of Castle Close during the 1970's

The Castle Close area was investigated in a series of small-scale rescue excavations undertaken between 1969 and 1973 in advance of redevelopment of the area (Baker et al 1979). In the course of events the development did not take place and the area remained a car park until the Castle Quay development in 2007. The majority of the trenches were located to the west of Castle Close, in the Castle Lane and Ram Yard public car parks. One trench (BC70 3) recorded a section through the earthwork on the north-eastern corner of Castle Close, identifying it as medieval in origin, although augmented by thick post-medieval deposits. The earthwork embankment was interpreted as a remnant of the outer defences of the castle. Other trenches were excavated at the base of the Castle Mound and on the southern perimeter of the castle boundary. These excavations uncovered pre-castle activity dating from the Saxon period and features associated with the castle. The excavations also produced evidence for the plan of the castle. Some of the principal buildings of the castle were identified within the inner bailey, which was centred on land to the south of Castle Lane, to the west of Castle Mound. Sections were also excavated through the inner bailey moat and the moat around Castle Mound. In both cases, the moat was found to have had a stone lining.

Another series of small-scale rescue excavations were undertaken in 1971 on land between Mill Street and Castle Lane (Baker 1974, 99-128). Trench 22, situated in the southern part of the former Litson's timber yard, lay on the north side of Castle Lane, directly opposite the present Study Area. The trench uncovered remains of a post-medieval building with foundations of stone and brick. Close beneath were natural sand and gravel above bedrock. There was no evidence of the castle ditch.

8.2.3 Bennett's Works investigation 1980

Archaeological recording was undertaken of two mechanically excavated trenches, dug for the foundations of the present Bedford Museum foyer. These

provide evidence for settlement from the early middle Saxon period (possibly as early as AD650) to the 11th century, as summarised in the table below.

Period	Brief description	Approximate depth below ground
Natural	brickearth	0.6m–1.0m
Early middle Saxon	buildings	0.6m–0.8m
Early middle Saxon	buried soil/turf line	0.5m–0.8m
Saxon	buildings and occupation	0.5m
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman	buried cultivated soil, c. 0.5m thick	0.1m–0.6m
Saxo-Norman	stone building remains, possibly associated with the castle	0.4m
Post-medieval/modern	construction of brewery buildings	0–0.6m

Table 3: Archaeological deposits at the Bennett's works

Quantities of tap slag and smithing slag were recovered, which may indicate iron making and metalworking on the site, although this material seems to be a fairly ubiquitous component of early medieval contexts in the castle area.

8.2.4 Watching briefs

A watching brief (Albion Archaeology project WB115) was undertaken in 1988 during enhancement works to the car parking area south of Bedford Museum. A small number of Saxo-Norman and early medieval pottery sherds were recovered but no archaeological deposits were observed during the works.

A further watching brief (Albion Archaeology project WB 237) was carried out during construction of a manhole trench through the road surface of Castle Lane, to the west of Bedford Museum. The modern pipe trench was situated at a depth of 1.70-2.20m and seemed to cut through the remains of sandstone masonry at the same depth. The nature and function of the masonry is unclear. Several sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery were recovered from the trench.

8.2.5 Bedford High Street 1995

Investigations to the rear of the properties at 29-41 High Street (Steadman 1999) identified the line of the western arm of the outer bailey ditch and revealed several phases of late Saxon and early medieval industrial activity and occupation, sealed beneath the castle rampart.

8.2.6 Castle Mound Regeneration 2003/04

Limited archaeological investigation was also undertaken as part of the Castle Mound Regeneration project, undertaken in winter 2003/04 (Albion Archaeology *in prep*. (a)). The majority of the work involved surface stripping in advance of footpath repair and construction, but some small-scale excavations were undertaken. These included a 2m by 2m test pit located in the centre of the lawn to the south of the art gallery (Figure 3: Trench 1). The 2m square test pit revealed a depth of *c.* 0.5m of post-medieval made ground and garden soil. Immediately below this, evidence of timber structures, in the form of small postholes and a beam-slot, was revealed.

These features were cut directly into mid orange-brown silty clay (resembling natural brickearth) which contained late Saxon/Saxo-Norman pottery.

8.2.7 St Cuthbert's Churchyard 2006

A programme of archaeological observation and recording was undertaken during reconstruction of the churchyard wall (Albion Archaeology 2007). Observations indicated that the level of the churchyard had been deliberately raised in two stages, initially in the medieval period and later in the post-medieval period. These build-up deposits sealed early medieval soil horizons that probably pre-dated the establishment of the churchyard. Iron working waste and fragment of lime mortar were recovered from the early medieval deposits.

8.2.8 Castle Quay Development 2007

Extensive excavations were undertaken in advance of development for residential and commercial use. The remains ranged in date from the mid Saxon period to the 20th century. Because the investigations were limited to those deposits that would be removed by the development, the early phases may be under represented and the full depth of deposits could not be determined.

The earliest evidence, consisting of buried subsoil and scattered postholes and hearths, is associated with middle and late Saxon pottery and therefore appears to pre-date the castle construction.

Features associated with the castle included large limestone foundations and cobbled surfaces. A large stone building to the south of Castle Lane is interpreted as a medieval hall lying within the inner bailey of the castle. Of particular relevance for the current Study Area is the identification of the outer moat of the castle near the northern limit of the site. The projected eastwards continuation of this feature runs along the northern boundary of the Study Area.

Following the siege of 1224 the castle defences were slighted and buildings robbed of stone. Some evidence for settlement and industrial activity was found. A cobbled road was associated with post-built structures. Lime kilns, slag-rich dumps and quarry pits all point to the use of the area for industrial purposes rather than settlement.

The archaeological evidence corroborates documentary evidence that the castle site remained largely open ground until the 19th century.

8.2.9 Bedford Gallery and Hexagon Building 2007/08

Archaeological works were undertaken during the renovation of the two early 19th-century buildings, the former Bedford Gallery and the hexagonal militia depot known as the 'Hexagon Building'. Both buildings are of historical interest and the Bedford Gallery is Grade II listed. The Hexagon Building is earlier, but unlisted; it sits on top of a substantial earthwork, thought to be

medieval in origin (see above and Baker 1979, 51–5). The earliest feature was a large ditch situated at the northern edge of the site, interpreted as the outer moat of the castle. This was succeeded by a series of quarry pits of various sizes that were dug during the medieval period. The quarry pits to the east of the Bedford Gallery were sealed by substantial layers that were stratigraphically post-medieval but which contained Saxo-Norman pottery.

8.3 Cartographic Evidence

This section summarises the information available from historical maps and plans, illustrating the changes occurring on the Study Area and in the general vicinity from the early 17th century onwards. Details of the cartographic sources consulted can be found in Table 4.

Date	Description	BLARS Reference
	Maps:	
1610	Speed, 1610	X1/88/1
1765	Jefferys, 1765	X1/88/2
1795	Parish map, 1795	X1/88/3
1807	Brayley, 1807	X1/88/4
1836	Dewhurst and Nichols, 1836	X1/36
1836	W. Berrill 22-Jan-1836. Plan of close & cut at back of Swan Inn, Bedford	X369/2
	Castle Close before construction of brewery and club	X369/29
	Castle Close after construction of brewery and club	X369/30
1840	Plan on indenture date 1840	X369/5
1841	Reynolds, 1841	X1/88/5
1854	Salmon gas map, 1854	X1/88/6 and X133/11
1878	Mercer, 1878	X1/88/7
	Pictorial sources:	
1833	Dawson's panorama (photograph of drawing by F. Dawson)	BP28/14a and b
	Documents:	
	Contract for granting lease between Duke of Bedford and Charles Higgins	X369/3
1837	Builder's specifications for building the brewery of Mr C. Higgins 1837	X369/4

Table 4: List of Cartographic, Pictorial and Documentary Sources in Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service

8.3.1 Speed's map 1610

The earliest map of Bedford is Speed's map from 1610 (Figure 5). It shows the main streets of the northern and southern *burh* with houses along the street frontages and the position of the churches within the city boundary. Bedford Castle is shown as an unoccupied mound and ruined walls. The northern part of Castle Close is shown as open land containing no buildings. Within this, impinging on the Study Area, is a faint circular feature, consisting of an outer dotted double line and an inner circle of dots. The precise nature of the feature is uncertain, but it appears similar to a number of other circular patterns in

garden areas on the plan. It was probably not a direct record but a representation of a garden/cultivated area.

8.3.2 Jefferys's map 1765

Jefferys's map (Figure 6) shows that not much development had taken place in Bedford within the previous 100 years. Its main significance for the purpose of this study is that it shows a large semi-circular earthwork, immediately to the north of the Castle Mound. The earthwork most likely represents the remains of the outer defensive rampart of Bedford Castle (Baker *et al* 1979, p. 54). Castle Mound is now clearly marked as a bowling green, indicating that the area of open land so close to the town centre had become a significant place of recreation.

8.3.3 Parish map 1795

The parish map (Figure 7) is of interest for the general development of Bedford as it is the first map to represent approximate positions of structures, as well as their relative shape and the extent of their associated property boundaries. For Castle Close, however, it only shows a vacant plot to the north of the Castle Mound.

8.3.4 Brayley's map 1807

Brayley (Figure 8) does not show any changes within the Study Area. It shows a blank space to the north of the Castle Mound, bounded by Castle Lane in the west and north, and Newnham Road in the east, which is labelled as *Castle Close*. The close contains a 'tussock' drawing convention, possibly indicative of an area of rough pasture, which contrasts with the garden and cultivation plots at the rear of houses on other streets.

8.3.5 Dewhurst and Nichols 1836

The Dewhurst and Nichols map of 1836 (Figure 9) shows that the Study Area remained an open space at this time.

The plan also shows that the Hexagon Building was the first building to appear in Castle Close, situated to the east of the Study Area in the north-eastern corner of the close. This building is shown accessed from Castle Lane and enclosed by a boundary that closely followed its hexagonal shape. A thin, dark feature on an east-west alignment is indicated to the east of the Hexagon Building and the sinuous line of a stream extends southwards from the feature, parallel to the line of Newnham Road (then known as 'Thames Street'). This feature is most likely the 'engine house' indicated on the later 1840 plan and Reynolds's map of 1841 (see below). Dewhurst and Nichols' map shows that in 1836 the watercourse was still an open stream.

8.3.6 Plan of 1840

This plan (Figure 10) is attached to an indenture dated 1840. The Study Area remains an open space at this time but was bounded to its east by a building labelled 'Whig Club House' (now the Bedford Gallery) and to its south a brewery (now Bedford Museum). The brewery is shown as series of buildings

around a yard with access from the north and south sides. The malthouse was situated on the east side of the yard with the brewhouse on the west side.

The course of the stream shown on the Dewhurst and Nichols map is now described as a 'Covered ditch', which leads from the 'Engine house' to a small cistern or pond on the northern berm of the moat around Castle Mound.

8.3.7 Reynolds 1841

The map of 1841 (Figure 11) is very similar to the 1840 plan. The Study Area remains as an open area bounded by buildings to its south and east. The Hexagon Building and Bedford Gallery appear to be joined together and the label above says 'Castle Rooms' although the Hexagon Building itself retains its own label of 'Depot'.

The engine house to the east of the Hexagon Building is now marked as a clear rectangular building with a possible central porch on the northern side. The stream immediately to the south of the engine room has been covered and only appears again as an open ditched watercourse to the east of the castle mound.

8.3.8 Salmon 1854

This map (Figure 12), commonly referred to as Salmon's Gas Map, is one of the first very precise, 19th-century maps of Bedford, giving an exact rendering of buildings and property boundaries.

The Study Area is still an open area; however, a number of significant changes have occurred to the surrounding buildings. The Higgins family villa has been built to the south of the Hexagon Building. A few alterations have also been carried out to the Bedford Gallery and Hexagon Building complex itself. The Bedford Gallery has been extended to the south and both buildings have also added features to the north towards the Castle Lane street frontage. The engine house to the east of the Hexagon Building has now disappeared and the culverted stream has been replaced by a footpath that leads south from the north-eastern corner of Castle Lane and curves around to the entrance of the Higgins villa.

More precise property boundaries also seem to have been drawn up between the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery building complex and the brewery.

8.3.9 Mercer 1878

Mercer's 1878 map of Bedford (Figure 13) shows comparatively little change in Castle Close and the adjacent areas from the mid 19th century other than small infill developments. The Study Area remains an open space.

Adjacent to the Study Area, the main changes are to the Higgins family villa which has acquired a larger north wing, an added porch in the east and what looks to be a more elaborate southern façade. A small porch may also have been added to the eastern side of the Hexagon Building and extensions have been added to the brewery.

8.3.10 Ordnance Survey map 1884

The Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (Figure 14) shows the Study Area in greater detail than any previous map. A double thickness line around the northern and western sides indicate that it was surrounded by a wall at this time. Paths within the area outline two large rectangular spaces and small/medium-sized trees are arranged irregularly along the edges of the paths. Extensions of the path to east and west indicate the probable access to the area. At the west the path meets the wall at the south-west corner of the area and, although no break in the wall is indicated, it is possible that a gate or door could have existed. A short section of path situated close to the south-east corner of the area provides a link between the Study Area and the wide passage that appears to be the access to the rear of the Higgins Villa. The layout of the area and its relationship to the adjacent Higgins property suggest that it was a private garden area, possibly a kitchen garden.

The 1884 map also shows that the brewery building has been extended westward and now fronts directly onto Castle Lane. It is labelled *Castle Brewery*. The Higgins villa is labelled as *Castle Close* and the Bedford Gallery and Hexagon Building as *Castle Rooms (The Brethern)'* [sic] *Seats for 350* and *St. Agnes's Infant School* respectively.

8.3.11 Ordnance Survey map 1900

The OS map of 1900 (Figure 16) is the first to show buildings in the Study Area resulting from a northwards extension to the brewery buildings. It consists of a rectangular structure aligned east to west situated in the south-west corner of the area. The open area is subdivided by a boundary that separates the north-west corner and the eastern side of the Study area. The southern continuation of this boundary 'dog legs' around the eastern end of the building, perhaps indicating an access point at this end of the building. A small building has been constructed in the south-east corner of the Study Area against the northern wall of the brewery buildings lying to the south.

Other changes in the vicinity are small extensions to the Higgins Villa to integrate the Villa with the Hexagon Building.

8.3.12 Ordnance Survey map 1924

The OS map of 1924 (Figure 17) shows that the building which appeared on the map of 1900 has been extended across the entire southern side of the Study Area.

8.3.13 Ordnance Survey map 1967

The OS map of 1967 (Figure 21) shows the buildings in the Study Area in the form that they retain up to the present day. The buildings have been extended by an addition in the north-east corner of the Study Area and the raised area along the northern face of the main range of buildings exists in its present layout. The buildings within the Study Area are labelled *Warehouse* and the former brewery buildings to the south are labelled *Sorting Office*.

8.4 Building Plans

This section presents evidence from building plans which are held in the collections of the Bedfordshire and Luton Archive and Records Service. Plans for proposed building alterations and additions to the brewery buildings were inspected. These are listed in Table 5. The plans which relate directly to additions and alterations within the boundaries of the 2a Castle Lane site are described below.

Date	Title	BLARS Reference
1878	Additions to Brewery Messrs Higgins & Sons	693
1896	Offices – Castle Brewery Messrs Higgins & Sons	3121/1-2
1899	New Cellar – Castle Brewery Messrs Higgins & Sons	3740/1-2
1926	Plan of extension to bottling store – Castle Hill Higgins & Sons Ltd	3740 - 7786
1930	Plan of office & lavatory – Castle Lane The Consumers Tea Co Ltd	3740 - 8699
1930	Plan of alterations to premises – Castle Hill H Bennett	9111 - 8712
1931	Plan of cycle shelter – Castle Buildings The Consumers Tea Co Ltd	3740 - 8874
1932	Plan of alterations to Factory – Castle Hill H H Bennett	9111 - 8712

Table 5: Building Plans in Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service

8.4.1 New Cellar, Castle Brewery, 1899

The drawing is entitled 'Plans for New Cellar at "Castle Brewery" for Messrs Higgins & Sons' (Figure 15). It shows a cellar with a barrel shed at ground floor level above. The cellar is lit and ventilated by three openings in the north wall with corresponding recesses to allow in light from the outside of the building from ground level. Its ceiling is supported on a central row of iron columns supporting transverse floor beams. The barrel shed on the floor above is shown with timber roof trusses supported on iron columns along the north and south sides. It appears from the drawing that the north side of the barrel store was intended to be open with the eaves of the roof being supported by the row of columns on that side.

The cellar shown in the plan is largely the same as the existing basement area, but the barrel room above has since been converted to office accommodation by the infilling of the north wall and the insertion of a number of internal divisions.

8.4.2 Plan of Extension to bottling store, Castle Hill, 1926

The drawing is entitled 'Proposed extension to bottling store, Castle Hill for Messrs Higgins & Sons Ltd' (Figure 18). It is marked as being approved on 15th December 1926. The plan shows the proposed extension as a square building situated in the north-east corner of the 2a plot with no internal

divisions. The floor consists of a reinforced concrete raft. It is accessed from the outside *via* a door located towards the southern end of its west wall. There was a platform on either side of the door with steps leading from the platform down to the floor level of the new bottling store. The new store is connected with an existing store and bottle store on its southern side *via* two openings with steps leading up to these areas. The new bottle store is lit by two windows in its eastern wall and a row of four small windows just below eaves level in the northern wall. The gabled roof is shown supported by wooden trusses. The plan also indicates the construction of piers for a gateway in the north wall of the yard outside the bottling store.

The bottling store remains largely unchanged as the store area situated in the north-east corner of 2a Castle Lane. The proposed internal and external loading platforms shown in the south-west corner of the building are smaller than those which now exist and a larger sliding door has been inserted in the west wall.

8.4.3 Plan of office and lavatory, Castle Lane, 1930

The drawing is entitled 'Office and lavatory accommodation – Castle Lane for the Consumers Tea Co Ltd' (Figure 19). The plans were approved in March 1930. The plan shows details of the conversion of the ground floor area originally created as a barrel store in 1899 into an office space. The plan indicates that the space has already been partitioned from the buildings to the south. The proposed alterations consist of the insertion of windows and doors along the north side of the building, the blocking of openings in the south wall, the creation of an entrance in the west end and the insertion of internal partition walls. The partitions indicated divide the building into offices, passages, toilets and a tea and sample room.

The layout of the current building retains the entrance from the west with the associated passage and the general office space that made up the east half of the planned layout. The indicated plan differs significantly from the current layout in the various rooms in the western half of the building. This may be due to subsequent alterations or changes to the plans. The light internal stud walling would have been relatively easy to alter.

The external loading platform (which is depicted in black, indicating that it was an extant feature) is approximately the same size as the present platform.

8.4.4 Plan of cycle shelter – Castle Buildings 1931

The drawing is entitled 'Cycle shelter – Castle Buildings for the Consumers Tea Co.' shows details of a cycle shelter in the yard and a small roofed shelter on the loading platform to protect the door into the warehouse (Figure 20). The plans were approved on 21st January 1931. The construction of the cycle shelter is shown as a timber frame with a corrugated iron roof. An additional note on the drawing, 'Note cycle shelter to be set back to line of warehouse', suggests that the north end of the shelter would be constructed a little further south than shown in the drawing.

Both of these features no longer exist. The significance of the plan of the cycle shelter is that it shows the yard at this time was on two levels. The area between the loading platform and the gates was at road level whilst the part to the west was at a higher level and was accessed by steps. The yard has since been reduced to road level across its full extent.

9. APPENDIX 2: RESULTS OF TRIAL TRENCH EXCAVATION

9.1 Introduction

Seven trenches were excavated between 12th August and 24th September 2009. The methodology is summarised in Section 2.2 and the locations of the trenches are illustrated in Figure 2. Artefacts are discussed in Section 9.9 and summary descriptions of all contexts are presented in Section 9.10.

9.2 Trench 1

(Figure 22)
The layers forming the modern concrete yard surface (100) and its rubble make up deposit (105) were removed to expose a modern brick structure (101). The brickwork may have been the top of a culvert or possibly the footings for a retaining wall which is indicated on a development plan dating from 1931 (Figure 20).

A sequence of cut features and layers dateable to the post-medieval period was found in the south-western part of the trench, immediately below the modern surfacing. The latest feature in this sequence was a large sub-rectangular pit [104]. Artefacts recovered from the upper fill of this feature included bottle glass, post medieval pottery, clay pipe. The features included cut features [120] and [123] filled with hard red-brown clay. These may have been constructed as structural features with deliberate fills of compacted clay. These features were cut through two layers, (124) and (125), which formed horizontal bands of deliberately dumped material in the south-west part of the trench.

These make-up or dump deposits sealed two pits. The largest, a deep, steep-sided pit [127], contained a copper alloy thimble dated to post-1620 along with small amounts of medieval pottery, ferrous slag and animal bone. A medium-sized pit [129] in the south-west corner of the trench contained a small amount (14g) of Saxo-Norman pottery only.

The northern half of the trench contained a number of post-hole-sized and small pit-sized features, some forming inter-cutting sequences. A sample of these features was excavated and where pottery was recovered it consisted of small amounts of Saxo-Norman or early medieval material. Pottery was recovered from a post-hole and post-pipe [131 and 133], a post-hole [135] and a post-hole in the north-east of the trench which was the latest feature in series of inter-cutting post-holes, gullies and small pits. The pottery may be residual, but this is unlikely, given the complete absence of later artefacts.

The southern edge of a large linear feature [109] lay just inside the northern edge of the trench. The feature appears to have been the southern edge of a ditch that extended along the full length of the trench. The 'ditch' was cut into gravely geological deposits and appeared to truncate the northern edge of an earlier, shallow gully [113] on a parallel alignment. The fills of ditch [109] consisted of a layer of limestone slabs (108) forming a possible lining to the ditch. The other fills of the ditch consisted of a sandy silt fill above the (108) and an uppermost fill

consisting of dumped limestone rubble. No finds were recovered from the ditch. The location and alignment of the ditch correspond to the projected position of the northern moat of the castle that has been identified in previous investigations in the area (see Section 8.2.8 and Figure 4).

The underlying geological deposits (163) consisted of layers of sand and gravel deposits interleaved with occasional layers of finer grained material. These deposits were observed in the sides of some of the excavated features. Over the majority of the trench the gravels were capped by a layer of mid orange red clay (162).

9.3 Trench 2

(Figure 23)
The existing internal floor surface consisted of concrete (200) with a rubble make-up deposit (201).

The majority of the trench was occupied by a single, large feature [203, 208]. Only the eastern side of the feature was visible within the trench as its edges extended beyond the limits of excavation on the other three sides. The eastern side was more than 3m long, straight in plan and vertical in section. The base of the feature, investigated by auguring, appeared to be relatively level and around 1.8m deep. The fills consisted of brown or grey clay silts with patches of orange clay. Artefacts included pottery, vessel glass, clay pipe stem and roof tile. The majority of the fills contained post-medieval artefacts with some modern material in the uppermost fills (202, 207 and 212) along with some residual medieval pottery in some contexts.

At the behest of the LPA Archaeological Advisor, the trench was extended to the east to enable better characterisation of the deposits through which the large feature had been dug.

The eastern extension to the trench contained five inter-cutting pits [214, 219, 223, 225 and 231]. The pits all extended beyond the limit of excavation to the east. Four of the pits [214, 219, 225 and 231] were broadly similar, with rounded outlines, irregular sloping sides and concave bases. The latest of these four pits had been truncated on its western end by feature [203, 208]. The other pit found in the eastern side of the trench [223] was different in character, having vertical sides and a flat base. Fills in four pits contained small amounts of Saxo-Norman pottery. A single sherd of early medieval pottery was recovered from the lower fill of [231], but this was arguably the latest pit in the sequence. In addition, some fills contained small amounts of animal bone, ferrous slag and in the fill of [223] oyster shell.

The underlying geological deposits (211 and 213) consisted of layers of sand and gravels.

9.4 Trench 3

(Figure 24)
The existing internal floor surface consisted of modern concrete (300) and its rubble make-up (301).

Under the floor were a series of dumped soil layers (304, 305, 306 and 315). These were removed by hand by the groundworks contractors, working under archaeological supervision. During excavation the deposits appeared to be very homogeneous and were excavated in two spits (302 and 303). The layers were then examined and recorded in section, enabling them to be characterised as follows. The layers were deepest at the south with the upper surfaces of the layers sloping slightly down towards the north. The uppermost layers had been truncated to form a level formation surface for the construction of the floor (300 and 301). Two of the layers (304 and 306) contained moderate amounts of artefacts, including animal bone, iron objects, slag, roof tile, clay pipe and pottery. The pottery consisted of post-1750 domestic forms such as tea bowls, plates, saucers and chamber pots. Amongst the finds was a bakelite bottle stopper (RA4) used by the brewery with the words "Higgins Bedford" moulded into its upper surface.

Beneath the soil layers was a compacted surface (307) extending across the whole area of the trench at a height of c. 27.57m OD. This consisted of hard-packed gravel in a clay matrix with a maximum thickness of 0.08m. Artefacts from this deposit consisted mainly of post- medieval roof tile with a single sherd of residual medieval pottery.

The gravel surface lay above soil layers. The upper of these (308) consisted of a layer of dark grey brown clay loam up to 0.37m thick. Recovered finds consisted of animal bone, oyster shell, roof tile, clay pipe, post-medieval pottery and a single sherd of medieval pottery. Below (308) there was a thinner layer (309) that consisted of a similar dark grey brown soil mixed with lumps of yellow brown clay. This contained a small amount of post-medieval roof tile, animal bone and a single sherd of medieval pottery. It is possible that these layers represent a cultivation horizon with a deep cultivated soil above a thin mixed layer formed by disturbance of the underlying clay geology.

In the base of the trench, sealed by layer (309), was a cut feature [310] interpreted as a pit. The full extent of this feature was obscured to the south and west by the limits of excavation. In profile it was shallow with a base gradually sloping down towards the south with an irregular outline in plan. It contained two fills of dark clay silt (311 and 313) separated by a fill of sandy clay (312). The darker fills contained a small amount of Saxo-Norman and early medieval pottery, roof tile, animal bone and a small fragment of coal. The latter is likely to have been intrusive.

The underlying geological deposit (314) consisted of mid reddish or yellow brown sandy clay with frequent stones. The top of the geology lay at 27.1m OD.

9.5 Trench 4

(Figure 25)
Removal of the modern concrete internal floor surface (400) and its rubble make-up deposit (401) revealed a soil layer (402) up to 0.46m thick that extended across most of the trench apart from a small area at the south. This contained some fragments of brick.

The southern end of the trench contained a series of four layers (403 to 406) that sloped downwards towards the north, perhaps indicating that the dumps of material were deposited from the south. The uppermost of these layers (403) contained a single sherd of pottery and the bowl of decorated clay pipe dateable to the 19th century.

Two cut features were visible in the base of the trench. The features were recorded in plan but could not be excavated due to safety considerations. Each was cut into the geological deposits and sealed by the overlying soil layers described above. One feature was a possible linear feature [408] that occupied the northern two-thirds of the trench and another feature [410] visible in the south end of the trench is interpreted as a possible pit. A small amount of Saxo-Norman pottery and animal bone was recovered from the surface of the fill of linear feature [408].

The underlying geological deposit (411) consisted of mid yellow sandy clay and was higher at the north end of the trench, falling from 26.17m OD to 25.75m OD.

9.6 Trench 5

(Figure 26)
The internal floor of the existing building comprised a thin layer of bituminised floor surface (500) over a layer of concrete (501).

Unexpectedly, the modern floor was found to span a disused well and associated access pit containing valve gear. The well (503) consisted of a brick-lined shaft, 1.24m square. The shaft was only partially filled with rubble and by feeding a tape measure down it was possible to determine that it was at least 12m deep. The shaft contained a large cylindrical iron tube which may have been a pump barrel. The access pit (505) was a brick-lined, rectangular pit containing a cast iron wheel operating a stop valve in a cast iron pipe which fed into the well shaft. Excavation in the south-west corner of the trench uncovered the western side of a feature [510] that was aligned with the western wall of the well, suggesting that it was the construction cut for the well shaft or its associated pipework. This cut was filled by a soil deposit (511) under a layer of brick rubble (508). The well is not shown on any of the documents examined for the desk-based assessment, so must have gone out of use before these plans were drawn up. From its construction, it appears to date from the 19th century and is most likely to have functioned when the building to the south (now housing Bedford Museum) was in use as a brewery.

Part of a layer of limestone rubble (509) was exposed to the west of the well. This consisted of a single layer of randomly arranged limestone blocks. The blocks had evidently been reused because some were roughly squared or faced and one small block had one finely finished face. It is quite possible that the stone had been robbed from medieval castle ruins in the vicinity, but this cannot be proven. The stratigraphic relationship of the limestone rubble to the well was ambiguous because the interstices of the stone had been filled with the same concrete that bound the adjacent brick rubble (508) and also butted up against the outside of the brick lining of the well and the access pit. This suggests that the rubble was laid whilst the well was still in use.

Some deposits that predated the construction of the well were observed in the section excavated in the south-west corner of the trench. Here, the construction cut of the well [510] was cut through a layer of dark grey clay loam (512) that lay above a layer of compacted mid red brown gravel with a clayey sand matrix (513), which formed a hard surface. Although very similar to the layers or surfaces found in Trench 3 and Trench 7, this layer was higher, at 28.93m OD.

9.7 Trench 6

(Figure 25)
The concrete forming the internal floor of the building (600) had an underlying layer of concrete (601), which was observed in the north-west corner of the trench. The construction of the floor appears to have required some levelling of the ground surface, partially truncating the underlying deposits to a height of c. 28.46m OD. The truncated remains of a former topsoil layer (602) were found at the eastern end of the trench.

Below the topsoil was a layer of mid yellow-brown sandy silt (603) that had been partly truncated by the construction of the concrete floor (600). Below this was a layer of mid yellow-brown silty clay containing unevenly distributed stones (604).

The lower part of the trench contained a layer of dark brown clay and gravel with pockets of red-brown clay its upper surface (605) above light yellow, clean sand (606).

Below formation level for the existing building, all the deposits in this trench appeared to consist of fluvial deposits of sand and gravel (605) and (606) overlain by possible finer clays and silts (603) and (604). It is possible that the upper layers did not reveal any cultural material, but it is possible that they were anthropogenic in origin. Similar deposits on the Castle Quay site have been shown by micromorphological analysis to comprise cultivated soils (Albion Archaeology, in prep (c)).

9.8 Trench 7

(Figure 24)
The internal floor of the existing building comprised a thin layer of bituminised floor surface (714) or concrete (713) above a rubble layer (712) consisting of broken brick, limestone fragments and mortar.

Below the floor deposits the majority of the trench was occupied by a masonry structure (704) set in a 1.4m wide construction trench (702) and aligned east-west. The top of the structure consisted of brick rubble in a mortar matrix. The structure does not relate to wall lines within the existing building or any structures shown on historical maps. However, it appears to be aligned on a down pipe (Figure 3) that drains a valley roof and has, therefore, been interpreted as a culvert, presumably comprising a ceramic pipe encased in concrete. The construction does however appear out of scale for a small drain and it may have originally served some other function as a drain for the brewery.

The culvert was cut through a layer of dark grey brown silty loam (709). This contained fragments of brick and tile, small amounts of pottery dating from the

Saxo-Norman to modern periods, slag, clay pipe and animal bone. Below (709) there was a layer of compact grey-brown clay and gravel (708) which formed a gravel surface similar to gravel layers seen in Trench 3. The surface did not appear to extend as far as the south side of Trench 7 and may have petered out to the north since it appeared in section to thin out and disappear before reaching the northern side of the trench. A piece of iron, copper alloy wire, animal bone and fragments of roof tile were recovered from (708).

At the northern edge of the trench a thin deposit of black sandy silt (711) at the level of (708) may be a remnant of dumped hearth or fire material. Below this was layer of layer of mid grey brown soil (714).

The underlying geological deposit consisted of light red-brown clay silt subsoil above mixed silt or gravel natural (700). These deposits occurred at 0.4m below the surface (27.75m OD) at the south side of the trench, dropping to 0.85m (27.4m OD) at the northern edge. This difference in height suggests that the ground may have been terraced away in the southern half of this area.

9.9 Artefact and Ecofact Summary

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone, the majority deriving from features in Trenches 2 and 3. Smaller quantities of clay tobacco pipe, vessel glass, metal objects, metalworking residues and oyster shell were also recovered (Table 6). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Other finds
01	104	Pit	102	Post-medieval	Pottery (54g); CBM (34g); animal bone (4g); clay pipe (3g); vessel glass x2
	111	Post hole	110	Early medieval	Pottery (19g); animal bone (68g); ferrous slag (21g)
	124	Make-up layer	124	Early medieval	Pottery (48g)
	127	Pit	126	Post-medieval	Pottery (64g); animal bone (71g); ferrous slag (24g); shell (1g); copper alloy thimble (RA 1)
	129	Pit	128	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (14g)
	131	Post pipe	130	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (11g); animal bone (18g; ferrous slag (54g)
	133	Post hole	132	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (10g)
02	203	Quarry pit	202	Post-medieval	Pottery (47g); CBM (1.3kg); animal bone (12g); ferrous slag (35g); vessel glass x1
	203	Quarry pit	204	Post-medieval	Pottery (87g); CBM (16g); animal bone (9g)
	203	Quarry pit	205	Post-medieval	Pottery (15g); CBM (63g); animal bone (34g); clay pipe (1g)
	203	Quarry pit	206	Post-medieval	Pottery (72g); CBM (327g); shell (12g)
	203	Quarry pit	207	Post-medieval	Pottery (7g); CBM (134g); animal bone (72g); clay pipe (1g)
	208	Quarry pit	209	Late med/early post-medieval	Pottery (12g); animal bone (87g); ferrous slag (30g); vessel glass x1
	208	Quarry pit	210	Early medieval	Pottery (7g)
	208	Quarry pit	212	Modern	Pottery (55g); CBM (31g)
	214	Pit	217	Undated	Animal bone (28g)
	219	Pit	220	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (48g); animal bone (43g)
	223	Pit	224	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (93g); animal bone (221g); shell (92g); vitrified clay (10g)
	225	Pit	226	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (2g); ferrous slag (17g)
	231	Pit	232	Early medieval	Pottery (5g)
	231	Pit	237	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (17g); animal bone (4g); ferrous slag (24g)
03	302	Layer	302	Modern	Pottery (1.6kg); CBM (635g); animal bone (347g); ferrous slag (824g); clay pipe (30g); plaster (409g);

	303	Layer	303	Modern	coal (13g); shell (3g); vessel glass x2; copper alloy wire (RA 8); bakelite stopper (RA 4) Pottery (262g); CBM (372g); animal bone (134g); ferrous slag (22g); clay pipe (64g); iron hook (RAs 5-6)
	307	External surface	307	Post-medieval	Pottery (7g); CBM (823g)
	308	Layer	308	Post-medieval	Pottery (40g); CBM (865g); animal bone (11g); clay pipe (3g); shell (13g)
	309	Layer	309	Post-medieval	Pottery (14g); CBM (423g); animal bone (28g)
	310	Pit	311	Post-medieval	Pottery (9g); CBM (26g); animal bone (24g)
	310	Pit	313	Post-medieval	Pottery (5g); CBM (104g); animal bone (1g); coal (9g)
04	403	Layer	403	Modern	Pottery (4g); clay pipe (7g)
	408	Ditch	407	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (61g); animal bone (21g)
05	509	Layer	509	Modern	CBM (90g); roofing slate (9g)
	510	Well	511	Post-medieval	CBM (11g)
07	702	Construction trench	705	Post-medieval	CBM (23g); animal bone (1g); ferrous slag (37g); vitrified clay (14g); copper alloy sheet (RA 7)
	708	Gravel surface	708	Post-medieval	CBM (342g); animal bone (5g); iron object (RA 3); copper alloy wire (RA 2)
	709	Layer	709	Post-medieval	Pottery (9g); CBM (674g); animal bone (170g); clay pipe (2g); ferrous slag (13g); iron nails x2;

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context CBM – ceramic building material

Table 6: *Artefact summary by trench and context*

9.9.1 Pottery

A total of 215 pottery sherds weighing 2.7kg were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small, with an average weight of 13g, and exhibit variable degrees of abrasion. Few vessels, apart from those of modern date, are represented by more than single sherds. Twenty-one 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 7) 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 18th-19th century origin.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Saxo-Norman			
Type B01	St Neots-type ware	**22**	(102):1, (126):6, (128):1, (130):3, (132):1; (202):1, (204):4, (205):1, (302):3, (&09):1
Type B01A	St Neots-type (orange)	**11**	(110):3, (124):1, (128):1, (130):1, (205):1, (209):1, (302):2, (311):1
Type B01B	St Neots-type (fine)	**41**	(102):1, (110):2, (124):3, (126):5, (130):6, (132):1, (202):1, (220):2, (224):5, (226):1, (237):1, (302):2, (307):1, (309):2, (311):1, (407):5, (709):2
Type B01C	St Neots-type (mixed)	**6**	(202):1, (210):1, (220):2, (311):1, (407):1
Type B04	St Neots-type (coarse)	**3**	(126):2, (237):1
Medieval			
Type B07	Shell	**13**	(102):1, (110):1, (124):1, (126):4, (130):1, (210):1, (232):1, (302):1, (303):1, (709):1
Type C09	Brill/Boarstall type (fine)	**1**	(302):1
Type C59A	Coarse sand	**1**	(709):1
Type C59B	Sand	**2**	(709):2
Type C75	Micaceous	**1**	(313):1
Late medieval			
Type E01	Reduced sand	**2**	(102):2
Type E02	Oxidised sand	**2**	(204):1, (308):1
Post-medieval			
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	**6**	(102):1, (205):1, (206):2, (308):1, (709):1
Type P03	Black-glazed earthenware	**3**	(202):1, (302):1, (308):1
Modern			
Type P35	English porcelain	**1**	(303):1

Type P38	Creamware	**10**	(102):1, (202):1, (207):1, (302):5, (303):2
Type P39	Mocha ware	**4**	(207):1, (303):3
Type P43	Pearlware	**3**	(302):1, (303):2
Type P45	Transfer-printed ware	**38**	(212):12, (302):11, (303):14, (403):1
Type P55	White earthenware	**38**	(302):38
Type P100	Misc mass-produced wares	**7**	(303):6, (709):1

Table 7: *Pottery type series*

Saxo-Norman

Saxo-Norman pottery constitutes 39% of the assemblage (by sherd count) and comprises eighty-three wheel-thrown shell tempered sherds (677g) in the St Neots-type tradition (type B01 and its variants B01A-C, B04), broadly datable to the 10th-12th centuries. Identifiable forms are mainly everted rim jars, one of which is decorated with an applied thumbed strip. The exterior surfaces of several sherds are sooted, indicating their use as cooking pots. The majority of the pottery was recovered from the deposits in trench 2, principally pits [219] and [223], and as residual finds in post-medieval quarry pit [203]. Smaller quantities derived from post pipe [131], pit [129] and post hole [133], trench 1, and ditch [408], trench 4.

Medieval

Ten percent of the pottery assemblage is datable to the medieval period and comprises twenty-two sherds, weighing 231g. The material predominantly comprises wheel-thrown shell tempered sherds (type B07) of local manufacture, datable to the 12th-13th centuries. Four sand tempered sherds of similar date were also recorded (types C59A, C59B, C75). Pottery of 13th-15th century date is represented by a wheel-thrown sherd of glazed Brill-Boarstall ware (C09), a regional import from Buckinghamshire. The late medieval period is represented by four wheel-thrown oxidised and reduced sand tempered sherds of 14th-15th century date. Diagnostic forms are rare and comprise everted rim jars. Medieval sherds were recovered from post-hole [111] and make-up layer [124], trench 1. Most, however, are residual within post-medieval features.

Post-medieval and modern

Nine sherds (203g) of 17th-18th century glazed red earthenware (types P01 and P03) were recovered from features in trenches 1-3 and 7. Modern pottery comprises 50% of the assemblage (101 sherds weighing 1.6kg) and derives mainly from features in trenches 1-3. The assemblage includes earthenwares, transfer-printed wares, pearlware, mocha ware, porcelain, and miscellaneous mass-produced wares dating predominantly from the 18th-20th centuries. Forms comprise a range of plain and decorated saucers, cups, plates *etc*. and part of a chamber pot.

9.9.2 Ceramic building material

Ceramic building material comprises one brick fragment (62g) and 101 sand tempered pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (6.2kg), deriving mainly from features in trenches 2 and 3. Fragments are generally small with an average weight of 61g, although are not particularly abraded. Roof tiles range in thickness between 12-15mm; types with round peg holes and some partially glazed examples occur.

9.9.3 Clay pipe

Forty-two clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered, the majority deriving from layers (302) and (303). Stem bore diameters range between 2.4-3mm, suggesting a late 17th-century date for the majority of the fragments. Modern layer (403) yielded a complete pipe bowl datable to the 19th century. The bowl is decorated with a buffalo horn design and the letters RAOB, denoting its use by the masonic society of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (Ayto 2002, 10).

9.9.4 Non-ceramic finds

Post-medieval pit [127] yielded a copper alloy thimble (RA 1) datable from 1620 onwards. Iron hook fragments (RAs 5-6), a portion of drawn copper alloy wire (RA 8) and a Bakelite beer bottle stopper (RA 4) were recovered from modern layer (302). The stopper bears the legend 'Higgins Bedford' denoting the Higgins brewery, and is datable to 1907-1929. An undatable perforated copper alloy sheet fragment (RA 7) derived from construction trench [702]. Gravel surface (708) yielded a portion of drawn copper alloy wire (RA 2) and an iron fragment (?nail shank; RA 3).

Ferrous slag indicative of small-scale smelting processes (mainly tap slag) weighing 1.1kg was recovered, the majority deriving from layer (302). All fragments are redeposited.

Vessel glass comprises four poorly preserved body sherds from post-medieval wine bottles and a cylindrical bottle (pits [104], [203] and [208]). Modern layer (302) yielded two fragments from a moulded octagonal wine(?) bottle.

9.9.5 Animal bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 138 fragments weighing 1.4kg, and occurs in features of Saxo-Norman, medieval, post-medieval and modern date. Bone preservation is variable, with some fragments displaying greater surface erosion than others, although the material generally survives in good condition. Diagnostic elements are mainly large mammal long bones, although horn cores, vertebrae, ribs and skull fragments also occur. Several of the long bones have been deliberately chopped or sawn, and split longitudinally to facilitate extraction of the marrow.

9.9.6 Environmental samples

At the request of the LPA's Archaeological Advisor, two thirty litre samples were taken from the fills of post-medieval pit [231] to test the potential for the survival of environmental evidence on the site: one for the extraction of charred plant remains and the second as a control for other indicators. They were processed by bulk flotation in a peroxide solution. Flots were taken from both samples on a 300 micron meshed sieve. The residues were passed through a 5.6mm, 2.0mm and 1.0mm sieve stack. The 5.6mm residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts, while the 2.0mm and 1.0mm residues were retained unsorted.

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

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

The samples indicate that there is limited potential for the survival of organic remains other than charred plant remains. This concords with the evidence from Castle Quay where soil samples produced mainly charred plant remains with some mineralised seeds (Albion Archaeology, in prep (c)).

9.10 Context Summary

The following pages present summary descriptions of all contexts recorded during trenching.

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluation trench situated in yard area of 2A Castle Lane. Original location shifted 1m West to avoid buried services.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	**External surface**	**Concrete Concrete surface of 2a yard; used as a car park. Maximum thickness 0.14m.**	☑	☐
101	**Brickwork**	**Brick structure aligned NNW to SSE. Exposed dimensions 5m by 0.5m. Possible remains of retaining wall or service culvert.**	☐	☐
104	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.81m, max length 2.2m Cut of pit; partially excavated as the pit continues beyond the southern limit of excavation. Post-medieval material recovered in fill (102)**	☑	☐
102	Pit	Friable dark brown grey silty clay moderate small stones Upper fill of pit [104]. Maximum thickness 0.64m.	☑	☑
103	Pit	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small stones Lower fill of pit [104]. Maximum thickness 0.3m.	☑	☐
105	**Make up layer**	**Firm mid brown grey sandy rubble frequent medium ceramic building material Make up layer below the concrete surface (100) consisting of building rubble. Maximum thick nes 0.08m.**	☑	☐
109	**Ditch**	**Linear ESE-WNW profile: 45 degrees dimensions: min breadth 0.72m Cut of ditch that lies along the northern limit of trench 1. Its location and alignment correspond closely to the projected location and alignment of the northern moat of the castle.**	☑	☐
106	Fill	Compact mid yellow grey silty limestone Rubble and soil backfill of ditch [109]; Maximum thickness 0.4m.	☑	☐
107	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt Fill ditch [109]. Maximum thickness 0.23m	☑	☐
108	Stone structure	Mid yellow grey limestone Linear arrangment of stones within ditch [109]. Possibly either tipped in demolition debris or deliberate lining of ditch. Maximum thickness 0.08m	☑	☐
111	**Posthole**	**Circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.18m, max diameter 0.44m Structural post hole.**	☑	☐
110	Posthole	Firm dark blue grey silt Fill of posthole. Maximum thickness 0.18m	☑	☑
113	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.51m, max depth 0.17m, min length 1.m Cut of narrow linear feature.**	☑	☐
112	Ditch	Firm mid yellow grey sandy silt occasional small stones Fill of ditch [113]. Maximum thickness 0.17m.	☑	☐
115	**Posthole**	**Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.22m Cut of unexcavated posthole.**	☐	☐
114	Posthole	Firm dark blue grey silty clay Fill of unexcavated posthole.	☐	☐
117	**Pit**	**Sub-square profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.15m, min depth 0.3m, min length 0.4m Cut of partially excavated pit.**	☑	☐
116	Pit	Firm mid grey brown silt Fill of partially excavated pit. Minimum thickness 0.3m.	☑	☐
120		**Linear E-W profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.m, max depth 0.37m, min length 2.m Cut of structural feature possibly a post /beam pad.**	☑	☐
118		Compact mid red brown clay Upper fill of possible stuctural post/beam pad. Maximum thickness 0.25m.	☑	☐
119		Firm dark blue grey silty clay Lower fill of possible structural post/beam pad. Maximum thickness 0.22m.	☑	☐

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluation trench situated in yard area of 2A Castle Lane. Original location shifted 1m West to avoid buried services.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
121	**Make up layer**	**Compact mid grey yellow silty clay frequent small stones Make up layer overlaying medieval deposits. Maximum thickness 0.12m.**	☑	☐
123	**Stone setting**	**Circular profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max diameter 0.76m Cut of possible post pad.**	☑	☐
122		Compact mid red brown clay Fill of possible post pad. Maximum thickness 0.22m.	☑	☐
124	**Make up layer**	**Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt frequent small stones Make up layer. Maximum thickness 0.25m.**	☑	☑
125	**Make up layer**	**Firm mid yellow grey silty clay moderate small sand Make up layer. Maximum thickness 0.17m.**	☑	☐
127	**Pit**	**profile: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, min depth 0.82m, min length 1.m Cut of possible medieval pit; partially excavated due to maximum excavation depth being reached.**	☑	☐
126	Pit	Firm dark red grey silty clay moderate small stones Fill of possible medieval pit. Minimum tickness 0.82.	☑	☑
129	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular E-W profile: concave base: concave Cut of medieval pit.**	☑	☐
128	Pit	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small stones Fill of medieval pit. Maximum thickness 0.3m.	☑	☑
131	**Postpipe**	**Circular profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.47m, max diameter 0.31m Cut of medieval postpipe.**	☑	☐
130	Postpipe	Firm dark grey silt occasional flecks charcoal Fill of medieval postpipe. Maximum thickness 0.47m.	☑	☑
133	**Posthole**	**Circular profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.41m, max diameter 0.49m Cut of medieval posthole.**	☑	☐
132	Posthole	Firm dark blue grey silt Fill of posthole. Maximum thickness 0.43m.	☑	☑
135	**Posthole**	**Circular profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.37m, max diameter 0.38m Cut of medieval posthole.**	☑	☐
134	Posthole	Firm mid blue grey silt Fill of medieval posthole. 100% excavated. Maximum thickness 0.37m	☑	☐
137	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.36m, max depth 0.19m, min length 0.38m Medieval gully.**	☑	☐
136	Ditch	Firm mid yellow grey sandy silt Fill of medieval gully. Maximum thickness 0.19m.	☑	☐
139	**Posthole**	**Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.14m Cut of unexcavated posthole.**	☐	☐
138	Posthole	Firm dark grey silt Fill of unexcavcated posthole.	☐	☐
141	**Posthole**	**Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m Cut of unexcavated posthole.**	☐	☐
140	Posthole	Firm dark blue grey silt Fill of unexcavated posthole.	☐	☐
143	**Posthole**	**Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.44m Cut of unexcavated poathole.**	☐	☐
142	Posthole	Firm mid blue grey silt Unexcavated posthole fill.	☐	☐
145	**Posthole**	**Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.34m Cut of unexcavated posthole.**	☐	☐
144	Posthole	Friable mid grey silt Unexcavated posthole fill.	☐	☐
147	**Pit**	**Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.72m**	☐	☐

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 5.00 m. Width: 5.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.55 m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluation trench situated in yard area of 2A Castle Lane. Original location shifted 1m West to avoid buried services.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
146	Pit	Firm mid orange brown silty clay Unexcavated pit fill.	☐	☐
149	**Pit**	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 0.96m, max length 1.04m Cut of unexcavated pit.**	☐	☐
148	Pit	Firm mid brown silty clay Unexcavated pit fill.	☐	☐
151	**Pit**	**Oval dimensions: max breadth 0.36m, max length 0.78m Cut of unexcavated pit.**	☐	☐
150	Pit	Firm mid grey brown silty clay Unexcavated pit fill.	☐	☐
153	**Posthole**	**Circular dimensions: max breadth 0.46m, max length 0.56m Cut of unexcavated posthole.**	☐	☐
152	Posthole	Firm mid brown silty clay Unexcavated posthole fill.	☐	☐
155	**Pit**	**dimensions: min breadth 0.38m, min length 1.48m Cut of unexcavated pit.**	☐	☐
154	Pit	Firm mid brown clay silt Unexcavated pit fill.	☐	☐
157	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular dimensions: max breadth 0.48m, max length 0.88m Cut of unexcavated pit.**	☐	☐
156	Pit	Firm dark orange brown silty clay Unexcavated pit fill.	☐	☐
159	**Pit**	**Assymetrical dimensions: max breadth 0.94m, max length 1.38m Cut of unexcavated pit.**	☐	☐
158	Pit	Friable dark grey silt Unexcavated pit fill.	☐	☐
161	**Pit**	**Sub-rectangular dimensions: max breadth 0.14m, max length 0.48m Cut of unexcavated pit.**	☐	☐
160	Pit	Firm mid brown clay silt Unexcavated pit fill.	☐	☐
162	**Spread**	**Firm mid orange red clay Unexcavated layer. Possibly and occupational build up.**	☐	☐
163	**Natural**	**Firm mid yellow gravel Natural deposit.**	☐	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 3.00 m. Width: 3.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.34 m. Max: 0.34 m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluation trench situated in lower floor area of storage room. Trench extended from 3m to 3.5m to revealed the extent of archaeological features present.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	**Internal surface**	**Concrete Existing floor surface in lower storage area of 2a building.**	☑	☐
201	**Make up layer**	**Light brown concrete**	☑	☐
203	**Quarry**	**Very large cut with straight side and vertical edge. Possible quarry?**	☐	☐
202	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☑
204	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small-medium stones With patches of orange clay	☑	☑
205	Fill	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones With patches of orange clay	☑	☑
206	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones With patches of orange clay	☑	☑
207	Fill	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones	☑	☑
208	**Quarry**	**profile: vertical Segment of very large cut with straight side and vertical edge. Possible quarry?**	☐	☐
209	Fill	Friable dark brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones	☑	☑
210	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☑
212	Fill	Friable mid grey brown frequent small-medium stones With dark orange brown clay silt patches	☑	☑
211	**Natural**	**Light brown gravel Observed at base of augered holes**	☐	☐
213	**Natural**	**Light yellow sand With light grey gravel bands**	☐	☐
214	**Pit**	**Sub-oval profile: vertical base: concave**	☐	☐
215	Fill	Friable mid brown clay silt occasional small stones With grey inclusions	☐	☐
216	Fill	Loose light yellow sand With gravel	☑	☐
217	Fill	Friable dark brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal	☑	☑
218	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones	☑	☐
219	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: irregular base: concave**	☐	☐
220	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Mixed with patches of lighter material and yellow sand	☑	☑
221	Fill	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
222	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones	☑	☐
223	**Pit**	**Square profile: vertical base: flat**	☐	☐
224		Friable dark grey sandy silt occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☑
225	**Pit**	**Sub-circular profile: irregular base: concave**	☐	☐
226	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt	☑	☑
227	Fill	Firm light red brown clay silt occasional small stones And patches of yellow sand	☑	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 3.00 m. Width: 3.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.34 m. Max: 0.34 m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluation trench situated in lower floor area of storage room. Trench extended from 3m to 3.5m to revealed the extent of archaeological features present.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
228	Fill	Loose light yellow sand occasional small stones	☑	☐
229	Fill	Friable dark grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☐
230	Fill	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small stones	☐	☐
231	**Pit**		☐	☐
232	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones Patches of mid brown fill	☑	☑
233	Fill	Loose light yellow sand occasional small stones With a lens of mid brown silt	☑	☐
234	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
235	Fill	Friable mid brown grey silt moderate small stones With dark grey mottles and sandy patches	☑	☐
236	Fill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt moderate small stones With dark grey mottles	☑	☐
237	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☑

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 4.00 m. **Width:** 2.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology** **Min:** 1. m. **Max:** 1. m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluation trench situated in the upper floor area of main storage room.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Internal surface	Concrete Existing internal floor surface	☑	☐
301	Make up layer	Rubble Consisting of broken brick fragments forming make up layer for concrete floor (300)	☑	☐
302	Layer	Horizontal spit of material removed by ground works contractors under archaeological supervision- equivalent to layers (304), (305) and (315) which were subsequently identified in section.	☑	☑
303	Layer	Horizontal spit of material removed by ground works contractors under archaeological supervision- equivalent to layers (305) and (306) which were subsequently identified in section.	☑	☑
304	Layer	Firm dark grey black sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones With dump deposits of yellow sandy gravel containing brick fragments	☑	☐
305	Layer	Firm mid grey silty loam moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
306	Layer	Loose black sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☐
307	External surface	Hard mid yellow brown clay gravel	☑	☑
308	Layer	Firm dark grey brown clay loam moderate small stones, occasional medium stones	☑	☑
309	Layer	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones With mid yellow brown clay lumps	☑	☑
310	Pit	Irregular profile: irregular base: concave Shallow cut with irregular outline in plan	☑	☐
311	Fill	Loose dark grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☑
312	Fill	Loose mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional small stones	☑	☐
313	Fill	Loose dark grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☑
314	Natural	Firm mid red brown sandy clay frequent small stones	☐	☐
315	Layer	Loose dark yellow grey sandy silt frequent small stones	☑	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 4.00 m. **Width:** 1.00 m. **Depth to Archaeology** **Min:** 0.49 m. **Max:** 0.85 m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: **Evaluation trench situated in pseudo basement of museum storage area partialy below ground level. Trench reduced in width from 2m to 1m for safety reasons on the advice of the structural engineer.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	**Internal surface**	**Concrete**	☑	☐
401	**Make up layer**	**Rubble Consisting of broken bricks forming make up layer for concrete floor (400)**	☑	☐
402	**Layer**	**Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small stones**	☑	☐
403	**Layer**	**Firm mid brown grey clay silt moderate small stones**	☑	☑
404	**Layer**	**Firm dark brown black silty clay occasional small-medium stones**	☑	☐
405	**Layer**	**Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones**	☑	☐
406	**Layer**	**Firm dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones**	☑	☐
408	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW**	☐	☐
407	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☐	☑
410	**Pit**		☐	☐
409	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☐	☐
411	**Layer**	**Firm mid yellow sandy clay**	☐	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 2.86 m. Width: 1.04 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.11 m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluation trench in upper museum strorage room. Trench adjusted in size and shape due to the discovery of a 12m deep well associated with the brewery leading to health and safty concerns.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	**Internal surface**	**Thin smooth, black surface layer on internal floor. Possibly bituminised waterproof floor finish?**	☑	☐
501	**Make up layer**	**Concrete Layer forming internal floor- topped by floor finish layer (500)**	☑	☐
502	**Well**	**Inferred cut for brick lined well (503)**	☐	☐
503	Well lining	Brick-lined well with internal dimensions of 1.24m square and at least 12m deep. Contained large iron cylinder- possibly remains of pump cyclinder.	☐	☐
504		**Inferred construction cut for brick-lined access pit (505).**	☐	☐
505		Brick-lined pit, rectangular in plan with internal dimensions 0.78m by 0.62m and at least 0.6m deep. Contained cast iron wheel type control operating a stop valve connected to a pipe in the base of the pit consisting of cast iron sections with flanges on the ends where it was bolted to the stop valve mechanism.	☐	☐
506	Fill	Loose rubble Consisting of broken concrete fragments.	☑	☐
507	**Make up layer**	**White concrete Floor make-up deposit butted up around the exterior of the brick well lining and the brick access pit.**	☑	☐
509	**Layer**	**Firm limestone Rubble layer- consisting of layer of re-used random limestone blocks some of which were roughly squared and one had a smooth finished face.**	☑	☑
510	**Well**	**Part of a cut seen in a narrow sondage. It is possible that it was the construction cut for well (503) and access pit (505).**	☐	☐
508	Make up layer	Rubble Consisting of broken brick fragments with a light grey sandy-silt matrix forming rubble make-up beneath concrete (507)	☑	☐
511	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sandy loam occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones	☑	☑
512	**Layer**	**Firm dark grey clay loam occasional flecks ceramic building material, frequent small stones**	☑	☐
513	**Layer**	**Hard mid red brown gravel Extremely hard/compacted gravel with clay sand matrix**	☐	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 2.40 m. Width: 1.15 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluation trench located in museum garage area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Internal surface	Concrete floor	☐	☐
601	Make up layer	Coarse concrete layer filling shallow depression	☐	☐
602	Topsoil	Loose dark grey sandy silt occasional small stones	☐	☐
603	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small stones	☐	☐
604	Alluvium	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	☐	☐
605	Natural	Firm dark brown clay gravel Pockets of red-brown clay intruding into upper surface of deposit	☐	☐
606	Natural	Loose light yellow sand	☐	☐

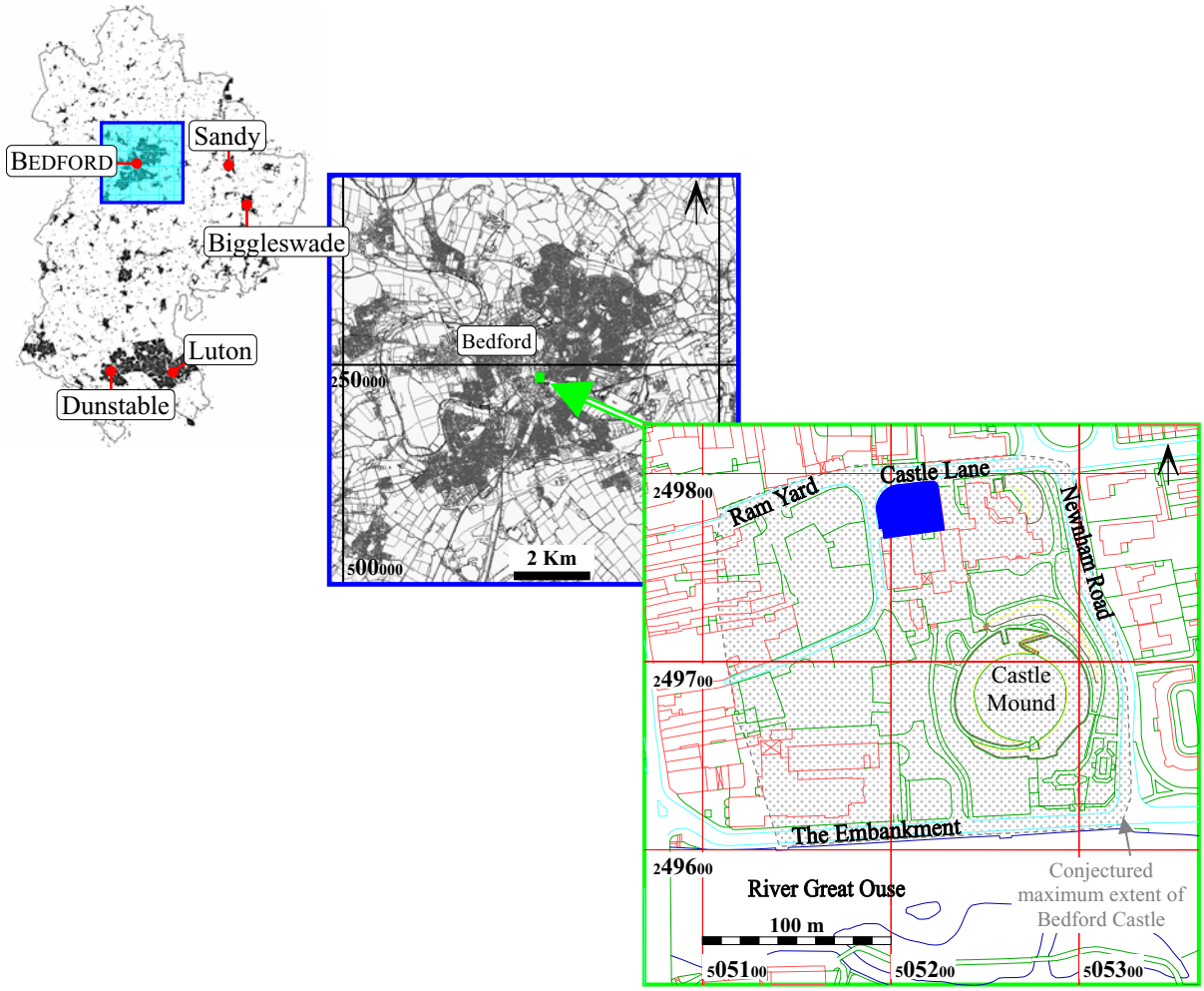
Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length: 2.00 m.** **Width: 2.00 m.** **Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.75 m.** **Max: 0.85 m.**

Co-ordinates:

Reason: **Evaluation trench situated in lower museum storarage room. Contingency trench requested due to reduced size of trench 5.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	**Natural**	**Mixed deposit of mid orange brown clay silt, light yellow grey sandy silt and light grey gravel**	☐	☐
701	**Layer**	**Friable light red brown clay silt occasional small stones**	☐	☐
702	**Drain**	**Linear E-W profile: vertical**	☐	☐
703	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt	☑	☐
704	Drain	Brick rubble and mortar masonry structure interpreted as probable culverted drain.	☐	☐
705	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty loam moderate small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones	☑	☑
706	Layer	Friable mid grey brown silty loam moderate small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
707	Layer	Light grey brown sandy silt frequent small ceramic building material And clay mix	☑	☐
708	**External surface**	**Compact dark grey brown clay gravel occasional small ceramic building material Compacted gravel horizon- probable former ground surface of compacted by use**	☑	☑
709	**Layer**	**Friable dark grey brown silty loam occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small stones, occasional medium stones Layer of dark soil in upper part of trench removed by groundworks contractors under archaeological supervision**	☑	☑
710	**Layer**	**Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones**	☑	☐
711	**Layer**	**Dark brown black sandy silt Contained possible slag and coal- suggesting dumped material**	☑	☐
712	**Make up layer**	**Rubble Consisting of broken brick, limestone fragments and mortar forming make up layer for existing internal floor construction**	☑	☐
713	**Internal surface**	**Concrete**	☑	☐
714	**Internal surface**	**Black 'bituminised' floor finish layer**	☑	☐



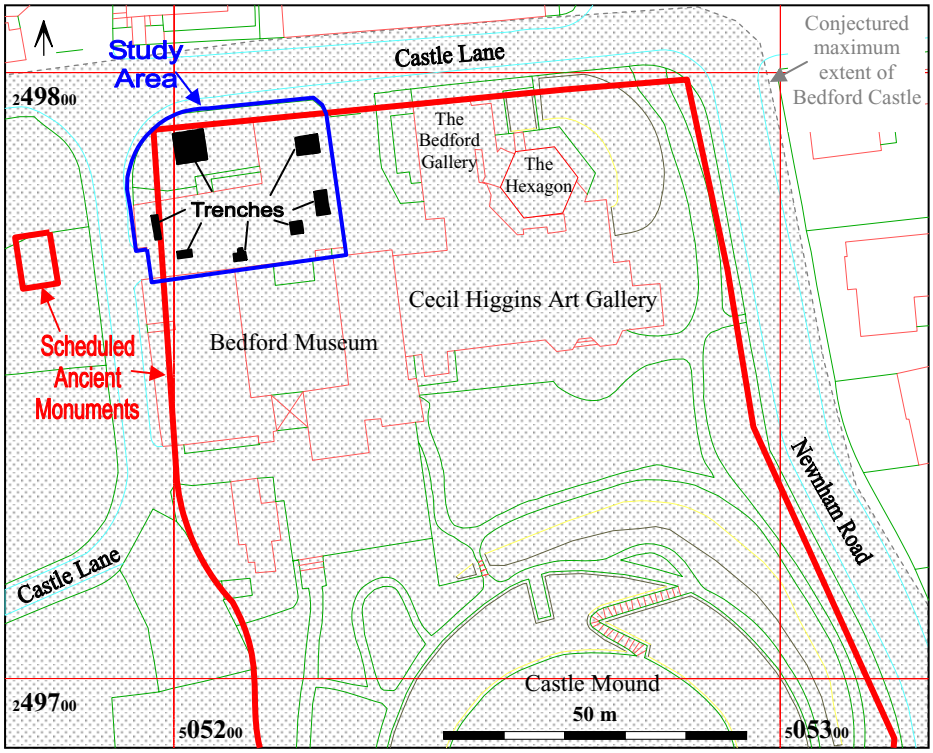


Figure 1: Site location plan

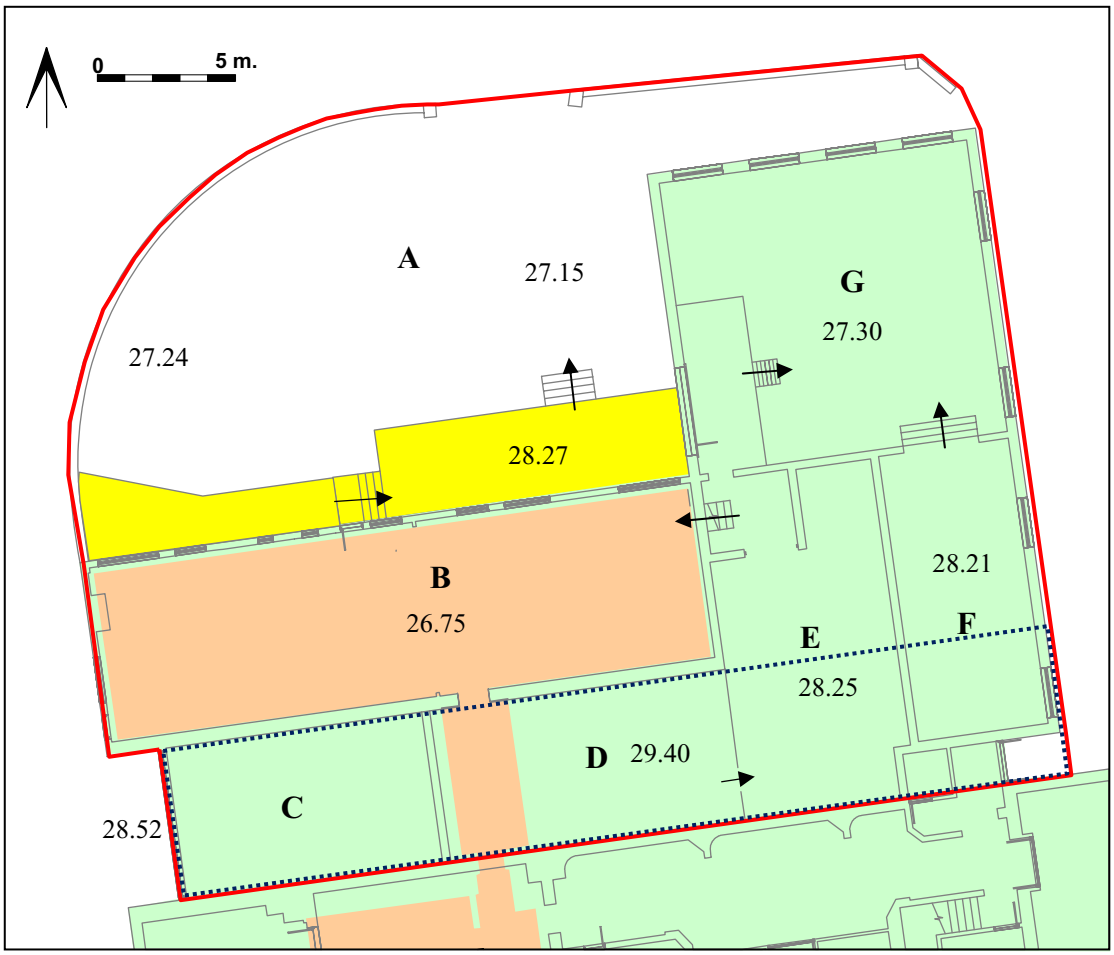
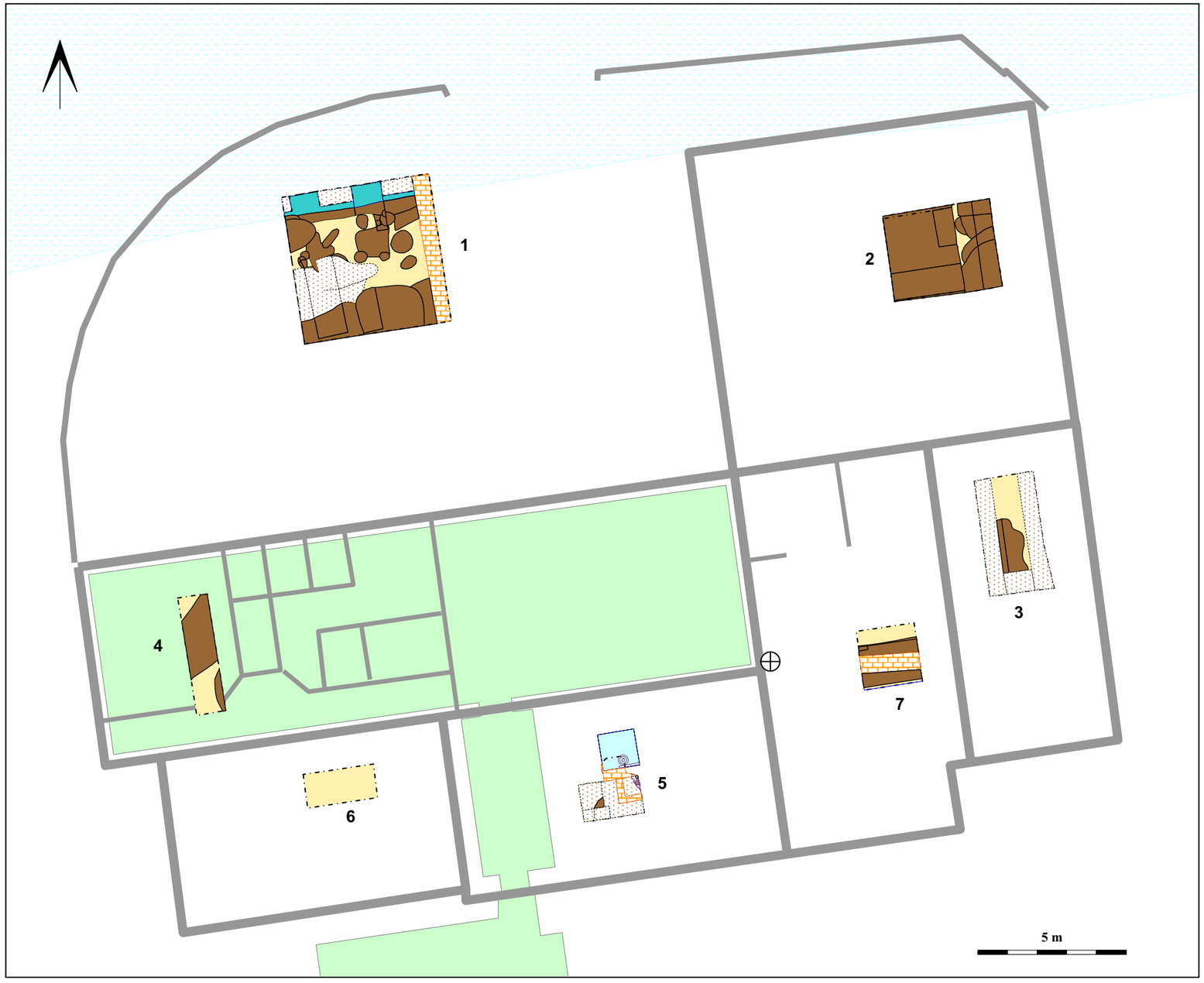


Figure 2: Investigation areas within 2a Castle Lane
Based on clint's survey



Key

- Ground floor plan
- Basement
- Trench
- Natural gravels
- Layer
- Feature
- Moat
- Approximate line of castle moat
- Well
- Masonry structure
- Downpipe

Figure 3: Trial trench locations and plan of all features

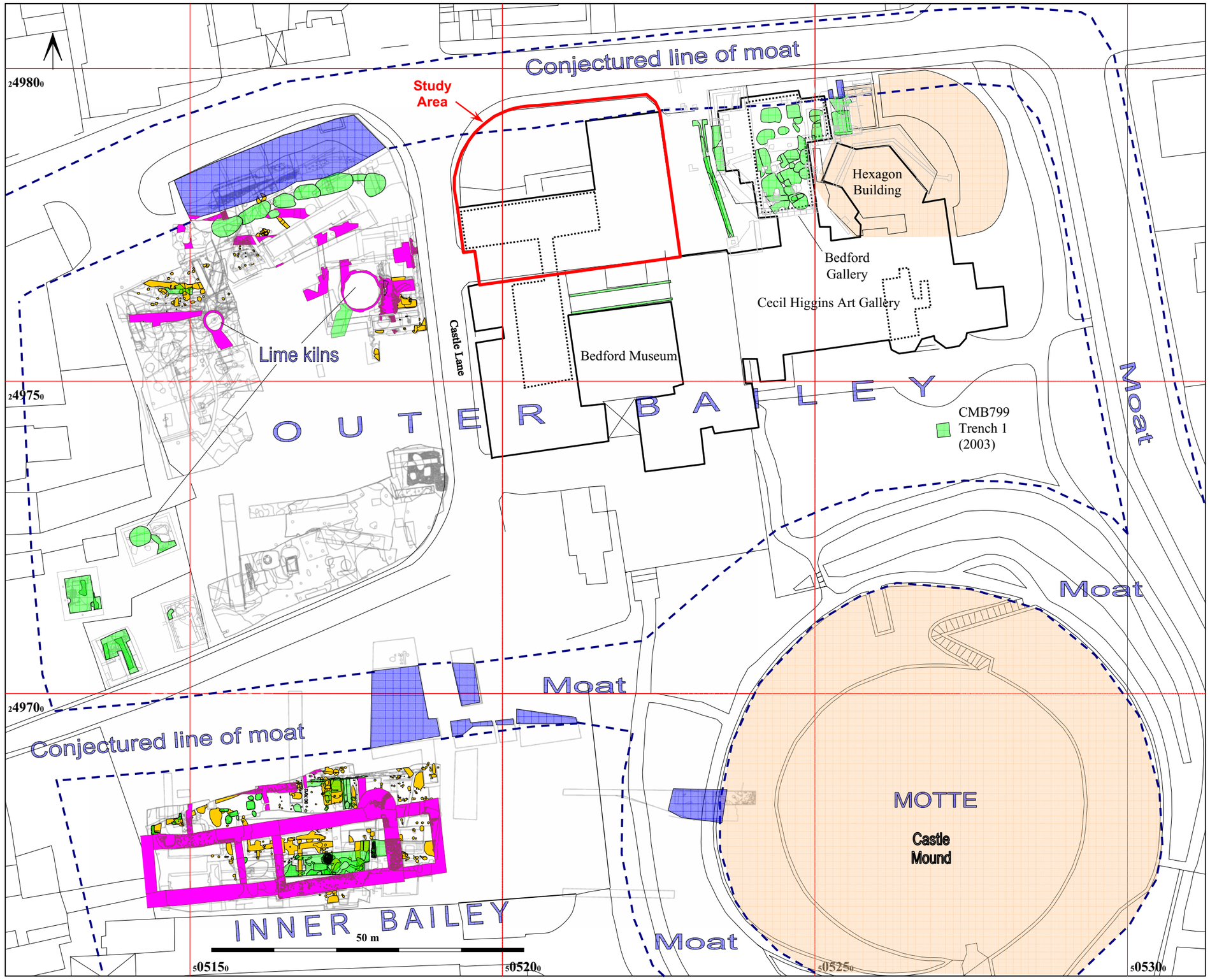


Figure 4: Saxon and medieval features adjacent to the Study Area.

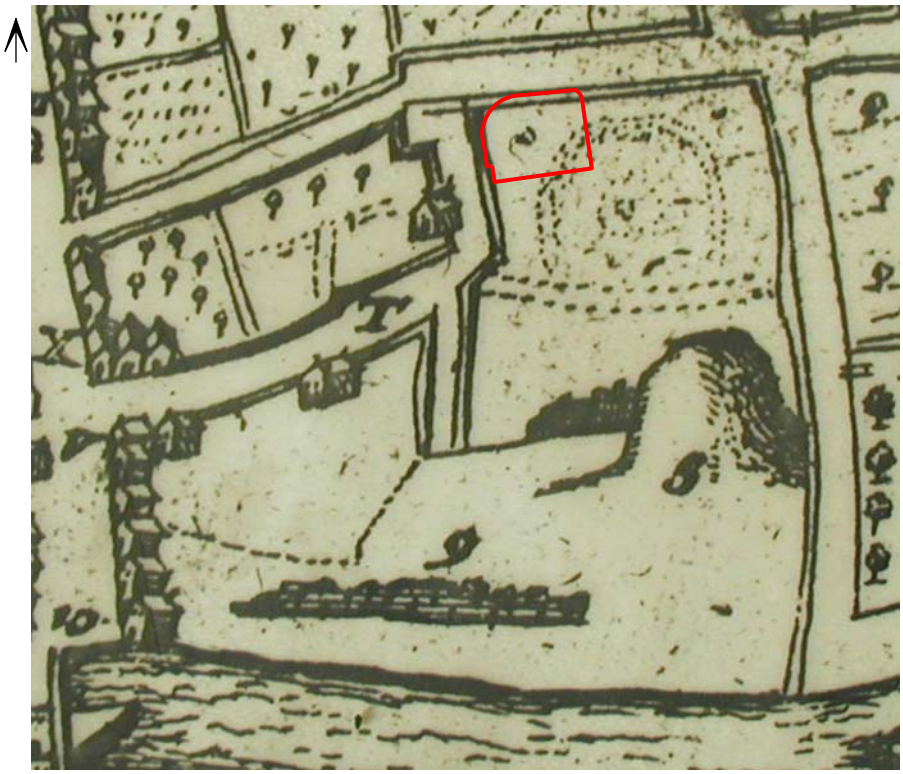


Figure 5: Castle Close in 1610 (Speed)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

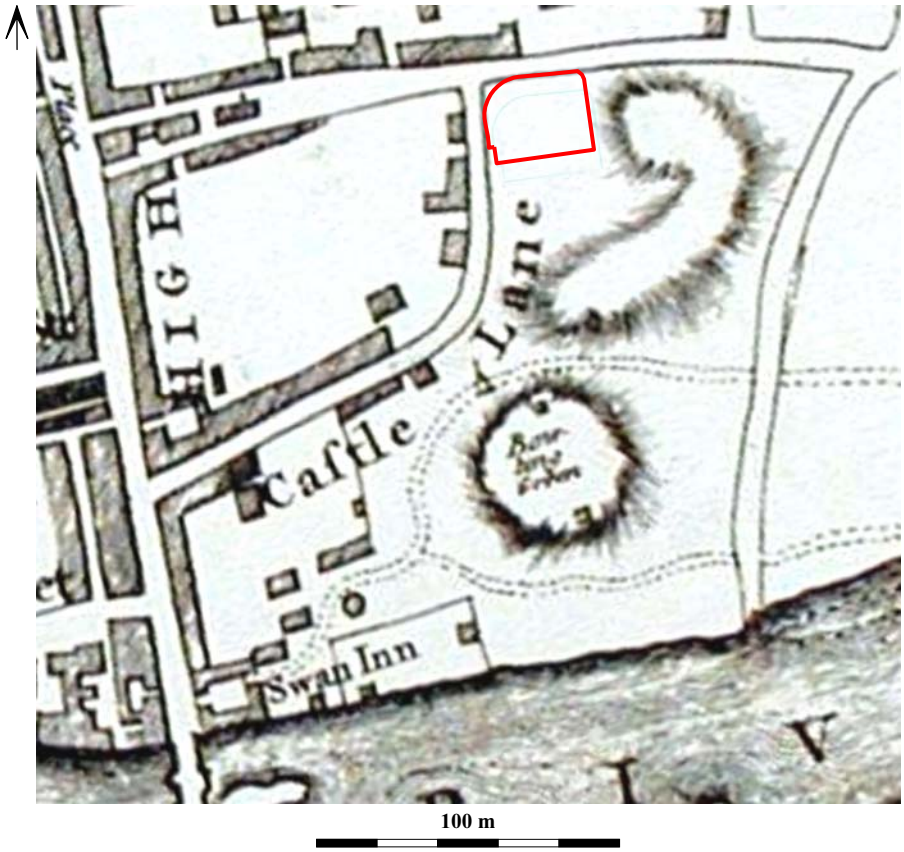


Figure 6: Castle Close in 1765 (Jefferys)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

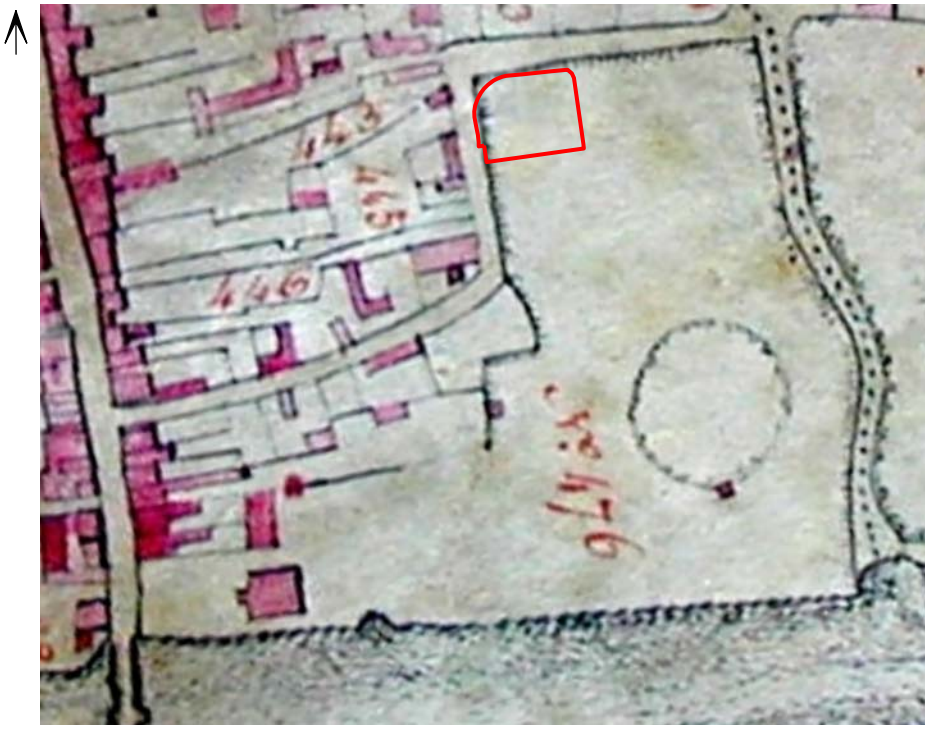


Figure 7: Castle Close in 1795 (Parish map)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

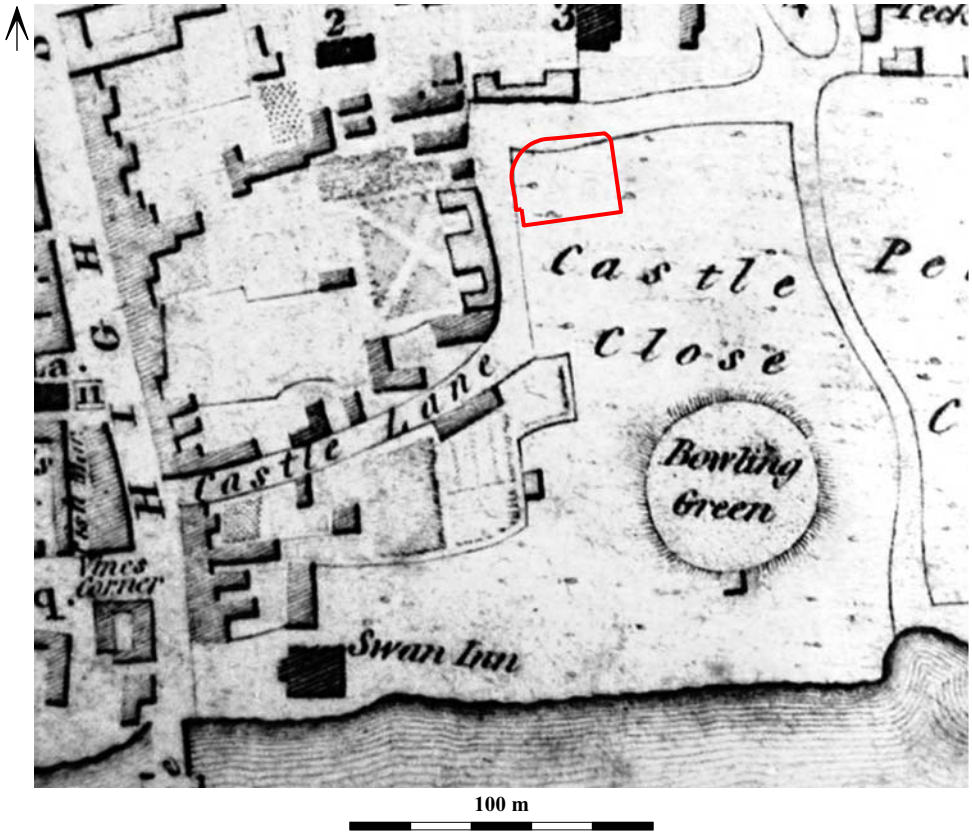


Figure 8: Castle Close in 1807 (Brayley)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

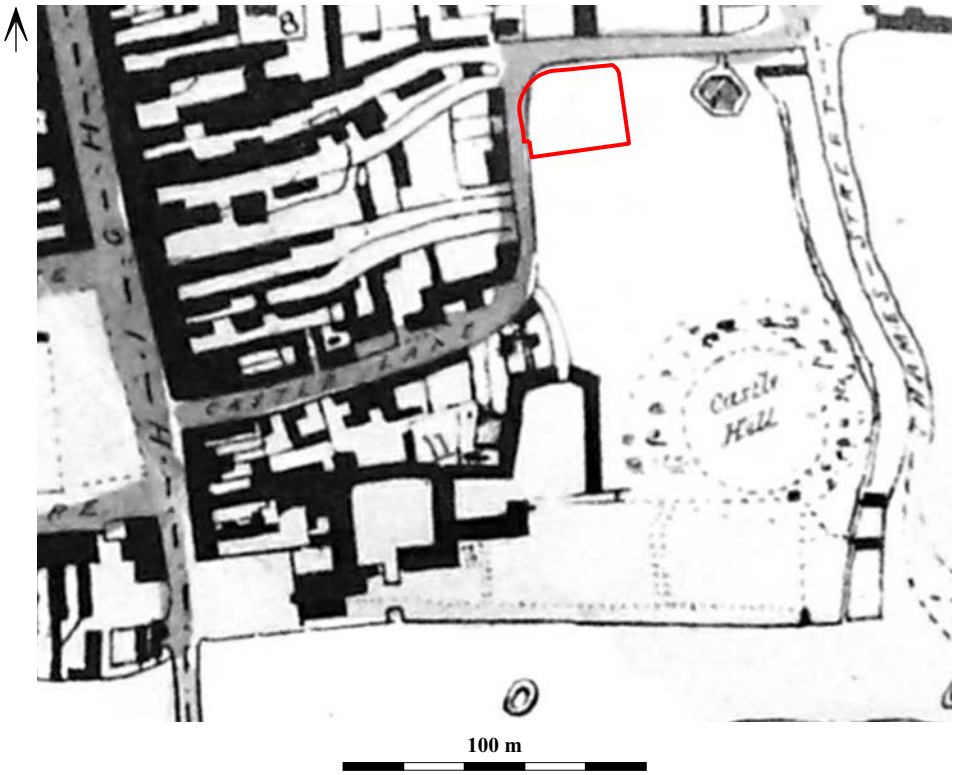


Figure 9: Castle Close in 1836 (Dewhurst and Nichols)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

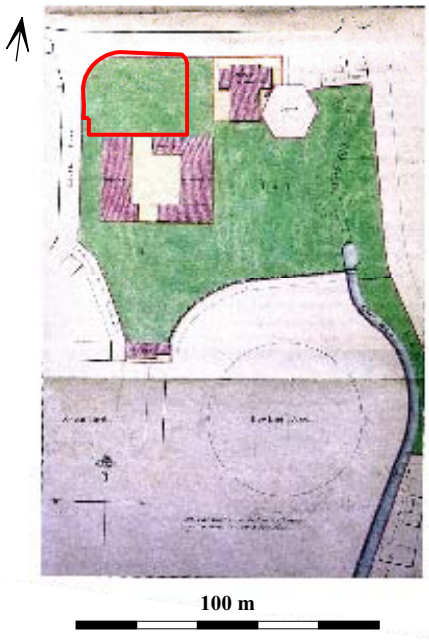


Figure 10: Castle Close in 1840 (BLARS ref: X369/5)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

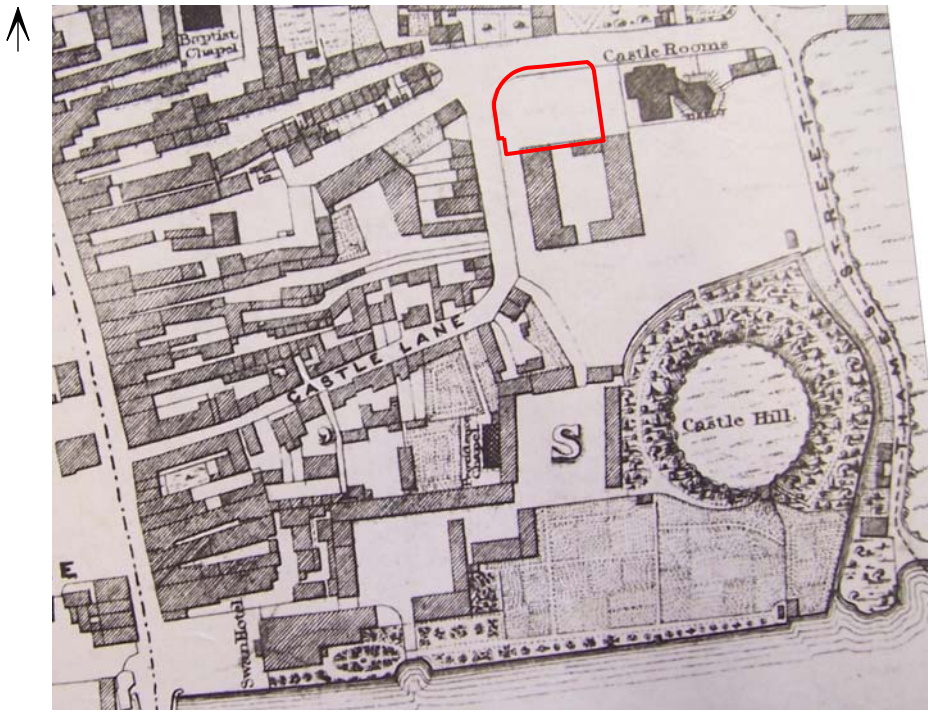


Figure 11: Castle Close in 1841 (Reynolds)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

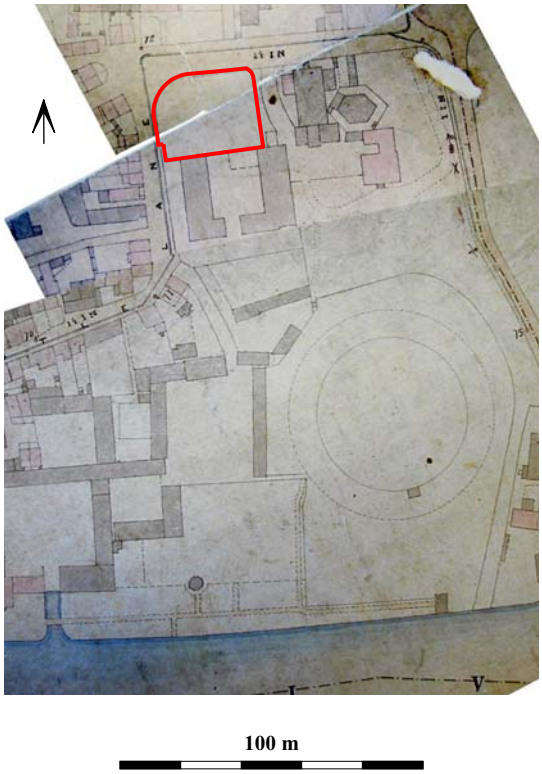


Figure 12: Castle Close in 1854 (Salmon)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

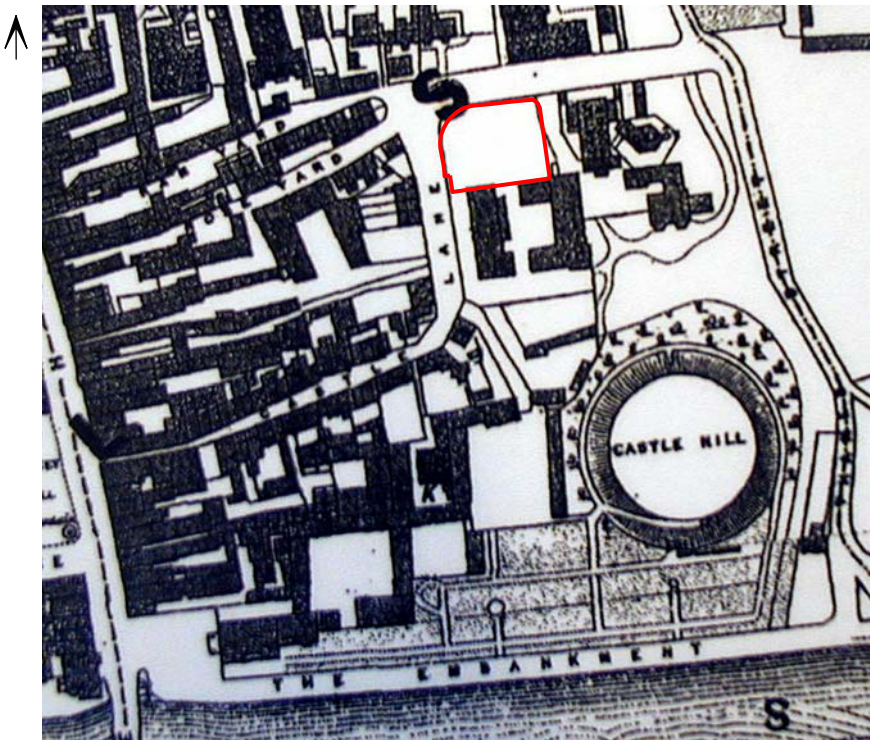


Figure 13: Castle Close in 1878 (Mercer)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

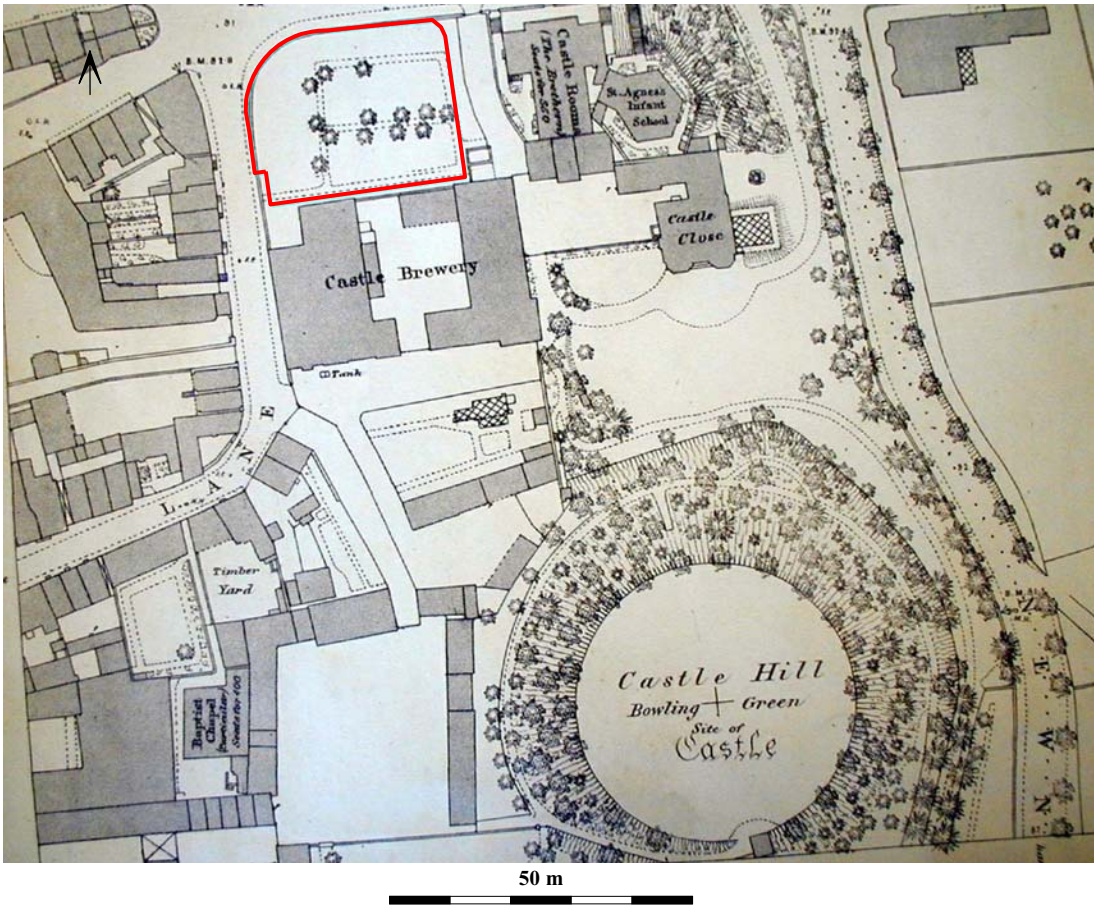


Figure 14: Castle Close in 1884 (Ordnance Survey)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

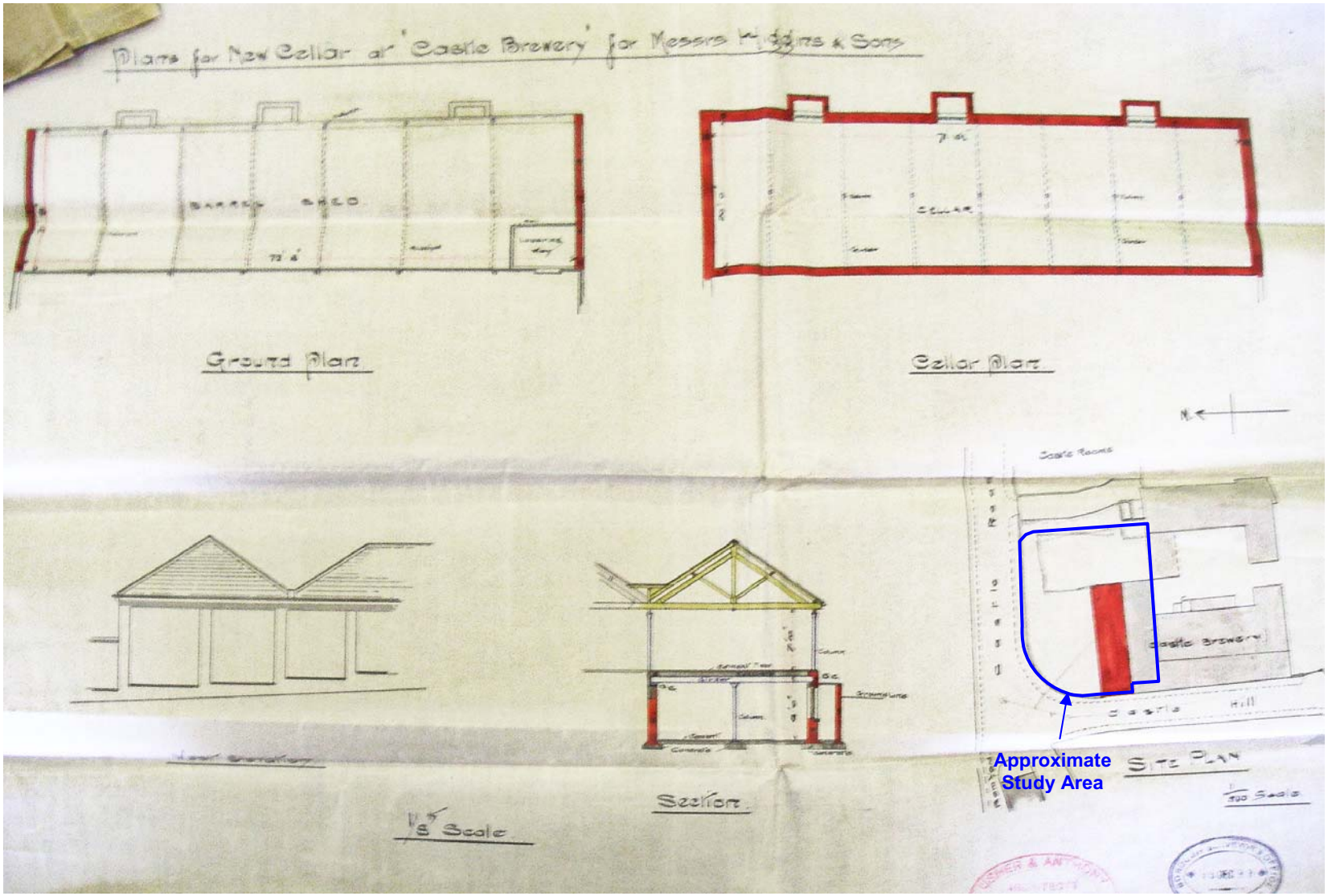


Figure 15: Building plan: new cellar. 1899
(Not to scale)

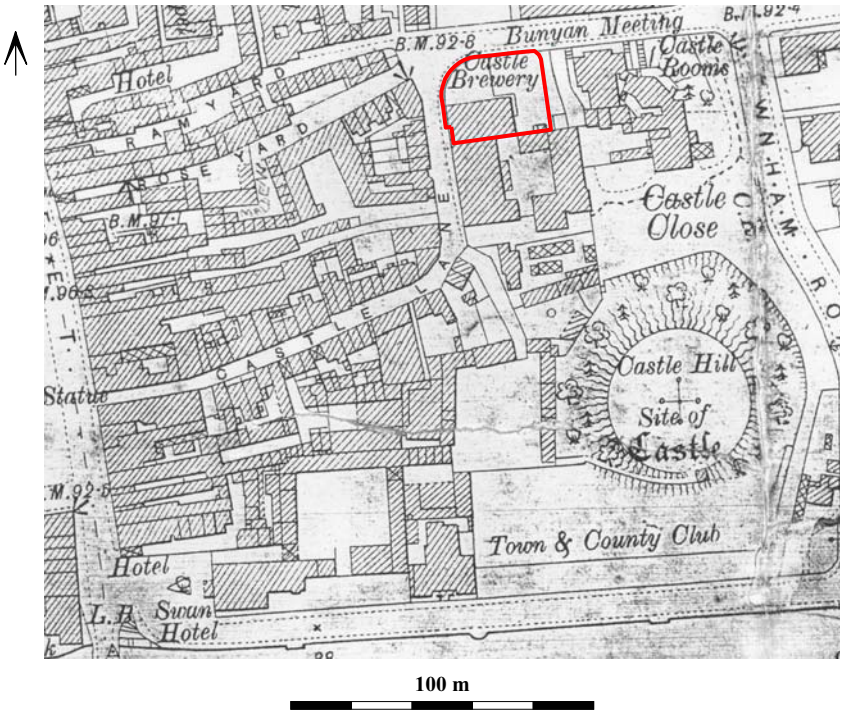


Figure 16: Castle Close in 1900 (Ordnance Survey)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

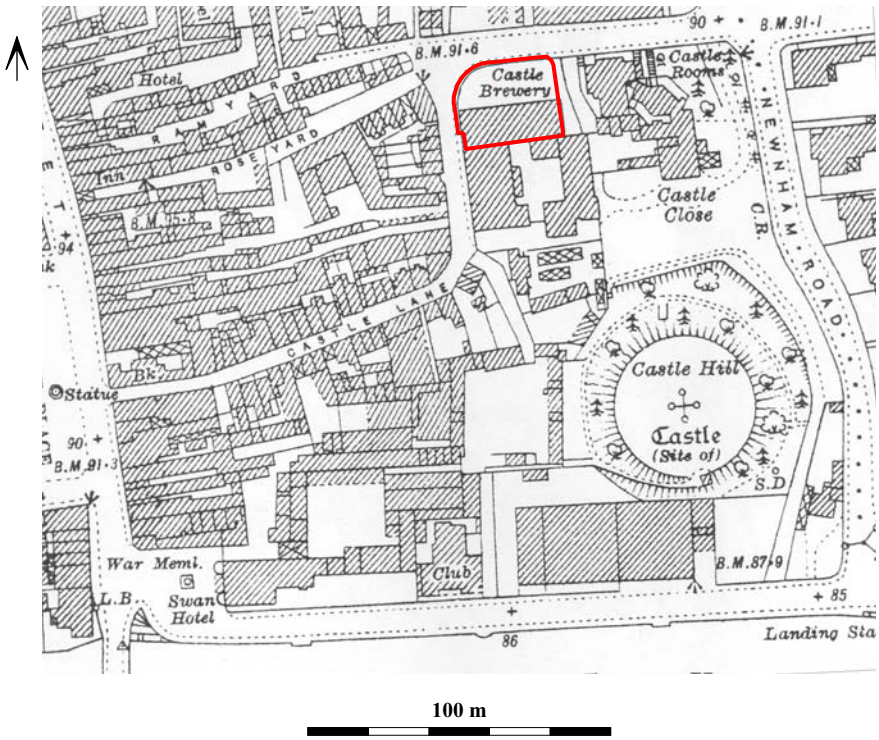


Figure 17: Castle Close in 1924 (Ordnance Survey)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)

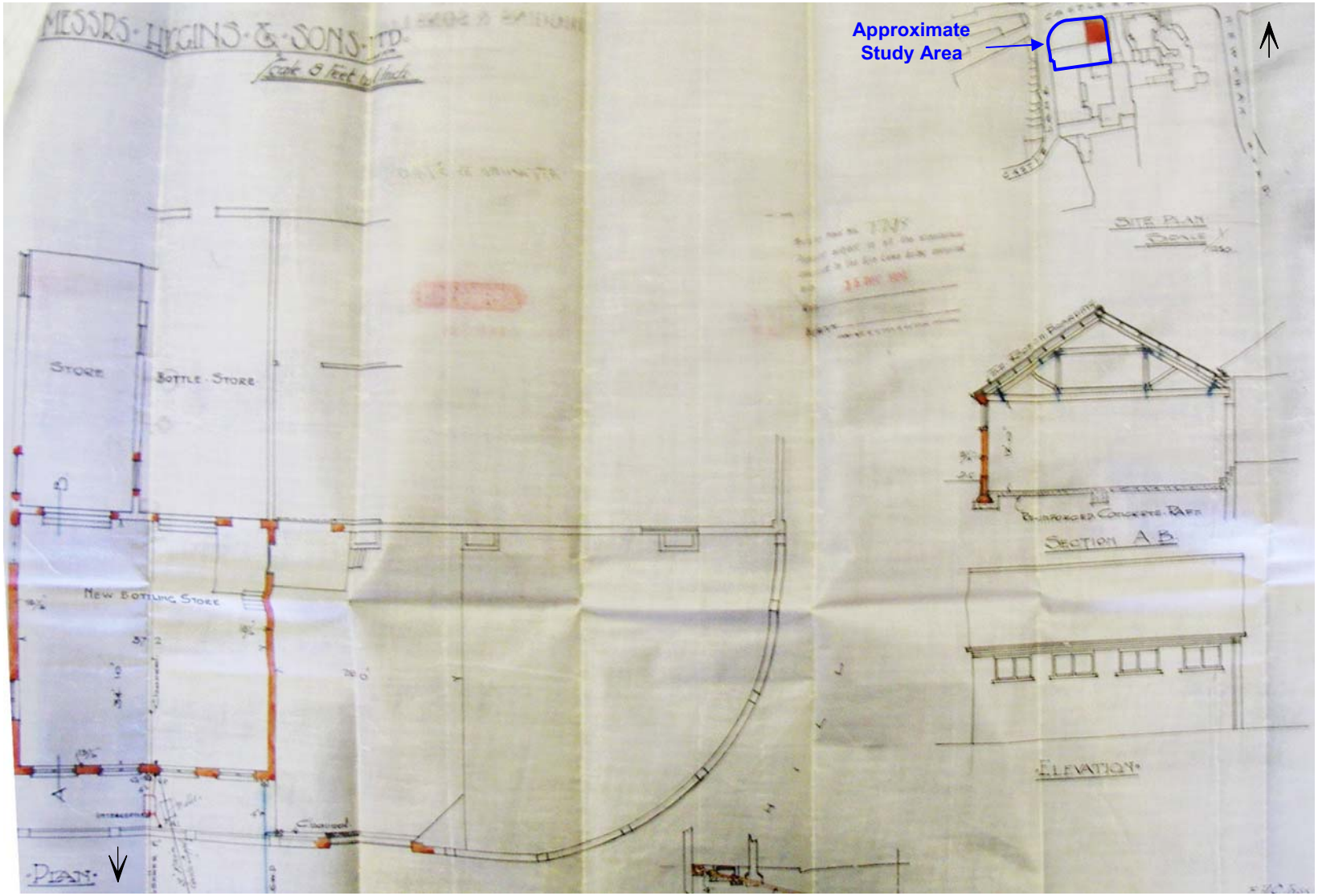


Figure 18: Building plan: bottling store extension, 1926
(Not to scale)

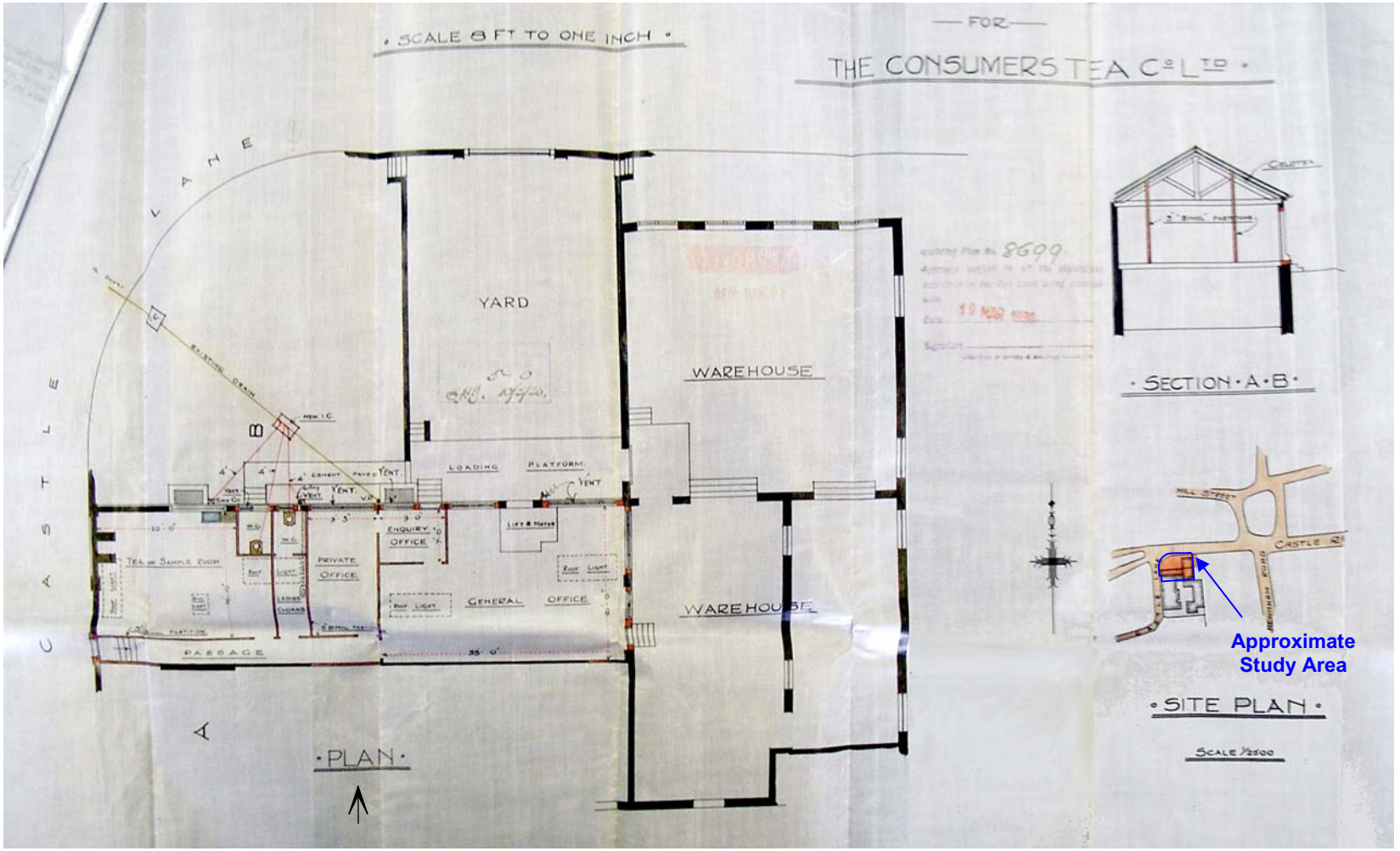


Figure 19: Building plan: office and lavatory, 1930
(Not to scale)

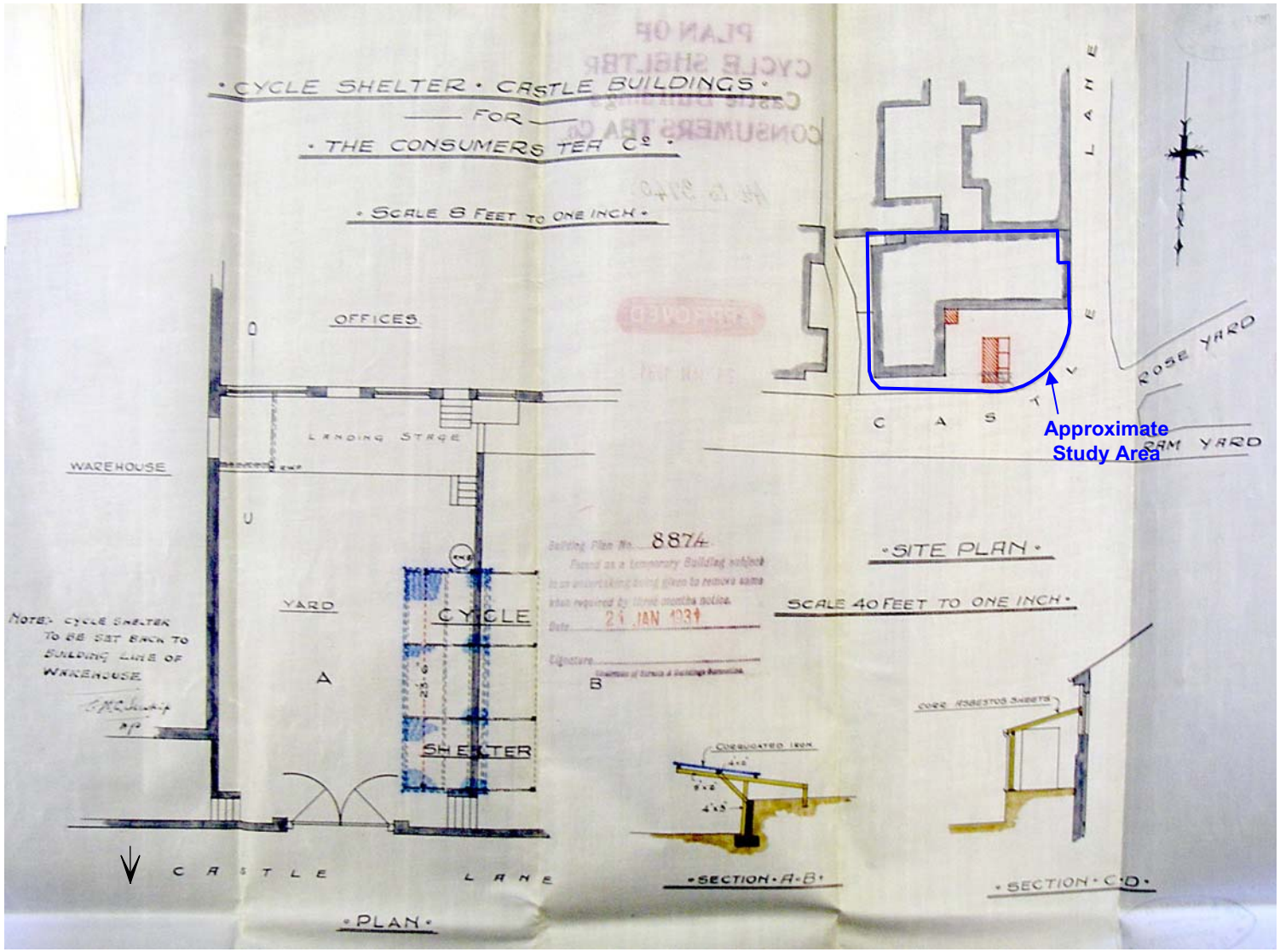


Figure 20: Building plan: cycle shelter, 1931
(Not to scale)

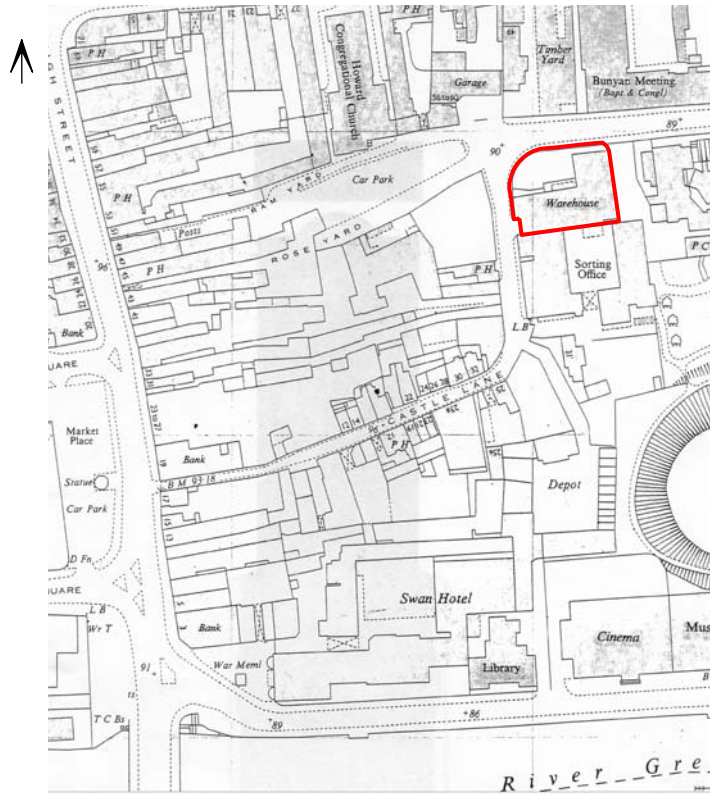
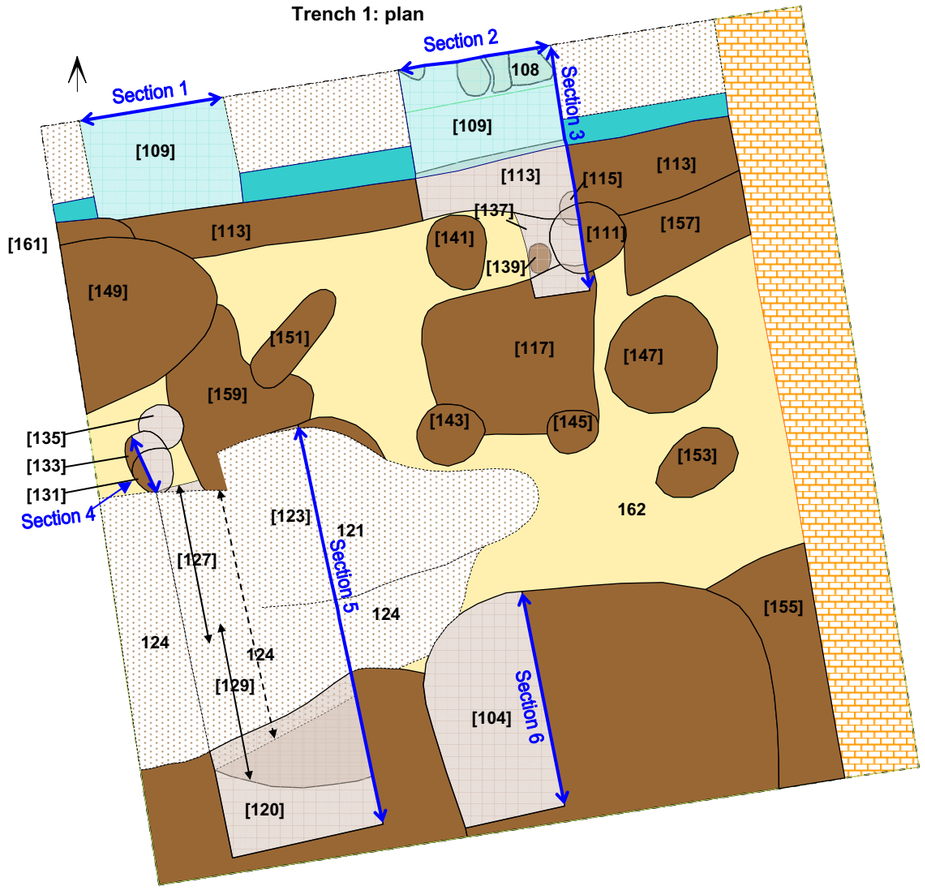
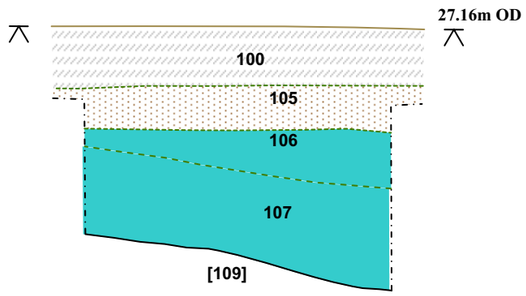


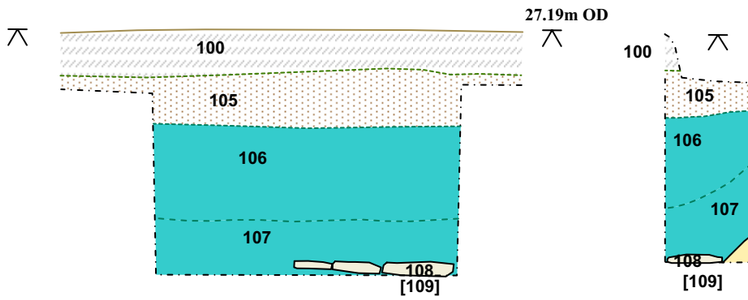
Figure 21: Castle Close in 1967 (Ordnance Survey)
(Study Area and scale, approximate)



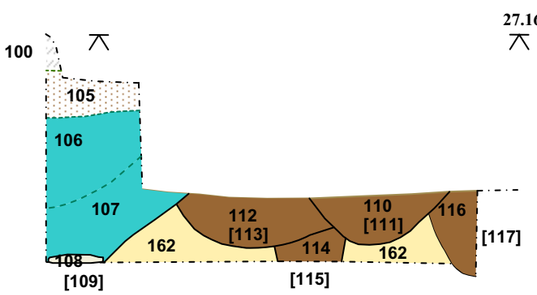
Trench 1, looking east



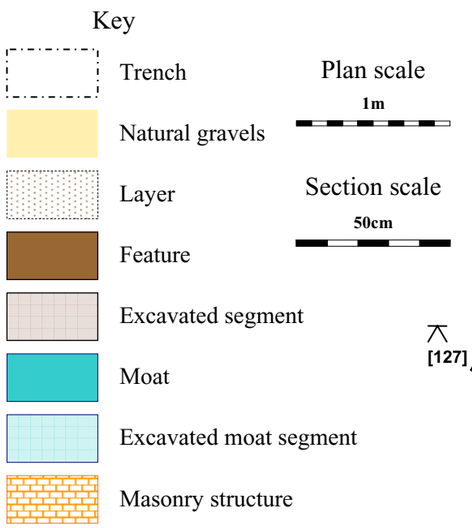
Section 1

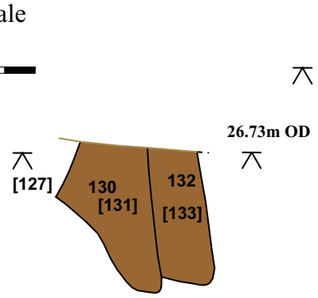


Section 2



Section 3





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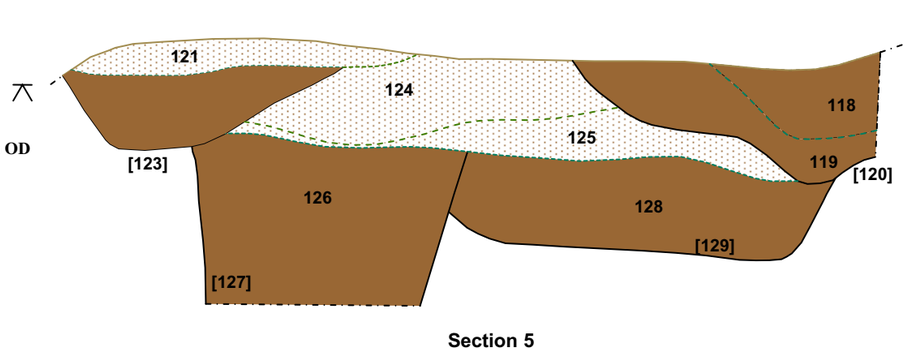

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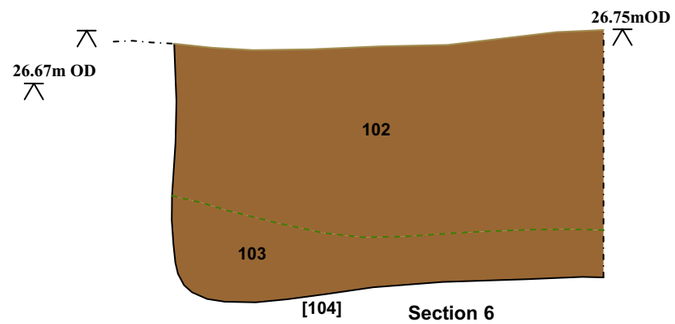
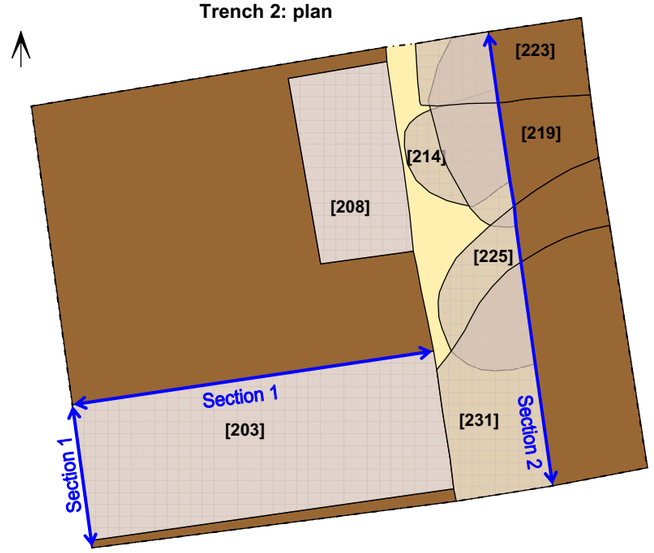


Section 6

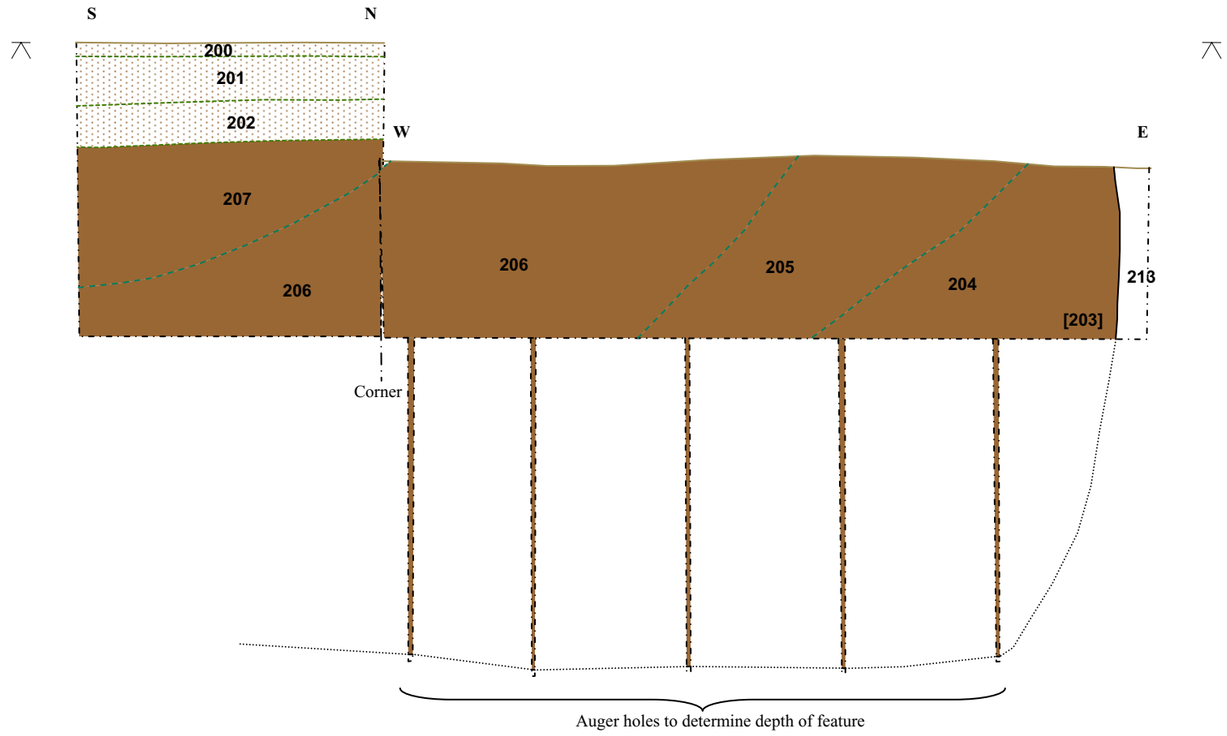
Figure 22: Trench 1

Trench 2: plan

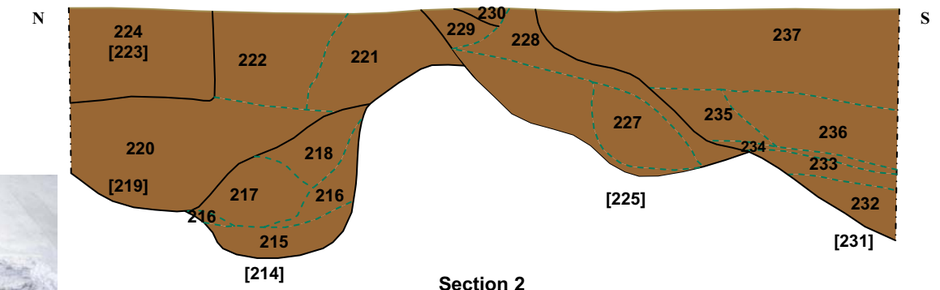


Trench 2, looking east. Scale 2m

Trench 2, looking south. Scale 2m



Section 1



Section 2

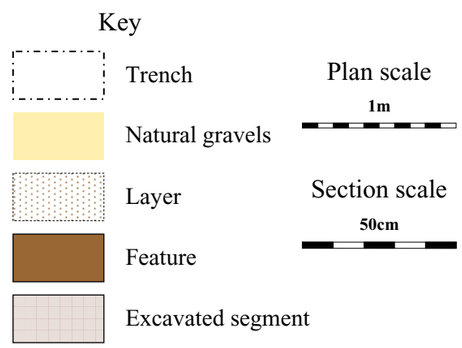
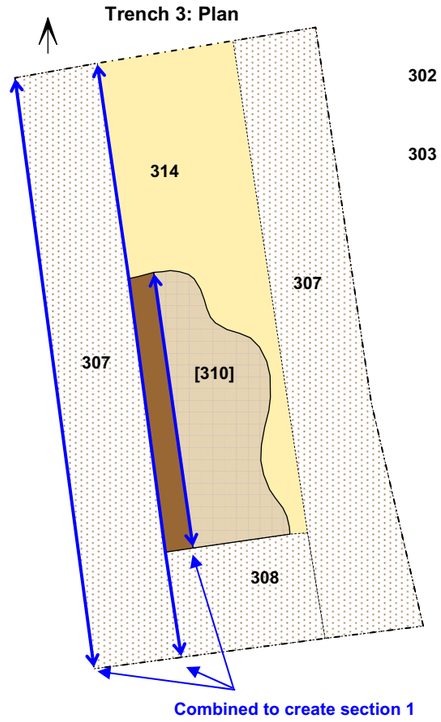
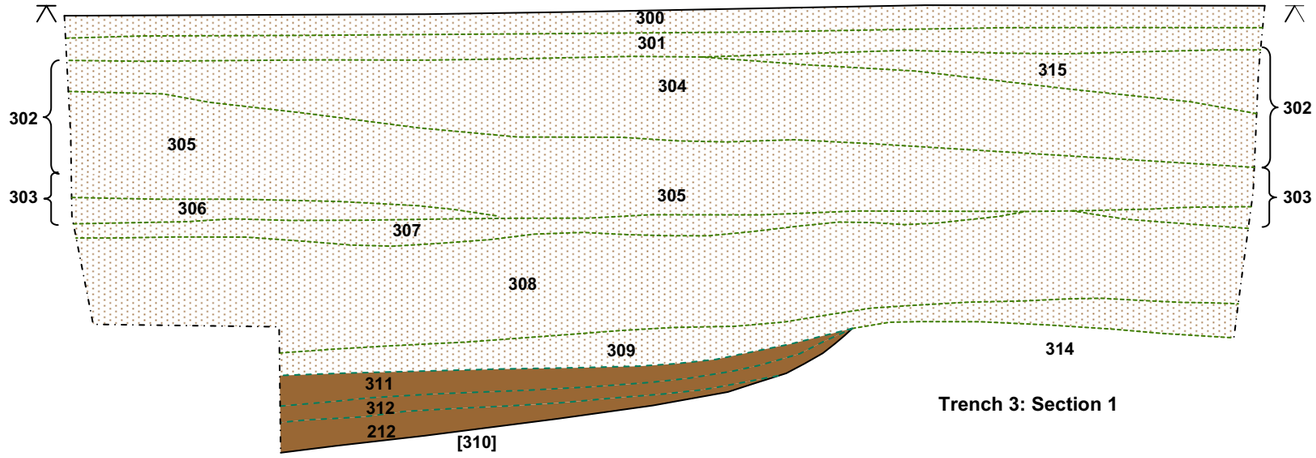


Figure 23: Trench 2

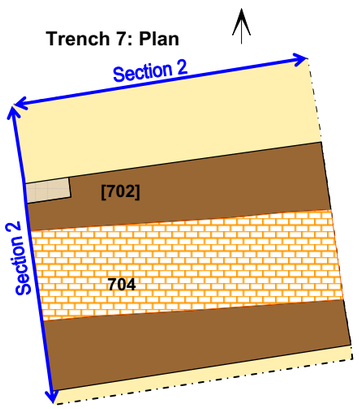
Trench 7: Photograph, looking north-west.

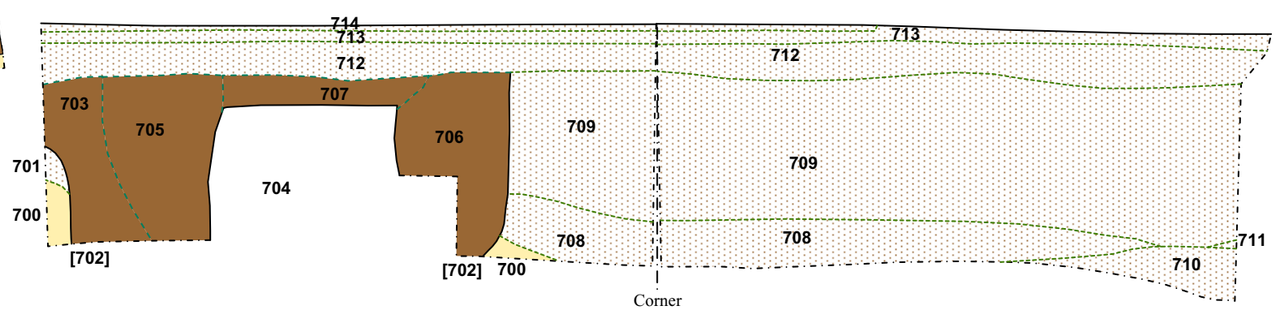




Trench 3: Section 1

Trench 3: Composite photograph, looking west.
Scales 1m





Trench 7: Section 2

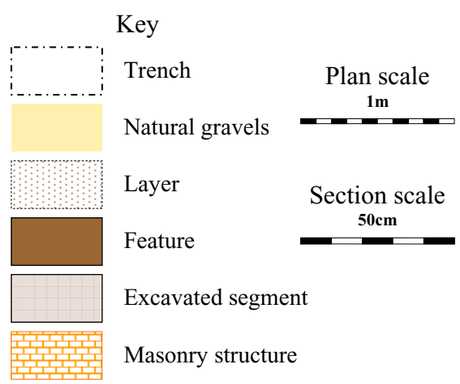
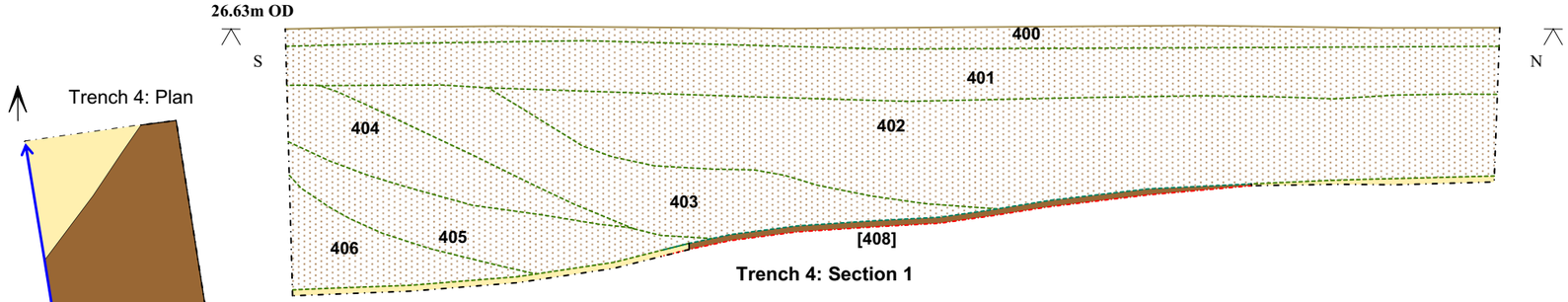
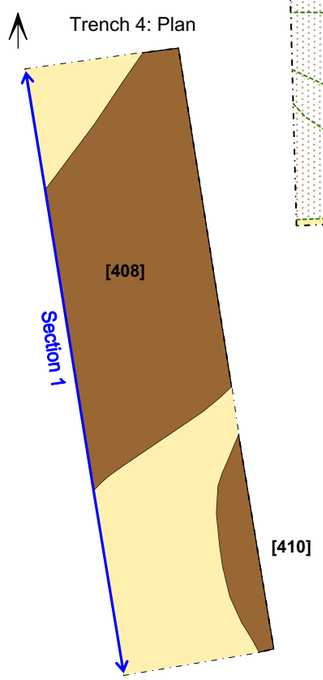
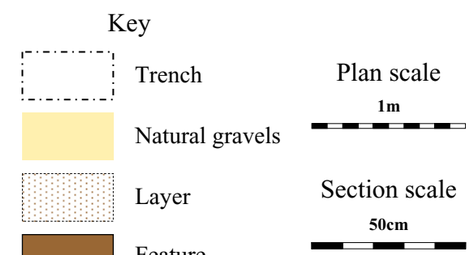


Figure 24: Trenches 3 and 7



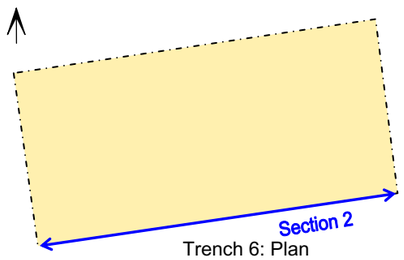
Trench 4: Section 1

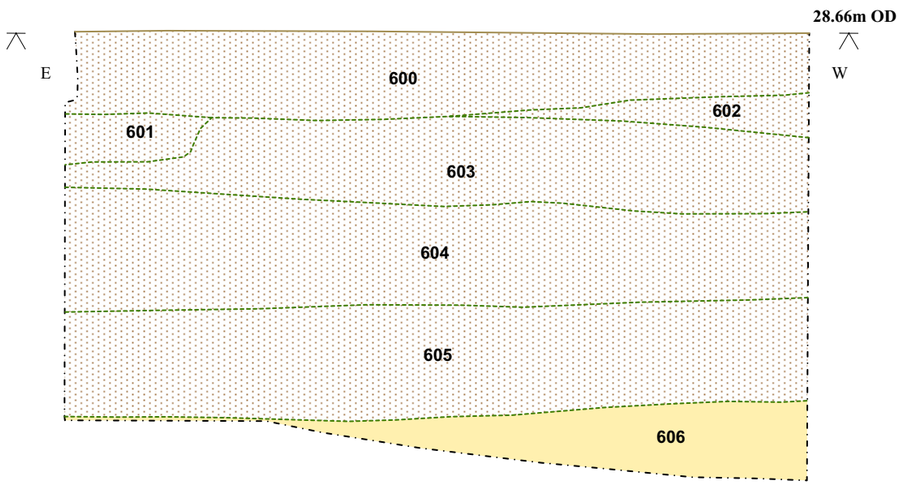




Trench 6 looking south, scale 1m

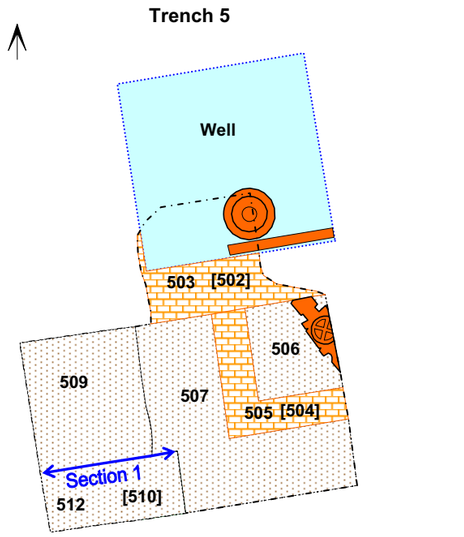
Trench 4 looking north, scale 1m

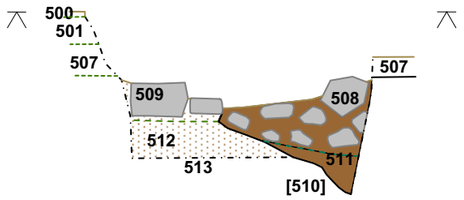




Trench 6: Section 2

Figure 25: Trenches 4 and 6

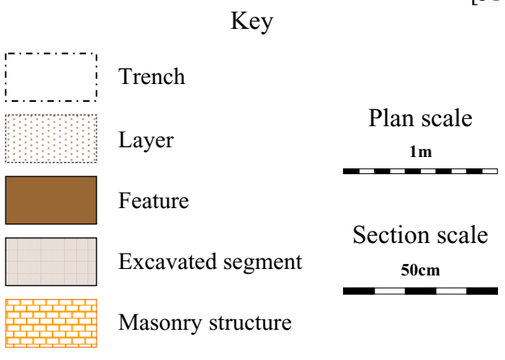


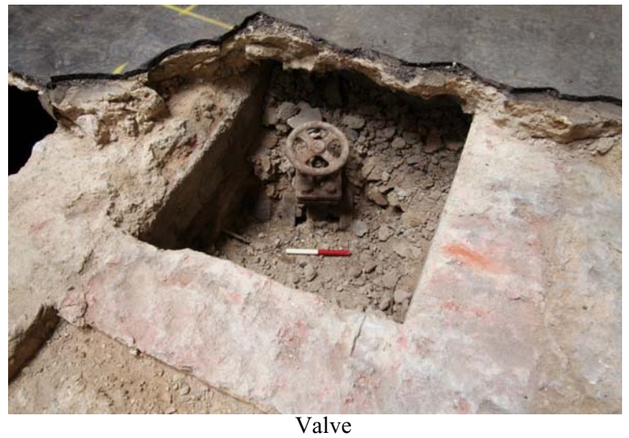


Trench 5: Section 1

Trench 5, looking north by north west

[510] and layer 509



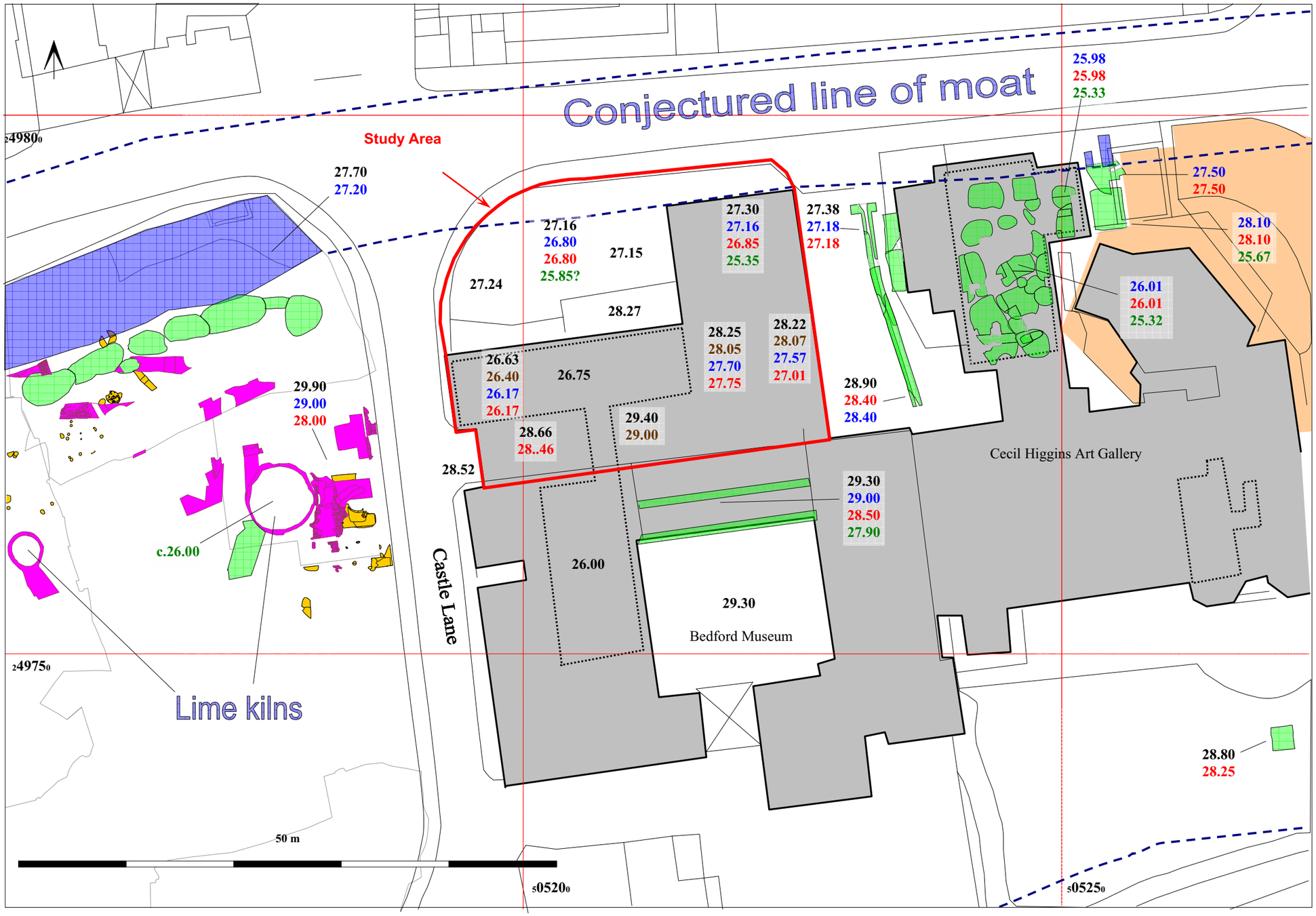


Valve

Well shaft

Well shaft

Figure 26: Trench 5



Key to levels of deposits (values in metres OD)

Ground surface
Top of post-1750 levelling
Top of archaeological deposit
Top of geological deposit
Base of archaeological feature

- Saxon features
- Medieval features
- Medieval stone structures
- Moat
- Earthwork

Figure 27: Depths of known deposits in and around the Study Area

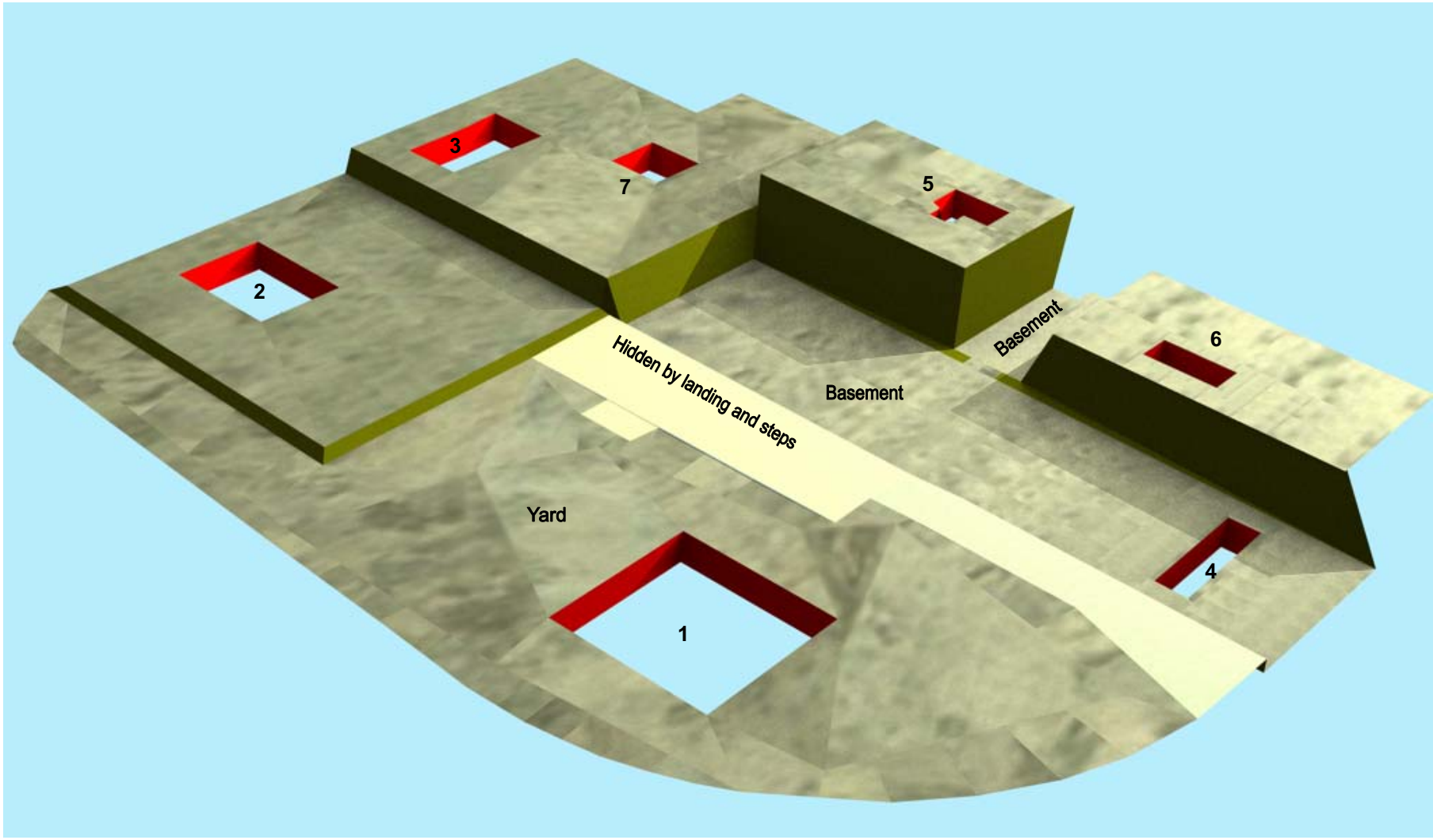
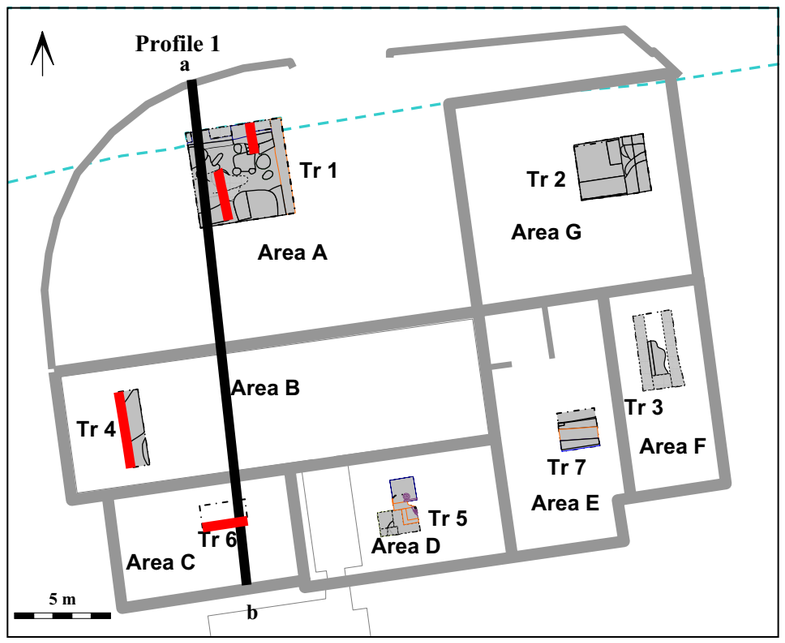
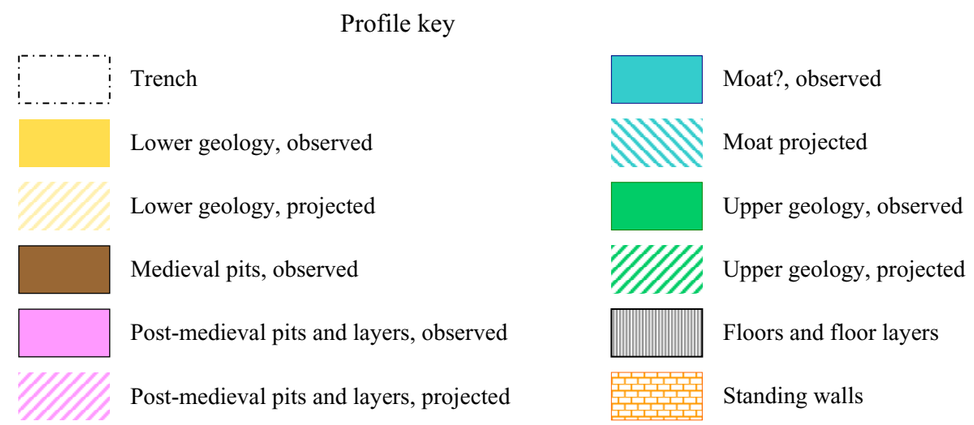


Figure 28: 3D model of existing ground surfaces and archaeological trenches
(looking south-east from Castle Lane)
Based on Bedford Design Group survey drawings A.394,A Albion 1 & 2, January 2009





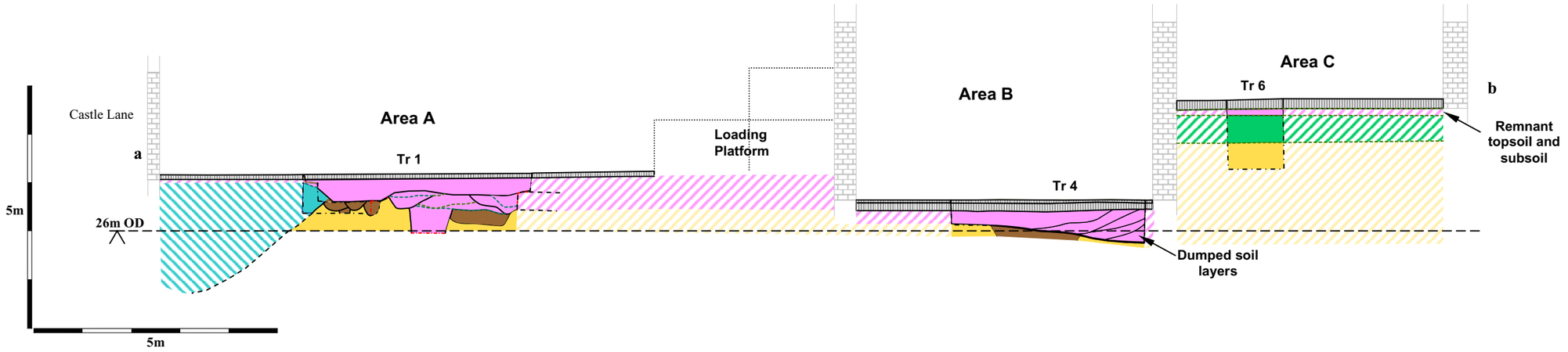
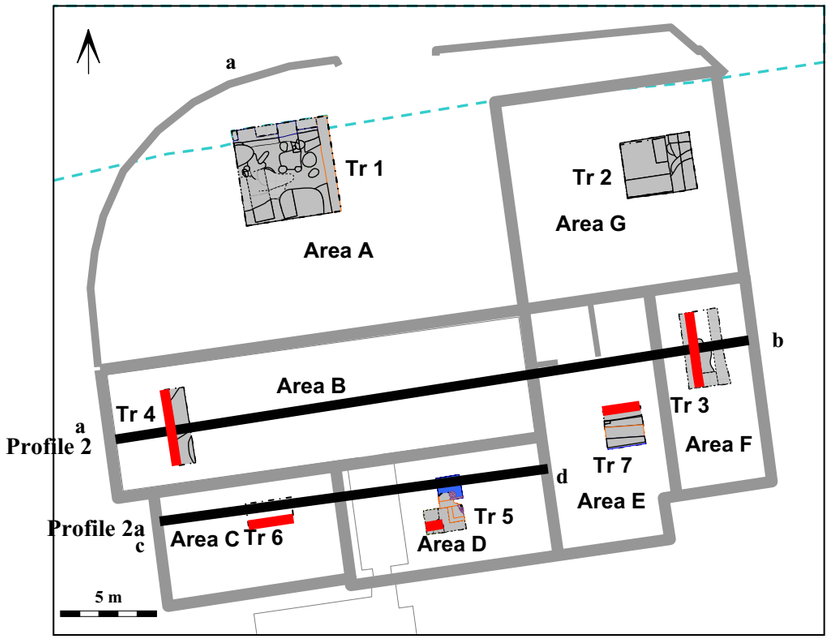


Figure 29: Profile 1



Profile key

- Trench
- Lower geology, observed
- Lower geology, projected
- Archaeological features, observed
- Archaeological features, projected
- Post-medieval features and layers, observed
- Post-medieval pits and layers, projected
- Well, observed
- Upper geology, observed
- Upper geology, projected
- Floors and floor layers
- Standing walls
- Soil layers, observed
- Soil layers, projected

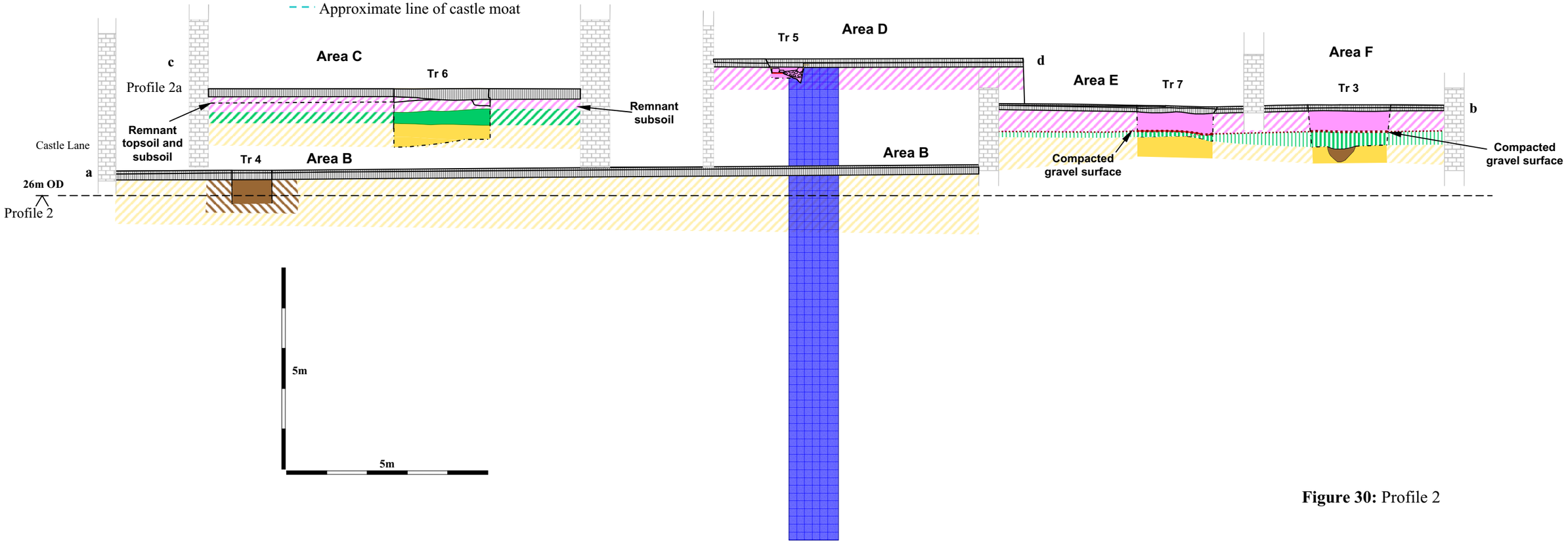
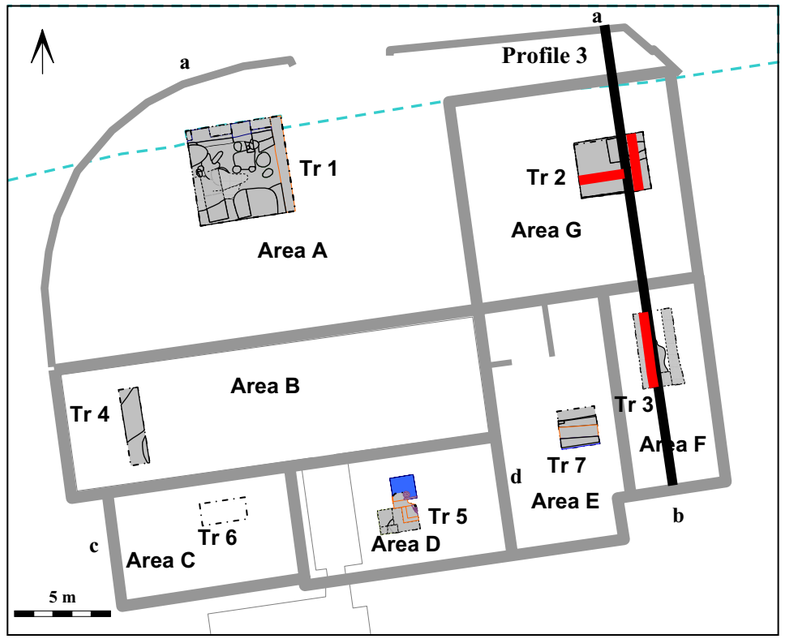


Figure 30: Profile 2



Profile lines
Sections projected onto profile
Approximate line of castle moat

Profile key

- Trench
- Lower geology, observed
- Lower geology, projected
- Medieval features, observed
- Medieval features, projected
- Post-medieval features and layers, observed
- Post-medieval pits and layers, projected
- Other feature, observed
- Other feature, projected
- Floors and floor layers
- Standing walls
- Soil layers, observed
- Soil layers, projected
- Moat, projected

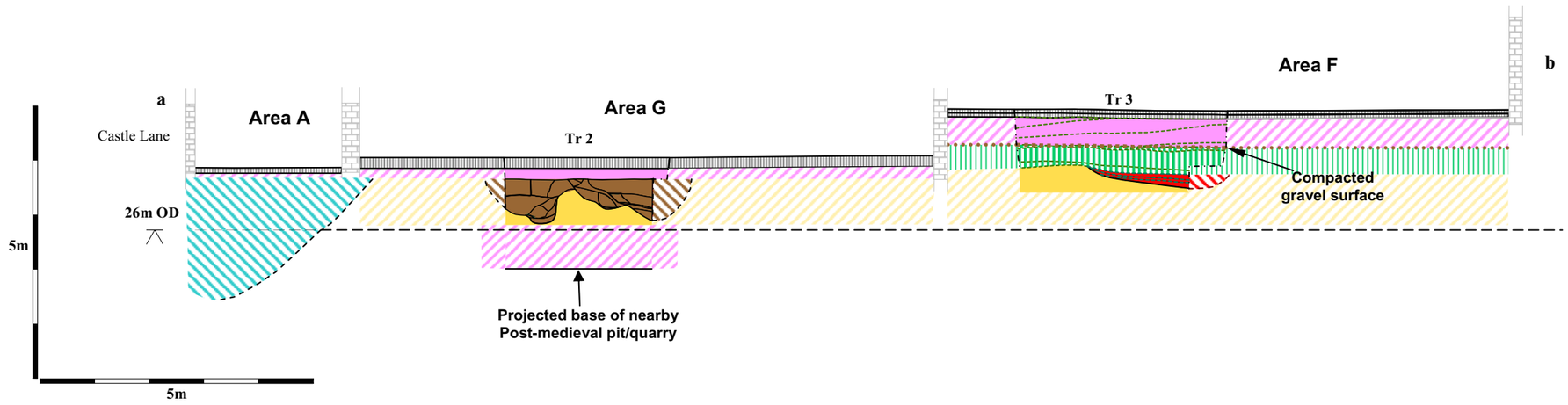


Figure 31: Profile 3

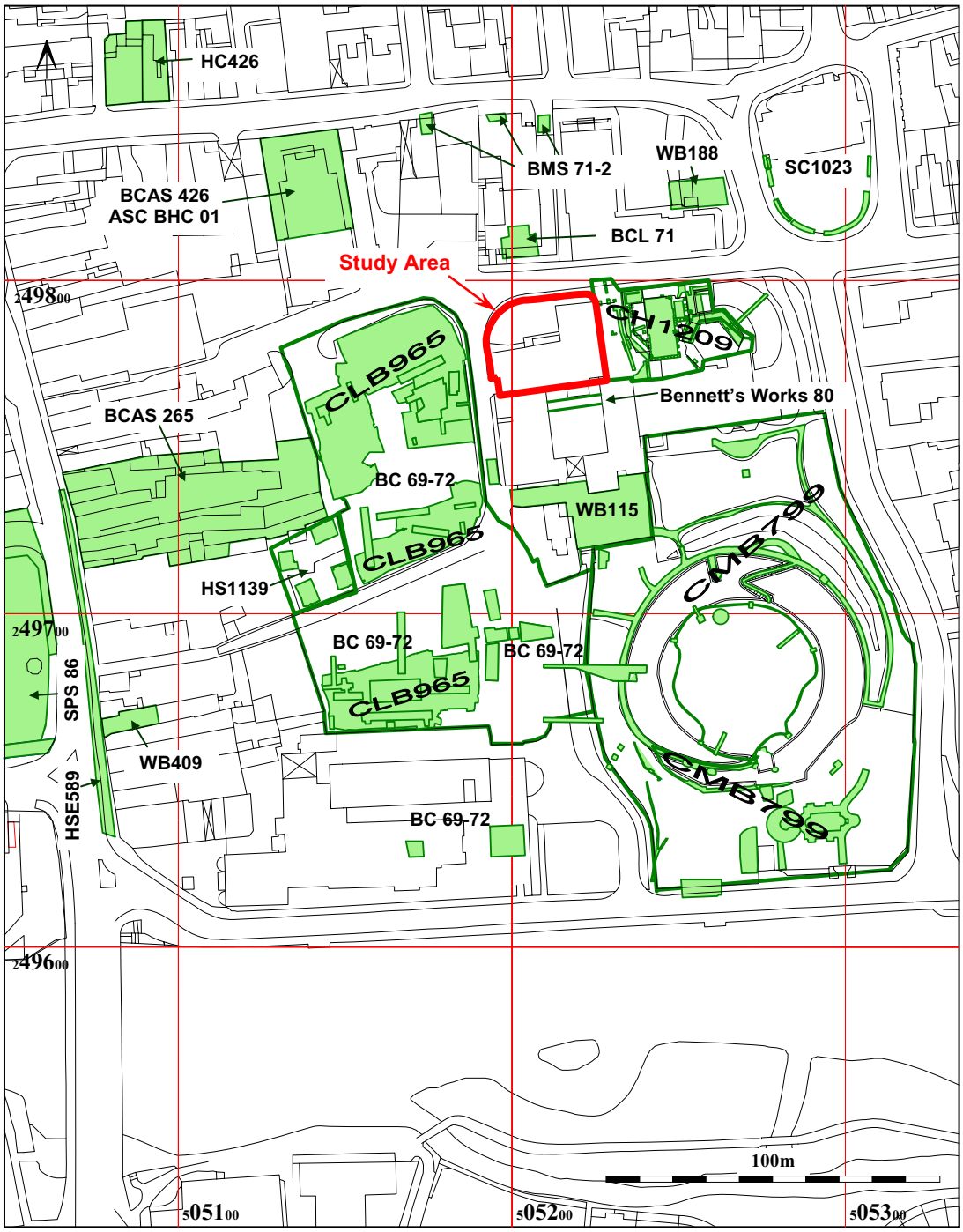


Figure 32: Previous archaeological investigations

Figure 33: Composite photograph of the yard (Area A), loading platform and north elevation of the existing building at 2a Castle Lane