



**LAND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE
VICARAGE STREET (PHASE 2A)
LUTON**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Project: UB1607
Luton Museum Accession no. TBC

Document: 2011/12
Version 1.0

4th February 2011

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Produced for:
University of Bedfordshire



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Preface

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

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by the University of Bedfordshire. It was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake (Archaeologist, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team).

This report has been prepared by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor), who also undertook the fieldwork with the assistance of Claire Lockwood (Archaeological Technician). Illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	04/02/11	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ATO	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team Officer
Client	University of Bedfordshire
HER	Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

This document has been prepared by Albion Archaeology on behalf of the University of Bedfordshire. It reports on archaeological trial trenching undertaken in January 2011. The work was occasioned by the proposed construction of a new building measuring 880m² in area.

The Phase 2a site is located approximately halfway along the north side of Vicarage Street and forms part of a wider redevelopment of the University of Bedfordshire's Park Square Campus in Luton. It is currently occupied by the former student union building and another temporary structure also used by the University, centred on grid reference TL09597/21115.

The purpose of the trial trenching was to assist in determining the significance of the heritage assets located at the site. Such information will be used to support future planning applications in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

The site is located within the former medieval core of Luton, close to the 12th-century parish Church of St Mary, and within the moated enclosure of the 13th-century castle of Fulk de Breaute. The presence of the castle was confirmed in 2009 during archaeological investigations associated with the Phase 1b development of the University's Park Square Campus. During those works a section of the castle moat, measuring 12m wide and 3m deep, was uncovered along with the remains of a large timber-framed building.

The archaeological potential of the current development was evaluated by two trenches. Trench 1 contained a number of archaeological features including three ditches and six post-holes of early medieval date, sealed beneath a buried former soil layer. Trench 2 contained one post-hole and a similar buried soil layer. All archaeological remains were found beneath a considerable depth of modern overburden.

The archaeological remains found during the trial trenching represent a probable large structure and associated features of early medieval date, contemporary with the castle of Fulk de Breaute. This dating, along with their location within the ditched enclosure, strongly suggests the remains are associated with the castle. They are, therefore, of considerable archaeological significance.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

The development of the Phase 2a site forms part of a wider redevelopment of the University of Bedfordshire's Park Square Campus in Luton.

The purpose of the trial trenching was to assist in determining the significance of the heritage assets located at the site. The information will be used to support future planning applications in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: *Planning for the Historic Environment*, (Policy HE6.1)

The trial trenching forms an initial stage of archaeological investigation, the results of which will inform decisions concerning the heritage assets of the site with regard to the proposed development.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The Phase 2a site is located approximately halfway along the north side of Vicarage Street and centred on grid reference TL09597/21115. It is currently occupied by the former student union building and another temporary structure also used by the University.

The proposed development comprises the construction of a new building measuring 880m² in area (Figure 1), along with associated soft landscaping and access paths.

Topographically, the site lies within the valley of the River Lea at a height of around 105m OD.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The site is located within the former medieval core of Luton (HER16933), close to the 12th-century parish Church of St Mary, and within the moated enclosure of the 13th-century castle of Fulk de Breaute.

The presence of the castle was confirmed in 2009 during archaeological investigations associated with the Phase 1b development of the University's Park Square Campus, which lies to the immediate west of the Phase 2a site. During those works a section of the castle moat, measuring 12m wide and 3m deep, was uncovered along with the remains of a large timber-framed building. To the west of the moat, a small post-medieval cemetery containing the graves of twelve children was also found (Albion Archaeology 2009b).

A previous phase of trenching associated with the Phase 1b site also uncovered two inhumations. The burials were located within the castle enclosure but were undated. However, their location and character suggest they were of some considerable age (Albion Archaeology 2009a).

Recent archaeological works on the opposite side of Vicarage Street revealed ditches and pits mostly dating from AD1250–1400 (ASE 2010).

Prior to the redevelopment of the St Ann's Road/Vicarage Street area as a college and later university campus, it was the location of 19th-century terraced residential dwellings. The remains of these buildings, some of which had cellars, were found during the Phase 1b investigations.



1.4 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the trial trenching was to determine whether archaeological remains were present at the site and, if so, to determine their extent, condition, nature and significance.

The broader objective of the archaeological works was to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of settlement in the area and to produce an archive report that fully describes the archaeological works.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The methodological approach to the project was detailed in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2010), approved by CAPCA, and is summarised below.

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2006)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2002/01)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> (updated 2008) and finds (updated 2008)

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching was carried out in January 2011. Two trenches, each measuring 1.7m wide and 11.5m long, positioned within the footprint of the proposed building, were excavated (Figure 1). This represented a c. 4.5% sample of the building area.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket, operated by an experienced driver, under the supervision of an appropriately experienced archaeologist.

Overburden was removed down to the top of undisturbed geological deposits. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts. The bases of the trenches were cleaned to help reveal any potential archaeological features. All deposits were recorded in a unique number sequence, using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.



3. RESULTS

Summary descriptions of the deposits and finds encountered are provided below. Full context and finds details are set out in Appendices 2 and 1 respectively. The findings are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. All measurements are approximate.

3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 1.7m wide and 11.5m long. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m below ground level.

3.1.1 Modern overburden and geological deposits

The overburden within Trench 1 comprised in descending order: modern paving stones (100); a 0.15m thick topsoil of mid brown grey clay silt (101); a 0.15m thick demolition layer of modern brick and tile mixed with light brown grey clay silt (102); and a 0.25–0.45m thick build up / levelling layer of light grey yellow clay silt (103) which contained occasional lenses of post-medieval brick and tile fragments (119).

The undisturbed geological deposit was mid orange clay with small stones (106).

3.1.2 Buried soil

Beneath the modern overburden at a depth of 0.65m below the modern surface, a 0.20m thick layer of mid brown grey clay silt soil (105) was identified. The layer contained a large fragment of fired clay with wattle impressions, and occasional fragments of clunch (a workable rock, mined locally at Totternhoe, Bedfordshire and generally cut into building stone blocks). Laying on top of this soil layer, and probably associated with it, was a 0.03–0.06m thick deposit of loose dark red black clay silt (104) containing frequent charcoal fragments and occasional fragments of heat-fractured flint.

3.1.3 Ditches

The oldest feature, stratigraphically, in the trench was a NE-SW aligned ditch [110]. It was at least 9.5m long, 0.83m wide and 0.19m deep and contained a deposit of mid red brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered from the excavated segment of the ditch.

Two other ditches were identified in Trench 1. Ditch [134] was aligned NE-SW and cut ditch [110]. It was at least 3.5m long, 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a deposit of mid grey brown silty clay, from which an iron nail was recovered. Ditch [138] was aligned NE-SW, and contained a similar dark brown grey clay silt fill to that of the adjacent post-hole [128]. The ditch was 1.5m long, 0.3m wide, 0.04m deep. No finds were recovered from the feature.

3.1.4 Post-holes

A line of six post-holes [112], [116], [120], [122], [128] and [130] ran the length of ditch [110] cutting into its fill.

The post-holes varied from circular to sub-square in plan, concave to vertical sides with a flat base in profile and ranged from 0.4–0.85m long, 0.25–0.7m wide and 0.14–0.71m deep.



They contained deposits that varied from light orange grey silty clay to dark brown grey clay silt. Post-holes [112], [122] and [130] contained evidence of the former wooden post in the form of post-pipes [115], [124], [132]. The post-pipes contained deposits that varied from dark grey brown clay silt to mid brown grey clay silt. Post holes/pipes [116], [124], [128] and [132] contained pottery of 12th- to 13th-century date.

3.1.5 Pits

A shallow pit [126] was identified at the NW end of Trench 1 above post-hole [122] and may have been associated with it. The pit had concave sides and a flat base. It was at least 1.3m long, 0.25m wide and 0.24m deep and contained dark brown grey clay silt (127) with charcoal fragments. No artefacts were recovered from the feature.

A large pit [136] was identified at the SW end of the trench. It had steeply sloping sides and was at least 1.18m long and 0.82m wide. It was filled by a light brown grey clay silt deposit and contained modern brick and tile fragments.

3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 1.7m wide and 11.50m long. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.50m below ground level.

3.2.1 Modern overburden and geological deposits

The overburden within Trench 2 comprised in descending order: a 0.40m thick topsoil of mid orange brown clay silt (200); a 0.30m thick demolition layer of modern brick and tile mixed with dark brown grey sandy clay (201); a 0.25m thick build up / levelling layer of mid orange brown clay silt containing occasional modern tile and slate fragments (202); a 0.25m thick build up / levelling layer of light grey yellow clay silt containing occasional post-medieval brick and tile fragments (203). Modern brick foundations associated with the terraced houses that were formerly on the site were observed within layers (202) and (203).

The undisturbed geological deposit was mid orange clay with small stones (205).

3.2.2 Buried soil

Beneath the modern overburden at a depth of 1.20m below the ground surface, a 0.20m thick layer of mid brown grey clay silt soil (204) was identified. The layer contained pottery fragments of 12th- to 13th-century date and fragments of clunch. This deposit is similar to layer (104) in Trench 1.

3.2.3 Post-hole

Beneath the soil layer, one probable post-hole [206] was identified in the base of the trench. The feature was not excavated due to safety considerations associated with the depth of the trench. However, it was observed to contain a mid brown grey clay silt with flecks of charcoal.



4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 *Summary of Findings*

Trench 1 contained a layer of buried soil that predates the construction of the 19th-century terraced dwellings that once stood at the site. This deposit seals a group of features of probable early medieval date, cutting natural geological deposits. The features principally comprised a ditch truncated along its length by an apparent line of six relatively large post-holes. The latter may represent part of a major fence line or building. The ditch may be associated with the structure or represent an earlier drainage or boundary feature. Two further ditches probably of a similar date were also found in Trench 1.

Trench 2 also contained a similar layer of buried soil sealing a single archaeological feature cutting natural geological deposits. Although this post-hole could not be investigated, the nature of the feature, its fill and its stratigraphic location suggest it is contemporary with the early medieval remains found in Trench 1.

Also of interest is the height difference of the buried soil layer and geological deposits between the two trenches. The difference in height of these deposits is around 0.67m at the western end of the trenches and *c.* 0.23m at the eastern end. This indicates that the ground sloped down towards the south and south-east from Trench 1 to Trench 2, with the medieval structure being located on the higher ground; there was possibly less activity on the lower ground. This slope was present during the medieval period but has been periodically levelled during the Victorian and later development of the area.

Findings from the excavations at the Phase 1b site (see Section 1.3) indicate the ground level in the medieval period continued to slope upwards with the remains at that site being a further 1m higher than those found in Trench 1

4.2 *Significance and Condition of Archaeological Remains*

The archaeological remains found during the trial trenching represent a probable large structure and associated features of early medieval date, contemporary with the castle of Fulk de Breaute. This dating, along with their location within the ditched enclosure identified on the Phase 1b excavations, strongly suggests the remains are associated with the castle. They are therefore of considerable archaeological significance.

The condition and preservation of the remains within the trenches was found to be good. This circumstance has been brought about by the presence of modern layers of levelling and demolition material that has protected an *in situ* deposit of probable former top/subsoil, sealing archaeological remain beneath, from the impacts of modern development.



5. REFERENCES

- Albion Archaeology 2010. *Land at the University of Bedfordshire, Vicarage Street, (Phase 2A) Luton: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching*. Report no. 2010/110.
- ASE (Archaeology South-East) 2010. *Land at Vicarage Street, Luton Bedfordshire: Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design*. Report no. 2010051.
- Albion Archaeology 2009a. *Land at the University of Bedfordshire, Park Square, Luton: Archaeological Trial Trenching*. Report no. 2009/55.
- Albion Archaeology 2009b. *Land at the University of Bedfordshire, Park Square, Luton: Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design*. Report no. 2009/105.



6. APPENDIX 1: ARTEFACT SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and animal bone. Small quantities of brick and tile, fired clay, unmodified flint and stone were also recovered (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
1	104	Burnt layer	104	Undated	Burnt flint (145g)
	105	Buried topsoil	105	Undated	Fired clay (532g)
	112	Post hole	113	Undated	Animal bone (126g)
	116	Post hole	118	Early medieval	Pottery (23g)
	122	Post hole	123	Undated	Frost-fractured flint (32g)
	124	Post pipe	125	Early medieval	Pottery (6g); roof tile (57g); fired clay (39g); animal bone (35g)
	128	Post hole	129	Early medieval	Pottery (3g); Totternhoe stone (103g); animal bone (125g)
	132	Post pipe	133	Early medieval	Pottery (71g); Totternhoe stone (206g)
	134	Ditch	135	Undated	Iron nail x1
	136	Pit	137	Modern	Brick and tile (625g); animal bone (16g)
2	204	Buried topsoil	204	Early medieval /medieval	Pottery (6g); animal bone (31g); Totternhoe stone (185g); unworked flint chip (1g)

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

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature

6.2 Pottery

Eight pottery sherds, weighing 109g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The pottery is moderately fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 14g, and survives in fair to good condition. Three fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology (Table 2).

The pottery is datable to the 12th-late 13th century, and occurs in locally manufactured, sand-tempered fabrics characteristic of the period, including the long-lived South Hertfordshire-type grey ware. No diagnostic forms occur. Sooting is visible on the exterior of one sherd recovered from post hole [116], indicating use.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Early medieval</i>			
C59A	Coarse sand	1	(124):1
C60	Hertfordshire-type grey ware	1	(132):1
C67	Mixed inclusions	6	(116):2, (128):1, (132):2, (204):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

Two fragmentary post-medieval sandy peg tiles (531g) and a modern brick fragment (151g) were recovered, the majority deriving from pit [136]. The peg tiles range between 13–15mm in thickness, and one has the remains of two circular peg holes (14mm in diameter) set 85mm apart. Two well-fired daub fragments, in a coarse sand- and flint-tempered fabric, (total weight 571g) were recovered from buried topsoil (105) and post pipe [124]. The piece from the



latter may have been used as packing. The largest fragment, recovered from deposit (105), is 60mm thick with a flat surface, and three wattle impressions measuring between 10–15mm in diameter on the underside.

6.4 Non-ceramic Finds

The non-ceramic assemblage is limited in quantity and, with the exception of the iron nail, retains no sign of human working. However, the recovery of lumps of Totternhoe Stone attests to quarrying and transport of this material to the site. Totternhoe Stone is a relatively hard chalk which has been quarried for nearly 2000 years from the area north of Totternhoe village. Production from the Totternhoe quarries reached its peak between the 12th and 16th centuries; the stone is particularly suited to dressing and decorative carving but also was used on the outside of buildings.

The Totternhoe stone recovered from the post-hole and post-pipe in Trench 1, although lacking any worked surfaces, could have originally formed part of architectural stonework, or may have been waste from stone-working which was used as packing material within the post-holes. The small flint assemblage is not worked but as flint blocks, alternating with chalk blocks, can be seen on various churches in the area, e.g. Chalgrave and Saint Mary's Luton, its presence was recorded for completeness sake.

6.5 Ecofacts

The faunal assemblage comprises seven fragments weighing 333g, and occurs in features of early medieval and modern date. Fragments are sizeable, with an average weight of 48g and have suffered a degree of surface erosion. Diagnostic elements are a complete horse phalanx and bovine metatarsal, recovered respectively from post pipe [124] and post hole [112]. Indeterminate large mammal long bone fragments constitute the remainder of the assemblage.



7. APPENDIX 2: TRENCH SUMMARY



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.50 m. Width: 1.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.88 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0957821111

OS Grid Ref.: TL0958621121

Reason: Ascertain presence, depth and condition of any archaeology.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Modern paving		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Demolition layer	Loose light brown grey clay silt frequent large CBM A demolition layer of brick and tile fragments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Re-deposited natural	Friable light grey yellow clay silt moderate small stones Re-deposited natural.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Burnt layer	Loose dark red black clay silt frequent small charcoal A 0.03m to 0.06 m thick burnt layer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
105	Buried former topsoil	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones Moderate medium size fragments of light grey clunch were present in this buried soil layer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
106	Undisturbed geology	Firm mid orange clay moderate small stones Occasional large patches of light grey clay silt or hard white yellow, hard, stoney concretion - interrupted this otherwise uniform undisturbed geological clay layer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.83m, min depth 0.19m, min length 9.5m Cut of ditch or possible structural slot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	fill of ditch	Friable mid red brown sandy clay moderate small charcoal, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Post-hole	Sub-square sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.52m, min length 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	post-packing	Firm mid orange brown chalky clay moderate small chalk, moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
115	Post-pipe	Sub-oval sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.37m, min depth 0.52m, min length 0.8m Post-pipe within post-hole.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	fill of post-pipe	Firm dark grey brown silty clay moderate small charcoal Fill of Post-pipe within post-hole.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
116	Post-hole	Sub-circular sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.71m, min depth 0.71m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	primary fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy clay occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
118	secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small charcoal, occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
119	Levelling layer	Loose mid orange brown clay sand frequent small-large CBM Same as layer (103)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
120	Post-hole	Sub-circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min depth 0.13m, min diameter 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
121	fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
122	Post-hole	sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, min depth 0.42m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
123	Post-packing	Firm light orange grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
124	Post-pipe	sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.42m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
125	fill of post-pipe	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.50 m. Width: 1.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.88 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0957821111

OS Grid Ref.: TL0958621121

Reason: Ascertain presence, depth and condition of any archaeology.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
126	Pit	sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.25m, min depth 0.24m, min length 1.3m Cut of a shallow pit visible only in section - possibly associated with post-hole [122].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
127	fill of pit	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small charcoal, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
128	Post-hole	Sub-oval sides: steep base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.76m, min depth 0.43m, min length 0.85m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
129	fill of post-hole	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
130	Post-hole	Sub-oval sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.27m, min length 1.04m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
131	post-packing	Firm light orange grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
132	Post-pipe	Oval sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.46m, min depth 0.27m, min length 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
133	fill of post-pipe	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones, occasional large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
134	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.2m, min length 3.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
135	fill of ditch	Friable mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
136	Pit	sides: 45 degrees dimensions: min breadth 0.82m, min length 1.18m A large pit containing modern artefacts. Base not excavated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
137	fill of pit	Loose light brown grey clay silt moderate small charcoal Fill of pit containing occasional brick tile and slate artefacts of modern date. Deposit also contains an "ash" content in soil matrix.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
138	Ditch	Linear sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.04m, min length 1.5m Cut of a shallow gully.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
139	fill of ditch	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.00 m. Width: 1.70 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 1.44 m. Max: 1.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0958321104

OS Grid Ref.: TL0959221111

Reason: Ascertain presence, depth and condition of any archaeology.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Demolition layer	Loose dark brown grey sandy clay frequent small-large CBM A demolition layer of brick and tile fragments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Levelling layer	Friable mid orange brown clay silt Levelling layer containing occasional modern brick, tile and slate fragments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Levelling layer	Friable light grey yellow clay silt moderate small chalk, frequent small stones Re-deposited natural	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Buried former topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small chalk, moderate small stones Occasional medium fragments of light grey clunch were present in this buried soil layer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
205	Undisturbed geology	Firm mid orange clay moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Post-hole	Sub-circular dimensions: min breadth 0.3m Post-hole identified in base of trench. Not excavated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	fill of post-hole	Mid brown grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



8. APPENDIX 3: OASIS DATA FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-90668

Project details

Project name	University of Bedfordshire, Luton Campus, Phase 2A
Short description of the project	Archaeological trial trenching undertaken in January 2011. The work was occasioned by the proposed construction of a new building measuring 880m ² in area. The Phase 2a site is located approximately half way along the north side of Vicarage Street and forms part of a wider redevelopment of the University of Bedfordshire's Park Square Campus in Luton. The site is located within the former medieval core of Luton, close to the 12th-century parish Church of St Mary, and within the moated enclosure of the 13th-century castle of Fulk de Breaute. The presence of the castle was confirmed in 2009 during archaeological investigations associated with the Phase 1b development of the University's Park Square Campus. The archaeological potential of the current development was evaluated by two trenches. Trench 1 revealed three ditches, six post-holes and a pit of medieval date. A buried medieval former topsoil below a burnt layer of uncertain date were also identified in the trench below 0.6m of modern deposits. Trench 2 contained one post-hole and the same buried medieval topsoil below 1.20m of modern deposits.
Project dates	Start: 12-01-2011 End: 14-01-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UB1607 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	POST HOLES Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country England



Site location BEDFORDSHIRE LUTON LUTON University of Bedfordshire, Luton Campus, Phase 2A
 Study area 880.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 0952 2111 51.8773415592 -0.408816720618 51 52 38 N 000 24 31 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Albion Archaeology
 Project director/manager Robert Wardill
 Project supervisor Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Luton Museum
 Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental'
 Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology
 Digital Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','other'
 Digital Media available 'Database','GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Text'
 Paper Archive recipient Luton Museum
 Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','other'
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Microfilm','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land at the University of Bedfordshire, Vicarage Street (Phase 2a), Luton: Archaeological Trial Trenching
 Author(s)/Editor (s) 'Turner, Ian'
 Author(s)/Editor (s) 'Wardill, R'
 Other bibliographic details 2011/12
 Date 2011
 Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology



Place of issue or publication Bedford

Description A4 comb bound client report. Cream coloured cover. Colour figures

Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

Entered on 3 February 2011

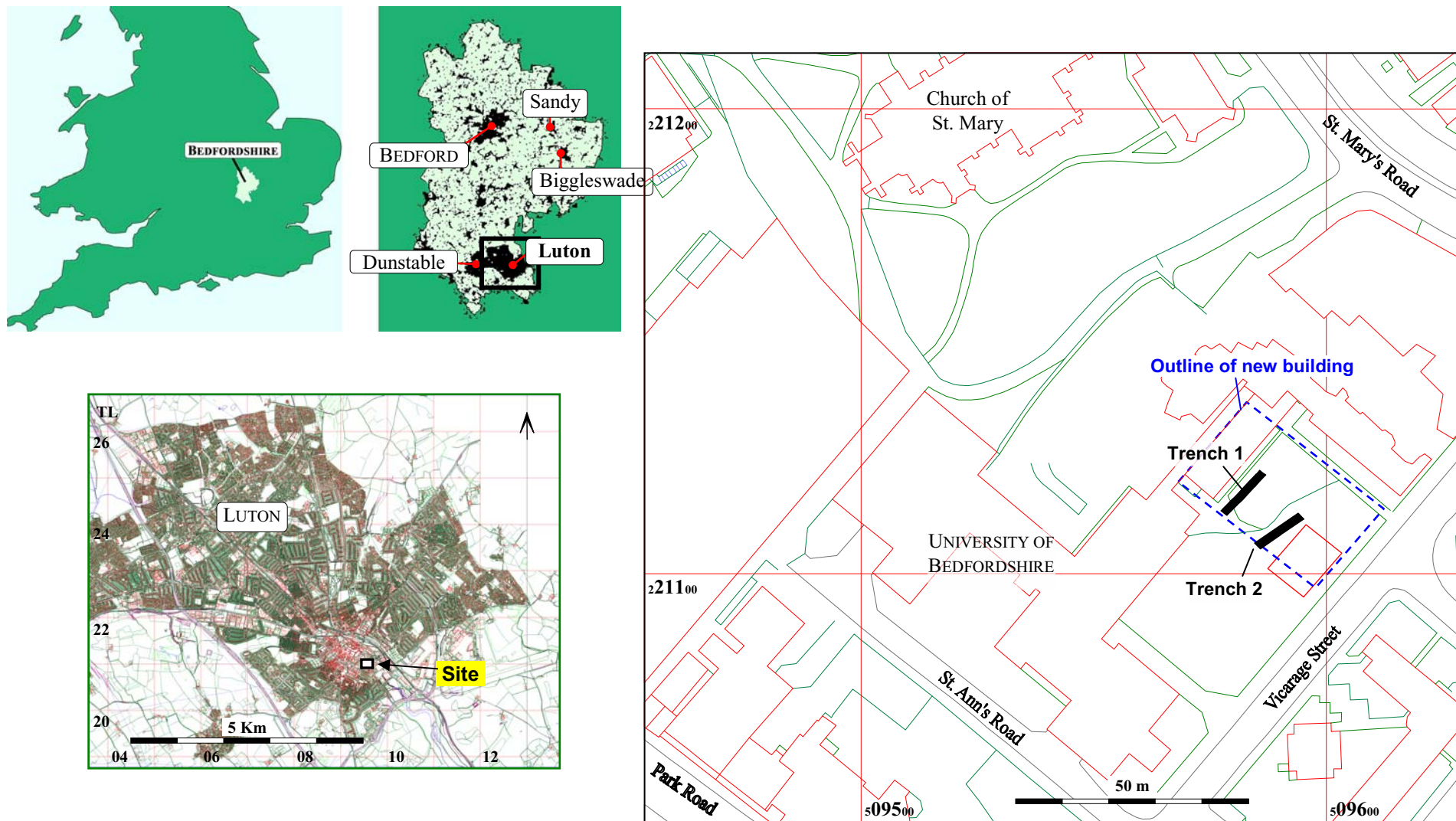


Figure 1: Site location plan

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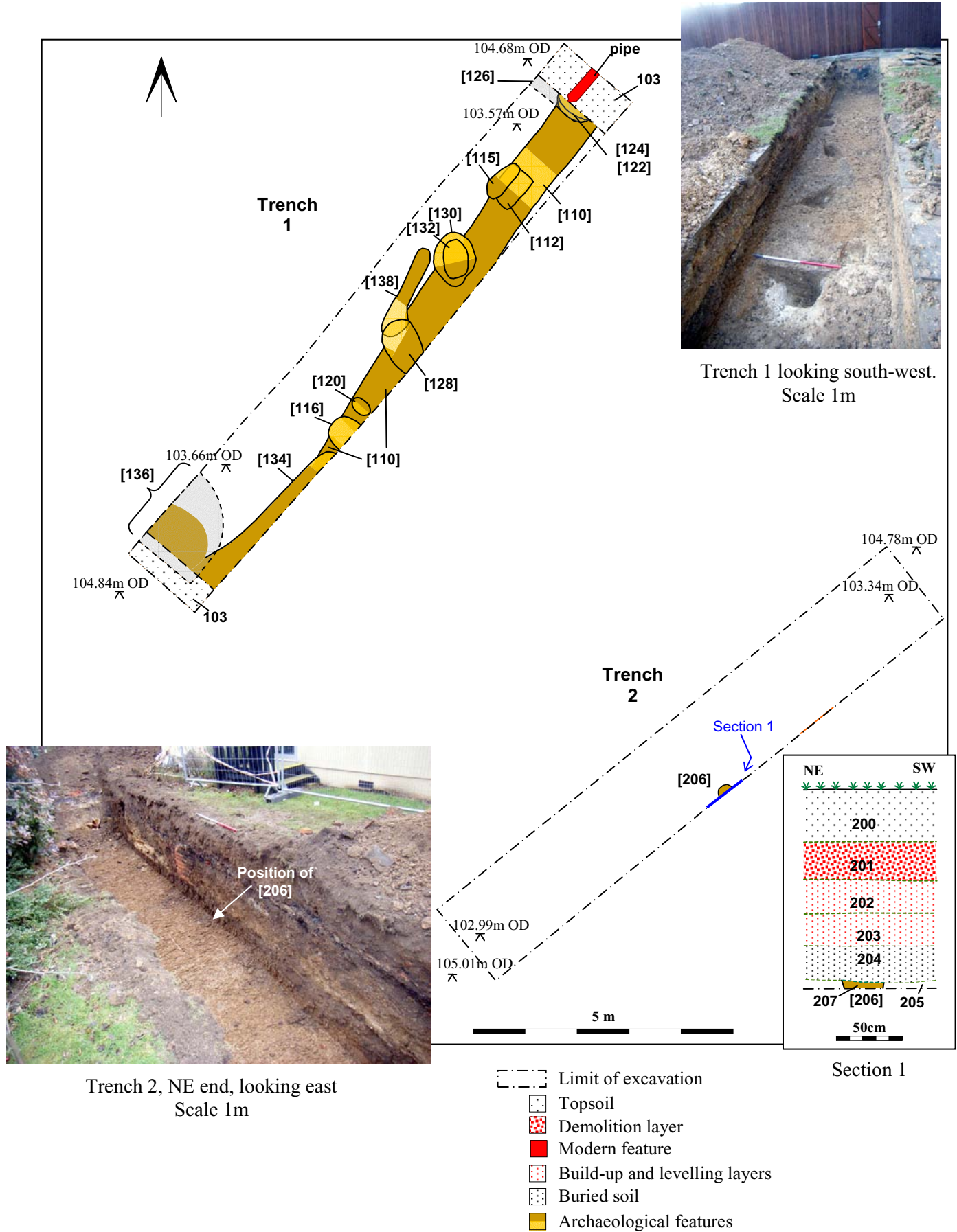


Figure 2: Trenching results

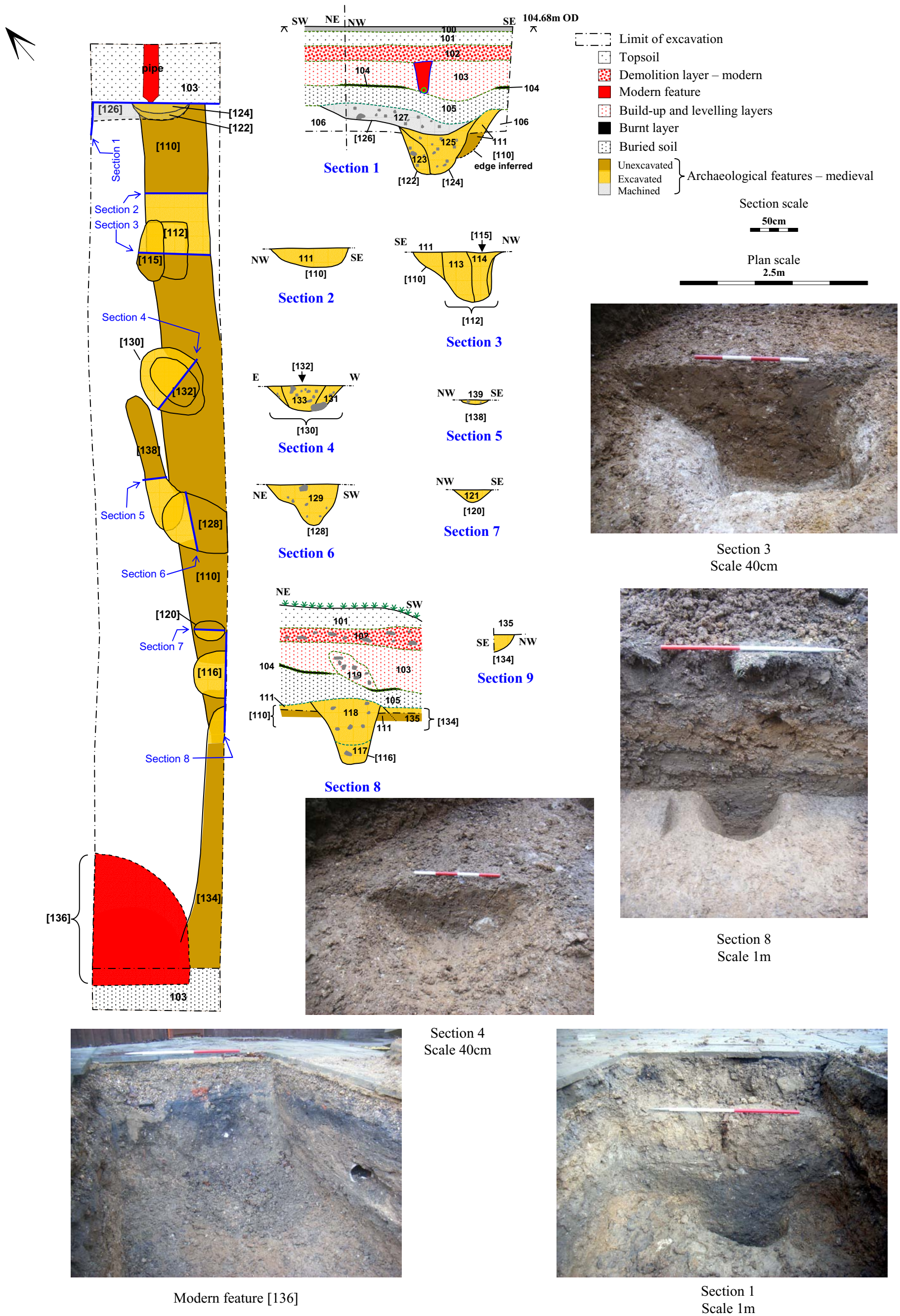


Figure 3: Trench 1 detail