

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
LAND TO THE REAR OF
WILKES ALMSHOUSES
NORTH STREET
LEIGHTON BUZZARD**

NGR: SP 9217 2530

on behalf of Bob Harrington Designs Ltd



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

August 2011

ASC: 1427/LBN/2




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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LBN	<i>Project no:</i>	1427
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-103085	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	LUTN: 2011.66
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire (historic county)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Leighton Buzzard		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Leighton Buzzard		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9215 2530		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.2700 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Derelict ground		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Housing development		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Pre-planning		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	25/07/2011-28/07/2011		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Bob Harrington Designs Ltd 12 Church Square Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 1AE		
<i>Client:</i>	Leighton Buzzard Townlands Trust 4-6 Church Square Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 1AE		
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Internal Quality Check

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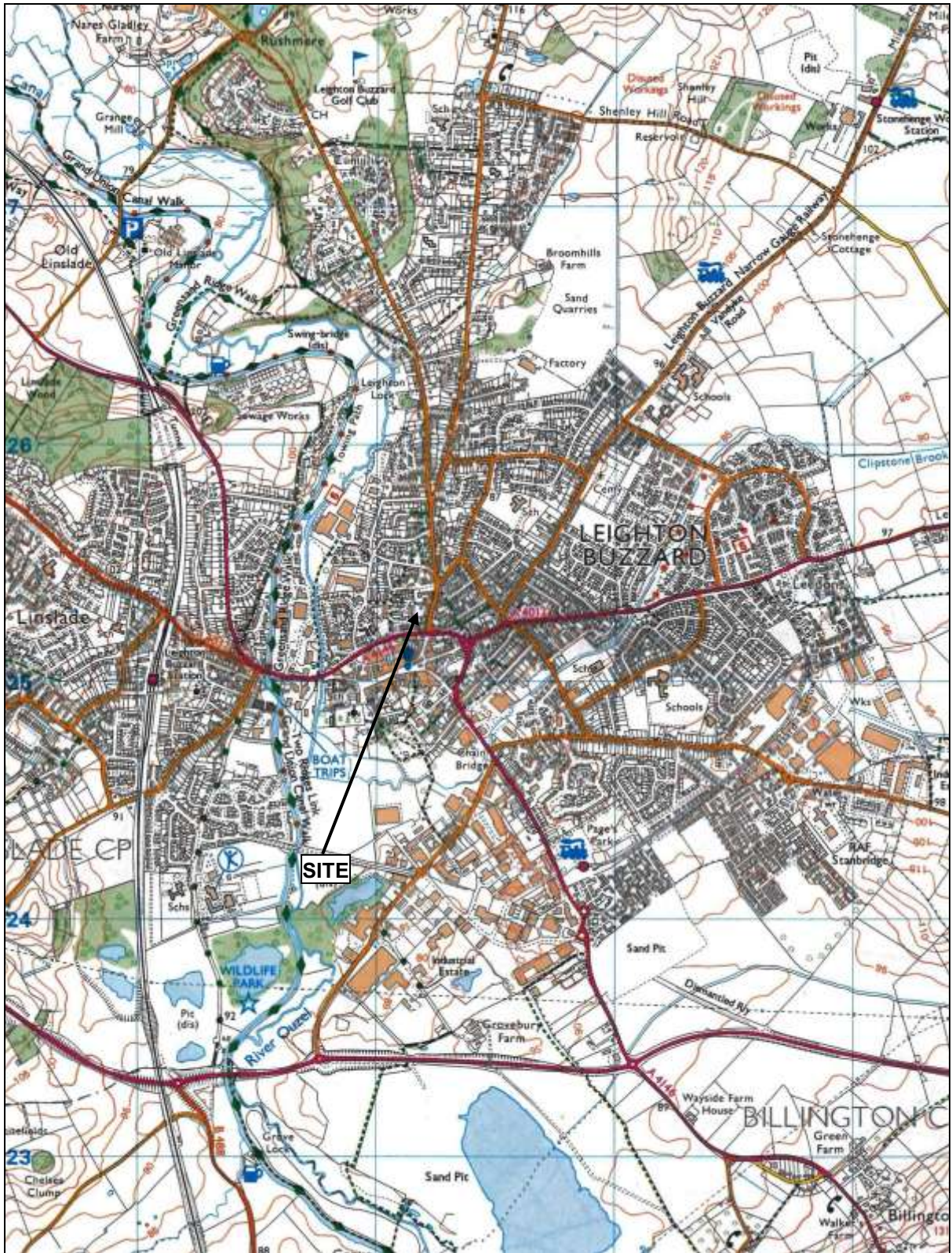


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During July 2011, an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of the Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, Leighton Buzzard was carried out, to inform proposals for the re-development of the site. Eleven trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed buildings. A variety of post medieval and modern features were found across the site, largely relating to previously demolished outbuildings. Three post medieval ditches recorded in the south western part of the site show some correlation to features recorded on the 1880 Leighton Buzzard Town Plan. A shallow gully containing a single sherd of medieval pottery was recorded close to the centre of the site. The results of the evaluation support the theory that the site was located on the periphery of the early settlement at Leighton Buzzard.

1. Introduction

1.1 In July 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation of land to the rear of the Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, Leighton Buzzard. The project was commissioned by *Bob Harrington Designs Ltd*, and was carried out according to a brief (Oake 2011) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Central Bedfordshire Archaeology Team*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Fell & Summerfield-Hill, 2011).

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), in order to inform proposals for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The site is in Leighton Buzzard, in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire (Fig. 1). It is situated north of the town centre, to the rear of the Wilkes Almshouses, which lie on the west side of North Street, and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 9215 2530 (Fig. 2).

Access to the site is from the east off North Street and the site comprises a sub-rectangular plot of c.2700 sq m. Most of the site is open land with rough grass, but a number of brick outhouses and garages are present on the north side, and a detached house is situated within the grassed area, adjacent to the site entrance.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site is situated in an urban area and the natural soils have not been mapped. They are likely to comprise the Frilford Association, described as ‘deep well-drained sandy and coarse loamy soils’ (Soil Survey 1983 554a) over the Woburn Sands formation (BGS, Sheet 220). The site is flat and lies at an elevation of c.90m OD.

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the demolition of existing buildings on the site and the erection of a housing development consisting of 15 flats/houses (Fig. 3).

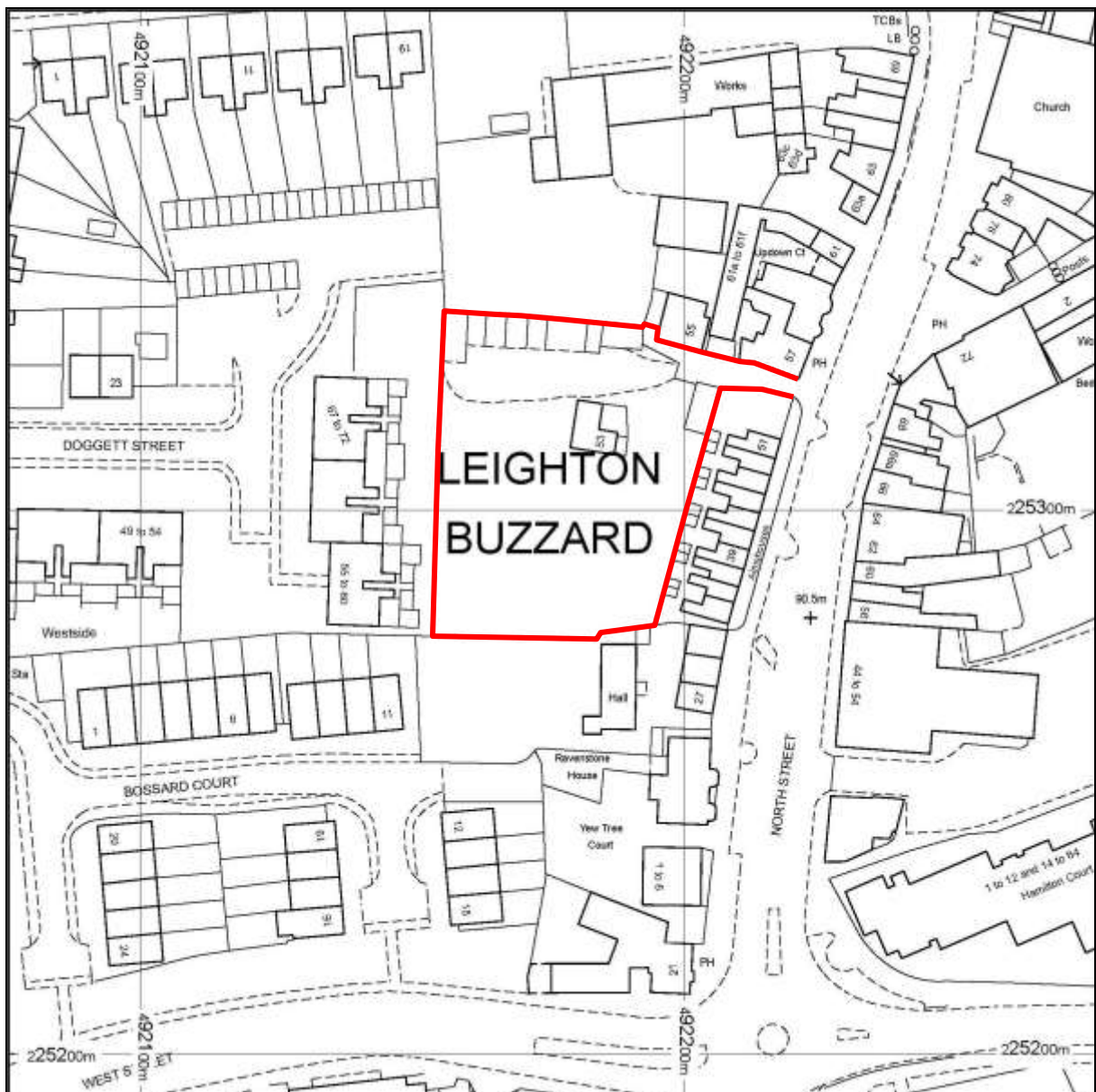


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify the location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
- To establish the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
- Once the above information has been acquired it will be used to assist in determining the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environment setting;
- To inform the preparation of a Heritage Asset Assessment.

2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- A trial trench evaluation comprising excavation of eleven trenches, each 10×2m (Fig. 3).

2.4 *Constraints*

Trench 10 was relocated due to access issues, and then abandoned after several services were uncovered within the trench.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the Leighton Buzzard Extensive Urban Survey (BCC 2005) and ASC's library.

3.2 **Prehistoric - Iron Age** (before 600BC-AD43)

Little is known of these periods in the Leighton Buzzard area. Palaeolithic flints have been uncovered from a number of clay and gravel pits around Leighton Buzzard (HER 10722-4, 1037-8, 10965).

During the excavation of Grove Priory c.2km south of the town a Mesolithic flint working area was discovered. In close proximity to this were a number of post-holes and shallow pits containing Neolithic flint tools and debitage, an almost complete vessel and possible cremation (BCC 2005).

A number of isolated Neolithic finds have also been recovered from within or near to Leighton Buzzard (HER 19, 10711, 10716, 10718).

Two Bronze Age barrows, both of which are Scheduled Monuments, are located c.1.8km north-west of the development (HER 2). There was also a barrow at the site of Grove Priory (HER 3289), now destroyed by quarrying. An almost complete Beaker-type vessel and flint assemblages associated with further features and a possible structure were also recovered from Grove Priory (BCC 2005).

A number of Iron Age coins have been recovered in and near Leighton Buzzard (e.g. HER 17, 10712, 10713).

3.3 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period the Leighton Buzzard area was distant from the principal centres of settlement and lines of communication, although a settlement might be expected at the river crossing. Roman coins have been recovered in the churchyard (HER 9659) and Roman pottery has been found to the south of the High Street (HER 1464) and opposite the church (HER 819). A burial (HER 10728) has also been recorded south of the High Street. The Roman road now known as Watling Street passes c.5km to the north-east of the town.

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

Little is known of the origins of the settlement of Leighton Buzzard, but it is likely to have been established during the Saxon period. Two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries (HER 3) at Chamberlains Barn sand quarry, c.1km north of the site, and a further Anglo-Saxon cemetery (HER 1) west of the quarry at Deadman's Slade have been excavated. The cemeteries are just outside the later medieval town, which suggests that the town has Saxon origins (BCC 2005).

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

Leighton Buzzard was in existence by the time of the Domesday Survey (1086), when the right to hold a market and to collect tolls belonged to the king. Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, held the church and its lands (Williams & Martin 2003).

The early layout of the town is not well understood, but the settlement may have developed at the river crossing on the site of the present bridge, and included the site of the church. The present Bridge Street and Church Square may have early origins. There is a suggestion that the town was subject to radical re-planning in the 12th century, and that the basic 'Y'-shaped formation of streets was probably laid out at that time, although this has yet to be proved (BCC 2005). The development site is situated on North Street, on the right-hand branch of the 'Y'-shaped street pattern.

All Saints Church (HER 1088), situated at the end of the High Street, dates to the 13th century, but may occupy the site of an earlier building.

The market cross on the High Street dates to the 15th century and is mentioned in the court roll entry of 1499. Buildings from this period include the 'Peacock' inn (HER 4606) in Lake Street, the 'Bell' public house (HER 4623) in the Market Square, and 4-8 Market Square, all of which date to the 15th century.

3.6 **Post-Medieval- Modern** (1500-present)

The market thrived into the post-medieval period and is still in existence today, focused upon Market Square and the High Street. The Market House or Moot Hall (HER 4631) was centred in the square, and was replaced by the Town Hall in 1851.

The predominance of higher-status buildings in Church Square, the High Street and Lake Street, many of them now listed, points to the middle classes being centred in that area of the town. In contrast, North Street (formerly North End or Woburn Street) was for those lower down the social and economic scale. Historic maps indicate a clear distinction between the size and nature of the buildings along North Street compared with those in the High Street, Church Square, etc. Buildings on North Street are more modest and similar in construction with less extensive yards.

The first Almshouses (HER 4653), originally built in 1630 and rebuilt in the 18th century, the majority of the town houses (poorer dwellings) and the original Workhouse (HER 8099) (in Baker Street) were all sited along or just off North Street. The Almshouses they are immediately to the east of the development site. The market and shops also did not tend to extend into North Street, and only a few inns with earlier origins (18th century) can be found along North Street, for instance the *Wheatsheaf* (HER 4654) immediately east of the development, the *Black Horse* (HER 4648), and the *Crown* (HER 4716) (BCC 1996).

The 1819 Bevan's map of Leighton Buzzard shows the development site as *Town Land*. By 1880 the OS map and town plan of the same date depict a number of rectangular buildings at the northern end of the site: one of these survives today but the rest were demolished by the mid 20th century, not appearing on the 1937 OS map. The 1880 and 1900 OS maps label one of these buildings as *Fire Engine Station*. On the 1880 maps the remainder of the site was open land, as it is today.

4 Results

4.1 General

Where present across the site, the topsoil observed within the trenches comprised mid brown grey silty loam, which overlay mid brown grey silty subsoil, which contained occasional small stones. The natural subsoil across the site comprised brown-orange or red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions.

Detailed information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figs. 3, 4 & 6: Plates 1-4)

Located in the south western corner of the site and aligned NNE – SSW, Trench 1 measured 10m by 2m, and had a maximum depth of 0.7m. Located below *c.*0.3m of topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) was a *c.*0.35m thick layer of mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions, which may represent a buried subsoil (103). Below this was the natural soil (104).

Cut into (104) was north-south aligned ditch [105]. This ditch was filled by a mid brown loose sandy silt, with some small stones (106). Modern pottery, glass, brick and tile were recovered from within (106).

4.3 Trench 2 (Figs. 3, 4 & 6: Plates 4-7)

Trench 2 was located in the southern part of the site, and measured 10m by 2m, with a maximum depth of 1.1m, and aligned WNW – ESE. The stratigraphy in the trench comprised *c.*0.4m of topsoil (200) and subsoil (201), which overlay a sandy layer (202) similar to (103). Below this was the natural soil (203).

Within this trench was a ditch [204], the primary fill of which comprised mid green/grey brown silt (205), overlain by mid grey brown sandy silt (206), containing modern pottery, brick, tile and clay pipe stems. This context was cut by feature [207], a possible pit. This feature was mainly filled with mid brown sandy silt, which contained post medieval pottery and glass (209), and mid-dark brown sandy silt which did not contain any finds (208), and may have represented possible slumping.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figs. 3, 4 & 6: Plates 8-10)

Aligned north east – south west, this trench was located close to the centre of the development site, and measured 10m by 2m, with a maximum depth of *c.*0.8-0.9m. Topsoil (300) and subsoil (301) were present to a depth of *c.*0.4m, below which was a sandy layer (302) *c.*0.5m deep, similar to (103) and (202). Below this was the natural soil (307). A modern pipe trench was located within Trench 3.

Cut through (302) and into (307) was a square cut pit [304], filled by soft, dark brown silty sand, from which post medieval pottery and glass was recovered (303). Also located within the trench was a narrow gully [306], filled by firm light brown orange

silty sand (305) which contained one piece of flint debitage, two pieces of corroded iron, and one fragment of medieval pottery.

4.5 **Trench 4** (Figs. 3, 4 & 7: Plates 11-14)

This trench was located in the centre of the southern part of the site, and was aligned approximately north-south. It measured 10m by 2m, and had a maximum depth of c.0.9m. Topsoil (400), subsoil (401) and a buried subsoil similar to that noted in other trenches (402) made up the first 0.5m of the trench stratigraphy.

Three features were identified within the trench. At the south eastern end a flat bottomed ditch [405] was partially exposed. This ditch was filled with loose orange brown silty sand (406), which included fragments of Modern pottery, brick and tile.

Located towards the northern end of the trench, and aligned approximately east-west was another flat bottomed ditch [403]. This was filled with mid orange brown loose silty sand (404) and contained Modern material. Cut into the fill of the ditch, and only visible in section, was a small pit [407]. This feature was filled with bands of mid brown orange sand and mid grey purple sand (408). No finds were recovered from within the pit.

4.6 **Trench 5** (Fig. 3: Plates 15-16)

Trench 5 was located in the south western corner of the site, and was orientated east-west. The trench measured 10m by 2m, and had a maximum depth of c.1m. The topsoil (500) was c.0.15m deep, and overlay approximately the same depth of subsoil (501). Below this was 0.2m of buried subsoil (502), which overlay the natural soil (502).

No archaeological finds or features were observed within this trench.

4.7 **Trench 6** (Figs. 3, 5 & 7: Plates 17-19)

Trench 6 was located to the north east of Trench 5. It measured 10m by 2m, and had a maximum depth of 0.9m. Approximately 0.3m of topsoil (600) and subsoil (601) overlay 0.25m of made ground, which contained Modern building debris, pottery, glass and tile (602). Below this was buried subsoil (603), and natural soil (604).

Two concentrations of dumped stone, (605) and (606), were noted within the base of the trench. These were not excavated, but 20th century pottery was observed within them. The possible remains of a wall were recorded within the north western section of the trench (607), while a possible square cut pit was recorded within the north eastern section [608]. This feature was filled by mid brown silty sand, with lenses of greenish yellow sand, from which charcoal, mortar, tile and 20th century pottery were recovered (609).

4.8 **Trench 7** (Figs. 3, 5 & 7: Plates 20-22)

This trench was located towards the north western corner of the site. It measured 9.5m by 2.3m, and had a maximum depth of 1.1m. Below 0.15m of topsoil (700) was 0.25m of modern made ground (701), which overlay 0.05m of tarmac (702). Below

this was *c.*0.2m of mid grey brown subsoil (703), and a 0.5m thick layer similar to the buried subsoil observed in other trenches (704). A similar deposit was observed towards the northern end of the trench (708), within the section and the base of the trench.

Two flat bottomed ditches, [707] and [709], were observed within this trench. Both were filled with dark orange brown silty sand: there was no discernible difference between the primary fills of the two ditches (706) and (710). Post medieval material was recovered from both fills. Above this, covering both ditches, was a mixture of orange sandy natural and grey subsoil (705).

4.9 **Trench 8** (Figs. 3, 5 & 8: Plates 23-26)

Trench 8 was located to the east of Trench 7. It measured 7.4m by 2.3m, and had a maximum depth of *c.*0.9m. The stratigraphy of this trench comprised *c.*0.2m of made ground (800), over *c.*0.3m of dark brown silty sand with post medieval inclusions (801). Below this, at the eastern end of the trench, was a similar layer, with inclusions of limestone rubble, and one fragment of post medieval pottery (802). This layer was also the fill of feature [803], which was noted in plan as a possible ditch, but may represent a pit. Also noted in the trench section was a 0.2m thick layer of 'dirty' natural (805).

At the western end of the trench was an irregular feature, [807]. This square sided, flat bottomed pit was filled with damp dark brown silty sand which contained occasional fragments of brick and tile (806).

4.10 **Trench 9** (Fig. 3: Plates 27-29)

Trench 9 was located directly to the south of the extant building. It measured 10m by 2m, and had a maximum depth of 0.75m. The stratigraphy of the trench was made up of topsoil (900), subsoil (901), the buried subsoil (902) and the natural soil (903). A modern service trench was observed cut into (903). Located at the eastern end of the trench were the remains of a 0.35m wide modern wall (904).

4.11 **Trench 10** (Fig. 3: Plate 30)

Trench 10 was not completed (section 2.4, above).

4.12 **Trench 11** (Figs. 3, 5 & 8: Plates 31-33)

This trench was located to the west of the extant building. It measured 10m by 2m, and had a maximum depth of 0.95m. In this trench, topsoil (1100) overlay *c.*0.5m of made ground (1101). Below this, at the north eastern end of the trench, was another layer of made ground (1106) and the buried subsoil observed in other trenches (1102), overlying the natural (1103).

A modern circular pit [1104] was recorded against the eastern side of the trench. The fill of this pit comprised mid brown orange loose sand, with inclusions of modern building rubble and 20th century pottery (1106). This feature was not excavated.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south south west, 2x 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 1, section, looking west, 2x 1m scale



Plate 3: Trench 1, ditch [104], looking north, 1m scale



Plate 4: Trench 2, looking east, 2x 1m scale



Plate 5: Trench 2, section, looking north, 2x 1m scale



Plate 6: Trench 2, [204] & [207], looking north, 2x 1m scale



Plate 7: Trench 2, [204], looking south south west, 1m scale



Plate 8: Trench 3, looking north west, 2x 1m scale



Plate 9: Trench 3, section and pit [304], looking north east, 2x 1m scale



Plate 10: Trench 3, gully [306], looking east north east, 0.2m scale



Plate 11: Trench 4, looking south, 2x 1m scale



Plate 12: Trench 4, section, looking east, 2x 1m scale



Plate 13: Trench 4, ditch [403], looking east, 2x 1m scale



Plate 14: Trench 4, ditch [405], looking north, 2x 1m scale



Plate 15: Trench 5, looking east, 2x 1m scale



Plate 16: Trench 5, section, looking north, 2x 1m scale



Plate 17: Trench 6, looking north, 2x 1m scale



Plate 18: Trench 6, stone concentration (606) and wall (607), looking north, 1m scale



Plate 19: Trench 6, pit(?) [608], looking west,
2x 1m nail



Plate 21: Trench 7, section, looking west, 2x 1m
scale



Plate 20: Trench 7, looking north, 2x 1m scale



Plate 22: Trench 7, ditches [707] & [709],
looking north west, 2x 1m scale



Plate 23: Trench 8, looking west, 2x 1m scale



Plate 24: Trench 8, section, looking north, 2x
1m scale



Plate 25: Trench 8, pit [803], looking north, 2x 1m scale



Plate 26: Trench 8, pit [807], looking west, 0.2m scale



Plate 27: Trench 9, looking west, 2x 1m scale



Plate 28: Trench 9, section, looking north, 2x 1m scale



Plate 29: Trench 9, wall (904), looking south, 1m scale



Plate 30: Trench 10, looking east, 2x 1m scale



Plate 31: Trench 11, looking north east, 2x 1m scale



Plate 32: Trench 11, section, looking south east, 2x 1m scale



Plate 33: Trench 11, pit [1104], looking south east, 2x 1m scale

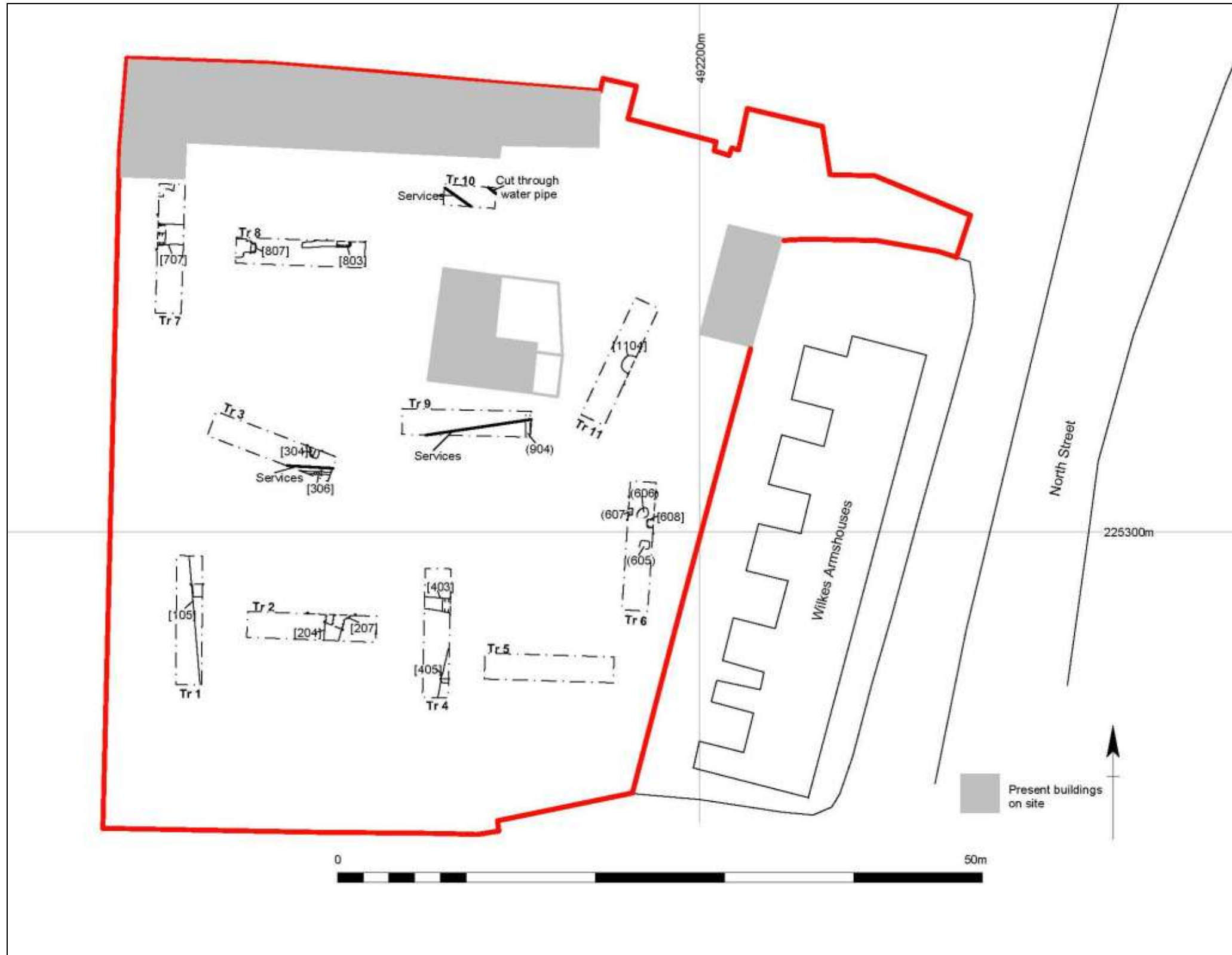


Figure 3: Overall Trench Plan (scale as shown)

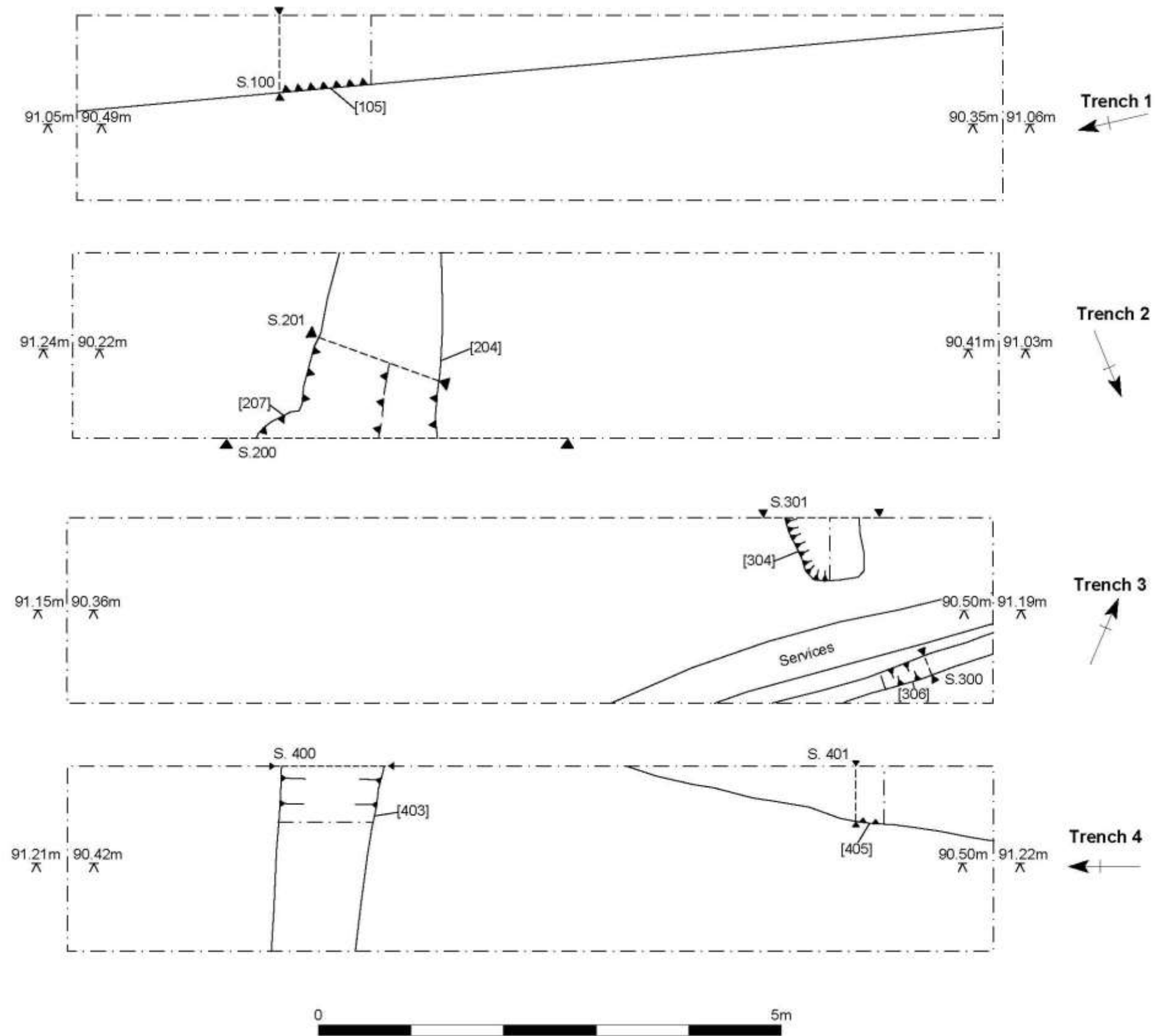


Figure 4: Trench Plans 1-4 (scale as shown)

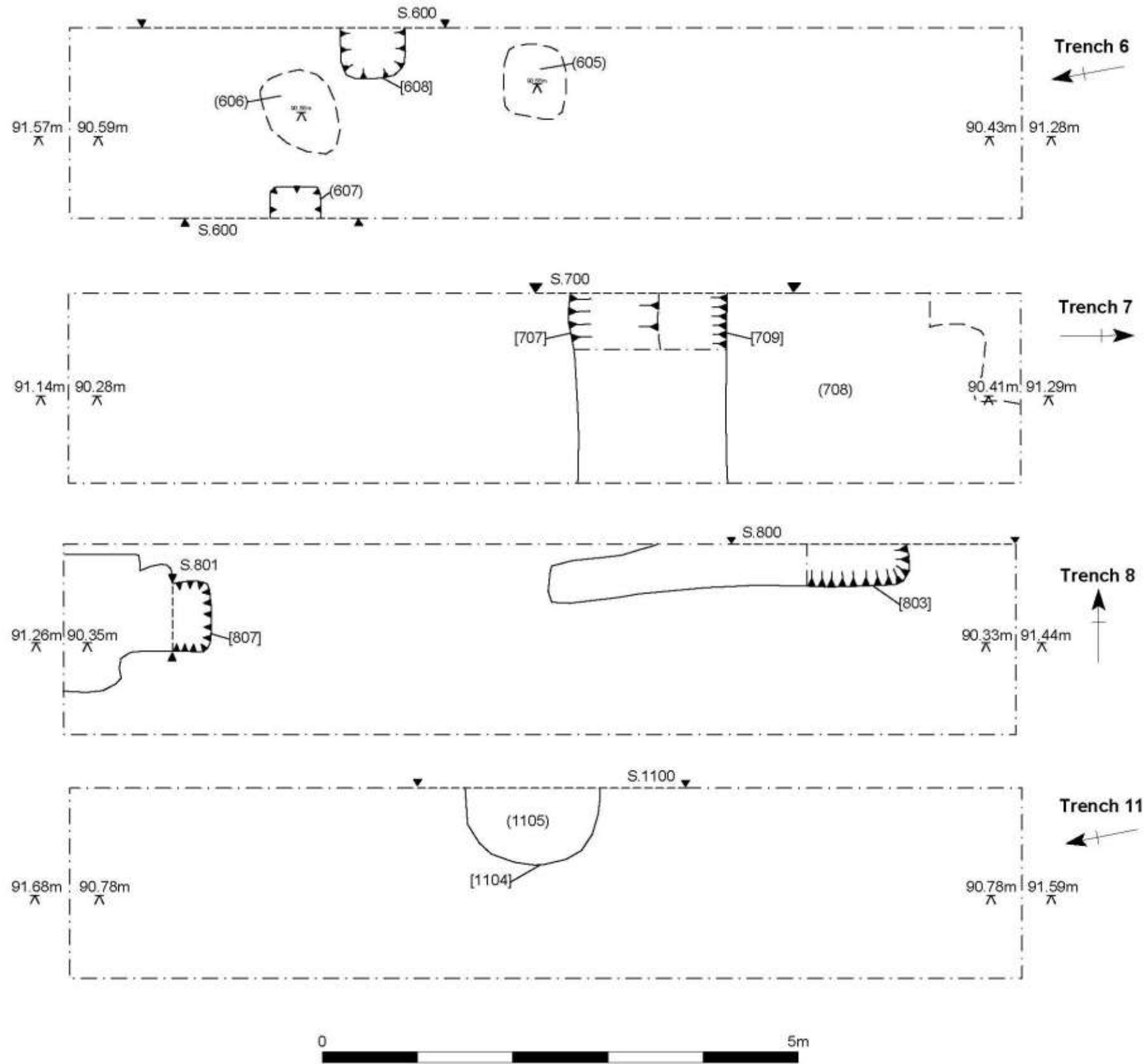


Figure 5: Trench Plans 6-8 and 11 (scale as shown)

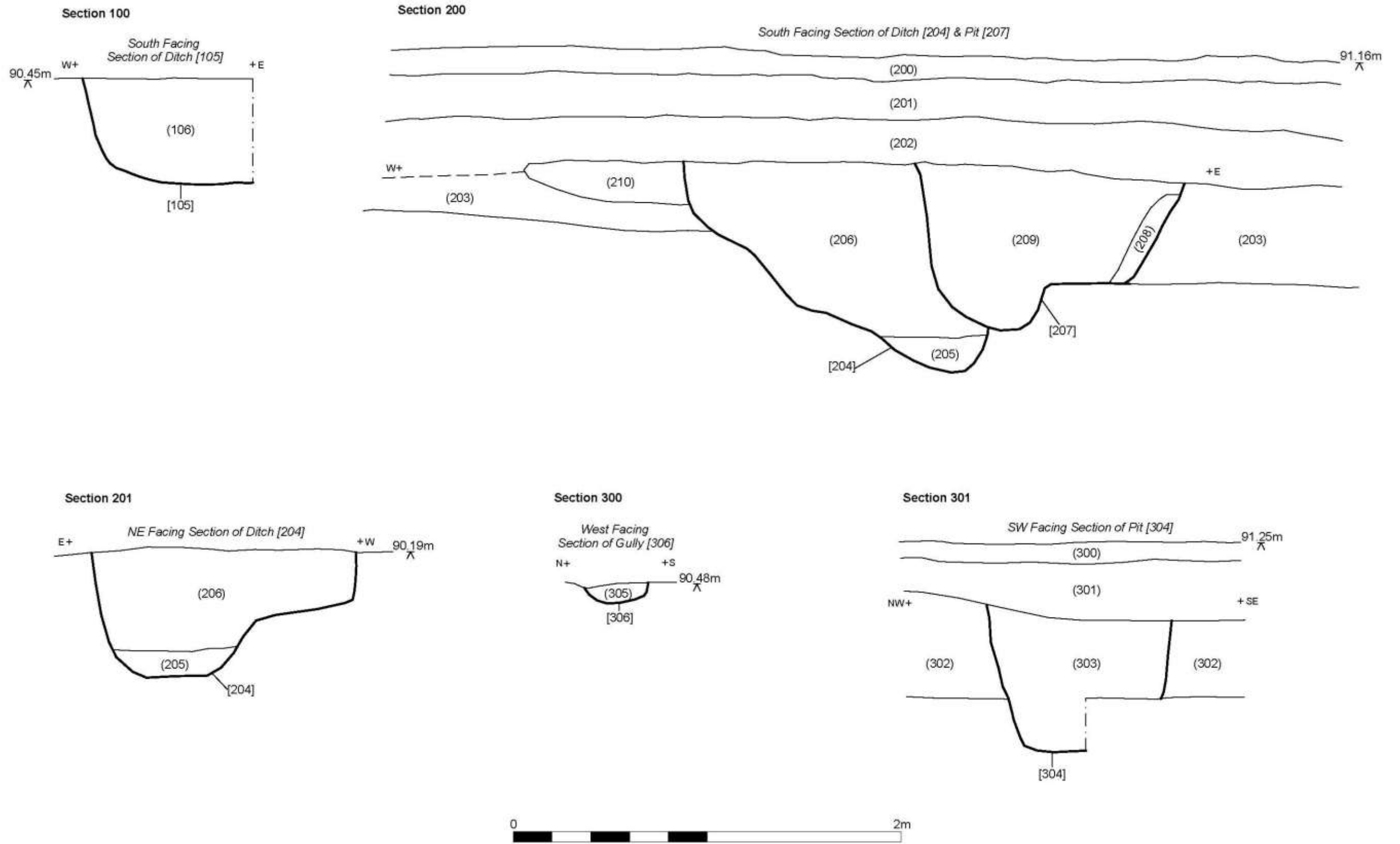


Figure 6: Sections, Trenches 1-3 (scale as shown)

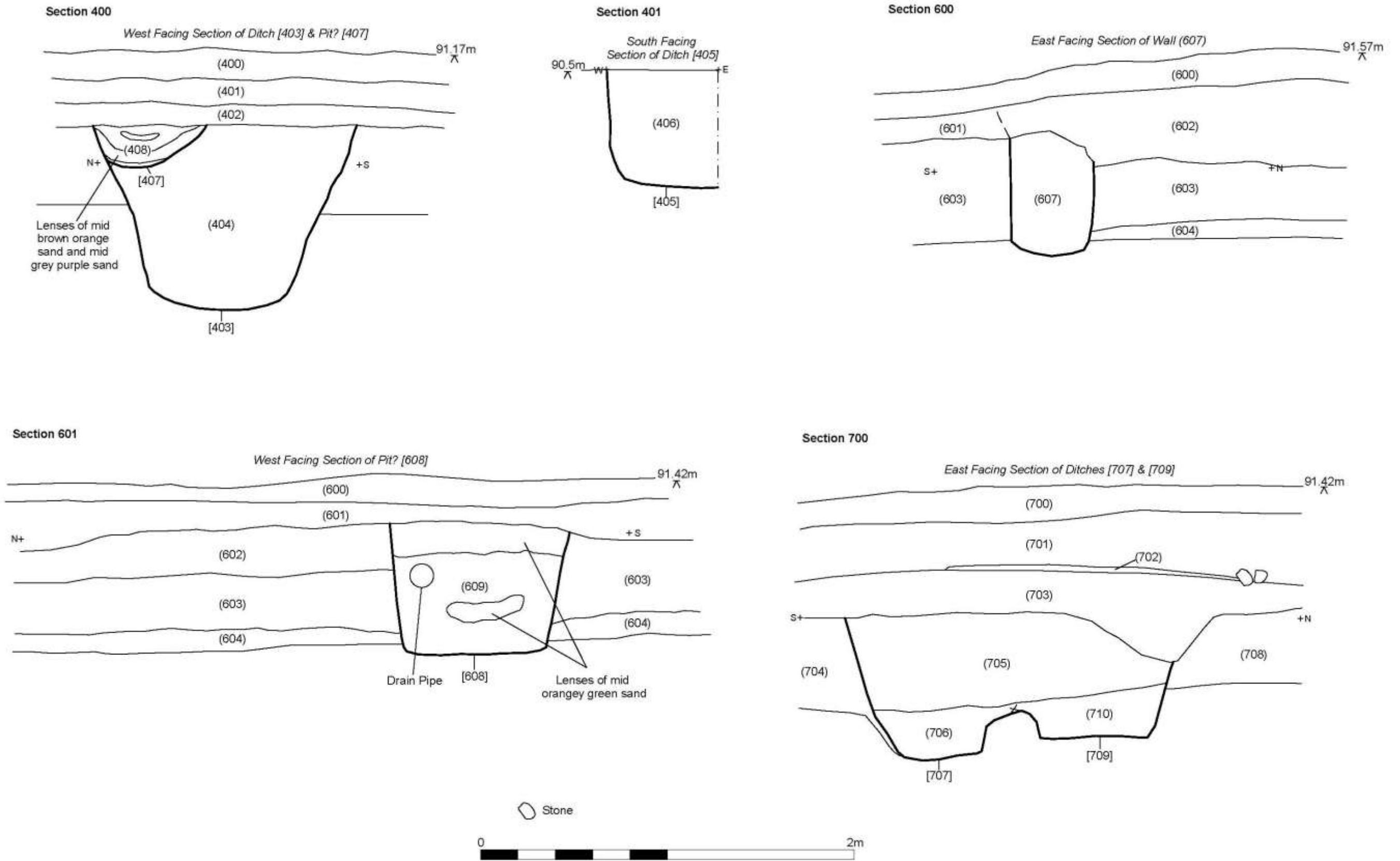


Figure 7: Sections, Trenches 4-7 (scale as shown)

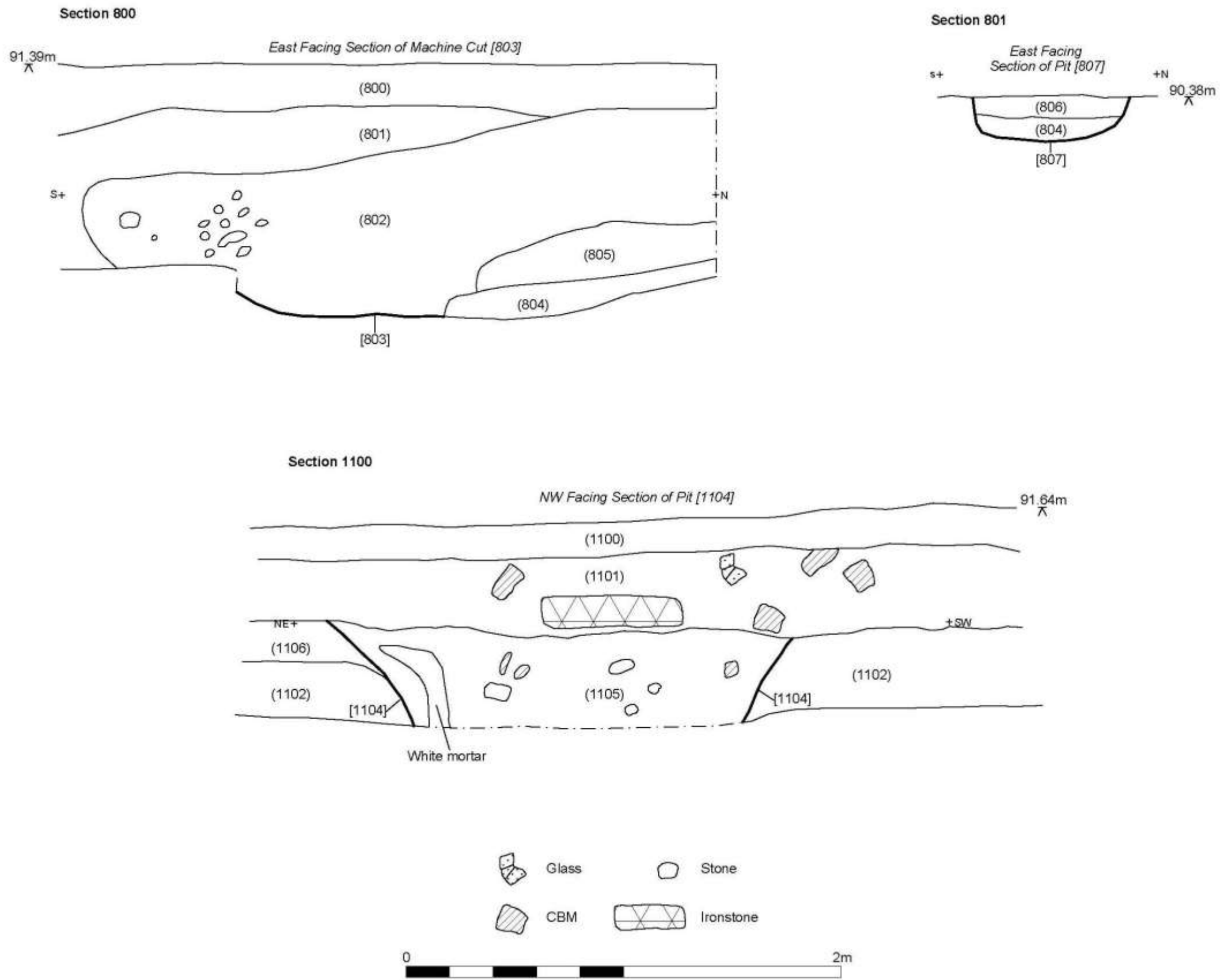


Figure 8: Sections, Trenches 8 and 11 (scale as shown)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The development site is located on the periphery of the early focus of settlement in Leighton Buzzard, and was thought to have the potential to reveal evidence about the early development of the town.
- 5.2 The First Edition OS map, mentioned in section 3.6 above, shows a number of outbuildings in the north eastern corner of the site, and along the northern boundary. The buildings along the northern boundary are still standing, but those in the north eastern part of the site have been demolished. Trenches 6, 9 and 11 were located within this area, and modern features were recorded in all three trenches. These features are likely to be related to these buildings.
- 5.3 Trenches 1, 2 and 4 were located at the southern end of the site, and revealed a series of post medieval ditches. Further examination of the 1880 Leighton Buzzard Town Plan mentioned in section 3.6, above, revealed an 'H' shaped series of paths across the southern part of the site. These paths are in a similar location to ditches [105], [403] and [405], and could explain their presence. Ditch [204] does not appear to tie in with the cartographic evidence. However, the finds recovered from this feature suggest it may be contemporary with the other ditches.
- 5.4 Trenches 7 and 8 were located in the north eastern corner of the development site. Cartographic evidence suggests that this area may have been a yard during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which could explain the disturbed nature of the ground in this part of the site. The assemblage of finds recovered from both features in Trench 7 suggests they are contemporary with the ditches in Trenches 1, 2 and 4, but their function remains unknown. The same can be said of the features recorded in Trench 8. Both features were cut from below the subsoil, suggesting relatively modern dates for both.
- 5.5 Perhaps the most archaeologically significant feature uncovered on the site is the small gully [306] recorded in Trench 3. One small piece of medieval pottery was recovered from this feature. It is impossible to suggest the function of this gully, but the presence of this small amount of medieval activity on the site seems to confirm the belief that the site was on the periphery of the early settlement of Leighton Buzzard.
- 5.6 In conclusion, the results of the evaluation suggest that the development site was left largely undeveloped until the construction of the current house and the associated outbuildings, and that many of the archaeological features recorded on the site can be attributed to this period. The medieval gully recorded in Trench 3, close to the centre of the site, is of unknown function, but confirms that the site was close to the medieval centre of the town.
- 5.7 *Confidence Rating*
The evaluation as carried out in good conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. As a result, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the evaluation.

6. Heritage Asset Assessment

6.1 *Heritage Assets and their Significance*

The development site, and the structures located within it are unlikely to be considered a heritage asset, and are likely to have a low significance.

Trenches 6, 9 and 11 contained modern features, and were in an area known to have previously contained modern buildings. The significance of this area is therefore thought to be low. The same can be said of the north eastern corner of the site, where Trenches 7 and 8 were located.

The suggestion that the features recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 bore some correlation to features shown on the 1880 Leighton Buzzard Town Plan implies that this area of the site is of moderate significance.

Trench 3 contained a potentially medieval gully. Given the proximity of the site to the early core of settlement of Leighton Buzzard, this could be seen as a significant discovery. However, as it is only one small feature, this area is still considered to have only a low significance.

6.2 *Impact of the Proposed Development*

The evaluation was carried out to inform planning proposals for the site, and the details of the development (i.e. footing trench depths, drainage locations) are not available at this time. The available proposed development plan was used to target the trenches on the potential locations of new buildings. Although the evaluation is thought to have revealed some areas of moderate significance, the overall likely impact of the development upon the site is judged to be low.

6.3 *Archaeology in the Planning Process*

Any decisions regarding the level and nature of any further archaeological mitigation will be made by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

7. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Bob Harrington Designs Ltd*. The writer is grateful to Bob Harrington for his assistance. The project was monitored by Martin Oake of the *Central Bedfordshire Archaeologists* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Nigel Herbert for plant hire and operation.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield Hill MSc and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The graphics were prepared by Carina Summerfield Hill. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and Carina Summerfield Hill and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

8. Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. Original specialist reports and supporting information
12. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

8.2 The archive will be deposited with Luton Museum.

9. References


Standards & Specifications


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- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Williams, A & Martin, G.H 2003 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation* Penguin Classics, 562-563.


Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables


Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	10m	Width	2m	Depth	0.7m
	Levels					
	Trench top N		91.05m OD			
	Trench base N		90.49m OD			
	Trench top S		91.06m OD			
	Trench base S		90.35m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	N	SP 92160 25298		S	SP 92160 25288	
	Orientation			N-S		
Reason for Trench			Trench within footprint of proposed development			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
100	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2000	140	-	
101	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	2000	160	140	
103	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2000	350	300	
105 106	Cut Fill	Flat based linear feature, filled by loose mid brown sandy silt with inclusions of 20 th century pottery, glass and CBM – Modern ditch	1000	80	650	
104	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2000	-	650-700	


Trench 2						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	10m	Width	2m	Depth	1.1m
	Levels					
	Trench top E		91.24m OD			
	Trench base E		90.22m OD			
	Trench top W		91.03m OD			
	Trench base W		90.41m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	E	SP 92174 25292		W	SP 92164 25292	
	Orientation			E-W		
Reason for Trench			Trench within footprint of proposed development			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
200	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2000	150	-	
201	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	2000	250	150	
202	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2000	400	400	
203	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2000	200	800	
204 205 206	Cut Fill Fill	Flat based linear feature filled by loose mid green/grey brown loose silt with small stones (primary fill) and mid grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional stones and charcoal, 20 th century pottery, CBM and clay pipe stems (secondary fill) – Modern ditch.	1270	850	600	
207 208 209	Cut Fill Fill	Irregularly based feature filled by mid-dark brown loose sandy silt (primary fill) and mid brown loose sandy silt with post medieval pottery & glass inclusions(secondary fill) – Post medieval pit.	1200	800	600	
210	Deposit	Mid grey brown loose sandy silt with occasional stones and charcoal	800	200	600	


Trench 3						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	10m	Width	2m	Depth	0.8m
	Levels					
	Trench top NW			91.15m OD		
	Trench base NW			90.36m OD		
	Trench top SE			91.19m OD		
	Trench base SE			90.50m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NW	SP 92162 25308		SE	SP 92171 25304	
	Orientation			NW-SE		
Reason for Trench			Trench within footprint of proposed development			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
300	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2000	100	-	
301	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	2000	300	100	
302	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2000	550	400	
303 304	Fill Cut	Dark brown soft silty sand with post medieval inclusions within straight sided feature – Post medieval pit	900	700	400	
305 306	Fill Cut	Light orange brown firm silty sand with 1 sherd medieval pottery, 2 pieces of iron and 1 piece of flint within round bottomed gully – Medieval gully	200	100	800	
307	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2000	-	800	


Trench 4							
		Max Dimensions (m)					
		Length	10m	Width	2m	Depth	0.9m
		Levels					
		Trench top N		91.21m OD			
		Trench base N		90.42m OD			
		Trench top S		91.22m OD			
		Trench base S		90.50m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		N	SP 92179 25297	S	SP 92179 25287		
		Orientation		N-S			
Reason for Trench		Trench within footprint of proposed development					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)		
400	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2000	150	-		
401	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	2000	150	150		
402	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2000	200	350		
403	Cut	Mid orange brown loose silty sand containing 20 th century material within linear, flat based feature – Modern ditch	1300	950	500		
404	Fill						
405	Cut	Mid orange brown loose silty sand containing 20 th century material within linear, flat based feature – Modern ditch	600	600	500		
406	Fill						
407	Cut	Round bottomed feature within [403], filled by series of bands of mid brown orange sand and mid grey purple sand – Modern pit	600	200	500		
408	Fill						
409	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2000	400	500		


Trench 5							
		Max Dimensions (m)					
		Length	10m	Width	2m	Depth	1m
		Levels					
		Trench top E		91.29m OD			
		Trench base E		90.44m OD			
		Trench top W		91.29m OD			
		Trench base W		90.42m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		E	SP 92193 25289		W	92183 25289	
		Orientation			E-W		
Reason for Trench			Trench within footprint of proposed development				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)		
500	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2000	150	-		
501	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	2000	150	150		
502	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2000	200	300		
503	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2000	500	500		


Trench 6								
			Max Dimensions (m)					
			Length	10m	Width	2m	Depth	0.9m
			Levels					
			Trench top N		91.57m OD			
			Trench base N		90.59m OD			
			Trench top S		91.28m OD			
			Trench base S		90.43m OD			
			NGR Co-ordinates					
			N	SP 92195 25303		S	SP 92194 25293	
			Orientation			N-S		
Reason for Trench			Trench within footprint of proposed development					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)			
600	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2000	150	-			
601	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	2000	140	150			
602	Layer	Building debris containing 20 th century pottery, glass, tile, bricks and mortar fragments – Made Ground	2000	250	190			
603	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2000	400	440			
604	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2000	60	840			
605	Feature	Concentration of medium sub-angular ironstone – Modern debris	650	-	840			
606	Feature	Concentration of medium sub-angular ironstone – Modern debris	750	-	840			
607	Feature	Concentration of medium sub-angular ironstone – Modern debris	550	-	840			
608 609	Cut Fill	Square sided, flat bottomed feature, filled by mid brown silty sand with lenses of mid greenish yellow sand, with charcoal flecks, mortar fragments, tile and ironstone – Modern pit	900	700	230			

Trench 7											
						Max Dimensions (m)					
						Length	9.5m	Width	2.3m	Depth	1.1m
						Levels					
						Trench top N			91.29m OD		
						Trench base N			90.41m OD		
						Trench top S			91.14m OD		
						Trench base S			90.28m OD		
						NGR Co-ordinates					
						N	SP 92159 25326		S	SP 92158 25316	
						Orientation			N-S		
Reason for Trench			Trench within footprint of proposed development								
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)						
700	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2300	150	-						
701	Layer	Building debris containing 20 th century pottery, glass, tile, bricks and mortar fragments – Made Ground	2300	250	150						
702	Layer	Tarmac	2300	50	400						
703	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	2300	200	450						
704	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2300	500	650						
705	Fill	Flat bottomed linear feature filled by orange brown silty sand with occasional tile, charcoal and CBM inclusions (secondary fill) and dark orange brown silty sand with occasional tile, charcoal and CBM inclusions (primary fill) – Post medieval ditch	1800	500	700						
706	Fill		800	260	1200						
707	Cut		1800	760	1400						
708	Deposit	Dark orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2300	360	700						
709	Cut	Flat bottomed linear feature filled by dark orange brown silty sand with occasional tile, charcoal and CBM inclusions – Post medieval ditch	800	220	1100						
710	Fill										
711	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2300	-	1100						

Trench 8						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	7.4m	Width	2.3m	Depth	0.9m
	Levels					
	Trench top E		91.44m OD			
	Trench base E		90.33m OD			
	Trench top W		91.26m OD			
	Trench base W		90.35m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	E	SP 92174 25321		W	SP 92164 25308	
	Orientation			E-W		
Reason for Trench			Trench within footprint of proposed development			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
800	Layer	Building debris containing 20 th century pottery, glass, tile, bricks and mortar fragments – Made Ground	2300	200	-	
801	Layer	Dark brown silty sand with post medieval inclusions - Subsoil	2300	300	200	
802 803	Fill Cut	Flat bottomed, straight sided feature filled by dark brown silty sand with limestone rubble and post medieval inclusions – Post medieval ?machine cut pit	400	700	500	
804	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2300	150	1000	
805	Deposit	Dark brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions – 'Dirty' natural	2300	250	700	
806 807	Fill Cut	Square sided, flat bottomed, irregular feature filled by damp dark brown silty sand with rare inclusions of CBM – Post medieval pit.	1450	100	700	

Trench 9							
		Max Dimensions (m)					
		Length	10m	Width	2m	Depth	0.75m
		Levels					
		Trench top E		91.54m OD			
		Trench base E		90.78m OD			
		Trench top W		91.30m OD			
		Trench base W		90.51m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		E	SP 92186 25308	W	SP 92176 25308		
		Orientation		E-W			
Reason for Trench		Trench within footprint of proposed development					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)		
900	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2000	150	-		
901	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	2000	160	150		
902	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2000	250	310		
903	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2000	190	560		
904	Wall	Concentration of loose ironstone and white lime mortar – Post medieval wall	350	600	310		

Trench 10							
		Max Dimensions (m)					
		Length	4m	Width	1.6m	Depth	0.77m
		Levels					
		Trench top E		m OD			
		Trench base E		m OD			
		Trench top W		m OD			
		Trench base W		m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		E	SP 92184 25325	W	SP 92180 25326		
		Orientation		E-W			
Reason for Trench		Trench within footprint of proposed development					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)		
1000	Layer	Tarmac	1600	-	-		
1001	Layer	Mid brown grey silt with occasional inclusions of small stones - Subsoil	1600	-	-		

Trench 11						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	10m	Width	2m	Depth	0.95m
	Levels					
	Trench top NE		91.68m OD			
	Trench base NE		90.78m OD			
	Trench top SW		90.78m OD			
	Trench base SW		91.59m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NE	SP 92195 25317		SW	SP 92191 25308	
	Orientation			NE=SW		
Reason for Trench			Trench within footprint of proposed development			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
1100	Layer	Mid brown grey silty loam - Topsoil	2000	150	-	
1101	Layer	Building debris containing 20 th century pottery, glass, tile, bricks and mortar fragments – Made Ground	2000	500	150	
1102	Layer	Mid orange brown grey loose sandy silt with rare stone inclusions – Buried subsoil	2000	250	650	
1103	Layer	Brown-orange/red-orange loose sand, with occasional small stone inclusions - Natural	2000	250	900	
1104 1105	Cut Fill	Circular feature, base unknown, filled by mid brown orange sand mottled with mid brown grey silty sand, with frequent 20 th century pottery, brick, tile, mortar and glass inclusions – Modern pit	1400	-	500	
1106	Layer	Mid brown orange loose sand – Made ground	2000	200	450	

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Land r/o Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, Leighton Buzzard			SITE NO/CODE: 1427/LBN
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	√	√	Trench 1, looking SW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
2	√	√	Trench 1, stratigraphy, looking NW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
3		√	Trench 1, stratigraphy, looking NW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
4	√	√	Trench 1, Ditch [105], looking N (<i>scale 1m</i>)
5		√	Trench 1, Ditch [105], looking N (<i>scale 1m</i>)
6	√	√	Trench 2, looking E (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
7	√	√	Trench 2, stratigraphy, looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
8		√	Trench 2, stratigraphy, looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
9	√	√	Trench 2, Ditch [204] & Pit [207], looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
10		√	Trench 2, Ditch [204] & Pit [207], looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
11	√	√	Trench 2, Ditch [204], looking SW (<i>scale 1m</i>)
12		√	Trench 2, Ditch [204], looking SW (<i>scale 1m</i>)
13	√	√	Trench 4, looking S (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
14	√	√	Trench 4, stratigraphy, looking E (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
15		√	Trench 4, stratigraphy, looking E (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
16	√	√	Trench 4, Ditch [403], looking E (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
17		√	Trench 4, Ditch [403], looking E (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
18	√	√	Trench 7, looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
19	√	√	Trench 7, stratigraphy, looking W (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
20	√	√	Trench 4, Ditch [405], looking N (<i>scale 200mm</i>)
21		√	Trench 4, Ditch [405], looking N (<i>scale 200mm</i>)
22	√	√	Trench 5, looking E (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
23	√	√	Trench 5, stratigraphy, looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
24		√	Trench 5, stratigraphy, looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
25	√	√	Trench 6, looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
26	√	√	Trench 6, stone concentration (605), looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
27		√	Trench 6, stone concentration (605), looking N (<i>scale 1m</i>)
28	√	√	Trench 6, stone concentration (606) and wall (607), looking N (<i>scale 1m</i>)
29		√	Trench 6, stone concentration (606) and wall (607), looking N (<i>scale 1m</i>)
30	√	√	Trench 6, stratigraphy, looking W (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
31		√	Trench 6, stratigraphy, looking W (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
32	√	√	Trench 6, wall (607) and stone concentration (606), looking W (<i>scale 1m</i>)
33		√	Trench 6, wall (607) and stone concentration (606), looking W (<i>scale 1m</i>)
34	√	√	Trench 7, Ditches [707] & [709], looking W (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
35		√	Trench 7, Ditches [707] & [709], looking NW (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
36	√	√	Trench 6, Pit? [608], looking E (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
37		√	Trench 6, Pit? [608], looking E (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
38	√	√	Trench 11, looking NE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
39	√	√	Trench 11, stratigraphy NE end of trench, looking SE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
40		√	Trench 11, stratigraphy, NE end of trench, looking SE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
41	√	√	Trench 11, stratigraphy, SW end of trench, looking SE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
42		√	Trench 11, stratigraphy, SW end of trench, looking SE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
43	√	√	Trench 8, looking W (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
44	√	√	Trench 8, stratigraphy, looking N (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
45	√	√	Trench 11, Pit [1104], looking SE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)
46		√	Trench 11, Pit [1104], looking SE (<i>scale 2×1m</i>)

SITE NAME: Land r/o Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, Leighton Buzzard			SITE NO/CODE: 1427/LBN
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
47	√	√	Trench 8, Pit [803], looking N (scale 2×1m)
48	√	√	Trench 9, looking W (scale 2×1m)
49	√	√	Trench 9, stratigraphy, looking N (scale 2×1m)
50		√	Trench 9, stratigraphy, looking N (scale 2×1m)
51	√	√	Trench 8, Pit [807], looking W (scale 200mm)
52	√	√	Trench 3, looking W (scale 2×1m)
53	√	√	Trench 9, Wall (904), looking N (scale 1m)
54		√	Trench 9, Wall (904), looking N (scale 1m)
55	√	√	Trench 9, Wall (904), looking S (scale 1m)
56		√	Trench 9, Wall (904), looking S (scale 1m)
57	√	√	Trench 3, Gully [306], looking SE (scale 200mm)
58	√	√	Trench 3, Pit [304], looking NW (scale 2×1m)
59	√	√	Trench 10, partially excavated, looking E, (scale 2×1m)
60	√	√	Trench 10, partially excavated, stratigraphy, looking S (scale 2×1m)
61		√	Trench 10, partially excavated, stratigraphy, looking S (scale 2×1m)
62		√	General evaluation shot
63		√	General evaluation shot
64		√	General evaluation shot
65		√	General evaluation shot
66		√	General evaluation shot
67		√	General evaluation shot
68		√	General evaluation shot
69		√	General evaluation shot
70		√	General evaluation shot
71		√	General evaluation shot
72		√	General working shot

Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		A. Bone		Flint		Other Finds		
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	Type	(no)	(g)
106	3	16			1	1	Glass CBM Cloth	1 3 1	<1 74 2
202	2	3							
206	4	22					Clay pipe CBM Slate	4 8 1	8 94 <1
209	2	59							
305	1	4	2	2	1	11	Iron nails	3	10
404	2	15					CBM	1	19
406	1	9					CBM	1	6
602 (sample of finds)	5	28					Glass Iron nail	3 1	16 15
609	1	2					CBM	3	43
706							CBM Clay pipe Glass	7 1 1	68 <1 <1
710			1	<1			CBM	3	79
802	1	<0					CBM Glass	5 2	263 5
1101 (sample of finds)	3	38					Slate Glass CBM	3 4 3	67 142 5266
1105	4	29					Glass Slate CBM	2 1 3	3 22 294

Note: The only find to be retained was a single sherd of medieval pottery deriving from (305)

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land r/o Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, Leighton Buzzard	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-103085
Short Description:	During July 2011, an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of the Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire was carried out, to inform proposals for the re-development of the site. Eleven trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed buildings. A variety of post medieval and modern features were found across the site, largely relating to previously demolished outbuildings. Three post medieval ditches recorded in the south western part of the site show some correlation to features recorded on the 1880 Leighton Buzzard Town Plan. A shallow gully containing a single sherd of medieval pottery was recorded close to the centre of the site. The results of the evaluation support the theory that the site was located on the periphery of the early settlement at Leighton Buzzard.		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	-
Current land use:	Derelict land	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	1 sherd medieval pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9215 2530
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Land r/o Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, Leighton Buzzard		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	2700sqm	Height OD: (metres)	90
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	H.Firth	Project design originator:	C.Summerfield-Hill & D.Fell
Project Manager:	K.Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	K.Semmelmann
Sponsor / funding body:	Bob Harrington Design		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	25/07/2011	End date:	28/07/2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Luton Museum	One sherd of medieval pottery	
Paper:		Archive box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation of land r/o Wilkes Almshouses, North Street, Leighton Buzzard		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1427/LBN/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
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