

Ashton St Peter's Lower School  
Church Street  
Dunstable



**Archaeological Evaluation Report**



October 2006

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## Ashton St. Peter's Lower School Dunstable, Bedfordshire

NGR: TL 0186 2220

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*In September 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Ashton St. Peter's Lower School, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (NGR: TL 0186 2220) for Turley Associates Ltd., who are acting on behalf of Aldi Stores Ltd. The evaluation consisted of four trial trenches and revealed a number of pits and linear features containing Roman pottery of the early 1st to late 4th century AD and a residual sherd of Iron Age material. Two 4th century Roman coins were also recovered. The remains of a late post-medieval well were also revealed in one of the trenches.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between the 4th and the 8th of September 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Ashton St Peter's Lower School, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Turley Associates Ltd., who are acting on behalf of Aldi Stores Ltd. in respect of a planning application. The development site is situated at Dunstable, Bedfordshire and is 0.6 hectares in area.

1.1.2 This evaluation was carried out in line with the requirements set out in Bedfordshire County Council's *Brief for archaeological field evaluation of land to the rear of the Quadrant Centre, Dunstable, Bedfordshire* (BCC 2004) and a WSI (OA 2006) agreed by Lesley-Ann Mather, Archaeological Officer with Bedfordshire County Council. The requirement for field evaluation is in line with the Local Plan and PPG 16.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is at the foot of the Chilterns Chalk ridge at a height of *c* 140 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at NGR: TL 0186 2220.

1.2.2 The solid geology of the development site is Middle Chalk, although locally shallow deposits of clay are sometimes encountered overlying the chalk. The site was formerly in use as a school. This is currently undergoing demolition.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

#### *Brief History*

1.3.1 The development site is within the historic core of Dunstable. Settlement at Dunstable is centred on the junction of the Icknield Way, an ancient cross country route-way with prehistoric origins and Watling Street, the Roman road linking London to the north-west of the Province. A Roman small town (*Durocobravis*) grew up at the junction of these routes.

1.3.2 Unusually there does not seem to have been any Saxon settlement bridging the gap between Roman and medieval periods. During this period the site of the town seems

to have been deserted: certainly there is no evidence of any urban type settlement, although there is evidence of Saxon occupation in the surrounding area.

- 1.3.3 Henry I founded a new town at the same crossroads, created out of his Houghton Regis estate in 1119. A royal residence in was founded in Dunstable, which was regularly visited by the monarch until the time of Henry VIII (HER 4355). It has been suggested that the residence was located to the east of the present development area around Kingsbury Court and Old Palace Lodge. Excavations at Kingsbury Court did produce some medieval remains, although the excavator concluded that they did not belong to the royal residence (Warren, 1988).
- 1.3.4 On the south side of church Street is Dunstable Priory, also founded by Henry I (HER 131 and 132). Two human burials were recovered during works in Kingsway (HER 16165).

#### ***Previous archaeological investigations***

- 1.3.5 The trial trenches opened during the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust evaluation (HAT 2000) partially enter into the development area. One of the trenches contained Roman and medieval remains. Archaeological investigations undertaken during the building of the Quadrant Centre in the 1960s produced evidence of Roman occupation (HER 11270).
- 1.3.6 A first phase of archaeological evaluation on the site was carried out by OA in January 2004 (OA 2004). The evaluation produced evidence of a possible Roman pit and a significant period of activity from around the 11th-13th century with the scale and shape of the excavated features indicating domestic land use and possible quarrying.

#### **1.4 Evaluation Aims**

- 1.4.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving within the Study Area. Attention was to be given to remains of all periods.
- 1.4.2 To determine the environmental and ecofactual potential of the site.
- 1.4.3 The results of the investigation to be made available through reports lodged with the County HER and with the archive at the County Museum.

## **2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Scope of fieldwork**

- 2.1.1 The evaluation comprised four trenches that were excavated as detailed in the WSI and agreed with the County Archaeologist (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was 8.5 m long, 1.65 m wide and aligned approximately north-south. Trench 2 was 20 m x 1.65 m and was aligned approximately north-east/south-west. Trench 3 was 30 m x 1.65 m and was



aligned approximately east-west. Trench 4 was 8.5 m x 1.65 m wide and was aligned approximately north-west/south-east.

## 2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

2.2.1 No survey or geophysical work was carried out on the site prior to this evaluation. Trenches were laid out and CAT scanned before hard-standing was broken out with a mechanical breaker attached to a JCB. Trenches were excavated in spits using a toothless grading bucket, to either the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. The entire process occurred under continuous archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 Where appropriate, trenches were hand cleaned and revealed features sampled to determine their nature and where possible their extent. All the trenches and any archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 while sample sections of the trench sides and sections of excavated features were drawn at a scale of 1:10. The trenches, sections and features were photographed using both colour slide and black and white print film. Each archaeological context was fully recorded following procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

## 2.3 Finds and palaeo-environmental evidence

2.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

2.3.2 During the course of the evaluation no deposits were identified as being suitable for paleo-environmental sampling; no samples were collected for processing.

## 2.4 Presentation of results

2.4.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below: each trench is described individually. The finds recovered from the site are considered prior to final discussion and interpretation. A full context inventory, which details any recovered finds, is also included as Appendix 1.

## 3 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 3.1 Soils and ground conditions

3.1.1 The site is located on level ground. All the features within trenches appeared to be cut into the natural chalk. The layers overlying the natural appeared to be levelling or makeup layers. This suggests later activity on the site, which may have had a negative affect on the archaeological preservation of the site as a whole.

3.1.2 During the excavation of the four evaluation trenches a number of modern services were encountered. These were generally found to be located at a depth of less than 0.5 m from the ground surface but one in Trench 1 was uncovered at a depth of *c* 0.75 m. An electric cable found towards the northeast end of Trench 2 does not appear on any of the available service plans and was found to still be live.

### 3.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.2.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 contained a variety of pits and linear features containing pottery dating from the late Iron Age to late Roman period. Trench 4 contained a single feature, the remains of a post-medieval well, which may have been contemporary with the construction of the School building.
- 3.2.2 A similar sequence of layers, which overlay archaeological features and deposits, was seen in each of the trenches. This consisted of a series of levelling layers and a former ground surfaces. All of these layers were late post-medieval, the upper layers being Victorian.

## 4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 4.1 Description of deposits

#### *Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 5)*

- 4.1.1 This trench measured 8.5 m x 1.65 m and was aligned approximately north-south. The natural consisted of chalk bedrock (100) and was observed *c* 1 m below ground level. All the identified and recorded features cut this layer. A modern service trench was located at the northern end of this trench and prevented excavation the entire length of the trench to the chalk natural. In the rest of the trench a number of small pits and possible postholes were uncovered.
- 4.1.2 Cut 101 was 0.33 m in diameter and 0.07 m deep and contained a single mid-brown silty clay fill (102) containing post-medieval pottery. Pit 103 was 0.75 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep. This pit contained a single light brownish-grey silty clay fill (104) from which Romano-British pottery of the late 1st to early 2nd century AD was recovered. Cut 105 (Fig. 4) was 0.65 m diameter and 0.11 m deep and contained a single light brownish-grey silty clay fill (106) from which was recovered Romano-British pottery of mid-1st to late 4th century AD. Cut 107, a small pit 0.45 m diameter and 0.13 m deep, contained a single light brownish-grey silty clay fill (108), which contained no dating evidence.
- 4.1.3 All features and deposits were sealed by a mixed mid grey silty clay layer (110). This deposit appears to be a fairly mixed layer containing Victorian construction debris. This in turn was overlain by the current ground surface (109), which consisted of modern tarmac covering stone and brick rubble hardcore.

#### *Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 5)*

- 4.1.4 This trench measured 20 m x 1.65 m and was aligned approximately north-east/south-west. The chalk bedrock layer (215) was encountered at a depth of between 0.6 m and 1.25 m. Towards each end of this trench a baulk of material had to left due to the presence of modern services (including a live electric cable). A modern soak-away was also uncovered within this trench. It was sub-rectangular in shape, measuring approximately 2 m x 2.5 m, and was filled with broken brick, concrete and 'Thermolite' insulation blocks.

- 4.1.5 A total of five features were identified. Cut 205 (Fig. 4) was *c* 0.58 m diameter and 0.22 m deep and was interpreted as a large post-hole/small pit. It contained a single mid-dark grey sandy clay fill (206) from which Roman pottery of the early to late 2nd century AD was recovered. Post-hole/pit 207 was 0.35 m diameter and 0.1 m deep and contained a single mid grey sandy clay fill (208) from which was recovered ceramic building material (CBM) of early post-medieval date.
- 4.1.6 Cut 209 (Fig. 4), a sub-rectangular pit measuring 1.4 m x 1.6 m extended outside the trench limits and was filled by a mid grey sandy clay (210) which contained Roman pottery of the mid 1st to late 4th century AD. The terminus of a linear feature (211) was 0.92 m wide and 0.09 m deep and was filled by a light-mid grey sandy silt (212), which contained CBM of early post-medieval date. Cut 213 extended outside the trench limits and was 0.85 m wide and 0.19 m deep. This pit contained a single mid grey sandy clay fill (214) from which CBM of early post-medieval date was recovered.
- 4.1.7 All the archaeological features were sealed by a mid grey sandy silt layer (204). This was overlain by (203), a crushed chalk hardcore layer, which in turn was covered by former ground surface layer (202), and lastly tarmac over gravel. In the middle of the trench, layer 202 was covered by a turf covered topsoil layer (201), which formed a slightly raised area of the site.

### ***Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 and 5)***

- 4.1.8 This trench measured 30 m x 1.65 m and was aligned east-west. It was located just to the north of the school building and was the only trench where modern services were not encountered. The chalk bedrock natural (300) was observed at an average depth of 0.85 m. This layer was observed to undulate within the trench.
- 4.1.9 A sample section excavated through in cut 301 revealed it was 0.55 m wide and 0.07 m deep and contained a single light cream silty clay fill (302), from which Roman pottery of the late 1st to late 2nd century AD was recovered. Linear cut 303, that extended parallel to and was east of 301 was 0.55 m wide 1 m long and extended into the baulk. Feature 303 was excavated at its terminus and was 0.12 m deep. The sole fill, a light cream-grey silty clay (304) contained Roman pottery of the mid/late 2nd to late 4th century AD.
- 4.1.10 Pit 307 extended beyond the limits of the trench and probably consisted of several inter-cutting features, which could not be clearly distinguished. Where sample excavated, 307 was 0.8 m wide, 0.71 m deep and contained a single light brownish grey silty clay fill (308) from which late Iron Age pottery, and Roman pottery of the late 3rd to late 4th century AD was recovered. A copper-alloy Roman coin (SF1) dated *c* AD 332-3 was also recovered from this context. Pit 307 (Fig. 4) was truncated on its south-western edge by cut (305) by a pit 1.5 m in diameter and 0.19 m deep. The sole light grey silty clay fill of this cut (306) contained Roman pottery of mid 1st to late 4th centuries AD.

- 4.1.11 Another cut feature (311) extended into the trench baulk was 2.75 m diameter and 0.23 m deep. It contained a single light reddish grey silty clay fill (312) from which Roman pottery of the mid 1st to late 4th centuries AD was recovered. Ditch/gully 313 was orientated east-west and exceeded 5.1 m in length. Gully 313 (Fig. 4) was 0.09 m deep: no dating material was recovered from its sole light grey silty clay fill (314).
- 4.1.12 Cut (309 - Fig. 4) measured 8.5 m long east to west and in excess of 1.5 m wide north to south, extending beyond the limits of the trench. Where sample excavated, 309 was 0.1 m deep at its northern edge with a gently sloping concave base until 0.8 m from its northern edge, where the cut became vertical and increased in depth to 0.5 m. The sole homogenous mottled light grey silty clay fill (310) contained Roman pottery of the mid 1st to late 4th centuries AD.
- 4.1.13 Small Find No2, a copper-alloy coin dated *c* AD 350-364 was also recovered. Due to the irregular shape of 309 and the sudden changes in depth it is probable that this represented several inter-cutting features, but this could not be distinguished due to the homogenous nature of the fills.
- 4.1.14 Cut 315 at the eastern trench edge extended beyond the trench side and was not excavated. Sub-circular cut (317) extended into the northern baulk of the trench and was 1.9 m wide and 0.08 m deep with a single light greyish brown silty clay fill (318) containing Roman pottery of the mid 1st to late 4th century AD.
- 4.1.15 The features were all sealed by layer (319) a light grey silty clay deposit, which in turn was overlain by (320), a mixed dark grey silty clay matrix between brick and crushed chalk rubble hardcore. This was, overlain by a turf covered mid brown silty clay topsoil (321).

#### ***Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 and 5)***

- 4.1.16 Trench 4 measured 8.5 m x 1.65 m and was aligned north-west/south-east. Two modern service pipes were uncovered towards the south-east end of the trench and a baulk was left *in situ* here.
- 4.1.17 Chalk bedrock (407) was observed at 140.95 m aOD and was overlain by a mixed subsoil (403), which was cut by (404) the construction cut for a well (405). This structure was un-bonded and brick-lined measuring 1 m in diameter. The well structure was cleaned but not excavated.
- 4.1.18 The well had been backfilled and contained CBM of early post-medieval date, slate, animal bone and pottery. Its fill (406) was overlain by a crushed chalk hardcore (402), overlain by a modern tarmac (401). It is probable that this well is contemporary with the initial construction of the school building.

## **4.2 Finds**

***Roman pottery by Daniel Stansbie (OA)***

4.2.1 A total of 25 sherds, weighing 276 g, were recovered. This material was rapidly scanned to determine context dates and to assess the character of the pottery. Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. Fabrics were assigned codes using the Albion Archaeology classification system, ensuring compatibility with other major sites from Bedfordshire. Reference was also made to Perrin's volume on the Roman pottery from Water Newton, Cambridgeshire (Perrin 1999). With an average sherd weight of 11.4 g the condition of the assemblage is average and the surfaces are well preserved. Residuality is difficult to assess without full recording. However, groups appear to have a high degree of chronological integrity.

*Summary of Chronology/Description*

4.2.2 The earliest pottery recovered during the evaluation comprises a single sherd of grog-tempered ware, probably of Late Iron Age date; this was found in a late Roman context and is therefore residual. However, the bulk of the pottery was of broadly Roman date, with the majority of the more closely dateable material being early and middle Roman. There was also a single late Roman group and a single sherd of post-medieval pottery.

4.2.3 Early Roman pottery includes body sherds of sandy grey ware (R06A), three rim sherds from a lid seated jar in a sandy oxidised fabric (R05A), a rim sherd from a poppyhead beaker in a black-surfaced sandy fabric (R07B) and a sherd of central Gaulish samian ware (R01A). Mid Roman pottery comprises a triangular-rimmed dish in Nene Valley grey ware (R06A). The late Roman group includes a wide-mouthed jar with a hook-rim in sandy grey ware (R06B), a body sherd of sandy oxidised ware (R05A), a sherd of un-sourced colour-coated ware (R38) and a sherd of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (R11D); the residual grog-tempered sherd also comes from this group. The broadly Roman material includes body sherds of sandy grey ware (R06B), body sherds and a base sherd of sandy oxidised ware (R05A), body sherds of shelly fabric (R13) and a body sherd of white-slipped grey ware (R06H).

*Conclusions*

4.2.4 This is a small assemblage and any conclusions drawn from it may therefore be subject to change if more material is recovered from the site. The assemblage is largely made up of local material, including fabrics common in the Bedfordshire region such as the shelly fabric, which may well derive from the Harrold industry. However, some material of more distant origin is present, including Nene Valley grey ware, Samian ware and Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. The presence of this material indicates that the settlement had contacts beyond its immediate hinterland throughout the period of occupation. However, the nature of these contacts, whether direct trade, or down the line exchange is difficult to elucidate given the size of the assemblage. The status of the settlement is also difficult to address with such a small assemblage. The presence of the Nene Valley ware dish and the Oxfordshire colour-

coated ware may indicate a degree of status in the middle and late Roman periods. However, their presence can as easily be put down to chronological factors.

### ***Roman coins by Paul Booth (OA)***

4.2.5 Two coins were recovered from two contexts and are detailed below.

SF1, context 308. AE3 (17mm). Obv: CONSTAN TINOPOLIS. Rev: Victory on prow. Trier. As RIC VII, 543. *c* AD 332-3. Fairly worn. May be irregular as reverse is very poorly centred on the flan.

SF2, context 310. AE3/4 (14mm). Obv: Head r. Rev: Fel Temp Reparatio (fallen horseman) type. *c* AD 350-364. Irregular.

### ***Animal bones by Lena Strid (OA)***

4.2.6 A total of 17 re-fitted animal bones were recovered from this site (see table below). Most bones were in a good condition (see Lyman 1994:355 for definitions), with 88.2% being grade 1 and 11.8% being grade 2. Burned bones were absent, while three bone displayed gnaw marks. The bone assemblage seems to be household refuse.

4.2.7 The predominance of cattle and sheep/goat in the assemblage is to be considered normal, regardless of time period. The presence of dogs is evidenced by gnaw marks on two indeterminate bones and a tibia of a medium sized mammal. Judging by the epiphyseal fusion, the cattle and sheep/goat bones derived from sub-adult/adult animals. A long bone from a large mammal displayed a porous surface, indicating it being a juvenile. Butchering marks and pathologies were absent.

*Table: Bone assemblage by animal type*

	Cattle	Sheep /goat	Domestic fowl	Indet. bird	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet.
Axis	1						
Vertebra						1	
Rib						3	
Coracoid			1				
Scapula	1				1		
Radius		1					
Tibia		2			1		
Longbone				1		1	
Indeterminate						1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	2	3	1	1	2	6	2
Weight (g)	46	46	1	0	6	29	4

### ***Ceramic Building Materials and other find by Leigh Allen (OA)***

4.2.8 A total of 45 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 945g were recovered. The assemblage comprises 14 fragments of roof tile (including a possible fragment from a ridge tile); a single abraded brick fragment and 27 miscellaneous fragments. The roof tiles are all thin, plain and unglazed and are post-medieval in date. The material was recovered from the following contexts 102, 104, 106, 206, 208, 212, 214 and 310.

- 4.2.9 A single post-medieval clay pipe fragment is a very small section from the stem and otherwise worthy of no further comment.

#### 4.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 4.3.1 During the course of the evaluation no deposits were identified as being suitable for paleo-environmental sampling, and no samples were taken.

### 5 DISCUSSION

#### *Iron Age and Roman*

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced limited evidence of late Iron-Age activity though the single pottery sherd is considered to be residual on this site. The majority of the occupation was Roman with a broad date range from the middle of the 1st century AD to the late 4th century AD. This took the form of pits, post-holes and linear features (ditches/gullies). The density of features would suggest moderately intensive activity and confirms the results obtained from the earlier evaluation near the site by HAT in 2000.
- 5.1.2 The presence of postholes could indicate structures/dwellings on the site, though no definite buildings could be defined in the present works. The pits were presumably excavated for domestic refuse disposal - some of the larger and more irregular shaped pits may have been excavated for the extraction of the chalk bedrock for use elsewhere.
- 5.1.3 Trench 3 had the most intense area of features, with similar deposits that may in fact be inter-cutting features. The two coins indicate trade was ongoing here well into the 4th century and after up to and after 350 AD.
- 5.1.4 Animal bone recovered from a number of contexts indicates disposal of household food waste though the limited assemblage gives no indications of any on-site butchery.

#### *Post-Roman*

- 5.1.5 No Saxon or medieval material was identified in any of the trenches. Post-medieval activity was confined to the middle of the evaluation area south of the school. The well was presumably associated with a property on Church Street frontage. Most of the other features were shallow, suggesting that survival has been affected by truncation, probably in the Victorian period.
- 5.1.6 Quantities of post-medieval building materials were recovered. The presence of post-medieval material in clearly Roman features (fills 104, 106, 208, 310) suggests some later mixing of deposits on the site, probably during construction or demolition works for buildings here.
- 5.1.7 The density of features on the site, despite later service intrusions and truncation, confirms this site's archaeological potential, particularly within the historic core of Roman Dunstable.





## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date (Century)
001	100	Layer			Natural Chalk		
	101	Cut	0.33	0.07	Pit / Posthole		
	102	Fill		0.07	Fill of 101	Pot	Post-Medieval
	103	Cut	0.75	0.10	Pit		
	104	Fill		0.10	Fill of 103	Pot	Roman late 1st to early 2nd
	105	Cut	0.65	0.11	Pit		
	106	Fill		0.11	Fill of 105	Pot	Roman mid 1st to late 4th
	107	Cut	0.45	0.13	Pit		
	108	Fill		0.13	Fill of 107		
	109	Layer		0.27	Ground Surface		
	110	Layer		0.58	levelling layer		
002	201	Layer		0.35	Turf / topsoil		
	202	Layer		0.15	Former Modern Ground Surface		
	203	Layer		0.35	Chalk Hardcore		
	204	Layer		0.43	Levelling Layer		
	205	Cut	0.58	0.22	Pit / Posthole		
	206	Fill		0.22	Fill of 205	Pot, CBM	Roman early 2nd to late 2nd
	207	Cut	0.35	0.10	Pit		
	208	Fill		0.10	Fill of 207	CBM	Early post-medieval
	209	Cut	1.4	0.14	Pit		
	210	Fill		0.14	Fill of 209	Pot, Animal bone	Roman mid 1st to late 4th
	211	Cut	0.92	0.09	Pit / Nat feature		
	212	Fill		0.09	Fill of 211	CBM	Early post-medieval
	213	Cut	0.85	0.19	Pit		
	214	Fill		0.19	Fill of 213	CBM, Animal bone	Early post-medieval
	215	Layer			Natural Chalk		
003	300	Layer			Natural Chalk		
	301	Cut	1.45	0.07	Pit / Natural		

					feature		
	302	Fill		0.07	Fill of 301	Pot	Roman late 1st to late 2nd
	303	Cut	0.55	0.12	Linear Terminus		
	304	Fill		0.12	Fill of 303	Pot	Roman mid/late 2nd to early 3rd
	305	Cut	1.25	0.19	Pit		
	306	Fill		0.19	Fill of 305	Pot, Animal Bone	Roman mid 1st to late 4th
	307	Cut	0.80	0.71	Pit		
	308	Fill		0.71	Fill of 307	Pot, Animal Bone, Cu Al Coin	Late Iron Age, Roman mid 3rd to late 4th
	309	Cut	1.55	0.50	Linear		
	310	Fill		0.50	Fill of 309	Pot, Cu Al Coin	Roman mid 1st to late 4th
	311	Cut	1.30	0.23	Pit		
	312	Fill		0.23	Fill of 311	Pot, Animal bone	Roman mid 1st to late 4th
	313	Cut	0.62	0.09	Linear		
	314	Fill		0.09	Fill of 313		
	315	Cut	1.40		Pit (unexcavated)		
	316	Fill			Fill of 315		
	317	Cut	0.64	0.08	Pit / Natural feature		
	318	Fill				Pot, Animal bone	Roman mid 1st to late 4th
	319	Layer		0.20	Mixed Subsoil		
	320	Layer		0.57	Mixed Levelling Layer		
	321	Layer		0.14	Turf / Topsoil		
004	401	Layer		0.15	Ground Surface		
	402	Layer		0.50	Chalk Hardcore		
	403	Layer		0.90	Mixed Subsoil		
	404	Cut	1.00		Well		
	405	Fill			Brick Well Lining		
	406	Fill			Backfill of 404	Pot, bone, CBM	Early post-medieval
	407	Layer			Natural Chalk		

## APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

Table A.2.1: Roman pottery by context

Ctx	N° Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot date
102	1	2	post-med	post-med
104	3	22	R05A oxidised sandy ware (1 lid-seated jar	LC1-EC2*
106	1	11	R06B sandy grey ware	MC1-LC4
206	2	6	R06B sandy grey ware, R01A central Gaulish samian ware	EC2-LC2
210	1	10	R06H white slipped grey ware	MC1-LC4
302	1	6	R07B sandy black ware,(1 poppyhead beaker)	LC1-LC2
304	1	54	R06A Nene Valley grey ware (1 triangular rimmed dish)	M/LC2-EC3
306	1	4	R06B sandy grey ware	MC1-LC4
308	7	63	F06 grog-tempered ware, R06A sandy grey ware (1 hook-rimmed wide-mouthed jar), R05A oxidised sandy ware, R38 un-sourced colour-coated ware, R11D Oxfordshire oxidised ware, 1 frag CBM	EC1-LC4
310	3	24	R06B sandy grey ware, R13 shelly fabric, R05A sandy Oxidised ware	MC1-LC4
312	3	73	R05A sandy oxidised ware, 1 base sherd	MC1-LC4
318	1	1	R13 shelly fabric	MC1-LC4

\* E= early, M= middle, L= late, C1 = 1st century AD etc.

## APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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OA 2004 *Ashton St. Peter's Lower School, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire* Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA 2006 *Ashton St. Peter's Lower School, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire* Written Scheme of Investigation

Perrin, J, R, 1999 Roman pottery from excavations at and near to the Roman small town of Durobrivae, Water Newton, Cambridgeshire, 1956-58, *Journal of Roman pottery studies* 8

**APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** Ashton St. Peter's Lower School, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

**Site code:** DUASP 06

**Grid reference:** TL 0186 2220

**Type of evaluation:** This evaluation consisted of four mechanically excavated trial trenches. Two x 8.5 m long trenches, one x 20 m long trench and one x 30 m long trench.

**Date and duration of project:** Monday 4th September 2006 to Friday 8th September 2006

**Area of site:** The total area of the site under development is 0.6 ha.

**Summary of results:** The evaluation produced limited evidence of the late Iron Age but more extensive Roman activity of the 1st to 4th centuries AD in the form of pits post-holes and gullies/ditches. Early post-medieval activity was limited to the middle of the site in Trenches 2 and 4: a post-medieval well was also recorded in Trench 4.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Luton Museum in due course.





Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location





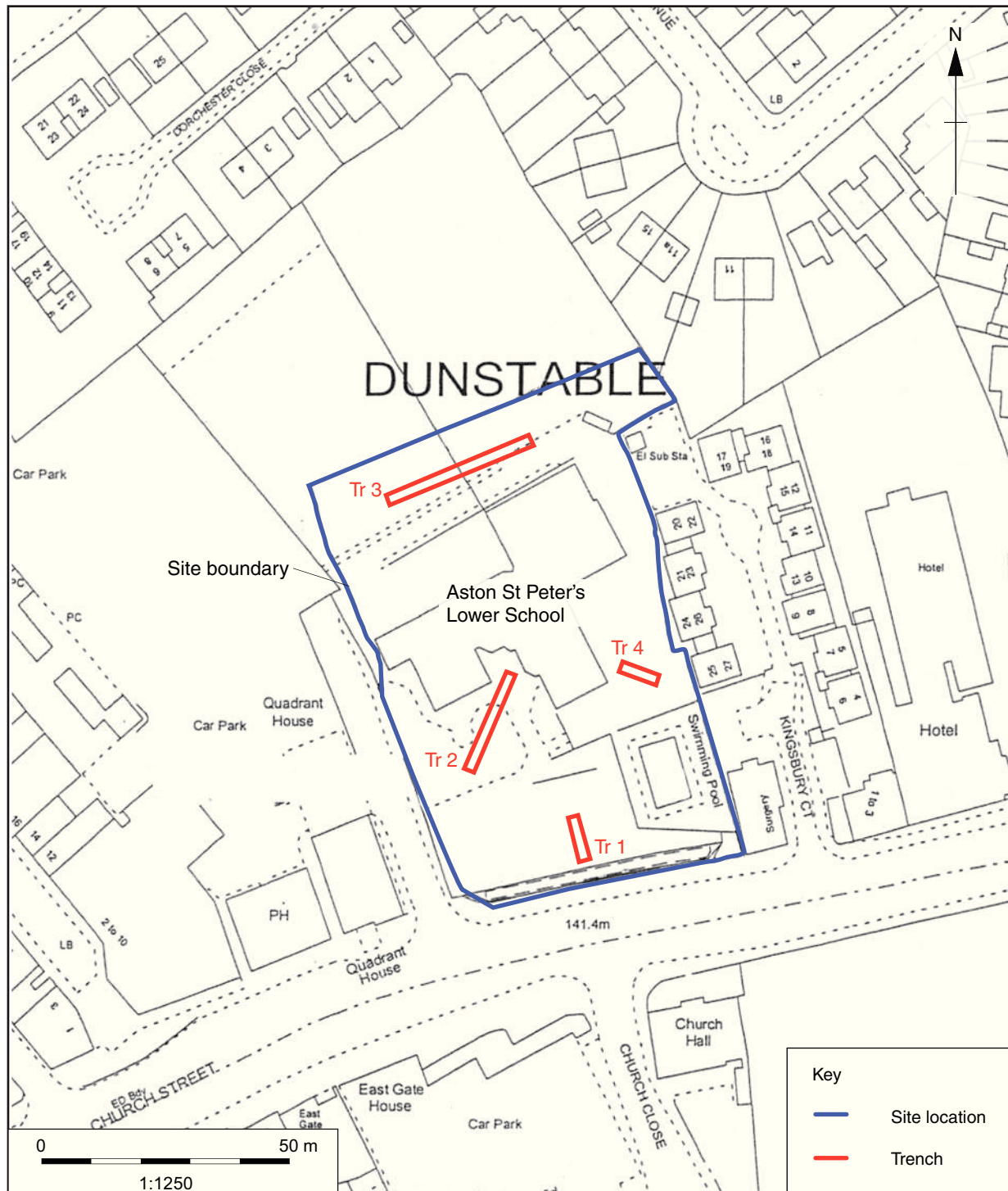
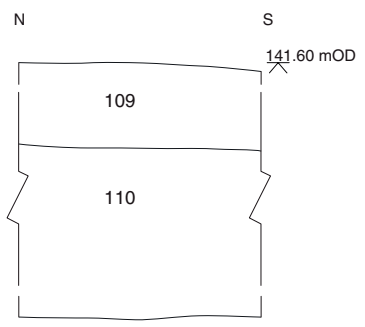


Figure 2: Trench location

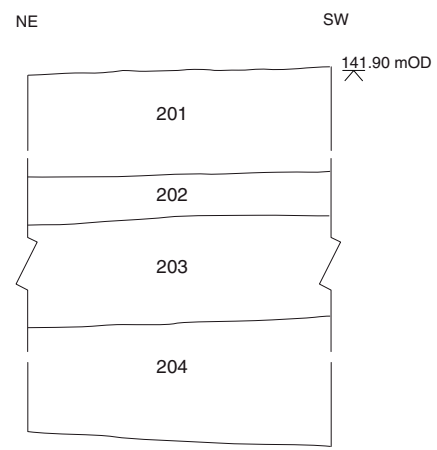




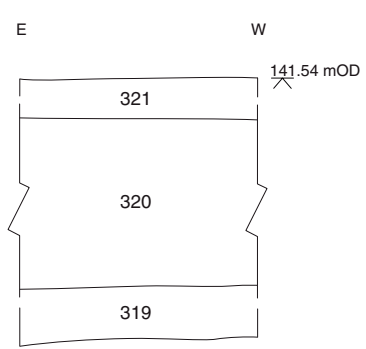
Sample Section Trench 1



Sample Section Trench 2



Sample Section Trench 3



Sample Section Trench 4

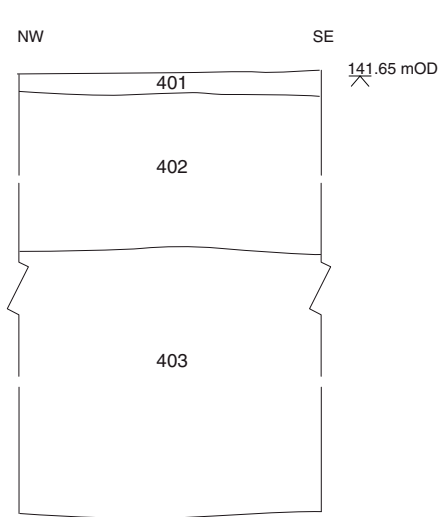


Figure 3 : Sample sections of trenches 1-4



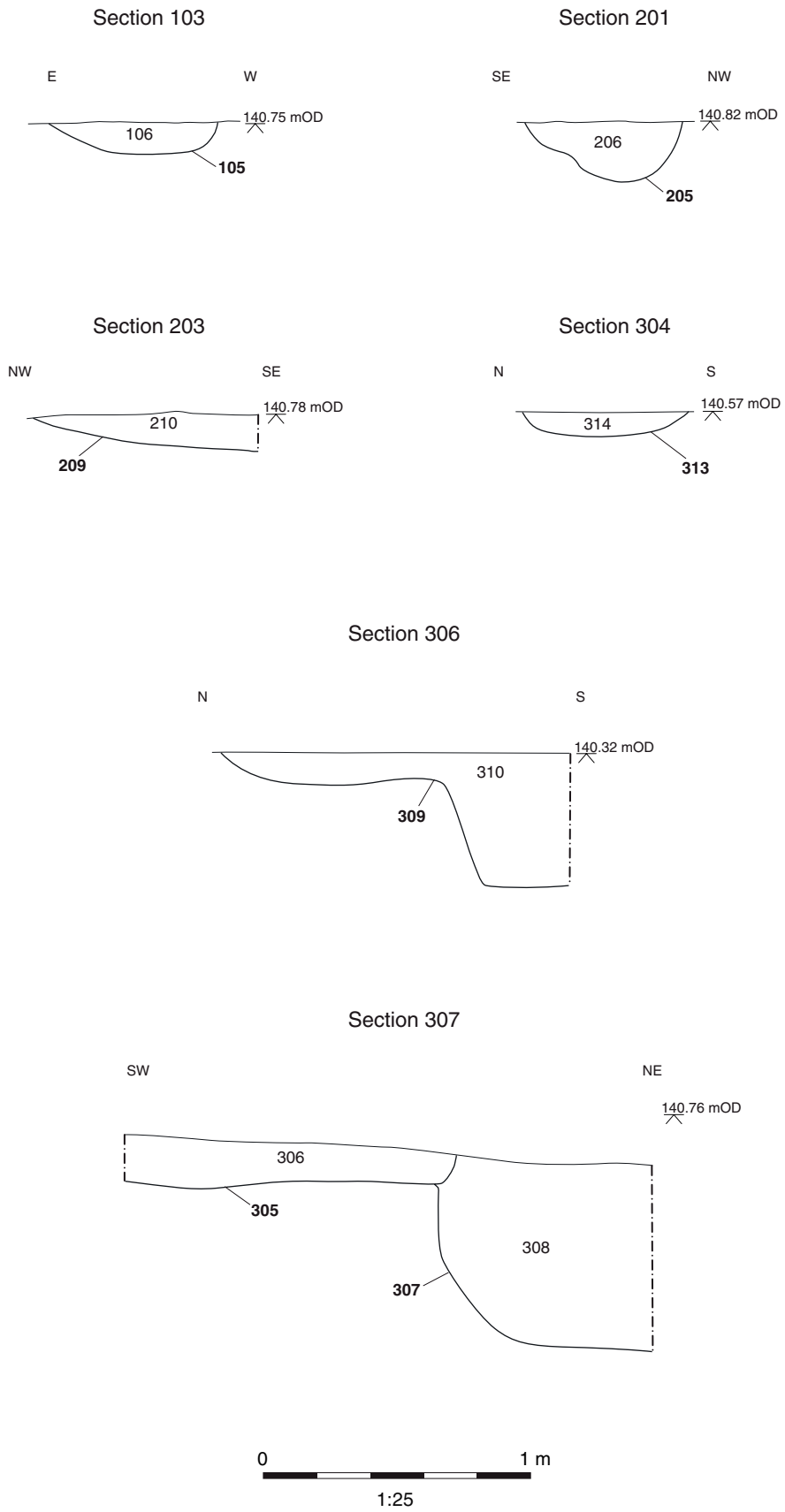
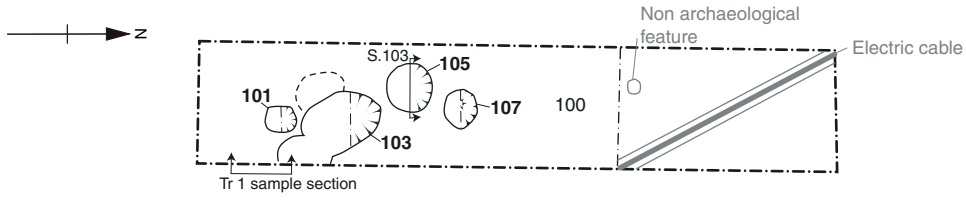


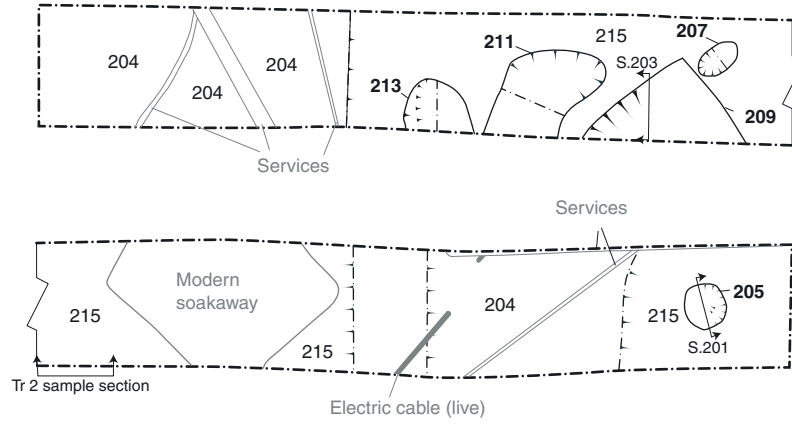
Figure 4 : Sections



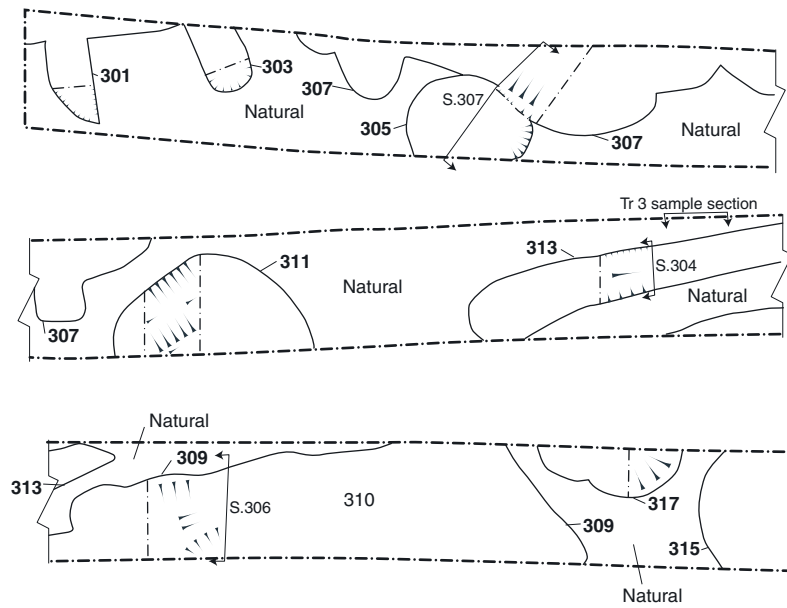
### Trench 1



### Trench 2



### Trench 3



### Trench 4

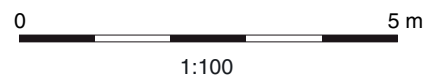
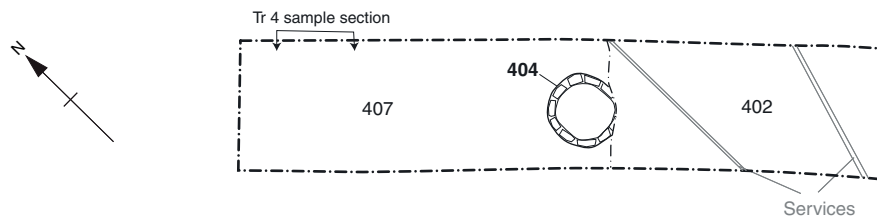


Figure 5: Trench plans







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