



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

**AT**

**BERRYFIELDS MDA, BICESTER ROAD,**

**QUARRENDON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**NGR SP 7884 1535**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

**REPORT PREPARED BY** Christopher Whitehead

**ILLUSTRATION BY** Christopher Whitehead

**EDITED BY** Gavin Davis

**AUTHORISED BY** John Moore

**FIELDWORK** Gavin Davis; Natasha Djukic; Christopher Whitehead

**FIELDWORK DATE** 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019; 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020; 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

**REPORT ISSUED** 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

**ENQUIRES TO** John Moore Heritage Services  
Unit 16, Wheatley Business Centre,  
Old London Road, Wheatley OX33 1XW  
  
Tel: 01865 358300  
Email: [info@jmheritageservices.co.uk](mailto:info@jmheritageservices.co.uk)

**JMHS Project No:** 4100  
**OASIS No:** johnmoor1\_502527  
**Site Code:** BYRRP19.  
**Archive Location:** The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Discover Bucks Museum with the accession number AYBCM: 2019.136.



**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
<b>2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Research Design	4
3.2 Methodology	5
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Excavations for Service Trenches	6
4.2 Foundation Pad Excavations	9
4.3 Excavation Area	13
4.4 Reliability of Results	17
<b>5 FINDS</b>	<b>18</b>
5.1 Pottery <i>by Jane Timby</i>	18
5.2 Ceramic Drainpipe <i>by Simona Denis</i>	18
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7 ARCHIVE</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>8 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>FIGURES AND PLATES</b>	
Figure 1: Site location.	2
Figure 2: Plans of service trenches and Section.	8
Figure 3: Foundation Pad Excavations and Sections	11
Figure 4: Plan of Excavation Area and Sections	15
Plate 1: Section 5. Looking north-west.	7
Plate 2: Section 64. Looking north-west.	10
Plate 3: Section 76. Looking south-west.	10
Plate 4: Section 77. Looking north-east.	12
Plate 5: Section 100. Looking south (Incorrect label on board).	14
Plate 6: Section 101. Looking north-east.	16
Plate 7: Section 102. Looking north-east.	16
Plate 8: Section 104. Looking north-east.	17

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1. OASIS Report Form

20

## **SUMMARY**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out several phases of archaeological works at Berryfields, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire between 2019 and 2021. The purpose of the archaeological investigations was for the creation of a new village hall, sport facilities, allotments, wildlife reserve and play areas. During the course of the investigation, a series of drainage service-trench excavations, foundation pads for the temporary parish building, foundation pads for the children's day nursery and an excavation area for the new village hall building were excavated. This particular site area had potential for Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. Over the course of the groundworks, two gullies, which were possibly Roman but may have been later, were uncovered within the excavation area for the new village hall. Two undated cut features were identified in the foundation pad area for the temporary parish building and two undated cut features were uncovered in the foundation pad area for the children's day nursery.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The development site is located at Berryfields adjacent to the Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (Village Hall NGR SP 7884 1535 centred). The site lies at approximately 80m AOD. The underlying geology is Kimmeridge Clay.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

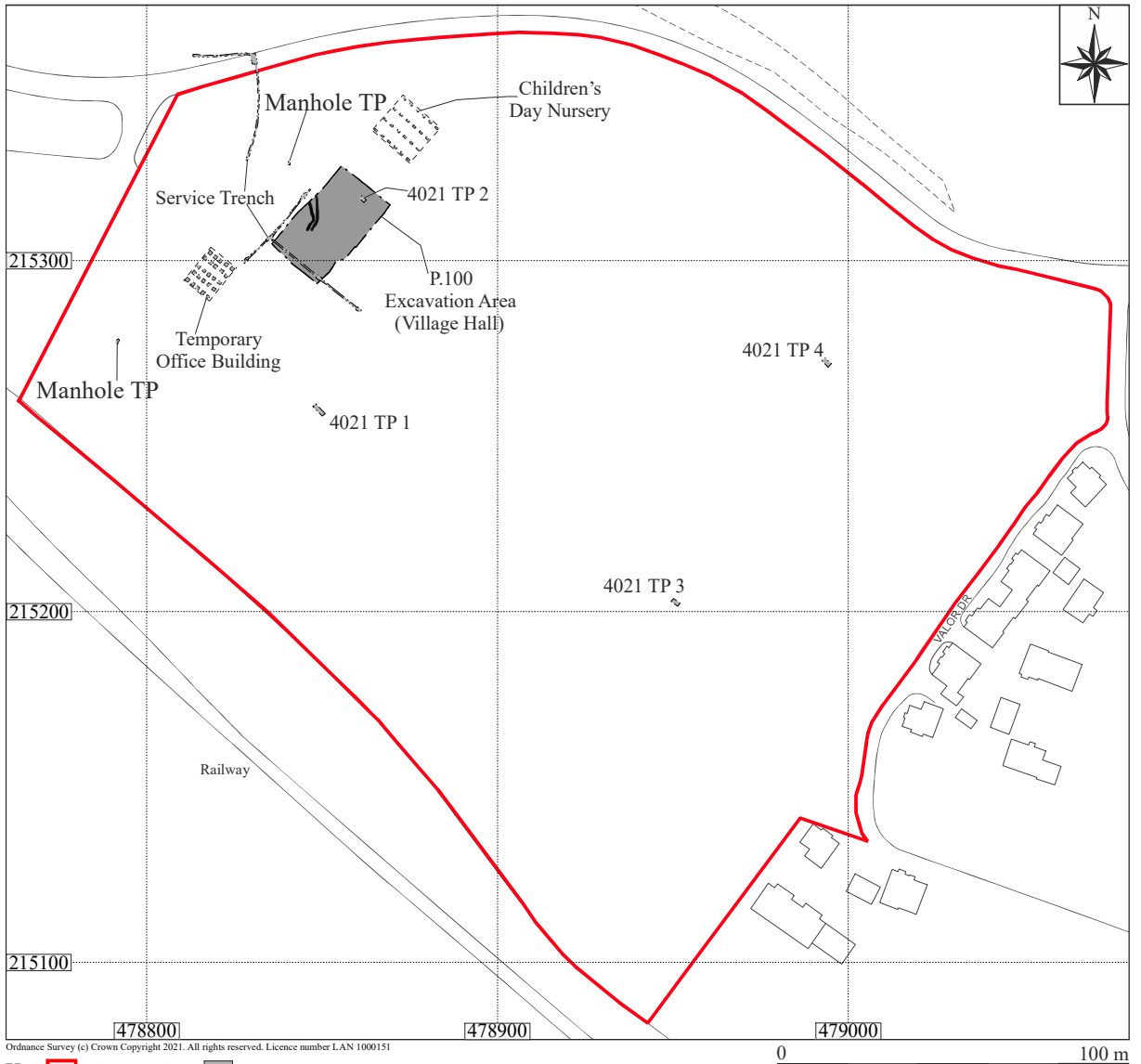
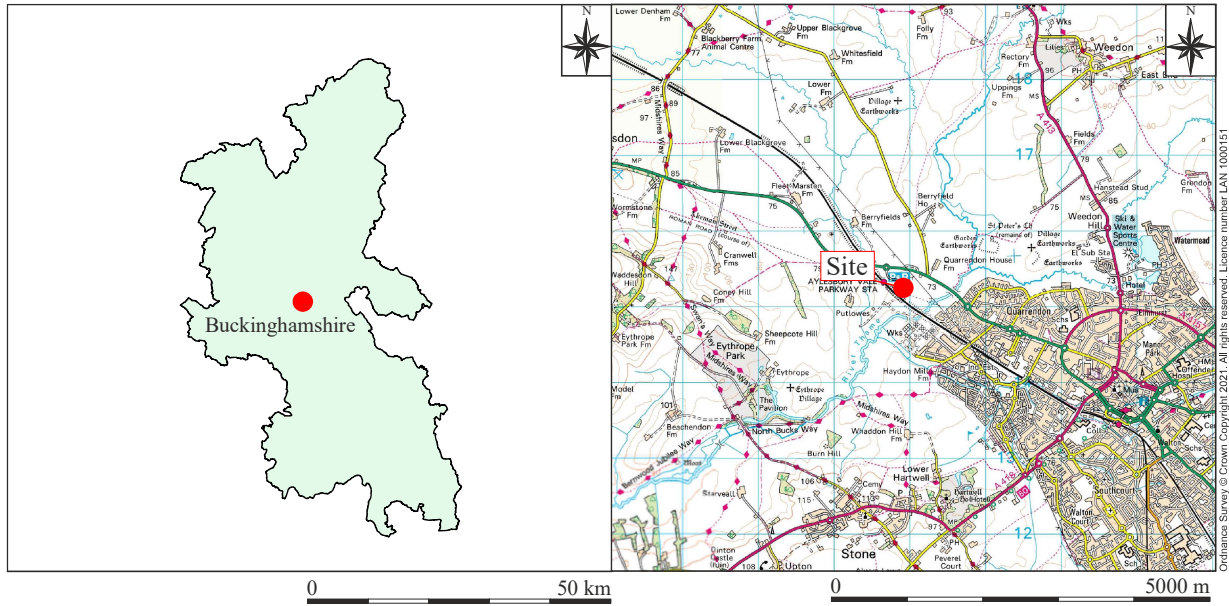
The former Aylesbury Vale Council (now Buckinghamshire Council) granted planning permission for New Roman Road Park comprising a new village hall, sport facilities, allotments, wildlife reserve and play areas (Planning reference: 18/02680/APP). Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area, primarily the known route of Akeman St (the Roman road) running throughout the site, a condition was attached to the permission requiring archaeological work to be carried out prior to and during the course of building operations or construction works on the site.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

A search of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was carried out with a radius of 500m around the area of the proposed excavation. The following results are discussed in chronological order.

There is some evidence for Prehistoric activity within the area, the majority of which dates from the Middle Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age; however, a single Neolithic flint core was within the site during a metal detecting rally (MBC31114: SP 79 15) while further possible Neolithic flint flakes were also found within the site during fieldwalking (MBC22265: SP 78947 15209).

Prehistoric features were recorded during an archaeological evaluation undertaken within the area of the site (MBC2233, EBC15874: SP 78947 15209).



Key Site boundary Excavated Area  
 Archaeological features

Figure 1: Site location

Features recorded included two pits and a ditch; one shallow pit contained Bronze Age pottery and fragments of daub, while a larger pit, possibly a quarry pit, contained sherds of Iron Age pottery. Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered from the ditch. Fieldwalking undertaken prior to the evaluation also recorded three sherds of Bronze Age pottery (MBC22265: SP 78947 15209).

A further area of activity was identified through geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation approximately 400m northwest of the site (MBC2216, EBC16155: centred SP 78551 15639). This recorded a small settlement, comprising features such as roundhouses, pits, postholes and small sub-rectangular fields; pottery recovered from the features was dated from the Middle Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age, with the majority dating to the Middle Iron Age.

Flint-tempered pottery and pieces of worked flint of probable Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date were found in features of a later date during excavation prior to the construction of Aylesbury Vale Parkway, immediately west of the site (MBC3419: SP 7877 1531).

Chance finds of prehistoric date include a number of objects found within the area of the site through metal detection: A Bronze Age copper alloy arrowhead found on the southeast side (MBC32135: SP 79 15); a Middle to Late Bronze Age spear found to the north (MBC31160: SP 78 15), an Iron Age toggle to the south (MBC31153: SP 78 15); a Late Iron Age coin to the southeast (MBC32681: SP 79 15); a Late Iron Age or Early Roman Brooch (MBC31202: SP 78 15) and an Iron Age or Early Roman coin (MBC31195: SP 78 15), both towards the south side of the site and an unidentified object of probable Iron Age date (MBC31206: SP 78 15).

The route of Akeman Street, the Roman Road from Corinium (Cirencester) to Verulamium (St Albans), crosses through the site from west-northwest to east southeast (MBC3193: SP 7888 1520). Associated with the road is small Roman town (MBC21513, 21514, 22312), evidence of which has been recorded through archaeological excavation, evaluation, geophysical survey and metal detecting. The site extends for a distance of at least 2km along Akeman Street and is present on both the north and south side of the road; the predicted eastern extent of the town intersects with the southern edge of the area of excavation and lies within the watching brief area.

Archaeological evaluation undertaken within the site recorded evidence of occupation from the 1st to 5th centuries, particularly focused to the south and southeast along the route of Akeman Street: Early Roman features included pits, subsoil deposits and features associated with the construction of Akeman Street. There was more extensive evidence for activity from the 2nd century onwards, including pits, ditches, spreads of soil, later re-working of the Roman road and a small number of postholes; other structural evidence was lacking, though finds of tile, coarse wall plaster and iron nails indicate that buildings are likely to have been present nearby. The ditches identified during the evaluation were aligned perpendicular to the road, perhaps representing Romano-British field or property boundaries.

Geophysical survey undertaken to the northwest of the railway demonstrates the continuation of the town to the northwest, with a clear pattern of rectangular

enclosures extending at 90° from both sides of the road (MBC21513: centred SP 7820 1547).

A considerable number of finds dating to the Roman period have been found throughout the search area, and in particular along the route of Akeman Street. The majority of these finds were made during a metal detecting event and comprise coins dating from the 1st to 4th centuries, though brooches, tiles, pins, pottery sherds and ceramic building material was also found.

An evaluation undertaken approximately 300m northeast of the site recorded an additional area of settlement comprising pits, gullies and evidence of beamslots or footings for timber framed buildings (MBC2216: centred SP 79106 15639); these were associated with a trackway, forming a probable ladder settlement.

There is significantly less evidence for later activity within the search area. A range of metal objects including coins, buckles and pins were found during a metal detecting event in the area of the site. These predominantly date from the medieval and post medieval period, though three early medieval metal objects were also found. Within the wider area two areas of extant ridge and furrow are located approximately 500m east and west of the site.

The evaluation trenches nearest the area of proposed excavation revealed ditches and gullies of Roman date.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the work as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:

### Excavation

To sample excavate and record any archaeological remains revealed during by the stripping of overburden above the archaeological horizon from the footprint of the proposed new dwelling.

To sample excavate sufficient of the features to be able to demonstrate their date satisfactorily.

### Watching Brief

To investigate and record any archaeological features revealed during groundworks.

### Overall

To produce a report on the findings to illustrate what type of activity was being carried out in this part of the large settlement.

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, the archaeological advisors to the former Aylesbury Vale Council (now Buckinghamshire Council).



The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).

### **3.2 Methodology**

Multiple phases of groundwork have taken place on this site. The earliest archaeological works took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 and the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 (JMHS, 2018). The works involved the excavation of four test pits, for the purpose of detailing material above the archaeological horizon, with the later intention of planting trees. The results of the watching brief excavations identified the existence of two Roman ditches within test pit 1 (34m south of the recent excavation area for the new village hall building). Test pits 2-4 identified the depths and thicknesses of geological deposits, buried soil deposits and made-ground deposits. A possible buried ploughsoil material was also identified, but was not definitive.

Later watching brief groundworks took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. That phase of works included the excavation of service trenches as well as the excavation of pits for manhole services (Fig 2, Section 5 and Plans 101 and 102). This included two sets of service trenches, the northernmost set of excavations had a total length of 47.60m with a maximum width of 1.60m and a maximum depth of 0.80m. The southernmost set of excavations were T-shaped and had a maximum length of 33.80m, a maximum width of 28.10m and a maximum depth of 1.20m (In the north-eastern corner). Two manhole pits measuring roughly 0.50m by 1.30m were excavated also, they had a simple stratigraphy of topsoil, subsoil and natural. The excavations were undertaken using a 360 degree excavator with a 0.60m toothless bucket. The excavation level was determined by the necessary limit of excavation by the contractors, with a condition that excavation stop at any archaeological horizon if this was higher. Excavations were monitored by an experienced Project Officer and were recorded with a written record. This included a hand-drawn section, digital photographic record, and GPS data of the excavated areas.

A further phase of watching brief excavations occurred between the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 and the 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. These excavations were for a series of foundation pads for the temporary parish office building, in the south-west of the site, and the children's day nursery to the north-east. The foundation pads for the temporary parish building covered an area measuring 12.10m by 9.50m and involved the excavation of 25 pad footings (Fig 3, Sections 55, 61, 63 and 64, Plan 103). They reached a maximum depth of 0.64m. These 25 pad footings each had their own section drawing created, numbered from 50 to 74. However, due to their close proximity in a relatively small area, only sections 55, 61, 63 and 64 will be discussed in the results. The other remaining sections all contained a simple stratigraphic sequence and so do not provide any different information. The foundation pads for the temporary parish building were excavated using a 360 degree excavator using a 0.60m toothless bucket. As it was a temporary building, the excavation level was roughly 0.60m throughout. The excavations were monitored by an experienced Project Officer.

To the north-east, for the children's day nursery, the excavations covered an area measuring 14m by 13.10m and included 24 foundation pads (Fig 3, Sections 76, 77 and 89, Plan 104). They reached a maximum depth of 1.50m. Similar to the foundation pads for the temporary parish building, a section drawing of each intervention was recorded, numbering from 75 to 98. However, only sections 76, 77

and 89 will be discussed. Sections 76 and 77 are the only pads to have contained archaeology, while section 89 gives a clear view of the stratigraphy. The remaining sections contained a simple stratigraphic sequence, and do not provide any additional information.

The foundation pads for the children's day nursery were excavated using a 360 degree excavator with a 0.60m toothless bucket. The depth of the excavations were greater here for the permanent children's day nursery, and they had an average depth of 1.40m. These excavations were similarly monitored by an experience Project Officer. Where encountered, the archaeology within the foundation pads for both the temporary parish building and the children's day nursery were recorded with a written record, including hand-drawn plans and sections, as well as a digital photographic record.

The latest groundworks involved the excavation of an area measuring 30.80m by 18.50m which was excavated down to a depth of 0.74m, reaching the natural clay geology (Fig 4, Sections 100 – 106, Plan 100). It covered the footprint for the new village-hall building. These took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. These excavations were undertaken using a 360 degree excavator using a 1.20m toothless bucket. The excavation level was determined by the level of the natural clay geology which was also the highest archaeological horizon. The excavations were monitored by an experienced Project Officer. The archaeological features, where encountered, were recorded with a written record, including hand-drawn plans and sections. Digital photographic records were also created, and GPS data was also collected following the completed excavation of the area.

Further construction works on the sport facilities, allotments, wildlife reserve and play areas, were not at a sufficient depth to impact the archaeological horizon. As a result, these works did not need to be monitored.

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to the Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods.

## **4 RESULTS**

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

### **4.1 Excavations for Service Trenches (Figure 2)**

Watching brief excavations for two service trenches and manhole drains were excavated down to a maximum depth of 1.20m. The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, light to mid-yellowish grey clay (27) (Fig. 2, Plans 101 and 102). It contained frequent flecks and small pieces of limestone as well as occasional bands of mid-

orange gravelly-clay. Deposit (27) was observed across the service trench excavations, but was predominantly located in the northern-most excavations which were deeper. Deposit (27) was identified at a depth of 1m and measured greater than 0.50m in thickness. This deposit was identified as being the clay geology layer.

Overlying deposit (27) was a firm mid to dark-grey yellowy-brown clay (26) (Fig. 2, Plans 101 and 102, Section 5; Plate 1). It contained inclusions of rare small stones, frequent gravels and bands of yellowy-brown gravelly-clay. Deposit (26) was identified across the two service trench excavations and measured greater than 0.07m in thickness (Figure 2, Section 5). Deposit (26) was also identified as a natural clay geology.

Situated above deposit (26) was a firm, mid greyish-brown clay-loam (25) (Fig. 2, Plans 101 and 102, Section 5; Plate 1). Deposit (25) had inclusions of rare, small stones. This deposit was observed throughout the service trench excavations and had a thickness of 0.33m. Deposit (25) was identified on site as being a buried soil horizon and a former ploughsoil layer. This deposit, (25), is the same as a later observed deposit, (103), during the excavation area for the new village hall building.



Plate 1: Section 5. Looking north-west.

Stratified above deposit (25) was a friable, mid-grey brown, silty clay (24) (Fig. 2, Plans 101 and 102, Section 5; Plate 1). This deposit contained inclusions of frequent small to medium-sized angular and sub-rounded stones. It was observed throughout the service trench excavations, and measured 0.26m in thickness. Deposit (24) was identified as either being a buried made-ground topsoil or a buried topsoil.

The latest observed deposit within the service trench excavations was a friable, mid-brownish grey clayey-silt (23) (Fig. 2, Plans 101 and 102, Section 5; Plate 1). It contained inclusions of rare small-sized stones. This deposit was observed throughout the full extent of the service trench excavations and the wider site. Deposit (23) was identified as the topsoil layer.

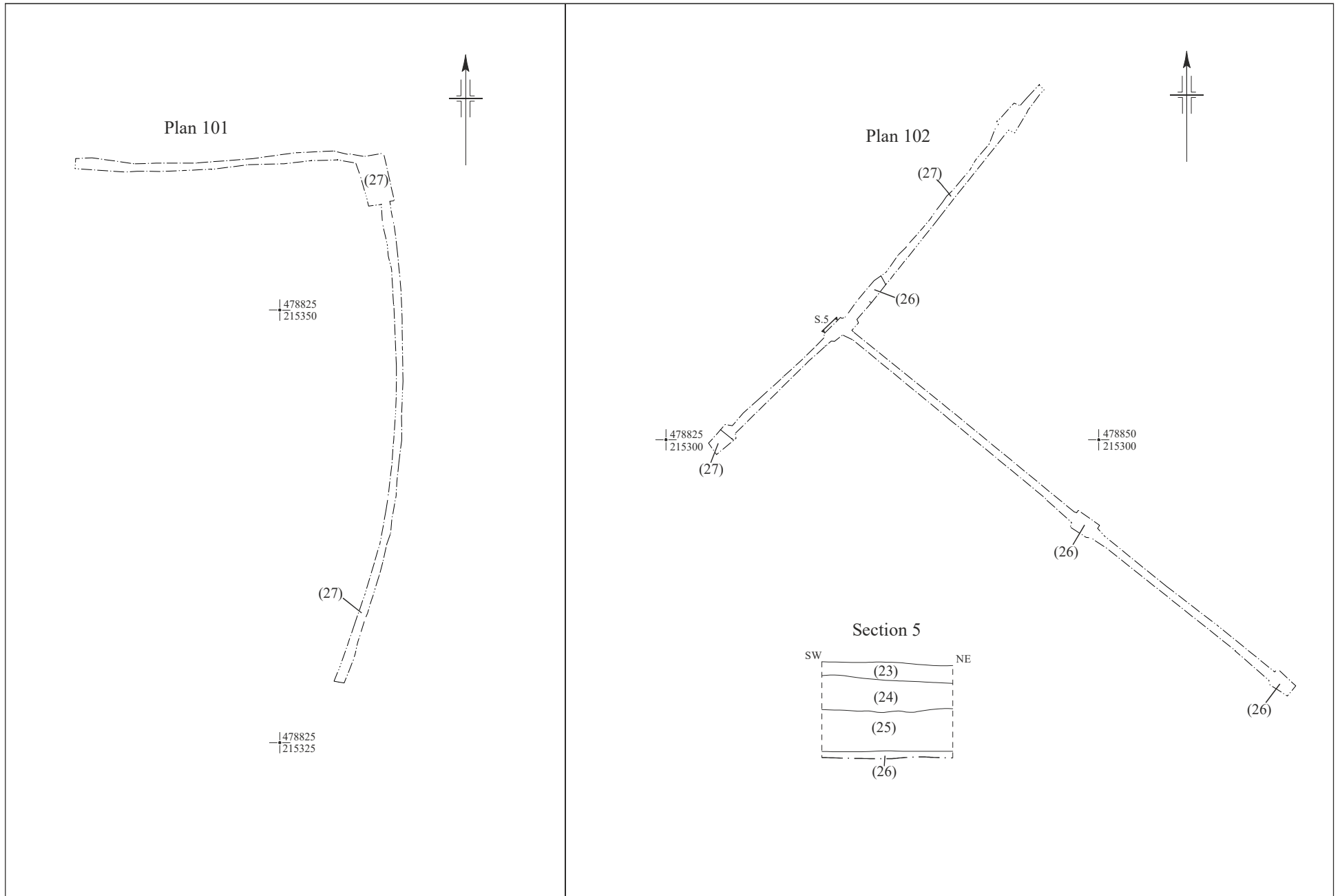
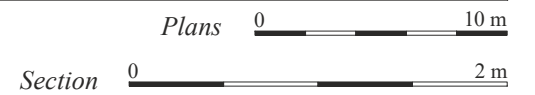


Figure 2: Plans of service trenches and Section.



## 4.2 Foundation Pad Excavations (Figure 3)

A series of 25 foundation pads were excavated within an area to the south-west of the site measuring 12.10m by 9.50m for the creation of a new, temporary parish building. These foundation pads reached an average depth of 0.65m (Fig. 1; Fig. 3, Plan 103, Sections 55, 61, 63 and 64). A series of 24 foundation pads for the children's day nursery were excavated within an area measuring 14m by 13.10m to the north-east of the site (Fig. 1; Fig. 3, Plan 104, Sections 76, 77 and 89).

The earliest recorded deposit within both of these areas was a firm, light to mid-brown clay (208) (Fig. 3; Plans 103 and 104, Sections 55, 61, 63, 64, 76, 77 and 89; Plates 2, 3 and 4). It was a mixed deposit that also contained patches of light grey and mid grey-blue clay with additional flecks of orangey-brown clay. It was observed throughout the full extent of the foundation pad excavations and measured greater than 1.24m in thickness (Fig 3, Section 76). Deposit (208) was identified as being the natural clay geology.

Truncating deposit (208) in the south-western area for the temporary parish building was an undated, cut feature 68 (Fig. 3, Plan 103, Section 64; Plate 2). It was partially revealed in section due to the foundation method. It had a moderate break-of-slope at the top and at the base, with regular gradually-sloping sides and a concave base. It measured greater than 1m in both length and width and had a depth of 0.39m. The location of this particular intervention, Section 64, was in the southern-most corner of the foundation pad area. This cut feature was not observed within any of the other surrounding foundation pad excavations and so may have been a pit, although it was initially identified as a ditch. It was not observed in plan as it was overcut due to the small nature of the excavation area and was only observed in section.

Cut feature 68 contained a single fill deposit that was comprised of a friable, dark greyish-brown clayey-silt (69) (Fig. 3, Plan 103, Section 64; Plate 2). It contained inclusions of rare small-sized sub-angular flint pieces. However, it contained no artefactual evidence. It measured greater than 1m in length and in width and had a thickness of 0.39m. This deposit was identified as being the result of a naturally-occurring backfill following the disuse of the feature.

Truncating deposit (208) to the immediate north-west of the Section 64 intervention, was a cut feature 73, which may have been a pit or a ditch (Fig. 3, Plan 103, Section 55). It had a moderate break-of-slope at the top with shallow, gradually-sloping sides. The break-of-slope at the base and the base itself was not observed as this was beyond the limit of excavation. It measured greater than 1m in length, greater than 0.60m in width and greater than 0.23m in depth.

Feature 73 contained a single fill deposit of a friable, mid to dark greyish-brown clayey-silt (Fig. 3, Plan 103, Section 55). It had inclusions of occasional small sub-rounded stones, but contained no artefactual material. It measured greater than 1m in length, greater than 0.60m in width and had a thickness exceeding 0.23m. This deposit was identified as being the result of naturally-occurring backfill following the disuse of the feature. It is unlikely that feature 73 is the continuation of feature 68 due to the differences in the shape and dimensions of the cuts, as well as the slight variation in the fill deposits and their inclusions.



Plate 2: Section 64. Looking north-west.

Truncating the clay geology (208) in the north-eastern area of the site, within the foundation pads for the children's day nursery were two undated cut features. The first of which was feature 133 (Fig. 3, Plan 104, Section 76; Plate 3). Feature 133 had a gradual break-of-slope at the top with regular, sloping sides. The break-of-slope at the base appeared gradual but the base itself was not observed due to the limit of excavation. This pit measured greater than 0.50m in length, greater than 0.38m in width and had a depth of 0.26m. This feature was not identified in any other surrounding foundation pad intervention, and so was subsequently identified as a likely pit feature. Pit 133 was not identified within any other surrounding foundation pad excavation.



Plate 3: Section 76. Looking south-west.

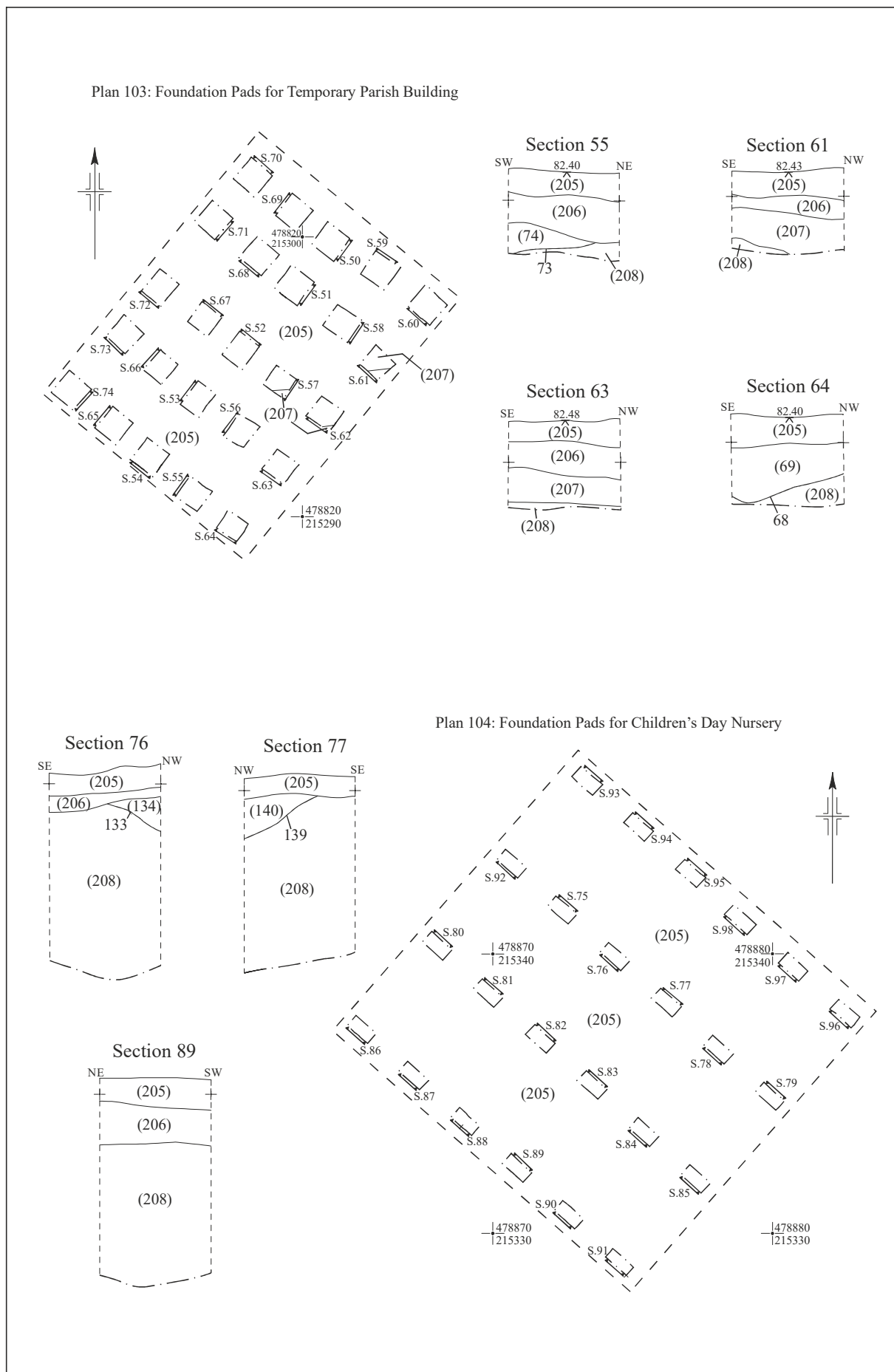


Figure 3: Foundation Pad Excavations and Sections.

Plans 0 10 m

Sections 0 2 m

Feature 133 contained a single fill of friable, mid to dark greyish-brown clayey-silt (134) (Fig. 3, Plan 104, Section 76; Plate 3). It contained inclusions of moderate small-sized sub-rounded stones. It measured greater than 0.50m in length, greater than 0.38m width and had a thickness of 0.26m. This deposit remained undated, and was identified as being the result of a naturally occurring backfilling event.

Situated to the south-east of feature 133 was the second undated feature, 139 (Figure 3, Plan 104, Section 77; Plate 4). It had a very similar shape to feature 133, in that it had a gradual break-of-slope at the top with similar regular, sloping sides. The break-of-slope at the base also appeared to be gradual. The base itself was not observed due to the limit of excavation. Feature 139 measured greater than 0.50m in length, greater than 0.52m in width and had a depth of 0.28m. It was not observed within any other surrounding foundation pad excavation.

Feature 139 contained a single fill deposit of a friable, mid to dark greyish-brown clayey-silt (140) (Figure 3, Plan 104, Section 77, Plate 4). It measured greater than 0.50m in length, greater than 0.52m in width and had a thickness of 0.28m. It contained inclusions of moderate small-sized sub-rounded stones and was almost identical to deposit (134) within feature 133 to the immediate north-east. It was similarly identified as being the result of a naturally occurring backfilling event. It is possible that the two undated features, 133 and 139 could have been contemporary, due to the similarities in shape, size and fill deposit material.



Plate 4: Section 77. Looking north-east.

Stratified above the archaeological features 68 and 73 was a friable, mid to dark greyish-brown silty-clay (207) (Fig. 3, Plan 103, Sections 61 and 63). It contained occasional small-sized sub-rounded stones. It measured greater than 3.50m in length, greater than 1.50m in width and had a thickness of greater than 0.30m. This deposit was only identified in the southern and eastern part of the foundation pad footings for



the new parish building. Deposit (207) was identified as being a buried ploughsoil deposit.

Overlying deposit (207) and undated feature 133 was a friable, mid-brown silty-clay (206) (Fig. 3, Plans 103 and 104, Sections 55, 61, 63, 76 and 89; Plate 3). It had inclusions of infrequent small-sized sub-angular stones. It had a maximum thickness of 0.33m. This deposit was identified as a buried soil horizon, and was identified throughout the extent of both of the foundation pad excavation areas.

The latest observed deposit within the foundation pad excavations, and overlying undated feature 139, was a friable, mid brownish-grey clayey-silt (205) (Fig. 3, Plans 103 and 104, Sections 55, 61, 63, 64, 76, 77 and 89; Plates 2, 3 and 4). It was observed throughout the full extent of both areas, as well as the site and measured 0.23m at its maximum thickness. Deposit (205) was identified as the topsoil layer.

### **4.3 Excavation Area (Figure 4)**

An excavation area measuring 30.80m by 18.50m was excavated down to a depth of 0.74m, for the purpose of the new village hall building. The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, light to mid-brown clay (104) (Fig. 4, Sections 103 and 104, Plan 100; Plate 7). Deposit (104) contained patches of light grey, mid grey-blue clay and orangey-brown clay. It contained no other noteworthy inclusions. This deposit was observed throughout the full extent of the excavated area, and it was identified as being the natural clay geology.

Truncating the clay geology (104) were two gullies, identified with group numbers 117 and 118. Gully 117 (Contexts 105, 109 and 113) (Fig. 4, Sections 100, 101 and 105, Plan 100; Plates 5 and 6) was curvilinear in plan and was orientated north-south before curving to the south-west at the southern extent. The northern extent of the gully extended beyond the limit of excavation. Gully 117 exceeded 10.50m in length, with a maximum width of 0.65m and a maximum depth of 0.09m (Fig 4, Section 101).

Three interventions were excavated into Gully 117 (Fig 4, Sections 100, 101 and 105) which showed it to be uniform in shape throughout its extent. It had a gradual break-of-slope at the top and base, with shallow slightly concave sides and a flat base. The depth and width of the gully also remained consistent throughout.

Gully 117 contained a single fill of friable, dark-grey silty clay (Contexts (106), (110) and (114)) (Fig. 4, Sections 100, 101 and 105, Plan 100; Plates 5 and 6). It contained inclusions of infrequent small-sized rounded gravels and stones which were observed throughout the full extent of the gully. Additionally, the compaction, colour and composition was uniform throughout the gully. It measured greater than 10.50m in length, 0.65m in width and had a maximum thickness of 0.09m.

Gully 117 contained a single piece of ceramic drainpipe that was dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was within context (106) (Fig 4, Section 100). This piece of ceramic was found very close to the surface of deposit (106) and was likely residual from a later, modern truncation. Deposit (106) was likely the backfilled material following disuse of the gully. Although the purpose was unclear, as it was so shallow, it may have been a simple drainage channel.



Plate 5: Section 100. Looking south (Incorrect S.101 label on board).

Situated to the immediate west of gully 117 was the second gully 118 (Contexts 107, 111 and 115) (Fig. 4, Sections 100, 102 and 106, Plan 100; Plates 5 and 7). Gully 118 had an identical curvilinear shape in plan, with a north to south orientation that curved to the south-west at the southern extent. The two gullies ran parallel to one another and survived on the same horizon level.

Gully 118 extended beyond the northern limit of excavation, measuring greater than 8.80m in length. It had a maximum width of 0.75m and a maximum depth of 0.13m. Gully 118 had a very similar shape to gully 117 which was similarly consistent throughout. Gully 118 had a gradual break-of-slope at the top and at the base, and had gradual sloping and concave sides. The base of the gully was flat. A total of three interventions were excavated into gully 118 (Fig 4, Sections 100, 102 and 106).

Gully 118 contained a single fill of friable, dark-grey silty-clay (Contexts (108), (112) and (116)) (Fig. 4, Sections 100, 102 and 106, Plan 100; Plates 5 and 7). It contained infrequent small rounded gravels. It measured greater than 8.80m in length, 0.75m in width and had a maximum thickness of 0.13m. The colour, compaction and composition was uniform throughout and it was seemingly identical to the fill within gully 117.

Gully 118 contained a single piece of pottery dating to the Roman period which was retained from context (108). A further two sherds of pottery were recovered from deposit (112), however, these sherds were considered to have probably been from a later period (Sections 100 and 102 respectively, Fig. 4). Similarly, this deposit is likely the result of backfill following disuse, similar to gully 117.

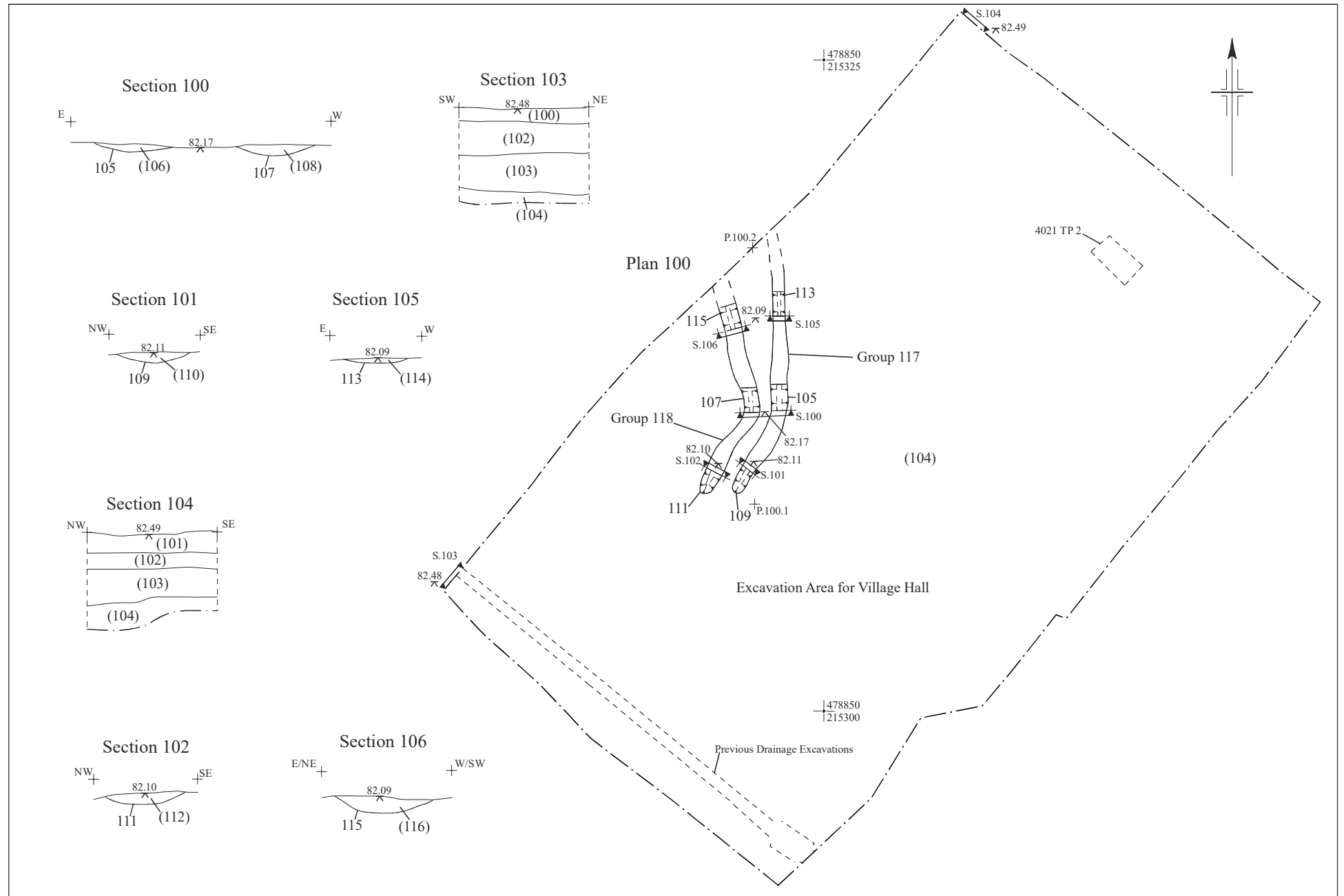


Figure 4: Plan of Excavation Area and Sections.

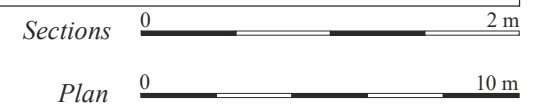




Plate 6: Section 101. Looking north-east.

Stratified above the two gullies 117 and 118 was a friable, mid greyish-brown silty-clay (103) (Fig. 4, Sections 103 and 104, Plan 100; Plate 8). It contained inclusions of rare small-sized stones. It had a maximum thickness of 0.32m and was observed throughout the full extent of the excavated area. This deposit was identified as a buried soil horizon and a former ploughsoil layer. This deposit, (103), is the same as deposit (25) that was observed during the excavation of the service trenches.



Plate 7: Section 102. Looking north-east.

Overlying deposit (103) was a friable, mid-brown silty-clay (102) (Fig. 4, Sections 103 and 104, Plan 100; Plate 8). This deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.27m and was observed throughout the full extent of the excavated area. This deposit was similar to the deposit (103) below, however, deposit (102) was browner in colour and contained no noteworthy inclusions. Deposit (102) was identified as being a made-ground topsoil.

Overlying deposit (102) in the eastern and southern part of the site was a loose to friable, mid brownish-grey clayey-silt (101) (Fig. 4, Section 104, Plan 100; Plate 8). This deposit measured greater than 13.50m in length and greater than 18.80m in width, with a thickness of 0.16m. The deposit was identified as the topsoil layer.



Plate 8: Section 104. Looking north-east.

The latest observed deposit, and stratified above the topsoil layer (101) was a friable, dark grey-brown silty-gravel (100) (Fig. 4, Section 103, Plan 100; Plate 8). It contained inclusions of small to medium-sized pieces of crushed concrete and other stone rubble. It measured greater than 17m in length, greater than 7m in width and had a thickness of 0.12m. This deposit was identified as a modern made-ground layer for a temporary surface.

#### **4.4 Reliability of Results**

The reliability of the results for the excavation area is considered to be good. Weather conditions were overcast to clear throughout. The horizon clarity of the archaeological features and deposits where present were also good. The weather was more inclement during the exaction of the temporary parish building foundations and the day nursery foundations. The clarity was for horizons and features was less clear during these works.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted the recovery of three sherds of 'pottery' weighing 48 g. The pieces were recovered from two gully features and are slightly enigmatic. At first glance they could be sherds from Bronze Age urn but on consideration it is perhaps more likely that the sherd from gully [107] is a slightly degraded sherd of Roman handmade storage jar in pink-grog-tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, PNK GT). These vessels were common from the later 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD and were made in the Buckinghamshire area (Booth 1999). The two joining sherds from [111] are small and quite hard fired. They show no curvature so could just possibly be ceramic building material (CBM) rather than pottery or from a large vessel and thus too small to show curvature. If it is CBM it is difficult to date as an isolated find, but it does not have the thickness that would be expected of Roman material and would thus probably be later in date.

Further datable finds or pottery from the immediate locality would be needed to confirm or refute a date for these sherds.

#### Catalogue

1. One bodysherd from a handmade vessel with oxidised surfaces and a reduced black interior. The matrix contains a sparse frequency of sub-angular grog. Wall thickness 12 mm. Wt. 38 g. Gully [107] (108).
2. Two joining bodysherds from a handmade vessel. Hard fired fabric oxidised with a grey brown interior surface. The matrix contains sparse sub-angular grog. Wall thickness 10 mm. Wt. 10 g. Gully terminus [111] (112).

### 5.2 Ceramic drainpipe by Simona Denis

A single fragment of salt glazed earthenware drain pipe, weighing 54.8g, was collected from deposit (106), the fill of a shallow gully 105.

Such impervious pipe were introduced by Henry Doulton in 1846 and were widely used across the country during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (McComish 2015).

It is not recommended to retain the drain pipe fragment, due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological investigation aimed to prove the existence of significant archaeological remains, with a particular focus of Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. During the course of the excavation groundworks, two shallow, curvilinear gullies were uncovered. Both gullies had identical shapes in plan with nearly identical fill deposits. As a result, these two gullies have been determined to have been near contemporary with one another. It is probable that one of these gullies represented the re-digging of a bounded area or some other function which had moved the position of this function either to the east or the west.

The western-most gully contained a single piece of Roman pottery that was dated to the later 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. It also contained two sherds that were possibly from a later period, which made the dating of the gully difficult. It was located c80m to the north/north-east of the known route of the Roman road. The eastern gully contained a residual surface-level piece of 19<sup>th</sup> earthenware drainpipe which was considered to be intrusive. The purpose of the two gullies was unclear. They were very shallow, it is possible that they were shallow drainage channels, although their shallowness may also be due erosion and truncation over time. Four additional undated features were also uncovered, they may have been pits or ditches. These features were observed within the foundation pad excavations, and as a result of that method of excavating, the full extents of those features remains unclear. No further archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered during the groundwork excavations.

## 7 ARCHIVE

### Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

#### Paper record

The project brief  
Written scheme of investigation  
The project report  
The primary site record

#### Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Discover Bucks Museum with accession number AYBCM: 2019.136.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Booth, P, 1999: Pink grogged ware again, *Study Gp for Roman Pottery newsletter* 27, 2-3

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

John Moore Heritage Services, 2018, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Roman Park, Berryfields, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire*.

John Moore Heritage Services, 2019, *18/02680/APP – Berryfields MDA, Bicester Road, Quarrendon, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological Investigation. Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished.

McComish, J.M. (2015), *A Guide To Ceramic Building Materials. An Insight Report*. York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research

Tomber, R and Dore, J, 1998: *The National Roman fabric reference collection: a handbook*, Museum of London / English Heritage/ British Museum (<http://www.romanpotterystudy.org>)

## Summary for johnmoor1-502527

OASIS ID (UID)	johnmoor1-502527
Project Name	Archaeological Investigation at BERRYFIELDS MDA, BICESTER ROAD, QUARRENDON
Activity type	Watching Brief, Strip Map And Sample
Project Identifier(s)	BYRRP 19, 4100, AYBCM:2019.136
Planning Id	18/02680/APP
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	John Moore Heritage Services
Project Dates	25-Oct-2018 - 18-May-2021
Location	BERRYFIELDS MDA, BICESTER ROAD, QUARRENDON NGR : SP 78840 15350 LL : 51.8312102316206, - 0.857293119596943 12 Fig : 478840,215350
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Buckinghamshire District : Aylesbury Vale Parish : Berryfields



<p>Project Methodology</p>	<p>Multiple phases of groundwork have taken place on this site. The earliest archaeological works took place on the 25th October, 2018 and the 6th November, 2018 (JMHS, 2018). The works involved the excavation of four test pits, for the purpose of detailing material above the archaeological horizon, with the later intention of planting trees. The results of the watching brief excavations identified the existence of two Roman ditches within test pit 1 (34m south of the recent excavation area for the new village hall building). Test pits 2-4 identified the depths and thicknesses of geological deposits, buried soil deposits as well as made-ground deposits. A possible buried ploughsoil material was also identified, but was not definitive.</p> <p>Later watching brief groundworks took place on the 9th October, 2019. That phase of works included the excavation of service trenches as well as the excavation of pits for manhole services. This included two sets of service trenches, the northernmost set of excavations had a total length of 47.60m with a maximum width of 1.60m and a maximum depth of 0.80m. The southernmost set of excavations were T-shaped and had a maximum length of 33.80m, a maximum width of 28.10m and a maximum depth of 1.20m (In the north-eastern corner). Two manhole pits measuring roughly 0.50m by 1.30m were excavated also, they had a simple stratigraphy of topsoil, subsoil and natural, and were not recorded in full with a section drawing.</p> <p>A further phase of watching brief excavations occurred between the 9th March, 2020 and the 19th March, 2020. These excavations were for a series of foundation pads for the temporary parish office building, in the south-west of the site and the children's day nursery to the north-east. The foundation pads for the temporary parish building covered an area measuring 12.10m by 9.50m and involved the excavation of 25 pad footings. These 25 pad footings each had their own section drawing created, numbered from 50 to 74. However, due to their close proximity in a relatively small area, only sections 55, 61, 63 and 64 will be discussed. The other remaining sections all</p>
----------------------------	--

contained a simple stratigraphic sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural and so do not provide any different information.

To the north-east, for the children's day nursery, the excavations covered an area measuring 14m by 13.10m and included 24 foundation pads. Similar to the foundation pads for the temporary parish building, a section drawing of each intervention was recorded, numbering from 75 to 98. However, only sections 76, 77 and 89 will be discussed.

The latest groundworks involved the excavation of an area measuring 30.80m by 18.50m which was excavated down to a depth of 0.74m, reaching the natural clay geology. It covered the footprint for the new village-hall building. These took place on the 17th and 18th May, 2021.

Further construction works on the sport facilities, allotments, wildlife reserve and play areas, were not at a sufficient depth to impact the archaeological layer. As a result, these works did not need to be monitored.

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to the Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods.

Project Results	<p>The archaeological investigation aimed to prove the existence of significant archaeological remains, with a particular focus of Prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. During the course of the excavation groundworks, two shallow, curvilinear gullies were uncovered. Both gullies had identical shapes in plan with nearly identical fill deposits. As a result, these two gullies have been determined to have been near contemporary with one another. It is probable that one of these gullies represented the re-digging of a bounded area or some other function which had moved the position of this function either to the east or the west. The western-most gully contained a single piece of Roman pottery that was dated to the later 2nd to 4th centuries AD. It also contained two sherds that were possibly from a later period, which made the dating of the gully difficult. The eastern gully contained a residual surface-level piece of 19th earthenware drainpipe which was considered to be intrusive. The purpose of the two gullies was unclear. They were very shallow, it is possible that they were shallow drainage channels, although their shallowness may also be due erosion and truncation over time. Four additional undated features were also uncovered, they may have been pits or ditches. These features were observed within the foundation pad excavations, and as a result of that method of excavating, the full extents of those features remains unclear. No further archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered during the groundwork excavations.</p>
Keywords	<p>Sherd - UNCERTAIN - FISH  Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  Gully - UNCERTAIN - FISH  Thesaurus of Monument Types</p>
HER	<p>Buckinghamshire HER - unRev - STANDARD</p>
HER Identifiers	
Archives	<p>Physical Archive, Documentary  Archive - to be deposited with  Discover Bucks Museum</p>