LAND TO THE EAST OF BRIDGE STREET
BUCKINGHAM

Archaeological Trench Evaluation

prepared by

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

for

PHOENIX CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

on behalf of

LIMOGES LTD

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the results of pre-determination archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Bridge Street, Buckingham (NGR 469660 233900). The evaluation was considered necessary because the proposed development area lay within the historic core of Buckingham. It was hoped that archaeological evaluation would help generate a reliable predictive model of archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised eight archaeological trenches dug across the car park and woodland within the development area. This work identified a sequence of river channel deposits, alluvial layers, an embankment and possible flood alleviation features within the car park area, late medieval and post-medieval pits within the garden area, and property boundaries, early post-medieval pits, post-medieval footings, demolition spreads, possible flood alleviation features and further river channel deposits/alluvial layers within the woodland area.

Proposed development is likely to impact upon some of the known and potential archaeology within this area, and the overall significance of that impact is considered to be low to medium.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Archaeological trench evaluation

1.1.1 Scope of archaeological work and this report

This document, prepared by Network Archaeology Ltd., presents the results of pre-determination archaeological evaluation of a proposed development area (PDA), occupying land to the east of Bridge Street, Buckingham (figure 1).

1.1.2 Reason for the proposed trench evaluation

The archaeological evaluation was considered necessary because the PDA lay within the historic core of Buckingham. The evaluation was intended to establish whether or not significant archaeological remains relating to the medieval and post-medieval development of Buckingham existed within the PDA (see 1.1.3). The need to consider such archaeological remains in this area was based upon desk-based assessment, which identified the PDA as having "a moderate potential for the recovery of archaeological evidence" (Phoenix Consulting Archaeology 2004) (see 1.4).

1.1.3 Aims of the evaluation

The primary purpose of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains and associated palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of study.

The specific aims were:

- to establish whether there was evidence for Saxon activity in this area;
- to establish whether there was evidence for occupation, property boundaries, commercial or industrial activities associated with the medieval and post medieval town, including any traces of the Three Cups Inn and the related tanning works;
- to establish whether there was evidence for riverside activities including water management features and assess the potential for waterlogged deposits, and
- to identify the significance of the terrace identified in paragraph 4.2.2 of the desk based assessment (Phoenix Consulting Archaeology 2004) (see 1.4).

1.1.4 Archaeological procurement

The proposed trench evaluation was commissioned by *Phoenix Consulting Ltd* on behalf of *Limoges Ltd*. The archaeological contractor was *Network Archaeology Ltd*, a professional archaeological organisation which provides consultancy advice and undertakes field services.

1.1.5 Archaeological resourcing

The evaluation took place in two phases. Phase I was undertaken by a team of three people from 18th to 29th July 2005. Phase II was undertaken by a team of four people from 7th to 12th November 2006. Report writing was undertaken by two individuals over a two week period in October and November 2005, and in January 2006. Use was made of MapInfo GIS and AutoCAD to manage and present the data. One sub-contractor provided the finds assessment report.

1.2 Proposed development and development area

1.2.1 Proposed development

The PDA is being promoted for retail and residential development.

1.2.2 Description of the PDA

The PDA, which covers approx. *c*. 0.85 ha, is located on land to the east of Bridge Street, within the Buckingham conservation area, approximately 250m to the south of the centre of Buckingham (NGR 469660 233900) (Figure 1). The land is low-lying (between 79.5 and 81.5 AOD) and occupies the north west bank of the River Ouse.

At the time of evaluation, the site consisted of two distinct areas. The south west half of the PDA comprised a tarmac car park and overgrown gardens to the rear of the White Hart pub, while the north east half was an overgrown woodland.

The underlying solid geology is Cornbrash and Oolitic limestone (Blisworth Series), and this is covered by drift deposits comprising Sandy Gravels and Silty Alluvium

The overlying soils covering most of the PDA are Stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the Oxpasture Association (Soil Survey 1983, 572h), while pelo-alluvial gley soils of the Fladbury 1 Association (Soil Survey 1983, 813b) are likely to border the River Ouse.

1.3 Legislation, regulations and guidance

1.3.1 Policy guidelines

The national (PPG16) and local (Buckinghamshire Structure Plan Policy 31, Aylesbury Vale District Plan Policy GP.59) policy guidelines on archaeology address protection of archaeological sites, either by preservation '*in situ'* or preservation 'by record'.

Planning authorities may require applicants to commission an archaeological evaluation prior to determination of any planning application, and may attach an archaeological condition to any such planning permission in the event that important archaeological remains are identified within the application area.

1.3.2 Pre-planning consultation

Following consultation with Aylesbury Vale District, an archaeological brief was issued by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service on 18th January 2005 (Radford 2005). In response to that brief, a Project Design (Network Archaeology Ltd) was submitted and subsequently implemented.

1.4 Archaeological background and potential

1.4.1 Archaeological and historical background

A summary of the historical and archaeological background is presented below. Further detail can be found in the brief (Radford 2005) and in the desk-based assessment (Phoenix Consulting Archaeology 2004). In particular, the desk-based assessment includes a gazetteer (Appendix B) and location plan (Figure 8) of all previously known sites within or adjacent to the proposed development area.

Prehistoric and Roman remains from the town of Buckingham are limited to a few stray finds, although the surrounding countryside has yielded the usual range of flint scatters, settlements and roads.

Buckingham itself was founded as a double-bugh town in the Anglo-Saxon period. The principal burh is thought to lie in the bend of the river occupied by Castle Hill and the site of the medieval church to the south west of the hill. The church is believed to have originated as a late Saxon 'minster'. The town acquired a mint in the late tenth and early eleventh centuries and was recognised as a borough and the county town at the time of the Domesday survey.

A castle was built on the hilltop sometime after the Norman conquest. The site, known as Castle Hill on the west side of the present-day town, is now occupied by the parish church.

The main focus of the medieval town was the market place on the east side of the town. The market, which was closely connected to the wool trade, was important from at least the mid-14th century. Throughout the 15th and 16th centuries this trade and the town itself were in decline. Following a devastating fire in 1725, Buckingham slowly relinquished its status of county town to Aylesbury.

1.4.2 Archaeological potential of the PDA

There is potential for Saxon activity related to the presence of the, as yet un-located, Saxon burh, although it is more likely that the PDA lies just outside the Saxon settlement in an area of Norman 'new town' to the rear of the market frontage.

Based on previous archaeological work (Dawson, 2002; Laws, 2002, Farley, 1978), the greatest potential is for traces of back yard and industrial/commercial activities related to medieval and post-medieval occupation along Market Hill and Well Street (later Bridge Street) and also other waterside activities (including the potential for waterlogged deposits).

There is potential for remains belonging to the Three Cups Inn and associated tannery which might have occupied the PDA in the post medieval period.

Water management features relating to the River Ouse are also possible.

A 'terrace', forming a step between the lower and upper car park, may be a natural feature but it could be a man-made earthwork, possibly even the Saxon defences.

1.5 Staged approach to archaeological investigation

The first archaeological investigation of the PDA was a desk based assessment (Phoenix Consulting Archaeology 2004). The report assessed the extent of known archaeology and historic landscape development in and around the PDA and discussed the likelihood of further archaeological finds and the potential impacts of the proposed development.

The evaluation, reported in this document, forms the second stage of archaeological research, investigation and mitigation of the PDA.

1.6 Terms of reference

This evaluation report will be issued to *Phoenix Consulting Ltd* and *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.*

1.7 Report structure

This evaluation report is divided into five chapters forming three main sections:

Chapters 1-2: serve to introduce the organisations involved, the proposed development, the context, method and standards of evaluation, and the layout of this report;
Chapter 3: presents the results of the evaluation; and
Chapters 4-6 discuss and interpret the results, deal with the impacts of the proposed development And draw conclusions.

2 PROCEDURES

2.1 Standards

The evaluation was conducted according to the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2000) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2001).

2.2 Fieldwork

2.2.1 Evaluation trenches

Eight evaluation trenches were excavated, a summary of which appears in table 2.1. The final trench array within the wooded part of the PDA was significantly altered from that originally proposed in the Project Design. This was due to dense undergrowth and proximity issues to trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders or benefiting from special provisions within the conservation area (DTLR 1999).

Table 2.1: Summary of trench specifications

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (m²)	NGR 1	NGR 2
1	20	1.6	32	469692.0 233849.5	469677.5 233861.5
2	16	2.2	35	469652.0 233892.5	469643.0 233906.0
3	25	1.6	40	469730.0 233902.0	469712.5 233920.0
4	15	1.6	24	469693.5 233913.0	469679.5 233919.0
5	13	1.6	21	469676.5 233914.5	469681.0 233926.0
6	10.4	1.6	17	469691.0 233944.5	469687.5 233954.5
7	31	1.6	50	469727.0 233919.5	469704.5 233931.0
8	6.5	6.5	42		

The table below presents details of the evaluation area and the % sample of the proposed PDA.

Table 2.2: Summary of evaluation statistics

Length of PDA	104m
Average width of PDA	82m
Area of PDA	8528m²
Total area of evaluation trenches	260m²
% evaluation sample of PDA	3%

2.2.2 Survey

The end point of each evaluation trench was measured to sub-metre accuracy from fixed points located on a 1:500 scale plan produced by Emmerson Architects Ltd and provided by the client. GPS technology could not be used due to the proximity of tall trees and buildings.

2.2.3 Machine-excavation

The evaluation trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator in accordance with the methodology laid out in the *Project Design for Trench Evaluation* (Network Archaeology 2005, version 3).

Obviously recent and post-medieval deposits were machine excavated.

2.2.4 Hand-excavation, recording and sampling

All archaeological deposits, that were not obviously recent or post-medieval, were hand-excavated and recorded. The spoil was visually searched for archaeological finds and scanned with a metal detector.

Advice was sought from the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor and the Project Design updated accordingly a site visit was made by Jane Corcoran (MOLAS).

All work was undertaken in accordance with the updated *Project Design for Trench Evaluation* (Network 2005, version 3).

Machine excavation of trench 2 accidentally broke through a live sewer pipe causing raw sewage to contaminate 8m at the south east end of the trench. For this reason, none of the features at this end of the trench could be planned or fully investigated in the trench sides.

2.3 Project codes and number allocations

The project code, BSB 14, appeared on all records.

Each trench was allocated a unique identifiable number (1 – 8) and a unique block of three-digit context numbers beginning with the trench number (e.g. trench 1 was allocated numbers 100-199; trench 2 was allocated numbers 200-299, etc to trench 8 which was allocated numbers 800-899).

All contexts recorded within each trench were allocated context numbers from the unique trench number sequence, thereby ensuring that all contexts were recorded using exclusive numbers, and that each context could be recognised as being from a particular trench by the leading digit (e.g. context 403 from trench 4).

2.4 Assessment of archive, finds and soil samples

Following completion of the evaluation, the artefacts and stratigraphic information were assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis.

The finds were processed and sent to appropriate specialists for assessment (table 2.3 and appendix B).

Table 2.3: Summary of material types and specialists

Material type	Assessment by
animal bone	Richard Moore
ceramic building material	Alan Vince
clay pipe	Wendy Booth
flint	David Bonner
glass	Wendy Booth

Material type	Assessment by
leather	Quita Mould
pottery	Alan Vince
shell	Wendy Booth
soil	Jane Corcoran
stone	Wendy Booth

2.5 Data management and presentation

2.5.1 Context summary table

Summary context data is presented in context order by trench in table 3.1.

2.5.2 Figures

Nine figures are presented in appendix D. There is one overall location plan, showing the location of the PDA in its geographical context (figure 1), a plan showing the trench array (figure 2), and seven figures (3 – 9) showing the plans and representative sections of each evaluation trench. Figure 3 presents a combined plan of trench 1 and trench 8 and also includes a composite section.

2.5.3 Accuracy of displayed data

Data was captured from two sources: a 1:500 scale plan provided by the client (see 2.2.2) and permatrace drawings at 1:50 and 1:20 scale. The trenches have a positional accuracy of *c*. ± 0.1m and the archaeological remains within them probably the same level of *c*. ± 0.1m.

2.5.4 Impact assessment process

Archaeological impact assessment is the process by which the impacts of a proposed development upon the archaeological resource are identified.

The archaeological remains located by the evaluation have been assessed in their wider heritage landscape, taking account of identity, place, and past and present perceptions of value.

A three-stage process was adopted:

Stage 1:assessment of importance
Stage 2:assessment of the impact of the proposed development
Stage 3:assessment of significance of impact

The results of this process are presented in chapter 4.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

A summary of the findings is presented below (see 3.2). Each trench and its findings are described in detail in numerical order below (see 3.3). A summary table of contexts can be found in Appendix A, a finds summary quantification table in appendix B, the finds assessment reports in Appendix C and the figures in Appendix D.

3.2 Summary of results

The eight trenches produced a combination of negative cut features, positive features, soil layers and finds, a summary of which is provided in table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Summary of archaeological remains by trench

Trench	Archaeological remains
1	River channel deposits, alluvial layers, embankment, possible flood alleviation wall trench, dumped modern layers, ?allotment soil and path
2	Late medieval and post medieval pits
3	River channel deposits, alluvial layers, possible flood alleviation ditches and a postulated bank
4	Early post-medieval pits and post-medieval footings and demolition spreads
5	Post-medieval gulley, post-medieval wall footings and demolition spreads
6	Early post-medieval pits and early modern pit
7	Ditch and undated flood alleviation ditches and postulated bank
8	River channel deposits, alluvial layers and dumped modern layers

3.3 Results by trench

3.3.1 Trench 1

Description

This trench, oriented NW-SE, was located perpendicular to the River Ouse on the south west side of the car park and parallel to the A413 (figure 2).

Natural deposits

No natural deposits were observed within this trench.

Archaeological deposits

This trench contained a sequence of ten horizontal layers, a bank (116), a dump of cinder (108) and a cut feature (105) (see figures 2 and 3).

The deepest layers were investigated by two machine dug-trenches at each end of the trench. The earliest layer at the north west end of the trench was a silty organic-rich river channel deposit (120) containing no finds, lying at over 2.5m below the current ground surface. Above this layer was a one metre deep alluvial deposit (119) also containing no finds. This layer

appeared to equate to layer 806 in trench 8. The machine dug trench at the south east end of the trench located a silty organic-rich channel deposit (121) containing early post-medieval pottery and CBM. This layer appeared to equate to layers 803 and/or layer 804 in trench 8.

The water-table was reached at 2-2.5m depth below modern ground surface in both of the deep machine dug test-pits at each end of the evaluation trench.

Overlying all the above layers, and extending the full length of the trench, was a dumped gravel-rich silty clay deposit (117 and 118, equating to 803 in trench 8). This layer contained pottery and CBM dated to the mid 12th century onwards and to the late 16th century onwards, and also some animal bone.

The dumped layer (117/118) appeared to be overlain at the south east end of the trench by a large sterile clay bank (116) surviving to at least 0.7m high. The relationship is not certain as it is possible that the material encountered over 117/118 was in fact eroded bank material.

Most of the remaining horizontal layers appeared to 'rest' on the south east side of the bank (116). The first of these was an alluvial silty clay (114/115) containing pottery and CBM dated to the mid 12th century onwards and to the late 16th century onwards, and also some animal bone and shell. A thin layer of dumped clay (113), containing pottery of late 16th century onwards, clay-pipe and worked stone, extended for 3-4m from the foot of the bank (116). A layer (111/112) comprising similar material to the bank (116) extended over dump 113 and for a further seven metres along the trench. This layer (111/112) contained pottery of late 18th century plus.

The remaining layers extended along the entire trench. These included a gravely silty clay (109/110) containing pottery and glass dated to the late 18th century onwards. Resting on this layer, towards the north west end of the trench was a 1m wide dump of compacted clinker (108) containing pottery dated to the late 18th century onwards. Lying to either side of this clinker was another dumped silty clay layer (103/104/107), containing pottery, CBM, glass and clay pipe fragments dated to the mid 19th century onwards, and also some animal bone, shell and worked stone.

Approximately 2.5m to the south east of the clinker dump (108) was a trench-like feature (105) oriented NNE to SSW with a near vertical south east side and a more sloping north west side. The trench-like feature was filled with a dumped stiff silty clay and gravel (106) containing pottery and CBM dating to the mid 14th to 16th century, and also some animal bone and shell.

The trench-like feature (105) and also the bank (116) was sealed by a friable soil deposit (101/102), containing pottery, CBM and clay pipe fragments dated to the mid 19th century onwards.

Overlying all the above deposits was a rubble make-up dump for the existing tarmac car park surface (100).

3.3.2 Trench 2

Description

This trench, oriented NW to SE, was located within an area of lawn and shrubbery close to the A413 at the north west end of the PDA (figure 2).

Natural deposits

The natural sandy silt substrate (214) was encountered within the trench.

Archaeological deposits

This trench contained a soil layer (218), a sequence of inter-cutting pits (223, 232, 213 and 209), a group of stake-holes, a stone revetment (236), three trenches (205, 217 and 221), a sewer pipe and soil landscaping layers (200/201) (see figures 2 and 4).

A gritty clay layer (218) containing no finds was the earliest deposit in the trench and yet it survived less than 1m below the modern ground surface. This layer was cut by two pits (213 and 223).

Pit 213 was small, shallow, and had a bowl-shaped cut (2m wide) containing three sterile clay fills (212, 211 and 210). The pit and its fills could not be investigated fully due ground contamination (see 2.2.4).

Pit 223 had a rounded plan (*c*.3m in diameter) and had deep near vertical sides. It was filled with at least six fills; the lowest (227) was a sterile dump of sub-rounded limestone boulders and cobbles, possibly representing a disturbed structure but its full depth was not ascertained. It was overlain by a stony clay (226) containing pottery dated to the late mid 13th century onwards and some CBM. A fragment of a single upright tapered wooden stake (240) was found. It is possible that this stake was associated with Group 256. The remaining four fills (225, 224, 222 and 233) were dumped deposits containing a high percentage of redeposited natural sandy clay. Two of these fills (222 and 225) contained pottery dated to the 16th to mid 17th centuries, and also CBM and clay pipe. Pit 223 appeared to be cut by pit (232).

Pit 232 was elongated in plan and had deep near-vertical sides (*c.*5.5m long, up to 2.5m across and at least 1.5m deep). The stepped profile on its SW side suggested that it had been re-cut but no evidence could be traced through its fills. The lower fills comprised at least four similar clayey silt deposits (231, 230, 238 and 237 in the north west section and 231, 230, 229 and 228 in the south east section). Two of these fills contained finds: fill 230 contained pottery dated to the mid 12th – mid 13th century and some CBM, and fill 228 contained some animal bone.

The water-table was reached at 2-2.5m depth below modern ground surface in the base of pits 223 and 232.

The upper fills of the pit (232) were more complex. There was a stone-built structure (236), comprising at least four courses of non-bonded limestone blocks (*c*.1.5m long and 0.6m high) upon which was a dumped silty gravel deposit (235) containing pottery dated to the mid 12th – mid 13th century and also a fragment of clay pipe. The front face of the stone structure, which was exposed at the north east of the trench, appeared to have a stepped profile.

Two groups of tapering stake-holes were also found. One group (256) comprising four voided squared stake-holes (0.1-0.15m wide and 0.1–0.25m deep) appeared to underlay the front edge of the stone structure (236) thereby pre-dating it, while a second group (255) of rounded stake-holes (0.1-0.15m in diameter and 0.25-0.5m deep) appeared to cut through deposit 235 suggesting that this group post-dated the stone structure. The uppermost fill (234) of the pit (232) was similar to the lower fills and it extended across the full width of the pit.

Pit (209), located immediately to the south east of pit 213, appeared to have a shallow bowl-like profile, but its full profile could not be established due to ground contamination (see 2.2.4). The pit had a lower clayey fill (208) containing pottery dated to the mid 12th – mid 13th century, and an upper sterile gritty fill. The pit was cut by a modern sewer pipe, the backfill of which contained medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery.

The upper fills of several pits were cut by three undated trenches (205, 217 and 221): Pit 205 was a wall trench containing a wall (204) and backfill (203). Pit 217 was probably a robbed wall trench as it contained a brick mortar fill (216). Pit 221 contained a lower sandy gravel fill (220) overlain by a clayey silt (219).

All of the above deposits were overlain either by brick rubble layer 215 (NW end of the trench) or by gravel layer 201 (SE end of the trench). The base of both these layers was a truncation horizon. The uppermost layer (200) was re-deposited topsoil.

3.3.3 Trench 3

Description

This trench, oriented NW to SE, was located roughly centrally within the woodland area of the PDA (figure 2).

Natural deposits

The natural basal gravel (310) was reached at a depth of over 2.5m within a machine-cut hole at the south east end of the trench. The natural sandy clay substrate (305) was encountered at a depth of *c*.0.8m along most of the remainder of the trench.

Archaeological deposits

This trench contained a series of five horizontal layers (300, 301, 303, 305 and 306), a lens (302) and two possible cuts (304 and 307). Two further layers (308 and 309) were exposed in the sides of the machine cut hole at the south east end of the trench (see figures 2 and 5).

The earliest deposit was a dark organic-rich river channel silt (309) containing some large fragments of animal bone, CBM and medieval pottery dated to the 12th century onwards. This silt rested directly upon the natural basal gravel (310). Overlying the silt (309) was a deep silty clay alluvial layer (308) containing animal bone, CBM and medieval pottery dated to the 14th century onwards. The water-table was reached at 2-2.5m depth below modern ground surface. The alluvial layer (308) appeared to rest upon the south east end of layer 306.

Layer 306 was a friable silty clay deposit extending for 18m along the trench and which appeared to fill a shallow linear cut (307), approximately 2m wide and 0.2m deep. The layer (306) was very variable in its thickness (0.2m to over 1m) and appeared to have been disturbed or possibly cut into at its south east end. Overlying layer 306 was a stony silty clay deposit (303), containing post-medieval pottery dated to the 17th century onwards, and which extended the entire length of the trench. This stony layer appeared to fill a linear cut (304) at the north west end of the trench and also filled two depressions or cuts into layer 306 at the south east end of the trench. A small lens of another stony silty clay (302) overlay layer 303.

The uppermost layers included a sandy subsoil layer containing early modern pottery dated to the late 18th century onwards and a dark topsoil layer containing medieval pottery and early modern pottery dated to the early 19th century onwards.

3.3.4 Trench 4

Description

This trench, oriented WNW to ESE, was located adjacent to trench 5 on the south west side of the woodland area close to the fence that divided it from the car park (figure 2).

Natural deposits

The natural sandy clay substrate (405) was encountered at a depth of 0.65m to 0.75m along the base of the trench.

Archaeological deposits

This trench contained four pits (410, 412, 414 and 418), two other possible cuts (406 and 407) and six horizontal layers (400, 401, 402, 403, 404 and 408) (see figures 2 and 6).

Three of the pits, located in the south east corner of the trench, were inter-cutting. The earliest of these was a small oval pit (414) with a flat base and steep sides. It was filled by two loamy clay deposits (413 and 415) and containing a worked flint. This pit (414) was cut by a considerably larger oval pit (412) filled by loamy clay deposit and charcoal lens containing medieval pottery dated to the late 13th century onwards. This pit (412) was then cut by a very small circular pit or posthole (410) filled by another loamy clay deposit. The level from which these three pits had been cut could not be confidently discerned.

The fourth pit (418) was located in the north west corner of the trench. This pit was sub-oval in form and filled with two loamy clay deposits (417 and 419), containing CBM and medieval pottery dated to the 12th century onwards.

All four pits were covered by a silty clay layer (403 and 404) containing animal bone, medieval pottery, post-medieval pottery and early modern pottery dated to the 18th century onwards.

The upper layers included rubble/mortar spreads (402 and 408), a rubbly soil (401) containing post medieval pottery and early modern pottery dated to the mid 19th century onwards, and topsoil containing a worked flint and medieval pottery dated to the 13th century onwards. One of these layers (402) may fill a possible irregular cut (406). A further possible cut (407), through layers 408 and 403, is also tentatively suggested.

Additionally, in the south east corner of the trench, a brick foundation with an abutting steel sheet (420), overlain by layer 403, was recorded at over 0.5m depth below the modern ground surface.

3.3.5 Trench 5

Description

This trench, oriented SSW to NNE, was located adjacent to trench 4 on the south west side of the woodland area close to the fence that divided it from the car park (figure 2).

Natural deposits

The natural sandy clay substrate (507 and 508) was encountered at a depth of 0.65m to 0.8m along the base of the trench.

Archaeological deposits

This trench contained one gulley (505), a wall trench (501) and three horizontal layers (500, 503 and 504) (see figures 2 and 7).

Gulley (505), oriented NW to SE, had an asymmetrical profile and was filled by a silty clay loam deposit. A single fragment of clay pipe was found embedded into the surface of the fill of this feature after machining and so its provenance is not certain.

The gulley was covered by a 1m deep stony sandy clay loam layer (504), with an irregular upper surface which dipped down to the SSW. This dip appeared to be filled by a dump of white loamy sand containing early modern pottery dated to the late 18th century onwards. A *c*.0.5m wide wall trench (501) was cut into the surface of layer 504 at the NNE end of the trench. The wall trench was overlain by a sandy loam topsoil deposit (500).

3.3.6 Trench 6

Description

This trench, oriented SSE to NNW, was located in the north corner of the woodland area of the PDA (figure 2).

Natural deposits

The natural sandy clay substrate (619) was encountered at a depth of 1m to 1.2m along the base of the trench.

Archaeological deposits

This trench contained three inter-cutting pits (600, 601 and 615), a pit/ditch (608), a pit/trench (604), a shallow trench (612) and three horizontal layers (606, 607 and 611) (see figures 2 and 8).

Pit (or ditch) 608 was the earliest feature in trench 6. This feature was oriented NE to SW and appeared to have moderately sloping sides and a concave base in contrast to all other cut features in this trench. Pit (or ditch) 608 was filled by a lower stony sandy loam and an upper, much deeper, loamy sand, neither of which contained any finds. Pit (or ditch) 608 was cut on either side by two pits (600 and 615).

The three pits (600, 601 and 615) all appeared to have similar flat bottomed and near vertically-sided profiles and all three were filled by similar loamy sand and sandy loam soils. The fill of pit 600 contained animal bone, CBM, medieval pottery, post-medieval pottery and early modern pottery dated to the late 16th century onwards. The fill of pit 601 contained CBM, animal bone, worked flint, post-medieval bottle glass and medieval pottery dated to the late 13th century onwards. The fill of pit 615 contained CBM, post-medieval pottery and early modern pottery dated to the late 16th century onwards.

A flat bottomed and vertical-sided pit or trench (604) had been dug along the middle of pit/ditch (608). The pit (or trench) 608 contained a primary dump of broken crockery and bottles (605) dated to the nineteenth century and a loamy sand backfill (609).

Cut into the top of the fills of pits 600/601 was a linear trench-like feature (612), oriented N-S, and it was filled by crushed limestone gravel and loamy sand.

The uppermost layers comprised an undated layer of dumped sandy loam soil (611), overlain by a dump layer (607) containing modern detritus (e.g. bed springs) within a silty loam soil, and re-deposited topsoil.

3.3.7 Trench 7

Description

This trench, oriented WNW to ESE, was located on the NE side of the woodland area of the PDA (figure 2).

Natural deposits

The natural sandy clay substrate (710) was encountered at a depth of 1.5m to 1.6m along the base of the trench.

Archaeological deposits

This trench contained two ditches (700 and 704), a possible third ditch and two horizontal layers (see figures 2 and 9).

The earliest feature was a straight ditch (700), oriented NW-SE with a U shaped profile. It was filled by two similar stiff sandy clay deposits, the lower of which produced a single Roman sherd. This ditch was cut by ditch 704.

Ditch 704 was very large and had a 4m wide flat bottom and moderately steep sides. The precise depth from which it was cut was not certain but the ditch appeared to be over 6m wide and over 1.5m deep. It was filled by three deposits: a lower stony sandy clay containing animal bone and worked flint, a middle stony silty clay containing animal bone and worked flint, and an upper silty clay.

Approximately 7m to the ESE of ditch 704 was a 5-6m wide soil colour change which might have been the upper fill of another possible ditch. This soil change was investigated by hand and dismissed as being natural. In trench 3, however, there was a possible linear cut (307) which might relate to the soil change in trench 7 (see 3.3.3).

3.3.8 Trench 8

Description

This trench, oriented NE-SW, was located perpendicular and adjacent to trench 1 on the SW side of the car park (figure 2).

Natural deposits

Basal gravel (807) was encountered at a depth of 3m below the modern ground surface in the base of a machine cut trench.

Archaeological deposits

This trench contained a sequence of seven horizontal layers (800 – 806) (see figures 2 and 3).

The deepest three layers (804, 805 and 806) were organic-rich alluvial silty clays, with a combined depth of 1.5m. The earliest of these layers (806) contained animal bone and scraps of undated leather.
Overlying the alluvial layers was a dumped stony layer which equated with layer 117/118 in trench 1. The remaining layers in trench 8 were the same upper layers recorded in trench 1 (see 3.3.1).

3.4 Finds

3.4.1 Summary of find types

Nine find types were recovered, details of which can be found in appendix B, and each of which is briefly summarised below:

Animal bone
Twenty fragments of animal bone, weighing just over 800g, were assessed. The condition of the bone varied. Cattle and sheep, or goat, were the most common animals represented in the assemblage with pig and dog also being present. The dog bone, found in context 103, may have been deposited relatively recently.

Ceramic building material
Twenty five fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 1958g were assessed. Most were unglazed sand-tempered bricks and tiles of post-medieval date. Three unusual fragments of a glazed tile with a flange and also a glazed ceramic fragment could be medieval or post-medieval.

Clay pipe
Nine fragments of clay pipe, weighing 45g, were assessed. The majority of the fragments were undecorated pieces of stem dated to the 18th-20th centuries, apart from an undecorated, near-complete pipe from context 228 and a bowl base from context 104 which could date to as early as 1660-80.

Flint
Ten fragments of worked flint, weighing 86g, were assessed. These included scrapers, a blade fragment and waste debitage, and ranged from the Mesolithic to the late Neolithic/Bronze Age.

Glass
Three fragments of glass, weighing 124g, were assessed. It included a very thin piece of recent window glass (context 104), a bottle fragment dated to between 1650 and 1680 (context 602) and a bottle fragment dated post 1750 (context 109).

Leather
Three scraps of leather were assessed but none exhibited any datable traits.

Pottery
Sixty-four sherds of pottery, weighing 909g were assessed. The earliest was a very abraded sherd of Roman pottery. Twenty-seven sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 12th or 13th century onwards were recorded, and these are mostly well-known in Buckinghamshire and the surrounding counties (e.g. Brill/Boarstall ware). Twenty one sherds of post-medieval pottery were recorded, most of which could not be attributed to a particular source. Some were dated on their manufacturing tradition to the 15th to 16th-century and late 17th century onwards. Sixteen sherds of early modern pottery, mostly factory products dated to the 18th century or later, were also recorded.

Shell
Three fragments of oyster shell, weighing 26g, were assessed.

Worked stone
Two fragments of worked stone, weighing 10g, were assessed. These fragments were flat shards of slate with a single straight worked edge, and had probably been part of domestic roofing slates.

3.4.2 Summary of find quantifications

A summary of count and weight of each find type by context is presented in appendix C.

3.4.3 Palaeo-environmental material

Soil samples were recovered from contexts 308, 309, 806 and 807 and these have been held for future possible assessment and analysis. Soil samples were not recovered from any pits fills as they were either inaccessible and/or contained unsuitable material.

3.5 Physical and health and safety constraints

3.5.1 Car park

The tarmac required a breaker to create a 'biting edge' after which it was possible to lift it using a toothed bucket fitted to a mechanical excavator. The underlying make-up presented no difficulties to the toothed bucket. The depth of alluvial deposits required the enlargement of the evaluation trench and this presented significant soil handling issues, which were further complicated by the water-table (see 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3).

3.5.2 Pub garden

The depth of archaeological remains required the enlargement of the evaluation trench and this presented significant soil handling issues, which were further complicated by the water-table (see 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3). Concrete terracing, brick wall foundations and sewer pipes were an added problem.

3.5.3 Woodland

The depth of archaeological remains required the enlargement of one of the evaluation trenches and this presented significant soil handling issues, which were further complicated by the water-table (see 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3). Brick wall foundations tree roots were an added problem.

3.6 Confidence rating of the results

A confidence rating in the reliability of the evaluation results by trench is presented in table 6.1 below:

Table 3.2: Summary table of confidence rating by trench

Trench	Confidence rating	comment
1	Medium	The descriptions, interpretations and relationships of deposits recorded within the two deep machine cut trenches at either end of trench 1 were not as reliable as those recorded in the shallow part of the trench due to health and safety constraints of working within deep trenches, as well as due to the unstable nature of the waterlogged alluvial deposits. Furthermore, there is now some uncertainty whether context 116, considered to be an embankment, might also include erosion layers, and this possibility might affect the stratigraphic relationship between true bank material and some of the immediate layers (e.g. 117/118).
2	Medium	The descriptions, interpretations and relationships of deposits recorded within the base of the deep machine cut trench at the NW end of trench 2 were not as reliable as those recorded in the shallow part of the trench due to health and safety constraints of working within deep trenches, as well as due to the unstable nature of the semi-waterlogged pit fills. Investigation and recording was also limited at the SE end of the trench for environmental health reasons following the rupture of a sewer pipe.
3	Medium	The descriptions, interpretations and relationships of deposits recorded within the deep machine cut trench at the SE of trench 3 were not as reliable as those recorded in the shallow part of the trench due to health and safety constraints of working within deep trenches, as well as due to the unstable nature of the waterlogged alluvial deposits. Tree roots also disrupted the upper soil horizons.
4	Medium to high	The relationship of the pit cuts to those layers which were physically higher in the trench sides was uncertain Tree roots also disrupted the upper soil horizons.
5	Medium to high	The relationship of the pit cuts to those layers which were physically higher in the trench sides was uncertain. Tree roots also disrupted the upper soil horizons.
6	Medium	The descriptions, interpretations and relationships of deposits recorded within the middle of the trench (pits 604 and 608) were not as reliable as those recorded elsewhere in the trench due to health and safety constraints of working within deep trenches, as well as due to the digging activities of unauthorised 'bottle diggers', which resulted in section collapse. Tree roots also disrupted the upper soil horizons.
7	Medium to high	There is uncertainty over a possible linear feature which was investigated and dismissed but later found to align with a possible cut feature (307) in trench 3. Tree roots also disrupted the upper soil horizons.
8	Medium	The descriptions, interpretations and relationships of

		deposits recorded within this deep, machine-cut trench was not fully reliable due to health and safety constraints of working within deep trenches, as well as due to the unstable nature of the waterlogged alluvial deposits. Tree roots also disrupted the upper soil horizons.

4 INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Trenches 1 and 8

A key finding of these trenches was two waterlain deposits (806) resting upon the basal gravel close to the present course of the River Ouse. The earliest was a laminated organic deposit which appeared to have formed at the margins of a river channel, while the deep overlying alluvial deposit, representing prolonged overbank spill, showed that an historic channel had become marginalised by the river. This might be the result of either natural channel migration or human activity (e.g. canalisation of the river). The small number of finds (animal bone and leather) from these lower alluvial layers suggests that human activity was not locally intense, although patches of vivianite within these deposits might be evidence of high phosphate levels resulting from nearby human and/or animal activity (Appendix C; Corcoran).

The embankment (116), which is undated, could be a natural river bank but it may in part be man-made as an attempt to alleviate the risk of flooding.

The heavy gravel load of the overlying layer (117, 118 and 803) indicates that it had been dumped as a possible surface sometime from the late 16th century onwards.

The overlying alluvial layers contained relatively greater amounts of human detritus indicating that this deposit may be a continuation of the environment represented by the 'clean' lower deposit, but in a more intensively occupied location (Appendix C; Corcoran).

Further evidence of attempts to prevent seasonal flooding and/or reclaim land may be represented by trench 105. Its form and parallel alignment to the existing river suggests that it may have been a revetment trench for a stone wall or timber revetment. The nearby dump of clinker (108) might represent a parallel path on the dryland side of the postulated flood defences. Both these events appear to be post-medieval in date and probably date to the 18th or 19th centuries.

The relationship of the alluvial deposits to the 'dryland' deposits of trench 2 (see 4.2) could not be ascertained.

4.2 Trench 2

This trench revealed a firm sandy silt upon which most of Buckingham appears to be built. This deposit, however, is likely to be a Quaternary slope deposit and could be derived from exposures of Till upslope (i.e. layer 214 may not be a true natural). The trench location, at the foot of the present valley side, means that Pleistocene and Holocene slope deposits might be interleaved with river deposits and might also seal ancient landsurfaces (i.e. prehistoric or early historic deposits might be buried under layer 214) (Appendix C; Corcoran).

The area evaluated by trench 2 appeared to have undergone intensive pit digging activity from the 16th century onwards. In the event, only those pits (223 and 232) at the north west end were fully investigated but these revealed some significant evidence. All the pits contained multiple layers of dumped soils and waterlogged deposits (sufficient to preserve wood) survived at a depth of *c*.3m below the modern ground surface.

The stone structure (236) within pit 232 might be a foundation wall to a building or a pit revetment wall; it was a common practice when new pits were accidentally dug through the unstable fills of earlier pits to reinforce the face of the earlier pit to prevent it from slumping.

The two phases of timber stakes (255 and 256) could be piles to a timber structure or they might represent the remains of fencelines, in which case they might represent earlier and/or later phases of the boundary marked by possible wall 236.

The limestone rubble within the base of adjacent pit 223 might be evidence of an earlier structure, either as an *in situ* pit revetment wall or more probably the discarded remains of some surface structure.

All of the pits contained quantities of residual medieval pottery proving that deposits of this period had been disturbed by later pit digging in this area. The primary function of the pits was not apparent, although it is possible that the deeper ones represent successive episodes of latrine digging at the rear of buildings on the High Street.

4.3 Trench 3

This trench revealed an identical sequence of alluvial accumulation to trenches 1/8, namely basal gravel (310), overlain by river channel deposits (309), overlain by overbank flood deposits (308), thereby indicating that channel migration had also occurred in this part of the PDA.

In contrast to trenches 1/8 and trench 2, this trench (3) exposed a direct relationship between the alluvial and dryland zones, in that the uppermost alluvial deposit (308) appeared to 'rest' upon layer 306, which directly overlay the natural sandy silt (305).

Layer 306 might possibly represent a flattened bank and might have originated (in part) from an upcast bank from cut 307. A similar interpretation may explain the relationship between layer 303 and ditch 304.

4.4 Trench 4

This trench produced four possible medieval pits (410, 412, 414 and 418), although the evidence, two medieval sherds, is very tentative. Most striking, however, is the lack clarity of the level from which the pits were dug, suggesting that later episodes of rapid digging and backfilling and/or landscaping had taken place in this area. This assumption accords with the discovery of a metal-lined brick wall (420) which probably represents the foundation/floor of a former workhouse which once stood here, and also with evidence of early modern demolition layers (402, 403 and 408).

4.5 Trench 5

This evidence in this trench supports the interpretations of trench 4. The gulley (505) followed the same orientation as the historic property boundaries and probably represents a tenement boundary of medieval or post-medieval date (the clay pipe is considered unreliable for dating purposes). The gulley appears to have been heavily truncated, as with those features in trench 4, suggesting a period of major landscaping of this part of the PDA sometime in the post-medieval period. The existence of the wall-footing (501) cut into the top of the dumped soils (503 and 504) suggests the probable purpose of the landscaping events was to level the area prior to laying out boundary walls and erecting buildings.

4.6 Trench 6

The pits found in this trench were evidence of intensive pit digging activity from at least the late 16th century onwards (pit 600) and possibly from as early as the late 13th century AD (pit 601).

Perhaps the most significant feature might prove to be pit/ditch 608, which might tentatively be suggested to be the town ditch. This interpretation might explain the parallel course of the possible gravel path (612) and also possibly the location of the later rubbish trench (604), which was perhaps intentionally dug along the soft fill of the pit/ditch (608).

Significantly, the archaeology over this part of the PDA appears to survive in a good condition at less than 1m below the modern ground surface.

4.7 Trench 7

This trench contained at least two significant cut features. The NW-SE oriented ditch (700) followed the same alignment as the historic boundaries and on that basis is probably an historic tenement boundary of medieval or later date. The possible Roman sherd from within its fill, though interesting, is unreliable for dating purposes as it was very small and abraded, so is best discounted for now.

The large ditch (704), which cut across ditch 700, appeared to be the continuation of ditch 304 in trench 3. The shear scale of this ditch and postulated bank suggests that it must have been either a major landscape boundary (?the town ditch) or more probably, judging from its location, a flood alleviation feature.

5 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

5.1 Importance

The archaeological remains encountered included undated alluvial deposits of palaeo-environmental potential, cut negative features (post-medieval pits and some possible medieval pits) and positive features, such as banks and post-medieval structures. As such, and taking account of their context, they are considered to be of local importance.

5.2 Impact

The proposed development will have an adverse direct impact upon some of the known archaeological remains (identified by the evaluation) and upon potential archaeological remains within the PDA. Avoidance design engineering might mitigate some of these impacts.

5.3 Significance of impact

The significance of impact is difficult to discern at this stage due to uncertainties in the nature of potential archaeology outside the evaluation trenches, but based on the evaluation results themselves, overall significance of impact is considered to be low to medium.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluations have successfully managed to locate and identify a wide range and date of archaeological remains within all parts of the PDA.

Significant archaeological remains have been shown to survive at different depths below the modern ground surface and to different states of preservation. For instance, there was a very high state of preservation of the remains found in trench 1/8 below the car park, a moderate level for those remains in trenches 2, 3, 6 and 7, and a generally poor level in trenches 4 and 5. The depth of significant archaeological remains below the modern ground surface varied considerably. For instance, gulley 505 was buried almost 2m deep in trench 5, while pit 615 was just 0.5m below the ground surface in trench 6.

Most significantly, the interface line of the alluvial and dryland has been established as running between trenches 1/8 and 2 and extending to the south east end of trench 3. Alluvial deposits of palaeo-environmental potential have been established at 3m depth below the modern ground surface in both the car park and woodland areas.

Evidence of riverside activities have not been found but possible water management features were recorded in trench 1 (embankment 116 and wall/revetment trench 105) and in trenches 3/7 (ditch 304/704 and ditch 307 and their postulated banks).

Waterlogged conditions, including preserved wood, have been found in the base of pits investigated by trench 2 in the west corner of the PDA.

At least two probable property boundaries (505 and 700) have been found.

Evidence of occupation in the form of domestic structures has not been found although indirect evidence of settlement in the form of probable cess/rubbish pits has been found dating to the 16th century onwards over the north west half of the PDA.

No positive evidence of Saxon activity has been established within the PDA, although the suggestion that pit/ditch 608 might be the town ditch may require further investigation.

No positively commercial or industrial activities belonging to any period have been found, and there is certainly no evidence of the Three Cups Inn nor any associated tanning works.

The origin of the terrace identified in paragraph 4.2.2 of the desk based assessment (Phoenix Consulting Archaeology 2004) could not be established.

The overall confidence rating for the reliability of the evaluation results is medium to high.

7 ARCHIVE

The documentary archive comprises:

- a copy of this evaluation report
- relevant and non confidential documents and correspondence relating to the site held by Network Archaeology
- original notes relating to the finds or post excavation assessments
- site records, as detailed in the table below:

Item	Count
Number record	1
Trench records	8
Context indices	8
Context records	153
Drawing indices	1
Permatrace drawings	12
Photographic indices	3
B&W contact prints and negatives	2
Colour contact prints and transparencies	1
Sample indices	1
Sample records	4

The accession number for the archive is AYBCM 2006.17.

The project archive will be managed in accordance with current guidelines (Ferguson & Murray 1997 and BCM 2004).

The site archive is currently held at the Buckingham office of Network Archaeology Ltd. Upon completion of the project the site archive will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum.

Prior to the deposition of the archive, the necessary arrangements will be made with the site owner regarding the transfer of ownership of any archaeological finds.

On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage, to a standard from which post-excavation assessment could proceed and in a format agreed in advance with the relevant local depository. This will be in accordance with guidelines prepared by the UK Institute of Conservation (Walker 1990) and the Museums & Galleries Commission (MGC 1992).

In the event that deposition cannot be concluded, Network Archaeology will store the archive to a suitable standard until deposition can be arranged. Ownership of the document archive will be retained by Network Archaeology until the document archive and its ownership is passed to an appropriate museum.

8 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Organisation	Name	Position	Contribution
Alan Vince Archaeological Consultancy	Alan Vince	Finds specialist	Finds assessment report
	Jane Young	Finds specialist	Finds assessment report
Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service	David Radford	Archaeological Officer and Case Officer	External monitoring
English Heritage	Dr Dominique de Moulins	Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science	Palaeo-environmental advice
Limoges Ltd	Jonathan Harbottle	Partner	Project promoter
Museum of London Archaeological Services	Jane Corcoran	Environmental Advisor	Geo-archaeological advice
Network Archaeology Ltd	David Bonner	Company Director and Project Manager	Project management
	Martin Lightfoot	Project Manager	Project management
	Andrew Hunn	Project Officer	Site management
	Frank Martin	Project Officer	Site management
	Anni Byard	Project Supervisor	Site supervision
	Steven Thorpe	Project Supervisor	Site supervision
	Sarah Mounce	Project Assistant	Site excavation and archive preparation
	Adam Holman	IT/GIS Officer	Report figures
	Charlotte Bentley	Illustrations Officer	Report figures
	Wendy Booth	Finds Officer	Finds assessment reports
	Gordon Shaw	Finds Assistant	Finds processing
	Caroline Kemp	Finds Assistant	Finds processing
Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd	Andrew Richmond	Director	Consultant
Quita Mould	Quita Mould	Freelance specialist	Contribution to finds assessment report

9 REFERENCES

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10 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report in order to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. Network Archaeology Ltd cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this report and any supplementary papers, howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as a result of unknown and undiscovered sites of artefacts.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY TABLE OF CONTEXTS

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
TRENCH 1				
100	Layer	Tarmac over limestone rubble & gravel	0.5m D	Modern car park
101	Layer	Friable dark grey silty clay	0.2m D	Remnant cultivation layer
102	Layer	Friable dark grey silty clay	0.2m D	Same as 101
103	Layer	Friable pale grey brown clayey silt	0.15m D	Debris layer, cut by 105
104	Layer	Friable pale grey brown clayey silt	0.15m D	Same as 103, cut by 105
105	Cut	E-W linear. Steep sloping edges with concave base	1m W / 0.7m D	Revetment/drainage ditch?
106	Fill	Tenacious mid brown silty clay	0.7m D	Fill of ditch 105
107	Layer	Friable pale grey brown clayey silt	0.15m D	Highly concentrated dump layer
108	Layer	Compacted cinders (N-S)	1m W / 0.3m D	Cinder path for allotment
109	Layer	Tenacious pale grey brown clayey silt	0.15m D	Gravel levelling layer
110	Layer	Tenacious pale grey brown clayey silt	0.15m D	Same as 109
111	Layer	Tenacious mid orange brown - pale grey mottled silty clay	0.5m D	Bank erosion layer
112	Layer	Tenacious mid orange brown - pale grey mottled silty clay	0.05m D	Same as 111
113	Layer	Mid grey brown silty clay	0.05m D	Thin layer of dump material
114	Layer	Mid brown grey clayey silt	0.4m D	Alluvium
115	Layer	Mid brown grey clayey silt	0.4m D	Alluvium
116	Earthwork	Tenacious mid orange brown clay with mid grey clay lenses	N/A	Bank - parallel to river
117	Layer	Tenacious yellow brown clayey silt	0.2m D	Debris layer - quarry waste
118	Layer	Tenacious dark grey clayey silt	0.3m D	Same as 117?
119	Layer	Tenacious mid brown clayey silt	1m D?	Alluvium
120	Layer	Tenacious mid blue grey clayey silt	0.2m D	Alluvium
121	Layer	Tenacious dark grey clayey silt		Organic layer - river deposit?
122	Layer	Mid orange brown clayey silt	0.6m D	Bank erosion layer
TRENCH 2				
200	Layer	Mid brown silty clay	0.5m D	Topsoil
201	Layer	Gravel	0.3m D	Levelling layer
202	Fill		0.6m D	Backfill of sewer pipe 257
203	Fill	Mid brown gritty clay	0.17m W / 0.57m D	Backfill for construction cut 205
204	Structure	Mid yellow lime mortar with limestone & brick	0.64m W / 0.48m D	Limestone & brick wall
205	Cut	E-W linear. Vertical edges with flat base	0.82m W / 0.57m D	Construction cut for wall 204
206	Fill	Grey brown gravel	1.6m W / 0.42m D	Upper fill of 209; same as 207
207	Fill	Grey brown gravel	1.6m W / 0.45m D	Upper fill of 209; same as 206

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
208	Fill	Tenacious mid brown clay	3.8m W / 0.54m D	Lower fill of 209
209	Cut	Bowl-shape profile	4.86m W / 0.9m D	Pit truncated by 257 & 205
210	Fill	Mid yellow brown gravely clay	1.54m W / 0.56m D	Upper fill of pit 213
211	Fill	Grey clay	2.8m W / 0.7m D	Secondary fill of pit 213
212	Fill	Orange brown clay	1.2m W / 0.3m D	Primary fill of pit 213
213	Cut	Bowl-shape profile	3.1m W / 0.9m D	Pit truncated by 205 & 217
214	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay	1.1m D	Natural - brick earth
215	Layer	Brick rubble	0.66m D	Layer of brick rubble
216	Fill	Brick mortar	0.28m D	Backfill of construction cut 217
217	Cut	Linear. Vertical edges with flat base	0.48m W / 0.28m D	Construction trench
218	Layer	Tenacious pale grey gritty clay	1.26m W / 0.22m D	Levelling layer
219	Fill	Tenacious mid grey clayey silt	2.3m W / 0.2m D	Upper fill of pit 221
220	Fill	Compact orange brown sandy gravel	1.4m W / 0.04m D	Primary fill/lens of pit 221
221	Cut	Steep concave edges with flat base	2.3m W / 0.24m D	Pit truncating upper fill of pit 223
222	Fill	Dark grey clayey silt	2.28m W / 0.36m D	Upper fill of pit 223
223	Cut	Very steep sloping edges.	1.4m W / 1.8m D	Pit truncated by pits 232 & 221
224	Fill	Tenacious light orange brown sandy silt	0.96m W / 0.32m D	Fill of pit 223
225	Fill	Tenacious mid grey clayey silt mixed with mid orange brown sandy clay	1m W / 0.4m D	Fill of pit 223 - mixed with redeposited natural 214
226	Fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay	0.98m W / 0.08m D	Backfill from robbed wall 227 within pit 223
227	Fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay with large limestone	1.1m W / 0.26m D	Wall or rubble dump within pit 223
228	Fill	Tenacious mid brown grey clayey silt	0.8m W / 0.42m D	Upper fill of pit 232
229	Fill	Tenacious mid yellow brown clayey silt	0.66m W / 0.38m D	Fill of pit 232 - tipped in from east edge
230	Fill	Dark grey brown clayey silt	0.52m W / 0.66m D	Secondary fill of pit 232
231	Fill	Tenacious pale grey clayey silt	0.64m W / 0.08m D	Primary fill of pit 232
232	Cut	Very steep sloping edges with concave base	4m W / 2.24m D	Large pit truncating 223 (not fully excavated)
233	Fill	Dark grey clayey silt	0.86m W / 0.3m D	Upper fill of pit 223, truncated by pit 221 & 232
234	Fill	Tenacious mid grey clayey silt	1.8m W / 0.54m D	Upper fill of pit 232
235	Fill	Mid yellow brown clayey silty gravel	1.66m W / 0.5m D	Fill of pit 232, truncated by 3 stake hole - Group 255

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
236	Layer	Four courses of medium-large stones blocks	1.52m W / 0.6m D	Limestone wall with evidence of burning
237	Fill	Tenacious mid yellow brown clayey silt	0.9m W / 0.44m D	Fill of pit 232, truncated by 4 stake holes - Group 256
238	Fill	Tenacious mid yellow brown clayey silt	0.9m W / 0.34m D	Fill of pit 232 - same as fill 229
239	Fill	Wooden stake *insitu*	0.3m D	Stake within 240
240	Cut	Circular plan. Vertical edges, base not excavated	0.04m W / 0.3m D	Stake hole abutting 227 - possible wall revetment
241	Fill	Loose dark grey clayey silt	0.6m D	Fill of stake hole 242
242	Cut	Square plan. Conical profile with tapered point	0.13m W / 0.6m D	Stake hole
243	Fill	Loose dark grey clayey silt	0.46m D	Fill of stake hole 244
244	Cut	Square plan. Conical profile with tapered point	0.1m W / 0.46m D	Stake hole
245	Fill	Loose dark grey clayey silt	0.32m D	Fill of stake hole 246
246	Cut	Square plan. Conical profile with tapered point	0.08m W / 0.32m D	Stake hole
247	Fill	Tenacious grey clayey silt	0.34m D	Fill of stake hole 248
248	Cut	Circular plan. Conical profile with tapered point	0.07m W / 0.34m D	Stake hole
249	Fill	Tenacious grey clayey silt	0.26m D	Fill of stake hole 250
250	Cut	Circular plan. Conical profile with tapered point	0.08m W / 0.26m D	Stake hole
251	Fill	Tenacious mid grey clayey silt	0.26m D	Fill of stake hole 252
252	Cut	Circular plan. Conical profile with tapered point	0.08m W / 0.26m D	Stake hole
253	Fill	Tenacious mid grey clayey silt	0.28m D	Fill of stake hole 254
254	Cut	Circular plan. Conical profile with tapered point	0.08m W / 0.28m D	Stake hole
255	Group	3 Stake holes consisting of 242, 244 & 246		Stakes possibly forming a timber revetment
256	Group	4 Stake holes consisting of 248, 250, 252 & 254		Stakes possibly forming a timber revetment
257	Cut	Linear with concave profile	1m W / 0.6m D	Sewer pipe
TRENCH 3				
300	Layer	Soft & friable dark greyish brown black silty clay	0.38m D	Topsoil
301	Layer	Soft & friable dark orangey brown sandy silty clay	0.5m D	Sandy subsoil
302	Layer	Moderate & friable mid brown silty clay	1.3m W / 0.32m D	Stoney lens within 303
303	Fill/Layer	Moderate & friable mid-dark brown silty clay	0.76m D	Stoney layer
304	Cut	NE-SW linear. Gradual sloping edge with flat base	N/A	Ditch - fill not evident, continuation of 704

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
305	Layer	Firm dark orange brown mottled clay	N/A	Natural clay
306	Fill/Layer	Friable light grey brown clayey silt	1.06m D	Possible fill of 307
307	Cut	Gradual sloping edge with unclear base	N/A	Possible linear
308	Layer	Mid brown silty clay	0.92m D	Organic layer
309	Layer	Black clayey silt - highly organic	N/A	Organic layer
TRENCH 4				
400	Layer	Light brown silty clay	0.22m D	Topsoil
401	Layer	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay	0.48m D	Rubble/levelling layer
402	Fill	Light pinky brown silty clay	0.62m D	Mortar dump within 406
403	Fill/Layer	Dark grey silty clay - sticky	0.92m D	Dump within 407
404	Layer	Mid-dark brown silty clay	1.1m D	Dump layer
405	Layer	Dark orange brown sandy silty clay	N/A	Natural clay
406	Cut	Stepped edge with irregular base	N/A	Cut for mortar dump 402
407	Cut	Steep concave edge with flattish base	N/A	Possible cut for dump 403
408	Layer	Dark orangey brown sandy clay	5.08m W / 0.42m D	Rubble dump
409	Fill	Soft & friable dark greyish brown sandy silty clay	0.12m D	Fill of posthole 410
410	Cut	Circular plan. Sloping edges with rounded base	0.44m W / 0.12m D	Posthole truncates pit 412
411	Fill	Stoney & friable dark greyish brown black sandy silty clay	0.7m D	Fill of pit 412
412	Cut	Oval plan. Steep sloping edge with flat base	0.7m D	Large rubbish pit truncates pit 414
413	Fill	Soft & friable light orangey yellow sandy silty clay	0.54m D	Redeposited natural within pit 414
414	Cut	Oval plan. Steep sloping edge with flat base	0.54m W / 0.54m D	Pit
415	Fill	Soft & friable mid grey sandy silty clay	0.3m W / 0.12m D	Lens within 413
417	Fill	Moderate & friable mid brown sandy silty clay	0.56m D	Primary fill of pit 418
418	Cut	Sub-oval plan. Steep sloping edges with flat base	1.12m W / 0.56m D	Large rubbish pit
419	Fill	Moderate dark orangey brown sandy silty clay	0.74m W / 0.22m D	Lens/capping layer of pit 418
420	Structure	Pale red rectangular bricks with pale brown yellow lime/sand mortar	1.55m W / 0.23m D	NNW-SSE brick wall - steel sheeting abutting NE edge
TRENCH 5				
500	Layer	Mid grey sandy loam	0.52m D	Topsoil
501	Cut	Linear. Vertical edges with flat base	0.48m W / 0.38m D	Construction cut
502	Fill	Bricks	0.38m D	Wall
503	Layer	Mid grey white loamy sand	0.5m D	Debris layer
504	Layer	Mid brown grey sandy clayey loam	1.1m D	Debris layer

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
505	Cut	NE-SW linear. Steep sloping edges with flat base	0.46m W / 0.16m D	Gully
506	Fill	Silty clayey loam	0.16m D	Fill of gully 505
507	Layer	Mid yellow brown sandy clay	0.14m D	Natural clay
508	Layer	Mid orange brown sandy clay	N/A	Natural clay
TRENCH 6				
600	Cut	Very steep sloping edges with very gentle concave base	1.9m W / 1.5m D	Pit - truncates pits 601 & 608
601	Cut	Very gentle concave base - edges truncated	2.34m W / 1.62m D	Pit
602	Fill	Loose - moderate mid grey brown loamy sand	1.08m D	Primary backfill of pit 601
603	Fill	Moderate - firm mid grey brown loamy sand	1.5m D	Fill of pit 600
604	Cut	NNE-SSW linear. Vertical edges with flat base	1.4m W / 1.32m D	Ditch - truncates pit 608
605	Fill	Pale-mid grey brown loamy sand	0.48m D	Primary dumped fill of 604
606	Layer	Loose mid orange brown sandy clayey loam	0.48m D	Redeposited topsoil - dumped layer
607	Layer	Loose mid-dark black grey silty loam	0.32m D	Modern dumped layer
608	Cut	Moderately sloping edges with concave base	0.9m W / 1.4m D	Pit - truncates by 604, 600 & 615
609	Fill	Loose pale-mid grey brown loamy sand	0.88m D	Backfill of 604
610	Fill	Pale - mid grey brown sandy loam	0.3m D	Primary fill of pit 608
611	Layer	Loose mid grey sandy loam	0.3m D	Dumped layer
612	Cut	Gentle concave profile	1.34m W / 0.3m D	Pit - truncates pits 600 & 601
613	Fill	Firm mid grey brown loamy sand	0.18m D	Upper dumped fill of pit 612
614	Fill	Pale grey white loamy sand with crushed limestone	0.22m D	Primary dumped fill of pit 612
615	Cut	Steep sloping N edge with flat base	1.04m D	Pit - truncates pit 608
616	Fill	Moderate - firm mid grey brown loamy sand	1.04m D	Backfill of pit 615
617	Fill	Loose - moderate mid grey brown loamy sand	0.64m D	Upper fill of pit 601
618	Fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy clayey loam	0.14m D	Secondary fill of pit 601 - small dump
619	Layer	Light brown mid orange clay	N/A	Natural clay
620	Fill	Moderate - firm mid brown loamy sand	1.14m D	Upper fill of pit 608
TRENCH 7				
700	Cut	NW-SE linear. Steep sloping edges with flat base	1.12m W / 0.54m D	Ditch
701	Fill	Tenacious light brown orange sandy clay	0.6m W / 0.3m D	Primary fill of ditch 700
702	Fill	Mid brown orange sandy clay	1.12m W / 0.24m D	Upper fill of ditch 700
704	Cut	ENE-WSW linear. Moderately sloping edges with flat base	4.22m W / 0.88m D	Large ditch
705	Fill	Light grey brown sandy clay	2.3m W / 0.28m D	Primary fill of ditch 704

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation
706	Fill	Friable dark orange brown silty clay	3m W / 0.4m D	Secondary fill of ditch 704
707	Fill	Mid orange brown silty clay	4.22m W / 0.4m D	Upper fill of ditch 704
708	Layer	Friable mid brown orange sandy silty clay	0.66m D	Subsoil
709	Layer	Loose dark grey brown silty clay	0.34m D	Topsoil
710	Layer	Hard light brown dark orange clay	N/A	Natural clay
TRENCH 8				
800	Layer	Loose stone rubble with overlying tarmac	0.42m D	Car park surface
801	Layer	Dark grey silty clay	0.43m D	Levelling layer
802	Layer	Mid grey brown silty clay	0.56m D	Alluvial clay
803	Layer	Light orange brown stoney sand	0.28m D	Stoney lens
804	Layer	Light grey green silty clay	0.24m D	Alluvial clay
805	Layer	Dark blue grey silty clay	0.22m D	Alluvial clay
806	Layer	Dark grey blue clay	1.2m D	Alluvial clay
807	Layer	Light grey gravel	N/A	Natural gravel

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY TABLE OF FINDS QUANTIFICATIONS

Context	Data	Animal bone	CBM	Clay pipe	Glass	Leather	Pottery				Shell	Worked flint	Worked stone	Grand total
							Roman pottery	Medieval potetry	Post-medieval pottery	Early modern pottery				
101	Count		1	1						3				**5**
	Weight (g)		19	2						28				**49**
103	Count	1							1	2				**4**
	Weight (g)	10							1	30				**41**
104	Count		1	1	1				1	2	1		1	**8**
	Weight (g)		12	5	2				15	8	7		5	**54**
106	Count	2	2					2			1			**7**
	Weight (g)	59	144					10			15			**228**
108	Count								1	2				**3**
	Weight (g)								10	16				**26**
109	Count				1					2				**3**
	Weight (g)				40					7				**47**
110	Count			1						2				**3**
	Weight (g)			2						15				**17**
111	Count								1	2				**3**
	Weight (g)								54	3				**57**
113	Count			1					2				1	**4**
	Weight (g)			3					61				5	**69**
114	Count	2	1					1			1			**5**
	Weight (g)	25	25					0			4			**54**
115	Count	1	1						4					**6**
	Weight (g)	18	53						22					**93**
117	Count		?1						1					**2**
	Weight (g)		?32						5					**32**
118	Count	1	1					1						**3**
	Weight (g)	18	52					0						**70**
121	Count		2					1	1					**4**
	Weight (g)		958					5	5					**963**

Context	Data	Animal bone	CBM	Clay pipe	Glass	Leather	Pottery				Shell	Worked flint	Worked stone	Grand total
							Roman pottery	Medieval potetry	Post-medieval pottery	Early modern pottery				
202	Count							1	3	2				**6**
	Weight (g)							9	90	17				**116**
208	Count							2						**2**
	Weight (g)							35						**35**
222	Count			1				2	4					**7**
	Weight (g)			5				21	66					**87**
225	Count		2						1					**3**
	Weight (g)		86						5					**86**
226	Count		1					2						**3**
	Weight (g)		113					4						**117**
228	Count	1		1										**2**
	Weight (g)	23		20										**43**
230	Count		1					2						**3**
	Weight (g)		59					9						**68**
235	Count		1	2				1						**4**
	Weight (g)		56	7				0						**63**
300	Count							3		3				**6**
	Weight (g)							94		19				**113**
301	Count									2				**2**
	Weight (g)									1				**1**
303	Count								2					**2**
	Weight (g)								19					**19**
308	Count		3					2						**5**
	Weight (g)		86					38						**124**
309	Count	3	1					1						**5**
	Weight (g)	374	48					0						**422**
400	Count							2				1		**3**
	Weight (g)							23				2		**25**

Context	Data	Animal bone	CBM	Clay pipe	Glass	Leather	Pottery				Shell	Worked flint	Worked stone	Grand total
							Roman pottery	Medieval potetry	Post-medieval pottery	Early modern pottery				
401	Count								1	3				**4**
	Weight (g)								5	4				**9**
403	Count	1												**1**
	Weight (g)	28												**28**
404	Count							2	1	2				**5**
	Weight (g)							7	1	2				**10**
411	Count		1					6						**7**
	Weight (g)		97					41						**138**
415	Count											1		**1**
	Weight (g)											3		**3**
417	Count		1					1						**2**
	Weight (g)		53					0						**53**
503	Count									2				**2**
	Weight (g)									14				**14**
506	Count			1										**1**
	Weight (g)			1										**1**
602	Count	1	1		1			4				1		**8**
	Weight (g)	7	32		82			19				11		**151**
603	Count	1	1					5	2					**9**
	Weight (g)	22	16					69	20					**122**
616	Count		1					1	1					**3**
	Weight (g)		17					5	2					**19**
701	Count						1							**2**
	Weight (g)						5							**5**
702	Count											5		**5**
	Weight (g)											26		**26**
705	Count	2										1		**3**
	Weight (g)	43										35		**78**

Context	Data	Animal bone	CBM	Clay pipe	Glass	Leather	Pottery				Shell	Worked flint	Worked stone	Grand total
							Roman pottery	Medieval potetry	Post-medieval pottery	Early modern pottery				
706	Count	3										1		**4**
	Weight (g)	157										9		**166**
802	Count					2								**2**
	Weight (g)					19								**19**
806	Count	1				2								**3**
	Weight (g)	27				35								**62**
Total count		**20**	**23**	**9**	**3**	**4**	**40**	**1**	**21**	**1**	**29**	**10**	**2**	**175**
Total weight (g)		**811**	**1926**	**45**	**124**	**54**	**379**	**0**	**361**	**0**	**164**	**86**	**10**	**4023**

APPENDIX C

FIND ASSESSMENT REPORTS

Pottery and Ceramic Building Material Assessment

Alan Vince and Kate Steane, with a contribution on the leather by Quita Mould

INTRODUCTION

A collection of pottery, ceramic building material and two fragments of leather from excavations carried out at Bridge Street, Buckingham, by Network Archaeology Ltd were submitted for identification and assessment. The finds range in date from the 12th or 13th century onwards, with a possible fragment of Roman pottery.

DESCRIPTION

The finds consist of ceramic building material, pottery and leather (Table 1).

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	23	20	1926
CBM?	1	1	32
LEAT	2	2	19
POTTERY	64	96	909
Grand Total	90	119	2886

Ceramic Building Material

Twenty three definite fragments of ceramic building material and one possible piece were recorded. The majority of the pieces were unglazed sand-tempered bricks and tiles but three fragments of a tile with a flange, whose overall shape is unknown, had a plain glaze on the upper surface. In addition, a fragment of glazed ceramic was either a post-medieval rectangular dish base or a fragment of glazed roof tile, probably a ridge tile. The fragments have been coded as being medieval (MTIL) but could easily be of post-medieval date.

Table 2

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
GRE	RIDGE OR RECT DISH	1	1	32
GRE Total		1	1	32
MTIL	BRICK	2	2	903
	FLANGED TILE	3	1	86
	FLAT	18	17	937
MTIL Total		23	20	1926
Grand Total		24	21	1958

Leather

Methodology

The leather was washed and wet when examined. Species identification was made using low powered magnification.

Summary

A length cut from a strap, or possibly a wide trimming, and a piece of primary waste were recovered from trench 8 context 806. The primary waste is an unusable area cut from the edge of a tanned cattle hide and discarded. Neither can be independently dated but do provide evidence for leatherworking.

A basic record of the leather has been made (see catalogue below): no further work is required.

Catalogue

BSB14 Trench 8 Context 806: Leather strap, plain strap with cut sides, a straight cut end and a skived end, tapering slightly in width toward the skived end. One side of the strap is slightly irregular suggesting that it may be a wide trimming. Cattle hide 4mm thick. Length 121mm, width 14-16mm.

BSB14 Trench 8 Context 806: Leather primary waste, hide edge. Cattle hide 2.5mm thick. Length 225mm, width 50mm

Pottery

Sixty-four sherds of pottery were recorded, of which one was possibly of Roman date, 27 of medieval date, twenty-one of post-medieval date and fifteen of late 18th-century or later date (Table 3).

Table 3

group	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
rom	1	1	5
med	27	24	379
pmed	21	20	375
emod	15	15	150
Grand Total	64	60	909

Roman

A very abraded sherd of oxidized wheelthrown ware from Trench 7, Ditch 700, was possibly of Roman date. It was a featureless body sherd from a jar.

Medieval

Twenty-seven sherds of medieval pottery were recorded representing no more than 24 vessels and weighing 379 gm. Nineteen of these sherds could be identified and are of types well-known in Buckinghamshire and surrounding counties: Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM); Potterspury ware (POTTERSPURY) and Hertfordshire Reduced ware (SHER). The latter, SHER, is a tradition rather than the product of a single industry and without further work cannot be assigned to a source. The remaining 8 sherds could not be identified and their fabrics are described in Table 4.

Table 4

Fabric	Cname	Colour	Inclusions	Groundmass	Interpretation
FAB01	MEDLOC	10YR 6/4 Light yellowish brown	Fine quartz and muscovite silt	Abundant rounded quartz < 0.2mm. Some polished grains.	

Fabric	Cname	Colour	Inclusions	Groundmass	Interpretation
FAB02	MEDLOC	7.4YR 6/4 Light brown	Abundant subangular quartz < 0.2mm. Moderate red clay/iron pellets. Sparse bivalve shell < 1.0mm.	Fine-textured with some muscovite.	
FAB03	MEDLOC	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Abundant rounded quartz < 0.5mm. Some polished grains. Sparse angular flint < 0.5mm.	Fine-textured with some muscovite.	
FAB04	MEDLOC	Grey with dark grey core	Abundant rounded quartz <0.3mm. some matt grains.		
Moderate rounded calcareous inclusions <0.3mm.					
Moderate rounded black iron-rich compound < 0.3mm				Fine-textured with some muscovite.	
FAB05	MEDLOC	2.5YR 5/4 Reddish brown	Sparse rounded polished quartz < 0.5mm.	Silty micaceous.	Cf LLON and SHANTS RED

Jars are by far the most common form represented in the medieval pottery collection. Jugs are the next most common, with bowls forming a poor third.

Post-Medieval

Twenty one sherds of post-medieval pottery were recorded (Table 5). The wares present could not, in the main, be attributed to a particular source and are classed according to their manufacturing tradition (Blackwares – BL; Cistercian ware – CSTN; Glazed Red Earthenware – GRE and local post-medieval ware – PMLOC). A single sherd of a Surrey/Hampshire Border ware (BORD) bowl was identified (1992), together with sherds of London Stoneware (LONS), Nottingham Stoneware (NOTS), and Raeren stoneware (RAER).

Few of these wares can be closely dated, but the Raeren stoneware is of late 15th to 16th-century date, as is the Cistercian ware, and the London and Nottingham stonewares cannot be any earlier than the late 17th century (but could be much younger).

Table 5

cname	BOT	BOWL	CUP	JAR	Grand Total
BL				2	2
BORD		1			1
CSTN			2		2
GRE		6			6
LONS	1			1	2
NOTS				3	3
PMLOC		2			2
PMLOC?				1	1
RAER				1	1
Grand Total	1	9	2	8	20

Early Modern

Sixteen sherds of late 18th century or later pottery were recorded (Table 6). Most of these are factory products of types which have numerous sources, but include a sherd of Derbyshire stoneware, produced at Codnor Park. A few sherds of probably locally made flowerpots also probably date to this period (LPMLOC).

Table 6

cname	?	BOT	BOWL	FLP	JAR	JUG	PLATE	Grand Total

cname	?	BOT	BOWL	FLP	JAR	JUG	PLATE	Grand Total
CREA	1		1					2
DERBS		1						1
ENGS					1			1
ENPO							1	1
LPMLOC				2				2
TPW			3			1	3	7
WHITE			1				1	2
Grand Total	1	1	5	2	1	1	5	16

ASSESSMENT

Trench 1

Finds were recovered from fourteen contexts in Trench 1. The terminus post quem for each context is shown in Table 7. From these it appears that a watercourse ran through the trench in the post-medieval period. The early tpqs for contexts 114 and 118 need not indicate residual material, since fragments of flat roof tile cannot be closely dated.

Table 7

context	period code	context group	Description
101	EMOD	Remnant cultivation layer	M19+
103	EMOD	Debris layer	M19+
104	EMOD	Debris layer	M19+
106	LMED	Ditch 105	L14+?
108	EMOD	Cinder path for allotment	L18+
109	EMOD	Gravel levelling layer	L18+
110	EMOD	Gravel levelling layer	L18+
111	EMOD	Bank erosion layer	M19+
113	EPMED-EMOD	Thin layer of dump material	L16+
114	EMED-EPMED	Alluvium	M12+
115	EPMED-LPMED	Alluvium	L16+
117	EPMED-EMOD	Debris layer - quarry waste	L16+
118	EMED-EPMED	Debris layer - quarry waste	M12+
121	EPMED	Organic layer - river deposit?	L16+

Trench 2

Finds were recovered from seven contexts in Trench 2 (Table 8). They come from three pits, 209, 223 and 232, and a modern sewer pipe trench. Pit 209 cannot be closely dated, containing only flat roof tile fragments. Pit 223 is datable to the later 16th century or later by the presence of glazed red earthenware sherds. It also produced a brick fragment. Pit 232 can only be broadly dated. It produced a single sherd of medieval jar and fragments of flat roof tile.

Table 8

Context	period code	context group	Description
202	EMOD	Sewer pipe 257	L18+
208	EMED-LMED	Pit 209	M12+
222	EPMED	Pit 223	L16+
225	EPMED	Pit 223	L16+
226	HMED	Pit 223	M13+
230	EMED	Pit 232	M12+
235	EMED	Pit 232	M12+

Trench 3

Finds were recovered from five contexts in Trench 3 (Table 9). Organic layers 308 and 309 can be dated to the late 13th century or later, on the basis of a sherd of Potterspury ware jar from context 308. The remaining contexts date to the post-medieval or later periods.

Table 9

context	period code	context group	Description
300	EMOD	Topsoil	E19+
301	EMOD	Sandy subsoil	L18+
303	LPMED	Stony layer	L17+
308	LMED	Organic layer	L13+
309	EMED	Organic layer	M12+

Trench 4

Finds were recovered from five contexts in Trench 4 (Table 10). Pit 412 can be dated to the late 13th century or later on the basis of a sherd of Potterspury ware jar and Pit 418 can be only be broadly dated since it only produced flat roof tile fragments. The remaining contexts either produced post-medieval or later finds or are stratigraphically later than those producing such finds.

Table 10

context	period code	context group	Description
400	HMED	Topsoil	L13+
401	EMOD	Rubble/levelling layer	M19+
404	EMOD	Dump layer	L18+
411	HMED	Pit 412	L13+
417	EMED	Pit 418	M12+

Trench 5

A single fragment of flowerpot was recovered from context 503, a debris layer, dating deposition to the later 18th century or, probably, later.

Trench 6

Finds were recovered from three contexts in Trench 6. Pit 601 can be dated to the later 13th century or later on the basis of Potterspury ware. The latest finds from Pit 600 are sherds of Cistercian ware, dating deposition to the early 16th century or later and Pit 615 can be dated to the later 16th century or later on the basis of a sherd tentatively identified as a local post-medieval jar.

Table 11

context	period code	context group	Description
602	HMED	Pit 601	L13+
603	EPMED	Pit 600	E16+
616	EPMED	Pit 615	L16+

Trench 7

Context 701, the fill of Ditch 700, produced a single abraded sherd which is tentatively identified as being of Roman date.

Trench 8

Context 802, alluvium, from trench 8 produced the two fragments of leather. These cannot be independently dated but indicate the presence of leatherworking nearby.

RETENTION

All the finds which come from stratified deposits should be retained for potential further study.

Further Study

No further work is recommended at this stage on these finds, although those listed in Table 4 could possibly be identified by comparison with other material from Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties.

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Pearce, Jacqueline (1992) Border Wares. Post-Medieval Pottery in London, 1500-1700 London, HMSO for Museum of London.

OVERALL CATALOGUE

context	class	group	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Part	Use	B	TH	Condition
101	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		19	BS				
101	POTTERY	emod	ENGS		JAR	1	1		22	BS				
101	POTTERY	emod	WHITE		BOWL	1	1	BLUE APPLIED SPRIGGING	6	R				
101	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
103	POTTERY	pmed	NOTS		JAR	1	1	BRISTOL GLAZE INT	1	BS				
103	POTTERY	emod	WHITE		PLATE	1	1		30	B				
103	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
104	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		12	BS				
104	POTTERY	pmed	NOTS		JAR	1	1	BRISTOL GLAZE INT	15	BS				
104	POTTERY	emod	TPW		PLATE	1	1		8	BS				
104	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
106	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	2	1		144	BS				
106	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB05	BOWL	1	1		10	BS	SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT			
106	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L14+?	0	BS				
108	POTTERY	pmed	GRE		BOWL	1	1		10	BS				
108	POTTERY	emod	LPMLOC		FLP	1	1		16	R				
108	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
109	POTTERY	emod	TPW		BOWL	1	1		7	B				
109	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
110	POTTERY	emod	TPW		JUG	1	1		15	H				
110	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
111	POTTERY	pmed	LONS		JAR	1	1	HONEY COLOURED BRISTOL GLAZE EXT	54	BS				
111	POTTERY	emod	TPW		BOWL	1	1		3	BS				
111	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				

113	POTTERY	pmed	GRE		BOWL	1	1		61	BS				
113	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
114	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		25	BS				OVERFIRED
114	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
115	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		53	BS				
115	POTTERY	pmed	BL		JAR	1	1		5	BS				
115	POTTERY	pmed	BORD		BOWL	1	1		13	BS				
115	POTTERY	pmed	PMLOC	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1	SLIPPED INT	4	BS				
115	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
117	CBM?		GRE		RIDGE OR RECT DISH	1	1		32	BS				
117	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
118	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		52	BS				
118	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
121	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		81	BS				
121	CBM		MTIL		BRICK	1	1	SALT GLAZE	877	BS		108	42	
121	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB01	JAR	1	1		5	BS				
121	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
202	POTTERY	pmed	GRE		BOWL	1	1		44	BS				
202	POTTERY	pmed	PMLOC	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1		41	B				
202	POTTERY	pmed	RAER		JAR	1	1		5	BS				
202	POTTERY	med	SHER?	M GSQ; S FLINT	JAR	1	1		9	BS				
202	POTTERY	emod	TPW		BOWL	1	1		17	BS				
202	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
208	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB02	JAR/BOWL	1	1		35	BS				
208	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
222	POTTERY	pmed	GRE		BOWL	3	2		61	BS				
222	POTTERY	med	OXAM		JUG	1	1	TRIANGULAR SECTIONED APPLIED STRIPS	14	BS				

222	POTTERY	med	OXAM?		JAR	1	1		7	R				
222	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
225	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1	SALT GLAZE	60	BS				OVERFIRED
225	CBM		MTIL		BRICK	1	1	SALT GLAZE	26	BS				OVERFIRED
225	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
226	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1	ROUND PEGHOLE 10MM ACROSS	113	BS				
226	POTTERY	med	OXAM		JUG	1	1	GLAZE INT/EXT	4	BS				
226	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M13+	0	BS				
230	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1	2 ROUND PEGHOLES 32MM APART	59	BS				OVERFIRED
230	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB03	JAR	1	1		9	BS				
230	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
235	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1	ROUND PEGHOLE	56	BS				
235	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
300	POTTERY	emod	DERBS		BOT	1	1		13	BS				
300	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB01	JAR	1	1		35	BS	SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT			
300	POTTERY	med	OXAM		JUG	1	1	FLAT BASE FROM SMALL CONICAL/BICONICAL	19	B				
300	POTTERY	med	SHER	S GSQ	JAR	1	1		40	BS				
300	POTTERY	emod	TPW		PLATE	1	1		6	R				
300	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	E19+	0	BS				
301	POTTERY	emod	CREA		?	1	1		1	BS				
301	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
303	POTTERY	pmed	LONS		BOT	1	1		19	B				
303	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L17+	0	BS				
308	CBM		MTIL		FLANGED TILE	3	1	PLAIN GLAZE ON UPPER SURFACE	86	BS				
308	POTTERY	med	POTTERSPURY	LIGHT-	JAR	1	1	BIFID RIM	38	R				

				BODIED										
308	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L14+	0	BS				
309	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		48	BS				
309	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
400	POTTERY	med	POTTERSPURY	LIGHT-BODIED	JUG	1	1	WIDE STRAP HANDLE	23	H				
400	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L13+	0	BS				
401	POTTERY	emod	ENPO		PLATE	1	1		1	BS				
401	POTTERY	pmed	NOTS		JAR	1	1		5	BS				
401	POTTERY	emod	TPW		PLATE	1	1		3	BS				
401	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
404	POTTERY	pmed	BL		JAR	1	1		1	BS				
404	POTTERY	emod	CREA		BOWL	1	1		2	BS				
404	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	1	1		3	BS				
404	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	1	1		4	BS				
404	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
411	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		97	BS				
411	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	1	1		2	BS				
411	POTTERY	med	POTTERSPURY	LIGHT-BODIED	JAR	4	1		39	B;BS				
411	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L13+	0	BS				
417	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		53	BS				
417	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
503	POTTERY	emod	LPMLOC	LPMLOC	FLP	1	1		14	B				
503	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
602	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		32	BS				
602	POTTERY	med	POTTERSPURY	LIGHT-BODIED	JUG	1	1		8	B				
602	POTTERY	med	SHER		JAR	1	1		8	BS				
602	POTTERY	med	SHER		JAR	1	1		3	BS				
602	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L13+	0	BS				

603	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		16	BS				
603	POTTERY	pmed	CSTN		CUP	2	2		20	B;BS				
603	POTTERY	med	OXAM		JUG	1	1		3	BS				
603	POTTERY	med	POTTERSPURY		JUG	1	1	CUGL EXT	18	BS				
603	POTTERY	med	POTTERSPURY		BOWL	1	1		24	BS				
603	POTTERY	med	POTTERSPURY		JAR	1	1		19	BS				
603	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	E16+	0	BS				
616	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		17	BS				
616	POTTERY	pmed	PMLOC?	PMLOC?	JAR	1	1		2	BS				
616	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
701	POTTERY	rom	RPOT?	RPOT?	JAR	1	1		5	BS				VABR
701	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L1+	0	BS				
802	LEAT		LEAT		SCRAP	1	1		15	BS				
802	LEAT		LEAT		STRIP	1	1		4	BS				

Clay Pipe Report

Wendy Booth

Nine fragments of claypipe, weighing 45 grams, were recovered during the archaeological evaluations carried out at Bridge Street, Buckingham.

The fragments were weighed, counted and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. The majority of the fragments were undecorated pieces of stem. The fragment from 228 comprised a complete bowl with intact spur and 9 cms of stem. The rear of the bowl had a roughly made horizontal groove approx. 2mm below the rim. Apart from this groove the piece was undecorated. The fragment from 104 comprised the base of a bowl, also with an intact spur, but only approximately 1cm of stem remaining. The spur was decorated with a stamped ring and dot motif on both sides. The angles of both these bowls to their stems appears to indicate an earlier date, approximately 1660-80. Due to the undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, and its insufficient size, it was not possible to make any further inferences.

Clay pipe Catalogue

Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Prov. Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
1	101	Claypipe	Post-Medieval	1	2	Undecorated stem frag.
1	104	Claypipe	Post-Medieval	1	5	Base of bowl with decorated heel.
1	110	Claypipe	Post-Medieval	1	2	Undecorated stem frag.
1	113	Claypipe	Post-Medieval	1	3	Undecorated stem frag.
2	222	Claypipe	Post-Medieval	1	5	Undecorated stem frag.
2	228	Claypipe	Post-Medieval	1	20	Undecorated complete bowl with broken stem.
2	235	Claypipe	Post-Medieval	2	7	Undecorated stem frags.
5	506	Claypipe	Post-Medieval	1	1	Undecorated stem frag.

Glass Report

Wendy Booth

Three fragments of glass, weighing 124 grams, were recovered during the archaeological evaluations carried out at Bridge Street, Buckingham.

These fragments were counted, weighed and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. The fragment from 104 was a very thin piece of window glass which would appear to indicate a late date of manufacture. The other two pieces were both from the bases of bottles. The fragment from 602 appears to be from a more globular form, with a shallow narrow kick-up, such as was manufactured between 1650 and 1680, but the other fragment from 109 is from a narrower, cylindrical bottle with a wide, deep kick-up, and would therefore be post 1750. Due to the undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, and its small size, it was not possible to make any further inferences.

Glass Catalogue

Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Prov. Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
1	104	Glass	Post-Medieval	1	2	Window glass.
1	109	Glass	Post-Medieval	1	40	Bottle frag.
6	602	Glass	Post-Medieval	1	82	Bottle frag.

Shell Report

Wendy Booth

Three fragments of shell, weighing 26 grams, were recovered during the archaeological evaluations carried out at Bridge Street, Buckingham.

These fragments were counted, weighed and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. The assemblage was composed entirely of oyster shells which had probably been consumed as a domestic food source. Due to the undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, and its small size, it was not possible to make any further inferences.

Shell Catalogue

Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Prov. Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
1	104	Shell	Undetermined	1	7	Oyster shell frag.
1	106	Shell	Undetermined	1	15	Oyster shell frag.
1	114	Shell	Undetermined	1	4	Oyster shell frag.

Worked Stone Report

Wendy Booth

Two fragments of worked stone, weighing 10 grams, were recovered during the archaeological evaluations carried out at Bridge Street, Buckingham.

These fragments were counted, weighed and examined by eye and the results are detailed in the table below. Both fragments were flat shards of slate with a single straight worked edge, and had probably been part of domestic roofing slates. Due to the undiagnostic nature of the assemblage, and its small size, it was not possible to make any further inferences.

Worked Stone Catalogue

Trench	Context No.	Material Type	Prov. Period	Count	Weight (gms)	Comments
1	104	Worked stone	Undetermined	1	5	Possible roof slate frag.
1	113	Worked stone	Undetermined	1	5	Possible roof slate frag.

Animal Bone

Richard Moore

Seven evaluation trenches produced just over 800g of animal bone from fourteen contexts.

Each bone or bone fragment was examined and identified, making use of reference works such as Schmid (1975) and Hillson (1992), and of comparison with reference material, as appropriate. A catalogue of the assemblage is given below. Measurements, as detailed in von den Driesch (1976), were taken of complete bones from mature individuals. These measurements are given in the 'comments' column of the table. The colour and surface appearance of the bone and any butchery marks or evidence of post-depositional damage were also noted.

The condition of the bone varied. Much of it was a pale buff colour with eroded flaky surfaces, in some cases with limey concretions. A fairly high proportion was much darker, from dark greyish brown to almost black, typical of bone from permanently waterlogged ground. This was especially marked in the material from Trench 3.

Apart from the surface flaking, preservation of the collected material was generally quite good. Only one bone, a cattle phalange, was complete, but a high proportion of the assemblage was of readily identifiable elements. Several examples of rodent gnaw-marks were noted, but generally there was little evidence of bone having suffered damage from exposure above ground; probably very little of it was residual.

Cattle and sheep, or goat, were the most common animals represented in the assemblage. No attempt was made to distinguish sheep and goat: 'sheep' should be taken to include both species throughout this report. Pig, horse and dog bones were also present. The most common elements present were from lower limb bones, particularly metapodials. This is consistent with the material deriving from discarded butchery waste, although with such a small sample no firm conclusions can be drawn. Only one bone showed clear evidence of butchery, a fragment of cattle metapodial with a deep knife cut.

The relative scarcity of cranial and axial elements is perhaps surprising, but may reflect preservation and retrieval conditions, with relatively robust elements being preferentially collected.

The dog femur in Context 103 had a slightly different surface texture compared to the rest of the assemblage, its fresh appearance suggesting that it may have been deposited relatively recently.

The pig radius in Context 706 had epiphyses unfused at both ends, indicating that it came from a young animal, less than one year old at the time of death (Schmid, 1975, p75). The tibia from Context 705 had a similar incompletely mineralised texture and was of a comparable size and robustness, suggesting it came from the same, or a closely similar, animal.

The sheep bones were all from relatively small animals, markedly so in some cases. Selective breeding since the late eighteenth century has tended to produce much larger varieties of sheep.

In isolation, this small assemblage has very limited potential. It does, however, indicate that bone preservation on the site is good and that a more extensive excavation could yield quantities of material with greater potential for further analysis.

Bone List

Context	Bone	Animal	Side	Comments
103	Femur	Dog	L	Prox end and upper part of shaft; fresh-looking, ?recent.
Total weight 103: 10g				
106	Radius	Sheep	R	Distal end missing; small hole in anterior face of prox end, possible dog gnawing
106	Femur	Cattle	R	Patellar area of distal articulation; dark brown.
Total weight 106: 59g				
114	Metatarsal	Sheep	?R	Distal end and lower half of shaft; very dark.
114	Rib	Cow-size		Fragment of upper part of shaft of 1st or 2nd rib; dark.
Total weight 114: 25g				
115	Metatarsal	Sheep	R	Distal end missing and damage to prox end.
Total weight 115: 18g				
118	Metacarpal	Sheep	L	Distal end missing; eroded surface, rodent gnaw marks.
Total weight 118: 18g				
228	Skull	Cow-size		Fragment of unfused ?parietal bone.
Total weight 228: 23g				
309	Innominate	Horse	R	Pubic branch missing, damage to edges of iliac and ischial crests; very dark brown, almost black.
309	Metatarsal	Sheep	R	Lateral condyle missing, otherwise complete, very dark.
309	Unident.	Cow-size		Large fragment of long-bone shaft, poss tibia; very dark brown.
Total weight 309: 374g				
403	Metapodial	Cattle		Condyle; deep transverse knife cut; large.
Total weight 403: 28g				
602	Metatarsal	Sheep		Distal end; very small.
Total weight 602: 7g				
603	Phalange	Cattle		Complete 1st phalange; Glpe 59.9mm, Bp 26.1mm, SD 22.4mm, Bd 24.9mm.
Total weight 603: 22g				
705	Skull	Cow-size		Large skull fragment with part of orbit.
705	Tibia	Pig	L	Incompletely mineralised, similar appearance to radius in 706.
Total weight 705: 43g				

706	Metacarpal	Cattle	R	Distal end missing; ?rodent gnaw marks.
706	Tibia	Cattle	R	Distal end of shaft with parts articular surfaces; eroded.
706	Radius	Pig	R	Shaft; unfused epiphyses missing, not completely mineralised.

Total weight 706: 157g

806	Vertebra	Cow-size	Base of neural spine from cervical or thoracic; dark.

Total weight 806: 27g

Geo-archaeological Assessment

Jane Corcoran

A short visit was made to the evaluation trenches being excavated in a pub car park, adjacent to the road and river crossing in the centre of Buckingham. The stepped trenches were about 2-3m deep. Waterlain deposits were observed in the lower levels of the two southern trenches, closest to the present river, whilst the northern trench appeared to lie on the firm sandy silt that David Bonner says most of Buckingham is built on and which appeared to lie above / beyond the influence of the river. The relationship of the 'dryland' and alluvial deposits could not be ascertained from the present trenches, though further trenching was planned in an area to the east of the car park.

The sandy silt 'natural' in the northern trench is likely to be a Quaternary slope deposit and could be derived from exposures of Till upslope. The trench location was at the foot of the present valley side, or not far above the valley floor. The sandy silt was not examined in any detail, but it should be considered that in valley marginal locations such as this, Pleistocene and Holocene slope deposits can interleave with river deposits and can seal ancient landsurfaces. Thus although the deposit was cut by medieval / post-medieval features it is not inconceivable that prehistoric or early historic features might lie below it, as it may represent material transported downslope in prehistoric / historic times.

The two trenches closest to the river had infilled with about 1m of water and it was not possible to get into them to examine the stratigraphy. However, a sequence down to floodplain gravels had been excavated in the southernmost trench (gravel surface lay at about 2.5 to 3m below current ground level). Laminated detrital sandy peat (examined on the spoil heap) had lain above the gravel and was sealed by a sandy clay, forming a bund-shaped lense, thick close to the river and wedging out to the north. The laminated organic deposit contained frequent compressed reed stems and was likely to have formed at the margins of the river channel, where a strandline of twigs, wood and other material would regularly be washed into the fringing reed beds. Its date was uncertain as few finds had been found, but it was thought that peg tile fragments had come out of it, suggesting it was relatively recent and that it may not require radiocarbon dating. It was also characterised by frequent vivianite concretions, suggesting high phosphate levels (ie: quite intensive human/animal activity nearby). The overlying sandy clay lense is likely to represent subsequent overbank flooding, suggesting that in this area a historic channel had become marginalized by the river (eg: perhaps as a result of channel migration or human activity).

Soft sandy clay-silt with frequent snail shells and plant material had come out of the lower levels of the middle trench, which had not at the time of the site visit yet been excavated down to floodplain gravel. This deposit was also likely to have accumulated at the margins of an active channel or in a semi-abandoned channel. No finds had come from it and organic inclusions within it could be radiocarbon dated. It was overlain by sandy clays, likely to represent sluggish standing water, episodically infilling an abandoned channel or resulting from seasonal overbank flooding. A gravelly layer sealed the 'clean' sandy clays, which may be a dumped deposit intended to form a surface or similar. The overlying sandy clays, though similar in characteristics to those below the gravelly bed contained building material, pot etc of post medieval date. This deposit may be a continuation of the environment represented by the 'clean' lower deposit, but in a more intensively occupied location (i.e: following the establishment of a new river crossing or similar).

No detailed examination of the *in situ* deposits was made. However, some general comments / thoughts may be worth considering. Although a deep tunnel valley and glaciolacustrine deposits of Plesitocene (Anglian Glaciation) date are known from the valley of the R Great Ouse in the Buckingham area (mostly at considerable depth and buried by later Pleistocene deposits such as river terraces), no information is yet available about the characteristics of the Great Ouse as it flows through Buckingham in the Late Glacial and Holocene (ie: LUP/Mesolithic onwards). Meandering and/or multiple channels, abandoned channels, infilling

backwaters and channel bars and point bars forming islands would have existed on the valley floor in the past and these features, which could be of prehistoric and historic date will provide information about the changing river regime and its use by people in the past. Elsewhere bridges have made use of 'islands' of higher ground on the valley floor, Mesolithic activity has been found on low islands and also associated with accretionary soils developed on the valley floor (etc). In addition palaeo-environmental evidence has been obtained from abandoned channels and backwaters, which could provide indirect evidence about the prehistoric and historic occupation of the hill /dryland above the river on which the town of Buckingham developed.

In order to better understand the characteristics of the prehistoric and historic river and of the valley floor, further work on the site (depending on the impact of the proposed development) should:

- Produce a topographic plot of the valley floor for the area of the site (i.e: surface of floodplain gravels) – this would help identify higher 'islands' that may have been targeted for past human activity and hollows in which channels and backwaters might have existed. This could be produced from a combination of evaluation trench, excavation and geotechnical borehole data.

- Obtain dates (radiocarbon and artefactual) for the period spanned by the alluvium on the site. It is likely (but not necessarily so) that the oldest deposits will be found closest to the valley side if the river is migrating across the valley floor.

- Characterise the alluvium existing across the valley floor and its environment of deposition – this would require on-site description of the *in situ* deposits and off site examination of biogenic inclusions (snails, insects, plant remains, pollen diatoms etc). It would be best undertaken by the excavation of a stepped trench across the valley, from the dry land towards the river, which might most easily be done during / prior to ground reduction for the development which, if underground carparks are to be constructed would probably involve secant piling around the perimeter of the site and de-watering.

Such work should be able to suggest more precisely the archaeo-environmental potential of the alluvial deposits on the site, which the present site visits suggests is likely to be very good for reconstructing the past river regime and environment of the valley floor and surrounding dryland and for providing direct and indirect evidence of past human activity.

APPENDIX D

FIGURES 1 - 9

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Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1.00	14/04/05	First draft	AH	ML	DB

network archaeology

Bridge Street, Buckingham

Figure 1
Location of proposed development area

Scale: 1:50 000

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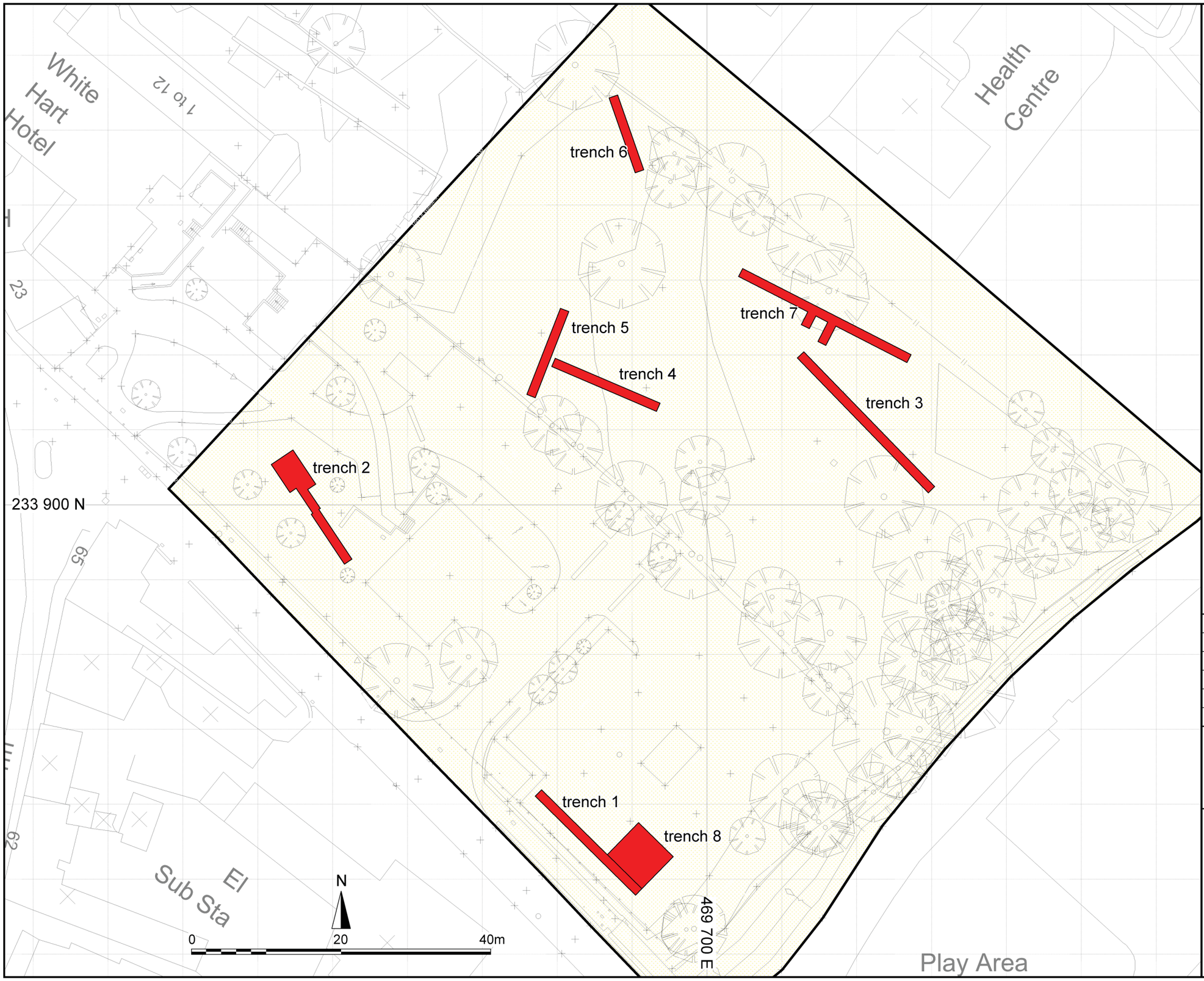

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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1.00	14/04/05	First draft	AH	ML	DB

Bridge Street, Buckingham

Figure 2
Evaluation trenches

Scale: 1:500

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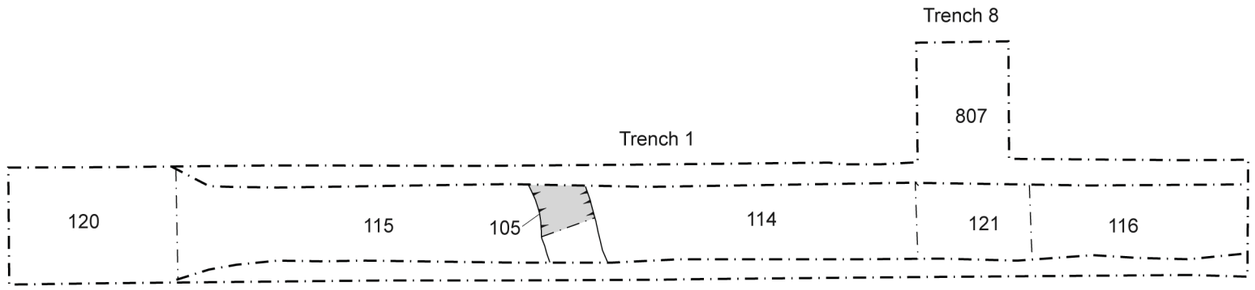

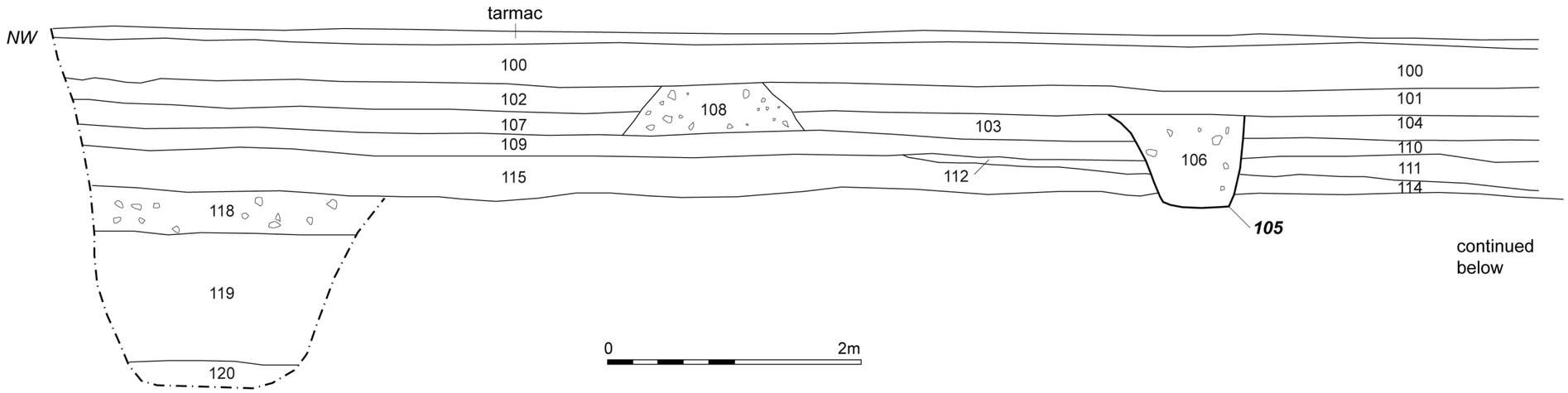

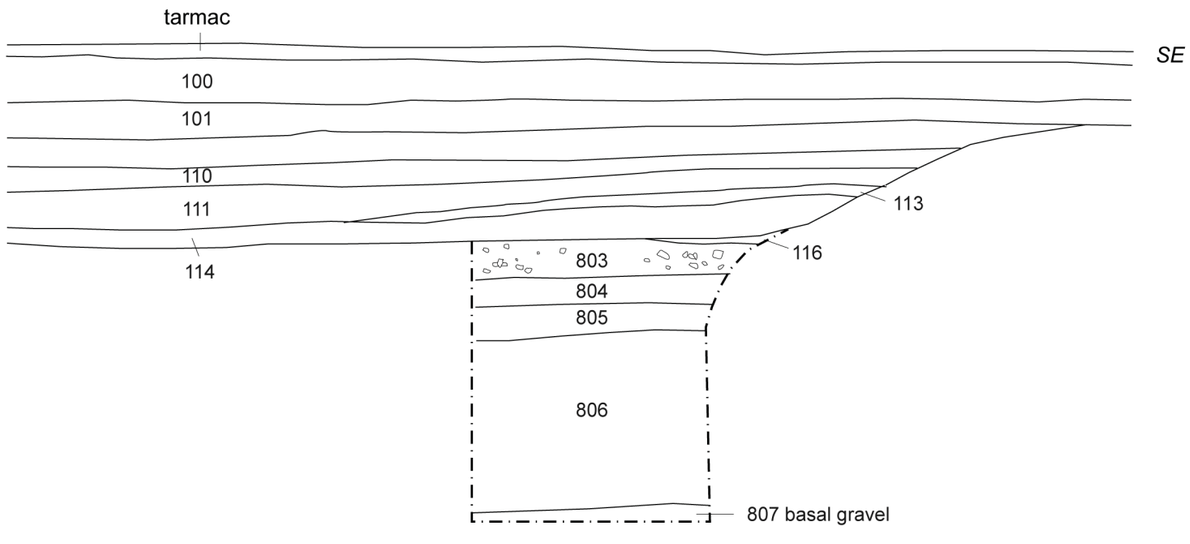

Key

- edge of excavation
- ***9784*** cut number
- 9795 fill number
- level
- c chalk
- sandstone
- limestone
- flint
- stones
- charcoal
- slag
- ceramic building material
- P pottery
- B bone
- wood
- oy oyster shell

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
2	31/01/06	second draft	CB	DB	DB
1	18/01/06	First draft	CB	DB	

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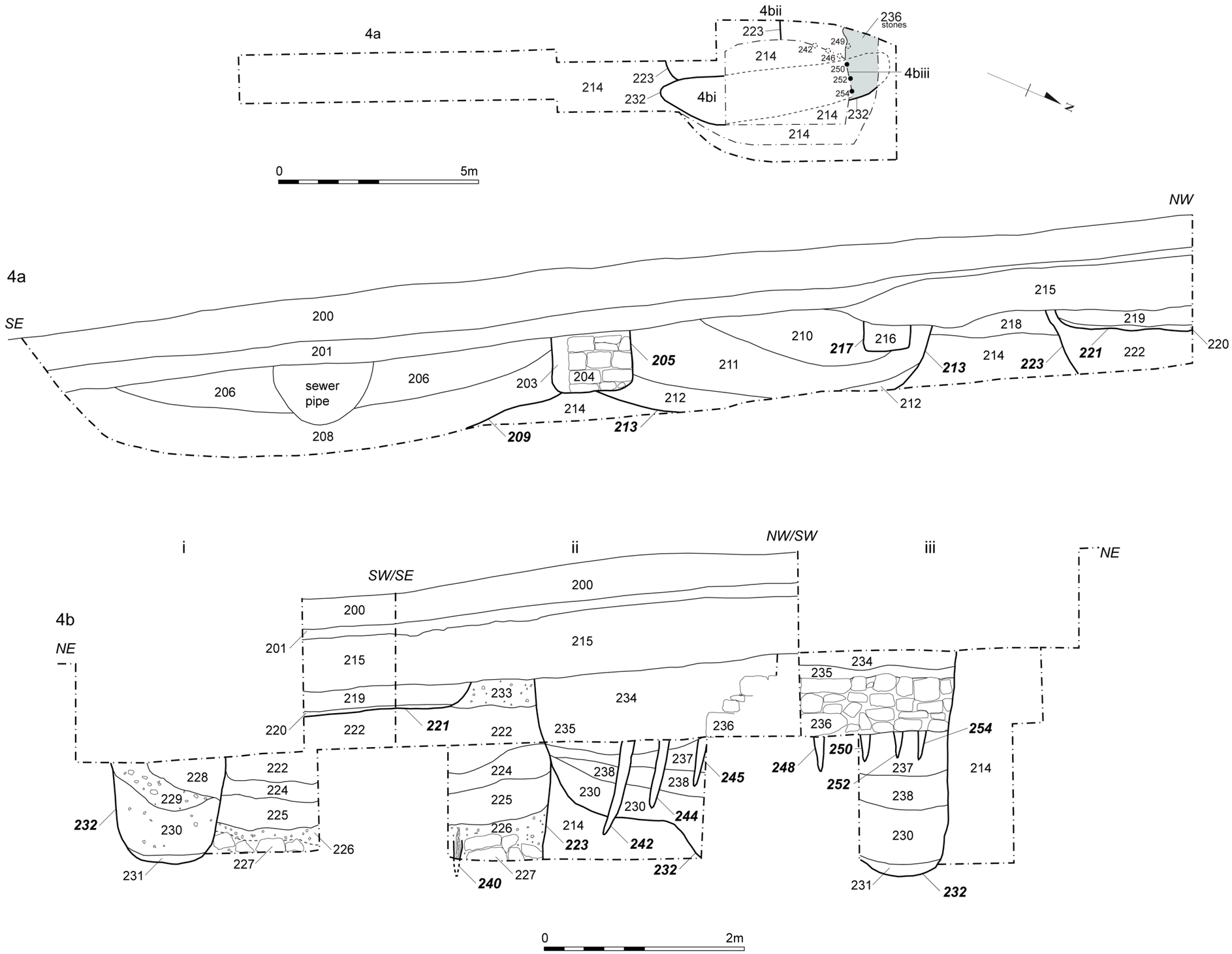
Figure 3
Trenches 1 & 8: Plan and section

Scale 1:100 & 1:40

FILE NAME: BSB/BSB-14/sections/



Key

- edge of excavation
- ***9784*** cut number
- 9795 fill number
- level
- C chalk
- sandstone
- limestone
- flint
- stones
- charcoal
- slag
- ceramic building material
- P pottery
- B bone
- wood
- oy oyster shell

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1	12/01/06	First draft	CB	DB	

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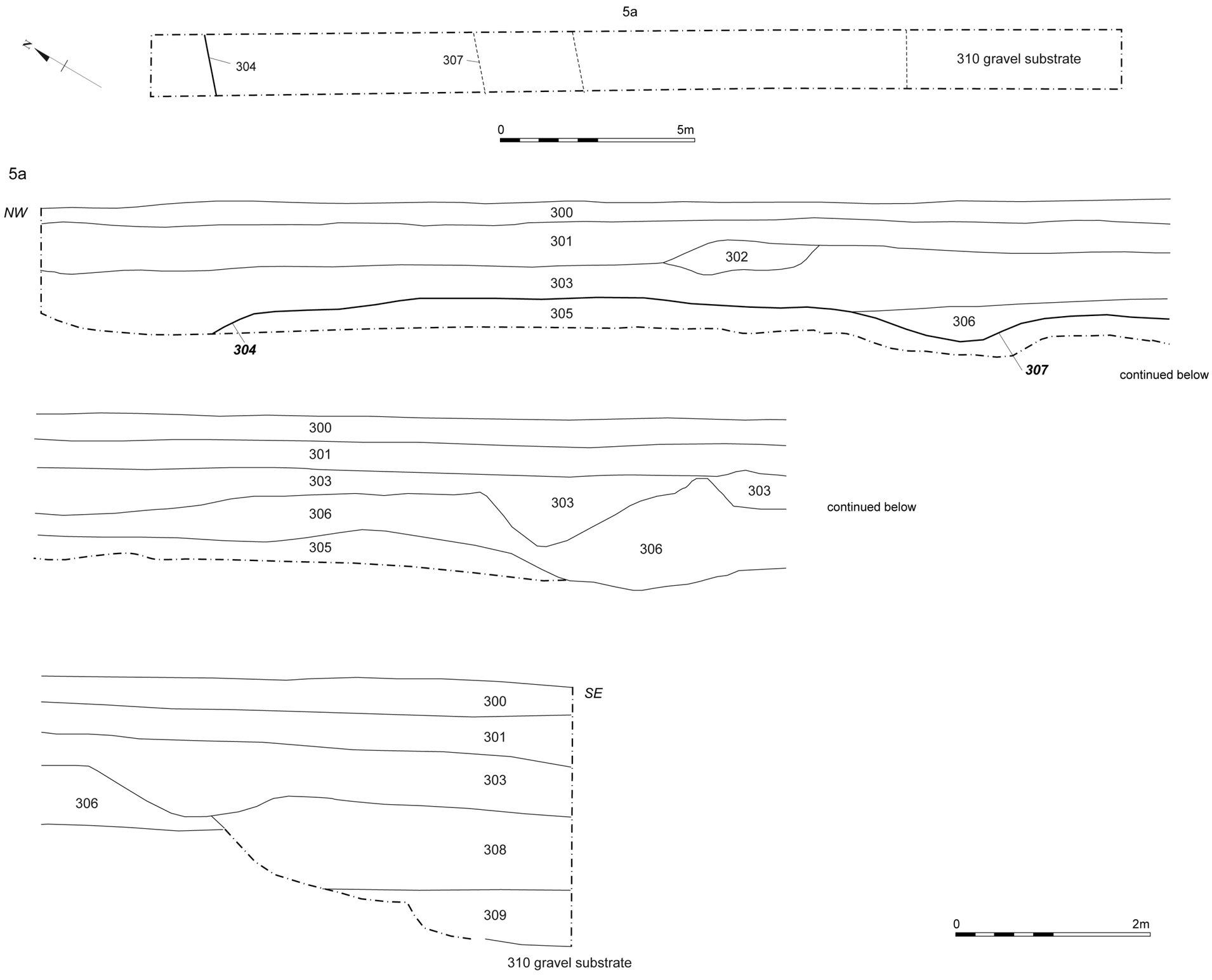
Figure 4
Trench 2: Plan and sections

Scale 1:100 &1:40

FILE NAME: BSB/BSB-14/sections/



Key

- edge of excavation
- ***9784*** cut number
- 9795 fill number
- level
- C chalk
- sandstone
- limestone
- flint
- stones
- charcoal
- slag
- ceramic building material
- P pottery
- B bone
- wood
- oy oyster shell

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1	30/01/06	First draft	CB	DB	DB

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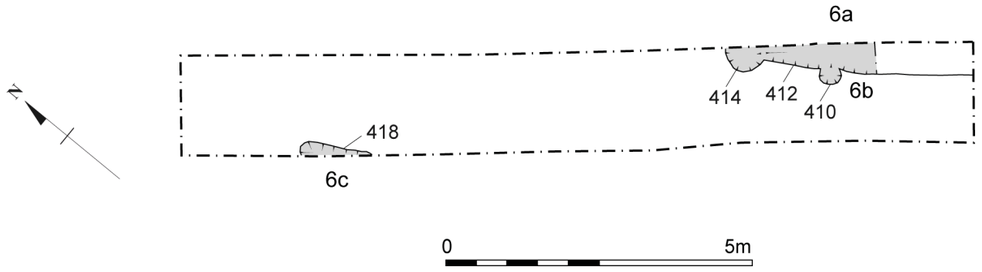
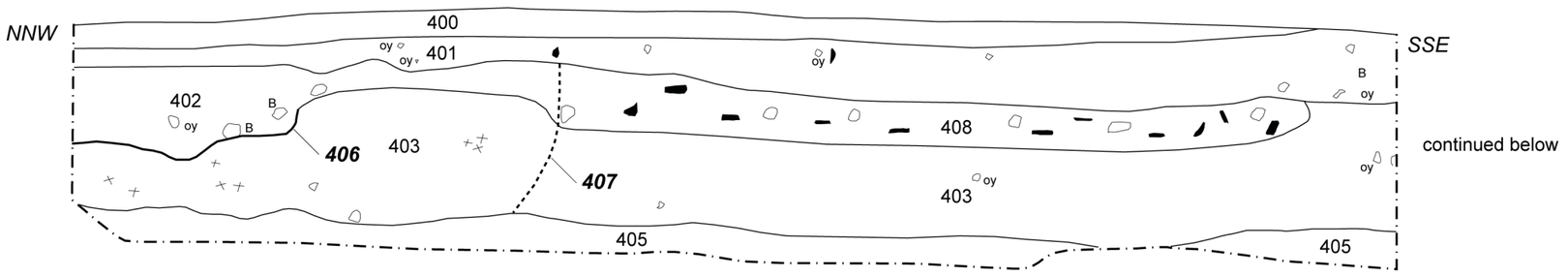
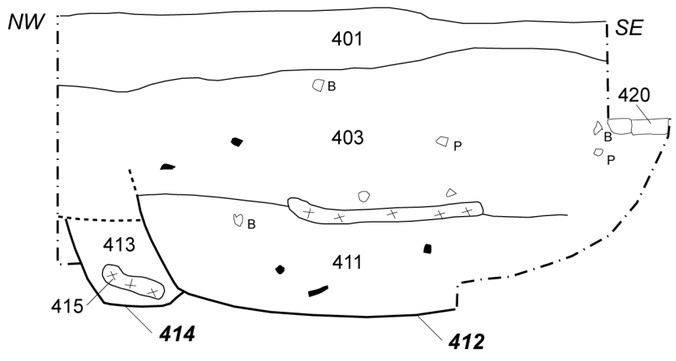
Figure 5
Trench 3: Plan and section

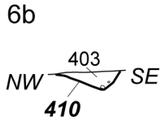
Scale 1:100 & 1:40

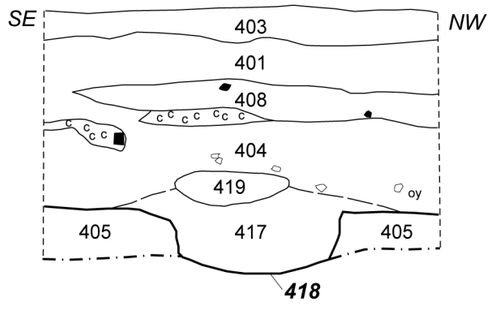
FILE NAME: BSB/BSB-14/sections/











Key

- edge of excavation
- ***9784*** cut number
- 9795 fill number
- level
- chalk
- sandstone
- limestone
- flint
- stones
- charcoal
- slag
- ceramic building material
- pottery
- bone
- wood
- oyster shell

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1	26/01/06	First draft	CB	DB	

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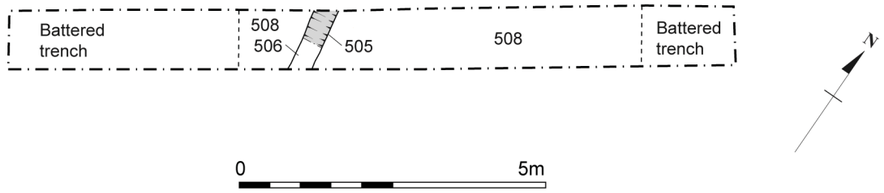
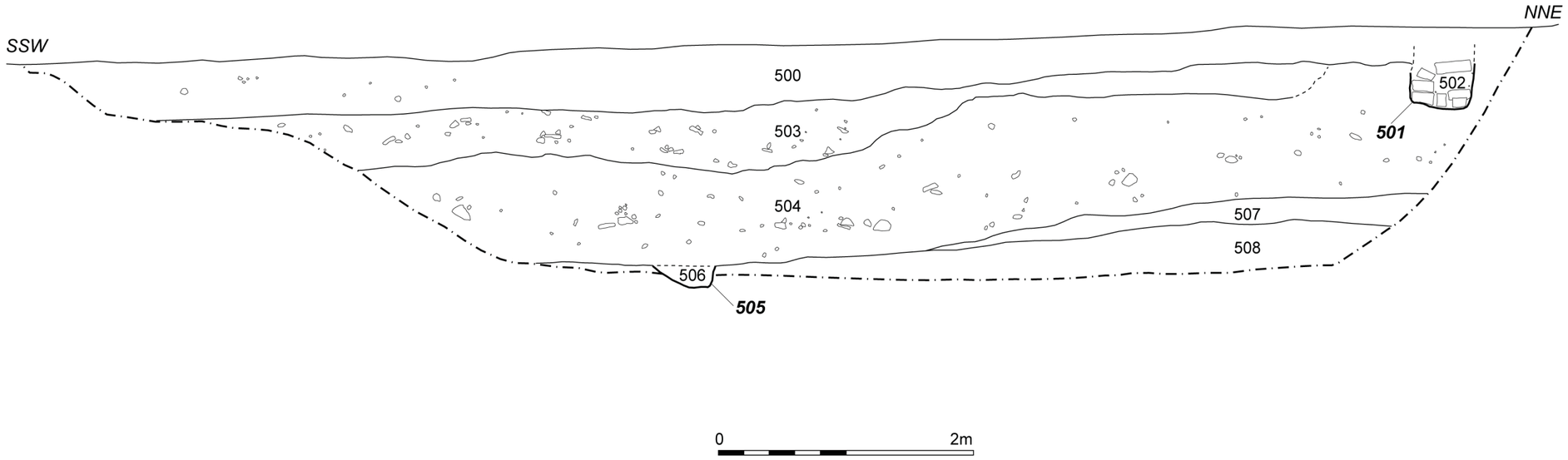
Figure 6
Trench 4: Plan and sections

Scale 1:100 & 1:40

FILE NAME: BSB/BSB-14/sections/





Key

- edge of excavation
- ***9784*** cut number
- 9795 fill number
- level
- C chalk
- sandstone
- limestone
- flint
- stones
- charcoal
- slag
- ceramic building material
- P pottery
- B bone
- wood
- oy oyster shell

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1	12/01/06	First draft	CB	DB	

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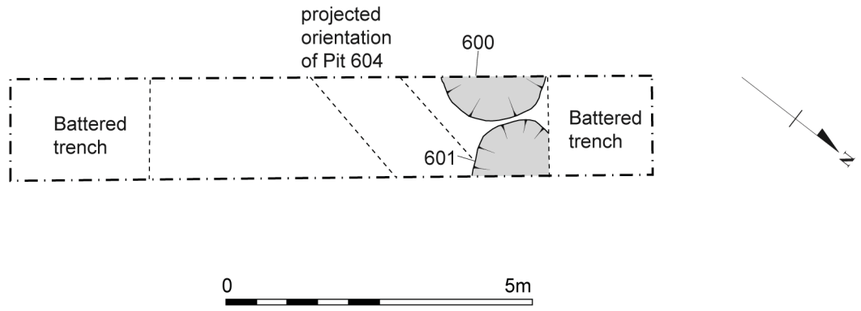
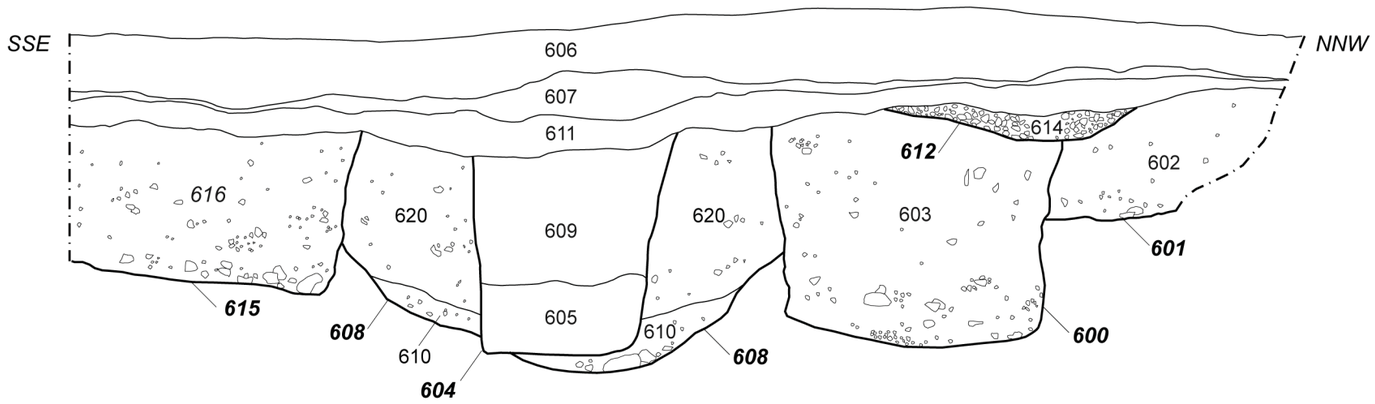
Figure 7
Trench 5: Plan and section

Scale 1:100 & 1:40

FILE NAME: BSB/BSB-14/sections/





Key

- edge of excavation
- ***9784*** cut number
- 9795 fill number
- level
- C chalk
- sandstone
- limestone
- flint
- stones
- charcoal
- slag
- ceramic building material
- P pottery
- B bone
- wood
- oy oyster shell

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1	12/01/06	First draft	CB		

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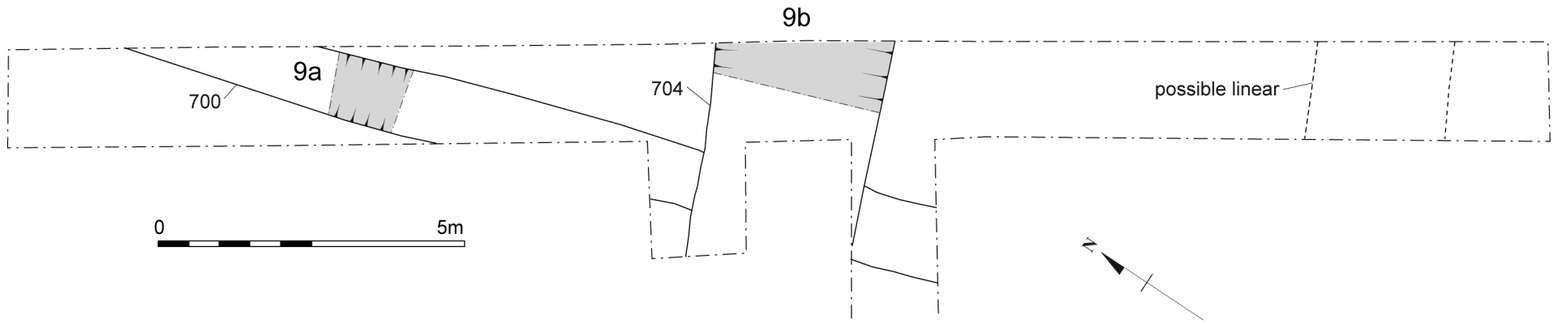
Figure 8
Trench 6: Plan and section

Scale 1:100 & 1:40

FILE NAME: BSB/BSB-14/sections/

I



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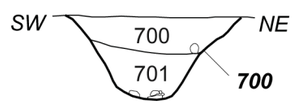
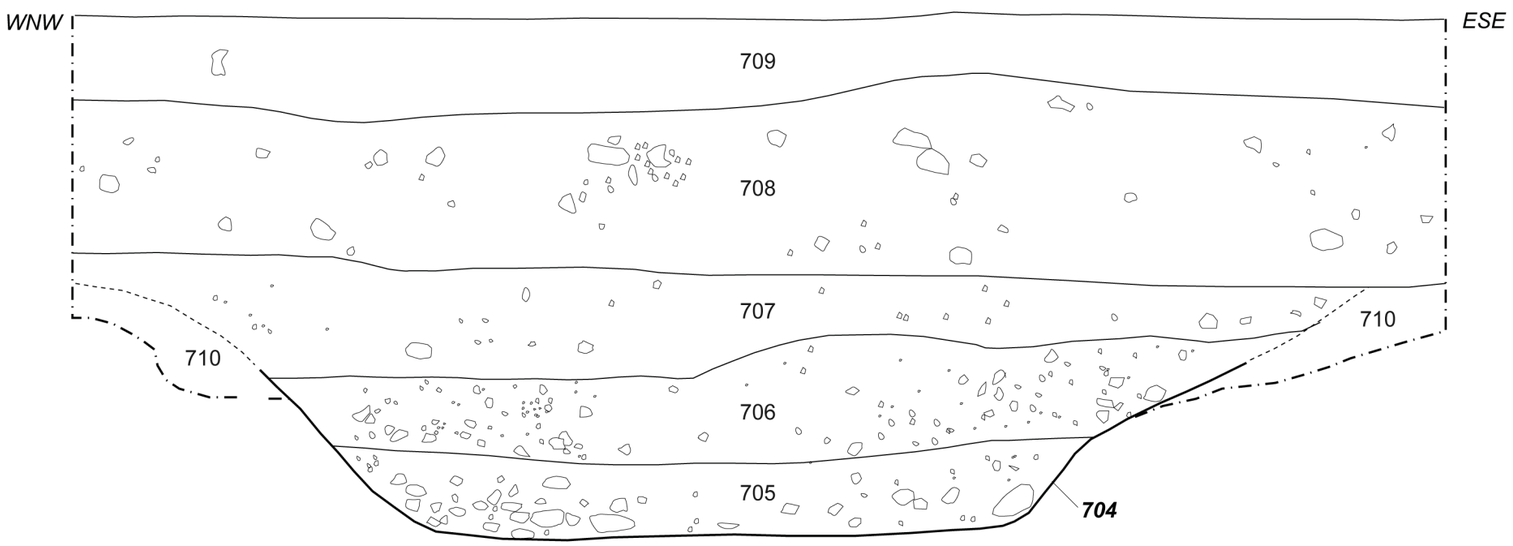


0 2m

9b



Key

- edge of excavation
- ***9784*** cut number
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- level
- C chalk
- sandstone
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- B bone
- wood
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Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1	26/01/06	First draft	CB		

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Figure 9
Trench: Plan and sections

Scale 1:100 & 1:40

FILE NAME: BSB/BSB-14/sections/