

# **BARTON'S HOSPITAL ALMSHOUSES**

## **BUCKINGHAM**

**Assessment Report: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenches**

*Prepared by*

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*For*

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# Non-Technical Summary

Network Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation in the rear gardens of Barton's Hospital Almshouses in the town of Buckingham, between February and March 2015.

Two trenches were opened as part of a pre-application process for the development of the almshouses.

The evaluation identified deep stratigraphic sequences in both trenches, comprising modern made ground overlying buried garden soils and a demolition/construction level.

Trench 1 contained a possible collapsed stone wall dating to the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and two undated pits, one of which might be broadly contemporary with the rubble spread.

Trench 2 produced a series of fills containing material dating from the Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and early modern periods. These fills were either the result of a group of intercutting pits or the fills of a single, large pit or ditch, that extended beyond the limits of the evaluation trench. Hand auger proved these deposits to extend to at least 2.5m below the present-day ground level.

The discovered remains are considered to be of no greater than local importance.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in advance of development works at Barton's Almshouses, Church Road, Buckingham (Figure 1).

## 1.2 Project Background

### 1.2.1 Proposed development and planning history

The evaluation was undertaken in support of a planning application (Ref. 14/03718/APP) for the demolition of three existing single storey projections and the erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 5-10 Church Street, Buckingham.

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a request by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS, 2015) in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

### 1.2.2 Location, description and natural environment

The proposed development area (PDA) occupies a roughly rectangular plot of land (1,252m<sup>2</sup>), located on relatively flat ground at approximately 85m AOD to the rear of the current almshouses located on Church Street, Buckingham, NGR 469406 233684 (Figure 1). At the time of the evaluation the proposed development area (PDA) was used as gardens for the existing Almshouses, being divided up by post and wire fencing with a wooden shed against the western boundary (Plate 4).

The mapped solid geology within the eastern portion of the PDA is limestone of the Cornbrash Formation with limestone and mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation within the western portion. There are no drift deposits mapped in the PDA (British Geological Survey). The mapped soils are slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (LandIS).

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical Background

A rapid desk based assessment was carried out prior to the evaluation (Network Archaeology, 2015) which identified a number of heritage assets within the vicinity of the PDA.

No Prehistoric or Roman assets were identified within the area of the PDA.

The Buckingham Town Assessment Report (Buckinghamshire County Council, 2008) shows that during the Saxon period the PDA may have been within the confines of a Saxon burh, however; the morphology of the Saxon settlement and the extent of its defences are uncertain. Saxon or medieval burials have been identified immediately to the east of the PDA (HER 0567500000, 0567600000 and 0567601000) whilst Saxon metalworking has been found to the southwest (HER 0201300000).

The remains of a curtain wall (HER 0175504000) and motte (HER 0175501000), probably relating to the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century castle, have been identified on Castle Hill to the north whilst the medieval village of Prebend (HER 0192400000) and the 11<sup>th</sup> century Church (HER 0192500000) are known to have existed approximately 90m to the south-southwest).

The current almshouses (HER 1405800000), built in 1910, are located on the site of Barton's Hospital which was founded in 1431.

The PDA is bounded to the northeast by a 19th century chapel, now known as the Radcliffe Centre (HER 1180300000) and to the southwest by an 18th century house with 19th century façade (HER 1180600000). The Vicarage (HER 1181000000) dates from the 16th or 17th century and is located approximately 35m to the southeast of the PDA and a former 17th century inn (HER 1410200000), which is Grade II listed, lies to the west. A 15th century timber framed house (HER 0512900000) is located on St Rumbolds Lane to the north.

Further details of the archaeological background can be found in Appendix A.

## 1.4 Aims and objectives

The **general** aims of the evaluation were to gather sufficient information:

- to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be adversely affected by the proposed development;
- to determine the amount of truncation to buried deposits
- to determine the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon
- to assess the state of preservation of deposits within any negative features that may be present
- to generally elucidate site formation processes

- to define the extent of any areas of made ground and previous ground disturbance which may have destroyed archaeological deposits;
- to engage in a programme of post-excavation archiving, synthesis and study, leading to publication and dissemination of results, and
- to ensure the long-term survival of the information through deposition of a project archive.

The **specific** aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish any evidence of pre-Saxon activity;
- To establish the nature of any pre-burh early/middle Saxon settlement;
- To establish the form and position of the principal burh defences, and to establish the location and extent of the second Anglo-Saxon burh;
- To establish the location and organisation of the 10th century mint;
- To establish the status of the old church; do those burials, previously found on Church Street and Well Street, form part of a more extensive Saxon or medieval cemetery?
- To establish any evidence relating to Barton's Hospital, including the layout and use of the grounds and whether interment took place within the grounds during its use as a hospital;
- To establish the nature of any pre-Conquest settlement;
- To establish any evidence of medieval occupation, commerce and industry, and
- To establish any evidence of the post-medieval industries of tanning and founding.
- to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be adversely affected by the proposed development;

The purpose of this work was to assist AVDC in determining any planning application for the PDA in the context of NPPF.

## 1.5 Methods

Two, 5m long trenches were mechanically excavated within the footprint of the PDA (Figure 2),

Each trench was excavated using a mechanical micro-digger fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket operating under the close and constant supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Any discovered archaeology was investigated and recorded as per the methodology laid out in the WSI (Network Archaeology, 2015).

Archaeology was discovered in both trenches. Alan Watson Design Ltd, in consultation with BCAS, decided to implement design mitigation which obviated the need to investigate the discovered archaeology below the depth of the revised reduced dig. As a consequence, some of the discovered archaeology, notably in Trench 1, was recorded in plan but not investigated by hand.

## **1.6 Resources**

The evaluation was carried out by up to two archaeologists over a six-day period between February and March 2015. External monitoring was undertaken by Phil Markham, the senior archaeologist for BCAS.

## 2 Results & Interpretation

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the factual results and interpretation of the evaluation. Throughout this section, cut features and deposits are referred to by unique context numbers. A convention has been adopted whereby cut features and structures are referenced in bold type, whilst deposits such as fills and layers are referenced in plain type.

Sections 2.2 to 2.3 cover the results of the evaluation, whilst the finds are summarised in section 2.4 and the combined results are discussed in section 3. A summary table of contexts can be found in Appendix B.

### 2.2 Trench 1

#### 2.2.1 Introduction

Trench 1, oriented north-north east to south-south west and located within the southwest half of the PDA, was 7m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m (Figure 2 and 3c Plates 5 and 6). A modern service pipe was located at the north-north east end of this trench.

The general stratigraphy across the trench was topsoil (100), containing a single fragments of clay pipe and medieval pottery, overlying up to 0.1m of made ground (101) (Plate 6). Below this, was possible buried topsoil (102) which was up to 0.28m thick and overlay 0.2m of subsoil (103) containing fragments of animal bone, glass and pottery spanning the early medieval and post medieval periods. Directly below this was the natural clay substrate (107).

At the south-south west end of the trench, the topsoil (100) overlay a deposit of mixed stone and brick rubble (106) which overlay buried topsoil (102).

#### 2.2.2 Archaeological findings

Three possible pits (**104**, **109** and **111**) and a spread of limestone rubble (113) were identified within this trench. All three of the pits were located at the south-south west end of the trench whilst the limestone rubble was located close to the centre of the trench (Figure 3d).

Pit **109** cut the buried topsoil (102) and was sealed by a deposit of made ground (101). This pit was ovoid in plan (1m diameter x 0.05m deep) with an irregular concave profile and backfilled with a soft pale grey silt (110) which contained charcoal flecks and a small assemblage of probable rabbit bones.

Pit **104**, which was only visible in the east facing bulk section, cut the subsoil (103) and was sealed by the buried topsoil (102) (Plate 6). This pit had shallow concave sides with a concave base (1.2m wide x 0.08m deep) and was filled with a very soft dark grey silt (105) which contained charcoal flecks but no finds (Figure 3a).

Pit **111** cut the natural clay (107) and appeared to be sealed by the subsoil (103) (Plates 5 and 7). It was ovoid in plan (0.74m long x 0.6m wide and 0.09m deep), had shallow concave sides with a flat base and was filled with a very dark grey-brown silty clay (112) which contained a single sheep bone (Figure 3c).

Stone spread 113 comprised angular and sub-angular limestone fragments (average dimensions 0.31m x 0.05m x 0.1m) extending for 1.2m along the trench and oriented broadly west-northwest to east-southeast (Figure 3b, plates 5 and 8). Cleaning of the stone spread produced a small assemblage of sheep bones as well as three fragments of pottery dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. The stone spread was not excavated.

## 2.3 Trench 2

### 2.3.1 Introduction

Trench 2, oriented north-north east to south-south west, was located within the north half of the PDA (Figure 2 and Plate 1). This trench was 5.60m long by 1.5m wide and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m (Figure 4b and plate 11).

The general stratigraphy across the trench was a garden soil (215) which was 0.4m thick and overlay a 0.2m thick deposit of made ground (216). Below this was up to 0.52m of re-deposited topsoil (201) which overlay a further 0.2m of made ground (202 / 203). Below this was up to 0.36m of pale grey clayey silt (204), possibly a layer of former garden soil.

### 2.3.2 Archaeological findings

This trench contained a number of deposits (214, 217, 218 and 219) thought to be fills of a large cut feature (**221**) which was sealed by layer 204. A brick wall (200) cutting made ground 202 and sealed by the re-deposited topsoil (201) was also identified.

The large cut feature, either a pit or ditch, (**221**) appeared to extend beyond the confines of the trench and, as such, its profile and dimensions were not determined. A hand-dug sondage and hand-auger in the southeast corner of the trench identified that this feature was in excess of 1.3m deep (Figure 4a). The visible upper fill (214) was compact blue-yellow clay mixed with brown silt

containing small assemblages of animal bone and pottery dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Below this was a loose dark brown clayey silt (218) which contained fragments of pottery ranging in date from 850 – 1150 AD through to the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century AD. Below this was a deposit of compact mixed blue clay and brown clayey silt (217) which contained no finds but overlay a further deposit of compact mid blue clay which contained a single fragment of pottery dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century AD (Plates 10 to 12). The full depth of this lowest deposit was not ascertained.

Due to the similarity of the fills, it was not possible to determine with confidence whether the boundaries between certain fills (e.g. 217/ 219 and 217/ 218) represented boundaries between different fill episodes or cut lines.

The wall (200), which was located close to the centre of the trench (Figure 4a and Plate 9), was oriented broadly east to west and comprised two courses of friable red brick (0.8m wide x 0.2m high) bonded with a very rough, powdery pale yellow-brown mortar and set within a vertically sided / flat based cut (205). No finds were recovered from either the wall or the soil within the construction cut (206).

## 2.4 Finds summary

A summary table of find type, count, weight and specialist is can be found below (Table 2.1) with further narrative presented if considered necessary.

A summary and catalogue of the finds can be found in Appendix C and full specialist reports can be found in Appendix D.

**Table 2.1 Summary finds table**

Material	Count	Weight (g)	Specialist
Bone	92	582	Richard Moore
Ceramic building material	37	1294	Sue Anderson
Clay pipe	1	8	Richard Moore
Ferrous material	3	20	Richard Moore
Glass	2	35	Richard Moore
Pottery	54	483	Sue Anderson
Stone	2	389	Richard Moore

The earliest pottery was recovered from trench 2 where three fragments of St Neots Ware (850AD-1050AD) were recovered from the fill (218) of cut feature **221**.

Three sherds of early medieval pottery (11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD) were recovered from the possible wall (113) in trench 1 with a further 10 sherds spanning the 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries AD recovered from the subsoil (103).

The pottery recovered from trench 2 came primarily from the fills (214, 218 and 219) of pit **221** and included material ranging in date from the Saxon St Neots Ware mentioned above through to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century AD.

The worked stone, also recovered from cut feature **221** (fill 218) comprised two flat faces at right angles (Plate 3) indicating that this it was a fragment from a masonry block, however; as the stone is soft and rather brittle, it is unlikely to have been used in a substantial building, unless for decorative effect. It is perhaps more likely to be from a garden wall or similar structure.

### 3 Discussion

The evaluation identified a range of features including pits, possible pit/ditch and walls, with finds of a date range indicating activity from as early as the 9<sup>th</sup>/ 10<sup>th</sup> century through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

The stone spread (113) in trench 1 potentially pre-dated the construction of Bartons Hospital in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century. Although not fully investigated, the stone spread appeared to be linear, indicating that it may have been a collapsed wall. The pottery recovered from the soil around the stone spread dated exclusively from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD indicating that the structure had fallen into disuse during the early Middle Ages.

The small pit (111) located towards the south end of trench 1 is potentially broadly contemporary with the rubble spread, given that both were sealed by subsoil 103. Pit 104 is undated but certainly post-dates the rubble spread (113) and pit 111. The small pit (109) immediately below the buried topsoil was the remnant of a bonfire and although undated is likely to be early modern.

Trench 2 appeared to be located in an area of pit or ditch activity extending to a depth of at least 2.5m below present-day ground level. Given the broad date range of material recovered from the fills, they represented either a series of inter-cutting refuse pits spanning the medieval and post-medieval periods or the complex filling in of a large post-medieval pit or ditch, extending beyond the limits of the evaluation trench and truncating earlier deposits.

The fact that one of the fills produced a small assemblage of residual Saxon pottery raises the possibility that Saxon deposits may survive *in-situ* on or close-by to the PDA.

The layers overlying the pit fills included two buried garden soils (201 and 204) separated by a rubble layer (203) representing a demolition and/or construction event. This layer (203) and the associated brick wall (204) presumably relate to the present-day almshouses. The wall was too insubstantial to be anything other than a garden feature or dividing wall.

## 4 Conclusion

The evaluation has successfully identified evidence of human activity taking place within the vicinity of the PDA from the Saxon to the early modern periods.

The earliest finding was the small assemblage of residual Saxon pottery, which adds to the growing corpus of Saxon material previously found in this part of Buckingham town. There was no evidence of any Saxon structures or features and nor was there any evidence of the postulated burh.

No direct evidence of medieval domestic or industrial buildings was identified, but the stone spread (113) within trench 1 may represent part of a structure dating to this period.

The pit fills in trench 2 could relate to a series of inter-cutting domestic refuse pits or might conceivably represent the filling in of a large quarry pit or ditch.

With the exception of a single fragment of human bone, no evidence of *in-situ* burial was identified.

There is a moderate level of confidence in the factual results of this evaluation, and in the interpretations made due to the clarity of the archaeology, the stratigraphic relationships, and the prevailing site conditions at the time of the fieldwork. A degree of uncertainty remains over the interpretations of the rubble spread in trench 1 and the pit fills in trench 2, as these deposits were not fully investigated (see 1.5).

Based on the evaluation results, the findings would appear to be of local importance.

The evaluation works have ensured the long-term survival of the data collected, through the compilation of a site archive, and this report.

# 5 Archive

The evaluation produced the following document archive, under the site code of BHA14.

**Table 5.1 Archive quantification**

Item	Count
Number record	1
Trench records	2
Context indices	2
Context sheets	28
Drawing indices	1
Permatrace sheets	3
Level indices	1
Photo indices	2
Black and white photos	27
Digital images	46

The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum, County Museum Resource Centre, Tring Road, Halton Bucks, HP22 5PJ.

The accession number issued by Buckinghamshire County Museum is AYBCM:2016.47.

# 6 Acknowledgements

Network Archaeology would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance during the evaluation and the production of this report.

**Table 6.1 Acknowledgements**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
BCAS	Phil Markham	Senior Archaeologist	External monitoring
n/a	Sue Anderson	External specialist	Specialist finds reports
Network Archaeology Ltd	David Bonner	Technical Director	Project management; Evaluation
	Stephen Thorpe	Project Officer	Evaluation; Report writing
	Richard Moore	Project Manager	Specialist finds reports
	Caroline Kemp	Finds Supervisor	Finds processing
	Adam Holman	GIS Officer	Report Figures
	Jacqueline Churchill	Illustrations Officer	Report Figures

# 7 Bibliography

ACAO	1993	Model briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations	
ALGAO	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the east of England	EAA occasional paper 14
British Geological Society		Geology of Britain viewer	<a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?</a> Accessed September 2015
Buckinghamshire County Council	2008	Buckingham. Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Assessment Report	
Buckinghamshire County Council	2015	Unpublished response to planning request	
Department for Communities and Local Government	2012	National Planning Policy Framework	
Department for Communities and Local Government	2010	PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment	The Stationery Office
Department for Communities and Local Government	2008	PPS11: Regional Spatial Strategies	Update 2/2008
EAA	2005	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England	Occasional Paper 14
English Heritage	1991	The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition	London
English Heritage	1997	Sustaining the historic environment: new perspectives on the future	
Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M.	1997	Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage, Paper 1,	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Manchester
IFA	2008 (194, revised 2001)	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material	

IFA	2008 (194, revised 2001)	Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds, Waterlogged Wood)	
IFA	2008 (194, revised 2001)	Code of Conduct	
LandIS		Soilscapes viewer	<a href="http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/">http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/</a> Accessed September 2015
MGC	1992	Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections	Museums and Galleries Commission London
Network Archaeology Ltd	2015	Barton's Hospital Almshouses. Written Scheme of Investigation for: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation	Unpublished client report
Society of Museum Archaeologists	1995	Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Society for Museum Archaeologists, London
Walker, K.	1990	Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.	United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London)
Watkinson, D & Neil A. V	1998	First Aid for Finds	Rescue Publications, Hertford

# Desk-based Assessment

Evidence of prehistoric activity in and around Buckingham is very scant. The earliest finds are Neolithic worked flints. A middle Bronze Age cremation (HER 95550) was found during an archaeological evaluation on Moreton Road, on the northeast outskirts of the present town. There is no evidence of Roman activity within the historic core of Buckingham, although there are several findings on the north side of the River Ouse, on the north and east sides of the present town, including a possible Roman building (HER 10190), scatters of Roman pottery, tile and coins (HER 101901, 101902), Roman metalwork (HER 67130) and a Roman coin (HER 76900). South of the River Ouse, on the southeast side of the present town are a possible Romano-British enclosure (HER 67080) and the find-spots of Roman coins and pottery.

The present-day town of Buckingham is understood to have originated as a late Saxon settlement (HER 0021000000), which benefited from a mint (HER 0021002000), a double burh (HER 0021001000) and a possible Minster church (HER 0192500000). The principal burh is thought to lie in the bend of the river occupied by Castle Hill, beneath the historic town centre although the morphology of the Saxon settlement and the extent of its defences are uncertain.

Buckingham was recognised as a borough and the county town at the time of the Domesday survey and acquired a possible 'ring-work' castle (HER 0175500000), inserted into the hilltop within the existing burh, sometime after the Norman conquest in the 11th or 12th century. The site, known as Castle Hill is located approximately 100m northeast of the PDA and is now occupied by the parish church (HER 0404000000). The remains of a possible curtain wall (HER 0175504000) and evidence of the motte (HER 0175501000) as well as possible medieval building footings (HER 0175503000) have all been identified on Castle Hill.

Saxon or medieval burials have been identified immediately to the east of the PDA (HER 0567500000) and on Well Street (HER 0567600000 and 0567601000) also to the east of the PDA. On Hunters Street, approximately 200m southwest of the PDA, Saxon metalwork along with a 13th century barn and house were revealed during archaeological excavation (HER 0201300000). The medieval and post-medieval manor of Prebend (HER 0192400000) was located approximately 100m to the southeast of the PDA whilst the original 11th century Church (0192500000) and a shrine dedicated to St Rumbold (HER 0192502000) were located approximately 90m to the south-southwest. Following the collapse of the medieval church tower in the 18th century, the current

church was built on Castle Hill in 1777-81, although a graveyard remained on the original medieval site.

The town expanded north eastwards through the Medieval period with the development of burgage-type plots on either side of a broad new market place, now known as Market Hill. The development of the market area would have shifted the economic and administrative focus of the town north eastwards away from Church Street and the PDA.

Medieval Buckingham is noted for the development of several important industries, including tanneries on Bridge Street. 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. Archaeological investigations conducted to the rear of 23 Church Street, less than 100m to the east of the PDA, identified an area of possible medieval butchery and post-medieval landscaping (HER 0706300000).

Buckingham's fortunes fluctuated throughout the post-medieval period. The town went into decline and lost its county status by the 17th century and was then devastated by the Great Fire of 1725. Following this, the town saw a boom in development and trade and temporarily regained its status of county town (English Heritage 2008, Page 1925, Harrison 1909, Sheahan 1862).

The current almshouses (HER 1405800000), built in 1910, are located on the site of Barton's Hospital which was founded in 1431.

Speeds map of 1610 and Jeffrey's map of 1760 both appear to show a number of buildings within the immediate vicinity of the PDA (English Heritage, 2008) whilst the Ordnance Survey map of 1881 shows several small structures and pathways within the boundary of the almshouses but outside to the west of the PDA. One of these structures appears on later mapping of 1938 (oldmaps.com).

The PDA is bounded to the northeast by a 19th century chapel, now known as the Radcliffe Centre (HER 1180300000) and to the southwest by an 18th century house with 19th century façade (HER 1180600000). The Vicarage (HER 1181000000) dates from the 16th or 17th century and is located approximately 35m to the southeast of the PDA and a former 17th century inn (HER 1410200000), which is Grade II listed, lies to the west. A 15th century timber framed house (HER 0512900000) is located on St Rumbolds Lane to the north.

APPENDIX B

# Context Database

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Depth BGS	Description	Interpretation	Findings
1	100	Layer		avg 0.46m thick	0m	Very dark grey soft clayey silt	Topsoil	Pottery Clay pipe
1	101	Layer		0.1m thick	0.46m	Light yellow-brown compact clay	Made ground	None
1	102	Layer		0.28m thick	0.56m	Dark grey soft clayey silt	Buried topsoil	None
1	103	Layer		0.2m thick	0.84m	Pale to mid grey clayey silt	Subsoil	Animal bone Glass Emed to Pmed pottery
1	<b>104</b>	Cut		1.2m wide x 0.08m deep	0.86m	Cut with shallow concave sides and a concave base	Pit	None
1	105	Fill	<b>104</b>	0.08m thick	0.86m	Very soft dark grey silt with frequent charcoal flecks	Sole fill	None
1	106	Deposit		0.4m wide x 0.3m thick	0.18m	Mix of limestone and brick fragments	Made ground	None
1	107	Layer		n/a	1.08m	Compact yellow clay	Natural substrate	None
1	108			n/a			<b>VOID</b>	
1	<b>109</b>	Cut		1m diameter x 0.05m deep	0.42m	Ovoid cut with an irregular concave profile	Modern bonfire	Yes
1	110	Fill	<b>109</b>	0.08m thick	0.42m	Very soft pale grey silt with frequent charcoal fragments	Sole fill	Animal bone
1	<b>111</b>	Cut		0.74m long x 0.6m wide x 0.09m deep	1.08m	Ovoid cut with shallow concave sides and a flat base	Pit	Yes
1	112	Fill	<b>111</b>	0.09m thick	1.08m	Soft very dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent limestone pebbles	Sole fill	Animal bone
1	113	Deposit		1.2m wide x 0.08m deep	1m	Spread of limestone cobbles. Angular and sub-angular size range 0.1m x 0.05m x 0.1m	Stone spread	Animal bone Emed and Med pottery
2	200	Structure		0.8m wide x 0.2m deep	0.6m	Brick wall oriented broadly east to west and made up of two courses of friable red brick bonded with a rough, powdery pale yellow-brown mortar	Brick wall	None
2	201	Layer		0.52m thick	0.3m	Soft dark grey clayey silt	Re-deposited Topsoil	None
2	202	Layer		0.2m thick	0.8m	Soft dark grey loose clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks	Made ground	None
2	203	Layer		0.15m thick	0.84m	Mix of mortar, stone and brick within a mid yellow-brown sandy silt matrix	Made ground	None
2	204	Layer		0.36m thick	0.9m	Soft pale grey clayey silt	possible subsoil	None
2	<b>205</b>	Cut		0.8m wide x 0.3m deep	0.76m	Linear cut oriented broadly east to west with vertical sides and a flat base	Construction cut for wall	None
2	206	Fill	<b>205</b>	0.06m thick	0.76m	Soft dark grey clayey silt	Sole fill of construction cut	None
2	207			n/a			<b>Void</b>	
2	208			n/a			<b>VOID</b>	
2	209			n/a			<b>VOID</b>	
2	210			n/a			<b>VOID</b>	
2	211			n/a			<b>VOID</b>	
2	212			n/a			<b>VOID</b>	
2	213			n/a			<b>VOID</b>	
2	214	Fill	<b>221</b>	0.14m visible depth	1.2m	Compact mixed blue-yellow clay / brown silt with limestone fragments	Mixed clay fill	Animal bone Med/Pmed and

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Dimensions (m)	Depth BGS	Description	Interpretation	Findings
								Pmed pottery
2	215	Layer		0.4m thick	0m	Very dark brown soft clayey silt. Contained modern detritus such as plastic bags and polystyrene	Garden soil	None
2	216	Layer		3.1m long x 0.2m thick	0.4m	Mixed brick, stone and mortar	Made ground	None
2	217	Fill	221	0.2m thick excavated	1.2m	Compact mixed blue-grey clay and brown clayey silt with frequent limestone fragments	Mixed clay fill	None
2	218	Fill	221	0.3m thick excavated	1.24m	Loose dark brown clayey silt with occasional small pebbles	Soil fill	Animal bone Saxon pottery Emed pottery Med pottery Pmed pottery Worked stone
2	219	Fill	221	0.15m thick excavated		Compact mid blue clay	Soil fill	None
2	220				n/a		Number assigned to unstratified finds	Yes
2	221	Cut		Unknown but in excess of 5m long, 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep	1.2m	Postulated large pit which extends beyond the confines of the evaluation trench. Not seen in plan and edges not seen in section	Possible large pit	Yes

APPENDIX C

# Finds Catalogue

Context	Data	Bone		CBM								Clay pipe	Glass		Iron	Pottery						Stone	Grand Total		
		Animal	Human	Med	Med ?	Med/Lmed ?	Lmed ?	Lmed/Pmed	Lmed/Pmed ?	Pmed	Pmed ?	U/D	Pmed	U/D	U/D	Saxon	Emed	Med	Med/Pmed	Pmed	Pmed/Emod	Worked			
100	Count																1								2
	Weight																8								15
103	Count	2		1	1		1	1	3	1	2			1			1	3	1		4			22	
	Weight	15		9	8		17	28	45	39	37			4			4	30	5		3			244	
110	Count	35																						35	
	Weight	4																						4	
112	Count	1																						1	
	Weight	6																						6	
113	Count	12															3							15	
	Weight	13															59							72	
214	Count	12								2								3						17	
	Weight	379								431								122						932	
218	Count	22		1		13			1	1	2			3	3	6	15	6	1		2			76	
	Weight	108		7		304			5	42	16			20	26	80	57	27	2		389			1083	
219	Count																1							1	
	Weight																8							8	
220	Count	8	1			3	1			3				1			3	1			2			23	
	Weight	57	2			134	39			133				31			12	36			5			449	
<b>Total Count</b>		<b>92</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>192</b>	
<b>Total Weight</b>		<b>582</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>389</b>		<b>2813</b>	

# Specialist Finds Reports

# Ceramics

Sue Anderson

## Introduction

Fifty-four sherds of pottery weighing 483g were collected from six contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric and a summary catalogue is included as Table 2. A full record is included in the archive in MS Access format.

**Table 1 Pottery quantification by fabric**

Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
St. Neot's Ware	STNE	3	26		3
Early medieval wares	EMW	10	143	0.15	10
<i>Total early medieval (10th–12th c.)</i>		<i>13</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>0.15</i>	<i>13</i>
Medieval coarsewares	MCW	6	34	0.07	6
Potterspury-type ware	POTT	12	63	0.11	12
<i>Total medieval (12th–14th c.)</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>0.11</i>	<i>18</i>
Late medieval (Brill/Boarstall?)	LMT	2	10		2
Potterspury late medieval	POTL	1	4		1
Cistercian type Ware	CTW	2	3		2
<i>Total late medieval (L.14th–M.16th c.)</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>4</i>
Post-medieval redwares	PMRW	1	4		1
Iron-glazed blackwares	IGBW	2	38		2
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	7	55		7
Post-medieval slipwares	PMSW	1	2	0.05	1
Cologne/Frechen Stoneware	GSW4	1	93		1
Porcelain	PORC	1	3		1
<i>Total early post-medieval (16th–18th c.)</i>		<i>13</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>0.05</i>	<i>11</i>
Refined white earthenwares	REFW	5	5		5
<i>Total modern</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>5</i>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>54</b>

## Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (eve) and minimum number of vessels (MNV). A full catalogue is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Local wares were identified based on Baker et al. (1979), Mellor (1994) and Vince (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. The results were input directly onto an Access database.

## The Assemblage

Two small and one large body sherds of St Neot's Ware (10th–11th c.) were residual finds in soil fill (218).

Handmade wares of early medieval (11th/12th c.) date were recovered from subsoil (103), stone spread (113) and soil fill (218). Six distinct fabrics were present, all with varying degrees of fine to coarse quartz sand, calcareous inclusions (limestone, shell and/or chalk), soft ferrous pieces, and occasional coarse inclusions such as flint and ironstone (full details are included in the archive catalogue). Some of these are similar to the products from the known production sites at Olney Hyde (Mynard 1984) and Great Brickhill (Beamish 1989). Vince (1998, 2) comments that the early products of the latter (11th–13th c.) were in a coarse flint and sand tempered fabric. Three rimsherds were present, representing a ?jar with a flaring and slightly beaded rim, a wide-mouthed jar or bowl with a thickened everted rim, and a bowl with a triangular beaded rim. Similar forms were found at Walton, and dated to the 11th century (illustrated by McCarthy and Brooks 1988, fig. 91, 275 and 276).

Thirteen sherds were of medieval date (broadly 12th–14th c.) and comprised body sherds and two rim fragments in five fabrics. Medieval coarsewares (MCW) were all collected from soil fill (218), where they were residual. One sherd with fine sand and calcareous inclusions may be a 12th–13th century Olney Hyde product. Two greywares, one fairly coarse with occasional shell inclusions, and one finer with sparse very fine calcareous inclusions, were both represented by abraded body sherds and one small jar or jug rim sherd. A further fine sandy micaceous greyware was represented by a single body sherd. The majority of high medieval sherds in this assemblage were Potterspury-type wares (13th–15th c.), with both glazed and unglazed examples occurring. They were found in subsoil (103), soil fill (218) and as unstratified finds. Two jar rims were present, both everted with beading.

The late medieval period was represented by at least one sherd of later Potterspury ware (fabric M25 as described by Vince 1998, 3) in soil fill (218), two base fragments in a fine sandy redware (possibly Brill/Boarstall, from topsoil and unstratified), and two body sherds of Cistercian-type ware (unstratified and soil fill (218)).

Oxidised sherds of post-medieval date (broadly 16th–18th c.) were generally abraded body and base fragments glazed with orange, brown or green glazes (GRE), or an iron-rich 'black' glaze (IGBW), or were unglazed (PMRW). They were collected from subsoil (103), clay fill (214), soil fill

(218) and as unstratified finds. No forms were identifiable. A red hard earthenware rim, with a reduced surface and white slip on the edge and internally under a yellow glaze, was probably from a small bowl and was found in soil fill (218). Also of this period was a base fragment from a Frechen stoneware 'tiger ware' brown glazed bottle from clay fill (214). A fragment of an undecorated Chinese porcelain bowl with a footring base was also recovered, as an unstratified find, but is not closely dateable and may be modern.

Five sherds of 19th/20th-century refined factory-made whitewares, all undecorated, were unstratified or recovered from subsoil (103).

## **Ceramic building material**

Thirty-seven fragments of CBM (1294g) were recovered from four contexts (Table 3): unstratified, subsoil (103), clay fill (214) and soil fill (218). All four contexts contained CBM of post-medieval date, with some probable residual material present in (103) and (218).

The majority of fragments were pieces of plain roof tiles in fine and medium sand-tempered fabrics with a variety of local inclusions such as soft red clay pellets, ferrous particles and occasional flint. Although most of the fragments were probably from peg tiles, only three fragments with peg holes were present, and a few thicker fragments may be pieces of nib tile or possibly fragments of ridge tiles. One piece had a thick deposit of white lime mortar with sand aggregates adhering to the base and broken edges, suggesting it may have been reused in a wall. Plain roof tiles are difficult to date closely as similar forms were in use from the 13th century onwards. In this group, twenty-four fragments with reduced cores or surfaces may be of medieval or late medieval date, whilst those which were fully oxidised were probably post-medieval. One fragment from (214) was complete in width and measured 149mm across and 14mm thick, with a single central circular peg hole.

One fragment of red brick of probable post-medieval date was recovered as an unstratified find.

## **Recommendations**

The pottery and CBM have been fully recorded and no further work is required. If more fieldwork is carried out on the site and the results are intended for publication, this material should be incorporated in the overall assemblage. The material should be retained as part of the site archive.

## References

Baker, E. and Hassall, J., 1979, 'Pottery' in Baker, D., Baker, E., Hassall, J. and Simco, A., *Excavations in Bedford 1967–1977*, Bedfordshire Archaeol. J. 13, 147–239.

Beamish, H.F., 'A medieval pottery production site at Jack Ironcap's Lane, Great Brickhill', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 31, 88–92.

Mellor, M., 1994, *Oxfordshire Pottery*. Reprinted from *Oxoniensia* LIX.

Mynard, D.C., 'A medieval pottery industry at Olney Hyde', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 26, 56–85.

Vince, A., 1998, *An Assessment of the Pottery from the 1997 Excavations at Loughton, Bucks*, AVAC Report 1998/012 (unpub.).

**Table 2 Pottery catalogue**

Context	Fabric	Rim	Form	No	Wt/g	MNV	Fabric date range
100	LMT			1	7	1	15th-16th c.
103	EMW2			1	4	1	11th-12th c.
103	POTT			3	30	3	13th-15th c.
103	GRE			1	5	1	16th-18th c.
103	REFW			4	3	4	L.18th-20th c.
113	EMW1			1	20	1	11th-12th c.
113	EMW1	triangular bead	bowl	1	30	1	11th-12th c.
113	EMW1	flaring	jar?	1	9	1	11th-12th c.
214	GRE			2	29	2	16th-18th c.
214	GSW4			1	93	1	16th-17th c.
218	STNE			3	26	3	850-1150
218	EMW1			2	30	2	11th-13th c.
218	EMW3			1	14	1	11th-12th c.
218	EMW4	thickened everted	jar?	1	20	1	11th-12th c.
218	EMW5			1	14	1	11th-12th c.
218	EMW6			1	2	1	11th-12th c.
218	MCW1			1	8	1	12th-13th c.
218	MCW2			1	8	1	12th-14th c.
218	MCW2	beaded	jar/jug	1	4	1	12th-13th c.?
218	MCW3			2	6	2	12th-14th c.
219	MCW4			1	8	1	12th-14th c.
218	POTT			7	22	7	13th-15th c.
218	POTT	everted bead	jar	1	4	1	13th-15th c.
218	POTL			1	4	1	15th-16th c.
218	CTW			1	1	1	16th c.
218	GRE			4	21	4	16th-18th c.
218	IGBW			1	2	1	16th-18th c.
218	PMRW			1	4	1	16th-18th c.
218	PMSW	upright plain	bowl?	1	2	1	17th-19th c.
U/S	CTW			1	2	1	16th c.
U/S	IGBW			1	36	1	16th-18th c.

Context	Fabric	Rim	Form	No	Wt/g	MNV	Fabric date range
U/S	LMT			1	3	1	15th-16th c.
U/S	PORC			1	3	1	18th-20th c.
U/S	POTT	everted bead	jar	1	7	1	13th-15th c.
U/S	REFW			1	2	1	L.18th-20th c.

**Table 3 Ceramic building material**

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	W	T	Abr	Peg shape	Mortar	Notes	Date
U/S	msf	RT	1	92		18	+			thick, poss RID	pmed
U/S	msffe	B?	1	30							pmed
U/S	msxcp	RT	1	11							pmed
U/S	fscpfe	RT	1	39							lmed?
U/S	mscp	RT	2	119						reduced cores, buff surfaces (same in 218?)	med/lmed?
U/S	mscp	RT	1	15						buff, flake (same in 218?)	med/lmed?
103	msf	RT	1	39		17				thick, poss RID	pmed
103	fscp	RT	1	8			+			v fine silty, reduced core	med?
103	ms	RT	1	17						reduced surface	lmed?
103	fsxcp	RT	3	45			+			orange streaky with cream cp	lmed/pmed?
103	fsxcp	RT	1	35					thick msf all over		pmed?
103	msfe	RT	1	2			+				pmed?
103	fsc	RT	1	28						sparse v fine calc, partly reduced core	lmed/pmed
103	est?	RT	1	9			+			silty purplish-orange with reduced core	med
214	fsx	RT	1	16							pmed
214	fscpfe	RT	1	415	149	14		1 X R(1)			pmed
218	mscp	RT	2	64						reduced cores, buff surfaces (same as U/S?)	med/lmed?
218	mscp	RT	1	8						buff, flake (same as U/S?)	med/lmed?
218	msfe	RT	4	60						reduced core	med/lmed?
218	ms	RT	3	146				1 X R		reduced surfaces, overfired	med/lmed?
218	ms	RT	3	26				1 X R		buff	med/lmed?
218	fsxcp	RT	1	6			++				pmed?
218	fscpfe	RT	1	10						v coarse cp	pmed?
218	msfe	RT	1	5			+			buff surface, dark red core	lmed/pmed?
218	ms	RT	1	42							pmed
218	est?	RT	1	7			+			fine silty with coarse cp and some calc, orange with pink core	med

Notes: RT – plain roof tile; B – brick. Fabrics – fs/ms – fine/medium sandy; x – poorly mixed; cp – clay pellets; fe – ferrous; c – calcareous; est – estuarine silty clay

## Clay tobacco pipe

**Dr Richard Moore**

A single piece of clay pipe stem, weighing 8g, was recovered from context 100. It is 45mm long, and 8mm in diameter, with a centrally placed 2mm-diameter hole. Clay pipe stem fragments, such as this, are not readily datable.

## Faunal remains

### Dr Richard Moore

A small and varied assemblage of bone was assessed. In total, there are 92 animal bones or bone fragments, weighing 582g (see table below).

Most of the material is fragmentary, with complete animal bones being limited to a sheep or goat phalange and molar tooth, and a collection of foot bones, probably from a small mammal, probably a rabbit.

The assemblage also included a single human finger bone.

Several bones showed clear butchery marks, most notably a cattle humerus from context 214 and sheep-sized skull fragments from the same context. One fragment from context 218 was burnt and two other fragments had areas blackened by charring.

**Table 4 Catalogue of faunal remains**

Context	Count	Wt/g	Identifiable bone elements
220	9	59	Human phalange; sheep/goat lower molar, cattle right ulna
103	2	15	Bird (chicken?) femur
110	35	4	5 metatarsals, 8 metacarpals, 21 phalanges from small mammal, probably rabbit
112	1	6	Sheep-sized ilium
113	12	13	Sheep right humerus
214	12	379	Cattle humerus, sheep-sized skull fragments
218	22	108	Sheep/goat phalange

Two fragments of snail shell were also recovered, from context 214. Although not readily identifiable, these could well be from the common garden snail, *Helix aspersa*. They are of no archaeological significance.

Apart from the stray human bone, the assemblage is all of common food species, and is likely to be largely derived from waste from food preparation or consumption. It would have probably originated from casual disposal, rather than systematic dumping of waste. There is also likely to have been a degree of redeposition, through reworking of garden soils. Overall, it is broadly typical of the kinds of waste found in many urban contexts.

Beyond indicating that the common food species were being exploited at the time that these deposits were formed, the assemblage has little evidential value, and there is no potential for any further study.

The human finger bone presumably occurred through reworking of a nearby burial ground, disturbing an earlier grave.

No recommendations are made for the retention of the animal bone. It is recommended that a suitable site should be found for the reburial of the human bone, as close as possible to the place that it was found.

# Glass

## Dr Richard Moore

Two pieces of bottle glass, weighing 31g and 4g, were recovered from an unstratified layer and from context 103 respectively.

The larger piece, with maximum dimensions of 77mm by 38mm, is in a pale green glass. It is heavily patinated with a shiny iridescent mottled brown, gold and green deposition all its surfaces. It has a radius of curvature of around 70mm, suggesting that it came from a flask-shaped vessel. A late seventeenth- or eighteenth-century date might be suggested for such a vessel. The smaller piece, from context 103, has maximum dimensions of 36mm by 17mm, and is 4mm thick.



Plate 1: The glass

## Ferrous metal

**Dr Richard Moore**

Three pieces of heavily encrusted ferrous metal, weighing 20g in total, were retrieved from context 218. All three pieces are similar in appearance and all appear to have fresh breaks. Although they do not seem to refit, they could plausibly be the remains of a single object.



**Plate 2: Ferrous material from pit 221 (fill 218)**

## Worked Stone

### Dr Richard Moore

Two refitting pieces of stone, together weighing 389g, were retrieved from context 218. The maximum dimensions of the complete fragment are 151mm by 81mm wide and 72mm. Two flat faces at right angles indicate that this is a fragment from a masonry block. The stone is a coarse, reddish-pink, banded sandstone.

Context 218 was interpreted as the fill of a large feature, whose limits extended beyond the limits of the trial trench. The pottery dating evidence from it spans the range from Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Norman St Neots ware, through to seventeenth- to nineteenth-century slipwares. It is not therefore possible to provide a date or provenance for this block. However, as the stone is soft and rather brittle, it is unlikely to have been used in a substantial building, unless for decorative effect. It is perhaps more likely to be from a garden wall or similar structure.



Plate 3: Worked stone from pit 221 (fill 218)

**APPENDIX E**

# **Plates**



Plate 4: PDA prior to trenching. Camera facing northwest



Plate 5: Trench 1 showing pit 111 and rubble 113. Camera facing northeast



Plate 6: Trench 1 pit 104. Camera facing northwest



**Plate 7: Trench 1 pit 111. Camera facing southwest**



**Plate 8: Trench 1 rubble spread 113.  
Camera facing southeast**



**Plate 9: Trench 2 wall 200. Camera  
facing south**



**Plate 10: Trench 2 bulk section showing pit fills. Camera facing south**



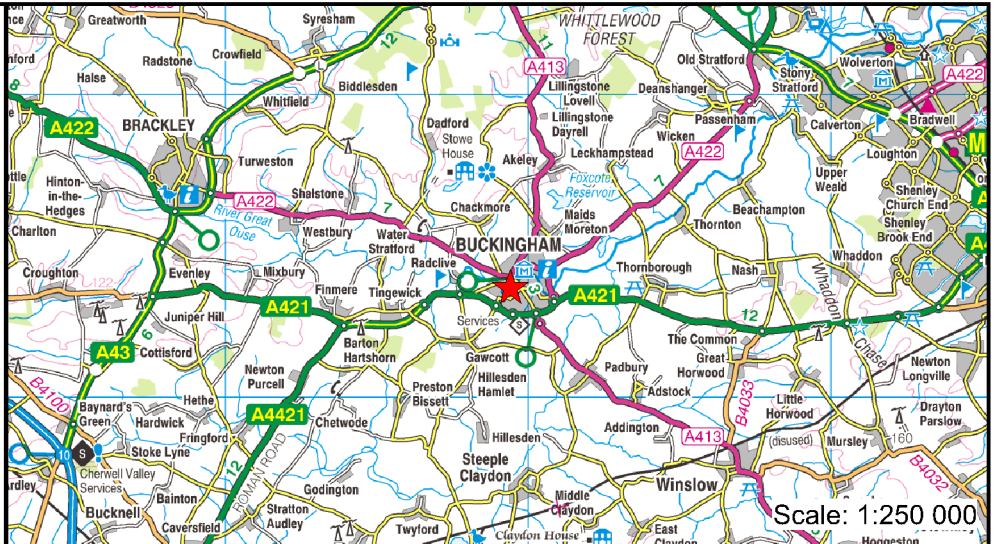
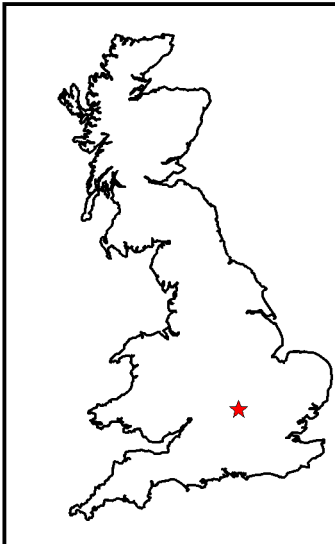
**Plate 11: Trench 2 showing pit fills.  
Camera facing southeast**



**Plate 12: Trench 2 bulk section  
showing wall 200 and pit fills. Camera  
facing west**

## APPENDIX F

# Figures



★ □ Proposed development

2.00	08/02/16	No change	AH	ST	DB
1.00	05/10/15	First issue	AH	-	DB
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

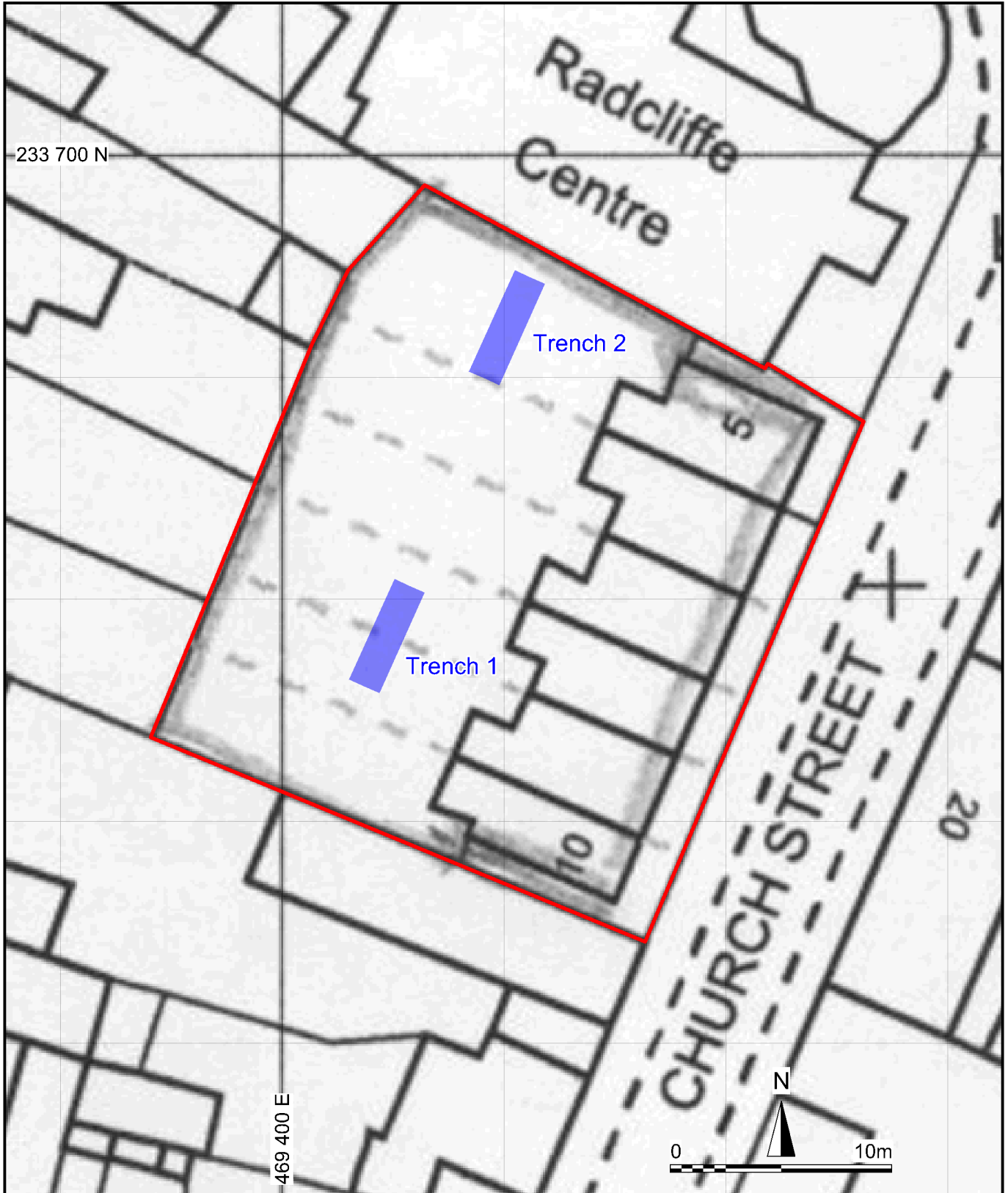
Bartons Hospital Almshouses  
Buckingham


Figure 1  
Location of proposed  
development


Scale: 1:10 000

[Contains Ordnance Survey data  
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 Proposed development

 Evaluation trench

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Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
2.00	08/02/16	No change	AH	ST	DB
1.00	05/10/15	First issue	AH	-	DB



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**Figure 2**  
Location of evaluation  
trenches

Scale: 1:250

Figure 3a: Section showing trench stratigraphy and pit 104

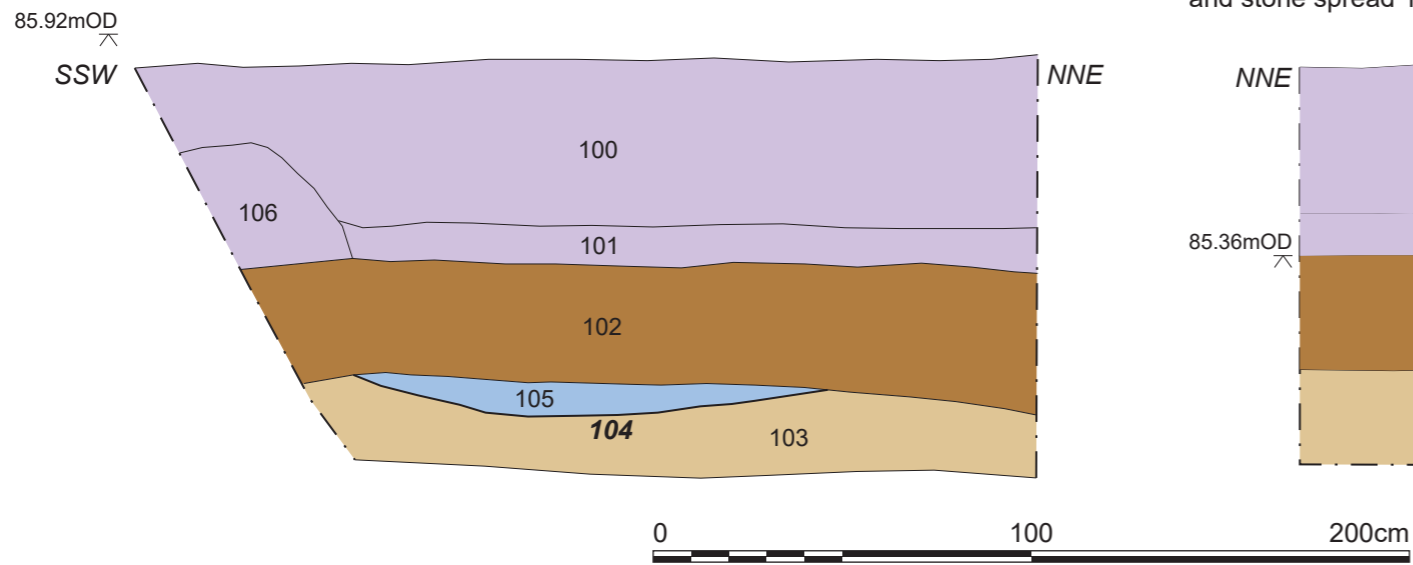


Figure 3b: Section showing trench stratigraphy and stone spread 113

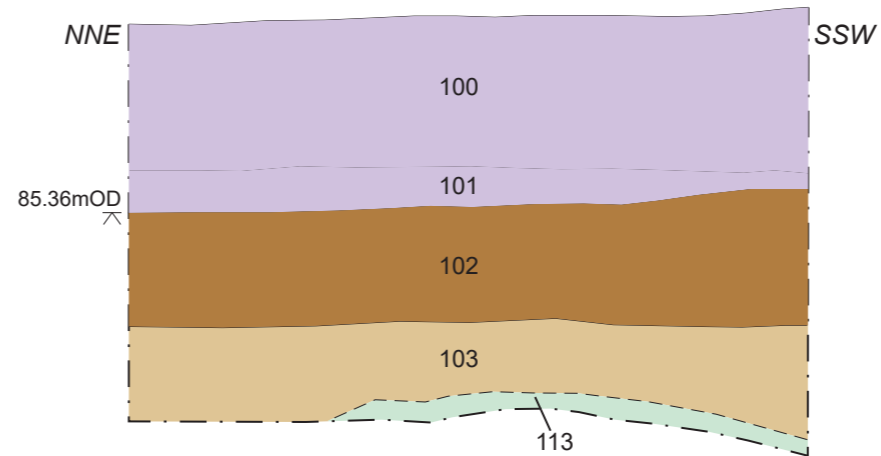


Figure 3c: Section of pit 111

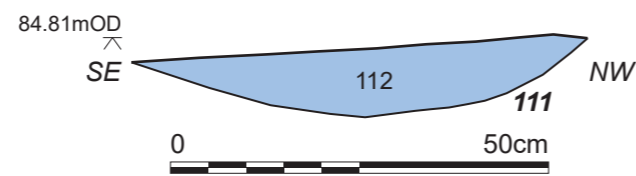
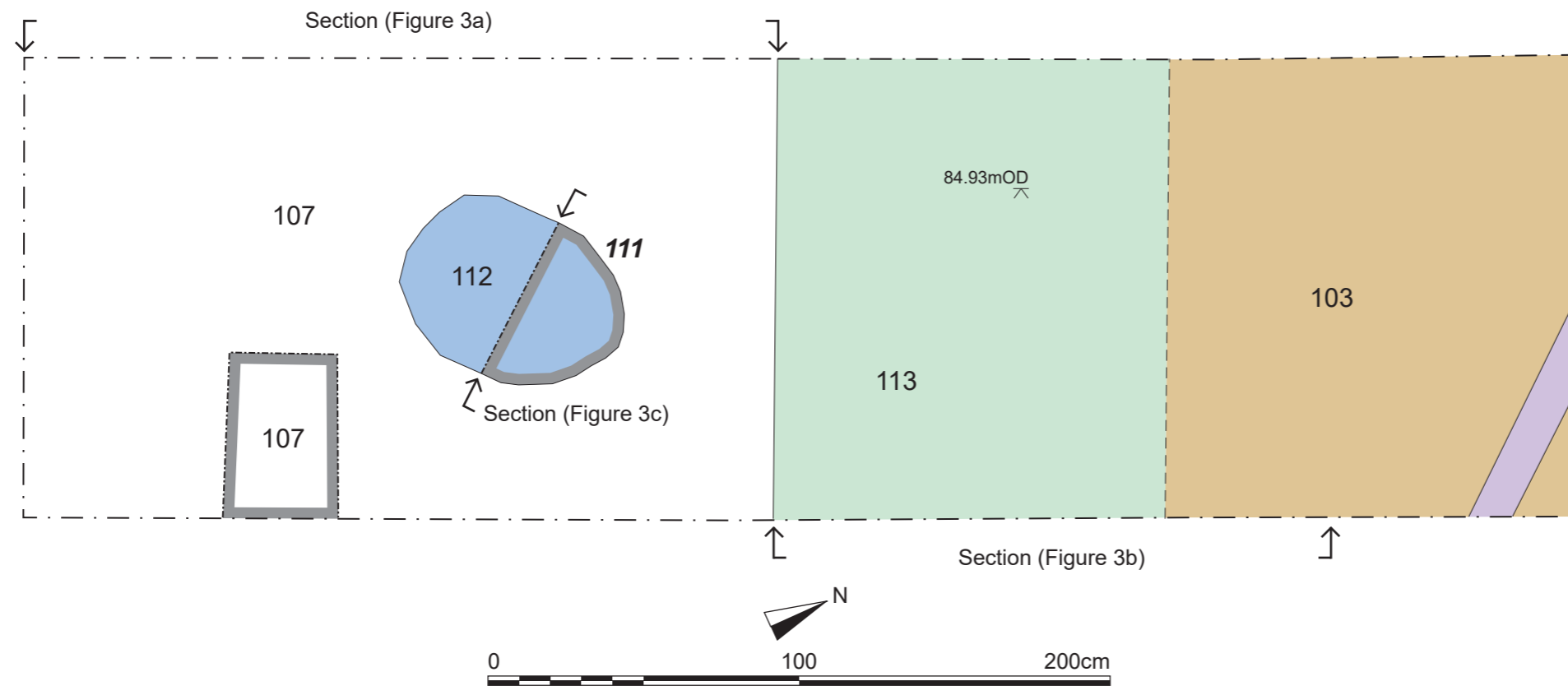


Figure 3d: Plan of Trench 1



- Limit of excavation
- Modern
- Buried garden soil
- Archaeology (Undated)
- Archaeology (Medieval / Post-medieval)
- Archaeology (Early medieval)
- Excavated
- Excavated section
- Cut
- Layer
- Layer (Approximate extent)

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
2.00	20/09/16	Updated phasing	AH	ST	DB
1.00	13/01/16	First issue	AH	ST	DB



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Figure 3  
Plan and sections of Trench 1

Scale 1:20 / 1:10

Figure 4a: Section of Trench 2

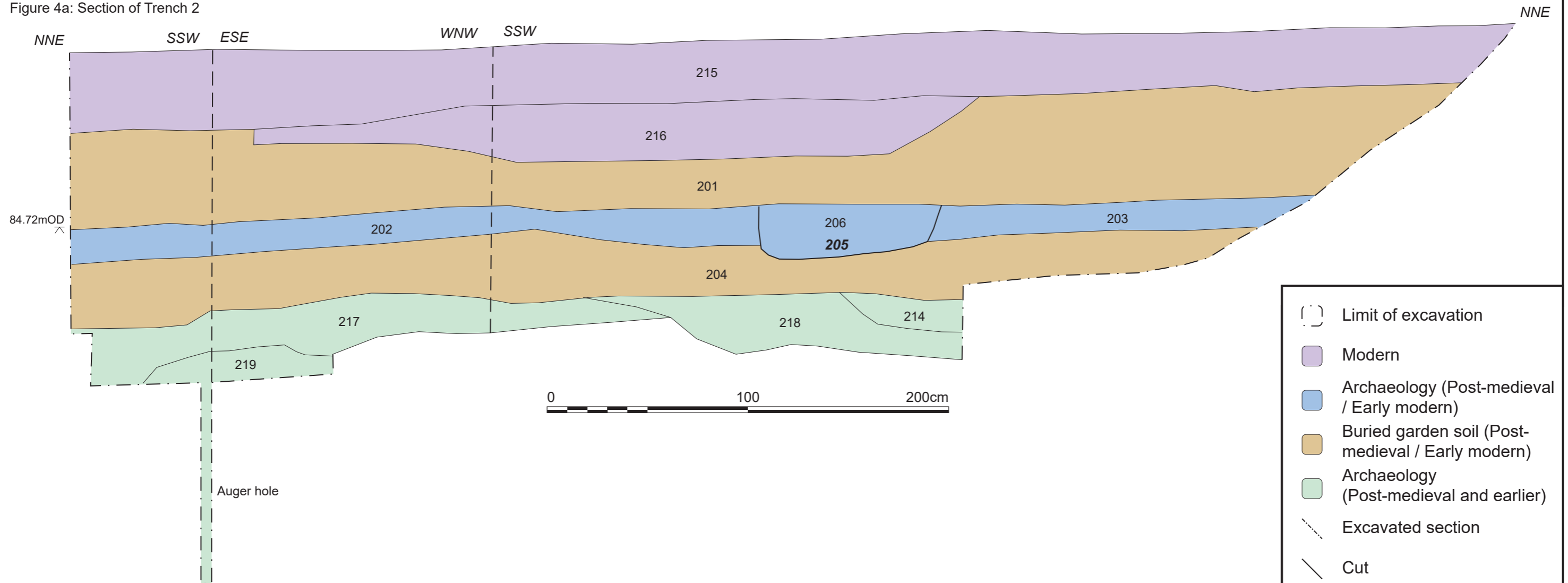
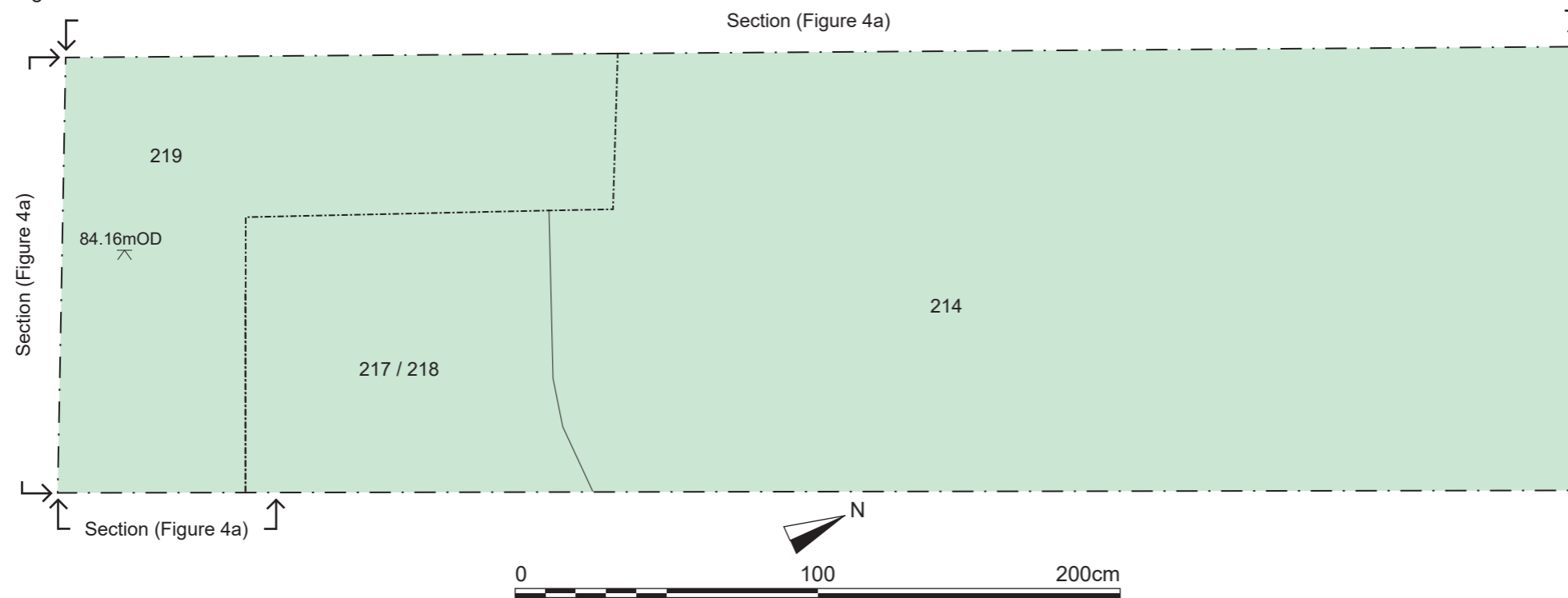


Figure 4b: Plan of Trench 2



- Limit of excavation
- Modern
- Archaeology (Post-medieval / Early modern)
- Buried garden soil (Post-medieval / Early modern)
- Archaeology (Post-medieval and earlier)
- Excavated section
- Cut
- Layer

2.00	20/09/16	Updated phasing	AH	ST	DB
1.00	13/01/16	First issue	AH	ST	DB
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App



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Figure 4  
Plan and section of Trench 2

Scale 1:20