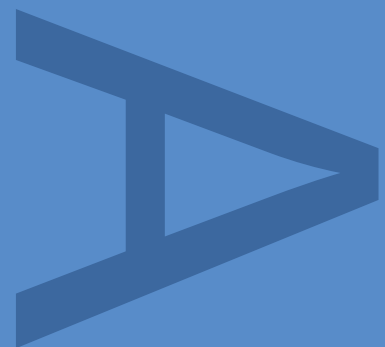


**EXCAVATIONS AT THE  
WAGGON AND HORSES,  
135 STANSTED ROAD, BISHOP'S  
STORTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE  
CM23 2AL**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSESSMENT**

**FEBRUARY 2012**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
REPORT R11172**

**Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at The Waggon and Horses,  
135 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2AL**

**Site Code: HBSP11  
Report no: R11172**

**Central National Grid Reference: TL 49475 22005**

**Written and Researched by Peter Boyer**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, February 2012**

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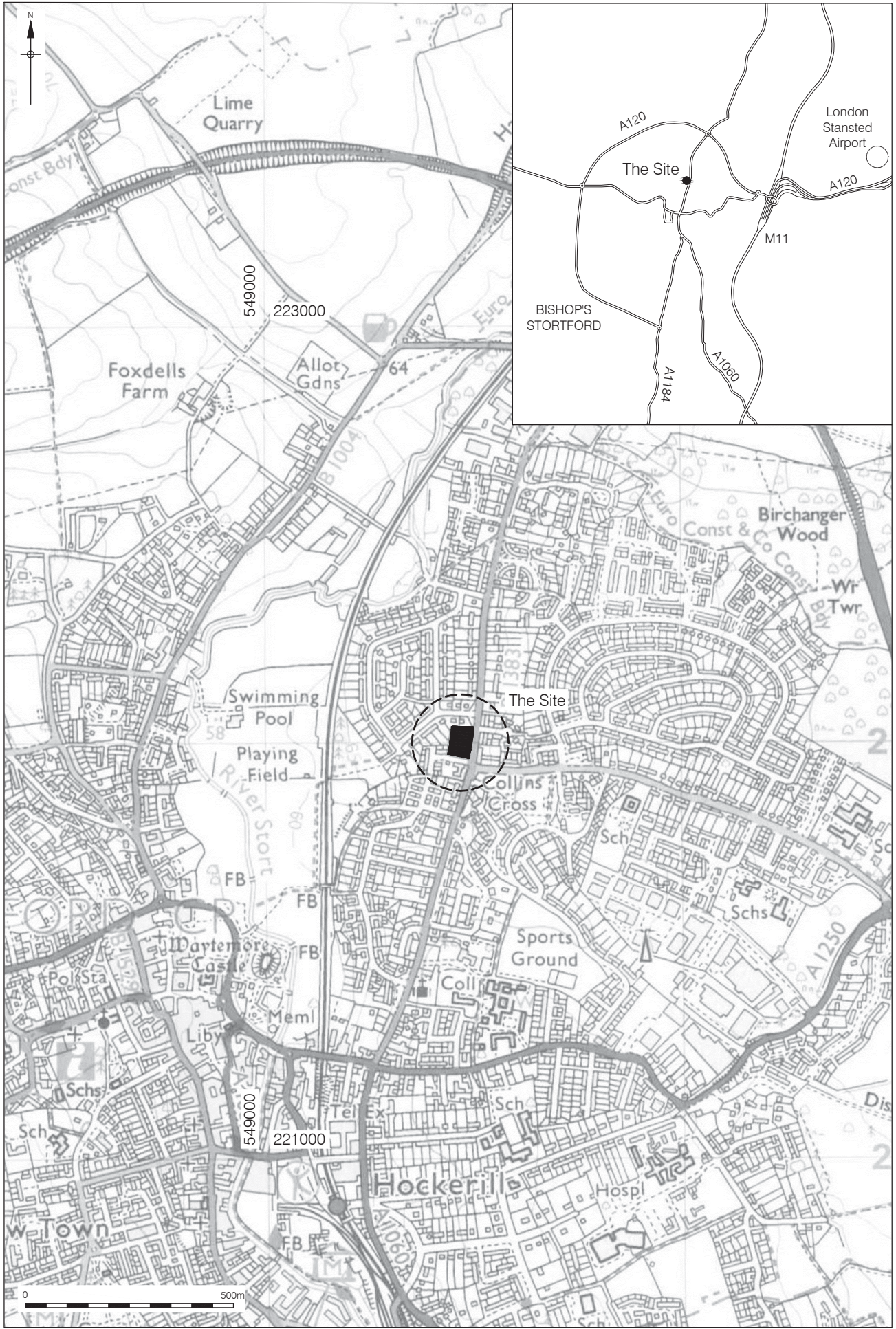
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## 1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of a programme of archaeological excavation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. at the former Waggon and Horses public house, 135 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. The site Central National Grid Reference is TL 49475 22005. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of McCarthy and Stone (Developments) Ltd.
- 1.2 The work was carried out during October 2011 and comprised the mitigation works undertaken to satisfy an archaeological planning condition on the planning consent (ref: 3/10/0396/FP) for archaeological investigations in advance of the re-development of the site for 45 Category II type sheltered apartments for the elderly, communal facilities, landscaping and associated car parking. The archaeological condition was stipulated following an earlier evaluation in 2008 that had recorded predominantly Roman remains on the site.
- 1.3 The excavation revealed a number of periods of past occupation of the site, from the prehistoric to modern periods, with the most significant activity occurring during two Roman phases. There was also some activity detected during the post-medieval period.
- 1.4 The natural deposits across the site comprised a mid reddish brown silty clay brickearth with bands of gravel. A few prehistoric struck flints were recovered but these were all residual and represented background activity rather than any definable areas of occupation.
- 1.5 The first clear phase of occupation dated to the later 1<sup>st</sup> to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD and was represented by the interment of a number of cremation burials. Six such features were recorded in an eastern central part of the site, each accompanied by at least one ceramic vessel. A small number of other features may also have been contemporary with this phase.
- 1.6 A second phase of Roman activity could be broadly dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries and mostly comprised a series of ditches on north-south and east-west alignments that appeared to have represented agricultural enclosures laid out in a regular pattern a short distance from Roman Stane Street, which ran from east to west a short distance south of the site. Again a small number of other features also appeared to be contemporary with the ditches.
- 1.7 There was little evidence of activity on the site between the later Roman and post-medieval periods. A small number of boundary features appeared to date to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, though may have been earlier, and more recent activity was associated with building developments on the site from the 19<sup>th</sup> to later 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

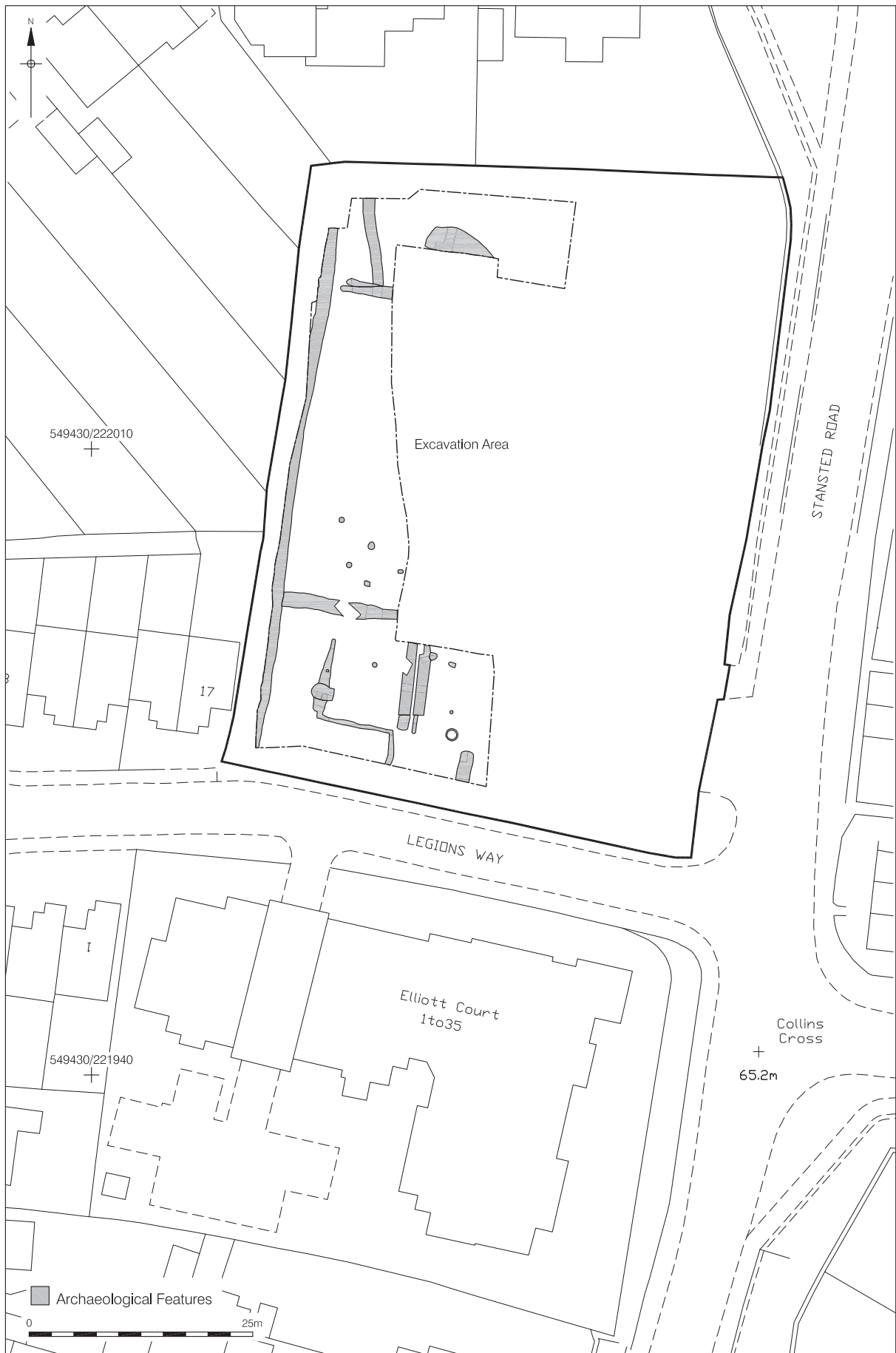
## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) on the site of the former Waggon and Horses public house, 135 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (Figures 1 & 2) following the demolition of the late 20<sup>th</sup>-century public house and adjacent hotel and prior to the development of a sheltered housing scheme. The excavation was conducted in a single phase between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone (Developments) Ltd.
- 2.2 The site comprises a sub-rectangular parcel of land, measuring approximately 0.5ha, situated adjacent to Stansted Road, north-east of the centre of Bishop's Stortford. The site is bounded by Stansted Road to the east, Legions way to the south and by domestic properties to the west and north. The central National Grid Reference (NGR) of the site is TQ 49475 22005.
- 2.3 The site had previously been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) compiled by CgMs Consulting (Hawkins 2007) and an archaeological evaluation carried out by Wessex Archaeology in 2008 (Godden 2008). The evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trial trenches located around the then still standing public house and hotel buildings. The trenches to the east of the buildings yielded mostly negative results, whereas those towards the north-west corner of the site and to the south-west of the public house revealed evidence of Roman and possibly medieval activity.
- 2.4 Given the findings of the evaluation a further phase of work was carried out following demolition of the buildings, which involved the open-area excavation of a 'C-shaped' area to the north, west and south of the former buildings, which is the subject of this report (Figure 3). The excavation was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) compiled by PCA (Moore 2008) and approved by Hertfordshire County Council. The excavation phase of the fieldwork was given the site code HBSP11.
- 2.5 The project was advised and monitored by Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting and Alison Tinniswood of the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, project managed by Mark Hinman and supervised by Gary Trimble.



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:12,500 at A4

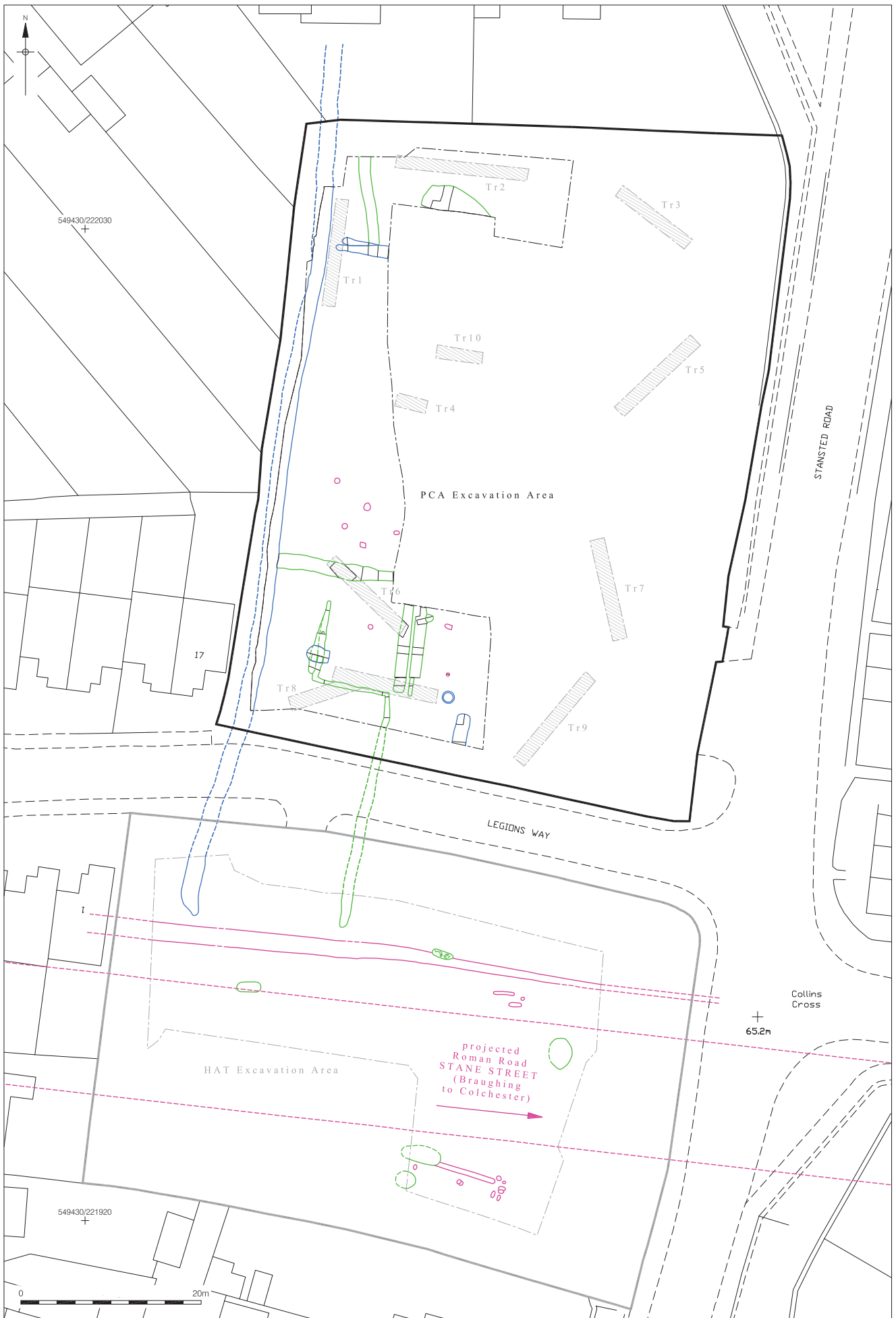


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Figure 2  
Detailed Site Location  
1:625 at A4



Key

- Late 1st - Mid 2nd Century features
- 3rd - 4th Century features
- Post-Medieval features
- WESSEX Evaluation Trenches

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Figure 3  
 Excavation Areas  
 1:400 at A3



### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In March 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5), which provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPS5, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.3 Hertfordshire comes under the jurisdiction of the policies of the *East of England Plan* (or *Regional Spatial Strategy 14*), which was finalised by the Secretary of State in 2008 (subsequently revoked in July 2010 but reinstated in November 2010). The majority of saved policies within the Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011 have been superseded by those in the East of England Plan, including those that relate to the historic environment:

#### **Policy ENV6: The Historic Environment**

In their plans, policies, programmes and proposals local planning authorities and other agencies should identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment of the region, its archaeology, historic buildings, places and landscapes, including historic parks and gardens and those features and sites (and their settings) especially significant in the East of England:

- The historic cities of Cambridge and Norwich;
- An exceptional network of historic market towns;
- A cohesive hierarchy of smaller settlements ranging from nucleated villages, often marked by architecturally significant medieval parish churches, through to a pattern of dispersed hamlets and isolated farms;
- The highly distinctive historic environment of the coastal zone including extensive submerged prehistoric landscapes, ancient salt manufacturing and fishing facilities, relict sea walls, grazing marshes, coastal fortifications, ancient ports and traditional seaside resorts;
- Formal planned settlements of the early twentieth century, including the early garden cities, and factory villages;
- Conservation areas and listed buildings, including domestic, industrial and religious buildings, and their settings, and significant designed landscapes;
- The rural landscapes of the region, which are highly distinctive and of ancient origin; and
- The wide variety of archaeological monuments, sites and buried deposits which include many scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological assets.

- 3.4 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC) whose Local Plan 1996-2011 is to be shortly replaced with the Local Development Framework (LDF). Meanwhile, the majority of policies of the Local Plan have been saved, including most of those relating to the historic environment. The most pertinent to the current project are as follows:

## **POLICY BH1 ARCHAEOLOGY & NEW DEVELOPMENT**

- I Development will not be permitted where the council considers that it will adversely affect archaeological sites of national importance, whether scheduled or unscheduled, and their setting.**
- II Permission or consent may be refused where development proposals do not satisfactorily protect archaeological remains of more local importance.**

## **POLICY BH3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND AGREEMENTS**

**Where development is permitted on sites containing archaeological remains, any planning permission will be subject to conditions and/or formal agreements requiring appropriate excavation and recording in advance of development and the publication of the results.**

- 3.5 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the development site, but the site does lie within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 113 as identified within the Local Plan.
- 3.6 Previous planning applications for development of the site for sheltered housing (refs: 3/08/1010/FP; 3/08/2122/FP; 3/10/0396/FP) have been refused by East Hertfordshire District Council but recommendations for archaeological works have been proposed as conditions for planning consent by the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council (HEUHCC). These recommendations have resulted in the earlier archaeological evaluation being carried out on the site and the subsequent excavation detailed here.
- 3.7 It was decided that a programme of archaeological excavation should be carried out in areas where the evaluation had indicated that significant remains were present. This was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation drawn up by PCA (Moore 2011) and approved by HEUHCC.

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **Geology**

- 4.1 Bishop's Stortford lies at the eastern edge of Hertfordshire, close to the Essex border and is underlain by a solid geology of Upper Cretaceous, Palaeocene and Eocene date. According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 Geology Sheet No. 222 (Great Dunmow) the study site is underlain by a solid geology of the Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group (Undifferentiated) clay, silt and sand, all of Palaeocene age. These are overlain by more recent Head deposits comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel. However, the site is located very close to the eastern edge of the River Stort floodplain where earlier Upper Chalk of Cretaceous age has been exposed, overlain by more recent Glacial Terrace deposits.
- 4.2 Much of Bishop's Stortford lies on soils of the Hanslope association, which are described by the Soil Survey of England and Wales as being slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils with some slowly permeable non-calcareous soils, all of which are at slight risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983). However, the Stort Valley comprises soils of the Melford association, which are described as deep, well-drained, fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils (ibid). Soils on the site are likely to belong to one or other of these groups.

### **Topography**

- 4.3 As mentioned above, the study site is located at the margins of the Stort floodplain some 600m east of the south-flowing River Stort, which continues to flow southwards through Sawbridgeworth and Harlow, joining the River Lea at Hoddesdon.
- 4.4 The site fronts onto and was accessed from the west side of Stansted Road. To the east and south of the site the surface topography has been modified somewhat by the construction of Stansted Road and Legions Way respectively, and much of the topography of the site has been modified by buildings and an area of hard standing to the east. Areas to the south, west and north appear to have been subject to fewer disturbances, though there may have been some levelling, in common with the gardens of properties bounding the site to the north and west, areas that were formerly occupied by orchards.
- 4.5 The site is level and situated at a surface elevation of c. 67m OD.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### Introduction

- 5.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the study site was previously carried out prior to the evaluation (Hawkins 2007), much of this based on an earlier historic assessment of Bishop's Stortford carried out by Hertfordshire County Council (Hunns 2000). The DBA places the site within its archaeological and historical context from prehistory to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and its main findings are outlined here, along with evidence from more recent archaeological interventions carried out since that report was compiled.

### Prehistoric Activity

- 5.2 Unlike the Lea Valley to the west, few finds of prehistoric date have been recorded in the Stort Valley around Bishop's Stortford (Hunns 2000, 2). A single Palaeolithic hand axe and a further flint axe were found on or near the bank of the River Stort during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and two possible Mesolithic sites were discovered in the 1960s to the north and north-east of the town. The latter of the two Mesolithic sites was located on The Meads, some 600m west of the study site and produced a tranchet axe, a blade and a flake (Gibson 1968).
- 5.3 A Neolithic site represented by a hearth and associated flints, was found in Limes Crescent, approximately 650m south of the study site (Hunns 2000, 2), a barbed and tanged arrowhead was found at Piggott's Way (Doyle 2006, 8), a little more than 2km south-west of the site and rubbish pits and a boundary ditch associated with Late Bronze Age occupation are recorded at Thornbera Road towards the south of the town (Hunns 2000, 2). More extensive evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity has come from the Thorley area to the south and south-west of Bishop's Stortford (MacDonald 1995).

### Roman Settlement and Burial

- 5.4 There is extensive evidence of Roman occupation in Bishop's Stortford in the area to the north of the town centre and in the vicinity of the study site. Settlement was located along the route of Stane Street, the Roman road between Braughing and Colchester (which passed a short distance to the south of the study site), probably initially focussed on the area where the road crossed the River Stort. The main centre appears to have been in the area of the Cannons Close housing estate, to the north of Stane Street and a short distance to the north-west of the site. Observations and salvage excavations during construction of the estate in the 1950s recorded buildings, rubbish pits, burials and large quantities of pottery and finds from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Gibson 1970). Of particular note was the finding of a very well preserved Roman bronze steelyard with lead weights in the garden of 65 cannons Close in 1964 (*ibid*). Other, small-scale interventions in the Cannons Close area in

recent years have recorded finds of Roman date but no associated features (e.g. Kaye 2006; Adams and Brogan 2009), and a recent intervention on Stansted Road was similarly unproductive (Hood n.d.). To the east of the Cannons Close estate a possible Roman tile kiln was found to the north-east of the study site at Glasscocks Brickworks (Gibson 1970), though a more recent intervention in this area, at Lea Grove, failed to find any archaeological evidence (Garwood 2001), the writer suggesting that this area lay beyond the zone of Roman settlement and burial activity.

- 5.5 Further evidence of occupation has been recorded west of the railway line, within the Stort floodplain. Interventions here in the Grange Paddocks area revealed sections of surviving Roman road (Ellcock 1970) and settlement evidence comprising pits and postholes of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries (Garfi and Partridge 1979). More recent interventions in the Grange Paddocks area have revealed further evidence of occupation and a small number of inhumation burials (Crank *et al.* 2001; Cavanagh 2010).
- 5.6 A number of burials were also recorded during the construction of Cannons Close, including an inhumation within a stone coffin (Hunns 2000, 3) and a group of cremations which suggest that a cemetery probably existed to the east of the settlement (Hunns 2000, 3). Unfortunately the exact locations and details of some of the burials were not fully recorded and they have not been published.
- 5.7 Archaeological interventions have demonstrated evidence of Roman activity in the very near vicinity of the study site. During the development of the Legions Way estate to the south of the site in 1976, Roman pottery was observed and limited excavation was permitted. The excavation exposed the Roman road along with roadside ditches, the surviving evidence indicating that the road had been constructed in two main phases in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries and had sealed sherds of locally-produced pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or early post-conquest period. Evidence of 3<sup>rd</sup>- to 4<sup>th</sup>-century structures along with iron-working debris was also recorded (Wright 1982). Immediately to the west, excavations in 1999 exposed further sections of the Roman road and evidence of possible wooden structures along either side, all dated to the earlier years of the Roman occupation. Other features including ditches and pits also suggested a later phase of activity in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries (Doel 1999). An inhumation burial to the north of the road was undated but also believed to have been of Roman date.
- 5.8 Overall the evidence suggests that there was Roman urban ribbon development along both sides of Stane Street between the Grange Paddocks and Cannons Close areas, with an extensive cemetery area to the east of this, which has been previously illustrated (Hunns 2000, Fig. 2), though this may require revision in the light of more recent discoveries.

### Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Bishop's Stortford

- 5.9 By the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the present town of Bishop's Stortford had probably been established adjacent to the fording point along the River Stort in the area of North Street, High Street and Market Street, a little less than 1km south-west of the study site and a significant distance to the south of the Roman river crossing and settlement (Orton 1976). Orton also suggests that the parish church of St Michael, the earliest surviving part of which dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, stands on a pagan Saxon site, though no firm evidence has been presented to bear this out. Little is known of the Anglo-Saxon settlement, which formed part of the Braughing Hundred, and there is little archaeological evidence of Early or Middle Saxon activity in the area (Doyle 2006, 9).
- 5.10 During the later Anglo-Saxon period, during the reign of Edward the Confessor, the manor of Stortford was held by *Eadgifu Swanneshals*, also known as Edith the Fair, and purported mistress of King Harold (*ibid*). Following the Conquest Edith the Fair was dispossessed of her lands by William I, who sold the manor, along with a number of other large estates to William, Bishop of London. The Bishops of London retained the manor until 1868 (Page 1912, 296). Bishop's Stortford's Waytemore Castle, which lies c. 660m south-west of the site, was originally established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century as a motte and bailey castle, in a defensive position close to the ford of the River Stort.
- 5.11 Bishop's Stortford is recorded in Domesday Book as *Estereferd*, which may have derived from a personal name (possibly *Steorta*, an Old English term for tail), of a family or small clan who lived in the vicinity of the ford during the Anglo-Saxon period and possibly controlled the crossing of the River Stort. It is assessed as six hides, with land for ten ploughs and woodland for three hundred pigs. It also had two mills and a resident priest with two knights (Morris 1976). Once the town and its castle had been sold to the Bishops of London, the settlement became known as *Bishop's Estereferd*, which later became corrupted to the present spelling. Again, archaeological evidence for Late Saxon activity is very sparse, being limited to two iron spearheads, possibly of this date, recovered from the Bishop's Stortford area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hunns 2000, 3).
- 5.12 Bishop's Stortford, also known as *Stortford*, *Storfurde*, *Startford* and *Statford*, became a borough sometime between 1306 and 1336 and during the 14<sup>th</sup> century sent members to Parliament, as well as recording burgage rents (Cooper 2005). Market crosses; Collin's Cross, Crab's Cross, Wayte Cross and Maple Cross were set up on the four major roads leading from the town, their probable locations being suggested by Glasscock (1905). Collin's Cross was located a short distance south of the study site and formed the focus of a small medieval and post-medieval hamlet, though all of the crosses appear to have been dismantled during either the Reformation or the Commonwealth (1645 – 60). The market square and corn exchange are near the

intersection of the four main streets and medieval buildings still survive in this part of the modern town centre.

- 5.13 Throughout the medieval period, the town developed into a thriving commercial centre, attested by a large number of inns, and fairs were held three times a year on the feasts of St Michael, Ascension and Corpus Christi. Session Rolls record that the fairs were held partly inside the churchyard until the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Page 1912, 293; Hunns 2000, 4). From the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, a successful tanning and leather industry developed rapidly in Bishop's Stortford, centred on Water Lane; medieval court rolls contain frequent references to the surnames of Skinner and Tanner. Tanning required a ready supply of water and at this time the River Stort ran parallel to Water Lane (Page 1912, 292).

Although the town was founded as early as the 5<sup>th</sup> century and developed from that core throughout the Saxon and medieval periods, the study site lay beyond the sphere of that development and consequently there is negligible archaeological evidence for these periods in the vicinity. However, sherds of medieval pottery are reported to have been found at the former Glasscocks Brickworks, close to the possible Roman kiln and possibly also signifying a medieval kiln in the vicinity (Hunns 2000, 4). The evaluation on the study site also recorded features of possible medieval date and residual sherds of medieval pottery, possibly indicative of medieval agricultural activity in the vicinity (Godden 2008). An earlier evaluation by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECCFAU) in 2002, prior to the building of the hotel on the site, had also indicated a possible medieval presence, though any material of this date was residual within a later feature (Hickling 2002).

#### **The Post-Medieval Period**

- 5.14 Bishop's Stortford continued to develop during the early post-medieval period and the economy of the town was boosted by the opening of the Stort Navigation in 1769, which linked Bishop's Stortford with London via the Lea Navigation, itself constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This provided a direct link to the markets of London and as a result, the town flourished in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Much trade was fuelled by the brewing and malting industry as evidenced by the high number of maltings and inns in the town. Malting was already a growing industry prior to the opening of the Navigation as it was recorded in 1636 by the Justices of the Peace for Hertford that the maltsters of Bishop's Stortford were mainly employed in making malt for the neighbouring gentry, who sent them their own barley for the purpose (Page 1912, 295).
- 5.15 Bishop's Stortford's horse and cattle fairs had prompted a significant increase in leather-working by the 1750s leading to it being described as a considerable market town in 1770 (Munby 1977). It is believed that during the 18<sup>th</sup> century tanners and leather-workers, primarily glovers and shoemakers, comprised almost a quarter of the

working population of the town, yet by the end of the century the industry was already in decline (Hunns 2000, 11).

- 5.16 After 1744, the principal roads through Bishop's Stortford had been greatly improved by the Essex and Herts Highway Trust. Orton (1976) notes that these improvements led to the demolition of some buildings in North Street and South Street in the town centre to permit road widening, although this area lay some distance from the site itself. By the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, connection to the railway laid the foundation for Bishop's Stortford's present importance as both a market town in its own right and as a favoured commuter area for the capital.
- 5.17 The Bishop's Stortford Tithe Map of 1839 shows the study site as an orchard with cottages and gardens to the south. The cottages lay to the east of the present building. One of these probably had a licence to sell alcohol and may have been known as the "Waggon and Horses" as this is reported to have been established on the Site by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.18 The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1879 still shows buildings at the east of the site but also with further development. The western half of the site is still occupied by orchards. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map no longer shows the cottages at the east, but the single, later building remains, as it does on the 1921 map.
- 5.19 The Ordnance Survey Map of 1939 identifies the building on the site as a public house for the first time. It lay in the south-east corner of the Site across the entrance to the car park that had been extant at the time of the archaeological interventions.
- 5.20 The Site was redeveloped in mid 1950s with the old public house being demolished and levelled to form a car parking area to serve the present public house constructed further to the west. The hotel building immediately adjacent to the public house was constructed in 2002.



## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 6.1 In accordance with the WSI (Moore 2011), A 'C-shaped' area measuring c. 1440m<sup>2</sup> was opened up around the north, west and south of the former buildings. The area was stripped using a 360° tracked excavator with a flat-bladed ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil was stored separately from underlying undifferentiated deposits which were removed in spits until archaeological features or natural deposits were reached.
- 6.2 Once the required level had been reached and machining completed the reduced surface of the site was cleaned using hand tools in order to more fully define exposed archaeological features. Exposed sections were also cleaned by hand in order to define and record the overlying stratigraphy. Following the production of a pre-excavation plan of the study area, features were then excavated by hand with all artefactual materials retrieved, and written and drawn records made of all deposits. Small features such as postholes were fully excavated, larger features such as pits were sample excavated as appropriate and linear features were subject to c. 10% sample excavation. Bulk environmental samples were taken from deposits where appropriate.
- 6.3 During the course of the excavation a number of cremation burials were identified, which were excavated and recorded according to a specific methodology, including 100% sampling and separate numbering of all associated artefacts. A dog burial was also excavated according to a separate burial methodology.
- 6.4 The recording systems were fully compatible with those used elsewhere in Hertfordshire. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being drawn at a scale of 1:20 (cremation burials and dog burial at 1:5) and the sections at 1:10. A colour slide and digital photographic record was made of the investigations as they progressed. Levels were derived from spot heights recorded on a surveyed plan of the pre-existing site layout.
- 6.5 The programme of work complied with recognised national and regional standards (IFA 1999; Gurney 2003) and was carried out with reference to regional research framework documents (Brown 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

## 7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### Phase 1: Natural Deposits

- 7.1 Natural deposits across the site predominantly comprised a mid reddish brown, silty clay brickearth [123], though occasional gravel bands were also recognized. The surface of natural deposits was recorded at levels between 66.40m OD and 66.08m OD. The earlier evaluation had recorded the surface elevation of the natural between 66.55m OD and 65.50m OD, but this included areas affected by recent truncation.

### Phase 2: Late 1<sup>st</sup> – Mid 2<sup>nd</sup> Century (Figure 4)

- 7.2 Although a small assemblage of lithic material dating as early as the Mesolithic period and also later prehistoric phases was recovered during the course of the excavation, none of this was from securely dated prehistoric contexts and mostly occurred residually in later features (see Appendix 2). Therefore any prehistoric activity in the vicinity can at best be described as ephemeral and did not constitute a clear phase of site occupation. The earliest phase of clearly-defined human utilization of the site was during the earlier Roman period and was dominated by a small group of cremation burials located in a south-central position, with two other features also possibly being contemporary.

### Cremation Burials (Figure 5)

- 7.3 A total of six cremation burials were located within the southern half of the site, five of them quite closely grouped in an area measuring c. 9.4m x 4.4m NW – SE, with the sixth positioned some 8.5m to the south of the group. The most northerly interment of the main group, Cremation [113], comprised a sub-circular pit measuring c. 0.50m in diameter and 0.20m deep, into which had been centrally placed a single flagon and two iron nails (Figure 6). The inner surface of the flagon had a partial limescale coating indicating that it been previously utilised before being interred. No evidence of a cremation urn, further vessels or cremated bone was present, suggesting that the burial had been significantly truncated after interment. Analysis of the flagon fabric indicated a date of c. AD 50-120.
- 7.4 Located a little less than 4m to the south-east was Cremation [128], which comprised a rather more extensive burial group, including five ceramic vessels and a carbonised wooden plank (Figure 7). Cremated bone was scattered through the central area of the sub-circular burial pit and burnt material, probably derived from pyre debris was deposited over the vessels and the cremated bone. The ceramic assemblage comprised two Samian vessels, a Verulamium whiteware flagon, a greyware beaker and a wide mouth jar, dating approximately to AD 70-150. Again no obvious cremation urn was present, the cremated bone possibly having been originally contained within an organic vessel or deposited directly into the pit.

- 7.5 Located just 2.5m to the south-west was Cremation [119] comprising a sub-oval pit measuring 0.61m by 0.54m by just 50mm deep, having been significantly horizontally truncated. Within the pit was a fragmented ceramic assemblage of three vessels (Figure 8), comprising a flagon, a Samian dish and a greyware jar, together suggesting a date of c. AD 70-150. A small assemblage of iron objects was also present, and although recorded in a small group in the centre of the pit, may originally have been fittings on a possible wooden object. No cremation urn or cremated bone was recovered, probably because of the severe truncation, though it is possible that cremated material could have been housed within a wooden container of which the possible fittings may have been a part.
- 7.6 Lying a little more than 2m to the south-east was Cremation [124]. This comprised a Sub-rectangular pit measuring 0.65m by 0.54m by just 40mm deep, into which a burial assemblage had been placed, probably contained within a wooden casket, which survived as a carbonised wood stain along the northern and southern edges of the pit (Figure 9). The burial assemblage comprised cremated material within a heavily truncated greyware jar, alongside three ancillary vessels comprising a Verulamium whiteware flagon, a Samian dish and a possible beaker, the former two vessels suggesting a date of c. AD 69-117.
- 7.7 Located to the north-east and some 3.5m south-east of Cremation [128] was the final burial of the main group, Cremation [114], which consisted of a fragmented greyware jar containing cremated bone, buried within a sub-oval pit measuring 0.60m by 0.43m and 0.15m deep (Figure 10). The jar had been broken in half and elements placed on the eastern and western sides of the pit. Analysis of the vessel suggested a broad mid 1<sup>st</sup>- to mid 2<sup>nd</sup>- century date. No further associated vessels were recorded and neither was any pyre debris present in addition to the cremated bone.
- 7.8 Cremation [116] lay to the south of the main group and contained the fragmentary remains of a Verulamium whiteware flagon, on this occasion buried in a sub-circular pit c. 0.53m in diameter and 0.14m deep (Figure 11). The flagon was dated c. AD 69-150 but with exception of a single greyware sherd, no further associated vessels or pyre debris were present. As with other burials on the site further vessels or grave goods may have been lost to truncation at a later date.
- 7.9 The burials did not form any obvious spatial pattern, other than one being slightly separated from the others. Neither were there any features surrounding the burials, such as ditches, which may have defined a specific burial. However, given the extent of truncation of the remaining burials, such features may have been removed by later development of the site. It is possible that further cremation deposits may also have been lost in this way.

#### **Other Features**

- 7.10 Located some 7.5m to the east of Cremation [116] was the burial of a dog in a grave cut [101] that measured 0.74m by 0.48m in plan and survived to a depth of 0.10m. The dog was laid on its left side with its head slightly elevated and facing towards the north-west (Figure 12). No contemporary artefactual material was found within the grave and date of the burial remains uncertain, though has tentatively been phased along with the other earlier Roman material.
- 7.11 Located a little less than 5m south of the dog burial was a small, sub-circular cut feature [108], 0.37m in diameter and 0.12m deep. Within the dark brown, clayey silt backfill [107] was a single sherd of a greyware vessel, broadly dated to the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The feature was described by the excavator as a posthole, though no further such features were recorded in the vicinity. It is therefore difficult to define what the exact function of this somewhat enigmatic feature was and it has been provisionally dated to the earlier Roman period on the basis of the sherd of pottery.
- 7.12 All of the above features appear to have been slightly later than Roman Stane Street, which had been established between the Roman towns at Braughing and Colchester early in the Roman occupation, and which passed a short distance to the south of the site. The approximate line of the road was recorded during earlier excavations at 133 Stansted Road, along with possible ephemeral structures on either side, and the small cemetery represented by the cremation burials could be seen to have been located in a roadside location (Figure 4).
- 7.13 Phase 3: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Century (Figure 13)
- 7.14 The above features probably date no later than the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and appear to represent the extent of activity on the site during the earlier Roman phase. It is unclear if there was then a hiatus in detectable activity on the site, but a second broad group of features dates to a later Roman phase, predominantly the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Evidence for activity in the later Roman period has mostly come from a series of north-south and east-west aligned ditches, probably associated with land division and drainage functions. There also appears to have been possible evidence for brickearth quarrying at this time.

### **Boundary Ditches**

- 7.15 Located towards the south of the site was a dog-legged ditch, which was recorded in a number of sections. A northern terminus of the ditch was recorded some 5m north-west of Cremation [116], from where it extended southwards (as [150], [168] and [154]) for approximately 9m, apparently as a recut of an earlier ditch [162] though this was partly obscured by a later pit. The ditch then turned through 90° to the east, continuing eastwards for almost a further 9m (as [154] and [173]), before once again turning to the south and continuing southwards (as [173] and [152]) and beyond the

southern limit of excavation. It appears to have continued for some distance as apparently the same ditch was recorded in the earlier excavation at 133 Stansted Road as [1062] (Figure 13), which terminated a short distance to the north of the Roman road. The width of the ditch varied along its course but averaged c. 0.55m, with a surviving depth of c. 0.20m. It was filled with a hard, mid brown silty clay, which produced small assemblages of pottery from two of the interventions. Although much of this material comprised broadly dateable local fabrics, diagnostic sherds suggested a mid 3<sup>rd</sup>- to 4<sup>th</sup>-century date.

- 7.16 Located a short distance to the east of the dog-legged ditch were two parallel ditches orientated on a north-to-south alignment. Both had southern termini immediately to the east of where the dog-legged ditch turned from east to south, and extended northwards to the northern limit of excavation, where they were truncated by the footings of the former public house, neither ditch extending beyond the area of truncation into the excavation area to the north. The western ditch [158]/[180] was 1.25m wide and 0.50m deep. It was filled by two deposits, the primary fill consisting of a moderately compacted light brown silty clay whilst the uppermost fill consisted of a dark grey silty sand (Figure 14). The eastern ditch [111]/[183] was 1.20m wide and 0.35m deep. It was filled by a single deposit of dark grey silty sand. Pottery was recovered from interventions into both ditches; the moderately large assemblage from the western ditch produced pottery mostly dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, with more diagnostic sherds suggesting a mid 3<sup>rd</sup>- to 4<sup>th</sup>- century date, the assemblage from the eastern ditch containing mostly broadly-dated local wares with diagnostic sherds also suggesting a mid 3<sup>rd</sup>- to 4<sup>th</sup>-century date.
- 7.17 Located to the north of the dog-legged ditch and north-west of the parallel ditches was an east-west aligned ditch [142]. It was truncated at the western edge of the site by north-south aligned, post-medieval ditch [175] and extended eastwards across the excavated area before being truncated to the east by the footings of the former public house. It was up to 1.55m wide and 0.42m deep and was filled by a single deposit of mid brown silty clay (Figure 14). A small assemblage of pottery from the feature could only be broadly dated as Roman. However, although it could not be proven because of the recent truncation, it is possible that this ditch and ditch [158]/[180] were related.
- 7.18 No further ditches were identified in the vicinity of the earlier main cremation group or the area directly to the north of this, though a north-south aligned ditch [146] was recorded towards the north-western corner of the excavation area. It extended southwards for some 6.5m from the northern edge of the excavation area before being truncated by two east-west aligned, post-medieval ditches. The ditch appears to have originally terminated in the vicinity of the later features as it could not be traced extending further to the south. The ditch was up to 1.40m wide and 0.45m deep, and was filled by two deposits. The primary fill comprised a light brown silty

clay [145], up to 0.15m thick, and was overlain by a light grey sandy silt [144], up to 0.30m thick. Unfortunately neither of the fills contained any dateable artefacts other than a small assemblage of flint of Neolithic/Bronze Age date, but because it was clearly earlier than the east-west features and appeared to continue the northern alignment of the western arm of the dog-legged ditch, ditch [146] has been tentatively dated to the later Roman period. It was also located a short distance to the west of another feature that was almost certainly of this date.

- 7.19 Although few in number the later Roman linear features appeared to relate to land division at that time, the slightly complex arrangement at the south also suggesting some other activity such as stock control. Although the broad range of the dating evidence could not prove that all features were utilised concurrently, it is likely that all were elements of a wider network of features occupying the land exploited for agricultural purposes during the later Roman period.

#### **Other Features**

- 7.20 Located to the east of ditch [146] was a large pit [130]. It measured at least 7.70m from east to west and well in excess of 2.80m from north to south, having been extensively truncated to the south by the footings of the former hotel building. It was at least 0.74m deep and contained two broad backfilling deposits. The primary fill consisted of dark reddish brown silty clay (151) up to 0.66m thick, which appeared to represent a prolonged period of natural silting (Figure 14). The upper deposit (131) consisted of a very dark grey silty clay up to 0.20m thick, which on closer inspection appeared to have a high ash and charcoal content, and was interpreted as a deliberately dumped deposit. The primary fill contained a small pottery assemblage dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century, whilst the larger assemblage from the upper fill was dominated by 3<sup>rd</sup>- to 4<sup>th</sup>-century forms. It is feasible that the pit may have been excavated in the earlier period, but the final backfilling was broadly contemporary with that of the linear features to the south. The feature has been interpreted as a quarry pit for the extraction of brickearth – a commodity that was extracted until relatively recently in the local area (e.g. Perrins 2005, 194).
- 7.21 A final feature apparently dating to this phase was a small pit [109] cut into the eastern edge of ditch [111] towards the south of the site. The feature was oval in plan, measuring 0.90m by 0.38m and up to 0.38m deep. The fill was similar to that of the ditch into which it was cut and contained a small quantity of animal bone and a small assemblage of mostly 1<sup>st</sup>-century pottery, though as it was later than ditch [111], this assemblage was clearly residual. The function of the ditch was unclear but it appears to have been contemporary with a number of similar features recorded during the excavation at 133 Stansted Road to the south (Figure 13).

#### **Phase 4: Post-Medieval (Figure 15)**

- 7.22 Following the cessation of Roman-period occupation of the site there appears to have been little activity until the post-medieval period. A few features of this period were recognised on the site and they included boundary ditches to the west and north of the site that may have had earlier origins, and modern features to the south-east.

##### **Boundary Ditches**

- 7.23 A post-medieval ditch [175]/[163]/[170] traversed the full length of the west side of the excavation area very close to and on the same north-south alignment as the current property boundary. Its full width was not recorded as the west edge was situated beyond the limit of excavation though the exposed width averaged around 1.30m. It was up to 0.45m deep and was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown clayey silt. What appears to have been a southern continuation of the ditch was recorded as ditch [1056] in the excavation at 133 Stansted Road (Figure 15), though this feature terminated north of the Roman road and may have respected it.
- 7.24 Towards the north-west corner of the site a short section of ditch [135]/[141] was recorded extending eastwards from a western terminus. Only a short section of the ditch was recorded as it had been recut as ditch [127]/[133], which extended eastwards before being truncated by the footings of the former hotel building. The earlier ditch was up to 0.70m wide and 0.25m deep, and filled by a single deposit of mid orange brown silty clay, whilst the recut was up to 1.30m wide and 0.30m deep, being filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown sandy silt. Glass and ceramic building material (CBM) from the later feature appeared to be of recent date and it may have been associated with the pit/ditch recorded during an evaluation carried out prior to construction of the hotel (Hickling 2002).
- 7.25 Situated in the south-east corner of the site was a north-south aligned ditch [104], which terminated within the excavation area and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south. It was 1.40m wide and up to 0.60m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained three clearly stratified backfilling deposits, but CBM from the fills indicated it had been filled in during the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the earliest.

##### **Other Features**

- 7.26 Located a short distance north-west of the terminus of ditch [104] was a brick built well [177]. It measured 1.35m in diameter and the well was filled with demolition rubble and domestic rubbish (178) in a matrix of very ashy sandy silt. The construction date of the well was 19<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting a possible contemporaneity with ditch [104], though the finds from the backfill indicate a mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century date for its infilling. The tailfin of an incendiary bomb was amongst the finds from the fill. Local wartime ARP reports record that incendiary devices were dropped on Bishop's

Stortford during air raids on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1940 and 8<sup>th</sup> April 1941, and this artefact may have been deposited after one of these incidents.

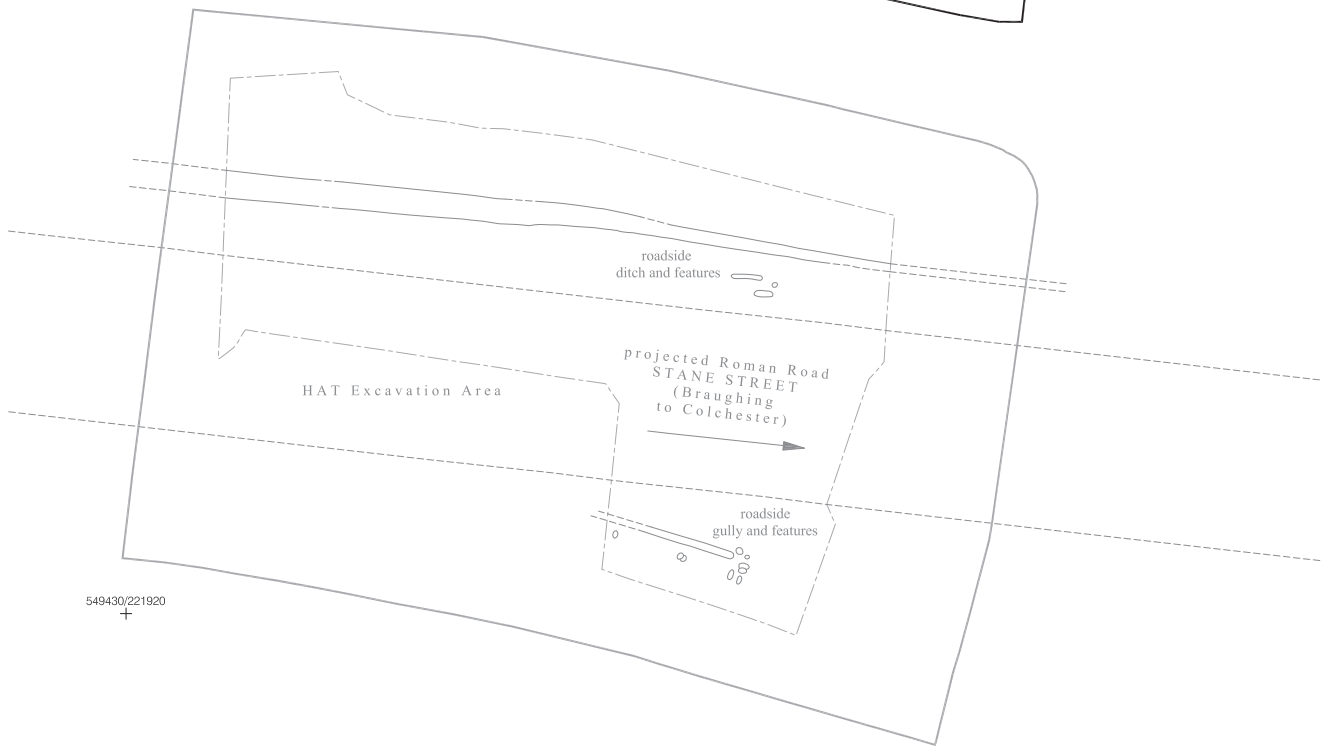
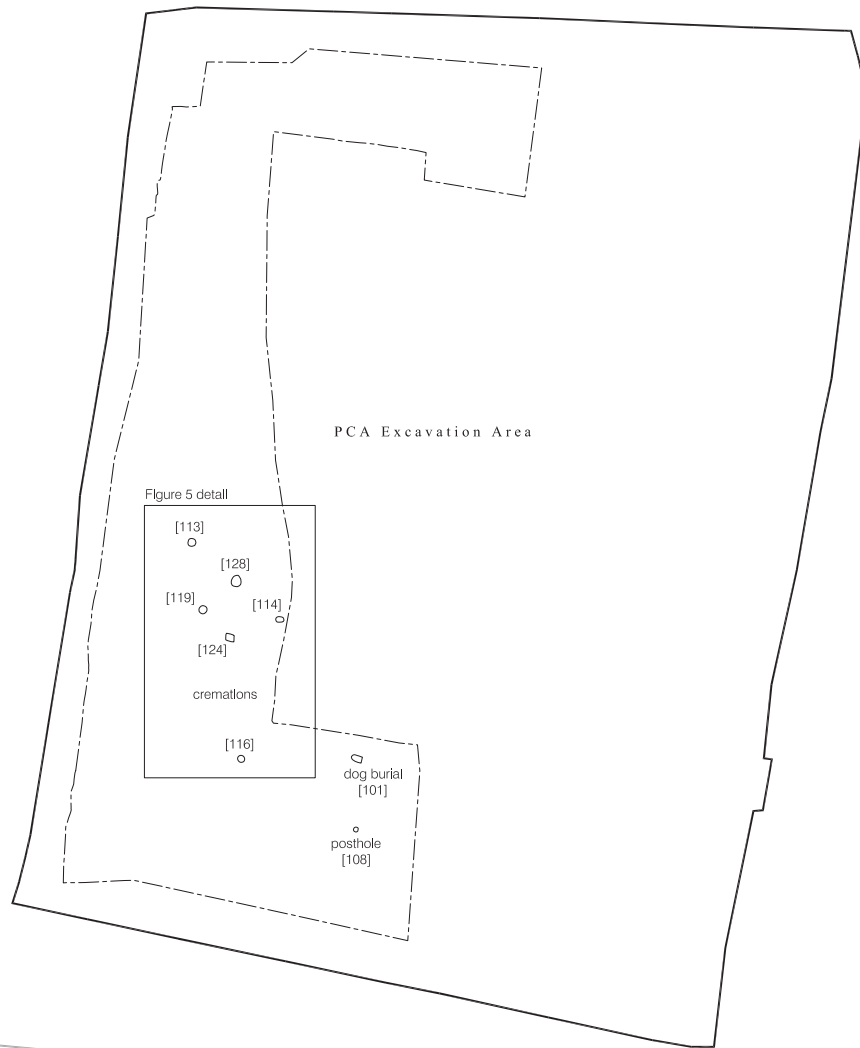
- 7.27 A final feature probably dating to this phase was a shallow pit [160] that partly truncated Roman ditches [162] and [168] towards the south-west corner of the site. The pit was oval in plan and measured 2.50m by 1.35m but was just 0.14m deep. Although struck flint was recovered from the fill, this was clearly residual, and although no clearly dateable artefacts were retrieved, the feature appears to have been of quite recent origin.

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Figure 4  
Phase 2, Late 1st - Mid 2nd Century  
1:400 at A3

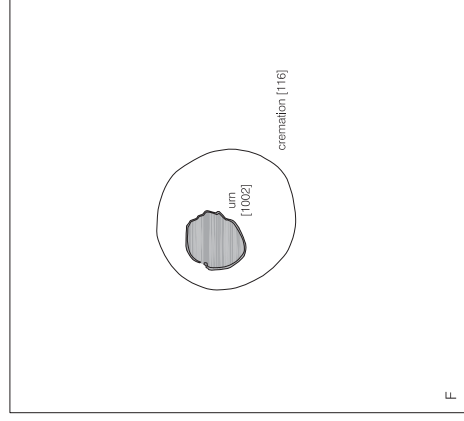
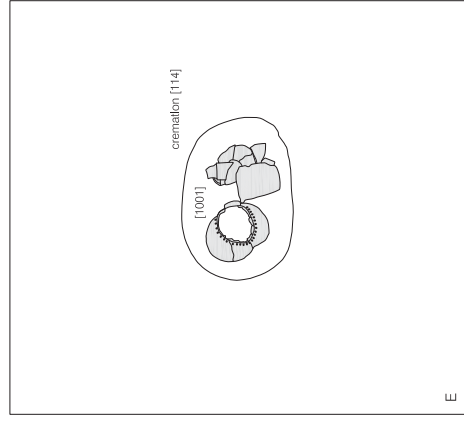
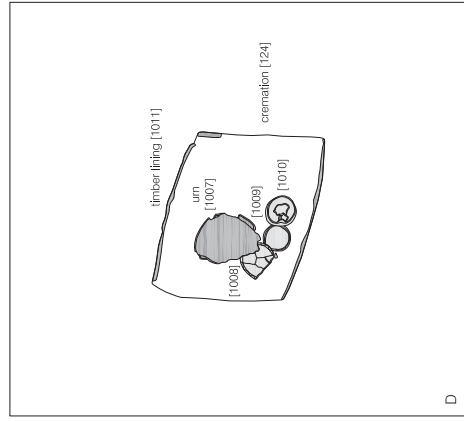
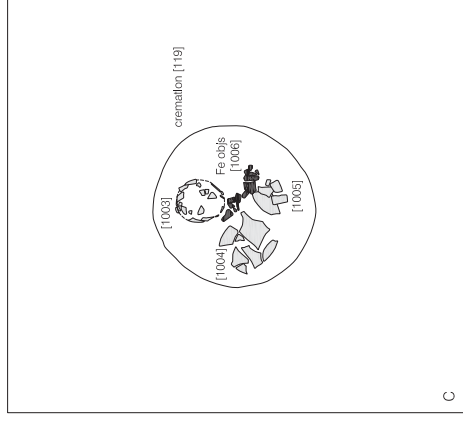
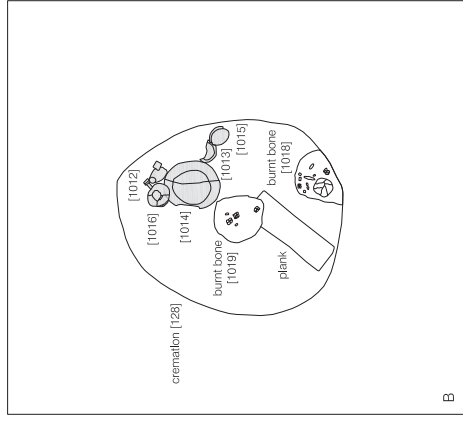
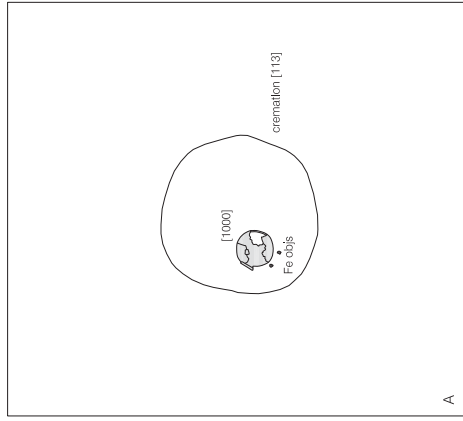
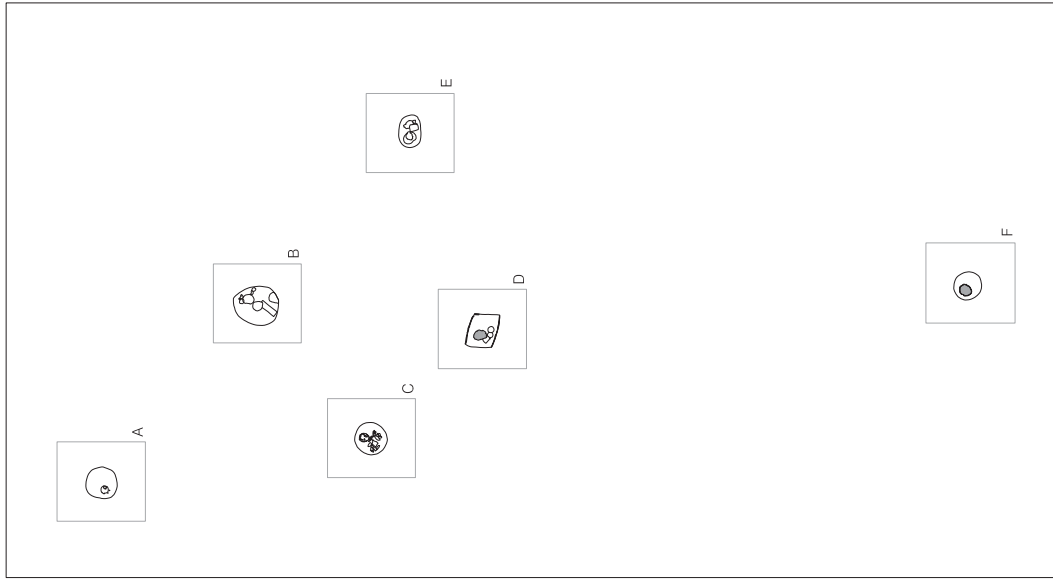


Figure 6: Cremation [113], Looking North-West



Figure 7: Cremation [128], Looking South-West



Figure 8: Cremation [119], Looking North



Figure 9: Cremation [124], Looking South



Figure 10: Cremation [114], Looking North



Figure 11: Cremation [116], Looking North

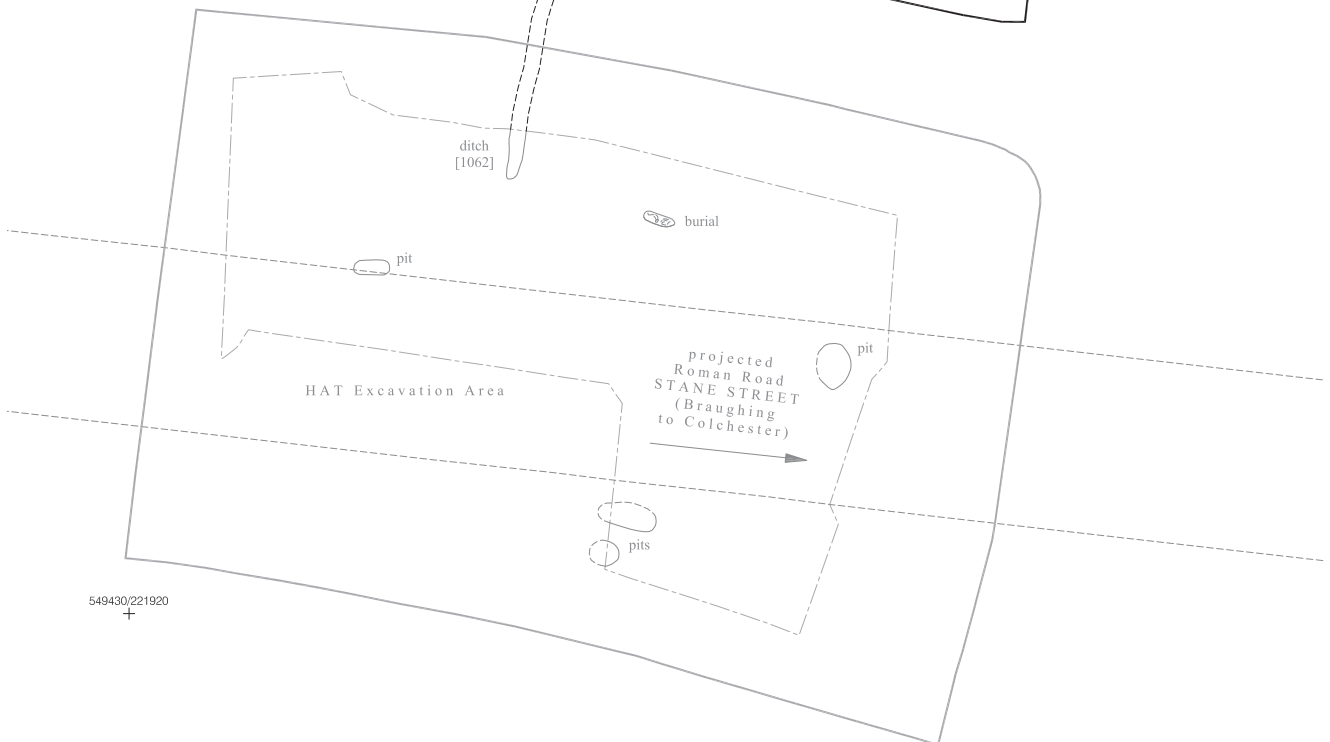
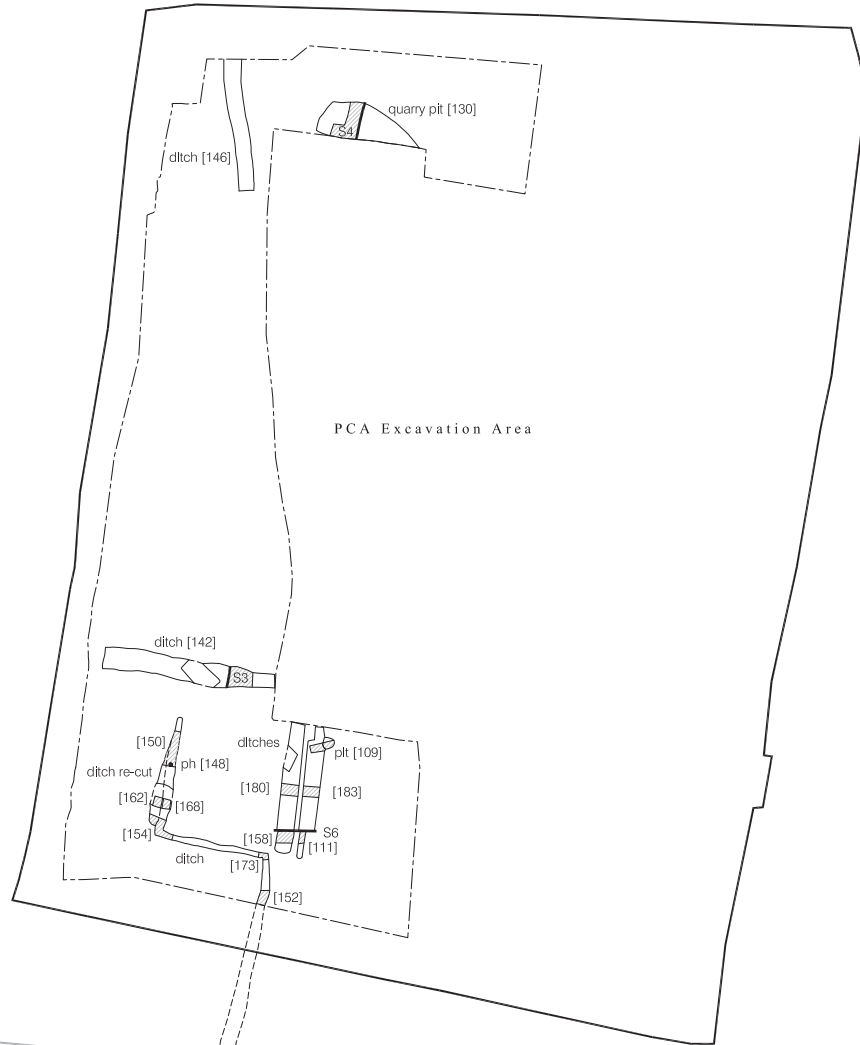


Figure 12: Dog Burial [101], Looking South





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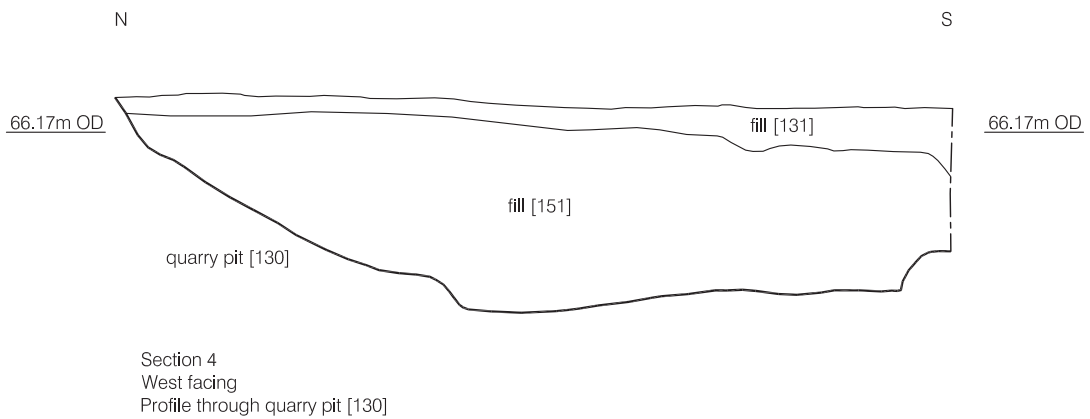
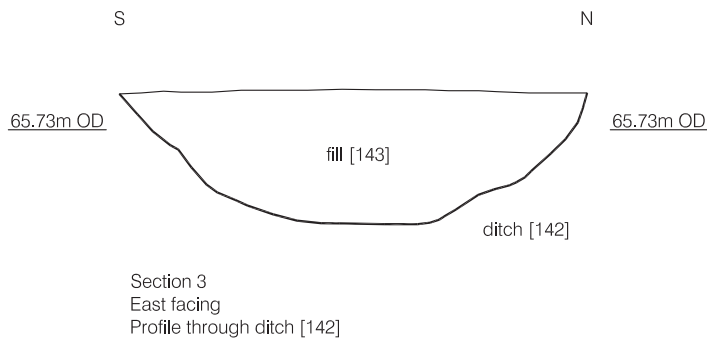
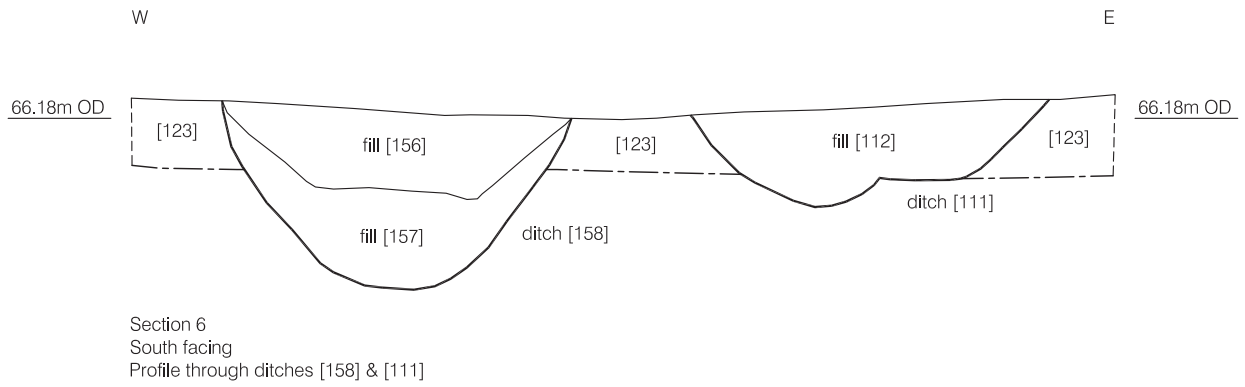
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excavated slot



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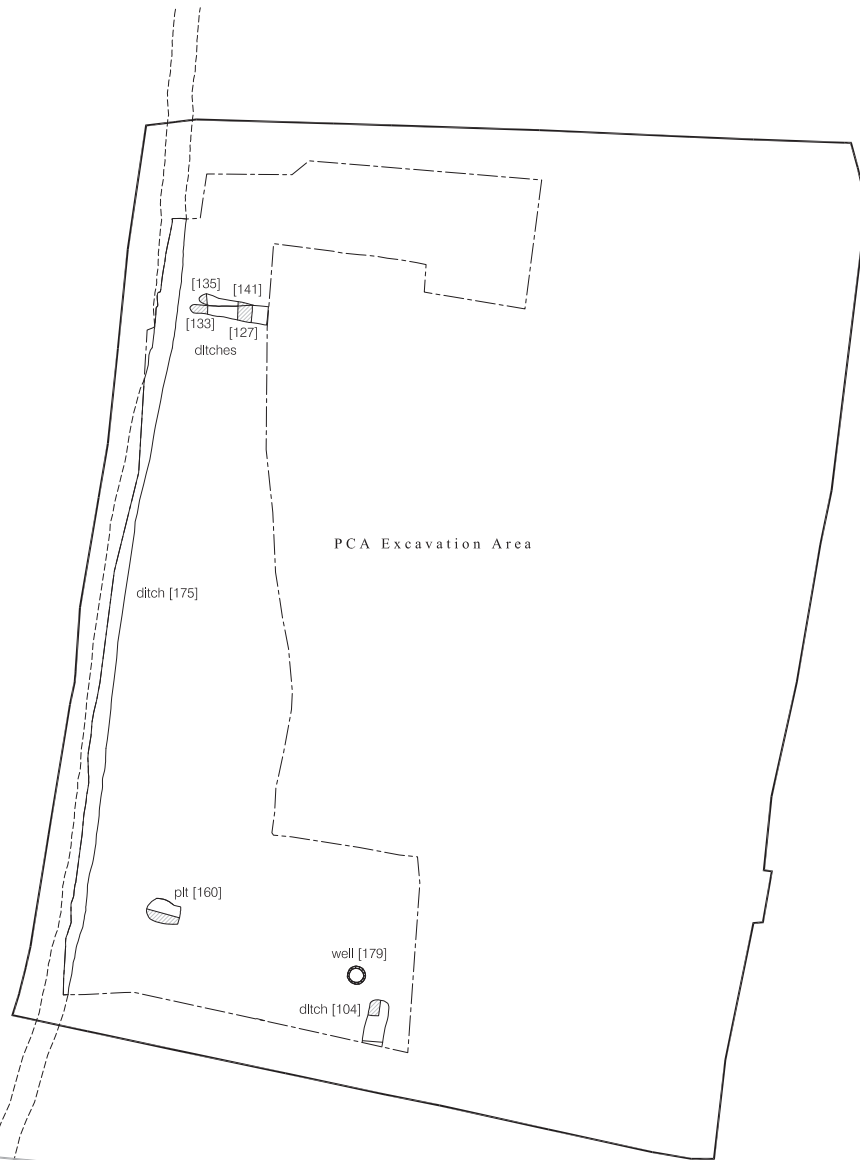
Figure 13  
Phase 3, 3rd - 4th Century  
1:400 at A3







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 excavated slot

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Figure 15  
Phase 4, Post-Medieval  
1:400 at A3

## 8 ORIGINAL AND ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

### Original Research Objectives

- 8.1 The written scheme of investigation, prepared before the commencement of the excavation phase of the archaeological fieldwork, raised a number of research objectives that might be addressed by the project:

**What activities do the Roman features relate to and how do they fit into the known contemporary activity of the area?**

- 8.2 Possibly the most significant Roman features identified during the excavation were the cremation burials, which were not identified during earlier evaluation of the site, such as the layout of the trial trenches. The burials clearly date to an earlier Roman phase than the features recorded during the Wessex Archaeology evaluation in 2008 and the ditches and quarry pit recorded during the excavation. The burials post-date the construction of the road, previously exposed to the south, but the exposure of remnants of the road surface in the excavations at Elliott's Yard and 133 Stansted Road demonstrate that the interments were made within a roadside cemetery. Further cremation burials have also been identified to the north-west in the Cannons Close estate area and although these were not necessarily recorded in great detail, they also appear to have been roadside interments, albeit at a greater distance from Stane Street than those on the study site. The location of the study site burials further confirms the existence of an extensive cemetery to the east of the Roman settlement as suggested by Hunns (2000, Fig. 2). The ditches appear to have been evidence of land division in the later Roman period, whilst the pit appears to have been a quarry for brickearth. This material is known to have been exploited over a considerable period of time with Roman and medieval kilns suspected to the north-east of the site, appropriately in an area that was also exploited for its brickearth resources in the post-medieval period up until the recent past.
- 8.3 The Roman features exposed during the Wessex Archaeology evaluation in 2008 had mostly comprised field boundary ditches. Further such features were exposed during the excavation and appeared to date predominantly to the later Roman (3rd-4th century) period. Additionally, a large pit towards the northern edge of the site also appears to have been contemporary, though it is interesting that no Roman features were recorded in this area during the 2002 evaluation by ECCFAU, prior to the building of the hotel, the construction of which, extensively truncated the pit.
- 8.4 The ditches appear to have been evidence of land division in the later Roman period, whilst the pit appears to have been a quarry for brickearth. This material is known to have been exploited over a considerable period of time with Roman and medieval kilns suspected to the north-east of the site, appropriately in an area that was also

exploited for its brickearth resources in the post-medieval period up until the recent past.

- 8.5 The later Roman features on the site are also contemporary with a number of features, mostly pits, that were exposed during the excavation at 133 Stansted Road, a short distance to the south. Together the information from both sites demonstrates activity alongside the earlier Roman road, which was probably still being exploited.

**What date are the features in the north-west of the site?**

- 8.6 Features recorded during the evaluation in the north-western corner of the site comprised three possible medieval ditches. However, the dating of these relied on a single sherd of medieval pottery that was recovered from one of the features. No medieval features were identified during the excavation but post-medieval east-west and north-south aligned ditches were observed in this area, along with the Roman quarry pit a little further to the east. It seems likely therefore the medieval sherd was residual and the ditches recorded during the evaluation were post-medieval.

**What activities do these features relate to and how do they fit into the contemporary landscape and settlement patterns?**

- 8.7 The linear features appear to relate to the laying out of field boundaries, which may have had their origins in antiquity. The evaluation and excavation ditches are likely to have been associated with land division and drainage, the westernmost ditch on the excavation marking the western boundary of the site. As described above, the quarry pit was probably utilised for the extraction of brickearth for manufacturing purposes in the Roman period.

**Additional Research objectives**

- 8.8 In the light of the findings from the excavation it is clear that the archaeological evidence has fulfilled some of the original objectives whilst others have been found to be of lesser importance than originally suggested. The excavation has also produced additional information. It has thus been necessary to formulate a set of Revised Research Objectives.

**What is the date range for the interment of cremation burials on the site and how does this compare with Roman burial practices in the wider region?**

- 8.9 The six cremation burials recorded during the excavation all dated broadly to the period from the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The dating of the individual burials does vary slightly and it is hoped that the overall dating of the group can be refined a little further.
- 8.10 Further cremation groups have been found in the vicinity, particularly in the Cannons Close area to the north-west of the site, those these have generally been observed during phases of development and are poorly recorded in comparison to the

assemblage from the study site. However, numerous other Roman cremation cemeteries are known from the region, many of them in roadside locations, including those at other locations alongside Stane Street. A comparison with these sites, such as those at Great Dunmow to the east (e.g. Wickenden 1988; O'Brien 2007), may permit the current assemblage to be placed within a wider framework.

**How do the features recorded during the excavation relate to those excavated at 133 Stansted Road to the south of the site and other sites in the near vicinity?**

8.11 Probably the most significant findings during the excavations at 133 Stansted Road and Elliott's Yard to the south of the site, were the remnants of the Roman road, which have confirmed the route this took in relation to surrounding sites, including the study site. These surviving sections of road date to the early post-Conquest period and although later reconstruction was evident, the road provides some of the earliest evidence of Roman activity in the area. The cremation burials post-date the initial construction of the road indicating they were interred by the side of an already established communication link and demonstrating some continuity between the earliest features on the sites to the south and those on the study site.

8.12 Later features on the study site and those recorded at 133 Stansted Road appear to have been contemporary, with one ditch seemingly being recorded on both sites. The activity evidenced primarily by ditches on the study site and by pitting to the south has been dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Other sites to the west and north-west have also indicated earlier and later phases of Roman activity and whilst in some cases this may appear broadly continuous, at others a similar pattern may be observed to that at the study site and those nearby.

**How does the chronology of Roman activity suggested by the excavation compare with that for the wider region?**

8.13 The chronology of Roman occupation of the site can be divided into two broad phases, with a possible hiatus of activity between the two in the areas investigated. As noted above this is a characteristic noted elsewhere at sites in Bishop's Stortford and more widely. The differentiation between earlier and later patterns of activity is generally taken as an indication of changes in the wider Roman political and economic system. The focus of this tending to shift further to the north during the later period, and a phenomenon that requires further consideration when discussing the site within a wider framework.

**What can the Roman finds assemblage inform about the import of goods and the position of the site within wider trading networks?**

8.14 The Roman finds assemblages were dominated by pottery during both broad phases of occupation, the ceramic material comprising locally-produced wares and those

imported from further afield. During the earlier phase the simpler cremation assemblages tended to comprise one or more vessel, normally a greyware jar produced locally, whereas the more complex assemblages also included vessels from elsewhere in the region (e.g. Verulamium whiteware) and those imported from elsewhere in the Roman world (i.e. Samian). The later assemblages were more heavily dominated by locally produced products; greyware vessels were still present but products from the Hadham industry, located a relatively short distance to the west of Bishop's Stortford were also included. Wider trading networks both across the Empire and within Roman Britain have been discussed, but the (admittedly small) assemblages from the site may permit its integration within wider known trading networks.

**To what extent can post-Roman activity on the site be defined in spatial and temporal terms and how does this relate to the wider post-Roman development of Bishop's Stortford?**

- 8.15 The post-Roman features on the site were limited to a small number of boundary features which had post-medieval or possibly earlier origins, and features whose origin and utilisation was quite recent. It has already been demonstrated how there was a negligible detectable presence on the site during the medieval period but the limited post-medieval evidence can be used to infer aspects of the later development of Bishop's Stortford to the east of the medieval core and can supplement cartographic evidence discussed in earlier assessments of the area (e.g. Zeepvat 1997; Hawkins 2007).

## **9 IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS, PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER WORK AND PUBLICATION OUTLINE**

### **Importance of the Results**

- 9.1 Overall the results of the excavation are important at a local level as they demonstrate a number of phases of past occupation of this part of Bishop's Stortford that adds to the existing dataset concerning the chronological development of the town. The assemblage of lithic artefacts although small in size and derived entirely from unstratified and residual contexts, is important as it provides evidence of activity in the vicinity of the site during the Late Mesolithic/Neolithic and later prehistoric periods. As discussed above, prehistoric finds of all periods are rare in the Bishop's Stortford area, so this assemblage makes a small but significant addition to the prehistoric finds database for the area.
- 9.2 The small group of cremation burials is important for a number of reasons. Because of the excavations to the south of the site it has been possible to demonstrate that the burials were interred in a roadside location, and their dating shows utilisation of the area in the years following construction of the road. Although only a small group, the burials have made a significant addition to the known burial dataset for Bishop's Stortford. A number of other burials in the area, particularly cremations, have only been recorded in piecemeal fashion during small-scale developments, and often not to a high standard. This group provides a coherent assemblage that has been accurately recorded, despite obvious post-burial truncation of the area. It is therefore also possible to compare this group with others further afield, particularly those also alongside Stane Street, such as the cemeteries at Great Dunmow to the east.
- 9.3 The later Roman features can be compared directly with activity to the south of the study site, both in terms of dating and function. Archaeological interventions elsewhere in Bishop's Stortford have also produced materials of this date and thus the information from the study site has added to a growing body of data concerning Roman development of the area. Other sites have also demonstrated earlier and later phase of Roman activity, and these can also be compared with the situation on the study site and with wider political and economic causality.
- 9.4 The evidence for post-medieval activity is limited but adds to a small body of archaeological information concerning the early modern development of this area of Bishop's Stortford. It can thus also complement the documentary and cartographic records for the area.

## Further Work

- 9.5 Assessment of the results of the excavation has demonstrated a number of phases of past activity on the site and in the near vicinity, and has highlighted the need for further work in a number of areas.
- 9.6 The earliest activity in the area was very ephemeral and was evidenced by the chance discard of flint implements by semi-nomadic Mesolithic peoples. In the later prehistoric periods, particularly the Neolithic and Bronze Age chance finds are again the only evidence for a human presence. The overall record for prehistoric occupation of the site is therefore somewhat sparse and only requires a brief consideration during further work on the site.
- 9.7 The evidence for activity during the Roman period is far more substantial and further work is required on a number of aspects of the occupation. The earliest evidence for a Roman presence in the vicinity comes not from the study site but from the excavations at Elliott's Yard and 133 Stansted Road to the south, where remnants of Roman Stane Street were exposed. The evidence for, and the likely nature and extent of, the early road construction need to be considered in order to put the earlier findings from the study site into context.
- 9.8 Once the background to the Roman activity has been established then the earliest activity on the study site can be discussed, i.e. the interment of cremation burials. The nature and dating of the burials themselves should be discussed, along with their relationship to the road and associated features, and they should also be considered in relation to contemporary burials in the local area and wider region. The significance, or not, of the possible Roman dog burial should also be discussed.
- 9.9 The nature of later Roman activity should then be addressed, starting with a consideration of the possible hiatus in activity in the later 2<sup>nd</sup> century and its possible causes, followed by a description and discussion of the apparent agricultural and possible industrial activity in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. Again, the evidence should be discussed in relation to other sites in the immediate vicinity, the wider area and the surrounding region.
- 9.10 There should then be some inclusion concerning the nature of post-Roman activity. The lack of Saxon and medieval evidence should be briefly discussed followed by a consideration of the limited evidence for post-medieval activity, which should include reference to documentary, cartographic and if possible, other archaeological sources. Finally the overall site chronology should be discussed by way of a summing up of all of the evidence.
- 9.11 The lithic assemblage from the site was small and lacked chronologically diagnostic artefacts and contextual associations. Therefore no further analytical work is required on the assemblage and the database compiled for assessment should be included in

the archive. The struck flint demonstrates that the site had been visited over a considerable period of time and is the only evidence for a prehistoric presence on the site. Although somewhat limited in itself, it does contribute to wider understandings of movement and landscape use during both the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and the later prehistoric period and can add to any future syntheses of the prehistory of this area. Short descriptions of the struck flint assemblage, derived from the lithic assessment within this report (Appendix 2), should therefore be included in any published account of the excavation.

- 9.12 A moderately sized assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from the cremation burials and later ditches and pits. All of the pottery has been quantified and therefore the material does not need any further recording. However, a more detailed analysis of the pottery by feature, in particular the cremations, is necessary. It is also recommended that the vessels associated with cremations are analysed in their wider context, with reference to a number of the other early Roman cemeteries in the area and possibly beyond. There should also be some consideration of the sources of the ceramic vessels and changes in supply between the earlier and later periods.
- 9.13 Cremated human bone was only recovered from three of the six burials but assessment of the material has enabled some discussion of the surviving assemblages. Given the small size of the surviving resource and the extensive nature of the analysis carried out, no further examination of the bone is required but a full description and discussion of the material should be included in any publication report.
- 9.14 With the exception of the dog burial, the quantity of animal bone recovered from the site was very small. Because of this there is no requirement for further work as it will add no further information to the assessment included in this report. However, the nature of the dog burial should be considered further, in particular its possible association with the Roman cremation cemetery; a phenomenon that has been noted elsewhere.
- 9.15 A small number of metal objects were recovered during the excavation, mostly objects of iron and mostly from Roman contexts. These objects still require analysis and a number may also require x-raying; these include the possible box fittings from Cremation [119], a key from ditch [158], a 'bracket' from ditch [150] and a 'bracket' and possible knife from layer [176]. A short report on the objects should then be included in any publication report.
- 9.16 A number of bulk environmental samples were collected during the excavation from the pit at the north of the site and ditches to the south, in addition to material from cremation burials. These have all been processed and assessed and the material in the flots from four of the samples is suitable for further analysis: Charcoal from sample <1> (cremation pit fill [125]) may give an indication of the possible fuel used in



cremation pyres and seeds and cereal remains from sample <3> (lower quarry pit fill [151]), sample <4> (ditch fill [182]) and sample <5> (ditch fill [184]), may give an indication of cereal utilisation and natural environmental background at the time of deposition. A report on these materials should be integrated into the overall publication report.

9.17 A small quantity of recent CBM and glass was recovered from post-medieval contexts during the course of the excavation. Along with other, clearly modern materials this is not of any archaeological significance and no further work is necessary.

9.18 Publication Outline

9.19 Because of the significance of the findings from the site it is important that the results are disseminated to a wider public audience through formal publication. Given the location of the site and the nature of the evidence, the most suitable outlet would be an article in Hertfordshire Archaeology and History. The article should be structured approximately as follows:

- Introduction
- Archaeological and Historical Background
- Phased Summary of the Evidence
- Specialist Contributions
- Discussion and Conclusions
- Acknowledgements
- Bibliography

## 10 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

THE WRITTEN RECORD	
MATERIAL	QUANTITY
Context Sheets	69
Cremation Sheets	6
Sample Sheets	5
Plans	47 sheets
Sections	13 (14 sheets)
Photographs	22 x 35mm col. Slide, 20 x digital images +
THE ARTEFACTS	
MATERIAL	QUANTITY
Pottery	8 boxes?
Building materials	1 box
Glass	1 box
Lithics	1 box
Small Finds	10
Animal Bone	1 box
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHIVE	
MATERIAL	QUANTITY
Bulk samples	5

## **11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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- 11.2 Thanks also to Alison Tinniswood of the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, for monitoring the fieldwork and for her help and advice during the course of the investigations.
- 11.3 Thanks are due to the project manager Mark Hinman, who also coordinated the post-excavation programme. Further thanks are extended to Gary Trimble, who supervised the excavation.
- 11.4 The author would like to thank all members of the post-excavation assessment team who have contributed to this report: Katie Anderson, Barry Bishop, Kevin Rielly, Lisa Snape and Aileen Tierney. Also many thanks to Jennifer Simonson and Hayley Baxter for their work on the illustrations in this report; to Sandy Pullen for surveying and to Chris Montague for photography.
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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Cxt No	Cut	Category	Type	Description	Fills	Plan	Section	Date	Phase
100	101	Fill	Grave	Upper fill of [101]				L1st-M2nd C	2
101	101	Cut	Grave	Cut of dog grave	100, 102	14		L1st-M2nd C	2
102	101	Skeleton	Grave	Skeleton of dog in [101]		9		L1st-M2nd C	2
103	104	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [104]		40, 41		Post-Med	4
104	104	Fill	Ditch	Cut of ditch	103, 105, 106	40, 41		Post-Med	4
105	104	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [104]				Post-Med	4
106	104	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [104]				Post-Med	4
107	108	Fill	Post Hole	Fill of post hole [108]				L1st-M2nd C	2
108	108	Cut	Post Hole	Cut of post hole	107	18		L1st-M2nd C	2
109	109	Cut	Pit	Cut of pit	110	1		3rd-4th C	3
110	109	Fill	Pit	Fill of pit [109]				3rd-4th C	3
111	111	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	112	1	1, 6	3rd-4th C	3
112	111	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [111]		1, 20, 21, 30	1, 6	3rd-4th C	3
113	113	Cut	Cremation	Cut for cremation	118	2		L1st-M2nd C	2
114	115	Cut	Cremation	Cut for cremation	115	4, 12		L1st-M2nd C	2
115	115	Fill	Cremation	Fill of cremation [114]				L1st-M2nd C	2
116	117	Cut	Cremation	Cut for cremation	117	5		L1st-M2nd C	2
117	117	Fill	Cremation	Fill of cremation [116]				L1st-M2nd C	2
118	113	Fill	Cremation	Fill of cremation [113]				L1st-M2nd C	2
119	119	Cut	Cremation	Cut for cremation	120	6		L1st-M2nd C	2
120	119	Fill	Cremation	Fill of cremation [119]				L1st-M2nd C	2
121	121	Layer	Layer	Topsoil				Post-Med	4
122	122	Layer	Layer	Subsoil				3rd-4th C	3
123	123	Layer	Layer	Natural				Natural	1
124	124	Cut	Cremation	Cut for cremation	125	7		L1st-M2nd C	2
125	124	Fill	Cremation	Fill of cremation [124]				L1st-M2nd C	2
126	127	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [127]		23		Post-Med	4
127	127	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	126	23		Post-Med	4
128	128	Cut	Cremation	Cut of cremation	129	15, 16		L1st-M2nd C	2
129	128	Fill	Cremation	Fill of cremation [128]				L1st-M2nd C	2
130	130	Cut	Quarry	Cut of probable quarry pit	131, 151	28		3rd-4th C	3

Cxt No	Cut	Category	Type	Description	Fills	Plan	Section	Date	Phase
131	130	Fill	Quarry	Fill of [130]		28		3rd-4th C	3
132	133	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [133]		24		Post-Med	4
133	133	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	132	24		Post-Med	4
134	135	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [135]		25		Post-Med	4
135	135	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	134	25		Post-Med	4
136	136	Finds	Layer	General finds during machining of topsoil/subsoil					
137	137	Void							
138	138	Cut	Pit	Cut of pit	139			L1st-M2nd C	2
139	138	Fill	Pit	Fill of [138]				L1st-M2nd C	2
140	141	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [141]		26		Post-Med	4
141	141	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	140	26		Post-Med	4
142	142	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	143	27		3rd-4th C	3
143	142	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [142]		27		3rd-4th C	3
144	146	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [146]				3rd-4th C	3
145	146	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [146]				3rd-4th C	3
146	146	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	144, 145			3rd-4th C	3
147	148	Fill	Post Hole	Fill of post hole [148]			10	3rd-4th C	3
148	148	Cut	Post Hole	Post hole	147	36	10	3rd-4th C	3
149	150	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [150]		36	10	3rd-4th C	3
150	150	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	149	36	10	3rd-4th C	3
151	130	Fill	Quarry	Fill of quarry [130]		28	4, 5	3rd-4th C	3
152	152	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	153	40	12	3rd-4th C	3
153	152	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [152]				3rd-4th C	3
154	154	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	155	37, 38		3rd-4th C	3
155	154	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [154]		37, 38		3rd-4th C	3
156	158	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [158]		19, 20, 21, 29, 30	6	3rd-4th C	3
157	158	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [158]			6	3rd-4th C	3
158	158	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	156, 157	33, 34	6	3rd-4th C	3
159	160	Fill	Pit	Fill of [160]		35	5	Post-Med	4
160	160	Cut	Pit	Cut of pit	159	35	5	Post-Med	4
161	162	Fill	Ditch	Fill		35	11	3rd-4th C	3
162	162	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	161	35	11	3rd-4th C	3
163	163	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	164		9	Post-Med	4
164	163	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [163]			9	Post-Med	4
165	165	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	166		9	Post-Med	4
166	165	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [165]			9	Post-Med	4
167	168	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [168]			11	3rd-4th C	3

Cxt No	Cut	Category	Type	Description	Fills	Plan	Section	Date	Phase
168	168	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	167	35	11	3rd-4th C	3
169	170	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [170]			7	Post-Med	4
170	170	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	169		7	Post-Med	4
171	172	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [172]			7	Post-Med	4
172	172	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	171		7	Post-Med	4
173	173	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	174	39		Post-Med	4
174	173	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [173]		39		Post-Med	4
175		Cut	Ditch	Ditch master number				Post-Med	4
176	176	Finds	Layer	Finds from subsoil in area of cremations				3rd-4th C	3
177	179	Masonry	Well	well		40		Post-Med	4
178	179	Fill	Well	Fill of well [177]		40		Post-Med	4
179	179	Cut	Well	Cut for well	177, 178	40		Post-Med	4
180	180	Cut	Ditch	Cut for ditch	181, 182	19, 20	13	3rd-4th C	3
181	180	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [180]			13	3rd-4th C	3
182	180	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [180]		20	13	3rd-4th C	3
183	183	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch	184	20	13	3rd-4th C	3
184	183	Fill	Ditch	Fill of ditch [183]			13	3rd-4th C	3



## APPENDIX 2: LITHIC ASSESSMENT

### LITHIC ASSESSMENT

**Barry Bishop**

#### INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Investigations at the site resulted in the recovery of 25 struck flints and a small quantity of unworked burnt flint fragments. This report follows the methodology and objectives encapsulated in both MAP2 and MoRPHE (English Heritage 1991; 2006). Its aims are to quantify and describe the material, assess its significance and to recommend any further work required for the material to achieve its full research potential. All metrical information follows the methodology established by Saville (1980). A full catalogue detailing the material's distribution within individual contexts is presented in the Catalogue.

All of the material was recovered from Roman or later contexts and can be regarded as residually deposited.

#### QUANTIFICATION

Type	Decorification Flake	Flake	Prismatic Blade	Chip	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Retouched	Burnt Stone (no.)	Burnt Stone (wt:g)
No.	2	13	2	3	2	1	2	5	79g

*Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material*

A total of five pieces of burnt flint weighing 79g was recovered from four separate contexts, the largest quantity being 28g. Twenty-five pieces of struck flint were recovered from 10 separate contexts, the largest quantity being five pieces recovered from context [149]. The assemblage includes flakes, blades, cores, retouched implements and knapping waste.

#### BURNT FLINT

The burnt flint fragments had all been heated to high temperatures, consistent with them having been in a hearth. Although the degree of burning is consistent with deliberate production, the very small quantity present, both overall and within any individual context, would suggest that they represent residually introduced 'background' waste.

## STRUCK FLINT

The struck assemblage was manufactured from a variable translucent or mottled black/brown flint. Cortex, where present, indicated that it came predominantly from alluvial sources although a few pieces with thick rough cortex may have been obtained from glacially derived deposits. The flint is of good knapping quality although prone to thermal fracturing, the size of the resultant flakes, the largest of which measures 55mm in maximum dimension, indicate the raw materials were relatively small. The condition of the assemblage was also variable but most pieces do display some degree of post-depositional damage, as would be consistent with the assemblage's residuality.

The assemblage includes a few blades and other thin and competently produced flakes, most notably those from contexts [136] and [149], which are most likely to date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. The majority of pieces, however, consist of thick and opportunistically struck flakes, often with wide, obtuse and unmodified striking platforms. Two cores were also recovered, both of which comprise thermally fractured alluvial cobbles that have had short series of broad flakes removed. Two possible retouched implements, from contexts [166] and [176], were recovered. These both consist of flakes with marginal edge trimming, the example from [176] being slightly denticulated with the modification being located on a concave margin. Both flakes also show post-depositional edge damage, however, and we cannot exclude the possibility that all of the modification was accidental.

## SIGNIFICANCE AND DISCUSSION

The small quantity of burnt flint is indicative of hearth use but is otherwise undateable and cannot be related to any specific activities.

The struck flint assemblage is also small and any interpretations are limited. Nevertheless, a small number of struck pieces are characteristic of flintworking traditions of the Mesolithic/Neolithic and indicate occasional low-key and sporadic activity at the site, consistent with the transitory nature of settlement during these periods. The bulk of the assemblage, including most of the flakes, the cores and the possible retouched implements, are more characteristic of the flintworking traditions of the later Bronze Age. It has been argued that by this time flintworking was increasingly becoming subsumed within the domestic sphere and therefore predominantly undertaken within settlements or their associated agricultural systems (Young and Humphrey 1999; McLaren 2009). No evidence of permanent inhabitation during the later prehistoric period was forthcoming at the site, however, although it is possible that the assemblage derives from temporary or seasonal inhabitation. More substantial and extensive evidence for later Bronze Age settlement and agricultural activity has been identified in the Bishop's Stortford area (Ellcock 1968; Last 2000; Yates 2007) as well as the surrounding region such as at Stansted Airport (Framework Archaeology 2008), and suggests that the fertile margins and terraces of the River Stort and

its tributaries supported an intensively occupied agricultural landscape during the later prehistoric period.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to its size, paucity of chronologically diagnostic artefacts and lack of contextual associations, this report and its accompanying database are all that is required of the material for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed. The struck flint demonstrates that the site had been visited over a considerable period of time and remains the sole evidence recovered for occupation during the prehistoric period. Although somewhat limited in itself, it does contribute to wider understandings of movement and landscape use during both the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and the later prehistoric period and can add to any future syntheses of the prehistory of this area. Short descriptions of the struck flint assemblage, derivable from this report, should therefore be included in any published account of the excavations.

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## LITHIC CATALOGUE

Context	Decoratification Flake	Flake	Prismatic Blade	Chip	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Retouched	Flint Colour	Cortex	Condition	Flint Date	Burnt Stone (no.)	Burnt tone (wt:g)	
125	1							Translucent Brown	Thermal	Burnt	Neo/BA			
125												1	21	Heavily Burnt
136		1						Black translucent	Thermal	Chipped	BA			Squat flake
136			1					Mottled semi-opaque grey/brown	Rough Abraded	Good	Meso/E Neo			
136		1						Mottled semi-opaque grey/brown	Rough Abraded	Chipped	BA			squat flake
136		1						Translucent Brown	Thermal	Slightly Chipped	BA			squat flake
142												1	12	Heavily Burnt
145	1	1		1				Translucent Brown	Smooth Worn	Chipped	Neo/BA			
														From opposed platform core, bulbar and distal ends missing
149			1					Translucent Brown	None	Slightly Chipped	Meso/E Neo			
149		1						Light translucent brown	Smooth Worn	Slightly Chipped	BA			Squat flake
149		1						Black translucent	Thick Rough	Good	BA			Squat flake

Context	Decorification Flake	Flake	Prismatic Blade	Chip	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Retouched	Flint Colour	Cortex	Condition	Flint Date	Burnt Stone (no.)	Burnt tone (wt:g)	
149				1				Mottled semi-opaque grey/brown	Smooth Worn	Chipped	BA			Thermally fractured pebble with several flakes 'randomly' removed. Weighs 50g
149				1				Mottled semi-opaque grey/brown	Thermal	Slightly Chipped	BA			Thermally fractured pebble with several flakes 'randomly' removed. Weighs 35g
149												2	28	Heavily Burnt
159		1						Translucent Brown	Smooth Worn	Slightly Chipped	Neo/BA			
161												1	18	Heavily Burnt
166		1						Mottled semi-opaque grey/brown	Rough Abraded	Chipped	Neo/BA			
166							1	Translucent Brown	Thermal	Chipped	Neo/BA			Appears edge trimmed but in chipped condition
169		2						Mottled semi-opaque grey/brown	Smooth Worn	Slightly Chipped	BA			One squat and one irregular
169	1			2				Translucent Brown	None	Chipped	Neo/BA			One is small bladelet
169								Translucent Brown	Thermal	Chipped	BA			Squat flake
171		1				1		Translucent Brown	Thermal	Chipped	BA			Both squat flakes

Context	Decorification Flake	Flake	Prismatic Blade	Chip	Core	Conchoidal Chunk	Retouched	Flint Colour	Cortex	Condition	Flint Date	Burnt Stone (no.)	Burnt tone (wt:g)	
176							1	Translucent Brown	Thick Rough	Chipped	Neo/BA			Squat, Appears edge trimmed but in chipped condition
176		1						Mottled semi- opaque grey/brown	None	Chipped	Neo/BA			

## APPENDIX 3: ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSMENT

### ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSMENT

**Katie Anderson**

#### INTRODUCTION

An assemblage of Roman pottery, totaling 630 Sherds, weighing 9365g and representing 23.44 EVES was recovered from the excavation. All of the pottery was examined and recorded in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 1994) using the standard terminology and codes advocated by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (Symonds 2002). Sherds were sorted within context by fabric, with unsourced wares of the same type e.g. greywares grouped together.

#### ASSEMBLAGE COMPOSITION

The assemblage comprised primarily medium to large sherds, which included several semi-complete vessels. Despite this, the mean weight of the assemblage was a relatively low 15g, which in part is due to most of the semi-complete vessels being fragmented as a result of post-depositional breakage. The assemblage included pottery from domestic contexts as well as several vessels which accompanied cremation burials. A maximum of 155 different vessels were recovered from the site, dating from the Late Iron Age to the later Roman period (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD), albeit in varying quantities. The bulk of the assemblage dates to the early Roman period (AD43-100), including material from all of the cremations. This corresponds with the pottery recovered from the evaluation of the site, which produced a small assemblage of dating from the Late Iron Age to the later Roman period, although no cremations were encountered (Godden 2008).

A relatively wide variety of vessel fabrics were identified within the assemblage (see Table 1). Coarseware fabrics dominated the assemblage, representing 73% of the assemblage by count and 74% by weight. Within this category sandy greywares were the most commonly occurring fabric group, which is typical of Roman assemblages. Within this group there were a number of different fabric types, and although most are unsourced, it is likely that they were produced within the local area. Other coarseware fabrics identified in the assemblage included 60 Verulamium whiteware sherds (a maximum of three vessels) as well as a small number of shell-tempered wares (15 sherds, 151g). A single Late Baetican amphora sherd was collected from Context (131), dating AD170-300.

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Wt(g)</b>	<b>% by count</b>	<b>% by weight</b>
Baetican amphora	1	117	0.2	1.2
Central Gaulish Samian	10	207	1.6	2.2
Coarse sandy greyware	112	1936	17.8	20.7
Fine micaceous sandy greyware	74	658	11.7	7.0
Fine sandy greyware	145	2531	23.0	27.0
Fine sandy micaceous reduced wares	4	240	0.6	2.6
Fine sandy oxidised ware	73	508	11.6	5.4
Grog-tempered	2	145	0.3	1.5
Hadham oxidised ware	21	326	3.3	3.5
Nene Valley colour-coat	1	5	0.2	0.1
Nene Valley greyware	1	12	0.2	0.1
Oxford red-slipped ware	1	1	0.2	0.0
Oxidised sandy ware	38	418	6.0	4.5
Reduced sandy ware	6	106	1.0	1.1
Samian	54	1190	8.6	12.7
Shell-tempered	15	151	2.4	1.6
South Gaulish Samian	4	95	0.7	1.0
Un sourced whiteware	1	28	0.2	0.3
Verulamium whiteware	67	691	10.6	7.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>9365</b>	x	x

*Table 1: All Roman pottery by fabric*

Finewares totalled 26% (by count) of the assemblage and included 164 Samian sherds (1492g), representing a maximum of 13 different vessels. Three of these were associated with cremations, while the remaining sherds were recovered from other contexts. The most commonly occurring Romano-British sourced finewares were Hadham oxidised wares, which is not unexpected given the site's relatively close proximity to the production centre. 21 sherds representing eight different vessels were identified, including three jars and an imitation Curle 15 dish (all from context 131). All of these vessels are later Roman, dating 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

A variety of vessel forms were identified, which can be broken down into basic form types (see Table 2), with non-diagnostic sherds totalling 126 sherds (1332g), representing 21% of the total. Given the nature of the assemblage, to only consider the sherd counts gives a somewhat misleading impression of the site composition, thus a more useful quantification is the estimate number of vessels (ENV), which gives the maximum number of vessels in each category. Jars were the most commonly occurring vessel form, which is typical of Roman assemblages, representing a maximum of 33 different vessels. Within this group there were a variety of different sized vessels, with rim diameters ranging from 10cm-26cm, implying a range of different functions. A maximum of 12 dishes were recorded, of which three were Samian vessels which were associated with cremations (1004, 1008 and 1014). A further three Samian dishes were recovered from other features, including one fragmented, albeit semi-complete vessel from a ditch (fill 132). Two of the dishes were noted as having trimmed bases, suggesting that they had secondary functions.



Form	No	Wt(g)	ENV
Amphora	1	117	1
Beaker	71	468	7
Bowl	15	618	7
Cup	3	93	1
Dish	74	1742	12
Flagon	137	1379	5
Jar	174	3312	33
Non-diagnostic	126	1332	89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>9061</b>	<b>155</b>

Table2: All Roman pottery by form

Although a relatively large number of flagon sherds were recorded (137, 1379g), only five different vessels were represented, all of which were part of cremation assemblages. These consisted of three Verulamium whiteware flagons and two fine, oxidised sandy vessels, all of which date mid 1<sup>st</sup> century AD to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. It is of note that two of these were noted as having limescale on the interior, indicative of holding liquid. 13 vessels in total were noted as having use wear evidence, with 4 further vessels having interior limescale and the remaining sherds having burnt residue and/or exterior sooting.

#### FEATURE ANALYSIS

Perhaps the most significant components of this assemblage are the vessels recovered in association with cremations. A maximum of 15 vessels were identified, totalling 382 sherds, weighing 5606g and representing 17.81 EVES, with a mean weight of 14.7g.

Cut [124] contained four semi-complete vessels, as well as six small sherds of Roman pottery, which may have been caught up in the feature during the backfilling process. The semi-complete vessels comprised a Verulamium whiteware flagon, a Dragendorff 36 dish, a greyware jar and a possible beaker, with carbonised residue on the interior. The vessels from this cremation date AD50-120, although the presence of the Samian vessel and the Verulamium flagon suggest a Flavian to Trajanic date (AD69-117) is likely.

Three semi-complete early Roman vessels were recovered from Cut [119], comprising a fine sandy, oxidised ware flagon, a Samian Dr18/31R dish and greyware jar. The Samian vessel dates AD90-110, however, it would be an over simplification of the complex nature of pottery production, use and deposition to suggest such a narrow date bracket for this cremation. Therefore a date of AD 90-150 is suggested.

Cut [128] contained five vessels, which were all semi-complete. The pottery from this feature consisted of two Samian vessels; a Dr35 cup and a Curle 15 dish, dating AD69-150. A Verulamium whiteware 'pulley-wheel' flagon was also recovered, along with a greyware beaker and a wide mouth, reduced ware jar. These vessels date AD70-150.

The remaining cremations contained single accompanying vessels. An oxidised sandy flagon was recovered from cut [113], comprising 32 sherds, weighing 350g. This vessel was noted as having limescale on the interior and dates AD50-120. 69 sherds weighing 1714g from a

sandy greyware beaded jar were collected from Cut [114]. This vessel dates mid 1<sup>st</sup>-mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Cut [116] yielded 20 sherds weighing 61g from a Verulamium whiteware flagon dating AD69-150. A single sandy greyware body sherd was also recovered from this feature, however, it is likely to have been caught up within the backfill, rather than having been purposefully deposited.

Much of the remainder of the assemblage was recovered from ditches, which accounted for a total of 147 sherds (2439g) and representing a maximum 81 vessels. Interestingly the pottery from the ditches had a very similar mean weight to that from the cremations (16.6g). The material recovered from the ditches was later than that from the cremations, with most of the pottery dating 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD. This included some 4<sup>th</sup> century AD vessels, including a Hadham imitation Curle 15. There was no clear difference in date between sherds recovered from the different ditches, which suggests that they are likely to have been contemporary with one another. A further 67 sherds (864g) were recovered from the quarry pits, dating 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD, although most of the material is 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD in date.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

All of the pottery has been quantified and therefore the material does not need any further recording. However, a more detailed analysis of the pottery by feature, in particular the cremations, is necessary. It is also recommended that the vessels associated with cremations are analysed in their wider context, with reference to a number of the other early Roman cemeteries in the area.

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## **APPENDIX 4: CREMATED BONE ASSESSMENT**

### **OSTEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CREMATED BONE**

**Aileen Tierney**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This report contains the results of the osteological analysis of the cremated bone recovered during the excavation of a predominantly Roman site at Waggon and Horses, Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire (Site code: HBSP11). The excavation and post-excavation analysis have been carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

A group of six Romano-British cremation burials were recorded in the central area of the site. Within this report, cremation burials will be referred to using the cut number allocated to them at the time of excavation. Discussion of the cremated bone will use the context / vessel number, allocated at the time of excavation.

The osteological analysis aims to provide a detailed description of the nature of the cremated bone present, to quantify and differentiate, where possible between human and animal cremated bone, to assess the age, sex and presence of pathological changes and to identify pyre goods or any evidence of pyre technology used during the cremation process.

Cremated bone was only found in the cremation urns in [116] (vessel number: 1002) and in [124] (vessel number: 1007). Therefore the osteological analysis will focus on those two cremation burials in addition to [128] which contained the un-urned cremated bone deposit (1018).

An assessment of the quantity of the bone recovered may give an indication of the state of preservation of the associated feature in which the bone was interred. Alternatively, if the bone deposit was recovered from a relatively undisturbed context, it may provide valuable information regarding cremation processes of the time. These cremation processes do not only include the actual pyre technology but also the associated collection and deposition of the bone (McKinley 1993). McKinley carried out experiments on adults cremated in modern crematoria. Using these results and her experience of archaeological cremations, she was able to calculate a weight bracket for both male and female cremated remains. Using her calculations we can ascertain, to a certain extent, how much of the individual we are dealing with. The overall average for both crematoria investigated was 2016.4g, with the fifteen cremated remains ranging from 1227.6g to 3001.3g. From this, McKinley calculated that between 1001.5g and 2422g of cremated bone constitutes a full adult skeleton in an archaeological context.

Identification of particular elements of the human body will confirm the presence of human remains, but will also give an insight into any particular areas of the body which may have

been purposefully collected following the cremation. Absence of elements is also noted, although absence of smaller elements may be due to the lack of survival as a result of fragmentation during the cremation, post-depositional preservation conditions or may have been lost during the cremation itself.

## METHODOLOGY

The remains were excavated in accordance with IFA guidelines (McKinley and Roberts 1993). All vessels were lifted intact, bandaging of the vessel was carried out to provide support during transportation back to the laboratory. The un-urned cremation (1018) from cremation burial [128] was excavated on site. The soil was dampened to minimise fragmentation. As it was a thin layer of bone laid on pyre debris, it was not possible to excavate it in spits. Cremation urns from [114], [116] and [124] were excavated in spits in the laboratory. The cremation urn from [114] (vessel number: 1001) did not contain any cremated bone. Deposits (1002, 1007 and 1018) were then washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Once the material was dry, it was analysed to determine whether there was any animal bone included in the deposit.

Each spit was sieved through a stack of 10mm, 5mm, and 2mm mesh sieves. Once the stone and other extraneous material was removed from the 10mm and 5mm sieve, it was then weighed and sorted into identifiable and unidentifiable bone (McKinley 2004). A selection of 50g samples were taken from each spit for the >2mm fraction and the extraneous material was removed from these samples and a bone weight for each >2mm fraction per spit was extrapolated. The 2mm sieve was then sorted into identifiable and unidentifiable bone. All the weights were recorded and represented as a percentage of the total weight. None of the weights and percentages include the <2mm residues, although the residues were scanned for identifiable elements. Table 2, however, does include an estimated percentage of bone within the <2mm residue. The largest skull and long bone fragments were noted both at the laboratory excavation and analysis stages.

The cremation urn (1002) from cremation burial [116] contained iron nail fragments in all three spits. Some of these iron fragments fused to the bone. As there is no way to separate the iron and bone, Table 2 includes both the weights including and excluding the iron fused to bone.

All identifiable bone was weighed and divided into categories, where possible. The five categories are skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb and unidentified long bone. The bone was then examined per spit, in terms of the colour of the bone. The degree of oxidisation of the organic component is reflected macroscopically in the colour of the bone. The colour of the bone was noted, including the skeletal element affected and the location on the fragment (i.e. interior, exterior) (McKinley 2004). This part of the analysis included compiling percentages of the variation of colours.

In the case of cremated bone, there are limits to the amount of pathologies which are visible on the bone, but if the fragment size is large enough, the pathological changes may be observed. Any pathological modifications to the bone were described. The size and location of the lesion was also noted. A count of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) was carried out. Double burials can be identified only when the duplication of elements occurs or if analysis shows skeletons of different ages represented in one burial. This was examined for each of the cremated bone deposits.

Analysis of the cremated remains to ascertain the age and sex of the individual is vital in an osteology report. When presented with a large sample of well-preserved cremated bone deposits, a valuable insight in to the demographic structure of the archaeological population can be obtained. Ageing and sexing methods were carried out where possible (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994).

The presence of pyre goods (animal bone or objects made from glass, ivory or metal), which are the items that were placed on the pyre and have been deliberately included for interment along with the cremated bone, was noted. Also recorded was the presence and type of pyre debris as this record can help us ascertain the nature of pyre technology and learn more about the collection process and the deliberate inclusion of pyre debris in a cremation burial.

## RESULTS

### *Identification and quantification*

The total amount of bone present in each context was weighed and subsequently analysed for identifiable fragments. These fragments were then weighed and recorded separately according to the area of the body they originated from (Table 1).

Cxt. No.	Skull (g)	Skull (%)	Axial (g)	Axial (%)	UL (g)	UL (%)	LL (g)	LL (%)	UIL (g)	UIL (%)	Total ID (g)	Total ID (%)	Total UID (g)	Total UID (%)
1002	4	0.73	1	0.18	1	0.18	7	1.28	51	9.36	64	11.74	481	88.26
1007	32	3.42	5	0.53	45	4.81	86	9.20	65	6.95	233	24.91	702	75.08
1018	61	8.63	1	0.14	20	2.83	48	6.79	36	5.09	166	23.48	541	76.52

*Table 1: Summary of identifiable and unidentifiable elements in the cremation burials*

### *Bone Fragmentation*

The observation and quantification of the bone fragmentation is essential in assessing the impact on the quality of the overall data retrieved from the analysis of the cremated bone. It may also be a helpful indicator of practices carried out during the cremation process and can give an insight into pyre technology.

While fragmentation can occur for several reasons, it is generally believed that both the excavation and post-excavation processes can lead to the largest amount of damage caused to the remains (McKinley 1994).

Fragmentation is analysed using the sieve stack mentioned in the methodology and the results are summarised in Table 2.

Context number	10mm (g)	10mm (%)	5mm (g)	5mm (%)	2mm (g)	2mm (%)	<2mm bone content %	Total (g)
1002	121	22.2	212 (216 inc fe)	38.9 (39.6 inc fe)	203	37.2	65	540 (inside vessel)
1007	365	39.04	283	30.27	183	19.57	40	831 (inside vessel)
1018	226	31.97	278	39.32	203	28.71	<50	707

*Table 2: Summary of cremated bone fragment size (Percentages calculated including the cremated bone found outside of the cremation vessel, see Table 3)*

Context number	Bone in pot (g)	Bone outside pot (g)	Total (g)
1002	540	5	545
1007	831	104	935

*Table 3: Summary of quantity of bone found inside and outside of the urned cremations*

### *Cremated Bone [1002]*

The quantity of cremated bone recovered from the burial weighed 545g. This is considerably less than that produced at modern crematoria (See: identification and quantification section). Excavation records show that, at the time of excavation, it was estimated that 50% truncation of the vessel (1002) had occurred before the excavation of the cremation burial [116]. This explains the low total weight of the cremated bone deposit. It would also explain the low percentage in the >10mm fraction (22.2%) and indeed the higher estimated percentage in the <2mm residue (65%). A truncated vessel can, over time, allow the infiltration of sediment which can also affect fragment size. Only 11.41% was identifiable, with 9.36% of this consisting of unidentified long bones. There was only a small proportion of skull fragments.

This cremated bone deposit contained 2.4% blue/grey bone fragments. This was present on the inside of skull fragments and on both the inside and outside of unidentified limb bone fragments. The remainder of the deposit consisted of buff/white bone fragments. This suggests a slightly less efficient cremation process.

There were no duplication of skeletal elements with this deposit; in this instance, a double burial could not be identified. There were no diagnostic skeletal elements present that could

be assessed for the indication of the sex of this individual. All elements of the cremated bone deposit were analysed macroscopically using developmental criteria to age the individual. A fragment of fused distal tibia shows this individual was an adult. No pathological changes were observed on any of the fragments. This may be due to the high percentage of fragments <10mm (76.8%). Small fragments of iron nails were found throughout the fill of (1002).

The uppermost spit contained two fragments of shaft and one fragment of the head of a nail. The longest fragment was 24.38mm in length, with the diameter of the head measuring 10.49mm. The second spit consisted of two fragments of nail shafts one with head attached; 16.42mm and 27.28mm respectively. Diameter of the head of the nail was 13.25mm. The third spit had a small fragment of nail shaft (10.15mm). These nails may be associated with the pyre structure, although no other significant pyre debris was found within the cremated bone deposit.

#### *Cremated Bone [1007]*

The quantity of cremated bone recovered from the burial weighed 935g; 831g was retrieved from inside the vessel with the remainder retrieved from the cremation backfill (125). This quantity is closer to the figures given by McKinley (1993). However excavation records show 50-75% truncation of this cremation burial. Despite this level of truncation, this deposit shows a high percentage of >10mm (39.04%) and even in the >5mm fraction (30.27%). This suggests that, although the vessel and the burial itself were truncated, the cremated bone deposit may have survived intact or almost intact. Only 24.91% was identifiable, with 6.95% of this consisting of unidentified long bones. There were no teeth present despite a substantial amount of skull fragments. Smaller elements such as digits were present also.

This cremated bone deposit contained 1.08% light grey bone fragments. Where this colour did occur, it was not present on the whole surface of the fragment. This slight colouration was present on both the inside and outside of unidentified limb bone fragments. The remainder of the deposit consisted of buff/white bone fragments. This cremation can be deemed quite efficient due to the light grey colour on such a small percentage of bone.

There were no duplication of skeletal elements with this deposit; in this instance, a double burial could not be identified. There were no diagnostic skeletal elements present that could be assessed for the indication of the sex of this individual. All elements of the cremated bone deposit were analysed macroscopically using developmental criteria to age the individual. Fused epiphyses show this individual was an adult. Two skull fragments showed evidence of pitting, suggesting porotic hyperostosis. There was no evidence of pyre goods or any pyre debris in the cremated bone deposit. The cremation vessel was located in a square cut which appeared to be lined with pyre debris or was possibly the remains of a wooden container.

#### *Cremated Bone [1018]*

The quantity of cremated bone recovered from the burial weighed 707g. The truncation of this feature, and indeed the cremated bone deposit, is harder to determine due to the fact that it was an un-urned cremated bone deposit. Excavation records suggest <25% truncation. This is supported by the fact that the accessory vessels were complete or near complete. Therefore, one can be reasonably confident that we are dealing with the complete cremated bone deposit. The majority of the fragments are >5mm (71.29%). Only 23.48% was identifiable, with 5.09% of this consisting of unidentified long bones. Skull fragments accounted for 8.03%.

This cremated bone deposit contained almost 100% buff/white bone fragments. This cremation can be deemed an efficient cremation process where the bone deposit was exposed to a sufficient temperature for a sustained amount of time in order to completely oxidise the bone.

There were no duplication of skeletal elements with this deposit; in this instance, a double burial could not be identified. There were no diagnostic skeletal elements present that could be assessed for the indication of the sex of this individual. All elements of the cremated bone deposit were analysed macroscopically using developmental criteria to age the individual. Fused epiphyses show this individual was an adult. Two small skull fragments showed possible evidence of porotic hyperostosis. As the thickening of the bone is not apparent, it may be a case of ectocranial porosis, a similar reaction to an anaemic condition (Wann and Hunt 2004). There was no evidence of pyre goods within the cremated bone deposit. The bone deposit was laid on pyre debris in the burial and a carbonised plank was laid on top. This could have been a degraded box or an attempt to line the grave with pyre material.

Vessel/ cremated bone	Cut	Disturbance	Type	Total weight (g)	MNI	Age	Sex	Pathology
1002	116		u	545	1	adult	?	
1007	124	?	u	935	1	adult	?	
1018	128	\$	un	707	1	adult	?	

*Table 4 Summary of cremated bone*

Key to Table 4

Disturbance:	*	undisturbed
	\$	bone may be crushed but unmoved
	?	disturbance level unknown
		Disturbed
Type:	u	urned cremation burial
	un	un-urned cremation burial
Sex:	??F	possible female
	?F	probable female
	?	unknown sex
	?M	probable male
	??M	possible male



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## APPENDIX 5: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

### THE ANIMAL BONES

**Kevin Rielly**

#### INTRODUCTION

The site comprises a series of Romano-British features incorporating a large quarry pit, a number of ditches and, in the central part of the excavation area, a close set group of six cremation burials. There is also a post-medieval ditch which traverses the western side of the site and a rather late well, possibly 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century, to the south-east. Of archaeozoological interest, a dog burial was excavated just north of this well.

The bones from this site were relatively well preserved but tended, with the exception of the dog skeleton, towards a high level of fragmentation. Most of the site assemblage was provided by this skeleton (126 out of 142 fragments) with the remainder almost entirely derived from ditch fills (see Table 1).

#### 12.1 Methodology

Each bone was recorded onto an animal bone database using Microsoft Access. This database is divided into various headings, as follows: - species, skeletal part, fragmentation (the proportion of the skeletal part represented), sex, age (a general age if possible, as well as teeth eruption/wear and epiphyses fusion), size and various modifications as butchery, burning, gnawing, preservation, working and pathology. Species could not be assigned to all the bones in these collections. This unidentifiable portion would be recorded according to size class, generally to cattle and sheep-size, these including ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebrae. Tooth eruption/wear recording uses the method devised by Grant (1982), while the measurements are essentially taken from von den Driesch (1976). Measurable bones essentially include the majority that can be classed as deriving from an adult individual. This includes complete limb bones, mandibles where the adult third molar is in wear and various limb bones with fused intermediate and/or late epiphyses e.g. distal tibia and proximal femur respectively. Age analysis is based on the aforementioned tooth data as well as epiphysis fusion. Approximate ages associated within the sequence of eruption/wear and fusion respectively are taken from Schmid (1972, 75 and 77) and Amorosi (1989, 98 and 99). Calculations of shoulder heights were based on multiplication factors given in von den Driesch and Boessneck (1974).

Phase/Feature	3rd/4th C ditches	19th C ditch [104]	Post-med ditch [127]	Dog burial [101]
Species				
Cattle	8		1	
Equid	1		1	
Cattle-size	1			
Sheep/Goat	2	1	1	
Dog				126
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>126</b>

Table 1: Counts of hand collected animal bone by feature.

## 12.2 Description of faunal assemblage by phase

### *Romano-British*

Just 12 bones were recovered from four ditches – [150], [158], [162] and [180]. These included a selection of cattle, equid and sheep/goat fragments (see Tables 1 and 2). The better representation of cattle is largely due to the recovery of 5 loose mandibular teeth, three of which (from ditch [150]) probably represent the same Young Adult individual (based on early wear of third molar). Notably, all of the cattle bones are from adult animals. This contrasts with the sheep/goat collection, represented by two mandibles, one of which is from a juvenile (adult second molar unworn) and the other from an old adult (well worn adult molars). Amongst the cattle bones there is the base of a large cattle horncore, this retrieved from the fill of ditch [158]. Its size would suggest it was certainly within the Medium-Horned parameters and possibly as large as a Long-Horned type, as seen by comparing the basal size with similarly sized complete horncores recovered at Roman levels at Drapers Gardens, City of London (Rielly in prep, with horncore categories after Armitage and Clutton-Brock 1976). The surface pattern of this core would suggest it was an adult and could therefore be aged between about 7 and 10 years (after Armitage 1982, 41-2). It was also heavily grooved along its length, conforming to descriptions of ox horncores given in Luff (1994), this surface modification possibly arising as a reaction to the castration process. The horncore may therefore have belonged to a large adult ox, no doubt used locally for heavy farm work. The same ditch provided an equid metacarpus, from which could be calculated a shoulder height of 127.7cm, indicative of a medium-sized pony.

Species	Skeletal part	Age	N
Cattle	horncore base	A	1
	mandibular teeth	YA and A	5
	scapula shaft		1
	tibia distal	A	1
Cattle-size	rib		1
Equid	metacarpus	A	1
Sheep/Goat	mandible with teeth	J and A	2

Table 2: The species and skeletal part representation amongst the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century ditch fills. The age categories used are J juvenile, YA young adult and A adult, while N is the number of fragments.

### *Post-medieval*

There were three bones from ditch [127] and a single fragment from the possibly 19<sup>th</sup> century field boundary [104]. The former contained a loose molar from an adult sheep/goat mandible, a highly fragmented equid metatarsus and a femur from a very young calf, which could represent an infant mortality and therefore suggest that cattle were being bred in the locality. Finally, the 19<sup>th</sup> fill provided the calcaneus (ankle bone) of an adult sheep/goat.

### *The dog burial*

A single pit [101], located just to the east of the R-B ditches [180] and [183], was found to contain the relatively complete remains of a small adult male dog. All of the limb bones are fused while the teeth are well worn suggesting an animal of advanced years. The sexual distinction is based on the skull characteristics described in The and Truth (1976) while the size estimate is taken from shoulder height calculations in Harcourt (1974). Combining the heights available from the humerus, radius, ulna, femur and tibia, it is possible to arrive at a mean height of 381.3mm, which is to say about the same size as a modern day Beagle or English Cocker Spaniel. This individual is moderately robust with a slenderness index of about 8.0 to 9.0 (calculated from data in Table 3). There is no sign of any ante-mortem damage or any bowing of the limb bones, a characteristic which may denote a particular type or breed. However, there is a notable ante mortem loss of several mandibular teeth, including the left first premolar and second molar, and the right second and third molar. In each case the associated bone has been resorbed.

<b>Skeletal part</b>	<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
Skull	P-A, P-N,N-A,W	150.2,75.3,82.8,88.5
Humerus	GL,SD	115.8,10.7
Radius	GL,SD	115.7,9.8
Ulna	GL	136
Femur	GL,SD	126.2,10.3
Tibia	GL,SD	127.2,10.2

*Table 3. Measurements taken from the dog skeleton in pit [101], with dimensions as follows: - skull - P, N and A and W is width at the zygomatic arches; limb bones: - GL is greatest length, SD is minimum shaft diameter, W is width*

## CONCLUSIONS

The few bones from the Romano-British and Post-medieval levels illustrate the range of species exploited at this rural site with some indications of usage. This includes the Roman evidence provided by the ox adult horncore demonstrating the presence of animals used for heavy duty farm work and the post-medieval calf bone denoting local breeding. Obviously, owing to the small size of these collections, there is little more that can be added to the above descriptions. However, the dog burial may be worthy of further comment. The major problem concerning this skeleton is the lack of dating evidence. Its juxtaposition adjacent to the Romano-British ditches [180] and [183] may be significant as well as its location in an area of the site with several other Roman features with the exception of the post-medieval well. The characteristics of the animal

can only suggest a very broad date range, with an open ended timescale probably starting with the Roman period. Notably while similarly small dogs were present in the Iron Age, they appear to have been less frequent compared to the Roman period (see Harcourt 1974, 163 and 166). A Roman date would obviously be of interest, particularly as dog burials have been found in association with various ritual features including human burials. Examples include those found within the two phases of cemetery activity dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries at 52-56 Lant Street, Southwark (Rielly in prep). The earliest of these were located adjacent to a group of infant burials and, continuing this theme, a number of Roman ritual shafts in the centre of Cambridge, contained 'newborn babies in baskets, several...buried with small dogs' (Taylor 2003, 17).

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## APPENDIX 6: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

**Lisa Snape**

#### INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental assessment of bulk samples taken as part of an excavation at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (HBSP11). The aim of this environmental archaeological assessment is to; provide an overview of the contents of the bulk samples, determine the potential of the samples for understanding the general environmental context of the site, and identify if further analysis needs to be undertaken.

#### METHODOLOGY

Seven bulk samples (between 6-18 litres) were processed by flotation (Kenward *et al.* 1980) using 1mm and 300µm mesh sieves. The residues (heavy fraction) were dried, sieved at 2 and 4mm and then sorted 'by eye' to retrieve artefacts and un-floated organic remains. The abundance of each class of artefacts (e.g. CBM, pottery, slag, bone) was recorded using standardised environmental forms and entered into the database, the following numbers were used to record the frequency of organic and inorganic remains: (1- Occasional (1-10), 2- fairly frequent (11-30), 3- frequent (31-100), 4- abundant (>100)). The flot (light fraction) was dried and the abundance of organic remains was determined using the same method stated above.

#### RESULTS

Field descriptions of samples taken during excavation are presented in Table 1. The results of the rapid assessment of bulk samples are presented in Table 2 and the quantification of charcoal retrieved from the residues are presented in Table 3.

Sample number	Context number	Description
<1>	(125)	Mid yellow brown sandy silts.
<2>	(131)	Dark greyish black silty clay.
<3>	(151)	Reddish brown silty clay.
<4>	(182)	Compact dark grey/brown silty sand. Upper fill of ditch.
<5>	(184)	Moderately compacted dark greyish brown silty sand.

*Table 1: Field descriptions of contexts sampled*

### *Flots*

Samples <1>, <3>, <4> and <5> produced flots. Samples <1>, <4> and <5> have the most potential and should be submitted for detailed analysis. Amongst the charred remains retrieved, charcoal, cereal grains and weed seeds were abundant in all three samples.

### *Residues*

Overall, the artefact assemblages from all five samples were very small. All samples had occasional to frequent charcoal fragments, with samples <1> and <2> having the largest assemblage with fragments of varying size classes (table 3). Other artefacts retrieved include; fragments of animal bone (samples <1> and <4>), evidence for industrial processes include small fragments of hammerscale (sample <4>), CMB (sample <4>), occasional fragments of pottery (samples <1>, <2>, <4> and <5>), and occasional to frequent fragments of burnt/struck flint (samples <2>, <3> and <5>).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

If the contexts are deemed to be archaeologically significant, further detailed analysis of flots obtained from samples <1>, <4> and <5> have the most potential to further our understanding of the environmental conditions at the time of occupation, economy and diet, agricultural practices, the function of structure/features and the general living conditions. However, this can only be achieved if all contexts are sampled in order to compare the distribution and concentration of various organic components across the site. If further excavation is permitted, a larger percentage of the context should be sampled, considering the low abundance of artefacts retrieved from the five samples already assessed.

## REFERENCE

Kenward, H. K., Hall, A. R. and Jones, A. K. G. 1980 'A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal macrofossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits', *Science and Archaeology* 22, 3-15



Sample number	Context number	Cut number	% of context sampled	Volume of sample (litres)	Flot						Residue																
					Charred			Uncharred			Charred			Uncharred													
					Charcoal	Chaff/grain	Seeds	Wood	Roots	Bone	Shell	Charcoal	Seeds	Chaff/grain	Seeds	S.A. bone*	L.A. bone*	Fish bone	Hammerscale	CMB	Burnt/ struck flint	Pottery					
1	125	124	25-50%	6	4	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
2	131	130	<5%	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
3	151	130	<5%	17	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	182	180	<5%	6.5	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
5	184	183	<5%	8	3	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1

Table 1: Rapid Assessment of Bulk Samples (Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant)

Sample number	Context number	Weight (g)	Charcoal (>4mm)	Charcoal (2-4mm)	Charcoal (<2mm)
1	125	5	**	****	***
2	131	8	***	*****	***
3	151	0.5	*	*	***
4	182	3	**	**	***
5	184	2	*	**	**

Table 2: Quantification of Charcoal Retrieved from Residues (Key- Frequency: \* = 0-10, \*\* = 11-30, \*\*\*= 31-100, \*\*\*\*= 101-250, \*\*\*\*\* = >250)

## APPENDIX 7: OASIS FORM

12.3 OASIS ID: preconst1-119193

### Project details

Project name	Waggon and Horses Public House, Bishop's Stortford
Short description of the project	Natural deposits across the site comprised a mid reddish brown silty clay brickearth with bands of gravel. A few prehistoric struck flints were recovered but these were all residual and represented background activity rather than any definable areas of occupation. The first clear phase of occupation dated to the later 1st to mid 2nd centuries AD and was represented by the interment of a number of cremation burials. Six such features were recorded in an eastern central part of the site, each accompanied by at least one ceramic vessel. A small number of other features may also have been contemporary with this phase. A second phase of Roman activity could be broadly dated to the 3rd to 4th centuries and mostly comprised a series of ditches on north-south and east-west alignments that appeared to have represented agricultural enclosures laid out in a regular pattern a short distance from Roman Stane Street, which ran from east to west a short distance south of the site. Again a small number of other features also appeared to be contemporary with the ditches. There was little evidence of activity on the site between the later Roman and post-medieval periods. A small number of boundary features appeared to date to the 18th to 19th centuries, though may have been earlier, and more recent activity was associated with building developments on the site from the 19th to later 20th centuries.
Project dates	Start: 03-10-2011 End: 14-10-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HBSP11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	CREMATION Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	POSTHOLE Roman
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	WELL Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON FITTING Roman
Significant Finds	IRON NAIL Roman
Significant Finds	IRON KEY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Late Mesolithic
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Neolithic
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Bronze Age
Investigation type	'Open-area excavation'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

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#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE BISHOPS STORTFORD Waggon and Horses Public House, 135 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford
Postcode	CM23 2AL
Study area	1440.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 49475 22005 51.8760866709 0.171675441199 51 52 33 N 000 10 18 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 66.08m Max: 66.40m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Gary Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding	CgMs Consulting

body

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### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Bishop's Stortford Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Human Bones','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Bishop's Stortford Museum
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Human Bones','Stratigraphic','Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Archive recipient	Bishop's Stortford
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation at The Waggon and Horses, 135 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2AL
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Boyer, P.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	Stapleford
Description	MAP 2 Report

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Entered by	Peter Boyer (pboyer@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	15 February 2012

## APPENDIX 8: HERTFORDSHIRE HER FORM

Site name and address: Waggon and Horses Public House, 135 Stansted Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Bishop's Stortford		Parish: Bishop's Stortford
Planning application reference: Direction from Local Planning Authority PPS 5		
Client name, address and tel. No.: CgMs Consulting, Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2AT		
Nature of application: Private Residential		
Present land use: Vacant		
Size of application area: c. 0.5 Ha		Size of area investigated: c. 0.144 Ha
NGR (to 10 figures): TL 49475 22005		
Site code: HBSP11		
Site director/Organisation: Gary Trimble/Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited		
Type of work: Archaeological Excavation		
Date of work:	Start: 03-10-11	Finish: 14-10-11
Location of finds/Curating museum: Bishop's Stortford Museum		
Related HER Nos.: 13754, 13755, 13756		Periods represented: Roman, Post-Medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Godden, D. 2008 <i>The Waggon &amp; Horses, Bishop's Stortford: Archaeological Evaluation Report</i> , Wessex Archaeology report no. 69440.02 Hawkins, D. 2007 <i>Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land at The Waggon &amp; Horses Hotel, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire</i> CgMs unpublished report		
Summary of fieldwork results: Natural deposits across the site comprised a mid reddish brown silty clay brickearth with bands of gravel. A few prehistoric struck flints were recovered but these were all residual and represented background activity rather than any definable areas of occupation. The first clear phase of occupation dated to the later 1 <sup>st</sup> to mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> centuries AD and was represented by the interment of a number of cremation burials. Six such features were recorded in an eastern central part of the site, each accompanied by at least one ceramic vessel. A small number of other features may also have been contemporary with this phase. A second phase of Roman activity could be broadly dated to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> centuries and mostly comprised a series of ditches on north-south and east-west alignments that appeared to have represented agricultural enclosures laid out in a regular pattern a short distance from Roman Stane Street, which ran from east to west a short distance south of the site. Again a small number of other features also appeared to be contemporary with the ditches. There was little evidence of activity on the site between the later Roman and post-medieval periods. A small number of boundary features appeared to date to the 18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries, though may have been earlier, and more recent activity was associated with building developments on the site from the 19 <sup>th</sup> to later 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries.		
Author of summary: Peter Boyer		Date of summary: 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2012

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