LAND TO THE REAR OF THE QUADRANT CENTRE ASHTON ST. PETER'S LOWER SCHOOL DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE

An Archaeological Evaluation

HAT 477
NGR: TL 0200 2200
Parish: Dunstable

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust

HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
Report No. 790

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LAND TO THE REAR OF THE QUADRANT CENTRE (ASHTON ST. PETER'S LOWER SCHOOL), DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

During October 2000 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust carried out an evaluation on land to the rear of the Quadrant Centre, in the grounds of Ashton St. Peter's Lower School, Dunstable. The evaluation was conducted in advance of the proposed redevelopment of Dunstable town centre.

Five trenches were excavated, one of which revealed features and finds of Roman and medieval date. One of the other trenches revealed limited evidence of Roman and medieval activity, whilst no dateable archaeological finds or features were present in the other three.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During October 2000 the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of the Quadrant Centre, in the grounds of Ashton St. Peter's Lower School, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (NGR: TL 0020 2200; Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Paul Dickinson Associates in advance of the proposed redevelopment of Dunstable town centre. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for redevelopment of the site, in order to provide information on any archaeological remains present on the site so that the impact of the proposed development can be assessed by Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section (BCC HES). The area evaluated forms approximately a third of the proposed development area, other areas being currently inaccessible for evaluation purposes.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief prepared by Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section (BCC HES, 06/09/00), and a specification compiled by HAT (09/00). In addition it complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (IFA, 1999).

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies in the north-east quadrant of Dunstable town centre, at the foot of the Chilterns chalk ridge, at an elevation of *ca.* 140 m AOD. The total development area comprises *ca.* 2.3 hectares and current land-use includes the Quadrant Centre car park, Ashton St. Peter's Lower school and grounds, and a residential area.

2.2 The area currently available for evaluation forms *ca.* one third of the total and comprises a car parking area and playing fields within the grounds of the school (Figure 2).

The car parking area had previously been levelled for the provision of a bowling alley (now removed).

2.3 The geology of the site is Middle chalk, although pockets of shallow clay are locally found overlying the chalk.

2.4 The area of proposed development lies within the historic core of Dunstable, *ca.* 200m north-east of the junction of the A5 and A505. The former of these roads traces the line of Roman Watling Street and the latter closely follows the line of the Icknield Way, which has prehistoric origins and continued in use through the Roman period.

2.5 Settlement at Dunstable has historically been centred around this junction. Indeed, a Roman small town (*Durocobrivis*) grew up here, and in 1119 Henry I founded a new town centred on the same junction, created out of his Houghton Regis estate.

2.6 Henry I also founded a Royal residence in Dunstable, believed to be in the vicinity of Kingsbury Court and Old Place Lodge to the east of the site. He also founded Dunstable priory that lies on the south side of Church Street, to the south-east of the site.

2.7 Roman deposits were recorded during the building of the Quadrant centre directly to the west of the site in the 1960s, and recently during evaluation in the area of Queensway Hall to the north of the site.

2.8 Excavations at Kingsbury Court produced some medieval remains, but these were not thought to be related to the royal residence.

3 THE INVESTIGATION

3.1 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the brief and specification and conformed to the guidelines of BCC HES and the IFA.

3.2 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, nature, date, integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that were present.

3.3 Five trenches measuring 30 x 2m (Trench 3), 20 x 2m (Trenches 1, 2 and 4) and 10 x 2m (Trench 5) were opened with a 180° wheeled mechanical JCB excavator in locations proposed by HAT, and confirmed by the Planning Archaeologist. Three of the trenches were moved slightly from their proposed positions in order to accommodate site practicalities. The overburden was mechanically excavated, thereafter work was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned and examined for archaeological features, while the spoil was checked for residual finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed where appropriate.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are detailed below (Figures 3 - 5).

4.1 Trench 1 Fig.1

Sample section (0.00 = 142.62 m AOD):

0.0 - 0.26m L1000. Turf and topsoil. Friable, dark brown sandy silt loam, with occasional small chips of recent building rubble (concentrated building rubble in the north-east of the trench).

0.26 + L1006. Natural. Firm, white chalk with occasional pale orange mottling.

Description The topsoil, L1000 lay directly over the natural chalk. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

4.2 Trench 2 Fig.3

Sample section (0.00 = 141.10 m AOD):

0.0 - 0.74m L1001. Topsoil and overburden. Friable topsoil overlying dark brown sandy silt loam containing abundant modern rubble (building materials, glass, tarmac, corrugated iron etc, in addition to residual mediaeval pottery sherds.). Rubble declining below 0.55m where replaced by occasional flint and chalk chips.

0.74 - 1.06m L1011. Sub-soil. Slightly friable, mid greyish-brown silt loam with occasional small chalk and flint chips.

1.06m + L1006. Natural. As above.

Description The topsoil overlay modern overburden (L1000), which in turn overlay sub-soil, L1011. This overlay the natural chalk, L1006.

Some 5 m from the northern end of the trench, the sub-soil was cut by an east - west orientated ditch, F1012. The sides of this were gently sloping (*ca.* 45°) at the top, becoming almost vertical. The feature had flat base and measured 1.7 m wide by 0.6 m deep. The length was indeterminate. The fill, L1013 was a light and friable, dark brown silty loam with large pieces of natural chalk inclusions and some sub-angular flints. It contained 4 sherds of Roman and medieval pottery (41g), suggesting a date of 12th - 13th century. It also contained fragments of animal bone (3; 27g)

At the northern end of the trench a small section of a pit, F1016 was exposed. This had been sealed by the sub-soil but cut into the natural. Only a small section of the feature was contained within the trench, but that section excavated suggested that it was broadly circular, with variably sloping, concave sides. The base appeared to level out, and be broadly 'U'-shaped. The pit appeared to be at least 2 m in diameter and 0.47 m deep. The fill, L1005, was quite a firm, dark brown silty loam with occasional small chalk chips, and very occasional small flint chips. It contained two Roman pottery sherds (30g), fragments of tile (4; 137g), and animal bone (13; 191g).

The southern end of the trench could not be fully excavated because of the presence of modern drainage services.

4.3 Trench 3 Fig.3

Sample section (0.00 = 141.78 m AOD):

0.0 - 0.99m L1002. Hardstanding, overburden. 0.12 m of car park surface overlying 0.16 m of laid chalk subsurface. The car park surface overlay 0.25m of friable, very dark greyish brown sandy silt loam with abundant modern rubble, which was underlain by a compact, mid brown silty loam upper sub-soil, containing abundant chalk flecks.

0.99m + L1006. Natural. As above.

Description The levelled car park surface overlay abundant rubble and sub-soil, which in turn overlay the chalk natural. A number of features cut into the natural chalk.

At the southern end of the trench a sub-circular or oval pit, F1025, had been cut. The sides of this were very steep (*ca.* 80°) at the top, becoming concave and levelling out to give a flat base. It was at least 3.25 m in diameter and 0.58 m deep. The fill, L1026, was a slightly friable, mid greyish brown silty loam, with occasional small chalk and flint chips. It contained medieval pottery (18; 86g), dating to the 13th -15th centuries, and a small quantity of animal bone (8; 6g) and struck flint (2; 14g).

The pit cut an east - west orientated ditch, F1029. This had a symmetrical, 'V'-shaped profile, with the sides sloping at *ca.* 45°, and a sharp break onto a narrow, flat base. The ditch appeared to be butt-ending in the eastern side of the trench. It was 1.3 m wide and 0.67 m deep, with the length indeterminate. The fill, L1030 was a soft, friable, mid greyish-brown silty loam with a moderate amount of chalk fragments. There was also some slumped, 'pinkish' natural chalk at the base of the ditch. The fill contained pottery of a 3rd - 4th century date (12; 100g) and small quantities of animal bone (10; 45g). A small Roman coin (SF2) was also recovered.

The ditch appeared to slightly cut a small, oval pit, F1023, though the southern edge of this was unclear. The sides of this feature were gently sloping (*ca.* 30°) and concave, and the base was flat. The feature measured at least 2 m by 1.2 m though continued beyond the edge of the trench. It was only 0.33 m deep. The fill, L1024, was a slightly friable, mid greyish-brown silty clay loam with occasional small chalk and flint chips. Finds comprise a small quantity of 3rd - 4th century pottery (5; 28g), fragments of animal bone (5; 12g) and coal (1; 4g). The latter is likely intrusive.

Immediately north of this feature was a larger shallow pit, F1035. This was oval in shape, with gently sloping concave sides and a flat base. It measured 2.9 m by at least 2 m, but was only 0.3 m deep. The fill, L1036, was a friable, light yellowish-grey silty clay loam with frequent chalk inclusions. It contained 12th - 14th century pottery (14; 92g) and fragments of daub (1; 8g) a small quantity of animal bone (12; 197g), and an iron nail (12g).

Immediately to the north of F1035 was a small, circular feature, F1038. This was 0.60 - 0.65 m in diameter, with gently sloping (*ca.* 30°), straight sides and a broadly 'U'-shaped base. It

was only 0.09 m deep. The fill, L1037, was a slightly friable, light greyish-brown silty clay loam with abundant small chalk chips. There were no finds. This was possibly the base of a post-hole, though was not visible at a higher level, so may have been heavily truncated.

Towards the centre of the trench, and on the eastern side was another circular pit, F1027, though only the western half was located within the trench. This had fairly regular straight sides, sloping at 45 - 50°, with a 'U'-shaped base. It was approximately 1.66 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep. The fill, L1028, was a light, friable, loam with large chalk inclusions, along with some smaller pebbles and sub-angular flint fragments. It contained a tile fragment (11g) and a small quantity of animal bone (16; 125g). No dateable finds were recovered.

To the north of this feature lay two parallel, east - west oriented ditches, F1019 and F1021. The most southerly of these (F1021) had fairly straight sides, sloping at *ca.* 50° from the horizontal, with a fairly flattish base. It was 0.7 m wide and 0.35 m deep. The fill, L1022, was a light, friable, dark brown silty loam with some small pebbles and sub-angular flint fragments. It contained pottery of a mid 3rd-4th century date, along with a single, probably intrusive high mediaeval sherd (6; 73g) and fragments of animal bone (8; 79g) and tile (1; 96g). F1019 had straight sides, sloping at 60 - 70° from the horizontal on the south side. The northern edge sloped at *ca.* 60° from the surface, but became vertical. The base was quite flat. The ditch was 0.82 m wide and 0.72 m deep. The fill, L1020, was identical to L1022 and contained 12th - 14th century pottery (4; 57g) and animal bone (1; 7g).

To the north of the ditches lay two intercutting pits, F1031 and F1033. The later and most southerly of these (F1031) was irregular, sub-semi-circular in plan with gently sloping sides. It extended beyond the western edge of the trench and so the base and full plan shape were not revealed. It was 2.2 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep. The fill, L1032, was a soft, friable, mid greyish-brown silty loam with abundant chalk and flint rubble. It contained Roman pottery later than AD240 (1; 5g) , and a small fragment of worked stone (231g). F1033, which was partly truncated by F1031, was again irregular in shape, though extended beyond the edge of the trench. It was steep sided with a probable concave base and measured *ca.* 2.6 m in diameter by 0.6 m in depth. The fill, L1034, was a soft, friable, mid brownish-grey silty loam with moderate chalk flecks and occasional flint pebbles. It contained Roman pottery of the mid 1st - mid 2nd centuries (7; 397g), and fragment of animal bone (7; 205) and tile (1; 142g).

At the opposite side of the trench to F1033 were two more intercutting pits. The later of these, F1007 was a sub-semi-circular pit with even, gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It continued beyond the eastern edge of the trench so a full plan was not possible. It appears to have had a maximum length of 1.4 m and maximum width of 0.6 m, and was 0.2 m deep. The fill, L1008, was a soft, friable, mid brownish-grey silty loam with moderate chalk fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. Finds comprise 10th - 12th century pottery (2; 4g). Partly truncated by F1007, was another pit, F1009, which again continued beyond the eastern edge of the trench. This was sub-semi-circular in plan, steep sided and with an irregular, flattish base, which dropped away to the south. This pit measured at least 1.3 m by 0.6 m and was 0.3 m deep. The fill, L1010, was a soft, friable, mid brownish-grey silty loam with moderate chalk fragments and very occasional charcoal flecks. It contained 12th - 14th century pottery (5; 21g) and fragments of tile (3; 30g) and animal bone (4; 4g).

Directly to the north of F1007, modern drainage services were encountered, which prevented the full excavation of a 2.2 m section of the trench. Beyond these services and to the end of the trench, clean natural was observed with no cutting features.

4.4 Trench 4 Fig.4

Sample section (0.00 = 140.66 m AOD)

0.00 - 0.75m L1003. Topsoil, overburden and subsoil. Very dark brown friable sandy silt loam topsoil above abundant modern building rubble, becoming a greyish-brown sity loam subsoil below 0.60m but still with occasional tile and sparse residual Roman pottery sherds.

0.75m + L1006. Natural. As above.

Description Topsoil and modern overburden overlay a thin layer of disturbed sub-soil, which overlay the chalk natural. There was substantial disturbance of the subsoil and natural chalk by plant growth, particularly tree roots.

One archaeological feature was recorded in the north-western corner of the trench. This was an apparent ditch, F1014, running on an approximate north-east - south-west alignment. The ditch had convex, gently sloping sides, with a flat to slightly 'U'-shaped base. It was at least 1.3 m wide and 0.24 m deep. The fill, L1015, was a friable, mid greyish-brown silty loam with occasional small flint chips. It contained one fragment of animal bone (14g). No dateable finds were recovered.

4.5 Trench 5 Fig.4

Sample section (0.00 = 142.19 m AOD):

0 - 0.20m L1004. Modern overburden. 0.1 m of car park surface overlying 0.1 m of mid greyish-brown, firm, silty loam with abundant modern building rubble and sparse residual mediaeval pottery sherds.

0.20m + L1006. Natural. As Above.

Description Modern, levelled surface and rubbly overburden, L1004, overlay natural chalk, L1006. For most of the trench modern car park surface material directly overlay the natural chalk.

One feature was found at the southern end of the trench, underlying the modern rubble and cutting the natural. This feature, F1018, initially appeared to be 'L'-shaped though proved to be very irregular on excavation. It had convex sides which gently sloped by *ca.* 30° from the horizontal. The base was generally flat, with minor undulations. It measured at least 2.55 m by 1.1 m and was just 0.17 m deep. The fill, L1017, was a firm, mid brown silty loam with abundant chalk chips. It contained small quantities of animal bone (13; 30g) and a small tile fragment (12g). No closely dateable finds were recovered.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 4 had to be shifted slightly for practical reasons, and limited areas in Trenches 2 and 3 could not be fully excavated because of the presence of modern services. The deep nature of the overburden in Trench 2, coupled with the loose and unstable nature of the overburden deposits, limited the level of investigation of features in this trench, though all were defined and characterised. Apart from the aforementioned, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 Overlying deposits varied between trenches. In Trenches 1 and 5, at the northern and western sides of the car park, very thin layers of topsoil and modern surfacing respectfully, overlay the natural chalk. There was quite a considerable variation between Trench 5 on the western side of the car park and Trench 3 on the eastern side. This latter trench consisted of the same surface but was underlain by a layer of chalk make-up and at least 0.25 m of modern rubble, in addition to an underlying subsoil, not present in Trenches 1 and 5. The car park area had previously been levelled for use as a bowling alley. It appears that a general slope in the natural from north-west to south-east must have been overcome by deposition of increasing depths of infill to the south and east of the area. The playing field likewise appears to have been levelled by rubble infilling, as is evidenced from Trench 2, towards the north-east corner. To a lesser extent, the same phenomenon was evident in Trench 4.

6.2 An underlying sub-soil was only present in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 and in each location it appeared to have been disturbed. Whether this had been removed in the area of Trenches 1 and 5 was unclear.

6.3 The natural was quite similar in all trenches, consisting predominantly of a white, firm chalk, though there were slight variations between the car park and playing field trenches. The natural in the latter tended to contain a higher concentration of flint nodules. As mentioned above, the natural appears to have sloped down from north-west to south-east in the car park. There also appears to have been a general eastwards slope down across the playing field too, though this does not appear to have been as sharp (the maximum elevation of the chalk varies from 142.62 m AOD in Trench 1 and 142.24 m AOD in Trench 5, to 141.82 m AOD in Trench 3, to 141.11 m AOD in Trench 2 and 140.75 m AOD in Trench 4). The extent to which the chalk had been truncated by modern activity in Trenches 1 and 5 is not clear, though thickness and age of overlying deposits suggests some level of truncation, probably when the area was levelled for the bowling alley.

6.4 The archaeological features all cut the chalk and were sealed by the overlying deposits of overburden and/or subsoil as they occurred. Archaeological features were densest in Trench 3, and did not occur at all in Trench 1, though overall were present across the site. Sparse features occurred in the eastern part of the site.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Finds from the overburden removed from each of the trenches suggests activity over a broad timescale from the Roman to modern periods. Curiously, however, nothing later than *ca.* AD200 was recovered from Trench 4, and nothing later than *ca.* 15th century was recovered from Trench 5. This is probably due to the general lack of dateable finds in these two trenches.

7.2 Only Trenches 2 and 3 produced dateable archaeological features, and in most cases very broad date ranges were suggested by the pottery. In each case the latest dated pottery has been used to date the features. Trench 2 produced a Roman pit (F1016) and a ditch of 12th - 13th century date (F1012), attesting to some activity in the Roman and medieval periods in this area of the site. Trench 3 produced a pit (F1033) dating to the mid 1st - mid 2nd centuries, another (F1031) dated to sometime after AD240, and a pit (F1023) and a ditch (F1029) dating to the 3rd - 4th centuries. It also produced pits and ditches (F1009, F1019, F1021 and F1035) of a 12th - 14th century date, and a pit (F1025) of a 13th - 15th century date. These attest to activity during a number of phases during the Roman and medieval periods on the site, and may relate to wider activity attested for these periods by finds during construction work on the Quadrant Centre and the evaluation at Queensway Hall.

7.3 A very small quantity of Iron Age pottery from the site also suggests some level of late prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, though no features of this date were defined. Previously, residual Iron Age finds have been found at locations *ca.* 600 m to the west of the site and *ca.* 350 m to the south-east of the site (Vaughan, 1999).

7.4 Trenches 4 and 5 contained features which were undateable. However the nature of the locations, cuts and fills suggested that these were both of a recent date.

7.5 Because of the natural slope of the site, a large area of the car park and playing field had clearly been levelled. This activity would be expected to damage archaeological deposits close to the surface, particularly where levelling involved modification of the natural topography, which appears to have happened in Trench 5 and possibly also in Trench 1. However, the evidence from Trenches 2 and 4 clearly shows that intact deposits of Roman and medieval date have survived in places. It would therefore not be unreasonable to assume survival of deposits across some parts of the car park and playing field. The archaeological deposits, though of some interest, may be judged to be of local importance only and could be provided for as part of a future build programme.

7.6 The quantity of residual Roman pottery in later (principally mediaeval) deposits is considerable, suggesting that a formerly high level of Roman activity in this part of the town prior to possible truncation in the mediaeval period and later. As noted below, Roman pottery accounts for some 58% of the excavated assemblage.

7.7 A moderate quantity of generally well-preserved animal bone was recovered during the evaluation (some 1273g). It was recovered from a range of features of both Roman and mediaeval date. The assemblage is largely unremarkable and is derived from a range of domesticated species. The animal bone derives from both discrete features and layers, from both sealed features such as pits and also open ditch features.

7.8 The Roman coin recovered from ditch F1030 is much corroded and unidentifiable as to precise date.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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9 REFERENCES

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Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date*	Pottery	Building material	Animal Bone	Struck Flint	Other
1001	1001	2	Overburden	Mod	20 sherds (153g)				1 frag slate (3g)
1002	1002	3	Overburden	18th-19th C	37 sherds (271g)	1 frag tile (37g)		1 (29g)	3 frags clay pipe (15g) 1 frag glass (20g)
1003	1003	4	Overburden	Mod	3 sherds (12g)		2 frags (15g)		1 frag glass (3g)
1004	1004	5	Overburden	Mod	2 sherds (34g)		21 frags (97g)		
1007	1008	3	Pit fill	10th-12th C	2 sherds (4g)				
1009	1010	3	Pit fill	12th-13/14th C	5 sherds (21g)	3 frags tile (30g)	4 frags (4g)		
1011	1011	2	Layer	12th-14th C	24 sherds (173g)	14 frags tile (145g)	37 frags (219g)		1 frag burnt flint (7g) 1 frag Cu alloy (2g) SF1
1012	1013	2	Pit fill	12th-13th C	4 sherds (41g)		3 frags (27g)		
1014	1015	4	Ditch fill				1 frag (14g)		
1016	1005	2	Pit fill	Roman	2 sherds (30g)	4 frags tile (137g)	13 frags (191g)		
1018	1017	5	?construction trench fill			1 frag tile (12g)	13 frags (30g)		
1019	1020	3	Pit/ditch terminal fill	12th-14th C	4 sherds (57g)		1 frag (7g)		
1021	1022	3	Ditch fill	3rd-4th C	6 sherds (73g)	1 frag tile (96g)	8 frags (79g)		
1023	1024	3	Pit fill	3rd-4th C	5 sherds (28g)		5 frags (12g)		1 frag coal (4g)
1025	1026	3	Pit fill	13th-14th/15th C	18 sherds (86g)		8 frags (6g)	2 (14g)	
1027	1028	3	Pit fill			1 frag tile (11g)	16 frags (125g)		
1029	1030	3	Ditch fill	3rd-4th C	12 sherds (100g)		10 frags (45g)		1 Cu alloy coin (<1g) SF2
1031	1032	3	Pit fill	AD240+	1 sherd (5g)				1 frag worked stone

									(231g)
1033	1034	3	Pit fill	Mid 1st C-c.AD150	7 sherds (397g)	1 frag tile (142g)	7 frags (205g)		
1035	1036	3	Pit fill	12th-14th C	14 sherds (92g)	1 frag fired clay/daub (8g)	12 frags (197g)		1 Fe nail (12g)

* See pottery report for details

The Pottery
A.R. Fawcett MA & B. Sudds MA

A total of 170 sherds weighing 1580g were collected through trial trenching at Ashton St. Peters Lower School, Dunstable. This report provides a broad date range and quantification for the features containing pottery.

Dating is based on the identification of fabric and where possible, form. The spot date for each context is based upon the most recent sherd. However, where appropriate a range is given and comments are directed towards the condition and majority of the material. Quantification was carried out using both sherd count and weight for each fabric. A summary of the results is presented in Table 1. All sherds were briefly examined using a x20 microscope. No detailed fabric description of the assemblage or comparison with other material of a similar nature was attempted.

Fabric Key

Iron Age Fabrics

See ceramic catalogue for descriptions.

Roman Fabrics (those in brackets pertain to the Bedfordshire type series)

BAT AM 1:	(R19A) Baetican olive oil amphorae. Category 1.
BSW:	(R09D) Black Surfaced or Romanising Grey Ware.
GRS:	(R06) Unsourced Sandy Grey Ware.
HAD OX:	(R22A) Hadham Oxidised Ware.
HAD RE 1:	(R22B) Hadham Reduced Ware. Category 1.
HAR SH 2:	(R13) Harrold Shell Tempered Ware (late).
LE2 SA 2:	(R01A) Lezoux Samian Ware. Category 2.
LNV CC:	(R12B) Lower Nene Valley Colour Coat.
OXF RS:	(R11G) Oxford Red Slipped Ware.
SOB GT:	(R35) Southern British Grog Tempered Ware.
UNS CC:	(R38) Unsourced Colour Coat.
UNS OX:	(R05A) Unsourced Oxidised Ware.
UNS SA:	(R01) Unsourced Samian Ware.
VER WH:	(R03A) Verulamium White Ware.
VER WH	(R33) Verulamium White Ware [Mortaria].

Medieval and Post-Medieval Fabrics

P10: Red Earthenware (18th – 19th C).
P48: English Stoneware (18th – 19th C).
P38: Creamware (Mid 18th – 19th C).
P45: Transfer Printed Ware (Late 18th – 19th C).
E02: Late Medieval Oxidised Ware, glazed (15th – 16th C).
C16: Cheam Whiteware (Mid 14th – 15th C).
C09: Brill / Boarstall Type Ware (13th – 14/15th C).
C10: Potterspury Type Ware (13th – 14/15th C).
B05: Olney Hyde Type Ware (13th – 14th C).
C: High Medieval Quartz tempered ware (13th – 14th C).
C60: South Hertfordshire Grey ware (Mid 12th – 13/14th C).
C57: London-Type Ware (12th – Mid 14th C)
C: Medieval Quartz tempered Coarseware (12th – 14th C).
C: Medieval Sand tempered Coarseware (12th – 14th C).
B01: Developed St. Neots Type Ware (12th – 13th C).
B01: St. Neots Type Ware (Mid 10th – 11/12th C)

Undated Fabrics

?F04 / A: Organic tempered ware, non-diagnostic (?Prehistoric / Anglo-Saxon)

Table 1: Ceramic catalogue

Context	Ceramic data	Spot date and context date range	Comments
1001	2x E02 (4g) 1x C60 (3g) 5x C, quartz tempered (28g) 5x C, sand tempered (32g) 1x R09D [BSW] (26g) – Roman 1x R22B [HAD RE1] (6g) – Roman 2x R11G [OXF RS] (5g) – AD240-410 1x F01A [Flint tempered ware] (18g) – Iron Age – Late Iron Age (IA – LIA) 2 x F05 [Grog and shell tempered ware] (31g) – LIA	15th – 16th C. Material of Late Iron Age through to Late Medieval date is represented.	
1002	1x P10 (8g) 1x P48 (6g) 1x P38 (4g) 2x P45 (6g) 1x E02 (2g) 1x C16 (6g); Jug sherd, glazed, decorated with a raised cordon. 1x C09 (2g); Glazed jug rim. 1x ?B05 (4g); Cooking pot rim, slipped. 1x C, high Medieval (2g) 6x C, quartz tempered (86g); 1x	18th – 19th C Material of Late Iron Age through to Post-Medieval date is present.	All Roman material is abraded. The B01 sherds demonstrate considerable levels of abrasion. The remaining Medieval wares, particularly the local coarsewares, are in good condition.

	combed decoration, 1x sagging base. 3x C, sand tempered (22g) 2x B01 (30g) 3x R06 [GRS] (12g); 1x jar rim, 2nd C+. 2x R01A [LE2 SA2] (6g); 2nd C. Drg 31 dish, Drg 33 cup. 1x R35 [SOB GT] (6g) – Roman 3x R38 [UNS CC] (22g) – Roman. Possible import. 4x R05A [UNS OX] (39g) – Roman 1x R01 [UNS SA] (3g) – 2nd – mid 3rd C. Probably from East Gaul. 2x ?F20 [Lime and grog tempered ware] (5g) – LIA		
1003	1x R09D [BSW] (2g) – Roman 1x R03A [VER WH] (7g) – AD55 – c. AD200. 1x ?F04 / A (3g)	Mid 1st – AD200.	Both Roman sherds are small and abraded.
1004	1x C09 (2g); partially glazed base sherd. 1x R33 [VER WH] (32g) – AD55 – c. AD200. Mortaria sherd.	Mid 1st to 13th – 14/15th C.	
1005	4x R09D [BSW] (15g) – Roman 2x R06 [GRS] (15g) - Roman	Roman	
1008	1x B01 (3g) 1x ?R12B [LNV CC] (1g) Mid 2nd – 4th C.	Mid 2nd – 12th C.	The Roman sherd is small and abraded.
1010	1x ?C60 (2g); Base. 1x R38 [UNS CC] (<1g) – Roman 1x R05A [UNS OX] (<1g) – Roman 2x F05 [Grog and shell tempered ware] (18g) - LIA	Late Iron Age – 13/14th C.	
1011	1x C60 (4g) 1x B01 (1g) 2x C, quartz tempered (32g); 1x everted squared cooking pot rim, external sooting. 1x C, sand tempered (6g); Upright, flattened rim. 8x R06 [GRS] (77g) – 2nd C+. 1x jar, 1x plain rimmed dish. 1x R22A [HAD OX] (7g) – Roman. Colander sherd. 4x R12B [LNV CC] (10g) - Mid 2nd – 4th C. 2x ?R35 [SOB GT] (10g) – Roman 3x R05A [UNS OX] (23g) – Roman 1x R03A [VER WH] (3g) AD55 – c. AD200.	Roman to 14th C.	The Roman and Medieval Pottery is in variable condition.
1013	1x B01, developed (10g); Rim. 2x R06 [GRS] (25g) – Roman 1x R05A [UNS OX] (6g) - Roman	Roman / Early Medieval	
1020	1x C60 (32g); Flat base. 2x C, quartz tempered (16g) 1x R05A [UNS OX] (9g) - Roman	Roman to 14th C. Probably 12th – 14th C.	

1022	1x ?C57 (3g); Glazed. 1x R06 [GRS] (16g) – Roman. Jar base. 1x R22A [HAD OX] (13g) – As Type 2155 at Verulamium. Second half of 4th C. Exact match; frilled jar. 1x R12B [LNV CC] (9g) – 3rd – 4th C fabirc. Burnt example. 2 x R05A [UNS OX] (32g) – Late 2nd – 3rd C. Deep bowl with lattice pattern, good condition.	3rd – 4th C.	The London-type ware sherd is considered to be residual.
1024	1x R06 [GRS] (14g) – 3rd C+, jar rim. 2x R13 [HAR SH2] (9g) – 4th C, late jar style. 1x R11G [OXF RS] (3g) – AD 240+ 1x R05A [UNS OX] (5g) – Roman	3rd – 4th C.	
1026	1x C10 (2g) 1x C60 (1g) 2x C, quartz tempered (8g); 1x flat base. 2x C, sand tempered (4g) 1x B01, developed (6g) 4x B01 (38g); 2x everted, flattened rims, 1x flat base. 2x R06 [GRS] (15g) – 2nd C, dish. 2x R12B [LNV CC] (3g) – Mid 2nd – 4th C. 3x R11G [OXF RS] (9g) AD240+.	13th – 14/15th C. The date range of wares recovered is 2nd – 14/15th C.	The Roman material is small and abraded.
1030	2x R06 [GRS] (3g) – Roman 3x R22A [HAD OX] (14g) – Roman 2x R13 [HAR SH 2] (46g) – 3rd / 4th C. 3x R05A [UNS OX] (25g) – Roman 2x Fired clay (12g) – Possibly Ceramic building material.	3rd – 4th C	
1032	1x R11G [OXF RS] (5g) – AD240+, bowl rim.	AD 240+	
1034	2x R19A [BAT AM 1] (292g) – Mid 1st – c. AD150. 2x ?R06 [GRS] (34g) – Roman 1x R22B [HAD RE 1] (21g) – Roman 2x R05A [UNS OX] (50g) - Roman	Mid 1st – c. AD150.	
1036	2x C60 (4g) 1x C, sand tempered (4g) 4x R06 [GRS] (47g) – Roman 5x R12B [LNV CC] (13g) – Mid 2nd – 4th C, beaker sherds. 1 x R11G [OXF RS] (<1g) – AD240+. 1x R05A [UNS OX] (23g)	Mid 2nd – 14th C.	

Summary

Iron Age and Roman

A small amount of Iron Age material was recovered from the overburden but all sherds were small and non-diagnostic. The Roman material, although accounting for 58% of the total assemblage, is largely unremarkable consisting of mainly small, abraded and non-diagnostic sherds.

Only two contexts produced pottery with a stable date range. These are 1022 (3rd – 4th C) and 1024 (3rd C+). A third context, 1030, also appears to contain consistently later material. A small number of finewares are present at the site. All the Samian was found in the overburden layer 1002 and is mainly from Lezoux in central Gaul. The remaining finewares stem from the Nene Valley area. The only other import is two sherds of a Dressel 20 olive oil carrier from southern Spain. Regional imports are few on the site arriving from Hadham, Verulamium (Herts), and Oxford. The remaining sherds are probably all of local origin. The form assemblage consists largely of jars with an occasional beaker, bowl and dish.

Fabrics	Sherd Count	% Count	Sherd Weight	% Weight
Iron Age	7	4%	72	5%
Roman	99	58%	1070	68%
Medieval	56	33%	399	25%
Post-Medieval	5	3%	24	1%
Undated/ Misc.	3	2%	15	1%

Medieval and Post-Medieval

The Medieval material, accounting for 33% of the assemblage, is fairly typical of the fabric range observed within the county (Slowikowski, 1995). Located between many of the regional Saxo-Norman, early and high Medieval industries a wide range of imports are evident including St Neots Type ware, Developed St Neots type ware and South Hertfordshire Grey Wares. Fine wares are evident from as far afield as London (London Type Ware), Northamptonshire (Potterspury Type Ware) and Buckinghamshire (Brill / Boarstall Type Ware, Olney Hyde Type Ware). Despite this diversity local wares dominate the Medieval assemblage. Coarsewares are characterised by both sand and quartz based fabrics during the early and high Medieval period. Early handmade and comb decorated sherds occur alongside later wheel-thrown vessels in very similar fabric types. Moving into the late Medieval period a single regional import from the Surrey / Hampshire boarder (Cheam Whiteware) was recovered in addition to Late Medieval Oxidised Wares, likely of more local origin.

Over half of the Medieval material comes from the overburden and where stratified is always in association with considerable quantities of earlier material. Although some of

these features containing pottery of a broad date range are likely to be Medieval in date the thoroughly mixed nature of the ceramics and variable condition encountered across site means precise dating is difficult.

Post-Medieval wares account for only 3% of the total assemblage by number. Both ?local and regionally imported wares have been identified spanning the 18th – 19th centuries but all examples remain unstratified being derived from the overburden.

References

Slowikowski, A. M., 1995. 'Pottery Studies in Bedfordshire' in R. Holgate, *Chiltern Archaeology, Recent Work, A Handbook for the Next Decade*, The Book Castle, Bedfordshire.

Slowikowski, A. M, Reference text. Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series Codes and Definitions, *Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service.*

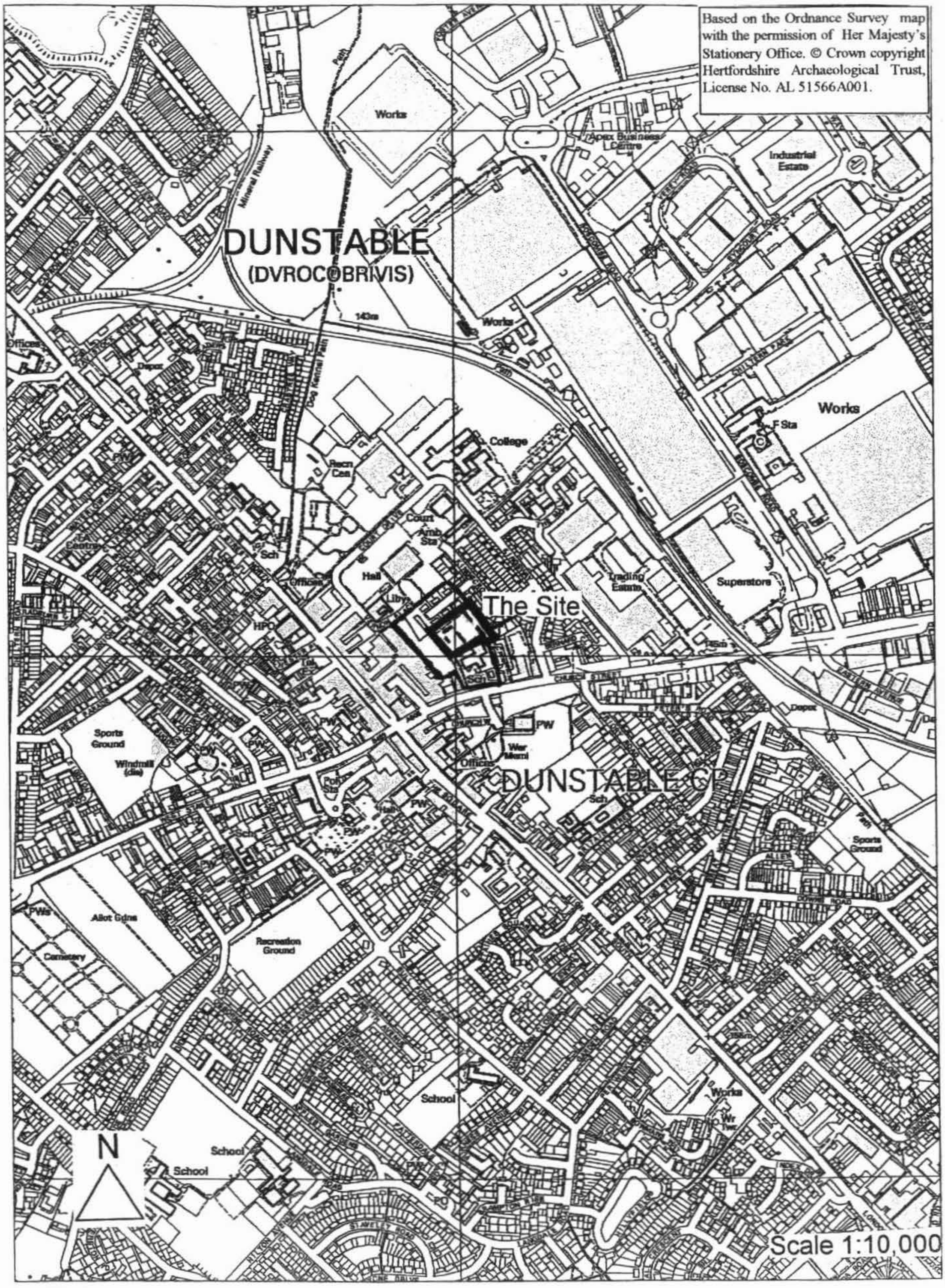

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Fig. 1 Site Location Plan
Scale 1: 10,000

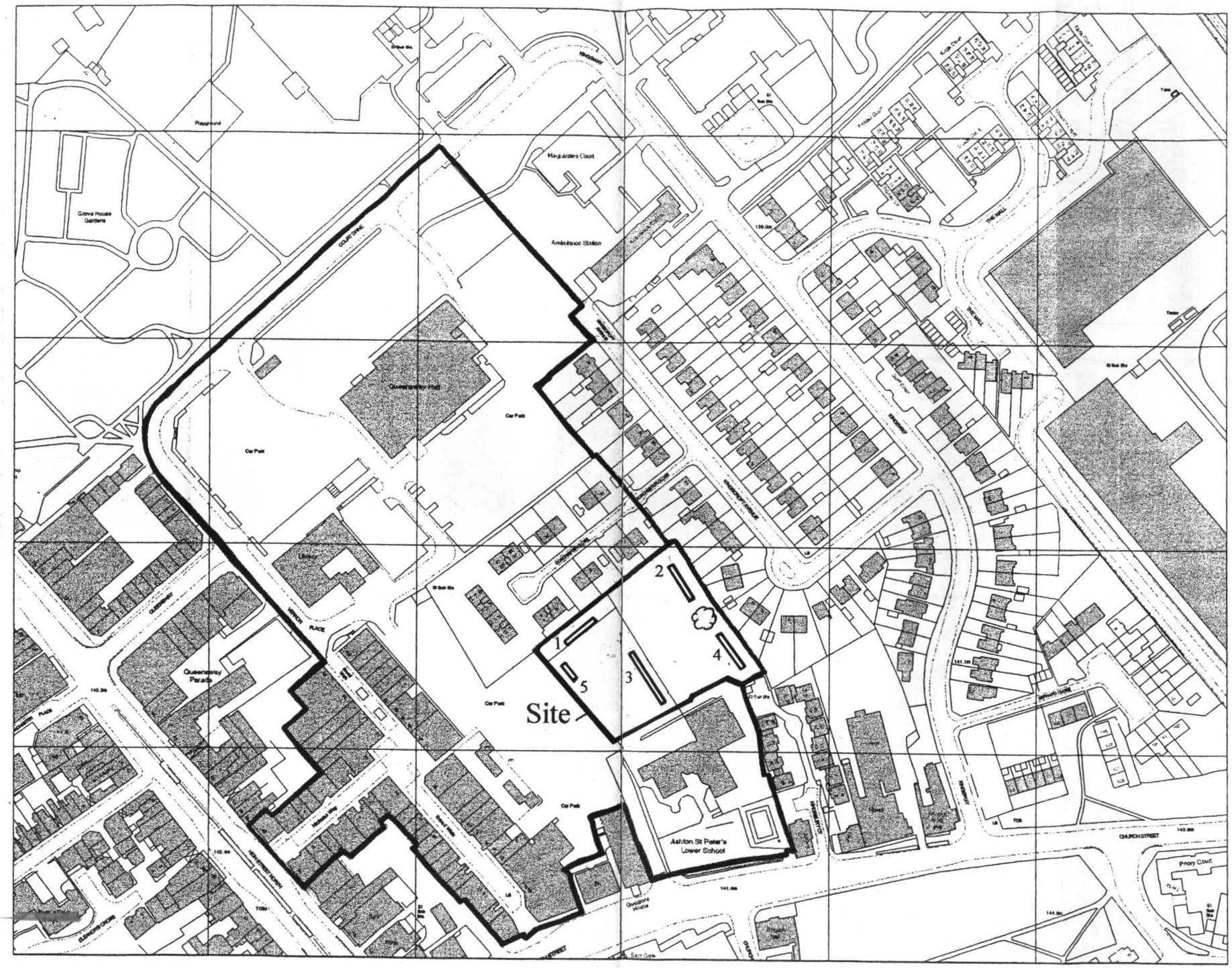

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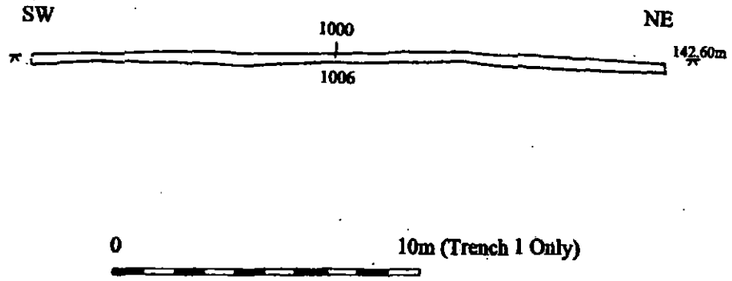
Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan
Scale1: 2000

Trench 1



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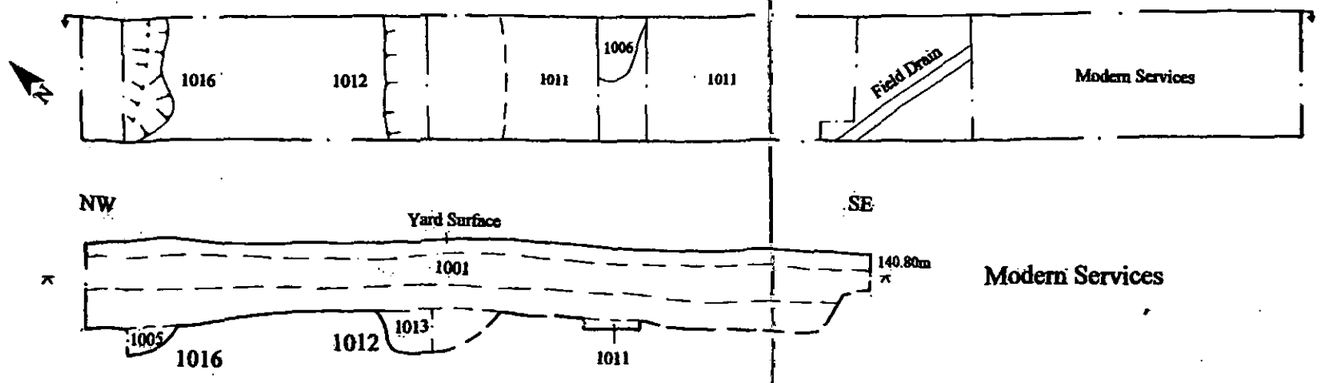

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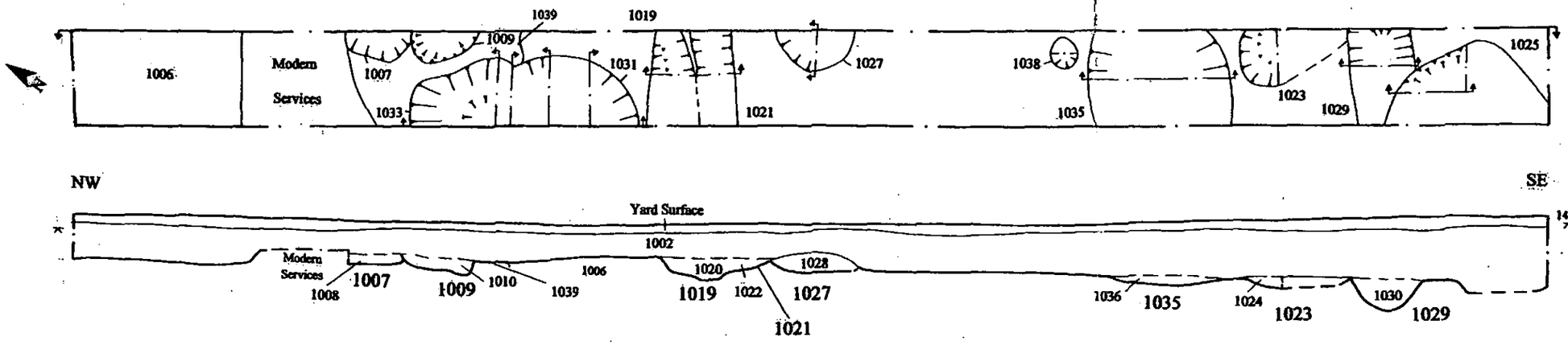

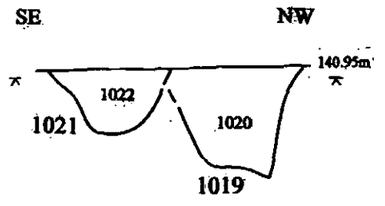

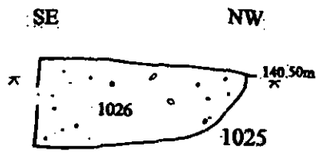

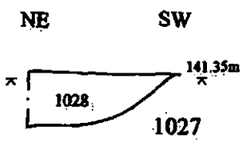

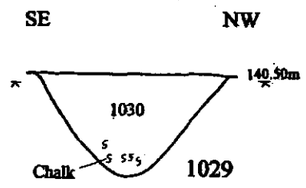

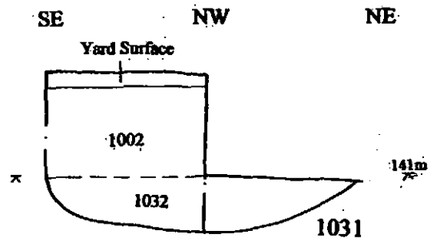

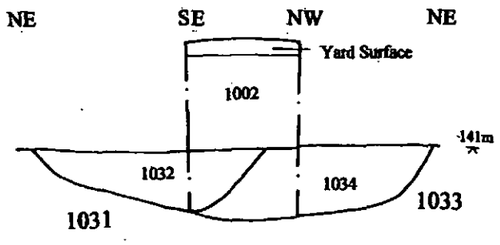

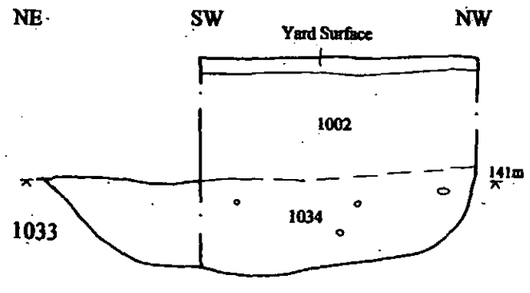

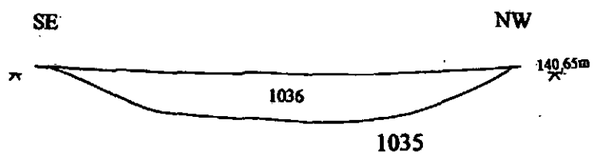

0 2m (Sections of Features)

0 5m (Trench Plans & Long Sections)

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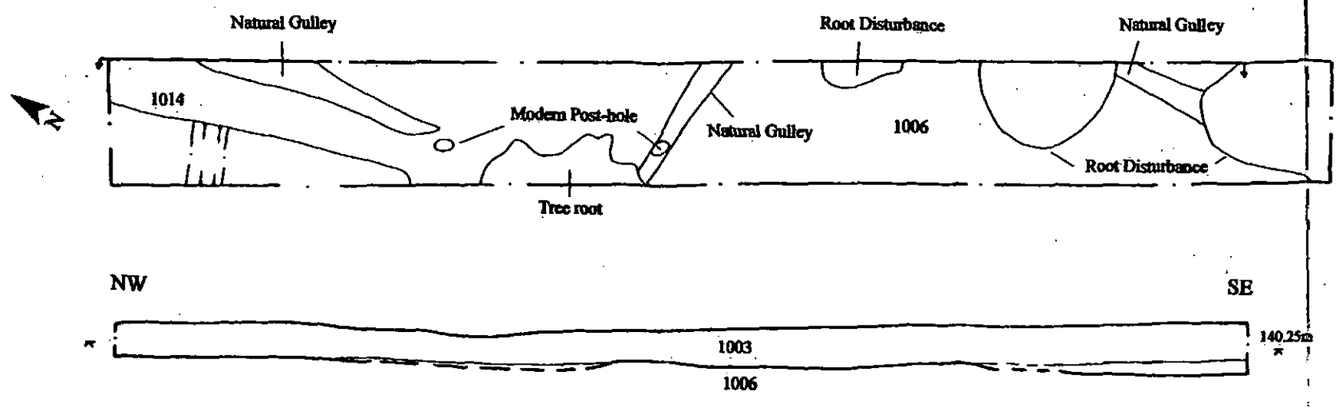
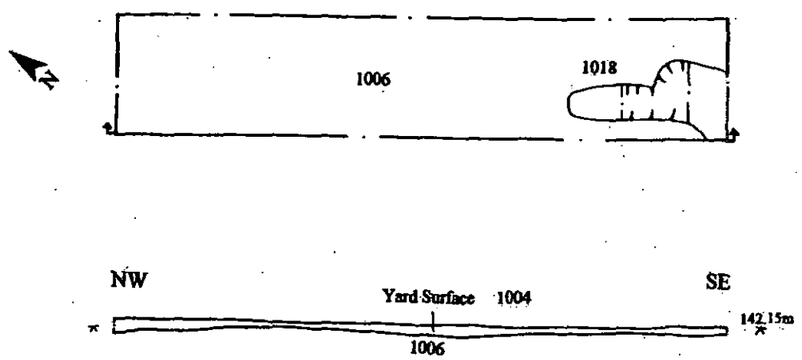
Fig. 3 Trench Plans & Sections

Trench 4



Trench 5



0 5m

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Fig. 4 Trench Plans & Sections