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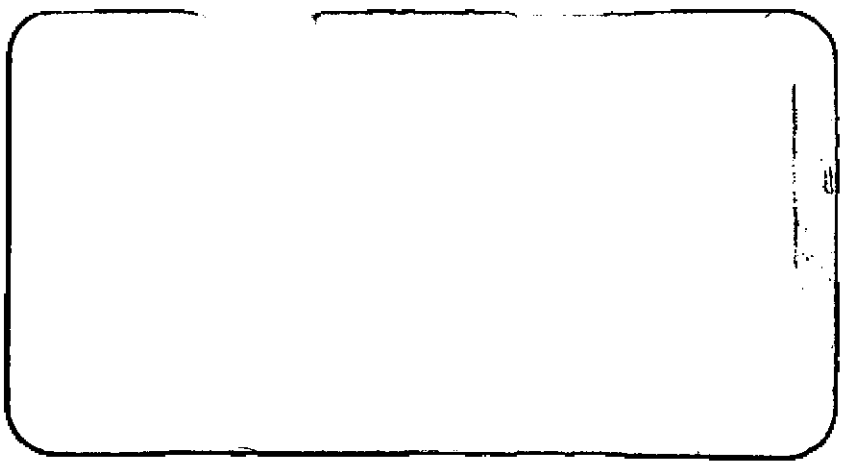

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL, STOTFOLD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Report: 1997/12

Produced for:

Michael Burroughs Associates
Planning and Development Consultants
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PREFACE

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

This report has been prepared by Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeology Service (Contracts and Consultancy). The project was directed by Michael Dawson (Project Manager). The Fieldwork was carried out by Petra Adams, Edward Biddulph, Elizabeth Davis, Janine Davis, Wayne Jarvis, Lesley-Ann Mather Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen (Archaeological Technicians). David Fell and Antony Walsh (Archaeological Supervisors). The artefactual report was prepared by Ed McSloy (Finds Supervisor).

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1. INTRODUCTION

BCAS was commissioned by Michael Burroughs Associates to carry out an archaeological field evaluation of the area of Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, in accordance with the specification drawn up by the County Heritage Officer:

Specifications for an Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, Bedfordshire

Section 4.3 of the specification, (Oake 1996) required the following information:

- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits.

1.1 Site Location and Topography.

Fairfield Hospital is located in south east Bedfordshire near Stotfold, (TL 20303470). The hospital site occupies the crest of a north south ridge at a height of 80.0m OD. The ground slopes downward to all the Cardinal points. The soils of the site are characteristic of the Wantage 2 Association, comprising well drained calcareous silty soils over Chalk.

1.2 Archaeological Background.

The position of the application area with regard to the wider prehistoric and Roman landscape is described in detail in the archaeological specification (section 3).

No previous intrusive archaeological work has taken place within the application area.

2. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

2.1 Method Statement.

A programme of archaeological evaluation was outlined in the project specification (section 5). Four stages were specified:

1. An aerial photography assessment.
2. Geophysical investigation.
3. Field artefact collection.
4. Trial trenching.

Throughout the project, the standards set in BCAS *Procedures Manual Volume 1:Fieldwork* (BCAS 1996), the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct, English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) and *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* (1993) were adhered to.

2.2 The Field Artefact Collection

2.2.1 Method statement

The system of fieldwalking survey used by BCAS is based upon the Essex County Council model (Medlycott and Germany 1994), with some adaptations. The procedure has many advantages and is being increasingly adopted in the region, facilitating cross-county comparisons of surface finds distributions. The system is based on the national grid to allow for the use of permanent reference points. This required division of the study area into kilometre squares, which were in turn sub-divided into hectares numbered 1-100, starting at the south-west corner. Each hectare was then sub-divided into 20 metre square boxes, labelled A - Z (excluding O), starting in the south-west corner. This was marked out on the ground using ranging rods and flagged bamboo canes. The team members then walked and retrieved material from a 1 metre strip on each side of their transect. By employing this method a 10% sample of the survey area was walked. The finds from each 20m transect were placed in a bag labelled with the identification code for the location. Thus FF450 A.97.C is the abbreviated form of Fairfield Hospital, project code 450, kilometre A, hectare 97, 20 metre run C.

2.2.2 Artefact evidence from field artefact collection.

Significant concentrations of Iron Age and Roman pottery were observed in the north-western part of the survey area (Km square 'D'). The quantity of prehistoric flintwork recovered was low and likely to indicate sporadic or peripheral activity in the earlier prehistoric period, rather than evidence of domestic activity. The greater quantity of flint in the south-eastern part of the study area may however be significant. The quantity and distribution of medieval and post-medieval material is consistent with dispersal through manuring and ploughing. These concentrations were used to target trial trenches 10, 11, 12, 23 and 25.

Km Sq.	A		B																			
Hectare	*97*	*100*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*10*	*16*	*17*	*20*	*26*	*27*	*30*	*36*	*37*	*38*	*46*	*47*	*48*	*57*	58	67	68
blade																						
flake		1				4	1		1					1			1	3	5	2	1	4
core														1				1				
whetstone																						
arch frag.										1							1					
wkd. bone														1								
IA. pot																						
Rom. pot				4																		
med. pot							3															
P.med pot	13		37	25	45	39		72	47		94	8		58	14	57	19	97		20		
Rom. CBM																						
med/p.med CBM	50	88	587	748	386	269	471	944	199	205	620	116	234	920	61	147	230	485	18	183	3	55
Slag		5	81	39		58		103												8		
Burnt stone									32													

Km Sq.	C	D			Total
Hectare	*91*	*1*	*11*	*21*	
blade				1	**1**
flake			2	5	**31**
core					**2**
whetstone			1		**1**
arch frag.					**2**
wkd. bone					**1**
IA. pot				76	**77**
Rom. pot		18	9	40	**71**
med. pot					**3**
P.med pot	33	109	17	12	**816**
Rom. CBM		20	85		**105**
med/p.med CBM	53	230	49	160	**7511**
Slag	21	159			**474**
Burnt stone					**32**

Table 1 Field Artefact Collection Summary Table.
(Ceramics and slag quantified by weight in grams, other categories by individual item)

3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (SUMMARY OF GSB 1997/11)

3.1 Aims of the Survey

The entire evaluation area was investigated with gradiometers in scanning mode and selected areas were then targeted for detailed recorded survey. The aim of the geophysical work was to locate features of archaeological interest that may survive within the application area. Four areas (A-D), totalling 4.8 ha were selected for detailed survey (GSB 1997/11 see attached illustrations figs 1 & 3).

Prior to the geophysical work, the Ordnance Survey (OS) 100m grid points had been established by staff from BCAS. The survey areas were set out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford using these points. Grid references for the south-west corner of each survey area are given in the text below.

3.2 General Considerations - Complicating factors.

A large proportion of the site had been ploughed at the time of the survey. This hindered walking with the instrument and contributed to increased background noise levels in the data. It has not, however significantly affected the interpretation of the results.

The presence of buildings, tracks and wire perimeter fences has resulted in localised areas of magnetic disturbance which will have masked the responses from archaeological features, if present.

3.3 Results of Detailed Geophysical Survey.

3.3.1 Area A (52000OE, 23494ON)

Increased magnetic noise levels in this field made it difficult to identify potential target with any degree of certainty by scanning. Fieldwalking in this area had revealed Roman potsherds and tile fragments. Therefore it was decided that a long sample strip would be the most effective way of investigating this part of the site.

A linear anomaly in the west of the survey area may represent an archaeological ditch, but it could equally reflect modern ploughing or a drainage feature. A few other anomalies have been highlighted as of possible interest; however the responses are weak and poorly defined, making any archaeological interpretation tentative.

Several parallel trends in the centre of the grid are thought to reflect modern ploughing.

Two strongly magnetic linear anomalies crossing the survey area reflect buried pipes and a ferrous anomaly on the northern edge of the grid is the product of a manhole cover. Elsewhere small scale ferrous responses are noted. Theses are attributed to ferrous debris, of presumed modern origin, scattered in the topsoil.

3.3.2 Area B (52044OE, 23484ON)

This block was positioned to investigate anomalies noted during scanning.

Two parallel linear anomalies in the eastern half of the grid are thought to represent archaeological ditches. The anomaly to the west is weaker and appears to be truncated. This could reflect a less magnetically enhanced fill or, possibly, plough damage. Both anomalies become indistinct towards the northern edge of the grid. A few other ditch and pit type anomalies have been detected, but the responses are more ephemeral and this makes an archaeological interpretation tentative.

A series of negative anomalies in the western half of the survey area is thought to have an agricultural origin and a similar interpretation is given to a group of parallel trends in the centre of the grid.

A number of iron spikes, characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris, have been detected throughout the survey area.

3.3.3 Area C (52000OE, 23458ON)

Although scanning located no clear anomalies of interest, several broad areas of slightly higher magnetic response were noted. Detailed survey was undertaken along sample strips to see whether any low level archaeological type anomalies could be identified.

No anomalies of archaeological interest have been detected, with all the responses noted in this area reflecting ferrous debris scattered in the topsoil.

3.3.4 Area D (52042OE, 23460ON)

This block was positioned to cover anomalies noted during scanning.

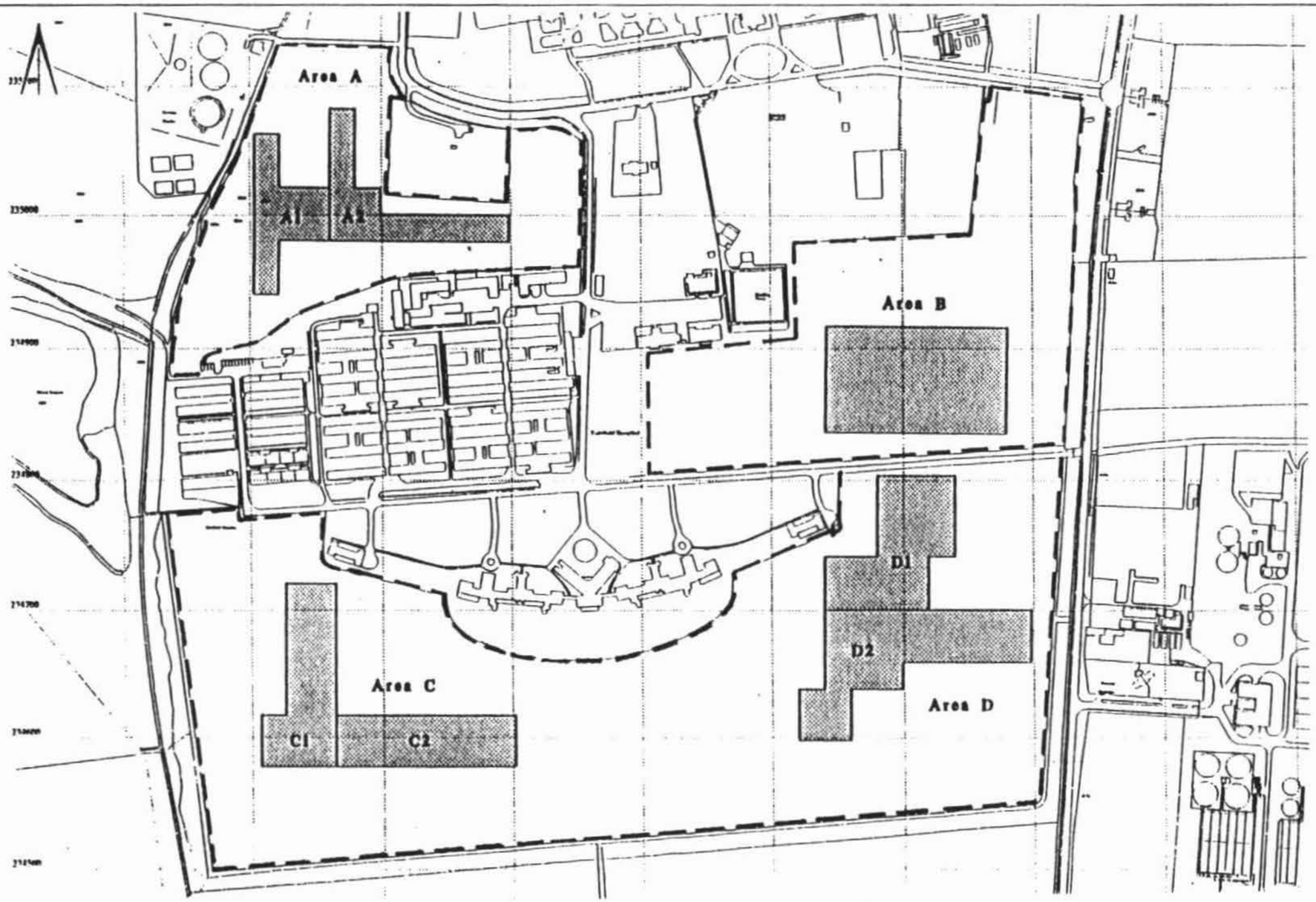
The two parallel ditches noted in 5.2.1 above continue throughout the length of this survey area. As with the features in Area B, the strength and coherence of the western anomaly varies. Both anomalies become increasingly weak and finally disappear in the south-western corner of the grid.

A group of pit type anomalies has been detected in the eastern arm of the survey area and elsewhere, more indistinct pit type responses are noted. While they all could have an archaeological origin, the lack of a wider archaeological context for them makes this interpretation tentative.

Several curving and linear negative anomalies are visible in the data. It is difficult to formulate a precise interpretation for them. Whilst they could reflect archaeological features, an agricultural or natural origin seems more likely.

Faint parallel trends in the eastern arm of the survey are attributed to modern ploughing. The remaining anomalies are of ferrous type, reflecting small pieces of ferrous debris, of presumed modern origin, scattered in the topsoil.

Fairfield Hospital
Approximate Location of Survey Areas



Based on plan supplied by
Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service

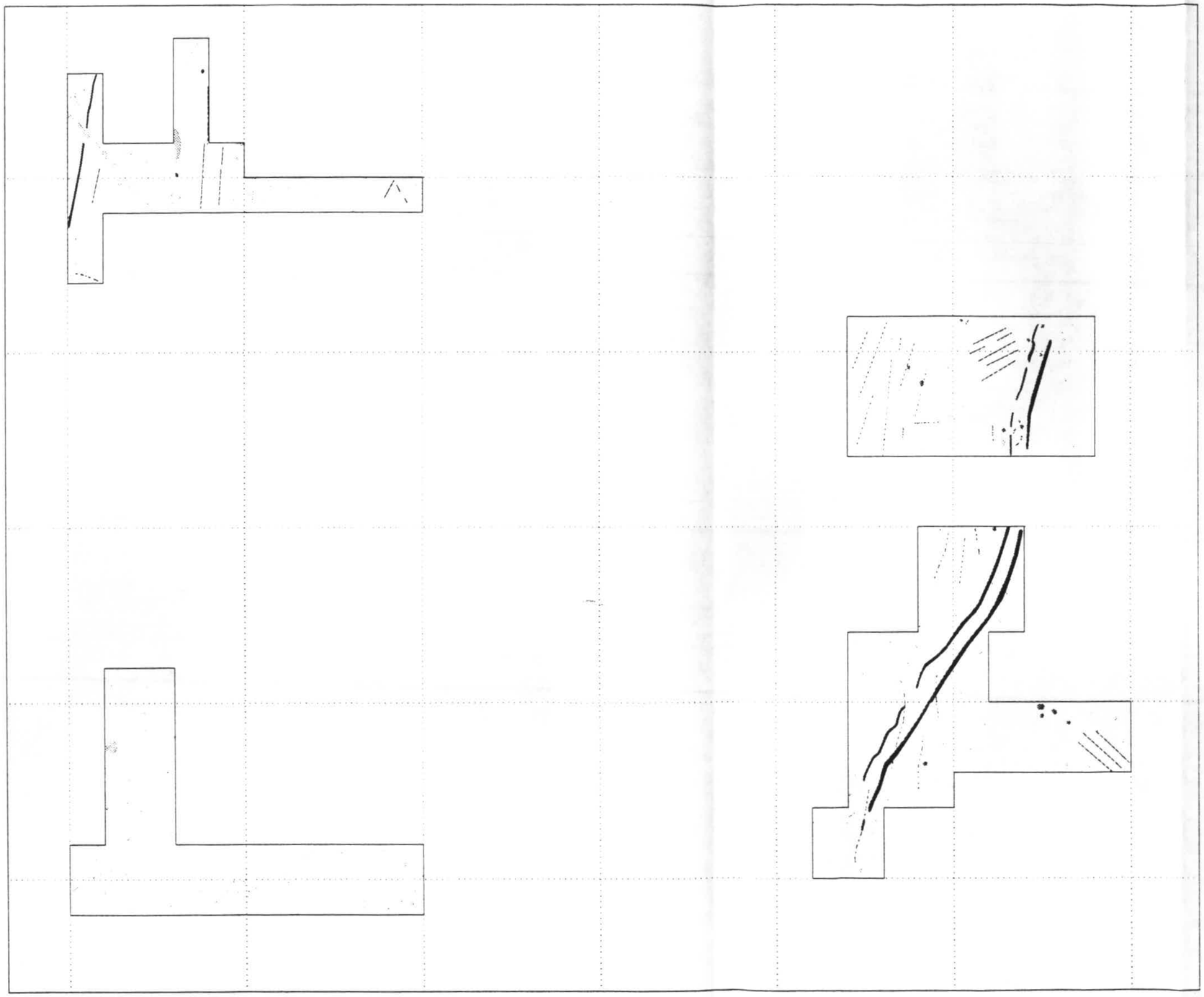
Area of Scanning (approximate)

Detailed Gradiometer Survey

1:5000

Figure 1

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF BRADFORD	PROJECT: FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL, STOTFOLD	TITLE: Summary Interpretation	Based on a plan provided by Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service



?Archaeology

??Archaeology

Negative Anomaly

?Agriculture

Pipe

Ferrous

0 metres 100

Figure 3

4. TRIAL TRENCHING SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION.

4.1 Trench Summaries

The following tables detail the deposits recorded during the trial trenching element of the archaeological field evaluation of land at Fairfield Hospital. No archaeological evidence was revealed in trenches 1, 2, 4-7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 23-34, 36, 38, 40-42, 45 and 46.

Contexts are presented in stratigraphic order as appropriate. Context numbers in **bold** type denote cut features. Maximum depth of deposit is given in millimetres.

BGL below ground level (mm)
n/e not excavated
All National Grid References refer to the 100km square 'TL'

Trench 3									
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**50m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**0.3m**		
OS Co-ordinates		W	520530/234900		E	520580/234900			
Reason For Trench	To investigate two linear anomalies indicated by Geophysics								
Context	**Type**	**Description**						**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
120	Layer	Topsoil, dark brown clay silt, with occasional small stones						300	
122	Fill	Mid brown silt, moderate pebbles, frequent pieces of iron (eg, bolts) and remnant of square-cut wood, laid horizontally.						220	300
123	Fill	Mid orange brown silty clay, frequent stones, pebbles and flint, occasional cobble.						230	300
124	Cut	Foundation trench ?, linear, near vertical sided, with flat base						230	300
121	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, dark orange brown clay, occasional gravel						n/e	300

Trench 8									
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**49.6m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**0.5m**		
OS Co-ordinates		W	520400/234840		E	520450/234840			
Reason For Trench	To investigate blank area								
Context	**Type**	**Description**						**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
170	Layer	Topsoil, dark brown clay silt, with occasional small stones						450	
171	Layer	Subsoil, mid brown clayey sand, occasional small stones						150	450
173	Fill	Dark grey silty clay, moderate small stones, charcoal flecks.						n/e	450
174	Cut	Possible Post-hole, sub oval, 0.7m x 0.48m						n/e	450
175	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay, moderate stones, occasional flint and charcoal						n/e	450
176	Cut	Possible Post-hole, sub oval, 1.08m x 1.3m						n/e	450
177	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, with occasional small stones, frequent charcoal						n/e	450
178	Cut	Possible ditch						n/e	450
179	Fill	Brown silty clay, with occasional small stones, frequent charcoal						n/e	450
262	Cut	Possible ditch						n/e	450
172	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, greyish orange clay, occasional gravel						n/e	450

Trench 9							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**c.70m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**1.1m**
OS Co-ordinates		N	520320/234820	S	520320/234870		
Reason For Trench	To investigate blank area						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
60	Layer	Topsoil, dark brown clay silt, with occasional small stones				300	
69	Layer	Subsoil, dark orange brown silty loam, occasional stones				170	300
67	Fill	Dark brown clayey silt, frequent medium and large stones, charcoal, bone fragments.				n/e	470
68	Cut	Possible ditch				n/e	300
62	Fill	Dark brown clayey silt, frequent small and medium stones (some fire damaged), charcoal, bone fragments.				400	300
63	Fill	Mottled yellowish brown clay, moderate white flecks.				170	650
64	Cut	Ditch running N-S, 0.9m wide, steep sided and flat bottomed.				520	820
76	Fill	Dark brown clayey silt, moderate small and medium stones ,charcoal flecks.				260	350
77	Cut	Ditch running SW-NE, at least 1.1m wide, shallow concave sides with flattish base.				260	350
65	Fill	Dark brown clayey silt, moderate small and medium stones ,charcoal flecks.				520	350
78	Fill	Orange brown slight silty clay, v. occasional small flint & stones, moderate charcoal flecks.				80	540
66	Cut	Ditch, 0.52m wide running, steep sided and flat bottomed..				390	350
70	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt, occasional small stones				300	360
72	Fill	- probably same as (70), truncated by machine.				160	480
71	Fill	Blackish brown clayey silt, occasional stones, moderate charcoal flecks.				350	650
73	Fill	Yellowish brown, clayey silt, occasional stones charcoal flecks.				130	480
74	Fill	Yellowish brown, clayey silt, occasional patches of yellow clay, stones & charcoal flecks. Primary fill?				230	560
75	Cut	Ditch, running N-S, at least 1.05m wide although only have approximately half of width visible. Excavated segment shows it to be steep-sided with flat bottom.				740	560
61	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, greyish orange clay, occasional gravel				n/e	300

Trench 10							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**50.15m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**0.96m**
OS Co-ordinates		NW	520205/235050	SE	520235/235010		
Reason For Trench	To investigate scatter of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery recovered by field walking						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
1	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown clay silt, with moderate medium & small stones				300	
4	Fill	Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional small & medium gravel, very occasional charcoal flecks.				200	200
3	Cut	Furrow				200	200
6	Fill	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay, occasional medium stones				140	350
5	Cut	Post hole, subcircular, concave sides and base, c0.25m diameter				140	350
8	Fill	Mixed mid-brown and yellow silty clay, moderate medium-large stones				200	320
7	Cut	Post hole, oval, variable sides and sloping base., 0.4m x 0.3m				200	320
10	Fill	Stone packing of posthole [9]				100	320
11	Fill	Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay, occasional medium stones, occasional charcoal and burnt clay.				220	320
9	Cut	Posthole with packing, subcircular, vertical sides and flat base				220	320
17	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay, occasional gravel and yellow clay lumps				250	200
16	Cut	Possible furrow				250	200
24	Fill	Mid grey brown clay, moderate gravel, occasional sand and charcoal				180	200

14	Cut	Ditch running E-W. Shallow concave sides, concave base	180	200
15	Fill	Mid grey brown clay, frequent gravel, and yellow clay lumps occasional charcoal	180	200
13	Fill	Dark brown grey clay, frequent charcoal and occasional sand	540	200
12	Cut	Ditch, running E-W, at least 1.25m wide (truncated), steepsided with flat base.	780	200
31	Fill	Mixed dark brown sandy clay, , frequent small gravel	100	300
30	Cut	Ditch, running E-W, 0.55m wide, regular concave side and concave base	100	300
35	Fill	Grey silty clay, frequent stones	240	300
34	Fill	Dark grey silty clay, occasional gravel	200	360
33	Fill	Mixed light orange-brown sandy clay (primary fill)	120	420
32	Cut	Pit, sub-circular, 1.5m diameter, near vertical sides, concave base	480	300
19	Fill	Mixed mid greyish brown, silty clay, moderate medium and small stones.	200	360
18	Cut	Post-hole, shallow sides, concave base.	200	360
21	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional gravel and charcoal flecks	100	320
20	Cut	Posthole, subcircular with concave sides and base.	100	320
59	Fill	Dark grey clayey silt, frequent chalk and gravel, charcoal.	n/e	300
58	Cut	Possible ditch, running NE-SW, 3.0m wide.	n/e	300
23	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, occasional large rounded stones	80	320
22	Cut	Post hole or pit (remnant), shallow oval, irregular base	80	320
25	Fill	Mid grey silty clay occasional small pebbles and stones, charcoal flecks	160	300
231 230 233 232 235 234 237 236 239 238 241 240 243 242 245 244 247 246 249 248 251 255 250 253 252 254	Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Fill CremDepos FindDeposit Fill FindDeposit Layer	 Samian Vessel (type DR 27) Samian Vessel (type DR 42) Samian Vessel (type DR 42) Samian Vessel (type DR 27) Samian Vessel (type DR 27) Samian Vessel (type DR 42) Samian Vessel (type DR 27) Coarseware vessel, slip decoration. Glass Vessel Glass Vessel (folded) Primary Cremation Glass Amphora (containing cremation) Glass vessel Dark greyish brown organic deposit, probably represents decayed wooden casket within which the cremation and accessory vessels were placed.		300
26	Cut	Grave, rectangular, sharp near vertical sides with flat base.	160	300
45	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay, frequent charcoal	n/e	300
44	Cut	Ditch, running NE-SW, 0.76m wide.	n/e	300
51	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay, occasional charcoal and stones	n/e	300
50	Cut	Ditch, running E-W, 0.6m wide.	n/e	300
27	Fill	Mottled orange and grey clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	60	400
28	Fill	Yellowish brown clay, charcoal flecks	30	460
29	Cut	Possible gulley, running N-S, 0.5m wide	90	400
37	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay, occasional charcoal and stones	n/e	300
36	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.3m diameter	n/e	300
39	Fill	Brown silty clay	200?	200
38	Cut	Posthole, circular 0.15m diameter, vertical sides	200?	200
41	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, frequent charcoal and stones	n/e	300
40	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.25m diameter	n/e	300
43	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, frequent charcoal and stones	n/e	300
42	Cut	Possible ditch, running SE-NW, 0.8m wide	n/e	300
53	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional charcoal and stones	n/e	300
52	Cut	Possible ditch/furrow?, running E-W, 1.0m wide	n/e	300

272	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, frequent charcoal and stones	n/e	300
271	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.25m diameter	n/e	300
274	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, frequent charcoal and stones	n/e	300
273	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.35m diameter	n/e	300
276	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay with yellow clay patches, occasional white chalk flecks	n/e	300
275	Cut	Possible ditch, running SW-NE, 1.2m wide	n/e	300
278	Fill	Dark brownish grey silty clay, frequent charcoal, occasional small stones	n/e	300
277	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.35m diameter	n/e	300
280	Fill	Mid-greyish brown sandy clay, occasional small stones	n/e	300
279	Cut	Possible ditch, running W-E, 0.5m wide	n/e	300
282	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay, frequent charcoal	n/e	300
281	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.2m x 0.4m	n/e	300
284	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay, frequent charcoal	n/e	300
283	Cut	Possible subcircular posthole, 0.15m x 0.3m	n/e	300
286	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay, frequent charcoal, occasional small stones	n/e	300
285	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.3m diameter	n/e	300
288	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay, with patches of chalk and lighter orange clay, frequent charcoal	n/e	300
287	Cut	Possible ditch (may be furrow), running E-W, at least 1.2m wide	n/e	300
290	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, frequent charcoal and stones	n/e	300
289	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.55m diameter	n/e	300
2	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, Mid orange clay, moderate gravel	n/e	200

Trench 12							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**50.4m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**1.1m**
OS Co-ordinates		S	520090/235030		N	520090/235080	
Reason For Trench	To investigate scatter of Romano-British pottery recovered by field walking						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
190	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional stones				230	
191	Layer	Subsoil, mid orange brown sandy clay, occasional medium gravel				150	230
196	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt, increasingly frequent stones to base of fill, chalk flecks				640	380
195	Fill	Orange brown clayey silt, occasional chalk flecks and small stones				300	380
194	Fill	Yellow brown clayey silt, frequent fragments of chalk and chalk flecks				360	650
193	Cut	Ditch, running E-W, 2.7m wide				740	1100
192	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, somewhat variable between mid orange clay with chalk bands and areas of orange clay with high gravel content.				n/e	230

The following trenches were devoid of archaeological features and were consequently cut, drawn and backfilled without further investigation:

Trench 16							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**33m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**0.4m**
OS Co-ordinates		W	520219/235033		E	520252/235033	
Reason For Trench	To investigate extent of archaeology to east of Trench 10						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
1	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown clay silt, with moderate medium & small stones				300	
306	Fill	Dark brown clayey silt, patches of charcoal and fired clay				n/e	400
307	Cut	Possible ditch, running N-S, 1.8m wide				n/e	400
314	Fill	Brown silty clay				n/e	400
315	Cut	Possible small ditch or gulley, running N-S, 0.4m wide				n/e	400
309	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, frequent large stones, moderate flint and smaller stones, charcoal flecks				n/e	400
310	Cut	Possible ditch, maybe corner turning from NE-SW to N				n/e	400
308	Layer	Light greyish brown silty clay, maybe fill of earlier feature truncated by later activity				n/e	400
313	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, frequent large stones, moderate flint and smaller stones, charcoal flecks (maybe same as (309)				n/e	400
304	Fill	Mixed brown silty clay, frequent small and medium stones				n/e	400
305	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, visible for length of c18m and at least 1.6m wide				n/e	400
302	Fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay, moderate small grit and red sandstone				n/e	400
303	Cut	Possible ditch, one edge only visible in plan				n/e	400
316	Fill	Dark brown clay				n/e	400
317	Cut	Possible stake-hole/posthole, 200mm diameter				n/e	400
318	Fill	Dark brown clay				n/e	400
319	Cut	Possible stake-hole/posthole, 180mm diameter				n/e	400
311	Fill	Dark brown silty clay				n/e	400
312	Cut	Possible ditch, running NE-SW, 1.2m wide				n/e	400
320	Fill	Dark brown silty clay				n/e	400
321	Cut	Possible subcircular posthole, 0.32m diameter				n/e	400
301	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, orange brown clay				n/e	400

Trench 17							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**43m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**0.35m**
OS Co-ordinates		SW	520200/234980		NE	520220/235029	
Reason For Trench	To investigate extent of archaeology to southwest of Trench 10						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
1	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown clay silt, with moderate medium & small stones				300	
330	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, occasional medium and small stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	350
331	Cut	Possible pit, subrectangular orientated NE-SW, 1.5m x 0.7m				n/e	350
332	Fill	Mixed brown silty clay, occasional patches of orange clay, and medium/small stone, charcoal flecks				n/e	350
333	Cut	Possible ditch (maybe two), running E-W, variable width 1.1-1.9m				n/e	350
334	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, frequent medium and small stones occasional charcoal flecks				n/e	350
335	Cut	Ditch, probably continuation of [58] in Trench 10				n/e	350
336	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	350
337	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 1.8m wide				n/e	350
338	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	350
339	Cut	Possible ditch, running N-S, 1.8m wide				n/e	350
340	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	350
341	Cut	Possible ditch running E-W, 2.0m wide				n/e	350

342	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	n/e	350
343	Cut	Possible gulley, running E-W, 0.4m wide	n/e	350
346	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	n/e	350
347	Cut	Possible ditch, running NW-SE, 1.7m wide	n/e	350
344	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	n/e	350
345	Cut	Possible ditch, running N-S, 2.2m wide	n/e	350
348	Fill	Mid orange-brown clayey silt, occasional medium stones	n/e	350
349	Cut	Possible ditch, running NW-SE, 4.6m wide !	n/e	350
350	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, orange clay	n/e	350

Trench 19							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**74.6m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**0.4m**
OS Co-ordinates		NW	520320/234832	SE	520400/234810		
Reason For Trench		To investigate extent of archaeology to southeast of Trench 9					
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
60	Layer	Topsoil, dark brown clay silt, with occasional small stones				n/e	
356	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	400
357	Cut	Possible ditch, running SW-NE, 1.65m wide				n/e	400
358	Fill	Dark yellowish brown silty clay, occasional large and small stones, pieces of charcoal				n/e	400
359	Cut	Probable sub oval pit, 1.15m x 0.68m, continues into south side of trench				n/e	400
360	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	400
361	Cut	Possible subrectangular pit, or buttend of linear feature 1.2 x 0.6m, continues into north side of trench,				n/e	400
362	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, mottled with orange clay & occasional stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	400
363	Cut	Possible ditch/gulley, maybe structural, running NS with return to SW, 0.6m wide				n/e	400
364	Fill	Mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	400
365	Cut	Possible ditch, running N-S, 1.5m wide				n/e	400
366	Fill	Mixed mid-yellowish brown silty clay, with patches of orange clay and occasional small stones				n/e	400
367	Cut	Possible ditch/gulley, maybe structural, running E-W with return to NS, 0.75m wide				n/e	400
368	Fill	Mid brown clayey, silt occasional medium & small stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	400
369	Cut	Possible ditch/gulley, maybe structural, running E-W with return to NS, 0.6m wide (very similar in form to [367]), alternatively may be large pit with discrete clay/gravel centre fill?				n/e	400
370	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	400
371	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 0.6m wide				n/e	400
372	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, occasional poorly sorted stones, frequent charcoal				n/e	400
373	Cut	Possible ditch/gulley, running N-S, 0.6m wide				n/e	400
374	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, orange clay				n/e	400

Trench 20							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**108m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**0.4m**
OS Co-ordinates		SW	520320/234840	NE	520412/234913		
Reason For Trench	To investigate extent of archaeology to northeast of Trench 9						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
60	Layer	Topsoil, dark brown clayey silt, with occasional small stones					
390	Fill	Dark brownish black silty clay, frequent charcoal and occasional stones and flint				n/e	400
391	Cut	Possible ditch running N-S, 0.7m wide				n/e	400
392	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, moderate medium and small stones				n/e	400
393	Cut	Possible ditch running NW-SE, 1.8m wide				n/e	400
394	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, moderate small stones				n/e	400
395	Cut	Possible ditch running E-W, 1.75m wide				n/e	400
396	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones				n/e	400
397	Cut	Possible ditch/gulley, running E-W, may be structural - butt end?				n/e	400
398	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional stones and flint, charcoal flecks				n/e	400
399	Cut	Possible pit, sub oval orientated SW-NE, irregular edges 4.2m x 0.9m wide (as visible)				n/e	400
400	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, frequent charcoal and bone fragments, moderate small stones and occasional red sandstones				n/e	400
401	Cut	Possible ditch running NW-SE, 1.7m wide				n/e	400
402	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, frequent charcoal, possible packing stone of red sandstone on NE side				n/e	400
403	Cut	Possible posthole, suboval orientated SW-NE 800 x 340mm				n/e	400
404	Fill	Dark brown silty clay frequent medium stones and charcoal flecks				n/e	400
405	Cut	Possible ditch/gulley, running E-W, 04m wide				n/e	400
406	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small stones and pebbles				n/e	400
407	Cut	Possible small subrectangular pit, orientated NW-SE, 0.6m x 0.46m				n/e	400
408	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, moderate stones and pebbles, occasional red sandstones				n/e	400
409	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.26m diameter				n/e	400
410	Fill	Dark brown silty clay				n/e	400
411	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 0.6m wide				n/e	400
414	Fill	Mid-dark brown sandy loam, occasional small stones and flint				n/e	400
415	Cut	Junction of at least three possible ditches				n/e	400
412	Fill	Mid orange brown silty clay, frequent small stones				n/e	400
413	Cut	Possible ditch, running N-S, 0.8m wide				n/e	400
416	Fill	Mid brown silty clay,				n/e	400
417	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 0.47m wide				n/e	400
418	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, moderate small stones				n/e	400
419	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 0.9-1.2m wide				n/e	400
420	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, moderate small stones				n/e	400
421	Cut	Possible gulley, running E-W, 0.3m wide				n/e	400
422	Fill	Dark brown/black silty clay, frequent charcoal and pebbles				n/e	400
423	Cut	Possible sub-oval pit, 1.7m x 0.3m wide, continues into E side of trench				n/e	400
424	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, moderate small stones				n/e	400
425	Cut	Possible gulley, running E-W, 0.3m wide				n/e	400
426	Fill	Mid-dark brown, silty clay, frequent stones, occasional bone fragments				n/e	400
427	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 1.0-1.7m wide				n/e	400
428	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, moderate small stones				n/e	400
429	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 2.7m wide				n/e	400
430	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, moderate small chalk and white flecking				n/e	400
431	Cut	Possible ditch/gulley, running E-W, 0.44m-0.8m wide				n/e	400
451	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, occasional medium stones				n/e	400
452	Fill	Mid brown silty clay				n/e	400
453	Cut	Possible ditch(s) running E-W, 1.6m wide				n/e	400
434	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, containing broken stones, flint and frequent charcoal				n/e	400
432	Fill	Mid brown silty clay				n/e	400
433	Cut	Possible ditch(s), or may be turning from E-W to SW-NE				n/e	400
436	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, mixed appearance				n/e	400
439	Cut	Possible SE edge of ditch, or pit				n/e	400

437	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, containing broken stones, flint and frequent charcoal	n/e	400
438	Cut	Possible gulley, running SE-NW, 0.4m wide	n/e	400
440	Fill	Dark brown/black silty clay, frequent charcoal	n/e	400
441	Cut	Possible posthole, 0.28m diameter	n/e	400
442	Fill	Mid brown silty clay	n/e	400
443	Cut	Possible pit, orientated NE-SW, 1.95m x 1.0m	n/e	400
444	Fill	Dark brown silty clay, moderate red sandstones and pebbles	n/e	400
445	Cut	Possible pit, orientated N-S, 1.7m x 1.2m	n/e	400
446	Fill	Mid dark brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	n/e	400
447	Cut	Possible gulley, may be structural, subcircular in plan , c2.1m diameter and 0.5m wide	n/e	400
448	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt	n/e	400
449	Cut	Possible ditch, single edge visible at NE end of trench, appeared to run E-W, at least 1.2m wide	n/e	400
454	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt	n/e	400
455	Cut	Possible gulley, straight (maybe structural?) running E-W, 0.2m wide	n/e	400
450	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, orange brown clay	n/e	400

Trench 21							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**39m**	**Width**	**1.6m**	**Depth**	**0.35m**
OS Co-ordinates		NW	520235/235010		SE	520270/234962	
Reason For Trench	To investigate extent of archaeology to southwest of Trench 10						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
1	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown clay silt, with moderate medium & small stones				300	
460	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt, frequent medium and small stone, charcoal flecks				n/e	300
461	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 0.9m wide				n/e	350
462	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt, moderate small stones				n/e	350
463	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 1.1m wide				n/e	350
468	Fill	Dark yellowish brown clayey silt, frequent medium and small stones, occasional charcoal flecks				n/e	350
469	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 1.0m wide				n/e	350
464	Fill	Light yellowish brown clayey silt, small stones and frequent flecks of chalk				n/e	350
465	Cut	Possible subcircular pit, orientated SE-NW, 0.9m x 0.55m				n/e	350
466	Fill	Mid brown clayey silt, moderate small stones				n/e	350
467	Cut	Possible irregular pit, orientated E-W, 1.2m x 0.75m				n/e	350
470	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay				n/e	350
471	Cut	Possible circular pit, 1.2-1.3m diameter				n/e	350
472	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, frequent medium and small stones, charcoal flecks				n/e	350
473	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 1.5m wide				n/e	350
474	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay				n/e	350
475	Cut	Possible circular pit, 1.1m diameter				n/e	350
476	Fill	Brown silty clay, occasional medium and small stones, charcoal flecks				n/e	350
477	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 1.85m wide				n/e	350
478	Fill	Brown silty clay, occasional medium and small stones, charcoal flecks				n/e	350
479	Cut	Possible ditch/gulley, running N-S, 0.8m wide				n/e	350
484	Fill	Mid brown silty loam, occasional small stones				n/e	350
485	Cut	Possible ditch, running E-W, 1.05m wide				n/e	350
480	Fill	Greyish brown clayey silt, frequent small stones				n/e	350
481	Cut	Possible pit, or butt-end of ditch, orientation NS, 1.0m x 0.6m				n/e	350
482	Fill	Orange brown silty clay, occasional small stones				n/e	350
483	Cut	Possible pit, partial visibility, single edge, 0.9m NS x 0.85m E-W				n/e	350
486	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology, orange-Grey brown clay				n/e	350

Trench 22							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**60.0m**	**Width**	**2.0m**	**Depth**	**1.2m**
OS Co-ordinates		NW	520500/234790	SE	520550/234755		
Reason For Trench	To investigate two linear anomalies indicated by geophysics						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
490	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty clay, Moderate flint.				300	
491	Layer	Subsoil, mid orange brown clay, occasional small stones and flint.				120	300
493	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, frequent small stones, occasional large flint nodule.				740	280
494	Cut	Ditch, running SW-NE, 2.0m wide, concave sides, flat base..				740	280
495	Fill	Very dark greyish silty clay, frequent small stones and flint				820+	380
496	Fill	Similar to upper fill, (496) with slight chalk flecking and occasional yellowish orange sandy patches.				700+	500
497	Cut	Ditch, running SW-NE, 2.7m wide. Steep sided. Not fully excavated due to health and safety restrictions.				1200+	380
498	Fill	Dark grey, mottled orange brown clay, occasional small stones and flint				500	430
499	Cut	Ditch, running SW-NE, 1.36m wide, asymmetrical with concave base.				500	430
492	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology; Orange clay with high gravel content				640	380

Trench 35							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**35.0m**	**Width**	**2.0m**	**Depth**	**0.77m**
OS Co-ordinates		NE	520165/234565	SW	520137/234535		
Reason For Trench	To investigate two linear anomalies indicated by geophysics						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
620	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty clay, Moderate flint.				230	
621	Layer	Subsoil, mid greyish brown clay, occasional small stones and flint.				370	230
623	Fill	Brown silty clay, moderate small stones and flint				170	600
624	Cut	Possible field drain/old field boundary. Oriented E-W, 0.95m wide, shallow concave sides with flat base.				170	600
622	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology; light yellowish brown clay with general manganese flecking, occasional small stone and flint				n/e	430

Trench 37							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**50.0m**	**Width**	**2.0m**	**Depth**	**0.75m**
OS Co-ordinates		N	520100/234595	S	520100/234545		
Reason For Trench	To investigate blank area						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
640	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty clay, Moderate flint.				250	
641	Layer	Subsoil, mid greyish brown clay, occasional small stones and flint.				350	250
643	Fill	Mid orange brown silty clay				150	600
644	Cut	Possible field drain/old field boundary. Oriented E-W, 0.6m wide, shallow asymmetrical, with flat base.				150	600
642	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology; light yellowish brown clay with general manganese flecking, occasional small stone and flint				n/e	350

Trench 39								
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**50.0m**	**Width**	**2.0m**	**Depth**		**1.1m**
OS Co-ordinates		NW	520035/234666		SE	520065/234630		
Reason For Trench		To investigate blank area						
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**	
660	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty clay, Moderate flint.				200		
661	Layer	Subsoil, mid greyish brown clay, occasional small stones and flint.				200	200	
663	Fill	Mid orange brown silty clay				700	400	
664	Cut	Ditch, possible old field boundary?, running NE-SW. 2.1m wide, very concave in profile.				700	400	
662	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology; light yellowish brown clay with general manganese flecking, occasional small stone and flint				n/e	400	

Trench 43							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**50.0m**	**Width**	**2.0m**	**Depth**	**0.62m**
OS Co-ordinates		W	520350/234790		E	520400/234790	
Reason For Trench		To investigate extent of archaeology to south of Trench 19					
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
700	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty clay, Moderate flint.				300	
701	Layer	Subsoil, mid greyish brown clay, occasional small stones and flint.				150	300
703	Fill	Mid grey clay, moderate white chalk flecks, small stones and flint				n/e	450
704	Cut	Possible ditch, running N-S, 1m wide				n/e	450
705	Fill	Dark grey clay, occasional rounded stones.				n/e	450
706	Cut	Possible small pit, or posthole 0.3m diameter				n/e	450
707	Fill	Patchy orange/brownish grey clay				n/e	450
708	Cut	Possible pit, subsquare, 1.6m x 1.2m+, continues into South edge of trench				n/e	450
709	Fill	Mid orange brown clay, occasional small stones and flint				n/e	450
720	Cut	Possible gulley running E-W, 0.7m wide				n/e	450
721	Fill	Mid orange brown clay, occasional small stones and flint				n/e	450
722	Cut	Possible gulley running SW-NE, 0.5m wide				n/e	450
723	Fill	Dark grey clay, frequent small chalk stones and pebbles.				n/e	450
724	Cut	Possible subsquare pit, oriented NE-SW				n/e	450
725	Fill	Burnt stones c.60-100mm				n/e	450
726	Cut	Possible circular pit, 0.7m diameter				n/e	450
727	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate small stones, concentration of chalk fragments on W. side.				n/e	450
728	Cut	Possible ditch, running N-S, 2.0m wide				n/e	450
1000	Cut	Small circular pit , 0.3m diameter				180	450
1001	Fill	Dark grey ashy silt				180	450
1002	Cut	Small circular pit, 0.43m diameter				170	450
1003	Fill	Dark grey ashy clay				170	450
1004	Cut	Possible medium sized circular pit, 1.0m in diameter				n/e	450
1005	Fill	Dark grey clayey silt, concentrations of large, burnt rounded stones.				n/e	450
702	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology; light yellowish brown clay with occasional patches of whitish chalky clay occasional small stones and flint nodules				n/e	450

Trench 44							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	**35.0m**	**Width**	**2.0m**	**Depth**	**0.45m**
OS Co-ordinates		W	520270/234770	S	520305/234770		
Reason For Trench		To investigate extent of archaeology to south of Trench 18					
Context	**Type**	**Description**				**Max Depth**	**Depth (BGL)**
710	Layer	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty clay, Moderate flint.				300	
711	Layer	Subsoil, mid greyish brown clay, occasional small stones and flint.				150	300
713	Fill	Mid yellowish brown clay, occasional chalk flecks				n/e	450
714	Cut	Possible gulley/ditch, running NW-SE, 0.7m wide				n/e	450
715	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, occasional small chalk flecks				n/e	450
716	Cut	Possible ditch, turning from SE-NW to NE-SW, c.12m diameter turn.				n/e	450
717	Layer	Yellow gravely clay				n/e	450
712	Layer	Undisturbed natural geology; light yellowish brown clay with occasional patches of whitish chalky clay occasional small stones and flint nodules				n/e	450

4.2 Discussion

A total of 46 archaeological trial trenches were excavated (Fig 1). Initial placement of the trenches was based on a combination of aerial photographic and geophysical evidence, and fieldwalking data. In particular trench 10 was positioned to investigate a concentration of Prehistoric and Romano-British pottery close to the reservoir in the north western part of the site. Eighteen of the trenches were targeted on apparently blank areas, as a fail-safe, where neither geophysical survey, field artefact collection nor aerial photograph evidence indicated archaeology.

Two areas of dense archaeology were identified and investigated in trenches 9 & 10, consequently trenches 16-21 and 43-46 were designed to investigate the limits and scale of the archaeological evidence. In a third area a number of isolated features were revealed in the ploughed field to the south of the hospital buildings.

4.2.1 Area 1: Iron Age and Romano-British Archaeology.

Trenches 9, 18-20, 43-46 lay in the lawns at the centre of the Fairfield Hospital: east of the reception and visitors car park; between the bowling green and the southern ward buildings.

The archaeology investigated in these trenches probably represents the remains of a rural settlement originating in the late Iron Age. The site was characterised by the presence of several boundary ditches, pits and structural features. The structural evidence was of considerable interest comprising beam slots and post holes, together suggesting both earth fast and timber frame buildings.

No archaeological features were found in trenches 45 and 46 indicating the western and southern limit of the settlement area.

4.2.2 Area 2: Iron Age and Romano-British Archaeology

Trenches 3, 10, 16, 17, 21 lay to the NW of the Hospital Reception, in the ploughed field containing the reservoir and revealed the remains of a second settlement focus.

The archaeological evidence in area 2 was similar to that found in Area 1 insofar as it comprised a series of ditches, pits and post-holes. Ceramic evidence from this area suggest a similar date of origin in the late Iron Age to Area 1. However there were qualitative differences in the evidence, which suggest that by the Roman period the enclosures and structures in area 2 lay on the periphery of the main settlement.. This characterisation is re-inforced by the discovery of a well preserved, and comparatively rich Roman cremation burial of late 1st-early 2nd century AD, (Photo 1). The full extent of this area of settlement could not be confirmed as the area to the east remained outside the development.

The Cremation
The 'ashes' had been interred within a blue glass amphora with large square handles and was accompanied by fragments of three smaller glass vessels; a tall slipware flagon and a total of seven samian cups, bowls and dishes. A small bronze spoon, which had probably formed part of a personal toilet set was also found in the grave. A number of iron nails found at the edges of the square grave, and a thin layer of decayed organic soil at the base of the grave, suggest that the whole group of objects had been buried inside a wooden casket.

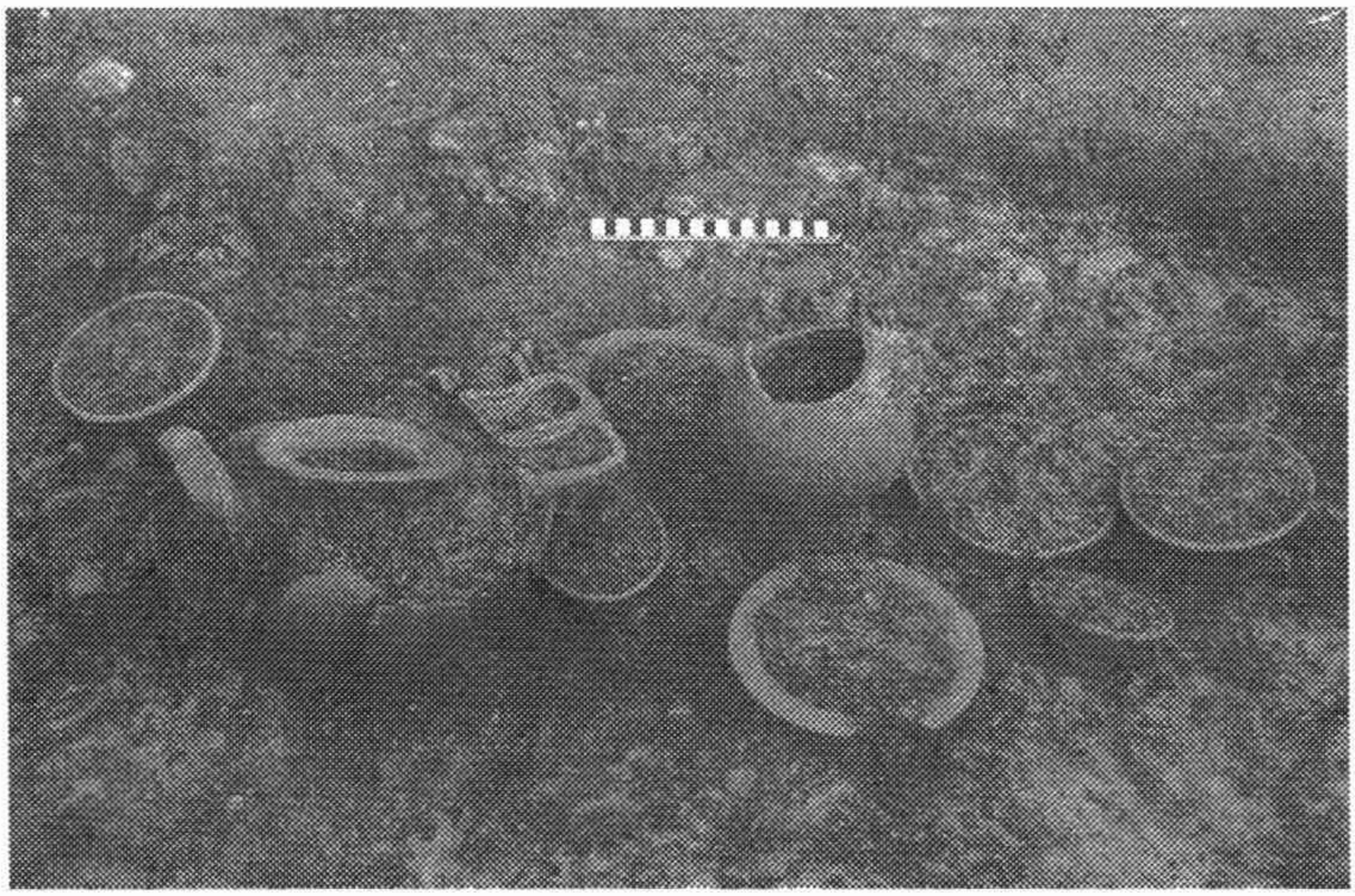


Plate 1: Cremation Group [25], Trench 10

4.2.3 **Isolated features:**

Trenches 22, 24, 35, 37 and 39 lay in the ploughed field to the south of the hospital building. These were designed to investigate two anomalies identified by geophysical survey, a double ditch like feature and an area of possible pits (trenches 22 & 24), and a flint scatter found in field artefact collection (trench 23).

Trench 22
Three ditches were revealed in this trench. They probably represent the anomalies found by the geophysics. Two of the ditches [497] and [499] were close and together may represent a south eastern 'droveway' ditch. Ditch [494] lay c. 7m to the north west. Pottery of Iron Age date was recovered from the fills of ditch [497].

Trench 24
No archaeological features were found.

Trenches 35, 37, 39
One ditch was found in these trenches (Context [664] in trench 39) This probably represents a field boundary, superseded by the present layout of the hospital.

A series of parallel features were visible in most of the trenches excavated in the ploughed field south of the hospital. When investigated in trenches 35 and 37 These were found to be shallow field drains.

4.3 The artefacts from the evaluation

The following summary encompasses material from both the field artefact collection and trial excavation. Fabric codes quoted here relate to the Ceramic Type Series held by BCAS.

Early Prehistoric (Worked flint)
A total of 37 pieces of worked flint was recovered from the field artefact collection. Further material was recovered from trenching (Table 4). Little of the material is diagnostic, with the bulk of the assemblage comprising struck, but otherwise unworked flakes. Blade and blade core fragments are likely to relate to the Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic period. The squat proportions of most recovered flakes and also the presence of multi-platform cores is suggestive of a larger element consistent with a broad late Neolithic-Bronze Age date range.

Iron Age
Nine sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered by field artefact collection. A number of sherds are fairly large and unabraded, suggestive of recent exposure by the plough. Further quantities of Iron Age pottery were recovered from trenches 9, 10, 22 and 43 (Table 2). Eight fabric types were identified, although the assemblage is dominated by fine flint (F01a) coarse shell (F16) and fine sand (F28) types. Forms include carinated and round shouldered jars/bowls, ovoid jars and a single recorded instance of a strap handled vessel (Knight 1984). Decoration is confined to instances of fingertip impressions to the girth and incised horizontal lines to the girth or extending to the neck. All the Iron Age material is hand made. Initial indications are that the assemblage includes both 'early' (Knight's *group 1*) and 'middle' Iron Age forms (Knight's *group 2*). A single fragmentary triangular loomweight was also recovered.

Roman
Fieldwalking produced eighteen sherds of Roman pottery (Table 1). All sherds are abraded to greater or lesser extent. A wide variety of fabric types are represented, suggesting activity spanning the 2nd-4th centuries. Forms include cooking jars and *mortaria*. Additionally two fragments of Roman brick or tile were also recovered.

Further Roman material was retrieved from features from trench 10 (Table 2-Table 4). Cremation [25] was exceptional in the quantity and richness of the accompanying 'grave goods'. These comprised registered artefacts 1-3, eight complete or near complete pottery vessels and four glass vessels. The estimated date for the group is *c.*75-120AD.

Medieval

A single sherd of late medieval reduced fabric E01 was recovered from the field artefact collection (Table 1).

Medieval/Post-medieval

A large quantity of material belonging to this category was recovered from the field artefact collection (Table 1). The bulk of the material comprises fragments of flat tile of approximate 15th-18th century date. The dominant type is a hard-fired sandy fabric, either orange throughout or occasionally with grey core. Peg/nail holes are present on a number of fragments. Other finds from the fieldwalking survey included architectural fragments and a whetstone of likely post-medieval or modern date.

Trench	*Context*	IA pot	Rom. pot	fired clay	Remarks
9	*62*	82:450	-	6:31	includes strap handle
	63	2:9	-	-	-
	65	12:148	-	-	-
	70	17:140	-	-	-
	76	14:134	-	-	-
10	*4*	-	3:38	-	-
	8	1:6	-	-	-
	13	8:35	-	-	-
	23	27:256	-	-	near complete ovoid jar
	26	6:20	7:20	1:5	-
	37	1:4	-	-	-
	41	3:18	-	-	-
	43	-	2:68	-	amphora sherd
	45	5:23	-	-	-
	53	1:12	-	-	
	57	26:130	-	3:13	
	230	-	1:183	-	Samian vessel (Dr.27)
	232	-	3:205	-	Samian vessel (Dr.42)
	234	-	1:232	-	Samian vessel (Dr.42)
	236	-	1:211	-	Samian vessel (Dr.27)
	238	-	1:93	-	Samian vessel (Dr.27)
	240	-	2:210	-	Samian vessel (Dr.42)
	242	-	3:81	-	Samian vessel (Dr.27)
	244	-	19:613	-	Ring-necked flagon
	245	-	1:2	-	-
	276	3:33	-	-	-
	278	2:2	-	-	-
	280	1:13	-	-	-
22	*495*	1:4	-	-	-
	496	4:69	-	1:3	-
43	*1003*	130:1392	-	-	Early IA
	1005	5:27	-	-	-
Total		**351:2925**	**44:1956**	**11:52**	**1**

Table 2 Excavated pottery (Quantified by sherd count and weight in grams).

Trench	*Context*	Ra. no	Material	Date	Description
10	62	1	CA.	Rom.	toilet spoon
	65	2	CA.	Rom.	'T-shaped' brooch
	70	3	Bone	Rom.	hairpin frags
	24	4	Ceramic	IA.	triangular loomweight frags

Table 3 Registered artefacts

Trench	*Context*	Worked flint	Roman glass	Fe. Nails	Remarks
9	62	4	-	-	-
	65	2	-	-	-
	70	1	-	-	-
10	24	5	-	-	-
	26	3	40+	7	misc. vessel glass
	57	5	-	-	-
	246	-	150+	-	clear drinking vessel
	248	-	80+	-	clear flask
	250	-	50+	-	natural green amphora
	252	-	30+	-	clear indented beaker
	255	-	-	1	-
22	465	2	-	-	scraper
Total		25	350+	8	-

Table 4 Excavated non ceramic bulk finds (Quantified by count)

5. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Two areas of significant archaeology were identified at Fairfield Hospital. The first, Area 1, comprised the remains of a settlement area occupied in the late Iron Age and probably into the early Roman period. In Area 2 the periphery of a settlement originating in the late Iron Age was recovered along with evidence for the survival of this settlement area into the Roman period. In area 2 a small cremation cemetery was established at the end of the 1st century AD (fig 9).

The significance of the Fairfield sites can be assessed in comparison with the archaeology of the region. The settlements themselves seem characteristic of Iron Age and Roman settlements found on the chalky clay uplands of southern Bedfordshire. Similar sites to Fairfield have been recorded at Limbury, near Luton (Simco 1984, 31-2), Hinksley Road at Flitwick (Luke 1997 forthcoming), Shillington Bury (Dawson forthcoming). Of these only the Flitwick site has been extensively investigated and here excavation was restricted to an area outside the settlement core.

The date range of activity at Fairfield was derived exclusively from artefacts. They confirm that the site was occupied from the Iron Age into the Roman Period. The location of the site has been compared to other hilltop enclosures but the extent of intercutting ditches and pits is similar to a site recently investigated at Norton Road, Stotfold as part of the construction of the Arlesley Stotfold Bypass (BCAS 1996/3). This site type may be a transitional form between the enclosed settlements and more open linear sites, similar to Warren Villas, Sandy and Eastcotts, Bedford.

The Fairfield sites consisted of enclosure ditches, field boundaries and structural evidence relating to settlement. The structural evidence comprising beam slots and postholes indicates, the presence, possibly contemporaneously, of both timber framed and earth fast structures. This is an pattern in the area of the Great Ouse Valley but is known from enclosures further east. Domestic pits were evident in both areas of settlement and were rich in animal bone.

Burial activity was represented by a single rich cremation of the late 1st century AD in which a glass amphora, several glass vessels and samian ware were deposited. The fact that all the samian vessels were ritually broken was a significant part of the ritual of burial, signifying the discontinuity of death. During the Roman period it was usual to place the dead outside the boundaries of the settlement, in well defined cemeteries (Stead 1986, 87), which suggests the Fairfield burial was placed in an area peripheral to settlement but which had once been part of the settlement core. Possibly of considerable significance was the discovery of a large pit adjacent to the cremation suggesting the possibility of ritual deposition within the graveyard. The circular pit which lay to the north of grave [25] may also have contained a second burial, which was left undisturbed. Similar graves of slightly earlier date have been excavated at

Baldock (Stead, 1986 51-81). These were found in well defined cemetery areas and usually consisted of more than one burial.

The depth at which archaeological deposits were revealed varied slightly with the topsoil cover reflecting recent landscaping and agricultural practice. In the two areas of dense archaeology the depth of topsoil and subsoil was shallowest, c.300mm. Surprisingly the quality of preservation of archaeology in both areas was good, with small features and shallow gulleys well defined. In grave [25] the quality of survival was excellent, although the wood of a casket had decayed, partial staining at the base of the cut remained. Considering the shallow depth of overburden and the continuing cultivation of the field cremations in this area must be considered at risk from any ground disturbance.

The presence of the cremation clearly relates to the series of burials found nearby at Baldock. The tradition of furnished graves was established in the late Iron Age when finds of samian ware in graves seems to signify high status amongst Iron Age communities. The samian may have arrived as diplomatic gifts from Rome, or handed down by local leaders to indicate favour. Similar burials are known from Harlington, Shefford and possibly Stanfordbury. It is possible that the presence of burials of this type relate to the proximity of villa, possibly at Radwell.

It is clear that the late Iron Age and early Roman site at Fairfield is of considerable importance both because of the quality of survival, and the range and scope of the evidence.

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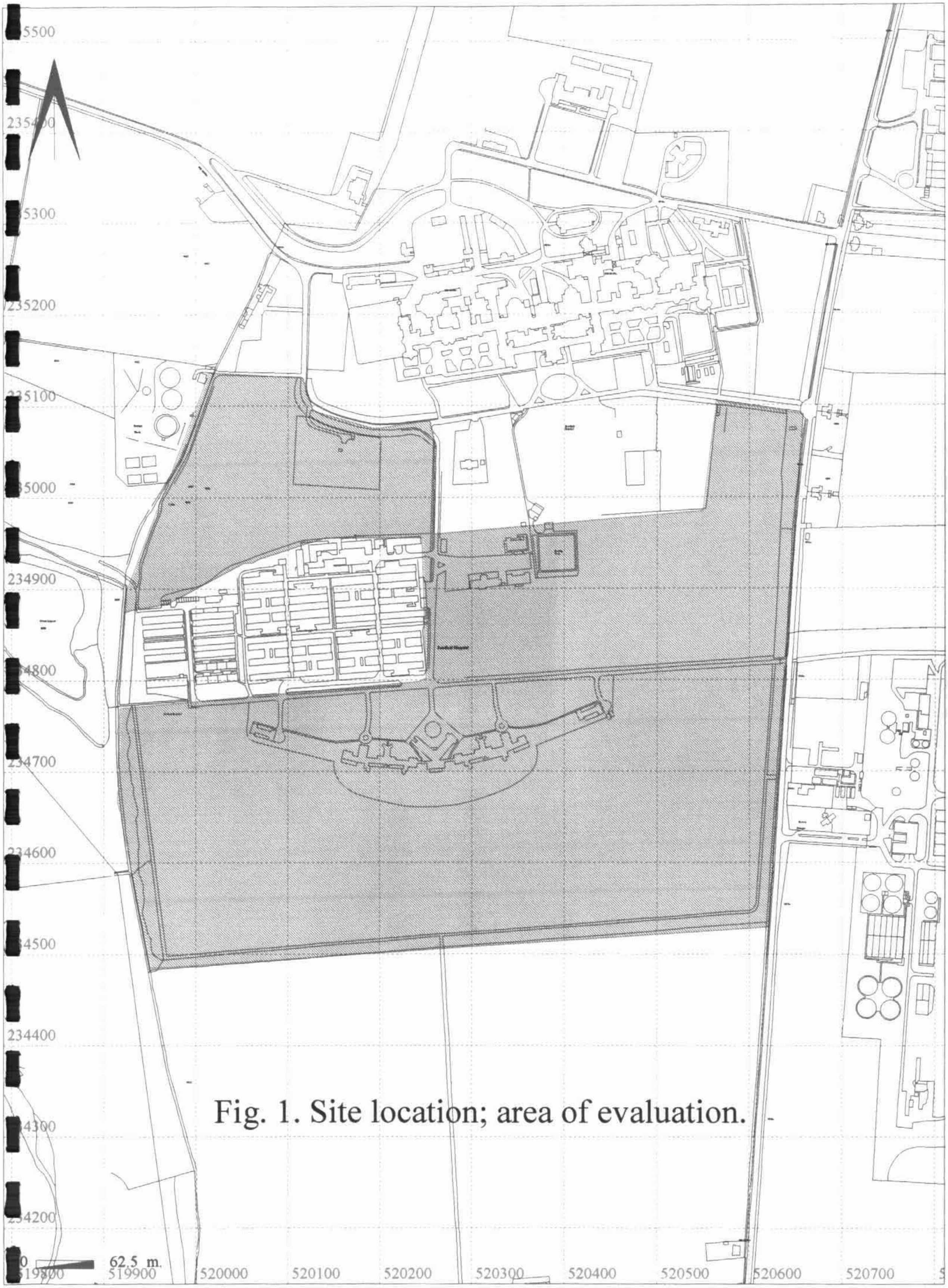


Fig. 1. Site location; area of evaluation.

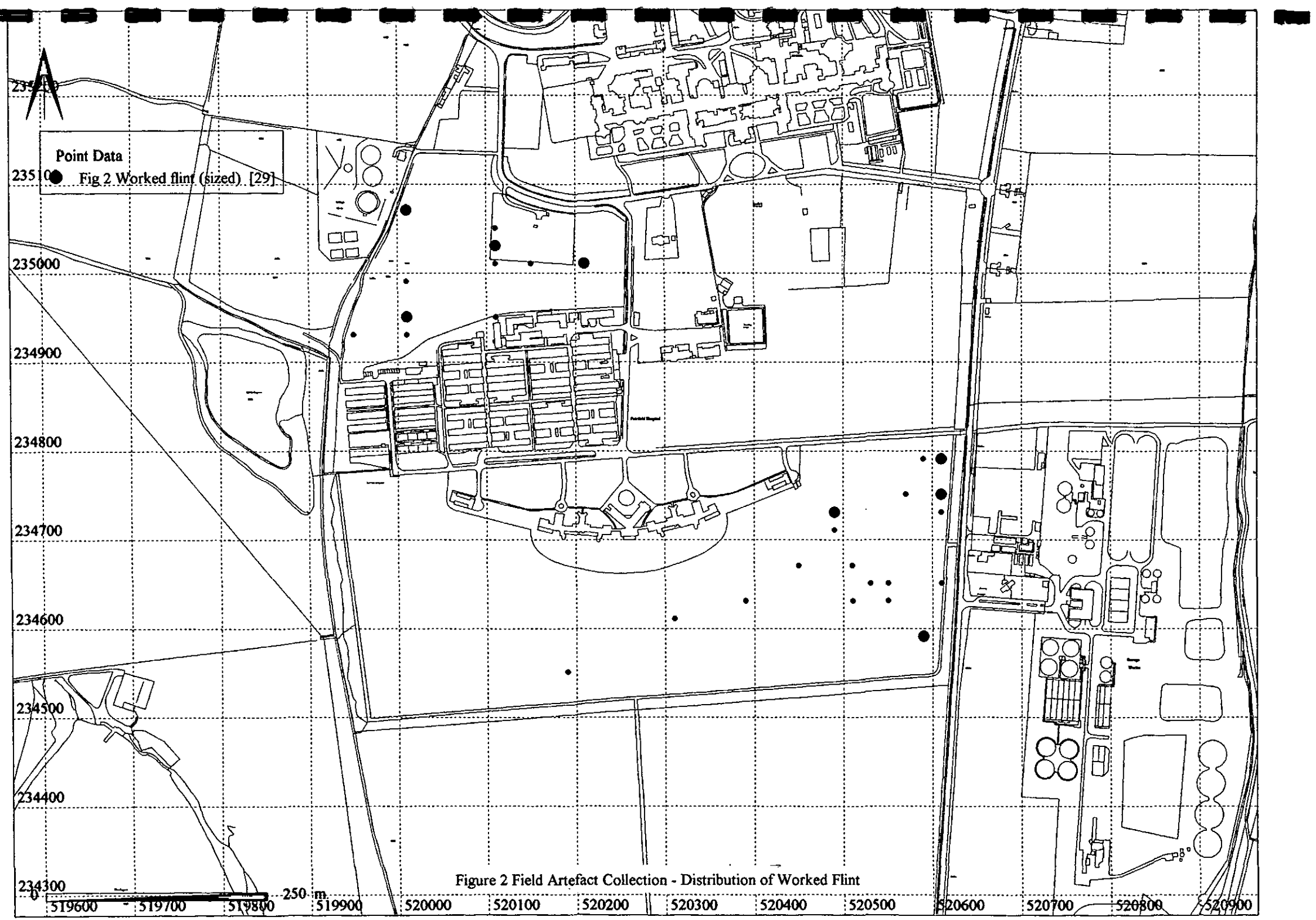


Figure 2 Field Artefact Collection - Distribution of Worked Flint

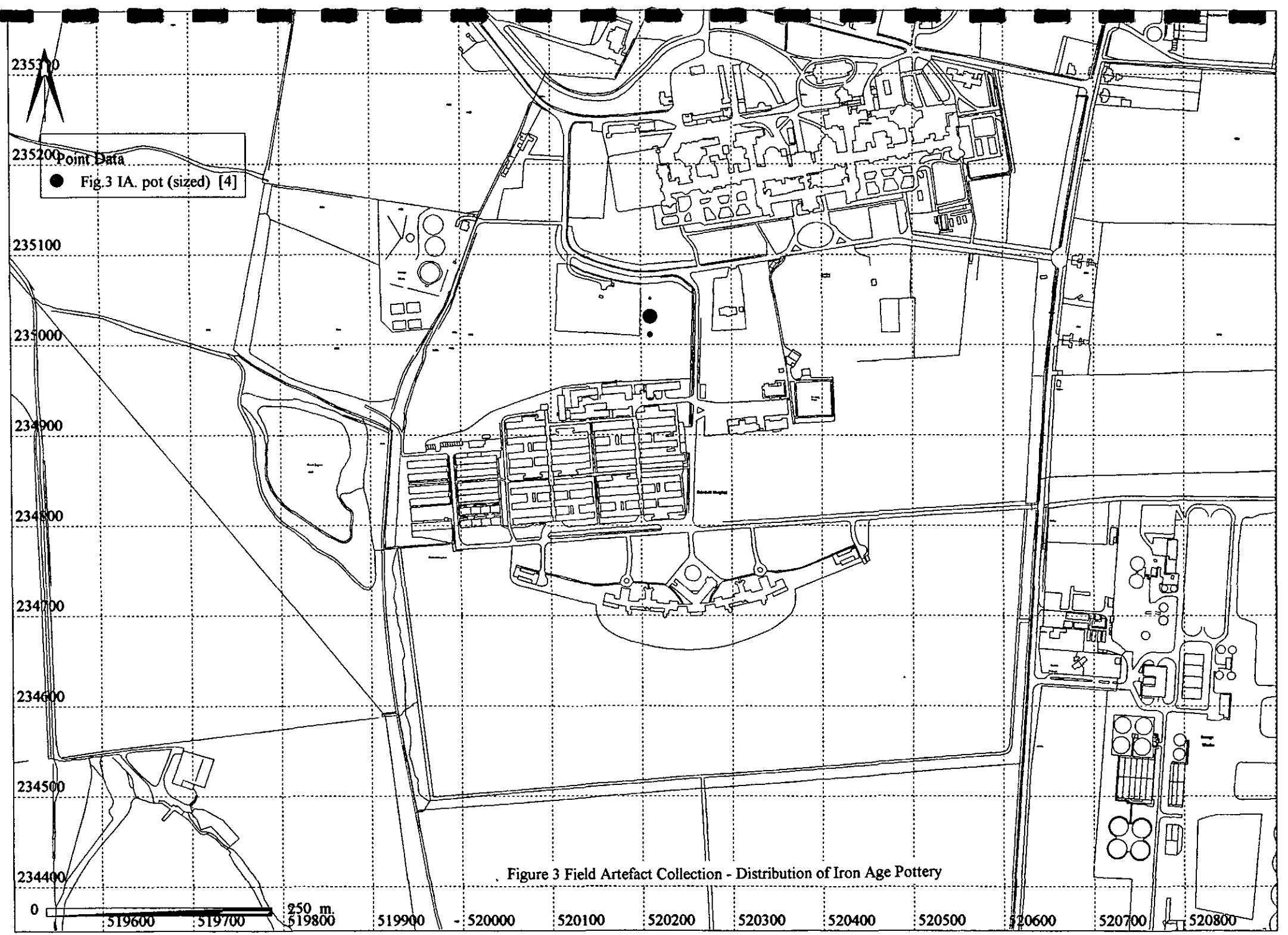


Figure 3 Field Artefact Collection - Distribution of Iron Age Pottery

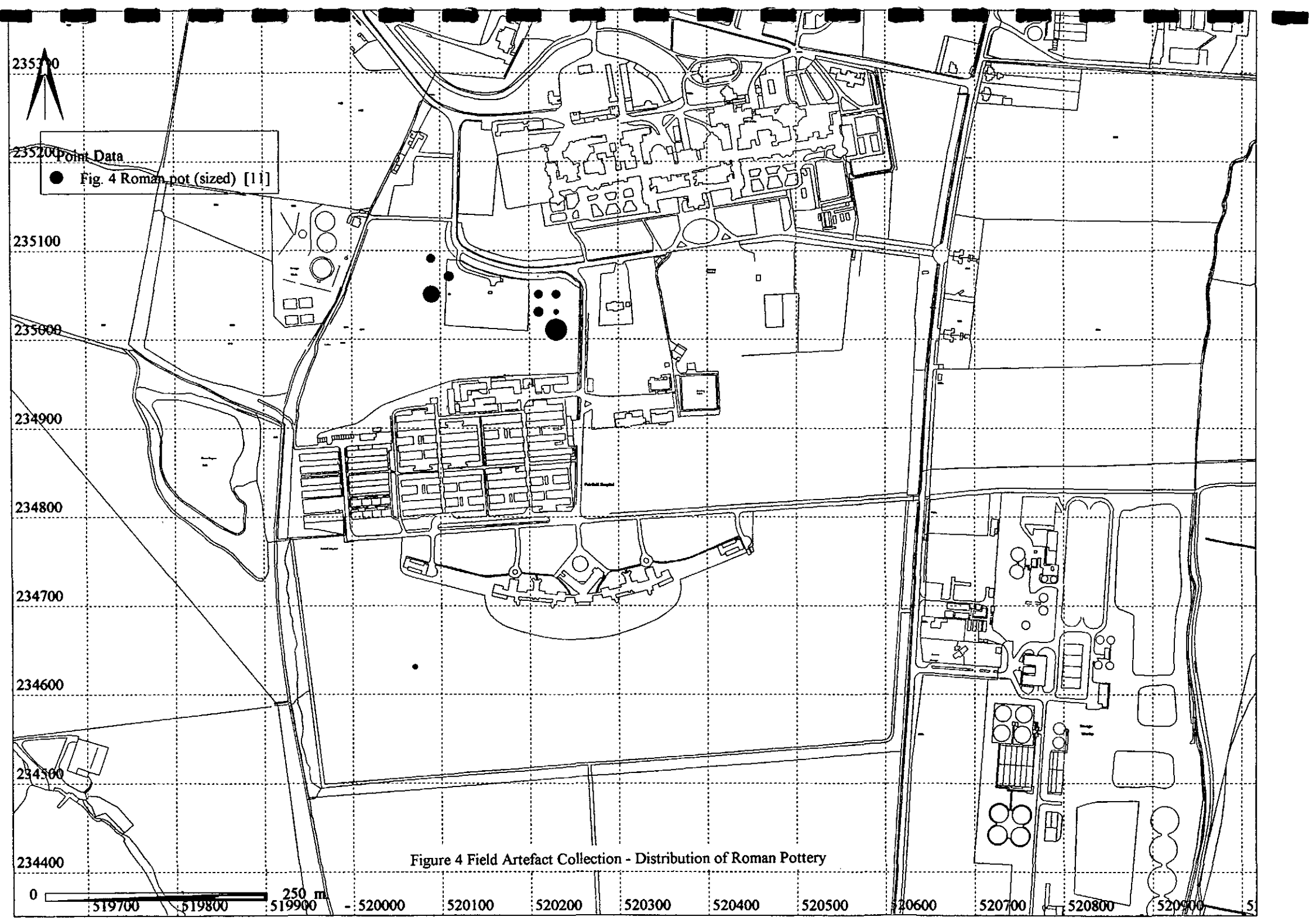


Figure 4 Field Artefact Collection - Distribution of Roman Pottery

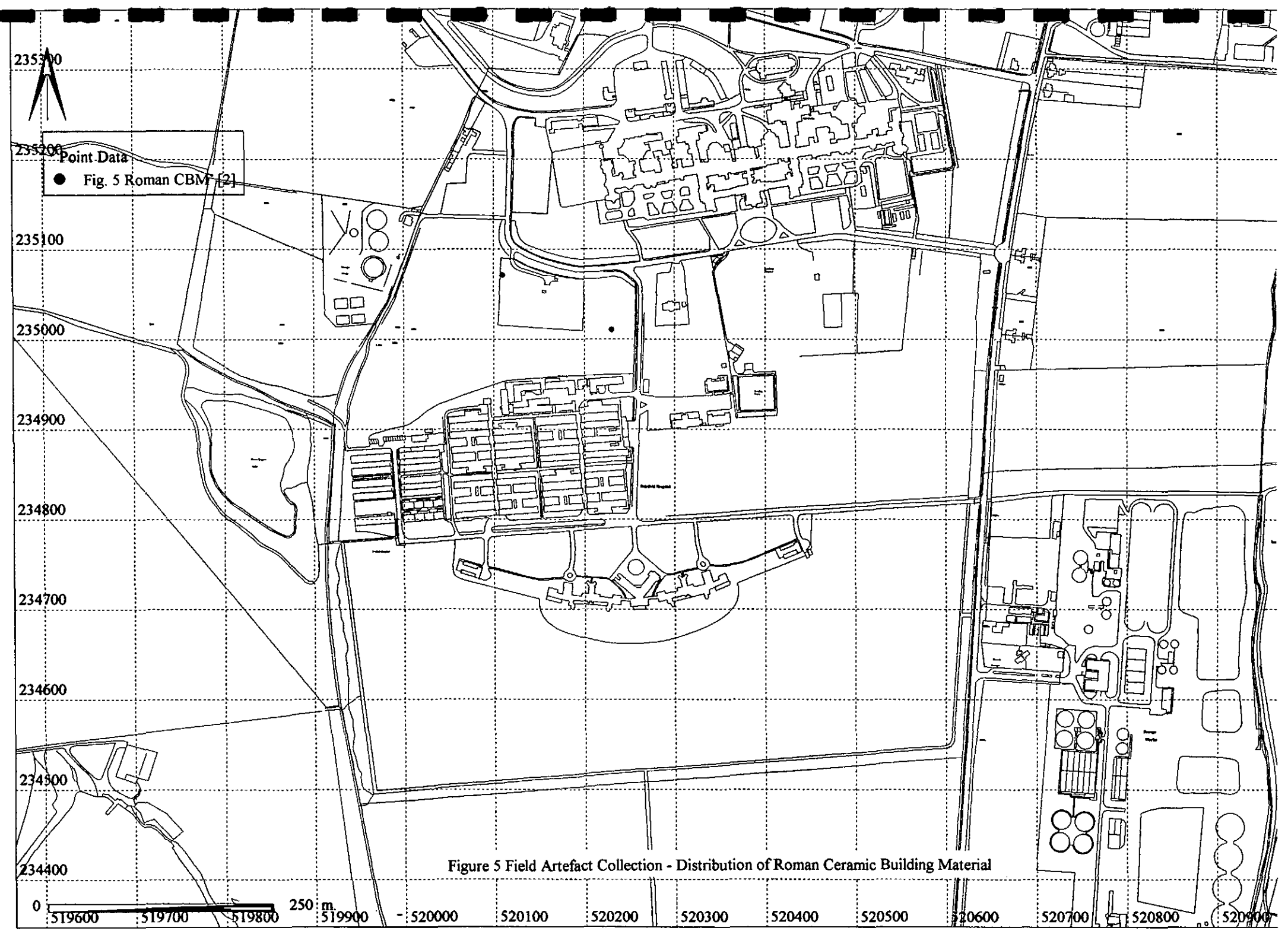


Figure 5 Field Artefact Collection - Distribution of Roman Ceramic Building Material

Figure 6 Field Artefact Collection - Distribution of Post-Medieval pottery

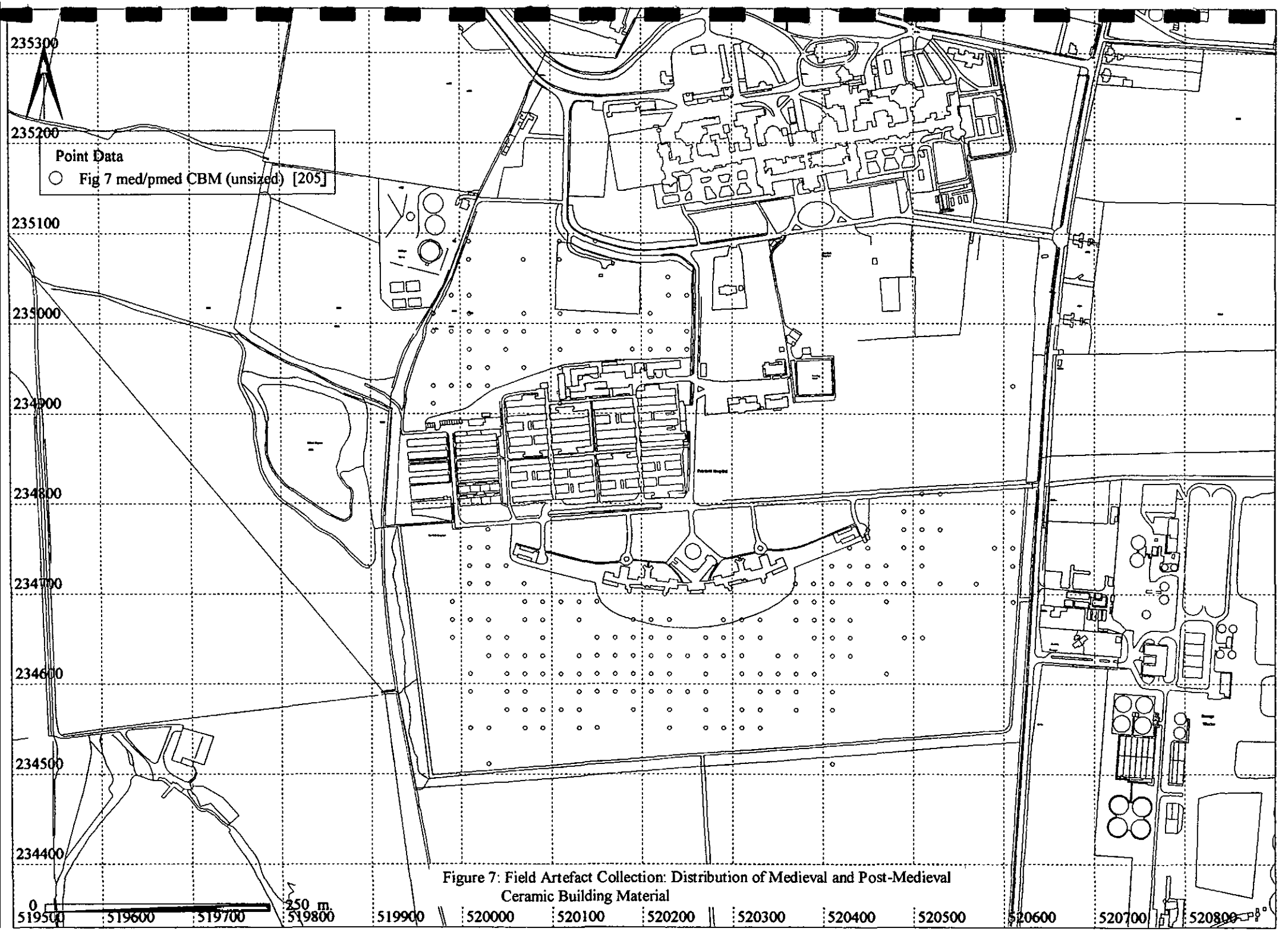


Figure 7: Field Artefact Collection: Distribution of Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Building Material

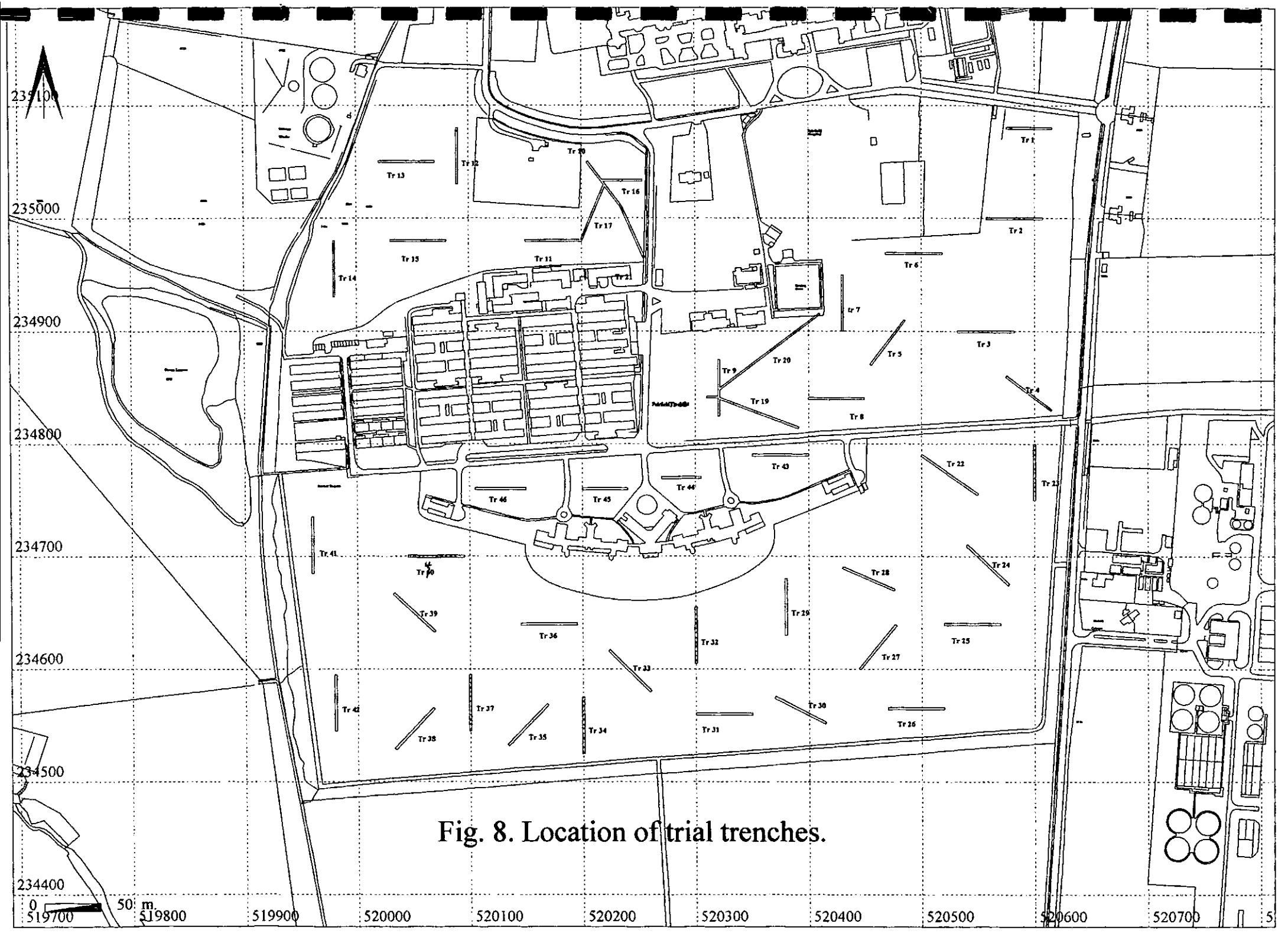


Fig. 8. Location of trial trenches.

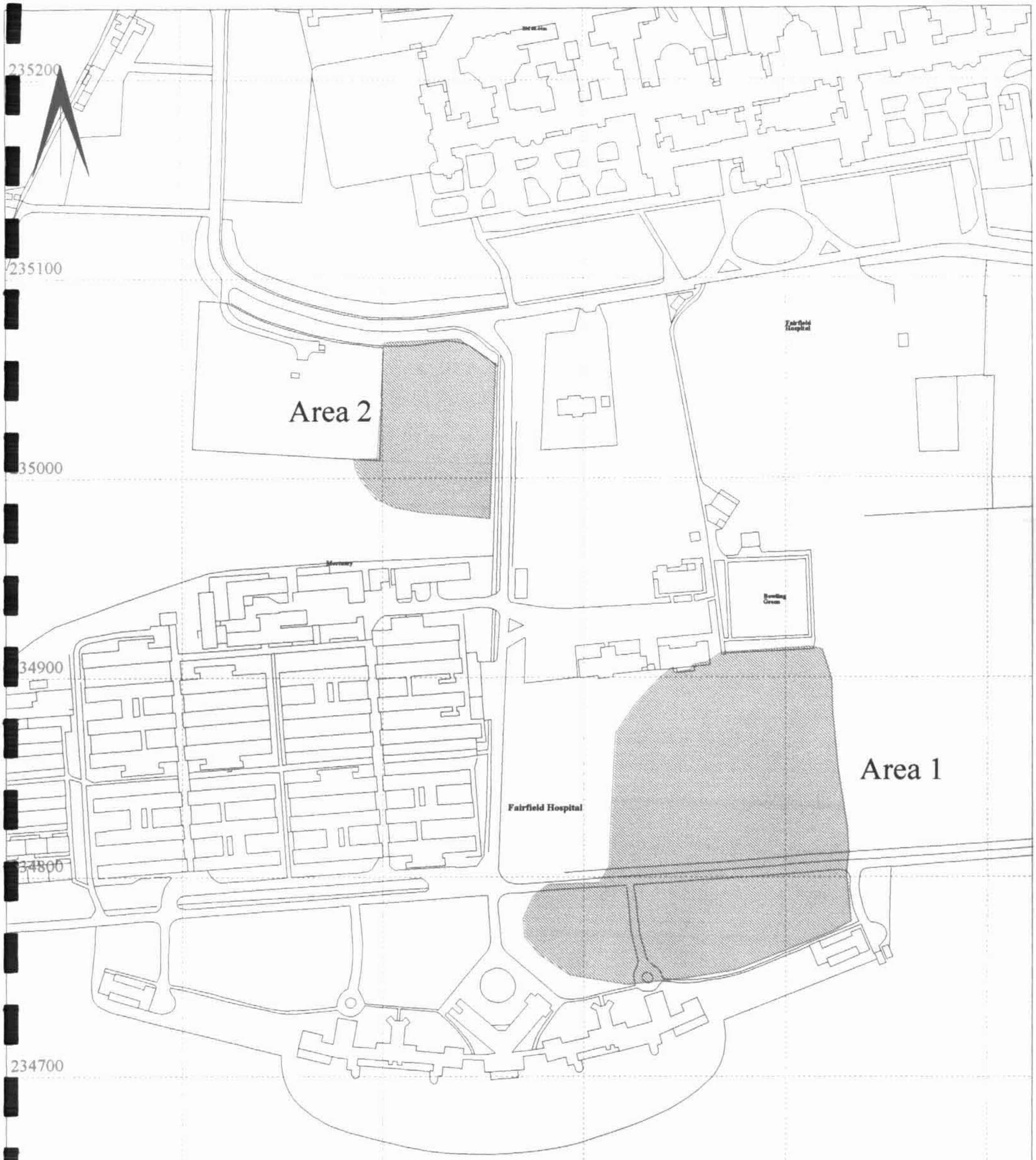
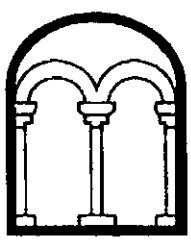


Fig. 9. Areas of dense archaeology.



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