

**LAND AT 24 FRIARY FIELD,
DUNSTABLE,
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**An Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief
Interim Site Narrative**



HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
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Site Code: HAT 526
NGR: TL 0183 2157
Borough: Dunstable

Nicholas A Crank BA AIFA
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The Seed Warehouse
Maidenhead Yard, The Wash
Hertford SG14 1PX
Tel: 01992 558170
Fax: 01992 553359

Registered Charity No. 281819

LAND AT 24 FRIARY FIELD, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

INTERIM SITE NARRATIVE

Summary

Between August 2001 and January 2002 an archaeological excavation and watching brief were undertaken on land at 24 Friary Field, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0183 2157) in advance of proposed residential development. The excavation revealed a small number of pits containing 2nd century Roman pottery (Phase 1); the remains of a late Roman cemetery comprising 15 inhumations, including four decapitated burials (Phase 2). The Romano-British cemetery had previously been excavated between 1968 and 1980, revealing over 100 individuals of dating from the 3rd to as late as the 5th centuries HER 11284, Matthews 1981). Medieval features comprising cross-shaped pits recorded previously in the area (Clark and Maull (1989)) continued into the current site (Phase 3).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between August 2001 and January 2002, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological excavation and watching brief on land at 24 Friary Field, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (NGR: TL 0183 2157) (Figs.1-2). The investigations followed a trial trench evaluation (Gardner & Murray, 2001), and were commissioned by Moody Homes Limited in advance of residential development of the site (planning application no: SB/TP/99/0780). The excavation and watching brief were undertaken as part of a planning condition required by South Bedfordshire District Council (based on advice from Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section (BCC HES)). The proposed development comprises the construction of two houses with associated access, landscaping and services.

1.2 The archaeological excavation and watching brief were conducted in accordance with briefs issued by BCC HES, and a specification compiled by HAT (dated 24/7/01). In addition they complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* and an *Archaeological Watching Brief* (both revised, 1999), and Bedfordshire County Councils' *Procedures Manual: Volume 1: Fieldwork* (1997).

2 SITE DESCRIPTION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site lies within the south west quadrant of the historic core of Dunstable town centre (Fig. 1). It encompasses a roughly rectangular area of c.30m x 25m, and lies at approximately 149m AOD at the foot of the Chiltern ridge, on a solid geology of Middle Chalk. Prior to development the site formed the gardens of the adjacent properties that

front onto Bull Pond Lane. It is bounded to the south, east and west by gardens and residential dwellings and to the north by the roadway Friary Field.

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric

3.1.1 Dunstable lies on the course of the Ickniel Way (HER 353), a prehistoric routeway that linked East Anglia with Wessex. The town is at the point where Roman Watling Street later crossed the line of the Ickniel Way. However, no major prehistoric occupation sites are recorded in the immediate area of the proposed development.

3.2 Roman

3.2.1 Settlement at Dunstable became established in the Roman period at the junction of the Ickniel Way and Watling Street, eventually developing into the small town of *Durocobrivis*. Previous archaeological investigations in the town have confirmed the presence of this settlement, but have revealed little structural evidence possibly as a result of medieval scarping (Clark & Dawson, 1995). Of particular relevance here are a series of excavations that took place between 1967 and 1981 which revealed the presence of a late Roman cemetery immediately adjacent to the site of proposed development (HER 11284, Matthews, 1981) (Fig. 3). There is also some evidence that occupation of the area continued into the 5th century after the cemetery fell into disuse.

3.3 Saxon

3.3.1 There is little evidence of the town being occupied during the Saxon period.

3.4 Medieval and post-Medieval

3.4.1 In 1119 a medieval new town was founded by Henry I on his Houghton Regis estate. Again, this centred on the junction of the two prevailing main roads and the period reveals evidence of occupation. Immediately to the north east of Friary Field a Dominican Friary was founded in 1259, with the first church completed shortly after (c.1264). It ceased at the Dissolution in 1539. The Friary has been subject to a number of phases of excavation from the 1920s to the 1990s (Clark & Maull, 1989, Green & Horne, 1991). These investigations revealed 'cross-shaped' pits of unknown function, though clearly medieval and thought to be associated with the Friary. These are known to continue to the south west of the Friary into the area of the earlier Roman cemetery (Fig. 3). Also revealed were a sequence of substantial ditches thought to delineate the north-western boundary of the Friary grounds (Green & Horne, 1991).

3.5 Recent Work

3.5.1 A trial trench evaluation of the site in May 2001 (Gardner & Murray, 2001) revealed at least one Roman inhumation and a Roman enclosure ditch that probably corresponded with the south-western cemetery boundary ditch partially excavated by the Manshead Archaeological Society along the line of the present roadway of Friary Field. A large area of medieval disturbance, possibly related to the quarrying of chalk and monastic boundaries / garden features, was revealed in the trenches in the northern part of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation

4.1.1 An area (c.8 m x 20 m) overlying the area of the proposed back gardens of the new dwellings was excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket (Figs. 3 & 4). The topsoil and subsoil were mechanically excavated under close supervision until the underlying deposits and archaeological features were visible. Exposed surfaces were cleaned and all further excavation was undertaken by hand. Deposits revealed were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

4.2 Watching Brief

4.2.1 The watching brief comprised supervised mechanical excavation, observation and recording of the foundation trenches for the two proposed dwellings (Plots A & B, Figs. 3 & 4). The trenches were excavated to formation depth with work stopping to permit the hand excavation of graves when encountered. Exposed surfaces were hand cleaned as necessary, and examined for additional archaeological features which were then recorded and excavated where appropriate. All deposits revealed were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

5 RESULTS (Figs. 4 - 8)

5.1 Phase 1, 2nd Century Roman Features excepting Burials Figs.4 & 5

5.1.1 Small pits, F2014, F2044, F2048, F2050 and F2052, were recorded.

5.1.2 A series of intercutting pits were revealed NE of Ditch F2025. Pit F2048 was cut by F2050. It measured 1.2m+ x 1.4m x 0.75m deep. It contained a mid brown, clayey silt with moderate chalk fragments (L1049). The finds comprise 2nd – 3rd C pottery (62g), and animal bone (198g). Pit F2050 had steep sides and a broad flattish base. It measured 1.4m+ x 1.95m x 0.6m deep, and contained a mid brown, silty loam with

frequent chalk fragments (L2051). The finds comprise 2nd C pottery (152g), animal bone (111g), and shell (1g). It was cut by F2052. The latter was steep-sided and had a flattish base. It was 0.65m deep. It contained a mid brown, silty loam with moderate chalk fragments (L2054), overlying a lens of slumped, redeposited chalk (L2053). The finds from L2054 comprise 2nd C pottery (667g), brick (74g), animal bone (384g), and shell (1g). Both F2050 and F2052 were truncated by medieval cross-shaped pit F2055. The Roman pits may be associated with chalk quarrying, subsequently filled with refuse.

5.1.3 F2048 cut F2044, an elongated, truncated, shallow, flat-bottomed pit. F2044 was up to 0.4m deep and filled with L2045, a mid to light greyish brown, clayey silt. The finds comprise 1st – 2nd C pottery (80g) and animal bone (30g).

5.1.4 Pit F2014 was shallow and sub-circular pit. It was cut by cross-shaped pit F2028. Its sides sloped at 60° to horizontal and gave way to a flat base. It was up to 0.95m in diameter and 0.21m deep. It was filled by L2015, a mid greyish brown, clayey silt with moderate chalk fragments. Finds comprise Roman pottery sherds (19g), tile fragments (8g), and animal bone (<1g).

5.2 Phase 2, 3rd – 5th Century Roman Cemetery Figs.4, 7 & 8

5.2.1 The cemetery comprised 15 graves which all contained articulated human skeletal remains (Excavation Area = Graves Cat. Nos.1 – 6; Watching Brief Area = Graves Cat. Nos.7 - 15, Appendix). The depths of the inhumations varied (0.35 – 0.7m below the top of the grave cut), and with the exception of one skeleton (Grave 5, F2032) all were well-preserved in the chalky soils. Graves 1 to 5 (F2003, F2006, F2011, F2032, F2035) were all truncated by medieval features (F2009 & 2016), but due to the depths of the graves the burials were not disturbed. Grave 7 (F2057) was also cut by a ditch (F2061). No modern truncation was apparent. All of the graves encountered during the watching brief were excavated as they occurred within the line of the foundation trenches. Grave 15 (F2092), which was largely outside the foundation trench, was not excavated.

5.2.2 Osteological and biometrical ageing and sexing of individual skeletons will be carried out subsequently. All the burials were adult (over 15 years).

5.2.3 The relative position of the graves and the lack of intercutting graves suggests the existence of rows. This indicates that the graves were broadly contemporary and / or that grave markers were used. The orientation of the graves was generally NE/SW. The density and alignment of graves is comparable those previously excavated to the NW.

5.2.4 The graves were similar with most being sub-rectangular with rounded corners and vertical to near-vertical sides. Grave 5 (F2032) was notably larger in both length and width than the others.

5.2.5 The majority of skeletons were in the supine position with small variations in the positioning of the arms. The possible row of Graves 3 (F2011), 4 (F2035), 5 (F2032) and 14 (F2089) were notable in that in all four skeletons had been decapitated, with the skull and some vertebrae placed either on the feet or the lower legs.

5.2.6 No definite evidence of coffins was recorded. A few iron nails were recovered from Graves 1 (F2003) (2g), 2 (F2006) (14g) and 13 (F2086) (84g).

5.2.7 Two graves contained grave goods. A bone comb with iron rivets was placed adjacent to the right shoulder of Skeleton 2007 (Grave 2, F2006 SF1). A glass vessel was placed adjacent to the left knee of Skeleton 2084 (Grave 12, F2085 SF2).

5.2.8 Sparse finds recovered from the grave fills. 3rd – 4th C pottery from two of the graves (Grave 4, F2035 (1g) and Grave 7, F2057 (36g)) indicates a 'late' date for the cemetery. Grave 1 (F2003) contained an intrusive High Mediaeval sherd.

5.2.9 Ditch F2025 was revealed during the evaluation (Trenches 3 and 4, F123/105). It was aligned roughly NW/SE, and traversed the site for c.9m. It was c.1.65m wide and 0.7m deep. It was much truncated by two medieval cross-shaped pits. The ditch was steep-sided, flat-bottomed and had a V-shaped profile. It contained two distinct fills. The upper fill, L2026, a light greyish brown, clayey silt with moderate chalk fragments. The basal fill, L2027, was a very pale, whitish brown, clayey silt. The finds from L2026 comprise 2nd C pottery (622g), daub (9g), brick (234g), tile (33g), human bone (52g) animal bone (949g), and shell (23g). The finds from L2027 comprise 2nd C pottery sherds (448g), human bone (105g) animal bone (818g), struck flint (<1g) and shell (44g). F2025 was also traced for a further 12m to the north west during the watching brief. It may have been cut by Ditch F2061. It contained human bone and may represent a cemetery boundary ditch (Fig.3)

5.3 Phase 3, Medieval Features Figs.4 - 6

5.3.1 The principal medieval features revealed within the excavation area were six of the large 'cross-shaped' pits and two ditches.

5.3.2 Of the six cross-shaped pits revealed wholly or partially within the excavation area, two were half-sectioned (F2028 & F2030). Their profiles were uniform and comprised vertical sides and flat bases. Their respective fills (L2029 & L2031) were identical, and consisted of a mid brown, slightly chalky silty loam. A band of chalk within L2029 defined a possible tip line. It seems likely that these features were rapidly infilled. Finds from L2029 comprise 2nd – 3rd C pottery (1893g), fragments of tile (146g), brick (203g), human bone (33g), animal bone (3793g) and stone (522g). Finds from L2031 comprise 11th – 12th C pottery (342g), fragments of tile (64g), building material (16g), animal bone (178g), slag (9g), and burnt flint (188g). Previous investigations in the area suggest that these features are mediaeval, and associated with the Friary.

5.3.3 Ditches F2009 and F2016 were parallel and aligned NW/SE. They were not traced beyond the area of the excavation i.e. within the foundation trenches of Plot B. Both displayed a fairly uniform profile with vertical / near-vertical sides and a flattish base. Their dimensions were also similar ranging between 0.8 – 1.06m wide and 0.25 – 0.39m deep with roughly parallel edges. Again, both were filled with a homogenous, mid brown, chalky silty loam. Finds from F2009 L2010 comprise medieval (11th – 14th C) and residual Roman pottery (142g), brick (279g), tile (168g), and animal bone (76g). Finds from F2016 L2017 comprise medieval pottery (12th – 16th C) (58g), tile (233g), animal bone (229g) and burnt flint (9g). The cross-shaped pits appeared to respect the ditches which may suggest that they are broadly contemporary.

7.1.1 F2069 was a cross-shaped pit in Plot A. It contained a mid to light greyish brown, silty loam with moderate chalk fragments (L2070). Finds comprise residual 1st century Roman pottery (276g), tile fragments (15g), animal bone (41g) and slag (69g). F2067 was another cross-shaped pit in Plot A. It was filled with a mid to dark brown, silty loam with moderate chalk rubble (L2068), and contained Roman pottery (6g) on the surface.

5.3.4 A substantial ditch, F2061, aligned SSW-NNE was also recorded within Plots A and B. It traversed both house plots for a distance of c.22m, and was 2.2m wide and 1m+ deep. It exhibited a stepped profile and was filled by L2062, a mid brownish grey sandy silt with frequent lenses of coarse chalk rubble. It contained Roman pottery (11g), tile (217g), and human bone (348g). At its south-western end it appeared to cut Ditch F2025, though the relationship was not clear. Ditch F2061 cut Grave F2057 indicating that the feature is post-Roman. Its alignment suggests that it is the same as the 'buttress trench' identified by the local archaeological society during previous investigations in the vicinity of the site (Fig.3).

5.4 Modern / Undated Features Fig.4

5.4.1 F2065 was a linear feature, aligned NE/SW, and partially-revealed within the narrow foundation trench of Plot A. It was unexcavated, but was 1.4m wide and filled with a redeposited chalk rubble. No finds were recovered from the surface.

5.4.2 F2063 was adjacent to F2065. Its fill was a mid to light greyish brown, silty loam with moderate chalk rubble. Slag (411g) was recovered from the surface.

5.4.3 Two small, adjacent, shallow pits, F2021 and F2023, cut the upper fill of Ditch F2025. They were sub-circular in plan and a maximum of 0.12m in depth. Their fills were a dark loam (L2022 & L2024). Finds from L2022 comprise brick (1g), animal bone (<1g), slag (8g), and coal (<1g). Finds from L2024 comprise an 18th/19th century pottery sherd (1g), brick (56g), and animal bone (<1g).

5.4.4 Two sub-circular intercutting pits, F2038 and F2041, cut 'cross-shaped' pit F2055. Both pits had steeply sloping sides and flattish bases. F2041 clearly cut F2038. The latter contained two distinct fills, an upper fill of loose chalk rubble (L2040) and a

mid brown silty loam (L2039). No finds were present. F2041 also contained two distinct fills, a dark greyish brown sandy silt loam (L2042), overlain by a mid greyish brown clayey silt loam (L2043). The latter contained 3rd - 4th C Roman pottery (187g, and animal bone (81g).

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 Between 0.5 - 0.8m of topsoil sealed the archaeological features and the natural chalk.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds. Though the Areas of Plot A and B were subject to a watching brief, in practice the mechanical digger was supervised by an archaeologist and the graves formally excavated when they occurred.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 A small number of pits contained 2nd C Roman pottery and other finds. They represent the first phase of activity, likely account for the residual finds in graves.

8.2 The Romano-British cemetery had previously been excavated between 1968 and 1980, revealing over 100 individuals of dating from the 3rd to as late as the 5th centuries (HER 11284, Matthews 1981). The cemetery was enclosed by a formal ditch, which also contained inhumation burials. Ditch F2025 of the current investigations corresponds with the south-western boundary ditch partially-excavated by the Manshead Archaeological Society along the line of Friary Field. The recent burials accord with the orientation of those previously investigated. Little dating evidence was recovered from the graves excepting residual Roman pottery sherds. Two graves contained grave goods. A bone comb from Skeleton 2007 (Grave 2, F2006 SF1), and a glass vessel from Skeleton 2084 (Grave 12, F2085 SF2). Four burials had been decapitated. No evidence of the wells or kilns, recorded during the previous cemetery excavations, was identified during the project.

8.3 Mediaeval features on the site lie close to those recorded in Friary Field by Clark and Maull (1989). The cross-shaped pits recorded previously in the area continued into the current site. F2030 contained 11th-12th century pottery. Their purpose is uncertain. The so-called 'buttress trench' (a large ditch with a stepped profile) was identified during previous investigations (and revealed to the immediate south of the site at Pond Cottage by Hudspith (1991) was recorded during the watching brief (F2061), though little dating evidence was recovered.

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Appendix 1 Catalogue of Inhumations

Grave 1	F2003
Shape	Sub-rectangular, tapers to NE, cut by medieval ditch (F2009) at NE end.
Alignment	NE/SW
Dimensions	2.4 m x 0.7 m x 0.7 m deep
Profile	Vertical / near vertical sides and flattish base
Skeleton	2004
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial
Position	Supine extended R arm / L arm flexed over lower abdomen Legs extended, together
Condition	V. good to moderate. c.90% surviving
Fill (L2005)	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt with moderate chalk fragments
Finds	Tile (89g), animal bone (1g), stone (247g), Fe nail (2g)
Grave 2	F2006
Shape	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded NW end, cut by medieval ditch (F2009) at NE end.
Alignment	NE/SW
Dimensions	2.2 m x 0.96 m x 0.6 m deep
Profile	Vertical / near vertical
Skeleton	2007
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial
Position	Supine extended Arms slightly flexed, L arm over pelvis, R arm by side. Legs extended, together A large water worn flint pebble was located under the skull, ?possible pillow
Condition	V. good to moderate. c.90% surviving .
Fill (L2008)	Mid to light grey, chalk rubble / clay loam
Finds	Bone comb with iron rivets (SF1), Fe nail (14g)
Grave 3	F2011
Shape	Sub-rectangular with rounded corners, cut by medieval ditch (F2016) at NE end
Alignment	WSW/ENE
Dimensions	1.95 m x 0.8 m x 0.6 m deep
Profile	Vertical sides, flat base
Skeleton	2012
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial with possible neo-nate (12g)
Position	Supine extended Skull placed on feet, including some vertebrae R lower flexed under pelvis, R arm flexed over abdomen Legs extended, together
Condition	V. good to moderate. c. 90% surviving
Fill (L2013)	Light greyish brown clayey silt / chalk rubble mix
Finds	Slag (13g)

Grave 4 **F2035**
Shape Sub-rectangular, tapers towards NE end, rounded ends. Cut by medieval ditch (F2016) at NE end
Alignment NE/SW
Dimensions 2.12 m x 0.65 m x 0.66 m deep.
Profile Vertical sides, flattish base
Skeleton 2036
Age Adult
Type Adult burial
Position Supine extended
 Skull placed on lower legs
 Arms flexed over pelvic area
 Legs extended, together
Condition V. Good to moderate. c. 95% surviving
Fill (L2037) Mid to light greyish brown, clayey silt with frequent chalk fragments
Finds Animal bone (60g)

Grave 5 **F2032**
Shape Sub-rectangular with squared corners, cut by medieval ditch (F2016) at NE end
Alignment NE/SW
Dimensions 2.4 m x 1.27 m x 0.65 m deep
Profile Vertical / near vertical sides, flat base.
Skeleton 2033
Age Adult
Type Adult burial
Position Supine extended
 Skull placed on area of feet
 Only upper arms present
 Legs extended, ?together
Condition V. poor c. 30% surviving. Many elements missing or partial
Fill (L2034) Light greyish brown, clayey silt with frequent chalk fragments
Finds Animal bone (5g), burnt stone (27g)

Grave 6 **F2018**
Shape Sub-rectangular with rounded corners
Alignment NE/SW
Dimensions 2.0 m x 0.7 m x 0.56m deep
Profile Vertical / near vertical sides, flattish base
Skeleton 2019
Age Adult
Type Adult burial
Position Supine extended
 Arms flexed over lower abdomen
 Legs extended, together
Condition V. good to moderate, c. 90% surviving
Fill (L2020) Light greyish brown, clayey silt with frequent chalk fragments
Finds Animal bone (15g), shell (<1g)

Grave 7	F2057
Shape	Sub-rectangular, partial, cut by Ditch F2061
Alignment	NW/SE
Dimensions	1.2 m x 0.48 m x 0.35 m deep
Profile	Very truncated, concave sides, flat base.
Skeleton	2058
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial
Position	Supine, torso only
Condition	Truncated but good, c. 30% surviving
Fill (L2059)	Chalk / light grey clayey silt
Finds	None
Grave 8	F2071
Shape	Sub-rectangular, rounded corners
Alignment	NE/SW
Dimensions	1.95 m x 0.65 m x 0.35 m deep
Profile	Vertical sides, flat base
Skeleton	2072
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial
Position	Supine extended Arms flexed over lower abdomen Legs extended, together
Condition	Excellent, c. 95% surviving
Fill (L2073)	V. light grey silt with frequent chalk fragments
Finds	None
Grave 9	F2075
Shape	Sub-rectangular, rounded ends
Alignment	W-E
Dimensions	2.1 m x 0.6 m x 0.5 m deep
Profile	Near vertical sides, gradual break onto flat base
Skeleton	2076
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial
Position	Supine extended R. arm flexed, over R. shoulder L. arm flexed, over chest Legs extended, together
Condition	Good, c. 80% surviving
Fill (L2074)	Light whitish grey silt and chalk fragments
Finds	Tile (18g)

Grave 10	F2079
Shape	Partly revealed, sub-rectangular, rounded end
Alignment	NE-SW
Dimensions	1.1 m+ x 0.36 m+ x 0.4 m deep
Profile	Near vertical sides, gradual break onto flattish base
Skeleton	2078
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial
Position	Supine extended? R. arm not recovered L. arm flexed, over chest L. leg extended, R. leg not recovered
Condition	Good, c. 40% surviving/recovered
Fill (L2077)	Light brownish, off white, silt with chalk fragments
Finds	None
Grave 11	F2082
Shape	Sub-rectangular, rounded end.
Alignment	NE-SW
Dimensions	1.3 m+ x 0.54 x 0.45 m deep
Profile	Near vertical sides, flat base
Skeleton	2081
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial
Position	Supine extended Upper body not recovered Legs extended, together
Condition	Moderate, c.45% surviving/recovered
Fill (L2080)	Light brownish off white silt with frequent chalk fragments
Finds	None
Grave 12	F2085
Shape	Sub-rectangular, rounded end
Alignment	NE-SW
Dimensions	1.25 m+ x 0.63 m x 0.45 m deep
Profile	Steeply sloping sides, sharp break onto flat base
Skeleton	2084
Age	Adult
Type	Adult burial
Position	Extended, lying on R. side Legs extended, together
Condition	Good, disturbed, c. 60% surviving
Fill (L2083)	Loose chalk rubble
Finds	Glass vessel (SF 2) located adjacent to L. knee

Grave 13 **F2086**
 Shape Sub-rectangular, rounded SW end, NE end not revealed
 Alignment SW-NE
 Dimensions 1.4 m x 0.78 m x 0.53 m deep
 Profile Near vertical sides, sharp break to flat base
 Skeleton 2087
 Age Adult
 Type Adult burial
 Position Supine extended
 R. arm flexed over abdomen
 L. arm flexed over chest
 Legs extended, together
 Condition Good c. 80% surviving
 Fill (L2088) Loose chalk rubble
 Finds 5 Fe nails (84g)

Grave 14 **F2089**
 Shape Sub-rectangular, rounded ends
 Alignment SE-NW
 Dimensions 2.44 m x 0.71 m 0.5 m deep
 Profile Steep sides, gradual break to flat base
 Skeleton 2090
 Age Adult
 Type Adult burial
 Position Supine extended
 Skull placed on left foot
 R. arm flexed over abdomen
 L. arm flexed below R. arm
 Legs extended, together
 Condition V. good, c. 95% surviving
 Fill (L2091) Loose chalk rubble
 Finds None

Grave 15 **F2092**
 Shape Uncertain, only partly revealed
 Alignment NE-SW
 Dimensions 0.73 m x 0.4 m x 0.58 m deep
 Profile Steep sides, sharp break to flat base
 Skeleton 2093
 Age Uncertain
 Type Partial burial
 Position Supine extended?
 Only foot end of grave uncovered
 Condition Good, just bones from feet recovered
 Fill (L2094) Loose chalk rubble
 Finds None

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Description	Spot date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Human Bone (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck Flint (g)	Other (g)
2001	2001	Subsoil				206g			
2003	2005	Grave fill	12 th - 14 th C	6g	Tile 89g	Sk 2004	1g		Stone 247g Fe nail 2g
2006	2008	Grave fill				Sk 2007			SF 1 Bone comb 23g Fe nail 14g
2009	2010	Ditch fill	11 th - 12 th C	45g	Brick 279g Tile 103g		22g		
2009	2010 seg 1	Ditch fill	12 th - 14 th	79g	Tile 35g ?cbm 7g		19g		
2009	2010 seg 3	Ditch fill	2 nd to 4 th C AD	18g	Tile 30g		35g		
2011	2013	Grave fill				Sk 2012 11			Slag 13g Fe object <1g
2014	2015	Pit fill	Roman	19g	Tile 8g		<1g		
2016	2017	Ditch fill					51g		Slag 9g Oyster shell 2g
2016	2017 seg 2	Ditch fill	15 th - 16 th C	28g	Tile 158g		100g		
2016	2017 seg 3	Ditch fill	12 th - 14 th C	30g	Tile 82g		129g		Charcoal <1g Burnt flint 9g
2018	2020	Grave fill				Sk 2019	15g		Oyster shell <1g
2021	2022	Pit fill			Brick 1g		<1g		Slag 8g Coal <1g
2023	2024	Pit? fill	M. 18 th - 19 th C	1g	Brick 56g		<1g		
2025	2026	Ditch fill	2 nd C AD	622g	Daub 9g Brick 234g Tile 33g	52	897g		Oyster shell 23g
2025	2027	Ditch fill	Early - later 2 nd C AD	448g		105	713g	<1	Oyster shell 44g
2028	2029	Pit fill	c AD120?150 - early/mid 3 rd C AD	1893g	Tile 146g Brick 203g	33	3793g		Stone 522g
2030	2031	Pit fill	11 th - 12 th C	342g	Tile 64g ?cbm 16g		178g		Slag 9g Burnt flint 188g

Feature	Context	Description	Spot date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Human Bone (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck Flint (g)	Other (g)
2032	2034	Grave fill	Roman	9g		Sk 2033	5g		Burnt stone 27g
2035	2037	Grave fill	AD120 - AD260	1g		Sk 2036	60g		
2041	2043	Pit fill	Late 3 rd to early 4 th C AD	187g			81g		
2044	2045	?Pit fill	Mid 1 st - late 1 st /early 2 nd C AD	80g			30g		
2048	2049	Pit fill	Early 2 nd to early 3 rd C AD	62g			198g		
2050	2051	Pit fill	AD120 - later 2 nd C AD	152g			111g		Mussel shells 1g
2052	2054	Pit fill	AD150 - 2 nd C AD	667g	Brick 74g		384g		Mussel shells 1g
2057	2059	Grave fill	AD270 - 400	36g		Sk 2058			
2060	2060	General layer	L. 18 th - 19 th C	563g	Tile 1353g		2508g		Oyster shell 7g Clay pipe stem 4g
2061	2062	Ditch fill	Roman	11g	Tile 217g	348g			
2063	2064	Pit fill							?Slag 411g
2067	2068	Pit? fill	Roman	6g					
2069	2070	Pit? fill	Mid to later 1 st C AD	276g	Tile 15g		41g		Slag 69g
2071	2073	Grave fill				Sk 2072			
2075	2074	Grave fill			Tile 18g	Sk 2076			
2079	2077	Grave fill				Sk 2078			
2082	2080	Grave fill				Sk 2081			
2085	2083	Grave fill				Sk 2084			SF 2 Glass vessel 40g
2086	2088	Grave fill				Sk 2087			Fe nails (x 5) 84g
2089	2091	Grave fill				Sk 2090			
2092	2094	Grave fill				Sk 2093			
U/S	U/S	General unstratified					81g		

Roman Pottery
A. R. Fawcett BA, MA

Introduction

This report provides dating evidence for each context that contained pottery at 24 Friary Field, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Dating is based (where possible) on both the identification of form and fabric. The report also contains a summary of the results of analysis.

Methodology

Quantification is by sherd count and weight per fabric. The assemblage from each context was given a brief macroscopic examination. No detailed fabric description of any of the material and no detailed comparison with other material of a similar nature has been attempted. The spot date for each context is based upon the most recent sherd. However, where appropriate a date range is given and comments are directed toward the condition of the majority of pottery. Fabric and form keys are provided below to facilitate reference. The fabric key incorporates codes that relate to the national system and the Bedfordshire type series. Where the fabric key is too general, specific multiple entries are listed relating to the national system (Tomber & Dore 1998).

Fabric Key

Roman

R01A	(LEZ SA 1 early fabric) (LEZ SA 2 late fabric) (LMV SA)	Central Gaulish samian ware [Lezoux] Central Gaulish samian ware [Lezoux] Central Gaulish samian ware [Les Martres..]
R01B	(LGF SA)	Southern Gaulish samian ware [La Graufesenque]
R01C	(EGL SA) (MAD SA)	Un sourced samian ware [Eastern-Gaulish] Eastern Gaulish samian ware [La Madeleine]
R03	(UNS WH)	Un sourced white ware
R03A	(VER WH)	Verulamium white ware
R03C	(UNS WH)	Un sourced smooth white ware
R04E	(COL CC 1 early fabric)	Colchester colour coated ware
R05A	(UNS OX)	Un sourced orange sandy ware
R05B	(UNS OX)	Un sourced fine orange ware
R05D	(UNS WS)	Un sourced oxidised white slip ware
R06	(HGW RE C)	General grey ware [Highgate Wood reduced ware C]
R06B	(GRS) (GRS/St)	Un sourced coarse grey ware Un sourced coarse grey ware [storage jar]
R06C	(GRF)	Un sourced fine grey ware
R06E	(GRS)	Un sourced calcareous grey ware
R07A	(DOR BB 1)	Black burnished ware [BB1]
R07B	(UNS BB)	Un sourced sandy black ware
R09C	(SOB GT)	Un sourced brown grogged ware
R09D	(UNS GS)	Un sourced grog/sand and shell tempered ware
R11A	(OXF WH)	Oxford white ware
R11E	(OXF WH/Mo)	Oxford mortaria [white]
R11G	(OXF RS)	Oxford orange slipped ware
R12B	(LNV CC)	Nene Valley colour coated ware
R13	(HAR SH 1 early fabric) (HAR SH 2 late fabric) (UNS SH) (UNS SH/ST)	Harrold shell tempered ware Harrold shell tempered ware Un sourced shell tempered ware Un sourced shell tempered ware [storage jar]
R19A	(BAT AM 1 early fabric) (BAT AM 2 late fabric)	Dressel 20 amphorae fabric Dressel 20 amphorae fabric
R22B	(HAD RE 1) (HAD RE 1/St)	Hadham reduced ware Hadham reduced ware [storage jar]
R33	(VER WH/Mo)	Verulamium mortaria ware
R35	(SOB GT) (SOB GT/ST)	Un sourced Roman grogged ware Un sourced Roman grogged ware [storage jar]
R35A	(BSW)	Roman sand and grogged ware including oxidised Romanising fabrics
R38	(GRC CC) (UNS CC)	Great Casterton colour coated ware Un sourced colour coated ware

All fabrics or form types with an uncertain identification are denoted by *italics*.

Form Key

B - dish, C - bowl, D - mortaria, G - jar, H - beaker, J - flagon, R - miniature, T - cup.

Ceramic Catalogue

CONTEXT	RO CERAMIC LISTING	DATE RANGE	COMMENTS
2010	1x R35A [BSW/St] (35g)	Mediaeval sherds 11 th - 12 th C	
2010 seg 1	1x R01B [LGF SA] - Mid 1st to AD120 (2g) 1x R35 [SOB GT/St] (14g)	Mediaeval sherds 12 th - 14 th C	
2010 seg 3.	1x R05A [UNS OX] - G lid seat 2nd C?+ (4g) 1x R06B [GRS] (5g) 1x R06C [GRF] (1g) 1x R11A [OXF WH] - AD100 to 400 (6g) 1x R11G [OXF RS] - AD240 to 400 (2g)	2 nd to 4th C AD	All the sherds are small and abraded. Some evidence of decoration remains on two sherds: indentations on the Oxford sherd and barbotine dots on the fine grey ware.
2015	1x R03 [UNS WH] (3g) 1x R13 [HAR SH/St] (13g) 1x R35 [SOB GT] (3g)	Roman	All the sherds are small and abraded.
2017 seg 2	1x R06C [GRS] (15g) 1x R11G [OXF RS] - AD240 to AD400 (1g) 1x R13 [HAR SH] (10g)	Late mediaeval/early post-mediaeval sherds 15 th - 16 th C	The Roman sherds are mid 3rd to 4th C AD.
2017 seg 3	2x R05A [UNS OX] (5g) 2x R06B [GRS] (4g) 1x R11G [OXF RS] (1g) 1x R13 [HAR SH] (2g) 2x R35 [SOB GT/St] (76g) 3x R35A [BSW] (19g)	Mediaeval sherds 12 th - 14 th C	
2026	1x R01A [LEZ SA 2] - AD120 to later 2nd C AD (2g) 1x R01A [LMV SA] - AD100 to 120/5 (3g) 3x R01B [LGF SA] - mid 1st to c AD120 (4g) 4x R03 [UNS WH] (14g) 4x R03A [VER WH] (11g) 6x R05A [UNS OX] (30g) 1x R05D [UNS WS] (2g) 1x R06 [HGW RE C] - late 1st to c AD180 (2g) 10x R06B [GRS] - G lid seat 3rd C AD; H mid 2nd C AD+ - (54g) 2x R06C [GRF] (12g) 6x R07B [UNS BB] - B x2 early 2nd C AD+ (34g) 2x R11E [OXF WH] - AD100 to early/mid 3rd C AD (186g) 10x R12B [LNV CC] - R 4th C AD (86g)	AD100/125 To 4 th C AD (majority 2nd C AD. Evidence for the 4th C is unreliable, but a number of forms may be assigned to the 3rd C AD).	All of the samian sherds are fragmentary and abraded. The Nene Valley miniature is virtually complete. It has no direct parallel; those published in the original corpus are 4th C AD (Howe <i>et al</i> 1980), however an earlier date cannot be discounted e.g. the form style dates from the 3 rd C AD. It has a white painted barbotine decoration. The Oxford mortaria form is burnt and typologically is dated no later than the 3 rd C AD.

	<p>9x R13 [HAR SH] - G AD150 to early 4th C AD; G channel rim late 1st to early 3rd C AD (94g) 1x R13 [HAR SH/St] (7g) 1x R35 [SOB GT] (4g) 1x R35 [SOB GT/St] (20g) 6x R35A [BSW] (47g) 1x R38 [GRC CC] (10g)</p>		
2027	<p>1x R01B [LGF SA] - mid 1st to c AD120 (2g) 1x R01C [MAD SA] - AD117 to c AD155 (1g) 4x R03A [VER WH] - C reed rim early to late 2nd C AD; G (46g) 4x R05A [UNS OX] (9g) 4x R06B [GRS] (34g) 5x R06C [GRF] - B early 2nd C+ (49g) 1x R11G [OXF RS] - AD240 to 400 (2g) 1x R11E [OXF WH] - AD100 to 400 (36g) 5x R13 [HAR SH] - G AD117 to 192; C AD150 to c AD200 (67g) 1x R35 [SOB GT] (6g) 2x R35 [SOB GT/St] (97g) 13x R35A [BSW] - B early 2nd C+; G (99g)</p>	<p>Early to later 2nd C AD</p>	<p>The OXF RS sherd is small and abraded, as is the samian and the one example of grog tempered ware. The fabric listed as OXF WH is not a perfect match. The form appears to be early but the fabric is not a classic. The high occurrence of mica may simply indicate a variant. The jar in HAR SH is in good condition and has a parallel (No.197) Chells, Stevenage (Waugh 1999, 125)</p>
2029	<p>3x R01A [LMV SA] - T Drg27 AD100 to 120/5; T Drg33 AD100 to 120/5 (16g) 4x R01A [LEZ SA 2] - C Drg31 mid 1st to later 2nd C AD; T Drg33 AD120 to later 2nd C AD (39g) 2x R01B [LGF SA] - mid 1st to c AD120 (2g) 15x R03A [VER WH] - G 2nd C AD (127g) 1x R03C [UNS WH] (3g) 14x R05A [UNS OX] - C (139g) 16x R06B [GRS] - C (280g) 6x R06C [GRF] G (76g) 1x R06B [GRS/St] (23g) 5x R07A [DOR BB 1] (34g) 4x R07B [UNS BB] - C flat rim early 2nd to mid 3rd C AD (97g) 1x R11E [OXF WH/Mo] - D AD100 to AD400 (85g) 1x R11G [OXF RS] - AD240 to AD400 (7g) 1x R12B [LNV CC] - AD150 to 3rd C AD?+ (1g) 14x R13 [HAR SH] - G - AD150 to</p>	<p>c AD120/150 to early/mid 3rd C AD</p>	<p>The condition of the pottery is extremely variable. As with the other examples of Oxford mortaria on the site, the form types are earlier versions. The principal feature which distinguishes the fabric from other white wares are the trituration grits of multi-coloured polycrystalline and monocrystalline quartz. Nearly all other white ware mortaria grits have distinctive elements of slag and flint with quartz and others. Some of the Verulamium sherds have a considerably finer fabric than the 'classic' version.</p>

	<p>4th C AD; G c AD150 to late 3rd C AD (155g) 1x R13 [HAR SH/St] (11g) 1x R19A [BAT AM 1] - 1st C AD to c AD130 (131g) 1x R19A [BAT AM 2] - c AD130 to AD260 (78g) 2x R22B [HAD RE 1] (13g) 1x R22B [HAD RE/St] (42g) 12x R35 [SOB GT] (117g) 9x R35 [SOB GT/St] - G at least early to mid 2nd C AD (312g) 8x R35A [BSW] - B 2nd C AD+ (70g) 5x R35A [BSW/Ox] (35g)</p>		
2031	<p>1x R01B [LGF SA] - Mid 1st to AD120 (<1g) 1x R01C [EGL SA] - AD120 to AD260 (1g) 7x R05A [UNS OX] (23g) 2x R05B [UNS OX] - G late 1st to 2nd C AD (4g) 12x R06B [GRS] - ?C (74g) 3x R13 [HAR SH] (46g) 2x R35 [SOB GT/St] (37g) 3x R35A [BSW] (15g)</p>	Mediaeval sherds 11 th - 12 th C	All the Roman sherds are small and abraded, and they span the whole Roman period.
2034	<p>4x R05A [UNS OX] (4g) 2x R35A [BSW] (5g)</p>	Roman	All the sherds are extremely small and abraded.
2037	<p>1x R01C [EGL SA] - AD120 to AD260 (1g)</p>	AD120 to AD260	Although the sherd is small and very abraded the fabric is interesting. It contains abundant well sorted fine limestone with common silver and gold mica. The flakes are considerably larger than the limestone. It appears similar to the micaceous 1 st C Lezoux fabric, but this is not noted for its limestone content. The fabric could also be from central Gaul. The date range reflects this.
2043	<p>1x R05B [UNS OX] (7g) 4x R06B [GRS] G late 1st to 2nd C AD (25g) 1x R07B [UNS BB] (16g) R13x [HAR SH 2] C reed rim style late 3rd to at least early 4th C AD; G lid seat (119g) 3x R35A [BSW] (20g)</p>	Late 3rd to Early 4 th C AD	The HAR SH 2 sherds are markedly better preserved than the other fabrics.

2045	1x R06B [GRS] (6g) 1x R06C [GRF] (8g) 1x R06E [GRS] (5g) 1x R09C [SOB GT] - mid 1st to late 1st/early 2nd C AD (20g) 2x R35A [BSW] (41g)	Mid 1st to late 1st/early 2nd C AD	A lattice pattern is noted on one black ware sherd.
2049	2x R03 [UNS WH] (7g) 1x R05A [UNS OX] (2g) 2x R06C [GRF] - B early/mid 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd C AD (24g) 1x R07B [UNS BB] (5g) 1x R09C [SOB GT] - mid 1st to late 1st/early 2nd C AD (7g) 1x R13 [HAR SH 2] (4g) 2x R35 [SOB GT] (13g)	Early 2nd to Early 3 rd C AD	All of the pottery is abraded and mostly small.
2051	2x R01A [LEZ SA 2] - AD120 to later 2nd C AD (4g) 1x R04E [COL CC 1] - AD120 to c AD200 (11g) 3x R05A [UNS OX] (10g) 1x R05B [UNS OX] (4g) 1x R06 [HGW RE C] - late 1st to c AD180 (1g) 4x R06B [GRS] - G (33g) 1x R06C [GRF] (3g) 1x R06E [GRS] (5g) 1x R07B [UNS BB] - B 2nd C AD (7g) 1x R13 [HAR SH] (5g) 1x R13 [HAR SH/ST] (22g) 1x R22B [HAD RE 1] (5g) 1x R35A [BSW/OX] (6g) 4x R35A [BSW] - B mid 2nd to at least AD200 (36g)	AD120 to later 2nd C AD	The majority of sherds are abraded and small. The Colchester sherd appears to have the remains of a lattice pattern.
2054	2x R01B [LGF SA] - mid 1st to c AD120 (6g) 2x R01A [LEZ SA 2] - C Drg31 AD150 to later 2nd C AD; C hemis Drg38 c AD135 to later 2nd C AD (26g) 3x R03A [VER WH] - C reed rim AD135 to 160 (64g) 1x R05A [UNS OX] (8g) 5x R06B [GRS] (39g) 2x R09D [UNS GS] (45g) 4x R13 [HAR SH] - G AD138 to 192 (57g) 2x R33 [VER WH/Mo] - D AD150 to 180 (69g) 7x R35 [SOB GT/St] (251g) 7x R35A [BSW] - H AD130-150; J mid to end of 2nd C AD (102g)	AD150 to Later 2nd C AD	The La Graufesenque sherds are fragmentary and very abraded. All the white ware sherds in the first category join to form the bowl type 671 (Frere 1972, 312). The mortaria form closest match is 2664 at Verulamium (Frere 1984, 261). The HAR SH jar has a close parallel at Verulamium No 2182 (Frere 1984, 223). The style is also noted in a 2nd C contexts at Chells (Waugh 1999, 125). In BSW the dated beaker match is 2078 (Frere 1984, 215).

Watching Brief			
2059	12 x R11G [OXF RS] - H AD270 to 400 (36g)	AD270 to 400	All of the sherds in this context belong to a C22-26 beaker (Young 1977, 152-154). A number of joins are noted and there are remains of white painted barbotine decoration alongside a delineated indentation scheme.
2060	4x R01A [LEZ SA 2] - C Drg31 AD150 to later 2nd C AD (55g) 2x R03 [UNS WH] (21g) 3x R03A [VER WH] (60g) 2x R05A [UNS OX] (6g) 2x R06B [GRS] (12g) 1x R6B [GRS/St] (16g) 1x R13 [HAR SH] G AD150 to later 3rd C AD (22g) 1x R35 [SOB GT] (9g) 2x R35 [SOB GT/St] - Gx2 2nd C style (301g)	Majority 2nd C AD. Post-medieval L18 th - 19 th C	One LEZ SA sherd depicts a short, almost blurred, ovolo pattern below which is a wavy line border. Two animal figures are also represented one of which appears to be a lion. There are variations of fabric within this small collection. The main decorated sherd has a fabric that has more in common with earlier La Graufesenque products. A whole <i>flagon</i> base is present in VER WH. One of the storage jar rims has a contemporary style within the shell tempered assemblage at Chells (Waugh 1999, 112). Rilling is visible on the HAR SH jar. A type produced at the kilns from Phase 3 to 4 (Brown 1994, 56-62)
2062	1x R06B [GRS] (5g) 1x R07B [UNS BB] (6g)	Roman	
2068	1x R06E [GRS] (6g)	Roman	
2070	1x R01A [LEZ SA 1] - 1st C AD (3g) 2x R01B [LGF SA] - mid 1st to c AD110/120 (3g) 1x R35A [BSW] - A/B c late 1st C AD+ (244g) 2x R03A [VER WH] (17g) 1x R05A [UNS OX] - C (9g)	Mid to later 1st C AD	The UNS OX sherd is a doubtful Roman form, although the fabric is akin to UNS BB. The BSW form has no parallel but appears to derive from the Gallo-Belgic tradition. Although fairly roughly made it is highly burnished on the outer surface.

Discussion

Roman

A total of 426 sherds weighing 5154g were recovered from the excavation at 24 Friary Field, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. The average sherd weight, excluding storage, amphorae and mortaria fabrics, is 8.6g. This weight reflects the condition of the pottery which is mostly small and abraded. Nevertheless a number of contexts exhibit cohesion (F2026, F2027, F2029 & F2054).

The pottery dates from the late 1st century to the 4th century AD, therefore, as might be expected, a wide range of fabrics are noted. Imported finewares are principally from the samian production centre of Lezoux, central Gaul. Other minor contributions are from Les Martres-de-Veyre (also in central Gaul), La Graufesenque (southern Gaul) and La Madeleine (eastern Gaul). The evaluation produced a single sherd of east Gaulish samian, weighing 1 gm. Romano-British finewares are few, and they are from the Nene Valley, Colchester and Oxford. Within 2nd C contexts only one fineware is present, an early Colchester colour coat. A comparable trend occurs in the later Roman period. Both the Nene Valley and Oxford are poorly represented. The noteworthy find is the Nene Valley miniature (from Ditch F2025 L2026). The form has no parallel. The miniatures in the Nene Valley *corpus* are all 4th century AD (Howe *et al* 1980), but the *corpus* was prepared some time ago and is dated. All of the Oxford sherds are small and abraded, none are over 2g. The majority of the samian is also small and abraded. Only one sherd of Oxford red/brown slip ware from the evaluation is well-preserved. The remainder weigh 2g - 5g.

The only other continental imports are two sherds of *amphorae*. They are derived from the most common *amphora* found in Britain: the Dressel 20 olive oil carrier from southern Spain. No *amphorae* fabrics were recorded during the evaluation.

Mortaria fragments are present. They are from the two sources of Oxford and Verulamium, the former being the most popular. Only one Oxford *mortaria* was recorded during the evaluation. It dates from the later 3rd century to 4th century AD. Those from the excavation are earlier examples.

The coarseware assemblage is mainly unsourced. The majority were probably locally produced. Due to the fragmentary and abraded condition of the pottery it is possible that there may be some non-diagnostic medieval sherds. Those coarsewares that can be sourced are primarily from Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. The Hertfordshire sherds comprise a small number of Hadham and Verulamium wares. Within the former assemblage there is an example of a Hadham storage jar. The sherd is extremely abraded and non-diagnostic. This is the first example of a storage jar in this fabric that the author has noted. Apart from the Harrold ware (Bedfordshire), a small number of sherds are from Dorset (BB1) and Highgate Wood, North London (HGW RE C). The form range is

fairly limited mainly consisting of jars with a small number of reed rim bowls, dishes and a single example of a flagon.

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The medieval and later pottery

by Berni Sudds BSc MA

The small medieval and later assemblage from the evaluation and excavation at Friary Field amounts to 61 sherds, weighing 479g. The group is dominated by local coarseware fabrics primarily of early medieval date although a small quantity of medieval sandy glazed wares and some post-medieval wares have also been recorded. Pottery from both phases of investigation are discussed in this assessment but it must be noted that in the absence of any comparative material and a full fabric analysis the identification and dating put forward remains provisional.

A handful of shelly wares have been tentatively identified as Late Saxon / early medieval St Neots-type ware but the sherds are small and largely non-diagnostic so the possibility exists that some of these sherds could be of Roman or later early medieval date. The early medieval sandy wares are most likely of the C01 tradition dating to the 11th to 12th centuries. Forms identified in this fabric consist solely of jars with simple thickened or everted flat-topped rims and decoration is comprised of applied thumbed strips. Other finer sandy wares are also evident in small quantities and might be of a later date but with such small non-diagnostic sherds it is difficult to characterise the group securely. The glazed sandy wares probably range in date from the 12th to the 16th centuries but again only a few dispersed examples were recovered. These remain unprovenanced at this stage although the fabric and decorative elements of some share similarities with products of the medieval Brill industry (Bucks). In the range and combination of fabrics represented the assemblage is fairly typical of the region but comparison with other local material, particularly from previous excavation at Friary Field, will be imperative (Slowikowski 1995, 156).

The area of quarrying (118/120) identified in evaluation Trench 1 to the west of site produced primarily early medieval sandy wares (C01) although a handful of potentially later finer sandy wares were also recovered. The remaining features also contained early sandy wares but in association with later glazed products. Only one of the cross-shaped pits excavated produced any pottery. As with (118/120) the group from pit [2030] was also dominated by early medieval sandy wares and some shell wares proposing an 11th to 12th century date. If primary the additional presence of two glazed jug sherds and some fine sandy wares might, however, suggest a date in 12th century (or later 12th century if from Brill) (*Ibid.*). Parallel ditch features [2009] and [2016] also include some early medieval sandy wares but these are few in number and occur in association with glazed products. A stab decorated jug handle from [2009] argues for 12th century or later date and a possible later medieval oxidised glazed example from [2016] may provide a date as late as the 15th or 16th century.

With such small feature assemblages dating is problematic but on balance it is thought that both the area of quarrying (118/120) and pit [2030] are likely to be of early medieval date. The quantity and condition of the early medieval C01 pottery would suggest that the material is primary in nature. If, however, the glazed or fine sandy wares are primary these features would have to date from the 12th century or later. The crossover of the early and high medieval industries is still impurely understood in the county but glazed products are certainly known to occur by the 13th century (*Ibid.*). A date as late as 13th century is not thought likely, however, as the early medieval sandy

wares are not considered to be residual and products of the South Hertfordshire Greyware industry that constitute a major part of domestic coarsewares in south of county by this time are entirely absent (Ibid., 157). Of course the later glazed could also be intrusive, related to later use of area.

Indication of a post-medieval presence on site is provided by just a handful of sherds from pit [2023] and general layer (2060). The Roman pottery from layer (2060) dates predominantly to the 2nd century but the presence of Staffordshire refined white earthenwares along with more localised red earthenware products may be suggestive of a late 18th to 19th century date. Pit [2023] produced a single non-diagnostic refined white earthenware dating from the mid 18th to 19th century but as with layer (2060) the possibility remains that at least some of this material is intrusive.

References

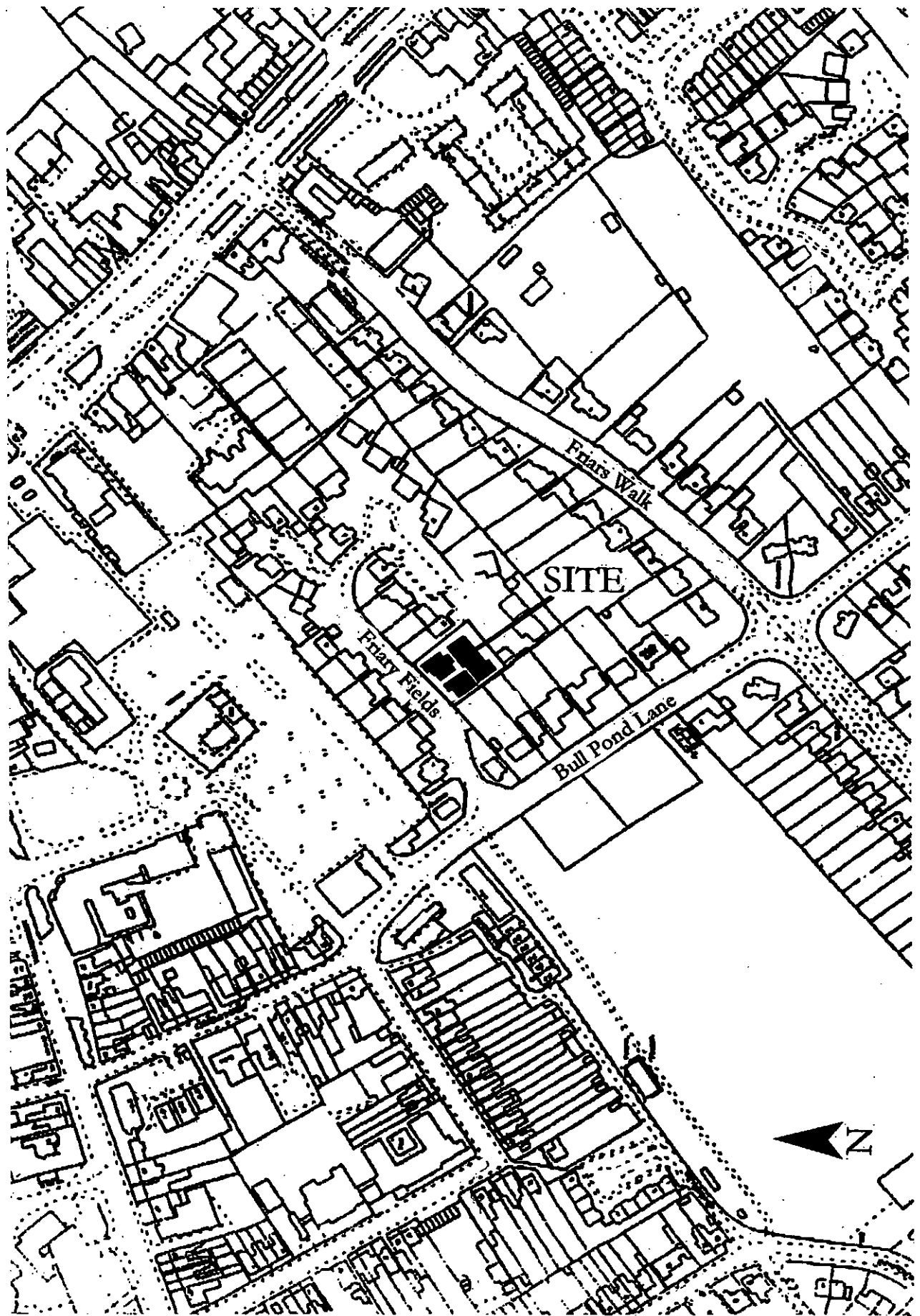
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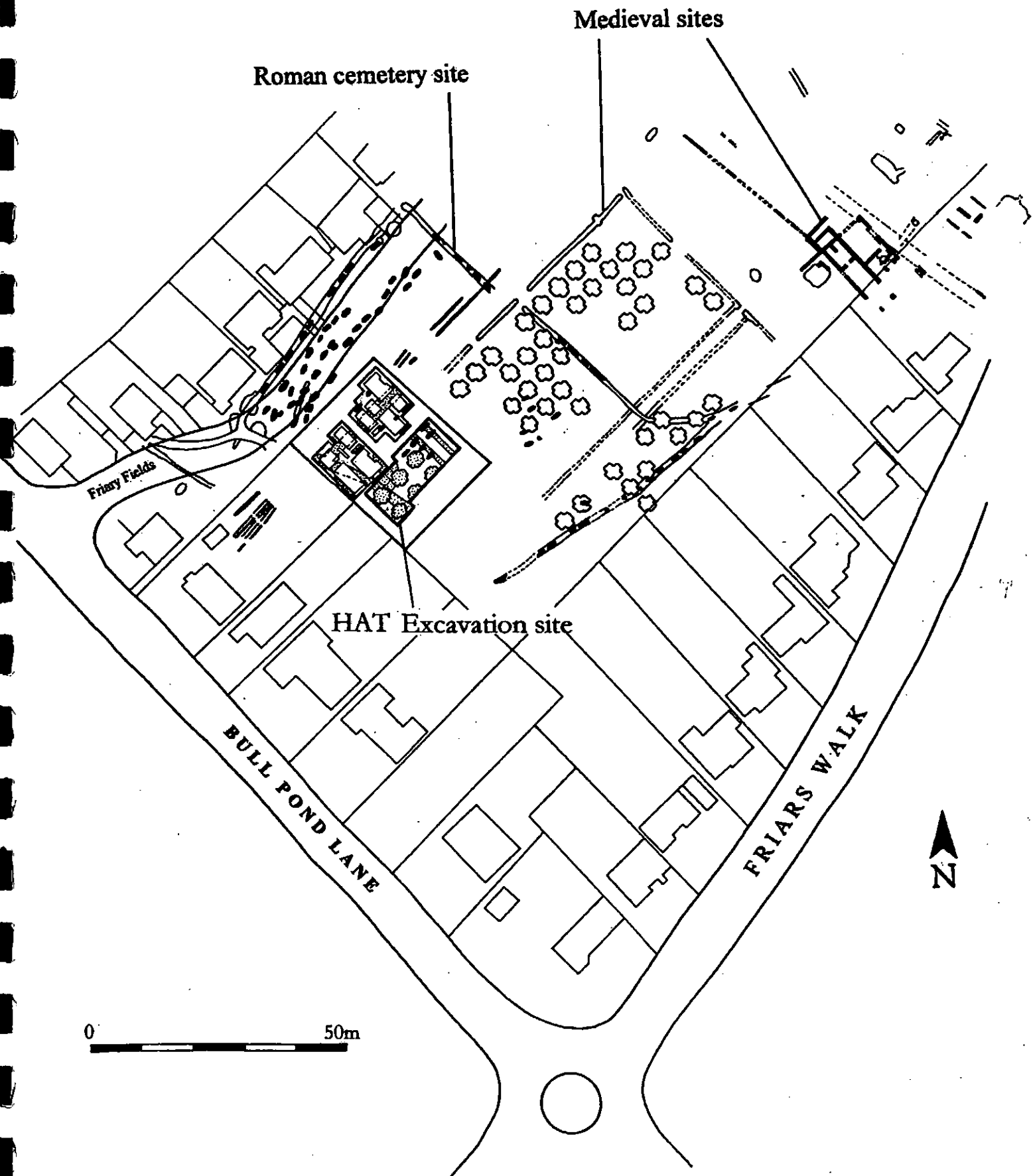
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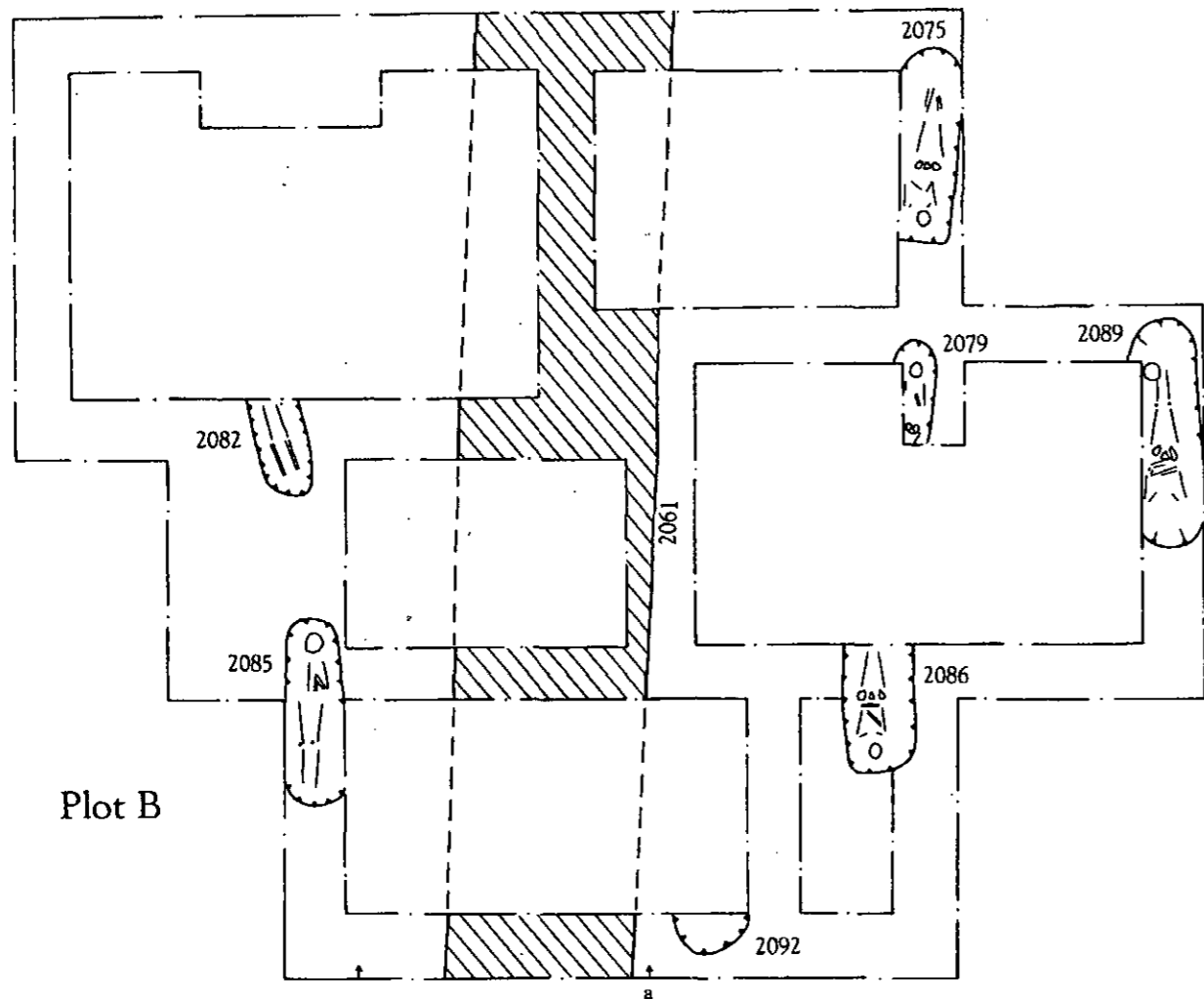
Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig.1 Site Location
Scale: 1:25000



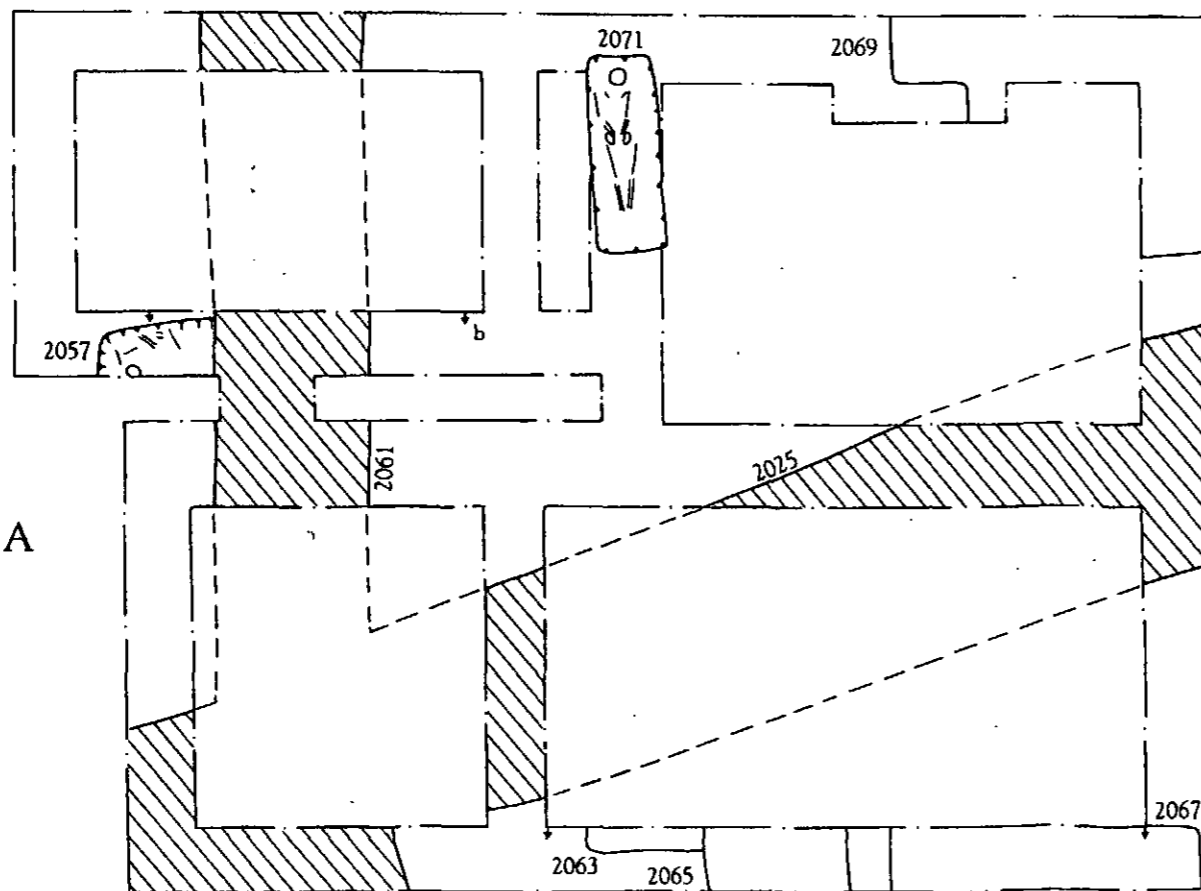
Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig.2 Detailed Site Location
Scale: 1:2500



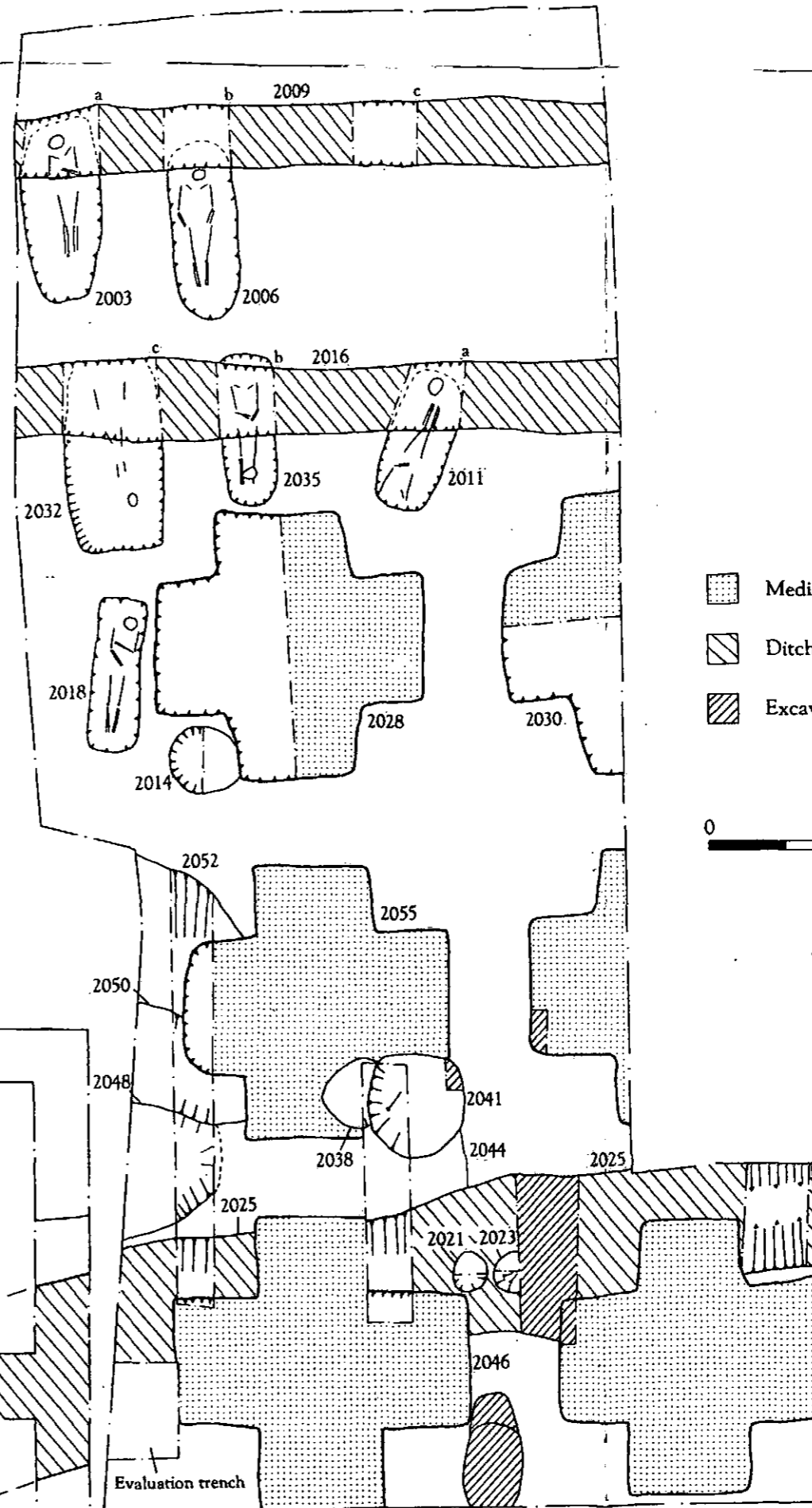
Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 3 Site Located Against Previous Excavations
Scale: 1:1000






Plot B



Plot A

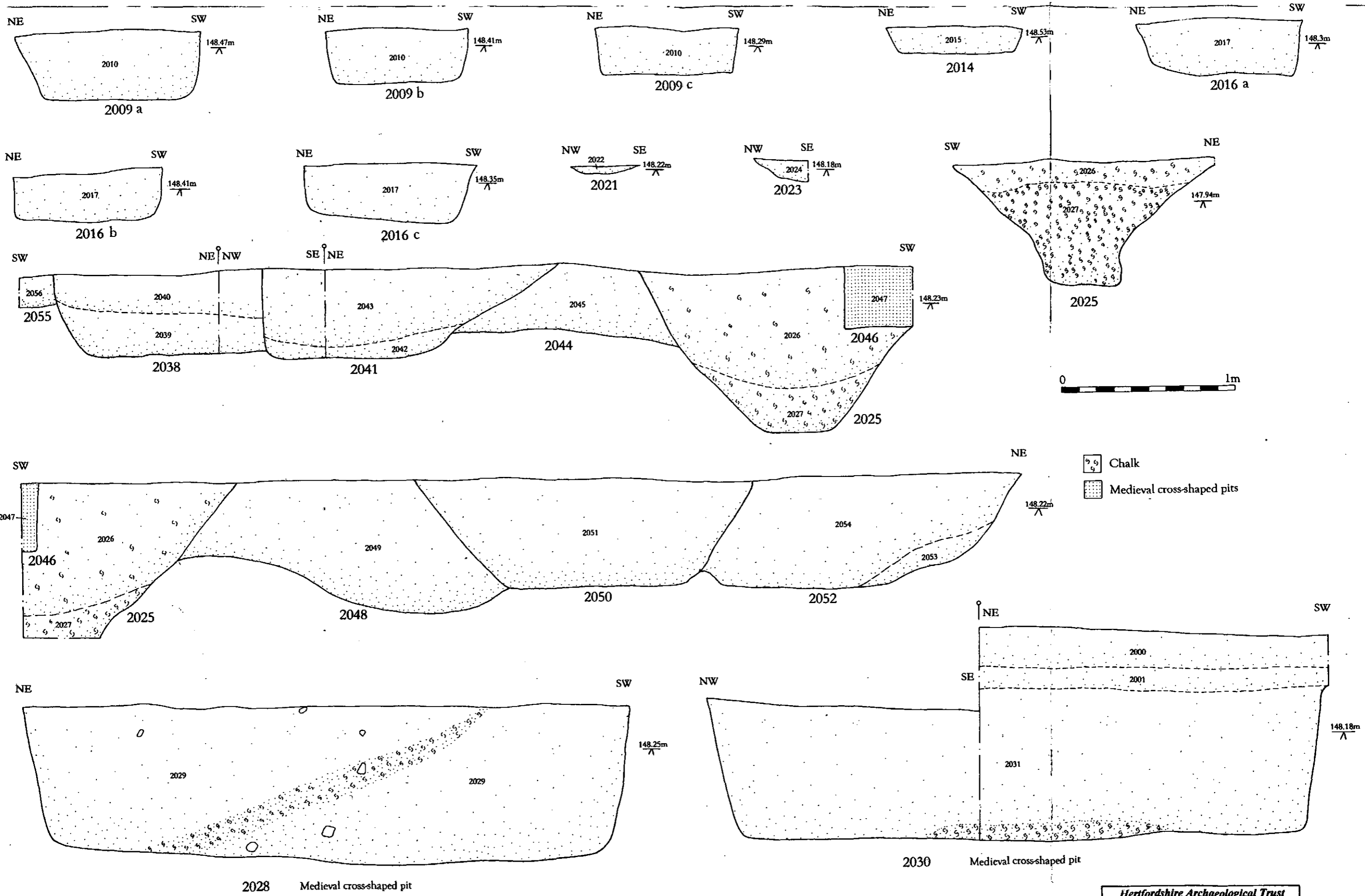


Area of Excavation

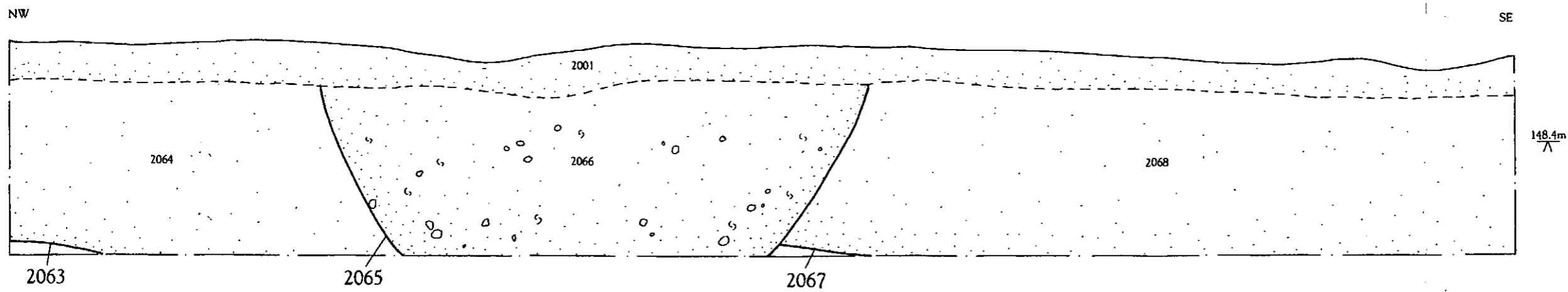
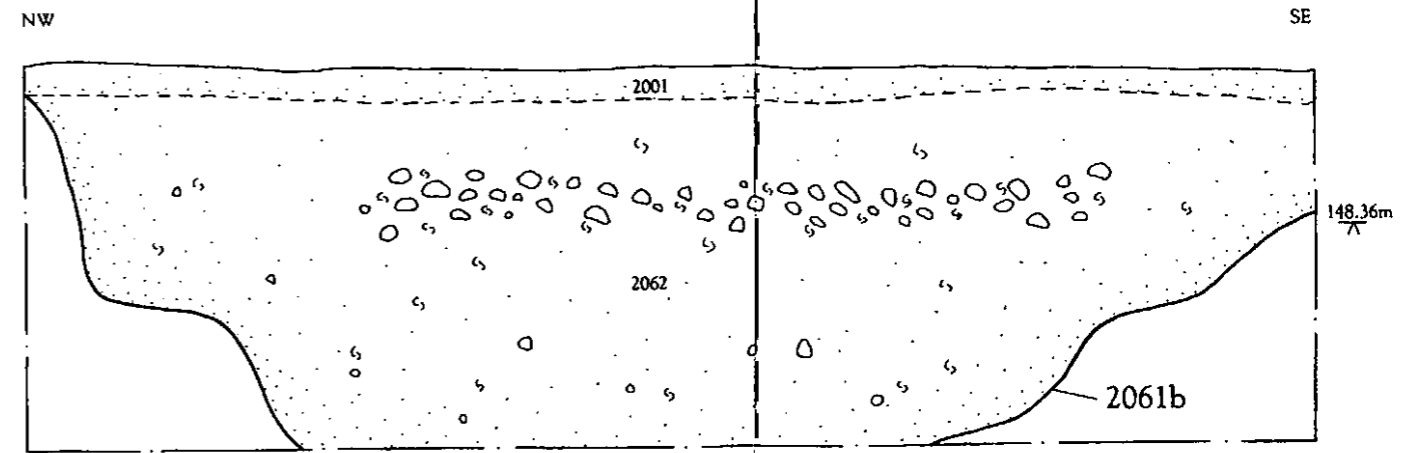
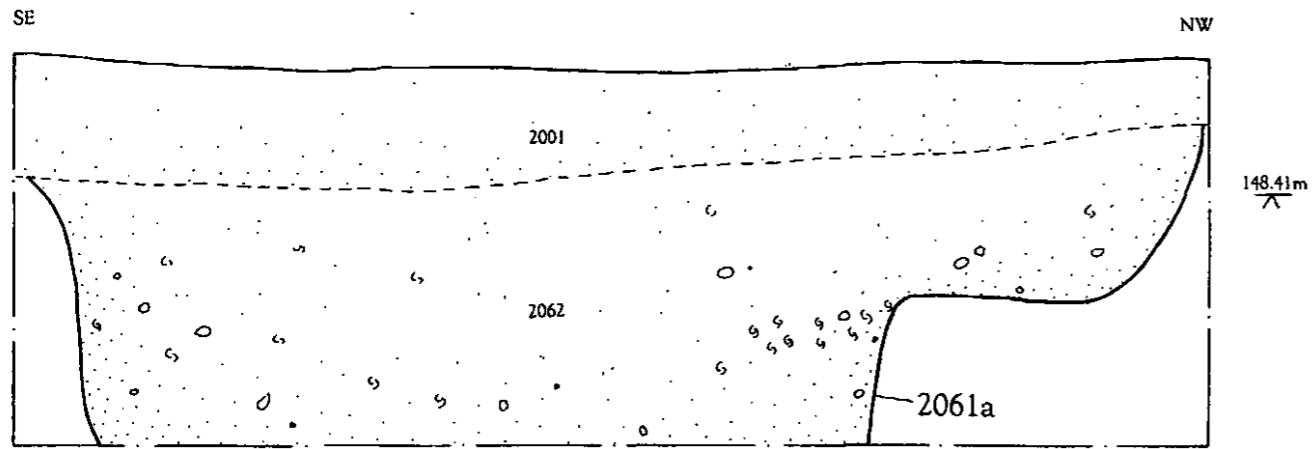
-  Medieval cross-shaped pits
-  Ditches
-  Excavated during evaluation


0  5m



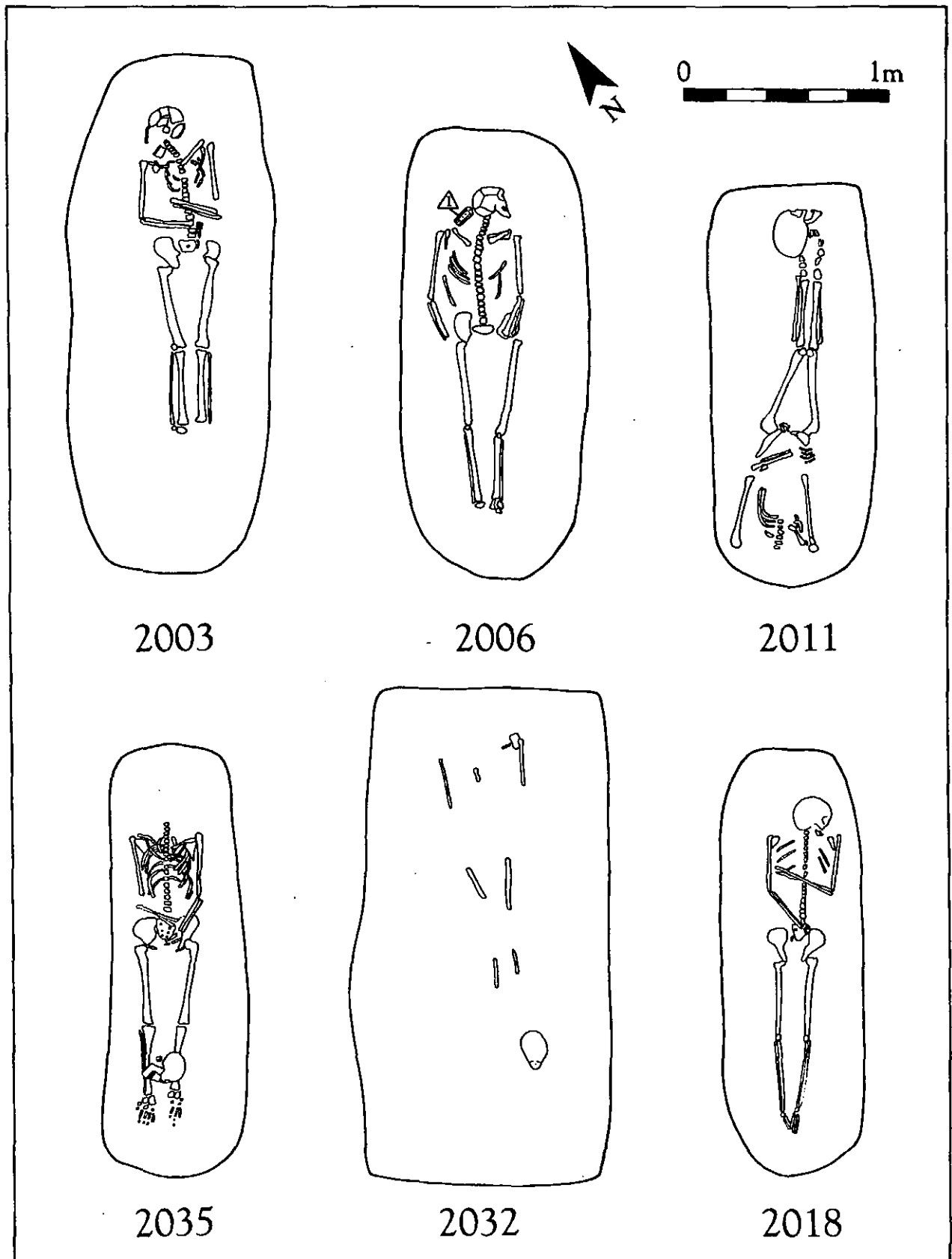


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Fig.5 Sections
 Scale: 1:10 (1:20 at A3)

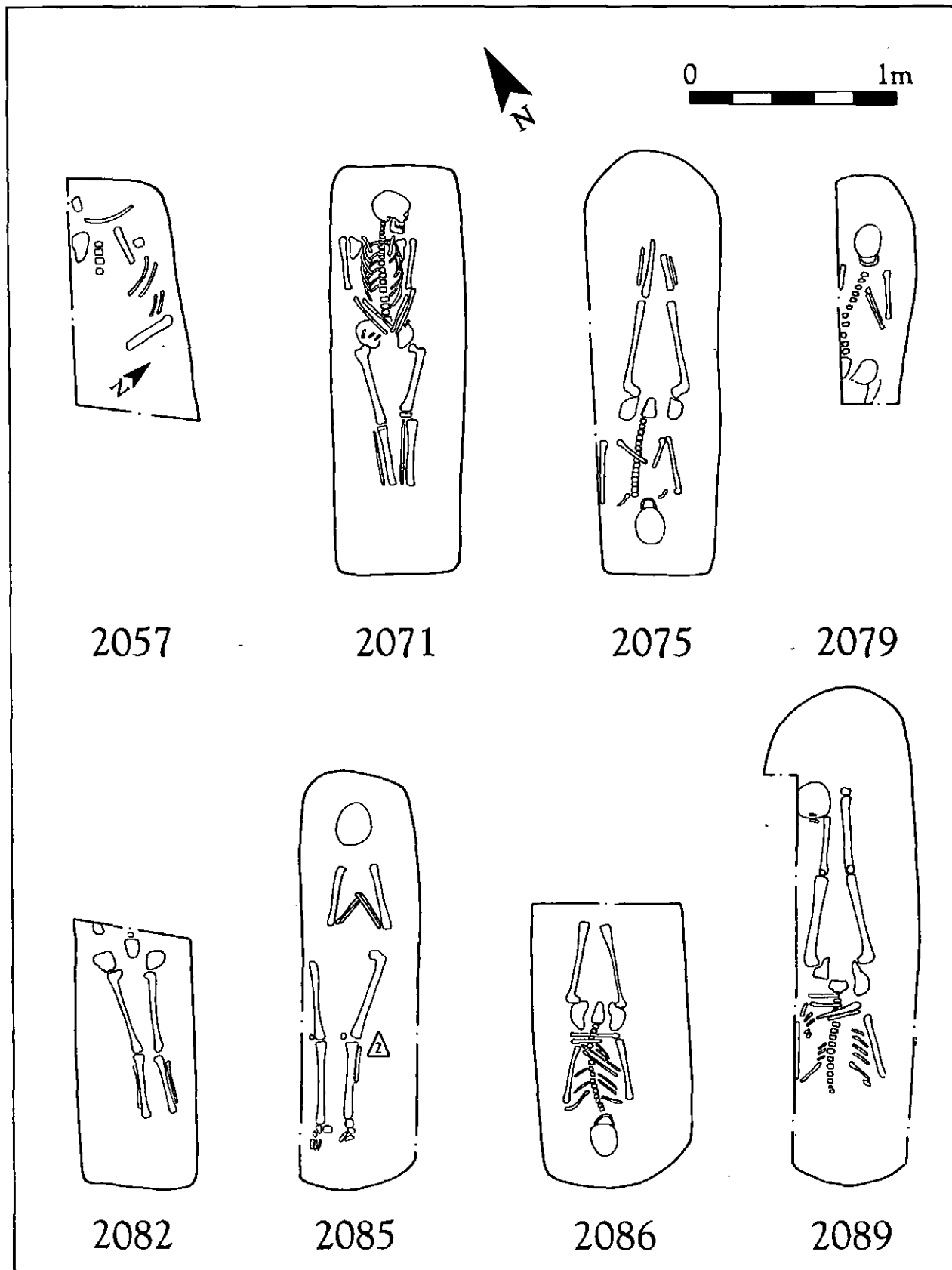


 Chalk

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Fig.6 Sections
 Scale: 1:10 (1:20 at A3)



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 Fig.7 Grave plans



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 Fig.8 Grave plans