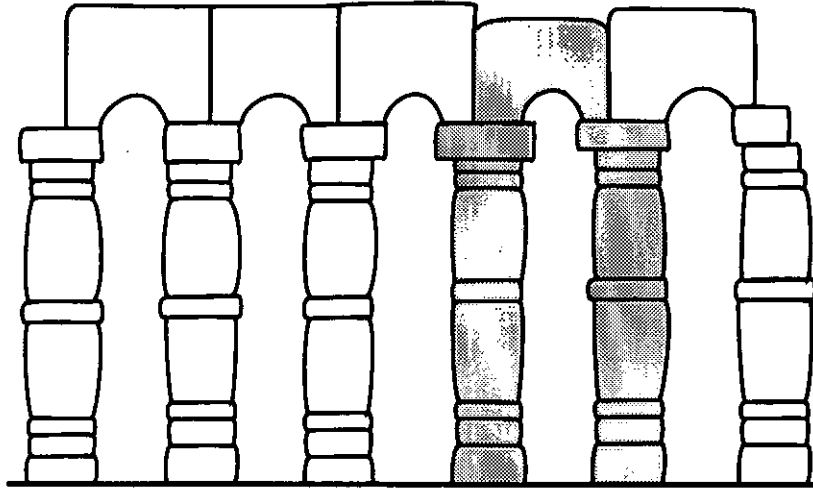


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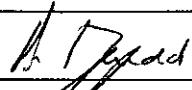
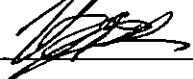
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DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE
POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT
AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

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FORMER QUEENSWAY HALL, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE
POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

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FORMER QUEENSWAY HALL, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE
POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Archaeological excavations by Northamptonshire Archaeology at the former Queensway Hall, Dunstable, were completed in January 2001. The overall project comprised a desk-based assessment undertaken by Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS 1998); a trial trench evaluation (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2000); and an area excavation and watching brief on 2.36 ha of land surrounding the former Queensway Hall (Fig. 1). The site was centred at NGR TL 01902218 in the north-east quadrant of the town.

The work was carried out in order to satisfy conditions of a planning application (ref. SB/TP/98/646) submitted by Asda for the construction of a new retail store. It was conducted to a Brief issued by the Heritage and Environment Section of Bedfordshire County Council and project designs for each stage of work submitted by Northamptonshire Archaeology to Gifford and Partners, consultants for the developer (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2000b, 2000c, 2000d).

The main focus of the excavations lay at the front of the development site (Fig. 2) where late Iron Age/early Roman occupation was identified. This was initially discovered in two evaluation trenches (Trenches 3 and 8). Later excavation examined an area of c.100 by 40 m in front of the former Queensway Hall where part of a rectangular enclosure and other features were recorded.

The present interim report and assessment of potential of the archaeological finds has been carried out in accordance with the overall Project Design for the excavation and watching brief.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies close to the historic core of Dunstable, the Roman town of *Durocobrivae* which grew up at the junction of Watling Street and the Icknield Way, two major Roman roads. The site lies about 300 m north of the road crossing in the north-east quadrant of the town on Chalk geology. The town is recorded in the Antonine

Itinerary as being about 12 Roman miles north of Verulamium. It is thought to have developed as a posting station, although there is at present no archaeological evidence to support this assumption.

The layout and extent of the Roman town are not known. Most finds of Roman date have come from the south-west quadrant of the present town where a formal late Roman inhumation cemetery has been investigated (Matthews 1981). Burials were found cutting earlier features, including several pits and wells, suggesting that the settlement had contracted by the 4th century. Other finds, including burials and wells have come from the north-west quadrant (Hagan 1972).

On the eastern side of Watling Street the evidence is sparser, although a 1st-century ditch of unknown function was found c. 80 m south of the Icknield Way (*ibid.*). In the north-east quadrant a cobble surface and evidence of houses, discovered just north of the Icknield Way during construction of the shopping centre in 1964-5, are the main features of interest.

2 SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

2.1 GENERAL

The excavations revealed a generally sparse scatter of ditches, gullies and pits, associated with pottery and a limited range of other finds dating to the early Roman period (Fig 3). The main feature of note was a rectangular enclosure, defined on three sides, with a group of pits in the south-western corner. Other ditches and gullies on a similar alignment lay south-west of the enclosure. While some features were without finds, there was no evidence of earlier or later activity on the site (with the exception of clearly modern features) and it is likely that all the archaeological features present were associated with the 1st century occupation.

There was 1646 g of pottery from all phases of work. This assemblage appears to indicate a relatively brief period of occupation in the second half of the 1st century AD, although it is possible that occupation started slightly earlier. There were no coins or other closely datable artefacts.

2.2 ENCLOSURE AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES

The enclosure was devoid of features, except in a quite tightly defined area inside the southern ditch. Here a ditch and two groups of pits were examined. Three broad

phases of activity were identified on the basis of stratigraphy: a ditch and group of pits predating the enclosure ditch; the enclosure ditch; and a group of pits post-dating the enclosure ditch.

2.2.1 *Phase 1: Segmented ditch and pit complex*

The earliest activity was represented by a linear feature, 1017, running south into a group of intercutting pits. These pits were not visible as individual features from the surface and were only defined through excavation. The relationships between these features, and between the pits and the later enclosure ditch, were difficult to determine although it appears that this group of pits pre-dated the enclosure.

Ditch 1017 had irregular sides suggesting that it had been dug as a series of linked pits rather than a continuous feature. It was up to 1.5 m wide and 0.4-0.5 m deep (Fig. 4, Section 7). After it had gone out of use it appears to have been deliberately infilled with material which included a deposit of chalk rubble. The pits to the south may represent four separate phases of activity, with two or three pits post-dating the ditch.

The latest pit, 1047, was also the largest – up to 3.2 m in diameter and 0.7 m deep (Fig. 4, Section 31). The other four, while not uniform, were generally about 1.3 m across and 0.5 m or less deep. There was no particular indication what any of the pits had been used for. They contained very similar mid greyish brown silty soils with moderate amounts of chalk fragments. Pit 1052, which was the shallowest (0.3 m), yielded relatively large amounts of pottery and animal bone.

2.2.2 *Phase 2: Enclosure ditch*

Three sides of a rectangular enclosure were found. It had an internal dimension of 23 m in a NE-SW direction. The NW-SE extent of the enclosure was not recoverable due to extensive modern disturbance to the north-west. The enclosure ditch was about 1 m wide and 0.4 m deep, although shallower in the southern corner (0.65 m wide and 0.25 m deep). It was generally wider and deeper towards the north and west. The deeper sections showed a similar cross-profile of steep sides and a narrow, flat base.

The fill of the ditch was generally a mid brown or greyish brown silt with moderate amounts of chalk fragments. The upper fill of the south-eastern ditch (1019) tended

to be a siltier soil containing most of the finds (Fig 4, Section 15). There was no good indication of recutting.

2.2.3 *Phase 3: Pits in corner of enclosure*

Two pits (1036 and 1038) in the extreme southern corner of the enclosure appeared to be cutting the edge of the enclosure ditch, although their position with respect to the ditch would suggest that the enclosure had not been entirely abandoned at this stage.

Pit 1036 was the earlier of the two and was little more than a shallow depression 0.2 m deep largely filled with chalk rubble. Pit 1038 was 0.6 m deep and contained a lower fill of chalk rubble. Its upper fill, a less chalky fine silt, was common to both features. It is possible that this represents the natural silting of partly backfilled and abandoned features.

2.3 *FEATURES NORTH-EAST OF THE ENCLOSURE*

A group of six generally shallow pits and scoops were found scattered north-east of the enclosure. Only pit 1004 was of any substance – 2.6 m long, 0.7 m wide and 0.4 m deep. The others were shallower, and, unusually for this site, tended to have dark silty fills with few chalk inclusions.

2.4 *DITCH SEGMENTS, PITS AND GULLIES IN THE SOUTH-WEST AREA*

A number of features were identified in the south-west area of the site. These comprised nine pits of two or more phases, two rectilinear gullies, and two ditch segments cutting the gullies. One of the ditches was the same as that found in Trench 3 of the evaluation.

2.4.1 *Early phase pits*

Two early phase features (1113 and 1107 – not labelled on Fig. 3) were identified, both almost entirely truncated by later pits. They were very shallow (0.15 m maximum) and without finds.

2.4.2 *Middle phase pits*

Pits 1111, 1115 and 1109 were similar in form. They were sub-circular or oval in shape, about 1 m in diameter and little more than 0.2 m deep. Pit 1103 was deeper (0.55 m) but of unknown form having been truncated by Cut 1101 of Ditch 1087 (below) and a modern brick foundation (Fig. 4, Section 53).

2.4.2 *Later phase pits*

Pits 1085 and 1094 were linear in form and continued the northern alignment of Ditch 1098 (below). They are therefore likely to have been later than the other pits. Both were shallow. Pit 1085 was 3.3 m long and 0.35 m deep, while 1094 was 1.3 m long and 0.15 m deep.

2.4.4 *Other pit*

Pit 1100, lying to the east of Ditch 1087 (below) was truncated by modern intrusions, but would have been about 0.7 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep.

2.4.5 *Rectilinear gullies*

Two linear gullies, 1080 (=1105, Fig. 4, Section 54) and 1096, ran north-west to south-east across the site. They extended off site to the north-west and their southern terminals were truncated by the later ditches 1087 and 1098. They were approximately parallel and 6.5 m apart. Gully 1096 was the slightly wider of the two (0.45 m as compared with 0.3 m) but both were about the same depth (0.2 m).

2.4.6 *Ditches 1087 and 1098*

Ditch 1087 was the latest in the sequence of features in this area. It was about 1 m wide and 0.3-0.5 m in depth, with deep, steep-sided terminals and a slightly shallower middle section. It cut a possible earlier phase of ditch (1089) which was the same depth and had been largely backfilled with chalk rubble.

Ditch 1098 was about 1 m wide and 0.3 m deep, its northern terminal cutting Gully 1096. It was the same feature as Ditch 302 of Evaluation Trench 3 which was recorded in a section just to the south of the excavation area as 1 m wide and 0.5 m deep.

3 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

3.1 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

<i>Records</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Contexts	120
Plans	7
Sections	53
Colour transparencies	25
Monochrome prints	18

<i>Artefacts</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Pottery	1646 sherds (22 930 g) incl. evaluation
Ceramic building material	11 (870 g)
Iron objects (nails)	15 (134 g)
Glass	1 (5 g)
Worked flint	3 (87 g)
Lava quern	many fragments (540 g)

<i>Environmental material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Soil samples	4
Animal bone	6 504 g
Oyster Shell	g

3.2 RESEARCH AIMS

The research aims of the excavation were outlined in the Project Design (Section 3). It was suggested that the late Iron Age and early Roman period is of considerable research interest, both regionally and nationally. The interest in this period lies principally in the nature and degree of impact which the Roman military and administrative system had on indigenous patterns of settlement, economy and social relations. The nature of the relationship between site at Queensway Hall and Roman *Durocbrivae* is an aspect of this topic.

1. The dating and development of the site was considered to be of fundamental importance, particularly in relation to wider political conditions. There was seen to be a need for a definition of major continuities and discontinuities in occupation.

2. A full quantification and analysis of the pottery was seen to be of importance in order to aid inter- and intra-site comparisons of chronology, human activity and social relations.
3. The economic basis of the site was also seen as a key research topic, particularly to establish whether any economic specialisation, or chronological change and development, could be detected.
4. Other cultural concerns, such as the form of house construction and evidence of ritual deposition, were also seen as an important aspect of research.

3.3 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

This section comprises a summary statement of the value of the data gained in the excavation in terms of their potential in addressing the research aims of the investigation. The section starts with an assessment of the site as a whole, and then provides brief assessments of the individual classes of finds and environmental/economic data. Fuller assessments are to be found in Appendices 1- 4.

3.3.1 *The Site*

The layout of the site is quite simple and suggests a relatively light occupation of short duration. The initial site analysis indicates about three phases of activity within a single overall period of occupation. The range of features is also quite limited. The only features found were ditches, gullies and pits, all of which were relatively shallow and nowhere deeper than 0.7 m below the present surface of the Chalk. It is worth noting that, despite the sparseness of features, there is a clear grouping of pits suggesting that activity areas were quite tightly defined. This, together with the relatively large amount of pottery recovered, indicates that this was an area of settlement rather than peripheral activity, and that a large number of shallow features, including all evidence of buildings, are likely to have been lost to later land use. The effects of this truncation await further analysis, but on a general level it was observed that the modern truncation of the Chalk was greatest on the northern and western sides of the site where the ground rises naturally. There was also considerable modern intrusion in these areas, particularly along the Court Road frontage and across the car park. There is therefore no good indication that the limits of the site have been reached in any direction and the site plan is incomplete in extent as well as in terms of the numbers and density of features. This places limitations on the issues

which can be addressed and the conclusions which can be drawn in any discussion of the site.

3.3.2 Pottery (Appendix 1)

The pottery appears to belong to a short phase of activity dating to the second half of the 1st century AD. The assemblage comprises a mixture of native late Iron Age wares and Roman material. The former occurs in both handmade, wheel-turned and wheel made forms.

The principal native fabrics are grog-tempered, sandy and shelly. In contexts also containing Roman material these clearly belong to the second part of the 1st century AD. Contexts exclusively containing such material could potentially predate the conquest although most of the evidence would point to occupation in the later part of this century. The stratigraphic phasing does not appear to be reflected in the pottery assemblage, although this would repay more detailed consideration.

Amongst the forms present in the native fabrics are several large storage jars, channel-rim jars, everted rim jars, bowls and platters imitating imported Gallo-Belgic fine wares. Some of the vessels are decorated with impressed or incised designs including wavy lines and comb-impressed dots or with tooled or burnished line lattices. Some of the handmade storage jars have coarse combing or rilling.

The Roman wares include imported South Gaulish samian and Dressel 20 olive oil amphora from Southern Spain. Other Roman fine wares include Verulamium white wares, a fine grey ware beaker with barbotine dot decoration, and several sherds from a fine white ware bowl, possibly imitating a Dragendorff 30 with red painted decoration.

The presence of both continental and regional imports dating to the post-conquest period alongside wares of a more traditional nature raises the status of the group in that it appears to be acquiring Roman elements at a relatively early date. The fine tablewares and oil amphora could suggest the adoption of or occupants familiar with Roman eating and cooking habits. Some of the pottery may predate the conquest but this would be difficult to determine with such a small assemblage. Likewise there is little evidence of use of the site into the 2nd century although some of the vessels could potentially continue into the earlier part of this century.

The assemblage therefore has the potential for contributing to research aims 1 and 2, although intra-site comparisons will be constrained by the limited number and range of features and the overall incompleteness of the site plan.

3.3.3 *Other Finds (Appendix 2)*

There was a very limited range and quantity of other finds. The Roman artefacts comprised a few fragments of brick/tile and some fragments of lava quern. The other finds are more likely to be post-Roman. There were also oyster shells from three Roman contexts.

The ceramic building material indicates a Romanised building in the vicinity, although this need not have been on the site itself. These finds contribute little to the research aims of the project and there is little more that needs be done with them.

3.3.4 *The Animal bone (Appendix 3)*

The animal bone assemblage was reasonably large but highly fragmentary, with a relatively low number identifiable to species (c. 12%). The usual range of domestic species was present with cattle being the most common, followed by sheep and horse.

The assemblage is unlikely to repay a great deal of further work, although the basic data should be presented and some comparisons sought.

3.3.5 *Charred plant remains (Appendix 4)*

The charred plant assemblage from the four soil samples collected was very meagre. There was a small amount of wheat and some dock seed preserved. The results are unremarkable and no further work is recommended although this absence of evidence needs some consideration.

3.3.6 *Snails (Appendix 4)*

Land snails were common in the soil samples. The assemblages are dominated by open country species, as might be expected. The results, while useful, do not suggest further analysis would be worthwhile.

4 *UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN*

4.1 *REVISED RESEARCH AIMS*

The assessment has indicated that research aims 1, 2 and, to a limited extent, 3 remain valid, although the incomplete evidence of the site itself and the limited range of material recovered will mean that there is little scope for the analysis of the functions within the site, patterning of activity, or of chronological change.

The absence of evidence for structures or structured deposits means that research aim 4 cannot be addressed.

There is little potential for other research aims to be developed from the available data.

4.1.1 *Dating and development of the site*

There is abundant pottery indicating that the site can be dated to a relatively short period in the second half of the 1st century AD. It appears likely that the site is purely post-conquest in date although further work may clarify whether the earlier phases of the site are potentially pre-conquest. There are no coins or brooches to help refine the dating.

The site layout supports the indications from the pottery of a relatively simple occupation of short duration. The major discontinuities can therefore be isolated as the beginning and end of occupation. Local and regional comparisons of form and dating will be appropriate.

4.1.2 *Analysis of pottery*

Pottery was abundant and comprised a variety of forms and fabrics. Imported wares indicate a range of contacts and the vessels give some indication of site status. A full analysis and publication of the pottery is recommended. Local and regional comparisons are warranted.

There would appear to be little scope for extending the analysis to look at intra-site distributions as there was little indication of functional areas within the site. The shortage of non-ceramic finds also suggests that questions of site status and social practices will be difficult to address with the evidence available.

4.1.3 *Economic functions*

The economic evidence from the site was meagre. The settlement can be assumed to have had an agricultural basis although there was no real indication of this from the features or finds. It is unclear whether agricultural structures (such as barns, grain stores and corn dryers) were absent from the site, were lost to modern disturbances, or may have existed outside the area investigated. The absence of agricultural or craft implements and of metalworking residues among the finds can be noted, but its significance is uncertain.

The animal bone assemblage was fragmentary and generally unremarkable. The low number of identifiable specimens means that statistical analyses will be of dubious value and can contribute little to questions of economic specialisation.

Charred plant remains were found to be sparse and it is unclear whether crops were processed on site or not. There is little further work which can be done with these samples to examine this issue.

The basic economic evidence can be presented and discussed but there appears to be little potential for advancing research in this area.

4.2 *PROPOSALS FOR ANALYSIS*

4.2.1 *Phasing and stratigraphy*

Little more can be done with the site phasing other than examine it in relation to the pottery and other finds to see if any changes can be detected. There is little value in compiling a context database as a digital archive, although phasing information will be included in the pottery database.

Summary descriptive texts will be prepared for all the features and will form the basis of the site narrative for publication.

4.2.2 *Pottery*

The proposals for a full analysis of the pottery have been included in Appendix 1. This is to include an appropriate level of research on comparanda from the Dunstable region.

4.2.3 *Other finds*

Other artefacts were few and no further work is required.

4.2.4 *Animal bone*

A base-level catalogue and description (including a small amount of material from the evaluation) should be prepared but there is little scope for detailed analysis.

4.2.5 *Environmental/economic indicators*

There is little scope for further work beyond the assessment.

4.2.6 *Synthesis*

This will comprise:

- (i) An integration of the finds and environmental evidence with the site narrative;
- (ii) An interpretation and overview of the occupation;
- (iii) A wider discussion, with reference to published and unpublished sources, particularly in relation to the Dunstable area, with other comparisons as appropriate.

4.3 *REPORT, ARCHIVE AND PUBLICATION PROPOSALS*

An archive report will be produced on the basis of the assessment results and proposals. The evaluation results are to be incorporated. The report will include a site narrative, a discussion of the evidence in its regional context, specialist reports and illustrations as appropriate.

It is proposed to publish the results of the excavations in a short article of 10-15 pages in the Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal (subject to editorial approval).

The site archive (finds and paperwork) is to be prepared for eventual deposition in Luton Museum within six months of completion of the final report.

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Northamptonshire Archaeology, Northamptonshire
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6th June 2001

AI THE POTTERY

I INTRODUCTION

The archaeological work from both the evaluation and excavation stages resulted in the recovery of 1646 sherds of pottery weighing 23 kg, accompanied by a small quantity of fired clay/ceramic building material. Of this the excavation stage yielded 1494 sherds.

The pottery, with a single exception, appears to belong to a single phase of activity dating to the second half of the 1st century AD. The single exception is a post-Medieval sherd accompanied by a clay pipe stem from (1006).

In total pottery was recovered from 42 individual contexts.

The pottery was moderately well-preserved with an overall average sherd size of 14 g. There was some variability between contexts presumably reflecting the difference between material from feature fills and layers. Several joins were apparent amongst material from the same contexts.

2 METHODOLOGY

The pottery was sorted into broad fabric groups based on the nature of the inclusions macroscopically visible in the clay. The groups were quantified by sherd count and weight for each defined context. The resulting data can be found summarised in Table 1.

3 DESCRIPTION

The assemblage comprises a mixture of native late Iron Age wares and Roman material. The former occurs in both handmade, wheel-turned and wheel made forms.

The principal native fabrics are grog-tempered, sandy and shelly. In contexts also containing Roman material these clearly belong to the second part of the 1st century AD. Contexts exclusively containing such material could potentially predate the conquest although most of the evidence would point to occupation in the later part of this century.

Grog-tempered wares dominate accounting for 51.5% by sherd count of the total assemblage, followed by sandy wares (26.5%) with shelly wares only accounting for 2.5%.

Amongst the forms present in these fabrics are several large storage jars, channel-rim jars, everted rim jars, bowls and platters imitating imported Gallo-Belgic fine wares. Some of the vessels are decorated with impressed or incised designs including wavy lines and comb-impressed dots or with tooled or burnished line lattices. Some of the handmade storage jars have coarse combing or rilling.

Amongst the Roman wares are nine sherds of imported South Gaulish samian and two sherds of Dressel 20 olive oil amphora from Southern Spain. The samian includes a dish (Dragendorff form 18) stamped by the workshop of Pontus (OF.PONTI) which was in production between AD 70-95. Samian was recovered from contexts (1004, 1026, 1029) and (1046). The amphorae came from (1004) and (1102).

At least 66 sherds of Verulamium white ware are present in the assemblage, mainly as flagon sherds but also at least one dropped flanged bowl. The industry started producing white ware from c. 55/60 and was a major supplier of such wares in the 1st and 2nd centuries.

Other Roman fine wares include some sherds of a fine grey ware beaker with barbotine dot decoration from (1046), several sherds from a fine white ware bowl, possibly imitating a Dragendorff 30 with red painted decoration from (1039), a white ware flagon (1009) and a micaceous, red colour-coated dish (1112). The two first vessels could either date to the later 1st or early 2nd centuries.

A few sherds of fine oxidised (orange) ware may also represent regional imports to the site. These include ring-necked flagons and a beaker with a short everted rim.

Also of note is a sherd fashioned into a pottery disk from (1099) and a basesherd from a jar with a large central hole drilled after firing from (1104).

4 SUMMARY

This is a good group of associated material which would warrant further reporting. A number of sherds would be worth illustrating.

The presence of both continental and regional imports dating to the post-conquest period alongside wares of a more traditional nature raises the status of the group in that it appears to be acquiring Roman elements at a relatively early date. The fine tablewares and oil amphora could suggest the adoption of or occupants familiar with Roman eating and cooking habits. However, without details of the site and other finds it would be unwise to speculate further at this juncture. Some of the pottery may predate the conquest but this would be difficult to determine with such a small

assemblage. Likewise there is little evidence of use of the site into the 2nd century although some of the vessels could potentially continue into the earlier part of this century.

5 FURTHER WORK

Further work would require:

- ❖ the preparation of a complete database
- ❖ description of the fabrics and integration with Bedfordshire Ceramic Series
- ❖ approximately 20-25 drawings
- ❖ library research
- ❖ preparation of report

Table 1

Cont	GROG	SHELL	SAND	SGSAM	AMP	VERWH	GREY	OXID	OTHER	Tot No	Tot Wt	Date
303	20	0	32	0	0	3	0	0	0	55	557	60-100
305	9	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	461	C1AD
805	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	C1AD
807	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	27	C1AD
811	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	C1AD
1004	21	0	16	1	1	2	0	1	0	42	818	70-100
1006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	116	17-19th
1007	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	369	C1AD
1008	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	82	C1AD
1009	32	0	28	0	0	1	2	2	0	65	981	60-80
1018	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	0	12	143	C1AD
1020	32	0	5	0	0	1	0	2	1	41	792	60-80
1026	15	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	17	215	65-100
1029	65	0	0	2	0	16	1	1	2	87	807	65-100
1033	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	C1AD
1035	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	649	C1AD
1037	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	498	C1AD
1039	58	3	15	1	0	2	0	2	11	92	890	later C1+
1042	72	2	208	0	0	2	0	3	0	287	2829	60-100
1043	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	74	C1AD
1046	80	0	69	4	0	8	3	8	14	186	1134	60-100
1048	4	0	7	0	0	5	1	0	0	17	72	60-100
1053	70	0	6	0	0	4	1	0	3	84	1167	60-100
1054	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	112	C1AD
1055	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	202	C1AD
1057	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	9	119	50-100

FORMER QUEENSWAY HALL, DUNSTABLE

Cont	GROG	SHELL	SAND	SGSAM	AMP	VERWH	GREY	OXID	OTHER	Tot No	Tot Wt	Date
1065	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	16	50-100
1079	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	C1AD
1081	10	1	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	427	C1AD
1084	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	26	60-100
1086	35	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	37	527	60-100
1088	12	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	382	C1AD
1093	150	18	38	0	0	22	0	4	0	232	5366	60-100
1097	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	46	C1AD
1099	21	11	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	862	C1AD
1102	31	0	34	0	1	0	0	0	0	66	1201	50-100
1104	2	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	449	C1AD
1110	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	C1AD
1112	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	235	50-100
1118	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	98	C1AD
1120	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	40	C1AD
2025	9	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	99	C1AD
TOTAL	848	39	601	9	2	66	10	37	34	1646	22930	

A2 OTHER FINDS

1 FIRED CLAY/CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

There was a small amount of fired clay and ceramic building material. In total this amounted to 41 fragments from 11 contexts. Most of the pieces were quite fragmentary and in a friable sandy paste. None of the fragments of fired clay were featured to allow possible identification. At least four contexts (1009, 1046, 1065 and 1093) produced slightly larger fragments, suggestive of Roman building material. The one fragment from (1009) was thick enough to suggest it may be from a floor tile or pila. Amongst the fragments from (1046) was a piece with an angle which may suggest that they are fragments of tegulae (roofing tile). Very abraded fragments from (1018), (1037) and (1059) may be just fired clay or from specific items of CBM.

No further work is required.

Context	No	Description
805	1	pot crumb or fired clay
1004	5	fired clay
1009	2	Roman CBM ?pila
1018	3	?CBM or fired clay
1037	2	?CBM or fired clay
1039	4	fired clay
1042	9	fired clay
1046	8	x3 fired clay; x5 Roman CBM ?tegulae
1059	1	?CBM or fired clay
1065	4	?Roman CBM. Unident. fragments
1093	5	Roman CBM. Unident. fragments
TOTAL	41	

2 LAVA QUERN

A number of fragments of volcanic lava were recovered from contexts 1039 and 1042 (Pit 1038). These are undoubtedly fragments of quernstone, probably from the well-known Niedermendig source, although none of the fragments large enough to determine the size or form of quern they represent. No further work required.

3 FLINT

A flint flake and a burnt flint flake core were recovered from context 1029 (Enclosure ditch segment 1022). Both retained some cortex indicating a nodular flint source of the material. They are probably late Neolithic/Bronze Age in date, incorporated residually in a Roman context.

A fragment of flint, which may have been struck but which is more probably naturally fractured, came from context 1086 (Pit 1085). No further work required.

4 *IRON NAILS*

A group of 15 iron nails was retrieved from context 1044 (Pit 1045). The pit is stratigraphically late and without dating evidence. The nails, while not machine-made, may be post-Roman. No further work.

5 *GLASS*

A fragment of vessel glass came from context 1046 (Pit 1047). The fragment is too small to determine the form of vessel. The fragment is not Roman soda-glass and may be a post-Roman find, intrusive from Pit 1045 above. No further work.

6 *OYSTER SHELLS*

Context	No.	Weight g
1009	2	22
1046	1	6
1093	3	48

The small quantity of oyster shells, all from Roman contexts, reflect a Romanised aspect of diet. No further work required.

A3 THE FAUNAL REMAINS

1 INTRODUCTION

Five hundred and forty-four fragments of animal bone were retrieved from 29 contexts. These were scanned in order to characterise the assemblage.

2 RESULTS

2.1 Condition of remains

The assemblage was generally in a moderate to poor condition. Many of the remains were fragmentary, and had suffered post-depositional chemical weathering and worm action. As a result, many of the finer butchery marks will have disappeared.

2.2 Species present

A total of 64 bones representing cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog and roe deer were all positively identified. This is only about 11% of the assemblage. Further work is likely to result in a few more positive identifications, but generally the percentage identifiable is low.

2.3 Body parts

The table shows those body parts that were identified.

Cattle: *Bos*

Skull/ Mand	Hum	Fem.	MP	Scap	Rad.	Tib.	Digits/ Ankles	Ulna	Pelv.	Horn Core
10	4	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	2

Pig: *Sus*

Skull/ Mand	Hum	Fem.	MP	Scap.	Rad.	Tib.	Digits/ Ankles	Ulna	Pelv.
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Sheep/Goat: *Ovis/Capra*

Skull/ Mand	Hum	Fem.	MP	Scap.	Rad.	Tib.	Digits/ Ankles	Ulna	Pelv.
5	3	0	4	1	2	2	0	1	0

Horse: *Equus*

Skull/ Mand	Hum	Fem.	MP	Scap.	Rad.	Tib.	Digits/ Ankles	Ulna	Pelv.
6	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	3

Dog: *Canis*

Skull/ Mand	Hum	Fem.	MP	Scap.	Rad.	Tib.	Digits/ Ankles	Ulna	Pelv.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Roe Deer: *Capreolus capreolus*

Skull/ Mand	Hum	Fem.	MP	Scap.	Rad.	Tib	Digits/A nkles	Ulna	Pelv.	Horn Core
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

NOTE: The antler was not shed; parts of skull remained attached. This animal was therefore killed at some time between late spring and late autumn in its 3rd year.

No particular conclusions can be drawn about the representation of body parts. The high proportion of skulls is a result of the fragmentation of these bones.

2.4 Initial Conclusions

This assemblage, comprising mostly sheep/goat and cattle with elements of pig, dog and horse, appears fairly typical of a Roman agricultural settlement. The Roe Deer horn is uncommon, but not significantly so.

While animal bones were reasonably common, their fragmentation and poor state of preservation mean that a certain amount of information has been lost.

3 POTENTIAL FOR ANALYSIS

The assemblage is unlikely to repay a great deal of further work. It is recommended that a basic catalogue be produced for the site archive.

Any publication would warrant a brief summary report. Some analysis of spatial distributions should be attempted and comparisons with other published local/regional assemblages of similar date should be included.

A4 ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

1 INTRODUCTION

Four 20-litre samples of soil were taken for ecofact recovery. Samples 5 and 7 were from ditches and Samples 6 and 8 were from pits. The samples were floated onto a 0.5mm mesh using a Siraf tank and the dried flots sorted. The snails were scanned using a binocular microscope. The charred remains were inspected under a 20x objective Brunel stereo microscope with direct lighting, with any detailed inspection being carried out under a 40x objective.

2 CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

The charred seeds identified are presented in table form.

Sample	5	6	7	8
Context	1026	1039	1093	1086
Phase	2	3	3	2-3?
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	+	1	2	1
<i>Triticum spelta</i>			+	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		+		+
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.				

- + 1 present
- 1 2-10 present
- 2 11-100 present
- 3 101-1000 present
- 4 1000+ present

2.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

The charred seed assemblage is particularly small and does not merit any further investigation. A small amount of wheat (*Triticum*) is present in every sample, but the condition is too poor to identify further. Dock (*Rumex*) is a common weed of disturbed ground, particularly at the edges of human activity. Overall the samples were unremarkable.

3 THE SNAILS

The snails observed were identified and an estimate made of their abundance. The results are given in table form (below). Ideally, the samples for assessment should have been 1kg samples for laboratory analysis. Flotation gives a biased recovery of shells and

the samples were far too large. However, the flots do serve to characterise the snails present in the deposits.

Sample Context	5 1009	6 1042	7 1093	8 1086
<i>Pomatias elegans</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Cochlicopa tridentatum</i>	-	++	-	-
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	++	+	++	++
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	++	+	++	+
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	+++	+++	+++	+++
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	++	++	++	++
<i>V. excentrica</i>	+++	+++	+++	+++
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	+++	+++	+++	+++
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	-	+	-	-
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	-	-	-	+
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	+++	+++	+++	+++
<i>Helicella itala</i>	++	++	++	++
<i>Trichia hispida</i> gp.	+++	+++	+++	+++
<i>T. striolata</i>	+	-	-	+

+ present, ++ many, +++ very many

3.1 Statement of potential

All four flots contain several thousand snails, as might be expected from such large samples. All are dominated by the open-country snails *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia excentrica*, along with the more catholic *Trichia hispida* gp. and the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula*. Another snail characteristic of dry open habitats, *Helicella itala*, is well represented in all the flots. In addition, Sample 6 contains lower concentrations of shells associated with more shaded habitats, including *Carychium tridentatum* and *Discus rotundatus*.

The results suggest that dry open conditions prevailed on the site during the early Roman period. However, it is possible that tall herbaceous vegetation, providing a little shelter, was growing in the tops of Pits 1036 and 1038, the location of Sample 6.

The assessment has given useful information about the environment of the site. However, it is thought that the flots have little useful potential for further analysis.

It is recommended that a brief report reviewing the assessment is included in any final report.

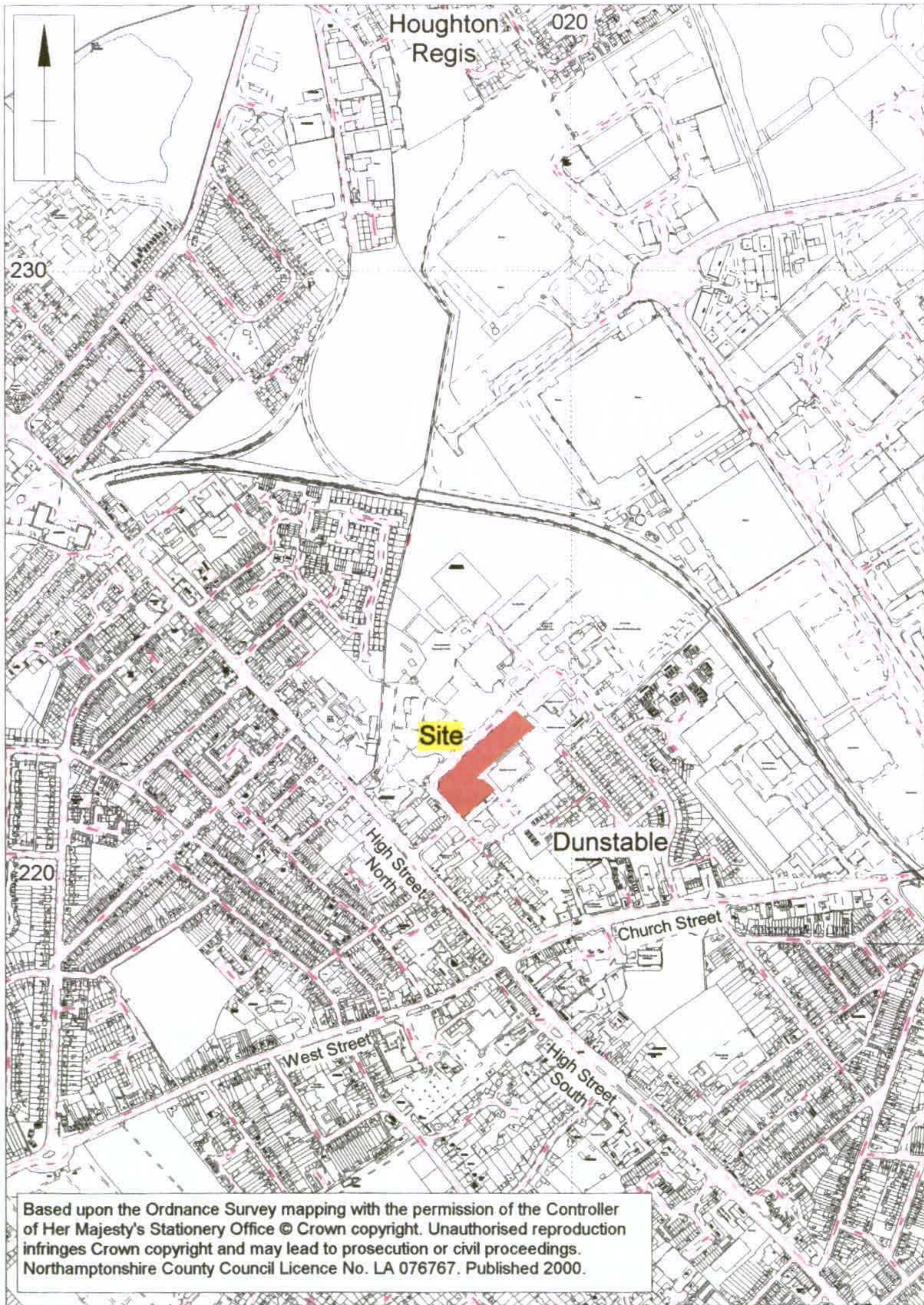


Fig 1

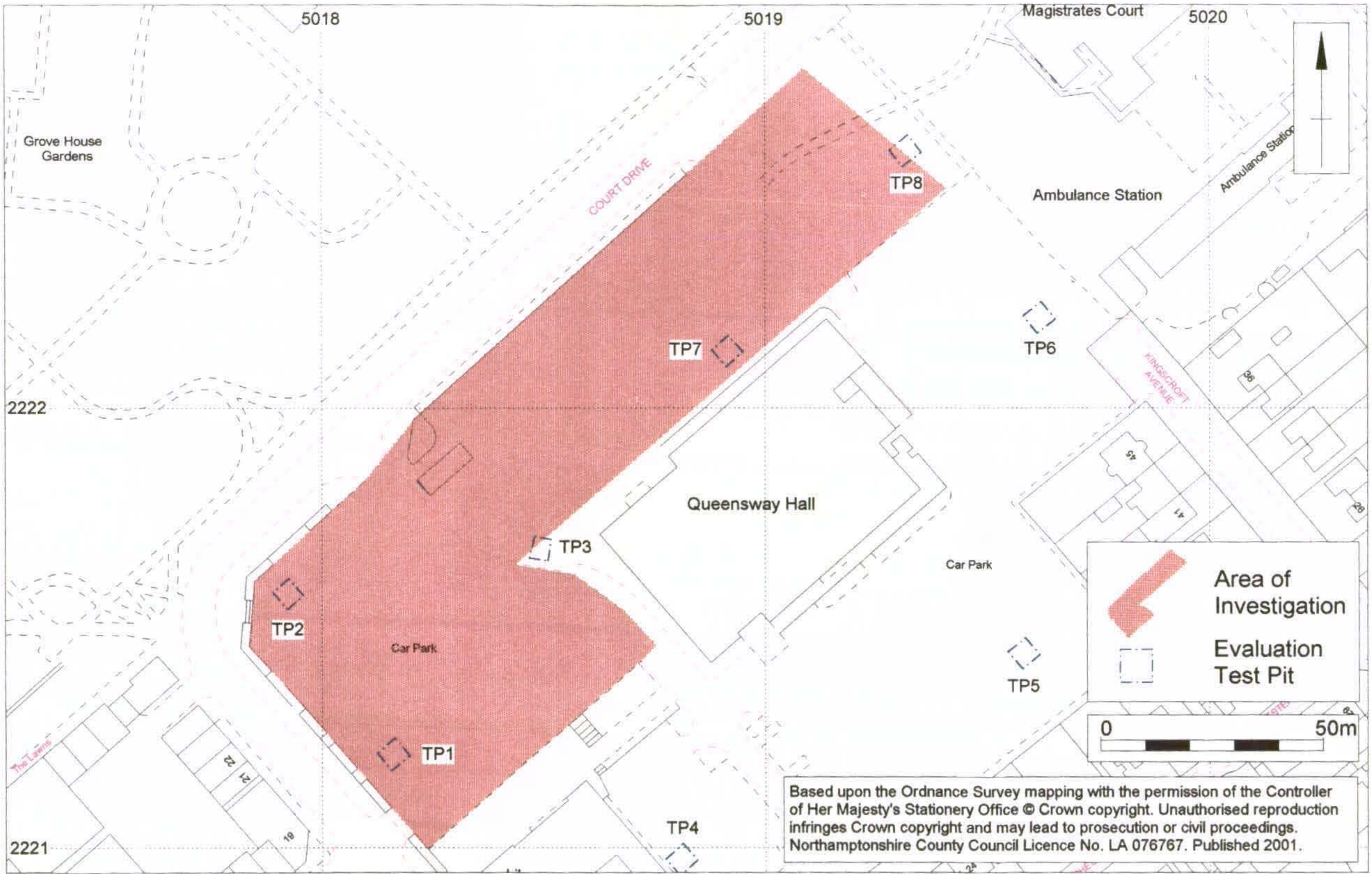


Fig 2

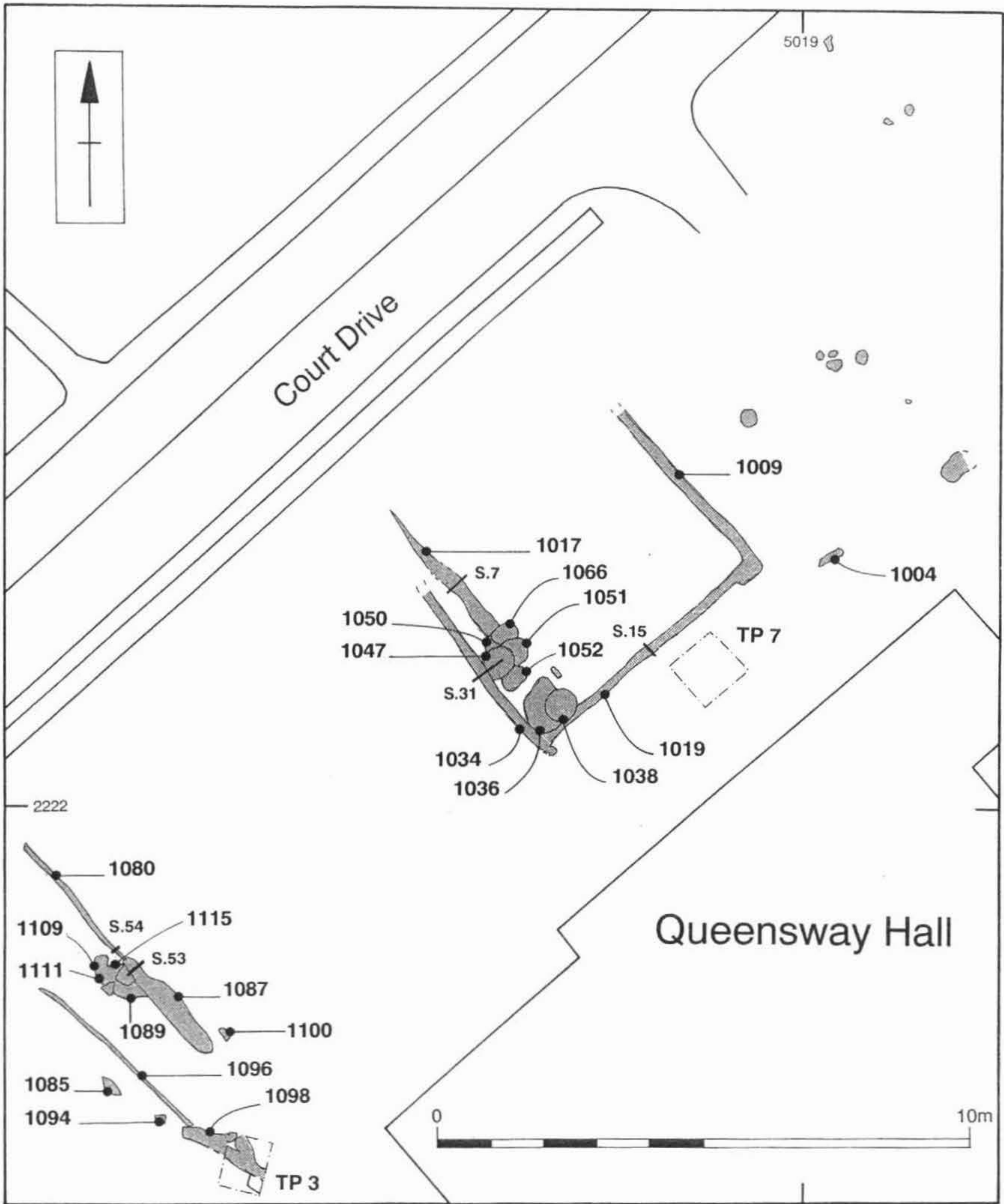


Fig 3

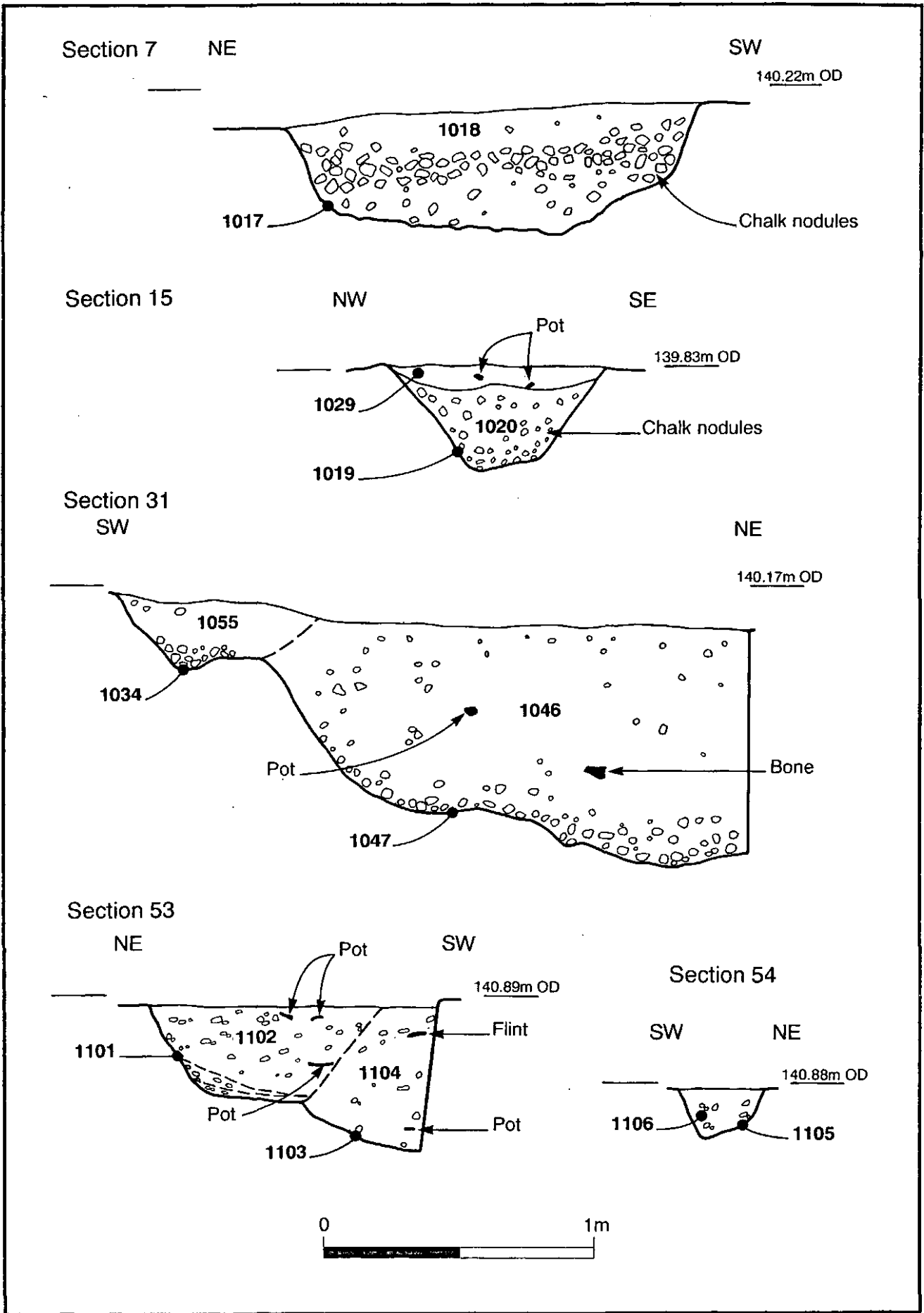


Fig 4



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