

**LAND AT NORTH BRICKHILL, BEDFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND UPDATED  
PROJECT DESIGN**

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## **Preface**

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the project design. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

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*Fieldwork and post-fieldwork was managed by Gary Edmondson. The field evaluation was supervised by Ian Beswick, assisted by Mick Garside, Chris Mallows, Jerry Stone and Chris Swain. The excavation of Archaeological Zone 1 was supervised by Lennard Anderson and Ian Turner with investigation and recording undertaken by Zoe Clarke, Laura Hill, Jonathan Millward and Adrian Woolmer. Archaeological Zone 2 was supervised by Lennard Anderson, Ian Beswick and Victoria Osborn assisted by Melanie Bell, Zoe Clarke, Anthony Clifton-Jones, George Demetri, Laura Hill, Annette Hughes, Adam Lodoen, Gary Manning, Jonathan Millward, Lynda O'Sullivan, Gareth Shane, Jerry Stone, Adam Williams and Adrian Woolmer.*

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## **Keywords**

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CAO	County Archaeological Officer of Bedfordshire County Council
BCC	Bedfordshire County Council
Clients	Persimmon Homes Ltd and Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd
Consultant	CgMs Ltd
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LPA	Local planning authority: Bedford Borough Council
Procedures Manual	Document: <i>The Albion Fieldwork Procedures Manual (2001)</i>

## **Structure of the report**

*After the introductory Section 1, the original research objectives are presented (Section 2). Section 3 provides a provisional summary of results. The various types of evidence (data) are discussed individually in Section 4. The potential of the data to address the original research objectives is discussed in Section 5 with the Updated Project Design presented in Section 6. Appendices at the back of this document present method statements for the analysis (Appendix 1), the project team (Appendix 2) and a summary of tasks (Appendix 3).*







## **Non-Technical Summary**

*The site is located on the northern outskirts of Bedford centred at National Grid Reference TL (5/2) 0526 5348. Topographically, it occupies a south-facing slope, which descends gradually from 60-45m OD to the centre of the area. The geology of the site comprised Boulder Clay capping of the upper slope above Oxford Clay, with gravel outcropping along the eastern margin of the site, adjacent to the Renhold Brook.*

*Between 2002 and 2004 Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a series of evaluations as part of a proposal for residential development and creation of associated country park at the site. This revealed four significant concentrations of archaeological remains: Archaeological Zones 1-4. The development scheme affected three of these zones. Archaeological Zones 1 and 2 were subject to excavation in advance of development. Archaeological Zone 3 was protected under an additional layer of topsoil, which was deposited under archaeological supervision to ensure that the archaeological deposits were not damaged. Archaeological Zone 4 was excluded from the development. Archaeological investigation and recording were also undertaken on a narrow strip of land adjacent to the southern boundary of Freeman's Common, during the insertion of a utilities pipeline.*

*Albion was subsequently commissioned by CgMs Ltd., on behalf of their clients, to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation, comprising archaeological monitoring, investigation, analysis and publication. This report presents an assessment of the results of the mitigation works, undertaken between 2006 and 2007. The following chronological framework for the archaeological remains and artefacts recovered from these investigations has been created.*

### **Archaeological Zone 1:**

*Situated on a gentle south-east facing slope, the ground drops from c.48 to 45m OD. Residual flints suggest sporadic, low intensity activity from at least the Neolithic period. The earliest firm evidence for human activity is dated to the early-middle Iron Age period and comprises the establishment of ditched enclosures with associated unenclosed activity. The fragmentary remains of a more extensive, late Iron Age-early Romano-British period enclosure system were also identified. There is limited evidence for activity during the Roman period, although elements of a field system survived in the northern part of the area. Slight evidence for Saxon occupation was uncovered in the form of a cremation burial and possibly associated, although undated, pitting.*

### **Archaeological Zone 2:**

*This zone extends from relatively flat ground in the west, which forms the crest of a low spur of ground at c.45m OD. To the east the ground slopes down to the south-east dropping to c.40m OD defining the western side of a substantial river valley now occupied by the Renhold Brook. There is evidence for a lower terrace near the present course of the brook. A small quantity of residual flintwork indicates low intensity activity from at least the Mesolithic period. An unenclosed settlement was established during the early-middle Iron Age period. It is in the late Iron Age-early Romano-British period that the first evidence for land divisions is seen with the establishment of a system of rectilinear enclosure in the east of the area, as well as a smaller ditched enclosure located to the north-west. During the early Romano-*



*British period a more extensive enclosure system was established which contained a central domestic focus with a roundhouse. This series of land parcels was replaced in the mid-late Romano-British period by a new rectilinear enclosure system that was divided into a series of substantial enclosures of varying function. At the eastern limit of the system, on the lower terrace of a formerly substantial watercourse, the land was used for livestock, with a droveway allowing movement from north to south. There was limited evidence in the southern part of the area for Saxon activity in the form of a sunken-featured building and associated activity. From at least the medieval period, the majority of the site seems to have been utilised for arable cultivation. This activity, especially in recent times, truncated the earlier deposits.*

*The archaeological remains show that there is firm evidence for activity on the site from the early-middle Iron Age through to the post-medieval period. This evidence has the potential to address a number of national and regional research objectives. This potential will be realised by a programme of analysis, publication and archiving. The methodologies and resources required to complete this work are detailed in an Updated Project Design.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

As part of a proposal for residential development and creation of associated country park at North Brickhill, Bedford, Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a series of evaluations between 2002 and 2004. These revealed four significant concentrations of archaeological remains, identified as Archaeological Zones 1-4. The development scheme affected three of these zones.

Archaeological Zones 1 and 2 required excavation in advance of development.

Archaeological Zone 3 was protected from developmental impacts by burial under an additional layer of topsoil, which was deposited under archaeological supervision to ensure that the archaeological remains were not damaged.

Archaeological Zone 4, situated on the north-east margin of the site, was excluded from the development. The development also required the insertion of a utilities pipeline along the southern margin of Freeman's Common. This was the subject of archaeological investigation and recording in accordance with the Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management (Albion 2004).

Albion was commissioned by CgMs Ltd., on behalf of their clients, to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation, comprising archaeological monitoring, investigation, analysis and publication. This report presents the assessment of the combined results of the evaluation and subsequent mitigation works, undertaken between 2002 and 2007.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The site is situated toward the northern limit of Bedford, centred on OS grid reference TL (5/2) 0526 5348 (Figure 1). To the south it is bounded by the existing residential development at Brickhill; its other limits were defined by irregular field boundaries.

The area is bisected by a series of water courses, now confined to man-made channels, with both investigated zones occupying gentle south-east facing slopes.

In Archaeological Zone 1, the ground drops from *c.* 48 to 45m OD.

Archaeological Zone 2 occupies more varied topography, with the highest ground at *c.* 45m OD, being on the crest of a low spur in the west. The ground drops to *c.* 40m OD in the south-east, being within the valley of a substantial water course, now occupied by the Renhold Brook. There is evidence for a lower river terrace within this valley, near the present course of the brook. The geology is predominantly Oxford Clay, with incursions of Boulder Clay on the higher ground and clay with gravel on the lower terrace near the brook.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The area has produced evidence for activity ranging in date from the prehistoric to the medieval period. BCC's Historic Environment Record (HER) records several known archaeological sites within or adjacent to the Archaeological Zones, including prehistoric, Roman and medieval artefact scatters. There are several areas of ridge and furrow earthworks, indicative of medieval cultivation. The route of a Roman road was indicated as crossing the eastern part of this area.



However, the alignment is considered to be unreliable, with no evidence to confirm the location of the routeway being identified during the archaeological investigations. In the adjacent area a number of sites have been recorded, ranging in date from Mesolithic to the medieval period.

#### **1.4 Nature of the Archaeological Investigations**

Between 2002 and 2004 Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a series of evaluations as part of a proposal for residential development and creation of associated country park at North Brickhill, Bedford. The evaluation comprised desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, field artefact collection and trial excavation.

Trial excavation was undertaken in three phases with a total of 72 trenches being investigated. Analysis of the results defined four Archaeological Zones, with isolated archaeological features being identified in a small number of trenches. Of these, Archaeological Zones 1 and 2 were the subject of open area investigation in advance of development (Figure 2). In total c.8.5 hectares of land were subject to detailed archaeological investigation between 2006 and 2007. In addition, a narrow strip of land adjacent to the southern boundary of Freeman's Common was monitored during the insertion of a utilities pipeline.

#### **1.5 Purpose of this Report**

This report presents an assessment of the results of all stages of the archaeological investigations. An Updated Project Design is included, listing all tasks that will be required to analyse, publish and archive the results.



## 2. ORIGINAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

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### 2.1 Introduction

The site, which includes the Archaeological Zones, lies within a landscape that contains evidence of human activity dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period. The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological remains. These had the potential to contribute to a number of national and regional research agendas associated with these periods.

### 2.2 Overall Project Aims

The overall aim of the archaeological investigation was to fully define and record any archaeological deposits/structures present, so as to elucidate the types of activity undertaken, their date, form and function. The evaluation revealed evidence for settlement and occupation, indicating the potential to allow greater understanding of its development and change over time. There was also potential to determine aspects of the character of the settlement and the interaction with the surrounding landscape, indicating a regional significance for these remains.

### 2.3 National, Regional and County-based Research Frameworks

Although archaeological remains are a material consideration in the planning process, there is no single, “easy-to-use” guide to assessing potential aims and objectives that archaeological investigations may be able to address.

#### 2.3.1 National research frameworks

At a national level, English Heritage’s criteria for prioritising archaeological “sites” are evolving. Its funding criteria for rescue projects, as set out in *Exploring our Past* were similar to those it uses to define a “site” as being of schedulable quality. These included period, rarity, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability and potential. More recently a draft Research Agenda (draft 1997) built upon the earlier criteria, with the aim of developing an approach reflecting ‘the greater determination to pursue research themes’ and ‘wider interests (e.g. in landscapes)’. These included goals such as advancing understanding of England’s archaeology, supporting the development of national, regional and local research frameworks and promoting public appreciation and enjoyment of archaeology. Although the Research Agenda was intended for projects seeking English Heritage resources, i.e. not those undertaken within the PPG 16 framework, its goals and objectives can be considered when the archaeological resource of the development area is being assessed.

#### 2.3.2 Regional and county-based research agendas

On a more regional level, a research agenda and strategy has recently been published for Bedfordshire (Oake *et al.*, 2007). Prior to this, a resource assessment published by the County Archaeologists of East Anglia (Glazebrook 1997) and a subsequent research agenda and strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) covers the adjacent counties of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, rather than specifically Bedfordshire. Nevertheless, topographical and historical similarities (at a regional level) between these counties make the document a



useful tool for assessing the significance of the archaeological remains within the development area.

Over the last five years a number of period-based resource assessments and agenda have been published. Of particular relevance to the development area are those for the Iron Age (Haselgrove *et al.* 2002) and Roman periods (James and Millet 2001).

## **2.4 Aims and Objectives of the Investigation**

The overall objective of the archaeological work, as outlined in the Project Design, was to fully define and record any archaeological deposits and features present to a level of detail where they could be dated and an interpretation of their function made. The investigation also aimed to address the following period-specific research aims:

### **2.4.1 Prehistoric**

- The evaluation indicated Neolithic/Bronze Age material in Archaeological Zone 1. As the distribution, form and structure of settlements of this period were generally poorly understood, any remains of this period would be of significance.

### **2.4.2 Iron Age - Romano-British**

- A number of Iron Age settlement sites had been identified in the vicinity, occupying prominent high ground, which contrasted with the site's location;
- Evidence of Roman activity had been identified and, at the time of the fieldwork, only a limited number of substantial Romano-British farmstead sites on clay uplands to the north of Bedford had been investigated.

### **2.4.3 Medieval**

- Medieval deposits had been identified in the southern part of Archaeological Zone 2. This activity was previously unknown and might provide an insight into the varied activities undertaken on settlement margins adjacent to the arable fields.



### 3. SUMMARY OF PROVISIONAL PHASING AND RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

As part of this assessment, the archaeological evidence from the two excavation areas, Archaeological Zones 1 and 2, was assessed in order to establish a coherent spatial and chronological framework. The limited results of archaeological monitoring in Freeman's Common were also incorporated. In Archaeological Zone 1, a total of 348 contexts (units of archaeological recording) were identified during the investigations; 2,847 contexts were recorded in Archaeological Zone 2 (Figure 1).

These represent components of individual features, for example a ditch "cut" and its "fills". Many of these have been provisionally assigned to a chronological period (referred to as phases), ranging in date from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods (Table 1). The phases are subsequently divided into spatial activity areas referred to as landscapes (represented by L). These are defined by a collection of contexts which are contemporary and share a common function, referred to as groups (represented by G).

Phase	Chronological Period	Archaeological Zone	Activity Type	Evidence
1	Prehistoric	AZ1	Dispersed activity	Tree-throws/flints
		AZ2	Dispersed activity	Tree-throws/flints
2	Early-middle Iron Age	AZ1	Ditched enclosures and associated unenclosed activity	Ditches and pits
		AZ2	Unenclosed settlement	Pits
3	Late Iron Age-early Romano British	AZ1	Enclosure system	Ditches, pits and postholes
		AZ2	Enclosure system	Ditched enclosure and post-built structure
4	Romano-British	AZ1	Field system	Ditches and pits
		AZ2	Enclosures and buildings	Ditches, roundhouse,
5	Mid-late Romano-British	AZ1	-	-
		AZ2	Rectilinear enclosure system Domestic activity	Ditches Pits and structures
6	Saxon	AZ1	Burial	Urned cremation and pits
		AZ2	Unenclosed settlement	Sunken-featured building and pits
7	Medieval	AZ1	-	-
		AZ2 Freeman's Common	Agriculture	Ridge and furrow
8	Post-medieval	AZ1	-	-
		AZ2	Field boundary	Ditch

**Table 1:** Summary of provisional phasing



## **3.2 Provisional Summary of Results – Archaeological Zone 1**

### **3.2.1 Phase 1: Prehistoric – dispersed activity**

Prehistoric activity may be indicated by the tree-throws of L9, which were identified across the site (Figure 3). They have been spatially divided between the northern (G16) and southern (G44) part of the site. Three worked flint flakes were recovered, one of which was found in the infilling of a tree-throw. Residual flintwork indicates low intensity activity from at least the Neolithic period.

### **3.2.2 Phase 2: Early-middle Iron Age - enclosures and associated activity**

The earliest firm evidence for settlement activity was located in the southern part of the site (Figure 4). It comprised the partial remains of a ditched enclosure system L3 with associated unenclosed pitting L2, a fence line and pitting L4. Although the artefact assemblage is relatively small, where pottery has been found it is early-middle Iron Age in date.

#### **3.2.2.1 Enclosure System L3**

The remnants of two ditched enclosures, one to the north and one to the south were identified, with the southern enclosure apparently being larger. Although incomplete, a 3.5m wide western entranceway was located in the north-west corner of the southern enclosure. The western side of this enclosure was defined by ditch G25, the northern terminal of which was truncated by pit G27. Aligned perpendicular, ditch G26 created the northern side as well as the southern side of the other enclosure. Ditch G29 appears to be the only surviving part of the northern limit of the northern enclosure.

Several pits G30, G31, G32, G33, G34 and G37 and post-holes G28 were associated with the enclosures. Pits G31 and G37 were the most substantial and may have originally been storage pits, which were later reused for the disposal of domestic debris. They also contained early-middle Iron Age pottery sherds, fired clay, charcoal and heat-affected stones.

#### **3.2.2.2 Pitting L2**

Eight pits were located over a 20m area to the south of the ditched enclosures and have been spatially divided into G46 (1 pit), G47 (1 pit) and G48 (6 pits). They were either sub-circular or elongated oval in plan, ranging from 0.75–3m in diameter and 50mm–0.33m in depth. The function of these pits is uncertain, although the largest pit G47 contained the majority of the artefacts which included early-middle Iron Age pottery sherds (44g), fired clay (21g) and animal bone (3g).

#### **3.2.2.3 Fenceline and pits L4**

Four postholes G20 were located to the west of the ditched enclosures. They were spaced over an area of 2.5m, forming a T-shape in plan defining a fenceline. Three of the postholes were in a north-west to south-east aligned row, spaced between 1m and 1.5m. The fourth posthole was located 1.2m to the south-west of the central posthole in the row of three.

Pits G21, G22 and G23 were situated either to the east or south of the fenceline. Pit G21 was sub-oval in plan, 1.1m wide and 0.65m deep with a steep-sided





profile and slightly concave base. Its size, profile and different infilling sequence may indicate that it functioned as a waterpit. Two pairs of pits, G22 and G23 ranged from 0.8–1.7m across and 0.11–0.45m deep with asymmetrical concave profiles. Pits G23 contained material comprising lumps of burnt clay, burnt stones and charcoal flecks.

#### **3.2.2.4 Pits L26**

Located in evaluation trenches to the south of the excavation area were four shallow pits (Figure 5). Three of the pits G181 were 0.75–2.2m in size and under 0.11m deep. Two of these contained fired clay and charcoal flecks. Pit G182 contained the basal portion of a large early-middle Iron Age storage jar that had been placed upright in the base of the pit. It appears that the pot was whole when deposited, but later agricultural activity had damaged it. The grey silty clay fill of the pot was sieved and found to contain a very small quantity of unburnt bone.

### **3.2.3 Phase 3: Late Iron Age-early Romano-British – enclosure system**

A large rectangular ditched enclosure L6 was established on a different alignment to that of the previous activity (Figure 6). Surviving parts of the northern, eastern and southern limits were identified. To the north was an open area L7 that contained a scatter of pits. The lack of settlement type features and domestic debris indicates that this enclosure was part of a field system.

#### **3.2.3.1 Enclosure L6**

The enclosure was at least 160m east - west, continuing westwards beyond the limit of excavation and 60m wide. Its northern boundary appears to have been maintained over a relatively long period of time, as there was evidence for sequential recutting episodes. An original ditch G14 was truncated by two parallel, possibly contemporary ditches G12 and G13, situated 1.2m apart. Both of these ditches were truncated by the latest ditch G11. A tiny quantity of animal bone was recovered from the secondary fill of ditch G13. Located to the east were two further ditches G39 that may be a continuation of ditches G12 and G13.

Part of the eastern limit was defined by ditch G36 which terminated to the south. Pit G35 was located 0.6m from the terminal. A small part of the southern limit survived as two ditches G24, the full extent of which was unknown as they continued beyond the excavation limit. They were both aligned north-west to south-east and terminated to the east. The southern ditch had an inturned eastern terminal. The only internal features comprised two pairs of pits G42 and G43.

#### **3.2.3.2 Pits L7**

Located to the north of the enclosure was a large open area containing five pits. Two sub-circular pits G9 were located 30m apart and were 0.35–0.8m in diameter and up to 0.25m deep, with steep-sided profiles and slightly concave bases. To the south were three pits G38 spread over an area 13m by 9m. They were circular or sub-circular in plan, 0.6–1m in diameter and 0.15–0.26m deep, with asymmetrical concave profiles and slightly concave bases. Their fills were devoid of artefacts.

### **3.2.4 Phase 4: Romano-British – field system**

The western and eastern limits of an enclosure, thought to be part of a field system associated with three pits, L1 were identified at the north-east margin of the site



(Figure 7). Only part of the enclosure was revealed, with the sparse finds providing inconclusive dating evidence. The form of the enclosure and lack of artefacts would suggest that it was associated with livestock, hence field system, rather than settlement. This activity predates evidence for medieval arable cultivation, detected on aerial photographs taken in the 1940s.

#### **3.2.4.1 Field system L1**

The western side was defined by two ditches: a northern ditch G6 and a southern ditch G5 with a western opening of 0.75m between them. To the east, curvilinear ditch G7 created a space varying from 5m to 9m between the two sides. The ditches were 0.5–0.8m wide and up to 0.52m deep, with steep-sided concave profiles. Ditch G5 had a more V-shaped profile. It is not clear if G5/6 and G7 are sequential redefining of a boundary or contemporary modifications to create a narrow routeway.

The two pits of G17 were *c.* 0.65m in diameter situated 10m beyond the western limit of the enclosure, while pit G8 was located in the space between the ditches. All of the pits were under 0.3m deep with shallow concave profiles. Roman pottery sherds (6g) were recovered from ditch G5, while medieval pottery was found in ditch G5 (10g) as well as ditch G7 (3g). The medieval pottery is thought to be intrusive, being derived from ridge and furrow cultivation of the area.

#### **3.2.5 Phase 5: Mid-late Romano-British**

Archaeological Zone 1 has no archaeological remains assigned to this phase.

#### **3.2.6 Phase 6: Saxon - burial and pitting**

This phase is represented by an urned cremation that had been placed in a shallow grave pit (L8) in the north-west of the site (Figure 8). In addition, a small area of undated pitting was located 15m to the south of the burial. It has been assigned to this phase due to its location and the high charcoal content of its fills.

##### **3.2.6.1 Cremation burial L8**

Urned cremation burial G19 was found in a shallow grave pit, 0.3m in diameter. The lower 50mm of the grave pit had been filled with dark grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks, prior to the urn being placed in it. The urn comprised a Saxon vessel with a flat base and everted rim, which although complete was highly fragmented. Within the urn was *c.* 438g of burnt human bone, with another 54g being recovered from the other fills of the grave pit. Located *c.* 2m to the west of the cremation was a mixed spread of material over an area 0.1m by 0.1m and 20mm thick. This deposit contained charcoal flecks together with human bone fragments weighing (33g), which are considered to be material disturbed from the cremation burial.

Three undated pits G18 were located to the south of the cremation burial: two sub-circular pits, under 0.8m in diameter and an elongated oval pit that was 2.8m long and 0.8m wide. All of the pits were no more than 0.15m deep with steep-sided profiles and slightly concave bases. They contained charcoal mixed with fuel ash slag.



### **3.3 Provisional Summary of Results – Archaeological Zone 2**

#### **3.3.1 Phase 1: Prehistoric - dispersed activity**

Several tree-throws (L32, G161 and G517) were identified across the site, possibly indicating at least one episode of prehistoric tree clearance (Figure 10). A small collection of worked flint flakes was recovered. With the exception of two recovered from the infilled depressions of the tree-throws (Table 12), the remainder were residual finds from features assigned to later phases, with no obvious patterning to their distribution. This material does, however, indicate low intensity activity from at least the Mesolithic period.

#### **3.3.2 Phase 2: Early-middle Iron Age – unenclosed settlement**

This phase is characterised by an unenclosed settlement which was situated in the southern part of the site (Figure 11). It extended over an area 60m by 40m and comprised the remains of two post-built structures L12 and L13 with associated pit clusters L27. The majority of the features contained moderate quantities of probable early-middle Iron pottery.

##### **3.3.2.1 Structure and associated pits L12**

A rectangular structure G87 was defined by a series of pits and postholes with a cluster of internal features in the western and southern parts. It had a diameter of 14m and an opening of 9m on the eastern side is likely to represent an entranceway. Located 14m to the west of the structure were five pits G86 while to the north were three pits G100. Artefacts comprised sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery, 41g of vitrified clay and 22g of fired clay. Definite intrusive material comprised 52g of lead waste (RA 69) and the fragmented remains of a rotary lava quern (RA 70).

##### **3.3.2.2 Rectangular structure L13**

This structure was located 10m to the south of structure L12. It was 14m long and 7m wide with an opening on the northern side and was defined by a series of pits and postholes G80, G81 and G76. It is likely that the pits also held posts, although the majority only survived at shallow depths. A cluster of features in the eastern half perhaps formed an internal division. The majority of the structural features contained artefacts including sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery, a flint flake, a flint end scraper and fired clay. A copper finger ring (RA 6) was definite intrusive material.

##### **3.3.2.3 Pitting L27**

Eight individual pits (G61 and G62) and five intercutting pits (G63) were located over an area 26m by 10m to the west of structure L13. The smallest pits G61 and the intercutting pits G63 ranged in diameter from 0.4–0.8m and were up to 0.18m deep, with concave profiles and slightly concave bases. Larger pits G62 were 1.25–2.5m in diameter and up to 0.24m deep, with concave profiles and slightly concave bases. The function of the pits is unclear; the only artefacts comprised twelve sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery, the majority of which came from the intercutting pits G63.



### 3.3.3 Phase 3: Late Iron Age-early Romano-British – enclosure system

A rectilinear ditched enclosure system L50 was established on previously unoccupied high ground in the eastern part of the excavation area (Figure 12). Located *c.* 100m to the north-west on the high ground was a smaller ditched enclosure L10. Beyond this enclosure, to the south, was a post-built structure of T-shaped form, possible a fenceline, with two two-post structures and associated pits L11 situated to the north-east. This activity was dated either by pottery or stratigraphic evidence to the late Iron Age-early Romano-British period.

#### 3.3.3.1 Enclosure system L50

The surviving elements of three land parcels were identified, on the lower terrace with the enclosure system continuing beyond the eastern limit of the excavation. In the west the continuation of the enclosures was lost to general truncation. The northern limit was defined by north-east to south-west ditch G530. Two parallel ditches G555 and G556 defined the southern boundary indicating modifications on that side. Ditch G598 formed the central boundary between the two largest enclosures while north-south ditch G557 subdivided the southern area into two smaller enclosures. The majority of the ditches were truncated by features assigned to the subsequent Romano-British phase.

Four circular pits G521 were located adjacent to the southern limit. They ranged from 1.5–2.35m in diameter and were up to 0.18m deep, with concave sides and flattish bases. The infilling of the ditches and pits contained small quantities of artefacts, including late Iron Age-early Roman pottery sherds and animal bone.

#### 3.3.3.2 Ditched enclosure L10

The smaller ditched enclosure measured at least 12m by 9m continuing beyond the northern limit of excavation. The southern limit and part of the western limit were defined by ditches G64 and G66, with ditch G68 defining part of the eastern limit. There was a gap of 4.5m on the eastern side.

An inner ditch G67 lay parallel to the eastern side, while ditch G88 on the western side had been recut G89. Other internal features comprised two postholes G65. One of the postholes was located close to the entranceway while the other was situated 3m to the north-west and contained the remnants of packing material. Just outside the southern enclosure limit were three pits G69. Two were intercutting with the third located 1.5m to the west. The earliest of the intercutting pits truncated the southern edge of the enclosure ditch while the latest pit truncated the southern edge of the earlier pit. They were *c.* 1.5m in diameter and 0.15–0.2m deep, with concave profiles and slightly concave bases.

The main fills of these features were very similar, with moderate quantities of artefacts including late Iron Age-early Roman pottery sherds, animal bone and fired clay, which were recovered from all the features with the exception of G67. In addition, a small dump of burnt material along with sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery and 332g of fired clay was found in ditch G64 perhaps indicating a nearby hearth.



### 3.3.3.3 *Post-built structures and pits L11*

Located *c.* 20m to the south of the ditched enclosure L10 were a pair of two post-structures, the centre point to centre point spacing of which was 3m. They were orientated approximately north-south and situated 16m apart. The postholes were 0.5–0.8m in diameter and up to 0.15m deep. To their south were a series of postholes aligned in two perpendicular rows. One row was oriented north-west to south-east and comprised five postholes spaced at either 1.2m, 2.5m or 4.2m centres for a distance of 11.5m. Two of the postholes had been replaced. The other row was aligned perpendicular on a north-east to south-west alignment. It comprised three postholes spaced at 1m intervals. These may define a fenceline rather than a more substantial structure.

Three large pits G70 were located close by and are likely to be associated. The pits were either oval or sub-circular in plan, and despite being 1.5–2.8m in diameter were all shallow, under 0.2m deep, with concave profiles and flattish bases. Their fills contained a few sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery.

### 3.3.4 **Phase 4: Romano-British – enclosures and buildings**

This phase is represented by the fragmented remains of an extensive, generally rectilinear, enclosure system (Figure 13). There are, however, two significant anomalies: an oval enclosure within L47 and the contrasting alignment of the extensive enclosures of L48 in the south-west. There appears to be no continuity between this enclosure system and the activity in the preceding phase. The enclosure system has been divided into five spatially discreet areas: L17, L19, L47, L48 and L49. A domestic focus was located towards the centre, containing a roundhouse L22/31 and an area of quarrying L21. An area of pitting L53 was situated between the roundhouse and enclosure L49. The artefactual evidence and stratigraphic relationships with features assigned to the subsequent mid-late Romano-British phase place this activity in the early Romano-British period.

#### 3.3.4.1 *Southern enclosure ditches and pits L17*

A series of ditches and pits L17 were located in the southern half of the site and may define part of a southern extent to the enclosure system. The ditches were aligned either east-west (G51 and G547) or north-south (G548). Associated with these were pits G53, G54 and G546; several of the pits were intercutting and those to the east truncated the enclosure ditches. They were 0.5–1.5m in diameter and up to 0.25m deep. The majority of the pits and ditches contained early Roman pottery. Other artefacts included an iron tapering bar (RA 82) and a nail (RA 23).

#### 3.3.4.2 *Western enclosure ditches L19*

A western part of the enclosure system was defined by two north-south aligned ditches G60 and G71 and a segmented east-west ditch G72/G78. Ditches G60 and G71 were *c.* 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sided concave profiles and flattish bases. The segmented ditch extended over 8.3m and was 0.4–0.8m wide and up to 0.22m deep, with a steep concave profile and flattish base. Artefacts included Roman pottery sherds, part of an iron socket (RA 67), *tegula* roof tile and fired clay.



### 3.3.4.3 Roundhouse L22

A pennanular drainage gully G121 defined a roundhouse with a projected diameter of *c.* 14m and a 2.2m wide eastern entrance. Despite being affected by truncation, the majority of the northern, western and eastern sides were identified with the southern part surviving as an arc of postholes. The gully was *c.* 1m wide, widening to 1.6m at the northern terminal of the entranceway. Internal features were identified comprising postholes G125 and G126 and structural slots G127. Posts (L31, G128 and G160) aligned east-west may be an indication of a later phase of construction to the roundhouse. A large quantity of domestic debris was found including Roman pottery sherds, oyster shells, fired clay, animal bone, 13 nails (RA 39, 40, 47, 55, 56, 58, 59, 62, 64, 88, 134 and 138), hobnails (RA 50, 61 and 143), a copper pin (RA 60) and an iron key handle (RA 63).

The roundhouse appears to be situated immediately to the east of a north-south trackway within a ditched enclosure defined by ditch G123 to the west and ditches G129 and G130 to the south. The ditches were segmented in places being affected by modern truncation and were 0.6–1.1m wide and up to 0.25m deep with concave profiles. An area of pitting G549 and G550 was located to the east of the roundhouse. Pits G549 were aligned in a row which seemed to curve around the eastern side of the roundhouse and may have defined a boundary on that side, which did not otherwise leave a trace in the archaeological record.

The trackway is defined in the west by a slightly sinuous flanking ditch G107/108 orientated roughly north-south, traceable for *c.* 50m. In the east the enclosure ditch G130 associated with the roundhouse defines the opposed side. In the north it would appear that the trackway opens out into a wide land parcel.

### 3.3.4.4 Quarrying L21

Located to the south of the roundhouse was an area of quarrying comprising two components separated by the trackway, with G94 and G115 to the west and G135 to the east, a short distance south of the roundhouse. The pits were 1–3m in diameter and up to 0.3m deep with concave profiles. Their fills comprised a mix of mid orange grey silty clay that contained Roman pottery and animal bone.

### 3.3.4.5 Northern enclosures L47

The northern part of the enclosure system L47 comprised at least six land parcels. The contrasting form of the enclosures may suggest an original oval enclosure with later rectilinear elements added to incorporate it into the wider enclosure system. Ditch G523 defined the western extent and showed signs of recutting G524. The northern limit was defined by ditch G527 while ditches G531 and G559 formed part of a southern limit. Several internal partition ditches G525, G526, G528, G529, G591 and G592 were identified in the western and eastern enclosures. Ditch G593 appears to define part of a northern enclosure. Large quantities of artefacts from the features suggest that elements of these enclosures were associated with occupation. Artefacts comprised over 7.5kg of pottery, and over 5kg of animal bone, as well as fired clay, fragments of rotary quern and millstone (RA 4 and 123), an iron double-spiked loop (RA 119), hobnails (RA 144 and 146), iron fragments (RA 110 and 116) and a coin (RA 125). A human long bone was recovered from one of the ditches (G529) forming the oval enclosure of L47. This is the only evidence for pre-Saxon human remains on the site. Animal



bones from this enclosure may also indicate evidence for grease or marrow extraction.

A cluster of five oval and sub-oval pits (G594), 0.86–1.4m in diameter were located within an area of *c.* 9sqm. They all contained moderate quantities of domestic debris. A cluster of eight circular to oval-shaped pits G522 and a sub-oval pit G554 were located seemingly adjacent to the southern boundary of the western enclosure. Pits G551, G552 and G606 were located just outside it to the west. The profile of pit G552 suggests that it may have originally functioned as a waterpit. It was later reused for rubbish disposal, as it contained over 5kg of pottery and 2.5kg of animal bone.

#### **3.3.4.6 Southern-east enclosure ditches L48**

In the south-east corner of the excavation area were a series of ditches defining three enclosures. These enclosures had a contrasting alignment with the majority of the enclosures in this phase. It is possible that they were aligned to utilise the slope between the upper and lower terrace of the watercourse in this area.

A large northern enclosure was defined by north-east to south-west aligned ditch G533. To the south, ditches G540 and G541 and later recuts G539 and G605, defined the modified internal boundary. Slightly sinuous ditch G175 would have formed a southern boundary to the area and appears to be associated with ditch G541 and G542-44 to the north, being similar in depth and profile. An inturned entranceway *c.* 9m wide linked the land parcels. The southern enclosure was subdivided by a repeatedly recut boundary (G542, G543 and G544) orientated north-south. The continuation of at least one of these ditches was identified to the south (G180). The low quantities of artefacts found would indicate these enclosures were sited away from occupation areas, whilst the form of the enclosures would suggest livestock management

The boundary between the northern and southern enclosures was truncated by extensive quarrying activity L48.1. These quarries were cut along the line of the southern boundary of the north-eastern land parcel. They were probably excavated at the margins of the enclosure so as not to adversely affect land usage. The quarry pitting initially started in the west and gradually moved east with four different quarry pits identified.

#### **3.3.4.7 Eastern enclosure L49**

On the eastern edge of the excavation, rectilinear ditched enclosure L49 was located just to the south of L47, occupying the lower river terrace. The enclosure was 32m long and at least 16m wide, continuing beyond the excavation areas to the east, with a 2m wide entrance in the south-west. It was defined to the south by ditch G532, to the west by ditch G597 and to the north by G595. The ditches were 1–1.3m wide and 0.35–0.6m deep. Although the enclosure has no associated features, the artefact quantities, particularly from the enclosure's northern boundary, would suggest that it was located close to areas of domestic activity.

#### **3.3.4.8 Pitting L53**

A series of pits G520, G558, G568, G569, G570 and G611 were situated in an apparently open area to the west of enclosure L49. Several of the pits formed a



linear east-west band extending from the northern limit of enclosure L49 (G595). To the south of this was a group of three pits and a posthole G520 while 17m to the south of these was rubbish pit G558. All of the pits contained varying quantities of Romano-British pottery, with pit G558 containing the majority.

### **3.3.5 Phase 5: Mid-late Romano-British – enclosures and buildings**

During this phase a substantial system of rectangular enclosures was established, comprising at least seven defined land parcels of varying size and form (Figure 14). It replaced the earlier enclosure system and the only retained components appear to be the location of domestic structures and possibly elements of northern enclosures of Phase 4. This system is divided into several enclosures comprising a small north-western enclosure L18, a western enclosure L14, and central enclosure L15/43 which contained structures L23 and L24. Later alterations L44 were made to the central enclosure; they included the major recutting of some of the enclosure ditches. In the south, the western enclosure L16 was associated with a large area of quarrying, which appears to have originated on a very limited scale in the previous phase. A small enclosure L20 was located to the east, beyond which was a very large land parcel L45, adjacent to a funnelled droveway L46. Beyond the main block of enclosures, possibly separated by a narrow north-west to south-east aligned routeway were a small enclosure L51 and an area of pitting L52. Alterations were made to this northern area as indicated by a series of ditches L56. The latest dated pottery from these features was 3rd–4th century, suggesting that parts of the enclosure system remained in use until this time.

#### **3.3.5.1 North-west corner enclosure L18**

The small enclosure L18, measuring 30m by 25m (820sqm), was located in the north-west corner of the main block of enclosures. Its western limit was defined by ditch G101 (assigned to L14), the northern limit by ditch G102 (which had been partially recut G103), possibly blocking a former entrance. The eastern limit was defined by ditch G110 and the southern limit by ditch G104 (assigned to L14). Although there was no obvious entrance, five postholes were identified in the base of the ditch at the south-east corner and could be associated with an entrance structure or palisade. Internal features comprised two pits G111 that were 1.3–1.6m in diameter and no more than 0.2m deep, with steep-sided concave profiles and flattish bases. The small quantities of artefacts recovered from the pits and enclosure ditches suggest that the enclosure did not have a domestic function.

#### **3.3.5.2 Central-western enclosure L14**

Located in the western half of the system, enclosure L14 measured 55m by 35m (1900sqm) with a 9.5m wide western entrance. It was defined by ditch G101 to the west, while retained boundaries G107, G108 and a short redefining of the boundary in the north G137 formed the eastern limit. The southern limit was defined by ditch G56 while the northern limit G106 showed evidence of at least two earlier forms G104 and G105. Internal features comprise pits G91 G97, G98, G112, G132 and G139, postpit G113 and gullies G116. These were either situated close to the enclosure ditches or in the southern half of the enclosure. The artefacts from pit G112 indicate that it had been used for rubbish disposal while pits G132 may be the result of quarrying. The infilling of the enclosure ditches contained over 3kg of Romano-British pottery, 2kg of animal bone, a nail (RA





19), a coin (RA 22), a lava quern fragment (RA 111), glass vessel fragment (RA 107) and an iron socketed tool (RA 25).

### **3.3.5.3 Central enclosure L15/L43**

A large central enclosure measuring 83m by 70m (5300sqm) shared its western boundary with L14. The northern limit was defined by ditch G515 and G516 and the eastern by segmented ditch G509/510/511/513. Ditch G137 appears to be an early form of the eastern limit that was later altered. Entrances were probably located in the south-west corner and on the eastern side. Internally, it contained two possible structures; an earlier timber building L23 and a later stone footing building L24. Several pits were identified G93, G117, G118, G119, G120, G131 and G514 with the majority being located in the western half nearer the buildings. Artefacts included Romano-British pottery sherds, fired clay, slag and fragments from two glass vessels (RA 84 and 106).

### **3.3.5.4 Later alterations to central enclosure L44**

L44 represents the latest phase of the large enclosure L15/L43. Ditch G504 redefined the northern limit with a large sub-oval pit G505 used as a sump at the eastern end. Sections of the eastern side were recut G507 and G518 and six sequential pits G512 also truncated part of the eastern side. These pits may have originally acted as sumps but were later reused for rubbish disposal.

### **3.3.5.5 Timber building L23**

A NW–SE aligned rectangular timber building was defined by stakeholes and postholes G150 and G152 (light brown on insert Figure 14). It was 9m long and 4m wide with parts of the southern and eastern sides surviving to a greater extent. The western and northern parts were affected by a later building on a different alignment. The remnants of internal floor surfaces G153, comprised of clay overlain by gravel, were located in the southern part of the building. The surviving remnants of part of an external yard surface G151, laid down onto the undisturbed clay drift geology, were identified outside the southern side of the building. Artefacts included Roman pottery, ceramic building material, an iron object (RA 115), glass vessel fragment (RA 83) and animal bone.

### **3.3.5.6 Stone footing building L24**

A later stone building was constructed on a north-east to south-west alignment (green on insert Figure 14). It overlay the northern part of the timber building and was at least 8m long and 3m wide. This building was defined by remnants of masonry G140, which formed footings that may have supported a timber rather than masonry superstructure. Several postholes G142 support the idea of a timber superstructure. An internal floor surface G143 comprising patches of clay and gravel was identified in the centre of the building. An external surface G141 comprising mid yellow brown gravel was located on the western and northern side of building. Large quantities of artefacts were found, comprising Romano-British pottery sherds, animal bone, fired clay, ceramic building material, 14 nails (RA 34, 35, 36, 42, 43, 52, 74, 75, 76, 118, 120, 121, 127 and 129), hobnails (RA 28, 48, 49, 17), fragments of glass vessels (RA 77 and 81), iron key handle (RA 30), copper tweezers (RA 31), an iron stylus (RA 128) and an iron annular ring (RA 32).



### **3.3.5.7 South-western enclosure L16 and associated quarries L28**

In the southern part of the enclosure system, L16 enclosed an area 75m wide by at least 65m (min. 4,550sqm). The eastern limit was defined by ditch G50, and the western limit by ditches G57/G58/G59, which showed evidence of recutting. It shared its northern limit with enclosures L14 and L15. This enclosure continued beyond the southern limit of excavation. The enclosure contained pits G52 and G136 situated at the margin of the land parcel, close to the ditch. To the west, pit G95 had been used for rubbish disposal. Significant quantities of artefacts were recovered and included pottery, animal bone, fired clay, iron objects (RA 26 and 27), an iron punch (RA 130), a cooper needle (RA 20), padlock bolt (RA 24), a whetstone (RA 73) and lava quern fragments (RA 132 and 147).

A distinct area of quarrying L28 was situated within the boundaries of this enclosure that may be a continuation of the quarrying activity in the previous phase. It had a sinuous linear form, likely to have been the result of chasing variations in the drift geology. The excavated pits were generally 1–7m in size and 0.1–0.4m deep with concave profiles and slightly concave bases. The artefacts comprise pottery, a whetstone (RA 72), a nail (RA 45), hobnail (RA 46) and an iron sheet fragment (RA 68).

### **3.3.5.8 South- central enclosure L20**

Adjacent to the eastern side of L16 was enclosure L20, which was at least 47m long, continuing beyond the southern limit of excavation. It was 27m wide (min. 1,230sqm) and defined by ditch G50 to the west (assigned to L16), to the north by ditch G56 (assigned to L14) and to the east by G508. The only internal feature to be identified was a single pit G55 that truncated an earlier Phase 4 ditch. It was 1.6m long, 1.3m wide and 0.26m deep with concave sides and a slightly uneven base. Its infilling deposit contained Romano-British pottery sherds.

### **3.3.5.9 Eastern enclosure L45**

Enclosure L45 was located on the eastern side of the enclosure system and measured over 100m long by 50m wide. It extended the whole length of the enclosure system and its layout, together with the lack of settlement features and artefacts suggest that it was associated with livestock and is likely to have been a field perhaps used for pasture. The eastern side was defined by ditches G538 and G599 and it shared its western limit with the adjacent enclosure. Ditch G538 terminated to the north indicating an entranceway on that side. A north-east to south-west aligned ditch G596 situated at the approach to the opening in the north, may have been used to control access by livestock.

To the north, five pits G519 formed an extended north-east to south-west alignment, *c.* 21m long. All were irregular sub-oval or sub-circular and varied from 1–2.6m in diameter and up to 0.15m deep, with concave profiles. To their east was a dark brown black clay silt layer *c.* 10.45m long, at least 1.5m wide and 0.14m deep. It contained 687g of Roman pottery, 16g of 2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery, 326g of animal bone and 103g of ceramic building material.

### **3.3.5.10 Droveway L46**

Located on the eastern side of the enclosure system was a droveway aligned north-south that was probably used for moving livestock between the large rectilinear



enclosures. In the south the land parcel was 47m wide tapering towards the northern extent to create a funnel that was *c.*5.2m wide, narrowing to 4.5m. Ditch G534 defined its eastern limit, while a series of intercutting ditches, postholes and pits G600 defined the western side. A kink in the western side is probably a result of the location of the quarrying identified in the previous phase. The repeated recutting of the western side G535 and G537 was probably due to a high water table and a tendency to flood. The presence of postholes possibly represents supports for hurdles or revetments which may be evidence of attempts to stop the silting up of individual ditches during flood events. A final recutting of the western side of the driveway G535 also redefined the eastern side of enclosure L45.

The only feature to be identified within the driveway was a large sub-circular waterpit G614, located in the southern part, 1.7m from the western boundary. It was *c.* 4m in diameter and at least 1.2m deep with a steep sided concave profile. Large quantities of burnt stones were located on one side of the pit that was probably dumped in from elsewhere. It was infilled with a sequence of primary, secondary and tertiary deposits that contained Romano-British pottery sherds, fired clay and animal bone. The latest deliberate infilling of the waterpit contained Romano-British pottery, as late as 3rd–4th century in date, as well as Saxo-Norman and early medieval pottery sherds.

#### **3.3.5.11 Enclosure L51**

A small rectilinear enclosure was situated just beyond the northern limit of the enclosure system. It was at least 20m long and 13m wide. Segmented ditch G560 defined the northern limit with ditches G563/G564 and G565 to the east. The latter contained several postholes G566. Its southern limit was defined by ditches G561 and G562 which created an inturned entrance and no western limit was identified. This enclosure may have been used in conjunction with the larger enclosure system for livestock management. However, the high quantities of pottery recovered would also suggest that it was either in the vicinity of or associated with domestic activity.

#### **3.3.5.12 Open area L30**

Situated on the western side of the enclosure system was a large open area. The only features to be identified comprised a ditch G138, two postholes G162 and three intercutting pits G114. The ditch was aligned east-west and at least 5.5m long as it continued beyond the limit of excavation and terminated to the east. Located 45m to the south-west, the postholes were 0.5–0.75m in diameter and no more than 0.11m deep, with concave profiles and flattish bases. The intercutting pits G114 were located 2.5m from the western limit of enclosure L14. They were 2.5–3m in diameter and up to 0.52m deep, with steep-sided concave profiles and either concave or flattish bases. The majority of the artefacts came from latest the pit in G114 and included pottery, animal bone, a coin (RA 89) and a nail (RA 90), suggesting rubbish disposal.

#### **3.3.5.13 Pits L52**

An area of pitting L52 was located just to the north of enclosure L51. It comprised over thirty pits (G577 to G589) of which the majority were intercutting. They ranged in diameter from the smallest at 0.45m to over 3m. It is likely that



they held a variety of functions such as waterpits, rubbish disposal and sumps. The linear nature of the intercutting pits suggests that they were constrained by a boundary which left no trace. Artefacts were recovered from the majority of the pits and varied from a few pottery sherds and animal bone to over 1kg from pits G577. Other artefacts included part of an iron chain link (RA 131) and a copper brooch pin (RA 126).

#### **3.3.5.14 Ditches L56**

A series of east-west aligned ditches G567 and G572 were located in the area of enclosure L51 and seemed to alter/replace elements of it. These ditches may be part of a series of small land parcels or funnels in this area designed for livestock management. Ditch G572 had been recut several times (G572.1, G572.2, G572.3 and G572.4). A short east-west ditch G576 appears to be an addition to ditch G572. It terminated to the west and the eastern part had been recut as least once (G576.1). Aligned perpendicular, between the east-west ditches was a north-south oriented ditch G573 that had been recut (G573.1) on its western side. Artefacts comprised *c.* 2.5kg of Roman pottery, including types datable to the 2nd and 3rd-4th centuries, 77g of animal bone, an iron object (RA 135) and an iron loop headed spike (RA 141).

#### **3.3.6 Phase 6: Saxon – unenclosed settlement**

A sub-square, sunken-featured building, a waterpit and two gullies L29 are assigned to this period (Figure 15). They were located in the south-west part of the site and were the only features to contain Saxon pottery. In addition, the sunken-featured building truncated one of the Phase 5 enclosure ditches. It is not clear if this may indicate a degree of continuity of occupation.

##### **3.3.6.1 Sunken-featured building and waterpit L29**

The sunken-featured building G96 was 6.4m by 5.6m in size and 0.25m deep, with a steep-sided concave profile and flat base. Although no internal structural features were identified, a posthole was located 0.8m to the north-east. Located 33m to the north of the building were a waterpit G83 and two gullies G74. The waterpit was 3.6m long, 2.3m wide and 1.2m deep with a slightly uneven concave profile and slightly concave base. Two roughly parallel gullies G74 were located 0.8m apart. Aligned east-west, they were both *c.* 5m long, slightly sinuous and appeared to terminate at either end. They were *c.* 0.5m wide, and under 0.15m deep, with steep-sided concave profile and flattish bases. Over 1kg of Saxon pottery was recovered from the infilling deposits of these features.

#### **3.3.7 Phase 7: Medieval - agriculture**

In the eastern half of the site were a series of regularly spaced, linear features L54, representing the traces of ridge and furrow arable cultivation (Figure 16). They were aligned ENE–WSW and extended outwards from the eastern limit of excavation. Spaced *c.* 6m apart, they were 0.95–1.6m wide and 0.1–0.17m deep, with gradual concave profiles. Some showed a deeper peak in the profile where the plough blade had cut deeper into the underlying deposits.

The deposits within the furrows comprised a mixture of natural strata and subsoil, consisting of grey brown and grey orange silty clay. Artefacts were probably



incorporated as the plough truncated the underlying archaeological features and included Romano-British pottery sherds and animal bone.

In the evaluation, a series of deposits G618, including heat-affected material, appeared to be dumped into the top of the large Phase 4 quarries of L48, which survived as marked depressions into recent times. This activity would appear to be at the margin of the cultivated area.

### **3.3.8 Phase 8: Post-medieval**

Activity in this phase comprises a ditch and pond L55. Ditch G545 was located in the central part of the excavation area. It extended from the southern limit and continued to the north-west for approximately 161m, where it turned slightly to the west and continued beyond the limits of excavation. The ditch was 1.2m wide and 0.22–0.5m deep, with 45 degree sides and a flat base. Pond G617 was situated 87m south-west of the ditch. It was 42m long and at least 11m wide and can be seen on aerial photographs with associated trees.

The brown grey silty clay fills are likely to have derived from erosion of the upper soil profile probably due to flooding in the area. Artefacts comprised 55g of Roman pottery and are residual in nature as the ditch truncates several earlier features.

## **3.4 Freeman's Common**

The southern margin of Freeman's Common (Figure 1) was subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring and investigation during insertion of a utilities pipeline. In this area the ground was relatively flat occupying the basal part of the slope of Cleat Hill.

### **3.4.1 Phase 7: Medieval**

Situated to the south-west of the main excavation another area of ridge and furrow was identified in the pipe corridor. The furrows were aligned north-east to south-west and can be seen on aerial photographs. They were 2–3m wide and up to 0.6m deep and were infilled with a mid yellow brown clay silt.





## 4. DATA QUANTIFICATION

### 4.1 Introduction

The data-sets recovered during the investigations have been divided into three main classes: structural, artefactual and ecofactual.

*Structural* data relate to the identification of individual events such as the digging of a ditch, primary infilling etc. These have been recorded as individual **contexts** during the trial trenching and open area excavation. All contexts will have a detailed record sheet and many will have a plan and section drawing along with photographs.

*Artefactual* data comprise human-made objects recovered during the open area excavation. These have been divided for ease of discussion into **pottery, ceramic building material and other artefacts**.

*Ecofactual* data comprise natural materials found within excavated deposits. These may be able to contribute on the nature of past human activity and its environmental setting and include information obtained from the **animal and human bone** assemblages and **ecofactual samples** (which may for example contain charred plant remains).

In the following sections, contextual data is discussed first as this has provided the framework for the summary of results and the subsequent data-set discussions. The methodological approach taken with each data-set is discussed, followed by sections dealing with quantification, provenance (spatially and chronologically) and also condition. All these factors are important in deciding the potential of the material for analysis.

### 4.2 Structural data

#### 4.2.1 Quantity of records

Table 2 presents a breakdown of the total quantity and type of structural records. These comprise the written description/interpretation of a deposit/feature (context sheets), a map-like drawing showing the location and inter-relationship between features (a plan), a cross-section drawing through a feature and its fills (section) and photographs.

Record type	Total	
	AZ1	AZ2
Contexts	348	2847
Plan Sheets	20	152
Sections	122	950
Photographs	190	1035

**Table 2:** Quantity of site structural records



#### 4.2.2 Context types

The context type defines the basic characteristics of a feature and its basic field interpretation. Table 3 presents the different features that were identified during the excavation and the subsequent number of contexts that were assigned to them.

Feature Type		Quantity	
		AZ1	AZ2
A	Postpipe	-	25
D	Ditch	103	1140
G	Grave	6	-
P	Pit	122	756
Q	Quarry	12	16
S	Structural features	19	674
W	Waterpit	-	9
Z	Tree-throws	70	77
F	Furrows	-	35
ES	External surfaces	-	8
IS	Internal surfaces	-	18
Total		332	2758

**Note.** natural/modern features and layers, along with ploughsoil contexts not included

**Table 3:** Contexts by feature type

#### 4.2.3 Methodological approach to contextual assessment

The structural data was rapidly assessed in order to establish whether it would provide a coherent chronological framework. This proved to be the case and therefore, within the chronological framework, the contexts were assigned to “preliminary” Landscape areas based on the following criteria:

- Do the contexts form a coherent spatial unit, e.g. ditch length, pit group?
- Do the contexts represent key positions within the stratigraphic sequence?
- Do the contexts contain suitable dating material?

Phase	Landscape	Description	No. contexts
1	9	Tree-throws	74
2	2	Pitting	25
	3	Ditched enclosures and associated activity	58
	4	Structure and pitting	26
	26	Pitting	15
3	6	Enclosure system	63
	7	Pitting	10
4	1	Enclosure system and pitting	34
5	-	-	-
6	8	Urned cremation burial and pitting	15
5/6	5	Quarrying	12
Total			332

**Table 4:** Archaeological Zone 1 - Landscape descriptions (ordered by phase) with a count of assigned contexts

The total number of contexts assigned to “preliminary” Landscapes for Archaeological Zone 1 was 332 (Table 4) and for Archaeological Zone 2 was 2346





(Table 5). Much of the discussion in Section 3 and the following data-set discussions are based on the Phase and Landscape assignments.

Phase	Landscape	Description	No. contexts
1	32	Tree-throws	54
2	12	Circular post-built structure and pitting	43
	13	Rectangular post-built structure and pitting	56
	27	Pitting	28
3	10	Ditched enclosure	67
	11	Post-built enclosure	39
	50	Enclosure system	61
4	17	Enclosure system	81
	19	Enclosure system	17
	21	Quarrying	22
	22/31	Roundhouse /modification	198
	47	Enclosure system	213
	48	Enclosure ditches	85
	49	Ditched enclosure	31
53	Pitting	46	
5	14	Ditched enclosure	220
	15	Central enclosure	38
	16	Southern ditched enclosure	101
	18	Small ditched enclosure	18
	20	Enclosure (land parcel)	5
	23	Timber building	184
	24	Stone building	89
	28	Quarrying	51
	30	Open area	16
	43	Central enclosure	77
	44	Later amendments	78
	45	Eastern land parcel	36
	46	Droeway	71
	51	Ditched enclosure	74
	52	Pitting	124
56	Ditches	68	
6	29	Unenclosed settlement	30
7	33	Ridge and furrow	6
	54	Ridge and furrow	29
8	55	Field boundary	6
Total			2346

**Table 5:** Archaeological Zone 2 - Landscape descriptions (ordered by phase) with a count of assigned contexts

#### 4.2.4 Survival and condition of features

The survival of archaeological features is dependent on the nature and intensity of previous land-use, especially ploughing. Larger features such as ditches and pits often survive well, but it is the smaller features such as postholes that are often the most vulnerable to truncation. Within the investigation area both large and small features were present.



## 4.3 Pottery

### 4.3.1 Methodology

For each context, pottery was recorded by fabric type and quantified by minimum sherd count and weight. This information was entered onto the Context Assemblage Table in the project database. Pottery was also dated by individual fabric type and the date of the latest sherd used in the provision of an overall context spot date. The latter has been used to assist in the establishment of a provisional phasing structure (Table 1).

### 4.3.2 Quantification

Features in Archaeological Zone 1 yielded approximately 185 sherds, weighing 2.7kg, the majority of which derived from the residues of sieved environmental samples. A total of 6,254 sherds, weighing 84.0kg was collected from Archaeological Zone 2, the majority associated with features assigned to Romano-British Phases 4 and 5.

### 4.3.3 Range and variety: the pottery type series

Fabrics are listed below (Table 6) in chronological order, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. No new fabric types were identified.

Fabric Type	Common name	Sherd No.	
		AZ1	AZ2
<b>Early to middle Iron Age</b>			
Type F16	Coarse shell	53	
Type F19	Sand and organic		1
Type F28	Fine sand		1
Type F03	Grog and sand		5
<b>Late Iron Age/early Roman</b>			
Type F05	Grog and shell		6
Type F06B	Medium grog	2	25
Type F06C	Coarse grog		1
Type F07	Shell		12
Type F09	Sand and grog		11
Type F	Non-specific Iron Age		6
<b>Romano-British</b>			
Type R01	Samian ware		196
Type R02	Mica-gilded		1
Type R03	Whiteware		5
Type R03A	Verulamium region whiteware		89
Type R03B	Gritty whiteware		162
Type R03C	Smooth whiteware		48
Type R03E	Fine whiteware		1
Type R05A	Orange sandy		64
Type R05B	Fine orange sandy	11	47
Type R05C	Orange micaceous		9
Type R06A	Nene Valley greyware		8
Type R06B	Coarse greyware		437
Type R06C	Fine greyware		1514
Type R06D	Micaceous greyware		195
Type R06E	Calcareous greyware		15



Fabric Type	Common name	Sherd No.	
		AZ1	AZ2
Type R06F	Grog and sand greyware		3
Type R06G	Silty greyware		2
Type R06H	White-slipped greyware		39
Type R07B	Sandy blackware		74
Type R07C	Gritty blackware		34
Type R08	Black micaceous		1
Type R09A	Pink grogged		4
Type R10A	Buff gritty		14
Type R10B	Fine buff		44
Type R10D	Buff micaceous		4
Type R11	Oxford oxidised		18
Type R11A	Oxford whiteware		2
Type R11D	Oxford colour coat		10
Type R11E	Oxford mortaria (white)		7
Type R11F	Oxford mortaria (red)		7
Type R12A	Nene Valley mortaria		7
Type R12B	Nene Valley colour coat		150
Type R13	Shell		2576
Type R13B	Shell		3
Type R14	Sand (red-brown harsh)		94
Type R17	Smooth orange		7
Type R18A	Pink gritty		12
Type R18B	Pink fine		1
Type R19	Amphorae		4
Type R21	Mortaria (unknown source)		8
Type R28	Gritty calcareous		1
Type R31	Lumpy whiteware		2
Type R33	Verulamium region mortaria		5
Type R35A	Grog and sand		3
Type R36	Orange gritty		7
Type R38	Colour coat (unknown source)		24
Type R	Non-specific Romano-British		15
<b>Saxon</b>			
Type A16	Coarse sand	86	
Type A11	Maxey-ware		41
<b>Saxo-Norman</b>			
Type B01	St Neots-type ware		1
Type B01A	St Neots-type ware (orange)		49
Type B01C	St Neots-type ware (mixed)		13
Type C12	Stamford ware		2
<b>Medieval</b>			
Type B07	Shell		11
Type C01	Sand		9
Type C59A	Coarse sand	4	
Type C	Non-specific medieval sandy wares		1
Type E01	Late medieval reduced ware	1	
<b>Modern</b>			
P100	Flower pot		2
UNID	Unidentifiable/undatable ware	28	122

Table 6: Pottery Type Series

#### 4.3.4 Provenance, phasing and date range

The pottery ranges in date from the early Iron Age to the medieval period, with the bulk of the assemblage being of Romano-British origin. Composition of the



assemblage suggests that the material was subject to variable processes of post-deposition disturbance. Three-hundred and twenty-one features (65% of contexts producing pottery) contained less than 100g, and only eleven features (2%) yielded in excess of 1kg. Ninety-seven features (19%) yielded only single sherds. Although the degree of fragmentation is high, indicated by a low average sherd weight of 13g, a proportion of the Romano-British vessels from Archaeological Zone 2 are represented by more than one sherd. This suggests that much of this material occurs in its primary context, close to areas where the pottery was used, and is further attested by the low incidence of residual or intrusive material.

### Archaeological Zone 1

The pottery recovered from Archaeological Zone 1 (185 sherds, weighing 2.7kg) is generally abraded and survives in poor condition, reflecting the fact that a proportion derives from the sieved residues of environmental samples. No pottery was recovered from features assigned to Phases 1 or 3 (Table 7).

#### *Phase 2 - Early-middle Iron Age*

Approximately 15% of the Archaeological Zone 1 assemblage comprises highly leached and abraded undiagnostic shell tempered sherds, recovered mainly from pit fills associated with ditched enclosure L3. As their poor condition precludes further classification, they have provisionally been assigned an early Iron Age date. The fill of pit G182 (L26) contained 53 coarse shell tempered sherds (1.8kg) from an early to middle Iron Age storage jar with thumbled decoration, which had been placed upright in the base of the feature.

#### *Phase 4 - Romano-British*

The infilling of field system L1 yielded 11 abraded sherds (6g) of Roman coarseware, and five intrusive sand tempered sherds (13g) datable to the medieval period. The latter are likely to be associated with post-Roman agricultural activity on the site.

#### *Phase 6 - Saxon*

Saxon pottery is represented by 86 sherds (735g) from a coarse sand tempered vessel recovered from cremation burial L8 (G19). The vessel is well-made and has a flat base and everted rim.

Phase	L. No.	Description	Sherd No	Weight (g)
2	2	Pitting	15	44
	3	Ditched enclosures and associated activity	15	31
	26	Pits	53	1879
4	1	Field system	16	19
6	8	Cremation burial	86	735
			<b>185</b>	<b>2708</b>

**Table 7:** Archaeological Zone 1 pottery quantification

### Archaeological Zone 2

The pottery recovered from Archaeological Zone 2 (6,254 sherds, weighing 84.0kg) generally survives in better condition than the Zone 1 assemblage, and with the exception of the Phase 2 material (see below), comprises larger, well-preserved sherds, with a lower incidence of abrasion (Table 8).



#### *Phase 1 - Prehistoric*

Twenty-two undiagnostic sherds of late Iron Age - early Roman date (313g) were recovered from tree-throws L32 (G161). They comprise Roman sand tempered coarsewares, and single sherds of samian ware and grog tempered pottery, the latter datable to the late Iron Age. This material is considered to be intrusive.

#### *Phase 2 - Early-middle Iron Age*

Features assigned to Phase 2 yielded 65 sherds (325g), the majority deriving from a series of pits (G75, G77, G80-82) associated with rectangular post-built structure L13. Approximately 94% of the Phase 2 assemblage comprises highly leached and abraded undiagnostic shell tempered sherds, comparable with those recovered from ditched enclosure L3 (Archaeological Zone 1). These have provisionally been assigned an early-middle Iron Age date, as their poor condition and lack of diagnostic features preclude further classification. Undiagnostic Roman coarseware sherds constitute the remainder of the assemblage.

#### *Phase 3 - Late Iron Age – early Romano-British*

Fifty-nine sherds (494g) were recovered from features assigned to Phase 3. The fills of ditched enclosure L10 and post-built enclosure L11 yielded small, mixed assemblages of Roman and late Iron Age pottery. The latter is represented by six undiagnostic grog tempered sherds in the 'Belgic' tradition and a shell tempered sherd (total weight 68g). The majority of the assemblage was associated with the infilling of enclosure system L50 (pits G521; ditches G530, G556, G557 and G598). Pottery recovered from L50 is entirely Roman in date and mainly comprises shell tempered and sand tempered coarseware vessels of local manufacture. No diagnostic forms occur, and all are abraded. Vessels from further afield are single sherds of Verulamium (St Albans) region whiteware, and *mortaria* from the Oxfordshire and Nene Valley industries.

#### *Phase 4 - Romano-British*

Features assigned to Phase 4 yielded 2,353 sherds (30.1kg), the majority of which are datable to the early Roman period. A late Iron Age assemblage of fourteen abraded and undiagnostic grog and/or shell tempered sherds (254g) was recovered from features associated with enclosure systems L17, L47, quarrying L21, roundhouse L22, and pitting L53. Significant quantities of Roman pottery were recovered from northern enclosures L47 and roundhouse L22, which respectively yielded 14.9kg and 8.1kg.

Post-Roman material comprises twenty-two Saxo-Norman and early medieval sherds (178g) recovered from enclosure ditches L48.

The Roman assemblage comprises a comparable range of wares to those recovered from recently investigated occupation sites at Oakley Road, Clapham (Edmondson, Clarke and Wells in prep) and in the environs of the Biddenham Loop (Luke forthcoming), and generally reflects the composition of Romano-British rural sites in the Great Ouse Valley. Sherds are generally larger than pre-Roman examples, although surface abrasion is still apparent. The assemblage is dominated by locally manufactured reduced and oxidised sand tempered



coarsewares, and shelly coarsewares, a proportion of the latter representing products of the Harrold Lodge Farm kilns.

Vessel forms include lid-seated jars and bowls, flanged, plain rim, reed rim, triangular and rectangular rim bowls, jars with undercut, bead, and everted rims, necked jars, storage jars, ring-necked and plain necked flagons, poppy-head, folded and plain rim beakers, dog dishes, cordoned jars, reed-rim, bead, and triangular rim bowls, lids, platters, rusticated vessels and a single sherd of *amphora* (imported storage vessel). Decoration is rare and comprises rouletting, rilling, incised wavy lines, combing, burnishing and slipping. A few vessels have been modified by the addition of post-firing holes to neck, body and base sherds, probably to facilitate repair.

Regional and continental imports each constitute less than 3% of the Phase 4 assemblage. The former include early Roman products of the Verulamium (St Albans) region industries (jars, flagons and *mortaria*). Later Roman regional imports include vessels from Oxfordshire (mainly *mortaria*) and the Nene Valley (flagons, beakers with barbotine decoration and a hunt cup). With the exception of the samian assemblage and single *amphora* sherd, no other continental imports were noted. The samian ware comprises 99 plain and decorated sherds of probable central or south Gaulish origin. Forms are mainly dishes and bowls, including decorated form 37 examples. Two vessel bases have illegible potters' stamps and one base sherd has drilled rivet holes, indicating repair. Graffiti or a possible tally mark was observed on the base of one of the stamped vessels. The samian is highly abraded and survives in poor condition, with many sherds retaining no slip.

#### *Phase 5 - Mid-late Romano-British*

Phase 5 features yielded 4,318 sherds (50.7kg) the bulk of which are broadly datable to the Roman period (c. AD 200-400). Pre-Roman material comprises four undiagnostic sand tempered sherds of early-middle Iron Age date (21g) and thirty-four predominantly grog tempered sherds (372g) in the late 'Belgic' Iron Age tradition. All occur as residual finds in later features.

The majority of the Roman assemblage was associated with the later alterations L44 to central enclosure L43, principally ditch G504 and pits G505, G512, which contained 15.2kg of pottery. Other sizeable assemblages were recovered from central-western enclosure L14 (7.3kg), stone building L24 (6.3kg) and south-western enclosure L16 (5.8kg).

Post-Roman material comprises sixty-three undiagnostic Saxo-Norman and early medieval sherds (577g) associated with the final infilling of driveway L46 (ditch G535 and waterpit G614). Fabric types represented are mainly wheel-thrown shell tempered St Neots-type ware of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century date. Three sherds of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century developed St Neots-type ware and eight sand tempered sherds also occurred.

The majority of the Roman assemblage comprises locally manufactured sand tempered wares, principally the ubiquitous reduced wares, and shelly wares, comparable with those recovered from features assigned to the preceding phase.



Regional imports are 2<sup>nd</sup> century whitewares from the Verulamium region and four pink grogged sherds deriving from either Buckinghamshire or Northamptonshire. Diagnostic coarseware forms comprise a standard range of kitchen and tablewares associated with the production, consumption and storage of food. These include reed rim bowls, cordoned vessels, jars with triangular, undercut and everted rims, flanged bowls, plain and triangular rim bowls, large storage jars, poppyhead beakers, narrow-necked and neckless jars, folded beakers, plain and ring-necked flagons, rusticated beakers, dog dishes, platters, lids and miscellaneous bead rim vessels. A standard range of decorative elements, including vertical and wavy incised motifs, horizontal, vertical and random combed patterns, rilling, slipping, rouletting, overall burnishing and burnished lattice motifs occur.

Nene Valley colour coated vessels, manufactured from the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> - late 4<sup>th</sup> century, dominate the Romano-British fineware assemblage. Vessel forms include plain rim dishes, flagons, bowls and folded beakers, some with rouletted, painted and barbotine decoration. Later Roman vessels from the Oxford industry are also well represented by a range of jars, bowls and *mortaria*, one of the latter including a sherd stamped [BRVSC].

Imported finewares are represented by 95 plain and decorated sherds of probable central and south Gaulish samian ware. Diagnostic vessels are mainly bowls, cups and dishes, and a globular beaker (possibly a Ludowici form Vd of mid-late 2<sup>nd</sup> century date), with a deliberately chipped base. In common with the Phase 4 material, the samian is highly abraded, with many sherds retaining no slip. Three *amphorae* sherds of uncertain provenance comprise the only other imported wares.

#### *Phase 6 - Saxon*

L29 settlement features assigned to Phase 6 contained 43 sherds (1.1kg), the majority deriving from the fills of waterpit G83. The latter yielded 26 sherds (773g) representing approximately six hand-made vessels in shell tempered Maxey-type ware, datable to c. AD 650-850. Diagnostic forms are two bar-lug or swallow's nest cooking pots, and a sooted vessel rim. The fills of gullies G74 contained nine abraded sherds (79g) of a Maxey-type bar-lug vessel; the infilling of sunken-featured building G96 yielded six sherds (105g) of a Maxey-type vessel, and two residual pre-Saxon sherds (27g).

#### *Phase 7 - Medieval*

The fill of medieval furrows L54 (G590) yielded 31 Roman coarseware sherds in both sand and shell tempered fabric types, and a sherd of samian ware (total weight 738g). Their presence is likely to result from the truncation of underlying archaeological features during ploughing.

#### *Phase 8 - Post-medieval*

Two residual sherds of undiagnostic Roman coarseware (55g) were recovered from the fills of post-medieval field boundary L55 (G545).



Phase	L. No.	Description	Sherd No	Weight (g)
1	32	Tree-throws	22	313
2	12	Circular post-built structure and pitting	21	62
	13	Rectangular post-built structure and pitting	32	198
	27	Pitting	12	65
3	10	Ditched enclosure	21	92
	11	Post-built enclosure	7	36
	50	Enclosure system	31	366
4	17	Enclosure system	97	1264
	19	Enclosure system	14	85
	21	Quarrying	35	291
	22	Roundhouse	750	8186
	31	Modifications to roundhouse	84	594
	47	Enclosure system	1063	14974
	48	Enclosure ditches	41	477
	49	Ditched enclosure	69	1007
	53	Pitting	200	3303
5	14	Ditched enclosure	573	7337
	15	Central enclosure	34	211
	16	Southern ditched enclosure	546	5890
	18	Small ditched enclosure	8	327
	20	Enclosure (land parcel)	8	58
	23	Timber building	161	1919
	24	Stone building	540	6370
	28	Quarrying	141	1417
	30	Open area	29	248
	43	Central enclosure	93	1331
	44	Later amendments to enclosure L43	840	15230
	45	Eastern land parcel	74	945
	46	Droeway	71	922
	51	Ditched enclosure	138	2451
52	Pitting	239	2605	
56	Ditches	183	3431	
6	29	Unenclosed settlement	43	1084
7	54	Ridge and furrow	32	738
8	55	Field boundary	2	55
			<b>6254</b>	<b>83882</b>

**Table 8:** Archaeological Zone 2 pottery quantification

## 4.4 Ceramic Building Material

### 4.4.1 Methodology

For each context, ceramic building materials (comprising brick, roof tile and fired clay) was recorded by fabric type, and quantified by minimum fragment count and weight. Where possible, the brick and tile was also spotdated.

### 4.4.2 Quantification

Forty-seven brick and tile fragments, weighing 3.4kg, were recovered from Archaeological Zone 2, the majority deriving from features assigned to Romano-British Phase 5. Fired clay fragments weighing 5.4kg were collected, mainly associated with Phase 4 features (Archaeological Zone 2).





#### 4.4.3 Range and variety

##### ***Brick and tile***

With the exception of one piece of post-medieval flat roof tile, the brick and tile assemblage is datable to the Roman period. The majority of the diagnostic material comprises shell tempered flanged flat roof tiles (*tegulae*), with curved roof tiles (*imbrices*) and brick fragments being less well represented. Shelly tile fabric is similar to pottery ware type R13, and at least some examples may derive from the same source. Seventeen pieces of sand tempered building material also occur. The fragments are fairly small, with an average weight of 72g and are generally abraded. *Tegulae* range in thickness between 14-21mm and brick fragments between 30-41mm. The recovery of Roman building material suggests the location of substantial buildings in the vicinity of the investigations.

##### ***Fired Clay***

The majority of the fired clay assemblage comprises amorphous and abraded fragments in an oxidised sand tempered fabric. Two shell tempered fragments (2g) were identified, although it is possible they represent degraded pottery sherds. Fragments are small (average weight 14g) and highly abraded, and most derived from the sieved residues of environmental samples. Fourteen of the larger pieces retain wattle impressions ranging between 12-20mm in diameter, and fragments from a number of handmade fired clay slabs also occur. The latter range in thickness between 20-25mm and have finger-smoothed surfaces and edges. The assemblage represents secondary deposition of occupation material and cannot be directly associated with the use of the features from which it was collected.

#### 4.4.4 Provenance

##### **Archaeological Zone 1**

Amorphous sand tempered fired clay fragments weighing 398g were associated with Phase 1 tree-throws L9, and early-middle Iron Age ditched enclosure L3, pits L2 and L26 (Phase 2), the majority deriving from the latter. Nearly all the fragments derive from the sieved residues of environmental samples and are small and highly abraded. No brick or roof tile was recovered from Archaeological Zone 1.

##### **Archaeological Zone 2**

Forty-seven brick and tile fragments (3.4kg) were recovered from features assigned to Roman Phases 4 and 5 (Table 9). Shell tempered fabrics predominate, with seventeen sand tempered examples occurring. Forms are mainly flanged *tegulae*, with eleven brick fragments and three pieces of *imbrex* (curved roof tile). The bulk of the Phase 4 material derived from pit G550, associated with roundhouse L22. Most of the brick and tile from Phase 5 derived from enclosures L14 (ditch G56) and L16 (ditches G57 and G58). A single piece of post-medieval flat roof tile (44g) was recovered from masonry layer G140, associated with stone building L24 (Phase 5).



Phase	L. No.	Description	Brick and tile		Fired clay
			Frag No.	Wgt (g)	Wgt (g)
2	12	Circular post-built structure and pitting	-	-	22
	13	Rectangular post-built structure and pitting	-	-	15
3	10	Ditched enclosure	-	-	377
	11	Post-built enclosure	-	-	3
4	19	Enclosure system	1	68	127
	21	Quarrying	1	52	-
	22	Roundhouse	5	321	491
	31	Modifications to roundhouse	-	-	2250
	47	Enclosure system	3	288	110
	48	Enclosure ditches	-	-	12
	49	Ditched enclosure	1	97	-
	53	Pitting	5	243	269
5	14	Ditched enclosure	4	624	124
	15	Central enclosure	-	-	51
	16	Southern ditched enclosure	8	379	216
	23	Timber building	4	254	27
	24	Stone building	4	224	12
	28	Quarrying	-	-	4
	30	Open area	2	95	-
	43	Central enclosure	-	-	145
	44	Later amendments to enclosure L43	2	324	91
	45	Eastern land parcel	2	131	-
	51	Ditched enclosure	-	-	502
	52	Pitting	3	109	2
56	ditches	2	185	-	
6	29	Unenclosed settlement	-	-	40
7	33	Ridge and furrow	-	-	8
			<b>47</b>	<b>3394</b>	<b>4968</b>

**Table 9:** Archaeological Zone 2 ceramic building material quantification

The fired clay assemblage comprises 4.9kg, the majority deriving from features assigned to Roman Phase 4, particularly modifications to roundhouse L31 G128 and G160, associated with a later phase of roundhouse L22 construction (2.2kg). The bulk of the fired clay from Phase 5 derived from L51 enclosure ditch G565 (502g).

## 4.5 Other Artefacts

### 4.5.1 Methodology

As part of the assessment, each object was assigned a preliminary identification and functional category and was quantified by number and/or weight. This data was entered into the project database. All ironwork and selected non-ferrous objects were x-rayed by Lincolnshire County Council Heritage Service's Conservation Department. An assessment of the condition of the metalwork was carried out at the same time and required stabilisation and repackaging undertaken. Preliminary identifications were up-dated in light of the information gained from the x-rays.



#### 4.5.2 Quantification and date range

A total of 170 finds and 938.4g of slag (897.4g of ferrous slag and 41g of vitrified clay) was recovered. The quantification of the assemblage by material is presented in *Table 10*.

Typologically dated artefacts of the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Roman periods were present. Evidence for Mesolithic activity was limited to a single truncated and notched bladelet. Much of the flint assemblage is not closely dated and diagnostic tool types are few. A single opposed platform core, two blades and a rejuvenation flake may date to the earlier Neolithic, but the majority of debitage was hard-hammer struck which could indicate a later Neolithic to early Bronze Age date. A combination tool, comprising a side scraper and notch, is also likely to belong to the same period.

Material	AZ1	AZ2		Total
	No.	No.	Wt (g)	
Copper alloy		10		<b>10</b>
Iron		90		<b>90</b>
Lead/lead alloy		7		<b>7</b>
Glass		8		<b>8</b>
Flint	6	32		<b>38</b>
Stone (other than flint)		17		<b>17</b>
Slag		0	938.4	<b>(938.4g)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>938.4</b>	<b>170</b>

**Table 10:** Quantification of assemblage by material

The Roman period is represented by hobnails, a finger ring, a bolt for a barb-spring padlock, lift keys, a possible stylus fragment, prismatic glass bottles and fragmentary remains of lava querns. Remains of five coins, all in worn and poor condition, are likely to date to the Roman period.

#### 4.5.3 Provenance

Of the assemblage of 170 artefacts, 152 could be assigned to phased activity. These are discussed below by Archaeological Zone and Phase.

##### Archaeological Zone 1

Archaeological Zone 1 (AZ1) produced a very limited assemblage of four worked flint (see *Table 11*). The tertiary retouched flake from Phase 1, L9.1 is hard-hammer struck and while not closely dated could suggest later Neolithic activity.

The continuation of flint working into the Iron Age remains a contentious issue (Young et al 1999; Butler 2005, 189-90). Phase 2 deposits in AZ1 produced only three flints. The end and side scraper has suffered post-depositional damage which could suggest residuality. The rejuvenation flake, with evidence of a prepared platform suggestive of an early Neolithic date, also indicates residuality. The hard-hammer struck secondary flake with hinge termination could conceivably belong to the earlier Iron Age, but it would be equally at home in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age. For these reasons it has been assumed that this small assemblage is residual.



Phase & L no.	P1:L9.1	P2:L2.2	P2:L3.2	Total
Rejuvenation flake			1	1
Flake			1	1
Retouched flake	1			1
Scraper		1		1
Total	1	1	2	4

**Table 11:** Assemblage from Archaeological Zone 1

### Archaeological Zone 2

The fills of tree-throws in Phase 1 L32.2 produced a hard-hammer struck flake and a flake with invasive retouch across part of the dorsal surface. The latter appears to be an unfinished piece. Neither flint is closely dated, and only a general date within the Neolithic period can be suggested.

Deposits assigned to Phase 2 (early-middle Iron Age) exhibit some intrusive activity (see *Table 12*). This is evident in the recovery of fragments of imported lava quern and partially melted and folded lead sheet from L12.2, G87.1 and by the presence of a simple expanded bevel finger ring, generally dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD. The end scraper from L13.2:G77.1 is hard-hammer struck and would not be out of place in a Neolithic assemblage. The flake is incomplete, the proximal end missing, but does have a hinge termination. The post-depositional damage evident on both pieces indicates they are residual in their deposits.

L no. & G no.	L12.1: G86.1	L12.2:G87.1	L13.2:G77.1	L13.2:G80.1	L13.2:G82.2
Flake					1
Scraper			1		
Vitrified clay	41g				
Quern		1*			
Finger ring				1*	
Waste (PbA)		1*			

**Table 12:** Assemblage from Archaeological Zone 2 Phase 2 (\*=intrusive)

Deposits of Phase 4 (Romano-British) were more productive than previous phases (see *Table 13*). By this period it is assumed that any flintwork is residual. The assemblage from L17 and its associated pits (G54.1) is not suggestive of intensive occupation. G54.1 did produce a small quantity (72g) of ferrous slag and vitrified clay which could hint at ironworking in the vicinity, although the small quantity of material is not suggestive of industrial level of activity. The fill of one part of the segmented ditch in the western enclosure L19 yielded part of an open iron socket, possibly the remains of a tool.

Roundhouse L22 and its subsequent alteration L31 (G160, L22) yielded one of the larger assemblages from Phase 4 (see *Table 13*). In addition to the fifteen nails, the majority of which comprised Manning type 1B nails, although a single triangular-headed nail was present, there was also evidence for locking mechanisms, in the form of a lift key handle. Hobnails, the tip of a copper alloy needle or dress pin and sherds from at least one prismatic bottle attest to residential activity. None of these items are closely dated, although prismatic bottles are most common in the late 1st to late 2nd centuries. The bottle sherd comes from the corner of a thin-walled vessel, a type which is known to occur in 2nd-century contexts (Price and Cotton 1998, 194).



L no.	L17.01	17.2	L19.1	L21.1	L22	L22.1	L22.2	L31.2	L47	L47.01	L53.01	Total
Blade						1	1					2
Flake	1						1					2
Retouched flake	1			1			1					3
Nails		1				1	11	3		4	1	21
Architectural stone										1		1
Double-spiked loop										1		1
Key							1					1
Bottle							1					1
Vessel							1					1
Coin									1	1		2
Quern										1		1
Millstone										1		1
Hobnails					1		3	1		6		11
Collar											1	1
Uncertain/fragmentary		1	1					1	3	1		7
Total	2	2	1	1	1	2	20	5	4	16	2	56
Slag		72g										

**Table 13:** Archaeological Zone 2 Phase 4 artefact assemblage





The northern enclosure L47 produced a moderate assemblage (*Table 14*), but only two finds have the potential to be closely dated. The coins, from fills of southern enclosure ditch G531 and a pit G522, will be identified by a coin specialist as part of analysis. The coin from G531 appears to be a radiate coin and may therefore date to the later 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. Once identified both coins will assist in determining the point at which these features went out of use. Despite none of the remaining finds being closely dated, they do serve to suggest possible structures and processing of grain, presumably within the enclosures.

G no.	531	527	593	529	522	552	554	Total
Architectural stonework	1							1
Nail		2		2				4
Spiked loop				1				1
Coin	1				1			2
Hobnail		5		1				6
Quern			1					1
Millstone	1							1
Uncertain						3	1	4
Total	3	7	1	4	1	3	1	20

**Table 14:** Artefacts from Phase 4, L47

The fills of pits L53 produced a very meagre assemblage, G568 a nail and G569 an iron collar, perhaps from a tool. Neither object can assist in dating or determining the function of this pitting activity.

Phase 5 deposits, dated to the mid-late Roman period, produced an assemblage of 19 worked flints. This was a mixed assemblage and included a truncated and notched blade of probable Mesolithic date and a combination tool of late Neolithic date. As by this phase of activity flintwork is residual, the assemblage is not itemised in *Table 15* nor does it form part of the discussion which follows.

The mid-late Roman period witnessed the most intensive activity and this is reflected in a greater quantity of artefacts recovered (*Table 15*). The non-ceramic assemblage indicates residential activity, including structures and small-scale craft activities suggestive of everyday maintenance of perhaps tools and clothing. There is some access to imported goods, in the form of glass vessels and lava stone querns; none however are particularly high status. The quantities of imported goods and items in general do not suggest a great degree of disposable wealth.

The most intensive activity during this phase was concentrated on enclosure L15/43 and subsequent alteration L44, including its associated timber and succeeding stone buildings L23 and L24 and on enclosure L16 (see *Table 15*).

The finds from L15/43 were limited to internal features, none deriving from the enclosure ditch fills suggesting these may have been well maintained. A limited number of artefacts were recovered from pits G117 and G118; two blue-green glass sherds probably from prismatic bottles from G117 and a small piece of slag



from G118. The earlier timber building L23 also produced little in the way of finds, but this may be due to disturbance from the replacement stone structure L24. The latter building yielded the first 'personal' item in the form of tweezers along with a lift key indicating either a lockable door or chest. Also noteworthy is the presence of a possible stylus which could relate to accounts being kept.

The profile of the finds assemblage from Enclosure L16, adjacent to L15/43, although also including a locking mechanism, in the form of a bolt for a barb spring padlock, has a higher incidence of craft related items when compared to that from L15/43. It is possible that there was some 'zoning' of activities, L15/43 being residential and while maintenance activities were carried out in L16. With the exception of a needle from pit G52, all the artefacts derived from the fill of the eastern ditch G50 of this enclosure.

Although no coinage was recovered from the more intensively occupied enclosures L15/43 and L16, single instances were found in ditch G56 of enclosure L14, pit G114 in open area L30 and layer G613 within enclosure L45. As noted previously, the coins will be identified as part of analysis and will assist in determining the point at which these features went out of use.

Enclosure L51 produced no non-ceramic artefacts and it has been suggested that its function was livestock management. Pitting activity L52, lying just to the north of enclosure L51, yielded a large figure-of-eight chain link. Manning comments that loops of this size are substantially larger than are normally found as links on chains and that a different function is likely. He suggests that they may have been wagon or harness fittings, single loops perhaps linking paired straps (1985, 139). This would tally nicely with the suggested function of L51. The only other non-ceramic artefact from L52 comprised a hinged pin from a brooch and can be dated no closer than the later Iron Age and Roman periods.

The only non-ceramic artefact from Phase 6 deposits comprised a secondary flint flake from sunken featured building G96 in L29. This has post-depositional damage and is residual.





L no.	L14.1	L14.2	L15.2	L15.3	L23.2	L24	L24.1	L24.2	L44.1	L16.2	L28	L28.1	L30.1	L30.2	L45	L52	L56	L56.1	Total
Arch. Stone	1																		1
Nail		1				2	2	10		2		1		1		1			20
Loop headed spike																	1		1
Padlock										1									1
Key								1											1
Bottle				1				1											2
Vessel				1	1			1											3
Punch										1									1
Needle										1									1
Slag			(147g)				(38.4g)									(84g)			(269.4g)
Hone										1	1								2
Coin		1											1		1				3
Stylus								1											1
Chain																1			1
Quern		2							1	2									5
Brooch																1			1
Hobnails							8	1				1							10
Tweezers								1											1
Ring								1											1
Uncertain		1			1					1		1							4
Fragments								2		2								1	5
Item total	1	5		2	2	2	10	19	1	11	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	65
Slag total			(147g)				(38.4g)									(84g)			(269.4g)

**Table 15:** Archaeological Zone 2 Phase 5 artefact assemblage





## 4.6 Animal Bone

### 4.6.1 Methodology

The following assessment was made with the aim of evaluating the potential of the faunal assemblage to provide information about the diet of the inhabitants of the site, the exploitation of animals and the deposition of their remains throughout the different phases of occupation. All animal bones were scanned and the information recorded for each specimen included species, anatomy (element); part and percentage of bone present; gnawing damage; erosion; weathering; charring and fusion data. Information was recorded onto a database and spreadsheet, which are stored with the site archive.

### 4.6.2 Quantification and preservation

An assemblage of 2,698 fragments were scanned, of these, 750 were identified to species. Preservation ranged from poor to moderate with the majority showing erosion damage and a few bones showed gnawing damage. The majority of the assemblages fall into the quite poor category, indicating a relatively high proportion of slightly eroded and heavily fragmented bones and substantial number of loose teeth. None of the assemblages are preserved well enough to be classified as “good” though some were identified as “quite good”, indicating that they are less fragmented and eroded than the moderately preserved assemblages. Generally, the assemblage has suffered considerable attrition and this severely limits the abundance of ageing, metrical and butchery evidence.

### 4.6.3 Species present

#### Archaeological Zone 1

The only animal bone to be identified in contexts from Archaeological Zone 1 was a burnt and eroded antler fragment of a red deer found in a late Iron Age-early Romano-British (Phase 3) pit G38 and three fragments identified as horse in Romano-British (Phase 4).

#### Archaeological Zone 2

Animal bone was identified in deposits from all of the phases in Archaeological Zone 2. Among the fragments identified to species, cattle remains are the most abundant followed by sheep/goat, with horse the next most abundant species, then dog and finally pig. Identified wild mammals include red deer and hare.

The majority of the phased faunal material was Romano-British (Phase 4) in date followed by mid-late Romano-British (Phase 5), late Iron Age-early Romano-British (Phase 3) and early-middle Iron Age (Phase 2) deposits. Smaller amounts are attributed to the prehistoric (Phase 1), Saxon (Phase 6), medieval (Phase 7) and post-medieval (Phase 8) deposits. The full range of identified species is shown in Table 16. The assemblages from Phases 1-3 and 6-8 are too small to merit further discussion or analysis and only species attributed to deposits from the Romano-British (Phase 4) and mid-late Romano-British (Phase 5) from Archaeological Zone 2 are discussed in the results.



Species	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7	Phase 8	Unphased	Total
Cattle	1	1	7	290	230	1	1	-	7	539
Sheep/goat	-	-	2	64	63	-	1	-	10	140
Horse	-	-	-	16	26	-	2	-	-	44
Pig	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	6
Dog	-	-	-	2	13	-	-	-	-	15
Red Deer	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cat	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hare	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bird	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total identified	1	1	10	379	336	1	4	-	17	750
Unid. Mammal	-	11	59	1043	815	-	1	1	18	1948
Total	2	13	69	1422	1151	2	5	1	35	2698

**Table 16: Species by Phase**

#### 4.6.4 Results

Features assigned to the Romano-British (Phase 4) contained the bulk of the material. The vast majority of the assemblage was obtained from pits and ditches associated with enclosure L47 with roundhouse L22/L31 producing the second highest. Ditch G527 (L47) contained a concentration of over 120 cattle fragments in a single context. This assemblage includes a lot of skull fragments and very fragmented ends of limb bones, and is perhaps associated with grease or marrow extraction.

Overall, cattle fragments dominate the identifiable assemblage providing the majority of the elements. Several of their bones bear butchery marks and further analysis may enable them to be compared with Romano-British butchery practices on other sites in the area. Sheep/goat is the only other species regularly represented in the assemblages. Pig is poorly represented and there were a moderate number of horse bones. High percentages of cattle, low percentages of pig and relatively high percentages of horse are seen in a number of contemporary assemblages from the area (Maltby nd2-nd3). Dog, cat, red deer, hare and bird bones are present in small numbers. The cat bone consists of a tibia, which seems to have knife cuts near its proximal end. The two bird bones include one of domestic fowl.

Identifiable species from the mid-late Romano-British (Phase 5) are similar to the previous phase with cattle being the most commonly identified, followed by sheep/goat, then horse and finally pig. The cattle assemblage includes three associated thoracic vertebrae from pit G95 (L16) and a sawn horn core from building G150 (L23). A large sheep/goat metatarsal from ditch G56 (L14) may be from a goat but all other distinguishable ovicaprid elements appear to belong to sheep. A very fragmented pair of horse mandibles was found in pit G95. Nine of the thirteen dog elements are from an associated group consisting of several vertebrae, ribs, pelvis and femur found in ditch G56 along with a fragmented horse skull.



Twenty-eight mandibles were identified from Phases 4 and 5 (*Table 17*), which have survived with one or more molars *in situ* and these can provide evidence for age of death. Sixteen of these belong to cattle and can provide a basic indication of mortality rates. Only eight sheep/goat mandibles are present and these will not provide sufficient evidence for detailed ageing analysis. One pig, one horse and two dog mandibles have surviving teeth. Several maxillae, mainly of cattle, can also be used to supplement the ageing data.

Phase	Cow	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Total
4	7	6	-	-	-	13
5	9	2	1	1	2	15
Total	16	8	1	1	2	28

**Table 17:** Mandibular teeth data

A total of 149 bones including vertebrae have surviving fusion data of which all but one is from Phases 4 and 5 (*Table 18*). The 118 cattle bones with fusion evidence can be used to supplement the limited tooth ageing data to provide a basic understanding of cattle mortality rates. Both adults and calves are represented, although preservation conditions are likely to have been detrimental to the survival of the latter. Only 12 sheep/goat bones have fusion evidence and these will provide only very limited information about mortality rates. Epiphysial fusion evidence for horse, dog and hare is also very limited and it is non-existent for pig.

Phase	Cow	Sheep/goat	Horse	Dog	Hare	Total
4	60	7	4	-	1	72
5	57	5	6	8	-	76
7	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	118	12	10	8	1	149

**Table 18:** Epiphyseal data

Sixty bones from Phases 4 and 5 are measurable. A notable feature of the cattle assemblage is the number of bones of large animals, particularly from Phase 5. Although not all of these provide metrical data, the 45 measurable cattle bones do include several of these large bones and indicate the presence of large stock and/or a bias towards male animals. The presence of large cattle has been noted on several Romano-British rural sites in the Bedford area, for example at Marsh Leys Farm and this sample can therefore contribute to a broader investigation into cattle sizes. Very limited metrical data are available for other species.

Phase	Cow	Sheep/goat	Horse	Dog	Red deer	Hare	Total
4	27	3	1	-	1	1	33
5	18	3	4	2	-	-	27
Total	45	6	5	2	1	1	60

**Table 19:** Measurement data



## 4.7 Human Bone

An urned cremation burial G19 dated to the Saxon period (Phase 6) was located in a 0.3m wide grave pit situated in an isolated position towards the northern limit of the Archaeological Zone, with a spread of ?disturbed material to the south. A small area of undated pitting G18 was located 15m to the south of the burial and is provisionally assigned to this phase due to its location.

The lower 50mm of the grave pit was infilled with a dark grey brown silty clay basal fill (8329, sample **42**) which contained charcoal and burnt bone charcoal. This deposit is assumed to have formed immediately prior to the urn being placed in the pit, rather than indicating that the pit remained open for a period of time prior to deposition of the vessel. The urn (8328) comprised a Saxon vessel with a flat base and everted rim - although complete, it was highly fragmented. Within the urn was burnt bone mixed with charcoal (8327, sample **41**). Above this was (8344 sample **39**), which was a similar deposit, though it contained more charcoal and less burnt bone – possibly the remains of a backfill deposit above the vessel.

Located *c.* 2m to the west of the cremation was a mixed spread of material (8345, sample **43**) over an area 0.1m by 0.1m and 0.02m. It contained charcoal flecks and human bone fragments and may be material disturbed from the cremation burial.

Context	Sample	5.6mm	2mm	Nature of deposit
8327	41	178	206g	Cremation deposit
8329	42	23g	23g	Basal fill
8344	39	8g	-	Upper fill
8345	43	19g	14g	Mixed spread of material
Total		<b>228g</b>	<b>243g</b>	

**Table 20:** Human Bone

## 4.8 Environmental samples

### 4.8.1 Methodology

A total of 67 ecofact samples were taken, 35 from Archaeological Zone 1 and 32 from Archaeological Zone 2. The initial strategy was restricted to deposits that contained environmental material. In addition to these a number were taken as “controls” from a variety of different feature types and spatial locations.

The samples were wet sieved onto a 0.5mm mesh with flotation onto a 0.3mm mesh sieve. Both residue and flots were dried with the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure recovery of charred material. The residue was sorted and any environmental finds were recorded. The flots were scanned using a x10 stereo microscope and the presence of any plant remains were noted in order to select samples suitable for further analysis.



#### 4.8.2 Results

Varying amounts of charred plant remains were found in 50 of the 67 samples, of these 27 were considered to contain significant amounts of archaeobotanical material to warrant further analysis.

In Archaeological Zone 1, plant remains were present in two prehistoric (Phase 1) samples, 13 early-middle Iron Age (Phase 2) samples, five late Iron age-early Romano-British (Phase 3) samples and two Saxon (Phase 6) samples (Table 21).

Samples from prehistoric (Phase 1) were found to contain occasional charred cereal grains with one containing a hazel nutshell fragment. The early-middle Iron Age samples (Phase 2) produced the highest amount of material for Archaeological Zone 1 and of the 13 samples, six contained quantities sufficient for further archaeobotanical analysis. Four of the samples from pits G47 and G48 contained only occasional uncharred seeds but will be examined to see any mineralised ancient seeds are present.

The late Iron Age-early Romano-British samples contained occasional uncharred seeds and do not warrant further analysis. Cereal grains present in the Saxon samples taken from the urned cremation G19 may show if free-threshing wheat or spelt is present.

In Archaeological Zone 2, plant remains were present in three late Iron Age-early Romano British (Phase 3) samples, 10 Romano-British (Phase 4) samples contained and 13 mid-late Romano-British (Phase 5) samples (Table 22).

Phase	Landscape	Group	Sample	Results
1	9.1	16.1	40*	Occasional cereal grains
	9.1	44.1	32*	Occasional cereal grains
2	2.2	47.2	24	Occasional uncharred seeds,
	2.2	47.2	25	Occasional uncharred seeds
	2.2	48.1	19	Occasional uncharred seeds
	2.2	48.1	12	Occasional uncharred seeds
	3.2	31.2	16*	Scatter of charred cereal grains and seeds
	3.2	32.1	38	Scatter of charred cereal grains and seeds
	3.2	33.1	17	Scatter of charred cereal grains and seeds
	3.2	37.1	20*	Scatter of charred cereal grains and seeds
	3.2	37.1	21*	Scatter of charred cereal grains and seeds
	4.2	23.3	26	Occasional charred seeds
	26	182	6*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
26	182	7*	Charred cereal grains and seeds	
26.1	181.1	2*	Charred cereal grains and seeds	
3	6.2	11.1	36	Occasional uncharred seeds
	6.2	12.1	35	Occasional uncharred seeds
	6.2	13.2	37	Occasional uncharred seeds
	6.2	14.1	34	Occasional uncharred seeds
	6.2	36.1	18	Occasional uncharred seeds
6	8	19	41*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	8	19	43*	Charred cereal grains and seeds

\* samples selected for further analysis

**Table 21:** Archaeological Zone 1; Ecofact samples assessment results



The limited charred seeds from the late Iron Age-early Romano-British (Phase 3) samples have limited analytical potential. The Romano-British (Phase 4) samples were found to contain occasional to abundant archaeobotanical remains. The most significant remains were found in samples from waterpit G607 and rubbish pit G558. Their analysis may show if the activity in the area is agricultural or domestic as well as the proportions of cereals being cultivated. The weeds may also provide some indications about the cultivation of the crops.

Of the 13 samples taken from mid-late Romano-British (Phase 5) contexts, 7 contained charred plant remains that warrant further analysis. These can be compared with the Phase 4 samples to investigate if there are any changes in the activities carried out on the site.

The cereal grains included glume wheat either spelt or emmer (*Triticum spelta* or *dicoccum*), probably mainly spelt from the presence of occasional fragments of chaff. Grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) are probably present. The Saxon samples may contain grains of free-threshing wheat, possibly bread wheat which became common in the Saxon period and this should be investigated. Very few chaff fragments were seen but occasional glumes possibly of spelt were present. This may demonstrate that spelt wheat continued to be used into this period.

Phase	Landscape	Group	Sample	Results
3	10.2	65.1	104	Charred seeds
	10.2	69.1	111	Charred seeds
	50.1	530.1	209	Charred seeds
4	22.2	122.3	109*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	22.1	549.1	222*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	47	523.1	204*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	47.1	527.1	202*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	47.1	527.1	203*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	47.1	529.1	206*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	47.1	606.1	221	Occasional charred seeds
	48	607.1	201*	Abundance of charred cereal grains
	49.1	532.1	216	Occasional charred cereal grains and seeds
	53.1	558.1	234*	Moderate charred cereal grains
53.1	558.1	236*	Moderate charred cereal grains	
5	14.2	107.1	84*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	14.2	101.2	107*	Occasional charred seeds
	16.1	57.1	58	Occasional uncharred seeds
	16.2	50.2	73	Occasional uncharred seeds
	16.2	57.2	57	Occasional uncharred seeds
	23.1	150.1	115*	Charred cereal grains
	43.1	514.1	208*	Charred cereal grains
	44.1	507.1	211*	Charred cereal grains and chaff
	52	578.1	223	Charred seeds
	52	583.1	224*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	52	581.1	225*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	52	587.1	227*	Charred cereal grains and seeds
	52	580.1	229	Charred seeds

\* samples selected for further analysis

**Table 22:** Archaeological Zone 2; Ecofact sample assessment results





Other food remains were represented by occasional fragments of hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*) in a few of the samples. Weed seeds were present including vetches or vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) and large grasses (Poaceae) with other arable weeds which need further investigation. Uncharred seeds field weeds were present most of which are modern intrusive material but they will be examined to see if any mineralised material is present which may be archaeological.

The plant remains have the potential to show changes over the phases of occupation in the area by investigating the distribution of charred plant remains over the areas and phases of the excavated Archaeological Zones. The recording of the full range of samples with detailed analysis of the samples with the more abundant remains will also allow the archaeobotanical remains to be compared with other sites in the area.



## 5. ANALYTICAL POTENTIAL OF THE DATA AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES FOR ANALYSIS

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### 5.1 Introduction

The previous sections have outlined a provisional summary of the results of the investigations (Section 3) and provided a basic quantification/discussion of the various data sets (Section 4). As a result, the original aims and objectives can be re-formed into a number of specific research objectives for analysis. These are discussed below and are cross-referenced to Table 23.

### 5.2 Period-specific Objectives

#### 5.2.1 Nature of the prehistoric activity

Sites of this period are poorly represented in Bedfordshire, as they are generally difficult to locate and characterise. The tree-throws which form clusters, particularly in Archaeological Zone 1, contain flints as well as intrusive material. The spatial patterning may be significant, particularly in relation to the valley of the Renhold Brook. The contextual and artefactual data sets of Phase 1, together with residual flintwork from later phases have limited potential to provide an insight into the activity at the site during this period (**Research Objective 1**).

#### 5.2.2 Intensification of activity in the early-middle Iron Age

One characteristic of the period up to 300 BC is the increased evidence for the organisation and exploitation of the agricultural landscape (Haselgrove *et al.* 2002, 27). The appearance of land boundaries is one aspect of this phenomenon. The nature of the Phase 2 activity at Brickhill is varied with evidence of both enclosed and unenclosed activity, including structures and pitting. There is potential to look at how this variety relates to local topography. This clay site can be usefully contrasted with a riverside settlement at Oakley Road, Clapham situated a relatively short distance to the south-west. The contextual data set will make the greatest contribution to **Research Objective 2**, although there is some potential to contrast the material culture both within the site and with the Oakley Road site.

#### 5.2.3 Nature of the activity in the late Iron Age–early Romano-British period

National priorities for the Iron Age and Romano-British periods were formalised over 10 years ago by English Heritage (1991), Hingley (1989) and Millet (1990), and, specifically for ceramics, by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (1991) and the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Willis 1997). More recently two agendas of particular relevance to the results of the Brickhill investigations have been published: for the Iron Age (Haselgrove *et al.* 2001) and for the Roman period (James and Millet 2001).

Bryant (1997) and Going (1997) have presented the evidence for these periods in the region. Although it is accepted that ‘most Iron Age settlements were farmsteads’ (Haselgrove *et al.* 2001, 52), these site-types are still under-represented in the archaeological record. Regionally, the extent and distribution of farmsteads is considered ‘to represent only a small fraction of the true number of



sites' (Bryant 2000). Investigations of Roman sites over the last ten years have gone some way to address the imbalance between the number of investigations on high status sites such as villas and towns. However, Going discussing the Roman period, has stated that the 'study of other kinds of rural settlement has not progressed as rapidly as might be desired'.

At a county level, an increase in settlement density during the late Iron Age has been identified, although it has been noted that the distribution of archaeological investigations has been biased towards valley sites or gravel deposits (Dawson 2007, 66). Although cropmarks are known on the clay ridges of north Bedfordshire, these have not been examined by archaeological excavation. In addition, Dawson noted that early-middle Iron Age sites are rarely occupied into the late Iron Age-early Roman-British period.

The Brickhill investigations, on the clay high ground to the north of Bedford, have considerable potential to contribute to these research themes. The Phase 3 evidence reveals three foci of contrasting form, which utilise the varied topography of the site. In particular, in this period the lower terrace of the Renhold Brook seems to play a significant role. The foci comprise enclosures of contrasting form and settlement-related activity, including structures and pit digging. Spatially, this activity appears to be relatively confined compared to subsequent phases. The contextual and pottery data sets will make the most significant contribution to **Research Objective 3**, with the former having a significant role in the comparison of the foci.

#### 5.2.4 Development and zoning of activity in the Romano-British period

Several of the Phase 3 boundaries are truncated by Romano-British (Phase 4) ditches which, although on a similar alignment, define enclosures of contrasting form. Phase 4 sees a significant expansion of activity — several enclosure systems, associated with domestic foci including a roundhouse, are defined. The form of the enclosures suggests development over time, *e.g.* the oval enclosure in north and enclosures of contrasting alignment in the south-east. There are several clustered deposits within this area, which may indicate 'structured' deposition, which will be subject to further scrutiny. Analysis of the animal bone and charred plant remains will help to elucidate both the economic underpinnings of the settlement and the question of zoning of activity. In this phase, access to the site is clearly controlled by a series of trackways. The focus of activity would appear to utilise the higher ground especially in the vicinity of the Renhold Brook. Examination of the layout of tracks and associated land parcels will allow the question of functional zoning within the settlement to be address — *e.g.* where were the animals kept, as opposed to where did the inhabitants live? (**Research Objective 4**).

Detailed analysis of the structural and other data sets will also contribute to **Research Objective 4** by helping to identify what was actually undertaken in different areas. This will be particularly relevant with regards to the ditched enclosures and associated pitting. The spatial plotting of the pottery and non-ceramic artefacts, supplemented by the animal bone, will provide additional information on the organisation of the site.



### 5.2.5 Nature of the settlement in the mid-late Roman period

Phase 5 sees a significant reorganisation of the settlement, in particular the layout of the enclosures and associated activity. This suggests, in Archaeological Zone 2 at least, a degree of central planning. Again, there is evidence for zoning of activity, including quarrying, associated with sequential buildings of contrasting construction. And again, there is evidence for modification of the main features of the settlement over time. Extensive pitting on the lower terrace next to the Renhold Brook also provides evidence of associated activity. All of the data sets are able to contribute to our understanding of how the settlement develops during this period (**Research Objective 5**).

### 5.2.6 Comparison of activity during the Romano-British period

Although the settlement is significantly reorganised in Phase 5, there is a degree of continuity with the previous phase, indicating potential to address issues of continuity and change — a key research objective identified in both national and regional research agendas.

By comparing the structurally and materially rich Roman phases, principally the sequential enclosure systems of Phases 4 and 5, it will be possible to address this issue (**Research Objective 6**). Although there are elements of continuity, the form of the Phase 5 settlement — confined to Archaeological Zone 2 and seemingly an integrated system — presents a significant contrast to the multiple foci of the previous phase. Although the associated buildings occupy a similar location, with the risk of mixing of material between the phases, there is potential to compare the substantial artefactual data sets.

All the data sets can make a contribution to **Research Objective 6**. The Phase 4 and 5 non-ceramic assemblages from Archaeological Zone 2 have moderate potential to contribute to determining the status and wealth of the occupants. The Phase 4 assemblage suggests residential occupation of roundhouse L22 and L47 with limited access to ‘imported’ goods. The quantity and nature of these goods, combined with the basically utilitarian nature of the rest of the assemblage, does not suggest a great degree of disposable wealth.

The Phase 5 assemblage does suggest a slightly greater degree of disposable income when compared with Phase 4. Instances of imported goods, such as lava quern and glass vessels, are more numerous, while the presence of tweezers suggests some time was spent on personal appearance. There is possible evidence the non-ceramic assemblage particularly (L15/43 and L16) to suggest possible zoning of residential versus maintenance activities which in itself suggests higher status. Combining evidence from all data sets will enable these tentative suggestions to be confirmed or refuted.

The non-ceramic assemblages from Phases 4 and 5 indicate grain processing was carried out and a low-level of craft activity, suggesting a degree of self-sufficiency. Good assemblages of both charred plant remains and animal bone were recovered from both phases, which will again contribute to understanding of how the economy of settlement developed through time.



Although no ‘structured’ deposits have been identified in the assessment - several deposits of horse skull fragments particularly those associated with dogs will require further scrutiny once the animal bone has been fully analysed. The location and nature of the associated assemblages will be the subject of further analysis to see if any patterns can be discerned.

### 5.2.7 Nature of the Saxon activity

The present evidence from Bedfordshire in general suggests that little of the Romano-British way of life survived into the Saxon period. However, as with the national picture, the impression of an abrupt change may be partly the result of the cessation of coin and pottery production in the late 4th century, which has left little for the archaeologist to use as dating material (Cleary 2001). Without these vital chronological benchmarks, identifying settlements that continued into the 5th century ‘becomes extremely difficult and dating it next to impossible’. Wade stated that ‘it is still far from clear what happened in the 5th century’ (Wade 2000). The transition from Roman empire to Saxon kingdoms has been highlighted by English Heritage as of particular importance.

Edgeworth (2007, 87, 93) has also highlighted the need to redress the bias against the study of sites on the Bedfordshire clays. Although the Phase 6 remains are sparse, they are therefore of considerable significance in adding to our understanding of rural settlement at the end of the Roman period (**Research Objective 7**). The two contrasting areas of activity — an urned cremation burial in Archaeological Zone 1 and settlement remains towards the southern margin of Archaeological Zone 2 — are not necessarily related. The latter produced only Maxey ware pottery, itself relatively rare in Bedfordshire, which may be later in date than the cremation urn. In some ways, this fact simply serves to increase the significance of the evidence.

### 5.2.8 Reorganisation of the agrarian landscape in the medieval period

The Medieval Settlement Research Group outlined some key research themes in 1996. The paper highlights the value of development-led archaeological investigation in allowing characterisation of key features of the period. A central research question remains the re-planning of the agrarian landscape between the 9th and 12th centuries, which saw the emergence of a large number of nucleated villages.

At a regional level, Wade discussed research objectives for the medieval period (1997). Again, one centred on the apparent marked expansion in population during the 12th and 13th centuries, which was followed by a decline in the 14th century. Although this theme has been well researched by historians, the changing patterns of expansion and decline, particularly on more marginal lands have not been so well studied archaeologically. During the period of population growth, not only did existing settlements expand, but additional land was colonised in previously marginal areas. This issue has also been highlighted for Bedfordshire itself by Edgeworth (2007, 100-101).

The post-Saxon (Phase 7) landscape at Brickhill offers a small insight into this process (**Research Objective 8**). The site was incorporated into the open fields of



a settlement which must, given the relative scarcity of artefacts, have been some distance away. Interestingly, the layout of the new fields relates to the local topography and not to previous land divisions.

### **5.3 Cross-period Research Objectives**

#### **5.3.1 Continuity or change between the transitional late Iron Age-early Romano-British and subsequent Roman enclosure systems**

There are marked changes in the form of the activity from the late Iron Age (Phase 3) to Roman periods (Phases 4-5). Although the material assemblage from Phase 3 is limited, there is an opportunity to examine this transitional period (**Research Objective 9**).

The continuity of pottery types from the late Iron Age (Phase 3) to the Roman will be examined. The majority of the substantial late Iron Age/Roman pottery assemblage appears to have been locally manufactured and includes vessels in the 'Belgic' tradition. Regional imports were identified and 196 sherds of Samian Ware from Gaul were recovered. The pottery assemblage will provide further information on the status and cultural associations of the settlements. There is also an opportunity to contrast these results with the riverside site at Oakley Road.

#### **5.3.2 Is there any link between the later Roman landscape and subsequent Saxon activity?**

There has been tentative evidence from other sites, such as Oakley Road, to suggest that later Roman land divisions influenced subsequent Saxon activity. At Brickhill the situation of the Saxon settlement features (Phase 6) adjacent to a later Roman boundary ditch may be significant. The issue of the re-use of existing field systems in the Saxon period has also been suggested as one of the reasons for the relative "invisibility" of settlement during this period (Edgeworth 2007, 93). The contextual and pottery data sets have limited potential to contribute to this area of study (**Research Objective 10**).



No.	Research objective	Structural	Pottery	CBM	Other artefacts	Animal bone	Human bone	Environmental
<b>Period-specific</b>								
1	What was the nature of the prehistoric (Phase 1) activity?	Low	Low	Low	Low	-	-	Low
2	What was the nature of the intensification of activity in the early-middle Iron Age (Phase 2)?	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	-	-	Moderate
3	What was nature of the various components of activity in the late Iron Age – early Romano-British period (Phase 3)?	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	-	Low
4	How did the settlement develop and can evidence of zoning of activity be defined in the Romano-British period (Phase 4)?	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate
5	What changes took place in the settlement in the mid-late Roman period (Phase 5)?	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	-	Moderate
6	How do the Romano-British settlements (Phases 4-5) compare to one another?	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	-	Moderate
7	Did occupation of the site continue into the Saxon period (Phase 6)?	Moderate	Low	-	-	-	Low	-
8	How was the agrarian landscape reorganised in the medieval period (Phase 7)?	Low	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Cross-period</b>								
9	Is there any evidence for continuity or change between the transitional later Iron Age-early Romano-British and subsequent Roman enclosure systems?	Moderate	Low	-	-	Low	-	Low
10	Is there any link between the later Roman landscape and subsequent Saxon activity?	Low	Low	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 23:** Research objectives for analysis and data set potential







## 6. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

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### 6.1 Introduction

The data sets from Brickhill have the potential to contribute to a number of regional and national research objectives for the early-middle Iron Age through to the medieval period. On this basis, analysis, publication and archiving of the results are recommended. The following sections present an Updated Project Design, outlining the revised research objectives, nature of the proposed work, timetable and the project team. Detailed method statements are presented in Appendix 1.

### 6.2 Brief summary of the nature of analysis

#### 6.2.1 Computer-based system of analysis

Albion operates a fully integrated computer-based system of analysis. All structural, artefactual and ecofactual information is entered onto an Access database. Feature/deposit plans are digitised using AutoCAD. The databases and digital drawings are interfaced via a GIS package (Gsys) allowing all chronological, spatial and material groupings (and any combination thereof) to be viewed and manipulated. In addition all the site photographs are held in a digital format, allowing them to be viewed on screen with database records and digital drawings.

The system enables rapid and flexible analysis of the project data sets. It also facilitates the output of a series of text reports, supported by plan and other graphic forms. These will form the basis for the final publication report.

#### 6.2.2 Structural hierarchy

The basis for analysis will be the establishment of a structural hierarchy and the assignment of contexts to the relevant level. The hierarchy will comprise:

- Group (G) numbers- interpretative entities, e.g. ditch lengths, concentration of pits etc.;
- Landscape (L) numbers- a collection of broadly contemporary and spatially coherent G numbers, e.g. a settlement focus, a field system etc.;
- Phases- broad, chronological divisions, e.g., early-middle Iron Age, late Iron Age-early Romano-British etc.

Further details of these are provided in Appendix 1.

### 6.3 Publication

The results will be published as a single article in a future volume of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*.

The site narrative will be organised chronologically by Phase, Landscape and Group, with artefactual and ecofactual information integrated as appropriate. A more detailed discussion of the artefactual and ecofactual information will be presented, where relevant at the end of each Phase. The discussion at the end will



place the evidence in its local, regional and national setting, as well as addressing the updated project objectives. The suggested format is set out below (Table 24).

		<i>Text</i>	<i>Figs</i>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>		
	• Site location and background to work	2	1
	• Archaeological background	2	1
	• The archaeological investigations	1	
	• Structure and terminology of the report/article	1.5	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Results of the investigation and integrated artefactual and ecofactual discussions</b>		
	• Prehistoric	2	2
	• Early-middle Iron Age	6	4
	• Late Iron Age-early Romano-British	8	6
	• Romano-British	17	7
	• Mid-late Romano-British	19	8
	• Saxon	1.5	2
	• Medieval	0.5	1
	• Post-medieval	0.5	1
<b>3.</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	11	1
<b>4.</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	5	-
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	0.5	-
	<i>References</i>	3	-

**Table 24:** Proposed layout of the publication

#### 6.4 Timetable

Following acceptance by the Clients and CAO of the assessment and Updated Project Design, Albion would like to proceed rapidly with the analysis and publication of the results.

Detailed method statements, with task numbers and resource levels, are provided in Appendix 1. Table 25 sets out the five key stages within the analysis and publication programme. An indication of maximum time required to reach the first four key stages is indicated and these could serve as appropriate monitoring points, if required.

<b>Completion of</b>	<b>Description of tasks</b>	<b>Task no.</b>	<b>Time</b>
Key stage 1	Analysis	up to task 208.11	3 months
Key stage 2	Report writing for data-sets and illustration	up to task 208.26	3 months
Key stage 3	Completion of 1 <sup>st</sup> draft followed by circulation to Clients, CAO and referees	up to task 208.29	2 months
Key stage 4	Amendments based on comments and completion of final draft	up to task 209.04	1 months
Key stage 5	Publication and archiving	up to task 210.02	7 months

\*Publication, and therefore deposition of the archive with Bedford Museum, will be dependent on the length of time to complete the journal article

**Table 25:** Provisional timetable to complete the project



## **6.5 Archiving**

On publication of the final report the archive of materials (subject to the landowner's permission) and accompanying records will be deposited with Bedford Museum, Accession Numbers; *BEDFM 2002/82*





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## **8. APPENDIX 1: METHOD STATEMENTS FOR ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING**

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### **8.1 Analysis of the structural data**

#### **8.1.1 Liaison meetings (208.01)**

Ongoing discussion will take place between the principal members of the project team throughout the analysis and publication stages. These will involve discussion over the nature of the work required, commissioning of the work and addressing any queries that come up during the course of the project.

#### **8.1.2 Analysis of HER and historical maps (Task 208.02)**

The Historic Environment Record will be examined to provide background information on known archaeological sites in the vicinity. All available historic maps will be examined in an attempt to correlate archaeological features located within the investigation area to features on the maps.

#### **8.1.3 Computerisation (Tasks 208.05 and 208.06)**

The quantity of the data-sets means it would benefit from computerisation. Albion operates a fully integrated computer-based system of structural analysis using databases (through Access) and a mini GIS (Gsys) for interrogation. Basic contextual information has been entered into a database table and has been successfully utilised within this report.

The digitised all features drawing produced for the assessment will require checking and correcting to ensure it is linked correctly with the contextual database. Once this is complete, the drawings are fully interrogatable and manipulable by any database table.

Once achieved, it will be possible to rapidly interrogate data sets within the Gsys programme. For example, it would be possible to plot the distribution of specific find types, or all features which are considered to be contemporary etc. This type of interrogation will greatly enhance the analysis of data and is, therefore, likely to assist in the interpretation of the archaeological remains. It also enables basic publication figures to be produced rapidly.

Any relevant historical maps will be geo-referenced and digitised to permit examination with the all features drawing.

#### **8.1.4 Sub-group and group analysis (Task 208.07)**

All contexts will be processed to sub-group level. Much use will be made of contextual information specifically descriptive (held in the context database) and section drawings.

Each context will be analysed using the above information and assigned to a single Sub-group, consisting of one or more (usually several) contexts that are closely related both stratigraphically and interpretatively. For example, comparable cuts within a single ditch length will be assigned to the same Sub-group. Primary, secondary and tertiary fills of ditches will also be kept separate at Sub-group level.

Cuts/deposits will be classified as:

- ◆ Construction (postpacking and default code for all cuts);
- ◆ Naturally derived infilling;
- ◆ Deliberate infilling

The method of sub-group definition will rapidly identify those Sub-groups, which have limited or no further analytical value (e.g. features/deposits of geological origin). These Sub-groups will not be subject to any further analysis.



The Sub-group allocation for each context will be entered into the contextual database table. A Sub-group text will then be written directly into the Sub-group database table so that it can be easily accessed. This text will be checked for content, accuracy and spelling/grammar. It is not envisaged that Sub-group plans will be routinely produced, but this information will be available via the relational database tables.

Sub-groups worthy of further analysis will be assigned to a single Group representing a higher level of interpretation. It is likely that most Groups will comprise multiple Sub-groups. The assessment of the features/deposits identified at Brickhill suggests that the construction and primary fill Sub-groups could be assigned to the following Group types:

- Ditch lengths;
- Structures;
- Pit groups;
- Isolated features.

Other fill Sub-groups i.e. secondary or tertiary, will be assigned to separate Groups to reflect the likelihood that these may be considerably later in date than the construction/primary fill Groups and will therefore need to be analysed separately. However, to ensure that their spatial location (for example within a specific pit group) is not lost, they will be issued a Group number comprising a decimal point of the “containing” Group for example G47.2 is a fill Group of pit G47 etc.

The Group allocation for each Sub-group will be entered into the Sub-group database table. A Group text will then be written directly into the Group database table so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a descriptive section as well as an interpretative section. This text will be checked for content, accuracy and spelling/grammar. It will form the basis for any detail required in the descriptive section of the publication text. A plan will be produced for each Group with the location of all relevant sub-groups marked. Where appropriate a Group matrix will be produced.

### **8.1.5 Landscape and phase analysis (Task 208.11)**

Each Group will be assigned to another, higher level of interpretation known as a landscape unit. The assessment of the Brickhill data suggests that the construction and primary filling Groups could be assigned to the following landscape unit types:

- Enclosures;
- Boundaries;
- Settlement foci;
- Field system.

Groups representing secondary or tertiary fills may be considerably later in date than the construction/primary Groups and to distinguish these at Landscape level they will be assigned to a separate Landscape number. However, to ensure that their spatial location, for example within a specific enclosed settlement is not lost they will be issued a Landscape number comprising a decimal point of the “containing” Landscape, for example L12.2 is associated with post-built structure L12.

The Landscape allocation for each Group will be entered into the Group database table. A Landscape text will then be written directly into the Landscape database table so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a descriptive section as well as an interpretative section. This text will be checked for content, accuracy and spelling/grammar. It will form the basis for the site narrative section of the publication text. A plan will be produced for each Landscape with the location of all relevant Groups marked.

Each Landscape will be assigned the final level of interpretation known as a Phase.

- Phase 1: Prehistoric;
- Phase 2: Early-middle Iron Age;
- Phase 3: Late Iron Age-early Romano-British;





- Phase 4: Romano-British;
- Phase 5: Mid-late Romano-British;
- Phase 6: Saxon;
- Phase 7: Medieval;
- Phase 8: Post-medieval

The Phase allocation for each Landscape will be entered into the Landscape database table. A Phase text will be written directly into the phasing database table so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a descriptive section as well as an interpretative section. This text will be checked for content, accuracy and spelling/grammar. It will form the basis for the site narrative section of the publication text. A plan will be produced for each phase with the location of all relevant landscapes marked. If appropriate a phase matrix will be produced.

The completion of task 208.11 represents a key stage in the analytical programme and is the precursor to the production of publication text and illustrations.

## ◆KEY STAGE 1

### 8.1.6 Final phasing/publication liaison (Task 208.12)

Once the provisional final phasing is determined this will be examined in light of the pottery assemblage. When the final phasing has been checked the various specialists will be informed. Each will receive a report known as *Final Phasing Information for Specialist*. This will include the phasing hierarchy, format of their publication text (with a guide number of words) along with other information that they may require.

### 8.1.7 Site narrative text (Task 208.13)

The site narrative will form the basis of the descriptive section of the publication text. It will be organised by Phase, Landscape and, where appropriate, Group.

### 8.1.8 Structural illustration (Task 208.14)

The digitised plan and section data will be interrogated via the relational database tables to produce mock-up publication illustrations. Plans will be produced to show all features in each phase with Landscape and Groups identifiable.

## ◆KEY STAGE 2

## 8.2 Analysis of ceramic artefacts

### 8.2.1 Liaison Meetings (208.01)

Ongoing discussion will take place between the principal members of the project team throughout the analysis and publication stages. These will involve discussion over the nature of the work required, commissioning of the work and addressing any queries that come up during the course of the project.

### 8.2.2 Quantification and recording of pottery (Task 208.08) and CBM (208.09)

Pottery and ceramic building material will be laid out in context order. Pottery will be quantified by minimum vessel and sherd count, and weight, and ceramic building material (CBM) by fragment count and weight. Pottery and CBM fabrics have already been identified according to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Types Series, and these will be checked. All attributes such as decoration, evidence of function (sooting, wear marks etc.), and manufacturing techniques (firing characteristics etc.), will be recorded. Any complete or measurable dimensions of CBM fragments will be recorded. All quantified data will be entered onto the relevant table within the site database.



### **8.2.3 Production of technical text for pottery (Task 208.15) and CBM (208.18)**

Detailed description of the pottery and CBM recovered, including fabric and form definitions. Selection of pottery vessels or CBM fragments for publication standard illustration will be made at this juncture. The criteria for the selection of illustrated pottery vessels will be as follows:

- all fabrics and forms previously unknown in the county and therefore unpublished;
- better examples of those types already published;
- vessels from specific features or groups of features;
- vessels associated with specific structures;
- vessels of intrinsic interest.

## **◆KEY STAGE 1**

### **8.2.4 Final phasing/publication Liaison (Task 208.12)**

See structural analysis section see 8.1.6.

### **8.2.5 Pottery overview text (Task 208.16)**

A specialist text summarising the pottery assemblage within appropriate chronological periods by fabric type, forms, decoration and attribute. The text will refer to comparative assemblages (published or unpublished). In addition and where appropriate the pottery assemblage from elements of the structural hierarchy i.e. Landscapes and Groups will be discussed.

### **8.2.6 CBM overview text (Task 208.19)**

A specialist text summarising the CBM assemblage by type/forms.

### **8.2.7 Illustration (Task 208.17 and 208.20)**

Illustration of the material selected for inclusion in the technical text will be carried out by the Illustrator, in consultation with the artefact analyst.

## **◆KEY STAGE 2**

## **8.3 Analysis of Other Artefacts**

### **8.3.1 Investigative conservation (Task 206.08)**

Due to the condition of the coinage some 'cleaning' of the coins is required to enable full identification. This will be undertaken by Phil Parkes (Cardiff University).

### **8.3.2 Other artefacts identification (Task 208.10)**

Each object will be assigned a narrow term, and where applicable, a date range. This information will be established by an examination of each object, noting:

- form;
- method of manufacture;
- material and source;
- presence of diagnostic features;
- condition;
- selected parallels from comparable sites;
- comparison with ceramic data from the site.

The identification and analysis of the coins will be carried out by an external specialist (Peter Guest, Cardiff University). The remainder of the assemblage will be analysed 'in-house' by Albion Archaeology staff.

### **8.3.3 Other artefacts technical catalogue (Task 208.21)**

A selection of registered artefacts will be made for inclusion in the publication catalogue and a draft catalogue prepared. Selection of artefacts for publication-standard illustration will be made at this juncture.



## ◆KEY STAGE 1

### 8.3.4 Final phasing/publication liaison (Task 208.12)

See structural analysis section see 8.1.6.

### 8.3.5 Other artefacts overview text (Task 208.22)

Following phasing confirmation, the artefact assemblage will be discussed in relation to both the temporal and spatial framework of the site.

### 8.3.6 Other artefacts illustration (Task 208.23)

Illustration of the material selected for inclusion in the technical catalogue will be carried out by the Illustrator in consultation with the artefact analyst.

## ◆KEY STAGE 2

### 8.4 *Analysis of the Ecofactual Data*

#### 8.4.1 Animal bone analysis and publication text (Task 208.24)

The final publication text will be prepared on receipt of the final phasing structure. It will detail the analysis of the assemblages from Phases 4 and 5 and incorporate the results of the assessment from the other phases.

## ◆KEY STAGE 2

#### 8.4.2 Human Remains analysis and publication text (Task 208.25)

The final publication text will be prepared on receipt of the final phasing structure. It will detail the analysis of the cremated human remains from Phase 6 and the isolated human bone recovered from Phase 4.

## ◆KEY STAGE 2

#### 8.4.3 Charred plant remains analysis and publication text (Task 208.26)

The final publication text will be prepared on receipt of the final phasing structure. It will detail the analysis of the charred plant remains from Phases 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

## ◆KEY STAGE 2

### 8.5 *Publication and Archiving*

#### 8.5.1 Editing publication text including specialist reports (Task 208.28)

The specialist texts for example on the animal bone assemblage will be integrated into the overall publication. Once this has been completed entire publication will be read and edited to ensure a consistency in approach.

#### 8.5.2 Synthesis text (Task 208.29)

A synthetic text will be produced discussing the key elements of the site, probably within the major chronological periods. This will attempt to address the updated research objectives.



### **8.5.3 Publication illustration (Task 208.30)**

The mock-up plans will be used as the basis for publication figures. These will be created from screen views created in Gsys, before they are transferred to Corel Draw 9 for final illustration work. It is anticipated that a location plan, the archaeological setting, together with 27 other figures depicting the eight phase plans, incorporating sections and associated artefacts will be required. The drawings will require checking, correcting and cross-referencing with the site narrative.

## **◆KEY STAGE 3**

### **8.5.4 Albion refereeing process (Task 209.03)**

Albion has a policy of circulating the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of articles intended for publication to the Client, CAO and any other interested parties. This task includes time for any required discussion with the referees.

### **8.5.5 Amendments resulting from referees comment to publication text and figures (Task 209.04)**

Amendments to publication text and figures based on comments received from Albion's refereeing process, prior to the handover of the publication article to the editor of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*.

## **◆KEY STAGE 4**

### **8.5.6 Printing (Task 209.05)**

Typesetting, proof reading, final editing and printing.

### **8.5.7 Archiving and accessioning (Tasks 209.06 and 209.07)**

The final stage in the project will be the preparation of the site records for archiving. This will include all activities leading to the production of a fully accessible archive and its transfer, including cost of transport and liaison, to the Bedford Museum.

## **8.6 Summary Reports and Project Management**

### **8.6.1 Project management (Task 210.02)**

All project tasks have been identified from a generic Albion task list menu. These have been entered onto the Albion Project Management System (PMS) in order that expenditure and resources can be tracked throughout the life of the project. In addition the project will require strong management, undertaken by the Project Manager, to ensure it is undertaken to timetable and budget.



## 9. APPENDIX 2: THE PROJECT TEAM

<b>Name</b>	<b>Init.</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Title or organisation</b>
Gary Edmondson	GE	Overall management and joint author	Project Manager
Tracy Preece	TP	Structural analysis and joint author	Project Officer
Jackie Wells	JW	Ceramic quantification and analysis	Artefacts Officer
Holly Duncan	HBD	Non-ceramic quantification and analysis	Artefacts Manager
Phil Parkes	PP	Investigative cleaning of coins	Cardiff University
Peter Guest	PG	Coin identification and analysis	Cardiff University
Mark Maltby	MM	Animal bone quantification and analysis	Bournemouth University
Alistair Hill	AH	Ecofact quantification and analysis	Leicester University
Felicity Wild	FW	Samian analysis	Independent specialist
Jacqueline McKinley	JM	Human bone analysis	Wessex Archaeology
Joan Lightning	JL	Digitisation	CAD Technician
Cecily Marshall	CM	Illustration	Illustrator

**Table 26:** The project team





## 10. APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF ALL TASKS

WBS No.	Description	STAFF	DAYS
206.08	Investigative cleaning	PP HBD	1 0.5
208.01	Liaison meetings	GE TP JW EXT	5 5 2 2
208.02	Analysis of HER and historical maps	TP GE	1.5 0.5
208.05	Digitising/GIS	JL TP	5 0.5
208.06	Data inputting	TP	5
208.07	Sub-group/group analysis	TP GE	34 7
208.08	Quantification and recording of pottery	JW	28
208.09	Quantification and recording of CBM	JW	5
208.10	Other artefacts identification (inc. coinage)	PG HBD	0.25 2
208.11	Landscape/phase analysis	TP GE	18 5
	<b>KEYSTAGE 1</b>		
208.12	Final phasing/publication liaison	TP GE JW	7 3 1
208.13	Site narrative text	TP GE	20 5
208.14	Structural illustration	JL TP	6 1
208.15	Pottery technical text (inc. samian)	JW FW	3 1
208.16	Pottery overview text (inc. samian)	JW FW	6 2
208.17	Pottery illustration	CM JW	5 1
208.18	CBM technical text	JW	1.5
208.19	CBM overview text	JW	3
208.20	CBM illustration	CM JW	1 0.5
208.21	Other artefacts technical catalogue (inc. coinage)	PG HBD	1 3
208.22	Other artefacts overview text	HBD	3
208.23	Other artefacts illustration	CM HBD	2.5 0.5
208.24	Animal bone analysis & text	MM	6
208.25	Human bone analysis & text	JM	1
208.26	Ecofact analysis & text	AH	5
	<b>KEYSTAGE 2</b>		
208.28	Editing and integration	TP	10

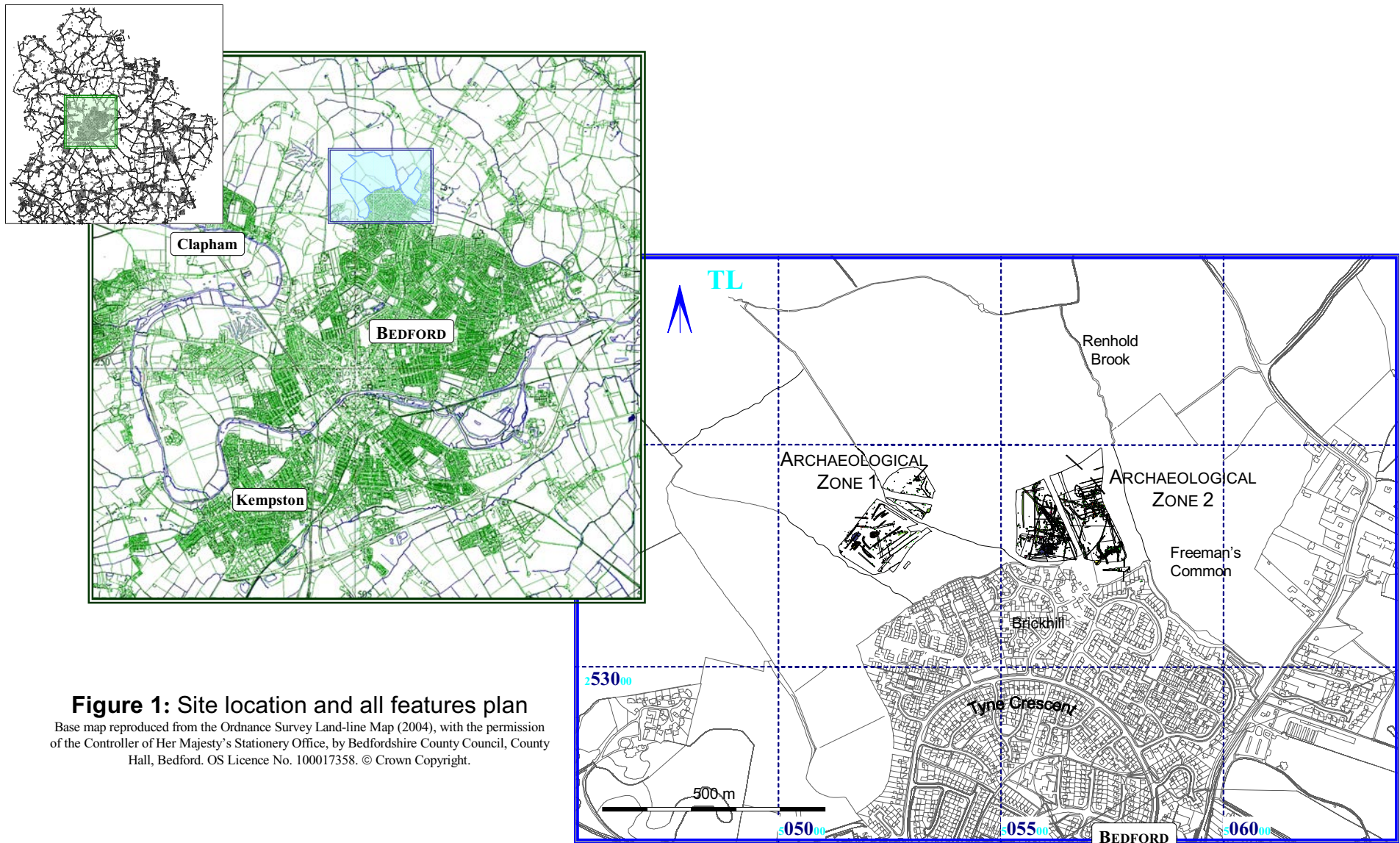


		GE	5
208.29	Synthesis	TP	8
		GE	5
208.30	Publication illustration	CM	12
		GE	1
	<b>KEYSTAGE 3</b>		
209.03	Refereeing and amendments	DS	5
		GE	2
209.04	Amendments	GE	5
		JW	1
		CM	1
	<b>KEYSTAGE 4</b>		
209.05	Printing	GE	3
209.06	Archive preparation	TP	1
		JW	1.5
		GE	0.5
209.07	Archive storage	TP	3
210.02	Project management	GE	20
	<b>KEYSTAGE 5: PROJECT END</b>		



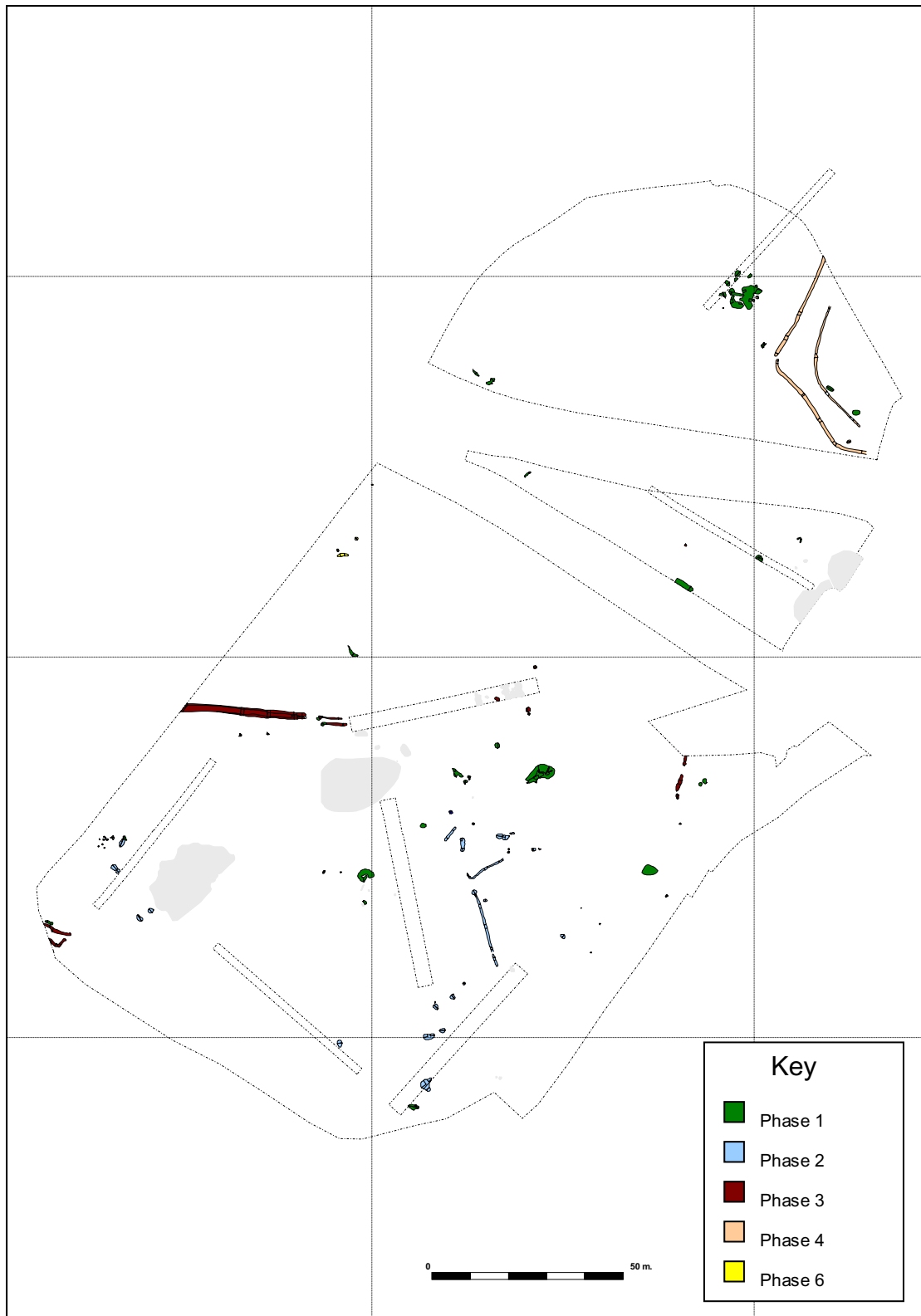


## Figures

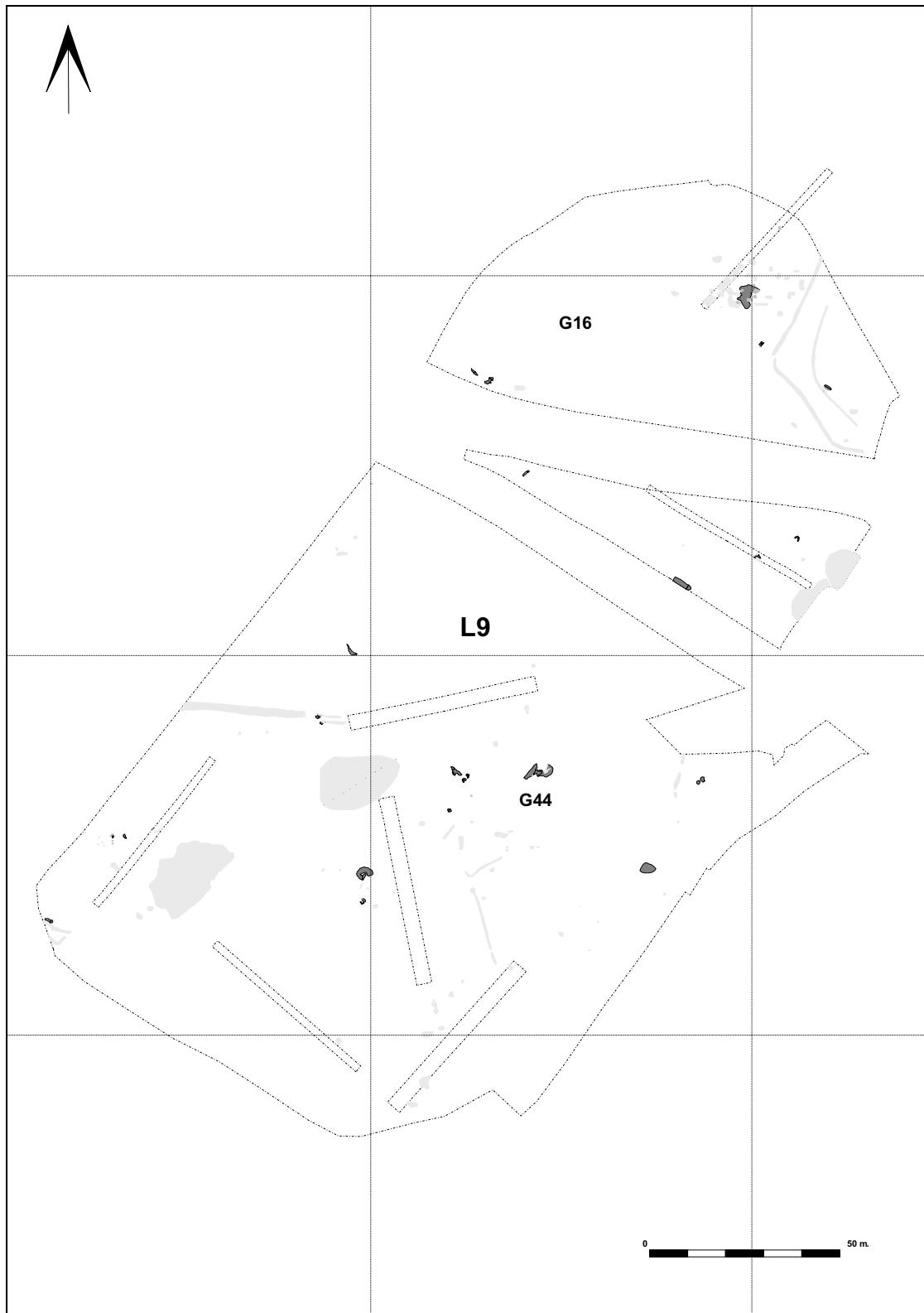


**Figure 1: Site location and all features plan**

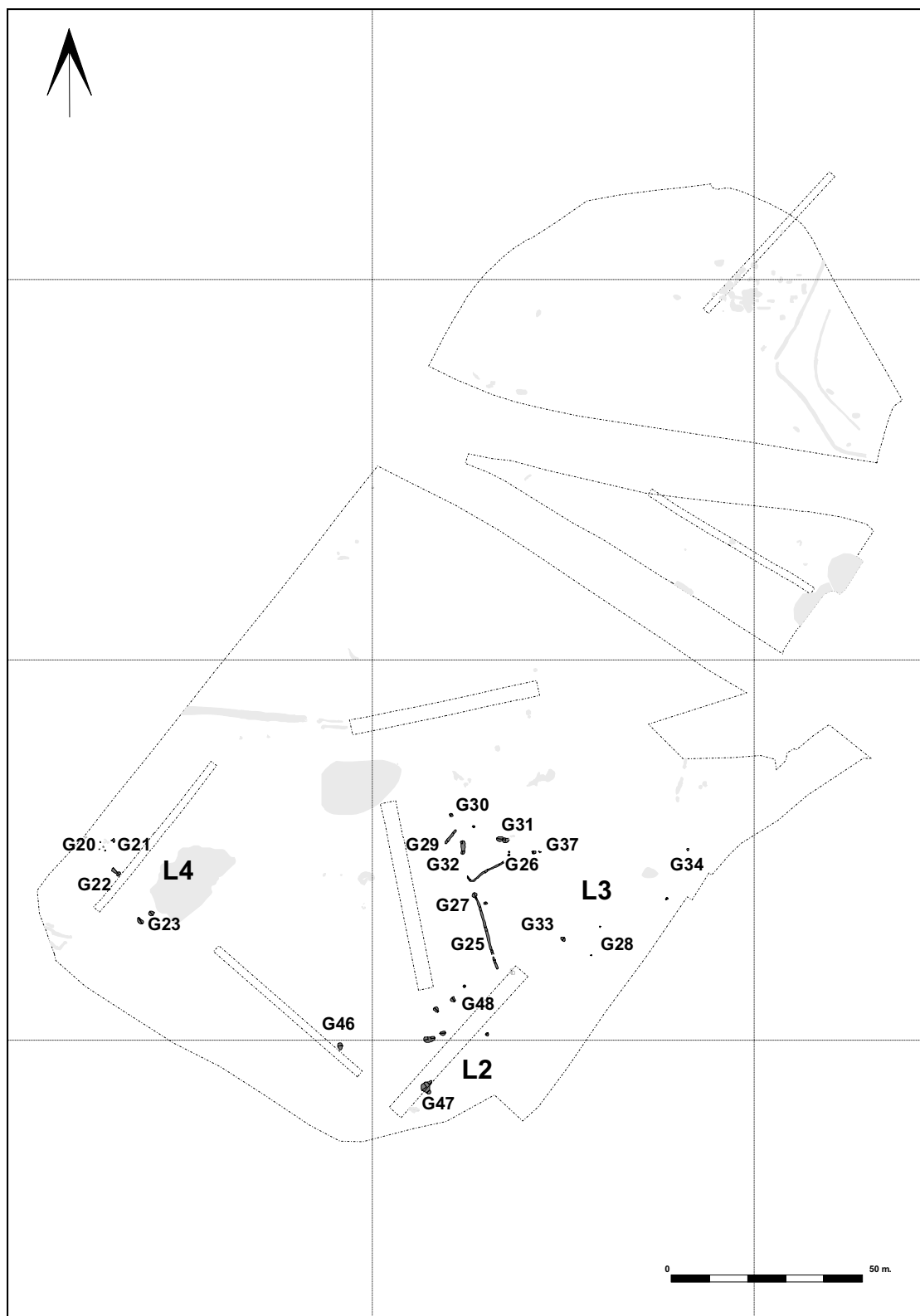
Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358. © Crown Copyright.



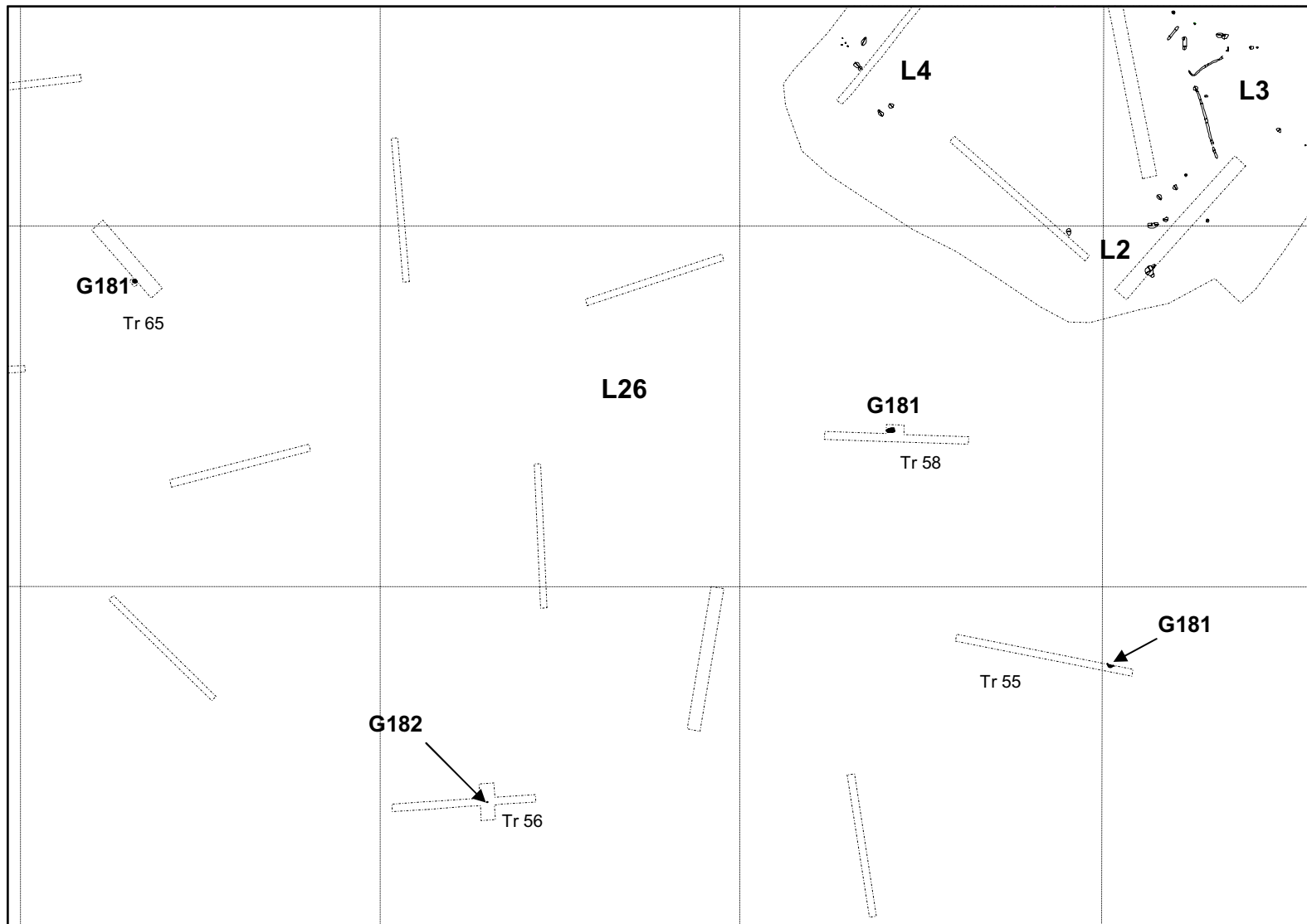
**Figure 2:** Archaeological Zone 1; All features phased plan



**Figure 3:** Archaeological Zone 1; Phase 1: Prehistoric



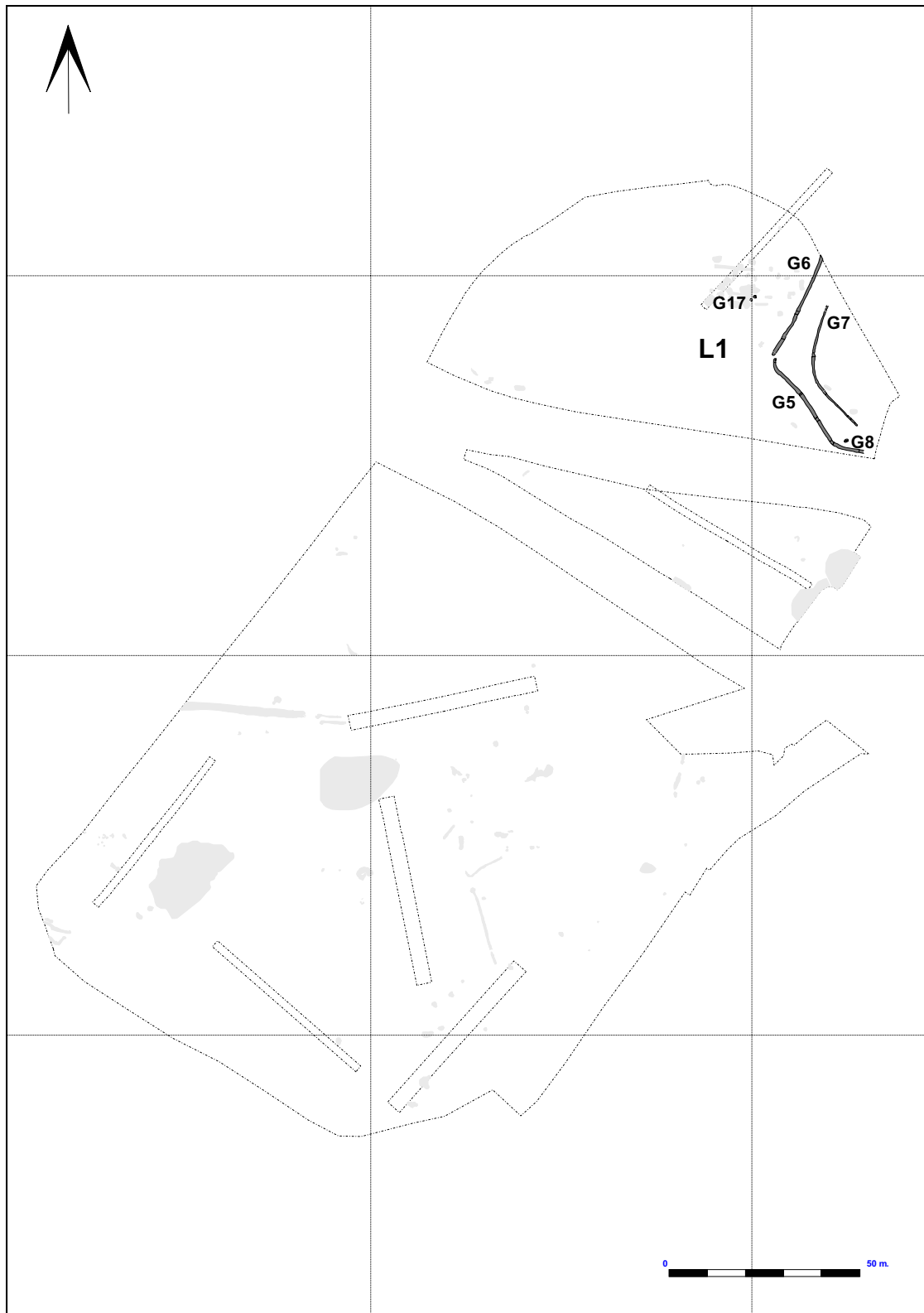
**Figure 4:** Archaeological Zone 1; Phase 2: Early-middle Iron Age



**Figure 5:** Archaeological Zone 1; Phase 2: Early-middle Iron Age

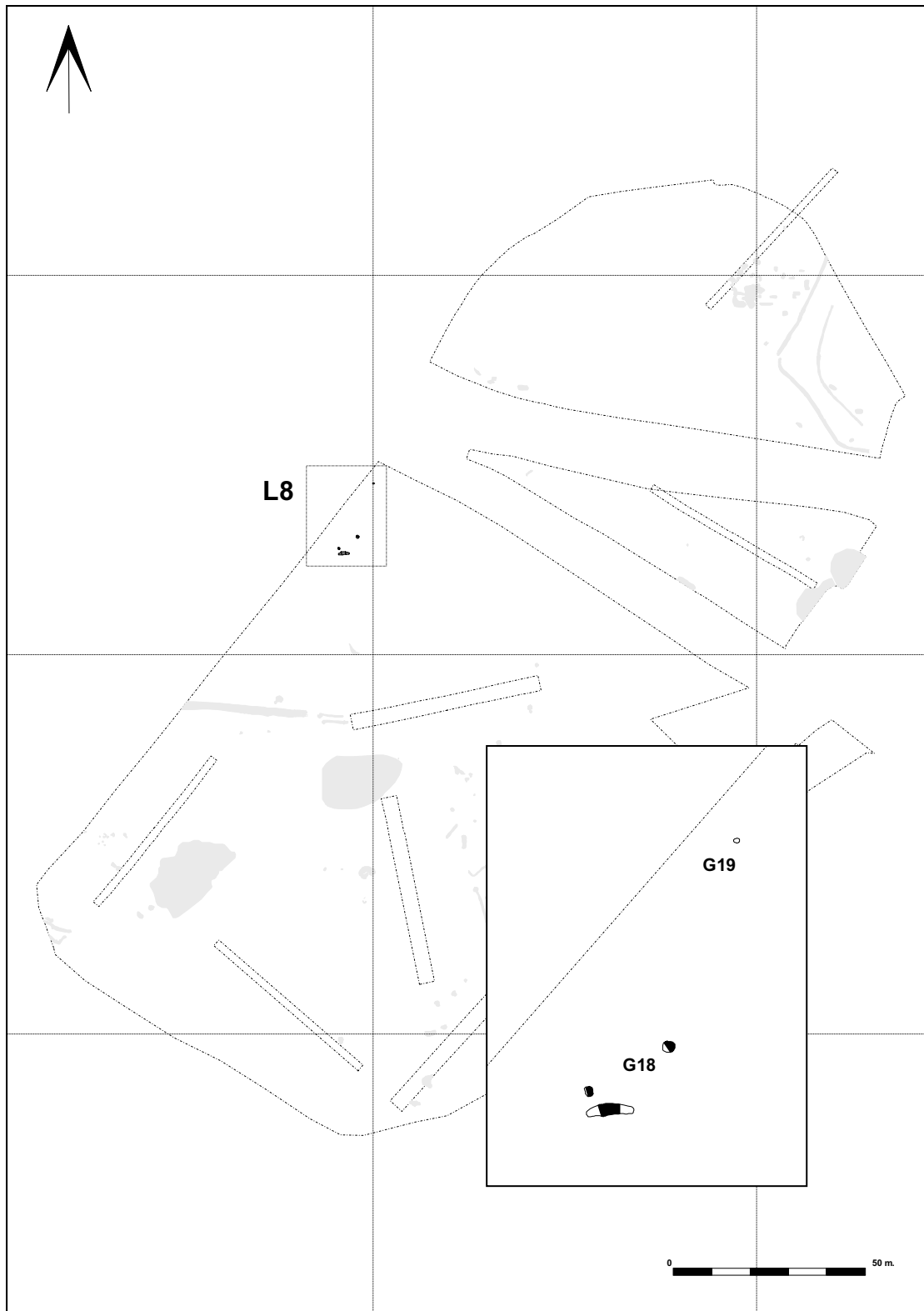


**Figure 6:** Archaeological Zone 1; Phase 3: Late Iron Age-early Romano-British

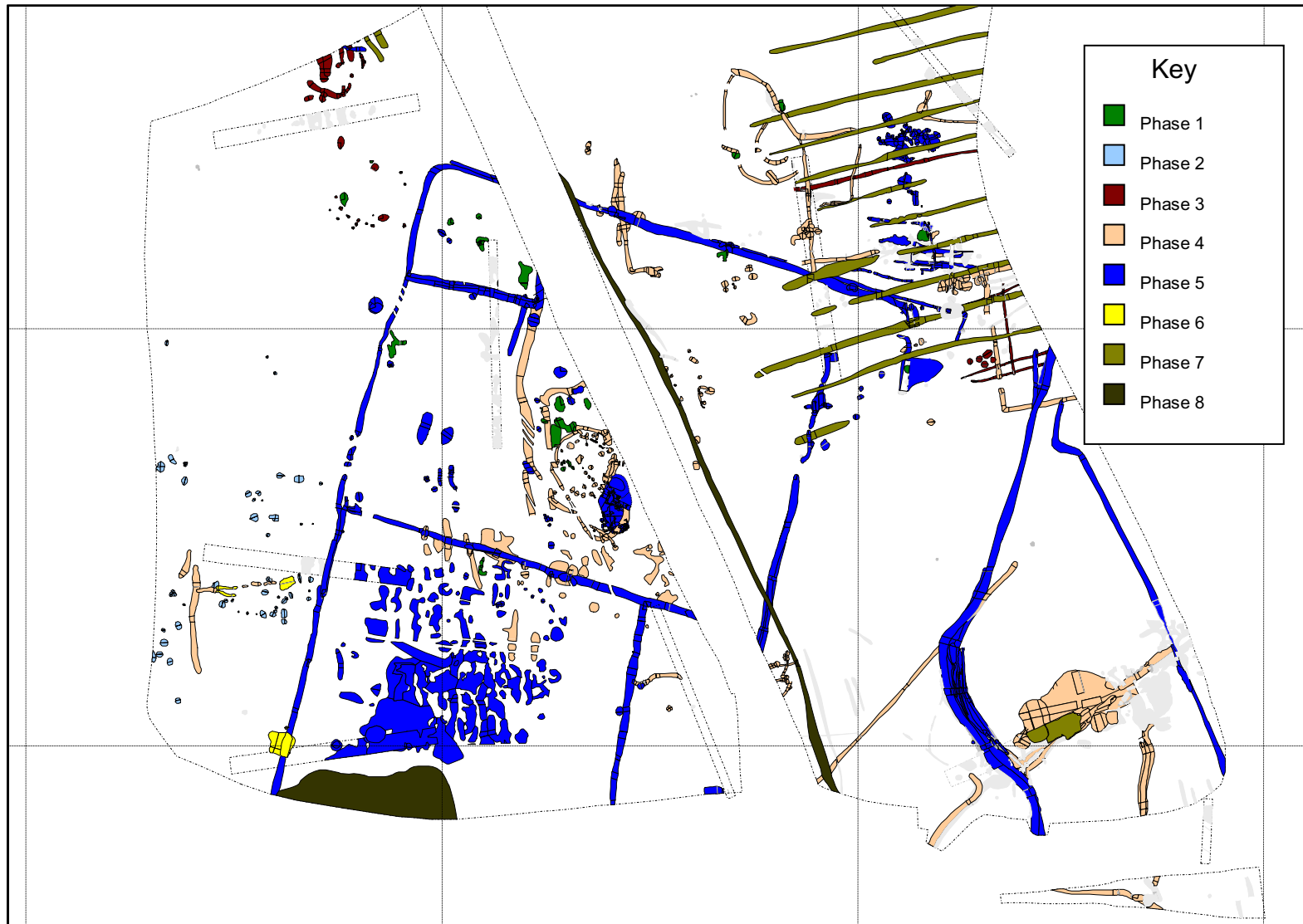


**Figure 7:** Archaeological Zone 1; Phase 4: Romano-British





**Figure 8:** Archaeological Zone 1; Phase 6: Saxon

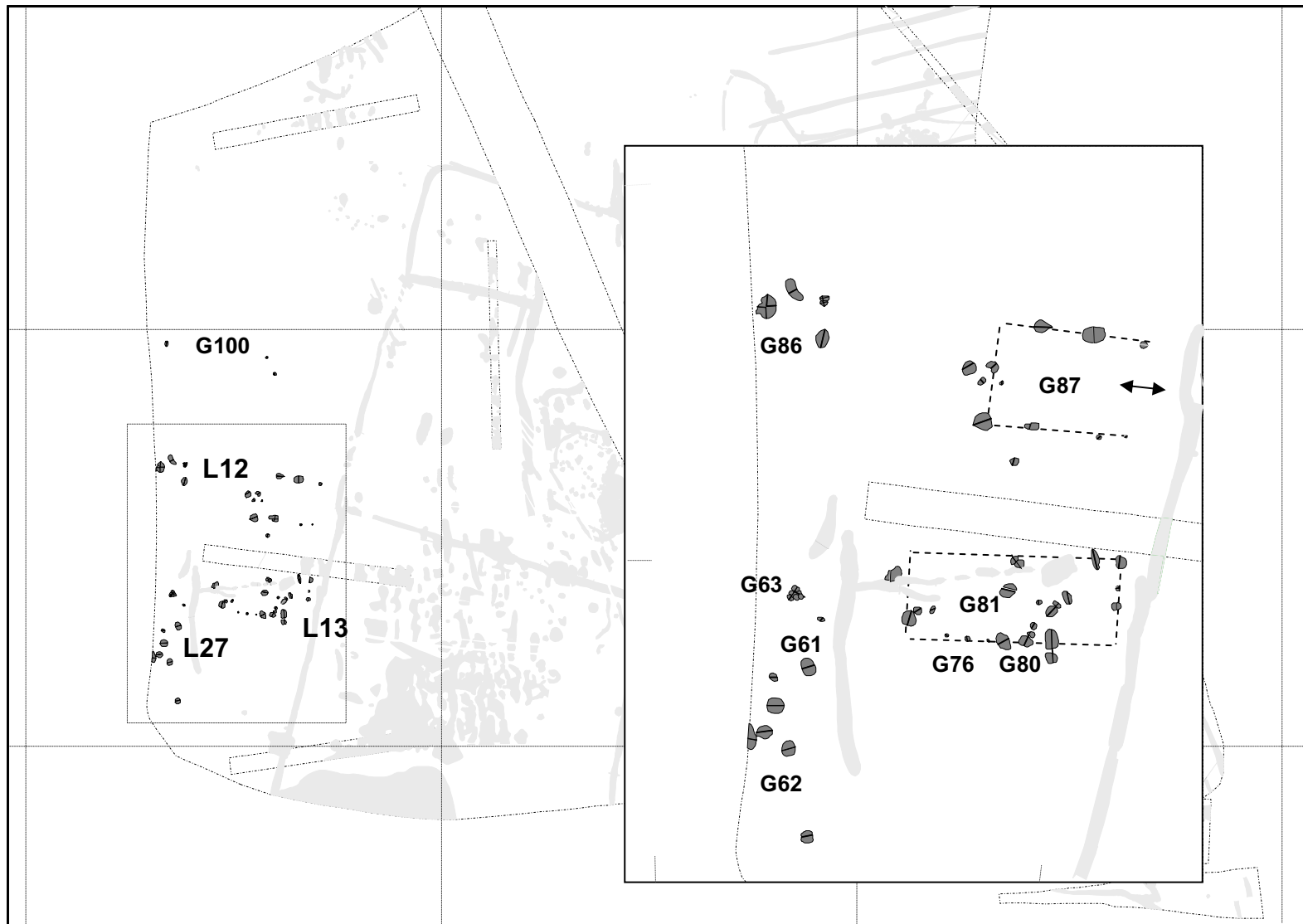


**Figure 9:** Archaeological Zone 2; All features phased plan



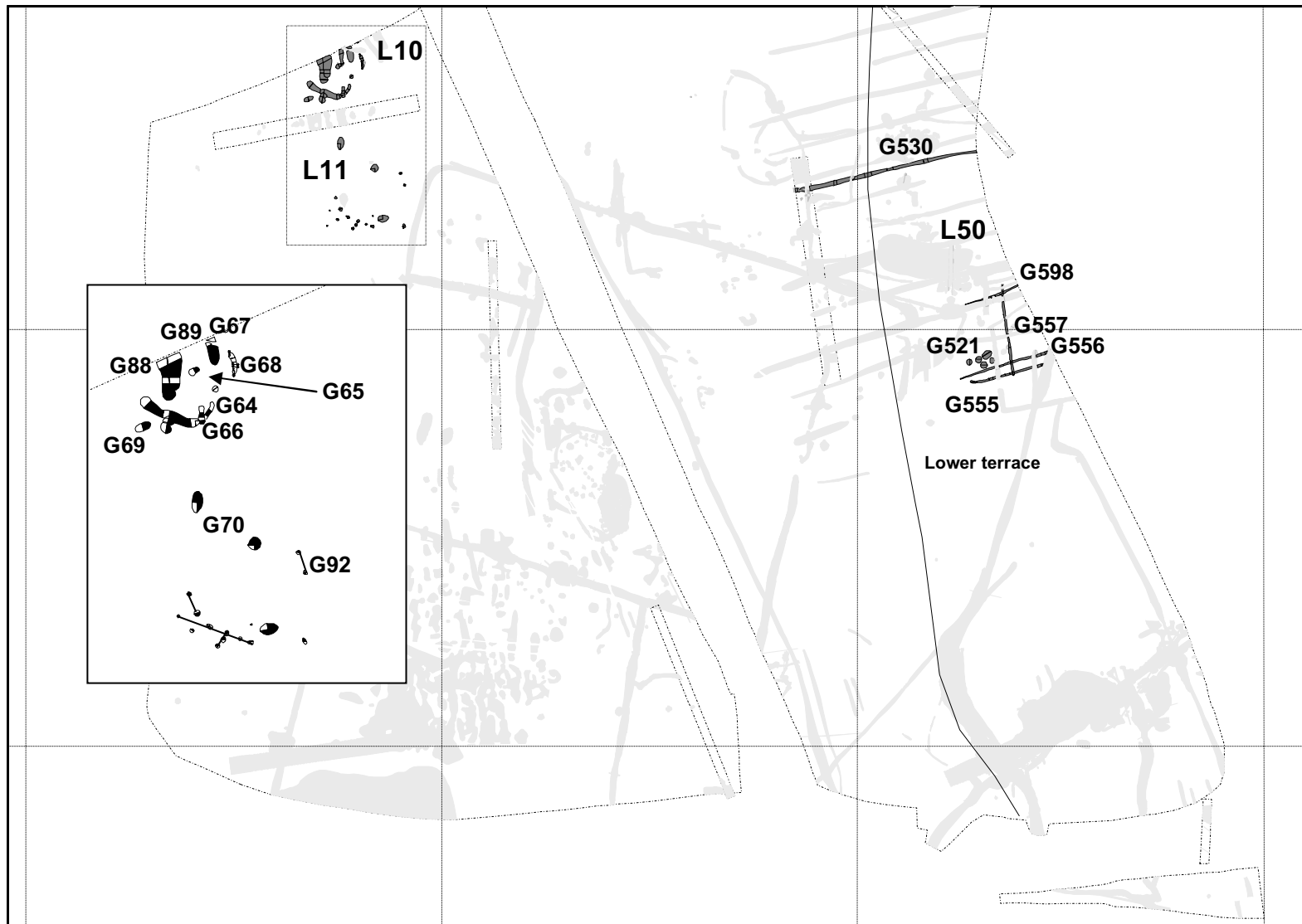
**Figure 10:** Archaeological Zone 2; Phase 1: Prehistoric

*Land at North Brickhill, Bedford, Bedfordshire  
Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design*



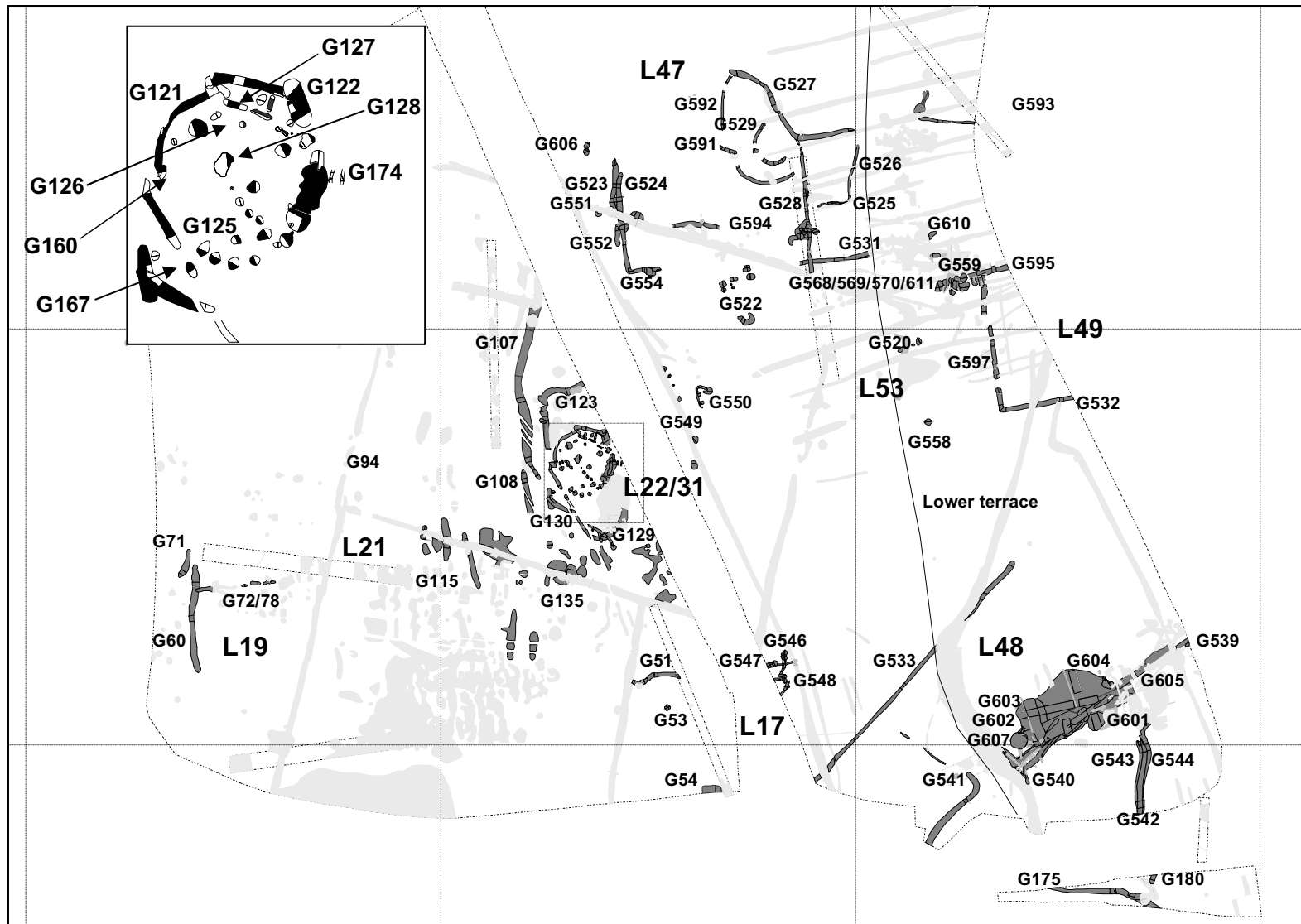
**Figure 11:** Archaeological Zone 2; Phase 2; Early-middle Iron Age

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Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design*

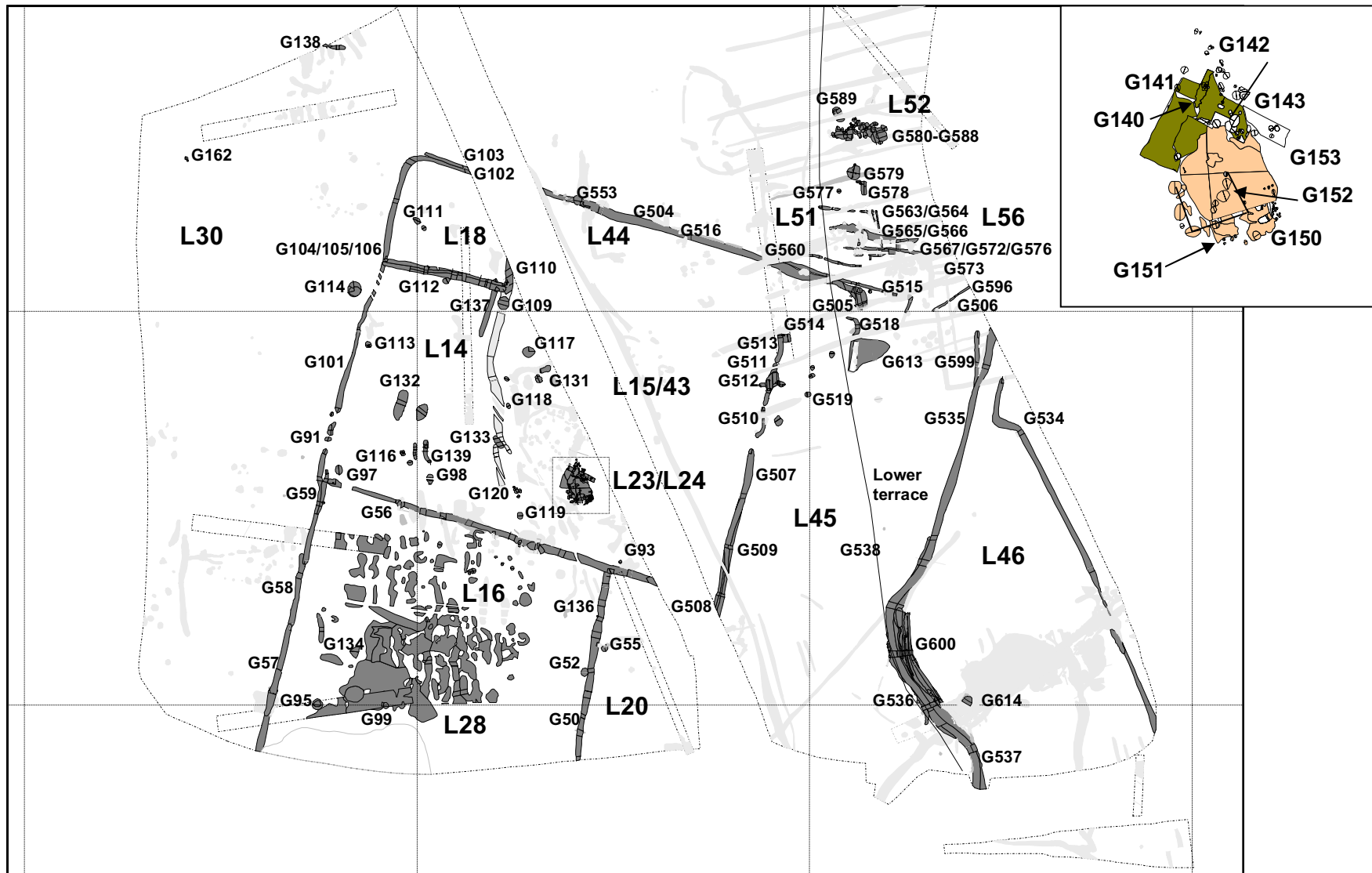


**Figure 12:** Archaeological Zone 2; Phase 3: Late Iron Age-early Roman

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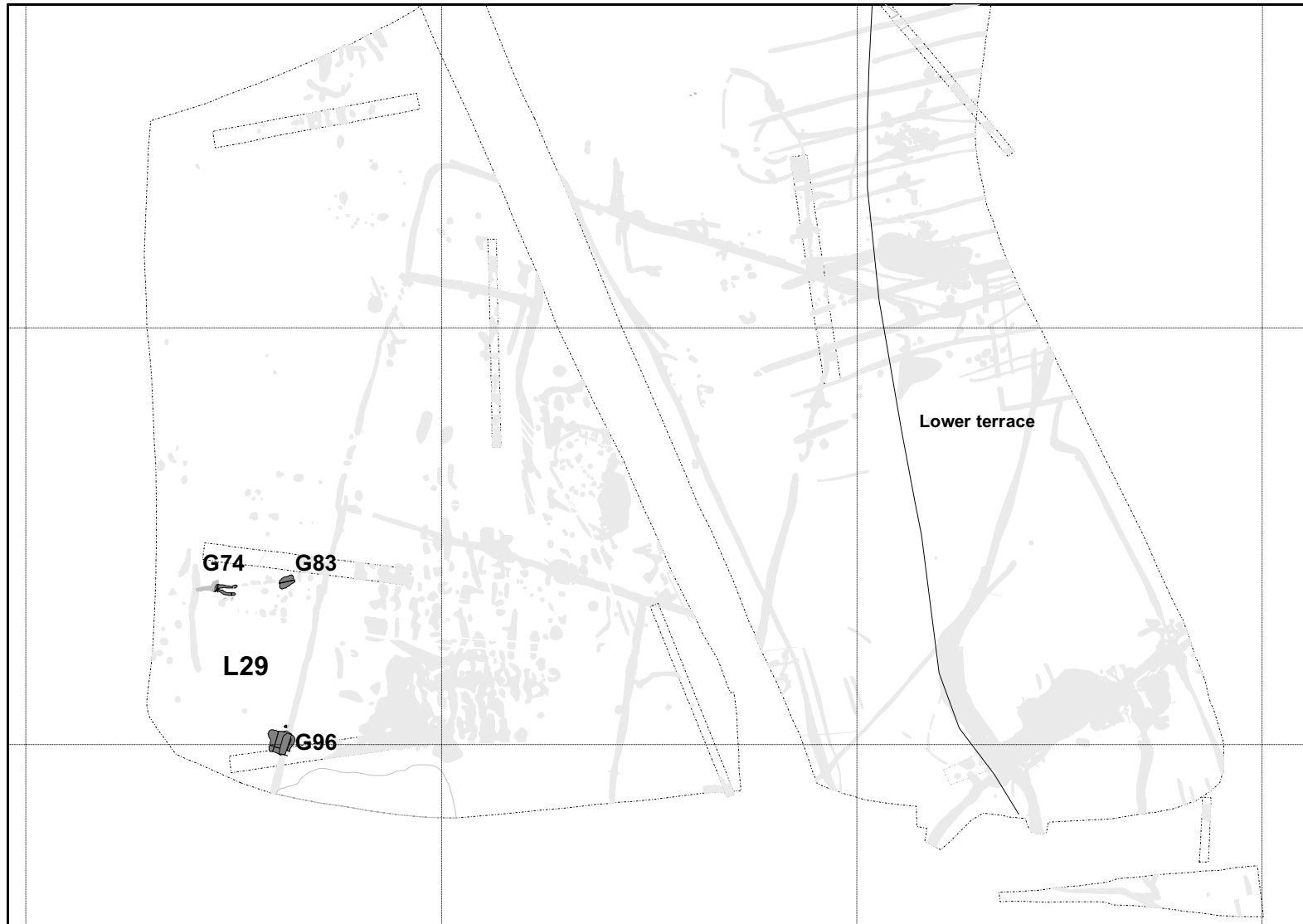


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**Figure 14:** Archaeological Zone 2; Phase 5: Mid-late Romano-British

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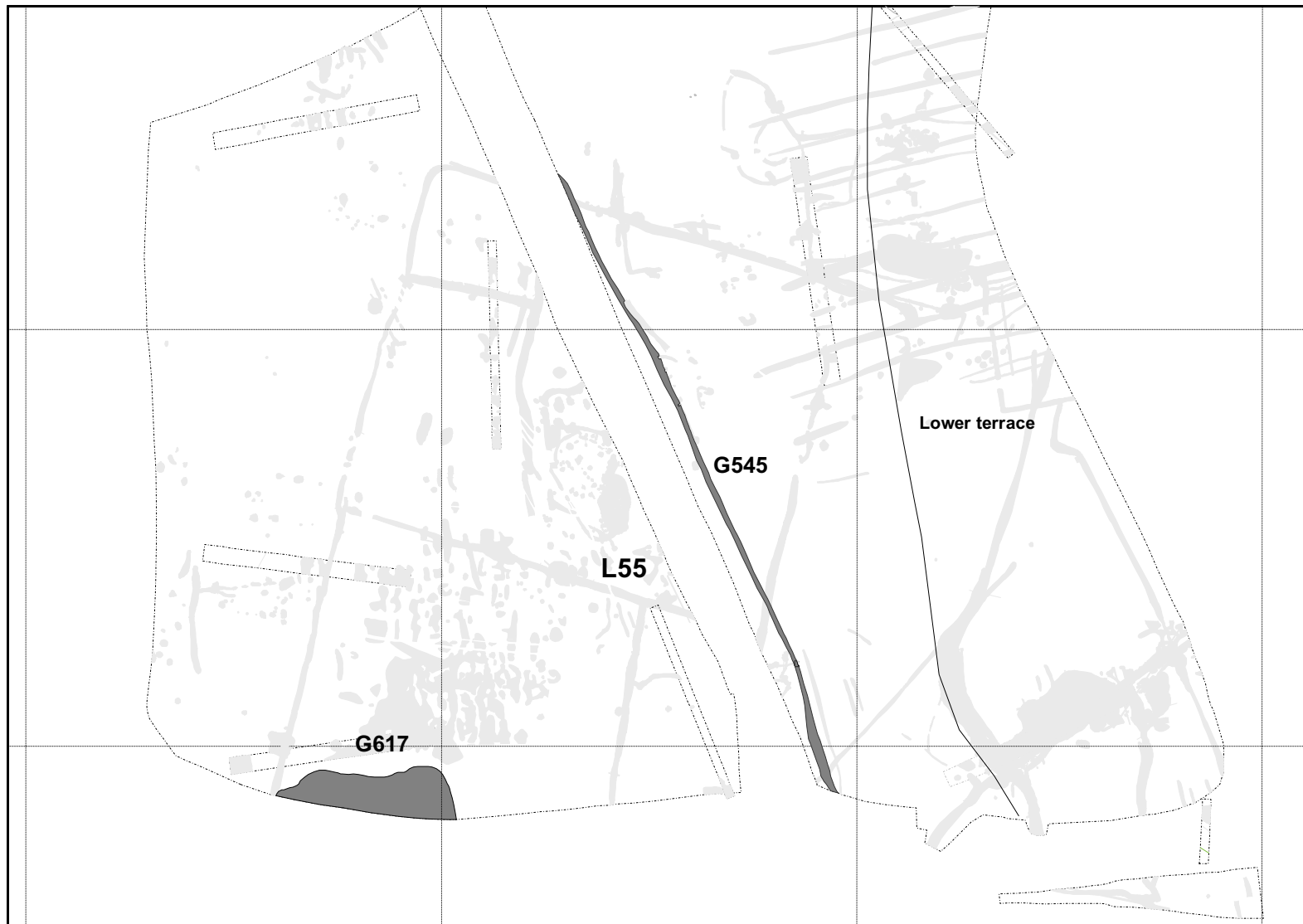


**Figure 15:** Archaeological Zone 2; Phase 6: Saxon





**Figure 16:** Archaeological Zone 2; Phase 7: Medieval



**Figure 17:** Archaeological Zone 2; Phase 8: Post-medieval

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Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design*