Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service

Bedfordshire

REGISTERED · ORGANISATION · IFA

BCAS

Approved CRS
6-6-01

HANDPOST LODGE, LEVERSTOCK GREEN, HERTFORDSHIRE

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

Document 2001/13
Project HPL641

6th March 2001

Produced for:
Costdeal Ltd

Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

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 Written Scheme of Investigation. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) 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.

Acknowledgements

Mike Luke (Project Officer) has prepared this report, assisted by James Pixley (Archaeological Supervisor) and Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer). The initial investigation was undertaken by Tony Walsh (Archaeological Supervisor), assisted by Julian Watters and James Pixley. Monitoring of the groundworks was undertaken by Matt Edgeworth and James Pixley (Archaeological Supervisors).

Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BCAS	Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
CAO	County Archaeology Office of *HCC*
Client	Costdeal Ltd
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority (Dacorum Borough Council)
Procedures Manual	*Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 1997. Bedfordshire County Council
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Structure of report

After the introductory Section 1, this report presents a provisional summary of results (Section 2), followed by a quantification of the various types of evidence (Section 3). Section 4 presents an Updated Project Design which should be read in conjunction with the detailed method statements (Appendix 1) for the analysis, publication and archiving

Non-Technical Summary

This report presents an assessment of the archaeological investigations undertaken at Handpost Lodge, Hertfordshire (both evaluation and those undertaken during house construction). The development area was considered to be archaeologically sensitive at an early stage in the planning process by Hertfordshire County Archaeological Office and a condition requiring such work was attached to planning permission by Dacorum Borough Council. This was in accordance with guidance contained in PPG16 Archaeology and Planning.

All work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation and the BCAS Procedures Manual. This report presents an assessment of the results of the investigation and provides an updated project design for the analysis, publication and dissemination of the results. It adheres to the principles contained in English Heritage 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (MAP2).

The archaeological 'data' recovered from the investigations comprised:

- *Features and deposits- the surviving elements of past human activity, for example the ditches, pits and postpads, and their associated filling deposits.*
- *Artefacts- the fragmentary remains of humanly made objects, most commonly Roman pottery. Significant quantities of Roman building material were also discovered.*
- *Environmental- evidence for the past environment including animals (from bone) and plants (preserved as charred remains).*

The investigations have revealed at least three phases of past human activity:

1. ***Late Iron Age**- comprising a single pit, although the quantity of contemporary pottery within later features suggests activity was more extensive.*
2. ***Early Roman**- two ditches, including one traced across almost the entire development area. One of these contained significant quantities of Roman building material, including brick, roof and flue tiles. The presence of these suggests the construction of a substantial building in the vicinity. The recovery of flue tile indicates one of the rooms may have had an under-floor heating system (hypocaust).*
3. ***Later Roman**- four post pads in an approximate alignment probably represent the foundations for a wall of a timber building.*

The presence of pottery and general building debris is often used by archaeologists to classify sites as Romanised farms (villas). The development area is situated in the vicinity of several Roman villas. Nationally, various attempts have been made to define villa estates and the interaction between them and towns. Due to the large number of known sites in this part of Hertfordshire, including Gorhambury, Gadebridge, Boxmoor and Kings Langley surrounding the Roman town of St. Albans, this area is frequently used in such studies. The new site within the development area, will, therefore add to this discussion and makes the discoveries of more than local and regional importance.

Methodologies and resources required to complete the project are detailed in this document. This will result in a publication within the county-based archaeological journal, with summary notes placed in regional and national publications. Once completed it is hoped the material will be archived with Decorum Heritage Trust, where it will be available for examination, both by interested local people and academics.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning background

The *CAO* of *HCC* advised the Dacorum Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority (*LPA*), prior to the granting of planning permission, that the proposed development area at Handpost Lodge was archaeologically sensitive. Therefore, archaeological evaluation of the land was undertaken prior to, and to assist in the determination of planning consent. When planning permissions (4/2104/98FUL, 4/1699/99FUL, 4/1700/99FUL) were granted by the LPA for the erection of six houses a condition (no. 9) was attached requiring a programme of archaeological investigations to be undertaken in advance of development. This is in line with the guidance contained in PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning*.

1.2 Project background

The archaeological evaluation of the development area was undertaken by *BCAS* in July 1998 in order to assess the archaeological implication of the proposed scheme and develop an appropriate mitigation strategy[1]. This comprised:

- desk-based assessment
- excavation of trial trenches / test pits

The evaluation indicated that the proposed development area contained archaeological remains. One of the conditions of planning permission required that no development take place until an agreed programme of archaeological investigation had been implemented.

However, groundworks commenced in January 2000 without compliance to the reserved matters in respect of 4/2104/98FUL. Specifically there was no agreement from the *LPA* or *CAO* to a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation (WSI) and therefore there was no discharge of condition no. 9 on 4/1699/99FUL and 4/1700/99FUL.

At a site meeting on 10th February 2000 between Mr T Hurley (*CAO*), Mr D Trimingham (Phillips Planning Services Ltd) and Mr D Shotliff (*BCAS*) it was agreed that a WSI would be prepared by BCAS[2]. This was approved by the *CAO* on the 14th February 2000 and subsequently submitted to the LPA.

The WSI (section 2.2) required two elements of archaeological fieldwork:

- Recording archaeological features/deposits visible in the exposed sides/sections of the house plots (undertaken between 24th and 25th February 2000).

[1] BCAS 1998, *Archaeological Evaluation at Handpost Lodge, Leverstock Green, Hertfordshire* (Report 1998/48)

[2] BCAS 2000, *Handpost Lodge, Leverstock Green, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological recording action* (Report 2000/13)

- Monitoring of all groundworks (including service trenches) and the investigation/recording of any archaeological features/deposits revealed (undertaken between 7th March 2000 and 6th February 2001).

After the completion of fieldwork the WSI (section 2.3) required:

- assessment of the results derived from the evaluation and archaeological recording associated with house construction. This would include a proposal for publication, dissemination and archiving of the results. This document represents the Assessment and Updated Project Design.

1.3 *Site location* (Fig. 1)

The development is located within the former garden of Handpost Lodge, situated within Westwick Row to the east of Leverstock Green (now part of Hemel Hempstead), Hertfordshire. The development area is 0.45 hectares in extent and is situated at TL 089068.

Topographically the site is located on the plateau approximately midway between the rivers Ver (east) and Gade (west). To the east the land dips in a southeasterly direction to form the start of a shallow valley running through Westwick Hall towards the south of the Gorhambury estate. No streams occur today within *c.*2km of the development area, but there are a number of springs and wells. The land within the development area slopes gently from 101m AOD at the southwest to 97m AOD at the northeast.

Glaciation has deposited pockets of gravel and sand within the clay with flints that overlies the chalk. The clay is very thick around Leverstock Green and has been quarried for brick and tile manufacture.

The evaluation report presented a summary of the archaeological sites in the vicinity[1] and this is not repeated here.

1.4 *Site conditions during investigations* (Fig. 2)

No contractors were onsite while the initial recording of archaeological features within the house plots had, already, been partly terraced into the underlying clay and substantial dumping of brick rubble undertaken. Therefore only the sides/sections exposed around the edges of each house plot were available for examination.

Although the process of digging and backfilling service trenches dug by a contractor was rapid, a sufficient period of time was available for archaeological examination. An archaeological attendance was maintained only during the digging of all service trenches where there was a possibility of the presence of archaeological remains, but not, for example, in the vicinity of the former Handpost Lodge buildings where any such remains will have been destroyed.

The archaeological investigations examined the majority of the development area (as Fig. 2 indicates). However, most of these took place in the restricted area of narrow trenches.

2. PROVISIONAL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

2.1 Introduction

The structural records (context sheets, plans etc) together with artefact, ecofact and SMR information have been rapidly assessed to provide a provisional chronological summary.

A provisional summary of the combined results of the evaluation and subsequent investigations is provided below within broad chronological periods.

2.2 Prehistoric

Although Bronze Age artefacts have been recovered from Westwick Row (SMR 602), only one flint flake was recovered from the topsoil during the evaluation.

2.3 Late 'Belgic' Iron Age

2.3.1 The Pit

Nearly a quarter of the pottery assemblage was dated to this period suggesting significant activity in this area. However, the majority occurred residually within Roman features. Only one feature, pit [82], produced a consistent pottery assemblage of this period.

The pit was observed within one of the drainage trenches towards the centre of the development area. It had clearly been truncated by construction works but would have been substantial, with a surviving depth of 0.7m and width at base of 0.5m. It had three fills, the lower two sterile of finds, although they did contain occasional charcoal flecking. The upper fill contained frequent charcoal, fired clay fragments and 27 sherds of Late 'Belgic' Iron Age pottery.

Given the steep sides of this pit it is possible it served a storage function and was reused for rubbish disposal.

2.4 Roman

The majority of the pottery and features discovered during the investigations date to the Roman period. The features investigated comprised two ditches (one due to its size probably a boundary) and four post pads. The latter probably represents the foundations of Roman timber building. A more substantial building in the vicinity is indicated by the discovery of Roman building material (including *tegulae*, *imbreces*, bricks and flue tile) and one fragment of window glass. The development area is located within 2.5km of substantial Roman buildings/villas at Gorhambury, Wood Lane and Breakspears. In addition a number of undated cropmark sites occur within 1km. These (SMR 8545, 8548 and 9038) may be Roman (or Iron Age) in date and suggest a fairly intensively occupied landscape during this period.

2.4.1 The Boundary Ditch

A major boundary ditch was located centrally within the development area. It was aligned approximately west to east and traced for a distance of *c.* 22m. There was no evidence for the ditch in the drainage trenches positioned at the limits of the development area, although the deposits in these had been subject to disturbance. It was possible to dig four hand-excavated segments across the ditch.

The western most segment [86] within a drainage trench had clearly been heavily truncated by construction work. It was 1.5m in width and 0.3m deep with concave sides and an irregular base. The shallow depth suggests significant truncation, which may be explanation as to why this feature did not survive in the three drainage ditches dug across its alignment to the west. The surviving fill (87) comprised a mid brown grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecking and occasional small and medium stones.

To the east of the segment described above, the ditch was examined during the evaluation. It [14] had suffered far less truncation being 0.8m deep and was 1.8m wide, with a comparable profile. The primary fill (17) contained moderate charcoal flecking, animal bone, five sherds of Roman pottery, a nail and *tegulae*, *imbreces*, brick and flue tile. The secondary fill (16) comprised a light yellow brown clay, distinct from the normal dark grey deposits. This, the presence of occasional small stones and large flint nodules, the asymmetrical nature of its deposition and the absence of artefacts, suggests it may have been derived from a bank originally situated to the south. The tertiary fill (15) contained frequent charcoal fragments (Ecofact Sample no 1), three sherds of late Iron Age pottery, 73 sherds of Roman pottery, an iron nail and a glass bead (RA 1). It also contained *tegulae* and brick.

Approximately 9m to the east, the ditch [79] was recorded during the initial investigation. It had a similar width but at only 0.4m deep had clearly been truncated by construction works. The lowest fill (78) was similar to the bank material described above. Rather surprisingly no artefacts were recovered from this segment.

The eastern most segment [62] at 0.35m deep had also clearly suffered truncation. It appeared to be 2.5m in wide, but it is uncertain if this is genuine and perhaps reflects its proximity to a terminal, or that it was investigated obliquely to its alignment. The primary fill (71) (Ecofact Sample no 2) contained three sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and nine sherds of Roman pottery. The secondary fill (65) was slightly comparable to the possible bank material discovered to the west (Ecofact Sample no 4). It contained three sherds of late Iron Age pottery, 23 sherds of Roman pottery and fragments of fired clay. The tertiary fill (64) included charcoal flecks (Ecofact Sample no 3) and other occupation material. This included four sherds of late Iron Age, 46 sherds of Roman pottery, *tegulae*, brick, fired clay and a fragment of window glass (RA 2). Metal objects included two hobnails (RA 3 and 6), an ordinary nail and an iron hasp (RA5). The upper fill (63) contained three sherds of late Iron Age and ten sherds of Roman pottery, *tegulae*, brick, fired clay, two iron

nails and a tiny quantity of slag.

Although the digging of a drainage trench to the east was observed no evidence for the ditch was located. While it is possible the ditch had terminated before reaching the trench, it is more likely it had been removed by construction work in this area.

2.4.2 A Second Ditch

During the initial investigation a second ditch [67] was observed to the north of the development area. It was only visible in the side of the house plot in an area heavily disturbed prior to the commencement of archaeological investigation. Its width of 2.7m in relation to its shallow depth of 0.25m suggests it may have been investigated at an oblique angle. It could have been aligned from west to east, parallel to the boundary ditch to the south. Its single fill (68) was comparable to those filling the boundary ditch and contained three sherds of Roman pottery and eight brick fragments.

2.4.3 Structural features

Investigations of boundary ditch [79] lead to the identification of four post pads, two truncating its upper fills. The majority [90, 92 and 94] were sub-circular in shape, under 0.7m in diameter, with steep sides and filled with irregular flint nodules in a clay matrix. They appear to get progressively smaller to the east but this is likely to be the result of truncation due to construction works.

In contrast to these one sub rectangular cut [76] was identified. This was 1.3m in length and 0.3m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Its primary fill (74) was comparable to the sub-circular features and contained four sherds of late Iron Age and one sherd of Roman pottery.

Although not in a perfectly straight alignment it is likely these features represent post pads supporting a timber wall of a building at least 10m in length. A parallel alignment was not located to indicate the width of the structure. The building is clearly later than the boundary ditch suggesting it is not associated with the large quantities of building material recovered from the ditch fill.

2.5 Medieval

The development area is situated within the manor of Westwick, which is first mentioned in 10th century documentary sources when it was granted to St. Albans abbey. Westwick Cottage 150m south east of Handpost Lodge has been dated by dendrochonology to AD 1184-1219 and is presumed to be the site of the manor (documents deposited in SMR).

During the watching brief only one feature of possible medieval date was identified. This [72] truncated the boundary ditch [62] and due to its gently sloping sides, 1m width and shallow depth (0.22m) it is interpreted as a possible furrow. It was not located beyond this one area and no other similar

features were located parallel to it. Its fill (73) contained one fragment of post-medieval tile.

2.6 Post-medieval

The map regression study, undertaken as part of the evaluation, indicated that a cottage constructed in the late 18th Century was the first recorded building on the site. The map evidence suggests that this was constructed partly over the roadway of Westwick Row. At this time the settlement comprised an arrangement of scattered, isolated cottages and farms adjoining Westwick Row. The footings of this cottage were not located during the investigations. They were presumably truncated initially by the construction of Handpost Lodge, and later by the construction works associated with the present development. The surface and brick feature in Testpit 5 may have been associated with the cottage.

2.7 Modern

The present Handpost Lodge replaced the cottage in the 1930s. The construction of this, a pond and associated terracing for its gardens resulted in the truncation of deposits into the natural clay. During the evaluation only a shallow depth of topsoil was located, and this directly overlay the natural clay. A subsoil layer did survive to the south-east of the development area and it may be significant this was where the majority of the archaeological features were identified. It is perhaps surprising that only a small quantity of artefacts, including pottery and one fragment of quernstone (RA 4), were recovered from topsoil within the development area. It is possible much of this material was brought in from elsewhere during the landscaping of the gardens.

Handpost Lodge was demolished at the end of 1999 and much of the site was terraced in advance of the construction of six new houses. Archaeological investigations were therefore only undertaken after considerable disturbance to the site had taken place.

3. DATA QUANTIFICATION

3.1 Introduction

The data created during the investigations can be been divided into three main classes; structural, artefactual and ecofactual.

Structural records comprise those compiled during the evaluation and watching brief. Generally structural records relate to the identification of individual events such as digging a ditch, primary infilling etc.

Artefactual records comprise records compiled on the human-made objects recovered during the investigations. These have been divided for ease of discussion into pottery/brick/tile (the bulk of the finds) and other artefacts (all non-ceramic).

Ecofactual records comprise natural materials found within the context of human settlement. These can yield information on the nature of the human activity, its environment and setting. Ecofactual data from the investigations includes animal bones and charred plant remains).

Each class of data has been provisionally quantified to provide a measure not only of its quantity but also its type, its provenance within the site spatially and chronologically and also its condition. All these factors are important in deciding the potential of the material for analysis.

3.2 Structural data

3.2.1 Quantity of records

Table 1 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 (plans), a profile drawing through a feature and its fills (section) and photographs.

	Evaluation	Watching Brief	Total
Contexts	19	36	55
Plan Sheets	1	4	5
Sections	1	5	6
Photographs	15	21	36

***Table 1** Quantity of site structural records*

3.2.2 Context types

The context type defines the basic characteristics of a deposit or feature.

Context Type	Evaluation	Watching Brief	Sub Total	%
Cut	2	12	14	25.4
Fill	3	17	20	36.4
Layer	14	7	21	38.2
			55	100

***Table 2** Contexts by type*

Table 2 indicates that 57% of the contexts were cuts or fills. Proportionally, few cuts contained more than one fill. The remaining layers represent topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits.

3.2.3 Feature types

This defines the basic field interpretation of the feature containing component contexts. The cut and fills of a given feature will be given the same feature number and type i.e. a ditch and its fills will all receive the feature type D.

Feature Type		Evaluation	Watching Brief	Sub Total	%
D	Ditch	4	14	18	32.7
F	Furrow	0	2	2	3.6
P	Pit	0	4	4	7.3
S	Structural element	1	9	10	18.2
SS	Stone Setting	1	0	1	1.8
CD	Construction Debris	0	2	2	3.6
ES	External Surface	1	0	1	1.8
EC	External Cultivation	5	3	8	14.6
NS	Natural Strata	7	2	9	16.4
				55	100

***Table 3** Contexts by feature type*

The majority of contexts were assigned to the feature type ditches (Table 3). However, this figure is a biased because every excavated ditch segment received a separate cut and fill numbers. Only two lengths of ditches were located. Similarly only one pit was located. The number of contexts assigned to external cultivation (topsoil) or natural strata reflects the number of trenches/test pits undertaken during the evaluation.

The construction debris can be attributed to the current housing development and is therefore not archaeological. The stone setting and external surface are from a possible outbuilding associated with the original Handpost lodge built in the 1930s.

3.2.4 Processual interpretation

Each context is interpreted in terms of the circumstances under which it was formed in relation to its feature type. The three basic types are construction (C), use (U) and disuse (D). These can be augmented in less clear cases by combined types such as use/disuse (UD) or construction/use (CU).

Processual types indicate the potential information, which a context will provide in relation to the original form and date of a feature (Table 4). As such it indicates the reliability of any artefacts to provide an approximate date for feature construction. Identifying processual types also facilitates in the grouping of associated contexts during analysis.

	Evaluation	Watching Brief	Sub Total	%
C	3	16	19	34.5
CU	1	0	1	1.8
U	0	4	4	7.3
UD	14	13	27	49.1
D	1	3	4	7.3
			55	100

***Table 4** Contexts by processual type*

Although Table 4 indicates a high proportion of the contexts (26%) were categorised as construction, this is misleading in that this overwhelmingly comprises cuts. Cuts are *de facto* construction, but will never have dated material attached. Primary use deposits constituted only 8% of the total. Use/disuse and disuse made up the majority of the deposits (63%) and these will indicate secondary and tertiary activities in relation to the feature.

3.2.5 Date of archaeological deposits based on artefacts

Artefacts recovered from the various archaeological deposits provide an indication (a spotdate) of the chronological period to which they are associated (Table 5). The following represents a tabulated breakdown of dated archaeological deposits by spotdate.

Feature	Feature Type	Context	Processual	Spotdate
11	Topsoil	11	UD	Post-medieval
14	Ditch	15	D	Roman
14	Ditch	17	UD	Roman
62	Ditch	63	D	Roman
66	Topsoil	66	UD	Roman
67	Ditch	68	UD	Roman
76	Post pad	74	C	Late Iron Age
81	Topsoil	81	UD	Late/post-medieval
82	Pit	82	C	Modern
85	Pit	84	D	Late Iron Age

Table 5: *Date of archaeological deposits based only on artefacts*

3.3 Artefactual Data

3.3.1 Pottery

3.3.1.1 Quantification

A total of 233 sherds, weighing 2.8kg were recorded. Of these sixteen sherds (66g) derived from the residues of sieved ecofactual samples. Unless stated, all quantitative statements in this assessment are based on sherd count.

3.3.1.2 Provenance

Over ninety-three percent of the assemblage derives from the fills of cut features, predominantly a single ditch and pit (Table 6). The material mainly represents secondary dumping of occupation material, and cannot be directly associated with the use of these features. The composition of the assemblage suggests that the pottery was subject to some post-depositional disturbance. Overall fragmentation is fairly high (average sherd weight 12g), and only ditch segment [14] producing in excess of 1kg of material.

Feature Type	Sherd No.	% Total
Ditch	186	79.8
Pit	27	11.6
Structural element	5	2.1
Ploughsoil	4	1.8
Un-stratified	11	4.7
Total	**233**	**100.0**

Table 6 *Quantity of pottery by feature type and sherd count*

3.3.1.3 Range and Variety: the Pottery Type Series

Fabrics are listed below (Table 7) in approximate chronological order, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by BCAS. Given the close proximity of the development area to the published Roman site at Gorhambury, attempts have been made to correlate fabric types with those in the report for this site[3] (comparisons based only on written descriptions). Bracketed figures represent total sherd number for each period.

[3] Parminter, Y, 1990, 'The Pottery' in D. Neal *et al.* Excavation of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval settlement at Gorhambury, St Albans. English Heritage Archaeological Report No. 14, 175-191.

Fabric Type	Common name	Gorhambury Fabric Nos. (after Parminter 1990)	Sherd No.
Late Belgic Iron Age (55)			
Type F05	Grog and shell	111	8
Type F06A	Fine Grog	49	3
Type F06B	Medium Grog	20	8
Type F06C	Coarse Grog	20	13
Type F07	Shell	-	2
Type F09	Sand and Grog	37, 71	17
Type F34	Sandy	-	4
Roman (170)			
Type R	Non-specific Roman	-	1
Type R03B	Gritty whiteware	1	26
Type R05A	Orange sandy	25, 38	5
Type R06B	Coarse greyware	46	33
Type R06C	Fine greyware	16	27
Type R06D	Micaceous greyware	90	11
Type R07B	Sandy blackware	119	1
Type R07C	Gritty blackware	137	15
Type R07D	Sandy	-	1
Type R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	13	4
Type R13	Shell	6	17
Type R18	Pink gritty	-	1
Type R19A	Dressel 20 *amphorae*	4	7
Type R22A	Hadham oxidised ware	11	13
Type R33	Verulamium region *mortaria*	1A	2
Type R36	Orange gritty	21	6
Post-medieval (2)			
Type P01	Glazed Red Earthenware	-	2
Miscellaneous (6)	Unidentified/undatable ware	-	6

***Table 7** Pottery Type Series*

3.3.1.4 Chronological Summary by Pottery Date

The pottery dates predominantly to the early Roman period, with a small proportion of late 'Belgic' Iron Age material. The lower average sherd weight and more abraded condition of the latter in comparison with the former support the suggestion that it is largely residual within later features. Negligible quantities of post-medieval and undatable pottery were also identified.

Late 'Belgic' Iron Age (24% total assemblage)
The majority of the late Iron Age assemblage derived from pit [82]. It comprised sherds in grog and grog/sand tempered fabric types characteristic of the region, *c.f.* Gorhambury[3]. All vessels appear to have been wheel-thrown, although the incidence of diagnostic forms is low, comprising a single everted rim jar. Decoration is restricted to horizontal grooves and/or combing.

Roman (73% total assemblage)
The Roman material dates predominantly from the late first to second century. It was mainly derived from ditch segments [14] and [62]. Coarsewares are represented by a standard range of local greywares (R06), oxidised sandy wares (R05A, R22A, R36) blackwares (R07) and whitewares (R03, R33).

Regional imports are not present in large number. They comprise shelly vessels similar in fabric to those from the Harrold kilns[4] of north Bedfordshire, and late Roman colour coat vessels from the Nene Valley. Continental imports are represented by seven sherds from Spanish Dressel 20 *amphorae*. Surprisingly, no samian ware was recovered.

Diagnostic forms include flanged and reeded rim bowls, everted, bead and triangular rim jars, single examples of cordoned and necked jars, an everted rim beaker, a dog dish, *amphorae*, and a probable *mortarium*. Decorative elements are restricted to horizontal grooves, simple zonal burnishing or burnished lattice motifs.

Vessels recovered are indicative of a domestic assemblage, comprising tablewares and cooking pots, suggesting the accumulation of settlement debris.

3.3.2 Ceramic Building Material

Fifty-nine fragments of ceramic building material weighing 5.5kg were recovered (Table 8). The majority are of Roman date, although five fragments of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile were recovered from furrow [72] and topsoil.

The majority of the Roman material derives from the boundary ditch segments [14] and [62]. It comprised *tegulae*, *imbreces*, bricks and combed box flue. Fragments of the latter bear random incised marks on the edges, but these do not appear to be graffiti or signatures[5]. All the tile is sand tempered, uniformly oxidised and fairly abraded. Although not located within structural features or associated with the post pads, their recovery suggests the presence of a substantial Roman building with hypocausted rooms in the vicinity.

Feature Type	Brick & Tile no./wght (g)	Fired clay no./wght (g)	Total no./wght (g)	% Total frag count
Ditch	44:4805	25:395	69:5200	77.0
Pit	1:26	3:92	4:118	4.5
Topsoil	6:228		6:228	6.8
Furrow	1:42		1:42	3.7
Unstratified	7:367		7:367	8.0
Total	**59:5468**	**28:487**	**87:5955**	**100.0**

***Table 8** Ceramic building material by feature type, fragment count and weight*

Twenty-eight fired clay fragments weighing 487g were recovered, mainly from boundary ditch segment [62]. The majority of these occur in an oxidised sandy fabric, and some pieces may represent highly degraded Roman brick fragments. Pieces of a grog and organic tempered ?'Belgic' brick were also identified, but only a small number of others exhibit edges/shapes.

[4] Brown, A, 1994, 'A Romano-British Shell-Gritted Pottery and Tile Manufacturing Site at Harrold' *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 21

[5] Brodribb, G, 1987, *Roman brick and tile*

3.3.3 Non-Ceramics

A total of six registered artefacts (RA) and four iron nails were recovered. Processing and sorting of ecofactual samples produced one additional artefact. The majority of these artefacts (over 90%) derives from the boundary ditch fills (Table 9). They probably represent either accidental loss, in the case of personal items, or, in the case of domestic items, the redeposition of settlement debris. Despite extensive metal detecting only a single quernstone fragment was recovered from the topsoil.

RA No.	Description	Feature no.	Context
1	Glass cylinder bead	14	15
2	Window glass fragment	62	64
3	Iron hobnail	62	64
4	Lava quernstone fragment	81	81
5	Iron hasp	62	64
6	Iron hobnail	62	64

***Table 9** Registered artefacts*

The incomplete cylinder bead (RA 1) in opaque blue glass was recovered from boundary ditch segment [14]. It is a type that occurs throughout the Roman period, becoming more common after the 2nd century AD[6]. All metal objects need to be submitted for x-ray to assist in the clarification of form and function, and as part of the archive requirement.

A single fragment of ferrous slag (2g) recovered from ditch [62] is undatable. Its association with Roman pottery and ceramic building material suggests the slag may be of a similar date, but this cannot be demonstrated with any certainty.

[6] Guido, M, 1978, The Glass Beads of the Prehistoric and Roman Periods in Britain and Ireland, *Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries London.* No XXXV.

3.4 Ecofactual Data

3.4.1 Environmental samples

A total of four samples, ranging between 6-8 litres in volume, were taken during fieldwork to assess the environmental potential of the site. These were processed by bulk water flotation with flots collected onto 500$_{\mu}$ mesh sieves. The residues were sorted for artefacts and only three samples produced flots, approximately 5ml in volume. Flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnification of x10 and x20. Only charrred wood was recovered (no charred seeds or molluscs).

Sample	Feature type	Feature no.	Context	Process.	Charred Wood
1	Ditch	14	15	D	-
2	Ditch	62	71	U	2g
3	Ditch	62	64	D	2g
4	Ditch	62	65	U	6g

Table 10 *Summary of the contents of environmental samples*

3.4.2 Faunal remains

Only twelve fragments of animal bone were recovered from the investigations. These were all derived from the primary fill of ditch [14] and comprised fragments of a cow mandible, weighing 112g. All are highly abraded and degraded.

4. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

4.1 Introduction

The previous sections have summarised the discoveries and outlined the nature and quantity of each data-set.

4.2 Research objectives

The investigations have revealed one late Iron Age pit, two Roman ditches and a possible later Roman building structure. Although the investigations were not undertaken in ideal conditions the results suggest that even heavily truncated features would have been identified if present. The pottery and brick/tile fragments were substantial and most of the pottery is unworn suggesting that the material may have been deposited rapidly rather than being left out to weather in rubbish heaps. The smaller objects, the glass bead and nail, are objects unlikely to have travelled far from their place of use. All these factors suggest that the development area, despite containing late Iron Age and Roman features, was situated on the periphery of a settlement.

The presence of bricks and roof tiles suggests this settlement contained a building with fairly substantial footings and/or walls. The presence of flue tile is more significant as these were used in the construction of hypocausts (under floor) heating systems. Branigan[7] and others have used the presence of pottery and general building debris to suggest the presence of Romanised farms (villas), although substantial buildings also occur on religious sites, such as Wood Lane to the north[8]. The development is situated in the vicinity of several Roman villas. These include Gorhambury[9] 3 km to the east, Gadebridge[10] 4.5 km to the north-west, Boxmoor[11] 5.5 km to the west and Kings Langley[12] 4 km to the south.

Nationally, various attempts have been made to define villa estates and the interaction between them and towns. Due to the large number of known sites, the area around St. Albans is frequently used in such studies[7]. Parish boundaries, medieval manorial boundaries and Thiessen polygons have been used to assist the definition of villa boundaries. Neal[9] suggested the Westwick Manor estate may provide clues to the limits of the Gorhambury villa estate. Hunn[13] expanded on this by proposing hypothetical unitary villa estates for the area west of St. Albans. He proposed a villa estate, which would include the present development area and the Wood Lane religious complex (although no

[7] Branigan, K, 1987, *The Catuvellauni*
[8] Neal, D, 1984, 'A sanctuary at Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead' *Britannia* 15
[9] Neal, D, *et al,* 1990, *Excavation of the Iron Age, Roman and Medieval settlement at Gorhambury, St. Albans*
[10] Neal, D, 1974, *The excavation of the Roman villa in Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead*
[11] Neal, D, 1976, 'Northchurch, Boxmoor and Hemel Hempstead Station, the excavation of three Roman buildings in the Bulbourne Valley' *Hertfordshire Archaeology* 4
[12] Wardle, A, 1982, 'Kings Langley Roman Villa' *Hertfordshire's Past* 13
[13] Hunn, J, 1995, 'The Romano-British landscape of the Chiltern dipslope: a study of settlement around Verulanium' in Holgate (ed) *Chiltern archaeology: recent work*

villa is presently known within this hypothetical estate), bordered by Gorhambury, Gadebridge, Boxmoor and Kings Langley.

The number of villas at least partially examined in the vicinity of St. Albans has provided various authors with the opportunity to discuss the development of the hinterland of a Roman town and the interaction between villas. The new site at Westwick Row will therefore add to this discussion and is therefore of more than local and regional importance.

4.3 Analysis

Due to the above factors it is suggested that the data should be subject to full quantification and analysis (detailed in Appendix 1).

4.4 Publication

It is proposed that the results of this work be published in *Hertfordshire Archaeology*, a county-based journal. The level of detail will reflect the limited nature of the investigations with the significance of the site deriving mainly from the finds.

4.5 Timetable

Following the agreement of the *CAO* and *LPA* and acceptance by the *Client*, analysis can be rapidly undertaken. It is proposed that report writing and associated illustrations can be achieved within four months, after which the article will be submitted to the editors of *Hertfordshire Archaeology.*

4.6 Archiving

On publication of the final report the archive of materials, subject to the landowners' permission (already received "in principal") and accompanying records will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Centre.

5. APPENDIX 1: METHOD STATEMENTS FOR ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING

Site and Monuments Record (Tasks 2.5)
The Site and Monuments Record will be examined for Iron Age and Roman sites on the west side of St. Albans in a 6km radius of the site.

X-ray of metallic artefacts (Task 6)
Seven objects require x-ray to assist in their narrow term identification, and as part of the archive requirement.

Artefact Narrow Term identification (Task 11)
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

Ceramics quantification and recording (Task 14.1 and 14.2)
The pottery and other ceramics will be quantified by minimum vessel and sherd/fragment count, and weight. Pottery fabrics have already been identified according to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, and these will be checked. All attributes such as decoration, evidence of function (sooting, wear marks etc.), manufacturing techniques (firing characteristics etc.), abrasion will be noted. Where possible this will also be undertaken for the Ceramic Building.

Ceramic technical text (Task 20.1 and 20.2)
Detailed description of the pottery and CBM will include fabric and form definitions. As no new fabric types were identified, a summarised type series referring to published parallels, especially at Gorhambury will be sufficient.

Selected vessels/fragments for publication standard illustration will be made at this juncture. The criteria for the selection of illustrated vessels will be as follows:

- vessels or CBM from specific features or groups of features
- vessels or CBM associated with specific structures
- vessels or CBM of intrinsic interest

Site narrative (Task 24)
The Site Narrative will form the basis of the publication. After an introductory section it will be organised under the chronological headings: late Iron Age, early Roman and later Roman. A description of features and fills will only be presented for these periods. The text will integrate basic artefactual and ecofactual data, which in discussed in more detail under the relevant data sections.

Ceramic publication text (Task 25.1 and 25.2)
The quantification of pottery and CBM will be discussed within the site and comparable sites in the area.

Non-ceramic publication text (Task 26)
The remaining artefact assemblage will be discussed in a similar manner.

Ceramic illustration (Task 28.1 and 28.2)
Illustration of the material suitable for publication.

Structural illustration (Task 30)
Illustrations will be produced for site location (including adjacent contemporary sites) and an all-features plan.

Editing Site Narrative and preparation of synthesis (Task 32)
A synthesis will be produced summarising the major findings of the investigations. This is likely to concentrate on the likelihood that a substantial Roman building is located in the vicinity and its relationship to other Roman sites in the area, in particular Verulamium.

Publication text final checking and editing (Task 35)
Comprising final proof reading, editing and cross-referencing prior to the handover of the publication article to the editor of *Hertfordshire Archaeology*. It also includes editing after the receipt of comments from the referees appointed by the editor.

Printing (Task 36)
Organised mainly by the editor of *Hertfordshire Archaeology*, but some input will be required.

Archiving and accessioning (Tasks 37-38)
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 receiving museum.

Project management (Task 39)
All project tasks have been identified from a generic BCAS task list menu. These have been entered onto the BCAS Time Recording System (TRS) in order that expenditure and resources can be tracked throughout the life of the project. In addition the project will require a degree of management, undertaken by the Project Officer.

6. APPENDIX 2: THE PROJECT TEAM

To ensure a consistency of approach the same specialists will be used who have been involved in the analysis of previous phases of investigations.

Overall management	BCAS	Project Manager	Drew Shotliff
Daily management	BCAS	Project Officer	Mike Luke
Structural analyst	BCAS	Supervisor	James Pixley
Artefact analysis	BCAS	Artefacts Officer	Jackie Wells
Illustration	BCAS	Illustrator	Cecily Marshal

Table 11: the project team

Detailed staff CV's were presented in the Project Design, these are therefore not repeated here.

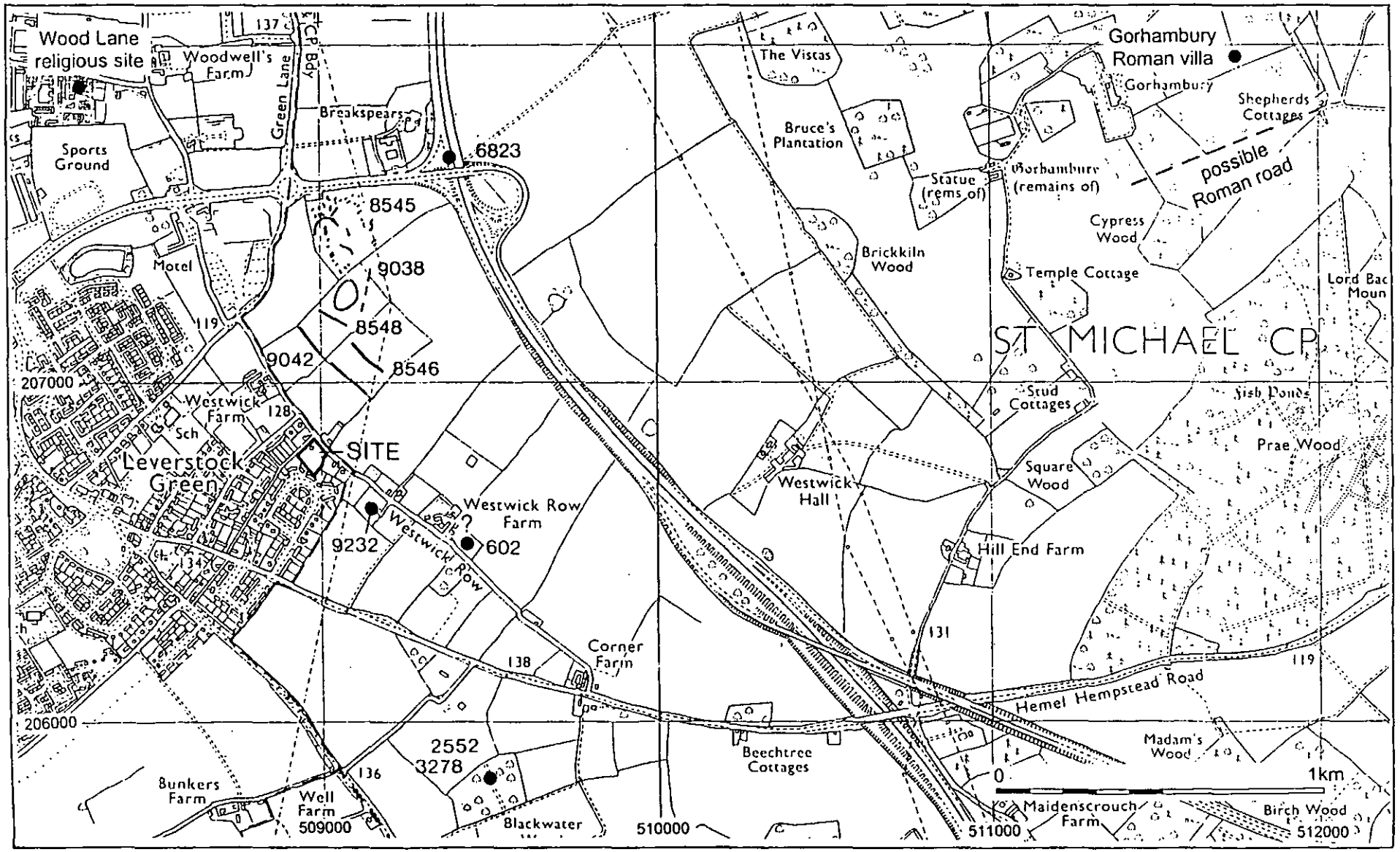

Fig.1. General Location with archaeological sites in the vicinity (& SMR data)

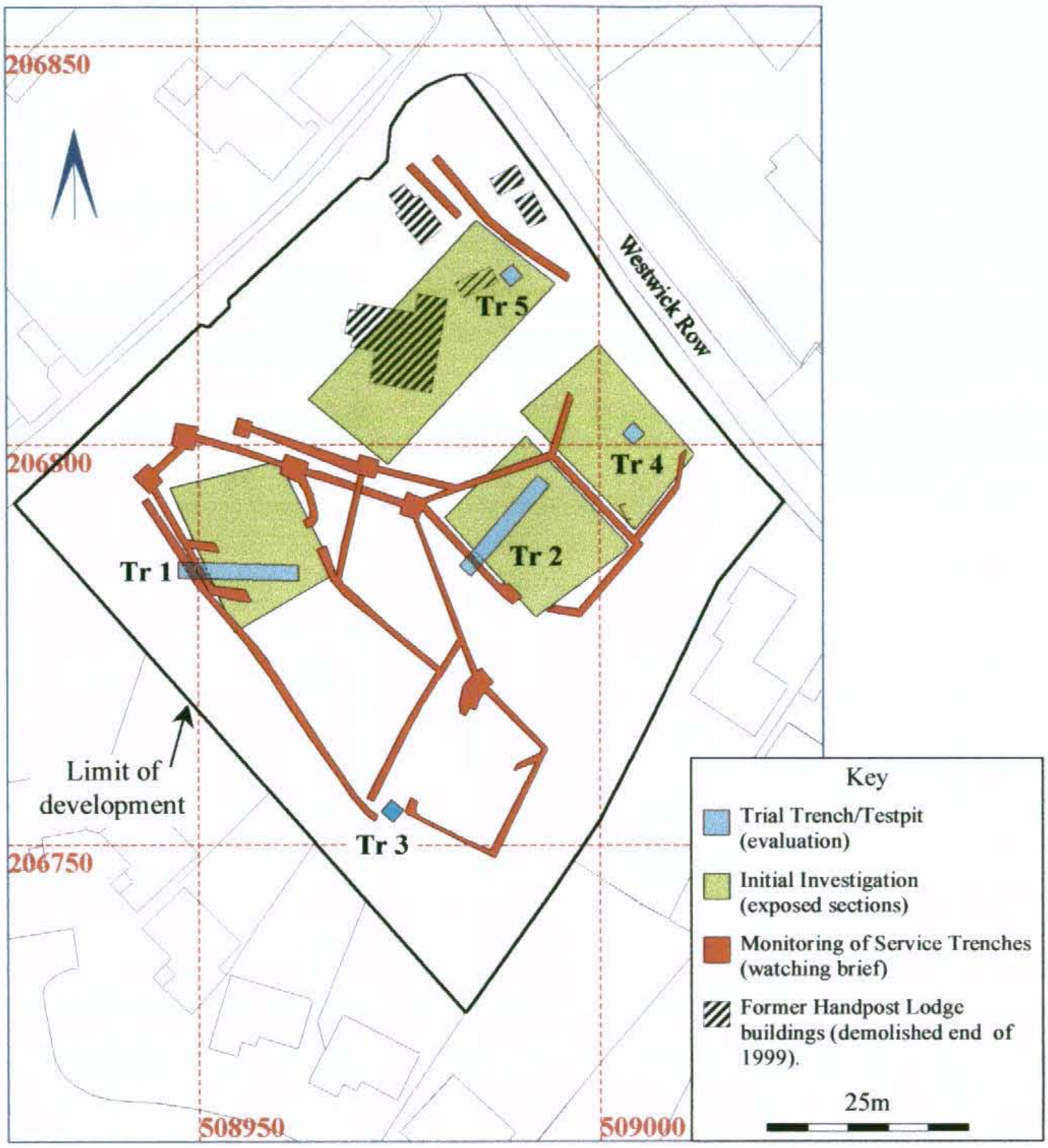

Fig. 2: Areas of Archaeological Investigation.

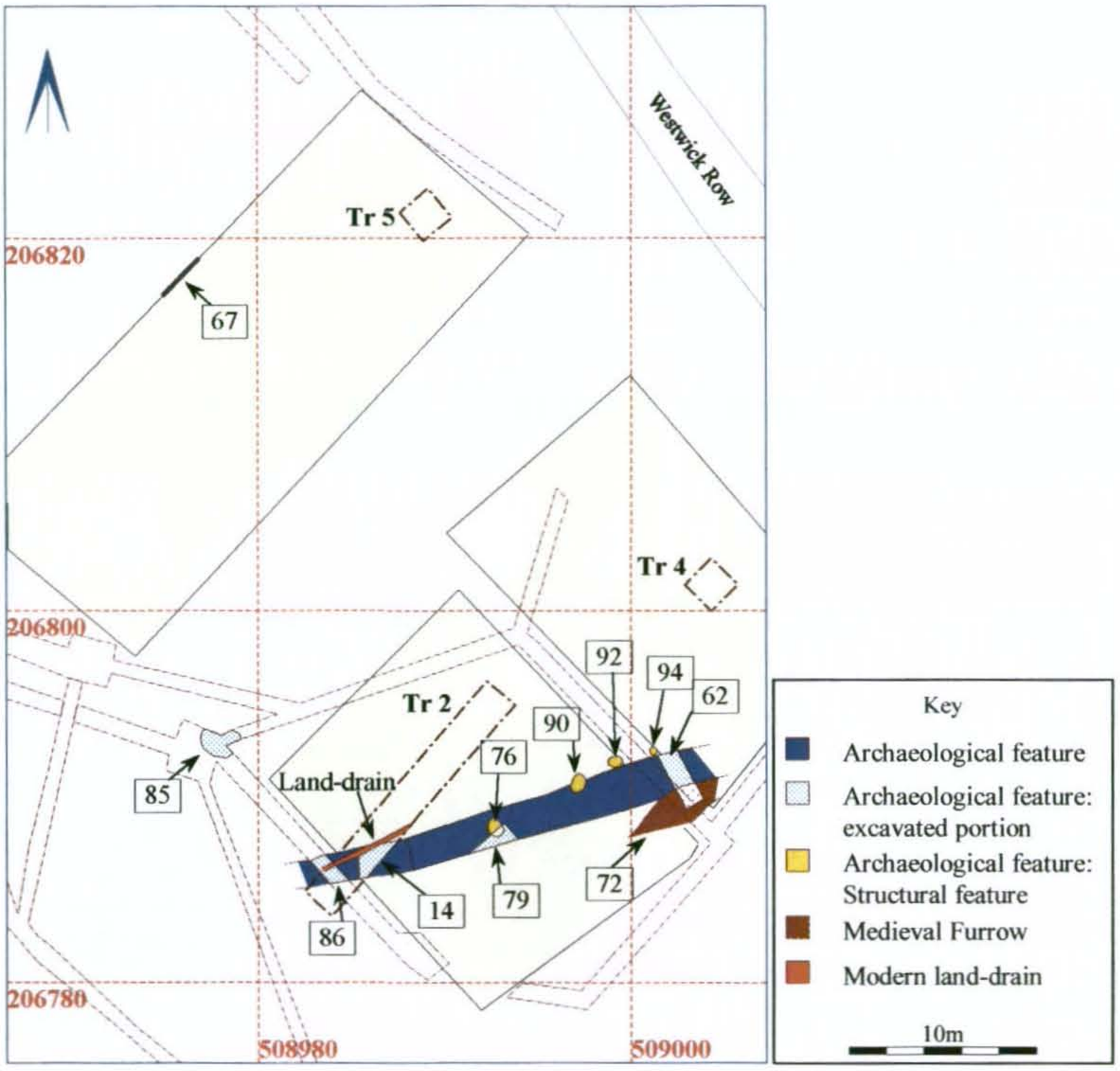

Fig. 3: Archaeological features.