Late Iron Age/Roman rural settlement on land at Aston Clinton Road Aylesbury Buckinghamshire May to July 2016

Report No.18/22

Author: Kamil Orzechowski

Illustrator: James Ladocha

Project Manager: Adam Yates & Mo Muldowney

Site Code: AYBCM:2016.70

NGR: SP 84843 12805

www.mola.org.uk

sparry@mola.org.uk

MOLA
Kent House
30 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809 800

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Author: Kamil Orzechowski BA MA

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MOLA
Kent House
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Northampton
NN1 5DQ
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Management:	Adam Yates BA MCIfA; Mo Muldowney BA ACIfA
Text:	Kamil Orzechowski BA MA
Illustrations (plans and sections):	James Ladocha BA
Roman pottery illustration	Rob Read
Small finds illustration	Izabela Jurkiewicz MSc
Fieldwork (excavation):	Kamil Orzechowski Luis Bermudo MA Emma Church BA Adam Douthwaite BA MA Peter Haynes Konrad Lewek Ryszard Molenda Chris Pennell BA Adam Pietrzak BA MA Anna Rojek BA Paul Sharrock BA MA James West BSc MA Kathrin Winzer MA Harry Young BA
Iron Age and Roman pottery	Rob Perrin BA MLitt PGCE MCIfA FSA
Samian pottery	J. M. Mills
Ceramic building material	Rob Atkins BSocSc DipArch MCIfA
Quern stone	Rob Atkins
Roman coins	Susan Porter BA MA
Other finds	Tora Hylton
Human and animal bone	Matilda Holmes BSc MA ACIfA
Charred plant remains	Val Fryer BA MCIfA
Oyster shell	Rob Atkins

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	**OASIS: molanort1-310993**	
Project title	Late Iron Age/Roman farmstead on land at Aston Clinton road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, May to July 2016	
Between May and July 2016 MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) undertook an excavation at Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury. The work was commissioned by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd. Sparse features were found dating to the early to middle Iron Age (5th-century BC to early 1st-century BC) over a *c*100 by 50 m etre area, suggesting intermittent activity. A farmstead was established in the early to mid1st-century AD. It comprised a late Iron Age/early Roman boundary ditch, a rectangular stock corral, a midden-like organic layer, a pit cluster group and some small discrete features. In the mid1st-century to 2nd-century AD a routeway, with fields laid perpendicular to it, established. A roundhouse with associated discrete features was located at the heart of the settlement, within the northern area of the site adjacent to the east of the routeway. There was secondary evidence for craft activities including pottery production. In the 2nd-century to 3rd/4th-century AD a substantial sub-rectangular enclosure was constructed in north-east corner of the site. Within the enclosure were pits along with a large midden layer but no structures were observed. Medieval furrows were recorded across the site.		
Project type	Evaluation, excavation	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (Thompson 2013), trial trenching (Lichtenstein 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Iron Age and Roman settlement: enclosures, routeway, a possible metalled surface; Roman field system	
Significant finds	Iron Age and Roman pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Buckinghamshire	
Site address	Land off Aston Clinton road, Aylesbury	
Easting and northing	SP 8477 1290	
Area	11ha	
Height OD	83-88m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	MOLA Northampton	
Project brief originator	Buckinghamshire Planning Authority	
Project Design originator	Andy Richmond, Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd	
Director/ Supervisor	Kamil Orzechowski (MOLA)	
Project Manager	Adam Yates and Mo Muldowney (MOLA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Redrow Homes (South Midlands) Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	May 2016	
End date	July 2016	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical	AYBCM:2016.70	Iron Age and Roman pottery, animal bone, small finds, plant fossils
Paper		Proforma sheets, plans, sections, black and white contact sheets, colour slides and digital photograph contact sheets
Digital		Report, map and site data, digital images
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Late Iron Age/Roman rural settlement on land at Aston Clinton road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, May to July 2016	
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Abstract

Between May and July 2016 MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) undertook an excavation at Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury. The work was commissioned by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd. Sparse features were found dating to the early to middle Iron Age (5th-century BC to early 1st-century BC) over a c100 by 50 metre area, suggesting intermittent activity. A farmstead was established in the early to mid1st-century AD. It comprised a late Iron Age/early Roman boundary ditch, a rectangular stock corral, a midden-like organic layer, a pit cluster group and some small discrete features. In the mid1st-century to 2nd-century AD a routeway, with fields laid perpendicular to it, established. A roundhouse with associated discrete features was located at the heart of the settlement, within the northern area of the site adjacent to the east of the routeway. There was secondary evidence for craft activities including pottery production. In the 2nd-century to 3rd/4th-century AD a substantial sub-rectangular enclosure was constructed in north-east corner of the site. Within the enclosure were pits along with a large midden layer but no structures were observed. Medieval furrows were recorded across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

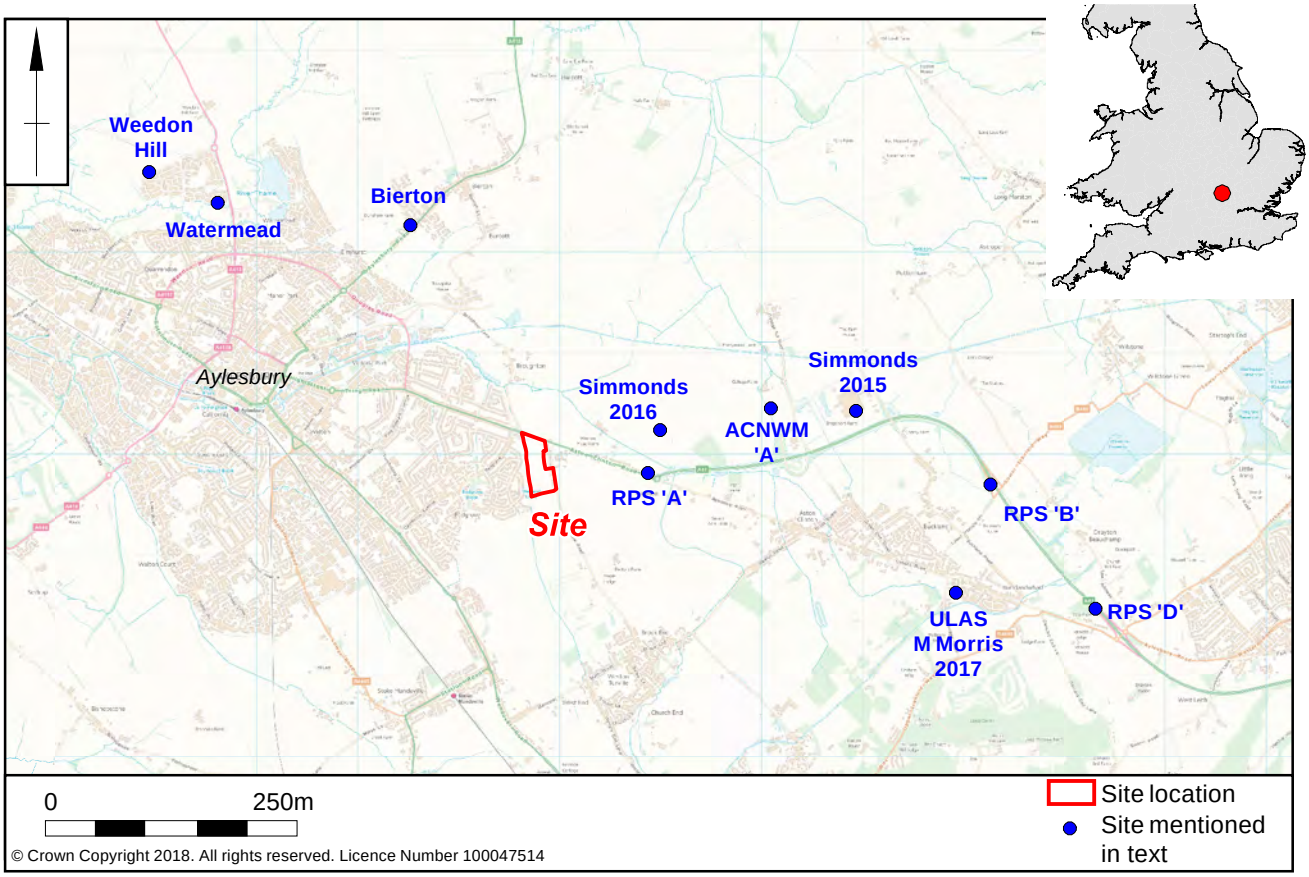
1.1 Background

The development area is located on land to the south of Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 84843 12805; Fig 1). The excavation was commissioned Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd for Redrow Homes (South Midlands) Ltd, who was granted planning permission (ref 13/01488/AOP) by Aylesbury Vale District Council to construct 135 dwellings with associated works.

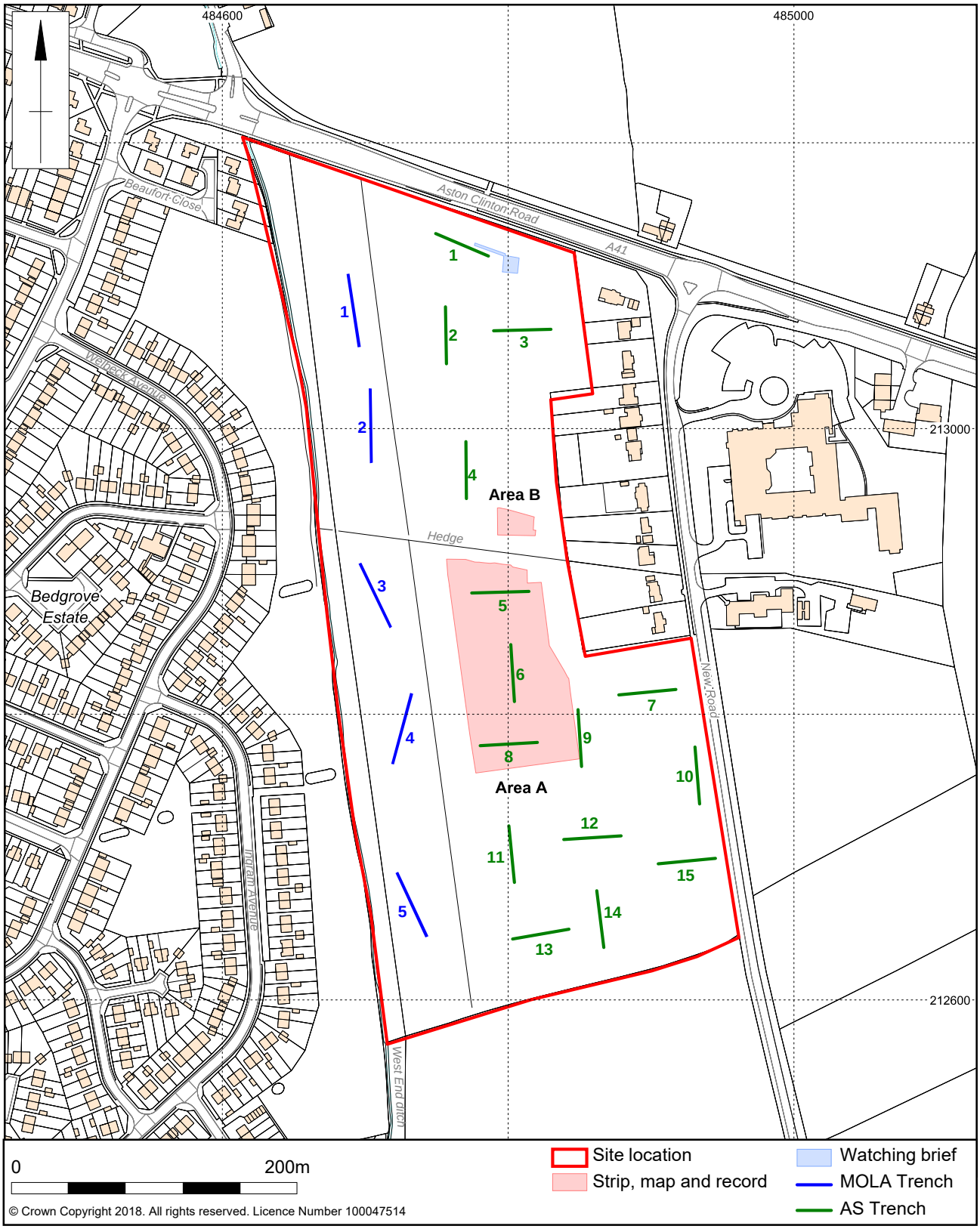
As part of the planning requirements a staged programme of archaeological works has been carried out. These comprised a desk-based assessment (Thompson 2013) followed by a trial trench evaluation (Lichtenstein 2013; Fig 2) which had identified an area of Romano-British activity in the central part of the site.

The present works comprised further trial trenching and excavation in two areas (A and B) and this was carried out between May and July 2017 (Fig 2).

Archaeological works were designed and overseen by Andy Richmond from Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd (Richmond 2016). Monitoring was undertaken by Eliza Alqassar and Phil Markham of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC). MOLA are grateful to Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd and Redrow Homes (South Midlands) Ltd for commissioning the work.



Scale 1:75000 Site location and other archaeological sites Fig 1



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Site location and excavated trenches Fig 2

1.2 Location, topography and geology

The development area (site) was *c*11ha in size and comprised four rectangular fields which were demarcated by hedge lines (Fig 2). The site is bound to the north by the A41 (Aston Clinton Road), which follows the line of Roman Akeman Street. To the east lies New Road, and the western border is formed by the watercourse West End Ditch and the Round Aylesbury footpath, beyond which is the modern Bedgrove housing estate.

The site occupies sloping ground, rising from 83m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south, to around 88m aOD to the north. Solid geology comprises Upper Greensand and Gault Clay consisting of sandy micaceous marl descending to dark clay. The overlying Drift geology is of the Grove Association, being gleyic brown calcareous earths, non-alluvial loam and clay soils over weathered calcareous subsoils (www.landis.org.uk).

The western border of the site is formed by the watercourse West End Ditch which at its north end links *c*300m to the north of the site to the larger Bear Brook and the Burcott Brook, tributaries of the River Thame, to the south-west of Aylesbury (Fig 1).

1.3 Historical and archaeological background

The development area and its surroundings have been subject to previous archaeological investigation comprising a desk-based assessment (Thompson 2013). A subsequent trial trench evaluation of the site identified an area of archaeological activity of Roman date (Lichtenstein 2013).

Other significant archaeological excavations have taken place in recent years close to the site at Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury. These have allowed a detailed landscape view especially during the late Iron Age and Roman occupation in the immediate area (Figs 1 and 3), including excavations at the Aston Clinton Bypass (RPS 2005; Masefield 2008) and excavations to the east of College Road, Aston Clinton by MOLA Northampton (Simmonds 2015) (Fig 3).

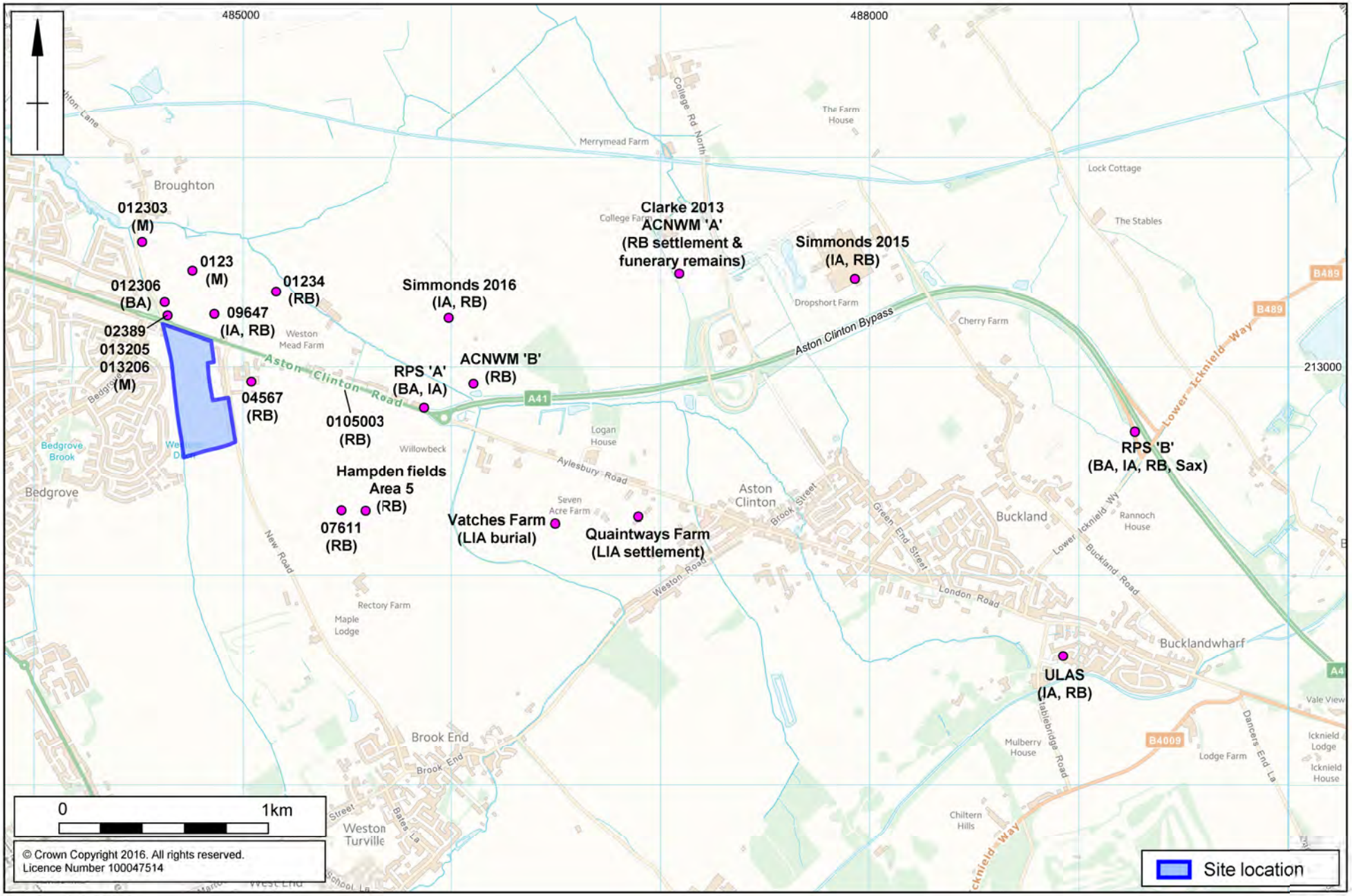
The following archaeological and historical background is summarised from the DBA (Thompson 2013) and the archaeological specification (Richmond 2016) and supported by written work from nearby excavations including at College Road, Aston Clinton (Simmonds 2015).

Prehistoric – early Iron Age

Excavation at The Woodlands Roundabout lay approximately 1km to the east of the site and took place in advance of the construction of the Aston Clinton Bypass. Archaeological work here found evidence of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age and included pits and postholes (RPS Site A; Figs 1 and 3) (RPS 2005; Masefield 2008).

About 5 km east of the site, excavation at the RPS Site B, carried out during the same road scheme, found a number of Bronze Age cremations. Subsequent early Iron Age occupation comprised at least one roundhouse and a number of four-post grain storage structures. The roundhouse was thought to have been used for stock storage, given the large amounts of animal bone associated with it (Figs 1 and 3; RPS 2005; Masefield 2008).

In the immediate vicinity of the site a late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age buried soil was identified *c*110m to the north (Fig 3, BHER 012306).



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Archaeological context Fig 3

Some 5km north-west from the site, division of the landscape was found, comprising field boundaries dated to the 1st millennium BC (Wessex Archaeology 2007). Near the northern edge of site, truncated postholes pertaining to a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age roundhouse and an isolated post-pit of middle-late Bronze Age date were identified (BHER 09647).

Middle Iron Age/Roman period

Artefacts and settlement sites close to the site

The course of the Roman road of Akeman Street, between *Verulamium* (St Albans) and Bicester, follows the current A41 (Fig 3) and was aligned north-west to south-east directly to the north of the site (BHER 0105003). The remains of that Roman road were identified during the Woodland Roundabout excavations 1km to the east (RPS 2005, Site A; Masefield 2008). A series of quarry pits, found mainly on the southern side of the road, were evidence of the continued maintenance and repair of the road throughout the Roman period.

Trial excavations ahead of construction of the Holiday Inn hotel bordering the east side of the assessment site recovered 22 sherds of Romano-British pottery including two 2nd or 3rd century pie dish rims, a foot-ring base and a s herd of mortarium (BHER 04567).

Three, probable late Iron Age or possibly early Roman features were found 125m to the north of the site (BHER 09647).

The location of a possible villa, approximately 450m to the north-east (BHER 01234) had been based on the farmer's claim from the Broughton Farm who found a tessellated floor which he since covered over, however no other evidence has come to light (Thompson 2013).

A Romano-British farmstead located approximately 680m south-east of the site was identified during a geophysical survey (BHER 07611).

At Bedgrove, *c*820m to the west of investigated area, a late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered during excavation (BHER 031203; location not illustrated).

Settlement sites and artefacts recovered further away from the site

In the middle Iron Age there appears to have been a settlement in the Iron Age hill fort at Aylesbury (Zeepvat and Radford 2007). By the late Iron Age or early Roman period the hill fort was apparently abandoned and the focus of the Romano-British settlement appears to have shifted to Fleet Marston area, situated on Akeman Street, on the western side of Aylesbury (Kidd 2004).

On land near College Road, Aston Clinton, *c*3.5 km to the east of the site, a late Iron Age and Roman settlement comprising enclosures, trackway, paddocks and also Roman sill-beam and post-built structures were found as well as inhumation and cremation burials (Simmonds 2015).

At RPS Site B, 5km to the east, there was a shift in settlement and a re-organisation of the landscape during the late Iron Age/early Romano-British period with the creation of regular ditched plots flanking a trackway aligned north-west to south-east. The site straddled the route of the Lower Icknield Way, a track which was thought to have prehistoric origins but no evidence supporting that theory was found during the excavation. The site remained broadly unchanged until the middle Roman period, suggesting a continuity of settlement. Finds from later features suggest the presence of a Romanised building in the vicinity, possibly to the west of the site (RPS 2005).

More recent work in Aston Clinton undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS), 5km to the south-east has led to new understanding of settlements and Roman roads around Aston Clinton. The excavations identified the Roman course of the Lower Icknield Way which was located further to the east of the earlier road (Morris 2017). This work also uncovered a related Iron Age/Roman settlement.

Evidence for high status sites nearby includes the site at Bierton, located *c*2.5 km to the north-west on the more favourable Portlandian limestone ridge (Fig 1). The layout of the site appeared to be fairly typical in that it comprised enclosures and roundhouses, although only small areas have been investigated. The alignment of the settlement at this site was also on a broad north-west/south-east axis. Finds from the site included Gallo-Belgic and Central Gaulish pottery imported in the Tiberio-Claudian period (14-54 AD) via *Camulodunum* (Colchester), suggesting that the site was of more than usual importance. During the Roman period the settlement appears to have evolved into a villa (Allen 1986).

To the south of Bierton and west of Aston Clinton a possible late Iron Age, La Tene III style cremation in an amphora was found at Vatches Farm, 2km to the south-east, similar to others found at the *oppidum* sites at St Albans and Colchester and indicative of a high status burial (Fig 3). The remains of a possible late Iron Age settlement were found 2.5km to the south-east at Quaintways Farm, where significant quantities of 'Belgic' pottery were found, along with a possible 'fire bar' (Fig 3).

Excavations undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology to the west of College Road, nearly 3km to the east at ACNWM Site A took place in advance of the new Thames Water pipelines (Clarke 2013). This work has revealed part of an occupation site of probable early Roman date. Superficially this appears to be similar in character to the Aston Clinton Road site comprising a series of superimposed enclosures defined by substantial ditches. Also present was a mortuary structure associated with two cremation burials. About 1.5km to the west of the site there was evidence of the Roman agricultural landscape was also seen in the form of trackways and field boundaries aligned north-west to south-east (ACNWM Site B). Recent trial trench evaluations1km to the north-east at Woodlands have found settlements of Iron Age and Roman date (Simmonds 2016). A Roman farmstead 1m to the south-east at Hampden Fields Area 5 dated to the Roman period (Wessex Archaeology 2013).

Saxon/medieval and later

There have been few Anglo-Saxon finds made in the area. Two gullies predating a medieval moated enclosure, more than 250m to the north, are thought to be Saxon, and residual Saxon pottery was found in later features (BHER 012493). Saxon pottery was also recovered during excavations in the Bedgrove Estate *c*0.5km west (BHER 031204, 0552; both not located).

The area to the north of the site contains a large amount of medieval settlement evidence including a medieval moated manor, which lies at *c*0.3km distance (BHER 0123; SM 29411). Medieval ridge and furrow and other agricultural or settlement features run south, towards the site (BHER 012303). Two medieval house platforms, possibly representing tofts, are recorded nearby (BHER 013206, BHER 012305). Medieval pottery has also been found while digging a service trench 90m north of the site (BHER 02389). West End Ditch, which borders the site to the west, was a trackway in use in the medieval period but its origin may be earlier, linked Wendover with Bierton (Wessex Archaeology 2012). Cartographic sources indicate little change to the site layout during the post-medieval and early modern periods.

Ridge and furrow cultivation systems, of medieval or later date were visible on aerial photographs confirming that the site lay within the medieval open fields and was mainly under arable cultivation. Furrows were recorded during trial trenching and mitigation.

1.4 Scope of mitigation works

A strip, map and record investigation was undertaken in the development site where Roman archaeology was encountered during the field evaluation (Fig 2). This was extended further north in due course. An intermittent watching brief was proposed for the northern margin of the site (bordering A41) and supplemented by an additional open area of *c*0.02ha at the north-east periphery of investigated land. This was because the A41 broadly follows the line of the Roman Akeman Street (Fig 2). After consultation with planning archaeologist an additional area of *c*0.04ha (Area B) was excavated adjacent to the north of Area A, at the north side of the field hedge.

An evaluation was undertaken on the western extent, where previous trial trenching had not taken place, and therefore where the archaeological potential was presently unknown. Here, five trenches positioned to avoid the overhead power lines, were excavated (Fig 2).

1.5 Research potential

The evaluation trial trench report recorded the research potential for the site relating to Roman and medieval periods based on evidence from the Desk-Based Assessment (Lichtenstein 2013, points 4.8-4.11). The broad research agenda for the Solent-Thames region draft reports were available for the WSI as they had been set out in 2010, but not the final version published in 2014 (Hey and Hind 2014):

1) The site's proximity to Roman Akeman Street indicates that archaeological investigation at this site has the potential to inform on the regionally important research subject of communications and trade in the Roman period (Fulford with Allen 2010). The potential that the presence of the road indicates for ribbon development or cemeteries lining its route indicates that there is a potential for the site to inform on specific research questions associated with trade and communication such as the influence on the major roads of the Solent-Thames region on the development of roadside settlement and to provide more general information regarding research areas such as ceremony, ritual and religion and patterns of settlement development and abandonment (Fulford and Allen 2010).
2) The proximity of a putative Roman villa 450m to the north-east of the site indicates the possibility of evidence associated with the development of the villa estate and the associated reorganisation of settlement and the wider associated managed landscape. This is identified as a particularly important area of research for the Solent-Thames region (Fulford and Allen 2010). The possibility for Roman settlement at this location also indicates the potential for the site yield evidence contributing to the understanding of research subjects such as social organisation, land use, material culture, and crafts, trades and industries (Fulford and Allen 2010).
3) The known evidence for medieval occupation in the vicinity of the site is located mostly to the north and comprises the site of a moated manor house, agricultural features and two house platforms. It is likely that the identification of further medieval remains within the current site would contribute to an understanding of the character and extent of the settlement activity in this area. Establishing the nature of the settlement activity in this area (nucleated village settlement,

dispersed settlement, etc) is likely to form a key part in understanding the any medieval archaeology within the site. Rural settlement is identified as an important research subject for the region (Munby and Allen 2014). A particularly pertinent research question, in light of the proximity of the moated enclosure to the north-east, will be whether any further settlement activity that is identified comprises a peripheral settlement attracted to the moated site (Munby and Allen 2014). If settlement evidence exists it may have the potential to provide information related on subjects such as social organisation, the built environment, material culture, and trade and industry, all of which are identified as important research areas for the medieval period in the Solent-Thames region.

4) An alternative possibility is that the site will contain further evidence of the medieval agricultural activity recorded further to the north in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks. The identification of such remains is likely to contribute to the understanding of medieval agricultural practices, the local medieval landscape and aspects of land use, and the basis of the local agricultural economy (Munby and Allen 2014).

1.6 Objectives

The archaeological investigation was carried out with reference to a specification prepared by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd (Richmond 2016) conforming to national research agendas (EH 1991; EH 1997) as well as particular reference to the draft research agenda for the Solent-Thames Region.

The general objectives of the investigations recorded in the Specification (Richmond 2016, 9) were as follows:

- recover a plan of the extent and structure of features and deposits of archaeological interest;
- specifically investigate the nature of any identified Romano-British activity, domestic and/or agricultural;
- examine the evidence for palaeo-economy and/or industry;
- expand current knowledge of patterns of landscape exploitation and settlement;
- place the identified features within their local and regional context;

The broad research agenda for the Solent-Thames region draft reports were set out in 2010 and the final version published in 2014 (Hey and Hind 2014). In the Discussion (See below) the updated version was referred to for the relevant periods (Lambrick (2014) for the Iron Age and by Fulford (2014) for the Roman period).

1.7 Methodology

All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (2014a) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute for Archaeologists (2014b). All works were carried out in accordance with the Specification for Archaeological Works (Richmond 2016).

Excavation occurred in two areas of investigation (Fig 4, Areas A and B). Machining took place by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil were removed and place separately outside the excavation areas using a large dumper. The subsoil was metal detected before it was machined off. The machining excavated onto the upper-most level of

identified archaeological features at the natural substrate. This excavation level was also scanned for any metal artefacts.

During excavation archaeological features were found to extend beyond Area A to the north. The Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeologist asked for the excavation area to be expanded to follow these features and this took place after agreement with Pheonix Consulting Archaeology Ltd. Firstly, the new area took place up to a separating hedge between the two main fields and secondly, an additional area was excavated (Area B) to the north of the hedge (Fig 2).

Five evaluation trenches (1-5) each 50m long were also excavated to the western side of the site.

An intermittent watching brief had been proposed for the northern extent of the site (bordering the A41) but this was replaced by the additional open area, *c*0.02ha, at the north-east periphery of the field near to the Aston Clinton Road. This was designed to assess whether any remains associated with Roman Akeman Street were located within the development site (Fig 2).

Archaeological remains were planned, hand-excavated and recorded following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014) and the approved archaeological specification (Richmond 2016). All works were conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b), as well as Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015).

All deposits were given a separate context number. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationship and interpretation.

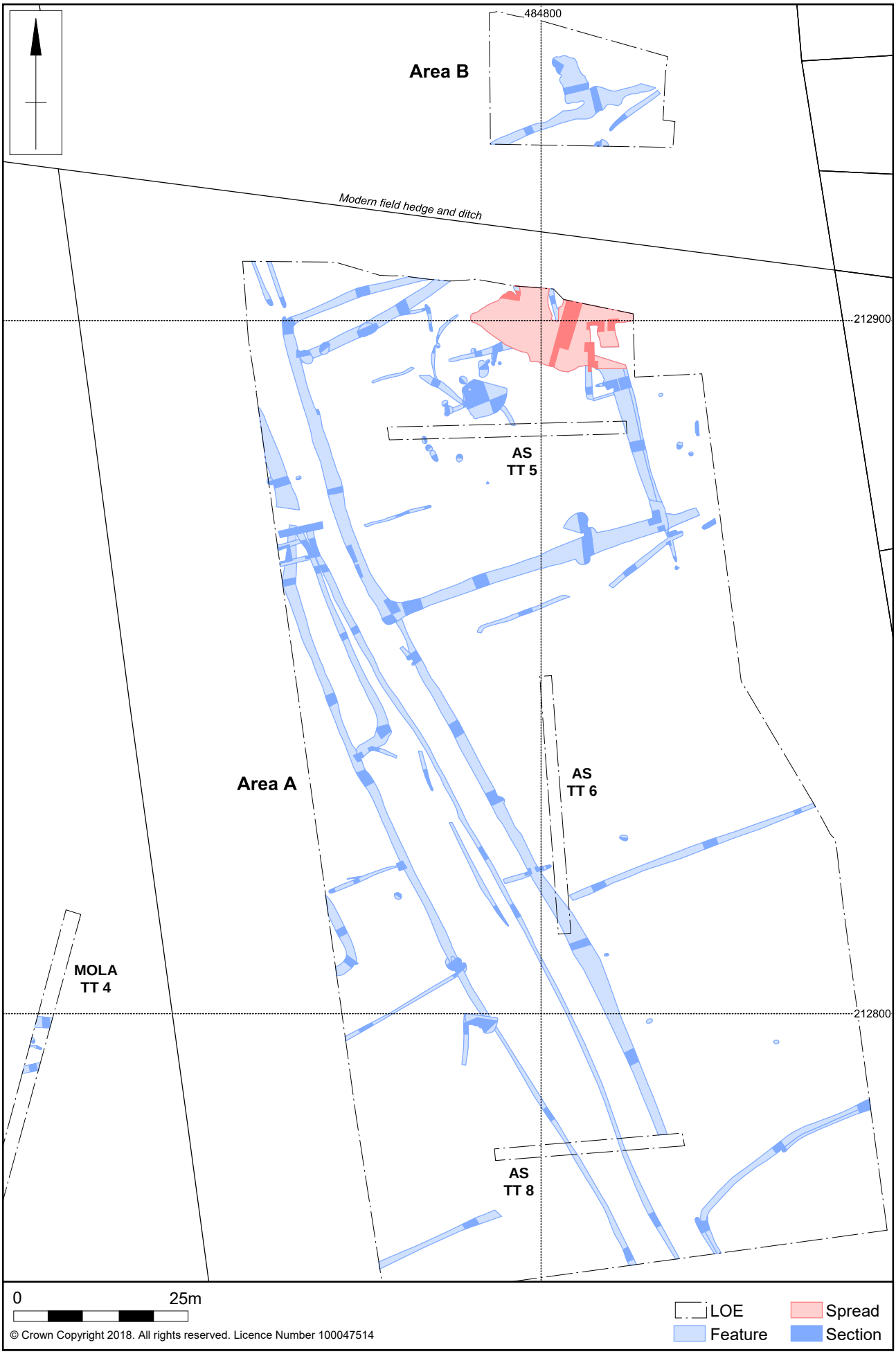
All area locations were recorded using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real time corrections operating to a 3D tolerance of +/- 0.05m. A full digital photography record was maintained. The full data from the excavation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

2 SUMMARY OF SITE CHRONOLOGY

Archaeological features were found across the excavation area (Fig 4). The first activity/occupation occurred in the early/mid Iron Age. The extent seems to have been very limited and may denote short term use or intermittent activity or a longer term possibly at the end of the period. Permanent occupation seems to have started in *c*AD 0. The settlement main use was 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Some pottery dated to 3rd and 4th centuries AD was found, but activity at this time appears limited. Archaeological features comprised mainly ditches which formed a routeway, an enclosure and field system. The quantity of pits and postholes were relatively few but included remnants of post-built structures and a curvilinear drip gully.

Table 1: Summary of site chronology

Phase	Period	Date	Key features
Period 1	Early/mid-Iron Age	6th century BC to early-1st century BC	Small gullies, singular pit
Period 2.1	Late Iron Age/early Roman	1st century AD	Boundary ditch, rectangular stock corral, unenclosed settlement, midden-like organic layer, pit cluster, discrete features
Period 2.2	Early/mid Roman	Mid 1st-century to 2nd century AD	The routeway developed with fields perpendicular to it. Roundhouse with associated discrete features. Quarrying took place within Area B
Period 2.3	Mid/late Roman	2nd century to 3rd/4th century AD	Construction of main enclosure and settlement area, large midden layer in north-east corner of enclosure
Period 3	Post-Roman	Medieval to modern	Ridge and furrow system and field drainage



Scale 1: 750

All features plan of site Fig 4

The density of the features can be seen in the drone photograph of Area A (Fig 5)

Drone picture of Area A. MOLA evaluation trenches in the background to the left upper corner Fig 5

2.1 Period 1: Early/mid Iron Age, 6th century BC to early-1st century BC

Early gullies and a pit

Sparse evidence for early/mid Iron Age occupation/activity was found within Area A over a *c*100m by 50m area (Fig 6). Period 1 features comprised four small gullies [1176], [1178], [1106], [1247] and a pit [1265]. The gullies were ephemeral and were truncated by later activity. These features were in two locations within the site, at the north-eastern corner of Area A and in the middle of Area A. Only 43 sherds (0.423kg) of flint tempered early to middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from these features.

Gullies [1176] and [1178] were located in the north-eastern corner of Area A. They were aligned north-east to south-west and were parallel to each other spaced *c*1.20m apart. They survived up to 4.0m in length, were up to 0.39m wide and 0.11m deep. They were both filled with a single deposit which comprised mid grey brown silty clay.

Gullies [1106] and [1247] were aligned roughly north-west to south-east and were *c*15m apart (Fig 6). Gully [1106] was 3.0m long, 0.15m wide and 0.08m deep and was filled with dark brown silty clay. Gully [1247] was at least 4.2m long, 1.05m wide by 0.17m deep. Its lower fill, 60mm thick, may have been natural silting and consisted of a sterile orange-brown sandy clayey. This deposit was sealed by a mid to light grey-brown firm silty clay with occasional natural flint pieces.

The discrete pit [1265] was located some 5m south-east from gully [1106]. It was circular in plan and had fairly steep-sided profile with a flattish base. It was1.02m in diameter and was 0.35m deep. It lower fill (1264) comprised mid orange/grey-brown friable to firm silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and the upper fill comprised a dark black-grey friable sandy clay/silt with occasional stone.

Scale 1:750

Early-mid Iron Age and early-mid 1st century AD features Fig 6

2.2 Period 2.1 Early-mid 1st century AD (Fig 6)

In the early/mid-1st century AD a new settlement was established within the site. There was a possible corral area for stock, some ditches, a few pits and a spread. These features were scattered across Area A and a few features continued beyond the excavation area. This settlement was seemingly open with relatively few features assigned to Period 2.1. No domestic structural features were found and it is possible that occupation lay outside the excavation.

Central ditch 1589, and nearby features

A substantially long boundary ditch [1589] was recorded across the western extent of Area A. Ditch [1589] was aligned north-west to south-east over more than 125m. It terminated in the northern-west part of Area A, but continued beyond the excavation to the south. Ditch [1589] had a shallow, broad profile with a flattish base and was between 0.15m to 0.60m wide, and was 0.19m to 0.33m deep. The fill comprised mid brown-orange/grey firm silt, sandy silt or silty clay with occasional stone, chalk or charcoal. It contained a small quantity of pottery (25 sherds weighing 127g) which was mainly of mid to late 1st century AD date.

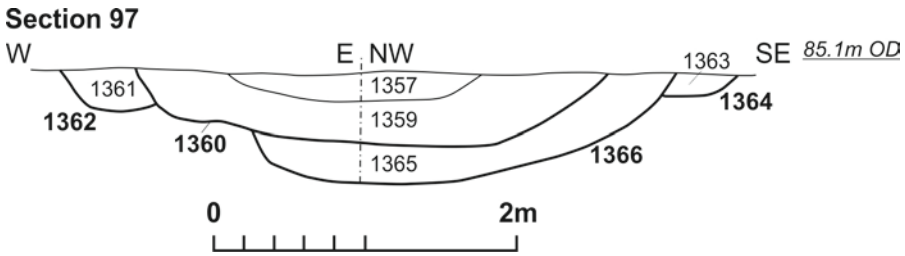
Abutting up to [1589] on its eastern side and perpendicular to it was ditch [1346]. It was aligned north-east by south-west alignment, survived for *c*5m before either terminating or had not survived later truncation beyond this point. Ditch [1346] was *c*0.70m wide and only 0.13m deep. It was filled with a mid orange-brown grey clay silt.

A group of four pits [1287], [1289], [1292] and [1294] lay 10m to the west of [1589]. Their shapes in plan varied from circular with shallow to moderate sides and concave bases to oval, elongated with U-shaped and moderately steep sides. These pits measured between 0.70m and 1.50m across by 0.17m and up to 0.25m deep. Their fills contained a largely similar type of material: dark grey-brown friable silty clay with occasional small stone pieces. Three of the pits [1287, 1289 and 1292] had pottery sherds within their fills dating to the 1st century AD.

Some 15m north-west of this group of four pits were two adjacent pits [1090 and 1117], recorded near the western baulk of the site. Both features were truncated by the later Period 2.2 curvilinear ditch [1088]. Pit [1090] was circular in plan with steep sides and flattish base and it survived to 0.56m in diameter and 0.16m deep. It contained a single deposit which consisted of mid/light brown-grey firm silty clay with occasional natural flint (1089). Next to pit [1090] was pit [1117], which had a 0.42m diameter and was 0.14m deep with a U-shaped profile and flattish base. It contained mid blue-grey compact clay with occasional flecks of limestone and flint.

Two discrete features were found to the east of ditch [1589] at the southern extent of the site. These consisted of a pit [1266] and a posthole or a pit [1270]. The features were *c*10m apart and they measured between 0.84m and 1.00m in diameter and up to 0.11m in depth. Their deposits contained evidence of burning and a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was also recovered.

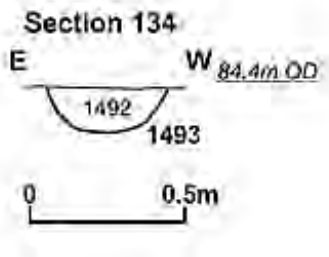
Ditch [1362] lay to the west of ditch [1589] and directly to the south of the group of four pits. It was aligned north-south and this orientation did not match any known alignments within the site. It was 6.5m long and 0.70m wide by 0.30m deep (Fig 7, Section 97). It had moderately sloping sides and concave base and its fill, (1361), consisted of mid orange-brown silty clay with small pebbles and chalk.



Ditch [1362] truncated by Period 2.3 pit [1360] Fig 7

Northern part of Area A

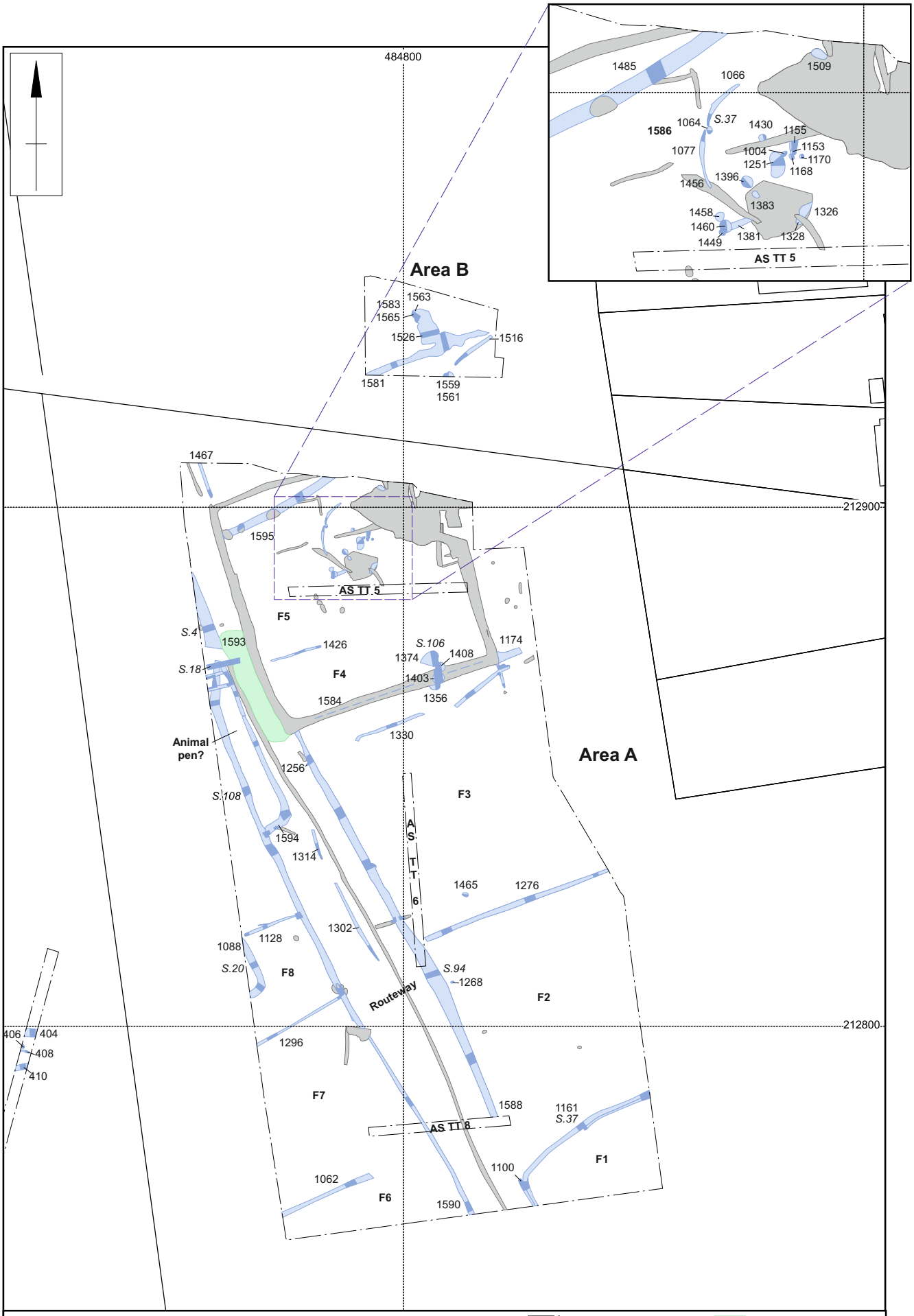
There was a concentration within a *c*50m by 30m area of Period 2.1 features within northern part of Area A beyond ditch [1589]. Some of these features continued beyond the northern site baulk. A possible animal pen/stock corral was uncovered and consisted of parts of three sides of a sub-rectangular enclosure defined by three gullies [1493, 1495 and 1497]. This possible enclosure was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and measured *c*8m north to south by *c*10m east to west. Its defining gullies [1493, 1495 and 1497] were between 0.27m and 0.43m wide and 0.09m and 0.17m deep (Fig 8, Section 134). Their fills generally comprised dark grey-brown friable silty sand with moderate flint and occasional charcoal throughout.



Gully [1364], part of a possible sub-rectangular pen/stock corral Fig 8

Some 5m south-east from the sub-rectangular pen/enclosure was a small spread/ fairly thick layer (1011) of very dark and humic material. The layer extended *c*9m north to south and approximately 5m from west to east and was up to 0.15m in depth. Layer (1011) was recorded within an irregular, shallow 'cut' or depression which was considered natural in origin. The layer was a probable accumulation of domestic waste and comprised a dark grey/black firm silty clay with flint. Within the layer was a large quantity of pottery (199 sherds weighing 3634g) in many different fabrics including Samian dating to the mid 1st to 2nd centuries. Other pottery included a grog-tempered jar (Fig 28, 3) and a grey ware dish or lid (Fig 28, 19). There was also a moderate group of fired clay recovered (65 fragments weighing 1.98kg) which may have been the remains of kiln supports. Other objects recovered from the layer include fragments of lead strip offcuts (SFs 6; 38), an iron nail as well as a moderate quantity of animal bone among which was an unusual fragment of sheep metatarsal with the hole drilled lengthwise (SF47).

Approximately 5m south-west from layer [1012] was a medium size pit [1182] circular in plan with a 0.91m diameter and 0.22m deep. It had a broad profile with vertical sides and its base was slightly stepped and sloping east. It contained large fragments of pottery (474g) within its light yellow-grey firm silty fill with moderate flint (1181) dating to the mid to late 1st century AD. This pit also had 46 fired clay fragments (0.41kg) which had possibly been from part of an oven/hearth superstructure.



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Mid 1st century to 2nd century features Fig 9

Three ditches, [1469, 1489 and 1511], lay over a *c*50m distance partly within the excavation area. They were aligned north to south and all three terminated with their south sides roughly at the same lattitude suggesting that they may be associated with each other. They were between 0.43m and *c*1.30m wide and 0.05m to 0.50m deep.

Posthole [1049] was an isolated feature located next to the site's western baulk. It was oval in plan with U-shaped profile and a concave base. It was 1.00m in length, 0.45m deep and was filled with mid orange-grey snady clay with frequent stone inclusions possibly part of a former packing deposit. Small quantities of 1st century AD pottery were also recovered. Another isolated posthole [1139] was located near the site's eastern baulk. It was circular in plan with nearly vertical sides and uneven base. Its diameter measured 0.32m and was 0.19m deep. Its singular fill (1138) was black/dark grey friable silty sand with occasional small flint and moderate to frequent charcoal flecks as well as 1st century AD pottery.

2.3 Period 2.2 Mid 1st-century to 2nd century AD

In the mid-1st to early 2nd century AD there was a large increase in the quantity of features found within the settlement. The major feature, a routeway, was established. A field system was present on the both sides of routeway's flanking ditches and a roundhouse was established on its eastern side. A series of isolated pits may have served as waste pits or cesspits. Also evidence for quarrying was identified within Area B, perhaps for clay extraction for the pottery industry (Fig 9).

AREA A

Routeway

The most dominant feature within the site was a routeway aligned north-west to south-east. It extended across Area A for more than 150m. It continued beyond the excavation area to the south and possibly also to the north/north-west. How far it extended to the south and north-west is uncertain as no evidence for the routeway was found in the evaluation trenches excavated along its projected line (AS evaluation Trench 12 or MOLA evaluation Trench 2 (Fig 2)). In Area A the routeway's extent was defined by two parallel ditches [1588] and [1590], which were spaced between *c*11m and *c*15m apart. The eastern ditch [1588] had been recut up to three times (Fig 10, Section 94), suggesting maintenance and re-use.

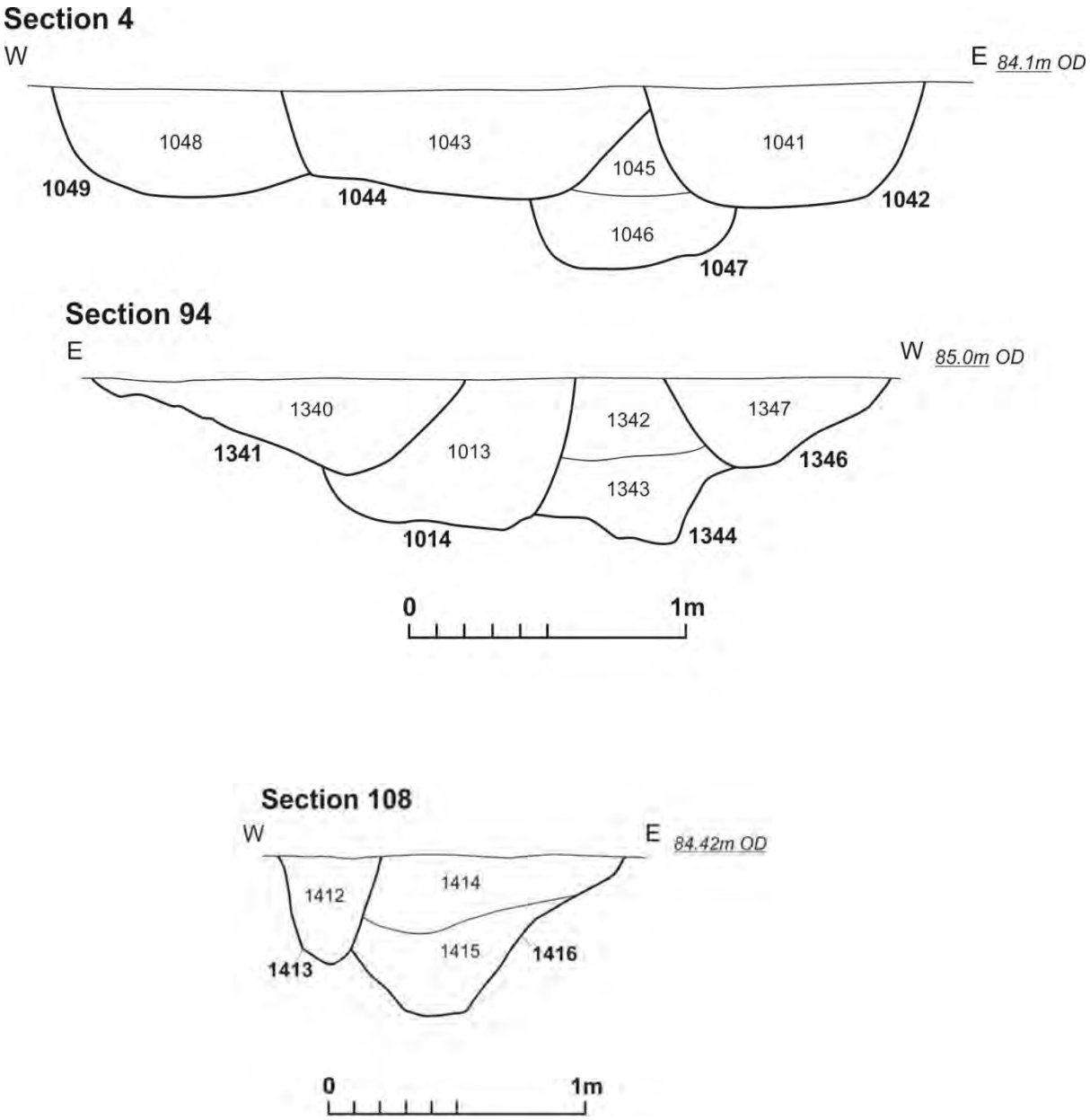
There was a concentration of flint seen within the natural clay subsoil and with the top of a layer within the routeway (Fig 12). The greatest concentration was at the northern extent of the routeway (Fig 9). It is uncertain whether the routeway had been metalled or whether this 'surface' were just a natural occurrence. Within the routeway there was a probable corralling area directly to the west of the possible metalling. Possibly related was an internal, parallel ditch within the routeway directly to the south of the suggested corral enclosure.

Eastern routeway ditch [1588]

The eastern ditch [1588] was not continuous and may have had two entranceways through it. The first was where the ditch terminated at the junction of two suggested Roman fields (F1 and 2) and created a *c*10m wide entrance into the latter field. The second is less certain as the later Period 2.3 Enclosure cut and removed ditch [1588]. The suggested entranceway was somewhere between the northern boundary of Field 8, ditch [1595], and ditch [1467]. Ditch [1467], on the same alignment as ditch [1588], was probably the extension of this eastern ditch.

The earliest ditch largely seems to have been in the centre (e.g. Fig 10, Section 94). Initially it was then cut on its eastern side and then the two latest recuts on the furthest western and eastern extents. Ditch [1588] and its recuts were of a similar size, up to 1.65m wide and between 0.29m and 0.59m deep. The ditch fills mostly comprised mid grey-grey brown friable to firm clayey silt with occasional stone and charcoal flecks. An environmental soil sample (Sample 9) was taken and the results suggest that the ditch had been damp or seasonally wet (See Fryer, Section 43, Table 39).

A total of 240 pottery sherds (2.81kg) were recovered from 10 excavation slots through the ditch. The pottery had a date range spanning the mid-1st and 2nd centuries. Pottery recovered included a grey ware mortarium (Fig 28, 22). Other objects recovered include a lead repair patch (SF 3).



Sections through routeway ditches [1588] and [1590] Fig 10

Western routeway ditch [1590]

The western ditch [1590] was recorded across the excavation area for *c*118m. Unlike the eastern ditch [1588], ditch [1590] was seemingly continuous with no entranceways. The ditch orientated on a north-west to south-east alignment except in the northern area where the corral area was located and was respected by the ditch curving around it.

Ditch [1590] also had up to three recuts (Fig 10, Section 4), but was also recorded at one point to have only a single recut, presumably here earlier ditches had totally been removed (Fig 10, Section 108). The ditch varied greatly in size and measured between 0.40m and 1.65m wide and its depth between 0.12m and 0.63m. It was generally filled by dark grey-brown friable silty clay with occasional stone pieces and also contained considerable quantity of charcoal flecks. A moderate quantity of pottery was recovered from ditch [1590] with 290 sherds weighing 4.43kg from 11 excavated slots. The pottery mainly dated to the mid to late 1st century AD but included a few 2nd century examples. Part vessels include illustrated examples of a grog-tempered jar (Fig 28, 1), a grog tempered jar/bowl (Fig 28, 14) and a grog-tempered bowl/strainer (Fig 28, 17). A horse's lower hind leg bones were also recovered from the ditch.

Central ditch [1302] and [1314] within the routeway

Two ditch segments [1302] and [1314] were within the centre of the routeway and were aligned parallel to its western and eastern ditches. It is possible the ditch may have been located partly to divide/corral cattle before reaching a possible animal pen/corral located directly to the north of it. Ditches [1302] and [1314] were collectively 25m long, between 0.40m and 0.65m wide and up to 0.16m deep.

Flint content within animal pen/corral ditch [1594], looking east Fig 11

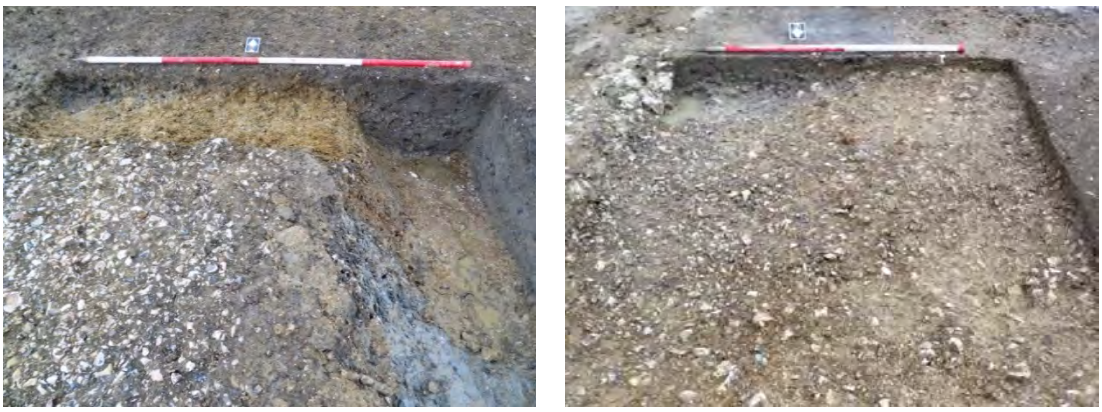
Corral

The probable corral enclosure measured *c*30m by 4m internally. It was delineated by western ditch [1590] and internal L-shaped ditch [1594]. The ditch varied from 0.60m to 1.61m wide and 0.20m to 0.36m deep. It was largely filled with a single deposit, which comprised mid grey to dark brown clayey silt with a small sand component at

the north-western area of the ditch. Charcoal flecks were abundant at its southern extent. Artefacts recovered comprised mostly pottery (49 sherds weighing 0.54kg), but it also included a coin (SF 4) of the Emperor Vespasian (AD 69 – 79). It is possible the pen/corral had been metalled as there was an abundance of flint and stone within the enclosure (Fig 11).

Possible metalled surface (1593)

Possible surface (1593) comprised an area of unsorted flint and gravel. It survived in the part of the routeway and extended more than 20m north-west to south-east and up to 4m wide. This respected the coral enclosure, but was cut by later Enclosure E1 on its eastern side. The surface in general was largely composed of a small angular flint pieces (90%) laid into the natural, pale to dark orange sandy silt/sand with large compact mid grey clay nodules. It only comprised a single 'course' of flint and no artefacts or ecofacts were found within the surface (Fig 12).



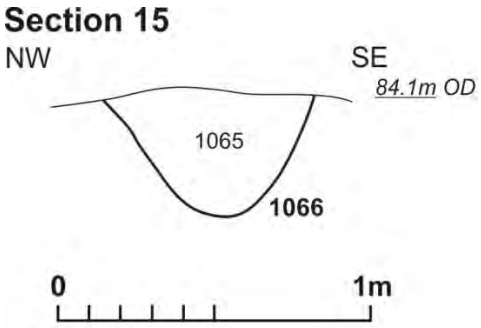
Possible surface (1593) Fig 12

Occupation area and associated features

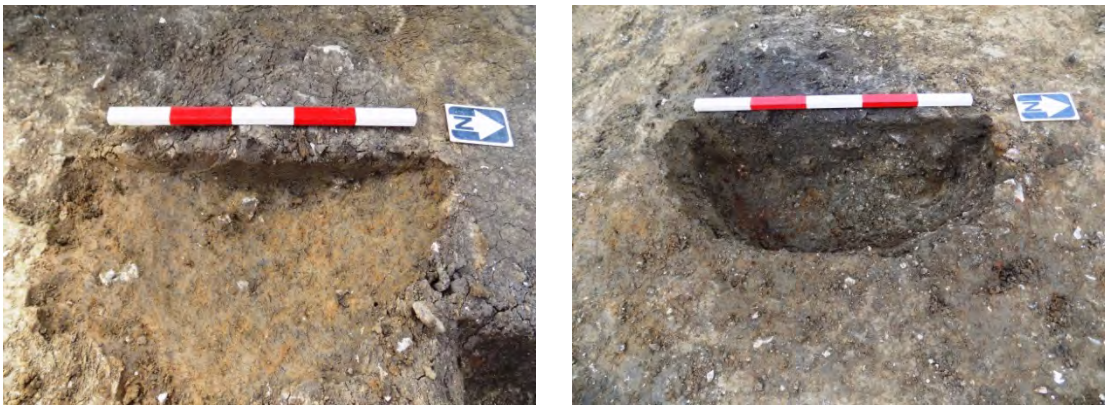
In the mid 1st to 2nd century the 'domestic' part of the settlement lay at the north-eastern extent of the site, located to the east of the routeway ditch [1588]. A probable roundhouse [1586], which was recorded more than 15m east of the routeway, survived as a fragmented curvilinear gully with a projected internal diameter of *c*13m (Fig 9). Its drip gully was recorded as two adjacent segments [1066 and 1077/1456], totalling 5.5m in length by up to 0.35m wide and up to 0.21m deep (Fig 13, Section 15).The drip gully sides were moderate to steep with concave bases. The single fill deposit varied from light green to grey sandy silt with occasional silt. In the fill there was a moderate to large quantity of pottery (86 sherds weighing 1.3kg) and included part of a Samian ware cup dated *c*AD 120-160 (SF 13). From two of the excavation slots through the ditch small quantities of fired clay (15 fragments weighing 0.143kg) were found, six of which had a smoothed surface.

Within the space defined by the drip gully there were postholes and pits which are likely to have related to the roundhouse. Eight postholes [1004], [1064], [1153], [1168], [1170], [1383], [1385] and [1430] were scattered across the internal projected area of the roundhouse (Fig 9). These measured between 0.45m and 1.05m in diameter and were between 0.04m and 0.23m deep with mostly vertical sides and flattish bases (Figs 14-16). Their fills differed between a mid grey firm clay and a dark black-grey firm silt with some charcoal and stone inclusions. Fill (1063) of the large

posthole [1064] contained a s mall assemblage of seven pottery sherds weighing 211g. Within the fill of posthole [1153] was a small assemblage of 10 pottery sherds weighing 533g including large fragment of amphora sherd, a grog-tempered jar (Fig 28, 8) and a bu ff ware carinated bowl (Fig 28, 16). In posthole [1385] there was a grog-tempered jar (Fig 28, 4). Other artefacts recovered from posthole [1153] include a fragment of a copper alloy Nauheim Derivative brooch (SF 22) which dates before the end of the 1st century AD and six fragments (0.48kg) of fired clay which included possible kiln/hearth lining fragments as well as some animal bone pieces.



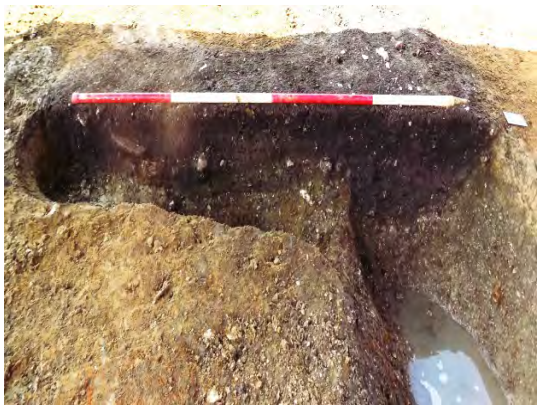
Roundhouse drip gully [1066], south-west facing section Fig 13



From left to right: postholes [1168] and [1170], looking west Fig 14

Posthole [1064], looking south-west Fig 15

Within the roundhouse there were also three pits [1155], [1251] and [1396]. The diameter of these pits varied from between 1.06m to 1.44m and they were between 0.20m to 0.50m deep (Fig 16). They all had a primary fill which varied between a mid blue-grey firm clay and a dark/mid grey-black firm sandy silt with moderate flint and charcoal content. The upper fills within pits [1251 and 1396] was identical and comprised a dark black-grey firm silt with abundance of charcoal and some burnt clay whereas in pit [1155] there was a light yellow-grey firm silty sand/sand. All three pits contained pottery fragments with the most recovered from pit [1396] from which there were 18 sherds weighing 385g. These consisted of five vessels which comprised two jars, a storage jar and a narrow-mouthed jar and a grooved-rimmed flagon. A grog-tempered jar was illustrated from posthole [1251] (Fig 28, 5) and a grog-tempered jar was illustrated from pit [1155; Fig 28, 7). Pits [1251 and 1396] contained moderate assemblages of fired clay possibly from ovens/hearths with the former 40 fragments (0.44kg) and 34 fragments (0.53kg) respectively.



From left to right: posthole [1153] and pit [1155] and Period 2.3 ditch [1157], looking west; posthole [1004] and pit [1251], looking south Fig 16

Just outside to the north of the roundhouse lay an isolated large pit [1509]. It was oval in plan with gently sloping sides and curved base and it measured 2.74m in length by 2.50m wide and 0.30m deep. Its fill (1508) was a dark grey-black firm silty clay with frequent gravel. From pit [1509] an iron figure-of-eight link was recovered.

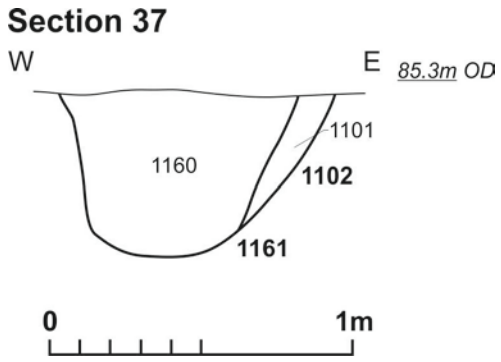
To the south of the roundhouse was posthole [1449] and pits [1381], [1458] and [1460]. Elongated pit [1381] was almost 2m long by 0.86m wide and 0.28m deep. It was slightly off of the east-west alignment and had a V-shaped profile with a concave base. At its western end it was truncated by medium size sub-circular pit [1460] located next to pit [1458] to the north. Posthole [1449] may have accommodated a small post which could have leant to and supported a larger timber post perhaps within [1460]. Posthole [1449] was sub-circular in plan and had steep sides with concave base measuring 0.50m long by 0.37m wide and 0.18m deep. Its fill (1448) was a mid grey-brown firm silty clay with occasional stone and flint and no dateable finds.

Field system

Evidence of field system was recovered and comprised parallel ditches aligned south-west to north-east respecting the routeway's two flanking ditches [1588] and [1590]. Parts of eight fields (F1 to F8) were defined. It is likely the field system extended beyond Area A to the north and into Area B with ditch [1581] being a continuity of one of the ditched boundaries (Fig 9).

Field 1 (F1)

Field 1 was located at the far south-eastern corner of the site. Only part of the postulated field lay within the excavation area and was delineated by ditch [1100], the eastern routeway ditch [1588] and the northern field boundary ditch [1161]. The latter was up to 1.05m wide and between 0.10m and 0.55m deep (Fig 17). Its fill was generally a mid grey-brown to orange friable sandy clay with moderate stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Few artefacts were recovered and this was found in only one excavated slot which produced some dateable evidence and animal bone.



Boundary ditch [1161] between Fields 1 and 2, south facing section Fig 17

Field 2 (F2)

Field 2 was located to the north of F1, with which it shared its southern boundary [1161] and its north boundary was ditch [1276] (Fig 9). The field measured more than 35m (east to west) by 42m (south to north) (Fig 18). There was a *c*10m wide entrance in the routeway on the south-west side of F2. Ditch [1276] was *c*1.00m wide and 0.25m deep. Its fill was mid brown-grey firm clayey silt with occasional stone and small assemblage of pottery of mid 1st to 2nd century. Some animal bone was also recovered.

Only one feature of contemporary date was present within that field. A cut of small discrete posthole [1268] was recorded to the north-west corner of F1 near the routeway flanking ditch [1588]. It was circular with moderately sloping sides and flattish base and it measured 0.44m in diameter and 0.11m deep. Within its mid grey-brown friable/firm silty/sandy clay fill with occasional stone and charcoal flecks fragments of CBM were found suggesting some sort of a structure although no other associated features were observed adjacent.

Field 3 (F3)

Field F3 was delineated by ditches [1276] on its southern side, [1588] on the western side and [1300/1356] to the north (Fig 9). It measured more than 35m (east to west) by *c*40m (north to south). Ditch [1300] was very fragmented and recorded over a *c*14m length, was 0.56m wide and 0.21m deep. The fill consisted of light grey-brown compact sandy clay with a moderate small and medium stone and flint.

A single pit [1465] lay within F3 near the southern ditch [1276]. It measured 1.13m long by 0.75m wide and 0.31m deep. It was sub-circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and uneven base filled with two fills. Its primary fill (1464) was a light grey-brown firm silty clay with occasional stone whilst the upper fill (1463) was a mid grey-brown moderately compact silty clay with occasional stone.

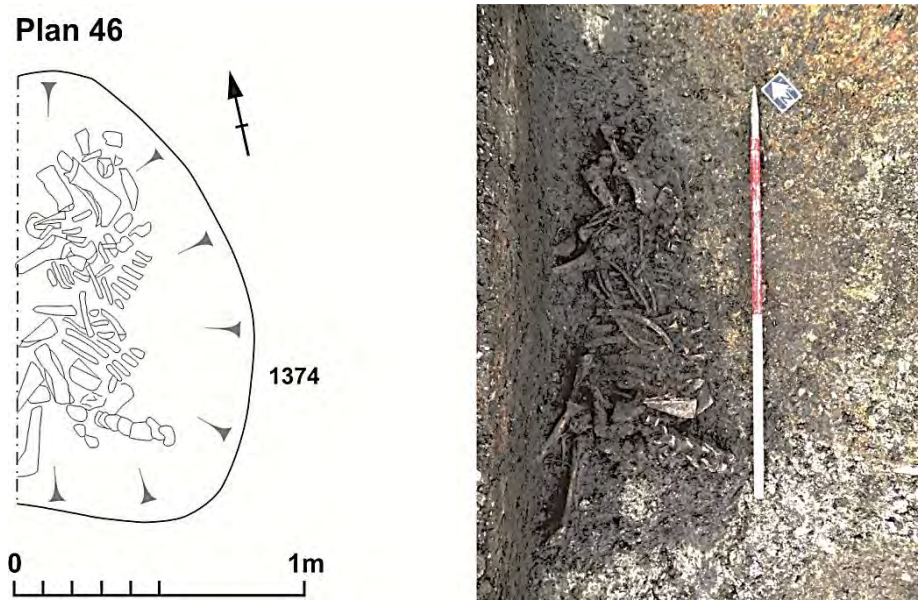
Boundary ditch [1276] between Field 2 and 3, looking north-east Fig 18

Field 4 (F4)

F4 was delineated by ditches [1300/1356] on its southern edge, the projected line of [1588] to the west and [1426] to the north. The southern and northern ditches were fragmentary. The width of F4 was at *c*20m, roughly half the size of F1 and F2. The northern ditch [1426] was recorded over a c10m distance and was 0.40m wide and 0.17m deep. Its single fill (1425) was dark grey-brown friable silty clay with occasional flint and charcoal and a small quantity of mid 1st to 2nd century pottery. The field would probably have projected further to the east beyond ditch [1426].

A possible internal east to west aligned ditch [1584] was seen in three locations and was truncated or largely removed by Period 2.3 Enclosure ditch [1585] and by Period 2.2 tree throw [1356] and pits [1403 and 1408]. If [1584] was a ditch it seems to have terminated at excavation section [1174] where it was seen over a *c*5m distance,1.18m wide and 0.49m deep. Ditch [1584] produced 73 pottery sherds weighing 0.52kg, the vast majority (61 sherds weighing 0.43kg) came from its eastern end [1174].

Within F4 there was a probable tree throw [1356] and three pits [1374], [1403] and [1408]. Pit [1374] was oval/sub-circular in plan and measured *c*4m long by 3.50m wide by 0.62m deep (Fig 19). It contained three fills, the primary being (1373), which was mid orange-brown firm silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions and it probably entirely derived from the weathered natural. The secondary fill (1372), was 0.36m deep, dark grey-brown mid-compact silty clay with occasional stone.

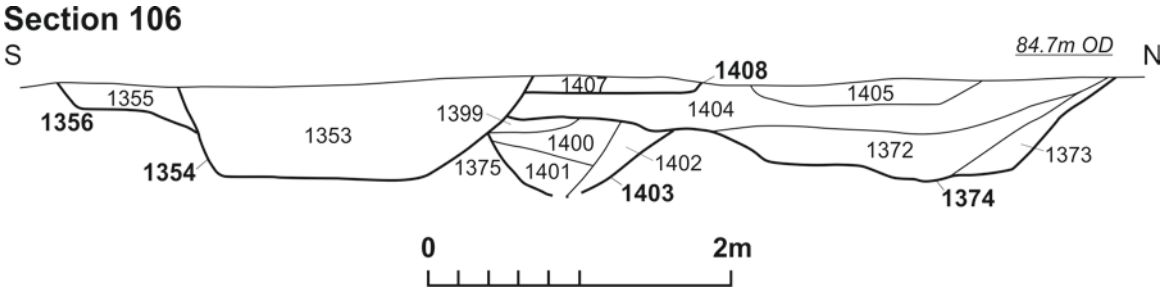


Pit [1374] with the headless cattle's skeleton, taken from above Fig 19

In deposit (1372) there was an almost complete headless cattle's skeleton (Fig 19). This skeleton was sealed by fill (1404), *c*0.30m thick, and composed of dark black-brown compact clayey silt. In this deposit there was a notable assemblage of kiln material, possibly secondary remains of a pottery kiln (76 fragments weighing 4.55kg) as well as other animal bone fragments including a horse 1st and 2nd vertebrae.

Pit [1403] was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and concave base, measured *c*1.20m in diameter by 0.52m deep Fig 20: Section 106). It contained several definable layers of dumped material. The primary fill, (1402), was a slump of material on the side of the cut and was recorded as mid green-grey to mid brown firm silty clay/clay with occasional stone throughout. Secondary fill (1401) was 0.22m thick and was in a more horizontal position described as light green-grey silty clay with moderate stone and flint inclusions. This deposit was sealed by fill (1400), a mid grey brown compact silty clay, which was 0.28m thick. The latest deposit within the sequence was (1399), recorded as light grey-brown firm silty clay with frequent chalk and flint (Fig 20).

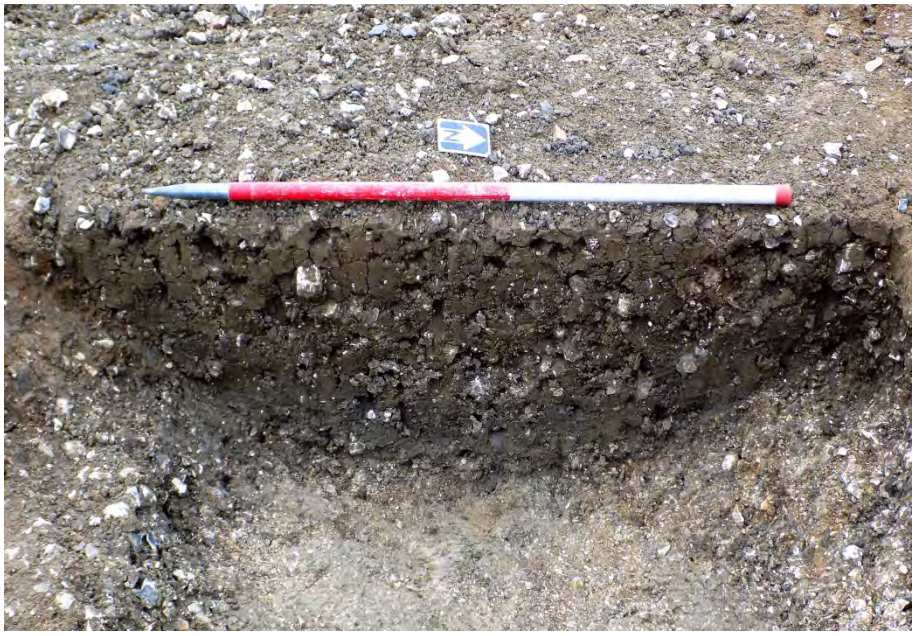
Pit [1408] was last in the Period 2.2 sequence of intercutting features. It was 1.4m in diameter and 0.49m deep and contained a single deposit. Pottery recovered included two grog-tempered jars (Fig 28, 2 and 6). A moderate assemblage of fired clay kiln material was recovered from pit [1408] comprising 21 fragments weighing (0.72kg), but given the stratigraphic relationship these may have derived from pit [1374] which had a notable assemblage of kiln material (see above). Pit [1408] was cut by Period 2.3 ditch [1354] [1485].



From left to right: pit [1356], Enclosure E1, cut [1354], pit [1403] and pit [1374], east facing section Fig 20

Field 5 (F5)

Field 5 lay to the north of F4 and within it was the possible roundhouse (Fig 9). It was defined by ditch [1426] on its southern side, the projected line of [1588] on its western and on the northern side by ditch [1595]. The latter was especially large at 1.76m wide by 0.42m deep (Fig 21). Its lower fill was dark grey-black firm sandy silt with obvious content of domestic waste, organic matter and charcoal (1484). The upper fill consisted of mid brown-orange firm silty clay with frequent stone, chalk and occasional charcoal which together may indicate some demolition phase (1483). In the ditch was a small quantity of pottery (33 sherds weighing 0.42kg) and a moderate quantity of fired clay including possible kiln supports (six fragments weighing 0.48kg). Other finds within its fill were two fragments of human bone (a fused proximal femur and a fragment of fibula) and a complete dog skeleton.



Ditch [1595], looking west Fig 21

Field 6 (F6)

Field 6 lay at the far south-western extent of the site, only the northern boundary of F6 was within the excavated area. That was defined by ditch [1062], which was seen

for nearly 20m as it continued into the site's western baulk. There was a 9m gap between the ditch and the routeway's western ditch [1590], which was probably an intentional entranceway which led into Field 7 to the north. Ditch [1062] was 0.96m wide and 0.37m deep with moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill was mid brown to grey silty clay with occasional flint pieces, which produced a residual 4th century AD coin (SF9) of Constantine I (AD 335 – 341).

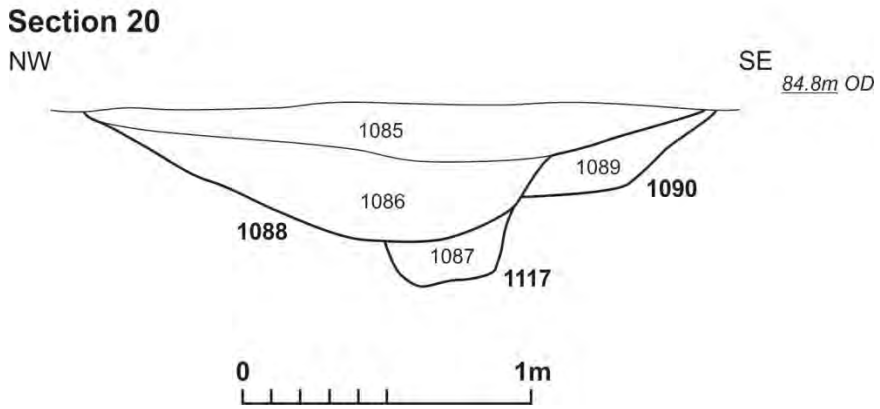
Field 7 (F7)

Field 7 was delineated by ditch [1062] to the south, ditch [1590] to the east and ditch [1296] at its northern side. The field measured at least 30m long east to west by *c*30m north to south. The northern boundary, ditch [1296], was 0.40m wide and 0.14m deep and it had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill comprised a light brown to grey silty clay. No features were recorded within F7.

Field 8 (F8)

F8 lay to the north of F7 and was defined by ditch [1128] to the north, ditch [1296] to the south and [1590] to the east. Internally F8 had ditch [1088] with possible further related features found in Trench 4 more than 40m to the west. F8 was *c*18m wide from north to south. The northern ditch [1128] was *c*11m long. It terminated on its western side possibly due to respecting curvilinear ditch [1088]. It was 0.60m wide and 0.17m deep and was filled with a mid brown grey firm silty clay with occasional flint. It did not contain any finds.

Ditch [1088] was only partly seen within the excavation. It cut Period 2.1 pits [1090] and [1117] (Fig 22, Section 20). The ditch emerged from the western baulk, aligned north-east to south-west, extended into the excavation area for c3m before turning to the north-west continuing for *c*15m directly to terminal of ditch [1128]. It was up to 1.52m wide and up to 0.32m deep with moderate to near vertical sides and a concave base. The lower fill comprised a mid brown-grey silty clay with some orange-brown sand speckling and occasional flint inclusion. The upper fill was dark grey to black clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and flint pieces throughout.



Curvilinear ditch [1088] and pits [1090] and [1117], south-west facing section Fig 22

About 40m to the west of the excavated area within Trench 4 there were two ditches, [404] and [410], pit [408] and a posthole [406]. It is uncertain what these features related to but they may have lain within F8's boundaries. The two ditches were located within a 5.5m of one another and both were aligned roughly west to east. They were between 0.82m and 1.45m wide and 0.12m and 0.26m deep. Their fills

were almost identical and comprised a dark grey friable silty sand with occasional stone. Fill (409) contained middle 1st to 2nd century AD pottery.

Pit [408], also present in Trench 4, was an elongated oval in plan, more than 1.5m long, 0.43m wide and 0.08m deep. It was orientated south-east by north-west and had gently curved sides with a concave base. Its fill (407) consisted of a dark brown friable silty clay with charcoal flecks and occasional small stones. Posthole [406] was located just to the north of the pit and was oval in plan with a rounded profile and a flattish base. Its fill (405) was a dark brown-orange friable silt with occasional stone.

AREA B

Within the extended area (Area B) fifteen shallow pits, largely intercutting, and two ditches were identified (Fig 9).

The pits were generally sub-circular in plan and mostly had moderately U-shaped profiles and concave bases (Fig 23). The smallest pit [1565] was 0.60m wide by 0.42m deep and the largest in area [1526] was 1.64m wide by 0.38m deep. Pit [1583] was 0.70m deep. The fills were generally composed of mid grey brown with orange silty sand/sand with gravel and flint, and occasional charcoal flecks were common. The pits produced in total only 79g of pottery. In addition, a copper alloy Nauheim Derivative brooch (Fig 29, SF44) of *c* late 1st century AD date was recovered from pit [1563]. Pit [1583] had some 1st century pottery including a flanged bowl (Fig 28, 18) and part of a Hertfordshire puddingstone quern.

Area B pits [1326] - [1332], looking north Fig 23

South of the intercutting pits here was ditch [1581], this was possibly a continuation of the field system to the south. The ditch was recorded over a c25m distance and was aligned north-east to south-west extending into the site's western baulk but terminating within Area B on its eastern side (Fig 9). Ditch [1581] was up to 1.26m wide and 0.41m deep and had moderately sloping sides with a flattish base. Its primary fill was a redeposited natural which had probably formed by silting and slumping as the ditch weathered. It was later deliberately backfilled with a 0.35m thick deposit of mid grey brown compact silty clay with moderate stone and occasional chalk. In this deposit there was a moderate to large assemblage of pottery (1.07kg).

Directly to the south of ditch [1581] on a similar alignment was gully [1516]. It was observed for a length of 3m and had been completely truncated by a furrow at its north-east end. It measured 0.78m wide by 0.23m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill which comprised a mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional stone and chalk fragments.

Further south-west on the line of the gully were two intercutting pits [1559 and 1561] adjacent to the limit of the excavation. Pits [1559] and [1561] were oval in plan and had similar, gently sloping sides and a flattish base, measuring 1.10m in diameter and up to 0.33m deep. They were filled with a material which varied slightly between mid grey-brown/orange compact/firm silt/silty clay with occasional stone and chalk fragments.

2.4 Period 2.3 Second century to the 4th century AD

During the 2nd century the settlement was replanned with the routeway and associated field system replaced by a sub-square enclosure E1 (Fig 24). Few other Period 2.3 features were found except isolated examples to the south of E1 in Area A and no Period 2.3 features were recorded in Area B.

The sub-square enclosure E1 lay in the northern part of Area A with the large majority of this enclosure within the excavation area except for its north-eastern corner (Fig 24). No entranceway through E1 was found presumably this lay within the north-eastern corner beyond the excavation area. E1 externally measured *c*42m north-east to south-west and 42m and *c*43m from north-west to south-east and encompassed an area of approximately 1800m². Eighteen sections were excavated across ditch [1585].

Ditch [1585] varied between 0.73m and 2.10m wide and was 0.35m to 0.52m deep. It was filled with dark brown-grey silty clay with some small stones inclusions whose quantity increased towards the south-west corner. Three environmental samples were taken from the ditch (Table 39; Samples 1, 6 and 24). Sample 24 produced a large quantity of cereal grains especially wheat probably low density cereal processing/storage waste (See Fryer, Section 4.3). The seeds from Sample 1 suggest that the ditch was damp or seasonally wet.

A significant quantity of artefacts and ecofacts were found within the ditch including a substantial assemblage of mid/late Roman pottery (303 sherds weighing 3.3kg; See Perrin, Section 3.1, Tables 7 and 8). Moderate quantities of pottery were recovered from seven of the excavated slots including Samian ware fragments (SFs 18, 19, 36). Part vessels included a cup in a reddish-yellow ware (Fig 28, 21) and a mortarium (Fig 28, 23). Four mid-4th centuries Roman coins (SFs 2,5,11 and 12) were recovered from the top of the ditch (See Table 32). Other objects include an iron rod (SF 37) and three nails. Other remains recovered included part of a cattle hind leg, a red deer antler fragment which had been worked.

Within the enclosure there were several features (ditches and pits) and layer (1592) (Fig 24). None were obviously structural. Any former domestic structures in E1 do not seem to have survived.

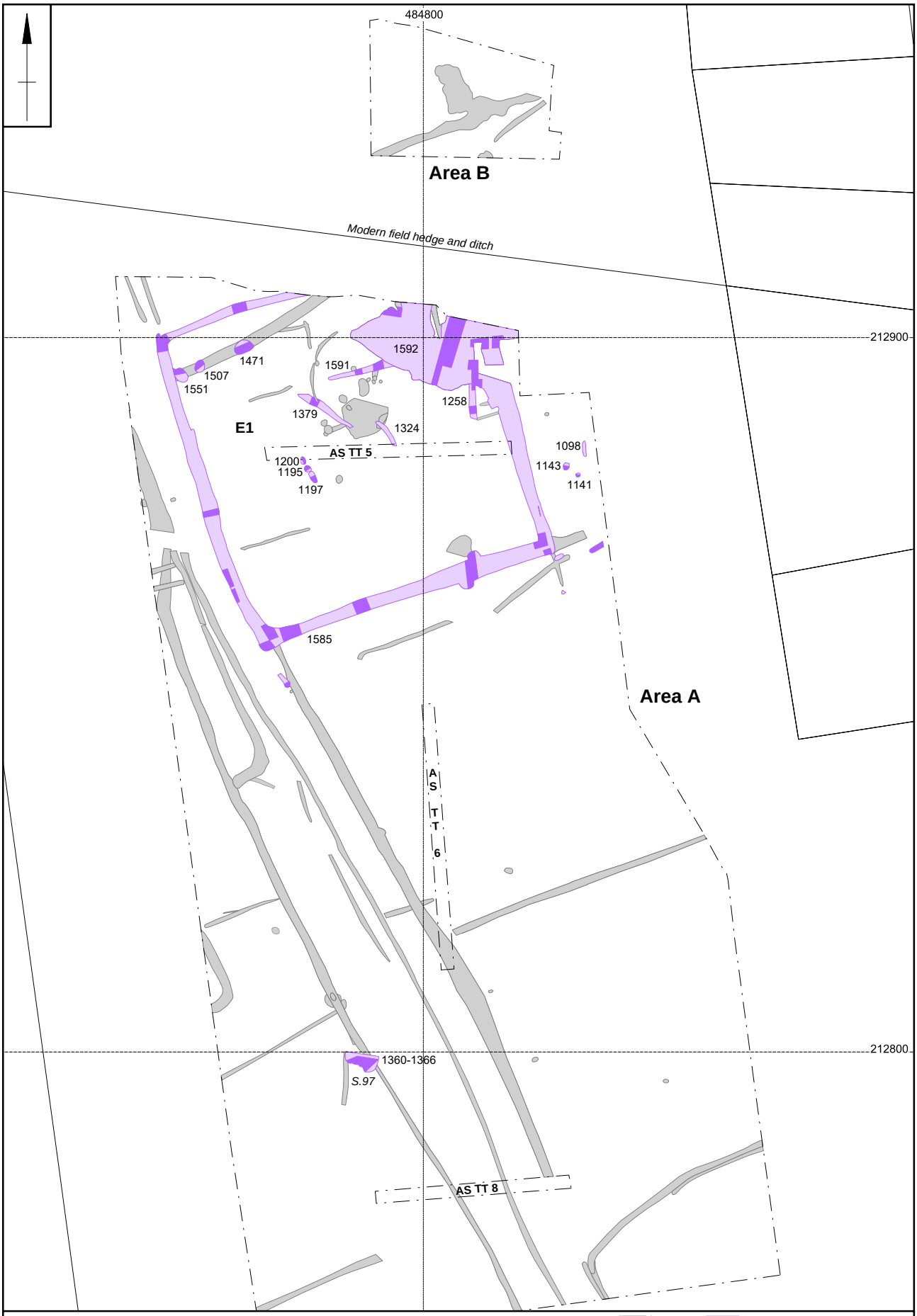
Ditch [1591] was aligned west to east (Fig 24). It was at least 27m long and terminated in the centre of E1, and continued further to the east (Fig 24). It varied between 0.64m and 1.30m wide and 0.24m and 0.51m deep. In three out of seven excavated segments, the profile was rather close to vertical with a flattish/concave base filled with dark black-grey soft silty clay with occasional stone and chalk fragments. There was a small quantity of pottery recovered from the ditch comprising

30 sherds (0.50kg) as well as a sheep/goat metacarpal which showed signs of working.

Ditch [1324] lay 15m to the south of ditch [1591] and was aligned north-west to south-east. It was seen for *c*3.5m before it terminated and was 0.75m wide and 0.50m deep with a V-shaped profile and a concave base. Its lower fill (1323) comprised redeposited natural and this was overlain by dark grey-black firm silty clay (1322), with stone and charcoal flecks inclusions. It contained 13 sherds (157g) of pottery dating to the mid to late Roman period, some CBM and animal bone fragments.

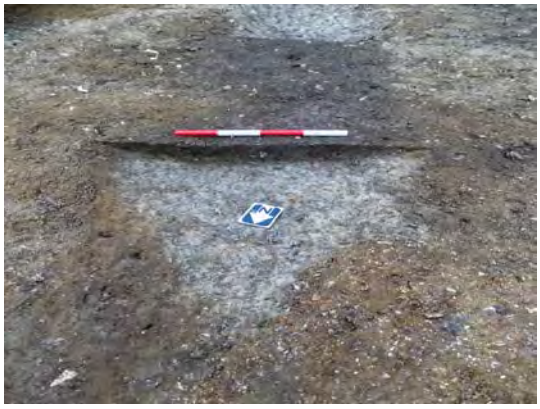
Ditch [1379] lay directly to the west of ditch [1324]. It was also aligned north-west to south-east and recorded over a 8m distance. Ditch [1379] had a U-shaped profile with a flattish base and was filled (1378) with dark grey-brown firm silty clay with occasional charcoal.

Some 5m south-west from ditch [1379] lay a group of ovoid pits [1195, 1197 and 1200] (Fig 25). They had moderately steep sides with irregular bases in [1197] and [1200], and flattish one in [1195]. The pits were filled with similar deposits consisting of dark grey-black friable silts, organic and humic clay silt with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional flint inclusions. In pit [1200] almost three complete grey ware vessels (2065g) were recovered. The other two pits had a moderate quantity of pottery including four grey ware jars from pit [1200] (Fig 28, 9-12) and a grey ware dish from pit [1195] (Fig 28, 20). The pottery dated between the late 1st and 2nd century AD and pit [1200] may therefore date to Period 2.2. Pottery from pit [1195] was dated to the 2nd to 3rd century whilst pottery from pit [1197] was mid 1st to 2nd century AD. If they were a related group then a 2nd or 3rd century AD date is most likely.



Scale 1:750

Second to 3rd century features Fig 24




Left: Pit [1197] and [1195] in the background, looking south-east;
Right: Pit [1200], looking south-west Fig 25

A group of three large pits [1471, 1507 and 1551] were recorded *c*5m south of E1's north-western corner. They were cut into former Period 2.2 ditch [1595]. All three pits were were sub-circular in plan with gradually sloping sides and a flattish base and they were between 1.80m and 2.75m long, between 1.54m and 1.87m wide and 0.43m and 0.70m deep. The pits lower fills largely comprised light to mid grey silty clay with some stone inclusions especially near the base of the pits. These were overlaid by a dark grey-brown loose silty loam with occasional stone, moderate chalk and occasional charcoal inclusions. Potery recovered included a grey ware carinated bowl (Figs 29, 15). In the fill of pit [1471] there was a bone pin (SF 40), an iron nail and another iron fragment.

Within the north-eastern corner of E1 was a large spread (1592) was identified over an area *c*20m east to west by more than 10m north to south. It was between 0.12m and 0.45m thick, and comprised mostly dark grey clayey silt or silty sand, often with abundant charcoal flecks and some natural flint inclusions. In this layer were 78 pottery sherds (0.82kg) mostly dating to the late 1st to 2nd century but included earlier material and also a LNVCC which may be later in date. Other artefacts recovered from the layer included two nails.

Features to the east of Enclosure 1

To the east of E1 was a small group of discrete features. This included elongated pit or a beam-slot, [1098] and a two fairly similar undated pits [1141] and [1143] of possibly natural derivation (Fig 26). Elongated feature [1098] was possibly a pit, a truncated ditch or even beam-slot. It was aligned north to south and measured more than 2m in length but was cut by a furrow on its southern side. It was 0.38m wide and 0.19m deep with moderate to steep symmetrical sides and a concave base. Its lower fill (1097) was light orange-grey friable/firm sandy silt and may have been the result of natural silting. This was sealed by deposit (1096), 0.38m wide and 0.09m deep and consisted of a black firm to soft organic silt with an abundance of charcoal flecks. The environmental soil sample (7) taken from this deposit was almost entirely consisted of charcoal (See Fryer, Section 4.3 and Table 30). The quantity of charcoal recovered gives the suggestion the feature had been a beam slot some validity. This upper deposit also contained a few fired clay and animal bone fragments.

From left clockwise: pits [1098, 1141 and 1143], looking north-east Fig 26

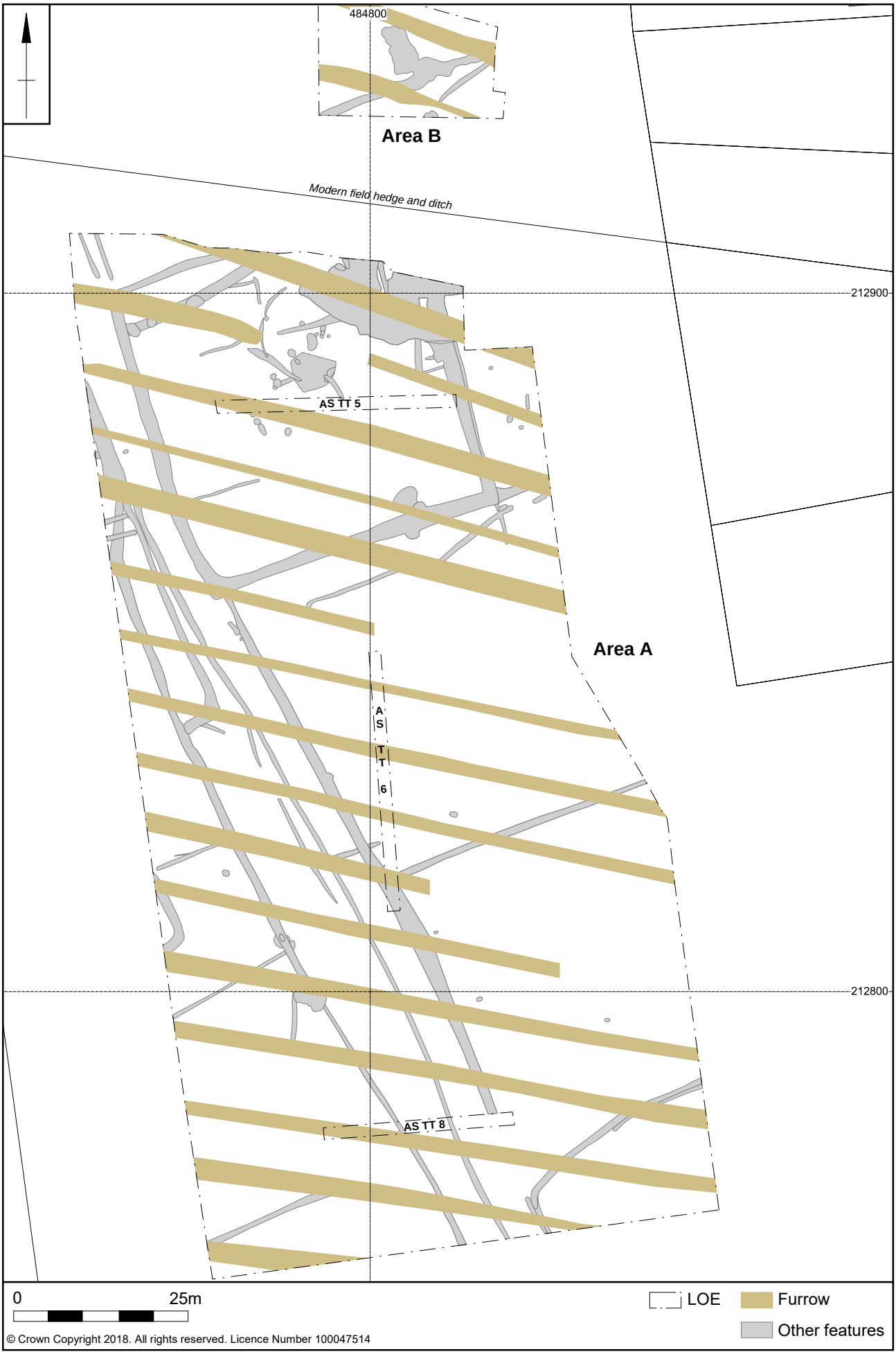
Pits [1141 and 1143] were located directly to the south-west of pit [1098]. They were similar sized features at 0.65m and 1.0m in diameter and 0.15m and 0.16m deep respectively.

Features to the south of Enclosure 1

More than 50m south of Enclosure were two intercutting pits [1360 and 1366] (Fig 7, Section 97). The earliest was circular pit [1366] which measured 2.70m in diameter and was 0.78m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flattish base. Its single fill (1365) was mid brown-grey friable silty clay with chalk and stone inclusion. It was cut by pit [1364], and its top was cut by similar circular pit [1360]. It measured 2.30m wide by 0.43m deep and its profile was recorded as steep sided with a flattish base. As a probable result of silting it was filled with (1359) and (1357) the two almost identical, mid brown-grey friable silty clay fills with pottery sherds.

2.5 Period 3 Medieval to post-medieval

There was no evidence of activity of any activity between the Roman period and the establishment of the medieval field system (Fig 27). Medieval to post-medieval furrows were present across site aligned north-west to south-east. They were spaced *c*8m apart and were on average between 1.00m and 3.00m wide and between 0.10m and 0.36m deep.



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Medieval to post-medieval furrows Fig 27

3 THE FINDS

3.1 **Pottery** by Rob Perrin

Introduction

A total of 2688 sherds weighing nearly 40 kilos and with an Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE), based on rims, of just nearly over 31.5 was recovered from 166 contexts in 152 features. The pottery was recorded by fabric and vessel form was also noted where identifiable, providing an additional quantification measure of 268 vessels. The features comprise mainly ditches (76), gullies (20) and pits (38).

Fabrics

The fabrics are classified according to principle inclusion or firing method (Table 2). Those with specific inclusions comprise mainly grog-tempered and shell-gritted, together with flint-gritted and one with a mixture of grog and shell inclusions. The other pottery is sand-tempered and varies in texture from fine to coarse, depending on the amount of sand grains in the fabric. The sand-tempered fabrics have been grouped on the basis of whether they were fired under oxidised or reduced firing conditions. The main oxidised fabrics are cream, buff pink and reddish-yellow while grey, dark grey, black and black-brown are the principal reduced fabrics. Pottery from known regional and continental sources is classified according to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). These comprise Dorset black-burnished ware (DORBB1), Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (LNVCC) and possible white ware (LNVWH), Oxfordshire colour-coated (OXFRS) and white (OXFWH) wares, Verulamium white ware (VERWH) and South (LGFSA), Central (LEZSA2) and East Gaulish Samian (RHZSA) wares. There are also a few sherds of colour-coated ware (CC) with buff or reddish-yellow core and the sherds of amphora may be from Gaul. The Samian ware has been examined by J.M.Mills and her comments have been integrated into the text as appropriate.

Table 2: Fabric quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE
Flint	43	423	
Open-textured	1	3	
Black-brown coarse	13	207	0.25
Grog	974	16162	7.99
Grog, pink-buff, grey core	53	1498	0.11
Grog, reddish-yellow, grey core	27	856	0.33
Grog, reddish-brown, grey core	5	506	0.25
Grog, grey	15	414	0.88
Grog and shell	6	148	
Shell	64	750	1.02
Grey	265	3575	5.84
Grey, coarse	391	5417	3.95
Dark grey	36	521	1.69
Dark grey, coarse	280	3435	2.58

Buff	31	220	0.71
Buff, coarse	150	1284	1.18
Cream	33	244	
Cream, coarse	1	21	
Reddish-brown	22	245	0.33
Reddish-brown, coarse	29	392	
Reddish-yellow	110	1005	1.55
Reddish-yellow, coarse	45	430	1.24
CC, buff	18	111	
CC, reddish-yellow	2	21	0.09
LNVCC	2	50	
LNVWH?	1	45	
OXFRS	22	245	0.39
OXFRS?	1	23	0.07
OXFWH	8	649	0.49
VERWH	3	160	
DORBB1	6	75	0.17
LGFSA	9	56	0.16
LEZSA2	17	202	0.14
RHZSA	2	11	
Amphora	3	540	
Total	**2688**	**39923**	**31.41**

The reduced grey wares and grog-tempered wares are the most common. Some of the grog-tempered ware is black, brown or reddish-brown in colour. The oxidised (pink-buff) grog-tempered ware, usually with a grey core, is a distinctive fabric commonly termed 'pink grogged ware' (Booth and Green 1989, Taylor 2004) and the reddish-yellow and reddish-brown grog-tempered ware may be variants of this. The grey grog-tempered ware may be another variant and is also distinctive, both because of its colour, and also because it is usually much harder fired than other grog-tempered wares. The colour of the shell-gritted ware varies from dark brown through to buff and reddish yellow, occasionally with a grey core. The 'open-textured' ware is one with a hackly fracture and few visible inclusions.

Forms

Table 3 shows vessel form by fabric. Jars account for nearly two-thirds of the total, occurring in most of the fabrics other than the fine wares. Eleven of the jars are of storage size, all in grog-tempered ware and eighteen are lid-seated, occurring in grog-tempered, shell-gritted, grey, coarse dark grey and coarse reddish-yellow wares. Three grog-tempered and two coarse grey ware jars are narrow-mouthed and the LGFSA jar may be a Dechelette 67. The bowls include flanged types in coarse grey and DORBB1 and the LNVWH? bowl is a hemispherical flanged form. One of

the OXFRS bowls is an imitation of a Drag. 38 and one of the grey ware bowls may be an imitation of a Drag. 30. One each of the buff ware and the coarse dark grey ware bowls are carinated with rim grooves while the other coarse dark grey ware bowl and one of the grog-tempered bowls are lid-seated.

Four of the dishes have plain rims, occurring in grey, coarse dark grey, DORBB1 and grog-tempered fabrics. There are also two triangular-rimmed dishes in grey and coarse grey wares and two bead-rimmed dishes in coarse grey and dark grey wares. Three other dishes are of Gallo-Belgic type, occurring in grog-tempered, coarse black-brown and dark grey fabrics. The LGFSA dishes are Drag. 18, 35 and 36?, three of those in LEZSA2 are Drag 31, 35 and 36 and that in RHZSA is a Drag. 36. The LEZSA2 cups comprise two Drag. 27 and a Drag. 33 while the reddish-yellow ware cup is an imitation Drag. 33. One of the buff ware beakers has a cornice rim, the reddish-yellow ware vessel has a plain rim and the coarse reddish-brown ware beaker is of butt-beaker form. The coarse buff ware flagons include two with ring-necks and one with a grooved rim and the mortaria include two with bead and flange rims in OXFWH and a coarse grey ware, a LEZSA2 Drag.45 and an OXFRS imitation Drag. 45 (Young 1977, form C100).

The miscellaneous vessels comprise a jar or bowl, a jar or flagon and a bowl or strainer with pierced holes in its base in grog-tempered ware, a grey ware lid, a lid and a jar or bowl in coarse grey ware, a grey ware dish or lid and two dishes or lids in coarse dark grey ware and a large flagon or amphora and a flagon or jar in coarse reddish-yellow ware. Another grog-tempered ware base has pierced holes and may also be a strainer.

Table 3: Fabric/ Vessel form quantification

Fabric	Jar	B	D	B/D	Cup	BKR	J/BKR	F	M	Misc	Total
Black, brown coarse	1		1								**2**
Grog	61	2	1				1			3	**68**
Grog, pink-buff, grey core	5										**5**
Grog, reddish-yellow, grey core	3										**3**
Grog, reddish-brown, grey core	2										**2**
Grog, grey	6		1								**7**
Shell	6										**6**
Grey	30	1	2	1			4			2	**40**
Grey, coarse	18	3	2	1			2		1	2	**29**
Dark grey	8	1	3								**12**
Dark grey, coarse	10	2	1							2	**15**
Buff	1	1				2		1			**5**
Buff, coarse	3							6			**9**
Cream						1					**1**
Reddish-brown							2				**2**

Reddish-brown, coarse						1					**1**
Reddish-yellow	4	3			1	1		1			**10**
Reddish-yellow, coarse	7	1					2			2	**12**
CC, buff						2					**2**
CC, reddish-yellow		1									**1**
LNVCC						2					**2**
LNVWH?		1									**1**
OXFRS		2				2			2		**6**
OXFRS?				1							**1**
OXFWH									5		**5**
VERWH									1		**1**
DORBB1		1	1	1							**3**
LGFSA	1		4								**5**
LEZSA2		1	6		3				1		**11**
RHZSA			**1**								**1**
Total	**166**	**20**	**23**	**4**	**4**	**11**	**11**	**8**	**10**	**11**	**268**

KEY: J/B = Jar or Bowl; B = Bowl, D = Dish; B/D = Bowl or Dish; BKR = Beaker; J/BKR = Jar or Beaker; F= Flagon; M = Mortarium

Some of the grog-tempered ware jars are decorated with rilling, combing or scoring and have cordons and/or grooves at the junction of the neck and shoulder and one has a horizontal band of notches on its shoulder with rilling below. Additional types of decoration on grog-tempered body sherds comprise curvilinear scoring, combed or incised wavy lines, incised chevrons and long vertical notches. Other grog-tempered vessels with decoration are a bowl with burnished diagonal lines slanted in opposite directions above and below a neck cordon and a corrugated jar or bowl with burnished diagonal lines. The grey ware possible imitation Drag. 30 has vertical narrow combing between grooves and the possible LNVWH bowl has red-painted lines on its flange. A DORBB1 dish or bowl has burnished lattice decoration and a LNVCC beaker body sherd has part of a barbotine animal; one of the OXFRS beakers also has barbotine decoration together with rouletting. Two grey ware jars or beakers have barbotine dot decoration, one in lozenge-shaped panels. One of the jars or beakers in reddish-brown ware has bands of narrow wavy lines and one of those in coarse grey ware has a boss and rouletting. Rouletting also occurs on the cream ware beaker and body sherds in buff, CC and reddish-yellow ware. The cream ware beaker rouletting is in bands separated by grooves; only the bottom part of the vessel is present. Two of the mortaria are stamped: one in OXFWH is illiterate (cf Young 1977, fig. 13, 19) and the other in coarse grey ware may be by the Verulamium potter Castus.

Sources

Sherds of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware and, possibly, white ware (LNVCC, LNVWH), Dorset black-burnished ware (DORBB1), Oxfordshire colour-coated and

white wares (OXFRS, OXFWH) and Verulamium white ware (VERWH) represent regionally traded pottery while the LGFSA, LEZSA2, RHZSA and amphorae represent continental imports. The rouletted cream ware beaker base may be of North Gaulish origin.

No local kiln or other pottery production sites are known in the area, but it is interesting to note that three vessels in the assemblage, all grey ware jars, have slightly warped rims (Period 2.2 gully [1242/1426] and *c*10m to the north of this Period 2.3 pit [1200] – see Fig 28, 9-10); these are 'seconds' which may indicate local production. Aylesbury is on Akeman Street Roman road and near its junction with another road (Margary 162), so would presumably have been well placed to receive goods from further afield. The nearest known kiln site, producing late grey wares, is at Berkhampstead, 10 kilometres to the south-east (Swan 1984, 138). Grog-tempered wares were being produced in the Milton Keynes area, some 20 kilometres to the north, in the mid-1st century (Bletchley and Walton*:* Swan 1984, 134) and it is likely that some of the grog-tempered wares from the site were locally produced. Pink grogged ware is common on sites in the Milton Keynes area and one probable source has been identified in the Stowe area (Booth 1999, Booth and Green 1989; Marney 1989; Taylor 2004). The hardness and colour of the fabric of some of the vessels may, however, suggest an additional source or sources. The flint-gritted pottery is likely to have been locally produced and some of the shell-gritted pottery may be products of the kilns at Harrold in Bedfordshire (Brown 1994). Oxidised and grey wares were produced in the Milton Keynes area and in more distant kiln sites in South Northamptonshire and at Gerrards Cross, Fulmer, Luton, Toddington (Swan 1984, 133-4). Some of the oxidised ware, especially the coarser cream and buff wares may be Verulamium products and some of the other oxidised and grey wares could be Oxfordshire products; the CC ware may be OXFRS.

Date

The flint-tempered wares indicate activity in the early to mid-Iron Age, or even the late Bronze Age. Some of the grog-tempered, shell-gritted, black-brown and coarse black-brown wares are probably of later Iron Age date but most of the grog-tempered ware is of 1st century AD date, perhaps extending into the 2nd century. Pink grog-tempered ware appears to have had a long duration from the 2nd century in its core usage area (Booth and Green 1989, 82; Taylor 2004, 60), but Aylesbury is in the outer zone where only the later types would be expected (Taylor 2004, 63-4 and fig 3). While some of the vessels are perhaps later storage jar types, the other forms seem earlier. The shell-gritted pottery jars cannot be dated closely but the grey ware jars can be dated to the later 1st century and throughout the 2nd century. The Gallo-Belgic type dishes are of mid-1st century date, while those with triangular-rims are of 2nd century date and those with plain rims are most likely to be of mid - 2nd to 3rd century date. The flanged bowls are a later 2nd to 4th century type and the beakers are mainly 3rd to 4th century forms, though that with a cornice rim and the LNVCC vessel with a barbotine animal are of 2nd century date. The imitation Samian ware Drag. 30 is probably of 2nd century date but the OXFRS bowls and Drag. 45 mortarium are more likely to date to the 4th century; the OXFWH mortaria are mainly of 3rd century date though they may be later. The Samian ware ranges in date from the mid-1st to the mid-3rd centuries. Overall, the assemblage suggests that the main activity and occupation in the area was in the mid-1st to 2nd centuries. There was some activity in the early to mid and late Iron Age and perhaps earlier, and the 3rd and 4th centuries.

The Feature Groups (Table 4)

Table 4: Feature Group quantification

Context	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
1584	73	524	0.69	4
1585	303	3297	3.89	34
1586	86	1299	2.21	20
1588	240	2806	2.33	7
1589	25	127		
1590	290	4431	2.04	23
1591	30	498	0.34	6
1592	78	821	0.45	7
1594	49	540	0.31	2
1595	33	418	0.06	2

Ditch 1584

A possible Period 2.2 ditch [1584] which was seen in three locations and contained pottery with a combined total of 73 sherds weighing 524g and a rim EVE of 0.69; four vessels were also present (Table 5).

Table 5: Feature Group [1584] Feature/Form quantification

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Ditch 1028	11	84	0.14	2
Ditch 1174	61	431	0.55	2
Ditch 1189	1	9		
Total	**73**	**524**	**0.69**	**4**

Most of the pottery is grog-tempered ware (Table 6), including three jars. The other vessel is a jar or beaker in the coarse reddish-yellow ware.

Table 6: Feature Group [1584] Fabric quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE
Grog	61	423	0.58
Grey, coarse	9	76	
Dark grey	1	9	
Reddish-yellow, coarse	2	16	0.11
Total	**73**	**524**	**0.69**

The date range appears to be mid-1st to 2nd century.

Ditch [1585]: Enclosure E1

Ditch [1585] had fifteen excavated slots which contained pottery amounting to 303 sherds, weighing 3297g and with a rim EVE of 0.34 and 34 vessels (Table 7).

Table 7: Feature Group [1585] Feature/Form quantification

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Ditch 1006	18	329	0.37	7
Ditch 1025	2	56	0.09	1
Ditch 1093	107	661	1.41	6
Ditch 1166	27	337	0.18	2
Ditch 1193	3	30		
Ditch 1214	26	398	0.35	2
Ditch 1231	2	6		
Ditch 1238	4	69		1
Ditch 1262	7	46		
Ditch 1354	25	294	0.64	5
Ditch 1474	38	568	0.4	6
Ditch 1476	15	116	0.2	1
Gully 1480	1	2		
Ditch 1482	4	30		
Ditch 1557	24	355	0.25	3
Total	**303**	**3297**	**3.89**	**34**

The features contain quite a wide range of fabrics with reduced and oxidised wares accounting for a higher proportion than grog-tempered ware and including a few sherds of regionally-traded and continental pottery. The vessels comprise 25 jars, two or three bowls, two dishes, one cup, one flagon, one jar or bowl and one jar or beaker (Table 8).

Table 8: Feature Group [1585] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog	45	497	0.58	Jx5; JLS; J/B; J/BKR
Grog, pink-buff, grey core	12	448	0.12	J; JST?
Grog, reddish-yellow, grey core	2	25		
Black-brown, coarse	11	189	0.21	JLS
Shell	14	97	0.07	J
Grey	42	404	0.79	Jx5
Grey, coarse	66	822	0.52	Jx2; JNM
Dark grey	2	32	0.1	J

Dark grey, coarse	13	148	0.17	Jx2; JLS
Buff	4	28		
Buff, coarse	69	325	0.59	J; FRN
Cream	2	11		
Reddish-brown	2	23		
Reddish-brown, coarse	1	10		
Reddish-yellow	11	137	0.51	J; B?; C33
Reddish-yellow, coarse	1	12	0.09	J
OXFRS	1	47		B
DORBB1	2	38	0.09	BFL
LGFSA	1	1		D
LEZSA2	2	3	0.05	D36
Total	**303**	**3297**	**3.89**	**34**

KEY: J = Jar; JLS = Jar, lid-seated; JNM = Jar, narrow-mouthed; JST = Jar, storage; J/B = Jar or Bowl; J/BKR = Jar or Beaker; B = Bowl; BFL = Bowl, flanged; D = Dish; D36 = Dish, Drag. 36; C33 = Cup, Drag. 33; FRN= Flagon, ring-necked

Most of the features contain a mixture of fabrics with only six (1025, 1193, 1238, 1262, 1480 and 1481) not containing any grog-tempered ware. The OXFRS is from ditch [1238], the DORBB1 from ditch [1454], the LGFSA from ditch 1093 and the LEZSA2 from ditches [1093 and 1354]. The LGFSA is dated *c*AD 50-100 and the LEZSA2 *c*AD 120-200. The DORBB1 flanged bowl is a 3rd to 4th century form and the OXFRS bowl is likely to be of 4th century date. Otherwise, the date range for the features is predominantly mid-1st to 2nd centuries with those features with no grog-tempered ware being mainly 2nd century in date.

Ditch [1586]: Roundhouse Rh1

The roundhouse gullies

Ditch [1586] comprised Roundhouse 1 which consisted of two of the three truncated roundhouse gullies [1066 and 1077]. The assemblage in gully [1066] comprises 61 sherds weighing 804g with a rim EVE of 1.53 and 15 vessels while that in gully [1077] has 18 sherds weighing 284g with a Rim EVE of 0.39 and four vessels (Table 9). Gully [1077] contains only reduced and oxidised wares and these also account for the largest proportion of the pottery in gully [1066]. The LEZSA2 Drag. 27 cup is dated *c*AD 120-160 and the bead-rimmed dishes in both gullies and the DORBB1 dish or bowl, which has burnished lattice decoration, are mid-to-late 2nd century forms. The buff ware carinated bowl with a grooved rim is a 2nd century type. The grog-tempered ware and the shell-gritted ware hint at earlier activity.

Table 9: Gullies [1066 and 1077] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Gully 1066				
Grog	2	16		
Grog, pink-buff, grey core	2	70	0.08	J
Shell	6	116	0.2	JLS
Grey	11	210	0.33	Jx5
Grey, coarse	16	117	2.64	DBR; D/BTR
Dark grey	10	72	0.24	J
Buff	1	30	0.16	BCARGR
Buff, coarse	9	131	0.11	J
Reddish-yellow	2	14	0.15	J
DORBB1	1	8		D/B
LEZSA2	1	20		C27
Total	**61**	**804**	**1.53**	
Gully 1077				
Grey	7	134	0.23	Jx2
Grey, coarse	8	95	0.07	J
Dark grey	2	37	0.09	DBR
Reddish-yellow, grey core	1	18		
Total	**18**	**284**	**0.39**	

KEY: J = Jar; JLS = Jar, lid-seated; BCARGR = Bowl, carinated, grooved rim; DBR = Dish, bead rim; D/B = Dish or Bowl; D/BTR = Dish or Bowl, triangular rim; C27 = Cup, Drag. 27

Associated ditches

Fill (1322) of terminal ditch [1324] contains 13 sherds weighing 157g with a rim EVE of 0.08 (Table 10). The one vessel is a coarse dark grey ware dish with a plain rim, which is a form dating from the late 2nd century onwards. The grog-tempered ware dates from the mid-1st century and the other pottery is mainly 2nd century in date.

Table 10: Ditch [1324] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog	5	75		
Grey	3	33		
Dark grey, coarse	3	38	0.08	DPR
Reddish-yellow, coarse	1	5		
Cream	1	6		
Total	**13**	**158**	**0.08**	

KEY: DPR = Dish, plain rim

Fill (1378) of ditch [1379] contains 24 sherds weighing 485g and with a rim EVE of 0.36 and three vessels (Table 11). Over half of the pottery is grog-tempered ware and a date range of mid-1st to 2nd century seems likely.

Table 11: Ditch [1379] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog	13	327	0.32	JBR
Grey, coarse	1	27		
Dark grey, coarse	6	43	0.04	D/L
Buff, coarse	2	26		
Pink, coarse	1	5		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	1	57		F/A
Total	**24**	**485**	**0.36**	

KEY: JBR = Jar, bead rim; D/L = Dish or Lid; F/A = Flagon or Amphora

Associated pits and posthole

Fill (1063) of the large pit/posthole [1064] contains a small assemblage of seven sherds weighing 211g and with a rim EVE of 0.29; the one vessel is a coarse grey ware narrow-mouthed jar (Table 12). The pottery suggests a late 1st to 2nd century date, though the grog-tempered ware may be later.

Table 12: Pit [1064] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog, pink-buff, grey core	1	71		
Grey	1	11		
Grey, coarse	3	19	0.29	JNM
Dark grey, coarse	2	110		
Total	**7**	**211**	**0.29**	

KEY: JNM = Jar, narrow-mouthed

Fill (1152) of pit [1153] also contains a small assemblage of 10 sherds weighing 533g. An amphora sherd accounts for 414g and seven grog-tempered sherds another 101g with grey ware making up the rest. The pottery suggests a mid-1st to 2nd century date.

Pit [1155] is the only one of a small group of pits to contain pottery. Its fill (1154) contains 10 sherds weighing 150g with a rim EVE of 0.14; the one vessel is a grog-tempered ware jar. Fill (1181) of pit [1182] only contains nine sherds (474g) of grog-tempered ware probably dating to the mid-to-late 1st century.

Fill (1194) of pit [1195] contains 15 sherds weighing 233g with a rim EVE of 0.34 and two vessels (Table 13). Reduced wares account for most of the assemblage with only one sherd of grog-tempered ware. The plain-rimmed dish is a form which dates from the late 2nd century onwards and most of the other pottery is probably of 2nd century date.

Table 13: Pit [1195] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog	1	4		
Grey	5	83	0.29	DPR
Grey, coarse	3	14		
Dark grey, coarse	3	100	0.05	J
Buff, coarse	2	25		
Reddish-brown	1	7		
Total	**15**	**233**	**0.34**	

KEY: J = Jar; DPR = Dish, plain rim

Pit [1197], fill (1196), contains eight sherds weighing 158g with a rim EVE of 0.32; five of the sherds (137g, 0.21 EVE) are in grog-tempered ware. There are three vessels comprising grog-tempered and coarse grey ware jars and a Gallo-Belgic type dish in a black-brown ware. The grog-tempered ware and the Gallo-Belgic type dish suggest a mid-to-late 1st century date.

Pit [1200] contains a large assemblage of 67 sherds weighing 2065g with a rim EVE of 1.59 and five vessels. Most of the pottery is reduced ware with small amounts of grog-tempered ware, coarse buff ware and LGFSA (Table 14). The LGFSA dish is dated *c*AD 70-100 and the lid-seated bowl is curved-sided. The three grey ware vessels are reasonably complete, suggesting deliberate dumping; one has a burnished wide lattice decoration. A 2nd century date seems likely.

Table 14: Pit [1200] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog	5	91		
Grey	29	759	1.20	Jx2
Grey, coarse	22	980		J
Dark grey, coarse	8	219	0.26	BLS
Buff, coarse	2	10		
LGFSA	1	6	0.13	D35
Total	**67**	**2065**	**1.59**	

KEY: J = Jar; BLS = Bowl, lid-seated; D35 = Dish, Drag.35

Fill (1249) of pit [1251] contains 57 sherds weighing 967g with a rim EVE of 0.32 and four vessels. Reduced grey wares account for a large proportion but grog-tempered ware is also well represented (Table 15). The pottery suggests a mid-1st to 2nd century date.

Table 15: Pit [1251] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog	20	252	0.08	Jx2
Shell	1	23	0.08	JLS
Grey	1	6		
Dark grey, coarse	32	652	0.16	D/L
Buff, coarse	1	16		
Reddish-yellow	1	17		
LGFSA	1	1		
Total	**57**	**967**	**0.32**	

KEY: J = Jar; JLS = Jar, lid-seated; D/L – Dish or Lid

Fills (1394 and 1395) of pit [1396] contain 16 grog-tempered sherds weighing 371g with a rim EVE of 0.37 and two coarse buff ware sherds weighing 14g with a rim EVE of 0.16. There are five vessels comprising two jars, a storage jar and a narrow-mouthed jar in grog-tempered ware and a grooved-rimmed flagon in the coarse buff ware. The latter is of later 1st to 2nd century date but the grog-tempered ware is earlier.

Various other pits contain small amounts of pottery. Pit [1326], fill (1325), contains one grog-tempered ware storage jar sherd weighing 83g with a rim EVE of 0.09, while fill (1327) of pit [1328] has a grey ware sherd weighing seven grams. Fill (1380) of elongated pit/gully [1381] has two grog-tempered sherds (37g) and two coarse grey ware sherds (11g) while pit [1460], fill (1459), has 10 grog-tempered ware sherds (76g) and one buff ware sherd (5g). An associate posthole [1383], fill (1382), contains three grog-tempered ware sherds weighing 44g.

Associated layer

The fairly thick layer of very dark and humic material, (1011), produced a large assemblage of 199 sherds weighing 3634g with a rim EVE of 3.57 and 26 vessels. Grog-tempered wares and sand-tempered reduced and oxidised wares occur in roughly equal amounts and most of the vessels are jars (Table 16). The sherd of LGFSA is dated *c*AD 70-110 and the rest of the pottery has a date range spanning the mid-1st and 2nd centuries.

Table 16: Layer (1011) Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog	70	1249		
Grog, grey	12	334	0.88	Jx4; JNM; JST; DPR
Grog, reddish brown	1	337	0.09	JST
Shell	2	50	0.14	JLS
Grey	15	229	0.6	J; B30:; LBR
Grey, coarse	38	670	0.25	LBR

Dark grey	5	128	0.76	Jx3
Dark grey, coarse	1	52	0.14	JLS
Buff pink, coarse	25	275		F
Cream	2	6		
Reddish yellow	6	70		
Reddish yellow, coarse	20	225	0.71	Jx2; JLSx3: J/BKR
CC, buff core	1	8		BKR
LGFSA	1	1		D36?
Total	**199**	**3634**	**3.57**	**26**

KEY: J = Jar; JLS = Jar, lid-seated; JST = Jar, storage; JNM = Jar, narrow-mouthed; J/BKR = Jar or Beaker; DPR = Dish, plain rim; D36 = Dish, Drag.36?; BKR = Beaker; F = Flagon; LBR = Lid, bead rim

[1588]: Routeway flanking ditch eastern side

Ten excavated slots through eastern routeway ditch [1588] contained a total of 242 sherds, weighing 2808g with a rim EVE of 2.33 and eight vessels; some of the ditches have small amounts of pottery (Table 17).

Table 17: Feature Group [1588] Feature/Form quantification

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Ditch 1008	22	180	0.26	2
Ditch 1014	43	338	0.21	2
Ditch 1341	6	164	0.2	1
Ditch 1344	39	538		
Ditch 1350	17	72	0.1	1
Ditch 1352	3	27		
Ditch 1387	11	81		
Ditch 1389	14	765	0.6	1
Ditch 1424	85	641	0.96	1
Ditch 1469	2	2		
Total	**242**	**2808**	**2.33**	**8**

Grog-tempered ware is well-represented but reduced grey wares occur in greater amounts, together with some oxidised wares and a few sherds of flint-gritted ware (Table 18). All of the ditches have a mixture of fabrics apart from ditches [1341 and 1352] which only contain grog-tempered ware. The dark grey ware dish is curved-sided and much of the coarse grey ware comprises the stamped mortarium, possibly a product of the Verulamium potter Castus. The pottery has a date range spanning the mid-1st and 2nd centuries.

Table 18: Feature Group [1588] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Flint	1	30		J
Grog	95	952	0.45	Jx2
Grog, pink-buff, grey core	1	52		
Grog, reddish yellow, grey core	5	42		
Shell	2	8		
Grey	20	212	0.11	J
Grey, coarse	7	701	0.6	M
Dark grey	1	26	0.11	D
Dark grey, coarse	82	620	0.96	JLS
Buff, coarse	1	7		
Reddish yellow	12	102	0.1	
CC, buff	15	56		BKR
Total	**242**	**2808**	**2.33**	**8**

KEY: J = Jar; JLS = Jar, lid-seated; D = Dish; BKR = Beaker; M = Mortarium

[1589]: Period 2.1 boundary ditch

The five excavation slots through Feature Group [1589] contained only a small amount of pottery and no vessels (Table 19). The pottery comprises 13 sherds (103g) of grog-tempered ware, one sherd (10g) of shell-gritted ware, three sherds (2g) of grey ware, seven sherds (10g) of buff ware and one sherd (2g) of reddish-yellow ware. The pottery is mainly of mid to late 1st century date.

Table 19: Feature Group [1589] Feature quantification

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)
Ditch 1039	10	75
Ditch 1042	5	15
Ditch 1069	1	10
Ditch 1283	2	15
Ditch 1316	7	12
Total	**25**	**127**

[1590]: Routeway flanking ditch western side

Eleven excavation slots formed Feature Group [1590]. These contain a total of 290 sherds, weighing 4431g with a rim EVE of 2.04 and 23 vessels. Ditch [1411] has almost a third of the pottery and half the vessels and ditch [1285] also has a large amount (Table 20).

Table 20: Feature Group [1590] Feature/Form quantification

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Ditch 1033	11	247	0.2	2
Ditch 1044	7	192	0.25	1
Ditch 1073	38	474	0.16	2
Ditch 1130	5	33		
Ditch 1272	14	82		
Ditch 1281	24	291	0.29	4
Ditch 1285	40	998		2
Ditch 1368	41	410		1
Ditch 1411	93	1331	0.93	10
Ditch 1416	12	357	0.21	1
Gully 1364	5	16		
Total	**290**	**4431**	**2.04**	**23**

Grog-tempered ware dominates the fabric and form totals and there is relatively little reduced and oxidised wares, other than the coarse reddish-brown ware which is all from a possible butt beaker with bands of horizontal narrow combing between thin grooves (Table 21). Jars comprise two-thirds of the forms which also include a grog-tempered Gallo-Belgic type dish, a coarse reddish-yellow ware flat-topped dish or bowl and a grog-tempered bowl or strainer with pierced holes in its base. Ditches [1130, 1272, 1280 and 1284] only contain grog-tempered ware, which also accounts for most of the pottery in ditch [1411]. The LEZSA2 is dated *c*AD 120-200, and the ring-necked flagon and the flat-topped dish or bowl are also 2nd century forms; the possible OXFES dish or bowl may be later in date. The predominance of grog-tempered ware, however, suggests a mainly mid-to-late 1st century date.

Table 21: Feature Group [1590] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Flint	4	19		
Grog	213	3450	1.48	Jx10; JSTx3; B; B/ST; DGB
Black-brown, coarse	1	4		
Shell	2	46		
Grey	3	33	0.29	Jx2
Grey, coarse	9	158		J/BKR
Buff	3	19		
Buff, coarse	4	19	0.12	FRN
Reddish-brown	1	5		
Reddish-brown, coarse	26	365		BKRBUTT
Reddish-yellow	19	134		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	1	24	0.08	BDFT

OXFRS?	1	23	0.07	D/B
LEZSA2	1	6		
Amphora	2	126		
Total	**290**	**4431**	**2.04**	**23**

KEY: J = Jar; JST = Jar, storage; J/BKR = Jar or Beaker; B = Bowl; B/ST = Bowl or Strainer; BDFT = Bowl or Dish, flat-topped; DGB = Dish, Gallo-Belgic; D/B = Dish or Bowl; BKRBUTT = Beaker, Butt; FRN = Flagon, ring-necked

[1591]: Ditch

Three excavation slots examined ditch and its terminus [1591]. Their fills contain a small assemblage of 30 sherds weighing 498g with a rim EVE of just 0.34 but 6 vessels (Table 22).

Table 22: Feature Group [1591] Feature/Form quantification

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Ditch 1157	11	284	0.19	3
Ditch 1260	12	122	0.15	2
Ditch 1428	7	92		1
Total	**30**	**498**	**0.34**	**6**

Grog-tempered ware and sand-tempered reduced and oxidised ware account for similar amounts by weight and the remaining pottery comprises regionally-traded LNVCC and continental LGFSA and LEZSA2 (Table 23).The LGFSA is dated *c*AD 70-110 and the LEZSA2 *c*AD 120-200 and *c*AD 140-200. The coarse grey ware flanged bowl is a type which dates from the later 2nd century. Overall, the date range of the pottery is mid-1st to 2nd century with some possibly later material.

Table 23: Feature Group [1591] Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Grog	4	100		
Grog, pink-buff, grey core	3	58		
Grog, grey	1	63		
Grey	4	34		
Grey, coarse	8	112	0.34	Jx2; BFL
Buff	2	37		
Buff, coarse	3	26		
Reddish yellow	1	11		
LNVCC	1	44		BKR
LGFSA	1	2		D35
LEZSA2	2	11		D31
Total	**30**	**498**	**0.34**	**6**

KEY: J = Jar; BFL = Bowl, flanged; D31 = Dish, Drag. 31;

D35 = Dish, Drag35; BKR = Beaker

(1592): Midden

This deposit was examined in different areas and three contexts contained pottery (1118, 1131 and 1209) and this layer was given a single number (1592). The pottery from these amounts to 78 sherds weighing 821g with a rim EVE of 0.45 and seven vessels. Reduced and oxidised wares comprise almost three-quarters of the assemblage with grog-tempered ware accounting for much of the rest (Table 24). The LEZSA2 Drag. 33 cup is dated *c*AD 120-200 and the rest of the pottery is predominately late 1st to 2nd century, though some of the grog-tempered ware is earlier and the LNVCC beaker may be later in date.

Table 24: Feature Group (1592) Fabric/Form quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Flint	1	1		
Grog	3	58		
Grog, pink-buff, grey core	8	94		
Grog, grey	2	17		
Shell	4	38		
Grey	13	197	0.19	Jx2
Grey, coarse	7	63		
Dark grey	6	45		
Dark grey, coarse	11	126	0.08	J
Buff, coarse	6	106		F
Cream	1	8		
Cream, coarse	1	21		
Reddish-yellow	3	9		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	9	26	0.18	JNM/F
LNVCC	1	6		BKR
LEZSA2	2	6		C33
Total	**78**	**821**	**0.45**	**7**

KEY: J = Jar; JNM/F = Jar, narrow-mouthed or Flagon;

C33 = Cup, Drag 33; BKR = Beaker; F = Flagon

[1594]: Ditch defined area of an animal pen

Six excavation slots were examined through a ditch which defined two sides of a possible animal pen. Their fills contain a small assemblage of 49 sherds weighing 540g with a rim EVE of 0.31 and two vessels (Table 25).

Table 25: Feature Group [1594] Feature/Form quantification

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels
Ditch 1018	2	17	0.03	
Ditch 1037	8	142	0.16	1
Ditch 1067	3	10		
Ditch 1244	19	186	0.12	1
Ditch 1370	10	129		
Ditch 1418	7	56		
Total	**49**	**540**	**0.31**	**2**

Nearly three-quarters of the pottery is grog-tempered ware with reduced and oxidised accounting for most of the rest (Table 26). The two vessels from the fills are a jar and a jar with a bead rim in grog-tempered ware. The LGFSA is dated *c*AD 50-100 and the rest of the pottery spans the mid-1st to 2nd centuries, apart from the flint-gritted ware which is of early-to-mid Iron Age or earlier in date.

Table 26: Feature Group [1594] Fabric quantification

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE
Flint	1	3	
Grog	31	303	0.12
Grog, reddish-brown	1	7	
Grog, reddish-yellow, grey core	1	63	0.16
Grog and shell	2	22	
Grey, coarse	2	27	
Dark grey, coarse	4	86	
Buff, coarse	1	1	
Reddish-brown, coarse	2	17	
Reddish-yellow	3	10	
LGFSA	1	1	0.03
Total	**49**	**540**	**0.31**

1595: Boundary ditch

Three excavation slots examined Feature Group [1595] boundary ditch. They contain a small assemblage of 33 sherds weighing 418g with just 0.06 rim EVE and two vessels. One of the ditches contains most of the pottery (Table 27). Twenty-two of the sherds (126g, 0.06 EVE) are grog-tempered ware, together with one sherd (5g) of coarse grey ware, four sherds (36g) of reddish-brown ware, five sherds (24g) of reddish-yellow ware and one s herd (4g) of coarse reddish-yellow ware. The two vessels are grog-tempered jars. The grog-tempered ware suggests that the fills date primarily to the mid-to-late 1st century with some later material.

Table 27: Feature Group [1595] Fabric quantification

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE
Ditch 1485	28	393	0.06
Ditch 1500	3	16	
Pit 1549	2	9	
Total	**33**	**418**	**0.06**

Summary and conclusions

The pottery is generally in good condition apart from the colour-coat being abraded on some of the sherds. The mean sherd weight for the site as a whole is around 14g and the mean rim EVE, based on the number of vessels with rims, is also around 14% with little variation across the features. There are only a few vessels that are reasonably complete or which are represented by many sherds. These figures suggest that the material is mainly broken rubbish, though possibly not material which had been overly churned around before being deposited in the features.

The earliest pottery is the flint-gritted ware which is probably of early-to-mid Iron Age date and perhaps earlier. There may have then been a hiatus on the site before later activity starting in the 1st century, or perhaps the late Iron Age, and continuing through the 2nd century. Some pottery dating to the 4th and possibly the 3rd centuries occurs, but activity at this time appears to have been limited.

The flint-tempered ware occurs in ditches [1014, 1088, 1095, 1104, 1108, 1130 and 1418[, gullies [1126, 1178, 1247 and 1578], pits [1265 and 1292], Occupation Layer (1118) and an unstratified context. Pits [1153 and 1155] have late Iron Age pottery and 1st century LGFSA occurs in ditches [1018, 1093 and 1260], pits [1200, 1251 and 1374], layer (1011) and an unstratified context. LEZSA2 of 2nd century date is present in ditches [1093, 1157, 1208, 1258, 1304, 1308, 1354, 1368 and 1428], pits [1374 and 1540], occupation layers (1118 and 1131) and furrow [1240]. Later 2nd to 3rd century RHZSA occurs in ditch [1149] and layer (1091) overlying ditch [1585]. Ditches [1222, 1238 and 1411] and pit [1374] contain probable 4th century OXFRS and ditches [1122 and 1308], pits [1374 and 1507] and layer (1137) 3rd to 4th century OXFWH. DORBB1 of 4th, possibly 3rd century date, occurs in ditch [1454], gully [1066] and pit [1374].

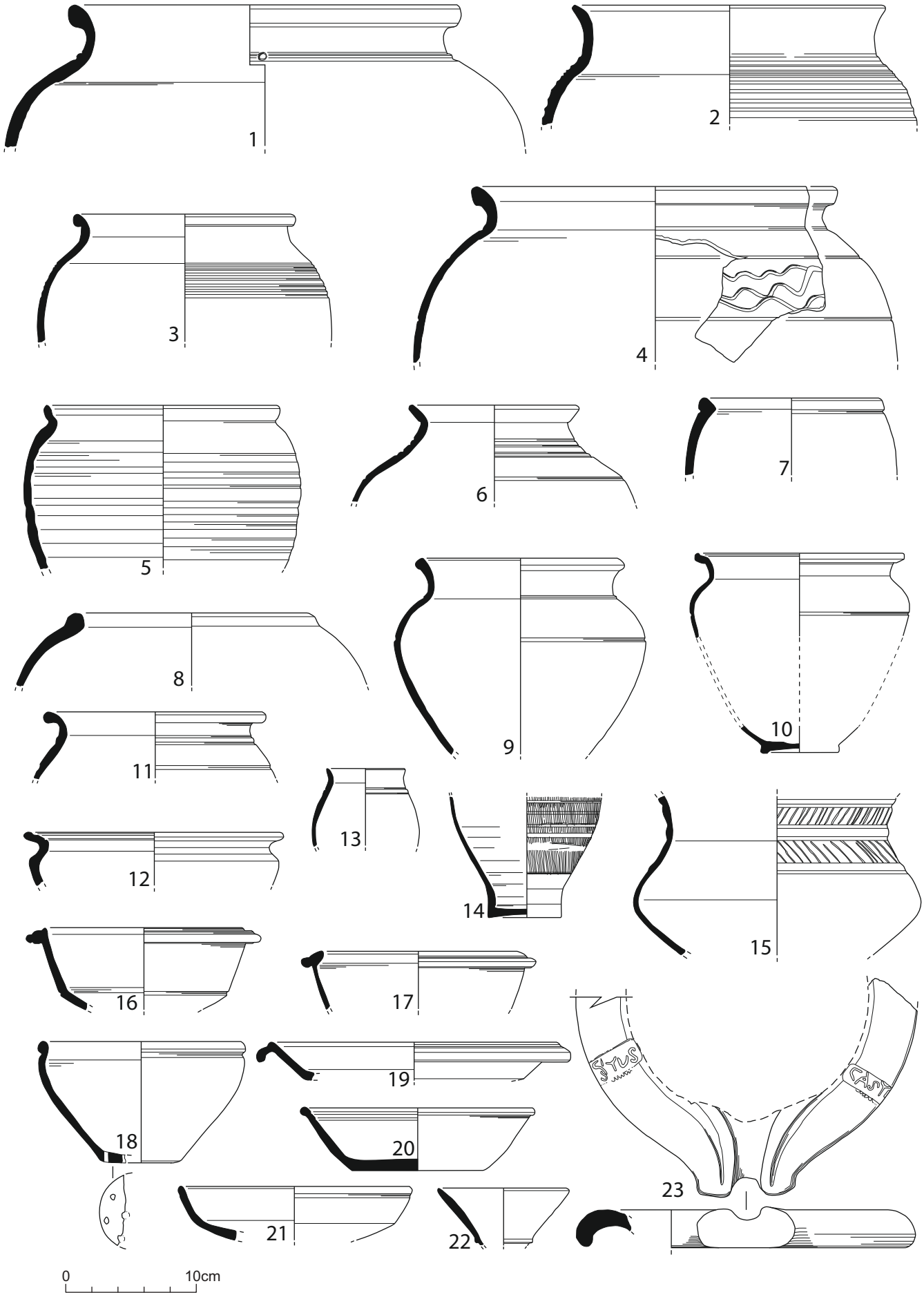
The impression is that the activity on the site was mainly a mixture of utilitarian and domestic, though the small quantity of fine wares and imported regional and continental wares, does indicate some occupation of a relatively higher status. Of some interest is the fact that 12 vessels have pierced holes. Four are in grog-tempered jars and are single holes situated just below the rim or in the neck (ditches [1014, 1073, 1285 and 1341]). A grog-tempered ware body sherd (ditch [1014]) and a coarse dark grey ware dish or lid (pit [1251]) have a hole in their wall. The complete vessels from which these sherds derive may have had more holes. The other six vessels have holes in their bases. Five are in grog-tempered ware, three of which are sherds (ditches [1174 and 1368] and pit [1182]), but the other two (ditch [1411] and pit [1403]) have multiple holes. The final base with a hole is in a coarse dark grey ware (pit [1251]).

Most assemblages from rural sites, especially those with later Iron Age to early Roman occupation, contain some vessels with pierced holes. Their purpose is not always clear and has led to some speculation and discussion (e.g. Moorhouse 1981; Perrin 1996; Fulford and Timby 2001). Holes in the rim and wall could be part of a repair, but this is clearly not the case in many examples including the Aylesbury,

Ashton Clinton Road pots where the holes are located in sherds with no adjacent break. These rim holes could be for a cord to attach a lid or to suspend the pot, or perhaps to manage the level of the liquid contents in the pot. Holes in the vessel wall are more problematical, but they could allow the vessel to act as a strainer, as is almost certainly the case of vessels with basal holes, with the number of holes obviously allowing control of the rate at which liquid drains from the vessel; plugs for the holes could provide further control. Vessels with basal and/or wall holes could be used as steamers, but actual evidence for the use of this technique in Roman times is lacking. Fulford and Timby suggest wall and base holes could enable a vessel to be used as a timing device and also cite the piercing of a vessel as a stage in the preparation of certain foods (2001, 295). Moorhouse's article concerns medieval vessels, but it is possible that there were Roman equivalents. He states that: 'earthenware pots were frequently used in medical and craftsmen's recipes ... including pots with pierced bases, some forms of which have not yet been recognised amongst pottery collections' (1981, 116). The holes in some vessels, together with others where another part of the vessel, such as the rim, has been broken off, are clearly deliberate acts associated with a 'ritual' of deposition, common in graves or pits and wells. None of the Aston Clinton Road assemblage falls into this category.

Selected illustrated pottery by Rob Read

1 Jar, grog-tempered ware. Ditch [1285], context (1284) (Routeway [1590]).
2 Jar, grog-tempered ware. Pit [1408], context (1409).
3 Jar, grog-tempered ware. Occupation layer, context (1011).
4 Jar, grog-tempered ware. Pit [1385], context (1384).
5 Jar, grog-tempered ware. Pit [1251], context (1249).
6 Jar, grog-tempered ware. Pit [1408], context (1409).
7 Jar, grog-tempered ware. Pit [1155], context (1154).
8 Jar, grog-tempered ware. Gully [1066], context (1065) (Roundhouse 1586]).
9 Jar, grey ware. Pit [1200], context (1198). Slightly warped rim.
10 Jar, grey ware. Pit [1200], context (1198). Slightly warped rim.
11 Jar, grey ware. Pit [1200], context (1198).
12 Jar, grey ware. Pit [1200], context (1198).
13 Jar/Beaker, grey ware. Pit [1047], context (1046).
14 Jar/Bowl, grog-tempered ware. Ditch [1285], context (1284) (Routeway [1590]) .
15 Carinated bowl, coarse dark grey ware. Pit [1471], context (1470).
16 Carinated bowl, buff ware. Gully [1066], context (1065) (Roundhouse 1586]).
17 Bowl/Strainer, grog-tempered ware. Ditch [1411], context (1410) (Routeway [1590]).
18 Hemispherical flanged bowl, LNVWH? Pit [1583], context (1582).
19 Dish or Lid, grey ware. Occupation layer, context (1011).
20 Dish, grey ware pit [1195], context (1194).
21 Cup, reddish-yellow ware. Ditch [1354], context (1353) (Routeway [1590]).
22 Mortarium, coarse grey ware. Ditch [1389], context (1388) (Routeway [1588]).
23 Mortarium, OXFWH. Ditch [1122], context (1121) (Enclosure [1585]).



Scale 1:4

Selected Iron Age to Roman pottery Fig 28

3.2 Tile/brick and fired clay by Rob Atkins

A moderate to large collection of Roman CBM (718 fragments (17.095kg)) was recovered (Table 28). The CBM mostly comprised fired clay fragments which, when diagnostic, largely consisted of objects from kilns, possibly supports within former pottery kilns. In addition there were a very small collection of Roman tile and possibly brick (23 fragments weighing 2.96kg). No post-Roman CBM was found.

Table 28: Roman tile/brick and fired clay

Material	Number of Fragments	Weight (g)	Number of contexts
Tile and brick	23	2960	12
Fired clay (including kiln material)	695	14135	60
Total	**718**	**17095**	

Tile and Brick

A small collection of 23 Roman tile and brick fragments (2.96kg) was found in 12 Periods 2.2 and 2.3 contexts (Tables 28 and 29). The brick/tile was largely in a hard orange sandy which had been fully oxidised. The tile/brick was abraded with an average size of 129g per fragment.

All the fragments were found in small quantities with up two fragments in each of the contexts. The tile ranged from two box flue fragments, up to two imbrex, a possible tegula, but nine were flat tile/brick fragments. The thickness of the flat tile/brick varied widely from 18mm to 48mm thick suggesting they had been made for different purposes. The small quantity and varied type of tile/brick fragments found suggest that they had not been used in this settlement. Box flue tile is normally associated with villas and other Romanised buildings, but in contrast the Aston Clinton Rd farmstead seemed to have been a verage status at best, with no r emains of Romanised buildings found. The tile/brick were recovered in secondary contexts, none linked to any building except a possible tegula in a roundhouse ditch [1077]. The tile/brick had therefore possibly been brought to the Aston Clinton site as hard core, such as for routeways?

Table 29: Roman ceramic tile/brick

Ctxt	Feature	No	Wt	Fabric	Other	Period
1076 [1077] [1586]	Roundhouse ditch	1	70	Hard white to light orange sandy.	?Tegula.	2.2
1091	Layer	1	65	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised.	12mm. ?Imbrex.	2.3
1172 [1174] [1584]	Ditch	1	94	Hard orange sandy surfaces. Grey reduced core.	Box Flue. 13mm thick.	2.2
1209	Layer	1	198	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised. Rare small grey flint	39mm thick. Flat.	2.3

Ctxt	Feature	No	Wt	Fabric	Other	Period
				inclusions up to 6mm long.		
1249 [1251]	Pit	2	125	1) One fragment (97g). Hard orange sandy surfaces. Grey reduced core. 2) One fragment (28g). Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised.	1) Box Flue. 19mm thick. 2) Flat.	2.2
1257 [1258]	Ditch	1	266	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised.	13mm. Flat.	2.3
1278 [1279]	Ditch	1	546	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised.	110mm+ long, 103mm+ wide and 40mm thick. Flat.	2.2
1309 [1310]	Pit	1	263	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised. Flint up t o 14mm in length.	48mm thick. Flat.	2.2
1325 [1326]	Pit	3	193	Medium hard yellow sandy surfaces and moderate grey core.	38mm thick. Flat Could be kiln floor fragment or is it tile?	2.3
1342 [1344] [1588]	Ditch	1	11	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised.	13mm thick.	2.2
1359 [1360]	Pit	1	4	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised.		2.3
1404 [1374]	Pit	2	155	In two fabrics: 1) One fragment (90g). Hard sandy. Reduced grey except orange surface. 2) One fragment (61g). Hard orange sandy with relatively thin grey core.	1) 24mm (1”). Flat. 2) 30mm. Flat.	2.2
1452 [1454] [1585]	Ditch	2	609	Hard orange sandy. One fragment has a s light grey core. A few small stone inclusions up to 13mm in length in one fragment.	22mm and 33mm thick. Flat.	2.3
1461 [1262] [1585]	Ditch	1	52	Hard orange sandy surfaces. Grey reduced core.	18mm thick. Flat.	2.3
1484 [1485] [1595]	Ditch	1	46	Hard orange sandy with small grey reduced core.	13mm thick. ?tile.	2.2
1548 [1549]	Pit	2	24	Hard orange sandy. Fully oxidised.	10mm thick. Imbrex.	2.2
1556 [1557] [1585]	Ditch	1	239	Very hard orange sandy on surface, but mostly reduced grey colour. A few flint inclusions up to 10mm in length.	45mm thick. Flat. Thick tile/brick.	2.3
Total		**23**	**2960**			

Fired clay (including kiln material)

A moderate to large collection of fired clay (695 fragments weighing 14.135kg) was recovered and a s ignificant percentage of this probably comprised remains of kiln

stand material possibly from pottery kilns, but there were also a few other hearth/kiln lining remains (Tables 30 and 31). The tile was recovered from Period 1 (1.0) and Period 2 (2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) contexts but in varying quantities with most in 2.1 and 2.2 features and layers (Table 30).

For all periods (Periods 1.0- 2.3) the fired clay was invariably in a soft or medium buff reduced grey core. The natural site geology at Aston Clinton Road comprised Gault Clay sandy micaceous marl (See Section 1.2). This clay weathers to a buff or light grey and this fits with the fired clay fabric recovered. It is therefore very likely the fired clay fragments derived from clay retrieved from the site. Presumably some of the pits excavated were for the retrieval of the natural clay subsoil. No oven/hearth/kilns were recovered in the excavation so their location is not known. Vegetative impressions (probably straw) were found on many fragments indicating how they had been lain before being fired (Table 31).

The vast majority of the clay fragments recovered had not been highly fired. The soft to medium nature of the fired clay objects recovered means they would not have been used in roof or other construction locations. The clay was therefore associated with ovens/kilns etc. The use for the fired clay fragments at Aston Clinton Road can further be narrowed as extremely few of the fragments had been burnt and none was sooted (Table 31). This suggests that the fragments had mostly not been used in such areas/locations as flues or in domestic fire/hearths. There was no evidence for smelting or slag kilns within the site. There were only two contexts with three clay fragments which had single withie impressions. These three fragments were the only evidence for kiln/oven superstructures (which often used withies in large quantities). Only one fragment had perforations drilled through it, but these perforations were only up to 10mm in diameter and presumably too small for allowing heat through which suggest that most, if not all of the fragments were not from kiln floors. Thicknesses survived on at least 40 fragments and these varied from 15mm to 51mm thick. All the fragments were flat or flattish with no evidence they derived from a round or sub-roundish kiln/oven.

Four fragments which had few corners of two sides were all sub-rectangular in shape and the sides at 90°. Where fragments had parts of two conjoined smoothed sides they all were at a *c*90°. Although no complete length or width was found in the assemblage, the objects were of at least moderate size. The largest piece recovered came from pit [1374] and formed an object more than 246mm long, more than 91mm wide and 42mm thick. Another object recovered from this pit had a width of more than 111mm. This angle and shape in the assemblage suggests they had been sub-rectangular or square in shape. The evidence suggests the large majority (if not all) of the fired clay objects, had been furniture items such as internal supports for shelving. This suggestion may be helped by grey ware jars, probable seconds were found in the site with 2nd century pottery (gully [1242/1426] and late 1st to 2nd century pottery from pit [1200]) and these may indicate local production (Fig 28, 9 and 10).

If the majority of the definite fired clay 'objects' from Aston Clinton were pottery kiln supports, they would be Roman in date. Roman pottery kilns replaced Iron Age bonfire kilns. Perhaps significantly Swan (1984, 60) mentions some kilns contained unperforated plates or sub-rectangular form and called them slab-pedestals. The objects found at Aston Clinton were similar to pieces shown *in situ* from a kiln near Elstow, Bedford (*ibid*, plate 18).

Table 30: Fired clay by Period/phase

No. of contexts	No. of Fragments	Weight (g)	Average fragment weight (g)	Period
2	15	127	8.46	1
9	149	3278	22	2.1
36	486	10045	20.7	2.2
13	45	685	15.2	2.3
Total	**695**	**14135**		

The fired clay has been analysed by Period/phase:

Period 1.0 Early to middle Iron Age (6th century BC to early-1st century BC)

Very few fired clay fragments (15 fragments (127g)) were found in two Period 1.0 contexts (Table 30). The only diagnostic pieces were found in pit [1265] where five fragments had a single smoothed surface and may have been from a kiln/oven.

Period 2.1 Late Iron Age/early Roman (1st century AD:)

There was a small to moderate assemblage of fired clay (149 fragments (weighing 3.278kg)) from nine contexts. Half the assemblage came from layer (1011) with most being abraded with an average weight of 30g per fragment. A few large pieces were recovered from (1011) with seven fragments which had thicknesses surviving and these were probable kiln supports. A second Period 2.1 assemblage, pit [1270], had a moderate assemblage which may have fragment(s) of pottery kiln supports. In this pit one clay fragment had a thickness and 10 fragments had a smoothed surface.

In contrast, pit [1182] had a moderate assemblage of fired clay fragments and these do not seem to have been derived from a pottery kiln. Here, two fragments have withie impressions and 13 fragments had a smoothed side. These are likely to have been from an oven/hearth.

Period 2.2 Mid 1st-century to 2nd century AD

Most of the fired clay came from Period 2.2 features (486 fragments weighing 10.045kg). Sixteen features seem to have been objects which may have been pottery kiln supports [1073] ditch, [1145] ditch, [1187] ditch, [1281] ditch, [1285] ditch, [1344] ditch, [1366] pit, [1374] pit, [1396] pit, [1408] pit, [1416] ditch, [1471] pit, [1485] ditch and [1500] ditch. Corner of sub-rectangular objects were found in three features, [1073] (30mm thick), [1281] (20mm and 21mm thick) and [1374] at 43mm thick. This range showed the sub-rectangular objects were of varied thicknesses.

Pit [1374] produced a possible primary assemblage with 76 fragments weighing 4.551kg. Eleven fragments were large with some conjoining. Three other features [1153], [1251] and [1396] produced moderate assemblages of fired clay with some relatively unabraded fragments. Pit [1153] had an unusual fragment of kiln/hearth with perforations which may have been where former withies had been located.

Period 2.3 Mid/late Roman (2nd century to 3rd/4th century AD)

A small and abraded collection of fired clay was found in 13 Period 2.3 contexts. It was noticeable that none of the contexts produced more than 0.2kg of fired clay and the average fragment size of 15.2g was noticeably small. Only two fragments had surviving thicknesses [1098] and [1354]. Collectively this evidence may suggest that the assemblage from this phase was largely or entirely residual. If this is the case there was no evidence of ovens/hearths in this middle to late Roman period.

Table 31: Fired clay

Ctxt	Feat	No	Wt(g)	Fabric	Other	Period
1011 [1012]	Layer	65	1981	Soft to medium hard, buff to orange brown sandy. Soapy texture. All fully oxidised except three which have oxidised external surfaces and reduced grey internal cores.	Most fragments are abraded. Seven have thicknesses which survive and t hese vary from 27mm to 38mm. Four had Smoothed sides. Frequent small vegetative impressions on surface of two. Kiln ?supports.	2.1
1013 [1014] [1588]	Ditch Route way	3	27	Soft buff to light yellow orange to grey sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Two fragments with a smoothed side.	2.2
1041 [1042] [1589]	Ditch	2	15	Soft buff to light yellow orange to grey sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	One fragment has a s moothed side.	2.1
1043 [1044] [1590]	Ditch Route way	1	21	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.		2.3
1065 [1066] [1586]	Round house ditch	3	46	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	All have a single smoothed side.	2.2
1072 [1073] [1590]	Ditch Route way	1	160	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture. Rare brown mudstone *c*7mm in length.	30mm thick. Right angled corner. Smoothed side. Kiln support?	2.2
1076 [1077] [1586]	Round house ditch	12	97	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Five have a smoothed surface. Three have frequent small vegetative impressions up to 2mm wide (?straw) on surface.	2.2
1086 [1088]	Ditch	3	27	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture. Rare small grey flint inclusions up to 3mm in length.		2.2
1092 [1093] [1585]	Enclosure Ditch	1	36	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Smoothed side.	2.3
1096 [1098]	?Pit	7	51	In two fabrics: A) Five fragments (36g) in a soft light yellow to orange sandy surface with grey reduced core . B) Two fragments (15g) in a hard orange to brown sandy fabric.	One fragment in fabric A has a thickness (31mm). Smoothed side.	2.3
1107 [1108]	Gully	1	25	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.		1.0
1121 [1123]	Pit	6	65	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture. One frgment has a gr ey flint inclusion 7mm in length.	One smoothed side.	2.3
1129 [1130] [1590]	Ditch Route way	7	27	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Two fragments have a smoothed side.	2.2
1144	Ditch	8	271	Mid orange brown moderately	Four relatively large pieces	2.2

Ctxt	Feat	No	Wt(g)	Fabric	Other	Period
[1145] [1587]				hard sandy. A few small flint inclusions up to 8mm in length.	survived. Five fragments have a smoothed side and fragment one has two smoothed sides. Up to 25mm thick. Oven/hearth lining.	
1152 [1153]	Pit	6	483	In two fabrics: A) Four fragments (446g) in a soft light yellow to orange sandy fabric. Kiln/hearth ?lining. B) Two fragments (37g) in a hard orange to brown sandy fabric.	A) Two fragments have complete thicknesses. The largest fragment is 118mm+ long, 76mm+ wide and 31 mm thick. The top and a s ide have been smoothed. The base has frequent vegetative impressions (?straw). It has two perforations which extended through the lining – possibly derived from former withies that have been burned out. They are c10mm and 7mm in diameter. A further perforation, 7mm in diameter, does not extend completely through the lining. The second fragment is 39mm thick. Top has been smoothed and bas e has vegetative impressions. B) One fragment has a smoothed side.	2.2
1171 [1174] [1584]	Ditch	5	63	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Two have smoother surface.	2.2
1181 [1182]	Pit	46	409	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	All abraded fragments. Thirteen fragments have a s moothed side. Two fragments have single withy impression (*c*10mm and *c*18mm diameter respectively). Oven/hearth superstructure.	2.1
1187 [1189] [1584]	Ditch	1	36	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Internal grey core. Soapy texture.	Thickness 35mm. Three smoothed sides. Some vegetative impressions. Kiln support?	2.2
1194 [1195]	Pit	2	20	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.		2.3
1196 [1197]	Pit	1	5	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.		2.3
1221 [1436]	Ditch	1	7	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.		2.2
1226	Layer	2	42	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.		2.1
1229 [1231]	Ditch	4	2	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.		2.3
1241 [1242/ 1426]	Gully	1	28	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	One smoothed side.	2.2
1243 [1244] [1594]	Ditch	3	34	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Smoothed surface on t wo fragments.	2.2
1249 [1251]	Pit	40	437	In two fabrics: 1) 14 f ragments (135g) in a	1) Eight have a s moothed side. A few vegetative impressions on	2.2

Ctxt	Feat	No	Wt(g)	Fabric	Other	Period
				mixed orange and reduced grey sandy fabric.	five fragments.	
				2) 26 f ragments (302g) in a soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	2) Seven have a smoothed side. A few vegetative impressions on three fragments.	
1259 [1260] [1591]	Ditch	1	13	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	One smoothed side.	2.3
1263 [1265]	Pit	14	102	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Three have a grey reduced interior. Soapy texture.	Five have a smoothed surface.	1.0
1267 [1268]	Posthole	4	29	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	All have a smoothed surface.	2.2
1269 [1270]	Pit	23	435	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. 16 fragments have a reduced grey core. Soapy texture.	Ten fragments have a r oughly smoothed surface. Three fragments have a few vegetative impressions (?straw). One 35mm thick.	2.1
1271 [1272] [1590]	Ditch Routeway	14	66	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Four fragments have a smooted surface.	2.2
1280 [1281] [1590]	Ditch Routeway	10	235	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Two fragments are corners of objects. 90º sides with flat surfaces. Kiln spacer(s)? They have thickness of 20mm and 21mm.	2.2
					One of thickness survived at 21mm. Two have a s ingle smoothed surface and a f urther fragment have two surfaces at 90º.	
1284 [1285] [1590]	Ditch Routeway	79	385	1) Two possible kiln bar fragments (36g) Yellow brown surface with grey core. There may be other fragments in the assemblage. 55 fragments/crumbs (238g). Three fragments have a couple of small stones 5mm in length.	1) Poorly fired. Poorly made. Both fragments have two sides survived at 90º.	2.2
				2) 19 f ragments (87g) with orange surface.	2) Parallel linear grooves c4mm wide across surface. Poorly fired. Up to 15mm thick. Part of oven/hearth?	
				3) three fragments (24g) Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric. Soapy texture.		
1286 [1287]	Pit	1	12	Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Has a smoothed side.	2.1
1315 [1316] [1589]	Ditch	1	7	Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric with grey core. Soapy texture.		2.1
1322 [1324]	Ditch	8	182	Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Five have a smoothed surface. A few vegetative impressions on two.	2.3
1325 [1326]	Pit	1	47	Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric with grey core. Soapy		2.3

Ctxt	Feat	No	Wt(g)	Fabric	Other	Period
				texture.		
1327 [1328]	Pit	8	124	Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Seven have a smoothed surface	2.3
1342 [1344] [1588]	Ditch Route way	1	49	Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric with grey core. Soapy texture.	Two smoothed sides at 90º.	2.2
1353 [1354] [1585]	Ditch Enclosure	1	83	Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric with grey core. Soapy texture.	41mm thick.	2.3
1365 [1366]	Pit	2	116	Soft buff to light yellow sandy fabric with grey core. Soapy texture.	One fragment has two surfaces at 90º. ?kiln support.	2.2
1375 [1398] [1584]	Ditch	3	82	Three soft buff to light yellow. One has a slightly grey reduced core Soapy texture.	Two have a smoothed surface. One has a vegetative impression.	2.2
1384 [1385]	Pit	6	294	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Five have a smoothed surface. A few vegetative impressions on two.	2.1
1394 [1396]	Pit	8	420	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture. Four have a part reduced grey core.	Four fragments may be kiln supports. 1) Fragment 101mm+ long x 70mm+ and 22mm thick. Roughly smoothed both sides and side surface. 2) 31mm thick with oughly smoothed both sides and side surface. Two have just thicknesses 21mm and 38mm. One fragment 24mm thick has a ?finger impression pressed to side. A further fragment has a smoothed side.	2.2
1395 [1396]	Pit	26	108	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Very small fragments.	2.2
1404 [1374]	Pit	76	4551	74 fragments in a soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture. Four have a single natural stone (three grey flint and one brown ?mudstone) inclusion up to 24mm in length. Two fragments have light yellow to orange surface and dark grey reduced elsewhere. All framents have been poorly puddled. Some small internal cracks and voids (latter up to 5mm in length) as well as internal lamination lines.	Seven have large numbers of small vegetative (?straw/grass) impressions on surface. Some others have small number (s) of vegetative impressions. Many have smoothed or slightly smoothed surfaces. Where a thickness survive they are between *c*40mm to 45mm thick. No signs of burning on fragments. Eleven fragments (3049g) survive as large fragments. Nine of these fragments have complete profiles with a top, at least one side and base (all slightly smoothed upper and sides with traces of vegetation on the upper and lower sides). Three fragments join to form a 246mm+ long, 91mm+ wide and 42mm thick. Two fragments form a right angled corner of an 115m+ long by 111m+ wide and 43m thick. One fragment is a right angled corner fragment 80mm+ by 72mm+ by 44mm thick. The largest single	2.2

Ctxt	Feat	No	Wt(g)	Fabric	Other	Period
					(separate) fragment was 155mm+ long, 95mm+ wide and 45mm thick. Kiln material?	
1405 [1374]	Pit	112	403	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	All very small fragments. 42 fragments with a smoothed side(s).	2.2
1409 [1408]	Pit	21	720	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Three with a grey core. Soapy texture.	Nine fragments with a smoothed side(s). One fragment, 46-51mm thick, has a side and both main surfaces. Kiln support? Another fragment c43mm thick.	2.2
1410 [1411] [1590]	Ditch Routeway	12	201	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture	Ten fragments with a smoothed side(s).	2.2
1414 [1416] [1590]	Ditch Routeway	2	66	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	One fragment 20mm thick and has frequent vegetative impressions on top surface.	2.2
1423 [1424] [1588]	Ditch Routeway	2	21	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric with slight grey core. Soapy texture.		2.2
1450 [1451/1379]	Ditch	4	36	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	One fragment has a smoothed side.	2.3
1459 [1460]	Pit	1	28	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric with slight grey core. Soapy texture.	Smoothed side.	2.2
1484 [1485] [1595]	Ditch	5	337	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric with slight grey core. Soapy texture. One fragment has 6mm long mudstone inclusion.	All have roughly smoothed surface(s). One fragment, 42mm thick, has a side and both surfaces. Kiln support(s)?	2.2
1490 [1491/1493]	Gully	3	12	Buff to dark brown sandy fabric.		2.1
1498 [1471]	Pit	1	152	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture. One flint inclusion 7mm long.	29mm thick. Surfaces including side smoothed.	2.2
1499 [1500] [1595]	Ditch	1	141	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric with slight grey core. Soapy texture.	43mm thick. Surfaces roughly smoothed.	2.2
1508 [1509]	Pit	3	44	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Two fragments have a smoothed side.	2.2
1510 [1511]	Pit	2	86	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric with slight grey core. Soapy texture.	Both fragments with a smoothed side. One fragment has frequent vegetative impressions on top surface.	2.1
1582 [1583]	Pit	7	133	Soft buff to light yellow orange sandy fabric. Soapy texture.	Six fragments with a smoothed side(s). One fragment has frequent vegetative impressions on top surface.	2.2
Total		**695**	**14135**			

3.3 The quern stone by Rob atkins

A single Hertfordshire puddingstone quern fragment (1751g) was recovered from context 1582, fill of Period 2.2 pit [1583]. The nearest source of Hertfordshire Puddingstone was approximately 20km to the south, although erratic boulders also occur (King 1980, 69).

3.4 The Roman coin assemblage by Susan Porter

A total of 12 copper alloy coins of 1st to 4th century date were recovered from the site. Of these only six came from stratified deposits, the remainder comprise unstratified metal-detector finds. A complete catalogue with full details can be found in Table 1.

The earliest minted coin (*SF4*) is a 28mm heavily worn 1st century *AS* of Vespasian (AD 69-79), recovered from feature (1009). Lower denomination coins of Vespasian are common site finds in Britain. The Flavians minted prolifically and due to the good quality and reliability of the coinage, issues are known to have remained in circulation into the third century (Moorhead 2013). The reverse carries no legend but depicts an eagle with wings half spread and S-C across field, a scarce reverse type on rural sites.

A heavily worn *Sestertius* of 1st or early 2nd century date (SF42) was recovered as an unstratified metal detector find. Its worn condition suggests an extended period of circulation, deposition in the 3rd or 4th century is likely.

The 3rd century is represented by a single find (SF21), a contemporary imitation of an AD 270 issue commemorating the deified Claudius II (Gothicus). Official issues were struck by Aurelian (AD 270-275), but barbarous copies were produced in vast numbers in Britain and are common site finds, this example carries the eagle reverse and partial legend C[…..]RATIO.

The remaining nine coins date to the early-mid 4th century and all are of smaller AE4 denomination with the exception of (SF41) which is a larger AE3 *Follis*. Two coins (SFs 9, 41) can be identified as issues of Constantine I (AD 306-337), a single issue (SF10) to Constantius II (AD 324-337) and two (SF2, SF25)to the usurper Magentius (AD 350-353). Of the remaining six; one can be attributed an early Constantinian date based on the reverse design, whilst the final five coins of the assemblage are too worn/ corroded to be identified, but small size, weight and overall condition is indicative of 4th century issues.

The coins of Constantine I are of two different reverse types. The earlier issue (SF41) was an unstratified metal detector find, and is an early (AD 310-311)18mm *Follis* issue depicting Sol radiate, standing left, raising hand and holding globe with legend SOLI INVICTO. The obverse depicts the emperor laureate and cuirassed facing right. The second coin (SF9) was recovered from stratified deposit (1009) and carries the later (AD 335-341) GLORIA EXERCITVS reverse type, depicting two soldiers and a single standard.

A single issue (SF10) can be attributed to Constantius II, it is a smaller AE4 issue in a worn condition depicting the emperor draped and diademed on the obverse and with a reverse depicting two victories facing one another with two wreaths, dot below and the partial legend VICTORIAE DD NN A[… This reverse minted between AD 347-348.

Four coins of mid-4th century date (SF2, SF5, SF11 and SF12), all of which appear irregular and are likely contemporary copies, were recovered from deposit (1005) including a single issue of the usurper Magentius (SF2). Unlike the official emperors

he is depicted bare headed with A in the left field behind bust. The reverse depicts two victories holding a wreath inscribed VOT X MVLT X in four lines and par tial inaccurate legend]DD NN AGE[. The other three coins from this deposit are likely to be Constantinian although cannot be tightly dated. Only one (SF12) carries a legible reverse, although it is a c rude copy with no attempt at a legend, depicting two victories facing one another with two wreaths.

The final unstratified coin (SF25) can be a ttributed to Magentius based on t he reverse type, which although crude can be determined as the same type as SF2

Conclusions

In conclusion the assemblage follows common form for casual loss in the late 3rd and early - mid 4th centuries on rural sites, with the exception of the four coins of mid-4th century date from deposit (1005), which may represent a deliberate deposition.

Table 32: Complete Coin Catalogue arranged by ruler and date

SF & Context no	Ruler/Type	RIC no	Date/ Size	Details
				Obv: [IMP CAESAR VE]SPASIAN
4	Vespasian	RIC: 322	Date: 69-79	AVG [COS III]
(1009)/(1417)	Denom: AS		Diameter: 28mm	Rev: S-C across field Eagle
	Wear: VW/VW	Axis: 7	Weight: 9.39g	Mint: Rome
42	Unknown	RIC: -	Date: C1st / 2nd	Obv: Illegible (bust right)
Unstrat	Denom: Sestertius		Diameter: 32mm	Rev: Illegible
	Wear: C/C	Axis: -	Weight: 19.68g	Mint: Rome
21	Claudius II (Deified)	RIC:-	Date: 270	Obv: [DI]VO CL[AVDIO]
Unstrat	Denom: Radiate	copy	Diameter: 17mm	Rev: C[ONSEC]RATIO eagle issue
	Wear: W/W	Axis: 12	Weight: 1.41g	Mint: imitation
41	Constantine I	RIC: VI 899	Date: 310-311	Obv: CONSTANTINVS AVG
Unstrat	Denom: Follis?		Diameter: 18mm	Rev: SOLI INVICTO
	Wear: UW/UW	Axis: 6	Weight: 2.11g	Mint: PTR - Trier
9	Constantine I	RIC:	Date: 335-341	Obv: CONSTAN[TINVS PF AVG]
				Rev: [GLORIA EXERC]ITVS
(1061)	Denom: AE4		Diameter: 14mm	2 soldiers 1 stnd.
	Wear: VW/VW	Axis: 1	Weight: 1.07g	Mint: -
10	Constantius II	RIC: VIIII 80	Date: 347-348	Obv: CONSTA[NTNVS P]F AVG
Unstrat	Denom: AE4		Diameter: 14mm	Rev: VICTORIAE DD A[VG QNN]
	Wear: W/W	Axis: 12	Weight: 1.37g	Mint: -
12	Constantinian	RIC:	Date: 341-348	Obv: Illegible (bust right)
(1005) [1585]	Denom: AE4		Diameter: 12mm	Rev: [VICTORIAE DD AVGGQ NN]
	Wear: EW/EW	Axis: 12	Weight: 0.80g	Mint: Contemporary imitation
2	Magentius	RIC: VIII 312?	Date: 350-353	Obv: [DN MAGENTIVS PF] AVG A in l. field
(1005) [1585]	Denom: AE4	copy	Diameter: 16mm	Rev: [VICTORIAE] DD NN AG

SF & Context no	Ruler/Type	RIC no	Date/ Size	Details
				E [T CAES]?
				Mint: contemporary imitation
	Wear: SW/SW	Axis: 6	Weight: 1.11g	(Lyons original?)
5	Unknown	RIC: -	Date: C4th	Obv: Illegible (bust right)
(1005) [1585]	Denom: AE4		Diameter: 15mm	Rev: Illegible (standing figure)
	Wear: C/C	Axis: 6?	Weight: 1.07g	Mint: -
11	Unknown	RIC: -	Date: C4th	Obv: Illegible
(1005) [1585]	Denom: AE4		Diameter: 14mm	Rev: Illegible
	Wear: EW/EW	Axis: -	Weight: 0.91g	Mint: -
25	Magentius?	RIC:-	Date: 351-353	Obv: Illegible
				Rev: [VICTORIAE DD N]N AVG
Unstrat	Denom: AE4		Diameter: 12mm	ET CAES]
	Wear: W/W	Axis: 12	Weight: 1.34g	Mint: imitation

3.5 The other finds by Tora Hylton

Introduction

The excavations produced a small group of 30 small finds spanning the Roman to post-medieval period. With the exception of nine unstratified finds from the topsoil, all the stratified finds were recovered from deposits dating from the mid-1st century through to the 2nd century. Among the finds is a piece of utilised long bone, this is probably Iron Age and therefore residual. A small number of finds were recovered from Periods 2.1 and 2.2, but the majority were recovered from features relating to the latest phase of Roman occupation (Period 2.3). The assemblage is dominated by nails, but also includes a small group of brooches and miscellaneous fittings and fragments. Finds of post-medieval date were recovered from topsoil.

The small finds may be quantified by material type as follows:

Table 33: *The small finds by type*

Material	Total
Copper alloy (excluding coins)	10
Iron objects	13
Lead	5
Worked bone	2
Total	**30**

In total there are 22 Roman small finds, 20 are from stratified deposits and a further two were recovered from topsoil. The assemblage includes, 5 copper alloy brooches, an iron figure of eight link, a possible knife blade and 10 nails.

Brooches

Three types of brooch are represented and they include, two Nauheim Derivatives <SF22> <SF 44>, two Hod Hill brooches <SF 1> <SF 28> and a plate brooch <SF

29>. Three brooches are stratified, <SF22> and <SF44> were recovered from pits [1153 and 1563] and <SF1> from a silt layer over metalling [1003].

Iron finds

With the exception of 10 nails, the objects recovered include a figure of eight link, a ?blade fragment and an undiagnostic rod fragment.

Part of a figure of eight link <SF 43> was recovered from the fill of pit [1509] (Period 2.2). The link is open at the centre, it has a rectangular cross-section and measures 65mm in length and 26mm wide (cf Manning1985, plate 64, S9-11). Manning states that links of this type are stronger than the oval links and that they were favoured because of their strength (Ibid 1985, 139), they are multi-functional and could have served many purposes. The remaining objects include, a flat triangular-shaped fragment with triangular cross-section from pit [1471] (Period 2.3, which may be the tip of a knife blade <No SFN> and a undiagnostic rod fragment <SF 37> from ditch 1354 (Period 2.3).

There are 10 hand forged nails (1 from Period 2.1, 3 from Period 2.2 and 6 from Period 2.3) and where possible these have been classified according to Mannings Typology (1985, fig 32). Three of the nails are complete and range in recorded length from 27mm to 62mm; the remaining seven nails are incomplete, either the terminal of the shank missing (x 6) or the head missing (x 1). The majority of identifiable nails are represented by Manning's Type1b (7 examples), these have a flat sub-circular head and complete examples measure up to 62mm in length and they would have been used for light structural fixings. The other nail form represented is a Mannings Type 3 with a T-shaped head (2 examples), the only complete example measures 48mm in length. All these types would have had numerous applications for use with wood.

Lead finds

Three lead objects were recovered, a repair patch <SF 3> from ditch [1008] (Period 2.2), an amorphous lump <SF 7> from ditch [1014] and a sub-square off cut of sheet metal <SF 6> from organic layer 1011 (Period 2.1). The former is sub-rectangular in shape and the recess around the outside edge still retains the remains of a black pottery fabric, indicating that the patch would have been used to repair a damaged ceramic vessel.

Worked Bone

There are two items of worked bone, a utilised sheep metatarsal <SF47> and a shaft from a pin <SF 40>.

Part of a utilised sheep metatarsal <SF47> was recovered from organic layer (1011) (Period 2.1). The distal end and part of the shaft is missing. The proximal end has been worked; a small circular perforation has been cut longitudinally through the epiphysis into the pulp cavity and the exterior surface of the shaft is slightly polished. The function of the object is unknown; however, 13 similar examples have been recovered from Maiden Castle and it has been suggested that they might be handles. Finally, the lower half of a finely carved shaft from a pin <SF 40> was recovered from pit [1471] (Period 2.3); it was found with a blade fragment and a nail.

Post-medieval finds

There are a small number of post-medieval finds (x 6), that were recovered from topsoil during a metal detecting survey. They are represented by small portable items that may have been casually lost and undiagnostic/amorphous fragments of copper alloy sheeting and lead. Finds worthy of note, include a small cast mount for

decorating leather belts or straps, a 17th century buckle frame used for buckling spurs (Whitehead 1996, No 522) and the corroded remains of an open worked annular brooch.

Finds Catalogue

Copper alloy objects

Fig 29, SF 1 Brooch, copper alloy. Incomplete, part of lower bow, foot and catch plate only. Hod Hill type with bordering ridges forming a wide rectangular hollow extending the width of the bow; bordering, ridges furnished with cross cuts. Lower bow plain, tapered and terminating in a small knop. Equates to Mannings Type 2b, (2011, 136; plate 91, 8913) which dates to the late 1st-2nd century. Context (1003), layer, silting over metalling, Period 2.3.

SF 22 Brooch, copper alloy. Incomplete, fragmentary with lower half of bow bent back on its self, part of spring, bow, catch plate and pin missing. Nauheim Derivative with four coils, bow has a flat cross-section, tapers evenly to a pointed foot and it is simply decorated with marginal grooves down the length of the bow. It is an example of Mackreth's Type 3.b.1 (2011, Plate 8, 4134). Other excavated examples predate the end of the Flavian dynasty, AD 96 (*Ibid* 2011, 16). Context (1152), pit [1153], Period 2.2

SF 24 Ring, copper alloy. Complete but slightly distorted. Plain annular ring with D-shaped cross-section. Either a collar or cheap finger ring. Date: Post-medieval. Measurements: 24 x 15mm, H: 4mm, Unstratified, Topsoil

SF 27 Brooch, copper alloy. Complete but slightly damaged. Annular open worked ring. Date: Post-medieval. Dia: 28mm H: 2mm, Unstratified, Topsoil

Fig 29, SF 28 Fragment of Hod Hill brooch, copper alloy. Incomplete, exceedingly abraded, most of upper bow, catch plate, pin and foot missing. Vestige of longitudinal flutes, three cross mouldings then lower part of bow plain. Resembles MacKreth Type 4.a.1 (2011, plate 92, 9129). Date: early-mid 1st century. Unstratified, Topsoil.

Fig 29, SF 29 Plate brooch, copper alloy. Incomplete, pin and setting missing. Lozenge-shaped plate, raised edge with remains of enamel inlay which would have held ?millefiore in place (now missing) in recess. Catch-plate and hinge aligned corner to corner on the long axis. Mackreths Type 8.b1. (2011, plate 116, 11079). Date: 1st-2nd century, Dimensions: 38mm x 25mm. Unstratified, Topsoil.

SF 30 Belt-stud, copper alloy. Cast triangular stud with lobed terminal (ribbed) and two integral shanks. Used for decorating and stiffening belts. Date: Late med/post-med. L: 16mm W: 7mm. Unstratified, Topsoil.

SF 31 Sheet fragment, copper alloy. Undiagnostic and badly corroded fragment of sheet metal. Measurements: 9 x 8mm. Unstratified, Topsoil.

SF 34 Buckle frame, copper alloy. Double trapezoidal frame with pointed ends and knops on the corners, notches on outside edge, curved profile. Used for buckling spurs. Date: 17th (*c*1620-1680) century. Ref: Whitehead 1996, No 522) Length: 35mm Width: 23mm. Unstratified, Topsoil

Fig 29, SF 44 Brooch, copper alloy. Complete. Late La Tene Type (Nauheim Derivative), with integral four coil internal chord spring, The bow appears rounded both on the front and the back and there are faint horizontal lines half way done the front of the bow. The foot has a slight forward-facing projection like an example from Bancroft Villa (Mackreth 1994, fig 136, 46). Date: c late 1st century. Mackreths Type 3.b.3 (2011, Plate 8, 4346). Context 1562, fill of pit 1563, Period 2.2.

Iron Objects

SF 37 Rod, iron. Circular sectioned rod fragment, slightly bent, curved profile. L: 161mm Dia:10mm. Context (1353), fill of ditch [1354], Enclosure 1 [1585], Period 2.3.

SF 39 Nail, iron. Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. Flat sub-circular head with square-sectioned shank. L (incomplete): 31mm. Context (1369), fill of ditch [1370], [1594], Period 2.2.

SF 43 Figure of eight link, iron. Incomplete, small section missing. Link rectangular cross-section, open at the centre (cf Manning 1985, plate 64, S9-11). Links of this type presumably originate from chains for suspending pots etc. L: 65mm W: 26mm. Context (1508), fill of pit [1509], Period 2.2.

Context (1005) Nail, iron. Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. Flat sub-circular head with square sectioned shank. L (incomplete): 27mm. Upper fill of ditch [1006], Enclosure 1 [1585], Period 2.3.

Context (1011) Nail, iron. Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. Flat oval head and square-sectioned shank, clenched L(incomplete): 40mm. Layer, Period 2.1.

Context (1063) Nails x 2 iron. Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. Flat sub-circular head with square-sectioned shank. L (incomplete): 35mm. Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. Sub-circular head with square-sectioned shank. L (incomplete): 38mm. Fill of pit [1064], Period 2.2.

Context (1091) Nails x 2, iron. Complete. Large nail with flat sub-circular head and square-sectioned shank tapered to a point. L: 62mm. Complete. Nail with flat sub-circular head and square-sectioned shank tapered to a point. L: 27mm. Silting over fill of ditch [1093], Enclosure 1 [1585], Period 2.3.

Context (1118) Nail, iron. Incomplete, terminal of shank missing. T-shaped head with square-sectioned shank. L 9incomplete): 21mm. Occupational spread, midden [1592], Period 2.3.

Context (1131) Nail, iron. Complete. T-shaped head with square-sectioned shank tapered to a point. L: 48mm. Occupational spread, midden [1592], Period 2.3

Context (1470) Nail, iron. Incomplete, head missing. Large square-sectioned shank with clenched terminal. L (incomplete): 120mm. Fill of pit [1471], Period 2.3.

Context (1470) Fragment, iron. Flat triangular-shaped fragment with triangular cross-section. Possibly tip of a knife blade. L: 47mm W: 20mm Th: 4mm. Fill of pit [1471], Period 2.3.

Lead

SF 3 Repair patch, lead. Small patch run into rectangular hole, remains of black pottery fabric surviving in recess. Measurements: 25 x 10mm, Wgt: 14g. Context (1007), fill of ditch [1008], Routeway ditch [1588], Period 2.2.

SF 6 Offcut, lead. Sub-square sheet. Measurements: 26 x 26mm. Wgt: Context (1011), organic layer, Period 2.1.

SF 7 Amorphous lump. Wgt: 45mm. Context (1013), ditch [1014], Period 2.2.

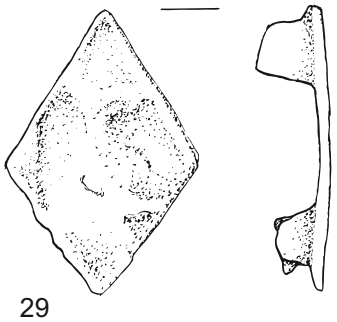
SF 32 Strip, white metal alloy. Incomplete both terminals missing. Small rectangular strip, with one complete squared perforation and vestige of one other. Nature of object difficult to determine, but may be a fragment of a shoe buckle. Unstratified, topsoil.

SF 33 Amorphous piece of lead. Wgt: 7g. Unstratified, topsoil

Bone

SF 40 Pin, bone. Incomplete, head and part of shaft missing. Finely carved shank fragment. L: 44mm Dia: 2mm. Context (1470), fill of pit [1471], Period 2.3.

SF 47 Utilised sheep metatarsal. Incomplete. proximal end and part of shaft. A small circular perforation has been made longitudinally through the epiphysis into the pulp cavity. The shaft is broken and slightly polished. Unknown function. L: 100mm. Organic layer (1011), Period 2.1.



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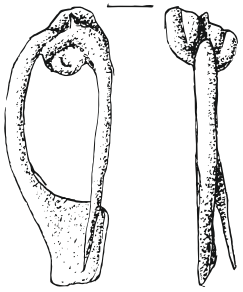

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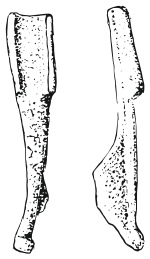

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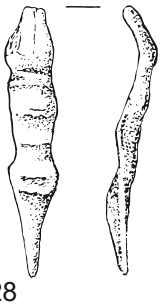

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Scale 1:1

Small finds Fig 29

4 Human bone, faunal and environmental evidence

4.1 The human bone by Matilda Holmes

Two fragments of human bone were recovered from Period 2.2 ditch [1485] (1483) [1595]. They comprised a fused proximal femur and a fragment of fibula.

4.2 The animal bone by Matilda Holmes

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone was identified from Iron Age and Roman features. The early Roman period was best represented, and a basic analysis will focus on this phase. Sample sizes were not large enough for detailed consideration of economy or status of the settlement.

Methods

Bones were identified using the author's reference collection. Due to anatomical similarities between sheep and goat, bones of this type were assigned to the category 'sheep/goat', unless a definite identification (Zeder and Lapham 2010; Zeder and Pilaar 2010) could be made. Bones that could not be identified to species were, where possible, categorised according to the relative size of the animal represented (small – cat/rabbit sized; medium – sheep/ pig/ dog size; or large – cattle/ horse size). Ribs were identified to size category where the head was present, vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments.

Tooth wear and eruption were recorded using guidelines from Grant (1982) and Payne (1973), as were bone fusion, metrical data (von den Driesch 1976), anatomy, side, zone (Serjeantson 1996) and any evidence of pathological changes, butchery (Lauwerier 1988; Sykes 2007) and working. The condition of bones was noted on a scale of 0-5, where 0 is fresh bone and 5, the bone is falling apart (Lyman 1994: 355). Other taphonomic factors were also recorded, including the incidence of burning, gnawing, recent breakage and refitted fragments. All fragments were recorded, although articulated or associated fragments were entered as a count of 1, so they did not bias the relative frequency of species present. Details of associated bone groups were recorded in a separate table.

No sieved samples were made available, which may lead to a negative bias in the number and variety of small mammals, fish and bird bones recorded in the assemblage.

Bones were only included in analysis if they came from features that could be securely dated. Quantification of taxa used a count of all fragments (NISP – Number of Identified SPecimens). Mortality profiles were constructed based on tooth eruption and wear (Hambleton 1999) and bone fusion (O'Connor 2003). A sample was considered of sufficient size to provide useful information for comparison of the major domesticates (cattle, sheep/ goat and pig) if they numbered 100 NISP or more, and for detailed analysis of minor taxa, ageing data and carcass representation if they numbered 300 NISP or more.

Taphonomy and Condition

Bones were generally in good condition, although a high proportion of fresh breaks and refitted fragments indicates that burial conditions rendered the bones friable (Table 34).

Table 34: Condition and taphonomic factors affecting the assemblage. Teeth not included unless stated

Condition	EMIA-C1	EMIA-C2	EMIA-C1/C2	C1	MC1-C2	C2-C3	C2-C3?+	C2-C4	MC1-C4?
Fresh bone									
Very good				3	38	1			5
Good		4	1	13	66		2		4
Fair	1	2	1	8	22			2	1
Poor				1	3				2
Very poor				1					
Total	**1**	**6**	**2**	**26**	**129**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**12**
Fresh break	100%	33%		35%	25%		100%	100%	8%
Refit	3=1	4=1		29=6	261=31		8=2	11=2	5=1
Loose mandibular teeth*					3				1
Teeth in mandibles*				2	39				8
Gnawed	100%	33%		50%	23%	100%	50%		17%
Butchered				4%	4%				8%
Burnt					2%				

The high number of teeth remaining in the mandible implies that bones were buried soon after discard, with minimal disturbance. However, the relatively high proportion of gnawed fragments implies that some bones were available for dogs to chew prior to burial. The low incidence of butchered fragments may result partly from the action of dogs, causing damage to the areas of the bone more likely to be affected by butchery. Very few burnt fragments were recorded, suggesting they were not routinely exposed to fire during cooking or as a means of disposal or fuel.

Associated Bone Groups (ABGs) were observed from early Roman deposits. A complete dog skeleton was recovered from the lower fill of ditch 1485 (cxt. 1484)[1595]; articulating horse 1st and 2nd vertebrae from pit 1374 (cxt.1404); horse lower hind leg bones from the lower fill of routeway ditch 1073 (cxt. 1072) [1590] and part of a cattle hind leg from Enclosure 1 ditch 1476 (cxt. 1475) [1585].

A single worked red deer antler fragment was recovered from ditch 1166 (cxt. 1162) [1585]. It was a shed antler with saw marks to the beam and some attempt had been made to shape the beam and maybe pierce it from the coronet at the base and the top of the beam. A sheep/ goat metacarpal from ditch 1157 (cxt. 1156) [1591] showed signs of working, observed as an area of polish to the anterior shaft.

The Assemblage

Sample sizes were very small for the Iron Age, transitionary (C1) and later Roman phases (Table 35), and will not be considered further, beyond noting that cattle predominated. The early Roman period comprising material from mid-1st to 2n century features will be the focus of the rest of the analysis, although it remains a small assemblage so only a basic interpretation will be appropriate. A number of taxa were recorded from these phases, with cattle and sheep/ goat predominating (Table 35). Equid remains were next most common, followed by canid, pig and red deer.

*Table 35: Species representation (NISP). Hand collected material only. *early Roman= combined bones from C2 and M1-C2*

Taxa	EMIA-C1	EMIA-C2	EMIA-C1/C2	C1	MC1-C2	C2-C3	C2-C3?+	C2-C4	MC1-C4?
Cattle	1	2	1	14	68		2	2	9
Sheep/ goat		2	1	8	56				4
Sheep				2	1				
Pig				1	3				2
Canid					5				2
Equid		1		1	15	1	1		
Red deer					1				
Vole									1
Total Identified	**1**	**5**	**2**	**26**	**149**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**18**
Large mammal		7		26	94		2		6
Medium mammal				4	79	1	1	1	8
Unidentified mammal		3	1	14	30		2		11
Total	**1**	**15**	**3**	**70**	**352**	**2**	**8**	**3**	**43**

Bones were recovered from all parts of the carcass of cattle and sheep/goat (Table 36) implying that animals were killed, butchered and consumed on site.

Table 36: Element representation for all taxa from early Roman features (NISP)

Element	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Canid	Equid	Red deer
ABG	1			1	2	
Skull		1		1	1	
Antler						1
Horn core + frontal	2					
Maxilla with teeth	1					
Loose maxillary tooth	9	4			2	
Mandible with teeth	4	6		3	1	
Loose mandibular	2	1				

tooth						
Thoracic vertebra	1	1			1	
Lumber vertebra	1	1				
Sacrum	1					
Scapula	9	3				
Humerus	7	4	1			
Radius	2	5	1		1	
Radius + ulna	1				1	
Ulna	1				1	
Pelvis	1	2				
Femur	4	4				
Tibia	5	12			1	
Astragalus	3					
Calcaneus	2		1			
Tarsal					1	
Metacarpal	1	4			1	
Metatarsal	6	6			2	
Metapodial		1				
lateral metapodial	1	1				
1st phalange	2	1				
3rd phalange	1					
Total	**68**	**57**	**3**	**5**	**15**	**1**

The under-representation of vertebrae and phalanges may result from the small sample size, or could result from the burial of primary butchery waste elsewhere. Canid remains were limited to the complete skeleton and skull described above and three further mandibles, two probably from the same individual. Horse remains were recovered from the head and limbs. The absence of phalanges may indicate that these bones were removed with the skins and taken elsewhere. Pig bones were few in number and limited to the upper limbs. The red deer antler had been shed and does not reflect the presence of a hunted animal.

Cattle were largely mature at death, although there was evidence for a juvenile animal and several sub adult animals that would have been culled at around the age of maturity (Table 37). This is reflected in the tooth wear data, with two cattle at wear stage C and one elderly animal at stage J. The presence of elderly animals is also implied by the pathology data, which includes *exostosis* to the lateral aspect of a lumber vertebra, which is typical of age-related changes, or an injury to the back of the animal. A metatarsal was also observed with a sinus on the anterior aspect of the proximal, lateral shaft that suggests an infection to the bone.

Sheep appear to have been culled at younger ages than cattle – there is no evidence for adult animals from the fusion data, with the majority apparently being culled as sub adults, and a few porous bones indicating the presence of neonates or lambs of only a few weeks old (Table 37).

Table 37: Epiphyseal fusion for cattle and sheep/ goat bones

Cattle	U	F	%F	Sheep/ goat	U	F	%F
Early	1	14	93	Early		4	100
Intermediate	1	4	80	Intermediate	5		
Late	3	3	50	Late	6		
Final		4	100	Final	4		
Total	**5**	**25**		**Total**	**15**	**4**	

KEY: U= unfused; F= Fused

The tooth wear data varies from this to some extent, although there is a single mandible from a young sheep at wear stage C, the remaining three were all from adults at wear stage H. It is possible that the sheep assemblage resulted from some form of redistribution, with the heads of older animals being bought in from elsewhere. The presence of neonates may imply that animals were bred in the vicinity, or that they were used as an offering or delicacy.

Unsurprisingly, the equid bones were all fused, coming from mature animals that would have been used for riding, hauling or traction. The presence of a single unerupted third mandibular molar implies that one animal was less than four years old. The dog burial did not show any signs of pathology or butchery, and was from an adult c.50cm tall at the shoulder. The absence of a baculum implies it was a bitch, although the small penis bone could have been missed during excavation. The disposal of the animal close to the round house suggests it had some association with those living at the site, perhaps as a working animal.

Summary

Although the sample was small, it implies the presence of domestic refuse resulting from the processing of livestock for food, as well as the disposal of non-food animals. It reflects a reliance on cattle that were largely adult or nearing maturity for the food requirements of those living on site. It is likely that cattle were used for secondary products – traction or milk production or both – prior to being culled, with some culled at younger ages that were presumably excess to requirement. The presence of very young sheep contrasts strongly with this, and may imply that they were used for more than food – very young animals are often found in ritual contexts in early Roman Britain (King 2005), or can be used to reflect status (Allen 2011). The latter possibility is less likely, given the other evidence from the site as a largely low-status domestic settlement. Alternatively, they may indicate birthing casualties, and the proximity of stock enclosures make this a more likely scenario. A consideration of the spatial patterning of features containing the greatest proportion of sheep/ goat bones indicates that they are more likely to come from areas close to the round house (Table 38), while cattle bones are more common away from the settlement area, being associated with the routeway, boundary ditch and enclosure. This is not an unusual patterning as the bones of smaller animals are more likely to be found close to habitation areas, and those of larger animals at the periphery of the site (Wilson 1996), and does little to elucidate the nature of the sheep assemblage. The presence of the heads of older sheep implies that these were bought in from elsewhere, and suggests a consumer function to the site, or the deposition of older sheep remains in a spatially different area of the site. As all parts of the carcass were present for cattle and the young sheep, it is likely that these were culled and processed on site.

Table 38: Spatial patterning of cattle and sheep/ goat remains from major early Roman groups

Area	Groups/ features	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	% sheep/ goat
Close to RH1	1591, 1200, 1251, 1451, 1460	10	26	72
East of E1	1098		3	100
Ditch	1594		3	100
Boundary ditch		3		0
Enclosure E1	1585	13	6	32
Routeway ditch eastern side	1588, 1469	13		0
Routeway ditch western side	1590	3	1	25
Total		**52**	**45**	

4.3 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from across the excavated area, with nineteen being submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by MOLAN, with the flots being collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Tables 39 and 40. Nomenclature within the tables follows Stace (2010) for the plant macrofossils and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells. All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were abundant within all nineteen assemblages.

Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds and wetland plants are present throughout, although rarely at a high density. Preservation is generally poor to moderate, with many of the cereals being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. A significant proportion of the plant macrofossils are also fragmented/comminuted, possibly suggesting that the remains were exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to incorporation within the feature fills.

Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are noted, along with a number of cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Wheat is predominant throughout, and of the identifiable grains, most are of an elongated 'drop' form typical of spelt (*T. spelta*). Germinated grains, with diagnostic concave profiles and elongated embryo ends, are present within the assemblage from Period 2.3 Enclosure 1 ditch [1557] [1585] (sample 24). Spelt wheat glume bases are also recorded within nine assemblages. Barley grains only appear within four

assemblages, and all specimens are poorly preserved. Oat (*Avena* sp.) awn fragments are noted within three of the ditch/gully assemblages.

Seeds of common segetal weeds/grassland herbs are present within all but sample 7 (from beam slot fill (1096)). However, most are recorded as single specimens within an assemblage. Taxa noted include stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), brome (*Bromus* sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus* sp.), grasses (Poaceae), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Occasional fruits of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), both plants of marginal wetland areas, are also recorded. Highly comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, but larger pieces of material are scarce. However, the assemblage from beam slot fill (1096) is almost entirely composed of charcoal, much of which has a distinct flaked appearance which is probably indicative of very high temperature combustion. Other plant macrofossils are scarce.

Small fragments of black porous and tarry material, all of which are probable residues of the high temperature combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains), are present at a low to moderate density within all but one of the assemblages studied. Small pieces of abraded bone are also present within most samples, with burnt material occurring within samples 11 (pit [1200]), 12 (ditch terminus [1324]) and 22 (layer (1524)). Other remains are generally scarce, although occasional pieces of eggshell are noted along with small mammal and/or amphibian bones.

Shells of terrestrial and marsh/freshwater slum molluscs are present (occasionally at high densities) within all but one of the assemblages studied. Many specimens are bleached and fragmented, possibly suggesting that they may be contemporary with the contexts from which the samples were taken. However, occasional specimens retain delicate surface structuring and colouration, which may indicate that they are intrusive, possibly being introduced via the post-depositional disturbance of the features. Open-country species, particularly those indicative of short-turfed grassland habitats, are predominant. However, many features (particularly Enclosure 1 ditch [1006] [1585] and routeway [1008] [1588], samples 1 and 9 respectively) were probably damp or seasonally wet, and it would also appear that certain of the ditches may have been partially shaded or overgrown.

Conclusions

In summary, the composition of the assemblages from Aylesbury would appear to indicate that the material is largely derived from scattered detritus/midden waste (possibly including burnt fodder and/or litter), much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. Possible exceptions to this are the assemblage from Enclosure 1 ditch [1557] [1585] (sample 24), which contains a low density of cereal processing/storage waste, and the charcoal rich assemblage from beam slot fill (1096) (sample 7), which is possibly indicative of *in situ* burning. Although cereals and/or chaff are present throughout, the overall paucity of material may suggest that the processing of cereals occurred on an *ad hoc* basis, with just sufficient being done to meet the day to day requirements of the sites occupants. Such patterns have been noted at other sites of later prehistoric and Roman date (for example Loves Farm, St Neots, Fryer forthcoming) and from contemporary sites which were probably engaged in largely pastoral economies (for example Stanstead, Essex, Murphy 1990 and Fison Way, Thetford, Norfolk, Murphy 1991). At Aylesbury, it would appear that much of the grain was being grown on the local clay/loam soils, which are slightly acidic and often seasonally wet (*cf* Soilscapes). Such conditions are certainly well suited to the production of wheat, the main crop recorded within the assemblages.

Only one of the current assemblages (from sample 24) contains a sufficient density of material (*i.e.* 100+ specimens) for quantification. As analysis of a single sample in isolation would probably add little to the data already contained within this assessment, no further work is recommended.

Table 39: Plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample No.	**1**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**6**	**8**	**10**	**21**	**24**	**12**	**18**	**3**
Context No.	**1005**	**1007**	**1038**	**1086**	**1091**	**1144**	**1297**	**1483**	**1556**	**1322**	**1432**	**1065**
Feature No.	**1006**	**1008**	**1037**	**1088**	**1093**	**1145**	**1298**	**1485**	**1557**	**1324**	**1433**	**1066**
Group No	**1585**	**1588**	**1594**	**-**	**1585**	**1587**	**-**	**1595**	**1585**		**1591**	**1586**
Feature type	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**DT**	**DT**	**Gully**
Phase	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**2.2**
Cereals												
Avena sp. (awn frags.)									x		x	x
Hordeum sp. (grains)												x
Triticum sp. (grains)			xcf	x		x	x	x	xx	xx	x	x
(germinated grains)									x			
(glume bases)			x	x					xxxx		x	x
(spikelet bases)				x					x	x		x
(rachis internodes)									x			
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	x							x	xxx	x	x	x
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	xfg	xfg	xfg	xfg	x	x	xx	xx	x	x
(detached sprouts)									x		x	
(floret base frag.)												x
Herbs												
Anthemis cotula L.	x									x	x	
Asteraceae indet.		x		x				x				
Atriplex sp.												x
Bromus sp.							x	x	x	x	x	
Caryophyllaceae indet.												x

Sample No.	**1**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**6**	**8**	**10**	**21**	**24**	**12**	**18**	**3**
Context No.	**1005**	**1007**	**1038**	**1086**	**1091**	**1144**	**1297**	**1483**	**1556**	**1322**	**1432**	**1065**
Feature No.	**1006**	**1008**	**1037**	**1088**	**1093**	**1145**	**1298**	**1485**	**1557**	**1324**	**1433**	**1066**
Chenopodium album L.							x					
Chenopodiaceae indet.										x		x
Small Fabaceae indet.	x		x		x	xcf	x		x	x		xcf
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love			x							x		
Galium aparine L.							x			x		
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.			x						x		x	x
Plantago lanceolata L.									x			x
Poa sp.									x			
Small Poaceae indet.	x	x	x			x			xx	x	x	x
Large Poaceae indet.			x						x	x	x	
Ranunculus sp.			x							x		x
R. acris/repens/bulbosus											x	
Rumex sp.			x		xcf				x	x	x	x
Sherardia arvensis L.										x		
Stellaria sp.			x									
Wetland plants												
Bolboschoenus/Schoenoplectus sp.										xcf		
Carex sp.			x						x			
Eleocharis sp.									x	x	x	xx
Other plant macrofossils												
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xxx	xx	xxxx	xx	xxx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xxx	xxx

Sample No.	**1**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**6**	**8**	**10**	**21**	**24**	**12**	**18**	**3**
Context No.	**1005**	**1007**	**1038**	**1086**	**1091**	**1144**	**1297**	**1483**	**1556**	**1322**	**1432**	**1065**
Feature No.	**1006**	**1008**	**1037**	**1088**	**1093**	**1145**	**1298**	**1485**	**1557**	**1324**	**1433**	**1066**
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x	x	xx	x	x	xx	x	xxxx	x	x
Charcoal >5mm			x		x			x		x	x	
Charred root/stem			x		x		x			x	x	
Indet. culm nodes			x									
Indet. fruit stone/nutshell								x				
Indet. inflorescence frags.									x	x		
Indet. seeds		x	x		x						x	x
Other remains												
Black porous/tarry material	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	xx	xx		x
Bone	x	x	x	x	x				x	x xb	x	x
Burnt/fired clay										x		x
Eggshell	x		x							x		
Fish bone												x
Small coal frags.			x		x						x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	xx	x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x
Mollusc shells												
Woodland/shade loving species												
Aegopinella sp.	x				x							x
Carychium sp.	x											
Ena sp.	x	x	x									
Oxychilus sp.	x	x	x						x			
Punctum pygmaeum	x								x			

Sample No.	**1**	**9**	**2**	**5**	**6**	**8**	**10**	**21**	**24**	**12**	**18**	**3**
Context No.	**1005**	**1007**	**1038**	**1086**	**1091**	**1144**	**1297**	**1483**	**1556**	**1322**	**1432**	**1065**
Feature No.	**1006**	**1008**	**1037**	**1088**	**1093**	**1145**	**1298**	**1485**	**1557**	**1324**	**1433**	**1066**
Vitrea sp.			x									
Open country species												
Helicella itala			x	x	x							x
Pupilla muscorum						x	x			x	x	
Vallonia sp.	xx	xxx	x	x	x	xx	xxx	xx	x	x		
V. costata	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
V. pulchella	x				xcf	x	x	xcf				
Vertigo pygmaea	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		
Catholic species												
Cochlicopa sp.	x		x				x	xx	x	x		
Nesovitrea hammonis									xcf			
Trichia hispida group	xx	xx	x		x	xx	xxx	xxx	x	x	x	x
Marsh/freshwater slum species												
Anisus leucostoma	xxx	xxx	x		x	x	xx		xx	x		x
Lymnaea sp.	xx	xx	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Succinea sp.	xcf		x			x	x					
Other												
Limacid plate		x									x	
Sample volume (litres)	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**	**40**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**<0.1**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**50%**	**50%**	**100%**	**50%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

KEY: x = 1 – 10 specimens; xx = 11 – 50 specimens; xxx = 51 – 100 specimens; xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf = compare; fg = fragment; b = burnt; DT = ditch terminus; BS = beam slot; RHG = round house gully

Table 40: Plant macrofossils and other remains (continuation)

Sample No.	**7**	**25**	**11**	**15**	**20**	**26**	**22**
Context No.	**1096**	**1076**	**1198**	**1167**	**1472**	**1582**	**1524**
Feature No.	**1098**	**1077**	**1200**	**1168**	**1471**	**1583**	**-**
		RHG					
Feature type	**BS**	**[1586]**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**	**Layer**
Phase	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.3**
Cereals							
Hordeum sp. (grains)	xcf		xx	x			
Triticum sp. (grains)	x	x	x	x		x	x
(glume bases)			x		x	x	xx
(spikelet bases)			x		x	x	x
(rachis internode)							x
T. spelta L. (glume bases)			x			x	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	xx	x	xfg	x	x
Herbs							
Atriplex sp.							x
Bromus sp.			xcf			x	x
Chenopodiaceae indet.			x				x
Euphrasia/Odontites sp.			x				
Small Fabaceae indet.		x	xcf	x		x	x
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love						x	x
Galeopsis sp.			x				
Galium aparine L.			x	x			
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.						x	
Small Poaceae indet.		x	x	x		x	x
Large Poaceae indet.					x		
Rumex sp.			x				x
Stellaria sp.						x	
S. media (L.)Vill				x			
Wetland plants							
Carex sp.		x	x	xcf			
Eleocharis sp.				x		x	
Other plant macrofossils							
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xx	xxx	xxx	x	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	xx	xx			xxx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	xxx						

Sample No.	**7**	**25**	**11**	**15**	**20**	**26**	**22**
Context No.	**1096**	**1076**	**1198**	**1167**	**1472**	**1582**	**1524**
Feature No.	**1098**	**1077**	**1200**	**1168**	**1471**	**1583**	**-**
Charcoal >10mm	xx						
Charred root/stem			x	x		x	x
Indet. seeds	x		x	x			x
Other remains							
Black porous/tarry material	x	x	x	xx	x	x	xx
Bone		x	x xb	x	x	x	xb
Burnt/fired clay							x
Burnt stone	x			x			x
Eggshell			x				
Small coal frags.			x				
Small mammal/amphibian bones		x	x	x	x	x	
Mollusc shells							
Woodland/shade loving species							
Aegopinella sp.					x		
Oxychilus sp.					x	x	
Open country species							
Pupilla muscorum			x				
Vallonia sp.		x	x		xx		
V. costata		x	x	x	x	x	
V. pulchella			x				
Vertigo pygmaea					x		
Catholic species							
Cochlicopa sp.		x	x		xx		
Trichia hispida group		x	x		xx		x
Marsh/freshwater slum species							
Anisus leucostoma		x	x	x	x	x	
Lymnaea sp.					x	x	
Sample volume (litres)	**40**	**40**	**40**	**20**	**10**	**40**	**40**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.7**	**<0.1**	**0.2**	**<0.1**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.2**
% flot sorted	**25%**	**100%**	**50%**	**100%**	**50%**	**100%**	**50%**

KEY: x = 1 – 10 specimens; xx = 11 – 50 specimens; xxx = 51 – 100 specimens; xxxx = 100+ specimens; cf = compare; fg = fragment; b = burnt; DT = ditch terminus; BS = beam slot; RHG = round house gully

4.4 Oyster shell by Rob Atkins

Oyster shells were only found within two middle to late Roman contexts (Period 2.3). Context 1118 (layer) had a single shell (2g) and context 1572, fill of ditch [1573] produced a single shell (46g).

5 DISCUSSION

Excavation at Aylesbury, Aston Clinton Road uncovered a predominantly late Iron Age to Roman farmstead with a few features dating to the early-middle Iron Age. This site has been one of a number of Iron Age to Roman settlements examined in recent years within the suburbs of Aylesbury (Figs 1 and 3; See Section 1.3). Further afield significant quantity of archaeological work has taken place at Milton Keynes and to a lesser extent Luton. In the area between these modern urban landscapes a modest number of excavations have occurred. Overall the quantity of archaeological work which has occurred in Buckinghamshire has meant the results of this present site can be further understood and put into its context.

Period 1: Early to middle Iron Age activity

The first activity within the site possibly dated to the late Bronze Age, but more likely occurred in the early to middle Iron Age (6th century BC to early-1st century BC). Four ephemeral gullies and one isolated pit seem to date to this period. No major features such as field boundaries or enclosures were found and this may suggest it had been an open ' settlement'. All the five features were spread over a *c*100m by 50m area within the northern half of Area A. The number and density of the features therefore seems to have been very limited. This may denote either short-term use or intermittent activity or a longer term possibly at the end of the period or that any associated settlement lay largely beyond the excavated area, presumably to the north.

Only 43 pottery sherds in a flint-tempered fabric were found as well as 15 fragments (127g) of fired clay (127g). Five fired clay pieces from an isolated pit [1265] near the site's western baulk had a single smoothed surface and may have been derived from a kiln/oven. The faunal evidence was also sparse and consisted mainly of cattle bone fragments. No metal work objects or other craft evidence were present within the site.

Settlements and their extent greatly varied in this period within the Aston Clinton area. The small quantity of pre Roman occupation at the Aston Clinton Road site may be partly explained by the fact that the Drift geology was a gleyic brown calcareous earths loam which is often seasonally wet (cf Soilscapes). Similarly at the ULAS Aston Clinton site, on the same largely clay subsoil, the only pre Roman occupation were a few Mesolithic pits (Morris 2017). The College Road, Aston Clinton site located on clay Gault and Greensand soils found no occupation before the late Iron Age (Simmonds 2015, 12).

At the Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site A located on loam there was evidence of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age activity probably on the fringes of a larger settlement (RPS 2005; Masefield 2008, 182). It was an 'open' form settlement with a few pits, four-poster, oval structure and other postholes. At the Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site B the geology comprised Gault and Greensand soils. Here, in the multi-period settlement there were cremations and pits of middle/late Bronze Age were found (in a predominantly early Iron Age to Roman settlement). Further late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pits, a possible late Bronze Age roundhouse and a fenced compound were found on higher ground in area 2. Also a more extensive early Iron Age settlement was found here. At Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site D on glacial drift deposits there was slight evidence of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity with two postholes containing 29 pottery sherds (Masefield 2008, 2 and 185).

Excavations at Weedon Hill, some 4.5 km north-west, found more elaborated evidence of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age activity, both of the occupational and agricultural character (Wessex 2007).

Period 2: Late Iron Age to Roman settlement

Period 2.1: Early to mid 1st century AD

Overview

There was no evidence for activity between the early-middle Iron Age and the early to middle 1st century AD. It was in the early to mid 1st century AD that a seemingly unrelated permanent settlement was established within the site. The settlement initially comprised a long boundary ditch, a possible stock corral and some other ditches (probably part of a field system).

Reasons for establishment

The location of a nearby watercourse to the site at Aston Clinton Road was probably a factor in the settlement's establishment at this location. There was probably a watercourse located directly to the west and this watercourse linked to Bear Brook and the Burcott Brook located *c*300m to the north. At the ULAS Aston Clinton site the late Iron Age settlement was located next to a spring and palaeochannel (Morris 2017). The location is similar to Coldharbour Farm, Aylesbury, whose settlement was also closely bounded to the west by the former course of the Southcourt Brook (Parkhouse and Bonner 1997, 79). At Biddenham Loop, Bedfordshire all the late Iron Age/Roman farmsteads were located on the gravel terrace immediately above the edge of the flood plain, within 160m of the present river (Luke 2016, 241). Meade (2010, 35) notes the preference for a riverside position for settlement in Central Bedfordshire throughout the late Iron Age and Roman periods. This is also true of Northamptonshire, for example at Bozeat Quarry the southern and northern late Iron Age settlements dating from *c*AD 10 were located in *c*250m west from the Grendon Brook and c 100m to the south of a tributary of the Grendon Brook respectively (Atkins forthcoming).

Several nearby settlements were located alongside/adjacent in the latest Iron Age or Roman periods (Aston Clinton Bypass (RPS Site B and D; Masefield 2008), College Road, Aston Clinton (Simmonds 2015) and the ULAS Aston Clinton site (M Morris 2017)(Fig 1)). Of these sites only the Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site B pre-dated the others by some time, having had occupation from at least the early Iron Age (see above). The College Road and ULAS excavation sites were located on 'greenfield' sites and commenced in the late 1st century BC and *c*AD 30 respectively (Simmonds 2015, 15; Morris 2017, 18) and at the Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site D the first major phase of archaeological activity on the site dated to the late Iron Age (Masefield 2008, 65). It is also interesting to note that those sites comprising Gault and Greensand subsoil were developed earlier (College Road and RPS Site B). Sites with a largely clay subsoil seem to be the latest in the sequence (Aston Clinton Road and ULAS).

This late Iron Age establishment of the site can be seen as typical of other sites in the region. Analysis of excavation reports have shown that over 60% of Roman settlements within the Central Belt of England, which included the Aylesbury area, started in the late Iron Age (Smith *et al* 2016, fig 5.8). This phenomenon of new settlements starting just pre-Conquest has also been remarked on in neighbouring counties. Simco (1984, 12), for example, stated that there was "Belgic expansion across Bedfordshire" and she saw the new settlements occurring almost exclusively on the better soil with Belgic occupation hardly ever occurring away from the valleys (*ibid*, 14).

The old prehistoric trackway network possibly based around the Icknield Way was probably supplemented by new routeways in the late Iron Age. Many of the new settlements in this area including at Aston Clinton Road seems to have been formed in this date and this would have meant there was an increasing population which would have needed access to market. These settlements would presumably been connected by new roads. A relatively nearby example is the Avenell Way where a new late Iron Age route was probably constructed to allow direct communications between the two markets of Cambridge and Baldock and this routeway possibly extended on to Welwyn and St Albans (Atkins and Hurst 2014, 100). This development of new routeways and associated settlements in the late Iron Age should also be seen in the greater region and nationally. It is noticeable that within the eastern region, and much of the rest of Britain, the later Iron Age witnessed increased population levels and establishment of new settlements connected by a network of tracks and droveways (Taylor 1979, 21; Cunliffe 1995, 113; Haselgrove *et al* 2001, 29). This network would have used old routeways such as the Icknield Way, which was nearby, thought to be located c4km to the east at the ULAS excavation area. This was probably an ancient trackway, one of the oldest within the Great Britain, which possibly ran from Norfolk to Wiltshire, through the chalk escarpment including the Berkshire Downs and the Chiltern Hills or may have been a series of unrelated medium and short-distance prehistoric trackways (Harrison 1993, 17-18).

Continuation of occupation from late Iron Age to Roman

Up to recently it was noted and recorded that within the clay soils around Aylesbury the evidence for continuity of late Iron Age into the Roman period was uncertain (Zeepvat and Radford 2010, 75). In the last few years the evidence seems to support that continuation of occupation often occurred within the clay soils in this area. This can be seen by the results of excavations at Aston Clinton Road Road, the ULAS excavation (M. Morris 2017), College Road (Simmonds 2015) and Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site B (Masefield 2008, 193). This is therefore similar to the Vale of Aylesbury where on Portland limestone soils there is good evidence of continuity of late Iron Age settlement into the Roman period (Zeepvat and Radford 2010, 75).

Open settlement in the late Iron Age and early Roman periods

The Aston Clinton site was unenclosed until the middle to Roman period. This contrasts with some other nearby settlements. At College Road the settlement seems to have been at least partly enclosed from its start in the late Iron Age and mostly enclosed in the early Roman (Simmonds 2015, fig 6). At the ULAS excavation the site was partly enclosed in the phase 2.1 *c*AD30-60//70 but mostly enclosed in phase 2.2 *c*AD30-90 to unenclosed afterwards (M. Morris 2017, figs 8-11). Aston Clinton Bypass Site B was enclosed in the late Iron Age/early Roman period (Masefield 2008, fig 25). At Milton Keynes some sites seem to have been enclosed including Broughton Manor Farm area 1 or partly enclosed in area 2 (Atkins *et al* 2014, fig 3.20 and fig 3.23) whereas Old Stratford was unenclosed (S. Morris 2017). In the eastern region partly or fully enclosed settlements were regularly established in the region from the middle Iron Age and by the middle to late Iron Age these had become the norm (Brown forthcoming).

Period 2.1 features at Aston Clinton Road

In Period 2.1 there was a long boundary ditch aligned north-west to south-east at Aston Clinton Road as well as other less substantial features. It is unclear whether this ditch was a pre-routeway feature with the other extent of this routeway not defined, or whether the boundary ditch had only been part of an early field system.

The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east over more than 125m and had a single smaller ditch abutting it on its eastern side and it ran perpendicular to it surviving for c5m. This ditch may have been all that survived of a field system. There may have been a similar arrangement at the nearby ULAS Aston Clinton site where a c150m boundary ditch was aligned north-east by south-west and dated to cAD30-60/70 and had three almost complete rectininear fields demarcated by four separate ditches running perpendicular to this boundary (M. Morris 2017, fig 8; 155-156).

No substantial enclosures, houses or domestic structural features were found in the Aston Clinton Road excavation area and this maybe because they either did not survive later truncation or that domestic structures had been located just outside the excavation area. There was secondary evidence for ovens/hearths with for example clay lining with withie impressions found in pit [1182] but none of these structures survived in the excavation area. If buildings or other structures were not substantial they may easily been removed by later ploughing and this may have occurred elsewhere. At Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site D despite a fairly large amount of pottery (464 sherds) found within the late Iron Age contexts no evidence of residential dwellings were present.

A possible animal pen/stock corral was identified at the Aston Clinton Road site. Here parts of three sides of a sub-rectangular enclosure were found: it was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and measured *c*8m north to south by *c*10m east to west, suggesting the context and the character of the site orientated on pastoral farming.

The small quantity of animal bones found at Aston Clinton Road has meant that it can be stated that cattle predominated. This is different to the ULAS site where the evidence for animal bones was that sheep/goat predominated, with some cattle and pig, but no wild animals (M Morris 2017, 158). Here the site was mostly grassland but evidence pointed to possibly a mixed-farming community but with pastoral farming more dominant (M Morris 2017, 159). Kidd (2007) says that the heavy clay soil around Aston Clinton was more suitable to pastoral farming and this is probably true at the Aston Clinton Road site. Evidence from the College Road, Aston Clinton was that this settlement had also been generally pasture based, with the mesic landscape of short grass and meadow with the naturally occurring, seasonally flooding pools forming rich grazing for sheep (Simmonds 2015). Here small enclosures were of a size to manage small livestock animals although there would have been horses and some cattle. Agrarian land was elsewhere, the heavy alluvial clay soils were not generally suitable for growing crops. Secondary crop products were brought in to provide fodder for livestock. The Iron Age evidence indicates a wet environment resulting in seasonally standing water, here the lower fills tended to be silts caused by standing water (Simmonds 2015).

Period 2.2: Mid 1st-century to 2nd century AD

Aston Clinton Road settlement

At Aston Clinton Road the Period 2.1 features did not survive long in use long before the site was reorganised in the mid 1st-century. In Period 2.2 most of the settlement was seen to be within the excavation area and this showed that the regular new layout of the settlement may suggest it had been a well-planned redevelopment.

A routeway, defined by side ditches, was established in the same area as the former Period 2.1 boundary ditch and was also aligned north-west to south-east. Within the routeway was a ditch and an animal pen both presumably placed for dividing

livestock. Abutting up to both routeway ditches, and perpendicular to them, were at least eight fields defined by ditches. A domestic area was established at the northern end of excavation Area A, to the east of and close to the routeway and here a roundhouse had been located.

Akeman Street and routeways

In the Roman period Akeman Street was established adjacent to the north of the Aston Clinton Road site. It was a major road that linked Watling Street with the Fosse Way (Copeland 2009) and may have been established just post-Conquest in around *c*AD44-50 (Alqassar and Kidd in press). Near to Aston Clinton Road an excavation through Akeman Street suggested a mid to late 1st century AD date for its construction (Brady and Biddulph 2017, 5).

Akeman Street seems to have been imposed into a busy landscape which comprised already established farmsteads which largely dated from the late Iron Age (Fig 3). Aston Clinton Road and other farmsteads nearby including RPS Site 'A' and Quaintways Farm would have been affected by this road running through their field systems. Alqassar and Kidd (in press) noted that most of these rural settlements were aligned north-west to south-east and do not appear to reflect the alignment of Roman Akeman Street.

This new road would have influenced the Aston Clinton Road site in different ways. One aspect was that along this road there was the establishment of a roadside settlement or small town at Fleet Marston, some 8km north-west from the Aston Clinton Road settlement (Zeepvat and Radford 2007, 3; Zeepvat and Radford 2010, 80). This was the nearest market assessable to the settlement at Aston Clinton Road and was located within a day's journey and back for most commercial aspects. This can be seen by the fact it has been estimated (Burnham and Wacher 1990, 44) that for a day's journey a radius of about 10–12km would be feasible for foot transport, 20–24km for pack animals and carts and up to 30km for riding horses.

The routeway at Aston Clinton Road extended across the entire Area A from its north-west corner to the south limit of the excavation (LOE). By projecting its line it would be probable that the route joined the settlement or a few settlements with Akeman Street (c0.4km north-west) on one end and the Lower Icknield Way (*c*3.5km south-east) on the opposite end. Unless the routeway was the part of the large Roman web of the roads and it joined the trackway identified during the excavation at Aston Clinton conducted by ULAS in 2014 (M. Morris 2017). The Aston Clinton routeway may have been metalled. If that is the case it mirrors the 'rough metalling' of the trackway recorded at Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site B (Masefield 2008, 194).

The new routeway recorded at Aston Clinton Road should be seen in the context of increased mobility which grew considerably in the Roman period. In this period there had been more movement through the landscape than there had been before (Booth 2011, 7). During the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD, and perhaps into the 3rd and 4th centuries, numerous secondary roads linking Romano-British agricultural settlements and industrial sites were also constructed, many of which were unmade trackways that continued to be used after the collapse of Roman rule (Smith 2011, 5).

The regional research framework for the area has highlighted that there is increasing evidence from excavations that there was an extensive network of trackways and drove roads linking fields, farmsteads and communal gathering places (Lambrick 2014, 146). Movement was predominantly perpendicular to the Chiltern escarpment, crossing it and the Vale of Aylesbury from south-east to north-west, rather than

moving parallel with it (i.e. south-west to north-east). This was seen by Bull (1993) who argued that the present pattern of roads and trackways still cross the Chilterns and North Buckinghamshire are the fossilised remnant of a widespread, planned bi-axial landscape laid out in the pre-Roman period, perpendicular and parallel with the Chiltern escarpment. Kidd (2007) states there was a pattern of territories defined by regularly spaced hillforts and cross-ridge dykes which run perpendicular to the scarp. The north-west to south-east alignment of the trackway often with flanking plots appears to have been mirrored at other sites of a similar date within the Aston Clinton area including with the present excavation area, the Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site B (Masefield 2008,194) which was in use from the late Iron Age and throughout the Roman period, and at the College Road site (Simmonds 2015). Here, a ditched trackway was defined linking with Akeman Street and the local network of tracks (Simmonds 2015). Slightly further afield this orientation is also true of Coldharbour Farm, Aylesbury (Bonner *et al* 1997), the enclosure orientation at Watermead Roundabout, 4km to the north-west (Fig 1; Dalwood and Hawkins 1988) and the Romano-British enclosures at Weedon Hill, 5km to the north-west (Fig 1; Wessex Archaeology 2007). The exception is at the ULAS excavations c4.2km east-south-east of the site where towards the end of the 1st century, or during the early 2nd century, a c 20m wide droveway was laid out, bisecting previous occupation as it traversed the site in a different alignment of south-west to north-east (M Morris 2017, fig 10).

Some of the routeways through rural settlements in Buckinghamshire have been traced in excavations over a relatively long distance. At Broughton, Milton Keynes, for example, a series of routeways dating from *c*AD 10 into the 2nd century AD were observed over a landscape with one of these routeways, aligned east to west, was observed for more than 0.6km distance (extending beyond the excavation area). This routeway started at a large farmstead and continued into a field system (Atkins *et al* 2014, fig 3.40).

Four other settlements from Milton Keynes have similarities with the Aston Clinton Road site. At Magna Park a late Iron Age north-west to south-east aligned boundary ditch developed into a broad early Roman droveway and on either side of it there were possible stock enclosures and domestic enclosures which containing at least two roundhouses (Chapman and Chapman 2017). At Newport Pagnell an east-west boundary possibly developed into a track or droveway in the early Roman period to the immediate south side of the boundary (Morris 2008). A middle Iron Age settlement at Pennyland comprised a late Iron Age droveway aligned north-west to south-east with roundhouses located on both sides of it as well as enclosures (Williams 1993, fig 5). At Old Stratford excavation found a 1st century BC to 1st century AD Iron Age settlement which containing a series of linear field boundary ditches and a linear routeway (S. Morris 2017).

The overall evidence suggests that in parts of Buckinghamshire at Aston Clinton, around Old Stratford and Milton Keynes generally, the different settlements may have been linked by droveways from at least the late Iron Age. This may also imply that pastoral farming had been a significant aspect of farming in this period. At Pennyland, Milton Keynes, Williams suggested, for example, the droveway would have facilitated the herding of cows into the settlement for milking (Williams 1993, 45).

Possible internal corralling in the routeway

At Aston Clinton Road there was a short internal parallel ditch within the routeway which may have been deliberate to corral and therefore divide/separate the livestock.

Possibly significant to this possibility was that adjacent to the northern end of this internal ditch there was also a small enclosure within the routeway which is likely to have been a stock pen.

There are two examples for an internal ditch recorded at separate points along two routeways within settlements in Milton Keynes at Old Stratford and at Pennyland (S Morris 2017; Williams 1993). The former site also had a blocking area at another location of its routeway and collectively these were thought to have probably been deliberate to coral and therefore divide/separate the livestock.

Field system

Eight fields were found leading off the routeway at Aston Clinton Road. These fields were of different sizes between 18m and 42m wide, and their lengths were up to at least 35m (going beyond the excavation baulk). There are some similarities at Coldharbour Farm, Aylesbury where in the Belgic (phase 4) there was a series of small rectangular fields largely c30m to c35m wide, defined by small gullies draining into north to south ditch (Parkhouse and Bonner 1997,105 and fig 19). At the Aston Clinton Bypass several plot ditches, which may have been fields, were found running off the trackway at RPS Site B (Masefield 2008, 194). Other examples of field systems include Weedon Hill, Pitstone (Zeepvat and Radford 2010, 93).

Roundhouse

A single roundhouse partly survived in the northern extent of the site with a projected internal diameter of *c*13m. There is no evidence that there were any other structures in this period, suggesting there may only have been a single extended family occupying the farmstead. This has similarities with the ULAS Aston Clinton site which was also thought to have also been occupied by a single extended family (M. Morris 2017). At College Road the size and type of settlement was comparable and here the fragmentary remains of at least three buildings, a circular corral/roundhouse and two probably agricultural in nature including an open-sided byre (Simmonds 2015).

The roundhouse at Aston Clinton Road continued into the 2nd century. This is not unusual in Buckinghamshire for such houses in rural small farmsteads to continue into this date. At Magna Park, Milton Keynes, the principal roundhouse, with an internal diameter of 11m, contained pottery of 2nd century AD date and may have continued into the 3rd century (Chapman and Chapman 2017). This may have been the only domestic roundhouse within this site, with two smaller ancillary roundhouses fulfilling other functions. This late roundhouse continuation may have been less true of the larger farmsteads such as at Broughton Manor Farm area 1 which probably had up to four extended families and its four roundhouses had gone out of use by cAD 80 (Atkins *et al* 2014).

Craft activities

There is possible secondary evidence of possible late 1st or 2nd century pottery kilns dating to Period 2.2 in the northern part of the Aston Clinton Road settlement. Grey ware jar seconds were found in two features c10m apart and comprised a Period 2.2 gully [1242/1426] and a pit [1200] tentatively dated to Period 2.3. At the same time over 40 fired clay probable kiln supports in the form of sub-rectangular slab-pedestals were recovered (Swan 1984, 60). Similar examples have been recorded *in situ* from a kiln near Elstow, Bedford (*ibid*, plate 18).

No kilns themselves were found within the Aston Clinton Road settlement and so the numbers and their date is not certain. The majority of the fired clay found in the site

(695 fragments weighing 14.1kg) probably comprised parts of this pottery kiln material (although there were a minority of other hearth/kiln lining remains from Period 2.1 and Period 2.2 features). Most of the slab-pedestals were found in the northern part of Area A, near to the two features with pottery seconds. It is possible there may have been pottery kilns from Period 2.1 (early to mid 1st century) with layer (1011) [1012] having produced seven examples, which had measurable thicknesses surviving and a pit had a further one. Most plates were found in Period 2.2 features (mid 1st to 2nd century) with a significant assemblage from pit [1374] with 76 fragments weighing 4.56kg. In Period 2.2 a total of 32 possible slab-pedestals had measurable thicknesses and in Period 2.3 there were just two examples. Of the 42 slab-pedestals fragments with thicknesses surviving varied from 15mm to 51mm in size. No complete example was found but the longest was 246mm by 91mm wide and by 42mm thick. The colour and fabric of the slab-pedestals was the same as the natural clay sub-soil indicating they had been taken from site. A series of small intercutting pits were found in Area B and it is likely these were the extraction pits which were used to make these features and presumably any pottery.

The ULAS excavations c4km to the east found very similar objects and they dated them to AD c30-60/70 and here the excavator thought these may have been pre-fabricated elements for a kiln (M. Morris 2017, 159). The quantity found within the ULAS site was also comparable to Aston Clinton Road. They were described as unfired clay bricks consisting of 165 fragments weighing 17.5kg from 23 contexts across the site although most came from pit [155] (Cooper 2017, 80-81 including fig 67). The 'brick' thickness from the ULAS site, were between 35mm and 60mm, with most being of either 40mm or 50mm thick. No complete lengths were observed but the longest survived to 190mm long. Cooper thought they had been manufactured from local clay found on the site. He noted that similar contemporary 'bricks' have been found at Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes (Williams and Hylton 1996, 150; fig 88.157 and fig 90.169-170). Other examples are from mid to late 1st century kilns at Colchester, Suffolk and Morely St Peter in Norfolk (Swan 1984, 84).

There was secondary evidence for other ovens/hearths at Aston Clinton Road with for example clay lining with withie impressions were found in pit [1153]. There was no metal working evidence on site in the form of slag although some metal finds had been recorded. A single worked deer antler fragment was recovered from Period 2.3 Enclosure 1. This fragment had saw marks to the beam and this may suggest there had been some bone working on site.

Metal objects

Five copper alloy brooches dating to the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD were found within the Aston Clinton Road site and may all date to this period. The lack of any other metal objects apart from a few nails is striking. At the Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site B, a total of four brooches were recovered, although there were far more other metal objects recovered than the Aston Clinton Road site (Masefield 2008, 120-130).

Human and animal articulated remains

The only human remains found at the Aston Clinton Road site were two fragments of human bone recovered from a Period 2.2, 2nd century ditch [1595] directly to the north-west of roundhouse [1586]. If the site had a formal burial ground it did not lie within the excavation areas. In contrast, limited numbers of human remains were recovered from College Road site where there were thirteen individuals which consisted of ten inhumations and three cremations dating from the end of the 1st-century AD into the 2nd-century (Simmonds 2015). The remains of four individuals

were also found at ULAS Aston Clinton site (M Morris 2017). The Aston Clinton Bypass produced up to three late Iron Age or early Roman cremations (Masefield 2008, 51) and in the 19th century a late Iron Age cremation was found south-west of Aston Clinton (Anon 1870 IV, 147).

Although the Aston Clinton Road site only had two fragments of human bone they are of interest partly as disarticulated human remains recovered from Roman ditches are uncommon, and even inhumation and cremation burials from Buckinghamshire are relatively few especially from the southern part of the county. In total well under 500 late Iron Age to Roman cremations and inhumations have been found in Buckinghamshire (Atkins *et al* 2014, table 4.24).

A complete dog burial was located from a lower fill of Period 2.2 ditch [1595] (the upper fill had human remains- see above) which was located directly to the north of the roundhouse. Partly articulated horse remains were found in two contexts and a cattle hind leg in another (See Holmes, Section 4.2). These may suggest the disposal of animals unfit for consumption, or perhaps in some cases relate to closure rituals. A similar range of articulated remains were found at Broughton Manor Farm (Atkins *et al* 2014, table 5.19).

Environmental

In the mid 1st to 2nd century at Aston Clinton Road cattle and sheep/goat predominated followed by horse, dog, pig and red deer (See Holmes, Section 4.2, table 30). This seems to mirror other parts of Buckinghamshire where, “cattle or oxen were the most commonly kept animals, followed by sheep and goats, pigs, horses and domestic fowl” (Zeepvat and Radford 2010, 92).

The evidence from Aston Clinton Road implies the presence of domestic refuse resulting from the processing of livestock for food. Spacial analysis by Holmes shows the sheep/goat bones were more likely to come from areas around the roundhouse while cattle bones were further away from settlement. Holmes suggests there may have been a consumer aspect with older sheep possibly being brought in from elsewhere. At College Road, Aston Clinton, the local pastoral economy was dominated by sheep with a few cattle (Simmonds 2015).

Analysis of the environmental samples from this Period 2.2 showed that whilst cereals and/or chaff are present throughout, the overall paucity of material may suggest that the processing of cereals occurred on an ad hoc basis, with just sufficient being done to meet the day to day requirements of the site’s occupants (See Fryer, Section 4.3). This conclusion is also true of College Road where cereals were processed and utilised on site, rather than harvested in the immediate vicinity (Simmonds 2015).

Evidence from these samples has shown that the site was largely short-turfed grassland, but also that some areas had been allowed to become overgrown. Evidence from environmental samples (especially Sample 9 from routeway ditch [1588]) showed that many features had probably been damp or seasonally wet. This is in contrast to College Road where during the Romano-British period there were relatively dry conditions prevalent as unlike in the Iron Age there was no evidence of standing water in ditches (Simmonds 2015).

A single puddingstone quern was found in a Period 2.2 pit at Aston Clinton Road. The ULAS excavations at Aston Clinton had five quern fragments (lava, Millstone Grit and puddingstone) and at College Road three querns were found (puddingstone and

two Millstone Grit; Simmonds 2015, 91). The relatively small quantities of quern stones from these three Aston Clinton farmsteads can be compared to 35 rotary quern fragments recovered at Broughton Manor Farm Area 1, Milton Keynes (Atkins *et al* 2014, 327).

Period 2.3: 2nd century to 3rd/4th century

The small farmstead at Aston Clinton Road, probably in the later 2nd century, was enclosed and the Period 2.2 routeway and field system had gone out of use. This enclosure continued into the 4th century and occupation may have ceased in the mid or late 4th century. The dating of the demise of the enclosure may be fairly accurate as four mid 4th century coins were recovered from in its upper fills. The suggested continuation into the 4th century can be seen with probable pottery dating to this date recovered from the site (See Perrin, Section 3.1 especially summaries and conclusions).

Unlike the previous two phases of use (early to mid 1st century and mid 1st to 2nd century) this last phase of occupation lasted around 200 years with no replanning of the site. This has some similarities with the ULAS excavation whose phase 3.2 lasted 150 years (AD 150-300) (M. Morris 2017). By the end of the 4th-century AD the enclosure had been abandoned with the clearly defined midden and occupation soils provide a demonstrable terminus post quem. This process of having a midden is similar to College Road, Aston Clinton (Simmonds 2015).

Coins dating to the 360s and 370s are normally fairly common on late Roman sites and this may suggest the Aston Clinton Road settlement was abandoned before this time. A mid 4th century demise dated by coins and pottery also occurred at Bierton, Aylesbury (Allen 1986, 73-76). At College Road, coins also went into the mid 4th century but its abandonment was thought to have been slightly later – certainly by the end of the 4th century (Simmonds 2015, 101 and 156). At the Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site B, activity continued throughout the Roman period with latest coins dated to AD 388-402 (Masefield 2008, 194-5).

The Aston Clinton Road enclosure was sub-square and measured c42m by c43m encompassing an area of c1800m². There were very few features outside this enclosure, suggesting most/all of the domestic activity may have occurred in this location. A possible sill beam did lie directly beyond the enclosure to the east, but it survived as a very fragmentary feature and it is uncertain whether it had been domestic or agricultural in origin. Sill beam buildings are not unusual. At College Road, Aston Clinton the buildings here had either sill beam foundations or were post-built (Simmonds 2015).

The lack of recognizable fields and paddocks at Aston Clinton Road is in contrast to College Road where from the 2nd-century AD until the 4th-century AD there was a period of modification, expansion and intensification of the pasture land north of this site (Simmonds 2015). Here there was formal, organised enclosure for mainly cattle breeding and management.

Metal and worked bone objects

There were just 12 Roman coins recovered at Aston Clinton Road and all were likely to have been dropped within the site in the 3rd or 4th centuries with the last coin deposited dating up to cAD353 (See Porter, Section 3.4). The two 1st/early 2nd century coins found were so worn that they were likely lost in the 3rd century. No coins were appeared to have been lost during the previous two periods (Periods 2.1 and Period 2.2) of occupation at the site.

The number of coins recovered, despite regular metal detecting on site, is very low for a late Iron Age to late Roman settlement, but it does not seem to have been unusual for a farmstead in the Aston Clinton area. At the ULAS Aston Clinton excavation only four coins were found, but it is uncertain whether the site was metal detected (M. Morris 2017, 72). Nine coins were found at College Road (Simmonds 2015, 101). Aston Clinton Bypass RPS Site B produced 31 Roman coins (Masefield 2008, table 30). A comparison can be seen that at the large farmstead at Broughton Manor Farm, Milton Keynes, a site metal detected, and here 141 Roman coins were recovered (from the early Roman to late Roman periods; Atkins *et al* 2014).

No other metal objects in this period (apart from a few nails) were recovered from the Aston Clinton Road site. Other small find objects were also noticeable by their absence with nothing of glass found and the only worked bone object was a bone hair pin (See Hylton, Section 3.5).

Environmental

The small sample size of animal bone remains from Aston Clinton Road in Period 2.3 meant that the only overall comment was that cattle predominated (See Holmes, Section 4.2). In Period 2.3 environmental samples taken at Aston Clinton Road produced more cereal grains than in Period 2.2, especially from within the backfill of enclosure [1585]. Sample 24 from this ditch produced the only assemblage which was countable and contained low density of cereal processing/storage waste (See Fryer, Section 4.3). Environmental samples from enclosure ditch showed it had probably been damp or seasonally wet. These samples also showed that grassland dominated around the settlement area.

Overall there is too little evidence to say there was a definite movement to more cereal growing at Aston Clinton Road in the middle to late Roman period, but it is interesting to note that at College Road, Aston Clinton in the 2nd century there were changes in the agricultural economy including increase in cereals (Simmonds 2015). At the same time from the 2nd century until the 4th century there was also a period of modification, expansion and intensification of the pasture land north of Aston Clinton (Simmonds 2015, 154). At Aston Clinton Bypass Site B there was a mixed economy approach at this farmstead (Masefield 2008, 195). It is therefore likely that in Period 2.3 the Aston Clinton Road site was also employing a mixed economy production, but whether there was more pastoral type than over arable is more difficult to determine (unlike in Period 2.2 where feature type found on site and the environmental evidence were both more certain).

Status of the Aston Clinton Road site Periods 2.1-2.3

The clay soil conditions may have been the reason why most farmsteads around Aston Clinton were up to moderate status at best. Zeepvat and Radford (2010, 83) noted that there was a noticeable absence of evidence for villas on the claylands around Aylesbury. This may be taken further in saying that there is no evidence from the recent excavations around Aston Clinton that any of the Iron Age to Roman sites comprised large farmsteads which is in contrast to the Milton Keynes area where there were several farmsteads including Broughton Manor Farm Area 1 (Atkins *et al* 2014). Throughout its occupation the Aston Clinton Road site was a small farmstead probably comprising a single extended family. The other Aston Clinton sites were probably similar, at the farmstead at the ULAS site the excavator thought there had probably been a single extended family at the site (M Morris 2017, 159).

The artefacts recovered from the Aston Clinton site showed it was at best of moderate status, probably below this. The five brooches recovered, all probably dating to Period 2.2, show that the settlement had some money to spend on material items, but on the downside no other metal objects were recovered (apart from nails). Under 4% of the pottery recovered from the Aston Clinton Road side were either imports or regional wares (See Perrin, Section 3.1 including Table 2). Very few specialists wares were present, for example only three amphora sherds and ten mortarium sherds out of a total of 2688 sherds recovered. The 12 coins found (all probably lost in Period 2.3) is a small quantity and may help demonstrate the status of the settlement had been low. There were just two oyster shells recovered from the Aston Clinton Road site and both in Period 2.3 contexts. Only 23 ceramic tile fragments (2.96kg) were found (See Atkins, Section 3.2). The tile included tegular and box flue tile, but no high status buildings were found on the site. This strongly suggesting the tiles did not derive from buildings in the site.

It is likely that pastoral farming dominated (at least in Periods 2.1 and 2.2) and was presumably why it had been built next to Akeman Street for access to markets. In other aspects the farmstead was presumably largely self-sufficient. Cereals were produced but seemingly only for the farmstead's own requirements. Similarly small scale pottery working and possible bone working had seeming occurred but these were presumably just producing products for the farmstead.

Post Roman activity at Aston Clinton Road

Aston Clinton Road had no post Roman evidence of occupation or even use until it became part of the medieval ridge and furrow farmed area. This is different to the College Road, Aston Clinton Bypass site and the ULAS Aston Clinton sites which both had evidence of early Saxon activity or occupation (Simmonds 2015; Masefield 2008 including fig 36; M. Morris 2017).

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