

**Longdales Road, Kings Norton,  
Birmingham**

**Archaeological Investigations  
2003**

**Post-Excavation Assessment**

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**Longdales Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham**  
**Archaeological Investigations 2003**

**Post-Excavation Assessment**

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**Contents**

1.0	Summary
2.0	Introduction
3.0	Methodology
4.0	Results
5.0	Assessments
6.0	Updated project design
7.0	Publication synopsis
8.0	Task list
9.0	Acknowledgements
10.0	References

<u>Appendix</u>	Details of ditch sections
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Tables (within text)

1	Quantification of excavation paper archive
2	Quantification of excavation finds archive
3	Sherd count by fabric
4	List of samples assessed for plant remains

Figures

1	Site location
2	Location of areas investigated 2002-3
3	Area B, simplified plan of Phase 1-3 features (Phase 4 features not numbered)

Plates

1	General view of Area B
2	Work in progress
3	Phase 1 ditch F412 with post-hole F415
4	Phase 2 ditch F430 and pit F429 cut by Phase 3 pit F431
5	Stone surface F420/F422
6	Stone surface F442

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**1.0: SUMMARY**

This report describes the results of a second archaeological excavation at Longdales Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham (centered on NGR. SP 05337761), and provides proposals to bring the results to full publication. The excavation described in this report was undertaken in July 2003 by Birmingham Archaeology in advance of proposals for a cemetery development. The sponsor was Birmingham City Council. The excavation followed an initial archaeological evaluation in 2002 which identified ditched features some of which were excavated in detail later that year (Area A).

The 2003 excavation (Area B) revealed remains of a Romano-British settlement dating from the 2nd-4th century AD, represented by three phases of activity. The earliest phase (Phase 1) consisted of a single enclosure ditch or field boundary, with smaller ditches and gullies dug outside the enclosed area. In Phase 2 two possible enclosure ditches were cut in the north of the area investigated; a further ditch, gully and pit were also contemporary. Also belonging to this phase were a number of structural remains, including beam-slots, cobbled surfaces, a ring gully and four post pads, possibly representing the remains of a large timber building with associated cobbled surfaces. One of the cobbled surfaces was covered in an ashy deposit containing the charred remains of spelt and glume, indicating the possibility of malting and beer production. The latest Romano-British phase (Phase 3) was represented by two ditches and a large pit. Little evidence of post-Romano-British activity (Phase 4) was recorded.

Earlier trial trenching identified a ditched enclosure complex in the southeast corner of the site, and further Roman features including ditches, pits and cobbled surfaces, close to Icknield Street in the east of the site. The 2002 excavation (Area A) investigated the ditched enclosure, which was occupied from the 2nd to the 4th century AD.

**2.0: INTRODUCTION (Figs. 1-2)**

**2.1: Background**

This report describes the results of a second archaeological excavation at Longdales Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham undertaken during 2003 (centered on NGR. SP 05337761; Area B, Fig. 1). Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the archaeological excavation by Birmingham City Council, in accordance with the guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of the Environment, November 1990). The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in advance of proposals for the layout of a cemetery. This report provides a post-excavation assessment of the archaeological data, prepared in accordance with the Management of Archaeology Projects 2 (MAP 2 - English Heritage). The fieldwork was undertaken in

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accordance with a Design Brief prepared by the Council (Birmingham CC 2003), and a Specification prepared by Birmingham Archaeology (Birmingham Archaeology 2003), approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council.

The site (Fig. 2) of the proposed cemetery is bounded by Longdales Road, Icknield Street and Primrose Hill. The land is currently overgrown pasture.

The proposed development site is bounded by Icknield Street to the east, which follows the line of a Roman road. Just outside the site boundary is Lilycroft Farm, thought to be of medieval origin and mentioned in a document of 13th century date. The farm is a grade II listed building, including fabric of late 17th and early 18th century date. Previous stages of work comprised a desk-based assessment, walkover survey, and trial-trenching carried out by Worcestershire County Council Archaeological Service (Vaughan 2002) in March 2002. The trial trenching involved machine-cut trenches in Fields 1-2 and 4, which revealed ditches, shallow gullies and some pits/post holes. These features were interpreted as forming a Romano-British settlement focus, consisting of an enclosure complex to the west of Lilycroft Farm, with an associated ditched field system to the north.

Previous fieldwork by Birmingham Archaeology (Williams 2003) consisted of further trial trenching in Field 1, close to Icknield Street, to determine the extent of activity in this roadside zone, revealing ditches, pits and cobbled surfaces. Following further trial trenching, an excavation (Area A) was undertaken in the southwest of the proposed cemetery site, to investigate the Romano-British enclosure complex which was occupied from the 2nd to the 4th century AD. The sequence of Romano-British activity was divided into three phases. The earliest activity (Phase 1) consisted of three small ditches and a series of pits, largely concentrated in the south of the area excavated. Phase 2 comprised the majority of the features, including the outermost two enclosure ditches, as well as a ring gully and areas of stone surfacing. The latest Romano-British activity was formed by an inner enclosure ditch and an internal, rectangular stock enclosure, cut in Phase 3, possibly during a reduction in site activity. The trial-trenching and Area A excavation results are described in a post-excavation assessment (Williams 2003), and the associated detailed specialist reports, site narrative and illustrations have been prepared. The purpose of the present report is to describe the results of the 2003 excavation (Area B), to assess the finds and environmental evidence derived from that excavation, and to provide proposals for an integrated publication of the 2002-2 excavations in a recognised archaeological journal.

### **2.2: Aims**

The general aims of the 2003 excavation (Area B) were to identify archaeological remains, and to preserve those remains by record. The specific aims were to define and excavate all archaeological remains within that part of the overall development area, and to compare and contrast the evidence recovered with that from Area A.

### **3.0: METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)**

The area excavated in 2003 (Area B) was along the line of a new access road and the footprint of a Reception Centre. Within the excavated area the overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision to expose the uppermost horizon of the natural subsoil. Sampling of linear features by hand-excavation was 20% by length within the area. Pits and post-holes were examined in half-section. Finds were collected and bagged by context, and samples for environmental analysis were collected from datable feature fills.

Recording employed separate running numerical sequences for contexts (four digit numbers, starting at 4000) and features (three digit numbers, prefixed by an 'F', starting at F400). Features were defined to include negative features such as ditches, pits and post-holes. Each ditch was given the same feature number, with individual hand-dug cuttings being allocated a decimal suffix (e.g. F400.01) for simplicity. Contexts include feature fills and discrete layers. During the excavation, pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features were completed, together with digitally-surveyed plans (1:50) and hand-drawn sections (1:20 and 1:10). Monochrome and colour slide photographs were also taken.

Subject to permission from the landowner, it is proposed to deposit the finds and paper archive in the Department of Human History, Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery.

### **4.0: RESULTS (Figs. 2-3)**

#### **4.1: Phasing**

The results from the 2003 excavation have been provisionally divided into four phases, with all post-Roman deposits grouped into Phase 4. This phasing is specific to Area B, and should not be compared to the Area A phasing (Williams 2003). Phasing Area B was difficult as all the pottery from the site is dated in relatively broad ranges between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Relatively few feature intersections were recorded.

All the Roman features were cut into the natural subsoil, a red-brown clay with patches of white-yellow sand (4002), recorded at a depth of between 0.3-0.5m below the modern surface. Natural features, medieval or modern furrows and land drains are not described below.

#### **Phase 1**

The main feature of this phase was a mainly north-south aligned ditch (F412, Plate 3), defining the western side of an enclosure (Enclosure 1). This ditch was cut in two sections with a slight change of angle. This ditch was wider (*c* 1.15m) and deeper (*c* 0.5m) to the north of this change of angle than to the south (0.6m and 0.3m respectively). This ditch was cut by a post-hole (F435). Ditch F412 returned to the east, forming the

northern side of the enclosure, only recorded for a short distance within the excavated area. A post-hole (F415) was cut into the ditch at the change of angle. A few sherds of Romano-British pottery were retrieved from the ditch fills. The eastern and southern sides of the enclosure lay outside the excavated area. No contemporary features could be recognised within the enclosure interior.

Other Phase 1 features on the site were concentrated to the west of Enclosure 1. An L-shaped ditch (F418) was cut immediately outside the western side of the enclosure. Its northeast-southwest aligned arm measured 3m in length, and its northwest-southeast aligned arm was 4m in length. Ditch F418 was *c* 0.6m wide, 0.3m deep and was truncated by a Phase 3 feature (see below). The northern terminal of a roughly north-south aligned ditch (F417) was recorded for a length of 5m approximately 3m to the west of the Phase 1 enclosure. Ditch F417 measured approximately 1m in width, and 0.2m in depth. It was truncated by a Phase 3 feature (F416, see below). A further Phase 1 ditch (F434) formed a right-angle with the western side of Enclosure 1 (F412), but was only recognised outside the enclosure. Ditch F434 measured approximately 6m in length, and was a maximum of 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep, becoming shallower (0.1m) at either end.

Together with the western side of Enclosure 1 (F412) ditch F417 may have formed a 'funnel' for the driving of livestock, similar to the arrangement of the entrance to a 'banjo enclosure'. Feature F418 could also have been associated with this arrangement; the function of ditch F434 is not clear.

### Phase 2

The majority of the features identified were cut in Phase 2. The northernmost of these features was a large, 'V'-shaped, northeast-southwest aligned ditch (F408). This ditch was 1.6m wide and 0.55m deep, and contained a few sherds of abraded Romano-British pottery. A parallel, 'V'-shaped ditch (F405) was recorded approximately 11m to the southeast of the former feature. Ditch F405 was the smaller of the pair (1m wide and 0.44m deep) but contained significantly more sherds of pottery than the other ditch.

These two ditches may have defined the northeastern side of an enclosure (Enclosure 2), located adjoining the northern edge of a plateau, the land further to the northeast falling away sharply in the same direction. This interpretation is suggested by the similarity in the spacing of these two Area B ditches, and the ditches of the multiple-ditched enclosure in Area A (Williams 2003), and also by the larger quantity of pottery contained within, and the smaller size of, the inner ditch in both Areas A and B. The remaining features of this phase were presumably located within the interior of this enclosure, although its eastern, southern and western bounds were not recorded within the excavated area. A possibility is that at least part of the western side could have been formed by a ditch later respected by the surviving field boundary, particularly since the southward continuation of the same boundary also formed the eastern side of the main Area A enclosure.

A shallow, east-west aligned gully (F419) was recorded within the Enclosure 2 interior. It cut Phase 1 ditch F418, and was truncated by Phase 3 ditch F416 (see below). The eastern

terminal of a curvilinear ditch (F430, Plate 4), was located just inside the southeastern limit of the excavated area. This ditch may have been contemporary with an adjoining circular pit (F429) which had a diameter of 1.6m and was 0.4m deep. Feature F430 was truncated by a Phase 3 pit (see below).

All other Phase 2 features belonged to structures. Two parallel, roughly north-south aligned, beam-slots (F401 and F414) were located to the south of the inner ditch (F405) of the northeastern side of Enclosure 1. These beam-slots were cut approximately 1m apart, and measured 2m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.05m in depth. No other associated features could be identified. The northeastern angle of an irregularly-shaped eaves-drip gully (F411/F422), measuring 7m in diameter was located to the south of the beam-slots. This eaves-drip gully measured 0.5m in width and 0.1m in depth and had a very stony fill, probably derived from adjoining cobbled surface F420/F421 (see below). Interestingly, eaves-drip gully F411/F422 was the only feature in Area B to contain a large number of unabraded sherds of Romano-British pottery.

Four cobble filled post-pads (F424, F428, F433 and F439) were located towards the southern edge of the site. The three former features may have defined the western side of the building. The latter may have formed part of the opposing side of the building, the remainder of which was presumably truncated by modern disturbance. The main axis of this timber-framed building (10m wide) aligned approximately east-west. These pads were between 0.6m and 1m in diameter, but only 0.05m in depth. Features F424, F428 and F433 were in a line, spaced approximately 4m apart. A large post-hole (F427, 0.6m in diameter and 0.2m deep) was located between features F424 and F428, and could have been part of the same structure. Another shallow post-hole (F435) was located 1m west of feature F433, and could also have also been associated with the structure, possibly as a repair. Features F424, F427 and F435 were cut through the backfills of Phase 1 ditch F412. An east-west aligned band of cobbles (F438, 5m in length) may have infilled a shallow beam-slot defining the northern end of the building. This feature was truncated by a Phase 3 ditch (see below).

Other remains of cobbled surfaces were located in several parts of the excavated area, largely in hollows or lower areas of ground, or intended to fill hollows. These may be the truncated remains of formerly more extensive stone yard surfaces. The quantity of pebbles noted in the excavation baulks suggest that these surfaces were formerly more extensive, but have been ploughed-out. Similar stone surfaces were also found in Area A. A small area of stone surfacing (F400) was located 1m south of the beam-slots F401 and F414, with a larger (7m x 5m) surface (F420/F421, Plate 5) further to the south. A significant amount of abraded Romano-British pottery, including sherds of mortaria and samian was retrieved both from the top, and within the soil matrix of this surface. A further, smaller area of cobbled surfacing (F444) were located the south of the former surface. Surface F444 contained larger river pebbles than the other surfaces, and included numerous heat shattered stones within the matrix. The most extensive stone surface (F442, Plate 6, measuring 5m by 10m) was located in the southwest corner of the area investigated. The surface was covered by an ashy silt layer (4083, not illustrated) which contained charred plant remains (Ciaraldi below), and Romano-British pottery. Two



small pits (F425 and F443) and a solitary beam-slot (F441) were recorded close to the northern edge of this surface, and may have been associated.

### Phase 3

A mainly northwest-southeast aligned ditch (F423), recorded for a distance of 25m, was the main feature of this phase. This ditch was cut in two contiguous sections, with a slight change of angle. It was shallower towards its northern terminal. The ditch measured a maximum of 1m in width and 0.27m in depth towards the southern limit of the excavation. It cut Phase 2 feature F438. A small post-hole (F440), cut just to the east of the ditch, may also have belonged to this phase.

Few other features were assigned to this phase. A mainly north-south aligned ditch (F416) was recorded for a length of 13m towards the western limit of the area investigated. It cut backfilled Phase 1 ditch F417, and the two northern ditch terminals were approximately flush. The Phase 3 ditch also cut shallow Phase 2 feature F419. Ditch F416 measured 1.2m in width and 0.35m in depth. A large pit (F431, Plate 4) was recorded cutting Phase 2 ditch F430 on the southern edge of the area excavated. This pit was roughly circular (c 1.5m in diameter) and 0.45m deep. The lower fills of the pit appeared to be very charcoal-rich and organic although no charred plant remains were recovered (Ciaraldi below).

Phase 3 ditches F423 and F416 together may have formed a 'funnel' arrangement, used for the sorting of stock. Both ditches were cut with a slight change of angle, although their northern terminals were not flush. The line of ditch F416 may have been approximately continued by the modern field boundary curving to the west and southwest of the area excavated. Phase 3 ditch F416 may provide a degree of continuity with an earlier arrangement associated with animal herding/sorting, represented in particular by ditch F417 (Phase 1).

### Phase 4 (not illustrated)

A 1m wide field boundary (F410) was located cutting eaves-drip gully F411. This field boundary contained some post medieval pottery, and was visible as an above-ground feature. Six small modern pits (F402, F403, F404, F406, F407 and F409) were recorded to the north of the Phase 2 eaves-drip gully. The subsoil and the backfilled Phase 1-4 features were sealed by the topsoil.

## **4.2: Discussion**

The Phase 1 features were largely concentrated towards the western side of the area excavated. The main feature was the Enclosure 1 ditch bisecting the southern half of the site. There were no features within the enclosed area, so it may have been used for livestock. The other features, consisting of three ditches, attributed to Phase 1 were located to the west of this main ditch, which could be associated with stock control.

The two Phase 2 ditches at the northern edge of the site are likely to be part of an enclosure system, probably encircling the structural features identified. These ditches are similar in size and shape to the inner and middle ditches of the settlement to the south. It is perhaps unlikely that the enclosures would have been to the north, as there is a sharp break of slope downwards in this direction. This would mean that the enclosure would be to the south, although none of the other sides were recorded. It is possible that the ditches ran at least partly on the same line as later field boundaries to the west and south, as they did on the southern site, and it is possible that the present-day field systems follow much of the Roman pattern. The structures located in Area B were also very similar to those previously excavated in Area A, although no post-pads were found in the area dug in 2002. The four post-pads defined part of a timber-framed building, possibly a barn. It is possible that the entrance of this building was on the north side, formed by stone surface F438 which may have lain within a beam-slot. The stone surfaces were extensive, and could have formed yards, or even the platforms for timber-framed buildings laid on ground-fast beams, leaving no trace at excavation. The southernmost surface produced charred plant remains suggesting malting or brewing. Phase 3 features were largely dominated by a series of small ditches. These could have been cut to provide drainage away from the buildings, and were all concentrated towards the south.

### **5.0: ASSESSMENTS**

#### **5.1: Quantifications**

Tables 1-2 quantify the evaluation and excavation archive.

**TABLE 1: Quantification of excavation paper archive**

<i>Record</i>	<i>Number</i>
Contexts	91
Features	66
Assemblage summaries	39
Colour slide	74
Colour print	37
Black and white prints	72
Drawings	40
Env. sample record files	1
Survey file	1 CD

**TABLE 2: Quantification of excavation finds archive**

<i>Material type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Fired clay/ daub	10
Romano-British coarse pottery	1301
Samian	31
Mortaria	18
Post-medieval pottery	31
Iron nails	2

### **5.2: Factual data and statement of potential**

#### 5.2.1: Stratigraphy by Josh Williams

As described above, the features and deposits recorded in Area B can be divided into four phases. Phases 1-3 are from the Romano-British period (2nd-4th century AD), and Phase 4 which is post-Roman. The majority of these features and deposits have been dated, either by chronologically-diagnostic artifacts recovered from their fills, or by the principles of archaeological stratigraphy. Further analysis and definition of the stratigraphic sequence will contribute to the research aims stated in Section 2.2 above, and updated in Section 6.2 below.

#### 5.2.2: Romano-British Pottery by Annette Hancocks

##### Quantity

A total of 1350 sherds (10,792g) of pottery were recovered from the excavation. This material derived from 38 different contexts. The majority (97%) of these were securely defined and well stratified. The remainder of the contexts (3%) contained pottery of post-medieval date, within which the post-medieval element is considered intrusive.

##### Range and variety

The overall assemblage dates to the 2nd-4th century AD, with a substantial element of the ceramics being of late 3rd to 4th century date. All the material was hand collected, with a substantial amount, over 6,980g in weight (65%), recovered from deposits overlying pebble surfaces. This has undoubtedly created a preservation bias within the ceramic assemblage.

Very little Romano-British pottery of this date and quantity has been recovered from small-scale rural settlements in the West Midlands. The range and variety of ceramics recognised during the rapid scan of the material will add significantly to the recent corpus from the Roman fort of Metchley, and compliment the work already undertaken on the ceramics from Area A (Hancocks 2003). The current assemblage comprised considerable quantities of reduced and oxidised Severn Valley ware, Black Burnished Ware 1, Malvernian ware, samian and mortaria (Table 3). The forms recognised included tankards, cooking pots, wide-mouthed jars, 'dog dishes'. The ceramics are badly weathered and poorly abraded. This is as a direct result of the acidic soil conditions. All the samian has its surface removed and all of the coarsewares have suffered too. The assemblage contained very few locally-made ceramics. All appeared to be either regionally traded or imported.

**TABLE 3: Sherd count by fabric**

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Count</i>
Oxidised Severn Valley ware	1082
Reduced Severn Valley ware	32
Malvernian	8
Black-burnished ware	30
Samian	31
Whiteware	17
Mortaria	18
MKGTW	19
GW	25
IA/Trans	13
Other	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>1350</b>

### Statement of potential

The pottery is the principal source of dating evidence for the site, which will enable relative chronology to be applied to the stratigraphic sequence. Ceramic supply to the site, along with the social networks and identity of the site inhabitants, will also be addressed through the detailed analysis of fabric, form and function. This may in turn provide evidence for the status of the settlement and its economic, social and cultural position at local, regional and national level. This assemblage of 1350 sherds represents an ideal opportunity to compare and contrast the data with that from the recent work at Metchley Roman fort and previous work undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology at Area A, Longdales Road. The assemblage appears to be somewhat later in date from that recovered from the fort site. This is worthy of note and will be significant in determining the character and nature of the Longdales Road site. This will be of both local and regional significance and ties in well with the national research framework for the study of Romano-British pottery which identifies pottery from rural sites as being ‘highly significant for our understanding of the Romano-British economy and ‘Romanization’’ (Willis 1997, 15).

### Recommendations

The pottery will be quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and minimum number of rims and Eve’s. The material will be fully catalogued by fabric and identified by phase or sub-phase, where necessary, for publication. The material will be cross-referenced to the Metchley type fabric series, where relevant and a publication report produced. It is recommended that both the samian and mortaria should be reported on separately by an appropriate specialist.

### Storage and curation

The archive comprises three boxes of finds material, the majority of which consist of badly weathered ceramics of 2nd-4th century date. There is neither an immediate or long-term storage problem.

### 5.2.3: Charred plant remains by Marina Ciaraldi

Soil samples from Area A had revealed that, though charcoal was abundant in most of the samples, no seeds were preserved (Ciaraldi 2003). Soil samples, however, were collected from Area B in order to test if there was any change in preservation of the biological remains in this part of the site. The hope was that plant remains could shed some new light on the human activities undertaken on site, particularly those related to agricultural practices.

#### Methodology

Ten litre soil samples were processed by manual flotation. Due to the clayey nature of the soil matrix, the samples had to be soaked in a solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate prior to processing. The flots (light fraction) was recovered on a 0.5 sieve and the residue (heavy fraction) on a 1mm mesh. The residue was sorted by eye while the flots were scanned under a low-power stereomicroscope.

#### Range, variety and statement of potential

The sample from feature F442 (4082, Table 4) was the only sample to contain a high number of cereal grains – mainly spelt (*Triticum spelta* L.) – and spelt glume bases. Some of the grains were sprouted suggesting that they were associated with malting and ale production. The remaining samples were either sterile or contained exclusively charcoal (Table 4).

On the basis of the evidence discussed above, it is recommended that further analysis is carried out on sample F442/4082 in order to ascertain the origin of this deposit. The plant remains from Longdales Road are an important assemblage to compare with those from the Metchley Forts (Ciaraldi forthcoming; Ciaraldi in preparation a and b).

**TABLE 4: List of samples assessed for plant remains.**

<i>Feature/ Context</i>	<i>Vol. sample (L.)</i>	<i>Vol. flot (ml.)</i>	<i>Perc. scanned</i>	<i>Notes</i>
F405.01/ 4009	10	10	100%	Modern rootlets
F412.02/ 4024	10	10	100%	Modern rootlets
F424/4052	10	10	100%	Modern rootlets
F442/4082	10	30	100%	Ashy deposit. Several cereal grain and glume bases of spelt ( <i>Triticum spelta</i> L.). Some of the grains are sprouted. Detached coleoptyles. Some weed seeds of docks ( <i>Rumex</i> sp.)
F442/ 4084	10	20	100%	Wheat grains (2), Bromus sp. (2)
F431/4066	10	20	100%	Charcoal-rich
F431/4062	10	25	100%	Charcoal-rich

Numbers in parenthesis indicate roughly the number of seeds

## 6.0: UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

### 6.1: General

This section of the assessment defines the main research themes. Most of the research themes identified in the Area A assessment (Williams 2003) remain relevant.

- Chronology

For the purposes of assessment, the Roman features have been divided into three phases. Phase 1 represents the first activity on site, with a probable enclosure (Enclosure 1), and associated ditches. Phase 2 forms the main floruit of activity, including the two large enclosure ditches (Enclosure 2), internal buildings, surfaces and other features. Phase 3 represents the final Roman occupation of the site. Pottery dating indicates that the site was occupied in the range from the 2nd to the 4th century AD, with a possible floruit in the 3rd and 4th century. Further analysis of the pottery and stratigraphy will hopefully refine the sequence and dating, as well as facilitating comparison with the Area A evidence.

- Site function and morphology: changes

Phase 1 activity would seem to be agricultural, possibly associated with livestock herding. Comparisons should be made with the Area A data from Longdales Road, and elsewhere. A larger, double-ditched enclosure (Enclosure 2) was cut in Phase 2, which

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may be similar in layout to the Area A enclosure. The Area B enclosure contained a building, possibly a barn, defined by pairs of post-pads. The Phase 3 activity may have been unenclosed. Because the extent of the 2003 excavation was restricted to the area affected by the new access road and Reception Centre it was not possible to define the full limits of the Area B activity, although it is unlikely that this area formed a continuation of the roadside activity recorded in 2002 (Williams 2003). The eastern side of Enclosure 2 may have been formed by the continuation of a Roman field boundary (maintained up to the present day) which also defined the eastern side of the Area A enclosure. If this interpretation was proven, it would provide a tangible 'link' between the Area A and Area B activity.

- Site economy and function

The Area A and Area B settlements should be compared, and other similar arrangements should be explored. In both cases an association with animal husbandry may be suggested. The charred plant remains from Area B (Ciaraldi above) feature F442 suggest an association with malting and beer production. In contrast, no significant assemblages of charred plant remains could be derived from Area A. Further analysis of the pottery may elucidate site status and trading patterns, evidence which should allow comparison between the Area A and Area B data.

- Understanding of later Roman rural economy

Comparatively few Roman enclosures have been as extensively excavated in the midlands. The Longdales Road site should be set in the midlands context, as well in the broader context.

- Roman landscape archaeology

The identification of different settlement foci (Area A, Area B, and roadside activity) provides some opportunities for landscape reconstruction, and also for comparison with other extensively-investigated Roman roadside settlements (e.g. M6 Toll, A5 Weeford-Fazeley, A1(M) Ermine Street, Cambridgeshire, A419/A417, Wiltshire/Gloucestershire, among others).

### **6.2: List of updated aims**

- 1) To define the chronology of the enclosures and other Romano-British features.
- 2) To provide an understanding of the changes in site morphology and function.
- 3) To attempt to define the site economy and function, including a review of the comparative evidence.
- 4) To relate the Area B enclosure to the hierarchy of later Roman rural settlements in the midlands and in the surrounding region.
- 5) To attempt to reconstruct the Roman roadside landscape, and to provide comparison with other Roman roadside excavations.

## **7.0: PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS**

The results will be fully integrated with the results from the previous excavation and published in the Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society.

*It is intended to publish the results of work in Areas A and B as sequential sections within a single overall report, within the following overall arrangement:*

*Chapter 1, Summary and introduction (Areas A and B)*

*Chapter 2, Area A*

*Description and interpretation of results*

*Finds*

*Discussion*

*Chapter 3, Area B*

*Description and interpretation of results*

*Finds and environmental evidence*

*Discussion*

*Chapter 4, General discussion and synthesis*

The suggested layout of the **Area B** section of the overall report is as follows:

Text

Summary (200w)

Introduction, aims and methodology, archaeological setting (**with Area A**, 1000w, 2 figures)

Description and interpretation of results (2,000w, 1 table, 5 figures, 5 plates)

Finds and environmental evidence

Roman pottery (3,000w, 2 tables, 1 figure)

Charred plant remains (1,000w, 1 table)

Discussion (2,000w)

Contribution to general discussion and synthesis (1,500w)

*Total 10,200w, 4 tables, 5 plates, 8 figures*

Figures

- 1 Site location
- 2 Areas investigated
- 3 Simplified plan, Phase 1-3 features
- 4 Phase 1 plan
- 5 Phase 1-3 sections
- 6 Phase 2 plan
- 7 Phase 3 plan



## **birmingham archaeology**

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8 Pottery

### **8.0: TASK LIST**

#### **STAGE A, PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS (All tasks completed to date)**

1	Project management	AEJ	0.25
2	Site archive/update phasing/plans	JW	1
3	Data entry	EM	0.5
4	Prepare detailed site plans/sections: roughs	JW	0.5
5	Charred plant remains, analysis/report	MC	4

#### **STAGE B, REPORTING AND ILLUSTRATION. Performance indicator, completion 28/4/04**

6	Project management	AEJ	0.25
5	Roman pottery recording	RP	4
7	Update database/finds management	EM	0.5
9	Prepare plans and sections	ND	2
10	Prepare pottery illustrations	ND	1
11	Library research	AEJ	1
12	Roman pottery reporting/discussion	RP	3.5
13	Update stratigraphic text	AEJ	1
14	Draft discussion	AEJ	1
15	Corrections to illustrations	ND	0.5

#### **STAGE C, INTEGRATE WITH AREA A RESULTS AND COMPLETION OF FIRST DRAFT. Performance indicator, completion 30/6/04**

16	Project management	AEJ	0.25
17	<i>Integrate and edit Area A and B texts together *</i>	<i>AEJ</i>	<i>3</i>
18	Draft final discussion and synthesis	AEJ	3
19	Corrections to pottery text	RP	0.5
20	Corrections to drawings	ND	0.5
21	Prepare archive	-	1
22	Liaison with referees/final corrections	ED	1
23	Deposit archive	-	1

\* See Task List for Area A excavation (Williams 2003)

**KEY:** AEJ, A. Jones, Project Manager/editor; EM, E. Macey, Finds Supervisor; ND = Nigel Dodds, Illustrator; RP = Roman pottery; MC = Marina Ciaraldi, charred plant remains.

### **9.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **birmingham archaeology**

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## APPENDIX: Details of ditch sections

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Feature no.</i>	<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Alignment</i>	<i>Shape in profile</i>	<i>Max width (m)</i>	<i>Max depth (m)</i>	<i>Description of fill</i>
1	F412.01	4031 4032	N-S (Turning E)	U-shaped	1.03	0.7	Light grey silty clay Yellowish orange clay
1	F412.02	4024 4025	N-S	U-shaped	1.15	0.45	Light blue-grey silty clay Orange-red clay
1	F412.03	4034 4035	N-S	U-shaped	1.15	0.45	Light blue-grey silty clay Orange-red clay
1	F412.04	4038	N-S	U-shaped	0.67	0.38	Mixed yellow sandy silt
1	F412.05	4050 4051	N-S	U-shaped	0.73	0.42	Light grey sandy silty clay Orange-yellow silty clay
1	F412.06	4061	N-S	U-shaped	0.9	0.32	Yellow-grey sandy silty clay
1	F412.07	4072	N-S	U-shaped	0.94	0.27	Yellow-orange silty clay
1	F412.08	4070	N-S	U-shaped	0.89	0.25	Light grey silty clay
1	F417.01	4048	N-S	U-shaped	1.1	0.32	Mid brown-grey silty clay
1	F417.02	4037	N-S	U-shaped	0.9	0.2	Light grey clayey silt
1	F417.03	4054	N-S	U-shaped	0.4	0.14	Orange-brown silty clay
1	F418.01	4039	NE-SW	U-shaped	0.6	0.3	Yellow-grey sandy silty clay
1	F418.02	4045	NE-SW (turning SE)	U-shaped	0.6	0.28	Light grey silty clay
1	F418.03	4082	NW-SE	U-shaped	0.55	0.16	Brown-grey silty clay
1	F434.01	4071	E-W	U-shaped	0.6	0.2	Light grey silty clay
1	F434.02	4077	E-W	U-shaped	0.6	0.23	Light grey silty clay
1	F434.03	4085	E-W	U-shaped	0.64	0.39	Light grey silty clay
2	F405.01	4009 4010	NE-SW	V-shaped	1	0.42	Dark grey silty clay Blue-grey clay
2	F405.02	4022 4023	NE-SW	V-shaped	1.01	0.44	Dark grey silty clay Blue-grey clay
2	F408.01	4013 4014 4015	NE-SW	V-shaped	1.6	0.55	Blue-grey clayey silt Blue-grey silty-clay Blue-grey clay
2	F408.01	4029 4030	NE-SW	V-shaped	1.53	0.55	Blue-grey clayey silt Blue-grey silty-clay
2	F411	4021	Circular	U-shaped	0.3	0.2	Grey sandy silt
2	F419.01	4040	NE-SW	U-shaped	0.25	0.14	Brown-grey silty clay

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Feature no.</i>	<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Alignment</i>	<i>Shape in profile</i>	<i>Max width (m)</i>	<i>Max depth (m)</i>	<i>Description of fill</i>
2	F419.02	4046	NE-SW	U-shaped	0.28	0.12	Light grey clayey silt
2	F419.03	4055	NE-SW	U-shaped	0.26	0.13	Yellow-orange-brown silty clay
2	F422	4044	Circular	U-shaped	0.3	0.2	Brown-grey silty clay
2	F430	4065	Curvilinear	U-shaped	0.6	0.3	Light-grey clayey silt
3	F416.01	4047	N-S	U-shaped	1.2	0.4	Grey-brown silty clay
3	F416.02	4036	N-S	U-shaped	0.45	0.3	Light grey clayey silt
3	F416.03	4053	N-S	U-shaped	1.1	0.3	Grey-brown silty clay
3	F423.01	4049	NW-SE	U-shaped	0.35	0.04	Brown-grey silty clay
3	F423.02	4063	NW-SE	U-shaped	0.53	0.25	Grey-brown sandy-silt
3	F423.03	4069	NW-SE	U-shaped	0.64	0.22	Orange-grey clay
3	F423.04	4075	NW-SE	U-shaped	1.01	0.27	Orange-grey clay
3	F423.05	4080	NW-SE	U-shaped	0.72	0.18	Orange-red silty clay
4	F410	4017 4019 4020	NE-SW	U-shaped	1.15	0.48	Dark grey silty sand Grey sandy silt Grey silty sand

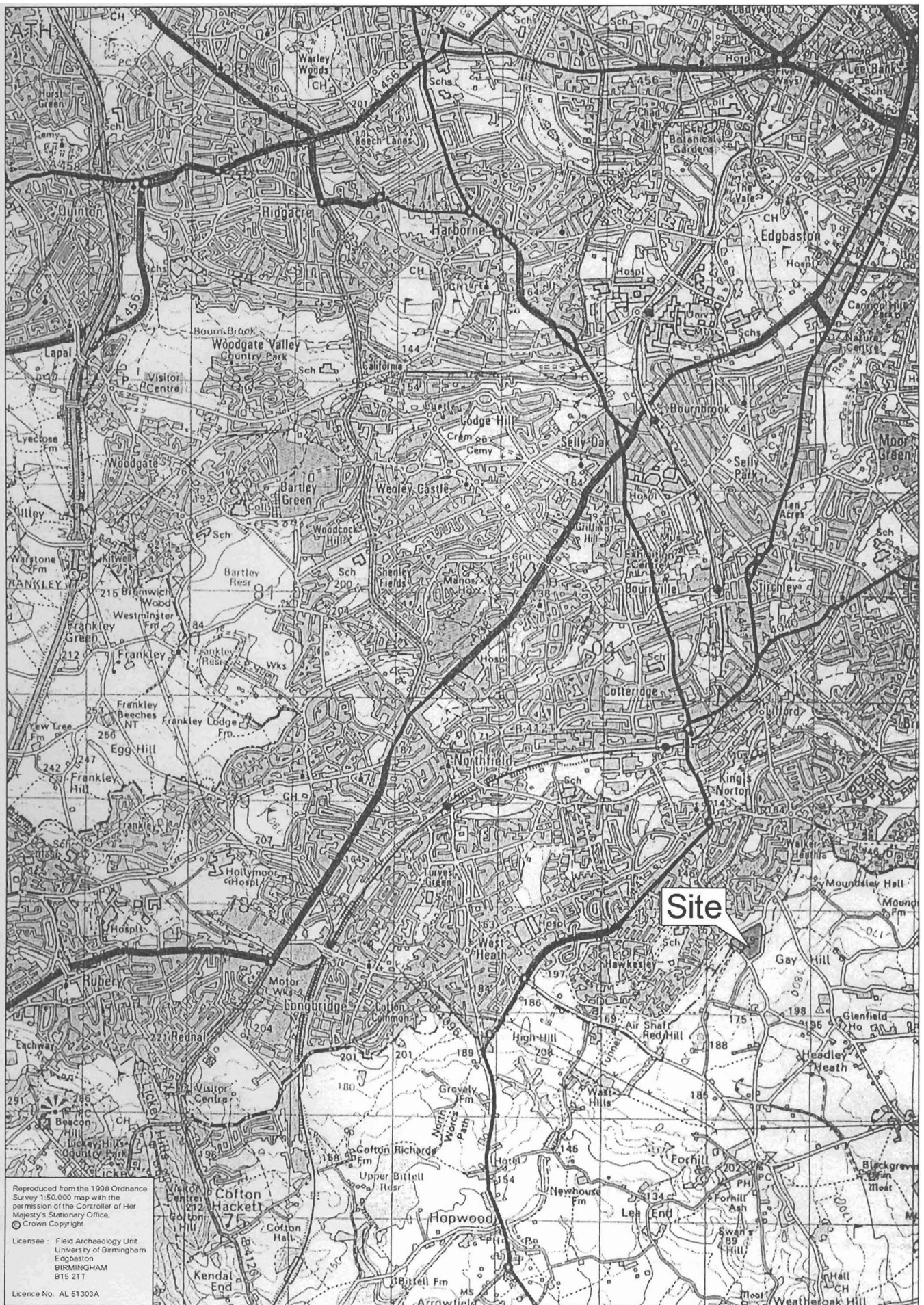


Fig.1

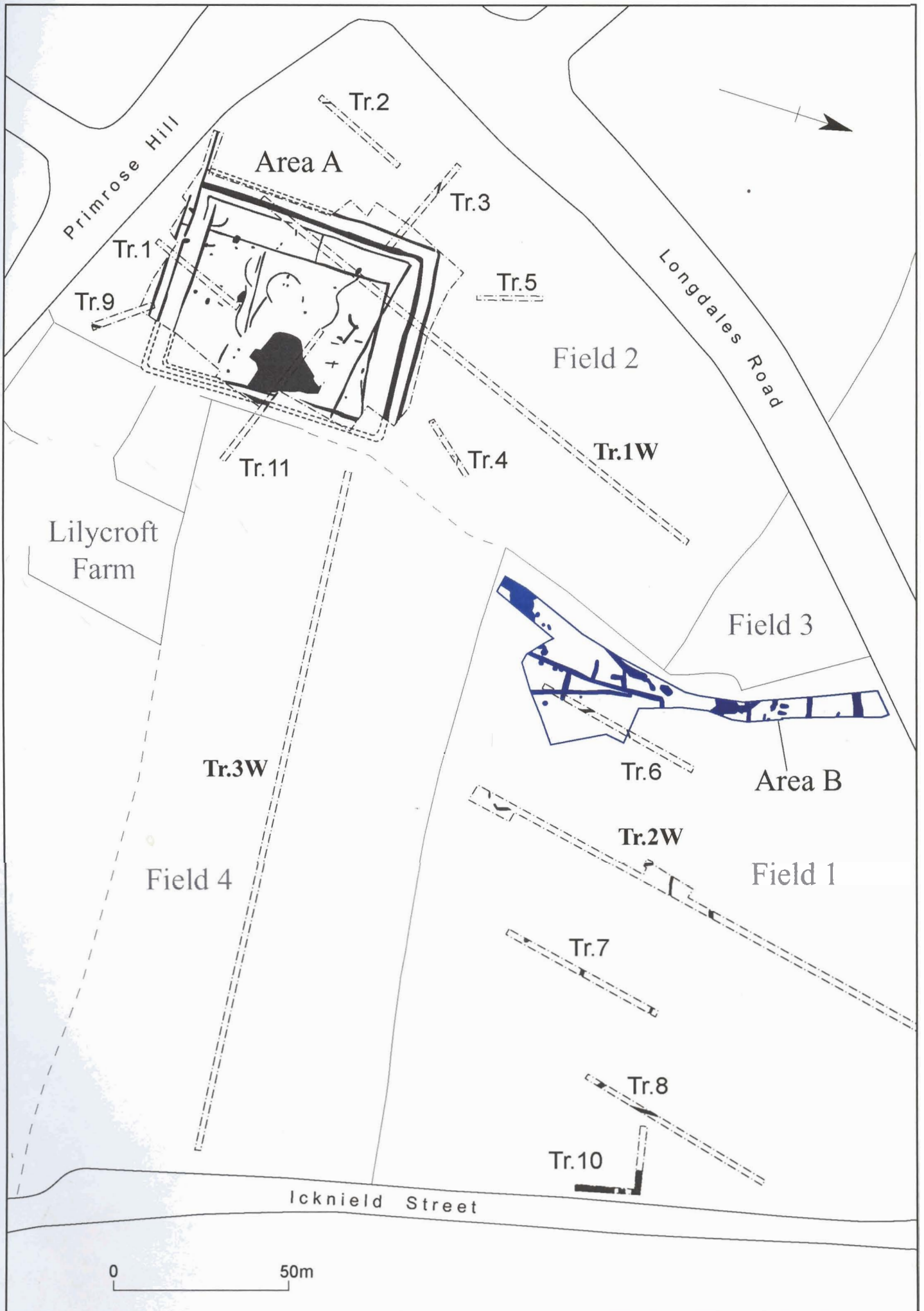


Fig.2

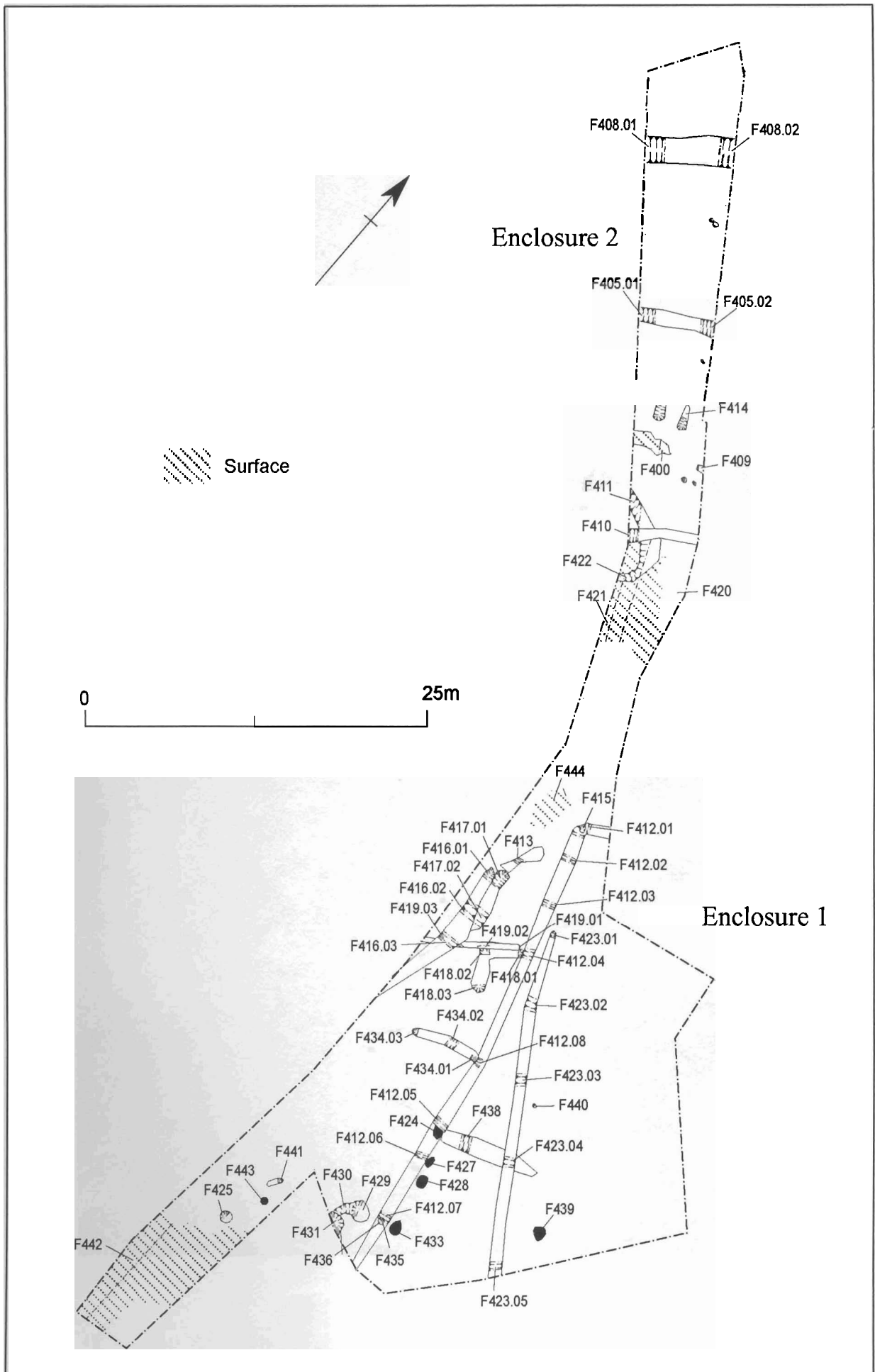


Fig.3





Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6