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**OAKFIELDS, 126 HIGH STREET,
GREAT BARFORD, BEDFORD MK44 3LF**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN**

Authors: Mark Blagg-Newsome & Andrew A. S. Newton MPhil	
NGR: TL 13275 51575	Report No: 5267
District: Bedford Borough	Site Code: AS 1845
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6394
	Date: 29 March 2017

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- 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

Project details			
Project name	<i>Oakfields, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedford MK44 3LF</i>		
<i>In November and December 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation on land on land at Oakfields, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedford MK44 3LF (NGR 13275 51575).</i>			
<i>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential for remains of multi-period date. It is located to the south west of the historic core of Great Barford (recorded on the Bedford Historic Environment Record – HER17150), and the earthworks of a probable medieval moated site lie immediately adjacent to the east, closer to the river (HER752).</i>			
<i>Earlier activity is also evident in the immediate area by aerial photographs taken in 2009/10. Extensive cropmarks are located close to the north and west of the site, and comprise multiple circular, rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures, possible pits and structures. They remain uninvestigated and undated but their form suggests a prehistoric or Romano-British origin, as they are comparable to other extensive remains which have been investigated in this part of the Ouse valley.</i>			
<i>A preceding archaeological evaluation revealed Late Pre Roman Iron Age Ditches Associated finds comprise animal bone, sparse iron fragments and charred plant remains. The latter suggest that the features are on the periphery of a settlement as opposed to within.</i>			
<i>The archaeological excavation confirmed the presence of a complex of later Iron Age ditches and a small number of associated pits. These features have yielded and interesting artefactual and faunal assemblages, providing insights into the economy and trade links of the local Iron Age population. It appears likely that the recorded archaeology relates directly to the cropmarks identified in the adjacent field. The results of this excavation provide important information regarding the interpretation of those cropmarks. Medieval and post-medieval features were also recorded.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>November – December 2016</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>6394</i>	Site code	<i>AS1845</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Excavation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Residential</i>		
Planned development	<i>Replacement residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)			
Significant finds (+dates)			
<i>Project location</i>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Great Barford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Bedfordshire Borough Council Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>MK44 3LF</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.0.49ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 13275 51575</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.20m AOD</i>		
<i>Project creators</i>			
Brief issued by	<i>Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Alliance Developments Ltd.</i>		
Full title	<i>Oakfields, 126 High Street, Gt Barford, Bedford MK44 3LF. Archaeological Assessment & Updated Project Design</i>		
Authors	<i>Mark Blagg-Newsome. Andrew A. S. Newton</i>		
Report no.	<i>5267</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2017</i>		

**OAKFIELDS, 126 HIGH STREET, GREAT BARFORD,
BEDFORD MK44 3LF**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN**

SUMMARY

In November and December 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation on land on land at Oakfields, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedford MK44 3LF (NGR 13275 51575). It is proposed to demolish the existing detached dwelling and outbuildings and erect three detached houses with garaging (BBC Planning Reference 12/01625/FUL).

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential for remains of multi-period date. It is located to the south west of the historic core of Great Barford (recorded on the Bedford Historic Environment Record – HER17150), and the earthworks of a probable medieval moated site lie immediately adjacent to the east, closer to the river (HER752).

Earlier activity is also evident in the immediate area by aerial photographs taken in 2009/10. Extensive cropmarks are located close to the north and west of the site, and comprise multiple circular, rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures, possible pits and structures. They remain uninvestigated and undated but their form suggests a prehistoric or Romano-British origin, as they are comparable to other extensive remains which have been investigated in this part of the Ouse valley. Archaeological investigations on the northern side of the High Street at Great Barford have revealed Iron Age features including a large triple-ditched boundary at Woodpecker Close (Albion Archaeology 2004).

A preceding archaeological evaluation revealed Late Pre Roman Iron Age Ditches Associated finds comprise animal bone, sparse iron fragments and charred plant remains. The latter suggest that the features are on the periphery of a settlement as opposed to within.

The archaeological excavation confirmed the presence of a complex of later Iron Age ditches and a small number of associated pits. These features have yielded and interesting artefactual and faunal assemblages, providing insights into the economy and trade links of the local Iron Age population. It appears likely that the recorded archaeology relates directly to the cropmarks identified in the adjacent field. The results of this excavation provide important information

regarding the interpretation of those cropmarks. Medieval and post-medieval features were also recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November and December 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation on land at Oakfields, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedford MK44 3LF (NGR 13275 51575; Figs. 1 - 2). It is proposed to demolish the existing detached dwelling and outbuildings and erect three detached houses with garaging (BBC Planning Reference 12/01625/FUL). The excavation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval, based on the advice of Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBC HET).

1.2 The investigation provided for a programme of archaeological mitigation following the results of a recent trial trench evaluation (Walker 2016) which was carried out in response to a brief issued by the Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBC HET *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation at Oakfield, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedfordshire* (dated August 2015)). A written scheme of investigation (specification) providing the required mitigation strategy was prepared by AS (dated 19th October 2016), and approved by BBC HET. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (2014).

1.3 This document comprises two parts. Part I presents the initial results of the archaeological investigations and contains detailed descriptions of the recorded archaeological features and deposits. Specialist artefact and environmental analyses are presented in Section 11. Part II comprises the updated project design which sets out the framework for the post-excavation analysis of the results of the project fieldwork.

2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the project were to identify, excavate and record any features of interest that are exposed during the strip of the proposed development site. The archaeological investigation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

2.2 Specific attention was paid to:

- Establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site;
- Establishing the relationship of any remains identified to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- Recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a regional type series; and
- Recovery of palaeo-environmental remains in order to determine local environmental conditions

Planning policy context

2.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

2.4 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

3 THE SITE

3.1 Great Barford is located c.5.5km to the east of Bedford in the county of Bedfordshire. The site is located towards the southern extent of the town within Great Barford conservation area and near

the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1004505) and Grade I listed building of Barford Bridge.

3.2 The site lies set back from the south-western side of the southern end of the High Street at Great Barford, close to Barford Bridge and some 100m from the river Great Ouse to the south east. It comprises an existing detached dwelling (Oakfield) and outbuildings, set in a mature garden plot. It is accessed from a long drive leading from the High Street to the north east.

4 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

4.1 The site is located at c.20m AOD within a relatively flat agricultural landscape. The River Great Ouse runs c.140m to the south-east of the site towards its confluence with the River Ivel c.3.3km to the north-east. The site is located on its floodplain with land gently sloping upwards towards the north-west.

4.2 The underlying geology of the surrounding area is that of the Peterborough Member, a mudstone formed in the Jurassic period. The overlying soil type is a freely draining, slightly acidic loamy soil, whereas a loamy and clayey floodplain soil with naturally high groundwater lies c.100m to the south on the banks of the River Great Ouse.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistory

5.1 Cropmarks comprising ring ditches and enclosures are located at the crossing point of the river to the east and west of the village. They are mostly thought to be Bronze Age in date, although some are titled 'prehistoric' (BHER 613, 1842 & 600). An area on the northern border of the village, between New Road and Addingtons Road, was excavated in 1998 revealing ring ditches and rectilinear enclosures with a concentration of small pits and post holes, indicative of settlement activity (BHER EBB628). One of the pits contained early Bronze Age pottery and flint artefacts of a similar date were also recorded (BHER 604); this area is c.370m to the north of the site. A similar area of enclosures, ring ditches and trackways has been identified in the fields directly to the west of the site (BHER MBB21733), these are clearly visible on aerial photographs and probably relate to other areas of cropmarks further to the west (BHER 600).

5.2 Google Maps satellite imagery shows an extensive area of cropmarks in the field to the immediate west and north-west of the current site. These are the cropmarks recorded as MBB21733. This

includes a ring ditch, a large rectangular enclosure and two sets of 'ladder' enclosures arranged on different alignments but very similar in form to that recorded by AS at Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (Newton 2012).

5.3 A cremation and pits with Iron Age pottery were recorded during the 1998 excavations to the north. The relative paucity of material recovered from pits and associated ditches may indicate there was no contemporary settlement nearby (BHER MBB21779).

Romano-British

5.4 Roman archaeology is focused along the route of the Roman road from Sandy to Sharnbrook. The road runs on a north-west to south-east alignment c.300m to the north-east of the site where it crosses the Great Ouse to the north of Barford Bridge (BHER 728). Other cropmarks and enclosures have been recorded to the south of the village and are thought to be indicative of field systems dating to this period (BHER 609).

Medieval

5.5 Saxo-Norman features c.230m to the north of the site, within the medieval village core, indicate possible seasonal occupation dependant on the flooding of the river (BHER MBB21782). The Domesday Survey lists Great Barford as an important settlement perhaps associated with the river crossing. It was during the 15th century Barford Bridge was built, although earlier structures can be conjectured. The Bridge was widened in the 19th century and is a Scheduled ancient Monument (SAM 1004505). Medieval occupation was limited to the area north of the river crossing and concentrated around the parish church; c.190m to the north of the site (BHER 1011). Earthwork remains of a possible moated site are located directly to the north at Bridge Farmhouse, a c.1600 structure with later additions (BHER 752 & 2323).

6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

6.1 In September 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the current site (Walker 2016). The evaluation revealed Late Pre-Roman Iron Age Ditches in the north-western sector of the site. Their presence and alignment corresponds to the ditches recorded by aerial photography (dated 2009/10) and interpreted as possible enclosures and structures to the

north of this site. Pit F1017 (Trench 3) also contained Late Pre Roman Iron Age pottery. Though Pit F1017 contained just two pottery sherds, F1005, F1014 and F1025 contained 16, 44, and 9 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, sparse iron fragments and charred plant remains. The latter suggest that the features are on the periphery of a settlement as opposed to within.

6.2 In summary, the evaluation report (Walker 2016) states:

Four trenches were excavated: two each of 30m x 1.6m, one of 45m x 1.6m and one of 15m x 1.6m.

The evaluation revealed Late Pre-Roman Iron Age Ditches F1005 (Trench 1) and F1014 and F1025 (Trench 3), located in the north-western sector of the site. Their presence and alignment corresponds to the ditches recorded by aerial photography (dated 2009/10) and interpreted as possible enclosures and structures to the north of this site. Pit F1017 (Trench 3) also contained Late Pre Roman Iron Age pottery. Though Pit F1017 contained just two pottery sherds, F1005, F1014 and F1025 contained 16, 44, and 9 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, sparse iron fragments and charred plant remains. The latter suggest that the features are on the periphery of a settlement as opposed to within.

Post-medieval and modern features were also present: Gullies F1019 (Trench 4) and F1023 (Trench 2). Post Hole F1008 (Trench 1), Pit F1021 (Trench 2) and Brick Foundation M1030 (Trench 1). Undated Post Holes F1010 and F1012 (Trench 1) contained no finds.

Research Potential

The identification of features potentially representing activity at the periphery of a late Iron Age settlement is significant; Oake et al (2007, 11) indicate that little characterisation of rural settlements of this period has been carried out and that related issues, such as settlement patterns, are important but currently poorly understood. The current site, therefore, has the potential to contribute information towards developing the available corpus of information for this subject. Medlycott (2011, 31) goes further, indicating that settlement density, zonation and dynamics require further study. In particular, the role and function of late Iron Age settlement complexes is considered to an important area of research (Medlycott 2011, 31) to which this site might contribute.

The date of the site, indicates that it has the potential to contribute to studies regarding the Iron Age/Roman period transitional phase (Medlycott 2011, 31). The preservation of faunal remains and charred plant macrofossils indicates that reconstruction of the agricultural and farming activities (Oake et al 2007, 11; Medlycott 2011, 31) undertaken within the possible settlement may be possible.

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 The archaeological 'strip, map & sample' excavation was carried out across the area of the proposed new development (house plots and central yard)

7.2 The topsoil was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

8 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Excavations at Oakfields in Great Barford identified an archaeological landscape comprising 35 features (Fig. 3) that appears to be on the periphery of a larger occupation within the vicinity, either to the east or the north of the site. Over half of the features excavated were pits or postholes (54%, 19 features) but the bulk of the artefactual evidence came from the ditches and gullies (16 features, 46% of excavated features) that were mostly concentrated in two intercutting series in the south-west of the site.

8.1.2 Based on artefactual and specialist analyses, four phases of archaeological activity have been elucidated on the site, based upon the features and their deposits that have been recorded (Fig. 3). With the two ditch complexes in Phases 1 and 2, it has also been possible to identify chronological development based on the stratigraphic relationships between those features in conjunction with the artefactual evidence. The four phases of human activity are described in detail below (Table 1).

Phase	Period	Date
1	Late Pre-Roman Iron Age	<i>1st century BC to 1st century AD</i>
2	Early Romano-British	<i>1st century AD to early/mid 2nd century AD</i>
3	Medieval	<i>11th to 13th century AD</i>
4	Post-medieval	<i>AD 1500 to AD 1750</i>

Table 1: The phases of activity represented at the Oakfields, Great Barford site

8.2 Phase 1. Late Pre-Roman Iron Age

8.2.1 Introduction

This phase is dominated by multiple intercutting ditch features and stratigraphically or spatially associated pit features which are described below. With the two phases of ditch networks in the south-west, there is considerable overlap in dates between them. Based upon the pottery evidence, it is likely that the majority of them were in functional use in the late mid 1st century AD during the late pre-Roman Iron Age (Peachey Ch. 11.2).

8.2.2 *Ditch complex*

The ditches in the Phase 1 ditch complex (Table 2) were all aligned NW-SE, with the exception of ditch F2061 which was orientated ENE-WSW, and were all located in the south-western portion of the site (Fig. 3, grid locations A2 to B1). The ditches varied in length with the shortest measuring 2.38m long (F2061) and the longest measuring 38.40m (F2021). There was limited variation in the composition of the fills of the ditches with the majority containing a variation of either sandy silt or silty sand fills, varying between orangey brown and greyish brown in colour. All contained flint inclusions which were either sub-angular or angular in shape, and with the exception of F2005, F2032 and F2061, all contained at least two fills. With the exception of F2061 (which was still dateable due to stratigraphic relationships), all of the features contained pottery or a brooch which could be used to phase them. Animal bone was also fairly abundant, whilst there were isolated instances of shell (F2021B) and struck flint (F2005E).

The earliest stratigraphically occurring ditch in the group was ditch F2005, the centre 12m of which was truncated by the later ditch F2021. It is probable that both ditches F2005 and F2021 were boundary ditches that also functioned as drainage channels.

The similar alignment and intercutting nature of ditches F2009, F2032 and F2037 would suggest that these were stratigraphically and chronologically consecutive features that fulfilled a similar function. The close dating evidence of these ditches would indicate that the settlement potentially had an issue with the rapidity of which the ditches silted up.

Connecting F2021 to ditch F2007 was a small drainage channel (F2061), the base of which sloped downwards from F2007 towards F2021. F2061 cut ditch F2021, but was cut by the re-cut of F2007, F2092, with the direct relationship between F2061 and the original cut F2007 obscured. The slope of the base of F2061 would suggest that water was draining from F2007 into F2021, with F2007 then re-cut by F2092 once both F2061 and F2007 had silted up. This link between the two ditches would suggest that F2007 and F2021 were in functional use simultaneously and were therefore immediately contemporary. The pottery evidence would also seem to corroborate

that they were contemporaneous dating to the pre-Roman mid 1st century AD (Peachey Ch. 11.2).

The natural slope of the site and the alignment of the ditches might possibly suggest that they were draining water towards the River Great Ouse c.140m to the south-east of the site.

Feature	Seg	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/ Relationships	Finds
F2005	A	L2006A	Linear, moderately sloping sides, concave base (38m+ long)	Flat base (0.56 x 0.19m)	Mid orangey brown friable silty sand, with occasional small angular flint and gravel	A2	-
	B	L2006B		1.00 x 0.20m	Mid orangey brown friable silty sand, with occasional small angular flint and gravel		Pottery (1) 7g
	C	L2042		0.60 x 0.34m	Mid orangey brown friable silty sand, with occasional small sub-angular flint and gravel	-	
	D	L2006C		0.65 x 0.15m	Mid orangey brown friable silty sand, with occasional small sub-angular flints	-	
	E	L2006D		Gentle to moderately sloping sides (1.00 x 0.24m)	Light greyish brown compact sandy silt, with very occasional small angular flints, and occasional small sub-angular chalk	B1	Pottery (7) 174g; Animal Bone 595g; St.Flnt (2) 5g
F2037	A	L2034A	Linear, moderately sloping sides (6.60m long)	Flat base (0.55 x 0.26m)	Light orangey brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint	A2	Pottery (31) 573g; Animal Bone 54g
		L2038A			Mid reddish brown friable sandy silt, with occasional small angular flint		-
	B	L2034B		Concave base (0.20 x 0.34m)	Light orangey brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint		Ditch, cut by ditch F2032, cut ditch F2037
		L2038B			Mid reddish brown friable sandy silt, with occasional small angular flint		
F2032	A	L2033A	Linear, moderately sloping sides, concave base (6.60m long)	0.35 x 0.48m	Dark greyish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint	A2	Pottery (68) 931g; Animal Bone 151g; B.Bone (2) 3g
	B	L2033B		0.56 x 0.35m	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small angular flint		Pottery (1) 11g; Animal Bone 43g
F2009	A	L2010	Linear (18m+ long)	Gently sloping sides, sloping base down towards NE, (0.65 x 0.07m)	Mid brownish grey friable silty sand, with occasional small angular flint and gravel	A2	Pottery (3) 110g
	B	L2039		Moderately sloping sides, concave base	Mid yellowish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint and gravel		Ditch, cut by ditch F2007 F2037

	C	L2031		(0.40+ x 0.60m) Steeply sloping sides, flat base (0.24+ x 0.35m)	Dark greyish black friable silty sand, with occasional small sub-rounded stones	A1		SF1 Cu.Alloy Brooch (1) 2g
F2021	A	L2022A	Linear, steeply sloping sides, flat base (38.40m+ long)	0.78 x 0.08m	Mid greyish brown firm clayey silt, with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular flints and gravel	A2	Ditch	-
	B	L2022B		Concave base (0.63 x 0.15m)	Mid greyish brown firm clayey silt, with no inclusions			Pottery (1) 4g; Shell (1) 32g
	C	L2051		2.56 x 0.51m	Light orangey brown firm sandy silt, with occasional to moderate small sub-angular flint and gravel			-
		L2045A			Mid orangey brown firm sandy silt, with moderate small angular and sub-angular flint and gravel			
		L2044A			Light orangey brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint and gravel	Pottery (7) 88g		
	D	L2045B		1.13 x 0.45m	Mid orangey brown firm sandy silt, with occasional medium sub-angular flint and gravel	-		
	L2044B		Mid orangey brown firm silty sand, with occasional small sub-angular flint	Pottery (6) 37g; Animal Bone 98g				
	E	L2045C		Concave base (1.25 x 0.31m)	Mid orangey brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint and gravel	B1	Pottery (3) 11g	
F2061	A	L2062A	Linear, steeply sloping sides, concave base (2.38m long)	1.23 x 0.29m	Mottled dark blackish grey/dark orangey brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-rounded flints	B1	Drainage ditch, slope of base of F2061 suggests it drains water from ditch F2007 to ditch F2021	-
	B	L2062B		1.23 x 0.27m	Mottled dark blackish grey/dark orangey brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-rounded flints	A1		

Table 2. Ditches forming the Phase 1 complex of intercutting ditches. Features are listed from top to bottom in ascending stratigraphic order (i.e. earliest first)

8.2.3 *Pits directly stratigraphically or spatially associated with the ditch complex*

Two pits were either stratigraphically related or spatially associated with the Phase 1 ditch complex (Table 3). These were pit F2035 and F2059. The former was sub-oval whilst the latter was circular in plan. Despite being located in close proximity to each other, the dimensions of both pits vary considerably. F2035 measured 1.5 x 0.90 x 0.30m whilst F2059 was considerably smaller, measuring 0.20 x 0.20 x 0.07m. 'Belgic' pottery was recovered in relative abundance from both these features totalling 1305g (30 sherds). The forms of the pottery would suggest that these pits contained domestic waste from a moderately affluent settlement (Peachey Ch. 11.2).

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/relationships	Finds
F2035	L2036	Sub-oval, gently sloping sides, concave base (1.50 x 0.90 x 0.30m)	Dark blackish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint and gravel	A2	Pit, cut by ditch F2032, cuts ditch F2005	Pottery (10) 397g; Animal Bone 5g
F2059	L2060	Circular, moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.20 x 0.20 x 0.07m)	Mid blackish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint	A2	Pit	Pottery (20) 908g

Table 3. Pits associated with the Phase 1 ditch complex

8.2.4 Phase 1 pits beneath the Phase 2 Ditch complex

Two features dated to the pre-Roman Iron Age were found in the same part of the site as the Phase 2 ditch complex, ditch F2052 and pit F2055 (Table 4). The full length of ditch F2052 is unknown, as it was not present in the excavated slot 1m to the north that contained ditch features F2023A, F2025A and F2027, and was not recorded further south. Pottery was only recovered from its upper fill L2054, which given the prevalence of pottery from this fill and elsewhere on site from a similar period, could suggest that the lower fill L2053 may have been a natural silting deposit. This ditch was probably the precursor to the ditch complex that can be seen in Phase 2. As such, it is probable that this ditch was part of a series of boundary ditches related to a settlement that was probably situated to the east and north of the excavation area.

Pit F2055 was a modestly sized pit measuring 1.27 x 0.95+ x 0.81m that continued beyond the western limit of the excavation area. A small assemblage of animal bone (70g) and eight sherds of pottery (96g) was recovered from this feature and this may suggest that it was used primarily for domestic waste disposal.

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/relationships	Finds
F2052	L2053	Linear, steeply sloping sides, concave base (1.00+ x 0.90 x 0.74m)	Mid reddish brown friable sandy silt, with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint	A1	Ditch, cut by ditch F2023B and later ditch F2025B and its re-cut F2057A	-
	Mid greyish brown friable sandy silt, with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel		Pottery (29) 427g			
F2055	L2056	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.27 x 0.95+ x 0.81m)	Dark greyish brown friable sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint	A1	Pit, cut by ditch F2025B	Pottery (8) 96g; Animal Bone 70g

Table 4. Phase 1 features stratigraphically earlier than the Phase 2 ditch complex

8.2.5 *Other Phase 1 pits*

Four other pit features of late pre-Roman Iron Age date were excavated within the survey area that were not in association with the series of ditches in the south-western corner of the site (Table 5). These were F2065, F2086, F2088 and F2101, all either sub-oval or sub-circular in plan with smallest F2086 measuring 0.49 x 0.25 x 0.06m, and the largest in the north-east corner of the site F2101 measuring 1.60 x 1.20 x 0.58m. There was little variation in the fills with the majority being composed of silty sand (with the exception of F2065 which was a sandy silt), and all either being a mid orangey brown or dark greyish brown in colour. For all of these pits, the finds assemblages were small but appear to be consistent with the other pit features found associated with the ditch complex. As a result, it is possible to speculate that these pits were also used as areas of deposition for domestic waste produced by the nearby occupation.

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/relationships	Finds
F2065	L2066	Sub-circular, steeply sloping sides, concave base (0.50 x 0.50 x 0.30m)	Mid orangey brown friable sandy silt, with no inclusions	A2	Pit	Pottery (1) 3g
F2086	L2087	Sub-oval, gently sloping sides, concave base (0.49 x 0.25 x 0.06)	Dark greyish brown friable silty sand, with occasional small rounded flints	B3	Pit	Pottery (11) 340g
F2088	L2089	Sub-oval, gently sloping sides, concave base (0.56 x 0.28 x 0.10m)	Dark greyish brown friable silty sand, with occasional small rounded flints	B3	Pit	Pottery (9) 65g; Animal Bone 7g
F2101	L2102	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.60 x 1.20 x 0.58m)	Mid orangey brown friable silty sand, with occasional small and medium sub-angular flints	B3	Pit	Pottery (6) 64g; Animal Bone 14g

Table 5. Other Phase 1 features

8.3 Phase 2. Late pre-Roman Iron Age, Early Romano-British Transition

8.3.1 Introduction

A second series of ditches located c.1.4m to the SW of the Phase 1 complex of ditches characterises this phase, with an associated pit (F2049) and occupation level (F2079) (Fig. 3, grid location A1 to B1). Directly to the north c.32m, is a gully (F2073) truncated at either extremity by two post-holes (F2075, F2077). Within the two phases of ditch groups in the south-west, there is a considerable overlap in dates. Based upon the artefactual evidence, it is likely that the majority of them were in functional use in the late mid 1st century AD during the late pre-Roman Iron Age (Peachey Ch. 11.2). All of the above features are described in detail below (Tables 6-12).

8.3.2 Phase 2 features cutting Phase 1 ditch complex

Two features associated with Phase 2 were located in association with the Phase 1 ditch network, ditch F2007 and its re-cut F2092, and pit F2049 (Tables 6-7). No finds were recovered from ditch re-cut F2092 so its relationship with the surrounding features is based purely on stratigraphic Evidence.

Ditch F2007 is probably a later re-cut of earlier ditch F2009, as it is on the same alignment and crosses over the earlier ditch at several points. As previously alluded to above (8.2.2), F2007 was connected to ditch F2021 via a small drainage ditch (F2061) that appears to have been cut to drain water from F2007 to F2021. As such, it would appear that these two ditches were probably contemporary and operating functionally as boundary and/or as drainage channels concurrently. The pottery evidence concurs with this assessment, placing both F2007 and F2021 within the late pre-Roman Iron Age (Peachey Ch. 11.2). At some point later, ditch F2007 was re-cut (F2092) suggesting that even after this date, F2007 continued to have a functional purpose, possibly into the Roman period. Pottery finds were abundant from F2007, with finds particularly prevalent in fills L2014 and L2015. The forms and soot patterns suggest that some of the pottery from F2007 was used for cooking, whilst other forms are indicative of domestic detritus probably from occupation in the immediate vicinity (Peachey 11.2). The other artefactual and ecofactual assemblage would support this assertion, with fired clay, burnt bone and other animal remains recovered from this feature.

Pit F2049 cut the eastern side of F2007, 0.80m south of ditch terminus F2032 (Grid Location A1). It was stratigraphically later than ditch F2007 and was relatively wide at 1.67 x 1.07m. It contained a single similar sandy silt fill to ditch F2007, with comparable inclusions. Cooking pots were also recovered from this feature alongside burnt bone and animal remains, suggesting that this pit was also used for the deposition of domestic waste.

Feature	Seg	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/ Relationships	Findings		
F2007	A	L2008	Linear, concave base (29.20m+ long)	Gently sloping sides (1.3 x 0.13-0.20m)	Mid orangey brown friable silty sand, with occasional small angular flint and gravel	A2	Pottery (4) 79g		
	B	L2040 (=L2008)		Moderately sloping sides (1.69 x 0.60m)	Mid blackish brown firm and loose in parts, sandy silt, with moderate sub-angular flint and gravel		Pottery (18) 423g; Animal Bone 190g; F Clay (1) 57g		
							Dark blackish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flint	Pottery (52) 980g; Animal Bone 119g	
						Mid blackish brown firm sandy silt, with moderate small and medium angular and sub-angular flint	Pottery (117) 2156g; Animal Bone 121g		
	C	L2047A		L2048	Steeply sloping sides (1.82 x 0.82m)	Dark yellowish brown friable sandy silt, with occasional small sub-rounded stones	A1	Ditch, Cut ditch F2009A, B & C, Cut by pit F2049 and F2092	Pottery (16) 191g; Animal Bone 66g
						Dark brownish black friable sandy silt, with moderate small sub-rounded stones			Pottery (32) 448g; Animal Bone 61g
	D	L2047B		Steeply sloping sides, flat base (0.51 x 0.26m)	Dark brownish black friable sandy silt, with occasional small rounded stones	Pottery (18) 271g; Animal Bone 144g			
E	L2047C	Moderately sloping sides (0.65 x 0.25m)	Mid reddish brown firm sandy silt, with moderate small and medium angular flint and occasional medium rounded red sandstone	B1	Pottery (5) 130g; Animal Bone 38g				
F2092		L2093	Linear, steeply sloping sides, uneven base (1.10+ x 0.46 x 0.19m)	Dark greyish black firm sandy silt, with moderate small to large sub-rounded flint	A1	Ditch re-cut, cuts ditches F2007D and F2061B	-		

Table 6. Ditch F2007 and F2092

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/relationships	Findings
F2049	L2050	Sub-circular, steeply sloping sides, concave base (1.87 x 1.07 x 0.41m)	Light blackish brown friable sandy silt, with moderate small angular flint	A1	Pit, cuts ditch F2007C	Pottery (7) 200g; Animal Bone 36g; B.Bone (1) 2g

Table 7. Pit F2049

8.3.3 Features forming, or associated with, the Phase 2 ditch complex

The ditches in the Phase 2 network (Table 8) were all aligned NW-SE and located in the south-west part of the site, c.1.4m south-west of the Phase 1 complex (Fig. 3; Grid Locations A1 to B1). The only ditch not to conform to this pattern was ditch F2103 (Table 9), which was orientated NNW-SSE and was in isolation to the series of ditches located to the north-west of this feature. The ditches were variable in length with the shortest, F2103, measuring c.2.60m in length, whilst the longest, F2057, was c.13.40m in length. There was no variation in the composition of the fills as all contained sandy silt deposits, with some variation in colour, consistency and inclusions present. All of the ditches, with the exception of F2025, contained only one fill, and all fills contained a datable finds assemblage. Pottery was present throughout all of the features, with animal bone also very abundant. Occasional finds of struck flint (F2057B, F2079A), fired clay (F2057A), a whetstone (F2057A) and CBM (F2079A) were also recovered from these features.

The earliest stratigraphically occurring ditch in this complex was F2023, which appears to be the earliest in a series of ditches (also containing F2025, F2027 and F2057) in this phase that were probably re-cuts of one another. All of these ditches probably performed a dual function in that they were probably cut as boundary ditches, but also acted as channels draining water away towards the River Great Ouse in the south.

Overlying ditch F2057 in the south (Grid Location B1), was shallow occupation layer F2079 (Table 10), which at its deepest point was only 0.16m in depth. A rich finds assemblage was recovered from this deposit, including pottery (24 sherds, 478g), animal bone (60), struck flint (2 frags, 5g) and CBM (14g). The pottery assemblage suggests this was feature was used for the disposal of domestic waste. This corroborates with the animal bone assemblage where a preponderance of rib fragments and chopped shaft elements indicates domestic waste probably from the production of food. All of this evidence points towards the presence of occupational activity just beyond the extremity of the excavation area.

Feature	Seg	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)		Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/ Relationships	Finds
F2023	A	L2024A	Linear, steeply sloping sides (10.60m+ long)	Flat base (0.84 x 0.42m)	Dark yellowish brown friable sandy silt, with moderate small sub-rounded stones	A1	Ditch, cut by ditch F2025 A & B Cut ditch F2052, cut by ditch 2057A	Pottery (11) 137g; Animal Bone 16g
	B	L2024B		Concave base (0.64 x 0.51m)	Dark yellowish brown friable sandy silt, with moderate small sub-rounded gravel and flint			Pottery (12) 213g; Animal Bone 7g
F2025	A	L2026A	Linear (5.80m+ long)	Steeply sloping sides, flat base (1.06 x 0.66m)	Light yellowish brown friable sandy silt, with occasional small angular gravel	A1	Ditch, cuts ditch F2023A & B Cut by ditch F2027 Cut ditch F2052 and pit F2055, cut by ditch F2057A	-
		L2029A		Light yellowish brown friable sandy silt, with frequent small sub-angular flints and gravel	Pottery (2) 38g; Animal Bone 21g			
	L2026B	Moderately sloping sides, concave base (1.56+ x 0.38m)		Dark blackish grey friable sandy silt, with moderate small angular flint and gravel	Pottery (38) 476g			
	L2029B	Mid reddish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-rounded flint		Pottery (3) 24g; Animal Bone 14g				
F2027		L2028	Linear, steeply sloping sides, concave base (3.20+ x 1.08 x 0.51m)	Dark blackish brown friable sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular stones	A1	Ditch, cuts ditch F2025A	Pottery (58) 1087g; Animal Bone 35g	
F2057	A	L2058A	Linear, steeply sloping sides, concave base (13.40m long)	Flat base (2.30 x 0.52m)	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small to medium sub-angular and angular flint	A1	Ditch Cuts ditches F2025B and F2023B Cut by occupation level F2079B	Pottery (77) 1122g; Animal Bone 136g; F.Clay 501g; W.Stone (1) 910g
	B	L2058B		1.84 x 0.58m	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint			Pottery (7) 199g; Animal Bone 16g; S.Flnt (1) 9g
	C	L2058C		Moderately sloping sides (1.00 x 0.14m)	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint	B1	Pottery (1) 1g	

Table 8. Intercutting ditches forming the Phase 2 ditch complex

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/Relationships	Finds
F2103	L2104	Linear, steeply sloping sides, concave base (2.60+ x 0.65 x 0.41m)	Dark brownish grey firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-angular flint	B1	Ditch	Pottery (9) 55g; Animal Bone 1g

Table 9. Ditch F2103

Feature	Seg	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/relationships	Finds
F2079	A	L2080A	Sub-circular, flat base (4.90 x 3.04m+ in length and width)	Gently sloping sides (0.16m)	Mid brownish grey compact sandy silt, with occasional small angular flint	Occupation level	Pottery (24) 478g; CBM 14g; Animal Bone 60g; S.Flint (2) 5g
	B	L2080B		Steeply sloping sides (0.14m)			

Table 10. Occupation Layer F2079

8.3.4 *Gully 2073 and Postholes F2075 and F2077*

Located in the north-east of the site (Grid Location A3 to B3), was a gully, F2073 (Table 11), orientated NW-SE for c.8.38m and cut at either end by postholes, F2075 and F2077 (Table 12). All three of the features contained a mid greyish brown sandy silt fill, with the only variation being that the consistency of the fill of the postholes was friable as opposed to the gully's firm composition. Pottery and animal bone were recovered from each of these contexts except those pertaining to the southern posthole F2075. It is not clear either from the form of the features themselves, or from the associated finds assemblages what function these features may have had, although a structural function must be considered. It is of interest to note that the latest find of mid 3rd to 4th century AD Roman mortaria was recovered from within posthole F2077 amongst other finds of late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD Belgic pottery types (Peachey Ch. 11.2).

Feature	Seg	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/ Relationships	Finds	
F2073	A	L2074	Linear, gently sloping sides, concave base (8.38m long)	0.49 x 0.22m	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt, with moderate small rounded stones	A3	Gully Cut postholes F2077 & F2075	Pottery (11) 306g; Animal Bone 68g
	B		0.48 x 0.14m	B3				

Table 11. Gully F2073

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/ relationships	Finds
F2075	L2076	Sub-circular, steeply sloping sides, concave base (0.68 x 0.50 x 0.39m)	Mid greyish brown friable sandy silt, with moderate small rounded flint	B3	Posthole, cuts gully F2073B	-
F2077	L2078	Sub-circular, steeply sloping sides, sloped base downwards towards SE (0.72 x 0.69 x 0.17m)	Dark greyish brown friable sandy silt, with occasional large rounded flint	A3	Posthole, cuts gully F2073A	Pottery (8) 1036g; Animal Bone 8g

Table 12. Postholes F2075 and F2077

8.4 Phase 3. Medieval

Ditch F2090 (Table 13) was located in the north-eastern part of the site (Fig. 3, Grid Location B3 to C2), aligned NW-SE and running for c.24.80m from beyond the northern extent of the site, before being truncated by modern disturbance relating to the demolished building that previously stood on the site. Two fills were recorded from the most northern segment A, while only one fill was recorded from the most southerly slot in ditch F2090. There was much modern disturbance in the eastern part of the site, and it is quite possible that the southern end of F2090 did once contain multiple fills but have subsequently been truncated by later activity. Both recorded fills were either sandy silt or silty sand in composition with variable colours and inclusions. Finds included 11 sherds of medieval pottery spread over all the fills from the two slots within this feature, recovered amongst the more common Belgic types (Thompson in Peachey Ch. 11.2). The medieval forms were of 12th to 13th century AD cooking pots, which would indicate that there was a medieval occupation somewhere nearby. It is likely that in this feature the mid 1st century AD pottery sherds were of a residual nature. Feature F2090 probably represents a boundary ditch associated with the settlement where the medieval pottery originated.

Feature	Seg	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/ Relationships	Finds
F2090	A	L2091A	Linear, moderately sloping sides (24.80m long)	Flat base (1.84 x 0.71m)	Light yellowish brown compact silty sand, with frequent small rounded and sub-angular flint	B3	Pottery (32) 369g; Animal Bone 30g
		L2096			Dark brownish black friable sandy silt, with occasional small rounded and sub-angular flint		Pottery (70) 1638g; CBM 3g; Animal Bone 116g; B.Bone (3) 8g
	B	L2091B	Concave base (0.76 x 0.25m)	Light reddish brown loose sandy silt, with occasional small rounded chalk and occasional small angular flint	C3	Pottery (31) 1025g; Animal Bone 153g; F.Clay (1) 67g	

Table 13. Medieval Ditch F2090

8.5 Phase 4. Post-medieval

Located in the central eastern part of the site was ditch F2099 (Table 14; Fig. 3, Grid Location B2). It ran SW-NE for c.12m before being truncated at the NE end by modern disturbance relating to the demolished building that was previously present on the site. Only one sandy silt fill was recorded from this feature, greyish brown in colour and with some small flint inclusions. Around 0.40m before being truncated by the modern building, ditch F2099 perpendicularly truncated ditch F2097. Pottery and CBM were recovered from this feature and this dates F2099 to the post-medieval period (Thompson in Peachey Ch. 11.2).

Feature	Seg	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/Relationships	Finds	
F2099	A	L2100A	Linear, moderately sloping sides, concave base (12m+ long)	0.85 x 0.23m	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-rounded flint	B2	Ditch Cut ditch F2097B	Pottery (6) 116g; CBM 112g
	B	L2100B		0.79 x 0.22m				Pottery (1) 8g

Table 14. Post-medieval Ditch F2099

8.6 Undated features

Ten pits and postholes and one ditch feature, present across the whole of the site, were deficient in any dateable artefactual assemblage or sufficient stratigraphic or spatial relationships from which these features may have been phased (Tables 15 & 16, Fig. 3). Given the density of late pre-Roman Iron Age features on the site, and the spatial distribution of some of the features from this period, it is most likely that the majority of the undated features also belong within these phases of activity (Phases 1 & 2). It is possible that some features may belong to one of the two later phases of human activity seen within this excavation, or possibly to a phase of activity not yet identified at the site.

The vast majority of the undated features were discrete pits or postholes (91%), yielding little or no information regarding their provenance or function. Three of the pits (F2016 and F2018, F2081) and one of the postholes (F2084) were intercutting pairs of features, whilst the single ditch feature F2097 was truncated by post-medieval ditch F2099. It is possible that due to similarities in profile and in their fills, that ditches F2097 and F2099 are contemporary.

Pit F2063, however, was previously recorded during the preceding evaluation of the site as Pit F1017 L1018 and this was found to contain late pre-Roman Iron Age pottery which would place pit F2063 within Phase 1.

Feature	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)	Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/relationships	Findings
F2011	L2012	Sub-circular, gently sloping becoming steep sides, flat base (0.98 x 0.85 x 0.20m)	Dark yellowish brown friable sandy silt, with moderate small rounded gravel and occasional charcoal	A2	Pit	-
F2016	L2017	Sub-circular, steep to near vertical sides, concave base (1.10+ x 0.67 x 0.39m)	Dark greyish brown firm sandy silt, with frequent small angular gravel inclusions	A1	Pit, cut by pit F2018	-
F2018	L2019	Circular, steeply sloping sides, concave base (0.92 x 0.75 x 0.21m)	Mid yellowish brown compact clayey silt, with moderate small sub-rounded flint	A1/2	Pit, cuts pit F2016	-
F2063	L2064	Sub-oval, steeply sloping sides, flat base (0.90 x 2.80 x 0.36m)	Mid orangey brown loose sandy silt, with occasional sub-angular flint and gravel	A2/B2	Pit, same as pit F1017 L1018 from TT3 mitigation	None from SMS, but mid 1st century pot from TT phase from this feature
F2067	L2068	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, flat base (0.96 x 0.80 x 0.21m)	Mid orangey brown loose sandy silt, with moderate small sub-angular gravel	B2	Pit	-
F2069	L2070	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.50 x 0.50 x 0.19m)	Mid orangey brown friable sandy silt, with no inclusions	B2	Pit	-
F2071	L2072	Rectangular, gently sloping sides, flat base (0.40 x 2.00 x 0.25m)	Mid greyish brown friable sandy silt, with no inclusions	B2	Pit	-
F2081	L2082	Oval, steeply sloping sides, flat base (0.85 x 0.56 x 0.38m)	Mottled dark blackish grey/ dark yellowish brown firm sandy silt, with frequent small to medium sub-rounded flint	B3	Pit, cut by posthole F2084	-
F2084	L2085	Sub-circular, steeply sloping sides, concave base (0.46 x 0.36 x 0.33m)	Dark greyish black friable sandy silt, with occasional small rounded stones	B3	Posthole, cuts pit F2081	-
F2094	L2095	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, concave base (0.63 x 0.53 x 0.13m)	Dark brownish grey firm silty sand, with occasional small sub-rounded flint	B1	Pit, root bioturbation throughout this feature	-

Table 15. Undated Pits and Postholes

Feature	Seg	Fill	Plan/profile (dimensions)		Fill description	Grid Location	Comments/Relationships	Finds
F2097	A	L2098A	Linear, moderately sloping sides, flat base (15.60m long)	1.23 x 0.21m	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt, with occasional small sub-rounded flint	C2	Ditch Cut by ditch F2099B	Animal Bone 19g
	B	L2098B		1.15 x 0.31m		B2/C2		-

Table 16. Undated linear

9 CONFIDENCE RATING

9.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or the recovery of finds during the excavation.

10 DEPOSIT MODEL

10.1 Across the majority of the site, the natural substrate was a light creamy yellow to mid reddish-orange loose silty gravel (L2002). Within this, and towards the western part of the excavated area, were two notable outcroppings of natural off-white chalk (L2004). To the south and north-west of L2002, the natural geology consisted of a mid reddish-orange sand (L2003).

10.2 In the southern part of the site, L2003 was overlain by a dark greyish-brown layer of firm sandy silt colluvium (L2083), beneath which the archaeology was stratified. Elsewhere, the natural deposits were overlain by subsoil L2001, a mid reddish-grey brown firm sandy silt, with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint and occasional sandstone, which also overlay the colluvial layer L2083. Overlying subsoil L2001 was topsoil L2000, a dark red-brown firm sandy silt.

11 SPECIALISTS FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

11.1 The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of four pieces (13g) of struck flint as residual material in 1st century AD features and the subsoil, with moderate levels of patination supporting the re-deposition and weathering of the flint flakes.

Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments. Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9). The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex.

Discussion

The struck flint was entirely comprised of blade-like debitage flakes, probably produced using core technology characteristic of the early Neolithic period. Tertiary flakes from Layer L2083 and Subsoil L2001 exhibit parallel dorsal scars at their butt end, indicating they were produced as part of the process of systematic

blade removal and associated core maintenance. Two small un-corticated flakes contained in Ditch F2005 appear consistent with this technology, and all the flakes have very small bulbs of percussion, typical of the indirect or soft-hammer percussion typical of the period. Though limited in sample size, the flakes appear to represent varied raw material, ranging in colour from orange brown to mid and dark grey, possibly indicating the utilization of local surface gravels.

Bibliography

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11.2 The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 1014 sherds (20698g) of pottery; predominantly a well-preserved assemblage recovered from early 1st century AD ditches (Table 17), focussed on the south-western side of the site. The early 1st century AD pottery was predominantly comprised of ‘Belgic’ pottery including grog-tempered bowls, jars, beakers, platters and lids, with a significant component of shell-tempered, lid-seated jars. These vessels appear to indicate moderately affluent domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity; a theory supported by the presence of rare Gallo-Belgic fine wares, imported from lowland Europe, including Terra Nigra, Terra Rubra and fine white wares, which were also imitated in local fabrics. While deposition appears to have been continual into the ditches in the south-western area of the site, there were concentrations in two ditches suggesting particular episodes of disposal.

Period	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Early 1 st Century AD (Late pre-Roman Iron Age)	993	20403	5.07
Late Roman	1	37	0.10
Medieval	11	107	-
Post-Medieval	9	151	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>1014</i>	<i>20698</i>	<i>5.17</i>

Table 17. Quantification of pottery by period

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight (g), with fabrics analysed at x20 magnification and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive; in accordance with the *Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al* 2016), which complement the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004; Willis 2004) and Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al* 2001). Where possible, fabric types have been cross-referenced with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection

(Tomber & Dore 1998) and the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (held by Albion Archaeology). Form types of the 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares are referenced to the type series developed by Thompson (1982) with form codes italicised (i.e. *D1-1*). The pottery fabrics are described below and the late pre-Roman Iron Age fabrics quantified in Table 18, with the remainder presented under the relevant headings.

Fabric Descriptions

(*code in brackets: Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series*)

1st century AD continental imports and local (imitation) fine wares

GAB TN1	Gallia-Belgica (Vesle Valley) Terra Nigra 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 15). Black (slipped/self-slipped) surfaces over a very dark grey body. Inclusions comprise common abundant translucent and white quartz (<0.1mm) with occasional white clay pellets (<1mm). A hard fabric with a smooth feel; glossy where burnished. (R26)
UNS RE1	Fine reduced ware. Mid grey surfaces/margins with a thin dark grey core. Inclusions comprise abundant quartz (generally <0.2mm, occasionally to 0.5mm), with sparse red/black iron-rich grains (<0.1mm). Moderately hard with a smooth finish; probably slow-wheel made. Possibly a local imitation of Gallo-Belgic imports. (R06C)
GAB TR1C	Gallia-Belgica Terra Rubra 1C (Tomber & Dore 1998, 15). Only un-slipped sherds present, with smooth to slightly powdery orange-red surfaces. (R25)
UNS OX1	Fine oxidised ware. Pale orange-pink surfaces/margins over a thin mid grey core. Inclusions comprise sparse quartz, red and black iron ore/clay pellets (all <0.2mm, occasionally to 0.5mm). Wheel-made with a smooth to slightly powdery finish. Possibly a local imitation of Gallo-Belgic imports. (R05B)
NOG WH1	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic pipeclay) white ware 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 22) (R04B)

'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214; Thompson 1982, 20) and related coarse wares

SOB GT1	'Belgic' grog-tempered reduced ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214; Rigby 1986, 260: Fabric 2), slow-wheel-made or finished on a wheel (often slightly sloppily). Orange to dark brown-grey surfaces, over a mid-dark grey core. Inclusions comprise common grog, generally grey to black, with some sparse cream or red (0.25-2mm); sparse quartz (<0.25mm), occasional flint and ironstone (<5mm). (F06b)
SOB GT2	Sand and grog-tempered ware. As SOB GT1 but with inclusions of common quartz (<0.25mm) and sparse grog (<2mm). (F09)
ROB SH	'Belgic' to early Roman shell-tempered ware; hand-made though neatly so and some vessels may have been finished on a slow-wheel. Black to dark red-brown. Inclusions of abundant shell (generally 0.1-2mm, occasionally to 5mm). Kilns producing this fabric are known at Stagsden, Clapham and Biddenham (Slowikowski 2000, 62) and it is a common coarse ware in the region (i.e. Marney 1989, 174: fabric 1a; Timby 2007, 90: SH1) (F07)

Late Roman Pottery

OXF WS (M) Oxfordshire white-slipped ware mortaria (Tomber & Dore 1998, 177)

Medieval Pottery

MCW1	Medieval Coarseware 1. Grey core with pale brown or grey surfaces; inclusions comprise moderate to common medium quartz and occasional flint with some coarser grains. 12 th -13 th centuries. (C4)
MCW2	Medieval Coarseware 2. Dark grey core and surfaces; inclusions comprise medium to coarse grey, clear and white quartz, and occasional burnt organics. 12 th -13 th centuries. (C1)

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
<i>1st century AD continental imports and local (imitation) fine wares</i>			
GAB TN1	8	154	0.15
UNS RE1	1	3	-
GAB TR1C	5	35	0.10
UNS OX1	43	177	0.35
NOG WH1	2	10	-
<i>'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery and related coarse wares</i>			
SOB GT1	542	10109	2.40
SOB GT2	49	951	0.25
ROB SH	343	8964	1.82
<i>Total</i>	<i>993</i>	<i>20403</i>	<i>5.07</i>

Table 18. Quantification of late pre-Roman Iron Age pottery by fabric group

Discussion of Early to Mid 1st century AD Fabric Groups

Fine wares account for a limited component of the assemblage; 5.9% by sherd count (1.9% by weight), and are characteristic of the suite of Gallo-Belgic vessels imported in the early to mid 1st century AD (the Augustan-Tiberian periods, pre-Roman Conquest), albeit with the bulk representing local imitations of true continental fabrics. The continental fabrics (GAB TN1, GAR TR1C & NOG WH1) were manufactured in Gallia-Belgica, lowland Europe equating to Belgium, Holland and northern France, and probably arrived at the site via prosperous late Iron Age centres (*oppida*) such as Baldock, c.20km to the south, and Braughing, c. 35km to the south-east. The Terra Nigra (GAB TN1) includes a butt beaker with roulette-decorated cordons (V8) in Ditch F2007, while the Terra Rubra (GAB TR1C) includes a collared cup (V13) in Ditch F2057, both of which are paralleled in Augustan-Tiberian groups at Skeleton Green, Braughing (Rigby 1981, 172-3: types 40 & 29a/32b). Similarities with the Gallo-Belgic wares at Baldock are also apparent, but that assemblage has a slightly contrasting focus on post-Conquest forms, notably Terra Nigra platters and cups (Rigby 1986, 224), supporting a pre-c.AD43 date for the Great Barford vessels. An UNS OX1 footring base in Ditch F2007 suggests that fine ware platters were present, but the UNS OX1 appears focussed on a range of beakers, including a barrel beaker (V9) in Ditch F2025 and a butt beaker with a proto-cornice rim (V5) in Ditch F2023, with further body sherds in Ditch F2057 suggesting that these beakers may have had cordons decorated with combed vertical lines, imitating the rouletted decoration of the continental vessels. The small sherds of NOG WH1 and UNS RE1 are limited to thin-walled, plain burnished body sherds, which also appear to be derived from beakers.

The bulk of the assemblage is made up of grog-tempered 'Belgic' fabrics (SOB GT1-2) and a shell-tempered fabric (ROB SH1) (Table 18), which were all manufactured or finished on a slow-wheel, but frequently exhibit an unevenness resulting from hand-formation, before they were fired in a bonfire or clamp kiln. As a result most vessels have a mottled or patchy finish to their colouring, although the SOB GT1 girth beaker (V18) in Ditch F2090 and SOB GT2 fine jar (V10) in Ditch F2073 exhibit a consistent and relatively vivid orange finish potentially indicative of a controlled firing in a more formal kiln chamber. The bulk of grog-tempered pottery was probably made locally on a domestic scale, though mid 1st century AD chambered kilns serving extensive settlement at Milton Keynes have

been recorded at Caldecotte c.26km to the south-west (Marney 1989, 98). Great Barford is located towards the north-western periphery of the distribution zone of 'Belgic' grog tempered pottery in south-eastern England (Thompson 1982, 16: zone 8), an area noted for the presence of the aforementioned girth beaker with 'red' surfaces, and also an area where the grog-tempered vessels are commonly supplemented by local shell-tempered fabrics, notably used for lid-seated jars, as here. At East Stagsden grog- and shell-tempered Belgic fabrics form the bulk of the Phase 3 and 4 (Conquest Period) pottery, providing the closest comparison of form types to this assemblage; however, there the high proportions of shell-tempered wares, particularly lid-seated jars is skewed by the presence of kilns producing them on site between c.AD40-100 (Slowikowski 2000, 73). This pattern of grog- and shell-tempered Belgic fabrics is also closely comparable to Phase 4 (c.100BC-AD60) at Little Paxton c.11km to the north-east, where it is notable that the pottery groups from the preceding Phase 3 (c.100BC-AD43) incorporate hand-made middle to late Iron Age vessel types (Hancocks 2011, 111), which are absent here. However, the consumption or availability of Belgic pottery during this transition, approaching the early Roman period, appears to have been inconsistent, potentially based on the economy or choice of particular inhabitants. On late Iron Age sites along the Great Barford Bypass these fabrics dominated, but were accompanied by hand-made sand- and shell-tempered fabrics typical of the middle Iron Age in the region, but absent here (Webley 2007, 232); while at nearby Sandy, grog-tempered fabrics remained uncommon in favour of local shell- and sand-tempered fabrics that partly imitate Belgic forms, even as Gallo-Belgic vessels (North Gaulish white ware) were arriving at the settlement (Johnston 1974, 48).

The primary coarse ware in the assemblage is SOB GT1, which appears to have a focus on table wares, typically with burnished external surfaces, while 'cooking pots' are restricted to ROB SH1 (Table 19). The most common SOB GT1 forms are utilitarian necked bowls (*D1-1/D2-1*), which include a *D1-1* bowl in Ditch F2052 (V3), while the base of such a bowl in Ditch F2007 has a 20mm wide circular hole bored through the centre of the floor, demonstrating the durability of these bowls for multiple and secondary functions. If all of the potential rims can be attributed to a fairly homogenous vessel type, then the *D1-1/2-1* bowls occur in approximately double the quantity of each of the broad SOB GT1 categories of jars, platters, beakers and lids. Evidence for jars is fragmentary with both narrow-neck and wide-mouthed types represented by neck and plain cordon sherds, with the most notable comprising a double-cordoned jar with a near globular body (*B3-4*) in Ditch F2077 (V17), a type most common in the first half of the 1st century AD.

The platters vary in form but are consistent in that the Gallo-Belgic type platter (*G1-6*) in Ditch F2057 (V12) and 'native' straight-walled platter (*G1-11*) in Ditch F2007 (V22) typically emerge in the early 1st century AD and continue into the Roman Conquest period, while the platter with an upright bead (*G1-9*) also in Ditch F2007 (V6) tends to develop in the mid 1st century AD. The SOB GT1 beakers appear focussed on butt beakers with decorated cordons (*G5-5*), such as that in Ditch F2057 (V20), which imitate the Terra Nigra beaker recorded in the assemblage. Cross-joining basal and lower body fragments of one such beaker were distributed between Ditches F2009 and F2032. However, the most notable beaker was a large girth beaker (*G4*), typical of the early to mid 1st century AD,

recorded as residual material in Ditch F2090 (V18), which was relatively thin-walled and very well-finished. Based on their size, the lids could have complemented the SOB GT1 bowls or platters if they were used in conjunction with one another, though the traces of soot on the interior of the bell-shaped lid (L1) in Ditch F2073 (V11) suggests that they may have complemented the ROB SH1 cooking pots or non-ceramic cooking methods, as no other SOB GT1 vessel exhibits any evidence of burning. The pedestal ‘knobs’ on the lids, such as that in Ditch F2057 (V21) would have acted as ideal handles that minimised heat conduction if the lids were used as part of a cooking set, or independently as covers that were placed over a grill or other heat source.

Thompson (1982) type	Form	Description	SOB GT1		SOB GT2		ROB SH	
			R.EVE	MNV	R.EVE	MNV	R.EVE	MNV
A/B1-2	Jar	Tall, plain everted rim, offset neck, rounded shoulder	-	-	0.1	1	-	-
B1-4	Jar	Tall-neck, bead rim, cordon with burnished line decoration	0.05	1	-	-	-	-
B3-4	Jar	Necked, neck & shoulder cordoned round jar	0.30	1	-	-	-	-
B3-5	Jar	Tall narrow-neck jar with neck cordon	0.05	1	-	-	-	-
C5-1	Jar	Channel/lid-seated rim	-	-	-	-	1.15	7
C5-2	Jar	Channel/lid-seated, cabled rim	-	-	-	-	0.45	2
C6-1	Storage Jar	Thick everted bead rim	0.55	4	-	-	0.22	2
D1-1/2-1	Bowl	Necked, slightly everted bead rim, rounded shoulder	0.30	4	-	-	-	-
?D1-1/2-1	?Bowl	Slightly everted bead rim (miscellaneous)	0.05	3	0.15	1	-	-
G1-6	Platter	Gallo-Belgic type with off-set wall	0.05	1	-	-	-	-
G1-9	Platter	Upright bead on splayed sides	0.10	1	-	-	-	-
G1-11	Platter	‘Native’ platter with straight walls	0.15	1	-	-	-	-

G4	Beaker	Girth beaker, with pronounced ridges on neck	0.25	1	-	-	-	-
G5-5	Beaker	Butt beaker with decorated cordons	0.45	2	-	-	-	-
L1	Lid	Bell-shaped	0.10	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>			2.40	22	0.25	2	1.82	11

Table 19. Quantification of form types in Belgic and related fabrics by Rim Estimated Vessel Equivalent (R.EVE) and Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV)

Cooking pots in ROB SH1 are as common as bowls in SOB GT1 (Table 19), and are entirely comprised of neckless jars with stubby lid-seated (or channel) rims, most commonly plain (C5-1) or occasionally with slashed cabling to the upright bead (C5-2). Ditch F2007 contained examples of both plain (V23 & V1) and slashed (V2 & V7) variants of this common 1st century AD vessel type, while further plain cooking pots were present in Ditches F2090 (V14), F2023 (V4), F2057 (V19) and Pit F2049. These vessels vary little in size, with rim diameters between 16-22cm and no evidence for further decoration or functional surface treatment, with fine rilling apparent on two examples likely to be a by-product of wheel-made manufacture. ROB SH1 sherds in the assemblage that are not thick-walled, and therefore probably derived from storage jars, appear to only represent this type of jar and have a very high incidence of soot adhering to surfaces, including many basal and body sherds not associated with diagnostic rim sherds. However, there is no consistent pattern of soot, suggesting a myriad of cooking techniques to satisfy varying cuisine. One jar in F2007 (V23) has soot only on the exterior of neck and under the rim and another in the same feature (V2) has soot on the interior of the lower body, while a jar in Ditch F2090 has a soot-stained exterior, suggesting differing vessel placements in or over coals, the accidental burning of food or possibly even the placement of embers in vessels to charge them with heat.

The assemblage also contains a strong component of storage jars in both SOB GT1 and ROB SH1, albeit with a seeming higher degree of fragmentation than other vessels, which may partially be attributable to their voluminous bodies but may also suggest these robust vessels were deliberately broken down for disposal. The diagnostic components of the storage jars (C6-1) are typically limited to robust everted bead or thickened rims, such as the SOB GT1 vessel in Ditch F2090 (V15), though a single ROB SH1 vessel in Posthole F2077 preserves a row of slashed decoration on the shoulder (V16). Though the storage jars are all similarly sized (rim diameters 36-40cm), it is clear that the multiple fragments in Ditches F2007 and 2090 represent several different vessels, with a further storage jar in Ditches F2005 possibly associated with those in the former deposit.

A relatively minor presence in the assemblage is SOB GT2 (Table 18), which typically appears as thinner-walled and wheel-made, contrasting with SOB GT1, and possibly reflects a naturally sandy clay source towards the Greensand ridge in central Bedfordshire, though a precise provenance remains unclear. The only diagnostic vessel comprised a jar with an everted plain rim on a slightly off-set

neck and shouldered body in Ditch F2073 (V10). The jar appears small and given its high standard of manufacture is more likely from a pedestal based urn (A), but could be from a more basic type of jar (B1-2), which are nonetheless absent in the assemblage, suggesting that either type may have had a degree of prestige.

Distribution and Conclusions on Early to Mid 1st century AD Pottery

The distribution of pottery is heavily biased towards a complex of inter-cutting and similarly aligned ditches close to the south-western edge of the site which collectively account for 80% of the assemblage by sherd count (74% by weight), with a notable concentration of pottery in Ditch F2007 (Table 20). The main ditches in the south-western area have mean sherd weights of c.13-19g and, with the exception of Ditches F2007 and F2057, contain diagnostic sherds limited to those derived from only one or two vessels. The significantly diagnostic groups in Ditches F2007 and F2057 appear to be relatively late, if not final, in the stratigraphic sequence and retain a high mean sherd weight and a common incidence of cross-joining sherds relative to the other ditches, suggesting that they contain primary deposits of artefactual material discarded from activity in the immediate vicinity, rather than re-deposited sherds accumulated from the re-cutting or scouring of previous ditches. Thus, these two groups in particular form key components in defining the chronology and function of the site.

Feature/Group	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE	Mean sherd weight (g)
<i>Complex of ditches in south-western area of site</i>				
Ditch F2007	307	5552	1.72	18.1
Ditch F2057	85	1351	0.75	15.9
Ditch F2032	69	942	0.10	13.7
Ditch F2027	59	1087	0.05	18.4
Ditch F2025	43	547	0.10	12.7
Ditch F2005	33	1514	0.15	45.9
Ditch F2037	31	583	0	18.8
Ditch F2052	29	427	0.10	14.7
Ditch F2023	23	362	0.35	15.7
Other features in SW area (11 features)	116	2658	0.10	22.9
<i>Feature in central/northern area of site</i>	45	1730	0.65	38.4
<i>Medieval & post-medieval features</i>	139	3211	1.00	23.1
<i>Un-stratified</i>	14	439	0	31.4
Total	993	20403	5.07	20.5

Table 20. Distribution of early-middle 1st century AD pottery

Ditch F2007 contained pottery in five fills, though particularly high quantities were recovered from L2014 and L2015, with the overall group broadly reflecting the make-up of the assemblage, being dominated by SOB GT1 and ROB SH1, with limited quantities of SOB GT1, UNS OX1 and the Gallo-Belgic imports of GAB TN1 and NOG WH1. The Terra Nigra (GAB TN1) in L2048 provides an important chronological marker as it comprises a butt beaker (V8) of Augustan-Tiberian date (c.63BC-AD37) which, combined with the presence of SOB GT1 platters, (V22 &

V6) in L2014 and L4048 respectively, that do not develop until the 1st century AD, indicates that the group was deposited in the pre-Roman Conquest early 1st century AD. The SOB GT1 vessels in the group are dominated by utilitarian necked bowls, supplemented by single examples of a narrow-neck jar and storage jar but the group is more notable for the presence of significant portions and cross-joining fragments from several ROB SH1 jars with lid-seated channel rims, including in L2014 (V23), L2015 (V1 & V2) and L2048 (V7). Though clearly distinct, separate vessels, these jars are similarly sized and commonly exhibit soot patterns, varying from on the exterior of the neck and under the rim to on the interior of the lower body, appearing to indicate that they were utilised as cooking pots, albeit employed for different techniques in or over coals, or in ovens heated using embers. The combinations of fine imported table wares, burnished SOB GT1 bowls, ROB SH1 cooking pots, as well as occasional storage jars strongly supports that this group represents domestic detritus resulting from occupation in the immediate vicinity, and probably represents a specific episode or short-duration phase of disposal, contrasting with perhaps the lower intensity accumulation of waste in most of the related ditches.

The group of vessels contained in Ditch F2057 was recovered from a single fill and, while composed of a similar range of fabrics, exhibits a more diverse range of form types within a limited sample. The presence of a Terra Rubra (GAB TR1C) cup (V13) associated with a SOB GT1 platter (V12) in L2058 Seg.B appears to confirm an early 1st century AD date for the group, contemporary with that in Ditch F2007. Present elsewhere in L2058 were butt beakers in UNS OX1 and SOB GT1 (V20), a pedestal 'knob' from a SOB GT1 lid (V21), as well as a ROB SH1 lid-seated cooking pot (V19) consistent with the types common in Ditch F2007. The limited diagnostic sherds in the remaining ditches close to the south-western edge of the site are broadly consistent with the range of types recorded in Ditches F2007 and F2057, with UNS OX1 beakers in Ditches F2023 and F2025 particularly indicative of a comparable pre-Roman Conquest date. It is notable that Ditch F2007 cuts Ditch F2009, its probable precursor, and that this in turn cuts Ditch F2032 with both of these earlier ditches containing relatively low quantities of contemporary pottery, including cross-joining sherds from a single SOB GT1 butt beaker. Similarly Ditch F2057 truncates parts of Ditches F2023 and F2025, which contain relatively low quantities of comparable pottery (Table 20), supporting the theory that the rate of deposition of pottery, probably through rubbish disposal, was not consistent but was characterised by the clearing of low quantities of material, possibly from working or occupation areas into adjacent areas, followed by a specific episode of dumping into two open ditches, potentially resulting from the abandonment or redevelopment of the site but with occupation spanning a short duration in the early 1st century AD.

Thus, even for a short duration the occupants of this site appear to have consumed modest quantities of pottery with a focus on shell-tempered, lid-seated cooking pots, a diverse range of 'Belgic' grog-tempered utilitarian wares encompassing bowls, jars, beakers, platters and lids and had sufficient resources to access Gallo-Belgic fine wares imported from lowland Europe. This pattern of consumption appears broadly consistent with that from the late Iron Age groups recorded on the Great Barford Bypass (Webley 2009, 234) and the 1st century AD phase of occupation at the settlement at Sandy c.5km to the south-east (Johnston

1974, 48-50), albeit in comparison to both this assemblage may demonstrate a greater demand or dependency on Belgic pottery as opposed to local hand-made wares, while also contrasting by not continuing into the Roman period. The suite of Belgic vessels, in particular the shell-tempered, lid seated cooking pots, is even more closely mirrored in Phases 3-4 (Conquest Period, c.AD40-100) at East Stagsden c.14km to the west (Slowikowski 2000, 71-3), in Period II ('Belgic' Iron Age/early Roman) at Haynes Park, c.10km to the south (Wells 2004, 84-5), and in Phase 4 (c.100BC-AD60) at Little Paxton, c.11km to the north-east (Hancocks 2011, 111), where all assemblages are complemented by successive phases that demonstrate the longevity of Belgic pottery into the early 2nd century alongside Romanised form and fabric types, absent in this assemblage, supporting a pre-Conquest chronology in the early 1st century AD. The Belgic pottery, supplemented by Gallo-Belgic fine wares is also closely comparable to the group from Phase 1 at Newnham c.7km to the west (Ingham *et al* 2016, 16), where occupation is established by the early 1st century AD. At Newnham, the pre-Conquest pottery cannot be reliably distinguished from that which continues into the early 2nd century AD, but collectively these sites demonstrate that there was a significant market for grog-tempered Belgic pottery at the north-western extent of its distribution in south-east England, and that occupation at Great Barford, however short-lived in the early 1st century AD, was supported by a flourishing pre-Roman economy, that was probably supported by the relative proximity and transport connections to centres such as Baldock and Milton Keynes.

Late Roman Pottery

The pottery in Posthole F2077, in the north-western area of the site, included a single sherd (37g) of late Roman mortaria, produced by the major industry at Oxford (OXF WS (M)). The mortar has a tall upright bead above a slightly drooping flange (Young 2000: type WC5.1), but the fragment is of insufficient depth to preserve any trituration grits or evidence of wear. This type of mortar was a commonly-traded specialist product throughout the region in the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD, although it remains unclear if its presence in association with Belgic pottery is intrusive.

The Medieval Pottery With Peter Thompson

Ditch F2090 contained 11 sherds (105g) of medieval pottery, distributed in three contexts in association with more common early 1st C AD sherds. The medieval sherds comprised locally produced, un-glazed coarse wares, including two sherds (12g) of MCW2 in L2091, with 9 sherds (93g) of MCW1 in L2091, L2091 Seg.B and L2096. The MCW1 in L2091 included the simple out-turned rim of a jar, while the MCW1 in L2096 included the flat base from a similar vessel. These fabric and form types, probably representing cooking pots, indicate a date in the 12th-13th centuries.

Low quantities of abraded post-medieval glazed red earthen wares (Table 17) were also recovered from Ditch F2099, in the eastern area of the site.

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11.3 The Fired Clay objects

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 20 fragments (740g) from fired clay objects, entirely derived from mid 1st century AD fire bars, used as supports in ovens or kilns. These objects occurred in a pale orange fabric that had been baked or fired at a low temperature. The fabric was manufactured from relatively crudely processed clay, with inclusions of common quartz (<0.5mm), red iron rich grains and chalk (generally <2mm, occasionally larger).

Sixteen cross-joining fragments (501g) from a single fire bar were contained in Ditch F2057 (L2058), while single fragments preserving parts of surfaces/edges were recovered from Ditches F2007, F2090 and F2099. The fire bar from Ditch F2057 was cigar-shaped with a roughly square section, c.70mm thick at the centre, tapering to c.55mm at the ends, though the complete length could not be re-constructed. The bar appears to have been knife-trimmed with roughly smoothed faces and slightly rounded edges. Fire Bars such as this were a common component of 1st century AD and Roman ovens and hearths in the region, including at the kilns at Stagsden (Gentil with Slowikowski 2000, 87-88) and settlement at Newnham (Slowikowski 2016, 4).

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11.4 The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 15 fragments (2920g) of late post-medieval and early modern CBM, largely as un-stratified material from the topsoil, but including isolated fragments of peg tile contained in a pit and gully (Table 21).

CBM type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Peg tile (late post-medieval+)	2	161
Red brick (19-20 th C)	8	1798
Sewer pipe (19-20 th C)	5	961
Total	15	2920

Table 21. Quantification of CBM

The fragments of peg tile, contained in Pit F1008 and Gully F1023, were manufactured in a highly fired red fabric with inclusions of common-abundant quartz (<0.25mm), sparse red iron-rich grains and flint (0.5-8mm). The fabric was fired at such a high temperature it as nearly fused and vitrified. The small fragments of peg tile were 12-14mm thick with a sanded base, but were of insufficient size to preserve any other diagnostic dimensions or technological traits.

Topsoil L1000 contained several abraded fragments of soft red brick and salt-glazed white earthen ware pipe; the former sand-tempered with a thickness of 68-70mm, and the latter comprising sewer pipe, with both comprising common components of construction from the 19th century to the Victorian period onwards.

11.5 Small Finds

Rebecca Sillwood

A penannular brooch (SF1) was recovered from ditch F2009, fill L2031. The piece weighs 2g, and is slightly oval, rather than perfectly circular, measuring between 25-27mm in diameter. The pin is missing. The piece is circular sectioned and ends in coiled terminals.

This type of penannular brooch can be placed into Booth's type C (2014, 116) which is said to be a type confined to the south-west and east of England, with few outliers. The C-type brooch tends to be found in Roman towns with military origins, but very few from exclusively military sites, and on more rural settlements in lesser numbers. The single coil undecorated examples are the most numerous recorded, and the Great Barford example falls into this category. Booth suggests that this type of brooch spanned the 1st and early 2nd century AD, with Late Iron Age origins.

It seems most likely, given that this example from Great Barford was recovered alongside pottery of Late Iron Age date, that this piece dates to around the time of the Conquest.

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11.6 The Animal Bone

Julie Curl

Methodology

The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). All of the bone was examined to determine range of

species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were taken where appropriate following Von Den Driesch, 1976. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'. The results were input into an Excel database for quantification and analysis. A summary catalogue and a table of measurements is included with this report and a full catalogue (with additional counts) of the faunal remains is available in the digital archive.

The bone assemblage

Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 4,757g of animal bone, consisting of 369 elements, was recovered from this site. The bone was recovered from twenty-eight fills in twenty-five features. Most of the bone-producing fills are from ditches, with some from pit fills, lesser amounts were seen in a posthole, topsoil, subsoil and an occupational level. Most remains were recovered with artefacts of a late Iron Age to Roman date range, with a small quantity from a medieval ditch deposit. Quantification of the assemblage by period, feature type and weight is in Table 22 and by element count in Table 23.

Feature Type	Period and weight in grams				Feature Total
	LIA/EROM	Medieval	Roman	Undated	
Ditch	3606	124	241	19	3990
Ditch Terminus			1		1
Occupational level	60				60
Pit	176		7		183
Posthole			8		8
Subsoil			391		391
Topsoil	124				124
Total by Period	3966	124	648	19	4757

Table 22. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by period, feature type and weight in grams

The assemblage is generally in good condition, although a lot of fragmentation has occurred from butchering.

Fourteen deposits contained a small amount of burnt bone. Nine pieces of black to grey colour cattle and sheep/goat bone was seen in the medieval ditch F1090, fill L2096. Three pieces of blackened pig/boar and sheep/goat bone were found in the LIA/EROM pit F2049, fill L2050. The LIA/EROM ditch F2032, fill L2033 produced two pieces of charred sheep/goat.

Feature Type	Period and count of elements				Feature Total
	LIA/EROM	Medieval	Roman	Undated	
Ditch	239	19	38	1	297
Ditch Terminus			1		1
Occupational level	13				13
Pit	19		1		20
Posthole			1		1
Subsoil			25		25
Topsoil	12				12
Total by period	283	19	66	1	369

Table 23. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by period, feature type and count

Canid gnawing was seen on cattle and sheep/goat remains in the LIA/EROM ditch 2121C, fill 2044B. These remains are possibly scavenger activity around dumped meat waste or remains of meat bones given to a domestic or working dog.

Butchering and modified bone

Cut marks were noted on a mandible and on lower leg and foot bones from the skinning process. Heavy chops were seen on many main meat-bearing bones from dismemberment and division of the carcass into joints of meat. Fine knife cuts and scrapes were seen meat bones from removal of the flesh.

Knife cuts were seen on the proximal half of a large pony tibia from Roman ditch fill 2042, which suggest skinning and possible meat use. Similar knife cuts were seen on a pony tibia from the Aylsham Roman Project (Curl 2017), where there were cuts on the lower tibia from skinning.

Bird bone in this assemblage showed no butchering. However, birds are often cooked whole and once cooked, meat comes away from the bone easily with minimal butchering, often leaving no marks.

Species range and modifications and other observations

Seven species were identified in this assemblage, with quantification by feature type, species and NISP in Table 24.

The assemblage is dominated by the main food mammals: cattle, sheep/goat and pig/boar. There are smaller amounts of equid, dog/wolf, one domestic bird and one wild species of bird.

Just over 68% of the assemblage was too fragmented and lacking in diagnostic zones to allow identification to species level and this is recorded under 'mammal'.

Feature Type	Species and NISP								Feature Totals
	Bird - ?Egret	Bird - Fowl	Cattle	Dog/wolf	Equid	Mammal	Pig/boar	Sheep/goat †	
Ditch		1	26	3	1	201	8	57	297
Ditch Terminus						1			1
Occupational level			5			8			13
Pit						17	1	2	20
Posthole						1			1
Subsoil			6			18		1	25
Topsoil	1		1		1	6	1	2	12
Species Totals	1	1	38	3	2	252	10	62	369

Table 24. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature type, species and NISP

Twenty deposits yielded the remains of sheep/goat. Of these most are from sheep, although one goat metacarpal was recorded from the subsoil L2001. The ovicaprid remains produced just over half from adults and just under half from juveniles, suggesting breeding and culling young for milking the mothers and for meat. There was a greater proportion of primary waste from this group, although several main meat-bearing bones were recorded. Metapodials were seen, from both adults and juveniles, sheep and goat, which show small knife cuts from skinning. One pathology was seen, with a sheep mandible from ditch F2005, fill L2006D, which has a missing premolar 4 and molar 1, infection and healing over the lost teeth.

Cattle were recovered from fourteen deposits and, in terms of NISP, was the second most frequent species. The medieval ditch F2090, fill F2098, produced a burnt cuboid from an adult cow. The remaining cattle bone was found in LIA/Roman deposits. Most of the elements of cattle recovered were from adults, with a few juvenile bones present. A range of elements were recorded, including meat waste bones, with a higher number of primary waste remains. Butchering was seen on many of the cattle remains, including cuts on the rear of one mandible from skinning.

Pig/boar remains were recorded from seven deposits, all of a LIA/Roman date range. The bulk of the porcine bones were from juveniles, with just three adult bones from the ditch F2005, fill L2006D. Most of the pig/boar remains are probably from meat waste, with just a jaw fragment and tooth in the ditch F2090, fill L2091, although the head can provide some meat. One pig/boar phalange from the pit F2049, fill L2050, had been charred black, which may have occurred if the animal was cooked whole and the extremities may have suffered more burning.

The equid bone was found in two fills. A lower molar was recovered from the topsoil L2000. A complete equid tibia was seen in the ditch F2005C, fill L2042, dating to the L1BC – M1AD. The metrical data from the equid tibia indicates a pony of approximately 13.5 hands high. The rear of the pony tibia showed extensive muscle attachments, suggesting a working horse used for riding or traction. Knife cuts were seen on the proximal half of the pony tibia from the

Roman ditch fill L2042, which suggest skinning and possible meat use. Butchering of equid remains has been seen at many other Roman sites, including at Mildenhall (Curl 2013) and Lakenheath (Curl 2014). Similar knife cuts were seen on a similar sized pony tibia from the Aylsham Roman Project (Curl 2017), where there were cuts on the lower tibia from skinning, the Aylsham pony also showed extensive muscle attachments, perhaps suggesting that old working animals might be used for skins and perhaps meat once past their use for working.

Dog/wolf was represented by two pieces of a left mandible and an isolated molar. This canid mandible is robust. The P2 is broken and missing and there is some infection below this tooth. The M2 and M3 have been lost and their sockets have healed over. The remaining teeth are present and in reasonable condition, suggesting that the animal was not that aged, despite missing teeth. Missing mandible teeth were noted on two dog mandibles from a similarly young Roman dog from Aylsham (Curl 2017), where premolars were lost on both the left and right sides and the bone had healed over. Similar tooth loss was seen on the largest (a probable Mastiff) of the fighting dogs from St Mary's Hospital Roman site in Colchester (Curl 2008). Tooth loss can occur when teeth are broken from a rough diet of bones and coarse food and they become infected, however, this is not the case with the great Barford Roman canid or Aylsham Roman dog as there is relatively little wear on the remaining teeth. Modern terrier breeds are known to fight and 'lock jaws', which might result in damage to teeth, which might suggest that the Great Barford canid, if not kept for fighting, might have occasionally got into fights with other animals.

Bird remains were seen in two deposits. A fowl (Chicken/pheasant) ulna was found in the Roman ditch F2027, fill L2028. The topsoil L2000 produced a femur of a probable Egret; the bone compares well with that of Little Egret, but another small heron species remains a possibility.

Conclusions

The bulk of the assemblage from this site consists of primary and secondary butchering and food waste. Both the cattle and sheep/goat had more primary butchering waste present, suggesting skinning and initial processing waste dumped at this site. Several main meat-bearing bones are present from both cattle and sheep/goat, as well as from pig/boar, indicating that the dumping areas were filled from different sources, with a slightly greater number of primary waste bones.

The majority of the assemblage is derived from the main meat species, with the fowl probably supplying eggs as well. The only wild species is Egret and there is no butchering present, although it may have been used for food. The Egret is largely a species of southern Europe that has been an occasional visitor, in warmer phases, it breeds in Britain. The Egret usually resides on marshland and larger bodies of water where it seeks out small fish and herpetofauna. The Egret in this assemblage may be from the natural death of a visiting bird or possibly used for meat.

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Plates



Plate 1. Equid tibia from the ditch 2005C, fill 2042 with knife cuts arrowed.



Plate 2. Detail of equid tibia from the ditch 2005C, fill 2042 with knife cuts arrowed.

Catalogue of the animal bone recovered from AS1845. 126, High Street, Great Barford, Bedfordshire.
Listed in context order.

A full catalogue (with additional counts) is available as an Excel file .

Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Ad = Adult

Juv = Juvenile

Meas = Measurable bone following Von Den Driesch, 1976

Count = Countable following Davis, 1992

Ch = chopped

C = cut

Cxt	Seg	FNo	Cxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	Neo	Element range	Meas	Count	Ch	C	Comments	
2000		2000	12	124	Cattle	1	1			talus	1	1			small talus	
2000		2000			Equid	1	1			tooth					lower molar	
2000		2000			Sheep/goat	2	2			MT, ulna			2	1	slight canid/mustelid gnawing at distal end of MT	
2000		2000			Pig/boar	1		1		pel			1	1		
2000		2000			Bird - ?Egret	1	1			femur	1	1			femur, crane characteristics but smaller, ?Little Egret/Cattle Egret - needs ID check	
2000		2000			Mammal	6										
2001		2001	25	391	Cattle	6	2	4		mandibles, teeth	2	2	2	2	1 with Dp4 in full wear and M2 nfe, 1 with M3 in full wear	
2001		2001			Sheep/goat	1	1			metacarpal				1	robust metacarpal, cut at proximal end - GOAT	
2001		2001			Mammal	18										
2006	D	2005	50	595	Cattle	11	11			mand frags, 6 t			1	4	2	5 mandible frags, chopped and heavy cut on condyle, isolated lower molars and premolars, young adult
2006	D	2005			Sheep/goat	10	10			2 mt, hu, scap, 2 t, mand, ul			2	5	4	small slender breed, skinned, mandible infection/healing over lost teeth
2006	D	2005			Pig/boar	3	3			scap, ulna, pel	1	2	3	1		
2006	D	2005			Dog/wolf	3	3			mandible (2 pieces), tooth	1	1			1	large robust mandible,

																			P2 broken and infection below, M2 and M3 lost and jaw healed over
2006	D	2005			Mammal	23													fragments of med-large mammal
2008		2007	21	292	Cattle	2	2			ul, t									tibia shaft, upper molar
2008		2007			Sheep/goat	3	2			mand, pel		1	2	1	1				mandible with ME in low wear, 2 pelvic fragments
2008		2007			Mammal	16													
2014		2007B	24	190	Sheep/goat	4		4		mand, tib, mc, t		1	2	2	1				slender small breed, P4 in low wear, sub-adult
2014		2007B			Pig/boar	1		1		talus					1				
2014		2007B			Mammal	19													
2015		2007B	19	121	Cattle	1	1						1						carpal
2015		2007B			Sheep/goat	3		3		mandible, tibia, t				1	1				delicate tibia, small mandible
2015		2007B			Pig/boar	1		1		tibia				1	1				distal tibia, robust, flv, some wear of edges
2015		2007B			Mammal	14													
2024		2023	4	16	Sheep/goat	1	1			mt									
2024		2023			Mammal	3													
2024		2023	4		Sheep/goat	1	1			tibia				1	1				tibia
2024		2023			Mammal	3													
2024	B	2023	1	7	Mammal	1													
2028		2027	8	35	Cattle	1	1			scap				1	1				incomplete articular end
2028		2027			Sheep/goat	1	1			humerus				1	1				distal humerus
2028		2027			Bird - Fowl	1	1			ulna				1					distal ulna
2028		2027			Mammal	5													
2029		2025	1	21	Cattle	1		1		vert									thoracic vert
2029	B	2025	4	14	Sheep/goat	2	2			mt, radius									
2029	B	2025			Mammal	2													
2033		2032	5	931	Cattle	1		1		hu									unfused proximal end of humerus
2033		2032			Sheep/goat	1		1		mc					1				proximal metacarpal
2033		2032			Mammal	3													
2033		2032	2	3	Sheep/goat	1	1			pph									proximal phalanx, sheep
2033		2032			Mammal	1													
2033		2032	16		Cattle	1	1			radius		1	1	1					distal radius
2033		2032			Sheep/goat	7		7		tb, mand, hu, t		1	3	2	1				slender tibia, small humerus,

2033		2032			Mammal	8												Dp4 at TWSL, tibia with light gnawing at proximal end
2034		2037	9	573	Sheep/goat	2		2	tib, t									tibia, lower molar
2034		2037			Mammal	7												
2036		2035	1	54	Mammal	1			rib frag									1 4cm section of large mammal rib with 3 clear heavy cuts on one side
2039		2009B	1	15	Sheep/goat	1	1		MC									1 metacarpal, quite robust, heavily cut at proximal rear
2042	C	2005C	4	292	Equid	1	1		tibia				1	1				1 tibia of animal of approx 13.5HH, cuts on shaft from skinning
2042	C	2005C			Pig/boar	1		1	mand									
2042	C	2005C			Mammal	2												
2044	B	2121C	10	98	Cattle	1	1		mt									1 proximal MT, some gnawing around end
2044	B	2121C			Sheep/goat	1	1		t									1 lower molar
2044	B	2121C			Mammal	8												
2047		2007C	6	66	Cattle	1		1	upper jaw									
2047		2007C			Sheep/goat	1		1	tibia									1 tibia
2047		2007C			Mammal	4												
2047	C	2007C	22	144	Cattle	1		1	t									1 lower molar
2047	C	2007C			Sheep/goat	2		2	horncore, humerus					1				1 sheep horncorebase
2047	C	2007C			Mammal	19												
2047	D	2007C	7	38	Mammal	7												
2048		2007C	14	61	Sheep/goat	4	1	3	2 hu (a + j), MT (2 pieces)									2 2 hu (a + j), MT (2 pieces)
2048		2007C			Mammal	10												
2050		2049	1	2	Pig/boar	1		1	phalange									1 completely charred black
2050		2049	6	36	Sheep/goat	1	1		mc									1 small slender MC
2050		2049			Mammal	5												
2056		2055	10	70	Mammal	10												
2058		2057	22	136	Sheep/goat	6	6		tib, mand, mt, t									2 2 1
2058		2057			Mammal	16												
2058	B	2057	2	16	Mammal	2												
2078		2077	1	8	Mammal	1												
2080		2079	13	60	Cattle	5	5		scap, ribs									3 2

Cbt	Taxa	Tooth No	Eruption	TWS	Comments
2001	Bos	Dp4	e	k-l	left
2001	Bos	M1	e	h	left
2001	Bos	M2	nfe	d	left
2001	Bos	M1	e	j-k	right
2001	Bos	M2	e	j	right
2001	Bos	M3	e	g	right
2008	s/g	P4	e	h	left
2008	s/g	M1	e	f-g	left
2008	s/g	M2	e	f-g	left
2008	s/g	M3	e	c-d	left
2096	s/g	P4	e	k	left
2096	s/g	M1	e	j	left
2096	s/g	M2	e	g	left
2096	s/g	M3	e	e-f	left

Table 27. Tooth record following Hillson (1992)

11.7 The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During excavations at Great Barford, Bedfordshire, thirteen bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological analysis were taken and processed. The sampled features largely dated to the late Iron Age. This report presents the results from the analysis of carbonised plant macrofossils from the bulk sample light fractions, including any insights that can be gained into the economy of the site.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were sorted under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 28. Carbonised plant macrofossils were rather sparse in the sampled deposits, being represented by a handful of largely unidentifiable cereal grains. Wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) were identified in late Iron Age occupation layer L2080 and late Iron Age ditch fill L2091 (F2090). Both barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat were identified in undated pit fill L2076 (F2075). Other remains included charcoal and shells of terrestrial molluscs but these were present in very low concentrations; too low to merit further investigation or comment.

Conclusions

The low concentration of carbonised plant material from sampled features at Great Barford suggests that there was little activity involving the use and processing of cereals in the vicinity of the excavated features and that hearth ash was not being regularly deposited. There is good evidence of domestic activity at the site based on the evidence of pottery deposition (Peachey, 11.2) but the evidence from the bulk samples is only for scattered carbonised debris rather than discrete deposits. Excavations to the north of the present site also produced few carbonised plant macrofossils (Albion Archaeology 2005, 31).

Although an absence of evidence is not a reliable way to determine a site's economic basis, this pattern is of interest. Although the site is located on free-draining soils, the surrounding area is dominated by loamy and clay-rich soils with impeded drainage (Soilscapes 2017). This would have been poorly suited to Iron Age cultivation methods and it is possible that this area was dominated by a more pastoral economy. An economic interpretation of the Roman occupation at Newnham, which occupied a similar location, considered the site to have had a greater emphasis on animal husbandry than arable cultivation (Ingham *et al.* 2016, 63). The balance of pastoral and arable production in this area and between different parts of the region is something which would benefit from further detailed research.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				Other remains		
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Hazelnut shell	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insect	Earthworm capsules	Other remains
AS1845	1	2006B	2005	Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	20	20	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	
AS1845	2	2012	2011	Fill of Pit	-	20	20	100%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	
AS1845	3	2024	2023	Fill of Ditch	1st AD-Early 2nd C	20	20	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	
AS1845	4	2028	2027	Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late1st C AD	20	20	100%	-	-	NFI (2)	-	-	-	-	X	-	<i>Pupilla muscorum, Trichia hispida</i>	X	XX	X	-	X	Root/tuber (1)
AS1845	5	2050	2049	Fill of Pit	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	
AS1845	6	2056	2055	Fill of Pit	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	20	20	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	XX	X	-	-	-	-	
AS1845	7	2078	2077	Fill of Posthole	Mid 3-4th C AD (1 sherd), otherwise Late1 BC-Mid 1 AD	20	20	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
AS1845	8	2080	2079	Occupation Layer	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	20	10	50%	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	-	X	-	<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-
AS1845	9	2047C	2007	Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	20	20	100%	X	-	NFI (2)	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	X	X	-	-	-

AS1845	10	2091	2090	Fill of Ditch	Early-Mid 1st C AD	20	20	100%	X	-	Trit (2), NFI (4)	X	Small Poaceae (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
					11-13th C (7 sherds, otherwise Mid- Late 1st C AD)																				
AS1845	11	2096	2090	Fill of Ditch	Late 1st C AD	20	20	100%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	XX	X	X	-	-	-
AS1845	12	2102	2101	Fill of Pit	Late 1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	20	20	100%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	XX	X	-	-	-
AS1845	13	2076	2075	Fill of Pit	-	20	20	100%	X	-	Hord (3), Trit (2), NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	XX	X	X	-	-	-

Table 28. Results from the bulk sample light fractions from Great Barford. Abbreviations: Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

12 DISCUSSION

It was observed during excavation that the site had been subject to extensive modern disturbance in its eastern parts due to the building that had formerly occupied this part of the excavated area. Nonetheless, archaeology was recorded across the excavated area, including in the eastern part of the site.

The earliest and most prominent archaeology recorded during the excavation dates from the late pre-Roman Iron Age (Phases 1 & 2). Most of the archaeology from these phases consisted of the two main ditch complexes present in the south-western part of the excavated area although some discrete features of similar date were present elsewhere within the site.

The Phase 1 and 2 ditches have been interpreted as boundary ditches associated with a settlement in the near vicinity and are suggested to have had a secondary function as water draining channels, which would explain the multiple re-cuts in the same locations which would have been required as the ditches silted up. The finds assemblages from these ditches are suggestive of the presence of domestic activity within their proximity this supports the suggestion that the excavated area was situated on the periphery of a settlement.

Certain deposits of pottery in ditches dated to Phase 2 suggest that there was a specific episode or short duration phase of deposition of ceramic material into these features, as opposed to the earlier ditches which had lower accumulations of such material. It is possible that this relates to some kind of redevelopment or abandonment of the site in the mid 1st century AD. It is possible that this represents social upheaval related to the invasion of AD43 but could equally represent something as simple and mundane as the gathering together of a large quantity of refuse material to fill in a set of ditches that were no longer required.

Certain elements of the finds assemblages are particularly interesting. The presence of dog bone within the animal bone assemblage provides information regarding domestic animals beyond those kept for food. The evidence for butchery on an equid bone is also of interest. In much of the Roman world the consumption of horse meat was considered taboo, although it may have been eaten in some rural communities (Groot 2008, 19), but, based on the evidence from several sites, appears to have been acceptable in the Iron Age (Albarella 1997; Grimm n.d.).

Cropmarks (BHER MBB21733) recorded in the field to the west and north-west of the excavated area include a ring ditch, a large rectangular enclosure and two sets of 'ladder' enclosures arranged on different alignments. These are very similar in form to the late Iron Age/early Roman system of enclosures recorded by AS at Dernford Farm, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (Newton 2012). This perhaps indicates that these cropmarks represent activity contemporary with the features recorded during the excavation. The position alignment of at least one of the linear cropmarks recorded in this area would appear to suggest a spatial relationship with the recorded features.

The identification of a single sherd of late Roman pottery indicates that some activity of this date occurred in the vicinity. It is possible that domestic occupation

continued in the immediate vicinity but outside of this area beyond the dates indicated by the bulk of the pottery assemblage and that this single sherd and the features from which it was recovered is all that represents this activity within the excavated area. This late pottery was recovered from posthole F2077. F2077 formed a group with gully F2073 and posthole F2075. The arrangement of these features, with the two postholes placed cutting either end of the gully might be considered to represent some kind of structural configuration.

In addition to the late Iron Age activity, Ditch F2090 represents medieval activity in the area. It is possible that this represents a boundary ditch. Post-medieval activity was represented by ditch F2099, the function of which is unclear.

PART II. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

13 UPDATE OF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

The original academic aims and objectives of the project are presented in Section 2 of this report (above).

Following the completion of fieldwork, these aims remain valid. The original aims and objectives are incorporated into, and expanded upon, by the Updated Aims and Objectives set out in Section 14, below. These are derived from the assessments of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence from the site, presented in Part I of this document. They have been developed with the updated regional research framework for Eastern England (Medlycott 2011) and the research framework for Bedfordshire (Oake *et al* 2007). The suggested bibliography, comprising material for comparison and reference, is presented in Section 15.

14 UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

Dating and Phasing

Research Objectives

Re-examination of the dating evidence

- Initial spot-dating suggested that some features within the early ditch complexes were of 1st century BC date. Subsequent analysis of the pottery suggests that it was all of 1st century AD date, essentially negating the clear chronological differences between Phase 1 and 2.
 - This means that a re-examination of the stratigraphic evidence will be required to determine if there is still a clear basis for two phases of activity within the late Iron Age activity.
 - If there is no artefactual basis for two clear phases in the late Iron Age a chronological model of the development of the ditches will be developed based on the stratigraphic evidence.

- Pottery analysis indicates the presence of a single late Roman sherd of pottery. Some consideration must be given to whether this artefact was intrusive, has been misidentified, or is indicative of the true date of the feature from which it was recovered. If it is the case that it does represent the true date of the feature from which it was recovered, this might suggest that the stratigraphically related features were also of this date and so represent a possible structure of late Roman date.

The function of the late Iron Age ditches

Research Objectives

To examine the possible functions of the ditches originating in the late Iron Age

- Initial interpretations suggest that these ditches may have served as boundaries.
 - Comparison with boundary ditches, in terms of dimensions and form, at other sites will assist in determining whether such an interpretation is might be considered reasonable.
 - Sites such as Dernford Farm, Cambs (Newton 2012), Fordham Road, Soham Cambs (Newton & Quinn 2015) display contemporary or similar ditch systems.
 - Thomas (1997), Hingley (1990), Collis (1996), Cunliffe (2005), Henderson (2007) provide synthetic commentary relating to boundaries and enclosures in the Iron Age.
- It has been speculated that these ditches had a drainage function and that the regular re-cutting of ditches in this location is the result of the features becoming clogged with material carried by the water draining through them.
 - Assessment of this function will require examination of their character of their fills to assess whether these could have been the result of alluvial deposition.
 - The character and size of the finds assemblages in each of these ditches might provide information regarding the life-course of each of these features; the deposition of refuse material is likely to have impeded their function as drains.
 - The patterns of deposition, and specifically the 'specific episode or short duration phase of deposition of ceramic material' into the later ditches as opposed to the slower accumulation of material in the stratigraphically earlier ditches has the potential to indicate the way in which ditches were used and closed.
 - The topography of the site and the immediately surrounding area must be examined to determine how effective as drains these ditches might have been.
 - Comparison with broadly contemporary sites where drainage is known to have been an issue will contribute to an understanding of how drainage ditches may have functioned e.g. Haddenham V

(Evans and Hodder 2006) and Blackhorse Farm, Sawtry, Cambs (Newton 2008).

The late Iron Age archaeology recorded at 126 High Street, Great Barford in the context of known archaeology of the surrounding area.

To understand the distribution of Iron Age archaeology in the immediately surrounding area

- A very limited amount of Iron Age archaeology has been recorded in the surrounding area but plotting its location and date (i.e. early, middle, or late Iron Age) has the potential to provide information regarding the organisation and development of the local Iron Age landscape.

To understand the distribution of Roman archaeology in the immediately surrounding area

- Similarly, little Roman archaeology has been recorded in the surrounding area. However, there is a concentration of Roman activity along the route of the Roman road from Sandy to Sharnbrook (although this appears to be mainly conjectural) which runs on a north-west to south-east alignment c.300m to the north-east of the site. As a late Iron Age site, there may be a direct relationship or direct continuity from this site to the Roman archaeology recorded to the north-east.
 - This may be examined through comparison of the artefactual material recovered from these locations and/or an examination of the spatial relationships between the two locations

To examine the relationship between the recorded archaeology and the cropmark complex to the west and north-west

- Plotting the alignments of features within the cropmark complex against the alignments of features recorded within the excavation site might indicate whether or not they potentially form part of the same system of land enclosure and therefore can inform on their contemporaneity.
 - This, in turn, will provide information regarding the character of the settlement through comparison of the form and layout of the cropmark complex with other sites of late Iron Age date such as Dernford Farm, Cambs (Newton 2012), Fordham Road, Soham Cambs (Newton & Quinn 2015), Biddenham Loop (Luke 2008).
 - Understanding this relationship will be significant as Oake *et al* (2007, 11) indicate that little characterisation of rural settlements of this period has been carried out in Bedfordshire and that related issues, such as settlement patterns, are important but currently poorly understood. The current site, therefore, has the potential to contribute information towards developing the available corpus of information for this subject. Medlycott (2011, 31) goes further,

indicating that settlement density, zonation and dynamics require further study. In particular, the role and function of late Iron Age settlement complexes is considered to an important area of research (Medlycott 2011, 31) to which this site might contribute.

To compare the recorded archaeology and the possible settlement indicated by the nearby cropmarks within the wider area

- Iron Age and Roman archaeology has been recorded to the north and north-west of Great Barford along the route of the A421 Great Barford Bypass (Timby 2007). Comparison of the sites recorded in this area with the archaeology at the current site has the potential to reveal links and associations and to contribute to a more holistic picture of Iron Age settlement in this area.

The late Iron Age economy

Research Objectives

Examination of the artefactual and environmental evidence for indicators regarding economic activity

- The composition of the pottery assemblage can provide information regarding relative levels of wealth and regional and extra-regional trade connections.
- The animal bone assemblage provides information relating to the pastoral agriculture practices and food procurement strategies carried out by the inhabitants of the Iron Age site.
 - Comparison with the archaeobotanical assemblage, which may indicate a lack of arable agriculture in the area, might indicate to what extent pastoralism formed the basis of the local Iron Age economy.
 - The presence of other species in the assemblage has the potential to indicate how 'non-traditional food species' may have been utilised for economic gain (e.g. the butchered equid bone- discussion will be influenced by e.g. Groot (2008), Albarella (1997), Grimm (n.d). The presence of dog bone may reveal information about the role of dogs in Iron Age society – this will draw on work by e.g. Morey (2006), Grimm (2007), Snyder and Moore (2006), Chilardi (2006), Morris (2011).

Possible late Roman structural evidence

Research Objectives

Examination of the date and function of Gully F2073 and Postholes F2075 and

F2077

- A sherd of mid 3rd to 4th century AD Roman mortaria was recovered from posthole F2077. It must be considered whether or not this artefact was intrusive.
- The arrangement of Gully F2073 and Postholes F2075 and F2077 is suggestive of a structural configuration. Identifying possible functions of this structure will be carried out through comparison with other sites and through the use of synthetic sources regarding Iron Age and Romano-British farming, such as Bird (ed., 2017), Reynolds (1979), Greene (1986), Pryor (2011).

Later activity

Research Objectives

Examination of the function of the medieval and post-medieval ditches

- A single ditch of medieval date and a single ditch of post-medieval date were recorded during the excavation. No other features contemporary with these were recorded. Their function must therefore be understood through their spatial relationships with known medieval or post-medieval elements of the area such as Barford Bridge (BHER 996), the former road running from Barford Bridge towards Chalton (BHER 9795), or the medieval settlement evidence south of College Farm (BHER 17150).

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16 PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS

16.1 Summary

Due to the location of the site, an appropriate vehicle for publication would be the CBA's *South Midlands Archaeology*.

The publication report will present the background of the project, contain a description and analysis of features and finds, and conclude with a synthetic discussion of the site's structure and development, in relation to the cropmark complex to the west and north-west, the known late Iron Age, medieval, and post-medieval archaeology of the surrounding area, and other elements of the local landscape. Specialist reports will be integrated into the text with appropriate accreditation.

16.2 Estimated breakdown of report

ABSTRACT

c 200 words

- Contents Summary of phasing, features, finds and interpretation
- Tables -
- Figures -
- Plates -

INTRODUCTION

c. 400 words

- Contents Circumstances of the project and summary of background information. Description of the situation of the site and geological and topographical descriptions. Introduction to excavation strategies and phasing.
- Tables Phasing and date ranges
- Figures Site location and detailed site location plans. Excavation and phase plans
- Plates -

THE LATE IRON AGE ARCHAEOLOGY

c. 700 words

- Contents Descriptions of the later Iron Age archaeological features and the finds recovered from them (including incorporation of elements of the pottery, small finds, faunal and archaeobotanical reports).
- Tables As relevant to specialists' contributions
- Figures Plans and sections
- Plates Photos to illustrate intercutting nature of ditches

THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY c. 250 words

- Contents Descriptions of the medieval and post-medieval archaeological features and the finds recovered from them.
- Tables As relevant to specialists' contributions
- Figures Plans and sections
- Plates -

DISCUSSION

c. 1000 words

- Contents Organised thematically, taking into account the research questions and subjects presented in Section 14 of this document. This section will form the bulk of the publication report and will contain relevant stratigraphic information, specialist's contributions, comparisons, and interpretations
- Tables As relevant to specialists' contributions
- Figures Plan showing recorded archaeology in relationship to cropmarks in the surrounding area. Cartographic evidence.
- Plates Butchered equid bone.
- Specialist Specialist contributions will be introduced where they contribute to the discussion.

DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken, and deposited with the local museum (Bedford – Accession No. BEDFM: 2015.61).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd would like to thank Alliance Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the archaeological work, and in particular Mr Peter Barnett for his assistance.

AS would also like to thank Mr Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council for his assistance.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	2000			Topsoil	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	11	232		124			
	2001			Subsoil	1st C AD	3	194		391	S.Flint	1	<1
2005	2006	B		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	1	7					
		D		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	7	174		595	S.Flint	2	5
				Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD							
2005C	2042	C		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	25	1326		292			
2007	2008			Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late1st C AD	18	423		190	F.Clay	1	57
		A		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	4	79					
2007B	2014			Fill of Ditch	Early-Mid 1st C AD	52	980		119	B.Flint	1	29
	2015			Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	117	2156		121			
2007C	2047			Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	16	191		66			
		C		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	18	271		144			
		D		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	5	130		38			
	2048			Fill of Ditch	Early-Mid 1st C AD	32	448		61			
2009	2010	A		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	3	110					
2009B	2039			Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	7	152		15			

2009C	2031			Fill of Ditch						SF1 Cu.Alloy Brooch	1	2
2021	2022	B		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	1	4			Shell	1	32
	2044	B		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	7	88					
				Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	6	37		98			
	2045	C		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	3	11					
2023	2024	B		Fill of Ditch	1st C AD-Early 2nd C AD	11	137		16			
				Fill of Ditch	Early-Mid 1st C AD	12	213		7			
2025	2026	B		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	38	476					
				Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	2	38		21			
	2029	B		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	3	24		14			
2027	2028			Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late1st C AD	58	1087		35			
2032	2033	B		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	68	931		151	B.Bone	2	3
				Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	1	11		43			
2035	2036			Fill of Pit	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	10	397		5			
2037	2034			Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	31	573		54			
2049	2050			Fill of Pit	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	7	200		36	B.Bone	1	2
2052	2054			Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	29	427					

2055	2056			Fill of Pit	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	8	96		70				
2057	2058			Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	77	1122		136		F.Clay		501
		B		Fill of Ditch	Mid1st-Late 1st/Early 2nd C AD	7	199		16		W.Stone	1	910
		C		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	1	1				S.Flint	1	9
2059	2060			Fill of Post Hole	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	20	908						
2065	2066			Fill of Pit	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	1	3						
2073	2074			Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	11	306		68				
2077	2078			Fill of Post Hole	Mid 3-4th C AD (1 sherd), otherwise Late1 BC-Mid 1 AD	8	1036		8				
2079	2080			Occupational Level	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	24	478	14	60		S.Flint	2	5
	2083			Layer	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	2	25				S.Flint	1	7
2086	2087			Fill of Pit	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	11	340						
2088	2089			Fill of Pit	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	9	65		7				
2090	2091			Fill of Ditch	Early-Mid 1st C AD	32	369		30				
		B		Fill of Ditch	Late1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	31	1025		153		F.Clay	1	67
2090	2096			Fill of Ditch	11-13th C (7 sherds), otherwise Mid-Late1st C AD	70	1638	3	116		B.Bone	3	8
2097	2098	A		Fill of Ditch					19				
2099	2100	A		Fill of Ditch	Post-Medieval	6	116	112					
		B		Fill of Ditch	Post-Medieval	1	8						

2101	2102			Fill of Pit	Late 1st C BC - Mid 1st C AD	6	64		14			
2103	2104			Fill of Ditch terminus	Mid 1st-Late 1st/E2nd C AD	9	55		1			

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
F2005 looking south-east



2
F2007A and F2009A looking south-east



3
F2007D and F2061B looking south-west



4
F2011 looking north-west



5
F2013B and F2049 looking south-east



6
F2021D and F2061 looking south-east



7
F2023, F2025 and F2027 looking south-east



8
F2032B and F2037B looking north-west



9
F2063 looking north-west



10
F2067 looking north



11
F2079 looking north-west



12
F2081 looking south-west



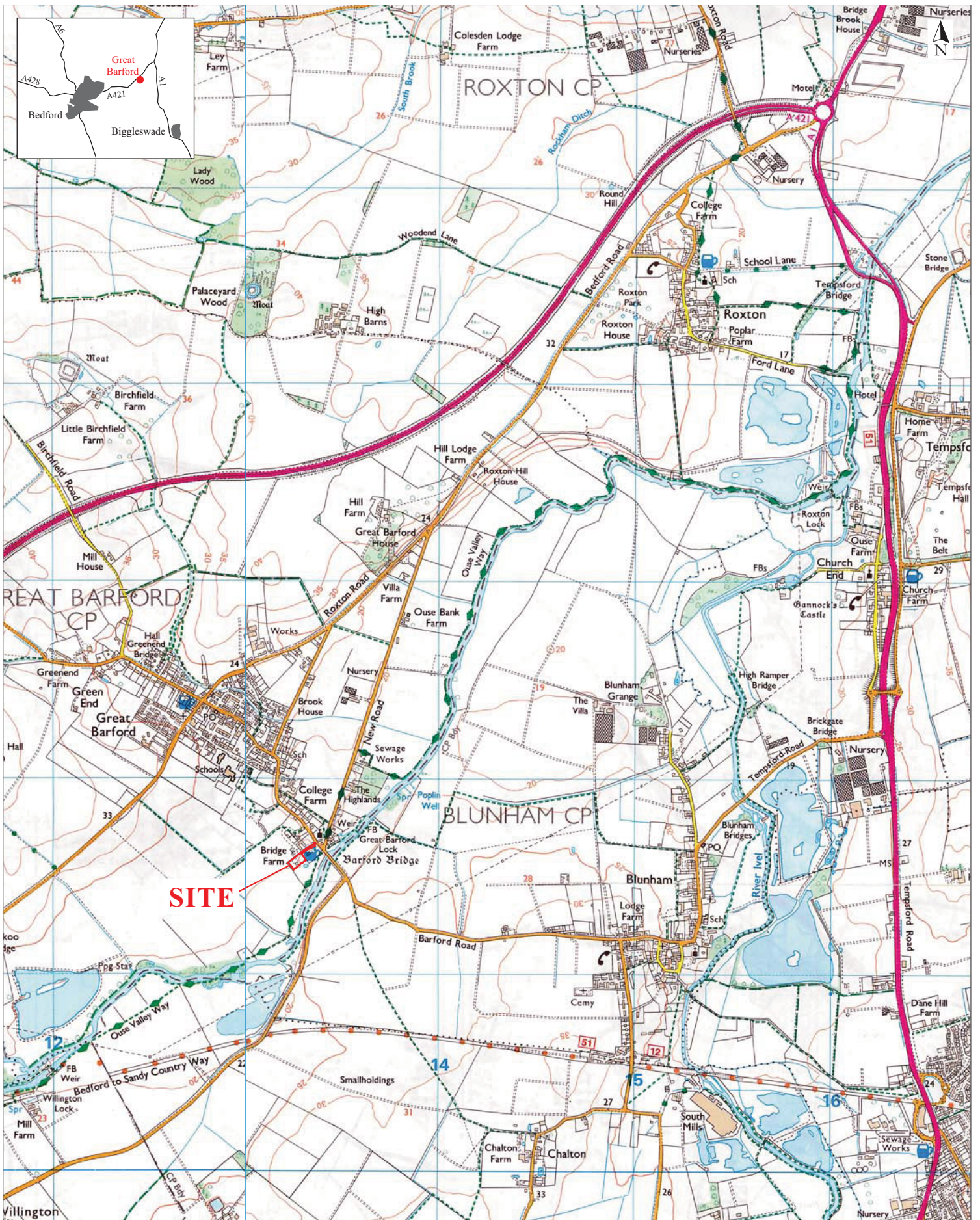
13
F2090A looking north-west



14
F2094 looking south

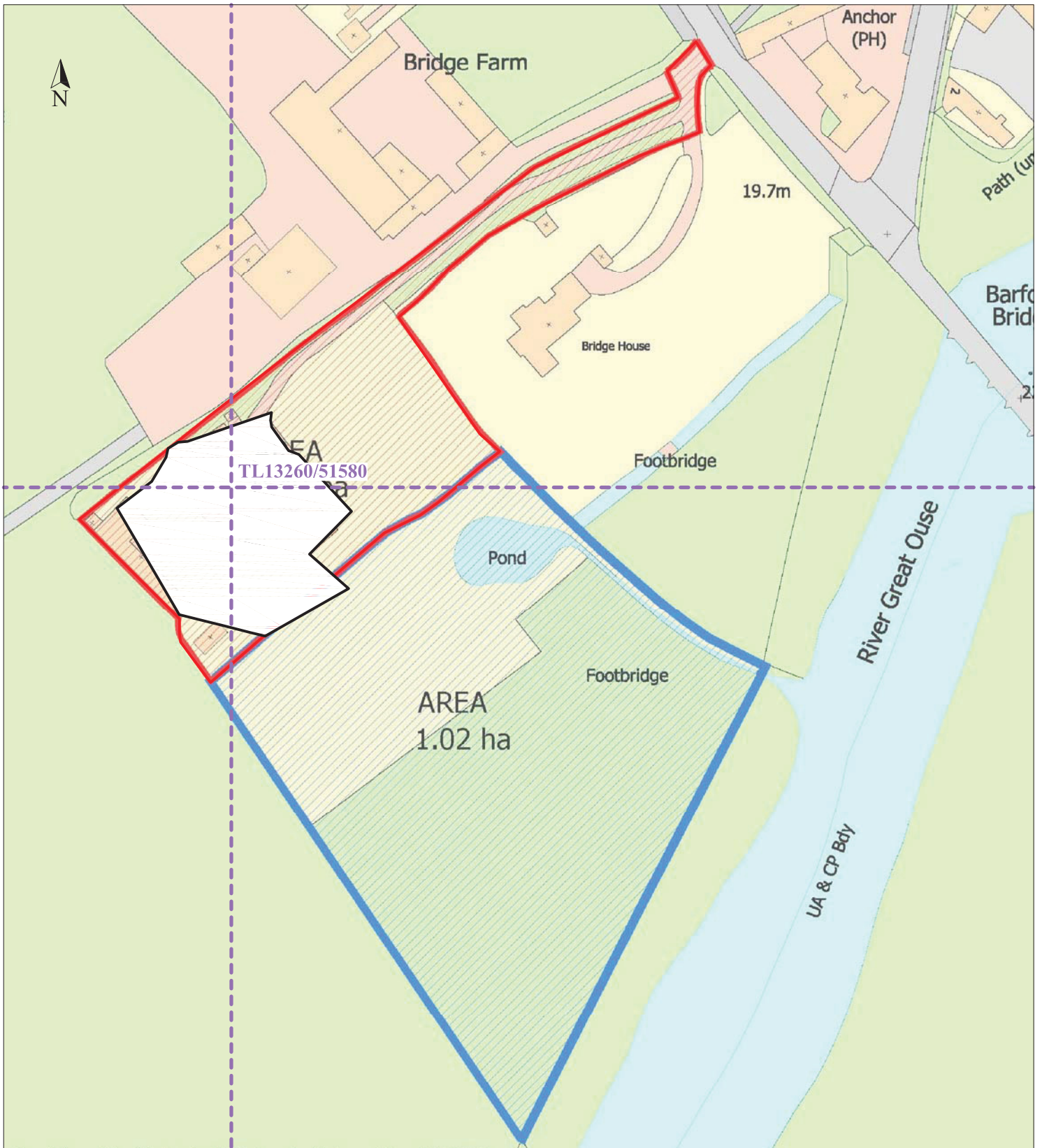


15
Sample Section 2 looking south-west



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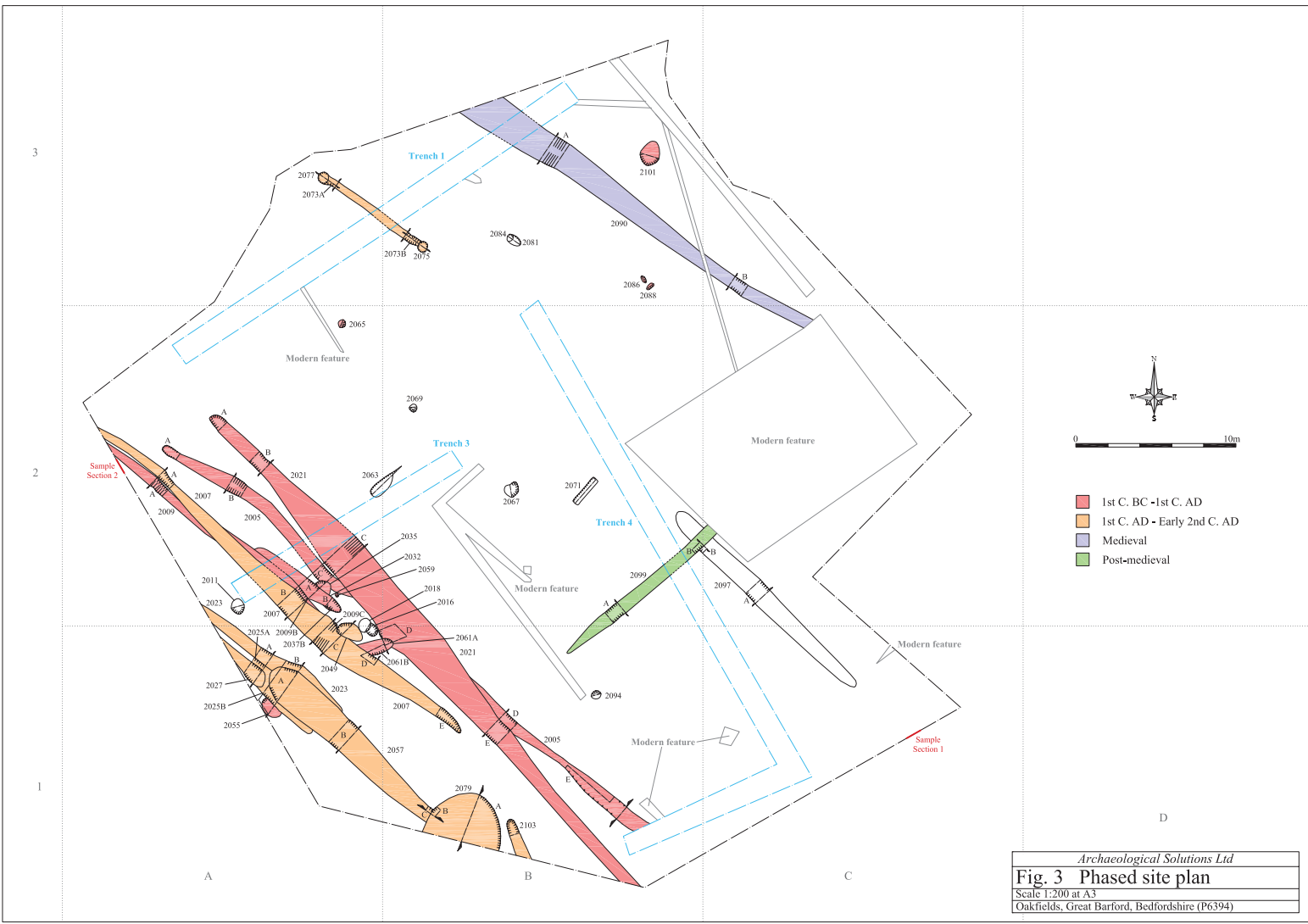
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)



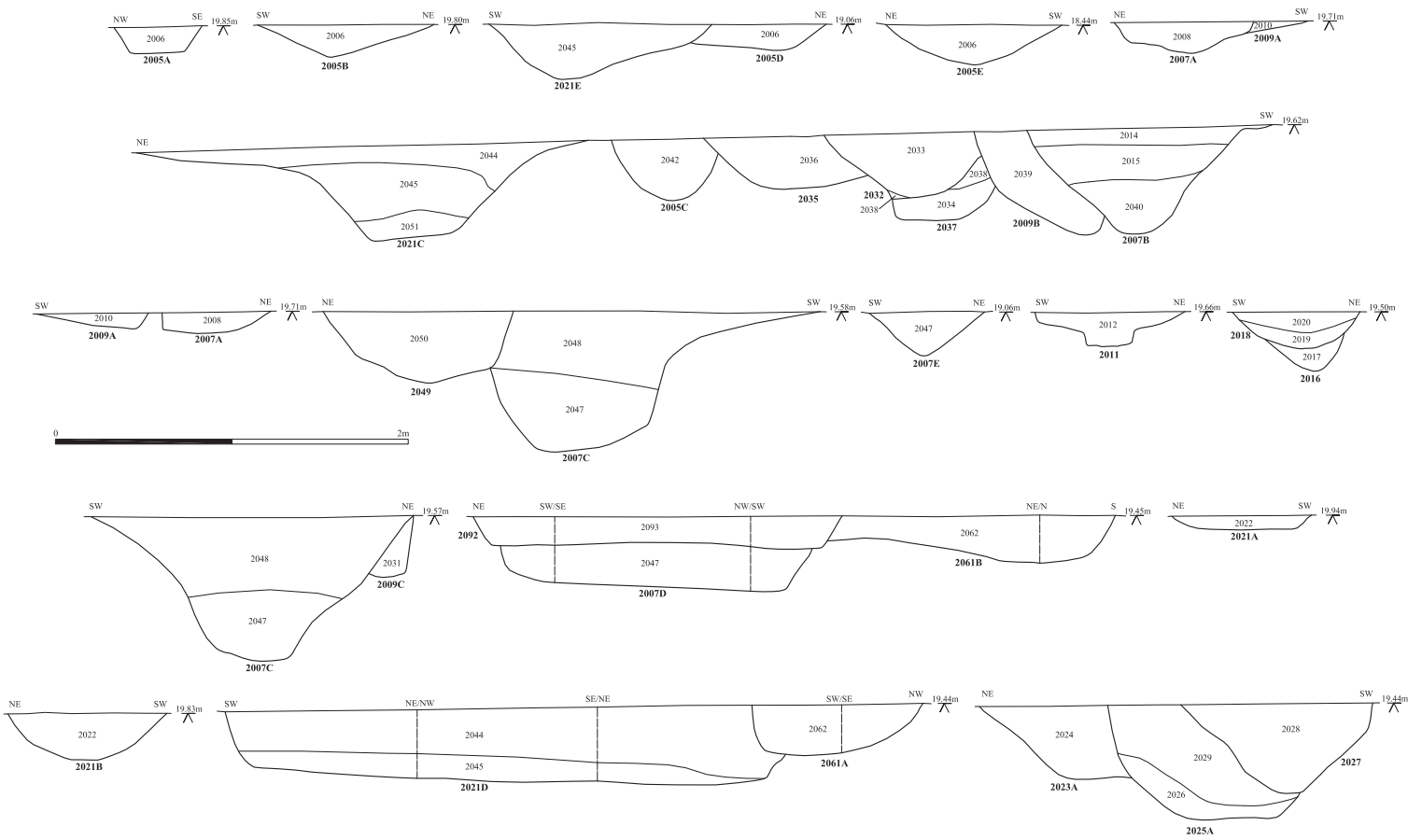
□ Area of excavation

0 75m

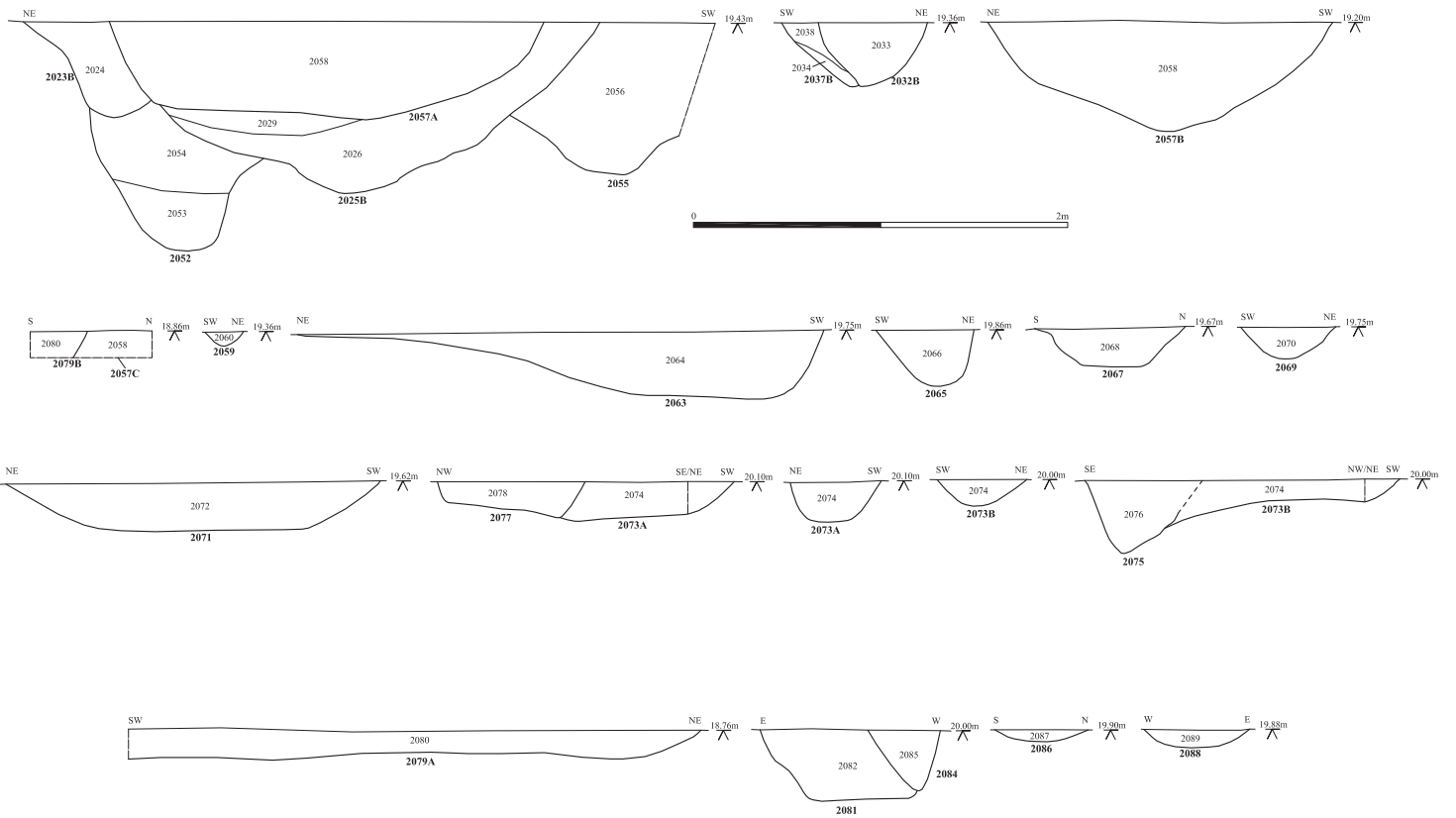
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4
Oakfields, Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)



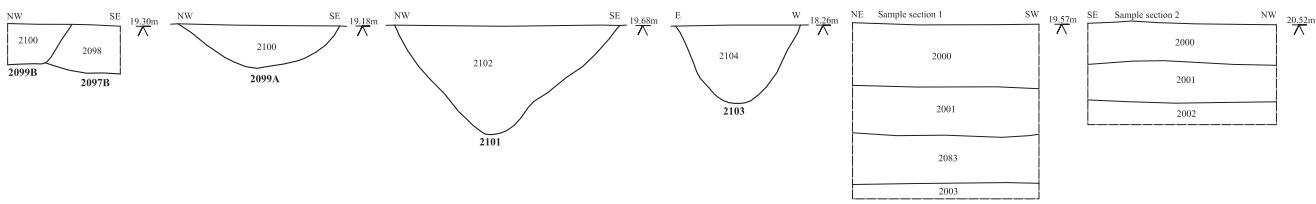
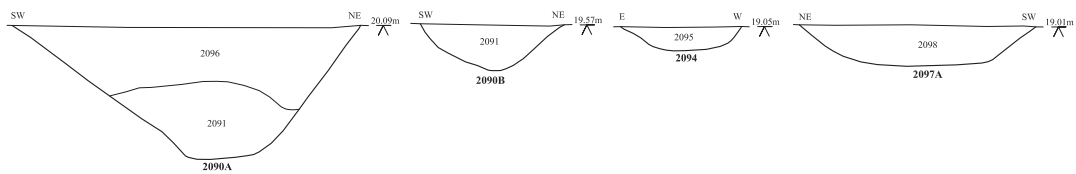
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 Phased site plan
 Scale 1:200 at A3
 Oakfields, Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)



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Fig. 4 Sections
Scale 1:20 at A3
Oakfields, Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)



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Fig. 5 Sections
Scale 1:20 at A3
Oakfields, Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)



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Fig. 6 Sections
 Scale 1:20 at A3
 Oakfields, Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)