

**BALLS PARK, HERFORD
AREA C**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE
INTERIM SITE NARRATIVE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**BALLS PARK, HERTFORD
AREA C**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL “STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE”
EXCAVATION**

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
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| NGR: TL 3369 1181 | Report No: 3154 |
| District: Hertford | Site Code: AS1070 |
| Approved: Claire Halpin | Project No: 2606 |
| Signed: | Date: August 2008 |

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| OASIS SUMMARY SHEET | | | |
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| Project name | Balls Park, Area C , Hertford, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological “Strip, Map and Sample” Excavation. | | |
| <p><i>In June and July 2008, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological “strip, map and sample” excavation of land at Balls Park, Area C, Hertford (NGR TL 3369 1181)). The excavation was undertaken in response to a planning condition (3/0/2271) applied to residential redevelopment of the site. The excavation followed an archaeological evaluation conducted in 2007 by Archaeological Solutions (unpublished AS Report No. 2931)</i></p> <p><i>Balls Park is located on the outskirts of Hertford, approximately 1 km to the South-East of the town, and comprises the 17th century mansion with modern buildings set within the formal 18th century park landscape.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation revealed numerous features dated to the middle Iron Age, including a sub-rectangular enclosure with internal features and possible habitation layer, also ditches, pits and postholes were found. These Iron Age features are likely to represent agricultural activity associated with settlement.. The excavation revealed large number of features associated with the formal gardens of the Balls Park estate. Most of these early-modern features represented drains and greenhouses.</i></p> | | | |
| Project dates (fieldwork) | <i>June and July 2008</i> | | |
| Previous work (Y/N/?) | <i>Y</i> | Future work (Y/N/?) | <i>N</i> |
| P. number | <i>2606</i> | Site code | <i>AS1070</i> |
| Type of project | <i>Archaeological “Strip, Map and sample” Excavation</i> | | |
| Site status | | | |
| Current land use | | | |
| Planned development | <i>Residential buildings</i> | | |
| Main features (+dates) | <i>Sub-rectangular enclosure with internal structures (Iron Age), ditches, pits and postholes (Iron Age, post-medieval), drainage systems, buildings’ footings and footprints (early modern).</i> | | |
| Significant finds (+dates) | <i>Deer skeleton (Iron Age), Belgic pierced pot base (1st century AD)</i> | | |
| Project location | | | |
| County/ District/ Parish | <i>Hertfordshire</i> | <i>Hertford</i> | <i>Hertford</i> |
| SMR for area | <i>Hertfordshire HER</i> | | |
| Post code (if known) | | | |
| Area of site | | | |
| NGR | <i>TL 3369 1181</i> | | |
| Height AOD (max) | <i>68m AOD</i> | | |
| Project creators | | | |
| Brief issued by | <i>Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit</i> | | |
| Project supervisor/s (PO) | <i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i> | | |
| Funded by | <i>Explore Living Ltd.</i> | | |
| Full title | <i>Balls Park, Area C, Hertford, Hertfordshire An Archaeological “Strip, Map and Sample” Excavation</i> | | |
| Authors | <i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i> | | |
| Report no. | <i>3154</i> | | |
| Date (of report) | <i>August 2008</i> | | |

BALLS PARK, AREA C, HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL “STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE” EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

In June and July 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological “strip, map and sample” excavation of land at Balls Park, Area C, Hertford (NGR TL 3369 1181). The excavation was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Ref. 3/0/2271) applied to the limited residential development of the site and followed evaluation conducted by AS in July 2007 (unpublished Report No. 2931). The excavation was commissioned by Explore Living to mitigate the potential archaeological impact of the development.

Balls Park is located on the outskirts of Hertford, approximately 1 km to the South-East of the town, and comprises the 17th century mansion with modern buildings set within the formal 18th century park landscape.

The excavation revealed numerous features dated to the middle Iron Age, including a sub-rectangular enclosure with internal features and possible habitation layer, also ditches, pits and postholes were found. These Iron Age features are likely to represent agricultural activity associated with settlement.. The excavation revealed large number of features associated with the formal gardens of the Balls Park estate. Most of these early-modern features represented drains and greenhouses.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June and July 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological “strip, map and sample” excavation of land at Balls Park, Area C, Hertford (NGR TL 3369 1181; Figs. 1-2). The excavation was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Ref. 3/0/2271) applied to the limited residential development of the site and followed archaeological evaluation conducted by AS in July 2007 (Diffey & Williamson 2007). The excavation was commissioned by Explore Living to mitigate the potential archaeological impact of the development.

1.2 The excavation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Hertford County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) and a specification compiled by AS. The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 1999). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The primary objective of the excavation was to investigate and record any archaeological deposits or features revealed following archaeological supervision of the removal of soil and overburden down to the archaeological horizon and to preserve by record the archaeological features present on the site.

1.4 The specific objectives of the project was to characterise the land use of the site in the later prehistoric and/or Anglo- Saxon period and to identify the presence of any remains of other periods.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 The Balls Park estate and its surrounding area contain a significant mixture of sporting and recreation uses, and historic buildings, as well as sites of significant ecological importance. Background concerning the future use and development of the house is outlined in a document issued by East Hertfordshire District Council in November 2000, *entitled ‘Balls Park, Hertford. A planning framework’*. In May 2001, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) conducted an archaeological desk-based assessment as part of a historic building recording project at Balls Park (Prosser 2001). The assessment was prepared for City & Country, and stemmed from proposals to acquire the park and historic house, and to conduct limited development on the site.

2.2 The overall requirements of the project, including the phases undertaken to the excavation described in this report were:

- The archaeological recording of the existing standing structures that pre-date the 1960s and which are scheduled for demolition/conversion, with additional recording/research undertaken as necessary to place the findings in context;

- The evaluation of the site's archaeological deposits prior to the commencement of any development, to determine the need for any further mitigation (Areas B, C, D, E, F & J); and
- A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for the development of Area A.

This report describes the excavation in Area C in June and July 2008, which followed evaluation in this Area conducted by AS in July 2007.

2.3 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

2.4 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

2.5 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

3.1 Balls Park is located on the outskirts of Hertford, approximately 1 km to the south-east of the town, and comprises a 17th century mansion with modern buildings set within a formal 18th century park landscape. Substantial elements of the original layout survive, but the buildings have been gradually augmented, particularly during the recent past with the occupation of the estate by the former Hatfield Polytechnic, now the University of Hertfordshire. The house and associated buildings lie within a mixed parkland environment of 25.7 hectares, containing a number of listed buildings and protected wildlife habitats. The estate is also part of an area defined as part of the Metropolitan Green Belt. To the north it is bounded by the main A414 London Road and the grounds of the Simon Balle School, while to the east lies farmland adjacent to the moated site of Jenningsbury. A caravan park and fields adjoining Mangrove Road ring the site to the south and west.

3.2 Area C was located to the south-east of the 17th century mansion, directly adjacent to and east of the walled formal and kitchen gardens. The area comprised a relatively flat parcel of land, sloping gently to the south. The northern part of Area C had until recently been occupied by a cottage and several barns/outbuildings (demolished prior to the commencement of archaeological works), which surrounded a tarmac surfaced yard/car parking area. The southern part of the area comprised

managed grassland and lawns which lay between the formal gardens to the west and 18th century parkland to the east and south.

3.3 The excavation in June/July 2008 was undertaken in the northern part of Area C (Figs. 1 & 2). The southern part of Area C was excluded from excavation in accordance with advice from HCC HEU. During the preceding evaluation this southern area had produced only early modern and modern archaeological evidence.

4 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOIL

4.1 Balls Park lies at approximately 67m AOD, on the gentle slopes and plateau which surround the valley of the river Lea. Geologically, the area is underlain by chalk, formed under marine conditions during the Cretaceous era some 65 million years BP, and represents part of the division between the Chiltern dip-slope and the giant chalk bowl of the London basin. Flints, created from siliceous sponges and other marine organisms under compression are found in abundance throughout the area.

4.2 At the end of the Cretaceous era, the tilting of the continental plate and tectonic activity created new geological conditions, which led to the deposition of new, fine-grained and mottled clay strata produced under humid environmental conditions. A thin band of Reading Beds, characteristic of this process extends from north to south across the assessment area, out-cropping in places to the east near Jenningsbury. The major deposit to the south, created under marine conditions is the stiff, fossiliferous London Clay, which forms an excellent building material and has been extensively dug for brick and tile manufacture in the last few centuries.

4.3 Balls Park lies at the important junction of the gravel terraces to the north, with the heavier boulder clays to the south of the house. Exposed caps of London clay lie to the east at Jenningsbury, but the conditions around Balls Park are relatively homogenous and give rise to just two distinct soil profiles. The gravels support the glacio-fluvial drift of the Ludford Association. These are characterised by deep, well-drained fine to coarse loamy and sandy soils which are locally flinty (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). To the South is the chalky till of the Hanslope Association, which form a heavier, permeable calcareous clayey soil.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Archaeological remains in close proximity reveal that occupation in the area spans most periods since the Neolithic, though with varying intensity of activity. Excavations at nearby Foxholes Farm suggest that during the Roman period, the local gravels supported agricultural field systems with dispersed farmsteads, possibly as part of an economic catchment for a small town at Ware to the north-east. The evidence also indicates some possible post-Roman and middle Saxon activity in the area, but this was ephemeral and short-lived.

5.2 During the 10th century the town of Hertford was deliberately created as part of the defensive strategy of King Edward the Elder (899-925) who established two defended *burhs* at the southern and northern approaches to the River Lea crossing in

912 and 914. Following the Norman Conquest the defence of the river crossing was further consolidated by the construction of motte-and-bailey castle on the southern bank of the river.

5.3 During the next two centuries much of the area surrounding the new town was granted to monasteries such as Waltham Abbey and the local priory of St Mary. While some of the land was cultivated, historic field names and the surviving open landscape pattern suggest that much remained as woodland, pasture or heath, probably determined by local geological conditions. The site of Balls Park is likely to have comprised a mixed regime of mainly rough pasture and

5.4 During the 16th or 17th century, the modern estate may have been consolidated from several earlier holdings following the dissolution of the monasteries and emparked. The earliest description of the house at Balls Park was compiled by Chauncy in 1700, where he described that '*Sir John Harrison built a fair stately fabrick of brick in the middle of a warren*'. Rabbit warrens were invariably established from the 12th century onwards on marginal or uncultivated land, reinforcing the local profile of Balls Park as an area of open grass or heathland. In the 17th and 18th centuries, mansions and new parks surrounded the town, as Hertford became a fashionable country retreat for the London elite (Prosser, 2001).

5.5 The origin of Balls Park may preserve the presence of an earlier family at the site, as a Philip Balle is mentioned in the Feet of Fines for Hertford in 1235. Circumstantial evidence suggests that an earlier house lay on the site of the later mansion, though this can not be conclusively verified by historical means; references are confined to mention of earlier structural remains being present within the fabric of the 17th century mansion.

6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

6.1 A Trial Trench Evaluation of the site was carried out by AS in July 2007 (Diffey & Williamson 2007). The evaluation revealed mostly early modern and modern features associated with the Balls Park estate and can be related to features identified on historic maps. Most of these early-modern features represented drains and other sub-surface constructions. However, during trial trenching, earlier material was identified. Two ditches, dated to late Iron Age were recorded towards the northern extent of the site. They were interpreted as possibly representing marginal agricultural activity associated with settlement in the river valley to the north. Also an Iron Age or possible Anglo-Saxon dated ditch was unveiled in the central part of the site. All features produced archaeological finds, including Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery.

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 The excavation adhered to the specification prepared by AS (dated 06/11/07) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 1999), and the document

Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

7.2 The excavation site was stripped of top soil and overburden under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Exposed surfaces were hand cleaned and all further excavation was undertaken manually (DP 1). Deposits were recorded using pro-forma recording sheets and photographed as appropriate. In addition, the excavation area and the spoil were checked and scanned for finds with a metal detector.

7.3 Pits and postholes were half sectioned while linear features were excavated in slots of coverage as needed to determine archaeological significance. Segments were positioned for optimal determination of inter feature relationships. Intrinsically interesting features (e.g. structure making postholes) were 100% excavated. Environmental samples were taken from all non-modern features, including 100% samples as needed.

8 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

8.1 Summary of Phasing(Fig. 4)

8.1.1 The Strip, Map and sample excavation at Balls Park Area C revealed three distinct phases of activity. Features were assigned to these phases based on artefactual evidence recovered from them and their stratigraphic and spatial relationships with other features.

8.1.2 The earliest identifiable activity recorded at the site was dated to the middle Iron Age. Features assigned to this phase formed two clusters; one at the northern end of the excavated area and one towards the western central part (DPs 1 & 2).

8.1.3 Despite possible evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity having been recorded during the preceding trial trench evaluation (Diffey & Williamson 2007) no such evidence was present during the excavation. Phase 2, therefore, dates to the medieval period. Phase 2 features comprised a single posthole, although further evidence of medieval activity in close proximity to this feature was present in the form of pottery recovered from a stratigraphically early ditch.

8.1.4 Phase 3 features were assigned a date of post-medieval/early-modern. Much of this evidence related to structures that had been previously recorded during the trial trench evaluation and were identifiable on historic cartographic sources (Figs. 6, 7 & 8). Features post-dating Phase 3 were recorded but these have not been assigned a phase. These features were associated or contemporary with the structures formerly present on and demolished prior to archaeological work being carried out.

8.2 Phase 1: Middle Iron Age (Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Phase 1 features at the northern end of the excavated area (DPs 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6)

8.2.1 Excavation in 2008 confirmed the existence of Ditch F1003 (Grid Squares D23 to J23), which was previously identified during the 2007 trial trench evaluation. Ditch F1003 was orientated east to west, and measured in excess of 33m in length with both ends extending beyond the excavated area (Fig. 3). It measured 1.30m in width and 0.30m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Segments excavated during evaluation were reopened and extended beyond the former trial trench limit where needed; in addition Segment D was excavated. Within Segment A F1003 contained two fills. The basal fill, L1004, was an orange greyish brown sandy silt with gravel and frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.010m). The upper fill, L1005, was a grey sandy silt with gravel. Within Segment B, F1003 contained one fill L1006, a greyish brown sandy silt with gravel. Within Segment C, F1003 contained basal fill L1089, a dark grey-brown, sandy clay with occasional gravel, and upper fill L1006. F1003 yielded middle Iron Age pottery (118g), animal bone (<1g) and a piece of burnt bone (<1g).

8.2.2 Ditch F1003 was cut by Ditches F1134 and F2066. These features, and Pits F2064 and F2089, formed a cluster of Phase 1 features at the northern end of the excavated area. F1003 was also observed to be cut by undated F2049 and also by a modern service trench.

8.2.3 The portion of F1134 (Grid Squares I23, I24, J23), revealed in Trench 1 during the evaluation was thought to have been its terminus but the excavation proved that this was not the case. F1134 in fact turned through 90° and after initially running parallel to F1003 cut across it to the north (Fig. 3). F1134 had a moderately U-shaped profile and concave base and it was 1.20m wide and 0.35m deep. Its recorded length was approximately 7m. F1134 contained a single fill L1090, a light mottled grey-orange, firm, sandy clay, with occasional sub-rounded gravel and flint clasts. During the evaluation a single small sherd (7g) of pottery dated to 550-1000 AD was recovered from F1134. However, during the recent excavation it produced middle Iron Age pottery (45g) which is considered to be more reflective of the true date of the feature.

8.2.4 Ditch F2066 ran in a south-easterly direction from the point at which it converged with Ditch F1003 in Grid Square F23 (Fig. 3; DP 1). It measured 23m x 0.80-2.1m x 0.32m. It had U-shaped profile with concave base (DP 5). In Segment A the ditch contained fill L2067, a mid greyish brown, loose sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.10m). Within Segment B ditch F2066 contained upper fill L2067 and basal fill L2082, a light brownish grey, compact sandy silt with frequent sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m). Middle Iron Age pottery (15g) was recovered from L2067 as were CBM (56g) and an iron nail (3g). Within Segment B, a nearly complete deer skeleton was recovered (DP 6). This was assigned the context number 2071 (DP 3) for ease of identification. It was lying on a slope of the ditch and some single bones, believed to belong to the skeleton, were found nearby. Phillips (this report) has suggested that the skeleton may represent a 'special deposit'. However, further analysis and research will be required to verify if this is a possibility. F2066 cut Ditch F1003 but seemed to terminate then at this point – its possible continuation was not found on the other side of F1003. It also cut Pit F2089.

8.2.5 F2089 (Grid Square D22) was a pit, cut by Ditch F2066 within its Segment C. F2089 was sub-circular in plan, bowl-shaped in section with concave base and measured 0.70m+ x 0.50m x 0.13m. Its fill was L2090, a mid orangish brown, friable sandy silt with gravel. It contained middle Iron Age pottery (17g).

8.2.6 Pit F2064 (Grid Square C23; Fig. 3) was sub-circular in plan moderately sloping sides and a flat base (0.64m x 0.62m x 0.13m). It lay to the north of Phase 1 Ditch F2066. It contained a single fill, L2065, which was a light greyish brown, compact sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.10m). Pottery dated to the middle Iron Age was recovered from this feature.

Phase 1 features in the central western part of the excavation area (DPs 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12)

8.2.7 During the trial trench evaluation two separate ditches, F1126 and F1130, were recorded within Trench 5. It was considered, however, (see Diffey & Williamson 2007) that there was a high possibility of these actually forming a single feature. During 2008 excavation it was confirmed that F1126 and F1130 were parts of the same enclosure ditch. A newly revealed portion of this ditch was designated as F2093. Together these ditches formed the eastern side of a sub-rectangular enclosure the western side of which extended beyond the limits of the excavated area.

8.2.8 F1130 (Grid Squares B5-D5) was the southern part of the enclosure ditch. Two Segments were excavated within F1130 and one Segment in trial trench 5 was reopened and extended to confirm and investigate the presence of this feature. Ditch F1130 was linear in plan and U-shaped in section. It measured 17m+ x 1.6m-2m x 0.90m. Its upper fill was L1131, a dark grey, friable clayey silt with occasional stone and sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.10m). In Segment A two additional basal fills were recorded. L2142 was a mid brownish grey, friable sandy silt with small pebbles and sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m) and occasional charcoal flecks. Below this layer, fill L2143 was present. It was a mid orangish brown, compact silty clay. Struck flint (32g), pottery (238g) and animal bone (262g) was recovered from this feature.

8.2.9 The portion of the enclosure ditch assigned F1126 (Grid Squares D5-D9; Fig. 3) was V-shaped in section in Segment A, U-shaped within Segment B and shallow U-shaped within Segment C. The base was flat, within Segment B – concave. It measured 13m x 1.67-2m x 0.30m-0.89m. Within all three excavated Segments only a single fill L1127 was recorded. It was a mid brownish grey, firm silty clay with moderate sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.20m). Pottery (328g) and animal bone (348g) was recovered. The ditch appeared to end in a shallowing, gently rounded terminus, suggesting a gap in the enclosure ditch measuring approximately 1m-2m. However, this is uncertain due to truncation of this area by modern service trench F1073

8.2.10 The part of the enclosure ditch revealed during the excavation, F2093 (Grid Squares B10-D9; Fig. 3), measured 15m in length. Within Segment A the ditch displayed a U-shaped profile and contained a single fill, L2094, a mid brownish grey, loose clayey silt. F2093 was truncated close to this point by F2144 – probably tree

rooting. Within Segment B, Ditch F2093 displayed a V-shaped profile. In this Segment the upper fill was recorded as L2095, a mid yellowish/greyish brown, moderate compact clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.10m). This overlay L2120, a mid yellowish brown, firm silty clay with occasional sub-rounded flint inclusions (0.01m-0.03m). L2094 was present beneath L2120, this was a similar deposit with moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.20m). The basal fill, L2118, was a mid brownish grey, firm clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m). This deposit seemed to be a fill of earlier feature, ditch F2117, which was re-cut by F2093. This stratigraphic sequence was clearly visible in section within Segment C (Fig. 5). Within Segment C the ditch was U-shaped in section. Its topmost fill recorded in this Segment was L2095. The main fill of the ditch was present as L2094. Beneath L2094, lay L2114, a thin layer of mid brownish orange, moderate silty clay with moderate chalk and occasional chalk with flint inclusions (0.01m-0.03m). Beneath this was another thin layer, L2115 – a mid greyish brown, moderate sandy silt.

8.2.11 Ditch F2093 may have been a recut of an earlier feature. Within Segment C, F2117 a separate feature was recorded beneath the basal fill of F2093. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. F2117 contained a single fill, L2118, a mid brownish grey, firm clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m). Also backfill/redeposit L2116 was laying over L2118. Within Segment B, F2093 was observed to be following the same line as F2117, making deposit L2118 its basal fill. Ditch F2117 was not found in any other part of the enclosure. Between Segments B and C, Ditch F2093 was cut by F2075, the construction cut for wall M2077 of S2074.

8.2.12 The excavation revealed numerous features located within the area defined by Enclosure Ditch F1126=F1130=F2093. These comprised linear features, spreads of material which may represent an occupation layers and numerous postholes. Of these postholes, only seven contained artefactual material that dated them to Phase 1 (see Table 1). Whilst there is some possibility that the other postholes within the enclosure are contemporary with these the lack of structural configuration displayed by these features means that those not containing dateable artefacts are considered, for the purposes of this report at least, to be undated.

| Feature Number | Context Number | Dimensions | Description | Fill | Finds Date | Grid Square |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| F2104 | L2105 | 0.43m x 0.40m x 0.14m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Light brownish grey, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.02m) | Middle Iron Age | B9 |
| F2127 | L2128 | 0.17m x 0.16m x 0.10m | Circular, U-shaped, flat base | Light greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions | Middle Iron Age | C7 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------------------|--|--|--------------------|----|
| | | | | (0.01m-0.04m) | | |
| F2154 | L2155 | 0.37m x 0.28m x 0.10m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Light greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.03m) | Middle Iron Age | D5 |
| F2156 | L2157 | 0.29m x 0.28m x 0.16m | Circular, U-shaped, flat base | Mid greyish brown, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.02m) | Middle Iron Age | C5 |
| F2160 | L2161 | 0.28m x 0.22m x 0.13m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, flat base | Mid greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.05m) | Middle Iron Age | C6 |
| F2185 | L2186 | 0.33m x 0.30m x 0.15m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, flat base | Mid greyish brown, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.03m) | Middle Iron Age | B4 |
| F2193 | L2194 | 0.21m x 0.19m x 0.06m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, flat base | Mid greyish brown with orange flecks, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.02m) | Middle Iron Age | B5 |

Table 1: Middle Iron Age postholes within area defined by Phase 1 Enclosure Ditch F1126=F1130=F2093

8.2.13 Located in the southern part of the enclosure was F2139 (Grid Squares B4 & B5; Fig. 3). The western extent of this feature lay beyond the limit of excavated area but as it entered the site it curved immediately to the south at which point it was cut by F1130. The visible extent of F2139 measured 5m in length. It displayed steep sloping sides and a narrow base (5m+ x 64m x 0.32m). It contained a single fill, L2140, a dark grey, friable sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m). F2139 was found to contain middle Iron Age pottery (70g), late Iron Age pottery (616g) and animal bone (118g).

8.2.14 F2173 (L2174) (Grid Squares B6 & C6) was an area of burnt material that may represent a habitation layer, possibly from the interior of a building. It was irregular in plan and it had vertical sides in section and flat/irregular base (2.70m x

0.58m x 0.07m). L2174 was a dark grey, friable silty clay with occasional flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m). Pottery of middle Iron Age date (48g), CBM (176g) and animal bone (15g) were recovered. A similar feature was recorded nearby, also inside the area within the boundary ditch. F2199 (L2200) (Grid Squares B8 & C8; Fig. 3) was irregular in plan and in section, measuring 2.50m x 1m x 0.03m. It was composed of material almost identical to L2174 with the exception that no finds were present.

8.2.15 F2181 (Grid Square B6; Fig. 3) was a linear or rectangular pit. Only part of this feature was recorded as it extended beyond the excavated area. Its true form in plan was therefore not discernible. It had a V-shaped profile and measured 2m+ x 0.73m x 0.42m. It contained a single fill, L2182, a dark blackish brown, loose silty clay with frequent charcoal and moderate sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m). Finds recovered from this deposit included pottery (290g), fragile baked/burnt clay (472), probably the remains of construction material, and animal bone (256g).

8.3 Phase 2: Medieval (Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 6)

8.3.1 A single feature was assigned to Phase 2. This was Posthole F2003, located in Grid Square I22 (Fig. 3). F2003 (0.41m x 0.31m x 0.16m) was sub-circular in plan and had steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, L2004, a mid brownish grey, loose clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions.

8.3.2 Posthole F2003 contained pottery of medieval date (34g) and pottery dating to the mid to late 1st century AD (38g). Peachey (this report) has raised the suspicion that this early Roman pottery may have been redistributed and on this basis F2003 is considered to be of medieval date. Within this area of the site there seems to be a high degree of redeposition and mixing of material. Ditch F2044 (Grid Squares D22-J24; Fig. 3; DP 2) was clearly stratigraphically earlier than the Phase 1 ditches at the northern end of the site yet was found to contain pottery of medieval (11g) and post-medieval date (<1g) while pottery considered to be of Anglo-Saxon date was recorded in association with the Phase 1 ditches in the north-eastern corner of the site during the preceding trial trench evaluation (Diffey & Williamson 2007).

8.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval/early-modern (Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Cut features

8.4.1 F2032 (H15-J17; Fig. 3) was a linear feature which ran in a south-westerly direction for a distance of 12.50m after emerging from beneath the south-western corner of the recently demolished building (F2019) on the eastern side of the excavated area. It had vertical sides with an irregular, mostly concave base and measured 12.50m x 0.97m x 0.19m+. It contained L2033, a dark greyish brown, loose clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.06m). Finds recovered from the ditch included post-medieval pottery (72g), CBM (630g), four fragments of window glass (30g), slate (14g) and a pair of Fe pliers (224g).

8.4.2 To the south of F2032 lay F2062 (Grid Squares G15-M12; Fig 3), a ditch running on a north-west to south-east alignment. The feature extended beyond the

eastern limit of the excavated area and its course within central part of the site was not traced beyond Grid Square G15. F2062 displayed steep, near vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 20m+ x 1.55m x 0.37m. The feature contained single fill, L2063, a mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt. Post-medieval CBM (182g), a clay pipe stem (5g) and animal bone (273g) was recovered from F2062.

8.4.3 Postholes F2162 (Grid Square D4; Fig. 3) and F2165 (Grid Square D3; Fig. 3) were located in close proximity to one another to the south of the southern Phase 1 enclosure. F2162 (0.70m x 0.60m x 0.17m) was sub-square with rounded corners, in plan, and in section displayed near vertical sides with a flat base. It contained two fills; the upper, L2163, was a mid greyish brown compact clayey silt with chalk inclusions while the basal fill, L2164, was a dark blackish grey, friable sandy silt with charcoal inclusions. F2162 yielded pottery (<1g) and CBM (7g) of post-medieval date. F2165 (0.70m x 0.70m x 0.15m) was circular in plan and had vertical sides and a flat base. L2166, its single fill, was a dark greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions and was found to contain post-medieval pottery (56g) and post-medieval CBM (39g).

8.4.4 Posthole F2162 lay directly to the north of Posthole F2165. The proximity of these features to one another suggests that they functioned as a pair. Their purpose is, however, difficult to ascertain as they did not have any structural or spatial relationships with any other Phase 3 features. They may, however, form a group with the undated Posthole F2187 (Grid Square G3) which was similar in size and lay a short distance to the west.

Masonry structures

8.4.5 The remains of several early modern masonry structures were recorded during the evaluation. The first of these, S1135, was first recorded during the trial trench evaluation (Diffey and Williamson 2007). These features are identifiable on historic cartographic sources (Figs. 7, 8 & 9).

8.4.6 S1135 (Grid Squares C15, D15, E15; Fig 3; DP 13) was initially recorded during the 2007 evaluation and revealed in full during the 2008 strip, map and sample excavation. It was rectangular in plan, orientated E-W, and measured 14m x 5.30m (Fig. 3). S1135 lay within Construction Cut F1045, which had nearly vertical sides and a flat base. F1045 contained upper backfill L1046, a dark orangish mottled grey-brown, firm sandy clay, with moderate sub-rounded gravel clasts and chalk flecks (0.01m-0.05m). A second deposit L1066 was recorded down to 0.65m below wall M1044. This fill was a dark bluish green, compact clay and is considered to represent construction backfill. The structure comprised of M1044, a concrete foundation wall upon which sat Brick Wall M1041. M1044 was a solid, light grey concrete foundation measuring 0.66m in height, 0.35m in width and was present along the whole structure. M1041 was constructed of mid orange-red, course bricks (0.21m x 0.11m x 0.60m), of which up to 4 courses of simple Stretcher bond, with a yellowish creamy mortar with small granular gravel inclusions (0.01m-0.05m) were preserved. The wall was 2 bricks wide.

8.4.7 Within the structure lay Wall M2092. This ran parallel to the northern wall, at a distance of 2m, along the length of the entire building, dividing it into two parts. It was composed of yellow, poor quality bricks (0.22m x 0.11m x 0.08m) and creamy, sandy mortar. Four regular courses of English Cross bond were preserved and the wall was a single brick wide. M2092 sat upon concrete floor M2091. M2091 was approximately 0.80m wide and ran through the middle of the structure in an east to west direction. The interior of the building was filled with modern overburden with a large amount of demolished building material.

8.4.8 Within Wall M1041 a 0.70m wide gap in the middle of the southern part of the structure was recorded. It has been suggested that this might be related to undated Pit F2087, which was located next to the wall, outside of the building. F2087 was rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flat base (1.20m x 0.63m+ x 0.42m). It contained L2088, a dark blackish brown, loose sandy clay which was found to contain burnt bone.

8.4.9 S2070 (Grid Squares B12, C12, D12; Fig. 3; DP 14) was located to the south of S1135 (Fig. 3). Its main Wall M1070 was recorded during the 2007 evaluation within Trench 2. S2070 was rectangular in plan, measuring 8.80m x 3.60m, it was orientated east to west. Wall M1070 was made of coarse red bricks (0.22m x 0.10m x 0.06m), up to six courses survived, and these were bonded with pale creamy yellow lime mortar. The foundation trench for M1070 was truncated at the surface due to machining; however, its fill L1071 was found beneath the wall. This was a mid orangish brown, firm sandy silt with moderate CBM, clinker, flint and occasional charcoal inclusions. It was present down to 0.10m below M1070.

8.4.10 S2074 (Grid Squares C11 to D8; Fig. 3) was rectangular in plan and measured 15.50m x 5.70m. It was orientated roughly north to south. It consisted of Wall M2077 with Foundation Trench F2075. M2077 was a brick wall preserved along the whole of the western side of the structure and in its north-western corner. Other parts of the structure were not found although the clearly visible footprint of this demolished building was recorded. It was revealed as regular depression within natural clay with sharp edges marking the rectangular shape of the structure. M2077 was constructed within Foundation Trench F2075, although no concrete or other foundation was present, the wall lay instead straight on to the natural. M2077 was constructed of creamy yellow bricks (0.22m x 0.11m x 0.08m) recorded up to seven courses of 2 edge/1 end bond with yellowish lime mortar. The lowest course was set in Header bond and because the wall was single brick wide, it was lying out of the main line of the wall, creating a foundation-like course. Foundation Trench F2075 had vertical sides and a flat base. It was 0.40m wide. It contained fill L2076, a dark yellowish brown, compact sandy silt. No finds were recovered. S2074 was partly located over Ditch F2093 which formed part of the Phase 1 Iron Age enclosure.

8.4.11 To the south-east of S2074 lay Field Drain F2198 (Grid Squares C8-C8; Fig. 3). This measured 8m+ x 0.30m and extended beyond the western limit of excavation. F2198 was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. The brick portion of the feature, comprising the drain itself was assigned the context number M2200. Bricks used in the construction of this were pale red and measured 0.23m x 0.12m x 0.09m. No mortar was used in this construction. It remained unexcavated. Given the location

of this feature it is possible that it was contemporary with the structures that lay to the north of it.

8.4.12 Beneath S2074, modern Service Trench F1128 was identified. It ran straight in a north to south direction. It appeared to begin within S2074 and ran beyond the southern excavation limit. It had very regular linear shape in plan and was 46m+ long. It remained unexcavated, as it contained F1129, a blackish grey, loose candy silt with large amounts of modern CBM, glass, porcelain, metal rubbish, etc., as well as ceramic sewage pipe running through the middle of entire trench. F1128 cut the Phase 1 enclosure ditch where it was recorded as F1126 (Segment C) and F2093 (Segment C).

8.4.13 S2055 (Grid Square H12; DP 15) was a small, brick-made construction, sub-rectangular in plan, orientated north-east to south-west and measuring 4m x 2.34m. The building was constructed within Foundation Trench F2051. This was rectangular in plan and in section had vertical sides and a flat base and measured 4.05m x 2.34m. It contained backfill L2053, a dark greyish brown, firm sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.02m). Within the foundation trench, Wall M2052 was located. It was made of light red frogged bricks (0.22m x 0.11m x 0.07m), marked PHORPRES LBC, with light grey cement bonding. Up to eleven courses of bricks survived lying in Stretcher bond. The wall was two bricks wide. The interior of the structure was filled with L2054, a light greyish brown, compact sandy silt with a large amount of brick, concrete and other demolition materials, as well as frequent sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m). Below this fill M2205 was recorded, which was the light grey concrete floor of the structure.

8.5 Undated features (Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Undated features located in close proximity to the Phase 1 Ditches at the northern end of the site

8.5.1 Ditch F2044 (Grid Squares D22-J24: Fig. 3) ran in south-westerly direction for a distance of 34m from beyond limits of the excavated area at its north-eastern corner. Three segments were excavated within F2044. The feature measured between 1m and 1.3m in width and between 0.20m and 0.39m in depth. F2044 had steep to vertical sides and a concave base. Although the terminus of F2044 was found, it may have continued towards the west as the area around Segment C (excavated through the terminus) was intensively disturbed, probably by rooting. The ditch contained a single fill, L2045, a mid greyish brown, firm silty sand with moderate flint and gravel clasts. Ditch F2044 was stratigraphically earlier than the Phase 1 Ditches that lay to the north of it. However, the only dateable artefactual evidence recovered from it was of medieval and post-medieval date. The feature clearly therefore is contemporary with or predates Phase 1 but as no specific date can be assigned to it with any degree of confidence it is regarded as undated. F2049 was a probable ditch, though as much of it was obscured by other features it may have been a pit. It was bowl-shaped in section with slightly concave base and it measured 1m x 1m x 0.40m. It contained a single fill L2050, a mid brownish grey, firm sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks inclusions. The fill was very similar to L1006 within F1003, and because of this fact

relation between F2049 and F1003 was not understood. No finds were recovered from this feature.

8.5.2 F2007 and F2013 (Grid Squares I23-J20; Fig. 3) were parts of the same gully cut by a modern service trench. This feature was linear in plan, slightly curving, orientated north to south. It was U-shaped in profile with concave base (13.50m x 0.62m x 0.13m). It contained a single fill L2004=L2014, a mid brownish grey, firm silty clay. No finds were recovered.

8.5.3 Surrounding F2007=F2013 was a small group of postholes, F2005, F2009, F2011 and F2015 (see Table 2). No certain relation between them was established although the possibility that they were associated with Phase 2 Posthole F2003 exists.

| Feature | Context | Dimensions | Plan/Profile | Fill | Finds | Grid Square |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|--|---|-------|-------------|
| F2005 | L2006 | 0.23m x 0.22m x 0.15m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, concave base | Mid greyish brown, loose clayey silt with frequent sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m) | - | I23 |
| F2009 | L2010 | 0.38m x 0.32m x 0.07m | Sub-oval, U-shaped, concave base | Dark greyish brown, loose clayey silt with occasional sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | - | I22 |
| F2011 | L2012 | 0.56m x 0.41m x 0.16m | Oval, U-shaped, concave base | Mid brownish grey, loose clayey silt with occasional sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.02m) | - | I23 |
| F2015 | L2016 | 0.31m x 0.30m x 0.08m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, flat base | Light brownish grey, loose silty clay wit occasional sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.02m) | - | H21 |

Table 2. Undated postholes surrounding Gully F2007=F2013

8.5.4 F2017 (Grid Square I21; Fig. 3) was located next to F2015; however, it seemed to be natural depression or rooting rather than a pit or posthole. It was irregular in plan and U-shaped, partly irregular in profile with concave base. It contained a single fill, L2018, a mid orangish grey, loose clayey silt wit occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.03m). No finds were present.

8.5.5 F2072 was a short gully (Grid Square D23; Fig. 3), orientated east to west. It had steep sides and concave base and measured 2.50m x 0.53m x 0.22m. It contained a single fill L2073, a dark greyish brown, firm silty sand with moderate flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m). No finds were recovered.

8.5.6 Posthole F2068 (Grid Square B22; Fig. 3) was located to the south of Ditch F2066, within an area obscured by extensive rooting. It was circular in plan and in section had moderate to steep sides with a concave base (0.26m x 0.26m x 0.30m). It contained a single fill L2069, a mid greyish brown, loose sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions (0.01m-0.05m). No finds were present.

Undated features within and surrounding the southern Phase 1 enclosure

8.5.7 A large number of postholes (see Table 3) was excavated within internal area defined by the Phase 1 enclosure. It is possible that these features were contemporary with the enclosure although as none contained dateable artefactual material they are considered for the purposes of this report to be undated. These postholes may have formed structures within the enclosure although there are no easily discernible structural configurations.

| Feature | Context | Dimensions | Plan/Profile | Fill | Finds | Grid Square |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--------------|--------------------|
| F2100 | L2101 | 0.41m x 0.31m x 0.08m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, concave base | Light brownish grey, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | - | C9 |
| F2102 | L2103 | 0.29m x 0.24m x 0.08m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Mid brownish grey, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | - | B9 |
| F2106 | L2107 | 0.18m x 0.14m x 0.10m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, concave base | Dark blackish grey, firm clayey silt | - | B9 |
| F2108 | L2109 | 0.33m x 0.30m x 0.07m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, concave base | Light brownish grey, firm silty clay with flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | - | B9 |
| F2110 | L2111 | 0.16m x 0.15m x 0.09m | Circular, U-shaped, flat base | Light brownish grey, firm clayey silt | - | B9 |

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|-------|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|-------|
| F2112 | L2113 | 0.20m x 0.17m x 0.09m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Mid blackish grey, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.06m) | - | B9 |
| F2121 | L2122 | 0.25m x 0.10m x 0.13m | Sub-oval, U- shaped, flat base | Mid greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.02m) | - | C7 |
| F2123 | L2124 | 0.33m x 0.20m x 0.20m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Mid greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.02m) | - | C7 |
| F2125 | L2126 | 0.16m x 0.13m x 0.08m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Light greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.02m) | - | C7 |
| F2129 | L2130 | 0.17m x 0.15m x 0.11m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Light greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.03m) | - | C6 |
| F2135 | L2136 | 0.65m x 0.44m x 0.08m | Oval, vertical sides, flat base | Dark greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.04m) | - | D6 |
| F2137 | L2138 | 0.47m x 0.40m x 0.11m | Sub-circular, bowl-shaped, slightly concave base | Mid yellowish brown, compact clayey silt with flit inclusions (0.01m- 0.06m) | - | D6 |
| F2146 | L2147 | 0.29m x 0.28m x 0.11m | Circular, U- shaped, flat base | Mid greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint | - | B7/C7 |

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|-------|-------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|----|
| | | | | inclusions (0.01m- 0.04m) | | |
| F2148 | L2149 | 0.43m x 0.39m x 0.11m | Sub-circular, nearly vertical sides, flat base | Dark greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.05m) | - | D6 |
| F2150 | L2151 | 0.75m x 0.61m x 0.20m | Sub-circular, bowl-shaped, slightly concave base | Mid greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.03m) | - | C6 |
| F2152 | L2153 | 0.15m x 0.13m x 0.10m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Mid greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.02m) | - | C6 |
| F2158 | L2159 | 0.17m x 0.16m x 0.29m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, flat base | Mid greyish brown, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.04m) | - | C6 |
| F2167 | L2168 | 0.40m x 0.22m x 0.21m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, uneven base | Mid greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.03m) | - | C5 |
| F2169 | L2170 | 0.34m x 0.28m x 0.29m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Mid greyish brown, compact clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.03m) | - | C5 |
| F2177 | L2178 | 0.42m x 0.32m x 0.33m | Sub-circular, U-shaped, flat base | Dark blackish grey, loose clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.02m) | - | D7 |

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|-------|-------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|----|
| F2189 | L2190 | 0.16m x 0.14m x 0.14m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, flat base | Mid greyish brown, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.04m) | - | B4 |
| F2191 | L2192 | 0.18m x 0.18m x 0.12m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, flat base | Mid greyish brown with orange flecks, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.03m) | - | B5 |
| F2195 | L2196 | 0.20m x 0.20m x 0.04m | Sub-circular, U-shaped with nearly vertical sides, flat base | Mid greyish brown with orange flecks, firm clayey silt with flint inclusions (0.01m- 0.03m) | - | B5 |

Table 3. Undated Postholes within Phase 1 Enclosure

8.5.8 F2175 (Grid Square D7; Fig. 3) was a pit cutting Posthole F2177. It was oval in plan and bowl-shaped in section with a slightly concave base (0.84m x 0.82m x 0.15m). It contained a single fill, L2176, a dark blackish brown, loose clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded flint inclusions (0.01m-0.02m).

8.5.9 Pit F2096 (Grid Square B11; Fig. 3) was located to the north of Phase 1 enclosure Ditch F2093 and therefore outside of the enclosure. Its western side extended beyond the edge of the excavated area. It was U-shaped in section with slightly concave base and measured 1.25m+ x 0.62m+ x 0.18m. L2097, its single fill, was a light orangish grey, firm sandy clay. No finds were present. F2096 was cut by another undated feature, Pit F2098. Like F2096, the western part of F2098 extended beyond the edge of the excavated area. It was sub-circular in plan and in section had steep sides and flat, irregular base. It measured 0.63m+ x 0.33m+ x 0.10m. Its fill was L2099, a mid bluish grey, firm sandy clay which did not yield any finds.

8.5.10 Pit F2083 (Grid Square C11) was located in close proximity to, but outside of, the Phase 1 enclosure and to the north of Ditch F2093. It was sub-circular in plan and U-shaped in section with concave base. It measured 0.60m x 0.30m x 0.22m. Pit F2083 contained a single fill, L2084, a dark blackish brown, loose silty sand. No finds were present but it is likely that this feature is of modern date due to the contamination of its fill with oil/diesel or a similar substance.

8.5.11 Pit F2187 (Grid Square C3; Fig. 3) was located to the south of the Phase 1 enclosure. In plan it was sub-circular and in section displayed moderate to steep sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.77m in length, 0.64m in width and 0.06m deep. Its single fill, L2188, was a mid orangish grey, friable silty clay with moderate sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m). It was found to contain a very small fragment of iron nail (<1g). Despite its location in proximity to the Phase 1 enclosure, its similarity in size and position relative to Phase 3 Postholes F2162 and

F2165 suggest that it is more likely to have been associated with these post-medieval/early-modern features than with the Iron Age enclosure.

8.5.12 Small Gully F2171 (Grid Squares C1, D1; Fig. 3) extended beyond the southern edge of the excavation area. It was linear in plan and in section displayed gently sloping, shallow sides and a concave base. It measured 1.80m+ x 0.50m x 0.06m. Its single fill was L2172, a mid greyish brown with red flecks, friable sandy silt with chunks of burnt clay inclusions. It contained a small quantity of CBM (11g).

8.5.13 To the west of Gully F2171 lay Posthole F2183 (Grid Square C1; Fig. 3). There was no obvious functional or spatial relationship between these two features. F2183 was oval in plan, measuring 0.45m in length and 0.30m in width. It displayed steep to near vertical sides with a concave base and was 0.18m deep. L2184, its fill, was a light yellowish brown compact silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions.

Other Undated features

8.5.14 F2059 (Grid Square B17; Fig. 3; 0.80m x 0.60m x 0.36m) was a pit, oval in plan and U-shaped in section with concave base. Its fill was L2060, a mid greenish blue, firm silty clay with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flint inclusions (0.01m-0.06m). It contained no artefactual material

8.5.15 Pit F2078 (Grid Square D19; Fig. 3) lay to the north-east of Pit F2059. It was sub-circular in plan and irregular in section with concave base. It measured 0.59m x 0.57m x 0.13m. L2079, a dark greyish brown, loose silty sand, comprised its single fill and this yielded no archaeological finds. F2080 (Grid Square D17; Fig. 3) was another pit, circular in plan and U-shaped in section with flat base and measuring 0.72m x 0.72m x 0.10m. Its single fill was L2081, a dark blackish brown, loose silty sand.

8.5.16 Close to the southern edge of the footprint of the recently demolished building on the eastern side of the site (F2019) lay a group of undated stakeholes (see Table 4).

| Feature | Context | Dimensions | Plan/Profile | Fill | Finds | Grid Square |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--------------|--------------------|
| F2034 | L2035 | 0.08m x 0.08m x 0.10m | Circular, U-shaped with vertical sides, concave base | Dark brownish grey, firm silty sand | - | L17 |
| F2036 | L2037 | 0.08m x 0.08m x 0.16m | Circular, U-shaped with vertical sides, concave base | Dark brownish grey, firm silty sand | - | L17 |
| F2038 | L2039 | 0.10m x 0.10m x 0.16m | Circular, U-shaped with vertical sides, concave base | Dark brownish grey, firm silty sand | - | L17 |
| F2040 | L2041 | 0.08m x 0.08m x 0.13m | Circular, U-shaped with vertical sides, concave base | Dark brownish grey, firm silty sand | - | L17 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|-----|
| F2042 | L2043 | 0.10m x 0.10m x 0.16m | Circular, U-shaped with vertical sides, concave base | Dark brownish grey, firm silty sand | - | L17 |
|-------|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|-----|

Table 4. Undated stakeholes to the south of F2019

8.5.17 To the west of the group of stakeholes described above lay F2030. This feature was sub-oval in plan with steep irregular sides and an irregular base. Its only fill, L2031 was a dark brownish grey, with some orange mottling, loose sandy clay. F2030 was a tree bole, a fact supported by the presence of timber within L2031.

8.5.18 F2144 was an irregular, sub-circular shape in plan and had an irregular profile and base. It was a tree bole which had caused disturbance to Phase 1 Ditch F2093. It contained L2145, a mid orangish brown, soft clayey silt, which seemed to be redeposited natural.

8.6 Modern and recently demolished features (Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 6)

8.6.1 Within the north-eastern part of the site the footprint (F2019; Grid Squares J17-20, K17-20, L17-20, M17-18) of a previously demolished building was present. It measured c. 17m x 13m and partially extended beyond the limits of the excavated area to the east. It contained L2020, a mixed orangish brown, firm sandy clay with demolition material, mostly bricks, as well as flint and gravel inclusions (0.01m-0.10m).

8.6.2 Connected to the building formerly existing within F2019, was a drainage system with brick-made support structure, located to the north-west of the footprint of the demolished building (Fig. 3). All drains (see Table 5) were of the same shape and size; however, due to machining, they survived mostly only as shallow base parts. A main drain was orientated east to west, running from F2019 up to support structure S2027 (as F2021). Two other drains, F2023 and F2025 ran from F2019 in a north-westerly direction towards F2021. It is likely that these drains were Victorian in date but have not been included in Phase 3 due to their association with the recently demolished F2019. Running to the west from S2027, beyond the western limit of excavation was F2201. Similarly, running to the north from S2027 and extending beyond the northern limit of excavation was F2203. These were similar drains to those recorded running between F2019 and S2027. They were, however, heavily truncated by demolition work or machining and only traces of them were visible, they have therefore been excluded from the site plan.

| Feature | Context | Dimensions | Plan/ Profile | Fill | Finds | Grid Square |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------|----------------|
| F2021 | L2022 | 8.80m x 0.40m x 0.01m | Linear, aligned E- W, flat base | Dark brownish black, loose sand with gravel and occasional sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | - | G19-J20 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|-----------------|----------------|
| F2023 | L2024 | 8.40m x 0.40m x 0.01m | Linear, aligned NW- SE, flat base | Dark brownish black, loose sand with gravel and occasional sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | - | H19-J18 |
| F2025 | L2026 | 5m x 0.40m x 0.01m | Linear, aligned NW- SE, flat base | Dark brownish black, loose sand with gravel and occasional sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | - | H19-I18 |
| F2201 | L2202 | 20m+ x 0.40m x 0.01m | Linear, aligned E- W, flat base | Dark brownish black, loose sand with gravel and occasional sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | Ceramic pipe | Not on plan |
| F2203 | L2204 | 20m+ x 0.40m x 0.01m | Linear, aligned N-S, U-shaped, flat base | Dark brownish black, loose sand with gravel and occasional sub- angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.04m) | Ceramic pipe | Not on plan |

8.6.3 Support structure S2027 was located in the middle of this system and measured 2.30m x 1.41m x 1.23m (Grid Square G19; Fig. 3). The principal part of this structure was M2048, a solid red brick made construction holding drainage pipes on the northern, eastern and western sides. Bricks measured 0.30m x 0.10m x 0.07m and were bonded using cement with chalk and very small flint pieces. No regular bonding was recognized because of the shape and size of the structure. M2048 measured 1.23m+ in height and lay above L2029, which was the fill of construction Trench/Pit F2028. This cut displayed vertical sides. L2029 was a mid greyish brown, loose clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (0.01m-0.03m). No finds were recovered. Over the top of M2048 an irregular layer of concrete was recorded. M2046 was a light grey, solid concrete layer measuring 1.45m x 0.84m x 0.30m.

8.6.4 Sixteen small concrete footings (Grid Squares H11-J9) were found lying in two lines to the south-west of the recently demolished building F2019. Each footing measured c. 0.50m-0.70m x 0.50m-0.70m x 0.30m-0.50m and were irregular, cube-shaped with holes for iron posts on their tops.

8.6.5 S2058 was a line of small-sized concrete footings that appeared to be the base of a fence. These features traversed the whole area of excavation, running in north-north-west to south-south-east direction, with an additional line in the northern part of the site running away from the main line towards the north-east. Footings were made of light grey concrete and measured c. 0.50m x 0.50m x 0.30m.

8.6.6 F2056 (DP 16) was a group of parallel linear features, located in the south-western part of the excavation area, orientated north to south. It is understood that this is the remnant of gardening activity and was a group of planting beds for strawberries.

Sixteen linears in total were recorded, each 0.50m wide and up to 11m long. They contained the same fill L2057, a mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with frequent flint inclusions (0.01m-0.05m) and occasional charcoal flecks (0.01m-0.03m).

9 CONFIDENCE RATING

9.1 It is not felt that any factors substantially inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the project.

10 DEPOSIT MODEL

10.1 Natural drift deposits were encountered within the site sloping gently from 66.90m AOD at the northern end of the area to 66.20m AOD at the southern limit of excavation area.

10.2 Balls Park is situated on an area of transition within the underlying drift. This transition was clearly evident from north to south across Area C. The mid brownish orange, terrace gravels L1002 present in the north, east and south of the area were bisected by a natural mid yellowish orange, sandy clay L1056 in most of the Area C before giving way to Boulder Clay in the south-east corner of the site.

10.3 Area C displayed a basic tripartite stratigraphic sequence (Topsoil L1000, Subsoil L1001 and natural drift geology) which had been truncated and disturbed by 18th-20th century building activity in the northern and central part of the site. Most of this part of the site contained modern overburden L2047 over other deposits and features.

10.4 In the southern part of the site L1125 was recorded lying over natural clay. It was yellowish, compact silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions (0.01m-0.05m). It overlaid most of the prehistoric features and it might have been an intermediate deposit to later settlement.

10.5 Evaluation trenches in the centre of the site displayed the most extensive disturbance with approximately 1m of post-medieval stratigraphy comprising multiple layers of made ground (L1051 and L1052 in Trench 2; L1022, L1023, L1026, L1027, L1028 and L1032 in Trench 3) overlying the natural clay (L1056) (Diffey 2007 & Williamson 2007). The made ground deposits were capped by recent carpark make up and surfacing layers L1047, L1048, L1049 and L1050 in Trench 2; L1007, L1008, L1017 and L1018 in Trench 3.

11 DISCUSSION

11.1 Summary of the archaeology

11.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded within all areas of the site. These represented two main periods of activity. The first of these is middle Iron Age possible settlement activity revealed at the northern end of the excavated area and towards its centre. The other main period represented is post-medieval and early-modern, and is most likely associated with activity within the Balls Park estate at this time. Minimal evidence of medieval activity at the site was recorded while other features were present which were modern in date and would appear to be associated or contemporary with the recently demolished structure F2019.

11.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

11.2.1 The most significant element of the site at Balls Park was the Phase 1 enclosure, located in the central part of Area C. Much of the extent of this lay outside of the excavated area and so its exact nature was not possible to determine. Although evidence of the Iron Age in Hertford and its surroundings is poorly known, this feature may represent settlement dated to the middle Iron Age. The enclosure, with its numerous internal features, may represent previously unrecorded settlement this part of the county. Features within the enclosure mainly comprised postholes. While these may represent the remains of structures within the Phase 1 enclosure many of them remain undated and further analysis will be required to confirm whether or not this is the case.

11.2.2 Iron Age features were also recorded in the northern part of the site. The ditches that were revealed may have been part of boundary system associated with the enclosure to the south-west or may have formed part of another, similar, enclosure. Some 1st century AD pottery found in a medieval pit close to this area may have come from this enclosure; further pottery dated to the 1st century AD was also present within the southern Phase 1 enclosure. This may suggest that the middle Iron Age activity at the site continued into the later Iron Age. However, it has been speculated that in the second half of the 1st century BC, there was a drift of occupation from the plateau above Hertford into the river valley itself (Partridge 1989).

11.2.3 Post-Roman and early Anglo-Saxon evidence in Hertfordshire is poorly defined with only a few chance finds of archaeological remains with dates before AD600 occurring. However, the Foxholes Farm site has produced undiagnostic grass tempered pottery and sunken-featured-buildings of Anglo-Saxon date. Topographical and place-name indications suggest an expanse of heath, common and grassland in the Balls Park area at this time (Prosser 2001). Pottery recovered from Ditch F1134 during the preceding trial trench evaluation (Diffey & Williamson 2007) was similar to Thetford Ware; however, there is some possibility that this material is in fact middle to late Iron Age. The results of the 2007 archaeological evaluation suggested that further Saxon remains should be expected, however, during the 2008 excavation no such evidence was present.

11.2.4 The single pit dated to the medieval period (Phase 2), and the medieval pottery recovered from the stratigraphically early Ditch F2044, suggest that medieval activity was occurring at some point in proximity to the site. However, the lack of evidence means that this activity cannot be characterised.

11.2.5 The majority of the later features at the site relate to post-medieval and early-modern within the Balls Park estate. Historic cartographic sources indicate that much of the site was in use as formally laid out gardens in the early-modern period. The excavation revealed numerous features within the site related to these gardens. A group of garden-related buildings was located along Balls Park mansion eastern wall. S1135 and S2074 were recognized as greenhouses. These structures can be identified on historical cartographic sources (see Figs 7, 8 & 9)

11.3 Interpretation of the site: geology and topography

11.3.1 The site lies at the important junction of the gravel terraces to the north and the heavier boulder clays to the south of the house. This may be of significance if the site had revealed evidence of earlier prehistoric activity. The natural stratigraphic sequence of the site has been much disturbed by the early-modern activity within the garden areas.

11.4 Preservation of the archaeology

11.4.1 The more recent features were generally found in a good state of preservation, although of course features associated with now demolished buildings display associated damage. Pottery from these features was recovered in fairly good condition. The earlier pottery was generally recovered as small and medium abraded sherds. Some of this pottery was recovered from waterlogged deposits and was in poor state.

11.5 Research Potential

11.5.1 The Iron Age features recorded at the site may represent settlement activity in this area overlooking the Lea valley. Similar activity has been recorded at the Foxholes Farm site and the evidence from Balls Park adds to the corpus of information regarding Iron Age settlement in this part of Hertfordshire. This evidence therefore has the potential to provide further, if limited, information regarding the location and distribution of settlements, settlement chronology and dynamics and settlement form and function in the early and middle Iron Age, all of which have been identified as important research subjects for the Iron Age in the east of England (Bryant 2000).

11.5.2 Research potential of the archaeology recorded at the site relates as well to the post-medieval and early-modern development of the grounds of Balls Park. Parks and gardens form a specific research topic in the research agenda for the eastern counties (Gilman, Gould & Green 2000).

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd. would like to thank Explore Living for commissioning and funding this project, in particular Mr Nick Trollope and Mr Jim Cooper.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Alison Tinniswood of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU).

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APPENDIX 1. CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

| Feature | Context | Segment | Description | Spot Date | Pottery | CBM (g) | A.Bone (g) | Other |
|---------|---------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|------------|--|
| 1001 | | | Surface Find | | | | | Struck Flint (1), 14g Fe Objects (3), 214g |
| 1003 | ? | | ? | MIA | (3), 118g | | <1 | Burnt Bone (1), <1g |
| 1126 | 1127 2141 | A | ?Ditch Fill | MIA | (42), 328g | | 210 138 | |
| 1130 | ?1131 2142 | A | ?Ditch Fill | MIA | (36), 238g | | 262 | Struck Flint (5), 32g |
| 1134 | 1190 | B | ?Ditch Fill | MIA | (4), 45g | | | |
| 2001 | | | Subsoil | MIA | (2), 16g | | | |
| 2003 | 2004 | D | Posthole Fill | Medieval m-l 1st C AD | (3), 34g (6), 38g | | | |
| 2032 | 2033 | | Drain Fill | Post-Medieval | (8), 72g | 630 | | Window Glass (4), 30g Slate (1), 14g Fe Pliers (1), 224g |
| 2044 | 2045 | B C | Ditch Fill | Medieval Medieval Post-Medieval | (1), 1g (1), 10g (1), <1g | 37 | 259 9 | Struck Flint (1), <1g |
| 2047 | | | Modern Overburden | | | | | Fe ?Weight (1), 738g |
| 2062 | 2063 | | Ditch Fill | Post-Medieval | | 182 | 273 | Clay Pipe Stem (1), 5g |
| 2064 | 2065 | | Pit Fill | MIA | (1), <1g | | | |
| 2066 | 2067 | B C | Ditch Fill | MIA MIA | (1), <1g (5), 14g | | 56 | SF1: Fe Nail (1), 3g |
| 2071 | | | Animal Bone Deposit | | | | 874 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----|--|
| | | | Animal Bone Deposit - Left Side | | | | 113 | |
| | | | Animal Bone Deposit - Right Side | | | | 159 | |
| 2087 | 2088 | | Pit Fill | | | | | Burnt Bone (2), 24g |
| 2089 | 2090 | | Pit Fill | MIA | (1), 17g | | | |
| 2093 | 2094 | A | Ditch Fill | MIA | (23), 100g | | 29 | Cockle Shell (2), <1g Struck Flint (1), <1g Burnt Flint (1), <1g |
| | | B | | MIA | (48), 577g | | 611 | |
| | | C | | I 1st C BC-e 1st C AD | (35), 98g | | 218 | Struck Flint (2), 54g |
| | | 2095 | | B | MIA | (3), 21g | | 17 |
| | 2115 | C | | MIA | (33), 286g | | <1 | |
| 2104 | 2105 | | Posthole Fill | MIA | (1), 5g | | | |
| 2117 | 2118 | B | Ditch Fill | I 1st C BC-e 1st C | (1), 62g (3), 18g | | 174 | |
| | | C | | AD | | | | |
| 2127 | 2128 | | Posthole Fill | MIA | (1), <1g | | | |
| 2133 | 2134 | | Posthole Fill | | | | | SF2: Fe Nail (1), 3g SF3: Fe Nail (1), 1g |
| 2139 | 2140 | A | Ditch Fill | MIA | (7), 70g (100), 616g | | 10 | |
| | | B | | I 1st C BC-e 1st C AD | | | 108 | |
| 2154 | 2155 | | Posthole Fill | MIA | (4), 7g | | | |
| 2156 | 2157 | | Posthole Fill | MIA | (8), 34g | 1717 | | |
| 2160 | 2161 | | ? | MIA | (1), 15g | | | |
| 2162 | 2164 | | Posthole Fill | Post-Medieval | (1), <1g | 7 | | |
| 2165 | 2166 | | Posthole Fill | Post-Medieval | (1), 56g | 39 | | |
| 2171 | 2172 | | Gully Fill | | | 11 | | |
| 2173 | 2174 | | ?Ditch Fill | MIA | (6), 48g | 176 | 15 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|---|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| 2181 | 2182 | | Ditch Fill | MIA | (60), 290g | 472 | 256 | |
| 2185 | 2186 | | Posthole Fill | MIA | (1), 35g | | | |
| 2187 | 2188 | | Pit Fill | | | | | Fe Nail Fragment (1), <1g |
| 2193 | 2194 | | Posthole Fill | MIA | (2), <1g | | | |
| ? | 1139 | A | ? | | (6), 36g | | 320 | |

APPENDIX 2. SPECIALISTS REPORTS

The Struck Flint: an interim statement

Andrew Peachey

Introduction

Excavations produced a total of eight fragments (73g) of struck flint, of which five fragments (33g) were contained in Ditch F1130 (L1131). The struck flint was entirely comprised of debitage and was in an unpatinated, fairly sharp condition.

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. 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 'non-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex.

Results and Discussion

Ditch F1130 (L1131) contained five fragments (33g) of debitage including a primary flake, a tertiary flake and uncorticated flakes. The primary flake (9g) is notable as it is a core rejuvenation flake with a faceted butt that was struck from an utilised core of dark grey flint with a thick white cortex (chalk/boulder clay derived). The tertiary flake (15g) and one of the uncorticated flakes (4g) were struck from a core of comparable nature. The remaining two tertiary flakes (5g) were struck from an orange-red flint of relatively poor quality, probably sourced from local surface gravels. Ditch F2093 contained single fragments of struck flint in L2094 Segs. A and C respectively. L2094 Seg. C included a relatively large primary flake (38g) that may represent a core preparation flake, while L2094 Seg. A included an uncorticated flake or chip (1g). Both flakes were struck from the same type of dark grey flint as is present in Ditch F1130, as was the small tertiary flake contained in Ditch F2044 (L2045 Seg. C).

The faceted butt on the primary (core rejuvenation) flake and the broad, squat nature of the tertiary flake in Ditch F1130 (L1131) are suggestive of a date in the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age but with such a small sample size this remains a far from definitive conclusion. Likewise the small sample size negates the suggestion of flint reduction occurring on the site, but cannot eliminate the possibility completely.

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The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

Introduction

Excavations produced a total of 1 (16g) sherd of Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery, 420 sherds (2951g) of middle Iron Age pottery, 10 sherds (85g) of late Iron Age pottery, 2 sherds (17g) of Roman pottery and 17 sherds (179g) of medieval and post-medieval pottery. The pottery is in a moderately abraded and fragmented condition. The principal concentrations in the assemblage were contained in Ditch F2093, with notable concentrations also present in Ditches F2139, F2181, F1126 and F1130.

Methodology

The pottery was examined at x8 and x20 magnification in order to categorise fabric groups, and quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE in accordance with guidelines detailed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995). All form and fabric quantification data was entered in to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Fabric and form types are summarised for the purposes of the interim report but will be fully described in the research archive report.

Results and Discussion

Prehistoric Fabrics

The earliest fabric in the assemblage is represented by a single body sherd in Pit F2089. The sherd is mid orange-brown with sparse calcined flint and occasional grog/clay pellet inclusions and may date to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, however there is insufficient evidence for any further conclusion.

A single fabric dominates the middle Iron Age pottery and accounts for 91.65% of the prehistoric pottery by sherd count (85.81% by weight). This fabric ranges between dark red-brown to black in colour and is tempered with common sand with sparse/occasional calcined flint and vegetable material (voids/charcoal) also present. It may be commented that the fabric is generally of 'poor' quality with inclusions present in varying and inconsistent proportions. Further sparse middle Iron Age sherds are in fabrics that may be regarded as variants of this fabric, and comprise types with either moderate flint and sand temper or common flint temper.

Representing the late Iron Age are rare sherds of grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery, in total 5 sherds (85g). With the exception of a single sherd these occur in association with the middle Iron Age sherds, indicating that certain features may have remained open through the Iron Age or that these are secondary deposits.

Prehistoric Forms

Ditch F2093 accounts for 32.71% of the prehistoric pottery in the assemblage by sherd count (34.40% by weight); therefore it is unsurprising that it also contains the

principal concentration of diagnostic forms (4 vessels with a total R.EVE of 0.30). Diagnostic sherds otherwise appear very sparsely distributed, and often appear extremely fragmented (possibly too fragmented for future comparison). The sand/flint-tempered vessels in Ditch F2093 include a large jar with a weak profile, a slightly everted rim and finger-tip impressions on the top of the rim, and two similar smaller jars with slightly everted rims (one also with finger-tip impressions on the top of the rim). These vessels are broadly comparable to types recorded at Little Waltham (Drury 1978: Forms 6 and 3), while further middle Iron Age comparisons may be made with vessels from Foxholes Farm (Partridge 1989) and Manor Estate, Apsley (Peachey *forthcoming*). Further single examples of comparable jars were present in Ditches F1126 and F2160. Ditch F1160 may also contain small fragments of an open bowl (Drury 1978: Form 17), although these small sherds may be illusory and represent another similar jar. A jar with a slightly more pronounced shoulder (Drury 1978: Form 2) is present in Posthole F2156. These vessels provide a moderately substantial group of middle Iron Age pottery in Hertfordshire, probably associated with the 4th-2nd centuries BC.

The 'Belgic' fabrics in this assemblage do not include any diagnostic rim sherds or profiles; however body sherds from plain cordons (of jars/bowls?) are present in Ditch F2139. Ditch F2117 also contained a foot-ring base that had been pierced by a single post-firing hole (c.10mm in diameter) and may represent the recycling of a broken vessel as a weight. It remains unclear whether these vessels represent late Iron Age activity immediately succeeding that represented by the middle Iron Age pottery more common in this assemblage, but these sherds appear to originate in the late 1st century BC to the early 1st century AD.

Roman Pottery

The Roman pottery in the assemblage is limited to 2 sherds (17g) of La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 28) in Posthole F2003. These cross-joining sherds were part of a Dr.18 platter dating to the mid to late 1st century AD. These sherds could conceivably represent mid 1st century AD Roman activity succeeding that in the late Iron Age, however Posthole F2003 also contains sherds of medieval pottery that may indicate these were re-deposited.

The post-Roman pottery

The medieval sherds in the assemblage are limited to isolated sherds of a pimply sand-tempered, reduced fabric present in Posthole F2003 and Ditch F2044. No diagnostic rim sherds were present, although the profile of the single basal/wall junction sherd present suggests they may be derived from a medieval jar. Similarly the post-medieval sherds are limited to fragments of red earthen ware in Drain F2032, Ditch F2044, Posthole F2165 and transfer-printed ware in Posthole F2162. The low quantity and the association of the Roman/medieval and medieval/post-medieval sherds suggest that they may have been re-deposited although this remains speculation.

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The Ceramic Objects and Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Introduction

Excavations produced a total of 201 fragments (2376g) of ceramic objects and 17 fragments (891g) of CBM. The fragments of ceramic objects all originate from Iron Age thatch weights and are in a moderately abraded and friable condition. The CBM is entirely comprised of post-medieval brick and tile in a slightly abraded and highly fragmented condition.

The Ceramic Objects

The ceramic objects (thatch weights) all appear to have been manufactured from one basic fabric, which exhibits minor variations even within single objects. The fabric has mid to dark red-brown surfaces that fade to a dark grey to black core. Inclusions comprise common, well-sorted quartz (0.2-0.5mm), sparse vegetable material/charcoal (1-5mm) and occasional flint (generally <5mm). The fabric is quite soft, slightly friable and has not been fired at a high temperature.

The most well-preserved of the ceramic objects were contained in Posthole F2156 (L2157) (42 fragments, 1717g). These fragments represent the remains of two moderately fragmented thatch weights that are probably wholly present though abrasion and their friable nature hinder reconstruction. One of the thatch weights in this context has sufficiently extant fragments to enable the reconstruction of its dimensions and form, and by comparison that of the other thatch weights in the assemblage. The thatch weights comprise equilateral triangles with sides of c.140mm, a depth of c.50mm and rounded edges and corners. Each of the three corners is pierced by a tapering hole (c.15mm in diameter) that exits through the narrow sides of the thatch weight. The thatch weights are comparable to Iron Age examples recorded at Foxholes Farm (Partridge 1989, 152: weights 1-5) and Little Waltham (Drury 1978, 112: weights 13.1 and 13.2). Posthole F2181 (L2182) contains the highly fragmented remains (95 fragments, 472g) of another single thatch weight that is probably wholly present, while Ditch F2173 (L2174) (60 fragments,

176g) and Gully F2171 (L2172) (4 fragments, 11g) contain sparse fragments representing the partial remains of further thatch weights.

The Ceramic Building Materials

All the post-medieval CBM is in an oxidised orange-red fabric with common sand temper. The post-medieval CBM is very limited in both its quantity and distribution, with the highest concentration present in Drain F2032 which contained 4 fragments (554g) of 65mm thick brick and 2 fragments (72g) of peg tile. Ditch F2062 (L2063) also contained a single fragment (182g) of peg tile, while the remaining post-medieval CBM in Ditch F2044 (6 fragments, 37g), Posthole F2162 (2 fragments, 7g) and Posthole F2165 (2 fragments, 39g) is too fragmented and abraded to be assigned a form type. It is highly unlikely that this CBM pre-dates the 18th century.

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Animal Bone

Carina Phillips

An initial evaluation of the animal bone was carried out in order to assess the composition of the assemblage. Animal bone was hand excavated from twelve features. Spot dates indicate these features date to the mid-late Iron Age and to the medieval-post medieval period. Approximately 90 disarticulated fragments of animal bone were recovered, in addition to a partial deer skeleton 2071. Cattle (*Bos* sp.), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra* sp.), horse (*Equus* sp.) and dog (*Canis familiaris*) were also identified during analysis. A majority of the bone is of moderate preservation.

Further analysis will assess the deer skeleton in more detail, considering the completeness, age, evidence of butchery and the possibility that it is a 'special deposit'. The other bone in the assemblage will also be recorded to consider the species present and utilisation of these on site, however the small size of the assemblage may restrict the amount of results that can be gleaned from further analysis.

Shell

Carina Phillips

A single common cockle (*Cardium edule*) shell was hand recovered from F2094 (L2093).

APPENDIX 3. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

| | |
|---|---|
| Site name and address: | Balls Park Area C, Hertford |
| County: Hertfordshire | District: Hertford |
| Village/Town: Hertford | Parish: Hertford |
| Planning application reference: | 3/0/2271 |
| Client name/address/tel: | Explore Living |
| Nature of application: | Residential |
| Present land use: | Garden |
| Size of application area: 10890m ² | Size of area investigated: 5390m ² |
| NGR (8 figures): | TL 3369 1181 |
| Site Code: | AS 1070 |
| Site director/Organisation: | Archaeological Solutions Ltd |
| Type of work: | Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation |
| Date of work: | 16 th June- 25 th July 2008 |
| Location of finds/Curating museum: | Hertford Museum |
| Related SMR Nos: | Periods represented: Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval |
| Relevant previous summaries/reports: - | Diffey, J & Williamson I. 2007 <i>Balls Park, Hertford. An Archaeological Evaluation. Area C.</i> , Archaeological Solutions Ltd., Hertford, unpublished report 2931 |
| Summary of fieldwork results: | <p>In June and July 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological “strip, map and sample” excavation of land at Balls Park, Area C, Hertford (NGR TL 3369 1181).</p> <p>Balls Park is located on the outskirts of Hertford, approximately 1 km to the South-East of the town, and comprises the 17th century mansion with modern buildings set within the formal 18th century park landscape.</p> <p>The excavation revealed numerous features dated to the middle Iron Age, including a sub-rectangular enclosure with internal features and possible habitation layer, also ditches, pits and postholes were found. These Iron Age features are likely to represent agricultural activity associated with settlement.. The excavation revealed large number of features associated with the formal gardens of the Balls Park estate. Most of these early-modern features represented drains and greenhouses.</p> |
| Author of summary: Newton, A. A. S | Date of Summary: September 2008 |

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. General view of site looking south, with the northern Phase 1 enclosure in the foreground. Note Ditches F1003 and F2066 under excavation.



DP 2. General view of the site looking north, with the southern Phase 1 enclosure in the centre.



DP 3. Northern Phase 1 enclosure looking south-west, with Ditch F1003 in the foreground.



DP 4. Northern Phase 1 enclosure looking east, with Ditch F1003 left and Ditch F2044 right.



DP 5. Profile of Ditch F2066 (Seg. B), looking north-west.



DP 6. Deer skeleton under excavation in Ditch F2066, looking south-east.



DP 7. Interior of southern Phase 1 enclosure, looking south.



DP 8. South-eastern corner of southern Phase 1 enclosure Ditch F1126, looking west.



DP 9. Profile of enclosure Ditch F1123 (Seg. B), looking north north-east.



DP 10. Profile of enclosure Ditch 1123 (Seg A), looking north.



DP 11. Profile of enclosure Ditch F1130 (Seg. A), looking west south-west.



DP 12. Feature F2181, showing burnt material within the fill, looking south-west.



DP 13. Phase 3 Structure S1135, looking west.



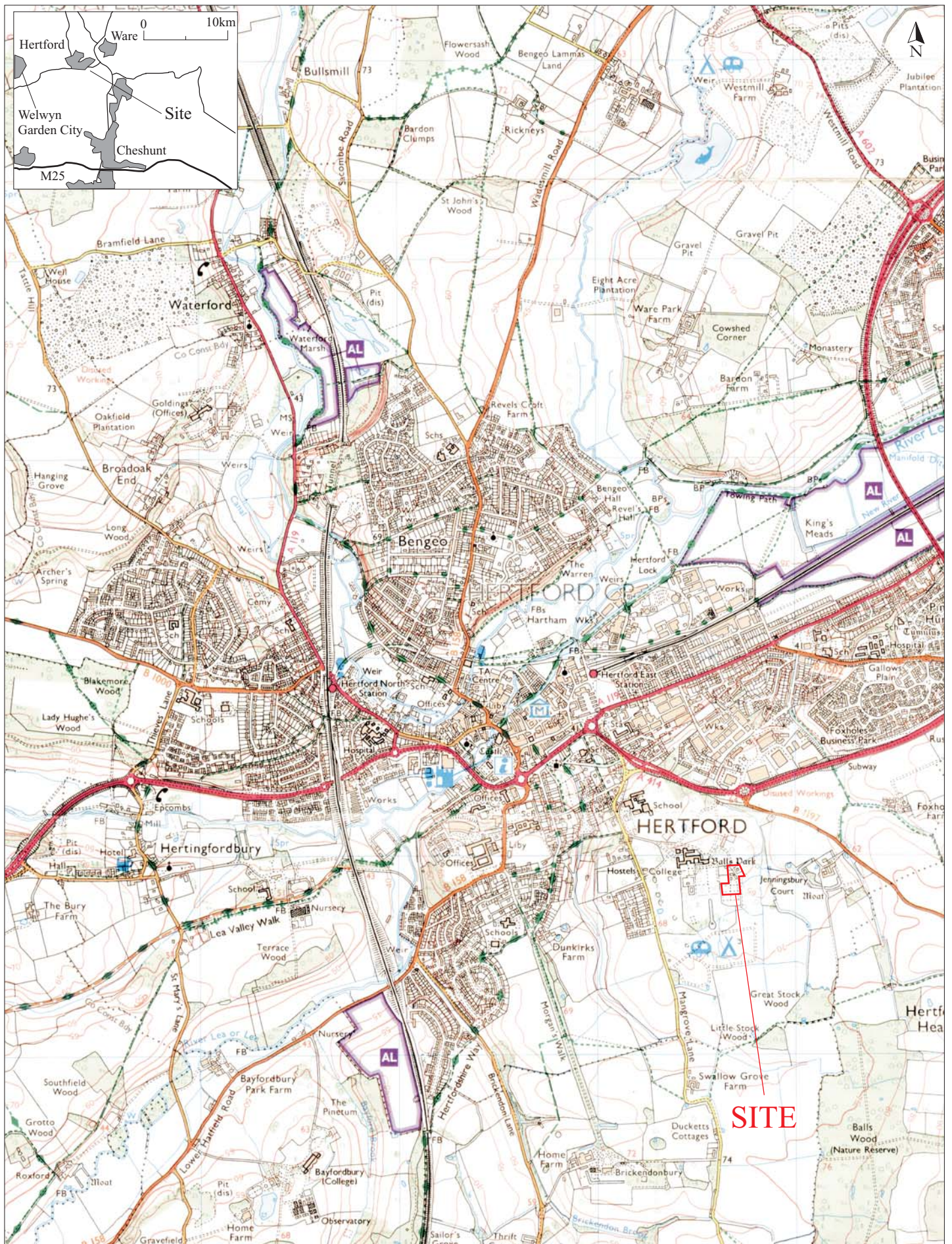
DP 14. Phase 3 Structure S2070, looking west.



DP 15. Phase 3 Structure S 2055, looking south-east.

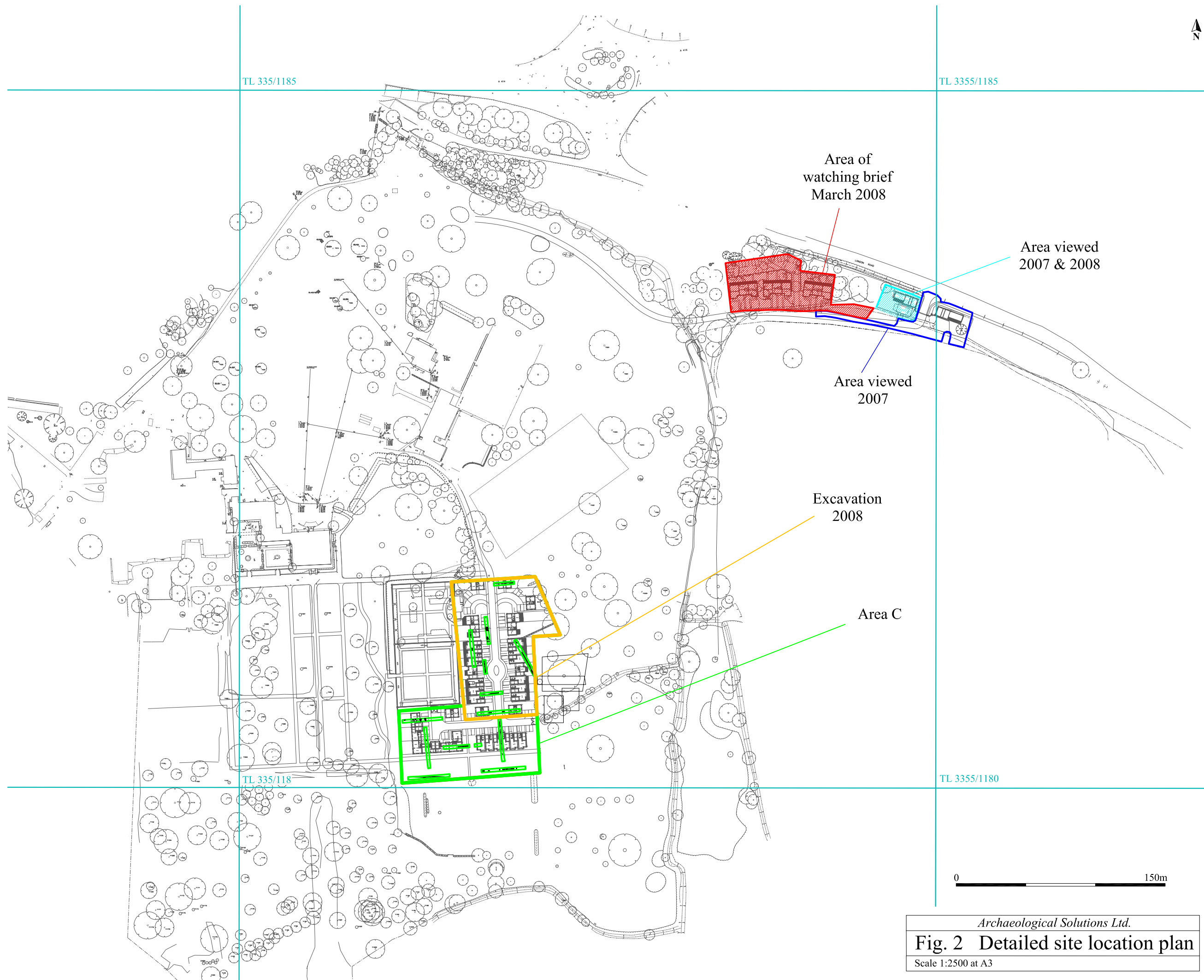


DP 16. Modern strawberry beds F2056, looking east.

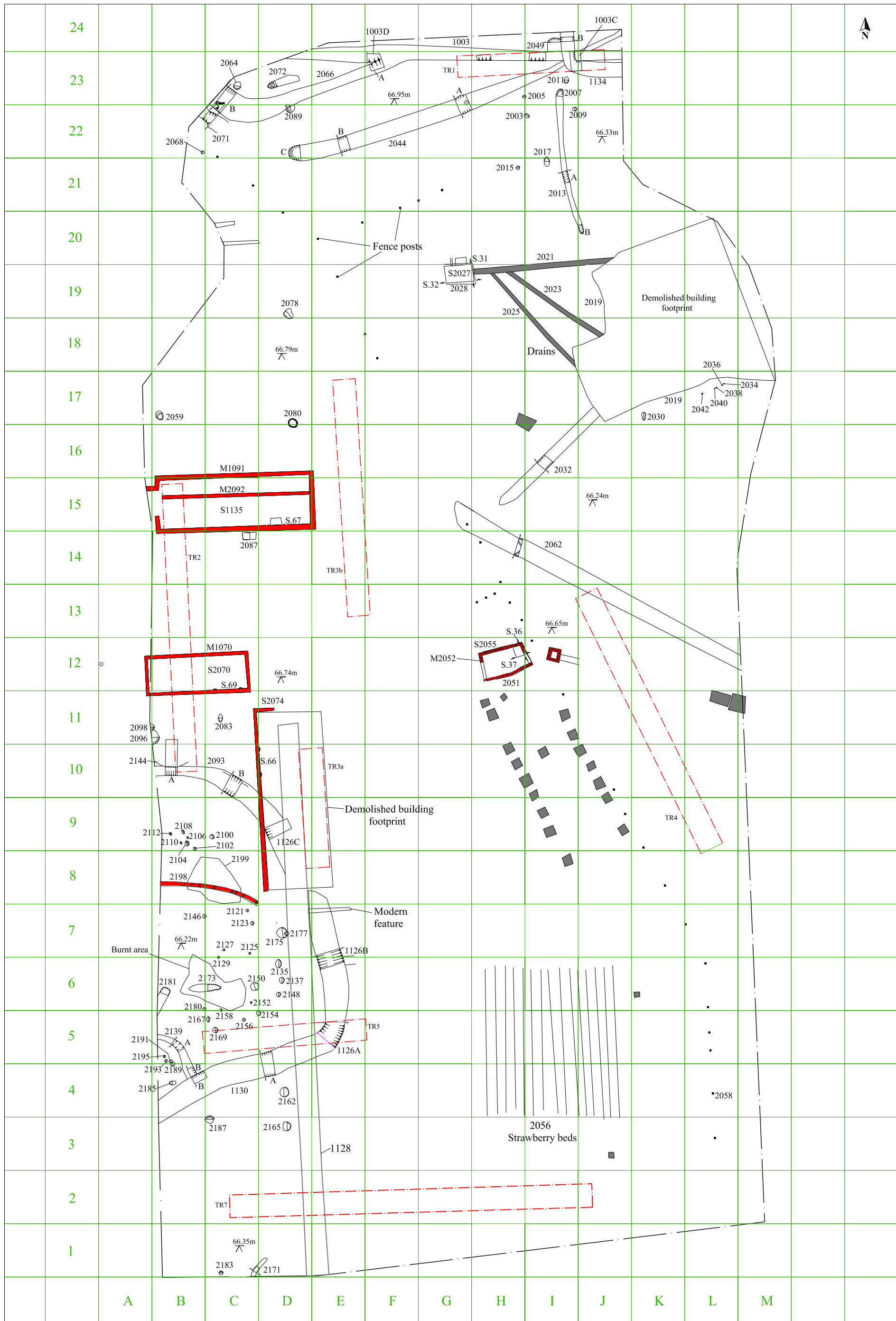


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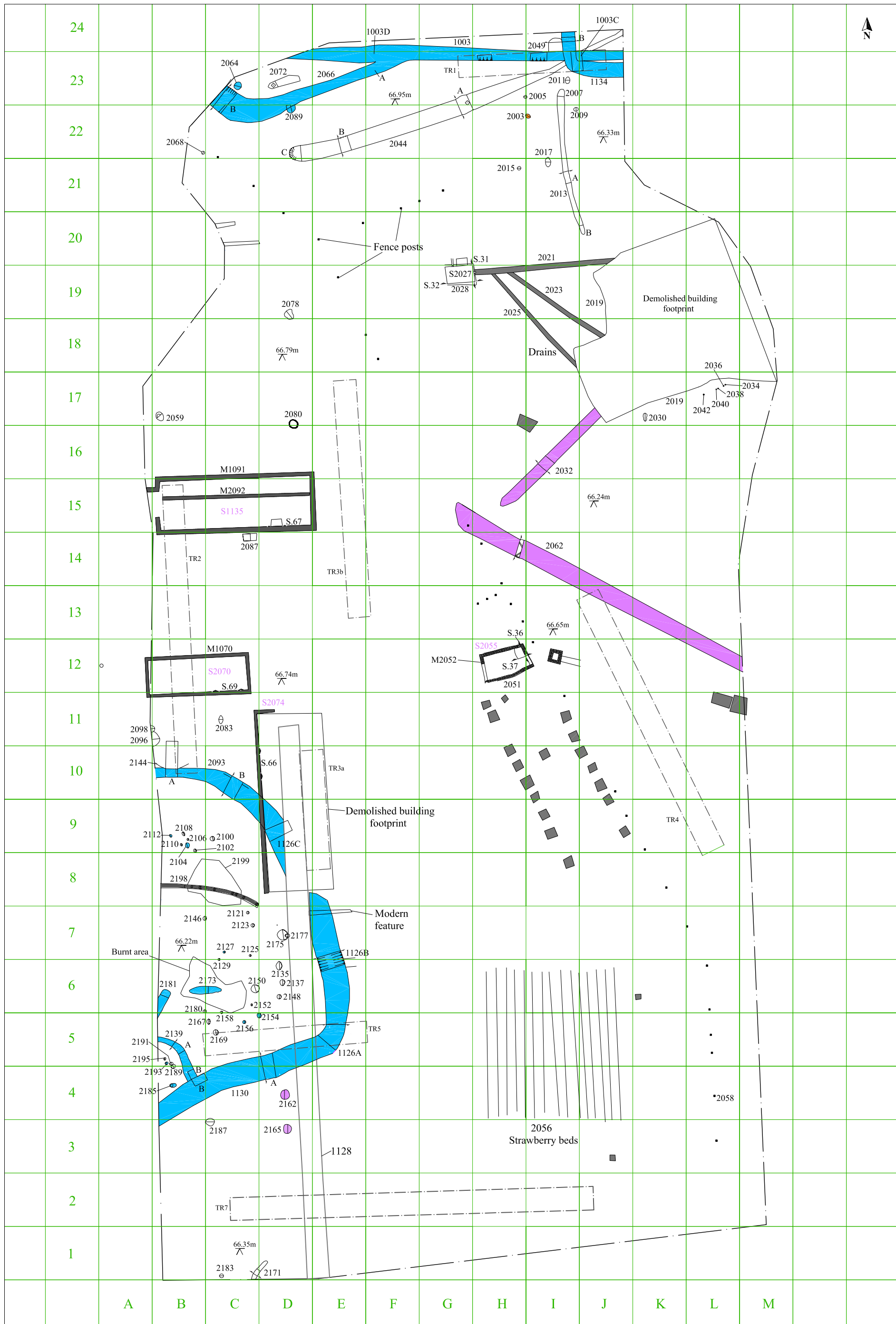
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2500 at A3



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Fig. 3 All features plan
 Scale 1:300 at A3



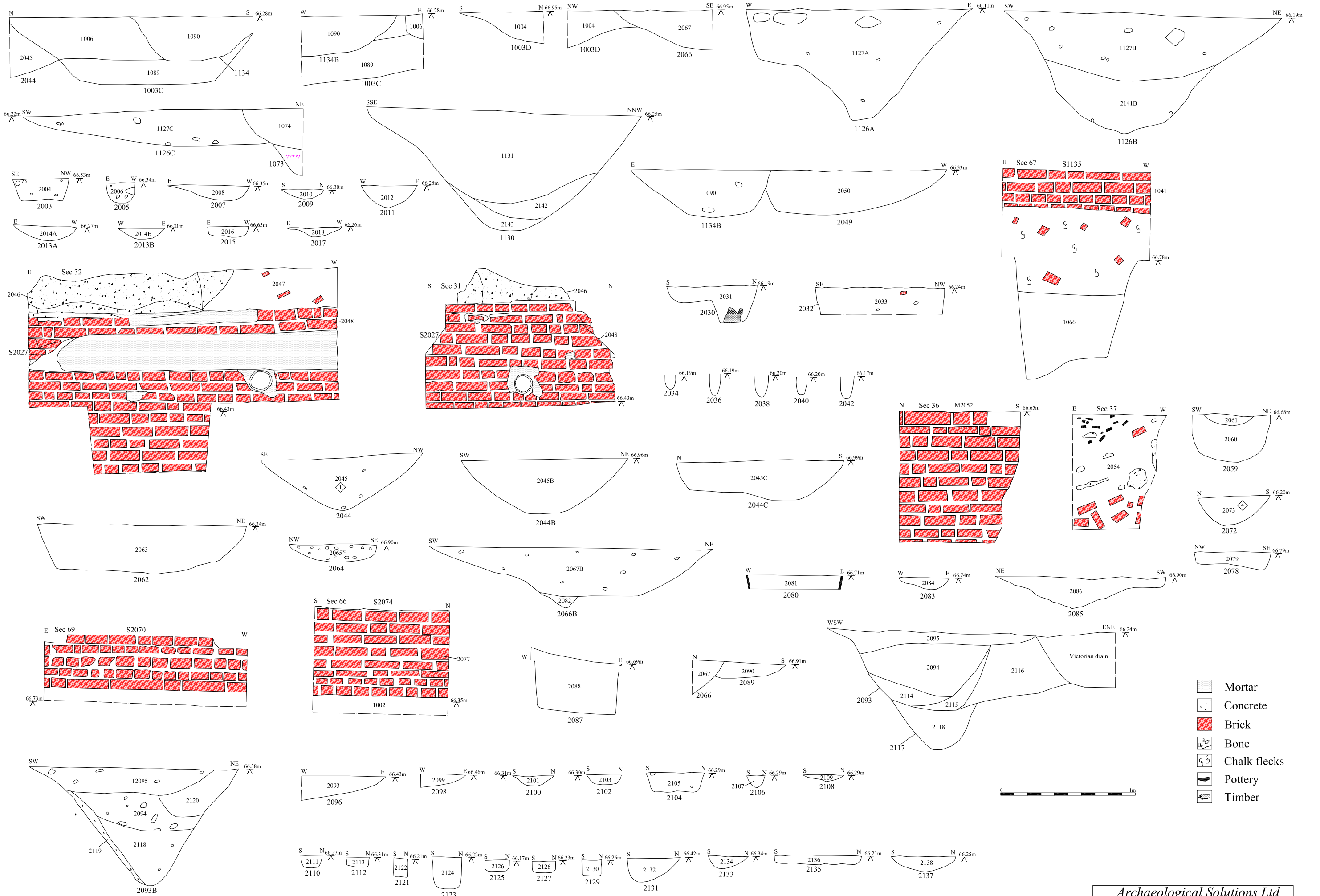
Phase 1: Middle Iron Age Phase 2: Medieval Phase 3: Post-medieval/Early Modern

0 20m

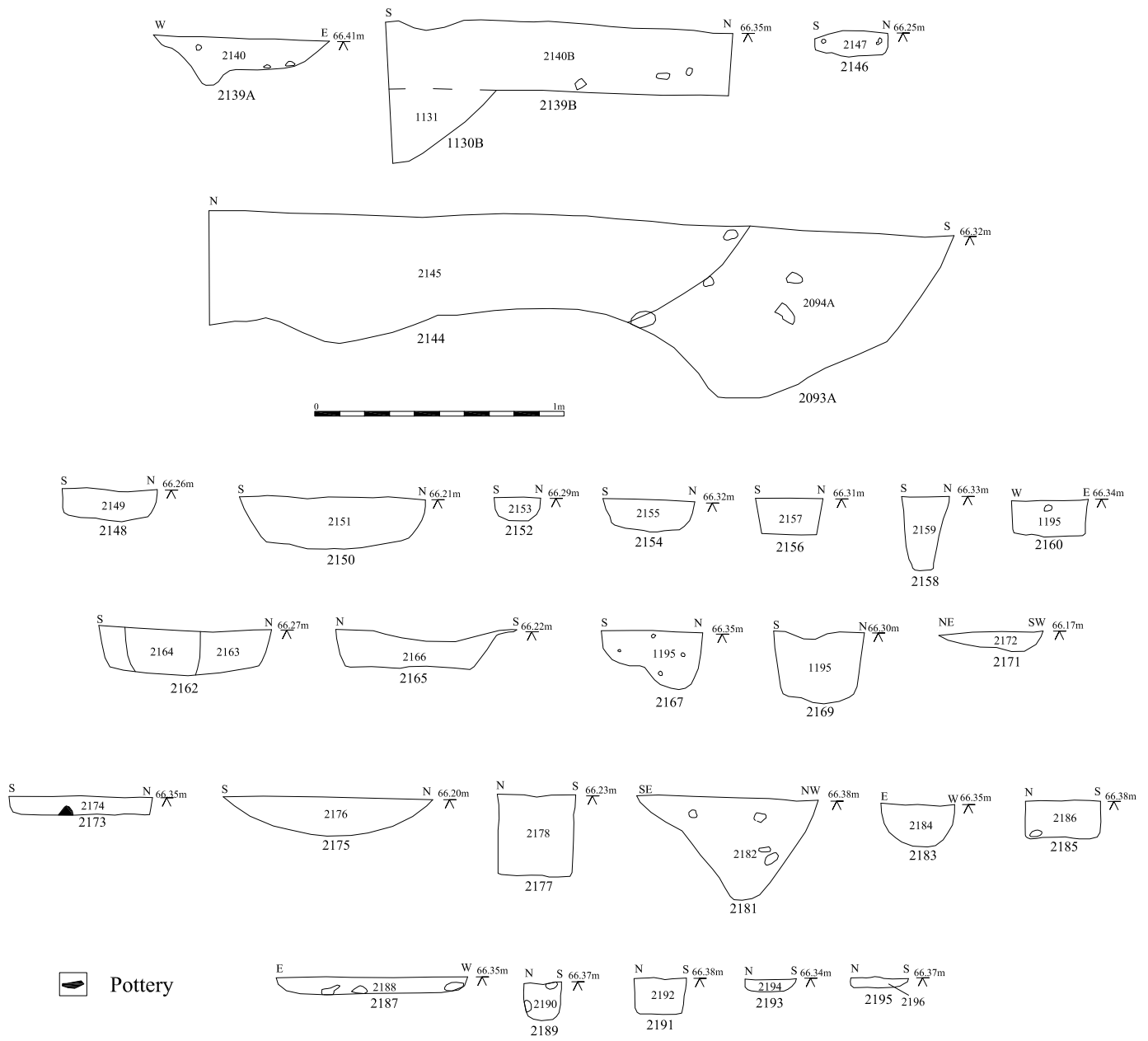
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Fig. 4 Phase plan

Scale 1:300 at A3



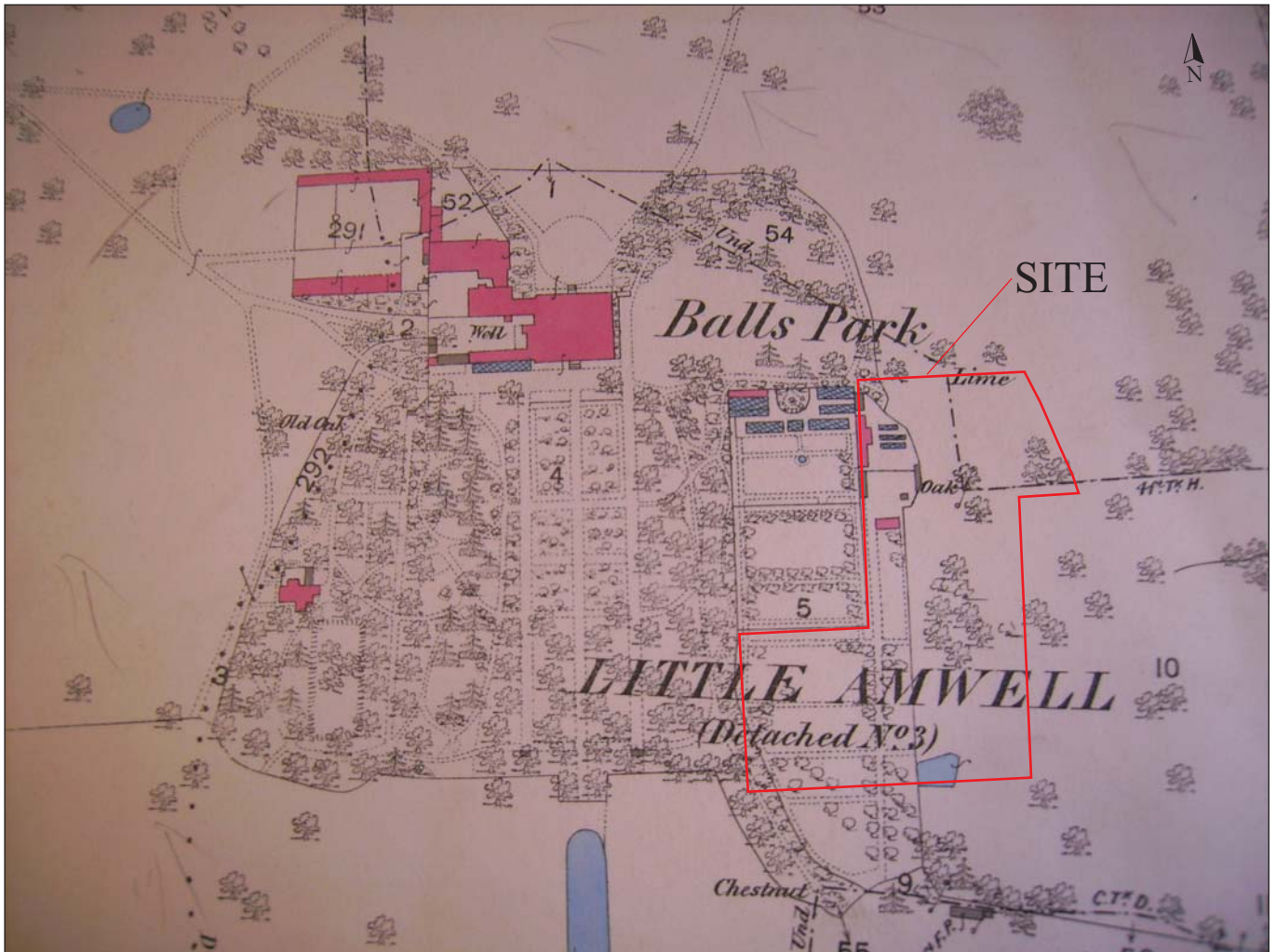
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Sections
 Scale 1:25 at A3



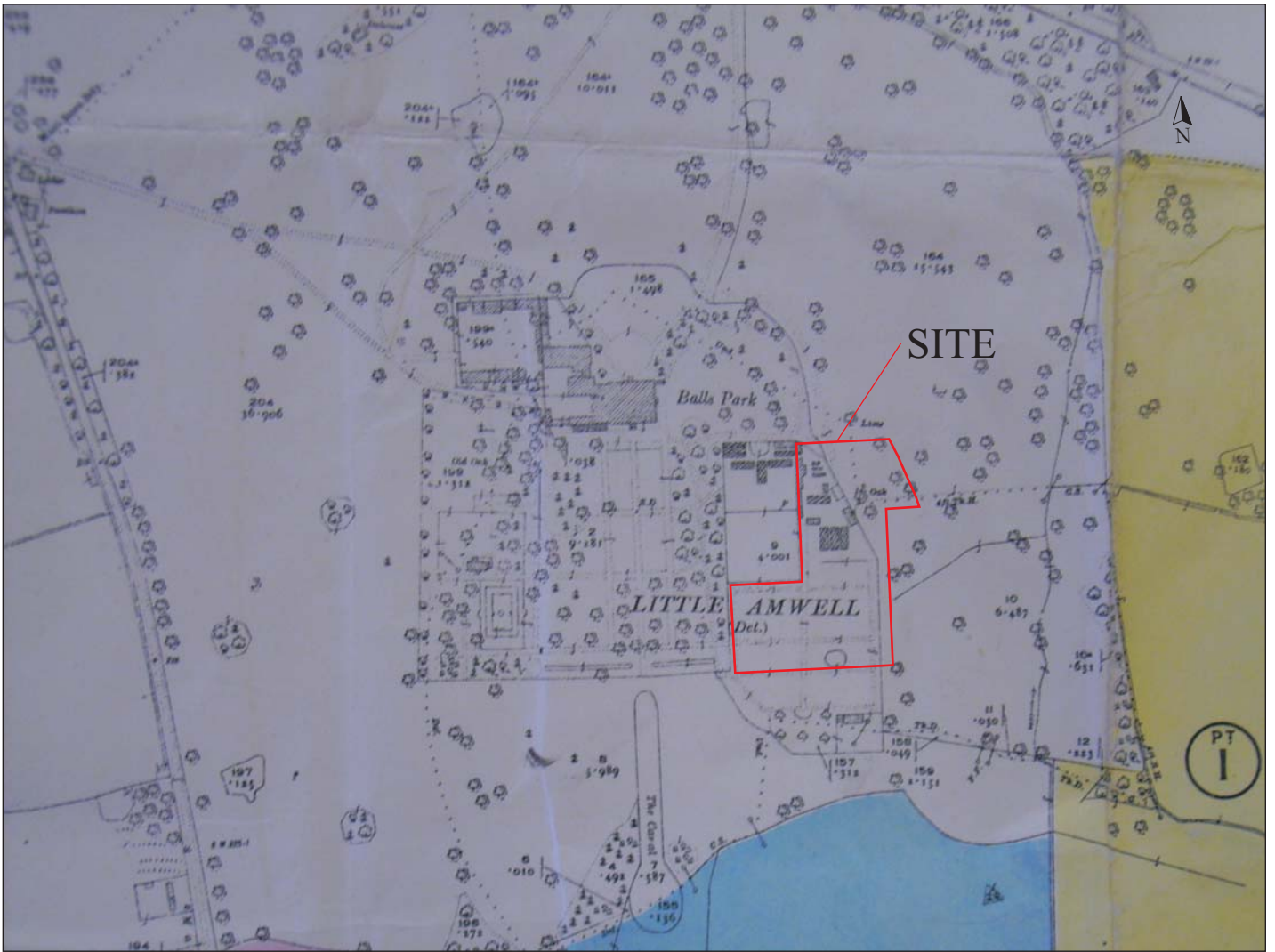
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Fig. 6 Sections
 Scale 1:25 at A4



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Fig. 7 Hertford Little Amwell tithe map (n.d)
Not to scale



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Fig. 8 OS Hertford Union Map 1880-81
Not to scale



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Fig. 9 Map from sales particulars, 1952

Not to scale