LAND ADJACENT TO 68A HIGH STREET
HARROLD
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Albion archaeology

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Contents

TABLES

FIGURES

PLATES

The tables appear in the relevant sections of the report. All figures and plates are bound at the rear of the report.

Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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- *Ecofact processing was undertaken by Slawomir Utrata (Archaeological Supervisor) and overseen by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager);*
- *On-site palaeo-environmental advice was given by James Rackham;*
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Mike Luke (Project Manager) was responsible for the overall management of the project. Ben Barker (Project Officer) was responsible for the project on a day-to-day basis during fieldwork and Jo Barker (Project Officer) during post-fieldwork. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders, Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Officer.

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Key terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
AO	Archaeological Officer
BBC	Bedford Borough Council
CI*f*A	Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority (Bedford Borough Council)
OD	Ordnance Datum

Non-Technical Summary

This report presents the results of an open-area archaeological investigation carried out during April and June 2012 in advance of the erection of five dwellings adjacent to 68A High Street, Harrold, Bedfordshire, MK43 7DA (planning ref: 03/01893/OUT). Funding issues resulted in the delay in this report being produced.

The development area is located immediately to the north of the plots that front the High Street in the centre of Harrold. The site is 0.16ha in extent and prior to archaeological fieldwork comprised undeveloped land, formerly used as a paddock. Topographically, the site lies at c. *46m OD within the Great Ouse valley, bordered by tributary streams to the south and east.*

The development site lies within an area of significant archaeological sensitivity, comprising settlement and funerary activity from the early Neolithic to the post-medieval period. Since the 1950s several substantial archaeological investigations have been carried out in and around Harrold. Of particular relevance to the development area were the investigations undertaken in 2003 by Albion Archaeology immediately to the north in advance of redevelopment within the area of the former Bridgman Joinery Works. Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity was testified by the presence of small pits and a small residual flint assemblage. However, the more extensive evidence was for a late Iron Age / early Romano-British farmstead comprising a system of enclosures adjacent to a stream channel. During the Roman period a crop-processing area was established, comprising a drying oven and possible threshing floor. This area is located immediately adjacent to the north side of the present development site. Limited evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity was also located.

The archaeological investigations within the development site revealed evidence of the:

- *Continuation of a stream channel excavated to the north within the Bridgman Joinery Works excavation area;*
- *Continuation of the late Iron Age / Romano-British farmstead in the form of further enclosures and a small cremation cemetery;*
- *Medieval and post-medieval boundary and drainage ditches.*

It has been agreed by the LPA's Archaeological Officer that no further analysis and reporting is required, beyond that presented in this report. A summary of the work will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no. albionar1-124161). With the landowner's permission the archive will be deposited at The Higgins, Bedford, under accession number BEDFM 2010.8.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project background

Planning permission was granted for the erection of five dwellings adjacent to 68A High Street, Harrold, Bedfordshire, MK43 7DA (Figs 1 and 2). The application was first made in January 2003 (03/00003/OUT), but it was withdrawn and re-submitted in August 2003 (03/01893/OUT).

The development area lay within an area of significant archaeological sensitivity (Ingham and Shotliff 2012). This had been demonstrated by the results of adjacent archaeological investigations in advance of redevelopment within the area of the former Bridgman Joinery Works (Luke and Preece 2012) and by the evaluation of the development area (Albion 2003). Therefore, a condition was attached to the planning permission, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2010). This was in line with advice received from the LPA's Archaeological Officer (AO).

The AO issued a brief (BBC 2010) specifying a programme of open-area excavation in advance of any development, followed by post-excavation analysis and reporting.

1.2. Status and purpose of this document

This report presents the results of the open-area archaeological investigation.

1.3. Location, topography and geology

The development area is located immediately to the north of the plots that front the High Street in the centre of Harrold. The site is adjacent to 68A High Street and is centred on SP9518/5689 (Fig. 1). The development area is 0.16ha in extent and prior to archaeological fieldwork comprised undeveloped land, formerly used as a paddock. Topographically, the site lies at *c*. 46m OD within the Great Ouse valley, bordered by tributary streams to the south and east.

The site's underlying solid geology is Oolitic limestone overlain by gravels and alluvium.

1.4. Archaeological background

Since the 1950s, several substantial archaeological investigations have been carried out in and around Harrold (Fig. 1). These have revealed evidence for settlement and funerary activity from the early Neolithic to the post-medieval period. The results of several of three of the more recent significant investigations were published together as an Albion Monograph (Ingham and Shotliff 2012), whilst others were only the subject of interim-style reports. The following is a summary of all the main investigations to date in the area.

A watching brief during the 1950s at the time of quarrying *c.* 300m to the north-east revealed evidence of activity from the Bronze Age through to the Anglo-Saxon period (Eagles and Evison 1970). This included Bronze Age ring ditches, an Iron Age farmstead and Saxon burials. Separate late Iron Age / Roman farmsteads, along with some middle Saxon features, were located *c.* 500m to the east in the Harrold Pit, Odell (Dix 1980; 1981).

In the late 1990s Albion Archaeology (then Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service) carried out an open-area excavation off Meadway and Dove Lane (HM519), immediately to the north-east of the development area. This located a Bronze Age ring ditch and part of a Saxon settlement (Shepherd *et al*. 2012). Other investigations carried out by Albion Archaeology include Projects CW1017, HPM874 and ORH959, which were located to south of the development area (Fig. 1).

Of particular relevance to the development area were the investigations undertaken in 2003 by Albion Archaeology (Luke and Preece 2012) in advance of redevelopment of the former Bridgman Joinery Works (BJH; Fig. 2). Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity was testified by the presence of three small pits and a small residual flint assemblage. However, the earliest firm evidence for settlement dated to the late Iron Age / early Romano-British period when a system of enclosures was established adjacent to an active stream channel. A number of these ditches continued into the present development area. It seems likely that the enclosures continued in use as fields or paddocks into the Romano-British period because they were respected by a trackway *c*. 140m to the north. The latter appears to have been aligned on prehistoric monuments located within the 1950s investigations to the northeast (Eagles and Evison 1970). Away from the trackway, part of one of the earlier enclosures was utilised for crop processing — a drying oven and a stone-lined, sunken structure were built. This area is located immediately adjacent to the north side of the present development area (Fig. 2). Dispersed evidence was recovered for early Saxon activity, including a single sunken-featured building, and Saxo-Norman activity including a cluster of pits. However, this and the subsequent medieval and post-medieval activity indicated the site was located on the periphery of the developing village of Harrold. The archaeological evaluation within the present development area identified an east-west aligned ditch in the southern trench (Albion 2003). Finally a stream channel was found within the Bridgman investigation which was likely to continue into the development area (Fig. 2).

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

2.1 Introduction

The archaeological open-area excavation was undertaken in line with the brief (BBC 2010). Its primary purpose was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the uncovered archaeological remains in their cultural and environmental setting.

Overall, the data collected during the fieldwork within the development area was able to determine:

- The date, nature and extent of human activity;
- The relationship between the uncovered archaeological remains and the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- How the recovered artefacts fitted in with the regional type series;
- The local environmental conditions based on the recovered palaeo-environmental remains.

2.2 Research Strategies

In addition to the primary aims of the fieldwork, wider research objectives could be formulated, based upon the results of previous work at the site and adjacent archaeological investigations, and linked to existing research strategies for the region and county.

Historic England has produced an extensive library of national guides covering a wide range of topics, most of which are available for free download from the Historic England website[1].

A number of research frameworks have been devised for the region. The earliest comprises *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. resource assessment* (Glazebrook 1997). This was complemented by *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), which set out research priorities.

These documents were reviewed and revised in *Revision of the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region* (Medlycott and Brown 2008). Finally, the regional research framework was again reviewed and augmented in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

In addition to these regionally focussed documents, work has also specifically been done on the county of Bedfordshire: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake *et al.* 2007).

2.3 Project Research Objectives

Based on the results of the evaluation, it was anticipated that the development area would produce evidence for late Iron Age / Romano-British remains, possibly including crop-processing features, and medieval and/or post-medieval activity in

[1] https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/advice-and-guidance/

the form of ditches and possibly pits. The archaeological works had the potential to produce data that could address the following research areas:

2.3.1 Late Iron Age / Romano-British transition

Dawson has highlighted that in Bedfordshire there appears to be a reduction in settlement in the early Roman period compared to the previous period, with few late Iron Age settlements having a Roman successor (2007, 74). Therefore, settlement evidence recovered from the development area, and the adjacent investigation, has the potential to address regional research aims regarding settlement patterns in the late Iron Age / Roman transition. In particular:

- Is there evidence for continued occupation of farmsteads/settlements?
- Is there evidence for farmstead/settlement reorganisation in the early Roman period?
- Is there evidence for changes in landuse?
- Is there evidence for the assimilation of Iron Age and Roman cultures or acculturation? (Medlycott 2011, 31).

2.3.2 Romano-British agriculture and crop-processing techniques

The research framework for the eastern region has highlighted that whilst there has been an increase in environmental data, an agricultural 'norm' for the Roman period still needs to be established in order to compare assemblages (Medlycott 2011, 46). It also poses the questions:

- how far can the size and shape of fields be related to the agricultural regimes identified, and
- what is the relationship between rural and urban sites? (Medlycott 2011, 47).

2.3.3 Medieval and post-medieval Harrold village

Evidence from the Bridgman Joinery Works investigation indicated that the development area most likely lies within fields associated with the medieval and post-medieval village of Harrold (Luke and Preece 2012, 14-16). Further research into the origins and development of different rural settlement types is required, in particular 'the way places appear grow, shift and disappear' (Medlycott 2011, 70). Future research topics should also include research into the size and shape of fields and whether these relate to specific agricultural regimes? (Medlycott 2011, 70).

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The methodologies for the investigation were detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2010) and are, therefore, only summarised below.

3.2 Methodological Standards

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

Albion Archaeology	*Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd edition (2001)
CI*f*A	*Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct* (2014)
	Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation (2014)
	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014)
Bedford Museum	*Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire (2010)*
Historic England	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation (2015)*
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. 2nd ed. (2011)

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (Accession no. BEDFM 2010.8). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-124161) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

3.3 Archaeological Fieldwork

The archaeological fieldwork took place during April and June 2012. Approximately half of the 0.16ha development area was investigated (Fig. 3). All exposed archaeological features were mapped and sample excavated. Three main areas were investigated:

1) North-east: 10m by 11m area on the site of a new garage. This area was located within the former stream channel identified on the Bridgman Joinery Works investigations to the north (Luke and Preece 2012).

2) North-east: 14m-long transect across the full width of the former stream channel. The channel was found to be consistent both in nature and artefact content to that within the Bridgman Joinery Works investigations, and, therefore, it was agreed with the SAO that it did not need to be fully exposed within the development area.

3) Main area: 20m by 38m area to the west of the former stream channel. As archaeological investigation was completed in the northern part of this

area, it was released to the developer to enable road construction to commence.

The investigations were monitored by the AO. When substantive areas had been fully completed, they were verbally "signed off" by the AO on site, with subsequent confirmation in writing.

3.4 Post-excavation Checking and Consolidation of the Site Records

Immediately following the completion of fieldwork, the final checking and consolidation of the site records was undertaken. In addition, all outstanding artefacts and ecofacts samples were processed. The site archives were consolidated and their internal consistency checked.

At the end of July 2012 a preliminary report on the investigations was produced and circulated (Albion 2012).

3.5 Post-fieldwork Analysis

3.5.1 Contextual

Albion Archaeology employs a standard approach to contextual analysis, which requires the assignment of contexts to a hierarchy. Each hierarchical level/element gradually becomes more interpretative and less detailed in nature.

Initially, significant contexts were assigned to Sub-groups (SG), then significant Sub-groups were assigned to Groups (G), significant groups were assigned to Land-use Areas (L) and finally significant Land-use Areas were assigned to Phases (P).

It should be borne in mind that it is the level within the structural hierarchy that is important, *not* necessarily the actual name of the hierarchical element (*e.g.* Phase, Land-use Area *etc*.).

If a Group (G) or Land-use Area (L) has a decimal point, this indicates that it comprises primary fills (.01) secondary fills (.02) or tertiary fills (.03). Where there is only a single fill in a feature it has been assigned to '.05', *e.g.* G510.05. This is particularly relevant to the artefactual and ecofactual analysis (Sections 5 and 6).

3.5.2 Artefacts and ecofacts

Methodologies for artefact and ecofact analysis are described in this document at the beginning of each of these individual sections.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

4.1 Introduction

The contextual hierarchy provides the framework for the presentation of the site sequence within this report. Within each Phase, Land-use Area and Group are described as appropriate.

Individual context numbers are only referenced in order to enable cross-referencing to the detailed context descriptions in Appendix 2. Where referenced, cut numbers appear in square brackets [****] and fills/layers and finds deposits in rounded brackets (****). The following section should be read in conjunction with Figures 4–9.

4.2 Overburden and Geological Strata

The overburden was fairly consistent across the excavation area and comprised topsoil, (1 and 30), and subsoil, (2 and 31), with a combined thickness of *c*. 0.8m. Topsoil comprised friable dark grey-black clay-silt, mixed with occasional small stones. The underlying subsoil, of likely alluvial origin, was friable mid brown-orange silt, with occasional bands of small to medium-sized stones towards the base of the deposit.

The undisturbed geology, (3), (4) and (32), comprised light yellow sandy gravel, with patches of mid brown-grey sandy silt.

4.3 Pre-Iron Age (Phase 1)

4.3.1 Overview

No features of human origin predating the Iron Age were found. However, a single flint flake does indicate the presence of humans during the Neolithic and/or Bronze Age.

4.3.2 Stream channel L102

An infilled stream channel G21 [15] was observed in the eastern part of the site (Fig. 4). It continued beyond the northern and southern limits of the excavation. It is the same channel as was found within the Bridgman Joinery Works excavation to the north where it was *c.* 16m wide (Luke and Preece 2012, 6, fig. 4).

Within the present site a trench was dug through the channel under archaeological supervision to facilitate the examination of its profile, fills and the recovery of ecofact samples. The channel and its fills were examined by a palaeo-environmental specialist prior to its backfilling. The actual profile of the stream channel was only seen in the trench where it appeared to have steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 4, Section a)

The main deposits within the stream channel G21.01 (16–21 and 108) varied from loose light orange sand to mid grey-brown bands of clay silts and gravel. Stratigraphically these deposits predated some of the late Iron Age / early Roman (Phase 2) features. A single flint flake — broadly datable to somewhere between the Neolithic and the late Bronze Age — was found at the western edge of the channel within one of the lower fills.

Some of the upper stream channel deposits G21.02, (22 and 109) appear to post-date the late Iron Age and Roman ditches and have, therefore, been assigned to Phase 4.

4.4 Late Iron Age / early Roman (Phase 2)

4.4.1 Overview

A series of ditches are associated with ones found in the Bridgman Joinery Works excavation to the north (Luke and Preece 2012, 1–6, fig. 4). Based on the evidence form the latter, they are part of a ditched enclosure system associated with a farmstead located to the west of the stream channel. Although only broadly dated to the late Iron Age / early Roman period, this farmstead is likely to have originated prior to the Roman Conquest.

The evidence within the excavation area comprised ditched enclosures L202 and L203, a small number of postholes, and cremation cemetery L201 (Fig. 5).

4.4.2 Cremation cemetery L201

Four cremation burials, G8, G9, G10 and G11, were located within the enclosure to the south of the site (Fig. 7). The cremated individuals were all adults; two (G9, G10) could be identified as males. All the burials had been subject to post-depositional disturbance, probably by ploughing. This resulted in variable degrees of damage to the pottery vessels within the graves (Section 5.1). Although the cremation deposits were excavated in spits, these proved (during analysis) not to have any significance (Section 6.3). It is possible to argue that three of the graves were located on a SW-NE alignment, although with such a small number it is impossible to be sure that this is a "real" phenomenon. The graves were 2.2–3m apart.

Burial G8 was urned within a circular grave [114], which was 0.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with concave sides and base. The urn was a late 'Belgic' Iron Age pedestal urn (115) which was located centrally within the grave but after some infilling had taken place (Fig. 7, section b). The only possible grave good recovered was a sessile echinoderm (blastoid) fossil, although as this was found within the general grave backfill, it is uncertain if it was a deliberate inclusion.

Burial G9 comprised an urn and accessory vessel within an oval grave [118], which was 0.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep, with concave sides and a rounded base. The urn (142) was an early Roman poppyhead beaker that had been positioned upright at the base of the grave, just north of the centre (Plate 1). Accessory vessel (119) was an early Roman flagon that had been positioned just south of the centre of the grave. It was at a higher position in the grave than the urn suggesting that the grave had been partially in-filled before it was deposited. The backfill of the grave contained 398g of cremated bone and the urn 271g. Analysis suggests that 'it is extremely likely that all the human bone from both deposits is that of one individual' (Section 6.3). It is possible that the only other finds within the grave, two tacks and a fragment of a possible small staple, that were recovered from the grave backfill may also have derived '…from old timbers, with structural fittings remaining in place, used on the pyre' (Section 5.2).

Burial G10 comprised an urn within a sub-circular grave [154], which was 0.4m in diameter and less than 0.1m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. The urn (155) was a late 'Belgic' jar that had been positioned upright and centrally within the grave (Fig. 7, section a). There were no grave goods and no bone visible outside the urn. The shallow depth of the grave suggests that later truncation had occurred.

Burial G11 comprised an urn and six accessory vessels (125, 127, 129, 131, 135 and 138), two brooches, a pair of tweezers and two partial animal skeletons (Plate 2). The grave [124] was sub-circular, 1m in diameter and 0.2m deep, with concave sides and a flat base. The urn (133) and accessory vessels (125, 127, 129, 131, 135 and 138) were all late 'Belgic' Iron Age in date. The urn (133) was a cordoned cup, whilst the accessory vessels comprised two carinated cups, a pedestal urn, a cordoned jar, a conical lid and a jar (Plates 3, 4 and 5). All the pottery vessels were positioned in the west half of the grave. With the exception of vessel (138), all had been placed upright on the base of the grave. Vessel (138) was placed upside down and appears to have been deposited when the grave had been partially in-filled, suggesting that it may have been an afterthought.

Parts of a pig carcass and a sheep's upper forelimb (137) had also been placed on the base of the grave in the vicinity of the pottery vessels. There is clear evidence that the vertebral column of the pig had been butchered (Section 6.1).

Two fibula brooches and a pair of tweezers were also found within the grave (Section 5.2). The brooches (RA 1 and 2) were Simple Gaulish wire/rod brooches dated to the first half of the 1st century AD. Brooch RA 2 was found on the base of the grave west of centre; whilst RA 1 was found more centrally but within the grave backfill. The tweezers (RA 3) were placed on the base of the grave slightly south of centre. Two small oval links were also found in the grave backfill.

Eleven fragments of small narrow staples were recovered from the grave backfill. An additional iron fragment was also found within accessory vessel (131) and it is possible that it represents a twelfth staple. The presence of staples could indicate that a wooden container had been cremated with the individual (Section 5.2).

4.4.3 Activity focus L202

Activity focus L202 comprises two roughly parallel curving ditches G1 and G3, and two pairs of postholes G2 and G4 (Plate 6).

Southernmost ditch G1 [59, 63, 69, 73, 170 and 187] was 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep, with a concave base. It terminated to the east and the shape and depth of the terminus suggested that it was not the product of truncation. The ditch contained a light yellow-brown sandy silt fill and two sherds (0.03kg) of late Iron Age / early Roman pottery. It was associated with two postholes G2, [61 and 67] that were 0.5m and 0.7m in diameter and 0.2m and 0.3m deep (Fig. 6, section b and c). The westernmost posthole contained three sherds of late Iron Age / early Roman pottery. The eastern posthole contained a thin strip fragment of lead alloy, which cannot be closely dated.

Ditch G1 was redug on the same alignment but slightly to the north (G3 [48, 52, 54, 71 and 172]). It was slightly wider than the original ditch but otherwise very similar in dimensions and profile (Fig. 6, section a). It contained a charcoal-rich

deposit of dark grey-brown clay silt, mixed with five sherds of late Iron Age / early Roman pottery and 0.1kg of fired clay.

Two postholes G4 [50, 57 and 110] had been dug into the southern edge of ditch G3. They were under 0.7m in diameter and under 0.2m deep. The postholes contained grey-brown clay silt or mid yellow-brown silty sand. The easternmost posthole contained one sherd of late Iron Age / early Roman pottery and 0.08kg of fired clay.

Although ditch G1 is stratigraphically earlier than G3 they are considered to be broadly contemporary and form the south side of an oval enclosure investigated to the north within the Bridgman Joinery Works site (Luke and Preece 2012, 6 and fig. 4). The exact purpose of the enclosure is not known; however, during the Roman period a drying oven was located within its interior (Luke and Preece 2012, figs 5 and 6). The charcoal-rich fill of ditch G3 (53) could indicate that the enclosure was still open during the Roman period and that the rakings from the oven were deposited within the defining ditch. Similarly, amorphous fragments of fired clay recovered from recut ditch G3 and posthole G4 may also have derived from the oven. The presence of a terminus at the eastern end of ditch G1 indicates that the enclosure had a southern entrance.

4.4.4 Ditched enclosures L203

Ditched enclosures L203 comprised ditch G5 [46, 87, 94, 103, 105, 174 and 179], which dog-legged across the site on a general north-south course (Plate 7) and extended beyond the limit of excavation. It truncated enclosure ditch G3 (L202) and also truncated the main fills of stream channel L102 (Phase 1).

Enclosure ditch G5 was 1.4–3.8m wide and was under 0.8m deep, with a steeply sloping concave profile. Its fills contained ten sherds of late Iron Age pottery. The ditch, especially the arc to the west, was recut on a number of occasions (Fig. 6, sections e and f).

Enclosure ditch G5 was partially redug, on the same alignment, as G6 [23, 35, 65, 77, 91, 100 and 176]. The recut was 1.4–2.6m wide and less than 0.8m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fills contained sixty-three sherds of both late Iron Age and fully Romanised pottery.

The second partial redefinition of enclosure ditch G5 was dug on the same alignment as a much narrower ditch G7 [37, 75, 89 and 181]. This was 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep, with a U-shaped profile. It contained fifteen sherds of both late Iron Age and fully Romanised pottery.

The ditch is interpreted as an enclosure ditch and forms part of a larger enclosure system identified within the adjacent Bridgman Joinery Works excavation to the north (Luke and Preece 2012, 1–6, fig. 4).

4.5 Medieval (Phase 3)

4.5.1 Overview

A single boundary L301 was identified towards the southern edge of the site (Fig. 8). It had previously been investigated during the trial trench evaluation (Albion 2003).

4.5.2 Boundary L301

Boundary L301 was a broadly east-west aligned ditch G12 [42 and 183]. It was at least 20m long, but extended in both directions beyond the area of excavation. It was at least 2.4m wide and over 0.9m deep. The base of the ditch was not excavated because it was below the water table; thus the full profile and size of the ditch was not observed. It contained deposits that varied from dark blue-grey clay-silt to light grey-brown sandy silt. Pottery recovered from the ditch comprised a single sherd of 12th–13th-century, shell-tempered pottery and two residual sherds of late Iron Age / early Roman pottery.

The ditch was replaced by a narrower ditch G13 [39 and 185], which was on the same alignment but slightly to the north. At 1m wide and 0.6m deep the recut was smaller than the original ditch (Fig. 8, section a). It was filled by mid grey-brown sandy silt and light orange-brown clay-silt. The recovered pottery assemblage comprised a sherd of 12th–13th-century, shell-tempered pottery and two intrusive sherds of modern pottery. The uppermost fill G13.3 was identified in one segment; it contained a small number of modern artefacts and indicates that at least part of this ditch remained open until fairly recently.

4.6 Post-medieval (Phase 4)

4.6.1 Overview

Evidence for post-medieval activity comprised two drainage ditches L401 and the continued infilling of stream channel L201 (Fig. 9). Similar evidence was found in the Bridgman Joinery Works excavations to the north (Luke and Preece 2012, 14–16, fig. 10).

4.6.2 Ditches L401

North-south aligned ditch G17 [12] was identified within a machine-excavated segment across stream channel L102 (Phase 1). It extended beyond the area of excavation in both directions. It was at least 4.4m wide and 0.7m deep, with a concave western side and flat base. It was filled by dark grey-brown clay silt and light grey-brown clay silt, which produced two residual sherds of early medieval pottery and 0.13kg of brick fragments.

Ditch G14 [112, 146, 158, 160 and 164] was broadly east-west aligned and situated *c*. 25m south-west of ditch G17. It was at least 11m long; it extended beyond the excavation area to the east but terminated to the west. It was 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep at the western end but was 2m wide and 0.4m deep at the eastern end where it truncated stream channel L102 (Phase 1). It had concave sides and a flat base and was filled with light grey-orange sandy silt and dark brown-black clay silt. The upper fill of the ditch was disturbed and contained frequent large stone fragments in an arrangement suggestive of an attempt at

surface consolidation. Artefacts recovered from the ditch comprised a single sherd of 19th-century transfer-printed ware, a residual sherd of Roman pottery, two residual sherds of early medieval pottery and 0.78kg of post-medieval brick and roof tile. A copper-alloy hooked tag of probable late medieval date and a fragment of modern glass were also recovered.

4.6.3 Stream channel L201

The tertiary fills of stream channel L102 (G21.03 and G108) have also been assigned to the post-medieval Phase 4, on the basis of stratigraphical relationships with earlier phases of activity and the recovery of four sherds of 17th-century black-glazed earthenware, including a pipkin handle. These deposits varied from mid-grey-orange clay-silt to mid orange-brown silty clay and were truncated by the post-medieval and modern ditches.

4.7 Modern (Phase 5)

4.7.1 Overview

Three ditches L501 and a number of tree-throw holes L502 were identified (Fig. 10). All contained small quantities of modern artefacts that were not retained.

4.7.2 Ditches L501

Ditch G15 [83 and 85] was NE-SW aligned and situated *c*. 14m west of ditch G18. It was at least 16m long, 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep, with a steep concave profile. It was filled with frequent medium-sized stones and produced a sherd of modern flower pot.

Ditch G18 [6] was broadly north-south aligned and situated on the eastern side of the site. It was at least 11m long and extended beyond the excavation area to the north and south. It was 1.2m wide and 0.7m deep, with a moderately sloping concave profile. No artefacts were present in this ditch, but it was stratigraphically later than post-medieval activity in this area of the site.

The ditch was extensively redug on the same alignment but in a slightly wider form G19 [9]. The recut was 2.1m wide and 0.7m deep, with a moderately sloping concave profile. It contained eleven sherds of both 17th-18th-century and modern pottery.

4.7.3 Tree-throws L502

Eleven oval features G16 [79, 81, 98, 162 and 166] were investigated within the site; five contained finds. The features had irregular profiles and bases and the fills were mixed, suggesting that they were tree-throw holes. The regular pattern of tree-throws observed in the subsoil during machining suggests that the site was an orchard in the post-medieval / modern period. Artefacts recovered comprised seven sherds of residual late Iron Age / early Roman pottery, six sherds of post-Roman pottery and an undated flint flake. Modern glass and a nail shank were also recovered.

5. ARTEFACTS

5.1 Ceramics

5.1.1 Methodology

The ceramic assemblage was examined by context with fabric types identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Appendix 1). Quantification was by minimum vessel and sherd count, and weight. The condition of the pottery and potential residuality or intrusiveness within each deposit was noted, and attributes, including decoration, manufacturing techniques, levels of abrasion and evidence of use, were recorded. All information recorded for ceramic artefacts was entered onto an Access database.

5.1.2 Quantification and variety

The assemblage totals 387 sherds, representing a minimum of 74 vessels (10.3kg), the majority deriving from late Iron Age / early Roman features assigned to Phase 2 (
Table **1**). A tiny number of ceramic roof tile fragments were also recorded.

Phase	Sherd No.	% Sherd	Wt. (g)	% Wt.
2	346	89.4	8724	84.3
3	6	1.6	247	2.4
4	10	2.6	410	3.9
5	25	6.4	968	9.4
Total	**387**	**100**	**10,349**	**100**

Table 1: Pottery quantification by Phase

Cremation burials are the main focus of pottery deposition (5.7kg), followed by ditches and gullies (4kg). Sixty-four percent of the pottery (by weight) is of late Iron Age date (*c*. 50 BC–AD 100), 22% of early Roman origin, and the remainder medieval or later. The material exhibits varying degrees of abrasion, reflecting the different features in which it was deposited. Pottery associated with the cremation burials has a mean sherd weight of 28g, and all other pottery a negligibly lower value of 23g. Two complete vessels derive from cremation deposits, and several are represented by more than single sherds.

5.1.3 Late Iron Age / early Roman (Phase 2)

Features assigned to Phase 2 contained 346 sherds weighing 8.7kg. The largest pottery concentrations (in excess of 1kg) were recovered from L201 cremation burials G8 and G11; and the secondary fill of L203 enclosure ditch G6 (
Table **2**).

L	G	Description	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
201	8	Cremation burial	105	1479
	9	Cremation burial	17	759
	10	Cremation burial	14	422
	11	Cremation burial	111	3070
202	1	Secondary fill of gully G1	2	25
	2	Fill of post holes G2	3	61
	3	Secondary fill of gully G3	5	76

L	G	Description	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
	4	Fills of post holes G4	1	3
203	5	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch G5	10	210
203	6	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch G6	63	1908
	7	Fill of ditch G7	15	711
Total			**346**	**8,724**

Table 2: Phase 2 pottery quantification by Land-use Area and Group

Cremation cemetery L201

The remains of eleven vessels were recovered from four burials in L201. All cremations are urned; G9 has a single accessory vessel and G11 multiple accessory vessels (
Table **3**). Although limited, the forms reflect those occurring in cremation burials of the late 'Belgic' Iron Age (pedestal urns, cordoned jars, cups) and early Roman periods (poppyhead beaker and flagon). None of the vessels shows any sign of having been either accidentally or deliberately burnt. In addition, there appear to be no sub-standard or reused vessels, seconds, or repairs, although at least three have been truncated and suffered post-depositional damage.

G	Vessel type	Fabric	Form
8	Urn	F09	Pedestal urn (A1)
9	Urn	R06I	Poppyhead beaker
	Accessory vessel	R10B	Flagon
10	Urn	F05	Jar (base and lower body only)
11	Urn	F09	Pedestal urn (A1)
	Accessory vessel	F06A	Cordoned cup (E3-4)
	Accessory vessels	F09	Carinated cup x 2 (E1-1)
	Accessory vessel	F09	Cordoned jar
	Accessory vessel	F09	Conical lid (L6/L7)
	Accessory vessel	F06B	Jar (base and lower body only)

Iron Age forms classified after Thompson (1982)

Table 3: Pottery vessels from cemetery L201 cremation burials

Activity focus L202

A small assemblage of eleven abraded late Iron Age / early Roman sherds (165g) derived from the fills of ditches G1, G3, and postholes G2 and G4. Diagnostic forms are a pedestal urn, a poppyhead beaker, and a platter. Ditch G3 and posthole G4 yielded nine amorphous fired clay fragments (192g) in a coarse sand and shelly fabric.

Ditched enclosure L203

Enclosure ditch G5 and its recuts G6 and G7 yielded 88 sherds (2.8kg), the majority deriving from initial recut G6. Thirty-seven sherds (1.4kg) are datable to the late Iron Age, and occur in a range of grog- and shell-tempered fabrics characteristic of the period. Diagnostic forms are in the 'Belgic' tradition, and comprise jars with simple everted or bead rims, cordoned vessels, and single examples of a bowl with a rippled shoulder, and an upright rim bowl. The largest single deposit comprises thirteen sherds (867g) from a grog-tempered cordoned jar with combed and finger nail impressed decoration.

Fully Romanised pottery occurred only in ditch recuts G6 and G7, and comprises two undiagnostic grey ware sherds (18g) and 48 abraded sherds (1.3kg) from a

flat rim shelly vessel. The latter is a recognisable product of the pottery kilns at nearby Lodge Farm, Harrold (Brown 1994).

5.1.4 Medieval (Phase 3)

The secondary and tertiary fills of boundary ditch G12 and later recut G13, L301, contained two undiagnostic 12th–13th-century shell-tempered sherds (20g), two residual late Iron Age sherds (28g), and two intrusive modern earthenware and stoneware sherds (199g). The medieval shelly wares are likely to be of local origin (Hall 1972; Duncan, Wells and Wooding 2012).

5.1.5 Post-medieval (Phase 4)

Four 17th-century black-glazed earthenware sherds (396g), including a pipkin handle, were recovered from the upper fills G21.03 of stream channel L102. The primary and secondary fills of ditches G14 and G17, L401 yielded five highly abraded, residual Roman and early medieval shell tempered sherds (38g), an intrusive sherd of 19th-century transfer-printed ware (3g) and seventeen pieces of post-medieval brick and flat roof tile (781g).

5.1.6 Modern (Phase 5)

Modern ditches G15 and G19, L501 contained a handle from a 17th-century glazed earthenware chafing dish (138g) and eleven sherds (624g) of 18th-century and more recent origin, the latter including fragments of terracotta plant pot.

Seven abraded late Iron Age / early Roman sherds (176g) and six post-Roman sherds (30g) were recovered from tree-throws G16, L502.

5.2 Other Artefacts

5.2.1 Methodology

Each object was assigned an identification and functional category, and was quantified by number and/or weight. A date range was assigned, where applicable, with reference to standard typological works.

All ironwork and selected copper alloy have been x-rayed. The digital x-ray plates form part of the site archive.

5.2.2 Quantification and variety

A total of twenty-six items was recovered. The assemblage is quantified by material and Phase in Table 4; all the assemblage came from phased deposits.

Material	Quantity	Phase 2	Phase 4	Phase 5
Copper alloy	6	5	1	-
Iron	16	15	-	1
Lead alloy	1	1	-	-
Glass	1	-	1	-
Flint	1	-	-	1
Stone (fossil)	1	1	-	-
Totals	**26**	**22**	**2**	**2**

Table 4: Other artefacts by material and phase

As can be seen from Table 5 a small range of functional categories was represented. Fasteners were the most numerous, forming 57.7% of the assemblage, with dress and adornment coming second at 19.2%. The remaining categories were in the main represented by single items. The absence of craft and subsistence-related items suggests that the investigated area was situated away from an occupation focus. Artefacts deposited in burials L201 account for 80.8% of the assemblage (see Table 6).

	Feature type					
Functional category	**Ditch**	**Grave**	**Structural**	**Tree throw**	**Natural**	**Category totals**
Building materials						**1**
Window glass	1	-	-	-	-	
Fasteners						**15**
Nails	-	2	-	1	-	
Staples	-	12	-	-	-	
Dress & adornment						**5**
Brooches	-	2	-	-	-	
Chain links	-	2	-	-	-	
Hooked tag	1					
Toiletry						**1**
Tweezers	-	1	-	-	-	
Prehistoric						**1**
Flake	-	-	-	-	1	
Uncertain/unidentified						**2**
Fastening or clasp?	-	1	-	-	-	
Sheet fragment	-	-	1	-	-	
Natural/ecofacts						**1**
Fossil		1	-	-	-	
Totals	**2**	**21**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**26**

Table 5: Other artefacts by functional category and feature type

5.2.3 Date range

A single patinated flint flake was the earliest artefact recovered. The post-depositional damage to the proximal end prevents determination of knapping technique (soft versus hard-hammer), but this piece is presumed to date between the Neolithic and later Bronze Age. Two brooches of Simple Gaulish form date to the first half of the 1st century AD. The later medieval period is represented by a hooked tag, comprising a circular disc surmounted by a rectangular slot. A thick clear sherd of modern window glass with moulded dots is the most recent artefact.

5.2.4 Provenance

Late Iron Age / early Romano-British (Phase 2)

Other artefacts were found in three of the four cremation burials: G8, G9 and G11 (Table 6).

A fossil, tentatively identified as a sessile echinoderm (blastoid) was found within the fill of urned cremation burial G8. Although this is not an artefact per se, it may have been purposefully included within the burial — fossils were frequently thought to have amuletic powers (Plate 8).

L	G	Object type	Quantity
201	8	Fossil	1
	9	Iron nail/tack	2
		Iron staple	1
	11	Iron staple fragments	11
		Copper alloy brooch	2
		Copper alloy chain links	2
		Copper alloy tweezers	1
		Uncertain (iron staple or fastening?)	1
202.05	4	Lead alloy strip fragment	1

Table 6: Other artefacts assemblage from Phase 2 deposits

The upper fills of cremation burial G9 contained the remains of two tacks and a possible small staple fragment. These fragments may have been inadvertently included within the grave fills, perhaps derived from old timbers, with structural fittings remaining in place, used on the pyre.

Urned cremation burial G11 had six accessory vessels and was also accompanied by grave goods. Eleven fragments of small narrow staples were found in the grave fills; there was no one concentration and the staples occurred in all three of the grave fill spits. This could indicate that the body had been accompanied on the pyre by a wooden container, the small size of the staples perhaps suggesting a repaired wooden vessel or a small casket. A twelfth iron fragment, found within the fill of accessory vessel 131 (cordoned jar of fabric type F09), may be part of another staple.

Two Simple Gaulish wire/rod brooches, dating to the first half of the 1st century AD were also found in burial G11. Brooch RA 2 was placed on the base of the grave west of centre and brooch RA 1 was found in the middle fills of the grave, slightly north-east of the grave centre. Two small oval links were found in the grave backfill. Although of the same type, the brooches differ in size, but it is possible that they were originally worn together, linked by a chain. Neither survives in good condition nor are they complete. If the brooches had been worn paired during life, perhaps the act of breaking the chain and scattering the various components might have been part of the burial ritual. The tweezers RA 3, which accompanied cremation burial G11, have slightly flared in-turned tips and a marginal groove. They had been placed on the base of the grave, slightly south of the centre.

The presence of two Simple Gaulish brooches and a pair of tweezers in cremation burial G11, combined with the suite of ceramic vessels (Section 5.1.3), confirm a date in the first half of the 1st century AD and place the burial within the Aylesford tradition. The small assemblage from cremation burial G9 and the fossil from cremation burial G8 cannot assist with the dating, but can perhaps, in combination with the other data-sets, provide some insight into burial practices.

To the north of the cremation cemetery were two parallel curvilinear ditches (G1 and G3) and associated postholes (G2 and G4) forming activity focus L202. The only other artefact recovered from L202 comprised a thin strip fragment of lead alloy; this cannot be closely dated nor is its use clear.

Post-medieval (Phase 4)

Ditch G14 (L401) was the only feature to yield Other Artefacts. A hooked tag with a circular disc decorated with a petalled flower, surmounted by a rectangular slot, is dated to the late medieval period (Hinton 1990, 549). The same context that yielded the hooked tag also produced a small piece of modern clear colourless glass with moulded dots.

Modern (Phase 5)

Tree throw holes G16 yielded part of an iron nail shank. A patinated flint flake was recovered from L101.

6. ECOFACTS

6.1 Animal Bone

6.1.1 Methodology

All the bones and teeth recovered from the excavation, from both hand-collected and sieved samples, were recorded individually onto a relational database (Microsoft Access), which forms part of the site archive. In the main database table the following information was recorded where appropriate for each specimen: species; anatomical element; zones of bone present; approximate percentage of bone present; gnawing damage; erosion; weathering; burning; fusion data; associated bone group number; sample number; other comments. Separate tables linked to the main table by an individual identification number were created for the very limited amount of metrical, butchery and tooth ageing data. Tooth eruption and wear descriptions for cattle, sheep/goat and pig follow the method of Grant (1982). Measurements are those described by von den Driesch (1976).

6.1.2 Sample size and preservation

Animal bones were retrieved from twenty-two contexts. Seventy-six fragments were recorded, including nine from sieved samples. A total of forty-eight elements were identified to species, including four from the sieved samples. In some cases bones were fragmented into several pieces. These fragments were recorded as a single specimen. Most of the faunal assemblage survived in moderate condition. Of the forty-eight identified specimens, five were recorded as eroded, two as weathered and five as gnawed. A cattle metatarsal from post-medieval Phase 4 was slightly charred on its proximal surface.

6.1.3 Late Iron Age / early Roman (Phase 2)

Seven Groups provided a total of fifty-eight animal bone fragments, of which forty were identified (Table 7). The secondary fill of curvilinear gully G1 included a cattle cervical vertebra, and fragments of a sheep/goat molar and a pig incisor. Two sheep/goat tibiae and a cattle sacrum were recovered from enclosure ditch G5. The secondary fill of enclosure ditch G6 produced thirteen fragments, of which only small fragments of a cattle scapula, a sheep/goat tibia and a pig mandible were identified. The posterior of the blade of the scapula was slightly distorted by a minor healed fracture. The pig mandible belonged to a young adult animal (third molar in early wear). The length of the third molar (33.8mm) fell within the size range of domestic pig rather than the larger wild boar. Ditch G7 provided the distal quarter of a small adult equid (probably a horse), and smaller fragments of an adult cattle sacrum and another sheep/goat tibia.

Cremation burial G11 provided evidence for the burial of parts of a pig carcass and a sheep's upper forelimb. The main group consisted of at least eighteen vertebrae of a pig. The articulated vertebrae, situated on the base of the grave towards its south-western edge, consisted of the sixth and seventh cervical (neck) vertebrae and twelve thoracic vertebrae placed adjacent to the cremation urn (133) and two of the accessory vessels (127 and 135). Three of the lumbar vertebrae and parts of the sacrum formed a less coherent group just south of the centre of the pit. All the vertebrae belonged to the same animal. All the cranial and caudal

epiphyses of the vertebrae were unfused. However, vertebrae generally fuse later than limb bones and the size of the bones suggest that the pig was at least in its second year of life when it was slaughtered. There is clear evidence that the vertebral column had been butchered. The lateral edges of all the cervical and thoracic vertebrae were either damaged or absent and butchery marks were observed on one of the cervical and five of the thoracic vertebrae. All the marks were located on the edge of the vertebral body. In the case of the thoracic vertebrae these marks were located at the junction between the vertebrae and the rib heads. Similarly, none of the lateral processes of the lumbar vertebrae were present and in three cases blade marks were clearly visibly on the edge of the body of the vertebrae. This evidence suggests that both ribcages of the pig, along with the rest of the flanks, were separated from the spine. These would have contained substantial amounts of meat. However, the vertebrae themselves, when butchered in this manner, would have been left with little meat adhering to them. Four fragments of rib shaft, however, were found. Although not identified to species, it is extremely likely that they belonged to the same pig.

Four unfused caudal vertebrae also from the same pig were found inside vessel (135), which lay just to the north-east of the lumbar vertebrae. It is conceivable that parts of the tail became displaced from the rest of the vertebrae when the fills of the grave settled and thus ended up within the vessel. All the vertebrae survived in fair condition, although some were slightly eroded. However, there is no clear evidence of weathering or gnawing damage and it seems likely that the bones were deposited fairly soon after being processed. A fairly complete isolated pig rib was found in a context immediately above the pig vertebrae. It is very likely that this also belonged to the same animal. Although there is no evidence of butchery on the rib head, its size is compatible with the articulated pig bones.

Adjacent to the pig cervical vertebrae lay the right scapula, humerus and radius of a sheep. Only the distal quarter of the scapula survived but the other two bones were largely complete. The glenoid of the scapula, the distal humerus and the proximal radius had fused but the epiphyses of the proximal humerus and distal radius were unfused and not recovered. This suggests that the animal was over six months of age but probably younger than three years old. The sizes of the bones indicate that the forelimb probably belonged to an animal aged between one and two years old. The morphology of the humerus and radius was diagnostic of sheep rather than goat. In contrast to the pig vertebrae, the sheep bones were quite poorly preserved. They were all quite heavily eroded and weathered. It is possible that they had been exposed to the elements for a considerable time before final burial. It was not certain during excavation whether the bones were still articulated but their proximity to each other suggests that they were.

The only other bones identified from this burial consisted of a pair of mandibles from a short-tailed vole found in a sieved sample from the upper spit of the grave. Despite its relatively shallow depth, it is feasible that these belonged to a vole that fell into the grave when it lay open, possibly subsequent to the deposition of the cremation and the grave goods.

The deposition of animal remains in late Iron Age cremation burials is known from various parts of England. A well-known example is the King Harry's Lane cemetery at St Albans where pig and chicken bones were found in several cremation burials. However, unlike at Harrold some of the pig bones as well as

the human remains had been cremated (Davis 1989, 250). Articulated groups of pig bones have been found in a number of rich burials associated with the Arras Culture in Yorkshire (Legge 1991) but these were associated with inhumations and are earlier in date (middle Iron Age) than Harrold. A closer parallel comes from a cemetery at Great Chesterford, Essex, where a late Iron Age / early Roman cremation burial featured an urn that contained a few unburnt pig ribs and chicken bones, as well as the cremated human remains (Smoothy 1990).

However, the closest parallel comes from Biddenham Loop, to the south of Bedford, where a late Iron Age cremation cemetery, found in association with Farmstead 6/8, was identified. Three of the richest graves in the cemetery contained joints of pig including one that was comprised of twenty-four vertebrae (Maltby 2008, 224). Pigs, therefore, appear to have been associated with some of the richer burials in this region. This has greater significance when it is recognised that pigs were relatively uncommon in contemporary settlement deposits on the Biddenham Loop and other sites around Bedford compared with sheep and cattle. In addition, pig bones were ranked a distant third behind cattle and sheep/goat bones in the late Iron Age assemblage from the adjacent excavations on the Bridgman Joinery Works, Harrold (Rackham 2012, 24–5). Pigs, therefore, may have been regarded as a relatively high-status food commodity. The joints could be regarded as a food offering, although in this case the ritual deposition involved a portion largely stripped of meat. One can speculate that the meat from the rest of the animal was eaten during the funeral ceremony. Similarly, the sheep forelimb may not have been deposited as a fresh joint of meat.

6.1.4 Medieval (Phase 3)

Only three animal bones were recovered. Two from ditch G12 were unidentified mammal fragments. The recut of ditch G13 produced a fragment of pig humerus.

6.1.5 Post-medieval (Phase 4)

Twelve animal bone fragments were recovered (Table 7). These included a cattle tibia fragment from ditch G14. Ditch G17 produced parts of a cattle metatarsal, humerus and rib and a molar plus fragments of humerus and tibia of sheep/goat. The shaft of the rib was slightly distorted by a healed fracture.

6.1.6 Modern (Phase 5)

Only three unidentified mammal fragments were recovered.

Phase	2							3		4		5		
Group	**1**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**17**	**16**	**19**	**Total**
Cattle	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	8
Sheep/goat	1	2	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	11
Pig	1	-	1	-	-	-	23	-	1	-	-	-	-	26
Horse	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Short-tailed Vole	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total identified	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**28**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**48**
Unid. mammal	1	-	10	-	1	1	5	2	-	3	2	2	1	28
Total	**4**	**3**	**13**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**33**	**2**	**1**	**4**	**8**	**2**	**1**	**76**

Counts are of numbers of individual specimens (NISP)
Counts include bones in associated bone groups
Counts include bones in sieved samples

Table 7: Animal bone species counts by Phase and Group

6.2 Charred Plant Remains and Other Botanical Remains

6.2.1 Introduction

Environmental bulk soil samples were collected for the potential recovery of charred macro-plant remains and information on crop-husbandry and processing and other possible activities being carried out at the site. The samples were also examined for the presence of potential identifiable charcoal fragments for information on woodland resources and management and fuel selection for domestic, economic and ritual use.

6.2.2 Sampling, recovery and identification methods

Thirty samples were collected from features dating from the late Iron Age / early Roman period (Phase 2). Twenty-six of the samples were from the fills of all the cremation burials within cemetery L201. The other three samples were from ditches G1 and G3 (L202) and enclosure ditch G6 (L203).

The volume of the individual soil samples ranged from 0.25–40 litres and were processed using a Siraf-style type flotation tank and mesh sizes of 0.3mm and 1mm for the recovery of the flot and residue respectively. The residues were dried and sorted for biological remains and other archaeological material while the flots were also dried, measured and assessed using a stereo-binocular microscope, with a magnification of up to x40.

The presence and relative abundance of charred plant remains (grain, chaff, wild plants/weed seeds) was recorded, along with the frequency of charcoal fragments larger and smaller than 2mm, the larger pieces being potentially identifiable and thus suitable for analysis. Other biological remains (un-charred plant material, bones, snails and insect fragments) in the flots were also noted.

The item frequency of the charred plant and other environmental remains was scored using the following scale: + = <5 items; ++ = 5-25 items; +++ = 26-100 items; ++++ = 101-300 items; +++++ = >300 items. Identification of the charred botanical remains was carried out with nomenclature used for these following Stace (2005).

6.2.3 Results

Twenty-nine of the thirty samples produced flots. Table 8 shows the frequency of different biological remains in each sample with comments on individual assemblages, including provisional identifications of any botanical material. The majority of the flots, however, were very small (mostly less than 1ml) and all consisted largely of roots and (fine) sediment crumb with only traces of charred plant remains.

Charred plant remains

The charred plant remains were limited to a few poorly preserved cereal grains in five samples: two from cremation burials G9 and G11 and the fills of ditches G1 and G3. The grains were mainly from Triticum (wheat), with tentative identifications of hulled wheat, Triticum dicoccum/spelta (emmer/spelt) and free-threshing wheat (Triticum aestivum type), plus single grains of possible Hordeum (barley) and Avena (oat). The oat grain is probably a weed. The fill of ditch G3 also produced a Triticum (wheat) glume base, confirming the presence of hulled wheat on the site, and a large Poaceae (grass) seed, possibly oat.

Wood charcoal was similarly poorly represented, with only traces or small amounts of very fragmented material in twenty-three of the twenty-nine productive flots. There was potentially identifiable charcoal in just five flots, with occasional fragments in cremation burials G9, G10 and G11 and ditches G1 and G3.

Occasional un-charred wild plant/weed seeds were present in fourteen flots, mainly Sambucus nigra (elder) and Rubus (brambles), both robust woody seeds typical of disturbed ground and hedgerows. These seeds were probably intrusive, particularly given the large amounts of roots in all of the flots.

Other biological remains in the flots

Other environmental material included occasional, small or moderate amounts of snails in all the flots. A number of samples from ditch fills G1, G3 and G6 include the burrowing species Cecelioides acicula, which is probably intrusive. Several very small fragments of poorly preserved burnt bone, very likely unidentifiable, were found in three samples, cremation burials SG12 (G8) and SG15 (G11). There were also occasional earthworm egg cases in two flots and beetle fragments in one flot, although this material is likely to be intrusive.

6.2.4 Summary

The results from the site showed only traces of identifiable and poorly preserved charred plant remains in three samples from cremation cemetery L201 (G9 and G11) and in two ditch samples from activity focus L202 (G1 and G3). It is likely that the material in the cremation burials and ditch fills represents background domestic crop-processing waste from activities taking place to the immediate north of the site where excavations within the former Bridgman Joinery Works produced evidence of crop-processing activities from the late Iron Age / early Romano-British period (Martin 2012, 25–8).

The small amount of charred plant material from the site is thus limited to simply providing basic data on the cereals that may have been used (and possibly cultivated) nearby. The grains in the samples are typical for the late Iron and

early Romano-British periods, with hulled wheat (mainly spelt) and hulled barley being the main cereals in southern Britain, with less evidence for free-threshing wheat (Grieg 1991, 306, 309). This is reflected in assemblages recovered from other sites west of Bedford (Giorgi 2016, CD Section 2) and from the late Iron Age / early Romano-British samples from the adjacent Bridgman Joinery Works. The latter produced evidence for mainly spelt wheat and hulled barley, with a little emmer (Martin 2012, 25–8).

The wood charcoal is similarly limited. Five samples from three cremation burials, G9, G10 and G11, and two ditches, G1 and G3, produced only occasional or single fragments of potentially identifiable wood charcoal, which cannot provide any useful or significant information on the range of woods used as fuel for the cremation burials or evidence on the local woodland environment.

L	G	SG	Sample	Feature type	Vol. processed (ltrs)	Vol. unprocessed (ltrs)	Flot vol (ml)	charcoal >/<2mm	Charred grain	Charred chaff	Charred Other	Uncharred Seeds	Mollusc	Comments
201	8	12	9	Cremation burial	9	0	1						++	
			10		5	0	2	-/+				+	++	Snails includes *Cecelioides acicula*
			31		1.5	0	<1	-/++				+	++	snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
			32		2	0	<1	-/+++					++	-
			33		1.5	0	<1	-/+					+	-
			34		0.5	0	<1	-/++					+	-
	9	13	11	Cremation burial	10	0	2	-/+				+	++	-Occasional snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
			12		20	0	4	+/++					++	Occasional snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
			13		13	0	1					+	++	Occasional snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
			14		20	0	2					+	++	-
			15		9	0	2	+/+				+	++	-
			28		1	0	<1	-/++					++	Snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
			29		1	0	<1	-/++	+			+	++	One *Triticum* sp. grain; snails (virtually all *Cecelioides acicula*)
			30		1	0	<1	-/++					++	-
	11	15	16	Cremation burial	40	0	90	-/++	+			+	+++	Traces of CPR; cf. *Triticum aestivum* (1), cf. *T. dicoccum/spelta* (1), *Triticum* sp. (2), indet grain (1) (very poorly preserved) Snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
			17		20	0	35					+	++	-
			18		20	0	45	+/++	+			+	++	Traces of CPR; cf. *Triticum aestivum* (1), cf. *Triticum* sp. (1), cf. *Hordeum* sp. (1), indet grain (1) (very poorly preserved)
			20		0.5	0	<1	-/+					+	Occassional snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
			21		0.5	0	<1	-/+					+	-
			22		0.25	0	<1	-/+					+	-

L	G	SG	Sample	Feature type	Vol. processed (ltrs)	Vol. unprocessed (ltrs)	Flot vol (ml)	charcoal >/<2mm	Charred grain	Charred chaff	Charred Other	Uncharred Seeds	Mollusc	Comments
201	11	15	25	Cremation burial	2	0	1	-/++					++	-
			26		3	0	12	-/+					++	snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
			23		1	0	<1						+	-
			24		1	0	<1	-/++					++	-
	10	14	19	Cremation burial	7	0	1	+/+				+	++	-
202	1	-	7	Ditch	10	20	5	+/++	+			+	++	One indet grain fragment Snails include *Cecelioides acicula*
202	3	-	6		10	20	18	+/++	+	+	+	+	++	Traces of CPR; *Hordeum/Triticum* sp. grain frags (2); cf. *Avena* sp. (1) indet grain (3); *Triticum* sp. glume base (1); Poaceae (large) (1) (very poorly preserved)
203	6	-	8		10	20	1	-/+				+	++	Snails include *Cecelioides acicula*

Key: + =1-5 items: ++ =5-25 items; +++ = 25-100; ++++ = 100-300; +++++=>300items
CPR (charred plant remains)

Table 8: Summary of charred plant remains and other botanical remains by Phase, Land-use Area and Group

6.3 Human Bone

6.3.1 Methodology

Cremated material from four graves, divided into vessel contents and spits within fills, was analysed. Spits were laid out side-by-side and assessed for content and for refits between spits. If the contents were similar in condition and bone representation and/or had refits, it was assumed that there had been random deposition of bones or body areas and the samples were combined. Methods followed are those of Mayne Correia 1997, Mays 1998, and McKinley 1989.

The samples were sieved down to 4 mm and 2mm mesh, but no sample contained more than a negligible small fraction. Small unburnt pebbles and pea grit were removed, animal bone, possible shell and other extraneous material was bagged. The remaining human bone was sorted by body part (skull, axial skeleton and limbs/extremities) and parts weighed, in order to compare the weights with McKinley's 'standard' cremation percentages. There were no duplications indicating the presence of more than one individual, and just one instance of some bones that were of different condition to the bulk of the sample they came from.

The expected weight range for a whole body after burning is approximately 1600–3600g. For ancient cremation burials it is approximately 200–2000g, average 800g (McKinley 1989). The Harrold cremation burial deposits are mostly at the low end of this range, with three in the 200s–400s, but with one (G8) in the 900s (Table 9).

All bone is buff-white unless otherwise stated. White bone has lost all its organic component through combustion and is almost pure mineral, having been burned at a temperature of at least 645°C over several hours with adequate oxygen access (Mayne Correia 1997; Mays 1998: 216, table 11.1; McKinley 1989). Poorer burning produces bone in shades ranging from a bright blue-grey, grey, black and reddish-brown, and in these samples there is a small amount of blue-grey and grey, with some black in areas protected from fire.

G	Urn	Age	Sex	Weight (g)	Diameter/depth of grave (m)	Possible grave goods
8	Pedestal urn (Form A1, F09)	Adult	-	933	0.5/0.2	?Sessile echinoderm (blastoid) fossil
9	Poppyhead beaker (R06I)	Adult	M	669	0.6/0.3	Flagon (R10B) 2 tacks Staple fragment
10	Jar (F05)	Adult	M	296	0.4/0.1	-
11	Pedestal urn (Form A1; F09)	25-35	-	207	1.0/0.2	2x carinated cups (Form E1-1; F09) Cordoned cup (F06A) Cordoned jar (F09) Conical lid (L6/L7; F09) Jar (F06B) Partial pig skeleton Forelimb of a sheep 2x 1st-century AD brooches (RA 1 and RA 2) Tweezers (RA 3) 2x oval links 11x staple fragments 1x staple or fastener

NOTE. G11 contained a possible second individual (indicated by four skull vault frags)

Table 9: Summary of cremation burials in cemetery L201

6.3.2 Burial G8

The assemblages of cremated bone retrieved from the four excavated spits from this grave were similar in content and so were combined. The total weight, 933g, is a reasonable size for an ancient cremation deposit.

Fragments came from all areas of the body: skull vault, face and base, vertebrae, pelvis, ribs, all limbs, and some small bones of the hands and feet. Surprisingly, the teeth and jaws were absent, apart from one mandibular condyle (a dense area that forms the lower part of the jaw articulation); relatively large pieces of the innominates were present. The matching left and right petrous bones of the skull were the only paired elements, showing that only one individual was present.

Comparing the body-area proportions with those of an average modern cremation (McKinley 1989, 68), we find: skull 23.9% (versus 18.2%), axial skeleton 35.2% (23.1%), limbs and extremities 40.9% (58.7%). The axial skeleton is, therefore, over-represented, and this is clearly due to the large pieces of innominate, since ribs and vertebrae are represented by only a few small, thin fragments.

Despite the quantity, it is not possible to determine the sex of the individual because none of the sex-determination features were present and the size and robusticity was medium. Age appears adult, due to size and in the absence of any epiphyses (growing areas of the bones). There were no observable pathological changes.

6.3.2 Burial G9- backfill of grave

The backfill material from the grave contained five refits of large long bones, each with two fragments fitting together. There was also a noteworthy mixture of fully-burnt bone and bone which is blue-grey (less well burnt) and black (poorly burnt, still with much organic material within). For this reason the samples have been pooled, giving a total weight of 398g, comfortably in the lower end of McKinley's range.

The poor burning on the long bones, focused but not entirely on the femur and tibia, suggests a fault in what is otherwise excellent pyre technology. That the bones had largely become white shows that the pyre was satisfactory in terms of high temperature, availability of oxygen and time, but one or more of these requirements had been removed from the non-white bone. Perhaps relevant limbs fell from the pyre or poor construction/collapse caused inadequate air access to just one area. The latter is more likely given that some other bones had the same non-white areas.

Parts of the vault, face and base of the skull, plus central mandible, were present, together with some tiny fragments of ribs, vertebrae and pelvis, and relatively large, when refitted, pieces of long-bone shaft from both upper and lower limb. There were also fragments of patella and four bones of the extremities, three of the foot, one unknown.

Making the same body-area comparisons as above, the percentages are skull 15.9% (versus 18.2%), axial skeleton 3.1% (23.1%), limbs and extremities 81.0% (58.7%). These proportions speak for themselves: the axial skeleton is extremely low and the limbs extremely high in representation.

Age is assumed adult, from the absence of epiphyses. One sex-determination feature was present, the supra-orbital area, and this is male in form. Furthermore, the bones were very robust, especially the femoral shafts. This will be partly due to the incomplete burning, since bone shrinks as it burns, but the white bones appear equally robust.

The mandible had five open tooth sockets, showing post-mortem loss of these teeth, but one closed socket showing one instance of ante-mortem loss.

6.3.3 Burial G9- urn

There were no refits between these contexts, but all had a mixture of bone in similar condition and with relatively large pieces of vertebrae (conspicuously missing from the rest of the assemblage), so the bone from urn (142) was pooled. The weight is 271g, close to the lower end of the standard range. The colour was slightly browner than in other contexts, but this is likely to be due to less-thorough washing; it is not the brown of very-poorly burnt material.

Fragments came from the skull vault and face, with one upper canine tooth root present, and from the length of the vertebral column, rib, innominates, clavicle, limbs and extremities. The percentages by body region are skull 11.1% (versus 18.2%), axial skeleton 16.4% (23.1%), limbs and extremities 72.5% (58.7%), so, like the grave backfill, the limbs are heavily over-represented, although in this case skull and axial skeleton were more balanced in under-representation.

Age is once again adult and the superior orbital rim and the sciatic notch of the pelvis are of male form. No pathologies were present.

A test was made to investigate whether the material in urn 142 was from the same individual as that represented in the grave backfill material. Colour is similar, except that bone from the grave backfill is browner overall, but this is probably due to the greater amount of cancellous bone in urn 142, which retains soil after washing. In both cases the femur and tibia are the areas that are grey-blue with black patching and black within the shafts, showing that there were similar pyre conditions for both. Both are the remains of a robust male. Finally, although no refits could be found between the two deposits, cremated bone from urn 144 has a fragment of right superior orbit and the grave backfill material contained a left superior orbit, and, allowing for breakage, these are almost exact mirror-images of each other. It is extremely likely that all the human bone from both deposits is that of one individual. The total cremation deposit of this individual would therefore weigh 669g, a weight close to average for an ancient cremation burial, although still nowhere near the total bone of a large adult.

The vertebral arch of a large mammal and some other non-human fragments were present.

6.3.4 Burial G10

Cremated material from the fill of urn 155 and the grave backfill were compared, and it was found that there were three refits of long-bone shafts. This (and the similarity of content) show that this is a single deposition that had partially escaped from the

cremation vessel. The weight is 296g, like the material from cremation burial SG15, a low but unexceptional amount for an ancient cremation deposit.

Skull vault, base and mandible (with five sockets for anterior teeth), rib, pelvis and limbs/extremities are present, but nothing at all from the vertebral column. Body percentages are skull 9.0% (versus 18.2%), axial skeleton 14.9% (23.1%), limbs and extremities 76.1% (58.7%). The axial skeleton figure is somewhat low and the skull only half the expected amount, with the excess in the limbs.

These are probably the remains of a male, suggested by the robusticity of the femoral and tibial shafts and the thickness of the ossicle at asterion (see below). No age beyond 'adult' can be determined.

Three fragments from the femoral shaft (of which two possibly refit) have disorganised and porotic new bone overlying the striated cortex; these are signs of increased blood supply and consequent stimulus to new-bone production, usually consequent to infection, though whether this was localised or systemic is not possible to determine.

The skull has the developmental anomaly of two extra bones, called Wormian bones, one the rather unusual 'ossicle at asterion' (located in the area where the bones of the side, back and base of the skull join, behind the ear).

6.3.5 Burial G11

The cremated bone assemblages retrieved from the three excavated spits from this grave were similar in content and so were combined. The total weight is, at 207g, at the bottom end of McKinley's average for ancient cremation deposits. Skull (including two teeth, the upper left second molar and the root of the upper left first or second premolar) and limb-bone fragments dominate.

Body-area comparisons produced the percentages of skull 33.1% (versus 18.2%), axial skeleton 2.8% (23.1%), limbs and extremities 64.1% (58.7%). The axial skeleton is markedly under-represented: this is the zone of the skeleton that is usually under-represented to some extent, probably due to the fragility of the ribs and some of the vertebrae, but in this case it is exceptionally so. It is the skull that is over-represented while the limbs are not far above McKinley's standard.

Sex cannot be determined, but the age can be estimated, by the wear on the molar tooth, as within Brothwell's (1981) 25–35 range.

A pair of fragments from the femoral shaft, which are probably adjacent although they cannot be definitively refitted, show a rugose and lipped linea aspera (the raised line that runs down most of the length of the femur and which provides attachment to the large muscles of the thigh). This might be simply due to the robusticity of the individual, but might be myositis ossificans, caused by habitual strain on the muscle attachments due to heavy muscle use. The socket of the upper right first premolar appears to be closed or closing, showing ante-mortem tooth loss.

Four skull vault fragments, of which three refit and the fourth is probably from the same area, are a pure white, unlike the buff-white of the rest of the material. All their surfaces are softly rounded by abrasion. It is suggested that they might be the remains of an older cremated individual, perhaps accidentally picked up from a pyre

site. Alternatively, they might have been buried in different conditions to the rest, although they came from different levels of fill so this is not likely.

6.3.6 Summary

Four adults are present in the assemblage: one adult, one robust male adult, one adult of 25–35 and one probably male adult, together with a few adult human fragments perhaps residual. There is a small amount of pathological change. There was no evidence of the depositions being structured by spits; each deposit was uniquely imbalanced in terms of the major body areas. Weights are within the expected range and burning was largely excellent apart from in burial G11.

7. DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

The archaeological investigations identified five phases of activity dating from the pre-Iron Age (Phase 1) to the modern period (Phase 5). They are discussed below in chronological order.

7.1 Pre-Iron Age (Phase 1)

A major landscape feature was identified in the eastern part of the development area in the form of a north-south aligned stream channel. No firm dating evidence was recovered, although a prehistoric, struck flint flake was found within the channel and its main fills were stratigraphically earlier than some of the late Iron Age / early Roman (Phase 2) features. The feature was examined by a palaeo-environmental specialist, but the deposits were not suitable for detailed examination as they would not have added to the information recovered from the Bridgman Joinery Works investigation to the north (Scaife 2012, 28–30).

Within the Bridgman Joinery Works investigation the stream channel was examined in a number of box sections and augered holes (Luke and Preece 2012, 6). It was over 16m wide, *c*. 0.9m deep with steep sides and a fairly flat base. Organic material at the very base of the channel was dated to AD 10–140 (Beta 228370, 1920±40BP). Based on these investigations, '… it is clear, therefore, that at least part of the channel was silting up during the late Iron Age / early Romano-British period. However, what is less clear is when it was formed and how long it remained open; it appears to have survived as a hollow, at least, until the post-medieval period. The stream may have been replaced by a drainage ditch... which survives to the present day' (Luke and Preece 2012, 6).

7.2 Late Iron Age / early Roman (Phase 2)

The earliest firm evidence for human activity within the excavation area dated to the late Iron Age / early Roman period. This activity comprised the continuation of an enclosure system associated with a farmstead investigated within the Bridgman Joinery Works site to the north (Luke and Preece 2012, 1–6, fig. 4). Although *c*. 9kg of pottery was recovered, it is likely that the development area was situated on the periphery of the farmstead — a conclusion that is supported by the presence of a small cremation cemetery (which are often found in such peripheral locations).

At least two square/rectangular, ditched enclosures and part of a smaller oval enclosure were identified within the excavation area. The majority of the pottery recovered from the ditches was late Iron Age / early Roman in date. Fully Romanised pottery was only found in the recut ditches (G6 and G7) of enclosure ditch G5 (L203). It is, therefore, likely that some of the boundaries continued to function into the Roman period. During the 2nd to 4th centuries AD a crop-processing area, including a drying oven and possible threshing floor, was established within the continuation of oval enclosure G1/G3 (L202), within the former Bridgeman Joinery Works site (Luke and Preece 2012, 34–7). Charcoal and fired clay recovered from ditch G3 was possibly associated with the crop-processing area to the north and, therefore, suggests that it too continued to function during this period (although no fully Romanised pottery was identified).

The southernmost enclosure contained cremation cemetery L201. This comprised four graves, all of which contained urned burials and two of which also featured accessory vessels and/or non-ceramic artefacts. On the basis of the typological

dating of the pottery and other artefacts, the cemetery can be dated to the late 1st century BC / early 1st century AD, although only one burial (G9) contained fully Romanised pottery. The graves contained the cremated remains of four adults, two of whom were probable males. No duplication of body parts or selection of particular bones was noted, but one burial (G11) contained cremated skull fragments of another individual, suggesting the likely reuse of a pyre site.

7.3 Medieval (Phase 3)

A large ditch containing 12th–13th-century pottery was located at the southern limit of the development area. It was redug at least once during the medieval period. Ditched enclosures were found within the Bridgman Joinery Works investigations to the north (Luke and Preece 2012, 12–14, fig. 9), but at *c.* 2.3m wide the ditch within the development area is much more substantial. Its considerable size and its alignment parallel to the High Street may indicate that it represents the northern boundary of the medieval settlement. It may also have served the purpose of channelling water from the north-south streams/channels onto a more west-east alignment. A channel serving this function survives to this day adjacent to the footpath just to the south of the development area.

7.4 Post-medieval and Modern (Phases 4 and 5)

A ditch was dug on the same alignment *c*. 3m to the north of the medieval boundary ditch described above presumably serving a similar function. The continued management of the stream channel L102 (Phase 1) was indicated by new ditches, L401 and L501, dug along its course in the post-medieval period (Phase 4) and again in modern times (Phase 5).

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9. APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Pottery Type Series

Fabrics are listed in chronological order, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series. All wares are previously published, and full descriptions are available in the archive.

Fabric Type	Common name	Sherd No	Wt (g)
Late Iron Age/Roman transition			
F03	Grog and sand	1	28
F05	Grog and shell	19	502
F06A	Fine grog	1	267
F06B	Medium grog	39	794
F06C	Coarse grog	18	964
F07	Shell	7	121
F09	Sand and grog	188	3859
F24	Buff shell	4	114
		277	**6649**
Early Roman			
R06A	Nene Valley grey ware	5	76
R06B	Coarse grey ware	1	4
R06C	Fine grey ware	6	44
R06I	Black-slipped grey ware	11	448
R10B	Fine buff sandy ware	1	289
R13	Shell	53	1417
		77	**2278**
Early Medieval			
B05	Harrold/Olney shelly ware	2	10
B07	Shelly ware	7	62
		9	**72**
Post-medieval			
P01	Fine glazed earthenware	1	138
P03	Black glazed earthenware	5	375
P36A	Brown salt-glazed earthenware	1	4
		7	**517**
Modern			
P38	Creamware	1	1
P45	Transfer-printed ware	9	128
P50	Stoneware	1	190
P55	White earthenware	1	1
MOD	Non-specific mass-produced ware	5	513
		17	**833**

9.2 Appendix 2: Detailed Context Data

Area: 1
Extent (ha): 0.85
OS Co-ordinates: SP9517456889
Description: Open-area excavation

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark black clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones. 0.28m thick**	☑	☐
2	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid brown orange silt . 0.48m thick**	☐	☐
3	**Natural**	**Friable mid grey brown silty gravel**	☐	☐
4	**Natural**	**Friable light grey orange sandy gravel**	☐	☐
6	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.66m, min length 11.m**	☑	☐
7	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt . 0.15m thick	☑	☐
8	Fill	Friable light orange brown clay silt . 0.6m thick	☑	☐
9	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 3.m, max depth 0.7m, min length 11.m**	☑	☐
10	Fill	Loose light grey yellow sandy gravel . 1.4m thick	☑	☐
11	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones. 0.45m thick	☑	☑
12	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 4.5m, max depth 0.6m, min length 11.m**	☑	☐
13	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones. 0.3m thick	☑	☑
14	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones. 0.38m thick	☑	☐
15	**Palaeochannel**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 12.75m, max depth 1.m**	☑	☐
16	Fill	Loose light orange sand	☑	☐
17	Fill	Loose light red orange silty sand . >0.25m thick	☑	☑
18	Fill	Plastic mid grey clay silt . 0.1m thick	☑	☐
19	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty gravel . 0.55m thick	☑	☐
20	Fill	Friable mid brown silty gravel . 0.5m thick	☑	☐
21	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones. >0.7m thick	☑	☐
22	Fill	Friable mid grey orange silty clay occasional small-large stones. 0.75m thick	☑	☑
108	Fill	Friable light orange brown clay silt . >0.7m thick	☑	☐
109	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt . 0.36m thick	☑	☐
23	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.55m, min length 9.5m**	☑	☐
24	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.55m thick	☑	☐
30	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey black clay silt occasional small-medium stones. 0.33m thick**	☐	☐
31	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.25m thick. Stones form a band towards the base of the deposit.**	☐	☐

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32	**Natural**	**Loose light yellow sandy gravel . Large patches of mid brown orange sandy silt also noted within layer.**	☐	☑
35	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.97m, max depth 0.42m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
36	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones. 0.42m thick	☑	☑
37	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.84m, min depth 0.44m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
38	Fill	Friable dark brown black sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.44m thick	☑	☐
39	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.07m, min depth 0.6m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
33	Fill	Friable light orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones. 0.22m thick	☑	☑
40	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt . 0.44m thick	☑	☑
41	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate medium stones. 0.15m thick	☑	☐
42	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: steep dimensions: max breadth 2.4m, max depth 0.9m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
43	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt occasional small stones. >0.9m thick	☑	☑
44	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt frequent small stones, moderate medium stones. 0.29m thick	☑	☐
45	Fill	Friable dark blue grey clay silt frequent small stones. >0.18m thick, but not fully excavated due to water level.	☑	☐
46	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 0.26m, min depth 0.4m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
47	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones, occasional medium stones. >0.4m thick	☑	☐
48	**Ditch**	**Curving linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.22m, min length 0.77m**	☑	☐
49	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent flecks charcoal, occasional medium stones. 0.22m thick	☑	☐
50	**Posthole**	**Circular sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.68m, max depth 0.23m, max length 0.4m**	☑	☐
51	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional medium stones. 0.23m thick	☑	☑
52	**Ditch**	**Curving linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.61m, max depth 0.22m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
53	Fill	Friable dark brown black clay silt frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones. 0.22m thick	☑	☑
54	**Ditch**	**Curving linear NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.77m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
55	Fill	Friable dark brown black clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones. 0.09m thick	☑	☑
56	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones. 0.14m thick	☑	☐
57	**Posthole**	**Oval sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.57m, max depth 0.26m**	☑	☐
58	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones. 0.26m thick	☑	☑

Area: **1**
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59	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.48m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
60	Fill	Friable light orange brown sandy silt frequent small stones, occasional large stones. 0.25m thick	☑	☑
61	**Posthole**	**Sub-circular sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.38m, min depth 0.24m, min length 0.4m**	☑	☐
62	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones. 0.24m thick	☑	☐
63	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.24m, min depth 0.14m, min length 0.54m**	☑	☐
64	Fill	Friable light orange brown sandy silt frequent small stones, occasional large stones. >0.14m thick	☑	☐
65	**Ditch**	**Curving linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.83m, min depth 0.54m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
66	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty sand moderate small-medium stones. 0.54m thick	☑	☑
67	**Posthole**	**Sub-oval sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.35m, min depth 0.2m, min length 0.55m**	☑	☐
68	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand . 0.2m thick	☑	☑
69	**Ditch**	**Curving linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.72m, min diameter 0.22m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
70	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones. 0.18m - 0.22m thick	☑	☑
188	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand . 0.15m thick	☑	☐
71	**Ditch**	**Curving linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, min depth 0.23m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
72	Fill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-large stones. 0.23m thick	☑	☑
73	**Ditch**	**Curving linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.52m, min depth 0.1m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
74	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones. 0.1m thick	☑	☑
75	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, min depth 0.42m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
76	Fill	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones. 0.42m thick	☑	☑
77	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.69m, min depth 0.47m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
78	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones. 0.47m thick	☑	☐
79	**Treethrow**	**Sub-circular sides: irregular base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.83m, min depth 0.31m**	☑	☐
80	Fill	Loose dark brown black clay silt occasional small-large stones. 0.31m thick	☑	☑
81	**Treethrow**	**Sub-circular sides: convex base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.3m**	☑	☐
82	Fill	Loose dark brown black clay silt occasional small-large stones. 0.3m thick	☑	☑

Area: 1
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83	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.25m, max depth 0.1m**	☑	☐
84	Ditch	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones. 0.1m thick	☑	☐
85	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.25m, max diameter 0.1m**	☑	☐
86	Fill	Loose mid brown grey sandy silt frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones. 0.1m thick	☑	☑
87	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.53m, min depth 0.1m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
88	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silt frequent small stones. 0.1m thick	☑	☐
89	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.91m, min depth 0.54m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
90	Fill	Friable dark brown black sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.54m thick	☑	☑
91	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: vertical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.03m, min depth 0.67m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
92	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones. 0.64m thick	☑	☑
93	Fill	Friable light orange brown sandy silt occasional medium stones. 0.67m thick	☑	☐
94	**Ditch**	**Linear N-S sides: steep base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, min depth 0.45m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
95	Fill	Friable dark brown black sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones. 0.22m thick	☑	☑
96	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty gravel frequent small stones. 0.23m thick	☑	☐
97	Fill	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.43m thick	☑	☐
98	**Treethrow**	**Sub-oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.8m, min depth 0.42m, min length 1.6m**	☑	☐
99	Fill	Loose dark brown black sandy silt frequent small stones, occasional medium stones. 0.42m thick	☑	☑
100	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 2.55m, min depth 0.78m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
102	Fill	Compact dark brown grey silt moderate small stones. 0.78m thick	☑	☑
103	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: min breadth 3.78m, min depth 0.65m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
101	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt moderate small stones. 1m thick. Poor visibility due to rising water table.	☑	☐
104	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt moderate small stones. 0.45m thick	☑	☐
105	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.6m**	☑	☐
106	Fill	Friable light brown grey clay silt . 0.6m thick	☑	☐
110	**Posthole**	**Oval sides: vertical base: flat**	☑	☐
111	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt . 0.23m thick	☑	☑
112	**Fill**	**Dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, min length 11.m**	☐	☐
113	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay	☐	☑

Area: **1**
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114	**Grave**	**Circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.2m, min length 0.45m**	☑	☐
115	Finds deposit	Cremation burial urn	☑	☑
116	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty sand moderate small stones. 0.1m thick	☑	☑
117	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty sand moderate small stones. 0.1m thick	☑	☑
192	Cremation deposit	Friable mid brown clay silt . Fill of cremation burial urn (115). 0.05m thick	☑	☑
193	Cremation deposit	Friable mid brown clay silt . Fill of cremation burial urn (115). 0.05m thick	☑	☑
194	Cremation deposit	Friable mid brown clay silt . Fill of cremation burial urn (115). 0.05m thick	☑	☑
195	Cremation deposit	Friable mid brown clay silt . Fill of cremation burial urn (115). 0.05m thick	☑	☑
118	**Grave**	**Oval sides: steep base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.28m, min length 0.5m**	☑	☐
119	Finds deposit	Accessory vessel	☑	☑
120	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt occasional small stones. 0.05m thick	☑	☑
121	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt occasional small stones, occasional small-medium stones. 0.05m thick	☑	☑
122	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt occasional small stones. 0.05m thick	☑	☑
123	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt occasional small stones. 0.05m thick	☑	☑
142	Finds deposit	Cremation burial urn	☑	☑
143	Cremation deposit	Fill of accessory vessel (119). 0.05m thick	☑	☐
144	Cremation deposit	Mid brown grey . Fill of cremation burial urn (142). 0.05m thick.	☑	☑
145	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
190	Cremation deposit	Friable mid brown grey clay silt . Fill of cremation burial urn (142). 0.05m thick.	☑	☑
191	Cremation deposit	Friable mid brown grey clay silt . Fill of cremation burial urn (142). 0.05m thick.	☑	☑

Area: **1**
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124	**Grave**	**Sub-circular sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.05m, max depth 0.17m, min length 1.09m**	☑	☐
125	Finds deposit	Accessory vessel	☑	☑
126	Cremation deposit	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones. Fill of accessory vessel (125). 0.06m thick	☑	☐
127	Finds deposit	Accessory vessel	☑	☑
128	Cremation deposit	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones. Fill of accessory vessel (127). 0.09m thick.	☑	☐
129	Finds deposit	Accessory vessel	☑	☑
130	Cremation deposit	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones. Fill of accessory vessel (129). 0.1m thick.	☑	☑
131	Finds deposit	Accessory vessel	☑	☑
132	Cremation deposit	Friable dark grey brown clay silt . Fill of accessory vessel (131). 0.1m thick	☑	☑
133	Finds deposit	Cremation burial urn	☑	☑
134	Cremation deposit	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small stones. Fill of cremation burial urn (133). 0.06m thick.	☑	☑
135	Finds deposit	Accessory vessel	☑	☑
136	Cremation deposit	Friable dark grey brown clay silt . Fill of accessory vessel (135). 0.09m thick.	☑	☑
137	Animal skeleton		☑	☑
138	Finds deposit	Accessory vessel	☑	☑
139	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.05m thick	☑	☑
140	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.05m thick	☑	☑
141	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.07m thick	☑	☑
178	Cremation deposit	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt frequent small stones. Fill of accessory vessel (127). 0.02m thick	☑	☐
189	Cremation deposit	Friable dark grey brown clay silt . Fill of accessory vessel (135). 0.05m thick	☑	☑
146	**Ditch**	**Linear ESE-WNW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.37m, min length 11.25m**	☑	☐
147	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones. 0.2m thick	☑	☑
148	Fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones. 0.08m thick	☑	☐
149	Fill	Loose light brown orange sandy silt frequent small-medium stones. 0.1m thick	☑	☐
150	Fill	Friable light brown grey clay silt occasional medium-large stones. 0.09m thick	☑	☑
151	Fill	Firm dark brown black clay silt frequent large stones. 0.29m thick	☑	☐
152	Fill	Friable light grey orange sandy silt . 0.16m thick	☑	☐
153	Fill	Firm dark brown grey clay silt moderate medium stones, occasional large stones. 0.15m thick	☑	☐

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154	**Grave**	**Sub-circular sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.34m, min depth 0.07m, min length 0.4m**	☑	☐
155	Finds deposit	Cremation burial urn	☑	☑
156	Cremation deposit	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones. Fill of accessory vessel (155). 0.07m thick	☑	☑
157	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown silty sand . 0.07m thick	☑	☑
158	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.45m, min depth 0.18m, min length 0.4m**	☑	☐
159	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones. 0.18m thick	☑	☑
160	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.4m, min depth 0.13m, min length 1.2m**	☑	☐
161	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay . 0.13m thick	☑	☐
162	**Treethrow**	**Oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.16m, max diameter 0.95m**	☑	☐
163	Treethrow	Loose mid brown grey silty gravel . 0.16m thick	☑	☑
164	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.07m, min length 0.5m**	☑	☐
165	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silty clay . 0.07m thick	☑	☐
166	**Treethrow**	**Sub-oval sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max depth 0.32m, max diameter 1.44m**	☑	☐
167	Treethrow	Friable mid brown grey sandy clay moderate small-medium stones. 0.22m thick	☑	☑
168	Treethrow	Loose mid brown yellow sandy gravel . 0.15m thick	☑	☐
169	Treethrow	Friable dark grey black clay silt moderate small-medium stones. 0.32m thick	☑	☑
170	**Ditch**	**Dimensions: max breadth 0.57m, min length 6.4m**	☐	☐
171	Fill	Friable light orange brown sandy silt	☐	☐
172	**Ditch**	**Dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, min length 9.m**	☐	☐
173	Fill	Loose light brown grey clay silt	☐	☐
174	**Ditch**	**Dimensions: max breadth 3.6m, min length 46.m**	☐	☐
175	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt	☐	☐
176	**Ditch**	**Dimensions: max breadth 2.4m, min length 32.m**	☐	☐
177	Fill	Compact dark brown grey silty sand	☐	☐
179	**Ditch**	**Curving linear sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, min depth 0.3m**	☑	☐
180	Fill	Friable mid orange grey clay silt . 0.3m thick	☑	☐
181	**Ditch**	**Dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, min length 7.m**	☐	☐
182	Fill	Friable dark brown black sandy silt	☐	☐
183	**Ditch**	**Dimensions: max breadth 1.95m, min length 20.m**	☐	☐
184	Fill	Friable dark blue grey clay silt	☐	☐
185	**Ditch**	**Dimensions: max breadth 1.37m, min length 23.m**	☐	☐
186	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt	☐	☐

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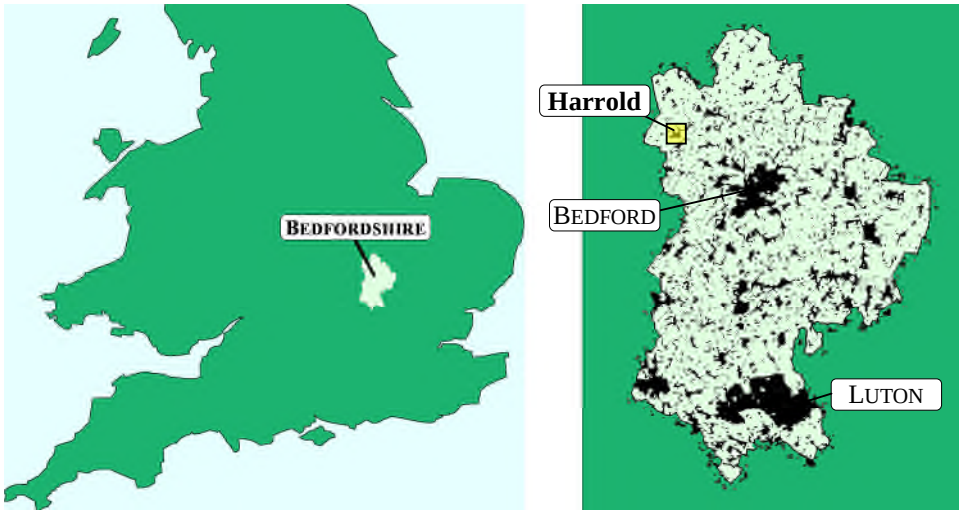
Description: **Open-area excavation**

187	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, min depth 0.6m**	☑	☐
107	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt . 0.6m thick	☑	☐



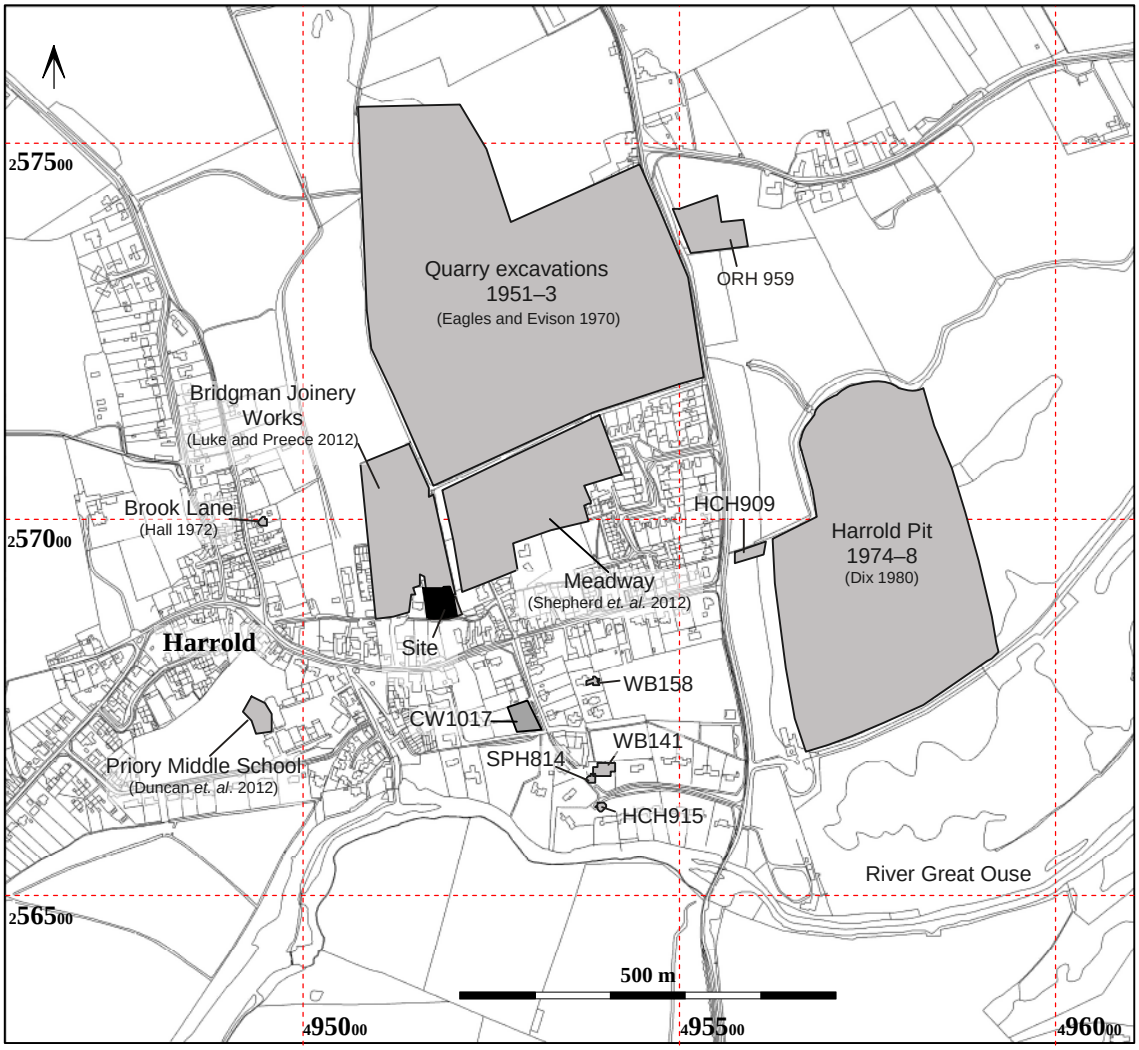


Figure 1: Site location plan

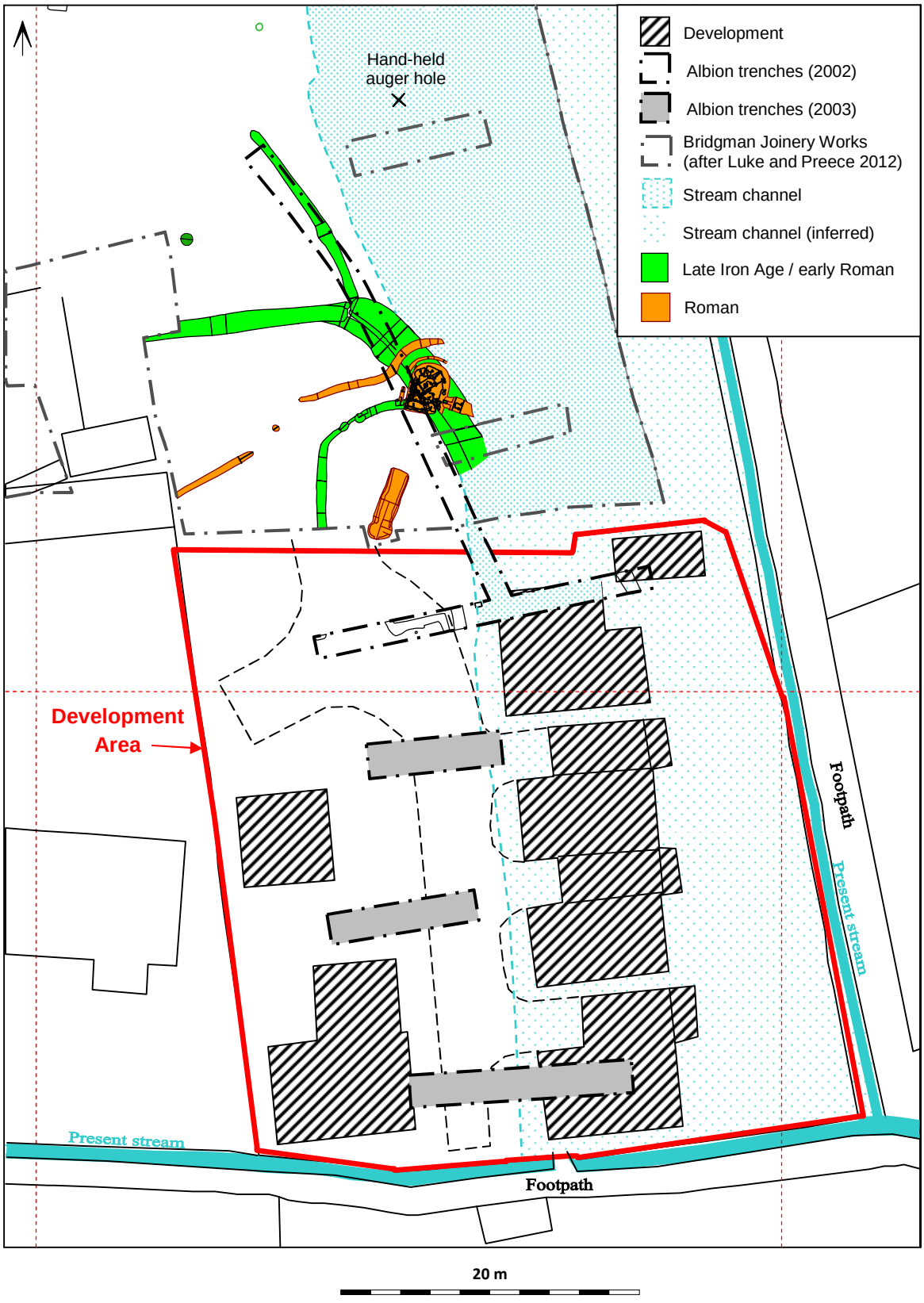


Figure 2: Plan of the development area and adjacent archaeological remains

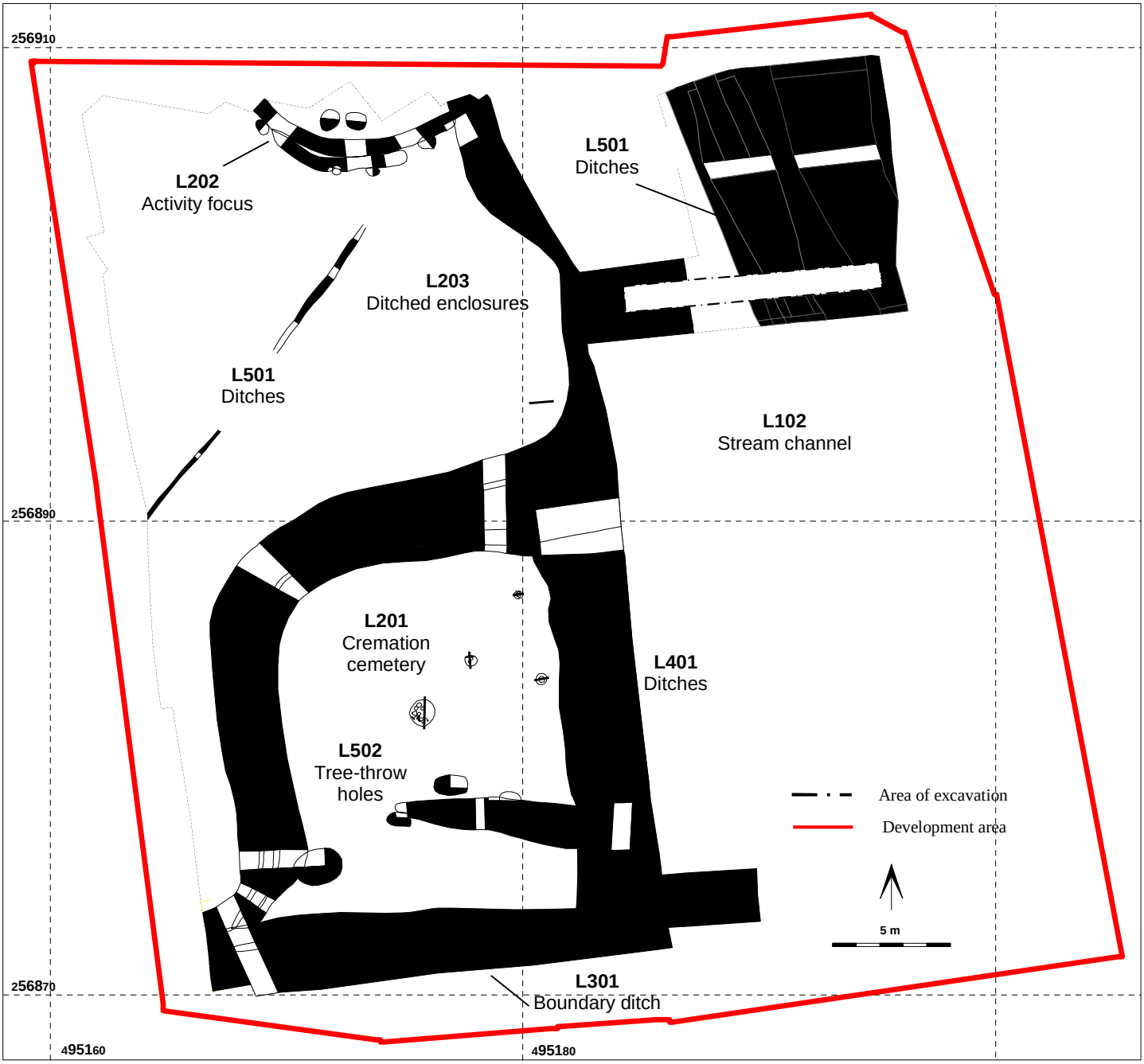


Figure 3: All-features plan and limit of development area

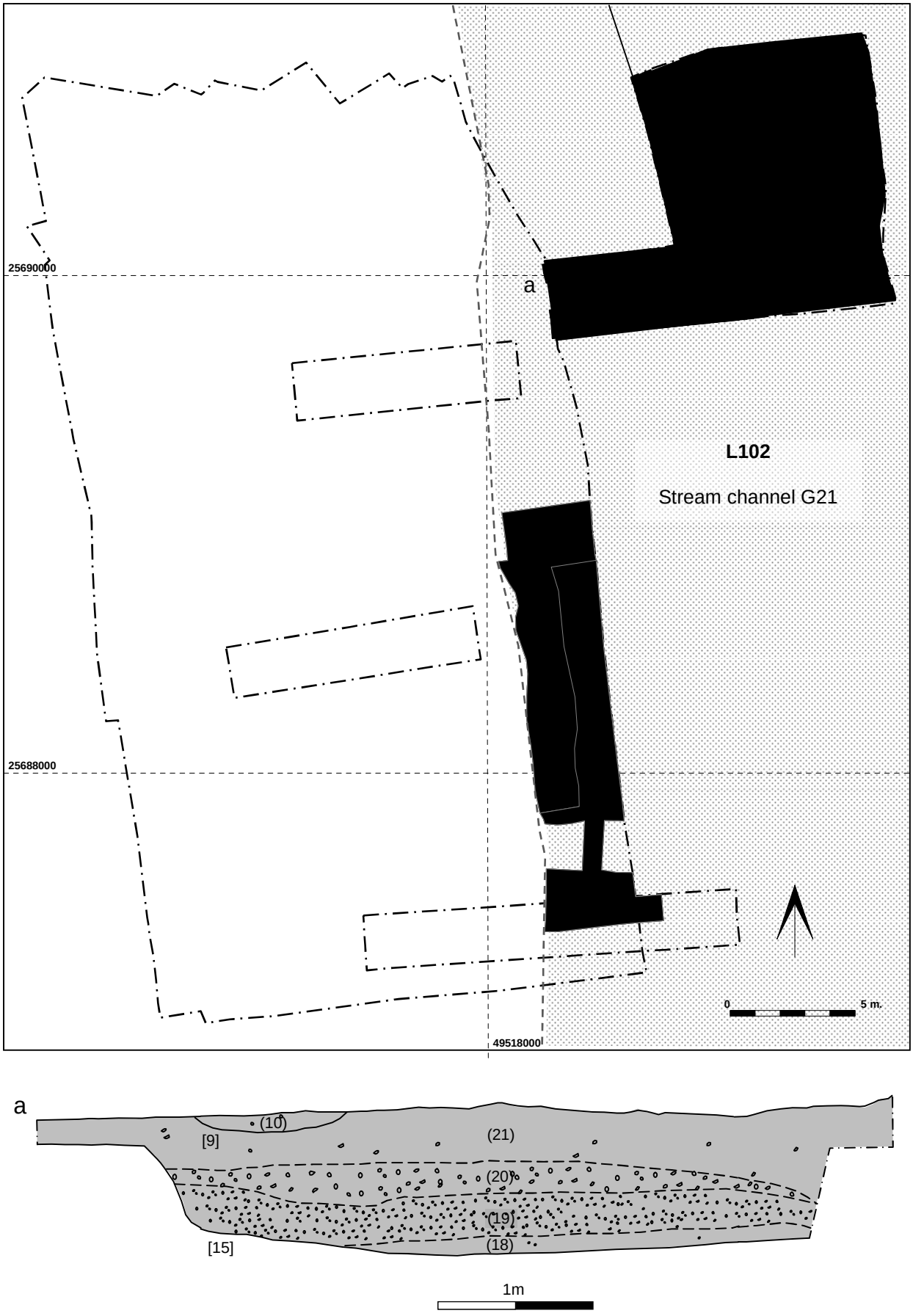


Figure 4: Plan of pre-Iron Age (Phase 1) river channel and selected section

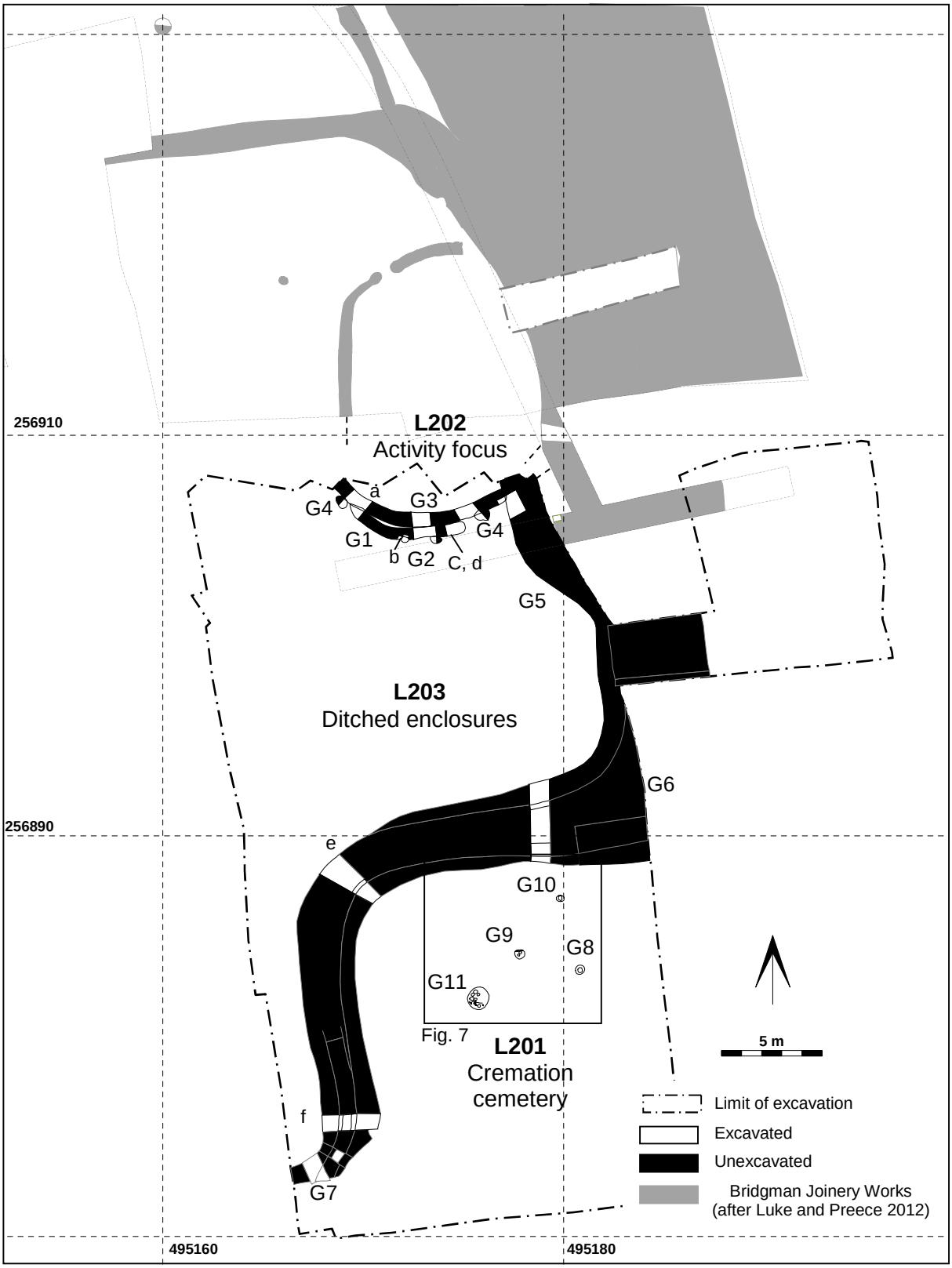


Figure 5: Plan of late Iron Age / early Roman (Phase 2) features

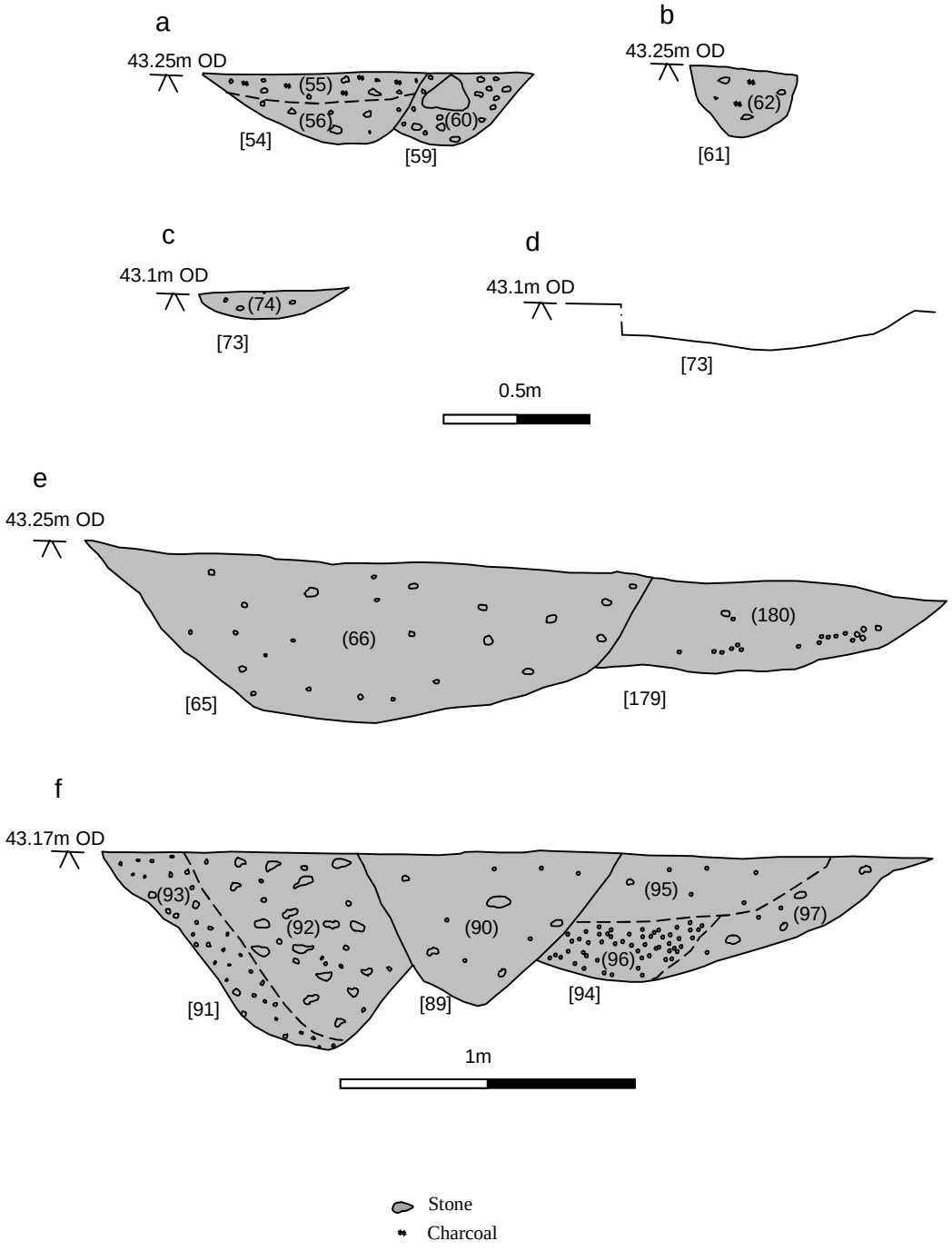


Figure 6: Selected sections of late Iron Age / early Roman (Phase 2) features

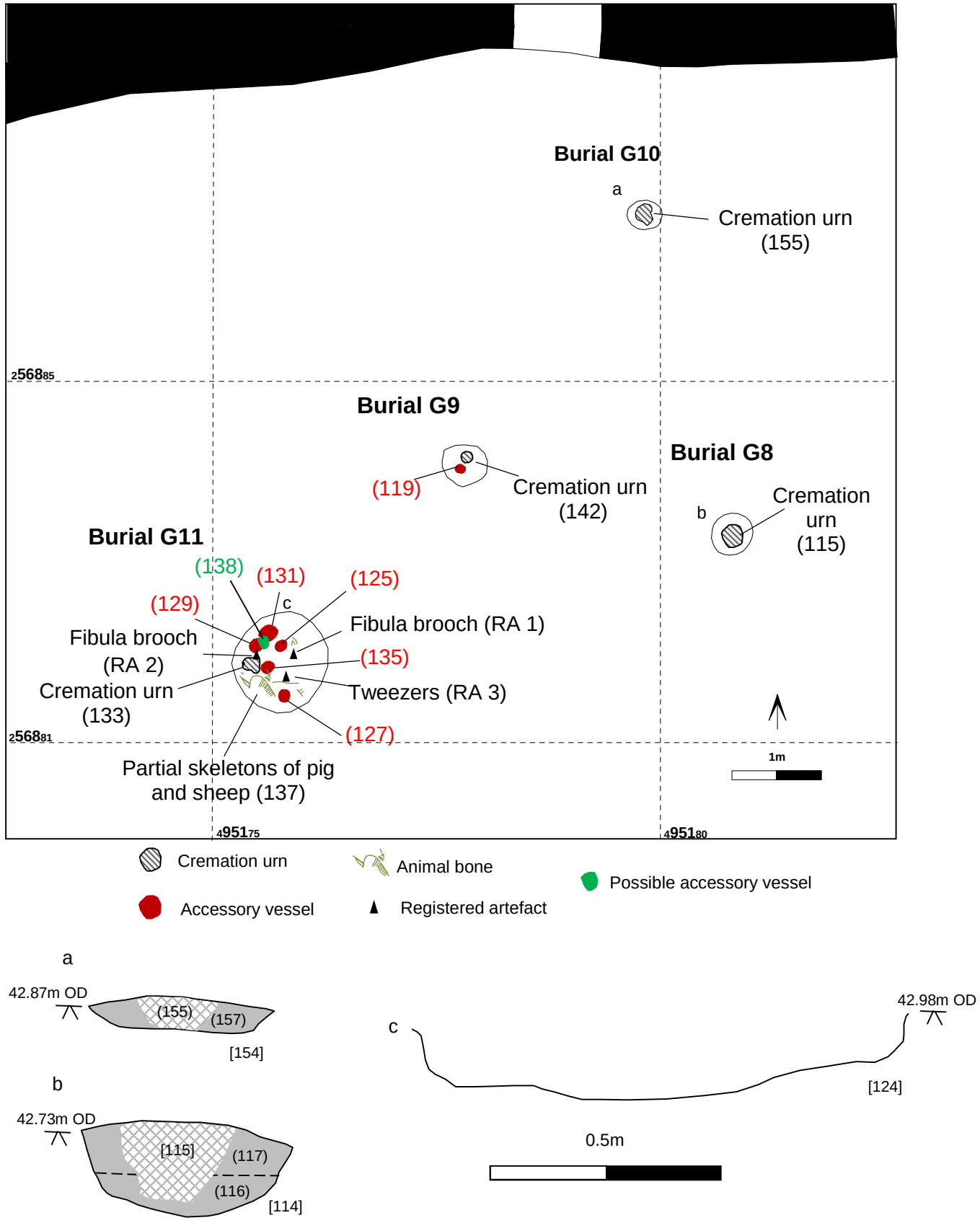
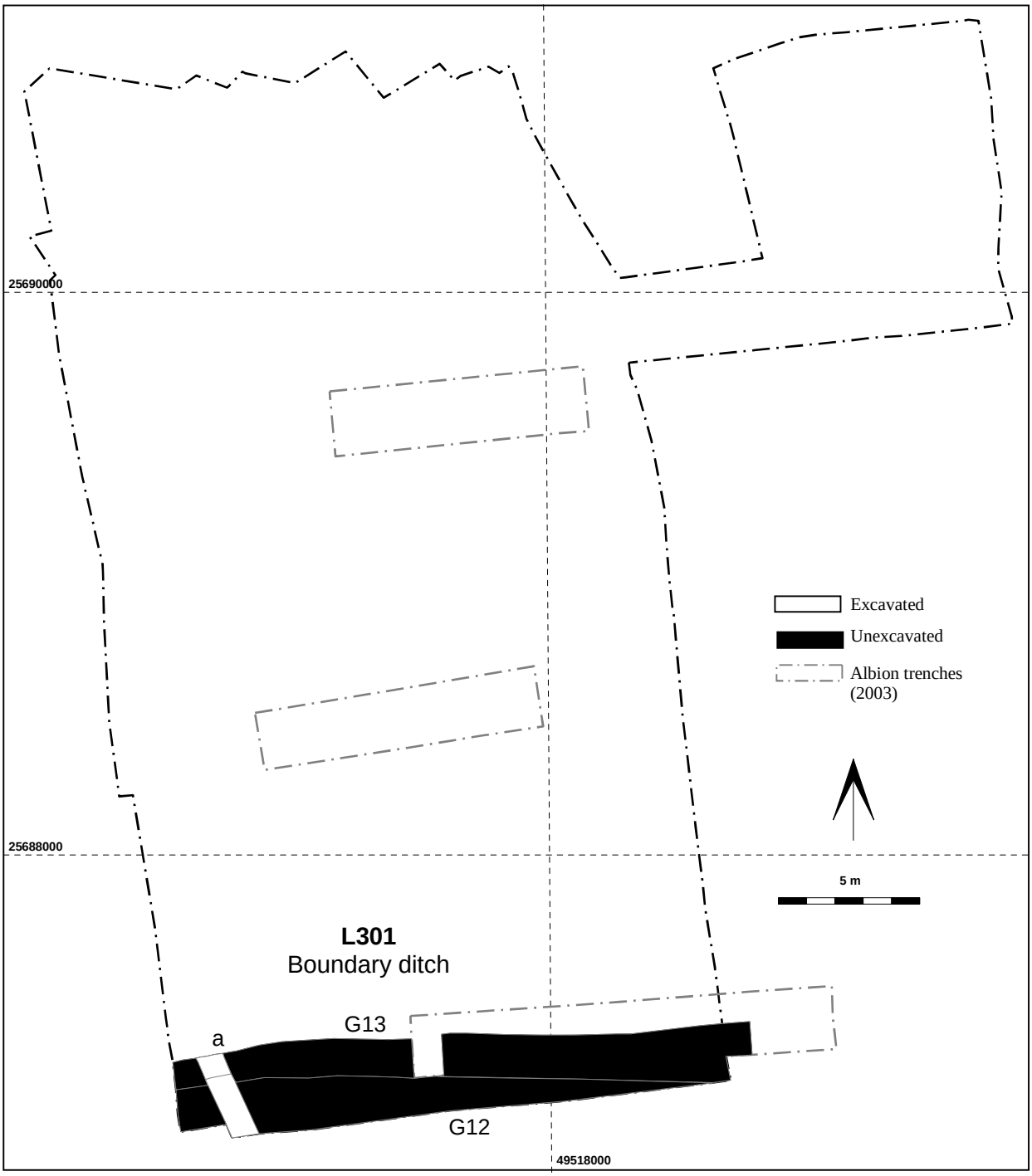


Figure 7: Detailed plan of cremation cemetery L201 (Phase 2) and selected sections



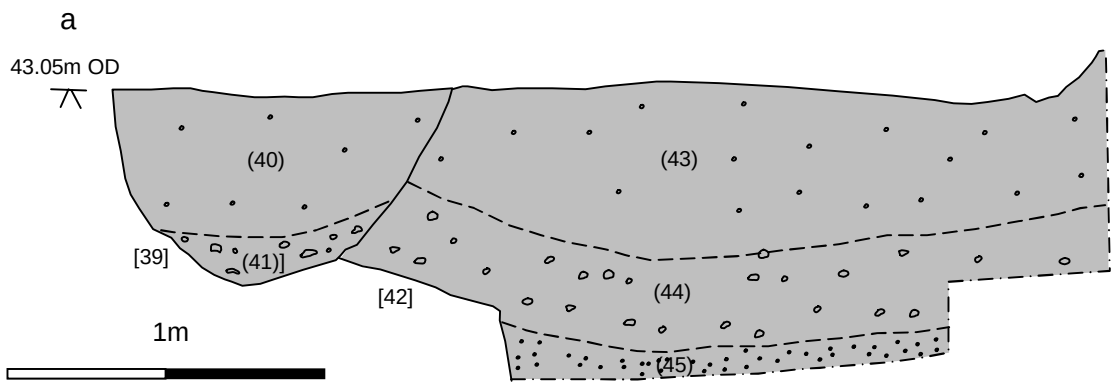


Figure 8: Plan of medieval (Phase 3) features and selected section

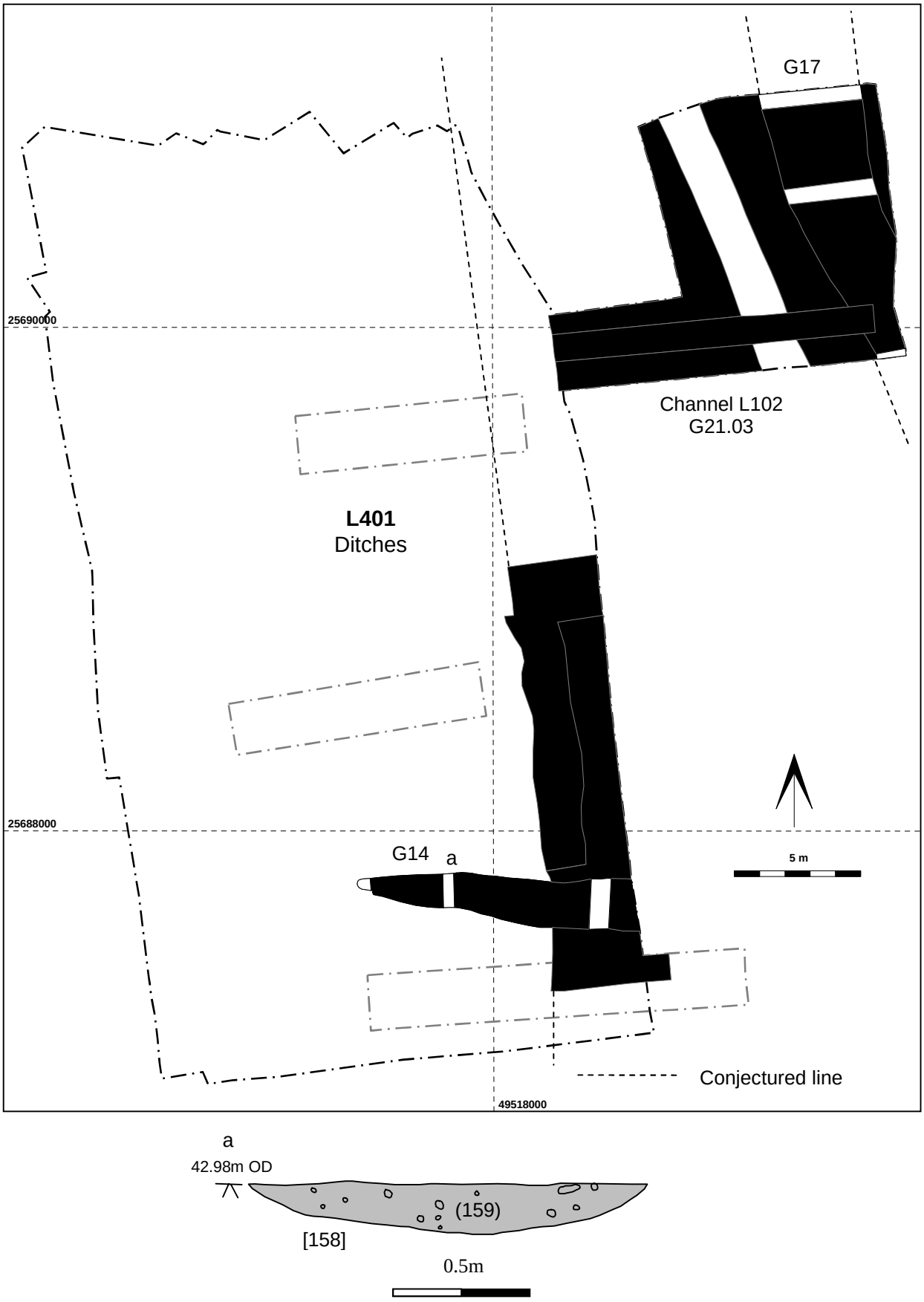


Figure 9: Plan of post-medieval (Phase 4) features and selected section

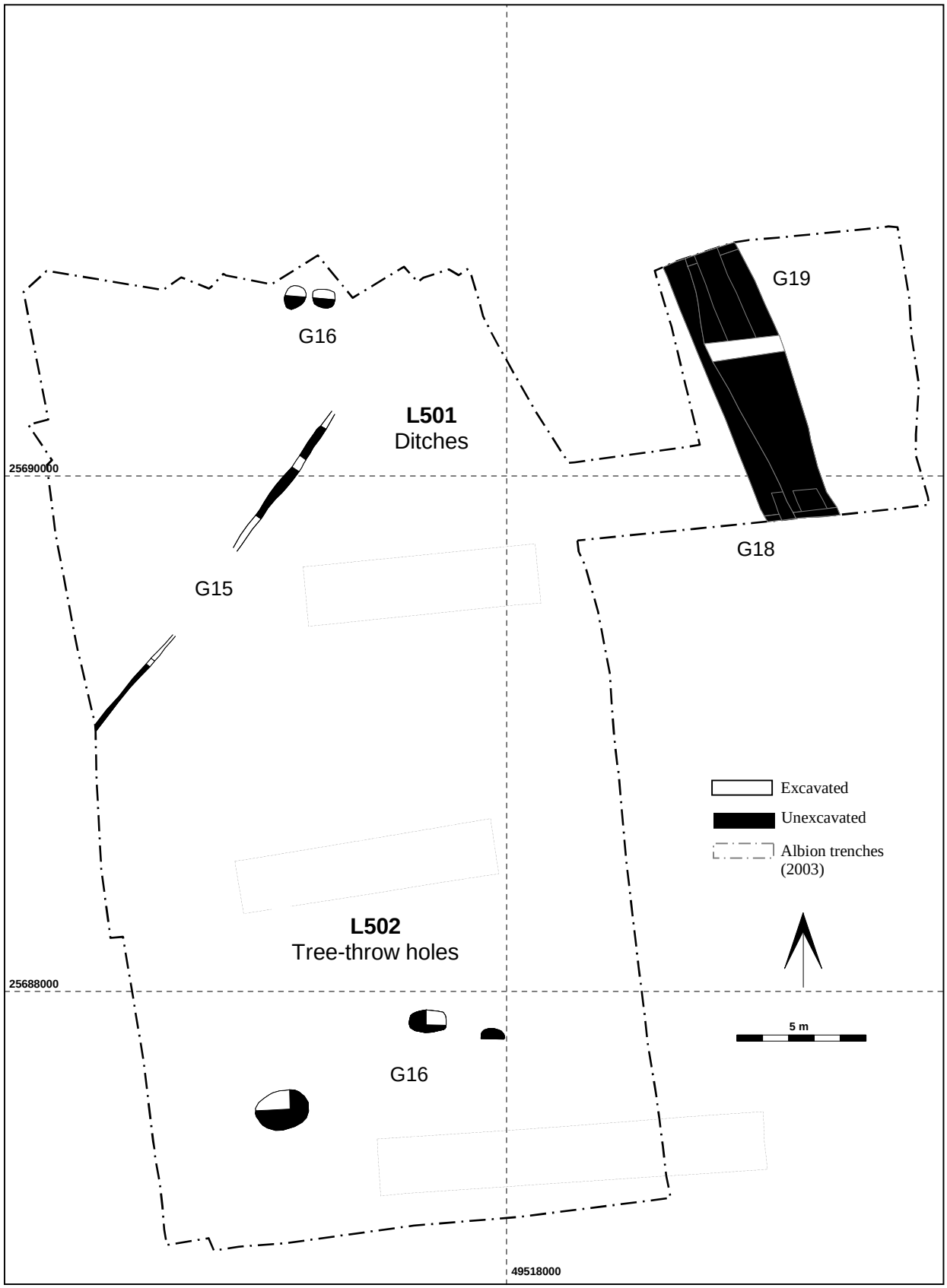


Figure 10: Plan of modern (Phase 5) features

Plate 1: Poppyhead beaker cremation urn (142) from burial G9

Plate 2: Cremation burial G11

Plate 3: Cordoned cup accessory vessel (125) from burial G11

Plate 4: Carinated cup accessory vessel (127) from burial G11

Plate 5: Carinated cup accessory vessel (135) from burial G11

Plate 6: Activity focus L202, looking east

Plate 7: Enclosure ditch L203, looking north-east from south-west corner of the site

Plate 8: Sessile echinoderm (blastoid) from cremation burial G8

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