NEW FARM WESTON WAY BALDOCK HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Document: 2005/68 Project: WWB1127

24th October 2005

Produced for:
Vincent and Gorbing Planning Associates
On behalf of:
Hertfordshire County Council

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2005, all rights reserved



Contents

Struc	ture of the Report	3
Кеу Т	Terms	3
Non-	Fechnical Summary	4
1. IN	TRODUCTION	5
1.1	Project Background	5
1.2	Site Location	5
1.3	Archaeological Background	5
1.4	Aims and Objectives	5
2. TF	RIAL TRENCHING	6
2.1	Introduction	(
2.2	Methodology	
2.3	Results	7
2.4	Topsoil, Subsoil and Undisturbed Geological Deposits	7
2.5	Trench 1	5
2.6	Trench 2	5
2.7	Trench 3	8
3. S	INTHESIS	g
3.1	Discussion	9
3.2	Summary	ý
4. BI	BLIOGRAPHY	10
5. AI	PPENDICES	11
5.1	Appendix 1, Context Summary	11
5.2	Appendix 2, Artefact and Ecofact Summary	15
Table	1: Artefact Summary by trench and context	15
Table	2: Cremated bone recovered per spit from 5.6mm sieve fraction	17



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location Figure 2: All features

Figure 3: Trench 3; all features, sections and photographs

The figures are bound at the back 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.

This report has been prepared by Ben Barker (Project Officer), Alison Bell (Archaeological Supervisor) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) produced the figures and Joe Abrams (Project Manager) edited the document. Trial trenching, hand excavation and recording were undertaken by Alison Bell with assistance from Ben Barker. All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford, MK42 OAS ☎: 01234 294017

Fax: 01234 294008

e-mail: office@albion-arch.com

Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, the results of the fieldwork are presented in Section 2. Section 3 presents a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork. Section 4 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded on the site. Appendix 2 contains a summary of the artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the fieldwork.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion Archaeology

HCC's PA Hertfordshire County Council's, County Planning

Archaeologist

Client Vincent and Gorbing Planning Associates acting on behalf

of Hertfordshire County Council

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Procedures Manual Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001.

Bedfordshire County Council



Non-Technical Summary

In October 2005 Albion Archaeology undertook an intrusive archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) at New Farm, Weston Way, Baldock, Hertfordshire. The work was occasioned by a planning application, by Vincent and Gorbing Planning Associates (on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council), for planning permission to demolish existing structures, construct a new children's home and related works.

New Farm is located on the western edge of Baldock. The development area is c. 2ha in size and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 24257 33469.

The proposed development area lies outside the core of medieval and Roman settlement, although two late Roman coins were found at Brandles Close School playing field, immediately north-west of the current site (Thompson, 2002). Farm buildings at New Farm date to the 18th century and it is possible that these are on the site of an earlier medieval farmstead (HCC, 2005).

The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of a single Bronze Age cremation vessel within the proposed development area. Evidence of burial activity from the Bronze Age is considered to be a valuable source of information, having the potential to augment our knowledge of both burial practices and the relationships between settlements and burial activity (Brown and Murphy 2000, Section III Potential of resource, page 10, paragraph 4).

The evaluation has also successfully demonstrated the nature and state of preservation of the, largely post-medieval, deposits encountered.

There was no evidence for medieval or earlier agricultural or occupational exploitation of the proposed development area.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Vincent and Gorbing Planning Associates (acting on behalf of their client, the Children, Schools and Families Service, Hertfordshire County Council) have applied for planning permission to demolish existing structures and construct a new children's home and related works at New Farm, Weston Way, Baldock.

Although the site lies on the western fringe of the historic core of Baldock, extensive prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains are known from the general area. As a result, a brief was issued by Hertfordshire County Council's, County Planning Archaeologist (HCC's PA, HCC 2005). This recognised that further information on the archaeological impact of the proposed work was required in order to determine the application. This information would be acquired through an archaeological field evaluation.

Albion Archaeology has been commissioned to undertake the evaluation on behalf of the client. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2005) set out how the requirements of the brief would be met. This was followed by the archaeological field evaluation and the production of a report on its results (this document).

1.2 Site Location

New Farm is located on the western edge of Baldock. The development area is c.2ha in size and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 24257 33469.

The development area lies at approximately c.66m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The soils of the area are derived from middle chalk beds with some deposits of upper chalk.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The historical and archaeological background to Baldock has been summarised in the extensive urban survey, undertaken by English Heritage and Hertfordshire County Council (Thompson, 2002).

The proposed development site lies outside the known core of medieval and Roman settlement, although two late Roman coins were found at Brandles Close School playing field, immediately north-west of the current site (Thompson, 2002). Farm buildings at New Farm date to the 18th century and it is possible that these are on the site of an earlier medieval farmstead (HCC, 2005).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

In line with the requirements of the brief (Section 3), the aims of the trial trenching were to gain information on:

- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present.



2. TRIAL TRENCHING

2.1 Introduction

Trial trenching took place between $17^{\rm th}$ and $20^{\rm th}$ October 2005. A total of three trenches were opened.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features discussed below can be found in Appendix 1. Only Trench 3 contained significant archaeological deposits.

2.2 Methodology

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IFA's Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation;
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001).
- ALGAO's *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14, 2003)
- Environmental Archaeology (EH, 2002)
- Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains (IFA Technical Paper 13)

The trench plan (Figures 1 and 2) was discussed with, and agreed by, HCC's PA prior to any trial trenching taking place. The main objectives of the trial trenching have already been summarised in Section 1.4. Essentially, it was designed to gain more information on the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation, using tapes, which ensured they were accurately located.

Topsoil and modern overburden were mechanically removed by an excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket. This was conducted under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand. The deposits and any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc.



2.3 Results

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order by trench. Further detailed descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

2.4 Topsoil, Subsoil and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Topsoil (100) was only present in Trench 1; it consisted of friable dark grey brown silt, 0.20m in depth. Trench 2 was capped by 0.11m of tarmac (200) and Trench 3 by 0.16m of concrete (300).

Undisturbed geological deposits varied from clay silt with chalk (107), (203) in Trenches 1 and 2 to a more consolidated chalk with clay patches (303) in Trench 3.

2.5 Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned SSE to NNW and was located in the western part of the proposed development area (Figure 1). No archaeological features were revealed within this trench (Figure 2).

Topsoil (100) overlay seven make-up and dump material layers: (101), (102), (103), (104), (105), (108) and (109). The lowest of these layers (108) contained bricks and a sherd of English Stoneware pottery. These suggest that the earliest date for this layer is *circa* 1750 (Appendix 2). All of the successive layers are likely to be of late post-medieval or modern origin.

The layers are believed to be make-up layers, used to level the ground surface. Some were quite sterile, (101), (103), (105) and (109), wheras others, (102), (104) and (108), included demolition material. This material appeared to be relatively modern.

Layer (101) sealed an earlier subsoil (106) layer, which overlay the undisturbed geological deposit (107). There was no buried topsoil present above the subsoil (106) suggesting that it was removed prior to the make-up/demolition layers being deposited. The subsoil contained a single sherd of samian ware (Appendix 2), which may be indicative of Roman activity within the vicinity.

2.6 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned WSW to ENE and was located in the northern part of the proposed development area (Figure 1). No significant archaeological features were revealed within this trench. Five features associated with modern disturbance were recorded (Figure 2).

Feature [204] was oval in shape with near vertical sides and truncated layer (202). Feature [206] also truncated layer (202). Both of these features are truncated by a later service trench, which runs E-W along two-thirds of the trench and then turns northward.

Feature [208] was sub-rectangular with vertical sides and truncated layer (201) and feature [210]. It contained a loose black gravel deposit with modern bricks (Appendix 2).



Feature [215] was rectangular with vertical edges and truncated pit [210]. Deposit (216) (within [215]) was a loose silty chalk containing modern bricks (Appendix 2).

Features [204], [206], [208] and [215] are believed to be soakaways of modern origin.

Feature [210] was square with vertical sides. [210] was filled with chalk and modern brick material (211, 212, 213 and 214). Excavation ceased at a depth of 1.15m from ground level for health and safety reasons. Therefore the full depth of this feature was not reached.

Undisturbed geological deposit (203) was sealed by $c.0.75\mathrm{m}$ of levelling layers: (202), (217), (218), (201) and (200). The earliest make-up layer, (202) contained modern brick. This was followed by a sandy gravel layer (217) and tarmac layer (218); and another sandy gravel layer (201) and tarmac layer (200). These layers represent two modern phases of farmyard surface construction. It is likely that their deposition was preceded by the wholesale truncation of the original land surface and any post-medieval yard surfaces.

2.7 Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned NNE to SSW and was located in the south-eastern part of the proposed development area. This trench contained one significant archaeological feature and four areas of root disturbance (Figures 2 and 3).

The evaluation identified four areas of root disturbance: [304], [312], [314] and [317]. [312] and [314] were located at the north-eastern end of the trench; [304] and [317] were located in the south-western end of the trench. These features truncated the undisturbed geological deposit (303) and appeared to be of some antiquity. This was suggested by their pale colour and lack of organic content. These features were highly irregular with clearly defined root holes. No artefactual or ecofactual material was present in features [312], [314] and [317].

Tree throw [304] was the largest of the areas of root disturbance: 1.6m long, 1m wide and 0.8m deep. It was slightly darker than the other features, but equally irregular in shape. Excavation revealed that tree throw [304] was truncated by circular pit [307] which contained an early Bronze Age collared cremation urn (Appendix 2). Urn (309) was complete and upright. Pit [304] appeared to have been dug specifically to contain vessel (309) as it was only one centimetre in diameter larger than the diameter of the pot.

Tree throw [304] continued below [307] suggesting that [304] was re-used for the deposition of cremation urn (309). The preservation of the urn suggests this area was not disturbed by roots after the deposition of the cremation urn.

Concrete (300) sealed tarmac (301), which in turn sealed a levelling layer (302), which in turn sealed the undisturbed geological deposit (303).



3. SYNTHESIS

3.1 Discussion

The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of isolated Bronze Age remains within the proposed development area. The cremation deposit identified in Trench 3 suggests that there is likely to have been Bronze Age settlement in the vicinity of the study area. The deposit may be part of a larger cremation cemetery, or could be an isolated feature. No evidence of occupational activity, or of a wider cemetery was identified. However, cremation [307] may have been peripheral to the main focus of activity.

The one sherd of Roman pottery that was recovered from Trench 1 is not significant enough to infer that this area was directly exploited during the Roman period. However, the study area clearly lies within the hinterland of the Roman town and may well have been subject to low intensity agricultural exploitation.

The evaluation identified no evidence of deposits that might indicate the presence of a medieval origin for New Farm. The total lack of residual medieval artefactual material supports the view that the proposed development area is unlikely to contain any significant medieval remains.

Trench 1, in the western part of the site, did not reveal any archaeological remains. Although, a buried subsoil was identified in the trench section suggesting that any other isolated features in this area would be well-preserved.

Trench 2 demonstrated that the northern part of the study area has been truncated, and that there is little potential for the preservation of archaeological features in this area. The Bronze Age cremation vessel, identified within the farmyard area, was well preserved beneath successive layers of yard surface build up.

3.2 Summary

The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of a single Bronze Age cremation burial within the proposed development area. Evidence of burial activity from the Bronze Age is considered to be a valuable source of information, having the potential to augment our knowledge of both burial practices and the relationships between settlements and burial activity (Brown and Murphy 2000, Section III Potential of resource, page 10, paragraph 4).

The evaluation has also successfully demonstrated the nature and state of preservation of the, largely post-medieval, deposits encountered.

There was no evidence for medieval or earlier agricultural or occupational exploitation of the proposed development area.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology 2001 Procedures Manual Vol 1: Fieldwork.

Albion Archaeology 2005 New Farm, Weston Way, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Field Evaluation. 2005:57.

- ALGAO's Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14, 2003)
- Brown and Murphy 2000 Neolithic and Bronze Age. In: Glazebrook and Brown 2000. Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition.* English Heritage (London).
- EH (2002) Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. English Heritage (London).
- HCC 2005 Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: New Farm, Weston Way,, Baldock
- IFA 1999a Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- IFA 1999b Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings).
- Longworth, IH., 1984, Collared Urns of the Bronze Age in Great Britain and Ireland.
- NHDC 2003 North Hertfordshire District Council Museums Service: Archaeological Archives Deposit Policy.
- Thompson, I 2002 Baldock: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report.



5. APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix 1, Context Summary



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 13.30 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2423233469 Ref. 2: TL2423433456

Reason: Assess Archaeological Potential of Site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional small-medium stones		
101	Make up layer	Firm mid grey silt occasional medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium chalk		✓
102	Layer	Friable light grey white silt frequent small-medium chalk		
103	Make up layer	Loose light yellow sand frequent small-medium stones		
104	Dump material	Loose black gravel		✓
105	Make up layer	Firm light grey white silt frequent small-medium chalk		✓
106	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown clay silt moderate small-medium chalk		✓
107	Natural	Firm clay silt frequent small-medium chalk, occasional small-large stones Mottle light red brown and yellow white	ed	
108	Demolition layer	Loose mid grey silt frequent large ceramic building material		✓
109	Make up layer	Firm grey white chalk moderate large ceramic building material, frequent small-lastones	rge \square	V



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.60 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.46 m. Max: 0.65 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2426633480 Ref. 2: TL2427633481

Reason: Assess Archaeological Potential of Site

Context:	Type:	Description: E	xcavated	Finds Present:
200	Tarmac	Cemented black		
201	Make up layer	Loose light yellow brown sandy gravel		
202	Make up layer	Friable mid yellow grey silty clay moderate large ceramic building material, frequen small-medium chalk, moderate small-medium stones	t	
203	Natural	Firm light yellow white clay silt frequent small-medium chalk, moderate small-large stones		
204	Modern disturbance	Oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, min lengt 0.65m	h	
205	Fill	Friable mid red brown clay occasional medium ceramic building material, occasional small-medium stones	nl	V
206	Modern disturbance	Sub-square dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, max length 1.8m		
207	Fill	Friable light grey white clay silt occasional medium ceramic building material, frequesmall-medium chalk	ent	✓
208	Modern disturbance	Sub-rectangular dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.7m, min length 1.	4m	
209	Backfill	Loose dark brown black silty clay frequent medium-large ceramic building material, frequent medium-large stones		✓
210	Modern disturbance	Square profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, min depth 0.65m, max length 1.3m	✓	
211	Fill	Firm white chalk	~	
212	Fill	Loose light yellow brown sandy silt moderate large ceramic building material	✓	
213	Fill	Firm mottled white chalk and yellow brown sandy silt		✓
214	Fill	Firm Mixture of chalk and a yellow brown sandy silt matrix	✓	
215	Modern disturbance	Rectangular profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.36m, max length 0.7m		
216	Fill	Loose light grey white silt occasional medium ceramic building material, frequent st medium chalk	mall-	
217	Make up layer	Loose light yellow brown sandy gravel		
218	Tarmac	Cemented black		



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.51 m. Max: 0.56 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL2427933468 Ref. 2: TL2427533461

Reason: Assess Archaeological Potential of Site

Context:	Type:	Description: Ex	cavated:	Finds Present
300	Concrete	Cemented		
301	Tarmac	Cemented black		
302	Make up layer	Loose moderate medium ceramic building material Very mottled grey, white, red a yellow, with a mixture of materials chalk, gravel and sand	and \Box	
303	Natural	Firm white chalk		
304	Treethrow	Irregular profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.m, max dep 0.8m, max length 1.6m	th 🗸	
305	Fill	Firm dark red brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones Contained occasional mollusc shell (Cepaea nemoralis and Pomaties elegance)	✓	
306	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty clay occasional small-large chalk	✓	
307	Grave	Circular profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.34m, max diameter 0.45m, max length 0.4m	ax 🗸	
308	Primary fill	Friable mid yellow brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	
309	Finds deposit	Urn.	~	•
310	Cremation deposit	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate small chalk, moderate small stones	✓	V
311	Upper fill	Friable mid yellow brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	
312	Treethrow	Irregular profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.64m, min depth 0.18m, max length 0.84m	✓	
313	Fill	Friable mid brown silty clay occasional small chalk, occasional small stones	✓	
314	Treethrow	Irregular profile: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.32m, max length 1.m	✓	
315	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small chalk, occasional small stones		
316	Fill	Firm white chalk mid brown silty clay matrix	✓	
317	Treethrow	Sub-oval profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.1m, max depth 0.1m, min length 0.41m	✓	
318	Fill	Firm dark red brown silty clay	✓	



5.2 Appendix 2, Artefact and Ecofact Summary

5.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery, ceramic building material and cremated human remains (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Tr.	Feature	Feature type	Context	Spot date*	Pottery	Brick & Tile	Other finds
1	101	Make-up layer	101	Post-medieval		1:32	
	104	Dump material	104	Post-medieval		1:9	Vitrified clay
							(6g)
	105	Make-up layer	105	Post-medieval		2:249	
	106	Subsoil	106	Roman	2:1		
	108	Demolition	108	Modern	1:25	1:119	Vessel glass
		layer					(5g)
	109	Make-up layer	109	Modern		2:539	
2	204	Pit	205	Post-medieval		1:857	
	206	Pit	207	Post-medieval		1:144	
	208	Pit	209	Post-medieval		2:79	
	210	Pit	213	Modern			Clinker (90g)
3	307	Grave	309	Early bronze age	65:2044		
	307	Grave	310	Early bronze age	48:246		Cremated
							human bone
							(1192g)
				Total	116:2316	11:2028	

^{* -} based on date of latest artefact in context (sherd / frag count : weight in grammes)

Table 1: Artefact Summary by trench and context

5.2.2 Pottery

A total of 116 pottery sherds weighing 2.3kg was recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are fairly small (average weight 19g) and exhibit variable degrees of abrasion.

Trench 1

Subsoil (106) yielded two abraded sherds (1g) of samian ware, datable to the early Roman period. A single sherd of 18th-19th century English stoneware (25g) was recovered from demolition layer (108).

Trench 2

No pottery was recovered from Trench 2.

Trench 3

The most significant pottery find was associated with tree throw [304] and comprises 113 sherds (2.2kg) of a partially intact tripartite collared urn containing a cremation burial. The vessel is broadly datable to the early Bronze Age period (*c*. 1800-1100BC) and has been provisionally identified as a Form 1C (after Longworth 1984).

The vessel is fairly large, measuring approximately 275mm in height, with a rim diameter of 203mm, and a base diameter of 108mm, and is well made in a good



quality grog tempered fabric, with oxidised exterior and reduced interior surfaces. The urn has a collar above a concave neck (or cavetto zone), which in turn lies above a straight-sided, but narrowing body. The collar and cavetto zone are decorated with a series of whipped cord 'maggot' impressions. These comprise herringbone motifs on the collar and a repetitive decorative scheme of six horizontal lines bordered by three vertical lines spaced approximately at 150mm intervals around the neck.

The lower part of the vessel body is undecorated. A substantial portion of the rim and upper body remain intact, although the lower body and base are fragmented.

5.2.3 Brick and tile

Ceramic building material comprises five sand tempered pieces of post-medieval/modern flat roof tile (994g) and six brick fragments (1.0kg) deriving mainly from demolition and make up layers in Trench 1. No building material was recovered from Trench 3. Roof tiles range in thickness between 12-15mm, and one brick fragment measures 55mm in thickness. Two bricks deriving from make up layer (108) are machine made, while the remainder appear to be moulded.

5.2.4 Other finds

Demolition spread (108) yielded a piece of modern opaque blue vessel glass (5g), which may derive from a bottle base. Small quantities of vitrified clay (6g) and clinker (90g) were recovered from post-medieval layer (104) and modern pit [210].

5.2.5 Human bone

Sample 1: Cremation deposit (310) was excavated in seven 5cm spits to ascertain the distribution of human bone within the vessel. Approximately 1.1kg of bone was collected, the majority of which was concentrated in the lower part of the vessel, particularly in spits 1.4 and 1.5 (Table 2).

Each spit was passed through a 5.6mm, 2.0mm and 1.0mm sieve stack. The 5.6mm residues were sorted for cremated bone, while the 2.0mm and 1.0mm residues were retained unsorted. Diagnostic elements comprise mainly long bone, vertebrae and tooth fragments, and a single finger phalange. No obvious skull fragments were observed, suggesting the remains may not represent a whole body.

It is likely, however, given the quantity of bone and size of the surviving fragments, that the remains are those of an adult. Bone fragments are poorly sorted within the deposit and range between c.5-55mm in size. The majority are fissured, warped and calcined, and white-grey in appearance, although a number are merely charred and poorly burnt, suggesting the pyre did not reach uniformly high temperatures.

No grave goods or other artefacts were recovered from the cremation deposit.

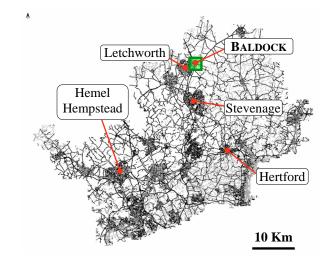


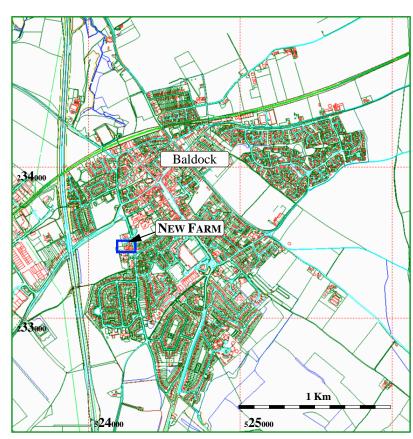
Sample No.	Spit No.	5.6mm
1	1.1	6
	1.2	22
	1.3	62
	1.4	415
	1.5	440
	1.6	178
	1.7	69
	Total	1192

(weight in g)

Table 2: Cremated bone recovered per spit from 5.6mm sieve fraction







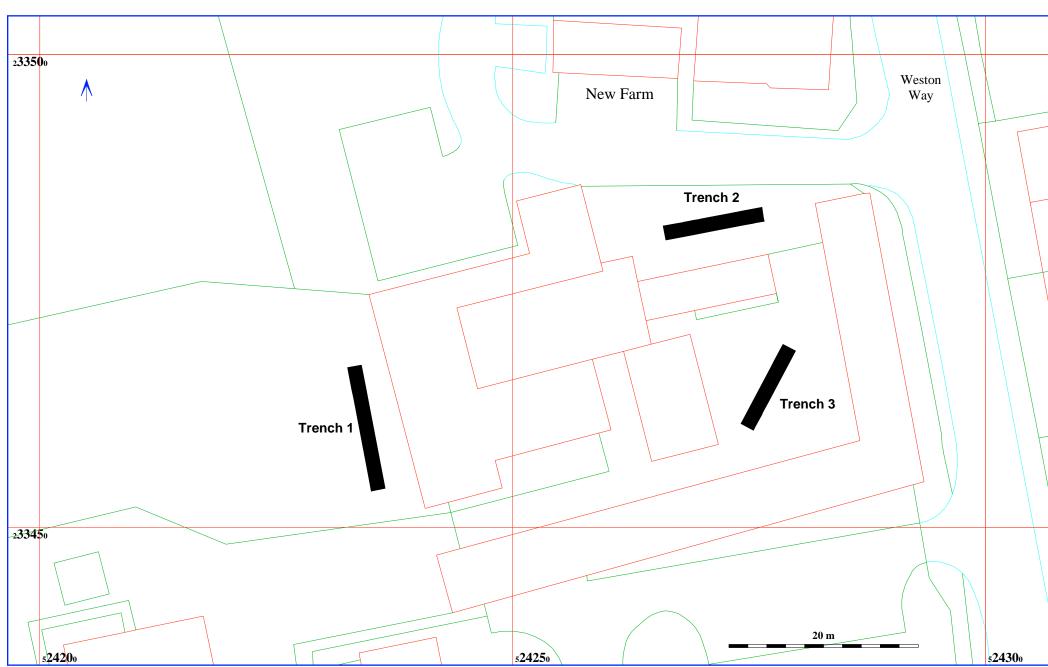


Figure 1: Site location

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.



