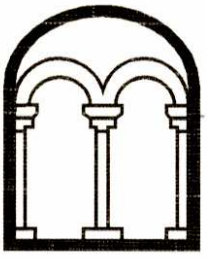
HUNTINGDON ROAD/NIAB
(DARWIN GREEN)
CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

Albion
archaeology



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the Brief and Project Design. 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.

Report acknowledgments

This document has been prepared by Jo Barker (Archaeological Supervisor), Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer) and Mike Luke (Project Manager). The following have contributed to this report:

Contextual - Iain Leslie (Albion Site Supervisor)
Ceramic artefacts - Jackie Wells (Albion Artefacts Officer)
Coins - Peter Guest (Cardiff University)
Other artefacts - Holly Duncan (Albion Artefacts Manager)
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Artefact conservation - Phil Parkes (Conservator, Cardiff University),
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Digitisation - Joan Lightning (Albion)
Database creation - Dave Coombes (Albion)

Fieldwork acknowledgments

The fieldwork was undertaken by the following:

Site work was supervised by Iain Leslie (Archaeological Supervisor) under the direction of Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer).
Excavation and recording was undertaken by Ben Carroll, Victoria Hainsworth, Alan King, Claire Lockwood, Gary Manning, Gareth Shane, Chris Tombe, Slawomir Utrata, Juha-Matti Vuorinen, Adam Williams and Adrian Woolmer.
Metal detecting was undertaken by Archie Gillespie.
Surveying was undertaken by Mercedes Planas and Martin Wilson.

Office-based work was undertaken during and after fieldwork by:

Artefact processing was overseen by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) assisted by Holly Duncan (Artefacts Manager) and Helen Parslow (Archives Officer).
Ecofact processing was undertaken or overseen by Slawomir Utrata and Ben Carroll.
Digitisation was undertaken by Joan Lightning (CAD technician).

Mike Luke (Project Manager) was responsible for the overall management of the project. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Finally, particular thanks should go to Paul Gajos (CgMs Consulting Ltd.) for his input and advice throughout the fieldwork. Also, thanks go to Andy Thomas (Senior Archaeologist) of Cambridge County Council's Historic Environment Team, for monitoring the archaeological work on behalf of the local planning authority.

Structure of the report

After an introduction (Section 1) detailing the planning and archaeological background, Section 2 summarises the nature and implementation of the archaeological fieldwork. Section 3 provides a provisional summary of the results by data-set. A discussion of the major themes for analysis follows in Section 4. An updated project design is presented in Section 5. Professional standards and guidelines are listed in Appendix 1 (Section 6). Section 7 is the bibliography.

Version history

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
2.0	20/08/15	Address comments from HET
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Key terms

Albion	Albion Archaeology
NBC1942	Huntingdon Road/NIAB investigations site code
CI*f*A	Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists
Client	Barratt Homes Eastern Counties
Consultant	CgMs Consulting Ltd (Paul Gajos)
CHER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team of Cambridge County Council
LPA	Local Planning Authority (Cambridge City Council)
PD	Project Design
Procedures Manual	Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition, 2001. Albion Archaeology
PD	Project Design for archaeological investigation (Albion 2012)
SA	Senior Archaeologist of Cambridge County Council's Historic Environment Team (Andy Thomas)
UPD	Updated Project Design- detailing the tasks required to undertake the analysis, publication and archiving of this project

Non-Technical Summary

This document represents a summary and assessment of the results of archaeological investigation associated with the Huntingdon Road/NIAB development. It also presents an updated project design for the analysis, publication and archiving of the results.

Planning permission was granted by Cambridge City Council for a mixed use development and associated infrastructure (planning application ref 07/0003/OUT). A condition of the planning permission stated that no development could commence until a programme of archaeological works had been secured, implemented and satisfactorily completed.

The development area is situated on the north-west edge of Cambridge, extending in an arc between Huntingdon Road (A1307) and Histon Road (B1049). It is centred on NGR TL 437 607, and covers an area of approximately 55ha.

Initially, desk-based research supported by archaeological evaluation identified the presence of two areas of late Iron Age to Romano-British settlements and associated field systems within the central / eastern part of the development area. No evidence was recovered for the presence of significant areas of archaeological remains in the western part of the site, with the exception of a discrete area of Bronze Age activity. As a result a mitigation strategy of archaeological excavation was implemented between September 2012 and September 2013.

The excavations revealed two foci of activity dating to the middle-late Bronze Age. One consisted of an enclosure defined by two ditches and containing a cluster of pits and a cremation cemetery containing six graves. The other comprised a boundary ditch with an adjacent single cremation burial and a cluster of small pits.

During the early-middle Iron Age two settlements existed, one to the north and one to the south. The southern settlement consisted of a number of enclosures, defined by large ditches, which contained at least one roundhouse, pits and postholes. Only the western edge of the settlement lay within the development area and the majority of the settlement would have been situated beneath the adjacent housing estate.

The northern settlement was very different in form and appeared to be spread out alongside an extensive ditched boundary. The latter incorporated a D-shaped enclosure with two 'antenna' ditches, possibly forming a funnel-type entrance. Evidence for unenclosed activity in the form of roundhouses (two), pits and postholes clustered in two foci to the south-east of the D-shaped enclosure. In contrast to the southern settlement there is no firm evidence that this settlement was occupied in the late Iron Age/early Roman period; the area was not re-occupied until the 2nd century AD. Both settlements remained in use into the 4th century but there is no evidence for early Saxon activity within them.

A major trackway, linking the southern and northern settlements had become established by the Roman period. The southern settlement consisted of domestic-type enclosures, re-using the earlier Iron Age boundaries, to the east of the trackway, and possible arable or pastoral enclosures to the west. The domestic-type enclosures of

the settlement contained features in the form of pits, a rectangular post-built building and isolated postholes. As with the Iron Age settlement in this area only the western periphery of these enclosures fell within the development area. This probably explains why three inhumation cemeteries occurred in and adjacent to these enclosures. The enclosure system to the west of the trackway contained less evidence for activity but did contain four water pits (including a timber-lined well) and smaller pits including a clay-lined example. It is likely that these enclosures were used for farming and craft-type activities. A relatively rich artefact and animal bone assemblage was recovered from both enclosure systems.

Three inhumation cemeteries (60 graves) and one cremation cemetery (6 graves) were found within the southern settlement. A number of the graves contained multiple individuals and three graves were lacking actual human bones. The majority of the individuals were placed on their backs in NE-SW aligned graves. Three individuals showed evidence of decapitation — generally believed to be associated with post-mortem rituals and, therefore, not a sign of disrespect. Grave goods included pottery vessels, an iron stylus, a pewter cup, bracelets, brooches, shoes indicated by hobnails, and possible gaming pieces made from bone. The presence of nails within some graves indicates that some of the individuals had been buried in coffins.

A 'ladder'-type enclosure system was established in the 2nd century AD over the northern settlement; its layout respected the Iron Age boundaries. There appeared to be a distinction between the enclosures to the north-west which had been sub-divided and were devoid of evidence for activity except for a water pit, and those to the south-east which had not be sub-divided and did not contain water pits. Possible post-built structures were only identified in one enclosure. Inhumations occurred in almost every enclosure, never more than two, and often situated in a corner 'at the back'.

To the north-east of the 'ladder' enclosure system was an open space containing a possible 'temple' comprised of two concentric rectilinear ditches. Although its plan is suggestive of a 'temple', it is considerably larger than more convincing examples and lacked any evidence for 'special' artefacts/ecofact deposition. However, its form and position within a large enclosure adjacent to an enclosure system is very similar to a site at Cottenham c. *7km to the north which has been interpreted as a temple/religious site.*

Medieval furrows were present across the entire investigation area and their differing alignments indicate at least two separate medieval field layouts. Post-medieval evidence consisted of one boundary ditch in the southern area near Huntingdon Road.

This assessment has demonstrated that when fully analysed the recovered data-sets have high potential to address a number of local and regional research objectives. The methodologies, project team and timescale required to complete this project are presented in the updated project design. The end product will be the publication of the results and, subject to the landowners' permission; the project archive will be deposited in the County Stores. The role and support of the client (Barratt Homes Eastern Counties) will be acknowledged in all outputs.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

Planning permission was granted by Cambridge City Council for a mixed use development comprising up to 1593 dwellings, primary school, community facilities, retail units and associated infrastructure (Planning application ref 07/0003/OUT). The name of the proposed development will be 'Darwin Green'.

Condition 67 of the planning permission and Condition 14 of the South Cambridgeshire District Council decision notice stated that no development could commence until a programme of archaeological works had been secured, implemented and satisfactorily completed, in accordance with the Brief (CCC 2012) and the Project Design (Albion 2012) approved by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET).

This report presents an assessment of the results of the archaeological open-area excavation. An updated project design is included describing what is required to analyse, publish and archive the results. The completion of these tasks will fulfil the criteria stipulated in the Brief (CCC 2012) and Project Design (Albion 2012).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The development area (DA) is situated on the north-west edge of Cambridge, extending in an arc between Huntingdon Road (modern A1307) and Histon Road (B1049). It is centred on NGR TL 437 607, and covers an area of approximately 55ha; at the time of the fieldwork the site comprised agricultural land, sports pitches and the premises of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) with its supporting buildings.

The DA lies at an average height of approximately 17m OD, sloping down gently from a height of just over 20m OD at its southern boundary to a height of approximately 12.5m OD in the north-east. The soils are calcareous loams of the Milton series, overlying river terrace gravels and Gault Clay.

1.3 Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the DA was evaluated through a programme of archaeological works designed to inform the planning process. These comprised:

- Archaeological desk-based assessment (JSAC)
- Aerial photographic survey (Air Photo Services)
- Geophysical survey (GSB Prospection)
- Fieldwalking (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2006)
- Trial trenching (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008)

The individual reports should be consulted for full details of findings and interpretation. They were also summarised in the Project Design (Albion 2012) and, therefore, only a brief description is given below.

The desk-based research confirmed that no Scheduled Ancient Monuments were present, but indicated that the site had a medium to high potential for the presence of below-ground archaeological remains, particularly of the prehistoric and Roman periods.

Although the aerial photographic survey, fieldwalking and geophysical survey did not provide coherent evidence to substantiate this level of potential, the subsequent trial trenching (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008) did identify the presence of two areas of late Iron Age and Roman remains and associated field systems within the central / eastern part of the DA. No evidence was recovered for the presence of significant areas of archaeological remains in the western part of the site, with the exception of a discrete area of Bronze Age activity. All the identified archaeological remains survived solely as below-ground features, truncated by later ploughing, and were assessed as being of local or regional importance.

Extensive evidence for past human activity spanning all periods has been identified within the vicinity of the DA, through projects such as the North-west Cambridge Development (Evans and Newman 2010 and Evans et al. in prep. A and B), Vicar's Farm (Lucas 2001), High Cross (Timberlake 2010) and Trinity Hall playing field (Willis 2004). These have highlighted a landscape of shifting settlement during the Neolithic to middle Bronze Age, with increased and more permanent settlement activity from the later Bronze Age.

To the west of the DA, on the NW side of Huntingdon Road, evidence for Bronze Age activity was identified during The North-west Cambridge Project excavation (Evans et al. in prep. A and B). It comprised ring-ditch monuments, cremation burials and settlement remains.

The most prominent evidence for Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the DA is the large circular enclosure of Arbury Camp, 550m to the NE, and the late Iron Age settlement in the Castle Hill area of Cambridge, where the Roman town was later established. Some evidence for Iron Age settlement has also been identified to the NW of Huntingdon Road (Evans et al. in prep. A and B).

The most significant element of the site's archaeological background is its location on the north side of Huntingdon Road. The latter is believed to follow the line of the Roman road from Cambridge to Godmanchester. The Roman town of Cambridge was sited in the Castle Hill area of the city *c*. 1.3km to the SE of the DA. This road may have acted as a focus for Roman and later activity, as evidenced by the major Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemetery found at Girton College in the late 19th century.

The DA is, therefore, located in the immediate hinterland of Roman Cambridge. Whereas formerly it was thought that Roman settlement was focussed on the Castle Hill area, Taylor (1999, 8) recognised that there were "… more signs of status, comfort, industry and general Romanisation … around the town than within it …" Increasingly, fieldwork in the last two decades has confirmed that there is a significant spread of Roman sites in the town's immediate hinterland (Evans et al. 2008, viii). There may be late Iron Age / Roman settlement sites every few hundred metres in the north-western outskirts of the modern city. This has been demonstrated by evaluation, and more recently open-area excavation on the University Farm site on the west side of Huntingdon Road (Evans et al. in prep. A and B).

Settlement during the Saxon/Danish and medieval periods is known to have continued in Cambridge, although remains dating to this period in the vicinity of the DA have so far been restricted to the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Girton College.

1.4 National, regional and county research frameworks

The investigations at NIAB were undertaken in line with national, regional and county based research frameworks.

National heritage strategy for the period up to March 2015 is embodied in the National Heritage Protection Plan Framework (EH 2013a) and its accompanying Action Plan (EH 2013b). This supersedes *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005–2010* (English Heritage, 2005a), *Research Agenda 2005–2010* (English Heritage, 2005b) and *Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes* (SHAPE) (English Heritage 2008).

English Heritage recognises the importance of cooperation between all heritage sector bodies and those with an interest in heritage. It is hoped that the NHPP will provide these interested parties with a common framework that they can adopt and, over time, adapt in order to:

- develop and express agreed priorities in terms of protecting our heritage;
- promote sector-wide collaboration and the coordination of scarce resources to address those priorities.

The EH Action Plan is divided into eight broad themes, called 'Measures'. The first three – 'Foresight', 'Threat' and 'Understanding' – set out 'Measures' for building a sound evidence base for action. The fourth component – 'Responses' – focuses on Measures for ensuring that historic significance is not unnecessarily lost or damaged. Each respective Measure lists a number of 'Activities', which identify the specific priorities for action.

As part of the work underpinning the NHPPF English Heritage has produced an extensive library of national guides covering a wide range of topics, and most of these are available for free download from the English Heritage website. These guides provide advice on the recording, analysis and conservation of heritage assets, ranging from extensive historic landscapes and

large monuments, through to individual artefacts and microscopic biological remains.

The identification of heritage assets and the subsequent establishment of their importance and significance is one of the 'Measures' listed under 'Understanding' in the NHPPF. Here, English Heritage identify eight high-level themes and places which have emerged as being insufficiently understood, significantly threatened by change and of potentially high significance in terms of their heritage values. One of these themes is Rural Settlement and Land Use.

Whilst these themes are at a relatively high conceptual level, the work undertaken as part of the NIAB investigations, in line with national planning policy, can be seen to fit within this framework.

National priorities for the Iron Age and Roman periods were formalised over 10 years ago by Hingley (1989), Millet (1990), James and Millet (2001), Haselgrove et al. (2001) and specifically for ceramics by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2011) and the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Willis 1997).

On a regional level, the archaeological resources of the East Anglian region were assessed in 1997 (Glazebrook 1997) and a regional research agenda and strategy was produced in 2000 (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). This was recently updated (Medlycott 2011).

1.5 Summary of original aims and objectives of the investigation

1.5.1 Introduction

The following section summarises the relevant national, regional and county research frameworks and period specific objectives originally discussed in detail in the Project Design (Albion 2012).

The broad aim of the archaeological investigations was to record and advance understanding of any archaeological remains within the DA prior to construction work commencing. Approximately 16ha were to be subject to open-area excavation, divided spatially into three discrete areas (Fig. 1). These were targeted on two late Iron Age/Romano-British settlements, associated field systems, an area of Bronze Age activity (all identified in the trial trench evaluation), and a *c.* 2ha area adjacent to Huntingdon Road that it had not been possible to evaluate.

1.5.2 Period-specific objectives

1.5.2.1 Iron Age and Romano-British

It was anticipated that the majority of the known archaeological remains within the DA would be related to two late Iron Age / Romano-British settlements. The more northerly example was expected to lie entirely within the investigation area. Of the southern settlement it was known that only its

western part extended into the DA and its main focus lay beyond the limit of excavation beneath the adjacent housing estate.

Specific objectives for this period were identified as a number of major themes:

1. Origins and development of the settlements
2. Form and development of the settlements
3. Economic basis of the settlements
4. People
5. Environment

1.5.2.2 Bronze Age

A less precise chronological research objective related to the Bronze Age because of the identification during evaluation of two features possibly of this period in Trench 39 (NA 2008). These were small pits / postholes and they produced coarse, flint-tempered pottery which was too fragmentary to be dated with certainty, although such material is typical of the Bronze Age in this area. It was decided that research objectives for this period would be developed and refined once the area around Trench 39 had been stripped and the true significance of the archaeological remains clarified.

2. NATURE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIELDWORK

2.1 Introduction

The methodologies for the investigations were detailed in the Project Design produced by Albion Archaeology (2013); they are summarised in this section of the report.

2.2 Open-area excavation

Open-area excavation was undertaken in two episodes: between September 2012 and February 2013; and between June and September 2013. The open-areas were divided into six smaller areas for archaeological recording reasons, generally respecting existing hedges and ditches (Fig. 2).

Overburden was removed by machines working under archaeological supervision. All archaeological investigations were undertaken in line with the PD and the Procedures Manual (Albion 2001).

2.3 Fieldwork monitoring and sign offs

During fieldwork the investigations were monitored on a regular basis on behalf of the client by Paul Gajos (consultant from CgMs Consulting Ltd).

When substantive areas had been fully investigated Andy Thomas of CCC's Historic Environment Team reviewed the results. This typically resulted in areas being 'signed off', sometimes conditional on the completion of some extra work. The most substantive change to the original works agreed at these meeting was the reduction in the extent of open-area excavation of Area 1 and Area 4/5. This was because these areas were found to contain only medieval furrows and post-medieval ditches.

2.4 Post-excavation checking and consolidation of the 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.

3. DISCUSSION AND STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

3.1 Introduction

This section gives a summary of all data-sets recovered during the investigations and at the end of each section reviews the potential of each individual data-set to address the original research objectives (Section 1.5). Relevant information on quantity, spatial provenance, date and condition is provided.

The data-sets recovered during the investigations can be divided into three main classes: contextual, artefactual and ecofactual.

Contextual data related to the identification of individual events such as the digging of a ditch, its primary infilling *etc*. These have been recorded as context records during excavation. All contexts have a detailed record sheet; many have a plan and section drawing, along with photographs.

Artefactual data comprise human-made objects recovered during excavation. These have been divided for ease of discussion into pottery, ceramic building material, coins and other artefacts.

Ecofactual data comprise natural materials found within excavated deposits. These are able to yield information on the nature of past human activity, crop regimes and the environment. They include animal bone, human bone, and information obtained from environmental samples (for example charred plant remains and charcoal).

The contextual data is discussed first by chronological period, as this provides the framework for the following artefactual and ecofactual data-set discussions.

3.2 Contextual data

3.2.1 Methodology

The contextual data was assessed in order to establish whether it would provide a coherent spatial and chronological framework. A total of 2,579 contexts were assigned to a hierarchy composed of Phases, Site Landscapes and Landuse areas.

3.2.2 Quantity of records

Table 1 presents a breakdown of the total quantity and type of contextual records. These comprise the written description/interpretation of a deposit/feature (context sheets), a map-like drawing showing the location and inter-relationships between features (a plan), a profile drawing through a feature and its deposits (section), and photographs.

Contexts	Plan Sheets	Sections	Photographic films
2,579	42	488	68

Table 1: Contextual records quantities

3.2.3 The contextual hierarchy

The following summary and discussion of results are based on the phasing/contextual hierarchy established as part of this assessment and may change during more detailed analysis (for summary see Table 2). It is presented within traditional chronological periods:

- Phase 1: undisturbed geology
- Phase 2: Neolithic to early Bronze Age
- Phase 3: middle-late Bronze Age
- Phase 4: early-middle Iron Age
- Phase 5: Romano-British
- Phase 6: medieval
- Phase 7: post-medieval

Aspects of continuity between the periods are mentioned, but are discussed in more detail in Section 4.

Dating information was derived from the contextual assessment, artefact spotdates (for pottery, flint and 'other' artefacts) and radiocarbon determinations.

The discussion is presented by Phase with reference to Site Landscape (SL) and Landuse areas (L), as required.

Phase	Site Landscape	Landuse Area	Landuse Area Description
1	27	98	Undisturbed geology
2	-	-	*(Small quantity of Neolithic/early Bronze Age flints found in later features.)*
3	1	2	Cremation cemetery of 8 graves, 2 of which were urned
		21	Possible enclosure/field containing cremation cemetery L2 and a cluster of small pits
	2	5	Boundary
		6	Un-urned cremation burial
		69	Cluster of small pits and postholes
		70	Cluster of small pits and postholes
		71	Cluster of small pits and postholes
4	3	7	Domestic enclosure, south-westernmost within SL3
		8	Domestic enclosure, NE of L7
		9	Domestic enclosure, NE of L8
		10	Domestic enclosure, north-easternmost of SL3
	4	11	Peripheral activity to the NE of SL3
	18	51	Boundary, on same alignment as L52, predating enclosure L54
		52	Extensive boundary and associated features
		53	Activity focus including a roundhouse to the SW of L52
		54	D-shaped enclosure
		55	Possible antenna for D-shaped enclosure L54 (NW)
		56	Possible antenna for D-shaped domestic enclosure L54 (SE)
		59	Activity focus to the SW of boundary L52

Phase	Site Landscape	Landuse Area	Landuse Area Description
	19	57	Activity focus including a roundhouse and waterpit to the SE of boundary L52
		58	Continuation of boundary L52
5	5	13	Domestic enclosure, NE of L28
		14	Domestic enclosure, contained inhumation cemetery L19, NE of L13
		15	Domestic enclosure, contained inhumation cemetery L20, NE of L14
		16	Domestic enclosure, NE of L15
		17	Domestic enclosure, containing post-built structure and one inhumation, NE of L16
		19	Inhumation cemetery of 12 graves within enclosure L14
		20	Inhumation cemetery of 11 graves, one of which was empty, within enclosure L15
		28	Domestic enclosure, SW of L13
	6	18	Activity focus to NE of SL5
	8	22	Length of trackway near southern settlement, adjacent to SL6
		23	Length of main trackway within southern settlement, in-between enclosure systems SL5 and 11
		24	Length of main trackway within southern settlement, where it appears to change direction to avoid cemetery enclosure SL10
		48	Length of main trackway between the two settlements
		74	Length of main trackway within northern settlement, between enclosures SL21 to the NW and SL22 to the SE
		75	Length of trackway within northern settlement, between enclosures SL22 to the SW and SL23 to the NE
	9	26	Area of quarrying
	10	25	Boundary that possibly marks S side of trackway SL8 but also follows alignment of cemetery enclosure SL10
		27	Enclosure containing inhumation cemetery L72
		72	Inhumation cemetery of 39 graves two of which was empty and some graves contained multiple burials (total 48 individuals)
	11	29	Non-domestic enclosure, SW of L30
		30	Non-domestic enclosure, NE of L29
		31	Non-domestic enclosure, modification/splitting of L30
		32	Non-domestic enclosure, NE of L30
		33	Non-domestic enclosure, NE of L32
		34	Non-domestic enclosure, NE of L33
		35	Non-domestic enclosure, to the E of L34
		36	Non-domestic enclosure, later extension NE of L34
		37	Non-domestic enclosure, redefinition of L34
		38	Non-domestic enclosure, redefinition of L36
	12	39	Activity focus, urned cremation burial
		40	Activity focus, water pit and associated ditch
	13	41	Area of dispersed activity to NW of SL11
	21	60	Non-domestic enclosure, NW of L61
		61	Non-domestic enclosure, SE of L60
		62	Non-domestic enclosure, SE of L61
		63	Non-domestic enclosure, SE of L62
		64	Non-domestic enclosure, SE of L63
		65	Non-domestic enclosure, SE of L64
		66	Domestic enclosure, SE of L65
		67	Domestic enclosure, SE of L66
		68	Domestic enclosure, SE of L67
		73	Unexcavated lengths of ditch within SL21 that can't easily be assigned to individual enclosures
	22	76	Non-domestic enclosure to the SE of trackway L74
	23	77	Non-domestic enclosure to NE of trackway L75
		78	Non-domestic enclosure, NE of L77

Phase	Site Landscape	Landuse Area	Landuse Area Description
	24	79	Activity focus clustered along the NE boundary of SL21 within the 'temple' L82 and SW of the 'temple' L86-87
		80	Activity focus clustered along the NE boundary of SL21
		88	Activity focus to S of 'temple' enclosure
		89	Activity focus to SW of 'temple' enclosure
		90	Activity focus to W of 'temple' enclosure
	25	82	'Temple' enclosure
		86	Inner 'temple'
		87	Outer 'temple'
	28	1	Cremation cemetery of 6 graves, one of which was urned.
6	14	42	Furrows in Areas 3 and 4, orientated NE-SW
		43	Furrows in Area 4, orientated NW-SE
		44	Furrows in Area 1, orientated NE-SW
		45	Furrows in Area 1, orientated NW-SE
		50	Furrows in Area 5
		83	Furrows in Areas 6 and 7, orientated NE-SW
		84	Furrows in Areas 6 and 7, orientated NW-SE
7	15	46	Boundary ditch
		85	Isolated activity
	26	91	Overburden in Area 1
		92	Overburden in Area 2
		93	Overburden in Area 3
		94	Overburden in Area 4
		95	Overburden in Area 5
		96	Overburden in Area 6
		97	Overburden in Area 7

Table 2: Provisional phasing by Phase, SL and L

3.2.4 Phase 2: Neolithic to early Bronze Age

(No figure)

Early prehistoric activity was indicated by an assemblage of worked flint artefacts dated from the Neolithic to the early Bronze Age. These were residual within later pits and ditches dated from the middle Bronze Age to the medieval phase. However, they are significant in indicating the presence of earlier activity within the DA.

3.2.5 Phase 3: Middle-late Bronze Age (Fig. 3)

The earliest firm evidence for occupation within the DA was dated to the middle-late Bronze Age and was defined by two activity foci SL1 and SL2, located *c.* 200m apart.

3.2.5.1 Activity focus SL1

Activity focus SL1 comprised a possible enclosure or field L21 and a cremation cemetery L2. The field/enclosure L21 was *c.* 50m wide (NE-SW) and 90m long (NW-SE). It was defined by two ditches, one of which extended beyond the area of investigation. Within the enclosure/field was a cluster of five small pits to the south-east and an isolated pit. Probable middle-late Bronze Age pottery, which survived in poor condition, was recovered from three of the pits. The enclosure was also stratigraphically earlier than Phase 4 and 5 features

A cluster of eight cremation burials L2 (Figure 4) were positioned within the enclosure/field, *c*. 15m NW of the small pits. Two of the graves contained highly fragmentary urns (Table 18) of probable middle-late Bronze Age date — based on their fabric type, as diagnostic elements were largely missing. The un-urned burials were initially assigned to this phase on the basis of their spatial location in relation to the urned burials. Cremated human bone from two of the graves, one urned and one un-urned, were subject to radiocarbon determination which provided a middle Bronze Age date (Table 20).

3.2.5.2 Activity focus SL2

SL2 comprised a boundary ditch L5 on a similar alignment to of SL1. An un-urned cremation burial L6 was positioned immediately adjacent to the ditch. Approximately 30m to the east were three clusters of postholes and small pits (L69, L70 and L71). Possible late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery and worked flint were recovered from three of the pits. Cremated human bone from burial L6 was subject to radiocarbon determination which provided a middle Bronze Age date (Table 20).

3.2.6 Phase 4: Early-middle Iron Age (Fig. 5)

Two settlements (SL3/SL4 and SL18/SL19), *c*. 500m apart, were established in the middle Iron Age (Fig. 5). The presence of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery suggests that they probably originated in this period, although no focus for this activity could be identified. The artefact evidence also suggests that whilst occupation in settlement SL3/SL4 continued into the Romano-British period, settlement SL18/SL19 may have been abandoned for a time during the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

Settlement SL3/SL4 was established south-west of the middle-late Bronze Age (Phase 3) activity focus SL1. Whilst the Iron Age ditches were on a similar NW-SE alignment to the Bronze Age ditches there was no firm evidence to suggest that these were redug during this period.

3.2.6.1 Settlement SL3 and peripheral activity SL4 (Fig. 6)

Settlement SL3 continued SE beyond the limit of the DA. The precise dimensions and nature of the settlement's boundary ditches are difficult to determine because they were almost entirely redug during the Roman period (Phase 5). Assuming the three interior ditches existed in the Iron Age there would have been at least four enclosures L7, L8, L9, L10 (Fig. 6). The densest concentration of features and largest pottery assemblage derived from enclosure L7. However, all the other enclosures contained a scatter of pits and postholes. Enclosure L9 contained firm evidence for one roundhouse, the fills of which produced some disarticulated human bone (also see Section 3.8).

To the NE of settlement SL3 an area of peripheral activity SL4 was identified. This comprised three small to medium-sized pits and a ditched boundary. One pit contained a partially articulated dog skeleton.

3.2.6.2 Settlement SL18/SL19 (Fig. 7)

The probable settlement to the north is characterised by an extensive boundary SL18 with adjacent evidence for activity and an unenclosed activity focus SL19 to the SE. This activity extended over 1.8ha and continued NW and SE beyond the excavation area.

The extensive NW-SE aligned boundary L52/58 respected and incorporated D-shaped enclosure L54 (Fig. 7). Several pits and ditches were present within the interior of the enclosure but no obvious evidence for a building. The majority of the pottery derived from the fills of these features as did two Iron Age coins from the infilling of the enclosure ditches. Their presence demonstrates that some activity was taking place within the settlement area during the late Iron Age. The enclosure may have had two 'antenna' or 'horn'- type ditches L55/L56 on its NE side. These may be associated with an entrance that was destroyed when a large modern drainage ditch was dug. Alternatively, the two curving ditches may simply be parts of two incomplete enclosures.

As well as dispersed pits along the length of major boundary L52/58 (SL18), there was an activity focus SL19 at its SE end. Activity focus L53 comprised a roundhouse, pits and postholes; activity focus L57, against the limit of excavation, comprised a roundhouse and water pit.

3.2.7 Phase 5: Romano-British (Fig. 8)

Two Romano-British settlements, *c.* 500m apart and linked by trackway SL8, were identified within the DA.

Both settlements were in the same location as the Iron Age ones, often either re-using or following the alignments of the earlier boundaries. The pottery assemblage indicates that while the southern settlement was continuously occupied from the Iron Age, the northern settlement was re-established in the 2nd century AD after a gap in occupation during the late Iron Age/early Roman period (no pottery of this period was found within the northern settlement). Both settlements remained in use until the 4th century AD.

3.2.7.1 Northern settlement (SL21, 22, 23) (Fig. 9)

The northern settlement comprised a 'ladder' enclosure system SL21, *c.* 1ha in extent but continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the NW. Perpendicular to it and an integral part of the 'ladder' system was a NE-SW aligned trackway SL8 which connected with the southern settlement. Enclosures SL22 and SL23 were located to the east and extended beyond the limit of excavation.

The 'ladder' enclosure system SL21 was established along the line of the extensive Iron Age major boundary (L52/58, Phase 3). There appears to be a distinction between the enclosures to the NW and SE of the system. Those to the NW had been sub-divided by a ditch and were largely devoid of evidence for internal activity, except for a water pit in five separate enclosures. Those to the SE, e.g. L67 and 68, had not been sub-divided and did not contain water

pits. Possible post-built buildings were identified within enclosure L66. Nine inhumations were present, usually positioned to the rear (west side) of the enclosures and generally aligned parallel to the enclosure ditch. An isolated cremation burial was found in the NE corner of enclosure L66. Exceptionally large quantities (over 10kg) of pottery derived from pits in enclosures L65 and L68, suggesting these may have been 'structured' deposits.

Enclosures SL22 and SL23 to the east were larger than those to the west and were almost entirely devoid of evidence for internal activity. It is possible that they represent outlying fields.

3.2.7.2 'Temple' enclosure (SL25) and pits SL24 (Fig. 9)

Apart from pits assigned to activity focus SL24 (see below), the area to the east of the 'ladder' enclosure system (L82) was largely devoid of evidence for activity except for possible 'temple' L86/87. The area enclosed by L82 has, therefore, been tentatively described as a 'temple' enclosure. It was defined on its other sides by a single narrow ditch to the NW side and by enclosures SL23 to the SE.

The possible 'temple' comprised two concentric rectilinear ditches: L86 (inner) and L87 (outer). The inner measured *c.* 18m by 13m with a ditch 1.2m wide by 0.4m deep; the outer measured 30m by 25m with a ditch 1.3m wide by 0.6m deep. The outer ditch had an entrance on its SE side which had been blocked with a pit. There were no internal features. The recovered finds assemblage was small (0.6kg of pottery, three coins and *c.* 0.5kg of animal bone). The pottery dated from the 2nd to 3rd/4th century AD with the coins dating to the late 3rd and 4th century AD. While the outer ditches of the 'temple' did produce three coins (RA7017, RA7021, RA7022), there was no substantive evidence for ritual activities.

The layout of L86/87 is suggestive of a 'temple', although when compared to more convincing examples elsewhere in Roman Britain it is considerably larger. However, it is closely comparable to the example at Bullock's Haste, Cottenham, Cambs., *c.* 7km to the north (Evans and Hodder 2006, fig. 7.47) (see fuller discussion in Section 4.6.3).

As mentioned above, with the exception of the SW side, the majority of the 'temple' enclosure was devoid of evidence for activity. It is difficult to be certain as to whether the features present — large pits L79, L89 and L90 (including some possible water pits), large pit L88 and three inhumations — were associated in some way with the 'temple' or the adjacent 'ladder' enclosure system. On the basis of this assessment, they do not contain any obvious deposits or artefacts which mark them out but, given their location, this will need to be examined in more detail as part of the analysis.

3.2.7.3 Southern settlement (SL5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 28) (Fig. 10)

The southern settlement was *c.* 1.4ha in extent but continued beyond the limit of excavation to the SE. It originated in the early Iron Age (Phase 4) and part of it overlay the earlier settlement area. In the Roman period it comprised two

enclosure systems separated by a trackway SL8. Enclosures SL5 to the SE appear to be more domestic in nature; enclosures SL13 to the NW appear to have served more agricultural/livestock functions.

Peripheral areas of activity were located to the NE (SL6), N (SL28), NW (SL13) and SW (SL9 and SL10). These generally comprised isolated small pits and postholes, although quarry pits were present in SL9 and a cremation cemetery in SL28.

The boundaries of domestic enclosures SL5 largely reused those of the Iron Age settlement. The enclosures contained limited evidence for activity in terms of features, although the finds assemblage was relatively large (11kg of pottery and 30kg of animal bone) — 3.5kg of pottery alone deriving from the ditches defining enclosure L14. Only one post-built structure L17 was identified. The lack of structural features could be due to the position of the excavation area along the edge of these enclosures. This location may also account for the large number of human burials present. Two enclosures contained small inhumation cemeteries (L19 and L20) and a third much larger one was found to the SW (SL10). These are discussed in more detail below.

Enclosure system SL11 was established on previously unused land to the NW of trackway SL8. Individual enclosures were defined by smaller ditches than to the east and a number of re-definitions of the boundaries had occurred, indicating activity over a prolonged period. Evidence for internal activity comprised three water pits/wells (a small number of which contained waterlogged deposits and one of which was timber-lined) and a clay-lined pit possibly associated with an industry, such as tanning or brewing, that involved the storage of water. In addition, a small number of isolated inhumations were present. The finds recovered comprised pottery (13kg) and animal bone (4kg). Large assemblages of pottery (over 5kg) were recovered from the water pits in enclosures L30 and L32. Until these are fully quantified it is uncertain if they represent 'structured' deposits.

Contemporary activity in terms of artefacts, but stratigraphically later, was defined by a water pit and cremation burial SL12 that appeared to have been dug into the trackway.

3.2.7.4 Inhumation cemeteries L72 (SL10), L19 (SL5) and L20 (SL5)

(Figs 11, 12, 13)

Sixty graves were identified within three cemeteries: L19 and L20 within domestic enclosures SL5; and L72 within enclosure SL10 to the SE. Three graves did not contain any evidence of human bone; one of the three contained a pottery vessel, suggesting that it at least was a genuine grave.

Grave goods included pottery vessels, an iron stylus, a pewter cup, bracelets, brooches, shoes indicated by hobnails, and possible gaming pieces made from bone. The presence of nails within some graves indicates that some of the individuals had been buried in coffins.

The largest cemetery L72 (Fig. 11), which comprised 39 graves including two 'empty' graves, was situated in ditched enclosure SL10. The latter was unusual in that it appeared to be located at the southern end of trackway SL8 and may even have been deliberately positioned to block off this routeway. The burials were generally aligned NE-SW and broadly arranged into rows of eight. Three individuals had been placed in NW-SE aligned graves — these may be later additions as at least one clearly truncated a NE-SW grave. The majority of the individuals were placed in the supine position with the head to the SW. At least three decapitations, one of a child, were present. Five graves contained more than one individual; in one case the grave appears to have been re-opened to receive an additional interment. A total of 48 individuals were therefore identified from this cemetery.

Cemeteries L19 and L20 were *c.* 30m apart within two separate enclosures of the SL5 system. With the exception of two SE-NW aligned graves within L20, all were aligned NE-SW. The position of the head was more variable than in cemetery L72. Cemetery L19 contained 12 graves that were laid out in fairly uniform rows in the centre of the enclosure (Fig. 12). Cemetery L20 contained 11 graves including one that was 'empty' (Fig. 13).

3.2.7.5 Isolated inhumations

A further four isolated inhumations were identified within SL5 (two) and SL11 (two) enclosures. Three were positioned adjacent and parallel to enclosure boundaries; one would appear to have been situated within a post-built structure, although it is impossible to prove that they are contemporary.

3.2.7.6 Cremation cemetery L1 (SL28)

(Fig. 14 and Table 18)

A cluster of one urned and four un-urned cremation burials L1 (SL28) was positioned on the NW side of trackway SL8, 40m NE of enclosure system SL5. A sixth un-urned cremation burial was located just to the north of the main cluster, but is considered to be contemporary. The pottery urn was heavily truncated and undiagnostic in form. Nails were present in two of the cremation burials.

Cremated human bone from two of the graves was subject to radiocarbon determination, providing dates in the 1st century AD and the early 3rd century AD (Table 20).

3.2.8 Phase 6: Medieval

Evidence for medieval activity comprised furrows, *c*. 9m apart, which represent the strips within open fields. The finds assemblage suggests activity ranging from high to late medieval and is comprised predominantly of assorted coins and copper alloy objects. This is consistent with an agricultural landscape with no strong evidence for nearby domestic activity.

3.2.9 Phase 7: Post-medieval

The only post-medieval features identified were boundary ditch L46 (Area 1) and isolated posthole L85 (Area 6). Boundary ditch L46 contained no finds but was on a parallel alignment to existing boundaries and a further ditch shown on the 1888 six-inch OS map.

3.2.10 Processes affecting the survival of archaeological remains within the area of investigation

The soils within the investigation area have been heavily exploited by arable agriculture from the medieval period to the present day. The widespread truncation of archaeological remains by modern ploughing has been documented on a regional and national level, as a result of the Management of Archaeological Sites in Arable Landscapes Project sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (Oxford Archaeology 2002).

This and other studies (English Heritage 2003) have established that gradual attrition caused by shallow ploughing, and dramatic destruction caused by deep ploughing, is responsible for the loss of more archaeological remains than the modern construction and aggregate industries.

Numerous medieval furrows were recorded across the DA (Fig. 2) and these, as well as modern ploughing, have been the most important processes to have had a negative impact on the type and quality of surviving archaeological remains.

3.2.11 Analytical potential

Evidence for human activity from the middle Bronze Age period onwards has been identified, including traces of settlements, enclosures/fields, trackways and human burials (both isolated and in cemeteries). Both the Iron Age and Roman periods have produced substantial settlement evidence. The Roman period has also produced significant evidence for people and their beliefs in terms of burials, a possible 'temple' and a wealth of other artefacts. Unsurprisingly, and of less significance, is the extensive physical evidence in the form of furrows indicative of a medieval open field system.

Archaeological features which have survived most intact consist of relatively deeply cut negative features such as ditches and pits. In addition, structural features (postholes and drainage gullies etc.) survive to enable the identification of buildings; burials (both inhumation and cremation) survived albeit in a varied state of preservation; and small pits were reasonably common. Absent were hearths/ovens/kilns and "positive" features, which reflects the level of plough truncation.

The number and types of features show that, despite agricultural truncation, the contextual data has good potential for analysis.

3.3 Pottery

3.3.1 Introduction

Pottery was recorded by fabric type and quantified by minimum sherd count and weight. This information was entered onto an Access table in the project database. Pottery was spot-dated by form and/or fabric type, and was a principal determinant in assigning contexts to chronological period.

The assemblage totals 7,666 sherds, weighing 137.3kg, the majority deriving from features assigned to the Roman period (Phase 5) (Table 3).

Phase	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
3	289	562
4	953	14,121
5	6,379	121,922
6	45	698
Total	**7,666**	**137,303**

Table 3: Pottery quantification by Phase

3.3.2 Summary

The pottery displays a wide date range spanning the middle Bronze Age to late Roman periods. Approximately 83% of the assemblage (by sherd count) is datable to the Roman period, 13% is Iron Age, and the remainder early prehistoric (Table 4). Despite the presence of a number of medieval features yielding non-ceramic artefacts, the only post-Roman pottery comprises a modern sherd of mass-produced earthenware, occurring intrusively in a Roman feature.

Pottery date	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
Middle to late Bronze Age	285	400
LBA or early Iron Age	78	524
Middle Iron Age	826	14,108
Late Iron Age	83	1,962
Roman	6,393	120,304
Post-Roman	1	5
Total	**7,666**	**137,303**

Table 4: Pottery quantification by date

3.3.2.1 Early prehistoric

Approximately 285 shell-tempered sherds (400g), provisionally assigned a middle to late Bronze Age date, were collected. The assemblage survives in poor condition, and is highly fragmented, with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of only 1g: much of the pottery derived from the sieved residues of environmental samples. Sherds mainly represent two urns associated with Phase 3 cremation burials L2 (SL1) (Table 5), although diagnostic elements such as rims or bases are rare. Twenty-two sherds occurred residually in Roman features.

Site Landscape	Landuse area	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
SL1 Non-domestic enclosure	L2	263	354
	L21	22	174
SL2 Activity focus	L70	1	11
	L71	3	23
Total		**289**	**562**

Table 5: Phase 3 Pottery quantification by SL and L

3.3.2.2 Later prehistoric

Seventy-eight sherds, weighing 524g (MSW 7g) of late Bronze Age-early Iron Age date were recovered from thirteen features, the majority within Phase 4. The material is characterised by sherds in a combination of flint-, sand- and/or grog-tempered fabric, typical of the period within the region (Table 6). Although no diagnostic forms occur, vessels in the coarser fabric types have thick walls and are more crudely made than those in finer fabrics. The latter are generally well made with smoothed or tooled surfaces.

	LBA or EIA		MIA		LIA	
Fabric	**No.**	**Wt (g)**	**No.**	**Wt (g)**	**No.**	**Wt (g)**
Fine flint	43	357	-	-	-	-
Flint and sand	34	156	6	739	-	-
Flint and grog	1	11	-	-	-	-
Organic	-	-	5	50	-	-
Sand and organic	-	-	116	1,471	-	-
Fine sand	-	-	309	4,566	21	414
Coarse sand	-	-	137	3,010	-	-
Sand and calcareous	-	-	16	264	-	-
Coarse shell	-	-	11	153	-	-
Shell and sand	-	-	34	610	-	-
Sand, shell, grog and organic	-	-	90	1,393	-	-
Sand and grog	-	-	75	1,356	27	407
Grog	-	-	27	496	29	1,076
Other	-	-	-	-	6	65
Total	**78**	**524**	**826**	**14,108**	**83**	**1,962**

Table 6: Later prehistoric pottery quantification by fabric type

The middle Iron Age assemblage comprises 826 sherds, weighing 14.1kg. The material survives in good condition, attested by a mean sherd weight of 17g; the largest single vessel weighs 610g. Fabrics are predominantly sand-tempered, totalling 54% of the pottery (by sherd count), although sherds variously containing organic matter, grog, flint, calcareous inclusions and fossil shell also occur (Table 6). Diagnostic forms are variants of hand-made slack- or round-shouldered, fairly open vessels, some with ovoid or globular profiles, common to middle Iron Age assemblages. Some of the pottery may extend into the late Iron Age, as similar vessel forms and traditions such as scoring are known to persist into the 1st century BC (Timby 2008, 18).

Rim forms are predominantly upright, rounded or flat-topped. A range of vessel sizes is represented. Although the assemblage is dominated by plain body sherds, a few fine-ware examples have a burnished finish, while the surfaces of coarser wares are often wiped or randomly twig-brushed prior to firing. Scoring, which may have served both functional and cultural purposes,

occurs on 50 vessels. Decoration comprises impressed fingernail and/or fingertip decoration, restricted mainly to rim tops and occasionally along vessel shoulders.

The majority of the assemblage derives from Phase 4 settlements SL3 and SL18, principally L7 (SL3) and L54 (SL18) (Table 7). A proportion of the assemblage occurs residually in Roman features, which had largely truncated SL3 deposits.

Pottery assigned to the late Iron Age totals 83 sherds, weighing 1.9kg (MSW 24g), and includes both hand-made and wheel-thrown examples. Fabrics are predominantly grog- and/or sand-tempered and include cordoned and combed examples, although are largely undiagnostic of form. Feature sherds are a few everted or bead rims, probably from jars, and a footring base. Most occur in Phase 5 features, principally within settlement SL5, where they may be contemporary with the very earliest Romanised forms.

Site	Landscape	Landuse area	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
SL3	Settlement enclosures	L7	196	3,698
		L8	27	909
		L9	96	2,063
		L10	44	599
SL4	Peripheral activity	L11	81	801
SL18	Enclosure	L51	6	39
		L52	59	634
		L53	19	151
		L54	280	3,959
		L56	10	105
		L57	103	958
		L58	20	92
		L59	12	113
Total			**953**	**14,121**

Table 7: Phase 4 Pottery quantification by SL and L

3.3.2.3 Roman

Roman pottery totals 6,393 sherds, weighing 120.3kg (MSW 19g). The assemblage spans the entire Roman period, with the bulk of the material dating from the 2nd and 3rd centuries. The assemblage is dominated by local sandy coarsewares, including numerous products from the Horningsea kilns. Shelly wares, obtained from a range of more distant sources, also occur in smaller quantity. Other regional imports include products from the Lower Nene Valley (colour-coats, greywares, whitewares and mortaria); Verulamium region whiteware; and oxidised fine wares from Oxfordshire and Much Hadham, Herts. Proximity to the Cambridge to Godmanchester road would have afforded the inhabitants access to various trade networks.

Fabric Group	No.	Wt (g)
Amphorae	34	1,611
Mortaria	24	2,119
Samian ware	155	2,640
White wares	79	1,136
Pink wares	13	228
Oxidised sandy coarse wares	935	20,909
Reduced sandy coarse wares	743	16,813
Buff sandy coarse wares	1,151	18,622
Grey wares	2,497	43,454
Shelly wares	249	4,963
Hadham wares	9	46
Nene Valley grey ware	30	476
Nene Valley colour-coat	251	3,203
Nene Valley mortaria	17	946
Oxfordshire wares	57	1,731
Colour-coat	70	1,288
Total	**6,314**	**120,185**

Excludes unidentified wares

Table 8: Roman pottery quantification by fabric group

Continental imports include 34 amphorae sherds, including Baetican examples from southern Spain, and 155 sherds of predominantly central Gaulish samian. The latter includes eight worn or partial stamps, and a footring base modified to form a lid (Table 8).

A standard range of vessel forms occur, including a small number of 'specialised' types such as amphorae, mortaria, flagons and three castor boxes. Jars of varying size and function, ranging from cooking pots to large storage vessels, are dominant, followed by bowls, beakers and dishes (Table 9).

Form	Vessel No.	Wt (g)
Amphora	4	1,158
Beaker	62	2,752
Bowl	68	4,736
Castor box	3	24
Cup	4	712
Dish	61	2,582
Flagon	10	350
Jar	255	32,176
Lid	6	1,149
Mortaria	18	2,651
Total	**488**	**48,290**

Table 9: Roman pottery vessel forms

The pottery represents a fairly typical domestic assemblage, dominated by coarsewares, with a smaller proportion of finewares. Comprising 3% of the site assemblage (by sherd count), the quantity of samian appears typical for rural sites in the area, on which the ware usually constitutes 5% or less of the total (Anderson 2010, 55).

Deposition

Ditches and gulleys represent the main focus of deposition, containing 47% of the assemblage, by sherd count. Pits yielded 32%, and 8% derived from

inhumation and cremation burials. Vessels associated with the latter include a number of complete or semi-complete examples. Water pits, spreads and structural deposits contained the remainder. Where multiple fills occur, most sherds derive from the secondary and tertiary deposits.

Features within the northern settlement yielded the majority of the assemblage (70%), the largest deposits (23.4kg) deriving from pits within enclosure L65 (part of the 'ladder' system SL21) (Table 10). Pottery concentrations, each weighing approximately 10kg, were collected from enclosure L68 (also from SL21) and activity focus L80 (SL24).

Fifteen percent of the assemblage derived from the southern settlement. Within this, the largest pottery deposits weighed approximately 3.5kg, and were collected from ditches defining L14 (enclosure system SL5) and inhumation cemetery L72 (SL10). Enclosure system SL11 yielded 9% of the assemblage. The largest pottery concentrations, each weighing approximately 5kg, derived from pits and a water pit/well within enclosures L30 and L32. Features associated with trackway SL8 yielded 5% of the assemblage, the largest deposits deriving from trackside ditches L75 adjacent to the 'temple' complex (2.3kg) and L22 (1.3kg) adjacent to the southern domestic enclosure system SL5.

Site Landscape	Landuse area	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
Northern settlement			
SL21 Enclosures	L60	61	1,070
	L61	172	2,370
	L62	58	758
	L63	52	1,282
	L64	289	4,311
	L65	1,299	23,470
	L66	245	3,137
	L67	248	4,414
	L68	484	10,359
SL22 Enclosures	L76	3	60
SL23 Enclosures	L77	282	6,588
	L78	32	806
SL24 Activity focus	L79	379	5,939
	L80	465	10,810
	L88	71	2,453
	L89	42	2,463
	L90	256	4,900
SL25 'Temple' enclosure	L86	17	183
	L87	30	479
Southern Settlement			
SL5 Domestic enclosures	L13	66	958
	L14	247	3,836
	L15	94	1,432
	L16	51	964
	L17	41	1,579
	L19 Cemetery	35	1,467
	L20 Cemetery	26	680
	L28	4	57
SL6 Peripheral activity focus	L18	102	1,800
SL9 Quarrying	L26	15	173
SL10 Enclosure to SW	L25	1	19

Site Landscape	Landuse area	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
	L27	25	260
	L72 Cemetery	207	3,554
SL11 Non-domestic enclosures	L29	8	57
	L30	198	5,046
	L31	23	263
	L32	125	5,147
	L33	64	572
	L34	25	400
	L35	17	184
	L36	5	136
	L37	81	1,021
	L38	63	230
SL12 Peripheral activity	L39	24	650
	L40	10	224
SL13 Dispersed activity	L41	3	17
Other			
SL8 Trackway	L22	98	1,329
	L23	60	779
	L24	8	84
	L48	6	31
	L74	16	729
	L75	117	2,337
SL28 Cremation cemetery	L1	29	55
Total		**6,379**	**121,922**

Table 10: Phase 5 Pottery quantification by SL and L

3.3.3 Analytical potential

The pottery assemblage has good potential to contribute to an understanding of the nature, function and character of the Iron Age and Roman landscape, specifically chronology, continuity, settlement character, and economy. The pottery will have some potential to determine the status and cultural associations of the occupants, with the presence or absence of particular pottery types suggesting status and socio-economic development.

A chronological framework for the site has already been established. Roman pottery spans the 1st–4th centuries, with emphasis on material of 2nd- and 3rd-century date. Primarily local in character, the Roman assemblage is of modest domestic status, with a low level of imported material and relatively few fine or specialist wares. Most of the pottery comprises coarse wares, dominated by a standard range of locally manufactured sandy fabrics. Comparison with known kilns and their products will throw light upon the distribution of these wares, and may help to determine economic activity in terms of marketing patterns. The type and frequency of pottery vessels used as urns and grave goods will contribute to an understanding of Roman period burial practices.

The prehistoric and Roman pottery compares well with assemblages recovered from nearby contemporary settlements (Evans et al. in prep. A and B), and analysis will help to determine inter-site affinities, and enable the site to be placed in both a local and regional context.

3.4 Ceramic building material

3.4.1 Introduction

Ceramic building material (CBM), comprising brick, roof tile and fired clay, was recorded by fabric type, and quantified by minimum fragment count and weight. Where possible, the brick and tile was dated. This information was entered onto an Access Table in the project database.

3.4.2 Summary

Fifty-one pieces of building material (7.5kg) were collected, the majority deriving from Phase 5 features. Roman examples are mainly represented by tegulae, supplemented by four pieces of imbrex and brick, and a number of indeterminate fragments deriving either from bricks or roof tiles (Table 11). A small post-Roman assemblage was collected from boundary ditches assigned to Phase 7.

Type	No.	Wt (g)
Roman		
Tegula	32	4,494
Imbrex	2	147
Brick	2	2,193
Fragment	10	424
Post-Roman		
Roof tile	4	255
Brick	1	77
Total	**51**	**7,590**

Table 11: Brick and tile quantification

Although the assemblage comprises sizeable pieces (mean fragment weight 149g), there is heavy abrasion and most examples are poorly preserved. The majority are made in a soft, oxidised coarse sandy fabric. Eight shelly fragments also occur: one derives from an imbrex, and seven highly degraded pieces represent either building material or thick pottery sherds.

Small fired clay assemblages derived from pits and ditches in Phase 4 (557g) and Phase 5 (1.7kg). The material is entirely redeposited and has no direct association with the features from which it was collected. The fabric is a friable coarse sand with calcareous and sparse flint inclusions. Most fragments are amorphous, although a few have smoothed surfaces. Nine pieces (287g) are identifiable as daub, characterised by wattle impressions of approximately 15mm diameter. Ten fragments (163g) collected from Phase 5 enclosure system SL11 retain traces of limewash/plaster on their surfaces, and are likely to derive from a structure. The same enclosure yielded eight pieces (308g), with surfaces and a rounded edge (thickness 25mm), which may represent a slab or tray of the type used as temporary furniture in ovens or hearths.

3.4.3 Analytical potential

Beyond the establishment of chronology, the small brick and tile assemblage has little potential to contribute to any of the project objectives. The quantity

recovered is negligible and cannot infer the presence of tiled buildings in the vicinity. The fired clay assemblage (2.3kg) is entirely redeposited and largely undiagnostic, apart from a few pieces of daub, limewashed structural pieces, and possible fragments of portable oven furniture. The material consequently has low potential for further analysis.

3.5 Coins

3.5.1 Introduction

A total of 121 coins, jettons and tokens were recovered by metal detector and through hand excavation (Table 12). These included:

- 4 late Iron Age coins
- 95 coins struck during the Roman period
- 16 medieval silver coins (13th to 14th centuries)
- 2 post-medieval coins (16th to 17th centuries)
- 3 medieval and post-medieval jettons
- 1 fragment of a silver coin (probably medieval or post-medieval)

3.5.2 Summary

Fifty-five coins were recovered from stratified archaeological deposits, of which the overwhelming majority came from Roman-period contexts (Phase 5). Medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow produced a further seventeen coins (including most of the medieval coins), while a total of forty-nine coins came from subsoil and topsoil.

All silver coins were retrieved from topsoil or subsoil layers and the fills of medieval furrows. None were found in association with each other and therefore do not fall under the Treasure Act 1996 and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002 legislation.

Only two coins were found in contexts associated with Iron Age occupation, both potins from the upper fill of the D-shaped domestic enclosure L54 (part of settlement SL18). This phase of occupation is dated to the early-middle Iron Age. The presence of the potins, dating from between the middle and late first century BC, suggests later activity too (albeit associated with the infilling of the settlement's ditches).

The two Romano-British settlements both produced coins, as did the trackway that connected them. Roman coins were recovered from a variety of deposits, including ditch and pit fills, layers and a grave.

In the southern settlement, the domestic enclosure system SL5 and trackway SL8 produced fifteen and thirteen coins respectively, whereas the enclosure system SL11 on the opposite side of the trackway did not produce any. The coins are mainly late 3rd-century radiates and 4th-century issues from the upper fills of the SL5 enclosure ditches and their presence is presumably

linked to the activities that occurred within them during the late Roman period — activities that do not seem to have taken place in SL11.

Seven coins were recovered from cemetery enclosure SL10, of which six came from the upper fills of the enclosure ditches (L25/27) and the seventh from a fill of a grave (L72). It is noticeable that those from the ditch fills are all 4th-century issues, while the coin from the grave is an earlier radiate struck in the name of the short-lived emperor Quintillus in 270.

The northern settlement produced a total of fifteen coins. These mainly came from the fills of ditches defining enclosure systems SL21 and SL23, but three coins were also recovered from the outer ditches of the 'temple' L87 (SL25). The 'temple' coins all date to the late 3rd to mid-4th centuries, which is in contrast to those recovered from the adjacent settlement enclosures where 2nd- and early 3rd-century coins are relatively more common and 4th-century issues less so.

Phase	**4**		**5**		**6**	**7**
	Settlement to north	**Southern settlement**	**Northern settlement**	**Trackway SL8**	**Furrows**	**Overburden**
AE1 2nd C	-	-	2	-	1	-
AE1 1st-2nd C	-	-	-	-	-	1
AE1 1st-early 3rd C	-	-	-	1	-	-
AE2 4th C	-	-	-	2	-	1
AE2 copy 350-53	-	-	-	-	-	1
AE2 late 3rd-4th C	-	-	-	-	1	-
AE3	-	-	-	-	-	-
AE3 4th C 330-35	-	7	8	6	1	9
AE3 copy 4th C	-	3	-	1	1	4
AE4 4th C 347-48	-	1	-	1	-	-
AE4 4th-early 5th C	-	1	-	-	-	-
AE4 copy 300-400	-	1	-	-	-	-
AE4 copy 4th C	-	2	-	-	-	4
AE4 minim 4th C	-	1	-	-	2	6
AR fragment uncertain	-	-	-	-	-	1
AR unit mid 1st C BC	-	-	-	-	-	1
As 72-73	-	1	-	-	-	-
Barb. Radiate 3rd C	-	1	1	2	-	3
Denarius 2nd C	-	-	-	-	-	2
Denarius 2nd-early 3rd C	-	-	-	-	-	1
Denarius 3rd C	-	-	1	-	1	-
Denarius copy early 3rd C	-	-	-	-		1
Farthing 13th C	-	-	-	2	1	1
Farthing 14th C	-	-	-	-		2
Farthing token 1656	-	-	-	-	1	-
Halfpenny 13th C	-	-	-	-	3	3
Halfpenny 14th C	-	-	-	-	1	-
Jetton 14th C	-	-	-	-	1	-
Jetton 1553-84	-	-	-	-		1
Jetton 17th C	-	-	-	-	1	-
Penny 14th C	-	-	-	-	-	2
Potin mid-late 1st C BC	2	1	-	-	-	-
Radiate 3rd C	-	4	3	-	1	3
Siliqua 378-88	-	-	-	-	-	1
Threepence 1575	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	**2**	**23**	**15**	**15**	**17**	**49**

Table 12: Coins by Phase

3.6 Other artefacts

3.6.1 Introduction

As part of the assessment, each object was assigned a preliminary identification and functional category and was quantified by number and/or weight. This data was entered into the project database. All ironwork and selected non-ferrous objects were x-rayed by Dr Phil Parkes, Cardiff University. An assessment of the condition of the metalwork was carried out at the same time and required stabilisation and repackaging undertaken; this included stabilisation of a lead alloy cup and a shale bracelet. Preliminary identifications were up-dated in light of the information gained from the x-rays. Petrological identifications of worked stone were carried out by Dr. J Eyers.

A total of 1222 other artefacts were recovered from the six investigation areas; this figure includes 121 coins, jettons and tokens which are the subject of a separate report (Section 3.5). In addition, 1013g of ferrous slag, 757g of fuel ash slag and 232g of plaster were also found. Quantities of other artefacts by material type (including coins, jettons and tokens) and excavation area are presented in Table 13. This assemblage was recovered via hand-excavation, metal-detecting and environmental sampling; hand-excavation accounted for 88.46% of the assemblage, metal-detecting 10.56% and environmental sampling 0.98%.

Material	**Quantity**	**Weight (g)**	**Area 2**	**Area 3**	**Area 4**	**Area 5**	**Area 6**	**Area 7**
Silver	22	-	-	-	15	-	6	1
Copper alloy	167	-	-	28	92	-	31	16
Lead alloy	20	-	-	1	8	-	10	1
Iron	940	-	-	435	190	1	291	23
Bone/Antler	32	-	-	23	6	-	3	-
Ceramic	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Glass	11	-	-	-	4	1	5	1
Shale	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Stone	20	-	-	-	7	-	12	1
Flint	7	-	1	-	2	-	3	1
Sub-total	**1222**	**-**	**1**	**487**	**326**	**2**	**362**	**44**
Ferrous slag	-	1013	-	-	44	-	969	-
Fuel ash slag	-	757	-	-	219	-	428	110
Plaster	-	232	-	-	232	-	-	-

Table 13: Other artefacts by material type

The objects were assigned to one of eighteen categories, the majority of categories relating to the function the objects performed (e.g. building materials; crafts and industry etc.). Two categories (prehistoric flint and objects of uncertain identity) are not related to function (Table 14). Coins formed 71.4% of the copper alloy artefacts.

Finds category	Material	Broad term	Quantity	Weight
Building materials	Lead alloy	Window came	1	-
	Glass	Window glass	3	-
	Plaster	Wall plaster	-	232
Fasteners and fittings	Iron	Clamp	1	-
	Iron	Hinge	1	-
	Iron	Key	1	-
	Copper alloy	Staple	4	-
	Iron	Staple	8	-
	Copper alloy	Stud	1	-
	Iron	Nail	416	-
	Iron	Tack	3	-
	Copper alloy	Tack	1	-
Household	Glass	Bottle	2	-
	Lead alloy	Cup	1	-
	Glass	Vessel	5	-
	Copper alloy	Vessel	2	-
	Lead alloy	Vessel repair plug	2	-
	Iron	Lamp	5	-
	Iron	Lamp hanger	1	-
	Ceramic	Fuel ash slag	-	757
Crafts and industry	Bone	Bobbin	2	-
	Ceramic	Spindle whorl	1	-
	Lead alloy	Spindle whorl	2	-
	Stone	Spindle whorl	1	-
	Ceramic	Loom weight	1	-
	Copper alloy	Needle	1	-
	Bone	Needle	3	-
	Copper alloy	Thimble	1	-
	Copper alloy	Awl	1	-
	Iron	Gouge	1	-
	Copper alloy	Waste	3	67
	Lead alloy	Waste	2	25.6
	Slag	Ferrous slag	-	1013
Blades and sharpeners	Stone	Whetstone	3	-
Commerce	Silver	Coin	22	-
	Copper alloy	Coin	95	-
	Copper alloy	Token	1	-
	Copper alloy	Jetton	3	-
Measurement	Lead alloy	Weight	2	-
Written communication	Iron	Stylus	1	-
	Lead alloy	Seal matrix	1	-
Pastimes	Bone	Gaming piece	23	-
Transportation	Iron	Lynch pin	1	-
	Iron	Horseshoe	2	-
	Copper alloy	Spur	1	-
Subsistence	Stone	Millstone	3	-
	Stone	Quernstone	12	-
	Iron	Agricultural tool handle	1	-
	Lead alloy	Fishing weight	3	-
Military	Copper alloy	Apron mount	1	-
Dress	Iron	Hobnail	471	-
	Copper alloy	Buckle	4	-
	Lead alloy	Buckle	1	-
	Copper alloy	Strap mount	4	-
	Copper alloy	Strap end	7	-
	Bone	Hair pin	2	-
	Copper alloy	Hair pin	1	-

Finds category	Material	Broad term	Quantity	Weight
	Iron	Armring	1	-
	Copper alloy	Bracelet	6	-
	Shale	Bracelet	1	-
	Copper alloy	Brooch	12	-
	Copper alloy	Earring	1	-
	Copper alloy	Finger ring	4	-
	Copper alloy	Cuff link	1	-
Toilet, surgical or pharmaceutical	Copper alloy	Forceps	1	-
	Copper alloy	Mirror	1	-
Religion	Lead alloy	Religious token	1	-
Prehistoric	Flint	Core	2	-
	Flint	Flake	4	-
	Flint	Cutting flake	1	-
Multifunctional	Copper alloy	Ring	1	-
	Iron	Ring	1	-
Unidentified	Copper alloy	Fragment	1	-
	Lead alloy	Fragment	2	-
	Iron	Fragment	11	-
	Glass	Fragment	1	-
	Copper alloy	Uncertain	8	-
	Lead alloy	Uncertain	2	-
	Iron	Uncertain	14	-
	Bone	Uncertain	2	-
	Stone	Uncertain	1	-
Total			**1222**	**-**

Table 14: Other artefacts assemblage by functional category and material

3.6.2 Summary

A very limited assemblage of three pieces of worked flint may belong to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic period. A double-pointed copper alloy awl of Thomas' group 1a (1968) is typologically dated to the early Bronze Age (Thomas 1968, 23–3).

The Iron Age is represented by a perforated bone toggle/fastener/wristguard made from a large mammal's rib. Other finds of Iron Age date include a bun-shaped quern of Barnack stone. Also possibly dating to the Iron Age are two bone bobbins. A spindle whorl of Totternhoe stone could be either Iron Age or Roman in date, the diameter of the central perforation appropriate for use with the more slender spindles of these periods.

The late Iron Age is represented by a cast copper alloy 'knobbed' bracelet. Also assigned to this transitional late Iron Age-early Romano-British period is a possible Rosette brooch represented by a perforated *repousse* disc, a tankard clip and an enamelled(?) stud.

The early Roman period is well represented amongst the typologically dated assemblage. It comprises seven brooches, a mirror fragment (most likely dating to the 1st century) and a copper alloy snake bracelet with a head on both terminals which was popular during the 1st and 2nd centuries. Fragments of lava quern and blue-green glass, including a square bottle and a tubular base ring, were also in use in this period. An enamelled, lozenge-shaped and

stepped brooch appears to be a continental import of 2nd-century date. The 3rd century is represented by four finger rings, two bangle bracelets and a penannular brooch.

Following the Roman period, there is a hiatus in other artefacts from the investigation area until the medieval period. The majority of this assemblage comprised dress fittings. These appear to date to the late 12th/13th century, continuing into the 15th/16th century. There were also indications of a domestic dwelling in the vicinity, but not within the DA, in the form of a piece of lead window came, vessel legs from cast copper alloy vessels, a thimble and a rotating door key. A fragment of a rowel spur was also found.

3.6.3 Analytical potential

The other artefact assemblage has no potential to address research objectives for the middle to late Bronze Age and the medieval/post-medieval periods.

The early to middle Iron Age assemblage does have some potential to contribute to understanding the economic framework of the two settlements SL3 and SL18, although this is limited in quantity, perhaps due to the fact that much of SL3 and adjacent SL4 continued eastward, beyond the limit of excavation. Evidence was recovered for textile processing in SL3, textile working in SL3 and SL18, bone-working in SL3 and SL18 and a hint of iron working in SL3. All of these activities were at a craft-level, suggesting the items manufactured were for the immediate needs of the household.

The other artefact assemblage in combination with the ceramic assemblage does have moderate potential to assist in refining the early to middle Iron Age phasing, and hence contribute to refining the chronological framework for these settlements. Intrusive late Iron Age and Roman period activity was noted within L54 and L56 of SL18 and this presumably originated from subsequent Phase 5 enclosures of SL21.

The assemblage from Phase 5 (Romano-British) holds the greatest potential to contribute to several research objectives, including the origin and development of the two settlements. There are hints in the other artefact assemblage that at least some of the enclosures in system SL5 of the southern settlement may have been established in the very late Iron Age, as evidenced by the knobbed bracelet from enclosure L14 and a tankard clip and an enamelled stud from enclosure L16. In contrast, the other artefact assemblage from the northern settlement suggests that it was a post-Conquest establishment.

A combined study of the ceramics and other artefacts from the two main enclosure systems (SL5 and SL11) of the southern settlement has moderate potential to examine the chronological development of the southern settlement. It also has moderate potential to confirm or refute the current allocation of domestic versus non-domestic use to the respective enclosures.

The assemblages from the enclosure ditches, internal features and adjacent external features of both settlements have low to moderate potential to shed some light on the activities taking place within the various enclosures.

A study of the components of the individual inhumation burials within cemeteries L19, L20 and L72, which were established at the periphery of the southern settlement — e.g. the presence or absence of coffins, if grave goods accompanied the burials or not, the range of grave goods selected for inclusion combined with the gender and age of the deceased etc. — has good potential to contribute to understanding the burial practices and associated religious rituals within the Romano-British period (Going 1997, 40). Comparisons with other rural burials in the county and the wider region will enhance this knowledge.

Combining the enclosure assemblage with the burial assemblage provides a more rounded picture of the inhabitants; the inclusion of coffins and/or grave goods in some burials suggests residents of differing social status/wealth were present.

Overall the other artefacts from the two settlements, including the burial assemblages, suggests a probably agriculturally-focused, moderate-income rural settlement, at least some of the residents of which had access to, and could afford, both functional and non-essential traded goods. Combining these findings with the other aspects of the material culture and environmental evidence has good potential to establish an overall profile of the settlements which can be compared to other excavated rural settlements in the county.

3.7 Animal bone

3.7.1 Introduction

Animal bones were retrieved from 421 contexts, and the assemblages from each context were assigned to one of five preservation grades (Table 15). Altogether more than 3000 animal bone fragments were collected (Table 16).

Only 11 of these were from deposits assigned to Phase 3 (middle-late Bronze Age). Phase 4 deposits (early-middle Iron Age) provided over 1000 fragments, of which just under half are identifiable. Romano-British features (Phase 5) produced the largest assemblage of nearly 2000 fragments. Only 26 fragments came from medieval (Phase 6) contexts. A sheep/goat tooth was the only element recorded from post-medieval contexts (Phase 7).

Phase	Very Good	Quite Good	Moderate	Quite Poor	Very Poor	Total
3	-	-	1	5	1	7
4	1	38	50	19	3	111
5	-	55	158	64	20	297
6	-	1	1	2	1	5
7	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	**1**	**94**	**211**	**90**	**25**	**421**

Table 15: Animal bone preservation by phase

3.7.2 Summary

Assessment of the animal bone assemblage already allows several insights into the exploitation of animals in the Iron Age and Roman periods. In both periods the inhabitants of the settlements relied mainly on beef for their meat supply, although they may have slaughtered more sheep than cattle, particularly in the Iron Age. There was little reliance on pork and no clear evidence that horsemeat was eaten, despite the relatively high frequency of horse bones found. Other species such as chicken, duck, roe deer, red deer and hare were eaten, at best, only very occasionally. There was no evidence for the consumption of fish or eggs.

There was little evidence of specialist butchery taking place within the settlements as has been identified on other rural Roman settlements, but some shoulders of beef and pork could have been imported and there is some evidence that small-scale antler and bone-working took place on some of the settlements. Some of the wild birds may have been hunted for their feathers.

In addition to meat, many of the cattle on the Roman settlements in particular were probably exploited for traction and other work. Horses too were mainly, if not entirely, employed as working animals. Some sheep (particularly in the Roman period) were kept to an age when they will have supplied several fleeces of wool prior to slaughter. There is some evidence for the importation of new breeds (and/or the improvement in existing stock) in the Roman period, particularly with regard to the presence of some larger cattle and sheep and the appearance of miniature types of dog.

The excavations revealed interesting contrasts between the animal bone assemblages found in the cemeteries compared with those other parts of the settlements. Most of the roe deer and bird bones came from grave contexts, and these included several associated bone groups (ABG). One inhumation was accompanied by a piglet that was also afforded special burial. The presence of these rare species in association with several of these burials shows they had significance that transcended their normal contribution to the diet.

	Phase				
	3	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
Mammal species					
Cattle	3	256	506	4	0
Sheep/Goat	0	172	197	7	1
Pig	0	33	95	1	0
Horse	0	29	142	0	0
Dog	0	51	33	2	0
Other	0	2	17	0	0
Total	*3*	*543*	*990*	*14*	*1*
Unidentified					
Mammal	8	654	734	12	0
Bird	0	1	47	0	0
Total	*8*	*655*	*781*	*12*	*0*

Table 16: Animal bone species number estimates by phase

3.7.3 Analytical potential

The majority of the animal bone assemblage comes from features from Phase 4 (early-middle Iron Age) and Phase 5 (Romano-British). Animal bone fragments from the other phases were too few and too poorly preserved to allow any conclusions to be drawn, apart from a basic species identification.

The assemblage from Phases 4 and 5 has good potential for analysis. The number and good preservation of the bones will allow good identification of species, age and butchery methods and thus will allow insights into the exploitation of animals in the Iron Age and Roman periods in terms of animal husbandry and diet.

There are also interesting contrasts between the animal bone assemblages from the cemeteries compared with those from settlement and peripheral features. The presence of roe deer and bird bones as well as a piglet burial in those contexts indicate that those animals may have had a significance that transcended their normal contribution to the diet.

3.8 Human bone

3.8.1 Introduction

The investigations recovered the remains of 84 individuals from inhumations (all Roman) and 17 from cremation burials. In excess of 1.5kg of disarticulated bone was also recovered from eleven contexts including ditches, a water pit and a roundhouse gully.

Certain bones from small samples have been united with the skeletons they clearly belong to, while additional individuals, usually represented by only a bone or two, have been identified with some skeletons. When all samples are included, the total number of individuals is 99.

Condition varies from excellent in cemetery L72 to highly variable in the other cemeteries and isolated burials in the southern settlement and very poor in the northern settlement.

3.8.2 Inhumations summary

All inhumations were Roman period in date. A total of 48 individuals were present within cemetery L72, 27 individuals in cemeteries L19, L20 and as isolated burials within the southern settlement, and 9 individuals in the northern settlement. The number of individuals allowed assessment of significance in demography and pathology patterns. Preservation varies, however, which reduces the value of comparisons between areas.

The population profile is not unexpected for a Romano-British population, peaking in the 25–35-year-olds. Several individuals were aged '45+', but one individual was aged between the 60s and 80s. There are almost equal numbers of males and females and the people are the usual height and build for Romano-British people, with quite marked sexual dimorphism.

Immature individuals are nearly one-fifth of the buried population. These range from one-year-olds to those on the brink of adulthood. No foetuses or newborns were present and there are few infants, but this is common in ancient cemetery material and differential disposal is the favoured explanation.

Pathological changes were extremely numerous, on average more than three different disorders per person. The groups had significant differences in the prevalence of both overall and specific pathologies, with twice as many pathologies per person in cemetery L72 than in the others. Overall there is a great deal of trauma, including some severe fractures — all accidental except for one head wound caused by a weapon — non-spinal osteoarthritis, changes due to stress on muscle attachments (enthesopathies) and habitual activities. Some disorders are as yet undiagnosed but it should be possible to identify them during the analysis stage.

This population has several instances of indicators of parity: changes that show that a pregnancy had progressed into the later months. This is relatively rare in ancient populations. Conversely, indicators on the skeleton of dietary stress are not high, suggesting that living conditions and activities might have been physically demanding but background nutrition was at least adequate.

There are three examples of decapitations. Whether they were peri-mortem or early post-mortem will be determined during analysis, but the latter seems to be more likely.

An initial assessment of age and sex is given in Table 17 below.

	F	M	N/D
neonate			
infant			
child			
adolescent			
adolescent/adult	1	0	0
adult 1: 17–25	3	4	1
adult 2: 25–35	7	6	2
adult 3: 35–45	2	5	1
adult 4: 45+	3	3	1
adult age n/d	7	12	26
TOTAL	23	30	31

Table 17: Demography of the Romano-British inhumations

3.8.3 Cremation burials summary

A total of seventeen cremation burials were identified. nine have been assigned to the middle-late Bronze Age (Phase 3) and eight to the Romano-British period (Phase 5). All except three occurred within one of the cremation cemeteries: L2 (Phase 3) and L28 (Phase 5). Age indicators suggest there was a mix of adult and immature individuals and three could be

identified as male or female. All were well-burnt, except for the cremated bone deposit in the grave assigned to L2 (Phase 3, SL1) that contained a large piece of femur still of an unburnt texture. The cremation burials are summarised below in Table 18.

Phase	SL	L	Total weight (g)	Urned?	Grave goods / significant other finds
3	1	2	286	-	-
			128	-	-
			40	-	-
			104	-	-
			53	-	-
			7	-	-
			412	Y	-
			296	Y	-
	2	6	93	-	-
5	28	1	48	-	Flint flake
			133	-	Possible cinerary box or casket; 5 nails; 148g fired clay
			7	-	1 hobnail (RA4271)
			-	-	-
			27	-	-
			-	Y	-
	12	39	446	Y	Possible cinerary box or casket; 2 nails (RA4095)
	21	66	915	-	-

Table 18: Cremation burial summary

3.8.4 Analytical potential

Preservation of the human bone assemblage, and thus potential for analysis varies, from excellent (L72) to variable (L19, L20 and isolated burials) and poor (northern settlement). However, most of the cremated bone was low weight and will therefore limit the potential for analysis.

The material from cemetery L72 has excellent potential for analysis. Overall, pathologies are numerous, and there are double the number of pathologies than in skeletons from elsewhere in the investigation. This provides excellent potential for analysis and for comparison within the different graves of this cemetery and between the cemeteries. Material from cemeteries L19, L20 and isolated burials have a moderate to good potential due to its varied preservation. The material from the northern settlement is small, only 11 adults and one adolescent, which will limit its analytical potential.

3.9 Charred plant remains

3.9.1 Introduction

Bulk soil samples were systematically collected for the recovery of charred plant remains for potential information on the agrarian economy of the site, specifically crop husbandry and processing activities. The recovery of samples from across the excavation areas also provided an opportunity to

investigate the nature and spatial distribution of different activities within the identified settlements including possible areas of storage, crop-processing, food preparation and waste disposal. Samples were taken from the middle-late Bronze Age to the Roman period, allowing an examination of potential changes in crop husbandry and settlement activity over time.

A total of 131 environmental bulk soil samples were collected and 119 selected for processing for the recovery of botanical remains. The bulk of the samples were from grave fills (49 samples) and ditch and pit fills (38 and 22 samples respectively) while eight samples were collected from the fills of wells/water pits. Most of the samples were from the middle to late Bronze Age (Phase 3) (40 samples), early-middle Iron Age (30 samples) and Roman periods (Phase 5) (60 samples). The other 19 samples were from features dating to the Iron Age period (Phase 4).

Individual sample size ranged from 2l to 60l although the majority were between 10l and 30l. The samples were part or completely processed using a Siraf-style type flotation tank with mesh sizes of 0.25mm and 0.5mm for the recovery of the flot and residue respectively. Smaller 1l sub-samples were processed from eight potential organic fills for the presence of 'waterlogged' plant remains.

3.9.2 Summary

An initial scan of the flots showed that 67 of the 119 samples produced variable amounts of identifiable charred plant remains with the bulk of the botanical material being recovered from 42 samples associated with the Roman settlements.

There was significantly less material in the Bronze Age (ten productive samples) and Iron Age phases (fifteen productive samples). Rich 'waterlogged' plant assemblages were present in the eight organic fills from Roman samples on the basis of which further soil from each of these samples (up to 10L) was processed to increase species diversity.

The flots were scanned and the number of potentially quantifiable charred plant remains estimated and recorded, except for charcoal, nut shell, cereal fragments (smaller than 2mm), cereal awns and stem/straw fragments, the frequencies for which were estimated on the basis of the following scale: + = <5 items; ++ = 5-25 items; +++ = 26-100 items; ++++ = 101-300 items; +++++ = >300 items (Table 19). The same scale was used to estimate the frequency of the 'waterlogged' remains which were recorded without extraction unless not readily identifiable.

Charred plant remains were recovered from just over half of the samples and consisted largely of cereal grains, which accounted for almost three-quarters of the quantified remains, while the rest of the material consisted of almost equal amounts of chaff, largely from hulled (spelt) wheat, and wild plant/weed seeds. The bulk of the cereal remains were recovered from Roman features with significantly less material from the middle-late Bronze Age and early-

middle Iron Age settlement phases, which limits comparisons between periods.

The Roman samples showed spelt wheat and, to a lesser extent, hulled barley to be the main cereals with only small amounts of emmer and free-threshing wheat grains. There were also residues of potentially gathered wild fruits in the Roman samples.

The small amounts of Bronze Age charred plant remains were virtually all from cremation burials L2associated with SL1 (non-domestic enclosure) with traces of material also from the single cremation burial within SL2. It is not possible to establish if the few grains in these samples derive from food debris associated with the cremations and/or simply scatters of consumption debris from domestic activities being carried out elsewhere.

The richer Roman samples were largely from ditch, pit and well/water pit fills distributed across the southern settlement (SL5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13); and settlement to the north (SL21, 22 and 24).

SL	L	Sample	Flot vol (ml)	Estimated charred plant quantity	Comments
1	2	4015	4	+	-
		4018	2	+	-
		4023	1	0	-
		4020	12	+	-
		4019	2	+	-
		4021	44	++	Mostly *arrhenatherum elatius* (L.) False oat-grass tubers
		4022	28	+	-
		4026	3	+	-
	21	4067	3	+	-
2	6	2003	2	+	-
3	7	4049	1	++	Indet. Cereal grains
		4048	3	++	-
		4025	30	++	Grains: emmer, spelt, Triticum, H. vulgare
	9	4031	46	++	Grains: *H. vulgare*, mostly indet. cereal
		4035	5	+++	Grains: *H. vulgare L.*, indet. Cereal, large grass seeds
	10	4036	8	+++	Grains: *H. vulgare L*, indet. cereal
		4038	34	++	-
		4037	3	++	Indet. cereal
4	11	4042	2	++	-
18	52	6027	1	+	-
	54	6021	<1	+	-
		6020	2	++	Indet. Cereal, large grass seeds, cf. *Bromus* spp.
		6019	2	+++	-

SL	L	Sample	Flot vol (ml)	Estimated charred plant quantity	Comments
19	57	6014	5	+++	Indet. Cereal, large grass seeds
		6015	1	+	-
5	13	4030	1	+	-
	14	4041	13	++++	*Grains*: T. dicoccum/spelta, *Triticum sp* (p), indet. Cereal, weed seeds: *Anthemis cotula L., Bromus sp (p),* large grass seeds
		4070	2	++	-
6	18	4043	5	++	-
9	26	3003	<1	+	-
10	27	3002	<1	+	-
		3001	1	+	-
11	30	4074*	16	+++	Grains: T. dicoccum/spelta, indet. Cereal, T.spelta L. chaff, Hordeum spp.
		4072*	190	+++++	Grains: *T. spelta* spiklets, *spelt, T. dicoccum/spelta*, *Triticum sp* (p), *Hordeum vulgare* L. hulled twisted and straight, indet. Cereal. chaff: T. spelta rachis and glume bases, Triticum sp (p), *Hordeum spp*. weed seeds: *Vicia/Lathyrus sp (p), Bromus*, large and small weeds
		4029	2	+	-
		4040	1	+	-
	31	4068*	85	+	-
		4050	5	+	-
	32	4071*	71	++	T. spelta L glume bases
	34	4039	33	+++	*Grains:* T. dicoccum/spelta, Triticum sp 9p), indet. cereal
		4034	3	++	-
		4033	5	++	-
	36	4032	3	+	-
	38	4028	4	++	-
12	40	4073*	3	+	-
13	41	4045	2	+	-
21	60	7002	2	+	-
	62	6023	2	++	-
	63	6026	1	+	-
	64	6012*	199	++	-
	65	6001	13	+++++	Grains: T.dicoccum/spelta, Triticum sp (p), cf. Triticum sp (p), indet cereal.
	66	6010	43	+	-
		6024	2	++	-
	67	6022	3	+	-
	68	6016	2	++	-

SL	L	Sample	Flot vol (ml)	Estimated charred plant quantity	Comments
22	76	6018	1	+	-
24	79	6003	52	+++	Indet cereal grains
		6005	95	++++	Rumex sp (p), Medicago/Trifoilum sp (p), Anthemis cotula L.
	80	7001*	35	++++	Chaff: T. spelta L. glume bases, Triticum sp (p) glume bases,
	89	6013*	59	+	-
28	1	4054	1	+	-
		4058	1	+	-
		4060	1	+	-
		4063	12	+	-
		4065	1	+	-
		4066	1	+	-
		4064	21	++	Grains: Indet. Cereal, H. vulgare

Key: indet = indeterminate, * = waterlogged plant remains present

Table 19: Charred plant remains summary by SL, L and sample

3.9.3 Analytical potential

The samples have good potential to investigate the nature and spatial distribution of different activities within the settlements including possible areas of storage, crop-processing, food preparation and waste disposal. The waterlogged samples also have good potential for information on the wider natural environment and its exploitation. The majority of the samples with good potential derived from Iron Age and Roman deposits, with less charred material being present in the middle-late Bronze Age deposits. Despite this the samples will provide an opportunity to contrast two nearby settlements and contribute to an understanding for potential changes in crop husbandry and settlement activity over time.

3.10 Radiocarbon determinations

A total of five samples of cremated human bone were successfully subject to accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) dating (Table 20). All samples were given a SUERC radiocarbon laboratory number (SUERC) on the successful achievement of a determination. All have been issued with a dating certificate which forms part of the site archive.

The samples were chosen from cremation burials that were not securely dated i.e. if they were either unurned or isolated. One sample (SUERC 54856) was from an urned cremation burial where the pottery fabric could only be broadly dated to the prehistoric period.

The radiocarbon dates range from 1452-1278 cal BC (SUERC 54856) to 20-214 cal AD (SUERC 54861).

SUERC no.	P	SL	L	Description	Radiocarbon Age (BP)	BP range + or -	Earliest calibrated date*	Latest calibrated date*
54855	3	1	2	Un-urned cremation burial within cemetery	3100	36	1436 cal BC	1266 cal BC
54856				Urned cremation burial within cemetery	3114	36	1452 cal BC**	1278 cal BC**
54854		2	6	Isolated un-urned cremation burial	2906	36	1216 cal BC	999 cal BC
54860	5	28	1	Un-urned cremation burial within cemetery	1864	36	cal AD 71	cal AD 236
54861				Un-urned cremation burial within cemetery	1909	36	cal AD 20	cal AD 214

Key: P = Phase, SL = Site landscape, L = Landuse Area
* 95.4% probability, ** 94.6% probability

Table 20: Radiocarbon determinations from selected cremation burials

3.10.4 Analytical potential

The majority of features within the investigation are securely dated by artefactual and/or stratigraphic evidence. Where this was not the case, mainly the cremation burials, and where suitable burnt material was available they have already been the subject of radiocarbon dating. Furthermore, one of the three main phases of the site falls within the early to middle Iron Age, a period difficult for radiocarbon dating due to a plateau in the calibration curve (Bowman 1990). There is therefore no potential for any further radiocarbon dating.

4. DISCUSSION OF MAJOR THEMES FOR ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

The original generic and site-specific aims and objectives and research themes for analysis were presented in the Project Design (Albion 2012) and are listed in Section 1.5. In the light of the nature of the evidence and the potential of the contextual and artefactual material to address the original research aims, a number of updated themes for analysis have been identified.

The research themes are based on objectives taken from the local and regional research frameworks (Medlycott 2011) and are discussed under the following headings:

1. Establishment of a chronological framework
2. Continuity and discontinuity in the landscape
3. The nature of settlements
4. The nature of activity away from settlements
5. Beliefs and practices
6. The settlements' socio-economic basis
7. Society and status of settlements
8. The wider environment
9. Review investigation strategy including evaluation

The investigations have produced evidence for a landscape utilised from the middle Bronze Age to the present day. The types of human activity have varied both chronologically and spatially. This activity will be examined both within single chronological periods and as cross-period themes. The latter will ensure that any continuity and discontinuity in the landscape will be explicitly considered.

4.2 Establishment of a chronological framework

This document demonstrates that it has been possible to establish a chronological framework by assigning all significant features/deposits to chronological periods. This was achieved primarily through the examination of artefact typology and stratigraphic sequence. Revision and refinement of this framework incorporating the results of the assessment of all data-sets is fundamental to the successful conclusion of the project and will underpin the future analysis of all data-sets.

4.2.1 Statement of potential

Due to the artefactual dating and stratigraphic evidence there is excellent potential to address this issue.

4.3 Continuity and discontinuity in the landscape

The investigations have produced evidence for seven chronological periods. The latter can usefully characterise activity at a particular point in time and, thereby, highlight discontinuity. Conversely, they can also hinder an

appreciation of continuity in the landscape. The transition from one chronological period to the next is a common theme in regional research frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011). Continuity, discontinuity and transition from one period to the next are therefore major research themes and are discussed briefly below.

4.3.1 Middle-late Bronze Age

The small pits and postholes in Area 2 and Area 4 as well as the cremation cemetery on Area 4, are the only evidence for occupation during this period. A small number of the pits contained pottery, flint and charred plant remains. Two of the cremation burials were contained in urns but no grave goods were present.

The absence of buildings/structures, storage facilities and fields within the DA suggests a general pattern of short-term, shifting settlement typical of the middle Bronze Age. This may indicate that the earlier transient lifestyle continued, at least during the middle Bronze Age, and was not necessarily replaced by one based around settled agriculture (Bradley 1986, 39). However, an increase in settlement density towards the later part of the Bronze Age has been noted in the region, for example at The Hutchison Site, Addenbrooke's (Evans et al. 2008, 23–139, fig. 2.6) and within 'The North-West Cambridge Project' (Evans and Newman 2010) immediately to the west of the DA.

4.3.2 Early-middle Iron Age

Two early-middle Iron Age settlements were identified within the DA, spaced *c*. 500m apart. One of these (SL3/4) was established near an area previously occupied during the middle-late Bronze Age (SL1). Here continuity in the alignment of boundaries has been noted, although there was no evidence to suggest that the Bronze Age ditches themselves were utilised in the later period.

The transition between Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement in the region is poorly understood (Medlycott 2011), although in general similar settlement locations were chosen in both periods, notably on lighter soils and river valleys (Bryant 1997, 23–26). The evidence from the DA demonstrates both a degree of continuity and discontinuity.

4.3.3 Romano-British

The typical pattern for the region is one of continuity, with very few Romano-British settlements being established in previously unoccupied areas (Evans et al. 2008 191).

At NIAB the southern Romano-British settlement originated in the early-middle Iron Age with no obvious break in occupation and extensively reused the existing boundaries. Further evidence of continuity from the Iron Age is highlighted by the recovery of several artefacts, such as a knobbed bracelet and a tankard clip.

The Romano-British settlement to the north was also established in an area of early-middle Iron Age settlement. However, although its layout followed that of the earlier boundaries none appear to have continued in use. In addition, the apparent absence of late Iron Age pottery implies a hiatus in activity during the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

4.3.4 Statement of potential

There is excellent all-round potential to elucidate the issues of continuity and discontinuity in the development of the Iron Age and Roman landscape.

4.4 Determine the nature of settlements

Settlements representing three periods from the middle Bronze Age to the Romano-British period have been identified within the investigation area. The nature of the evidence for these varies by chronological period.

4.4.1 Origins, development and mobility over time

The origins and continuity of settlement sites from earlier periods has been discussed above.

The evidence for settlement during the middle-late Bronze Age principally comprises small pits and postholes. These occur both individually and as a cluster. There is an ongoing discussion, which the evidence from the investigations will be able to contribute to, over whether they represent permanent settlements or sites that were repeatedly occupied for relatively short periods of time by an essentially mobile population (Thomas 1999; Garrow et al. 2005).

4.4.2 Layout and function

The characterisation of each settlement is essential to facilitate comparison with contemporary settlements within the DA and on other sites. This will involve study of the artefactual and ecofactual evidence, but also of settlement layout and organisation. The morphology of the settlements appears to be quite distinct within different chronological periods. There is a contrast, for example, between the dispersed and low density middle-late Bronze Age settlements and the early-middle Iron Age settlement that comprised enclosures, structures, pits and postholes. The Romano-British settlements are different again and comprised a series of rectangular enclosures and trackways. The different settlement 'types' will contribute to a number of current research areas.

- *Middle-late Bronze Age* – Examination of inter-relationships between settlements, together with a variation and changes in settlement types is a research aim highlighted in the regional research framework (Medlycott 2011, 20). Therefore, the cremation cemetery, enclosure and settlement activity evidence within the DA are of particular importance. While there is less data they may still be compared to similarly dated settlements known elsewhere in the county, e.g. The Hutchison Site, Addenbrooke's (Evans et

al. 2008, 23-139) and more relevant 'The North-West Cambridge Project' sites to the west (Evans et al. 2010).

- E*arly/middle Iron Age* – layout, role and function as well as the relationship of Iron Age settlements with their hinterland, topography, communication routes etc., is a research aim highlighted in the regional research framework (Medlycott 2011, 31). Therefore, the enclosed and unenclosed settlement evidence from the DA is of particular importance. It can be compared to similar settlements known elsewhere locally e.g. HMP Littlehey, Cambs (Brown 2011, 137–150) and nationally, e.g. Heathrow Perry Oaks (Lewis et al. 2006, 114) and Heslerton (Powesland 1996).

- *Romano-British* – A large number of Roman rural sites have been excavated in the region, which has highlighted the range that existed (Medlycott 2011, 47). Comparison of the two settlements and the possible temple complex within the DA will contribute to an understanding of layout and function. While they are 500m apart and linked by a trackway, they clearly differ in size, layout and probably function. The settlements can be compared to other rural sites in the county, such as those excavated within 'The North-West Cambridge Project' (Evans et al. in prep A and B), Vicar's Farm (Lucas 2001), Love's Farm (Hinman forthcoming), Caxton-Hardwick (Abrams and Ingham 2008) and within the region, e.g. Marsh Leys Farm (Luke and Preece 2011) and Biddenham Loop, Beds. (Luke 2008 and Luke forthcoming).

4.4.3 Statement of potential

There is excellent all-round potential to elucidate the issues of the nature of the Iron Age and Roman settlements. The evidence for the middle-late Bronze Age is less substantial but will still be able to contribute to this research objective.

4.5 Determine the nature of activity away from settlements

Prior to the advent of large-scale open-area excavation, much archaeological investigation was concentrated on settlements, so that little information about the wider landscape was available. The investigation of a middle-late Bronze Age enclosed cremation cemetery and domestic activity therefore provides a valuable addition to the current poor knowledge of activity within the rural landscape in the region (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19).

The investigations have also revealed evidence for the use of the space in-between and around the edges of the northern and southern Iron Age and Romano-British settlements. This provides a picture of the nature of activity away from the settlement cores.

The ecofactual and artefactual datasets can also inform our understanding of how the surrounding landscape was utilised and organised. Information such as cereal cultivation, woodland management and road networks linking settlements and urban centres can be gleamed from the evidence.

4.5.1 Statement of potential

The evidence from the investigations has good potential to contribute to this issue.

4.6 Beliefs and practices

An insight into the beliefs and practices of past peoples is provided by their monuments, treatment of the dead and evidence for 'structured deposits'.

4.6.1 Burials

The investigations have revealed evidence of human burials dated to the middle Bronze Age and Romano-British periods as well as disarticulated human remains that occurred in early-middle Iron Age deposits.

Both regionally and nationally burial evidence from the Bronze Age is rare. So the discovery of the cremation cemetery of this period will be of particular interest.

Less rare, but still little understood, is burial within the Romano-British period. Going has argued that any new discoveries, especially from rural contexts, will make a valid contribution to our understanding of burial practices and associated religious rituals within this period (Going 1997, 40). A total of 84 individuals from inhumations and 8 individuals from cremation burials were identified, with the majority of these occurring within one of four identified cemeteries. Of the dozen isolated burials most occurred towards the rear of 'ladder' enclosures in the northern settlement.

The form and layout of the cemeteries, the identification of burial practices within the cemeteries and isolated burials has moderate potential to explore the possible reasons for differences in burial rites on site and within the wider region, and ask if the changes were a chronological trend or a reflection of differing status or populations.

A study of the components of the individual inhumation burials — e.g. the presence or absence of coffins, if grave goods accompanied the burials or not, the range of grave goods selected for inclusion combined with the gender and age of the deceased — has good potential to contribute to understanding of the burial practices and associated religious rituals within the Romano-British period (Going 1997, 40). Comparisons with other rural burials in the county and the wider region will enhance this knowledge.

Two decapitated burials were identified within cemetery L72 in the southern Romano-British settlement. Evidence for burial practices such as these is becoming increasingly common in Romano-British cemeteries, especially in rural contexts. These examples will contribute to an understanding of different burial practices.

The regional research framework emphasises the need for a synthesis of Roman cemeteries and burial practices within the region and the data from the NIAB excavations will add to the available data for this period.

4.6.2 'Structured' deposits

It has long been recognised in Iron Age studies that certain deposits may be associated with ritual activity rather than representing random dumps of rubbish (Hill 1995), but more recently Fulford has noted that 'in the case of Roman Britain there has also been a growing awareness of diversity in expressions of ritual behaviour as evidenced in the archaeological record' (2001, 199). The assessment has identified a number of possible 'structured' deposits with unusually large quantities of animal bone or pottery and smaller quantities of disarticulated human bone occurring within pits and ditches. These will require more detailed examination when the material is quantified but some of these are likely to be interpreted as 'structured' deposits. It will then be interesting to compare those of Iron Age date with those of Roman date.

4.6.3 'Temple' complex

The excavation of a possible 'temple' complex SL25 adjacent to the northern settlement adds another example to the known sites of this type within the region (Going 1997, 40). The layout of L86/87 is suggestive of a 'temple' but when compared to more convincing examples elsewhere in Roman Britain it is considerably larger (Woodward1992, fig. 29). However, a very similar arrangement with a double-ditched rectilinear enclosure set within an open space adjacent to enclosure systems is known at Bullock's Haste, Cottenham, Cambs., *c*. 7km to the north (Evans and Hodder 2006, fig. 7.47). This site was destroyed by quarrying without excavation and, unlike SL25, is believed to have produced a wealth of metalwork and cult figurines (Evans and Hodder 2006, 410).

The identification of Roman religious and temple sites is a research aim in the regional research framework (Medlycott 2011, 56).

4.6.4 Statement of potential

The evidence for human burial, 'structured' deposits and a 'temple' complex means the data-sets have an excellent potential to contribute to research objectives associated with beliefs and practices.

4.7 Establish the settlements' socio-economic basis

The charred plant and animal bone assemblages will provide basic data on crop and animal husbandry for most of the settlements. The artefact data-set has the potential to contribute to an understanding of craft and subsistence-based activities within the settlements.

4.7.1 Plant remains

The recovery of samples from across the excavation areas will provide an opportunity to investigate the nature and spatial distribution of different

activities within the settlements and adjacent land including possible areas of storage, crop-processing, food preparation and waste disposal. Samples from the middle-late Bronze Age to the Roman period will allow an examination of potential changes in crop husbandry and settlement activity over time.

4.7.2 Faunal remains

The animal bone survives in good condition and the assessment indicated that key attributes — e.g. evidence for disease, butchery marks etc. — can be determined. Animal bone species will also provide a valuable indicator of the pastoral economy of the different settlements. The age data from the faunal assemblage will provide evidence regarding local breeding, plus the priority given to the production of meat, as opposed to secondary products. The overall age study will suggest which products were the most important within specific periods and settlements. The greater proportion of cattle may be related to the local terrain. Work done on Iron Age animal bone assemblages from sites in the Thames valley (Wilson et al. 1978, 136) strongly suggests a link between cattle quantities and the availability of water and, therefore, of suitable pasture.

4.7.3 Artefacts

The other artefact assemblage has no potential to address the socio-economic basis of activity dated to the middle to late Bronze Age. An early Bronze Age awl was found and does suggest some sporadic activity in the area prior to the late Bronze Age, but the circumstances of its recovery, from Roman period quarry pits in SL9, precludes any examination of the nature or extent of that activity.

The early-middle Iron Age assemblage does have some potential to contribute to understanding of the economic framework of the two settlements, although this is limited in quantity, perhaps due to the fact that the majority of the southern settlement lay beyond the limit of excavation. Evidence was recovered for textile processing/working and bone-working in both settlements, while there was a hint of iron working in the southern settlement. All of these activities were at a craft-level, suggesting the items manufactured were for immediate household needs. In addition, the presence of a quern stone suggests household-based crop processing.

In the Romano-British phase evidence for crafts was limited. Woodworking is suggested by the solid hafted iron gouge found in the southern settlement, while nearly 1kg of ferrous slag found in a single deposit within the northern settlement hints at one possible episode of smelting.

These items probably indicate that small-scale crafts were undertaken on an occasional basis to meet the needs of the community. A similar situation can be surmised from the hints of small-scale textile processing with a bobbin recovered from the southern settlement, and two spindle whorls from the northern settlement.

The bobbin is of a form current in the Iron Age and only occasionally found in early Roman phases. Sewing is indicated by a copper alloy needle found within trackway SL8. Although some textile processing may have occurred in the early years of the Roman-period settlement, it is likely that the bulk of textiles would have been purchased during the later Roman period.

A number of querns were recovered from the settlements, which suggest household-based crop processing. The presence of three millstones suggests processing on a larger scale, perhaps for local markets. A reaping/pruning hook, ox goad and possible 'spud' have also been identified and may be associated with agricultural activity or at least the transport of crops.

4.7.4 Statement of potential

The animal bone and charred plant remains data-sets will contribute to an understanding of the socio-economic basis of each phase of activity and will allow comparisons to be made between periods. The other artefact data-set is unlikely to contribute to an understanding of the economic basis of the mid-late Bronze Age activity, but the number and range of identified objects recovered from Iron Age and Romano-British deposits has good potential to inform this research theme.

4.8 Society

Some evidence for the 'status' of the occupants of the Iron Age and Romano-British settlements can be derived from the structural, artefactual and ecofactual data-sets. However, such evidence is never particularly clear-cut and cannot be directly equated with a particular type of rural settlement (Taylor 2001, 50; Hingley 1989, 159–61). To some extent, the evidence for 'status' of the Romano-British settlements is inextricably linked to the occupants' adoption of Roman culture and this may not necessarily be directly linked to their 'status'.

4.8.1 Artefacts

The assemblage of artefacts from the Romano-British settlements holds the greatest potential to contribute to an understanding of society. They indicate that residents had access to and the ability to purchase traded goods. This is evidenced not only by the recovery of coinage, but also by imported querns of lava and Millstone Grit, glass prismatic bottles and a vessel, and items of personal adornment, such as brooches, bracelets and finger rings, in both settlements. Some commercial activity, perhaps the selling of grain(?), is also suggested by the presence of a steelyard weight in the southern settlement and a pan weight from trackway SL8.

The occurrence of miniature dogs in the faunal assemblage could be suggestive of a degree of 'status' as they are usually found on high status sites. However, they are increasingly found within contemporary rural settlements, such as Marsh Leys Farm, Beds. (Luke and Preece 2011, 166).

4.8.2 Burials

The inclusion of coffins and/or grave goods in some burials suggests residents of differing social status/wealth were present. The stylus from a burial in cemetery L19 (southern settlement) and the intaglio finger ring from a burial in the 'ladder' enclosure system of the northern settlement infer that at least some of the residents were literate.

Assessment of the human skeletal material suggests a fairly high amount of pathological changes, with twice as many pathologies per person in the L72 cemetery than in others. Evidence for trauma, non-spinal osteoarthritis, changes due to stress on muscle attachments show that living conditions were physically demanding. In contrast, indicators of dietary stress are not high, suggesting adequate background nutrition.

4.8.3 Statement of potential

The overall evidence from the settlements within the investigation area is consistent with farming communities, although a moderate degree of wealth is indicated by the artefactual and faunal data-sets recovered from the Romano-British phase. Combining the findings of material culture, environmental evidence and human burials has good potential to establish an overall profile of the settlements, which can be compared to other excavated rural settlements in the county.

4.9 Investigate the wider environment

In addition to providing information on the vegetation, foraging and crops for several different chronological periods, the charred plant remains will provide an indication of wider environmental conditions. Information on woodland resources and their exploitation during various periods may also be indicated. This is an understudied part of the Romano-British landscape (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19)

The wild animal species present may also give an impression of the wider environment, although, as ever, this is not a straight forward situation.

4.9.1 Statement of potential

Analysis of the charred plant remains from samples and the identification of wild animal species has moderate to good potential for the reconstruction of the wider environment especially for the Roman period.

4.10 Review investigation strategy including evaluation

4.10.1 Overview

The evaluation was undertaken in several stages — initially non-intrusive (fieldwalking and geophysical survey) and subsequently intrusive in the form of trial trenching. The results of the fieldwalking hinted at Roman settlement over the northern area, but failed to find any over the southern area or any Iron Age pottery. The geophysical survey was not successful in identifying the areas of even Roman settlement. While the trial trenching was reasonably

successful in achieving its objectives in terms of locating, dating and characterising archaeological remains, it did not identify, as is so often the case, a single human burial or the possible 'temple' complex. These were, therefore, unexpected and significant discoveries during the open-area excavation.

4.10.2 Statement of potential

The overall evidence from the investigations has good potential to contribute to this issue. In particular, the reasons for the relative failure of the non-intrusive evaluation are worthy of examination in more detail.

5. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

5.1 Introduction

Overall, the data sets from Huntingdon Road/NIAB have good potential to contribute to a number of regional and national research objectives. On this basis analysis, publication and archiving of the results is recommended.

The following sections present an updated project design, outlining the nature of the analysis, publication and archiving. They also provide a task list, key stages, a timetable and details of the project team who will undertake the work.

5.2 Analysis

5.2.1 Contextual

The underlying framework for the analysis and publication of the results of the excavation will be the contextual hierarchy. A provisional version of this has been described in this report. It will be rigorously checked when quantification of the pottery has been completed. It will require some refinement based on the results of artefact and ecofact analysis. In addition, features in Landuse areas will be assigned to Groups to facilitate more detailed analysis.

The digitised plan data will be interrogated via the site database to produce mock-up publication illustrations. Plans will be produced to show all features in each Phase, with individual Landuse areas and Groups identifiable as appropriate.

5.2.2 Artefact and ecofact analysis

The same specialists who worked on the assessment will also be used for the analysis. The assemblages will be fully quantified in line with national standards and entered in the site database.

The specialist reports will present the results and include a discussion by Phase with reference to the spatial framework of the study area and comparable data from similar sites.

Pottery and other artefacts will be selected during the quantification/identification process for publication-standard illustration.

5.3 Publication

5.3.1 The monograph

5.3.1.1 Overview

This project will be published in the Albion monograph series. However, all publication work will be undertaken to the standards and formats used in the East Anglian Archaeology monograph series.

A likely publication layout will be as follows:

Section 1: Introduction
Summary
Introduction
Project background
Topographical context
Archaeological context
Investigation methodology
Layout of report

Section 2: Site narrative
Middle-late Bronze Age
Early-middle Iron Age
Late Iron Age/Roman
Medieval, post-medieval and modern

Section 3: Specialists reports
Artefacts
Ecofacts

Section 4: Synthesis
The project's contribution to the research themes will be discussed with reference to comparative local and regional sites.

Section 5: Bibliography

5.3.1.2 Introduction and Site Narrative

The Introduction will provide sufficient information to put the results into context but will not be as detailed as this assessment report. The contextual hierarchy will provide the chronological structure for the site narrative. In addition, it will be organised by Landuse area, and where relevant, Group. Artefactual and ecofactual information will be integrated into the text as appropriate. The level of detail presented will be commensurate to the significance of the results, e.g. buildings, water pits, cemeteries will be described in detail whereas features of uncertain function containing few finds will not.

5.3.1.3 Specialist reports

All the specialist reports will be read and edited to ensure a consistency in approach. Specialist reports will be published in full, either as part of the text

or as an appendix in digital or text format. They will be presented within chapters for artefacts and ecofacts.

5.3.1.4 Synthesis

This synthetic text will discuss the key elements of the site and compare them with those from other excavations in the vicinity and further afield, as appropriate.

5.3.1.5 Illustrations

Illustrations will be produced for the introductory, site narrative and synthetic chapters. The selected artefact illustrations will be checked and scanned, and a digital paste-up of the final figures completed.

5.3.2 Draft publication and Albion refereeing process

Albion has a policy of circulating the first draft of publications to the archaeological consultant, client and any other relevant stakeholders. Comments received will be used to amend the publication text and figures.

5.3.3 Publication production and printing

The publication will go through the 'standard' stages of publication, e.g. copy-editing, page layout, proof-reading and printing.

5.4 Archiving

The site archive currently comprises the elements listed in Table 21. It will increase in size once the contextual analysis and specialist reports have been completed (these will form the full archive report).

The site archive is currently held at offices and stores of Albion Archaeology in Bedfordshire. On publication the project archive will be deposited in the Cambridgeshire County Stores. Transfer of title for the deposit of all artefacts has been granted by the landowners.

Full analysis of the human skeletal material will give a directive as to its future research potential and as to whether the remains will be retained within the archive or reburied.

Stabilisation and repackaging of metal artefacts was undertaken during the assessment stage (see Section 3.6). No further conservation will be required.

The intellectual property rights for all text and graphics/illustrations are retained by Albion Archaeology and individual authors. Archiving will be undertaken in line with MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006) and other relevant national standards, including the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Guide to Good Practice for digital archiving (ADS 2013).

Component	Quantity	Format
Management records	2	A4 folders
Contexts record sheets	2579	A4 sheets
Section drawings	488	Permatrace sheets

Component	Quantity	Format
Plan drawing sheets	42	Permatrace sheets
Films	68	Various
Pottery	29	Cardboard boxes
CBM	1	Cardboard boxes
Fired clay	1	Cardboard boxes
Other artefacts	23	Plastic boxes
Human remains	56	Cardboard boxes
Animal bone	25	Cardboard boxes
Shell	1	Cardboard boxes
Ecofactual record sheets	20	A4 folders
Ecofactual flots and residues	14	Cardboard boxes
Database	1	Digital
CAD drawings	1	Digital

Table 21: Site archive

5.5 Programme and task list

5.5.1 Overview

Following the approval of the assessment and updated project design by the client and HET, Albion would like to proceed rapidly with the analysis and publication of the results. This would minimise any loss of project momentum. Detailed professional standards and guidelines to be adhered to are provided in Appendix 1.

5.5.2 Key stages and project review

Seven key stages can be identified within the analysis and publication programme. Completion of these principal stages of the project will each provide a natural review point as recommended by MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006).

Tasks to be undertaken within each key stage and a timeframe for each stage are listed in Table 22 below.

Task Description	Name*	Time estimate
Final phasing and contextual analysis	IL	
Keystage 1: completion of contextual hierarchy		6 months
Pottery quantification and recording	JW	
Other artefacts quantification and recording	HBD	
Animal bone quantification and recording	MM	
Charred plant remains quantification and recording	JG	
Human bone quantification and recording	CD	
Keystage 2: completion of quantification		6 months
Introduction and site narrative text	IL/CFM	
Structural illustration	JL	
Keystage 3: completion of first two chapters		3 months
Pottery publication text including type series	JW	
Other artefacts publication text including catalogue	HBD	
Artefact illustrations	MT	
Animal bone publication text	MM	
Charred plant remains publication text	JG	
Human bone publication text	CD	
Keystage 4: completion of specialist chapters		6 months
Synthesis text	CFM/ML	

Task Description	Name*	Time estimate
Synthesis illustration	JL	
Editing of entire monograph	ML	
Keystage 5: completion of publication of 1st draft		3 months
Albion's refereeing process	ML	**
Addressing comments received	ML	
Keystage 6: Submission of final draft for publication production		
Archive preparation (contextual)	IL	
Archive preparation (artefacts/ecofacts)	HP/JW	
Archive preparation and liaison with Museum	HP	
Archive microfiching	External	
Archive transfer	HP	
Keystage 7: end of project		

Table 22: Key stages and task list

* For initials see Table 23

** The timescale beyond this point is dependant on receipt of feedback from third parties and is therefore beyond the control of Albion Archaeology

5.6 Project team

The project will be run by Albion Archaeology whose staff form the majority of the core project team (Table 23). MoRPHE stresses the possibilities for personal and professional development (English Heritage 2006, 16 and 26) and every opportunity will be taken to facilitate CPD for team members, giving them the opportunity to expand their experience of post-excavation analysis within the scope of this project.

Task	Name, organisation / title	Initials
Project executive and joint author	Mike Luke (Albion Project Manager)	ML
Joint author	Christiane Meckseper (Albion Project Officer)	CFM
Contextual/site narrative	Iain Leslie (Albion)	IL
Ceramics	Jackie Wells (Albion Finds Officer)	JW
Coins	Peter Guest (Cardiff University)	PG
Other artefacts	Holly Duncan (Albion Artefacts Manager)	HBD
Animal bone	Mark Maltby (Bournemouth University)	MM
Plant remains	John Giorgi (independent specialist)	JG
Human remains	Corinne Duhig (Cambridge University)	CD
Structural illustration	Joan Lightning (Albion)	Ills
Finds illustrations	Cecily Marshall and Joan Lightning (Albion)	Ills
Worked stone	Jill Eyres (Chiltern Archaeology)	JE
Archiving	Helen Parslow (Albion)	AO

Table 23: Tasks and specialists

5.7 Management

All project tasks will be tracked on Albion's Time Recording System (TRS) so that expenditure and resources can be monitored throughout the life of the project. The management of the project includes monitoring the task budgets, programming tasks, checking timetables, and liaising with all members of the project team.

6. APPENDIX 1: PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The project will be undertaken using English Heritage's guidelines on Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, EH 2015). In addition, the project will follow all relevant guidance issued by English Heritage, much of which is available on the Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) website (http://www.helm.org.uk).
The following are particularly relevant to this project:

- National Heritage Protection Plan Framework (EH 2013a) and associated guidelines and Action Plans
- Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2011)

Throughout the project, all other appropriate standards and guidelines will be followed, particularly those issued by the following organisations:

- Archaeology Data Service (ADS) – such as *Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice* (ADS Second Edition 2000) and *Archaeology Data Service CAD: A Guide to Good Practice* (ADS 2000).
- Association of County Archaeological Officers – notably *Standards for Field Archaeology in East Anglia* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper, 14), by D Gurney (2003).
- Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) – *Archaeological Archives - a Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2007) and *Preparation of Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) – especially the *Codes of Conduct* and any standard and guidance documents which are relevant to the project (such as *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014).

In addition, relevant guidelines published by national or regional societies and specialist interest groups will be consulted, where applicable.

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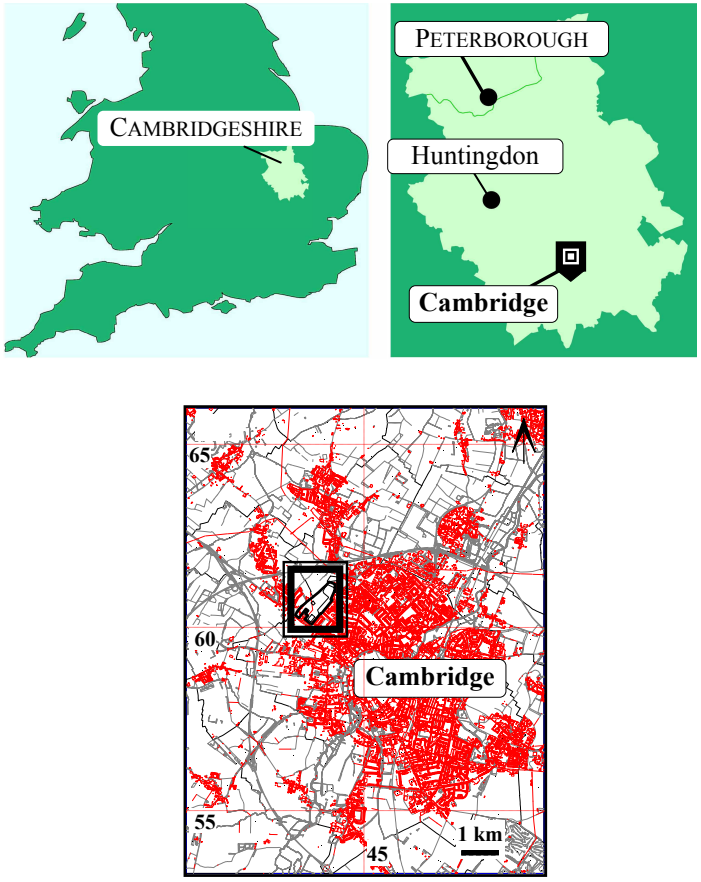

Figure 1: Site location and investigation areas

Figure 2: All features plan

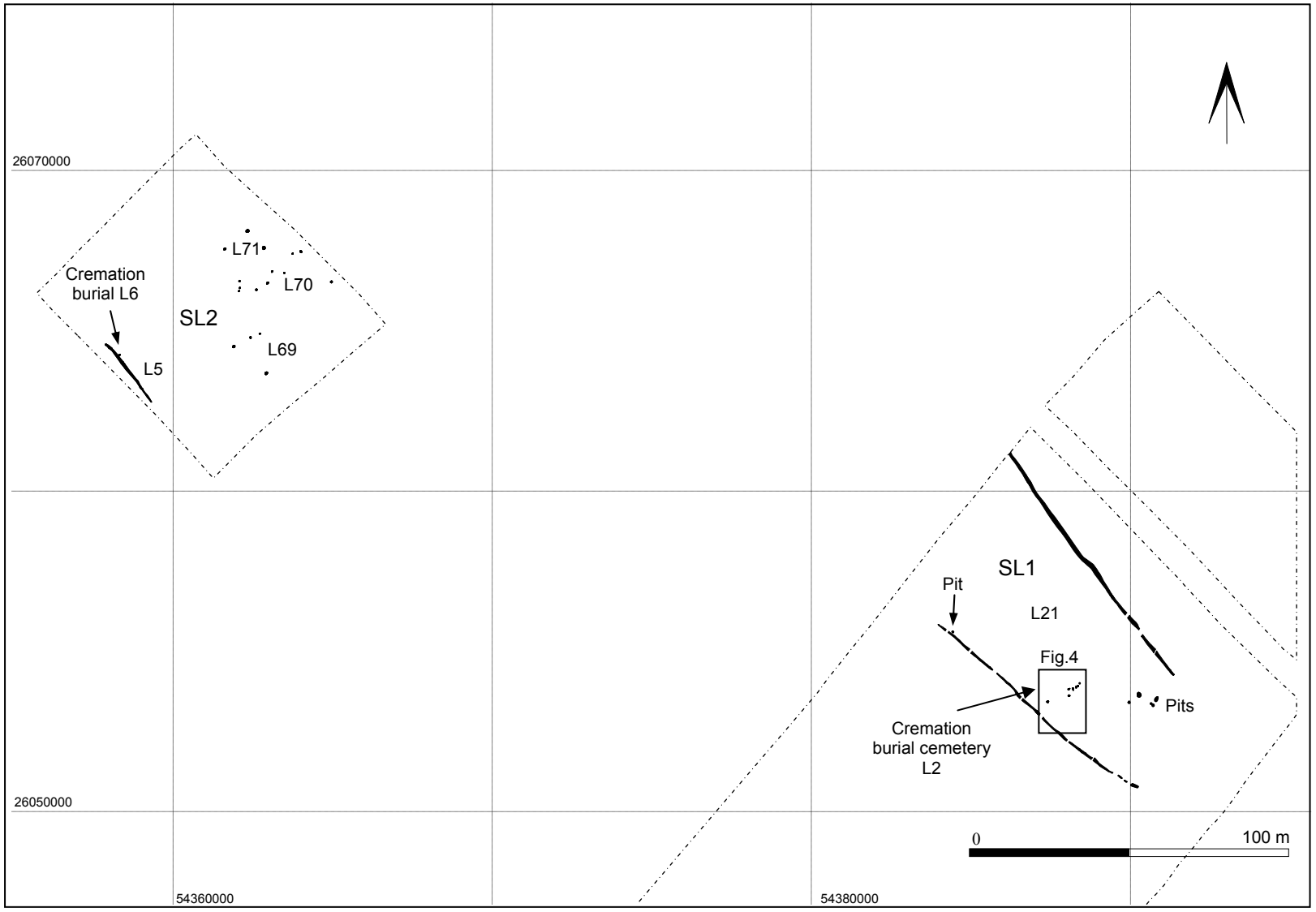

Figure 3: Phase 3 – Middle to late Bronze Age all features

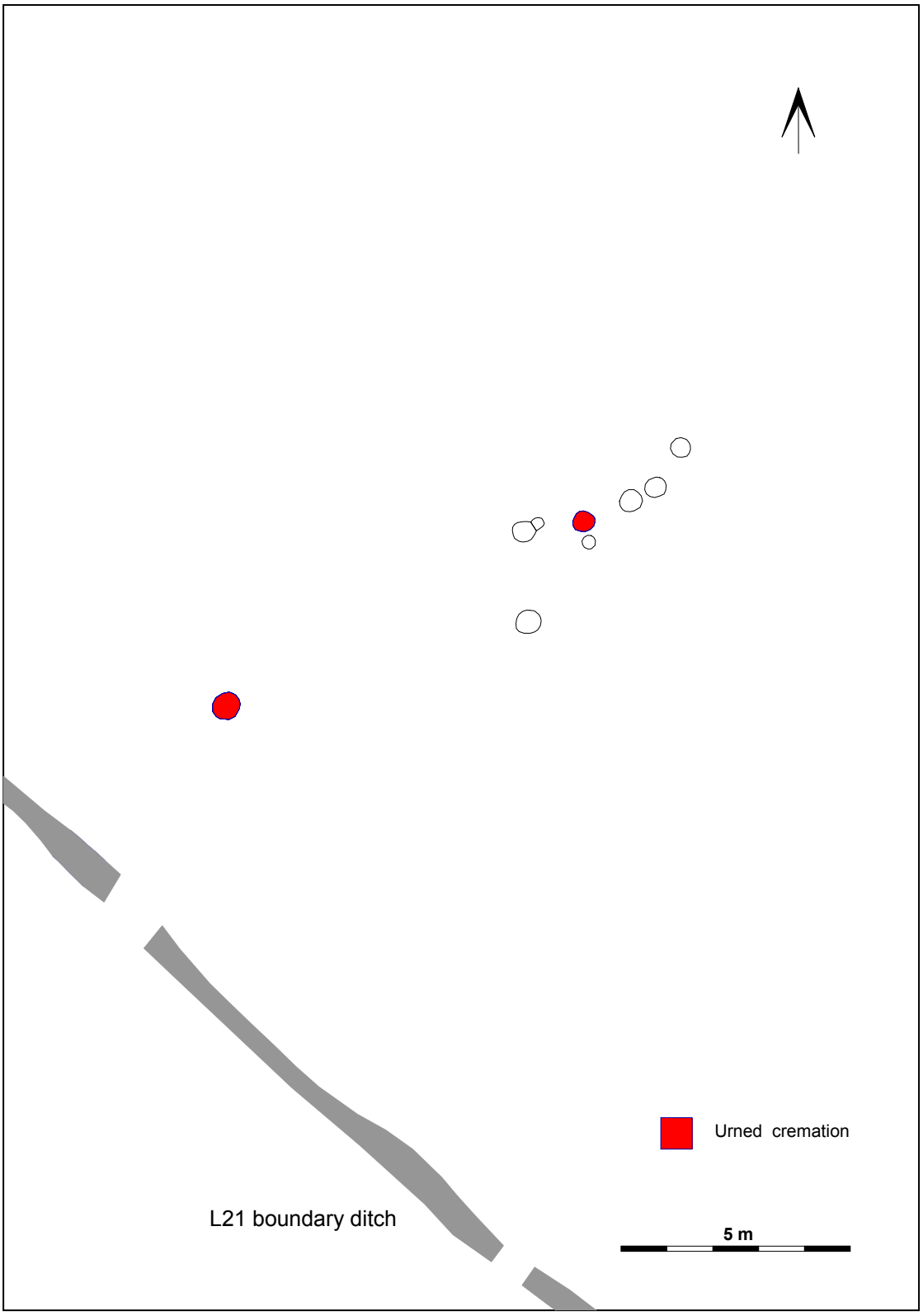

Figure 4: Detailed plan of middle Bronze Age cremation burial cemetery L2

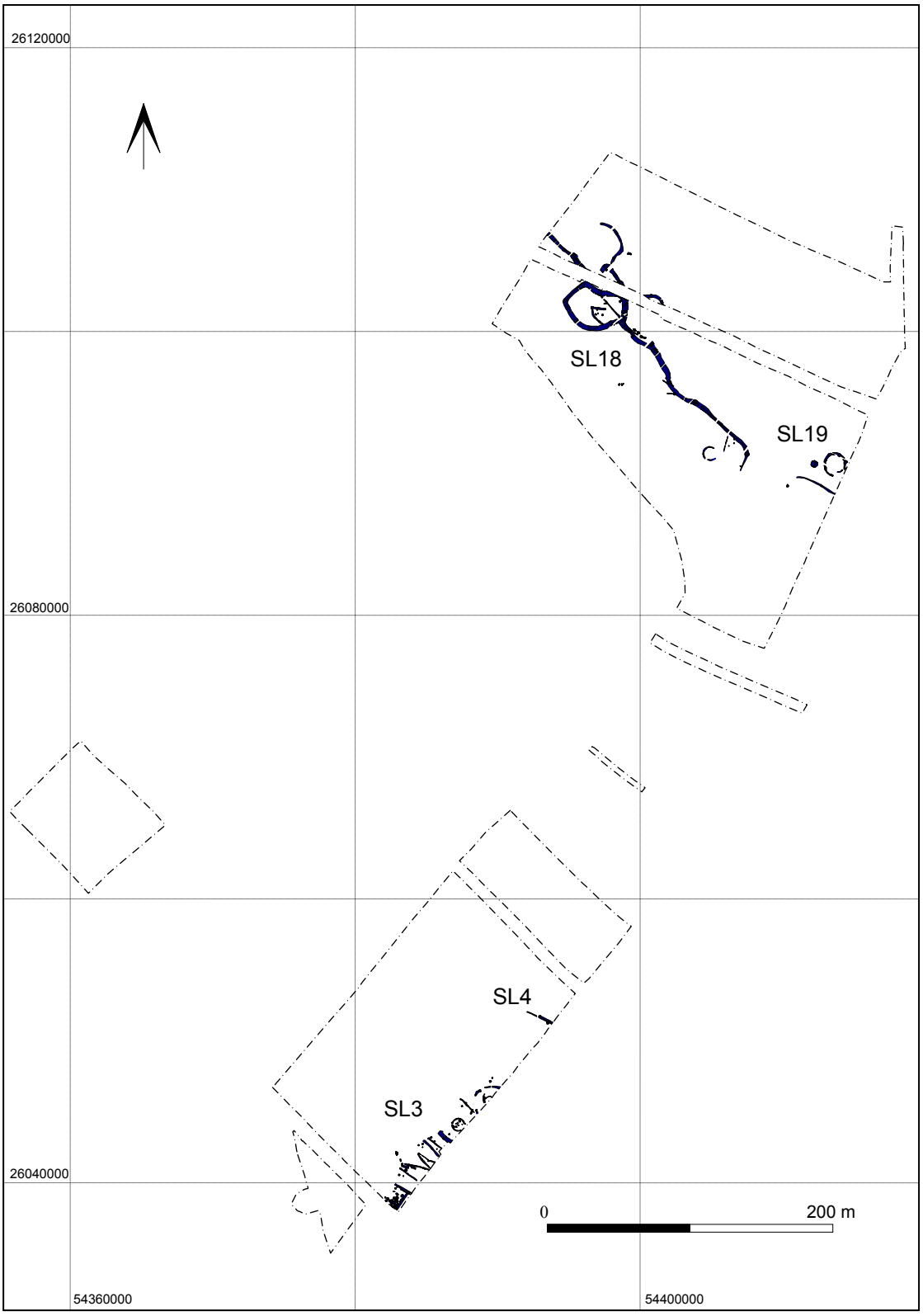

Figure 5: Phase 4 - Early to middle Iron Age settlements

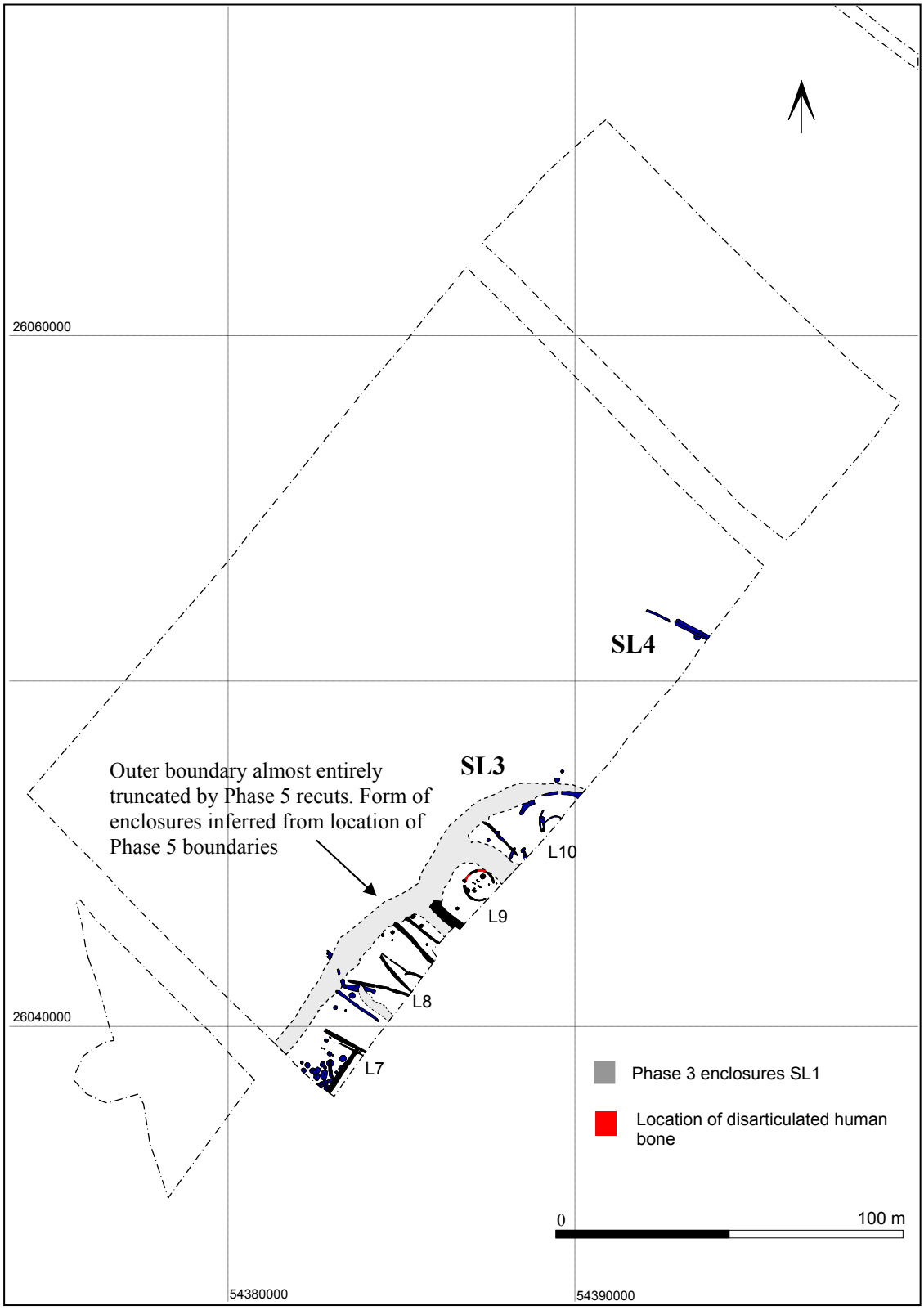

Figure 6: Detailed plan of early-middle Iron Age settlement SL3 and peripheral activity SL4

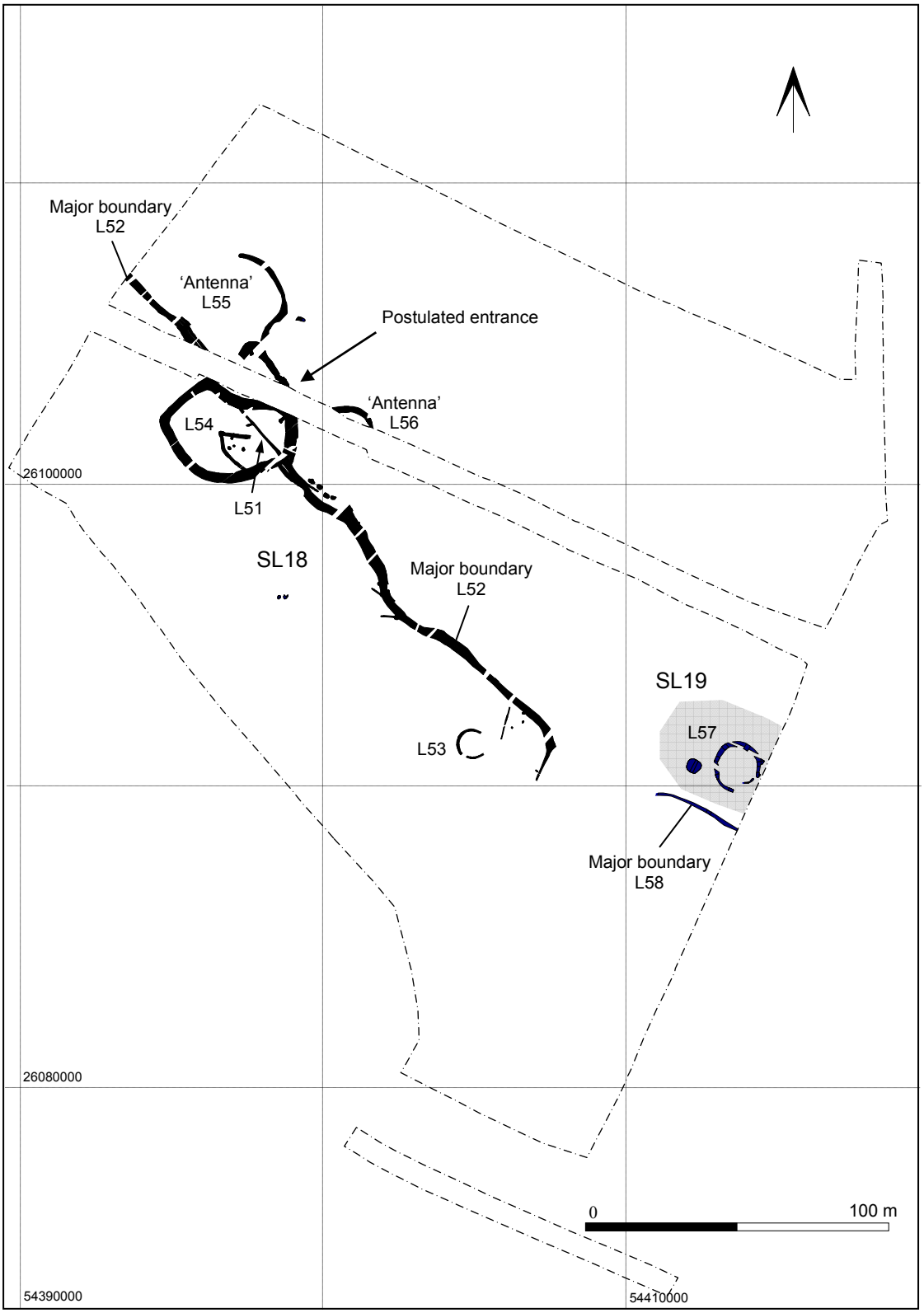

Figure 7: Detailed plan of early - middle Iron Age settlement and landscape boundary SL18 and SL19

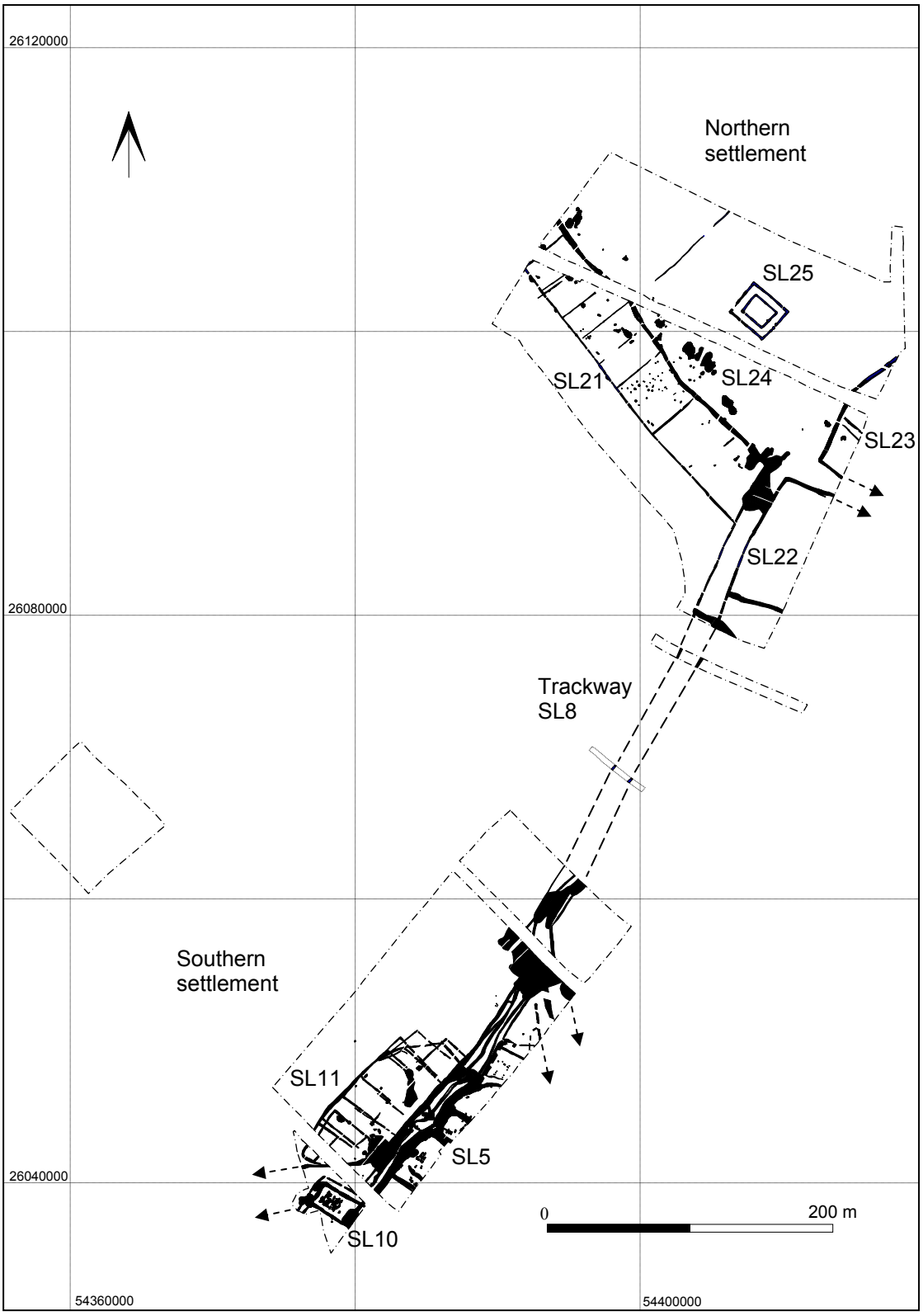

Figure 8: Phase 5 - Romano-British settlements

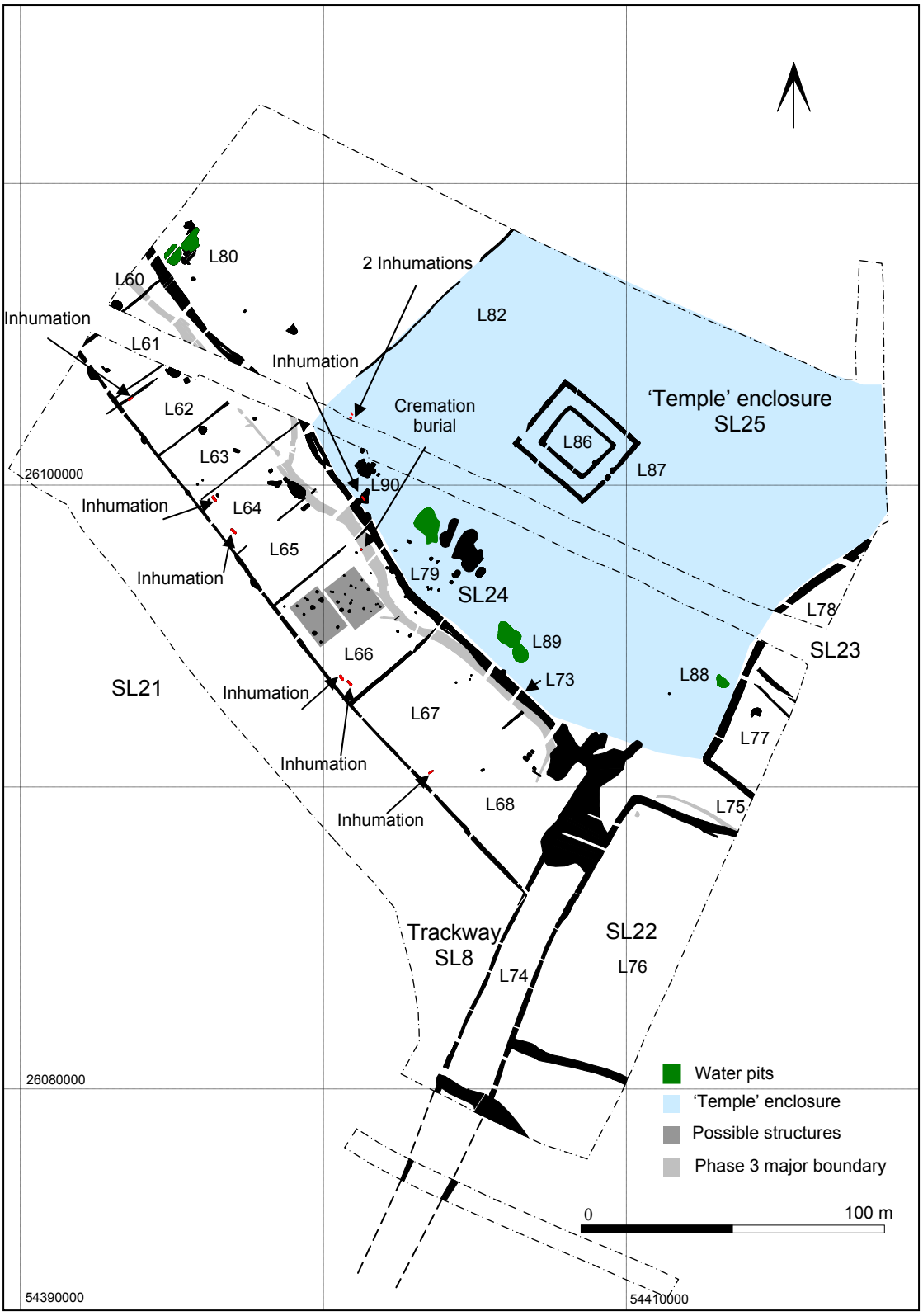

Figure 9: Detailed plan of Romano-British northern settlement

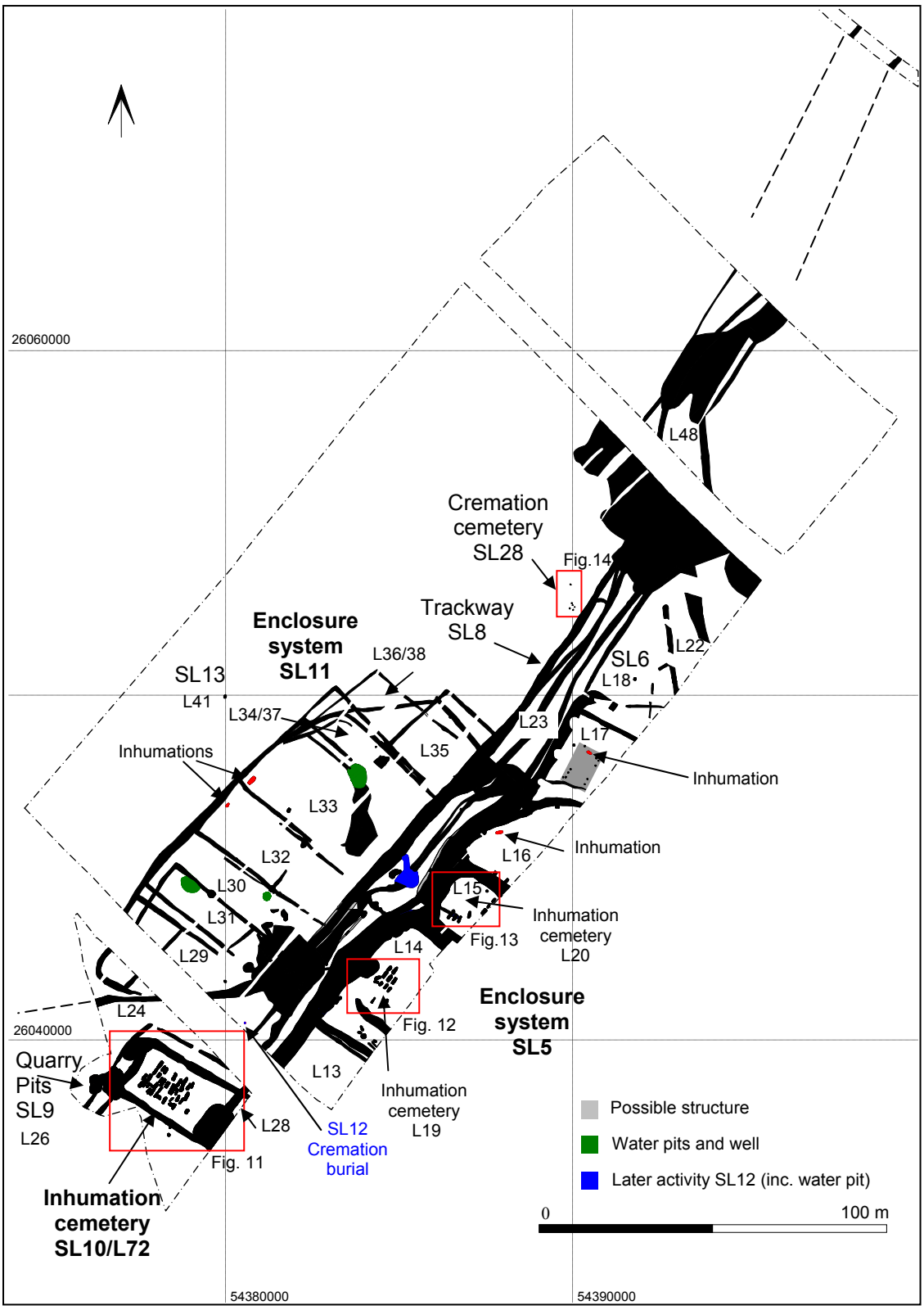

Figure 10: Detailed plan of Romano-British southern settlement

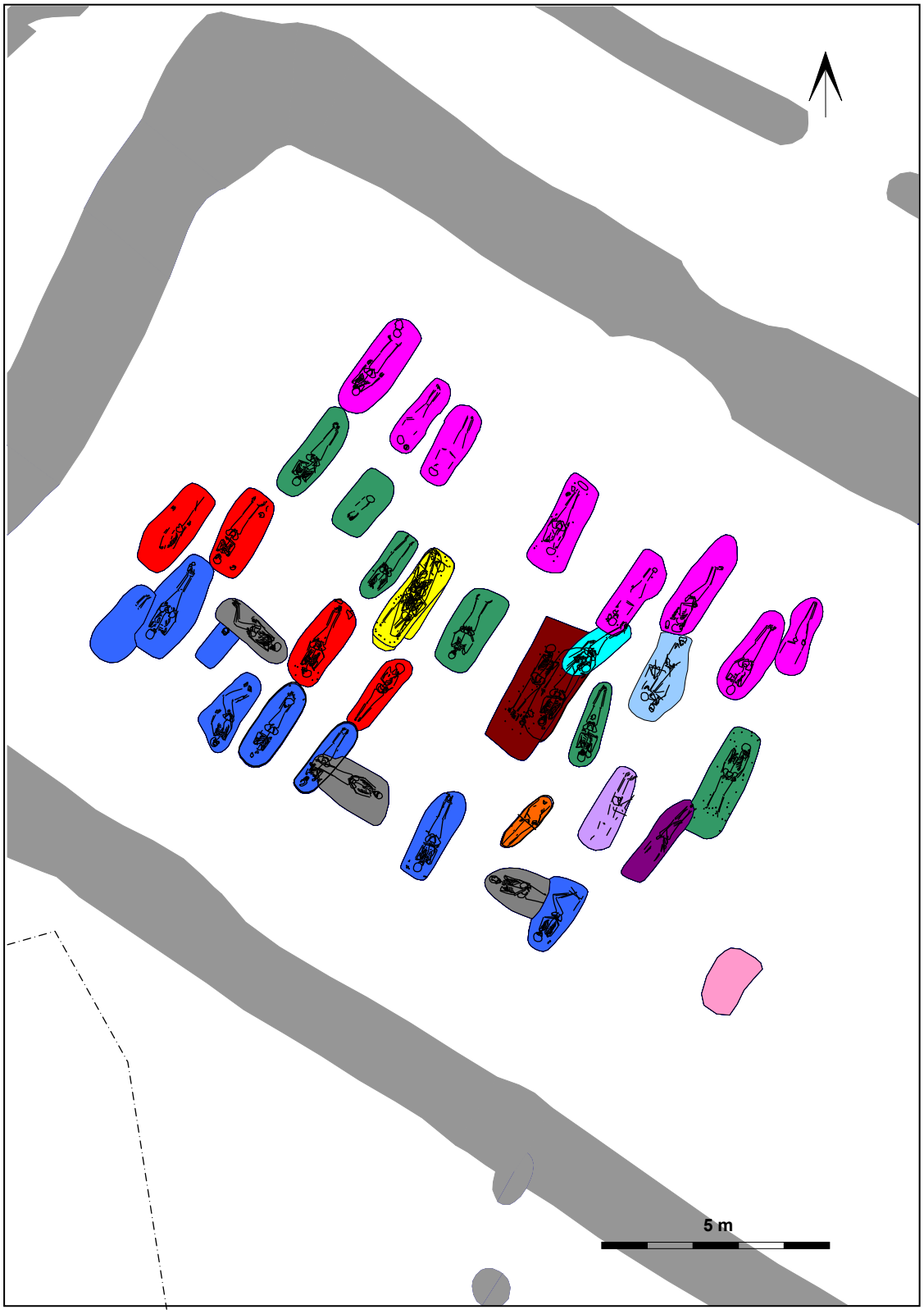

Figure 11: Detailed plan of Romano-British inhumation cemetery L72
(different colours highlight identified 'rows' of graves, later insertions and unusual graves)

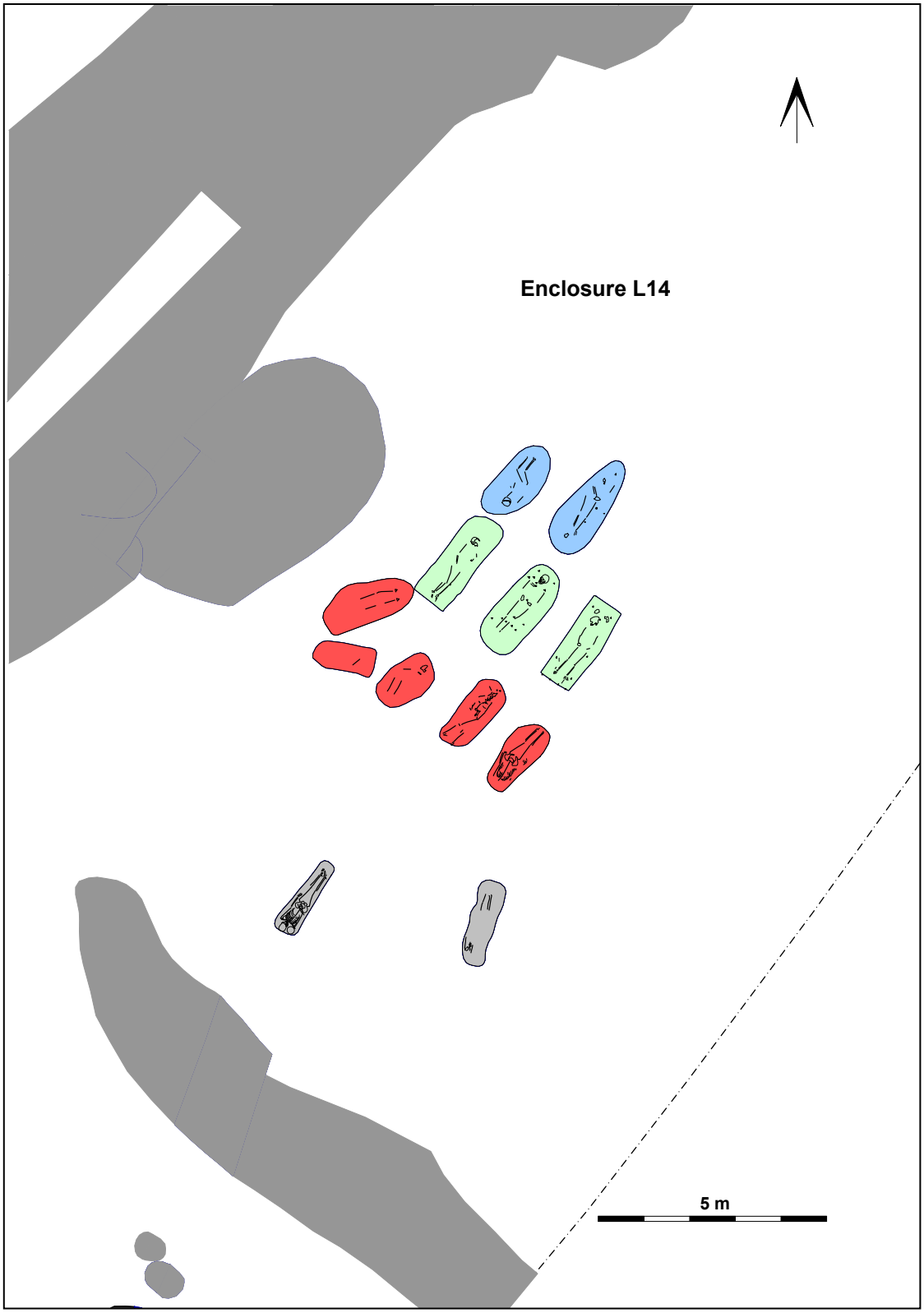

Figure 12: Detailed plan of Romano-British inhumation cemetery L19
(different colours highlight 'rows' of graves)

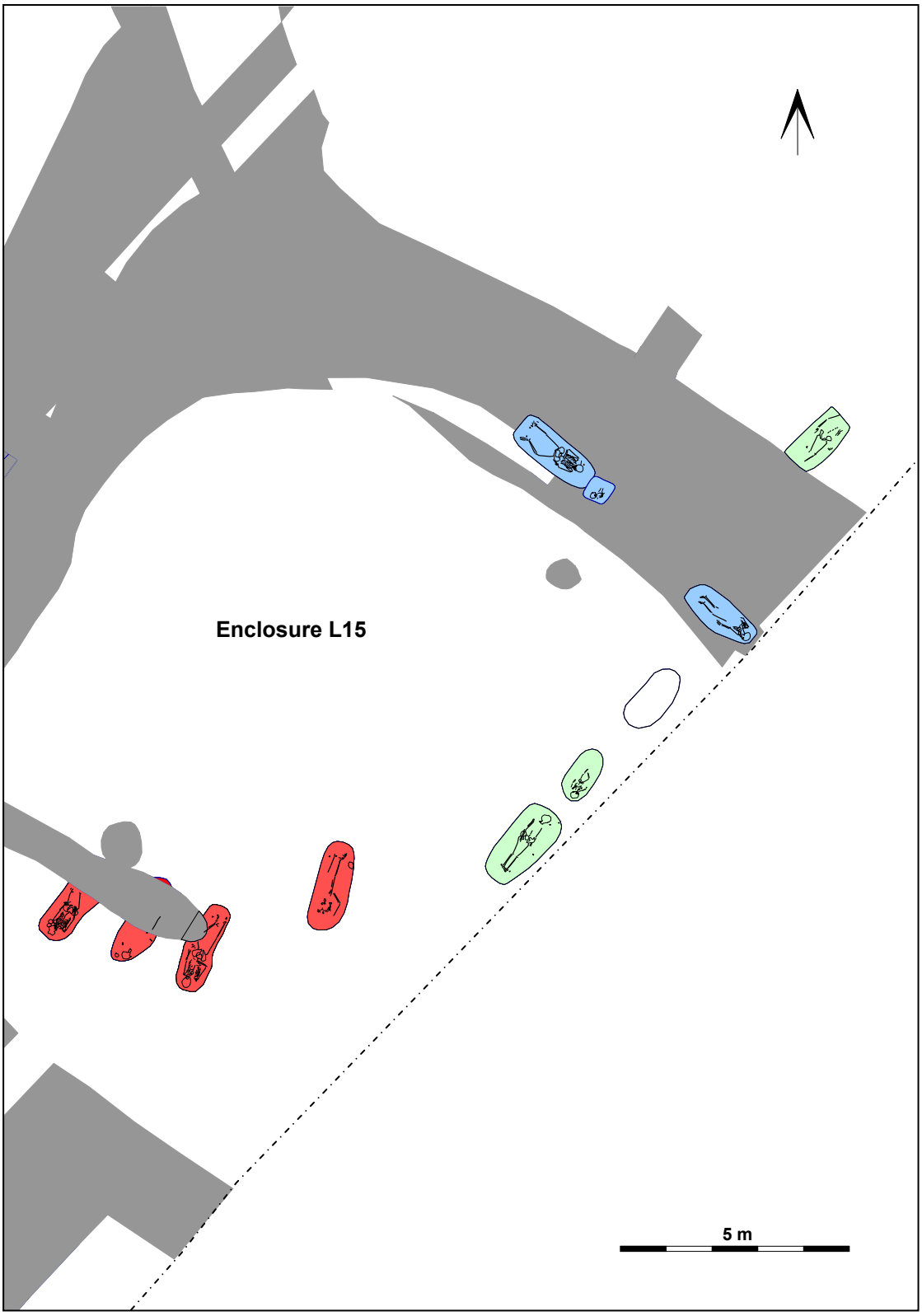

Figure 13: Detailed plan of Romano-British inhumation cemetery L20
(different colours highlight 'rows' of graves)

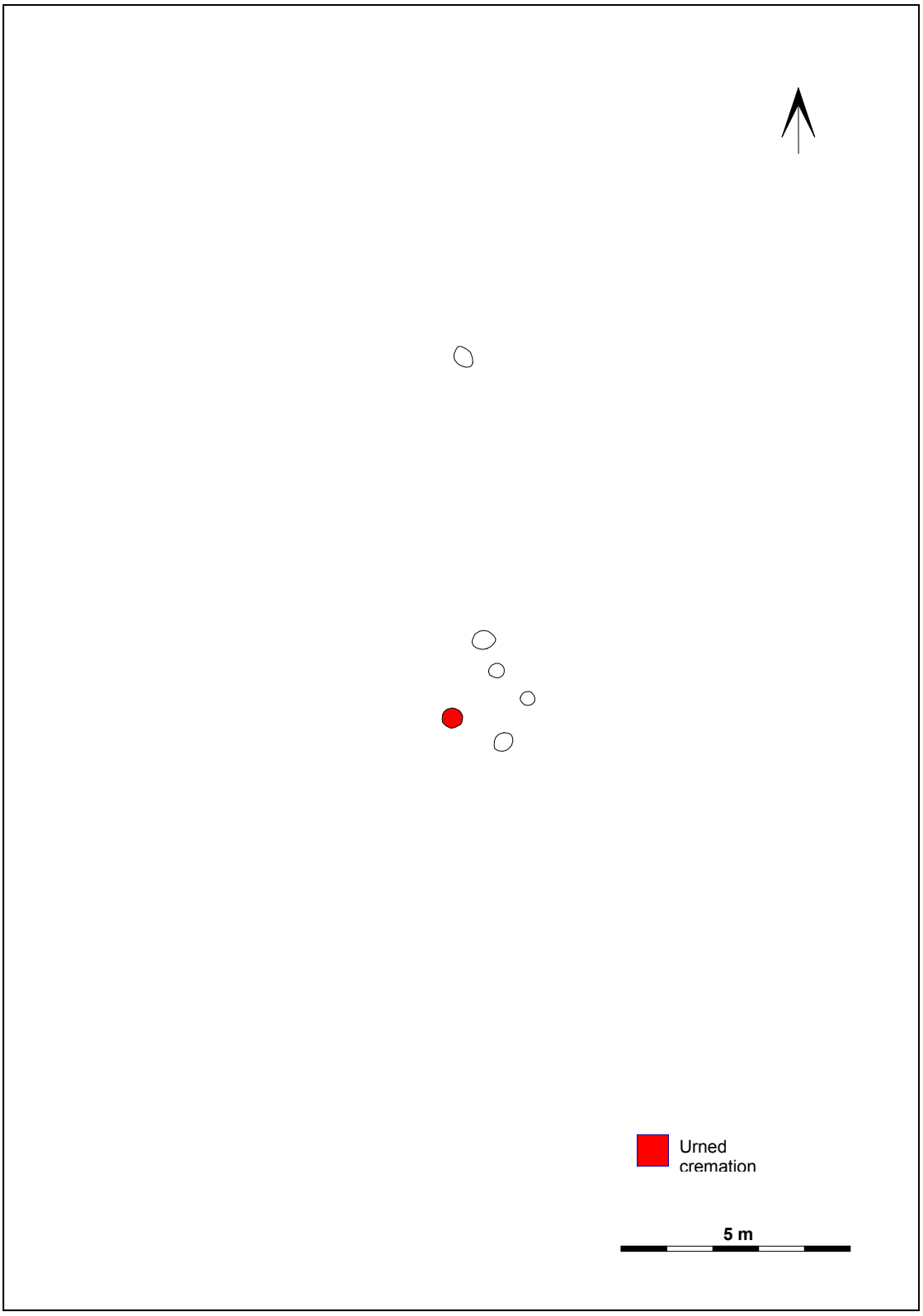

Figure 14: Detailed plan of Romano-British cremation burial cemetery L1

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