# LAND AT COLLEGE FARM GREAT BARFORD BEDFORDSHIRE

# ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

Document: 2004/66 Project: GBC954

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Produced for: Leach Homes

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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.

# Acknowledgements

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The excavation was supervised by Ian Beswick (Archaeological Supervisor) with investigation and recording carried out by the following staff: Alison Bell, Zoe Clarke, Anthony Clifton-Jones, Kat Maddison, Sarah Morton, Chris Swain (Archaeological Technicians) Teresa Hawtin, Adam Lee, Matt Smith, (Assistant Supervisors) and Dan Hounsell (Archaeological Supervisor). Processing of the ecofact samples was undertaken by Peter Sprenger, Jerry Stone, Adrian Woolmer and Cordelia Hall. All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff.

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#### Structure of the report

After an introduction (Section 1) detailing the planning and archaeological background, Section 2 presents the original research objectives of the project. Section 3 provides a provisional summary of the results. In the subsequent section the various types of evidence (data) are discussed individually (Section 4). The potential of the data to address the original and new research objectives is discussed in Section 5, prior to the presentation of the updated project design (Section 6). Appendix 1 presents detailed method statements for analysis, publication and archiving.

# Key terms

Albion Archaeology

BCAS Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service, and the former name for

Albion Archaeology

BCC's AO Bedfordshire County Council's, Archaeological Officer

Client Leach Homes

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2001. Albion

Manual Archaeology

## Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (98/1549/OUT) for residential development of c.3.3ha of land at College Farm, Great Barford, Bedfordshire has been granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The site is located on the south-eastern edge of the village (centred on National Grid Reference TL 1336 5189) close to the west bank of the river Great Ouse.

This document presents an assessment of three archaeological investigations which have taken place on the development area (field artefact collection, trial trenching and open area excavation). Field artefact collection and trial trenching took place in 1998. This identified two main concentrations of archaeological features, representing the probable remains of early prehistoric (Bronze Age and early Iron Age) settlement.

Accordingly, the LPA attached a condition to the planning permission, requiring a programme of archaeological works prior to development of the site. An open area excavation was undertaken in 2004 in accordance with a brief issued by Bedfordshire County Council's, Archaeological Officer (BCC 2004) and a project design issued by Albion (Albion Archaeology 2004).

In terms of the periods represented by the features, the most significant remains were dated to the Iron Age. This included a pit alignment and five associated ditches. Collectively, these formed a typically Iron Age, major land boundary. A single pit was also assigned to this period. These features were dated on the basis of the distinctive morphology of monuments from this period and by the presence of a small amount of dateable artefactual material.

Remains dating to other periods were also identified. The earliest consisted of a single pit and two postholes dated to the Bronze Age on the basis of pottery sherds found within them. Two opposing ditches containing Roman pottery sherds formed the entrance to an enclosure in the southern part of the site. In addition, two intercutting pits were also dated to this period on the basis of pottery sherds.

Two ditches (field boundaries) two pits and one posthole were dated to the Saxo-Norman period on the basis of dateable artefactual material found within them. No features have been identified as dating to the medieval period, although residual medieval sherds of pottery were found within several features. Such a pattern suggests that during this period the settlement core was to the south of the development area and only background activity is represented by the remains on the site.

Several boundary ditches, animal burials, rubbish pits and structural remains were dated to the post-medieval/modern periods. Modern intrusions were also recorded and several pits, postholes and ditches remain undated at the site.

The data recovered from the investigations have the potential to address a number of national and regional research agendas. The methodologies and resources required to complete the project are detailed in this document. The end product will be the publication of the results in the county-based archaeological journal and the deposition of the project archive with Bedford Museum.

## INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Planning Background

Bedford Borough Council (LPA) has granted planning permission (98/1549/OUT) for a residential development at College Farm, Great Barford, Bedfordshire.

This document presents an assessment of three archaeological investigations which have taken place on the development area (field artefact collection, trial trenching and open area excavation). Field artefact collection and trial trenching took place in 1998. This identified two main concentrations of archaeological features, representing the probable remains of early prehistoric (Bronze Age and early Iron Age) settlement.

Accordingly, the LPA attached a condition to the planning permission, requiring a programme of archaeological works prior to development of the site. This is in line with Policy 13 of the Bedfordshire Structure Plan (2011), policy BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan (2002) and the guidance contained in PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning.

In October 2003 Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer (AO) issued a brief (BCC 2003) detailing the work required to fulfil the condition. On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2004 the client commissioned Albion Archaeology to design (Albion Archaeology 2004) and implement a programme of open area excavation that would meet the requirements of the brief. The excavation was carried out between 24<sup>th</sup> February and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

## 1.2 Site Location

The development area is c.3.3ha in extent. It is located on the south-eastern edge of the village of Great Barford (centred on National Grid Reference TL 1336 5189) on the west bank of the Great Ouse (Figure 1). The river lies only 135m from the south-eastern corner of the site, while the parish church is 85m to the south.

The site lies on the river gravel terrace, which is here sealed by alluvium and itself overlies Oxford Clay. It is at a height of c.20 mOD, although the land rises gently to the north and west away from the river.

Although formerly arable land, the site has been out of cultivation for several years. Its south-west corner is occupied by a spread (c.50m x 80m in extent) of brick rubble and other demolition debris, marking the site of former farm buildings and yards. This area is 1-2m lower than the remainder of the site.

# 1.3 Archaeological Background

The development area was evaluated in 1998 by Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (now known as Albion Archaeology). The work comprised field artefact collection and trial excavation.

The evaluation identified two main concentrations of archaeological features, representing the probable remains of early prehistoric (Bronze Age and early Iron Age) settlement. These were sealed beneath varying depths of alluvial clays, indicating that the site has been subject to flooding in the past.

A smaller number of other features, mainly ditches, were located beyond the concentrations. These were undated and probably represent the remains of an earlier field system.

Beyond the development area itself, the gravel terraces of the Great Ouse valley contain an extensive range of archaeological sites dating from the Palaeolithic onwards. Ring ditches (marking the location of probable early prehistoric burial mounds) are visible on aerial photographs to the north (HER 604), south-east (HER 2792) and south-west (HER 596) of the site. Aerial photographs also reveal a system of trackways and enclosures to the south-west of the site (HER 596, 597, 1629), marking the location of probable Iron Age/Romano-British settlements.

Settlement at Great Barford is first recorded in Domesday Book, indicating an origin in at least the late Saxon period. During the medieval period the core of the village probably lay around the parish church and the river crossing to the south of the development area. During the later medieval period Great Barford was a substantial and prosperous settlement. By the early 17<sup>th</sup> century it was at the head of navigation on the Great Ouse, stimulating considerable trading activity for at least half a century.

# 1.4 Nature of Archaeological Investigations

Archaeological evaluation consisting of fieldwalking and trial trenching were undertaken in 1998, the results of which are summarised above (Section 1.3 and BCAS 1998/73).

Based on the results of the evaluation BCC's AO recommended further archaeological investigation. The AO's brief identified three zones of archaeological significance within the development area (Figure 1). Area A and B were to be subject to open area excavation. Thereafter, sample areas of Area C would be subject to open area excavation on the basis of the results of both the evaluation and the excavation of Area A and B. Details of the Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation and Project Design relating to the project appear above in Section 1.1.

Open area excavation of Areas A and B was undertaken between 24<sup>th</sup> February and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004. A small part of Area C in the south-eastern part of the site was machine stripped and recorded on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004. This was undertaken in order to clarify the orientation and character of archaeological remains identified in the extreme south-east of Area A.

## 1.5 Purpose of this Report

This report presents an assessment of the results of <u>all</u> stages of the archaeological investigations. An updated project design is included listing all

tasks that will be required to analyse, publish and archive the results. The completion of these tasks will fulfil the criteria stipulated in the BCC AO's brief (BCC 2003), on and thereby allow the discharge of the archaeological planning condition placed planning consent (98/1549/OUT) by the LPA.

# 2. ORIGINAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

### 2.1 Introduction

On the basis of the evaluation results, a series of research aims were established in the project design (Albion Archaeology 2004), to ensure the investigations were appropriately targeted. These made reference to regional and research priorities for the Bronze Age/early Iron Age, late Iron Age/Romano-British, and medieval periods (Table 1).

# 2.2 National and Regional Research Frameworks

Broad national research priorities have been formalised by English Heritage in *Exploring our Past* (1991), updated in their Research Agenda (draft 1997).

A further publication focussed entirely on the British Iron Age period (Haselgrove *et al* 2001) was particularly useful in the formulation of research objectives for this site.

At present no county-wide research agenda exists for Bedfordshire. However, the archaeological resources of the neighbouring East Anglian region have been assessed (Glazebrook 1997) and a regional agenda and strategy produced (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). This study covers the adjacent counties of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, rather than specifically Bedfordshire. Nevertheless, topographical and historical similarities (at a regional level) between these counties make the document a useful tool for assessing the significance of the archaeological remains within the development area.

An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands is in the final stages of production, and is currently available in draft form (Clay 2002). This study covers the adjacent county of Northamptonshire. As with the above study of East Anglia, this region also possesses certain historical and topographical similarities with Bedfordshire.

The archaeology of the Chilterns was the subject of a conference in the early 1990s (Holgate 1995). Although the development area is peripheral to this region, the resultant publication does contain significant comparative data. However, of more relevance to the study area are the series of papers on the *Archaeology of the Great Ouse Valley* (Dawson 2000).

A number of the research objectives for the Bronze Age/early Iron Age, late Iron Age/Romano-British, and medieval periods were considered relevant to the work at College Farm, Great Barford. They are set out below.

# 2.3 Original Objectives

#### 2.3.1 Bronze Age/early Iron Age

Evidence for settlement during this period is relatively uncommon both nationally and regionally. This is partly because the majority of settlements of

this period were unenclosed and are, therefore, difficult to detect by any methods other than open area excavation. However, housing development on the Biddenham Loop (Albion, in prep) did lead to the discovery of a significant settlement of this period in a similar topographic location to the present site.

## 2.3.2 Late Iron Age / Romano-British

Apart from one fragment of ceramic building material found during fieldwalking (BCAS 1998), the evaluation produced no structural or artefactual evidence for this period. However, a number of undated ditches located in the trial trenches may relate to this period, particularly given the presence of significant settlement sites to the north and south of the development area.

#### 2.3.4 Saxo-Norman and Medieval

As might he expected close to the centre of a medieval village, a small number of Saxo-Norman and medieval potsherds were uncovered during the evaluation. One sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from an isolated posthole and a second sherd was recovered from an isolated pit, although there was no evidence for extensive settlement. It is possible, however, that some of the un-phased features (Section 3.9) may relate to this period.

# 2.3.3 Summary of original research objectives

As several of the national and regional research objectives overlap it is possible to condense them into research objectives 1, 2 and 3, summarised in Table 1.

| Objective | Period                                | Research Aims   |  |  |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1         | Bronze<br>Age/early Iron<br>Age       | Does evidence survive for a settlement of this period? What form did it take and what was its economic basis? How did it relate to other known settlements in the vicinity? |  |  |
|           |                                       |   |  |  |
| 2         | Late Iron Age<br>/ Romano-<br>British | Is there any evidence for field systems of this period? If so, how do they relate to known settlement sites identified on aerial photographs?                               |  |  |
|           | •                                     |   |  |  |
| 3         | Medieval                              | Do any of the hitherto undated ditches relate to<br>the medieval settlement, particularly those on<br>the southern fringes of the site?                                     |  |  |

Table 1: Summary of original research objectives

# 3. PROVISIONAL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

Assessment of the results of all phases of fieldwork has led to the identification of eight main phases of activity, which are summarised below.

| Phase                                   | Chronological Period               | Activity Type  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 1                                       | Late Bronze Age/ early<br>Iron Age | Pit and two postholes.   |
| 2                                       | Middle Iron Age                    | One pit alignment, five parallel ditches, one isolated pit.          |
|   |                                    | Two opposing ditches and ditch terminals                             |
|   |                                    | Remains of possible field system. Two isolated pits, one posthole.   |
| 5 Medieval                              |                                    | Non-specific activity (residual artefactual material).               |
| 6 Post-medieval Structural repostholes. |                                    | Structural remains, animal burials and postholes.                    |
|   |                                    | Isolated pits, concrete foundations, services.                       |
| Tree-bowls.                             |                                    | Undated pits, postholes and ditches. Tree-bowls. Geological features |

Table 2: Summary of provisional phasing

### 3.2 Phase 1: Late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age (Figure 2)

The earliest, firm evidence for human activity consists of one pit (Area B, Figure 2), which contained a small assemblage of pottery sherds derived from two vessels, and two postholes (Assessment Group AG 1). All three features were recorded during trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 1998).

The single pit (Area B, Figure 2) contained fourteen residual sherds dated to the Bronze Age and eighty-five sherds dateable to the late Bronze Age. One of the postholes contained calcined animal bone and a possible flint scraper while the other contained sherds of late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age pottery and a piece of vitrified clay (Section 4).

The limited number of features are indicative of only low intensity activity, possibly of limited duration. The effect of later ploughing in the truncation of earlier prehistoric remains should also be considered. It is possible these features represent the truncated bases of larger pits. Shallow pits of this type and size are frequently found within prehistoric settlements, for example at the Reading Business Park (Moore and Jennings 1992).

#### 3.2.1 Phase 1 Assessment Groups

AG 1 - Pit and two postholes.

# 3.3 Phase 2: Iron Age (Figure 3)

The majority of significant archaeological remains recorded within the development area date to this period. AG's 2 (pit alignment) 3, 4 and 5 (parallel ditches) form a broadly contemporary series of parallel linear boundary markers (Figure 3). Such features are well known in the region (Jones 2003) and are generally located in the lowland river gravel landscape of the Rivers Welland, Nene and Ouse. Clearly, both pit alignments and ditches serve the same basic purpose in demarcating land boundaries.

A relatively small assemblage of artefactual and ecofactual material was recovered from these features. Pottery sherds were generally grog and shell tempered and characteristic of the 'Belgic' tradition and were recovered from pit alignment AG 2 and ditch AG 3 (Section 4.3.4).

Eight environmental samples totalling 357 litres were taken (and processed) from pit alignment AG 2. All flots contained charcoal in varying amounts, although charred seeds were entirely absent. Small quantities of snails were recovered from samples within AG 2 and AG 4.

The relative paucity of artefactual and ecofactual material recovered from pit alignment AG 2, and associated ditches AG 3, AG 4 and AG 5 is typical of such features. It may indicate that these large open features were not located close to contemporary settlements.

It is interesting to note the N-W to S-E alignment of the pit alignment which leads it directly toward the existing Great Barford bridge over the River Great Ouse (Figure 9). Such an enormous, artificial landscape feature would surely have served a significant purpose for those who created it? It may have served as a marker which led people toward the best fording place over an important river. Alternatively, it may have served as a communication route used for practical purposes such as movement of goods for trade; or, for more esoteric pursuits connected with religion.

AG's 6 and 7 form a discontinuous ditch of similar character and morphology. Both truncate the backfilled pit alignment AG 2 and are on the same alignment as AG's 2, 3, 4 and 5 and it is tempting to suggest that it may have served a similar purpose. The proximity of all these features to the floodplain of the River Great Ouse may have meant that they were frequently flooded. Over time this would have led to any voids becoming backfilled with natural sediments. It is possible that AG 6 represents a later, albeit more modest attempt to mark this locally important boundary/marker.

AG 8 is the only Iron Age feature recorded within Area B. It consists of a single pit dated to the Iron Age on the basis of its character rather than any ecofactual or artefactual evidence. Its phasing is more tenuous than the other

Iron Age features, and will be re-considered during the analysis phase of the project. The function of this pit remains obscure although several deposits within it had clearly been subjected to intense heat.

# 3.3.1 Phase 2 Assessment Groups

- AG 2 Pit alignment.
- AG 3 Ditch associated with and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.
- AG 4 Ditch associated with and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.
- AG 5 Ditch associated with and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.
- AG 6 Ditch possibly serving a similar function to AG's 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- AG 7 Ditch on the same alignment to and serving a similar function to AG 6.
- AG 8 Pit.

## 3.4 Phase 3: Roman (Figure 4)

Two opposing ditches (AG 10) and their respective ditch terminals were recorded in the south-eastern part of Area A. These features are clearly part of a larger enclosure which continues south beyond the confines of the development area (Figure 1).

Clearly, only a small percentage of the entire enclosure was present within Area A. However, a small quantity of Roman pottery, four pieces of cow mandible and some residual flint flakes were recovered from deposits within AG 10 (Section 4.3).

The presence of a Roman enclosure on this location is intriguing due to the proximity of this piece of land to the river (Figure 1). The natural topography of the area would suggest that such a location would be prone to flooding, and therefore unattractive for settlement. Further excavation to the south of the development area will be necessary before a firm interpretation could be given.

Also, within the south-eastern part of Area A were two intercutting pits (AG 11). Pits AG 11 lie only 30m west of enclosure AG 10. This location, combined with the presence of a Roman pottery sherd within one of the pits (Section 4.3) indicates a possible Roman date for these features. The original function of these pits remains obscure.

## 3.4.1 Phase 3 Assessment Groups

AG 10 – Opposing ditches and ditch terminals.

AG 11 – Intercutting pits.

### 3.5 Phase 4: Saxo-Norman (Figure 5)

Five features have been assigned to this period. Within Area B two field boundary ditches (AG's 9 and 12 were revealed). Within Area A only one pit and one posthole were identified.

AG 9 and AG 12 are ESE-WNW aligned ditches of similar depth and width. They are spaced *c*.35m apart and are thought to represent part of the same field

boundary system. They have been dated to the Saxo-Norman period on the basis of pottery sherds found within ditch AG 12. This ditch also contained charcoal fragments and burnt seeds (Section 4.7). AG 9 contained pieces of animal bone and abraded pieces of un-identified pottery (Section 4.3.4, Table 7).

Areas A and B are located immediately north of a possible Saxon settlement core, centred around the parish church (Section 1.3, Figure 1). Such a location might be expected to contain traces of field systems associated with that settlement core.

AG 13 consisted of a posthole and two pits. The larger pit (located in the centre of Area A (Figures 1 and 5) contained a relatively large quantity of Saxo-Norman pottery sherds (Section 4.3.4). Although of unknown function this distinctive pit contained burnt deposits of a unique character on this site. As a result ecofact samples were taken. These contained charcoal pieces and burnt seeds (Section 4.7). Significantly environmental samples from this phase were the only ones to produce burnt seeds suggesting that settlement activity may have been taking place closer to the development area during the Saxo-Norman period than during earlier phases.

The smaller pit, located in the south-east of Area A (Figure 5), contained only one sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery.

# 3.5.1 Phase 4 Assessment Groups

AG 9 – Boundary ditch.

AG 12 – Boundary ditch.

AG 13 - Two pits and one posthole.

#### 3.6 Phase 5: Medieval

No features have been assigned to this period at this stage, although a small number of residual artefacts were recovered (Section 4.3.4). The possibility that some currently un-phased features may date to this period will be considered during the forthcoming analysis phase of the project.

# 3.7 Phase 6: Post-medieval (Figure 6)

Remains dating to this period comprised pits (AG 14) animal burials (AG 15) and boundary ditches and structural remains associated with post-medieval agricultural use of land on the eastern periphery of Great Barford (AG 16).

## 3.7.1 Phase 6 Assessment Groups

AG 14 - Pits.

AG 15 – Animal burials.

AG 16 – Boundary ditches and structural remains of farm buildings.

# 3.8 Phase 7: Modern (Figure 7)

Remains dating to this period consisted of pits within Area A. The likely function of these pits was for rubbish disposal. As with the majority of post-

medieval features these remains are associated with the modern agricultural use of land on the eastern periphery of Great Barford (AG 16).

### 3.8.1 Phase 7 Assessment Groups

AG 17 – Pits

# 3.9 Phase 8: Un-phased (Figure 8)

Un-phased archaeological remains (AG 20) include pits, ditches and postholes. The lack of dateable artefactual material and any obvious associations with other dateable remains means that these features currently remain poorly understood and un-phased. Further consideration of their likely date and function will be given during the analysis phase of the project.

AG 18 is a series of tree bowls. Such features can be important in understanding changes in the prehistoric landscape particularly during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods when they are often seen as an indicator that agricultural land-use was intensifying. In this case they remain un-dated.

AG 19 are a series of geological features. Hand excavation was used to test several of these features prior to this interpretation being made.

# 3.9.1 Phase 8 Assessment Groups

AG 18 – Tree bowls

AG 19 – Geological features

AG 20 – Un-phased archaeological features (pits, postholes and ditches)

# 4. DATA-SET QUANTIFICATION

### 4.1 Introduction

For the following discussion the data-sets recovered during the investigations have been divided into three main classes: contextual, artefactual and ecofactual.

*Contextual* data relate 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 trial and open area excavation. All contexts have a detailed record sheet; many have a plan and section drawing along with photographs.

Artefactual data comprises human-made objects recovered during trial and open area excavation. These have been divided for ease of discussion into pottery, ceramic building material and other artefacts (including registered artefacts and bulk finds, such as industrial residues).

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

In the following sections contextual data is discussed first as this has provided the framework for the preceding summary of results and the subsequent dataset discussions. The methodological approach taken with each data-set is discussed, followed by sections dealing with quantification, provenance (spatially and chronologically) and also condition. All these factors are important in deciding the potential of the material for analysis.

### 4.2 Structural Data

### 4.2.1 Quantity of records

Table 3 presents a breakdown of the total quantity and type of structural records. These comprise the written description/interpretation of a deposit/feature (context sheets), a map-like drawing showing the location and inter-relationship between features (a plan), a profile drawing through a feature and its fills (section) and photographs.

|             | Evaluation | Excavation | Total |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Contexts    | 128        | 1063       | 1191  |
| Plan Sheets | 7          | 64         | 71    |
| Sections    | 1          | 169        | 170   |
| Photos      | 10         | 361        | 371   |

Table 3: Quantity records

## 4.2.2 Methodological approach to assessing contextual data

The contextual data was rapidly assessed in order to establish whether it would provide a coherent spatial and chronological framework. A total of 1191 contexts were assigned to "temporary" groups, e.g. boundary ditch, building, pit group, *etc*. (see Table 4). The decision over whether to assign contexts to groups or not was made on the basis of the following criteria:

- Do the contexts form a coherent spatial unit e.g. ditch length, pit group etc?
- Do the contexts represent key positions within the stratigraphic sequence?
- Do the contexts contain suitable dating material?

Groups were assigned to a number of episodes (phases) of human activity corresponding to broad, chronological divisions, e.g. Iron Age or post-medieval, based on their artefactual assemblage (see Table 2).

Much of the discussion in Section 3 and the following data-set discussions is based on the phase and group assignments.

| Phase  | Assessment  | Description  |          |
|--------|---|--|----------|
|        | Group   |  | contexts |
| 1      | AG 1  | Pit and two postholes  | 11       |
| 2      | AG 2  | Pit alignment  | 173      |
| 2      | AG 3  | Ditch associated with, and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.               | 25       |
| 2      | AG 4  | Ditch associated with, and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.               | 18       |
| 2 2    | AG 5  | Ditch associated with, and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.               | 25       |
| 2      | AG 6  | Ditch – possible serving a similar function to AG's 2, 3 4 and 5         | 29       |
| 2      | AG 7  | Ditch on the same alignment to, and serving a similar function to, AG 6. | 9        |
| 2      | AG 8  | Pit  | 12       |
| 3      | AG 10   | Opposing ditch and ditch terminals                                       | 9        |
| 3      | AG 11   | Intercutting pits  | 5        |
| 4      | AG 9  | Boundary ditch   | 14       |
| 4      | AG 12   | Boundary ditch   | 8        |
| 4      | AG 13   | Two pits and one posthole  | 19       |
| 5      | n/a   | The possibility of medieval activity within the                          | 0        |
|        | development area will be considered during the analysis |  |          |
|        |   | phase.   |          |
| 6      | AG 14   | Pits   | 13       |
| 6      | AG 15   | Animal burials   | 17       |
| 6      | AG 16   | Boundary ditches and structural remains of farm buildings                | 48       |
| 7      | AG 17 Modern intrusions                                 |  | 24       |
| 8      | AG 18   | Tree bowls   | 120      |
| 8      | AG 19   | Geological features  |          |
| 8      | AG 20   | Un-phased archaeological features (pits, postholes and                   | 145      |
|        |   | ditches)   |          |
| Layers | n/a   | Natural stratum (Topsoil, subsoil and undisturbed geological deposits)   | 63       |
| Total  |   |  | 1191     |

Table 4: Group descriptions (ordered by phase) with count of assigned contexts

## 4.2.3 Survival and condition of features/deposits

The survival of archaeological features is dependent on the nature and intensity of previous land use, especially ploughing. Larger features such as ditches and pits often survive the most intensive farming regime. However, ploughing often destroys the original ground surface and in the process removes floor layers and other surfaces.

The location of the development area immediately north of the historic core of Great Barford would make it an ideal location for arable use during all periods, therefore we might expect some plough truncation of archaeological deposits within it. This may explain why none of the ditches within AG's 2, 3, 4 and 5 were accompanied by a bank. These will almost certainly have been removed in antiquity along with the upper portion of those ditches and a number of other archaeological deposits which may once have existed on this land.

The site was under arable cultivation during the trial trenching and field-walking stages of the archaeological works (BCAS 1998). Although, interestingly, cartographic sources (1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, 1884) demonstrate that a footpath lined with trees ran in a north-east to south-west alignment through the centre of the development area. This confirms that at least part of the land was not being ploughed at that time and may have been brought into cultivation (again) in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The removal of trees lining the footpath (no longer visible on the 1901 Ordnance Survey) will have further damaged archaeological deposits within the site. However, the survival of at least a small number of postholes suggests that the level of truncation was not severe in all parts of the site.

# 4.3 Pottery

#### 4.3.1 Methodology

For each context, pottery was recorded by fabric type in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, and quantified by minimum sherd count and weight. This information was entered onto the Context Assemblage Table in the project database. Unless otherwise stated all quantitative statements are based on sherd count. Pottery was also spotdated by individual fabric type and the date of the latest sherd used in the provision of an overall context spotdate. The latter has been used to assist in the establishment of a provisional phasing structure (Table 1). (Section 4.2.2)

#### 4.3.2 Quantification

Three hundred and six sherds, weighing 4.1kg were recovered during trial trenching and open area excavation. Field artefact collection yielded 43 sherds (415g), the majority datable to the post-medieval period. The latter were concentrated in the south-west of the study area, and thought to be associated with former farm buildings lying to the west. Two Saxo-Norman sherds, and nine medieval sherds were also identified.

# 4.3.3 Range and variety: the pottery type series

Fabrics are listed below (Table 5) in chronological order, using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. No new fabric types were identified. Bracketed figures represent total percentage (by sherd number) for each chronological period. One asterisk denotes fabrics collected from both excavation and field artefact collection, and two denote fabrics recovered solely during field artefact collection.

| Fabric Type                            | Common name                    | Sherd No. |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Early prehistoric (4.0%)               |                                | 14        |
| Type X01                               | Non-specific early prehistoric | 14        |
|  |                                |           |
| Late Bronze age/early Iron Age (24.9%) |                                | 87        |
| Type F01A                              | Coarse flint                   | 2         |
| Type F01B                              | Fine flint                     | 2         |
| Type F28                               | Fine sand                      | 83        |
| Late Iron Age (20.0%)                  |                                | 70        |
| Type F06B                              | Medium grog                    | 36        |
| Type F06C                              | Coarse grog                    | 14        |
| Type F07                               | Shell                          | 18        |
| Type F09                               | Sand and grog                  | 2         |
| Type F                                 | Non-specific Iron Age          | 4         |
| Roman (1.4%)                           |                                | 5         |
| Type R01                               | Samian ware                    | 1         |
| Type R02                               | Mica-gilded                    | 1         |
| Type R05A                              | Orange sandy                   | 1         |
| Type R07B                              | Sandy blackware                | 1         |
| Type R11D                              | Oxford colour coat             | 1         |
| Saxon (1.1%)                           |                                | 4         |
| Type A16                               | Mixed coarse quartz            | 3         |
| Type A18                               | Fine quartz                    | 1         |
| Saxo-Norman (8.5%)                     |                                | 30        |
| Type B01*                              | St Neots-type ware             | 17        |
| Type B01A                              | St Neots-type (orange)         | 11        |
| Type B01B                              | St Neots-type (fine)           | 1         |
| Type B04**                             | St Neots-type (coarse)         | 1         |
| Medieval (4.2%)                        |                                | 15        |
| Type B07*                              | Shelly                         | 6         |
| Type C01**                             | Sandy                          | 1         |
| Type C05**                             | Coarse sand                    | 2         |
| Type C60**                             | Hertfordshire-type grey ware   | 1         |
| Type C10**                             | Potterspury ware               | 1         |
| Type C11**                             | Brill-Boarstall (coarse)       |           |
| Type CII                               | Dini-Boarstan (coarse)         | 1         |

| Fabric Type           | Common name                       | Sherd No. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Type E01              | Late medieval reduced             | 2         |
| Type E03              | Late medieval smooth              | 1         |
| Post-medieval (26.3%) |                                   | 92        |
| Type P01*             | Fine glazed red earthenware       | 32        |
| Type P02*             | Coarse glazed red earthenware     | 11        |
| Type P03*             | Black-glazed earthenware          | 15        |
| Type P05              | Hard-fired earthenware            | 2         |
| Type P06              | Fine slip-decorated earthenware   | 2         |
| Type P07              | Coarse slip-decorated earthenware | 3         |
| Type P10              | Red earthenware                   | 3         |
| Type P12**            | Cistercian ware                   | 1         |
| Type P14**            | Blackware                         | 4         |
| Type P19              | Mottle/Speckle-glazed ware        |           |
| Type P27              | Westerwald                        | 1         |
| Type P30*             | Staffordshire slipware            | 6         |
| Type P33              | Tin-glazed ware                   | 1         |
| Type P36A             | Brown salt-glazed stoneware       | 4         |
| Type P53              | Potterspury slipware              | 1         |
| Type P                | Non-specific post-medieval        | 4         |
| Modern (4.2%)         |                                   | 15        |
| Type P37              | White salt-glazed Stoneware       | 4         |
| Type P38              | Creamware                         | 9         |
| Type P39              | Mocha ware                        | 1         |
| Type P43              | Pearlware                         | 1         |
| UNID (3.1%)           | Unidentified ware                 | 11        |

Table 5: Pottery type series

### 4.3.4 Provenance, phasing and date rage

The pottery displays a wide date range spanning the early prehistoric period to the present day, with the majority of the assemblage being of post-medieval date. Composition of the assemblage suggests that the material was subject to variable processes of post-depositional disturbance or contamination. Overall, the degree of fragmentation is high (average sherd weight 13g), with few vessels represented by more than one sherd. Thirty-five features (83% of contexts producing pottery) contained less than 100g, and only one feature (2%) yielded in excess of 1kg. Thirteen features (31%) yielded only single sherds. The greatest pottery concentrations (by weight) derived from features within Phase 6 (Table 6), which produced 51% of the total assemblage.

| Phase | Assess<br>ment<br>Group | Group Description  | Sherd no : Weight<br>(g) |
|-------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1     | AG 1                    | Pits and two postholes   | 99:818                   |
| 2     | AG 2                    | Pit alignment  | 32:442                   |
|       | AG 3                    | Ditch associated with, and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.               | 6:35                     |
|       | AG 6                    | Ditch – possibly serving a similar function to AG's 2, 3 4 and 5         | 17:187                   |
|       | AG 7                    | Ditch on the same alignment to, and serving a similar function to, AG 6. | 1:31                     |
| 3     | AG 10                   | Opposing ditch and ditch terminals                                       | 7:20                     |
|       | AG 11                   | Intercutting pits  | 1:6                      |
| 4     | AG 9                    | Boundary ditch   | 2:1                      |
|       | AG 12                   | Boundary ditch   | 6:35                     |
|       | AG 13                   | One pit and one posthole   | 21:191                   |
| 6     | AG 14                   | Pits   | 40:1665                  |
|       | AG 15                   | Animal burials   | 1:2                      |
|       | AG 16                   | Boundary ditches and structural remains of farm buildings                | 30:446                   |
| 7     | AG 17                   | Modern intrusions  | 14:60                    |
| 8     | AG 20                   | Un-phased archaeological features (pits, postholes and ditches)          | 29:172                   |
|       |                         |  | 306:4111                 |

Table 6: Quantity of pottery by phase and group

## Early Prehistoric

The earliest material recovered comprises fourteen sherds (81g) of an early Bronze Age vessel (fabric X01). The latter is well-fired in a sand tempered fabric, has a thin, upright rim and is decorated externally with fine whipped cord impressions and internally with a finger-nail impressed motif. Traces of a cordon or carination also appear to survive.

The incidence of early Bronze Age pottery within the county is relatively rare, with the majority of sherds deriving from isolated deposits. The vessel was derived from Phase 1 pit fill AG 1, Area B, in association with a number of early Iron Age sherds. It is probable that the Bronze Age vessel is residual, although it is relatively unabraded, and the feature appears largely undisturbed.

#### Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age

Pottery of late Bronze Age/ early Iron Age date comprises 87 undiagnostic, hand-made sand, and flint tempered sherds (747g), in fabrics F28, and F01A/B respectively. Refining a date range for these vessels is problematic, as types such as F28 appear to span an extended period from the late Bronze Age to the pre-'Belgic' Iron Age (*c.f.* Biddenham Loop, Albion in prep). Although small, (average sherd weight 8g), the sherds are generally well-made, and largely unabraded. The majority derived from pit AG 1, Area B (Figure 2) and two sherds were residual within Iron Age ditch AG 3, Area A.

#### Late Iron Age

Seventy sherds, weighing 846g, are datable to the late Iron Age. Vessels occur in grog and shell tempered fabric types (F06, F09 and F07 respectively), characteristic of the 'Belgic' tradition (Thompson, 1982). Sherds are generally small (average sherd weight 12g) and moderately abraded. Diagnostic forms comprise storage jars, a cordoned jar, and lid-seated and bead rim vessels. Late Iron Age material derives entirely from Area A, principally pit alignment AG 2 and associated ditches AG 3, AG 6 and AG 7, Phase 2. Twenty-four residual late Iron Age sherds were recovered from Phase 4 pit AG 13, and Phase 8 post-holes and pits AG 20.

#### Roman

Roman pottery is represented by five undiagnostic, abraded sherds, weighing 22g. Continental and regional imports comprise single sherds of early Roman samian ware (type R01) and late Roman Oxford colour coat (R11D). Locally manufactured coarse wares of probable 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century date (types R05A and R07B) and fine wares (type R02) are each represented by single sherds. The incidence of Roman pottery is restricted to features in Area A, occurring within ditches AG 10 and pits AG 11. Intrusive sherds were also recovered from late Iron Age ditch AG 6.

#### Saxo-Norman/Saxo-Norman

Four undiagnostic sherds (10g) of sand tempered early to middle Saxon pottery (types A16 and A18) were recovered from Roman ditches AG 10, where they are considered to be intrusive.

Twenty-eight sherds (309g) comprise shell tempered wheel-thrown vessels in the St Neots-type tradition (types B01 and B04), dating from the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries. The majority derived from the sieved residues of environmental samples, and are small (average sherd weight 10g) and abraded. Forms comprise an everted rim jar and hammerhead bowl datable to the conquest period. The majority derived from pits AG 13, Area A, and three sherds were recovered from ditch AG 12, Area B. A residual sherd derived from a post-medieval ditch within AG 16, Area A.

Two undiagnostic St Neots-type sherds (1g) were recovered from the south of the study area during field artefact collection.

#### Medieval

Medieval pottery is poorly represented among the excavated material, and comprises three undiagnostic sherds (30g) of early medieval shell tempered type B07, and three sherds (49g) of late medieval sand tempered ware (types E01 and E03). The former derived from pits AG 13, Area A, and the latter from post-medieval ditch AG 16, where they are considered residual.

The small medieval assemblage of nine sherds (76g) recovered during field artefact collection comprises a range of fabric types which span the entire medieval period. They include locally manufactured sand and shell tempered coarse wares (types C01/C04/C60, and B07 respectively) of early medieval

date. High and late medieval types comprise regional imports from Potterspury (Northants) and Brill/Boarstall (Bucks). The distribution of medieval pottery is restricted to the south of the study area.

#### Post-medieval

Post-medieval pottery from excavated contexts comprises 62 sherds, weighing 1.9kg. The majority are glazed and slip-decorated earthenwares of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date. Small quantities of Staffordshire and Potterspury slipware, tinglazed ware, brown salt-glazed stoneware and Westerwald stoneware also occur. Pottery datable to the early post-medieval period is represented by sherds of Cistercian ware and Blackware.

The majority of the assemblage is associated with pits AG 14, Phase 6, with smaller amounts deriving from ditches and farm buildings AG 16. A single sherd (2g) derived from animal burials AG 15.

A small concentration of thirty post-medieval sherds (338g) recovered from the south-west of the study area during field artefact collection, is likely to be associated with former farm buildings to the west.

#### Modern

Fifteen sherds (62g) datable to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century were associated with post-medieval ditch AG 16 and Phase 7 farm building foundations AG 17, Area A. They comprise undiagnostic pieces of Creamware, Mochaware, Pearlware, and salt-glazed stoneware.

# 4.4 Ceramic Building Material

#### 4.4.1 Methodology

For each context, ceramic building material (comprising brick/tile and fired clay), was recorded by fabric type in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, and quantified by minimum fragment count and weight. This information was entered onto the Context Assemblage Table in the project database. Where possible, the ceramic building material was also spotdated.

#### 4.4.2 Quantification

Fifty-one fragments of brick and tile weighing 4.4kg were recovered during excavation. Approximately twenty-one fired clay fragments weighing 18g were also collected. Field artefact collection yielded 69 brick and tile fragments, weighing 2.1kg.

### 4.4.3 Range and variety, provenance and date range

#### Brick and tile

The excavated brick and tile assemblage comprises sand tempered peg tiles and brick fragments dating from the late medieval/post-medieval periods. Fragments are small (average fragment weight 86g), although largely unabraded. No complete objects were collected: the only measurements

recorded were thicknesses, which range between 45-65mm for bricks, and 10-18mm for roof tiles.

The assemblage derived entirely from features assigned to post-medieval and modern Phases 6 and 7, particularly pits AG14 and ditches and associated farm buildings AG 16.

Fifty-four sand tempered flat roof tile and brick fragments (1.8kg) were recovered during field artefact collection. The fragments are mostly small and battered. Two additional fragments (63g) of post-medieval/modern land drain and brick were also identified. A single abraded piece (80g) of oxidised sand tempered building material has been tentatively identified as a Roman brick fragment. Although totally undiagnostic, the fragment differs completely from all other building material collected and is more extensively abraded, suggesting an earlier date. Fourteen fragments (228g) were too fragmentary, undiagnostic and degraded to be accurately classified.

No concentrations of late medieval/post-medieval building material occurred. The dispersed and random deposition patterns are likely to be the result of agricultural practices, such as manuring.

# Fired Clay

The fired clay assemblage comprises amorphous and abraded fragments in a fine sand tempered fabric. The majority derived from the sieved residues of environmental samples and are very small (average fragment weight 1g) and abraded. Most appear to be degraded pieces of brick or tile.

Seventeen fragments were recovered from un-phased pits/postholes AG 20. Three pieces derived from pits AG 13, Phase 4, and a single fragment from pit alignment AG 2, Phase 2.

#### 4.5 Other Artefacts

# 4.5.1 Methodology

For each context, artefacts were assigned a simple name and functional category in accordance with the Bedfordshire Artefact Typology and quantified by number and/or weight. Where possible, artefacts were dated, and this information contributed to the overall context spotdate.

### 4.5.2 Quantification

The registered and bulk non-ceramic assemblage comprises three iron objects, fifteen nails, fourteen pieces of worked flint, and small quantities of clay pipe, shell, slag, vessel glass and burnt stone (Table 7).

|                | Quantity |
|----------------|----------|
| Ceramic        | 10       |
| Glass          | 200g     |
| Iron           | 15       |
| Flint          | 14       |
| Flint (burnt)  | 3        |
| Shell          | 11g      |
| Slag (ferrous) | 255g     |
| Stone (burnt)  | 201g     |
| Vitrified clay | 2g       |

Table 7: Registered and non-ceramic artefacts by material

#### 4.5.3 Range, variety, provenance and date

The majority of the assemblage derives from features associated with Phases 2 and 6 (Table 8). A scan of typologically datable artefacts indicates a date range spanning the early prehistoric to the post-medieval/modern periods.

The earliest datable artefacts are probably of late neolithic/early Bronze Age date, and comprise thirteen worked flints, weighing 173g, fashioned from poor quality raw material. Seven flakes, two testing flakes, two crested flakes (one retouched), a crested blade and a possible core fragment were identified. A possible unfinished scraper (13g) was also present. All are residual within later features, within Area A, the majority deriving from pit alignment AG 2 and associated ditches AG 3 and AG 5, Phase 2. Two flakes were recovered from ditch terminals AG 10, Phase 3, and three from undated Phase 8 features (AG 19 and AG 20). Three pieces of heat affected flint, weighing 9g were recovered from pit alignment AG 2.

Field artefact collection yielded twenty-one pieces of worked flint, weighing 131g. The majority comprises debitage and cores (three examples). Core products include blades, flakes, retouched flakes and possible core rejuvenation flakes. The presence of both blade and multi-platform flake core fragments suggest a mixed Mesolithic to late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date for the assemblage. Implements are restricted to a knife of probable Mesolithic date, a fabricator, and an end scraper. The latter are undatable. The material includes both patinated and unpatinated flint which has sustained edge damage characteristic of a plough zone assemblage.

The remainder of the assemblage is largely datable to the post-medieval period. Six undiagnostic fragments of post-medieval and modern vessel glass derived from rubbish pits AG 14 and ditches AG 16, associated with Phase 6. Other post-medieval artefacts include ten miscellaneous fragments of clay pipe stem. The recovery of the iron timber nails and door stud in association with post-medieval pottery and building material, suggests the former are also of a similar date.

| Phase | Group | Group description   | Find Type   |
|-------|-------|---|---|
| 1     | AG 1  | Pits and two postholes  | Vitrified clay (2g)   |
| 2     | AG 2  | Pit alignment   | Burnt flint (9g); worked flint (x 6)  |
|       | AG 3  | Ditch associated with, and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.      | Worked flint (x 1); snail shell (1g)  |
|       | AG 5  | Ditch associated with , and parallel to pit alignment AG 2.     | Worked flint (x 2)  |
| 3     | AG 10 | Opposing ditches and ditch terminals                            | Worked flint (x 2)  |
| 6     | AG 14 | Pits  | Burnt stone (201g); clay pipe (5g); fe nail (x 1); ferrous slag (255g); vessel glass (163g)         |
|       | AG 15 | Animal burials  | Fe nail (x 1); fe object (x 1)  |
|       | AG 16 | Boundary ditches and structural remains of farm buildings       | Clay pipe (23g); fe nail (x 13); fe<br>strip & door stud; oyster shell (10g);<br>vessel glass (37g) |
| 8     | AG 19 | Geological features   | Worked flint (x 1)  |
|       | AG 20 | Un-phased archaeological features (pits, postholes and ditches) | Charcoal (2g); worked flint (x 2)   |

Table 8: Registered and non-ceramic bulk artefacts by phase and group

#### 4.6 Animal Bone

## 4.6.1 Methodology

For each context, animal bone was quantified by minimum fragment count and weight. This information was entered onto the Context Assemblage Table in the project database. Unless otherwise stated all quantitative statements are based on fragment count.

### 4.6.2 Quantification, preservation and provenance

A total of 1285 animal bone fragments, weighing 9.6kg was recovered, the majority deriving from features in Area B. Composition of the assemblage suggests that the material was subject to variable processes of post-depositional disturbance. Overall, the degree of fragmentation is high, indicated by a low average fragment weight of 7g. The average number of bones collected per context is twenty-seven. Twenty-five features (66% of contexts producing animal bone) contained less than 100g, and only three features (8%) yielded in excess of 1kg. The greatest concentrations derived from burials within Phase 6, which produced 78% of the total assemblage (Table 9).

| Phase | Group | Group description   | Frag no : Weight (g) |
|-------|-------|---|----------------------|
| 1     | AG 1  | Pits and two postholes  | 10:2*                |
| 2     | AG 2  | Pit alignment   | 148:1120             |
|       | AG 3  | Ditch associated with, and parallel to, pit alignment AG 2.       | 2:3                  |
|       | AG 5  | Ditch associated with, and parallel to, pit alignment AG 2.       | 1:10                 |
|       | AG 6  | Ditch – possible serving a similar function to AG's 2, 3, 4 and 5 | 4:16                 |
| 3     | AG 10 |   | 4:125                |
| 4     | AG 9  | Boundary ditch  | 1:1                  |
|       | AG 12 | Boundary ditch  | 6:24                 |
|       | AG 13 | Two pits and one posthole   | 46:39                |
| 6     | AG 14 | Pits  | 14:743               |
|       | AG 15 | Animal burials  | 1008:7194            |
|       | AG 16 | Boundary ditches and structural remains of farm buildings         | 40:218               |
| 8     | AG 20 | Un-phased archaeological features (pits, postholes and ditches)   | 1:124                |
| •     |       |   | 1285:9619            |

Table 9: Quantity of animal bone by phase and group

Preservation within the contexts examined ranges from good to poor. The majority of the assemblage survives in moderate condition, with frequent occurrences of eroded and fragmented bone. None of the pieces are burnt.

Twelve percent of the total assemblage derives from Phase 2 features, principally pit alignment AG 2, which contained 148 fragments, weighing 1.1kg. Diagnostic elements comprise long bone shafts and heads, phalanges, mandible and teeth fragments, many deriving from a horse.

Four fragments (125g) of cow mandible were recovered from Roman ditch terminals AG 10, Area A, and fifty-two (63g) miscellaneous pieces from Saxo-Norman features within Phase 4, Areas A and B. The latter derive mainly from the sieved residues of environmental samples, and are small and undiagnostic.

The majority of the faunal assemblage derives from burials AG 15, Phase 6, which yielded 1008 fragments, weighing 7.1kg. Four burials of probable late post-medieval or modern date comprise the articulated or semi-articulated remains of a dog [2005], cow [3074], sheep or goat [2124], and a female goat or sheep with young [2036]. A number of undiagnostic vertebrae, rib and long bone fragments derived from associated rubbish pits [2007] and [2009]. All survive in moderate to poor condition, some having sustained damage by ploughing. Post-medieval ditches AG 16, Phase 6, yielded 37 fragments (203g) including long bones and pieces of pig mandible.

# 4.7 Environmental Samples

# 4.7.1 Methodology

Seventeen samples were taken for the extraction of charred plant remains, and one for the recovery of molluscan remains. They were processed by bulk flotation in a peroxide solution, with volumes ranging from nine to fifty litres. Flots were taken from seventeen samples on a 300 micron meshed sieve. The residues were then passed through a 5.6mm, 2.0mm and 1.0mm sieve stack. The 5.6mm residues were sorted for artefacts, while the 2.0mm and 1.0mm residues were retained unsorted.

#### 4.7.2 Quantification and provenance

The majority of samples were taken from features assigned to Phase 2, in particular pit alignment AG 2. All flots contained charcoal in varying amounts, especially sample <217>, although charred seeds were entirely absent. Small quantities of snails occurred in the pit alignment AG 2 and associated ditch AG 4.

| Phase | Group | Sample | Charcoal | Charred Seed | Snails |
|-------|-------|--------|----------|--------------|--------|
| 2     | AG 2  | 207    | 3        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 2  | 208    | 1        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 2  | 209    | 1        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 2  | 212    | 2        | 0            | 1      |
|       | AG 2  | 214    | 2        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 2  | 215    | 3        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 2  | 216    | 1        | 0            | 5      |
|       | AG 2  | 217    | 5        | 0            | 2      |
|       | AG 4  | 213    | 1        | 0            | 3      |
| 4     | AG 9  | 200    | 1        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 12 | 203    | 4        | 1            | 0      |
|       | AG 13 | 210    | 5        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 13 | 211    | 5        | 1            | 0      |
| 8     | AG 20 | 201    | 2        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 20 | 202    | 2        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 20 | 204    | 4        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 20 | 205    | 5        | 0            | 0      |
|       | AG 20 | 206    | 2        | 0            | 0      |

\*Key: 1 = very few; 5 = very abundant

Table 10: Charcoal, charred plant remains and snails by phase and group

Three samples taken from ditch AG 12 and pit AG 13, Phase 4, contained abundant charcoal. The only evidence for charred seeds on the site derived from samples in this phase. Snail evidence was entirely absent.

Five samples were taken from a group of undated postholes / pits in Area B. Although charcoal occurred relatively abundantly in all samples, charred seeds and snails were totally absent.

# 5. ANALYTICAL POTENTIAL OF THE DATA

### 5.1 Introduction

In this section the analytical potential of each data-set is reviewed. This information is summarised in Tables 11 and 12.

#### 5.2 Contextual Data

The site consists of cut features such as pits, ditches and postholes. There was no evidence of layers such as floors or external surfaces. The land-use and topography of the site within open fields north of Great Barford, suggest that it will have been subject to plough truncation for several centuries.

Overall the site can be characterised as having a comparatively low density of archaeological features, mostly consisting of partially truncated negative features. Very few of the features recorded on the site shared stratigraphic relationships with other features. This has meant that feature morphology and deposit character have been especially important in the phasing of the remains encountered, especially given the relatively small quantity of dateable artefactual material which was recovered.

The contextual data-set has, respectively, low and moderate potential to contribute to the original research objectives related to LBA/EIA and LIA/RB settlement. The LBA/EIA remains consisted of a single pit and two postholes; dated on the basis of pottery sherds found within them. Two opposing ditches containing Roman pottery sherds formed the entrance to an enclosure in the southern part of the site. In addition, two intercutting pits were also dated to this period on the basis of pottery sherds.

The contextual data-set has no potential to contribute to the original research objective related to medieval settlement.

In contrast, this data-set has high potential to contribute to a new research objective related to the division and organisation of the Iron Age landscape. The remains from this period included a pit alignment and five associated ditches. Collectively they formed a distinctive land boundary, typical of the middle Iron Age. The contextual data can also address the issue of how this monumental feature disappeared from the landscape.

The contextual data-set has moderate potential to contribute to a new research objective related to land-use in the Saxo-Norman period. The remains from this period included two ditches (field boundaries) two pits and one posthole dated using artefactual material found within them.

The majority of the post-medieval, modern and unphased features have no analytical potential. However, the location of the tree bowls will be considered in relation to known prehistoric features.

#### 5.3 Ceramics

Although small, the pottery assemblage is interesting as it contains a range of material dating from the early prehistoric period to the present day. Although some periods, principally Roman and Saxo-Norman, are only represented by a small number of sherds, their presence is sufficient to indicate activity peripheral to areas of settlement which may lie beyond the development area.

The ceramic data-set has only low potential to contribute to original research objectives related to LBA/EIA and LIA/RB settlement. It will assist in providing dating evidence for remains within the site and will identify regional links.

The ceramic data-set has only low potential to contribute to the original research objective related to medieval settlement. Pottery sherds recovered during fieldwalking suggest that the development area was part of the open fields associated with the township of Great Barford.

The ceramic data-set has only low potential to contribute to a new research objective related to the division and organisation of the Iron Age landscape. The material from the pit alignment will help us to understand when this monumental feature went out of use.

The ceramic data-set has low potential to contribute to a new research objective related to land-use in the Saxo-Norman period, by providing dating material.

The ceramic data-set has only low potential to contribute to a new research objective related to the distribution of early prehistoric pottery. The residual sherds of an early prehistoric vessel found within a pit in Phase 1 are the most relevant for this purpose.

The brick and tile assemblage is derived entirely from features assigned to post-medieval and modern Phases 6 and 7, and has no potential for further analysis.

### 5.4 Other Artefacts

The size and nature of the artefactual assemblage allow only limited conclusions to be drawn regarding the character and date of activity on site. Typologically datable artefacts are indicative of an early prehistoric presence, and activity during the post-medieval and later periods. The former is attested by the presence of the residual worked flint assemblage, and the latter by a number of domestic/household items.

It is unlikely that the small lithic assemblage can contribute to the debate on the use of flint in the Iron Age (Young and Humphrey 1999), although its presence in a residual context is probably noteworthy. This category of artefactual evidence does not hold any potential to address any of the original research objectives and no new research objectives have been identified.

#### 5.5 Animal Bone

The faunal assemblage is small in size and much of the material is quite poorly preserved. This limits the number of identifiable fragments available for analysis and the amount of ageing, metrical and butchery data available from those fragments that can be identified to species. The bulk of the faunal material derives from Phase 6 features. Although only one burial within this group yielded datable finds, the proximity of the burials to areas of known post-medieval and modern activity suggests they are of similar date. They consequently have no potential for further analysis.

Full quantification and analysis of the Phase 2 - 4 assemblages may, however, be useful, although their potential is obviously limited by the small assemblage sizes. Recording data from the Phase 2 deposits may enable some limited species comparison with other sites and will add to the existing faunal data-set for the region.

The animal bone has low potential to contribute to original research objectives related to LIA/RB settlement. This will be achieved through comparison with material from other sites of the same period and will make a contribution to regional data-sets.

The animal bone has low potential to contribute to the new research objectives related to Iron Age and Saxo-Norman land-use. Comparison with other sites (particularly other excavated pit alignments) will be possible and the assemblage will represent a contribution to the regional data-set.

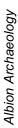
#### 5.6 Environmental Remains

All flots contained wood charcoal in varying amounts, although the fragments are probably too small to have potential for species identification. No charred seeds were observed in the flots from either Phase 2 or 8, and occurred only in negligible quantities in Phase 4 samples. It is, however, possible that the unsorted residues from these samples may contain charcoal and charred plant remains. Snails occurred only in samples taken from Phase 2 features.

This data-set has no potential to contribute to any of the original research objectives.

However, it does have low potential to contribute to the new research objectives related to Iron Age and Saxo-Norman land-use. This will be achieved through comparison with other sites and its contribution to the regional data-set. In particular, the snails may help to elucidate environmental conditions while the pit alignment was going out of use.

The Phase 8 material has no potential for further analysis.



| cts                      |  |   |                                    |
|--------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Ecofacts                 | 1  | 1   | 1                                  |
| Animal bone              | 1  | Low                                       | 1                                  |
| Non-ceramic<br>artefacts | I  | ı   | ı                                  |
| CBM                      | 1  | 1   | ı                                  |
| Contextual Pottery       | Low  | Low                                       | Low                                |
| Contextual               | Low  | Moderate                                  | ı                                  |
| Objective                | Late Bronze Age (LBA)/ early Iron Age (EIA) settlement | 2 Late Iron Age / Romano-British land-use | 3 Medieval settlement and land-use |
|                          | 1  | 2   | 3                                  |

Table 11: Potential of recovered data-sets to address the original research objectives

# 6. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES FOR ANALYSIS

#### 6.1 Introduction

The research objectives for analysis include three of the original objectives and three new objectives (Table 12, Objectives 1 - 6).

## 6.2 Research Objectives for Analysis

### 6.2.1 Regional distribution of early Bronze Age pottery

The ceramic data-set has low potential to contribute to studies in regional pottery typologies. Such research has been highlighted as a relevant research aim for this period (Brown and Murphy 2000 p.10).

# 6.2.2 Late Bronze Age (LBA) and early Iron Age (EIA) settlement

The contextual data-set has low potential to contribute to original research objectives related to LBA/EIA settlement. A single pit and two postholes have been dated to this period and comparison of these features with remains identified in other contemporary sites will augment our knowledge of feature types typical of this period.

Despite the relatively small quantity of pottery found at this site, analysis and comparison of pottery assemblages dating to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age periods will augment our knowledge of the pottery typologies for these periods. They will also make a useful contribution to the available material for this region, and these periods. This has been highlighted as a relevant research aim in several research frameworks (Brown and Murphy 2000 p.10 and Bryant 2000, p.14).

#### 6.2.3 Iron Age landscape

What can the development area tell us about the monumental landscape of the Great Barford region during the Iron Age? The pit alignment and three associated parallel ditches (AG's 2, 3, 4 and 5) are all considered to be broadly contemporary and part of the same linear boundary monument. In addition to these features, ditches AG 6 and AG 7 (which truncate the pit alignment) are considered to be part of the same monument, albeit a later part. Collectively, these features form an important complex.

The function of these linear boundaries is the subject of debate; several theories have been put forward to explain their existence. These include:

- Markers on the edge of tribal territories (Bryant 2000).
- Land boundaries required to split up valuable agricultural land which was under a more intensive agricultural regime in the Iron Age than had been necessary in earlier periods (Bryant 2000).
- At Biddenham (Albion Archaeology, *in prep*) a pit alignment cut off a promontory in the River Ouse, a pattern repeated elsewhere (Jones 2003). This may have been used to either keep in, or shut out,

livestock. Alternatively, it may have marked sacred space associated with the river. It is interesting to speculate whether this is the case at College Farm. Figure 8 indicates a projected route of the pit alignment which clearly heads south-east towards the River Great Ouse and north-west towards a stream connected to the Ouse.

- Trackway/droveway markers a pit alignment would provide a porous boundary to a trackway similar in function to a ditch; although less restrictive if traffic were needing to pass freely in and out of the trackway (Jones 2003).
- Land/property division several pit alignments (including that at College Farm) are at right angles to rivers. This pattern suggests they may have marked the location of property boundaries used by family and/or tribal groupings to access valuable riverside resources and grazing land (Jones 2003).

Which of these theories (if any) is correct, remains uncertain. However, it is clear such boundaries are key to understanding the tremendous social, economic and political changes which took place during the Iron Age.

The contextual, pottery, animal bone and ecofact data-sets retain a variable potential to address research objectives related to the Iron Age Landscape. Such research has been highlighted as a relevant research aim in several research frameworks (Bryant 2000 p.15, Haselgrove *et al* 2002 - **F1.2**, p.27 and EH 1997 - **P7**, p.47)

The HER records the existence of several significant cropmarks within the immediate vicinity of the site (Section 1.3). The analysis phase of this project should attempt to look at the Iron Age remains at College Farm and compare these to other known or suspected sites in the area. The aim will be to compare feature types and to assist in the dating of these sites.

Such research has been highlighted as a relevant research aim in several research frameworks (Bryant 2000 p.15, Haselgrove *et al* 2002 - **F1.2**, p.27 and EH 1997 - **P7**, p.47).

#### 6.2.4 Late Iron Age (LIA) / Romano-British (RB) land-use

The contextual data-set has moderate potential to contribute to our understanding of LIA/RB land-use in this area. Features consisted of two opposing ditches which formed the entrance to an enclosure in the southern part of the site. In addition, two intercutting pits of unknown function were also dated to this period.

The ceramic data-set has low potential to contribute to this research objective. It will also, incidentally, contribute to the study of regional pottery typologies (Going and Plouviez 2000, p.22).

The animal bone has low potential to contribute to this research objective. It will also provide a comparison with material from other sites of the same

period will make a contribution to regional assemblages (Going and Plouviez 2000, p.22).

The HER records the existence of several significant cropmarks within the immediate vicinity of the site (Section 1.3). The analysis phase of this project will attempt to relate the late Iron Age/Romano-British remains at College Farm to these suspected sites. Such work has been highlighted as a relevant research aim in several research frameworks (Bryant 2000 p.15, Haselgrove *et al* 2002 - **F1.2**, p.27 and EH 1997 - **P7**, p.47).

#### 6.2.5 Saxo-Norman land-use

The contextual data, pottery, animal bone and charred plant remains (environmental data) found within deposits dating to this period suggest the presence of settlement activity very close to, if not within, the development area. These data-sets have low to moderate potential to contribute to this research aim, the importance of which was been highlighted by Wade (2000, p.25).

#### 6.2.6 Medieval land-use

No features dating to this period were identified during the fieldwork. However, a small assemblage of medieval pottery was residual within other features, or was collected from the topsoil during fieldwalking. Such material may have been deposited on the site during manuring (fertilising fields with household rubbish and manure). Therefore, this material has low potential to contribute to understanding of medieval land-use on the outskirts of Great Barford.



|   | Objective   | Contextual | Pottery | CBM | Non-ceramic<br>artefacts | Animal bone | Ecofacts |
|---|---|------------|---------|-----|--------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | Regional distribution of early Bronze Age (EBA) pottery   | 1          | Low     | 1   | 1                        | 1           | ı        |
| 7 | Late Bronze Age (LBA) and early Iron Age (EIA) settlement | Low        | Low     | 1   | 1                        | 1           | ı        |
| 3 | Iron Age landscape  | High       | Low     | 1   | 1                        | Low         | Low      |
| 4 | 4 Late Iron Age (LIA) Romano-British (RB) land-use        | Moderate   | Low     | 1   | 1                        | Low         | ı        |
| 2 | 5 Saxo-Norman land-use                                    | Moderate   | Low     | 1   | ı                        | Low         | Low      |
| 9 | 6 Medieval land-use                                       | 1          | Low     | 1   | -                        | -           | -        |

Table 12: Research objectives for analysis and potential of data-sets

## 7. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

#### 7.1 Introduction

Albion operates a fully integrated, computer-based system for analysing archaeological data. All contextual, artefactual and ecofactual information is entered onto an Access database. Plan and section drawings are digitised. The databases and digital drawings are interfaced via a GIS system (Gsys) allowing all chronological, spatial and material groupings (and any combination thereof) to be viewed and manipulated. In addition, all the site photographs are held in a digital format, allowing them to be viewed on screen with database and digital drawings.

The system enables rapid and flexible analysis of the project data-sets. It also facilitates the output of a series of text reports, supported by plan and other graphic forms. These will form the basis for the final publication report.

#### 7.2 Publication

The Associate Editor of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, a county-based journal, has agreed in principle to include in a future volume a report on the results of the excavation. The suggested format is set out below (Table 13) with indicative page and figure counts.

|    | Summary                                       | No. pages | No. figs |
|----|---|-----------|----------|
| 1. | Introduction                                  |           |          |
|    | Site location and conditions                  | 1         | 1        |
|    | <ul> <li>Archaeological background</li> </ul> | 1         | 1        |
|    | The archaeological investigations             | 1         |          |
|    | Structure and terminology in this article     | 1/2       |          |
| 2. | Results of the investigations                 |           |          |
|    | Bronze Age/early Iron Age                     | 1/2       | 1        |
|    | Middle Iron Age                               | 4         | 2        |
|    | • Roman                                       | 1         | 1        |
|    | Saxo-Norman                                   | 1         | 1        |
|    | Medieval                                      | 1/4       |          |
| 3. | The artefactual assemblage                    |           |          |
|    | • Pottery                                     | 3         |          |
| 4. | The ecofacts                                  |           |          |
|    | Animal bone                                   | 1         |          |
|    | Charred plant remains                         | 1         |          |
|    | • Molluscs                                    | 1         |          |
| 5. | Discussion                                    | 2         |          |
| 6. | Conclusions                                   | 1         |          |
|    | Acknowledgements                              | 1/4       |          |
|    | References                                    | 1         |          |
|    | TOTAL   | 20 3/4    | 7        |

Table 13: Provisional outline of the publication

The chronological phased development of the site will provide the basic structure for the site narrative. Within each phase, text will be organised by landscape and group, with artefactual and ecofactual information integrated into the text as appropriate.

The discussion will concentrate on the middle Iron Age evidence, particularly the character of the special boundary comprised of a pit alignment and the five parallel, associated ditches. The discussion will focus on their likely function and their relationship to other known or suspected Iron Age sites within close proximity. Comparisons for this type of boundary will be sought regionally and nationally, if these prove relevant.

The outline (Table 13) of the publication should be considered a guideline and may be altered during the analysis and pre-publication stages if the results warrant it.

#### 7.3 Timetable

Following the acceptance by the client and AO of the assessment and updated project design, Albion would like to proceed rapidly with the analysis and publication of the results. This would ensure project momentum is maintained.

Detailed method statements, with task numbers and resource levels, are provided in Appendix 1. Table 14 sets out the five key stages within the analysis and publication programme. An indication of <a href="maximum"><u>maximum</u></a> time required to reach the first three key stages is indicated and these could serve as appropriate monitoring points, if required.

| Completion of | Description of tasks                | Time     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Key stage 1   | Analysis                            | 2 months |
| Key stage 2   | Report writing for data-sets        | 2 months |
|               | and illustration                    |          |
| Key stage 3   | Completion of 1 <sup>st</sup> draft |          |
|               | followed by circulation to          |          |
|               | Client, AO and referees             |          |
| Key stage 4   | Completion of final draft and       | 1 month  |
|               | submission to Bedfordshire          |          |
|               | Archaeology                         |          |
| Key stage 5   | Publication and archiving           | *        |

Table 14: Provisional timetable to complete the project

## 7.4 Archiving

On publication of the final report the archive of materials (subject to the landowner's permission) and accompanying records will be deposited with Bedford Museum, Accession Numbers; 1998:360 (Phase I evaluation) and 2004:23 (excavation).

<sup>\*</sup>Publication, and therefore deposition of the archive with Bedford Museum, will be dependent on the length of time taken for the refereeing of the article.

## 8. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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# 9. APPENDIX 1: METHOD STATEMENTS FOR ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING (BY EACH DATA-SET)

## 9.1 Analysis of Contextual Data

#### 9.1.1 Liaison meetings

Ongoing discussion will take place between the principal members of the project team throughout the analysis and publication stages. These will involve discussion over the nature of the work required, commissioning of the work and addressing any queries that come up during the course of the project.

## 9.1.2 Analysis of HER and historical maps

The Historic Environment Record will be examined to provide background information on known Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval archaeological sites in the vicinity, along with the development of Great Barford. All available historic maps will be examined in an attempt to correlate archaeological features located within the investigation area to features on the maps.

## 9.1.3 Computerisation

The quantity of the data-sets means it would benefit from computerisation. Albion operates a fully integrated computer-based system of structural analysis using databases (through Access) and a mini GIS (Gsys) for interrogation. Basic contextual information has been entered into a database table and has been successfully utilised within this report.

The digitised all features drawing produced for the assessment will require checking and correcting to ensure it is linked correctly with the contextual database. Once this is complete, the drawings are fully interrogatable and manipulable by any database table.

Once achieved, it will be possible to rapidly interrogate data sets within the Gsys programme. For example, it would be possible to plot the distribution of specific find types, or all features which are considered to be contemporary etc. This type of interrogation will greatly enhance the analysis of data and is, therefore, likely to assist in the interpretation of the archaeological remains. It also enables basic publication figures to be produced rapidly.

Any relevant historical maps will be geo-referenced and digitised to permit examination with the all features drawing.

## 9.1.4 Sub-group and group analysis

All contexts will be processed to sub-group level. Much use will be made of contextual information specifically descriptive (held in the context database) and section drawings.

Each context will be analysed using the above information and assigned to a single sub-group, consisting of one or more (usually several) contexts that are closely related both stratigraphically and interpretatively. For example, comparable cuts within a single ditch length will be assigned to the same sub-group. Primary, secondary and tertiary fills of ditches will also be kept separate at sub-group level.

Cuts/deposits will be classified as:

- Construction (postpacking and default code for all cuts)
- Naturally derived infilling
- Deliberate infilling

The method of sub-group definition will rapidly identify those sub-groups, which have limited or no further analytical value (e.g. features/deposits of geological origin). These sub-groups will not be subject to any further analysis.

The sub-group allocation for each context will be entered into the contextual database table. A sub-group text will then be written directly into the sub-group database table so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a factual, descriptive section as well as an interpretative section, setting out the rationale behind the definition of the sub-group. This text will be checked for content, accuracy and spelling/grammar. It is not envisaged that sub-group plans will be routinely produced, but this information will be available via the relational database tables.

Sub-groups worthy of further analysis will be assigned to a single group representing a higher level of interpretation. It is likely that most groups will comprise multiple sub-groups. The assessment of the features/deposits identified at the College Farm site suggests that the construction and primary fill sub-groups could be assigned to the following group types:

- Pit alignment
- Ditch lengths
- Isolated features, including pits and postholes

Other fill sub-groups i.e. secondary or tertiary, will be assigned to separate groups to reflect the likelihood that these may be considerably later in date than the construction/primary fill groups and will therefore need to be analysed separately. However, to ensure that their spatial location (for example within a specific pit group) is not lost, they will be issued a group number comprising a decimal point of the "containing" group for example G7.2 is the secondary fill group of enclosure ditch G7 etc.

The group allocation for each sub-group will be entered into the sub-group database table. A group text will then be written directly into the group database table so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a descriptive section as well as an interpretative section. This text will be checked for content, accuracy and spelling/grammar. It will form the basis for any detail required in the descriptive section of the publication text. A plan will be produced for each group with the location of all relevant sub-groups marked. If appropriate a group matrix will be produced.

#### 9.1.5 Landscape and phase analysis

Each group will be assigned to another, higher level of interpretation known as a landscape unit. The assessment of the College Farm data suggests that the construction and primary filling groups could be assigned to the following landscape unit types:

- Special boundaries (pit alignment and associated ditches)
- Boundaries/field system
- Unenclosed activity
- Enclosure

Groups representing secondary or tertiary fills may be considerably later in date than the construction/primary groups and to distinguish these at landscape level they will be assigned to a separate landscape number. However, to ensure that their spatial location, for example within a specific enclosed settlement is not lost they will be issued a landscape number comprising a decimal point of the "containing" landscape, for example L4.2 is a secondary filling landscape of enclosure L4.

The landscape allocation for each group will be entered into the group database table. A landscape text will then be written directly into the landscape database table so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a descriptive section as well as an interpretative section. This text will be checked for content, accuracy and spelling/grammar. It will form the basis for the

site narrative section of the publication text. A plan will be produced for each landscape with the location of all relevant groups marked.

Each landscape will be assigned the final level of interpretation known as a phase.

- Phase 1: Bronze Age/early Iron Age
- Phase 2: Middle Iron Age
- Phase 3: Roman
- Phase 4: Saxo-Norman

The phase allocation for each landscape will be entered into the landscape database table. A phase text will be written directly into the phasing database table so that it can be easily accessed. It will contain a descriptive section as well as an interpretative section. This text will be checked for content, accuracy and spelling/grammar. It will form the basis for the site narrative section of the publication text. A plan will be produced for each phase with the location of all relevant landscapes marked. If appropriate a phase matrix will be produced.

The completion of the *Landscape and Phase Analysis* represents a key stage in the analytical programme and is the precursor to the production of publication text and illustrations.

#### **♦KEY STAGE 1**

#### 9.1.6 Final phasing/publication liaison

Once the provisional final phasing is determined this will be examined in light of the pottery assemblage. When the final phasing has been checked the various specialists will be informed. Each will receive a report known as a *Final Phasing Information for Specialist*. This will include the phasing hierarchy, format of their publication text (with a guide number of words) along with other information that they may require.

#### 9.1.7 Site narrative text

The site narrative will form the basis of the descriptive section of the publication text. It will be organised by phase, landscape and, where appropriate, group.

#### 9.1.8 Structural illustration

The digitised plan and section data will be interrogated via the relational database tables to produce mock-up publication illustrations. Plans will be produced to show all features in each phase with Landscape and Groups identifiable.

## **♦KEY STAGE 2**

| Structural Analysis                 |        |      |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|--|--|
| Task                                | Staff  | Days |  |  |
| Liaison meetings                    | PO     | 1.5  |  |  |
|                                     | PM     | 1.5  |  |  |
|                                     | Illust | 1.5  |  |  |
| Analysis of HER and historical maps | PO     | 2    |  |  |
| Computerisation                     | PO     | 5    |  |  |
| Sub-group and group analysis        | PO     | 8    |  |  |
| Landscape and phase analysis        | PO     | 8    |  |  |
| Assistance with Analysis            | PM     | 1    |  |  |
|                                     |        |      |  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 1                       |        |      |  |  |
|                                     |        |      |  |  |
| Publication liaison                 | PM     | 2    |  |  |
| Publication liaison                 | PO     | 2    |  |  |
| Site narrative                      | PO     | 4    |  |  |
| Assistance with site narrative      | PM     | 2    |  |  |
| Structural illustration             | Illust | 3    |  |  |
| Assistance with illustration        | PO     | 1.5  |  |  |
|                                     |        |      |  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 2                       |        |      |  |  |

Table 15: Summary of structural analysis tasks

## 9.2 Analysis of Pottery

#### 9.2.1 Quantification and recording of pottery

Pottery will be laid out in context order. It will be quantified by minimum vessel and sherd count, and weight. Pottery and CBM fabrics have already been identified according to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Types Series, and these will be checked. All attributes such as decoration, evidence of function (sooting, wear marks etc.), and manufacturing techniques (firing characteristics etc.), will be recorded. All quantified data will be entered onto the relevant table within the site database.

#### 9.2.2 Production of technical text for pottery

Detailed description of the pottery, including fabric and form definitions.

#### **♦KEY STAGE 1**

## 9.2.3 Phasing/publication Liaison

See structural analysis section.

#### 9.2.4 Pottery publication text

A specialist text summarising the pottery assemblage within appropriate chronological periods by fabric type, forms, decoration and attribute. The text will refer to comparative assemblages (published or unpublished). In addition and where appropriate the pottery assemblage from elements of the structural hierarchy i.e. landscapes and groups will be discussed.

#### ♦KEY STAGE 2

| Ceramic Analysis                       |       |      |  |  |
|--|-------|------|--|--|
| Task                                   | Staff | Days |  |  |
| Quantification and recording (Pottery) | FO    | 1    |  |  |
| Pottery technical text (type series)   | FO    | 1    |  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 1                          |       |      |  |  |
| Phasing/publication Liaison            | FO    | 1    |  |  |
| Pottery publication text               | FO    | 1    |  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 2                          |       |      |  |  |

Table 16: Summary of ceramic analysis tasks

## 9.3 Analysis of Animal Bone

#### 9.3.1 Quantification and recording

Species representation has already been established in this assessment for all hand-recovered phased material. Further recording of the hand-recovered assemblage will be restricted to the identifiable material, from the Bronze Age/ early Iron Age (Phase 1) Iron Age (Phase 2) Roman (Phase 3) and Saxo-Norman (Phase 4) deposits. In addition, identifiable Phase 2 and 4 material from the sieved environmental samples will also be recorded. Further recording and analysis will incorporate the identification and quantification of skeletal elements by species from each context with the aim of investigating intra-site variation in faunal assemblage composition between different features. Where possible, measurements should be taken and recorded.

#### **♦KEY STAGE 1**

#### 9.3.2 Phasing/publication liaison

See structural analysis section.

#### 9.3.3 Animal bone publication text

The final report would incorporate the new information alongside comparisons with other relevant sites and a discussion of species representation, preservation and provenance derived from this assessment.

#### **♦KEY STAGE 2**

| Animal Bone Analysis         |          |      |  |  |
|------------------------------|----------|------|--|--|
| Task                         | Staff    | Days |  |  |
| Quantification and recording | external | 1    |  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 1                |          |      |  |  |
| Phasing/publication Liaison  | PM       | 0.5  |  |  |
| Publication text             | external | 1    |  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 2                |          |      |  |  |

Table 17: Summary of animal bone analysis tasks

## 9.4 Analysis of Charred Plant Remains

#### 9.4.1 Quantification and recording

The flots and unsorted residues of samples taken from features within Phases 2 and 4 will be subject to further analysis.

#### **♦KEY STAGE 1**

## 9.4.2 Phasing/publication liaison

See structural analysis section.

## 9.4.3 Charred plant remains publication text

The final publication text will detail the analysis of selected samples and incorporate the results of the assessment.

#### **♦KEY STAGE 2**

| Charred Plant Remains Analysis    |          |      |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------|--|
| Task                              | Staff    | Days |  |
| Quantification and identification | external | 2    |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 1                     |          |      |  |
| Phasing/publication Liaison       | PM       | 0.5  |  |
| Charred remains publication text  | external | 0.5  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 2                     |          |      |  |

Table 18: Summary of charred plant remains analysis tasks

## 9.5 Analysis of Molluscan Remains

#### 9.5.1 Quantification and recording

The flots and unsorted residues of samples taken from features within Phases 2 and 4 will be subject to further analysis.

#### **♦KEY STAGE 1**

#### 9.5.2 Phasing/publication liaison

See structural analysis section.

#### 9.5.3 Molluscan remains publication text

The final publication text will incorporate the results of the analysis.

#### ♦KEY STAGE 2

| Molluscan Remains Analysis         |          |      |  |  |
|------------------------------------|----------|------|--|--|
| Task                               | Staff    | Days |  |  |
| Quantification and identification  | external | 1    |  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 1                      |          |      |  |  |
| Phasing/publication Liaison        | PM       | 0.5  |  |  |
| Molluscan remains publication text | external | 0.5  |  |  |
| ♦ KEY STAGE 2                      |          |      |  |  |

Table 19: Summary of molluscan remains analysis tasks

## 9.6 Overall Publication, Archiving and Project Management

## 9.6.1 Editing publication text including specialist reports

The entire publication will be read and edited to ensure a consistency in approach.

## 9.6.2 Production of synthesis

A synthetic text will be produced discussing the key elements of the site, probably within the major chronological periods. This will attempt to address the updated research objectives.

## 9.6.3 Amendments and queries in consultation with specialists during article preparation

During the production of the synthesis it is likely that a number of questions will arise that the various specialists will need to address.

#### ♦KEY STAGE 3

## 9.6.4 Albion refereeing process

Albion has a policy of circulating the first draft of articles intended for publication to the Client, AO and any other interested parties. This task includes time for any required discussion with the referees.

#### **♦KEY STAGE 4**

## 9.6.5 Submission of article and amendments resulting from editors comments to publication text and figures

Amendments to publication text and figures based on comments received from Albion's refereeing process, following submission of the publication article to the editor of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*.

#### 9.6.6 Printing and proof reading

The printing of the article will be arranged by the editor of *Bedfordshire Archaeology*, but proof reading will be necessary.

#### 9.6.7 Archiving and accessioning

Upon completion of the report, the written and material archives will be prepared for accessioning to Bedford Museum. The cost of transfer includes transport, liaison and storage charges.

## 9.6.8 Project management

All project tasks have been identified from Albion's generic task list menu. These have been entered onto the Albion's Time Recording System (TRS) so that expenditure and resources can be tracked throughout the life of the project. The management of the project includes monitoring the task budgets, programming tasks, checking timetables and liasing with all members of the project team.

| O۱       | Overall publication, archiving and project management                              |       |      |  |
|----------|--|-------|------|--|
| Tas      |  | Staff | Days |  |
| <b>♦</b> | KEY STAGE 2  |       |      |  |
|          | Editing publication text   | PM    | 1    |  |
|          | Production of synthesis  | PM    | 8    |  |
|          | Amendments and queries in consultation with specialists during article preparation | PM    | 1    |  |
| <b>*</b> | KEY STAGE 3  |       |      |  |
|          | Albion's refereeing process  | PM    | 1    |  |
|          | Albion's refereeing process  | PM    | 1    |  |
|          | Albion's refereeing process  | CAM   | 1    |  |
| <b>*</b> | KEY STAGE 4  |       |      |  |
|          | Submission to Bedfordshire Archaeology   |       |      |  |
|          | Amendments resulting from editor's comments  | PM    | 0.5  |  |
|          | Printing   | ext.  |      |  |
|          | Proof reading  | PM    | 0.5  |  |
|          | Archive preparation (Structural)   | PO    | 1    |  |
|          | Archive preparation (Artefacts)  | FO    | 1    |  |
|          | Archive transfer (storage costs)   | ext.  |      |  |
|          | Archive transfer   | PO    | 1    |  |
| •        | Project management (Overall)   | PM    | 2    |  |
|          | Project management (Albion)  | PM    | 2    |  |
| <b>♦</b> | KEY STAGE 5  |       |      |  |
|          |  |       |      |  |

Table 20: Overall publication, archiving and management tasks

## 10. APPENDIX 2: THE PROJECT TEAM

To ensure a consistency of approach the same specialists will be used who have been involved in the assessment stage of the project.

| Task                  | Org.   | Title/Organisation | Name              |
|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Overall management    | Albion | Operations Manager | Drew Shotliff     |
| Daily management      | Albion | Project Manager    | Joe Abrams        |
| Structural analysis   | Albion | Project Officer    | Tracy Preece      |
| Artefact analysis     | Albion | Finds Officer      | Jackie Wells      |
| Charred plant remains | EXT    | ULAS               | Angela Monckton   |
| Animal bone           | EXT    | ULAS               | Jennifer Browning |
| Molluscs              | EXT    | ULAS               | Angela Monckton   |
| Illustration          | Albion | Illustrator        | Cecily Marshal    |

ULAS: University of Leicester Archaeological Services.

Note. Detailed staff CV's were presented in the Project Design, these are therefore not repeated here.

Table 21: The project team

## 11. APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF ALL TASKS

| Description   | Staff    | Days |
|---|----------|------|
| Liaison meetings  | PM       | 1.5  |
| _   | PO       | 1.5  |
|   | Illust   | 1.5  |
| Analysis of HER and historical maps                                 | PO       | 2    |
| Computerisation   | PO       | 5    |
| Subgroup and group analysis   | PO       | 8    |
| Landscape and phase analysis  | PO       | 8    |
| Assistance with analysis  | PM       | 1    |
| Pottery quantification and recording                                | FO       | 1    |
| Pottery technical text  | FO       | 1    |
| Molluse quantification and recording                                | external | 1    |
| Animal bone quantification and recording                            | external | 1    |
| Charred plant remains quantification and recording                  | external | 2    |
| Keystage 1: completion of analysis                                  |          |      |
| Phasing/publication liaison: Structural analysis                    | PO       | 2    |
|   | PM       | 2    |
| Phasing/publication liaison: pottery                                | FO       | 1    |
| Phasing/publication liaison: animal bone                            | PM       | 0.5  |
| Phasing/publication liaison: charred plant remains                  | PM       | 0.5  |
| Phasing/publication liaison: Molluscan remains                      | PM       | 0.5  |
| Site narrative  | PO       | 4    |
| Assistance with site narrative                                      | PM       | 2    |
| Pottery publication text  | FO       | 1    |
| Animal bone publication text  | external | 1    |
| Charred plant remains publication text                              | external | 0.5  |
| Molluscan publication text  | external | 0.5  |
| Structural illustration   | Illust   | 3    |
| Assistance with structural illustration                             | PM       | 1.5  |
| Keystage 2: completion of all specialist text                       |          |      |
| Editing publication text  | PM       | 1    |
| Production of synthesis   | PM       | 8    |
| Amendments and queries in consultation with specialists during      | PM       | 1    |
| article preparation   |          |      |
| Keystage 3: completion of 1st Draft                                 |          |      |
| Albion's refereeing process   | PM       | 1    |
| Albion's refereeing process   | OM       | 1    |
| Albion's refereeing process   | Illust   | 1    |
| Keystage 4: Submission to Bedfordshire Archaeology                  |          |      |
| Amendments resulting from editor's comments to publication text and | PM       | 0.5  |
| figures   |          |      |
| Printing  | external |      |
| Proof reading   | PM       | 0.5  |
| Archive preparation: structural data                                | PO       | 1    |
| Archive preparation: finds data                                     | FO       | 1    |
| Archive transfer: storage costs                                     | external |      |
| Archive transfer  | PO       | 1    |
| Project management: overall   | PM       | 2    |
| Project management: Albion  | OM       | 2    |
| Keystage 5: end of project  |          |      |

Table 22: Summary of all tasks

BARFORD GREAT

Bedford

ggleswade)



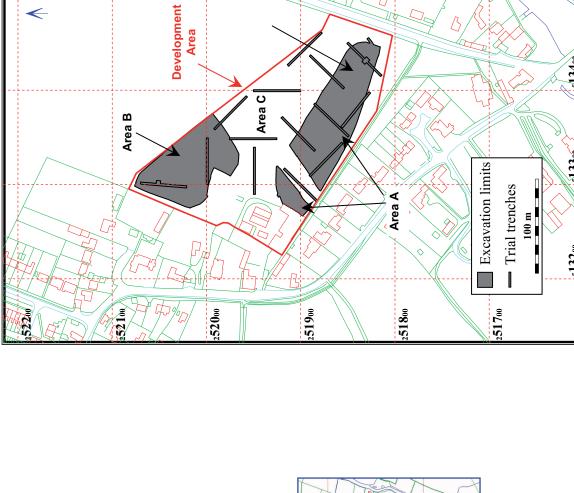


Figure 1: Site location map

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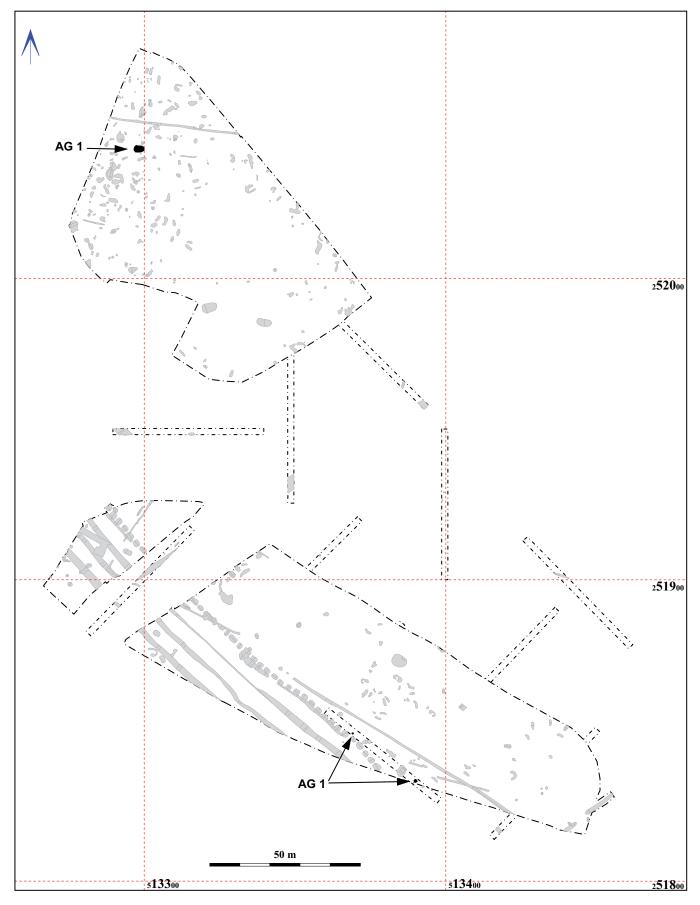
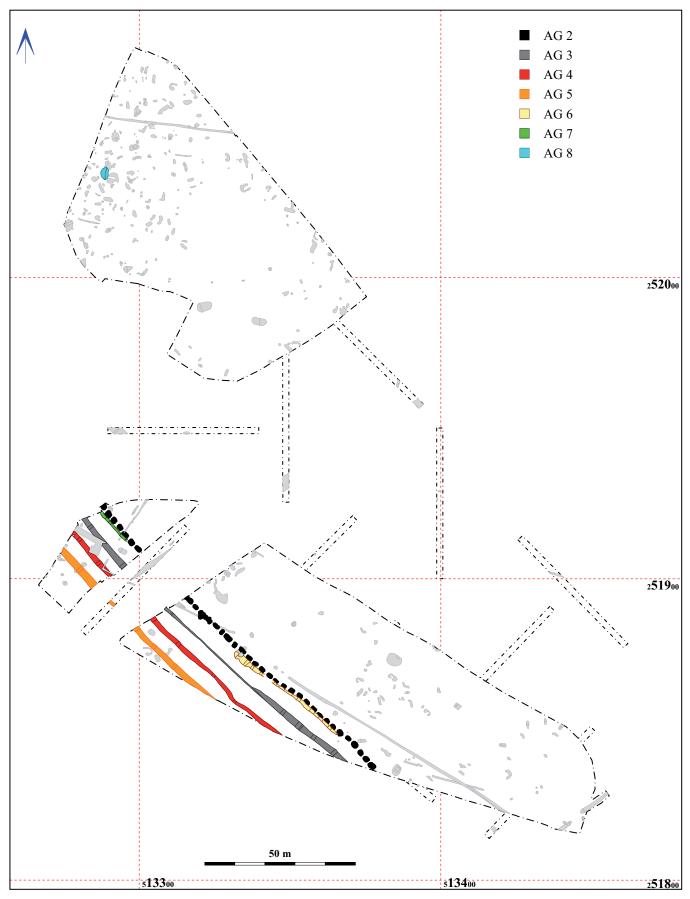


Figure 2: Phase 1-Bronze Age/early Iron Age-Assessment Group 1





**Figure 3:** Phase 2-Iron Age-Assessment Groups 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
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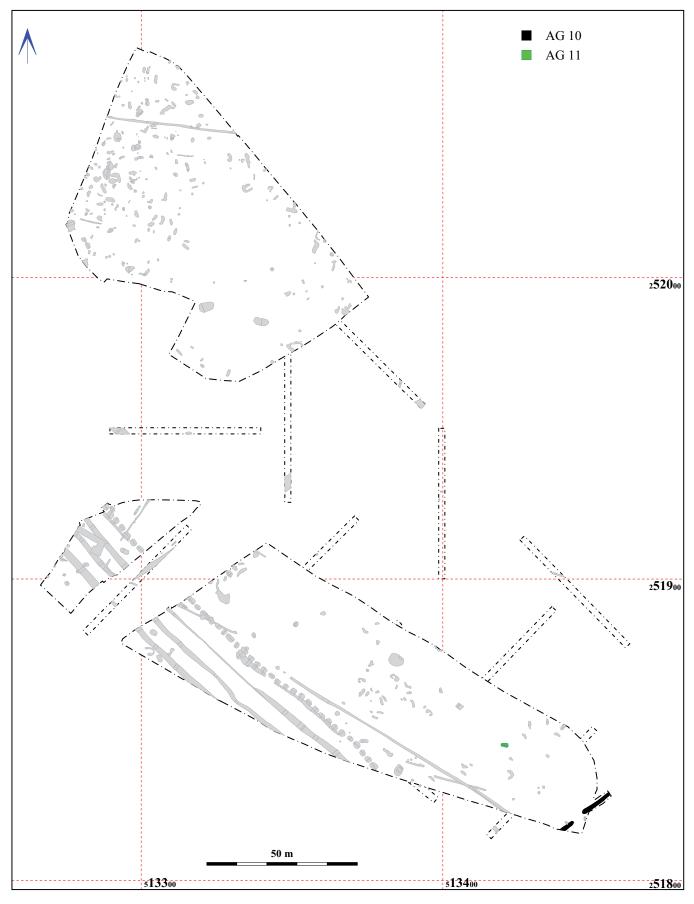


Figure 4: Phase 3-Roman-Assessment Groups 10 and 11



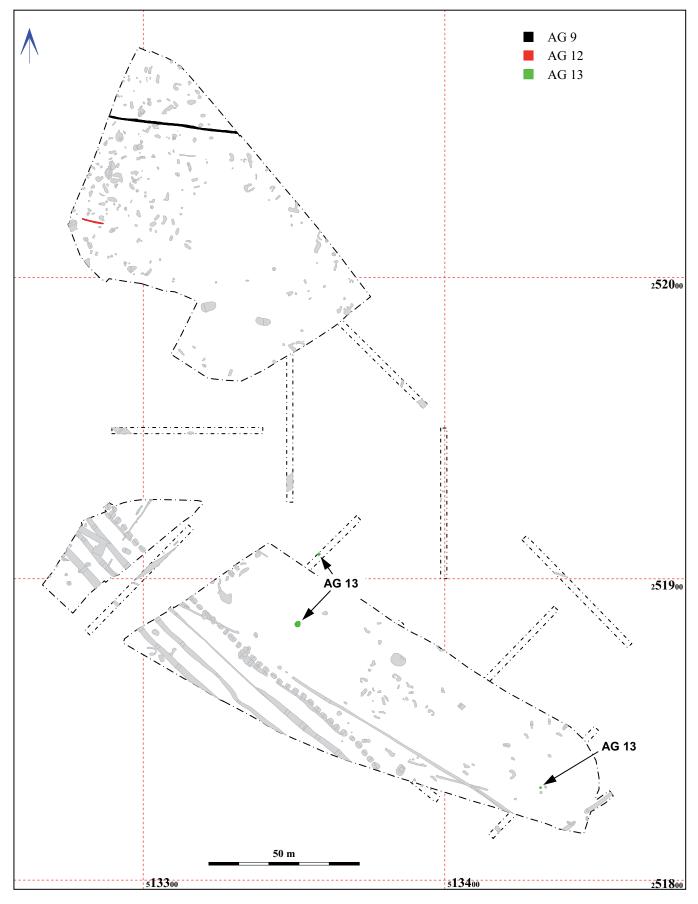


Figure 5: Phase 4-Anglo-Saxon-Assessment Groups 9, 12, and 13



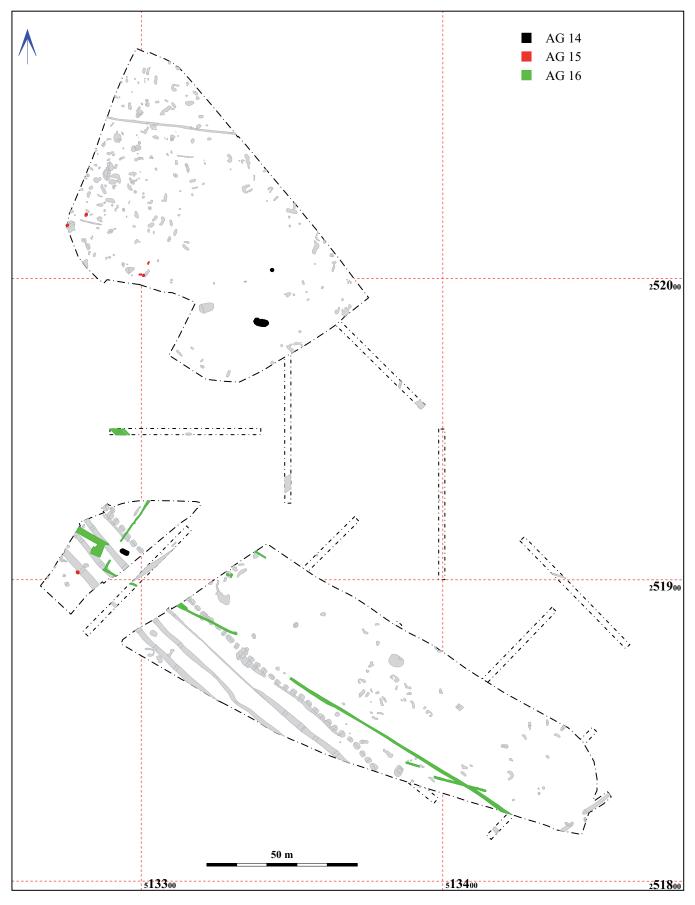
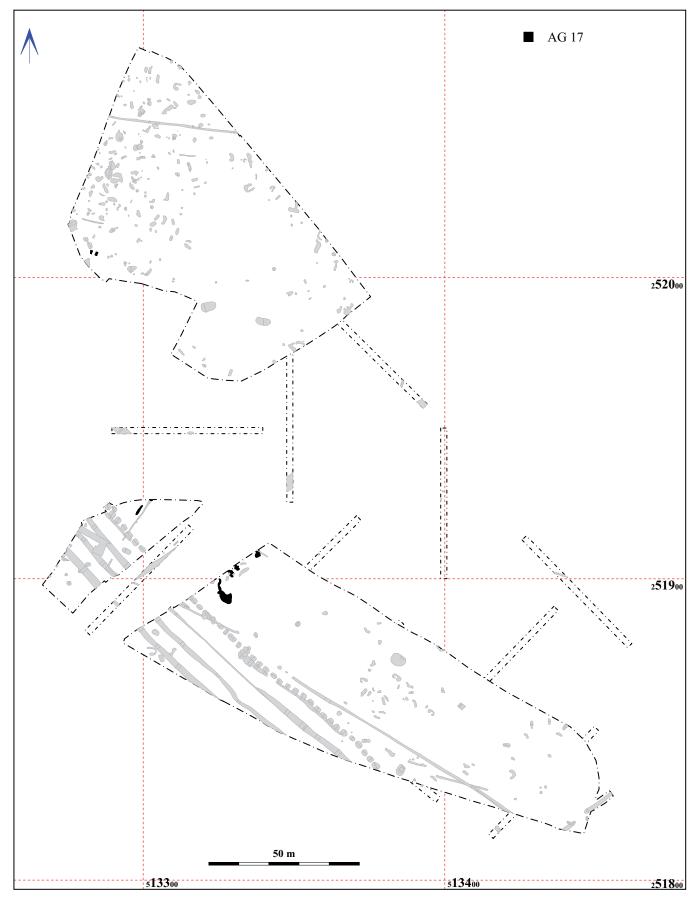


Figure 6: Phase 6-Post-Medieval-Assessment Groups 14, 15, and 16





**Figure 7:** Phase 7-Modern-Assessment Group 17



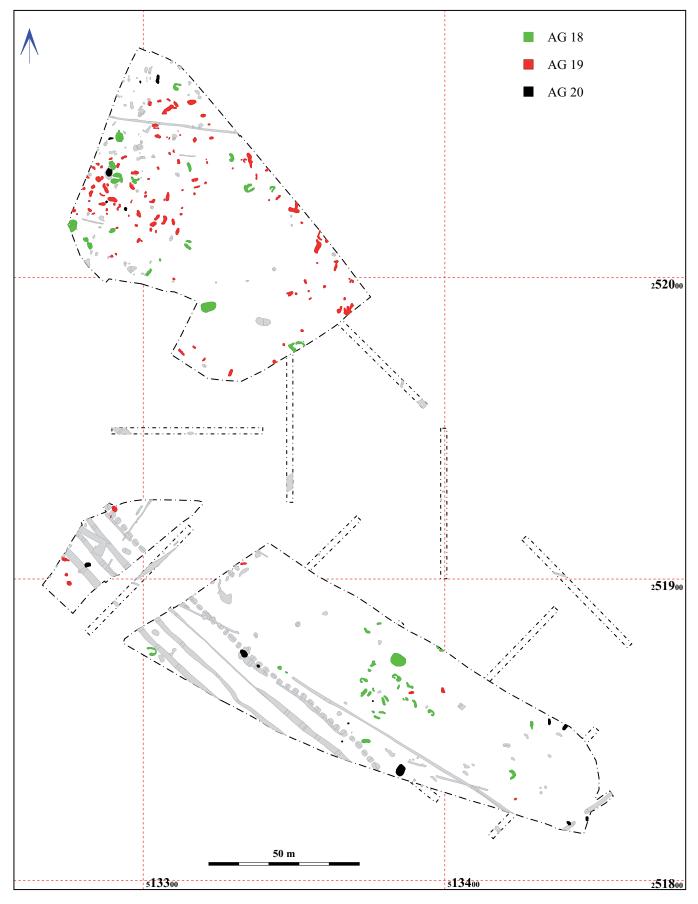


Figure 8: Phase 8-Unphased-Assessment Groups 18, 19, and 20



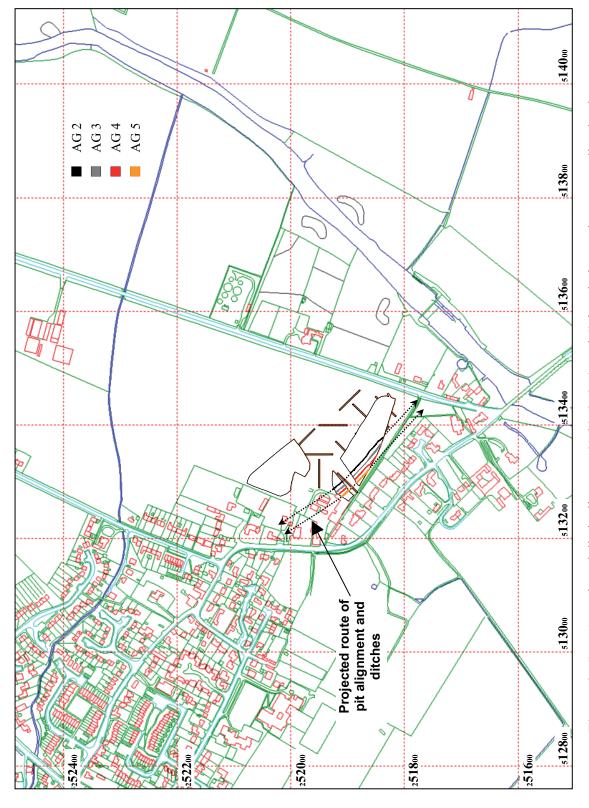


Figure 9: Iron Age pit and ditch alignment(AG's 2, 3, 4, and 5) in relation to the surrounding landscape Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.