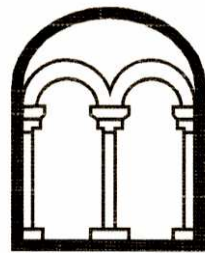


**4 GREAT NORTHERN ROAD
DUNSTABLE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Albion
archaeology



**4 GREAT NORTHERN ROAD
DUNSTABLE
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

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Prepared for:
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Preface

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

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Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works by Mr Alan Barber. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.

Fieldwork was carried out by Wiebke Starke and Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisors), and Victoria Hainsworth (Archaeological Technician). This report was prepared by Kathy Pilkinton and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Figures were created by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

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Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
HER	Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
OS	Ordnance Survey
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-technical Summary

Planning consent (CB/13/02281/FULL) has been granted for the erection of seven dwellings with associated parking, access drive, landscaping and garaging at land to the rear of 4, Great Northern Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. As the Development Area (DA) lies in an area of archaeological interest, including above-ground designated standing buildings and potential below ground archaeological remains, a condition (17) was placed on the planning consent by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), following advice received from Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeologist (CBCA).

A brief was issued by the CBCA requiring a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample investigation, recording, analysis and publication (CBC 2013). This report represents the findings of the work carried out between 27th March and 7th April 2014 in accordance with the brief and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014).

The investigation revealed a low level of Roman and early medieval activity, though the limited and mixed nature of the finds assemblage made secure dating of the features particularly uncertain.

The most prominent features on site were some NW-SE aligned ditches, which appear to be of varying dates. The limited nature of the artefactual assemblage tends to suggest that the earliest ditches may date to the early medieval period, though it is also possible that they could date back to the Roman construction of the road and were re-established, or still partly open in the case of the larger ditches, during the early medieval period.

The natural chalk slopes fairly steeply down towards the A5 at this point suggesting the ditches may have played a part in limiting surface run-off onto the road. They may also represent agricultural boundaries, although no corresponding boundaries or ditches are marked on the 1822 tithe map, indicating they were no longer in use by this time. The ditches that could be more firmly dated to the post-medieval period and an undated ditch were smaller in size but may have performed similar functions.

Two small pits presented similar dating issues, containing a very small amount of both Roman and early medieval material. Given their location within an area that appears to have been under cultivation up until the mid-19th century, both are most likely to be associated with agricultural activities.

The majority of the revealed postholes contained modern material or the surviving remnants of wooden posts. These were associated with recently demolished outbuildings or recent property boundaries. A scattering of post-medieval and undated postholes formed no coherent structures.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning consent (CB/13/02281/FULL) was granted for the erection of seven dwellings with associated parking, access drive, landscaping and garaging at land to the rear of 4, Great Northern Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

As the Development Area (DA) lies in an area of archaeological interest, including above-ground designated standing buildings and potential below ground archaeological remains, a condition (17) was placed on the planning consent by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), following advice received from Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeologist (CBCA). This is in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, which was published on 27 March 2012.

A brief was issued by the CBCA requiring a programme of archaeological strip, map and sample investigation, recording, analysis and publication (CBC 2013).

This report represents the findings of the work carried out between 27th March and 7th April 2014 in accordance with the brief and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014), agreed in advance with the CBCA.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The DA lies to the south of the centre of Dunstable, *c.* 750m south-east of the crossing of the two main roads, the High Street (A5) and West Street/Church Street (A505) (Figure 1). Great Northern Road runs diagonally from High Street South to Church Road.

The DA lies at the back of no. 4 Great Northern Road and residential properties lining High Street South. Immediately prior to the fieldwork it comprised a number of semi-derelict domestic and agricultural/industrial buildings with a surface mix of hardstanding and grass, both of which were overgrown in places.

Dunstable lies on the northern edge of the chalk escarpment of the Chiltern Hills with an underlying solid geology of Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation. The topography of the area is undulating with a number of ridges and valleys. Dunstable town centre lies on relatively level, higher ground and the DA lies at an approximate height of 200m OD. It is centred on grid reference TL 0246 2136.

1.3 *Status and Purpose of this Document*

Given the nature of the recovered data sets, it was agreed with the CBCA that this report would present the results of all stages of the archaeological investigations including any required analysis of the results.



1.4 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The history and archaeology of Dunstable is discussed extensively in the Dunstable Extensive Urban Survey (Albion Archaeology 2003). Historical and archaeological sites and events near the DA are presented in detail in the brief (CBC 2013). The most salient information is reproduced below. In short, there was good potential for the DA to produce evidence for the Roman, medieval and post-medieval development of Dunstable.

Dunstable lies at the crossroads of the Roman Watling Street (HER 5508) — running through Bedfordshire on its route from London to Holyhead on the line of the present-day A5 — and the prehistoric Ickniel Way. It is named as *Durocbrivis* (HER 135), in the Antonine Itinerary, a Roman road book describing routes and the towns along them throughout the Roman Empire (Simco 1884, 30). *Durocbrivis* is the name given by the Romans to the settlement at the crossroads of Watling Street and the Ickniel Way which is today called Dunstable.

Since the large-scale re-development and expansion of Dunstable from the mid-20th century onwards a considerable quantity of Roman remains have been excavated and recorded within the centre of the town, particularly near the crossroads, proving the existence of a sizable regional centre. The core of the Roman town seems to have radiated out for a distance of around 400m from the Ickniel Way/Watling Street crossroads.

The DA lies *c.* 750m to the south-east of the crossroads, beyond the known core of the Roman town. However, it lies adjacent to Watling Street (HER 5508) which means that although it appears to be located some distance away from the Roman centre, the presence of associated Roman remains cannot be discounted. In particular, there is an increased likelihood of the presence of roadside burials. Under Roman law burial cemeteries were prohibited within the limits of urban settlement and, therefore, they tended to be located along the major routes in and out of the town. One such cemetery has been recorded at Friary Fields (HER 11284, Matthews 1981, Gardner 2004). Investigations along West Street between 2004 and 2009 recovered a single burial dating to this period (HER 18261 and Albion Archaeology 2004, 2007 and 2009).

In the 1860s, a possible Bronze Age crouched burial was discovered to the rear of the Wagon and Horses Inn around 100m to the north-west of the DA (HER 157). Little information about the burial survives; however, it could have been incorrectly dated and may have been Roman in date.

There are also a number of recorded Roman remains in the area surrounding the DA. In some cases these comprise the recovery of single objects, such as coins (for example HER 146), but they also include a probable farmstead (HER 1341).

The decline of *Durocbrivis* is likely to have taken place during the late 4th or 5th century when Roman urban life essentially came to an end. Saxon activity in Dunstable is largely restricted to the north-west part of the modern



town (e.g. the Marina Drive cemetery, HER 152). At present, there is little evidence for continuity between the Roman and Saxon settlements. In approximately 1119 Henry I founded the medieval town (HER 16986), which, like the Roman settlement, was focussed on the Icknield Way / Watling Street crossroads. The town was laid out in burgage plots, some of which may be preserved in present-day property boundaries (particularly along High Street South). Medieval features including kilns, pits and ditches have been recorded at a number of locations. Henry I also had a royal residence within the town (HER 148) and founded the Augustinian Priory of St Peter (HER 131, SM 3). The remains of the latter are a scheduled ancient monument, located within Priory Gardens, between High Street South and Church Street.

The DA does not lie within the known core of the medieval town. However, it is situated within the historic boundary of Dunstable (as represented by Half Moon Lane, approximately 250m to the south-east) and within this area a number of small interventions have produced evidence for medieval activity.

In 1998, during construction works at 158 High Street South, two archaeological features were excavated by the Manshead Archaeological Society (HER 17735). The earliest, a small circular oven or kiln, was cut by the second feature, which was also of a probable medieval date and may represent the stokehole for another oven or kiln.

Medieval finds and possible ditches were also recorded around the Half Moon Lane crossroads in the early to mid-20th century (HER 11282). Similar objects, such as a jetton (trading token), a brooch and a coin (HERs 1374, 19060 and 136), have also been found in the vicinity of the DA.

It is also worth noting that the DA lies close to the probable location of St Mary Magdalene Hospital (HER 154). This was founded in the late 12th century and intended for lepers and other sick people. It stood on Watling Street, about half a mile south-east of Dunstable town centre, close to the point where the historic parishes of Caddington, Kensworth and Dunstable met, but just inside Dunstable (e.g. within the Half Moon Lane boundary). Medieval finds have been recovered from the vicinity (HER 11282). The Hospital is referred to in various documents up to 1338. Its presence led to the 'spittle' element in the names of several closes nearby; most of these names fell out of use or were changed during the later post-medieval period (Coleman 1985).

Dunstable's position on the A5 (Watling Street) meant that from the medieval period it prospered as a stopping point for coaches on the way from London to the north-west.

From the 17th century onwards many coaching inns were constructed along High Street North and High Street South. One of the earliest plans of the town dates to 1762 and shows that it was relatively small at that time. By the beginning of the 19th century it had a population of only 1,296 people. The arrival of the railway in 1848 led to huge expansion, particularly around the London and North-Western Station, but it also resulted in the rapid decline of the coaching industry. Towards the end of the 19th century the straw hat



industry became one of the town's principal businesses. In many cases the factories took over redundant coaching inns and a number are known along High Street South, e.g. the Waggon & Horses (HER 6264), a public house with 19th-century origins at 183 High Street South.

The 1880 town plan for Dunstable shows the land to the rear of 4 Great North Road as undeveloped. The style of the remaining structures and more recent historical maps suggest that buildings began to be erected on the DA from the end of the 19th century onwards. This coincided with a period of expansion of the town with both residential and industrial-type developments taking place in the area around Great Northern Road.

1.5 Project Objectives

The groundworks associated with re-development of the DA had the potential to reveal archaeological remains associated with Roman, medieval and post-medieval Dunstable.

Dunstable was a small town in the Roman period. Some parts of it are relatively well studied but work has been undertaken piecemeal, determined by the location of urban development rather than by targeted research questions. More information is still needed on the character of the Roman town, any potential zoning of activities within it and the relationship of the town with its hinterland (Oake 2007, 11).

The research agenda also highlight the need for more information on Roman small towns in general, to further characterise this settlement type and its hinterland and to set it within a broader regional economic and social context (*ibid*). The transition from late Roman to Saxon to medieval settlement and any accompanying settlement shift and / or re-location is also a topic about which little is known.

For the medieval period the research framework for Bedfordshire states that, in general, few medieval settlements have been investigated in the county. Dunstable is specifically mentioned as, in contrast to other small towns within Bedfordshire, it is a royal foundation created on the site of a Roman small town. While remains of the medieval Dunstable Priory are still prominent within the town, details of its layout, development and overall medieval urban character away from the priory are not well understood and this is given as a research priority (Oake 2007, 14).

The growth and development of small towns in the post-medieval period and their impact on the landscape is a research topic that is highlighted in the regional research framework (Medlycott 2011, 79).

The general objectives of the archaeological investigation were to:

- establish the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the DA;
- establish the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present at the DA;



- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The specific objectives of the archaeological investigation were to determine:

- if there was any evidence for burials of prehistoric and/or Roman date on the DA;
- if there was any evidence for Roman and/or medieval occupation alongside Watling Street on the DA;
- if there was any below-ground evidence relating to the post-medieval use of the DA.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Methodological Standards

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

• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation (updated 2013)</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (updated 2013)</i>
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (2003)</i>
• Luton Culture	<i>Procedure for preparing archives for deposition with Luton Culture (2013)</i>
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (2009)</i>
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2011)</i>
• CBCA	<i>Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at the Land to the Rear of 4 Great Northern Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (281013 Gt North Rd, Dunstable Archaeological Brief HF V1 © CBC 2013)</i>
• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn, 2001).</i>

2.2 Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and Recording

The archaeological strip, map and sample investigation and recording took place at the same time as the removal of made ground within the areas either side of the pre-existing building footprints as indicated on Figure 2.

All open area ground reductions were undertaken by a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-edged bucket and operated by an experienced driver under the supervision of an archaeologist. Ground reduction was only undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the CBCA.

All archaeological excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion Archaeology staff. Any potential archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*.

A detailed methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2014).



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All archaeological features and deposits revealed during the archaeological works are discussed chronologically below and shown on Figures 2 and 3. The chronology is based largely on a limited artefact assemblage. The artefacts recovered were highly fragmented and abraded, with finds of mixed date deriving from individual features. Full details of the artefacts recovered are contained in Appendix 1.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

The overburden varied across the site, with the northern corner and strip along the south-eastern side containing the least disturbance. Within these areas a *c.* 0.2m-thick topsoil (34) of dark brown, heavily rooted, chalky silt with occasional fragments of brick and tile overlay a *c.* 0.2m-thick subsoil (35) of brownish grey chalky silt.

The areas directly adjacent to the demolished buildings showed more evidence of disturbance. Only layers of hardcore and rubble, 0.1–0.2m thick, were revealed where the ground level had previously been reduced within the north-east part of the site. To the south-west, the ground level appeared to have been raised with layers of hardcore and rubble, totalling *c.* 0.4m thick. An underlying *c.* 0.2m-thick layer of re-deposited, compacted chalk was visible beneath the rubble, overlying a compacted *c.* 0.1m-thick subsoil comprising mid brown grey chalky silt.

The underlying geological deposits consisted of chalk.

3.3 Features Pre-Dating the Post-medieval Period (Pre- *c.* AD 1500)

Two pits and two large NW-SE aligned ditches were revealed; they produced a small amount of both Roman and early medieval artefacts.

The most prominent feature on site was a large ditch [41/86] which extended across the site on a NW-SE alignment. It had a V-shaped profile with steep sides and a narrow, flat base; it was up to 2.85m wide and 1.2m deep (Figs 2, 3 and 4). Its sequence of fills generally consisted of mid brown-grey sandy and clayey silts which contained a small number of artefacts of varying dates. Two tiny sherds of abraded Roman pottery were present within its lower fills (42 and 88); whilst a possible fragment of *opus signinum* and three sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered from two of the overlying fills (44 and 91). The uppermost fill (45) produced a small fragment of post-medieval roof tile.

A large parallel ditch located *c.* 24m to the north-east [11] (Figs 2 and 5) was only partially revealed during the initial area strip required for the development. The two fills revealed within a 0.6m-deep excavated segment were similar in nature to that of ditch [41/86] and produced a very small sherd of early medieval pottery. On further removal of the overburden the ditch could be seen to measure up to 2.7m wide.



Two pits were located within an area to the south-west of ditch [41/86]. The larger of the two [46] (Figs 2, 3 and 4) was *c.* 1.1m in diameter and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills of predominantly chalky silt; the upper fill produced a small sherd of early medieval pottery and a larger fragment of possible Roman roof tile. Nearby pit [49] was only partially revealed within the site and measured at least 1.2m across and 0.16m deep, with concave sides and base. Its fill comprised a grey-brown clay silt with frequent chalk fragments; it yielded two small sherds of early medieval pottery and a small amount of animal bone.

3.4 Post-medieval Ditches (c. 1500–1750)

Two ditches followed a similar alignment to that of ditches [41/86] and [11], although they were much smaller and produced post-medieval artefacts only. The westernmost ditch [1/7] (Figs 2, 3 and 5) was V-shaped in profile and measured *c.* 1m wide and *c.* 0.35m deep. It was filled with brown-grey clayey silt containing fragments of post-medieval roof tile and a small amount of animal bone. Parallel ditch [9] was filled with similar material but was significantly shallower, measuring only 0.09m deep. It yielded a small piece of post-medieval roof tile and a moderate amount of animal bone derived from horse, pig, sheep and cattle.

3.5 Modern Features (c. 1750 onwards)

A number of modern features were present across the site, most of which were associated with the recently demolished buildings.

The remnants of recently demolished outbuildings were present in the northern corner of the site, largely comprising a series of rectangular postholes many of which contained fragments of wooden posts. A gully [51] (Figs 2 and 3) located to the south-west and a line of postholes [64–72], containing modern pottery and brick / tile fragments, appear to be aligned with a fence-line to the south-east.

Two soakaways and their connecting drains associated with the demolished buildings were present in the central area of the site; whilst a shallow NE-SW aligned ditch [5/84] containing modern brick and window glass was located to the east. A partially visible, irregular pit truncated ditch [41/86] near to ditch [5/84] and is associated with the removal of a fox's den during the current building works.

3.6 Undated Features

Ditch [37] was aligned NW-SE, parallel with both the ditches pre-dating and contemporary with the post-medieval period. It measured 1.25m wide and 0.45m deep, with sloping sides and a distinctly wider, flat base than the above mentioned NW-SE aligned ditches. Its three fills generally comprised brown-grey chalky silt which produced no artefacts.

Five dispersed postholes, including [74] and [76] (Figs 2 and 3), produced no artefacts and did not form a part of any discernible structure.



4 CONCLUSIONS

The investigation revealed a low level of Roman and early medieval activity, though the limited and mixed nature of the finds assemblage made secure dating of the features particularly uncertain. There was increased evidence for activity in the post-medieval and modern periods.

The most prominent features on site were the NW-SE aligned ditches. The artefactual evidence suggests the ditches to be of varying dates. This is perhaps unsurprising as they are aligned on the line of the A5 (Watling Street), a major thoroughfare that has been in use since the Roman period (see Section 1.4).

The limited nature of the artefactual assemblage tends to suggest that the earliest ditches may date to the early medieval period, though it is also possible that they could date back to the Roman construction of the road and were re-established, or still partly open in the case of the larger ditches, during the early medieval period.

The natural chalk slopes fairly steeply down towards the A5 at this point, suggesting the ditches may have played a part in limiting surface run-off onto the road. They may also represent agricultural boundaries, although no corresponding boundaries or ditches are marked on the 1822 tithe map, indicating they were no longer in use by this time. The ditches that could be more firmly dated to the post-medieval period and an undated ditch were smaller in size but may have performed a similar function.

Two small pits presented similar dating issues, containing a very small amount of both Roman and early medieval material. Given their location within an area that appears to have been under cultivation up until the mid-19th century, they are most likely to be associated with agricultural activities.

The majority of the revealed postholes contained modern material or the surviving remnants of wooden posts. These were associated with recently demolished outbuildings or recent property boundaries. A scattering of post-medieval and undated postholes formed no coherent structures.

The variations in overburden suggest the site was levelled, probably during the construction of the surrounding houses. The greatest ground reduction appears to have been in the north-east end of the site where the ground level had previously been reduced to the level of the natural chalk, though the revealed archaeological features appear to not have been greatly truncated. Conversely, the depth of overburden at the south-west end of the site increased as the ground level sloped down towards the road and overlay relatively undisturbed subsoil.

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6 APPENDIX 1: FINDS SUMMARY

6.1 Introduction

The investigations yielded a finds assemblage comprising mainly ceramic building material and animal bone (Table 1). The material generally survives in abraded and highly fragmented condition, with many features containing either very small assemblages, or residual and intrusive finds of mixed and disparate date.

Feature	Description	Fill	Artefact date range	Finds Summary
1	Ditch	2	Post-medieval	Pottery (1g); ceramic roof tile (230g); iron nail x1; animal bone (15g)
3	Posthole	4	Modern	Barbed wire
5	Ditch	6	Modern	Pottery (1g); ceramic roof tile & brick (36g); Window glass (5g); animal bone (45g)
7	Ditch	8	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (126g); animal bone (143g)
9	Ditch	10	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (6g); animal bone (557g)
11	Ditch	12	Early medieval	Pottery (5g); clinker (1g); animal bone (6g)
18	Posthole	19	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (38g)
22	Ditch	23	Modern	Floor tile (66g); clinker (8g); coal (5g); ferrous slag (96g)
24	Posthole	25	Post-medieval / modern	Pottery (13g); ceramic roof tile (21g); lead came x1
26	Posthole	27	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (13g); animal bone (1g)
30	Post-pipe	31	Modern	Brick (4g)
32	Posthole	33	Undated	Fired clay (4g)
41	Ditch	42	Roman	Pottery (1g); animal bone (19g)
41	Ditch	44	Roman??	Opus signinum?? (7g); animal bone (28g)
41	Ditch	45	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (33g); animal bone (70g)
46	Pit	48	Roman	Pottery (3g); ceramic roof tile (56g)
49	Pit	50	Early medieval	Pottery (28g); animal bone (3g)
51	Ditch	52	Modern	Pottery (1g); ceramic roof tile (157g); animal bone (3g)
57	Posthole	58	Undated	Animal bone (1g)
59	Posthole	60	Modern	Coal (2g); roofing slate (1g)
61	Posthole	63	Modern	Pottery (6g); clinker (2g); animal bone (1g)
64	Posthole	65	Post-medieval / modern	Ceramic roof tile (54g)
68	Posthole	69	Post-medieval / modern	Brick (167g); iron nail x1
70	Posthole	71	Modern	Ceramic roof tile & brick (36g)
72	Posthole	73	Modern	Ceramic roof tile & brick (60g); animal bone (12g)
78	Posthole	79	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (12g)
80	Posthole	81	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (1g); animal bone (5g)
86	Ditch	88	Roman	Pottery (2g); ferrous slag (33g); animal bone (3g)
86	Ditch	91	Early medieval	Pottery (35g); roofing slate (2g)
86	Ditch	92	Undated	Animal bone (74g)

Table 1: Finds Summary by feature

6.2 Pottery

Fourteen pottery sherds weighing 96g were recovered. They have a mean weight of 6g, with the smallest sherd weighing 1g, and the largest 26g. Eleven fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 2).



Fabric Code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill / Sherd No.
<i>Roman</i>				
R01	Samian	1	1	(42):1
R03B	Gritty white ware	1	2	(88):1
<i>Medieval</i>				
B07	Shell	1	26	(50):1
B13	Chalk	1	8	(91):1
C59A	Coarse sand	3	17	(12):1, (50):1, (91):1
C59B	Harsh sand	1	17	(91):1
C60	Hertfordshire-type grey ware	1	3	(48):1
<i>Late med / early post-medieval</i>				
C66	Transitional Brill	1	1	(2):1
<i>Post-medieval</i>				
P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	1	13	(25):1
P	Non-specific post-medieval	1	1	(6):1
<i>Modern</i>				
P45	Transfer-printed ware	2	7	(52):1, (63):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

6.2.1 Early Roman

Ditches [41] and [86] contained single abraded sherds (total weight 3g) of 2nd-century Gaulish samian and white ware, the latter probably from the Verulamium region. Neither is sizeable enough to provide an accurate date for the features in which they occurred.

6.2.2 Medieval and post-medieval

Seven sherds (71g) collected from ditches [11], [86], and pits [46] and [49], are datable to the 12th–13th centuries. Five are locally manufactured sand-tempered wares (types C59A / B, C60) and two contain shell / calcareous inclusions (B07, B13). No diagnostic vessel forms occur.

A small glazed sherd (1g) of 15th–16th-century transitional Brill, and a 17th-century glazed earthenware bowl rim (13g) derived, respectively, from the fills of ditch [1] and posthole [24].

6.2.3 Modern

Two sherds (7g) of 19th-century transfer-printed ware were collected from ditch [51] and posthole [61].

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

Thirty-four pieces of roof tile and brick (1.1kg) derived from 18 features. Fragments are small, with a mean weight of 32g, and survive in poor condition. A possible Roman roof tile (*tegula*) derived from upper fill of pit [46]. The remaining assemblage is likely to be of later post-medieval date (17th century onwards). Sand-tempered peg tile fragments (22 examples) range in thickness from 13–15mm; two examples retain partial square nail holes. A piece of brick, and a possible floor tile fragment (*c.* 32mm thick), were collected, respectively from posthole [68] and ditch [22]. Nine fragments of modern extruded brick (85g) derived from ditches [5], [22]; postholes [70], [72]; and post-pipe [30].



6.4 **Other Finds**

With the exception of a speculative fragment of *opus signinum* flooring material (7g), recovered from ditch [41], non-ceramic artefacts are either of post-medieval and later origin, or typologically undatable. Postholes [24] and [3] respectively yielded a post-medieval or modern lead came fragment (type D made in a toothless mill), and a length of rusted barbed wire, the latter of 19th-century or later date. A piece of modern colourless window glass derived from ditch [5]. Three slivers of modern roofing slate (3g) were collected from posthole [59] and ditch [86].

Ditch [1] and posthole [68] contained two fragmentary timber nails with narrow faceted rectangular heads. Mineralised wood adheres to the shank of one example.

Industrial residues deriving from modern features comprise undiagnostic ferrous slag, weighing 129g (ditches [22] and [86]); and small quantities of coal and clinker (posthole [59], [61]; ditches [11], [22]).

6.5 **Animal Bone**

Animal bone comprises 140 fragments (986g), the largest assemblage (557g) deriving from post-medieval ditch [9]. Individual pieces are small, with a mean weight of 7g, and generally abraded. Diagnostic bone elements are mainly limb bones, including unfused examples from immature animals. Also present are foot bones (talus, tarsal, phalanx); rib; vertebra; mandible and skull fragments (including a sawn horn core); and several loose teeth (molars and premolars). Species represented are sheep, cattle, pig, horse, and a cat or dog skeleton, the latter recovered from modern ditch [5].



7 APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

Project details

Project name	Land to rear of 4 Great North Road, Dunstable
Short description of the project	Planning consent (CB/13/02281/FULL) was granted for the erection of seven dwellings with associated parking, access drive, landscaping and garaging at land to the rear of 4, Great Northern Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. The limited and mixed nature of the finds assemblage made secure dating of the features particularly uncertain. The excavation revealed a low level of Roman and early medieval activity, artefacts from both periods often being found in the same features. The most prominent features on site were some NW-SE aligned ditches, which appear to be of varying dates. The limited nature of the artefactual assemblage tends to suggest that the earliest ditches may date to the early medieval period, though it is also possible that they could date back to the Roman construction of the road and were re-established, or still partly open in the case of the larger ditches, during the early medieval period. These ditches may have played a part in limiting surface run-off onto the A5 below, or represent agricultural boundaries. The ditches that could be more firmly dated to the post-medieval period and an undated ditch were smaller but may have performed similar functions. Two small pits presented similar dating issues, containing a very small amount of both Roman and early medieval material. The majority of the postholes on site contained modern material or the surviving remnants of wooden posts. These were associated with recently demolished outbuildings or recent property boundaries. A scattering of post-medieval and undated postholes formed no coherent structures.
Project dates	Start: 26-03-2014 End: 07-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GNR2263 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURE Modern
Monument type	STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval



Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""

Project location

Country England

Site location BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE DUNSTABLE Land to rear of 4 Great North Road, Dunstable

Study area 0.18 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 0246 2136 51.8809326898 -0.511276472008 51 52 51 N 000 30 40 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Albion Archaeology

Project director/manager Robert Wardill

Project supervisor Kathleen Pilkinton

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Mr. Alan Barber

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Luton Museum

Physical Archive ID LUTNM 2014/05

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Luton Museum

Digital Archive ID LUTNM 2014/05

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"

Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Luton Museum

Paper Archive ID LUTNM 2014/05



Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	4 Great North Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire: Archaeological excavation, Recording, Analysis and Publication
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pilkinton, K
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Keir, W
Other bibliographic details	2014/81
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Description	Client report including; finds summary, site plan, selected sections and photographs
URL	http://www.oasis.ac.uk

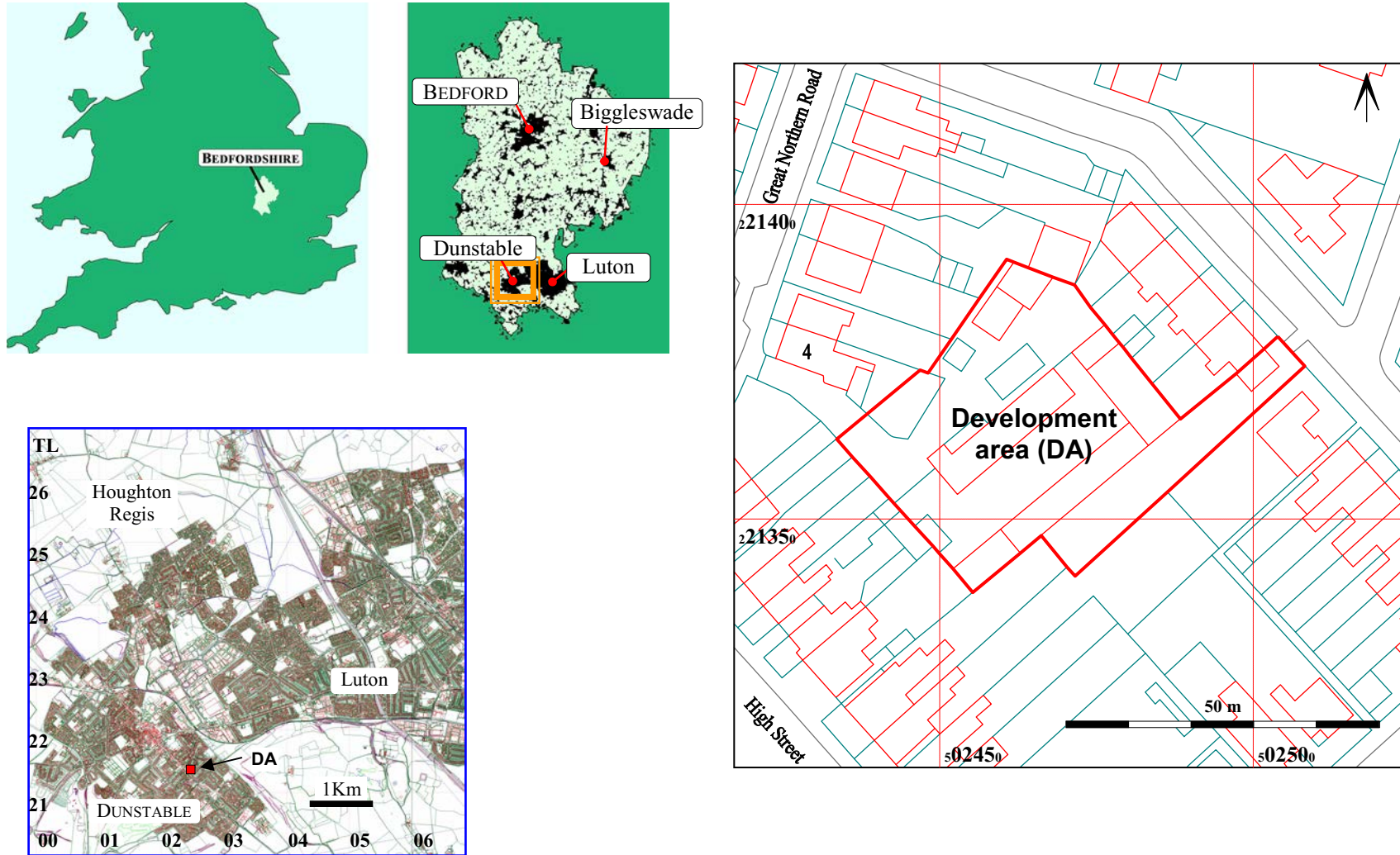


Figure 1: Site location

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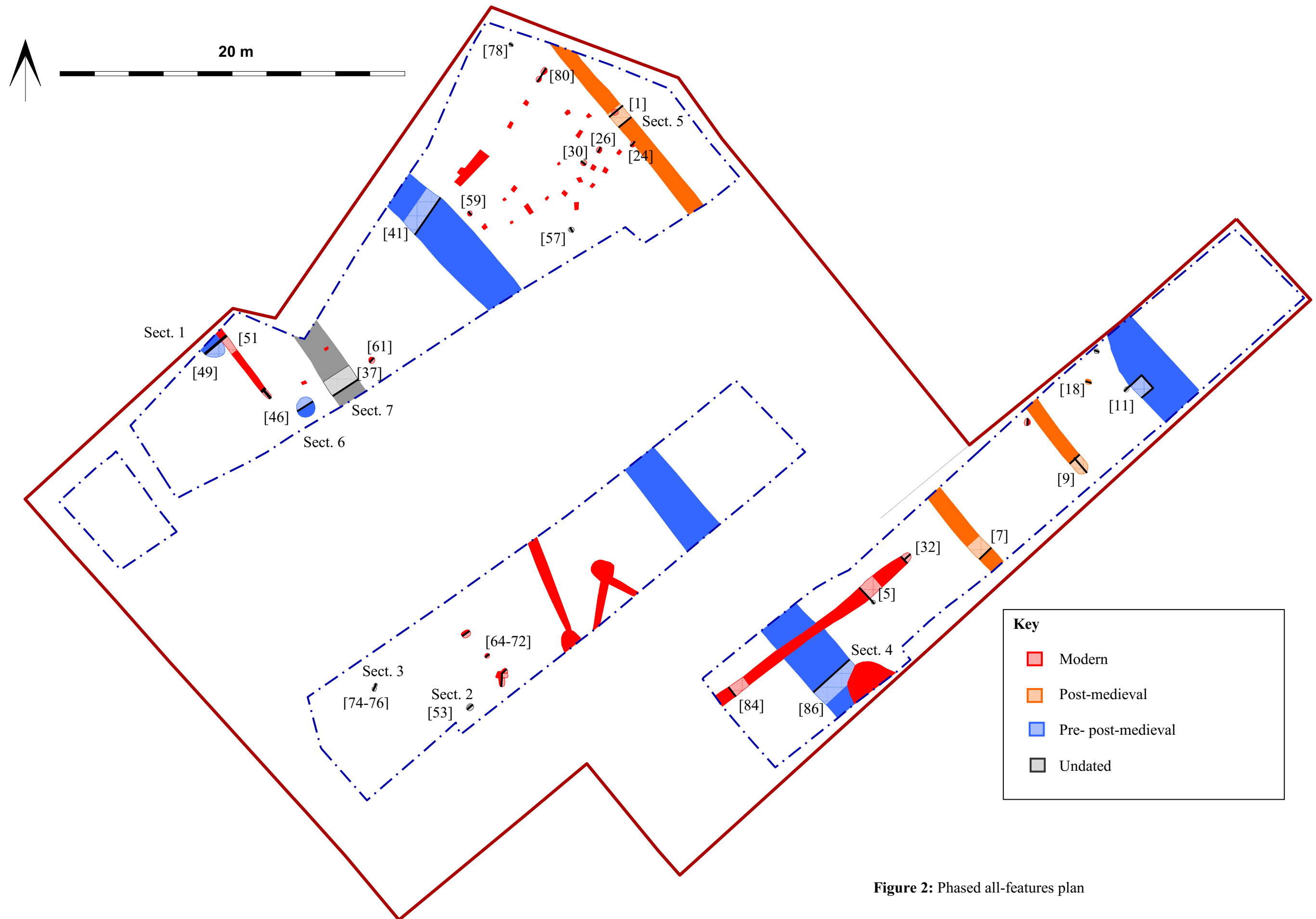


Figure 2: Phased all-features plan

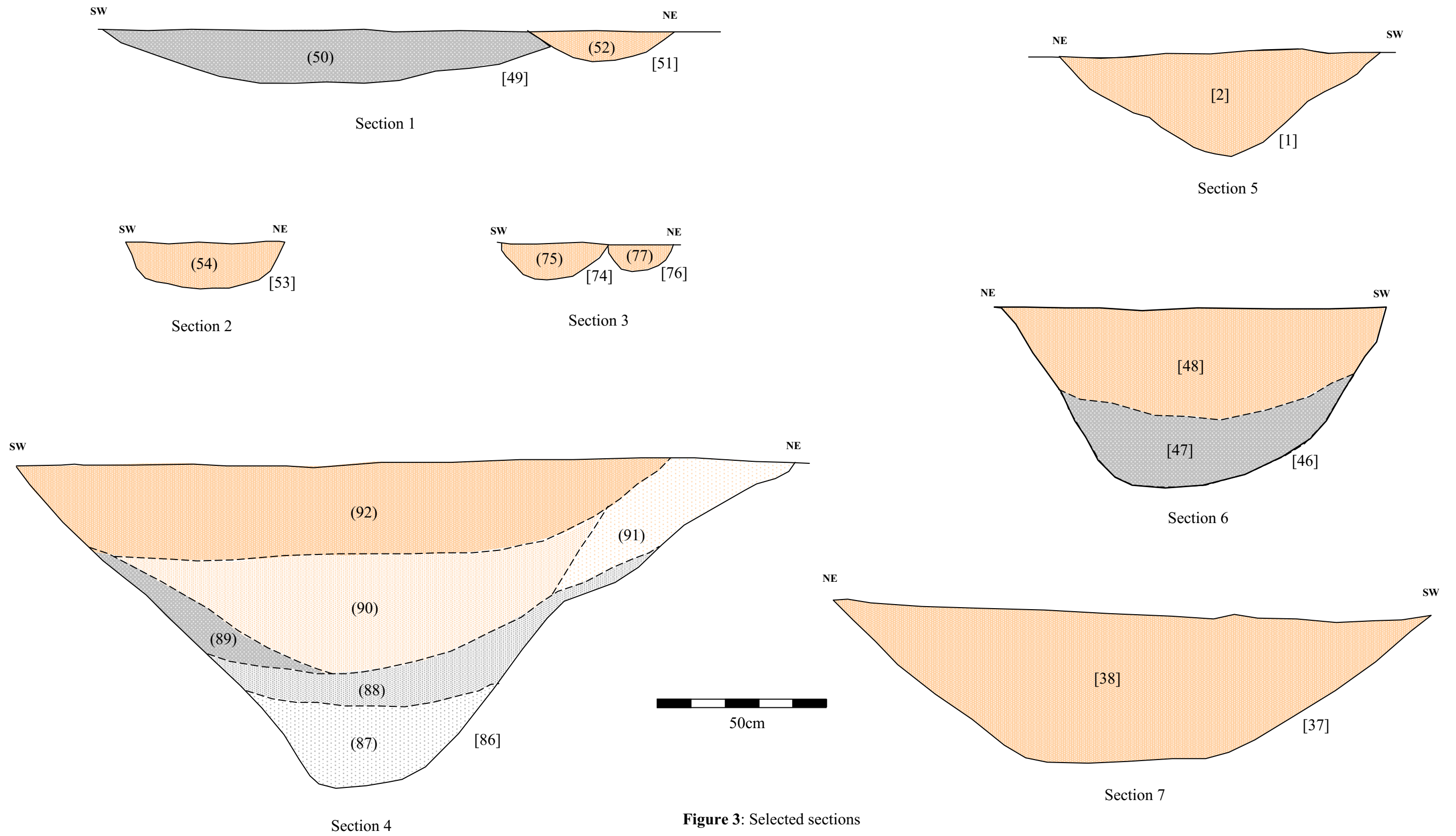


Figure 3: Selected sections



NW-facing section of ditch [41]
(scale 1m)



SE-facing section of ditch [86]
(scale 1m)



NW-facing section of pit [46]
(scale 1m)

Figure 4: Selected photographs showing
pit [46] and ditches [41] and [86]



NW-facing section of ditch [1]
(scale 40cm)



NW-facing section of posthole [53]
(scale 30cm)



Unexcavated side of ditch [11] taken from NE
(scales 1m)



Unexcavated central section of ditch [11] taken from NE
(scale 1m)

Figure 5: Selected photographs showing posthole [53] and ditches [1] and [11]

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