# THE DOWNS RELAY PROJECT
# DUNSTABLE
# BEDFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

Project: DR1317

Document: 2007/129
Version: 1.0

| Compiled by | Checked by | Approved by |
|---|---|---|
| James Newboult and Matthew Smith | Robert Wardill | Drew Shotliff |

21th January 2008

Produced for:
CEMEX UK Ltd

## *Contents*

## List of Tables



## List of Figures



*All figures are bound at the back of the report.*

## Preface

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the 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.*

*This report has been prepared by Matthew Smith (Project Officer), James Newboult (Archaeological Supervisor) and Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer). Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) produced the figures.*

*Albion Archaeology*
*St Mary's Church*
*St Mary's Street*
*Bedford, MK42 0AS*
*☎: 01234 294007*
*Fax: 01234 294008*
*E-mail: office@albion-arch.com*

| Version Number | Date of issue | Reason for Amendment |
|---|---|---|
| 1.0 | 21st January 2008 | n/a |

## Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, Section 2 describes the extent of the project. There is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 3, followed by a conclusion in Section 4. Section 5 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains an archaeological context summary, and Appendix 2 provides a summary of the artefacts and ecofacts recovered.

## Key Terms

Throughout this report, the following terms or abbreviations are used:

| | |
|---|---|
| CAO | Bedfordshire's County Archaeological Officer |
| HER | Bedfordshire's Historic Environment Record |
| IFA | Institute of Field Archaeologists |
| SAM | Scheduled Ancient Monument |

## Non-Technical Summary

*In November 2007 Albion Archaeology attended the installation of 500m of a pipeline across Dunstable Downs, Bedfordshire. Because of the horizontal drilling technique used in the pipeline installation only the tie-in points at either end of the pipeline had to be monitored archaeologically*

*Dunstable Downs is an area of permanent pasture on the north-western edge of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Downs are rich in archaeological remains dating from the Palaeolithic period to the 20th century. Bedfordshire's Historic Environment Record identifies a number of sites in close proximity to the areas affected by the pipeline. These include a prehistoric barrow, a site of Roman occupation and the Icknield Way.*

*The archaeological observation of the construction groundworks at one of the two tie-in points identified evidence of Romano-British agricultural and quarrying activity along with probable wheel ruts of uncertain date.*

*The remains were found to be well preserved and their distribution and density suggest more extensive remains are present in the immediate vicinity. The nature of the finds recovered from the features suggests domestic activity and the possible presence of structures in the area.*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

In November 2007 CEMEX UK Ltd began the installation of approximately 500m of 250mm pipe across the Dunstable Downs using a horizontal directional drill. Because of the extent of proposed ground disturbance at either end of the pipeline, and the archaeological importance of the Dunstable Downs area, the Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officer (CAO) requested that the work be archaeologically monitored and any exposed features or deposits be appropriately investigated and recorded.

A Project Design for the work (Albion Archaeology 2007) was prepared in accordance with CAO requirements and approved prior to commencement of fieldwork.

## 1.2 Site Location and Description

The new pipeline crosses Dunstable Downs which is an area of permanent pasture on the north-western edge of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Figure 1). The chalk escarpment of the Downs stretches south from the edge of Dunstable and despite the name, lies mainly in the parish of Totternhoe.

The new pipeline tied in with existing pipework at its north western end at the base of the escarpment at TL52794 20197 (Area 1), and at its south eastern end at the top of the chalk escarpment at grid reference TL98756 19714 (Area 2).

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

The Dunstable Downs are rich in archaeological remains dating from the Palaeolithic period to the 20th century. Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the Five Knolls Bronze Age barrow cemetery (SAM 20422) and a pair of medieval pillow mounds (SAM 24409), lie at the north end of the scarp.

A series of hollow-way earthworks aligned north to south, are also located at the north end of the Downs. These are evidence of ancient route-ways or drove-ways up onto the Downs.

A Rifle Volunteers' rifle range established in 1851 comprised a series of targets placed along the foot of the Downs. Remains of some of these targets, which consist of iron plates set into the ground, still survive.

Scrub clearance on the Downs in recent years has also uncovered evidence for Second World War gun emplacements. Remains of possible practice trenches dating to the First and Second World War are located along the top of the Downs along with remains of quarry pitting probably dating to the post-medieval or modern period and earthworks associated with the Dunstable Downs Golf Club dating to the early 20th century.

The London Gliding Club at the foot of the Downs is significant for its association with early 20th-century aviation. Its landing ground was shown on the 1937 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (sheet XXXII.6).

The HER lists a number of sites located close to the eastern tie-in point (Area 2) of the pipeline (Figure 1) including a prehistoric barrow (HER 10445) and a Napoleonic telegraph signalling station (HER 14109). Prominent in the vicinity is evidence for Roman activity. The records include coin finds (HER's 104 and 2038) the Romanised part of the Icknield Way (HER 353), which passes within 40m of Area 2, and a site of Roman occupation (HER 1465), 500m to the north-east.

### 1.4 Extent and Nature of Groundworks

The groundworks at the two tie-in points comprised preparations to receive heavy plant and construction materials and the installation of a works compound.

In Area 1 the works involved the removal of topsoil from an area of approximately 0.24ha (Figure 2). Within this area a further 1m of sub-soil was removed within a 5m x 4m trench. Only within this deeper excavation were undisturbed geological deposits of chalk encountered.

Within Area 2, topsoil was removed from approximately 1ha of land (Figure 3). In this Area, the topsoil was found to lie directly over deposits of chalk.

### 1.5 Project Objectives

The site of the new pipeline and its tie in points lie within an area of high archaeological potential and the associated groundworks had the potential to impact on remains of various periods. The aim of the fieldwork was therefore to:

- Observe all significant groundworks associated with the proposed development.
- Investigate and record these works and any archaeological deposits encountered within them.
- Prepare a report of the fieldwork findings for deposition in the Bedfordshire HER and with OASIS.
- Deposit the project archive with Luton Museum.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological works were undertaken between 6th and 17th November 2007. During this period, all construction groundworks requiring monitoring were completed. These groundworks were carried out by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

The archaeological works adhered to the standards and field methods set out in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2007) and comprised the following:

1 All machine excavation was monitored to identify any *in situ* archaeological deposits that were revealed.
2 All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
3 All revealed archaeological deposits were investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*.
4 All archaeological features were drawn at a scale of 1:100 on base plans that were tied in to the OS national grid. Excavated features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and 1:50, and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10.
5 All artefacts were assigned to their relevant context number.
6 A photographic record was maintained for all significant deposits, along with overall photographs of the groundworks undertaken.

Throughout the project, the standards set out in the IFA's *Code of Conduct* and *Standards and Guidance* documents (specifically *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, September 1999) were followed.

# 3. RESULTS OF THE FIELDWORK

## 3.1 Introduction

All investigated archaeological features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers. Within this report, context numbers referring to cut features are written as [**], and layers or deposits within cut features are written as (**).

Detailed information on all the deposits and archaeological features referred to below can be found in Appendix 1.

## 3.2 Area 1

Approximately 0.3m of topsoil (100) was removed within the 0.24ha works area revealing a colluvial subsoil (101). No archaeological features or deposits were found within this wider stripped area (Figure 2). It is probable that a greater depth of subsoil is present in this area, at the base of the escarpment, and that it overlies any strata that may potentially contain archaeological remains. Only in the 5m x 4m trench were such strata encountered (102) but no archaeological remains were present. Fragments of modern brick and a sherd of late medieval/post medieval pottery was recovered during removal of the subsoil in the trench.

## 3.3 Area 2

A similar depth of topsoil to that found in Area 1 was stripped from the *c.*1ha of Area 2 (200). In this area the topsoil lay directly over geological deposits comprising patchy silty gravel (201) and chalk (202). A number of archaeological features were found towards the centre of the stripped Area (Figure 3).

These features comprised two parallel ditches [203] and [205], 7-9m apart, and on a NNE-SSW alignment. They were 1-2m wide, up to 0.4m deep and stretched across the full width of the 20m wide stripped area. Roman and late Roman pottery, as well as animal bone, Roman roof tile and oyster shell were recovered from these features.

A third ditch [208/240] was aligned roughly perpendicular to the other ditches. Around 24m of its length was revealed; it was 0.7-1.0m wide and 0.26m deep. No finds were recovered from this feature although its fill was similar to that found in ditches [203] and [205] suggesting it may be a contemporary feature.

Located between the parallel ditches was a large sub-oval feature measuring *c.*5m x 3m. Removal of the upper backfill (225) revealed that the feature comprised a cluster of smaller pits, at least eight of which [210], [212], [214], [218], [222], [236], [238] and [242] were revealed in the excavated quadrant of the feature. The pits were all sub-circular or sub-oval in shape and varied in size from 1.5m x 0.55-0.75m in diameter.

Finds were recovered from three of the pits [212], [222] and [238]. These included a sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, several sherds of late Roman pottery,

animal bone and roof tile. A large number of Roman sherds were also recovered from the upper fill (225).

On a similar ESE-WNW alignment to ditch [208/240] was a series of probable wheel ruts [228 and 230]. Rut [230] extended for *c*.45m and was up to 0.5m in width. Rut [228] was revealed for *c*.27m in and was approximately 0.1m wide. The ruts were up to 0.1m in depth and produced no finds.

Rut [228] was stratigraphically later than ditch [203], as it could be seen in plan cutting across the ditch fill.

# 4. SYNTHESIS

## *4.1 Discussion*

### 4.1.1 Romano-British Period (AD43 – AD410)

The majority of archaeological features found during the works are datable to the Romano-British period. It is probable that the ditches represent elements of a field system and that the pits are possibly evidence of small scale chalk quarrying.

The remains may be associated with the putative Roman occupation site (HER 1465) as they lie between it and the Icknield Way (HER 353). It is not uncommon for Roman roadside settlements to be associated with extensive agricultural areas (Smith 1987, 22-30).

### 4.1.2 Later Periods

The probable wheel ruts can not be dated although it is clear that they post-date at least one of the parallel ditches dated to the Romano-British period. The ruts run roughly parallel with the third ditch found at the site which suggests a later date for that feature, although it should be borne in mind that Roman roads and boundaries often had a long-lasting influence on subsequent routes and land boundaries.

## *4.2 Conclusion*

The remains uncovered during the archaeological works appear to represent evidence of agricultural and small scale quarrying activity of Romano-British date. The results of the archaeological works therefore confirm the presence of Romano-British activity in the area which may be associated with the occupation site recorded nearby.

The remains were found to be well preserved and their distribution and density within the central part of Area 2 suggests more extensive remains are present in the immediate vicinity. The nature of the finds recovered from the features suggests the possible presence of domestic activity and structures in the area.

The discovery of Romano-British agricultural and domestic occupation evidence is archaeologically important as it adds to our understanding of the area's environment and land use during the period. The information gathered during the project contributes to the research aims identified in the regional archaeological strategy document (Oake, forthcoming, p6) which highlights the lack of information on the relationship between settlement components and field enclosures.

## *4.3 Project Archive*

It is anticipated that the project archive comprising finds and documentary records will be deposited with Luton Museum under accession code 2007.197.

## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2001. *Procedures Manual, Volume 1: Fieldwork.* 2nd Edition.

Albion Archaeology, 2007. *The Downs Relay Project, Dunstable, Bedfordshire: Project Design for Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication.*

English Heritage, 2002. *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

IFA, 1999a. Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct.*

IFA, 1999b. Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents *(Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.

Oake, M. Forthcoming. *Research Agenda and Strategy for Bedfordshire*.

Smith, R. F., 1987. *Roadside Settlements in Lowland Roman Britain* B.A.R. British Series 157

# 6. APPENDICES

## *6.1 Appendix 1 - Context Summary*

**Area:** 1
**Extent (ha):** 0.24
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL5279420197
**Description:** Pipeline tie-in point west of Dunstable Downs

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | Ploughsoil | Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small chalk, moderate small stones. 0.2-0.49m thick | ☑ | ☑ |
| 101 | Colluvium | Firm light brown clay silt occasional flecks ceramic building material, frequent flecks chalk, occasional small stones | ☐ | ☑ |

**Area:** 2
**Extent (ha):** 0.98
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL9875619714
**Description:** Pipeline tie-in point east of Dunstable Downs

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **200** | **Ploughsoil** | **Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, frequent small chalk, frequent small stones. 0.2m-0.52m thick** | ☑ | ☑ |
| **201** | **Natural** | **Loose dark brown orange silty gravel** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **202** | **Natural** | **Hard light white silty chalk** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **203** | **Ditch** | **Linear NNE-SSW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max length 19.5m, min breadth 1.23m, max breadth 2.m, max depth 0.37m. Oriented downslope** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 204 | Fill | Loose mid brown orange silty clay occasional small ceramic building material, frequent small-medium chalk, occasional small-medium stones. Natural silting and weathering of sides 0.37m thick | ☑ | ☑ |
| **205** | **Ditch** | **Linear NNE-SSW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max length 20.m, min breadth 1.05m, max breadth 1.4m, max depth 0.36m. Oriented downslope** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 206 | Lower fill | Friable light yellow brown clay silt frequent flecks chalk, frequent small-medium chalk. Natural weathering of sides 0.14m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| 207 | Upper fill | Firm mid brown orange silty clay moderate small-medium chalk, occasional small stones. Natural silting with deliberate backfill of pot and c.b.m 0.22m thick | ☑ | ☑ |
| **208** | **Ditch** | **Linear ESE-WNW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.72m, max depth 0.26m. Oriented downslope** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 209 | Fill | Firm mid brown clay silt moderate small-medium chalk, occasional small-medium stones. Natural silting 0.26m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| **210** | **Quarry** | **Sub-circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min diameter 0.55m, max depth 0.26m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 211 | Fill | Firm mid blue brown chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk. Natural infill and weathering of sides 0.26m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| **212** | **Quarry** | **Sub-circular base: concave dimensions: min diameter 0.37m, max depth 0.4m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 213 | Lower fill | Friable light grey brown chalky silt frequent small-medium chalk. Natural infill and weathering of sides 0.21m thick | ☑ | ☑ |
| 227 | Upper fill | Firm mid orange brown chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk. Natural infilling 0.19m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| **214** | **Quarry** | **Sub-oval base: concave dimensions: min length 1.18m, min breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.43m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 215 | Lower fill | Friable light yellow brown clay silt frequent small-medium chalk. Natural weathering of sides 0.2m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| 216 | Fill | Friable mid grey brown chalky silt moderate small-large chalk. Natural silting and weathering of sides 0.2m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| 217 | Upper fill | Friable mid grey brown chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk. Natural silting and weathering of sides 0.27m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| 226 | Lower fill | Friable light grey brown silty chalk frequent small chalk. Natural weathering of sides 0.27m thick | ☑ | ☐ |

**Area:** 2
**Extent (ha):** 0.98
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL9875619714
**Description:** Pipeline tie-in point east of Dunstable Downs

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **218** | **Quarry** | **Sub-oval profile: irregular base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.33m, max depth 0.47m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 219 | Lower fill | Friable light grey brown silty chalk frequent small-medium chalk. Natural infill and weathering of sides 0.13m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| 220 | Fill | Firm mid orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium chalk. Natural infill 0.27m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| 221 | Upper fill | Firm mid orange brown clay silt frequent flecks chalk. Natural infill 0.27m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| **222** | **Quarry** | **Sub-circular profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.67m, max depth 0.46m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 223 | Backfill | Friable mid brown grey chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk. Contains abundant animal bone 0.38m thick | ☑ | ☑ |
| 224 | Upper fill | Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks chalk. Natural silting 0.1m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| **225** | **Backfill** | **Firm dark brown grey clay silt occasional flecks chalk. Contains frequent pot, bone, c.b.m and shell 0.19m thick** | ☑ | ☑ |
| **228** | **Wheel ruts** | **Linear ESE-WNW profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.1m, max depth 0.06m** | ☐ | ☐ |
| 229 | Fill | Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small chalk, occasional small stones. Natural silting 0.06m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| **230** | **Wheel ruts** | **Linear ESE-WNW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.51m, max depth 0.05m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 231 | Fill | Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small chalk, occasional small stones. Natural silting 0.05m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| **236** | **Quarry** | **Sub-oval profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max length 1.4m, max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.35m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 237 | Fill | Firm mid grey brown chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk. Natural infill and weathering of sides 0.35m thick | ☑ | ☐ |
| **238** | **Quarry** | **Sub-oval profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max length 1.4m, max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.3m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 239 | | Firm mid grey brown chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk. Natural infill and weathering of sides 0.3m thick | ☐ | ☑ |
| **240** | **Ditch** | **Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max length 24.m, min breadth 0.72m, max breadth 1.m. Unexcavated ditch** | ☐ | ☐ |
| 241 | Fill | Firm mid brown clay silt occasional small ceramic building material, moderate small-medium chalk, moderate small-medium stones. Unexcavated fill of ditch | ☐ | ☑ |
| **242** | **Quarry** | **Sub-oval dimensions: max length 1.m, max breadth 0.8m. Unexcavated quarry pit** | ☐ | ☐ |
| 243 | Fill | Hard mid grey brown silty clay moderate small chalk, moderate small stones. Unexcavated fill of quarry pit | ☐ | ☐ |

## 6.2 Appendix 2 – Artefact and Ecofact Summary

### 6.2.1 Introduction

The archaeological works produced a small finds assemblage, which mainly comprised pottery (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

| Area | Feature | Type | Context | Spot date* | Pottery | Other Finds |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **01** | 100 | Ploughsoil | 100 | Late/post-medieval | | Iron nail |
| | 101 | Colluvium | 101 | - | 1:34 | Modern brick (62g) |
| **02** | 200 | Ploughsoil | 200 | Post-medieval | | Roof tile (43g) |
| | 203 | Ditch | 204 | Roman | 3:37 | Animal bone (8g); oyster shell (17g) |
| | 205 | Ditch | 207 | Late Roman | 3:47 | Roof tile (323g); oyster shell (26g) |
| | 212 | Quarry pit | 213 | LIA/early Roman | 1:5 | Animal bone (10g) |
| | 222 | Quarry pit | 223 | Late Roman | 31:232 | Animal bone (677g); roof tile (654g); oyster shell (92g) Iron nail shank |
| | 225 | Backfill | 225 | Roman | 52:737 | Animal bone (265g); roof tile (319g); oyster shell (61g) Iron nail; worked flint (10g) |
| | 238 | Quarry pit | 239 | - | | Animal bone (11g) |
| | 240 | Ditch | 241 | Roman | 1:8 | Animal bone (233g); roof tile (61g) |

***** - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

**Table 1**: Artefact summary by area and feature

### 6.2.2 Pottery

Ninety-two pottery sherds weighing 1.1kg were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The sherds are small (average weight 12g) and generally abraded. Eighteen fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

| Fabric type | Common name | Sherd No. | Context/Sherd No. |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Late Iron Age/early Roman* | | | |
| Type F06C | Coarse grog | **2** | (223):1, (225):1 |
| Type F07 | Shell | **1** | (225):1 |
| Type F09 | Sand and grog | **3** | (225):3 |
| Type F39 | Grog and mica | **2** | (213):1, (223):1 |
| *Roman* | | | |
| Type R03B | Gritty whiteware | **3** | (223):2, (225):1 |
| Type R05A | Oxidised sand | **6** | (223):3, (225):3 |
| Type R06B | Coarse greyware | **5** | (204):1, (223):2, (225):2 |
| Type R06C | Fine greyware | **35** | (223):12, (225):23 |
| Type R06D | Micaceous greyware | **2** | (204):2 |
| Type R07B | Sandy blackware | **10** | (223):3, (225):7 |
| Type R09A | Pink grogged ware | **2** | (223):2 |
| Type R10B | Fine buff gritty | **1** | (207):1 |
| Type R11 | Oxford oxidised ware | **5** | (223):2, (225):3 |
| Type R11D | Oxford Colour Coat | **2** | (223):2 |
| Type R12B | Nene Valley Colour Coat | **2** | (207):2 |
| Type R13 | Shell | **4** | (223):1, (225):3 |
| Type R18 | Pink gritty | **6** | (225):4, (241):1 |
| *Post-Roman* | | | |
| Type E03 | Late medieval oxidised sand | **1** | (101):1 |

**Table 2**: Pottery type series

The assemblage spans the late Iron Age to the late Roman period, and mainly comprises reduced and oxidised sand tempered coarsewares of probable local manufacture. Early Roman vessels include products of the Verulamium (St Albans) region industries and pink grogged vessels likely to derive from Caldecotte, Bucks. Later Roman wares include fineware vessels from the Nene Valley and Oxfordshire. No continental imports occur. Forms include a large grog tempered storage(?) jar with a roll rim, everted rim jars, plain rim bowls and a bowl with an undercut rim, reed rim bowls, beakers, a cordoned vessel and a flagon (Young type 4), the latter of mid third to mid fourth century date. The majority of the pottery was collected from backfill (225).

A single glazed handle sherd (34g) of late medieval/post-medieval date was recovered from colluvium (101).

### 6.2.3 Other artefacts

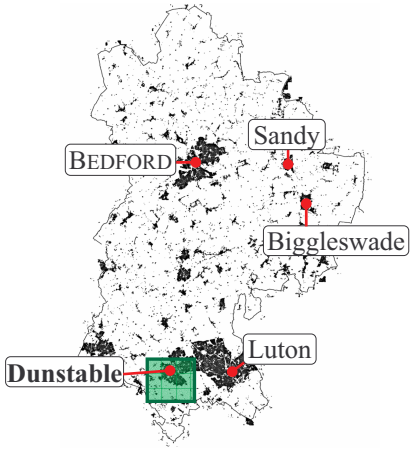
Fragments of two undatable iron timber nails were recovered from pit [222] and layer (225), and a rectangular headed nail of medieval/post-medieval date from topsoil (100).

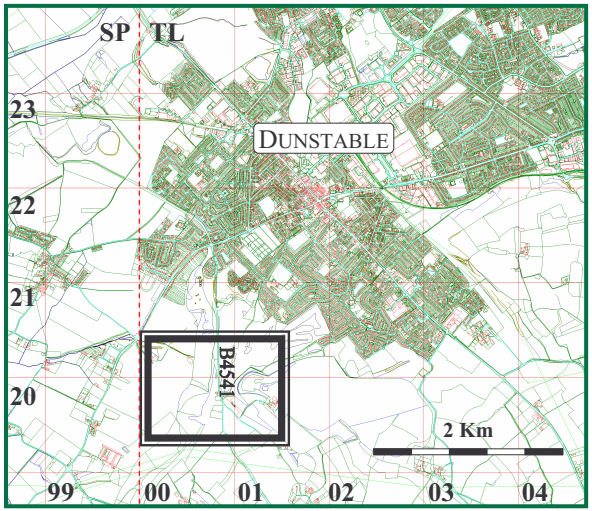
Eleven pieces of sand tempered Roman roof tile (1.3kg) were recovered from ditches [205], [240], pit [222] and backfill (225). They comprise flat, flanged tiles (*tegulae*) and curved tiles (*imbrices*). All are highly abraded and worn. Colluvium/subsoil (101) and topsoil (200) respectively yielded two pieces of modern brick (62g) and three fragments of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (43g).

### 6.2.4 Ecofacts

Animal bone fragments weighing 1.2kg were recovered from features in Area 2. Diagnostic elements are long bone, rib, skull, mandible and teeth fragments, some deriving from sheep or goat. The majority derive from pit [222] and comprise the partially complete, well-preserved skeleton of a juvenile dog(?). Bone recovered from other features survives in noticeably poorer condition than these remains, and displays greater abrasion and surface erosion, suggesting the skeleton may be relatively recent in date.

Twenty-one pieces of oyster shell (196g), commonly occurring on Roman sites, were collected but have not been retained.



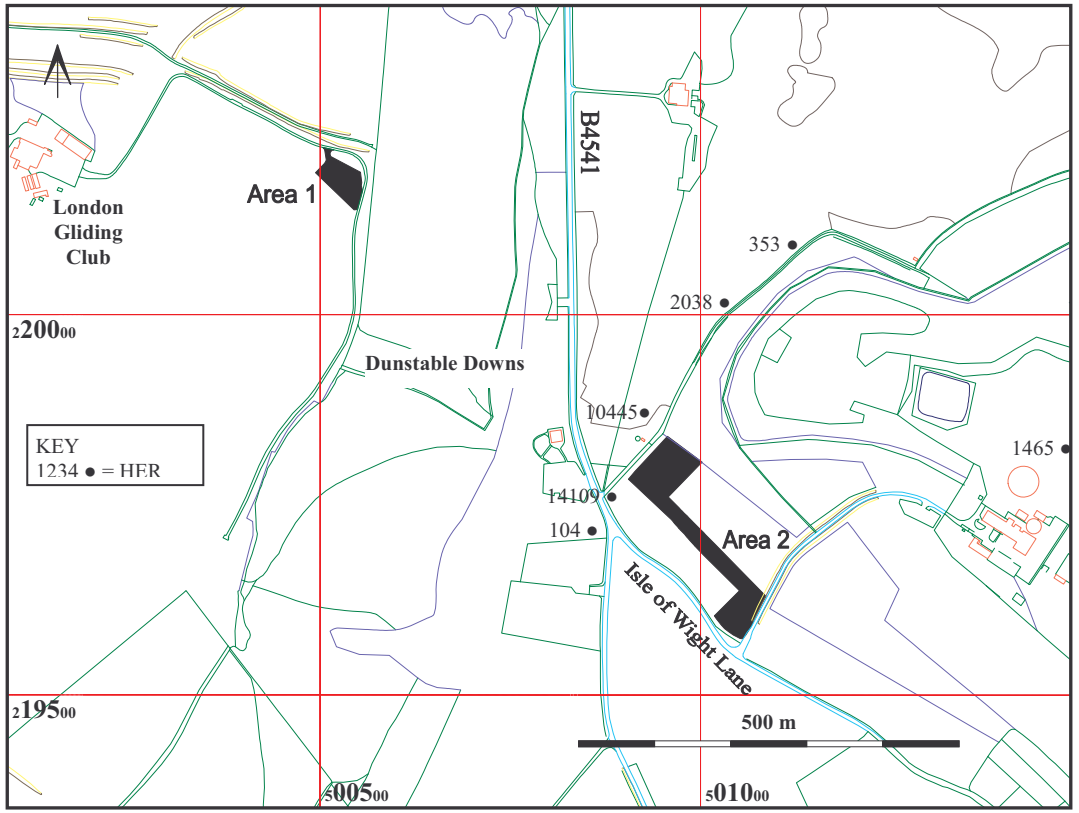
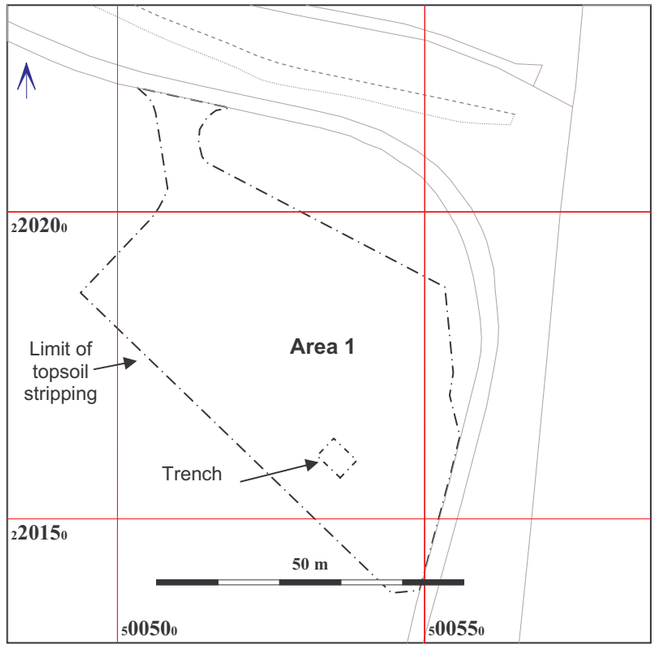




**Figure 1:** Site location plan

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358.. © Crown Copyright.



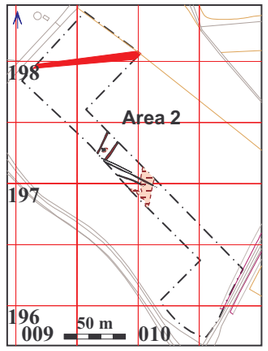

Area 1, looking north-west

Area 1, looking east

Area 1, trench stripped to natural.
Looking north. Scale 1m

Area 1, trench stripped to natural.
Looking west. Scale 1m

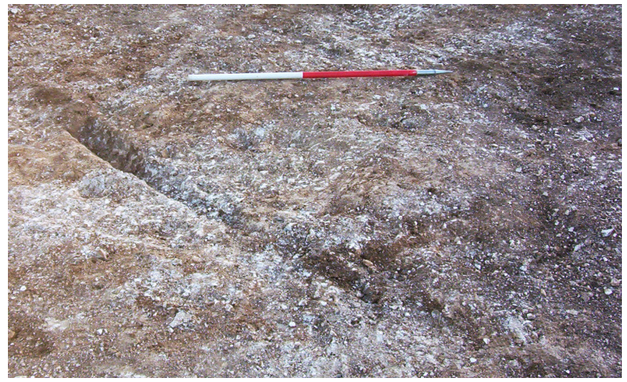
**Figure 2:** Area 1 Plan and photos



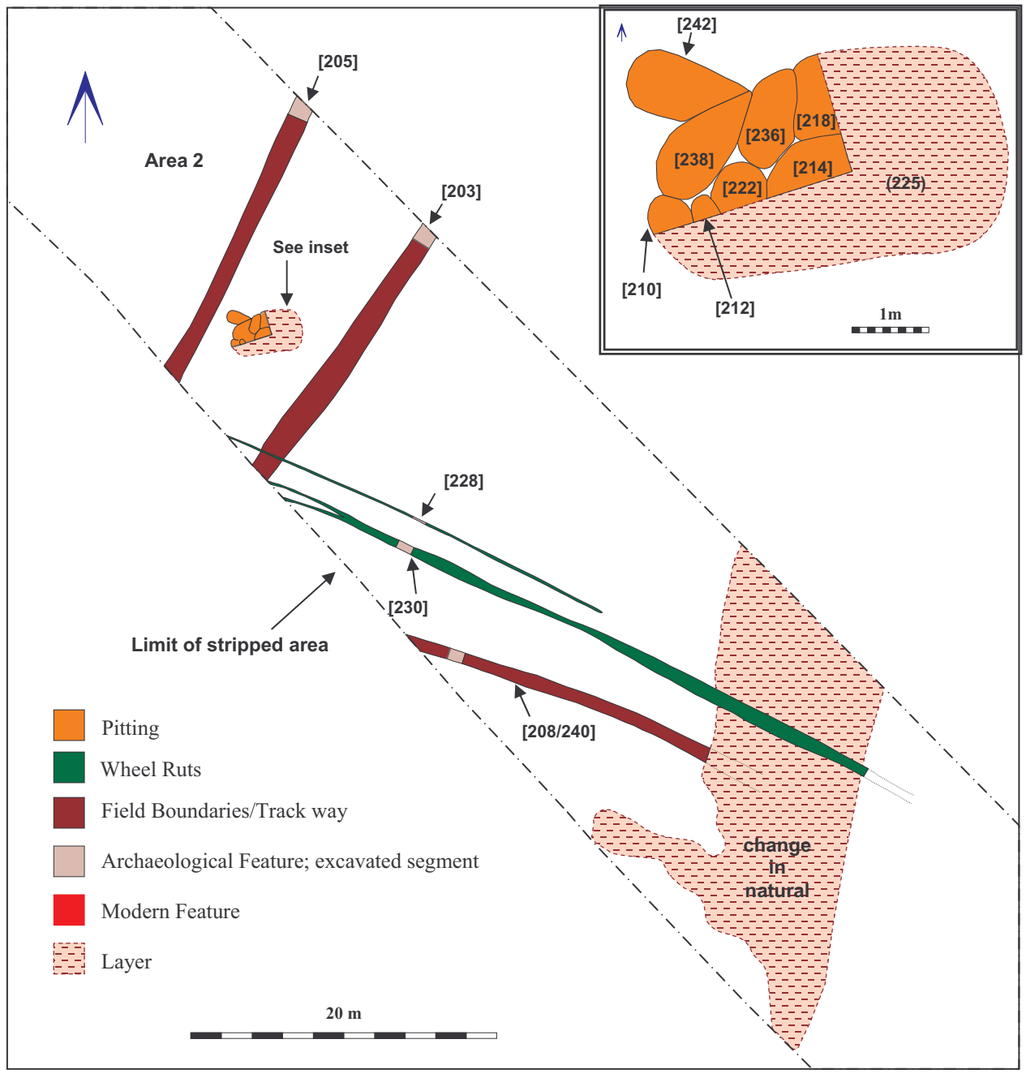

Area 2; ditches [203] and [205], and pit group, looking north-east. Scale 1m

Area 2; ditch [208]/[240], looking south-east. Scale 1m

Area 2; ditches [208]/[240], and [230] (very faint), looking north-west. Scale 1m



Area 2; rut [228], looking north. Scale 1m




Area 2; pit group, looking south-east. Scale 1m

**Figure 3:** Area 2 Plan and photos