



**THE WIXAMS, ELSTOW, BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

**AREAS 2, 5, 6, 8 AND 9**

Project: WX1242

Document: 2007/111

Version: 1.1

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Mark Phillips	Joe Abrams	Drew Shottliff

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008

Produced for:  
RPS Planning

On behalf of:  
Gallagher Estates

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2008, *all rights reserved*




---

## ***Contents***

---

Preface	4
Structure of the Report	4
Key Terms	5
Non-Technical Summary	6
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Background	7
1.2 Site Location and Description	8
1.3 Archaeological Background	8
<b>2. METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Introduction	10
2.2 Strip, Map and Sample Methodology	10
2.3 Circumstances of Fieldwork by Area	10
<b>3. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 Introduction	12
3.2 Area 2	12
3.3 Area 5	13
3.4 Area 6	14
3.5 Area 8	14
3.6 Area 9	14
<b>4. SYNTHESIS</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 Discussion	15
4.2 Significance	17
4.3 Project Archive	18
<b>5. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>6. APPENDICES</b>	<b>21</b>
6.1 Appendix 1 - Context Summary	21
6.2 Appendix 2 – Artefact and Ecofact Summary	29



<b>Table 1:</b> Artefact summary by trench and feature	<b>29</b>
--	-----------

<b>Table 2:</b> Pottery type series	<b>30</b>
-------------------------------------	-----------

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: Area 2: all features plan

Figure 3: Area 2: selected sections

Figure 4: Area 5: all features plan

Figure 5: Area 5: sections

Figure 6: Area 6: all features plan

Figure 7: Ridge and furrow overlaid on 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1882)

## Illustrations

Plate 1: Outbuilding at rear of Dane Oak

*The figures and illustrations are bound at the back of the report.*



## Preface

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

*This report has been prepared by Mark Phillips (Project Officer) and Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer), and edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). The fieldwork was undertaken by Lennard Anderson, Ian Beswick, Richard Gregson, David Ingham, Adam Lodoen, Gary Manning, Jeremy Mordue, Mark Phillips. Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Mark Phillips produced the figures. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

*Albion Archaeology is grateful to Rob Masefield of RPS for commissioning the project on behalf of Gallagher Estates. We would also like to acknowledge the comments of Martin Oake, County Archaeological Officer who monitored the sites on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council.*

Albion Archaeology  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Street  
Bedford, MK42 0AS  
C : 01234 294007  
Fax: 01234 294008

E-mail: [office@albion-arch.com](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)

## Version History

Version Number	Date of issue	Reason for Amendment
1.0	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2007	n/a
1.1	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2008	Report updated to include results of Area 6 watching brief

## Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, Section 2 describes the methodology for the watching brief. There is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 3, followed by a synthesis of the results and discussion of the significance (Section 4). Section 5 is a bibliography. Section 6 consists of appendices; 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:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CAO	Bedfordshire County Council, County Archaeological Officer
Client	Gallagher Estates
Consultant	RPS Planning, Transport and Environment
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
Observation	Watching Brief
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition 2001. Bedfordshire County Council
RPS	Overall Archaeological Project Managers
SMS	Strip, Map and Sample



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Between February 2007 and March 2008 Albion Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief on selected areas of land forming part of The Wixams development in advance of road and house construction. The archaeological works were commissioned by RPS Planning, on behalf of Gallagher Estates.*

*The archaeological Strip, Map and Sample works that are the subject of this report were undertaken in Areas 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9, lying to either side of the A6 and occupying an area of c. 5.8ha. Other archaeological mitigation works associated with the development were undertaken in other parts of the development and will be reported separately.*

*Area 2 (NGR TL 0575 4438), Area 6 (NGR TL 0583 4424) and Area 9 (within Area 6) were located to the east of the A6 in the southernmost part of the Wixams development. Area 5 (NGR TL 0542 443) was situated to the west of the A6, just south of Dane Lane. Area 8 was situated along the eastern side of the A6, just south of the A421 Bedford Southern Bypass.*

*Prior to fieldwork taking place a desk-based assessment, non-intrusive and intrusive evaluation had revealed that: Area 2 contained archaeological features dated to the Roman period; Areas 5, 6 and 9 were covered by extant ridge and furrow earthworks and Area 8 was situated close to known remains of the late Iron Age and Roman periods.*

*Remains observed during the course of the watching brief comprised: evidence of occupation dating to the Roman period (Area 2), remains of ridge and furrow earthworks in Areas 5, 6 and 9, and two undated pits in Area 5.*

*The occupation evidence in Area 2 consisted of boundary ditches, small gullies and pits. The ditches had been significantly damaged by later medieval/post-medieval furrows. The surviving segments of ditch were aligned NW-SE and NE-SW, suggesting that they were the remains of enclosures for settlement or agriculture. The features contained a small, abraded assemblage of pottery dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD and small quantities of other occupation debris. This combined evidence suggests the presence of the heavily truncated remains of part of the periphery of an enclosed farmstead.*

*Ridge and furrow earthworks, extant in Areas 5, 6 and 9 and ploughed out in Area 2, demonstrate that these areas formed part of the open fields of the township of Wilshamstead in the medieval/post-medieval period.*

*The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum under accession code 2006.535.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 Background

RPS Planning (acting on behalf of their client, Gallagher Estates) are the archaeological project managers for The Wixams development. RPS commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation works in advance of development. The mitigation works were undertaken in areas identified as having archaeological potential through a programme of evaluation works.

The initial evaluation was undertaken by RPS as part of an Environmental Statement. This included desk-based assessment, aerial photograph plotting, fieldwalking, geophysical survey, topsoil sampling and trial excavation (National Power and Gallagher 1999). Further trial trenching was subsequently undertaken by Albion in Areas 1 and 2 (Albion 2005) in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (RPS 2005a).

Following evaluation, an overall programme of mitigation works was outlined in a series of documents (RPS 2005b, RPS 2006a and RPS 2006b). In Area 1, where aerial photographic evidence indicated a possible ring ditch, no further work was required following a trial trench evaluation which produced a negative result (Albion 2005). Area 2 was to be subject to strip and map investigation on the basis of archaeological features located during trial trenching. In Area 3 a 20m by 20m trench was to be opened where geophysical anomalies indicated the possible existence of kilns (Albion 2006b). Area 4 was to be subject to excavation, with possible additional strip and map, where geophysics and trial excavation had indicated the presence of an enclosed late Iron Age/Romano British farmstead. Areas 2, 6, 8 and 9 were to be subject to strip and map. The methodology for each of the archaeological works was detailed in separate WSI (RPS 2006c, RPS2007a and 2007b). These WSI's were agreed with the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) in advance of fieldwork.

Topographic earthwork surveys were undertaken in Areas 5 and 6 during March 2006. These surveys recorded the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks. The report on these areas incorporates evidence from historic maps (Albion 2006a). Investigation of Area 3 during October 2006 revealed furrow remnants, although there was no physical evidence for the geophysical anomalies interpreted as possible kilns (Albion 2006b). It was concluded that burnt material within the topsoil might have been responsible for the anomalies.

Excavation of Area 4 uncovered the remains of a late Iron Age/ Romano British farmstead. Post-excavation analysis is currently underway and will form the subject of a separate report. Observation works in Area 7 will also form the subject of a separate report.

The archaeological mitigation works in Areas 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 were completed between February 2007 and March 2008. The mitigation works comprised Observation of topsoil stripping to formation level (Areas 5, 8 and 9) and Strip,



Map and Sample (SMS) works that cleanly exposed natural geology (Areas 2 and 6). The results of the fieldwork in all these areas form the subject of this report.

## **1.2 Site Location and Description**

Areas 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 all lay towards the eastern margin of The Wixams development, situated in a band to either side of the pre-development route of the A6, between Elstow to the north and Wilstead to the south (Figure 1).

The Wixams lies to the south of the Greensand Ridge on comparatively flat ground that varies in height from 30m OD to 40m OD. It is on Oxford Clay overlain by variable Head Deposits. Valley Gravels and a thin ribbon of alluvium occur where the Elstow Brook cuts across the northern part of the area.

Area 2 was located on the eastern side of the pre-development line of the A6, in the southern part of The Wixams development area. Groundworks in Area 2 comprised topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of roads, a roundabout, drainage channels and housing. The area examined was *c.*1.7ha in size, centred on NGR TL 0575 4438.

Area 5 was situated to the west of the A6, between Horton Turn Farm and Dane Lane. The area subject to topsoil stripping was *c.*2.5ha in size, centred on NGR TL 0542 4432.

Area 6 (either side of Area 9) was located to the east of the pre-development line of the A6, at the southern end of the A6 realignment route. Topsoil and subsoil were stripped in this area in advance of the excavation of a borrow pit. It was *c.*1.5ha in size, centred on NGR TL 0583 4424.

Area 8 was a narrow topsoil strip adjacent to the east side of the A6, close to where the A6 joins the A421, Bedford Southern Bypass. It was 135m long by 12m wide (*c.*0.16ha), centred on NGR TL 0464 4642.

Area 9 was situated within Area 6, and was defined by the road easement that was stripped in this field as part of the A6 realignment works. It was 195m long by 12m wide (*c.*0.23ha), centred on NGR TL 0583 4424.

## **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The archaeological background to the overall development area has been covered in detail in the desk-based assessment section of the Environmental Statement (National Power and Gallagher 1999) and in the Written Scheme of Investigation for Areas 2, 6, 8 and 9 (RPS 2007a).

Within the wider study area (covered by the desk-based assessment) evidence has been found for a wide variety of periods: Palaeolithic (stone tools in river terrace gravels), Bronze Age (ring ditches), Iron Age, Roman and Saxon (settlement).

The significant evidence relating to the archaeological works detailed in this report is summarised below.



### **1.3.1 Area 2**

The results of evaluation works (Albion 2005) indicated the possible existence of significant Iron Age and Roman remains in Area 2. Evidence comprised one possible, and three probable, Roman ditches with a further ditch that contained some abraded Iron Age pottery. Given the paucity of the artefact assemblage, it was concluded that Area 2 was unlikely to be a focus of settlement and that the ditches may have been the remains of a field system associated with a Roman period settlement. Evidence of late Iron Age and Roman settlement had been revealed in Area 4, 0.5km to the south-west, and at Luton Road in Wilstead, 1.4km SSE of Area 2 (Luke, Preece and Wells, forthcoming).

### **1.3.2 Area 5**

Area 5 contained ridge and furrow earthworks of medieval or post-medieval date. Such earthworks have the potential to mask the presence of earlier archaeological remains, an example of this being the Roman settlement found at Luton Road, Wilstead (above). The south-western portion of Area 5 was formerly occupied by a brickworks. The location is shown on maps of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A large pond to the west of Area 5 represents the clay extraction pit for the brickworks.

### **1.3.3 Areas 6 and 9**

These land parcels contained extant ridge and furrow earthworks. It was thought that the ridges had the potential to mask significant sub-surface archaeological remains.

### **1.3.4 Area 8**

Evidence in the vicinity of Area 8 suggested that this area had the potential to contain remains dating from the Roman period. Immediately north of Area 8 an enclosed farmstead, dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, was excavated in advance of the construction of the Bedford Southern Bypass (BCAS 1995).



## 2. METHODOLOGY

---

### 2.1 Introduction

Watching briefs on Areas 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 were undertaken between February and August 2007. During this period, all groundworks which required monitoring were completed.

All archaeological features and deposits were issued a unique context number, specific to that feature or deposit. Within this report, context numbers referring to cut features are expressed [\*\*], and layers or deposits within cut features are expressed (\*\*).

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

### 2.2 Strip, Map and Sample Methodology

The works adhered to the standards and field methods set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS/Albion 2007a) and Albion's *Procedures Manual* (Albion Archaeology 2000). In summary:

- 1 Machine excavation of topsoil removal within Areas 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 was monitored to identify any *in-situ* archaeological deposits that were revealed.
- 2 Topsoil was stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3 All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
- 4 All excavated features and deposits were fully recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*.
- 5 All archaeological observations were recorded at a suitable scale on base plans that were tied in to the Ordnance Survey national grid.
- 6 A photographic record was kept of all significant features.

Throughout the project the standards set out in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Codes of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (1999) and in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) were adhered to.

### 2.3 Circumstances of Fieldwork by Area

#### 2.3.1 Introduction

Weather and the level to which each of the Areas was stripped played a crucial role in whether archaeological remains were revealed or not. As sections 2.3.2 – 2.3.6 demonstrate these factors varied significantly by area.

#### 2.3.2 Area 2

This area was exposed in three separate stages. The initial stage, undertaken during February 2007, consisted of the road/roundabout footprints and a large sub-oval area for a balancing pond. Weather conditions during this stage were extremely unfavourable with heavy, sustained rain. The upper surface of the formation level deteriorated and water settled in large shallow pools throughout



the working area. As a result, some remains in Area 2 became submerged and only a location plan could be made in order to characterise these features (Figure 2a, c, d). Remains elsewhere in Area 2 were less severely affected by these weather conditions.

The second stage consisted of an easement strip for a drainage channel between the road and balancing pond. This was completed in late March under more favourable conditions.

The final stage of topsoil removal, situated adjacent to the line of the A6, was undertaken in good conditions in mid August.

### 2.3.3 Area 5

The initial stage of topsoil removal began at the end of April 2007 and was suspended in mid May due to heavy rainfall. During this phase of work the topsoil was removed with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The topsoil was stripped in a series of parallel trenches up to 20m wide with the spoil being stored on-site in bunds between the trenches. During this phase of work two undated features and several remnant furrows were recorded (Figure 4)

Work resumed during July when a small area of topsoil was stripped for a haul road leading to a crossing point across Dane Lane. Subsequently, the spoil bunds and remaining topsoil were removed.

### 2.3.4 Area 6

In July 2007 three test-pits were excavated within Area 6 to evaluate its potential for use as a clay borrow pit. In March 2008 topsoil and subsoil were removed with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Remnant furrows and a post-medieval drainage ditch were recorded.

### 2.3.5 Area 8

Topsoil removal in Area 8 was undertaken between 28<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007. Numerous modern plough scars aligned parallel to the A6 were recorded at this level. No further stripping was undertaken and the optimum level for the observation of archaeological features was not reached. Therefore, while no pre-modern artefactual material or archaeological remains were observed, it is possible that remains lie undisturbed below the new stretch of road.

### 2.3.6 Area 9

Topsoil removal within the road easement strip formed by Area 9 was undertaken in early February 2007. At this time it was anticipated that the extant ridge and furrow earthworks in the remainder of the field (Area 6) would be preserved *in-situ*. The excavated topsoil was stored in a bund along the southern edge of the easement strip and machine movements were minimised across the Area 6 to avoid damage to the earthworks.



### 3. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

---

#### 3.1 Introduction

The results of the watching brief are described below by Area.

#### 3.2 Area 2

Remains comprised remnant furrows (from medieval to post-medieval field systems), ditches and pits dated to the Roman period and a small number of undated features (Figures 2 and 3).

##### 3.2.1 Topsoil, geological deposits and natural features

Topsoil (2100) consisted of a dark grey clay-silt, up to 0.3m deep. The upper surface of the underlying geological deposits (2101) consisted of light yellow-brown clay.

##### 3.2.2 Roman ditches

Six ditch or gully type features, with artefacts dated to the Roman period (2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century) (Appendix 2, Table 1), were revealed: [2108], [2123], [2110], [2152], [2154/2156] and [2158/2161]. Five of these were aligned either NW-SE or NE-SW, the other [2156/2154] was orientated N-S.

The two most substantial ditches [2110] and [2123] probably represent the remains of plot or field enclosure boundaries (Figure 2c and b). They were 1m wide, 0.5m deep and 1.1m wide and 0.35m deep respectively. Ditch [2110] was traced for a distance of 12m, with the apparent break in the ditch likely to be the result of later plough disturbance (Figure 3, Section a). Ditch [2123] was more closely dated than the majority of Roman features on this site (via 19 sherds) to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century.

A group of three smaller ditches or gullies [2152], [2154/2156] and [2158/2161] were recorded in the southern part of Area 2 (Figure 2b.) They were 0.63m to 0.32m wide and 0.22m to 0.11m deep (Figure 3, Sections d, e). Together these three gullies form a rough line that lay perpendicular to boundary ditch [2123]. These linear features may have formed part of a subsidiary enclosure (related to boundary ditch [2123]). The character of gully [2158/2163] suggests it may have been the construction slot for a beam or fence line. However, in the absence of additional evidence, such as constructional backfill, this remains speculative.

Ditch terminal [2108] (Figure 3f) also contained Roman artefactual material (Appendix 2, Table 1).

##### 3.2.3 Roman pits

Seven pits have been assigned to the Roman period (2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century): [2106], [2113], [2117], [2126], [2130], [2134] and [2163].

Three of these [2106], [2113], [2117] were located close to ditch terminal [2108] (Figure 2f). They were medium-sized, c. 1m to 1.4m across, sub-circular or oval-shaped in plan with a similar flat bottomed profile between 0.15m and 0.2m deep (Figure 3, Sections g, h, i).



A single, medium-sized pit [2163] was recorded close to the probable enclosure ditch and smaller ditch/gulley features in the south-west corner of the site (Figures 2b and 3, Section m). Another small pit [2134] (Figures 2h and 3, Section l) was located to the east of boundary ditches [2110] and [2123]. This feature was more closely datable than some of the other pits to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century. Pits [2126] and [2130] (Figures 2d and 3, Sections k and j) lay towards the eastern margins of the site.

Two further pits [2115] and [2169] were revealed towards the centre of the area (Figure 2a). Pit [2115] produced surface finds of Roman pottery.

### 3.2.4 Medieval/post-medieval furrows

A series of parallel linear features aligned ENE to WSW extended across the majority of Area 2 (Figure 2). They represent the truncated remnants of furrows – earthworks formed by ploughing during the medieval or post-medieval period. They were 3m - 5m wide and spaced at intervals that averaged 8.5m between their centres. The furrows did not appear to extend as far as the eastern limit of Area 2 where a layer of soil, probably representing a plough headland was present. Deposits within the furrows consisted of mid yellowish-brown clay-silt, closely derived from the underlying geological deposits.

### 3.2.5 Undated features

Gulley [2119] was located in the north-east corner of the site (Figure 2e). It was aligned NW-SE and appeared to be truncated at either end by furrows.

Ditch [2121] was situated towards the centre of the site (Figure 2a); it was aligned NE-SW. Ditch [2167] was located immediately to the west. These features were similar in character and they may represent the south-western corner of a small enclosure.

Pit [2102] was located close to the eastern limit of Area 2 (Figure 2g). It consisted of a sub-circular, shallow pit 1.3m long, 0.86m wide and 0.13m deep.

## 3.3 Area 5

### 3.3.1 Topsoil and geological deposits

Topsoil (2136) consisted of a layer of dark grey clay-silt, up to 0.35m deep.

A mid greyish brown clay-silt subsoil (2137), up to 0.12m thick, was observed in the south-western part of Area 5. It appeared to seal the fill of medieval/post-medieval furrows.

The upper part of the geological deposits (2137) consisted of light yellow clay. Where observed in test pits, it formed a layer approximately 0.5m deep. Below (2137) the undisturbed geological deposits (2166) consisted of mid blue-grey clay with pockets of yellowish red clay gravel.

### 3.3.2 Undated pits

Pits [2139] and [2142] were located close to the north-western edge of Area 5 (Figure 4) adjacent to Dane Lane. [2139] was only partially visible in plan as it



extended beyond the limit of excavation. The visible portion appeared irregular in plan and the profile was stepped with a slightly deeper western side, filled by greyish yellow clay (2141) closely derived from the underlying geology (Figure 5, Section a). The remainder of the feature was filled by grey clay-silt (2140) that extended partially over (2141). This upper fill contained flecks of charcoal and frequent small fragments of fired clay (Appendix 2, Table 1).

Pit [2142] was a small, oval feature with a concave profile (Figure 5, Section b). No artefactual material was recovered.

### 3.3.3 Furrows

A series of furrows [2144] were visible in the stripped area. They correspond to ridge and furrow earthworks that were surveyed in advance of development (Albion 2006a). The furrows appear to represent two separate groups on slightly different alignments; set out to either side of a NE to SW aligned boundary or baulk. Artefacts recovered from the fills of the furrows comprise animal bone, clay pipe, oyster shell along with post-medieval and modern pottery.

### 3.4 Area 6

The extent ridge and furrow earthworks in this area had been previously surveyed in advance of development works (Albion 2006a). Three test pits, excavated to examine the suitability of the area for a borrow pit, revealed topsoil and subsoil overburden with a combined depth of between 0.5m and 0.75m. The deepest subsoil corresponded to the upstanding ridges of the earthworks. When the topsoil and subsoil were subsequently removed the only features identified were the remnant bases of furrows [2176] and a post-medieval drainage ditch [2178] that contained a tile drain in its lower fill (Figure 6).

### 3.5 Area 8

No significant archaeological remains were observed in this area.

### 3.6 Area 9

Other than the ridge and furrow earthworks (previously surveyed in advance of development, Albion 2006a), no significant archaeological remains were revealed in this area.



## 4. SYNTHESIS

---

### 4.1 Discussion

#### 4.1.1 Late Iron Age

Two sherds of abraded late Iron Age pottery were recovered from a ditch during trial trenching on Area 2 (Figure 2, Trench 3). It was suggested this material could have been residual (Albion Archaeology 2005, 9). During the subsequent observation works in Area 2, no further material of this date was recovered. This reinforces the suggestion that this material was not associated with occupation in the immediate vicinity. Instead, it is possible that this material was deposited during manuring of fields – a process which can disperse artefacts over relatively wide areas.

#### 4.1.2 Roman

Observations were made in Area 8 due to its proximity to known Roman settlement activity (BCAS 1995). However, no remains of this period were revealed in this area.

Remains within Area 2 comprised ditches, gullies and pits (Figure 2). The majority of these features occupied the southern/central part of the land parcel. This pattern corresponds closely to the results of the trial trenching where ditches interpreted as Roman or possibly Roman were located in Trenches 1, 2 and 6 in the southern/central part of the area. Later disturbance in the form of extensive medieval/post-medieval furrows have obscured or destroyed a proportion of the Roman features. However, the recorded overall distribution of features is probably representative of the pre-medieval level of survival on the site.

The ditches dated to the Roman period are orientated NE-SW and NW-SE. A number of undated ditches shared the same alignments and may have belonged to this period of activity. The presence of a series of ditches lying on two perpendicular alignments suggests that these formed part of a system of rectilinear enclosures. The later furrows have badly disrupted this pattern by truncating the NW-SE ditches and probably completely obscuring some NE-SE examples. The existence of several relatively small ditches and/or gullies hints at the presence of internal boundaries within the enclosures.

The pits were small to medium-sized, generally rounded in plan and occurred either singly or in small clusters. It is likely, as a result of later disturbance by furrows and adverse weather during the observation works, that discrete features such as pits are slightly under represented in the recorded distribution of features.

Artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the Roman features in Area 2 comprise pottery, tile, animal bone, charred grain, charcoal, fired clay, an iron object, hobnails and a nail (Appendix 2). The majority of the material comprises a generally dispersed and fragmentary assemblage of pottery. On average, 145g were recovered from the excavated segments of both the ditches and the pits.



The combination of feature types (rectilinear enclosures, possible internal boundaries and pits) with small quantities of domestic debris recovered from the fills suggest that the remains in Area 2 represent an area of occupation, perhaps on the periphery of a small, enclosed farmstead. The pottery assemblage includes fabric types dateable from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### 4.1.3 Medieval/post-medieval

Evidence for activity during the medieval and post-medieval periods consisted of the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks created by strip cultivation (Figure 6). In Areas 5, 6 and 9 these survived as standing earthworks; whilst in Area 2 they had been ploughed out with only the furrows surviving as negative features. The ridge and furrow would have formerly been part of the open fields of the township of Wilshamstead. Areas 2, 6 and 9 would have been part of Mill Field; Area 5 formed part of Hill Field.

The Enclosure map for Wilshamstead (1809) shows the land to either side of Luton Road (now the A6) divided into small parcels of land. The land covered by Areas 6 and 9 is divided into parcels named Queen Croft, Home Pightle and Home Close suggesting that it was already divided into small closes prior to Parliamentary Enclosure. In Areas 2, 6 and 9 the results of the earthwork survey (Albion 2006a) and observation/SMS show a correspondence between the layout of furlongs and the boundaries shown on the Enclosure map. Remnant furrows terminated before reaching the eastern boundary of Area 2 (Figure 7) and the alignment of ridge and furrow earthworks in Area 6 reflects the former boundaries of Home Close and Queen Croft. These physical observations combined with cartographic data suggest that, at their formation, these small closes were cut out of the existing pattern of furlongs to respect existing alignments.

Where the ridge and furrow survived as earthworks (Areas 5, 6 and 9), the land must have been taken out of plough cultivation and was probably used as pasture up until the present day.

One of the reasons for observing topsoil removal within the areas of surviving ridge and furrow was to determine whether or not the earthworks masked underlying archaeological features. In Area 9 the topsoil strip was relatively light and it is not possible to say whether the ridges masked earlier features. In Area 6 topsoil and subsoil were removed to the level of the geological deposits but no underlying archaeological features were uncovered. In Area 5 the topsoil removal was deeper, exposing larger areas of the underlying geological deposits. In this area, two undated pits were observed, one of which contained a moderate amount of daub or fired clay. However, neither contained any dateable artefacts. In Area 2, the preservation of significant archaeological remains below former ridges was at its most pronounced (Figure 2).

#### 4.1.4 Modern Period

No significant remains of this period were recorded in Areas 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9. Area 5 had the highest potential as during the 19<sup>th</sup> century a brickworks and associated clay-pit were located here. The clay-pit now forms a pond and the brickworks have been demolished. No structural remains associated with the brickworks were revealed. However, the former access track to it was still extant (Figure 4) and a small outbuilding (now demolished) located at the rear of Dane Oak was roofed



with a variety of different tile types, possibly a product of the brickworks (Figure 4 and Plate 1).

## **4.2 Significance**

In this section the results of the observation and SMS works within Areas 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are considered in terms of the quantity and quality of the evidence and its usefulness with regard to the draft resource assessment and research agenda for Bedfordshire (Oake *et al* 2007).

### **4.2.1 Roman period**

The remains of part of a probable enclosed farmstead, perhaps its periphery, were recorded in Area 2. The plan recovered for the farmstead was incomplete. Disturbance due to medieval/post-medieval cultivation had destroyed or masked a significant proportion of the remains. In addition, adverse weather conditions during the early phases of the observation prevented the excavation of some features and it is likely that some less well defined features would not have been recognized. The resulting contextual evidence allows the site to be broadly characterised in terms of form and function. The limited pottery assemblage provides evidence for a period of occupation of the site and includes some regional and continental imported wares. This site appears to have been operational within the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries and possibly into the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The ecofactual evidence consists of a small assemblage of poorly preserved animal bone and a small amount of charred plant remains.

Farmsteads represent one of a range of different rural site types recognized for this period. The excavated evidence for farmsteads as a group is comparatively sparse (Draft Bedfordshire Resource Assessment and Agenda, Section 4: The Roman period Landscape: The Rural Landscape (M. Dawson)). The evidence from Area 2 adds to the growing body of Roman settlement evidence within the claylands (Draft Bedfordshire Resource Assessment and Agenda, Section 7: Agenda and Strategy: Research themes (M. Oake)). It is of interest that the farmstead site found in Area 2 appears to originate in the early Roman period without any evidence for a late Iron Age predecessor. This is in contrast to the two nearest, known contemporary sites, Wixams Area 4 and Luton Road, Wilstead, both of which originated in the late Iron Age. The site on Area 2 makes a contribution of local significance to the understanding of this settlement pattern, perhaps suggesting an expansion of settlement during the Roman period.

### **4.2.2 Medieval/post-medieval period**

The evidence for this period comprises the remains of ridge and furrow field systems. These would have formed part of the medieval/post-medieval landscape of the township of Wilshamstead. The origins and development of field systems has been identified as a research theme worthy of study (Draft Bedfordshire Resource Assessment and Agenda, Section 7: Agenda and Strategy: Research themes (M. Oake)). The evidence from these investigations shows the alignment and presence of fields of this type in parts of the development area. It also provides some evidence for the existence of possible closes within the former open fields of the township (Section 4.1.3).



However, the evidence is limited in that it does not elucidate the origin of these field systems or the dating of the formation of the closes, reducing its analytical value. The remains are of local significance.

#### **4.3 Project Archive**

The project archive will ultimately be deposited at Bedford Museum under accession code 2006.535.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

- Albion Archaeology, 2001, *Procedures Manual, Volume 1: Fieldwork*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- Albion, 2005, *The Wixams, Elstow, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation Areas 1 and 2*. Albion document 2005/71
- Albion, 2006a, *The Wixams, Elstow, Bedfordshire: Earthwork Survey Areas 5 and 6*. Albion document 2006/09
- Albion, 2006b, *The Wixams, Elstow, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Mitigation of Area 3 (RPS 84)*. Albion document 2006/98
- BCAS, 1995, *Bedford Southern Bypass. Post Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design. Report Volume 4: The Landscape*. BCAS 1995/14.
- English Heritage, 1991, *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London)
- Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999a, *Code of Conduct*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999b, *Standard & Guidance (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigations and Recording of Standing Buildings)*
- Luke, Preece and Wells (forthcoming) *Iron Age, Roman and Saxo-Norman settlement on the Oxford Clay at Luton Road, Wilstead*
- National Power and Gallagher, 1999, *Elstow Garden Villages: A New Community for Bedfordshire. Appendix 8a – Volume 1; Appendix 8b, Volume– Village 1: Requirements for Archaeological and Historic Environment Works*. RPS document JLG0570/R05 Revision 1
- Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M. and Murphy, P., 2007, *Bedfordshire Archaeology: Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*
- RPS, 2005a, *The Wixams, Elstow: A Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation of Archaeology Areas 1 and 2 (RPS 80 and 81)*. RPS document JLG0570/R01
- RPS, 2005b, *The Wixams, Elstow: Archaeological and Historic Environment Research Design and Outline Mitigation Strategy*. RPS document JLG0570/R02
- RPS, 2006a, *The Wixams, Elstow: Revised Archaeological and Historic Environment Research Design and Outline Mitigation Strategy*. RPS document JLG0570/R04 Revised – Final
- RPS, 2006b, *The Wixams, Elstow – Village 1: Requirements for Archaeological and Historic Environment Works*. RPS document JLG0570/R05 Revision 1



RPS, 2006c, *The Wixams, Elstow: A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation of Area 3 (RPS 84)*. RPS document JLG0570/R07 Draft V1

RPS, 2007a, *The Wixams, Elstow: A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation of Areas 2, 6, 8 and 9 (RPS 81, 80 & 83)*. RPS document JLG0570/R09

RPS, 2007b, *The Wixams, Elstow: A Written Scheme of Investigation for Excavation of Archaeology Areas 4 (RPS 79)*. RPS document JLG0570/R08



---

## 6. APPENDICES

---

### 6.1 Appendix 1 - Context Summary



**Area:** 2  
**Extent (ha):** 1.7  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL0575044380  
**Description:** Footprint of roundabout and balancing pond close to southern end of A6 realignment works.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2100	Topsoil	Dark grey clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones. Topsoil.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2101	Natural	Light yellow brown clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2102	Pit	Sub-circular profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.86m, max depth 0.13m, max length 1.3m. Truncated pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2103	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2104	Treethrow	Curving linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2105	Fill	Firm light grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2106	Pit	Sub-circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.2m, min length 1m. Truncated pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2107	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt occasional large stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2108	Ditch	Curving linear NE-SW profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2109	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2110	Ditch	Linear NE-SW profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1m, max depth 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2111	Main fill	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2112	Primary fill	Loose red brown sandy silt frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2113	Pit	Sub-circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.15m, max length 1.2m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2114	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2115	Pit	Sub-circular . Uncertain feature obscured by standing water. Some artefacts were recovered from surface.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2116	Fill	Plastic dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2117	Pit	Circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.55m, max depth 0.15m, max length 1.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2118	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2119	Gulley	Linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.66m, max depth 0.14m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2120	Fill	Plastic light grey clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2121	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.05m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2122	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2123	Ditch	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.35m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2124	Upper fill	Firm mid grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2125	Lower fill	Firm light grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area:** 2  
**Extent (ha):** 1.7  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL0575044380  
**Description:** Footprint of roundabout and balancing pond close to southern end of A6 realignment works.

2126	Pit	Circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.25m, max diameter 1.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2127	Fill	Firm mid grey clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2128	Furrow	Profile: irregular base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.15m. Partial segment through possible continuation of a furrow.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2129	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown clay silt occasional medium stones, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2130	Pit	Sub-oval profile: concave base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.4m, min length 2.3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2131	Fill	Firm dark grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2134	Pit	Sub-circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.12m, max length 0.7m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2135	Fill	Firm mid grey silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2146	Furrow	Linear NE-SW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2147	Fill	Firm light grey brown occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small stones, occasional large stones, occasional medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2148	Furrow	Linear NE-SW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2149	Fill	Firm light grey brown clay silt moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2150	Furrow	Linear NE-SW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2151	Fill	Firm light grey brown clay silt moderate small stones, occasional large stones, occasional medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2152	Gulley	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.22m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2153	Fill	Firm dark grey silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2154	Gulley	Curving linear N-S profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.17m. Gulley terminus.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2155	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2156	Gulley	Curving linear NNE-SSW profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.63m, max depth 0.19m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2157	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2158	Gulley	Linear N-S profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.32m, min depth 0.11m. Possible beamslot.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2159	Lower fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2160	Upper fill	Firm dark orange brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2161	Gulley	Linear N-S profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.27m, max depth 0.07m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2162	Fill	Firm dark orange brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2163	Pit	Sub-oval E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.2m, max length 1.55m. Heavily truncated pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2164	Lower fill	Firm dark blue brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2165	Upper fill	Firm mid orange brown clay silt moderate small stones, occasional medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



**Area:** 2  
**Extent (ha):** 1.7  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL0575044380  
**Description:** Footprint of roundabout and balancing pond close to southern end of A6 realignment works.

2167	Ditch	Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max length 3.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2168	Fill	Firm clay silt . Not excavated due to presence of standing water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2169	Pit	Sub-oval NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max length 1.2m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2170	Fill	Firm clay silt . Not excavated due to presence of standing water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2171	Pit	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2172		Firm clay silt . Not excavated due to presence of standing water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area:** 5  
**Extent (ha):** 2.5  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL0542044320  
**Description:** Area formerly occupied by 19th century brickworks on west side of A6.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2136	Topsoil	Loose dark grey silty clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2137	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay silt . Thin subsoil layer observed in south-west of Area 5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2138	Natural	Firm light yellow clay occasional small-medium stones. Upper part of geological deposits.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2139	Pit	Irregular NW-SE profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.24m, max depth 0.23m, min length 0.84m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2140	Upper fill	Firm grey silty silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2141	Lower fill	Hard grey yellow clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Possible backfill or natural silting up of pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2142	Pit	Oval N-S profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.17m, max length 0.54m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2143	Fill	Firm blue grey clay occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2144	Furrow	Linear . General number for unexcavated furrows in Area 5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2145	Fill	Firm dark grey brown clay loam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2166	Natural	Mid blue grey clay . Pockets of yellowish red clay gravel. Undisturbed geological deposit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area:** 6  
**Extent (ha):** 1.5  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL0583044240  
**Description:** Field with ridge and furrow earthworks at southern end of A6 realignment works.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2173	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown silty loam occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2174	Subsoil	Loose mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones. Mostly consists of build-up of ridges in ridge and furrow earthworks.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2175	Natural	Firm . Variable deposit consisted of yellow-brown silty clay with occasional stones and red-brown sandy clay with frequent stones. Irregular, mid grey silty clay intrusions in the upper part of the natural were probably periglacial in origin (possibly patterned ground).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2176	Furrow	Linear ENE-WSW dimensions: max breadth 2.m, min breadth 1.m. This is a general number covering all of the remains of furrows identified in Area 6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2177	Fill	Loose mid grey silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2178	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.48m. Ditch with drainage function enhanced by provision of tile drain laid in lower part of cut.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2179	Lower fill	Plastic mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones. Redeposited natural in base of ditch packed around a tile drain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2180	Main fill	Loose dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones. Probable natural silting of ditch derived from topsoil type deposit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area:** 8  
**Extent (ha):** 0.16  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL0583044240  
**Description:** Road easement strip (135m x 12m) at northern end of A6 realignment works.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2132	Modern disturbance	Curving linear dimensions: max breadth 0.15m, max length 25.m. Series of modern plough scars.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2133	Fill	Firm light grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



---

**Area:** 9  
**Extent (ha):** 0.23  
**OS Co-ordinates:** TL0583044240  
**Description:** Road easement strip at southern end of A6 realignment works, situated within Area 6.



## 6.2 Appendix 2 – Artefact and Ecofact Summary

### 6.2.1 Introduction

The watching brief produced a finds assemblage which mainly comprised pottery and animal bone (Table 1), the majority deriving from features in Area 2. The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No finds were recovered from Areas 6, 8 or 9.

Area	Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Pottery**	Other finds
2	2100	Ploughsoil	2100	-	1:125	
	2106	Pit	2107	2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> century	26:236	Animal bone (21g)
	2108	Ditch	2109	Roman	36:364	Animal bone (2g); fired clay (5g); iron hobnails (7g)
	2110	Ditch	2111	Roman	5:23	Animal bone (2g); fired clay (3g); charcoal (1g)
	2113	Pit	2114	Roman	10:92	Clay pipe (3g); iron object (203g)
	2115	Pit	2116	Roman	2:13	
	2123	Ditch	2124	2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> century	19:192	Animal bone (8g); fired clay (19g); roof tile (161g); iron timber nail (1g)
	2126	Pit	2127	Roman	30:379	
	2128	Furrow	2129	Roman	4:12	
	2130	Pit	2131	Roman	6:125	Animal bone (49g)
	2134	Pit	2135	2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> century	5:133	Animal bone (5g); worked flint (3g)
	2152	Gulley	2153	Roman	21:238	Animal bone (70g)
	2154	Gulley	2155	Roman	7:39	
	2156	Gulley	2157	Roman	8:60	Animal bone (32g)
	2158	Gulley	2159	Roman	1:1	
	2158	Gulley	2160	Roman	10:168	
	2163	Pit	2164	Roman	1:14	
2163	Pit	2165	Roman	23:253	Animal bone (9g)	
5	2137	Subsoil	2137	-		Worked flint (8g)
	2139	Pit	2140	-		Fired clay (415g)
	2144	Furrow	2145	Post-medieval	10:213	Animal bone (258g); roof tile (315g); clay pipe (3g); shell (4g)
<b>Total</b>					<b>225:2678</b>	

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

\*\* - sherd count : weight in g

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

### 6.2.2 Pottery

Two hundred and twenty-five pottery sherds weighing 2.6kg 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. Twenty-five 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 in chronological order (Table 2).

#### Area 2

The pottery ranges in date from the early Roman period to the present day, with the bulk of the material being of Roman origin and deriving from features in Area 2. Although a number of vessels are represented by more than single sherds, the assemblage is generally dispersed and fragmentary, with no features containing in excess of 250g of pottery. The assemblage is dominated by locally manufactured sand tempered and shell tempered coarseware vessels. Regional imports are represented by sherds of 2<sup>nd</sup>-century whiteware from the Verulamium (St Albans) industries and late Roman finewares from Oxfordshire and the Nene Valley. Six



sherds of samian ware, a continental fineware import from Gaul, were also identified.

Diagnostic forms are narrow-necked jars, dog dishes, jars with everted, triangular and undercut rims, and single examples of a plain rim beaker, flagon and plain rim bowl. Decorative elements comprise rouletted, slipped and burnished sherds.

### Area 5

Furrow [2144] contained ten sherds (213g) including 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century sand tempered ware, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century glazed and slip-decorated earthenwares and a sherd from a modern marmalade pot.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Roman</i>			
Type R01	Samian ware	6	(2100):1, (2109):1, (2114):1, (2116):1, (2127):2
Type R03	Whiteware (unknown source)	4	(2135):4
Type R03A	Verulamium whiteware	2	(2127):2
Type R03B	Gritty whiteware	6	(2127):6
Type R05B	Fine orange sand	5	(2111):1, (2127):4
Type R05C	Orange micaceous	1	(2114):1
Type R06B	Coarse greyware	15	(2107):3, (2114):2, (2124):1, (2153):3, (2155):3, (2157):2, (2160):1
Type R06C	Fine greyware	59	(2107):6, (2109):12, (2114):4, (2124):1, (2127):11, (2129):2, (2131):6, (2153):5, (2155):4, (2157):4, (2164):1, (2165):3
Type R06D	Micaceous greyware	3	(2109):1, (2114):1, (2153):1
Type R06H	White-slipped greyware	3	(2165):3
Type R07B	Sandy blackware	5	(2107):3, (2165):2
Type R07C	Gritty blackware	5	(2107):3, (2111):1, (2160):1
Type R10A	Buff gritty	2	(2157):2
Type R10B	Fine buff	1	(2135):1
Type R11D	Oxford colour coat	1	(2153):1
Type R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	2	(2107):2
Type R13	Shell	89	(2107):9, (2109):22, (2111):3, (2116):1, (2124):17, (2127):3, (2153):11, (2159):1, (2160):8, (2165):14
Type R14	Sand (red-brown harsh)	4	(2127):2, (2129):2
Type R38	Colour coat (unknown source)	1	(2165):1
<i>Post-Roman</i>			
Type E03	Late medieval smooth	2	(2145):2
Type P01	Fine glazed red earthenware	5	(2145):5
Type P06	Fine slip-decorated earthenware	1	(2145):1
Type P38	Creamware	1	(2114):1
Type P	Non-specific post-medieval	1	(2145):1
MOD	Marmalade pot	1	(2145):1

**Table 2: Pottery type series**

### 6.2.3 Other artefacts

Roman ditches [2123], [2108] and pit [2113] respectively yielded an incomplete iron timber nail, seven iron hobnails and an unidentifiable iron object. Submission of the latter for x-ray may assist in determining its form.

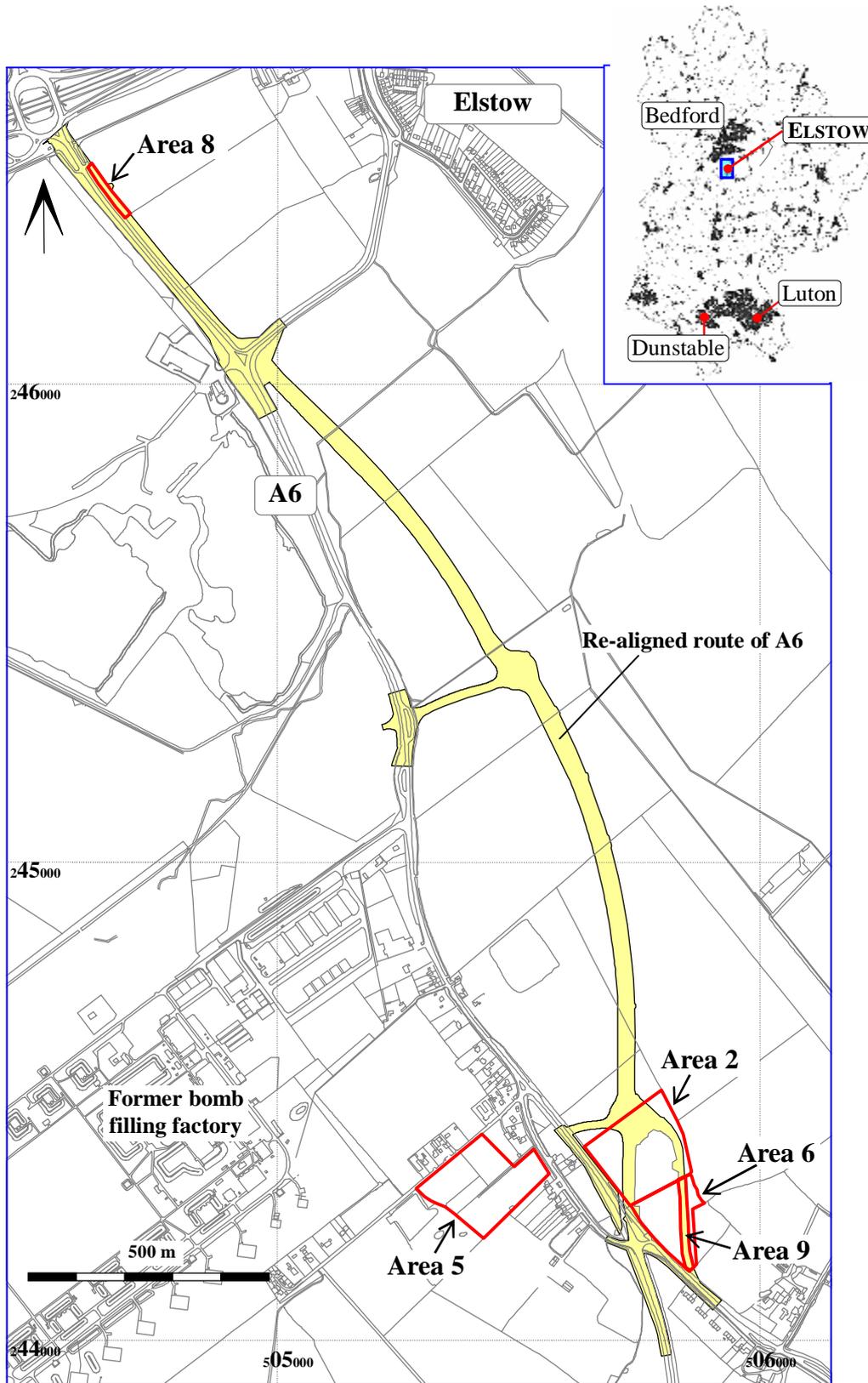
Five sand tempered pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (315g) were recovered from furrow [2114], and two abraded shell tempered Roman roof tile (*tegulae*) fragments from ditch [2123]. Amorphous sand tempered fired clay fragments weighing 442g were collected from ditches [2108], [2110], [2123] and pit [2139]. Two small pieces of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe were recovered from furrow [2114] and Roman pit [2113].



Two worked flint flakes weighing 11g were collected from Roman pit [2134] and undated layer (2137). Six grammes of unmodified burnt flint derived from the fill of ditch [2123].

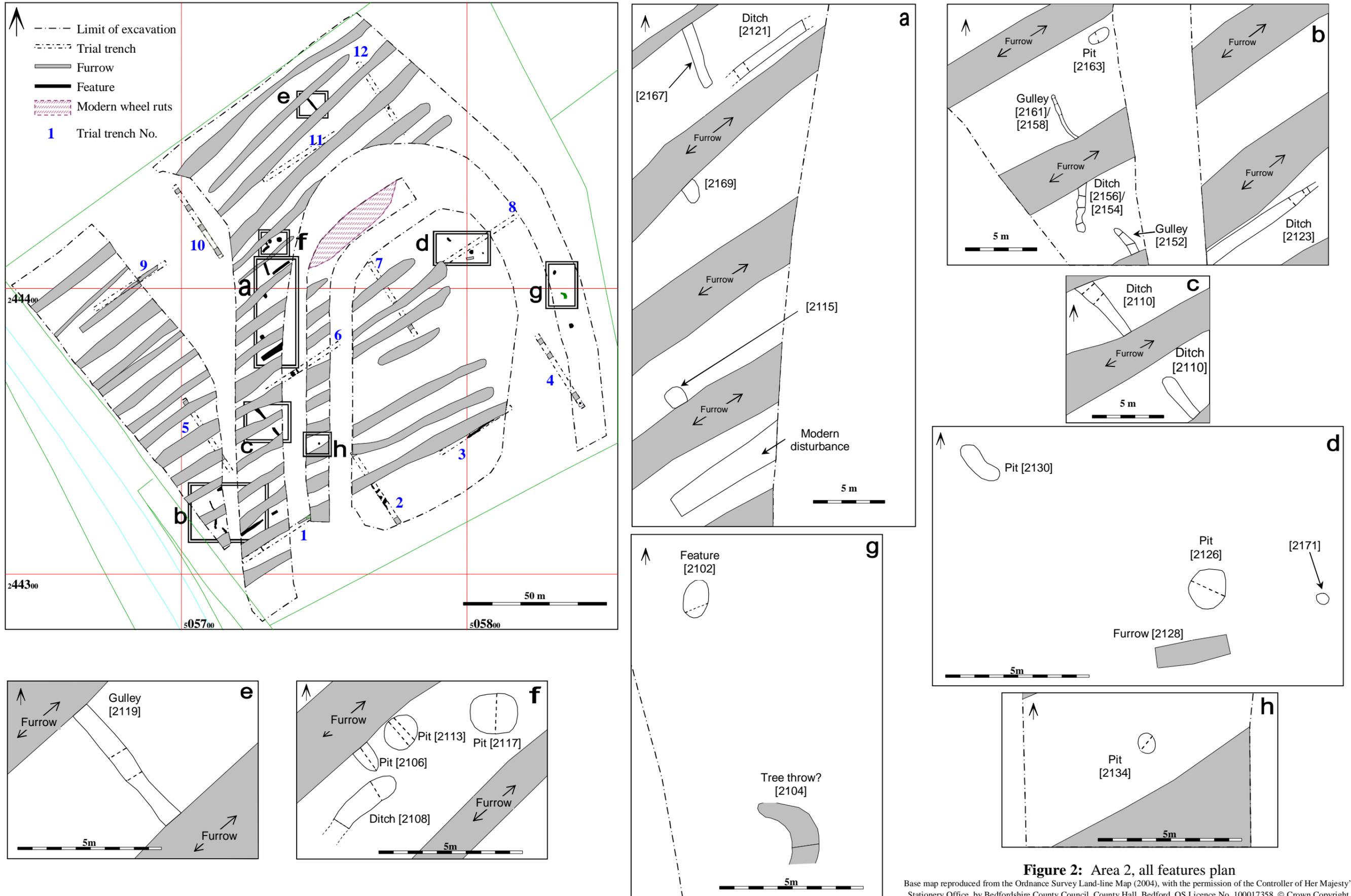
#### **6.2.4 Ecofacts**

Animal bone fragments weighing 456g were recovered, the majority deriving from post-medieval furrow [2144], Area 5. Roman features in Area 2 yielded the remainder of the assemblage. Fragments are small (average weight 11g) and bone preservation is poor, with a high incidence of abrasion. Diagnostic elements are long bone and vertebrae fragments of indeterminate species. Several fragments recovered from ditches [2110] and [2113] are calcined. One piece of oyster shell (4g) was collected from furrow [2144].



**Figure 1: Site location map**

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(LA). © Crown Copyright.

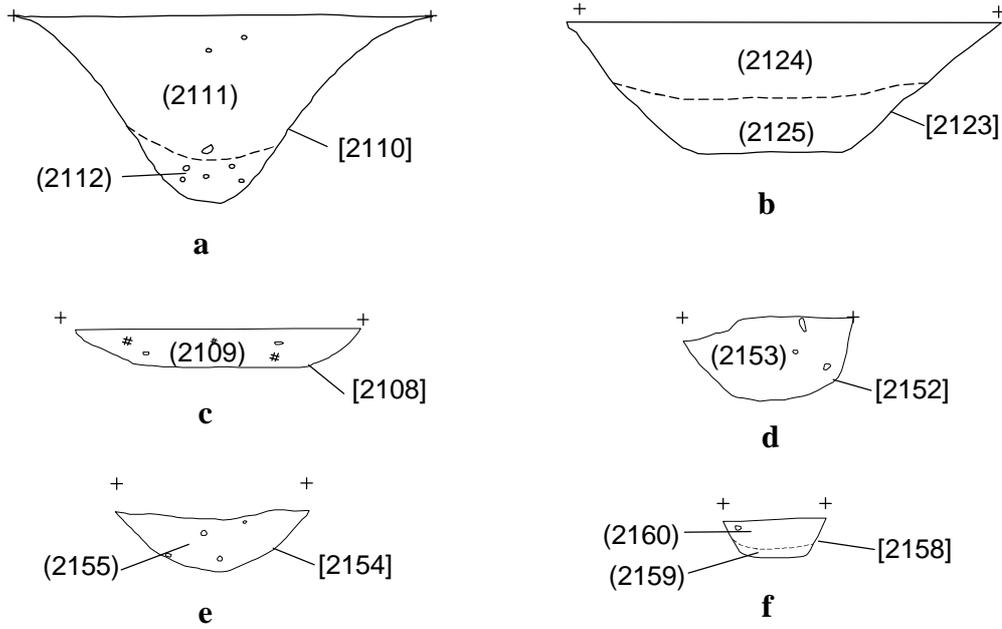


**Figure 2: Area 2, all features plan**

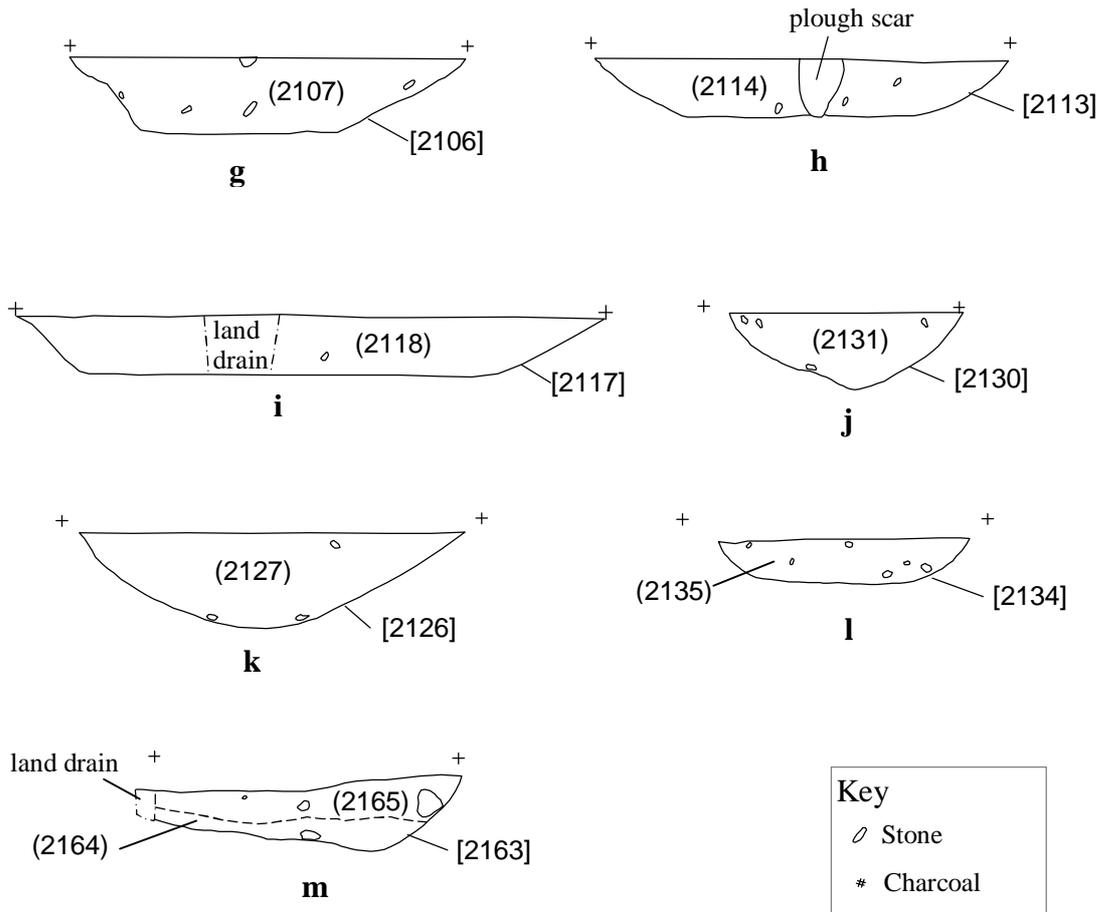
Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358. © Crown Copyright.



### Ditches



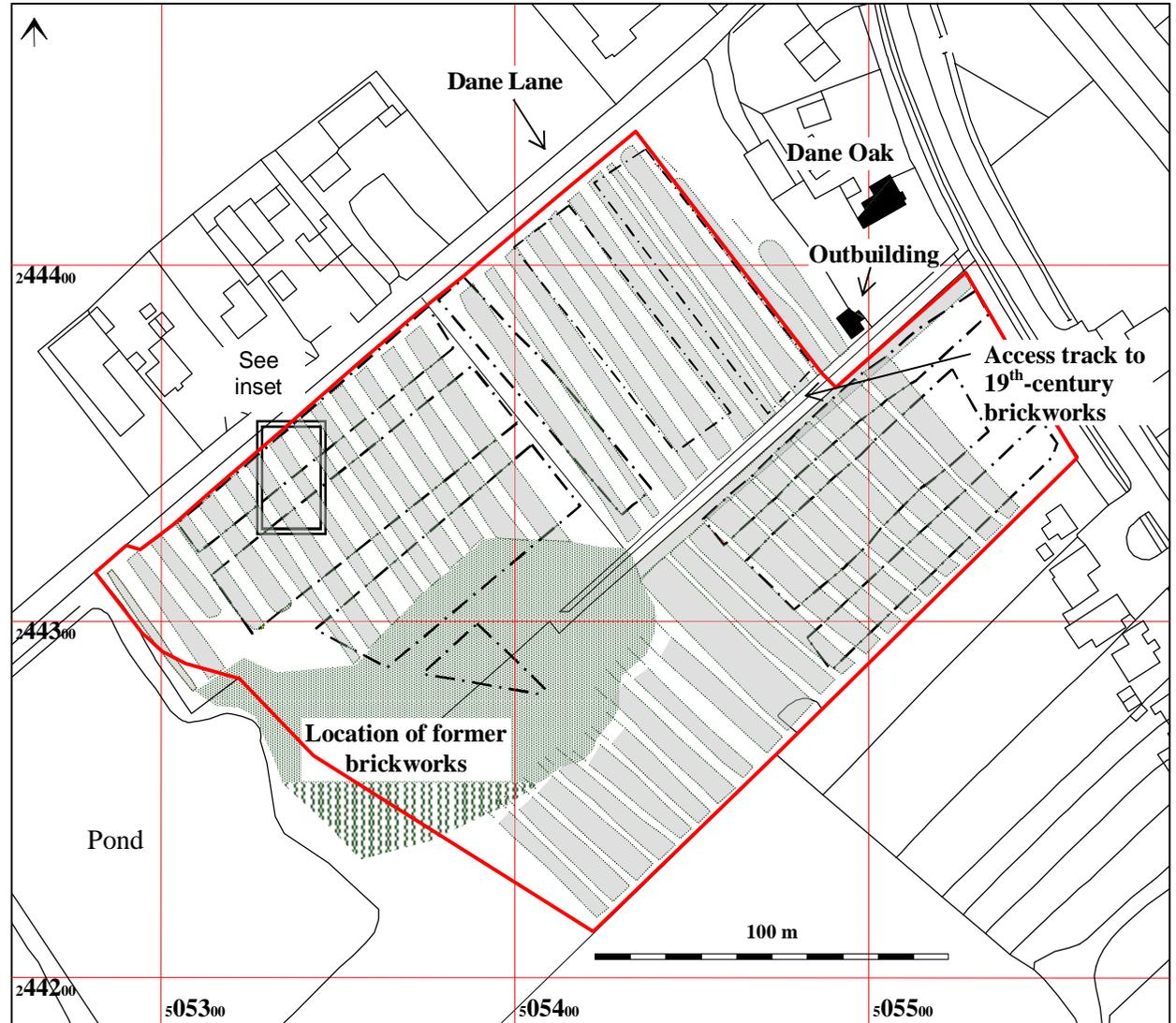
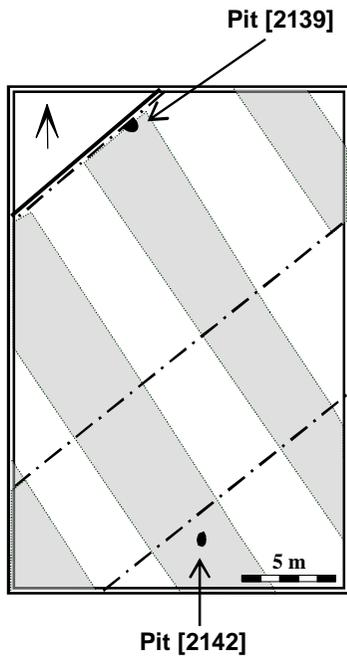
### Pits



**Figure 3:** Area 2: selected sections (Scale 1:20)

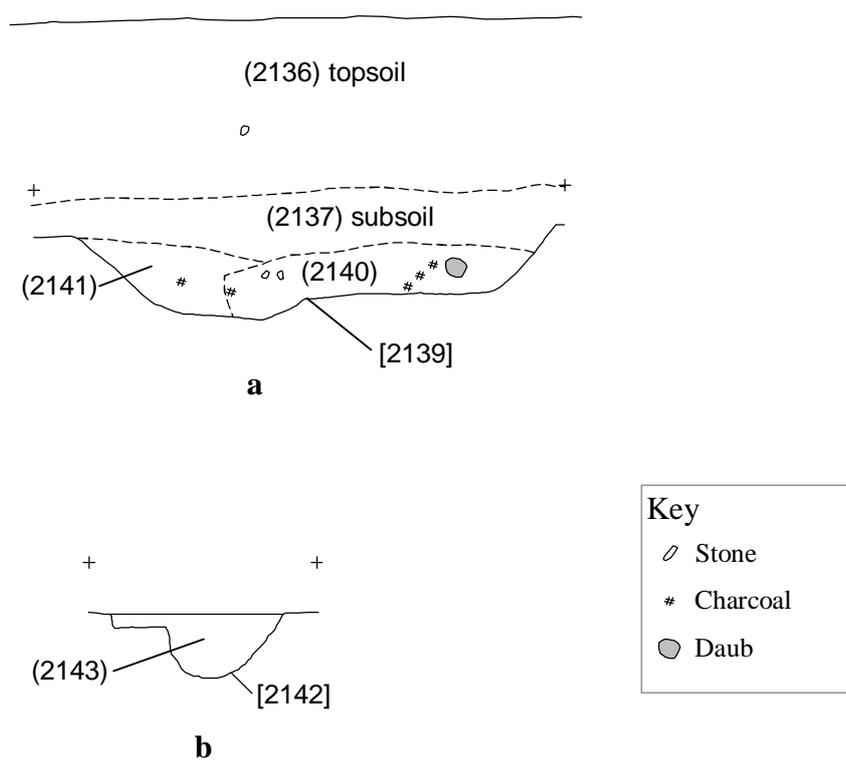


- Limit of topsoil removal
- Limit of topsoil removed under constant archaeological observation
- Archaeological feature
- Ridges of earthworks extant before removal of topsoil



**Figure 4: Area 5: all features plan**

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004 PAI), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358 (LA). © Crown Copyright.



**Figure 5:** Area 5: sections (Scale 1:20)

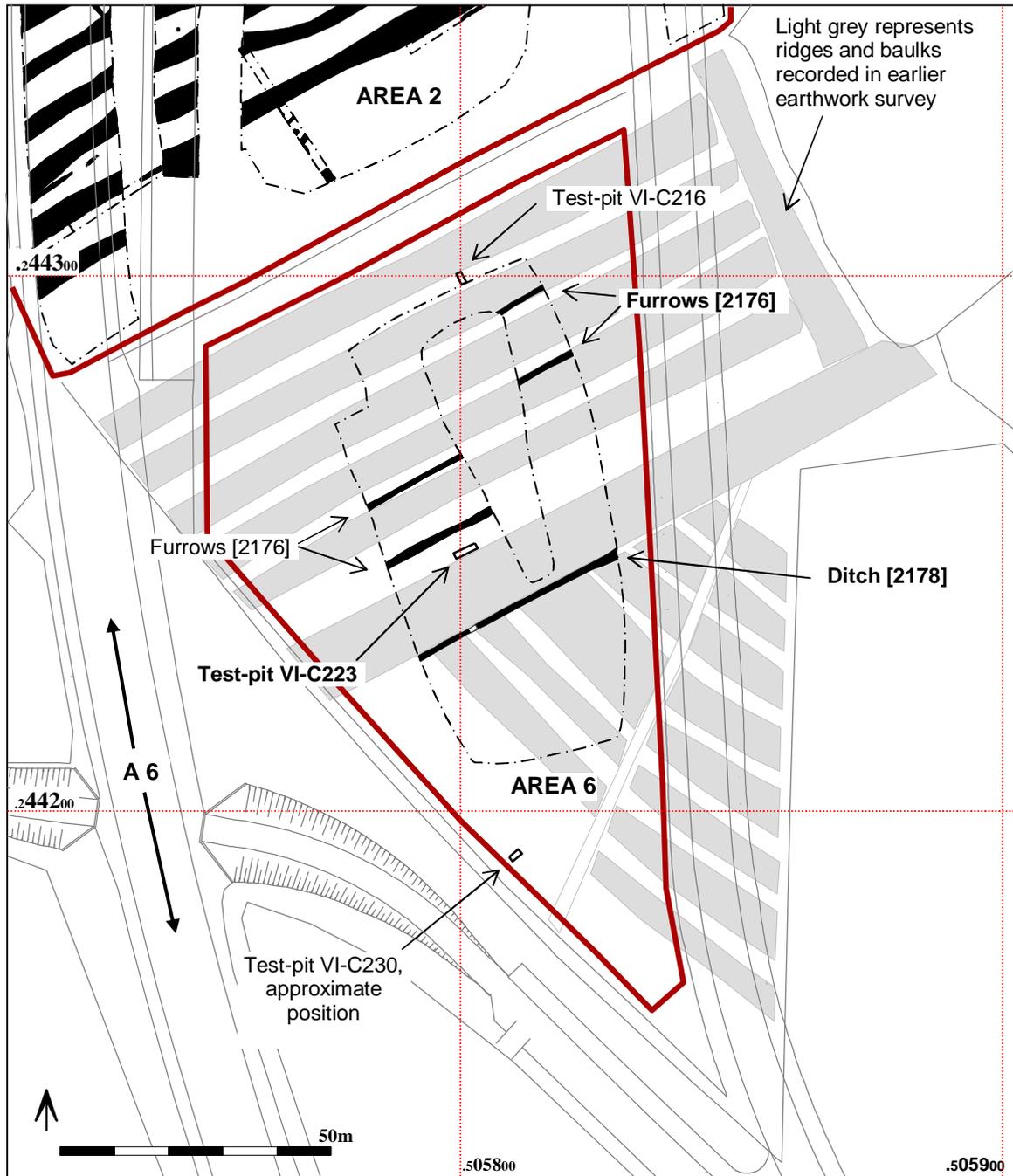


Figure 6: Area 6: All features plan



**Figure 7:** Ridge and furrow overlaid on 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map 1882 (scale and grid lines approximate)



**Plate 1:** Outbuilding at rear of Dane Oak