

Growing Baldock

Environmental Statement Volume 2: Figures & Appendices

Chapter 9: Archaeology

Appendix 9.2 Archaeological Evaluation on Land North of Baldock,
Phase 1



**Archaeological evaluation on Land North of
Baldock, Phase 1
North Hertfordshire
March-June 2024**

Report No. 25/033

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Archaeological evaluation on Land North of Baldock, Phase 1 North Hertfordshire March-June 2024

Site code: LNB24

Report No. 025/033

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OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID (UID)	molas1-533576
Project Name	Evaluation at Land North of Baldock
Sitename	Land North of Baldock
Sitecode	LNB24
Project Identifier(s)	LNB24
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	MOLA
Project Dates	03-Mar-2024 - 28-Jun-2024
Location	Land North of Baldock NGR: TL 25534 34980 LL: 51.99908003312807, -0.17283270415457 12 Fig: 525534,234980
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Hertfordshire Local Authority District: North Hertfordshire Parish: Bygrave
Project Methodology	102 Evaluation Trenches were undertaken in four areas of the site. These trenches were targeted at results from previous evaluations and geophysical evidence of a large multi phase prehistoric and early Roman settlement. This forms Phase One of the evaluation
Project Results	The evaluation identified further evidence for an LBA/IA pit alignment, and Late Iron Age and Early Roman activity including enclosures, boundary ditches, ring ditches, pits and other features mostly dating between 100BC and 70/100 AD but with evidence for continuity of activity into the second and third centuries. There was also evidence for Roman activity including 1st century cremations and remains of a road/trackway and associated features.
Keywords	Pit Alignment - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Enclosure - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Enclosure - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Cremation - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Road - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field System - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ring Ditch - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Urban and Civic plc
HER	Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Louise Fowler, Pete Boyer
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical and Documentary Archive – to be deposited with North Hertfordshire Museums; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	8
1.1	Planning	8
1.2	Previous investigations.....	9
2	BACKGROUND	11
2.1	Location, geology and topography.....	11
2.2	Archaeology	11
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	13
3.1	General aims.....	13
3.2	Project aims	13
3.3	Research framework	14
4	METHODOLOGY.....	15
5	EVALUATION RESULTS	17
5.1	General stratigraphy.....	17
5.2	Overview of the results	17
5.3	Results by trench.....	24
6	FINDS	66
6.1	Flint	66
6.2	Prehistoric and Roman pottery	66
6.3	Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery	86
6.4	Ceramic building material	89
6.5	Registered small finds coins and nails.....	96
6.6	Human Bone	103
6.7	Animal bone	109
6.8	Archaeobotanical remains	114
6.9	Charcoal	116
7	DISCUSSION.....	119
7.1	Archaeological potential	119
7.2	Answering original project aims	119
7.3	General discussion of potential.....	121

7.4	Significance.....	122
7.5	Assessment of the evaluation.....	122
7.6	Proposed development impact and conclusions	123
BIBLIOGRAPHY		124
APPENDIX: TRENCH INVENTORY		130
APPENDIX: SPECIALIST DATA.....		220
	Ceramic building materials	221
	Archaeobotanical remains	225
FIGURES		238

FIGURES

Front cover: LBA/IA pit alignment in Trench 60, working shot

Figure 1 Site Location – General

Figure 2 Site Location – Detail

Figure 3 Zone 5 – Trench Locations

Figure 4 Area C – Trench Locations

Figure 5 BA3 – Trench Locations

Figure 6 BA2 – Trench Locations

Figure 7 Detail of settlement activity in Zone 5

Figure 8 Ditch intersection in Trench 9

Figure 9 Ditch intersection in Trench 11

Figure 10 Quarrying and terracing activities in Trench 12

Figure 11 Ditch intersection in Trench 13

Figure 12 Ring-Ditches in Trenches 22 and 23

Figure 13 Trench 27 features

Figure 14 Sections of pits and ditches in Trench 27

Figure 15 Estimated route of the dry river valley

Figure 16 Sections of features under colluvium (Trenches 28, 32, 33)

Figure 17 Pit alignments in Trenches 60, 61 and 62

Figure 18 Sections of the alignment pits in Trenches 60, 61 and 62

Figure 19 Trackway/Roman Road projection

Figure 20 Ditch alignments in Trench 99

Figure 21 Ring – Ditches in Trenches 88 and 90

PLATES

Plate 1 Ditch [508] looking north (2m scale)

Plate 2 Intercutting pit [1104], ditch [1126] and ditch recuts [1127] and [1128], looking east (3m scale)

Plate 3 Posthole [1208] looking south (0.5m scale)

Plate 4 Ditch [1405] looking northeast (2m scale)

Plate 5 Pit [1406] looking northeast (2m scale)

Plate 6 Ditch [2104], looking northeast (1m scale)

Plate 7 Cremations [4304] and [4305] in Trench 43, looking north (1m scale)

Plate 8 Alignment of pits [6009], [6008], [6007], [6006], [6005], looking west (1m and 2m scale)

Plate 9 Pit [6007], looking west (1m scale)

Plate 10 Ditch [6104] truncating pit [6111], looking north (2m scale)

Plate 11 Section through roadside ditch [9604], looking north (3m scale)

Plate 12 Section through cart rut [9605], looking northwest (1m scale)

Plate 13 Section through trackway [9607], looking south (3m scale)

TABLES

Table 1 Land North of Baldock Phase 1 Evaluation Archive

Table 2 Trenches with no archaeology

Table 3 Pits forming part of the pit alignment

Table 4 Zone 5 Trenches with archaeology

Table 5 Area C Trenches with archaeology

Table 6 Zone BA3 Trenches with archaeology

Table 7 Zone BA2 Trenches with Archaeology

Table 8 Decoration codes used for LNB24 evaluation recording

Table 9 Concordance between the Southern British Prehistoric Series/South Cambridgeshire Roman Series codes and the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type series

Table 10 LNB24 pottery quantification by period

Table 11 LNB24 pottery quantification by trench

Table 12 LNB24 pottery quantification by fabric

Table 13 LNB24 pottery quantification by form

Table 14 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Table 15 Descriptions and quantifications of medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics

Table 16 Descriptions and quantifications of medieval and post-medieval pottery forms

Table 17 Summary of medieval and post-medieval pottery by context, trench number and period

Table 18 Building materials

Table 19	Summary of small finds, nails and coins by material and date
Table 20	Summary of small finds nails and coins by function and date
Table 21	Summary of small finds nails and coins by context and date
Table 22	Summary quantification of Roman coins and copies by material, denomination and issuing phase/period. Issuing phases/periods are based on Reece (1991; 1995).
Table 23	Summary quantification of estimated illustration requirements of registered small finds by material and period
Table 24	Summary quantification of candidates for discard by material and period
Table 25	Weight and fragmentation of burnt human bone
Table 26	Burnt bone summary
Table 27	Quantification of animal bone
Table 28	Number of contexts with bone by phase
Table 29	Number of identifiable fragments by phase
Table 30	Ageable and measureable bones by phase
Table 31	Number of species by context
Table 32	Sample register for the assessed samples
Table 33	Trench and context inventory
Table 34	Ceramic building materials finds concordance
Table 35	Assessment of the charred plant remains
Table 36	Non botanical ecofacts from the 16 assessed samples
Table 37	Untransformed plant remains
Table 38	Summary of anthracological assessment data for residue charcoal
Table 39	Full anthracological (charcoal) assessment raw data for individual assessed fragments. Ring curvature degree after Marguerie and Hunot, 2007

CHARTS

Chart 1	Bone fraction as a percentage of total weight of bone.
Chart 2	Percentage of identifiable bone by weight
Chart 3	Bar chart of percentage of contexts by identifiable faunal groups

Archaeological evaluation report on land north of Baldock, Phase 1 North Hertfordshire March-June 2024

ABSTRACT

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MOLA at Land North of Baldock, Hertfordshire. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Urban and Civic plc. In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2024) 102 evaluation trenches were excavated on the site between March and June 2024.

The works formed Phase 1 of the evaluation programme and were part of an ongoing programme of archaeological assessment and works dating back to work by Albion Archaeology in 2003. The works are being carried out ahead of the proposed development of a residential neighbourhood comprising up to 3300 properties with supportive infrastructure. The proposed development area spans c 213ha located immediately north and east of the town of Baldock.

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the extent, character and significance of any archaeological remains on the site, in order to inform the planning application and required mitigation and heritage constraints.

A large number of archaeological features were identified, and survival was generally good with cut features surviving to a maximum depth of c 1.3m. No horizontally stratified archaeological deposits were identified.

Towards the centre of the site in Area BA3 was a pit alignment of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date, which has been recognised on other sites in the vicinity and runs between the site and the headwaters of the River Ivel.

Towards the northern end of the proposed development in Area BA1 Zone 5 and Area C was a previously identified multi-phase Romano-British enclosure settlement with associated small-scale agricultural activity and a far-reaching network of boundary ditches was further revealed. The majority of the evidence of the settlement was for the LIA/Early Roman period 100 BC–AD 70/100, though activity continued into the second and third centuries. This included several phases of enclosures and boundary ditches, as well as more limited evidence for ring ditches and pitting.

Two cremation burials dating to the first century AD were recorded in Area BA2, together with a small enclosure complex dated to the LIA/Roman period which truncated the earlier pit alignment.

Towards the southern end of the site there was further evidence of a previously identified Roman road/trackway with associated multiple drainage ditches and possible cart-ruts running alongside the alignment of Clothall Road.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation (Phase 1) was carried out by MOLA at Land North of Baldock, Hertfordshire ('the site') between 11 March and 07 June 2024. This document is the Report on that work.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was previously prepared, which covered the whole area of the site (MOLA 2024). This was based on a brief issued by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), which takes archaeological planning advice from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Advisors (as part of the Landscape, Ecology, Archaeology, Design and Sustainability (LEADS) team) who outlined the scope of evaluative works to be undertaken.

The area has been extensively assessed and evaluated from 2003 onwards (see Section 2.2).

The proposed development area covers c 213.3ha and was divided into the following areas:

- Area BA1 (Zones 1–5)
- Area BA10 ("Area C")
- Area BA2
- Area BA3

The National Grid Reference (NGR) for the centre point of the development is TL 526116, 234628 (Figure 1).

Phase 1 of the evaluation was carried out in four areas recorded as Zone 5 (Area BA1), Area C (Area BA10), Area BA2 and Area BA3 (referred to in the trench summaries and plans as Zone BA2 and Zone BA3).

The site code LNB24 was used for all phases of work covered within this report. The OASIS ID for this phase of the project is molas1-533576.

1.1 Planning

The legislative and Planning framework in which the evaluation took place was fully set out in Section 2 of the Written Scheme of Investigation which formed the project design for the evaluation (MOLA 2024). To summarise here:

The evaluation forms part of an ongoing programme of pre-determination archaeological assessment works. In 2008 North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) began to gather baseline information on a number of sites at the edge of Baldock ahead of a proposed large housing development as later set out in the North Herts Local Plan 2011–2031 (North Hertfordshire District Council 2022)

As part of the Local Plan adopted in November 2022, NHDC has allocated a large portion of agricultural land for a new residential development to be built to the north and east of Baldock.

The new development is for the construction of a residential neighbourhood comprising up to 3300 properties with supportive infrastructure including schools, a GP surgery, a new community hall and a country park, as well as associated access, drainage and services.

The pre-application works comprised a geophysical survey and a trial trench evaluation at a 1.5% sample which were undertaken to clarify if the site could be allocated in the North Hertfordshire Local Plan. As a result of these, the LEADS team decided additional targeted evaluation trenching based on the geophysical survey and

cropmark anomalies was required, in order to further investigate buried archaeological remains in areas of archaeological significance and inform the detail of the development proposals.

National Planning legislation

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was revised in December 2024, and amended February 2025, by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in response to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy consultation (MHCLG 2025). This wholly replaces the original 2012 version published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (revised and updated in 2018, 2019 and 2021). This document sets out planning policies regarding the historic environment in Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.

Local Planning Legislation

North Herts District Council takes archaeological planning advice from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Advisors in the LEADS team. In providing advice, LEADS must consider appropriate policies within the relevant Local Plan.

The North Hertfordshire District Local Plan adopted in November 2022, sets out the principles which will guide development management, outlines housing allocation in the district and will inform planning decisions until 2031 (North Hertfordshire District Council 2022).

Within the Local Plan, Chapter 4 Policy SP14 exclusively considers the development of the site, BA1 – North of Baldock, which includes the construction of up to 3000 homes for which 1400 are anticipated to be built within the plan period to 2031. As part of this policy, development proposals should provide planning and master planning requirements including sensitive treatment of heritage assets and their settings as detailed in SP14 paragraph m.

Within the wider body of the Local Plan, Policies related specifically to the Historic Environment are set out in Chapter 12: Historic Environment (North Hertfordshire District Council 2022). In accordance with the NPPF, the relevant policies for the Historic Environment are policies HE1 (Designated Heritage Assets), HE2 (Heritage at Risk), HE3 (Non-Designated Heritage Assets) and HE4 (Archaeology).

1.2 Previous investigations

Several intrusive and non-intrusive works have previously taken place on the site and in its vicinity due to the high archaeological potential of the area. These works are summarised below in chronological order and by site areas.

Zone 5 (in Area BA1) is located to the north of the Baldock to Royston railway line and was subject to a number of archaeological investigations which are as follows:

- North Baldock, geophysical survey, June 2016 (Davies 2016);
- Land North of Baldock, North Hertfordshire, site BA1, desk-based assessment, August 2016 (Meckseper 2016);
- An archaeological evaluation by the means of trial trenching on Land adjacent to Bygrave Road, Baldock conducted in October – December 2016 (MOLA, 2017);
- Site South of Ashwell Road, Baldock, North Hertfordshire geophysical survey undertaken in June and July 2023 (Gallagher et al. 2023).

Area C is located in the eastern central part of the site to the south of the railway line and was subject to the following archaeological works;

- Archaeological evaluation by the means of trial trenching on Site 5, Land at Royston Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire undertaken in March – April 2009 (Albion Archaeology 2009);
- Geophysical Survey of Site South of Ashwell Road, Baldock, North Hertfordshire conducted in June and July 2023.

Areas BA2 and BA3 are located in the southern part of the proposed development site and a number of archaeological investigations have taken place between 2003 and 2008. These include:

- An Archaeological evaluation by means of trial trenching and geophysical survey on the A505 Baldock bypass undertaken in January – February 2003 (Albion Archaeology 2003);
- A desk based assessment and geophysical survey on Land North of Baldock, site 1a, 1b and 1c, July 2008 (Abrams 2008) and;
- An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on site 1b on Land at Wallington Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire undertaken in October 2008 (Newbould 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The site lies on the northern and eastern edges of the town of Baldock (Figure 2). The site is undulating and lies between 58m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and 85m aOD where Royston Road and the A505 meet.

The predominant underlying bedrock geology across all areas as stated by the British Geological Survey (BGS) is Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation. This is chalk which formed between 100.5 and 89.8 million years ago during the Cretaceous period (BGS 2024).

A series of dry river valleys cross the site (Figure 15).

2.2 Archaeology

Prehistoric and Roman

Significant evidence of prehistoric settlement at Baldock includes the remains of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery containing a large number of barrows recorded both in aerial photographs and during the trial trenching for the A505 Bypass. This cemetery is situated to the northeast of the proposed development site, with evidence suggesting that more barrows are present within the boundary of the site (Albion Archaeology 2003). A small roundhouse associated with domestic activity was also excavated during the works on the A505 Bypass to the east of the development site (Meckseper 2016).

Evidence of Late Iron Age occupation on Land North of Baldock was found during the excavation of a settlement including field systems with multiple areas of activity in 2016 (MOLA, 2017). The most significant settlement activity identified through previous works was situated in Area BA1 Zone 5 (Figure 3), where evidence for a settlement and field system suggested at least three phases of occupation. This settlement lay within a broader landscape of enclosures, trackways and field boundaries in use during the Roman period as evidenced by dating of the infilling of existing ditch systems.

The evaluation works undertaken in 2016 recorded several ditches, pits and postholes (evidence of post-built structures) within the settlement, along with several enclosures constructed against a boundary ditch. These were interpreted as areas of possible industrial activity, with further postholes and fired clay found within them which suggesting the presence of possible kilns in the vicinity (MOLA 2017).

Features identified in the geophysical report which were interpreted as Prehistoric or Romano-British consisted of large enclosures and boundary ditches with associated pits and additional radiating ditches (Gallagher et al 2023). Surrounding and within these enclosures were further associated linear anomalies and enclosures, on differing orientations. This would appear to confirm multiple phases of settlement activity within Zone 5 and Area C, which is again further supported by the results of the 2016 evaluation (MOLA 2017).

Baldock was a significant Roman settlement, the status and extent of which were first recognised during excavations at the beginning of the 20th century and during further large-scale investigations in the 1960s and the 1970s. The location of the Baldock Iron Age and Roman settlement adjacent to and south of the proposed development site is now a Scheduled Monument (NHLE1016305).

After the 2nd–3rd century AD, Roman activity is more poorly defined, evidenced only through material backfilled in three large extraction pits.

Saxon

Saxon settlement evidence in the form of Early Saxon sunken-feature buildings (SFB's) and associated postholes was excavated south of Blackhorse Farm to the west of the site and were recorded to the southwest of the site during an excavation on Clothall Common (Meckseper 2016).

Other evidence includes a probable Anglo-Saxon burial cut into a Bronze Age barrow recorded in 2016 during the evaluation on site BA1 to the immediate west of the site (MOLA 2017). The re-use of Bronze Age and other prehistoric landscape features for Saxon burials is a well-documented practice for this period recorded elsewhere in the UK.

Medieval

The medieval market town of Baldock was established by the Knights Templar and laid out along the crossing of the earlier prehistoric and Roman roads.

A ditched enclosure is interpreted as part of the medieval Leper Hospital founded by the Knight Templars in 1200. The hospital is known to have existed on the northeastern outskirts of medieval Baldock, south of the present Royston Road and adjacent to Area C, as suggested by written sources and cropmarks from previous surveys. Trial trenching work and geophysical survey undertaken in 2008 and 2009 recorded evidence of this enclosure. Additionally, 19 east–west aligned burials were revealed along with evidence of pitting and a well (Albion Archaeology 2009).

In the southeastern part of BA2 and BA3 medieval activity was previously recorded in the form of paths/trackways, fields boundaries, ditches and cultivation marks (Newbould 2008) (Abrams 2008). Evidence for later medieval and post-medieval activity reflects continued agricultural use and cultivation.

Post-medieval and modern

The early post-medieval town grew from the 16th century largely due to its proximity to the Great North Road and expanded to the south of the Icknield Way.

The land to the north and east of Baldock remained agricultural fields during the post-medieval period. During previous trench evaluation several field boundaries, pits and a small number of discrete features were identified (MOLA 2017). The OS maps show the area was dissected by the road to Bygrave from the 19th century (OS maps 1880) (Meckseper 2016). A number of other roads that cross the site on north-south and east-west alignments are also recorded; these may correspond to some of the linear cropmarks visible at the proposed development site.

Apart from the construction of the railway line, the landscape to the north of Baldock did not change greatly in the 19th to the early-mid 20th century and early edition OS maps show the area still as agricultural fields. The mapping shows a mixture of surviving medieval strip field boundaries, as well as several amalgamated large fields with irregular boundaries. The road shown on the earlier maps continues as a bridleway across the proposed development site from north to south and a road still skirts its northern edge (OS maps 1947).

Early 20th-century mapping shows no modern housing development along the distinctive dogleg in Ashwell Road leading from Baldock to Bygrave. Housing along this road and Wedon Way was constructed in the 1930s and is first shown on the 25-inch map of 1937 (Meckseper 2016).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

Evaluation is defined by Historic England as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:

- formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or
- formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research

An archaeological evaluation is a limited fieldwork exercise designed to test the conclusions of preliminary desk-based work or non-intrusive survey. It is not the same as full excavation.

3.2 Project aims

The general aims of the archaeological evaluation as set out in Section 3 of the WSI (MOLA 2024a) were:

- To further ground truth the results of the previous geophysical surveys and trial trenching works;
- To further sample and excavate any deposits on site in order to record the form, purpose, date, location, likely extent, localised depth and state of preservation of any archaeological remains on the site within the areas identified as being impacted upon by the works;
- To investigate further the buried archaeological remains in the areas of archaeological significance in order to inform the detail of the development proposals and to allow further investigation or requirement for preservation of in situ remains, if required. If further mitigation works are required as a result of the evaluation these will be agreed in a separate document;
- To ensure that the significance of the historic environment of the site is investigated, evidenced, recorded and made publicly accessible in line with National Planning Policy;
- To further define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required. Such priorities will be outlined in the East of England Regional Research Framework (ALGAO East of England 2024).

The specific aims of the evaluation were:

- To further define and understand the Bronze Age funerary landscape and its relationship with the Iron Age and Roman occupation as well as Saxon occupation;
- To further define and understand the extent and character of the Iron Age farmstead and associated enclosures and field system across the site;
- To further define and understand the extent and character of the different phases of the Roman settlement and associated landscape management across the site including enclosures and field boundaries;
- To further understand the impact of past land uses and farming activities that have likely affected the state of preservation of the known archaeological remains;

- To refine the location and extent of colluvial/alluvial deposits in relation to the known palaeochannel that is identified on site and define its relationship with the Iron Age and Roman occupation and;
- To establish the potential for the survival of environment evidence in Area BA1 Zone 5, Area C, Area BA2 and Area BA3.

3.3 Research framework

Hertfordshire is included in the East of England Regional Research Framework (ALGAO East of England 2025), which provides a comprehensive chronological review of the historic environment as investigated so far within Hertfordshire and the East of England.

The research framework sets out a comprehensive set of 25 research questions for the Late Iron Age and Roman period, including:

- LIA-Rom 05 How can we better understand the Late Iron Age to Roman transition?
- LIA-Rom 06 How can we increase our understanding of the Iron Age and Roman environment?
- LIA-Rom 13 How can we increase our understanding of Late Iron Age and Roman farmsteads?
- LIA-Rom 24 How can we increase our understanding of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery industries?
- LIA-Rom 25 To what extent was change across the region the result of population movement and agriculturalization?

4 METHODOLOGY

All work was undertaken based on research aims and objectives established in Section 3 of the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation (MOLA 2024). The Phase 1 evaluation was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI, as well as in accordance with national standards given by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2022), *Standard for archaeological field evaluation*, and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2023a)(ClfA 2023b)*, as well as the Historic England guidance document *MoRPHE* (Historic England 2015)

In total 102 of 106 originally scheduled evaluation trenches were excavated. Due to health & safety constraints Trenches 83, 85, 95 and 106 were not excavated, and Trenches 37, 38, 39, 66, 87 and 105 were moved whilst still targeting the potential archaeological anomalies that were originally intended to be investigated. All changes were approved by LEADS before work began.

The evaluation trenches were located within four areas:

- Area BA1, Zone 5 (Trenches 1–26),
- Area C (Trenches 27–36),
- Area BA3 (Trenches 37–86)
- Area BA2 (Trenches 87–106)

A total of 69 trenches were excavated at 50m in length at 1.8m wide, seven trenches at 40m in length at 1.8m wide, 24 trenches at 25m in length and 1.8m wide, and three trenches at 20m in length and 1.8m wide.

Once opened each trench was photographed and surveyed, using a Leica Survey Grade RTK GPS operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum.

All trenches were initially excavated by a 14t 360-degree mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m toothless bucket under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The topsoil and subsoil were stripped and stored separately and kept at a safe distance from the trench edge. One end of each trench was battered back for safe access and egress.

Machine excavation was conducted in successive level spits to the depth of the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or interface with the underlying geological (natural) deposits, whichever was encountered first. When determining the level to which machine excavation could be carried out it was not assumed that the most recent archaeological remains on the site were the least important.

Once the archaeological horizon was reached all archaeological features and deposits were cleaned and excavated using appropriate hand tools. The features were then GPS surveyed and recorded both in plan and section in accordance with the WSI (MOLA 2024a).

An environmental sampling strategy was agreed between MOLA and LEADS to allow for examination of a representative range of significant contexts and to enhance artefact recovery.

A metal detector was used throughout the evaluation to aid the recovery of artefacts.

All works were carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct (ClfA 2021), the Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2023a) and Universal guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2023b) with reference to Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out

in accordance with the WSI (MOLA 2024). Recording was carried out on pro forma recording sheets based on the Museum of London ‘single context’ recording system, further information on which can be found in the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (MOLA 1994). Comprehensive details of the recording techniques adhered to on site during the course of the evaluation are set out in Section 4.2 of the WSI (MOLA 2024a)

Following completion of the fieldwork and reporting, born-digital data, such as this report, digital photographs, database and GIS data, with appropriate metadata, will be deposited with a CoreTrustSeal Repository, currently the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), making the archive publicly accessible. Each report, once approved, is subsequently made available for inclusion and publication by digital means through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) via OASIS V. Digital archiving will follow the guidelines outlined in MOLA’s *Digital Data Management Policy and Procedures* (MOLA forthcoming) and the requirements of the *Archaeological Archives Standards* (Donnelly-Symes 2020).

The archive will be organised to be compatible with current requirements of the North Hertfordshire Museum Archive (Hertfordshire Association of Museums 2023) and ClfA’s Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of Archaeological Archives (ClfA 2020).

The Phase 1 archive is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 Land North of Baldock Phase 1 Evaluation Archive

Number of trench record sheets	102
Number of overall location plans	5
Number of Context (SU) sheets	972
Number of photographs	1521
Number of Plan sheets	83
Number of Section sheets	106

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 General stratigraphy

A total of 102 trenches were excavated during the course of the evaluation. Each contained stratigraphic deposits of topsoil and subsoil of varying depths, overlying the natural substrate.

In some areas the topsoil and subsoil overlay colluvial deposits. This colluvium consisted of a soft reddish brown silty sand deposit which overlay the chalk substrate and appeared to be a build-up of material washed out of the hills into the now-extinct river courses that once ran through the development area (Figure 15). Most notably this was present in the southwest corner of Zone 5, through the middle of Area C and in some of Area BA3.

All archaeological features identified were either intercutting or cut into natural deposits. Where features were intercutting the stratigraphic relationship was identified and recorded wherever it was sufficiently clear. Throughout the report cut features are referred to in squared brackets, e.g. [1], and fills in rounded brackets, e.g. (2)

In BA3, fourteen trenches (38, 41, 45, 46, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 66, and 85) uncovered layers of redeposited chalk marl and made ground. This chalk marl and made ground formed part of what was later shown to be a noise pollution bund constructed alongside the Baldock bypass embankment between 2004 and 2006. The bund, measuring an estimated 5.8m high to the northeast end and 2.6m high to the south end, prevented the trial trenching from reaching the archaeological horizon. Trenches 38, 41, 45, 51, 52, 55, 57, 59, and 85, positioned on the rising slope, revealed the base of the bund. Initially, the geophysical survey misinterpreted this as a linear feature. Upon further investigation, it was determined that this was not the case and furthermore indicated that any archaeological features in the eastern part of the BA3 were either removed or sealed during the construction of the A505 bypass. This area had also been previously investigated by Albion Archaeology during their 2003 trial trenching works (Albion Archaeology 2003).

5.2 Overview of the results

Of the 102 trenches excavated 59 revealed features which were either confirmed or had the potential to be archaeological in origin.

Where dateable the results recorded features from the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, Late Iron Age / Early Roman, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Forty-three trenches were found to be devoid of archaeology or contained features which were found to be geological in nature after further investigation. These trenches are summarised in Table 2 below:

Table 2 Trenches with no archaeology

Trench/Area	Orientation	Topsoil Depth (m)	Max Depth to Natural (M)
Area BA1 Zone 5			
2	NE-SW	0.24	0.45
6	N-S	0.25	0.45
17	NE-SW	0.26	0.35
26	NE-SW	0.25	0.38

Trench/Area	Orientation	Topsoil Depth (m)	Max Depth to Natural (M)
Area C			
31	NW-SW	0.30	0.38
34	NE-SW	0.30	0.40
Area BA3			
37	E-W	0.26	0.48
38	E-W	0.45	0.90
39	E-W	0.10	1
40	N-S	0.21	0.55
41	E-W	0.30	0.90
44	E-W	0.24	0.44
45	NW-SE	0.30	1.40
46	NW-SE	0.30	0.56
50	N-S	0.33	0.90
51	N-S	0.53	0.60
52	E-W	0.45	0.60
53	NE-SW	0.40	0.55
55	E-W	0.40	1.20
56	NW-SE	0.53	0.58
57	NW-SE	0.53	0.58
58	NE-SW	0.50	0.52
63	E-W	0.40	0.44
65	N-S	0.20	0.40
66	NE-SW	0.40	0.50
68	N-S	0.30	0.40
70	E-W	0.30	0.45
73	N-S	0.45	0.60
74	NE-SW	0.26	0.40
75	E-W	0.20	0.40
80	N-S	0.30	0.50
81	E-W	0.35	0.80
82	N-S	0.30	0.50
86	E-W	0.40	1.20
Area BA2			
89	NW-SE	0.25	0.70
91	E-W	0.30	0.55
92	N-S	0.30	0.55
93	NE-SW	0.33	0.48
94	E-W	0.20	0.40

Trench/Area	Orientation	Topsoil Depth (m)	Max Depth to Natural (M)
98	E-W	0.25	0.30
100	N-S	0.23	0.38
101	E-W	0.25	0.35
102	E-W	0.23	0.37

Archaeological features were distributed across the development area. The main areas of activity are summarised below and shown on Figures 3–6:

- In the centre of Area BA1 Zone 5, towards the base of the hill there was significant evidence for an Iron Age to Romano-British rectilinear enclosure complex showing potential for multi-phase settlement activity which continued into the northern edge of Area C to the south-east.
- Surrounding the enclosure complex running along the southern and eastern edge of Area BA1 Zone 5 was a contemporary network of boundary ditches, enclosures and ring ditches which extended into Area C.
- Running from the southwestern corner of Area BA1 Zone 5 through the middle of Area C running eastward was evidence of an old river course.
- In the centre of Area BA3 among further Romano-British enclosure activity, a far-reaching earlier pit alignment was revealed. This alignment has been recorded on other sites in the vicinity (HHER 2321) and is of likely Iron Age date.
- Partially revealed to the southern end of Area BA3 and running the length of the northern-eastern edge of Area BA2 revealed evidence of the route of at least two Roman roads (SHES 1 NMR1044754) to the north side of Clothall Road and to the south (SHES 3 HER6156). In Area BA2 alongside and within the road were aligned drainage ditches and possible cart ruts. The Roman version linked settlements at Braughing to the south with Baldock, Sandy and Godmanchester to the north.
- In the northwest of Area BA2, there was partial evidence of potentially two ring ditches (SHES 4 HER2310 & SHES 5 HER2328).

The features mentioned above were initially identified from cropmarks and in the results of the geophysical survey. These were later confirmed by the trial trenching works conducted by Albion Archaeology in 2003 and 2008, and by MOLA Northampton in 2016.

Late Bronze Age – Iron Age

Pit alignment (Area BA3)

In Area BA3 (Figure 5), Trenches 59, 60, 61 and 62 contained evidence for a linear alignment of pits, which was visible on the geophysical survey and has previously been recorded on other sites in the vicinity, including the earlier evaluation by Albion Archaeology (Newbould 2008). The alignment is listed on the Hertfordshire HER (HHER 2321). It has been suggested that Iron Age pit alignments may have some associated with water courses (Rylatt and Bevan 2007). The alignment on the site is aligned towards the headwaters of the river Ivel to the north, which may provide some support for this interpretation.

Twenty-two pits associated with the alignment were observed within the trenches, of which 16 were excavated (Table 3). The pits varied in diameter between 0.45m and 2.32m, and in depth between 0.21m and 0.96m. It seems likely that the shallower features had been horizontally truncated.

Pottery from the features was broadly dated to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age, though fill (6214) of pit [6209] contained more characteristically Iron Age sherds. The pits were truncated by ditches [6104] (Trench 61) and [6204] (Trench 62), which both relate to a small enclosure of probable LIA/Early Roman date. In Trench 60, ditch [6004] truncated pit [6013] and contained pottery dated to the first century AD (AD20-100).

Fills of the pits in general contained few finds and it seems likely that they were left open to silt up over time, as has been noted during previous excavations of Iron Age pit alignments.

Table 3 Pits forming part of the pit alignment

Trench	Cont ext	Excavated?	Filled by	Find Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot Date
59	5904	Y	5910		1.19m	0.64m	0.50m	
59	5905	Y	5911		1.8m	0.85m	0.60m	
60	6005	Y	6018/ 6019		2.18m	1.96m	0.88m	
60	6006	Y	6020/ 6021		2.22m	1.88m	0.80m	
60	6007	Y	6022/ 6023	pot, a. bone	2.16m	1.86m	0.87m	LBA/IA
60	6008	Y	6024/ 6025		2.32m	1.90m	0.94m	
60	6009	N						
60	6010	Y	6026/ 6027	a. bone, charred misc, charred wood	2.32m	1.88m	0.92m	
60	6011	N						
60	6012	N						
60	6013	Y	6028/ 6029		1m	1.38m	0.96m	
60	6014	N						
61	6106		6119/ 6120/ 6121	pot, a. bone, charred grain, charred misc, charred wood	0.90m	0.40m	0.74m	LBA/IA
61	6109	Y	6117/ 6129		1.10m	0.60m	0.64m	
61	6110	Y	6120	pot, a. bone, charred grain, charred misc, charred wood	0.80m	0.65m	0.5m	LBA/IA
61	6111	Y	6130		1.30m	1.12m	0.85m	
61	6112	N						
61	6113	N						
62	6206	Y	6211		0.74m	0.45m	0.21m	
62	6208	Y	6213		1.10m	1m	0.39m	
62	6209	Y	6214/ 6216	pot	1.10m	1.51m	0.48m	IA

Late Iron Age – Early Roman

Enclosure complex, BA1 Zone 5 and Area C

The most significant evidence for Late Iron Age and Early Roman activity was in Area BA1 Zone 5 (Figure 3), extending into part of Zone C. In general, the features recorded within the trenches confirmed the presence of features observed on the geophysical survey.

Activity was concentrated in Trenches 4 to 16, with further enclosures observed to the east within Trenches 20, 21, 23 and 24, and to the south in Trenches 27, 28, 29, 30, 32 and 33. A ring-ditch in Trench 22 was undated but may be contemporary. Enclosures were present on at least two alignments, with intercutting ditches that suggest activity in the area may have extended over a fairly long period of time. Although in general much of the activity is dated broadly LIA/Early Roman, a few contexts produced assemblages of pottery with firm dates in the first century AD, including ditch [508] in Trench 5 (AD 0–70), [804] in Trench 8 (AD 40–70), [1024] in Trench 10 (AD 0–75 and AD 40–100), [1104] in Trench 11 (AD 50–80), [1128] in Trench 11 (AD 0–70 and AD 40–100), and [1215] in Trench 12 (AD 50–70). A small number of features were dated to the second century, or later in the Roman period (see further discussion relating to later periods below).

Cut features including ditches and pits survived up to a maximum depth of 1.30m, but there was no clear evidence for the survival of horizontally-stratified deposits.

A small number of ring-ditches associated with the enclosures are visible on the geophysical survey, and two similarly-sized adjacent ring-ditches were investigated in Trenches 22 and 23. Ring-ditch [2204]/[2205]/[2206] was recorded in three interventions, with a depth ranging from 0.12m–0.50m. No finds were associated with this ditch. In Trench 23 ring-ditch [2305] was 0.18m deep, with gradually sloping concave sides and a flat base. The ditch contained a single fill (2306), which contained two sherds of pottery of LIA/Early Roman date 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Enclosure complex, Area BA3

In Area BA3 (Figure 5), a smaller enclosure complex visible in the geophysical survey results was investigated in Trenches 61 and 62. The enclosure ditch was recorded in both trenches ([6104] in Trench 61 and [6204] in Trench 62). The two ditches had a similar 'U'-shaped profile and were between 1.2m and 1.3m deep. Fill (6126) of [6104] contained pottery of LIA/Early Roman date, and fills (6205) and (6217) of [6204] contained pottery of broad Iron Age date, though it is possible that some of the material was later.

Cremations, Area BA3

In Trench 43, towards the north of Area BA3 (Figure 5), were two shallow cremation deposits in pits [4304] and [4305]. Sherds of the same grog-tempered vessel were found in both features, and the pottery was dated AD 40–100. The cremations provide further evidence for funerary activity in the area, adding to the Roman inhumation burial recorded during an earlier phase of evaluation (Newbould 2008).

Road/trackway, Area BA2

In Area BA2 (Figure 6) a linear road or track oriented NNW-SSE was visible on the geophysical survey and previously investigated to the southeast (Albion Archaeology 2009). This was investigated further in Trenches 96, 99 and 103. The surface of the trackway was rutted, suggesting that it was in use over a period of time, and in Trench 99 drainage ditches appeared to have been dug into the surface. A roadside ditch to the south of the road was recorded: [9604] in Trench 96, [9907] in Trench 99, and [10304] and [10305] in Trench 103 (the latter both unexcavated). The ditch was 0.76m-0.80m deep, and fills of [9604] and [9907] contained pottery of Early Roman date ((9608), dated AD 40-100 and (9914), dated AD 50-200). Fill (9914) also contained an iron stylus.

Other features of LIA/Early Roman date

In Area BA3 (Figure 5), a NE-SW aligned ditch was seen in Trenches 60 ([6004]/(6017)) and 64 ([6404]/(6409)). Both excavated sections contained LIA/Early Roman pottery, and in Trench 60 the feature cut through the earlier pit alignment.

A pit [7204] in Trench 72 contained a small assemblage of pottery of LIA/Early Roman date. This feature was not identified by the geophysics survey.

In Trench 77 a NW-SE aligned ditch [7711]/[7721] was not identified by the geophysical survey but contained pottery broadly dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period 100 BC-AD 70/100 and some Roman CBM. The ditch was also recorded in Trench 78 as [7804], though in this section it contained no dated finds.

In Area BA2 (Figure 6), ditch [10404] in Trench 104 did not correspond to any features identified on the geophysics survey but contained one body sherd from a LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessel (GRM), broadly dating 100 BC-AD 70/100.

Roman

Enclosure complex, BA1 Zone 5 and Area C

The enclosure complex in Area BA1 Zone 5 and Area C (Figure 3) continued to be the main focus of activity during the remainder of the Roman period. A number of cut features produced finds with dates in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, and other features were only broadly dated to the Roman period. As many features produced only small assemblages of finds, it remains a possibility that some of the features currently dated to the LIA/Early Roman period are in fact later but contain residual finds. Indeed, the possibility that some of the grog-tempered pottery currently dated to the LIA/ER period could possibly have persisted in use or be later in date is raised by the pottery specialist in relation to its association with some later fabrics and forms. No detailed phasing of the complex has been attempted for the purposes of this report.

Features with dated assemblages later than the first century AD include:

- Ditch [506], fill (514), dated AD 150-200.
- Ditch [1112], a re-cut of an earlier NNW-SSE aligned ditch which contained pottery dated AD 240-260 in the lower fill (1122) and a coin F.2 dated AD 286-293 in the upper fill (1124), along with earlier pottery.
- Ditch [1312], the upper fill of which (1314) was dated AD 240-410, and ditch [1318], a ditch terminus with multiple fills, the latest of which was dated to AD 130-410.
- Storage pit [1406] contained several fills, with a medium-sized assemblage of pottery from (1413) dated AD 120-160 and other fills

consistent with a mid-second century date. Other finds from this feature included hobnails and a plane iron.

- Ditch [1605], which formed the northern boundary of the enclosure complex, contained a single fill (1618) which produced four sherds of Roman pottery dated to AD 120-260.

Ditches [1112], [1312] and [1314] lie on a similar alignment and may be part of the same feature.

Medieval

A small number of features produced sherds of pottery with a medieval date:

- In Area BA1 Zone 5 (Figure 3), pit [105] in Trench 1 may date to the 11th-12th century based on a small pottery assemblage dated 1050-1200.
- In Trench 90 a single curvilinear ditch [9004] contained a sherd of medieval pottery dated 1050-1400. This feature forms part of one of two ring ditches identified on the geophysical survey and is unlikely to date to the medieval period, so the pottery may be intrusive.

Post-medieval and modern

In Area BA3 (Figure 5), pit [4204] contained a nail shaft F.17 and medieval/post-medieval CBM and tile. Two sherds of 19th-century pottery were also retrieved from the fill.

Ditch [7709] in Trench 77 contained two sherds of post-medieval pottery dating 1580-1900.

Undated

Many features contained no dated finds, and have not been assigned a date, although their form and position might suggest that they are archaeological and created at the same time as the groups of features summarised above.

In Area BA1 Zone 5 (Figure 5), a ring ditch investigated in Trench 22 produced no dated finds but may be broadly contemporary with a similarly sized ring ditch investigated within Trench 22, which produced an assemblage of LIA/Early Roman pottery.

In the same area, to the north of the rectilinear enclosure complex Trenches 1, 3, 18 and 19 all contained occasional undated pits, postholes and gullies which were not identified by the geophysics survey. An alignment of postholes in Trench 15 was also undated.

In Area C (Figure 4), occasional undated features were also present. Trenches 35 and 36 were located away from the main areas of Iron Age and Roman activity and contained ditches and pits which were not dated. Deposits of colluvium in this area were undated but sealed LIA/Early Roman features.

In Area BA3 (Figure 5), an anomaly noted on the geophysics survey was investigated within Trenches 49 and 54. Postholes and ditches were present in the location of the anomaly but produced no dated finds.

To the south of the pit alignment and enclosure complex, undated cut features including pits, postholes, gullies and ditches were recorded in Trenches 67, 69, 71, 76, 77, 79 and 84.

In Area BA2 (Figure 6), a ring ditch investigated within Trench 88 was not dated. An adjacent ring-ditch in Trench 90 produced medieval pottery, but it seems more likely that these features have a later prehistoric date. Other occasional undated features were seen in Trenches 87, 97 and 105.

5.3 Results by trench

Area BA1 Zone 5 (Trenches 1–26) Figure 3

Of the 26 Trenches in Area BA1 Zone 5, 22 contained archaeological features (Table 4). The trenches were placed to investigate a rectangular enclosure complex and possible ring ditches identified on the geophysical survey. Trenches 2, 6, 17 and 26 were devoid of archaeological features and are not discussed. In the eastern part of Zone 5, Trenches 1, 3, 7, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 the fringe activity around the concentration of features in and around the rectilinear enclosure identified on the geophysical survey. Six of the trenches had activity dating to the Late Iron Age/ Early Roman period, whilst a single trench contained solely Roman activity, and one trench contained medieval activity.

The area of more intense LIA/Roman activity is shown in greater detail on Figure 7.

Table 4 Zone 5 Trenches with archaeology

Trench	Size (m)	Orientation	Depth of topsoil	Depth to natural	Dated features
1	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.25	0.38	Medieval
3	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.26	0.41	Undated
4	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.22	0.42	Roman-Medieval
5	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.34	0.4	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
7	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.25	0.88	LIA/Early Roman
8	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.25	0.44	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
9	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.26	0.4	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
10	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.27	0.3	LIA/Early Roman
11	50 x 1.8	NE-SW	0.3	0.45	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
12	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.3	0.35	LIA/Early Roman and Roman

Trench	Size (m)	Orientation	Depth of topsoil	Depth to natural	Dated features
13	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.25	0.36	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
14	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.3	0.4	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
15	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.33	0.56	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
16	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.3	0.36	Roman
18	50 x 1.8	NE-SW	0.25	0.35	Undated
19	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.22	0.32	LIA/Early Roman
20	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.25	0.3	LIA/Early Roman
21	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.25	0.5	LIA/Early Roman
22	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.3	0.4	Undated
23	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.3	0.41	LIA/Early Roman
24	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.3	0.36	LIA/Early Roman
25	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.3	0.35	Undated

Trench 1

Trench 1 contained five discrete features, including three postholes ([106], [107] and [108]) and two pits ([104] and [105]).

The three shallow postholes [106], [107], and [108] formed an east–west alignment. All were sub-circular in plan and shared similar profiles with steep or gradual concave sloping sides and concave or flat bases. All three had single fills consisting of firm mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional chalk fragments. None of the fills contained finds.

Pit [104] was located at the western end of the trench. This pit was irregular in plan and had gradually sloping sides and an uneven base that showed substantial effects of bioturbation. The pit had a single fill (115) which consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate fragments of chalk and occasional flint but produced no finds. The bioturbation and irregularity of the feature suggested it could be a natural feature possibly the remains of a hedgerow or tree line.

Pit [105] was oval in plan and measured a maximum of 2.53m in length by 0.59m in width up to the trench edge with a depth of 0.57m. It had steep sides and a concave base. The feature had three fills, (109) (110) and (111). Upper fill (111) was 0.18m thick and consisted of a firm dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded flint and chalk fragments and produced two sherds of pottery broadly spot dated to a c1050-1200, which were sooted greywares. No finds were produced from the lower fills.

Trench 3

Trench 3 contained four discrete features in the form of a gully and three pits.

Gully [304] was orientated northeast to southwest measuring a maximum of 0.35m in width and 0.13m in depth, with gradual concave sloping sides down to a flat base.

Pit [307] cut the northwestern edge of [304]. Both features were filled with soft mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional flint. No finds were recovered from either feature.

Pit [305] was oval in plan with steep concave sloping sides and a concave base. The feature had two fills. The upper fill (311) was 0.25m thick and consisted of a soft mid greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional flint. Lower fill (310) was 0.21m thick and consisted of soft dark brownish grey silty sand with occasional flint. This fill was sampled <4> and selected for assessment (see Section 4.8). Very abundant charred wood was recovered from the sample as well as insect and mollusc remains. Some untransformed material including seed was also recovered. No finds were recovered from the feature.

The northwestern edge of pit [305] was truncated by pit [308] which had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The sole fill (312) consisted of a soft light greyish brown silty sand with occasional flint but produced no finds.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the northwestern corner of the targeted enclosure. A single ditch [404] and two small pits [405] & [406] were recorded within the trench.

Ditch [404] measured a maximum of 1.62m in width and 0.61m in depth, with steep sides down to a concave base. The feature had two fills, upper fill (410) was 0.36m thick and consisted of a firm light whitish brown silty sand with frequent flint and chalk fragments. Lower fill (409) was 0.61m thick and consisted of firm mid reddish brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments. This fill contained a Roman iron chisel F.13. The fill was sampled <6> and selected for assessment (see Section 4.8). A small amount of charred grain and charred wood was recovered from the sample, as well as insect and mollusc remains, and a residual flint flake. Fill (409) produced a small amount of body sherds from LIA/Early Roman vessels, broadly dated to the period 100 BC-AD 70/100.

Pit [405] was linear in plan measuring 0.73m long by 0.36m wide and survived to a depth of 0.17m, with gradual sides and a concave base. It was filled with undated reddish brown chalky sandy silt (407). Fill (407) was truncated by pit [406] which was 1.05m long by 0.35m wide and 0.21m deep. This pit was infilled with undated fill (408), which was similar to (407).

Trench 5

Trench 5 was positioned to target the western edge of the enclosure complex shown on the geophysical survey. Five features, four ditches [504], [505], [506] and [508] and a single pit [509], were recorded. The multiple enclosure ditches in this trench were visible on the geophysical survey results, although some were less clearly defined than others, with the features clearly shown continuing beyond the edges of the trench. Ditch [506] or [508] was revealed again in Trenches 8 and 9 further to the southeast.

Ditch [504] was located at the southwestern end of the trench and was orientated northwest-southeast. This ditch broadly aligned with ditch [404] to the north as part of the apparent rectilinear enclosure identified on the geophysical survey. It measured a maximum of 0.82m in width, and 0.53m in depth, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Upper fill (513) was 0.35m thick and consisted of a firm mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional flint and chalk fragments. This fill produced animal

bone and a small group of typically LIA/Early Roman pottery sherds but was dated overall to the Roman period AD 120-200 by a sherd from a decorated samian bowl. Lower fill (512) was 0.18m thick and consisted of firm light yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional flint and chalk fragments.

Located in the centre of the trench was ditch [505] which was orientated northwest-southeast and continued in both directions beyond the trench edge. It measured a maximum of 0.75m in width, and 0.13m in depth, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base.

In the northeastern end of the of the trench parallel ditches [506] and [508] were orientated northwest-southeast. Both had steeply sloping sides and a concave base.

Ditch [506] measured 2.12m in width and 0.75m in depth and [508] measured 3.12m in width and 1.27m in depth. Ditch [506] contained a single fill (514) which consisted of a firm yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional flint and chalk fragments. Fill (514) contained oyster shell, cattle bone, metal, Roman building material and 24 sherds of pottery broadly dated to the mid-Roman period AD 150-200, from three sherds from a Verulamium whiteware jar and one sherd from a vessel dating post AD 150, reinforcing the later date.

Ditch [508] had a 'V'-shaped profile and two fills, (515) and (516) (Plate 1). The lower fill (515) was 1.22m thick and consisted of firm light yellowish brown silty sand with frequent flint and chalk fragments. This fill contained 47 fragments of animal bone a medium-sized assemblage of 64 sherds of pottery. The pottery assemblage contained a high proportion of imported wares including three Terra Rubra vessels (see pottery report). Overall, the pottery assemblage dated to the 1st century AD 0-70. Upper fill (516) was 0.43m thick and consisted of a firm light yellowish brown silty-sand with frequent flint and chalk fragments containing animal bone and a residual sherd of pottery dated overall to the LIA/Early Roman period 100 BC-AD 70/100.

Plate 1 Ditch [508] looking north (2m scale)



Trench 7

Trench 7 was located on the edge of a known dry river valley (Figure 15), and as such had 0.75m of subsoil and colluvium sealing the archaeological features. Six linear features and three discrete features were identified within the trench. These features were situated along the northern and southern edges of a now dry river valley, which may have experienced periodic flooding.

Ditch [705] was located towards the southeastern end of the trench and was orientated northwest–southeast with gradual concave sloping sides down to a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill (721) which consisted of a soft dark greyish brown silty-sand with moderate sub-angular stone and occasional flecks of charcoal. The fill contained eight sherds of pottery dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD 75).

Ditches [706], [707] and [712] and pits [710] and [711] were all located towards the northwestern end of the trench and made up a series of similarly aligned intercutting features.

The ditches ran parallel to each other. The northeast–southwest aligned [710] was cut by ditch [707]. Ditch [711] was cut by [706] which was in turn cut by [712]. Ditches [706], [707] and [712] measured a maximum of 1.60m, 1.28m and 1.80m in width and 0.38m, 0.30m and 0.32m in depth respectively. Ditches [707] and [712] both contained similar fills (715) and (716) which consisted of a firm dark greyish brown silty-sand with chalk fragments and animal bone. Fill (715) produced one sherd of pottery, whilst fill (716) produced a small group of sherds, collectively the pottery from these contexts is broadly to the LIA/Early Roman period 100 BC-AD 70/100. Ditch [706] had two fills but produced no finds.

Pits [710] and [711] were oval in plan and had similar single fills, (717) and (718) respectively, which consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional to frequent chalk fragments.

The ditches and pits in this area all had similar fills. It is possible that all may date to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

Ditches [708] and [709] were located at the northwestern end of the trench parallel with each other and orientated east–west. They contained similar fills, (722) and (723) respectively, which consisted of a firm dark greyish brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was located at the northeast end of Trench 7 and targeted multiple ‘interior’ ditches within the enclosure complex identified on the geophysical survey. Two ditches [804] and [805], and a possible ditch terminus [806] were located in the trench.

Ditch [804] was located at the northeastern end of the trench and was orientated northwest–southeast. This ditch appears to be the same as [907]/[918] in Trench 9 to the northwest. Ditch [804] measured 2.20m in width, and 1.02m in depth, with steep sides down to a concave base. The feature had three fills (809) to (811) each of which contained animal bone and pottery. Fill (809) produced pottery dated to 100 BC-AD 70. Fill (810) produced a small assemblage of similarly dated sherds and some fired clay, possibly from a kiln or oven. This fill also contained a small amount of animal bone. Fill (811) produced a small pottery group more typically Roman dating the assemblage AD 40-70.

Ditch [805] was orientated northwest–southeast. According to the result of the geophysical survey, this ditch was the same as [904] located to the northwest in Trench 9. The ditch measured a maximum of 0.60m in width, and 0.36m in depth, with gradual sides down to a concave base. It contained a single fill (807) which consisted of a soft

mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. This fill contained animal bone and three sherds of pottery of a broad Roman date AD 40-410.

Trench 9 (Figure 8)

Trench 9 shows a cluster of activity towards the centre of the rectilinear enclosure area. At the request of LEADS the eastern end of the trench was extended to further expose and understand the relationships between the enclosure ditches (Figure 8).

Ditch [904] at the western end of the trench was orientated northwest–southeast with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled with a single deposit (917) of soft mid brownish grey silty-sand which contained pottery broadly to the LIA/Early Roman period 100 BC-AD 70/100.

Ditch [906]/[919] was 1.10m-1.40m wide and 0.37m-0.65m deep with steep convex sloping sides and a concave base. Intervention [906] contained two fills. The upper fill (913) was 0.38m thick and consisted of a soft mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent flint and chalk dated broadly to the Roman period AD 40-410. Lower fill (912) was 0.33m thick and consisted of soft light yellowish grey silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. Intervention [919] consisted of a single fill (923) which was 0.37m thick and consisted of a soft mid brownish grey silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments and produced animal bone and 10 sherds of pottery dating overall to AD 75-130.

Ditch [906] was cut by ditch [911], which measured a maximum of 1.4m in width and 0.33m in depth, with steep concave sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (914) which consisted of a soft mid brownish grey silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. This fill contained animal bone and three sherds of pottery of a broad Roman date AD 40-410.

Ditch [907]/[918] was orientated northwest-southeast measuring 2.40m in and ranged from 0.60-1.1m in depth, with steep convex sides and a concave base.

Segment [907] had three fills. The lower fill (908) was 0.22m thick and consisted of firm mid reddish brown silty sand occasional chalk fragments. The middle fill (909) was 0.48m thick and consisted of a soft mid greyish brown sandy-clay with occasional flint and chalk fragments as well as some fired clay. Upper fill (910) was 0.41m thick and consisted of a soft mid greyish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. All three fills contained pottery (in total 33 sherds) dated to the LIA/Early Roman period. Fills (907) and (908) are dated by pottery to 100 BC-AD 75. Fill (910) may date slightly later from the presence of one small sherd of more 'Romanised' fabric, although at this stage it is still broadly dated 100 BC-AD 70/100. Fill (908) also contained remains of kiln furniture, and fill (909) contained a small amount of animal bone.

Segment [918] contained two fills. Upper fill (922) was a soft mid greyish brown silty-sand with frequent flint and chalk fragments but produced no finds. Lower fill (921) was a soft mid brownish grey silty-sand with occasional flint and chalk fragments and contained six sherds of pottery broadly dated as Roman (AD 50-410). The ditch was truncated by ditches [905]/ [920], [906]/[919] and [911] at the intersection.

Ditch [905]/[920] ranged from 0.82m-1.00m in width, and 0.33m-0.40m in depth, with gradual concave sloping sides and a concave base. Segment [905] contained two fills. Upper fill (916) was 0.2m thick and consisted of a soft mid brownish grey silty-sand with occasional flint and chalk fragments. Fill (916) contained two sherds of pottery of a broad Roman date AD 40-410. Lower fill (915) was 0.26m thick and consisted of soft mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments but produced no finds. Segment [920] was filled by (924) which contained no finds.

Trench 10

Trench 10 contained four linear and two discrete features.

Enclosure ditch [1004]/[1015] was orientated northwest to southeast terminating at the entranceway with intervention [1015] to the northwest. The ditch was 1.60m-1.90m wide and 0.72m-0.75m deep, with steep concave sloping sides and a concave base. Both interventions had four fills that differed slightly in character.

In ditch intervention [1004], the lower fill (1009) was 0.70m thick and consisted of firm mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent chalk fragments. Lower middle fill (1010) was 0.22m thick and consisted of a soft mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Upper middle fill (1011) was 0.37m thick and consisted of a soft dark brownish grey silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Upper fill (1012) was 0.18m thick, with occasional chalk fragments, containing animal bone, including cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse, and 69 sherds of pottery of a broad LIA/Early Roman date (50 BC-100 AD). Some Roman building material was also recovered from (1012) as well as some fired clay, possibly from a kiln or oven.

In terminus intervention [1015], the lower fill (1016) was 0.09m thick and consisted of firm mid yellowish grey silty-clay with occasional chalk fragments. This contained two sherds of pottery of a LIA/Early Roman date (100 BC-AD 70/100). Lower middle fill (1017) was 0.25m thick and consisted of a soft mid reddish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments and contained pottery again of a broad Roman date. Upper middle fill (1018) was 0.24m thick and consisted of a soft mid brownish grey silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Upper fill (1019) was 0.33m thick and consisted of a soft dark brownish grey silty-sand with occasional flint and chalk fragments, containing animal bone and 11 sherds of pottery of a broad Roman date.

Enclosure ditch [1005]/[1024] terminated in the southeast, with intervention [1005], and ran northwest before turning towards the southwest, as seen in intervention [1024]. It ranged from 1.20m-1.90m in width and 0.57m-0.75m in depth, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Terminus intervention [1005] had four fills, (1020-1023), while [1024] had three fills (1028)-(1030). Fills (1020), (1021) and (1023) all contained pottery dating to LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD 70/100), with (1021) containing 21 sherds. Fill (1028) contained sherds dated overall to AD 0-75, whilst (1029) contained Roman pottery dated overall to AD 40-100.

Ditch [1024] cut pit [1025] on its southwestern edge. This pit measured 1.8m long by 0.8m in width, and was 0.38m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It had two fills: the primary fill (1026) comprised 0.19m depth of mid brownish grey silty-clay with chalk inclusions, whilst the upper fill (1027) comprised a similar but more gravelly deposit. Fill (1027) contained 22 LIA/Early Roman pottery sherds (100 BC-AD 70/100).

Two ditches [1007] and [1008] were located further to the northwest. Ditch [1007] measured 0.56m in width and 0.21m in depth whilst ditch [1008] measured 0.94m in width and 0.27m deep. Both had similar profiles, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base, and similar single fills (1014) and (1013) respectively, consisting of a firm mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. The ditches were dated by pottery of a broad LIA/Early Roman date (100 BC-AD 70/100).

Trench 11 (Figure 9)

Trench 11 contained the targeted series of enclosure ditches that were located towards the southwestern end of the complex. At the request of LEADS an extension was excavated towards the northeastern end of the trench to further clarify the relationship between three large intercutting boundary ditches and two large pits (Figure 9).

The earliest of the boundary ditches [1126] was orientated northeast-southwest and appeared to be on the same alignment as identified on the geophysical survey with

ditches in Trench 23 and Trench 7. It measured a minimum of 0.8m in width with a depth of 0.45m, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1129) of a soft light greyish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and frequent chalk fragments. The fill contained 62 fragments of animal bone (cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse) and 103 sherds of pottery. The pottery assemblage although medium sized is quite broadly dated to 100 BC-AD 70 by vessel forms typical of the LIA/Early Roman period, including a high proportion of sherds which were noted as showing signs of burning. Fragments of fired clay and kiln furniture were also retrieved from the fill.

Boundary ditch [1126] was recut by [1127] and [1128] (Plate 2). Ditch [1127] measured a minimum of 1.17m in width and was 0.46m deep, with gradual sides down to a concave base. It contained a single fill (1130) which consisted of a soft mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and frequent chalk fragments. This fill contained animal bone and 68 sherds of pottery of a broad LIA/Early Roman date, with vessels similar to those retrieved from (1129) and dating overall to 100 BC-AD 70. A small amount of fired clay was also retrieved during pottery analysis. The latest phase of re-cutting [1128] produced small amounts of animal bone and pottery from (1131) dated to AD 0-70. Upper fill (1132) from the same feature produced pottery dated to AD 40-100. This ditch appeared to follow the same orientation as the original ditch cut [1126]. The ditch also appeared to align with ditches in Trench 23 and Trench 7.

Re-cut [1128] was truncated by pits [1104] and [1105] on the northern side. The full extent of [1105] was obscured by the trench LOE but both had similar profiles of steep undercutting sides and a concave base, with two fills producing LIA/Early Roman pottery. Pit [1104] contained multiple diagnostic vessels in (1115) dated overall to AD 50-80. Fill (1117) of pit [1105] contained pottery dated to 100 BC-AD 75.

Ditch [1107] was 1m wide and 0.40m deep with steep convex sides down to a flat base. Ditch [1107] contained a single fill (1120) which comprised firm mid greyish brown sandy silt and contained LIA/Early Roman pot sherds. Immediately southwest was ditch [1113] which was 1m wide and 0.36m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. This ditch contained a single fill (1123) dated by pottery to 100 BC-AD 70.

Truncating [1107] and [1113] was re-cut [1112] which measured a maximum of 3.6m in width, and 0.47m in depth, with convex sides and a concave base. Recut [1112] had two fills, the upper fill (1124) was 0.15m thick and consisted of a firm light greyish brown silty-sand. This fill contained 36 sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery broadly dated to 100 BC-AD 70/100 and a Roman coin (F.2) closely dated to AD 286-293. Lower fill (1122) was 0.47m thick and consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty-sand which contained eight sherds of Roman pottery and is potentially dated by a sherd of Oxfordshire whiteware mortarium.

A posthole [1108] was filled with mid grey-brown clay silt (1121) and dated by one sherd of pottery to the LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD 70/100).

Plate 2 Intercutting pit [1104], ditch [1126] and ditch recuts [1127] and [1128], looking east (3m scale)



Trench 12 (Figure 10)

Trench 12 contained a series of linear features interpreted as ditches and associated post holes. A large linear feature was interpreted as possible evidence of hillside terracing, whilst quarrying was also identified (Figure 10).

Linear cut [1206] was located close to the northern LOE of the trench. This feature was north–south aligned, 0.88m wide by 0.38m deep. The feature was filled with pale grey-brown silty-sand (1213) dated broadly to the LIA/Early Roman period 100 BC-AD 70/100.

Ditch [1218] and its re-cut [1214] were orientated northwest to southeast. Ditch [1218] measured a minimum of 0.88m in width with a depth of 0.20m, whilst re-cut [1214] measured a maximum of 1m in width with a depth of 0.40m. The profile of the ditch comprised with convex sides and a concave base. Re-cut [1214] had a single fill (1219) containing animal bone and eight sherds of LIA/Early Roman potter dated broadly to 100 BCAD 70/100. Ditch [1218] had a single fill (1220) which produced no finds.

Quarry cut [1215] post-dated [1218] and measured a minimum of 6.5m in width with a depth of 1.10m, the full extent of the feature was not visible within the trench limits. The feature had eight fills which were not easily distinguishable from each other but appeared to be divided into four phases of infilling. The earliest phase of infilling appears to have involved four fills, (1221), (1222), (1228) and (1230), which ranged in thickness from 0.18m-0.31m, all consisting of a firm light brownish grey silty sand. Eleven LIA/Early Roman (100 BC–AD 70/100 and AD 0-70/100) pot sherds were recovered from fills (1221) and (1222) respectively. Fill (1230) was 0.18m thick and differed slightly as it consisted of a firm dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments. The second phase of infilling involved fill (1224) which was 0.20m thick and consisted of a firm dark greyish brown silty-sand with no finds. The third phase of infilling consisted of fill (1225) which was 0.66m thick and consisted of firm

mid greyish brown silty-sand containing 29 sherds of Roman pottery dated to AD 40-150. The final and latest phase of infilling comprised fills (1226) and (1227). Fill (1226) was 0.83m thick and consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty sand, whilst (1227) was 0.48m in thickness and consisted of firm light greyish brown silty sand containing 38 early Roman pot sherds dated to AD 40-110. Fills (1225), (1226) and (1227) collectively contained over 2kg of animal bone mostly of cattle and sheep/goat, with some pig and horse. Fill (1225) was dated overall by pottery to AD 50-70. The medium sized pottery assemblage from fill (1227) dates a little more broadly to AD 50-100 although one small sherd of unsourced samian ware may date as early as AD 20.

Feature [1207] appeared to truncate [1215]. The full extent of the feature extended beyond the LOE, but it appeared to be orientated northwest-southeast. The feature measured approximately 10m in width to the end of the trench with a depth of 0.95m with a gradual to steep two-tiered stepped side to the northeast down to a flat base, potentially suggesting evidence of hillside terracing. At this end of the trench the feature appeared to be infilled by natural deposition (1216) of 0.30m thickness, overlain by fill (1217) which was 0.25m thick and consisted of a firm dark greyish brown silty sand. Fill (1217) contained nine Roman pottery sherds dated broadly to the Roman period, AD 40-410.

Cut into the base of [1207] towards the southwestern end of the trench was a large sub-circular posthole [1208] (Plate 3). The posthole measured 0.80m in length by 0.62m in width with a depth of 0.26m. the profile showed a near-vertical side to the west and a convex side to the east with a flat base. It contained a single undated fill (1211) which consisted of friable light greyish brown silty-sand. This fill was sampled <23> and the sample selected for assessment (see Section 4.8). Small amounts of charred grain, seed and wood were recovered from the sample, whilst non-botanical remains comprised animal bone, insects and molluscs.

Plate 3 Posthole [1208] looking south (0.5m scale)



Trench 13 (Figure 11)

Trench 13 targeted the continuation of enclosure ditches to the southeast and an intersection of multiple 'outer' enclosure ditches (Figure 11) identified in the results of the geophysical survey. At the request of LEADS the trench was extended at the eastern end to further expose and understand the relationships between the enclosure ditches. A single pit was also observed in the trench.

Ditch [1304] was 0.8m wide and 0.5m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. This ditch was filled with a single fill of undated mid grey-brown silty-sand (1327).

Ditch [1305] was 0.5m wide and 0.66m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled with three fills, (1315), (1316) and (1317). Primary fill (1315) comprised mid greyish brown sandy-silt 0.06m thick, this was overlain by 0.10m thick pale grey-brown silty-sand (1316). Upper fill (1317) comprised 0.5m thick mid greyish brown silty-sand and contained 26 sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery broadly dating 100 BC-AD 70/100 as well as some kiln furniture and an undated iron staple SF.14.

Ditch [1308] was located at the western end of the trench and was orientated northwest-southeast. It measured 0.9m in width with a depth of 0.42m, with steeply sloping convex sides and a flat base. The fill (1309) consisted of a soft mid greyish brown silty-sand and contained three Roman pot sherds dated overall to AD 40-100.

Ditch [1312] was 0.8m wide and 0.44m deep. This ditch contained two fills (1313) and (1314). The primary fill (1313) comprised 0.04m depth of firm mid grey silty-sand with chalk inclusions. The upper fill (1314) comprised 0.4m depth of firm mid greyish brown silt with frequent chalk inclusions. Fill (1314) contained 13 sherds of Roman pottery dated to the late Roman period (AD 240-410) by a sherd Oxford whiteware mortarium.

Linear terminus [1318] was 0.5m wide and 0.88m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. This feature contained five fills, (1319), (1320), (1321), (1322) and (1323). The primary fill (1319) comprised 0.17m depth of mid greyish brown sandy-silt with chalk and charcoal. Fills (1320), (1321), (1322) and (1323) comprised mid greyish brown silty-sand. Fills (1321), (1322) and (1323) all contained single sherds of Iron Age/Roman pottery, but the latest of the fills (1323) was dated to AD 130-410. Fill (1323) formed a layer which in section overlay the upper fills of [1305] and [1324] but was cut by ditch [1304].

Pit [1324] was 1.34 in diameter with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. This pit contained two fills, (1325) and (1326). Primary fill (1325) comprised 0.15m depth of dark grey-brown silty-sand with charcoal. Upper fill (1326) comprised 0.24m depth of mid grey-brown silty-sand.

Trench 14

Ditch [1404] was located at the northwestern end of the trench and was orientated northeast-southwest. It measured a maximum of 2.34m in width with a depth of 0.62m, with steeply sloping convex sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1407) of friable light yellowish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments from which three sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery dated broadly to 100 BC-AD 70/100 were retrieved, as well as a residual flint blade.

Ditch [1405] was located towards the centre of the trench and was orientated northeast-southwest (Plate 4). It measured a maximum of 2.8m in width with a depth of 1.15m and had steeply sloping convex sides and a flat base. The ditch had five fills (1408) to (1412), three of which (1409), (1410) and (1411) contained pottery dated to the LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD 70/100; 13 sherds in total), whilst (1412) contained eight sherds which could only be broadly dated to 100 BC-AD 100. Fill (1409) contained over 1kg (47 pieces) of animal bone which was almost entirely cattle with some horse.

The southeastern end of the trench contained a likely storage pit [1406] which was sub-circular in plan (

Plate 5). The feature measured a maximum of 2.24m in length up to the trench edge and was 1.20m wide and 1.20m deep, with very steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained five fills, (1413), (1414), (1415), (1416) and (1417/1418). Upper fill (1416) was 0.30m thick and consisted of a friable light greyish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. Upper middle fill (1415) was 0.35m thick and consisted of friable light greyish brown silty-sand with frequent medium sized chalk fragments. Middle fill (1414) was 0.28m thick and friable light greyish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. Lower middle fill (1413) was 0.16m thick and consisted of a friable light greyish brown silty-sand with frequent medium sized chalk fragments and produced animal bone. Fill (1413) included some typically Roman pottery sherds and was dated overall to AD 120-200. Lower fill (1417)/(1418) was 0.42m thick and consisted of soft light brownish grey silty-sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and chalk fragments, and produced animal bone and pottery. Fills (1413), (1416) and (1418) contained in total 51 pottery sherds mostly of a broad Roman date but dated overall to AD 120-150. Fill (1416) also contained a possible Roman plane Iron F.16. Fill (1413) was sampled <22> and selected for assessment (see Section 4.8). Small amounts of charred grain, seed and wood were recovered from the sample as well as bone and mollusc remains. The sample also contained untransformed chaff and seed, but there was also abundant modern root within the sample. Four Roman hobnails SF.15a were retrieved from this sample as well as an intrusive post-medieval? horseshoe nail SF.15b.

Plate 4 Ditch [1405] looking northeast (2m scale)



Plate 5 Pit [1406] looking northeast (2m scale)



Trench 15

Four linear features [1504], [1515], [1516] and [1519] were identified at the northerly and southerly ends of the trench, whilst eight shallow postholes [1505], [1506], [1507], [1508], [1509], [1510], [1511] and [1514] were identified either side of the central area of the trench. The position of the trench targeted the central part of an enclosure and curvilinear ditch located on the geophysical survey.

Posthole [1505] was sub-circular measuring 0.40m by 0.27m at the top and was just 0.06m deep with a concave base. The posthole was filled with (1531) a deposit of pale yellow-brown sandy-silt with chalk and flint inclusions, which was sampled <11>.

Posthole [1506] was located southeast of [1505] and was sub-circular measuring 0.32m by 0.24m at the top and was just 0.09m deep with a concave base. This posthole was filled with (1532) a firm deposit of pale yellow-brown sandy-silt with chalk and flint inclusions, which was sampled <12>.

Posthole [1507] was located to the southeast of [1506]. This posthole was 0.34m in diameter and 0.05m deep. The fill (1533) comprised pale yellow-brown sandy-silt with occasional flint and chalk inclusions and was sampled <13>.

Posthole [1508] was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.32m by 0.24m and was 0.09m deep. This feature was filled with (1534), which was as per (1533) and was sampled <14>.

Posthole [1509] was located to the southeast of [1508]. This was sub-circular measuring 0.26m by 0.20m at the top and was 0.08m deep. The fill (1535) was similar to the fills of the previous post holes and was sampled <15>.

Posthole [1510] was located on the southerly side of the trench close to the limit of excavation. This posthole was sub-circular measuring 0.40m by 0.2m at the top and was 0.13m deep. The fill (1517) comprised loose mid reddish brown sandy silt with charcoal. This deposit was sampled <16>.

Posthole [1511] was located a short distance to the southeast of [1510]. This posthole was sub-circular and measured 0.27m by 0.33m at the top and was just 0.07m deep.

The fill (1536) was pale yellow-brown silty-sand with chalk and flint inclusions and was sampled <17>.

Posthole [1514] was sub-circular measuring 0.25m by 0.17m in plan and was just 0.08m deep. The fill (1530) had the same composition as (1536). This fill was sampled <10>.

At the northern end of the trench a northeast–southwest aligned ditch [1519] ran across the width of the trench. This ditch was 0.60m wide and 0.36m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base. The fill (1521) comprised greyish brown sandy-silt with flint and chalk inclusions. This fill contained some animal bone, and seven sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery dated overall to 100 BC-AD 70/100.

The alignment of this ditch was close to that of a curvilinear ditch identified on the geophysical survey.

Ditch [1504] was northeast–southwest aligned and truncated the fill (1521) of [1519]. This ditch was 1.12m wide and 0.62m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The primary fill (1522) comprised 0.21m depth of pale grey-brown sand with frequent chalk inclusions. Fill (1522) was overlain by 0.41m depth of mid reddish brown sandy-silt (1520). This deposit contained animal bone, and six sherds of Roman pottery dated overall to AD 50-100 as well as some intrusive medieval/post-medieval CBM.

Towards the southeasterly end of the trench a northwest-southeast aligned ditch [1515] ran across the width of the trench. This ditch was 1.3m wide and 0.56m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled with loosely compacted dark reddish brown sandy-silt (1518). This deposit contained some animal bone, and 17 sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery dated to 100 BC-AD 75, from three medium grog-tempered necked jar sherds (GRM JA20). Also in this assemblage is a coarse sand-tempered vessel with rough horizontal and vertical combing (SAC RLD COMB), which could be from an Iron Age slack shouldered jar. The alignment of this feature corresponded quite closely with a linear feature identified on the geophysical survey.

Towards the southeasterly end of the trench a southwest–northeast aligned ditch [1516] ran across the width of the trench. This ditch was 3.08m wide and 1.20m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The primary fill (1527) comprised 0.45m thick friable mid greyish brown sandy-silt. This fill contained some animal bone, fired clay and nine sherds of LIA/Early Roman pottery dated to c 100 BC-AD 70/100) and was sampled <25>. Fill (1527) was overlain by 0.20m thick pale grey-brown sandy-silt (1528), which was in turn overlain by an upper fill of dark greyish brown sandy-silt with chalk and charcoal inclusions (1529) to a depth of between 0.55 and 0.70m. Fill (1529) contained animal bone and 21 sherds of pottery dated overall to 100 BC-AD 70/100. The position of this ditch corresponded closely with that of a large enclosure ditch identified on the geophysical survey.

Ditch [1516] was recorded as cutting pit [1523]. This pit was sub-oval in plan measuring 0.92m by 1.30m and survived to a depth of 0.63m. with steep sides and a concave base. The primary fill (1524) comprised 0.20m thick friable pale yellow-brown sandy-silt with frequent chalk inclusions. This was overlain by 0.19m thick friable dark grey-brown sandy-silt (1525), which was in turn overlain by an upper fill of 0.34m thick friable mid grey-brown sandy-silt (1526).

Trench 16

Trench 16 was located in the vicinity of anomalies identified as possible archaeological features on the geophysical survey. A series of linear features, [1605], [1607], [1608] and [1609], were recorded in the trench. In addition, a posthole [1606] and a pit [1610] were also recorded.

Ditch [1605] was northeast–southwest aligned at the northerly end of the trench and ran across the width of the trench. This ditch was 1.90m wide and survived to a depth of 0.64m, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (1618) comprised reddish brown sandy-silt and contained some animal bone, CBM and four sherds of Roman pottery dated to AD 120-260. This deposit was sampled <5>.

To the southeast, the terminus of a further northeast–southwest aligned linear feature [1607] was identified within the southerly part of the trench. This feature was 0.45m wide and survived to a depth of 0.13m, with a flat base. The fill (1612) comprised compacted pale blueish grey silty-sand with frequent chalk inclusions.

To the southeast of [1607] a further linear feature [1608] interpreted as a ditch extended on a northeast–southwest alignment across the width of the trench. This ditch was 1.26m wide and 0.25m deep with a flat base. The primary fill of the ditch (1614) comprised compacted blueish grey silty-sand 0.17m thick with frequent chalk inclusions. The upper fill of the ditch (1613) comprised compact yellowish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk inclusions.

Towards the southeasterly end of the trench ditch [1609] again spanned the width of the trench. This ditch was fairly substantial being 1.86m wide and 0.54m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled with [1615] a deposit of compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent chalk inclusions. This deposit was sampled <3>.

Towards the southerly extent of the trench a pit [1610] was recorded. This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.66m by 0.56m and was 0.15m deep. The fill (1616) of this pit comprised compacted pale yellow-brown silty-sand with frequent chalk inclusions.

Towards the northeasterly extent of the trench a posthole [1606] was recorded between [1605] and [1607]. This posthole was sub-circular being 0.33m by 0.28m in plan with a depth of 0.12m. The fill (1611) comprised pale blueish grey silty-sand with frequent chalk flecks.

None of the features in this trench corresponded directly to adjacent features seen on the geophysical survey.

Trench 18

Trench 18 contained three undated linear features [1804], [1805] and [1806].

Ditch/gully [1804] was northeast–southwest aligned on the western side of the trench with a width of 0.24m and a depth of just 0.07m. This feature was filled with mid reddish brown sandy silt (1807).

Ditch/gully [1805] was 0.23m wide and 0.1m deep extending southeast-northwest on the easterly side of [1804] and possibly truncated by it. This feature was filled with (1808) which was a reddish brown sandy-silt.

Ditch [1806] was northeast–southwest aligned, 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. It was filled with mid reddish brown sandy-silt (1809).

Trench 19

Located furthest north in this area Trench 19 contained two pits and three linear features.

Ditch terminus [1904] was not identified on the geophysical survey but was close to the location of several sub-circular anomalies. It measured a maximum of 1.39m in length by 0.55m in width with a depth of 0.70m, with steep sides down to a concave base. The feature had two fills, (1909) and (1910). Upper fill (1909) was 0.35m thick and consisted of firm mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. This fill contained pottery with a broad Iron Age/Early Roman date of 800 BC-AD 410. Lower fill (1910) was 0.35m thick and consisted of a firm light whitish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments.

At the northwestern end of the trench, ditch terminus [1906] was also not identified on the geophysical survey. It measured a maximum of 2m in length by 0.50m in width with a depth of 0.17m, with gradually sloping sides down to a concave base. It contained a single undated fill (1912) which consisted of a firm mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments.

Ditch [1905] was orientated northeast to southwest. This ditch was not identified on the geophysical survey but was further recorded in Trench 18 to the southwest. It measured a maximum of 0.71m in width with a depth of 0.16m, with gradually sloping sides down to a concave base. It contained a single undated fill (1911) which consisted of a firm mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments.

Two undated pits were identified pit [1908] truncated the northeastern side of [1905], whilst the southeastern side of [1905] truncated pit [1907].

Pit [1907] measured a maximum of 1.25m in length up to the trench edge by 1.05m in width with a depth of 0.16m, and pit [1908] measured a maximum of 0.75m in length up to the trench edge by 0.73m in width with a depth of 0.09m. Both pits had gradually sloping sides and concave bases. Both had similar single fills (1913) and (1914) respectively, which consisted of a firm mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments.

Trench 20

Trench 20 revealed a targeted northwest–southeast aligned boundary ditch and the southwestern corner of a sub-square enclosure ditch identified in the geophysical survey. The trench also contained two postholes and a pit.

Posthole [2004] was located at the eastern end of the trench and was sub-circular in plan. It measured a maximum of 0.40m in length by 0.30m in width with a depth of 0.18m, with gradually sloping sides down to a concave base. It contained a single undated fill (2011) which consisted of a soft mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint and frequent chalk fragments.

Ditch [2005] was southwest–northeast aligned and was 1.4m wide and 0.68m deep. The base of the ditch was filled with 0.2m depth of pale grey silty sand (2012), this was overlain by 0.35m depth of mid yellow-brown silty-sand (2013). The upper fill (2014) comprised 0.13m depth of pale grey-brown silty-sand. Fill (2013) contained a small amount of pottery dated to the LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD 70/100).

Boundary ditch [2006] was located at the centre of the trench and was orientated northwest–southeast extending across the width of the trench. This alignment of the ditch was consistent with the ditch alignment on the geophysical survey. The fill (2016) comprised friable pale yellow-brown silty-sand with chalk inclusions. This fill contained a sherd of LIA/Early Roman pottery dated broadly to 100 BC-AD 70/100.

Ditch [2006] appeared to be truncated by pit [2007] on its southwestern edge. It measured a maximum of 0.50m in width with a depth of 0.18m, with gradually sloping convex sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (2016) which consisted of a friable light yellowish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. This fill contained pottery of a broad LIA/Early Roman date (100 BC-AD 70/100).

Pit [2007] truncated the southwestern edge of ditch [2006] and was oval in plan and orientated northwest-southeast. It measured 0.72m in length up to the trench edge by 0.64m in width up to the truncation, with a depth of 0.10m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The pit contained a single undated fill (2017) which consisted of a friable light yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments.

Posthole [2009] was located southwest of ditch [2006] and was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.38m in diameter with a depth of 0.12m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single undated fill (2015) which consisted of a friable mid yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments.

Trench 21

Trench 21 contained a ditch that corresponded with a feature on the geophysical survey.

Boundary ditch [2104] at the centre of the trench was orientated northwest-southeast (Plate 6). It measured a maximum of 1.90m in width with a depth of 0.85m, with steeply sloping convex sides and an 'ankle-breaker' base. The feature had four fills (2105), (2106), (2107) and (2108). Upper fill (2108) was 0.25m thick and consisted of friable light grey-brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments. Upper middle fill (2107) was 0.40m thick and consisted of a friable mid grey-brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments. Lower middle fill (2106) was 0.35m thick and consisted of a friable mid grey-brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. The primary fill (2105) was 0.28m thick and consisted of friable dark grey-brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Fill (2107) produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/Early Roman vessels, broadly dating to 100 BC-AD 70/100. This fill also contained some animal bone.

Plate 6 Ditch [2104], looking northeast (1m scale)



Trench 22 (Figure 12)

Trenches 22 and 23 targeted possible ring ditches in this area (Figure 12), to the east of the concentrated activity around the rectilinear enclosure. As only the partial extent of the targeted ring ditch was revealed in the original position Trench 22, at the request of LEADS, the northern edge of the trench was extended to fully expose the extent of the ditch. A single posthole was cut into the top fill of the ring ditch.

Ring ditch [2204]/[2205]/[2206] was located at the centre of the trench and was curvilinear in plan. It was recorded in three interventions whose measurements ranged from 2.16m-3.52m in width with a depth ranging from 0.12m-0.50m, all interventions revealed gradually sloping sides and a flat base.

Intervention [2204] had three fills. Upper fill (2210) was 0.16m thick and consisted of soft mid grey-brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. The eastern lower fill (2209) was 0.20m thick and consisted of a soft mid grey-brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments, whilst western lower fill (2211) was 0.50m thick and consisted of a soft light grey-white silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments.

Intervention [2205] had two fills. Upper fill (2213) was 0.24m thick and consisted of a soft mid grey-brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments. Lower fill (2214) was 0.16m thick and consisted of soft mid grey-brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments.

Intervention [2206] had a single fill (2212), 0.12m thick and consisted of a soft mid grey-brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments.

No finds were recovered from the ring ditch, which appeared to have been disturbed at two points by ploughing. Dating of the ring ditch in Trench 23 (see below) may suggest a Late Iron Age/Early Roman date for the feature.

Posthole [2207] was cut into the upper fill of the eastern end of the ring ditch and was sub-circular in plan. It measured a maximum of 0.30m in diameter with a depth of 0.07m, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base containing a single undated fill (2208) which consisted of a soft dark grey brown silty sand with moderate sub-angular flint and occasional flecks of charcoal. The fill was sampled <27> and selected for assessment (see Section 4.8). Small amounts of charred wood were recovered from the sample, as well as insect and mollusc remains.

Trench 23 (Figure 12)

Located to the southeast of Trench 22 this trench targeted the southern edge of another ring ditch and a boundary ditch that runs the full length of the southeastern edge of Zone 5 (Figure 12).

Boundary ditch [2304] was located in the middle of the trench and was orientated northeast–southwest. The ditch appeared to be on the same alignment as identified on the geophysical survey with ditches in Trenches 24, 11 and possibly 7. It measured a maximum of 2m in width with a depth of 0.65m, with steep convex sides down to a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill (2307) which consisted of a firm light grey-brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. This fill contained a single sherd of pottery of LIA/Early Roman pottery dated to 100 BC-AD 70/100.

Ring ditch [2305] was located at the northwestern end of the trench and was orientated northeast–southwest, which was consistent with the results of the geophysical survey. It measured a maximum of 3.76m in width with a depth of 0.18m, with gradually sloping concave sides and a flat base. The ditch contained a single fill (2306) which consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty-sand with moderate sub-angular flint chalk fragments. Two sherds of pottery of LIA/Early Roman date 100 BC-AD 70/100 were retrieved from the fill.

Trench 24

Trench 24 was located at the southeastern end of a northwest–southeast aligned boundary ditch, over a possible entranceway, and corresponds to anomalies identified in the results of the geophysical survey. Within the trench two ditches were revealed.

Boundary ditch [2404] was in the southwestern end of the trench and was orientated northwest–southeast. It measured a maximum of 1.22m in width with a depth of 0.47m, with steeply sloping convex sides and a concave base. The feature had two undated fills (2408) and (2409). Upper fill (2409) was 0.23m thick and consisted of a friable light yellow-white silty-sandy-chalk with frequent chalk fragments. Lower fill (2408) was 0.47m thick and consisted of friable mid red-brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments.

Boundary ditch [2405] was also northwest–southeast aligned. This ditch measured 4.80m in width with a depth of 1.36m, with steep sides down to a concave base. The feature had two fills (2406) and (2407). Upper fill (2407) was 1.10m thick and consisted of a friable mid red-brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Lower fill (2406) was 1.36m thick and consisted of friable mid red-brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Upper fill (2407) contained 10 sherds of pottery of a LIA/Early Roman date (100 BC-AD 70/100).

Trench 25

Trench 25 contained one linear feature. Boundary ditch [2504] was orientated northeast–southwest, on the same alignment as identified by the geophysical survey results. It measured a maximum of 0.50m in width with a depth of 0.20m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single undated fill (2505) which comprised friable mid yellowish brown silty-sand.

Area C (Trenches 27–36) Figure 4

Area C located south of Zone 5 shows fringe activity related to the rectilinear enclosure and an alluvial deposit indicating the route of a dry river valley in Trenches 32 and 33. There are features cut into the alluvium suggesting it was dry for some time. Trenches 27, 28, 32 and 33 contained evidence of LIA/Early Roman activity, whilst Trench 30 contained evidence of Roman activity.

Eight trenches contained archaeological features (Table 5). Trenches 31 and 34 were devoid of archaeology and are not discussed.

Table 5 Area C Trenches with archaeology

Trench	Size (m)	Orientation	Depth of topsoil (m)	Depth to natural (m)	Archaeology dating
27	50 x 1.8	NE-SW	0.25	0.55	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
28	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.25	0.55	LIA/Early Roman
29	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.2	0.4	Undated
30	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.2	0.33	Roman
32	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.2	0.4	LIA/Early Roman

33	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.3	0.55	LIA/Early Roman
35	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.25	0.3	Undated
36	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.24	0.35	Undated

Trench 27 (Figure 13 and Figure 14)

Trench 27 was in the in the northwestern corner of Area C, located to target linear features that appear to be part of the southern continuation of the main enclosure complex seen in Zone 5.

Ditch [2704] was located at the western end of the trench and was orientated northwest-southeast. The ditch appears to be on the same alignment as identified on the geophysical survey and aligns with ditches in Trench 29 and 30. It measured 2.15m wide, and 0.42m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The feature had two fills. The upper fill (2723) contained some animal bone and pottery dated to the broad Roman period AD 40-410.

A series of intercutting pits (Figure 13 and Figure 14) were mostly located between ditches [2704] and [2708] with only pits [2709], [2710] and [2711] found to the northeast of ditch [2708]. Nearly all the pits were sub-circular in plan with only one pit [2721] being recorded as oval.

Pit [2709] truncated the northeastern edge of ditch terminus [2708]. The pits varied in measurements from 0.45m–1.60m long by 0.15m-1.70m wide, and 0.10m-0.68m deep, all with similar gradually sloping sides and concave bases. Most of the pits had similar single fills ranging from friable mid to light reddish, yellowish or greyish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and chalk fragments.

Pit [2718] was the only pit to have two fills, (2732) and (2733), which contained pottery dated to the LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD 70/100). Animal bone, pottery, CBM and flint were recovered from the fills of seven pits [2706], [2710], [2713], [2714], [2716], [2717] and [2718]. Fill (2733) of [2718] contained some goat horn core. Fill (2725) of [2713] contained pottery dated to AD 40-100 and was truncated by pit [2705]. Fill (2727) of [2716] contained pottery broadly dated to 100 BC-AD 70/100. Fill (2729) of [2714] and (2734) of [2717] both contained fired clay. Fill (2734) also contained pottery dated broadly once again to 100 BC-AD 70/100. These pits may be evidence for quarrying.

Ditch terminus [2708] was orientated northwest–southeast with a terminus at the southeast end, where it appeared to be truncated by pit [2709]. The ditch measured a maximum of 1.35m in length by 0.30m in width and was just 0.04m deep, with a concave base. Single fill (2738) consisted of a friable mid grey-brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments and a sherd of pottery dated to the Roman period AD 75-130.

A posthole [2712] truncated the southwestern edge of pit [2714]. This was sub-circular in plan, measuring a maximum of 0.70m in length by 0.60m wide, and 0.10m deep with gradually sloping sides down to a concave base. A second posthole [2715] was located adjacent to the east of [2714] this posthole was 0.25m by 0.45m at the top and 0.11m deep.

Trench 28 (Figure 16)

Natural channel [2805] was determined to most likely be associated with the route of the dry river valley which is to the east of this trench (Figure 15), the base of the channel was uneven and no finds were retrieved.

Boundary ditch [2806] was located at the southeastern end of the trench and was orientated northeast–southwest. It measured a maximum of 1.7m wide with a depth of 0.72m and had steeply sloping convex sides and a concave base. The sole fill (2807) consisted of a friable mid red-brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. This deposit contained animal bone and pottery broadly dated to the LIA/Early Roman period 100 BC–AD 70/100.

This feature was sealed by colluvial layer (2802) and topsoil (2801).

Trench 29

Trench 29 was located towards the western edge of Area C and was located to target linear features that appear to be a continuation of the main enclosure complex seen in Zone 5.

Ditch [2904] was located at the western end of the trench. This ditch was orientated northwest–southeast measuring 1.32m wide and 0.31m deep with steep straight sides and a flat base.

Ditch [2908] was orientated northwest–southeast measuring 1.81m wide and 0.35m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. The base of [2908] appeared to truncate pits [2917] and [2918] both of which had steep sides. [2917] had a concave base and [2918] had a flat base. No finds were recovered from either pit or from the ditch.

Five pits [2905], [2907], [2909], [2910] and [2913] were all similar in appearance and spread throughout the trench. These pits were oval in plan although their full extents were not visible within the trench limits. The pits contained similar, for the most part, single fills of soft to firm mid to light greyish brown silty sand with moderate chalk fragments. Pit [2910] contained two fills (2927) and (2928). None of these pits contained any finds or datable material.

Trench 30

Trench 30 contained a single linear feature [3004] which spanned the width of part of the east end of the trench. This feature was 1.0m wide and 0.34m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The feature was filled with a single fill (3005) of greyish brown silty-sand with chalk inclusions which contained 15 sherds of pottery dated broadly to the Roman period (AD 40-410).

Trench 32 (Figure 16)

Trench 32 was positioned on the northern edge of Area C to target several linear features identified in the geophysical survey and crop marks visible from the air. The trench was found to be located spanning across a known dry river valley, and as such had c 0.65m of subsoil and colluvium sealing some of the potential archaeological features (Figure 16). The trench revealed three features, ditch [3213], pit [3216] and a potential tree throw [3212].

Colluvium (3217) comprised 0.44m depth of soft greyish brown silty sand. This overlay the potential tree throw [3212] and ditch [3213] and was overlain by subsoil [3202].

Ditch [3213] located under colluvial layer (3217) towards the southeastern end of the trench was orientated northeast–southwest. The ditch appears to be on the same alignment as a ditch in Trench 33 and another ditch identified on the geophysical survey in Trench 28. The ditch measured a maximum of 2m wide with a depth of 0.74m, with steep irregular sides down to an uneven bioturbated base. The feature had two fills (3219) and (3220). Top fill (3219) was 0.45m thick and consisting of firm mid grey-brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. The primary fill (3220) was 0.32m thick and consisted of friable mid greyish brown silty-sand with moderate sub-angular

flint and chalk fragments. This fill contained some animal bone. The only dating evidence from this feature was a small pottery assemblage broadly dated to the LIA/Early Roman period 100 BC–AD 70/100.

A large pit [3216] was located southeast of ditch [3213] and beyond the possible southeastern extent of the dry river valley. This feature was oval in plan and measured a minimum of 3.55m in length by 1.10m width up to the trench edge. The pit was 0.65m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The fill (3221) consisted of firm mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Animal bone and some CBM were retrieved from this fill, which was sampled <30>. The sample was selected for assessment and contained small amounts of charred grain, seed and wood as well as insect and mollusc remains.

Trench 33 (Figure 16)

Trench 33 was positioned on the northern edge of Area C in order to target a linear feature identified from crop marks visible on aerial photography. The trench was found to be located on the edge of a known dry river valley, and as such had c 0.69m of subsoil and colluvium (3304) sealing some of the archaeological features (Figure 16). Otherwise the trench contained a ditch [3306] and a pit [3305].

Colluvium (3304) beneath the subsoil was recorded as 0.4m deep but undated.

Pit [3305] was located towards the northwestern end of the trench. This pit was oval in plan and measured a minimum of 1.26m in length by 0.71m wide up to the trench edge, with a depth of 0.45m and steeply sloping sides with a convex profile and a flat base. The fill of the pit (3309) consisted of a soft dark greyish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. This fill contained daub/baked clay including kiln furniture and a small pottery assemblage dated broadly to the LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC–AD 70/100). The fill was sampled <32> and the sample selected for assessment. The sample contained small amounts of charred grain, seed and wood. A small amount of coal was recovered as well as animal bone and mollusc remains. Some untransformed seed was also recovered.

Ditch [3306] was located under colluvial layer (3304) towards the middle of the trench. The ditch did not appear on the crop marks but appears to be on the same alignment as a ditch recorded in Trench 32 and 28. It measured a maximum of 1.60m wide with a depth of 0.56m and steep convex sides down to a concave base. The feature had two fills (3310) and (3311). Top fill (3310) was 0.40m thick and consisted of a firm mid reddish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint and occasional chalk fragments. Primary fill (3311) was 0.16m thick and consisted of firm mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and frequent chalk fragments. Fill (3310) contained a small amount of pottery broadly dating to the LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC–AD 70/100).

Trench 35

Trench 35 was located at the northeastern end of Area C and was located to target linear features identified as crop marks on aerial photographs. Three ditches [3504], [3506] and [3509], and a single pit [3508] were found in the trench.

Ditch [3504] was in the eastern half of the trench and was orientated northeast–southwest. It appeared to correspond to the crop marks and seemed to be truncating the northwestern edge of ditch [3506]. It measured a maximum of 2.10m wide with a depth of 0.20m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The sole, undated, fill (3513) consisted of a friable mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments.

Ditch [3506] was located perpendicular to the northeastern end of the later ditch [3504] and was orientated northwest–southeast. The ditch continued beyond the trench to the northwest and did not appear on the crop marks. It measured a maximum of 0.40m wide with a depth of 0.07m, with gradual sides down to a concave base. The undated fill (3512) consisted of a friable light greyish brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments.

Ditch [3509] was located at the western end of the trench and was orientated northwest–southeast. The ditch appeared to be aligned with a possible crop mark feature. It measured a maximum of 1.18m wide with a depth of 0.20m and had steep convex sides and a concave base. The undated fill (3511) consisted of a friable light brownish grey silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments.

Pit [3508] was oval in plan and measured a minimum of 1.15m in length by 0.60m wide up to the trench edge, with a depth of 0.20m. the pit had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The sole undated fill (3510) consisted of a soft light brownish grey silty-sand with frequent large chalk fragments.

Trench 36

Located at the northeastern end of Area C Trench 36 contained a ditch [3604] and two pits [3605] and [3606].

Ditch [3604] was located in the middle of the trench. This undated ditch was aligned northwest–southeast and appeared to correspond with the crop marks. It measured a maximum of 1m wide with a depth of 0.25m and had gradual sides down to a concave base. The feature contained two fills (3611) and (3612). The upper fill (3611) was 0.03m thick and consisted of a firm light greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint and frequent chalk fragments. Primary fill (3612) was 0.24m thick and consisted of a firm mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional gravel and frequent chalk fragments.

Pit [3605] was located towards the southwestern end of the trench and was sub-circular in plan, measuring a maximum of 0.66m in diameter and 0.41m deep. The pit had very steep convex sides and a concave base. The fill (3610) consisted of a firm dark grey-brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and frequent chalk fragments. This fill was sampled <31> and selected for further analysis. The sample contained an abundant amount of charred wood as well as invertebrate and mollusc remains. Some untransformed seed was recovered, but the sample also contained modern root material.

Pit [3606] was located at the southwestern end of the trench and was oval in plan. The pit measured 0.81m in length by 0.45m wide at the trench edge and was 0.07m deep, with gradual sloping sides down to a flat base. The fill (3613) was undated and comprised a soft light reddish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments.

Zone BA3 (Trenches 37–86) (Figure 5)

Almost half the trenches excavated (47 trenches), were excavated in this area. Twenty-seven of these trenches, Trenches 37-46, 50-53, 55-58, 63, 65-66, 68, 70, 73-75, 80-82 and 86 contained no archaeology at all. Trenches 83 and 85 was descope. Of the twenty trenches with archaeology (Table 6), Trench 60 contained Late Bronze Age/Iron Age dating evidence and Trench 62 contained dating evidence for the Iron Age and Roman periods. Trenches 60, 61, 72 and 77 all contained LIA/Early Roman activity of which Trench 62 also contained Roman activity. Trenches 43 and 48 contained evidence solely dated to the Roman period. Trench 77 also contained some post-medieval activity. Half of the trenches contained features that were not dated.

Table 6 Zone BA3 Trenches with archaeology

Trench	Size (m)	Orientation	Depth of topsoil (m)	Depth to natural (m)	Archaeology dating
42	50 x 1.8	NE-SW	0.5	1.15	Medieval/post-medieval
43	25 x 1.8	N-S	0.4	0.8	Roman
47	25 x 1.8	N-S	0.2	0.8	Undated
48	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.36	0.76	Roman
49	50 x 1.8	NE-SW	0.3	0.6	Undated
54	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.35	0.75	Undated
59	20 x 1.8	E-W	0.2	0.64	Undated and modern
60	40 x 1.8	E-W	0.28	0.36	LBA/IA and LIA/Early Roman
61	40 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.35	0.55	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
62	40 x 1.8	E-W	0.26	0.48	Iron Age and Roman
64	25 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.3	0.6	LIA/Early Roman and Roman
67	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.4	0.5	Undated
69	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.23	0.93	Undated
71	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.36	0.5	Undated
72	50 x 1.8	NE-SW	0.35	0.5	LIA/Early Roman
76	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.33	0.43	Undated
77	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.2	0.3	LIA/Early Roman and post-medieval
78	25 x 1.8	E-W	0.25	0.4	Roman-Med/post-med?
79	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.15	0.5	Undated

Trench	Size (m)	Orientation	Depth of topsoil (m)	Depth to natural (m)	Archaeology dating
84	50 x 1.8	NW-SE	0.3	0.61	Undated

Trench 42

Trench 42 was located towards the northerly extent of the area and was located to target possible archaeological features identified on the geophysical survey.

The trench contained a single sub-oval feature [4204], interpreted as a pit. This pit was 1.8m in diameter and 0.68m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The feature was filled with (4205), a mid reddish brown sandy-silt which contained a nail shaft F.17 and medieval/post-medieval CBM and tile. Two sherds of 19th-century pottery were also retrieved from the fill. The feature was closely located to the western side of possible archaeological features identified on the geophysical survey.

Trench 43

Trench 43 contained two cremations [4304] and [4305], located towards the centre of the trench (Plate 7).

Small oval pit [4304] was 0.30m long by 0.20m wide and was just 0.15m deep. This was filled with (4306) comprising dark grey black silty sand. Similarly [4305], 0.25m long by 0.25m wide and just 0.14m deep being filled with (4307) which was of the same composition as (4306). Fill (4307) contained two sherds of pottery dated to AD 40–100, whilst a sherd of the same date was recovered from (4306).

Plate 7 Cremations [4304] and [4305] in Trench 43, looking north (1m scale)



Environmental samples were taken from both features (<35> from (4306) and <36> and <37> from (4307)). Sample <35> contained charred wood and small amounts of burnt human bone, which could not be identified by sex or age at death. Sample <36> contained charred wood and a larger quantity of burnt human bone. Sample <37>

contained charred wood and burnt human bone. The bone from sample <36> was identified as that of an adult. Charred wood from the cremation pits was identified as oak. Further details of the human bone are provided in the human bone report.

Trench 47

Trench 47 was north-south aligned and targeted an east-west aligned feature identified on the geophysical survey.

A single undated linear east-west aligned feature [4704] was recorded across the width of the trench. This feature was 2.03m wide and 0.51m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The primary fill (4705) comprised mid reddish brown sandy-silt with some flint inclusions to a depth of 0.1m. This was overlain by (4706) which comprised 0.41m depth of similar but less compacted material. Both fills contained animal bone.

The feature corresponded to the alignment of the feature identified by the geophysics survey and [4804] in Trench 48.

Trench 48

Trench 48 contained a single east-west aligned linear feature [4804] which was 1.0m wide and extended across the width of the trench (1.8m). This feature was filled with 0.33m depth of firm mid grey-brown sandy-silt with occasional flint inclusions (4805). A single sherd of Roman pottery dated broadly to AD 40-410 was retrieved from the fill.

This appeared to be part of the feature identified on the geophysical survey also seen in Trench 47.

Trench 49

Trench 49 targeted possible archaeological features identified on the geophysical survey.

Two postholes [4904] and [4905] were recorded towards the centre of Trench 49. Posthole [4904] was 0.36m long by 0.34m wide and 0.26m deep. Posthole [4904] was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy-silt with some flint inclusions (4906). This deposit was sampled <33> and some charred wood and untransformed seed retrieved. Insect and mollusc remains were also found within the sample. Posthole [4905] was 0.36m long by 0.29m wide and 0.27m deep. This posthole was filled with (4907) which comprised dark grey sandy-silt with some charcoal inclusions. Sample <34> was taken from (4907) and contained abundant charred material including charred wood and coal. Untransformed material from the sample included seed. Some bone including bird bone was also recovered.

Trench 54

Trench 54 was located to the south of Trench 49 and targeted the southern extent of possible archaeological features identified on the geophysical survey.

A single undated east-west aligned linear feature [5404] stretched across the width of the trench and was 1.55m wide and 0.53m deep with gradual sides and a concave base. This feature was infilled with (5405) which comprised brownish grey sandy-silt with some flint inclusions. There were some signs of rooting in the base of the feature. No dating evidence was retrieved. This feature corresponded closely with the geophysical evidence in this area.

Trench 59

Trench 59 was located on the eastern side of the area and targeted the southern extent of a large north-south aligned linear feature and other evidence to its east shown on the geophysical survey. Two pits [5904] and [5905] were located towards the westerly end of the trench. None of the features in this trench were dated.

Pit [5905] was 1.4m long by 0.85m wide by 0.6m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. This pit was filled with deposits of mid greyish brown silty-sand with flint inclusions (5911).

Pit [5904] was 1.12m long by 0.64m wide by 0.5m with a similar profile to [5905]. This pit was filled with mid greyish brown silty-sand (5910).

Three smaller features [5907], [5908] and [5909] were recorded as postholes, but were fairly insubstantial.

A spread (5906) was recorded towards the centre of the trench. This was interpreted as a modern deposit associated with the construction of the by-pass.

None of the features corresponded clearly with geophysical evidence but the results confirmed archaeological survival in the area.

Trench 60 (Figure 17 and Figure 18)

Trench 60 was targeted at an east-west alignment of features shown on the geophysical survey as well as a northeast-southwest aligned ditch. The trench showed a marked increase in activity with an alignment of pits stretched southeast-northwest across the trench (Figure 17 and Figure 18; Plate 8). These pits, from the southeast to northwest, were: [6009], [6008], [6007], [6006], [6005], [6010], [6011], [6013] and [6014]. The more complete of these pits were fully excavated. A linear feature [6004]/[6015] was located towards the northwest end of the trench.

Pit [6009] was not excavated but was located against the easterly limit of excavation.

Pit [6008] measured 2.32m in length by 1.90m in width and was 0.94m deep. This pit had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The primary fill (6024) comprised compact pale grey-brown silty-sand with chalk inclusions to a depth of 0.34m. The upper fill (6025) was 0.60m deep and comprised pale yellowish brown silty-sand with flint inclusions.

Pit [6007] measured 2.16m in length by 1.86m in width and was 0.87m deep with sharply sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 9). The primary fill (6022) comprised sterile greyish white silty-sand to a depth of 0.35m. This was overlain by 0.52m depth of pale yellowish brown silty-sand (6023). This fill was sampled <50> and contained fragments of pottery dated very broadly LBA/IA (1150/1000BC-AD70).

Pit [6006] was 2.22m in length and 1.88m wide with a depth of 0.80m. The pit had steeply sloping sides with a concave base. The pit was filled with a single fill (6021) which comprised pale yellowish brown silty-sand with some flint inclusions and animal bone.

Pit [6005] was 2.10m in length, 1.96m wide and 0.88m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The primary fill (6018) appeared to be redeposited natural comprising pale yellowish white sandy-silt with chalk inclusions to a depth 0.36m, this was overlain by loose pale yellowish brown sandy-silt (6019) to a depth of 0.52m. This fill was sampled <51>.

Towards the centre of the trench pit [6010] was 2.32m long by 1.88m wide and 0.92m deep. The primary fill of the pit (6026) was a pale yellow-white sandy-silt with chalk inclusions to a depth of 0.34m, this was overlain by 0.58m depth of pale yellow-brown

sandy-silt with some flint inclusions (6027). This fill was sampled <52> and selected for assessment. It contained charred wood and some untransformed seed. Remains of mammal bone and mollusc were also retrieved from the sample.

To the west of [6010] was pit [6011] which was not excavated. The western extent of [6011] was truncated a modern intrusion. Part of a pit to its east [6012] was also truncated and not excavated.

To the west of [6012] towards the northwestern end of the trench, pit [6013] was truncated but measured c2.10m in length by 1.88m in width and was 0.96m deep with almost vertical sides and a concave base. The primary fill (6028) comprised 0.42m depth of pale yellowish white sandy-silt with frequent chalk inclusions. Fill (6028) was overlain by less well compacted pale yellow-brown sandy-silt with flint inclusions to a depth of 0.54m.

The most westerly pit [6014] was only partially observed in the trench and was not excavated.

The geophysical survey suggests these pits may form part of a longer alignment running across this part of the area.

Ditch [6004] was southwest-northeast aligned and was 0.59m wide and 0.46m deep spanning the width of the trench and truncating pit [6013]. This ditch had near vertical sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled with reddish brown sandy-silt with flint and chalk inclusions. This fill (6017) contained Roman pottery dated to AD 20–100 and was sampled <53>. The terminus of the ditch was recorded as [6015]. At this point the ditch was 0.35m wide and just 0.19m deep. The fill of the terminus was recorded as (6030), which was similar to (6017) and again contained some pottery broadly dating to the LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD 70/100).

This ditch appeared to be part of the feature identified on the geophysical survey.

Terminus [6015] was truncated by a posthole [6016] which was 0.48m wide and just 0.05m deep.

Plate 8 Alignment of pits [6009], [6008], [6007], [6006], [6005], looking west (1m and 2m scale)



Plate 9 Pit [6007], looking west (1m scale)*Trench 61 (Figure 17 and Figure 18)*

Trench 61 targeted the pit alignment, and a rectangular enclosure identified in the geophysical survey. The results from the trench were similar to Trench 60 in that the stratigraphy was dominated by a substantial pit alignment post-dated by a single ditch to the west (Figure 17 and Figure 18).

Towards the northeasterly extent of the trench incomplete remains of a pit [6110] were located close to the limit of excavation. This pit was 0.88m long by 0.65m wide by 0.50m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The primary fill (6121) comprised 0.32m depth of mid grey-brown silty-sand with flint inclusions, which was overlain by firm dark grey silty-sand (6120). This deposit was recorded as the upper fill of more than one feature.

To the west of [6110] pit [6106] was sub-oval in shape being 0.50m by 0.40m in plan with a depth of 0.74m and gradually sloping sides with a concave base. The primary fill of the pit comprised 0.39m depth of fine mid greyish brown silty-sand (6119) with flint and chalk inclusions. The upper part of the pit was filled with (6120), which was sampled <49>. Sample <49> contained charred material including abundant charred wood as well as some untransformed seed. Some undiagnostic burnt bone, insect and mollusc remains were also retrieved from the sample. Fill (6120) contained a substantial assemblage (150 pieces) of animal bone, mostly cattle, but also including remains of dog. Pottery from (6120) could only be dated very widely as Late Bronze Age/Iron Age (1150/1000BC-AD70).

To the west of [6106] pit [6109] was 1.18m in length and 0.60m wide being 0.64m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. This pit was filled at the base with (6118), 0.26m depth of firm pale brownish grey silty-sand with chalk inclusions. This was overlain by fill (6117) a darker grey-brown sandy-silt to a depth of 0.38m.

The northern extent of [6106] truncated a smaller pit [6108] which was 0.65m by 0.45m in plan and 0.27m deep. This pit was filled with dark grey silty-sand with flint and chalk inclusions (6116).

A short distance northwest of [6108] was an even smaller pit/posthole [6105] which measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.2m deep. This pit was filled by mid grey-brown silty-sand (6115).

To the southwest of [6109] part of a further truncated pit [6111] was recorded. This pit measured 1.30m by 1.12m in plan and was 0.85m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The base of this pit was filled with reddish brown silty-sand (6129) to a depth of 0.65m. This was overlain by (6130) which was similar to (6117), the fill of [6109] and was 0.2m deep.

Deep pit [6107] was only partially excavated but was filled with (6114) to a depth of 1.7m. This fill comprised reddish brown silty-sand with some flint and chalk inclusions, which was sampled <48> and contained some Roman pottery dated to the 1st century (AD 40-100).

On the westerly side of the trench two further pits [6112] and [6113] were not excavated but continued the pit sequence.

Ditch [6104] on the westerly side of the trench was substantial being 3.35m wide and 1.30m deep, truncating the western side of pit [6111] (Plate 10). This ditch was northwest-southeast aligned stretching across the width of the trench. The base of the ditch was filled with (6122), which comprised firm pale brown silty-sand with frequent chalk inclusions and was up to 0.7m deep. Fill (6122) was overlain by darker grey-brown silty-sand (6123) to a depth of up to 0.5m. This fill was sampled <54>. The top of the ditch was filled with a sequence of silty-sand deposits (6124) to (6128). Fill (6126) contained a small amount of LIA/Early Roman pottery dated to 100 BC-AD 70/100. This ditch corresponded directly with the eastern extent of the enclosure identified on the geophysical survey.

Plate 10 Ditch [6104] truncating pit [6111], looking north (2m scale)



Trench 62 (Figure 17 and Figure 18)

Trench 62 targeted the southwest-northeast arm of the boundary also targeted by trenches 60 and 61 as well as the eastern extent of the enclosure. An alignment of

four pits [6206], [6208], [6209] and [6210] (Figure 17 and Figure 18) extended across most of the easterly and central part of the trench. On the westerly side of the trench was a large ditch [6204].

Pit [6206] was 0.74m by 0.45m at the top and 0.21m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. This pit was filled with (6211), a deposit of mid reddish brown sandy-silt with flint inclusions.

Pit [6208] was measured 1.10m by 1.0m at the top and was 0.39m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (6213) was very similar to (6211).

Pit [6209] measured 1.10m by 1.51m at the top and was 0.48m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (6214) was very much as seen in pits [6206] and [6208]. This fill was sampled <38> and contained pottery dated to the Iron Age (800 BC-AD 70).

Towards the easterly side of the trench pit [6210] measured 0.61m by 1.07m in plan and was 0.36m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. This pit was filled with (6215), which was again as seen in the other pitting.

A posthole [6207] was also seen in the trench. This feature was 0.25m in diameter and just 0.04m deep. It was filled with (6212), a bioturbated deposit. Animal bone including remains of vole were recovered from this deposit.

Once again, the pit alignment corresponded directly with the alignment shown on the geophysical survey.

The westerly side of the trench was dominated by the substantial ditch [6204]. This ditch was up to 4.26m wide and 1.20m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The primary fill (6205) comprised 0.62m depth of mid reddish brown sandy-silt with flint inclusions and contained animal bone and pottery. This deposit was sampled <40> and contained pottery dated broadly to 800 BC-AD 70. The primary fill was overlain by 0.22m depth of pale yellowish brown sandy-silt (6216), which was in turn overlain by 0.36m depth of firm reddish brown sandy-silt with some flint (6217). This upper fill was sampled <39> and contained pottery dated broadly to the Iron Age (800 BC-AD 70; although some material may be Late Iron Age, 100 BC-AD 70) as well as animal bone.

Ditch [6204] appeared to be part of the northeastern extent of the enclosure identified on the geophysical survey.

Trench 64

Trench 64 was targeted at the northwest-southeast aligned feature whose northerly extent was within Trench 60.

The trench contained a single linear feature [6404]. This feature was aligned northwest-southeast and was 1.12m wide and 0.41m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The fill of the feature (6409) comprised mid reddish brown silty-sand with some flint inclusions. This deposit contained some pottery broadly dating 100 BC-AD 70/100 and Roman CBM.

The position of this ditch corresponded directly with the geophysical evidence.

Some other features were investigated in the trench but deemed to be natural in origin.

Trench 67

Trench 67 was located southwest of Trench 64. Two pits [6704] and [6705] were observed at the northern end of the trench.

Pit [6704] measured 0.40m by 0.30m at the top and was 0.19m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The pit was filled with (6706) a deposit of pale grey silty-sand with chalk and gravel inclusions.

Pit [6705] was 0.58m long by 0.30m wide and 0.25m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. This pit was filled with deposits of pale greyish brown silty-sand (6707) with some flint inclusions, and a small amount of CBM initially mis-identified as pot. This fill was sampled <41>.

No evidence was found for the continuation of the ditch observed in Trench 64.

Trench 69

Trench 69 contained three linear features [6905], [6906] and [6907] and a pit [6908].

On the westerly side of the trench ditch [6905] was northwest-southeast aligned, 2.3m wide and 0.76m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The base of the ditch was filled with (6910) which comprised 0.16m depth of mid reddish brown silty-sand with frequent small flint inclusions. Deposit (6910) was overlain by up to 0.52m depth of a very similar deposit (6911), which was in turn overlain in the top of the ditch by a deposit of greyish brown silty-sand (6912). Residual flint shatter was retrieved from (6911).

Towards the centre of the trench ditch [6906] truncated the western side of [6907].

Ditch [6906] was 1.08m wide and 0.22m deep being aligned northwest-southeast with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch was filled with mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional flint inclusions (6913).

Ditch [6907] partially truncated the easterly side of [6906]. This ditch was 0.48m wide and 0.28m deep extending northwest-southeast for 0.36m to a terminus within the trench. This ditch was filled with (6914) which was similar to (6913).

Pit [6908] was sub-circular being 0.30m long by 0.26m wide by 0.26m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (6909) of the pit was again as per (6913) and (6914).

No dating evidence was retrieved from the features in this trench.

There was no geophysical evidence for archaeological activity in this area.

Trench 71

Trench 71 was located on the western side of the area and contained a northwest-southeast aligned gully [7104] towards the westerly end of the trench. This gully was 0.28m wide and just 0.04m deep. The gully was filled with pale reddish brown silty-sand (7105). No dating evidence was retrieved from the feature.

Trench 72

Trench 72 was located at the southwestern extent of the BA3 and contained a sub-circular pit [7204]. This pit measured 1.06m by 0.99m at the top and was 0.35m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (7206) comprised loosely compacted reddish brown sandy silt. Some pottery was retrieved from this fill which was dated to the LIA/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD 70/100) and a sample <44> taken.

Trench 76

Trench 76 contained a cluster of three small sub-circular pits: [7604], [7606] and [7608] towards the centre of the trench.

Pit [7604] measured 0.53m by 0.45m at the surface and was 0.39m deep. This pit was backfilled with friable dark grey sandy-silt with charcoal inclusions.

Pit [7605] measured 0.53m by 0.34m at the top and was just 0.13m deep with a concave base. The fill (7608) comprised loosely compacted yellowish brown sandy-silt with some flint inclusions.

Pit [7606] measured 0.50m by 0.36m by 0.16m deep with a concave base. This pit was filled with friable pale grey-brown sandy-silt with some flint inclusions.

Trench 77

Towards the edge of BA3 Trench 77 contained nine features including seven linear features [7704], [7705], [7708], [7709], [7710] and [7711]/[7721], and two postholes [7706] and [7707]. All are likely associated with a rectangular enclosure to the northeast seen in the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch terminus [7704] was located at the western end of the trench and was oriented southeast–northwest terminating to the northwest. The ditch was not identified on the geophysical survey and did not appear to line up with any features in the adjacent trenches. It measured a minimum of 0.99m in length by 0.46m in width with a depth of 0.23m. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single undated fill (7712) which consisted of a soft dark greyish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint.

Ditch [7705] was located towards the middle of the trench and was orientated northwest–southeast. The ditch was again not identified on the geophysical survey and is not seen to line up with any feature in adjacent trenches. It measured a maximum of 0.70m in width with a depth of 0.06m, with gradually sloping sides down to a concave base. It was filled with undated firm light reddish brown silty-sand (7713) with frequent chalk fragments.

Postholes [7706] and [7707] were located to the east of ditch [7705]. Posthole [7706] measured a maximum of 0.77m in length by 0.22m in width with a depth of 0.06m, with gradually sloping sides down to a concave base. It was filled with soft light yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint (7714). Posthole [7707] measured a maximum of 0.45m in length by 0.33m in width with a depth of 0.32m, with steep sides and a concave base. The upper fill (7716) was 0.19m thick and consisted of soft light greyish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint. Below this (7715) was 0.13m thick and consisted of firm dark blueish grey silty-sand with frequent sub-angular flint. Both postholes were devoid of finds.

Ditches [7708] and [7709] were located towards the eastern end of the trench, with [7709] forming the corner of the enclosed area.

Ditch [7708] was orientated northeast-southwest whilst [7709] was orientated northwest–southeast and turns the corner to the southwest. Both ditches appeared to form part of a small enclosure not identified on the geophysical survey.

Ditch [7708] measured a maximum of 0.58m in width with a depth of 0.24m and had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with soft light reddish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and frequent chalk fragments (7717).

Ditch [7709] measured a maximum of 0.76m in width with a depth of 0.27m, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with soft light yellowish brown

silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments (7718). This fill contained animal bone, glass and two sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Ditches [7711]/[7721] and [7710] were located at the eastern end of the trench. Ditch [7711]/[7721] was orientated northwest-southeast, whilst [7710] was orientated northeast-southwest and appeared to truncate the northwestern edge of ditch [7721]. Neither ditch was identified on the geophysical survey.

Ditches [7711]/[7721] was excavated in two interventions and measured 1.66 in width with a depth of 0.55m and had steep convex sides with a concave base. The ditch was filled with soft light yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint (7720) and contained pottery broadly dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period 100 BC-AD 70/100 and some Roman CBM.

Ditch [7710] measured a maximum of 0.25m in width with a depth of 0.17m, with concave sloping sides and a concave base. The sole, undated, fill (7719) consisted of soft mid reddish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and chalk fragments.

Trench 78

Located on the eastern edge of the south side of BA3 the trench contained a single ditch [7804].

Ditch [7804] was located at the eastern end of the trench and was orientated northeast-southwest. The ditch appears to be on the same alignment as a ditch in Trench 77 but was not identified on the geophysical survey. It measured a maximum of 0.75m in width with a depth of 0.65m, with steep convex sides and a concave base. The feature had two fills (7805) and (7806). The upper fill (7806) was 0.65m thick and consisted of a firm light yellowish brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments. The lower fill (7805) was 0.35m thick and consisted of firm brownish grey silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments and some animal bone and CBM.

Trench 79

Trench 79 revealed part of the northern branch of a Roman trackway/road which had not been identified in the geophysical survey but whose southern extent can be seen to the south in BA2. Previous Albion Archaeological work (Albion Archaeology 2009) along the same trackway just southeast of BA2/3 revealed very similar features and also identified different sections of both the northern and southern branches of a Roman trackway.

Trackway [7904] was located at the western end of the trench and was orientated northwest-southeast. It was up to 4.60m in width with a depth of 0.26m. The feature had irregular sloping sides and an uneven base and was filled with firm light yellowish brown silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments (7907). The uneven base may be evidence for cart-ruts being carved into the base. The feature was undated. A similar feature [9607] was revealed to the south in BA2.

Trench 84

Located in the southeastern corner of BA3, Trench 84 contained a pit [8404] and a posthole [8406] both located in the middle of the trench.

Pit [8404] was sub-circular in plan and did not correspond to any features on the geophysical survey. It measured a maximum of 0.74m long by 0.36m wide and was 0.12m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The pit was filled with undated soft dark greyish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint (8405).

Posthole [8406] was located northwest of [8404] and was sub-circular in plan. It measured a maximum of 0.48m in width in length by 0.34m in width with a depth of 0.16m and had steeply sloping sides with a concave base. It was filled with soft dark greyish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint (8407).

Zone BA2 (Trenches 87–105) (Figure 6)

Trench 95 was descope whilst Trenches 89, 91-94, 98 and 100-102 were all devoid of archaeology. Nine trenches, 50% of the trenches excavated, contained archaeological remains (Table 7). Trench 104 contained LIA/Early Roman evidence whilst trenches 96, 97 and 98 all contained evidence dated to the Roman period. Trench 90 contained a single sherd of medieval pottery.

Table 7 Zone BA2 Trenches with Archaeology

Trench	Dimensions	Orientation	Depth of topsoil (m)	Depth to natural (m)	Archaeology dating
87	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.25	0.7	Undated
88	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.25	0.4	Undated
90	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.24	0.5	medieval
96	50 x 1.8	E-W	0.2	0.4	Roman
97	50 x 1.8	N-S	0.27	0.55	Roman
99	50 x 1.8	NE-SW	0.25	0.5	Roman
103)	50 x 1.8	NE-SW	0.33	0.7	Undated
104	25 x 1.8	E-W	0.25	0.4	LIA/Early Roman
105	25 x 1.8	N-S	0.28	0.7	Undated

Trench 87

Located on the northern edge of BA2 this trench was moved to the southwest to avoid constraints. The trench revealed two features, a ditch [8704] and a pit [8706].

Ditch [8704] was located at the eastern end of the trench and was orientated northeast–southwest. The ditch measured a maximum of 0.30m in width with a depth of 0.09m and had steep straight sides with a flat base. It contained a single undated fill (8707) which consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint.

Pit [8706] was located towards the western end of the trench and was oval in plan. This feature did not appear on the geophysical survey.

The pit measured a minimum of 1.40m in length by 0.60m in width up to the trench edge with a depth of 0.45m. The pit had steep sides and an uneven base. The feature had three undated fills (8708), (8709) and (8710). Upper fill (8710) was 0.23m thick and consisted of a firm mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint. Middle fill (8709) was 0.19m thick and consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty sand

with occasional sub-angular flint. Lower fill (8708) was 0.23m thick and consisted of firm light brownish grey silty-sand with occasional sub-rounded flint.

Trench 88 (Figure 21)

Located towards the northwestern corner of BA2 the trench targeted a ring ditch anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was split into two to avoid a fence line. A curvilinear feature [8804] was revealed in the trench (Figure 21).

Ditch [8804] was located at the southern end of the trench and orientated east-west. It measured a maximum of 2.30m in width with a depth of 0.70m and had steep convex sides down to a flat base. The feature had two undated fills (8808) and (8807). Upper fill (8808) was 0.36m thick and consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and moderate chalk fragments. Lower fill (8807) was 0.34m thick and consisted of firm mid brownish grey silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and moderate chalk fragments.

Trench 90 (Figure 21)

Located towards the northwestern corner of BA2 Trench 90 targeted another ring ditch anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. A single curvilinear ring ditch [9004] was revealed in the trench (Figure 21).

Ditch [9004] was located at the eastern end of the trench and was orientated north-south as identified on the geophysical survey. The same ring ditch was not revealed in adjacent Trench 89 as expected from the geophysical survey. The ditch measured a maximum of 4.40m in width with a depth of 0.18m and had convex sides with a flat base. The ditch contained a single fill (9005) which consisted of a firm mid greyish brown silty-sand with moderate sub-angular flint. Some fired clay initially interpreted as pottery was recovered from this fill. A single (intrusive?) sherd of abraded medieval pottery dated to the 11th to 12th century was also recovered. This fill was sampled <58> and selected for assessment. The sample contained small amounts of charred seed and charred wood as well as some untransformed seed. Remains of small mammal bone, insect and mollusc remains were also found within the sample.

Trench 96

Located at the centre of the northeastern edge of BA2 Trench 96 was one of three trenches that targeted the remains of the southern extent of the potential Roman trackway/road identified in the geophysical survey. Previous Albion Archaeology work conducted in 2009 along the same trackway just southeast of BA2 revealed very similar features (Figure 19; Albion Archaeology 2009). The trench revealed a total of three linear features which included a ditch [9604], a possible cart rut [9605] and a possible sunken trackway [9606] with possible evidence of further cart ruts in the base all concentrated towards the eastern end of the trench.

Roadside ditch [9604] was located towards the eastern end of the trench and was orientated northwest-southeast (Plate 11). The ditch appears to be on the same alignment as identified on the geophysical survey. The ditch measured a maximum of 3.06m in width with a depth of 0.80m, with gradually sloping convex sides and a concave base. The feature had two fills, (9608) and (9609). Upper fill (9608) was 0.40m thick and consisted of a firm mid reddish brown silty-sand. Lower fill (9609) was 0.40m thick and consisted of firm light yellowish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. Fill [9608] contained animal bone and pottery dated AD 40-100. The ditch was located on the southwestern edge of the hypothesised Roman trackway/road and was probably used for roadside drainage.

Possible cart rut [9605] located on the northeastern edge of ditch [9604] was orientated

northwest–southeast (

Plate 12). It measured a maximum of 0.96m in width and had a depth of 0.20m, with irregular sides and a flat base. The fill (9611) consisted of a friable orangey brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. Previous Albion Archaeology work conducted in 2009 along the same trackway, just southeast of BA2, revealed very similar features (Albion Archaeology 2009).

Possible sunken trackway [9607] was located at the eastern end of the trench and was orientated northwest–southeast as identified on the geophysical survey (Plate 13). The feature measured a maximum of 5.04m in width with a depth of 0.26m, with gradual sloping sides and an uneven base. The fill (9610) comprised firm mid orangey brown silty sand with frequent sub-angular flint. The uneven base may have been caused by multiple cart-ruts.

Plate 11 Section through roadside ditch [9604], looking north (3m scale)



Plate 12 Section through cart rut [9605], looking northwest (1m scale)



Plate 13 Section through trackway [9607], looking south (3m scale)



Trench 97

Trench 97 was in the centre of BA2 and contained two ditches, [9706] and [9707].

Ditch [9706] was located towards the southern end of the trench and was orientated northwest-southeast. This ditch was not identified on the results of the geophysical survey and does not appear in any other trench. It measured a maximum of 0.60m in width with a depth of 0.10m and had gradually sloping sides with a concave base. It contained a single fill (9708) which consisted of a soft light brownish grey silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments and contained animal bone and Roman CBM.

Ditch [9707] was located at the southern end of the trench and was orientated east-west. The ditch was not identified on the results of the geophysical survey and does not appear in any other trench. It measured a maximum of 0.95m in width with a depth of 0.15m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single undated fill (9709) which consisted of a soft light brownish grey silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments.

Trench 99 (Figure 20)

Located at the centre of the northeastern edge of BA2 Trench 99 (Figure 20) was one of three trenches targeted at the remains of the southern branch of a Roman trackway/road identified in the geophysical survey and in the work by Albion Archaeology (Albion Archaeology 2009) which revealed very similar features. The trench revealed six linear features which included a ditch [9907], three drainage ditches [9904], [9908] and [9909], and two possible cart ruts [9905] and [9906] concentrated in the middle of the trench.

Parallel drainage ditches [9904], [9908] and [9909] were all located in the middle of the trench and orientated northwest-southeast. Ditches [9908] and [9909] had similar measurements ranging from 1.10m-1.48m in width with depths ranging from 0.44-0.52m, with steep sides and concave bases. Ditch [9904] the south-westerly of the three was shallower measuring 0.74m in width by 0.24m in depth with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Both ditches [9904] and [9909] had similar single fills (9910)

and (9916) respectively, consisting of a soft to firm light yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Middle ditch [9908] differed by having two fills (9915) and (9917). Upper fill (9917) was 0.26m thick and consisted of a soft light yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional chalk fragments. Lower fill (9915) was 0.26m thick and consisted of firm yellowish white silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. These ditches were found on the northeastern edge of the postulated Roman trackway/road.

Cart ruts [9905] and [9906] were located in between roadside ditch [9907] and drainage ditches [9904], [9908] and [9909]. They were all orientated northwest-southeast. Cart-rut [9905] measured a maximum of 1.20m presumably widened over time through use, and had a depth of 0.19m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Cart-rut [9906] immediately to the west was 0.25m in width with a depth of 0.20m, with steep sides and a flat base. Both features contained similar single fills (9911) and (9912) respectively, consisting of soft light yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and chalk fragments. Fill (9911) contained animal bone and CBM. Similar features were interpreted as cart ruts during Albion Archaeology's work in 2009 (Albion Archaeology 2009).

Roadside ditch [9907] was located to the west of the rest of the features in the trench and was orientated northwest-southeast. The ditch appears to be on the same alignment as identified on the geophysical survey with ditches in Trench 96 and 103. It measured a maximum of 2.26m in width with a depth of 0.76m, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. The feature had two fills (9913) and (9914). Upper fill (9914) was 0.38m thick and consisted of a friable light yellowish brown silty-sand with occasional sub-angular flint and chalk fragments. Lower fill (9913) was 0.38m thick and consisted of firm light yellowish brown silty-sand with frequent chalk fragments. Both fills contained animal bone whilst upper fill (9914) also contained Roman pottery dated to AD 50–200 and a Roman stylus F5. This ditch was found on the southwestern edge of the postulated Roman trackway/road possibly serving as drainage.

Trench 103

Located at the eastern edge of BA2 Trench 103 was again one of the three trenches that targeted the remains of the Roman trackway/road.

The trench revealed two ditches [10304] and [10305]. These ditches [10304] were located in the middle of the trench and were orientated northwest-southeast. As these two ditches were considered the continuation of ditches already investigated in the adjacent trenches 96 and 99, they were not excavated in this trench. The ditches are hypothesised as roadside/trackway drainage ditches that run alongside the southern extent of the Roman trackway/road.

Trench 104

Trench 104 was located at the at the southeastern edge of BA2. The trench revealed remains of ditch [10404].

Ditch [10404] was located at the western end of the trench and was orientated northeast-southwest. The ditch was not identified on the geophysical survey but appears to be on the same alignment as a ditch in Trench 105. It measured a maximum of 0.75m in width with a depth of 0.12m, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (10405) which consisted of a soft light brownish grey silty sand with moderate chalk fragments. This fill contained one body sherd from a LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessel (GRM), broadly dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (100 BC-AD70/100).

Trench 105

Trench 105 was located at the at the southeastern edge of BA2 having been moved from its original location to the northeast due to constraints. The trench contained ditch [10506].

Ditch [10506] was located at the northern end of the trench and was orientated northeast-southwest. The ditch also appeared to split into two directions towards the southwestern edge of the trench. The ditch was not identified on the results of the geophysical survey but appears to be on the same alignment as a ditch in Trench 104. The ditch measured a maximum of 0.60m in width with a depth of 0.25m and had gradually sloping sides with a concave base. The fill (10507) consisted of a soft light brownish grey silty-sand with moderate chalk fragments and did not contain any dateable finds.

6 FINDS

6.1 Flint

Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

Worked flint

One flake from (409) of LIA/Early Roman ditch [404] <6>, one blade from fill (1407) of LIA/Early Roman ditch [1404] and one piece of shatter from fill (6911) of undated ditch [6905] were recovered as residual finds from later features.

Methodology

The artefacts were all either recovered by hand during the excavation or recovered during processing of the environmental samples. All objects were macroscopically examined and assessed. Classification of technology and typology followed Butler (2005). A catalogue was generated on an MS Access spreadsheet. Notes were made on technological characteristics, tool form, date, the raw material, and the condition (burning, patination and edge damage) as far as possible. Further comments were also made as appropriate.

Catalogue

Flake –The flake from (409) sample <6> measures 48mm long by 32mm wide and weights 10.69g. The raw material is a flint that is fully patinated white. The cortex is a light brown colour. The condition of the flake is good with occasional nicks to the edges. The flake has a step termination and a cortical striking platform.

Blade– The proximal point of blade from (1407) measures 33mm long by 18mm wide and weighs 4.09g. the raw material is a dark grey vitreous flint with a light brown cortex on almost half of the dorsal surface. The condition of the blade is good with occasional nicks to the edges. The non-cortical lateral edge indicates that the blade may have been utilised; there are small patinated removals.

Shatter–The shatter from (6911) measures 14mm long by 16mm wide and weighs 0.81g. The raw material is a mid brown-grey vitreous flint. The condition of the blade is good with occasional nicks to the edges.

Discussion

The characteristics of the worked flint are not directly dateable but could range between the early Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

No further work on the flint assemblage is recommended.

6.2 Prehistoric and Roman pottery

Claire Davey

Introduction

In total the Phase 1 evaluation produced 1216 sherds of hand-collected prehistoric and Roman pottery, plus 27 sherds recovered from seven wet-sieved environmental samples. The retrieval of the pottery followed the sampling and retention guidelines for the pottery set out in the WSI for the site (MOLA 2024a). The total site assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery is 1243 sherds.

This report outlines the methodology used and gives brief accounts of the total assemblage, it then gives a more detailed description of significant pottery by trench before summarising the potential and significance of the assemblage.

Methodology

The pottery from LNB24 was spot-dated using current Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) methods and standards, according to the guidance in A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Barclay et al 2016). This report conforms to the ClfA Toolkit for Specialist Reporting Advisory Checklist for a Type 2 specialist report (ClfA 2021), and procedures laid out in the ClfA Toolkit for Finds: pottery (ClfA 2024).

Taking into account the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group guidelines (PCRGR 2010), data was recorded in Microsoft Excel, using a structure that is directly compatible with MOLA's Oracle 12c database Pottery Recording Form. All sherds from environmental samples were recorded in the same spreadsheet as bulk sherds and included in the overall pottery quantification tables.

The assemblage was quantified by sherd count (SC), weight in grams (g), estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) and estimated number of vessels (EVE). Estimated number of vessels is calculated using the 'maximum number of vessels' method, discussed in Orton, Tyers and Vince (1993). Prehistoric pottery is often unevenly fired, therefore the total ENV is likely to be an overestimation. Other vessel characteristics such as rim type and location of decoration were recorded in the comments field when significant.

The pottery in this report potentially originates from the Late Bronze Age to the Late Roman period. Fabric and form codes developed for the recently published A14 large infrastructure project (Sutton et al, 2025) were used to describe and date the assemblage for multiple reasons, which are:

- No widely used Hertfordshire County type-series has been published.
- The form codes used to record the prehistoric period (Southern British Prehistoric series), are based on various other form code series that are frequently used for prehistoric pottery in this area – Brudenell (2012), Thompson (1982).
- The Roman period codes (South Cambridgeshire Roman series) incorporate regional fabrics and forms while also using the National Roman Fabric Collection series (Tomber and Dore, 1998) for more widely seen fabrics.

Reference is also made to the 'CAM series' pottery typology from Hawkes and Hull (1947).

Separated decoration codes were also used, taken from the A14 form series and supplemented by MOLA London decoration codes (MOLA, 2019). For a list of codes used see Table 8.

Table 8 Decoration codes used for LNB24 evaluation recording

BUD	burnished motifs
COMB	combed decoration
DEC	moulded decoration on samian wares
HPOF	post-firing holes
MPD	impressed decoration
NCD	incised decoration

RCD2	roughcast decoration with clay pellets
RLD	rilling
ROD	Rouletting
RUST	rusticated surfaces
WL	wavy line decoration

Because of the ambiguous dating of the shell-tempered wares, all sherds encountered have been recorded under the Roman fabric code ROB SH at this stage, even when they may be earlier than the Roman period, for example, the possibly handmade vessel from context [2718]. Fabrics seen are similar to wares from Harrold, Bedfordshire but further research is needed to establish when this industry and other local shell-tempering industries started production.

Previous work in the locality has recorded pottery using the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type series. A concordance table with the type series used in this report is detailed in Table 9.

Table 9 Concordance between the Southern British Prehistoric Series/South Cambridgeshire Roman Series codes and the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type series

PREHISTORIC FABRICS (British Southern Prehistoric Series)		Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (A505 Baldock Bypass)	
CAGRM	Grog-and-calcite-gritted fabric, medium	?F	Non-specific Iron Age
CASAF	Sand-and-calcite-gritted fabric, fine	F37	Fine calcareous mixed
CASAM	Sand-and-calcite-gritted fabric, medium	F30	Sand and calcareous inclusions
FLC	Flint-tempered fabric, coarse	F01A	Coarse flint
FLSAM	Sandy flint-tempered fabric, medium	F01C	Flint and quartz
GRC	Grog-tempered fabric, coarse	FO6C	Grog (coarse)
GRF	Grog-tempered fabric, fine	FO6A	Grog (fine)
GRM	Grog-tempered fabric, medium	FO6B	Grog (medium)
GROG/SAND/SHE LL		?F	Non-specific Iron Age
GRSAC	Sandy grog-tempered fabric, coarse	F03/F08	Grog and sand/Sand and grog
GRSAM	Sandy grog-tempered fabric, medium	F03/F09	Grog and sand/Sand and grog

GRSAF	Sandy grog-tempered fabric, fine	F03/F09	Grog and sand/Sand and grog
GRSHM	Shelly grog-tempered fabric, medium	FO5/F27	Grog and shell/Shell and grog
SAC	Sandy fabric, coarse	F29	Coarse sand
SAF	Sandy fabric, fine	F34	Sand
SAM	Sandy fabric, medium	F29	Coarse sand
SASHM	Sand-and-shell fabric, medium	(includes F18)	(Fine sand and shell)
SHF	Shelly fabric, fine	F07	Shell
SHM	Shelly fabric, medium	F07/F24	Shell/Buff shell
ROMAN FABRICS (South Cambridgeshire Roman Series)		Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (A505 Baldock Bypass)	
AMPH	Amphora (catch-all)	R19	Unidentified amphora
BLKSL	Misc. black-slipped ware	R06I	Black-slipped greyware
BUFF	Buff sandy ware	R10A	Coarse buff gritty
CC	Colour-coated ware (misc.)	R38	Unidentified colour coat
CSBLK	Coarse sandy greyware, black surface		
CSMRDU	Coarse sandy micaceous reduced ware (i.e. reduction-fired but not uniformly grey)		
CSGW	Coarse sandy greyware	R06B	Coarse greyware
CSOX	Coarse sandy oxidised ware	R05A	Orange sandy
CSRDU	Coarse sandy reduced ware (i.e. reduction-fired but not uniformly grey)		
FSGW	Fine sandy greyware	R06C	Fine greyware
FSMOX	Fine sandy micaceous oxidised ware		
FSMRDU	Fine sandy micaceous reduced ware (i.e. reduction-fired but not uniformly grey)	R06D	Micaceous greyware
FSOX	Fine sandy oxidised ware	RO5B	Fine orange
FSRDU	Fine sandy reduced ware (i.e. reduction-fired but not uniformly grey)		

GAB TN 1	Terra Nigra	R26	Terra Nigra
GAB TR	Terra Rubra	R39	Terra Rubra
GREYSLIP	Grey-slipped ware		
HAD OX	Hadham oxidised ware	R22A	Hadham oxidised
HAD RE 1	Hadham reduced ware	R22B	Hadham reduced
HGW RE C	Highgate Wood C ware		
LEZ SA2	Lezoux samian	R01A	Central Gaulish samian ware
LGF SA	La Graufesenque samian	R01B	South Gaulish samian ware
LMV SA	Les Martres-de-Veyre samian	R01A	Central Gaulish samian ware
LVN CC	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	R12B	Nene Valley colour coat
LVN WH	Nene Valley whiteware	R12A	Nene Valley mortaria
NOG WH	Gallo-Belgic white ware	R04B	Gallo-Belgic whiteware
OXF WH	Oxfordshire whiteware	R11E	Oxford mortaria (white)
ROB SH	Shell-tempered ware (NOT PRE)	R13	Shell
RS	Red-slipped ware		
SAM – R	Samian ware, unsourced	R01	Samian (source unknown)
SAND	Misc. sandy coarsewares (NOT PRE)		
VER WH	Verulamium whiteware	R03A	Verulamium whiteware
WS	White-slipped ware	R05D	Orange sandy (white slipped)
WW	Whiteware (catch-all)	R03B/R03C	Gritty/Smooth whiteware

Summary

The evaluation produced a total of 1243 sherds from 112 contexts, across 33 trenches, altogether weighing 20263g (20.3kg). The estimated number of vessels (ENV) is recorded as 845 (although as discussed above, this is likely to be an overestimation), and the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) from recorded rims is 31.52. Contexts containing pottery were recorded in a numerical sequence between (409) and (10405).

The mean sherd weight (MSW) is 16.3g, which is higher than some other sites with a similarly high proportion of grog-tempered vessels (for instance BYG/Z1-4 '24). This high mean sherd weight is probably as a result of the high number of storage vessels with large heavy thick rolled rims within the assemblage.

The assemblage produced nine new accessions, mostly vessels with post-firing holes under the rim, but there are also two sherds with possible graffiti, one of which shows modification around the edges.

At this stage there are no contexts where the pottery is thought to be totally residual although there are some contexts which contain both early and late Roman sherds, where the early sherds may be residual.

The majority (n=103) of contexts, produced small assemblages (fewer than 30 sherds) and nine contexts produced medium sized-assemblages (30–99 sherds). There are no large (100–499 sherds) or very large (more than 500 sherds) pottery assemblages.

Broken down by trench the largest amount of material from the site was recovered from Trench11 (almost 30% by weight and sherd count. Trenches 10 and 14 also produced significant amounts of pottery.

The site assemblage is summarised by period, trench, fabric and form in the following tables:

Table 10 LNB24 pottery quantification by period

PERIOD	Total sherd count (including samples)	% total sherd count	Total weight (g)	% total weight (g)	Total EVEs	% total EVEs	Total ENVs	% total ENVs
IA/R	22	2%	173	1%	0.15	<1%	14	2%
IA?	19	2%	155	1%	0.12	<1%	15	2%
LBA/EIA	2	<1%	12	<1%			2	<1%
LIA/ER	1038	84%	18358	91%	28.98	92%	714	84%
R	156	13%	1515	7%	2.27	7%	95	11%
R?	6	<1%	50	<1%			5	1%
Grand Total	1243	100%	20263	100%	31.52	100%	845	100%

Table 11 LNB24 pottery quantification by trench

TRENCH	Total sherd count (including samples)	% total sherd count	Total weight (g)	% total weight (g)	Total EVEs	% total EVEs	Total ENVs	% total ENVs
4	2	<1%	9	<1%			1	<1%
5	98	8%	1026	5%	1.11	4%	55	7%
7	26	2%	161	1%	0.13	<1%	4	<1%
8	51	4%	1259	6%	0.66	2%	31	4%
9	62	5%	1137	6%	0.93	3%	44	5%
10	150	12%	2283	11%	1.22	4%	101	12%
11	354	28%	5831	29%	1.79	6%	284	34%
12	107	9%	1494	7%	0.73	2%	77	9%

TRENCH	Total sherd count (including samples)	% total sherd count	Total weight (g)	% total weight (g)	Total EVEs	% total EVEs	Total ENVs	% total ENVs
13	54	4%	1258	6%	0.12	<1%	39	5%
14	88	7%	3251	16%	23.84	76%	49	6%
15	61	5%	938	5%	0.23	1%	41	5%
16	4	<1%	44	<1%			4	<1%
19	1	<1%	2	<1%			1	<1%
20	3	<1%	21	<1%	0.07	<1%	3	<1%
21	2	<1%	10	<1%			2	<1%
23	3	<1%	24	<1%			3	<1%
24	10	1%	173	1%	0.13	<1%	4	<1%
27	31	2%	321	2%	0.25	1%	25	3%
28	10	1%	59	<1%			7	1%
30	15	1%	46	<1%			1	<1%
32	12	1%	103	1%			3	<1%
33	10	1%	40	<1%			8	1%
43	5	<1%	11	<1%			3	<1%
48	1	<1%	7	<1%	0.07	<1%	1	<1%
60	10	1%	72	<1%			8	1%
61	41	3%	284	1%	0.13	<1%	21	2%
62	10	1%	59	<1%			7	1%
64	2	<1%	69	<1%			2	<1%
72	6	<1%	45	<1%			6	1%
77	1	<1%	161	1%			1	<1%
96	9	1%	32	<1%			5	1%
99	3	<1%	19	<1%	0.11	<1%	3	<1%
104	1	<1%	14	<1%			1	<1%
Grand Total	1243	100%	20263	100%	31.52	100%	845	100%

Table 12 LNB24 pottery quantification by fabric

FABRIC	Total sherd count (including samples)	% total sherd count	Total weight (g)	% total weight (g)	Total EVEs	% total EVEs	Total ENVs	% total ENVs
FLSAM	2	<1%	12	<1%			2	<1%

FABRIC		Total sherd count (including samples)	% total sherd count	Total weight (g)	% total weight (g)	Total EVEs	% total EVEs	Total ENVs	% total ENVs
PREHISTORIC FABRICS (British Southern Prehistoric Series)	GRC	84	7%	2950	15%	0.39	1%	70	8%
	GRF	4	<1%	10	<1%			2	<1%
	GRM	632	51%	9129	45%	3.31	11%	459	54%
	GRSAC	1	<1%	25	<1%			1	<1%
	GRSAF	1	<1%	23	<1%			1	<1%
	GRSAM	167	13%	1728	9%	0.66	2%	111	13%
	GRSHM	3	<1%	28	<1%	0.04	<1%	3	<1%
	SAC	6	<1%	63	<1%	0.06	<1%	5	1%
	SAF	1	<1%	6	<1%			1	<1%
	SAM	33	3%	246	1%	0.21	1%	22	3%
ROMAN FABRICS (South Cambridgeshire Roman Series)	AMPH	2	<1%	70	<1%			1	<1%
	BLKSL	4	<1%	23	<1%			3	<1%
	CC	1	<1%	1	<1%			1	<1%
	CSBLK	14	1%	74	<1%	0.19	1%	1	<1%
	CSGW	23	2%	303	1%	0.58	2%	19	2%
	CSMRDU	3	<1%	52	<1%			3	<1%
	CSOX	11	1%	154	1%	0.18	1%	5	1%
	CSRDU	2	<1%	11	<1%			1	<1%
	FSGW	9	1%	121	1%	0.05	<1%	8	1%
	FSMOX	1	<1%	10	<1%			1	<1%
	FSMRDU	1	<1%	1	<1%			1	<1%
	FSOX	21	2%	95	<1%	0.3	1%	6	1%
	FSRDU	4	<1%	36	<1%	0.06	<1%	3	<1%
	GAB TN 1	3	<1%	33	<1%	0.05	<1%	2	<1%
	GAB TR	11	1%	72	<1%	0.33	1%	4	<1%
	GREYSLIP	3	<1%	45	<1%	0.08	<1%	2	<1%
	HAD OX	6	<1%	61	<1%			2	<1%
	HAD RE 1	14	1%	74	<1%			8	1%
	HGW RE C	1	<1%	3	<1%			1	<1%
	LEZ SA2	4	<1%	22	<1%	0.06	<1%	4	<1%
	LGF SA	5	<1%	58	<1%	0.14	<1%	3	<1%
	LMV SA	1	<1%	2	<1%			1	<1%
	LNV CC	1	<1%	6	<1%			1	<1%
	LNV WH	1	<1%	55	<1%	0.07	<1%	1	<1%

FABRIC		Total sherd count (including samples)	% total sherd count	Total weight (g)	% total weight (g)	Total EVEs	% total EVEs	Total ENVs	% total ENVs
	NOG WH	10	1%	47	<1%	0.06	<1%	3	<1%
	OXF WH	2	<1%	129	1%	0.09	<1%	2	<1%
	ROB SH	123	10%	4267	21%	24.21	77%	59	7%
	RS	3	<1%	19	<1%	0.1	<1%	3	<1%
	SAM - R	5	<1%	11	<1%	0.06	<1%	5	1%
	SAND	3	<1%	36	<1%			2	<1%
	VER WH	11	1%	82	<1%	0.17	1%	6	1%
	WS	5	<1%	55	<1%	0.07	<1%	5	1%
	WW	1	<1%	15	<1%			1	<1%
	Grand Total	1243	100%	20263	100%	31.52	100%	845	100%

Table 13 LNB24 pottery quantification by form

	FORM	Total sherd count (including samples)	% total sherd count	Total weight (g)	% total weight (g)	Total EVEs	% total EVEs	Total ENVs	% total ENVs
PREHISTORIC FABRICS (British Southern Prehistoric Series)	BE1	6	3%	41	1%	0.27	1%	1	1%
	BE	2	1%	8	<1%	0.03	<1%	1	1%
	DI	1	1%	19	<1%			1	1%
	JA7	13	7%	217	4%	0.37	1%	6	6%
	JA15	4	2%	108	2%	0.09	<1%	1	1%
	JA16	1	1%	132	2%	0.13	<1%	1	1%
	JA20	44	22%	928	16%	1.79	6%	17	17%
	JA21	4	2%	290	5%	0.37	1%	3	3%
	JA22	18	9%	198	3%	0.25	1%	4	4%
	JA26	4	2%	65	1%			3	3%
	L4	1	1%	1	<1%	0.03	<1%	1	1%
ROMAN FABRICS (South Cambridgeshire Roman Series)	1	1	1%	4	<1%		<1%	1	1%
	2.1	1	1%	33	1%		<1%	1	1%
	3	7	4%	115	2%	0.54	2%	7	7%
	3.1	15	8%	148	3%			4	4%
	4.11	32	16%	2172	37%	23.66	81%	14	14%

FORM	Total sherd count (including samples)	% total sherd count	Total weight (g)	% total weight (g)	Total EVEs	% total EVEs	Total ENVs	% total ENVs
4.12 (?)	6	3%	323	6%	0.23	1%	6	6%
4.2	3	2%	108	2%	0.1	<1%	1	1%
4.4.1	5	3%	313	5%	0.48	2%	4	4%
4.5.1	3	2%	40	1%	0.13	<1%	1	1%
4.7	3	2%	34	1%	0.06	<1%	1	1%
6	8	4%	129	2%	0.14	<1%	5	5%
6B	2	1%	30	1%	0.12	<1%	2	2%
6D	1	1%	25	<1%			1	1%
6.1	1	1%	23	<1%	0.05	<1%	1	1%
6.12	2	1%	51	1%	0.17	1%	2	2%
6.5	1	1%	22	<1%	0.05	<1%	1	1%
7	2	1%	73	1%			2	2%
7.2	1	1%	55	1%	0.07	<1%	1	1%
7.3	1	1%	86	1%	0.09	<1%	1	1%
DRAG 18/31	2	1%	18	<1%	0.14	<1%	2	2%
Drag 37	1	1%	7	<1%			1	1%
Total	196	100%	5816	100%	29.36	100%	98	100%

The assemblage breakdown by period (Table 10) broadly shows that the main period of ceramic activity was during the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period (LIA/ER, c 100/50 BC–AD 70/100). This period is dated by the high proportion of characteristically “Aylesford-Swarling”/” Belgic”-type grog-tempered fabrics and forms, which make up over 85% of the total site assemblage by sherd count and over 90% of the total weight of the material.

Two trenches produced small, abraded sherds of sandy flint-tempered prehistoric pottery, thought to date to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (1200/1150–350/300 BC) or potentially earlier. This might suggest an element of residuality within this assemblage.

A small number of sherds date to the late Roman period (AD 200–410) although it is notable that often the majority of sherds from these contexts are characteristically earlier. This may mean LIA/ER grog may survive in this area longer than originally thought, or that early grog-tempered sherds may look like later grog-tempered sherds, or that later disturbance in these areas has occurred (see discussion).

Many sherds show evidence of abrasion, especially the softer grog-tempered fabrics and a significant number of the grog-tempered vessels have evidence of wear on their

internal surfaces. Certain contexts show high levels of burning and sooting on many sherds, making ENV hard to assess accurately.

Pottery by period/trench

Trench 4

Lower fill (409) of ditch [404] produced a small amount of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessels (GRN) vessels, broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 5

The upper fill (513) of ditch [504] contained a small group of typically LIA/ER sherds, from medium grog-tempered (GRM) or medium sandy grog-tempered (GRSAM) vessels, but this context dates slightly later, AD 120–200, from the presence of one small sherd from a probable Lezoux samian (LEZ SA2 DEC) decorated bowl.

Fill (514) of ditch [506] produced sherds typical of Roman production, including a La Graufesenque samian Dragendorff 18/31 shallow dish (LGF SA Drag 18/31) and a possible sherd of Highgate Wood C ware (HGW RE C), but the assemblage dates slightly later, AD 150–200, from three sherds from a Verulamium whiteware bifid rim globular jar (VER WH 4.7). There is also one sherd from a Lower Nene Valley reeded rim mortaria (LNV WH 7.2), dating post-AD 150, reinforcing the later date.

Lower fill (515) of ditch [508] was one of the most interesting contexts from the site producing a medium-sized assemblage containing a high proportion of imported wares, largely of Gallo-Belgic origin. Identifiable forms include a Gallo-Belgic white ware butt beaker with rouletted decoration (NOG WH 3.1 ROD), three Terra Rubra vessels, one a girth beaker (GAB TR BE1), the base of a Terra Nigra dish (GAB TN 1) and the base of a red slipped dish with rouletted decoration (?GAB TR DI), which may be a coarse Terra Rubra fabric or perhaps an unusual Pompeian red ware fabric (MOLA code PRW), which needs further identification. There are also two handle sherds from a small amphora with round cross-section handles (AMPH). Locally produced grog-tempered wares were also present, including a coarse grog-tempered storage jar with a rolled rim (GRC 4.11) but the imports date this assemblage AD 0–70.

Upper fill (516) of [508] produced one base sherd from a LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessel (GRM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 7

Fill (715) of ditch [707] produced one sherd from a LIA/ER medium sandy grog-tempered vessel (GRSAM). Fill (716) from ditch [712] produced a small group of sherds from coarse and medium grog-tempered vessels (GRC, GRM). These sherds date these contexts broadly, 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Fill (721) of ditch [705] contained eight sherds from a GRM necked jar (JA20), dating 100 BC–AD 75.

Trench 8

Fill (807) of ditch [805] dates to the broad Roman period (AD 40–410) from one small fine sandy reduced ware beaker sherd (FSRDU 3), possibly an early Roman poppy-head beaker from north Kent.

Fill (809) of ditch [804] produced sherds from coarse grog-tempered vessels with rilled or rusticated surfaces (GRC RLD/RUST), probable storage vessels, and two medium

sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRSAM), one a possible bowl and the other an everted rim jar with rippled shoulder (JA21), dating this context 100 BC–AD 70. Fill (810) from the same feature produced a small assemblage of similarly dated sherds, as did fill (811), also from the same linear feature, producing sherds from a GRSAM necked jar (JA20) and a medium grog-tempered everted rim storage jar with body-combing (GRM JA16 RLD) and necked jar (JA20). However, there are a few sherds from more typically Roman vessels including a Hadham oxidised ware vessel (HAD OX), dating this assemblage AD 40–70.

Trench 9

Fills (908) and (909) of ditch segment [907] date similarly, 100 BC–AD 75, both containing medium grog-tempered necked jars (GRM JA20) and body sherds from medium sandy grog-tempered and coarse grog-tempered storage vessels with riling (GRSAM and GRC RLD). Both also produced sherds from a shell-tempered vessel (ROB SH) with very smooth, possibly worn, internal surfaces suggesting a probable vessel link between these two contexts. Upper fill (910) produced similar sherds as above, but may date slightly later from the presence of one small sherd that could be from a vessel with a more 'Romanised' fabric, although at this stage it is broadly dated 100 BC–AD 70/100. Fill (917) of ditch [904] produced similar sherds and is dated similarly.

Other linear features in this trench produced sherds from more typically Roman vessels. Fill (913) of ditch [906] produced a single sherd from a white-slipped vessel (WS), fill (914) of ditch [906] contained sherds from black-slipped (BLKSL) and fine sandy reduced (FSRDU) vessels and a single coarse sandy greyware (CSGW) sherd was excavated from fill (916) of ditch [905]/[920]. These sherds date these contexts to the Roman period, AD 40–410.

A coarse sandy oxidised ware globular jar with a rolled rounded rim and rilled surface (CSOX 4.5.1 RLD) from fill (921) of ditch segment [918] dates slightly later, AD 50–410.

Fill (923) of ditch [919] dates a little more narrowly, AD 75–130, from the presence of a possible burnt CSOX reed-rimmed carinated bowl (6.12). This context also produced a coarse sandy greyware (CSGW) base sherd with possible graffiti on the underside.

Trench 10

Fill (1012) of ditch [1004] produced a medium-sized assemblage containing multiple medium grog-tempered and sandy grog-tempered necked jars (GRM, GRSAM JA20) including a one with a post-firing hole (HPOF <*>) under the rim. This context dates to 50 BC–AD 100 from the presence of a GRM everted rim jar with body-combing (JA15 WL).

Fill (1013) of ditch [1008] and terminus fills 1016) and (1019) of [1015], and (1020) and (1021) of [1005] as well as fill (1027) of pit [1025] all produced body sherds from GRM or GRSAM vessels, broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100. Ditch fill (1030) dates similarly, although it also produced some ambiguous sandy fabrics such as a coarse sand-tempered vessel (SAC) which looks slightly more Iron Age in character.

Terminus fill (1023) of ditch [1024] produced another GRM JA20 with a HPOF (<*>) below the rim, dating 100 BC–AD 75. Pit fill (1026) of pit [1025] dates similarly, 100 BC–AD 70, from one sherd from a GRM pedestal urn (JA26).

Fill (1028) of ditch [1024] contained another GRM JA20, and a fine sandy micaceous oxidised ware vessel (FSMOX) with another HPOF (<*>). This context dates AD 0–75 by the presence of a medium sand-tempered pedestal urn (SAM 2.1) base fragment, an earlier LIA form in a more 'Romanising' fabric. There are some sandy sherds that

may date post-conquest, but they are small and ambiguous. However fill (1029) from same feature produced GRM sherds and a coarse sandy grey ware sherd (CSGW) that is characteristically Roman, resulting in a AD 40–100 date for this context.

Trench 11

Fill (1115) of pit [1104] contained multiple diagnostic vessels including a coarse grog-tempered storage jar with rolled rim (GRC 4.11) and a shell-tempered ovoid lid-seated jar (ROB SH JA7) but dates AD 50–80 from the presence of a fine sandy grey ware butt beaker with overlapping horizontal and vertical burnished lines in a grid pattern (FSGW 3.1 BUD).

A small fragment from a medium sandy grog-tempered conical lid (GRSAM L4) dates pit fill (1117) of [1105] to 100 BC–AD 75.

Ditch fills (1119) and (1122) of [1112] contained small fragments from an unsourced samian vessel (SAM - R) with an unusual form. Further identification would be instructive. This vessel dates (1119) to AD 40–260, but (1122) is dated AD 240–260 as it also produced one fragment from an Oxfordshire whiteware wall-sided mortarium (OXF WH 7.3). As this sherd dates a lot later to the other sherds in this context, it is possible some disturbance might have taken place, probably by the later ditch recut causing a mixing of assemblages.

Posthole fill (1121) of posthole [1108] produced one sherd from a GRSAM vessel, broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Fill (1123) of ditch [1113] is dated similarly 100 BC–AD 70, as the forms it contained are only broadly datable. These include a medium grog-tempered necked jar (GRM JA20), an everted rim jar with rippled shoulder (JA21) and a GRC 4.11. One tiny sherd from a possible 'Romanised' fine sandy grey ware (FSGW) may be able to narrow the date to the post-conquest period.

The medium-sized assemblage from ditch fill (1124) produced more typical GRM and GRC vessels, including another GRC 4.11 and a GRM vessel with a post-firing hole (HPOF <*>), and broadly dates 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Fill (1129) of boundary ditch [1126] produced the largest context by sherd count from this site, but is quite broadly dated, 100 BC–AD 70, as vessel forms present are typical of the LIA/ER period. These include a GRM necked jar with exaggerated neck cordons (JA22) and pedestal urn (JA26), a GRC 4.11 and another GRM vessel with HPOF (<*>). A high proportion of the sherds within this context were noted as showing signs of burning.

Linear fill (1130) of boundary ditch [1127], also produced a medium-sized assemblage of similar vessel types as seen in (1129), including a GRM imitation of a CAM 21 platter/dish (6D). This context dates similarly to (1129), 100 BC–AD 70.

Fill (1132) of ditch recut [1128] produced a medium sand-tempered sherd (SAM) and a ROB SH sherd, both with vessel links to (1130), although this context dates slightly later, AD 40–100, as it also contained a possible Roman FSGW beaker with rouletted decoration (3 ROD).

Fill (1131) of [1128] yielded similarly typical LIA/ER burnt jars as seen in the other contexts from this trench, but dates AD 0–70 as it also contained five sherds from a Gallo-Belgic white ware butt beaker with rouletted decoration (NOG WH 3.1 ROD).

Trench 12

The pottery from fill (1210) of ditch [1205] is tentatively dated AD 0–70, from one small red-slipped ware sherd (RS). The rest of the vessels from this context are typically LIA/ER medium grog-tempered or sandy grog-tempered wares (GRM/GRSAM), which broadly date 100 BC–AD 70/100, which is also the date given to the assemblages from linear fill (1213) of [1206], ditch fill (1219) of ditch recut [1214] and pit fill (1221) of [1218] as the same pottery types are present.

Fill (1217) of [1207] dates broadly to the Roman period, AD 40–410, from the presence of a coarse sandy grey ware bowl/dish (CSGW 6), a fine sandy grey ware bowl (FSGW 6B) and two sherds from a Hadham reduced ware vessel (HAD RE 1).

Fill (1222) of quarry cut [1215] dates AD 0–70, from a medium grog-tempered butt beaker with fine rouletting (GRM 3.1 ROD). This assemblage also includes a medium sand-tempered ovoid lid-seated jar (SAM JA7 NCD) with distinctive incised grooves on the outside rim, deforming the outer rim edge, which is similar to a Thompson form C5-2 with 'slashed rim', but with perhaps a blunter tool used for the rim decoration. Similar forms have been recorded from previous excavations at Baldock (Stead and Rigby 1986, 274).

Pit fills (1225) and (1227) from the same pit cut include seven small sherds from three very similar JA7 rims with incised rim decoration, recorded in SAM, GRSAM and shell-tempered (ROB SH) fabrics. Fill (1225) dates AD 50–70 as it produced four sherds from three HAD RE 1 vessels and one sherd from a Terra Nigra dish with moulding on the exterior (GAB TN 1 6.5) and the medium sized assemblage from fill (1227) dates AD 50–100 from one small sherd of unsourced samian ware (SAM - R), although if it is La Graufesenque samian, it could date as early as AD 20. The fill also contained a small amount of fired clay initially mis-identified as pot.

The assemblage from fill (1229) of quarry cut [1215] is tentatively dated AD 40–100 from the few sherds of 'Romanised' sandy fabrics present, such as CSGW and fine sandy oxidised ware (FSOX) together with the more common grog-tempered fabrics.

Trench 13

Fill (1309) of ditch [1308] dates AD 40–100, from one very small coarse sandy micaceous reduced ware (CSMRDU) sherd thought to be characteristically Roman together with medium grog-tempered sherds (GRM).

Fill (1314) of ditch [1312] dates to the late Roman period, AD 240–410, from the presence of one sherd from an Oxford whiteware mortarium (OXF WH 7), with plenty of rose quartz grits left. The other sherds within this assemblage are more typically LIA/ER grog-tempered vessels (GRM), suggesting later disturbance may have taken place in this area.

Fill (1317) of ditch [1305] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessels (GRM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Terminus fill (1321) of [1318] produced one small shell-tempered base sherd (ROB SH). Wear on the interior makes it hard to tell if the vessel is handmade or wheelmade, so has currently been dated very widely as Iron Age or Roman, 800 BC–AD 410.

Terminus fill (1322) of the same ditch contained one GRM sherd, and is dated 100 BC–AD 70/100, but more research on this vessel would be worthwhile as it may be linked to a similar distinctive vessel seen in (2407). These vessels have deep vertical combed external surfaces and two layers of distinct thick deposits on the exterior surface, at least one being a possible ?salt precipitate, although it extends over the break. This vessel maybe linked to the salt making industry or similar processes.

The assemblage from terminus (1323) also of [1318] dates AD 130–410, from one small Nene Valley colour-coated ware sherd (LNV CC), although the other sherds within this context are more typically LIA/ER grog-tempered vessels (e.g. GRM).

Fill (1328) recorded as an equivalent fill of ditch [1305] produced a small assemblage of body LIA/ER sherds from GRM and ROB SH vessels, broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100. Also present is a distinctive possibly wheelmade medium sand-tempered vessel (SAM) with burnished lines above the base that has the potential narrow the date if a parallel can be found.

Trench 14

Fill (1407) of ditch [1404] and fills (1409), (1410) and (1411) all of [1405] produced small assemblages of body sherds from LIA/ER medium and coarse grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRC), and shell-tempered vessels (ROB SH) broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100. A small amount of fired clay initially mis-identified as pot was also retrieved from this context.

The assemblage from linear fill (1412) of the same feature is very similar and has been given a similar date, 100 BC–AD 100, from a shell-tempered ovoid lid-seated jar with rilled decoration and possible incised decoration on the rim (ROB SH JA7 NCD RLD).

The medium sized assemblage from fill (1413) of pit [1406] includes some typically Roman sherds including one probable Verulamium whiteware sherd (VER WH), although with unusually ill-sorted inclusions. This, and a small sherd of Lezoux samian (LEZ SA2) dates this group AD 120–200, even though there are a few possibly earlier GRM sherds present.

A coarse sandy grey ware shallow straight-sided dish (CSGW 6.10) and a small unsourced samian ware sherd (SAM - R) dates the pottery from pit fill (1416) of pit [1404] to AD 75–260, although this may be narrowed if the samian is confirmed to be an early-mid-2nd century Les Martres-de-Veyre fabric (LMV SA).

One sherd from a LEZ SA2 Drag. 37 decorated bowl with a post-firing hole (Drag 37 DEC HPOF <*>) and a possible ROB SH globular jar with a lid-seated groove (4.4.1) dates pit fill (1418) to AD 120–150, but it is notable that this context also contains relatively large sherds from a large ROB SH vessel, with vessel links seen in (1416) and (1413), suggesting these fills were deposited at the same time.

Trench 15

Fill (1518) of ditch [1515] dates to the LIA/Early Roman 100 BC–AD75, from three medium grog-tempered necked jar sherds (GRM JA20). Also in this assemblage is a coarse sand-tempered vessel with rough horizontal and vertical combing (SAC RLD COMB), which could be an Iron Age slack shouldered jar.

Four sherds from a thin-walled Verulamium white vessel (VER WH) date linear fill (1520) of ditch [1504] to AD 50–200.

Linear fills (1521) of ditch [1519], and (1527) and (1529) of ditch [1516] all produced small assemblages of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered and sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100. (1527) also produced two interesting, although small, GRM sherds from a possible bucket shaped vessel with a straight squared rim.

Trench 16

Fill (1618) of ditch [1605] dates to AD 120–260 from one small Lezoux samian decorated bowl sherd (LEZ SA2 6 DEC), although some of the other sherds in this context may date a little earlier.

Trench 19

Terminus fill (1909) of [1904] produced one small coarse sand-tempered sherd (SAC). The black fabric could be Iron Age or Roman, so is broadly dated 800 BC–AD 410.

Trench 20

Fills (2013) of ditch [2005] and (2016) of [2006] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered or sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 21

Fill (2107) of boundary ditch [2104] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessels (GRM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 23

Fills (2306) of [2305] and fill (2307) of [2304] produced small assemblages of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered or sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 24

Fill (2407) of boundary ditch [2405] produced a small assemblage of sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessels (GRM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100, however, one of those sherds is from a large vessel with vertical combed decoration and thick deposits on the exterior surface, very similar to the vessel seen in (1322), possibly linked to salt-making or related processes.

Trench 27

Pit fills (2727) of [2716], (2732) and (2733) of [2718] and (2734) of [2717] produced small assemblages of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered or sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

The assemblage from fill (2723) of [2704] contained Roman sandy fabrics that date broadly to the Roman period, AD 40–410, including a possible early Roman shell-tempered (ROB SH) mortaria rim, where further identification may narrow the date.

Pit fill (2725) of [2713] dates AD 40–100, as one sherd of LIA/ER GRM is present together with a fine sandy oxidised ware (FSOX) with a characteristically Roman fabric.

Terminus fill (2738) of ditch [2708] dates AD 75–130 as it produced one sherd from a coarse sandy grey ware reed-rimmed bowl (CSGW 6.12) along with a possible ROB SH bowl fragment.

Trench 28

Fill (2807) of boundary ditch [2806] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered or sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM),

broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100, including one probable beaker sherd with a post-firing hole (GRM 3 HPOF <*>).

Trench 30

Fill (3005) of linear feature [3004] produced 15 sherds from a fine sandy oxidised ware vessel (FSOX) that show signs of burning, which date broadly to the Roman period, AD 40–410.

Trench 32

Fill (3219) of ditch [3213] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered or shell-tempered vessels (GRM, ROB SH), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100, including one GRM sherd with possible graffiti and modified edges (<*>).

Trench 33

Fill (3309) of pit [3305] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered or sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100. The assemblage also contained one medium sand-tempered sherd with fine rouletting (SAM ROD) but with mixed inclusions, possibly more Iron Age in character. A small amount of fired clay initially mis-identified as pot was also retrieved during pottery analysis.

Fill (3310) of ditch [3306] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessels (GRM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 43

Cremation (4307) produced sherds from two very finely decorated vessels. One small sherd is from a fine sandy micaceous reduced ware vessel with fine square-tooth rouletted decoration (FSMRDU ROD) and three sherds are from a fine grog-tempered vessel (GRF ROD), with fine rouletted decoration executed in an oval motif. One more sherd from this latter vessel was also recovered from pit fill (4306). Finding a parallel for this characteristic decoration might be instructive as well as clarifying the dating, currently mid-late 1st century, AD 40–100.

Trench 48

Fill (4805) of ditch [4804] produced one sherd from a shell-tempered vessel (ROB SH), currently dating to the Roman period, AD 40–410, although it may originate a little earlier.

Trench 60

Three sherds from a La Graufesenque samian vessel (LGF SA), with no wear on the footring, date the small assemblage linear fill (6017) of ditch [6004] to AD 20–100.

Fill (6023) of pit [6007] produced one sherd from a medium sand-tempered vessel (SAM) and one sherd from a medium sandy flint-tempered vessel (FLSAM). The ill-sorted nature of the inclusions within these fabrics are possibly characteristic of Early or Middle Iron Age vessels, but as these are small abraded sherds, they are dated very broadly LBA/IA (1150/1000 BC–AD 70).

Fill (6030) of terminus [6015] produced one sherd from a LIA/ER medium grog-and-sand-tempered vessel (GRSAM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 61

Fill (6114) of pit [6107] contained typical LIA/ER medium grog-tempered or sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM), and one small sherd from a Hadham reduced ware vessel (HAD RE 1), dating this context AD 40–100.

The assemblage from fill (6120) of pit [6106] contained a similar range of fabrics to those recorded from (6023); 11 medium sand-tempered sherds (SAM) and one medium sandy flint-tempered sherd (FLSAM), possibly characteristic of Early or Middle Iron Age vessels. These are also small, abraded sherds and have been dated very widely LBA/IA (1150/1000 BC–AD 70).

Ditch fill (6126) of [6104] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered and sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100, although one GRM sherd may be from a handmade slack shouldered jar and may date slightly earlier. One GRSAM sherd has very faint burnished lattice decoration (BUD) on the external surface.

Trench 62

Fill (6205) of ditch [6204] and pit fill (6214) of [6209] both date to the Iron Age, 800 BC–AD 70, as they contained small assemblages of dark sandy vessels more characteristic of that period.

Fill (6217) of ditch [6204] produced sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessels (GRM), typically dating 100 BC–AD 70/100, although one is possibly handmade. Also within this assemblage are three sherds from a medium sandy grog-tempered vessel with possible cabling on the rim (GRSAM MPD), more characteristic of earlier Iron Age periods, dating this group 800 BC–AD 70.

Trench 64

Fill (6409) of linear [6404] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium sandy grog-tempered and shell-tempered vessels (GRSAM, ROB SH), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 72

Fill (7206) of pit [7204] produced a small assemblage of body sherds from LIA/ER medium grog-tempered and sandy grog-tempered vessels (GRM GRSAM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 77

Ditch fill (7720) of [7721] produced one body sherd from a LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessel with vertical riling (GRM RLD), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Trench 96

Fill (9608) of roadside ditch [9604] produced multiple post-conquest fabrics, including sherds from Hadham reduced ware (HAD RE 1) and Hadham oxidised ware (HAD OX) vessels as well as a LIA/ER medium grog-tempered sherd (GRM), resulting in a date of AD 40–100 for this assemblage.

Trench 99

Roadside ditch fill (9914) of [9907] dates AD 50–200, as it contained two sherds from Verulamium whiteware vessels, although notably high fired and of unusual form, and which further identification has the potential to narrow the date.

Trench 104

Fill (10405) of ditch [10404] produced one body sherd from a LIA/ER medium grog-tempered vessel (GRM), broadly dating 100 BC–AD 70/100.

Discussion

A high proportion of the pottery sherds from the Phase 1 evaluation come from trenches 10, 11 and 12, where seven out of the nine medium-sized assemblages were recovered.

As seen in the pottery assemblage from BYG/Z1-4 '24, the majority of the pottery dates to the transitional LIA/ER period, 100 BC–AD 70/100, although there are sporadic sherds that are tentatively identified as dating post-conquest. This is quite a broad date range, although some contexts contain forms that have the potential to narrow the date if parallels can be found. Further clarification on the chronology of shell-tempered fabrics and storage jar typologies may also help to narrow some of the dating.

Most of the vessels are locally produced domestic wares, characteristically “Aylesford-Swarling”/“Belgic”-type grog-tempered fabrics and forms, although it is noted that a substantial number of these fabrics also contain sandy inclusions as well as reduced grog fragments.

Sherds that derive from earlier vessels, likely originating in the Early or Late Iron Age, were recorded in trenches 60 and 61 and possibly 62. Some of the sherds with more mixed inclusions from BYG/Z1-4 '24 (Davey, 2025) thought more characteristically Iron Age, were noted as potentially being similar to Fabrics 8 and 10 previously recorded from nearby sites (Stead and Rigby 1986), signalling a transition from more typically Iron Age-type pottery production traditions to more ‘Romanising’ pottery traditions during the mid-late 1st century AD (ibid, 263). The site assemblages from BYG/Z1-4 '24 and LNB24 may have the potential to analyse changing pottery production traditions from the Late Iron Age to the second century.

The vast majority of the pottery assemblage from the evaluation is local or regionally produced, but there were sporadic imports recorded, a high proportion of these coming from trench 5. Linear fill (515) contained at least three rare Terra Rubra vessels, which may point to pre-conquest elite activity in this area.

Occasional sherds from late Roman (AD200–410) vessels were recorded in trenches 11 and 13, possibly due to late Roman disturbance in these areas. A relatively high amount of grog-tempered pottery was also recorded in second century features across the site. This may suggest that certain types of grog-tempered vessel continue later than traditionally thought, which could be an instructive avenue of research.

Two very interesting sherds, one from (1322) and the other from (2407), have two distinct residues on their external surfaces that do not look like typical mortar, but may potentially be a salt precipitate (although very thick). These vessels require further examination to determine the nature of these deposits and information regarding processes these vessels might have been involved in.

Statement of potential

The pottery assemblage from the LNB24 Phase 1 evaluation has the potential to answer some of the wider aims set out in the WSI (MOLA, 2024a). These are:

- To further define understand the Bronze Age funerary landscape and its relationship with the Iron Age and Roman occupation as well as Saxon occupation;
- To further define and understand the extent and character of the Iron Age farmstead and associated enclosures and field system across the site;
- To further define and understand the extent and character of the different phases of the Roman settlement and associated landscape management across the site including enclosures and field boundaries;
- To further understand the impact of past land uses and farming activities that have likely affected the state of preservation of the known archaeological remains;
- To refine the location and extent of colluvial/alluvial deposits in relation to the known palaeochannel that is identified on site and define its relationship with the Iron Age and Roman occupation

Data from this assemblage should be integrated with evidence from other phases of the site and BYG/Z1-4 '24 and analysed alongside other local transitional Late Iron Age/early Roman ceramic assemblages and any further finds recovered from the area or future excavations. A number of contexts have potential for further work (see discussion) and these results should be analysed alongside any features with potential kiln activity.

The Late Iron Age/Early Roman has potential for use in wider investigations regarding changing ceramic practices during a time of major social and political upheaval, with changes in material culture potentially occurring at different speeds across the region. Data from these vessels might need further assessment post-phasing.

Significance

The pottery assemblage is of local and regional significance.

The presence of prehistoric and Roman pottery is of site significance for fulfilling the wider aims of the evaluation and for determining the condition, chronologies and grouping of artefacts that might be recovered from any future proposed work.

Retention statement

The complete pottery assemblage from the site should be fully retained for further work and analysis. Deposition of the site archive at North Hertfordshire Museum should be considered alongside finds from the Phase 2 evaluation and any other mitigation work which may be conducted on the site.

Pottery recommended for illustration/photography

Preliminary recommendations for illustration have been recorded in the pottery data spreadsheet, although the full illustration list should be assessed at a later stage in light of additional material recovered from other phases of work.

6.3 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery

Nigel Jeffries

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to characterise the several sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery from the site. The material was hand collected from four contexts in numeric range between (111) and (9005). The material was recovered from Trenches in Zone 5 and BA2 and BA3. The potential and significance of the material was examined in relation to the aims and objectives for the evaluation as set out in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the WSI (MOLA 2024a).

The assemblage was retained for the site archive (ibid 6), following the evaluation methodology for the sampling, collection and retention guidelines for finds set out in the WSI (ibid. 4.3.2).

This report outlines the pottery by methodology, quantification, by fabric and form by period, distribution by trench and identifies possible activities associated with the pottery.

Methodology

The pottery has been identified using London's medieval and later type series and tabulated by fabric below (Table 14), using established Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) codes for fabric, form and decoration expansions (MOLA 2024c) for the post-medieval period. In the absence of an established series for Hertfordshire, and to enable regional comparison, the medieval pottery has been cross-referenced against the corresponding Essex fabric-type series (Cotter 2002, Cunningham 1982, 1985).

The data was entered onto MOLA Oracle's database. The numerical data comprises sherd count (SC), weight (n.=31 grams), estimated number of vessel (ENV: n.=6) and estimated vessel equivalents (EVES: n.=0.11) by summation of surviving rim circumference (see Orton, Tyers and Vince 1993, 167–181, about these specific methods of quantification).

The terminology for the medieval and later forms or vessel types used here is defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's 1998 *Guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms*.

The reporting and cataloguing otherwise conforms to the ClfA Toolkit for Pottery (ClfA, 2024).

Quantification

The medieval and post-medieval pottery comprises seven sherds (0.03 kg) from up to six vessels (ENV) of which no sherds were unstratified. Table 14 demonstrates that this small assemblage divides almost equally between medieval and post-medieval pottery and was recovered in poor condition, characterised by small-sized and sometimes abraded sherds.

Table 14 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Category	Description	Weight
Medieval pottery	3 sherds from 2 vessels (ENV)	0.01kgs
Post-medieval pottery	4 sherds from 3 vessels (ENV)	0.02kgs

Sherds from each context were sorted according to fabric, these groups being further sub-divided where sherds could be deemed to have derived from the same vessel. Each resulting group was recorded accommodating the codes used by the London medieval and later fabric type series. Expansions to the fabric codes given throughout the text. In addition to form, details of use of wear, surface treatment, decoration, firing faults etc were also recorded.

Whilst form could be confidently supplied for most vessels (ENV), the pottery is for the most part characterised by small-sized sherds that displayed little in the way of diagnostic decorative techniques and survived rims, bases and handles that would enable their form to be better placed.

Table 15 Descriptions and quantifications of medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics

PERIOD	FABRIC	SC	SC %	ENV	ENV %	WT	WT %	EVES	EVES%
M	ESHER	2	67.7%	1	50.0%	1	25%	0.00	0%
M	MISC	1	33.3%	1	50.0%	3	75%	0.00	0%
	Total	150	100	64	100	5	100	0.68	0%
PERIOD	FABRIC	SC	SC %	ENV	ENV %	WT	WT %	EVES	EVES%
PM	PEAR TR2	2	50.0%	1	50.0%	25	93%	0.11	1
PM	PMR	2	50.0%	1	50.0%	2	7%	0	0.00
	Total	3	100%	2	100%	27	100%	0.11	100.00

Table 16 Descriptions and quantifications of medieval and post-medieval pottery forms

PERIOD	FORM	SC	SC %	ENV	ENV %	WT	WT%	EVES	EVES %
M	JAR	3	100%	2	100%	4	100%	0.00	0.00
	Total	4	100%	2	100%	4	100%	0.80	1
PERIOD	FORM	SC	SC %	ENV	ENV %	WT	WT%	EVES	EVES %
PM	BOWL	1	25%	1	33.3%	1	3.5%	0	0.00
PM	FLP	1	25%	1	33.3%	1	3.5%	0	0.00
PM	PLATE	2	50%	1	33.3%	25	93	0.11	100
	Total	4	100	3	100%	27	100%	0.11	1

Table 17 Summary of medieval and post-medieval pottery by context, trench number and period

CONTEXT	TRENCH	TYPE	E_DATE	L_DATE	ASS_SIZE	SC	ENV	WT	EVES
111	1	MPOT	1050	1200	S	2	1	1	0
4205	42	MPOT	1807	1840	S	2	1	25	0.11
7718	77	PMPOT	1580	1900	S	2	2	2	0
9005	90	PMPOT	1050	1400	S	1	1	3	0
Total						7	5	31	0.11

Pottery by trench

The pottery was found in Zone 5 (Trench 1), BA3 (Trench 42 and Trench 77) and BA2 (Trench 90) and evidenced a very limited pattern of medieval and post-medieval pottery distribution. This next section summarises the pottery by trench complementing the information presented in Table 17.

Trench 1

Fill (111) of pit (105) produced a total of two medieval pottery sherds, which are either South Hertfordshire Greyware (ESHER: Blackmore and Pearce 2010) dated c 1050–1200 or south Hertfordshire greyware fabrics. The sherd is sooted, suggesting the vessel it once belonged to was heated over a fire.

Trench 42

Trench 42 produced two plate sherds from a refined pearlware with blue transfer printed decoration (London type series fabric code PEAR TR2) with blue willow pattern applied. These sherds were recovered from fill (4205) of pit [4204], which contained other post-medieval finds including CBM and small finds.

Trench 77

Fill (7718) of ditch [7709] produced two sherds of post-medieval ‘coarse’ red earthenware (PMR) which could be made at production centres in Hertfordshire or from across county borders in Essex (Cotter 2000 fig 129, 190 Walker and Davey 2009) and Cambridgeshire. One sherd is abraded but otherwise resembles a ‘flower pot’ form with the other sherd glazed internally.

Trench 90

The pottery in Trench 90 comprised a sherd of pottery recovered from fill (9005) of ditch [9004]. It is reduced with a moderately abraded surface revealing a sandy fabric. The kiln source and fabric remain to be placed, but it represents a reduced medieval coarseware fabric of the 11th to 12th century.

Statement of potential

Pottery dating from the period c 1050–1807 was recovered from four trenches. The number of trenches that produced evidence from the medieval and post-medieval periods is therefore very small compared to the 102 trenches excavated. Overall the preservation of material in the four trenches was very limited, with small-sized

fragments recovered, and these appear to suggest ‘background noise’ of incidental finds. The medieval and post-medieval pottery has limited overall potential beyond providing a dating framework and characterising the various deposits it was found within.

Significance

The presence of medieval and post-medieval pottery is significant for fulfilling the objectives of the evaluation in respect of the material evidence and for determining the condition, chronologies and p[otentially spatial grouping of artefacts that might be recovered from any future phases of work.

It has some significance for pottery studies in obtaining an insight into pottery use in the Baldock area, in regard to the evidence of the South Hertfordshire Greyware industry (Blackmore and Pearce, 2010).

Retention statement

The pottery should be fully retained for the site archive and should be considered alongside any pottery retrieved from Phase 2 of the evaluation and any subsequent further mitigation which may be conducted on the site.

6.4 Ceramic building material

Lanah Hewson

Introduction

The ceramic building material was recovered from 44 deposits from 21 Trenches (Appendix 1). The material was recovered by hand during excavation and from two bulk soil samples. The material was recorded in accordance with the ClfA finds toolkit (ClfA 2024).

All Roman CBM forms were recorded according to the typology described in Brodribb (Brodribb 1987). Flat pieces greater than 30mm thick and without distinguishing features have been classified as bricks. Flat pieces measuring less than 30mm thickness and without diagnostic features are recorded as tile. Some of the fragments recorded as tile will undoubtedly be tegulae, imbrices, and other forms. Tegulae were identified where a flange is present or there is clear evidence of a flange having been removed.

Some very small amounts of material identified during the pottery assessment have not been included but will be integrated into the assemblage at a later date.

Table 18 Building materials

Material Class	Period	Count	Weight (g)
Ceramic	Roman	55	1165
Building	Medieval	3	1420
Material	Medieval/post-medieval	6	336
(CBM)	NCD	3	10
Fired Clay		44	297

Material Class	Period	Count	Weight (g)
Daub		117	1218
Kiln Furniture		73	1751

Classification

A significant proportion of the ceramic assemblage was classified as either fired clay or kiln furniture. The former classification describes the generally smaller fragments which may be fully amorphous or which preserve a single smoothed face. Such material may represent fragmented objects or derive from the clay superstructure of kilns, furnaces or ovens. The category 'kiln furniture' describes material more certainly representative of portable (and some structural) elements relating to oven or kiln structures. When possible, these have been further classified by object type which have been outlined below.

Daub

Daub formed a minor component of the group characterised by deep organic/wattle impressions and/or flat surfaces and would have been utilised in the construction of structures on site.

Kiln furniture

This category includes material thought to derive from the prefabricated components of kilns or ovens. Elements thought to relate to property manufacture include kiln bars, ceramic bars that are square in section with tapered ends and would have been used in tandem with oven plates to allow for the stacking of vessels for firing in a kiln (Young 2000). These bars are often friable and prone to lamination along the length. While no complete kiln bars were identified in this group, several corner fragments were recovered and have been identified as possible kiln bar fragments. One flattened fragment which is without the perforations characteristic of an oven floor and is too thin to suggest a kiln bar may be a ceramic plate.

A small number of fragments which bore faint organic impressions were thought likely to derive from the superstructure of the kiln. The upper structure of a pottery kiln was commonly covered with turves for insulation which would have left behind organic impressions on the surface of the clay. The remaining portion of the 'kiln furniture' assemblage was made up of amorphous fragments with no diagnostic features, these were identified owing to either being recovered from the same context as diagnostic fragments or as being in the same fabrics as kiln furniture material.

Fabrics

The ceramic material was identified in a range of buff or orange fine (fs) or medium sandy (ms) fabrics, some with clay pellet (cp) calcareous (c), ferrous (fe) or quartzite (qz) inclusions. The similarities of fabrics across the ceramic material would suggest that undiagnostic fragments of fired clay likely derive from CBM or kiln furniture. Calcareous fabrics (fsc) dominate the assemblage by weight, accounting for 29.1% of the ceramic material. Sandy fabrics characterised by clay pellet and iron oxide inclusions (fscpfe, 26.1%) and calcareous fabrics containing clay pellets (fscpc, 23.1%) also comprise significant proportions of the group.

All fabrics identified in the group are likely local in origin, with many of the inclusion types suggesting raw clay was derived from easily accessible deposits of Triassic and Jurassic limestone geologies, sandy river terraces and superficial deposits characterised by chalk, limestone and quartz sand in the immediate area.

Trench 5

CBM

Five fragments (154g) of CBM occurring in sandy oxidised fabrics were recovered from Trench 5. Ditch fill (514) produced one tegula fragment occurring in a sandy fabric fs (71g) and a curved fragment occurring in sandy calcareous fabric fsc (63g). An undiagnostic fragment of a sandy calcareous fabric was recovered from context 515, and a single tile fragment occurring in sandy fabric (ms). The material can only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Fired clay

A single fragment of fired clay (7g) in a fine sandy fabric characterised by red and cream clay pellets and calcareous inclusions (fabric fscpc) was recovered from ditch [508].

Trench 8

Fired clay

Ditch fill (810) of [804] produced six fragments (63g) of fired clay occurring in fabric fscpc. Several fragments had flattened surfaces which may suggest that these fragments derived from structures such as kilns or ovens.

Trench 9

CBM

A total of 13 fragments weighing 371g were recovered from Trench 9. This comprises single fragments of a tegula and imbrex recovered from fill (918) of ditch [907], both occurring in fine sandy fabrics characterized by clay pellet inclusions. One tile fragment was recovered from fill (923) of [919], while material from fill (908) of ditch [907] (nine fragments, 148g) and fill (913) of ditch [906] (one fragment, 25g) were undiagnostic. The material can only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Fired clay

Fired clay fragments in sandy calcareous fabric fscpc were recovered from fills (909) (three fragments, 75g) and (910) (four fragments, 95g) of ditch [907]. One fragment had a flattened surface, possibly suggesting structural use, though this can only be tentatively suggested.

Kiln furniture

A total of seven fragments (182g) of kiln furniture were recovered. Fill (908) of ditch [907] produced six fragments (130g) occurring in calcareous fabric fsc while fill (923) of [919] produced a single fragment (52g) in a sandy and calcareous fabric with iron oxide inclusions. All material recovered bore at least one flattened surface and one corner fragment was observed, though further discussion of the functionality of this material is not possible.

Trench 10*CBM*

A minor proportion of Roman CBM was recovered from Trench 10 contexts. Two tile fragments (58g) were recovered from fill (1012) of ditch [1004], one occurring in sandy fabric fs and measuring 13mm in thickness, and one occurring in calcareous fabric fscpc and measuring 19mm in thickness. Material recovered from ditch fills (1014) (one fragment, 11g), and (1023) (two fragments 24g) were undiagnostic. The material can only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Fired clay

A total of nine fragments 87g) of kiln furniture material were recovered from fill (1012). The material bore flattened surfaces suggesting it derives from a kiln or oven structure, though this can only be tentatively suggested. Close dating is not possible.

Trench 11*CBM*

A single fragment of undiagnostic CBM identified in calcareous fabric fscpc was recovered from fill (1115) of pit [1104]. No comment on functionality can be made and the fragment can only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Fired clay

A total of six fragments (34g) of fired clay occurring in sandy and calcareous fabrics were recovered. This derives from (1115) (one fragment, 21g); and ditch [1126] (five, 13g). The fragment recovered from fill (1115) had a flattened surface which may suggest it derives from a structure on site. Though this can only be tentatively suggested and material could not be closely dated.

Kiln Furniture

A total of eight fragments (22g) of kiln furniture material were recovered from ditch [1126] (one fragment, 76g), and fill (1129) (seven fragments, 149g). The material exhibited flattened surfaces and corner fragments were present, possibly deriving from kiln bars or other furniture, though this can only be tentatively suggested. Close dating is not possible.

Trench 12*Fired clay*

A total of 21 fragments (154g) of fired clay occurring in sandy and calcareous fabrics were recovered. Three fragments (49g) of calcareous fabric fscpc recovered from fill (1210) of ditch [1205], bore flattened surfaces, suggesting structural use, while material recovered from three fills of quarry [1215], (1222) (nine fragments, 39g); (1225) (three fragments, 8g); and (1229) (six fragments, 58g) were amorphous. Close dating was not possible.

Kiln furniture

A total of 36 fragments (634g) of kiln furniture material were recovered from quarry fills (1222) (two fragments, 122g); (1225) (five fragments, 222g); (1227) (18 fragments,

123g); and (1229) (11 fragments, 167g). Most fragments were flattened on one or both sides, and several bore organic impressions. This suggests material was used in kiln or oven structures on site, though could not be closely dated.

Trench 13

Kiln furniture

A single fragment (415g) of kiln furniture identified in calcareous fabric fscpc was recovered from fill (1317) of ditch [1305]. The fragment is a large and flattened, possibly representing an oven plate, though this could not be ascertained nor closely dated.

Trench 14

CBM

Ditch [1405] produced a single fragment of CBM (23g), identified in a sandy pale pink/cream fabric with rounded voids. Material was undiagnostic and no comment on form or functionality can be made. The material has been tentatively dated within the Roman period.

Fired clay

A single fragment of amorphous fired clay (1g) was recovered from the bulk sample of fill (1413) of pit [1406]. The material was poorly preserved and could not be closely dated.

Trench 15

CBM

One tile fragment 44g) was recovered from fill (1520) of ditch [1504]. The fragment was identified in sandy fabric fsqfe and measured 13mm in thickness. While close dating was not possible, the thickness of this fragment and its fabric would be consistent with roofing of the medieval/post-medieval period.

Fired clay

Fill (1527) of ditch [1516] produced a single fragment (12g) of fired clay, identified in a pale pink sandy fabric and bore a flat surface. This would suggest material derives from a structure such as a kiln or oven. Close dating was not possible.

Trench 16

CBM

A single fragment of CBM (4g) was recovered from fill (1618) of ditch [1605]. The material was undiagnostic and could only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Trench 20*CBM*

Fill (2013) of ditch [2005] produced a single tile fragment (17g) identified in a fine sandy fabric and measuring 14mm in thickness. The tile could only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Trench 27*Fired clay*

A total of 11 fragments of fired clay (84g) identified in sandy calcareous fabric fsc was recovered. The material derives from pit fills (2729) (one fragment, 6g) and (2734) (ten fragments, 78g). A number of fragments preserved flattened surfaces and one fragment from context (2734) was seemingly rolled/shaped. This would suggest these derive from structures such as kilns or ovens in the immediate area. Close dating was not possible.

Trench 33*Fired clay*

A total of 92 fragments of fired clay (914g) were recovered from fill (3309) of pit [3305]. The material was identified in calcareous fabric fsc and many fragments bore a flat surface. This would suggest material derives from a structure such as a kiln or oven. Close dating was not possible.

Kiln furniture

Fill (3309) produced 12 fragments of kiln furniture (208g) identified in calcareous fabric fsc. Several fragments bore flattened surfaces or corners, suggesting use within a kiln or oven structure. Close dating was not possible.

Trench 42*CBM*

A total of eight fragments of CBM (1712g) were recovered from fill (4205) of pit [4204]. This includes three brick fragments (1420g) measuring 50mm in thickness, three tile fragments (196g) measuring 15mm in thickness, and two undiagnostic fragments (96g). The brick and tile fragments were identified in sandy fabrics characterised by clay pellet and iron oxidise inclusions (fscpfe) and bore white mortar adhered to the surfaces. The brick fragments could be dated between the 12th and 16th centuries, whilst tile and undiagnostic fragments could only be broadly dated to the medieval/post-medieval period.

Trench 45*CBM*

Spread (4505) produced 18 tile fragments (297g) identified in sandy fabric fsfe. Tile fragments measured 13mm in thickness and could be broadly dated within the Roman period.

Trench 51**CBM**

Spread (5104) produced three fragments of undiagnostic CBM (10g) identified in sandy fabric fs. The material was poorly preserved and could not be confidently assigned a date range.

Trench 59**CBM**

A total of three tile fragments (81g) identified in a sandy calcareous fabric characterised by clay pellet inclusions and measuring 14mm in thickness were recovered from spread (5906). The material could only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Trench 64**CBM**

A single tile fragment identified in sandy fabric fsfe and measuring 12mm in thickness was recovered from context (6409) the fill of linear feature [6404]. Close dating was not possible and the material could only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Trench 77**CBM**

Fill (7720) of ditch [7721] produced two tile fragments (32g) identified in sandy calcareous fabric fscfe and measuring 15mm in thickness. The material could only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Trench 78**CBM**

A single tile fragment (16g) identified in sandy fabric fsfe and measuring 11mm in thickness was recovered from fill (7805) of ditch [7804]. Close dating was not possible and the material could only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Trench 97**CBM**

A total of three tile fragments (38g) identified in a sandy fabric characterised by clay pellet inclusions (fabric fscp) and measuring 15mm in thickness was recovered from fill (9708) of ditch [9706]. Close dating was not possible and the material could only be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Summary

The finds assemblage provides evidence for activity in the vicinity of the site during the Roman and medieval periods. A significant proportion of the CBM assemblage could be dated to the Roman period (c AD 43–410), with minor quantities being dated to the 12th and 16th centuries. Owing to the chronologically insensitive nature of the fired clay and kiln furniture, close dating was not possible, though it would be fair to assume

the material is largely contemporary with the Roman ceramic material that dominates that assemblage.

The occurrence of a number of possible kiln bars and an oven/kiln plate would suggest a kiln or oven structure in the immediate vicinity, though owing to the poor preservation of the group most material could not be classified with certainty and so this can only be tentatively suggested.

Further integration of the stratigraphic record and comparison to other finds type assemblages is needed to interpret the location and function of this possible structure.

Further work and selection strategy

The material has been recorded in sufficient detail for an evaluation report and no further work at this stage is required. The artefactual material has some potential for further analysis as part of a larger assemblage following further stages of work. The current assemblage should be retained in the short-term pending further work at the site but it is not recommended for long-term curation.

6.5 Registered small finds coins and nails

Darrah Jones Reddy

Introduction

A total of 14 registered finds were submitted for examination. This assemblage includes small finds, coins and nails. The assemblage is small but includes objects ranging from the Roman to post-medieval periods. A variety of different functional categories are represented within the assemblage, the largest being tools, nails, and coins. The presence of a Roman stylus within the assemblage is most noteworthy, providing evidence for literate individuals within this important local centre.

Methodology

The assemblage was primarily hand recovered, however there was also routine metal-detecting work on site which recovered a number of finds. Environmental samples also produced some objects. The preservation of the assemblage is generally poor, with many of the iron objects registering as fair to very poor. All of the metal finds had been x-rayed by the MOLA London processing team at Mortimer Wheeler House using a Euroteck x-ray cabinet and a Carestream Computed Digital X-radiography system.

The finds were assessed Darrah Jones-Reddy between 17 and 18 December 2024. The finds were examined, with the aid of x-rays where appropriate. Preliminary basic catalogue descriptions, identifications and recommendations were entered into MS Excel. These records follow MOLA small finds cataloguing style (Marshall 2022). A full catalogue of the finds organised by period and function is also presented below.

Basic functional groupings have also been assigned to objects on a preliminary basis, using a MOLA system that builds on the functional categories previously used for Colchester (Crummy 1983; Crummy 1988). The assemblage is summarised within these categories for each chronological period (

Table 20).

Table 19 Summary of small finds, nails and coins by material and date

Material	Roman	post medieval	undated	Total
Copper alloy	3	1		4
Iron	4	1	5	10
Total	7	2	5	14

Table 20 Summary of small finds nails and coins by function and date

Function	Roman	post medieval	undated	Total
Dress/adornment		1		1
Writing equipment	1			1
Tools	2		1	3
Fittings			1	1
Unidentified			2	2
Nails	1	1	1	3
Coins	3			3
Total	7	2	5	14

Table 21 Summary of small finds nails and coins by context and date

Context	Roman	post medieval	Undated	total
409	1			1
501		1		1
514			1	1
1102	1			1
1124	1			1
1317			1	1
1413	1	1		2
1416	1			1

Context	Roman	post medieval	Undated	total
1701	1			1
4205			1	1
7907			1	1
9911			1	1
9914	1			1
Total	7	2	5	14

Roman (seven registered finds, three small finds, three coins, one group of hobnails)

Roman finds are the largest group within the site assemblage. The dating evidence for these finds ranges from the early first century through to the third century AD with varying levels of certainty. The dateable small finds generally date to the first and second centuries, whereas the coins date to the late third to early fourth century.

Roman writing and literacy are represented by a stylus (F.5) which was found, in a near complete state, in context (9914) the upper fill of roadside ditch [9907]. This simple but distinctive object, which is characterised by a thickening below the elongated tip and tapering shaft, belongs to stylus group H34 that dates from the mid-1st century to around AD 200 (Schaltenbrand Obrecht 2012).

The tools associated with the assemblage display possible wood working generally dating to the 1st and 2nd century. F.16 recovered from fill (1416) of pit [1404] is perhaps a plane iron, used in wood working, the iron blade is currently the only preserved element which allowed for precise repetitive work to be carried out. Humphreys (2021, 259) collates the site types that this form of plane iron are found at, and these are primarily military sites, with some examples found in towns. F.13 recovered from lower fill (409) of ditch [404] is a possible chisel or gouge tip, of Humphrey (2021) blade type Di created for deep bevels, which again is found on more military and urban sites than rural settlements.

Three Roman copper alloy coins were recovered. One was essentially illegible and can only be assigned broad dates based on its likely denomination, while a further two were more closely identifiable and datable. The earliest generally datable coin is a possible Victorinus or Tetricus radiate, F.1, which is dated to AD 269–274. This was recovered from topsoil (1701) in Trench 17. Although this coin does have some identifiable features the quality of the object is rather worn and so cannot be specifically identified. The clearest coin is a radiate of Carausius, F.2, recovered from the upper fill (1124) of ditch recut [1112]. It is very closely datable to AD 286–293 and was minted in London with a clear PAX reverse type (cf RIC V Carausius 118). This coin is of interest due to a possible die error; the reverse legend is seemingly missing a letter (X) and thus might be of some significance. It should be published in any future study of the site and may benefit from advice from Dr Sam Moorhead who is working on a new study of Carausian coinage. The final coin (F.3) is very worn on both faces and can only be loosely identified as either a radiate or nummus, broadly dating to c AD 260–402.

Table 22 Summary quantification of Roman coins and copies by material, denomination and issuing phase/period. Issuing phases/periods are based on Reece (1991; 1995).

Roman Coin Phase	RCP	Date Range (AD)	Copper-alloy		
			Radiate	Radiate/ Nummus	Total
B. Radiate Period	14	275-296	1		1
	?	259-296	1		1
B-E. Roman (Unidentified)		260-402		1	1
Total Roman Coins			2	1	3

Four Iron hobnails were found during sample processing of fill (1413) of pit [1406], these are collectively registered as F.15a. These are likely to have come from the soles of Roman leather footwear. In general terms these finds reflect the adoption of Roman styles of sandals, shoes and boots.

Post-medieval finds (two small finds)

The post-medieval finds assemblage is sparse. One item is an ornate copper-alloy buckle (F.4) noted as being found in topsoil (501). This buckle is most similar to a Whitehead (1996) double loop type, no.437, dated to 1550-1650. A horseshoe nail (F.15b) is of a type used with horseshoes from the 17th century to 19th century, as Sparkes' (1989, i and 31) square-headed type nail. This object was found while wet sieving a sample from fill (1413) of pit [1406].

Undated finds (five registered finds, four small finds and one nail)

The second largest object period group is unknown objects that at the current stage of analysis are of uncertain date

A corroded object might be a possible iron tool, the chisel like end of this object might infer a grooved plane iron, however very little is preserved and so it is unable to be identified and categorised by a specific period.

F.6 and F.18 are very undiagnostic iron objects which are highly fragmentary metalwork pieces. These have been categorised as a bar and strip of fragmented iron. Due to their fragmentary state, they cannot be closely dated at this stage.

F.17 from fill (4205) of pit [4204] is the considerably corroded shank of a possible nail, which is currently unable to be identified further.

Rectangular pinched corner iron staple F.14 recovered from fill (1317) of ditch [1305] was principally used for joinery, either for woodworking, furniture or structures. This object is commonly seen within the archaeological record and has a long date range from Iron Age to post-medieval.

Recommendations for illustration

Two objects are recommended for illustration.

Table 23 Summary quantification of estimated illustration requirements of registered small finds by material and period

Period	Material	Object	F. No	Context	Comments
Roman	Copper Alloy	Coin	2	1124	Photograph
Roman	Iron	Stylus	5	9914	Illustration and section drawing.
Post-medieval	Copper Alloy	Buckle	4	501	Illustrate and photograph.

Recommendations for retention/discard

At this stage it is suggested that that most of the assemblage be retained for further research. After all analysis is complete it may be possible to discard two finds of iron corroded objects and the undiagnostic nail shank fragments without significantly reducing the research potential of the assemblage.

Table 24 Summary quantification of candidates for discard by material and period

Period	Material	Object	RF. No	Context
Unknown	Iron	bar	6	9911
Unknown	Iron	Nail?	17	4205
Unknown	Iron	Iron strip	18	7907

These are provisional figures which may be revised during the analysis process, but it should form the basis for further discussions. The small finds assemblage will be revisited at the analysis stage, final recommendations will be made, and a retention policy will be established. This will involve consultation between specialists, project archivists, local authority archaeologists, and any other relevant stakeholders. If any discard is agreed then this should then be actioned after all analysis is complete ahead of, or during, archiving.

Catalogue

The catalogue conventions used are: L=length; W=width; Th=Thickness; Diam=Diameter; Wt=weight; min=minimum and max=maximum. Dimensions in parentheses are incomplete.

Roman**Coins**

Roman copper-alloy coin.

F.1 (1701).

Victorinus or Tetricus?: 269-274 (Reece Period 13) Radiate.

Diam 16.9mm; Th 2.4mm; Wt 2.38g; Axis 6?; Wear D/E.

Obv: [...]; Radiate, bust, right.

Rev: Illegible.

Mint illegible.

Roman copper-alloy coin.

F.2 (1124).

Carausius: 286-293 (Reece Period 14) Radiate.

Diam 24mm; Th 1.8mm; Wt 4.29g; Axis 6; Wear A/A.

Obvs: IMP C CARAUSIUS PF AVG; Radiate, bust, draped and cuirassed, right.

Rev: PA AVG/ S P// MLXXI; Pax, draped, standing left, holding olive-branch in right hand and transverse sceptre in left hand.

Mint of Londinium.

Very similar to the RIC V Carausius 118, however, it differs with the omission of the X (in Pax) which to date has no other examples.

Roman copper-alloy coin.

F.3 (1102).

Unknown ruler: 260-402 (Reece Period 13-21) radiate or nummus.

Diam 16.9mm; Th 1.6mm; Wt 1.58g; Apex 6?; Wear E/E.

Obv: Illegible.

Rev: Illegible.

Mint illegible.

Writing equipment

Roman iron stylus.

F.5 (9914).

Complete; L if straight 115mm; max W (eraser) 8.8mm; Diam of shank 6.1mm; Diam at base of eraser 4.5mm; Wt 10.77g. Roman Stylus, simple form with no decoration on the shank tapering towards the eraser, tapering again from c. 35mm to the tip; eraser is offset with angular shoulder, triangular shaped section on eraser. As Schaltenbrand Obrecht form H 34 (2012, 140) dating from the mid-1st century to 200AD.

Tools

Roman iron chisel.

F.13 (409).

Incomplete; L (68.9mm); W 11.9mm; Th 9mm; Wt 19.53g. Possibly round headed, rectangular sectioned tapering towards the tip, tip no longer present, end broken diagonally.

Roman iron plane iron.

F.16 (1416).

Near Complete; L 74.5mm; W 19.6mm; Th 15.4mm; Wt 61.8g. Roman plane iron, flat rectangular-sectioned body with a straight face and a tapering face. Humphreys Type 1 (2021).

Footwear

Roman iron shoe.

F.15a (1413).

Four hobnails. Two well preserved with domed conical heads shape; two are more corroded and are split in the middle.

Post-medieval

Post-medieval copper-alloy buckle.

F.4 (501).

Incomplete; L (24.7mm); W 24.7mm; Th 3.5mm; Wt 3.62. Double loop oval buckle; trefoil knobs on the outer edge of each loop and at either end of the strap bar a single knob. Double loop Whitehead (1996) type, similar to no. 437.

Post-medieval iron nail.

F.15b (1413)

Square sectioned shaft.

Undated

Tools

Undated iron ?tool.

F.19 (514).

Incomplete; L 53.7mm; W 13.5mm; Th 8.3mm; Wt 13.66g. Possible chisel like end to an iron tool. Possibly an iron gouge, very little of the object is preserved and corroded and so is unable to be identified further.

Fittings

Undated iron staple.

F.14 (1317).

Incomplete; L 36mm; W 8.6mm; Th 4.2mm; Wt 3.41g. Rectangular staple, rectangular in section and tapering towards the tip. Ottaway and Rogers (2002, 2829) display a similar form of rectangular staple dating it as broadly medieval to post medieval in date, referring to it as a common form.

Nails

Undated iron nail.

F.17 (4205).

Rectangular section.

Unidentifiable

Undated iron unidentified.

F.6 (9911).

Incomplete; L 66.4mm; W 8.1mm; Th 5.9mm; Wt 8.72g. Possible nail? uncertain of ID, rectangular section.

Undated iron unidentified.

F.18 (7907).

Incomplete; L (40.2mm); W (28.5mm); Th (8.7mm); Wt 15.48g. Unidentified iron strip, possibly cast iron. No further diagnostic features.

6.6 Human Bone

Don Walker

Introduction

This analysis contains the results of burnt human bone recovered from two Roman cremation burials. The two cremation burials were located towards the centre of Trench 43 in BA3.

Nature of the sample

Cremation burial [4304] consisted of a sub-oval pit measuring 0.3m x 0.2m with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The fill of the pit (4306) Sample {35} consisted of firm dark grey black silty sand with charred wood and burnt human bone. Just to the northwest of [4304] lay a second cremation burial [4305] consisting of a sub-oval pit measuring 0.25m x 0.24m with a maximum depth of 0.14m. The fill of the pit (4307) again contained firm dark grey black silty sand with charred wood and burnt human bone. The fill was further excavated in two spits: samples {36} and {37}. Both samples were similar in character although a greater weight of bone was contained within sample {36} (54.6g) when compared to sample {37} (18.9g).

Overall, 78.8g of burnt bone was recovered from three samples, 5.3g from fill (4306) and 73.5g from fill (4307). The bone was fragmented but well preserved and contained occasional identifiable fragments from various areas of the skeleton. Occasional trabecular bone was present, as were fragments of articular joint surfaces.

Methodology

The cremations underwent a process of wet-sieving and sorting to extract the burnt bone. All subsequent analysis was conducted in accordance with established guidelines and standards (McKinley 2004, Powers unpublished).

All burnt bone was passed through three sieve fractions with mesh sizes of 10mm, 4mm and 2mm. The total weight of burnt bone was then obtained from the combined weight of the three fractions. The weight of each sieved fraction was calculated as a percentage of the total weight. A measurement was taken of the maximum dimension of the largest bone fragment present in each context and the average fraction size estimated to the nearest 5mm. Measurements were recorded in millimetres and weights to the nearest to the nearest tenth of a gram.

The bone fragments were examined, and any identifiable bone was recorded and separated into skull, axial, upper limb and lower limb areas. The weight of bone from each skeletal area was recorded and the total weight of identified bone obtained from these combined weights. Only fragments of bone that could be identified to a particular element or group were included in the measurements.

Observations of bone preservation and fragmentation were noted, and an assessment was made of the colour of burnt bone in percentages within the categories: white/off white, light blue grey, dark blue grey, charred/black following MOLA Archaeology standards (Powers unpublished).

A minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated based on the presence of repeated elements or mixed male/female subadult bone. Age at death was based upon observations of skeletal maturation and epiphyseal fusion (Schauer and Black 2000), dental development and eruption of teeth (Gustafson and Kock 1974), and the auricular surface (Lovejoy et al 1985). Adult biological sex was determined through observations of sexually dimorphic characteristics of the os coxae and skull when appropriate elements were present (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Powers 2008).

Results

Burnt bone

The fragmented nature of burnt bone often hinders the identification of repeated elements from cremation burials. This can cause estimates of minimum numbers of individuals to under-represent the true number present.

Both cremation burials contained a MNI of one individual. There was no indication of age at death in the bone from cremation [4304]. Burial [4305] contained a number of vertebral body fragments with fused annular rings, showing that the individual died in adulthood. No fragments of bone containing sexually dimorphic elements were observed in either burial.

A total of 78.8g of burnt bone was recovered at excavation. The weights of individual samples ranged from 5.3g to 54.6g, with a mean of 23.6g. This falls well below the average weight expected from modern cremations (1600–2000g). It may be that only a small ‘token’ amount of bone had been collected from the pyre (McKinley 1997, Bruck 2006, 80). Alternatively, the deposits may have been disturbed (Table 25).

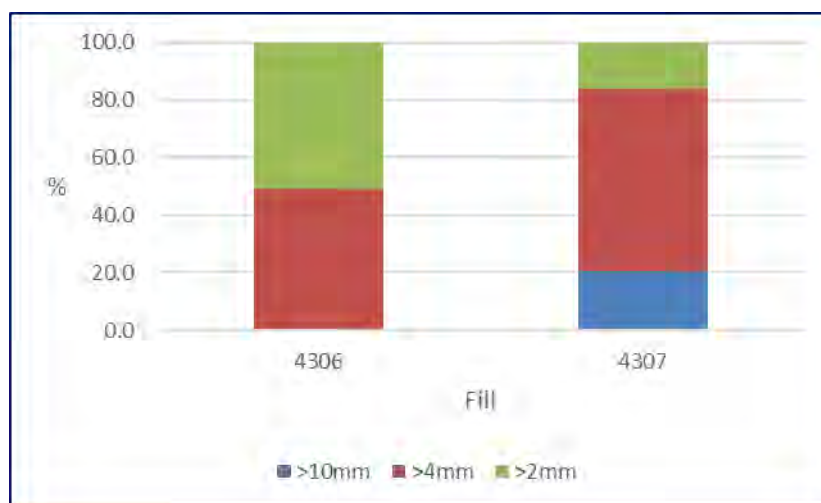
Residues were processed for both fills. Total residue weight was 815g and consisted of fine pebbles, and coarse, medium and fine sand, plus occasional to moderate inclusions of burnt bone and charcoal.

Most bone fragments (95%) were coloured white or off white, an indication of high level of oxidation consistent with temperatures above 600 degrees where the bone had become fully calcined (Holden et al 1995a and 1995b). Occasional light blue fragments were observed in fill (4306), indicating that some bone had been exposed to lower temperatures. Fill (4307) contained occasional small charred black fragments, indicating that some areas of the skeleton were only partially burnt.

The degree of fragmentation of burnt bone was generally high with few surviving fragments. The largest fragment was 31.3mm in length. The mean fragment size was 10mm in length.

There was a moderate range of burnt bone within each sieve fraction: >10mm 0.0–20.7%; >4mm 49.1–63.0%; >2mm 16.3–50.9% (Chart 1). Most fragments fell within the >4mm fraction, with all samples containing at least 49.2% of bone fragments in this sieve. In contrast little bone fell into the >2mm Sieve, representing less than 8% of bone in each sample.

Chart 1 Bone fraction as a percentage of total weight of bone.



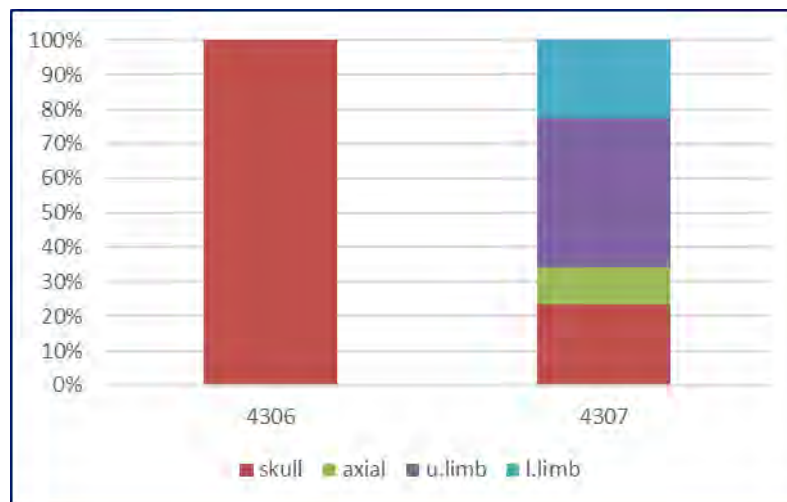
When heated, bone with soft tissue coverage will exhibit a greater degree of warping, longitudinal splitting and transverse fracturing when compared to dry bone (Ubelaker 2015, 219). However, the paucity of burnt bone within the fills from Baldock was such that no consistent pattern of fragmentation emerged. At the same time, the great majority of the bone was clearly oxidised.

Identifiable bone fragments

Both cremation fills contained surviving bone fragments identifiable to body area (skull, axial, upper and lower limb). The percentage of identifiable fragments in each fill ranged from 1.9% to 65.3% (overall 41.4%).

The mean weight of areas of complete dry skeletons has been estimated at, skull 18.2%, axial skeleton 20.6%, upper limb 23.1% and lower limb 38.1% (McKinley 1994a 6). In order to investigate the proportion of identifiable bone from each area of the body, the weight of bone from each of these areas was calculated as a percentage of the total weight of bone from each sample (Chart 2). Identified elements ranged from: skull 23.5%–100%; axial 0.0%–10.6%; upper limb 0.0%–43.3% and lower limb 0.0%–22.5%. The dominance of skull elements from fill (4306) reflects the high degree of fragmentation and the low bone weight and is not a reliable guide to the character of the original deposit.

Chart 2 Percentage of identifiable bone by weight



The characteristic form of the cranial table permitted a good level of identification of fragments from the skull. Occasional large fragments of vertebral body containing trabecular bone were also clearly recognisable. The larger of the two fills (4307) contained elements from a range of areas of the skeleton. From the skull were fragments of frontal, parietal, zygomatic, petrus temporal and mastoid process. Both cervical and thoracic element were recovered from the axial skeleton. From the appendicular skeleton were occasional fragments of humerus and femur shaft.

Discussion

Each of the two cremation burials contained a minimum number of individuals of one. One of the cremations died in adulthood whereas the other was of unknown age. There was no indication of the sex of either cremation and no evidence of pathological change.

Cremation burials became more common in the early Roman period, in contrast to Iron Age inhumation traditions which persisted in some areas. A nuanced picture emerges in the Late Iron Age/early Roman period with urban/rural and regional variations.

Roman rural burials are often associated with boundary features as well as enclosures on the edge of settlements, perhaps a representation of physical and liminal boundaries, reflecting prehistoric traditions. It is also possible that these locations were chosen for convenience, being in areas of little use for other purposes (Cleary 2000, 137–8; Pearce 2013, 102). Small groups of burials predominate in this period, perhaps family plots, kin groups or simply individuals who died at the same time (Davidson 2000, 234–5).

Cremation of the dead required a good deal of preparation, and many factors would have influenced the process, including the provision of clothes or pyre goods, the presence of a coffin or bier, the size and weight of the body, or bodies the state of decomposition and the degree of soft tissue coverage (McKinley 2000b, 404; Bradley 2007, 1786). Detailed analysis of the remains of a cremation burial can reveal a range of information on the technology and process of the funerary rite. There may be evidence relating to a of stages, including attendant rituals, the mode of collection of burnt human remains from the pyre and the mode of deposition (McKinley 2000a, 38; McKinley 2000c, 264).

The predominance of well calcined bone within the cremations at Baldock, albeit of a small total weight, suggest the pyres maintained a high temperature during the cremation process. Once completed, and sufficient time had passed for them to cool, the remains could be collected. The well calcined bone, being white in colour, would stand out against the charred black background of wood and other material making it easy to collect (McKinley 200b,47). The amount of bone recovered from the cremations at Baldock was less than the expected weight from a whole individual and it may be that disturbance of the deposits, either in antiquity or modern times had removed some of the bone. The presence of well calcined fragments from the cranium, torso, and upper and lower limbs of cremation [4305] suggest bone was collected from most areas of the skeleton, although we don't know the extent to which this may represent a token deposit where some of the bone was excluded. Those elements that survived may have been fragmented further by the act of collection, their handling and the process of deposition (McKinley 1994a, 339).

A review of any surviving wood, charcoal or charred plant macrofossils from the sample residues may provide further information on pyre technology and fuel use. In addition to large quantities of burnt bone, cremations can produce remains incorporating materials such as charcoal and other fuel ash, burnt clay and flint, and fuel ash slag. This material might be deposited as part of the cremation burial or in separate pre-existing or purpose dug pits (McKinley 1997, 137). Where large deposits of pyre debris are included with the cremated bone this may infer close proximity to the pyre site (Evans and Knight 1998, 31).

To enable further research to be carried out on these burials, as well as any from the second phase of evaluation and future mitigation work, targeted radiocarbon dating is recommended in order to establish the period of funerary activity. Absolute dating of Late Iron Age and Roman burials has been identified as a research priority and crucial tour understanding of the chronology of the period (LIA-Rom 22: *How can we improve our chronological understanding of burial rites?*) (ALGAO 2023).

The survival of a petrous section of temporal bone from [4305] provides the potential for strontium isotope analysis. This would address questions of mobility and migration during the period (LIA-Rom 05: *What can new scientific techniques tell us about Late Iron Age and Roman skeletal remains?*, LIA-Rom 25: *To what extent was change*

across the region the result of population movement and acculturation?) (ALGAO 2023).

The two cremation burials add to the large dataset of human remains from funerary activity in and around Baldock, where most deposits were urned but lacking other objects. First century cemeteries were characterised by mixed funerary rites, with evidence of cremation persisting beyond the early Roman period (Stead and Rigby 1986).

Table 25 Weight and fragmentation of burnt human bone

Area	Trench	Context	Parent Context	Total Weight (g)	>10mm (g)	>4mm (g)	>2mm (g)	Identifiable Bone (g)	Skull (g)	Axial (g)	Upper Limb (g)	Lower Limb (g)
BA3	43	4306	4304	5.3	0	2.6	2.7	0.1	0.1	0	0	0
BA3	43	4307	4305	73.5	15.2	46.3	12	48	11.3	5.1	20.8	10.8
Total				78.8	15.2	48.9	14.7	48.1	11.4	5.1	20.8	10.8

Table 26 Burnt bone summary

Context	Sample	Pit	Bone Weight (g)	Largest Frag Size (mm)	Mean Frag Size (mm)	MNI	Age	Sex	Colour	Comments
4306	35	4304	5.3	17.9	5	1			95% white/off white, 5% light blue-grey	Area BA3 Trench 43 cremation burial
4307	36	4305	54.6	31.3	10	1	Adult		95% white/off white, 5% charred black	Area BA3 Trench 43 cremation burial
4307	37	4305	18.9	22.8	5	1			90% white/off white, 10% charred black	Area BA3 Trench 43 cremation burial

6.7 Animal bone

Chris Faine

Introduction

This report quantifies and assesses the faunal material from the Phase 1 archaeological evaluation. The assemblage consisted of 20.1kg of hand collected animal bone while a further 18g was recovered from the flots of samples see Table 27. The faunal material was recovered from three periods of activity: Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age, Late Iron Age–Early Roman and Roman.

Table 27 Quantification of animal bone

Category	Description	Weight (kg)
Animal bone (hand-collected)	959 fragments	20.1 kg
Animal bone (wet-sieved)	34 fragments	18g
Assessed Animal bone (TOTAL)	993 fragments	20.2 kg

Methodology

The hand collected and wet-sieved animal bone was recorded onto the MOLACDE Oracle animal bone assessment database. Each context was recorded in terms of weight (kg), estimated fragment count, faunal composition, measurable and complete bone, modification, and recovery of evidence for age-at-death; epiphyses and mandibular (lower jaw) tooth rows. Identification of faunal groups followed MOLA archaeozoological assessment procedures and was carried out using MOLA internal specialist staff, reference collections and resources. 100% of the assemblage was assessed with no subsampling conducted at this stage.

Although the majority of the major domesticates; chicken (domestic fowl) *Gallus gallus*, domestic goose *Anser anser domesticus*, mallard/domestic duck *Anas platyrhynchos*, cattle *Bos taurus*, sheep/goat *Ovis aries/Capra hircus*, pig *Sus scrofa*, horse *Equus caballus*, dog *Canis lupus familiaris* and cat *Felis catus* were identified to species, or at least genus level, damaged fragments were often assigned to approximate identification categories:

- large mammal equivalent to red deer, cattle, horse
- medium mammal equivalent to fallow deer, sheep, goat, roe deer, pig, dog
- small mammal equivalent to hare, rabbit, cat
- very small mammal equivalent to shrew, mouse, vole

Where possible within the limits of assessment small mammals and birds were identified to family, although the majority were recorded only as very approximate categories such as 'fish,' 'bird' and 'unidentifiable mammal' pending further post-assessment identification.

Each selected sample and context group was recorded in terms of estimated fragment count for each of the selected faunal groups (i.e., large, medium, small, and very small mammal, birds, fish, and amphibians) and by the number of contexts in which selected species or groups of species (e.g., cattle, pig, poultry, amphibians) occur.

Each sample and context group were then recorded in terms of occurrence of foetal or neonate bones and fragment numbers showing modification (butchery, working, burning, gnawing and pathological change).

Finally, each sample and context group were scored in terms of numbers of mandibular (lower jaw) tooth-rows, epiphyses (fusion lines) and measurable and complete fully fused long-bones as an assessment of potential value for interpretation of age-at-death and stature.

The context and sample group were described onto the database as a single line of data summarising its faunal and data composition as a 'snapshot' of content and potential value for post-assessment study and interpretation. At this assessment level no bones have been described on a 'fragment-by-fragment' basis, so it is not possible to search for a specific bone or to interrogate the data for detailed description of carcase-part recovery of a particular species.

Quantification, summary and significance by phase

The animal bone is quantified by phase in Table 28. The number of identifiable fragments is identified by phase in Table 29 and the ageable and measurable bones by phase in Table 30.

Table 28 Number of contexts with bone by phase

Period	Contexts
Late Bronze/Early Iron Age	3
Late Iron Age-Early Roman	46
Roman	21
Unphased	7
Total	77

Table 29 Number of identifiable fragments by phase

Period	Feature type	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Small Mammal	Very Small Mammal	Bird	Amphibian	TOTAL
Late Bronze- Early Iron Age	Ditch	7	7					14
	Pit	151	1		1			153
Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Ditch	251	85					336
	Pit/Post hole	20	37				10	67
Roman	Ditch	114	70		8			192
	Pit	110	24		1			135

Unphased	Ditch	38	11	1				50
	Pit/Post hole	9	2			1		12
TOTAL		700	237	1	10	1	10	959

Table 30 Ageable and measurable bones by phase

Period	Mandibular rows	Epiphyses	Measurable	Complete
Late Bronze/Early Iron Age	0	3	0	0
Late Iron Age-Early Roman	15	64	5	7
Roman	8	61	9	13
Unphased	1	15	0	4

Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age

One kilogram of bone was recovered from three contexts, with total identifiable NISP of 167. All of the material was recovered from pitting. Preservation levels of the bone were moderate to poor.

The assemblage is dominated by large mammal fragments with smaller numbers of medium mammal elements. Sheep is the dominant taxa being present in 80% of contexts with smaller numbers of sheep (33.3%; see Table 29). Pigs are present in 33% of contexts. Horse is a minor taxon being recovered from 2 contexts. The only other identifiable species noted was dog (observed in fill (6120) of pit [6106]) Vole teeth were also recovered from fill (6027) of pit [6010].

There is poor potential for ageing the assemblage with three ageable epiphyses and no mandibles or measurable elements being noted. Pit fill (6120) also contained a relatively large deposit (c 150 pieces), of burnt cattle sized fragments, with some unburnt cattle lower limb elements also noted. No other modification was noted, including butchery.

Late Iron Age–Early Roman

The Late Iron Age–Early Roman faunal assemblage was the largest from the site. Forty-six contexts yielded 403 fragments (weight: 9.8Kg). Eighty three percent of fragments were recovered from ditches, with the remainder from pits and post holes. Preservation levels in the assemblage are better than for the preceding phase, with the condition of 75% of contexts classed as “good”.

The assemblage is again dominated by large mammal fragments with smaller numbers of medium size mammals also present. Cattle is the dominant taxon being present in 65% of contexts. Sheep are present in slightly higher numbers than in the preceding sample (52.3%). A possible goat horncore was noted from fill (2733) of pit [2718]. Pigs are present for the first time as are horses and dogs. The only other species noted

came in the form of a small deposit of anuran amphibian long bone fragments from sample <23> of fill (1211) of post hole [1208].

There is some potential for ageing the assemblage. Age at death would be provided by 15 ageable mandibles (see Table 30), along with 64 available epiphyses. Four mandibles each of cattle, sheep and pig were noted along with two horse. Only five measurable elements were noted, with 9% of fragments displaying evidence of butchery.

Roman

Twenty-one contexts yielded bone of Roman date (NISP: 327) representing the second largest assemblage by phase. Eight Kilograms of faunal material was recovered. The assemblage is generally well preserved with only a single context classed as “poor”. Fragments were almost entirely recovered from ditches, along with a single quarry pit [1215].

As in the wider assemblage the majority of fragments (68.5%) consisted of large mammals, along with smaller numbers of medium mammals. Some microfaunal remains were also noted. The highest rate of cattle in the assemblage was noted from this phase (80% of contexts), with ovicaprid remains are present in similar amounts to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman sample. Rates of pig and horse are also roughly the same as for the preceding phase.

There is poor potential for ageing the assemblage, with only 8 ageable mandibles being available (three cattle, three sheep and two pig). Sixty-one ageable epiphyses and nine measurable bones were also noted. Butchery rates are higher than for the preceding period (12.2% of fragments). Only two burnt fragments of bone were noted.

Unphased

Seven undated contexts yielded 828 grams of faunal material (NISP: 72). Seventy percent of fragments derived from ditches, with the remainder from pits and post holes. Cattle again dominates, with similar numbers of sheep to preceding phases. Pig and horse is present in 28.5% of contexts. The only instance of bird in the assemblage was noted from fill (4907) of posthole [4905] in the form of small passerine femur. Wild mammal remains were also observed in the form of a rabbit/hare proximal femur from fill (6911) of ditch [6905] and a red deer antler tine from pit fill (7607). Only 15 epiphyses and a single cattle mandible were noted. No measurable bones were recovered. Only 15 epiphyses and a single cattle mandible were noted. No measurable bones were recovered.

Recommendations

This is a small sample of similar size, composition and period from the adjacent Area BA1 Zones 1–4 assemblage (Olivera forthcoming). The Late Iron Age–Early Roman sample is comparable in size and size and nature to that of the nearby A505 bypass (Philips et al 2009). There would be some benefit in further analysis of the assemblage in order to add to our knowledge of Later Iron Age and transitional animal husbandry in the area.

As with the A505 the Late Bronze Age sample is small with little potential to answer any wider regional research questions. No further work is recommended on this or the Roman assemblages.

Hand collected and wet sieved context and sample groups selected for analysis will be recorded onto the ORACLE database in terms of preservation, fragmentation, species, skeletal element, body side, age, modification, epiphyseal fusion, dental

eruption, and wear. Fully fused, well-preserved fragments will be measured following von den Driesch (1976). Stature estimates will be calculated using conversion factors summarised by von den Driesch and Boessneck (1974).

In general, each fragment will be identified to species-, or at least genus-, level by MOLA archaeozoologists using available reference collections and in-house resources. The fragments will then be recorded as individual fragments unless only identifiable to an approximate category, particularly 'cattle-sized' mammal and 'sheep-sized' mammal, in which case multiple records may be made of otherwise unidentifiable skull, vertebra and rib fragments.

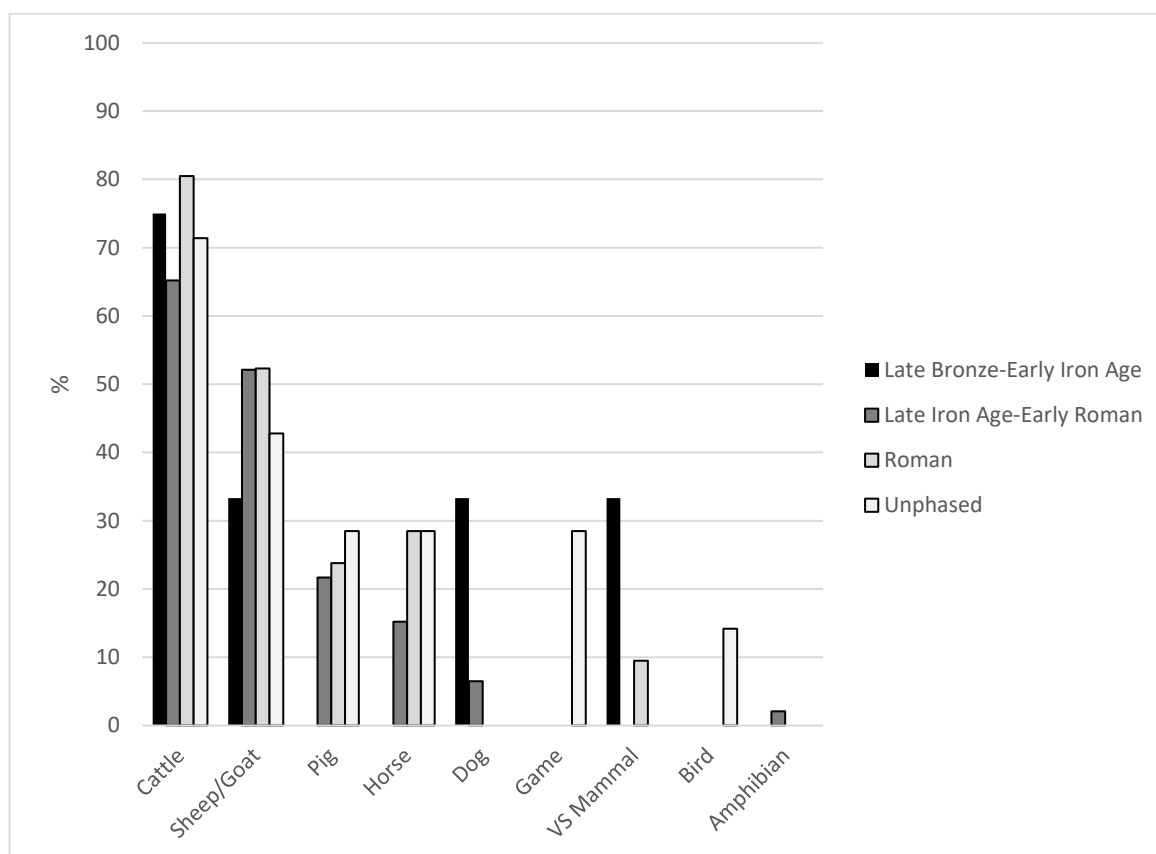
For the purpose of interpretation of individual phase assemblages, all identification, quantification, and analysis effort will focus particularly on species, skeletal element, body side, age-at-death, modification, and estimated stature in an effort to identify temporal and geographical variation in meat diet, patterns of animal exploitation and waste disposal.

Any selection of contexts for full recording should be made after the full stratigraphic analysis is carried out and all contexts are assigned to a land use and period. The selection would be made based on assessment of the animal bone, the stratigraphic priority contexts, and the potential value of the animal bone assemblages

No discard is recommended at assessment stage. Any contexts containing entirely unidentifiable material may be discarded at analysis stage following consultation with the archives and project management teams.

Table 31 Number of species by context

Period	Feature type	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Game	VS Mammal	Bird	Amphibian
Late Bronze- Early Iron Age	Ditch	1	1			1				
	Pit	2								
Late Iron Age-Early Roman	Ditch	26	19	8	7	2				
	Pit/Post hole	4	5	2		1				1
Roman	Ditch	12	7	3	4			1		
	Pit	5	4	2	2			1		
Unphased	Ditch	4	2	1	1		1			
	Pit/Post hole	1	1	1	1		1		1	
Total		55	39	17	15	4	2	2	1	1

Chart 3 Bar chart of percentage of contexts by identifiable faunal groups

6.8 Archaeobotanical remains

Wendy Smith

Introduction

In total, 58 environmental samples were collected during the Phase 1 archaeological evaluation, for the recovery of archaeobotanical and other organic remains.

For the purposes of this phase of evaluation a selection of 16 samples was made (Table 32).

The sediment collected from the 16 samples here ranged from 1 litre to 38 litres in volume. Contexts sampled included cremations, linear features i.e., ditches and gullies, pits, postholes and a ring ditch.

Just seven of the samples are currently dated. Sample <49> is currently dated to the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age, samples <6> and <32> are dated as LIA/Early Roman, whilst samples <22>, <35>, <36> and <37> all date to the Roman period.

Table 32 Sample register for the assessed samples

Sample	Area	Context	Parent Context	Context Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Residue volume (L)
4	BA1 - Zone 5	310	305	Pit Undated	17	35	3.5
6	BA1 - Zone 5	409	404	Linear Feature LIA/Early Roman	24	50	11.5
22	BA1 - Zone 5	1413	1406	Pit Roman	38	55	15.5
23	BA1 - Zone 5	1211	1208	Posthole Undated	23	40	13.5
27	BA1 - Zone 5	2208	2207	Posthole Undated	1	1	0.5
30	BA10/ Area C	3221	3216	Pit Undated	36	70	10
31	BA10/ Area C	3610	3605	Pit Undated	31	75	7.5
32	BA10/ Area C	3309	3305	Pit LIA/Early Roman	29	40	13
33	BA3	4906	4904	Pit Undated	18	15	2.5
34	BA3	4907	4905	Pit Undated	25	75	2.5
35	BA3	4306	4304	Cremation (Roman)	6	1	0.5
36	BA3	4307	4305	Cremation (Roman)	5	2	0.5
37	BA3	4307	4304	Cremation (Roman)	3	2	0.5
49	BA3	6120	6106	Pit LBA/IA	32	45	4.5
52	BA3	6027	6010	Pit Undated	28	50	11
58	BA2	9005	9004	Ring Ditch Undated	34	90	7.5

Methodology

The general environmental samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf flotation tank, with the flot collected over a 0.25mm sieve and the residue retained in a 1mm flexible nylon mesh. Both sample fractions were dried and residues sorted by MOLA processing staff. The flots were scanned by the author using a low-powered MEIJI EMZ binocular microscope and any archaeobotanical materials and other environmental materials noted in rapid scanning were recorded and identified.

Due to the rapid nature of this assessment, identifications are made without comparison to modern reference material and/or botanical keys and should be seen as provisional. The relative abundance of environmental remains noted in samples is notional and may overlook smaller items due to the rapid nature of assessment.

Nomenclature for samples follows Stace (2019). The fraction, abundance and diversity of environmental remains from LNB24 was scored using the APEX system:

Fraction: F = flot/ W = residue/ W(P) = items sorted from residue by MOLA processing staff and recorded on processing record but not assessed by author

Abundance: 1 = moderate (< 10 items)/ 2 = occasional (11 – 50 items)/ 3 = abundant (50 – 100 items) and 4 = very abundant (> 100 items).

Diversity: 1 = low (1 – 3 items)/ 2 = medium (4 – 7 items)/ 3 = high (> 7 items)

Discussion

Table 34 sets out the charred plant macrofossil remains for the sixteen samples assessed here. None of the samples assessed here are considered to be of interpretable value for charred plant macrofossils (seeds in the widest sense). However, a few samples have produced abundant to very abundant assemblages of larger sized (>4mm) charred wood fragments suitable for review by a charred wood specialist.

Table 35 sets out the results for any other ecofacts in the samples and Table 36 lists any untransformed (uncharred) ecofacts noted in the samples.

Summary

The archaeobotanical assemblage from this phase of evaluation has not proven productive for charred plant macrofossils but a few samples (<31>, <34>, <36> and <39>) have generated large quantities of >4mm charred wood fragments which has been assessed separately.

All 16 samples produced modern root and often other modern remains (leaf, stem, cereal, straw, seeds and moss), which suggests that these features are near to the modern ground surface and likely to be subject to bioturbation (root disturbance and reworking of the sediment by insects/animals, ploughing damage etc) and freezing/thawing.

The small quantities of charred grain recovered may be adequate for radiocarbon determinations if required.

6.9 Charcoal

Marvin Demicoli

Introduction

This forms a brief assessment of the recovered charcoal remains recovered from the 16 assessed environmental samples as per the methodology described in the preceding section on the archaeobotany.

Fifteen of the 16 samples assessed returned anthracological (wood charcoal) remains within the residues.

Methodology

The flots and residues were dried and sorted and any ecofacts were retained. The charcoal from the residue samples were assessed to identify the diversity of wood taxa represented in them and any other analysis potential. Up to 10 charred wood (charcoal) fragments, larger than 2 mm in size, were identified from each selected sample or group of samples from the same context. Charred wood remains, were identified using a transmitted light microscope at magnifications of x50 to x600 times.

Discussion

Tentative phasing was available for seven samples while no dating was available for the rest of the samples at the time of writing. Samples were recovered from the fills of pits, linear ditches/gullies, postholes, and cremation pits.

Charcoal was present in almost all the residue samples assessed, with recovered abundance quantities ranging from occasional (<10 fragments), moderate (10-50 fragments), to abundant (50-100 fragments). Only posthole fill sample (4907)<34> had abundant quantities of charcoal.

Pit fill samples (1413)<22> and (4306)<35>, and cremation pit fill samples (4307)<36><37> were tentatively dated to the Roman period. Both the cremation fill samples, as well as (4306)<35> were composed exclusively of oak (*Quercus* sp.) charcoal. Oak was not identified in (1413)<22>. This latter sample had charcoal of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), plum/blackthorn (*Prunus* cf. *domestica/spinosa*), and cherry (*Prunus* cf. *avium*).

Oak (*Quercus* sp.) was identified exclusively in pit fill samples (3610)<31>, (3309)<32> (dated to the LIA/Early Roman period, and (310)<4>, while one fragment of Maloideae charcoal was also identified in sample (6027){52}.

The fills of linear features (6120)<49>, (409)<6>, and (9005)<58>, had charcoal of oak, beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), and buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). All these features only had occasional charcoal fragments.

The undated posthole fills (4906)<33>, (4907)<34>, (1211)<23>, and (2208)<27>, had charcoal of oak, field maple (*Acer campestre*), beech, Maloideae, and hazel. Posthole fills (4906)<33>, and (1211)<23>, were composed exclusively of oak charcoal, while sample (2208){27} had no oak charcoal at all.

Possible small fragments of burnt bone were noted in samples (6120)<49>, (409)<6>, (3309){32} all dated to the LIA/Early Roman period, and (1211)<23> which is undated.

Oak charcoal generally had weak ring curvature, although tyloses were not very common, both characteristics indicating large mature trees. Apart from being exclusively composed of oak charcoal, up to 30% of the oaks in cremation context (4307) and pit-fill context (4306) had tyloses, suggesting similar fuelwood selection strategies. The other taxa on the other hand generally had fragments with strong ring curvature, suggesting smaller branches or small trees.

In general, the taxonomic diversity was high with 10 different taxa identified. However, the anthracological (charcoal) assemblage indicates a prevalence of oak in the Roman period cremation and one of the pit samples. This suggests conscious human fuelwood selection. Roman period pit fill sample (1413)<22> was more taxonomically diverse suggesting charcoal coming from multiple or different fire events.

Conclusions and recommendations

In the posthole samples the prevalence of one species could be reflecting the original timber that was burnt in-situ.

Further analysis of some of the samples and more systematic on-site sampling as part of any further works could help answer questions about the wider woodland environment, fuelwood selection, and woodland management.

Roman pit fill sample(1413)<22> and cremation pit fill samples (4306)<35>, (4307)<36><37> have some potential for further anthracological analysis to characterise the woodland vegetation landscape and fuelwood selection. All these samples had moderate amounts of charcoal and three of them were also mono-specific. Therefore, they can be recommended for analysis to answer questions about fuelwood selection for the cremation ritual. All these recommended samples should be analysed only should they be deemed stratigraphically significant when phasing and dating data are available.

Moreover, the anthracological assessment has highlighted high potential for the recovery of charcoal remains from this site, and therefore systematic sampling and

sample processing (40L per sample) should be considered if further archaeological excavation works are conducted.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Archaeological potential

In total 102 trenches were excavated across the site of which 43 (42%) trenches contained no archaeological remains.

The trenches were excavated in four areas, Zone 5, Area C, Zone BA2 and Zone BA3.

In Zone 5 26 trenches were excavated of which 22 (85%) contained archaeology. In Area C 10 trenches were excavated of which eight (80%) contained archaeology. In Zone BA2 19 trenches were dug of which nine (53%) contained archaeology and in Zone BA3 47 trenches were dug of which 20 (42%) contained archaeology.

In general, the previous results of the geophysical survey provided an accurate guide to the extent of archaeological survival. There was a general absence of horizontal stratigraphy, with archaeological evidence mainly confined to cut features including ditches (including enclosure, boundary and ring ditches), pits and postholes. Cut features survived up to a maximum depth of c1.3m below overlying deposits of topsoil and subsoil.

In Zone 5 the four trenches without archaeology were all on the periphery of the areas with geophysical evidence for archaeology. In Area C the two trenches without archaeology were both on the south side of the area relatively close to the by-pass. In Zone BA2 almost all the negative trenches were in the southern part of the area away from the geophysical evidence. In Zone BA3 the negative trenches were all in the northern, northeastern and southern parts of the area either away from the geophysical results for archaeology or on the eastern side of the site where evidence of a bund associated with the modern by-pass had previously showed up as potential archaeology.

For the most part, where targeted at features previously identified by the geophysical survey, the evaluation was successful in confirming and informing further on the results of the survey identifying features of primarily LIA/Early Roman and Roman date. Evidence for the multi-phase settlement Late Iron Age to Roman enclosed settlement in Zone 5 was further confirmed by a large number of features supported by spot dating of pottery. Features identified as ring ditches in Zone 5 and BA2 were further explored, and where dated seem to belong to the LIA/Early Roman period. Overall, for all areas there was confirmation of continuity of settlement activity into the Roman period of the 1st and 2nd centuries. Further evidence for Roman roads/trackways was identified in BA2 and BA3, whilst two early Roman cremations were identified in BA3. There was overall an absence of evidence for the later Roman periods although some 3rd century coinage was retrieved.

Throughout the site there was a general recovery of small groups of finds, although the prehistoric and Roman pottery assemblage forms a significant component.

Although much of the environmental evidence is undated, what dated evidence there is suggests a mixture of pastoral and agricultural activities. This needs to be further looked at in conjunction with later phases of excavation.

7.2 Answering original project aims

The extent to which the evaluation has answered the original aims of the project as set out in Section 3 of the WSI (MOLA 2024a) is discussed below.

To further define and understand the Bronze Age funerary landscape and its relationship with the Iron Age and Roman occupation as well as Saxon occupation

No evidence was found during this phase for the Bronze Age funerary landscape.

To further define and understand the extent and character of the Iron Age farmstead and associated enclosures and field system across the site

Where dated the majority of features were broadly dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period for the most part for the period c 100BC–AD70/100. Dating of the features is supported by a reasonably sized pottery assemblage. The greater part of this activity was identified in Zone 5 where trenching was targeted at the largest concentration of activity. In this zone 15 of the 26 trenches contained evidence dated to the LIA/Early Roman period. Identified features for the most part comprised enclosure ditches, boundary ditches, ring ditches and to a lesser extent pitting, from multiple phases of the development of the settlement. In Area C evidence for the period included a series of intercutting pits. In Trench 27 a large pit was identified which contained some daub and kiln furniture.

In BA3 most of the LIA/Early Roman evidence came from a small number of ditches. A single pit may potentially date as early as the Late Bronze Age although this is doubtful, whilst a ditch in Trench 62 could only be broadly dated as Iron Age to Roman. In BA2 most of the evidence was Roman but a single ditch was dated to the LIA/Early Roman period. The dated archaeobotanical evidence is probably too small at this stage to make any broad generalisations about farming activity but is suggestive of mixed farming agricultural activity. The fairly ubiquitous presence of cattle, sheep/goat and pig within the animal bone assemblage suggests a pastoral element to some of the farming activity, whilst recovery of charred seeds may provide evidence for the growing of crops where these can be proven to be non-intrusive. There is limited evidence for industrial activity, but some potential kiln furniture was noted in both the LIA/Early Roman and Roman periods, and two sherds of pottery have deposits that may indicate use for a process such as salt making.

To further define and understand the character of the different phases of the Roman settlement and associated landscape management across the site including enclosures and field boundaries

Although the majority of features could only be broadly dated to the LIA/Early Roman period (for the most part 100BC–AD70/100) there were some features and deposits that were more securely dated to the Roman period. Although much of the pottery was only broadly dated as Roman, where more closely dated the Roman evidence was mostly for the 1st–2nd centuries. In Zone 5 several ditches were dated to periods between AD 120 and AD 300, suggesting continuation of field boundaries and enclosures into these periods. Some quarrying in Trench 12 was dated to AD 50–100, whilst a storage pit in Trench 14 potentially dates to AD 120–160. In zone BA3 there was some evidence for 1st century pitting dated to AD 40–100, as well as further evidence for the Roman trackway road previously identified by Albion Archaeology. In zone BA2 there was further evidence for a sunken trackway, roadside ditches and cart ruts. Although dating was fairly sparse there was some 1st century dating for these features (AD 40–100). Two cremations in BA3 provide the only evidence for funerary activity and are currently dated to the 1st century AD. Later dating for the Roman period was confined largely to small finds such as 3rd century coinage. A small assemblage of Roman building material suggests the presence of nearby structures.

To further understand the impact of past land uses and farming activities that have likely affected the state of preservation of the known archaeological remains

There was a relative dearth of horizontal stratigraphy suggesting modern activities including farming had probably disturbed and removed the upper part of the

stratigraphic sequence. In parts of BA3 construction of a bund associated with the by-pass had removed the archaeological sequence.

To refine the extent of colluvial deposits in relation to the known palaeochannel that is identified on site and define its relationship with the Iron Age and Roman occupation

Survival of colluvium was relatively sparse, where present it was generally 0.3–0.4m deep and overlay the chalk substrate and appeared to represent a build-up of material washed out of the hills into the now-extinct river courses that once ran through the development area. Most notably this was present in the southwest corner of Zone 5, through the middle of Area C and to the Northern and Southern half of BA3. At this stage there is very little evidence to define the relationship to the Iron Age and Roman sequence clearly.

To establish the potential for the survival of environment evidence in Zone 5, Area C and Area BA 2/3

Some potential for environmental evidence including untransformed and charred material was identified however only seven of the environmental samples are currently associated with dated contexts, three of which are from the Roman cremations. There was also some evidence for intrusive material from rooting within the samples. Targeted radiocarbon dating of some of the numerous undated contexts may help with dating. The limited archaeobotanical evidence will benefit from inclusion with evidence from later phases of work. There is some potential for exploring evidence for local diet and farming practices within the animal bone assemblage. The environmental evidence needs to be further reviewed in relation to any subsequent mitigation.

7.3 General discussion of potential

The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification above natural ground) on the site is relatively low, although there was some limited survival of colluvium.

The relative dearth of horizontal stratigraphy may be indication that modern land use including ploughing is likely to have removed the upper horizon of the stratigraphic sequence

In some areas of the eastern part of BA3 activities associated with the by-pass had removed the archaeological stratigraphy.

The evaluation as a whole has identified the potential for very good survival of cut features dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman and Roman periods. The majority of the evidence for the previously identified multi-phase settlement was for the Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlement particularly for the period 100 BC–AD 70/100. The evaluation has shown that multiple phases of enclosure and boundary ditches survive as well as some ring ditches pitting and post holes. The evaluation has also confirmed the potential for the survival of Roman activity dating to the period between AD 40 and AD 300. Surviving features included ditches and pitting as well as remains of the previously identified roads/trackways and associated features. There is also the potential for a small amount of Roman funerary activity as shown by the survival of two 1st century cremations.

The prehistoric and Roman pottery assemblage is of local and regional significance and together with any further evidence from other phases of excavation has the potential to contribute to the fulfilling of the wider aims of the evaluation and for determining the condition, chronologies and grouping of artefacts that might be recovered from any future proposed work.

The ceramic building material has potential for assisting with dating of the stratigraphic sequence for the Roman and medieval/post-medieval periods. The fairly widespread presence of Roman building material would appear to indicate potential for Roman buildings on or close to the site. The presence of fired clay and potential kiln furniture within the assemblage has the potential for assisting in an assessment of the presence of oven and kiln structures on and near to the site. This potential will be further enhanced by comparison with results from previous and later stages of excavation.

Assessment of 16 environmental samples from the site has suggested the potential for the recovery of archaeobotanical material from the site (although only seven of these samples are currently dated) as well as remains of charred wood some of which has potential for the radiocarbon dating of undated features and deposits if required.

There is good potential for the results from the site to address the original research aims and research question established for the Iron Age and Roman periods in the East of England Regional Research Framework (ALGAO East of England 2024). This potential should only increase following further phases of work.

Although there is known potential for medieval activity on the site as a whole, the evaluation recorded almost no evidence for significant medieval activity in the evaluated areas. There is a very small amount of potential for the recovery of medieval and post-medieval finds, although the pottery assemblage was very small.

7.4 Significance

The archaeological remains including finds assemblages are of local significance. The survival of archaeological remains from the LIA/Roman and Roman periods is well documented by a series of works in the locality. The results from the Phase 1 evaluation serve to further enhance the growing body of evidence for land to the north of Baldock, as previously extensively reported by various archaeological organisations from 2003 onwards. The results of the Phase 1 evaluation, together with the results from Phase 2 will serve to inform any further ongoing mitigation of the archaeological remains on the site.

7.5 Assessment of the evaluation

The evaluation has provided a good estimation of the extent of the archaeological survival in Zone 5, Area C, Zone BA2 and Zone BA3.

Logistically the evaluation was very successful in that just three, /four of the scheduled 106 trenches had to be de-scoped and a very small number moved.

The trenches were distributed across the site areas including areas that had not previously produced archaeological or potential archaeological evidence.

Where trenches were targeted at features and anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, in the majority of cases they were able to locate and confirm these features. The majority of these features were dated to the LIA/Early Roman period and in many cases this activity continues into the Roman period.

Whilst many features contained no dating evidence, those that were dated contained sufficient material to provide a broad assessment of the date range for the features identified. Further analysis is likely to be able to attribute many of the undated features to identified periods.

For the most part the features identified comprised linear features such as ditches, pits and a relatively small number of postholes. In addition to which two cremations were identified.

Survival of horizontal stratigraphy other than subsoil was limited to occasional survival of colluvial deposits.

Although most of the pottery groups are small overall the evaluation has provided a reasonably good-sized pottery assemblage, particularly for the LIA/Early Roman period which will form a significant part of the site assemblage together with pottery from the Phase 2 evaluation and any further mitigation. Whilst other recovered finds assemblages were relatively small this reflects the character of the archaeological remains rather than any deficiency in the retrieval methodology.

We are confident that the environmental sampling strategy has been effective in providing a reasonable estimation of the environmental potential of these areas of the site, although many of the sampled deposits are currently undated. There may be some potential for the refinement of the dating by further analysis of the stratigraphy and potentially carefully targeted radiocarbon dating.

Overall, the evaluation has provided a good body of evidence with which to inform the mitigation of Phase 1 areas of the site.

7.6 Proposed development impact and conclusions

Considering the results from all the trenches, the evaluation has indicated that archaeological deposits and cut features survive across the evaluated areas, consistent with the geophysical survey, and also in some areas where no geophysical anomalies were present.

The proposed redevelopment at the site involves the construction of a residential neighbourhood comprising up to 3300 properties with supportive infrastructure. The impact of the development will be to remove and destroy archaeological features and deposits in areas of below-ground works that extend below the subsoil, primarily from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman and Roman periods.

The results from the evaluation trenches have provided a good estimation of the extent and character of the archaeological survival in four areas of the site. This information is sufficiently detailed and specific to together with the forthcoming evidence of Phase 2 of the evaluation inform any further mitigation strategy for the site.

The decision on the appropriate archaeological mitigation to the deposits revealed rests with the Local Planning Authority.

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