An Archaeological Assessment

Land east of Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire RG40 3TS

NGR: SU 79676 62707

Planning Ref: 241567

Site Code: BLRF26

794-PLN-HER- 01988

V1

28 August 2026

TETRA TECH

Land East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TS

An Archaeological Assessment

Planning reference	**241567**		
Local planning authority	**Wokingham Borough Council**		
PCA report no.	**R18642**	***Site Code***	**BLRF26**
PCA project no	**K10077**	***Date***	**August 2026**

Project Information	
Site name	Land East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TS
Project type	An Archaeological Assessment
Site address	Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TS
NGR	SU 79676 62707
Local planning authority	Wokingham Borough Council
Planning reference	241567
Commissioning client	Tetra Tech Consulting Services Ltd on behalf of Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Limited
Project dates	23rd February – 11th March 2026
Archive site code	BLRF26

PCA Information			
PCA project code	K10077	PCA report number	R18642
PCA Project Manager	Zbigniew Pozorski		
PCA office	London		
Address	Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre, Endwell Road, London SE4 2PD		
Telephone	020 7732 3925		
E-mail	zpozorski@pre-construct.com	Internet	www.pre-construct.com

Quality Control		
Written by:	Harry Platts	
Graphics by:	Joanna Nastaszyc	
Graphics checked by:	Mark Roughley	
Project Manager approval:	Douglas Killock	August 2026
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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) at Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TS (Figures 1 and 2). The central grid reference of the site is NGR SU 79676 62707.

1.2 The fieldwork was commissioned by Tetra Tech Consulting Services Ltd. on behalf of Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Limited and carried out between the 23rd of February and the 11th of March 2026. Planning permission for the redevelopment of the site (consisting of the construction of 38 dwellings) was granted subject to archaeological conditions.

1.3 Following a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching, an area of excavation covering the northeast quadrant of the site was agreed in consultation with Berkshire Archaeology.

1.4 In addition to the natural drift geology (Phase 1), the excavation revealed evidence of Romano-British settlement dating to circa AD 0–160 (Phase 2). A handful of insignificant features that appeared to post-date this main phase were broadly assigned to the post-medieval period (Phase 3).

1.5 Activity on the site may have commenced in the early 1st century AD, prior to the Roman conquest of AD 43. During the mid-1st century, in the first decades of Roman rule, a 0.14ha enclosure defined by a modest ditch was constructed around a roundhouse approximately 13m in diameter and other internal features. This probably housed a family unit engaged in pastoral farming, although poor organic preservation limited detailed analysis of the occupants' lifestyle. A number of possible fire pits were identified, primarily outside the main enclosure. A notable quantity of iron-smelting waste indicates that the occupants may also have been engaged in this industry. A small assemblage of fired clay blocks may represent kiln furniture and therefore may be associated with the same activity. Several small ditches and gully-like features surrounding the enclosure appear to represent an associated field system. The occupied enclosure itself appears to have been relatively short-lived, falling into disuse by the end of the 1st century AD. However, agricultural use of the land appears to have continued into the 2nd century AD and possibly beyond.

1.6 Overall, the archaeological works revealed a coherent group of remains centred on the Romano-British enclosure. This site type is not atypical and, aside from the evidence for iron-smelting, the results make a limited contribution to our understanding of such settlements. Nevertheless, the site adds to the broader picture of 1st-century Romano-British settlement patterns and provides evidence with which to explore questions of continuity and change during the early Roman period.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological field excavation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) between the 23rd of February and the 11th of March 2026 on land east of Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TS (Figure 1). PCA was commissioned by Tetra Tech Consulting Services Ltd. on behalf of their client Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Limited.

2.2 The site is located in the south of Finchampstead, immediately east of Longwater Road, and occupies an area that amounts to *c.*2.26ha. It is centred on National Grid Reference SU 79676 62707.

2.3 The site comprises an enclosed agricultural field of irregular quadrilateral shape, bounded to the north by residential properties off the Wood Moor estate, to the east by agricultural fields, to the south by Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve and to the west by Longwater Road.

2.4 The site is proposed for the erection of 38 dwellings together with associated outdoor space and landscaping, drainage infrastructure, hard and soft landscaping, parking, access, and associated works (Wokingham Borough Council Planning Ref. 241567). Planning consent was granted with an archaeological condition.

2.5 An Archaeological and Heritage Assessment was prepared for the site by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd (Oakley 2017). The site was subsequently subject to geophysical survey (Davies 2017) and a limited, targeted archaeological evaluation (Bower 2017), followed by a further archaeological evaluation in January 2026 (Cook 2026), comprising 19 trenches in total. These investigations confirmed the presence of intact archaeological remains, including linear features interpreted as possible enclosure and field boundaries, together with a number of pits, some containing evidence of burning. Several features produced dating evidence relating to the late Iron Age.

2.6 Following the results of the second phase of trial trenching and consultation with Berkshire Archaeology (BA), an excavation area was agreed in the northeastern quadrant of the site (Figure 2), with a contingency to increase its extent by up to 20% if required. Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for an archaeological 'Strip, Map and Sample' (SMS) excavation (White 2026), supported by a Method Statement (Davidson 2026).

2.7 This report details the results of the strip, map and sample excavation, which covered approximately 0.47ha.

2.8 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:

- Written Scheme of Investigation (White 2026)
- The Method Statement (Davidson 2026)

- Berkshire Archaeology's General Standards for Historic Environment Projects (BA 2021)
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE Historic England 2015)
- Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists CIfA 2023a)
- Univesal guidance for archaeological excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists CIfA 2023b)
- Code of conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b, revised 2022 & 2014c, revised 2020).

2.9 The general aims of the archaeological investigation, as set out in the WSI (White 2026), were as follows:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains and if so, to assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.
- To record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.
- To record the nature and extent of any previous impacts on the archaeological sequence across the site.
- To enable Berkshire Archaeology to make an informed decision as to the requirement for and scope of any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeology condition.

2.10 The site-specific aims of the archaeological investigation are as follows:

- Is there evidence for the potential Late Iron Age/Roman enclosure to the north of site?
- Is there evidence for Late Iron Age/Roman settlement activity?
- Is there evidence for Late Iron Age/Roman industrial activity associated with the burning evidence recorded in the 2026 evaluation?
- Is there evidence for any Late Iron Age/Roman agricultural activity?

2.11 The investigation was conducted by PCA staff, primarily under the supervision of Lauren Ward, and the project was managed by Zbigniew Pozorski (all PCA). The work was monitored by Linden Ellicott, the Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council. The work was commissioned by Tetra Tech Consulting Ltd.

2.12 It is intended that, upon completion of the project, the completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the appropriate local museum/archive repository identified by the unique site code BLRF26.

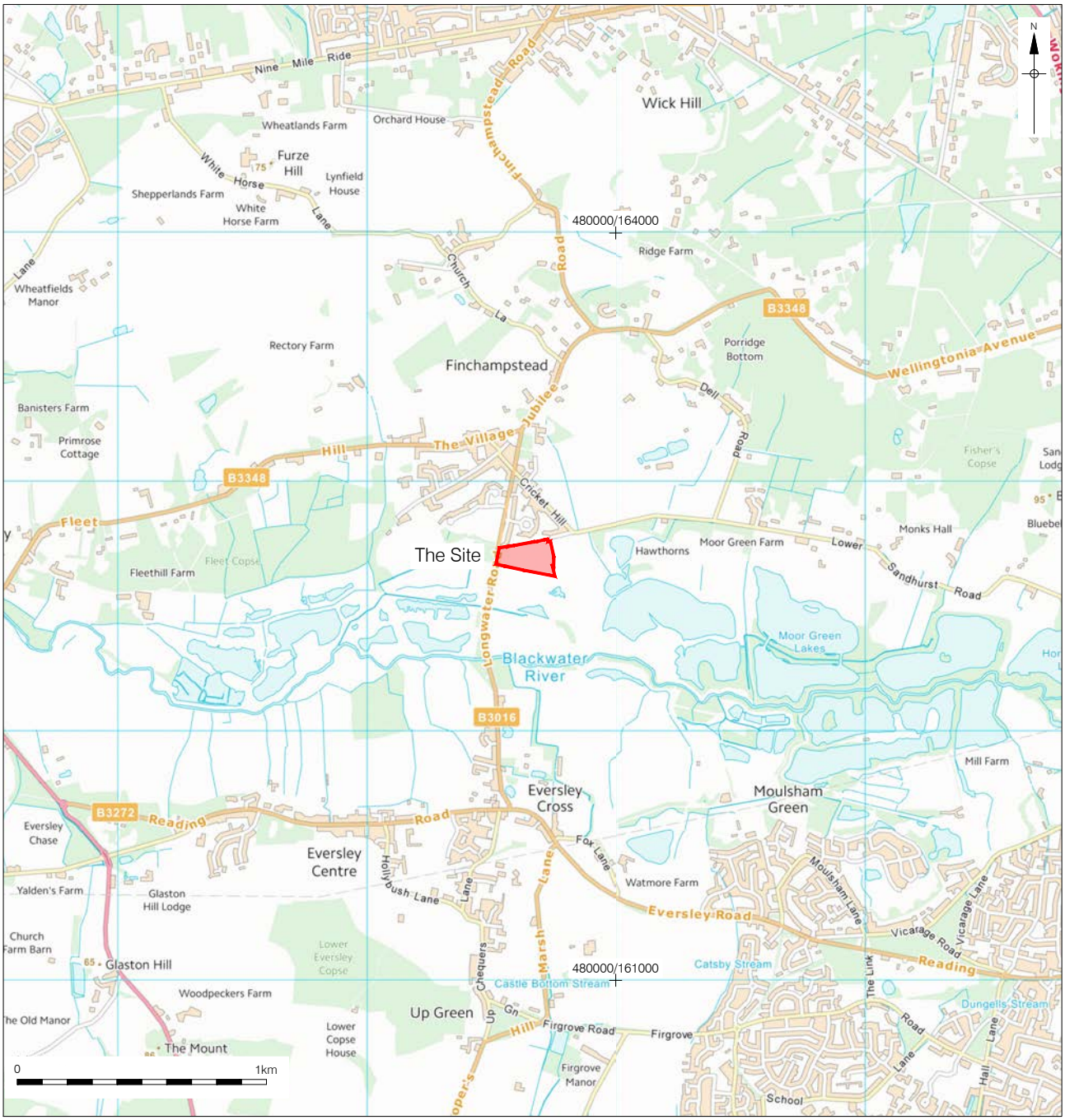

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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:25,000 at A4

P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Berkshire\Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire\CAD\EXCAV\Fig 02_Detailed Site Location.dwg

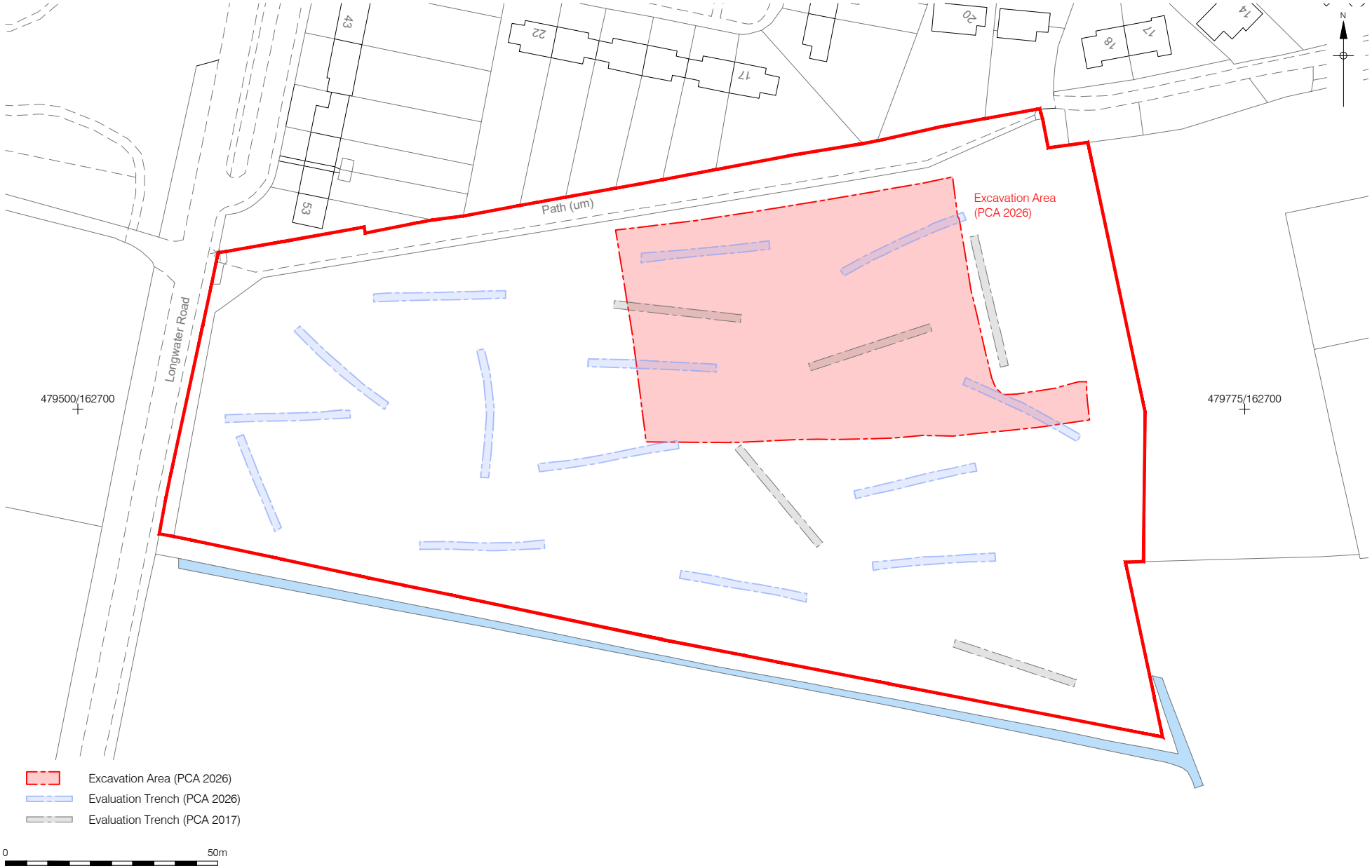

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Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1,250 at A4

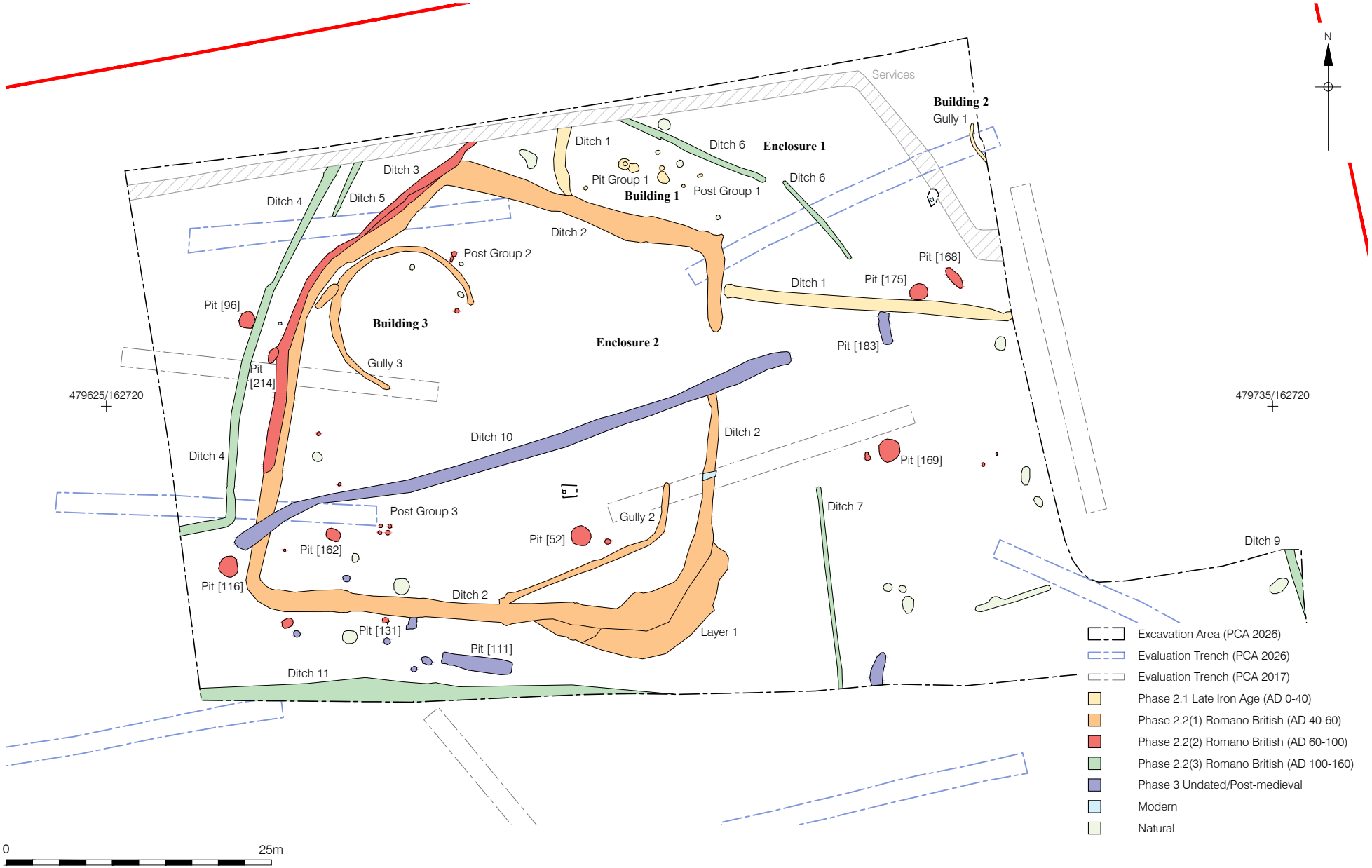

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Figure 3
Phased All Features Plan
1:500 at A4

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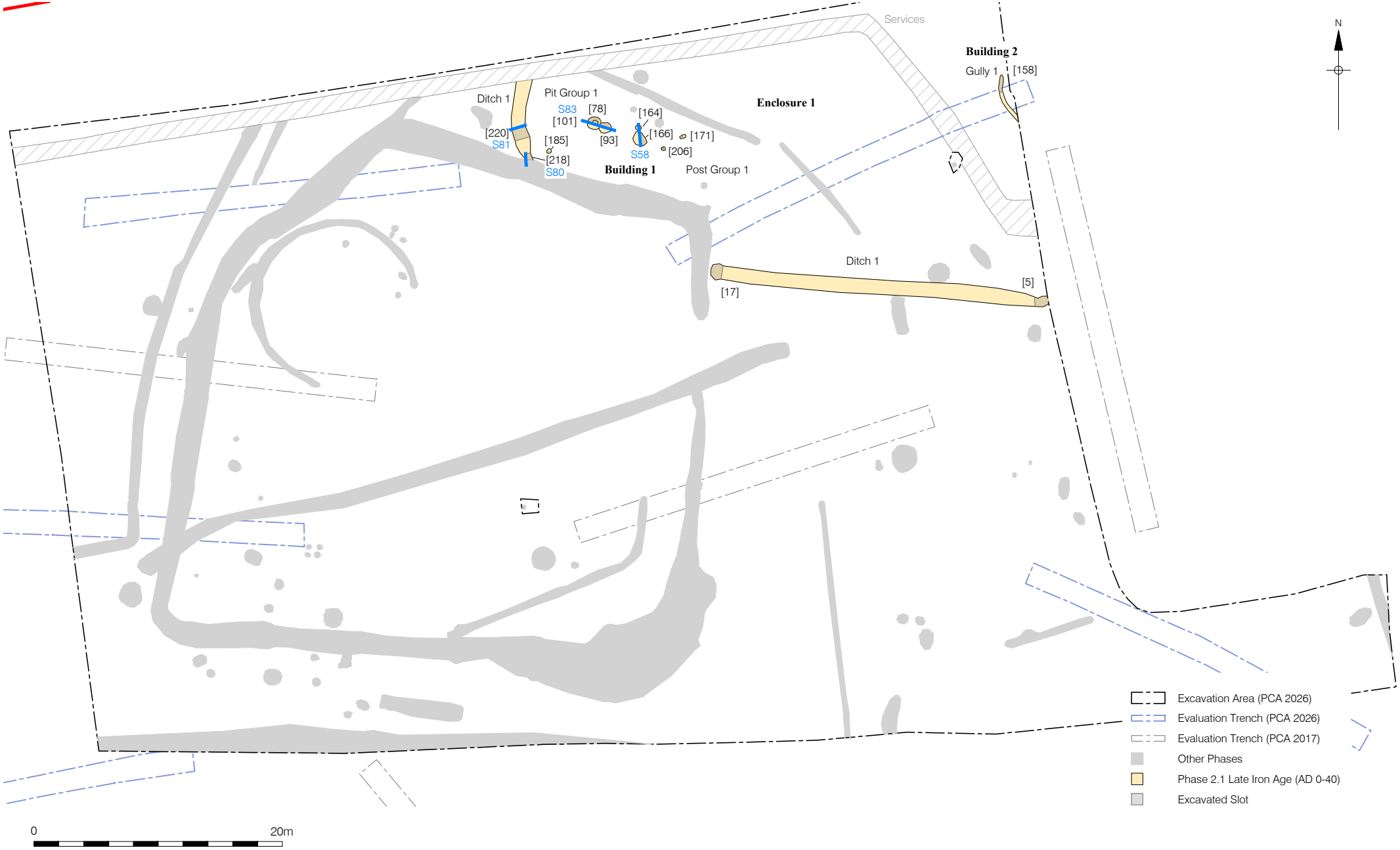

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Figure 4
Phase 2.1 Detailed Plan
1:400 at A4

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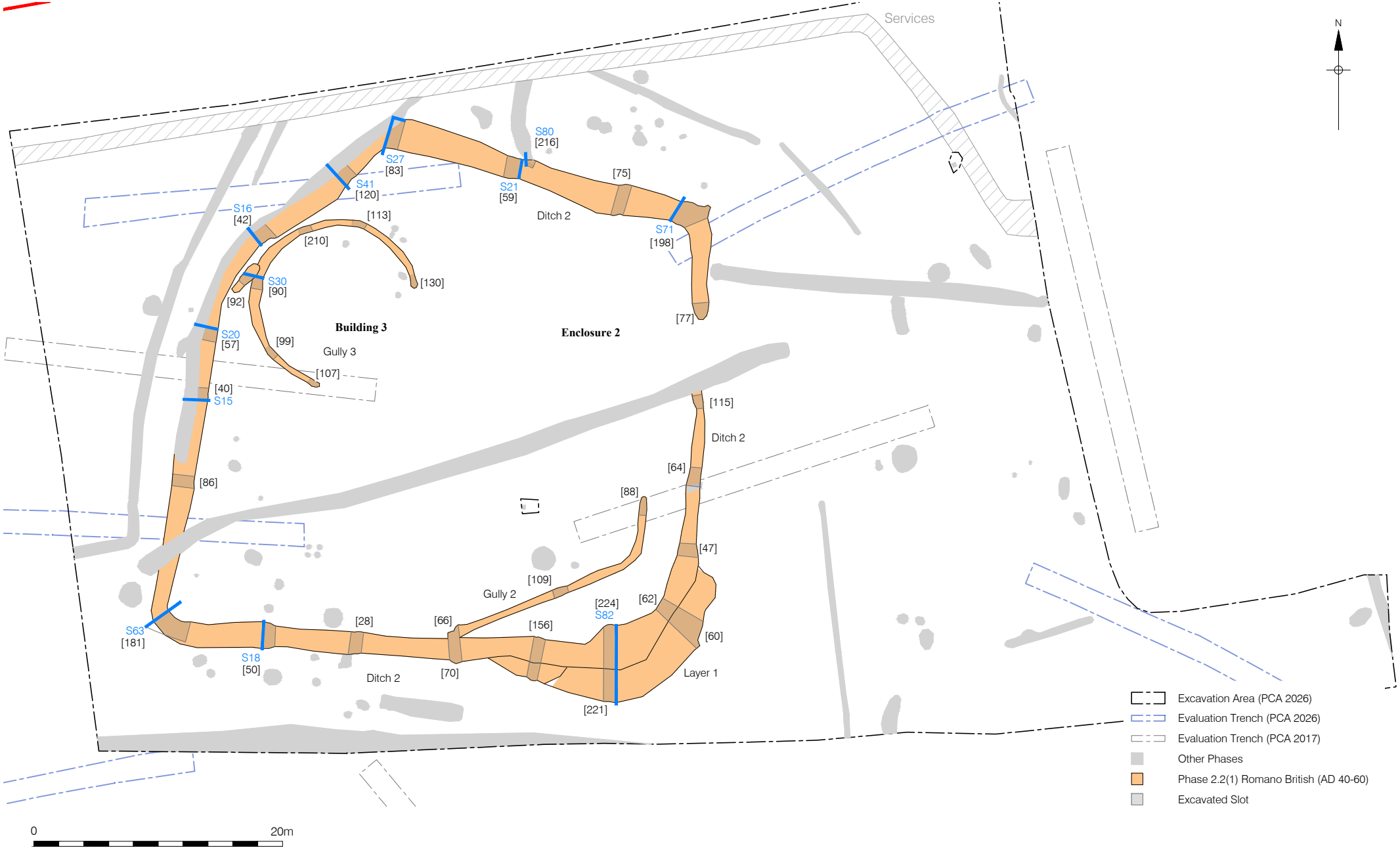

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Figure 5
Phase 2.2(1) Detailed Plan
1:400 at A4

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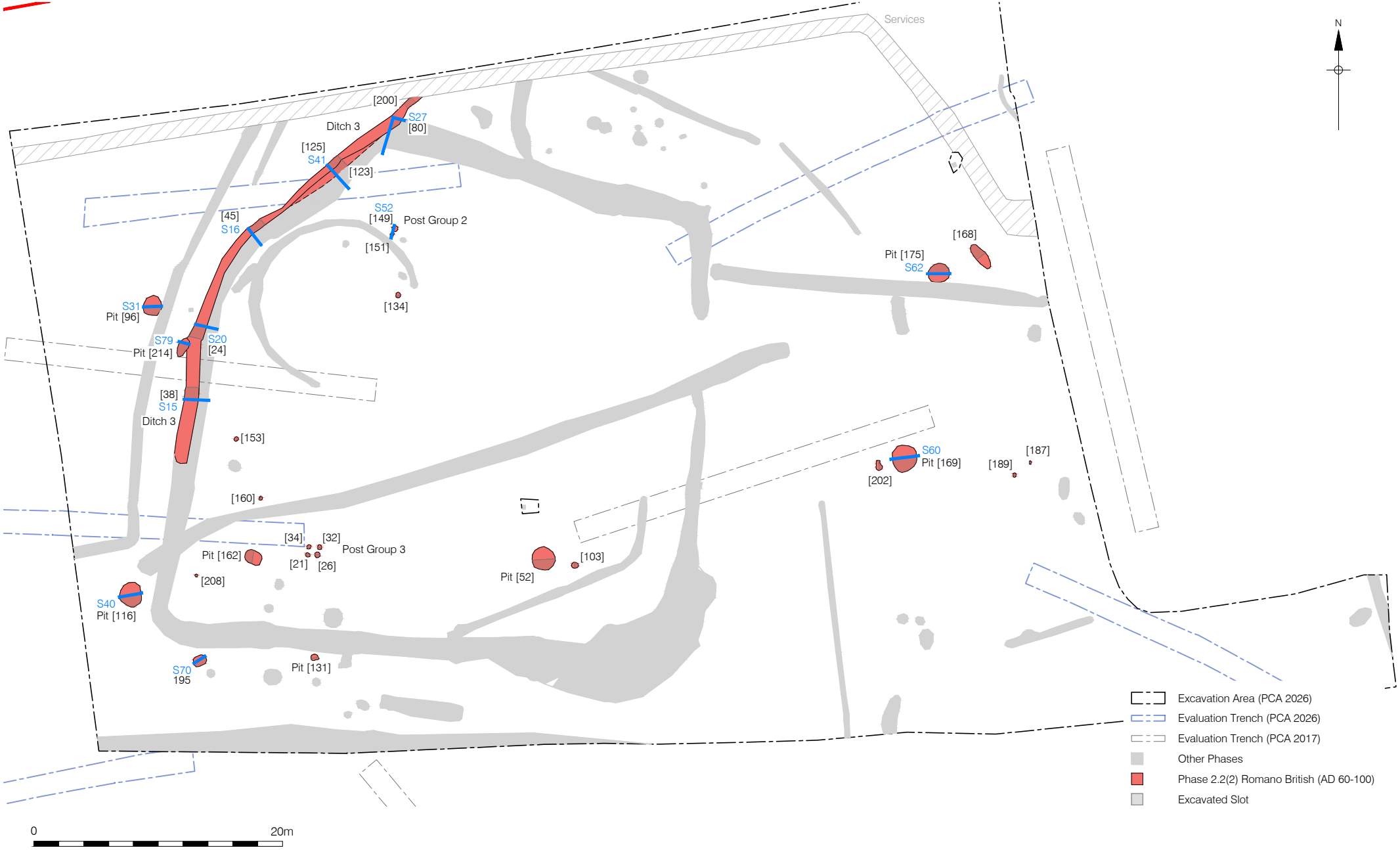

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Figure 6
Phase 2.2(2) Detailed Plan
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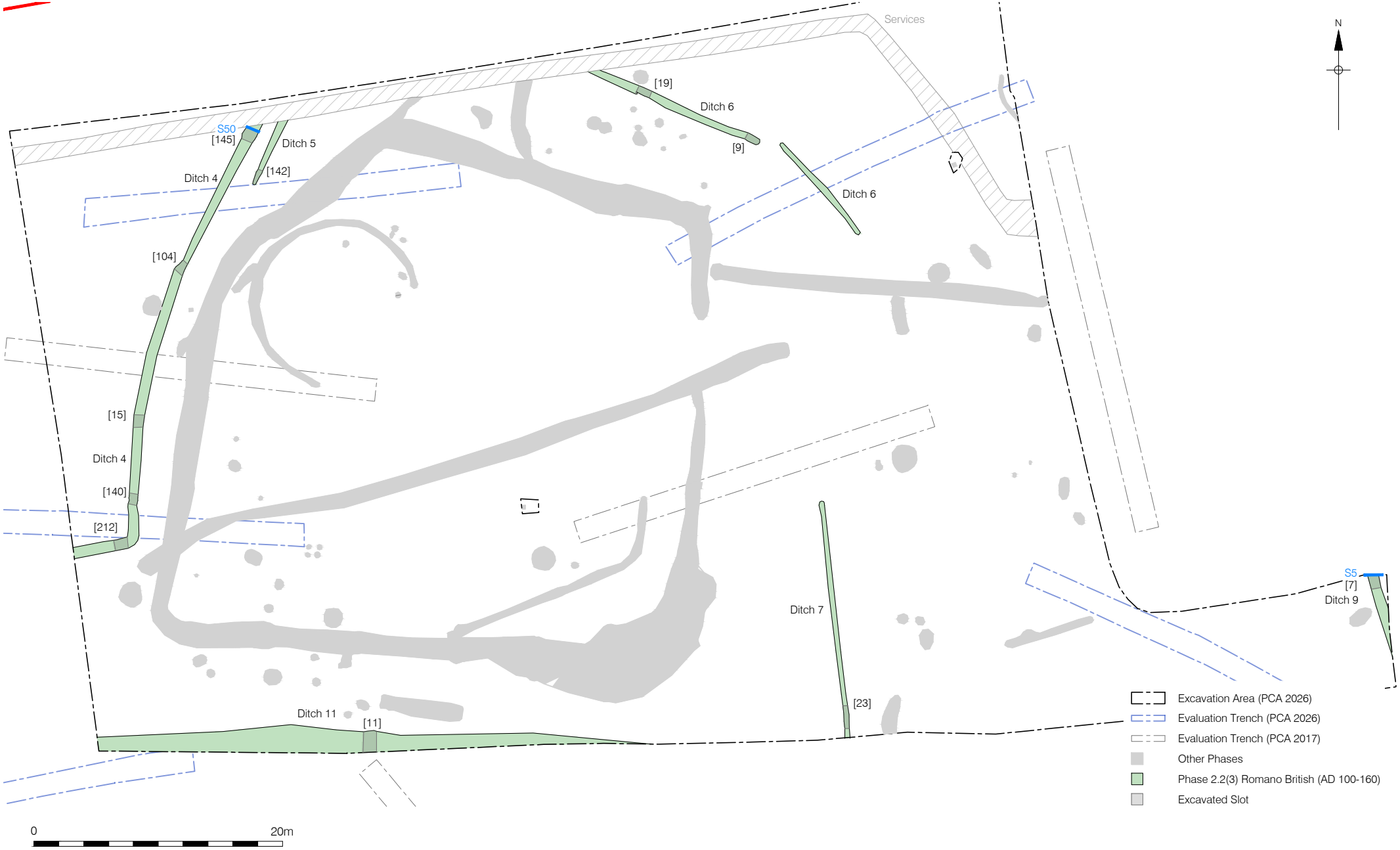

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Figure 7
Phase 2.2(3) Detailed Plan
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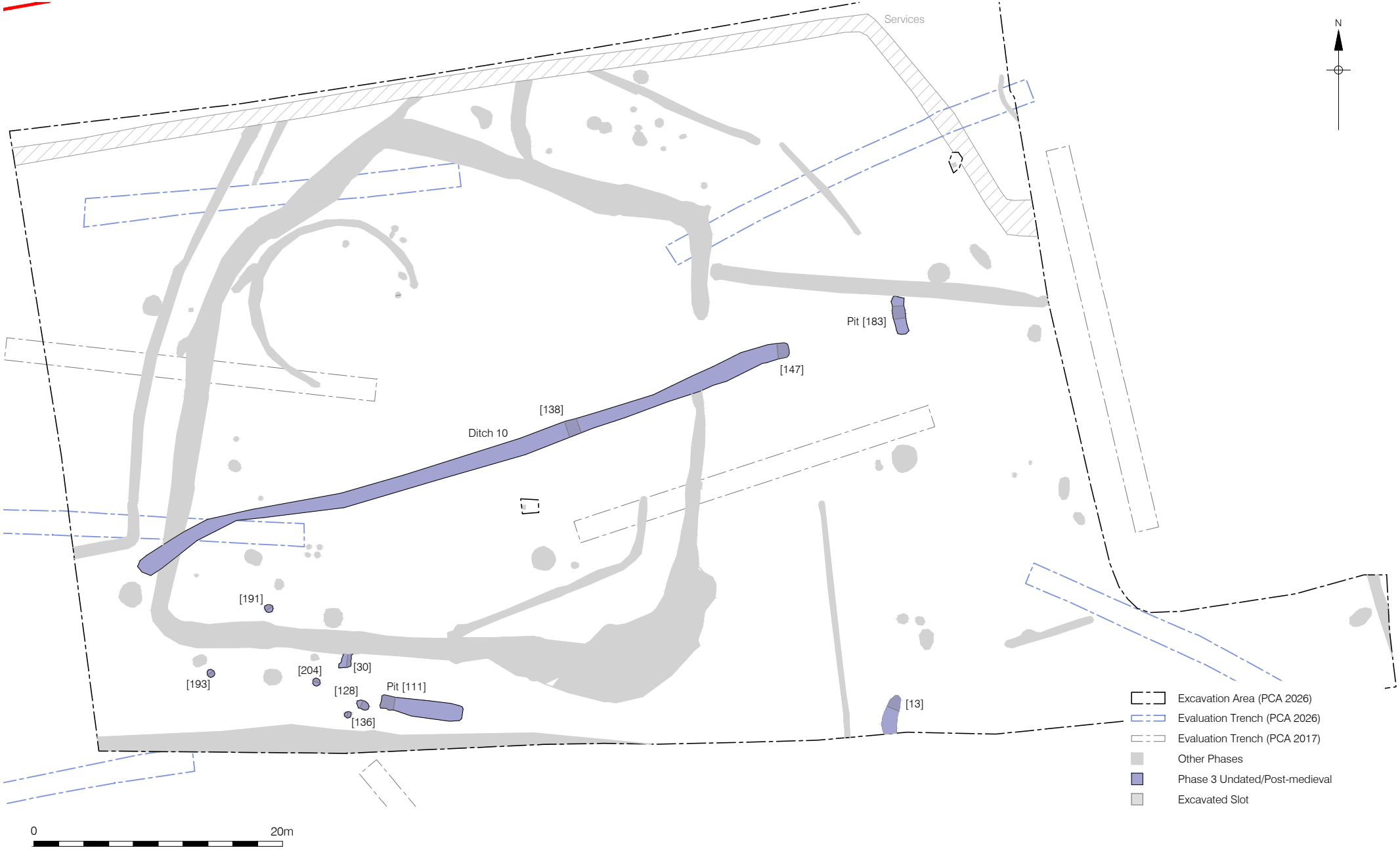

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Figure 8
Phase 3 Detailed Plan
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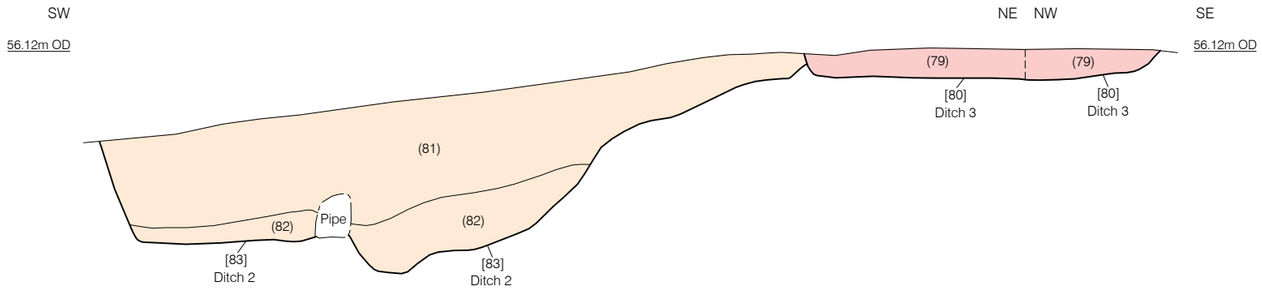
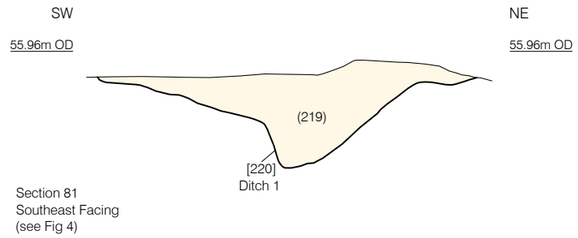
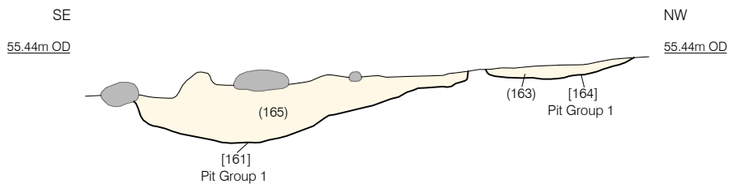


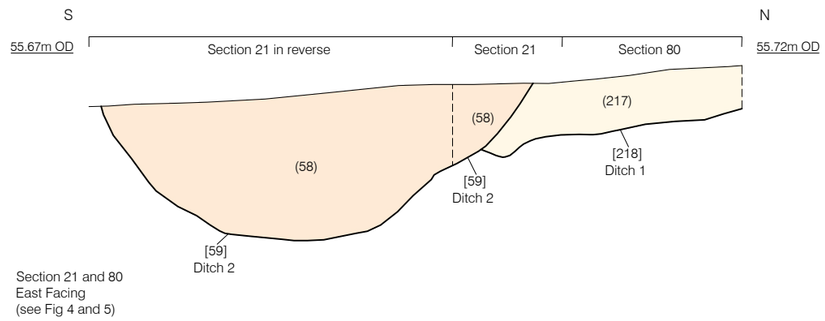
Section 27
Southeast and Southwest Facing
(see Fig 5 and 6)



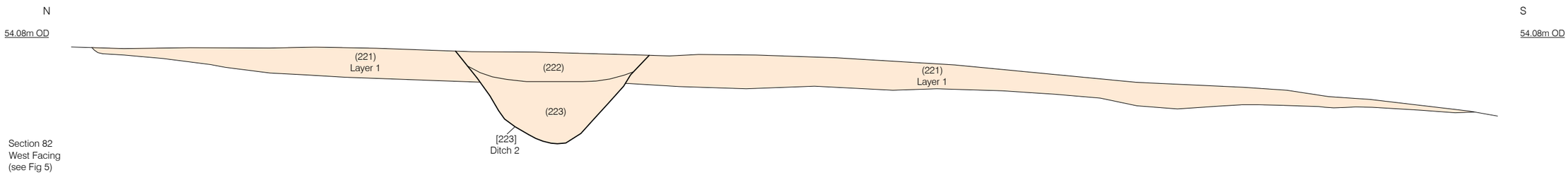
Section 81
Southeast Facing
(see Fig 4)



Section 58
Northeast Facing
(see Fig 4)



Section 21 and 80
East Facing
(see Fig 4 and 5)



Section 82
West Facing
(see Fig 5)

- Stone
- Phase 2.1 Late Iron Age (AD 0-40)
- Phase 2.2(1) Romano British (AD 40-60)
- Phase 2.2(2) Romano British (AD 60-100)

0 1m

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Figure 9
Selected Sections
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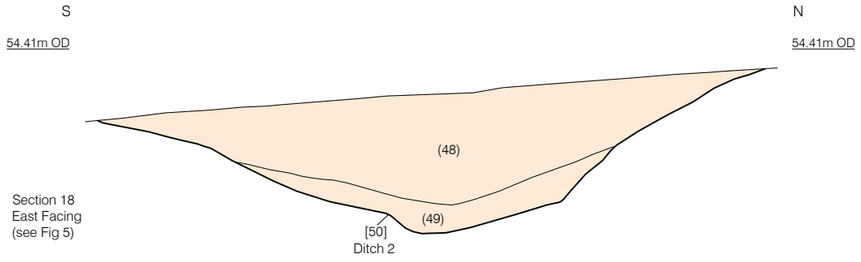

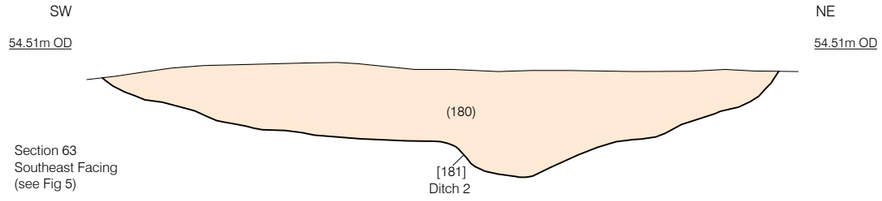

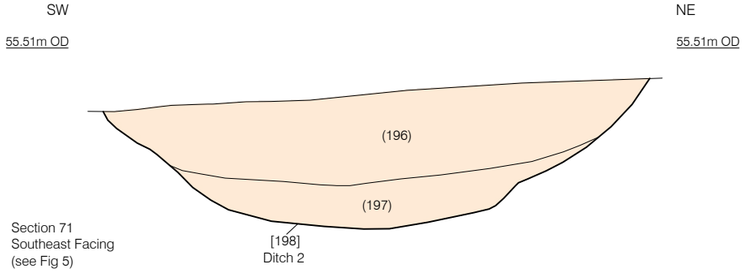

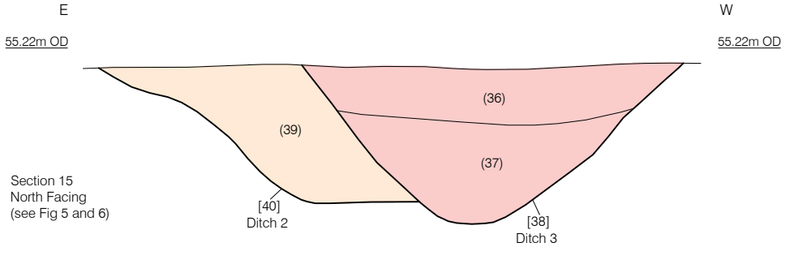

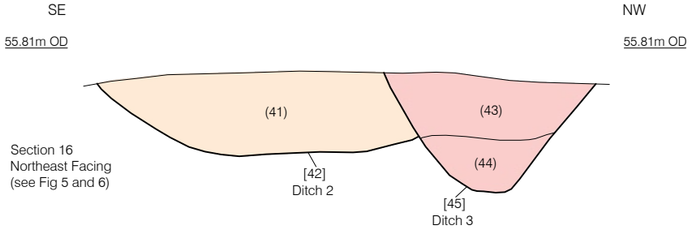

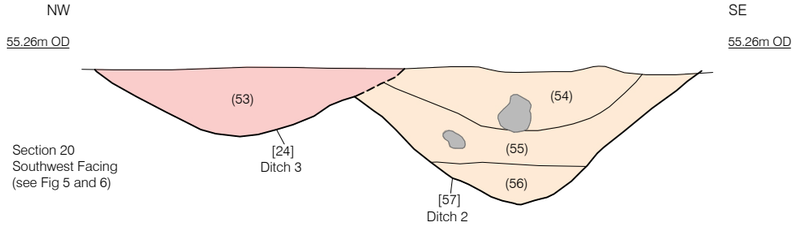

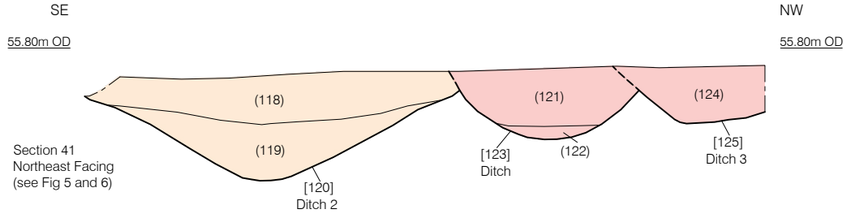

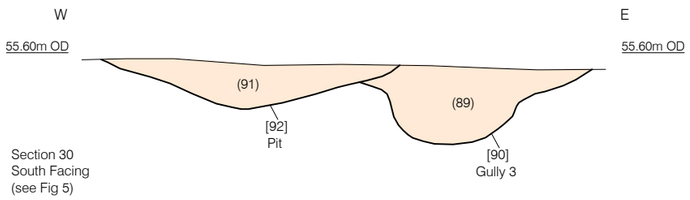

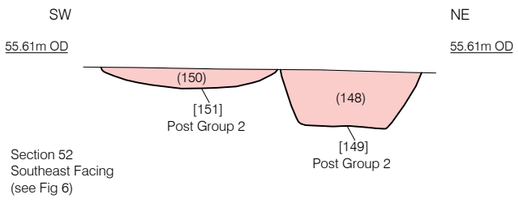

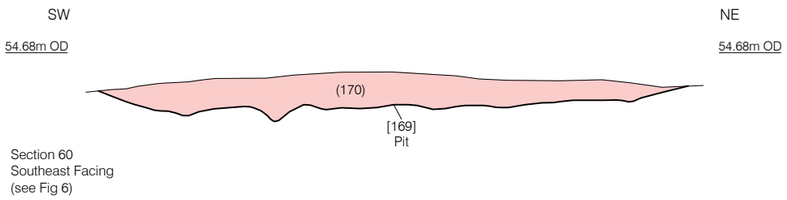

Stone

Phase 2.2(1) Romano British (AD 40-60)

Phase 2.2(2) Romano British (AD 60-100)

0 1m

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Figure 10
Selected Sections
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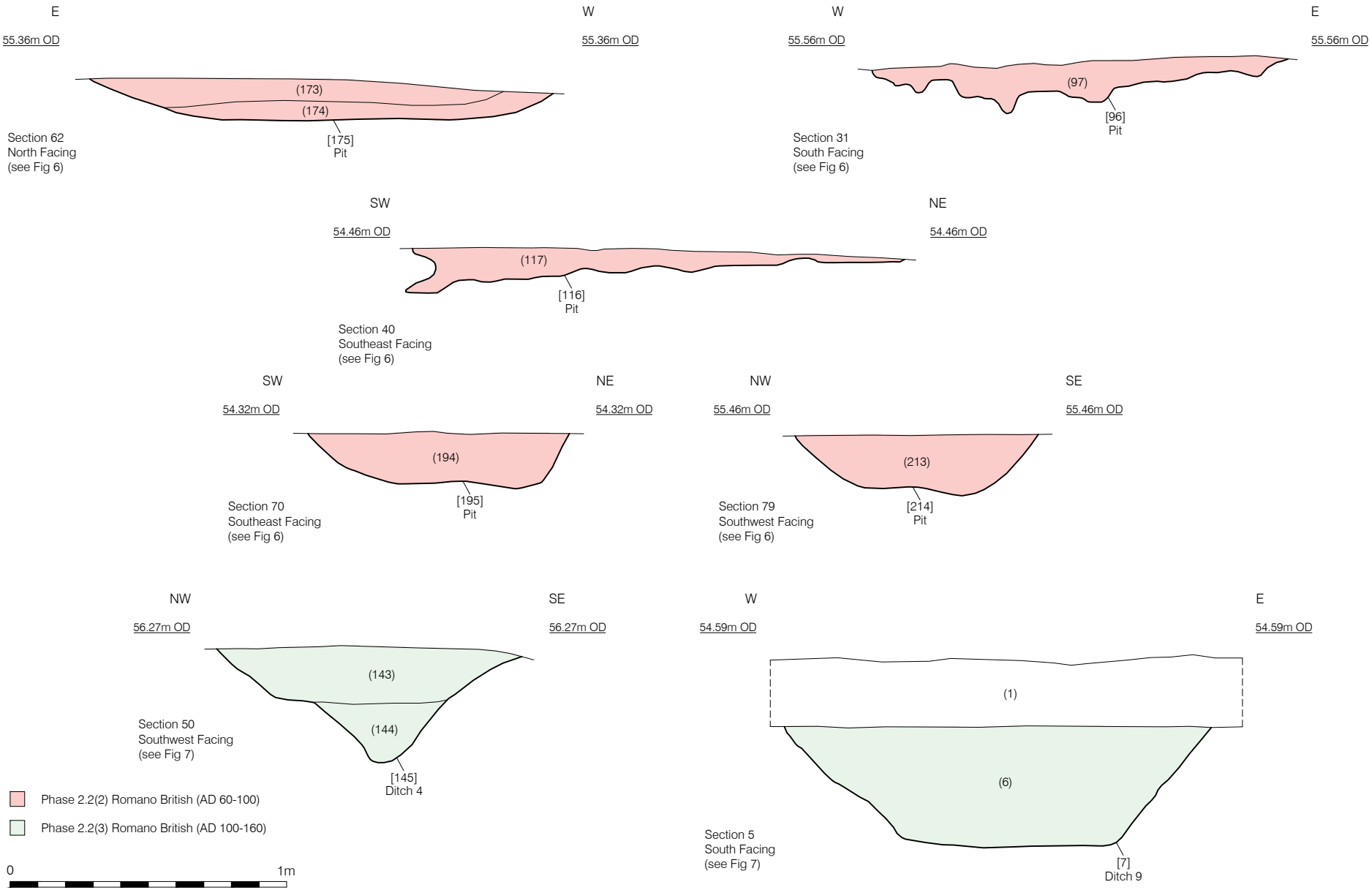

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Figure 11
Selected Sections
1:20 at A4

3 SITE SPECIFIC PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Planning permission has been granted for redevelopment of the site, for the erection of 38 dwellings, together with associated outdoor space and associated works (Wokingham Borough Council Planning Ref. 241567).

3.2 In their planning consultation response, Berkshire Archaeology (2024) noted:

"The development site was subject of previous archaeological work (geophysics and a small trial trench evaluation) in 2017, which established that there are significant archaeology features within the site, including several enclosures and pits, two of which have been dated to the Iron Age or early Roman period. These works evidence the potential of further archaeological investigation to facilitate a better understanding of past activity on the site, enable preservation by record, and mitigate the impacts of the development.

Early mitigation, prior to determination, is recommended which would permit any archaeology found to inform on the design details of this development."

3.3 Wokingham Borough Council approved the application on the 29th of September 2025 and applied a relevant archaeological condition (No 20) to the planning decision, and it reads as follows:

20. Archaeology WSI:

A) No development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work, including a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been submitted to, and approved by, the local planning authority in writing. The WSI shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording

2. The programme for post investigation assessment

3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording

4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation

5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site Investigation

6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the WSI.

B) The Development shall take place in accordance with the WSI approved under condition (A).

The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI

approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason: The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, particularly for, but not limited to, Prehistoric remains. The potential impacts of the development can be mitigated through a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with national and local plan policy.

3.4 Berkshire Archaeology recommended further investigation through archaeological excavation following the January 2026 archaeological evaluation. Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation was produced by Tetra Tech (White 2026) to address the requirement for a WSI in the condition and was approved by Wokingham Borough Council and Berkshire Archaeology. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) was commissioned to undertake the archaeological mitigation in accordance with this WSI.

3.5 The archaeological mitigation strategy was agreed in accordance with the following documents:

- **The National Planning Policy Framework**
- *Core Strategy Development Plan Document* (Wokingham Borough Council 2020) - Policies TB24 and TB 25.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 This section is adapted from the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation for this site (White 2026), which in turn incorporates details from the Historic Environment Assessment (Oakley 2017), the British Geological Survey of England and Wales (bgs.ac.uk) and the findings from the archaeological evaluations by PCA (Bower 2017; Cook 2026).

4.2 Geology

4.2.1 The British Geological Survey of England and Wales (bgs.ac.uk) records the underlying solid geology as Bagshot Formation – Sand, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 56 and 47.8 million years ago during the Palaeogene period. Most of the Bagshot Formation is composed of pale yellow-brown to pale grey or white, locally orange or crimson, fine- to coarse-grained sand that is frequently micaceous and locally clayey, with sparse glauconite and sparse seams of gravel. This is broadly consistent with the soft mid-orange yellow clay-sand uncovered in most of the evaluation trenches, except for a handful mainly in the southern part of the site which had a higher clay component.

4.2.2 No superficial geological deposits are recorded across the northern part of site, but superficial deposits comprising River Terrace Deposits - Sand and gravel (a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period) were expected across the southern third of the site. While gravels formed a component of the natural on this site, the surviving deposits may be located further south.

4.3 Topography

4.3.1 The site is situated c.400m north of Long River (elsewhere called Blackwater River), a narrow watercourse here flowing east to west. Blackwater River joins the River Loddon at Swallowfield (circa 7km northwest of the site), which in turn flows into the Thames at Wargrave (13km north).

4.3.2 The site was situated on a gradual slope on the north side of the Long River Valley. The archaeological evaluation recorded ground level heights of up to 56.30m OD in the northernmost part of the site, dropping to 52.65m OD to the south (3.65m change over 100 meters). The site was occupied by grassland prior to the redevelopment.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The following is taken from the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (White 2026), which in turn draws on the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment prepared for this site (Oakley 2017) and subsequent archaeological investigations (Davies 2017; Bower 2017; Cook 2026).

5.2 Only background information pertinent to the findings of this archaeological excavation is detailed herein, and as such the following is primarily focused on the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods. Where possible, the results of the assessment have been summarised.

5.3 **Prehistoric**

5.3.1 Excavations at Fleet Farm in 2008, 0.68km to the southwest of the site, uncovered a spread of archaeological features, some potentially of Mesolithic date, including several charcoal rich pits and other evidence suggestive of Iron Age iron working activity. Several paleochannels were also identified, although were not dated.

5.3.2 An Iron Age iron working site was excavated 0.6km to the east of the site ahead of an agricultural development in 2013. In common with the Fleet Farm site, iron working was identified from a number of pits, post holes and gullies; a furnace/hearth was also identified.

5.3.3 Prehistoric flint flakes were recovered from fieldwalking in an area 0.5-0.7km to the northeast and east of the site, indicating a background level of prehistoric activity to the east of the site. Cropmarks forming slightly curving parallel ditches were recorded 0.68km to the northeast of the site, in the vicinity of the flint finds. Undated iron slag was also recovered from fieldwalking in this vicinity.

5.3.4 Evaluation trenching undertaken within the site identified features of an Iron Age date that corresponded to Geophysical anomalies.

5.4 **Romano-British**

5.4.1 The HER records indicate that the posited iron working in the area may have continued into the Roman period. A number of undated slag-mounds found during fieldwalking 0.7km to the northeast of the site supports this. Possible Roman land division has also been postulated because of the undated ditches identified at Fleet Farm c.0.6-0.7km to the southwest of the site.

5.4.2 Roman activity has been identified 1.2km to the north of the site. The course of a Roman road known as the Devil's Highway was identified through archaeological investigation.

5.4.3 The targeted archaeological evaluation identified clear evidence of Iron Age/Early Roman features within the eastern half of site.

5.5 Medieval and Post-Medieval

5.5.1 There were no early medieval or medieval heritage assets recorded on the Berkshire HER within a 1km radius of the site. Evidence for the post-medieval period in the area is generally related to agricultural activity.

5.5.2 A map regression exercise is included in the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment (Oakley 2017). In the Finchampstead enclosure map of 1817, the site is shown as including parts of seven fields. The field pattern is different to the current arrangement: the sinuous boundaries are suggestive of enclosure of ridge and furrow cultivation. The 1841 Tithe Map depicts a similar arrangement of former fields within the site. The Tithe apportion notes the fields as a mix of arable and grass.

5.5.3 An estate map of 1858 shows the construction of Longwater Road, forming the western boundary of the site, and the complete obliteration of the earlier field pattern, possibly associated with the construction of Burn Moor Farm to the west. Hereafter the site was almost entirely contained within a single undeveloped plot of land.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 The works were undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (White 2026) and PCA's Method Statement (Davidson 2026).

6.2 Strip, Map & Sample' (SMS) Investigation

6.2.1 The excavation comprised a single strip, map and sample area measuring 0.47ha. It targeted the northeast quadrant of the site, where the archaeological evaluation had identified potential Iron Age/Romano-British features broadly corresponding with strong anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey. Parts of the northwest perimeter were excluded to preserve living trees. The agreed excavation area was located using a GeoMax GPS system.

6.2.2 The topsoil and overburden were removed by machine under archaeological supervision until archaeological features became visible and/or the natural strata were exposed.

6.2.3 The archaeological deposits were excavated by PCA staff using hand tools, i.e. trowels, shovels and mattocks.

6.3 Recording

6.3.1 Single-context recording methodology was adopted, using pro forma context and planning sheets or GPS as appropriate. Plans and sections were drawn at scales of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate, and digital photographs were taken.

6.3.2 In this report all context numbers (cuts, layers and fills) are written in squared brackets [ ], small finds are denoted by the prefix SF and environmental sample numbers are presented in curly brackets { }.

7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural drift geology

7.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered on the site was natural sand with a gravel component (Group 1), exposed across the entire excavation area. This was broadly consistent with the Bagshot Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 56 and 47.8 million years ago, which the British Geological Survey records across the northeastern part of the site.

7.1.2 The top of the natural was highest along the northern limit of excavation (L.O.E.), at a maximum of 56.27m OD, and gradually sloped downwards to the south, reaching a minimum of 53.88m OD along the southern L.O.E. The natural was encountered approximately 0.50m below ground level (BGL) and was broadly consistent with the sloping modern topography.

7.1.3 All archaeological features were observed cutting into the top of the natural sand.

7.2 Phase 2: Early Romano-British (*circa* 0–160 AD)

Summary

All dated archaeological material associated with cut features on the site belongs to the late Iron Age and Roman periods, particularly the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The majority of undated features have therefore also been assigned to this phase. Although some groups of features may belong to different sub-phases, activity on the site appears to have been broadly continuous across this period.

The Romano-British sequence is particularly defined by a succession of ditches and gullies, forming enclosures and field boundaries. The raised northeast corner of the excavation may fall within a pre-Roman enclosure (circa 0–40 AD), and contain the footings of up to two buildings, and evidence of iron-smelting.

The centre of the site was dominated by a second sub-square enclosure, which appears to have been constructed in the mid-1st century AD (circa AD 40–60). Various gullies, pits and post-holes were excavated within the enclosure, including a roundhouse evident in its northwest corner. The enclosure appears to have remained in use throughout the later 1st century AD, as indicated by recuts along its northwest perimeter and by fire pits concentrated outside its western side and on the approach to a possible entrance on the east.

Finally, several variably sized linear features, probably field boundaries, were recorded across the site, some clearly respecting the mid 1st century enclosure. Dating material from several of these may be associated with the first half of the second century AD (with some residual material suggesting continuity into the late Roman period).

Enclosure 1 (Group 2) and Buildings 1 and 2 (Groups 3 to 5)

7.2.1 The northwest corner of the excavation appears to have been enclosed by a combination

of a north-south linear feature, Ditch [218]/[220], and an east-west linear feature, Ditch [5]/[17]. These cuts were consistently around 1.00m wide and up to 0.30m deep and were filled by natural silting. They have therefore been interpreted as parts of the same boundary, Enclosure Ditch 1 (Group 2). Dating evidence was limited. Terminus [17] produced a single sherd of late 1st-/2nd-century Roman pottery, although the ditch may have remained at least partially open for a considerable period. As the ditch appears to be truncated by a large mid-1st-century feature, Enclosure 1 may be pre-Roman.

7.2.2 On the west side of the Enclosure 1 interior was a reasonably dense cluster of post holes (Group 3) and associated pits (Group 4). Given the concentration, there is a reasonable likelihood that there was a structure here, Building 1. Intriguingly, several of these pits, in particular pits [93] and [166], contained a notable concentration of burnt flint and iron smelting slag, suggestive of iron production within the vicinity. A modest pottery assemblage (dating to circa 0–60 AD) was recovered from pit [93], which also contained burnt flint. Mid-1st century pottery (circa 40–60 AD) was recovered from post hole [185], although this came from natural silting, likely infilling the post void after Building 1's dismantling.

7.2.3 East of Building 1, and protruding from the limits of excavation, was a narrow curvilinear feature, Gully [158]. No dating material was recovered from this feature, although its soft mid-grey brown silty sand fill was consistent with the Romano-British archaeology found across the site. Evidence of residual burnt material, including burnt clay and charcoal, was identified within the fill. A gully with this curvature is typical of a roundhouse, classified here as Building 2 (Group 5).

Enclosure 2 (Groups 6 to 8) and Building 3 (Groups 9 and 10)

7.2.4 In the southern part of the excavation area was a thin spread of darker sand, Layer 1 (Group 6), up to 18.50m in width and 0.15m thick, probably the remnants of an ancient subsoil filling a natural depression. The provenance of the early Roman pottery (circa 40-100 AD) recovered from this layer is unclear.

7.2.5 Layer 1 was truncated by the most prominent feature excavated on the site: a ditch enclosing a sub-square area, Enclosure 2, measuring approximately 39m by 39m internally (approximately 43m by 43m externally). The corners of the enclosure were roughly right-angled, except for the northwest corner, which was blunted to form a fifth side. The dimensions of the surrounding ditch (Group 8) varied along its course, with sections up to 2.48m wide and 0.56m deep; across the deeper surviving sections, its average width was around 1.80m. The ditch was primarily filled by natural silting, with occasional concentrations of charcoal and ceramic material indicating intermittent use for waste disposal. Datable material was predominantly mid 1st century AD (circa AD 40–60), although the ditch probably remained open for some time, possibly into the 2nd century AD. Pottery from fill [39] appears to date to the mid-2nd century AD (AD 120–160), although it may be intrusive from a later recut.

7.2.6 In the southeast corner of Enclosure 2 was a shallow gully (Group 7), which measured 0.54m in width at its deepest surviving extent (0.21m deep). The east end of the gully ran roughly parallel to the adjacent portion of the enclosure ditch, bent sharply and continued straight into the ditch itself. The function of the gully is unclear. It may be the remnants of an earlier planned course of the enclosure, or a drainage cut. Pottery from the gully was generally mid-1st century in date (circa 40–60 AD), making it broadly contemporary with the Enclosure's construction.

7.2.7 The most prominent feature within Enclosure 2 was approximately two-thirds of a circular gully (Group 9), located in the northwest corner of the enclosure interior. This strongly resembles the footing of a roundhouse, an interpretation supported by its close association with a handful of post-hole features (Group 10). Dating evidence from these features was less precise but is broadly consistent with the mid-1st-century date of Enclosure Ditch 2. It is therefore reasonable to suggest that construction of the roundhouse, Building 3, was broadly contemporary with the establishment of Enclosure 2 (circa AD 40–60). The roundhouse measured 12.75m in internal diameter and 13.70m externally. The base of the gully retained approximately the same gradient as the ground surface, with its northern side up to 0.59m higher than its southern side, suggesting that the building was constructed on the natural slope.

Enclosure 2 - associated features (Groups 11 to 17)

7.2.8 Along the northwest section of Enclosure Ditch 2, behind Building 3, there was some evidence of recutting (Group 11). The recut with the clearest distinction was Ditch 3, which was over 32 meters in length, up to 1.23m in width and 0.57m in depth. Like the enclosure ditch, this was largely filled by natural silting containing mid 1st century pottery, possibly washed in from an associated earthwork dating to the original construction. An upper fill of this this ditch, deposit [36], contained some of the only categorically late Roman pottery uncovered on the site (circa 250 – 400 AD), potentially demonstrating continued land use within this vicinity even after the main phase of occupation ended here.

7.2.9 Within the southwest quadrant of Enclosure 2 was a compact group of four post-holes (Group 12), arranged in a square. Each was circular with a concave base, approximately 0.40m in diameter and no more than 0.17m deep. The post-holes presumably belonged to the same structure but produced no datable evidence and were filled by natural silting. Four further post-holes (Group 13) were dispersed across the southern half of Enclosure 2, indicating the presence of additional structures, although no clear arrangement could be identified.

7.2.10 Several pits were dispersed within and around Enclosure 2, many containing evidence of burning. Most exceeded 1m in length, and 40% exceeded 2m, although none were particularly deep; pit [162], a possible refuse pit, was the deepest at 0.23m. Pits [52], [96], [116], [169] and [175] were wide, shallow features, often with undulating bases, and may have been fire pits containing evidence of *in situ* burning. Charcoal was also a dominant

inclusion in the fills of pits [131], [195] and [214], which may represent clearance events.

Group	Context	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
Group 14	[52]	2.00	1.77	0.11
	[162]	1.43	1.00	0.23
Group 15	[168]	2.33	0.79	0.12
	[169]	2.10	1.92	0.10
	[175]	1.68	1.58	0.15
Group 17	[96]	1.63	1.42	0.16
	[116]	2.07	1.78	0.20
	[131]	0.57	0.46	0.11
	[195]	1.02	0.95	0.19
	[214]	1.00	0.85	0.22

Table 1. Late 1st century AD pit dimensions.

7.2.11 Some spatial patterning is apparent among these burning pits. Pits [52] and [162] (Group 14) were situated within Enclosure 2. Pits [169] and [175] (Group 15) were fire pits located east of the enclosure and may respect a possible entrance, indicated by a break in the enclosure ditch. Further pitting and a handful of possible post-holes were also situated here (Group 16). Several pits lay directly alongside the southern and western perimeter of the enclosure (Group 17), indicating that burning activity took place immediately outside Enclosure 2. Of these, pits [96] and [116] may have been deliberately cut fire pits, while the remainder may result from burnt surface material accumulating in undulations along the top of the enclosure ditch.

7.2.12 Pit [96] also produced some of the highest quantities of burnt flint, alongside Group 4 pits [93] and [166] in the northern part of the site (associated with Building 1, Enclosure 1). Unlike these pits, pit [96] did not produce significant quantities of iron smelting slag. However, this material was recovered in Enclosure Ditch 2, especially in slots excavated on the western side of the ditch. Notable quantities of iron smelting slag were also recovered from ditch slot [70] along its southern course.

Field Boundaries (Groups 18 and 19)

7.2.13 Running roughly parallel to the western perimeter of Enclosure 2 was a small ditch, Ditch 4 (Group 18), measuring up to 1.10m wide and 0.42m deep. The feature extended from the northern L.O.E., followed the curve of Enclosure Ditch 2 and then turned sharply westwards into the western L.O.E. near the enclosure's southwest corner. Its combined exposed length was approximately 40m.

7.2.14 Ditch 4 was the best-defined of a handful of naturally silted field boundaries recorded across the site and the feature that most clearly respected Enclosure 2. Four further features (Ditches 5 to 8) also appeared broadly to respect the enclosure perimeter, although these were relatively ephemeral (Group 19; see Table 2). Most are undated, but their overall character is consistent with this phase. A small quantity of mid-to late Roman

pottery was recovered from Ditch 6 (circa AD 120–400), suggesting that the landscape continued in agricultural use into at least the 2nd century AD.

Ditch	Context	Exposed length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
5	[142]	5.85	0.45	0.09
6	[9]/[19]	25.84	0.52	0.26
7	[23]	19.15	0.27	0.12
8	[11]	44.64	1.29	0.11
9	[7]	6.85	1.54	0.43

Table 2. Group 19 field boundaries.

7.2.15 Part of a larger linear feature, Ditch 9, was exposed in the far southeast corner of the excavation area. Recorded as 1.54m wide and 0.43m deep, this had closer similarity with the enclosure ditches on this site. However, the lack of recorded features observed in this part of the site make this feature difficult to contextualise and interpret.

7.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval

7.3.1 A handful of undated features excavated on the site do not appear to belong to the main Romano-British phase. The only prominent feature was a 55.34m long ditch, up to 1.28m wide and 0.14m deep, which cut across Enclosure Ditch 2 on a southwest-northeast alignment (Group 22). Its stratigraphic relationships and the presence of glass suggest that it probably represents a post-medieval hedgerow or similar boundary. Other features assigned to this phase largely comprised possible tree bowls, other forms of bioturbation and agricultural pits (Groups 20 and 21). Post-medieval field drains were also surveyed across the area (Group 23). The entire site was sealed by alluvial subsoil [2], which contained the only post-Roman pottery recovered from the site, sherds from a 19th-century vessel, and agricultural topsoil [1] (Groups 24 and 25 respectively).

Plate 1: Aerial shot of excavation, centered on Enclosure 2 and Building 3, facing northwest (no scale) (Photograph)

Plate 2: Bog Iron Pit [166] and Building 1 post hole [164] (Groups 3 and 4), pre-excavation, facing northeast (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 3: Burning pits [78] and [93] (Group 4), pre-excavation, facing northeast (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 4: Building 2 Gully [158] (Group 5), facing south (0.50m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 5: Aerial shot of excavation in plan, centered on Enclosure 2, orientated northwards (no scale) (Photograph)

Plate 6: Aerial shot detail, Building 3 in plan, orientated northwards (no scale) (Photograph)

Plate 7: Enclosure Ditch 2 [115] (Group 8), facing south (0.5m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 8: Enclosure Ditch 2 [62] and Layer [60] (Groups 6 and 8), facing northeast (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 9: Enclosure Ditch 2 [224] and Layer [221] (Groups 6 and 8), facing west (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 10: Enclosure Ditch 2 [70] and Gully 2 [66] (Groups 7 and 8), facing east (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 11: Enclosure Ditch 2 [179][181] (Group 8) with post-medieval field drain [177] Group 23), facing northwest (1m and 0.5m scales) (Photograph)

Plate 12: Enclosure Ditch 2 [198] (Group 8), facing northwest (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 13: Post Group 3 (Group 12), facing north (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 14: Fire Pit [52] (Group 14), facing north (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 15: Burning Pit [169] (Group 15), facing west (1m scale) (Photograph)

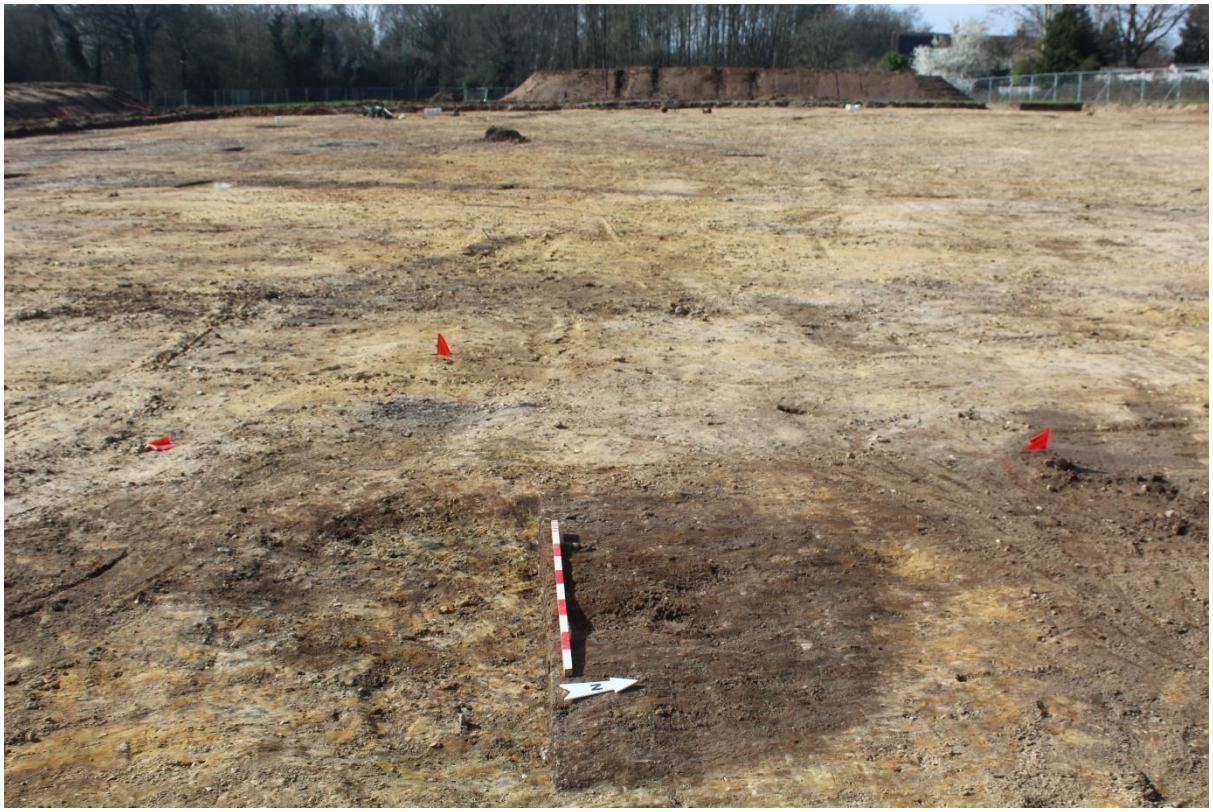

Plate 16: Burning Pit [175] (Group 15), south facing (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 17: Fire Pit [116] (Group 17), facing north (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 18: Burning pit [214] (Group 17), alongside Enclosure 2, facing north (0.5m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 19: Ditch 7 [23] (Group 19), facing north (0.5m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 20: Working overview of site, facing northeast (1m scale) (Photograph)

Plate 21: Team photo (from drone) (Photograph)

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

8.1 Phase 1: Natural

8.1.1 Natural sand was exposed approximately 0.50m BGL throughout the excavation area. This deposit is consistent with the Bagshot Formation, the sedimentary bedrock expected on the site. Although it included a moderate gravel component, no riverine gravel deposits were identified. This suggests that the slope occupied by the site has remained dry land throughout the Holocene, above the level of Long River.

8.1.2 It is probably due to the stability of this environment that residual worked flints, probably Mesolithic in date, were recovered from several features. Although the assemblage was too small to be assessed as a distinct phase of activity, these lithics provide evidence for a hunter-gatherer presence in the Long River Valley, contributing to our understanding of Mesolithic landscape use and settlement mobility in the area.

8.1.3 No notable natural features were identified during the excavation. The occasional identified bioturbations may be the remnants of later tree bowls.

8.2 Phase 2: Early Romano-British (circa 0–160 AD)

8.2.1 The archaeological record uncovered on the site essentially pertains to a single broad phase of activity, centred on a 0.14ha enclosure, Enclosure 2, defined by a modest ditch with a probable entrance on its eastern side. The most prominent feature within the enclosure was a curvilinear gully, almost certainly the footing of a roundhouse approximately 13m in diameter (Building 3), a building form typical of indigenous British settlement in the late Iron Age and early Roman periods. The stratigraphic and chronological relationship between this roundhouse and enclosure with the other linear features across the site is difficult to establish because of limited dating evidence and unclear stratigraphic relationships. The phase sequence above suggests the possibility of an earlier enclosure occupying the northeast corner of the site (Enclosure 1), although its incomplete extent makes this interpretation uncertain. Several possible field boundaries were also recorded. These appear broadly to respect Enclosure 2 and can therefore be considered part of the same broad phase.

8.2.2 The pottery assemblage provides the most reliable dating evidence for this phase, despite its modest size and generally poor condition. With a few exceptions, the sherds date almost entirely to the 1st and early 2nd centuries AD. A significant proportion of the assemblage was recovered from the ditch surrounding Enclosure 2 and is largely mid-to late 1st century in date. Enclosure 2 and its roundhouse therefore appear to have been constructed during the early decades of Roman rule in Britain (*circa* AD 40–60) and may have remained occupied for a generation or more.

8.2.3 The character of the site in the mid-to late 1st century AD, and the activities undertaken there, can be elucidated to some extent from the artefactual and environmental evidence.

Regardless of whether activity began before the Roman conquest of AD 43, Enclosure 2 appears to demonstrate cultural continuity from the late Iron Age into the Romano-British period. Building materials used on the site appear to have been predominantly perishable, including timber, thatch and wattle and daub. A single fragment of early Roman tile was recovered; its abraded condition and redeposited context suggest that the associated masonry building was probably located outside the excavation area. The pottery assemblage consisted largely of abraded, locally sourced coarse wares, principally from Hampshire and Surrey, with no continental imports.

8.2.4 Of some significance is the notable quantity of iron-smelting slag recovered from the site, often directly or indirectly associated with sizeable deposits of burnt flint. By contrast, the absence of hammerscale indicative of ironworking suggests that the occupants were primarily engaged in iron production rather than the manufacture of finished objects. No features on the site have been identified as furnaces; instead, the metallurgical waste appears to have been deposited within refuse pits and other hollows. The principal concentration of this material was recovered from features associated with Building 1, within Enclosure 1 in the northern part of the site. A second significant concentration was recovered from the western portion of the ditch surrounding Enclosure 2, suggesting multiple centres of this activity, even if the main areas of production appear to have lain beyond the limits of excavation. Pit [93], which contained early to mid 1st-century AD pottery alongside iron-smelting slag and burnt flint, provides some of the only direct dating evidence for this activity. Given the presence of similar material within Enclosure Ditch 2, it is probable that iron production in the vicinity was contemporary with the main phase of occupation, primarily spanning the mid 1st century AD.

8.2.5 Possibly related to the above industrial activity is the assemblage of fired clay objects, recovered primarily from Enclosure Ditch 2. Some may represent loom weights; the absence of other evidence for textile working may partly reflect poor preservation, as associated tools were often made of bone, of which only a single burnt fragment survived on the site. However, high-temperature industrial activity is further supported by vitrified fragments containing iron inclusions from the fills of Enclosure 2. This suggests that the fragmented triangular blocks from these contexts may instead have functioned as portable kiln furniture, such as floor supports or pedestals.

8.2.6 It is notable that the most intensive evidence for burning lay outside Enclosure 2, while the strongest evidence for iron smelting was concentrated within Enclosure 1 and, more broadly, along the western perimeter of Enclosure 2. Even so, charcoal deposition within Enclosure 2, including pit [151] and possible fire pit [52], is compatible with its interpretation as a domestic space. Although the roundhouse is the clearest building within the enclosure, pits, gullies and post-holes across its southern half indicate the presence of associated structures, potentially including additional buildings or animal pens.

8.2.7 Unfortunately, the poor preservation of organic material, particularly animal bone, greatly

limits what can be inferred about the occupants' consumption and pastoral activities. A slight, though negligible, predominance of jar forms was identified within the pottery assemblage, consistent with a rural settlement. Nevertheless, it is plausible that a family-sized unit, perhaps substantially engaged in iron-smelting, also kept livestock for consumption. The recovery of three rotary quern fragments provides some evidence for domestic activity, potentially indicating the processing of the occupants' own harvest or cereals acquired through exchange for iron products.

8.2.8 How this iron smelting community interacted economically with other dispersed settlements in the surrounding area can only be speculated upon at this stage. However, the identifiable material culture recovered from the site appears to have been relatively locally sourced, including Surrey-Hampshire pottery wares and quern stones from West Sussex. This suggests that the community operated principally within a local or regional economy.

8.2.9 There is no clear end date although the decline in pottery dating after the late 1st century AD implies the site was not permanently occupied by the 2nd century. The presence of field boundaries does suggest some continuity as an agricultural landscape, and it is likely that the land occupied by the abandoned enclosure was overturned to this purpose. That this took place as little as half-a-century after the Roman Conquest may not be coincidental. If this community was primarily engaged in iron smelting, skilled workers in this field may have been drawn to emerging urban centres (either by choice or by force). There is no evidence of deliberate destruction and mass backfilling of features on this site. Rather, emerging field systems seem to have gradually encroached onto the bounds of the enclosure and likely overwhelmed it following a period of disuse.

8.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval

8.3.1 Historic maps show the site remaining as undeveloped farmland into the modern period. Although field boundaries changed over time, this may broadly reflect the character of the landscape from the late Roman period onwards, with parts of the site perhaps periodically reverting to scrub or woodland. The only substantial feature assigned to this phase was an east-west aligned ditch truncating Romano-British Enclosure 2. Its alignment is broadly consistent with modern field boundaries and it may represent a post-medieval drainage ditch or former hedgerow. The post-Roman archaeology on the site is not considered significant.

9 ORIGINAL AND REVISED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

9.1 General research aims

9.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were as follows (White 2026):

- *To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains and if so, to assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.*
- *To record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.*
- *To record the nature and extent of any previous impacts on the archaeological sequence across the site.*
- *To enable Berkshire Archaeology to make an informed decision as to the requirement for and scope of any further work required in order to satisfy the archaeology condition.*

9.1.2 Overall, the archaeological excavation was successful in addressing these general aims. Excavation across a larger area might have provided greater context for the findings within the immediate landscape, particularly the field boundaries and possible trackways. However, the targeted excavation exposed the full extent of an enclosure and therefore appears to have captured the principal focus of activity and provided sufficient evidence for its date and character.

9.1.3 The impact of previous and modern disturbance on the archaeological resource was negligible. The poor preservation of certain artefactual remains, notably bone, appears largely to result from the natural soil conditions.

9.1.4 This report details a comprehensive description and initial analysis of the archaeological process and the resource uncovered, intended to accurately inform any decision by Berkshire Archaeology pertaining to further work and the satisfaction of the archaeological condition.

9.2 Site specific research aims

9.2.1 In particular, the work aimed to address the following questions:

- *Is there evidence for the potential Late Iron Age/Roman enclosure to the north of site?*

9.2.2 The full extent of a Romano-British enclosure, broadly corresponding with an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey, was exposed during the excavation. The enclosure was defined by an external ditch and contained a variety of pits, gullies and post-holes, including the clear remains of a roundhouse approximately 13m in diameter. Pottery recovered from the enclosure ditch provides good dating evidence, placing its occupation in the mid-1st century AD and the following decades. The enclosure therefore belongs to the beginning of the Roman period in Britain and forms part of a broader phase of activity on the site dating primarily to the 1st century AD.

9.2.3 Evidence for a second enclosure to the northeast was identified in the form of further ditches apparently surrounding clusters of features, potentially representing buildings and/or activity areas. Whether this was an earlier enclosure or part of the contemporary settlement landscape remains unclear.

- *Is there evidence for Late Iron Age/Roman settlement activity?*

9.2.4 The layout of the site, particularly the ditched enclosure containing a roundhouse, is clearly indicative of Romano-British settlement. Its position on a gentle, well-drained slope within a small river valley and close to a water source would have provided a suitable location for settlement.

9.2.5 Direct evidence of habitation is reliant on the pottery assemblage (represented by course homewares, primarily jug-like in form) and occasional charcoal depositions within the enclosure itself. The main indicators of food consumption and domestic refuse (for example, animal bones and shells) are lacking on this site, seemingly due to poor conditions for organic preservation in the soil. Nevertheless, the presumption the enclosure was probably occupied is not unreasonable.

- *Is there evidence for Late Iron Age/Roman industrial activity associated with the burning evidence recorded in the 2026 evaluation?*

9.2.6 A notable quantity of iron-smelting slag was recovered from several features during the excavation, concentrated primarily in the northern part of the site and along the external western perimeter of the central enclosure. Conversely, the absence of hammerscale suggests that metalworking was not a significant activity, implying that iron production, rather than the manufacture of finished objects, was the principal industry represented. Further evidence for this activity includes reasonably large quantities of burnt flint, often recovered from the same pits as the iron-smelting slag, and an assemblage of fired clay objects that may represent pedestals or furnace lining. The evidence suggests that iron production was probably contemporary with the main phase of occupation on the site, spanning the mid- to late 1st century AD.

- *Is there evidence for any Late Iron Age/Roman agricultural activity?*

9.2.7 A number of linear features were exposed across the area which have been interpreted as probable field boundaries. However, given the excavated area was relatively limited, the full extent and character of this field system is unclear. Although these features produced limited dating evidence themselves, that many of these appear to respect the 1st century enclosure implies these emerged in the early Roman period. The presence of some late Roman pottery on this site suggests this system may have remained in use during the following centuries.

9.3 Regional research objectives

9.3.1 The WSI raised the following regional research objectives concerning the **Later Bronze and Iron Age** for consideration, referring to the Solent-Thames Research Framework (White 2026, after Hey and Hill 2014):

- *Changes in the relationship of fields to settlements across the region should be investigated.*
- *Reasons for increases in the intensity of settlement should be explored, for example whether this reflects a switch from family to more communal management of animals and crops, and the role of land-use divisions in this process.*
- *The extent to which single family pastoral farmsteads existed needs to be determined.*

9.3.2 The contribution of the site to regional research aims concerning the later Bronze and Iron Age is limited, as the main phase of activity dates to the very end of this period and principally to the early Roman period. Nevertheless, the Romano-British enclosure here represents clear continuity of indigenous rural settlement forms. Therefore, the site's inclusion in regional-scale analyses alongside comparable sites may help inform our understanding of rural settlement patterns at the onset of the Roman period.

9.3.3 Enclosure 2 appears consistent with a single-family farmstead, although the limited extent of the excavated area around it makes the enclosure's relationship with surrounding field systems and associated settlements difficult to establish. Furthermore, poor organic preservation means that there is little direct evidence for farming practices, in contrast to the clearer evidence for iron smelting.

9.3.4 The following regional research objectives concerning **The Roman Period** were also raised for consideration, also referring to the Solent-Thames Research Framework (White 2026, after Hey and Hill 2014):

- *Sites with well-preserved deposits of both late Iron Age and Roman date should be given careful attention in order to investigate continuity of local tradition at these sites. Sampling strategies should ensure that as wide a range of contexts are sampled as possible. Excavations of deep, well-sealed features are required (as opposed to buildings).*
- *Variation in resources and agricultural regimes from different scales of farm needs to be investigated.*
- *Equally important is the need to gain an understanding of settlement, its density and variability as well as economy in other environments, such as claylands and heathlands. This is crucial not only to our understanding of population density and its fluctuation over time, but also to determining the extent of woodland in the region and its change through time.*

9.3.5 The site contributes to the broader picture of Romano-British settlement patterns in 1st-century southern Britain and may inform regional-scale analyses of population density and woodland clearance over time.

9.3.6 The site contained relatively few deep features, the largest being the 0.56m deep enclosure ditches. Several pits contained substantial quantities of burnt material but were generally shallow fire pits rather than deep refuse pits. The artefactual assemblage was sufficient to provide good dating evidence but otherwise offers limited information about the lives of the inhabitants. In particular, poor organic preservation, affecting both the animal-bone assemblage and environmental remains, prevents detailed analysis of domestic consumption and farming practices. Further interpretation of these aspects will therefore depend on comparison with contemporary sites.

9.4 Revised research objectives

- Is there evidence for late Iron Age activity within the area? Does the possible northeast enclosure on the site represent an earlier phase or a contemporary settlement component?
- What is the evidence for Roman masonry buildings in the Finchampstead area?
- What is the evidence for mid-late Roman activity in the Finchampstead area? What does this inform us about the site's use in these later periods?
- What is the economic relationship between the iron smelting on this site and surrounding Romano-British communities in the first century? What impact did the Roman conquest and the emergence of urban centres have on these settlement patterns?

10 IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS, FURTHER WORK AND PUBLICATION PROPOSALS

10.1 Importance of the results

10.1.1 The Romano-British phase has some local and regional significance, providing a good example of a 1st-century AD enclosure and contributing to the broader picture of Romano-British settlement patterns within the region.

10.1.2 As a relatively short-lived settlement, the site makes only a limited contribution to understanding long-term trends. The relative paucity of well-preserved features and associated artefacts also limits its contribution to the study of Romano-British enclosures more generally. However, the main enclosure and associated roundhouse are well defined and readily quantifiable, making them suitable for comparative analysis with similar sites.

10.1.3 The evidence for iron smelting is relatively distinctive and may contribute to wider discussion of the economic activities undertaken at such settlements alongside farming.

10.2 Further work

10.2.1 The archaeological sequence is relatively straightforward and the available evidence limits the scope for further interpretation. Further work should therefore focus on comparison with contemporary Romano-British enclosures to place the site within its regional context. Such comparison may also identify parallels that strengthen interpretation of the surrounding field systems.

10.2.2 Some minor refinement of the grouping and phasing is required before further work and/or publication. In particular, comparison with similar sites may help clarify the form and function of Enclosure 1, currently interpreted as either a possible earlier enclosure or an associated contemporary activity zone. Given the limited evidence, it may ultimately be preferable to treat the Romano-British settlement as a single broad mid-to late 1st-century phase.

Finds Specialist recommendations

10.2.3 The Roman pottery assemblage has been fully recorded and requires no further work at this stage. The pottery should be included in any publication of the site, accompanied by a discussion of its wider context in the area and appropriate illustrations (Appendix 7).

10.2.4 Concerning the industrial waste assemblage, further research comparing the material with contemporary Late Iron Age and Early Roman sites in the surrounding area would be beneficial in establishing the wider significance of the site's ironworking activity. The assemblage and associated records should be retained within the project archive for future research (Appendix 5).

10.2.5 Concerning the fired clay assemblage, should the project proceed to publication, a comparative analysis of regional sites with evidence of ceramic production and iron-

smelting should be undertaken. This should include illustrations of the loom weights/triangular blocks from fills [36], [39] and [197]. The undiagnostic material may be discarded (Appendix 4).

10.2.6 The lithic assemblage is too small to warrant detailed technological, functional or metrical analysis, and no further analytical work is recommended. A report briefly describing the material and its broader significance should, however, be compiled for inclusion in any published account of the excavation (Appendix 10).

10.2.7 It is recommended that the distribution and contextual associations of the burnt flint, both stratigraphically and in relation to other finds categories, are considered in order to assess its possible role and significance. An account of this should be included in any published account of the excavation (Appendix 11).

10.2.8 No further work is required on the small finds at this stage; however, they should be included in any further publication of the site. For this purpose, it is recommended that the iron strip is X-rayed to aid identification. Petrological identification should also be undertaken on the quern stones to confirm their geographical origin (Appendix 6).

10.2.9 The assessment of the environmental samples makes the following recommendations:

- While thirteen of the samples contained fragments of possibly diagnostic charcoal, they are inadvisable for radiocarbon dating. This is due to the statistical insignificance of the material (i.e. <50 fragments per sample) suggesting its residual nature, their likelihood of being reworked (potentially over several centuries), and the “old-wood effect”, whereby charcoal from long-lived trees such as oak can give inaccurate dates (Bayliss and Marshall, 2022). Anthracological work could be undertaken to ascertain the wood type and therefore its viability for radiocarbon dating, but as the material is statistically insignificant overall, and from an undated context, this is not recommended. The best that could be gained from scientific dating would be a Terminus Post Quem (TPQ).
- A single charred cereal grain would typically be sufficient for radiocarbon dating; however the likely residual nature of the grains recovered from the samples makes them less reliable for providing an accurate date for the context they were recovered from. As with the charcoal, the best that could be gleaned would be a TPQ.
- Upon final approval of this report, this material may be discarded (Appendix 9).

10.2.10 The post-Roman pottery has been fully catalogued, and no further work is recommended (Appendix 8).

10.2.11 No further work is recommended for the animal bone assemblage, comprising a single fragment, which may be discarded (Appendix 2).

10.2.12 No further work is recommended for the ceramic building material (Appendix 3).

10.3 Publication proposals

10.3.1 An article should be prepared for submission to the Berkshire Archaeological Journal or a similar publication. This should include a thorough discussion of the site and its position in relation to the known settlement patterns of the principal period concerned. Specialist reports should form an integral part of any publication text.

10.3.2 A summary record of the results has been created in the OASIS database (Appendix 14).

11 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 **Paper records:**

Context sheets: 224

Plans: 2

Sections: 83

11.2 **The finds:**

Artefacts	(Boxes)
Pottery	3
Animal bone	0.25
Industrial Residues	5
Small Finds	11
Ceramic building material/Fired Clay	2
Clay tobacco pipe	0
Lithics	4
Glass	0

11.3 **Digital archive:**

419 Photographs

Survey data

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Interpretation	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Levels_low (m OD)	Levels_high (m OD)	Landuse	Phase	Group	Spot Date
1	Layer	Topsoil	Agricultural	105.00	61.00	0.30	56.80	53.20		BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP25	
2	Layer	Subsoil	Alluvial	105.00	61.00	0.25	56.52	53.90		BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP24	
3	Natural	Natural		105.00	61.00	1.00	56.27	53.88		BLRF26-PH1	BLRF26-GP01	
4	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.00	0.18	55.17	54.99	Enclosure 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP02	
5	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.00	0.18	55.17	54.99	Enclosure 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP02	
6	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.54	0.43	54.25	53.82	Ditch 9	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
7	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.54	0.43	54.25	53.82	Ditch 9	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
8	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.50	0.26	55.60	55.34	Ditch 6	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	AD 120-400+?
9	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.50	0.26	55.60	55.34	Ditch 6	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
10	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.29	0.11	53.94	53.83	Ditch 8	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
11	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.29	0.11	53.94	53.83	Ditch 8	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
12	Fill	Fill of pit	Natural Silting	1.00	0.95	0.10	54.04	53.94	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
13	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.95	0.10	54.04	53.94	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
14	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.81	0.16	55.06	54.90	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
15	Cut	Cut of ditch/hedgerow	Ditch	1.00	0.81	0.16	55.06	54.90	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
16	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.86	0.15	54.95	54.80	Enclosure 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP02	AD 70-200
17	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.86	0.15	54.95	54.80	Enclosure 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP02	
18	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.52	0.12	55.36	55.24	Ditch 6	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
19	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.52	0.12	55.36	55.24	Ditch 6	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
20	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.40	0.30	0.15	54.56	54.41	Post Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP12	
21	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.40	0.30	0.15	54.56	54.41	Post Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP12	
22	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.80	0.27	0.12	53.90	53.78	Ditch 7	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
23	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.80	0.27	0.12	53.90	53.78	Ditch 7	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
24	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.96	0.23	55.17	54.97	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
25	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.50	0.41	0.17	54.55	54.38	Post Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP12	
26	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.50	0.41	0.17	54.55	54.38	Post Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP12	
27	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.80	0.21	54.41	54.20	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
28	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.80	0.08	54.20	54.08	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
29	Fill	Fill of natural feature	Natural Silting	1.09	0.82	0.13	54.35	54.22	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
30	Cut	Cut of natural feature	Natural	1.09	0.82	0.13	54.35	54.22	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
31	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.40	0.31	0.13	54.59	54.46	Post Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP12	
32	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.40	0.31	0.13	54.59	54.46	Post Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP12	
33	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.38	0.30	0.06	54.59	54.53	Post Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP12	
34	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.38	0.30	0.06	54.59	54.53	Post Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP12	

Context	Type	Interpretation	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Levels_low (m OD)	Levels_high (m OD)	Landuse	Phase	Group	Spot Date
35	Fill	Lower fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.63	0.08	54.08	54.00	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
36	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Accumulation	1.00	1.23	0.21	55.16	54.95	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	AD 250-400+?
37	Cut	Lower fill of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.95	0.36	55.02	54.62	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	AD 40-140
38	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.23	0.57	55.15	54.62	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
39	Fill	Fill of ditch	Backfill	1.00	1.02	0.44	55.15	54.71	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 120-140/160
40	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.02	0.44	55.15	54.71	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
41	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.92	0.27	55.81	55.54	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
42	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.92	0.27	55.81	55.54	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
43	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.67	0.20	55.81	55.61	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	AD 0-60
44	Fill	Lower fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.42	0.19	55.61	55.42	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	AD 0-60
45	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.67	0.39	55.81	55.42	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
46	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.47	0.24	54.27	54.03	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
47	Cut	Cut of ring ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.47	0.24	54.27	54.03	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
48	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Accumulation	1.00	2.13	0.36	54.34	54.17	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 0-60
49	Fill	Lower fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.23	0.09	53.98	53.89	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
50	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	2.13	0.45	54.34	53.89	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
51	Fill	Fill of pit containing burnt material	Use	2.00	1.77	0.11	54.39	54.28	Pit Group 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP14	
52	Cut	Cut of pit containing burnt material	Pit	2.00	1.77	0.11	54.39	54.28	Pit Group 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP14	
53	Fill	Fill of ditch	Accumulation	1.00	0.96	0.23	55.18	54.95	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	AD 40-60/100
54	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Accumulation	1.00	0.76	0.19	55.18	54.99	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/100
55	Fill	Middle fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.12	0.10	55.18	54.88	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
56	Fill	Basal fill of ditch	Accumulation	1.00	0.51	0.14	54.88	54.75	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
57	Cut	Cut of ring ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.13	0.53	55.18	54.75	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
58	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.40	0.48	55.17	54.69	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/140
59	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.40	0.48	55.17	54.69	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
60	Layer	Occupation spread	Dump	1.00	3.70	0.15	54.19	54.10	Open Area	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP06	AD 40-100
61	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.98	0.26	54.10	53.94	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
62	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.98	0.26	54.10	53.94	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
63	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.50	0.88	0.15	54.34	54.19	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
64	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.50	0.88	0.15	54.34	54.19	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
65	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	0.30	0.54	0.21	54.02	53.81	Gully 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP07	AD 40-60/200
66	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	0.30	0.54	0.21	54.02	53.81	Gully 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP07	
67	Fill	Fill of ditch	Accumulation	1.00	1.70	0.20	53.95	53.75	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/100
68	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.44	0.33	53.91	53.75	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
69	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.69	0.17	53.91	53.58	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
70	Cut	Cut of ring ditch	Ditch	1.00	2.04	0.37	53.95	53.58	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	

Context	Type	Interpretation	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Levels_low (m OD)	Levels_high (m OD)	Landuse	Phase	Group	Spot Date
71	Fill	Fill of ditch - intentionally dumped material	Backfill	1.00	0.75	0.37	55.25	54.93	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/160
72	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.74	0.47	55.41	54.93	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
73	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.27	0.20	55.45	55.25	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
74	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.50	0.22	55.45	55.23	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
75	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	2.48	0.47	55.45	54.93	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
76	Fill	Fill of ditch terminus	Natural Silting	1.40	1.97	0.26	54.87	54.61	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/100
77	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus	Ditch	1.40	1.97	0.22	54.87	54.61	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
78	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	1.04	1.00	0.24	55.69	55.48	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP04	
79	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.50	0.11	56.12	56.01	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
80	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.50	0.11	56.12	56.01	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
81	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	2.08	0.36	56.12	55.76	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/160
82	Fill	Basal fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.50	0.20	55.76	55.56	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
83	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	2.08	0.56	56.12	55.56	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
84	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Accumulation	1.00	1.93	0.28	54.81	54.53	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/100
85	Fill	Basal fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.16	0.21	54.62	54.41	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
86	Cut	Cut of ring ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.93	0.40	54.81	54.41	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
87	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.50	0.51	0.13	54.35	54.22	Gully 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP07	AD 0-60
88	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.50	0.51	0.13	54.35	54.22	Gully 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP07	
89	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.75	0.25	55.55	55.30	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
90	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.75	0.25	55.55	55.30	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
91	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.96	0.15	55.58	55.43	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP10	AD 0-60
92	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.96	0.15	55.58	55.43	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP10	
93	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	0.83	0.74	0.31	55.56	55.31	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP04	
94	Fill	Fill of pit	Use	1.04	1.00	0.24	55.69	55.48	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP04	
95	Fill	Fill of pit	Accumulation	0.83	0.74	0.31	55.56	55.31	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP04	AD 0-60
96	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	1.63	1.42	0.16	55.50	55.34	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
97	Fill	Fill of pit. Burning in-situ	Use	1.63	1.42	0.16	55.50	55.34	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
98	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.43	0.13	55.29	55.16	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
99	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.43	0.13	55.29	55.16	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
100	Fill	Fill of pit	Use	0.41	0.38	0.22	55.48	55.27	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP04	
101	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	0.41	0.38	0.22	55.48	55.27	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP04	
102	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.51	0.44	0.29	54.26	53.97	Post Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP13	
103	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.51	0.44	0.29	54.26	53.97	Post Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP13	
104	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.94	0.15	55.46	55.31	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
105	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.94	0.15	55.46	55.31	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	

Context	Type	Interpretation	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Levels_low (m OD)	Levels_high (m OD)	Landuse	Phase	Group	Spot Date
106	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.40	0.10	55.85	55.75	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	AD 40-400+
107	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.40	0.10	55.85	55.75	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
108	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.64	0.13	54.30	54.17	Gully 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP07	
109	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.64	0.13	54.30	54.17	Gully 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP07	
110	Fill	Fill of ditch/hedgerow	Natural Silting	1.00	1.00	0.08	54.01	53.93	Pit 6	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP21	
111	Cut	Cut of ditch/hedgerow	Natural Silting	1.00	1.00	0.08	54.01	53.93	Pit 6	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP21	
112	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.48	0.08	55.56	55.48	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
113	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.48	0.08	55.56	55.48	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
114	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.34	0.52	0.13	54.51	54.38	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
115	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.34	0.52	0.13	54.51	54.38	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
116	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	2.07	1.78	0.20	54.46	54.26	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
117	Fill	Fill of pit. In-situ burning	Use	2.07	1.78	0.20	54.46	64.26	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
118	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.05	0.18	55.70	55.52	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/100
119	Fill	Basal fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.50	0.16	55.52	55.36	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
120	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.50	0.34	55.70	55.36	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
121	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.61	0.18	55.10	54.92	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	AD 40-60/100
122	Fill	Basal fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.30	0.05	54.92	54.87	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
123	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.61	0.23	55.10	54.87	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
124	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.61	0.23	55.70	55.57	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
125	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.70	0.23	55.70	55.57	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
126	Fill	Upper fill of pit	Natural Silting	1.24	0.63	0.16	54.05	53.89	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
127	Fill	Basal fill of pit	Infilling	1.24	0.35	0.27	53.97	53.70	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
128	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	1.24	0.63	0.36	54.05	53.69	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
129	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.38	0.08	55.28	55.20	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	AD 40-100
130	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.36	0.08	55.28	55.20	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
131	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	0.57	0.46	0.11	54.31	54.20	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
132	Fill	Fill of pit. Dump of burnt material	Accumulation	0.57	0.46	0.12	54.31	54.20	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
133	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.38	0.38	0.20	55.20	55.00	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP10	AD 40-200
134	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.38	0.38	0.20	55.20	55.00	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP10	
135	Fill	Fill of natural feature	Natural Silting	0.53	0.53	0.34	54.04	53.70	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
136	Cut	Cut of natural feature	Natural	0.53	0.53	0.34	54.04	53.70	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
137	Fill	Fill of ditch/hedgerow	Natural Silting	1.00	1.28	0.14	54.51	54.37	Ditch 10	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP22	
138	Cut	Cut of ditch/hedgerow	Natural Silting	1.00	1.28	0.14	54.51	54.37	Ditch 10	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP22	
139	Fill	Fill of ditch/hedgerow	Natural Silting	1.00	0.67	0.13	54.81	54.68	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
140	Cut	Cut of ditch/hedgerow	Ditch	1.00	0.67	0.13	54.81	54.68	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
141	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.45	0.09	55.55	54.65	Ditch 5	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	

Context	Type	Interpretation	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Levels_low (m OD)	Levels_high (m OD)	Landuse	Phase	Group	Spot Date
142	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.45	0.09	55.55	54.65	Ditch 5	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP19	
143	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.10	0.21	56.27	56.06	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
144	Fill	Basal fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.47	0.21	56.06	55.85	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
145	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.10	0.42	56.27	55.85	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
146	Fill	Fill of ditch/hedgerow	Natural Silting	0.90	1.16	0.14	54.74	54.60	Ditch 10	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP22	
147	Cut	Cut of ditch/hedgerow	Ditch	0.90	1.16	0.14	54.74	54.60	Ditch 10	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP22	
148	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.54	0.46	0.19	55.55	55.36	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP10	
149	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.54	0.46	0.19	55.55	55.36	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP10	
150	Fill	Fill of pit. Burning in-situ	Use	0.58	0.23	0.07	55.56	55.49	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP10	AD 0-400+
151	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	0.58	0.23	0.07	55.56	55.49	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP10	
152	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.38	0.29	0.21	54.95	54.94	Post Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP13	
153	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.38	0.29	0.21	54.94	54.74	Post Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP13	
154	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	2.16	0.10	54.18	54.08	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
155	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	2.14	0.24	54.08	53.84	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
156	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	2.22	0.34	54.18	53.84	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
157	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.37	0.24	0.13	55.84	55.71	Building 2	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP05	
158	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.37	0.24	0.13	55.84	55.71	Building 2	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP05	
159	Fill	Cut of posthole	Infilling	0.33	0.28	0.07	54.80	54.78	Post Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP13	
160	Cut	Cut of posthole	Pit	0.33	0.28	0.07	54.80	54.74	Post Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP13	
161	Fill	Fill of pit	Use	1.43	1.00	0.23	54.58	54.35	Pit Group 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP14	
162	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	1.43	1.00	0.23	54.58	54.35	Pit Group 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP14	
163	Fill	Fill of pit. Burning in-situ?	Use	0.48	0.48	0.08	55.57	55.52	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP03	
164	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	0.48	0.48	0.05	55.57	55.52	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP03	
165	Fill	Fill of pit. Dump of iron wastage material	Infilling	1.11	1.09	0.21	55.49	55.28	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP04	
166	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	1.11	1.09	0.21	55.49	55.28	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP04	
167	Fill	Fill of natural feature	Natural Silting	2.33	0.79	0.12	55.38	55.26	Pit Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP15	
168	Cut	Cut of natural feature	Natural	2.33	0.79	0.12	55.38	55.26	Pit Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP15	
169	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	2.10	1.92	0.10	54.58	54.46	Pit Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP15	
170	Fill	Fill of pit. Burning in-situ	Use	2.10	1.92	0.12	54.58	54.46	Pit Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP15	
171	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.34	0.25	0.10	55.53	55.39	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP03	
172	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.34	0.25	0.10	55.53	55.39	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP03	
173	Fill	Upper fill of pit	Natural Silting	1.58	1.48	0.11	55.24	55.19	Pit Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP15	
174	Fill	Lower fill of pit. High charcoal content	Accumulation	1.58	1.41	0.09	55.18	55.09	Pit Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP15	
175	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	1.68	1.58	0.15	55.24	55.09	Pit Group 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP15	
176	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.37	0.26	54.45	54.25	Open Area	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP23	

Context	Type	Interpretation	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Levels_low (m OD)	Levels_high (m OD)	Landuse	Phase	Group	Spot Date
177	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.37	0.26	54.45	54.25	Open Area	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP23	
178	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.20	0.25	54.45	54.26	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-120
179	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.20	0.25	54.45	54.26	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
180	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	2.20	0.35	54.49	54.16	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60
181	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	2.20	0.35	54.49	54.16	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
182	Fill	Fill of ditch/hedgerow	Natural Silting	1.00	1.00	0.30	54.96	54.64	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
183	Cut	Cut of ditch/hedgerow	Ditch	1.00	1.00	0.30	54.96	54.64	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
184	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.40	0.35	0.12	55.74	55.62	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP03	AD 40-60/100
185	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.40	0.35	0.12	55.74	55.62	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP03	
186	Fill	Fill of possible posthole	Natural Silting	0.16	0.16	0.03	55.38	55.35	Post Group 5	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP16	
187	Cut	Cut of possible posthole	Post-hole	0.16	0.16	0.03	55.38	55.35	Post Group 5	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP16	
188	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.21	0.21	0.05	54.32	54.27	Post Group 5	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP16	
189	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.21	0.21	0.05	54.32	54.27	Post Group 5	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP16	
190	Fill	Fill of natural feature	Natural Silting	0.58	0.51	0.16	54.52	54.28	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
191	Cut	Cut of natural feature	Natural	0.58	0.51	0.16	54.52	54.28	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
192	Fill	Fill of pit	Natural Silting	0.69	0.57	0.15	54.23	54.08	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
193	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	0.69	0.57	0.15	54.23	54.08	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
194	Fill	Fill of pit	Natural Silting	1.02	0.95	0.19	54.26	54.05	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
195	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	1.02	0.95	0.19	54.26	54.05	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
196	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Natural Silting	2.00	1.77	0.29	55.41	55.21	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	AD 40-60/100
197	Fill	Basal fill of ditch	Accumulation	2.00	1.38	0.15	55.21	55.13	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
198	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	2.00	1.77	0.43	55.41	54.93	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
199	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.45	0.13	56.17	56.04	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
200	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.45	0.13	56.17	56.04	Ditch 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP11	
201	Fill	Fill of pit. Burnt material	Use	0.80	0.52	0.18	54.30	54.12	Post Group 5	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP16	AD 40-200
202	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	0.80	0.52	0.18	54.30	54.12	Post Group 5	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP16	
203	Fill	Fill of pit	Natural Silting	0.65	0.60	0.11	54.23	54.11	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
204	Cut	Cut of pit	Pit	0.65	0.60	0.11	54.23	54.11	Pit Group 5	BLRF26-PH3	BLRF26-GP20	
205	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.30	0.28	0.24	55.69	55.45	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP03	
206	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.30	0.28	0.24	55.69	55.45	Building 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP03	
207	Fill	Fill of posthole	Natural Silting	0.19	0.19	0.11	54.27	54.16	Post Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP13	
208	Cut	Cut of posthole	Post-hole	0.19	0.19	0.11	54.27	54.16	Post Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP13	
209	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.49	0.17	55.63	55.45	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
210	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.49	0.17	55.63	55.45	Building 3	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP09	
211	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.60	0.31	54.63	54.31	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	

Context	Type	Interpretation	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Levels_low (m OD)	Levels_high (m OD)	Landuse	Phase	Group	Spot Date
212	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.60	0.31	54.63	54.31	Ditch 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP18	
213	Fill	Fill of pit. Dump of burnt material	Infilling	1.00	0.85	0.22	55.38	55.17	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	AD 40-400+
214	Cut	Cut of pit	Ditch	1.00	0.85	0.22	55.38	55.17	Pit Group 4	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP17	
215	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	0.60	0.25	0.26	55.61	55.27	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
216	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	0.60	0.25	0.26	55.61	55.27	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
217	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	0.85	0.35	0.29	55.65	55.38	Enclosure 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP02	
218	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	0.85	0.35	0.29	55.65	55.38	Enclosure 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP02	
219	Fill	Fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	1.24	0.30	55.92	55.54	Enclosure 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP02	
220	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	1.24	0.30	55.92	55.54	Enclosure 1	BLRF26-PH2.1	BLRF26-GP02	
221	Layer	Layer adjacent to enclosure ditch	Agricultural	1.00	2.00	0.12	53.91	53.77	Open Area	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP06	
222	Fill	Upper fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.90	0.12	54.04	53.92	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
223	Fill	Basal fill of ditch	Natural Silting	1.00	0.66	0.08	53.65	53.57	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	
224	Cut	Cut of ditch	Ditch	1.00	0.90	0.20	53.99	53.57	Enclosure 2	BLRF26-PH2.2	BLRF26-GP08	

APPENDIX 2: ANIMAL BONE REPORT

By Karen Deighton

A single small, calcined fragment of bone recovered from the sieved residue (2mm and 10mm mesh size) of environmental sample {2} during the archaeological excavation at Longwater road, Finchampstead. The material originates from a fill [54] of ring ditch [57] situated in the northwestern portion of the site, which is dated by pottery to AD40-60/100. Unfortunately, the bone was too small to be identified to bone element or taxon, consequently no further work is recommended, and fragment can be discarded.

APPENDIX 3: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL REPORT

By Amparo Valcarcel Estors

Introduction

A single fragment of ceramic building material (43g) was recovered from the site, originating from enclosure [75] (GP-08). The material was examined under ×20 magnification and quantified by context, fabric type, form, count, weight, and dimensions (ACBMG, 2002). The fabric was compared against those recorded during previous archaeological works carried out in Berkshire (Valcarcel, 2024) and matches Roman fabric BHC3, identified during the excavation. The fragment from the Finchampstead site consists of a Roman tile in a fragmented condition, dated AD 50–120. Its abraded condition and the fact that it was found redeposited in fill [73] demonstrate that the associated Roman building was likely located outside the limits of excavation. Consequently, no further work is recommended.

Distribution

Context	Cut	Gr.	Entity	Fabric	Form	Quan.	Weight	Date range of material Based on fabric		Latest dated material Based on fabric		Spot date	Phase
73	75	GP08	Enclosure	BHC3	Early Roman tile	1	43	50	120	50	120	50-120	PH2.2

References

ACBMG. 2002: Ceramic building material, minimum standards for recovery, curation, analysis and publication, http://www.archaeologicalceramics.com/uploads/1/1/9/3/11935072/ceramic_building_material_guidelines.pdf (Accessed: 17, August 2026).

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APPENDIX 4: FIRED CLAY REPORT

By Amparo Valcarcel Estors

Introduction

A modest assemblage of fired clay was recovered from the excavation, amounting to 120 fragments and weighing 3,909g. While the material is generally in poor condition, a few diagnostic forms were present. These include kiln structural components; specifically triangular perforated blocks and loom weights.

Methodology

The material was examined under magnification (x20), then recorded and quantified by context, fabric, and form, using fragment count, weight, and dimensions in accordance with standard guidance (ACBMG, 2002). A summary of the identified forms and fabrics appears below in Table 1, with a detailed catalogue of the assemblages by context presented in Table 2 and Table 3 at the end of this report.

Assemblage characterisation

The condition of the material is variable, ranging from very small, non-diagnostic fragments to larger, fresh, hand-collected pieces. The latter include objects and structural elements, representing principally triangular and rectangular perforated blocks. Although the assemblage was recovered from a variety of ditches, the largest concentration of fragments was directly associated with the fills of enclosures.

Fabric

Code	Description	Type	Date	Quantity	Weight (g)
3102type 1	Silty sandy medium coarse fabric, abundant quartz, iron inclusions. High density.	Undiagnostic fired clay fragments. Related to iron-smelting?	4000BC-1800	39	71
3102type 2	Very fine silty sandy fabric, with occasional fine quartz, and mica. Dark core. Medium density	Perforated block. Kiln furniture	4000AD-1800	14	1,456
3102type 3	Medium coarse silty sandy fabric, abundant quartz, occasional red iron oxide and mica. Medium density	Kiln furniture	4000AD-1800	66	2,344

Table 1. Fabric and forms identified

The assemblage shares a common silty matrix, indicating a single clay source. However, the fabrics exhibit varying frequencies of red iron oxides, quartz, and mica. The minor differences observed across these fabrics point to localised variations in the exploited clay sources, which were likely accessible directly on or very near the site itself.

Form

A small quantity of fired clay, consisting of loom weights or pedestals alongside predominantly undiagnostic fragments, was recovered from the site. While loom weights or pedestals are frequently

associated with oven or kiln structures, no contemporary structural features were identified during the excavation. The material most likely originated from kilns located beyond the excavation limits, representing redeposited dumps of kiln debris within the site. Small quantities of fired clay were also recovered in a dispersed distribution across other features.

Triangular perforated blocks/ loomweights

Four fragments of fired clay were recovered from fill [36] of ditch [38] (GP11), fill [39] of cut [40], and fill [197] of Enclosure 2 [198] (GP08), typologically classified as triangular and rectangular weights. The form is characteristically triangular with two flat faces, pierced laterally through one, two, or all three apexes. These can be grouped with an additional five fragments (608g) collected from fill [36] of Ditch 3 [38], fill [43] of Ditch 3 [45] (both GP11), and fill [197] of Enclosure 2 [198] (GP08), which preserved the surfaces of further weights.

No full dimensions could be recorded across the assemblage. However, the fragment from fill [39] is notable for preserving distinct concavities on its surface, probably related to thread marks, associated with a textile industry. While the majority of the examples from the site remain incomplete, fragments from fill [36] of ditch [38] (GP11), as well as fill [39] and fill [184], both of Enclosure 2 [198] (GP08), preserved two or three faces, with one retaining a diagonally perforated apex (16mm in diameter). This object features a side thickness of 68mm. Additionally, two fragments from fill [39] recorded widths of 68mm and 69mm, while the fragment from fill [184] measured 67mm in width. The fragment from fill [39] preserved a width of 90mm and a thickness of 51mm. The presence of recurrent curved and flat surfaces across other contexts strongly suggests that all fragments within fabric groups Type 2 and Type 3 belong to these weights. The profiles typically exhibit a dark core with brown to dark grey surfaces.

The exact function of this form has been a subject of ongoing debate since its initial identification. Due to their frequent association on some sites with high concentrations of weaving combs and the presence of thread wear marks, it has been widely argued that they functioned in textile production as loomweights to weight and space warp threads on an upright loom (Poole 1984, 406; Major 1982; Sudds 2006). Conversely, alternative functions have been inferred from in-situ discoveries; these include use as door or thatch weights, or as oven/clamp kiln furniture—acting either as internal linings or as pedestals to support vessel loads or potentially forming a raised oven floor (Swan 1984, 53–54; Poole 1995, 285–286; 2010, 133; 2011a, 138–139; 2011b, 321–323; Anderson 2012). The evidence suggests the form was multi-functional or adaptable to varying practical needs, irrespective of its original intended design.

Typologically, the form is most frequently associated with Middle and Late Iron Age settlements, though it persisted into the early Roman period (O'Connell & Bird 1994, 130; Poole 1984; 2011b, 321; Wild 1970, 156, 613; Greenwood 1997; Bates & Lyons 2003). On the current site, relevant examples were recovered from features dating to the 2nd century AD (Phase 2.2).

While triangular blocks are traditionally associated with pre-conquest pit or clamp kilns, examples are documented on transitional and early Roman pottery production sites (Sudds 2006). Given the early character of the site, it remains possible that these triangular blocks relate to identical pottery production

activities or to as-yet undiscovered earlier kilns in the immediate vicinity, although an association with Iron Age activity cannot be discounted.

Cxt	Fill of	Form	No	W(g)	Comment
36	Ditch 3	Triangular 'weight'	1	174	Incomplete apex (section above perforation missing). Slightly rounded arris. 68mm thick Perforation 16mm in diameter. Grey core and orange-buff margins and surfaces.
39	Enclosure 2	Triangular 'weight'	2	755	Apex fragment with thread marks in two faces. Square apex and sharp arrises. Grey core and marbled orange margins and surfaces. Triangular loomweight Grey core and orange-buff margins and surfaces. 90mm width and 51mm thickness
197	Enclosure 2	Rectangular 'weight/block'	15	891	Semi-complete rectangular block. One lateral side thickness (67mm). Oxidised orange-buff core, margins and surface.

Table 2: Summary catalogue of the fired clay objects. Cxt = context; Ph = Phase; No = number of fragments; Wg = weight in grams; Thk = thickness (in mm).

Very abraded fragments were collected from fill [63] of Enclosure 2 [64]. These fragments were highly vitrified and contained small inclusions of iron, probably associated with iron-smelting waste.

Phasing

Phase 2.1 Late Iron Age

The only material attributed to this phase was recovered from fill [184] of post-hole [185], yielding eleven undiagnostic fired clay fragments (Table 3). This feature, part of a post-hole group, is associated with Building 1, dated AD 0–60. The sparse quantity of material from this phase suggests that early activity was either inherently ephemeral or subsequently disturbed and truncated by later Romano-British activity across the site.

Phase 2.2. Early Roman

This phase yielded the largest concentration of fired clay within the site sequence, totalling 109 fragments weighing 3,190g. The features from this phase are associated with a system of field boundaries dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Platts, 2026). The fired clay is generally highly abraded and occurred in low-density concentrations (Table 3).

The material from Group 8 (89 fragments, 1,931g) likely derives from the deliberate backfilling of features with domestic or industrial waste. The overall scarcity of fired clay suggests that activity during this phase was either temporary or small in scale. All material from this group was recovered specifically from Enclosure 2, including the fragmentary remains of loom weights.

High-temperature industrial activity is further supported by the presence of vitrified fragments containing iron inclusions recovered from the fills of Enclosure 2 [75], as well as large quantities of slag confirming the presence of metallurgical residues or iron-smelting debris on site (Willis, 2026). Furthermore, the total absence of contemporary textile manufacturing items (such as spindle whorls or bone needles) strongly implies that the fragmented triangular blocks recovered from these contexts functioned strictly as portable kiln furniture — such as floor supports or pedestals — rather than loom weights, with the notable exception of the weight displaying thread-wear marks collected from backfill [39] of Enclosure 2 [40].

Group 11 yielded a small quantity of fired clay, totalling 20 fragments and weighing 1,259g (Table 3). In contrast to the primary production debris of the previous phase, this material is characterised by its highly fragmented nature, small size, and occurrence in low-density concentrations dispersed across Ditch 3. The bulk of the assemblage consists of undiagnostic fragments with flat surfaces. Despite this fragmentation, an item associated with textile production was identified within the debris, potentially representing a typical laterally pierced triangular loom weight.

The presence of this material in Phase 2.2 suggests it was incorporated during final levelling or as secondary debris originating from the settlement area. The spatial distribution of the Phase 2.2 fired clay points to the abandonment, demolition, and weathering of Phase 2.1 structures following the transition of the land to agricultural use (Platts, 2026).

Distribution

Context	Cut	Entity	Group	Fabric	Form	Quant.	Wgt	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Phase
								Based on fabric		Based on fabric			
27	28	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Undiagnostic fired fragments, Type 2	2	59	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
36	38	Ditch 3	GP11	3102	Undiagnostic fired fragments, Type 2 (type 2, two with flat surfaces), triangular loom weight, one lateral piercing (Type 3)	8	816	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
37	38	Ditch 3	GP11	3102	Undiagnostic fired fragments, (type 3, one with flat surfaces)	6	136	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
39	40	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Triangular loom weight (Type 3) rectangular loom weight, thread marks in two faces of three. (Type 2)	2	755	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	100BC-100AD	PH2.2
43	45	Ditch 3	GP11	3102	Undiagnostic fired clay fragments, one fragment with flat surface, and other with two angles (Type 2 and 3)	6	307	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
48	50	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Undiagnostic fired clay, one with flat surfaces (Type 3)	1	65	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
63	64	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Undiagnostic fired clay, containing iron inclusions (Type 1)	39	71	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
73	75	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Undiagnostic fired clay (Type 3)	1	63	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
84	86	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Undiagnostic fired clay (Type 3)	38	693	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
118	120	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Undiagnostic fired clay (Type 3)	1	34	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
178	179	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Undiagnostic fired clay (Type 3)	3	11	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.2
184	185	Building 1	GP03	3102	Undiagnostic fired clay (Type 3)	11	729	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC - 1800AD	PH2.1
196	198	Enclosure 2	GP08	UNK	Undiagnostic vitrified fragment	1	38	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	PH2.2
197	198	Enclosure 2	GP08	3102	Probably base of a loom weight (Type 2)	1	142	4000BC	1800AD	4000BC	1800AD	100BC-100AD	PH2.2

Table 3. Distribution of the material in Phase 2.2

Summary

The fired clay assemblage recovered from the site provides evidence for occupation from the Late Iron Age through to the early Roman period. The earliest phase of activity (Phase 2.1) is characterised by low-density, abraded groups of undiagnostic fired clay, likely related to domestic waste and ephemeral, small-scale occupation.

A change occurred during the mid 1st century AD (Phase 2.2), coinciding with the start of the Roman period, marked by a restructuring of the settlement. The settlement area was converted into an agricultural and pastoral system, ending the use of Building 1, although this small structure may have functioned as an agricultural or farming hut. The structural fired clay debris indicates the potential introduction of pottery kilns nearby, supported by the presence of diagnostic kiln furniture.

Although the triangular blocks recovered on-site belong to a form traditionally classified as Iron Age loom weights, the total absence of contemporary textile manufacturing equipment, such as spindle whorls or bone needles, suggests that these triangular objects — alongside the slag — are directly associated with local ceramic and iron-smelting industries.

Further work

The undiagnostic material may be discarded. Should the project proceed to publication, a comparative analysis of regional sites with evidence of ceramic production and iron-smelting should be carried out. This should include illustrations of the loom weights/triangular blocks from fills [36], [39] and [197].

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APPENDIX 5: INDUSTRIAL RESIDUE REPORT

By David Willis

Introduction

A large-sized assemblage of slag and hammerscale was collected during the excavations at Longwater Road, Finchampstead (BLRF26). The material was collected both by hand during excavation and recovered from environmental samples. A total of 72,845g of material was recovered from a series of fills excavated from pits, ditches and postholes across the site. This report summarises the assemblage and assesses its significance alongside suggesting any further work needed.

Methodology

Industrial residues were processed from site by washing over a 500-micron mesh, collecting any microslags such as hammerscale, magnetised grains or iron ore fragments. Environmental samples were processed by a trained member of staff using a modified Siraf-type flotation system (Williams, 1973), the processing team then sorted through the retent collected in the 1mm mesh from the flotation of said samples. During cataloguing the slag is described using four size groupings: granular (<2mm), small (2-20mm), medium (21-60mm), and large (>60mm). Where magnetised grains were recovered from environmental samples, the fraction was assessed to record any hammerscale within it. This was done using a five-point semi-quantitative scale based on the estimated proportion of hammerscale present: absent (0%), rare (<5%), occasional (5–24%), moderate (25–49%), and abundant (50–100%). The total assemblage was then quantified by weight, placed into size categories of small (<1kg), medium (1-5kg) and large (>5kg), evaluated, and recorded in accordance with CiFA guidelines (2020). This information was recorded onto an Excel Spreadsheet and forms part of the site archive.

The Assemblage

A total of 72,845g of ironworking material was recovered from the site. This is comprised overwhelmingly of iron smelting slag with only 17g of clinker, small quantities of magnetised grains, alongside examples of flake and spheroidal hammerscale. These finds are catalogued in Table 1 below.

The slag

Iron smelting slag accounted for 99.69% of the total assemblage by weight. This is present in the form of a flowing lava like slag known as tap slag. Tap slag is indicative of primary iron smithing (smelting), formed during the conversion of iron ore into blooms within a bloomery furnace. This material is typically associated with Roman and medieval ironworking traditions (Bayley et al, 2015, p.22). There are perhaps further non diagnostic lumps of slag which could have been part of this process but are unable to be assessed due to their size.

Hammerscale was also identified within the assemblage, comprising both flake and spheroidal forms. Flake hammerscale consists of thin, often irregular flakes of iron oxide produced through the heating and hammering of iron, while spheroidal hammerscale forms as small, rounded globules generated during smithing. Given the substantial quantity of tap slag, the hammerscale is likely to relate to the initial working and consolidation of iron blooms following smelting. Its presence therefore provides

supporting evidence for activity associated with the working of smelted iron alongside the primary smelting process represented by the tap slag.

The fuel

Clinker makes up less than 1% of the total assemblage, it is the waste produced by the combustion of fuels such as coal and charcoal, and in abundance can be a sign of iron metal working (Shaw and Jameson, 1999).

Context	Cut	Sample number	Context description	Phase	Description	Weight (g)
18	19		Fill of ditch	2.2	Iron smelting slag	412
27	28		Fill of ditch	2.2	Iron smelting slag	754
36	38		Upper fill of ditch	2.2	Small and medium sized lumps of iron smelting slag	277
36	38		Upper fill of ditch	2.2	Iron smelting slag	5950
37	38		Lower fill of ditch	2.2	Magnetised grains absent of hammerscale	50
37	38		Lower fill of ditch	2.2	Iron smelting slag	4450
39	40		Fill of ditch	2.2	Iron smelting slag	11450
51	52	1	Fill of pit containing burnt material	2.2	Small to medium fragments of iron smelting slag	633
54	57	2	Upper fill of ditch	2.2	Small to medium fragments of iron smelting slag	2536
58	59		Fill of ditch	2.2	Iron smelting slag	260
63	64	3	Fill of ditch	2.2	Small to medium fragments of iron smelting slag	2718
67	70		Fill of ditch	2.2	Iron smelting slag	4850
71	75	4	Fill of ditch - intentionally dumped material	2.2	Small fragments of iron smelting slag	128
81	83		Upper fill of ditch	2.2	Iron stone	100
84	86		Upper fill of ditch	2.2	Single piece of flake hammerscale	<1
84	86		Upper fill of ditch	2.2	Iron smelting slag	11760
94	78	5	Fill of pit	2.1	Four pieces of spheroidal hammerscale	<1
94	78	5	Fill of pit	2.1	Granular undiagnostic fragments of iron slag	12
95	93		Fill of pit	2.1	Iron smelting slag	2850
95	93	6	Fill of pit	2.1	Small fragments of iron smelting slag	3752
100	101		Fill of pit	2.1	Iron smelting slag	1750
129	130		Fill of ditch	2.2	Small lumps of iron smelting slag	107
150	151	10	Fill of pit. Burning in-situ	2.2	Clinker	17
165	166	11	Fill of pit. Dump of iron wastage material	2.1	Granular to small lumps of iron smelting slag	2718
165	166		Fill of pit. Dump of iron wastage material	2.1	Medium sized lumps of iron smelting slag	5122
170	169		Fill of pit. Burning in-situ	2.2	Medium sized lump of iron smelting slag	157
174	175	13	Lower fill of pit. High charcoal content	2.2	Magnetised grains with occasional flake hammerscale	28
174	175	13	Lower fill of pit. High charcoal content	2.2	Medium sized lumps of iron smelting slag	2152
184	185		Fill of posthole	2.1	Iron smelting slag	265
201	202	14	Fill of pit. Burnt material	2.2	Granular undiagnostic fragments of iron slag	16

Context	Cut	Sample number	Context description	Phase	Description	Weight (g)
213	214	15	Fill of ditch terminus. Dump of burnt material	2.2	Three fragments of flake hammerscale	<1
213	214	15	Fill of ditch terminus. Dump of burnt material	2.2	Small to medium fragments of iron smelting slag	7571

Table 1: Catalogue of Industrial Residual

Phased Distribution

Phase 2.1 Late Iron Age

Features associated with the Late Iron Age (Phase 2.1) produced 16,462g of industrial residue, recovered predominantly from features that form parts of Group 4, with a small quantity from a posthole belonging to Group 3 (both of which form parts of Building 1). The largest quantity of industrial residue was recovered from pit [166], which contained 7,840g (47.6%) of iron smelting slag. This is followed by pit [93] which contained 6,602g (40.1%) and pit [101] which produced a further 1,750g (10.6%) of iron smelting slag. All three pits are associated with Building 1, and together, account for 97.7% of the Phase 2.1 assemblage.

A further 12g of smelting slag was recovered from pit [78], which also contained four pieces of spheroidal hammerscale. While posthole [185], which formed part of Group 3, was the only feature outside of Group 4 to produce industrial residue, contained 265g of iron smelting slag.

Phase 2.2 Early Roman

Phase 2.2 sees a dramatic increase in material, with 56,441g of industrial residue recovered from a range of features, predominantly ditches associated with Group 8 (part of Enclosure 2), alongside smaller quantities from pits and other features. Group 8 produced a total of 34,556g (61.3% of the Phase 2.2 assemblage), predominantly comprising iron-smelting slag. Within the group, the largest quantities were recovered from ditch [86], which contained 11,760g (20.8%), followed by ditch [40], which contained 11,450g (20.3%). Ditch [38] contained a further 10,400g of iron-smelting slag (18.4%), recovered from its upper and lower fills, while ditch [70] contained 4,850g (8.6%). Outside of Group 8, ditch terminus [214], part of Pit Group 4, produced a further 7,571g (13.4%) of iron-smelting slag. The remaining material was distributed across a number of other ditch and pit fills, including smaller quantities from further features associated with Group 8 (Enclosure 2).

Discussion

Phase 2.1 Late Iron Age

The Phase 2.1 assemblage indicates that iron smelting formed a significant part of the site activity. The overwhelming dominance of tap slag is consistent with bloomery smelting and suggests that the principal metalworking process represented was the production of iron blooms from ore, rather than the later manufacture of finished iron objects. The concentration of this material within features associated with Building 1 is particularly notable, as it places the principal accumulation of ironworking waste within an area of structured activity rather than as isolated or dispersed material across the site.

The small quantity of hammerscale provides evidence for the hot working of iron alongside the smelting process. Although hammerscale can be generated during both the initial consolidation of blooms and

later smithing, the recovery of only four spheroidal pieces, compared with over 16 kg of predominantly smelting slag, suggests that this was a relatively minor component of the activity represented. In this context, the hammerscale could derive from the initial working of newly produced blooms, including the removal of slag and consolidation of the iron. There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate sustained secondary smithing or the manufacture of iron objects on a significant scale during this phase.

The assemblage therefore suggests a metalworking sequence centred on primary iron production, with at least some working of the resulting iron taking place in the vicinity. The presence of substantial quantities of slag does not necessarily mean that the furnace itself was located within the building group, as the waste could have been moved a short distance for disposal. Equally, however, the concentration of material within associated features is compatible with ironworking taking place relatively close by.

The absence of surviving furnaces or other clearly identifiable production structures means that the exact location of the smelting activity cannot be established. This is not unusual, as bloomery furnaces and other ironworking structures were often small, temporary and built above ground, meaning that they may not survive archaeologically. The large quantities of slag therefore provide stronger evidence for ironworking activity than the survival of the structures themselves.

The nature of pit [166], recorded as containing a dump of ironworking waste, is consistent with deliberate disposal of material generated by this activity. The smaller quantities in pits [93] and [101] may represent similar processes of waste deposition, although their depositional histories are less clearly defined. Taken together, the evidence suggests that Phase 2.1 involved organised iron production, probably centred on bloomery smelting, with the resulting blooms undergoing at least limited hot working before or during their removal from the area. The evidence for later smithing is much weaker, and there is currently little to suggest that the principal focus of activity was the manufacture of finished iron objects.

Phase 2.2 Early Roman

The Phase 2.2 assemblage indicates that iron smelting continued to form a significant component of activity at Longwater Road. As in Phase 2.1, the material is overwhelmingly composed of iron-smelting slag, with tap slag representing the principal form of waste. The substantial quantities recovered from the enclosure-associated ditches suggest that the disposal of smelting waste formed a repeated part of activity associated with the enclosure system.

The evidence for the subsequent working of iron is limited. Flake hammerscale was recovered from ditch [86], from the magnetised grain sample from pit [175], and from ditch terminus [214], but only in very small quantities. This demonstrates that hot working of iron was taking place during Phase 2.2, but there is insufficient hammerscale or associated smithing debris to suggest that large-scale secondary smithing was a major component of the activity represented. As hammerscale can be produced during the initial working of blooms as well as later smithing, these finds represent the working and consolidation of smelted iron rather than the manufacture of finished objects.

The Phase 2.2 evidence therefore represents continued iron production, with smelting clearly dominant and only limited evidence for subsequent working of the resulting iron. The concentration of smelting waste within enclosure-associated features may reflect repeated disposal of material generated by nearby ironworking, although the ditch deposits cannot demonstrate that smelting itself took place within

the enclosure. As discussed above, the temporary nature of these structures means that their absence does not indicate that ironworking was not taking place, the quantity and repeated deposition of slag demonstrate that ironworking remained an important activity during Phase 2.2, while the relatively small quantity of hammerscale suggests that the working of the resulting iron was more limited than the smelting process itself.

Significance and Recommendations

The industrial residue is of local significance for understanding ironworking at Longwater Road from the Late Iron Age (Phase 2.1) into the Early Roman period (Phase 2.2). The assemblage is overwhelmingly composed of iron-smelting slag, demonstrating that bloomery iron production was a significant component of activity during both phases. The substantial quantity recovered, totalling 72,845g, is considerably more significant than an assemblage comprising only occasional or residual slag.

The concentration of material within building-associated pits during Phase 2.1 and enclosure ditches during Phase 2.2 demonstrates repeated deposition of ironworking waste within different parts of the site. The small quantities of hammerscale provide additional evidence for the hot working of iron, although there is insufficient material to demonstrate a specific smithing area. The assemblage is therefore principally significant for its evidence of iron production and associated working of iron, rather than specialised object manufacture.

Further research comparing the assemblage with contemporary Late Iron Age and Early Roman sites in the surrounding area would, however, be beneficial in establishing the wider significance of the site's ironworking activity. This should include researching whether a previously unknown iron ore source has been used. The assemblage and associated records should be retained within the project archive for future research.

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APPENDIX 6: SMALL FINDS REPORT

By Märit Gaimster

This section covers registered stone querns and metal finds with four items recovered from the excavations; they are all catalogued in the table below and will be discussed here by phase.

Phase 2.2: Early Romano-British

Three items were recovered from this phase, all from Enclosure 2. They include the remains of two rotary querns, both in the form of fragments of upper stone with straight sides and slightly conical grinding surface. One of the pieces indicates a quern with an original diameter of *c* 320mm (SF 3) while the other originates from a larger implement with an original diameter of *c* 440mm (SF 4). The size of these querns fit well with other Romano-British rotary querns, which were most frequently sized in the range of 300–425mm in diameter (Green 2017, 157). Both querns appear to have been fashioned from Lodsworth Greenstone, a material that was quarried in West Sussex and widely exported around this area (Shaffrey and Roe 2011, fig. 3; Peacock 2013, fig. 4.2 e). Besides the querns, a heavily corroded fragment of iron strip was also recovered from the enclosure (SF 11). The strip retains a rounded finial, perforated at the centre for fastening, and may be the remains of a binding strip.

Phase 3: Post Medieval

A single find was recovered from this phase in the form of another quern fragment (SF 2), likely of Lodsworth Greenstone, retrieved from Layer 2. Like the two other querns, this is a piece of upper stone with straight sides and, in this case, a markedly conical grinding surface. Its original diameter would have been *c* 320mm. While associated with pottery dating from 1820–1900, the quern shares all the characteristics of the two earlier items and is certainly residual here.

Significance and recommendations for further work

Querns and millstones provide important evidence of material culture and daily life in the past. At Longwater Road, remains of three individual querns all likely date from the Early Romano-British period as is the case also for the fragment of a possible iron binding strip. No further work is required for the finds at this stage; however, they should be included in any further publication of the site. For that purpose, it is recommended that the iron strip is x-rayed to aid identification. Petrological identification should also be undertaken for the quern stones in order to confirm their geographical origin.

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Phase	Context	Feature	Group	Entity	SF	Description	Pot Date	Recommendations
PH 2.2	39	Ditch 40	GP08	Enclosure 2	SF 3	Rotary quern of ?Lodsworth Greensand; 125 x 130mm fragment of upper stone with straight sides and heavily worn conical grinding surface; thickness 25–50mm; weight 733 g; original diam. *c* 320mm	120–140/160	further stone ident
PH 2.2	39	Ditch 40	GP08	Enclosure 2	SF 4	Rotary quern of ?Lodsworth Greensand; 130 x 200mm fragment of upper stone with straight sides and heavily worn conical grinding surface; thickness 15–75mm; weight 1713 g; original diam. *c* 440mm	120–140/160	further stone ident
PH 2.2	54	Ditch 57	GP08	Enclosure 2	SF 11	Iron flat ?binding strip; heavily corroded fragment only with rounded perforated finial; W 10mm; L 28mm+	40–60/100	x-ray
PH 3.0	2	Subsoil	GP24	Layer 2	SF 2	Rotary quern of ?Lodsworth Greensand; 120 x 210mm fragment of upper stone with straight sides and heavily worn markedly conical grinding surface; upper face ?partly worked to shape 20-mm wide kerb; thickness 25–65mm; weight 1344 g; original diam. *c* 320mm	1820–1900	further stone ident

Table 1 Stone querns and metal finds

APPENDIX 7: ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY REPORT

By Eniko Hudak

Introduction

The archaeological excavation at Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire (BLRF26) produced a medium-sized assemblage of Roman pottery totalling 1,028 sherds, 7.120kg, and 5.44 Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs). This includes a significant amount of fragments recovered from the environmental samples, 232 sherds weighing 0.211kg, and representing 0.16 EVEs. The pottery was recorded, and this report was written in August 2026.

Methodology

The pottery was fully quantified by fabric and form per context using the standard measures of sherd count, weight, and EVEs, following the latest guidelines for the recording and analysis of archaeological ceramics (PCRG, SGRP, and MPRG 2016). All data was recorded in a relational database used by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) specialists. Sherds were examined macroscopically and microscopically, where necessary, using a hand lens (x10 magnification) or a binocular microscope (x20). Pottery fabrics and forms were recorded using standard Museum of London (MOLA) codes (MOLA 2024), supplemented by custom codes in the same style and those devised for Silchester fabrics by Timby (2018).

The Assemblage

Condition

The pottery from BLRF26 is in poor condition. All fragments show some degree of abrasion, but the majority have heavily worn and rounded edges and breaks. The mean sherd weight is low at 6.93g for the whole assemblage, and 8.68g excluding sherds from the environmental samples. These two observations suggest that the assemblage has been redeposited, perhaps several times. No evidence for use-wear or post-firing modifications (holes, reshaping, or graffiti) was recorded on the fragments, which may be at least partly due to their abraded state.

Composition

A limited number of pottery fabrics were identified in the BLRF26 assemblage (Table 1). Almost all fabrics can be dated to between the latest Iron Age and the early Roman period (c. early 1st century to mid-late 2nd century AD). This assemblage contains no continental imports, either amphorae or samian ware.

Fabric	Sherd Count	SC%	Weight (g)	Wt%	EVEs	EVE%
AHSU	265	25.78%	1293	18.16%	1.04	19.12%
BB1	5	0.49%	128	1.80%	0.38	6.99%
BSW	147	14.30%	1017	14.28%	1.92	35.29%
BUFF	15	1.46%	41	0.58%	0	0.00%
FLIN	49	4.77%	175	2.46%	0.1	1.84%
FMIC	9	0.88%	14	0.20%	0	0.00%
GROG	61	5.93%	763	10.72%	0	0.00%
GROGSH	10	0.97%	247	3.47%	0	0.00%
MISC	143	13.91%	35	0.49%	0	0.00%
OXID	17	1.65%	109	1.53%	0.08	1.47%
OXIDF	11	1.07%	9	0.13%	0	0.00%
SAND	30	2.92%	558	7.84%	0.2	3.68%
SAND1	43	4.18%	384	5.39%	0.75	13.79%
SHEL	2	0.19%	5	0.07%	0	0.00%
SIL F1	220	21.40%	2231	31.33%	0.97	17.83%
WS	1	0.10%	111	1.56%	0	0.00%
TOTAL	1028	100.00%	7120	100.00%	5.44	100.00%

Table 1 Quantification of the Late Iron Age-Roman pottery assemblage per fabric by count, weight (g), and EVEs

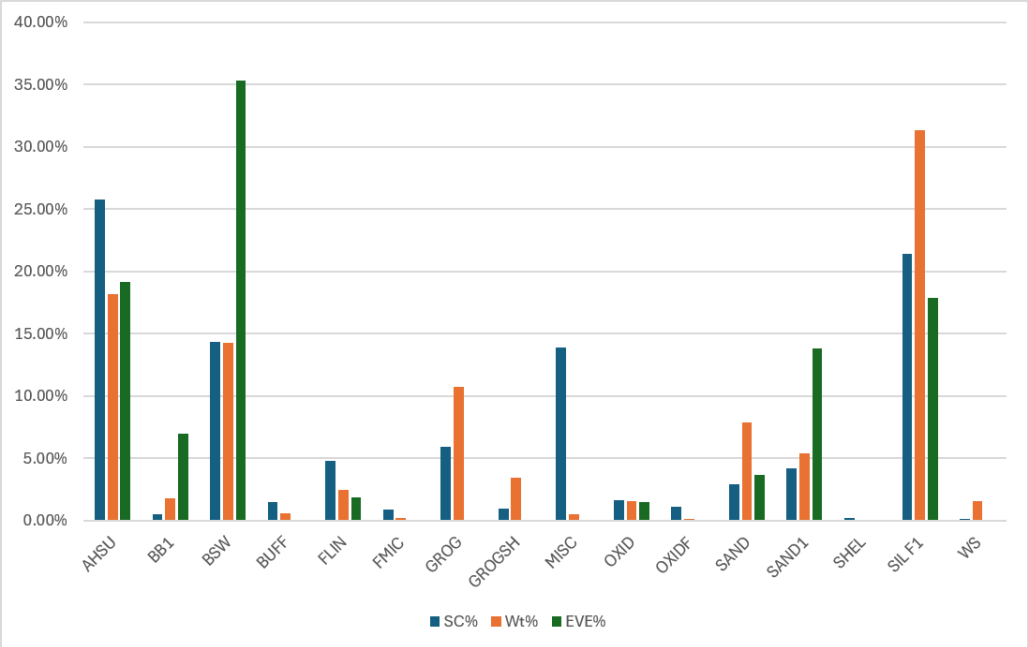

Figure 1 Composition of the LIA-Roman pottery assemblage per fabric by proportions of sherd count, weight, and EVEs

The assemblage consists of a range of coarse wares, which account for 98% of the assemblage by sherd count, 99.7% by weight, and all EVEs. They include reduced and oxidised sand-tempered, grog- and grog-shell tempered, and flint-tempered wares. Fine wares are restricted to a few, non-diagnostic fragments of unsourced reduced micaceous ware (FMIC) and oxidised ware (OXIDF).

The most frequently recorded fabric type in the assemblage is Silchester ware (SIL F1), which is defined by Timby (2018, 166–167) as a group of wares originating from the area of Calleva, with inclusions of white, calcined, angular flint, sparse quartz, and red iron oxides. SIL F1 accounts for 21.4% of the BLRF26 pottery by sherd count, 31.33% by weight, and 17.83% by EVEs (Figure 1). Diagnostic sherds in SIL F1 represent two jar types, everted-rim jars and bead-rim jars (Sutton 2020 fig. 7.). The occurrence of SIL F1 at Silchester suggests that it was produced as early as the end of the 1st century BC, but it reaches peak quantities between c. AD 40–50/60, potentially going out of production by the end of the 1st century AD (Sutton 2020, 56). Another flint-tempered fabric was identified in the assemblage (FLIN), which is likely to be a finer variant of SIL F1.

The second most common coarse ware fabric in the assemblage is Alice Holt Surrey ware (AHSU, AD50–160), which makes up 25.8% of the site assemblage by sherd count, 18.2% by weight, and 19.1% of EVEs. Rim sherds identified in AHSU represent a minimum of five different vessels: two bead-rim jars (2A), two figure-7 rim jars, one with (2E) and one without (2D) a decorated shoulder cordon, and lastly, a so-called ‘Surrey’ bowl (4K).

The last coarse ware fabric present in considerable quantities is a group of unsourced black-surface sand-tempered wares (BSW). These account for 14.30% of all pottery by sherd count and weight, and 35.3% by EVEs. Diagnostic sherds of a minimum of 11 different vessels were recorded in BSW: two bead-rim jars (2A), one round-bodied jar (2B), five figure-7 rim jars (2D), one black-burnished-style everted-rim jar (2F), a poppyhead beaker (3F), and one ‘Surrey’ bowl (4K). The range of forms suggests that this fabric can also be dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD.

The only other fabrics to be detailed here are the grog-tempered wares and Black-Burnished Ware 1 (BB1). Grog-tempered wares include a small amount of LIA-ER transitional Aylesford-Swarling ware, but no diagnostic sherds were identified. BB1, on the other hand, amounted to only five sherds, one of which is a rim of a late Roman flanged-bowl (4M), which is the latest dated sherd in the site assemblage.

In terms of functional analysis, only three functional categories are represented by diagnostic fragments: jars, beakers, and bowls. The assemblage is dominated by jars (4.58 EVEs), while beakers and bowls total 0.13 and 0.73 EVEs respectively. While the values are barely over the minimum statistical validity threshold of 5 EVEs, the high occurrence of jars points to a rural site type (Evans 2001).

Contextual analysis

The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from 33 individually numbered contexts assigned to site phases 2.1 and 2.2 (Table 2). As shown in Table 2, most contexts could be dated to between the mid-1st and early 2nd centuries AD, with only two dated after AD 120 and one to the late Roman period. Individual context assemblages are mostly small, comprising fewer than 30 fragments (26 contexts); four contexts yielded medium-sized assemblages (31-100 sherds), and two exceeded 100 fragments each. The phase assemblages with significant context/feature assemblages are discussed in more detail below.

Phase	Context	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	EVEs	Context Considered Date
2.1	16	1	111	0	AD70-200

	95	37	95	0.1	AD0-60
	184	11	153	0.05	AD40-60/100
2.2	8	4	28	0.19	AD120-400+
	36	31	299	0.57	AD250-400+
	37	14	34	0	AD40-140
	39	10	448	0.14	AD120-140/160
	43	1	2	0	AD0-60
	44	3	33	0	AD0-60
	48	1	22	0	AD0-60
	53	245	1345	1.29	AD40-60/100
	54	381	1678	0.89	AD40-60/100
	58	63	419	0.71	AD40-60/140
	60	2	67	0.04	AD40-100
	65	2	17	0	AD40-60/200
	67	20	171	0.32	AD40-60/100
	71	55	897	0.28	AD40-60/160
	76	5	31	0.04	AD40-60/100
	81	4	18	0	AD40-60/160
	84	49	282	0.16	AD40-60/100
	87	2	15	0	AD0-60
	91	1	5	0	AD0-60
	106	2	16	0	AD40-400+
	118	14	504	0.3	AD40-60/100
	121	19	191	0.13	AD40-60/100
	129	4	36	0.23	AD40-100
	133	3	20	0	AD40-200
	150	3	1	0	AD0-400+
	178	9	14	0	AD40-120
	180	5	23	0	AD40-60
	196	22	137	0	AD40-60/100
	201	2	3	0	AD40-200
	213	3	5	0	AD40-400+
TOTAL		1028	7120	5.44	

Table 2 Distribution and dating of the LIA/Roman pottery assemblage

Phase 2.1

A small amount of LIA/Roman pottery was recovered from Phase 2.1 features totalling 49 sherds, weighing 0.359kg, and representing 0.15 EVEs (Table 3). The bulk of this assemblage is made up of fragments of a single vessel: freshly broken but heavily fragmented parts of a bead-rim jar in a flint-tempered fabric recovered from fill [95] of pit [93]. The vessel also appears to be decorated with some faint lines. The fabric is likely to be a variant of Silchester ware, closely matching the description of fabric C5B identified at Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Arborfield (Lyne in Pine 2003, 44).

The dating of this phase assemblage appears to be the mid-1st century AD, with only a single, white-slipped ware sherd being slightly later (c. AD 70+). The heavily abraded nature of the sherds, however, indicates that this collection may be redeposited refuse.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	EVEs
BSW	1	2	
FLIN	41	139	0.1
GROG	1	48	
MISC	3	1	
SAND1	2	58	0.05
WS	1	111	
TOTAL	49	359	0.15

Table 3 Composition of the LIA/Roman pottery assemblage from Phase 2.1

Phase 2.2

The bulk of the site assemblage was recovered from Phase 2.2 features: 979 sherds, 6.761kg, 5.29 EVEs. The overall composition of this phase assemblage, therefore, is very similar to that of the site assemblage, with AHSU, SIL F1, and BSW being the most frequently recorded fabric types (see *Composition* above). Two features produced significant quantities of pottery: Enclosure 2 (Group 8) and its recut (Group 11).

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	EVEs
AHSU	265	1293	1.04
BB1	5	128	0.38
BSW	146	1015	1.92
BUFF	15	41	
FLIN	8	36	
FMIC	9	14	
GROG	60	715	
GROGSH	10	247	
MISC	140	34	
OXID	17	109	0.08
OXIDF	11	9	
SAND	30	558	0.2
SAND1	41	326	0.7
SHEL	2	5	
SIL F1	220	2231	0.97
TOTAL	979	6761	5.29

Table 4 Composition of the LIA/Roman pottery assemblage from Phase 2.2

The backfills of Enclosure 2 (Group 8) produced a total of 638 sherds weighing 4.644kg and representing 2.84 EVEs (Table-5). Half of this by weight (and a third by count) comprises SIL F1 sherds of a minimum of eight different jars (2A and 2M). BSW and AHSU follow, the former with at least six different vessels (types 2A, 2B, 2D, 4K) and the latter including diagnostic sherds of three jars (2A, 2D)

and the 'Surrey' bowl (4K). The abraded nature of the sherds suggests that this collection is also redeposited refuse, dateable to the mid-late 1st and early-mid 2nd centuries AD.

Fabric	**Sherd Count**	**Weight (g)**	**EVEs**
AHSU	67	456	0.38
BB1	1	6	0
BSW	101	761	1.16
BUFF	15	41	0
FLIN	4	14	0
FMIC	9	14	0
GROG	36	370	0
GROGSH	4	175	0
MISC	140	34	0
OXID	9	43	0.04
OXIDF	11	9	0
SAND	19	430	0.09
SAND1	21	199	0.2
SIL F1	201	2092	0.97
TOTAL	638	4644	2.84

Table 5 Composition of the LIA/Roman pottery assemblage from Enclosure 2/Group 8

A considerably smaller assemblage was associated with Group 11, the recut of Enclosure 2. This amounts to 313 sherds, 1.904kg, 1.99 EVEs (Table 6). Almost half of this group assemblage comprises AHSU fragments by weight (two-thirds by count), largely from a single vessel. This is a figure-7 rim jar with a decorated shoulder cordon, heavily fragmented, abraded, and shows signs of having been burnt. The majority of this vessel was found in fill [53], but a few fragments were also recovered from fill [36]. Fragments of another vessel were also recorded from multiple Group 11 contexts: a BSW 4K bowl from fills [36], [37], and [53].

Most of the pottery in Group 11 appears to be redeposited material, largely derived from Enclosure 2/Group 8 fills. This is reinforced by the identification of cross-context sherd joins between these two groups. For example, fragments of the same BSW bead-rim jar (2A) and a SAND1 bead-rim jar were recorded from fill [54] of Enclosure 2 and fill [53] from its recut. The only exception may be the BB1 4M4 bowl fragment, which is dated after AD 250, and is likely a later addition to the feature.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	EVEs
AHSU	197	828	0.66
BB1	4	122	0.38
BSW	35	197	0.57
FLIN	1	2	0
GROG	24	345	0
GROGSH	6	72	0
OXID	1	2	0
SAND	9	112	0.11
SAND1	16	91	0.27

SHEL	2	5	0
SIL F1	18	128	0
TOTAL	313	1904	1.99

Table 6 Composition of the LIA/Roman pottery assemblage from Group 11

Discussion

A medium-sized assemblage of Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery was found during the excavation at BLRF26. With the exception of a few fragments, the assemblage can be dated to the mid-late 1st century AD, and it appears to represent heavily redeposited domestic refuse, likely derived from a rural settlement or limited activity from its margins. The main identifiable sources of the pottery are Silchester and the Alice Holt potteries in Surrey. The range of fabrics identified compares well to those from the nearby rural site at Arborfield Green, dated to the mid-late Iron Age and early Roman periods (Lyne in Pine 2003).

Significance and Recommendations

The assemblage has been fully recorded and requires no further work at this stage. The pottery should be included in any publication of the site, complete with a discussion of its wider context in the area and illustrations (see Table 7 for recommendations).

CONTEXT	SMALL FIND No.	MATERIAL	OBJECT	DRAW?	PHOTO?	DESCRIPTION
95		Ceramic	Vessel	Yes	No	FLIN 2A jar (v fragmented)
53		Ceramic	Vessel	Yes	No	AHSU 2E jar with decorated shoulder cordon (additional sherds from [36] (v fragmented)
71		Ceramic	Vessel	Yes	No	SIL F1 2M jar
54		Ceramic	Vessel	Yes	No	BSW 2A jar (v fragmented)

Table 7: List of illustration recommendations

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APPENDIX 8: POST-ROMAN POTTERY REPORT

By Amber Johnson

Introduction

A very small assemblage of post-medieval pottery was recovered from a single context, amounting to nine sherds, representing a single vessel and weighing 337g. The pottery dates to the later post-medieval period.

Methodology

The assemblage was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in an Access database, by fabric, form and decoration. The classification of the pottery types is according to the Museum of London Archaeology typology (MOLA, 2014). The Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics were followed for recording and the forms were identified in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group's guide to the classification of forms(Barclay et al., 2016; MPRG, 1998; MPRG, 2001). A summary catalogue of the pottery appears below in Table 1.

The Pottery types and distribution

Context [2] contains the nine sherds of Yellow ware (YELL) with no decoration other than a plain clear glaze all over, which appears yellow due to the colour of the body of the fabric. The vessel is a simple dish or shallow bowl with a wide base and simple slightly flared walls with a simple rim. Yellow ware dates to the 19th century. There is some post-breakage discolouration to some of the sherds.

Cxt	Fabric	Fabric description	SC	MNV	Wg	Fabric Date range		CCD
2	YELL	Yellow ware	9	1	337	1820	1900	1820-1900

Table 1: Summary catalogue of pottery. Cxt = Context; SC = Sherd count; MNV = Minimum number of vessels; Wg = Weight in grams; CCD = Context considered date.

Significance and Recommendations

Overall, the pottery identified is well-paralleled in the locality and the rest of the country during the 19th centuries. The pottery has the potential to date the context from which it was recovered, but beyond this, has little significance due to the small assemblage and single identified vessel. The material has been fully catalogued and there are no recommendations for further work.

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APPENDIX 9: ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

By Bronagh Rae-Quinn

Introduction

A total of fifteen environmental samples were taken across the excavation on Land at Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire. The samples were taken from a variety of archaeological features across within Phase 2 (Romano-British) and follow on from two samples taken during an earlier evaluation (Rae-Quinn, 2026).

This report summarises the results of the environmental assessment of the samples, aiming to determine the environmental potential of the organic material recovered. That is, its state of preservation and respective quantitative and qualitative ratios, to assess whether further environmental analysis is required.

Methodology

Sampling strategy

The processing strategy followed procedures as stated in the written scheme of investigation (White, 2026). Environmental samples were taken to answer site-specific questions, as well as questions posed by the Solent-Thames Regional Research Frameworks (Hey and Hind, 2014).

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains and if so, to assess the date, survival and condition of said remains;
- To record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site;
- Is there evidence for Late Iron Age/Roman settlement activity;
- Is there evidence for any Late Iron Age/Roman agricultural activity

12.2.1: Sites with well-preserved deposits of both late Iron Age and Roman date should be given careful attention in order to investigate continuity of local tradition at these sites. Sampling strategies should ensure that as wide a range of contexts are sampled as possible. Excavations of deep, well-sealed features are required (as opposed to buildings). (12.2 Inheritance);

12.3.2: Variation in resources and agricultural regimes from different scales of farm needs to be investigated. (12.3 Environmental evidence);

12.6.2: Equally important is the need to gain an understanding of settlement, its density and variability as well as economy in other environments, such as claylands and heathlands. This is crucial not only to our understanding of population density and its fluctuation over time, but also to determining the extent of woodland in the region and its change through time. (12.6 Settlement)

Processing

All fifteen of the samples (totalling 450 litres in volume) were processed by a trained member of staff using a modified Siraf-type flotation system (Williams, 1973). Material produced by the flotation process was collected using a 300µm (micron) mesh for the light fraction (flot), and a 1mm mesh for the heavy

residue (retent). The retent was air-dried, sieved at 1mm, 2mm and 4mm fractions, and sorted by a trained member of staff, to extract artefacts and ecofacts.

Assessment

Flots were scanned by the author under a UltraZOOM-3 binocular microscope at 7X-63X magnification. The prevalence/abundance of environmental material (and other inclusions such as intrusive organic matter and archaeological material) was quantified using a standard non-linear scale: where '1' indicates rare occurrence (1–10 items), '2' indicates occasional occurrence (11–30 items), '3' indicates frequent occurrence (31–100 items); and '4', indicates abundance (>100 items).

An additional recording system has been implemented to record the preservation of cereal grains (*=poorly preserved, **=moderately well preserved, ***=well preserved).

The identification of archaeobotanical seeds and grains etc. were undertaken using the author's botanical reference collection, and standard references (Cappers et al., 2012; Cappers and Neef, 2012; Jacomet, 2006). Nomenclature for plant macrofossils is taken from Stace (2014).

All retent and flot residues were scanned with a magnet to ascertain if micro-slags/ferro-magnetic residue (such as hammerscale) was present.

All finds have been passed on to the appropriate specialists for more detailed identification. Where struck flint has been recorded within the retent, this is a provisional identification made by a non-specialist member of staff and will be more accurately reported on by an appropriate specialist. For further detail on any of this material detailed in this assessment report please see the appropriate specialist report.

Assemblage

The flots varied in volume from 8 – 589ml and contained mixed densities of environmental remains, including charcoal as well as charred cereals and seeds.

Modern intrusive seeds were present in thirteen of the samples, and in variable quantities. Intrusion of modern seeds can be expected on sites with shallow ploughsoils or that have been occupied over a long period of time (Pelling et al., 2015) and should not affect interpretations or the dating of a site. Where the modern seeds were present, their quantity was noted, but they were not identified. Modern intrusive material also includes rootlets, and insect eggs/larvae.

Results are presented in Table 2 at the end of this report.

Phase Distribution

The samples were taken from archaeological features in Phase 2 (Romano-British).

Sample number	Context number	Deposit information	Feature type	Feature number
1	51	Secondary fill	Pit	52
2	54	Tertiary fill	Ditch	57
3	63	Fill	Ditch	64
4	71	Fill	Ditch	75

5	94	Fill	Pit	101
6	95	Fill	Pit	101
7	97	Fill	Pit	96
8	117	Fill	Pit	116
9	132	Fill	Posthole	131
10	150	Fill	Posthole	149
11	165	Fill	Pit	166
12	170	Fill	Pit	169
13	174	Primary fill	Pit	175
14	201	Fill	Pit	202
15	213	Fill	Ditch	214

Table 1 – Sample information, Phase 2

Charcoal was present in mixed densities within all of the, with diagnostic >10mmØ fragments in thirteen of the fifteen. However, no sample contained a quantity of diagnostic charcoal fragments large enough to be statistically significant (i.e. >50 fragments). Much of the charcoal was recorded as being heavily abraded with mineral encrustations.

Rare (≤10) – occasional (11-30) counts of charred cereal grains were recorded in five of the samples, including possible oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), and spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), as well as indeterminate cereal grains.

Charred seeds primarily consist of seeds of the cabbage family (Brassicaceae), which were present in occasional – abundant (>100) counts within thirteen of the fifteen samples. Other charred seeds were only ever present in rare counts, including brome (*Bromus* sp.), blinks (*Montia* sp.), persicaria (*Persicaria* sp.), indeterminate grasses (Poaceae), docks (*Rumex* sp.), common nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.), vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), as well as a small number of unidentified seeds. A possible stone fruit (*Prunus* sp.) fragment was recovered from Sample <6>, and rare counts of indeterminate charred growth buds were recovered from Sample <10>.

Artefacts and ecofacts from the retents were present in mixed densities, with rare-occasional counts of potsherds in four samples, burnt flint, hammerscale, and slag in three samples, struck flint in two samples, and burnt bone fragments and an iron object in one sample. Artefacts and ecofacts present in frequent (31-100) – abundant counts include burnt flint in nine samples, slag in seven samples, and daub, pottery, clinker, and hammerscale in one sample each.

Discussion

As in the earlier evaluation, the environmental assemblage was dominated by charcoal and cabbage-type seeds (Rae-Quinn, 2026). The charcoal was again recorded as mineral encrusted, leaving a larger proportion in the retent rather than the flot. While thirteen of the fifteen samples contained fragments of diagnostic size (i.e. >10mmØ), none had a statistically significant quantity (i.e. >50). Again, as with the earlier evaluation, the high quantities of cabbage family seeds could be of note, however, Renfrew (1973) records Brassicaceae seeds as “one of the worst weeds of arable land” prior to the invention of modern herbicides.

High quantities of slag and hammerscale in Sample <2> from the evaluation were recorded as likely representing both smelting and smithing waste (Willis, 2026). Similarly high densities of slag and hammerscale were recorded within a majority of the samples taken during the excavation; which

suggests that any smithing activity taking place on the site was much broader than initially anticipated. For further interpretation of this material, the appropriate specialist report should be consulted.

It again seems likely that much of the environmental material recovered from the samples was residual material, likely windblown detritus. It also seems likely the postulation from the evaluation that "the lack of environmental material is not caused by poor preservation, but the lack of material to begin with" (Rae-Quinn, 2026) is reflected within this assemblage. Unfortunately, this paucity of remains is then reflected in the ability to answer any of the research questions posed in the WSI.

Recommendations

While thirteen of the samples contained fragments of possibly diagnostic charcoal, they are inadvisable for radiocarbon dating. This is due to the statistical insignificance of the material (i.e. <50 fragments per sample) suggesting its residual nature, their likelihood of being reworked (potentially over several centuries), and the "old-wood effect", whereby charcoal from long-lived trees such as oak can give inaccurate dates(Bayliss and Marshall, 2022). Anthracological work could be undertaken to ascertain the wood type and therefore its viability for radiocarbon dating, but as the material is statistically insignificant overall, and from an undated context, this is not recommended. The best that could be gained from scientific dating would be a *Terminus Post Quem (TPQ)*.

A single charred cereal grain would typically be sufficient for radiocarbon dating; however the likely residual nature of the grains recovered from the samples makes them less reliable for providing an accurate date for the context they were recovered from. As with the charcoal, the best that could be gleaned would be a *TPQ.*

Upon final approval of this report, this material may be discarded.

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Table 2, Environmental Results

Phase																
									2							
Sample		**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
Context		**51**	**54**	**63**	**71**	**94**	**95**	**97**	**117**	**132**	**150**	**165**	**170**	**174**	**201**	**213**
Deposit type		**Secondary fill**	**Tertiary fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**	**Primary fill**	**Fill**	**Fill**
Feature information		**Pit [52]**	**Ditch [57]**	**Ditch [64]**	**Ditch [75]**	**Pit [101]**		**Pit [96]**	**Pit [116]**	**Posthole [131]**	**Posthole [149]**	**Pit [166]**	**Pit [169]**	**Pit [175]**	**Pit [202]**	**Ditch [214]**
Sample volume (liters)		**37**	**36**	**34**	**18**	**76**	**33**	**40**	**30**	**7**	**3**	**31**	**37**	**36**	**12**	**20**
Flot volume (ml)		**57**	**135**	**97**	**38**	**135**	**118**	**358**	**161**	**10**	**8**	**114**	**323**	**589**	**14**	**115**
Flot																
Charcoal																
Charcoal >10mm			1					2	1			1	1	2		1
Charcoal 4-10mm			1	1	1	1	2	3	2			2	3	4		2
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm			3	2	2	3	3	4	4		2	4	4	4	1	3
Charcoal <2 mm		1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	2	4	4	4	3	4
Charred twigs 2-4m			1									1				
Charred twigs <2m								1				1		1		
Carbonised Plant Macrofossils/Ecofacts																
Cereals	**Common name**															
Avena sp.	Oat		1cf*													
Hordeum sp.	Barley (grain)				1cf*											
Triticum spelta	Spelt wheat (grain)		1cf*		1*											
Indeterminate carbonised cereals			1*		1*		2*					1cf*				1*
Seeds																
Brassicaceae	Cabbage family	4	3	4	3		4	3		3	3	3	4	2	3	3
Bromus sp.	Brome		1		1cf		1cf									
Montia sp.	Blinks							1						1		
Persicaria sp.	Persicaria		1													
Poaceae	Grass (<1mm)										1	1cf		2		
Rumex sp.	Dock							1								
Urtica dioica L.	Common nettle		1													
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	Vetch/Pea						1	1								
Unidentified seeds														1		1
Other																
Prunus sp.	Stonefruit stone						1cf									
Unidentified charred growth bud											1					
Non-carbonised Plant Macrofossils/Ecofacts																
Modern insect eggs/larvae		1				3		1			3				3	
Modern intrusive seeds		4	2	1	2	1	4	2	2	3	2	3	2		2	
Modern plant material (rootlets, leaves etc.)		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	4
Unidentified/juvenile molluscs					1	1		1								1
Retent																
Charcoal																
Charcoal >10mm		1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1			1	2	1	2	2
Charcoal 4-10mm		2	4	4	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	3
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm		4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	2	4	4	4	1	4	4
Charcoal <2 mm		4	4	4	4	4	3		4	2	4	4	4	1	4	4
Carbonised Plant Macrofossils/Ecofacts																
Cereals	**Common name**															
Triticum spelta	Spelt wheat (grain)				1***											
Bone																
Burnt fragments			1													
Building material																
Daub				3												
Finds																
Pottery			3		1		1				1				1	
Fe object			1													
Flint																
Burnt flint		3	2		1	4	4	4	3			4	4	4	1	3
Struck flint		1												1		
Industrial residue																
Clinker											4					
Slag		4	3	3	3	2	4					4		2	2	4
Hamerscale						1	3							2		1

KEY: 1 (rare, 1-10 specimens), 2 (occasional, 11-30 specimens), 3 (frequent, 31-100 specimens), 4 (abundant, 100+ specimens)
*** poor preservation, **moderate preservation, *** good preservation, cf uncertain identification**

APPENDIX 10: STRUCK FLINT REPORT

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

Archaeological investigations at Longwater Road resulted in the recovery of a moderately sized assemblage of struck flint. The assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued and this includes further descriptive details of each piece. This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance. The assemblage was recorded following standard technological and typological classifications and largely follows the methodology of Inizan *et al* (1999) with modifications and additions as indicated in the text by the author. Retouched tools were classified following standard British works such as Healy (1988) and Bamford (1985). Measurements were taken following the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification and Distribution

Type	Flake	Blade-like flake	Blade	Flake fragment <10mm	Flake fragment >10mm	Core: blade
No.	2	2	2	1	2	1

Table L1: Quantification of Lithic Material from Longwater Road

A total of ten pieces of struck flint were recovered during the investigations at the site (Table L1). It was all recovered from a series of pits and ditches that have mostly been dated to the Late Iron Age / early Romano-British periods, and it is likely that most, if not all, of the pieces have been residually deposited into later features. A single piece was recovered from 'natural' pit [204]; it is possible that could be in-situ but there is otherwise no evidence for in-situ working or deliberate deposition, and it is entirely possible that this piece was also residually deposited.

The material is predominantly in a good or only slightly chipped condition, suggesting that although redeposited, it was recovered from close to where it was originally discarded.

Description

The struck assemblage has been made from good knapping-quality flint that ranges considerable in colour, translucency and inclusions. Cortex, where present, is rough but thin and has experienced varying degrees of abrasion with thermal (frost) fracture surfaces and internal flaws commonly present. There is no flint-bearing chalk in the vicinity and the raw materials are likely to have been obtained from derived sources. These could include relatively unrolled nodules present within the terrace gravel

deposits that are present to the south of the site, but as the struck flint was used by mobile communities, it is possible that they were brought in from more-distant sources.

Technology, Typology and Dating

The assemblage is technologically homogeneous and represents a well-executed blade-based reduction strategy that can be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. No chronologically diagnostic pieces are present that can tighten this date range, but the evident skill and systematic approach taken to reduction would tentatively support a Mesolithic rather than Early Neolithic date. One or two rather thicker and less skilfully detached flakes could represent later flintworking at the site, but this is not certain and all of the pieces could be accommodated within a Mesolithic industry.

No certain retouched implements were identified although one narrow flake, from ditch [92] has possible slight edge-retouch and a blade from ditch [220] has damage around its convergent distal end that may have accrued from use as an awl-type piercer, but the damage on both of these could been caused post-depositionally.

A single core, from ditch [198], is present. This comprises a 'front' type opposed platformed core, made from a large flake or 'quartered' chunk, and it has been systematically worked to produced numerous blades.

Significance and Recommendations

The struck assemblage indicates flint-using activity occurring at the site, most probably during the Mesolithic, by relatively small groups moving through the landscape.

Although Mesolithic activity in the immediate area is historically not well represented (e.g. Wessex Archaeology and Jacobi 2014), recent excavations to the west of Longwater Road have recovered large quantities of Late Mesolithic worked flints representing repeated occupation alongside a series of palaeo-channels within the valley floor (Harding et al. 2023). This is a pattern frequently recognised for the Mesolithic, whereby often-dense palimpsests of knapping scatters are identified along the banks of contemporary streams and rivers. This site is set a short distance from the valley floor, but it is probably within this kind of settlement context that the struck flints from Longwater Road can be best appreciated.

The assemblage from Longwater Road therefore has the potential to contribute to better understandings of Mesolithic landscape use and settlement mobility, as well as addressing specific questions concerning the nature of the occupation at the site.

The assemblage by itself is too small to warrant detailed technological, functional or metrical analyses and no further analytical work is recommended. Nevertheless, it is recommended that a report describing briefly the material and its broader significance, which can largely be based on this assessment, should be compiled for inclusion in any published accounts of the excavations

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APPENDIX 11: BURNT STONE REPORT

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

A large assemblage of heated but otherwise seemingly unmodified stone was recovered during the investigations at the site. This this report quantifies and describes the material, assesses its significance and recommends any further work required for it to achieve its full research potential. A full catalogue detailing its distribution has been prepared and forms the basis of the following discussion.

Quantification and Distribution

Feature	Unworked burnt stone (no. >10mm)	Unworked burnt stone (wt:g all pieces)	Unworked burnt stone (wt:g largest piece)
Other	4	8	3
Ditches	108	470	27
Pits	1,561	6,786	80

Table UBS 1: Quantification of the unworked burnt stone from Longwater Road

A total of 1,561 pieces of otherwise unmodified burnt stone weighing 7,264g was recovered from 13 separate features (Table UBS 1). The majority of this came from a series of pits dated to the Late Iron Age / Early Roman period, with three pits, [93], [96] and [166], providing the bulk of the material, amounting to 5,092g.

Description

Most of the burnt stone consists of rounded Tertiary pebbles (c. 60%) with significant quantities of rounded alluvial flint and angular, thermally (frost) shattered, nodular chalk flint cobbles, (c. 20%), and cherty flint (c. 20%), also represented. However, the proportions of each type of stone often varied between each feature. The Tertiary flint is likely to derive from the Lambeth Group deposits that are widely present throughout the area. The alluvial, nodular and cherty flints are most likely to have been gathered from the terrace gravels that outcrop to the south of the site, and these are also the most likely direct source for the Tertiary flint.

Although a small proportion of the material was variably burnt, as would be consistent with incidental burning arising from hearth use, the bulk of the material, including most of that from the pits, was very heavily and uniformly burnt. This had caused the alluvial flint, nodular flint and the Tertiary pebbles to change to a grey-white colour, become ‘fire-crazed’ and heavily fragment, whilst the cherty flint had

become reddened and 'fire-crazed'. These changes are consistent with the stone having been deliberately and systematically fired, a suggestion that would be supported by the high quantities present.

Discussion

Burnt stone was recovered from a number of features located across the site. Some of the features contained only small quantities of burnt flint stone that could easily represent the incidental incorporation of residual 'background' waste emanating from a variety of activities including casual hearth use, as well as from some of the more intensive activities as outlined below. Some of the pits contained notably high quantities of burnt stone, far in excess of what could be accounted for by the routine use of domestic hearts, and which would indicate deliberate production and that specialist activities were occurring.

The purposes that lie behind both the creation of the burnt stone and its deposition remain enigmatic. Although the deliberate heating of often large quantities of stone is frequently recovered from prehistoric sites, it is less well documented in later contexts. Large quantities of burnt flint are on occasion recovered from Iron Age settlement sites (e.g. Cunliffe 1976, 30-34). On some Iron Age sites, such large quantities of burnt stone have been associated with parching corn, a means of aiding its preservation (e.g. Smith 1977, 111, re Cunliffe 1974, 168), although the two are not always found in association and other explanations for its production have been forwarded. Perhaps the most favoured see it as being connected with cooking activities, its scale suggesting communal efforts, perhaps associated with feasting or ceremonial practices. Given the other evidence for iron working that has been identified at the site, it is entirely feasible that the burnt stone related to that, although its exact role remains obscure. Further evidence for iron smelting including the presence of burnt pits has been recorded close-by to the west at Fleet Hill Farm, suggesting that such activities were widespread in the area (Hardy and Young 2019)..

Significance and Recommendations

The relatively large quantity of burnt stone recorded indicates that, whatever its purpose, it represents a significant role in the activities that were occurring at the site. It is therefore recommended that thorough consideration of the burnt flint's distribution and contextual associations, both stratigraphic and with other finds categories, an account of its possible role and significance is compiled and included in any published account of the excavations.

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APPENDIX 12: OASIS FORM

OASIS Summary for preconst1-545464

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-545464
Project Name	An Archaeological Assessment of Land East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TS
Sitename	Land East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TS
Sitecode	BLRF26
Project Identifier(s)	BLRF26
Activity type	Open Area Excavation, Excavation, Post Excavation Assessment
Planning Id	Wokingham Borough Council Ref.241567
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	23-Feb-2026 - 11-Mar-2026
Location	**Land East of Longwater Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG40 3TS** NGR: SU 79676 62707 LL: 51.35785702684851, -0.857101489051856 12 Fig: 479676,162707
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Wokingham Local Authority District: Wokingham Parish: Finchampstead
Project Methodology	The excavation comprised a single strip, map and sample area measuring 0.47ha. It targeted the northeast quadrant of the site, where the archaeological evaluation had identified potential Iron Age/Romano-British features broadly corresponding with strong anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey. Parts of the northwest perimeter were excluded to preserve living trees. The agreed excavation area was located using a GeoMax GPS system. The topsoil and overburden were removed by machine under archaeological supervision until archaeological features became visible and/or the natural strata were exposed. The archaeological deposits were excavated by PCA staff using hand tools, i.e. trowels, shovels and mattocks.
Project Results	Activity on the site may have commenced in the early 1st century AD, prior to the Roman conquest of AD 43. During the mid-1st century, in the first decades of Roman rule, a 0.14ha enclosure defined by a modest ditch was constructed around a roundhouse approximately 13m in diameter and other internal features. This probably housed a family unit engaged in pastoral farming, although poor organic preservation limited detailed analysis of the occupants' lifestyle. A number

	of possible fire pits were identified, primarily outside the main enclosure. A notable quantity of iron-smelting waste indicates that the occupants may also have been engaged in this industry. A small assemblage of fired clay blocks may represent kiln furniture and therefore may be associated with the same activity. Several small ditches and gully-like features surrounding the enclosure appear to represent an associated field system. The occupied enclosure itself appears to have been relatively short-lived, falling into disuse by the end of the 1st century AD. However, agricultural use of the land appears to have continued into the 2nd century AD and possibly beyond.
Keywords	Enclosure - Late Iron Age - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Enclosure - Roman - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Round House (Domestic) - Late Iron Age - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Round House (Domestic) - Roman - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Industrial By Product - Late Iron Age - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Industrial By Product - Roman - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation Stonebond Properties (Guildford) Limited
HER	Berkshire Archaeology HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Zbigniew Pozorski, Dougie Killock
HER Identifiers	

TETRA TECH