# Wykham Park Farm, Banbury, Oxfordshire

## Post-Excavation Assessment Statement

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**Client: L&Q Estates**

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# Wykham Park Farm, Banbury, Oxfordshire

## *Post-Excavation Assessment Statement*

By Kate Brady, with contributions by Sharon Cook and Alex Davies

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# Summary

Between November 2019 and May 2020 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation on agricultural land south of Easington on the southern side of Banbury, Oxfordshire. The fieldwork was commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) on behalf of their client L&Q Estates Ltd in advance of the submission of a planning application for the development of the site.

Preceding geophysical survey in 2012 and two phases of evaluation in 2013 and 2015 established the presence of localised areas of sub-rectangular and sub-circular enclosures, field boundaries and pits along the northern boundary of the site. These features did not produce convincing dating evidence during the evaluation and were interpreted as relating either to a Neolithic causewayed enclosure thought to extend into the southern part of the site, or a late Iron Age to early Roman settlement previously excavated to the west of the site.

The excavation of six areas totalling 5ha revealed several pits containing early and middle Neolithic pottery along with three cremation burials containing Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery associated with a small group of pits and/or postholes. In addition, two sub-rectangular enclosures, two roundhouses and several field-enclosures all dating to the late Iron Age to early Roman period were excavated, along with a ditch representing the east side of a contemporary enclosure three sides of which had been previously excavated at the adjacent site at Land East of Bloxham Road. Archaeological features were concentrated in the north of the site, with excavation areas in the southern part of the development area yielding nothing but medieval or post-medieval plough furrows.

The following post-excavation assessment statement summarizes the stratigraphic sequence of the excavated features and assigns them to broad chronological periods. The pottery assemblage and charred plant and charcoal remains are also characterised and a series of revised research objectives, along with a plan for bringing the site archive to appropriate publication are set out.

# Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Matthew Morgan of EDP for his advice and guidance and Mukesh Ladwa and Stratos Constantinou of L&Q Estates for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram, who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker and the post-excavation work was managed by Daniel Stansbie. The fieldwork was directed by Mariusz Gorniak and Lee Sparks, who were supported by Jenna Kolotyluk, Curtis Goldstraw, Alastair Cooper, BJ Ware, Emma Forber, Laura Herradon, Rebecca Coombes, Camille Guezennec, Stephanie Black, Andrew Smith and Hannah Everett, with site survey by Simon Batsman. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP), on behalf of L&Q Estates Ltd, to undertake an archaeological excavation prior to the proposed construction of up to 1000 dwellings together with a mixed-use local centre on the southern side of Banbury, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 44926 38686; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The excavation was undertaken as a mitigation measure to address a condition attached to a planning permission (planning application 14/01932/OUT). The scope of the excavation was detailed within the *Design Brief for Archaeological Recording Action: Wykham Park Farm, Banbury* (OCC 2018) issued by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services (OCCAS), the Archaeological advisors to Cherwell District Council (CDC).

1.1.3 This followed two earlier Environmental Statements by Wardell Armstrong (WA 2013) and Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2016), a geophysical survey (WA 2012) and two phases of archaeological evaluation (CA 2013; 2015).

1.1.4 Based on the results of the earlier works, it was recommended that an open area mitigation excavation be undertaken across the site. Six excavation areas, totalling *c* 5ha, were targeted on the results of the preceding aerial photograph analysis, geophysical survey and evaluations. In addition, two mitigation trenches (Trenches 1 and 2, Fig. 2) totalling 127m$^2$ were excavated in the south-eastern corner of the site but proved to be devoid of archaeological features. This work was carried out between November 2019 and May 2020 in accordance with a master written scheme of investigation (MWSI) produced by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP 2019) and a subsequent addendum WSI produced by OA (2019) and approved by Richard Oram (OCCAS) prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.1.5 This statement has been conducted in accordance with the principles identified in Historic England's guidance documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, specifically *The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (2006) and *PPN3 Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

## 1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is located to the south-west of Banbury, Oxfordshire and comprised at the time of excavation *c* 47.7 hectares of arable farmland consisting of six fields centred on SP 44926 38686. It is bounded to the north by a track recorded as the 'Salt Way' on current Ordnance Survey mapping, with buildings and open land associated with Wykham Park Academy: Banbury Secondary School beyond. To the east and south it is bounded by arable farmland and to the west by Bloxham Road (A361), with further arable farmland beyond that.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the site is mapped as sedimentary bedrock of the Whitby Mudstone Formation to the north and ferruginous limestone and ironstone of the Marlstone Rock Formation to the south, with siltstone and mudstone of the Dyrham

Formation in the south-western and south-eastern corners; no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2021). The soils encountered during excavation comprised orange-brown silty clay with very frequent inclusions of limestone, encountered at a depth of *c* 0.25m below current ground level.

1.2.3 The site lies at approximately 133m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-west, with the ground sloping gently downwards to approximately 126m aOD in the south and east. Beyond the southern boundary of the site the ground continues to slope downwards in the direction of the Sor Brook to the south.

## 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historic background for the site has been outlined in two environmental statements (WA 2013; CA 2016), a geophysical survey (WA 2012), a WSI for an excavation prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2018) and in the WSI for the current excavation (OA 2019). These sources have been supplemented by archaeological advice contained in the project brief (OCC 2018) and are not reproduced in full here. Only the information relevant to the results of the current work is summarised below.

### *Neolithic (c 4000–2500 BC)*

1.3.2 A Neolithic causewayed enclosure has been previously identified by aerial photography, lying partially within the southern part of the site. Subsequent geophysical survey (WA 2012) and trial trenching (CA 2013) determined that the causewayed ditch measured between 1.1m and 3.5m in width; however, no dateable material was recovered from its fills.

1.3.3 Two Neolithic pits have been recorded *c* 180m to the south of the site (WA 2012). One contained 174 sherds of early Neolithic pottery thought to be contemporary with the causewayed enclosure, and a second contained late Neolithic pottery.

1.3.4 The geophysical survey (WA 2012) identified several ditches, along with subcircular and sub-rectangular enclosures along the northern boundary of the site. It was thought that some at least were potentially Neolithic in date and related to the causewayed enclosure to the south, but they were not identified during trial trenching (CA 2018).

### *Bronze Age (c 2500–800 BC)*

1.3.5 Within the site, three possible round barrows had been identified on historic aerial photographs as cropmarks. These were targeted during evaluation, but no archaeological features or deposits related to them were recorded (CA 2013). Two further Bronze Age barrows are recorded to the south-east of the causewayed enclosure, *c* 300m south of the development area (OCC 2018).

### *Iron Age–Roman (c 800 BC–AD 410)*

1.3.6 A sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, roundhouse and associated pits and postholes (HER MOX24118) dating to the Late Iron Age have been excavated directly to the

north-west of the site (CA 2012; MOLA 2017). Late Iron Age pottery and evidence for metalworking was recovered from the site.

1.3.7 An evaluation of fields immediately to the east of the site has identified a middle to late Iron Age settlement, lying *c* 300m to the south-south-east of excavation Area 6 (Lotherington and Tong 2014).

1.3.8 The Cotswold Archaeology WSI (CA 2018) stated that a late Iron Age or early Roman settlement consisting of field boundaries and pits covering an area of *c* 2.7 ha was identified *c* 40m to the east of the site (HER MOX26589). A small assemblage of pottery of mid-1st century date was recovered, as was evidence for metalworking. Geophysical survey results (WA 2012) and trial trench evaluation (CA 2013) suggested that this settlement extended into the northern part of the site. No dating material was recovered from these features during the evaluation. The ditches and sub-rectangular and sub-circular enclosures identified by geophysical survey along the northern boundary of the development area but not identified during the evaluation phase of work, which were thought to indicate possible Neolithic activity, were also thought to indicate potential Iron Age activity.

1.3.9 Trial-trenching (CA 2015) recorded parts of a trackway and associated ditch previously identified by geophysical survey in the eastern part of the development area. No finds were recovered from these features; nevertheless, they were thought likely to be Iron Age to Roman in date and associated with the Iron Age to Roman settlement to the east (CA 2018).

## 1.4 Original research aims and objectives

1.4.1 The general aims of the investigation were to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological remains within their cultural and environmental setting, within the excavation areas defined by the OCC brief (OCC 2018; OA 2019).

1.4.2 Based on the results of the previous geophysical survey and archaeological evaluations of the site (WA 2012; CA 2013; CA 2015), the following specific aims and objectives were identified:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
iii. To establish the extent of the Iron Age settlement and the longevity of activity;
iv. To establish the presence and or absence of the potential Bronze Age barrow remains on the site;
v. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any other remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
vi. To examine the potential of the site to produce environmental data;
vii. To place the revealed archaeological remains within the wider landscape with reference to the Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment;
viii. To generate an accessible and useable archive which will allow future research of the evidence to be undertaken if appropriate;

ix. To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings.

## 1.5 Fieldwork methodology

1.5.1 As specified in the WSI (OA 2019), six excavation areas totalling *c* 5ha were investigated, targeted upon the results of the preceding geophysical survey and archaeological evaluations (WA 2012; CA 2013; CA 2015). All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014a) and local and national planning policies (DCLG 2019).

## 1.6 Project scope

1.6.1 This post-excavation assessment statement summarises the results of the 2019 to 2020 excavation and outlines the significance of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental data and their potential for analysis.

1.6.2 The results of the 2013 and 2015 evaluations of the site have been fully reported (CA 2013; 2015) and so will not be included in this statement.

1.6.3 This statement also provides updated research aims, outlines the methodology for further analysis and puts forward a proposal for dissemination of the results.

# 2 FACTUAL DATA: STRATIGRAPHY

## 2.1 General

2.1.1 The following stratigraphic records were created during the excavation (Table 1):

| Record type | Number |
|---|---|
| Context sheets | 440 |
| Plan record sheets | 2 |
| Plan sheets | 5 |
| Section record sheets | 6 |
| Section sheets | 66 |
| No. of samples | 37 |
| Digital photos (indexed) | 504 |

Table 1: Quantification of the stratigraphic archive

2.1.2 Archaeological remains were largely concentrated along the northern edge of the site, in Areas 2, 4, 5, 5a, 5b and 6. Areas 1, 3 and the southern parts of Areas 5 and 5b did not contain archaeological features.

2.1.3 Initial examination of the small pottery assemblage recovered on site has provided interim spot dates. Based on these dates, the following phases of land use have been identified:

- Phase 1: Early Neolithic?
- Phase 2: Middle Neolithic
- Phase 3: Late Iron Age–early Roman
- Phase 4: medieval or post-medieval

2.1.4 A small number of archaeological features are undated, though some may have been associated with the identified Neolithic or Iron Age to early Roman activity.

## 2.2 Area 2

### *Phase 2: Late Iron Age to early Roman*

2.2.1 In Area 2, two WNW-ESE aligned ditches (335 and 336) extended across the area converging to the east in the direction of Enclosure 1 in Area 4 (see below), perhaps suggesting that their use was related to that of the enclosure. Ditch 335 measured 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep and ditch 336 was of a similar depth (0.22m) but wider, at 0.82m. A single sherd of pottery of late Iron Age to early Roman date was recovered from ditch 336. A curvilinear ditch (306) measuring 0.42m in width and was very shallow at 0.07m deep appeared to extend from the northern side of the northernmost ditch (335). It was truncated at its northern end by late Iron Age ditch 334, which represented the eastern edge of the late Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure excavated by MOLA immediately beyond the north-western limit of excavation (MOLA 2017). Ditch 334 was large, measuring *c* 4.4m in width and 1.85m in depth and had a V-shaped profile. No pottery was recovered from the fills. A pair of closely spaced cremation burials (or possibly a single disturbed burial) was situated 15m north-east of the enclosure ditch

### *Phase 4: Medieval to Post-medieval*

2.2.2 Plough furrows were recorded on a WNW-ESE alignment across Area 4.

### *Unphased*

2.2.3 A broadly linear group of discrete features to the south of ditch 336 included several tree-throw holes and some sub-circular features of less certain origin that may also have been tree-throw holes, or possibly pits. None contained pottery, but their broad co-alignment with the ditch suggests that there may have been a line of trees to the south of the ditch, although the chronological relationship is not known at present.

## 2.3 Area 4

### *Phase 2: Middle Neolithic*

2.3.1 Another focus of prehistoric activity appears to be represented by a small number of features in Area 4. A group of features in the southern part of the area includes three cremation burials, two of which (435 and 446) contained abraded pottery of Neolithic or Bronze Age date and one of which (438) did not contain pottery but may be of the same date. The cremation burial cuts were subcircular or oval in shape, measuring between 0.43m and 0.64 in width and 0.1m and 0.15m in depth. Other features in this group were undated and include a pit (403) and two possible postholes (417 and 419). Close to the north-east limit of excavation of Area 4 was a small pit (477) containing similarly dated pottery.

### *Phase 3: Iron Age to early Roman*

2.3.2 A probable roundhouse penannular ditch (Structure 1) contained a small amount of pottery of late Iron Age to early Roman date. The ditch was only partially preserved but a posthole (466) may represent an entranceway associated with a gap in the south-east. The ring gully enclosed a space *c* 11.9m in diameter. The ditch measured 0.8m in width and 0.4m in depth.

2.3.3 The penannular ditch appears to be associated with a sub-rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 1) to its north. The enclosure truncated the penannular ditch, but it is likely that they were in use at the same time, as the sub-rectangular enclosure ditch was absent in the south-east corner, suggesting that the gap in the boundary was filled by the penannular ditch and any associated structure. The small amount of pottery recovered from this ditch was of late Iron Age date.

### *Phase 4: Medieval to Post-medieval*

2.3.4 Plough furrows were recorded on a NNE-SSW alignment across Area 4.

### *Unphased*

2.3.5 A small number of possible pits and/or postholes to the south-east of the cremation burials remain undated. An inhumation burial (472; Fig. 8) was located just outside late Iron Age-early Roman Enclosure 1, on the south-western side of the enclosure. The grave cut measured 1.3m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.2m in depth. The skeleton

was adult and in a flexed position within the grave cut. Its location, just outside the enclosure may suggest that it is of a similar date.

## 2.4 Areas 5, 5a and 5b

### *Phase 2: Middle Neolithic*

2.4.1 The earliest securely dated features were two pits (505 and 507) of middle Neolithic date close to the northern limit of excavation in Area 5b. The northernmost of the two (507) was only partially within the site so its full size was not clear but the visible section measured 0.95m in width. Pit 505 measured 0.67m in width. Both were fairly shallow, measuring up to 0.4m in depth, and contained a single fill from which sherds of Impressed Ware pottery were recovered.

### *Phase 3: Iron Age to early Roman*

2.4.2 A sub-rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 2), two rectilinear enclosures (Enclosures 3 and 4), and a penannular ditch (Structure 2) represent a focus of late Iron Age to early Roman activity. The features were aligned with ditches 335 and 336 in Area 2 but are more securely dated by a relatively large pottery assemblage dating to the early Roman period.

2.4.3 In Area 5 two WNW-ESE aligned parallel ditches (630 and 626) curved round to the north-east, becoming ditches 640 and 638 to form the southern and eastern sides of Enclosure 3. The ditches contained a moderate assemblage of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery. The northern and westernmost of the two (630/640) measured up to 1.26m in width and 0.15m in depth. To its south and east, ditch 626/638 measured up to 1.16m in width and 0.22m in depth.

2.4.4 A short length of ditch (660) extending from the north-eastern limit of excavation and ending in a rounded terminal suggested a subdivision of the enclosure, and ditch 662 extending to the south-east formed the southern side of Enclosure 4 to the east, extending into Area 5b. Within Enclosure 4 was a penannular ditch (Structure 2) either defining a roundhouse or a sub-rectangular enclosure. This measured *c* 8m in diameter and had an entrance on the south-eastern side. The ditch measured up to 0.66m in width and 0.30m in depth. The ditch fill contained a small assemblage of pottery dated to the late Iron Age and early Roman period. It was truncated to the south-west by a short length of ditch (533) measuring 0.44m in width and 0.22m in depth that extended beyond the limit of excavation to the south-west but was not apparent in Area 5. An irregularly shaped pit (515) measuring 0.9m wide and 0.14m deep *c* 20m north-east of Structure 2 contained a small pottery assemblage of late Iron Age to early Roman date.

2.4.5 To the west of the enclosures was a sub-rectangular enclosure (Enclosure 2) defined by a *c* 4.5m-wide and 1m-deep ditch that had been recut twice, with each ditch being shallower than the last. The ditch appears to have been continuous and enclosed a space measuring *c* 25 x 14.5m. The pottery assemblage from the ditch fills dates to the late Iron Age to early Roman period.

### *Phase 4: Medieval to Post-medieval*

2.4.6 Plough furrows were recorded on a NNE-SSW alignment across areas 5, 5a and 5b.

## 2.5 Area 6

### *Phase 1: Early Neolithic?*

2.5.1 Tree-throw hole 728 contained 19 small sherds of pottery of possible early Neolithic date, although the pottery dating is tentative at this stage. This was the only dated feature in the area, although there were several enclosures nearby including a linear segmented ditch to the north-east of the tree-throw hole.

### *Phase 3: Late Iron Age to early Roman*

2.5.2 Two ditches on a similar alignment to Enclosures 3 and 4 (730, 719) in Areas 5, 5a and 5b to the west may suggest a field system extending over a wider area. The southern ditch (719) was cut by an undated rectilinear enclosure (717/732/736) which could represent activity dating to later in the Roman period or in the medieval period.

### *Phase 4: Medieval to Post-medieval*

2.5.3 A plough furrow was recorded in the southern part of the area, aligned WNW-ESE.

### *Unphased*

2.5.4 In Area 6 there were several undated enclosure ditches, including a rectangular enclosure or field ditch (717/732/736), a linear boundary ditch (705), a segmented ditch interpreted as a hedgerow (752), a shallow hedgerow (705) and a large curvilinear possibly multiple-ditched enclosure or boundary ditch (748).

# 3 FACTUAL DATA: ARTEFACTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

## 3.1 Artefacts

3.1.1 A moderately sized assemblage of finds was recovered from the excavation. The bulk of the finds comprise prehistoric and Roman pottery, flint and animal bone. There is also a small amount of burnt stone, ceramic building material (CBM), clay pipe, fired clay, iron, slag and stone. No finds were assigned small finds numbers.

3.1.2 The material has been processed and is quantified by material type, context and weight in Table 2.

| Material | No. of contexts | Count | Weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Animal bone | 41 | 622 | 5129 |
| Animal bone (sieved) | 5 | 105 | 80 |
| Burnt stone | 9 | 36 | 800 |
| CBM | 2 | 3 | 169 |
| Clay pipe | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Cremated human bone | 9 | 340 | 416 |
| Fired clay | 3 | 5 | 49 |
| Fired clay (sieved) | 4 | 7 | 35 |
| Flint | 21 | 34 | 172 |
| Flint (sieved) | 3 | 41 | 42 |
| Human Bone | 1 | 250 | - |
| Human Bone (sieved) | 1 | 89 | 75 |
| Iron | 3 | 3 | 95 |
| Iron (sieved) | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Pottery | 41 | 570 | 4353 |
| Pottery (sieved) | 4 | 7 | 44 |
| Slag | 4 | 9 | 155 |
| Slag (sieved) | 1 | 19 | 35 |
| Stone | 8 | 10 | 624 |
| *Totals* | *162* | *2152* | *12281* |

Table 2: Quantification of finds

## *3.2* Prehistoric pottery *by Alex Davies*

3.2.1 Some 120 sherds of Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery weighing 427g were found. The pottery is generally in poor condition, with a mean sherd weight of 3.6g, although this is variable across the contexts. Only the material from pits 505 and 507 is diagnostic and of reasonable condition. This is middle Neolithic Peterborough/Impressed Ware. The majority of the diagnostic vessels are of the Mortlake style, although at least one Fengate vessel is present.

3.2.2 The sherds in the remaining contexts are small and highly abraded. Unfortunately, the material from features 435 and 446, recorded in the field as cremation burials, is too fragmentary for close dating. The sherds in both contexts were in fabrics with voids probably from leached shell. A rim is incurving and is not diagnostic and is only broadly dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

3.2.3 The assemblage in pit 728 has been tentatively dated to the early Neolithic. This is also in a fabric probably containing leached shell. It is highly abraded and no surfaces survive, although the vessel was possibly thin-walled and without the deeply impressed decoration that is present on Peterborough Ware.

## *3.3* Late Iron Age to Roman pottery *by Kate Brady*

3.3.1 A total of 457 sherds of pottery weighing 3869g was recovered. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, allowing context groups to be spot-dated and the potential of the assemblage for further work to be assessed. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and group weight. Fabrics and forms were not recorded by context at this stage, although fabrics were noted. The pottery was recorded using OA's Roman pottery recording system (Booth and Biddulph 2019). The data were entered onto an Excel spreadsheet, which will be retained in the project archive.

3.3.2 The assemblage was dominated by grog-tempered material of late Iron Age to early Roman date. The fabrics were mainly coarse and handmade sherds, which are broadly dated in the region from the mid-1st century BC up to the end of the 1st century AD. Forms include jars and bowls with plain, bead and stubby everted rims.

3.3.3 There are also a small number of sherds of wheel-thrown grog-tempered wares of 1st century date. These were mainly body sherds but included sherds from cordoned jars.

3.3.4 A smaller number of contexts could be more closely dated to the early Roman period. These groups included grog-tempered late Iron Age to early Roman sherds in hand-made and wheel-thrown grog-tempered fabrics, alongside material of clearly post-conquest date. These 'Romanised' sherds were mainly reduced and oxidised coarsewares.

## 3.4 Charred plant remains and charcoal *by Sharon Cook*

3.4.1 Thirty-seven bulk samples were taken during the excavation. Thirty-two samples were processed by water flotation primarily for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR), bones and artefacts, while five samples were processed for the recovery of human remains only; these samples do not have an associated flot and do not form a part of this assessment.

3.4.2 This assessment identifies the presence, abundance and condition of plant remains recovered from the samples and their potential to provide palaeo-environmental and/or palaeo-economic evidence.

### *Methodology*

3.4.1 The bulk samples taken for the recovery of charred plant remains were processed in their entirety using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine to 250µm (flot) and 500µm mesh (residue). The residue fractions were sorted by eye and scanned with a magnet for recovery of hammerscale. All bones and artefacts were removed and passed to the relevant specialists.

3.4.2 The flot material was scanned using a low power (x10) binocular microscope and an abundance score was assigned for the presence of charred seeds, charcoal of

potentially identifiable condition, molluscs and nut or fruit stones. All identifications are currently provisional, but nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

3.4.3 For each sample, 100ml of the flot was scanned (or 100% if the flot was less than 100ml in volume) and the abundance of charred cereal grain, chaff, weed seeds, fruit stones and nutshell was assigned a score based on the following scale:

* 1-5 items

** 6-24 items

*** 25-49 items

**** 50-99 items

***** 100+ items

3.4.4 Brief notes were made on the general character of the flot, including provisional identifications of the dominant plant taxa when possible and any items of particular interest (Table 3, Appendix A).

3.4.5 The number of charcoal fragments >2mm from the flot was also broadly quantified, with a brief description of external condition and presence or absence of roundwood. A rapid scan of wood charcoal from the most promising features was carried out to inform further analysis. Preliminary identification of the charcoal was carried out by Richard Palmer at OA South.

### *Results*

3.4.6 Table 3 (Appendix A) gives the quantifications of material types and approximate abundance. Samples have been scored as:

A – High potential on archaeobotanical grounds, i.e. rare or interesting plant taxa and range of materials, or exceptional preservation; or high potential on archaeological grounds due to scarcity of information from this type of material or deposit and period.

B – Good potential due to the quantity and range of material present and its reasonable preservation, i.e., the assemblage can provide a useful amount of information.

C – Some identifiable plant material but in low concentrations or very poorly preserved.

D – No identifiable material or so little that this is unlikely to assist in the further characterisation of the site.

### *Charred remains*

3.4.7 The quantity of charred material in many of the samples from this site is small with most samples producing only items that are <2mm in size. This is problematic for charcoal identifications where fragments <2mm are unlikely to provide sufficient visible characteristics for accurate identification. In addition, while some charcoal fragments are >2mm this is typically only in one plane, while species identification requires the examination of multiple planes.

3.4.8 The cereal grains from all periods are mostly incomplete and in poor condition and in the case of those within the Neolithic assemblages are unlikely to be identifiable due to the degree of fragmentation. The small number of such grains present, together with the degree of fragmentation means that it is unclear if these grains are intrusive, and the lack of any chaff to assist in identification means that these samples have only limited ability to add further to the narrative.

3.4.9 The Iron Age/Roman cereal grains, while also damaged and fragmented, are in greater quantity and there is a greater proportion of identifiable material.

3.4.10 Hazelnut shell fragments (*Corylus avellana*) are present within the fills of pits 507 and 505 but are infrequent and of a small size in samples from other features, meaning that there are unlikely to be sufficient fragments to provide radiocarbon dates for the undated features in which they are present.

# 4 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

## 4.1 Stratigraphy

4.1.1 There were few stratigraphic relationships recorded on the site and so the potential for clarification of the site sequence by further stratigraphic analysis is low. However, there is potential for further analysis in some parts of the site, most notably of the relationships between ditches 306 and 334 in Area 2, Enclosure 1 and Structure 1 in Area 4 and undated boundary ditch 748 and enclosure/field system (717/732/736) in Area 6.

4.1.2 Evidence for Neolithic and Neolithic or Bronze Age activity appears to consist of discrete and largely isolated features and there is therefore little potential for further stratigraphic analysis to clarify the sequence of activity; however radiocarbon dates will be sought for the four potential Neolithic/Bronze Age cremation burials.

4.1.3 The roundhouse (Structure 1) and Enclosure 1 in Area 4, as well as Enclosures 2–4, Structure 2 and associated ditches in Areas 2, 5 and 6 and ditch 334 from Area 2 assigned to the late Iron Age to early Roman period are likely to form part of a linear settlement on an NW-SE alignment previously investigated to the north-west of the site (MOLA 2017). Pottery recovered from that excavation dates to the mid-1st century AD and the evidence from the current excavation, when examined in conjunction with that settlement has the potential to clarify the nature of and extent of settlement and the wider occupation of the landscape. This includes whether or not the alignment of the settlement roughly parallel to the 'Salt Way' is purely coincidental, or whether the route was in use as early as the Iron Age or Roman periods.

4.1.4 There is also potential to examine more closely the phases of construction associated with Enclosure 2 in Area 5a. Sections show up to three phases of ditch construction and pottery ranges from late Iron Age to early Roman in date. Closer examination may be able to suggest whether the initial construction was in the late Iron Age or if all the phases of construction and infilling were post-conquest in the early Roman period. Comparison of the material recovered from the enclosures with the late Iron Age to early Roman pottery recovered from other features may enable the closer dating of these features.

4.1.5 The large curvilinear ditch/enclosure in Area 6 appears late in the stratigraphic sequence and may perhaps relate to medieval activity associated with the 'Salt Way' immediately to the north of the site; although, it should be born in mind that there was also evidence for Neolithic activity in the form of a pit close to this feature. Although no pottery was recovered from fills of the ditch there is potential for other artefacts or ecofacts to be associated with this feature; any suitable material will be subject to scientific dating.

4.1.6 The medieval or post-medieval plough furrows demonstrate the agricultural nature of land use at this time. They are considered to be of low, local significance and hold no potential for further analysis.

## 4.2 Prehistoric pottery

4.2.1 Initial spot-dating of the prehistoric assemblage demonstrated a mixed range of dates, including possible early Neolithic, middle Neolithic and broader Neolithic/Bronze Age dates. The assemblage is fragmented and includes few feature sherds. Nevertheless, full recording and analysis, including fabric and form typology, has the potential to refine the chronology of the assemblage and therefore the phasing of the site.

## 4.3 Late Iron Age to Roman pottery

4.3.1 Detailed recording of the late Iron Age and Roman pottery will allow the dating of context groups and the site sequence to be refined and finalised. Comparison of forms and fabrics with those from the late Iron Age enclosure immediately to the west and other sites within the wider region will allow the assemblage from Wykham Park Farm to be located within its cultural context. The assemblage will make a useful contribution to the understanding of ceramic supply and use in the region.

4.3.2 Particular attention will be given to the material currently dated as late Iron Age and late Iron Age/early Roman, which is the majority of the material. When was this material introduced? Is this a partly pre-conquest or wholly post-conquest assemblage? What are its cultural affinities? Analysis of this material will be an important first step of the analysis stage in order to ensure that prehistoric and Roman assemblages are complete before recording.

4.3.3 There is limited potential to address questions of site status and function due to the small size of the assemblage and the homogenous nature of the mostly grog-tempered material. However, several forms are paralleled in Thompson (1982), and it may be possible to make observations on the occurrences of vessel types and forms and whether this is typical for the region or whether it diverges from the norm. A note will be made of evidence such as wear and burning that address questions of vessel use.

## 4.4 Flint

4.4.1 The flintwork assemblage recovered by hand and from sieving was relatively large (75 pieces). Full recording and analysis of this material has the potential to identify and date diagnostic pieces, which in turn may help in further understanding the nature and chronology of prehistoric activity on the site.

## 4.5 Other artefacts

4.5.1 Smaller assemblages of ceramic building material, clay pipe, fired clay, iron, slag and stone were recovered, and examination of these will add to the picture of activity on the site.

## 4.6 Human remains

4.6.1 Radiocarbon dating of the putative Neolithic/Bronze Age cremation burials has the potential to clarify their chronological relationship to the Neolithic pits on the site and the known barrows in the vicinity. Similarly, radiocarbon dating of inhumation burial 472 has the potential to clarify the chronological relationship with Enclosure 1 and would allow the burial to be compared with others of similar date in the wider region,

and dating of at least one of the pair of cremation burials (265 and 303) close to enclosure ditch 334 will establish whether the burials and settlement are contemporary. Osteological analysis of the cremation and inhumation burials has the potential to elucidate burial practices and the age, sex and health of the deceased.

## 4.7 Animal bone

4.7.1 The hand-collected and sieved animal bone assemblage is not large (727 fragments) but has the potential to contribute to our understanding of activity on the site in the Neolithic and Iron Age to Roman periods. The assemblage has the potential to elucidate activity relating to animal husbandry and subsistence and also to contribute to an understanding of depositional processes. The material will be fully recorded and reported on.

## 4.8 Charred plant remains and charcoal

4.8.1 The cereal grains from the Neolithic pits are unlikely to be identifiable due to their degree of fragmentation. In addition, the small number of grains and the lack of any chaff to assist in identification means that these samples have only limited ability to add further to the narrative.

4.8.2 The late Iron Age/Roman cereal grains, while also damaged and fragmented, are present in greater quantities with greater proportions of identifiable material. The Iron Age/Roman cereal grains therefore have the potential to inform on crop husbandry, food production and diet at the late Iron Age/Roman settlement.

4.8.3 Hazelnut shell fragments (*Corylus avellana*) are present within the fills of Neolithic pits 507 and 505 but are infrequent and of a small size. They therefore have little potential to inform on Neolithic activity at the site.

4.8.4 None of the recovered charcoal fragments were of sufficient size for species identification and therefore the charcoal has no potential for further analysis.

## 4.9 Overall potential

4.9.1 In general, the excavation results have the potential to inform on the nature of prehistoric and Roman activity in the landscape and also to confirm the nature of medieval and post-medieval farming activity. Of particular significance is the nature of Neolithic/Bronze Age occupation and ritual/mortuary activity. Further stratigraphic analysis of the pits and tree-throw holes, combined with scientific dating and analysis of the pottery has the potential to throw light on the nature of Neolithic/Bronze Age occupation on the site and of the wider landscape. Further analysis of the pottery from pits 505 and 507 also has potential to shed light on changing uses of the site during the Neolithic and possibly whether or not the activity represented by the pits, referenced or was influenced by the burials, or *vice versa*.

4.9.2 Analysis of the stratigraphy and finds and environmental assemblages from the Late Iron Age to early Roman sub-rectangular enclosures and field systems has potential to shed light on the occupation of and agricultural/pastoral use of the landscape in this period. The heavy domination of the late Iron Age to early Roman pottery assemblage by grog-tempered material suggests a relatively short-lived settlement and further

analysis of the pottery, combined with radiocarbon dating of the inhumation burial next to Enclosure 1, has the potential to refine this chronology further. In addition, stratigraphic analysis of Structures 1 and 2 has the potential to further elucidate the nature of the structures that are represented and their stratigraphic relationship to the enclosures and therefore the nature of domestic occupation at the site. The combination of stratigraphic analysis with analysis of the pottery, animal bone and charred grain assemblages and the human remains also has the potential to shed light on the nature of subsistence, eating and drinking, health and other aspects of everyday life at the settlement.

4.9.3 There is very little potential for analysis to shed further light on the nature of medieval or post-medieval agrarian use of the landscape. However, further stratigraphic analysis of the large curvilinear ditch from Area 6, combined with analysis of the finds and environmental material may have the potential to establish whether or not it was associated with the line of the 'Salt Way' to the north of the site, or with other agricultural or settlement activity.

# 5 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

## 5.1 Revised research aims

5.1.1 The preceding section has discussed the potential of the various stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data sets to further the interpretation of the excavation and to contribute to identified areas of local and regional research. Combining the original research aims and objectives (section 1.4), and with reference to the regional research framework (Hey and Hind 2014), the following revised research aims have been identified:

### *Neolithic/Bronze Age Activity*

- The Solent Thames Research Framework calls for better understanding of the date range of burial monuments; research objective 8.5.5 calls for further attention to the extent and relative significance of Neolithic and early Bronze Age cremation burials. It would therefore be desirable to obtain radiocarbon determinations on the bone from the Neolithic/Bronze Age cremation burials. (Tasks: radiocarbon dating, pottery, human remains).
- Solent Thames research objective 8.4.1 calls for the establishment of the extent and character of settlement away from monument complexes. Can analysis of Neolithic pits 505 and 507 shed further light on the nature of settlement at the site, was this activity related either to the cremation burials, or the causewayed enclosure in the south of the site? Radiocarbon dating of one of the pits would help refine their chronological context. (Tasks: stratigraphy, radiocarbon dating, pottery, flint).

### *Late Iron Age and early Roman activity*

- The late Iron Age to early Roman settlement appears to have been newly established in this period. Solent Thames research objective 10.5.3 states that: "the factors that led to the common shift of settlement location in the late Iron Age need identifying". Therefore, can further analysis of the finds, animal bone and charred plant assemblages elucidate the reasons for the establishment of the settlement, for example do these assemblages shed light on specific subsistence or farming practices, or specific forms of social activity at the settlement? (Tasks: stratigraphy: pottery, animal bone, charred plant remains).
- The distribution of late Iron Age to early Roman enclosures across the site suggests a differentiation in the use of the landscape, with discrete oval, or rectangular enclosures in the north-western part of the site and integrated sub-rectangular enclosures in the south-eastern part, on slightly lower ground. Does this distribution reflect different activities, for example settlement versus fields? Was the nature of occupation in the oval enclosures broadly similar? Or does this pattern reflect a chronological difference? Further comparison of the form of the enclosures and the distribution of finds and environmental material may help to elucidate these issues. (Tasks: stratigraphy, pottery, metalwork, CBM, fired clay, animal bone, charred plants).

- Solent Thames research objective 10.7.1 calls for "clarification of the architecture of prehistoric houses over a long time scale from the middle Bronze Age to the late Iron Age." The remains of two probable round houses were recorded during the excavation and of these the relationship of Structure 1 with Enclosure 1 – whether the house was contemporary with and integral to the enclosure – requires further investigation. Similarly the nature of Structure 2, which appears to have been sub-square in plan – whether a building or an enclosure – needs further elucidation. (Tasks: stratigraphy, pottery).
- The human inhumation burial next to Enclosure 1 and the cremation burials next to enclosure ditch 334 are currently undated. Radiocarbon dates should be sought in order to determine whether or not the burials are contemporary with the enclosures. This would feed into Solent Thames research objective 12.2.2. "Radiocarbon dating should be used more widely and systematically to help understand change between the late Iron Age and early Roman period." (Tasks: Stratigraphy, C14 dating).
- Solent Thames research objectives 12.6.2 calls for better characterisation of Roman settlement and economy in North Oxfordshire. The late Iron Age and early Roman settlement and field system should therefore be investigated spatially and stratigraphically in relation to the finds and environmental assemblages recovered and placed in its wider landscape context. (Tasks: stratigraphy, finds, human remains, animal bone, charred plants, research).
- The large curvilinear boundary or enclosure ditch in Area 6 is currently undated and may relate to prehistoric, Roman, medieval or post-medieval activity. It would therefore be desirable to secure a date for this feature either through stratigraphy, radiocarbon dating or artefact dating in order to establish its significance. (Tasks: stratigraphy, C14 dating , pottery).

## 5.2 Methods statement

### *Stratigraphy*

5.2.1 The original and revised research aims and objectives will be addressed through the analysis of the stratigraphic archive. The dating, periodisation and character of the archaeological remains will be reviewed in conjunction with the results of the specialist analysis of the finds and environmental evidence and radiocarbon dating. A subsequent site plan showing chronological periods and a description of the stratigraphic sequence will be produced. A site narrative will be prepared for publication, drawing on the relevant specialist information, and will be accompanied by interpretative plans and selected section drawings. An overall discussion of the findings will place the excavation results within their local and regional context.

### *Pottery*

5.2.2 The prehistoric and Roman pottery will be recorded and analysed in full, following the guidelines set out in *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (2016) and the OA system for recording prehistoric and Roman pottery (Booth and Biddulph 2019), in order to refine the chronological dating of the activities that took place on site.

Analysis of fabric and form, and comparative analysis with other assemblages from the area will be undertaken. A small number of diagnostic sherds and vessels will also be selected for illustration.

### *Flint*

5.2.3 The flintwork will be recorded and analysed in full. Technological and morphological characteristics will be assessed to inform on dating and function in order to consider more broadly the nature of flint-related activity on site. A small number of pieces may be illustrated.

### *Clay pipe*

5.2.4 The clay pipe will be identified and listed, and the resulting data deposited with the site archive.

### *Metalwork*

5.2.5 The metalwork will be recorded and analysed in full. Technological and morphological characteristics will be assessed to inform on dating and function.

### *Ceramic building material and fired clay*

5.2.6 The ceramic building material and fired clay will be analysed and recorded by fabric type and form. Any objects will be identified, and a selection may be illustrated.

### *Stone*

5.2.7 The worked stone will be fully recorded and analysed; significant objects will be illustrated.

### *Slag*

5.2.8 The slag will be subjected to scientific analysis and recording, and a full discussion will be produced for the analysis report.

### *Human remains*

5.2.9 Full osteological recording and analysis will be carried out. Discussion of the burial in the analysis report will make reference to other burials of similar date in the region.

### *Animal bone*

5.2.10 Full recording and analysis will be carried out on the animal bone assemblage and discussion of the assemblage in the analysis report will compare it to other assemblages of similar date in the region.

### *Charred plants and charcoal*

5.2.1 Two flots (samples 10 and 28) currently phased as late Iron Age to early Roman are recommended for further analysis of charred remains. The findings of this post-excavation assessment statement will be incorporated into the analysis report.

5.2.2 No samples are recommended for charcoal analysis.

### *Radiocarbon dating*

5.2.3 Seven radiocarbon dates will be obtained, as follows:

- One date on cremated human bone from burial 435.
- One date on cremated human bone from burial 438.
- One date on cremated human bone from burial 446.
- One date on cremated human bone from burial 255 or 303.
- One date on human bone from inhumation burial 472.
- One date on charred hazelnut shell from pit 507.
- One date to be obtained on material from ditch 748 if suitable material can be identified.

## 5.3 Publication and dissemination of results

5.3.1 The full report on the excavation will be submitted to Oxfordshire HER and will be made available for download as a pdf via the OA online library (https://library.thehumanjourney.net/).

5.3.2 A synthetic publication report of up to 10,000 words will also be prepared for publication in the county journal, *Oxoniensia*. The publication report will include the key results of the analysis of the stratigraphy, finds and environmental evidence, along with a synthetic discussion, but it may omit some data tables and some of the more technical aspects of the specialist contributions that are presented in the full report.

## 5.4 Retention and disposal of finds and environmental evidence

5.4.1 Retention and disposal will be considered during the analysis of the finds and environmental datasets in consultation with the depositing museum and in accordance with OA's Finds Policy, local guidelines and the Society of Museum Archaeologists guidelines.

## 5.5 Ownership and archive

5.5.1 OA will retain copyright of all reports and the documentary and digital archive produced in this project. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

5.5.2 On completion of the reporting stage of the project, the finds and documentary archive will be prepared for deposition in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (OA 2019) and current professional standards (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014b). Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the finds and documentary archive will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Council Museums Resource Centre (OCCMRS). The archive will be identified by its unique code OXCMS:2019.126.

# 6 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

## 6.1 Project team structure

6.1.1 The project team is set out below:

| Name | Organisation | Role |
|---|---|---|
| Daniel Stansbie | Oxford Archaeology | Project management, report editing |
| Gerry Thacker | Oxford Archaeology | Client liaison |
| Leigh Allen | Oxford Archaeology | Finds management |
| Rebecca Nicholson | Oxford Archaeology | Environmental and C14 management |
| Nicola Scott | Oxford Archaeology | Archive management |
| Louise Loe | Oxford Archaeology | Burials management |
| Matt Bradley | Oxford Archaeology | Geomatics management |
| Leo Webley | Oxford Archaeology | Quality assurance |
| Alex Davies | Oxford Archaeology | Prehistoric pottery |
| Kate Brady | Oxford Archaeology | Late Iron Age pottery, Roman pottery and report writing |
| John Cotter | Oxford Archaeology | Clay pipes |
| Mike Donnelly | Oxford Archaeology | Worked flint |
| Anni Byard | Oxford Archaeology | Metalwork |
| Alex Davies/Kate Brady | Oxford Archaeology | Fired clay |
| Kirsty Smith | Oxford Archaeology | Ceramic Building Material |
| Ruth Shaffrey | Oxford Archaeology | Stone |
| David Dungworth | External | Slag |
| Mandy Kingdom | Oxford Archaeology | Human remains |
| Adrienne Powell | Oxford Archaeology | Animal bones |
| Julia Meen | Oxford Archaeology | Charred plants and charcoal |
| OA Illustrator | Oxford Archaeology | Illustration |
| SUERC | External | C14 dating |

## 6.2 Task list and programme

6.2.1 The programme of work of six months will end with the issue of the full report and draft publication report.

6.2.2 A task list is presented below.

| Task no. | Task description | Name | Days |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Project management | A Simmonds | 5 |
| 2 | Client liaison | Gerry Thacker | 0.5 |
| 3 | Finds management | L Allen | 1 |
| 4 | Enviro/C14 management | R Nicholson | 1 |
| 5 | Archives management | N Scott | 1 |
| 6 | Human remains management | L Loe | 1 |
| 7 | Geomatics management | M Bradley | 0.5 |
| 8 | Graphics management | M Wachnik | 0.5 |
| 9 | Prehistoric pottery | A Davies | 1.5 |
| 10 | Roman pottery | K Brady | 2 |
| 11 | Clay pipes | J Cotter | 0.23 |
| 12 | Flint | M Donnnelly | 1 |
| 13 | Metalwork | A Byard | 0.5 |
| 14 | CBM | K Smith | 0.25 |
| 15 | Fired clay | Alex Davies/Kate Brady | 0.25 |
| 16 | Worked stone | R Shaffrey | 2 |
| 17 | Slag | D Dungworth | 1 |
| 18 | Human bone | M Kingdom | 6.5 |
| 19 | Animal bone | A Powell | 7.5 |
| 20 | Charred plant remains | S Cook | 2 |
| 21 | Radiography of metalwork | External | N/A |
| 22 | Radiocarbon dating | External | N/A |
| 23 | Site grouping and phasing | K Brady | 5 |
| 24 | Specialist liaison | K Brady | 3 |
| 25 | Compile feature text and site narrative | K Brady | 5 |
| 26 | Report intro, arch. background | A Simmonds | 2 |
| 27 | Integrate specialist reports | A Simmonds | 2 |
| 28 | Write discussion including research | A Simmonds | 4 |
| 29 | Finds illustrations | OA Illustrator | 1 |
| 30 | Report illustrations | OA Illustrator | 1 |
| 31 | Internal edit | A Simmonds | 1 |
| 32 | QA report | L Webley | 1 |
| 33 | Compile publication text | A Simmonds | 3 |
| 34 | Publication Illustrations | OA Illustrator | 2 |
| 35 | Internal edit | A Simmonds | 2 |
| 36 | Post refereeing revisions | A Simmonds | 1 |
| 37 | QA report | L Webley | 1 |
| 38 | Journal costs | External | N/A |
| 39 | Finds archive preparation | L Allen | 0.5 |
| 40 | Finds archive preparation | Archive assistant | 1 |
| 41 | Materials | External | N/A |

| Task no. | Task description | Name | Days |
|---|---|---|---|
| 42 | Paper/digital archive preparation | N Scott | 2 |
| 43 | GIS archive preparation | M Bradley | 0.13 |
| 44 | ADS deposition | External | N/A |
| 45 | Museum deposition | External | N/A |
| 46 | Transportation | OA Archaeologist | 0.5 |

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# APPENDIX A ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

| Sample No | Context | Cut | Feature | Group | Phase | Sample volume (L.) | Flot volume (ml) | Charc >2mm | Grain | Chaff | Seed | Other | Molluscs | Residue | Comments | Potential (CPR) | Potential (Charcoal) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 511 | 507 | Pit | | MNeo | | 38 | 1 >4mm, 100+ 4-2mm | | | | *** | | 8 charc 10-4mm | Charcoal generally small. Hazelnut shell fragments common. Occasional fungal sclerotia. Rare uncharred seeds, probably modern. Charcoal (8 frags): 4 indeterminate, 2 cf *Corylus*, 1 *Corylus*. Preservation poor, most fragments do not have a complete ring. | C | C |
| 2 | 512 | 507 | Pit | | MNeo | | 6 | 0 >4mm, 7 4-2mm | | | | * | | 2 charc, 1 hazelnut fragment 10-4mm | Volume mainly uncharred modern plant fragments and seeds. Rare charred hazelnut fragments. | C | C |
| 3 | 506 | 505 | Pit | | MNeo | | 40 | 0 >4mm, 100+ | * | | | *** | | 9 charc, 4 hazelnut fragments 10-4mm | Charcoal is generally small. Hazelnut shell fragments are common. Rare | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 4-2mm | | | | | | | fragments of damaged cereal grain. | | |
| Charcoal: 7 indeterminate, 2 cf Corylus | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Quercus. Preservation poor, most fragments do not have a complete ring." | C | C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 511 | 507 | Pit - Spit 1 | | MNeo | | 6 | 1 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm | * | | | * | | 17 charc, 10 hazelnut fragments 10-4mm, 2 charc, 9 hazelnut 4-2mm | Charcoal generally small. Hazelnut shell fragments are rare. Single damaged cereal grain fragment. Occasional fungal sclerotia. Rare uncharred seeds, probably modern. | C | C |
| 5 | 511 | 507 | Pit - Spit 2 | | MNeo | | 12 | 1 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm | * | | | *** | | 3 charc, 4 hazelnut fragments 10-4mm, 1 charc, 6 hazelnut 4-2mm | Charcoal generally small. Rare damaged cereal grain fragments. Hazelnut shell fragments common. Occasional fungal sclerotia. Rare uncharred seeds, probably modern. | C | C |
| 6 | 511 | 507 | Pit - Spit 3 | | MNeo | | 15 | 3 >4mm, | * | | * | *** | | 6 charc, 3 hazelnut | Charcoal generally small. | C | C |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 25+ 4-2mm | | | | | | fragments 10-4mm | Hazelnut shell fragments common. Two damaged cereal grain fragments. *Vicia/Lathyrus* fragment. | | |
| 7 | 512 | 507 | Pit - Spit 1 | | MNeo | | 14 | 1 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm | * | | | *** | | 1 hazelnut fragment 10-4mm | Charcoal generally small. Hazelnut shell fragments common. Two damaged cereal grains. Occasional fungal sclerotia. Rare uncharred seeds, probably modern. | C | C |
| 8 | 512 | 507 | Pit - Spit 2 | | MNeo | | 20 | 3 >4mm, 50+ 4-2mm | * | | | *** | | 12 Charc, 4 hazelnut fragments 10-4mm | Charcoal generally small. Hazelnut shell fragments common. Single damaged cereal grain. | C | |
| 9 | 512 | 507 | Pit - Spit 3 | | MNeo | | 4 | 1 >4mm, 10 4-2mm | * | | | ** | | 6 hazelnut fragments 10-4mm | Charcoal generally small. Occasional hazelnut shell fragments. Three damaged cereal grains. | C | C |
| 10 | 573 | 572 | Ditch | | LIA-ER | | 14 | 6 >4mm, 16 4-2mm | *** | **** | *** | | | | Charcoal generally small. Grain common but in damaged condition, mainly wheat but very fragmented and | B | C |

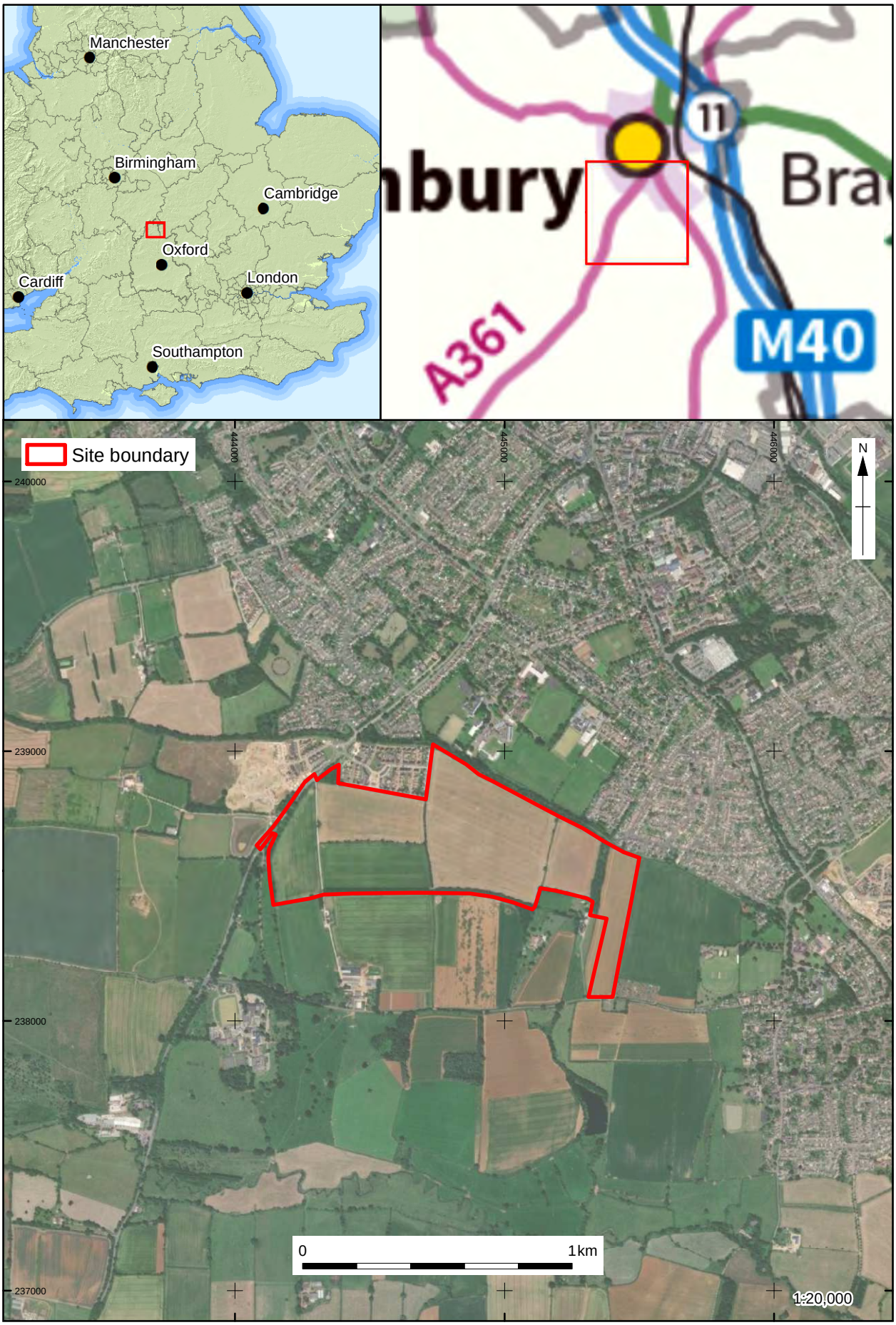
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | the majority may not be fully identifiable. *Galium aparine*, *Vicia/Lathyrus*, *Carex* sp., *Rumex* sp., grass seeds, small Caryophyllaceae, *Stellaria* sp., etc. | | |
| 11 | 257 | 304 | Cremation - Surface Cleaning | | U/N | | 5 | 1 >4mm, 7 4-2mm | | | | | | | Charcoal is small. | D | D |
| 12 | 258 | 256 | Cremation - Spit 1 | 255 | U/N | | 30 | 50+ >4mm, 50+ 4-2mm | | | | | | 6 charc >10mm, 100+ 10-4mm | Charcoal is rarely >4mm in all dimensions. Charcoal: Quercus (8 frags and 1 cf), 1 indeterminate. Surface dirt/encrustations extend to internal features. | D | C |
| 13 | 258 | 256 | Cremation - Spit 2 | 255 | U/N | | 28 | 5 >4mm, 50+ 4-2mm | | | | | | 3 charc 10-4mm | Charcoal is rarely >2mm in all dimensions. Appears same as sample 12. | D | C |
| 14 | 257 | 304 | Cremation - Surface Cleaning | | U/N | | 5 | 1 >4mm, 14 4-2mm | | | | | | 13 charc 10-4mm | Charcoal is rarely >2mm in all dimensions. | D | C |
| 15 | 220 | 217 | Pit | | U/N | | 375 | 50+ >4mm, 500+ | * | | * | * | | 21 charc 10-4mm | <2mm fraction part scanned only. Single hazelnut | C | C |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 4-2mm | | | | | | | fragment and single wheat grain. Single Veronica *hederifolia*. Charcoal is rarely >2mm in all dimensions. Charcoal (10 frags): *Quercus* (9 frags), *Fraxinus excelsior* (1 frag). | | |
| 16 | 258 | 256 | Cremation - Spit 3 | 255 | U/N | | 40 | 4 >4mm, 100+ 4-2mm | | | | | | 7 charc 10-4mm | Charcoal is rarely >2mm in all dimensions. Appears same as sample 12. | D | C |
| 17 | 259 | 303 | Cremation - Spit 1 | 305 | U/N | | 4 | 0 >4mm, 8 4-2mm | * | | | | | | Single fragmented cereal grain. Probably wheat. Charcoal is rarely >2mm in all dimensions. | D | D |
| 18 | 259 | 303 | Cremation - Spit 2 | 305 | U/N | | 5 | 1 >4mm, 5 4-2mm | | | | | | | Charcoal is rarely >2mm in all dimensions. | D | D |
| 19 | 259 | 303 | Cremation - Spit 3 | 305 | U/N | | 4 | 1 >4mm, 3 4-2mm | | | | | | 3 charc 4-2mm | Charcoal is rarely >2mm in all dimensions. | D | D |
| 20 | 257 | 304 | Cremation - Base of 255 | 255 | U/N | | 13 | 7 >4mm, 50+ 4-2mm | | | | * | | 9 charc 10-4mm | Charcoal is rarely >2mm in all dimensions. Single hazelnut fragment | D | C |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21 | 259 | 303 | Cremation - Spit 4 | 305 | U/N | | 1 | 1 >4mm, 3 4-2mm | | | | | | 7 charc 10-4mm | Charcoal rarely >2mm in all dimensions. | D | D |
| 22 | 434 | 433 | Cremation | 435 | Neo/BA | | 10 | 0 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm | | | * | * | | | Single fragmented *Galium aparine*. Fragment of ?*Arrhenatherum elatius* tuber or similar. Charcoal rarely >2mm in all dimensions. | D | D |
| 23 | 434 | 433 | Cremation - Base of 435 | 435 | Neo/BA | | 3 | 0 >4mm, 1 4-2mm | | | | | | | Very little charcoal present. | D | D |
| 24 | 437 | 436 | Cremation - Surface cleaning | 438 | Neo? | | 3 | 0 >4mm, 1 4-2mm | | | | | | 1 charc 10-4mm | Very little charcoal present. | D | D |
| 25 | 437 | 436 | Cremation | 438 | Neo? | | 4 | 0 >4mm, 4 4-2mm | | | | | | | Very little charcoal present. | D | D |
| 26 | 445 | 443 | Cremation - Surface cleaning | 446 | Neo | | 2 | 0 >4mm, 0 4-2mm | | | | | | | Very little charcoal present. | D | D |
| 27 | 447 | 443 | Cremation - Fill around urn | 446 | Neo | | 3 | 0 >4mm, 0 4-2mm | | | | | | | Very little charcoal present. | D | D |
| 28 | 428 | 427 | Ditch | | LIA-ER | | 5 | 0 >4mm, | *** | * | * | | | | Very little charcoal. Grain | B | D |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 2 4-2mm | | | | | | | common but damaged, mainly wheat but very fragmented and the majority may not be fully identifiable. Rare glume base fragments. Fragment of *Galium aparine*, rare *Vicia/Lathyrus* fragments and possible grass seed fragment. | | |
| 29 | 444 | 443 | Cremation - Spit 1 | 446 | Neo | | 2 | 0 >4mm, 0 4-2mm | | | | | | | Very little charcoal present. | D | D |
| 30 | 444 | 443 | Cremation - Spit 2 | 446 | Neo | | 2 | 0 >4mm, 0 4-2mm | | | | | | | Very little charcoal present. | D | D |
| 31 | 444 | 443 | Cremation - Spit 3 | 446 | Neo | | 2 | 0 >4mm, 0 4-2mm | | | | | | | Very little charcoal present. | D | D |

* 1-4, ** 5-24, *** 25-49, **** 50-99, ***** 100+ items

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Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location

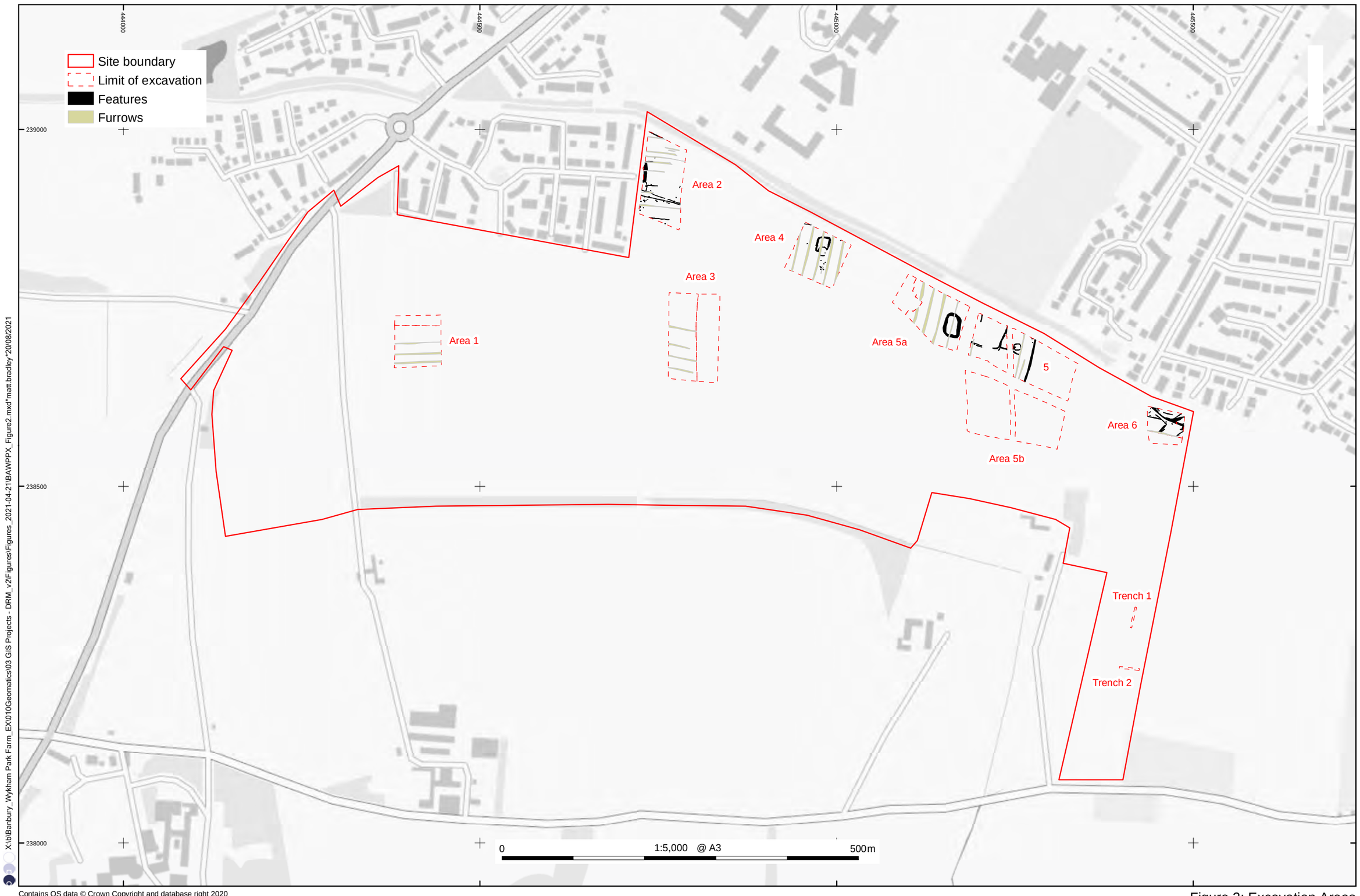




Figure 2: Excavation Areas

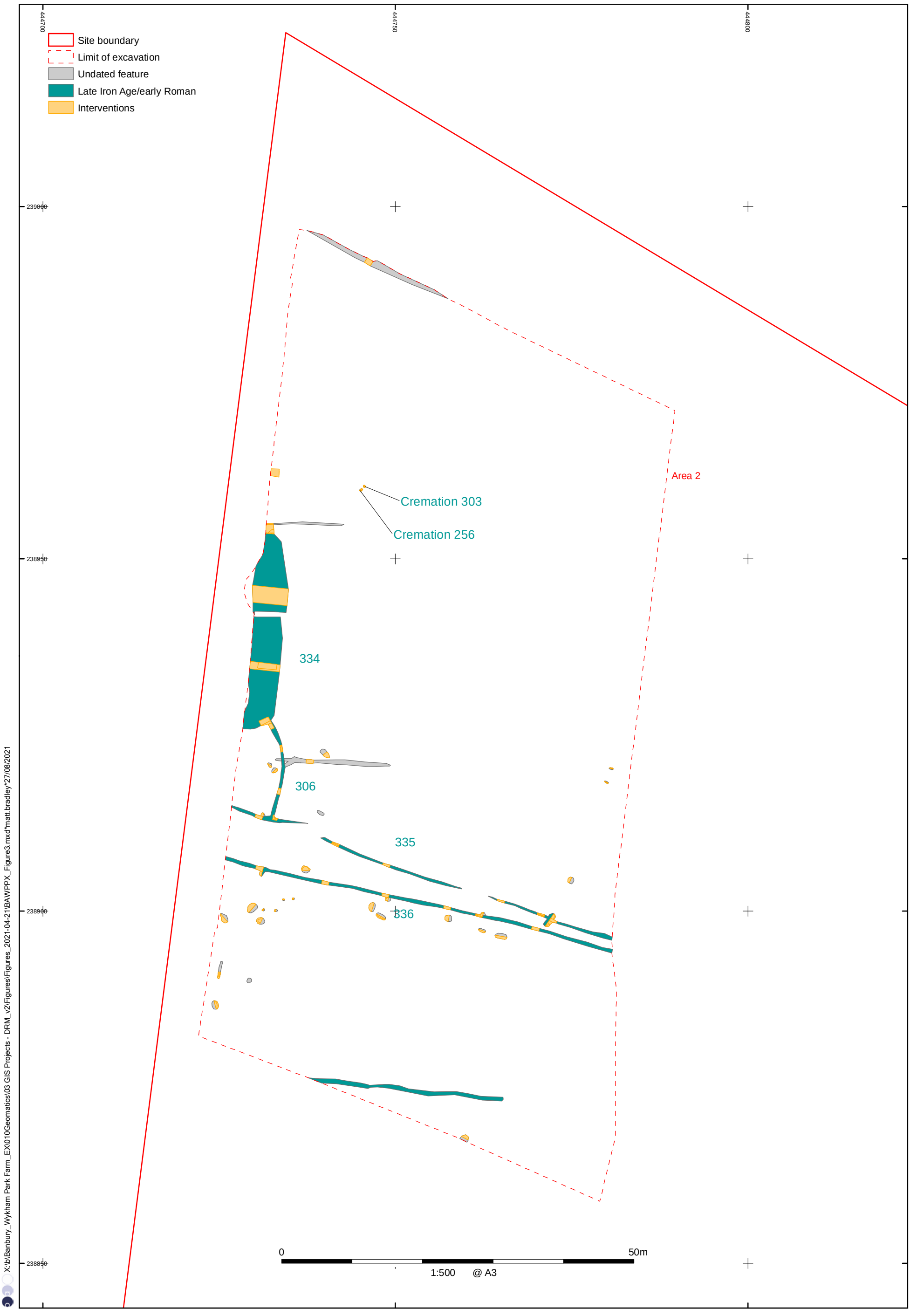


Figure 3 : Area 2 provisional phase plan

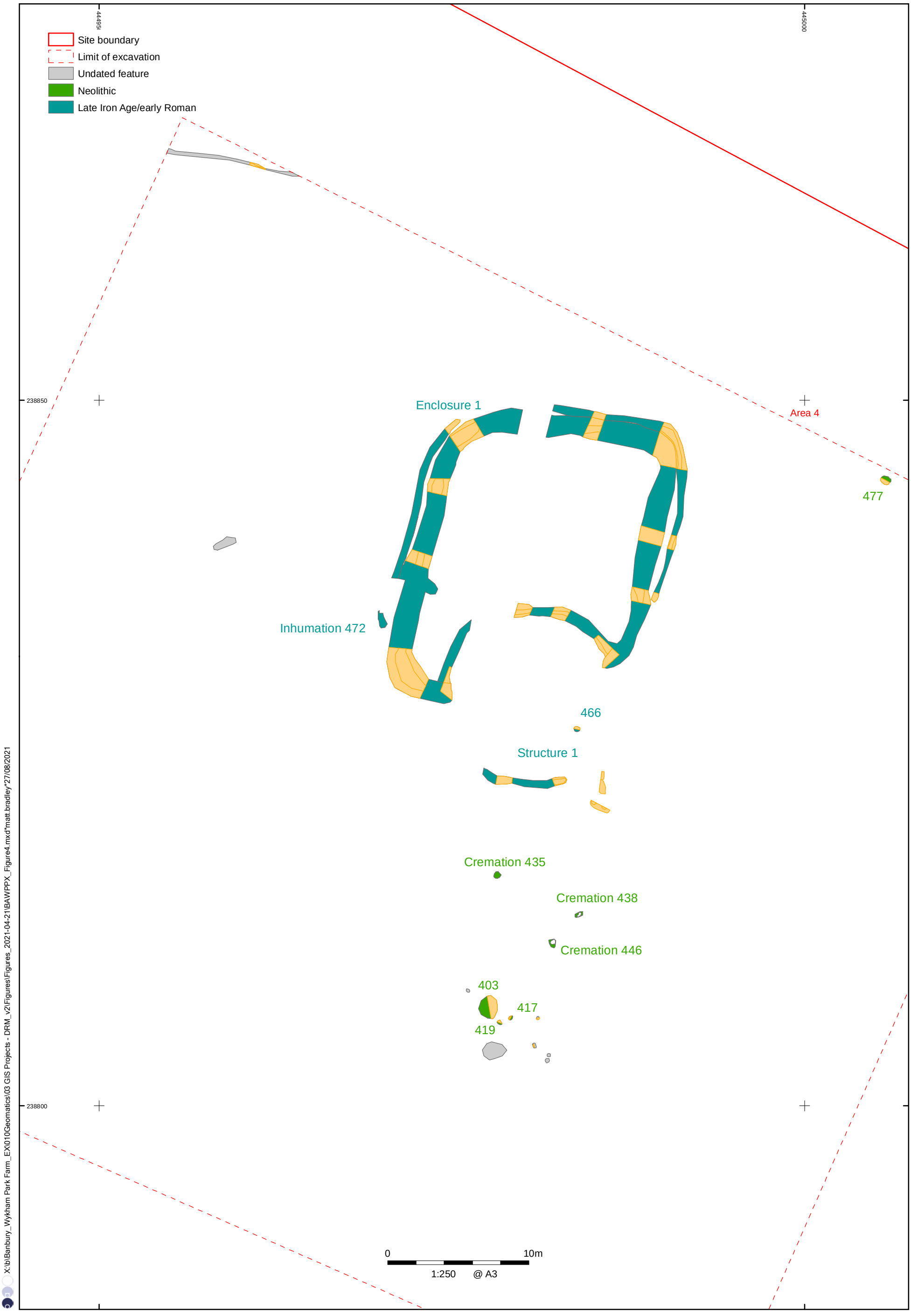


Figure 4: Area 4 provisional phase plan

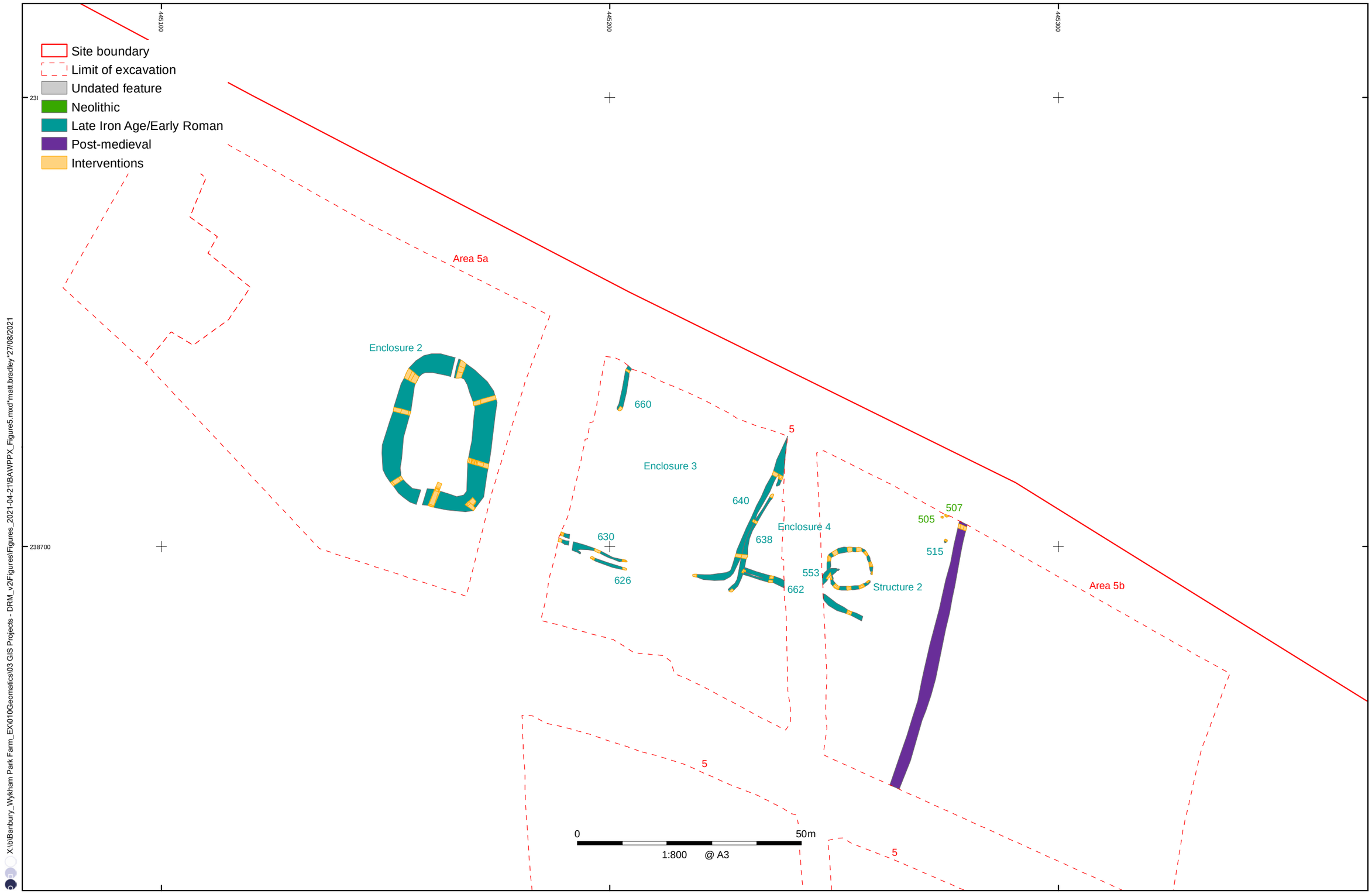


Figure 5: Areas 5, 5a and 5b provisional phase plan

Site boundary
Limit of excavation
Undated feature
Neolithic
Late Iron Age/early Roman
Interventions

Area 6

730
732
748
752
717
719
728
736
705

238600

0 10m
1:200 @ A3

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Figure 6: Area 6 provisional phase plan

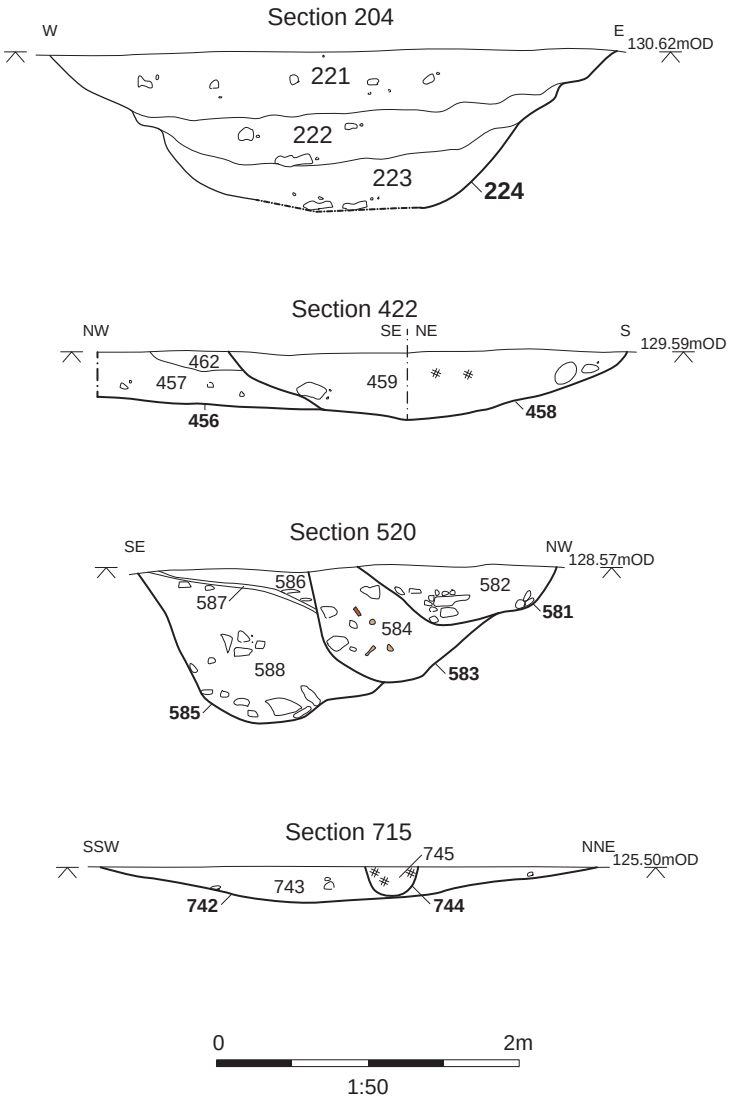


Figure 7: Sections

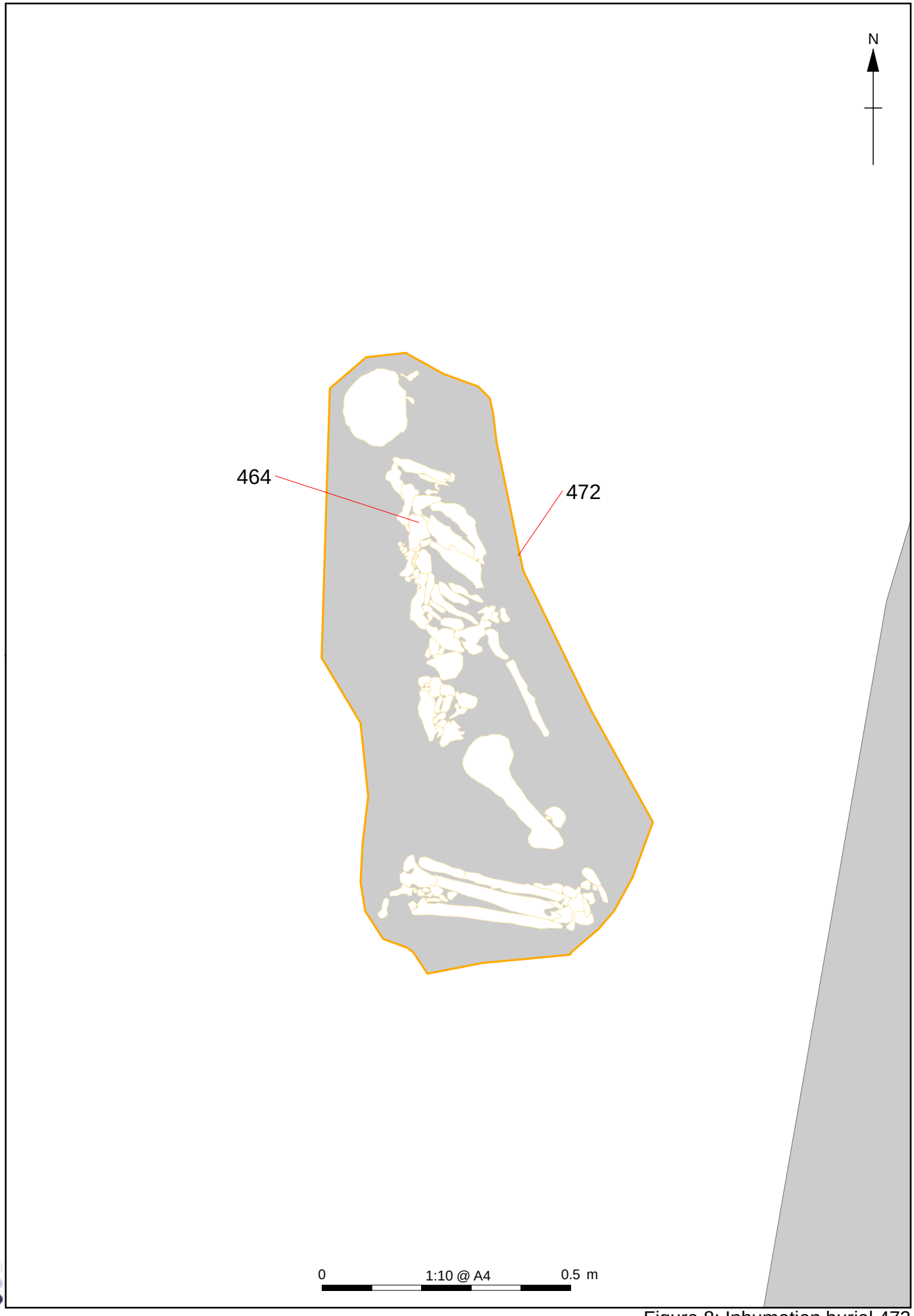


Figure 8: Inhumation burial 472

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