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archaeological field unit

CCC AFU Report Number 896

# Iron Age and other undated remains at Bassingbourn Village College, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire

## An Archaeological Evaluation

Liz Muldowney

August 2006

Cambridgeshire County Council
Environment & Community Services

Commissioned by Pick Everard Architects

## Cover Images

| | |
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| Roman corn dryer, Duxford | Guided walk along Devil's Dyke |
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# Iron Age and other undated remains at Bassingbourn Village College, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire

## An Archaeological Evaluation

Liz Muldowney MA

With contribution by

Rachel Fosberry HNC (Cert Ed) AEA

Site Code: BAS BVC 06
CHER Event Number: ECB 2321
Date of works: 24th to 28th July
Grid Ref: TL 3294 4355

Editor: Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu BA PhD MIFA
Illustrator: Alex Howe BA

## Summary

Between the 24th and 28th July 2006 the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU) conducted an archaeological evaluation at Bassingbourn Village College, Bassingbourn in advance of the construction of a sports hall, an all weather football pitch and a car park. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA), supplemented by a Specification prepared by the CCC AFU (James Drummond Murray 2006)

The evaluation sought to establish the character, date, extent and preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

Eight trenches were excavated, seven of which contained archaeological remains. The archaeology was for the most part sparse, but three trenches in the southern area (Area 2) contained a number of ditches and some structural remains indicative of a possible settlement. Despite a general absence of datable finds, an Iron Age date seems likely from the recovered pottery. Modern activity was also recorded across both development areas that presumably relates to the use of the school.

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# 1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application (Thomas 2006), supplemented by a Specification prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by CCC AFU and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

# 2 Geology and Topography

The site overlies chalk according to the available geology maps (British Geological Survey 2001). The evaluation encountered no solid chalk deposits. The natural deposits consisted of yellowy orange sandy silts with occasional gravel and clay lenses.

The site varied between c 28.5m OD to the north in Area 1 and c 30m OD to the south in Area 2 (Fig. 1). Both areas have probably been subject to landscaping to create level playing fields and the school grounds.

# 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies c. 400m south of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (33602, HER 01237) based around the Bury Yard medieval moated site. The site is associated with the manor of Richmonds, which was held by Eddeva the fair, widow of Edward the Confessor, before the Norman Conquest and later by John of Gaunt in the 14th century. An evaluation (ECB 884) and subsequent excavation (ECB1046) by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit to the east of the scheduled area revealed four phases of activity from the Saxon to post-medieval periods (Ellis *et al* 2001) and suggests a Late Saxon origin for the village.

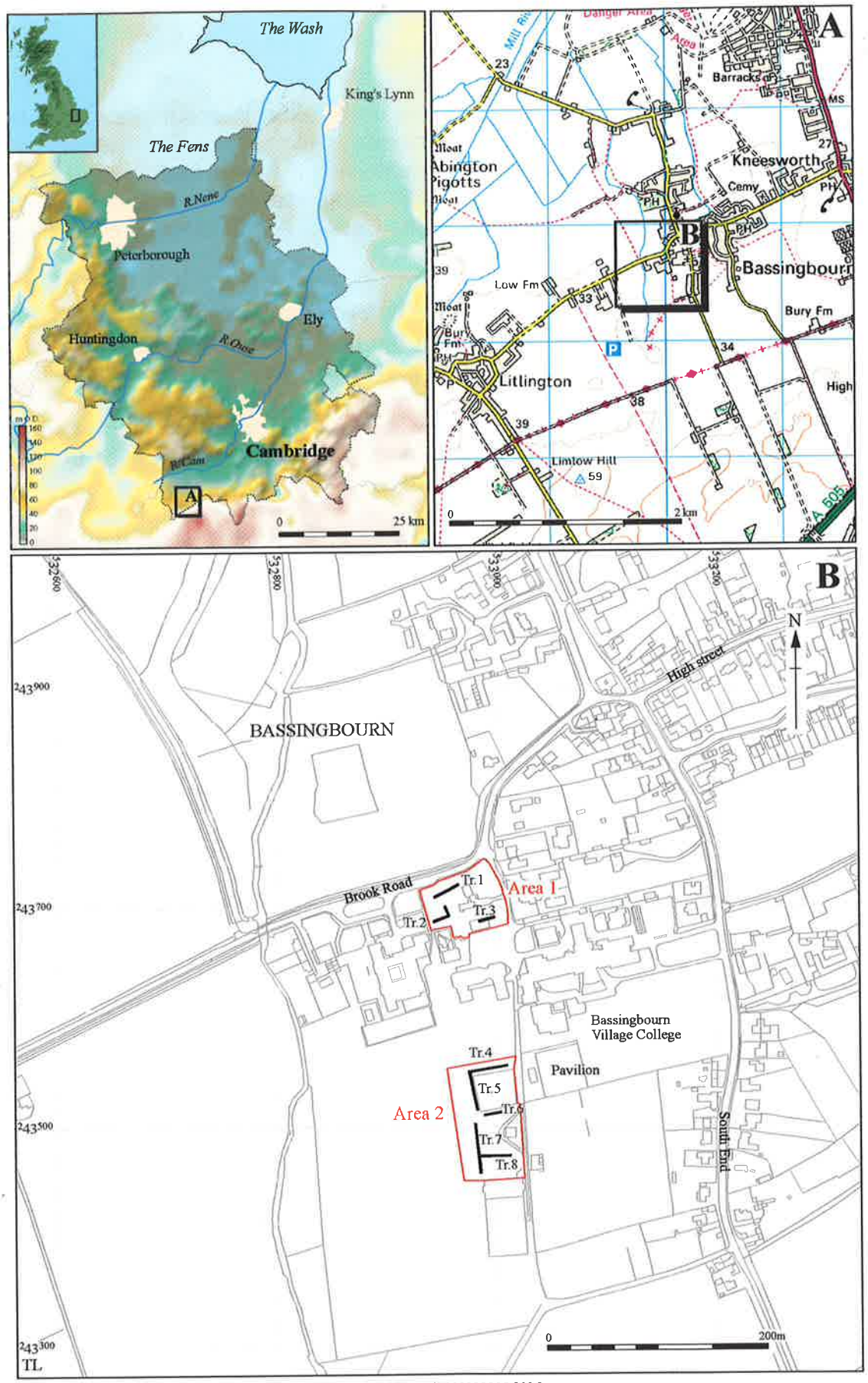




*Figure 1: Location of trenches with the development areas outlined (red)*

The only other fieldwork was an evaluation at Back Orchard (ECB107) in the north-east of the village which uncovered linear features probably representing medieval and post-medieval land boundaries (Wall & Bray 1998).

Aerial photography has revealed three groups of ring ditches to the south of the village (HER 09463, 09464 &09466), c. 800m south of the site.

Prehistoric evidence includes a Neolithic axe (HER03090) found c. 170m north of the site and a Bronze Age rapier (HER11494A) found by metal detector c. 350m to the north. Roman finds came from the same location (HER11494) as well as a Saxon brooch fragment (HER11494B).

Other Roman evidence includes a coin (MCB15964), a statuette of Diana (HER03123) and pottery (HER03089) though no direct settlement evidence has been recorded to date.

Two other medieval moated sites are recorded, one associated with the church and rectory (HER01238) and the other near the Red Lion pub (HER01239).

## 4 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that a 5% sample of the proposed development area should be subject to trial trenching. Eight trenches were excavated to the natural/archaeological horizon. Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trenches 1 and 2 were 25m long, Trenches 3 and 6 were 15m long, Trenches 4 and 5 were 35m long, Trench 7 was 45m long and Trench 8 was 30m long. A total area of 225m was investigated. Trenches 1 to 3 were located in Area 1 below the proposed car park site. Trenches 4 to 8 were located in Area 2 below the proposed sports hall building and sports pitch.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those, which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CCC AFU's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were

recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Three 20L environmental samples were taken from relevant features to investigate possible survival of micro- and macro-botanical remains.

Extreme dry weather conditions in the weeks preceding the evaluation had parched the ground making machining difficult. Once opened unseasonably heavy rain flooded the trenches resulting in lost time during the evaluation, impacting upon the excavation methodology. The presence of numerous unrecorded modern service trenches also hampered the excavation of the trenches.

## 5 Results

Archaeological features were recorded in seven out of the eight trenches, and consisted of ditches, pits, postholes and beam slots. The results will be discussed on a trench-by-trench basis; the empty Trench 3 will not be described.

The topsoil and subsoil were uniform across both areas of the site, they were numbered separately by area for finds retrieval. Full context descriptions are included in Appendix 1; soil descriptions are only included in the text where appropriate. Unless otherwise stated all features cut natural layer 3=6 and were sealed by subsoil layer 2=5.

| Trench | Topsoil | Subsoil | Total depth to archaeology |
|---|---|---|---|
| Trench 1 | (1) 0.38m | (2) 0.30m | 0.68m |
| Trench 2 | (1) 0.30m | (2) 0.32m | 0.62m |
| Trench 3 | (1) 0.14m | (2) 0.30m | 0.44m |
| Trench 4 | (4) 0.22m | (5) 0.31m | 0.53m |
| Trench 5 | (4) 0.32m | (5) 0.20m | 0.52m |
| Trench 6 | (4) 0.28m | (5) 0.34m | 0.66m |
| Trench 7 | (4) unrecorded | (5) unrecorded | 0.47m |
| Trench 8 | (4) unrecorded | (5) unrecorded | 0.47m |

*Table 1: Depth of topsoil and subsoil across the site*

### 5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 2) was orientated east to west and located at the northern edge of Area 1, parallel with Brook Road. Three pits and a posthole were recorded all of which are believed to be 18th or 19th century in date.

### *5.1.1 Pits*

Pits **11**, **13** and **15** were partially exposed within the trench. All three were sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and flat bases. They were comparable in depth ranging between 0.18m and 0.20m. Each had a similar, single, fill numbered 10, 12 and 14 respectively. Fill 10 contained a single piece of Staffordshire stoneware pottery dating to the 18th or 19th century, while fill 12 contained a very small sherd of transfer printed pottery of a similar date. Pits **11** and **13** were disturbed by a large uncontexted tree bowl. Pit **15** was truncated by a modern service trench. The three pits were all recorded as being below subsoil layer 2.

### *5.1.2 Posthole*

Oval posthole **9** was located 0.25m to the east of pit **11**, cutting through the subsoil layer (2). Its lower fill (8) consisted of over fired brick fragments set into concrete. This formed the packing around a square post pipe filled with mid grey brown silt (7), incorporating concrete and brick fragments from the packing (8) distubed by the removal of the post. The posthole was sealed by topsoil 1.

## 5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Fig. 2) was L-shaped and orientated north to south and east to west, sited at the western limit of Area 1. It contained three ditches and two postholes. Two service trenches ran diagonally across the trench from north-east to south-west, one of which was the continuation of the service trench seen in Trench 1.

### *5.2.1 Ditches*

Ditch **36** was a steep sided flat based linear feature oriented east to west located against the southern baulk of the trench. Its eastern terminal was located but its full extent was unknown. It measured 0.5m+ in width and 0.4m in depth. A single fill (35) was identified consisting of mid brown clay silt mixed with a bluey grey ashy deposit. No diagnostic inclusions or finds were retrieved.

Ditch **42** was also east to west oriented, although unlike ditch **36** it was very shallow measuring 0.6m in width and 0.04m in depth. Its single fill (41) produced no diagnostic inclusions or datable artefacts.

Ditch **44** was located 2m to the north of ditch **42** on a slightly divergent alignment. It was oriented east-south-east to west-north-west. Despite this variation their similarity indicates that their use was probably associated. It was also 0.6m wide and measured 0.08m in depth. Both were truncated almost to their base leaving little information to suggest

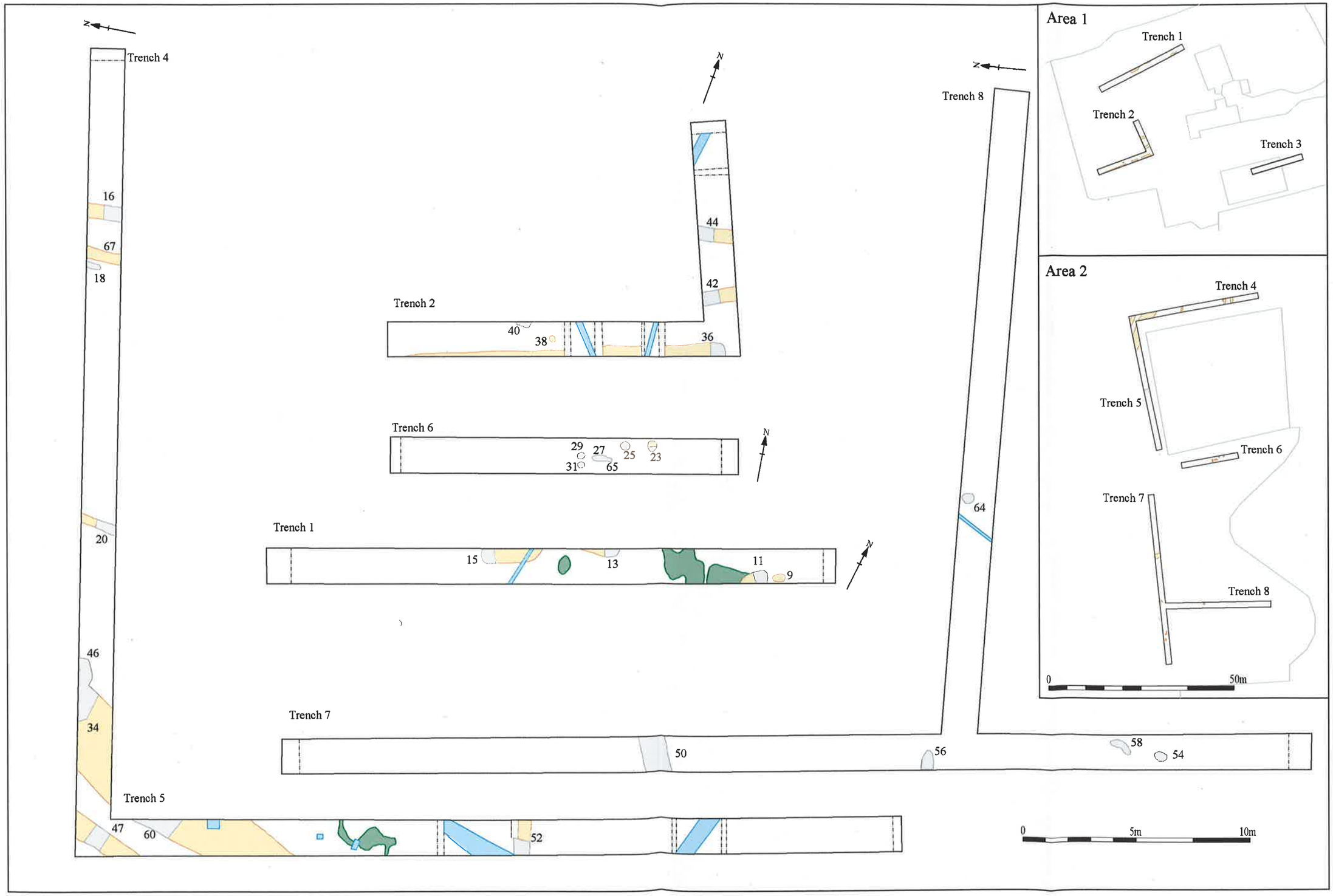


*Figure 2: Plan of trenches 1 to 2 and 4 to 8*

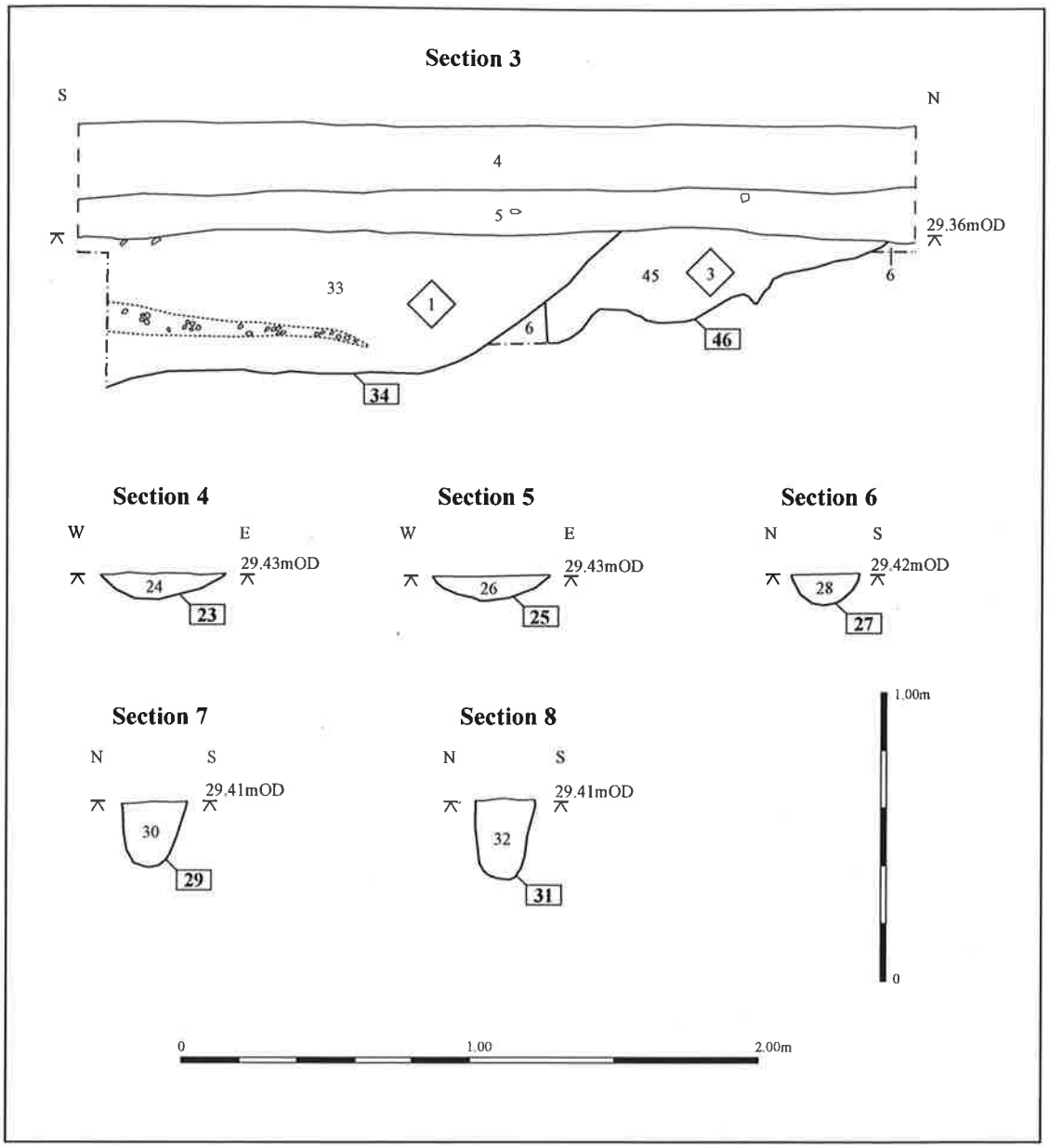


*Figure 3: Section drawings*

a possible function. Fill 43 was identical in appearance to fill 41 and also contained no datable artefacts.

### *5.2.2 Postholes*

Two postholes were recorded in the east to west arm of the trench. Posthole **40** was located against the northern baulk of the trench, it was sub-circular in plan, and u-shaped in profile it had steep sides and a concave base. The single fill (39) produced no datable artefacts. Posthole **38** sited 1m to the south-east of posthole **40** was not excavated because the trench flooded. It was also sub-circular in plan and its upper fill (37) was similar to fill 39.

## 5.3 Trench 4

Trench 4 (Fig. 2) was oriented east to west and sited immediately to the north of and parallel with the tarmac basketball court. It formed an L-shape with Trench 5 and contained five ditches and one possible plank slot.

### *5.3.1 Ditches*

Ditch **16** was a narrow shallow linear feature oriented north-north-east to south-south-west. It was a u-shaped ditch with gradual sides and a concave base, measuring 0.6m in width and 0.15m in depth. Its single fill (17) contained moderate quantities of charcoal flecks and a single piece of ?Romano-British tile.

Ditch **67** was located 1.3m to the west of ditch **16** and shared its alignment. Its upper fill was similar in appearance to fill 17. This ditch was not excavated due to time constraints, but its similarity to adjacent ditch **16** suggested they were probably contemporary.

Ditch **18** was a steep sided, flat based, u-shaped linear feature oriented north-north-east to south-south-west. It was located 0.15m to the west of the similarly aligned ditch **67**. Some 0.6m of the ditch was recorded running from its southern terminal into the northern baulk. It was 0.22m wide and 0.09m deep. A single light yellowy grey fill (19) was recorded within the ditch, which contained no datable artefacts. Its light coloured fill was dissimilar to those recorded in ditches **16** and **67**.

Approximately 20m to the west of ditch **18** was a large linear ditch (**34**) oriented north-east to south-west. It was also recorded as ditch **60** in trench 5. It was u-shaped in profile with steep sides and a flat base, measuring 3m in width and 0.49m in depth. A single fill was recorded (33) which included occasional charcoal flecks as well as seven small sherds of ? Iron Age pottery probably from a single vessel.

This ditch truncated tree bowl **46**, its single fill (45) contained a high percentage of bluey grey ash and charcoal. Another tree bowl was recorded in Trench 5 with a similar ashy fill.

Ditch **47** was located 1m to the west of ditch **34** it was oriented north-east to south-west mirroring the line of the wider ditch. It was a steep sided, flat based, u-shaped linear ditch measuring 0.9m in width and 0.25m in depth. Two fills were identified, the lower fill (48) was light yellowy brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions. The section and description indicate that this material was primary in wash of the loose gravely sides of the ditch. The upper fill (69) was darker in colour and comparable to the fill of the adjacent wider ditch **34**.

### *5.3.2 ?Plank slot*

Lying 7m to the east of ditch **34** was a narrow linear plank slot (**20**) running on a similar north-east to south-west alignment. It had gradual (?eroded) upper sides becoming near vertical and a flat base. It measured 0.35m wide and 0.31m deep, its profile suggesting that it might have been designed to support vertical planks set into the ground. Two fills were recorded within the slot, the lower fill (21) contained a moderate quantity of charcoal flecks within a mid grey brown sandy silt. It was confined to the deepest part of the slot and appeared to have a higher humic content than the overlying fill (22). This deposit was a mid browny grey sandy silt with no identified inclusions. Neither fill produced any datable material.

## 5.4 Trench 5

Trench 5 (Fig. 5) was oriented north to south and sited immediately to the west of and parallel with the tarmac basketball court. It formed an L-shape with Trench 4 and contained two ditches.

### *5.4.1 Ditches*

Ditch **52** was oriented east to west. The southern side of the ditch was exposed within the trench, its northern side was truncated by a modern service trench. From its southern profile it is possible to suggest that it was a linear feature with a flat based u-shaped profile. It measured 0.66m+ in width and 0.18m in depth. No datable artefacts were retrieved from the single homogenous fill (51).

Ditch **60** was the continuation of ditch 34 recorded in Trench 4. It was similar in profile although shallower at 0.36m in depth. Its single fill (59) is the same as fill 33.

## 5.5 Trench 6

Trench 6 (Fig. 2) was oriented east to west and located immediately to the south of and parallel with the basketball court. It contained five postholes and a possible beam slot.

### *5.5.1 Structural remains*

Posthole **23** was truncated almost to its base, it measured 0.4m in diameter and was 0.08m deep. It was circular and was u-shaped in profile. Its single fill (24) contained no diagnostic inclusions.

Circular posthole **25** was located 0.8m to the west of posthole **23**. It was also truncated almost to its base; it measured 0.38m in diameter and 0.08m deep, and had a u-shaped profile. Its single fill (26) was very similar to fill 24 and also contained no diagnostic inclusions.

Posthole **29** measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.22m in depth, it was circular with steep sides and had a flat based u-shaped profile. Its single fill (30) contained no diagnostic inclusions.

Posthole **31** was located 0.1m to the south of posthole **29** and measured 0.20m in diameter and 0.28m in depth, it was circular with steep sides and had a flat based u-shaped profile. Its single fill (32) was similar to fill 30 and also contained no diagnostic inclusions.

? Beam slot **27** was oriented east to west and located 0.3m to the east of both postholes **29** and **31**. It was 0.7m in length, 0.2m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and a u-shaped profile. Its single fill (28) was similar to those of the nearby postholes **29**, **31** and **65**. It contained a single small sherd of pottery probably of Iron Age date. This sherd was a similar fabric to the pottery retrieved from context 33, fill of ditch **34**, in Trench 4.

Posthole **65** was located at the east end of beam slot **27**, no relationship between the two could be discerned during excavation despite their proximity and it is likely that the two were contemporary. It was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat based u-shaped profile. It measured 0.24m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. Its single fill (66) was identical to that of the adjacent beam slot and merged with it blurring the boundary between the two features. It is probable that the two deposits accumulated simultaneously.

## 5.6 Trench 7

Trench 7 (Fig. 2) was oriented north to south and located 12m to the south of Trench 5, forming a T-shape with Trench 8. It contained two ditches and two pits.


*Plate 1: Pre-excavation shot of slot **27** masking posthole **65**, postholes **29** and **31** at the west end*


*Plate 2: Excavated structural remains; postholes **29**, **31** and **65** with associated slot **27***

### 5.6.1 *Ditches*

Ditch **50** was a severely truncated linear feature oriented west-south-west to east-north-east. It measured 1.1m in width and 0.09m in depth, and was a wide flat based u-shape in profile. No datable artefacts were retrieved from the single fill (49).

Ditch **56** was located 11m to the south of ditch **50**. It was east to west aligned running from an eastern terminal into the western trench baulk. It measured 0.75m in length, 0.44m in width and 0.05m in depth. It had a flat based u-shaped profile. The ditch contained a single fill (55) with no datable artefacts.

### 5.6.2 *Pits*

Pit **54** was sub-circular in plan with a flat based u-shaped profile. It measured 0.6m in length, 0.33m in width and 0.08m in depth. No datable artefacts were retrieved from the single fill (53).

Pit **58** was located 1m to the north of pit **54**. It sub-rectangular in plan with a u-shaped profile. It measured 0.9m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.12m in depth. No datable artefacts were retrieved from the single fill (57). The interpretation as a pit is insecure, it might have represented a natural feature, but its proximity to pit **54** informed its interpretation.

## 5.7 Trench 8

Trench 8 (Fig. 2) was oriented east to west forming a T-shape with trench 7. It contained a single pit.

Pit **64** was sub-circular in plan with a flat based, u-shaped profile. It measured 0.53m in length, 0.42m in width and 0.06m in depth. Its single fill (63) contained no datable artefacts.

# 6 Discussion

The evaluation at Bassingbourn has increased the understanding of its settlement history in an area that had previously seen little or no intrusive archaeological investigation.

## 6.1 Area 1

The pits (**11**, **13** and **15**) and posthole (**9**) indicate some form of structure and associated activity adjacent to Brook Road, probably dating to the 18th or 19th century. However, no evidence of a structure

is recorded on the 1891 first edition Ordnance Survey map in this location. The ditches and postholes in Trench 2 indicate some form of occupation in this area but the absence of datable artefacts and lack of stratigraphy preclude a firm interpretation. On the basis of evidence from Area 2 an Iron Age date for this activity might be feasible. The absence of archaeology in Trench 3 and the absence of pre-modern archaeology in Trench 1 indicates that this activity does not extend much further to the east into the development area.

## 6.2 Area 2

In Area 2 the archaeological remains were mainly clustered in the northern part of the development area, around the current basketball court. A small number of features were recorded to the south of this but the density decreased markedly.

Trenches 4 and 5 had evidence for boundary and or enclosure ditches probably representing more than one phase of activity. The three ditches in the eastern half of the trench (**16**, **18** and **67**) were all broadly on the same north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and were comparable in form. It is possible that their use was associated but their function is uncertain. A single piece of ? Romano-British tile was retrieved from ditch **16**, however, its location at the interface between the ditch fill and the overlying subsoil in association with the general absence of Romano-British artefacts across the site would suggest that this was intrusive.

To the west ditch **34/60** and ditch **47** were probably broadly contemporary, dating to the Iron Age. They were both north-east to south-west aligned and their fills were very similar. Ditch **34/60** was 3m wide but only approximately 0.5m deep, ditch **47** was much narrower but the coincidence of their alignment suggests their contemporaneity. It is possible that both formed part of an enclosure but this interpretation is speculative. The possible plank slot **20** on a similar alignment 6m to the east of the wide ditch suggests the presence of some form of associated structure. This might support the interpretation of enclosure ditches bounding a settlement area to the east.

The two comparable tree bowls recorded in Trenches 4 and 5 suggest an episode of landscape clearance. Tree bowl **46** was clearly truncated by ditch **34** indicating an Iron Age or, more probably, earlier prehistoric date for this activity. Burnt snail shells were noted in the environmental sample taken from the fill of tree bowl **46** perhaps indicating that a fire was set within the hollow to aid the clearance.

To the south in Trench 6 the structural remains can be placed into two groups. It is not known whether both groups formed part of a single phase of activity or whether their use was unrelated.

The first group consists of the two postholes (**23** and **25**). They were comparable in plan, profile and depth. Their proximity supports the interpretation that their use was related but no function can be ascribed.

The second group is composed of postholes **29**, **31** and **65**, and a beam slot **27**. Postholes **29** and **31** were again comparable in plan, profile and depth and were sited close together. Both were smaller in diameter and deeper than postholes **23** and **25**. Posthole **65** was located at the eastern end of beam slot **27**. These were comparable in depth and their fills were believed to have formed simultaneously supporting the interpretation that they functioned together. These postholes and beam slot were probably all contemporary and might have formed part of the internal features of a single structure. The sherd of pottery retrieved from the beam slot would indicate an Iron Age date for this structure, possibly broadly contemporary with ditch **34**.

## 7 Conclusions

The evaluation has provided evidence for possible Iron Age settlement on a relatively small scale on the southern side of the current village at Bassingbourn.

Interpretation of the activity has been hampered by a number of factors; primarily the level of truncation witnessed across both of the development areas. This is presumably the result of both post-Roman agricultural practices and levelling for the creation of the school playing fields. In some instances features have been truncated to a depth of less than 0.1m, making it difficult to determine form and function.

Despite the general absence of artefacts across the site it is possible to suggest some broad conclusions from the limited finds assemblage. The presence of a flint scraper, possibly dating to the early Bronze Age, within the topsoil (4) in Area 2 and the burnt out tree bowls in the same area suggest there was some prehistoric activity in the vicinity. Only two features contained pottery datable to the Iron Age, but it has been possible to assign a similar date to a number of other associated features. The absence of Romano-British and medieval pottery would suggest there was little or no activity of either period on the site. The features containing no datable artefacts investigated during the evaluation could be ascribed an Iron Age date on the basis of the dated features in Area 2 and the significance of the absence of material from other periods.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Pick Everard Architects who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray, the site was excavated by Glenn Bailey, Andy Corrigan and Chris Faine. The report was illustrated by Alex Howe and edited by Elizabeth Shepherd Popescu. Richard Mortimer commented on the flint and pottery.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, Adrian Scruby visited the site on his behalf and monitored the evaluation.

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## Appendix 1: Context Information

| Context Number | Fill Of | Same as | Tr | Category | Feature Type | Function | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 4 | | layer | accumulation | topsoil | Modern |
| 2 | | 5 | | layer | accumulation | subsoil | Medieval/Modern |
| 3 | | 6 | | layer | natural deposit | | |
| 4 | | 1 | | layer | accumulation | topsoil | Modern |
| 5 | | 2 | | layer | accumulation | subsoil | Medieval/Modern |
| 6 | | 3 | | layer | natural deposit | | |
| 7 | 9 | | 1 | fill | post pipe | structural | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 8 | 9 | | 1 | fill | posthole | structural | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 9 | | | 1 | cut | posthole | structural | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 10 | 11 | | 1 | fill | pit | | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 11 | | | 1 | cut | pit | | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 12 | 13 | | 1 | fill | pit | | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 13 | | | 1 | cut | pit | | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 14 | 15 | | 1 | fill | pit | | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 15 | | | 1 | cut | p[it | | ? 18th/19th Century |
| 16 | | | 4 | cut | ditch | | Undated |
| 17 | | | 4 | fill | ditch | | Undated |
| 18 | | | 4 | cut | ditch | | Undated |
| 19 | 18 | | 4 | fill | ditch | | Undated |
| 20 | | | 4 | cut | slot | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 21 | 20 | | 4 | fill | slot | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 22 | 20 | | 4 | fill | slot | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 23 | | | 6 | cut | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 24 | 23 | | 6 | fill | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 25 | | | 6 | cut | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 26 | 25 | | 6 | fill | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 27 | | | 6 | cut | slot | beam slot | Iron Age |
| 28 | 27 | | 6 | fill | slot | beam slot | Iron Age |
| 29 | | | 6 | cut | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 30 | 29 | | 6 | fill | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 31 | | | 6 | cut | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 32 | 31 | | 6 | fill | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 33 | 34 | 59 | 4 | fill | ditch | enclosure | Iron Age |
| 34 | | 60 | 4 | cut | ditch | enclosure | Iron Age |

| Context Number | Fill Of | Same as | Tr | Category | Feature Type | Function | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | 36 | | 2 | fill | ditch | | Undated |
| 36 | | | 2 | cut | ditch | | Undated |
| 37 | 38 | | 2 | fill | posthole | | Undated |
| 38 | | | 2 | cut | posthole | | Undated |
| 39 | 40 | | 2 | fill | posthole | | Undated |
| 40 | | | 2 | cut | posthole | | Undated |
| 41 | 42 | | 2 | fill | ditch | boundary | Undated |
| 42 | | | 2 | cut | ditch | boundary | Undated |
| 43 | 44 | | 2 | fill | ditch | boundary | Undated |
| 44 | | | 2 | cut | ditch | boundary | Undated |
| 45 | 46 | | 4 | fill | natural | tree bowl | Prehistoric |
| 46 | | | 4 | cut | natural | tree bowl | Prehistoric |
| 47 | | | 4 | cut | ditch | enclosure | ? Iron Age |
| 48 | 47 | | 4 | fill | ditch | enclosure | ? Iron Age |
| 49 | 50 | | 7 | fill | ditch | boundary | Undated |
| 50 | | | 7 | cut | ditch | | Undated |
| 51 | 52 | | 5 | fill | ditch | boundary | Undated |
| 52 | | | 5 | cut | ditch | boundary | Undated |
| 53 | 54 | | 7 | fill | pit | | Undated |
| 54 | | | 7 | cut | pit | | Undated |
| 55 | 56 | | 7 | fill | ditch | | Undated |
| 56 | | | 7 | cut | ditch | | Undated |
| 57 | 58 | | 7 | fill | pit | structural | Undated |
| 58 | | | 7 | cut | pit | structural | Undated |
| 59 | 60 | 33 | 5 | fill | ditch | enclosure | Iron Age |
| 60 | | 34 | 5 | cut | ditch | enclosure | Iron Age |
| 61 | | | | | void | | Void |
| 62 | | | | | void | | Void |
| 63 | 64 | | 8 | fill | pit | | Undated |
| 64 | | | 8 | cut | pit | | Undated |
| 65 | | | 6 | cut | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 66 | 65 | | 6 | fill | posthole | structural | ? Iron Age |
| 67 | | | 4 | cut | ditch | | Undated |
| 68 | 67 | | 4 | fill | ditch | | Undated |
| 69 | 47 | | 4 | fill | ditch | enclosure | ? Iron Age |

*Table 2: Context type with preliminary dates*

| Context Number | Category | Colour | Compaction | Fine component | Coarse component |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | layer | dark greyey brown | Friable | sandy silt | frequent small chalk flecks, frequent small flint pieces |
| 2 | layer | light brown | friable | sandy silt | rare flint pieces |
| 3 | layer | orangey yellow | friable | sandy silt | frequent chalk flecks, frequent medium sub-angular flint pieces |
| 4 | layer | dark browny grey | friable | sandy silt | moderate small flint fragments, frequent modern debris |

| Context Number | Category | Colour | Compaction | Fine component | Coarse component |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | layer | mid greyey brown | friable | sandy silt | Occasional charcoal flecks, moderate small flint fragments, occasional chalk pebbles |
| 6 | layer | yellowy orange | friable | sandy silt | moderate medium sub-angular flint pieces, moderate degraded chalk fragments |
| 7 | fill | mid greyey brown | friable | sandy silt | moderate brick fragments, moderate degraded cement fragments, occasional charcoal |
| 8 | fill | light grey | cemented | sand and gravel | |
| 10 | fill | mid greyey brown | friable | sandy silt | moderate chalk flecks, occasional charcoal flecks |
| 12 | fill | mid greyey brown | friable | sandy silt | occasional flint, occasional charcoal |
| 14 | fill | mid greyey brown | friable | sandy silt | flint, chalk, occasional charcoal |
| 17 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | moderate charcoal flecks, rare cbm fragments |
| 19 | fill | very pale yellowy grey | friable | silty sand | moderate small flint fragments |
| 21 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | moderate charcoal flecks, moderate small flint pieces |
| 22 | fill | mid browny grey | friable | silty sand | |
| 24 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | |
| 26 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | |
| 28 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | occasional charcoal fleck, rare small bone fragment |
| 30 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | |
| 32 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | |
| 33 | fill | mid orange brown | friable | sandy silt | occasional charcoal flecks, rare pot, moderate small to medium sub-angular flint |
| 35 | fill | mixed mid bluey grey with mid brown | friable | clay silt | very rare small stones, occasional angular small flint fragments |
| 37 | fill | mid grey brown | | silt | |
| 39 | fill | mid grey | | silt | |

| Context Number | Category | Colour | Compaction | Fine component | Coarse component |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | brown | | | |
| 41 | fill | mid brown | friable | silt | occasional small stones |
| 43 | fill | mid brown | friable | silt | occasional small stones |
| 45 | fill | dark browny grey | friable | silty clay | frequent charcoal flecks |
| 48 | fill | light yellowy brown | friable | sandy silt | frequent gravel |
| 49 | fill | mid brown | friable | clay silt | occasional small sub-angular flint fragments |
| 51 | fill | mid grey brown | soft | silt | |
| 53 | fill | mid brown | friable | sandy silt | |
| 55 | fill | mid brown | friable | sandy silt | |
| 57 | fill | mid brown | friable | sandy silt | |
| 59 | fill | mid brown | friable | silt | rare small stones |
| 63 | fill | mid brown | friable | sandy silt | |
| 66 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | occasional charcoal flecks |
| 68 | fill | mid grey brown | | sandy silt | |
| 69 | fill | mid grey brown | friable | sandy silt | moderate small sub-angular flint pieces, occasional charcoal flecks |

*Table 3: Detailed deposit descriptions*

## Appendix 2: Finds Summary

| Context | Material | Object Name | Weight in Kg | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.004 | ?Medieval |
| 4 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.001 | 1 small sherd of transfer printed pottery, 18th/19th century |
| 4 | Flint | | 0.012 | SF 1. ? Scraper |
| 10 | Glass | Vessel | 0.009 | |
| 10 | Ceramic | Fired clay | 0.004 | 6 small fragments ? brick fragments |
| 10 | Ceramic | Ceramic Building Material | 0.012 | 1 tile fragment, pale creamy pink fabric |
| 10 | Shell | | 0.015 | 1 oyster shell fragment |
| 10 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.016 | 1 Staffordshire stoneware pottery sherd, 18th/19th century |
| 12 | Ceramic | Ceramic Building Material | 0.009 | 2 small brick fragments |
| 17 | Ceramic | Ceramic Building Material | 0.026 | 1 tile fragment, dark orangey red fabric moderate shell inclusions |
| 28 | Flint | | 0.001 | Less than 1g. 3 small flint flakes (unworked) |
| 28 | Bone | Bone | 0.001 | 2 very small bone fragments, unidentifiable |
| 33 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.008 | 7 small sherds Iron Age, unabraded, possibly from single vessel |
| 66 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.001 | 1 small sherd Iron Age, some abrasion |

*Table 4: Brief finds summary*

## Appendix 3: Environmental Appraisal

by Rachel Fosberry

### 1 Introduction and Methods

Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification.

### 2 Results

All three samples were devoid of any charred plant remains other than occasional flecks of charcoal. Snail shells were abundant in all three samples and some of the shells in sample 3, taken from context 45 fill of tree bowl **46**, have been burnt.

### 3 Conclusions and Recommendations

The low density of plant remains from the site is uninformative. Further analysis of the present samples is not recommended.

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