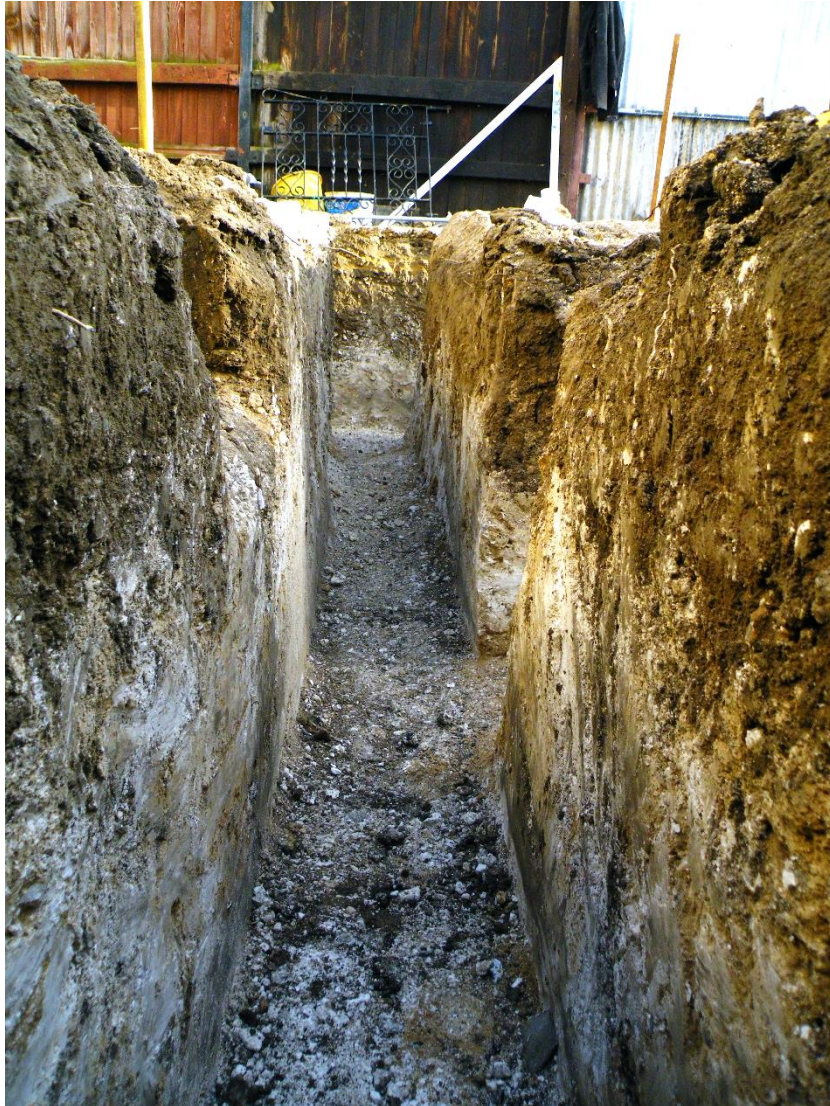


Observation of footings at 67 Clothall Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire



Keith J Fitzpatrick-Matthews

North Hertfordshire District Council

Museum Service

Archaeological Report 38

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Introduction

Baldock

Baldock is the smallest of four towns in the largely rural district of North Hertfordshire. An historic market town, established by the Knights Templar in the 1140s, it largely overlays an earlier Iron Age and Roman settlement, known through archaeological discoveries since 1925. The site of the current project lay on the edge of the medieval town, for which Clothall Road (formerly Pesthouse Lane) formed the eastern boundary; the core of the Roman town lay to the north-north-west and the earliest Iron Age settlement is thought to have developed north of the property.

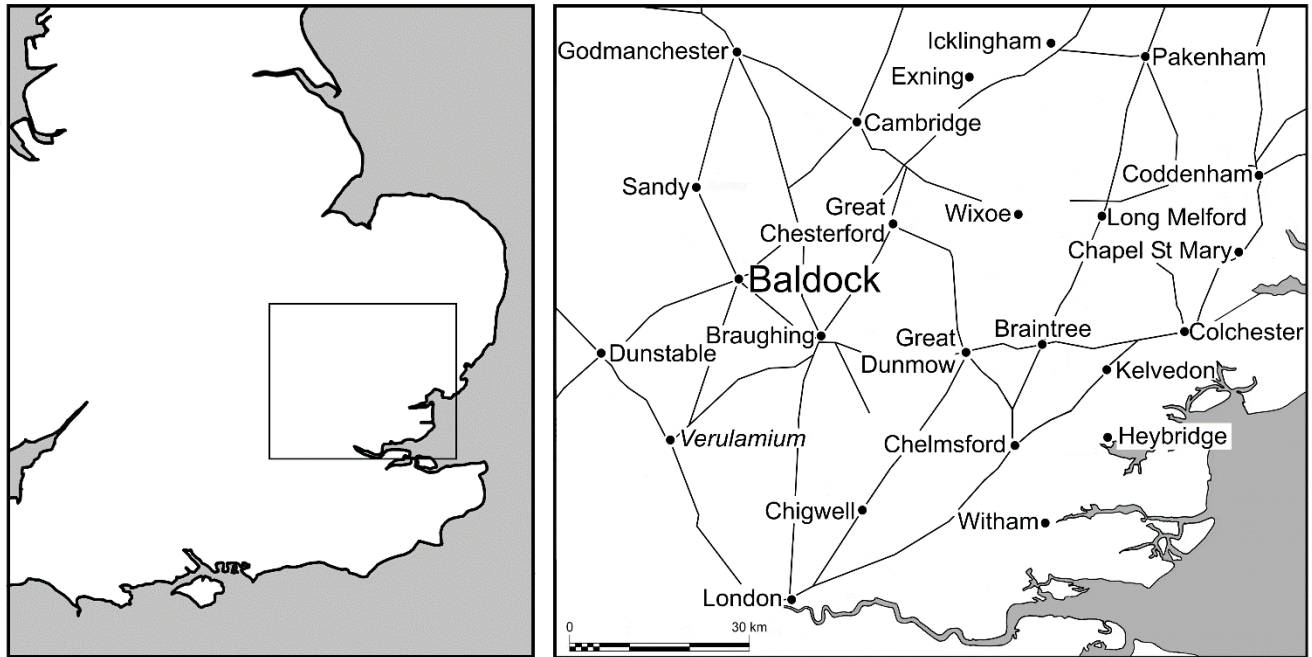


Figure 1: Baldock location (Roman roads and other Roman towns shown)

Geology

Baldock occupies a shallow bowl in the northern scarp of the chalk ridge of North Hertfordshire, a north-eastern extension of the Chilterns that have been thought to be the inspiration for John Bunyan's 'Delectable Mountains' (Munby 1977, 26). The town lies on the Upper Cretaceous deposits of the Middle Chalk, a rock that consists mainly of white chalk with no distinctive units other than Melbourn Rock, which occurs at its base (Catt 1978, 28-9; Hopson *et al.* 1996, 43). Beginning about 60 million years ago, the chalk underwent uplift, producing an eastward regional trend of about one degree, raising it above sea level and resulting in a period of erosion in the early Tertiary. A marine transgression during the Eocene then levelled out the surface of the chalk.

The chalk is a major aquifer containing generally potable water with dissolved calcium bicarbonate that makes it extremely hard (Hopson *et al.* 1996, 129). It is also a source of flint, particularly in its upper layers, which occurs locally both as nodules and as tabular flint. Chalk is a poor building stone, with only chalk rock being exploited, although it continued to be used until the early nineteenth century, generally restricted to infill between more durable materials. Lower quality chalk was formerly used to make a material known as clunch by puddling chalk slurry with straw and clay to produce building blocks that were not strong, and whose durability was limited and depended on keeping the material dry by plastering and roofing. Use of clunch ceased in the nineteenth century as brick became more widely available. A similar material, cob, was also produced in the Middle Ages and early post-medieval period, using clays mixed with chalk and straw (Pevsner 1977, 417); it is likely that a similar material was used at Baldock

during the Roman period. This suffers from the same limitations as clunch. Flint was also used as a building material in churches during the Middle Ages, although it is not now exploited.

Chalk has also been used in the production of cement, plaster and mortar, especially the marly deposits from the Lower Chalk, as they are highly siliceous and contain alumina, requiring only minimal additions of clay. Uses of the lime produced from roasting chalk have included building materials, as fertiliser and in the tanning process (Wilmore *et al.* 1925, 13).

To the south-east, towards Clothall, the chalk has been cut by a buried channel of Anglian date draining into the River Beane (part of the Thames catchment) and containing glaciofluvial deposits, but these do not extend to Baldock (Hopson *et al.* 1996, 89). The northern end of the channel contains the source of the River Ivel and its associated alluvial deposits; this watercourse drains into the Great Ouse.

Superficial geology, soils and land use potential

The subarctic periglacial conditions of much of the later Pleistocene caused considerable heaving of the chalk, with seasonal flushes of meltwater creating solution features, such as the numerous dolines found throughout Upper Walls Common. These solution features can range from a few millimetres across to fifty metres in diameter (Hopson *et al.* 1996, 124). Solifluction resulted in the redistribution of slope deposits and was perhaps the source of some of the gravel fans in the Baldock area. There is also a little löss (loess), sometimes incorporated into solifluction deposits, but also occasionally overlying the chalky boulder clay (Catt 1978, 34).

These deposits were the source of the soils that formed in the late and post-glacial periods. Changes in the climate and natural vegetation together with human induced alterations have led to constant development of the soils. Most of those based on from the Middle Chalk belong to the rendzina (or rendsina) and pelosol types, although there are also pockets of leached argillic brown earths and alluvial soils.

The topsoil at 67 Clothall Road is a rendzina of the Upton Association (Catt *et al.* 2010, 208), a soil that occurs in an irregular band between Letchworth to the west and Royston to the east. They are mostly shallow and tend to occur directly above the Middle Chalk (Davis *et al.* 1992). The pre-cultivation vegetation of these soils would perhaps have been beech woodland in areas where they were relatively deep and moist, and lime tolerant shrub and grass species in drier areas. Such soils may have been attractive to early farmers because of their ease of cultivation and high initial fertility; indeed, those of the first type can only be shallow ploughed, as deep ploughing incorporates shattered chalk bedrock. However, they are easily depleted of potassium, a number of other trace elements and organic content, and they are rapidly parched in drought conditions. This can lead to a loss of soil structure, deflation and erosion by wind or water.

Since the end of the Roman period, there has been considerable disturbance to the A Horizon of the soils, mainly through medieval and later cultivation. This was exacerbated with the advent of deep ploughing during the twentieth century. As a result, few, if any, features from the ancient settlements survive as surface features. Nevertheless, this disturbance does not appear to have altered the depths of the soils to any great extent. In Walls Field, there is evidence for considerable post-Roman hillwash, as many of the cremations discovered there in the 1920s were buried to a depth of over four feet (1.2 m), while on Upper Walls Common, at the top of the slope, there was rarely more than 0.3 m of soil above the surface of the chalk and often rather less. Only in the dolines did any depth of stratified deposits survive, often ranging in date from the Late Neolithic to the sub-Roman or later periods, albeit in discontinuous sequences.

Topography

Baldock lies at the northern end of a buried channel of Anglian date, north of the watershed between the Thames and Great Ouse drainage basins. To the south-east, the conical Bird Hill is a prominent landmark on the edge of the uplands, which form a low, rolling plateau landscape beyond. The ancient settlement

partly occupies the slope of a low ridge marking the eastern edge of the palaeochannel, the bulk of it lying on the level ground below. The land drops slowly toward the north-east, forming the upper valley of the River Ivel, while the Roman road to Sandy follows a ridge of higher ground to the east, continuing the edge of the palaeochannel on a more northerly alignment. West of the town, the land rises gently to a low plateau occupied now by Letchworth Garden City, while to the south-south-west, the ridge of the Weston Hills, running west-south-west to east-north-east, dominates the landscape.

The ancient settlement occupied roughly level ground, between the low ridge now occupied by the Clothall Common estate to the north-north-east, the Weston Hills to the south and the upland plateau where Letchworth Garden City was established. The site at 67 Clothall Road lies toward the south-eastern edge of this flat area.

Archaeological background

The present town of Baldock was founded by the Knights Templar in the 1140s, who named it *Baudac*, the Old French form of the name Baghdad (Arabic بغداد *Baġdād*; Salmon 1728, 178; Gover *et al.* 1938, 120). This probably reflects their aspirations for the town, as Baghdad was then reputed to be the most prosperous city in the world. Although Baldock did prosper, it seems never to have ranked higher than sixth position among Hertfordshire towns, with the nearby Hitchin and Ashwell in second and third places respectively in the first half of the sixteenth century (Goose 2008, 106 Table 5.2). What is unclear is whether the Templars founded their market on a virgin site or whether there was some form of pre-existing settlement, perhaps even with market functions (Williamson 2008, 44).

Baldock has been known as the site of an ancient settlement since Roman burials were discovered in Walls Field at Easter 1925. Excavations by Letchworth Museum revealed an extensive cemetery and, subsequently, the remains of buildings, roads and rubbish pits. Since then, there have been two major campaigns of excavations: one by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works from 1968 to 1972 and another by North Hertfordshire Museums from 1978 to 1994. In addition to this, there have been numerous smaller excavations and recording exercises, particularly since the publication in November 1990 of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, which made the presence of buried archaeology a material consideration in determining planning applications. As a result, Baldock is one of the best explored Romano-British 'small towns' (Burleigh 1995, 177) and is particularly well known for the number and variety of its burials (Esmonde Cleary 2000, 129).

It is now evident that the town developed long before the Roman conquest of AD 43 and that a nucleated settlement of some kind existed in the first half of the first century BC, if not before (Stead & Rigby 1986, 60). It is associated with an extensive system of dykes and other linear features (now known only as cropmarks) that show it to have been an *oppidum*, a class of settlement associated with tribal rulers, imported high-status goods and wealthy burials. By the 20s BC, it was developing the trappings of a Roman town, including metalled roadways and a street grid. Its growth continued into the second century AD, when it reached its maximum extent of around 50 ha. The area of settlement began to contract in the third century, although it is not known if this was a result of falling population or the consolidation of the core; certainly, the most substantial buildings in the town centre date from the fourth century. Unusually for a small town in eastern England, it survived the collapse of Roman rule in Britain and managed to maintain a Roman identity into the sixth century, after which it was abandoned (Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2010, 134).

The site

In the light of what is currently known about the importance of the archaeology of the town, planning applications—even for small-scale development—are generally subject to a condition requiring some type of archaeological response. The small-scale observation and recording exercise reported here follows the imposition of such a condition in an application for a house extension.

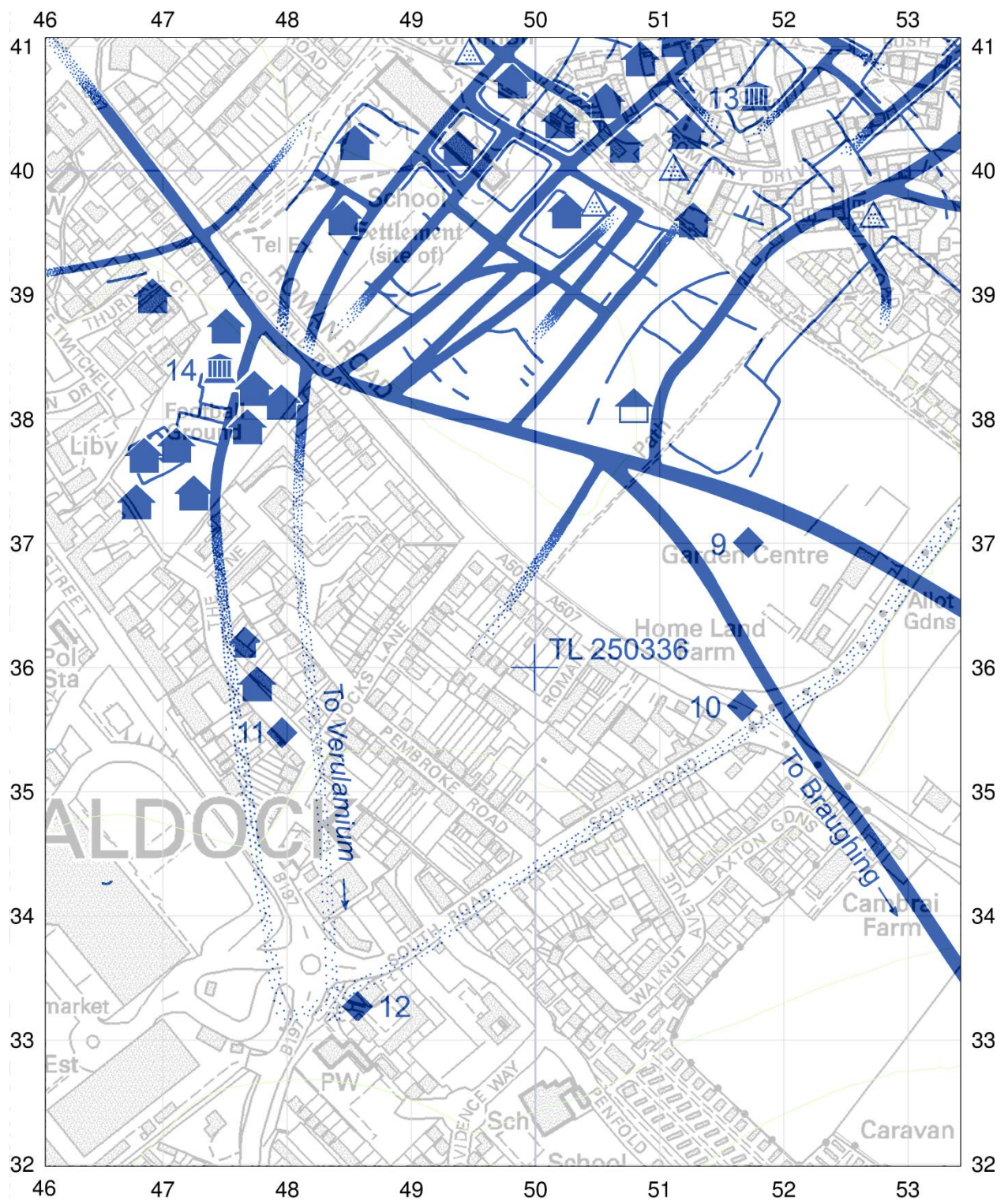


Figure 2: The Iron Age town (scale 1:5000)

Key: 1: Burial enclosure, California; 4: Burial enclosure, Downlands A; 5 Burial enclosure, Downlands B; 7: mortuary house and cursiform enclosure, Mercia Road; 8: cremation cemetery, South Road; 9: Chieftain's burial, The Tene; 16: temple, Hartsfield School

to the Planning Department of North Hertfordshire District Council on 27 March 2008 (reference 08/00670/1HH). Permission was granted on 21 May 2008. In 2011, an application to extend the time allowed for the permission was granted on 24 June (11/01137/1HH). Both applications contained the following conditions:

- 3 **No demolition/development shall take place/commence until an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of archaeological significance and research questions; and:**
1. **The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording**
 2. **The programme for post investigation assessment**
 3. **Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording**
 4. **Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation**
 5. **Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation**
 6. **Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation.**

Reason: To properly record matters of public interest for the archaeological record.

- 4 The development shall not be occupied/used until the archaeological investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 3 and the provision made for analysis.

Reason: To properly record matters of public interest for the archaeological record.

These are standard conditions typical for this type of recording work on a small development site as issued under the former Planning Policy Guidance Note until it was superseded by Planning Policy Statement 5 in March 2010, itself superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012.

Fieldwork

The house is currently owned by Mr Ed Brayton, whose builder, Mr David Timms, contacted the author on Monday 21 October to state that he was going to commence work on digging footings trenches later in the week. An arrangement to visit the site at 9.30 am on Wednesday 23 October was made. In the event, the work had only just started, so a second visit was made, on the afternoon of Friday 25 October 2013. All the recording took place on this occasion.

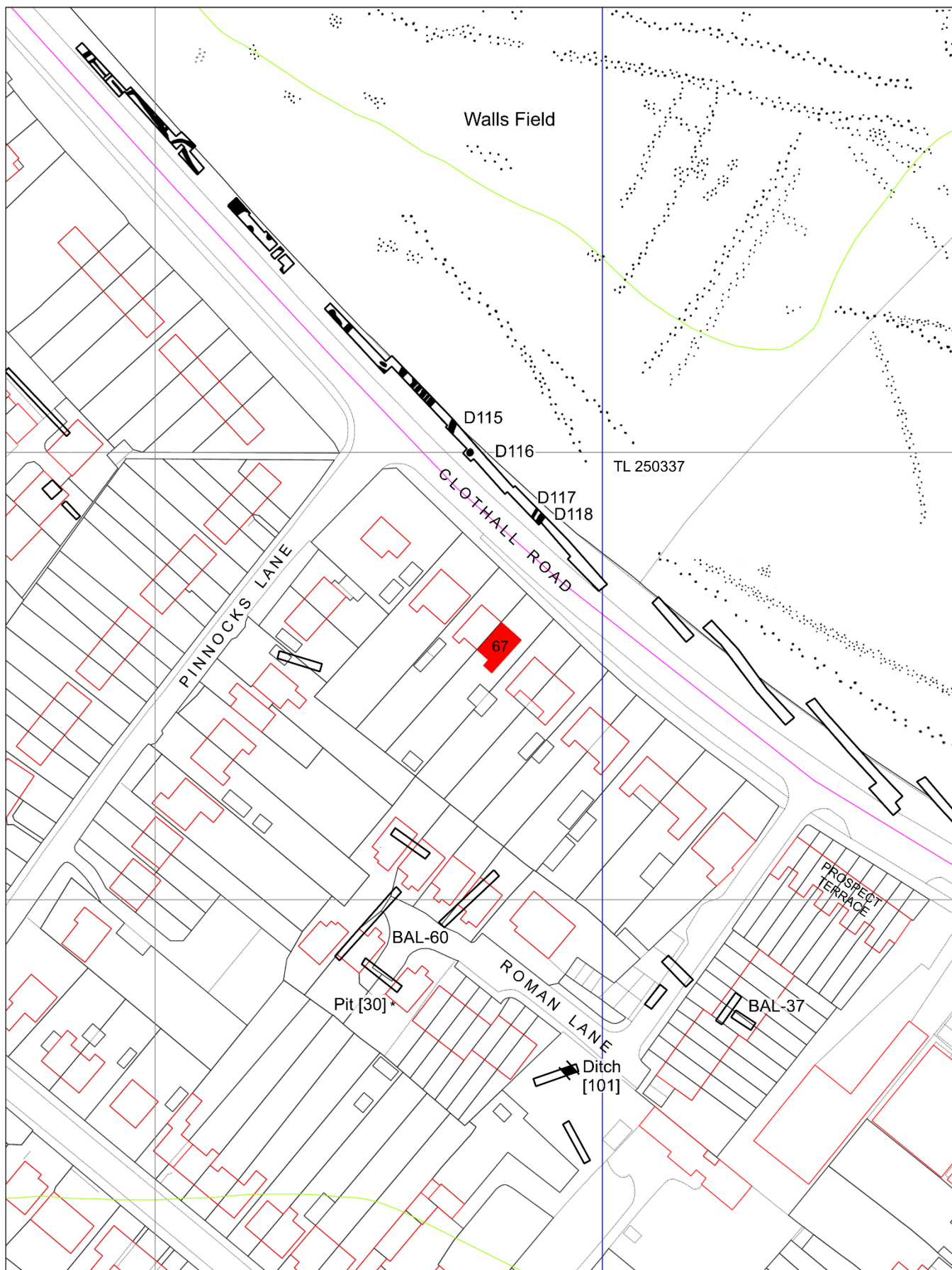


Figure 4: Site location plan (1:1250)

Project aims and methodology

General aims

The archaeological work was undertaken as a response to development work that involved the demolition of a single-storey extension and its replacement by a two-storey extension. Its principal aim was to record any remains that are likely to be lost, damaged or disturbed by the excavation of new foundation trenches.

Research objectives

Owing to the site's location close to the edge of the Iron Age *oppidum* and Roman town of Baldock, it was thought likely that the recording exercise might illustrate themes in these periods. In the recent revision to the Research Framework for the East of England, a number of themes have been identified as of major significance (Medlycott ed. 2011, 31 and 48):

- The Iron Age/Roman transition;
- Settlement types, especially the zonation of use and the role and function of settlement complexes;
- The origins of Roman towns;
- The Roman/Anglo-Saxon transition.

It was considered that the small scale nature of the work would not make a significant contribution to these topics but that it might fit into a wider pattern when considered alongside nearby archaeological interventions that had taken place before the adoption of an initial research framework in 2000 (Brown & Glazebrook eds 2000).

Methodology

Requirements

The aim of the watching brief was to observe the groundworks carried out by the building contractor and to record any stratigraphy revealed by them.

Standards

The work was undertaken in conformity with standards set out in the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

The site was assigned a unique alphanumeric code to identify all records, finds and samples relating to the project. This was: BAL/67CR '13.

Methods

All the foundation trenches were sketched in the field and related to the existing house structure during the site visit on 24 October 2013. Measurements over a metre were taken using a hand-held laser measuring tool, while those under a metre were taken with a hand tape. All measurements were made to an accuracy of 0.05 m.

Exposed archaeological stratigraphy was recorded initially on sketch sections with measurements as annotations; these were recorded to an accuracy of 0.01 m. Exposed features were subsequently drawn up in the office. However, owing the narrowness of the trenches, it proved impossible to photograph the exposed features.

A continuous context numbering system was used for all archaeological contexts, recorded individually on pre-printed pro-forma record sheets. Each context was described in terms of soil matrix, stratigraphic position and dimensions; an initial interpretation was also added in the field. The context record sheets

are cross-referenced to all other records, including plans, sections and sketches. Soil descriptions were standardised as far as possible.

Artefacts and ecofacts

No finds were visible in the exposed sections of archaeological features and rapid trowelling of the soil did not reveal any. Only later twentieth-century material was visible in the topsoil and modern foundations trenches, which was not recovered.

Fieldwork results

Recorded deposits and features

Altogether, nineteen deposits were recorded on site, most of which were the fills of archaeological features. These features had been cut through the chalk bedrock. Most contained no visible artefacts or ecofacts, with the exception of deposits (10) and (37); both contained twentieth-century material, which was noted but not collected.

All the section drawings are at a scale of 1:10, with the exception of Cut [24], which is reproduced at a scale of 1:20 owing to the width of the feature.

Spread deposits

Deposit (10)

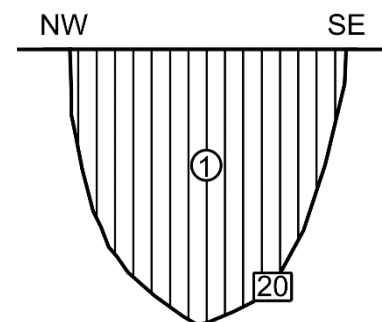
Covering the whole site was a mid grey brown sandy loam, (10), containing twentieth-century brick, tile, plastics and wire, none of which were retained. The upper part had largely been removed before the initial site visit. On the outer edges of the footings, where the deposit had not been removed, it was an average of 0.4 m thick. On the northern face of the south-westernmost foundation trench, it was thicker than elsewhere.

This deposit was the topsoil across the development site. It had been partly removed by mini digger to allow better cutting of the foundation trenches. The area that was thicker appeared to occupy a slight hollow in the underlying chalk bedrock, although this could not be determined to be archaeological in origin.

Cut features

Cut [20]

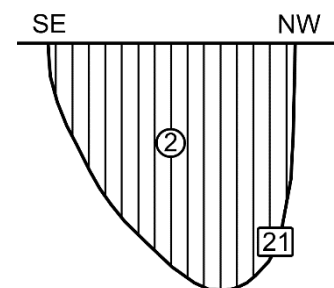
A U-shaped cut, [20], 0.30 m wide made into the chalk bedrock with near-vertical sides curving down into a base with a distinct angle, 0.30 m deep. It contained a single fill, (1), a mid brown sandy loam with no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.



This feature lay opposite a similar feature of identical dimensions, [21], albeit of different profile, on the south-western side of the footings trench. It is likely that they are part of a single feature, perhaps a shallow gully running approximately east-north-east to west-south-west. It is also trending towards features [28], [29] and [30], but it is unclear which, if any, might be related.

Cut [21]

A cut with one vertical side and one sloping at around 70°, [21], 0.30 m wide with a rounded base, 0.30 m deep. It contained a single fill, (2), a mid brown sandy loam with no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.



As noted above, this feature is probably the same as that seen in the opposite (north-eastern) side of the footings trench, [20].

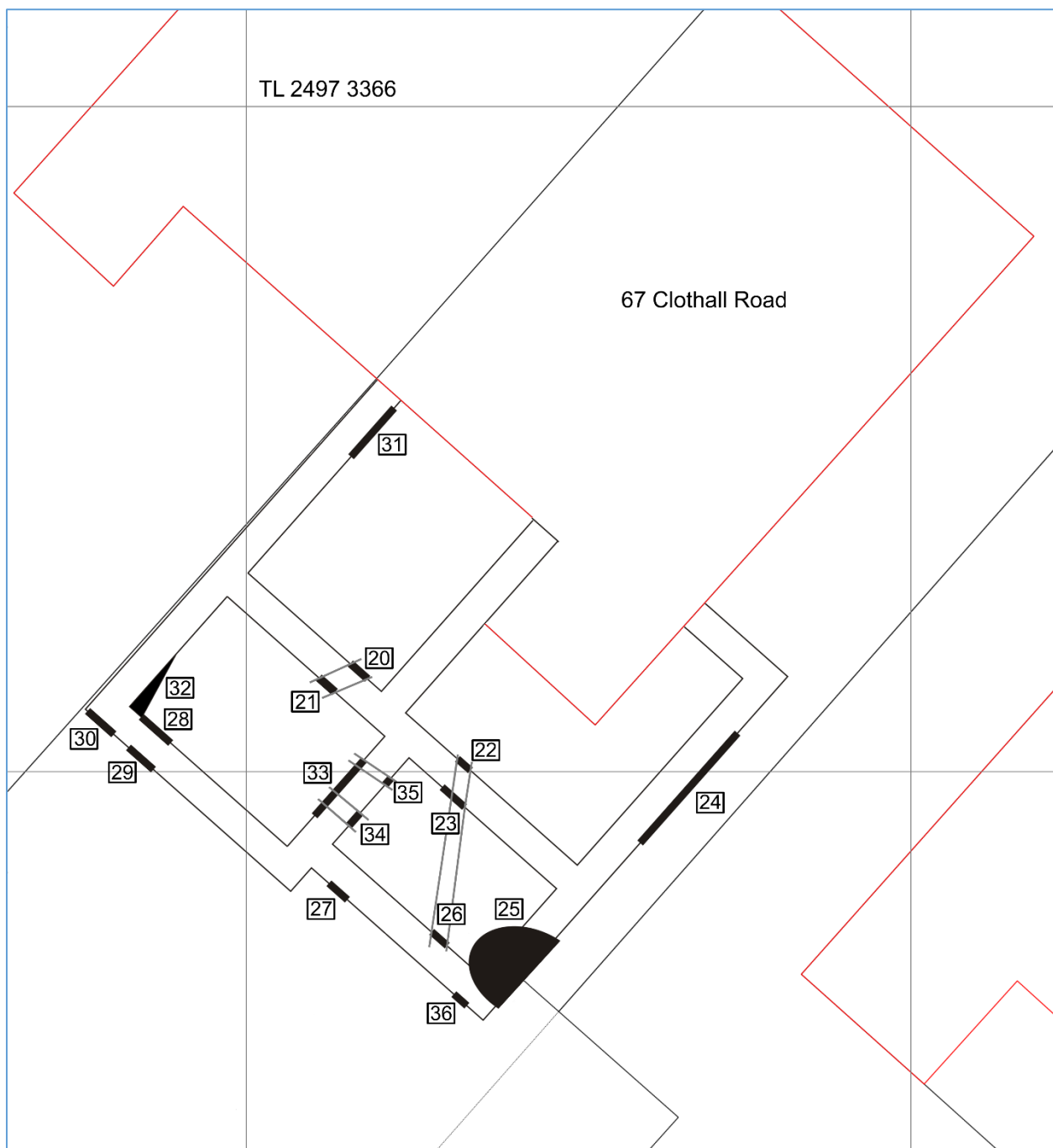
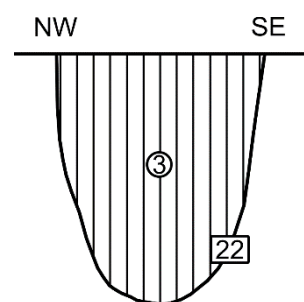


Figure 5: Archaeological features recorded in the footings trenches (scale 1:100)

Cut [22]

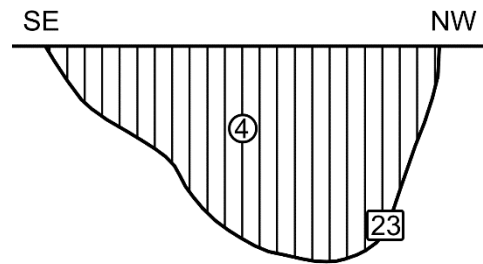
A U-shaped cut, [22], 0.25 m wide with near vertical sides and a rounded base, cut 0.30 m into the chalk bedrock. It contained a single fill, (3), a mid brown sandy loam containing no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.

This feature lay opposite one in the south-western edge of the footings trench, [23]. Although of different profile and dimensions, they are probably parts of a single feature, perhaps a gully running north-north-east to south-south-west. It is likely that they are also related to feature [26] to the south. It is also possible that feature [36] is part of the same gully. If they are indeed part of the same feature as [26]/[36], it suggests that the gully changed direction in the southern part of the footings trenches.



Cut [23]

A cut, [23], 0.45 m wide with a break of slope on the south-eastern side and a slope of around 75° to the north-west, cut 0.25 m into the chalk bedrock. It appeared to contain a single fill, (4), a mid brown sandy loam containing no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.



The profile of this feature suggests that it may have been two separate features, a shallower one to the south-east and a deeper one to the north-west, although no distinction was visible between the fills if this was the case. It lay opposite one in the north-eastern edge of the footings trench, [22], which is of similar profile and dimensions to the putative north-western feature. These two in turn line up with feature [26] to the south, as already noted.

Cut [24]

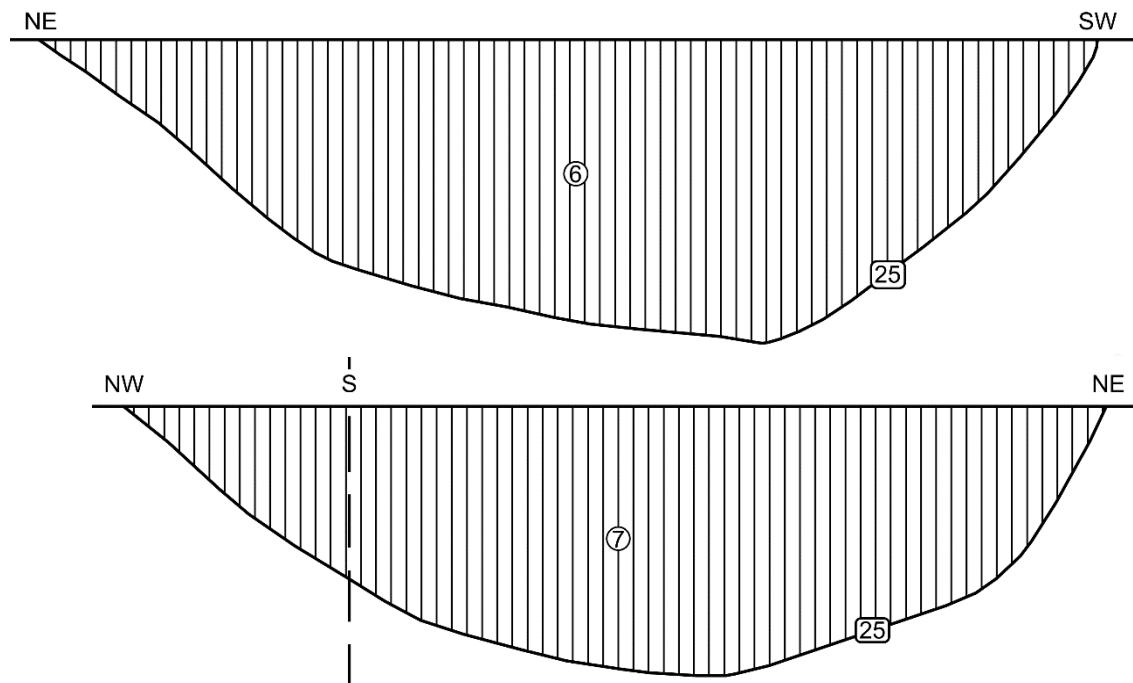
A broad cut, [24], 2.45 m long with shallow sloping sides, that to the north-east around 20° and that to the south-west around 10°, and cut 0.2 m into the chalk bedrock. It contained a single fill, (5), a mid brown sandy loam containing no visible coarse components. There were no ecofacts or artefacts apparent in the section.



NB: the section drawing above is at a scale of 1:20, half that of the other section drawings.

Despite the length of the feature, it did not extend into the opposite (north-western) face of the footings trench, suggesting that the greater part of it lay to the south-east. The shallow slope of the edges is probably not a reflection of the profile of the feature as a whole, which may have been a broad quarry pit, "working hollow" or even the weathering cone of an abandoned well, all rather deeper than the section would suggest.

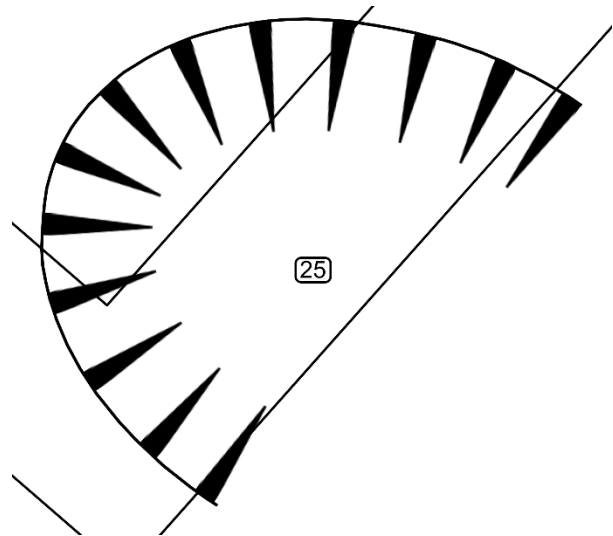
Cut [25]



A wide cut, [25], which was 1.40 m wide in the section on the south-eastern side of the footings trenches. On the opposite face, it was more than 1.00 m wide, although the south-western edge had been cut through by a footings trench at right angles to it. The maximum depth, seen in the south-eastern section, was 0.40 m. Although the fill was given different numbers on opposite faces of the footings trench, (6) to

south-east and (7) to the north-west, they were evidently the same fill, a mid brown sandy loam with no visible inclusions. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.

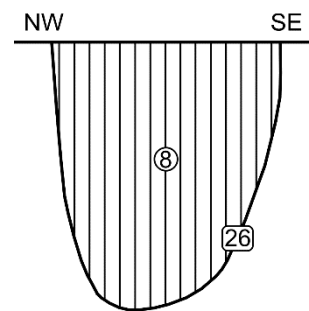
This was the only feature that could be recognised on site as extending across more than one section, although its edges were masked by the topsoil surviving outside the footings trenches. A reconstructed plan (at scale 1:20) is shown, the outer edge based on a best fit curve for the four edges visible in section. It was evidently an oval pit, the maximum length exposed being about 1.10 m along its probable long axis; the width across the shorter axis appeared to be around 1.20 m. This was evidently a pit of Stead and Rigby's (1986, 47) Class 4, which "*have no obvious functions, and might have been dug for many different purposes*". The lack of artefacts from the exposed fills sheds no light on the possible function of this pit.



Cut [26]

A U-shaped cut, [26], 0.30 m wide with near vertical sides and a rounded base, cut 0.35 m into the chalk bedrock. It appeared to contain a single fill, (8), a mid brown sandy loam containing no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.

As noted above, this appears to be a continuation of feature [22]/[23] as it lies on the same alignment and has a similar profile to cut [22]. If it is related to cut [36], the gully must have made a turn in the area removed as part of the footings trench.

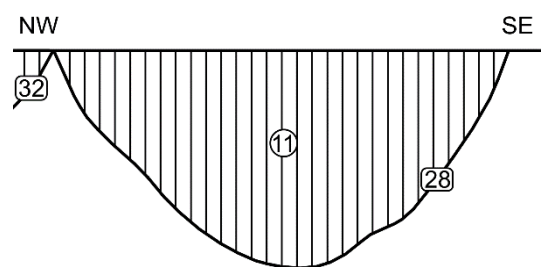


Cut [27]

Although noted initially on site as a probable archaeological feature, a possible stake hole with a mid orange sandy fill, (9), further cleaning showed it to be a periglacial fissure filled with a glacial sand. Similar features have been seen throughout the chalk across North Hertfordshire and are generally referred to as dolines, which can range in size from a few centimetres to tens of metres across.

Cut [28]

A U-shaped cut, [28], 0.60 m wide with shallow sloping sides of about 45° and a rounded base, cut 0.28 m into the chalk bedrock. It appeared to contain a single fill, (11), a mid brown sandy loam containing no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.

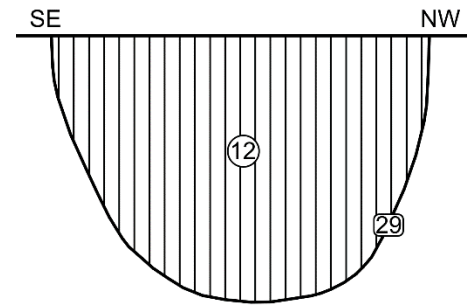


Opposite this cut in the south-western edge of the footings trench were two further cuts, [29] and [30]. The profile of neither resembled this feature, so it is unclear if either of them is its continuation. It is perhaps more likely that this is part of the south-western edge of a small pit that lay largely outside the footings. To the north-west, the top of the cut into the chalk met the top of cut [32], a feature whose relationship with this pit could not be determined; it is possible that stripping the topsoil, which would have revealed the plans of both, would have shown any relationship.

Cut [29]

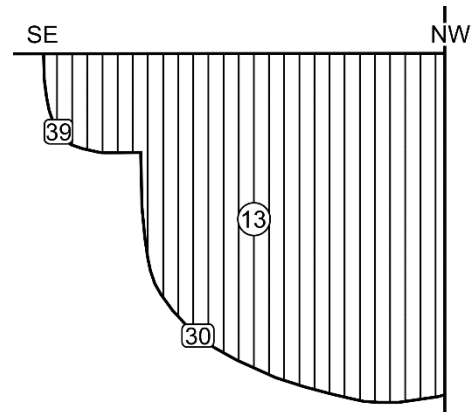
A U-shaped cut, [29], 0.50 m wide with sides that were vertical at the top and curved down into a rounded base, cut 0.35 m into the chalk bedrock. It appeared to contain a single fill, (12), a mid brown sandy loam containing no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.

This is the only feature with a profile of this shape within the footings trenches. This makes it unlikely to be a continuation of the feature in cut [28] to the north-east. It is unclear whether this is part of a pit extending to the south-west of the footings or close to the butt-end of a gully that ran to the south-west from the site.



Cut [30]/[39]

A section displaying two lobes, clearly two separate cuts, although it was not possible to distinguish between them on the basis of their fills, which were identical. The north-western and larger cut, [30], had a vertical side to the south-east, curving down into a slightly rounded base, cut 0.45 m into the chalk bedrock; a width of 0.40 m was visible, but the feature extended beyond the edge of the footings trench towards the north-west. If the cut were roughly symmetrical, this might indicate a width of around 0.70 m. The south-eastern and smaller cut, [39], had a vertical side to the south-east, curving down into a flat base; a width of 0.13 m was visible and it was 0.13 m deep. The only visible fill, (13), was a mid brown sandy loam containing no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.

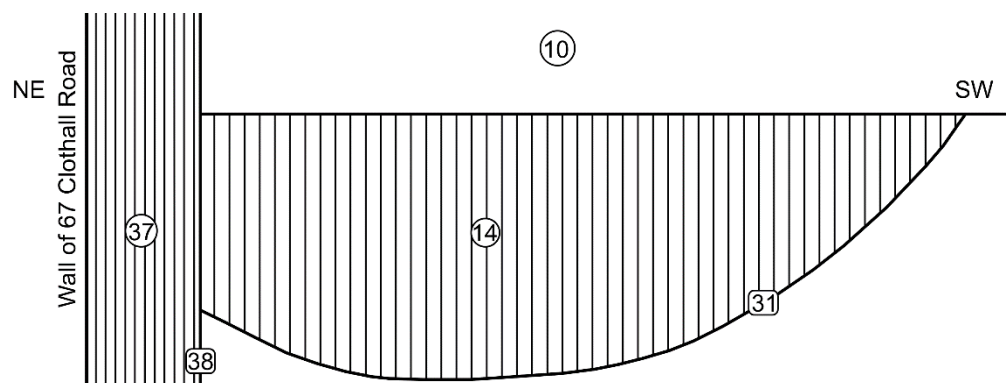


Cut [30] was the deepest feature seen on the site and was deeper than any of the features visible in the opposite face of the footings trench. This means that it is not possible on present evidence to link it with any of the other features recorded. The profile suggests rapid filling, as the south-eastern vertical edge displayed no trace of weathering. This means that it is unlikely to have been a ditch, which would have been left open for some time. It may be the edge of a small pit.

By contrast, cut [39] was the shallowest feature on the site. Its profile is suggestive of a beam-slot, an architectural element known from timber-framed structures elsewhere in Late Iron Age and Roman Baldock. This is thus evidence for a building on the site, clear evidence that it lay within the ancient settlement.

Cut [31]

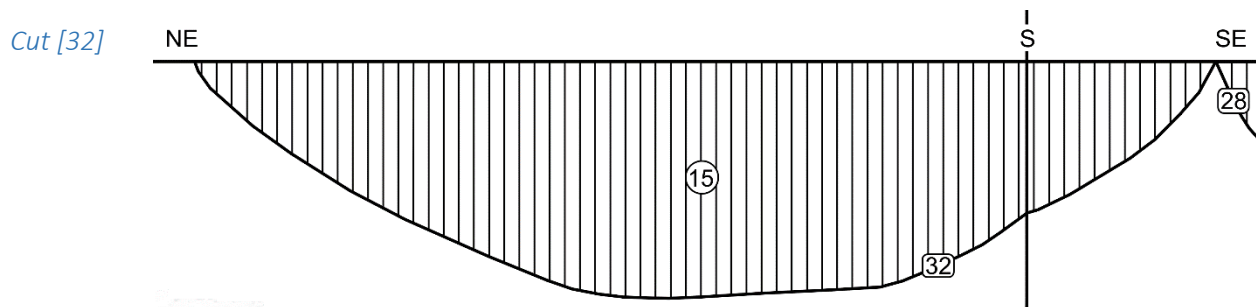
A broad U-shaped cut, [31], with sides sloping at around 40° and curving down into a shallow base, cut 0.35 m into the chalk bedrock. The feature had been



cut to the north-east by [38], the foundation trench for the south-west (rear) wall of 67 Clothall Road, built in the 1930s; the surviving part of [31] was 1.00 m wide. It could not be traced in the opposite face of the footings trench, as this showed only the foundation trench for the property boundary wall to the north-west. It appeared to contain a single fill, (14), a mid brown sandy loam containing no visible coarse components. There were no artefacts or ecofacts apparent in the section.

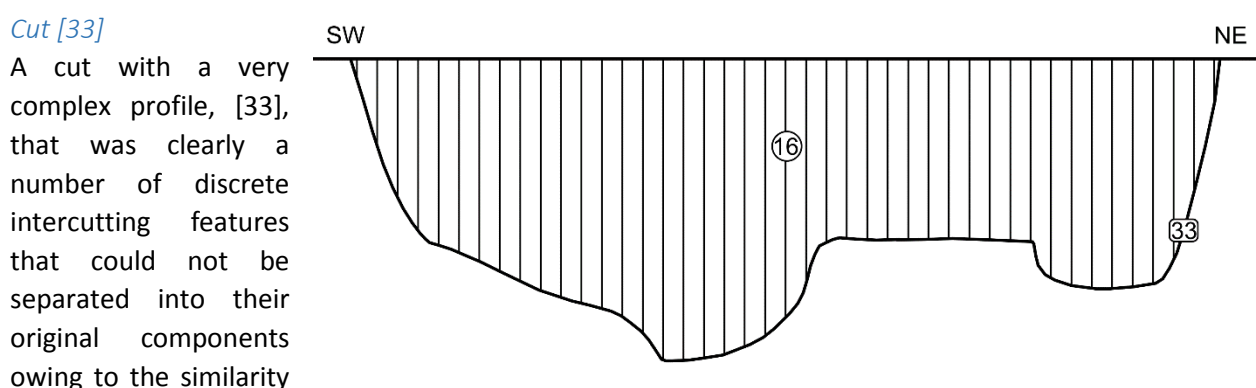
The foundation trench for 67 Clothall Road, [38], was vertically sided and extended 0.15 m to the south-west of the brick wall that it contained. Its fill, (37), was a mid grey brown loam containing fragments of house brick and roof tile, clearly distinguishable from (14), the fill of feature [31]. The foundation trench could also be seen to cut through the topsoil that sealed (14); this topsoil, deposit (10), is described above.

Because it was not possible to determine whether or not feature [31] originally extended across the width of the footings trench, it is difficult to interpret. It may be a steep sided ditch running north to south, cut at an oblique angle, or it may be the edge of a large feature such as a quarry pit. One possibility that should not be overlooked is that it is a ditch on the projected line of the south-eastern side of a road known from geophysical survey to cross Walls Field.



A broad U-shaped cut, [32], truncated to the south and west by the footings trenches, so its full width could not be ascertained but surviving for 1.10 m in the trench facing south-west and perhaps originally around 1.40 m wide, with sides sloping at around 40° down to a flattish but not level base, cut 0.30 m into the chalk bedrock. It appeared to contain a single fill, (15), a mid brown sandy loam with no visible coarse components. No artefacts or ecofacts were apparent in the section.

This feature does not appear to be the same as cuts [30] or [39] in the face of the trench opposite to the south-west, while to the north-west, the trench has cut through the foundation trench for the property boundary wall, so no archaeological features were visible there. It is possible that this is the edge of a pit, most of which lay to the east of the two footings trenches in which it was exposed.



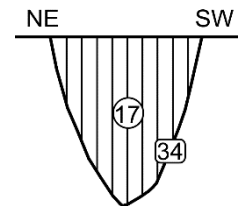
A cut with a very complex profile, [33], that was clearly a number of discrete intercutting features that could not be separated into their original components owing to the similarity of their fills. Nevertheless, the north-eastern element and the part to the south-east of the centre were clearly two original features. The combined width of the “cut” [33] was 1.15 m; the north-eastern element was cut 0.30 m into the chalk bedrock, the element with the flat base was cut 0.25 m into the chalk, while the more complex south-western part reached a maximum depth of 0.40 m. There was only one fill evident, (16), an orange brown sandy loam with no visible coarse components. No artefacts or ecofacts were apparent in the section.

The north-easternmost element of this series of intercutting features has a profile very similar to cut [35], which lies opposite on the south-eastern side of the footings trench, although [35] is somewhat shallower; they are probably both parts of the same feature, which may have been a beam slot or a slot for plank walls (see cut [35] below). Similarly, the deeper part to the south-west of centre lies opposite cut [34],

although this is twice the depth; nevertheless, they may be parts of a single original feature. Beyond these suggestions, the flat bottomed element of the “feature”, north-east of the centre, and the complex shape of the profile to the south-west are not easy to interpret. Without stripping the topsoil, this section is impossible to resolve into its component parts.

Cut [34]

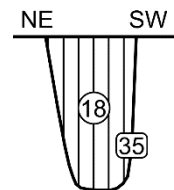
A V-shaped cut, [34], 0.25 m wide, with sides sloping at around 80° to a pointed base, cut 0.22 m into the chalk bedrock. It appeared to contain a single fill, (17), a mid brown sandy loam with no visible coarse components. No artefacts or ecofacts were apparent in the section.



This is probably a shallow gully, given its steep-sided profile. It may be one of the elements in the complex “feature” [33], which lies in the opposite face of the footings trench to the north-west.

Cut [35]

A narrow U-shaped cut, [35], 0.12 m wide with a near vertical side to the south-west and a steeply sloping side or around 85° to the north-east and cut 0.20 m into the chalk bedrock. It appeared to contain a single fill, (18), a mid brown sandy loam with no visible coarse components. No artefacts or ecofacts were apparent in the section.



The profile is suggestive of an extremely narrow beamslot, or a ground trench for vertical planking used to form the walls of a structure. Plank-built walls are known from the Neolithic period onwards; they are particularly associated with the earlier Neolithic and early medieval periods, but are also reported from the Iron Age and Roman periods.

Cut [36]

Although noted initially on site as a probable archaeological feature, a possible stake hole with a mid orange sandy fill, (19), further cleaning showed it to be a periglacial fissure filled with a glacial sand. Similar features have been seen throughout the chalk across North Hertfordshire and are generally referred to as dolines, which can range in size from a few centimetres to tens of metres across.

Discussion

Interpretation of the buried archaeology

The interpretation of buried remains revealed only in section and only in narrow foundation trenches is fraught with uncertainties. This is compounded in the case of the present project by the complete lack of finds that might enable the features to be dated and functions suggested. In circumstances such as these, any interpretation is merely a best guess based on nearby sites with a better data set.

Nevertheless, the lack of finds offers clues as to what the buried archaeology is unlikely to represent. Sites of recent date (after about 1750) tend to contain a great deal of material, generally rubbish; Roman period deposits and features generally also contain significant quantities of finds, especially potsherds and animal bones. That none of the features (other than the twentieth-century foundation trenches) contained any detectable material remains strongly suggests that the recorded features do not belong to these periods.

Sites immediately surrounding this development have revealed activity from only two periods: the Late Iron Age through to the Roman period followed by a hiatus until the nineteenth century. In view of the lack of finds and the known archaeology of the immediate vicinity, it is therefore most likely that most of the features identified belong to the Late Iron Age and, more specifically, the first century BC.

Several of the narrower features visible only in section lay on the same two alignments. This may indicate that the foundation trenches cut through linear features, such as ditches or gullies. Insufficient detail survived, though, to enable a meaningful plan of archaeological features to be constructed.

The local context and significance of the buried archaeology

The earliest report of discoveries in this area is recorded by Erik Applebaum (1933, 257) as a “cobbled pavement reported by Mr Page” at Prospect Terrace; a Page family is known to have been resident at number 6 in the early twentieth century, an address that is now probably 95 Clothall Road. The character of the cobbles is not explained (were they river pebbles, larger water-worn cobbles or chalk?) nor are the location and extent known. Whether it represents the line of the Baldock to Braughing road (Margary 1973, 203 Road 22; Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, hereafter HHER, 4686), some other road running off it or an entirely different type of surface cannot be determined on present evidence.

Before Clothall Road was widened to the north-east in 1968, a series of trial trenches was excavated to assess the south-eastern extent of the ancient settlement in this area (Stead & Rigby 1986, 31). The trench opposite the property uncovered a stretch of ditch running almost at right angles to the road (D115; Figure 6) and a storage pit (D116;

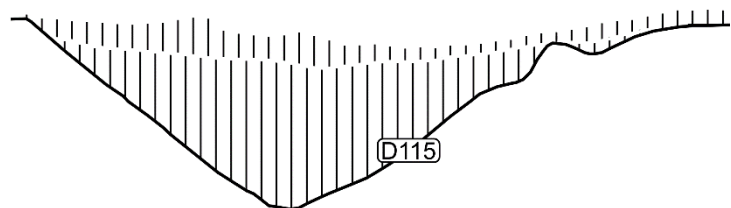


Figure 6: Late Iron Age ditch, Clothall Road, 1968 (scale 1:20)

Figure 6). Both contained pottery dating from the first half of the first century BC, suggesting that the site lies in or close to the core of the earliest settlement but outside the Roman town.

The pot from D 115 (Figure 7) consisted of a grog-tempered ware bowl with orange-brown surfaces and a blue-grey core. The outside of the rim was decorated with cabling, while the inside projected to prevent spillage of liquids. There was sooting around the lip, suggesting that it had been used for cooking. The form suggests a date around the middle of the first century BC.



Figure 7: Rim of bowl from D 115 (scale 1:4) (after Stead & Rigby 1986, Fig 107)

Stead's storage pit D116 (Figure 8) is remarkable as the only beehive-shaped Iron Age storage pit so far identified in the town. These are regarded as the typical storage pit form of the period in southern Britain (Cunliffe 2005, 411), although the majority appear to belong to the Early and Middle Iron Ages. An early date is confirmed by the pottery recovered from its fills.

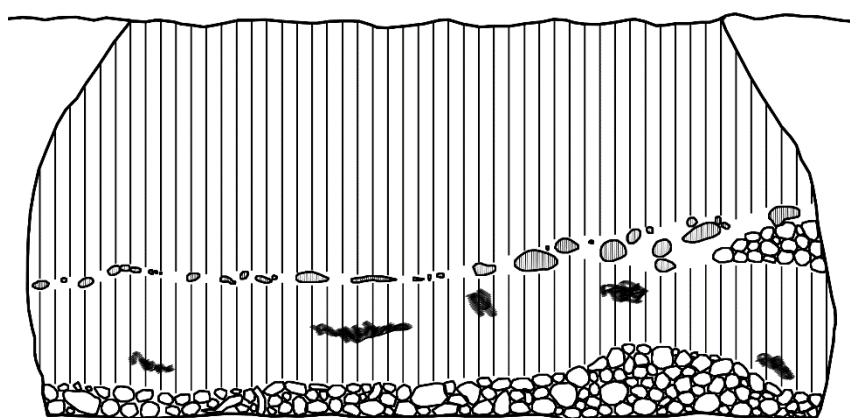


Figure 8: Beehive-shaped pit D116 at Clothall Road, 1968 (scale 1:20)

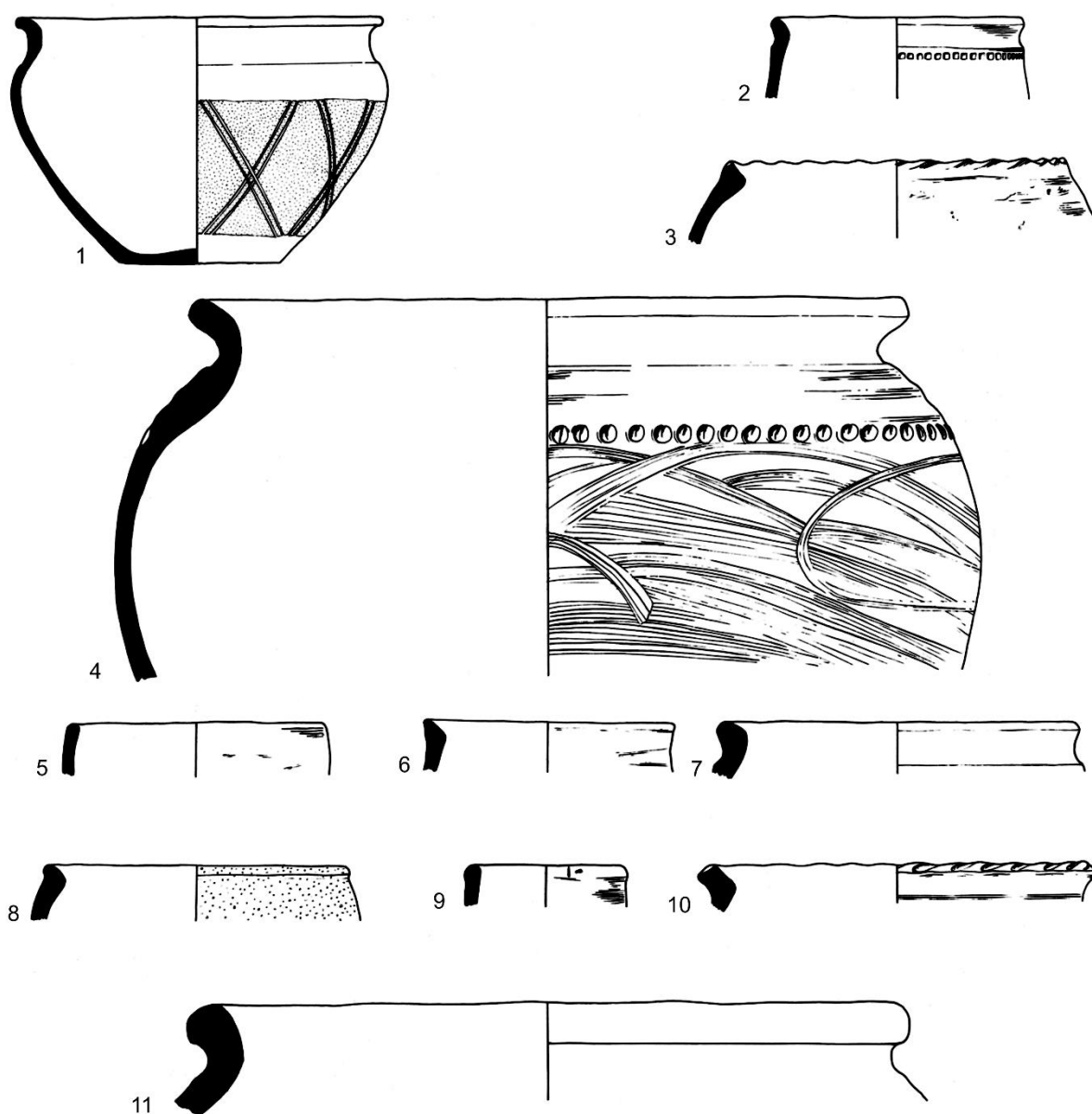


Figure 9: Pottery from pit D116 (scale 1:4) (after Stead & Rigby 1986, 274)

The pottery recovered from this pit was all of early date, from the first half of the first century BC (Figure 9). Item 1 was a complete pot from the lowest of the fills; 2-4 were recovered from the second fill; 5-11

were from above the line of large flints that was found about half way up the infilled pit. The complete vessel, number 1, was a grog-tempered necked jar with patchy grey and brown surfaces and a grey core, with burnishing on the rim, shoulder and base, while there were lightly burnished double Xs on a smoothed background decorating the lower part of the vessel. Part of the rim of a second example came from the same deposit. Number 4 was also grog tempered, with grey-black surfaces and a light grey core, with lightly incised combing and finger impressions across the shoulder and body, below burnished cordons. Number 11 was a rimsherd from a similar vessel.

To the south-east of pit D116, a pair of ditches of different size was found almost opposite 67 Clothall Road (Figure 10). The larger, D118 lay on the line of a geophysical anomaly in Walls Field that has been interpreted as a roadside ditch, as it lies parallel with a second linear anomaly some 6 m distant (the average width of Roman roads within the ancient settlement). If the line is extended still further to the south-south-west, it aligns with cut [31] in the present watching brief. This makes it possible that this feature is of Roman date and therefore evidence for the road continuing to the south of Clothall Road.

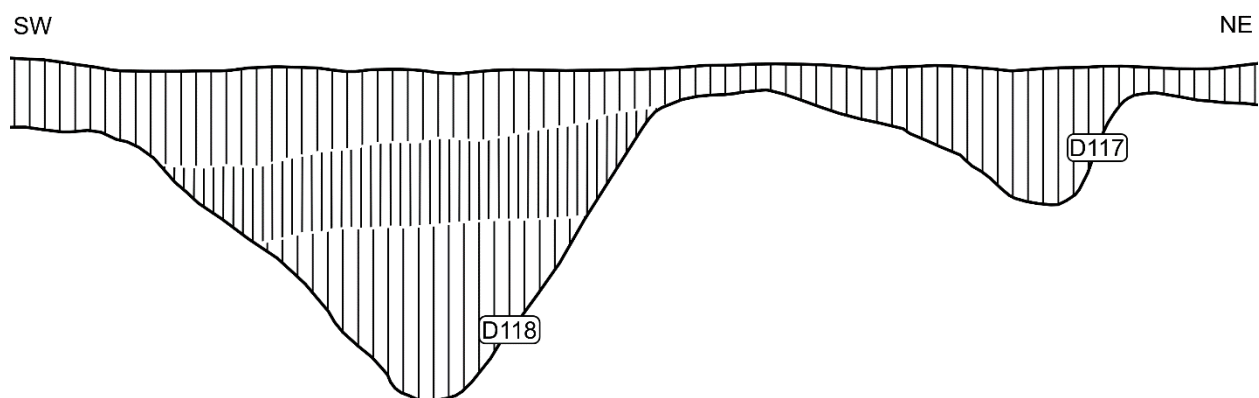


Figure 10: Probable roadside ditches at Clothall Road, 1968 (scale 1:20)

In 1979, a small-scale excavation was carried out to the south of the property, before the construction of the houses that now form Roman Lane (North Herts Museum site code BAL-37). Work by Letchworth Museum and the North Hertfordshire Archaeological Society failed to reveal any trace of domestic activity across four trenches, although a buried plough-soil was uncovered. This was thought to be of Roman date as it contained late Roman coins, brooches and abraded Roman pottery. It was hypothesised by the excavator, Gil Burleigh, that the site lay in an area of agriculture, although whether this was in a field outside the settlement or in a smallholding on the edge of the town was not clear.

Evaluation on the same site in 2005, though, revealed a possibly Iron Age or Roman boundary ditch, [101] (Rothwell 2005, 6; Figure 11; HHER 12859). It lay on a similar alignment to ditches uncovered in the 1968 trenching on the opposite side of Clothall Road. Although the relict plough-soil is not identified in the

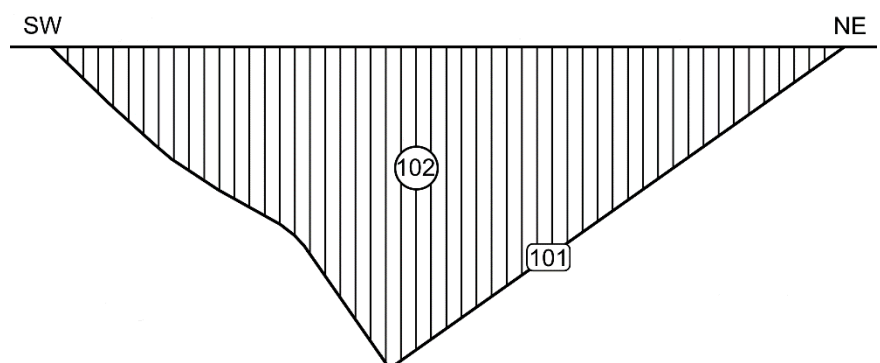


Figure 11: Roman Lane ditch [101] section (scale 1:20) (after Rothwell 2005)

report, the sections of the two trenches excavated suggest that 'subsoils' (104) and (203) are the same deposit. Although the report does not mention the stratigraphic relationship between the 'subsoil' and the presumed ancient ditch, the section of Trench 2 does indicate that the nineteenth-century activity cut through it.

An evaluation and subsequent watching brief on a site to the rear (south-east) of 18 Pinnocks Lane and immediately south of the present development took place in 1995 (Holgate 1995, 1; Fenton 1997, 1; HHER 9924). As with the 1979 investigation, a relict plough-soil was identified, although on this site it was found to seal earlier features, principally in the north-western part of the site. The dates of these features, ranging from the earlier first century BC ("pit" [30], Figure 12) to the third or fourth century AD, raises doubts about the supposed Roman date of the agricultural activity.

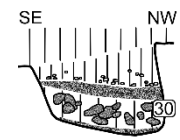


Figure 12: Pit [30] BAL-60 (after Fenton 1997)

The drawn section of cut [30] shows a small feature and the dates of its fills do not suggest the repaid filling that would be expected of a pit. The lower fill contained pottery of the first century BC, while the upper fills contained material dating from the second half of the first century AD. Slow filling of this type is more typical of a ditch than a pit. Nevertheless, the undercut nature of one side is unusual for a ditch. The lowest fill contained a tall jar of first century BC type (Figure 13), similar to a more decorated version of a vessel illustrated by Stead and Rigby (1986, 275 no. 29).

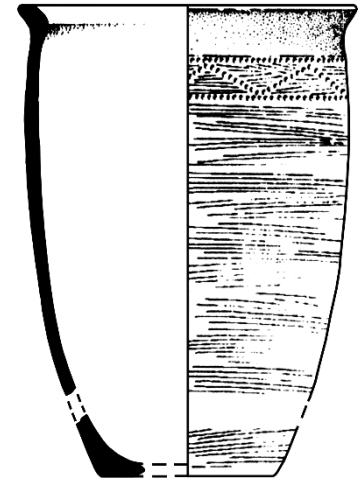


Figure 13: First century BC jar from pit [30], BAL-60 (after Fenton 1997)

This known activity suggests that the site did indeed lie within the ancient settlement, with the best evidence from the early first century BC through to the Roman period. There may be evidence for abandonment in the later Roman period, and although this cannot be taken as conclusive, it matches the contraction of the town on the north-east during the fourth century, documented by both Stead's and Burleigh's excavations. Whether this is evidence for a reduction in

population is still a matter for debate: it is clear that the properties on the edge of the Roman town occupied large open plots and may have been a focus for market gardening or light industry.

It is also likely that the earliest settlement was polyfocal, lacking a single centre. This is recognised at other *oppida* of the first century BC, such as *Camulodunon* at Colchester or *Verulamion* at St Albans. There certainly appear to be separate areas dedicated to burial, religious activities, industry and domestic settlement within the zone over which the Roman town was later to grow. The evidence from Stead's trial trenching along Clothall Road in 1968 would suggest that 67 Clothall Road lies within the area of domestic activity belonging to the earliest phase of urban development at Baldock, which is probably the earliest so far documented in Britain (Burleigh & Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2010, 21-4).

Conclusions

The watching brief demonstrated that 67 Clothall Road lay within an area with archaeological activity. The nature of the fieldwork, though, did not permit adequate characterisation of the nature of that activity, owing to the limited recording possible. As suggested above, the most likely date for this activity is the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age, with a likelihood that it dated from the first century BC as this is the period best represented on neighbouring sites. However, at least one feature, cut [31], which may be a continuation of a roadside ditch recorded on the opposite side of Clothall Road, is probably of Roman date.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: context records

Number	Type	Fill of	Contains	Description	Interpretation
1	Deposit	20		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of gully [20]
2	Deposit	21		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of gully [21]
3	Deposit	22		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of gully [22]
4	Deposit	23		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of gully [23]
5	Deposit	24		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of ?quarry pit or “working hollow” [24]
6	Deposit	25		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of pit [25]
7	Deposit	25		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of pit [25]
8	Deposit	26		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of gully [26]
9	Deposit	27		Mid orange sand	Periglacial sand
10	Deposit			Mid grey brown loam	Topsoil
11	Deposit	28		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of pit [28]
12	Deposit	29		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of pit or gully [29]
13	Deposit	30, 39		Mid brown sandy loam	Fills of two intercutting features, [30] and [39]
14	Deposit	31		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of ?ditch [31]
15	Deposit	32		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of pit [32]
16	Deposit	33		Orange brown sandy loam	Fills of complex of intercutting features, [33]
17	Deposit	34		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of gully [34]
18	Deposit	35		Mid brown sandy loam	Fill of plank-wall trench [35]
19	Deposit	36		Mid orange sand	Periglacial sand
20	Cut		1	Shallow U-shaped cut	Shallow gully; probably the same feature as [21]
21	Cut		2	Shallow cut with one vertical and one sloping side	Shallow gully; probably the same feature as [20]
22	Cut		3	Shallow U-shaped cut	Shallow gully; probably the same as gullies [23] and [26]; possibly the same as gully [36]
23	Cut		4	Irregular cut, possibly two separate intercutting features	Shallow gully; probably the same as gullies [22] and [26]; possibly the same as gully [36]
24	Cut		5	Broad shallow cut	Quarry pit or “working hollow”
25	Cut		6, 7	Shallow, probably oval, cut	Pit
26	Cut		8	Shallow U-shaped cut	Shallow gully, probably the same as gullies [22] and [23]; possibly the same as gully [36]
27	Cut		9	Shallow, irregularly-sided “cut”	Natural fissure (doline)
28	Cut		11	U-shaped cut	Shallow pit
29	Cut		12	U-shaped cut	Small pit or gully
30	Cut		13	U-shaped cut	Pit
31	Cut		14	U-shaped cut	Possible Roman roadside ditch
32	Cut		15	U-shaped cut	Pit
33	Cut		16	Complex cut with two deeper areas	Intercutting features, consisting of possible plank-wall trench, gully and uncertain feature
34	Cut		17	V-shaped cut	Gully
35	Cut		18	U-shaped cut	Possibly plank-wall footings trench
36	Cut		19	Irregular V-shaped “cut”	Natural fissure (doline)
37	Deposit			Mid grey sandy loam containing brick and tile	Fill of foundation trench for house

38	Cut			Vertically sided cut	Foundation trench for 67 Clothall Road
39	Cut		13	Shallow U-shaped cut	Beam-slot

Appendix 2: Historic Environment Record Data

HHER number	Name	NGR	Description
Within 100 m of the development site			
1065	Roman coin and pottery, Clothall Road	TL 250 337	Coin of Vespasian and fragments of Roman pottery found in 'Pesthouse Lane' in 1922. Letchworth Mus (Acc 2016, 2015). Pesthouse Lane is Clothall Road
1073	Roman occupation, Pinnocks Lane, Baldock	TL 249 336	'From the north side of Pinnocks Lane; bone pin, iron implements, bronze spoon, tweezers, an iron fork and pottery, at a depth of 3ft. Bones and pottery from all down the lane, also pits. Coins included one of Magnus Maximus and one of Decentetius ¹ , found with a skeleton'. Magnus Maximus was western Roman emperor, AD 383-388.
4686	Line of Roman road from Baldock to Braughing	TL 250 336	The Roman road between Braughing and Baldock (Viatores route 22) running from TL 2500 3365 to TL 2835 3000; see also 4190, 4685, 4687, 4688, 4689, 4690. It appears to have had more than one course at the Baldock end. The route remained in use throughout the medieval period, until it was cut at the Braughing end by the formation of Hamels park c. 1600. The Baldock end is known from cropmarks and excavation, and much of the route survives in the landscape as field and parish boundaries, and surviving rights of way.
9924	Late Iron Age and Roman ploughsoil and pit, 18 Pinnocks Lane, Baldock	TL 249 336	A scatter of abraded late Iron Age and Roman pottery, the latter dating to the 1st and 2nd century AD, was recovered from two subsoil layers during evaluation in 1995. The subsoil appeared to be a buried plough-soil and the pottery as the remains of a manuring scatter on the ploughed fields. The site probably lies outside the main area of occupation of the late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Baldock. A later evaluation trench uncovered only an irregular pit containing 3rd century AD pottery.
12859	Possible Late Iron Age or Roman ditch, Roman Lane, Baldock	TL 249 335	A large linear ditch orientated NW-SE on land behind Roman Lane had a single sandy silt fill containing fragments of animal bone and oyster shell. The ditch does not relate to any historic map and the lack of datable finds suggested an Iron Age or Roman date.
100 – 250 m from the development site			
8	Late Iron Age and Roman settlement of Baldock	TL 250 339	Late Iron Age and Roman settlement lying either side of the Clothall Road with cemeteries to the NE, S and SW. The main settlement started by the mid 1st century BC and continued into the 4th century AD. Main excavations have been NE of the scheduled area.
106	Late Iron Age pottery, Homelands, Baldock	TL 252 336	Late Iron Age tazza (1BC – AD1) and a white butt beaker (AD 1-50) found at 'Homelands', Baldock. This sounds like a late Iron Age burial group.
217	Palaeolithic implement, Walls Field, Baldock	TL 250 339	Flint implement. Letchworth Mus (Acc 6023).

¹ This should be Decentius.

529	Roman coins, 33 Clothall Road, Baldock	TL 248 337	Rather worn 4th century coin found in 1977. OBV: head of emperor wearing diadem; REV: ?Winged Victory standing, facing right holding ?wreath in right hand. North Herts DC record cards refer to several coins found in this garden: AE Magnentius LRBC 8, Amiens mint and a late 4th century Securitas Republicae type (card 1057); and a small contemporary copy of Constantius II, rev. 2 Victorius type 341-6, and a German reckoning counter, 'Reichsapel', the commonest type and dating to c. 1600 (card 1506). See also 1055, 1056, 1057 for coins found in neighbouring areas.
770	Romano-Celtic temple and other buildings, Baker's Close, Baldock	TL 247 338	Romano-Celtic temple and other buildings visible as cropmarks. See <1> ² for the plan, including a possible earlier structure beneath the temple. Also in the field is a winged house, metalled roads, walled enclosures, courtyards, and a trapezoidal walled enclosure with internal sub-divisions, perhaps a second temple. This has the appearance of a large religious complex.
1055	Roman coins, 35 Clothall Road, Baldock	TL 248 337	Two asses of Constantius II, found in the garden at 35 Clothall Road. OBV: D.N.CONSTANTIUS PP.AUG; head draped right with diadem; REV: FEI TEMP REPARATIO; Emperor standing in vessel holding phoenix on globe and labarum with victory in the stern. Found December 1973. See 529, 1056, 1057 for adjacent finds.
1056	Roman coins, 37 Clothall Road, Baldock	TL 248 337	Six 4th century coins (including two minimi) and a radiate possibly of Carausius or Gallienus, found in the garden at 37 Clothall Road. One of the coins, thought to be of Constantius II, has a reverse from depicting two soldiers leaning on shields and holding a single standard with the inscription GLOR IAEXERC ITVS. See also 529, 1055, 1057 for neighbouring finds.
1057	Roman coin, 39 Clothall Road, Baldock	TL 248 337	Roman coin of Gratian, found in the garden at 39 Clothall Road. 'DN GRATIANUS PF AUG; GLORIA ROMANORUM, Emperor standing right holding ? and dragging captive. See 529, 1055, 1056 for neighbouring finds.
1060	Roman coin, 27 Pinnocks Lane, Baldock	TL 248 336	Coin of Constantine the Great (307-337) found in July 1963 in the garden.
1063	Roman coins, Walls Field, Clothall Road, Baldock	TL 248 338	Coins of Constans, Constantine I, Constantine II, Valentinian, Gallienus and Antoninus Pius reported as having come from the cemetery.
1077	Early Roman cremation burial, 18-20 South Road, Baldock	TL 249 334	An iron object described as being 8¼" long with a barb on one side. Found close to a 2nd century burial. This is counted as part of the South Road cremation cemetery 4280 (SR8) by <2> ³ .
1081	Thistle/Rosette brooch, Baldock	TL 252 337	A thistle or rosette brooch, AD 25-50, found in a ditch adjacent to Walls Field cemetery 2 ft below the surface in December 1934.
1843	Late Iron Age pottery, Walls Field, Baldock	TL 250 339	'An urn of Belgic character' found in a baulk alongside Walls Field. The North Herts DC museums record card (1525) refers to the pot as having 'outspreed mouth and neck cordons', and coming from the 'baulk to the NE side' of the field at TL 2507 3398.

² Unpublished document: Burleigh, Gil, & Stevenson, M D. 2000. A decade of archaeological fieldwork in North Hertfordshire, 1989-1999. RNO 1352, p50-52.

³ Unpublished document: Fitzpatrick-Matthews, Keith J, & Burleigh, Gilbert R. 2007. Excavations at Baldock 1978-1994: fieldwork by G R Burleigh. Draft. RNO 1779 p46, 70, fig. 36.

1868	Late Iron Age 'chieftain' burial, The Tene, Baldock	TL 248 336	A wealthy late Iron Age cremation burial disturbed by bulldozing at Baldock. Excavation revealed an assemblage consisting of a bronze cauldron (containing pieces of calcined bone), a pair of iron fire dogs, two bronze dishes, two wooden buckets with bronze fittings, an amphora and some pig bones (several finds had already been dispersed before the excavation took place). The grave itself was circular and measured 5' 3" in diameter. <3> ⁴ suggests that the buckets could have been made to hold ice for cooling wine.
6082	Romano-British cemetery and occupation, Pinnocks Lane/The Tene, Baldock		<p>Romano-British inhumation cemetery found during development between the Tene and the High Street. Approx. 80-100 estimated inhumations though only a small part of it was excavated and much was destroyed by the development. Skeletons were in supine position, with no grave goods and little or no evidence of coffins. They were dated by sherds in grave fills to the late 3rd or early 4th century AD. This is probably part of the cemetery excavated by Stead in 1968. There was also occupation evidence.</p> <p>Excavation on the corner of Pinnocks Lane and The Tene revealed early Roman occupation (pits, postholes, ditches) succeeded by a small chalk quarry and a possible cellared building. 15 graves were also found, part of the late Roman cemetery. Later than the burials are a series of ditches containing residual material, probably dug in the 4th century or later.</p> <p>This is one of the cemeteries with burials later than AD 400. 'It is the only cemetery so far discovered in the town to display the type of careful organisation evident in large urban cemeteries such as Poundbury, a type that seems to have become prevalent after AD 350 and where the likelihood of Christian burial is high. All the burials are arranged in rows, with no sign of intercutting; the bodies are laid supine, with heads to the west, and no grave gifts have been recorded. The cemetery is extensive, with outliers known to the NW of the core and some distance to the south, and, although its plan is not known in detail, it is evident that there were zones within it that were never used for burial. The possibility that these were areas where structures may have stood should not be dismissed.' See also 485.</p>
9994	Iron Age triple ditches, Clothall Road, Baldock	TL 251 336	Three parallel triple ditches approx. 70 m long identified from geophysical survey. Sections cut across the ditches in 1968 produced late Iron Age and Roman pottery.
12754	Romano-British ditch & post holes, 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock	TL 250 334	Evaluation on the corner of Pembroke Road and South Road uncovered a NE-SW boundary ditch which contained pottery dating to the late 1st to mid-late 2nd century AD, and three postholes, one of which contained a sherd of early Roman pottery.
12860	Site of 19th century whitewash works, Roman Lane, Baldock	TL 249 335	Two parallel foundation walls recorded on land off Roman Lane were made of handmade red bricks and bonded with poor quality lime mortar. A build-up of redeposited chalk and debris (tile, brick, metal, animal bone, glass) lay on the outside of each wall. The natural solid chalk was

⁴ Article in serial: Beamon, Sylvia P. 2010. The chieftain's Iron Age burial at Baldock, Herts – a fresh appraisal; Independent Archaeology 68 (June 2010), 12-16

			reached only 1m from the surface. The foundations are early to mid 19th century and may relate to buildings on the 1884 OS map. These are believed to have been associated with the manufacture of whitewash.
13190	Roman cemetery, Walls Field, Baldock	TL 251 336	This cemetery, one of the larger of the many Roman cemeteries in Baldock, lay between the two main roads entering the town from the SE. About 316 cremations and 35 inhumations were excavated in the 1920s, and it is certain that part of the cemetery remains intact. The cremations, many of which had urns, dated from the later 1st century to the later third; the inhumations, which were poorly recorded, 'probably date from the second to fourth centuries'. They were in two main groups, a SE group established by c.AD 70, and a NE group a little later. They may each have related to their adjacent main road. One of the graves, of the early 2nd century, contained three pots and a lead curse tablet apparently cursing someone called Tacita.
13191	Early Roman cemetery, Clothall Road, Baldock	TL 251 335	Eight cremation burials were found during trial trenches in advance of road widening in 1968. The extent of the cemetery is unknown, but it ran along the main Roman road between Baldock and Braughing. All the burial dated to the later 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Some contained more grave goods and accessory pots than usual amongst the many Baldock cemeteries. Two had the bone in urns, three in wooden boxes with bronze fittings. Five were accompanied by animal bone (fowl, sheep/pig, calf). Evaluation found that the cemetery did not extend as far south as the corner of South Road.
13475	Roman soil horizon, 25 Clothall Road, Baldock	TL 248 338	A buried soil, sealing the chalk natural, covered the entire area investigated behind 25 Clothall Road. It contained oyster shell, animal bone, and Roman potsherds including Hadham ware and Verulamium Region ware.
16123	19th century farmstead, 74 South Road, Baldock	TL 251 335	The farm first appears on mapping in 1880, and was then at the south-east corner of the town (and technically in Weston parish); it was built on previously undeveloped land. The farmhouse, no.74 South Road, dates to c.1870, and is double-fronted in brick with gable ends, end chimney stacks, and slate roof. Much of its vernacular appearance survives, despite a large 20th century single-storey extension at the back. The stable block may be contemporary with the house, but has been altered. The former granary also survives, a small rectangular single-storey structure in yellow brick; it is slightly later than the house, with a 20th century lean-to added, and retains much of its original plan and fabric. No.72 was built in the grounds c.1925, when the farm appears to have ceased operating. Farm buildings south-east of the house were reduced or demolished at the same time. Monitoring during construction of new housing recorded a brick-lined post-medieval well.
16252	Bronze Age scraper, Walls Field, Baldock	TL 251 335	'A presumably Bronze Age side-scraper on a naturally shattered flake, found at the junction of Wallington Road and Clothall Road on the Tapps Garden Centre (north) side of Wallington Road... many years ago'.

Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment record summary sheet

Site name and address: 67 Clothall Road Baldock Herts SG		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Baldock		Parish: Baldock
Planning application reference: 08/00670/1HH, 11/01137/1HH and 13/02264/1DOC		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: None		
Nature of application: Erection of a two-storey extension and single-story conservatory following demolition of an existing single-storey ground floor extension.		
Present land use: Domestic/garden		
Size of application area: 56.25 m ²		Size of area investigated: <5 m ²
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 24974 33653		
Site code (if applicable): BAL/67CR '13		
Site director/Organization: Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, North Hertfordshire Museums		
Type of work Watching brief (recording following foundation cutting)		
Date of work: October 2013	Start: 23.10.2013	Finish: 25.10.2013
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: North Hertfordshire Museum, Museums Resource Centre, Burymead Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1RT		
Related HER Nos:		Periods represented: ?Late Iron Age, ?Roman, twentieth century
Relevant previous summaries/reports None.		
Summary of fieldwork results: Observation of foundation trenches revealed a number of chalk-cut features, several of which plausibly represent enclosure gullies; others appear to be pits, quarries or 'working hollows'. No finds were recovered from any of the features, so dating remains speculative. In view of the known archaeology of the vicinity, which is almost exclusively of earlier first century BC activity, it is likely that the features observed also date from the earlier part of the Late Iron Age, although one Roman roadside ditch may also be present.		

Author of summary: Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews	Date of summary: 11 August 2014
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