



Former Thames Valley Food Site,  
Marlborough Road,  
Aldbourn,  
Wiltshire

Post-excavation Assessment Report



**FORMER THAMES VALLEY FOOD SITE, MARLBOROUGH ROAD,  
ALDBOURNE, WILTSHIRE**

**POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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Report reference: 65081.01

**April 2008**

FORMER THAMES VALLEY FOOD SITE, MARLBOROUGH ROAD,  
ALDBOURNE, WILTSHIRE

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**FORMER THAMES VALLEY FOOD SITE, MARLBOROUGH ROAD,  
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**POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was appointed by Infinity Homes Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during demolition and construction groundwork for a residential development at the former Thames Valley Foods site, Marlborough Road, Aldbourne, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference 426260 175308 (referred to hereafter as the Site). These works were required in respect of a planning application (application ref: K/52276/F).

Wiltshire County Council had highlighted the potential for the survival of human remains following a previous discovery, during the construction of an extension to the existing factory, of a series of inhumation burials. A Civil War context was intimated due to the proximity of the Site to skirmishes of that time and the well-preserved state of the skeletal remains.

During the watching brief evidence of extensive modern truncation was observed, especially on the lower slope of the development area from service trenches associated with the construction of the factory in the 1960s. The groundworks were monitored on the upper south-east part of the Site and subsequently human remains were discovered. The burials revealed comprised a number of disturbed inhumation graves dated to the Saxon period by an iron knife found with the disarticulated skeletal remains.

The watching brief results led to an archaeological excavation that comprised two areas (Areas 1 and 2). The areas were separated by the Site compound and access route where no impact on potential archaeology from residential development was to occur. The archaeological excavations found part of a Mid Saxon cemetery containing 26 inhumation graves.

Of the skeletal remains recovered eight were a good state of preservation; seven were in a fair condition and 11 were in a poor state. Disarticulated human bones were also retrieved from the former landsurface/ subsoil layer. Disturbance and loss of skeletal material was attributed to truncation from the factory and associated development construction.

There were 16 extended supine burials, four were flexed, two crouched and a single burial in a prone position. The results of the human bone assessment interestingly highlighted at least one case of leprosy from the Site.

Finds from the graves included a seax, other iron knives and a double sided bone comb found buried with the human remains. Other artefacts considered to be either residual or intrusive were also recovered; these included pottery sherds, worked and burnt flint and animal bone.

This report assesses the potential of the remains found to contribute to local, regional or national research priorities and puts forward a programme of analysis with a view to publishing the findings in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*.

**FORMER THAMES VALLEY FOOD SITE, MARLBOROUGH ROAD,  
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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Chris Halligan of Infinity Homes for commissioning the work.

Thanks are also extended to Alan Bessell (Site Manager of Infinity Homes Ltd) for his help and support during the programme of works and to Sue Farr, Assistant Archaeologist for Wiltshire County Council for her advice during the fieldwork.

The initial watching brief fieldwork was conducted by Steve Beach. The excavations were directed by Rebecca Fitzpatrick assisted by Neil Fitzpatrick, Victoria Blake, Dorthée Facquez and Ramone Ferrer.

This report was compiled by Rebecca Fitzpatrick with contributions from Lorraine Mephram (finds assessment) and Anthea Boylston (human bone) from the Biological Anthropology Research Centre, University of Bradford. The artefactual samples were processed by Zoe Cavendish, Nicki Mulhall, Laura Catlin, Simon Reames and James Box. The illustrations were prepared by Will Foster. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd.

**FORMER THAMES VALLEY FOOD SITE, MARLBOROUGH ROAD,  
ALDBOURNE, WILTSHIRE**

**POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was appointed by Infinity Homes Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief and subsequent archaeological excavation, during demolition and construction groundwork for a residential development, at the former Thames Valley Food site, Marlborough Road, Aldbourne, Wiltshire, NGR 426260 175308, hereafter referred to as the 'Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) Kennett District Council granted planning permission for the development (Planning Application ref. K/52276/F), conditional upon a programme of archaeological works being agreed and set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2007) prior to commencement of the works (Condition 11).

1.1.3 The programme of archaeological works comprised a watching brief, to be carried out in accordance with a Brief issued by Wiltshire County Council's (WCC) Assistant Archaeologist, archaeological advisor to the LPA.

1.1.4 The watching brief commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 and the subsequent excavations of Areas 1 and 2 were undertaken between August and November 2007. A separate site visit was also conducted on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 to conclude the works.

**1.2 The Site**

1.2.1 The Site lies within the North Wessex Downs, a short distance to the south-east of The Ridgeway, south-west of the historic core of the village of Aldbourne, on the north side of the Marlborough Road (**Figure 1**). The village is situated within a chalk basin and lies to the south-east of Swindon, to the north-east of Marlborough and to the south-west of Lambourn.

1.2.2 The Site comprises the former premises of the Thames Valley Foods Factory and lies at approximately 135m above Ordnance Datum on natural geology of Valley Gravel overlying Chalk.

1.2.3 The site is situated on a roughly 'L' shaped plot of land, bounded to the south east by Marlborough Road and located on a south-west north-east ridge (**Figure 1**), from which the ground dramatically slopes towards the north-west and east towards the rear of the development.



### **1.3 Archaeological background**

- 1.3.1 During the construction of an extension to the former factory workmen previously discovered six to eight burials. The bones were examined by a local doctor and given their good state of preservation it was thought the bones were no older than 17<sup>th</sup> century. Wedge shaped nails were also found (SMR NO. SU27NE550). A Civil War context was intimated given that skirmishes were known to have occurred in the neighbourhood at that time. The brief report on the discovery suggests that not all of the bones were removed and that some were still lying in the sides of trenches. It is not known what happened to these inhumations or where they are currently located so they are not available for comparison with the burials from the present study.
- 1.3.2 The Site is situated a short distance from the centre of the village of Aldbourne and, so far, no evidence for a Saxon settlement has been found although it is thought that there may have been a wooden church to the north-west of the stream at Lottage Road (Wiltshire County Council SMR). The closest true settlement was found at Ramsbury, in the same parish as Aldbourne. Excavations conducted in the 1970s on a site in the High Street revealed a middle Saxon (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD) iron smelting foundry (Haslam, 1980, 1-68).

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The Site was designated for a watching brief by WCC. The on-site methodology was detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which was subsequently approved by WCC's Assistant Archaeologist, archaeological prior to the commencement of works. The WSI included the arrangement for mitigation in the event of the discovery of archaeology and human remains (WA 2007).

### **2.2 Watching Brief**

- 2.2.1 In accordance with the WSI, the watching brief monitored the clearance groundwork of the existing buildings and surfaces at and below ground level and work for new foundations and services.
- 2.2.2 The watching brief fieldwork began at the far north-east of the Site, located on the lower slope and machine stripping progress was made towards the upper slope using a tracked 360° machine equipped with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Clean surfaces were inspected and recorded commensurate with the scale of work and according to the Wessex Archaeology recording system, this monitoring included the production of a full photographic record.

2.2.3 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in Institute of Field Archaeologists' *'Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief'* (1994).

2.2.4 Human remains were recovered in accordance with the current relevant legislation (see section 7).

### **2.3 Excavation**

2.3.1 An initial area c 22m by 17m, within the footprint of the development in the north-east part of Site, (excavation Area 1, **Figure 1**) was subject to full excavation following the results of the watching brief and in consultation with the Client and WCC.

2.3.2 Subsequent to the completion of Area 1 an additional excavation area, (excavation Area 2, **Figure 1**) was agreed. The impact depth of the former car park in this zone was assessed in three sections due to a significant amount of stockpiled factory demolition rubble. The first section of overburden reduced was located on the projected line of the cemetery as established by the results of Area 1. The overburden was reduced to reveal the archaeology or natural geology. The second section located towards the north- west of Area 2 was reduced of overburden until the archaeology was revealed. A third section located at the south-east end of Area 2, up to the boundary wall, was reduced of overburden to the archaeology or natural geology. The total excavation area in this zone was c 21m by 9m.

2.3.3 Works on Area 1 consisted of re-machining in the north-east part of the Site to a clean level and in Area 2 the modern overburden and subsoil were removed to the top of the archaeological horizon. Both excavation areas were stripped using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The spoil generated from machine stripping was stockpiled outside the north west perimeter of Area 1 and partially removed off site in Area 2.

2.3.4 Subsequent to machine stripping to the archaeological level, the Site was cleaned by hand, as appropriate, to enable an accurate site plan to be produced.

2.3.5 A metal detector was used to scan all deposits prior to and during excavation.

2.3.6 Archaeological remains were excavated and recorded stratigraphically using the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system. All archaeological relationships were investigated and recorded.

2.3.7 Archaeological remains were hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and objectives of the excavation.

- 2.3.8 A sufficient sample of archaeological remains was investigated through sample excavation to record the horizontal and vertical extent of the stratigraphic sequence to the level of undisturbed natural deposits.
- 2.3.9 The relationship between the burials and the soil horizon was established. Burials and the grave fills were completely excavated in order to ensure all artefacts were recovered (see also environmental sampling).
- 2.3.10 Once all visible burials had been excavated and recorded hand dug slots were excavated through the former landsurface/ subsoil layer in order to establish the extent of grave activity in both Areas 1 and 2.

#### ***Archaeological Recording***

- 2.3.11 A unique site code **65080** was assigned for the excavation of the field project.
- 2.3.12 Following the machining, the extent of the excavation area was accurately recorded using a Leica total station 850, 1220 & 1250 (TST). The data was overlaid onto the Ordnance Survey National Grid (using digital map data). During fieldwork digital plans were produced using AutoCAD.
- 2.3.13 A full written, drawn and photographic record was be made of the area. Hand drawn plans and sections of non-grave/burial features were produced at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. All graves and burials were planned at 1:10; grave profiles (longitudinal and transverse) were drawn at 1:10. All plans and section points were surveyed using the Leica TST, giving accurate 3D OS co-ordinates and spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum. Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets were used exclusively for all site recording.
- 2.3.14 Colour transparency, monochrome negative photographs (35mm) and digital images were taken, including a scale bar as appropriate. Specific digital images of the burials were also taken to allow geo-referencing (accurate attachment of photographs to AutoCAD using 3D co-ordinates). A number of general site photographs were also taken to give an overview of the site and the progress of the excavation.

#### ***Artefact Recovery***

- 2.3.15 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (IFA 2001, SMA 1993 & 1995). All non-modern artefacts were collected and retained. Small finds were recorded three dimensionally using the TST and GPS. Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context.

### ***Human Remains***

- 2.3.16 The excavation and assessment of the human remains followed Wessex Archaeology's guidelines, which fully comply with all current legislation (i.e. post April 1 2007) and standards set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2004) and English Heritage (2002b).

### ***Environmental sampling***

- 2.3.17 The burials were exclusively sampled, no other archaeological features were revealed during the course of the works which contained any material suitable for environmental assessment.
- 2.3.18 The samples taken from specific zones of the burials were retrieved and processed to ensure the retrieval of small artefacts, small bones and other biological material. Easily identifiable material was separated from the residues at the processing stage. The residues will be examined by an osteoarchaeologist during analysis stage.

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1 Watching Brief**

- 3.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor groundwork associated with demolition of the existing buildings and preparation of the Site for foundations and services for the proposed development. This was to ensure that archaeological remains that may have been revealed by ground work were investigated, recorded and assessed.
- 3.1.2 The objective of the watching brief was to establish the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site and to investigate and record these within the new development.

### **3.2 Excavation**

- 3.2.1 A separate programme of fieldwork excavations (Areas 1 and 2) were undertaken in order to define the extent of the cemetery site and any other archaeological features present within the development impact area. The aim was to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeology and more specifically in Area 2 to establish if the Saxon cemetery revealed in Area 1 continued to the south-west within the bounds of the Site.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 This section summarises the results of the initial watching brief and excavation Areas 1 and 2 (**Figure 2**). Tables listing the graves and skeletons by context number in conjunction with detailed descriptions can be found in the **Appendix**.

## 4.2 Watching Brief

- 4.2.1 On the lower slope of the Site no features of an archaeological nature were identified and no artefactual or palaeo-environmental evidence was collected during the periodic programme of watching brief monitoring.
- 4.2.2 However, machine stripping on the upper south east part of the Site revealed evidence of human remains. As a result after consultation with the Client (Infinity Homes Ltd), their appointed contractors and advice from Sue Farr (WCC) archaeological investigations proceeded and comprised of two excavation zones within the area subject to watching brief, Areas 1 and 2 (**Figure 1**).

## 4.3 Areas 1 and 2

- 4.3.1 The Site was covered with a deposit of modern demolition/overburden from the former factory and associated hardstanding (**1**). This was cleared prior to the commencement of the fieldwork and was evident in the north-east facing baulk section of Area 1 only.

## 4.4 Archaeological Sequence

### ***Site Wide Deposits***

- 4.4.1 The Site stratigraphy was uncomplicated. All bar two of the graves, **19** and **25** in Area 1, cut into the former landsurface/ subsoil layer (**2**) which was both sealed and truncated by modern overburden from the construction of the factory and associated hard standing layer (**1**).

### ***Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)***

- 4.4.2 No features of a pre-Romano British date were identified. However a number of flint artefacts were recovered from grave backfills and former landsurface/ subsoil layer (**2**). Pottery sherds of a pre-Roman date were also retrieved from four grave backfills. The artefacts and their location suggest there may have been prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

### ***Romano-British (AD43-410)***

- 4.4.3 There were no features dating to this era. However, all the sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from grave backfills suggesting activity during this period in the vicinity.

### ***Mid Saxon (650-850)***

- 4.4.4 Artefacts dating this period were recovered from graves **7, 13, 28, 31, 34, 37, 43, & 74**. The *in situ* objects comprised of knives, a seax from grave **34 (Plate 3)**, a number of unidentified artefacts and a bone comb from grave **31 (Plate 4)**. The seax has been dated to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The artefactual remains, and the type and nature of the graves suggest that the cemetery (part of) dates to the Mid Saxon era. Other artefacts of prehistoric and Romano-British date were considered to be residual or intrusive.

### **Mid Saxon Graves**

- 4.4.5 The predominant features on Site were graves. There were 26 and the disarticulated remains of at least one individual with no apparent grave cut. In addition a possible further eight were evident during the 1960s factory development (Meyrick, 1961).
- 4.4.6 Grave dimensions: the length of the grave ranged from 2.60m to 1.49m, non adult and truncated graves are excluded from the measurement comparisons. The widths ranged from 1.02m to 0.58m. Burial depths ranged from 0.34m to 0.12m. A notable oversized grave cut was **59** in Area 2.
- 4.4.7 Grave shape: all the graves were variations on sub-rectangular in plan. Seven were truncated, four by factory foundation and services, two by a retaining wall construction and one from machine disturbance.
- 4.4.8 Grave orientation: 17 were aligned on a SW-NE axis and nine on a W-E axis. All graves were located on the ridge plateau and respected the natural contour of the ridge. There was no clear formal spatial distribution of the graves. However in Area 1 it could be postulated there were c four rows. Grave **43** appeared to be spatially dislocated from the rest of the graves in Area 1 perhaps indicating evidence of sub grouping within the cemetery site as a whole.

### **Burials**

- 4.4.9 Dimensions: the length of the skeleton, as observed within the grave cut, ranged from 1.87m to 1.30m, excluding non-adults and truncated burials. The widths ranged from 0.55m to 0.30m. The depths ranged from 0.21m to 0.07m.
- 4.4.10 Burial orientation: all the burials were aligned according to the grave alignment 17 were orientated on a SW-NE axis with the head in the SW end and feet in the NE end; and 9 on a W-E axis with the head in the W end and feet in the E end. The calculations include partial/truncated inhumations based on the assumed location of the head/feet.
- 4.4.11 Burial position: 16 burials were positioned in an extended supine posture. Four burials were in a flexed position. Two were in a crouched posture **11** and **20 (Plate 5)**. One was interred in a prone position **17 (Plate 6)** and three were uncertain due to the level of truncation.
- 4.4.12 Special treatment: the prone inhumation burial **17 (Plate 6)** and double burial **44** and **49 (Plate 7)** might be considered as having been treated in a different way to the other burials.
- 4.4.13 Coffins: at this stage of enquiry no burials had evidence of being placed in coffins and neither was there any evidence of coffin furniture.

- 4.4.14 Grave goods: Eight burials were interred with grave goods. The most represented material was iron in the form of knives, seax with skeleton **35 (Plate 3)**, buckles with skeletons **14** and **28**, pins and unidentified objects. A double sided composite bone comb was the exception with skeleton **32 (Plate 4)**
- 4.4.15 Preservation and disturbance: Eight skeletal remains were a good state of preservation; seven were in a fair condition and 11 were in a poor state. Disarticulated human bones were also retrieved from the former landsurface/ subsoil layer. Disturbance was seen in the form of the movement of small hand and foot bones and the dislocation of the vertebrae due to the burial position, all due to taphonomic factors. Movement of skeletal remains was also observed from excavation. Most of the disturbance and loss of skeletal remains can be attributed to truncation from factory and associated development construction.
- 4.4.16 Grave backfills: the graves were backfilled with redeposited former landsurface/ subsoil, context/ layer **2**; a red brown silty clay with chalk and flint inclusions. All grave cuts penetrated this material revealing and cut into the upper natural geology and potentially earlier tree throw holes. All but two were observed to cut through the former landsurface/ subsoil layer. The interface of the said layer was generally diffuse and not well defined. In Area 2 (**Plate 2**) the interface between backfill and grave cut were exceptionally difficult to determine both in pre-excavation observation and subsequent hand excavation.

#### **Other features**

- 4.4.17 Tree throw holes: Three features identified as possible tree throw holes were evident two in Area 1 and a partially exposed tree throw hole within the limits of Area 2. In Area 1 grave **46** cut through layer **2** and penetrated the upper interface of a possible tree throw hole. This was also the case for grave **52** in Area 2. In both instances heavy truncation from modern foundation trenching and services was evident in the immediate vicinity. A third substantial tree throw hole was evident in Area 1 where a concentration of graves was located. No stratigraphic sequence was evident in this instance.

#### **Medieval (1066-1499)**

- 4.4.18 There were no features of a medieval date encountered on Site. However some sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved from the former landsurface/ subsoil deposit suggesting activity, though not very well represented on Site, in the vicinity.

#### **Post-medieval (1500-1799)**

- 4.4.19 No features or artefacts of post-medieval date were found on Site.

### ***Modern (1800-Present)***

- 4.4.20 The Site is located on land where the former Thames Valley Food Factory and associated hard standing was constructed in the 1960's. As a result the Site has been subject to the installation of foundation and service trenches.

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Finds recovered from the fieldwork consist largely of human remains deriving from 26 inhumation burials of Saxon date, with a small number of accompanying grave goods. Incidental finds from grave fills comprises pottery sherds (prehistoric and Romano-British), worked and burnt flint, and animal bone. Finds were also recovered from former land surface/subsoil context **2**.

- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in the **Appendix, Table 2**.

### **5.2 Grave Goods**

#### *Range of objects*

- 5.2.1 Grave goods were encountered in eight, possibly nine graves. Most grave goods comprise iron objects. These total 13 objects, deriving from eight graves. The most commonly occurring are knives (five examples; graves **7, 13, 31, 37, 43**), with one seax (grave **34**), two buckles (both oval, graves **13** and **28**), one nail (grave **7**), one possible pin (grave **74**) and three fragments or unidentified objects (graves **7, 13, 74**).

- 5.2.2 Also recovered were fragments of a double-sided, composite antler comb with iron rivets (grave **31**). The object is in very poor, abraded condition, and no decoration is visible.

- 5.2.3 A small piece of natural iron pyrite in grave **56** may have been deliberately deposited as a grave good.

#### *Chronological evidence*

- 5.2.4 At this stage, the grave goods provide the only chronological evidence for the cemetery, but this is limited by the small quantity of objects, and their restricted range. The knives and seax provide the best evidence.



- 5.2.5 The seax from grave **34** is a single-edged type, and with an overall length of 290mm, a blade length of 220mm and a blade width of 35mm, falls into the category of 'narrow seax'. The seax is a Merovingian type introduced in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, but far more commonly found in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. Broad seaxes and long seaxes are used as proof of a date after AD600, while the narrow seax (or at least the short-handled variety, as is this example from Aldbourne) are seen as giving 'a very strong hint of this date' (Geake 1997, 14-15).
- 5.2.6 The knives mostly appear to fall into Böhner's type C (Böhner 1958), although one could be a type A. Type C is one of the main Conversion-period (also known as the Final Phase c.AD570 - 720) knife types (along with his type D). Little systematic work has as yet been undertaken on the typology of Saxon knives after Böhner, and the presence of these knife types should therefore be used only as a support for a date after AD600 and not as proof (Geake 1997, 16).
- 5.2.7 Double-sided antler combs have a lengthy date range, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century (MacGregor 1985, 92), and it appears that although a new type, the hump-backed comb, was introduced in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century, the double-sided form did not suffer a corresponding decline in popularity (Geake 1997, 63).

*Occurrence in graves*

- 5.2.8 The provisional data on individual age and sex (**Table 2**) shows that knives occurred with adults of both sexes (although more commonly with males) and with one child (skeleton **49** in grave **43**). The latter individual was the only child with which grave goods were found. The two buckles were both found with males. Interestingly, the seax was associated with a badly preserved body which has been provisionally sexed as female. The possible pin in grave **74** was associated with an adult male, and the pyrite in grave **56**, which may have been a grave good, with a female.

### **5.3 Other Finds**

*Incidental Finds from grave fills*

- 5.3.1 These comprise 18 sherds of pottery, 35 pieces of worked and 13 pieces of burnt (unworked) flint, and 39 animal bones.
- 5.3.2 One very small, abraded body sherd of pottery (grave **4**) is in a grog-tempered fabric and has been tentatively identified as Beaker, although no diagnostic decoration is visible. Five pottery sherds are later prehistoric, all small body sherds in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics of Late Bronze Age date. The remaining 12 sherds are Romano-British, including coarse greywares, oxidised and shelly wares, and one sherd of Oxfordshire colour coated fineware.
- 5.3.3 The worked flint consists entirely of waste flakes, all patinated, none of which are chronologically distinctive. The burnt, unworked flint is of uncertain date and origin.

- 5.3.4 The animal bone includes one sheep/goat tooth (grave **62**), and two groups of frog/toad bones (graves **37** and **74** respectively), which can be seen as small animals accidentally incorporated into grave fills.

*Finds from context 2*

- 5.3.5 Apart from the redeposited human bone (see above), these comprise four iron objects (one knife bent at right angles, three objects of uncertain function), five sherds of pottery, four pieces of worked flint (flakes) and one of burnt, unworked flint. Three of the pottery sherds are prehistoric, two flint-tempered of Late Bronze Age date and one sandy/flint-tempered, possible Iron Age. The other two (joining) sherds are from a jar rim of medieval form, in a coarse, limestone-tempered fabric.

## **6 HUMAN BONE**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 A total of 26 inhumations and a few additional human bone contexts were assessed.
- 6.1.2 Two groups of burials were revealed, separated from each other by a zone that remains unexcavated (**Figure 2**). It is clear, therefore, that the 26 burials, which are the subject of the present study, only represent part of the original cemetery. As such their demographic cannot be expected to be typical of a 'normal' population.

### **6.2 Methods**

- 6.2.1 Provisional age and sex assessment was undertaken by a quick examination of features of the cranium, dentition and pelvis. This was carried out before the context sheets were consulted in order that the observation should not be biased by the presence of particular grave goods. It must be stressed that these do not constitute firm estimates, and may be revised following a more thorough analysis. However, they do provide a framework, which will assist in the analysis of other artefacts from the site.
- 6.2.2 Evidence of pathology on the bones and teeth was recorded for each skeleton. The main categories of disease were noted, rather than a detailed description of the location of each lesion. This was done in order to get a general idea of health in the population and so that the potential of the assemblage for further investigation could be assessed.

## 6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 A summary of the results is presented in the **Appendix, Table 3**.
- 6.3.2 Sixteen boxes of human bone were assessed containing 26 inhumations and three small disarticulated contexts and the results are shown in **Table 3**. Processing of all the human bone was good, although there was an additional left leg bagged with context 57 and labelled as such. In four cases there had been some disturbance to the burial due to later activity on the site (17, 35, 54, 73) and a few others were very incomplete (**Appendix, Table 4**). The state of preservation of the burials is reviewed in Table 4. Crania were fragmentary in all cases, largely due to the invisibility of the grave cuts, and the poor state of preservation in 11 of the burials would preclude stature estimation and calculation of indices in these individuals, seven of whom are adults. However, age and sex can be estimated in all cases since the essential elements are sufficiently well preserved. The fact that the environment favours the perfect preservation of all the teeth from the assemblage is of great assistance, particularly in the case of the three children.
- 6.3.3 A preliminary assessment of age and sex showed that there were individuals of both sexes and all ages, from the infant to the elderly adult. This is typical of a normal population and suggests that a cross-section of the cemetery has been sampled. However, there were more adults in the two oldest age categories than one might expect at this period and this is the reason for the high rate of pathology seen in the group. Children were under-enumerated and there were only two infants who had died in the perinatal period.
- 6.3.4 A brief scan of the human remains for evidence of pathology showed most of the conditions that one might anticipate finding in a late Saxon population. The most prevalent conditions were degenerative joint disease of the spine and dental disease, the latter occurring mainly in older individuals. There appears to be the anticipated low rate of infectious disease; a general survey of the prevalence of non-specific infection at this period is between 6 and 7% (Roberts and Cox, 2003). However, there are at least two cases of maxillary sinusitis, as might be anticipated when people are living in a sunken featured building with smoke constantly emanating from the hearth. Fractures and instances of trauma were scarce; however there was a crush injury to the hand and a compression fracture of the vertebra in context 60.
- 6.3.5 The most notable pathological condition was a case of leprosy in context 23. This affected the right hand and foot of the male individual (**Plates 8 & 9**). There was also an unusual erosive arthropathy in context 29, affecting the bones of the hands and feet.

## **7 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.1 Cemetery**

- 7.1.1 The excavation of the two areas adjacent to Marlborough Road, at the Former Thames Valley Food Factory, Aldbourne, Wiltshire revealed part of a Mid Saxon cemetery. Mid Saxon cemeteries are a distinctive entity forming part of the 'final phase' (also known as the Conversion Period c.AD570 - 720), as defined by Boddington (1990). In the Thames Valley they tend to occur on upland areas or ridges, as at Winnall II in Winchester (Meaney and Hawkes, 1970).
- 7.1.2 Full analysis of this cemetery, in comparison to other known cemeteries of a similar date in the area, will contribute to questions concerning burial and funerary practice, health and demography.
- 7.1.3 The cemetery at Aldbourne provides an interesting opportunity to study a small, previously unknown, Mid Saxon rural cemetery in relation to its geographical and topographical location. This study will make a significant contribution to an understanding of the development of the local area.

### **7.2 Finds**

- 7.2.1 Analysis of the cemetery assemblage will provide more detailed demographic data with regard to the number, age and sex of individuals. Following some reconstruction in many cases, metric data – including stature estimates and cranial indices – can be recovered. This data will assist in assessing intra- and infra-cemetery homogeneity and broad genetic links between individuals, and may reflect health. A study of the pathological lesions will enable assessment of the health of individuals.

7.2.2 Burials of Mid Saxon date tend to be supine and extended, as they are at Aldbourne, although here one individual was in the prone position and child burials were mostly flexed. The orientation of the grave gradually becomes more uniform, as it does at Aldbourne, varying from south-west to north-east and gradually adopting the east-west alignment characteristic of Christian burials (Buckberry, pers comm.). Grave shape is still not entirely regular and the grave tends to be larger than the burial it contains. The grave goods are much sparser than previously and consist of a few utilitarian objects, such as knives, and dress fittings. There are no longer the weapons and elaborate brooches of earlier periods. The seax (such as the one found in grave **34**) is quite typical of this period and an example was found at Burwell in Cambridgeshire, a site which like Aldbourne dates to the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD (Boddington, 1990). Although these Final Phase cemeteries occur with some frequency in the east of England, they are rare in Wessex and therefore of considerable regional importance. Eight of the 40 sites from this period mentioned by Morris (1983) occur either in Gloucestershire or Oxfordshire, but none in Wiltshire. The demography of the human remains is essential to the study both of this site in relation to others from the same period and also the funerary aspects of the burial ritual at this time of transition.

7.2.3 As far as the pathology is concerned, there are sporadic cases of leprosy recorded in England from the Romano-British period onwards (Roberts and Cox, 2003). A total of 18 individuals were diagnosed with the disease among a total of 1677 burials from sites widely dispersed across England. Hence leprosy is still an unusual finding and therefore the case from Aldbourne is both of regional and national importance. A notable case came from the early Saxon cemetery of Beckford in Gloucestershire at the western end of the territory of the West Saxons in the upper Thames Valley (Evison and Hill, 1996) and displayed inflammation (osteitis) of the lower leg and foot bones. Another well-known case was found in the late Saxon cemetery of Burwell and exhibited both changes to the nasal region and the lower leg bones. However, the hands and feet of this individual were unfortunately not preserved (Møller-Christensen and Hughes, 1962). Similarly, a leprous individual described by Manchester (1981) from Eccles in Kent with a 7<sup>th</sup> century date, consisted only of the cranium and one tibia. A case found by Brothwell in Tean on the Scilly Isles dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> century has changes to the nasal region indicative of lepromatous leprosy (Brothwell, 1961). The fact that the case from Aldbourne has changes to both a hand (**Plate 8**) and a foot (**Plate 9**) is important since there are few convincing lesions from other reports affecting these parts of the skeleton. There are also inflammatory changes to the right tibia and fibula in burial **23**.

- 7.2.4 There are other interesting cases of pathology, such as the case of erosive arthropathy, spinal trauma, transitional vertebrae and enthesopathies which warrant further investigation. The dental pathology is also of interest, with at least one impacted molar and some teeth with unusual conditions such as hypercementosis. Periodontal disease appears to be quite common in this population.

## **8 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **8.1 Introduction**

- 8.1.1 The assessment of the human remains has identified a number of areas of work which will enable the cemetery to be characterised by looking at the demographics, health, status, layout, position, alignment, grave goods, grave morphology etc. The cemetery will be compared to local, regional and national examples. In particular the burial position to all other data will be compared to identify commonalities and disparities. Four specific research aims were identified:

**How does the demography of the group from Aldbourne compare with that from other Saxon cemeteries, particularly those from the Final Phase?**

- 8.1.2 The Mid Saxon cemetery excavated at Aldbourne presents an opportunity for investigating a previously unknown small rural cemetery in comparison to other known examples in the vicinity. Comparison between these groups is of particular interest to ascertain levels of disparity in skeletal form, demographic make-up and the types and rates of pathological conditions which may reflect socio-economic factors. Comparison of the Aldbourne cemetery data with other local and regional cemeteries may shed light on the nature and variations between the communities burying their dead within these cemeteries, on their health and, by inference, social status.

**Is there any correlation between sex and age and the assemblage of grave goods in the cemetery, albeit reduced, or is there a diminution through time?**

- 8.1.3 In some situations, the provision of grave goods may present a correlation with the sex and age of individuals within the cemetery however; closer analysis and dating of the individual grave goods may indicate a reduction in the inclusion of artefacts with burials over chronological time. Comparison with other local and regional cemeteries may indicate similarities between the communities.

**How does the case of leprosy, identified during the assessment, fit into the picture of disease prevalence in the early medieval period, both nationally and Europe-wide?**

- 8.1.4 The case of leprosy identified from the Aldbourne assemblage is a rare occurrence in Britain during this period. No cases have been recorded in Wiltshire and only one other case has been recorded in the south, in Cornwall. Therefore, this information makes a relatively substantial contribution to the small number of cases previously known on both a regional and national level. The disease has previously been assumed to occur in large communities where large conglomerations of individuals occur, however its appearance in a small rural cemetery adds to our understanding of the nature of the disease during the Mid Saxon period. Comparison with the different types of sites in which the disease is recorded to have occurred will enhance our understanding of this period with regards to health within different types of community. Further comparison with occurrences on sites throughout Europe, and the type of environment in which they are situated, will add to our understanding of the development of the disease which is thought to be more prevalent in these countries during the Mid Saxon period.

**What is the prevalence of dental and degenerative joint disease and how does it relate to the age profile of the cemetery?**

- 8.1.5 Analysis will provide more detailed data with regard to the age profile of the cemetery and may provide correlations between this and the prevalence of dental and degenerative joint disease throughout the assemblage. Comparison of age groups and the occurrences of these diseases within them may help shed further light on health and socio-economic factors within the community.

## **9 METHOD STATEMENT**

### **9.1 General**

- 9.1.1 The known archaeological background in the immediate vicinity of the Site will be re-examined. This will include reviewing published reports and available 'grey literature'. This will contribute towards the discussion of the Site as part of a larger cemetery.
- 9.1.2 An Access database and AutoCAD drawings have been constructed to facilitate rapid cross-examination and updating of the archive during the post-excavation analysis.
- 9.1.3 Once the initial post-excavation analysis is completed, revisions will be made as required. Advised by a post-excavation manager, the detailed outline of the publication text will be written and specialists will make their contributions. Illustrations will be prepared to accompany the report.

## **9.2 Artefactual Analysis (other than human bone)**

### **Grave Goods**

- 9.2.1 Following conservation of the iron objects, the catalogue entries for the grave goods will be updated as appropriate, and formatted for inclusion in the grave catalogue. Building on the evidence presented in this report, the grave goods will be discussed in terms of range of types, chronological implications, and any age/sex patterning. All grave goods, except for small, undiagnostic fragments, will be drawn for publication, within grave groups.

### **Other Finds**

- 9.2.2 Other finds (incidental finds from grave fills, and miscellaneous finds from old ground surface / subsoil layer **2**, apart from the redeposited human bone), will not be considered further, with the possible exception of the iron knife from layer **2**, which could be discussed as a possible redeposited grave good from a disturbed burial.

## **9.3 Human Bone**

- 9.3.1 Analysis of individual skeletons will follow the protocols normally followed in the Biological Anthropology Research Centre at Bradford. Each will be laid out in anatomical alignment, examined by a Research Assistant trained in Biological Anthropology and recorded on a form designed specially for the project. An inventory will be taken of the skeletal elements that are present. Recording of age, sex and palaeopathology will be adapted from methods described in Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains (Buikstra and Ubelaker, 1994). These techniques will be followed in order to attempt standardisation of reporting and comparability with other cemetery samples. Recommendations for the analysis phase of human remains in archaeological projects published in Mays *et al.* (2002). Age estimation will be carried out by dental development, epiphyseal fusion and long bone shaft measurements (where possible) for infants and juveniles; assessment of the pubic symphysis, iliac auricular surface, sternal rib ends and molar attrition will be used for adults. Cranial suture closure will be observed because, despite differences in rates of suture obliteration, there is a general correlation with advancing age. Individuals can then be grouped into age categories, with narrower ones for subadults. The report will include the methods used and state their limitations.



- 9.3.2 An Excel spreadsheet will give basic information on preservation, age, sex, stature, metric data, as well as any pathological conditions that are recorded on the skeleton and dentition. The spreadsheet will enable a catalogue to be produced with an entry for each individual giving the essential information, in addition to a diagram of the dentition. Information will then be tabulated in order for the demography of the entire population to be studied and compared with other cemeteries dating to the same period and from other periods to assess trends in health at both a local and a national level. Any distinctions in mortuary practice between the treatment of male and female burials will also be noted.
- 9.3.3 Pathological conditions that are visible on the skeleton will be tabulated by age and sex and according to the side of the body affected. This will permit a study of markers of lifestyle, stress indicators, traumatic incidents and age-related diseases to be made. Dental pathology will be recorded following the methods set out in Ogden (2007). These apply particularly to periodontal disease and the classification of abscesses.
- 9.3.4 X-rays will be performed where these would assist with diagnosis of disease and photographs will be taken to illustrate the major pathological conditions. Digital photography will be used to document these conditions as recording proceeds. X-ray facilities are available within the Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Sciences at the University of Bradford.

## **10 PUBLICATION PROPOSAL**

- 10.1.1 It is proposed that the results of the analysis will be published as an article in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*. It will be necessary to agree and finalise the proposals for post-excavation analysis and publication with the Client and with Wiltshire County Council.

## **11 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME**

### **11.1 Management Structure**

- 11.1.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by the Project Manger who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the Project Specification, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary or scheduled.

11.1.2 The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Project Manager will have a major input into the writing of the publication report, and will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

## **11.2 Programme**

11.2.1 Following acceptance of this report and agreement of the costs, a detailed programme timetable will be drawn up and implemented.

## **12 STORAGE AND CURATION**

12.1.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the 'Guidelines and conditions for the preparation and deposition of archaeological archives to Wiltshire Heritage Museum and Library', and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Brown 2007). The archive is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code 65080 and 65081.

12.1.2 A digital archive will also be produced. This will comprise a database, scanned site drawings, digital photographs, AutoCAD drawings and PDFs of the report.

## **12.2 Museum**

12.2.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

## **12.3 Conservation**

12.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects, most of which were recovered from graves as grave goods.

12.3.2 Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site, 12 objects have been selected for further conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation; this includes all grave goods apart from the two small and fragmentary objects from grave (74).

## **12.4 Storage**

12.4.1 The finds are currently stored in perforated polythene bags in 22 cardboard or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).

## **12.5 Discard Policy**

12.5.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has already been discarded. No further discard is anticipated.

12.5.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

## **12.6 Copyright**

12.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

## **12.7 Security Copy**

12.7.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

12.7.2 The online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project will be completed by Wessex Archaeology in order to allow the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record to validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website, once the report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER.

## **12.8 Archive Quantification**

12.8.1 All archive elements have been marked with the site code (65080), and a full index has been prepared. The archive comprises the following:

- 22 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 1 file of paper records
- 1 file A3 graphics
- 1 file photographs

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13 APPENDIX

Table 1: GRAVE CATALOGUE

Grave	Sk	backfill	Age/sex	Grave (m)			Shape	orientation	position	Skeleton (m)			Obj no.	obj type
				L	W	D				L	W	D		
4	5	6	Female	2.10	0.78	0.20	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	E-W	Extended, supine	1.60	0.47	0.12		
7	8	9	Male	2.19	0.85	0.20	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	NE-SW	Extended, supine	1.87	0.46	0.15	1, 2, 7	Fe knife, Fe object, Fe knife/spear
10	11	12	Unknown	0.40	0.25	0.07	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Crouched	0.40	0.25	0.07		
13	14	15	Male	2.60	0.68	0.26	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	NE-SW	Extended, supine	1.79	0.41	0.15	5, 8, 9	Fe knife, Fe objects
16	17	18	?Male	2.33	1.02	0.23	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	NE-SW	Prone	1.21	0.26	0.15		
19	20	21	Male	1.49	0.84	0.20	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	NE-SW	Crouched, on right side	1.34	0.55	0.15		
22	23	24	Male	2.28	0.91	0.34	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Flexed, legs flexed with knees to right	1.64	0.42	0.14		
25	26	27	?Female	1.84	0.62	0.29	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	NE-SW	Extended, supine	1.50	0.40	0.15		



Grave	Sk	backfill	Age/sex	Grave (m)			Shape	orientation	position	Skeleton (m)			Obj no.	obj type
				L	W	D				L	W	D		
28	29	30	Male	1.62	0.47	0.25	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Extended, supine	1.40	0.44	0.25	10	Fe buckle
31	32	33	?Male	2.30	0.98	0.17	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Extended, supine	1.73	0.45	0.16	11, 12	Bone comb, Fe knife
34	35	36	?Female	1.72	0.82	0.14	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Extended, supine	1.33	0.38	0.14	13	Fe knife
37	38	39	Female	1.98	0.71	0.20	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Extended, supine	1.59	0.48	0.16	14	Fe knife
40	41	42	Male	2.36	0.80	0.18	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Extended, supine	1.63	0.41	0.17		
43	44	45	Unknown	1.70	0.77	0.19	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Flexed, lying on left side facing SK 49	1.11	0.22	0.06		
43	49	45	Unknown					SW-NE	Flexed, facing SE	1.23	0.30	0.07	17, 18	Fe knife, Pot sherd
46	47	48	Unknown	1.07	0.56	0.15	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Extended, supine	0.55	0.15	0.03		

Grave	Sk	backfill	Age/sex	Grave (m)			Shape	orientation	position	Skeleton (m)			Obj no.	obj type
				L	W	D				L	W	D		
52	51	50	Female	1.53	0.58	0.56	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	W-E	Extended, supine	1.30	0.33	0.15		
53	54	55	Female	1.72	0.90	0.14	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	W-E	uncertain	0.92	0.30	0.10		
56	57	58	Female	2.22	0.86	0.17	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	W-E	Extended, supine	1.59	0.53	0.14		
59	60	61	Male	2.02	1.12	0.12	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	W-E	Extended, supine	1.57	0.37	0.10		
62	63	64	Unknown	2.15	0.58	0.11	Sub-circular	W-E	Probably supine	1.00	0.25	0.02		
65	66	67	Female	1.52	0.60	0.21	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	W-E	Extended, supine	1.08	0.33	0.21		
68	69	70	Unknown	0.96	0.44	0.16	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	W-E	Slightly flexed, supine	0.49	0.16	0.06		
71	72	73	?Female	2.25	0.37	0.17	Sub-rectangular, roundedends	SW-NE	Extended, supine	1.19	0.12	0.07		
74	75	76	?Male	1.80	0.76	0.15	Oval	NW-SE	Extended, supine	1.46	0.36	0.15	19, 20	Fe nail, Fe pin
80	81	82	?Male	0.50	0.27	0.19	Unknown	W-E	Unknown	0.50	0.20	0.19		

**Table 2: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

Grave No.	Context	Human Bone	Iron	Other grave goods	Pottery	Other incidental finds
-	02	48/329	knife; 3 unid.		3 prehist; 2 medieval	1 burnt flint; 4 worked flint
4	skel 05	1 indiv.				
4	06				1 RB	
7	skel 08	1 indiv. m	knife, nail, sheet frag			
7	09					1 burnt flint
10	skel 11	1 indiv.				
13	skel 14	1 indiv. m	buckle; knife; unid.			
13	15					1 worked flint
16	skel 17	1 indiv.				
16	18				1 RB	5 worked flint
19	skel 20	1 indiv.				
22	skel 23	1 indiv.				
25	skel 26	1 indiv.				
28	skel 29	1 indiv. m	buckle			
28	30					3 burnt flint; 3 worked flint
31	skel 32	1 indiv. ?m	knife	1 bone obj		
34	skel 35	1 indiv. ?f	seax			
37	skel 38	1 indiv. f	knife			
37	39					1 animal bone
40	skel 41	1 indiv.				
40	42				2 RB	5 burnt flint; 12 worked flint
43	skel 44	1 indiv.				
43	skel 49	1 indiv. ch	knife			
43	45				3 RB	4 worked flint
46	skel 47	1 indiv.				
52	skel 51	1 indiv.				
52	50				3 prehist	
53	skel 54	1 indiv.				
53	55				1 prehist; 1 RB	1 burnt flint; 2 worked flint
56	skel 57	1 indiv.		1 pyrite		
56	58				1 prehist; 2 RB	4 worked flint
59	skel 60	1 indiv.				
59	61					2 worked flint
62	skel 63	1 indiv.				
62	64				1 prehist; 2 RB	1 worked flint; 1 animal bone
65	skel 66	1 indiv.				
65	67					3 burnt flint
68	skel 69	1 indiv.				
71	skel 72	1 indiv.				
74	skel 75	1 indiv. ?m	?pin; unid			
74	76					1 worked flint; 37 animal bone
80	skel 81	1 indiv.				
		<b>26 indiv. + 48/329 redep.</b>	<b>17 objects</b>	<b>2 objects</b>	<b>23 sherds</b>	

**Table 3: Summary of results of human bone assessment**

Context	Deposit type	Quant.	Preservation	Provisional Sex	Provisional Age	Pathology	Complete long bones	Comment
5	In situ	>90%	Good but some fragmentation of lower limbs	Female	adult c. 25-35 yrs	Periodontal disease	Yes	
8	In situ	>90%	Good but some fragmentation of lower limbs	Male	adult c. 35-45 yrs	Calculus	Yes	
11	In situ	50-75%	Good	Unknown	Infant 0-3 mths		Yes	
14	In situ	>90%	Fair but cranium and long bones fragmentary	Male	adult c. 35-45 yrs	Enthesopathies, spinal osteophytosis, Schmorl's nodes, AM tooth loss, maxillary sinusitis	No	
17	In situ	25-50%	Poor: upper body disturbed	? Male	adult c. 25-35 yrs		No	
20	In situ	>90%	Good but some fragmentation of cranium due to machining	Male	adult c. 35-45 yrs	AM tooth loss, impacted M3, tibial periostitis, spinal osteophytosis, Schmorl's nodes	Yes	? Shroud burial
23	In situ	>90%	Good but some fragmentation of cranium, ribs and arm bones	Male	adult c. 25-35 yrs	Leprosy on R. hand, R. foot and lower leg, unusual wear facets on teeth, spina bifida occulta	Yes	
26	In situ	>90%	Fair but bone destruction due to osteoporosis	? Female	adult >45 yrs	Periodontal disease, calculus, abscess, AM tooth loss, osteoporosis	No	
29	In situ	25-50%	Poor: bones are fragmented and some friable	Male	adult >45 yrs	Erosive arthropathy on hands and feet, osteoarthritis, enthesopathies	No	
32	In situ	>75%	Poor: surfaces eroded and bones fragmented	? Male	adult >45 yrs	Degenerative joint disease of hips and spine, calculus and periodontal disease	No	
35	In situ	50-75%	Poor: upper body badly degraded and incomplete	? Female	adult c. 25-35 yrs	Caries, calculus, periodontal disease	Yes	
38	In situ	>90%	Good: all bones well preserved	Female	adult c. 25-35 yrs	Osteochondritis dissecans: spina bifida occulta; transitional vertebrae	Yes	
41	In situ	>90%	Fair: cranium and long bones fragmentary	Male	adult c. 25-35 yrs	Calculus, AM tooth loss, ? Trauma to hand bone, acromioclavicular DJD	No	
44	In situ	25-50%	Poor: bone is badly eroded and degraded	Unknown	child c. 5-7 yrs		No	Embracing Inh 49
47	In situ	25-50%	Poor: badly degraded hand and leg bones only	Unknown	child c. 5-10 yrs		No	

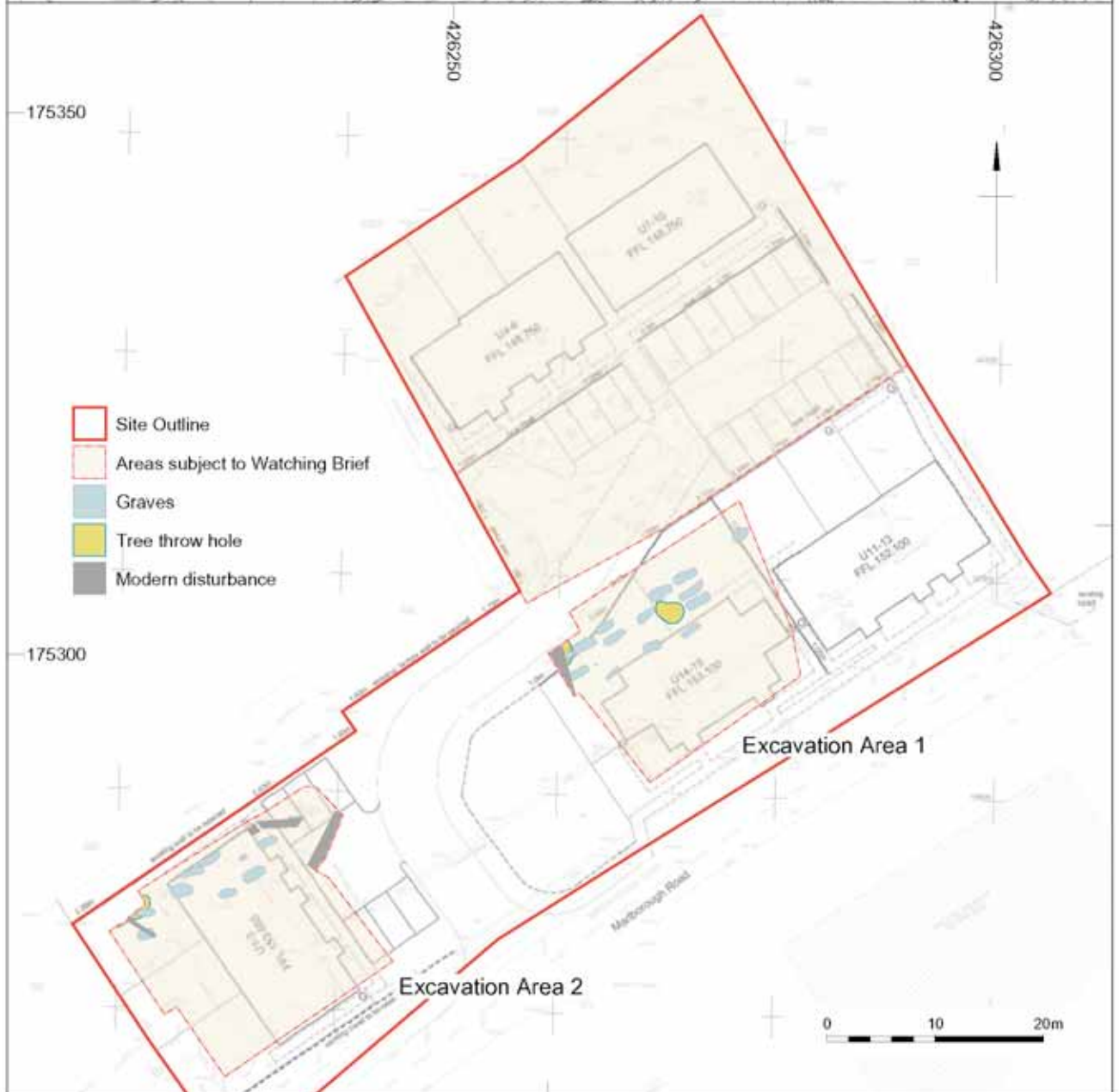
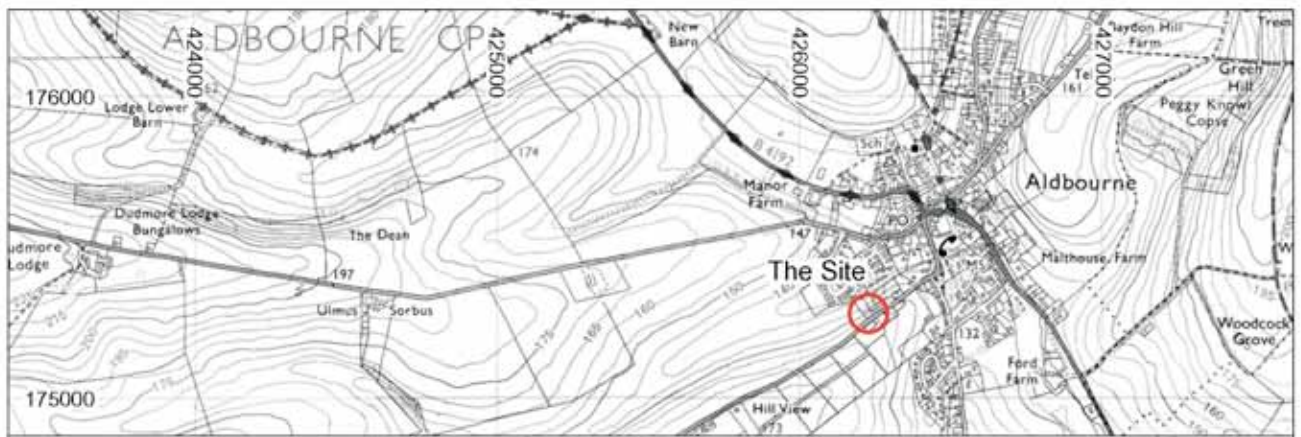
49	In situ	50-75%	Poor: badly degraded and fragmented bone	Unknown	child c. 8-10 yrs	? Cribra orbitalia	No	Embracing Inh 44
51	In situ	>75%	Fair: long bone ends degraded	Female	adult >45 yrs	Cervical osteoarthritis, impacted M3, periodontal disease, enthesopathies		
54	Disturbed	<25%	Poor: badly fragmented and much of burial missing	Female	adult >45 yrs	Osteoporosis, AM tooth loss		
57	In situ	>90%	Good but cranium fragmentary	Female	adult >35 yrs	AM tooth loss, periodontal disease, spinal degenerative joint disease, osteoarthritis of ribs	No	Additional leg in box marked 57
60	In situ	>75%	Fair but cranium, ribs and vertebrae fragmentary	Male	adult >45 yrs	AM tooth loss, caries, crush injury to R hand bones, compression fracture of vertebra, spinal osteoporosis, ? Gout	No	
63	In situ	<25%	Poor: badly fragmented and eroded legs and feet	Unknown	adult >18 yrs	Periostitis of left tibia and fibula	No	
66	In situ	50-75%	Poor: upper body badly disturbed	Female	adult c. 35-45 yrs	Osteoarthritis of left hip, Schmorl's nodes, osteochondritis dissecans of radius, enthesopathy	Yes	
69	In situ	50-75%	Good: long bones almost complete	Unknown	Infant 0-3 mths	New bone on internal surface of mandible		
72	In situ	<25%	Poor: badly degraded and truncated	? Female	adolescent c. 15-20 yrs			
75	In situ	>90%	Fair: some fragmentation and root etching; centre of burial disturbed	? Male	adult >45 yrs	AM tooth loss, caries, abscess, spinal degenerative joint disease, maxillary sinusitis, os acromiale, osteoarthritis of hands	No	Root damage to proximal femur
81	In situ	<25%	Fair: bone condition quite good but fragmented	Male	adult c. 35-45 yrs	AM tooth loss, spinal osteophytosis, Schmorl's nodes, enthesopathies; acromioclavicular DJD	No	
2	Disartic		Cranial fragment, mandible, clavicles, ribs, long bone and pelvic fragments					
	Disartic		Human bone: unknown. Upper limb long bone shaft fragments	Unknown	younger child			
	Disartic		Human bone unknown. Left hand bones	Unknown	adult			

**Table 4: Human bone and completeness of individual burials**

<b>Completeness</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Complete (>90%)	10	38.5
>75%	3	11.5
50-75%	5	19.2
25-50%	4	15.4
0-25%	4	15.4

**Table 5: Human bone preservation**

<b>Preservation</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Good	8	30.8
Fair	7	26.9
Poor	11	42.3



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Site location showing Areas subject to Watching Brief and excavation Areas 1 and 2

Figure 1



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Detailed Site plan Figure 2





Plate 1: Area 1 viewed from the south-east



Plate 2: Area 2 viewed from the north-north-east


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Plate 3: Seax with burial 35, Grave 34

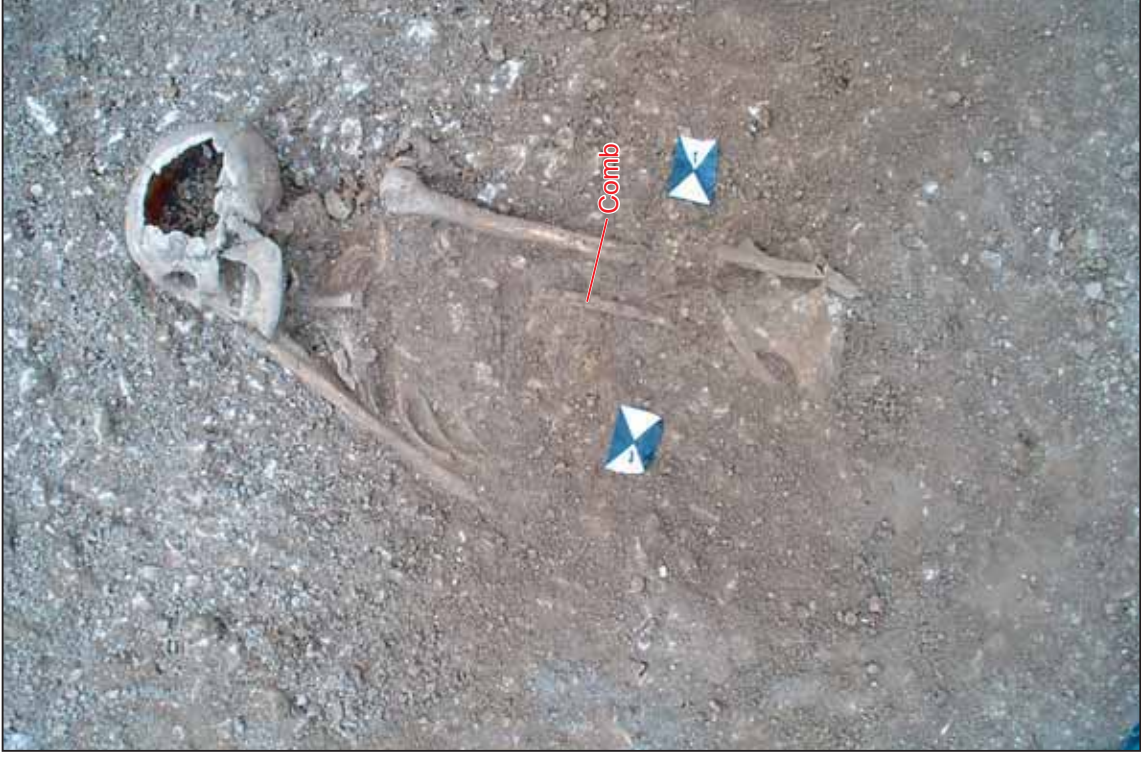


Plate 4: Double sided bone comb with burial 32, Grave 31


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Plate 5: Crouched burial 20, Grave 19



Plate 6: Prone burial 17, Grave 16


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Plate 7: Double burial **44** & **49** in Grave 43



Plate 8: The right hand of burial **23** illustrating the septic arthritis with ankylosis of an interphalangeal joint (centre) in addition to a volar groove on the distal end of the upper proximal hand phalanx. These changes are indicative of claw hand deformity



Plate 9: The right foot of burial **23** showing the destructive changes to the metatarsophalangeal joints and remodelling of the metatarsals indicative of leprosy.

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