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**Drawing on relevant primary and secondary data and sources relating to archaeology, develop a publication and dissemination strategy for an agreed case study.**

The case study for this assessment focuses on a grey literature report in 2016 (Allot, *et al.* 2016) and the project's primary data in the format of an interim report from 1997 in addition to image data, CAD vector graphics, CSV spreadsheets and site records deposited on the Archaeological Data Service (Germany, *et al.* 2016). Like many quarry sites in the UK, Roxwell, 6 km West of Chelmsford in Essex, has the potential to produce archaeological data as aggregates are extracted over extended periods and the spatial area expanded. The geographical position of the site in North Essex is in the location of the ancestral Thames, which ran a northerly course in the early Pleistocene, to the present-day southerly location of the Thames, the riverine gravel under the natural clay makes the site a commercially viable place for aggregate extraction and an area of interest in terms of potential rescue archaeology.

There has been a significant expanse of time between the data in the project archive on ADS, indicating that the initial fieldwork was conducted between the late 1990s to early 2000 and the final assimilated grey literature report uploaded onto ADS in 2021. The reasons for this could be twofold. Firstly, quarry sites can produce a constant stream of data over long time periods as new archaeology is slowly revealed. Secondly, the work was originally conducted by the now-discontinued Essex Archaeological Unit (The Colchester Archaeologist, 2012). The unit was acquired in 2012 by UCLs Archaeology South-East (ASE). It is possible that ASE absorbed a significant backlog of unpublished project data, which has been retrospectively consolidated over the last few decades. Although in terms of factual evidence, it is difficult to ascertain the reasons for this delay in publication with absolute certainty.

If this is the case, it highlights a perennial issue with publications from project outputs in terms of poor planning and limited financial foresight at the beginning of projects. As Michael Fulford has emphasised:

*“Only 6% of investigations carried out between 1990 and 1994 had reached final publication 12 years later, i.e. by 2006. An assessment of significance of the historic environment is very difficult if the most recent syntheses and regional research agenda still rely heavily on research undertaken and reported before 1990.”* (Fulford, 2011, P.33)

This staggering statistic highlights the problems faced with not allocating sufficient time, resources, and funding in the post-excavation stage of projects to assimilate, synthesise and disseminate the outputs. Further, this has had a real impact on not preserving archaeology by record, not informing regional and national research agendas, and making heritage non-accessible in the academic, commercial, and community spheres of interest.

The landscape has improved over the last decade since Fulford made his report. There is a better collective understanding and guidance (CIFA, 2022) within the archaeological profession to plan projects to deliver output publications (Historic England, 2015). However, there is still a long way to go regarding organising and strategically disseminating publications into relevant communities of interest. We must also consider and appreciate the changes in the academic research community over the last ten years. The shift from subscription-based journals to Open Access publishing has followed from the Finch Report (Finch, 2012) and the subsequent need to quantify research publications into the Research Excellence Framework.

There is currently a plethora of options for publication. However, first, we need to understand what the primary data means in this case study and how this fits into the bigger picture before we can begin reviewing options for a dissemination strategy.

The structure of the report follows a methodical model for grey literature reporting. The abstract gives a succinct non-technical one-paragraph explanation with an emphasis on the most salient phasing for the site, late Iron Age/Early Roman. It highlights some of the rarer finds recovered from the excavation, followed by a general background to the area, which covers the landscape, geology, and other essential excavations of the late Romano/British period located approximately 1.5 KM to the North of Roxwell Quarry (Clark, 1998).

The first section of the report discusses how the topsoil was removed to expose the archaeological horizons of the site into three separate areas. The excavated features were phased into the following four periods based on the primary data recovered: Later Prehistoric, Late Iron Age to Early Roman, Medieval, Post Medieval/Modern, and un-dated (Appendix 1).

The language used is descriptive and iterative in style, as the report interprets the primary datasets of excavated features from the project's context sheets, plans and photographic records in the project archive. The case study also uses specialist reports on pottery, struck flint, animal remains, registered finds, fired clay, human bone, animal bone, worked stone and environmental remains. The specialist reports comprise a significant body of the report's overall content. The report ends with a discussion section, combining the primary phased data with the findings from the specialised reports and contextualising the evidence into a broader regional and theoretical construct for late Iron Age habitation in Eastern Britain (Cunliffe, 1991).

In the first period, Later Prehistoric, Bronze to Middle Iron Age, the descriptive data yields that a significant number of artefacts were recovered from the Southwest quadrant of the excavation, covering Areas 1 & 2. Late Bronze Age pottery shards, struck flint, animal bone remains, and loom weights were all recovered from a prominent pit feature. Middle Iron Age structures were identified from posthole clusters in the same area; these were thought to be elevated granary storage. Prehistoric pottery was also recovered from a pit group and remnants of possible boundary ditches located further to the North. The specialist prehistoric pottery report elaborates some further detail, although notes that large quantities of recovered pottery could not be accurately dated due to the range of grogs

used, the exception being the Deverel-Rimbury pottery, part of a globular urn thought to be associated with domestic use and dated to the late Bronze Age. The phased data suggests that there has been some agricultural activity in the area but no clear evidence of settlement. The location of the granary is suggestive of this hypothesis; however, no environmental samples were recovered from this excavation phase to establish the purpose of these structures with additional clear dating evidence. A quantity of Middle Iron Age loomweights was also recovered, indicative of textile wool manufacturing, and the recovered animal remains do show a propensity towards livestock such as sheep.

The second period, the Late Iron Age to Early Roman, constituted the largest category of excavated features, recovered artefacts and data production from the case study. Most of this is located to the East of the site in Area 1 and substantively in Area 3, which included fifteen enclosures and boundary ditches. The excavators reasoned that over 100 years, the ditches ceased to be important as demarcated areas and instead became refuse deposits, as evidenced by domestic waste recovered from the top deposits in the ditches. Four cremation burials were also recovered from the area, and significant finds were recovered in the form of a bracelet and tweezers believed to have been added as grave goods after the cremation, in the Mid-1st Century BC to the Mid-1st Century AD. The second phase of the period after the Mid-1st Century AD shows straight linear ditches of a uniform structure that were shallow in depth.

The most considerable amount of recovered pottery was in the second period 27.91 kg, by a ratio of approximately 5:1 to the next significant period, Medieval, at 5.2 kg. Approximately 15 pottery fabrics were identified for the Late Iron Age and Roman Period, and 80% were identified as locally made Belgic Grog tempered wares, predominantly handmade rounded low-profile jars. This indicates that most of the material was produced before the Roman period and traded locally and domestic in purpose. Datable Roman pottery was recovered from pits in Area 3, but this only constituted discrete features in the overall phase. Comparatively, we find some imported fine Gallo-Belgic wares, which might indicate the site's predominance in the Late Iron Age when considering the grave goods recovered with the cremation burials.

The third Medieval period was concentrated in the South-Eastern part of Area 1, which constituted two linear ditches running East to West with four pits identified between the ditches and one pit cutting the ditch. From the pottery recovered in the ditches, it was thought that the features were likely to date around the 13th Century. Further analysis of the pottery data shows that the most significant volumes recovered were Medieval coarseware, Mill Green coarseware and Mill Green fine ware from the pit features. It was concluded not to be unusual, as production of Mill Green ware was located 8.5 km to the South of the site. The specialist report highlights horizontal sheard linkages between features, indicating that the area had been disturbed from possible ploughing, levelling, or dumping of pottery, impacting the quality of the primary data recovered for this period.

The last post-Medieval and Modern periods yielded little valuable primary data. Again, the area of concentration was towards the eastern side of the site; the ditches contained

agricultural drainage pipes, the exception being rutted trackway ditches running North to South with recovered horseshoes and modern CBM.

In terms of the weight of the data from this case study, we can see that the period of interest spans from the Middle Iron Age to the Late Iron Age, which is reflected in the specialist reports.

The Registered finds report indicates that most of the finds were Late Iron Age in the form of loom weights, but important significant artefacts were recovered, such as the cremation deposits, pre-conquest brooches, footwear, tweezers, socketed knife, and spearhead. This data helps to build an illustrative picture of this period and place. The fired clay report notes that briquetage container shards were recovered, perhaps meaning domestic salt production in the Heybridge Basin, a necessary food preservative. The Worked Stone report notes the recovery of lava quern stone, indicating goods were imported from the continent, possibly as far away as Germany (Wenzel, 2020). The fuel Ash slag recovered from the site suggests using clay-lined ovens, although the high temperatures would be in excess of domesticated usage. In the struck flint report, we see that well over 50% of the recovered finds are from the late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, but this is perhaps to be expected given that flint is a predominant technology the further we go back into the archaeological record. The animal bone report indicates that domestic animals were reared and butchered in similar intensities to what would typically be expected in a pre-conquest late Iron Age habitation. However, the environmental bulk samples did not produce a conclusive picture concerning crop cultivation, suggesting that an intensive sampling strategy should have been used during the excavation.

The dissemination and publication strategy should follow from the aggregate primary data used in the case study from the Middle to Late Iron Age, but how does this study contextualise what is already available? There is no mention of OASIS or HER records in the 2016 report, and publication, dissemination and archiving are not discussed in any of the ADS digital project archive documents. This is not surprising as the project archive has been retrospectively put together, and WSIs or equivalent type documents containing information regarding the project's publication and archiving have not been uploaded in this instance. The Essex Historical Environmental Record HER (Historic Gateway, 2022) reveals that something needs to be uploaded to indicate that excavation has taken place, linking with the grey literature report on ADS. This could be because funds were never made available, predating the requirement, or ASE has applied to add this publication to HER retrospectively but is currently backlogged on the Essex HER.

If no further steps have been taken, then this should be the first step in the dissemination strategy, ensuring the relevant information is open, accessible, and discoverable on a permanent statutory centralised online resource to members of the public, researchers, and commercial interests.

The ADS project archive does contain internal publications in the format of a 1998 interim report during the excavation phase; this is an essential document that enabled the final report to be published in 2016 by Mark Germany. However, it also begs the question of

what could be missing from the re-interpretation of the data. The current CIFA guidelines stress the importance of communication and publication as core activities for a project's lifetime (CIFA, 2020). There has been a significant disconnect in the past, resulting in valuable first-hand knowledge and para-data being lost as people change roles, retire, or go on to new opportunities in different excavation units.

An effective strategy for dissemination and publication should cover all bases to maximise impact, but other constraining factors are considered, such as funding, resources, and time. Having understood what the data means and how it has progressed, the remainder of this case study focuses on what more can be done on the local, national/regional, and higher publication, further research via the two modes of publication and dissemination.

### Local Community:

| Dissemination                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Impact | Funding | Resources                                               | Time   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <p><u>Local Press Release</u></p> <p>Several news outputs are in the nearest town Chelmsford, such as Essex Live, Chelmsford Weekly News and Radio Chelmsford. This would cover a broad population, and it would be easier to communicate the technical findings to this audience if the case study had produced (exceptional and recognisable) archaeological artefacts that appeal to a broad section of the public.</p> | Low    | Low     | ASE staff time                                          | Low    |
| <p><u>Site Tours or Open Days</u></p> <p>Given the time-lapse, this would be problematic, and it would need to be considered that Roxwell is/was a working quarry rather than a place to take members of the public safely.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                            | Low    | High    | No ASE Project Source Funding. Possible Aggregate Levy? | Medium |

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social Media</u></p> <p>Platforms such as Facebook host several specific online archaeology and history groups active in the area, such as Essex UK History and Essex way, walks and History. The case study would be receptive to local interest groups to target with a summary statement of excavation and links to the grey literature on ADS.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High | Low            | ASE staff time.                                                                                                                  | Low            |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Engagement Local Interest Groups and Organisations</u></p> <p>This could be in the format of talks, lectures, and education workshops, with the possibility of outreach to local schools or constructing online ArcGIS trails with volunteers, covering the broader heritage in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Essex Archaeology Group (WEAG)</li> <li>• Maldon Archaeological and Historic Group</li> <li>• Museum Groups in Essex</li> <li>• Colchester Archaeology Group</li> <li>• British Association for local History - Essex</li> </ul> | High | Medium to High | ASE staff time and resources. Possible local grants from Essex Heritage Fund or Essex Society for Archaeology and History Grant. | Medium to High |

| Publication                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Impact | Funding | Resources                         | Time                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pamphlets</u></p> <p>The project was completed some time ago; it would take a lot of work to target an audience in a local population. More likely to be a viable option during excavation, as local interest tends to peak when people see archaeologists excavating features.</p> | Low    | Low     | No sources<br>Internal ASE funds? | High<br>(Composition, proofreading, illustration, printing, and distribution) |

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| <p><u>Regional Journals</u></p> <p>This has already been achieved in, The Essex Society for Archaeology &amp; History, Transactions (Germany, 2016 P.44-70.).</p> | High | Medium | Aggregate Levy, local grants from Essex Heritage Fund or Essex Society for Archaeology and History Grant. | Medium |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|

#### National/Regional Interest:

| Dissemination                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Impact | Funding | Resources                              | Time   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------------------------------------|--------|
| <p><u>National Interest Groups</u></p> <p>The case study contained significant interpretations and finds for the Middle to Late Iron Age. Possible further communication via small conferences and meetings with these specialist interest groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Later Prehistoric Finds Group</li> <li>• The Roman Finds Group</li> <li>• Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group</li> </ul>                                 | High   | Low     | ASE staff time – Group Members Grants? | Medium |
| <p><u>National News Outlets</u></p> <p>The case study would not likely attract national interest from the local population. However, it could be targeted to specific national interests via Blogs and visual-based social media platforms to showcase the finds and link back to the case study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCL online blogs for history and archaeology</li> <li>• Twitter groups for history and archaeology</li> </ul> | Medium | Low     | ASE staff time                         | Low    |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instagram groups for history and archaeology</li> </ul>                                                                            |     |     |                |     |
| <p><u>Higher Education Repositories</u></p> <p>Copies of the case study and datasets can be also be distributed to UCLs online Discovery Repository by UCL/ASE staff.</p> | Low | Low | ASE staff time | Low |

| Publication                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Impact                                                             | Funding | Resources                                                                            | Time |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <p><u>National Journals</u></p> <p>The case study, although interesting, would need to be based on a significant research question or theme, which would include workable hypotheses or further insight into a particular area of knowledge.</p> <p>A possible idea for higher publication that could use (some) of the case study data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of recovered Iron Age bracelets in the East of England and what they tell us about Late prehistoric burial practices.</li> </ul> <p>Possible Source Journal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journal of the British Archaeological Association</li> </ul> | High - 27k yearly Downloads and 91-days acceptance to publication. | High    | ASE staff time and possible Gold Open Access funding with the University of Essex or | High |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |      |     | UCL co-author?                         |      |
| <u>National Archaeology Magazines</u><br><br>The case study could be made into a short article. However, the topic could be very dry for the type of magazine readership wanting to explore the more prominent themes in UK archaeology.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Low  | Low | ASE staff time                         | High |
| <u>National Interest Groups</u><br><br>The case study contained significant interpretations and finds for the Middle to Late Iron Age. Possible further communication in the format of short articles in newsletters with these special interest groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Later Prehistoric Finds Group</li> <li>• The Roman Finds Group (Lucerna Newsletters)</li> <li>• The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group</li> </ul> | High | Low | ASE staff time – Group Members Grants? | Low  |

#### Higher Publication/Further Research:

| Dissemination and Publication                                                                                                                                                         | Impact | Funding | Source         | Time |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------------|------|
| <u>International Conferences</u><br><br>Conference Paper or Poster: Again, we would need a research theme that goes beyond the scope of the case study alone.<br><br>Possible output: | High   | Low     | ASE staff time | High |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prehistoric Society Conferences</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |      |      |                                                                                                     |      |
| <p><u>International Journals</u></p> <p>It would need to be the research of international standards that goes beyond the scope of the current case study.</p> <p>Possible outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cambridge Archaeological Journal</li> <li>Journal of World Prehistory</li> </ul> | High | High | ASE staff time and possible Gold Open Access funding with the University of Essex or UCL co-author? | High |
| <p><u>Thesis</u></p> <p>The case study alone has insufficient data to sustain a thesis. We need to develop the datasets into a more comprehensive research area.</p>                                                                                                                                           | Low  | High | Research Council (AHRC)                                                                             | High |
| <p><u>Monograph Book</u></p> <p>We could use the case study data to develop a theme with Historic England around Iron Age ceramics and trade in Southeast England.</p>                                                                                                                                         | Low  | High | Historic England Funding - Aggregate Levy Funding                                                   | High |

### Discussion:

This case study has been challenging because of the lapse of time between the start of the excavations and the late publication of the grey literature on ADS. The ASE team has already done much to bring the case study to light, depositing the datasets onto ADS and publishing a journal article in a respected and long-established regional journal. It is troubling that this

needs to be reflected on the Historical Environmental Record, although there are mitigating factors of time and organisational change involved.

From the evaluation of the research and dissemination strategy, the case study has been reviewed retrospectively, which is an unusual perspective but a useful learning experience. The above matrix has helped consolidate the case study's salient points and contextualise and refine the strategy. The dissemination and publication strategy should focus on the local and possibly the national level for this case study. It is helpful to examine the full potential of higher publications and further research. However, it is notable that the character and emphasis of the case study change beyond recognition, and both funding and time factors become a significant burden as these options are examined.

On a localised level, it could be argued that the boat has already sailed, which may be the case with site tours, open days and producing pamphlets. However, there is more scope for dissemination in targeting localised interest groups with low-cost and low-time solutions such as talks, engagement with Facebook groups and lectures focused on key findings from the Iron Age phased datasets and recovered finds. If further funding can be sourced, then the case study could be used in activities that demand higher resources and time, such as workshops with volunteers, developing high-impact activities for learning new skills such as ArcGIS, and researching local heritage.

The publication of the grey literature in a regional journal article was entirely appropriate. However, higher publications in national journals and conference papers would demand that the datasets be expanded into a research project. Again, there are alternatives which can be high impact, low cost and should not require large amounts of resources.

Targeting the results of the case study towards national interest groups via small conferences, meetings and newsletters would be a progressive objective to target professional and academic cohorts, which could have a ripple effect for potential higher publication, networking, and communication. The qualitative outcome of this engagement and publication would depend on gathering additional para-data from the original excavation team and specialists to supplement these activities.

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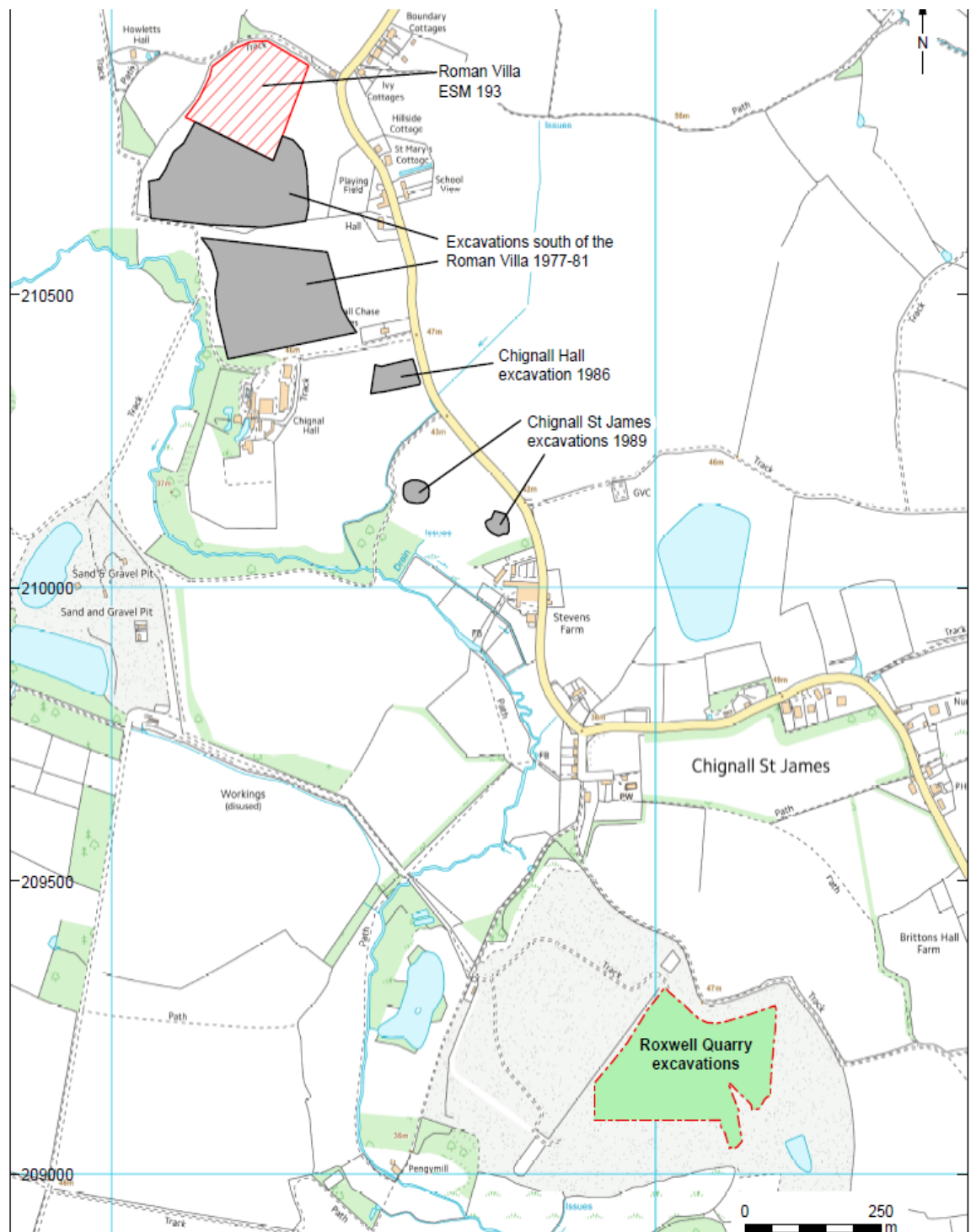
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## Appendices:

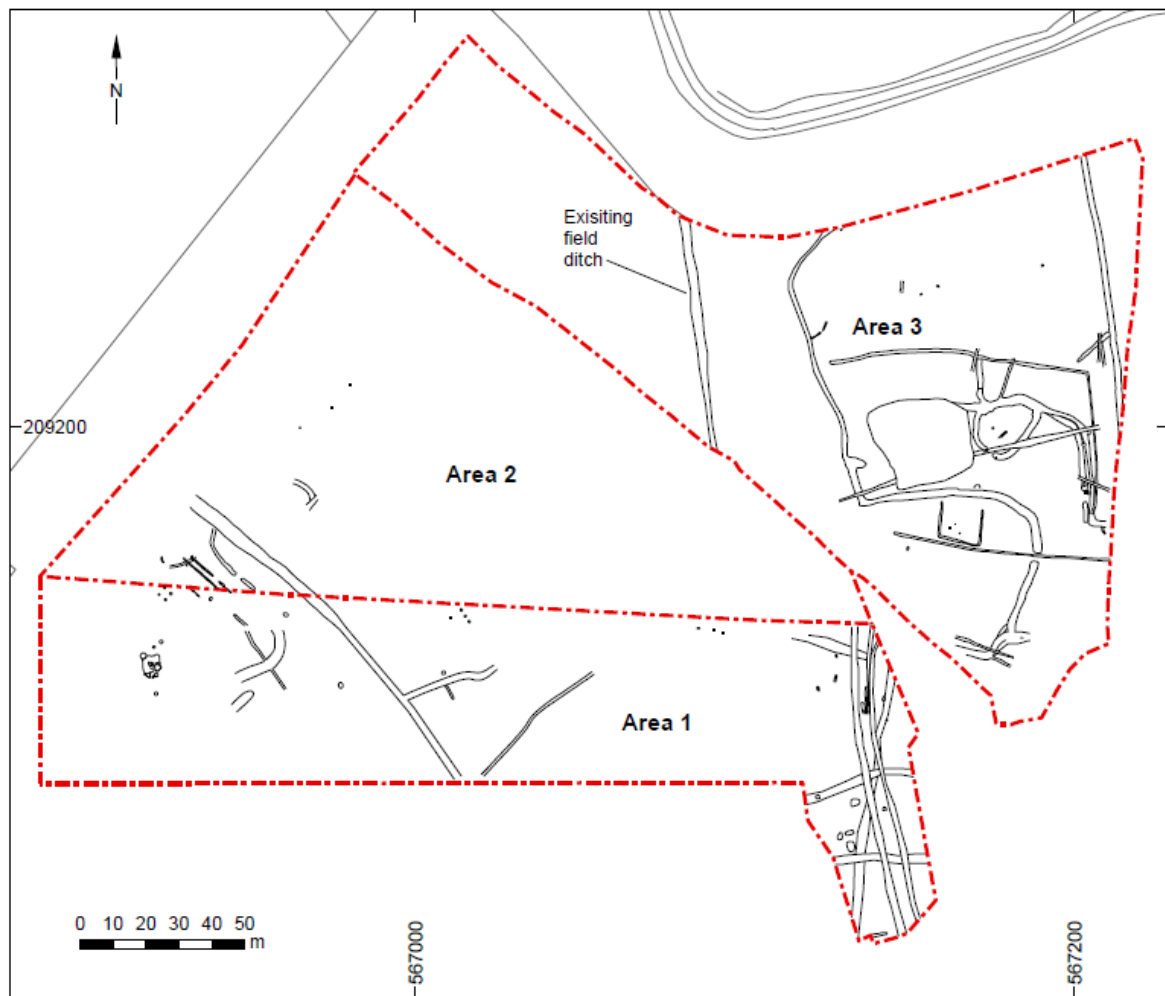
1.

### 1.1 Localised area excavation map:



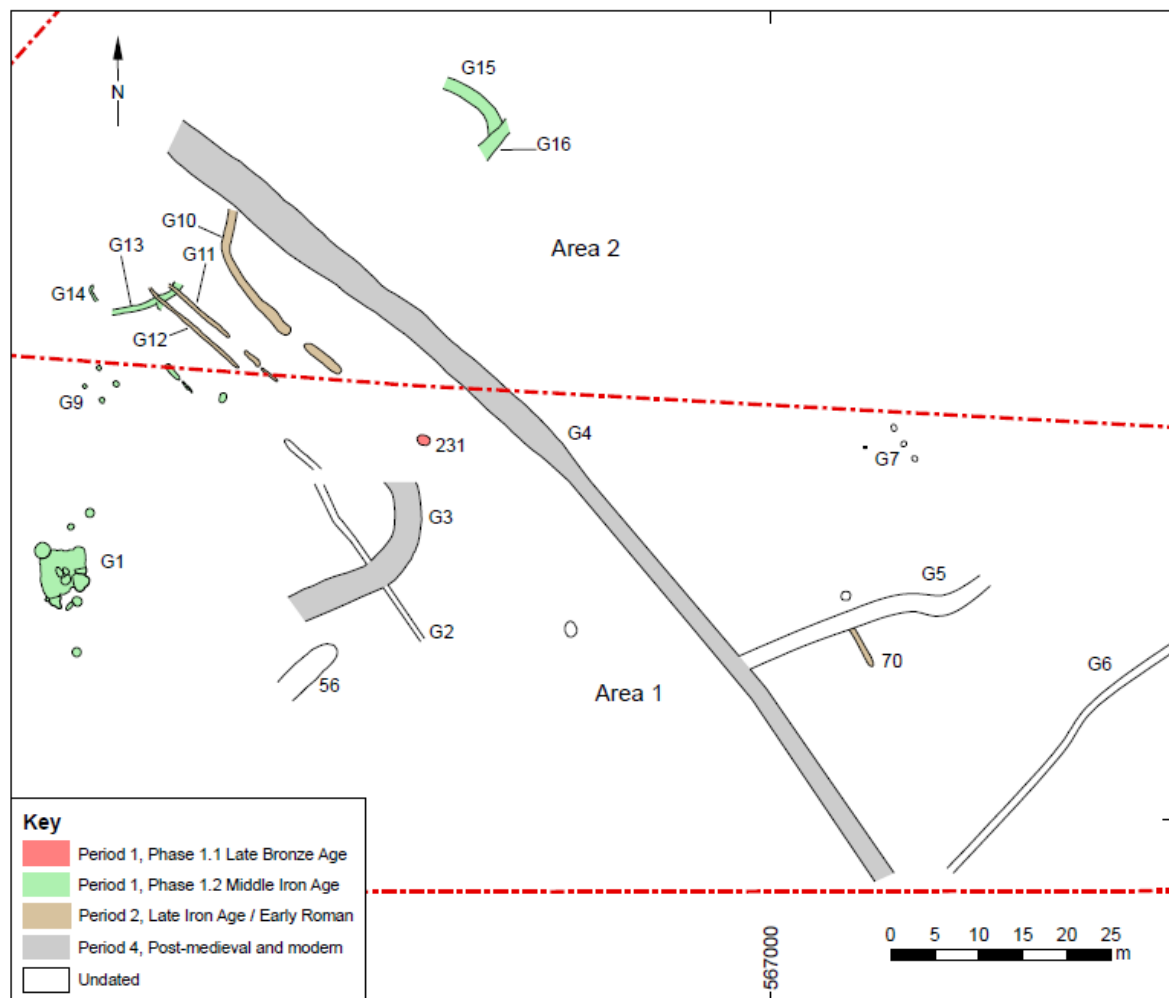
Source: Allot, L., Ayton, G., Doherty, A., Germany, M., Le Hégarat, K., Major, H., Martin, S., Raemen, E., Sibun, L., Tyrrell, R., Walker, H. (2016) Later Prehistoric Remains and Late Iron Age to Early Roman Enclosures at Roxwell Quarry Archaeology South-East: Essex

## 1.2 Excavation map of the three stripped areas:



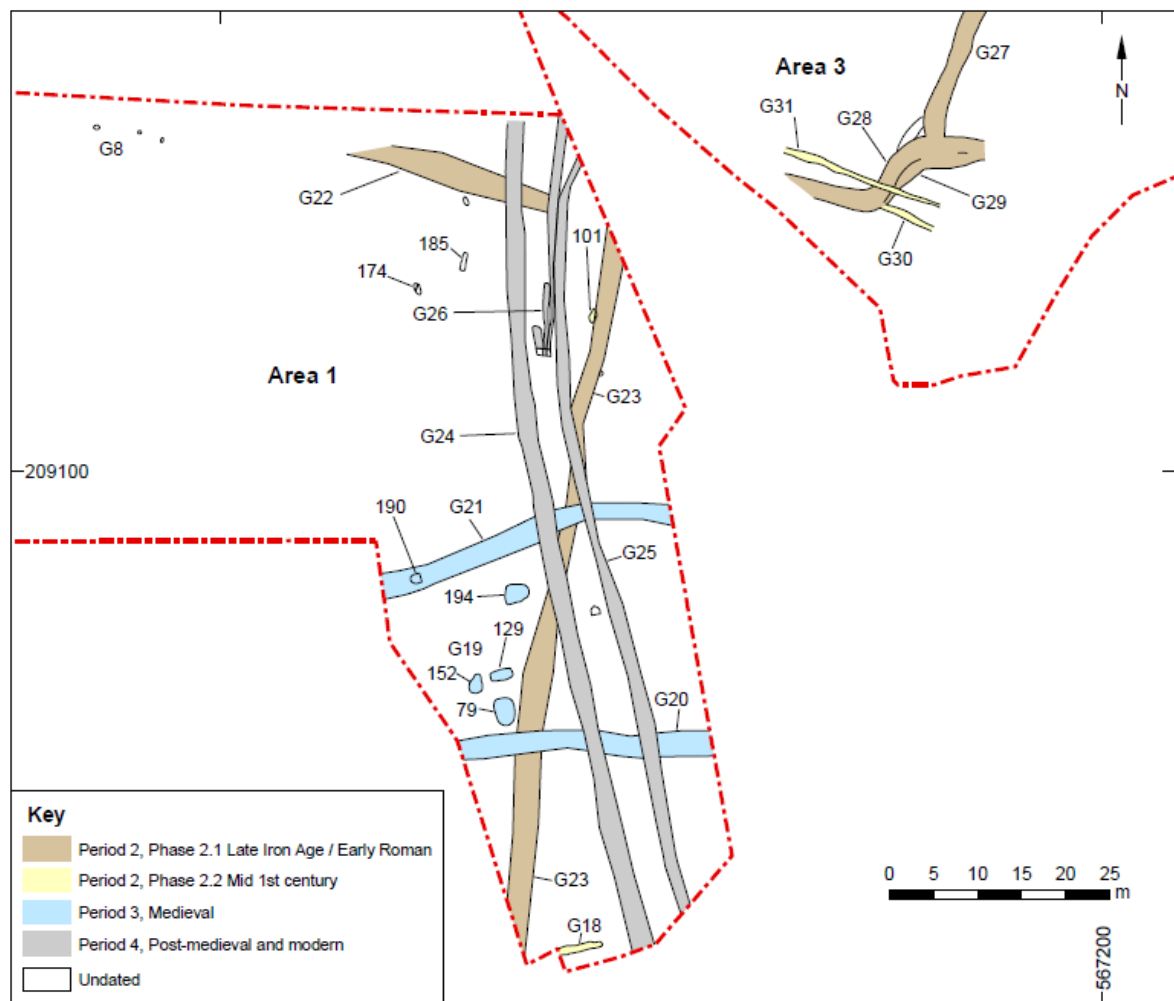
Source: Allot, L., Ayton, G., Doherty, A., Germany, M., Le Hégarat, K., Major, H., Martin, S., Raemen, E., Sibun, L., Tyrrell, R., Walker, H. (2016) Later Prehistoric Remains and Late Iron Age to Early Roman Enclosures at Roxwell Quarry Archaeology South-East: Essex

### 1.3 Phasing of area 1 & 2:



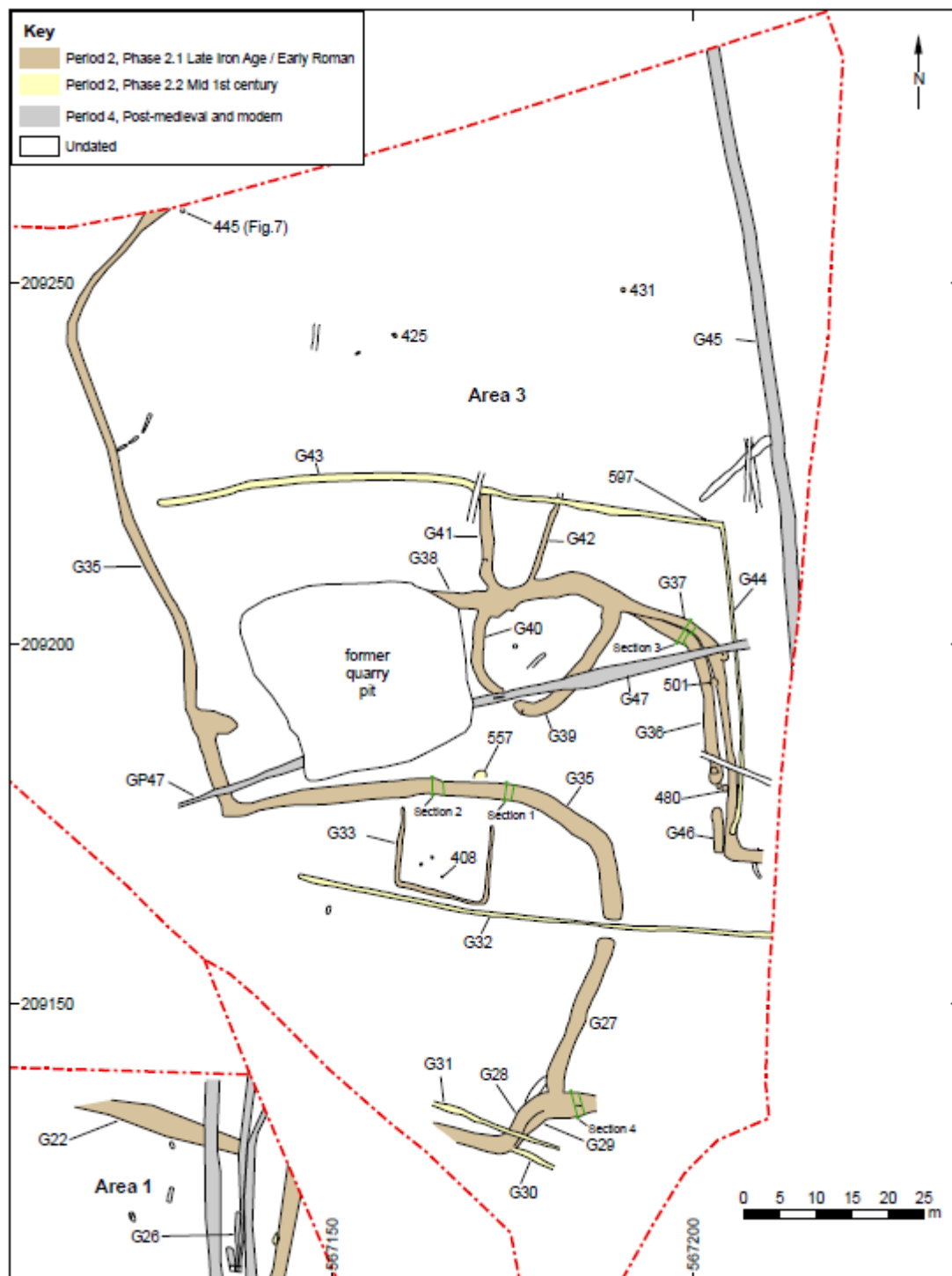
Source: Allot, L., Ayton, G., Doherty, A., Germany, M., Le Hégarat, K., Major, H., Martin, S., Raemen, E., Sibun, L., Tyrrell, R., Walker, H. (2016) Later Prehistoric Remains and Late Iron Age to Early Roman Enclosures at Roxwell Quarry Archaeology South-East: Essex

#### 1.4 Phasing Area 1 & 3:



Source: Allot, L., Ayton, G., Doherty, A., Germany, M., Le Hégarat, K., Major, H., Martin, S., Raemen, E., Sibun, L., Tyrrell, R., Walker, H. (2016) Later Prehistoric Remains and Late Iron Age to Early Roman Enclosures at Roxwell Quarry Archaeology South-East: Essex

### 1.5 Phasing Area 1 & 3:



Source: Allot, L., Ayton, G., Doherty, A., Germany, M., Le Hégarat, K., Major, H., Martin, S., Raemen, E., Sibun, L., Tyrrell, R., Walker, H. (2016) Later Prehistoric Remains and Late Iron Age to Early Roman Enclosures at Roxwell Quarry Archaeology South-East: Essex

