

Roman Agricultural Field Systems at 98-120 Wisbech Road, Littleport



Excavation Report



March 2010

Client: Cocksedge Ltd

OA East Report No: 1135

OASIS No: oxfordar3-65527

NGR: TL 5592 8733

Roman Agricultural Field Systems at 98-120 Wisbech Road, Littleport

Archaeological Excavation

By Louise Bush BA MA PlfA

With contributions by Steve Wadeson HND and Chris Faine MA MSc AlfA

Editor: Richard Mortimer MlfA

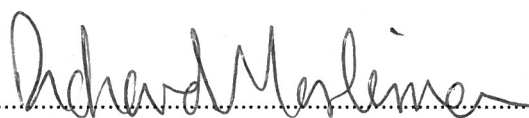
Illustrator: Louise Bush BA MA PlfA

Report Date: March 2010

Report Number: 1135
Site Name: 98-120 Wisbech Road, Littleport
HER Event No: ECB 3193
Date of Works: 21st- 28th September 2009
Client Name: Cocksedge Ltd
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: 07/00982/FUM
Grid Ref: TL 5592 8733
Site Code: LITLAW09
Finance Code: LITLAW09
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No:

Prepared by: Louise Bush
Position: Fieldwork Supervisor
Date: March 2010

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Project Manager
Date: March 2010
Signed:



Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2008
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Summary.....	6
1 Introduction.....	7
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography.....	7
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	7
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	8
2 Aims and Methodology.....	9
2.1 Aims.....	9
2.2 Methodology.....	9
3 Results.....	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Group 1: Tree throws.....	10
3.3 Group 2: Ditches.....	10
3.4 Group 3: Modern.....	12
3.5 Finds Summary.....	12
3.6 Environmental Summary.....	12
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	13
4.2 Significance.....	14
Appendix A. Context Inventory.....	15
Appendix B: Finds Quantification Table	17
5 Appendix C: Romano-British Pottery.....	18
5.1 Introduction.....	18
5.2 Methodology.....	18
5.3 Quantification.....	18
5.4 The assemblage.....	18
5.5 Discussion.....	18
5.6 Recommendations.....	18
5.7 Pottery Catalogue.....	19
Appendix D: Faunal Remains.....	19

5.8	Introduction.....	19
5.9	Assemblage.....	19
5.10	Recommendations.....	19
6	Appendix E: CBM and Fired Clay.....	19
6.1	Introduction.....	19
6.2	Methodology.....	19
6.3	Recommendations.....	19
	Appendix F: Flint.....	20
6.4	Introduction.....	20
6.5	Assemblage.....	20
6.6	Recommendations.....	20
	Appendix G: Bibliography.....	21
	Appendix H: OASIS Report Form.....	22

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map
Fig. 2a Excavation plan, Area A
Fig. 2b Excavation plan, Area B
Fig. 3 Selected sections
Fig. 4 Phase plan

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Ditch **27** and **62** looking southwest
Plate 2 View of trenches 1 and 2
Plate 3 Ditch **73** looking northeast
Plate 4 Trench 4 looking northwest

Summary

Between 21st and 28th September 2009 OA East conducted an archaeological evaluation and excavation at 98-120 Wisbech Road, Littleport (TL 5592 8733) in advance of the construction of 12 flats and 8 houses with associated services and parking. Within the development area, six evaluation trenches were opened up, followed immediately by two open excavation areas.

A slight scatter of prehistoric flints were found across the site, suggesting Neolithic activity in the vicinity, but without any features being positively identified.

An agricultural field system containing several alignments and phases of activity with associated boundary ditches dating to the Roman period were uncovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation and excavation were conducted at 98-120 Wisbech Road, Littleport.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 07/00982/FUM), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results of the evaluation stage enabled decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of the archaeological remains found and the evaluation was immediately followed by a targeted excavation stage.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on Kimmeridge Clay with boulder clay to the south (BGS Sheet No.173).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

- 1.3.1 Prehistoric remains have been recorded on the north and northwest side of Littleport Island including a Bronze Age settlement site at Plantation Farm (CHER CB141). Two sparse Bronze Age lithic scatters have also been recorded approximately 1km and 2km to the southwest of the subject site (Hall 1996 Fig.11 sites 17 and 18). An extensive evaluation followed by open area excavation has been carried out at Highfield Farm to the south of the site by Archaeological Project Services (APS) and has revealed occupation deposits surrounding a ponded area of intensively inter-cutting pits and evidence of dispersed settlement dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (Dymond 1999; Unpublished 2006).
- 1.3.2 Both Early and Late Iron Age features including ditches, pits and postholes were recorded immediately to the east of the site, at 88-96 Wisbech Road (ECB 2820, MCB 17425). The Iron Age is otherwise poorly represented with only two sites recorded in the whole parish, both located approximately 3km to the northwest of Littleport Island at Butchers Hill.

Roman

- 1.3.3 Both domestic and industrial Roman remains are recorded at the Camel Road saltern site adjacent to the south side of the Old Croft River (CHER CB 139 and 140) to the east of the subject site (Macaulay 2002). There are potentially as many as 30 saltern

sites along the Old Croft River (*ibid*). The Roman road of Akeman Street is thought to run through Littleport, however, no trace of the road has yet been found north of Ely.

- 1.3.4 Recent excavations by APS at Highfield Farm have revealed a concentrated area of Romano-British activity (Dymond 1999; APS unpublished 2006). Surrounded by (probable) contemporary field enclosures extending to the north and west, a multi-phase sub-rectangular ditched enclosure contained a series of inter-cutting pits, a possible post-built structure and a sunken floored building with identifiable floor layers and a wood-lined tank. Waterlogged material was also recovered from this and from a number of the surrounding pits. The Romano-British features, which continued beyond the southern boundary of the excavated area, appeared to lie in a slight natural hollow.

- 1.3.5 Roman building material was also recovered from excavations at 133-135 Wisbech Road to the west of the site (CB 15679).

Saxon

- 1.3.6 Saxon occupation at Littleport may have been based around the hithe where the Old Croft ran close to the Island (Macaulay 2002). A Saxon cemetery was excavated by APS to the north of the Romano-British occupation area (SSE of the subject site). It was found to contain ninety-seven burials, including three horse burials and five urned cremations (APS unpublished 2006).

Medieval

- 1.3.7 The Domesday Book (1086) records a *vill* and it is assumed that the present town covers part (if not all) of the medieval centre.

Modern

- 1.3.8 In recent times the Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1890 shows that Littleport's historic street pattern remains the same today.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank John Brand and Steve Nugent of Cocksedge Ltd who commissioned and funded the works, and specifically the on-site manager, Merv Clingo. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. Fieldwork was carried out by the author and Graeme Clarke. The site survey and the illustrations were also carried out by the author. The mechanical excavation was undertaken by Matt from Cocksedge Ltd. The brief for archaeological works was written by Dan McConnell, who also visited and monitored both stages of the work.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area; the objective of the excavation phase was the preservation of these deposits by record.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Evaluation Brief required that 5% of the development area be subject to trial trenching, therefore 145sqm of evaluation trenches were opened. Due to the high number of archaeological features uncovered, Dan McConnell from CAPCA indicated that a further excavation stage of work would be required. This was progressed immediately through agreement of mitigation by excavation and record. An overall investigation area of 264sqm (in two blocks) was opened for excavation.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 Four environmental samples were taken to investigate the possible survival of micro- and macro- botanical remains.
- 2.2.6 The areas available for investigation were restricted by a number of factors: truncation caused by the removal of the deep foundations of the demolished houses on the site, live service runs and an area of Japanese knotweed. The site conditions were fine and dry.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The archaeology revealed at Wisbech Road was fundamentally of a single period, early Roman date, and thus the features will be discussed by type and in order of their alignments rather than by date of phase. A comprehensive listing of trench depths, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological features were revealed right across the excavation areas (Figures 2a and 2b). Natural geology was encountered c. 0.60m below the modern ground level. The topsoil was c. 0.4m deep and consisted of a dark brown grey sandy clay which contained very high levels of modern debris. The subsoil was a mid brown orange sandy clay c. 0.2m deep, containing some modern brick and intrusive service pipes. The open area excavation, following on from the evaluation trenches, was divided into two areas; Area A at the east and Area B at the west.
- 3.1.3 The archaeological features detailed below are discussed in three Groups: Undated tree throws, Romano-British agricultural ditches and modern intrusions. The Romano-British ditches are discussed by alignment, with very little evidence for any phasing within or between these alignments. Unless otherwise mentioned in the text, no finds were retrieved from the features.

3.2 Group 1: Tree throws

- 3.2.1 Three tree throws were recorded within the site. At the northeast of Area A, tree throw **19** was irregular in shape, 1.05m wide and varied in depth from 0.08m to 0.18m (Fig. 2a). It contained a single fill (18) which was a light grey soft sandy clay. One small fragment of burnt flint was retrieved.
- 3.2.2 At the western edge of Area A was tree throw **25** (Fig. 2a). This was 0.8m wide, 0.18m deep and contained a single fill (24), which was a mid grey-brown soft sandy clay. This feature contained no finds, but was truncated by ditch **5**.
- 3.2.3 In Area B, tree throw **35** contained a mid grey-brown firm sandy silt (34) with rare gravel inclusions, which was 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 2b).

3.3 Group 2: Ditches

Alignment 1

- 3.3.1 Eight ditches were identified as running on this alignment in an east-northeast to west-southwest direction. Within this alignment were two phases of ditches of different size and form. The earlier phase contained two identifiable features, ditches **15** and **27**, both in Area A.
- 3.3.2 Ditch **15** (Fig. 3) was 1.29m wide, 0.5m deep with a round bottomed V profile. It contained three fills (12, 13 and 14), all slumping in from the northwest. No finds were recovered from any of the fills. The ditch was truncated on its southeast side by a subsequent phase of ditching (Ditch **11**, Alignment 3).
- 3.3.3 Ditch **27** contained a mid brown-grey sandy silt (26) with rare charcoal flecks and rare gravel pieces. The ditch was 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep with a flat bottomed U profile and butt-ended within the excavation area. Ditch **27** was truncated on its northwestern side by ditch **62**, (Alignment 1).

- 3.3.4 The later phase of Alignment 1 contained six ditches, four within Area A and two in Area B. From the west, ditch **41** consisted of just the butt-end, which was 0.65m wide and 0.14m deep with a flat base. Its single fill (40) was a light grey-brown sandy clay.
- 3.3.5 Ditch **43** had a flat bottomed U profile and a single fill (42), of light grey-brown sandy clay with rare charcoal flecks.
- 3.3.6 Ditch **58** had a single fill (57) made up of a light grey-brown sandy clay and butt-ended within the excavation area. It had a flat bottomed U profile and was 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep.
- 3.3.7 Ditch **62** was 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep with a light grey-brown sandy clay fill (61). The terminus of this feature was also present within the excavation area. This ditch truncated the larger ditch **27** which ran on the same alignment (Alignment 1, phase 1).
- 3.3.8 Ditch **17** was up to 0.7m wide and 0.19m deep with a flat base and vertical sides. The fill (16) consisted of a mid brown-grey sandy clay. This ditch also butt-ended within the excavation (Fig. 3)
- 3.3.9 Ditch **29** contained a mid yellow-grey silty clay fill (28), with rare small sub-angular stones. It was 0.46m wide, 0.18m deep.

Alignment 2

- 3.3.10 Four ditches were noted as running on this northeast to southwest alignment, all located in Area B (Fig 2b). As with Alignment 1, there were two phases of ditch identified. The first phase contained ditch **39** (Fig 3). It was 0.78m wide and 0.36m deep with an irregular U shaped profile. It contained three fills, which like ditch **15** (Alignment 1, Phase 1) had slumped in from the northwest. The primary fill (38) was a yellow-blue clay, likely to be a natural slump fallen back in during its original excavation. Secondary fill 37, was a mid-brown grey sandy clay 0.36m deep. It contained 2 flint flakes and two abraded sherds of sandy Roman grey ware. The latest fill (36), a light grey-brown sandy clay, also contained one sherd of Roman pottery and a fragment of burnt clay.
- 3.3.11 The remaining three ditches were likely to be from a different phase within Alignment 2 as they differed markedly in shape and size from ditch **39**. To the far west of ditch **39** was ditch **51**, which contained a single fill (50), a light-grey brown sandy clay. It too had a flat bottomed U profile 0.45m wide and 0.05m deep. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the butt-end.
- 3.3.12 Ditch **33** butt-ended within the excavation area. Its profile was a flat bottomed U which was 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep. Fill 28 (a mid yellow-grey silty clay) contained one sherd of Roman pottery and two flint flakes.
- 3.3.13 Ditch **47** was 0.6m wide, 0.1m deep and contained a single light grey-brown sandy clay fill (46), with a flat bottomed U profile.

Alignment 3

- 3.3.14 The third alignment was orientated north-northeast to south-southwest. Three ditches were identified as being on this alignment. In Area A, ditch **11** (which cut ditch **15** from Alignment 1, phase 1) was 0.46m wide, 0.19m deep and contained a mid brown-grey sandy clay (10). The ditch had a flat bottomed U profile (Fig 2a).
- 3.3.15 In Area B (Fig 2b), ditch **45** contained a single fill (44), a light grey-brown sandy clay. As above the ditch had a flat bottomed U profile, but was slightly more substantial in size, being 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep.

- 3.3.16 Ditch **49** measured 0.55m wide and 0.12m deep. It had a flat bottomed U profile. The fill (48) was very similar to that of **45**.

Alignment 4

- 3.3.17 Three ditches ran along this northwest to southeast alignment. Ditch **31** (Fig. 2b) in the northwestern corner of Area B was 0.95m wide and 0.21m deep with a flat bottomed U profile. It contained one fill (30) which was a dark blue-grey clay and contained rare charcoal.
- 3.3.18 In Area A, ditch **5** was 1.25m wide and 0.4m deep and had an open U profile. The fill (4), a dark grey clay, contained one struck flint.
- 3.3.19 Ditch **73** (Fig. 2a) was 1.2m wide, 0.52m deep and contained three fills. The primary fill (72) consisted of a dark blue-grey clay 0.23m deep with rare charcoal and gravel. Secondary fill 71, was a mid yellow-brown clay 0.25m deep. The tertiary fill (70) was 0.15m deep and made up of a dark red-brown silty clay containing rare small rounded stones. One sherd of Roman pottery and a partial animal bone were retrieved from this fill.

3.4 Group 3: Modern

- 3.4.1 Throughout the excavation area, modern brick and service pipe intrusions were present, particularly in the topsoil and subsoil. On the western side of Area A, two postholes (**7** and **9**) were excavated (Fig. 2a). They were both 0.24m wide and 0.14m deep containing a firm dark grey sandy clay. Fill 6 from posthole **7** contained the remains of some small animal bones and a fragment of modern tile.

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 This combined evaluation and excavation produced a very small assemblage of 6 pottery sherds, weighing 0.056kg, from five contexts. The material recovered was early Roman in date. The condition of the overall assemblage was heavily abraded.
- 3.5.2 There was a tiny amount of animal bone retrieved, weighing 0.038kg, from two contexts. These were undiagnostic fragments from medium sized mammals.
- 3.5.3 Two lumps of fired clay dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period were identified as well as a piece of post-Medieval roof tile.
- 3.5.4 Three struck or burnt flints were also recovered, weighing 0.007kg, from three contexts.

3.6 Environmental Summary

- 3.6.1 Four bulk samples were taken in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations. There is no environmental appendix because the samples were found to be devoid of any ecofacts or artefacts other than sparse charcoal as evidence of burning.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The excavation at 98-120 Wisbech Road has revealed evidence for activity dating from the Neolithic through to the Roman period. Three Neolithic flint flakes may indicate no more than that the area was visited in prehistory. It is possible that the three recorded tree throws could date to an early period of land clearance - the sole relationship is one truncation by the Roman boundary ditch, and the only find is a burnt flint chip.
- 4.1.2 The majority of the small finds assemblage can be dated to the Roman period (6 sherds) and includes two pieces of fired clay. The four alignments of ditches together; may make up several phases of a Roman agricultural field system. The northwest to southeast ditches (alignment 4) are more substantial in size than the ditches that (generally) run northeast to southwest, suggesting that this alignment served as the northern boundary to the fields. The fills of the alignment 4 ditches are very different in comparison with the other ditches, the fills are almost pure clay with no inclusions, perhaps implying some form of water movement along them.
- 4.1.3 The site is situated very low on the Littleport Fen Island, the 2m contour runs just outside of the investigation area, parallel with the alignment 4 ditches. Beyond this, the ground drops away very sharply into the fen. This is reflected in the archaeology on site, in that there are no cut features to the north of the larger boundary ditches.
- 4.1.4 The ditches running northeast to southwest may form an agricultural 'lazybed' field system, where a trench is dug and the soil piled up next to it. This is reinforced in how these ditches respect the perpendicular boundary ditch in Area A, butt-ending c. 3m to the south of it. There are several potential explanations as to what would have been grown with this 'lazybed' arrangement. This type of parallel field system has been seen on other sites around Cambridgeshire, narrow, parallel linear earthworks can still be seen at Bullocks Haste (northeast of Cottenham). Similar systems have also been uncovered at Caldecote Highfields where it was tentatively identified as a vineyard (Kenney 2007, 23). However, at the Littleport site, these beds are unlikely to be far enough apart to sustain such a crop. Other possibilities include a simple raised bed cultivation system as a result of the site being so low, as the ground may have been quite wet.
- 4.1.5 The three slightly varying alignments of northeast to southwest ditches implies that the area was re-used over a period of time with different phases of cultivation being conducted. The distances between the ditches in each alignment also varies. The majority of the ditches in alignment 1 have spaces of c. 3m between them, whereas those in alignment 2 vary between 2 and 5m, and in alignment 3 the gap is 8m.
- 4.1.6 The small number of Roman finds on site would originally have derived from a settlement site, but have made their way into the area through means of cultivation. An excavation by Archaeological Project Services in 2004 at Highfield Farm, Littleport, to the southeast of the site uncovered a concentration of Roman activity including post structures and sunken floor buildings (APS 2006, 2). Therefore it is viable that the field systems uncovered at 98 -120 Wisbech Road, would have related to this settlement.
- 4.1.7 Any precise dating of the system is problematic, although a Roman date is fairly secure. The datable finds assemblage consists of just six sherds of heavily abraded pottery, with a mean sherd weight of less than 10g. While the date of the assemblage is securely 1st/2nd century, its condition suggests that it is residual within the ditch

contexts, perhaps the result of a relatively short-lived period when the areas was subjected to ploughing and manuring. The 'lazybed' system itself may date to considerably later in the Roman period, following a change in the agricultural management of this low-lying, fen-edge area.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The discovery of these Roman field systems broadens our understanding of Roman agriculture and cultivation within the area and adds detail to how every part of the Littleport Island was used.
- 4.2.2 During the excavation at 98-120 Wisbech Road, an archaeological evaluation was also being undertaken by Archaeological Solutions half a mile to the west of the site on the corner of the A10 and Wisbech Road. The same type of 'lazybed' ditches appeared to be present here. This highlights the extent to which the area around Littleport was cultivated during the Roman period, and together these excavations have the potential to inform on the exploitation of the Fen edge through the Roman period.

APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Ditch Number</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Function</i>
1	3	73	fill	ditch	disuse
2	3	73	fill	ditch	disuse
3	3	73	cut	ditch	boundary
4	5	5	fill	ditch	disuse
5	5	5	cut	ditch	boundary
6	7	-	fill	post hole	disuse
7	7	-	cut	post hole	structure
8	9	-	fill	post hole	disuse
9	9	-	cut	post hole	structure
10	11	11	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
11	11	11	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
12	15	15	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
13	15	15	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
14	15	15	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
15	15	15	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
16	17	17	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
17	17	17	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
18	19	-	fill	natural	tree throw
19	19	-	cut	natural	tree throw
20	21	-	fill	natural	tree throw
21	21	-	cut	natural	tree throw
22	23	-	fill	natural	tree throw
23	23	-	cut	natural	tree throw
24	25	-	fill	natural	tree throw
25	25	-	cut	natural	tree throw
26	27	27	fill	ditch	disuse
27	27	27	cut	ditch	boundary
28	29	29	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
29	29	29	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
30	31	31	fill	ditch	disuse
31	31	31	cut	ditch	boundary
32	33	33	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
33	33	33	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
34	35	-	fill	natural	tree throw
35	35	-	cut	natural	tree throw
36	39	39	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
37	39	39	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
38	39	39	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed

<i>Context</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Ditch Number</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Function</i>
39	39	39	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
40	41	41	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
41	41	41	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
42	43	43	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
43	43	43	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
44	45	45	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
45	45	45	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
46	47	47	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
47	47	47	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
48	49	49	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
49	49	49	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
50	51	51	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
51	51	51	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
52	53	33	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
53	53	33	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
54	56	39	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
55	56	39	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
56	56	39	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
57	58	58	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
58	58	58	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
59	60	17	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
60	60	17	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
61	62	62	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
62	62	62	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
63	65	27	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
64	65	27	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
65	65	27	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
66	67	62	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
67	67	62	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
68	69	27	fill	lazybed	cultivation bed
69	69	27	cut	lazybed	cultivation bed
70	73	73	fill	ditch	disuse
71	73	73	fill	ditch	disuse
72	73	73	fill	ditch	disuse
73	73	73	cut	ditch	boundary

APPENDIX B: FINDS QUANTIFICATION TABLE

Context	Ditch Number	Material	Object Name	Weight (Kg)	Comments
1	73	Ceramic	Vessel	0.028	Sandy coarse ware
1	73	Bone	Animal Bone	0.004	-
4	5	Flint		0.001	Plough struck fragment - Discarded
6	-	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.006	Post-Medieval tile fragment
18	19	Flint	-	0.001	Burnt flint fragment
18	19	Flint	-	0.005	Plough struck fragment - Discarded
20	21	Bone	Animal Bone	0.001	Tooth fragment
32	33	Ceramic	Vessel	0.006	Sandy coarse ware
32	33	Flint	Blade	0.001	Small Early Neolithic
36	39	Ceramic	Vessel	0.002	SGW (proto)
36	39	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.006	Fragment
37	39	Ceramic	Vessel	0.001	SRW
37	39	Ceramic	Vessel	0.005	SGW (proto)
37	39	Flint	-	0.006	Neolithic struck flint
50	51	Ceramic	Vessel	0.014	SRW
52	33	Flint	-	0.003	Plough struck fragment - Discarded
70	73	Bone	Animal Bone	0.033	Fragmented

5 APPENDIX C: ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY

by Stephen Wadeson

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of six sherds, weighing 0.056kg, of early Romano-British pottery were recovered during the archaeological evaluation and excavation at 98-120 Wisbech Road, Littleport.

5.2 Methodology

- 5.2.1 The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW) vessel form was also recorded.

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

5.3 Quantification

- 5.3.1 All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted and a spot date has been provided for each individual sherd and context.

5.4 The assemblage

- 5.4.1 The assemblage is fragmentary and heavily abraded with an average sherd weight of c.9g. The poor condition of the pottery indicates high levels of post-depositional disturbance possibly the result of middening and/or manuring as part of the waste management during the Roman period (Lyons 2004).
- 5.4.2 This is a small assemblage comprised of locally produced, unsourced coarse wares (reduced and oxidised) and is typical of a utilitarian domestic assemblage recovered from low order settlements within this region (Evans 2003, 105).

5.5 Discussion

- 5.5.1 Although not the focus of a settlement itself, the small number of sherds recovered from site would suggest there is a Romano-British settlement or farmstead nearby associated with the field systems identified during excavation. This small assemblage provides evidence that occupation of the settlement was continuous during the Roman period from the mid 1st century AD through to the mid/late 2nd century AD.

5.6 Recommendations

- 5.6.1 No further work is necessary on the assemblage unless further archaeological work takes place at the site. In the event of further work, the assemblage should be integrated into any future assessment and/or analysis.

5.7 Pottery Catalogue

Context	Ditch Number	Alignment	Fabric	Des.	Qty.	Weight (Kg)	Spot date	Context date
1	73	4	Sandy Coarse Ware	U	1	0.028	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
32	33	2	Sandy Coarse Ware	U	1	0.006	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
36	39	2	SGW (proto)	U	1	0.002	MC1-E/MC2	MC1-E/MC2
37	39	2	SRW	U	1	0.001	MC1-MC2	MC1-MC2
37	39	2	SGW (proto)	U	1	0.005	MC1-E/MC2	
50	51	2	SRW	B	1	0.014	MC1-MC2	MC1-MC2

APPENDIX D: FAUNAL REMAINS

by Chris Faine

5.8 Introduction

5.8.1 A total of 17 pieces of animal bone were recovered from the excavation with only nine pieces identifiable to species. The total weight of hand-collected bone was 38g.

5.9 Assemblage

5.9.1 A butchered proximal cattle metatarsal was recovered from context 70, with four fragments of unidentifiable medium sized mammal identified from context 1.

5.10 Recommendations

5.10.1 No further work is required on this assemblage.

6 APPENDIX E: CBM AND FIRED CLAY

by Stephen Wadeson

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Excavations generated a small assemblage weighing 12g consisting of a small single fragment of post-Medieval roof tile from context 6 and a small abraded fragment of fired clay, most likely Iron Age or Roman in date recovered from context 36. Both fragments are abraded and indicates high levels of post-depositional disturbance.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 For this assessment the CBM and fired clay was counted, weighed and levels of abrasion recorded following the guidelines laid down by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2002).

6.3 Recommendations

6.3.1 No further work is necessary on the assemblage unless further archaeological work takes place at the site. In the event of further work, the assemblage should be integrated into any future assessment and/or analysis.

APPENDIX F: FLINT

by Stephen Wadeson

6.4 Introduction

- 6.4.1 Excavations resulted in the recovery of two struck flints with a total weight of 7g. In addition a single small fragment of burnt flint was recovered from context 18.

6.5 Assemblage

- 6.5.1 The two struck flints identified within the assemblage consists of the partial remains of a small early Neolithic blade, recovered from context 32 and a rejuvenation flake, also dating to the Neolithic period from context 37.
- 6.5.2 The struck flint assemblage indicates prehistoric activity at the site but the size of the assemblage and the paucity of diagnostic pieces limits its interpretive potential for understanding the chronology or nature of this activity.

6.6 Recommendations

- 6.6.1 This report is sufficient for the archive and no further analytical work is proposed unless further archaeological work takes place at this site. In the event of further work, the assemblage should be integrated into any future assessment and/or analysis.

APPENDIX G: BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|----------------|------|--|
| ACBMG | 2002 | Ceramic Building Material Minimum Standards for recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication.
http://www.geocities.com/acbm1/CBMGDE3.htm |
| APS | 2006 | <i>Archaeological Investigations, Highfield Farm, Littleport, Cambridgeshire</i> , Interim Report. |
| Darling, M.J., | 2004 | 'Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery'. <i>Journal of Roman Pottery Studies</i> Vol. 11. |
| Evans, J., | 2003 | 'The Pottery' in Hinman, M., <i>A Late Iron Age Farmstead and Romano-British Site at Haddon, Peterborough</i> . BAR 358, 105-107 |
| Kenney, S., | 2007 | <i>A Banjo Enclosure and Roman Farmstead at Caldecote Highfields, Cambridgeshire</i> , CAM ARC Report No. 888 (unpublished) |
| Lyons, A., | 2004 | Specialist Report No. 19. An Archaeological Assessment of the Pottery from Linton Village College, Cambridgeshire. |
| Webster, G., | 1976 | Romano-British coarse pottery: a student's guide. CBA Research Report No. 6 |
| Willis, S., | 2004 | The Study Group For Roman Pottery Research Framework Document for the Study of Roman Pottery in Britain, 2003. <i>Journal of Roman Pottery Studies</i> Vol. 11 |

APPENDIX H: OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-65527		
Project Name	98-120 Wisbech Road, Littleport		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	21-09-2009	Finish 28-09-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	LITLAW09	Planning App. No.	07/00982/FUM
HER No.	ECB 3193	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
--------	--------------------

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Roman 43 to 410	Pottery	Roman 43 to 410
Ditch	Roman 43 to 410	Flint	Neolithic -4k to -2k
N/A	Select period...	N/A	Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	East Cambs	98-120 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Cambridgeshire, CB6 1JJ	
Parish	Littleport		
HER	Cambridge		
Study Area	2270 sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 5592 8733

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	CAPCA
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer and James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

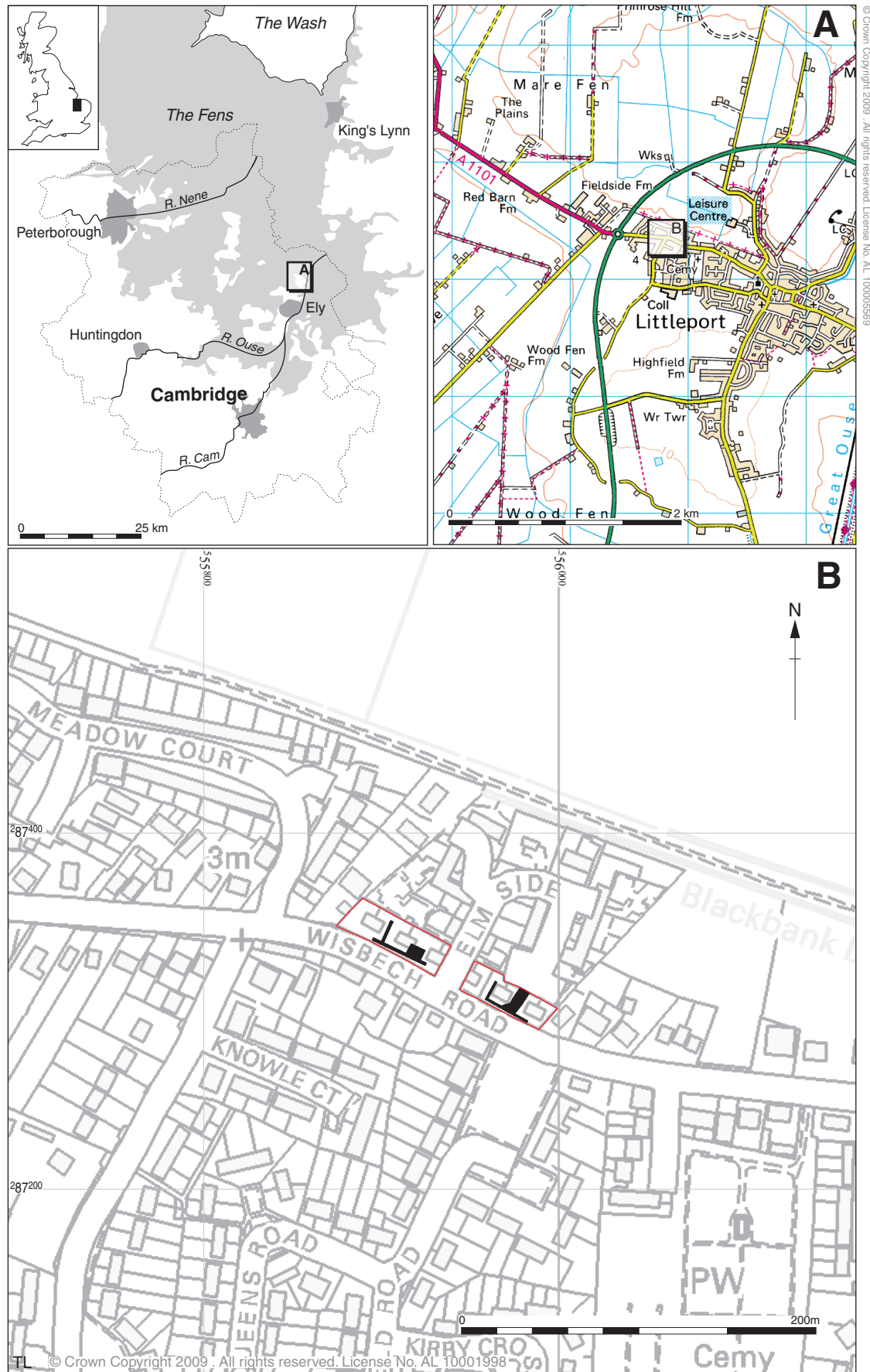
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs County Store	OA East	Cambs County Store
LITLAW09	LITLAW09	LITLAW09

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



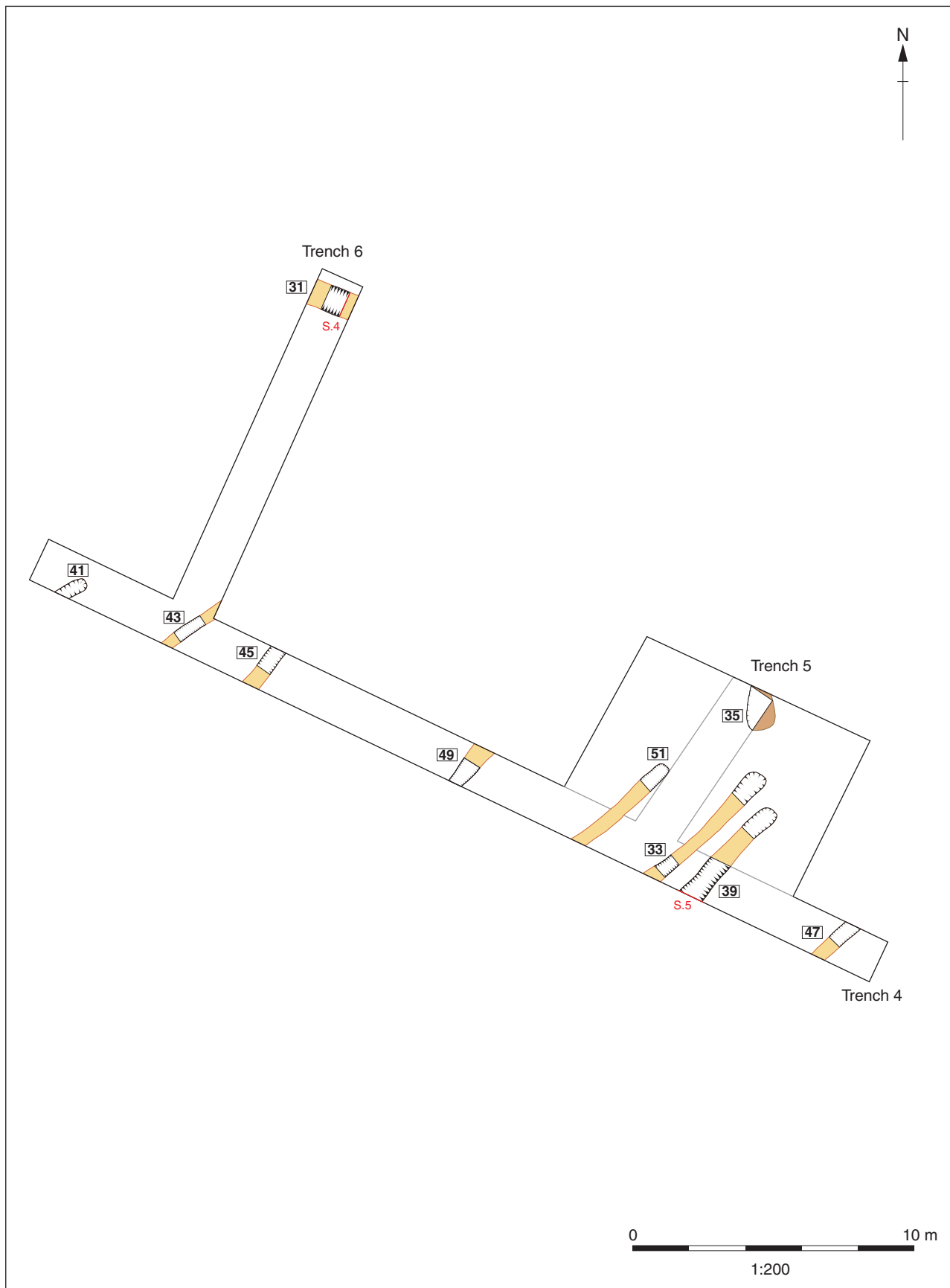


Figure 2b: Excavation plan, Area B

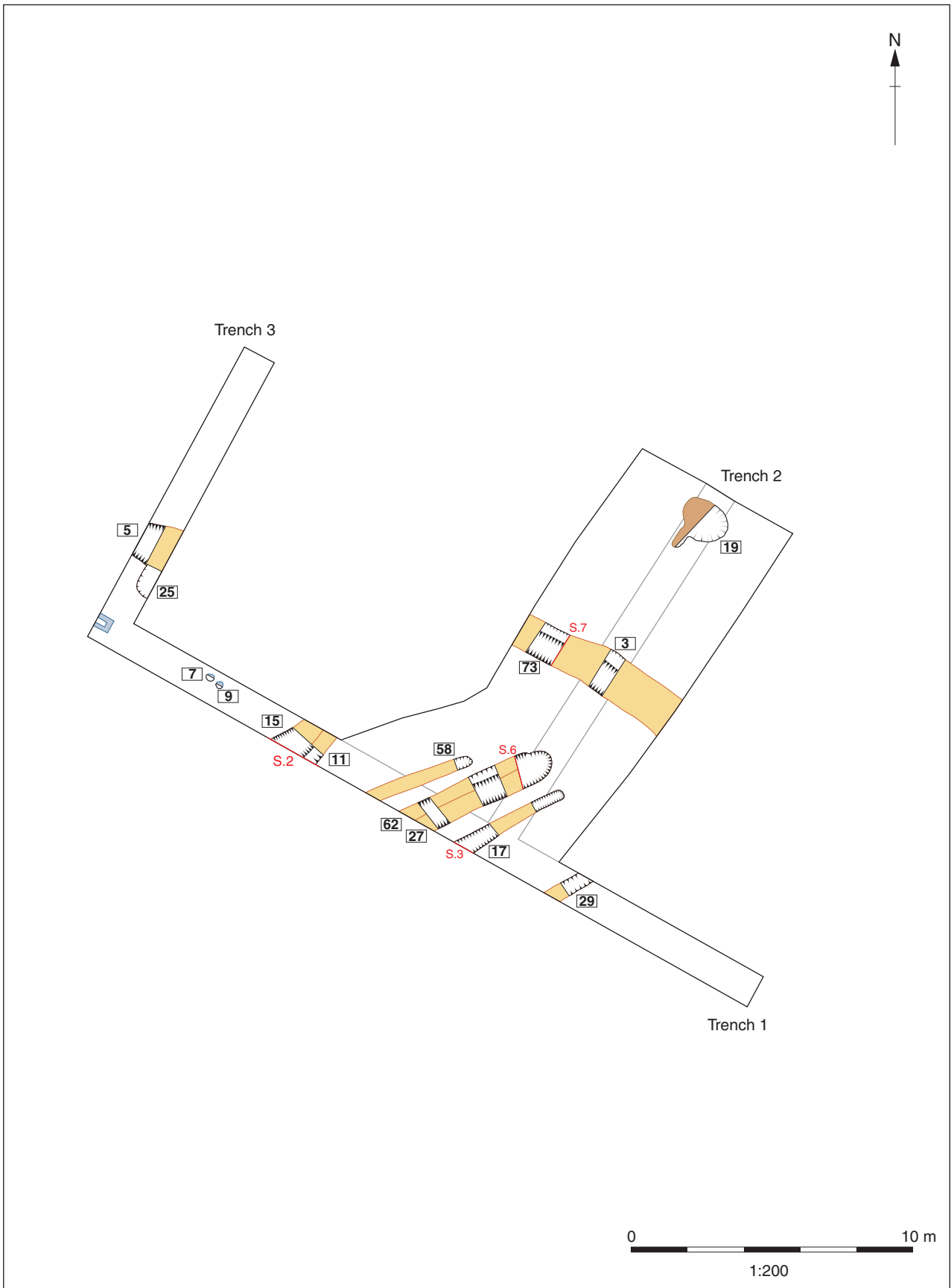


Figure 2a: Excavation plan, Area A

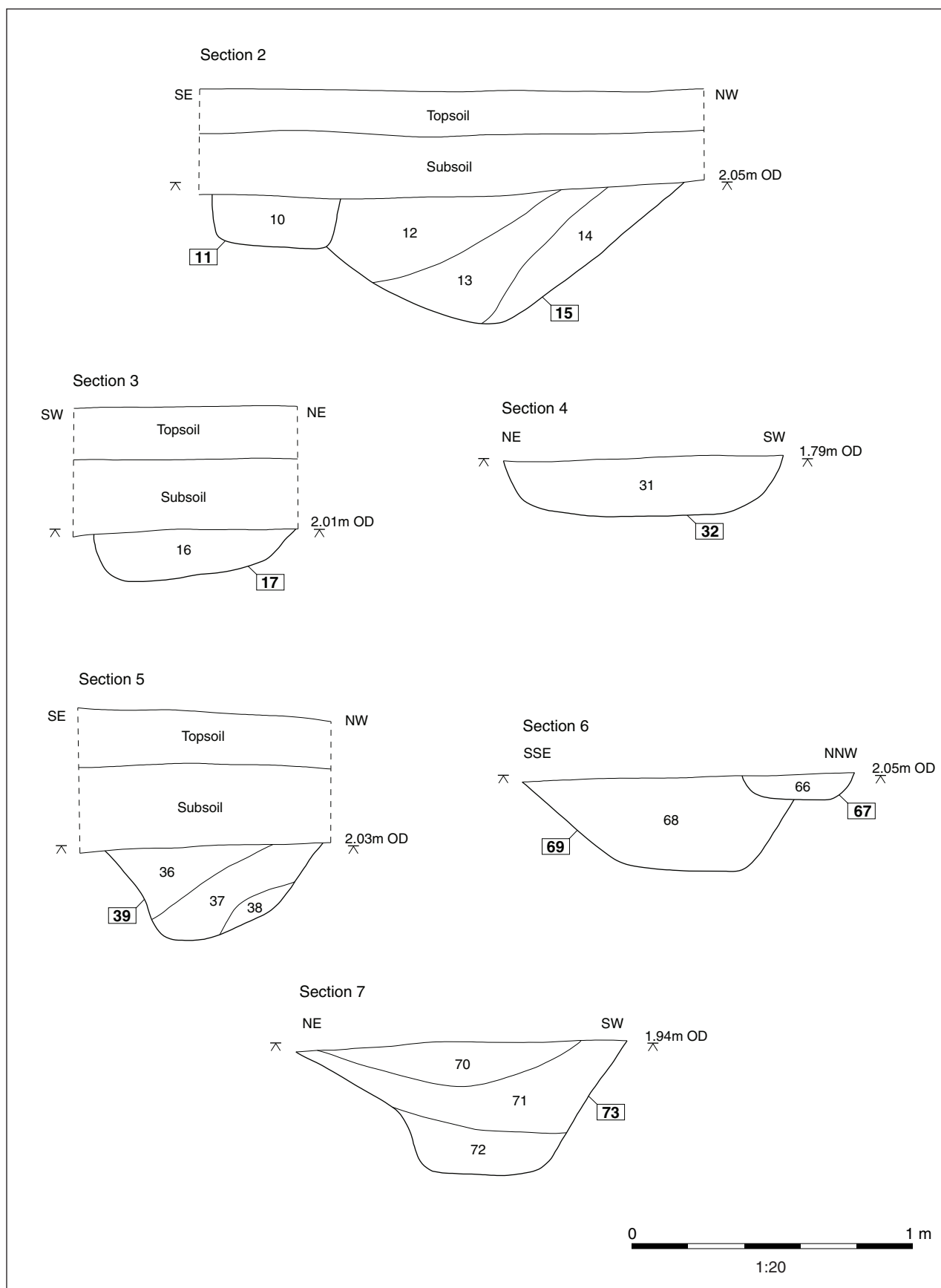


Figure 3: Selected sections



Plate 1: Ditch 27 and 62 looking southwest



Plate 2: View of trenches 1 and 2



Reproduced from emapsite by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown Copyright 2009. All rights reserved. Reference number 0100031673

Figure 4: Phase plan



Plate 4: Trench 4 looing northwest



Plate 3: Ditch **73** looking northeast



Head Office/Registered Office

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Manguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*