

An Iron Age and Roman settlement on land north of Ann Suckling Road, Haverhill, Suffolk



Excavation Report



October 2013

Client: Mark Wilsher

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**An Iron Age and Roman settlement on land north of Ann Suckling Road,
Haverhill, Suffolk**

Archaeological Excavation

By Rob Atkins BSocSc DipArch MfA

*With contributions by Chris Faine BA MA MSc AlfA, Rachel Fosberry AlfA, Alice Lyons
BA MA MfA, Stephen Macaulay BA MPhil MfA and Rhiannon Philp BSc MA*

Editor: Paul Spoerry BTech PhD MfA

Illustrator: Séverine Bézie BA MA

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Position: Project Officer
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Checked by: Paul Spoerry
Position: Regional Manager Oxford East
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Signed:

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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>

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Summary

Between the 16th and 18th September 2013, OA East conducted an archaeological excavation over a c.220m² area at Plot 1, land adjacent, Boyton Hall, Haverhill CB9 7TA.

The site is located on clay till, on relatively high ground at 103m OD, overlooking the River Stour which lies some 0.7km to the south-west. The excavation has shown that there was part of a Late Iron Age to Roman settlement within the site dating to c.1st century BC/AD with three phases of activity identified. Features comprised part of a probable Late Iron Age round house, an enclosure and an Early Roman boundary ditch. Within the latter there was a seemingly primary assemblage of domestic waste comprising fine locally made coarse ware pottery, animal bone and a little oyster shell.

The only other activity within the site were two probable post-medieval boundary ditches.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at Plot 1, land adjacent, Boyton Hall, Haverhill CB9 7TA. The site is a single housing plot with the excavation area comprising the footprint of this dwelling, its garage and access/drive. This work follows on from a previous evaluation which found an undated ditch within this plot which was thought likely to be of medieval date, with Iron Age/Roman and further medieval features adjacent to the north and east (Craven 2007a; Fig. 2).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dr Jess Tipper dated 5th September 2013 (Tipper 2013) of Suffolk County Council (SCC; Planning Application SE/13/0454/RM), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Atkins 2013).
- 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by SCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 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 British Geological Survey (BGS 2002) records that the Drift Geology for the site is Till comprising chalky, sandy and stony clay of the Lowestoft Formation.
- 1.2.2 The site is on a level plateau at c.103m OD, at the top of a south-west facing slope overlooking the River Stour and modern Haverhill.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The proposed new development lies within a known area of archaeological interest:

Iron Age/Roman settlement found in evaluation trenches

- 1.3.2 Adjacent and c.20m to the east and north-east of the site, two Iron Age/Roman ditches (0002 and 0008) were recorded during the 2007 trial trench evaluation (Fig. 2; Craven 2007a, 13 (trenches 9 and 11)). Ditch 0002 was 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep with steep sides and a flat base and produced 63 small sherds from a single locally made Late Iron Age/Early Roman (up to late 1st century AD) cordoned jar. Ditch 008 was curvilinear, 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep from which two sherds (0.004kg) of possible Iron Age pottery were recovered, although an Early Saxon date for the pottery was also thought a possibility but less likely.
- 1.3.3 The extent of this putative settlement was thought uncertain, but scattered prehistoric and Roman features (pits and ditches) of this period were seen in the two adjacent areas of archaeological evaluation (HVH 064 and WTL 008); more than 60m to the east/north-east and c.100m to the north respectively (Fig. 1; Craven 2007b). The excavator thought the results from these three evaluations (HVH 064 and 065 and WTL 008) suggested that all were part of the same Iron Age/Roman field system, but any domestic area had not been found within these areas. Craven noted that the site was

on clay ground, relatively high and located away from the River Stour. He stated that few contemporary settlements in similar topographical locations have been found nearby, which was in contrast to the large quantity of settlements located adjacent to the River Stour on alluvium soils (*Ibid*, 19).

- 1.3.4 It is worth noting the site lies directly to the north of the route of the projected major Roman road, the Via Devana, which had been built following the Boudiccan revolt and is thought to have run from Leicester to Colchester (e.g. Jones and Mattingly 1990, maps 4.24 and 4.27; Atkins forthcoming). The route has been located at Cambridge in a recent excavation and was seen to have been established in the mid/third quarter of the 1st century AD (Evans and Harkel 2010, 35 and 54-56). The Suffolk HER has tentatively located the Via Devana, c.3km to the west of the site, to the north of Haverhill, at Withersfield (SHER WTH007) calling it "possible Roman road - Margary's route 24 (R1) Colchester to Cambridge via Wixoe (S1)". This routeway has been traced from this Suffolk HER reference onto the Essex HER map (Fig. 1). The route has been projected eastwards, just to the south of the present excavation at HVH065, it then aligned south to south-eastwards, keeping/skirting to the south-west of the River Stour through part of Wixoe Roman town (along the western bank of the Stour on the Essex side) and continuing through to Sible Hedingham before turning towards Halstead and then on to Colchester.
- 1.3.5 The site is c.4km to the north-west of Wixoe town. It is likely that Wixoe's economic pull (i.e. its hinterland) would have been a c.8-10km radius around the town (Atkins forthcoming). This would have been the main area of its influence and within this area it is likely that farmsteads such as at HVH 065/WTL 008 would have utilised Wixoe as a primary centre/market.

Medieval

- 1.3.6 The site lies 100m to the south-east of the former medieval settlement of the recorded Haverhill Chapel (HVH 046). This settlement was shown on the very small scale 1783 Hodkinson map as surviving as only three structures with the name 'Haverhill Chapel' recorded adjacent (Craven 2007a including fig. 2). These three structures had gone soon afterwards with only empty fields shown in this location on the 1886 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (not illustrated).
- 1.3.7 Archaeological work near to these former structures have found Late Saxon to medieval remains, which demonstrated that the original settlement had been larger in size. In 2007 a trenched evaluation found an undated ditch (0006; in trench 9 located partly within the site) aligned north-east to south-west, which was thought likely to be of medieval date (Fig. 2; Craven 2007a). This ditch was on the same alignment as two medieval ditches (0004 and 0010) c.30m to the north-east and c.10m to the east of the site respectively (*ibid*). As part of the same evaluation, but within a different field located between 100m and 200m to the north-west of the site, Late Saxon/early medieval to 14th century occupation evidence was found within the south-eastern corner of this evaluation (WTL 009; Craven 2007a). A similar dense spread of medieval (late 12th to 14th century) features were recorded in the adjacent evaluation at HVH 064 and WTL 008, more than 60m to the east/north-east and 100m to the north respectively of the present site (Craven 2007b).
- 1.3.8 By the 15th century most of this medieval settlement had been abandoned and the land reverted to open farmland belonging to Chapel Farm (Craven 2007a, 20).

Post-medieval to modern

- 1.3.9 The 1783 Hodkinson map showed the site as being empty (not illustrated). Boyton Hall, directly to the north-west of the site, was built between 1886 and 1904, when it was recorded on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Craven 2007a, 1). All maps from the 1886 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1:2500) to the 1981 Ordnance Survey map (1:10,000) have the site within a large open field (none illustrated). Large changes then took place within and adjacent to the site as the 1983 Ordnance Survey map (1:2,500) records that Ann Suckling Road had been built and an estate had been finished directly to the south of the site (not illustrated).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Mark Wilsher who commissioned and funded the work. The project was managed by Dr Paul Spoerry. Dr Jess Tipper, County Archaeologist at Suffolk County Council, monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority. This report was edited by Dr Spoerry
- 1.4.2 I am grateful for specialist analysis from Chris Faine, Rachel Fosberry, Alice Lyons, Stephen Macaulay and Rhiannon Philp. Dave Brown and Stuart Ladd carried out the survey. Report illustrations were by Séverine Bézie. Site work was by Rob Atkins, David Brown and Michael Webster.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Brief and Written Scheme of Investigation (Tipper 2013; Atkins 2013).

2.1.2 The main aims of this excavation were listed as:

- To mitigate the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological remains. The development would have severely impacted upon these remains and as a result a full excavation was required, targeting the areas of archaeological interest highlighted by the previous phases of evaluation.
- To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Brief (Tipper 2013) and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Atkins 2013). The Brief stipulated that there would be a controlled strip, map and excavation of the footprint of the new dwelling, garage and access/drive in advance of the development commencing (in accordance with the planning condition).

2.2.2 The area was slightly affected by a service pipe which runs parallel with and directly to the north of Ann Suckling Road leading to a manhole in the verge next to the road. For health and safety reasons a c.3m distance was left between this service pipe and the excavation area with the access road not extended to Ann Suckling Road itself (Fig. 1).

2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out by a 360° type excavator using a 2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket. under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. The 360° excavator largely removed spoil off site to the north, west and south of the excavation area. As there was not enough room to store all the spoil off the excavation area, Dr Tipper was contacted and he agreed that remaining spoil could be deposited within the site in areas stripped and proven to have no archaeological features (Plate 1).

2.2.4 The site survey was carried out by Stuart Ladd and David Brown using a Leica 1200 series GPS combined with Leica Smartnet. In the access road area the three Iron Age/Roman features were also hand drawn at 1:50 scale. Sections were drawn at 1:10.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. The excavation context numbers started at 20 so as not to use the same numbers as the Suffolk evaluation within the site.

2.2.6 Digital and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.7 The three features within the access road were largely excavated as ditch **24** produced a large quantity of artefacts and ecofacts, whereas ditches **22** and **33** were thought to have been possible ring gullies of houses and initial excavation slots in both cases had not produced any dating evidence.

2.2.8 Two bulk environmental samples, each of 40L, were taken from two ditches (**24** and **33**). Sub-samples of 20L were processed from both ditches and produced only a single charred grain. As a result the remaining 20L were not analysed.

2.2.9 The excavation took place during sunshine.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the excavation have been integrated with the previous Suffolk evaluation within and adjacent to the site (Fig. 2). There were Late Iron Age to Early Roman features within this area which probably represented three or more phases of activity. There was also a post-medieval, probable boundary, ditch and an undated ditch which is also likely to date to this period. The context list appears in Appendix A (Table 1).

3.2 Late Iron Age to Early Roman Settlement

Late Iron Age (?1st century BC/AD)

3.2.1 A curvilinear ditch, possibly part of an enclosure, was seen over a 12m distance in both the evaluation (**8**) and excavation (**22**). It was aligned south-west to north-east in the excavation curving to the south-east into the evaluation trench and continuing in both directions beyond the site's baulks. The excavation sections (**8** and **22**) were 0.7m to 0.75m wide and 0.25m to 0.27m deep respectively (Fig. 3, S.10). It had moderate sides and a flat base and was filled with a light to mid orange brown silty clay. Seven sherds of Latest Iron Age pottery (13g) were found in the excavation and two sherds of possible Iron Age pottery (4g) in the evaluation.

3.2.2 An undated possible ring gully **33** may be of Iron Age date. It was uncovered c.9m to the west of ditch **22** and recorded over a five metre distance within the excavation area (Plate 2). It ran northwards from the southern site baulk curving in an arc to the north-east before entering the eastern baulk. If the feature continued it would have a c.12m internal diameter. It had not been recorded in the adjacent Suffolk evaluation trench so the extent of the feature is presently uncertain. The ring gully was 0.85m wide and 0.31m deep with moderate sides and a slightly rounded base (Fig. 3, S.17; Plate 2). The lower deposit (32) was a mid orange brown clay and its uniformity and sterile nature suggests this probably represents weathering after the ditch had been left open for some time. The upper deposit (31) was a dark orange brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, medium flint pieces and chalk lumps. An environmental bulk sample (11) of this deposit produced just sparse charcoal flecks (see Rachel Fosberry, Appendix C.2)

Roman

3.2.3 An Early Roman, probable boundary ditch **24** was located between ditch **22** and possible ring gully **33** within the access road area. It ran north-east to south-west on the exact alignment as ditch **2** that was recorded within evaluation trench 11, c.20m to the north-east, but was not seen in evaluation trench 9 (Fig. 2). Ditch **24** was 0.85m wide and 0.37m deep with steep sides and flat base (Fig. 2, S.11). It was filled with a light to mid orange brown silty clay, with small chalk pieces and occasional charcoal flecks (23). From this deposit there was an interesting closely dated Flavian pottery assemblage (202 sherds weighing 414g) from only six local produced fine coarse ware vessels (see Macaulay and Lyons, Appendix B.1). The clay nature of the soil was the main reason for the small size of the sherds. It is probably more likely that this was a primary or near primary deposit. As ditch **2** also produced similar material with 63 sherds from a single probably contemporary vessel, it may suggest that domestic deposits had been backfilled within the ditch over a considerable distance. The type of vessels could suggest a displaced cremation deposit, but as only a single undiagnostic

burnt bone fragment from a large mammal was recovered this is less likely. A possible articulated lower limb from cattle was also recovered from the deposit, but its poor survival in the clay soil made identification difficult (see Faine, Appendix C.1). Three oyster shells were also found. A bulk environmental sample (10) from the fill produced sparse charcoal and a single charred spelt grain (Rachel Fosberry, Appendix C.2).

- 3.2.4 Ditch **4/10** cut Late Iron Age ditch **8/22** and was sampled within evaluation trenches 9 and 11, directly to the east and north-east of the excavation area (Fig. 2; Craven 2007a, 13). It was dated tentatively to the medieval period by a single small pottery sherd, but the lack of features or artefacts dating to this period within the site makes it is more likely that this ditch was of Roman date.

3.3 Post-Roman

- 3.3.1 No definite features (or artefacts) dating to the medieval period were identified within the site. One ditch (**35/37**) within the far western part was backfilled in the 17th or 18th century. It was possibly an old field boundary, at least 25m long, aligned north-east to south-west, and slightly diminishes in size as it went northwards. In the middle of the site, at slot **35**, it was 3.26m wide and 0.3m deep whereas at the northern extent it was 1.8m wide and 0.2m deep (at slot **37**). It had gentle sides and a slightly rounded base and was filled with a mid orange brown silty clay with a few small chalk pieces. Three fragments (44g) of abraded roof tile, at least two dating to the 17th or 18th centuries, were collectively recovered from the two slots.

- 3.3.2 Directly to the east of ditch **35/37**, and roughly parallel with it, was undated ditch (**6, 26, 28** and **30**). It was between 0.85m and 0.92m wide and 0.24m to 0.33m deep (Fig. 2, S. 14). It had moderate sides and a slightly rounded base and was filled with a pale to mid yellow brown silty clay, with some chalk pieces, flint and a few pebbles. Five tile fragments were found at the very top of ditch slot **28**. These may have been from a topsoil remnant but, it is more likely they were deposited in the ditch dating it to either the late medieval or post-medieval periods.

3.4 Finds Summary

- 3.4.1 A very small collection of artefacts were recovered from the site. This comprised 209 sherds (0.427kg) of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery from seven different vessels found in two features (see Macaulay and Lyons, Appendix. B.1). The six Early Roman vessels were fine early coarse wares. An unstratified large fired clay fragment (131g) may have come from an oven or hearth (see Atkins, Appendix B.2). Eleven abraded roof tile fragments (88g) found in four contexts are all likely to date to the post-medieval period.

3.5 Environmental Summary

- 3.5.1 Thirty four fragments of animal bone (104g) may be part of an articulated cattle lower limb. A single small burnt bone fragment was also found (see Faine, Appendix C.1). A single charred grain was found from two bulk environmental samples taken (see Fosberry, Appendix C.2). Three oyster shells were found in a Early Roman ditch (see Philp, Appendix C.3).

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Overview

Pre-Late Iron Age

- 4.1.1 No features or artefacts were found to date to before the Late Iron Age in the excavation or in the Suffolk evaluation trenches within and adjacent to the site (Fig. 2; Craven 2007a). The lack of features/artefacts indicates that this area was presumably utilised sparsely, and certainly not occupied. The reason for this may be location; it is within clay land relatively high up, c.0.7km to the north of the River Stour. This ties in with work elsewhere in East Anglia, e.g. around Thetford, where studies found earlier prehistoric sites apparently gravitated to the lower lying ground close to rivers (Atkins and Connor 2010, 107).

Iron Age-Roman settlement

- 4.1.2 The excavation and evaluations uncovered part of a Late Iron Age and Roman rural settlement. This was situated at 103m OD on a level plateau of clay till subsoil at the top of a south-west facing slope and about 0.7km to the south-west of the River Stour. In this area relatively few contemporary sites are known on the glacial till and at some distance from a river source, and none of these settlements have been examined in detail. The present excavations therefore represent a modest contribution towards an understanding of Late Iron Age and Roman rural settlements on these 'marginal' lands.
- 4.1.3 Occupation within the site seems to date to the 1st century BC/AD and continued to at least the mid/late 1st century AD. Only a few features have been examined during the archaeological work and the overall date of the settlement is therefore uncertain. The size of the settlement is also not known. Evidence for domestic occupation has been found within the access road of Plots 1 and 2, and this main part of the settlement continues directly to the east and north of this access road, potentially into at least evaluation trench 11, 20m to the north. The western limits of this settlement have probably been found as no features (or artefacts) dating to this period were found in this area. Craven suggested that the isolated Iron Age/Roman features located to the north of trench 11, in two evaluations at least 60m and 100m to the north and north-east, represented fields of this settlement (HVH 064 and WTL 008; Craven 2007b). The eastern limits may have been found in the evaluation as no features were recorded on the eastern side of the field within evaluation trenches 10 and 12. The settlement continues to the south of the site with features running into the site baulk towards Ann Suckling Road and presumably through the adjacent housing estate in Boyton Close, both built in the 1980s.
- 4.1.4 The density of features is uncertain. It is of some concern that the previous evaluation missed up to half of the features recovered in this excavation, and therefore the results of the former need to be taken with some caution. Taken together this excavation and the Suffolk evaluations suggest at least three phases of occupation.
- 4.1.5 The Late Iron Age occupation seems to consist of two phases, as part of an undated (probable) round house was either earlier or later than an adjacent enclosure. The enclosure went out of use in the 1st century BC/AD. If the ring gully was the earlier then the site may have moved from an open settlement to one that was at least partly enclosed. This is conjecture as without further excavation, the layout of the settlement

is very uncertain. Very few Iron Age artefacts, and no ecofacts, date to this period and this limits what can be said about the site.

- 4.1.6 The Early Roman activity is likely to comprise two probable ditches which were seen over a c.20m distance (**2/24** and **4/10**), each aligned slightly differently, but roughly north-east to south-west, and slowly converging as they headed northwards. They are unlikely to be contemporary unless they were acting as a funnel for cattle. The likelihood that they were not related is enhanced by the fact that they were backfilled with noticeably different deposits. Within ditch **2/24**, the two excavated slots had similar backfills, both with a large, probably primary, assemblage of mid/late 1st century AD (Flavian) pottery. In contrast, the eastern ditch (**4/10**) examined in the Suffolk evaluation produced only a single pottery sherd which had been tentatively dated as medieval, but considering the lack of features of this date in this location a Roman date is perhaps more likely.
- 4.1.7 The large quantity of artefacts and ecofacts from ditch **2/24** seem to suggest that domestic Roman occupation had been nearby/adjacent to it. Seven vessels, some partly complete, were found in the two excavation slots through the ditch, as well as part of a cattle lower limb, three oyster shell and a single charred spelt grain. This is an underestimation of the bone and charred grains, which were both adversely affected by the local geological conditions. It is possible that some of the pottery vessels represent a displaced cremation group, but only a single small undiagnostic charred bone was also recovered and makes that this theory less likely. The pottery vessels, although locally made, were fine in quality (see Macaulay and Lyons, Section B.1). The recovery of this relatively expensive pottery is at odds with the general view that rural settlements on clay soil away from main water sources were poor and could only really afford the cheapest items.
- 4.1.8 The oyster shell found in this ditch would have been imported into the site; they were almost certainly farmed on the Essex coast and came to the site via the River Stour. The Essex coast has been suggested as a major producer of oysters for export to the continent (Jones and Mattingly 1990, map 6.17). The major extent of the industry can be seen in that it is listed as one of less than 20 areas where goods/products were produced in Britain and exported in the Early Roman period (*ibid*). The mid/late 1st century AD date for these oysters shows this farmstead was wealthy enough to buy this commodity, at a time when it wasn't common in small towns or villas. Shell first arrived in the Wixoe small town in relative small quantities from the mid/late 1st to mid 2nd century with the majority of the shell found in deposits dating to the Middle to Latest Roman period (mid 2nd – early 5th century AD; Atkins forthcoming). At Cedars Park, Stowmarket, a villa or large farmstead, very few oysters were recorded from pre-2nd century contexts, suggesting this delicacy had taken some time to become common (Phillips 2006).
- 4.1.9 It is interesting to note that settlements on clay upland sites in Cambridgeshire seem to be based on a mixed economy, in contrast to the fenland areas (Medlycott 2011b, 23). It is possible, even likely, that the present excavation settlement, located on the same soil type in an upland area and very near to Cambridgeshire, had also been pursuing mixed farming. At present, without more work on the site, this theory can not be proved.
- 4.1.10 The settlement was c.0.1km to the north of the main Roman road, the Via Devana (see Section 1.3.4 above). The construction of this road has been dated at an excavation in Cambridge to the mid/late 1st century AD (Evans and Harkel 2010, 35) and so was roughly contemporary with ditch **2/24**. Before this road was built, the settlement must

have used other roads presumably located further away. The Via Devana would have allowed easy access to the small Roman town at Wixoe, 4km to the north-west. The present settlement site at HVH 065 is one of thirty-one settlements, twelve villas, seven burial sites and 59 find spots recorded in a 10km search around Wixoe recorded in the Essex and Suffolk HERs (Atkins forthcoming). These (and others not yet found), would have been using Wixoe to trade goods etc.

- 4.1.11 The density of Roman settlements in this 10km area can be best gauged by looking at the areas in and around the present towns of Haverhill and Clare, both located on the River Stour. These two locations have produced by far the most HER records for the Roman period (find spots, settlement locations etc.) and it is not a co-incidence that these two towns also have had the most new development (and therefore archaeological work) in recent years. Here Roman settlements seem to be positioned between 0.5km and 1km apart, suggesting there had been a fairly densely populated landscape in this period along the river valleys. In contrast to Haverhill and Clare, the amount of development across the rest of the 10km study area has been relatively minimal with these areas still very rural in character. The apparent density of known Roman settlement in these areas therefore need to be taken with caution, especially higher ground on clay subsoil as is the case at the subject site where one would expect less numbers of settlements to be located. A comparison can be seen in NW Essex where Williamson calculated after fieldwalking 28sq kms, that there were 1.3 Roman settlements per square km and these settlements had a preference for valley sides and lighter soils (Williamson 1986, 124).
- 4.1.12 The location of this settlement at HVH 065 is slightly unusual in it being so far from a river (0.7km) and so near a road (0.1km), although the latter seems to have been imposed on it. Twenty-six of the 43 settlements and villas (60% of the total) within the Wixoe study area were located within 0.5km of a river (compared with 63% at the more important small town of Great Chesterford) and 77% of these were within 1km of a river (compared with 87% for Great Chesterford (Medlycott 2011a, 111-112)). In contrast to rivers, only 39% of settlements and villas in the Wixoe study were located within 500m of the road compared to the 40% recorded at Great Chesterford (ibid, 112).

Post-Roman activity

- 4.1.13 No definite medieval remains were found within the excavation area. (or probably from the adjacent evaluation trenches). The previous tentative suggestion (Craven 2007a), during the evaluation that there were features belonging to this period within the site is now thought unlikely. The limits of the medieval settlement of Haverhill Chapel are therefore to the north of site. It had presumably been a linear settlement fronting the east to west road, c.100m to the north (Fig. 1).
- 4.1.14 Two probable post-medieval boundary ditches were found in the western side of the site. One was dated as c.17th/18th century whilst the other could not be closely dated.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The excavation has confirmed the presence of a Late Iron Age to Roman settlement within the site, but the very limited scope of the archaeological work at present has meant that the site is not very well understood. An interesting Early Roman ditch within the site seems to have been backfilled with a primary assemblage of artefacts. Part of the site has been destroyed during road and house building during the 1980s, although other areas remain presently undisturbed, directly to the east and north of the site.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Ctxt	Same as	Cut	Category	Feature type	Function	Length(m)	Width(m)	Depth (m)
20		-	Layer	Topsoil				
21		22	Fill	Ditch	?Enclosure			
22	8	22	Cut	Ditch	?Enclosure	14+	0.75	0.27
23		24	Fill	Ditch	?Boundary			
24	?2	24	Cut	Ditch	?Boundary	4+ or ?25+	0.85	0.37
25		26	Fill	Ditch	?Boundary			
26	6, 28 and 30	26	Cut	Ditch	?Boundary	22+	0.8	0.33
27		28	Fill	Ditch	?Boundary			
28	6, 26 and 30	28	Cut	Ditch	?Boundary	22+	0.92	0.24
29		30	Fill	Ditch	?Boundary			
30	6, 26 and 28	30	Cut	Ditch	?Boundary	22+	0.92	0.34
31		33	Fill	?Ring gully	?House			
32		33	Fill	?Ring gully	?House			
33		33	Cut	?Ring gully	?House	5+	0.85	0.31
34		35	Fill	Ditch	?Boundary			
35	37	35	Cut	Ditch	?Boundary	25+	3.26	0.3
36		37	Fill	Ditch	?Boundary			
37	35	37	Cut	Ditch	?Boundary	25+	1.8	0.2

Table 1: *Context list*

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery

By Stephen Macaulay and Alice Lyons

Introduction

B.1.1 Excavation produced a small assemblage of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery, totalling 209 sherds, weighing 427g, which were recovered from two separate ditch fills (**22** and **24**). The overall assemblage comprised fragments with an average sherd weight of only c.2.04g. The small sherds are severely abraded which is consistent with repeated post-depositional disturbance in a clay soil. Although fragmentary it was possible to establish that this material represented only a small number of vessels (with a minimum vessel count of seven). Context 23 (ditch **24**) contained 97% of the assemblage and is of Early Roman date.

Methodology

- B.1.2 The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (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) and vessel form was also recorded. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed to the nearest whole gramme. Decoration and abrasion were also noted and a spot date has been provided for each individual sherd and context (Table 2).
- B.1.3 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

Assemblage

- B.1.4 Seven handmade sandy oxidised jar/bowl sherds were recovered (13g) from ditch **22** and are typical of a latest Iron Age bowl (Martin 1988, 34).
- B.1.5 The assemblage from ditch **24** is derived from six locally produced fine ware jars and bowls influenced in design by north Gaulish ceramic fashion (Thompson 1982). Pottery of this type is characteristic of early Roman (post-conquest AD 43 to pre Flavian AD 79) assemblages.
- B.1.6 As is typical of this era in rural settlements only a limited range of vessels were present which did not include mass produced grey wares, imports such as samian (Tyers 1996, 105-116) and amphora (Tyers 1996 85-105) or specialist vessels such as mortaria (Tyers 1996 116-135).
- B.1.7 The majority of the fabrics are sandy oxidised and reduced wares, some with silver muscovite mica and visible clay relicts typical of north Suffolk clay beds of the Wattisfield area (Lyons and Tester in press). Although one calcareous vessel was identified which may have been produced in Essex (Carole Fletcher *pers. comm.*).
- B.1.8 Context 23 (ditch **24**) produced almost the entire pottery assemblage, and 100% of the

Roman material. The largest group were Early Roman fine sandy reduced ware sherds. A total of 177 fragments (85%), weighing 363g (85%), came from two individual bowls. One carinated bowl had a micaceous fabric and a burnt redware surface. Of note was the chalk (calcerous) temper of a Sandy oxidised ware fine globular beaker, also made from visible clay relic grey ware (similar in form to Rigby 2004, 159, no 14 or Cam 112).

B.1.9 It is possible that these deposits represent primary/near primary domestic rubbish which had been backfilled within this ditch along a considerable distance. This ditch may/is likely to run into evaluation trench 11 (ditch **2**), nearly 20m to the north of ditch **24** - they are in an identical alignment (Fig. 2). From the evaluation there were sixty-three sherds from a single Late Iron Age/Early Roman vessel (Craven 2007a). Alternatively, these vessels (fine early coarse wares) from the excavation may represent a higher status assemblage, perhaps even derived from a disturbed small cremation (a single piece of undiagnostic burnt bone was found in the context) or other 'special' deposit.

Context	Fabric	Abbreviation	Sherd/Basic Form	Sherd Count	Wt (g)	Context Date Range
21 (22)	Sandy Oxidised Ware	Iron Age	Body sherds	7	13	Latest Iron Age (C1)
23 (24)	Sandy Reduced Ware	SRW	Bowl/Jar, body & base sherds	36	100	Mid - late C1 (Flavian)
23 (24)	Sandy Reduced Ware (Micaceous Burnt surface Redware)	SRW	Carinated Bowl, body sherds	141	263	Mid - late C1 (Flavian)
23 (24)	Sandy Oxidised Ware (calcreous)	SOW	Inverted reed rim beaker, rim & body sherds	7	13	Mid - late C1 (Flavian)
23 (24)	Visible clay relic grey ware	VGW	Reed rimmed bowl, rim & body sherds	3	23	Mid - late C1 (Flavian)
23 (24)	Visible Good Ware (fossilised visible clay relics)	VGW	Beaker, rim & body sherds	11	12	Mid - late C1 (Flavian)
23 (24)	Sandy Grey Ware	SGW	Inverted rimmed beaker, rim & body sherds	4	3	Mid - late C1 (Flavian)
Total				209	427.00	

Table 2: *Pottery*

B.2 Roof tile and fired clay

By Rob Atkins

Results

B.2.1 There were eleven ceramic roof tile fragments (88g) from four contexts (three fragments from topsoil 20 (25g), five fragments (19g) from 27 (ditch **28**), one fragment (18g) from 34 (ditch **35**) and two fragments (26g) from 36 (ditch **37**)). A single piece of fired clay was found within topsoil 20 (131g).

B.2.2 The roof tile fragments were all heavily abraded and are likely to date to the post-medieval period, although a few may be late medieval in date. They were all in a fully oxidised orange sandy fabric. Definite post-medieval fragments (17th or 18th century) were recovered from topsoil and ditch **35/37**.

- B.2.3 A relatively large fired clay fragment (131g) had no surfaces and was undiagnostic. It was in a buff colour and some sides had been burnt orange near the surface. It had occasional small chalk fragments up to 8mm in length and rare flint pieces up to 7mm in length. It is possible it derived from an oven or hearth and is more likely to have come from a former feature from the Late Iron Age/Roman settlement.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

Result

- C.1.1 Thirty four fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation with eighteen fragments identifiable to species. The total weight of the assemblage was 104g. All faunal material was recovered from context **23**. This consisted of extremely fragmented portions of cattle tibia, metatarsal and 1st phalanx that may represent an articulated lower limb. A single burnt portion of large mammal long bone was also recovered from the context.

C.2 Environmental

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and methods

- C.2.1 A total of two bulk environmental samples were taken from ditches **24** and **33** and 20L were processed from both. Sample (10) from ditch **24** produced sparse charcoal and a single charred spelt grain. Sample (11) from ditch **33** produced just sparse charcoal flecks.

C.3 Shell

By Rhiannon Philp

Introduction and methods

- C.3.1 A total of 0.037 Kg of marine shell was recovered from fill 23 of ditch **24**, during excavations at Plot 1, Land adjacent, Boyton Hall, Haverhill. The shells were quantified and examined in order to assess the diversity and quantity of these ecofacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations. Only shell apices were counted in order to obtain the Minimum Number of Individuals for each species, bearing in mind that each individual originally had two apices.
- C.3.2 This assemblage is the result of both hand collection and shell recovered from environmental samples.

Results

Species	Common name	Habitat	Total weight (Kg)	Total number of contexts
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Oyster	estuarine and shallow coastal water	0.04	1

Table 3: *Shell*

Discussion

- C.3.3 Oyster shells predominate in this assemblage (100%). This is not surprising as they were a staple food during the Roman period. Oysters have a defined left and right valve. The left is more concave in shape and displays radiating ribs on the outer surface. The right is generally flatter and lacks the ribs, though concentric growth rings are often visible (Winder 1993). Therefore to obtain the MNI, the number of left and right valves is counted. The largest number is then taken as the MNI.
- C.3.4 During the preparation of oysters, prior to eating the right valve is often prised off and possibly discarded separately, with the meat being left in the left valve. The lack of left valves in this assemblage might suggest that they were prepared (shucked) in the near vicinity, but consumed elsewhere and the left valve discarded in a separate place.
- C.3.5 Only right valves were recorded in this case. The MNI is recorded as 3, though smaller fragments are also present and may represent a slightly larger assemblage.
- C.3.6 The majority of the shells are moderately preserved and do not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed. These particular examples were recovered from a Roman ditch and probably represent general refuse.

Further Work and Methods Statement

- C.3.7 The assemblage would not have represented a single meal but the presence of marine shell does show that these species are a food resource that was exploited. The assemblage has been fully quantified and no further work is required.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-158835		
Project Name	Plot 1, land adjacent, Boyton Hall, Haverhill CB9 7TA		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	16-09-2013	Finish	18-09-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	HVH 065	Planning App. No.	SE/13/0454/RM
HER No.	HVH 065	Related HER/OASIS No.	HVH 065/ WLT008

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input 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 checked="" 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
Settlement	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
Settlement	Roman 43 to 410	Pottery and bone	Roman 43 to 410
Ditches	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Roof tile	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	St Edmundsbury Borough Co	Plot 1 Land adjacent to Boyton Hall Haverhill CB9 7TA	
Parish	Haverhill		
HER	Suffolk		
Study Area	220 sq m	National Grid Reference	TL 675 465

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Jess Tipper, SCC
Project Design Originator	Rob Atkins, OA East
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry, OA East
Supervisor	Rob Atkins, OA East

Project Archives

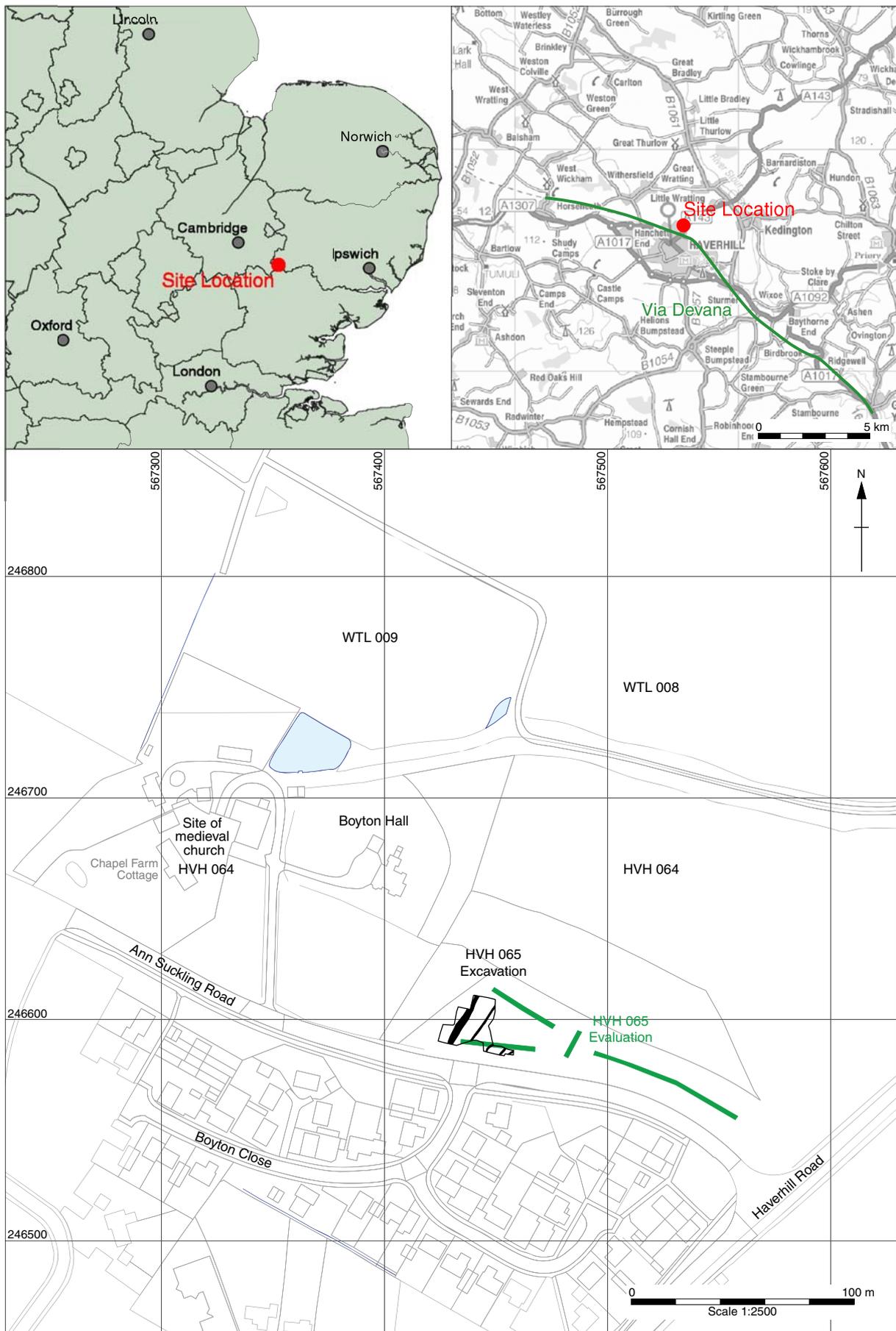
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HVH 065	HVH 065	HVH 065

Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
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<input checked="" 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:



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Figure 1: Site Location with excavation area, related 2007 evaluation trenches and adjacent SHER records



Figure 2: Excavation area overlaying Suffolk evaluation trenches at HVH 065

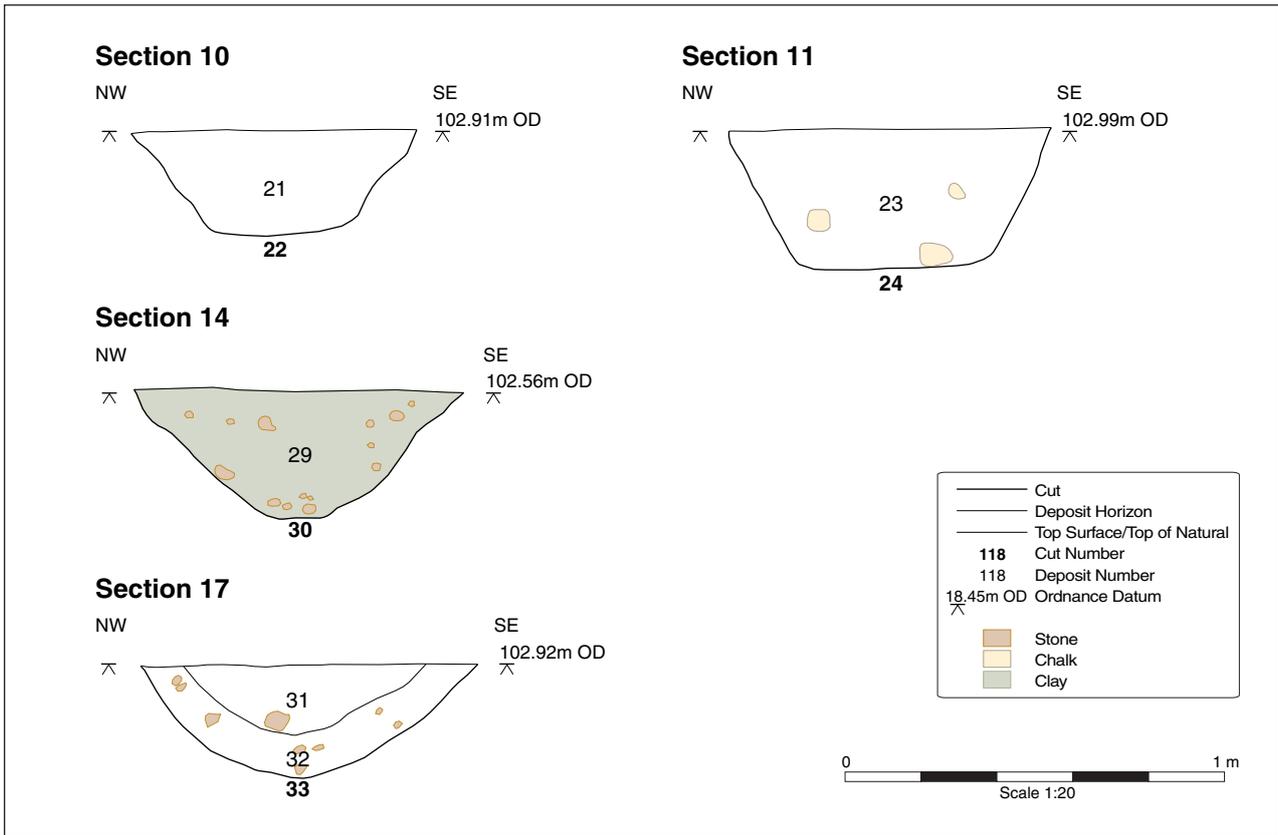


Figure 3: Selected sections



Plate 1: Site looking west



Plate 2: Ditch **33** (possible ring gully) looking south



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

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

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



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