

Library Site,  
266 Broadway, Yaxley



## Excavation Report



April 2013

**Client: CgMs**

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**Library Site, 266 Broadway, Yaxley**

*Archaeological Excavation*

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## Summary

*Between the 6th and 9th August 2012, OA East conducted an archaeological excavation over a c.10m by 7m area at the Library site, 266 Broadway, Yaxley, near Peterborough.*

*The excavation has provided evidence of a previously unknown Roman settlement or farmstead dating to the mid to late 1st century and contemporary with the Roman fort at Longthorpe some 7km to the north.*

*Four phases of activity have been identified suggesting that the settlement may prove to have greater longevity than the current dating would suggest. No clear dating evidence was found in the earliest and latest phases.*

*The most significant finds were the remains of a demolished kiln and a large assemblage (6.93kg) of pottery dating to approximately AD 70. The kiln was producing grey ware sand tempered vessels in new forms such as cordoned and carinated jars and bowls as well as platters.*

*Pottery not produced on the site includes a cheese press that may have been made in the Longthorpe kilns as well as samian ware from Gaul and a white ware sherd from Verulamium (St Albans), both of which could have reached the Broadway site via the vicus market at Longthorpe.*

*As well as the production of cheese, charred cereal grains are evidence for the cultivation and processing of spelt wheat and a small assemblage of primary butchery waste shows that sheep and cattle were farmed and slaughtered nearby.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at the Library site, 266 Broadway, Yaxley (Fig. 1) in advance of development.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development area was 2025 square metres in area and included the erection of four semi-detached dwellings and garages with two flats above and the erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings and garage building with study over.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological excavation was designed to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and land use of the site in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).
- 1.1.4 The excavation followed evaluation which found three ditches, one of which was dated to the Late Iron Age (Haskins 2012; Fig. 2). A small area of 10m x 7m was centred on the ditches and expanded to investigate their projected intersection.
- 1.1.5 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 1995) records the site at the interface between Oxford Clay Formation (grey mudstone) and Glaciolacustrine Deposits: clay, silt and sand. In the excavation the solid deposits comprised the Oxford Clay Formation which was sealed by a thin layer of Glaciolacustrine Deposits.
- 1.2.2 The site was generally level at a height of 22.10m above OD.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Much of the information below is drawn from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Records (CHER).
- 1.3.2 Prehistoric finds have been recovered from within 1km of the site. A palaeolithic handaxe was recovered from Yaxley Yard (CHER 01410). Further prehistoric flint implements of Neolithic date have been located scattered across the high ground in Yaxley (CHER 01428).
- 1.3.3 A Mid/Late Iron Age to Late Roman settlement was identified during excavations carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology and Oxford Archaeology East on adjacent plots, 1.5km to the east of the present excavation (Phillips 2011, CHER 52131; Taylor and Chapman 2005; Brown 2008, CHER ECB1978). The settlement was relatively large covering an area in excess of 250m by 125m with limits not found for any period (Phillips 2011, fig. 6). Evidence for late Iron Age occupation was found in both areas and comprised several large sub-rectangular enclosures with single round houses in three of these and other round houses unenclosed. The enclosures were linked by boundary ditches which were aligned roughly NNW to SSE. Roman settlement including an early-mid 2nd century pottery kiln continued into the 4th century.

- 1.3.4 A Roman fort of Longthorpe, c.7km to the north was established in the mid 1st century and continued to the end of the 1st century (Dannell and Wild 1987). It was a major pottery producer and had a significant vicus. The Roman town of *Durobrivae* lay on Ermine Street close to the present village of Water Newton c.6km to the north-west of the site, was probably established and grew rapidly at the onset of the 2nd century (Fincham 2004). Ermine Street, established in the mid 1st century, runs 1.9m to the west of the site.
- 1.3.5 Further Roman remains have been excavated c.300m to the south of the site at TL 177 920 in a evaluation to the north of Manor Farm with 2nd century pottery recovered from a ditch (Hughes and Jones 1998, CHER 15469). Other Roman remains were found adjacent at Manor Farm (TL76920, CHER 01409) and these excavations also identified medieval remains.
- 1.3.6 The site lies 90m north of linear earthworks including banks and ditches, dated to the 10th to 14th centuries (CHER ECB84). A moated 16th century site is located to the south of the proposed development area (CHER ECB85). Previous landscape survey has suggested that the Saxon and medieval village was to the south of the site and west of St Peter's church.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work to carry out the excavation. The work was carried out by Rob Atkins and Nick Cox. The site was managed by Dr Paul Spoerry. Site reports and information were kindly provided by Sally Croft of Cambridgeshire HER. The site was monitored by Andy Thomas, Senior archaeologist of Cambridgeshire County Council. Specialist analysis was carried out by Alice Lyons and Rachel Fosberry and Lucy Offord drew the illustrations.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The main aim of the project was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and land use of the site.
- 2.1.2 Specifically the excavation area was positioned to further elucidate the presence of two probable ditches and their relationship to one another.

### 2.2 Updated Research Aims

- 2.2.1 The excavation found a significant assemblage of Roman Kiln material and the aims of the project have therefore been updated to include placing the Kiln in its local and regional context.

### 2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 The excavation area c.10m by 7m in size was located where two ditches found in the evaluation were thought to intersect at the northern part of the site (Fig. 2). The excavation was carried out using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 2.3.2 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.3.3 Two 30L samples were taken from ditch **213/218**.
- 2.3.4 The site was subject to severe ingress of water throughout the period of investigation. There was no opportunity to pump the water away from the site without causing flooding to neighbouring gardens. Therefore, hand bailing, hand dug sumps and a 'dam' to hold the water in an area of the site without features were used (Plates 1 and 2).
- 2.3.5 The original objective to investigate the intersection of ditches was adjusted to include further excavation of the ditch on finding a significant assemblage of kiln furniture and unabraded pottery.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

Four archaeological features were located within the small (7m x 10m) area of excavation (Fig.2). Stratigraphically these four features represent at least three phases (described below). The earliest dated phase belongs to the very latest Iron Age/early Roman period (early-mid 1st century) and the latest to the mid-late 1st century, but probably pre-Flavian (AD 79).

#### 3.2 Phase 1.1 (undated; 1st century or earlier)

3.2.1 The earliest feature within the site comprised an undated large shallow sub-rounded pit (225). It was c.2m by 1.8m in area and 0.1m deep with gentle sides and a flat base, filled with a mid green brown clay with occasional sub-angular stones. The pit was cut by ditch 218 (Phase 1.3) and must therefore be earlier than the middle of the 1st century AD but is otherwise undated.

#### 3.3 Phase 1.2 (early-mid 1st century)

3.3.1 A possible ditch or pit (223) was identified at the eastern edge of the excavation area where it had been cut by ditch 213/218. It was more than 0.39m wide, 0.51m deep with a steep western side and a concave base (Fig. 3, S. 11). The sterile 0.15m thick primary backfill deposit (222) comprised a dark orange grey silty clay. The upper backfill deposit (221) was a mid brown grey silty clay which contained 11 pottery sherds (191g) dating to the early to mid 1st century AD (see Lyons Appendix B.1, Table 3). Three daub fragments were also found in this fill (111g; see Lyons Appendix B.1, Table 5) as well as some animal bone. The precise nature of the feature and its orientation is impossible to determine because of the limited survival in the excavation area.

#### 3.4 Phase 1.3 (mid to late 1st century; pre-Flavian)

3.4.1 The original focus of the excavation was a pair intersecting ditches (201 and 203), but open area excavation showed that these were in fact fills of a single larger ditch (213=201 and 218=203) c.4.5m wide and 0.98m deep. The ditch was on a south-east to north-west alignment and may represent a boundary or enclosure, although in such a limited area it is difficult to be certain. The ditch was initially excavated in two segments (one on each side of the feature; 213 and 218, Figs 2 and 3, S. 10 and S.11; Plates 1 and 2), and subsequently extended to include most of the ditch that fell within the excavation area due to the presence of a significant assemblage of kiln waste.

3.4.2 Ditch 213/218 had moderate to steep sides and a relatively flat base. The primary fill (212/217) was nearly 0.2m thick and largely sterile of artefacts, comprising redeposited natural light brown grey silty clay on its south-eastern edge (212) and light orange grey brown silty clay on its north-western side (217). It contained a few unburned flint pieces up to 0.14m in length as well as the occasional animal bone, but importantly no pottery or kiln furniture deposits.

3.4.3 A single dark grey brown silty clay deposit (211/216), up to 0.64m thick, overlay the primary fill (212/217). In this deposit there were a few natural flint pieces, some large burnt pebbles ('pot boilers') and a considerable quantity of pottery and kiln waste (Tables 3 and 5). An environmental sample (11) from deposit 211 produced small

quantities of charred cereals (wheat), chaff and peas (see Fosberry, Appendix C.2). A mussel shell was also found in context 211.

- 3.4.4 Sealing deposit 211 on the south-eastern side of the ditch was layer 210, a mid brown grey clayey silt which produced 12 pottery sherds (Table 3) but no kiln furniture. In contrast, layer 216 was overlaid on the north-western side of the ditch by a very dark brown grey silty clay (215) up to 0.46m deep, which contained large quantities of pottery, including a cheese press (Plate 3), kiln furniture (Plate 4), some animal bones (sheep/goat, pig and horse), as well as a secondary flint flake and an oyster shell. A bulk environmental sample (10) from this context produced some charred cereals (wheat), chaff derived from processing spelt, and peas (see Fosberry, Appendix C.2).
- 3.4.5 The final fill of the ditch on its north-western side (214) comprised an 0.08m thick layer which didn't extend to the south-eastern edge of the ditch. It was a redeposited natural layer consisting of a sterile yellow/orange brown clay. This deposit was thought to have been natural in the evaluation, which explains why this large ditch had originally been interpreted as two smaller ditches (Haskins 2012). The pottery from the evaluation (contexts 200 and 202; Table 3) derived from the south-eastern and north-western surface fills of ditch **213/218** respectively.

### **3.5 Phase 1.4 (undated; late 1st century or later)**

- 3.5.1 A small undated north to south ditch (**220**) cut ditch **213/218** (Fig. 2). It was 1.14m wide and 0.18m deep with gentle sides (*c.*30°) and a very slightly rounded base. The ditch contained a single sterile mid grey brown clay silt backfill deposit. It must have been cut after the late 1st century AD and was sealed by a layer of silt (date of deposition unknown) but is otherwise undated.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Roman Farmstead

- 4.1.1 The Broadway site, Yaxley lies c. 7km to the south of Peterborough and the early Roman Fort of Longthorpe in a rural landscape. It was close to both Ermine Street and the River Nene, which formed part of a wide-reaching trade and communication network.
- 4.1.2 Within this very small excavation area several phases and features were found suggesting both reasonable longevity and intense activity. All of the features and finds are indicative of settlement very close by. Even the earliest undated pit would imply the presence of some kind of habitation. The best evidence for settlement is, however provided by a single large ditch (phase 1.3). This broad, relatively deep feature contained a significant quantity of pottery and kiln waste that is unlikely to have travelled far, implying the presence of a kiln nearby, thus it is with some certainty that we can imply both settlement and pottery production close to the excavation. The ditch itself is of sufficient size to have been constructed as some form of boundary or enclosure. This ditch/kiln association is reminiscent of excavations at Haddon near Peterborough where a series of enclosures and kilns dating to the mid-late 1st century AD (period 2) were revealed (Hinman 2003, 19). the best preserved of the kilns was located adjacent to Enclosure A, and apparently just outside it. Here the enclosure ditches were interpreted as a series of enclosed fields for animals associated with a farmstead.
- 4.1.3 Naturally the very small scale of the excavation precludes any real attempts to discuss the size, date and status of the wider settlement, but a few conclusions can be drawn from the evidence presented.
- 4.1.4 It is possible that the excavation area was part of a late 1st century mixed farmstead similar to that found at Haddon to the west of Peterborough. Although only a small animal bone assemblage was recovered, cattle, sheep, pig and horse were all represented with some evidence that whole animal carcasses were subject to initial processing implying that they were reared and slaughtered nearby (see Faine, Appendix C.1). A cheese press found on the site indicates that dairy was part of the farm economy and that cheese was being made here. Cereal grains and chaff derived from the processing of spelt wheat along with pea and weed seeds are evidence for the production of these crops (see Fosberry, Appendix C.2). The farm was clearly not entirely self sufficient since several imported materials were also found including oyster and mussel shells which would have been brought in to the site. Pottery too seems to have been partly self sufficient, as evidenced by the presence of kiln waste and partly imported as shown by the presence of South Gaulish samian and Verulamium wares.

### 4.2 Date and longevity

- 4.2.1 Although a number of phases of activity were identified perhaps suggesting relative longevity, the majority of the dating evidence points to a very tight date range in the mid-late 1st century AD, probably around the time of the Emperor Vespasian. (60-69 AD) (see Lyons, Appendix B.1.). There are some individual sherds of pottery in the assemblage that may extend the period of time that the site was occupied, a few sherds of Iron Age pottery may suggest a small settlement or farm existed here prior to the Roman occupation, although as these fragments were found as residual in later features this is a tenuous interpretation. More certainty can be applied to phase 1.2

ditch which had a small pottery assemblage dating to the early-mid 1st century and suggests that settlement began here within a generation of the conquest. A lack of finds from the latest phase suggests that the farm may have quickly gone into decline, although equally the focus of activity may simply have shifted to another location on the farmstead.

### 4.3 The Roman Pottery Kiln

- 4.3.1 The main significance of the excavation is the closely dated primary assemblage of kiln waste associated with carinated and cordoned grey ware bowls and jars that were produced in it. No kiln structure was found, but at least one was evidently nearby and it is possible it had been removed by later ploughing for example. As kilns of this period were principally above-ground structures with the pots stacked on clay fire bars radiating from a central pedestal (Woods 1974, fig. 3). Its early date makes it particularly significant since known kilns of Claudian-Neronian (AD 41-68) date are rare in the Cambridgeshire area (Gibson and Lucas 2002, 95).
- 4.3.2 Yaxley is located within the lower Nene Valley and pottery kilns dating from the mid 1st century AD to at least the mid 2nd century AD have been found within farmstead contexts elsewhere in the Nene Valley (Woods 1974). These kilns were mainly small scale in operation with the exception of Longthorpe fort. Only developing into large scale pottery industries producing Nene Valley wares in the early 2nd century (Upex 2008, 90).
- 4.3.3 The pottery from the Broadway, Yaxley kiln mainly comprises reduced grey ware jars, bowls and platters in a sandy grey ware. By contrast the vessels produced at nearby Haddon (see below) included shell and grog tempered vessels and both reduced and oxidised grog-tempered vessels were produced at Tort Hill (see below). The variety of fabric types and production techniques shows that these small local kilns were all using materials immediately available to them and that techniques varied from kiln to kiln.

#### Other Kilns within 10km of Broadway, Yaxley

- 4.3.4 To put the Broadway kiln into a wider context a summary of the evidence for kilns within approximately 10km of the site is given here.
- 4.3.5 Prior to the early Roman period only one kiln site is known within the search area, this was found at Cat's Water (area II), Flag Fen. This possible late Iron Age kiln was located approximately 7km to the north-east of Yaxley (Prior 1984). As with the Broadway example, the kiln itself was not found but two fire bars found in Late Iron Age ditches suggest it was located nearby (*ibid*, fig. 118).
- 4.3.6 The Broadway kiln belongs to a small group of kilns dating to the Early Roman period (mid to late 1st century AD). There are two other similar kiln sites known for this period within 10km of Yaxley. At Haddon 5km to the north-west (French *et al* 1994; Hinman 2003) one definite and one possible kiln have been found. Another was found on a farmstead at Tort Hill, 8km to the south (Ellis *et al* 1998). Tentative evidence for another contemporary pottery kiln has been found at Cow Bridge, 5km to the east, where pottery and kiln deposits were found on the surface of a field in 1955 but were undated (Hall 1992, site U1, CHER 01628).
- 4.3.7 At Haddon, the pottery kilns were found within a farmstead that began in the Iron Age and continued into the Roman period (French *et al* 1994; Hinman 2003). The best surviving kiln was located in the southern area of the farm adjacent to a large enclosure ditch. This was a mid-late 1st century Woods type IIIC updraught pottery kiln (Hinman 2003, 24 and 26). It was found with more than one complete set of kiln furniture,

suggesting there had been other broadly contemporary kilns within the immediate vicinity. Six oxidised shell tempered pottery vessels and a grog tempered example were thought to be kiln products (Evans 2003, 73). The kiln bars from Haddon were in both oxidised and reduced types and in a number of fabric types. Thin section from the kiln material and comparison sites suggest that Haddon was producing shell tempered pottery in the Late Iron Age tradition (Vince 2003, 75). three kiln bars, kiln floor material and three pottery seconds in a grog temper fabric dating to the 1st century AD are evidence for another kiln in the northern area of the farmstead (French *et al* 1994, 96 and 97).

- 4.3.8 At Tort Hill West, another Iron Age to Roman farmstead, three or four kilns were found in relatively close proximity (Ellis *et al* 1998, 16-19). One of the kilns (a Woods type IC) and possibly a second producing oxidised early grog-tempered wares (class E; Hancocks *et al* 1998, 39) were likely to be pre-Neronian in date (Ellis *et al* 1998, 17-19 and 110). the remaining two (both Woods Type IIA) were producing reduced wares which are uncommon before the Neronian period (Woods 1974, 279). Shallow channels found near the latter may have been used for preparing clay for the kiln (Ellis *et al* 1998, 110). As with the Haddon examples the kiln furniture displayed a remarkable variety with both oxidised and reduced forms and a multitude of fabric types found (Hancocks 1998, 87-89).
- 4.3.9 Of similar date but very different in character was a large scale pottery production site just outside the legionary fort at Longthorpe c.7km to the north of Yaxley (Dannell and Wild 1987). The fort was probably established in 44-48 AD and was certainly in use by 61-62 AD. Excavations uncovered a large number (28 or 29) of surface-built kilns and three large below ground types (Dannell and Wild 1987, 41). Later ploughing may have destroyed many more surface kilns suggesting production may have been even greater. The cheese press (Plate 3) found at Yaxley may have been a product of the Longthorpe potteries suggesting that inhabitants may have been visiting and trading at the vicus market there.
- 4.3.10 Local pottery production continued into the 2nd century and later on farmsteads in the area around Yaxley. Two early 2nd century pottery kilns have been recently excavated approximately 1.5km to the east of the Broadway site. These included a dismantled pottery kiln dated as 2nd quarter of the 2nd century found within an Iron Age/Roman settlement (Brown 2008, 13; McSloy 2008, 28-29). This kiln produced various vessels in a local grey ware including a carinated strainer, as well as necked and cordoned jars. At Stilton, along a Roman road branching off Ermine Street, c.2.5km to the south-west, an early to mid 2nd century pottery kiln, a tile kiln and another kiln-like structure were likely to have been producing shell tempered wares (Wessex Archaeology 2006). The kiln furniture included organic and shell tempered items (*ibid*, 17). These kilns appear to have been within part of a wider ladder settlement dating from the early 2nd century to the end of the Roman period.
- 4.3.11 In 1974 there were known to be 10 probable or definite pre-Flavian pottery production sites in the Upper Nene Valley between 30km and 70km radius of the Broadway site and just one within the Lower Nene Valley area at Longthorpe (Woods 1974 fig. 1). Since then the number of known kilns in the lower Nene Valley has increased a little but so has the number found within the wider area (no recent work has been done to draw this data together so exact numbers are not known). It would seem kilns in the vicinity of Longthorpe are still relatively rare, the reasons for this are not clear. It is possible that the kilns have simply not been found yet, but if the lack of kilns is a true reflection then perhaps the large production centre at Longthorpe was sufficient for the needs of



the local community. The only market in the area in the 1st century AD also seems to be that associated with the fort and vicus at Longthorpe. It is unlikely that small pottery producers such as the Broadway site would have found a market for their goods at Longthorpe, although they may have been able to trade with the local community. It is Durobrivae (11km distant at Water Newton) would have provided a place to trade goods but was probably only established at the beginning of the 2nd century (Fincham 2004).

- 4.3.12 It is debatable whether the small production sites such as that at Broadway were trading their goods or simply producing them for their own use. The excavators of Tort Hill, 8km to the south, thought it likely that the proximity of road and kilns must indicate some production for markets (Ellis *et al* 1998, 110). By contrast both Johnstone (1969) and Woods (1974, 262) thought it was likely that Early Romano-British kilns in the Nene Valley were producing little more than was needed by the local settlements. Johnstone (1969) postulated that the limitations of the transport network, particularly the difficulty of navigating the river Nene may have contributed to this very localised distribution.

### **Cheese presses**

- 4.3.13 The cheese press found at Broadway was unlikely to have been made on the site, its most likely place of origin is the Longthorpe pottery some 7km to the north (Dannell and Wild 1987). Here, kilns were dated to the mid/late 1st century and 38 cheese presses were found in three different types (35 of type 65, one type 66 and two type 67 (*ibid*, fig. 41 and 151). Whilst the majority of the earlier examples are likely to have been produced at Longthorpe, later presses in a variety of fabrics have been found at other nearby locations suggesting their production was not limited to one production site.
- 4.3.14 The earliest presses are mid 1st century in date (Rollo and Wild 2001, 70) and Rollo commented that cheese presses were, 'common on Lower Nene Valley sites of all types throughout the Roman period' (1994, 117). This is possibly an exaggeration as cheese presses were specialist wares, but interestingly they are not especially rare in this part of the country compared with elsewhere; most of the larger excavations in the Peterborough area have recovered at least one example. This has led Evans to conclude that, "cheese presses seem to be much more common than in other regions. This is not simply a result of one industry producing these in quantity since they appear in a series of different fabrics, suggesting either these vessels were more frequently used in this region than elsewhere in Roman Britain, or that elsewhere the form was not usually produced in ceramic. The former seems more likely." (Evans 2003, 104).
- 4.3.15 Apart from Longthorpe, small numbers of cheese presses have been found at seven locations within 10km of the Broadway site, although most of the published examples were found in later contexts than those from Longthorpe and Broadway.
- 4.3.16 Nearest in date were two presses found in a late 1st to mid 2nd century ditch in the southern area of the Haddon farmstead 5km to the north-west of Broadway (Evans 2003, fig. 36, C43. 3 and fig. 40, R22.11). Another two were found in the northern area of the settlement (Rollo 1994 fig. 64, 48 and fig. 67, 121). A cheese press found at Orton Hall Farm may also be contemporary as it was found in a period 1 feature (mid 1st AD to c.AD 175), but a second may be later as it was found in a period 4 c.300/325-375 feature (Perrin 1996, 122 and 155).
- 4.3.17 A number of other cheese presses have been found in the vicinity in later contexts: part of a cheese press in a Lower Nene Valley grey ware fabric was found 1.5km to the east of Broadway within a late 2nd to late 3rd century deposit (McSloy 2008, 26 and 28). At the A1/M1 excavations c.8km to the south of Broadway there were at least three

cheese presses, all in different fabrics (Hancocks *et al* 1998, fig. 40, R24.6, fig. 42, R43. 19 and fig 44, W42.1). A shell tempered example in a context dated as AD 150-60 came from Monument 97 (Rollo and Wild 2001, fig. 38. no. 106). A single cheese press was recovered from Fengate, 5km to the north dated to the mid 2nd century AD (Pryor 1984, fig. 131 no. 82). At Stilton, a village c.2km directly to the south-west of Broadway, a 3rd century cheese press was found by a farmer and subsequent excavation was carried out for a Time Team programme (Wessex Archaeology 2006).

#### **4.4 Significance**

- 4.4.1 The very early primary pottery assemblage and kiln furniture waste is of regional importance. The Study Group for Roman pottery 'Issues and Research Objectives' (Willis 2004, 9-11) has emphasised the importance of the publication of kiln sites. The study of kilns and kiln products has multiple benefits including establishing the source of local and traded products, providing information upon technology and the economy, also also the endurance of traditions and the introduction of new skills and fashions. Indeed the Lower Nene valley (*ibid*, 11) is specifically mentioned as an area of pottery production that requires further research. The recovery of another cheese press, relatively rare for other parts of the country but found disproportionately in this locality, further adds weight to the suggestion that cheese manufacturing was of importance in this region of Roman Britain.
- 4.4.2 Although only a very small area was available for excavation, the results are very interesting and regionally significant as they have provided evidence for a previously unknown settlement that was contemporary with the Roman fort of Longthorpe and almost certainly had trading links with the vicus market there.

## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT LIST

<b>Context</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Breadth</b>	<b>Depth</b>
200	201	fill	ditch	Fill of Ditch <b>201=213</b>	1.3		
201	201	cut	ditch	Cut of ditch 201=213	1.3		
202	202	fill	ditch	Fill of Ditch <b>203=218</b>	1		
203	202	cut	ditch	Cut of ditch	1		
204		layer		Modern Levelling		0.6	
205		layer		Subsoil		0.7	
206		layer		Natural			
207			ditch	Fill of Ditch <b>201=213</b>			
210	213	fill	ditch	?boundary or enclosure			
211	213	fill	ditch	?boundary or enclosure			
212	213	fill	ditch	?boundary or enclosure			
213	213	cut	ditch	?boundary or enclosure		4.5	0.98
214	218	fill	ditch	?boundary or enclosure			
215	218	fill	ditch	?boundary or enclosure			
216	218	fill	ditch	?boundary or enclosure			
217	218	fill	ditch	?boundary or enclosure			
218	218	cut	ditch	?boundary or enclosure		4.5	0.98
219	220	fill	ditch				
220	220	cut	ditch			1.14	0.18
221	223	fill	ditch				
222	223	fill	ditch				
223	223	cut	ditch			0.39+	0.51
224	224	fill	pit				
225	225	cut	pit		2.1	1.6	0.1

Table 1: Context List

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

*By Alice Lyons*

#### **Introduction and methodology**

- B.1.1 The excavation produced a large primary assemblage of pottery and kiln furniture (see below) deposited within a single ditch. A total of 441 pottery sherds, weighing 7.133kg, were recovered including pottery from the evaluation (Table 1). The pottery, although fragmentary, is in good condition with an average sherd weight of c. 16g, suggesting it has not suffered post-depositional disturbance. The material shows little signs of use and no surface residues, such as soot or lime-scale, were recorded.
- B.1.2 The majority of the pottery consists of early Roman sandy grey ware jars, bowls and platters that may be a product of the (demolished) kiln, as several vessels showed signs of firing faults. Also found were the remains of utilitarian shell tempered jars and a grey ware cheese press, typical of local production. In addition two non-local pottery fragments were found comprising a south Gaulish samian bowl fragment and a Verulamium white ware jar or flagon.
- B.1.3 The assemblage is consistent with a mid to late 1st century date; certainly post-conquest (AD43) and probably pre-Flavian (AD 79) - a date of c. 70AD (Vespasian AD69-79) seems likely.

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Sherd Count</b>	<b>Sherd Weight (g)</b>	<b>Sherd Weight (%)</b>
Sandy grey ware	404	5758	80.73
Shell tempered ware	74	1363	19.19
Verulamium white ware	2	7	0.01
South Gaulish Samian	1	5	0.07
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>7133</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 2: *The Pottery*

#### **Methodology**

- B.1.4 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 (primarily used in the archive) are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW); vessel form was also recorded.
- B.1.5 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. Both fabric and form are paralleled with published examples where possible.
- B.1.6 The open area excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental

and artefactual remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery which are included within this report.

- B.1.7 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### ***Fabrics and Forms***

#### Grey Wares (kiln products)

- B.1.8 The grey ware pottery (403 sherds, 5520g) consists of early Roman sand-tempered cordoned jars, bowls and platters associated with the remains of a demolished kiln and probably therefore produced on site (although not *in situ*). The fabric is generally a sandy blue-grey ware, with varying amounts (from sparse to abundant) of fine calcareous (fossil shell) inclusions. No grog was visible at x10 magnification. Not all the pottery has been consistently fired giving a 'sandwich' appearance to some of the sherds (in section) and some oxidised surfaces, others are wasters (cracked and bubbled). The condition of this pottery is as would be expected from an early Roman failed kiln firing.
- B.1.9 The vessels were produced on a wheel and the forms manufactured include wide mouthed cordoned jars and bowls, some of which are carinated. Platters were also a common component of the assemblage. Vessels of this type are typical of early Roman pottery production in south-east England (Thompson 1982) and are often referred to as 'Belgic' following the precedent of the Aylesford-Swarling tradition (Willis *et al* 2008, 64).
- B.1.10 Most of the surviving sherds are undecorated, although several of the jars have horizontal scoring or rilling. On the cordoned vessels decorative motifs, such as comb point impressed design or incised cross-hatch, are frequently employed within the cordon.

#### Shell Tempered ware

- B.1.11 A small component of the assemblage (74 sherds; weighing 1363g) consists of both handmade and wheel-made storage jars and jars made from clay rich in fossilized shell. These vessels are typical of wares produced in the Lower Nene Valley between the 1st and 3rd centuries (Perrin 1999).

#### Specialist Wares

- B.1.12 Forms and fabrics traditionally associated with specialist wares, such as amphora (Tyers 1996, 85-105) or mortaria (Tyers 1996, 116-135) are not represented within the assemblage.
- B.1.13 One specialist vessel was found, however, a grey ware cheese press (238g; 13.5cm diameter) which was not produced on site (see Section 4.1.13 above). Cheese-presses occur on local sites from the mid 1st century onwards and were part of the repertoire of the military kilns at Longthorpe (Dannell and Wild 1987) situated only c. 7km to the north and producing pottery in the second half of the 1st century AD.

#### Non-Local wares

- B.1.14 Only two sherds within this assemblage were certainly imported onto the site. One was a single sherd of south Gaulish samian (5g) from a deep bowl with moulded decoration (Tyers 1996, 112-113, plate 92, Dr 29) dated to AD70-85. The other non local sherd is a piece of Verulamium (St. Albans) white ware (7g) possibly from a jar or flagon (Tyers 1996, 199-201, plate 255) produced between the AD50s and the mid 2nd century.

### **Discussion**

- B.1.15 Yaxley lies c. 7km to the south of Peterborough on the (Jurassic shell) clay uplands of north Cambridgeshire, in a rural, but archaeologically rich landscape. It was close to both Ermine Street and the River Nene, which formed part of a wide-reaching trade and communication network.
- B.1.16 This group of early Roman sand tempered (i.e. additional sand was mixed into the clay to make it more workable) wares was made from local clay with differing amounts of fine calcareous inclusions. The pottery was made using a fast potters' wheel and a semi permanent kiln utilising portable kiln furniture which were both relatively new technologies during the post-conquest period in this region (Swan 1984). The vessel forms produced also followed the 'new' fashion for cordoned and carinated jars and bowls, also platters that could have been used for cooking, small scale storage and as table wares. These wares, although produced locally in reduced fabrics, were heavily influenced by continental styles which saw the introduction of cordoned and carinated jars (Thompson 1982).
- B.1.17 The choice to use sand as the primary temper (and not clay from the abundant fossilized shell beds locally available) would appear to be a cultural one. This choice can clearly be seen at Wardy Hill near Ely where sand was selected (Hill and Horne 2003), while at Bobs Wood near Huntingdon shell was largely used (Percival forthcoming). Hancocks (2003, 76, table 7.6) analysed the selection of clay and temper use for several sites in the region and demonstrated that it did not rely on the most easily available clay beds.
- B.1.18 The presence of a cheese press is intriguing as it hints at a relationship between the early Roman farmstead at Broadway, Yaxley and the contemporary Roman fort at Longthorpe. It is possible that this vessel – a type - known to have been produced at the fort (see above) was purchased from the Longthorpe vicus market. That these two communities were connected may suggest how the transfer of new kiln technology and potting skills was made into the Broadway farmstead since early Roman military pottery production took place at Longthorpe fort on a relatively large scale (Dannell and Wild 1987). While the two non-local sherds (south Gaulish samian and Verulamium white ware from St. Albans) also suggest this community had links with the wider world including traded ceramic goods, perhaps also via the vicus market at Longthorpe.
- B.1.19 Kiln assemblages, such as the Broadway example, offer a fascinating insight into pottery production and the adoption of new technology. They do not, however, necessarily provide a representative pottery sample from the larger community and may not reflect the status and function of that community. The scarcity of specialist wares (such as amphora and mortaria) and finewares (such as samian) does not necessarily mean therefore that this was a low status or impoverished community. Indeed the adoption of new potting technology and ceramic styles may argue that the people who deposited this material were outward looking in their influences and had cultural links with the wider world.
- B.1.20 The assemblage is consistent with a mid to late 1st century date; certainly post-conquest (AD43) and probably pre-Flavian (AD 79) - a date of c. 70AD (Vespasian AD69-79) seems likely. It is an excellent example of small-scale pottery production in the Lower Nene Valley prior to the establishment of the Lower Nene Valley pottery industry in the mid 2nd century AD (Perrin 1996, 120). Evidence of locally produced pottery south of the River Nene in the immediate vicinity of Yaxley is limited and this kiln assemblage with associated pottery makes a significant addition to the corpus of data.

**Key:** B=base, C= century, D = decorated body sherd, E= early, EVE = Estimated Vessel Equivalent, HM = handmade, L= late, M=Mid, P=profile, R=Rim, SW = slow wheel, U= undecorated body sherd, WM = wheelmade

Ctxt	Fabric	Handmade	Form	Description	Type and published reference	Sherd No	Sherd Wt (g)	Rim diam	EVE	Comment	Spot Date
202	Shell tempered ware	HM	Jar/bowl	U		3	6				C1BC-ADC1
200	Shell tempered ware	HM	Storage jar	UB		2	87			Same vessel in deposit and sample	C2BC-ADE/M C1
200	Shell tempered ware	HM	Storage jar	UB		5	98			Same vessel in deposit and sample	C2BC-ADE/M C1
210	Shell tempered ware, grog tempered	HM	Jar/bowl	U		1	14				C1BC-ADE/M C1
210	Sandy grey ware	SW	Cordoned jar	U	Thompson 1982, B-1	8	78				AD E/MC1
210	Sandy grey ware, calciferous temper	WM	Carinated cup	U	Thompson 1982, D2-1	1	28				AD E/MC1
210	Sandy grey ware, calciferous temper	WM	Cordoned jar		Thompson 1982, B-1	1	20				AD E/MC1
210	Sandy grey ware	WM	Bowl	R		1	16	14	9		AD E/MC1
210	Sandy grey ware	SW	Wide mouthed jar	R	Thompson 1982, B3-1	1	71	21	15		AD E/MC1
211	Sandy grey ware	SW	Cordoned Jar/bowl	UDB		57	766			Some horizontal scoring, others have comb point impressed decoration	AD E/MC1
211	Shell tempered ware	WM	JAR/BOWL	UDB		13	240			3 parallel scored lines on neck	AD E/MC1
211	Shell tempered ware	WM	Jar	R		1	36	18	14		AD E/MC1
211	Shell tempered ware	SW	Wide mouthed jar	R		1	37	20	10		AD E/MC1
211	Shell tempered ware	WM	Jar/bowl	R		1	32	18	10		AD E/MC1
211	Sandy grey ware	WM	Platter	R	Thompson 1982, G1-1	2	44	16	20		ADMC1
	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	R		1	19	19	6		AD E/MC1
211	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	R		1	7	16	8		AD E/MC1
211	Sandy grey ware	WM	Cordoned bowl	R	Thompson 1982, D1-3	1	55	14	6	Incised cross-hatch in cordon	ADMC1
211	Sandy grey ware	WM	Dish/platter	P	Thompson 1982, G1-11	1	38	12	14		AD43-65
211	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	U		27	155			Unwashed	AD E/MC1

Ctxt	Fabric	Handmade	Form	Descrip tion	Type and published reference	Sherd No	Sherd Wt (g)	Rim diam	EVE	Comment	Spot Date
211	Sandy grey ware	WM	Miniature jar (lid- seated)	R		1	7	10	13		ADMC1
211	Shell tempered ware	SW	Jar/bowl	UB		7	47				AD E/MC1
221	Sandy grey ware	WM (Rim applied by hand)	Cordoned jar	RUB	Thompson 1982, B-1	9	147	20	15		ADMC1
221	Shell tempered ware	SW	Jar/bowl	U		2	44				AD E/MC1
216	Sandy grey ware	WM	Cordoned Jar/bowl	UB		44	482				MC1
216	Shell tempered ware	HM/SW	Jar/storag e jar	UB		10	144				ADC1
216	Sandy grey ware	WM	Plain carinated cup	R	Thompson 1892, E1-4	1	75	12	23		MC1
216	Sandy grey ware	WM	Dish/platte r	R	Thompson 1982, G1- 1	3	65	14	27		MC1
216	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	R		1	30	18	9		MC1
216	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	R		1	11	12	9		MC1
216	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar	R		1	31	13	21		M/LC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	UB		153	2474			Includes wasters	MC1
215	South Gaulish samian	WM	Bowl	D	Dr 29	1	5				AD70- 85
215	Verulamiu m white ware	WM	Jar	U		2	7				MC1- C2
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	U		8	28				MC1
215	Shell tempered ware	HM/SW	Jar/storag e jar	RUB		28	578	18	6		C1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	D	Thompson 1982, E2- 1	1	49			Burnished cross-hatch in cordon	MC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	D	Thompson 1982, E2- 1	4	137	20	20	Waster	MC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Cheese press	P		1	238	13.5	37	X 12 pre- fired holes survive, exterior burnished	M/LC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	R		22	342				M/LC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Jar/bowl	R	Thompson 1982, D2- 1	3	142	14	7	Waster	M/LC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Dish/platte r	P	Thompson 1982, G1- 7	1	76	16	20		75- 100AD
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Dish/platte r	R		1	10	16	3		M/LC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Dish/platte r	R		1	8	14	4		M/LC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Dish/platte r	P	Thompson 1982, G1- 10	1	9	13	10		MC1



Ctxt	Fabric	Handmade	Form	Description	Type and published reference	Sherd No	Sherd Wt (g)	Rim diam	EVE	Comment	Spot Date
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Dish/platter	P	Thompson 1982, G1-10	1	5	14	5		M/LC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Miniature jar	R	Thompson 1982, C7-2	1	22	8	15	Rilled	MC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Miniature jar	R	Thompson 1982, C7-2	1	31			Rilled	MC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Dish/bowl	R		1	29	20	10		M/LC1
215	Sandy grey ware	WM	Bowl/cup	R	Thompson 1982, E2-1	1	13	14	12	Impressed comb point	M/LC1

Table 3: *The Pottery Catalogue*

## B.2 Fired Clay

*By Alice Lyons*

### **Introduction**

B.2.1 The excavation produced a large primary assemblage of pottery (see Section B.1 above) and kiln furniture deposited within a ditch. A total of 48 fired clay fragments (weighing c. 2.8kg) were recovered during the excavation at Broadway, Yaxley (Table 1). All of this material is demolition waste from a kiln that had been used to produce pottery. The different types of baked clay remains are discussed below.

Kiln furniture	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Kiln Bar	19	2090	73.59
Daub/kiln lining	19	328	11.55
Kiln brick	1	312	10.99
Plate	9	110	3.87
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2840</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 4: *The Kiln Furniture*

### **Methodology**

B.2.2 The fired clay was counted and weighed, form and fabric type described and any complete dimensions measured (mm) were recorded.

### **Kiln Bars**

B.2.3 The nineteen kiln bar fragments found at Broadway are all of the tapering 'cigar-shaped' type which is the most common form found in this region with a clear distribution around the area of the Wash (Swan 1984, 63). The majority of the Broadway bars have a grey (reduced) core with grey or pale orange (oxidised) surfaces, which indicates they probably originated from more than one kiln. Common inclusions within the sandy fabric are chalk flecks and flint fragments, also organic matter. The clay has been roughly mixed and folded over (with a single seam) to form the tapering rectangular shape.

- B.2.4 Of all the types of kiln furniture found, bars are the most frequently encountered (Swan 1984, 62). Kiln bars were used in conjunction with a (usually central) pedestal on which one end rested and from which the bars radiated (*ibid*, 60-63, plates 18 and 20). The other end of the bars was seated on a ledge constructed integrally as part of the lining of the firing chamber (*ibid*, 63, plate 20).

#### ***Kiln Lining***

- B.2.5 A small amount of the body of the kiln was recovered which constitutes the remains of the lining of the kiln furnace chamber (Swan 1984, 32). The material is orange (oxidised) throughout.

#### ***Kiln brick or block***

- B.2.6 A single kiln brick (or block) was recovered from the Broadway site. Objects of this type have been found previously at Water Newton (Durobrivae) in the Lower Nene Valley where an early Roman kiln of similar date to the Broadway example was found (Swan 1984, 96, Plate 30). They are rarely found in Britain outside the Nene Valley, although they are commonly found associated with pottery production on the continent (*ibid*, 96).

#### ***Plate fragments***

- B.2.7 A small number of fragmentary baked clay plates were recovered, none of which had been pierced. The fabric for the plates is sandy and orange (oxidised) throughout. Both sides of the plates are densely covered in grass and/or cereal impressions.
- B.2.8 These objects may have been used as part of the portable kiln floor, they may also have been used to help separate layers of pots within the kiln (Swan 1984, 64) and/or provide the temporary topping of the pottery stack before the turf roof was laid over the kiln (*ibid*, 41). Although recorded artefacts of this type are generally rare in Cambridgeshire both circular and sub-rectangular forms are well documented artefact types on sites of the first millennium BC around Milton Keynes (Williams 1994, 363).

#### ***Discussion***

- B.2.9 Although no *in situ* pottery kiln was found at Broadway, a significant dump of demolition material consisting largely of kiln bars and associated pottery (including wasters) was found in the backfill of a ditch.
- B.2.10 The use of portable kiln furniture technology was introduced into Britain during the 2nd quarter of the 1st century (Thompson 1982, 23) and continued in use throughout the 1st century AD (apparently unchanged by the conquest) and sporadically through most of the 2nd century (Swan 1984, 63). As portable furniture was generally unstable, however, fixed interiors became more popular over time. Indeed in Cambridgeshire, although kilns with permanent internal fittings were introduced at the time of the conquest (Gibson and Lucas 2002, 116, Greenhouse Farm Group 2, kiln F238) permanent features did not become the standard until the late 1st/early 2nd century.
- B.2.11 Evidence for non military pre-Flavian pottery production has been found at several sites in the Cambridge and Lower Nene Valley area (see 4.2 within this report) although it remains rare (Gibson and Lucas 2002, 95; Willis et al 2008, 72-73). This assemblage, therefore, adds significantly to corpus of data available.

Ctxt	Fabric	Form	Type and published reference	Sherd No	Wt (g)	Thick (mm)	Depth (mm)	Comment
211	Sand	Dome plate	Swan 1984 64-65	3	39	9		Grass impressions on surface
211	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	22	-		
211	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	130	36	38	
211	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	119	30	38	
211	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	309	45	45	Grass impressions on surface
211	Sand	?Kiln wall		1	37			
216	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	300	35	38	Grass impressions on surface
216	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	57			Grass impressions on surface
216	Sand	Dome plate	Swan 1984 64-65	2	27	8		Grass impressions on surface
200	Sand, with common angular flint	Daub		4	22			
221	Sand, with common angular flint and chalk	Daub		3	111			
215	Sand	Dome plate	Swan 1984 64-65	4	44	7		
215	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	233	43	42	Grass impressions on surface
215	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	121	35	34	Grass impressions on surface
215	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	165	35	32	Grass impressions on surface, tapering
215	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	167	43	38	Grass impressions on surface
215	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	147	48		Grass impressions on surface
215	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	1	83	32	28	Grass impressions on surface, tapering
215	Sand	Kiln Bar	Cigar (Swan 1984, 63-64	7	237			Grass impressions on surface
215	Sand, with some chalk inclusions	Daub/kiln lining		11	158			
215	Sand, with shell inclusions	Kiln brick or block	Swan 1984, 96, Plate 30	1	312	33		X1 corner survives

Table 5: *The Kiln Furniture Catalogue and other fired clay/daub material*

## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Animal bone

*By Chris Faine*

#### **Results**

C.1.1 Twenty eight fragments of animal bone were recovered from the excavation with 16 fragments identifiable to species (Table 6). The largest number of identifiable fragments were recovered from context 215 (phase 1.3 ditch **213/218**). These consisted of butchered portions of sheep/goat lower limb elements (metapodia, tibiae), along with a mandible from animal around 6-12 months of age at death. Other fragments were limited to a single adult horse molar and fragmentary pig mandible. One fragment of sheep metacarpal showed evidence of burning. Further remains were recovered from different contexts in ditch **213/218** (202, 211, 216 and 217) as well as context 221 (ditch **223**). These consisted largely of butchered cattle lower limb elements along with a sheep mandible again from an animal around 6-12 months old at death. The assemblage is extremely small but most likely represents initial processing of whole carcasses.

	<b>NISP</b>	<b>NISP %</b>
Sheep/Goat ( <i>Ovis/Capra</i> )	9	56.2
Cattle ( <i>Bos</i> )	5	31.2
Pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	1	6.3
Horse ( <i>Equus</i> )	1	6.3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6: Animal bone species distribution for the assemblage

### C.2 Environmental samples

*By Rachel Fosberry*

#### **Introduction**

- C.2.1 Two bulk samples were taken to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.
- C.2.2 Previous results of environmental sampling had revealed scant evidence of crop processing. The two samples from the excavation phase were taken from Early Roman ditch **213/218**.

#### **Methodology**

- C.2.3 The total volume (up to eighteen litres) of each of the samples were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot

was examined under a binocular microscope and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 7. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

### Quantification

C.2.4 For the purpose of this assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens ##### = 100+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

### Results

Sample No.	Ctxt	Cut	Feature Type	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm
10	215	218	Ditch	25	##	#	#	#	++	++
11	211	213	Ditch	20	#	#	#	#	++	++

Table 7: Environmental samples

### Preservation

C.2.5 Plant remains are preserved by carbonization. The carbonized material is comprised of occasional cereal grains, weed seeds, legumes and charcoal fragments.

### Cereals

C.2.6 The cereal grains recovered are moderately to poorly preserved and were mostly retrieved from the residues than the flot (probably due to the heavy clay content of the soil preventing them from floating). Where the outer surface is intact it is possible to identify some of the grains as wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Both samples contain glume bases of spelt wheat (*T. spelta*). Peas (*Pisum* sp.) are also present in both samples as a single cotyledon in Sample 1 and a whole pea in Sample 2.

### Weed seeds

C.2.7 Charred weed seeds are rare and consist of a grass (Poaceae) seed, fragments of cleavers (*Galium aparine*), docks (*Rumex* sp.) and vetch (*Vicia* sp.).

C.2.8 Animal bone fragments and pottery shards were recovered from the residues of both samples.

### Discussion

C.2.9 The environmental samples taken from the excavation phase has produced similar results from those from the evaluation. Sparse quantities of cereal grains and chaff elements (glume bases) are present which are derived from the processing of spelt wheat and the subsequent burning of the remains. It is unlikely that these activities were occurring near to the features sampled and it is most likely that the charred remains (including the occasional pea and weed seed) have blown across the site or been swept up with other detritus prior to being discarded in the features sampled.

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## APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-144935		
Project Name	Library Site, 266 Broadway, Yaxley		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	06-08-2012	Finish	09-08-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	YAXBRY12	Planning App. No.	0900010FUL
HER No.	CHER ECB 3819	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB 3807

### 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 inc wasters	Roman 43 to 410
settlement	Roman 43 to 410	kiln furniture	Roman 43 to 410
	Select period...	bone etc	Roman 43 to 410

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Huntingdon	266 Broadway Yaxley PE7 3NR	
Parish	Yaxley		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	2025sq m	National Grid Reference	TL 1758 9233

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	-
Project Design Originator	-
Project Manager	Dr Paul Spoerry, OA East
Supervisor	Rob Atkins, OA East

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
YAXBRY12	YAXBRY12	YAXBRY12

### Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media	Paper Media
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location, with development area (Red), evaluation trenches (grey) and excavation area (black)



Figure 2: Excavation area with evaluation trenches.

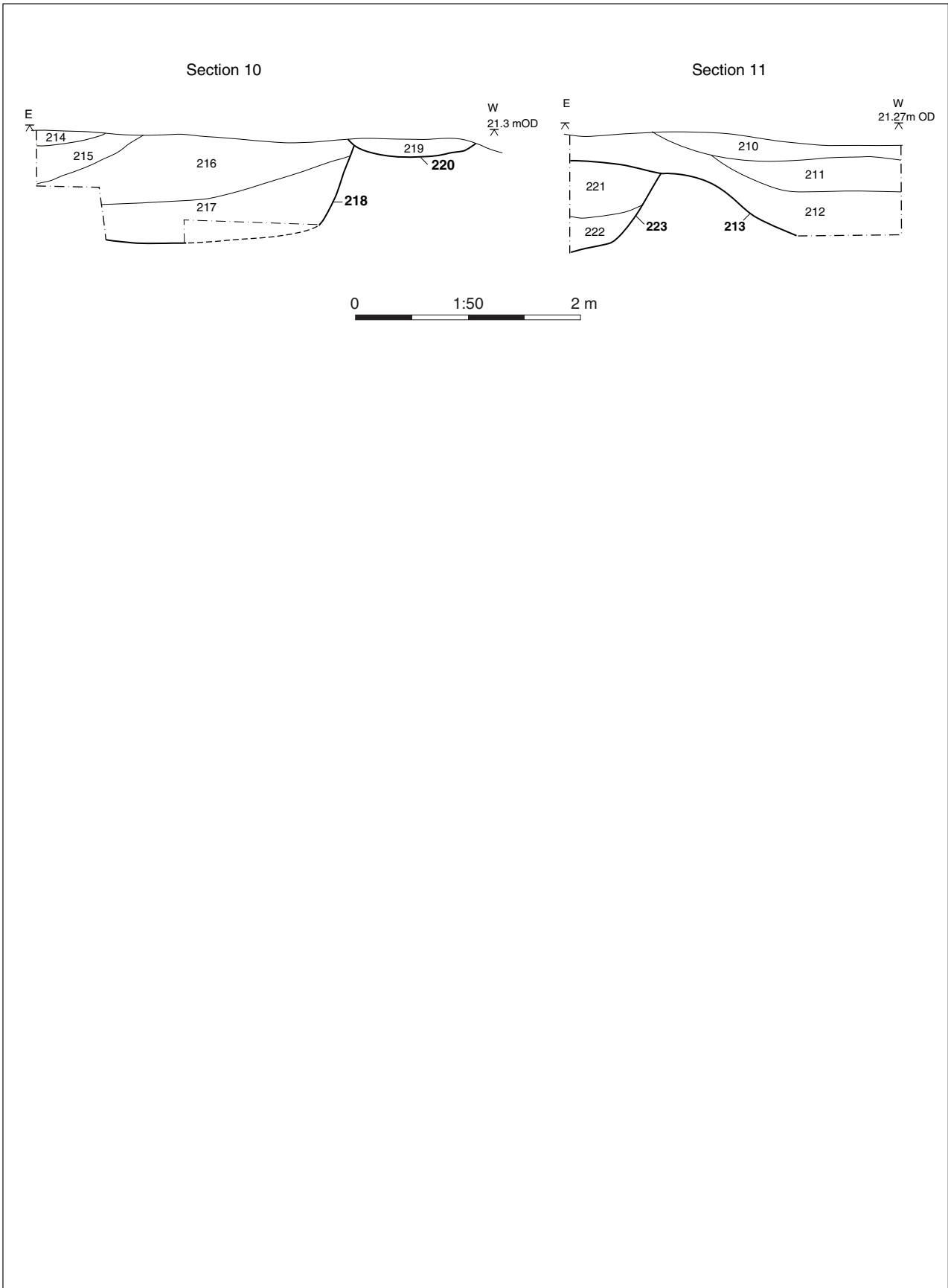


Figure 3: Sections shown at 1:50





Plate 1: Excavation area looking east



Plate 2: Ditch 218, looking south



Plate 3: Cheese press



Plate 4: Kiln bar



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