Post-Excavation Assessment

Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age Wells and Medieval Occupation at Neale Wade Community College March Cambridgeshire

An Interim Excavation Report and Post-Excavation Assessment

oxfordarchaeology east east east

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Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age Wells and Medieval Occupation at Neale Wade Community College, March, Cambridgeshire

An Interim Excavation Report and Post-excavation Assessment

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Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out between the 6th and 30th April 2010 by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) in advance of an extensive scheme of works to redevelop Neale Wade Community College. Following on from an evaluation and watching brief also conducted by OA East this excavation formed the first stage of archaeological works/interventions currently planned for this development.

The excavation uncovered evidence of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age activity with the discovery of a series of Late Bronze Age (LBA) wells dug into a modified natural hollow and a single possible Iron Age ditch. Preserved timber and an antler pick were recovered from the wells along with rich environmental samples. Pollen (column) samples were taken for future analysis.

Three phases of Medieval activity have been identified dating from the mid 12th to mid 16th centuries. Preliminary results show a series of boundary ditches with small internal sub-divisions with a later phase of large potentially industrial pits dug along the largest of the boundary ditches.

There was no evidence of Late Iron Age through to Saxon occupation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was carried out between the 6th - 30th April 2010 by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) in advance of an extensive scheme of works to redevelop Neale Wade Community College which include the demolition and subsequent rebuilding of approximately half of the school buildings and a redesigned entrance and coach/bus turning area.

1.1.2 Enabling works prior to the main demolition phase included the construction of a series of temporary accommodation blocks to be located on open grassland to the west of the current school. Three open area excavations were sited within the footprint of these buildings. Following on from an evaluation and watching brief also conducted by OA East this excavation formed the first stage of archaeological works/interventions currently planned for this development.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The study area is located in the Town End area of March (fig. 1), which was the Medieval centre of the town. The western boundary is the B1101 Wimblington Road which is orientated north to south and leads to March town centre to the north and the village of Wimblington to the south.

1.2.2 The study area lies on a narrow north south ridge of March gravels, with deposits of boulder clay to the east and west (British Geological Survey 1995) which forms the southern tip of the March island, surrounded by Fen to the south east and west. The site lies at *c*. 4m OD, with the land gradually dropping to 1m OD c.900m to the south.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 The following information is taken from 'Iron Age and Medieval Activity at Neale Wade Community College, March: An Interim Evaluation Report' Gilmour 2009 (OA East Report 1142).

The Historic Environment Record (HER)

Relevant entries:

- HER 09009 – Rectilinear enclosure and possible building cropmark evidence (Palmer 2003)
- HER 11645 – Cropmark of large sub rectangular enclosure to the south of the PDA. Probably Middle or Late IA like one found at Wimblington Rd.
- HER MCB14807 – Excavation at 9 Church Street (Grassam 2004)
- HER MCB15352 – Iron Age and Roman remains, Wimblington rd (Atkins 2004)
- HER MCB16060 – Iceni coin hoard, Field Baulk Farm. Immediately north of study area (Potter 1996).
- HER 03781 – Roman pottery, bronze coins and other bronze objects.

- HER 03781a – Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch, probably 6th Century (same find spot as above).
- HER 11643 – Ridge and furrow agricultural remains. Aligned east west. Thought to be medieval.
- HER 05915 – Roman coin hoard. "Large pot" full of Hadrianic coins (early 2nd Century) found in the 19th Century.
- HER ECB3013 – Evaluation at 12 Jobs Lane (Adams 2008).
- HER CB14565 – Evaluation at Cavalry Park, The Avenue (Kemp 1999).
- HER 05917 – Large dolerite perforated axe hammer. Found in St. Wendreda's Churchyard in 1969.
- HER 02007 – Grandford Farm Romano-British settlement. Extensive settlement located on the north western edge of the March island.
- HER 06032 – Roman occupation and industrial site at Flagrass, located immediately north of Fen Causeway on the north east of the March island.
- HER 06016 – Norwood Rd settlement. Sub rectangular Roman enclosures with saltern pits containing briquetage.

Cartographic Evidence

1.3.2 The first edition Ordnance Survey sheet for Town End, March shows settlement around St. Wendreda's Church. Since then the route of Wimblington Road has been straightened so the original frontage of Wimblington Road, for the most part, lies beyond the western boundary of the study area.

Aerial Photographs

1.3.3 To the south of the study area, on the west side of the B1101, there exits significant cropmark evidence indicating a rectilinear enclosure with associated field system (HER 10798, Palmer 2003). Palmer suggests these are Iron Age or Roman in date and also that there might be a building immediately to the west, although this is less certain. Atkins suggests that the probable track way visible in crop marks is an early precursor of the medieval Wimblington to March road (modern B1101).

1.3.4 The remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture are also visible to the west of this putative enclosure and field systems. This might mask further Iron Age and Roman archaeological features and deposits.

1.3.5 Excavations at 22-23 Wimblington Road discovered the remains of at least two large sub rectangular enclosures both with internal post holes and ring gullies (Atkins 2004 pp. 53-4, Fig. 2). One of these was 58m long and over 22m wide. Further south towards Wimblilngton on the east side of the B1101, a substantial sub rectangular cropmark (HER 11645) measures approximately 60m east west to 70m north south (See Fig.2). These are conceivably large Middle Iron Age enclosures, more of which could exist in the vicinity.

Archaeological Excavations and Surveys

1.3.6 Recent developer funded investigations and surveys in the south of March have revealed the presence of occupation and settlement.

Evaluation at Neale Wade Community College (Gilmour 2009)

1.3.7 The evaluation conducted by OA East revealed several Iron Age ditches and three parallel Medieval ditches extending perpendicular to the main road which would have run through the Medieval centre of March. These results will be incorporated into the evaluation results.

Excavations at 9 Church Street (Grassam 2004).

1.3.8 Open area excavation took place immediately north of St Wendreda's Church, located to the west of the proposed development area on the west side of the B1101. This revealed several ditches, pits, post holes and a pond or hollow. Most of these were thought to date from the Iron Age and Roman periods and contained mostly abraded pottery, interpreted as residual. Of five ditches found, four were orientated north to south while one was east to west. A further five ditches were identified during the evaluation of the same site but located in trenches outside the area of later excavation. These were all orientated north south.

1.3.9 Several post holes were also discovered which might have formed fence lines. No dating evidence was recovered from them.

1.3.10 The conclusion reached was that, although not securely dated, the ceramic material recovered from the excavation indicates a continuous Roman presence in the vicinity. A Saxon presence was also indicated by a single Ipswich Ware sherd. This could also be residual, particularly when considering the likelihood of early medieval settlement associated with St Wendreda's Church.

1.3.11 The evidence recovered from this excavation was interpreted as being associated with farming and manuring.

1.3.12 Post medieval and modern archaeology was also found. A large pit in the east of the excavation was thought to have been used for gravel extraction.

Excavations at 22-23 Wimblington Road, March

1.3.13 Open area excavation found part of a rural settlement which dated from at least the 1st Century BC to the early 2nd Century AD. This was located to the south of the study area and c.150m to the south of St. Wendreda's Church. Large Middle / Late Iron Age enclosure ditches were the earliest features recorded on site. Within these were possible circular and/or post built structures, possibly part of a ditched farmstead. These were followed by field systems and possible fence lines in the early Roman period. The middle Roman period (mid second early third century) was characterised by further enclosures, boundary ditches and east west track way ditches (Atkins 2004).

1.3.14 All features continued beyond the limits of excavation to the north, south, east and west. Moreover, the excavations conducted by AS (Grassam 2004), some 350m to the north, found Iron Age and Roman ditches on the same alignment, undoubtedly part of the same settlement.

Evaluation at Cavalry Park, March.

1.3.15 Evaluation trenches revealed a series of large pits, approximately 14m in diameter. These were thought to be medieval or post medieval in date, although one was potentially Roman. Kemp suggests that the relatively large amounts of residual Roman pottery found indicates a settlement either on the site or close by (Kemp 1999).

Evaluation at 12 Jobs Lane, March.

1.3.16 Evaluation revealed an Early Bronze Age pit containing worked flint and Beaker pottery. Also, a Roman ditch, on a north south orientation is presumably is part of the same field system noted in the excavations at Church St to the north (HER MCB 14807) and Wimblington Road (HER MCB15352) to the south.

Field Baulk Farm Icenian Coin Hoard

1.3.17 Immediately north of the study area a coin hoard was discovered containing 872 Iceni coins which are thought to have been buried at the time of the Boudiccan revolt. They appeared to be contained within a single vessel. Excavation of the immediate area showed the coins to have been deposited adjacent to or within a small curvilinear ditch. This was up to 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep which probably represents occupation on the site in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Philip Morgan of Building Schools for the Future (Cambridgeshire County Council), and Tony Harding and Brett Stevenson of Galliford Try Construction. The project was managed and report edited by Richard Mortimer. The site was excavated by Peter Boardman, David Brown, James Fairbairn and Nick Gilmour with on site survey provided by Taleyna Fletcher.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 The research objectives have been adapted from those in the specification and will be updated following assessment of the material recovered from further stages of construction/demolition currently planned for 2010/2011.

2.1.2 The main aim of the project will be 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.

Prehistoric

2.1.3 To investigate evidence of Bronze Age activity in this area.

At Job's Lane, c. 150m to the southwest a single Beaker pit was uncovered by evaluation. Apart from this feature little pre-Iron Age archaeology is known in the immediate area. Bronze Age field systems may be expected in what will be the largest area excavations seen thus far in this area of the town.

Iron Age and Roman

2.1.4 To investigate evidence of direct Iron Age and Romano-British occupation within the vicinity.

The area is known for it's Iron Age and Romano-British remains. The evaluation revealed at least 4 middle Iron Age ditches, two of which held relatively large and unabraded pottery sherds suggesting the likelihood of direct occupation within the vicinity.

Anglo-Saxon

2.1.5 To investigate the Anglo-Saxon origins of March.

An open area excavation took place immediately north of St Wendreda's Church (Grassam 2004), A Middle Saxon presence was indicated by a single Ipswich Ware sherd. This could also be residual, particularly when considering the likelihood of early medieval settlement associated with St Wendreda's Church. St Wendreda's church is likely to have had a 7th century origin.

Medieval

2.1.6 To investigate the Medieval origins and patterns of occupation of March.

The majority of the ditches recorded in evaluation would appear to represent c. 20m wide toft boundaries aligned off the main road to the west. However, the largest of the medieval ditches, approximately twice the width and depth of the others would appear to represent something other, and the quantities of pottery and food waste within it suggest direct occupation or related activities in the immediate area.

Post-Medieval

2.1.7 To investigate the environs of Eastwood House in the post-Medieval period.

It appears to have been a de novo foundation in the middle of the 19th century.

3 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

3.1 Summary

3.1.1 The excavation uncovered evidence of Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age activity and medieval occupation dating from the mid 12th to mid 16th century. There was no evidence of Middle Iron Age to Saxon occupation.

3.1.2 Spot dates have been applied to the results of the excavation and the features have been assigned basic preliminary phasing. A full list of context numbers and spot dates are available in Appendix 1.

3.2 Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Wells (Fig. 3)

3.2.1 These features were formed by a large sub circular cut (probably utilising an extant natural hollow) with a series of shallow sub-circular well cuts dug into its base. The small wells were not all contemporary and were separated by episodes of silting within the larger cut. The first Phase of development within the well sequence below describes the large, early hollow.

Phase 1

3.2.2 Well **208** was located along the western baulk of Area C. It measured approximately 11m from north-south and 7.5m east -west to the limit of excavation. The southern and western sides of the cut were quite gradual slopes (section 58) with the northern and eastern sides being considerably steeper.

Phase 2

3.2.3 Two small wells were dug into the base of the large cut.

3.2.4 Well **316** measured 1.5m in diameter and 0.3m deep and contained a single mid brownish grey sandy silt. Thirteen grams of Late Bronze Age (LBA) pottery and 26g of animal bone were recovered from the feature.

3.2.5 Well **311** measured 0.94m in diameter and 0.31m deep and contained two fills. The upper fill was a light brownish orange and the lower fill was a mid brownish grey sandy silt. The lower fill contained 12g of animal bone. This well truncated well **316**.

Phase 3

3.2.6 Three fills (312, 320, 280) formed over the earliest wells prior to being cut by further wells.

3.2.7 The earliest was fill 312 which was a dark grey clay measuring 6cm thick which sealed wells **311** and **316**. It contained 115g of Late Bronze Age pottery, 20g flint and 37g animal bone.

3.2.8 Fill 320 was a mid brown grey silty sandy gravel measuring 0.23m thick. No finds were recovered from this fill.

3.2.9 Fill 280 was a dark brown orange clayey pea gravel measuring 0.21m thick and contained 160g of Late Bronze Age pottery.

Phase 4

3.2.10 Well **223** measured 1.1m long, 0.99m wide and 0.53m deep. It contained three fills, the basal fills were grey gravel and clays with the upper fill a dark reddish brown clayey silt (almost peaty) which contained frequent poorly preserved wood with two worked timbers (in moderate condition). Ten grams of LBA pottery were recovered from the basal fill and 42g flint and 196g LBA pottery from the upper fill.

3.2.11 Well **282** measured 1.6m long, 1.02m wide and 0.48m deep. It contained a single dark reddish brown clayey silt fill with small pieces of preserved wood. An antler pick and 1g of LBA pottery were recovered from the base of the feature.

3.2.12 Well **305** measured 1.4m long, 1.12m wide and 0.27m deep. It had a very similar fill to well **282**.

Phase 5

3.2.13 Fill 270 sealed wells **282** and **305**, it was a 10cm thick, very dark grey clayey silt which had clearly slumped into the depressions left by the silted up wells. No finds were recovered.

3.2.14 Fill 229 was a 0.33m thick, dark greenish grey sandy silt with 12g of LBA pottery

Phase 6

3.2.15 Well **314** was the latest circular cut and measured 1.34m in diameter and 0.39m deep. It contained a single mid grey silty clay with 35g flint and 60g LBA pottery

Phase 7

3.2.16 A series of deposits filled the hollow after the last small circular well was dug. Fill 204 was a light yellowish grey silty sand measuring 0.14m thick

3.2.17 Fill 269/272 was a mid greenish grey sandy silt measuring 0.36m thick and contained 416g animal bone and 73g of pottery.

3.2.18 Fill 273 was a mid reddish grey clayey sand measuring 0.14m thick and contained 52g EIA pottery and 346g animal bone.

3.2.19 Final fill 203 was a light greenish grey sandy silt measuring 0.33m thick and contained 90g EIA pottery, 866g animal bone and 18g flint.

3.3 **Possible Iron Age Features** (Fig. 3)

3.3.1 A ditch has currently been assigned to the Iron Age period based on the leached character of the fill and the differing alignment in comparison to both earlier and later phases of Medieval activity. This ditch was on the same alignment as Ditch 15 in the evaluation which contained a large unabraded pottery sherd of 5th -3rd century BC date along with an abraded sherd of very coarse flint tempered pottery which may be earlier in date. There was also a single struck flint flake.

3.3.2 An associated posthole has also been preliminarily assigned to this phase.

Ditches

3.3.3 Ditch **121** was oriented northnortheast-southsouthwest and extended for approximately 10m across Area D. It measured 1.28m wide and 0.98m deep and contained a single fill.

Posthole

3.3.4 Posthole **123** truncated ditch **121** and was 0.75m in diameter and 0.09m deep. It contained a single fill.

3.4 Medieval Phase 1 (c. AD 1200) (Fig. 4)

3.4.1 This phase was characterised by two ditches on a north-northeast to south-southwest alignment and an adjacent posthole. The two ditches were clearly startigraphically earlier than the later phases and were also on a different alignment. The spot dating for this phase ranges from AD 1000 – 1350.

3.4.2 The fills of the medieval features were in general, a sandy silt/ silty sand and ranged in colour from light yellowish brown/grey to dark greyish brown. The fills are described in detail where they differ from the norm or have distinguishing characteristics. The ditches, pits and postholes were U-shaped in profile unless otherwise stated.

Ditches

3.4.3 Ditch **109** was oriented northnortheast-southsouthwest and extended for approximately 10m across Area D. It measured 1m wide and 0.26m – 0.28m deep and contained a single fill with one sherd (4g) of unglazed Grimston – Blackborough End type ware.

3.4.4 Only a small proportion of ditch 113 was visible as it was truncated by ditch 109. It measured 0.44m wide and 0.18m deep.

3.4.5 Ditch **117** was oriented northnortheast-southsouthwest and extended for 40m before terminating in Area D. It measured 0.62m -1.23m wide and 0.06 – 0.21m deep and contained one or two fills along its length. A total of three sherds (28g) of pottery including a residual Iron Age piece, Ely ware and St Neots type ware.

Posthole

3.4.6 Posthole **228** was located to the west of ditch **127** in Area D. It measured 0.44m in diameter and 0.13m deep and contained two fills with two sherds (2g) of Thetford type ware.

3.5 Medieval Phase 2 (c. AD 1250-1350) (Fig. 5)

3.5.1 This phase encompassed the densest medieval activity of the excavation and was also characterised by a change in orientation of boundaries. Three parallel ditches approximately 9m apart which show evidence of banks on their southern sides divide the area into narrow strips. A series of perpendicular ditches further sub-divide the area.

Ditches

3.5.2 Ditch **25** was observed in the evaluation Trench 3 and 4 and extended across the southern part of Area C on a eastsoutheast-westsouthwest axis. It measured 1.51m wide and 0.73m deep. It contained three fills and showed evidence for a bank on the southern side. A total of eight sherds (118g) of pottery were recovered from the ditch, they included Ely ware, shelly ware and Huntingdonshire medieval ware. A total of 158g of animal bone was also recovered.

3.5.3 Ditch **101** was oriented east to west and extended for approximately 55m with evidence for a hedge along its southern edge. The ditch measured 1.1m – 1.61m wide and 0.22m – 0.62m wide and contained one or two fills. Eleven sherds (160g) of pottery encompassing a wide range of medieval wares was recovered along with 160g of animal bone, 9g of fired clay, 12g of flint and 4g of shell.

3.5.4 Ditch **131** was oriented broadly north-south and extended for 30m before joining east-west ditch **220**. It measured 1.9m wide, 0.94m deep and contained four fills with a total of twelve sherds (119g) of pottery, 314g animal bone and 15g fired clay.

3.5.5 Ditch **154** was oriented northeast to southwest and extended for 8m between ditch **101** and ditch **220**. It measured 1.3m wide, 0.39m deep and contained four fills with a single sherd (5g) of unglazed Grimston – Blackborough End type ware, 11g of fired clay and 33g of animal bone.

3.5.6 Ditch **157** was truncated by ditch **154.** It was oriented slightly more north-south than ditch **154** and measured 0.58m wide and 0.19m deep. It contained two fills with 3.454kg of animal bone, 478g of pottery, 19g of fired clay and 12g of flint.

3.5.7 Ditch **160** was situated 6m to the east of ditch **157** on the same alignment between the two ditches to the north and the south. It measured 1m wide and 0.38m deep. It contained two fills with four sherds (42g) of Ely and shelly wares and 146g of animal bone.

3.5.8 Ditch **194** was oriented northnorthwest-southsoutheast and extended 11m from the southern baulk before joining ditch **220**. It was a narrow V-shaped ditch measuring 0.65m wide and 0.31m deep. It contained a single fill with 6g of animal bone.

3.5.9 Ditch **196** was parallel to ditch **194** and also extended into ditch **220**. It measured 0.9m wide and 0.32m deep with a V-shaped profile. It contained a single fill with no finds.

3.5.10 Ditch **220** was parallel to ditch **101** sited 8m to the south. It measured 1.61m wide and 0.62m deep and contained five fills with evidence of a bank on the southern side. It contained 8 sherds (225g) of pottery including Grimston, Grimston type and Ely type

wares. A total of 110g of animal bone and 33g of fired clay were also recovered. This boundary was recut by several large pits along its length (phase Medieval 3).

3.5.11 Between 0.3m – 0.5m to the south of ditch **220** was a narrow ditch/gully **225** which extended for approximately 6m meters. It measured 0.22m wide and 0.06m deep and was a wide U-shape in profile. No finds were recovered.

Pits

3.5.12 Pit **232** truncated the northern part of ditch **154**. It measured 1.52m in diameter and 0.45m thick. It contained two fills, the upper of which was a hard light orangey yellow sand with 80% gravel capping type layer. A total of 271g of animal bone and 29g of fired clay were recovered from the fills.

3.5.13 Pit **264** was truncated by pits **259** and **251**. It measured approximately 3.5m wide and was 1.05m deep. It contained four clayey fills becoming blueish grey in colour near to the base. Two sherds (38g) of Stamford ware, 1.17kg of animal bone, 383g of lava quern and 280g of stone were recovered from the pit.

Postholes

3.5.14 Posthole **210** was located to the north of ditch **220**. It measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill with 15g of CBM.

3.6 Medieval Phase 3 (c. AD 1350-1500) (Fig. 6)

3.6.1 This phase is characterised by the establishment of large possible industrial pits along the course of the large central boundary ditch. Two further ditches also appear to be reworked.

Ditches

3.6.2 Ditch **101** was still in use.

3.6.3 Ditch **127** was a recut of ditch **131** and was oriented broadly north-south. It measured 1.34m wide and 0.58m deep. It contained three to four silty sandy fills with 19 sherds (231g) of pottery encompassing a wide range of medieval wares, 403g of animal bone, 247g fired clay,and 8g of flint.

3.6.4 Ditch **237** extended beyond the edge of Area D and was therefore not fully excavated. It was oriented north – south and measured over 1.2m wide and was 0.7m deep. It contained four fills and two sherds (46g) of late medieval type reduced ware.

Pits

3.6.5 Pit **180** truncated ditch **220**. It measured 3.3m in width with the limit of the pit extending beyond the baulk. It was 0.96m deep and contained six fills, of which the tertiary fill showed evidence of waterlogging with the other fills made up of naturally infilled silt, sand and gravels.

3.6.6 Pit **188** truncated the eastern side of pit **180**. It measured 2.72m wide and 0.78m deep with eight sandy silt fills with varying amounts of gravel. A total of 5 sherds (45g) of Bourn B type ware was recovered. There was no waterlogging present.

3.6.7 Pit **251** was located to the south of ditch **220** and truncated pit **264**. It was circular in shape and measured 1.7m in diameter and 0.88m deep. It contained two clayey fills, the basal fill was dark bluish grey in colour. A single sherd (17g) of late medieval Ely type ware was recovered along with 95g of animal bone.

3.6.8 Possible pit **266** was circular in shape and truncated ditches **220, 194** and pit **264.** It was 2.5m wide and very shallow, measuring only 0.11m deep but contained 135g of slag and 4g of animal bone.

3.6.9 Pit **284** (ditch **26** in evaluation) was located next to the eastern baulk of Area C. It measured approximately 5.5m wide and 0.85m deep. It contained seven mixed fills which showed evidence of waterlogging throughout. Three sherds (72g) of Grimston type and Ely type wares were recovered along with 150g of animal bone. This pit showed an obvious recut **283** which contained four similar mixed fills.

Posthole

3.6.10 Posthole **107** was situated within Area B on the northern side of Ditch **101**. It measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.28m deep with a 0.2m diameter postpipe visible in the centre. It contained two fills.

3.6.11 Posthole **214** was located to the north of ditch **101** in Area B. It measured 0.44m wide and 0.28m deep. It contained a single fill with three iron nails.

3.7 Post – Medieval (Fig. 7)

Ditches

3.7.1 A possible L-shaped foundation trench **139** was oriented north-south and east-west. It measured 0.44m wide and 0.27m deep with a square cut and flat base.

3.8 Undated

Postholes

3.8.1 Posthole **115** was located to the east of ditch **113** in Area D. It measured 0.26m in diameter and 0.05m and contained a single fill.

3.8.2 Posthole **198** was located in the southeastern corner of Area C. It measured 0.56m in diameter and 0.1m deep and contained a single fill with no finds.

Pit

3.8.3 Pit **202** was cut into the top of well **208.** It measured approximately 1.8m in length, 0.82m wide and 0.46m deep and contained mid greenish grey sandy silt.

4 QUANTIFICATION

4.1 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

The Excavation Record

4.1.1 All hand written records have been collated and checked for internal consistency, the site records have been transcribed onto an MS Access Database. Quantities of records are laid out in the Table 1 below.

Type	*Evaluation*	*Excavation (Stage 1)*
Context register	2	6
Context numbers	63	220
Plan registers	1	1
Trench sheets	2	0
Section register	1	1
Sample register	3	4
Context sheets	63	220
Plans at 1:50	2	9
Plans at 1:10	0	2
Sections 1:20	14	19
Sections 1:10	6	15
Black and White prints	15	72
Colour slides	15	0
Digital photographs	36	211
Total station survey	no	no
GPS survey	yes	yes

Table 1: Quantification of written archive

Finds Quantification

4.1.2 All finds have been washed, quantified and bagged in accordance OA East archive guidance. The catalogue of all finds is on an MS Access Database. Total quantities of each material type per period (Late Bronze Age - Iron Age/Medieval) are listed in the Table 2.

Material	LBA – EIA (kg)	Medieval (kg)	Post-Medieval	Undated	Total
Pottery	0.459	2.189	-	-	**2.648**
Ceramic Building Material	-	-	1.884 (1 brick and small frag.)	-	**1.884**
Fired Clay	0.004	0.395	-	0.037	**0.436**
Stone	0.825	1.185	-	-	**0.000**
Flint	0.167	0.072	-	0.075	**0.314**
Animal Bone	3.205	7.013	-	0.019	**0.000**
Antler	0.556	-	-	-	**0.556**

Table 2: Finds quantification by period

Environmental Quantification and Preliminary Results

4.1.3 A total of seventeen twenty litre environmental samples and three monolith tins (2 samples) were taken from a variety of features across site. Ten litres of each sample have been floated and sorted. The results are presented in Table XX 3.

Range and Variety

4.1.4 The features on site consisted of ditches, a series of wells, postholes and pits. They range from a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date with the majority of features dating to the Medieval period. There was no evidence of Roman or Saxon features.

Condition

4.1.5 The features were well preserved with waterlogged remains recovered from features below *c.* 2.5m OD.

5 STAFFING

Name	Initials	Project Role	Establishment
Mike Bamforth	MB	Wood specialist	L-P Archaeology
Barry Bishop	BB	Lithics specialist	Freelance
Matt Brudenell	MB	EIA Pottery specialist	Freelance
Chris Faine	CF	Faunal remains specialist	OA East
Carole Fletcher	CF	Medieval pottery specialist	OA East
Rachel Fosberry	RF	Environmental supervisor/ specialist	OA East
Illustrator	ILL	Illustrate finds	OA East
Elizabeth Huckerby	EH	Plant macro fossil specialist	OA North
Richard Mortimer	RM	Project Manager	OA East
Sylvia Peglar	SP	Pollen specialist	Freelance

Alexandra Pickstone	AP	Project Officer	OA East
Elizabeth Popescu	EP	Publications Manager	OA East
Site Assistant	Assist.	Site Assistant	OA East
C14	SUERC	C14 laboratory	SUERC
Stephen Wadeson	SW	Finds supervisor	OA East

Table 3: Project Team

Appendix A. Context Summary with Spot dating

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Spot Date
100	101	fill	ditch	AD 1450-1650
101	101	cut	ditch	
102	103	fill	hedge line	
103	103	cut	hedge line	
104	105	fill	post pipe	
105	105	cut	post pipe	
106	107	fill	post hole	
107	107	cut	post hole	
108	109	fill	ditch	
109	109	cut	ditch	
110	111	fill	ditch	AD 1050-1350
111	111	cut	ditch	
112	113	fill	ditch	
113	113	cut	ditch	
114	115	fill	post hole	
115	115	cut	post hole	
116	117	fill	ditch	
117	117	cut	ditch	
118	119	fill	ditch	
119	119	cut	ditch	
120	121	fill	ditch	
121	121	cut	ditch	
122	123	fill	pit	
123	123	cut	pit	
124	127	fill	ditch	AD 1350-1500
125	127	fill	ditch	AD 1200-1350
126	127	fill	ditch	AD 1250-1350
127	127	cut	ditch	
128	131	fill	ditch	AD 1200-1350
129	131	fill	ditch	AD 1200-1350
130	131	fill	ditch	
131	131	cut	ditch	
132	131	fill	ditch	
133	135	fill	ditch	AD 1250-1350/ 1350-1500
134	135	fill	ditch	
135	135	cut	ditch	
136	137	fill	hedge line	
137	137	cut	hedge line	

138	139	fill	ditch	
139	139	cut	ditch	
140	142	fill	ditch	AD 1200-1350
141	142	fill	ditch	
142	142	cut	ditch	
143	146	fill	ditch	
144	146	fill	ditch	
145	146	fill	ditch	
146	146	cut	ditch	
147	149	fill	ditch	AD 1200-1500
148	149	fill	ditch	PREHIST/SAX
149	149	cut	ditch	
150	154	fill	ditch	
151	154	fill	ditch	
152	154	fill	ditch	AD 1050-1350
153	154	fill	ditch	
154	154	cut	ditch	
155	157	fill	ditch	AD 1150-1350
156	157	fill	ditch	
157	157	cut	ditch	
158	160	fill	ditch	AD 1150-1350
159	160	fill	ditch	
160	160	cut	ditch	
161	164	fill	ditch	AD 1050-1350
162	164	fill	ditch	
163	164	fill	ditch	AD 1150-1350
164	164	cut	ditch	
165	168	fill	ditch	c.1500
166	168	fill	ditch	
167	168	fill	ditch	
168	168	cut	ditch	
169	169	void		
170	170	void		
171	173	fill	ditch	AD 1000-1200
172	173	fill	ditch	
173	173	cut	ditch	
174	180	fill	pit	AD 1400 - 1600
175	180	fill	pit	AD 1250-1350
176	180	fill	pit	
177	180	fill	pit	AD 1150-1350
178	180	fill	pit	AD 1150-1350
179	180	fill	pit	

180	180	cut	pit	
181	188	fill	pit	
182	188	fill	pit	
183	188	fill	pit	
184	188	fill	pit	AD 1200-1500
185	188	fill	pit	
186	188	fill	pit	AD 1150-1350
187	188	fill	pit	
188	188	cut	pit	
189	192	fill	ditch	AD 1200-1350
190	192	fill	ditch	AD 1150-1350
191	192	fill	ditch	
192	192	cut	ditch	
193	194	fill	ditch	
194	194	cut	ditch	
195	196	fill	ditch	
196	196	cut	ditch	
197	198	fill	post hole	
198	198	cut	post hole	
199	200	fill	ditch	AD 1150-1500
200	200	cut	ditch	
201	202	fill	Well	Earliest Iron Age
202	202	cut	Well	
203	208	fill	Well	Earliest Iron Age
204	208	fill	Well	
205	208	fill	Well	Late Bronze Age
206	208	fill	pit	Late Bronze Age
207	314	fill	well	
208	208	cut	pit	
209	210	fill	post hole	
210	210	cut	post hole	
211	200	fill	ditch	
212	223	fill	well	Late Bronze Age
213	214	fill	post hole	AD 1150-1500
214	214	cut	post hole	
215	220	fill	ditch	
216	220	fill	ditch	AD 1250-1350
217	220	fill	ditch	
218	220	fill	ditch	AD 1200-1350
219	220	fill	ditch	
220	220	cut	ditch	
221	222	fill	ditch	AD 900 - 1200

222	222	cut	ditch	
223	223	cut	wall	
224	225	fill	ditch/ gully	
225	225	cut	ditch/ gully	
226	228	fill	post hole	
227	228	fill	post hole	
228	228	cut	post hole	AD 1050-1200
229	208	fill	well	Late Bronze Age
230	232	fill	pit	
231	232	fill	pit	
232	232	cut	pit	
233	237	fill	ditch	AD 1450-1650
234	237	fill	ditch	
235	237	fill	ditch	
236	237	fill	ditch	
237	237	cut	ditch	
238	238	finds unit		AD 1150-1350
239	239	finds unit		AD 1150 -1350
240	240	timber		
241	244	fill	pit/ post hole	
242	244	fill	pit/ post hole	
243	244	fill	pit/ post hole	
244	244	cut	pit/ post hole	
245	245	timber		
246	246	timber		
247	247	timber		
248	223	fill	well	Late Bronze Age
249	251	fill	pit	
250	251	fill	pit	AD 1350 - 1500
251	251	cut	pit	
252	254	fill	pit	
253	254	fill	pit	AD 1150 - 1200
254	254	cut	pit	
255	256	fill	ditch	
256	256	cut	ditch	
257	259	fill	ditch	AD 1200 - 1350
258	259	fill	ditch	
259	259	cut	ditch	
260	264	fill	water hole	AD 850 - 1150
261	264	fill	water hole	
262	264	fill	water hole	
263	264	fill	water hole	

264	264	cut	water hole	
265	266	fill	natural	
266	266	cut	natural	
267	223	fill	well	
268	208	fill	well	Late Bronze Age
269	208	fill	well	
270	208	fill	well	
271	271	finds unit		
272	277	fill	water hole	
273	277	fill	water hole	Earliest Iron Age
274	277	fill	water hole	
275	277	fill	water hole	
276	277	fill	water hole	
277	277	cut	water hole	
278	259	fill	ditch	
279	259	fill	ditch	
280	208	fill	pit	Late Bronze Age
281	282	fill	well	
282	282	cut	well	
283	283	cut	pit	
284	284	cut	pit	
285	285	cut	ditch	
286	283	fill	pit	AD 1250 - 1450
287	283	fill	pit	AD 1350 - 1450
288	283	fill	pit	
289	283	fill	pit	
290	284	fill	pit	
291	283	fill	pit	AD 1250 - 1450
292	284	fill	pit	
293	284	fill	pit	
294	284	fill	pit	AD 1150 - 1350
295	285	fill	ditch	AD 1350 - 1500
296	285	fill	ditch	
297	285	fill	ditch	
298	285	fill	ditch	
299	285	fill	ditch	
300	285	fill	ditch	
301	285	fill	ditch	
302	284	fill	pit	
303	283	fill	pit	
304	305	fill	well	
305	305	cut	well	

306	306			
307	307			Late Bronze Age
308	308			
309	309			Late Bronze Age
310	311	fill	well	
311	311	cut	well	
312	208	fill	pit	Late Bronze Age
313	313	void		
314	314	cut	well	
315	316	fill	well	Late Bronze Age
316	316	cut	well	
317	317	void		
318	311	fill	well	
319	277	fill	pit	
320	208	fill	pit	

Table 4 : Contexts and Spot Dates

Appendix B. Later Prehistoric Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

Introduction

B.1.1 The excavations at Neale Wade Community College yielded 101 (1038g) sherds of later Prehistoric pottery dating from the Late Bronze Age through to the Middle Iron Age. The pottery was recovered from 19 contexts, most of which derived from the fills of the well-complex. This series of re-worked features was primarily associated with Late Bronze Age Post-Deverel Rimbury (PDR) Plainwares (c. 1100-800 BC), stratified below a small assemblage of earliest Iron Age pottery (c. 800-600 BC) belonging to the 'Decorated phase' of the same PDR ceramic tradition (Barrett 1980). A small group of Middle Iron Age pottery (c.350 BC-50 BC) was also recovered from other contexts on the site. This report details the finds from each ceramic phase. All pottery has been recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1997). All sherds weighing 1g or more were counted, weighed and assigned to a fabric group after macroscopic examination. Small crumbs, weighing under 1g were excluded from the analysis (8g of ceramic material).

Fabrics and spot-dates by context

Fabric	No./wt (g) sherds	% fabric	No./wt (g) burnished	MNV	Fabric date range
F	½	0.2	2/43	3	LBA or EIA
F1	30/406	39.1	-	-	LBA-EIA
F2	4/16	1.5	-	-	LBA-EIA
F3	¼	0.4	1/4	1	LBA
Q1	5/23	2.2	1/4	-	EIA-MIA
Q2	1/9	0.9	-	-	MIA
QF1	4/84	8.1	4/94	2	LBA-EIA
QS1	1/5	0.5	-	-	EIA
S1	4/25	2.4	-	-	EIA
S2	11/35	3.4	-	-	EIA
S3	2/186	17.9	1/180	1	LBA and MIA
S4	5/84	8.1	-	1	MIA
SF1	4/34	3.3	-	-	EIA
SF2	28/125	12.0	-	-	LBA
TOTAL	*101/1038*	*100*	*9/315*	*8*	-

Table 5: Fabrics and their relationship to burnishing, vessel count and spot-dates

Burnt flint tempered fabrics

F1: Moderate to common medium and coarse burnt flint (mainly 1-3mm)

F2: Moderate to common medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm)

F3: Sparse medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm)

F: Generic category for sherds with burnt flint too small to further classify

Quartz sand fabrics

Q1: Common quartz sand

Q2: Sparse to moderate quartz sand

Sand and burnt flint fabrics

QF1: Sparse finely crushed burnt flint (<1.5mm) in a dense quartz sand matrix

Sand and shell fabrics

SQ1: Spare finely crushed shell (<1.5mm) in a sandy clay matrix

Shell fabrics

S1: Moderate to common medium and coarse shell/voids (mainly 1-3mm)

S2: Moderate fine shell (mainly <1.5mm)

S3: Moderate to common fine well sorted shell (mainly <1.5mm)

S4: Moderate to common medium and coarse shell (mainly 2-4mm) in a slightly sandy clay matrix

Shell and burnt flint fabrics

SF1: Moderate medium shell/voids (mainly 1-2mm) and moderate medium burnt (mainly 1-2mm)

SF2: Moderate medium shell (mainly 1-2mm) and sparse medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm)

Context	Sum of No. Sherds	Sum of Wt. (g)	MNV	Date
10	6	90	1	MIA
14	3	65	-	LBA or EIA
51	1	9	-	MIA (?)
201	10	111	1	Earliest IA
203	19	87	-	Earliest IA
205	2	26	-	LBA
206	2	12	-	LBA
207	2	61	-	LBA
212	4	195	1	LBA
229	2	11	-	LBA
248	1	4	1	LBA
257	1	6	-	MIA (?)
268	1	26	-	LBA
273	8	52	-	Earliest IA
280	30	149	1	LBA
307	2	16	1	LBA
309	1	8	1	LBA
312	4	97	1	LBA
315	2	13	-	LBA
TOTAL	**101**	**1038**	**8**	**-**

Table 6: Spot-dates by context

Period assemblages

Late Bronze Age (c.1100-800 BC)

5.1.1 53 sherds (618g) of Late Bronze Age Plainware PDR pottery were recovered from 12 contexts (205-207, 212, 229, 248, 268, 280, 307, 309, 312, 315). By weight 47% of the pottery was in burnt flint fabrics (F1-F3), followed by 29% in shell (S3), 20% in shell and burnt flint (SF2), and 4% in sand and burnt flint (QF1). Based on the total number of different rims and bases identified, the group includes a minimum of six vessels (3 rims, 2 bases and one complete profile). The most note worthy is the burnished bi-partite

fineware bowl recovered from context 212. This beaded-rim vessel had a mouth diameter of 17cm (c.19% intact), and displayed a shallow omphalos bases measuring 7cm (c. 40% intact). The interior also retained traces of carbonised residue. Typologically, the bowl is near identical to those discovered at the Must Farm timber platform, Whittlesey, radiocarbon dated 920-800 cal. BC (Beta-243230; 2700 ± 40 BP, M. Knight pers. comm). Being the only shell-tempered Late Bronze Age vessel in the March assemblage, it is even tenable that this pot was an import from the Whittlesey/Peterborough region- something which may be tested by petrology. Other diagnostic sherds included a burnished omphalos base from context 309, and the partial profile of a weakly shouldered coarseware jar from context 280; the latter containing a burnt food crust on the interior. Context 307 also yielded the rim of another fineware bowl, probably of bi-partite form.

5.1.2 Whilst it is possible that some of the Late Bronze Age pottery dates back to the 10th or 11th century BC, the diagnostic forms and feature sherds are all typologically late, and imply a date in the 9th century BC.

Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery (c.1100-350 BC)

5.1.3 Three body sherds (65g) of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from context 14. None can be closely dated, but consisted of sherds in fabrics F, F2 and QF1.

Earliest Iron Age pottery (c.800-600 BC)

5.1.4 37 sherds (250g) of earliest Iron Age Decorated phase PDR pottery were recovered from three contexts (201, 203 and 273. By weight 54% of the pottery was in burnt flint fabrics (F1-F2), followed by 24% in shell (S1-S2), 14% in shell and burnt flint (SF1), 7% in sand (Q1) and 2% in sand and shell (QS1). The key diagnostic vessel was an angular tripartite jar whose fragments were found between contexts 201 and 203. Four of the nine sherds (122g) belonging to this pots had been burnt post-breakage (the vessel was probably originally smoothed/burnished). The jar was decorated with bands of horizontal and diagonal incised lines above and below the shoulder and at the bases of the neck (rim diameter 27cm, 9% in tact). Stylistically, it belongs to Cunliffe's 'Fengate-Cromer' group (Cunliffe 1978, 42), recently re-labelled the 'West Harling-Fengate' group (Cunliffe 2005, 94-96). The closest comparable vessels derive from the Pre-war gravel pits at Fengate (Hawkes and Fell 1945).

Middle/Later Iron Age pottery (c.350-50 BC)

5.1.5 Eight sherds (105g) of Middle/later Iron Age pottery were identified in the assemblage from contexts 10, 51 and 257. By weight, 86% of the pottery was in shell fabrics (S3 and S4), with 14% in sand fabrics (Q1 and Q2). The only vessel of note was recovered from context 10, and comprised a partial profile of a small shell-tempered tub-shaped jar with finger-tipped rim-top (15cm rim diameter, 10% intact).

Discussion

5.1.6 Leaving aside the small collection of handmade Middle/later Iron Age sherds from the site (dating c.350-50 BC), the most significant assemblage is undoubtedly the group of Late Bronze Age and earliest Iron Age pottery recovered from the well-complex.

5.1.7 As large deep cuttings, wells were arguably one of the few long-lived fixtures in the Late Bronze Age landscape, with many displaying a history of re-working implying they were open and active for several generations, if not several hundred years. As such, ceramicists have long anticipated that their fills would provide a valuable sequence of

stratified pottery deposits spanning the Bronze Age-Iron Age transition- sequences crucial to an understanding of how, when and in what ways pottery changed between c.850-750 BC. However, with one or two exceptions, few have so far been recorded from the region's well deposits, despite the widespread excavation of these features in the last 15 years. The well complex at March, however, appears to contain one of these rare and highly sort-after sequences, with an assemblage of typical Late Bronze Age Plainware PDR pottery found stratified immediately below sherds which typological traits characteristic of the earliest Iron Age. Although both assemblages are small and fragmentary, they nonetheless provide an important and direct demonstration of ceramic sequence, which now needs to be tested through radiocarbon dating.

Appendix C. Medieval Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

C.1.1 Archaeological evaluation on land at Neale Wade Community College, March, Cambridgeshire produced a small pottery assemblage of 162 sherds, weighing 2.706kg. A few sherds were recovered from samples however these were small, abraded and undiagnostic and have not been included in this assessment.

C.1.2 The assemblage is mainly medieval, dating to the mid 12th to mid 14th century. Also present are a number of Late Saxon-early medieval and late medieval sherds. In addition the assemblage includes a small number of moderately abraded Iron Age sherds from contexts 148 and 190. The assemblage is similar to that produced by the evaluation on the same site in 2009. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd weight (excluding sample material) is moderate at approximately 16g.

Methodology

C.1.3 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) A *guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

C.1.4 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

The Assemblage

C.1.5 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text and the summary catalogue by context and the sherd count and weight of fabrics are given in Table XX 9.

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	No. Sherds	Weight (kg)
BONBT	Bourn B type ware	12	0.271
BOND	Bourn D ware	2	0.073
EAR	East Anglian redwares	1	0.067
EMWT	Early medieval type ware	4	0.015
GRIM/GRIMT	Grimston/Grimston type ware	10	0.063
HUNEMW	Huntingdonshire early medieval ware	4	0.025
HUNEMW/HUNFSW		8	0.054

HUNFSW	Huntingdonshire fen sandy ware	14	0.198
Iron Age	Iron Age Fabrics	2	0.026
LMEL/LMELT	Late medieval Ely/Late medieval Ely type ware	5	0.057
LMRT	Late medieval type reduced ware	3	0.075
MEL/MELT	Medieval Ely/medieval Ely type ware	14	0.211
MGF	Mill Green fine ware	2	0.014
NEOT/NEOTT	St Neots/St Neots type ware	2	0.020
OSHW	Olitic shelly ware	1	0.004
RSW	Reduced sandy ware	1	0.015
SHW	Shelly ware	18	0.515
STAM	Stamford ware	3	0.059
SW	Sandy ware	9	0.109
THETT	Thetford type ware	5	0.034
TOYNT	Toynton type ware	4	0.027
TRAN	Transitional redwares	2	0.046
UGBB	Unglazed Grimston - Blackborough End type ware	35	0.720
UNK	Unknown	1	0.008

Table 7: Fabric types and sherd count

C.1.6 In Trench B ditch **101** produced a single sherd of BOND (mid 15th- mid 17th century) alongside residual medieval sherds, while a second ditch **200** produced two SW sherds that are not closely datable. From pit **188** four sherds of BONBT were recovered and a single sherd of HUNFSW dating from the thirteenth to the mid 14th century.

C.1.7 The largest number of sherds recovered from Trench B were from pit **180**, 13 sherds in total including a single sherd of EAR, two sherds of LMELT and residual medieval sherds of HUNFSW and UGBB. The overall date of pit **180** is 15th-16th century. In addition a single sherd of SW, which is not closely datable, was recovered from post hole **214**.

C.1.8 Trench C produced the largest assemblage of material from the excavation, mainly from ditches. Ditch **149** although medieval in date produced a residual Iron Age sherd and ditch **173** contained a single Late Saxon or early medieval sherd of NEOTT. Ditch **222** and water hole **264** also date to the Late Saxon or early medieval period

C.1.9 Although most of the features in Trench C individually produced only small numbers of pottery, ditch **157** produced 19 sherds consisting mainly of SHW and dating the ditch to the mid 12th to mid 14th century. Ditches **142**, **154**, **160**, **164**, **192**, **220**, **259**, **285** and pits **254** and **284** are all similarly dated. Ditches **135**, **168** and pits **283**, **251** all date to the Mid 14th to end of the 15th century.

C.1.10 While features identified in Trench D were almost entirely ditches, the single exception was a post hole **228**, which produced two sherds of THETT dating it to the Late Saxon or early medieval period, while ditches **111** and **131** appear to be medieval in date. Ditch **127**, which contained residual sherds of Late Saxon and early medieval fabrics, alongside sherd of medieval BONBT, UGBB and a sherd of late medieval LMEL, suggesting overall a mid 14th to end of the 15th century date for the feature. Finally ditch **237**, which contained sherds of LMRT and TRAN can be dated to the mid 15th to mid 17th century.

C.1.11 Vessel types present are those commonly found on domestic sites, jars jugs and bowls, with jars forming the largest group by both weight and sherd count followed by jugs,

most commonly GRIM vessels. A single sherd from what has tentatively been identified as a curfew was recovered from ditch **131**.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

C.1.12 Domestic in nature, the assemblage suggests that there was medieval and late medieval occupation close to the area of excavation. There are no fabrics present that date to later than the mid 17th century suggesting that after this date the area may have been abandoned.

C.1.13 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. The late Saxon-early medieval material also present may have been disturbed by later activity in the medieval and post medieval period and none of the pottery is likely to be located in its place of primary deposition.

C.1.14 Since this work is part of a larger ongoing project, the entire assemblage will need to be reassessed at a later date, however no further work is required at this time.

APPENDIX D. FAUNAL REMAINS

D.1.1 A total of 10.32 Kilograms of animal bone was recovered from this stage of the excavations at Neal Wade Community college, with 83 contexts containing faunal material. Bone was recovered from variety of contexts including linear features, pits, wells and waterholes. The preservation of the assemblage is generally good with a small number of contexts showing evidence of concretion due to the waterlogged nature of the features. The site itself has been sub divided into the following phases:

- 1/ Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
- 2/ Medieval 1 (c.1200 A.D.)
- 3/ Medieval 2 (1250-1350 A.D.)
- 4/ Medieval 3 (1350-1500 A.D.)
- 5/ Post Medieval

D.1.2 Table1 shows the distribution of the assemblage by weight and species present. The assemblage is dominated by the domestic mammals (cattle, sheep/goat and pigs), with the largest samples being recovered from the LBA/EIA and Medieval 1 phases. Only one instance of wild mammal was recovered in the form of a naturally shed red deer antler from a LBA well fill 281. Anuran amphibian remains were recovered from all three Medieval phases, along with bird and fish remains from Medieval 3 contexts 174 and 287 respectively. Material from the Medieval 1 phase includes two semi complete cattle skeletons from young adult animals. Few other ageable/sexable elements were recovered from the assemblage, apart from an intact LBA cattle mandible and pelvis from contexts 203 & 319.

D.1.3 Given the density of the archaeology this a medium sized and well preserved assemblage that shows a good range of species and element types throughout the various phases. Any further work is likely to produce a larger sample with potential for a more in-depth study of husbandry practices in the area.

Phase	Weight (Kg)	Species Present
Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	3.76	Cattle,Sheep/Goat, Pig & Red Deer.
Medieval 1 (1200)	4.8	Cattle, Sheep/Goat & Anuran Amphibian
Medieval 2 (1250-1350)	1.75	Cattle, Sheep/Goat & Anuran Amphibian
Medieval 3 (1350-1500)	0.4	Cattle, Sheep/Goat, Bird, Anuran Amphibian & Fish
Post-Medieval	0.09	Unid Med. Mammal
Total:	**10.32**	

Table 8: Distribution of the assemblage by weight and species present

Appendix E. Preliminary Environmental Results

Introduction

E.1.1 Eleven bulk samples were taken during the evaluation phase of Neale Road, March. Five of the bulk samples were selected for processing on the basis of their likely potential. The results showed that preservation of plant remains was good with both carbonised and waterlogged plant remains present.

E.1.2 A further nineteen samples were taken from the excavation phase. These included sixteen bulk samples and three monoliths. Features sampled included a late BronzeAge well/watering hole, Iron Age ditches and wells in addition to ditches and pits from the medieval period.

E.1.3 Ten litres of each of the selected 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 at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table x.

Results

Preservation

E.1.4 Plant remains are preserved by carbonisation and waterlogging (survival due to anioxic conditions)

Plant Remains

Cereals

E.1.5 All of the samples from the medieval samples contain charred cereal grains. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains predominate along with barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and oats (*Avena* sp.). No chaff elements occur.

Weed seeds

E.1.6 Charred seeds are rare and include cleaver (*Gallium aparine*), sedge (*Carex* sp.) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Charred Saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) in the form of leaf fragments and a single nutlet occur in most of the samples. The most noteworthy sample that contained charred plant remains is Sample 33, fill 283 of medieval recut pit **287.** This sample was taken from a lens of charred material within the numerous fills of the pit. It appears to have derived from a single deposit and consists of charred grain and legumes with occasional crop weed seeds such as corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*). This deposit most likely represents domestic culinary/hearth waste.

E.1.7 Several of the samples contain numerous quantities of seeds preserved by waterlogging including pond weed (*Potamogeton* sp.) and duck weed (*Lemna* sp.). The epiphium (egg cases) of the water flea (*Daphnia* sp.) along with insect fragments were also noted in both of these samples.

Ecofacts and Artefacts

E.1.8 Several of the sample residues contain pottery sherds, animal bones, small rodent bones and mussel (*Mytillus edulis*) shells.

Discussion

E.1.9 The flots produced a low abundance of charred material in the form of cereal grains, wood charcoal and charred sedges. This suggests the samples represent general scatters of burnt debris rather than discrete purposeful deposits with the exception of Sample 33, layer 283 which most likely represents a purposeful deposit of domestic culinary/hearth waste.

Wheat grains are difficult to identify on the basis of morphology alone. Two morphological forms were tentatively identified as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta)* in some of the IA samples along with the more rounded free-threshing wheat from the medieval contexts. The presence of stinking mayweed in Sample 22 is indicative of heavy clay soils and may suggest that some or all of the crops were grown elsewhere on heavier soils and imported into the site.

E.1.10 Saw sedge was one of the major vegetation types of the Fen and was commonly used as fuel. It is interesting to note its use in both the Iron Age and the Medieval period.

E.1.11 Eppiphium (egg cases) of the water-flea are indicative of standing water. Duckweed and pondweed indicate standing or slow flowing water. This suggests that the Iron Age and Medieval ditches from which they came, were both wet soon after construction, probably as a result of the high water table in this area.

E.1.12 Samples 27, 28, 29 were all taken from well 223. Sample 27 is equivalent to Sample 29 but was found to be actually quite different in content. Sample 29 was taken from beneath the wood while Sample 27 was taken around the wood. It is possible that the weight of the wood helped preserve the seeds underneath by creating instant anioxic atmosphere? Sample 28 is the richest sample and is the general fill of this deposit.

Further Work and Methods Statement

E.1.13 The plant assemblage from Neale Road, March shows good potential for further archaeobotanical study. The assemblage appears to represent a mainly natural accumulation of plant remains from local vegetation along with a small quantity of domestic and culinary waste.

E.1.14 If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation into the nature of the cereal and weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from both

periods of occupation in the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and then the medieval period.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Comments	Flot Volume (ml)	Preservation	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Wood Charc.	Waterlogged Seeds	Snails from flot	Small Bones	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments
20	108	109	ditch	20	possible IA ditch - date uncertain	160	charred	#					#				twigs and rootlets appear to be modern. Single charred grain, no charcoal
21	116	117	ditch	20	possible IA ditch - date uncertain	25	charred									+	twigs and rootlets appear to be modern. No cpr, sparse charcoal only
22	126	127	ditch	20	basal fill of medieval ditch - charcoal present	80	waterlogged and charred	##		#	##		#	#	++	+	Mixed cereals. Predominantly charred with some ostracods
23	167	168	ditch	20	Greenish fill of medieval ditch	2	charred	#				#	#	#	++	+	charred wheat, ostracods
24	177	180	pit	20	waterlogged basal fill of big medieval pit	50	waterlogged and charred	#				#	#		+	++	charred wheat and seeds, numerous duckweed, occ water flea eggs
25	179	180	pit	20	waterlogged basal fill of big medieval pit	10	waterlogged and charred	##		#	##		##		++	++	mixed cereals., duckweed
26	218	220	ditch	20	possible collapse in medieval ditch	25	waterlogged and charred	##					###				mixed cereals.duckweed, ostracods
27	212	223	well	20	brown fill of well around wood	60	waterlogged and charred					###	#		+	++	predominantly waterlogged with some charcoal. Insects, duckweed
28	248	223	well	10	grey gravel fill from beneath wood	120	waterlogged					###					numerous waterlogged seeds. No charcoal
29	212	223	well	10	from around the wood when it was lifted	150	waterlogged					###					numerous waterlogged seeds. No charcoal
30	281		pit	20	waterlogged, dark silty pit fill - wood pit	50	waterlogged					###					numerous waterlogged seeds. No charcoal
31			pit		monolith top half 268, 270, 281												
32	281		pit		monolith bottom half												
33	287	283	pit	20	solidified ash lense in pit dump - medieval	25	charred	###		##	##		#				mixed cereals, saw-sedge leaf, charred seeds, peas and beans
34	304	305	pit	20	waterlogged fill of ?well containing wood - Iron Age	80	waterlogged					###					numerous waterlogged seeds. No charcoal
35	306	308	pit	20	darkish brown fill	10	waterlogged and charred							#	+	++	charcoal, duckweed and water flea eggs
36	304	308	pit	10	grey fill of pit	40	waterlogged					##					numerous waterlogged seeds. No charcoal
37			pit		monolith - big well pit 208 and well cut 311												
38	312	208	pit	5	Black clay	60	waterlo					###					numerous waterlogged seeds. No

					waterlogged - sealing well 311		gged									charcoal
39	293					50	waterlogged and charred	#				##	#	#	++++	++++	fish scale, abraded grain, charcoal, duckweed,, water-flea eggs

Table 9: Preliminary environmental results.

Appendix F. Bibliography

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APPENDIX G. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-79624		
Project Name	Excavation at Neale Wade Community College, March, Cambridgeshire -An Interim statement		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	06-04-2010	Finish	29-04-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	MARNWA10	Planning App. No.	F/02002/10/CC
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB 3283 oxfordar3-66565

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☒ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☒ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Test Pit Survey
☐ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☐ 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
Well	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Pottery	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Well	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
Ditch	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...
Pit	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	Neale Wade Community College, Wimblington Road, March, Cambridgeshire. PE15 9PX.
District	Fenland		
Parish	March		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	1200 sq.m	National Grid Reference	TL 4164 9524

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	CAPCA
Project Design Originator	OA EAST
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Alexandra Pickstone

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA EAST	OA EAST	OA EAST
MAR NWA 10	MAR NWA 10	MAR NWA 10

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☒
Ceramics	☒	☒	☐
Environmental	☒	☒	☒
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☒	☒
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☒	☒	☒
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☒	☒
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos	
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet	
☐ Geophysics	☒ Correspondence	
☒ Images	☐ Diary	
☒ Illustrations	☒ Drawing	
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript	
☒ Spreadsheets	☒ Map	
☒ Survey	☒ Matrices	
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm	
☐ Virtual Reality	☒ Misc.	
	☒ Research/Notes	
	☒ Photos	
	☒ Plans	
	☒ Report	
	☒ Sections	
	☒ Survey	

Notes:

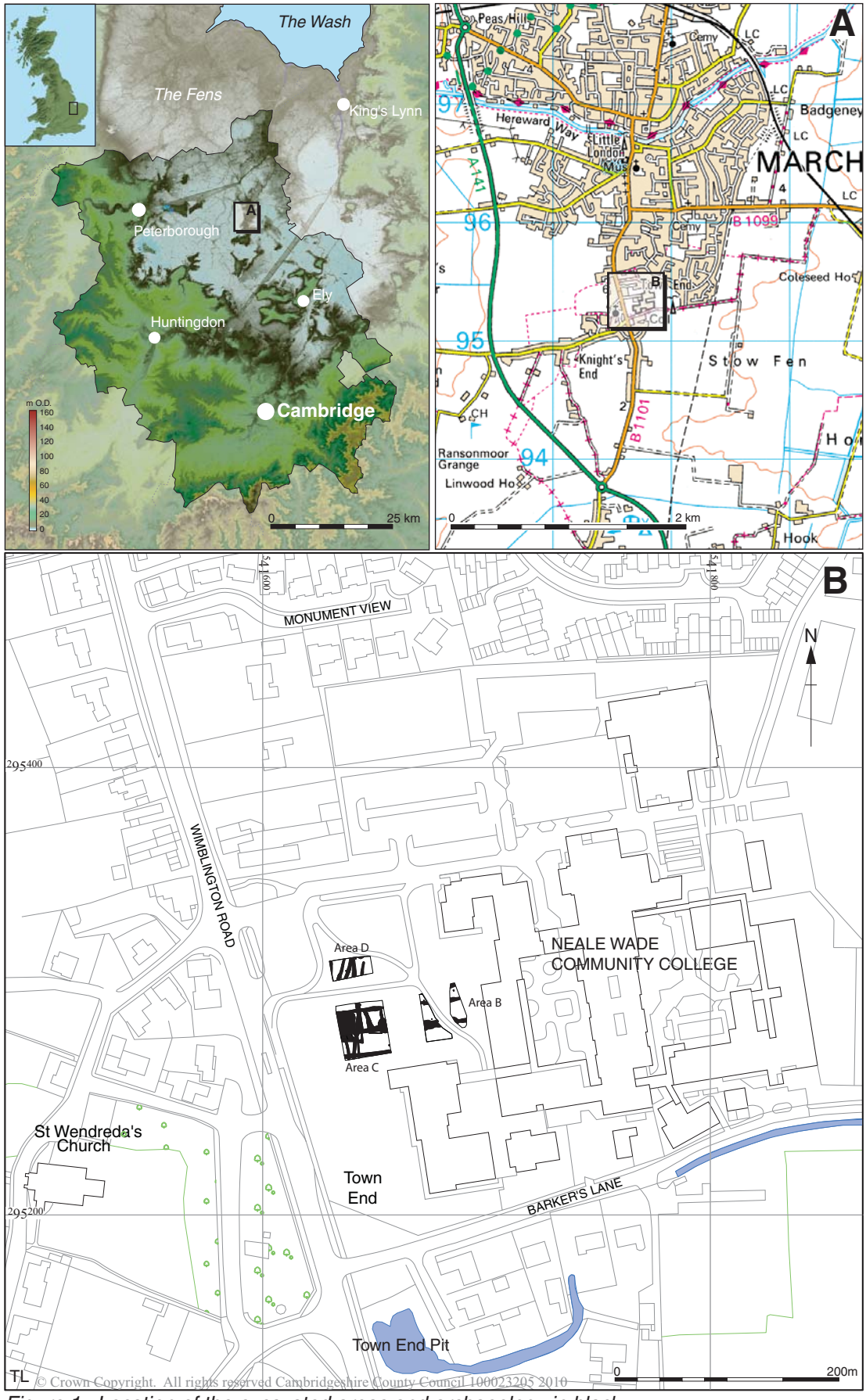
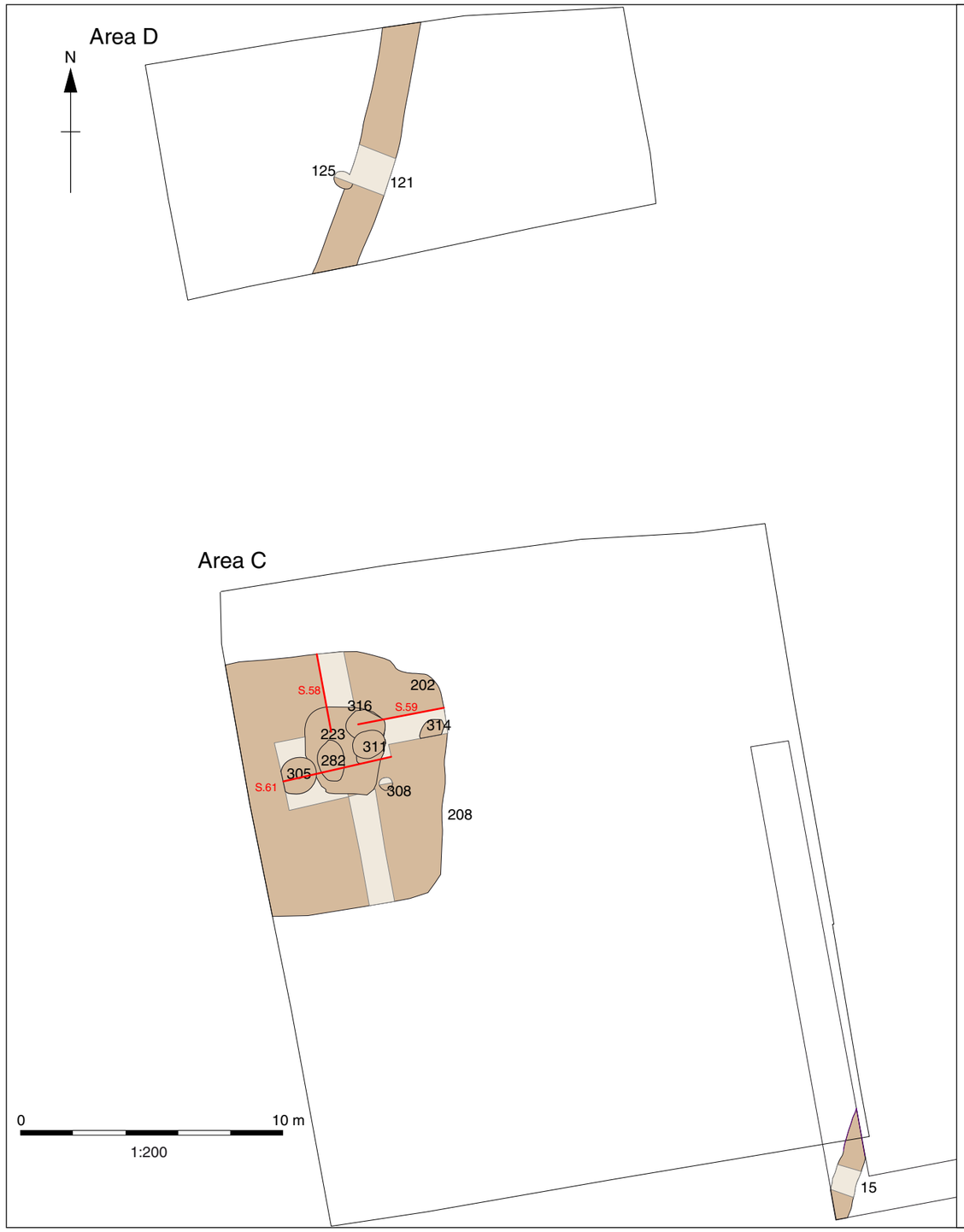
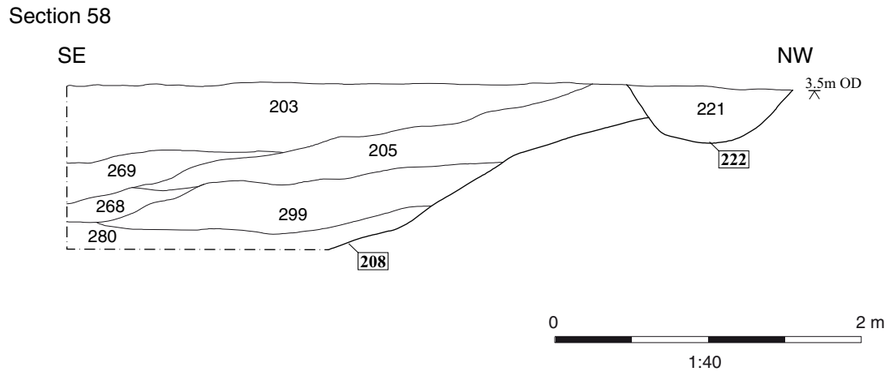
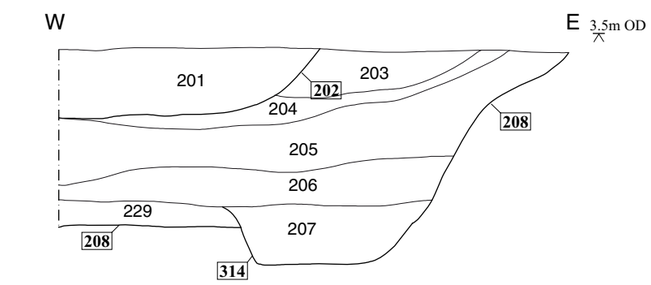


Figure 1: Location of the excavated areas and archaeology in black

Figure 2: Excavation plan (All Phases)







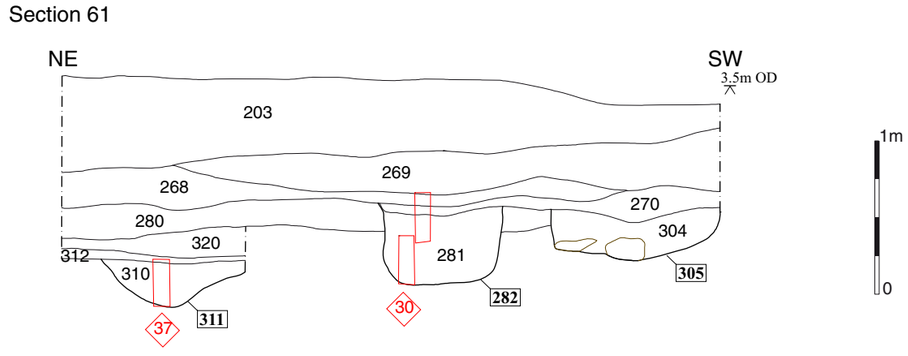


Figure 3: Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Features

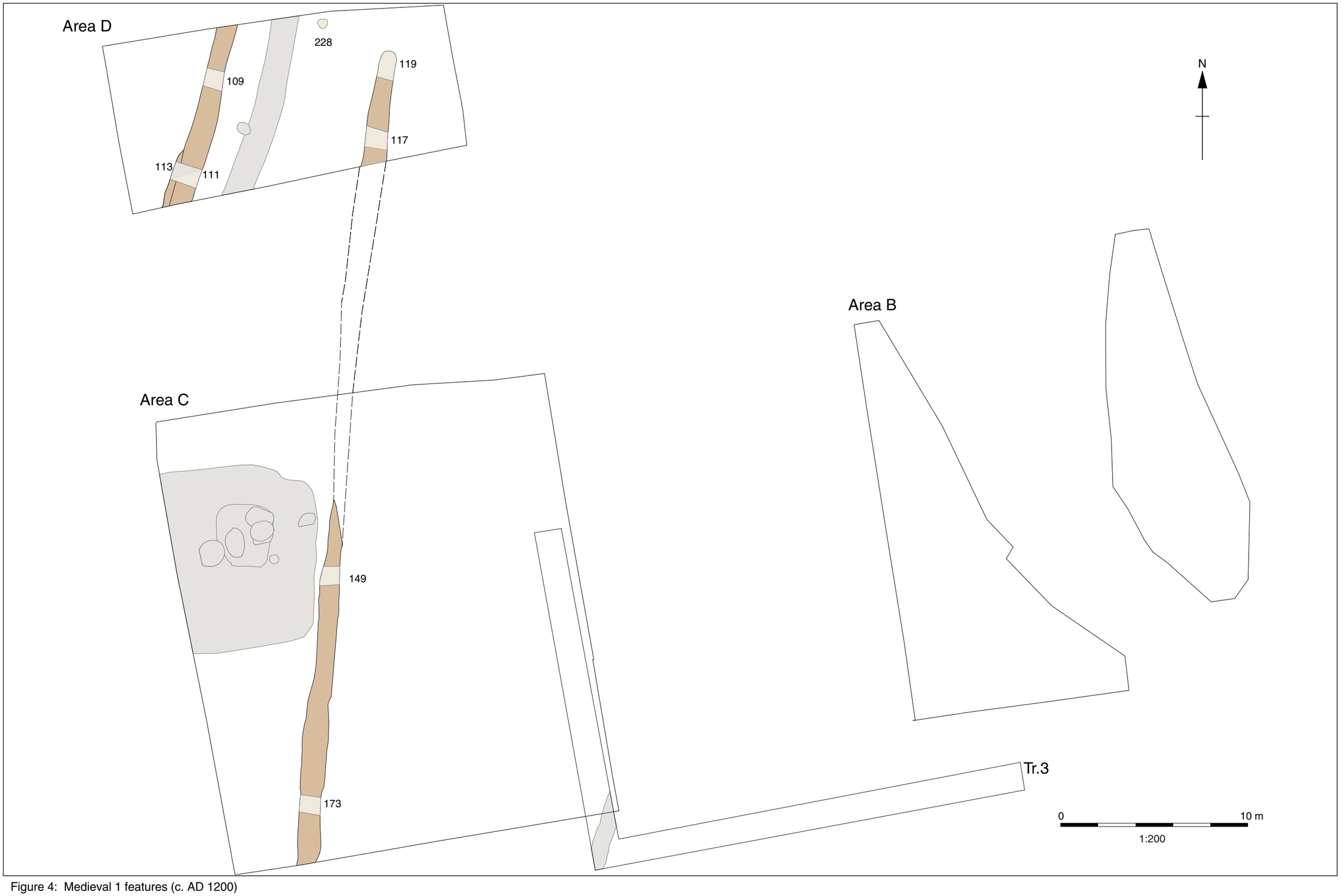


Figure 4: Medieval 1 features (c. AD 1200)

Figure 5: Medieval 2 features (c. AD 1250-1350)

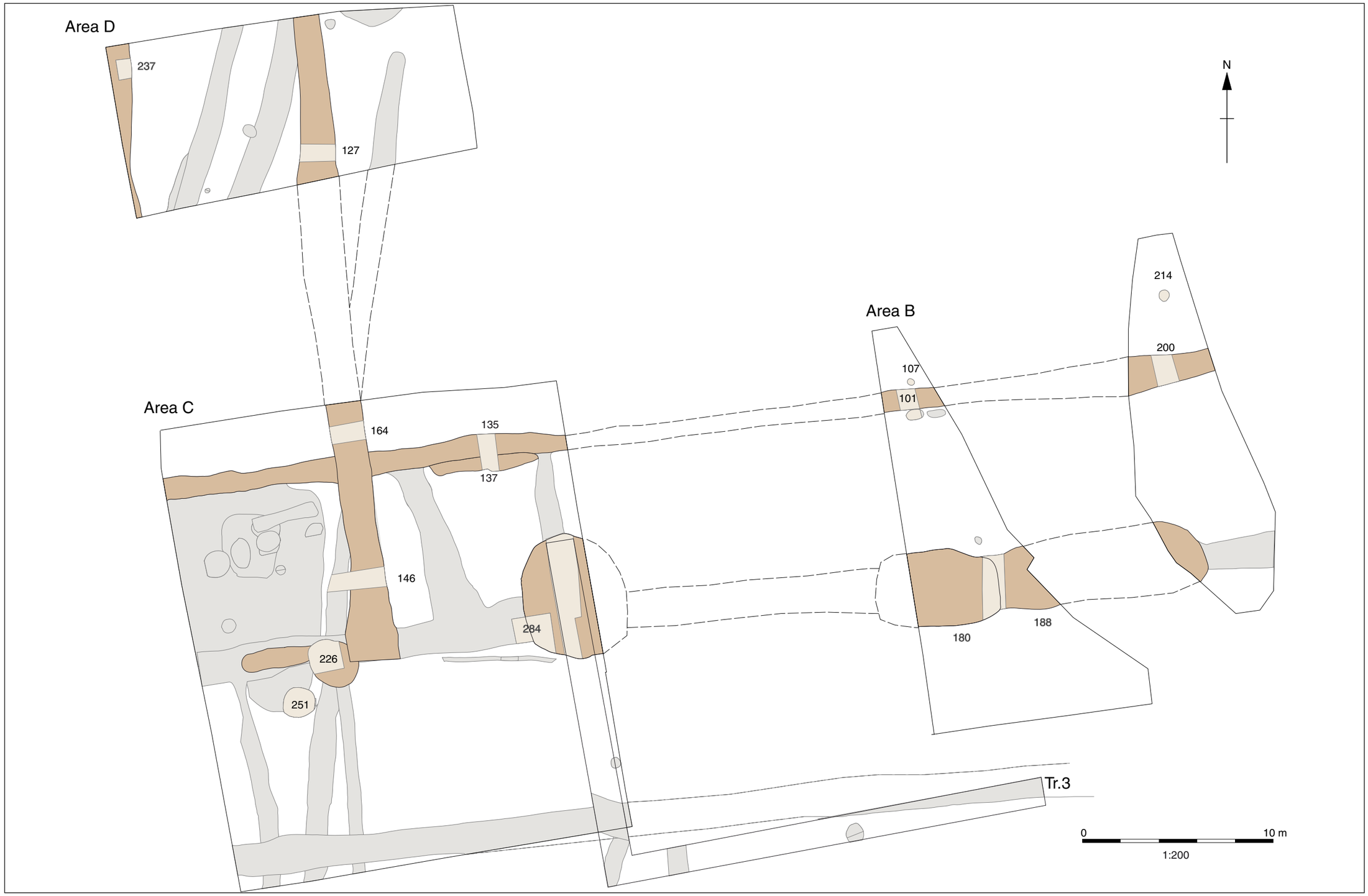


Figure 6: Medieval 3 features (c. AD 1350 - 1500)

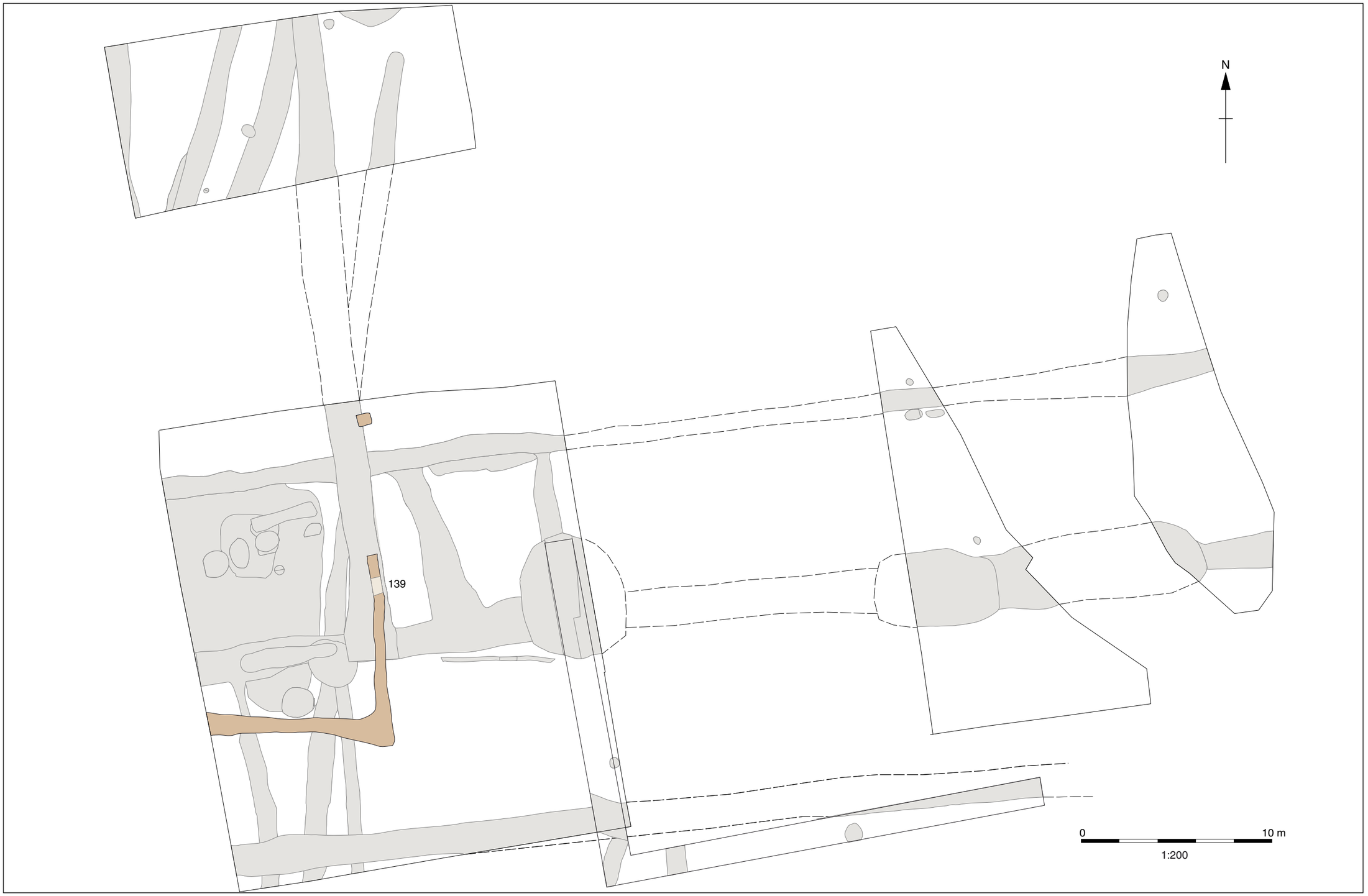


Figure 7: Post-Medieval features

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