Excavation Report

Roman settlement at the former Unwins Nursery site, Impington Lane, Impington

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Client: Campbell Buchanan

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Roman Settlement at the former Unwins Nursery site, Impington Lane, Impington

Excavation Report

By Chris Thatcher BA

With contributions by Nina Crummy BA FSA, Chris Faine MA MSc AIfA, Rachel Fosberry HNC AIfA, Dan Stansbie MA AIfA, Stephen Wadeson

Editor: Rachel Clarke BA AIfA

Illustrator: Séverine Bézie BA MA

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Prepared by:	Chris Thatcher
Position:	Project Officer
Date:	February 2011
Checked by:	James Drummond Murray
Position:	Project Manager
Date:	February 2011
Signed:	.....

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

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

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Summary

Between 27th July and 21st August 2009 OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC) carried out an archaeological excavation at the former Unwins nursery site, Impington Lane (centred on TL 4430 6350), Impington, Cambridgeshire. The work was commissioned by Campbell Buchanan in advance of construction of residential properties on the site. This was subsequent to an evaluation conducted by OA East, which had revealed two phases of activity spanning the Late Iron Age to 2nd century AD.

The excavation uncovered evidence for human activity comprising features and deposits spanning the Iron Age to modern periods, although features directly associated with settlement appeared to date predominantly to the Roman period (AD43 – AD410).

Much of the evidence for Iron Age activity on the site is residual with few features being positively dated to this period, these included a segment of a possible roundhouse and associated postholes and pits in the central part of the site.

The evidence for Roman activity was far more extensive and comprised numerous phases of occupation spanning the entire period. Although no direct evidence for habitation was recorded within the development area itself the analysis of the artefactual material, especially pottery, suggests that the site lay in the immediate vicinity of a previously-unrecorded settlement. Although this was probably of relatively low status, it was potentially quite extensive and long lived.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at the former Unwins nursery site, Impington Lane (centred on TL 4430 6350), Impington (Figure 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application No. S/1356/08/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East. The proposed development site is located on the north side of Impington Lane, Impington.

1.1.3 An evaluation was conducted on the site by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) (Fletcher 2009). This investigation revealed a number of ditches spanning at least two phases of activity. The first identified phase dated to the Late Iron Age to 1st century AD which comprised mostly large field boundaries. The second phase was slightly later, dating to the mid 1st century to the mid-2nd century AD.

1.1.4 As a result of these findings Cambridgeshire County Council determined that a full record of these remains must be made in advance of the proposed development.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The geology of the site consists mainly of calcareous clay and loams of the Evesham 3 association overlying Jurassic and Cretaceous clay (BGS, 1981).

1.2.2 Buildings located on the site were demolished prior to the excavation and all associated rubble flattened and compressed. The site was relatively flat, rising slightly from 11.16mOD at the northern end to 12.44mOD at the southern end closest to the road. Natural geology also rises up towards the southern end of the site from 10.78mOD to 11.88mOD.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 The site lies between the medieval villages of Histon and Impington, and probably overlaps elements of these settlements. Close to the eastern boundary of the site is the manorial site of Burgoynes Farm (CHER 10308) and the parish church of St Andrew (CHER 05448). A small section of the western boundary fronts onto Histon village green and pond which are believed to be medieval in date (CHER 11247). Saxon artefacts have been recovered in the vicinity (CHER 51960) and the development area lies close to the parochial centre of the village, which has a recognisably Early Saxon name form (Reaney 1943).

1.3.2 In addition, the form of the land parcels associated with Burgoynes Farm and St Andrew's Church to the east of the site suggests a Saxon settlement focus around an oval enclosure.

Prehistoric

1.3.3 Three handaxes are known from Histon which are likely to date from the Neolithic period (Fox 1923). Unfortunately, their find spots are unknown. Remains of three Bronze Age barrows are recorded at the edge of the parish and a small number of worked flint scatters are known from Impington (Taylor 1998). Arbury Camp, a Late Iron Age fortified site located within the parish of Impington, lies 1.8km south of the proposed development.

Romano-British

1.3.4 Although few Roman finds are recorded within Impington it is known that the surrounding area was densely occupied in the Roman period. The 'fen-edge' land north of Cambridge, which broadly encompasses the parishes of Impington, Histon, Milton, Waterbeach, Horningsea, Cottenham, Oakington, Swavesey, Over and Willingham, is an area where Roman (and preceding Iron Age) rural settlement is well recorded. Lying to the west of the River Cam and north of the modern A14 (The Via Devana Roman Road) the modern arable fields routinely produce remains of this earlier agricultural landscape, and although many of these sites are suggested from aerial photography numerous sites have not appeared from any prior surveys.

1.3.5 Settlement in this area developed extensively during the 2nd century with construction of the Car Dyke canal (2km north east at Waterbeach) and Akeman Street, which runs approximately 500m east of the village of Impington and was the major route between Cambridge and Ely.

1.3.6 A possible villa is known at the site of the First Public Drain, Histon, about 1.15km south-west of the site (Margery 1955) and aerial photographic evidence outlines a ribbon of Roman settlement and proto-industrial activity running from Milton along the River Cam to the Car Dyke at Waterbeach and further to the east the pottery industry at Horningsea. Further to the south, in Arbury and Kings Hedges, six 1st to 2nd century cremations and a 4th century villa were found associated with Akeman Street (CHER 05421b; MCB16897). Excavations at the Park and Ride site to the south also revealed a Roman enclosure and structure (Hounsell 2008).

1.3.7 Excavations at Limes Farm, to the east, recorded extensive Iron Age and Roman settlement remains (CHERs 08312, 08314, 11567). This site is known from aerial photography (cropmarks) and was investigated by OAE (then AFU) in 1999 (Connor & Sealey 2003). This site, covering c25 hectares, is of Middle Iron Age origin (300-50BC) and continued into the Roman period. The site contains farmsteads, round houses, enclosures, droveways and the remnants of field systems.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

1.3.8 The only evidence of Saxon activity in the vicinity is the discovery of a circular loom weight found during the construction of a school off Glebe Way, Histon 200m to the north-east of the development area (CHER 05196; Samuels 2004). Impington is referred to in a document of AD 991 (Taylor 1998) and both Histon and Impington are recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, implying that settlement was established by the Late Saxon period.

1.3.9 Most of Histon was held as two manors by the Bishop of Lincoln at the time of the Domesday survey and had a population in the region of 375, making it one of the largest villages in South Cambridgeshire.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Campbell Buchanan, especially Andy Girvan, who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Kasia Gdaniec wrote the excavation brief and visited and monitored the site. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray. Chris Thatcher and Rob Atkins directed and supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of Peter Boardman, David Brown, Graeme Clarke, Steve Graham, Ross Lilley, Lucy Offord and Stephen Wadeson. The illustrations were produced by Andrew Corrigan.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Research Objectives

2.1.1 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.

Iron Age and Roman

2.1.2 To contribute towards the development of rural Romano-British settlement pattern for the area to the north of the 'villa belt' surrounding the settlement of Duroliponte.

- The base plan of features and the character and date range of their deposits will assist with an understanding of the nature of rural settlement between the 1st century BC and at least the third century AD.
- The ceramic sequence will indicate the relevance or dominance of the locally produced table, storage and cooking vessels and establish the composition of the British and Continental traded vessels and potential commodities coming into the settlement in this part of Impington.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that a single area of 0.55ha be stripped. This was in response to an archaeological evaluation comprising initially six trenches, totalling 230m in length. An additional two trenches were subsequently excavated in order to assess the survival of archaeology beneath the demolished buildings.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.5 A total of 43 bulk samples were taken from the site for the purposes of flotation and artefact retrieval.

2.2.6 The excavation was carried out during mixed weather conditions with periods warm dry weather interspersed with fairly heavy rainfall, which at times lead to the flooding of parts of the site and meant that the water table remained fairly high at approximately 0.70m.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Evidence for human activity comprised features and deposits spanning the Iron Age to modern periods, although features directly associated with settlement appeared to date predominantly to the Roman period (AD43 – AD410).

3.1.2 The findings of the evaluation (Fletcher, 2009) have been incorporated into this report and the original numbering retained. Features from the evaluation stage are numbered from 100 – 804, whilst thoase from the excavation are numbered from 1000 – 1466.

3.2 Site Phasing

3.2.1 As with many rural sites very little complex stratigraphy was present, although several areas of intercutting ditches and pits were recorded across the site. The phasing presented in this work is largely based on stratigraphic relationships, spatial associations and, to a certain extent, similarity in alignment for linear features.

3.2.2 An abundance of Roman pottery was recovered during the course of the excavation and this has been combined with the stratigraphic evidence to further elucidate the phasing and development of the site during this period. Using the pottery dates it was possible to broadly divide the Roman period into three phases.

- **Period 1: Middle to Late Iron Age (c.300BC – AD43)**
- **Period 2: Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (1 BC/AD - AD43)**
- **Period 3: Roman (AD43 – AD410)**
    - Phase 1: AD43 – AD200: A re-alignment of the enclosures in the southern part of the site was the most prominent change during this phase with the enclosure in the northern part of the site being re-cut at least twice
    - Phase 2: AD200 – AD300: The largest concentration of finds were dated to this phase. Subtle re-alignments of the boundary and enclosure features were in evidence along similar lines to Phase 2
    - Phase 3: AD300 – AD410: During the latest phase of Roman occupation the division of the site into northern and southern zones was abandoned and it appears that the focus of the settlement shifted to the east, probably being concentrated immediately outside the development area.
- **Period 4: Post Medieval to Modern (c.AD1500 - present).**

3.3 Period 1: Middle to Late Iron Age (*c.*300BC – AD43).

3.3.1 The evidence from this period was primarily focussed within the central part of the site and comprised a small assemblage of pottery, totalling no more than 23 sherds and a ring gully that was truncated by a sequence of pits and an enclosure ditch dated to the early Roman period.

Structural Evidence

*Ring Ditch **1257***

3.3.2 Towards the centre of the site a section of curvi-linear ditch (**1257**) was recorded that appeared to form the southern element of a circular ring ditch (Plate 1). The ditch had not survived in full as its northern section was truncated by a modern ditch, however the internal diameter of the area enclosed by the remaining part was approximately 8m across. Whilst it was not clear whether ditch **1257** represented the southern element of a single ditch forming a roundhouse or merely the surviving part of a single circular feature, it was noted that it did become progressively more shallow towards its northern and southern extents, which may indicate that it had been truncated to the north and east.

3.3.3 This possible roundhouse was the only feature recorded within the development area that could be directly linked with habitation and as such it was 100% excavated. A total of 9 sections were excavated through the feature (**1273**, **1275**, **1277**, **1279**, **1281**, **1283**, **1285**, **1287** & **1289**), which revealed it to vary in width from 0.30m to 0.60m and 0.10m to 0.30m in depth. A single mid yellow brown clay silt deposit filled the feature (1272, 1274, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1282, 1284, 1286 & 1288). Three environmental samples taken from the ditch contained sparse quantities of cereal grains and charcoal, which did not give any firm indication as to the function of this feature.

3.3.4 As noted previously, the ditch was truncated in a number of places by later features ranging in date from the Mid-Roman to modern period and the presence of a number of sherds of Roman pottery within the fills of the ditch are attributed to intrusive activity rather than contemporary deposition.

*Postholes **1206**, **1227** & **1291***

3.3.5 Three postholes (**1206**, **1227** & **1291**) were recorded in an alignment that traversed the eastern edge of the area enclosed by ring ditch **1257**. These features ranged in width between 0.33m and 0.54m but were noticeably shallow with a maximum depth of 0.10m (**1291**) and minimum depth of just 0.03m (**1206**). This disparity between width and depth suggests a significant level of truncation and lends weight to the inference that the full extent of any evidence for habitation during this period did not survive later activity.

3.3.6 It is possible that the line of postholes represented internal features associated with a roundhouse formed in part by ring ditch **1257** or alternatively the eastern limit of a small enclosure bounded to the west by ring ditch **1257**, such a feature may have functioned as a pen for livestock or temporary shelter.

*Pit **1162***

3.3.7 Lying less than 3m to the south of ring ditch **1257** was a large pit (**1162**) 1.42m in diameter and 0.46m deep, the two fills of which (1163 & 1164) contained 248 sherds of

Iron Age pottery. This represented the largest single concentration of Iron Age pottery recovered on site (almost 65% of the assemblage.

*Ditches **1001** & **1087***

3.3.8 In the far south-eastern corner of the site two ditches that lay on alignments divergent with those of the Roman enclosure system were recorded. The first (**1001**) extended 4m into the development area on a south-east to north-west alignment before terminating and was found to contain a few sherds of Iron Age pottery.

3.3.9 Ditch (**1087**) lay 7.5m to the north on a perpendicular alignment. No finds were recovered from the sections excavated through this feature. Only 5m of the ditch survived before it was truncated by the earliest phase of Roman ditching. It is for this reason and the fact that it possibly formed a second side of an enclosure or boundary in conjunction with ditch **1001** that it has been allocated to the Iron Age period.

3.4 Period 2: Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (1 BC/AD - AD43)

3.4.1 The evidence for settlement from this period appeared to be concentrated into two distinct zones. The first lay in the southern part of the site and may have fronted onto the current Impington Lane. The second was located in the northern part of the site.

3.4.2 The finds from this phase comprised a mix of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery and Early Roman pottery and it is suggested that this phase broadly represents a continuation of land use between these periods.

Southern Zone

*Boundary Ditch **1034***

3.4.3 A 15m long section of a south-east to north-west aligned boundary ditch was recorded in the far south-eastern corner of the site. Several sections were excavated through the feature (**1034**/**1073**/**1079**), which revealed it to be between 0.70m and 0.80m in width and up to 0.42m deep. Numerous sherds of pottery dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries were recovered from the primary fill of ditch **1034** (1033). Several sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered from its upper fill, which may suggest that this feature remained in use for an extended period; a relatively high density of features was recorded in this part of the site did however, and it is possible that these finds represent intrusive activity.

3.4.4 The western continuation of the ditch immediately adjacent to section **1034** was entirely truncated by an area of modern disturbance. The ditch emerged briefly from the western limit of this intrusion (**1079**) but was truncated again almost immediately by later Roman ditches. At this point it was 0.80m wide with a recorded depth of just 0.17m. This ditch was recorded one more time (**1073**) as the earliest feature in an area of intercutting ditches before continuing into the baulk at an obtuse angle.

*Boundary Ditch **1235***

3.4.5 Lying immediately to the south west of ring ditch **1257** was a shallow ditch (**1235**) that extended approximately 6m from the western limit of the excavation before terminating less than 1m from the edge of **1257**. Ditch **1235** lay in an area of quite significant modern truncation and although it was 1.10m wide only the lower 0.09m of the feature had survived, a single sherd of pottery dating from the 1st to 2nd century AD was recovered from its fill (1236) along with a badly worn 2nd century AD Roman coin (SF17), bearing a possible image the Emperor Hadrian on the obverse. The poor

condition of the coin may suggest that it was subject to substantial post depositional movement (Appendix B.1).

3.4.6 As stated above the level of modern disturbance in this part of the site meant that ditch **1235** was heavily truncated, precluding any firm conclusions from being drawn as to its route and extent or whether the recorded terminus of the ditch actually marked its limit. However, ditch **1235** lay on an alignment that was continuous with that of boundary ditch **1034** and although these two features lay at opposite ends of the site, it may be that the line established by the ditches demarcated the northern boundary of this zone of settlement.

*Enclosure Ditches **1146, 1305** & **1232***

3.4.7 In the south western corner of the site was an alignment of ditches that may have formed part of an enclosure system lying within the boundary formed by ditches **1034** and **1235**. A total of seven sections were excavated through the enclosure system. Its easternmost element comprised a north-to-south aligned ditch that was up to 0.75m wide and 0.45m deep. Four sections were excavated along its length (**1146**, **1157**, **1170** & **1269**) from which a total of 27 sherds of 1st to 2nd century pottery were recovered.

3.4.8 Ditch **1146** extended northwards from the southern baulk for approximately 20m before it was truncated by modern foundations associated with the nursery buildings. Approximately 5m to the north and 7m to the west, the putative second element of the enclosure system was recorded on a perpendicular east-to-west alignment. Two sections were excavated along this length (**1305** & **1466**) that revealed it to be a maximum of 1.48m wide by 0.56m deep. No pottery was recovered from either of ditch **1466**'s fills (1487 & 1488), although these were quite heavily truncated by a ditch from a later phase. The second section (**1305**) was excavated just before the ditch was entirely truncated by modern disturbance.

3.4.9 The third element of the enclosure (**1232**) emerged from the southern limit of the excavation aligned parallel with **1146** and converged with ditch **1466** approximately 7m along its length. Only 4m of ditch **1232** was exposed but it seems likely that it continued south. The east-to-west aligned element to the north (**1305** & **1466**) continued beyond the point where the two intersected suggesting that ditch **1232** may have formed a subdivision of an enclosure that continued westwards.

Northern Zone

*Boundary Ditch **1362***

3.4.10 The enclosure laid out in the northern part of the site appears to have been re-instated on a number of occasions throughout the Roman period along subtly different lines. As a result, this first phase was quite heavily truncated and inferences about its actual shape and course have been based on the layout of later phases.

3.4.11 The ditch was most well preserved close to the northern limit of excavation where it was recorded aligned east-to-west. Two sections were excavated through this stretch of the ditch (**1362** & **1418**) revealing a steep sided profile, 0.55m deep and 1.22m wide, in the lower half of the ditch, which stepped out into a far more gentle upper slope.

3.4.12 Approximately 15m after the point where boundary ditch **1362** emerged from the eastern site limit it began a gentle southward curve before being truncated by a later phase of the ditch. Further to the south west the ditch re-emerged on a north-to-south alignment before beginning to curve back onto an east-to-west alignment that was

obscured by the latest phase of the boundary. If the layout of this enclosure was indeed mirrored in the later phases then it would have had an internal, north-to-south width of approximately 23m.

3.5 Period 3: Roman (AD43 – AD410)

Introduction

3.5.1 The overwhelming majority of the features recorded on site were dated to the Roman period by the relatively large quantity of pottery recovered during the excavation. Despite the absence of any features directly associated with habitation, the volume of ceramic material suggests that the development area lay in close proximity to a settlement.

3.5.2 The most prevalent pottery forms date to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, although a smaller assemblage dating from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD was also recorded, suggesting that occupation in the locality was continuous throughout the Roman period.

3.5.3 Using the dating evidence it was possible to sub-divide the large number of boundary and enclosure features recorded within the excavation into a number of phases. In the main these were identified from the stratigraphic relationships recorded on site rather than the spot dates and suggest a fairly fluid transition between phases of occupation rather than sharp delineations or changes in land-use and associated activities by period.

3.5.4 It became apparent that there was some continuation from the Pre-Roman Iron Age period and that several major features and alignments set out during Period 2 were maintained into the Roman period, forming the basis for the layout of the boundary and enclosure system.

3.6 Period 3, Phase 1: Early Roman (AD43 – AD200)

3.6.1 A greater number of features have been allocated to this phase. Much of this was based upon the stratigraphic relationships recorded by excavation. This trend suggests an intensification of settlement towards the south of the excavation area, along with the realignment of the enclosures in the southern part of the site in the form of a series of relatively evenly spaced east-to-west aligned ditches.

Southern Zone

*Ditches **1006**, **1091**, **1107** & **1128***

3.6.2 During this phase it is suggested that in the south-eastern part of the site, boundary ditch **1034** was superseded by a narrower ditch located immediately to the south on a slightly divergent axis (**1006**) that traversed the entire width of the development site. This may have served as a boundary or even a subdivision of an enclosure that extended beyond the southern limit of the site.

3.6.3 Excavation of the ditch revealed it to be segmented and composed of a minimum of four segments (**1006**, **1042**, **1085** & **1097**). From east-to-west the first identifiable segment was approximately 35m long, a total of six sections were excavated through this feature , which was up to 0.44m wide and 0.30m deep. The pottery recovered from this feature predominantly dates to the 1st to 2nd century, however in the eastern part of the site the ditch was truncated by a pit that was found to contain quantities of 2nd century pottery suggesting that this ditch was relatively short-lived.

3.6.4 The western terminal of this feature (**1097**) intersected with another ditch (**1091**) of similar proportions that continued westwards on the same alignment for a further 5m. The sections excavated through ditch **1091** also contained 1st to 2nd century pottery.

3.6.5 A further 3m long section (**1107**) containing pottery dated to the same period was recorded intersecting with the western terminus of **1091**. Ditch **1107** was truncated by modern foundations to the west and did not re-emerge on the far side of the foundation cut. It is possible that the continuation of this feature was entirely destroyed by modern activity. Conversely, it is possible that the end of this feature marked an entrance to the enclosure. Approximately 3.5m to the west of ditch **1107**, another ditch (**1128**) was recorded that presumably continued beyond the limit of the excavation. The two sections excavated through this feature (**1128** & **1155**) revealed a profile in 0.9m in diameter by 0.18m deep.

*Ditch **1140***

3.6.6 Approximately 12m north of and aligned parallel with ditch **1128** lay a ditch of similar proportions, through which two sections (**1140** & **1168**) were excavated. Ditch **1140** was excavated in the narrowest part of the development site and although it extended across the entire excavation area and possibly beyond its limits without any apparent change in course, this only amounted to a total 11m of the feature being exposed.

*Ditch **1203***

3.6.7 A further 12m to the north of the line of ditch **1140** was another east-to-west aligned ditch (**1203**). This feature emerged from the western baulk and continued across the site for 16m, truncating ring ditch **1257** (Period 1), before terminating (**1403**). Three sections were excavated through the ditch (**1203**, **1367** & **1403**), which was on average 0.75m wide and 0.40m deep. Significant quantities of Early Roman pottery were recovered from this feature with section **1203** producing over 90 sherds.

*Boundary Ditch **1198***

3.6.8 The deepest ditch within this part of the site was also the furthest north and it is possible that this feature formed a northern boundary to the southern zone of occupation. Ditch **1198**, which was located 7m to the north of ditch **1203**, was 1.3m wide by 0.80m deep with a steep sided profile. A large number of Early Roman pottery sheds (113 in total) were recovered from the two sections excavated through this feature (**1198** & **1213**).

3.6.9 This feature was re-cut during later periods of occupation, at which point the ditch traversed the full width of the excavation area. It is unclear whether or not this was the case during the Early Roman period as the later re-instatement of this boundary had largely truncated the cut attributable to its earliest phase. The exact layout of this part of the boundary system was further obscured by a modern trench but it is suggested that the eastern limit of **1198** was level with the terminal of ditch **1203**.

3.6.10 Section **1213** was excavated 16m from the western site limit, at the point where the two ditch phases intersected and the earliest feature was largely truncated. In plan it appeared that the ditch was narrowing quite sharply into a possible terminal. Furthermore, 10m to the east of the possible terminal a north-to-south aligned ditch (**1192**) was recorded that crossed the line of **1198**, it seems likely that these features respected one another suggesting that ditch **1198** did indeed terminate rather than continue across the excavation.

*Ditch **1192***

3.6.11 Ditch **1192** emerged from an area of modern disturbance in the centre of the site and continued northwards for nearly 20m before it terminated. In profile it was U-shaped with a maximum width of 0.75m and depth of 0.26m. The pottery recovered from the two excavated sections (**1192** & **1246**) is dated to the Early Roman period. It was not possible to determine the southwards route of the ditch or its relationship with ditch **1140** due to truncation by modern foundations.

*Ditch **1358***

3.6.12 Lying 7.5m to the east and aligned parallel with ditch **1192** was a short section of ditch (**1358**) that apparently terminated less than 4m after emerging from the site limit. As with boundary ditch **1198** this ditch was later re-cut and extended northwards, however from this phase small quantities of 1st century pottery were recovered from its sole surviving fill.

Northern Zone

*Boundary Ditch **1430***

3.6.13 During this phase it would appear that the boundary established during the previous phase was re-cut at least twice on a similar alignment (**1430** & **1377**). The first re-cut was 1.3m wide by 0.54m deep, of the three sections (**1430**, **1442** & **1464**) excavated through the ditch only one produced any pottery and this was dated to the Early Roman period.

3.6.14 Only the northernmost east-to-west aligned segment of this ditch was in evidence as the remainder of the ditch had been truncated by a second re-cut (**1377**). It is assumed that the two ditches followed a very similar alignment and that the re-cutting was for the purpose of re-establishing the boundary rather than representative of a change in land use.

*Boundary Ditch **1377***

3.6.15 Ditch **1377** was of similar proportions to ditch **1430**. A total of four sections (**1377**, **1420**, **1427** & **1434**) were excavated through this feature and yet only relatively small quantities of Early Roman pottery were recovered from its fills, along with part of an *armilla*, a military award given to low-ranking Roman soldiers for valour in battle (SF26, Appendix B.1).

3.7 Period 3, Phase 2: Mid Roman (AD100 – AD300)

3.7.1 During this phase it would appear that there was a refinement of the enclosure and boundary system although the same overall layout of the site was still adhered to.

Southern Zone

*Ditch **1012***

3.7.2 In the south-eastern corner of the excavation area a relatively large ditch was recorded. The longest recorded element of the ditch was aligned east-to-west and extended for 23m from its western terminal before turning fairly sharply on to a south to north orientation. Excavation of the ditch (**1012**, **1045** & **1124**) revealed it to be up to 1.7m in width and 0.77m deep with a relatively steep sided, U shaped profile. Unlike some of the features on the site, whose terminals were sometimes difficult to clearly identify due

to the level of modern truncation, the terminal of this ditch (**1124**) was very well defined. It also appeared to respect the largest ditch recorded on site (**1120**), ending as it did less than 2m from the boundary's eastern edge.

*Boundary Ditch **1120***

3.7.3 A 16m-long section of this boundary was exposed in the south-eastern part of the development area. This was the largest feature recorded on site and was up to 3.5m wide and 1.5m deep. The greatest concentrations of mid-Roman pottery found on the site were recovered from this feature, which may suggest that it lay in close proximity to the focus of the settlement during this period. It is postulated that such a settlement may have lain to the north east of the development area (see Discussion).

3.7.4 It is possible that ditch **1120** marked one of the main settlement boundaries, with ditch **1012** forming an internal subdivision and the remaining features demarcating enclosures associated with more agricultural functions.

*Pits **1053** & **1056***

3.7.5 Two pits of similar size (0.80m diameter by 0.10m depth) were recorded in the corner of the enclosure formed by ditch **1012**. Pit **1053** contained a significant quantity of oyster shells and pottery (130 sherds, of which six were positively identified as amphorae sherds). The concentration, and nature of the finds, suggests that the ditch may well have been associated with, or been in close proximity to, an area of settlement.

*Enclosure Ditches **1180, 1200** & **1356***

3.7.6 This feature lay to the north-west of ditch **1120** and in conjunction with ditches **1200** and **1356**, may have formed the southern limit of a sub-rectangular enclosure, 12m wide on its north-to-south axis and extending beyond the western limit of the excavation area. A total of seven sections excavated through these ditches revealed them to be on average 1.0m wide and 0.30m deep.

*Ditch **1244***

3.7.7 This ditch lay approximately 15m to the west of the eastern limit of the enclosure (ditch **1356**). A large assemblage of mid-Roman pottery was recovered from this feature. This included 20 sherds of Gaulish samian; several of the sherds were stamped and these examples can be closely dated and associated with the Lezoux potters Doccalus, AD135-160 or Doccius ii, AD160-200 (Appendix B3). A base sherd from this group was modified in antiquity, which indicated a secondary function either as a gaming counter or vessel lid (Appendix B3).

3.7.8 A 10m-long, north-to-south aligned segment of Ditch **1244** was recorded before its southern limit was truncated by modern disturbance. As a result of the quantity of pottery recovered from the ditch, and the subsequent likelihood that this feature may have been associated with nearby domestic activity, the surviving portion was 100% excavated (**1244**, **1271**, **1328**, **1341**, **1397** & **1403**).

*Pit Cluster (**1165, 1195, 1202, 1241, 1332, 1334, 1336, 1338** & **1374**)*

3.7.9 A cluster of pits were recorded lying immediately to the west of ditch **1244**. These varied in size from 0.5m to 1.5m across and were up to 0.50m deep. Varying quantities of mid-Roman pottery were recovered from these features. Given the generally higher concentration of features and finds associated with settlement towards the eastern part

of the site it may be possible that these pits represented an area used for the disposal of domestic refuse, with ditch **1244** delineating a western settlement boundary.

3.7.10 Several of the pits in this area (**1372**, **1374** & **1195)** and one of the linear features recorded in the vicinity (**1356**) were found to contain hammerscale within the samples taken from them (Appendix C2), this may indicate the presence of low level industrial activity within this central part of the site enclosed by ditches **1180**, **1200** and **1356**.

Northern Zone

*Enclosure Ditch **1352***

3.7.11 In the northern part of the site there was far less evidence for settlement related activity. The only feature attributable to this phase was the southwestern corner of an enclosure (**1352**) that was established along similar lines to enclosure ditch **1362** first set out in the Early Roman period (Period 2, Phase 1).

3.7.12 This feature extended 5m further to the west than the previous phases and was between 1.30m and 1.90m wide and up to 0.86m deep. The three sections excavated through the ditch (**1353**, **1393** & **1423**) recorded fairly low concentrations of mid-Roman pottery.

*Pit **1381***

3.7.13 Close to the northern site limit and lying within enclosure ditch **1352** was a large sub-circular pit approximately 8m in diameter (**1381**). Four sections were excavated through this feature (**1381**, **1439**, **1457** & **1460**) and these showed that the pit had fairly gently sloping concave sides. The feature was excavated to a depth of 1m before the water table began to encroach into the sections making it impossible to safely excavate the pit, however its profile suggested that the feature was beginning to bottom out and would have been slightly deeper than 1m. It is suggested that pit **1381** served as a watering hole.

3.7.14 The fills were very similar in make up to the surrounding natural and it was impossible to determine whether this feature was a single pit or made up of a series of re-cut features. The fill sequence suggested that the pit had filled via natural silting and weathering of the sides rather than deliberate backfill. This may have happened over a relatively short period of time, necessitating numerous re-cuts in order to keep a waterhole or pond viable.

*Pit **1426***

3.7.15 A sub-rectangular pit was recorded within the enclosure whose two fills (1424 & 1425) contained significant quantities of charcoal, burnt stone and small quantities of hammerscale (Appendix C.2) it is possible that this feature represented a hearth or oven and raises the possibility that one function of this northern enclosure was for low level industrial purposes.

3.8 Period 3, Phase 3: Late Roman (AD300 – AD410)

3.8.1 During this phase it appears that the north and south zoning apparent in earlier phases was abandoned. Furthermore, the evidence for activity during this period was concentrated overwhelmingly on the eastern side of the excavation area.

*Ditch **1113***

3.8.2 Ditch **1120**, from the previous phase (para 3.7.3), was re-cut during the Late Roman phase as **1113**. At the southern limit of the excavation a sharp return of the ditch was recorded and it continued on a slightly south-west to north-east alignment, extending beyond the eastern limit of the development area.

3.8.3 The sections excavated through this portion (**1026** & **1054**) revealed that it was beginning to narrow and shallow-out as it progressed eastwards across the site. This may have been as a result of modern truncation but it could also have represented the approach to to a ditch terminal presumably lying just beyond the site limit.

*Ditch **1023***

3.8.4 Lying 17m to the east of ditch **1113** was another north-to-south aligned ditch (**1023**). This feature was of far smaller dimensions, being only 0.67m wide and 0.59m deep, however its alignment parallel to ditch **1120**, the fact that it truncated enclosure ditch **1012** and the presence of 3rd to 4th century pottery suggest that it was related to the latest boundary feature.

3.8.5 In profile, ditch **1023** had near vertical sides and was flat based, which may imply that the feature was associated with structural remains, for instance a large beam slot. If this was the case then it would appear that any other related structural evidence had been truncated by subsequent activity as no other comparable features were recorded within the vicinity.

3.8.6 The inference that ditch **1023** was structural is given further credence by the fact that it was located in the part of the site from which the majority of the finds relating to domestic settlement were recovered.

*Ditch **1069***

3.8.7 The final feature recorded from this phase was the western side of an enclosure (**1069**) that may have encompassed an area lying immediately to the east of the development area. Four sections were excavated through this feature (**1069**, **1173**, **1256** & **1345**). Sections **1173**, **1256** and **1345** were excavated on the north-to-south aligned element that formed this western limit. The ditch was recorded beginning to curve to the east as it passed beyond the edge of the excavation to the north and to the south. It is suggested that the southernmost part of the ditch (**1069**) re-emerged in the south-eastern corner of the site and terminated immediately adjacent to ditch **1023**, however, given the distance between these two segments (almost 30m) it is impossible to say with any certainty whether or not these are the remains of the same feature.

3.8.8 The location and orientation of this ditch, suggestive of an enclosed area immediately to the east of the site, further supports the evidence that, particularly during the later Roman period, the *loci* of a putative settlement lay just beyond the eastern limit of the development area.

3.9 Period 4: post medieval to modern (*c.*AD1500 - present).

3.9.1 A significant level of modern disturbance was recorded across the site that was associated with the former Unwins nursery buildings. Numerous footings, foundations and service trenches traversed the excavation area resulting in a areas of severe and even complete truncation of the archaeological remains.

3.9.2 A number of pits containing modern ceramics and flower pots were also recorded on the western side of the excavation. As stated previously the site had been subject to

significant levels of modern disturbance. The former Unwins nursery buildings extended across much of the development site and their foundations and associated service trenches were the cause of much of the truncation in evidence.

3.9.3 Furthermore, a number of rubbish dumps were recorded, particularly in the southern and western corners of the site. These contained a mixture modern building debris including ceramic tiles and metalwork along with several deposits comprising sherds of modern plant containers. Low levels of diesel contamination were also recorded at several points.

3.9.4 Ditch **1175** was recorded running across the central part of the site on an east-to-west alignment. This feature probably represented a modern field or property boundary dating to the late 19th to early 20th century.

3.10 Finds Summaries

Metalwork (App. B1)

3.10.1 A small metalwork assemblage consisting of seven copper-alloy objects, including two coins and three brooches, four iron nails and thirteen iron hobnails was recovered. Three copper-alloy brooches and a military *armilla*, a military award probably specific to the Conquest, were dated to the middle of 1st century AD whilst the coins were dated to the 2nd century and late 3rd or 4th century.

3.10.2 The iron objects were not readily datable and consist of four nail fragments and thirteen hobnails from a composite leather shoe or boot sole.

3.10.3 The assemblage taken as a whole is fairly typical of domestic settlement and its small size may be due to the development area being located in the hinterland of such a settlement rather than within the area of habitation itself.

Pottery (App. B2 & B3)

Iron Age

3.10.4 A total of 382 sherds of Iron Age pottery, dominated by sandy fabrics and weighing 4.422kg, was recovered. The condition of the pottery is varied. The majority of the assemblage was tentatively dated to the Middle Iron Age tradition and included diagnostic features of hand-made production, slack-shouldered vessels and scored decoration, indicative of domestic activity..

3.10.5 However the majority of the assemblage was recovered from contexts containing later Roman material, which suggests that it was actually either Late Iron Age in date or perhaps even residually deposited as a result of the re-working of the site during the Roman period.

Roman

3.10.6 A relatively large assemblage of Late pre Roman Iron Age, Early Roman and Romano-British pottery, totalling 2691 sherds, was recovered that demonstrates continuous occupation in the locality throughout the entire Roman period with a bias towards the Early Roman (mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD). Small quantities of Romano-British pottery were also recovered.

3.10.7 The assemblage is typical of a domestic settlement being predominantly comprised of utilitarian coarse wares of low status. A small number of Continental imports and fine

wares were in evidence, these were mainly dated to the later Roman period and their presence may reflect the proximity of the site to local trade routes.

3.11 Environmental Summaries

Faunal Remains (App. C1)

3.11.1 The faunal assemblage is extremely small, yielding only 100 “countable” bones. Cattle and sheep dominate the assemblage, with animals being largely raised for meat and butchered on-site. Smaller quantities of sheep/goat remains, predominantly from adult animals, and an even smaller assemblage of pig and horse remains was also recovered.

Environmental Remains (App. C2)

3.11.2 The environmental assemblage was dominated by cereal grains, predominantly spelt wheat. The small quantity and por quality of the charred plant assemblage makes it impossible to draw firm conclusions as to the nature of the site. However certain trends may indicate shifts in the nature of production and consumption, for instance, over time the amount of charred grain and particularly chaff decreased until by the 4th century chaff was completely absent suggesting that clean grain was being brought imported to site.

3.11.3 Overall it is likely that the assemblage represents a subsistence agricultural economy with cereals and their by-products being processed and used locally for a range of domestic and other purposes.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 A sequence of occupation that spanned the Middle Iron Age and Roman periods was revealed by the excavations at the site of the former Unwins Nursery. These findings are discussed below by period, in relation to the original aims laid out in Section 2.

Iron Age Landscape

4.1.2 The evidence from this period was relatively sparse, probably as a result of subsequent truncation by settlement activity in the Roman period and later during the post-medieval and modern periods.

4.1.3 Only a small number of features recorded within the development area could be directly dated to this period. These included a section of possible ring ditch (**1257**), that was possibly associated with three postholes (**1206**, **1227** & **1291**) recorded in an alignment that crossed the centre of the area enclosed by the ditch. It seems likely that these represented internal features associated with a roundhouse or the eastern limit of a small enclosure. Ditch **1257** had a very similar approximate diameter to that of the Middle Iron Age roundhouse recorded at Lime Farm to the east (Connor and Sealey 2003). In the far south-eastern corner of the site two small ditches (**1001** & **1087**) may have formed part of an enclosure or boundary.

4.1.4 A relatively small assemblage of Early to Late Iron Age pottery (Appendix B.2) was recovered from across the site. The overwhelming majority of this material was recovered from features found to contain Roman pottery and it is therefore suggested that the Iron Age pottery sherds by and large represent residual material. Much of this material was recovered from the vicinity of ring ditch **1257** which suggests that any settlement or habitation during the Iron Age was concentrated in the central part of the excavation area with the ditches recorded to the south-east (**1001** & **1087**) possibly representing agricultural or livestock enclosures.

4.1.5 One of the stated aims of the project was to achieve an understanding of the nature of rural settlement between the 1st century BC and at least the third century AD. With this in mind the evidence suggests that any Iron Age activity was gradually subsumed by Roman habitation rather than assimilated into the overall land use pattern. An example of this can be seen in the truncation of the ring ditch by demonstrably Roman features and the period specific shift in the axis of the settlement boundaries demonstrated by the divergent courses of the ditches to the south-east.

Late Pre-Roman Iron Age transition

4.1.6 The evidence for Late Iron Age activity from this excavation has a number of parallels with the findings of the excavations at Lime Farm to the east, in Landbeach. A similar pattern of transition between the Iron Age and Roman periods was recorded whereby the focus of settlement began to shift in the Late Iron Age.

4.1.7 Perhaps this is most clearly demonstrated by the apparent relationship between boundary ditch **1235** and roundhouse **1257**. Ditch **1235** appeared to terminate just short of the roundhouse, suggesting that perhaps this structure was still extant and thus indicating a level of continuity between the two periods. However, to the north and south-east, the first evidence for the boundaries and enclosures that would survive through numerous re-instatements, into the Late Roman period, were recorded.

Roman Settlement

4.1.8 There is a large body of evidence from the site for a settlement in the locality during the Roman period and the artefactual evidence points to continuous occupation throughout this time. Certainly up until the 3rd century AD, the layout of the site appears to have been fairly fluid with numerous phases probably overlapping one another rather than any abrupt changes in landuse being apparent. Until the beginning of the 4th century there also appears to have been a division of the site into two distinct zones, to the north and to the south.

4.1.9 This delineation may relate to different activities taking place on site. During the first two centuries of the Roman occupation there is some evidence for low level industrial activity, as evidenced by the presence of hammerscale in several of the samples from features in the northern and central part of the site. This suggests the presence of a smithy in the vicinity and it seems possible that the northern zone was given over to low level industrial activity, separate from any habitation or agricultural processes.

4.1.10 Furthermore, throughout the Roman period, the largest proportion of the finds were concentrated in the southern and eastern part of the site, suggesting that perhaps the settlement itself, and any direct evidence for habitation, lay immediately to the east of the development area. It may be, therefore, that the ditches recorded during the excavation represent field boundaries associated with subsistence agriculture relating to a settlement or estate.

4.1.11 This is supported by the analysis of the environmental and faunal evidence which shows that during the 1st and 2nd centuries crop processing was largely carried out on the site and that the mainstay of the economy was cattle and sheep, with animals being largely raised for meat and butchered on-site. Over time the evidence for crop processing diminishes until the 4th century when no chaff at all is visible in the samples, indicating that clean produce was brought into the site for consumption. The evidence from the faunal assemblage from this later period was more fragmentary but it may be possible that this reflects a similar transition towards imported products.

4.1.12 There is further evidence for a shift away from agricultural settlement in the re-alignment of the ditches recorded during the latter phases of the Roman occupation when boundary ditch **1173** appears to supersede the enclosures from the earlier phases to encompass an area lying immediately to the east of the site. Small quantities of higher status and imported wares also begin to appear in the assemblage from the 2nd century onwards and taken in conjunction it seems likely that this evidence alludes to a degree of increasing wealth over time.

4.1.13 One of the aims of the investigation was to ascertain the relevance or dominance of the locally produced table, storage and cooking vessels and establish the composition of the British and Continental traded vessels and potential commodities coming into the settlement. It would seem that during the early phases of Roman occupation there is little evidence for imported wares and the ceramic assemblage was dominated by low status, utilitarian coarse wares with a small assemblage of Romano-British wares also in evidence. Given the relative proximity of the site to the major trade route of Akeman Street and the presumed access to imported goods that this would have afforded, it is suggested that at the outset the nearby settlement was indeed fairly low status. Over time it seems that the wealth of the site did increase, as indicated by the presence of higher status and imported wares, including stamped samian, from the 2nd century onwards.

4.1.14 With this in mind, a final piece of artefactual evidence makes it possible to tentatively suggest something of the pattern of rural Romano-British settlement within the area. A fragment of a Roman military award, an *armilla*, was recovered from ditch **1235** and is a particularly tantalising find. *Armilla* were awarded to low ranking soldiers over the Claudian-Neronian period during the 1st century AD. Given that the largest proportion of the Roman pottery assemblage recovered by the excavation is broadly contemporary with this piece, dating to the 1st and 2nd century AD, it may well be that the site represents part of a small estate settled by a former member of the Roman army as part of the saturation of the area by the Roman military and settled veterans during the 1st century AD. Within the context of the local landscape the settlement of this site by such an individual may make sense. The development site lies just outside the areas of densest Roman occupation; to the north of the higher status 'villa belt' surrounding the settlement of Duroliponte (Cambridge) and at a slight remove from Akeman Street to the east (CCC, Extensive Urban Survey, 2003). This perhaps made it ideal as an area of settlement for those of slightly elevated but still relatively low status.

4.2 Conclusions

4.2.1 The results of the excavation have successfully fulfilled the aims of the project and will contribute significantly to our understanding of the settlement and development of Impington throughout the Iron Age and Roman periods.

4.2.2 Although no structural remains were positively identified by the excavation the finds assemblages recovered highlight the possibility that a previously unrecorded settlement lies in close proximity to the development area. It seems likely that any further evidence for habitation in the vicinity will lie to the east. This inference is corroborated by evaluations conducted immediately to the west of the site that revealed very little evidence for Roman activity (ECB2016; Cooper 2005).

4.2.3 The findings of the excavation are also of particular significance as previously in Impington the finds attributable to the Roman period were limited to scattered pottery found to the west of the settlement (HER 13029) and a fragment of tile to the north (HER 05189). It has been suggested that Impington lay in an area of decreased activity away from Akeman Street and the Cambridge suburbs (CCC, Extensive Urban Survey, 2003).

4.2.4 The excavation appears to contradict this conclusion and whilst the relatively low status of the site means that it would not be appropriate to compare it with the villa sites recorded to the south, such as Kings Hedges and Cawcutts Farm (CCC, Extensive Urban Survey, 2003), the results do represent not only one of the few known Roman sites along the western side of Akeman Street but also potentially highlight a pattern of occupation in this region by lower status individuals. Such a pattern may also be represented in Histon where a series of cropmarks are recorded that up until now have been thought to represent a possible villa site (HER 05187), in the light of these investigations it may be that the remains from the Unwins site form another basis for comparison.

Appendix A. Context List

Evaluation

Context	Cut	Type	Feature Type	Function
100	-	Layer	Rubble	
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	
102	103	Fill	Fill of 103	
103	103	Cut	Ditch	
104	105	Fill	Fill of 105	
105	105	Cut	Ditch	
106	107	Fill	Fill of 107	
107	107	Cut	Ditch	
108	109	Fill	Fill of 109	
109	109	Cut	Ditch	
110	111	Fill	Fill of 111	
111	111	Cut	Posthole	
200	-	Layer	Rubble	
201	-	Layer	Subsoil	
202	204	Fill	Fill of 204	
203	204	Fill	Fill of 204	
204	204	Cut	Ditch	
205	206	Fill	Fill of 206	
206	206	Cut	Cut of ditch	
207	208	Fill	Fill of 208	
208	208	Cut	Cut of pit	
209	210	Fill	Fill of 210	
210	210	Cut	Cut of ditch	
211	212	Fill	Fill of 212	
212	212	Cut	Cut of ditch	
213	214	Fill	Fill of 214	
214	214	Cut	Cut of ditch	
215	216	Fill	Fill of 216	
216	216	Cut	Cut of ditch	
217	221	Fill	Fill of 221	
218	221	Fill	Fill of 221	
219	221	Fill	Fill of 221	
220	221	Fill	Fill of 221	
221	221	Cut	Cut of ditch	
222	223	Fill	Fill of 223	

Context	Cut	Type	Feature Type	Function
223	223	Cut	Cut of rubbish pit	
300	-	Layer	Rubble	
301	-	Layer	Subsoil	
302	306	Fill	Fill of 306	
303	306	Fill	Fill of 306	
304	306	Fill	Fill of 306	
305	306	Fill	Fill of 306	
306	306	Cut	Cut of pit	
307	308	Fill	Fill of 308	
308	308	Cut	Cut of pit/ditch terminal	
400	-	Layer	Rubble	
401	-	Layer	Concrete foundations	
402	-	Layer	Subsoil	
403	404	Fill	Fill of 404	
404	404	Cut	Cut of gully	
405	407	Fill	Fill of 407	
406	407	Fill	Fill of 407	
407	407	Cut	Re-cut of ditch	
408	411	Fill	Fill of 411	
409	411	Fill	Fill of 411	
410	411	Fill	Fill of 411	
411	411	Cut	Cut of ditch	
412	413	Fill	Fill of 413	
413	413	Cut	Cut of pit	
414	415	Fill	Fill of 415	
415	415	Cut	Cut of gully	
500	-	Layer	Rubble	
501	-	Layer	Subsoil	
502	503	Fill	Fill of 503	
503	503	Cut	Cut of ditch terminal	
504	505	Fill	Fill of 505	
505	505	Cut	Cut of pit	
506	507	Fill	Fill of 507	
507	507	Cut	Cut of gully	
508	509	Fill	Fill of 509	
509	509	Cut	Cut of possible posthole	
600	-	Layer	Topsoil	
601	-	Layer	Subsoil	

Context	Cut	Type	Feature Type	Function
602	603	Fill	Fill of 603	
603	603	Cut	Cut of gully	
604	605	Fill	Fill of 605	
605	605	Cut	Cut of ditch	
606	607	Fill	Fill of 607	
607	607	Cut	Cut of ditch	
608	608	Cut	Cut of ditch	
609	608	Fill	Fill of 608	
610	608	Fill	Fill of 608	
611	611	Cut	Cut of ditch	
612	611	Fill	Fill of 611	
613	613	Cut	Modern intrusion	
614	613	Fill	Fill of 613	
615	617	Fill	Fill of 617	
616	617	Fill	Fill of 617	
617	617	Cut	Cut of ditch	
618	619	Fill	Fill of ditch	
619	619	Cut	Cut of ditch	
700	-	Layer	Rubble	
701	-	Layer	Subsoil	
702	702		Concrete foundation	
703	702	Cut	Cut for foundation 702	
704	704		Brick footing	
705	704		Cut for 704, brick footing	
706	706		Brick footing	
707	706		Cut for 706, brick footing	
801	-	Layer	Rubble	
802	-	Layer	Subsoil	
803	804	Fill	Fill of 804	
804	804	Cut	Cut of pit/ditch	

Excavation

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1000	1001	fill	ditch	
1001	1001	cut	ditch	drainage
1002	1004	fill	ditch	disuse
1003	1004	fill	ditch	disuse
1004	1004	cut	gully	disuse

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1005	1006	fill	gully	disuse
1006	1006	cut	gully	drainage
1007	1008	fill	posthole	disuse
1008	1008	cut	posthole	structural
1009	1010	fill	ditch	disuse
1010	1010	cut	ditch	boundary
1011	1012	fill	ditch	disuse
1012	1012	cut	ditch	boundary
1013	1014	fill	ditch	disuse
1014	1014	cut	ditch	boundary
1015	1016	fill	ditch	make up
1016	1016	cut	ditch	pipe
1017	1018	fill	posthole	
1018	1018	cut	posthole	structural
1019	1023	fill	ditch/beam slot	disuse
1020	1023	fill	ditch/ beam slot	dis-use
1021	1023	fill	ditch / beam slot	disuse
1022	1023	fill	ditch / beam slot	disuse
1023	1023	cut	ditch / beam slot	structural
1024	1024	cut	ditch	enclosure
1025	1024	fill	ditch	disuse
1026	1026	cut	ditch	boundary / enclosure
1027	1027	cut	pit	agricultural
1028	1029	fill	gully	disuse
1029	1029	cut	gully	boundary
1030	1031	fill	gully	disuse
1031	1031	cut	gully	boundary
1032	1034	fill	ditch	disuse
1033	1034	fill	ditch	disuse
1034	1034	cut	ditch	boundary
1035	1026	fill	ditch	disuse / slump
1036	1026	fill	ditch	disuse
1037	1026	fill	ditch	disuse
1038	1026	fill	ditch	disuse

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1039	1026	fill	ditch	disuse
1040	1026	fill	ditch	disuse
1041	1042	fill	ditch	
1042	1042	cut	ditch	
1043	1045	fill	ditch	
1044	1045	fill	ditch	
1045	1045	cut	ditch	enclosure
1046	1027	fill	pit	disuse
1047	1027	fill	pit	disuse
1048	1027	fill	pit	disuse
1049	1027	fill	pit	disuse
1050	1027	fill	pit	slump / disuse
1051	1053	fill	ditch	disuse
1052	1053	finds	pit	placed / dumped
1053	1053	cut	pit	ritual
1054	1054	cut	ditch	boundary
1056	1056	fill	pit	unknown
1057	1054	fill	ditch	disuse / slump
1058	1054	fill	ditch	disuse
1059	1054	fill	ditch	disuse
1060	1063	fill	pit	disuse
1061	1063	fill	pit	disuse
1062	1063	fill	pit	disuse
1063	1063	cut	pit	
1064	1066	fill	ditch	disuse
1065	1066	fill	ditch	disuse
1066	1066	cut	ditch	boundary
1067	1069	fill	ditch	disuse
1068	1069	fill	ditch	
1069	1069	cut	ditch	drainage
1070	1071	fill	ditch	disuse
1071	1071	cut	ditch	
1072	1073	fill	ditch	disuse
1073	1073	cut	ditch	
1074	1075	fill	ditch	disuse
1075	1075	cut	ditch	

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1076	1077	fill	ditch	disuse
1077	1077	cut	ditch	
1078	1079	fill	ditch	dump / disuse
1079	1079	cut	ditch	
1080	1081	fill	gully	disuse
1081	1081	cut	gully	boundary
1082	1083	fill	gully	disuse
1083	1083	cut	gully	drainage
1084	1085	fill	gully	disuse
1085	1085	cut	gully	drainage
1086	1087	fill	gully	disuse
1087	1087	cut	gully	drainage
1088	1089	fill	ditch	disuse
1089	1089	cut	ditch	
1090	1091	fill	ditch	disuse
1091	1091	cut	ditch	boundary/drainage
1092	1093	fill		
1093	1093	cut	pit	
1094	1095	fill	pit	
1095	1095	cut	pit	
1096	1097	fill	ditch	
1097	1097	cut	ditch	boundary / drainage
1098	1099	fill	pit	
1099	1099	cut	pit	
1100	1100	fill	pit	disuse
1101	1101	cut	pit	
1102	1103	fill	ditch	disuse
1103	1103	cut	ditch	
1104	1105	fill	ditch	disuse
1105	1105	cut	ditch	
1107	1107	cut	ditch	boundary / drainage
1108	1107	fill	ditch	disuse
1109	1110	fill	ditch	disuse
1110	1110	cut	ditch	boundary
1111	1113	fill	ditch	disuse
1112	1113	fill	ditch	disuse

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1113	1113	cut	ditch	boundary
1114	1107	fill	ditch	disuse
1115	1109	fill	ditch	
1116	1113	fill	ditch	
1117	1113	fill	ditch	disuse
1118	1120	fill	ditch	disuse
1119	1120	fill	ditch	disuse
1120	1120	cut	ditch	boundary
1121	1122	fill	ditch	
1122	1122	cut	ditch	
1123	1124	fill	ditch	
1124	1124	cut	ditch	enclosure
1125	1126	fill	pit	
1126	1126	cut	pit	
1127	1128	fill	ditch	disuse
1128	1128	cut	ditch	boundary
1129	1130	fill	pit	
1130	1130	cut	pit	
1131	1132	fill	pit	disuse
1132	1132	cut	pit	
1133	1134	fill	ditch	disuse
1134	1134	cut	ditch	boundary / drainage
1135	1136	fill	ditch	disuse
1136	1136	cut	ditch	drainage
1137	1138	fill	pit	disuse
1138	1138	cut	pit	
1139	1140	fill	ditch	disuse
1140	1140	cut	ditch	boundary
1141	1142	fill	gully	disuse
1142	1142	cut	gully	structure
1143	1144	fill	pit / posthole	disuse
1144	1144	cut	pit / posthole	structure`
1145	1146	fill	ditch	disuse
1146	1146	cut	ditch	boundary / drainage
1147	1148	fill	pit / posthole`	disuse

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1148	1148	cut	pit / posthole	structure
1149	1149	cut	pit	drainage / posthole
1150	1149	fill	pit	drainage / posthole
1151	1152	fill	ditch	disuse
1152	1152	cut	ditch	boundary / drainage
1153	1148	fill	pit / posthole	post packing
1154	1155	fill	ditch	disuse
1155	1155	cut	ditch	boundary
1156	1157	fill	ditch	disuse
1157	1157	cut	ditch	boundary
1158	1159	fill	pit / posthole	
1159	1159	cut	pit / posthole	
1160	1161	fill	ditch	boundary
1161	1161	cut	ditch	boundary
1162	1162	cut	pit	structure
1163	1162	fill	pit	disuse
1164	1162	fill	pit	disuse
1165	1165	cut	pit	structural
1166	1165	fill	pit	disuse
1167	1168	fill	ditch	disuse
1168	1168	cut	ditch	boundary
1169	1170	fill	ditch	disuse
1170	1170	cut	ditch	boundary
1171	1173	fill	ditch	disuse
1172	1173	fill	ditch	disuse
1173	1173	cut	ditch	boundary
1174	1175	fill	ditch	
1175	1175	cut	ditch	boundary
1176	1177	fill	posthole	
1177	1177	cut	posthole	
1178	1179	fill	pit / posthole	
1179	1179	cut	pit / posthole	
1180	1181	fill	ditch	water darainage

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1181	1181	cut	ditch	drainage
1182	1183	fill	pit / waterhole	disuse
1183	1183	cut	pit	waterhole
1184	11840	fill	pit / posthole	disuse
1185	1185	cut	pit / posthole	structure
1186	1188	fill	ditch	disuse
1187	1188	fill	ditch	disuse
1188	1188	cut	ditch	boundary
1189	1190	fill	ditch	disuse
1190	1190	cut	ditch	boundary
1191	1192	fill	ditch	disuse
1192	1192	cut	ditch	
1193	1215	fill	pit	rubbish
1194	1195	fill	pit	
1195	1195	cut	pit	
1196	1198	fill	ditch	
1197	1198	fill	ditch	
1198	1198	cut	ditch	
1199	1200	fill	ditch	
1200	120	cut	ditch	
1201	1202	fill	posthole	structural
1202	1202	cut	posthole	structural
1203	1203	cut	ditch	boundary
1204	1203	fill	ditch	disuse / slump
1205	1203	fill	ditch	disuse
1206	1206	cut	posthole	structure / building
1207	1206	fill	posthole	structural
1208	1209	fill	ditch	disuse
1209	1209	cut	ditch	
1210	1211	fill	ditch	disuse
1211	1211	cut	ditch	boundary
1212	1213	fill	ditch	disuse
1213	1213	cut	ditch	boundary
1214	1215	fill	pit	drubbish disposal

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1215	1215	cut	pit	rubbish disposal
1216	1218	fill	pit	rubbish disposal
1217	1218	fill	pit	slumping
1218	1218	cut	pit	rubbish disposal
1219	1221	fill	pit	slumping
1220	1221	fill	pit	rubbish disposal
1221	1221	cut	pit	rubbish disposal
1222	1225	fd	ditch	rubbish disposal
1223	1225	fill	ditch	rubbish disposal
1224	1225	fill	ditch	slumping
1225	1225	cut	ditch	
1226	1227	fill	posthole	disuse
1227	1227	cut	posthole	structure
1228		layer		spoil
1229	0	layer		topsoil
1230	1232	fill	ditch	
1231	1232	fill	ditch	
1232	1232	cut	ditch	
1233	1233	cut	stake hole	
1234	1233	fill	stake hole	
1235	1235	cut	ditch	boundary
1236	1235	fill	ditch	disuse
1237	1237	cut	pit	structural
1238	1239	fill	pit	disuse
1239	1239	cut	slot	
1240	1239	fill	slot	disuse
1241	1241	cut	pit	structural
1242	1241	fill	pit	disuse
1243	1244	fill	gully	disuse / rubbish
1244	1244	cut	gully	
1245	1246	fill	ditch	disuse
1246	1246	cut	ditch	drainage / boundary
1247	1249	fill	ditch	disuse

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1248	1249	fill	ditch	disuse
1249	1249	cut	ditch	drainage / boundary
1250	1256	fill	ditch	disuse
1251	1256	fill	ditch	dump
1252	1256	fill	ditch	dump
1253	1256	fill	ditch	disuse / slump
1254	1256	fill	ditch	dump
1255	1256	fill	ditch	disuse
1256	1256	cut	ditch	boundary / drainage
1257	0	master	gully	roundhouse
1258	1259	fill	pit	disuse
1259	1259	cut	pit	
1260	1263	fill	pit	rubbish disposal
1261	1263	fill	pit	rubbish disposal
1262	1263	fill	pit	slumping
1263	1263	cut	pit	rubbish disposal
1264	1265	fill	ditch	disuse
1265	1265	cut	ditch	bpoundary / enclosure
1266	1267	fill	ditch	disuse
1267	1267	cut	ditch	boundary / enclosure
1268	1269	fill	ditch	disuse
1269	1269	cut	ditch	boundary
1270	1271	fill	gully	disuse / rubbish
1271	1271	cut	grave	
1272	1273	fill	gully	disuse
1273	1273	cut	gully	round house
1274	1275	fill	Gully	disuse
1275	1275	cut	grave	roundhouse
1276	1277	fill	gully	disuse
1277	1277	cut	gully	roundhouse
1278	1278	fill	gully	disuse
1279	1279	cut	gully	roundhouse
1280	1281	fill	gully	disuse

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1281	1281	cut	gully	roundhouse
1282	1283	fill	gully	disuse
1283	1283	cut	gully	roundhouse
1284	1285	fill	gully	disuse
1285	1285	cut	gully	roundhouse
1286	1287	fill	gully	disuse
1287	1287	cut	gully	roundhouse
1288	1289	fill	gully	disuse
1289	1289	cut	gully	roundhouse
1290	1291	fill	posthole	disuse
1291	1291	cut	posthole	structure, enclosure
1292	1293	fill	pit / gully	disuse
1293	1293	cut	pit / gully	unknown
1294	1295	fill	ditch	disuse
1295	1295	cut	ditch	drainage
1296	1297	fill	pit	disuse
1297	1297	cut	pit	
1298	1299	fill	gully	disuse
1299	1299	cut	gully	drainage
1300	1301	fill	gully	disuse
1301	1301	cut	gully	drainage
1302	1303	fill	ditch	
1303	1303	cut	ditch	
1304	1305	fill	ditch	
1305	1305	cut	ditch	enclosure
1306	1307	fill	posthole	disuse
1307	1307	cut	posthole	structure
1308	1309	fill	posthole	disuse
1309	1309	cut	posthole	structure
1310	1311	fill	posthole	disuse
1311	1311	cut	posthole	structure
1312	1313	fill	ditch	disuse
1313	1313	cut	ditch	
1314	1316	fill	posthole	disuse
1315	1316	fill	posthole	packing material
1316	1316	cut	posthole	structural
1317	1318	cut	channel	disuse

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1318	1318	cut	channel	
1319	1320	fill	pit	disuse / dump
1320	1320	cut	pit	dump
1321	1322	fill	pit / posthole	disuse
1322	1322	cut	pit / posthole	
1323	1324	fill	pit	disuse
1324	1324	cut	pit	unknown
1325	1326	fill	pit	rubbish dumping / use
1326	1326	cut	pit	rubbish disposal
1327	1328	fill	gully	disuse / rubbish disposal
1328	1328	cut	gully	
1329	1326	fill	pit	rubbish / use
1332	1332	cut	pit	structural
1333	1332	fill	pit	disuse
1334	1334	cut	pit	structural
1335	1334	fill	pit	disuse
1336	1336	cut	pit	posthole
1337	1336	fill	pit	disuse
1338	1338	cut	pit	posthole
1339	1338	fill	pit	disuse
1340	1341	fill	gully	rubbish disposal / disuse
1341	1341	cut	gully	
1342	1343	fill	ditch	
1343	1343	cut	ditch	
1344	1345	fill	ditch	disuse
1345	1345	cut	ditch	drainage / structural
1346	1349	fill	ditch	disuse
1347	1349	fill	ditch	dump / backfill
1348	1349	fill	ditch	disuse
1349	1349	cut	ditch	drainage / boundary

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1350	1352	fill	ditch	disuse
1351	1352	fill	ditch	disuse
1352	1352	cut	ditch	drainage / boundary
1353	1356	fill	ditch	drainage
1354	1356	fill	ditch	drainage / boundary
1355	1356	fill	ditch	drainage
1356	1356	cut	ditch	drainage
1357	1358	fill	ditch	
1358	1358	cut	ditch	
1359	1360	fill	ditch	disuse
1360	1360	cut	gully	structural
1361	1362	fill	ditch	disuse
1362	1362	cd	ditch	
1363	1364	fill	ditch	disuse
1364	1364	cut	ditch	
1365	1367	fill	ditch	disuse
1366	1367	fill	ditch	disuse
1367	1367	cut	ditch	boundary / enclosure
1368	1368	cut	pit	posthole
1369	1368	fill	pit	disuse
1370	1370	cut	pit	posthole
1371	1370	fill	pit	disuse
1372	1372	cut	pit	posthole
1373	1372	fill	pit	disuse
1374	1374	cut	pit	posthole
1375	1374	fill	pit	disuse
1376	1377	fill	ditch	disuse
1377	1377	cut	ditch	boundary
1378	1381	fill	pit	disuse
1379	1381	fill	pit	disuse
1380	1381	fill	pit	disuse
1381	1381	cut	pit	waterhole
1382	1381	fill	pit	disuse
1383	1383	cut	pit / terminus	structural / agricultural
1384	1393	fill	pit/terminal	disuse
1385	1383	fill	pit / ditch	disuse

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type	Function
1386	1386	cut	ditch	boundary
1387	1392	fill	ditch	disuse
1388	1392	fill	ditch	disuse
1389	1386	fill	ditch	disuse / slump
1390	1386	fill	ditch	disuse
1391	1386	fill	ditch	disuse
1392	1393	fill	ditch	disuse
1393	1393	cut	ditch	boundary
1394	1395	fill	ditch	boundary
1395	1395	cut	ditch	boundary
1396	1397	fill	ditch	disuse
1397	1397	cut	ditch	structural
1398	1399	fill	ditch	disuse
1399	1399	cut	ditch	structure
1400	1401	fill	pit	disuse
1401	1401	cut	pit	posthole
1402	1403	fill	ditch	disuse
1403	1403	cut	ditch	boundary
1466	1466	cut	ditch	boundary

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 The metalwork

By Nina Crummy

Introduction

B.1.1 The metalwork assemblage consists of seven copper-alloy objects, including two coins and three brooches, four iron nails and 13 iron hobnails. Three copper-alloy brooches and a military *armilla* date to the 1st century AD and may all belong to its middle decades, one coin dates to the 2nd century and the other to the late 3rd or 4th century. Both coins are too worn to be legible but the earlier is probably an *as* of Hadrian (AD 117-38).

B.1.2 Of the three brooches one is a Colchester brooch, a regional pre-conquest form that was the most common brooch type among the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes under Cunobelin in the first part of the 1st century AD. Those in use at the conquest would have been discarded by *c.* AD 50 (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 308-10; Stead & Rigby 1986, 112; 1989, 17, 89-91). The remaining two are post-conquest imports. One is an unusual lozenge-shaped plate brooch with an extended foot that would have had an applied plate held in position by solder and a central stud. It can be dated to the Claudian to early Neronian period by its links to other brooches with applied plates and a central stud, particularly hinged Keyhole Rosette brooches (Crummy *et al.* 2007, 258, 317-18, fig. 129, CF72.5). The other is a Nauheim derivative brooch, a Claudian-early Flavian type that arrived in Britain in AD 43 with the army of conquest but seems to have been used by soldiers and civilians alike until c. AD 80/5 (Stead & Rigby 1986, 109, nos 23-44; Bayley & Butcher 2004, 53-6).

B.1.3 The remaining two objects are fragments of an unidentified tapering strip, and part of an *armilla*, a military award given to low-ranking Roman soldiers for valour in battle. Awarded in pairs, these armlets under the Republic and early Empire were made from precious metal, but their true value lay in the enhanced status that they gave to the wearers and the number of copper-alloy examples found across the eastern region demonstrates that by the Claudian period they were issued in tinned and untinned copper alloy instead. There are no continental parallels for the design of the British penannular *armillae,* suggesting that they were specifically made for issue during the conquest period. Their association with military equipment and early coins not only in military establishments but also in towns, sanctuaries and rural sites points to the saturation of the area by the Roman military and settled veterans over the Claudian-Neronian period and also suggests that they were among the spoils of conflict during events such as the Boudican revolt (Crummy 2005, 98-101). Examples from Cambridgeshire come from Stonea Camp, Haddon, the Bob's Wood site at Hinchingbrooke near Huntingdon and the Love's Farm site near St Neots (Johns 1996, 338, fig. 107, 15; Crummy 2003, fig. 43, 141; Crummy in Hinman forthcoming a and b).

B.1.4 The iron objects consist of four nail fragments and thirteen hobnails from a composite leather shoe or boot sole. None can be closely dated.

Catalogue

Number	Context	Description
Coins		
SF 17		Illegible copper-alloy *as*; ?Hadrian, rev. Salus feeding snake rising from altar. Diameter 24 mm, weight 6.54 g.
SF 20.		Illegible copper-alloy coin fragment. Late 3rd-4th century. Diameter 15.5 mm, weight 0.73 g.
Other metalwork		
SF 19.		Copper-alloy Colchester brooch, missing the pin and catchplate. The bow is plain, with a round to an angular D-shaped section. The spring has six coils. Length 67 mm.
SF 1	406	Copper-alloy Nauheim derivative brooch, missing the pin and part of the catchplate. The bow is flat, with an incised zigzag line down the centre; the lower part is bent to one side. A large hole has been cut in the centre of the top of the bow, causing the remaining metal to crack. The edge is rough but its central position is clearly deliberate. It may have been an attempt to cut a hole for a chain to link the brooch to a second one, as on brooches with head loops or pierced catchplates (Johns 1996b, 149, fig. 7.7). Length 32 mm.
SF 25.	1431	The main section of a copper-alloy lozenge-shaped plate brooch with extended foot. The catchplate is damaged and most of the pin is missing. The stump of the pin is hinged between two lugs. The surface of the lozenge-shaped section is coated with traces of the solder that would have attached a repoussé-decorated applied plate and the stump of a stud reinforcing the join remains fixed in the centre. Length 41 mm, width 29 mm.
SF 26.	1429	Fragment of a Group A copper-alloy *armilla*, with two lines of cabling (Crummy 2005, 96). Length 32 mm, width 19.5 mm.
SF 21	1193	Two tapering copper-alloy strip fragments. a) D-shaped section; length 17 mm, width 2-3.5 mm. b) Flat section; length 12 mm, width 2-4 mm
SF 22	1201	Thirteen iron hobnails, average length of complete examples 17 mm
SF 16	1067	Iron nail shank fragment. Length 31 mm.
SF 28	1193	Iron nail with round flat head, tip of shank missing. Length 21 mm
SF 27	1270	Iron nail shank fragment. Length 26 mm
SF 29	1396	Iron nail shank fragment. Length 49 mm.

B.2 The Iron Age Pottery

By Dan Stansbie

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 A total of 382 sherds of Iron Age pottery, weighing 4.422Kg, was recovered from 37 contexts during the course of the excavation. All of the material was rapidly scanned to determine context-group dates and to assess its character. Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. A note was made of the pottery using the Oxford Archaeology later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth 2007).

Condition

B.2.2 The condition of the pottery is varied. Some large well-preserved sherds are present, along with a small number of very abraded sherds, however, with an average sherd weight of 11.6 g the overall level of preservation is moderate. The pottery is generally well fired and surfaces are therefore well preserved.

Fabric and Form

B.2.3 The assemblage is dominated by sandy fabrics, generally with dark brown to black surfaces and inclusions of fine/moderate sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz sand. The quartz sand is frequently supplemented with other inclusions including, most commonly, moderate sized fragments of limestone, but also organic (chaff) inclusions and silver mica.

B.2.4 Some sherds also contained fine/moderate fossil shell. These fabrics include the following: A2 fine/moderate quartz sand, AL2 and AL3 fine/moderate and moderate quartz sand and limestone, AS2 fine/moderate quartz sand and shell, AM2 fine/moderate quartz sand and mica, AV2 fine/moderate quartz sand and organic inclusions and AV3 moderate quartz sand and organic inclusions. Other fabrics present in minor amounts include a fabric with moderate fossil shell (S3), three fabrics with calcareous grits, one of which also contains organic inclusions and one of which has some red ironstone (C3, CV3 and CU2), two fabrics with quartz sand and calcareous grits (AC2 and AC3), a fabric with fine/moderate glauconitic sand (B3) and a fabric with fine/moderate quartz sand, sandstone and organic inclusions (ARV3). Some body sherds in the sandy fabrics are decorated with scoring. Vessels in these fabrics include a jar/bowl with finger tip impressions on top of the rim in fabric AL2, a slack-shouldered jar in fabric AV3, a slack-shouldered jar in fabric A2 and a jar/bowl in fabric CU2. Also present is some Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware (E80), including a high-shouldered jar/bowl.

Dating

B.2.5 The majority of the assemblage is made in a middle Iron Age tradition, diagnostic features of which are hand-made pottery, slack-shouldered vessels and scored decoration. The presence of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery from the same contexts as the middle Iron Age tradition material can be taken to suggest a late middle Iron Age date for this material and possibly a Late Iron Age date for the assemblage as a whole. Hill has argued that wheel-turned pottery did not come into use in northern East Anglia until 10-1 BC (Hill 2002, 158) and even after this date assemblages would likely still have contained large quantities of hand-made material, so this assemblage could date as late as the late 1st century BC or the early 1st century AD.

Catalogue of the Iron Age pottery

Context	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
106	4	19	AV2 fine/moderate sand and organic fabric, AL2 fine/moderate quartz sand and limestone fabric	EIA-MIA
203	6	29	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
217	6	27	AL2 fine/moderate sand and limestone (1 x jar/bowl rim with finger impressions on top	MIA
302	4	10	AS2 fine/moderate sandy shelly fabric, AL2 fine/moderate sand/limestone fabric	EIA-MIA
304	9	23	AL2 fine/moderate sandy/limestone fabric (1x base sherd)	EIA-MIA
410	2	6	AL3 moderate limestone fabric	EIA-MIA
1002	2	33	AV3 moderate rounded quartz sand and organics	EIA-MIA
1003	3	33	S3 moderate shelly fabric	EIA-MIA
1009	3	70	E80 grog-tempered fabric (1 x base sherd with deep vertical scoring), AV3 moderate sandy fabric with some organics	LMIA
1019	3	8	S3 moderate shelly fabric, A3 moderate sub-rounded quartz sand	EIA-MIA
1038	1	5	A2 fine/moderate sub-rounded angular quartz sand	EIA-MIA
1046	1	52	AM2 fine/moderate sub-angular quartz sand and silver mica (1x jar/bowl base with horizontal incisions on the exterior)	MIA
1052	3	30	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
1059	1	7	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
1074	2	17	S3 moderate shelly fabric, B2 fine/moderate glauconitic sand	EIA-MIA
1111	1	19	AM2 fine/moderate sand with silver mica	EIA-MIA
1160	5	27	AS2 moderate/finesub-angular quartz and fine shell (1x angular shoulder sherd), AVM3 moderate sub-angular/rounded quartz, chaff and silver mica	MIA
1163	231	2486	AV3 sub-angular quartz sand and organics (1x slack-sided jar)	EIA-MIA
1164	17	276	C3 moderate calcareous grit, CV3 moderate calcareous grit/organic inclusions	MIA
1166	1	13	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
1169	1	18	AC3 moderate sub-rounded quartz, calcareous inclusions	EIA-MIA
1191	1	5	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	EIA-MIA
1204	1	20	A2 fine/moderate quartz sand	EIA-MIA
1210	12	52	A2 fine/moderate quartz sand fabric	EIA-MIA
1250	9	96	E80 grog and sand -tempered ware (1 x high-shouldered jar/bowl), AL2 fine/moderate quartz and limestone-tempered fabric (1x body sherd with incised	LIA

Context	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot Date
			parallel lines)	
1251	18	537	AL3 moderate sand and limestone fabric, AS2 fine/moderate sand and shell fabric, A1 fine sandy fabric (1x jar/bowl base with residue internally, A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric (1 x slack-shouldered jar 1 x base sherd) incised vertical and horizontal lines on ost of body sherds	L?MIA
1252	12	92	A2 fine/moderate quartz sand fabric	EIA-MIA
1327	1	7	A2 fine/moderate quartz sand	EIA-MIA
1335	4	18	CU2 fine/moderate calcareous grits and red ironstone (1 x jar/bowl rim), AS2 fine/moderate quartz sand/shell	EIA-MIA
1347	4	33	AM2 fine/moderate sub-angular quartz sand and siver mica	EIA-MIA
1353	2	208	A3 moderate sub-rounded quartz (large body sherds with scored decoration)	MIA
1385	5	67	A2 fine/moderate sub-angular quartz sand	MIA
1391	1	8	ARV2 fine/moderate quartz sand, sand stone and organics	EIA-MIA
1432	1	11	AM2 fine/moderate sub-rounded quartz sand with some silver mica	EIA-MIA
1436	2	47	A3 moderate sub-rounded quartz	EIA-MIA
1441	1	6	AC2 fine/moderate quartz sand and calcareous inclusions	EIA-MIA
1462	2	7	A2 fine/moderate quartz sand	EIA-MIA

B.3 The Late pre-Roman Iron Age, Early Roman and Romano-British pottery

By Stephen Wadeson with contributions by Alice Lyons

Introduction and methodology

B.3.1 A relatively large assemblage of Late pre Roman Iron Age, Early Roman and Romano-British pottery totalling 2691 sherds, weighing 32.698kg, with an Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) of *c*.24 vessels was recovered. Largely Early Roman in date (Table 1) the assemblage was recovered from 131 stratified deposits. The majority of the material was recovered from ditches (*c*.68%) associated with the remains of Roman field systems; a further *c*.17% of pottery was recovered from pits.

B.3.2 The nature of the assemblage suggests continuous occupation in the vicinity of the site throughout the 1st centuries BC to AD with activity continuing through to the late 4th/early 5th centuries AD. Analysis of vessel forms present indicates a domestic coarse ware assemblage with few high status products, typical of the type recovered from low order settlements within this region (Evans 2003, 105). The majority of the assemblage consists of locally-produced utilitarian, sandy coarse wares utilizing the locally available clay resources. Specialist and traded wares are present within the assemblage however only in relatively small amounts.

B.3.3 Most of the assemblage is fragmentary and significantly abraded and has an average sherd weight of only c.12g suggesting that the majority of the sherds were not found within a context of primary deposition. Many of the sherds do not retain their original surfaces and the poor condition of the pottery can be attributed not only to the natural action of the local clay soils but also from post-depositional processes.

Ceramic Period	Quantity	% Quantity	Weight (g)	% Weight	EVE	MSW (g)
LPRIA	67	2.49	1228	3.76	0.40	18.3
Early Roman	2236	83.09	25672	78.51	21.17	11.5
Romano-British	388	14.42	5798	17.73	2.29	14.9
Total	**2691**	**100.00**	**32698**	**100.00**	**23.86**	

Table 1: Quantity and weight by ceramic period (MSW = Mean sherd weight)

Methodology

B.3.4 The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW); vessel form was also recorded. The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

Quantification

B.3.5 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 for each individual sherd and context.

The Assemblage

The Late Pre-Roman Iron Age Pottery

B.3.6 A total of 67 sherds of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery (LPRIA), weighing 1.228Kg with an Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) of 0.40 were identified during analysis. Recovered primarily from ditches pottery from this period represents 3.8% of the total assemblage by weight. Six main fabrics were identified (Table 2).

B.3.7 Initially produced using Iron Age fabrics and technologies (hand made/bonfired pottery) the LPRIA pottery can be distinguished from earlier Iron Age vessels by the adoption of more Romanised forms (such as the wide mouthed carinated jar). Alongside the introduction of new pottery fabrics such as grog-tempered wares new technologies in the form of the fast potters wheel and the semi-permanent kiln also became more widespread (Lyons and Percival 2004).

B.3.8 The majority of the vessels recovered are grog-tempered wares (Table 2) accounting for *c.* 84% by weight of the LPRIA assemblage. Vessel types identified consist of a small number of utilitarian coarse ware jars, these vessels are rarely sooted and occasionally decorated with combed surfaces. The pottery is moderately abraded with an average sherd weight *c.*18g, the weight relatively high due to the inclusion of several large body sherds from storage jars. The majority of the pottery was recovered as a residual element within Early Roman features, mainly ditches.

B.3.9 In addition three hand-made sherds (*c.*5% by weight), produced in a fine sand-tempered reduced ware were also recovered. This is a distinctly transitional fabric and is a darker, coarser (often thicker) predecessor of the more Romanised Sandy reduced ware typical of the Early Roman period onwards.

B.3.10 Within the assemblage two examples of vessels modified post-firing were identified, in each case a single hole is present. Context 1172 (SF36) produced a single sherd with a 3-5mm hole drilled through the lower vessel wall just above the base while a second sherd, also containing a 3-5mm hole drilled through the vessel wall was recovered from context 1205.

B.3.11 Perforated vessels are found in most Roman assemblages and are associated with secondary usage. Where multiple holes are present in side walls and base these vessels are often associated with the manufacturing of cheese suggesting their use as strainers. The pierced vessels in this assemblage however do not present multiple holes and in this instance it is unclear what this secondary use of the vessel was.

Fabric Name	Fabric Code	Vessel Forms	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (g)	Weight (%)	EVE
Grey ware (grog)	GW (g)		9	76	6.19	0.00
Grey ware (grog) (oxidised surfaces)	GW (g) (o)	Storage Jar	5	200	16.29	0.00
Reduced ware	RW	Narrow mouthed Jar	10	132	10.75	0.08
Reduced ware (grog)	RW (g)		1	47	3.83	0.00
Reduced ware (grog) (oxidised surfaces)	RW (g) (o)	Storage Jar	39	708	57.65	0.32
Sandy reduced ware (fine) (HM)	SRW (fine)	Wide mouthed Jar	3	65	5.29	0.00
Total			**67**	**1228**	**100.00**	**0.40**

Table 2: Late Pre Roman Iron Age pottery fabrics and forms

The Early Roman Pottery

B.3.12 A relatively large assemblage of Early Roman pottery (mid 1st to early/mid 2nd century AD) 2236 sherds, weighing 25.672Kg and representing 21.17 EVE was recovered from stratified deposits. Pottery from this period represents *c.*78% by weight of the total assemblage and is significantly abraded with an average sherd weight of only *c.*11g. As a result little evidence of surface finishes or residues survive. A total of 32 main fabrics was identified (Table 3).

B.3.13 The majority of the assemblage (*c.*50% by weight) consists of unsourced, but locally produced, sandy reduced ware sherds (Table 3). The assemblage is heavily fragmented and the majority of the sherds undiagnostic, where specific types could be assigned the majority of sherds belong to wide mouthed jars including several examples of La Tene style carinated jars (Thompson 1982). In addition, a small number of bowls and straight sided dishes were also identified.

B.3.14 This fabric is frequently decorated with linear combing while a substantial number of sherds are sooted indicating they were used over an open flame as cooking pots.

B.3.15 The second most common of the fabrics recovered is Sandy grey wares which account for *c.*29% of the total Roman assemblage. The earliest grey wares can be referred to as 'proto' sandy grey wares (*c.*22%) due to the variable consistency and colour of the fabrics produced at the time. This was the result of poor clay preparation and firing technology during the 1st and early 2nd century before the use of both the fast wheel and the semi-permanent kiln became widespread (Swan 1984).

B.3.16 The Early Roman period was the first era in which fully-Romanised Sandy grey wares were manufactured. These sherds form only a minor element within this assemblage (*c.*7%). Soot residues are rare on all sandy grey wares suggesting that most of these vessels were rarely used for cooking, more for the small scale storage and the consumption of food and drink.

B.3.17 In addition, a small yet significant assemblage of sandy coarse wares (*c.*6% by weight) was recovered. Used to produce low quality utilitarian vessels throughout the Roman period, few forms were identified within the assemblage; identified forms were limited to jars, specifically storage jars.

B.3.18 Sandy oxidised wares, most likely manufactured at a range of local centres, similar to the sandy grey ware fabrics, were found in relatively low numbers (*c*.2%). Forms identified were limited to flagons, bowls, jars and mortarium making up a small part of the assemblage. The majority of the material, however, was too small and abraded to assign to specific vessel types. In addition, 34 sherds (*c*.1.5%) of a gritty oxidised ware were present within the assemblage. This ware is visually identical to 1st and early 2nd century Verulamium white ware (Tyers 1999, 199-201), but is known to have been produced into the 2nd and 3rd centuries in the Northampton region and at Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire (Lyons 2008). Flagons were the only form identified in this fabric and include a single rim sherd from a Hofheim type flagon (1.5).

B.3.19 Shell tempered wares are rare within the assemblage with only 20 sherds identified (*c*.2% by weight). It is worth noting that the use of sand to temper the clay used for pottery production appears to have been a deliberate cultural choice, making the people in and around Ely distinct from the shell temper users in the west of the region (Percival in prep).

B.3.20 A small quantity of fine ware material (2.7% by weight) was recovered consisting primarily of Gaulish Samian (*c*.2.4%). These early fine wares consist of undecorated South Gaulish samian from La Graufesenque (Tomber and Dore 1998, 28) and Central Gaulish samian from Lezoux (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32). Within the assemblage are several stamped vessels including the stamped base from a Drag. 18/31dish recovered from two separate deposits. The largest sherd, SF35, contains the partial stamp SENIL[ ] which when joined with SF32, stamped [ ]A.F can be associated with the Antonine potter Senila of Lezsoux. This vessel had also been repaired in antiquity using resin, the remains of which can still be seen adhering to the break of the two sherds.

B.3.21 A second stamped vessel identified as the base of a Drag. 33 cup contains a partial stamp reading DOCC[ ] which can be associated with the Lezoux potters Doccalus, AD135-160 or Doccius ii, AD160-200. The base of this vessel has been modified in antiquity indicating a secondary function either as a gaming counter or vessel lid.

B.3.22 In addition, three sherds from a Cologne colour coated beaker (Tyers 1996, 146-48) and a single undiagnostic body sherd of South-east England glazed ware (Tyers 1996, 178-9) were identified within the assemblage.

B.3.23 Continental imports also include a small quantity of sherds (*c*.0.7%) from a Dressel 20 amphorae (Tomber and Dore 1998, 84). Amphorae is generally poorly represented in low order settlements in East Anglia and its presence here may reflect the closeness of the site to Ermine Street (Lyons 2008).

Fabric Name	Fabric Code	Vessel Forms	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (g)	Weight (%)	EVE
Amphorae	AMP	Dressel 20	2	178	0.69	0.00
Black surfaced red ware	BSRW	Narrow mouthed Jar, Bowl	183	721	2.81	0.57
Central Gaulish Samian	CG SAM	Drag 18/31, Drag 18/31R, Drag 27, Drag 33, Curle 15	20	596	2.32	0.65
Colchester colour coat	COL CC	Roughcast beaker	3	7	0.03	0.00
Grey ware (fine)	GW (fine)	Bowl/Dish	19	58	0.23	0.10

Fabric Name	Fabric Code	Vessel Forms	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (g)	Weight (%)	EVE
(London type ware)						
Cologne colour coat ware	KOL CC	Beaker	3	7	0.03	0.00
Sandy coarse ware	SCW	Storage Jars, Cordoned Jar, Bowl	75	1609	6.27	0.17
Sandy coarse ware (flint)	SCW (f)	Storage Jar	13	682	2.66	0.00
Sandy coarse ware (fine)	SCW (fine)		13	76	0.30	0.00
Sandy coarse ware (grog)	SCW (g)	Storage Jars	4	241	0.94	0.06
South Gaulish Samian	SG SAM	Drag 27, Drag 36,	17	18	0.07	0.22
Sandy grey ware	SGW	Narrow mouthed Jar, Wide mouthed Jars, Storage Jar, Platter, Bowls, Beakers	91	1382	5.38	3.85
Sandy grey ware (cal) (flint)	SGW (cal) (f)	Jar	1	30	0.12	0.07
Sandy grey ware (flint)	SGW (f)	Narrow mouthed Jar	1	64	0.25	0.10
Sandy grey ware (fine)	SGW (fine)	Jar, Narrow mouthed Jar, Beakers, Dish	25	232	0.90	0.14
Sandy grey ware (mica)	SGW (mica)	Platter	1	27	0.11	0.08
Sandy grey ware (proto)	SGW (proto)	Narrow mouthed Jars, Medium mouthed Jars, Wide mouthed Jars, Storage Jars, Bowls, Platter, Beakers	397	4845	18.87	4.37
Sandy grey ware (proto) (cal)	SGW (proto) (cal)		2	54	0.21	0.00
Sandy grey ware (proto) (flint)	SGW (proto) (f)	Jars, Jar/Bowl	34	611	2.38	0.00
Sandy grey ware (proto) (grog)	SGW (proto) (g)	Jars	15	231	0.90	0.00
south-east England glazed ware	SEE GW		1	6	0.02	0.00
Sandy oxidised ware	SOW	Flagons, Bowls, Jars, Mortarium	78	427	1.66	0.06
Sandy oxidised ware (cal)	SOW (cal)		4	36	0.14	0.00

Fabric Name	Fabric Code	Vessel Forms	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (g)	Weight (%)	EVE
Sandy oxidised ware (fine)	SOW (fine)		2	4	0.02	0.00
Sandy oxidised ware (gritty)	SOW (gritty)	Medium mouthed Jar	6	85	0.33	0.15
Sandy oxidised ware (grog)	SOW (g)		2	23	0.09	0.00
Sandy reduced ware	SRW	Narrow mouthed Jars, Medium mouthed Jars, Wide mouthed Jars, Storage Jars, Bowls, Lids, Dish, Platter	1102	9320	36.30	9.37
Sandy reduced ware (flint)	SRW (f)	Jar	13	2055	8.00	0.10
Sandy reduced ware (fine)	SRW (fine)	Dish/cup, Dish, Cordoned jar, Medium mouthed Jar, Wide mouthed jars	37	667	2.60	0.96
Sandy reduced ware (grog)	SRW (g)	Jar	18	535	2.08	0.00
Shell-tempered ware	STW		20	486	1.89	0.00
Gritty oxidised ware	Ow (gritty)	Flagons	34	359	1.40	0.15
Total			**2236**	**25672**	**100.00**	**21.17**

Table 3: The Early Roman pottery fabrics and forms

The Romano-British Pottery

B.3.24 A total of 388 sherds, weighing 5.798Kg, with an EVE of 2.29 of Romano-British pottery (late 1st to late 4th/early 5th century AD) was recovered from site. Pottery from this period represents 17.7% by weight of the total assemblage with 14 separate fabrics identified (Table 4).

B.3.25 The majority of the assemblage is utilitarian in nature with locally-produced domestic coarse wares, predominantly sandy grey wares (*c*.70% by weight), forming the majority of the assemblage. Most of the sherds are undiagnostic, however where sherds can be identified vessels primarily comprise narrow mouthed and medium mouthed jars. Other vessel types include a plain rimmed bowl (6.19.1) and the handle from either a jug or flagon. Soot residues have not survived well on the surface of these sherds and are present in only a few instances. Decoration is common with simple single or multiple horizontal grooves most frequently used.

B.3.26 In addition a small number of other fabrics were identified including ten amphorae sherds accounting for *c*.13% of the assemblage. A small amount of this material could not be assigned to source however the majority of the sherds belong to the globular olive oil, Dressel 20 type produced in Baetica, Southern Spain. A further 25 sherds were of a Horningsea type ware (*c*.10% by weight), utilitarian vessels produced throughout this period. Forms identified were limited to jars, specifically storage jars. Shell-

tempered wares are rare within the assemblage with only twelve sherds identified (*c.*1%by weight).

B.3.27 A small quantity of fine ware material was recovered accounting for *c.*4% of the Romano-British assemblage. The majority of these sherds are Nene Valley colour coat wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118) produced between the mid-2nd century AD and the later Roman period (Tyers 1996, 173-175). In addition several sherds of Hadham (Hertfordshire) red wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151) and a single sherd of Oxfordshire red colour coat ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176) were also identified within the assemblage.

FabricName	Fabric Code	Vessel Forms	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (g)	Weight (%)	EVE
Amphorae	AMP	Dressel 20	10	734	12.66	0.00
Hadham red ware	HAD RW	Flanged Bowl, Jar/Flagon	5	106	1.83	0.06
Horningsea oxidized ware	HORN (o)	Storage Jar	1	17	0.29	0.00
Horningsea type	HORN (type)	Storage Jar	25	613	10.57	0.20
Miscellaneous	MISC		1	1	0.02	0.00
Nene Valley colour coat	NVCC	Beaker, Hunt Cup, Lid	12	62	1.07	0.00
Oxfordshire red colour coat	OXRCC		1	3	0.05	0.00
Oxfordshire white ware	OXWW	Mortarium	1	40	0.69	0.00
Red fine ware	RED FINE WARE		1	5	0.09	0.00
Sandy grey ware	SGW	Narrow mouthed Jar, Medium mouthed Jar, Storage Jar, Flagon, Bowl	291	3467	59.80	1.83
Sandy grey ware (cal)	SGW (cal)		2	37	0.64	0.13
Sandy grey ware (flint)	SGW (f)		17	569	9.81	0.00
Sandy oxidized ware	SOW	Bowl	8	61	1.05	0.00
Sandy reduced ware	SRW	Bowl	1	23	0.40	0.07
Shell-tempered ware	STW		12	60	1.03	0.00
Total			**388**	**5798**	**100.00**	**2.29**

Table 4: The Romano-British pottery fabrics and forms

Discussion

B.3.28 This is a relatively large assemblage which although containing pottery from several sequential periods, including a number of mainly residual Late Pre-Roman Iron Age sherds, is primarily Early Roman (Mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD). Alongside the Early Roman material is a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery.

B.3.29 The assemblage consists predominantly of locally produced utilitarian coarse wares, particularly sand-tempered wares supplemented by a small range of domestic and imported fine wares. Forms and fabrics traditionally associated with specialist wares are relatively rare within the assemblage.

B.3.30 Continental imports include a small quantity of Dressel 20 amphorae and also a small amount of fine wares including samian from central and southern Gaul and colour coated wares from Cologne. The sparse use of imported wares on rural sites is typical of low order settlements in the region (Evans 2003, 105).

B.3.31 Domestic fine wares are poorly represented throughout the assemblage with the majority recovered being later Roman in date. Imported from a variety of domestic production centres they include Nene Valley colour coated wares (Cambridgeshire), Hadham red wares (Hertfordshire) and Oxfordshire red wares. In addition a single sherd of south-east England glazed ware was recovered. Roman glazed wares are not commonly found on low order settlements; its presence here may reflect the closeness of the site to local trade routes.

B.3.32 The presence of Nene Valley wares, on this and other sites in the region, is due to the proximity of the site to the production centres of the Nene Valley. This often results in the dominance of Nene Valley colour coats over other fine wares. As a result the presence of Nene Valley colour coats acts as a chronological indicator for the site rather than one of status.

Conclusion

B.3.33 The pottery is typical of the range of forms and fabrics expected within a domestic assemblage with much of the pottery being utilitarian coarse wares and therefore low status (Evans 2003, 105). The presence of a small number of high status fabrics and forms indicate that high status material was reaching the settlement during the Early Roman period.

B.3.34 The excavated assemblage, recovered from features associated with Roman field systems represents rubbish disposal and although not the focus of settlement activity would suggest there is an as yet un-located Romano-British settlement or farmstead near to the area of excavation.

Fabrics

Amphorae ***(12 sherds, weighing 912g, 0 EVE. A total of 2.78% by weight of the entire assemblage)***

Self-coloured large storage vessels used for transporting luxury goods (Tyers 1996, 87; Tomber and Dore 1998, 82-113)

Vessel types: none identified but almost certainly Dr 20.

Black surfaced red ware ***(183 sherds, weighing 721g, 0.57 EVE. A total of 2.21% by weight of the entire assemblage)***

This is a broad fabric group of local sandy grey wares that have misfired, resulting in a red fabric and black surface.

Vessel types: 2.0

Colchester colour coat ware ***(3 sherds, 7g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.02% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Matt dark grey or red slipped surfaces with a pink core through light greyish-brown to dark-grey. Fine fabric with smooth fracture but varying from soft to very hard (Tyres 1996, 167). Produced in a wide range of table wares these include roughcast decorated beakers.

Vessel types: 3.6.7

Cologne colour coat ware ***(3 sherds, 7g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.02% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Almost pure white fabric with a dark brown or black matt colour coat, containing sparse fine inclusions of colourless quartz, black and red iron and rare fine white mica (Tyers 1996, 146). Principally producing beakers this fabric is often difficult to distinguish from Nene Valley products when abraded.

Vessel types: none identified

Grey ware (fine) ***(19sherds, 58g, 0.10 EVE. A total of 0.18% by weight of the entire assemblage)***

This has a dark brownish grey fabric with a similar or darker surface; it is hard with a smooth fracture and it has a smooth to soapy feel. Sometimes referred to as 'London ware' this fabric was made at several centres including West Stow and Wattisfield in Suffolk, the Nene Valley and also London. This is a fine fabric used to make good quality vessels in the Early Roman period, some of the vessels copied samian and other Gaulish pot shapes.

Vessel types: none identified

Gritty oxidised ware ***(34 sherds, weighing 359g, 0.15 EVE. A total of 1.10% of the total assemblage by weight)***

This is a white-to-pale yellow fabric (Cameron 1996, 449) with significant amounts of quartz, giving it a gritty appearance. This ware is visually identical to 1st and early 2nd century Verulamium white ware (Tyers 1996, 199-201), but is known to have been produced into the 2nd and 3rd centuries in the Northampton region and at Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire (Martin and Wallis 2006, 3.7.1, iii and iv). This fabric went out of fashion before the end of the Roman period.

Vessel types: 1.0, 1.5

Hadham red ware ***(5 sherds, weighing 106g, 0.06 EVE. A total of 0.32% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Typically orange-brown, with quartz and sandstone inclusions, occasionally with a darker core (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151). Where intact, the external surface is burnished in narrow horizontal bands. Common in the late Roman period, its forms are similar to those of the Oxfordshire red ware industry and the combinations of decorative 'Romano-Saxon' bosses, dimples and grooves are diagnostic.

Vessel types: none identified

Horningsea oxidised ware ***(1 sherd, 17g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.05% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Usually yellow cream, often with thin red-brown sub-surface margins or occasionally as a thick core (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116). The fabric can have a 'biscuit' feel, as the abundant quartz, sparse iron and limestone with mica has a distinctive open texture. Often decorated with combed arcs. Sherds are commonly thick and are generally associated with large storage jars with a distinctive out-turned rim, though thinner-walled wide-mouthed jars were also identified.

Vessel types: none identified

Horningsea type ware ***(25 sherds, 613g, 0 .20EVE. A total of 1.87% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to Horningsea wares, surfaces are generally oxidised often with pale grey margins and a thick reduced core, although vessels with oxidised margins were recovered also. Often with combed decoration sherds are commonly thick and are generally associated with large storage jars with a distinctive out-turned rim, though thinner-walled wide-mouthed jars were also identified.

Vessel types: Misc Storage jars

Nene Valley colour-coat ***(12 sherds, weighing 62g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.19% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Pale cream-to-orange sherds with a wide range of coloured slips (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118). This assemblage contains mainly early continental-type beakers, with darker colour-coats (mainly brown and dark grey).

Vessel types: 3.0, 3.6.4, 6.2.1

Oxfordshire red ware with a red colour-coat ***(1 sherd, weighing 3g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.01% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

These are oxidized, normally red or orange with either a red/brown or a white slip, and frequently have a reduced core and pink margins (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176). The fabric contains well-sorted inclusions and is characterized by common fine, silver (sometimes gold) mica and common to abundant quartz. This fabric is particularly common in the late Roman period in the 4th and early 5th centuries.

Vessel types: none identified

Oxfordshire white ware ***(1 sherd, 40g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.12% of the total assemblage by weight).***

Its surfaces are generally cream-to-yellow, buff or white, with pale pink or orange margins (Tomber and Dore 1998, 174). It was usually used to manufacture mortaria. The fabric is quite variable, with differing amounts of quartz. Occasional iron-rich inclusions can also be present.

Vessel types: 7.8

Red fine ware (*1 sherd, weighing 5g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.02% of the total assemblage by weight*)

These are oxidized, normally red or orange and frequently have a reduced core and pink margins. The fabric contains well-sorted inclusions and is characterized by common fine, silver (sometimes gold) mica and common to abundant quartz. This material is not slipped. It may be a local copy of Samian and Oxfordshire wares, such as those produced at the Obelisk kilns at Harston in South Cambridgeshre (CHER 05074), between the 2nd and 4th centuries.

Vessel types: none identified

S*andy coarse wares** ***(75 sherds, 1609g, 0.17 EVE. A total of 4.92% of the entire assemblage by weight)

This is a loosely mixed sandy fabric that often presents as a sandwich ware with a variety of core and surface colours ranging from pale grey to dark brown. It is a poorly made fabric that represents low quality utilitarian vessel manufacture throughout the Roman period.

Vessel types: 6.18.0

S*andy coarse wares (Fine)** ***(13 sherds, 76g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.23% of the entire Roman assemblage by weight)

Similar to Sandy coarse ware but containing less quartz, resulting in a finer less gritty feel to the fabric.

Vessel types: none identified

S*andy coarse wares (Flint)** ***(13 sherds, 682g, 0 EVE. A total of 2.09% of the entire assemblage by weight)

Similar to sandy coarse ware but containing sparse amounts of very coarse flint (up to 4mm)

Vessel types: none identified

S*andy coarse wares (Grog)** ***(4 sherds, 241g, 0.06 EVE. A total of 0.74% of the entire assemblage by weight)

Similar to sandy coarse ware but containing frequent coarse (larger than 1mm) grog inclusions

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy grey wares are the most common type of pottery found in this assemblage (*c*.35% of the entire assemblage by weight). Most of the fabrics are very similar, containing abundant well-rounded quartz and sparse silver mica. Some of the sherds have suffered severe abrasion, removing their original surfaces suggesting differences in the fabrics which are not true. However, some of the grey wares contain other inclusions that are typical to the area, probably through natural constituents of the clay, and are therefore catalogued separately and are described briefly below.

Sandy grey ware ***(382sherds, 4849g, 5.68 EVE. A total of 14.83% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

A light brown to dark grey fabric that contains abundant well-rounded quartz and sparse mica (Perrin 1996, 120). It is a utilitarian fabric that was used to produce most jar and bowl forms during the Roman period. The source of this material is unknown, and could originate from anywhere within a radius of twenty to thirty miles- perhaps further if water transport was available (*ibid*, 121).

Vessel types: 3.10, 3.10.1, 4.5, 4.6.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.2.1, 5.12, 6.19.1, 6.19.3, 6.21.1

Sandy grey ware (cal) ***(2 sherds, 37g, 0.13 EVE. A total of 0.11% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy grey ware but containing sparse to moderate amounts of calciferous material

Vessel types: 4.5.0

Sandy grey ware (cal/flint) ***(1 sherd, 30g, 0.07 EVE. A total of 0.09% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy grey ware but containing sparse amounts of calciferous material and coarse flint (up to 3mm)

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy grey ware (fine) ***(25 sherds, 323g, 0.14 EVE. A total of 0.71% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

A grey ware fabric which is similar to the Grey ware (fine) fabric described above, but the presence of more quartz means it has a less soapy texture

Vessel types: 3.8, 3.8.3

Sandy grey ware (flint) ***(18 sherds, 633g, 0.10 EVE. A total of 1.94% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy grey ware but containing sparse amounts of very coarse flint (up to 3mm)

Vessel types: 2.1.0

Sandy grey ware (mica) ***(1 sherd, 27g, 0.08 EVE. A total of 0.57% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy grey ware but with common to abundant silver mica inclusions. The mica is probably a natural constitute of the clays (Lyons 2000, 212 RB27)

Vessel types: 6.21.1

Sandy grey ware (proto) ***(397 sherds, 4845g, 4.37 EVE. A total of 14.82% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

A sandy fabric which presents as a sandwich ware with a variety of core and surface colours ranging from pale grey to dark brown frequently with orange margins. Containing abundant well-rounded quartz and sparse mica it is a predecessor (1st to early/mid 2nd century) of the Romanised sandy grey ware fabric, and can be hand made or wheel made.

Vessel types: 2.0, 2.0.0, 3.10.1, 3.11, 4.1, 4.6.1, 5.0, 5.2.0, 6.21.2

Sandy grey ware (proto/cal) ***(2 sherds, 54g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.17% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to proto sandy grey ware but containing moderate amounts of calciferous material

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy grey ware (proto/flint) ***(34 sherds, 611g, 0 EVE. A total of 1.87% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to proto sandy grey ware but containing sparse amounts of coarse (up to 3mm) flint inclusions

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy grey ware (proto/grog) ***(15 sherds, 231g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.71% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to proto sandy grey ware but containing frequent coarse (larger than 1mm) grog inclusions

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy oxidised wares constitute a small yet significant part of the assemblage (*c.*2% of the entire assemblage by weight). Most of the fabrics are very similar, containing abundant well-rounded quartz and sparse silver mica and occasional iron rich inclusions. Some of the sherds have suffered severe abrasion, removing their original surfaces suggesting differences in the fabrics which are not true. However, some of the oxidised wares contain other inclusions that are typical to the area, probably through natural constituents of the clay, and are therefore catalogued separately and are described briefly below.

Sandy oxidized ware ***(78 sherds, 427g, 0.06 EVE. A total of 1.31% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

An oxidized fabric that can vary in colour from very pale brown to creamy white, and often has sand inclusions (Andrews 1985, 94–5, OW2).

Vessel types: 4.1, 6.15.2, 6.19.4, 7.1

Sandy oxidised ware (cal) ***(4 sherds, 36g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.11% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy oxidised ware but containing frequent amounts of calciferous material

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy oxidised ware (fine) ***(2 sherds, 4g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.01% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

An oxidised ware that is similar to the Grey ware (fine) fabric described above, but the presence of more quartz means it has a less soapy texture

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy oxidised ware (gritty) ***(6 sherds, 85g, 0.15 EVE. A total of 0.26% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy oxidised ware but containing significant amounts of quartz, giving it a gritty appearance and feel to the fabric. Also contains moderate amounts of calciferous material

Vessel types: 4.1

Sandy oxidised ware (grog) ***(2 sherds, 23g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.07% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy oxidised ware but containing frequent coarse (larger than 1mm) grog inclusions

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy reduced wares area common type of pottery found in this assemblage (*c.*38% of the entire assemblage by weight). The majority of the fabrics are similar and contain moderate amounts of quartz and occasional flint fragments resulting in an irregular fracture. Some of the sherds have suffered severe abrasion, removing their original surfaces suggesting differences in the fabrics which are not true. However, some of the reduced wares contain other inclusions that are typical to the area, probably through natural constituents of the clay, and are therefore catalogued separately and are described briefly below.

S*andy reduced ware (handmade)** ***(3 sherds, weighing 65g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.20% of the entire assemblage by weight)

A quite hard, rough fabric, very dark grey throughout, with a moderate amount of quartz and occasional fragments of flint, resulting in an irregular fracture. This sandy reduced fabric became more common towards the end of the Iron Age and continued in use as wheelmade technology was introduced.

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy reduced ware (wheel made) ***(1103 sherds, 9343g, 9.44 EVE. A total of 28.57% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

A hard sandy fabric normally dark grey throughout with a moderate amount of quartz and occasional flint fragments resulting in an irregular fracture. However many of the fabrics identified in the assemblage present as sandwich wares with core and surface colours ranging from mid grey to dark grey or black, frequently with dark brown margins. Reduced wares seem to have been produced throughout the Roman period, in addition to the finer grey wares, but are particularly common in early and late assemblages.

Vessel types: 2.0.0, 2.1.0, 4.0, 4.1, 4.5.1, 4.13.0, 5.0, 5.1.1, 5.2.0, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.3, 5.4, 6.3, 6.15.1, 6.18.1, 6.19.1, 6.21.1

Sandy reduced ware (fine) ***(37 sherds, 667g, 0.96 EVE. A total of 2.04% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy reduced ware but containing sparse to moderate amount of quartz

Vessel types: 4.1, 5.2.0, 5.3, 6.18.0, 6.19.4

Sandy reduced ware (flint) ***(13 sherds, 2055g, 0.10 EVE. A total of 6.28% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy reduced ware but containing sparse to common fragments of flint (up to 3mm)

Vessel types: none identified

Sandy reduced ware (grog) ***(18 sherds, 535g, 0 EVE. A total of 1.64% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Similar to sandy reduced ware but containing moderate amounts of coarse grog inclusions

Vessel types: none identified

Samian ***(37 sherds, 614g, 0.87 EVE. A total of 1.88% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

A distinctive glossy red fabric, often decorated (Tomber and Dore 1998, 25–41). A variety of southern and central Gaulish samian was recovered, of which central Gaulish was the most common.

Vessel types: Dr 18/31, Dr 18/31R, Dr 27, Dr33, Dr 36, Curle 15

Shell-tempered ware (unsourced) ***(32 sherds, weighing 546g, 0 EVE. A total of 1.67% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

Most are brown-grey and are heavily tempered with fossil shell, which is a natural constituent of the clay. Where rim forms are lacking, it can be difficult to differentiate between the various possible manufacturing centres for shell-tempered wares in the Roman period. The Romanised shell tempered wares differed from their Iron Age predecessors as they do not include grog and showed signs of finer preparation (the shell is often crushed). The Lower Nene Valley was know to have been a production centre for shell-tempered storage jars (Perrin 1996, 119–20) between the late Iron Age and 3rd century AD. Early Roman shell tempered wares were known to have been produced at Bourne in Lincolnshire and Greetham in Humberside (Tomber and Dore 1998, 156), while distinctive lipped Dales ware shell tempered jars were made in the Lincolnshire area between the late 2nd and 3rd centuries. Moreover the the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115) and other unsourced sites (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212) produced rilled cooking pots in the later Roman period. However, numerous unsourced local production sites would have exploited the Jurassic shelly clay beds throughout the Roman period (Perrin 1996, 119).

Vessel types: none identified

south-east England glazed ware ***(1 sherd, 6g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.02% of the entire assemblage by weight)***

A hard fine fabric, principally grey with occasional red-brown margins. Surfaces are covered in a translucent, dark green glaze often decorated with white clay barbotine decoration (Tyres 1996, 178). This material was principally produced between AD70-120.

Vessel types: none identified

Grey ware (grog) ***(9 sherds, 76g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.23% by weight of the entire assemblage)***

This has a dark brownish grey fabric with a similar or darker surface. It is quite a hard, soapy, hackly-fractured fabric with frequent very coarse (larger than 1mm) grog inclusions. This fabric was initially used to produced handmade forms in the Belgic style, however its suitability for wheel production quickly established it as the main Early Roman utilitarian ware.

Vessel types: none identified

Grey ware (grog), with oxidised surfaces *(5 sherds, 200g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.61% by weight of the entire assemblage)*

This has a dark brownish grey fabric with a oxidised surfaces. It is quite a hard, soapy, hackly-fractured fabric with frequent very coarse (larger than 1mm) grog inclusions. It is a distinctively transitional and Early Roman (1st century) handmade fabric.

Vessel types: none identified

Reduced ware (handmade) *(10 sherds, weighing 132g, 0.08 EVE. A total of 0.40% of the entire assemblage by weight)*

This is a smooth, laminated fabric made with very little quartz (Perrin 1996, 121). It is a distinctively transitional and Early Roman handmade fabric. It is a darker, coarser (often thicker) predecessor of the more Romanised Sandy reduced ware.

Vessel types: 2.1.0

Reduced ware (grog) *(1 sherd, 47g, 0 EVE. A total of 0.03% of the entire assemblage by weight)*

This is a smooth, laminated fabric made with very little quartz (Perrin 1996, 121), which contain grog as a common inclusion. It is a distinctively transitional and Early Roman handmade fabric. It is a darker, coarser (often thicker) predecessor of the more Romanised Grey ware (grog) fabric.

Vessel types: none identified

Reduced ware (grog), with oxidised surfaces *(39 sherds, weighing 708g, 0.32 EVE. A total of 2.17% of the entire assemblage by weight)*

This is a smooth, laminated fabric made with very little quartz which contain grog as a common inclusion (Marney 1989, 190, fabric46a). It is a distinctively transitional and Early Roman (1st century) handmade fabric. Vessels with orange (or oxidized) surfaces of this type are commonly found in Thompson (1982) Zone 8 around the Milton Keynes area.

Vessel types: none identified

List of Forms

Form	EVE	%EVE
MISCELLANEOUS JAR	6.08	25.48
W/MJAR	4.03	16.89
M/MJAR	3.39	14.21
N/MJAR	2.72	11.40
DISH	1.60	6.71
JAR/BOWL	1.20	5.03
BEAKER/JAR	0.84	3.52
BOWL	0.74	3.10
BEAKER	0.73	3.06
STORAGE JAR	0.66	2.77
BOWL/PLATTER	0.62	2.60
DISH/CUP	0.31	1.30
DISH/BOWL	0.25	1.05
INDETERMINATE	0.16	0.67
CUP	0.16	0.67
FLAGON	0.15	0.63
BOWL/DISH	0.10	0.42
W/MJAR/BOWL	0.07	0.29
LID	0.05	0.21
AMPHORAE	0.00	0.00
BEAKER (HUNT CUP)	0.00	0.00
CASTOR BOX LID	0.00	0.00
FLANGED BOWL	0.00	0.00
JAR/FLAGON	0.00	0.00
MORTARIA	0.00	0.00
PEDISTALLED JAR	0.00	0.00
PLATTER	0.00	0.00
ROUGHCAST BEAKER	0.00	0.00
Total	**23.86**	**100.00**

Table 5: Form Descriptions and Published Parallels

Flagons

Miscellaneous or indeterminate

Hofheim type, single (Stead and Rigby 1986, 191) and double (*ibid*, 229) handled flagons with cylindrical necks and out-curved lips, triangular in section

Narrow Mouthed Jars/Bottles

Miscellaneous or indeterminate

Narrow-mouthed jar with rolled everted rim, rounded body and various cordons, with decoration on the neck, body and base of the vessel (Perrin 1996, 132; 222; 416)

Beakers

Miscellaneous or indeterminate

Bag-shaped beaker with a cornice rim (Howe *et al* 1980, 46; Perrin 1996,233)

Bag shaped grooved beaker, with barbotine decorated, plain or cornice rim, can include 'Hunt cups' (NV 48, NV 27 [Hunt Cup])

Bag-shaped beaker with roughcast decoration (PKM: 4100/2 4105/4-8 0163/2)

Poppy-head beaker with barbotine dot decoration (Stead and Rigby 1986, 352, 546)

Poppy-head beaker with more everted rim, truly globular

Beaker/jar with high shoulder and simple evert rim

Vertical burnished lines

Beaker with a 'cavetto Rim' (Perrin 1996, 315; Martin 1988, 217)

Medium Mouthed Jars

Miscellaneous medium-mouthed jars

Medium-mouthed jar with high-shouldered profile (Rogerson 1977, 1; 2; 19; 22; 44; 107)

Medium-mouthed jar, short neck, rolled and generally undercut rim and globular body (Scole: 43; 93; 115; 202)

Medium-mouthed jar, short neck, rolled rim and globular body (Scole 1993)

Medium mouthed jar with grooves at the base of the neck (Scole: 127, 186, 198)

Medium-mouthed jar, rounded body and simple everted rim (Rogerson 1977 5; Martin 1988, 250; 251)

Wide Mouthed Jars

Miscellaneous wide-mouthed jars

Wide-mouthed carinated jar, a heavily cordoned 'Belgic bowl' (Martin 1988, 196–210; Rogerson 1977, 31, 34, 67, 100)

Carinated jars (Perrin 1996, 71)

Carinated jars with grooved cordons (Scole: 21 WS: 221)

Grooved bead/cordon on neck and above carination point (Perrin 1996,71)

Rounded jar with a reverse 'S' profile and a groove on the neck (Rogerson 1977, 39; 46; 94)

Rounded jar, reverse 'S' profile, one or two grooves mid body

Bowl, Cup, Dish, Platter; any open form

Castor box lid (Howe *et al*. 1980, 89; Perrin 1996, 228; 335)

Carinated bowl with a flattish out-turned rim (Rogerson 1977, 16; 69; 72)

Wide-mouthed jar with straight sides, decorated bands and an everted rim (Rogerson 1977, 191; 194; 205)

Bowl with curving sides and out-turned rim, unflanged, footring base (Scole: 74, 76, 97, ?98, 112)

Flanged: 'bead and flange' type rim (WS: 228, 230, 231)

Bowl, straight-sided, flat-based, thickened everted 'triangular' rim (Perrin 1996, 417; 426; 449; 453; 455)

Bowl, straight sided with reeded or grooved rim (Scole)

Bowl, plain rim, nearly upright (Perrin 1996, 402)

Bowl, upright with external groove below rim (PKM: 4105/78 IKL: 34 BRANCASTER: 153.1, 2, 10)

Bowl, angled sides with external groove below rim (Scole: 119, 128, 177 BRANCASTER: 70, 153.6, 7)

Open bowl, sharp internal angle, incurving rim, flat or footring base (PKM: 0770/10,0113/144, 145,148 4068/4 0972/6 WS:225)

Open bowl, smoothly curving inwards, can have a line or slight ridge internally where it changes direction (PKM: 4164/32 0826/15 Scole: 83, 86)

Mortarium (Tyers 1996, 116-135)

All miscellaneous mortarium (Tyers 1996, 116-135)

All miscellaneous Oxfordshire white ware forms (Tyers 1996, 116-135)

Samian (Tyers 1996, 105-116)

DRAG. 18/31 A shallow bowl, with a very slightly curved wall, (the division between the wall and the floor is apparent), while the floor rises noticeably in the centre.

DRAG. 27 A cup with double curved wall and bead rim (campanulate).An external groove on the footring may occur on 1st century examples (Dr27g).

DRAG. 33 A conical cup with a footring. There are often grooves (or a groove) on the external vessel wall.

DRAG. 36 Dish with curved walls and over-hanging rim, trailed leaves are applied on the rim.

CURLE 15 A dish with flaring walls which are concave externally. The rims generally turn upwards at the top of the external concavity, the internal base is not always flat but can be slightly concave.

Amphorae (Tyers 1996, 88-91)

DRESSEL 20 A large globular form (principally olive oil containers) with two handles and thickened, rounded or angular rim, concave internally.

Site Abbreviation	Site name	Publication reference
BAL	Baldock, Hertfordshire	Stead & Rigby 1986
BRANCASTER	Brancaster, Norfolk	Andrews 1985
BUG	Burgh, Norfolk	Martin 1988
IKL	Icklingham, Suffolk	West & Plouviez 1976
NV	Nene Valley, Cambridgeshire	Howe et al
OHF	Orton Hall Farm, Cambridgeshire	Perrin 1996
PKM	Pakenham, Suffolk	Smedley & Owles 1960/61
Scole	Scole, Norfolk	Rogerson 1977
WS	West Stow, Suffolk	West 1990

Table 6: Key to Sites abbreviated in pottery type series

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Alice Lyons and Carole Fletcher, OA East, for their time and specialist knowledge of Roman pottery.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal remains

By Chris Faine

Introduction

C.1.1 A total of 12.7Kg of faunal material was recovered yielding 100 "countable" bones (see below). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. Residuality appears not be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Faunal material was recovered from pits and ditches largely dating from the Romano-British period, with the vast majority of these deriving from mid 1st to 2nd century contexts. One hundred and seventy five fragments of animal bone were recovered with 100 identifiable to species (57.1% of the total sample).

Methodology

C.1.2 All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1994). Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see table 7). The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant, 1982). Wear stages were recorded for lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. The states of epiphyseal fusion for all relevant bones were recorded to give a broad age range for the major domesticates (after Getty 1975). Measurements were largely carried out according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976). Measurements were either carried out using a 150mm sliding calliper or an osteometric board in the case of larger bones.

The Assemblage

C.1.3 Table 7 shows the species distribution for the entire assemblage. The majority (88%) of the identifiable sample was recovered from mid 1st - 2nd century Roman contexts. The assemblage is dominated by cattle remains with smaller numbers of sheep/goat and horse. Pig is a minor taxon. Evidence of others species is limited, with small numbers of dog and goose remains being recovered.

C.1.4 Only one fragment of identifiable bone was recovered from Iron Age contexts in the form of a butchered cattle humerus from context 1172.

C.1.5 As mentioned above the majority of the assemblage was recovered from Romano-British contexts. Cattle remains from these contexts consist largely of adult elements (see figure 1) with juvenile bones being recovered from contexts 1112 and 1164. A variety of skeletal elements are represented in the assemblage suggesting the presence of live animals or at the very least whole carcasses (see figure 2). No withers heights were available for the cattle assemblage but two horn cores were recovered from male animals of the "celtic short-horned" type.

C.1.6 The Roman sheep/goat assemblage is somewhat fragmented, with 85% of identifiable elements showing evidence of butchery (compared to 54% of cattle). Although smaller sample size than the cattle sample, the age range of the sheep/goat assemblage is similar, consisting largely of adult animals (see figure 3). A single juvenile femur was recovered from context 1072. Two complete mandibles were recovered from animals around 2-4 years old at death. Although smaller in size than the cattle assemblage, the sheep/goat sample shows a slightly different body part distribution, with lower instances of loose teeth and lower limb elements (see figure 4).

C.1.7 Pig remains were recovered from 4 contexts, consisting of two fragmentary tibiae and two mandibles from male animals, one from an individual around 1-2 years of age at death (from context 1398).

C.1.8 Horse remains were recovered from nine contexts, consisting of long bone and skull fragments. Non-adult remains were recovered from contexts **1112**, **1197** & **1327**. A complete tibia recovered from context 1270 came from an animal around 1.4m high at the shoulder (around 14 hands).

C.1.9 Dog remains consist of portions of both hind limbs of an adult animal from context **1422** and a fragmentary mandible from **1350**.

Discussion and Conclusions

C.1.10 Although an extremely small this is nonetheless an important assemblage as it still represents one of the largest Roman faunal assemblages recovered from the immediate vicinity, a result of the small scale of much of the previous archaeological work in the area (Gilmour 2009). Cattle and sheep were the mainstay of the economy, with animals being largely raised for meat and butchered on-site. As with the larger Roman assemblage at Haddon (Baxter 2003) the Impington population showed lower instances of pig remains than is usual at other Roman sites (King 1978). There is evidence for the presence of young animals (if not deliberate on-site breeding). The horse remains from context **1422** are mostly likely from a mount rather than a draught animal. Exploitation of wild resources was limited.

	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle (*Bos*)	54	54	41	53.9
Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Capra*)	21	21	19	25
Horse (*Equus caballus*)	11	11	9	11.9
Pig (*Sus scrofa*)	4	4	4	5.3
Dog (*Canis familiaris*)	9	9	2	2.6
Goose (*Anser sp.*)	1	1	1	1.3
Total:	**100**	**100**	**76**	**100**

Table 7: Species distribution for the assemblage.

Figure 1: cattle epiphyseal fusion data

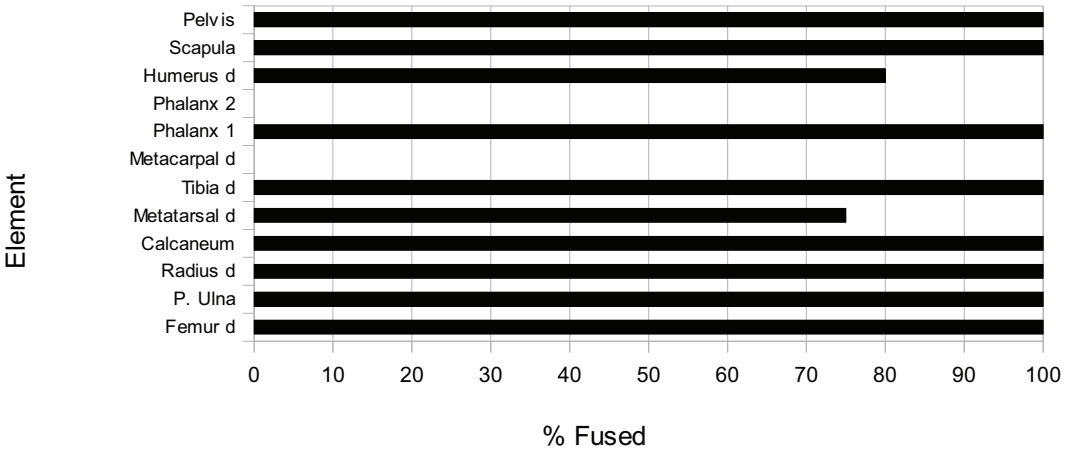


Figure 2: Cattle body part distribution

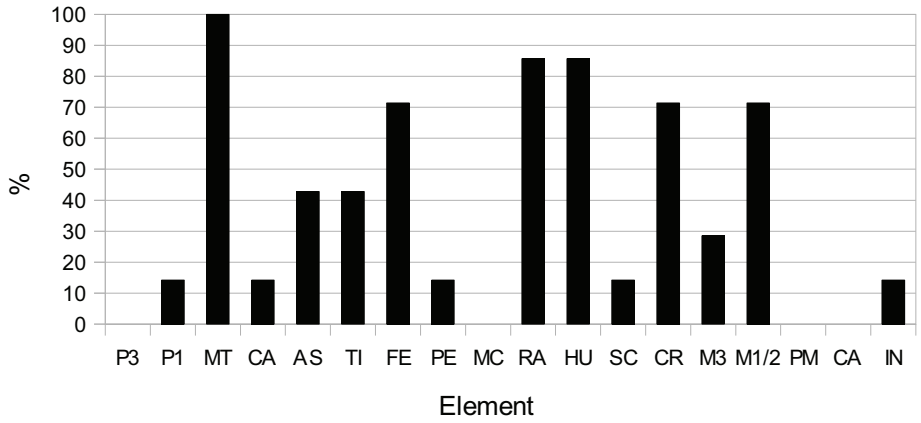


Figure 3: Sheep/Goat epiphyseal fusion data

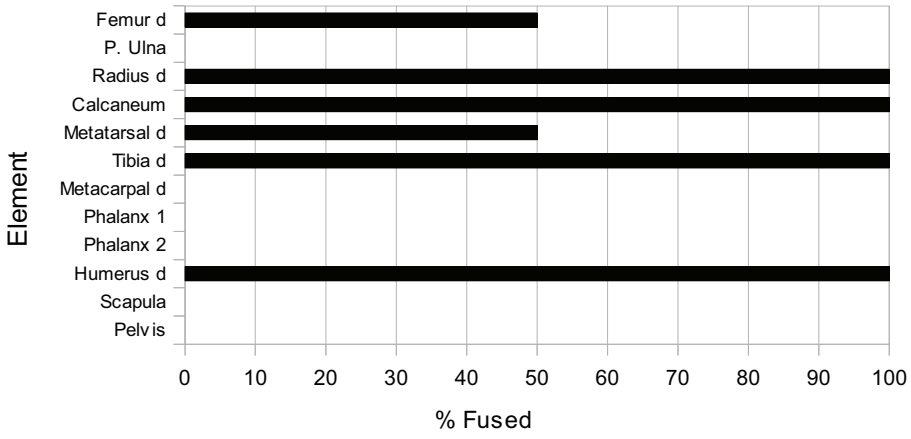
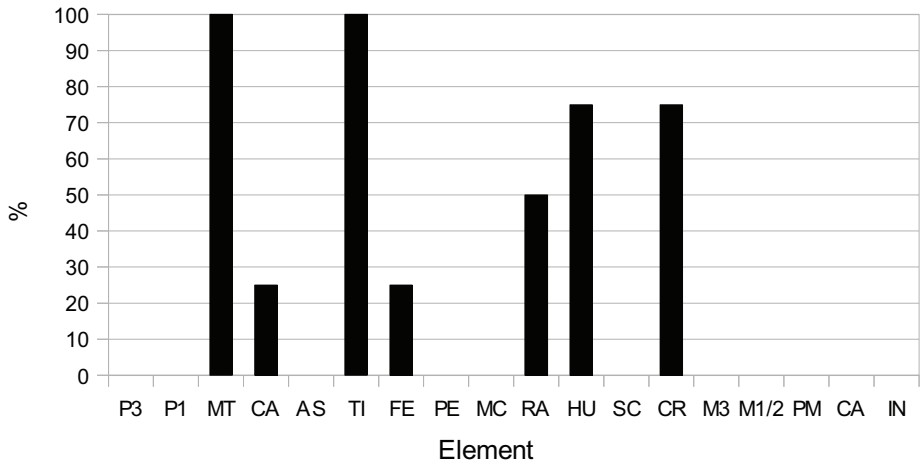


Figure 4: Sheep/Goat Body part distribution



C.2 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

C.2.1 Forty-three bulk samples were taken during excavation. The samples were soaked in a solution of Sodium bicarbonate for two weeks prior to processing in order to break down the heavy clay.

C.2.2 Ten litres of each sample 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 8.

Quantification

C.2.3 For the purpose of this report, 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

C.2.4 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

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

Results

C.2.5 The results are recorded on Table 8. Preservation is by charring and is quite variable. Charcoal fragments are present in most of the samples in varying quantities.

Cereals

C.2.6 Charred cereal grains are present in over half of the samples. Only two samples, Sample 31 (pit fill 1193) and Sample 32 (pit fill 1078) contain significant quantities; the other samples all contain less than ten grains. The cereals have been identified as predominantly elongated grains of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) along with more rounded forms of free-threshing wheats (*Triticum* sp.) with occasional barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains.

Phase	Sample No	Context No	Cut No	Feature type	Cereals	Chaff	Weed Seeds	Snails from flot	Small Bones	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments
IA	39	1274	1275	Gully	#			###		+		single grain
IA	40	1282	1283	Gully	#		#	##		++		occasional grain, *Stellaria* sp.
IA	41	1286	1287	Gully	#			##		+	+	occasional grain
C1-2	54	1369	1368	Pit			#	##		++	++	*Arhenatherum* sp. Tuber. Un-id seed
C1-2	55	1371	1370	Pit			#	#		++	+	*Plantago* sp.
C1-2	56	1375	1374	Pit		#		#		+	+	single glume base
C1-2	15	1033	1034	Ditch	#	##	#	###	##	++	+	mixed preservation of grain, *Lollium* sp.

Phase	Sample No	Context No	Cut No	Feature type	Cereals	Chaff	Weed Seeds	Snails from flot	Small Bones	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments
C1-2	20	1070	1071	Ditch	#	##	#	##		+++	++	fragmented grain, glume base, *lollium* sp.
C1-2	21	1078	1079	Ditch	###	###	##	##		+++	++	Spelt crop processing waste
C1-2	22	1108	1091	Ditch	#			##		+		fragmented and abraded grain
C1-2	23	1108	1097	Ditch				##		+		sparse charcoal only
C1-2	24	1108	1107	Ditch		#		##		+		occasional glume bases
C1-2	26	1151	1152	Ditch			#	##		+		single tiny *Cladium mariscus* nutlet
C1-2	27	1154	1155	Ditch		#		##		+		single glume base
C1-2	29	1164	1162	Pit	#			##		+	+	single grain
C1-2	30	1205	1203	Ditch	#		#	##	#	++		fragmented grain and seeds
C1-2	31	1193	1215	Pit	###		#	##		++	++	Fishscale, burnt eggshell, burnt snail, *Cladium mariscus* leaf, Spelt wheat, occasional barley grains
C1-2	32	1216	1218	Pit	#		#	##	##	++		fishscale, burnt bone, *Rumex* sp, Poaceae
C1-2	35	1236	1235	Ditch				##		+		sparse charcoal only
C1-2	36	1166	1165	Pit				###		+		sparse charcoal only
C1-2	38	1261	1263	Pit	#		#	##	#	+	+	Rumex sp.
C1-2	42	1337	1336	Pit/ posthole	#			##		+		wheat grains
C1-2	44	1373	1372	Pit/ posthole	#			##		++	+	single grain
C1-2	45	1390	1386	Ditch	#	#		##		+++	++	occasional grain and glume base
C1-2	46	1424	1426	Oven				#		+++	+++	Charcoal up to 4cm
C1-2	47	1425	1426	Oven				#		+++	+++	Charcoal up to 6cm
C1-2	49	1428	1427	Ditch				##		+	+	sparse charcoal only
C1-2	50	1432	1434	Ditch				###		+		wetland snails
C1-2	51	1436	1439	Pit				#		+		sparse charcoal only
C1-2	53	1194	1195	Pit/ posthole	#	#		#		+	+	degraded wheat, single glume base
C2	19	1051	1053	Pit	#			##		+	+	occasional grain
C2	33	1223	1225	Ditch				##		+		sparse charcoal only
C2	34	1222	1225	Ditch	#			##		+		occasional grain
C2	48	1410	1407	Pit/ posthole	#			##		++	+	single grain fragment
C2	52	1406	1407	Pit/ posthole				#		+	+	sparse charcoal only
C2-3	16	1009	1010	Ditch	#	#	#	##		+	+	Weed seed poss *Carex* sp
C2-3	17	1011	1012	Ditch	#		#	##		+	+	fragmented cf. *Centaurea* sp.
C2-3	25	1112	1113	Ditch	#			###		+	+	occasional grain
C2-3	28	1171	1173	Ditch				##		++	++	*charcoal only*
C2-3	37	1252	1256	Ditch	#	#		##		++	+	*Culm node, Raphanus raphanistrum*
C2-3	43	1353	1356	Ditch	#	#	##	###		++	++	wheat, *Rumex* sp., *Polygonum* sp, *Lollium* sp, *Chenopodium* sp. Good seed preservation
C3-4	14	1000	1001	Ditch	#			##		++	+	wheat grains
C3-4	18	1040	1026	Ditch	#		#	##		++	+++	poss *Vicia* sp.

Table 8: environmental samples

C.2.7 Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread, soup and was also used for the brewing of beer. No germinated grains occur in this assemblage to suggest brewing activities. Chaff elements, predominantly spelt glume bases, occur in a quarter of the samples. Significant quantities are found in the 1st - 2nd century samples; Samples 15 (ditch fill 1033), 20 (ditch fill 1070) and 21 (ditch fill 1078)

Weed seeds

C.2.8 Charred weed seeds occur relatively rarely, often as single specimens and include grassland plants such as docks (Rumex sp.), goosefoot (Chenopodium sp.), Plantain (*Plantago* sp.), chickweed (*Stellaria* sp.), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum),* cornflower (*Centaurea* sp.), rye grass (*Lollium* sp.) and grass (Poaceae sp.),seeds along with wet-land plants such as sedges (Carex sp.) and saw-sedge (Cladium mariscus) nutlets and leaf fragments. A tuber of False oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius)* was noted in Sample 54, pit fill 1369.

Ecofacts and Artefacts

C.2.9 Approximately half of the samples contained fragments of animal bone, small mammal bones and occasional sherds of pottery. At least three of the residues contained tiny fragments of samian. Half of the samples contained no finds in the residues other than occasional charcoal fragments.

C.2.10 Sample 31, pit fill 1193 contains fish scales and egg shell. Fish scales were also noted in Sample 31, pit fill 1216.

C.2.11 A glass bead (SF 37) was recovered from the residue from Sample 36, pit fill 1166. Small fragments of calcined bone were also recovered from this sample although charcoal was notably sparse.

C.2.12 Hammerscale in the form of flakes and spheroidal and microscopic hammerslag was recovered from seven of the samples.

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Feature type	Phase	Hammerscale
29	1164	1162	Pit	C1-2	2xF, HS
43	1353	1356	Ditch	C2-3	4xF, HS
44	1373	1372	Pit/ posthole	C1-2	2xF
47	1425	1426	Oven	C1-2	1xF,1xSp
53	1194	1195	Pit/ posthole	C1-2	2xF,HS
56	1375	1374	Pit	C1-2	2xF,1xSp, HS

Table 9: Hammerscale from Samples

C.2.13 The deposits containing hammerscale are concentrated into two areas; in the northern area of the site and the central area. It is quite likely that a smithy was located in the area in-between that was heavily truncated and contained few features.

Contamination

C.2.14 Modern roots were present in most of the samples

Discussion

C.2.15 The plant remains in this assemblage are dominated by cereal grains, predominantly spelt wheat. The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires prior to being deliberately deposited or accumulating in features as general scatters of burnt refuse. Spelt is a prehistoric wheat common in the Iron Age and throughout the Roman period. It is a hulled wheat that

requires dehusking (commonly by parching) to release the grain. The resulting chaff was commonly used for fuel. Chaff in the form of spelt glume bases (and the occasional culm node) were recovered in significant numbers from three ditches and indicate that crop processing was taking place on site. The occasional chaff in the other samples probably arise from these light elements being windswept over the site into open features.

C.2.16 It has been suggested (Stevens 2003, Hillman 1981) that quantities of chaff and the ratios of grain:chaff:weed seeds can be used to indicate whether sites are agricultural producers or consumers; either growing and processing crops on site or importing grain in a semi-processed state. This assemblage is not easily interpretable as either. The presence of chaff indicates that the later stages of crop processing are taking place on site on a day-to-day basis resulting from the processing of spikelets of spelt wheat that have been stored in a semi-cleaned state.

C.2.17 The weed seeds in this assemblage are predominantly those of grassland seeds including docks (*Rumex* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), Plantain (*Plantago* sp.) , chickweed (*Stellaria* sp.), false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius)* and grass (*Poaceae* sp.)seeds along with possible crop weeds such as cornflower (*Centaurea* sp), rye grass (*Lollium* sp) and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum)*. These latter seeds are a similar size to cereal grains and are often picked out by hand during the final sieving stage of crop processing.

C.2.18 Wetland plant resources are represented by the occasional sedge (*Carex* sp.) seed and the more commonly occuring saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) nutlets and leaf fragments. Saw-sedge is an important fenland resource that is traditionally used for thatching. The leaf blades have serrated edges that make it unsuitable for flooring etc. and also make it difficult to harvest. The presence of charred remains of leaf fragments and also nutlets (type of seed) in this assemblage may have arisen from the use of old thatch as fuel.

C.2.19 The other remains of fragments of animal bone, egg shell and fish scale along with the charred grain are probably derived from the deposition of small quantities of burnt domestic refuse.

C.2.20 Only three samples are dated to the Iron Age period. All three samples are from ring ditch **1275** and contain only sparse quantities of cereal grains and charcoal thus precluding further interpretation of this feature.

C.2.21 The sampling bias in this assemblage is towards the 1st to 2nd century deposits in which there are two noteworthy samples; Sample 21 (ditch fill 1078) which contains a dump of crop processing waste and Sample 31, pit fill 1193. This is a large pit which contained the deliberate disposal of domestic culinary waste. Charred wheat and barley grains must have been accidentally burnt and Fishscale, eggshell and animal bones are the surviving evidence of the disposal of waste foodstuffs that probably attracted rodents as seen in the survival of small mammal bones.

C.2.22 The deposits from the 2nd to 3rd century show a decrease in the amount of charred grain and particularly chaff elements surviving. In the two samples from the latest phase of the site, the 3rd to 4th century, there is no chaff at all. In these Mid to Late Roman deposits it is highly likely that clean grain is being brought into site but, as stated before, the assemblage is too small to prove this conclusively.

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	b	
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PPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-98505		
Project Name	Unwins Nursery Site, Impington		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	27-07-2009	Finish	21-08-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	IMPINL09	Planning App. No.	No. S/1356/08/F
HER No.	ECB 3232	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB 3186

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
Settlement	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
Settlement	Roman 43 to 410	Pottery	Roman 43 to 410
	Select period...	Metal	Roman 43 to 410

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Impington	Unwins Nursery Site Impington Lane Impington CB24 9LT	
Parish	Impington		
HER	ECB 3232		
Study Area	0.55ha	National Grid Reference	TL 4430 6350

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	James Drummond Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores	CCC Stores	CCC Stores
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

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:

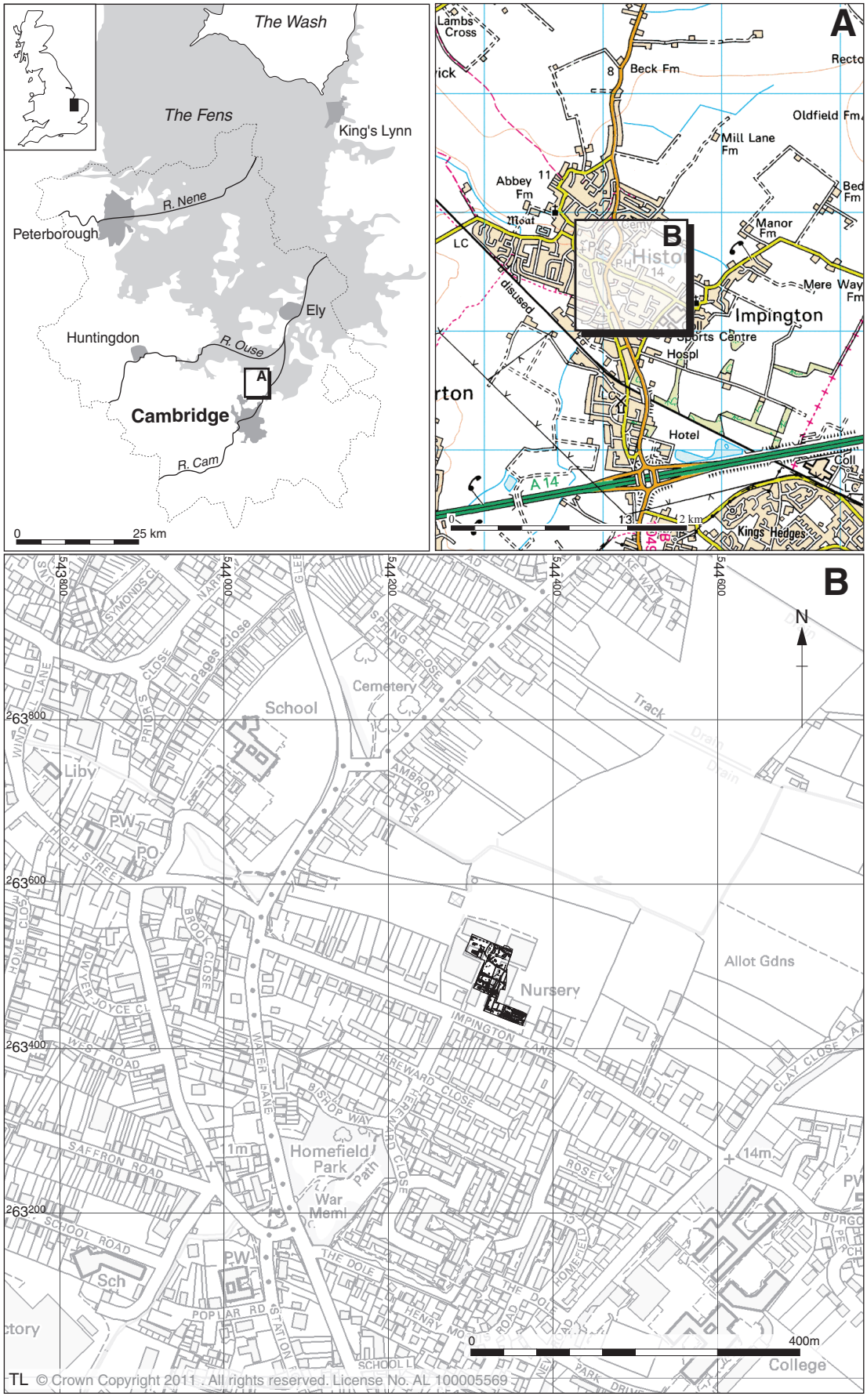

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: All features plan

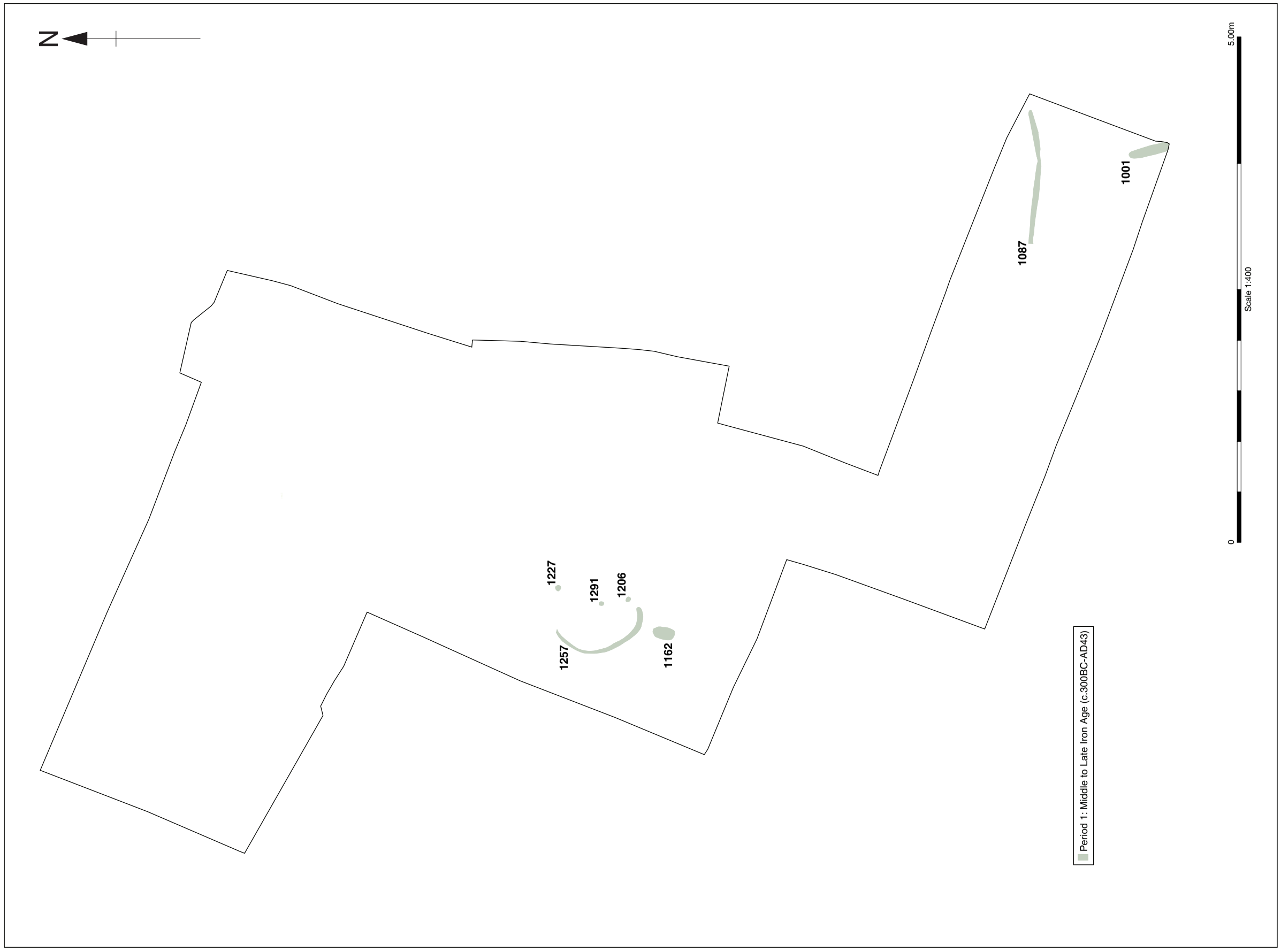

Figure 3: Period 1: Middle to Late Iron Age (c.300BC-AD43)

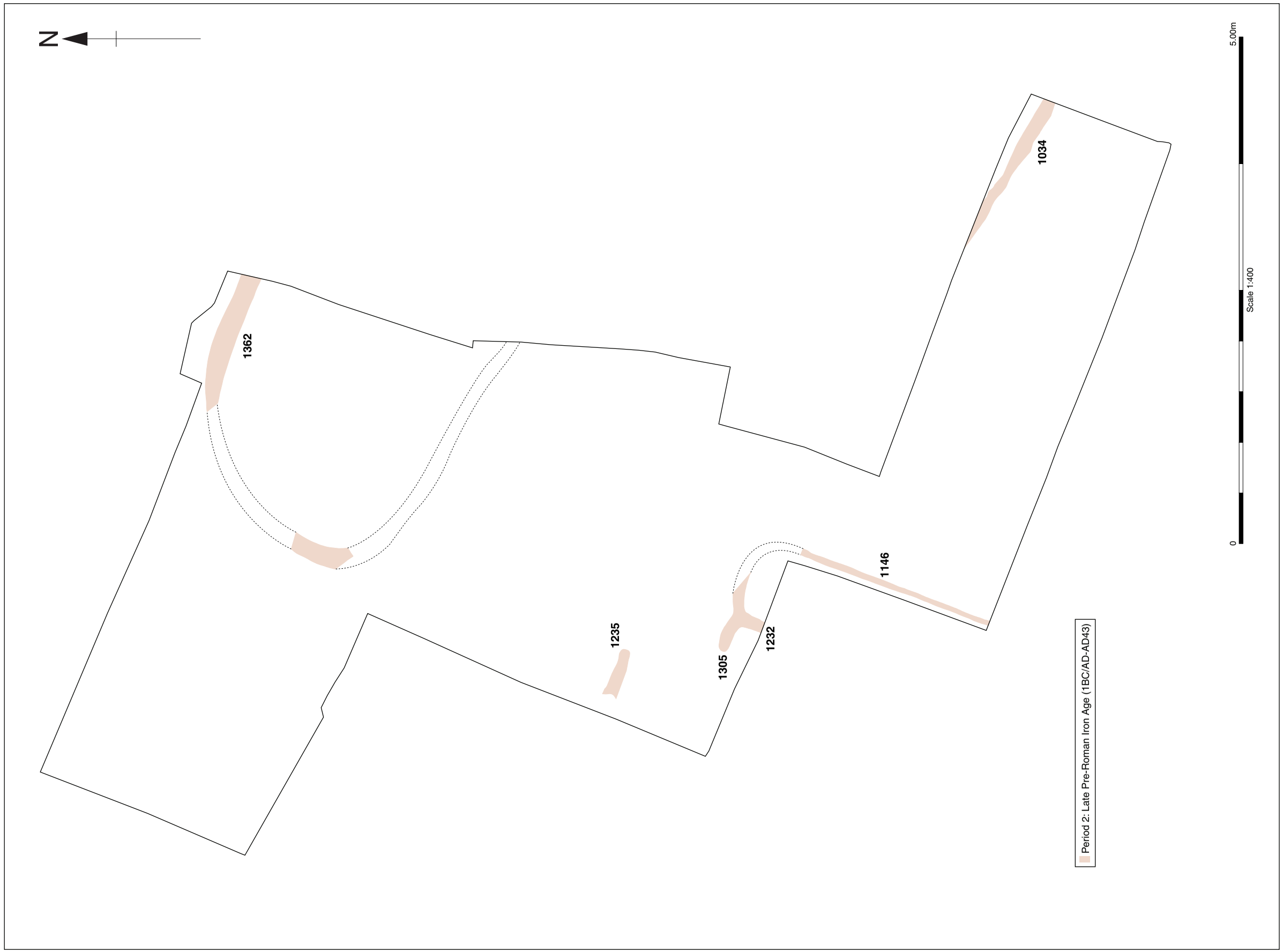

Figure 4: Period 2: Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (1BC/AD-AD43)

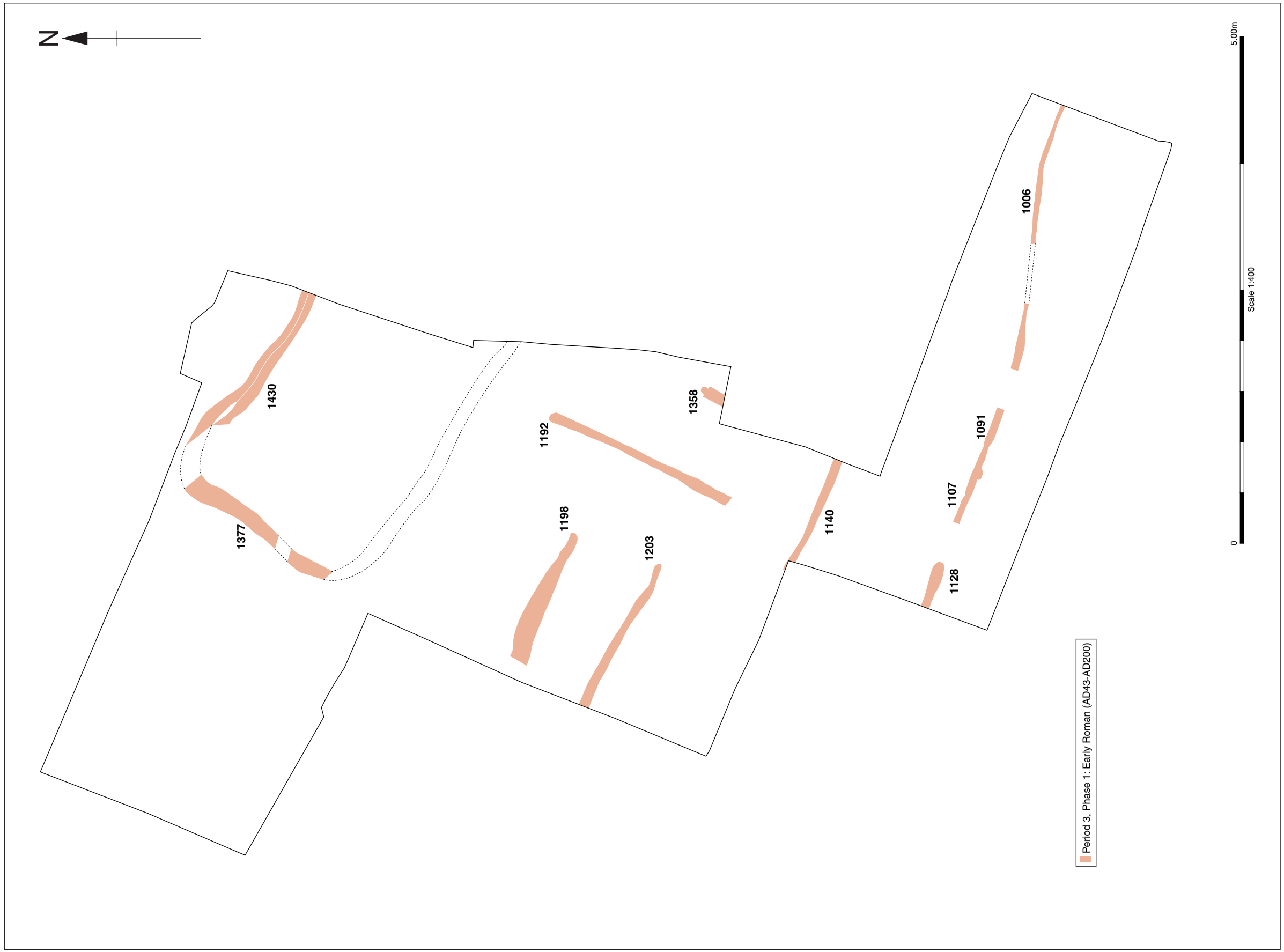

Figure 5: Period 3, Phase 1: Early Roman (AD43-AD200)

Figure 6: Period 3, Phase 2: Mid Roman (AD100-AD300)

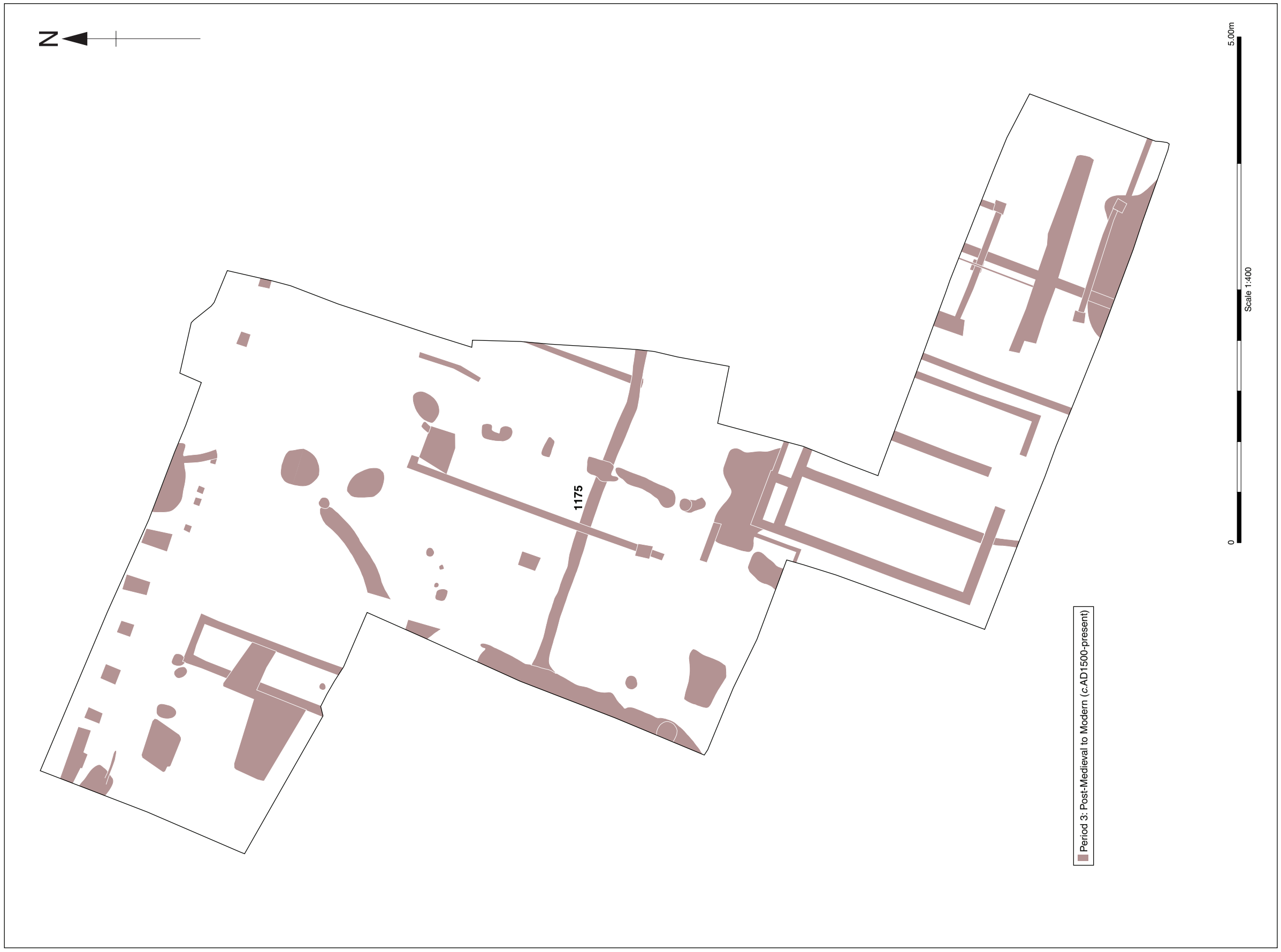

Figure 8: Period 4: Post-Medieval to Modern (*c.*AD1500-present)

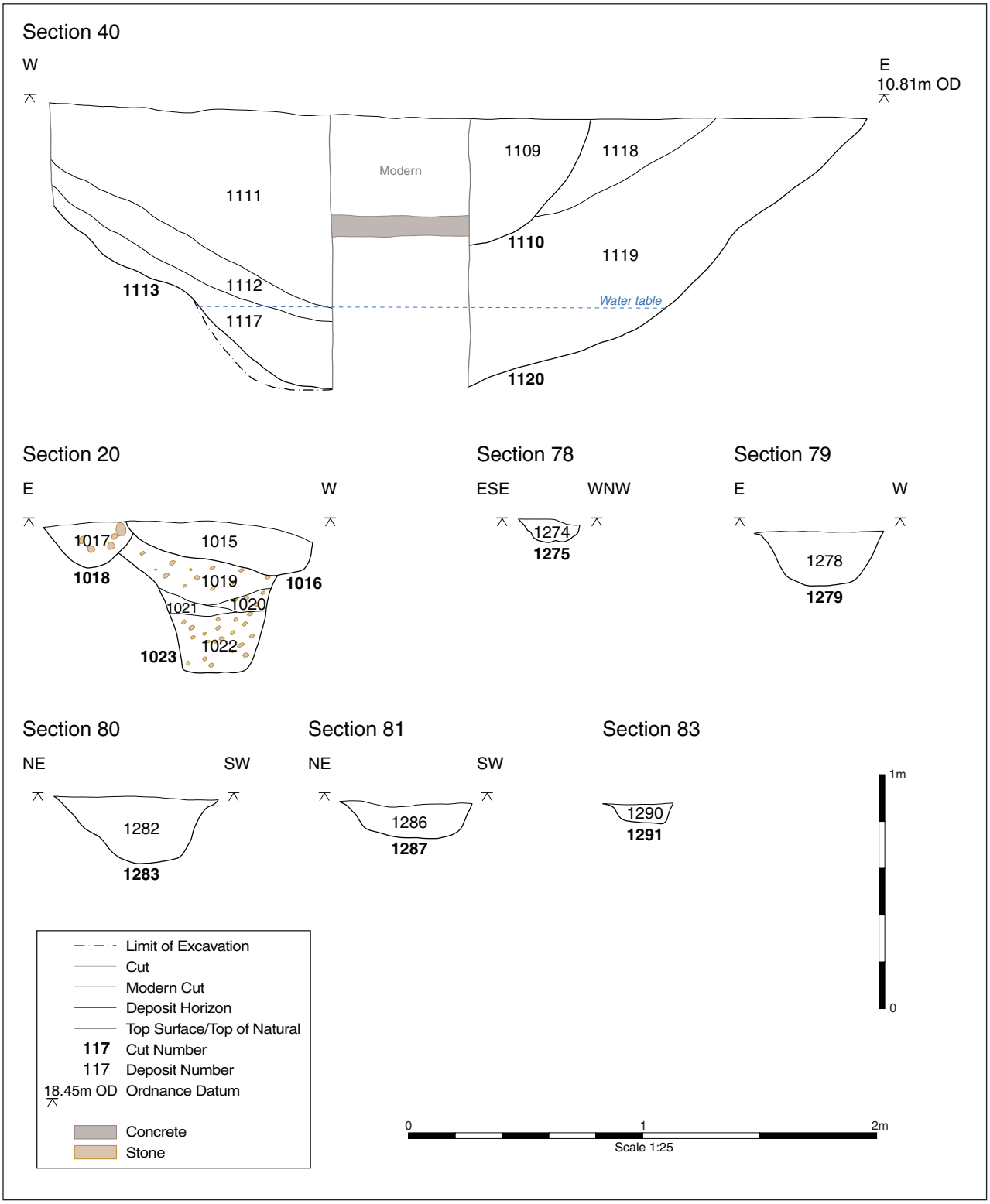

Figure 9: Selected sections

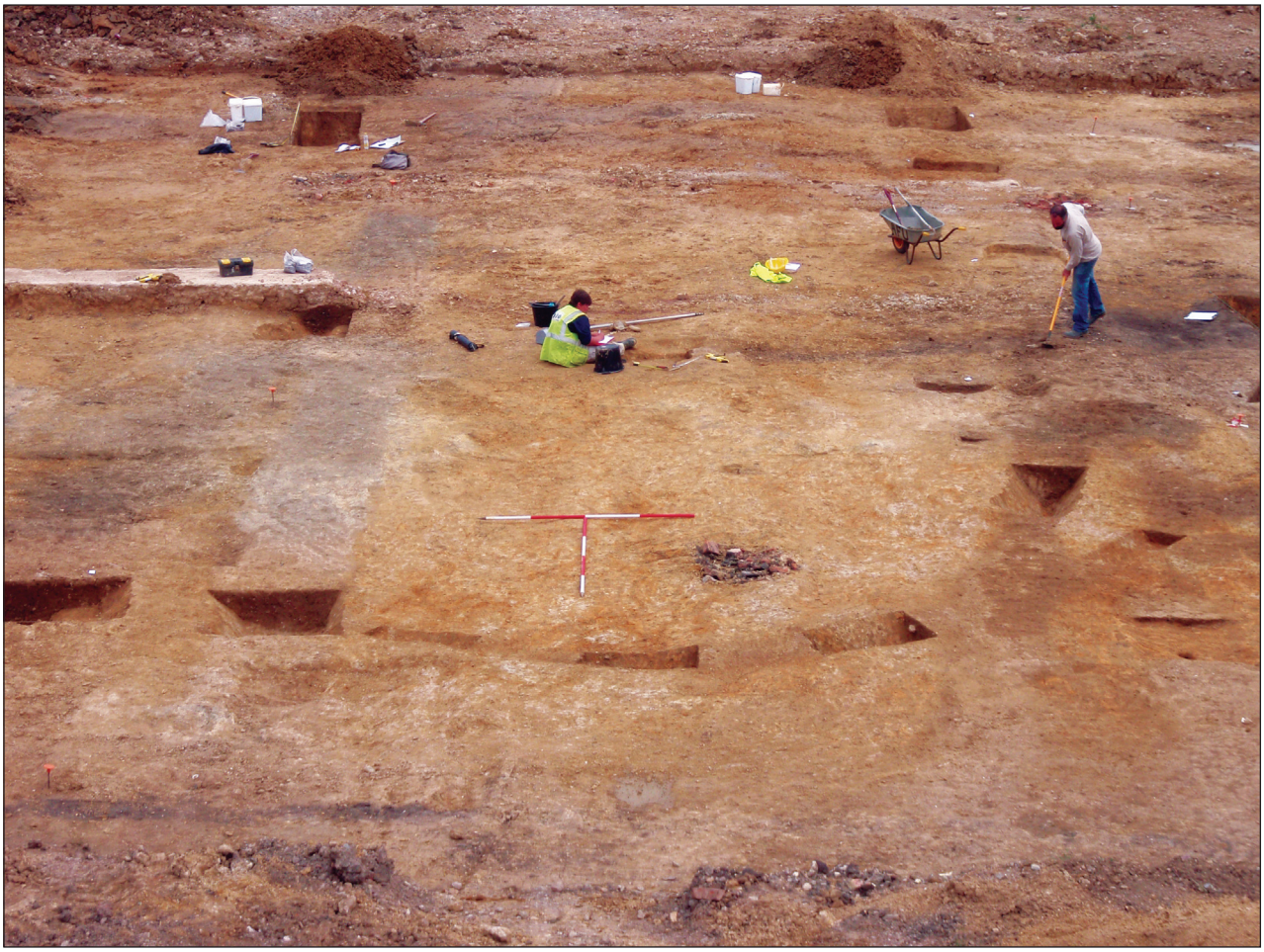

Plate 1: Ring Ditch **1257**

Plate 2: Pit **1052** Oyster shell deposit

oxfordarchaeology

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

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

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: oamed@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://oamed.fr/

OA Grand Ouest

7 Rue des Monderaines
ZI - Ouest
14650 Carpiquet
France

t: +33 (0) 2 49 88 01 01
f: +33 (0) 2 49 88 01 02
e: info@oago.fr
w: http://oago.fr