

Late Iron Age and a Saxo-Norman
to early medieval settlement at
Moulton College Holcot Site,
Moulton, Northamptonshire



Excavation Report



August 2013

**Client: Mott MacDonald
on behalf of Moulton College**

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**Late Iron Age and a Saxo-Norman to early medieval settlement at Moulton
College Holcot Site, Moulton, Northamptonshire**

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

Between 25th June and 2nd July 2013 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological strip, map, record and excavation at Moulton College Holcot Site, Moulton, Northamptonshire in advance of development of student residences, related access roads and car parking.

This excavation and a previous evaluation found archaeological remains only within the northern part of the proposed development. A single relatively large Late Iron Age pit was uncovered in the north-western part of the excavation area. This pit contained a moderate quantity of artefacts and some burnt cereal including spelt wheat (chaff elements show it was being cultivated), oats and weed seeds suggesting a settlement of this period was nearby. Two residual Roman pottery sherds were also recovered.

Also revealed were at least two phases of Saxo-Norman to early medieval occupation located in the northern part of the site and less than 100m from Castle Hill, a site known for its medieval manor. This settlement was probably contemporary with medieval Moulton located more than 0.5km to the south-east. It may be evidence that Moulton was a ployfocal settlement during the earlier medieval period. It may have been associated with one of the minor manors or one of the under-tenants to the main manor recorded in the Domesday Survey for Moulton (1086).

Early medieval features included quarry pits, possibly for sand, as well as isolated pits that may have had a domestic function and one rectangular pit that contained evidence for cereal processing, and may have had a specific related function. A second phase of activity was indicated by the presence of possible boundary ditches that may indicate deliberate planning or reorganisation took place in the 12th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Archaeological investigation took place at Moulton College Holcot Site, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR 477900/266900) between 25th June and 2nd July 2013. The site is located approximately 100m to the south of Castle Hill where a group of cropmarks are located that are thought to represent both a prehistoric enclosure and medieval moated site. The cropmarks were thought to extend into the development area.
- 1.1.2 Archaeological evaluation (Atkins 2013) had identified archaeological features in within a single trench located on the northern part of the proposed development. A targeted archaeological strip, map, record and excavation was therefore considered to be an appropriate mitigation (Fig. 1) in advance of the development. The area chosen for further investigation was 775 sq m centred on evaluation Trench 1, with provision of further investigation to the west of the access road in the event that further features were found there.
- 1.1.3 Northamptonshire County Council provided the Brief for the mitigation requirements (Mather 2013) and Oxford Archaeology prepared A Written Scheme of Investigation in response (Connor 2013).
- 1.1.4 The work was designed 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 and to contribute to current regional research aims in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Northamptonshire County Council as appropriate and when possible.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located directly to the west of a tributary of the River Nene (Fig. 1). The underlying geology of the site is Northampton Sand (Ironstone ferruginous and sandy limestones) that overlies Upper Lias (mainly mudstones with thin layers of limestones and shales at the base) (British Geological Survey (BGS)1974).
- 1.2.2 Much of the excavation area in the northern part of the site lies on fairly level ground with a slight fall in height from west (103.5m OD) to east (102.7m OD). The ground also falls towards the south-east.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 An Archaeological desk based assessment has been undertaken by the clients agents Mott MacDonald and sections from it have been used within this report (Sugrue 2013).

Prehistoric and Roman

- 1.3.2 A complex series of cropmarks identified at Castle Hill (Fig. 1) some 100m to the north of the investigation area (RCHM 1979, fig.103; MM134 and National Mapping Programme) may represent a possible prehistoric enclosure and medieval castle (MM101 see below). An unstratified prehistoric find (MM66; PAS MNN146381) has also been recorded in this area.

- 1.3.3 Cropmarks of a possible prehistoric enclosure and barrow cemetery (RCHM 1979 fig.104) lay c.100m to the south-east of the site, directly to the east of the stream (Fig. 1). Three hundred metres to the west of the site lay an Iron Age settlement recorded as cropmarks, in a geophysical survey, and in trial trenches as part of an archaeological evaluation of a 88ha quarry site (RCHM 1979, fig. 105; Deegan 1999; Edmondson 2000). This settlement was extensively Iron Age in date with high concentrations of archaeological activity found within a rectilinear enclosure. Two further Iron Age into Roman settlements lay 0.5km to the north-west and 0.7km to the west respectively (Edmondson 2000). This large scale evaluation took place between Moulton and Pitsford along to the north of a River Nene tributary. The settlement seems to be divided into separate areas that are defined by water channels that run north to south and feed into the River Nene tributary. In general there appears to have been a shift over time from a focus of settlement on the highest ground in the Early-Mid Iron Age, moving to the south facing valley slopes by the later Roman Period. There was no evidence of Early Saxon occupation overlying the Late Roman areas.
- 1.3.4 The National Mapping Programme project identified cropmarks within the development area (Fig. 1). These cropmarks, over a 150m² area were not particularly clear but suggest a large sub-rectangular enclosure lying partly within the western area of the site and linear features to the northern and eastern sides. In the northern area two linear cropmarks ran in a north-east to south-west direction and potentially linking with the Castle Hill cropmarks c.100m to the north of the site. The cropmarks were interpreted as possibly settlement of Iron Age and/or Roman date as well as some possible medieval remains (Sugrue 2013).
- Saxon and medieval*
- 1.3.5 The complex series of cropmarks identified at Castle Hill (Fig. 1) some 100m to the north of the investigation area include elements that are thought to represent a medieval moated site (RCHM 1979, fig.103; MM101 and National Mapping Programme). This is in part due to the assertion of Bridges, whose eighteenth century study and collation of historical data for the Northamptonshire parishes, stated that foundations of buildings had been dug up at Castle Hill and that there were traces of a moat (Bridges 1791, 417). The Victoria County History (Salzman 1937) records a description of Castle Hill, “to the right of the road leading to Holcot, and parallel with New Fox Court and Hog Hole Spinney, is the artificial elevation known as Castle Hill, which may have been the site of Fitz John’s manor, for foundations of the buildings have been dug up and the remains of the moat are apparent.”
- 1.3.6 The Saxon and medieval records are otherwise very few for the parish especially for the earlier period. The first documentary reference is to *Multune* in the 1076 Geld Roll (Glover *et al* 1975, 134). This derives from Mule Farm *v. tun.* and is Old English in origin (*ibid*, 134). Glover *et al* record that for Northamptonshire places with *v. tun* derivative are common with around 100 such examples recorded (Partida *et al* 2013, fig. 69).
- 1.3.7 The Domesday Book notes Alric as holding Moulton in Edward The Confessor's time (Thorn and Thorn 1979). The investigation area is situated only c0.5km to the south-east of the outskirts of Moulton. The church of St Peter and St Paul (c.1km away), has architecture dating from the Norman period and there is a Saxon cross in the churchyard which could suggest earlier origins. The desk-based assessment recorded six references to Saxon finds within the parish although not all were within the 1km search area around the site (Table 1; Sugrue 2013, fig. 1). Within a 1km search area of the site the DBA recorded possible Saxon activity c.500m to the east of the

investigation area (Sugrue 2013, MM 79 and MM 80). Outside the area of the DBA, the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record references a further four finds of Saxon date.

MM41	Unstratified medieval and post medieval finds	FS	MNN101258
MM42	Unstratified late Saxon to post medieval finds	FS	MNN103505
MM45	Possible Saxon/ medieval building remains	MON	MNN24448
MM46	Medieval/post medieval dam	MON	MNN24450
MM52	Unstratified Medieval finds	FS	MNN25256
MM56	Saxon and medieval finds	MON	MNN32641
MM58	Possible remains of manorial buildings & moat	MON	MNN32714
MM69	Unstratified medieval finds, unlocated	PAS	MNN151251
MM72	Unstratified medieval/ post medieval finds	PAS	MNN151531
MM73	Unstratified medieval and post medieval finds	PAS	MNN153165
MM75	Unstratified medieval/ post medieval finds	PAS	MNN153446
MM79	Unstratified Saxon find	MON	MNN160579
MM80	Possible site of Saxon activity	MON	MNN160580
MM101	Possible castle site (or prehistoric settlement)	MON	MNN6480
MM103	Possible site of late Saxon to post medieval activity	MON	MNN160624

Table 1: *Saxon and medieval NHER records listed in the DBA (Sugrue 2013)*

- 1.3.8 The Domesday book (1086) recorded a main manor with three under-tenants, a secondary manor and another more minor landholding (Thorn and Thorn 1979; Salzman 1937).
- 1.3.9 In 1086 the chief manor was held of the Countess Judith and formed part of the honor of Huntingdon. There were three under-tenants listed for this main manor. In the reign of Richard I, Geoffrey Fitz Piers, Earl of Essex, acquired the manor and this then passed to John Fitz John (VCH 1937).
- 1.3.10 The secondary manor in 1086 was held by Robert of Bucy and became amalgamated with Moulton Manor under John Fitz John. King William was a minor landowner in Moulton, which may have belonged to the manor he held within Kingsthorpe parish to the south of Moulton.

Cartographic data

- 1.3.11 The 1" Ordnance Survey sheet 53 (Bedford and Northampton) completed in stages between c.1800-1808 and the 1813 OS Map both show a farm with outbuildings at the Holcot site directly to the east of the Pitsford Road, but these structures do not extend into the development area (not illustrated). The 1st Edition OS map (1884) still has the site within the land around Moulton Grounds farmstead (Sugrue 2013, figure 3.1; not illustrated). It shows that the field boundaries of the late 19th century are, unsurprisingly, still respected by modern field boundaries. Apart from the farm buildings which today form part of the college, there are no additional structures or features represented. To the south of the farm the land on the south facing slope was an orchard.

- 1.3.12 The data from historic maps has shown the development of the farmstead from Moulton Grounds in the late 19th Century into Home Farm in the mid 20th Century and finally Moulton College in the 21st Century. These developments have led to the organic growth of the farmstead with additional buildings and different stages of land use including orchards in adjoining fields and in the field to the south of the college. The developments through the 20th century have not led to any significant direct impact onto the site and it is not until the most recent developments that intrusive works appear to have affected potential archaeological survival of the site (Sugrue 2013).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Moulton College for funding the work and Mike Putman for logistical help. Elliott Furminger and James Sugrue of Mott MacDonald for helping in the smooth running of the project. Nick Proverbs of Willmott Dixon, the developers who inducted the site staff. Lesley-Ann Mather and Liz Mordue monitored the work on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council. Aileen Connor of OA East managed the project and edited the report. Specialist reports and comments were given by Paul Blinkhorn, Chris Faine, Rachel Fosberry, Mike Green and Alice Lyons. Stuart Ladd surveyed the site and produced the illustrations. Steve Critchley kindly metal detected the site. The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Atkins, Nick Cox, Stuart Ladd and Helen Stocks-Morgan.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Connor 2013). The primary aim of the project was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.
- 2.1.2 The evaluation report (Atkins 2013) concluded that the development site is located within a medieval settlement that extends across the Castle Hill/Moulton College area and that it may represent settlement associated with one of the lesser manors or one of the undertenants of the main manor recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086). The evaluation report also noted that the settlement form as evidenced by cropmarks has much in common with Late Saxon foundation/ early medieval planned settlements such as those excavated at Raunds approximately 20kms away.
- 2.1.3 The research aims were therefore related to this period and form of settlement and with reference to the current East Midlands regional research objectives (Knight *et al* 2012).
- 2.1.4 The East Midlands Research Agenda Strategy sets out the following research themes that this project has the potential to contribute towards:
- Rural Settlement
 - Manors and Manorial estates
 - The agrarian landscape and food-producing economy
- 2.1.5 The specific research objectives that were likely to be relevant included
- What are the origins and development of dispersed hamlets and farms?
 - What are the processes of settlement desertion and shrinkage?
 - What can environmental remains teach us about diet and living conditions in rural communities?

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the WSI (Connor 2013).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a JCB type excavator using a flat bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. A farm trailer was used to take spoil away from the excavation area.
- 2.2.3 A c.3m length in the middle of the access road was not excavated in order to leave undisturbed the area adjacent to the gate entrance into the site. No archaeological remains were found within the access road and as a result no further investigation was required.
- 2.2.4 All excavation areas was cleaned as necessary to facilitate the identification of archaeological features and buried soils. All features were mapped onto a base plan by hand (1:50) except at the eastern edge of the site where a boundary ditch and a quarry pit were mapped using a Leica 1200 “smartnet” GPS fitted with “smartnet” technology.. The survey data will be made available in digital format for transfer to the Heritage Environment Record (HER) GIS system. A plan showing all significant features was located to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

- 2.2.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector.
- 2.2.6 All discrete features were half sectioned, but multiple intercutting pits were sampled. Two discrete pits were fully excavated to aid in the recovery of finds.
- 2.2.7 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.8 Two bulk samples (each 10L) were taken from a quarry pit and a boundary ditch. Five bulk samples were taken from the excavation comprising 30L from the Iron Age pit, two samples from quarry pits (20L and 30L) and two from the boundary ditch (20L and 30L).
- 2.2.9 The excavation took place largely in warm sunny conditions with a single exception of one day when it was either wet or overcast.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Site Phasing

3.1.1 Three periods of activity has been identified as follows:

Period 1	?Late Iron Age
Period 2	Saxo-Norman- early medieval
Phase 1	11th to mid 12th century
Phase 2	12th century
Period 3	?Modern

3.1.2 The evaluation features have been included within this report. A table of all contexts including their phasing are contained in Appendix 1 (Table 2).

3.2 Period 1: ?Late Iron Age

3.2.1 A single probable Late Iron Age pit (**9**) was located close to the south-western corner of the main excavation area (Fig. 3). This sub-circular pit was fairly large at 2.6m by 2.3m across and 1.15m deep (Fig. 4, S. 6; Plates 1 and 2). It had steep sides and a slightly concave base. It seems the pit was backfilled quickly with a sterile basal fill (54) tipped in from the north. This deposit was c.0.44m thick and comprised a dark yellow brown silty sand with frequent iron stone fragments. Within this fill there was a single tiny pottery sherd (1g), part of a possible triangular loom weight (0.111kg; See Lyons Appendix B.3) as well as several unfired green clay lumps. This deposit was sealed by , a dark grey yellow sand with moderate iron stone fragments and some charcoal (55). In this deposit there were 41 Late Iron Age pottery sherds (0.51kg; See Blinkhorn Appendix B.2) and an undiagnostic clay fragment (16g). A 30L bulk environmental soil sample (sample 7) produced a small to moderate assemblage of charred plant remains including grains of oats (*Avena* sp.) and spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta.*), with chaff elements showing this was being cultivated, a relatively large quantity of goosefoot (*chenopodiaceae*) which seems to have been used for food, occasional small legumes and weed seeds of plants such as docks (*Rumex* sp.) and Sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) (See Fosberry Appendix C.2, Table 6). The upper fill of the pit (10) was a mid reddish brown silty sand which had been truncated by 12th century ditches (**11**, **52** and **62**). A single Iron Age pottery sherd and three probably intrusive Saxo-Norman-early medieval pottery sherds were recovered from this fill.

3.2.2 Elsewhere, three residual Iron Age pottery sherds and two small residual Roman pottery sherds were recovered from 11th/12th century features.

3.3 Period 2: Saxo-Norman to Early Medieval

Phase 2.1: 11th to mid 12th century

3.3.1 Several intercutting and 11 isolated pits were located within a small area and dated to this period based on an assemblage of pottery largely comprising St Neots and Stamford wares (Fig. 3).

- 3.3.2 The 11 isolated pits (**5/65**, **13**, **15**, **24**, **26**, **28**, **30**, **32**, **34**, **36** and **38**) varied in size from pit **36** at 0.6m in diameter and 0.14m deep to pit **13** at 1.88m by 1.75m in diameter and 0.53m deep (Table 2; Plate 3). The two deepest and best defined pits (**13** and **15**), had near vertical and moderate to steep sides respectively and both were flat bottomed (Fig. 4, S. 5 and S. 6). These two pits also contained the most artefacts. They were both located in the south-western corner of the site, whereas the other pits were shallower with their sides being gentle or of moderate steepness and had fairly sterile backfills. All 11 pits were filled with a single backfill deposit; pit **13** was filled with a mid greyish brown, slightly charcoal flecked silty sand, whilst the fill of pit **15** was a dark greyish brown silty sand, the other pits were filled with either a mid brown silty sand or a mid orangey brown silty sand. Four of the pits contained pottery within their backfills; pit **13** had 25 sherds (0.294kg) including a complete profile of a St Neots type cylindrical jar, the remaining pits all contained only a few sherds: pit **15** had five sherds (12g), pit **24** had 4 sherds (5g), and pit **34** two sherds (3g). Animal bone was recovered from two pits with pit **5/65** producing two cattle bones (humerus and a metatarsal) and pit **34** a distal cattle tibia. A sample (4) from pit **13** produced a small assemblage of charred cereal grains and a few weed seeds (See Fosberry Appendix C.2).
- 3.3.3 Intercutting pits **8/41** extended over an area of 10m by 5m and may comprise at least six pits, which were not distinguishable, or perhaps a single pit of irregular shape. They/it had gentle to moderate sides, a flattish base and was 0.28m deep. The single backfill varied slightly from a light brown to a mid brown silty sand. Seven pottery sherds (42g) were recovered and a 10L bulk environmental sample (2) produced a very small assemblage of charred cereal grains and weed seeds (See Fosberry Appendix C.2).
- 3.3.4 Pits **17**, **19** and **21** were more clearly separate, intercutting features and extended over an area of 4m by more than three metres (Fig. 3; Fig. 4, S. 7). Two of the pits (**17** and **21**) were oval in shape up to 2.05m long and 1.3m wide and 0.21m and 0.36m respectively deep. The earliest pits (**17** and **19**) had gentle and steep sides respectively with the base of **19** being irregular. Pit **17** had a dark brown sandy silt fill which contained two very small possible Late Saxon pottery sherds (early St Neots) and an undiagnostic daub fragment (2g) whilst pits **19** and **21** contained mid yellowish brown silty sand fills, each with single sherds of Roman and later St Neots are pottery respectively.
- 3.3.5 Pit **48/56** was also interpreted as a group of intercutting pits rather than a single feature, however, in common with 8/41 differences between separate features could not be discerned. It was sub-rectangular or sub-square, 7m long and more than 2.5m wide and between 0.32m and 0.5m deep. The pit sides were moderately steep, its base fairly flat and the single backfill deposit was a mid greyish brown silty sand with a few lenses of charcoal and charred seeds. Twenty-seven St Neots ware sherds (0.114kg) were recovered throughout the fill in no particular concentrations. A single identifiable cattle metacarpal was recovered. A 30L environmental sample (6) produced a large assemblage of charred cereal grains which may have been from crop processing waste (See Fosberry Appendix C.2) including a significant quantity of barley and oats, a little wheat and some weed seeds as well as a few legumes.

Phase 2.2: 12th century

- 3.3.6 This phase comprised an east to west aligned ditch (**45/62/60** and recut **47/51/58/3/40/43**) and a north to south ditch (**11**) which abutted it (Fig.3; Fig. 4, S. 6).

Ditch 11

- 3.3.7 Ditch **11** was aligned roughly north to south and was cut by ditch (**47/51/58/3/40/43**) (Fig. 4, S.6). It was 1.45m wide, with gentle sides and a slightly rounded base (Plate 2). This ditch was filled with a mid greyish brown silty sand with some charcoal flecks, and contained a moderate pottery assemblage (38 sherds weighing 0.261kg). Most of the pottery comprised St Neots and Stamford wares but also 12 sherds of Shelly Coarsewares which date from the 12th century (See Blinkhorn Appendix B.2). Within the fill there were also two residual Iron Age pottery sherds and a single small, presumably intrusive, Brill/Boarstall ware sherd (3g) which dates from the early 13th century. Three identifiable animal bones were recovered and comprised a cattle atlas, a horse phalanx and a sheep mandible. A bulk environmental sample (3) from the ditch produced a small quantity of charred cereal grains and a few weed seeds (See Fosberry Appendix C.2).

Ditch (45/62/60)

- 3.3.8 This ditch terminated or shallowed out within the western end of the excavation area, close to ditch **11**, but with no direct relationship. It was 0.5m wide at its western end and only 0.04m deep (**45**), as it progressed downslope and eastwards it gradually widened and deepened (0.56m wide and 0.27m deep at slot **62** and 0.7+m wide and 0.32m deep by slot **60**). It was removed by a later recut as it continued further west. It had moderately steep sides, a flattish base and was filled with a dark grey silty sand. Six sherds (19g) of St Neots and Stamford ware pottery were recovered from its fills.

Ditch (47/51/58/3/40/43)

- 3.3.9 Ditch 45/62/60 was recut and similarly shallow at its western end where it was 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep (**47**), it gradually became larger in size; 1.7, wide and 0.72m deep at the eastern edge of the excavation (**43**, Plate 4, Fig. 4, S.15). It was filled with a single backfill deposit which varied from a mid brown sandy silt to a dark brownish grey sandy silt with some charcoal flecks. Forty-four pottery sherds (0.211kg) were found within the ditch, mostly from slot **51** in the south-western corner of the site. This quantity can be partly explained by the excavation slot being twice the size of the others at over 2m wide (it had been extended to fully excavate Iron Age pit **9**). Even so, it produced by far the most pottery (38 sherds weighing 0.186kg) with only six sherds recovered from the remaining ditch slots. The pottery included Shelly and Sandy Coarse wares which date from c. AD 1100 (See Blinkhorn B.2). A single identifiable animal bone came from ditch **51** and comprised a distal horse scapula. Two bulk environmental samples (1 and 5), both produced moderate quantities of charred cereals including free-threshing wheat and oats, a little rye and barley grains, some weed seeds and a few legumes (See Fosberry Appendix C.2).

3.4 Period 3: ?Modern

- 3.4.1 A single undated probable quarry pit (**53**) cut the east to west boundary ditch at the eastern edge of the site (Fig. 3; Fig. 4, S.15). The pit could be of any date later than the c.12th century. It was at least 5m long, 1.55m wide and 0.44m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a sterile light grey brown silty sand.
- 3.4.2 A subsoil layer (2), up to at least 0.2m thick sealed the archaeological features in the southern part of the site (including quarry pit **53**). This subsoil was in turn sealed by a topsoil layer (1) up to 0.42m thick.

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 There were only three artefact categories from the site; flint, pottery and daub/fired clay. The former comprised five residual Neolithic/Bronze Age flint pieces (See Green Appendix B.1). The pottery consisted of 46 sherds of probable Late Iron Age pottery (0.554kg), two Roman (13g) and 158 Late Saxon to medieval pottery sherds (0.944kg) (See Blinkhorn Appendix B.2). There were four daub/fired clay fragments (0.129kg) which comprised a part of a probable Iron Age triangular loomweight and undiagnostic fragments (See Lyons Appendix B.3).

3.6 Environmental Summary

- 3.6.1 The environmental remains comprise animal bones and charred seeds remains. Twenty animal bone fragments were found in the 11th-12th century contexts and nine of these were identifiable to species (See Faine Appendix C.1). Seven bulk environmental samples were taken from Iron Age and 11th-12th century contexts. Cereals and weeds were found in small to moderate quantities (Iron Age) and small to large quantities (11th and 12th century) with probable crop processing products in one Period 2.1 sample (See Fosberry Appendix C.2).

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Iron Age and Saxo-Norman-Early Medieval remains were located on relatively level ground at about 103m OD, overlooking a north to south stream which was 100m to the east of the site at 93m OD.

4.1.2 At the outset of the project it was hoped to achieve the following objectives

- What are the origins and development of dispersed hamlets and farms?
- What are the processes of settlement desertion and shrinkage?
- What can environmental remains teach us about diet and living conditions in rural communities?

An attempt has been made to address all of these questions in the discussion below, questions concerning settlement development and desertion are still relevant but it has become clear that this work can also contribute towards the question of polyfocal settlements. The archaeo-botanical assemblage has been particularly valuable in providing evidence regarding the cereal crops and how these changed over time.

Neolithic/Bronze Age

4.1.3 Five residual and unstratified Neolithic/Bronze Age flint pieces indicates there was non-specific activity in the vicinity of the site in these periods.

Iron Age

4.1.4 The excavation has found evidence for a previously unknown probable c.Late Iron Age occupation site. Only one feature of this period was found, but as it was located within a metre of the edge of the excavation area it is likely that further Iron Age remains could be present to the west or south-west of this excavation. The pit itself was relatively large at 2.6m by 2.3m in size and 1.15m deep and a moderate quantity of artefacts and ecofacts suggests settlement in the vicinity. The pit contained 46 pottery sherds (0.554kg) and a probable triangular loomweight. A moderate assemblage of charred plants including cereals such as spelt wheat having chaff elements showing this was being cultivated. Two small residual Roman pottery sherds were also found from later features, although these could easily derive from general manuring scatters in a farmed landscape.

4.1.5 The pit at Moulton has similarities to pits found on the Middle Iron Age site at nearby Ecton, c.5km to the south-east, where 60 pits were recovered varying from 0.66m to 2.1m in diameter and between 0.1m to 1.27m deep (Atkins *et al* 2000/2001, 57-8). At Ecton it was thought that the majority might have been dug as borrow-pits for small amounts of sand, gravel or sand-ironstone, but the authors stressed that the possibility that beliefs and rituals prompted their formation should not be overlooked (cf. Cunliffe 1992, 75).

4.1.6 To date there are perhaps four known Iron Age settlements (some continuing into the Roman period) within 0.7km of the Moulton site (See Section 1.3.5 above). Their distribution is similar to the results of extensive excavations on the valley floor at Wollaston, c.20km to the south east of Moulton, where both Iron Age and Roman farmsteads were found between 300m and 400m apart (Meadows forthcoming). In contrast to the Moulton area, Iron Age/Roman settlements along ridgeways (e.g. at

Sywell and Ecton c.5km to the south-east), were even more closely spaced and extensive than at Wollaston (Atkins *et al* 2000/2001, 70). Overall, Iron Age (and Roman) farmsteads were fairly common in the area and therefore suggest that there was a reasonably high population in these periods.

Saxo-Norman-Early Medieval (11th to 12th century)

- 4.1.7 The excavation has shown that there was an occupation site here during the 11th to 12th centuries. The precise character of this occupation is not clear from this small excavation although there were at least two phases of activity found suggesting some longevity and complexity. The general character of the features is consistent with those that might be found on the periphery of settlement, including possibly quarry pits and a boundary ditch, although two of the isolated pits and evidence for crop processing suggest that the excavation also touched upon activities more central to the settlement.

Phase 2.1: Foundation of a new settlement? (11th to c.mid 12th centuries)

- 4.1.8 The earliest evidence for occupation in Period 2 (11th to c. mid 12th centuries) was in the form of many pits (some isolated whilst others were intercutting) within a relatively small area on the western edge of the excavation. The underlying geology here is sand and it is likely that these pits had been dug to extract it for use in building.
- 4.1.9 A small number of pits in the south-west corner of the site were better defined, deeper and contained more artefacts and ecofacts in their backfill. It is likely that these were associated with domestic building(s) just beyond the scope of this investigation.
- 4.1.10 A soil sample from a large rectangular pit (**48/56**) produced a good assemblage of charred cereal grains and other seeds indicated that cereal processing was probably occurring nearby using a wide range of cereal types. Though not seen in its entirety, and clearly truncated on one side, it is possible that this pit was used in the processing of crops and not merely a repository for waste. It has some characteristics in common with a type of Sunken Featured Building (rectangular in shape, relatively shallow, flat base) which although commonly attributed to the earlier Anglo-Saxon periods may have continued in use as an agricultural building type in some areas into the early medieval period. A similar example was excavated recently at Great Gransden in Cambridgeshire (House 2013).
- 4.1.11 Settlement foundation during this period (or slightly earlier) is relatively well known, for example at Raunds a major fieldwalking survey found that dispersed Early/Middle Saxon farmsteads within the parish were either abandoned as new nucleated settlements were created in the Middle or Late Saxon period or were absorbed by new larger settlements (Parry 2006).

Phase 2.2: Planned settlement from the c. early 12th century?

- 4.1.12 Although only a very small proportion of this settlement can have been investigated by this excavation there does seem to be a clear distinction between the earlier features which apparently show little signs of organisation and the second phase (c.12th century) when some form of order appears to have been imposed in the form of possible boundary ditches. These comprised a probable east to west boundary ditch which was clearly in use for a considerable period of time, having been re-established and enlarged along the same line, and a second north to south ditch which abutts and may therefore be related to this boundary. The larger boundary ditch may have served a secondary purpose as drainage since it leads towards the stream at the base of the hill. It is possible/even probable that these two ditches are representative of a wider, more complex system. At Wortham in Suffolk regular property boundaries were laid out

in c.AD 1100 and it is likely they represented part of a planned expansion to the village by the Abbey of St Edmundsbury who held the manor (Atkins 2011). The ditches found during excavations at Moulton may represent a similar level of planning, perhaps instigated by one of the local manors. An attempt to organise villages at this time is reasonably well documented from the early post-conquest period when many villages seem to have been deliberately planned or re-organised around a village street along which peasant houses were arranged within plots of uniform or near-uniform size (Faith 1997, 225).

- 4.1.13 It is possible that the stream or brook running to the east of the excavation area was used as the axis point for planned settlement. Elsewhere in Northamptonshire, regular plots were being established from at least the late Saxon period and many seem to have used rivers or streams as their 'control points'. The Late Saxon Furnells and Burystead manors in Raunds parish contained sub-square and sub-rectangular plots arranged perpendicular and parallel to the Raunds Brook (Audouy and Chapman 2009, figs. 3.4, 5.15 and fig. 5.74). At West Cotton, Raunds, the Late Saxon settlement (c.AD 950-1100) was planned, roughly square in size (c.170m by 150m) with its internal layout comprising regular sub-rectangular plots adjacent to roads and the Cotton Brook (Chapman 2010, figs. 4.1 and 4.2). At Botolph Bridge, now consumed by Peterborough, the former Middle Saxon village was re-organised in c. AD 1000 with regular plot boundary ditches laid perpendicular to the River Nene (Spoerry and Atkins in press).

End of the settlement

- 4.1.14 The infilling of the ditches at Moulton in the 12th century may signify the abandonment of some properties and re-organisation of the settlement. At Botolph Bridge properties were abandoned in one area by the end of the 12th century, although continued elsewhere, and a similar story was seen at Furnells, Raunds where some boundaries were abandoned and re-organisation took place (*ibid*; Audouy and Chapman 2009, fig. 3.12).
- 4.1.15 Although no later medieval features were found within the very small excavation area, complete abandonment at this period is unlikely since populations were increasing at this time and settlements invariably increased in size. The end date for this postulated settlement is therefore uncertain - an intrusive Brill/Boarstall pottery sherd (early 13th -16th) may suggest that the settlement continued elsewhere.
- 4.1.16 Bridges suggested that the remains at Castle Hill were possibly held in the late 13th century by John Fitz John. The influence that this manor had on the settlement is not clear but a likely abandonment date is the mid 14th or 15th century, as in this period there was a national trend towards the desertion of minor parish settlements (Chapman 2010, 245). A major cause given by Chapman was the social and economic reorganisation that followed in the wake of the Black Death (*ibid*, 245).
- 4.1.17 Certainly the settlement is unlikely to have continued beyond the 16th century since the area was by this time given over to agriculture (Partida *et al* 2013, 46m).

Polyfocal settlement

- 4.1.18 The possibility of a settlement at this location during the early medieval period is supported by the documentary and archaeological evidence for the area.
- 4.1.19 Taylor (1977, 190) demonstrated that it is possible in some parishes to establish that different manorial units recorded in the Domesday Survey appear to be related to specific settlement focii, thus villages were polyfocal, not single units. The excavation at

Moulton Village College has shown that it is possible to demonstrate the same for Moulton where a separate settlement (to the current village) can be postulated at the Holcot site.

- 4.1.20 Both the Domesday survey (1086) and archaeological evidence suggest that the parish of Moulton is likely to have comprised at least three separate settlements during the early medieval periods (see Sections 1.3.8-1.3.10 above) with only the settlement at Moulton Village itself continuing to the present day. Moulton is recorded as having several manors in 1124 but had become a single manor township by 1316 (Williamson *et al* 2013, plate 18).
- 4.1.21 The manorial site at Castle Hill noted by Bridges and others may therefore represent one of the manors or one of the under-tenants of the main manor recorded in 1086. The postulated settlement found by excavation on the Moulton Village College site is likely to have been associated with that manor and represent a second settlement focus for Moulton.
- 4.1.22 A third suggested, contemporary settlement site, with remains of possible manorial buildings and a moat, lies c.500m further to the north-east of the Holcot site (NHER MM52 and MM58).
- 4.1.23 Parishes comprising polyfocal settlements are perhaps not unusual; Raunds (c.20km to the north-east) for example had three or perhaps four separate Late Saxon/medieval settlements (Parry 2006; Chapman 2010, fig. 1.1).
- 4.1.24 How many parishes began as polyfocal settlements is uncertain, this is because minor settlements usually did not survive into the post-medieval period. Analysis of documentary sources likely to give topographical detail for both Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire have found these sites have rarely been recorded with Wollaston being one of the few exceptions (Taylor 1977, 189-191).
- 4.1.25 Two recent overviews of Northamptonshire for the medieval and post-medieval periods have recorded Moulton as a single settlement parish (township) in the medieval period (Partida *et al* 2013, including fig. 60; Williamson *et al* 2013, plate 21), and few hamlets are recorded elsewhere in Northamptonshire leading the county to be described as "one of the most nucleated of medieval settlement patterns" (Partida *et al* 2013, 82). Whilst this may be true for the later medieval period, the excavation at Moulton Village College would seem to call the assertion into question for the earlier period and it is worth noting that approximately half of the Northamptonshire townships recorded in the Domesday Survey had more than one manor (Williamson *et al* 2013, plate 18).

Evidence for diet and farming practices by Rachel Fosberry

- 4.1.26 Over time there is a trend from a preference for spelt wheat in the Iron Age to free-threshing wheat in the medieval period as has been attested for this area (Monckton 2003). Wheat was commonly used for grinding into flour for bread and rye was also used in this form in the medieval period although the low numbers of rye grains suggest that this was not a popular choice at this site. Barley is most common in the early medieval sample but is known to be a staple cereal cultivated throughout both the prehistoric and into the medieval period. Barley and oats were often grown as a mixed crop (dredge) and used for animal fodder although they were also consumed in soups, stews and porridge. Barley and oats recovered together in a 12th century oven at West Cotton (Campbell and Robinson 2010) were thought to be intended for malting for beer. Hulled barley would have to have the outer husks removed for human consumption by parching and could have become accidentally burnt during this process. Large-scale sampling from the medieval settlement at West Cotton suggests that rye is more

common in this area and that barley is less significant than wheat throughout the medieval period. Free-threshing wheat does appear to be more common in the main 12th century sample. The lack of wheat chaff suggests that semi-processed wheat grain was imported onto the site with the earlier stages of winnowing, threshing and primary sieving occurring elsewhere.

- 4.1.27 The charred weed seed assemblages here are typical ruderal/segetal species of the East Midlands and were probably from plants harvested with the crop. Weeds mixed in with the cereal crops would have been a major concern for farmers and they would have either had to pull out or hoe by hand. Inevitably the harvested crop would be contaminated with weed seeds which would either be picked out by hand or tolerated although this would have affected the quality of the flour.
- 4.1.28 The weed seeds provide an insight into changes in cultivation throughout the occupation of the site. Plants such as sheep's sorrel indicate continued cultivation of sandy soils, presumably close to the site itself. The introduction of stinking mayweed in the early medieval period indicates the exploitation of heavier clay soils through agricultural innovation and the use of more specialised machinery. Stinking mayweed is known to exist in the Late Iron Age period although it becomes more frequent in the Roman period (Moulins and Murphy 2001). It doesn't appear in any of the Iron Age samples from sites excavated at Ecton (Campbell 2000/20001) or at Wilby Way, Doddington (Stevens 2003) suggesting that only the lighter soils were cultivated during this period.
- 4.1.29 Significant numbers of similar small legumes were recovered from sites at Raunds (Campbell with Robinson 2009) and West Cotton (Campbell and Robinson 2010) where they identified the cultivated form of common vetch (*V. sativa* spp. *Sativa*) in addition to other leguminous weed seeds indicating the importance of pulse crops during the medieval period. It is possible that vetches were being grown through crop rotation to improve the nitrogen content of agricultural soils and would also have been used for fodder.

Note on the cropmark evidence

- 4.1.30 There were a series of cropmarks recorded over the site in the 1990s, with several being within the area of the evaluation trenches and the present excavation (Figs. 1 and 2). None of these cropmark features were found during excavation and they are likely to be of geological origin.
- 4.1.31 In the 1970s RCHM recorded six areas where cropmark complexes occur in Moulton parish, but not in the area of the Moulton College site (RCHM 1979, 110-111). Three of these cropmark sites have been archaeologically proven to be settlements. Sites 5 and 6 (*ibid*, fig. 105) were evaluated and shown to be Iron Age and Roman in date (Edmondson 2000) and site 3 at Castle Hill (RCHM 1979, fig. 103) was recorded by Bridges (1791).

4.2 Conclusions

- 4.2.1 The excavation has revealed a previously unknown Late Iron Age site, one of many settlements of this date within the area.
- 4.2.2 A Saxo-Norman to early medieval settlement, possibly associated with a manorial site has also been discovered. This hitherto unknown settlement has raised the question of whether polyfocal settlements are more frequent in Northamptonshire than has previously been proposed.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Breadth	Depth	Period/phase
1				layer	topsoil				0.4	3
2				layer	subsoil				0.2	3
3		3	1	cut	ditch	boundary		1.3	0.4	2.2
4		3	1	fill	ditch	boundary				2.2
5		5	1	cut	pit	?quarry		0.6	0.11	2.1
6		5	1	fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
7		8	1	fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
8		8	1	cut	pit	?quarry	0	1.5	0.28	2.1
9		9		cut	pit		2.6	2.3	1.15	1
10		9		fill	pit		0			1
11		11		cut	ditch	?boundary	0	1.45	0.3	2.2
12		11		fill	ditch	?boundary	0			2.2
13		13		cut	pit	?quarry	1.88	1.75	0.53	2.1
14		13		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
15		15		cut	pit	?quarry	0	2	0.5	2.1
16		15		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
17		17		cut	pit	?quarry	1.4	1.1	0.21	2.1
18		17		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
19		19		cut	pit	?quarry	0	1.42	0.4	2.1
20		19		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
21		21		cut	pit	?quarry	2.05	1.3	0.36	2.1
22		21		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
23		24		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
24		24		cut	pit	?quarry	1.5	1	0.15	2.1
25		26		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
26		26		cut	pit	?quarry	1.2	0.85	0.22	2.1
27		28		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
28		28		cut	pit	?quarry	1	0.8	0.17	2.1
29		30		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
30		30		cut	pit	?quarry	0.8	0.8	0.25	2.1
31		32		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
32		32		cut	pit	?quarry	1.1	1.3	0.18	2.1
33		34		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
34		34		cut	pit	?quarry	2.25	1.4	0.38	2.1
35		36		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
36		36		cut	pit	?quarry	0.6	0.6	0.14	2.1
37		38		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
38		38		cut	pit	?quarry	2.1	1.3	0.15	2.1
39		40		fill	ditch	boundary	0			2.2
40		40		cut	ditch	boundary	0	1.5	0.42	2.2
41				layer			9.6	4.2	0.28	2.1
42		43		fill	ditch	boundary	0			2.2

Context	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Breadth	Depth	Period/phase
43		43		cut	ditch	boundary	0	1.7	0.72	2.2
44		45		fill	ditch	boundary	0			2.2
45	60 + 62	45		cut	ditch	boundary	0	0.5	0.04	2.2
46		47		fill	ditch	boundary	0			2.2
47	51+ 58	47		cut	ditch	boundary	0	0.5	0.08	2.2
48	56	48		cut	pit	?quarry	6.65	2	0.5	2.1
49		48		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
50		51		fill	ditch	boundary	0			2.2
51	47 + 58	51		cut	ditch	boundary	0	0.95	0.37	2.2
52		53		fill	pit		0			3
53		53		cut	pit		5	1.55	0.44	3
54		9		fill	pit		0		0.28	1
55		9		fill	pit		0		0.29	1
56	48	56		cut	pit	?quarry	0		0.32	2.1
57		56		fill	pit	?quarry	0			2.1
58	47 + 51	58		cut	ditch	boundary	0	1.2	0.45	2.2
59		58		fill	ditch	boundary	0			2.2
60	45 + 62	60		cut	ditch	boundary	0	0.7	0.32	2.2
61		60		fill	ditch	boundary	0			2.2
62	45 + 60	62		cut	ditch	boundary	0	0.56	0.27	2.2
63		62		fill	ditch	boundary	0			2.2
64		65		fill	pit	?quarry				2.1
65		65		cut	pit	?quarry	2.5	1.5	0.2	2.1

Table 2: *Context list*

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Flint

By Mike Green

Results

- B.1.1 Five flint pieces dating from the Neolithic to Bronze Age were found in residual or unstratified contexts. The flint pieces were in good condition with no sign of rolling.

Context 14 (Period 2.1: fill of quarry pit **13**). Secondary flake with retouched edges. Good quality light glassy flint. Neolithic-Bronze Age

Context 16 (Period 2.1: fill of quarry pit **15**). Rejuvenation flake from a prepared core, hinge fractured. Cherty flint. Neolithic-Bronze Age.

Unstratified. 1) Reworked bulb. Good quality light glassy flint. Early-Mid Bronze Age.

2) Partially denticulated blade. Good quality light glassy flint. Early Bronze Age.

3) Tertiary flake. Good quality light glassy flint. Neolithic-Bronze Age.

B.2 Pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

Analytical Methodology

- B.2.1 The pottery was initially bulk-sorted and recorded on a computer using DBase IV software. The material from each context was recorded by number and weight of sherds per fabric type, with featureless body sherds of the same fabric counted, weighed and recorded as one database entry. Feature sherds such as rims, bases and lugs were individually recorded, with individual codes used for the various types. Decorated sherds were similarly treated. In the case of the rimsherds, the form, diameter in mm and the percentage remaining of the original complete circumference was all recorded. This figure was summed for each fabric type to obtain the estimated vessel equivalent (EVE).

- B.2.2 The terminology used is that defined by the Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) and to the minimum standards laid out in the Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG 2001). All the statistical analyses were carried out using a DBase package written by the author, which interrogated the original or subsidiary databases, with some of the final calculations made with an electronic calculator. Any statistical analyses were carried out to the minimum standards suggested by Orton (1998-9, 135-7).

The Pottery

- B.2.3 The pottery assemblage comprised 208 sherds with a total weight of 1,513g. It comprised a mixture of Iron Age, Saxo-Norman and early medieval wares, as follows:

B.2.4 *Iron Age*

B.2.5 All the Iron Age pottery was in the same fabric, as follows:

F1: Fine shell. Sparse to moderate shell fragments up to 3mm, few visible inclusions. 46 sherds, 554g.

B.2.6 Shell-tempered wares such as these are common throughout the Iron Age in the Northampton area (Jackson and Chapman 2010, 22).

Post-Roman

B.2.7 The late Saxon and medieval pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F100: T1(1) type St. Neots Ware, AD850-1100. 2 sherds, 2g.

F200: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 115 sherds, 621g.

F205: Stamford ware, AD850-1250. 20 sherds, 117g.

F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 21 sherds, 195g.

F360: Miscellaneous Sandy Coarsewares, AD1100-1400. 1 sherds, 8g.

F324: Brill/Boarstall ware, E 13th- 16thC. 1 sherd, 3g.

F1001: All Romano-British. 2 sherds, 13g.

B.2.8 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 5. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region.

Chronology

Iron Age

B.2.9 All the Iron Age pottery was undecorated, and the fabric is chronologically undiagnostic, other than being typical of the period in the area. Early Iron Age vessels from sites around Northampton are usually carinated (Jackson and Chapman 2010, 22), and the middle Iron Age assemblages usually produce quantities of Scored Ware (Elsdon 1994), so by a process of elimination, it seems most likely that the prehistoric pottery is of Late Iron Age date.

Post-Roman

B.2.10 Each context-specific assemblage was given a ceramic phase ('CP') date based on the range of pottery types present. The chronology, defining wares and the amount of pottery per phase is shown in Table 3.

Ceramic Phase	Date	Defining Ware	No Sherds	Wt Sherds
CP1	11th C	F200, F205	86	528
CP2	12th C	F330	36	173
CP3	13th C	F324	36	243
		Total*	158	944

Table 3: *Ceramic phase chronology, occurrence and defining Wares*

*Excludes residual Roman and Iron Age material

B.2.11 The bulk of the pottery consists of late, wheel-thrown St Neots-type wares, classified by Denham (1985, 46) as 'type T1(2)', and indicates that most of the material from the site

is of 11th – early/mid 12th century date. The pottery occurrence per ceramic phase is shown in Table 4.

Ceramic Phase	F200	F205	F330	F324	Total
CP1	94.5%	5.5%	-	-	528g
CP2	34.1%	37.6%	23.7%	-	173g
CP3	25.9%	9.5%	63.4%	1.2%	243g
				Total	944g

Table 4: Pottery occurrence per ceramic phase, expressed as a percentage of the phase assemblage, major wares only, by weight in g

Shaded cells = residual

B.2.12 The rim assemblage comprised entirely jars and bowls, with the former making up 82% of it by Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE). A single bodysherd with applied strip decoration, probably from a storage jar, was also present. One jar rim was from a small Stamford Ware vessel, the rest from pots in fabric F200. It is worthy of note that of the ten rimsherds of this type, five were wide, flanged forms from cylindrical jars, a specialist cooking vessel very typical of the late 10th – 12th century at sites in the region (eg. Blinkhorn 2010). A full profile of a vessel of this type occurred in context 14. It is in a grey fabric with brown surfaces and has extensive light sooting on the outer surface.

Discussion

B.2.13 The range of pottery types present suggest that there were two fairly short periods of activity at the site. The first was probably in the late Iron Age, although the pottery is rather undiagnostic.

B.2.14 The second phase appears to have been more or less exclusively limited to the 11th–early/mid 12th century. Most of the pottery is in fabrics and forms typical of this period, and the taphonomy indicates that most of the features were back-filled at more or less the same time, and mainly using material from a common source, such as a midden. It is worthy of note that the pottery from the two latest features, 12 and 51, included sherds from a single Stamford Ware vessel, a type which can be no later than the mid-12th century. Given that the only pottery from 12 that can be said to later than this date is a very small sherd of Brill/Boarstall Ware, it is entirely possible that this later sherd is intrusive, and the feature was back-filled in the 12th century. Certainly, at West Cotton in Northamptonshire, most of the late Saxon field boundaries etc were filled in during the 12th century when the lay-out of the settlement was changed, so this may all be evidence of a similar early medieval landscape re-organization in Moulton.

Ctxt	F1		F1001		F100		F200		F205		F330		F360		F324		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4							1	9									CP1
7							6	40									CP1
10	1	22					2	8	1	4							CP1
12	2	18					16	63	7	23	12	154			1	3	CP3
14							23	271	2	23							CP1
16							5	12									CP1
18					2	2											LSAX?
20			1	3													RB

Ctxt	F1		F1001		F100		F200		F205		F330		F360		F324		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
22							1	2									CP1
23							4	5									CP1
33							2	3									CP1
39							3	6									CP1
41							1	2									CP1
42							1	1									CP1
44							3	12									CP1
49							22	91									CP1
50	1	3	1	10			17	59	9	65	9	41	1	8			CP2
54	1	1															LIA?
55	41	510															LIA
57							5	23									CP1
59							1	9									CP1
61							1	2									CP1
63							1	3	1	2							CP1
Tot	46	554	2	13	2	2	115	621	20	117	21	195	1	8	1	3	

Table 5: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

B.3 Fired clay/daub

By Alice Lyons

Results

- B.3.1 Four fired clay/daub fragments (0.129kg) were recovered from three contexts. Two of the fragments (0.111kg) were from the basal fill (54) of Late Iron Age pit (9) and these may have been part of a triangular loom weight. Triangular loom weights of this type are relatively common in the Late Iron Age in the eastern region (Duncan and Mackreth 2005, 126; Etté and Lucus 2006, 197-201) and reflect the need and ability to process wool (Dawson 2005, 135). The loom weight comprised low fired sandy clay with small flint inclusions and smoothed surfaces. An undiagnostic fired clay fragment (16g) from the fill (55) of Late Iron Age pit (9) was made from a baked clay with grey core and light surfaces. It had been abraded into a smoothed shape. An undiagnostic daub fragment (2g) in a sandy clay fabric was found in context 18, fill of Saxo-Norman quarry pit (17).

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Chris Faine

- C.1.1 A very small collection of animal bone (0.683kg) was recovered and consisted of 20 fragments with 9 fragments identifiable to species. Material was recovered entirely from 11th - 12th century contexts. Identifiable fragments were recovered from six contexts. Context 6 consisted of a partial cattle humerus. The largest number of fragments (NISP: 3) was recovered from context 12 and consisted of a partial cattle atlas, horse 1st phalanx and sheep mandible (no teeth were recovered). Context 33 contained a distal cattle tibia. Further cattle remains were recovered from contexts 49 & 64 in the form of a fragmentary metacarpal and metatarsal respectively. A distal horse scapula was recovered from context 50.

C.2 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.2.1 Seven bulk samples taken from deposits dating from the late Iron Age and Medieval deposits were assessed and found to have archaeobotanical potential. Three samples were chosen for full analysis based on their charred plant content and the date of the deposit with the aim of investigating changes in agricultural economy throughout the occupation of the site.
- C.2.2 The samples chosen were taken from deposits within pits dating to the Late Iron Age (Sample 7, fill 55 of pit **9**) and the eleventh to mid twelfth century (Sample 6, fill 49 of pit **48**) and a twelfth century ditch (sample 5, fill 39 of ditch **40**). Different cereal varieties were found to predominate within each sample. These three deposits cannot be expected to reflect the extent of the cultivation choices of each period of occupation but do perhaps suggest a general trend.

Methodology

- C.2.3 The total volume (up to thirty litres) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table xxx. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers *et al* 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997). Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where

possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.2.4 Individual cereal grains, chaff elements and seeds have been counted and recorded on Table 6 with the other assessed samples on Table 7. Sample 6, fill 49 of medieval pit **48** produced a large charred plant assemblage that would have taken too long to analyse in its entirety. A 25% sub-sample was fully sorted and the counts of charred plant remains from this portion have been tabulated. Fragmented cereal grains have been counted if over half of the grain has survived. Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal has been scored for abundance according to the following criteria:

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

Results

Sample No.		7	6	5
Context No.		55 (9)	49 (48)	39 (40)
Feature type		Pit	Pit	Ditch
Period		1	2.1	2.2
Cereals				
<i>Avena</i> sp. caryopsis	Oats [wild or cultivated]	6	166	27
<i>Avena/Poaceae</i> sp. caryopsis	oat/grass		29	56
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. caryopsis	domesticated Barley grain	1	346	6
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. spikelet	domesticated Barley hulled grain		6	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. spikelet	2-row Barley hulled grain		2	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. rachis internode	domesticated Barley chaff		29	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. caryopsis	Rye grain		3	18
<i>Triticum</i> sp. caryopsis	Wheat grain	17		
free-threshing <i>Triticum</i> sp. caryopsis	free-threshing Wheat grain		5	99
free-threshing <i>Triticum</i> sp.rachis	free-threshing Wheat rachis		1	
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. spikelet fork	Spelt Wheat chaff	1		1
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. glume base	Spelt Wheat chaff	3		
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Schübl./ <i>spelta</i> L. glume base	Emmer or Spelt Wheat chaff	14		
cereal indet. caryopsis	unidentified cereal grain	60	531	207
Other food plants				
<i>Lathyrus cf nissolia</i> (L.) Döll seed			3	
Legume <2mm	vetch/wild pea	3	19 cty	7 cty
Legume 2-4mm	Pea/small bean		3 cty	1 cty
Tendrils			2	
<i>Vicia cf sativa</i> L. seed	Common vetch		8	3
Dry land herbs				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L. achene	Stinking Chamomile		35	42
large Asteraceae indet. [>2mm] achene	large-seeded Daisy Family		1	
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L. seed	Corncockle		14	
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i> L. seed	Parsley-piert			1
<i>Brassica nigra</i> type seed	Black Mustard [coarse-textured seed]	1		1

Sample No.		7	6	5
<i>Bromus</i> spp. caryopsis	Bromes		1	1
Caryophyllaceae indet. [1-3mm] seed	medium-seeded Pink Family	1	2	
<i>Centaurea</i> cf <i>cyanus</i> . achene	Knapweeds		4	3
Chenopodiaceae indet. seed	Goosefoot Family	52	6	3
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L. seed	Fat-hen	7		2
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) Á. Löve achene	Black-bindweed	1	6	
<i>Knautia arvensis</i> (L.) coult. Achene	Field Scabious		1	
<i>Lolium</i> cf. <i>temulentum</i> L. caryopsis	Darnel		1	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L. seed	Ribwort Plantain		2	1
small Poaceae indet. [< 2mm] caryopsis	small-seeded Grass Family	3	1	1
medium Poaceae indet. [3-4mm]	medium-seeded Grass Family		6	2
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L. achene	Knotgrass	1		1
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> ssp. <i>raphanistrum</i> L. mericarp	Wild Radish seed-case segment		1	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L. achene	Sheep's Sorrel	3	1	
<i>Rumex</i> cf <i>crispus</i> L. achene	Curled Dock	13	40	3
<i>Rumex</i> cf <i>crispus</i> L. perianth	Curled Dock		1	
<i>Spergula arvensis</i> L. seed	Corn Spurrey		1	
small <i>Trifolium</i> spp. [<1mm] seed	small-seeded Clovers		2	1
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Sch. Bip. achene	Scentless Mayweed	1		
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L. seed	Common Nettle		3	5
Wetland/aquatic plants				
<i>Carex</i> spp. nut	medium triangular-seeded Sedges		1	
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i> (L.) Roem. & Schult./ <i>uniglumis</i> (Link) Schult. nut	Common / Slender Spike-rush			1
<i>Juncus</i> sp. seed	Rushes			5
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm		+	+	+
Charcoal >2mm		+	+	+
Charcoal >10mm		+	+	
Charred stems			23	
indet culm nodes			6	
indet seed			4	4
Volume of sample processed (litres)		29	30	27
Volume of flot (ml)		20	150	45
% flot sorted		100	25	100

Table 6: Detailed analysis of environmental samples 5, 6 and 7

C.2.5 The four samples which didn't merit further work were assessed (Table 7)

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Period	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm
1	4 (3)	Ditch	2.2	##	#	+	0
2	7	Pit	2.1	#	#	+	0
3	12	Ditch	2.2	##	#	++	+

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Period	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm
4	14	Pit	2.1	##	#	+	+

Table 7: Assessment *analysis of environmental samples 1, 2, 3 and 4*

= 1-10, ## = 11-50,

- C.2.6 All of the samples contain plant remains preserved by carbonization and include charcoal, cereal remains, legumes and weed seeds.

Economic plant remains

- C.2.7 The charred plant assemblages in each of the samples is dominated by cereal grains. All four cereal types are represented; free-threshing and hulled wheat (*Triticum* sp.), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), rye (*Secale cereale*) and oats (*Avena* sp.). The wheat grains are variable in their morphology. Those present in the Late Iron Age sample are elongated and are most probably of the hulled wheat varieties spelt (*T. spelta*) or emmer (*T. dicoccum*). Spelt wheat is the most likely variety for a Late Iron Age date of the deposit. The glume bases recovered from this sample are quite abraded and only three of the seventeen glume bases could be confidently identified as spelt wheat chaff. It is not possible to ascertain whether the free-threshing wheats present in the medieval samples are of the tetraploid (*Triticum durum/turgidum*) or hexaploid (*T. aestivo-compactum*) species. Both compact, rounded grains and longer, less-rounded forms were observed. The single rachis node recovered from Sample 6 is too poorly preserved for identification.
- C.2.8 Barley is the most abundant cereal in Sample 6 and only occurs rarely in the other two samples. It appears to be of the hulled variety which would have required parching/pounding/light milling to remove the outer husk if intended for consumption but not for brewing or animal fodder. A small number of the grains are preserved as spikelets where they are still enclosed in their tough outer sheath. Numerous fragments of the hull (lemma and palea) are also present. The grains are large, well preserved and relatively uniform in size. None of the grains examined are twisted and a few of the better preserved spikelets have a horseshoe-shaped depression in the lemma base. All of these morphological characteristics indicate that the barley is of the 2-row variety *H. vulgare* ssp. *distichon*. A large proportion of the grains have missing embryos although detached embryos were not noted within the flot. It is possible that some of the grains had started to germinate and were discarded due to this.
- C.2.9 Oat grains have also been identified by their characteristic shape. The diagnostic floret bases are absent precluding distinction between cultivated and wild varieties. In some case, smaller size and degradation of the grain has resulted in identification as oat/grass (*Avena/Poaceae* sp.) caryopsis. The rye grains have a compact morphology and often only distinguishable from the bread wheat grains by their characteristic sharp keel and elongated embryos. Most of the rye grains are abraded and identification is tentative.

Weed plants

- C.2.10 Both segetal and ruderal weeds are represented; seeds of plants found growing amongst crops (segetal) include cornflower (*Centaurea* sp.), corn-cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), cleavers (*Gallium aparine*), vetch/tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), brassicas (*Brassica* sp.), brome/rye grass (*Bromus/Lolium* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and grass seeds (*Poaceae*). Stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) is a common crop weed but it

has a specific habitat, preferring heavy clay soils whereas *Rumex acetosella* (*Sheep's sorrel*) and corn spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*) grow on sandy soils.

- C.2.11 Weeds such as dock (*Rumex* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp) and clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*) have a broader habitat including disturbed and waste ground and are described as ruderals. Wetland plants including sedges (*Carex* sp.) and rushes (*Juncus* sp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) occur rarely.

Period 1.1 - Late Iron Age

- C.2.12 Sample 7 fill 55, pit **9** contains a small assemblage of charred plant remains including grains of oats (*Avena* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and occasional small legumes. Chaff elements indicate that spelt wheat was being cultivated. Weed seeds include docks and sheep's sorrel and relatively large numbers of goosefoot seeds. It is possibly that this leafy herb was being used as food although it is a high seed producer and may be over represented in the assemblage.

Period 2.1 - 11th-mid 12th century

- C.2.13 The early medieval assemblage in pit **48** is dominated by charred cereal grains with a density of approximately 144 grains per litre. Half of the grains were not identified as they are abraded and fragmented. Barley is the most predominant cereal (32%) with oats grains also common (15%). Legumes present mainly as separated cotyledons of vetch along with occasional circular legumes with intact hilums that have been identified as common vetch (*Vicia sativa*). A few squarish complete legumes have been tentatively identified as grass vetchling (*Lathyrus nissola*). Two tightly curled charred pod tendrils are also present. The charred weed assemblage consists of mainly crop weeds and includes corn-cockle seeds and fragments of seed pods, cureld dock (*Rumex crispus*) and several seeds of stinking mayweed suggesting cultivation of clay soils.

Period 2.2 - 12th century

- C.2.14 The charred plant assemblage from Sample 5, fill 39 of ditch **40** has a density of 12 charred grains per litre, many of these are abraded and unidentified. Free-threshing wheat grains are most common. A single spelt glume base is considered to be a residual contaminant. The charred weed assemblage is small and is dominated by stinking mayweed signifying continued cultivation of clay soils.

Discussion

- C.2.15 The recovery of charred plant remains in all of the features sampled indicates their use for the disposal of domestic waste, the lack of accompanying organic waste most likely being due to poor preservation in acidic soils. Both pits were cut by the ditch which may have resulted in some mixing of material. The high cereal content in pit **48** is probably of the most significance. The square shape of this feature may suggest an agricultural feature related to cereal processing.
- C.2.16 If the three samples are taken to represent the popularity of cereals per period than a trend can be seen where spelt wheat cultivated in the Iron Age is replaced by free-threshing wheat in the medieval period as has been attested for this area (Monckton 2003). Wheat was commonly used for grinding into flour for bread and rye was also

used in this form in the medieval period although the low numbers of rye grains suggest that this was not a popular choice at this site. Barley is most common in the early medieval sample but is known to be a staple cereal cultivated throughout both the prehistoric and into the medieval period. Barley and oats were often grown as a mixed crop (dredge) and used for animal fodder although they were also consumed in soups, stews and porridge. Barley and oats recovered together is a 12th century oven at West Cotton (Campbell and Robinson 2010) were thought to be intended for malting for beer. Hulled barley would have to have the outer husks removed for human consumption by parching and could have become accidentally burnt during this process. Large-scale sampling from the medieval settlement at West Cotton suggests that rye is more common in this area and that barley is less significant than wheat throughout the medieval period. Free-threshing wheat does appear to be more common in the main 12th century sample. The lack of wheat chaff suggests that semi-processed wheat grain was imported onto the site with the earlier stages of winnowing, threshing and primary sieving occurring elsewhere.

- C.2.17 The charred weed seed assemblages recovered from Moulton College are typical ruderal/segetal species of the East Midlands and were probably from plants harvested with the crop. Weeds mixed in with the cereal crops would have been a major concern for farmers and they would have either had to pull out or hoe by hand. Inevitably the harvested crop would be contaminated with weed seeds which would either be picked out by hand or tolerated although this would have affected the quality of the flour.
- C.2.18 The weed seeds provide an insight into changes in cultivation throughout the occupation of the site. Plants such as sheep's sorrel indicate continued cultivation of sandy soils, presumably close to the site itself. The introduction of stinking mayweed in the early medieval period indicates the exploitation of heavier clay soils through agricultural innovation and the use of more specialised machinery. Stinking mayweed is known to exist in the Late Iron Age period although it becomes more frequent in the Roman period (Moulins and Murphy 2001). It doesn't appear in any of the Iron Age samples from sites excavated at Ecton (Campbell 2000/20001) or at Wilby Way, Doddington (Stevens 2003) suggesting that only the lighter soils were cultivated during this period.
- C.2.19 Significant numbers of similar small legumes were recovered from sites at Raunds (Campbell with Robinson 2009) and West Cotton (Campbell and Robinson 2010) where they identified the cultivated form of common vetch (*V. sativa* spp. *Sativa*) in addition to other leguminous weed seeds indicating the importance of pulse crops during the medieval period. It is possible that vetches were being grown through crop rotation to improve the nitrogen content of agricultural soils and would also have been used for fodder.

Conclusion

- C.2.20 The charred plant remains recovered from the evaluation of this site indicate the presence of human occupation in the area and are evidence for the disposal of cereal waste. Cereal choices vary during the occupation of the site with evidence of changes in agricultural activity and the introduction of leguminous crops to increase soil fertility.

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-155183		
Project Name	Late Iron Age and Saxo-Norman to early medieval settlement at Moulton College Holcot Site, Moulton,		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	25-06-2013	Finish	02-07-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNNMCH13	Planning App. No.	Pre-Application
HER No.	N/A	Related HER/OASIS No.	oxfordar3-148477

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
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Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pit	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery, bone	Iron Age -800 to 43
Saxo-Norman pits	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	Pottery, bone	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
pits and ditches	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery, bone	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Northamptonshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Daventry District	Moulton College Holcott Site, Moulton College, Off Pitsford Rd Moulton	
Parish	Moulton		
HER	Northamptonshire		
Study Area	9,785m squared	National Grid Reference	SP 77963 66815

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	N/A
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor, OA East
Project Manager	Aileen Connor, OA East
Supervisor	Rob Atkins, OA East

Project Archives

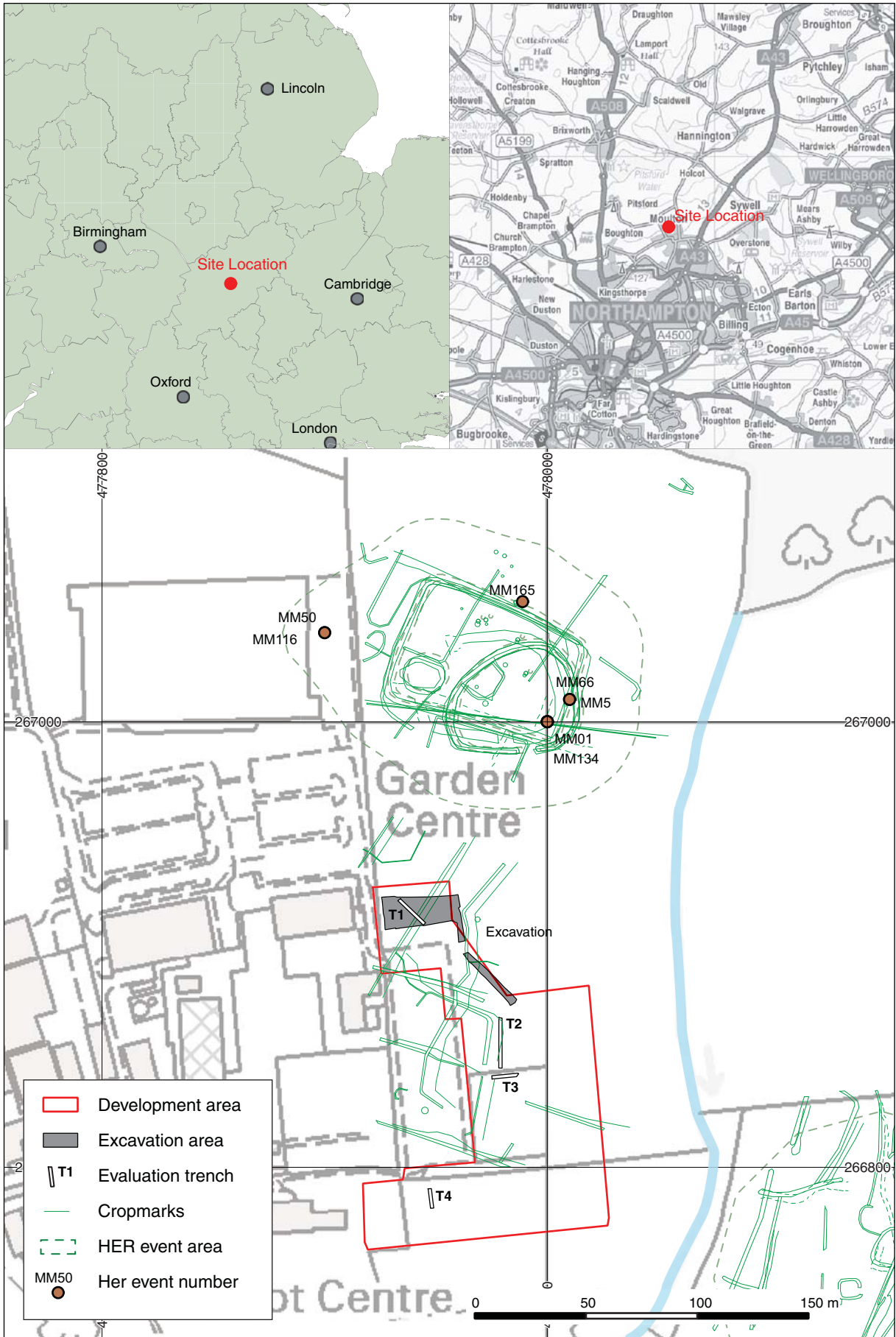
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
XNNMCH13	XNNMCH13	XNNMCH13

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing excavation area with development area outlined red, trenches overlaying cropmark features and HER entries



Figure 2: Archaeological trenches and modern landscaping, taken from contour survey (supplied by Mott MacDonald)

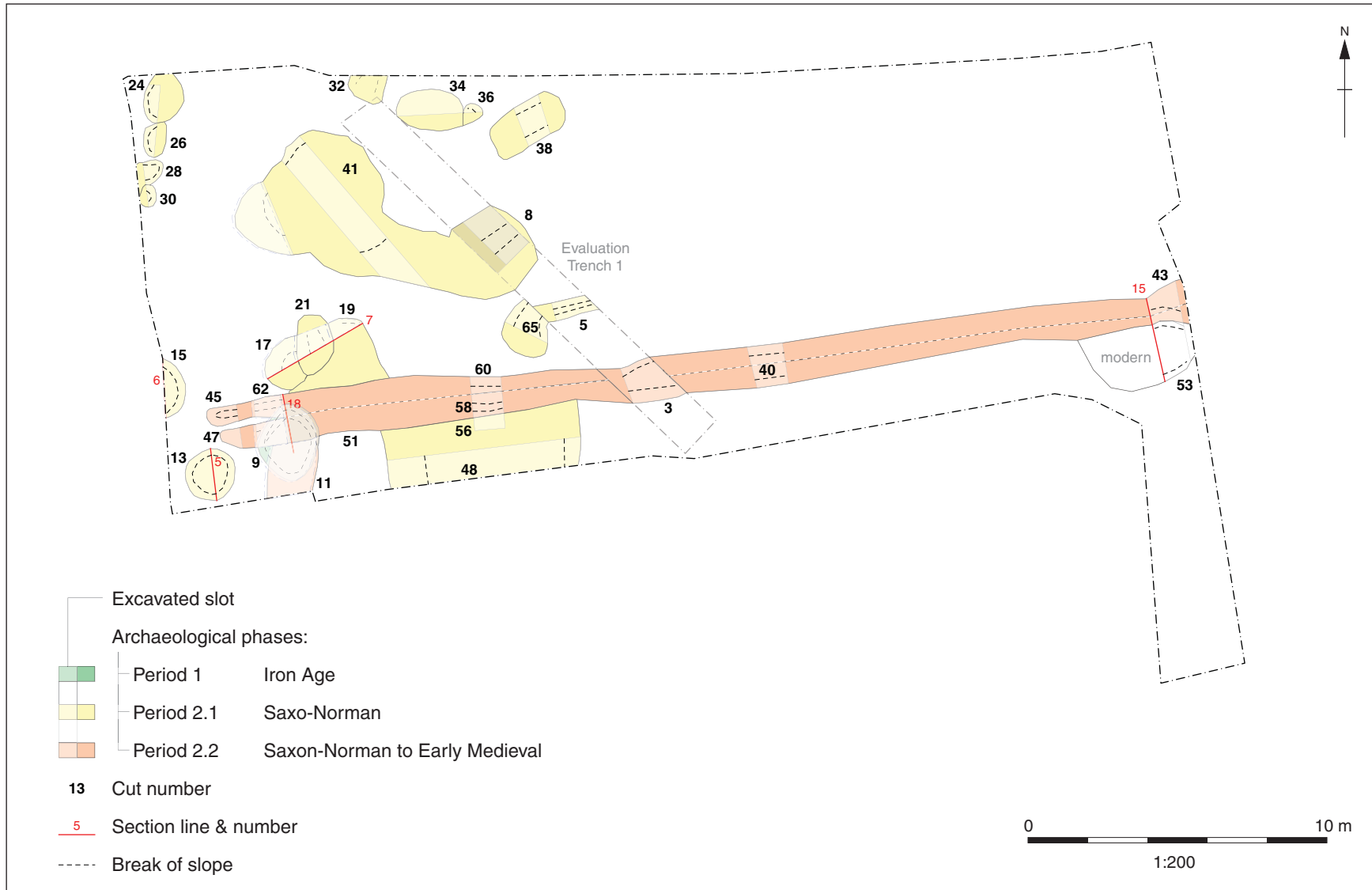
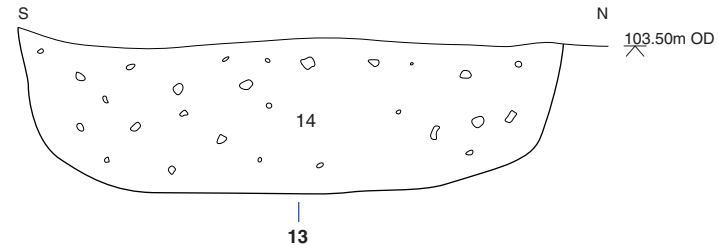
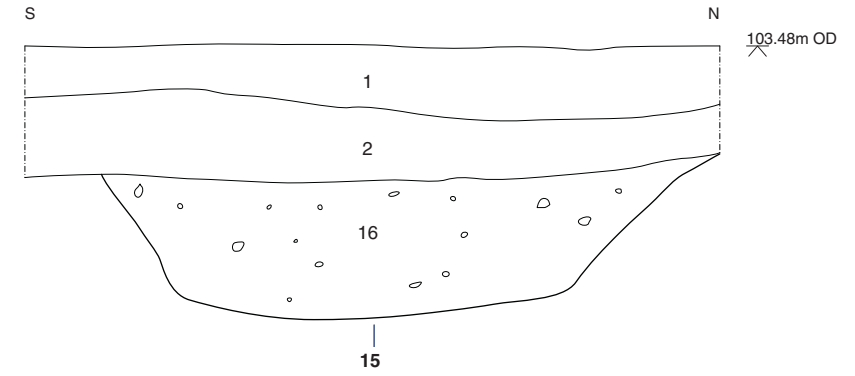


Figure 3: Phase plan

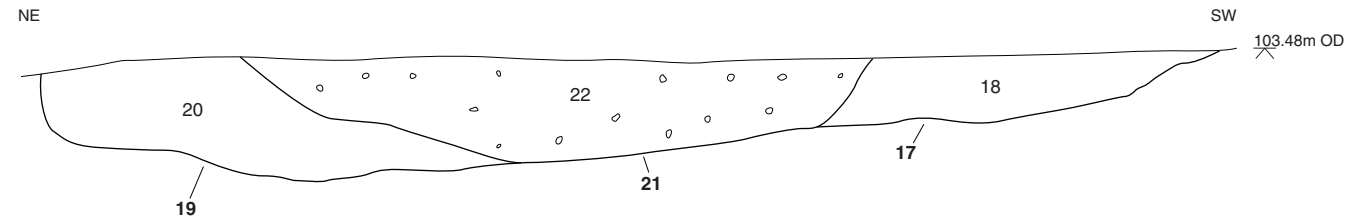
Section 5



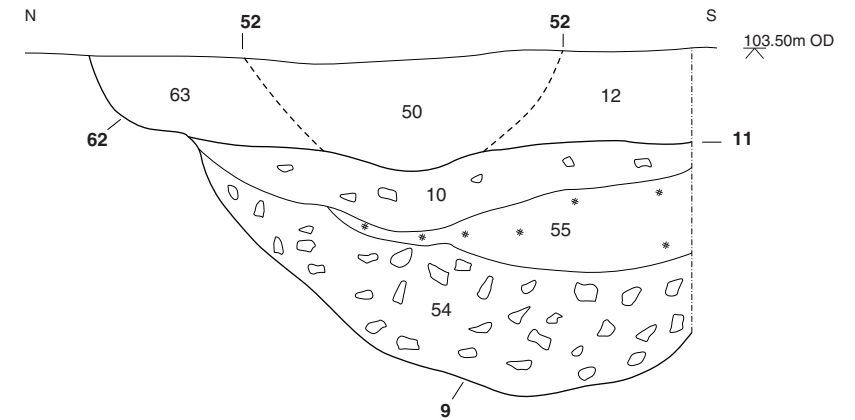
Section 6



Section 7



Section 6



Section 15

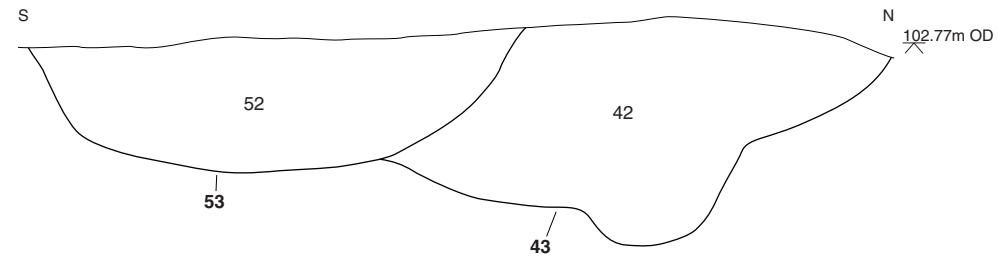


Figure 4: Selected section drawings



Plate 1: Site, looking east



Plate 2: Iron Age pit 9, looking south east



Plate 3: Pit 13, looking west



Plate 4: Ditch 40, looking west



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