# Archaeological Evaluation at Land to the rear of Nos 18 – 22 London Road, Godmanchester

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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**January 2015**

**Client: Adam Tuck for Mrs G Foster**

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

# Archaeological Evaluation at Land to the Rear of Nos 18 – 22 London Road, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Report Number:** | 1733 |
| **Site Name:** | Land to the Rear of Nos 18-22 London Road, Godmanchester |
| **HER Event No:** | CHER ECB 4342 |
| **Date of Works:** | January 2015 |
| **Client Name:** | Adam Tuck for Mrs G Foster |
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## *Summary*

*Between the 19th and 20th of January 2015, an archaeological evaluation was carried out at land to the rear of Nos 18-22 London Road, Godmanchester, prior to the proposed construction of a single house. The development area had high archaeological potential, particularly for Roman archaeology, as it is located next to a Roman Road (Ermine Street), a Roman cemetery and on the edge of the Roman town of Durovigutum (modern Godmanchester), immediately to the south of the town walls.*

*Within the single evaluation trench there were ten inter-cutting features, three of which were identified as modern pits. The remaining seven were all linear features, several of which contained Roman pottery, although the sherds were all small and abraded, while others produced post-medieval sherds. These features are most likely to be the remains of 19th century strip quarries, similar to those found on an adjacent excavation, that had presumably disturbed earlier deposits and subsequently been backfilled with residual material.*

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land to the rear of 18-22 London Road, Godmanchester prior to the proposed development of a single dwelling (TL 2474 7015; Fig. 1). This location has high archaeological potential, particularly for Roman archaeology, as it is next to Ermine Street Roman Road, as well as a known Roman cemetery and on the edge of the Roman town of Durovigutum, directly south of the Roman town wall and gate.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 1101607FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2015).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

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

## 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on 1st and 2nd river terrace gravel deposits (British Geological Survey 1980). The land is flat to an average height of *c.*12m AOD and until recently has been an area of scrub in use for car parking..

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The earliest evidence of archaeological activity in the Godmanchester area is a scatter of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools and crop-marks along the River Ouse valley.

1.3.2 Excavations at Rectory Farm located 1km east of Godmanchester identified a Neolithic and Bronze Age complex with a cursus enclosure, ring ditches and pits (McAvoy 2000), while a pit containing Neolithic pottery was uncovered at London Road (Jones 1999). East of the town, a Late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement has been excavated (Wait 1991).

1.3.3 Following the Roman invasion, two forts were successively built to protect the River Ouse crossing in the area of what is now Godmanchester. The first fort was aligned east to west and dates from the mid 1st century. The second fort was built on a north-east to south-west alignment across the site of the earlier fort (Green 2000); this was subsequently abandoned as the army moved north, leaving behind a civilian settlement (*Vicus*).

1.3.4 The alignment of Ermine Street, which ran south-east from a ford across the river, dictated the layout of the later settlement, with expansion in the later 1st century being concentrated along the Ermine Street frontages and a cross roads in the town centre.

1.3.5 During the Hadrianic period (AD117-38) more domestic buildings were constructed, including a *mansio*, temple and baths in the centre of town, to the north of the cross roads. These were large, elaborate structures with painted plaster masonry walls and were half timbered above the ground floor. They contained tessellated floors. To date the Godmanchester *mansio* is one of the largest known in Britain, at 100m long (including stabling).

1.3.6 A masonry basilica was built in the 3rd century, as was a market place (Green 2000) approximately 50m north-west of the current development area. This may indicate that Godmanchester had achieved the status of *Vicus* with a legal constitution and self government by this time.

1.3.7 At the end of the 3rd century the core of the town was enclosed by stone defences. Following a fire in the later 3rd century, the bathhouse was partially rebuilt whilst the *mansio* and the basilica were demolished with their building material being reused to build a secondary defence circuit within the former walls

1.3.8 Since the early 1990s a series of excavations has been carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CCC AFU, Oxford Archaeology East) off the London Road on the surviving Roman archaeology to the south of the walled town. To the west of the proposed development site a Roman cemetery was discovered containing 13 inhumations (Hoyland 1992). An excavation directly adjacent to the development site (Abrams 2001) found Roman pits containing rubbish and post-medieval quarry strips.

1.3.9 There is very little evidence for post-Roman or Early Saxon activity at Godmanchester. Evidence from the Cardinal Distribution Park excavations include a small farmstead or hamlet with ditched enclosures, track-ways and domestic structures.

## 1.4 Excavations within the immediate vicinity of the development area (Fig 2)

1.4.1 In addition to the 13 inhumations (see above), excavations to the south-west (TL 2460 6980) revealed traces of the southerly continuation of the cemetery despite truncation by later quarrying (Macaulay 1994). At least 60 skeletons were also recorded during the construction of a housing estate at Porch Farm, to the south of the site (HER 7224). Anecdotal evidence in relation to Porch Farm indicates that the area north of the farm (close to the current development area) had been quarried for gravel in the 19th century, during the course of which large numbers of skeletons had apparently been disturbed (Abrams 2001).

1.4.2 An assessment south of the site (TL 2470 6970) revealed a number of archaeological features and finds surviving beneath the ridge and furrow system, including ditches and pottery, flint and tools dating from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age (HER 10122).

1.4.3 A single burial site was reported from the New School site *c*.100m south of the proposed development area (HER 2660A) following excavations by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) in 1997.

1.4.4 Prehistoric activity and evidence of Romano-British settlement were identified at the new School Site as a result of evaluation by CCC AFU (Hinman 1996) and subsequent excavation by BUFAU (Jones 1999).

## 1.5 Acknowledgements

1.5.1 OA East would like to thank Mrs G. Foster who funded the work and Adam Tuck who commissioned the work on her behalf. The site was managed by Stephen Macaulay and surveyed by David Brown. The fieldwork was carried out by Steve Graham and Mary Andrews. The brief was written by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team, who also monitored the work. Thanks are also extended to the various specialists, the illustrator and editor.

# 2 Aims and Methodology

## 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area

2.1.2 This work was in response to a planning application for the construction of a single house within the development area.

## 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that a single 18m-long linear trench was to be excavated to the depth of the geological horizons or upper interface of the archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08.

2.2.4 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.

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

2.2.6 Because of the excessive modern truncations throughout the development area, soil samples for flotation processing were taken from the base of only two features that were considered to have been undisturbed by modern activity.

2.2.7 Despite the time of year, site conditions were firm and dry. The weather was dry and overcast with occasional sun.

# 3 Results

## 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The 18m-long trench was aligned north-west to south-east and contained a total of 10 inter-cutting features. Pottery found within these features spans four periods: Romano-British (AD 43-410), medieval, post-medieval (19th century) and modern (20th century). The natural geology encountered in the trench comprised dark orange sands and gravels (4). (NB full details by trench/context appear in Appendix A). At the north-west end of the trench, there appeared to be a linear feature which upon investigation was a natural hollow. The following section presents the results in stratigraphic order, with further context details provided in Appendix 1

## 3.2 Trench 1

***Strip Quarries 27, 20, 5, 39, 24 and 17 (Figs 2,3;Plates 2, 3)***

3.2.1 There were six linear features located in the north-west end of the trench, all of which were inter-cutting ditches. Three of these ditches (**17**, **24** and **39**) contained only Roman pottery, whilst the remaining three contained a mixture of Roman, medieval and post-medieval glazed ceramics.

3.2.2 Ditch **27** was located on the trench's south western side, 6m from its south eastern end. The ditch was 1.48m wide and 1.43m deep and contained several fills. The initial four fills (30, 31, 32 and 33) were all seemingly tip fills of sand and clay silt into the pits south east end. Directly above these was a dark red sand silt fill (42). Over this was a dark grey clay sand (28) containing a single Romano-British pot base, the ditch's final upper fill (29) was a brownish grey silt sand containing both Roman and 19th century glazed pottery. This pit was truncated on its north eastern side by a linear feature (**20**).

3.2.3 Containing three fills, Ditch **20** was 1.92m wide and 1.16m deep. The earliest fill (21) was a dark grey sandy silt slumping downwards from the south-eastern side of the ditch. Above this was a grey clay sand (22) containing Roman, medieval and post -medieval glazed pottery. The final fill of the pit was a dark grey sand silt (23) which was cut by one of the modern features (**44**).

3.2.4 Ditch **5** (see Fig. 3, section 1) was 1.40m wide, 0.70m deep and contained four fills (6,7,8 and 9) all of which were slumped downwards south-west to north-east. The ditch was straight sided with a flat base. The ditch's initial fill (6) was comprised of a dark brown silt and contained Roman and medieval pottery. Fill (8), a reddish brown sandy silt also contained pottery from both the Roman and medieval periods and was accordingly sampled (see appendix 2). This ditch was truncated at its upper fills by modern pits (**11** and **14**).

3.2.5 Ditch **39** was located 9m from the south-east end of the trench on its north east side. This ditch was 1.50m wide and 0.72m deep with steep sides. Its primary fill (40) was a dark blue grey clay silt which slumped down north-west to south-east to a flat base. Its secondary fill (41) was light blue grey sandy silt containing pottery and a single sheep molar. It was truncated on its south-east side by a post -medieval feature (**38**).

3.2.6 Ditch **24** was 1.30m wide,1.02m deep and contained two fills, both of which slumped down to a flat base and contained Romano-British pottery. Both its primary fill (25) and secondary fill (26) were grey sandy silts. The ditch was truncated on both sides to the south-east by post- medieval feature **20** and to its north-west by ditch **17**.

3.2.7 Ditch **17** was 1.52m wide with steep sides and 0.74m deep. It contained two fills slumping downwards south-west to north-east to a flat base. Its primary fill (18) was a dark grey clay silt whilst its secondary fill (19) comprised a dark red clay sand which contained pottery and bone. This upper fill was truncated by a later, modern pit (**44**).

***Feature 38 and layer 10 (Figs 2,3, Plate 4)***

3.2.8 The south-eastern end of the trench contained of a single large pit (**38**). This pit was 10.70m wide from its north western edge to the south-east end of the trench. The pit was sealed by both the former topsoil (2) and was machine excavated down to a depth of 1.20m, with a further 0.30m hand excavated. As the pit clearly contained post-medieval ceramic material throughout its lower fill, no further excavation was considered necessary as the depth and size of the feature indicated that the survival of any earlier archaeology was unlikely. Two fills were visible within the excavated depth: the earliest (37) was a mid grey brown clay sand running along the entire length of the feature, which containined a moderate amount of medium sized pebbles. A mixture of mid 19th century glazed ceramics and residual medieval and Romano-British pottery were recorded from within this earlier context. This deposit was sealed by a continuous layer of redeposited red brown sand (36) running the entire width of the feature, possibly a levelling layer.

3.2.9 Overlying quarry feature 5 at the north-west end of the trench was a dark reddish brown redeposited clay sand (10) containing occasional small pebbles and lenses of silt 0.22m to 0.30m deep. whilst being truncated by the modern pits 11 and 14.

***Modern pits 11, 14 and 44 and levelling layers (Fig 3)***

3.2.10 Three of the features (**11**,**14** and **44**) were identified as being modern pits (see fig.3, section 3). These were all located in the north-western end of the trench and all of them intercut and truncated the earlier features underneath. All three were only visible in the trench section.

3.2.11 The earliest of these pits (**14**) was 0.90m wide and 0.60m deep and consisted of two fills of backfilled sand (15) and (16), modern pottery and ceramics were clearly visible in both fills.

3.2.12 Pit **11** was 0.80m wide and 0.36m deep. It contained two fills: a lower fill of redeposited sand (13) and an upper fill of clay silt (12) containing modern pottery and ceramics.

3.2.13 At the north west end of the trench layer 10 was sealed a mid red brown subsoil (3) of sandy clay containing lenses of sand and moderate amounts of pebbles, 0.10m to 0.14m thick. This was overlain by a dark blueish grey former topsoil (2) of silt clay 0.20m to 0.50m thick.

3.2.14 Extending across the entire length of the trench was a dark reddish silt sand layer (1) 0.14m to 0.40m thick with frequent inclusions of small pebbles, modern brick, modern metal and plastic rubbish.

3.2.15 The largest and most recent of the modern pits (**44**) was 2.44m wide and 0.80m deep and contained three fills. The earliest fill (34) was a thin 0.02m wide tip line of redeposited sand on its south east side. Above this, slumping down the south east side of the pit was a blue grey clay silt (35) with 20th century pottery and ceramic fragments clearly visible within the fill. The final fill (43) consisted of dark red brown silt sand. The pit cut the subsoil (2) and was sealed over by the top layer of sand and modern rubble (1).

## 3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 A small assemblage (101 sherds, 954g) of later Roman pottery, primarily comprising utilitarian coarse wares, with a small amount of fine table wares. Unfortunately the assemblage was in poor condition (abraded with small average sherd weight) suggesting it had been subject to extensive post-depositional disturbance.

3.3.2 The medieval pottery assemblage (13 sherds, 77g) is domestic with the earliest pottery dating from the late 9th century and the latest 14th century.

3.3.3 The earliest of the post medieval pottery assemblage (13 sherds, 321g) is from the mid 16th century, the bulk of the assemblage dates from the late 18th to the mid part of the 19th century.

3.3.4 A small amount of miscellaneous material was recovered. This consists of a single flint flake, three pieces of ceramic building material, a small amount of lava quern (56g) and a small amount (31g) of oil shale and coal.

## 3.4 Environmental Summary

3.4.1 From the assemblage of animal bone (33g), three species have been able to be identified.

3.4.2 In general the environmental samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant remains consist of small quantities of cereal grains that were all poorly preserved. Other plant remains such as chaff, legumes and weed seeds are entirely absent and the small quantities recovered are unlikely to be indicative of deliberate deposition.

# 4 Discussion and Conclusions

## 4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The ceramic dating evidence from the evaluation falls into three groups; Romano-British (AD 43-410), medieval, early to mid 19th century and modern (20th century).

4.1.2 Three of the ten identified features (**17, 24** and **39**) contained assemblages of exclusively Roman pottery, the profile of these three features were all consistent with a flat base, steep sides and all contained similar fills. In three of these features the fills all noticeably slumped downwards from the south-east side of the feature. All of these features cut across the trench in a north-east to south-west orientation. Whilst the assemblages found within these features suggest that they may have been Roman in origin, the shape and depth of the features and the composition of their fills are consistent with post- medieval quarry strips.

4.1.3 The Evaluation carried out in 2001 by the CCC AFU directly adjacent and to the east of the development area identified a number of similar features aligned north-west to south-east. These were interpreted as post-medieval quarry strips that were on the same alignment as the 19th century property boundary, now marked by Betts Close to the south-west, and by residential property boundaries to the north-east. This would suggest that the quarrying post-dates the creation of the current property boundaries that exist upon the site (Abrams 2001, 12).

4.1.4 Four of the remaining six features (**5,20, 27** and **38**) contained mixed assemblages of Roman, medieval and post medieval glazed ware. Two of the features (**20** and **27**) were of a similar size and shape to those containing only Roman material. Furthermore the fills within these later features comprised identical soil components, which slumped downwards in exactly the same manner as those features containing exclusively Roman pottery. These were almost certainly post-medieval quarry strips and it is probable that all of the features within the trench which pre-date the 20th century are contemporary, probably from the early to mid 19th century. The large feature located at the south-east end of the trench (**38**) is certainly post-medieval. Its lower backfill contained a mixture of Roman and post-medieval pottery. This was sealed over by a continuous layer of redeposited sand possibly for levelling purposes.

4.1.5 The three remaining features were only evident in one (north-east facing) section and have been interpreted as modern pits. The two smaller pits (**11** and **14**) whilst containing no pottery clearly truncated the layer of redeposited sand sealing the earlier features. Within the fills of the largest of the three pits (**44**), post medieval pottery and ceramic was clearly evident and unlike all the other features, this pit clearly truncated the former top soil before being sealed over by the final upper layer of sand and rubble.

## 4.2 Conclusion

4.2.1 Although it is possible that three of the linear features are survivals from the Roman period, the most probable explanation is that all of the features within the trench are post -medieval quarry strips and pits. The amount of Roman material found within these features suggests that the 19th century quarrying disturbed/destroyed existing Romano-British features or deposits. The backfills of these quarry pits and strips incorporated Roman and medieval pottery sherds. The extensive truncation carried out in the 19th century means any interpretation of the nature or function of any Roman features within the development area will be speculative at best but suggests that Roman settlement may have been located in the vicinity.

4.2.2 The absence of any human remains on site strongly suggests that the site was well outside the extent of the Roman cemetery, located directly to the west of the development area.

4.2.3 Pottery evidence indicates that manuring or rubbish disposal occurred within the development area during the medieval period (from the12th century onwards.) although all the pottery from this period is residual.

4.2.4 Therefore the most likely interpretation of all of the linear features found on site is that of quarry strips dating from the early to mid 19th century.

## 4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The development area presumably contained archaeological remains relating to the Romano-British period, which were heavily disturbed by the post-medieval quarrying. Despite the truncation of these remains, it is apparent from the excavation of the quarrying strips on the site that a significant assemblage of Roman pottery exists within these features. Considering the site's proximity to the Roman cemetery, town walls and road, this is not unexpected.

4.3.2 The majority of the Roman pottery is dated to the Late Roman period and is typical of which would be found at a Roman town. Although the pottery may have been imported from Bedfordshire, a more local source may be possible. Whilst no definite Roman features were identified within the evaluation, the presence of a moderate assemblage of Romano-British pottery indicates activities of this date within the vicinity. This is in keeping with the findings of the excavation directly to the west of the development area (Abrams 2001). The range of both fine and coarse pottery found suggests a moderate amount of affluence within Roman Godmanchester during the later periods (see Appendix B).

## 4.4 Recommendations

4.4.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

| Trench 1 | | |
|---|---|---|
| **General description** | **Orientation** | NW-SE |
| Terrace river gravel and sand deposits sealed by redeposited sand 010, subsoil 003, topsoil 002 and a layer of 20th century sand and rubble 001. Six post medieval ditches were present throughout the trench particularly on its south east end where the trench has a depth of 1.20m. Three of the ditches contained only Roman pottery, whilst the remaining three contained mixture of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery. Four pits were present all containing post-medieval pottery. | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.80 |
| | **Width (m)** | 1.60 |
| | **Length (m)** | 18.0 |

**Contexts**

| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 001 | Layer | - | 0.32 | Backfill/Rubble | - | 20th Century |
| 002 | Layer | - | 0.40 | Top Soil | - | - |
| 003 | Layer | - | 0.24 | Sub Soil | - | - |
| 004 | | | | Natural | | |
| 005 | cut | 1.40 | 0.70 | Ditch cut | | Roman |
| 006 | fill | | 0.70 | Ditch fill **005** | Pot, bone | Roman |
| 007 | fill | | 0.62 | Ditch fill **005** | | Roman |
| 008 | fill | | 0.60 | Ditch fill **005** | Pot, bone | Roman |
| 009 | fill | | 0.26 | Ditch fill **005** | | Roman |
| 010 | layer | | 0.30 | Redeposited sand | | 18th/19th C |
| 011 | cut | 0.80 | 0.36 | Pit cut | | 20th Century |
| 012 | fill | | 0.18 | Pit fill **011** | | 20th century |
| 013 | fill | | 0.36 | Pit fill **011** | | 20th century |
| 014 | cut | 0.90 | 0.60 | Pit cut | | 20th century |
| 015 | fill | | 0.40 | Pit fill **014** | | 20th century |
| 016 | fill | | 0.60 | Pit fill **014** | | 20th century |
| 017 | cut | 1.52 | 0.74 | Ditch cut | | Roman |
| 018 | fill | | 0.74 | Ditch fill **017** | | Roman |
| 019 | fill | | 0.74 | Ditch fill **017** | Pot, bone | Roman |
| 020 | cut | 1.92 | 1.16 | Ditch cut | | 18th/19th C |
| 021 | fill | | 1.16 | Ditch fill **020** | | 18th/19th C |
| 022 | fill | | 0.94 | Ditch fill **020** | Pot, bone | 18th/19th C |
| 023 | fill | | 0.53 | Ditch fill **020** | | 18th/19th C |
| 024 | cut | 1.30 | 1.02 | Ditch cut | | Roman |
| 025 | fill | | 1.02 | Ditch fill **024** | pot | Roman |
| 026 | fill | | 0.98 | Ditch fill **024** | pot | Roman |
| 027 | cut | 1.48 | 1.44 | Ditch cut | | 18th/19th C |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 028 | fill | | 1.42 | Ditch fill **027** | pot | 18th/19th C |
| 029 | fill | | 1.04 | Ditch fill **027** | pot | 18th/19th C |
| 030 | fill | | 1.44 | Ditch fill **027** | | 18th/19th C |
| 031 | fill | | 1.40 | Ditch fill **027** | | 18th/19th C |
| 032 | fill | | 1.38 | Ditch fill **027** | | 18th/19th C |
| 033 | fill | | 1.44 | Ditch fill **027** | | 18th/19th C |
| 034 | fill | | 0.82 | Pit fill **044** | | 20th Century |
| 035 | fill | | 0.72 | Pit fill **044** | pot | 20th Century |
| 036 | fill | | 0.14 | Redeposited sand/pit fill **038** | | 18th/19th C |
| 037 | fill | | 0.60 | Pit fill **038** | Pot, bone | 18th/19th C |
| 038 | cut | 1.50 | 0.72 | Pit cut | | 18th/19th C |
| 039 | cut | 1.50 | 0.72 | Ditch cut | | Roman |
| 040 | fill | | 0.82 | Ditch fill **039** | | Roman |
| 041 | fill | | 0.82 | Ditch fill **039** | pot | Roman |
| 042 | fill | | 1.22 | Ditch fill **027** | | Roman |
| 043 | fill | | 0.80 | Pit fill **044** | | 20th Century |
| 044 | cut | 2.44 | 0.80 | Pit cut | | 20th Century |

## Appendix B. Finds Reports

### B.1 Romano British Pottery

*by Alice Lyons*

***Introduction and methodology***

**B.1.1** A total of 103 sherds, weighing 997g, of Romano-British pottery was recovered from eight features (**5, 17, 20, 24, 27, 38, 39** and **44**), within the Trench. Although some residual Early Roman material was found, the majority of the pottery dates to the late Roman period. The condition of the pottery is fragmentary, also abraded, with an average sherd weight of only 9g. No use residues (such as soot and/or lime-scale) survive on the surface of the pottery.

**B.1.2** The Roman pottery was analysed following the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004). In addition the national fabric series (Tomber and Dore 1998) were used for referencing fabrics and forms. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Broad fabrics forms (jar, bowl) were recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gramme and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. OA East currently curates the pottery and archive.

*The Fabrics and Forms*

**B.1.3** A total of nine individual Roman pottery fabrics was recovered from the eight features, three of which (**17**, **24**, **39**) contained only Roman material. The remainder of the material was mixed, as a residual element, with medieval, post-medieval and early modern pottery and other finds (see below).

*Coarse-wares*

**B.1.4** Chronologically the earliest material comprises a small number of highly abraded residual Early Roman grey ware jar/bowl fragments (GW(GROG)(OX SURFACES)). The majority of the pottery, however, is Mid-to-Late Roman in date. Of this material it is the locally produced utilitarian sandy grey ware (SGW) vessels that are the most common, although found only in a limited range of undecorated jar/bowl and dish forms. The source of all these SGW vessels, however, is unknown and it is almost certainly the case that several large coarse ware local production centres are missing from the archaeological record. They may be present in the industrial areas (to the south-east) of Godmanchester where five pottery kilns have already been recorded (Jones 2003, 13-21).

**B.1.5** A few sherds of Shell tempered ware, manufactured from clay containing fossilised shell fragments, were also found. Where these vessels were made is not known although it is worthy of note that they are not of the Lincolnshire Dales (Tyers 1996, 190) or Bourne-Greetham (Tomber and Dore 1998, 156) type. An industry producing wares of the type found here has been recorded at the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire (Brown 1994, 19-107), although other more local kilns sites must have existed (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212). Local production is likely especially as clay beds that contain shell as a natural fossilised component can be found in valley side exposures in the major arms of both the Middle Great Ouse and Nene systems.

**B.1.6** Indeed a shell-tempered ware production centre has been found at Earith on the eastern fen-edge and this site may in fact be the source of much of the shell-tempered wares found in and around north Cambridgeshire (Anderson 2013, 311). Moreover one kiln producing a small number of STW has been found at The Parks in Godmanchester itself, although this may not have been its main product (Evans 2003, Kiln 3, 58).

**B.1.7** Other coarse wares included an oxidised ware with a gritty surface (SOW(GRITTY)) which are visually identical to 1st and early 2nd century Verulamium white ware (Tyers 1996, 199-201). It should be noted, however, that as the supply of Verulamium white wares declined in the mid 2nd century AD (Tyers 1996, 201) regional potteries began to manufacture similar oxidised wares with a gritty surface texture; indeed kilns manufacturing this ware are known in Godmanchester (Evans 2003).

**B.1.8** A small number of other Sandy oxidised ware (SOW) jar and flagon sherds were also found. The source of these vessels is not known, although they may originate from an unknown kiln within Godmanchester.

*Fine wares*

**B.1.9** Although fine wares are relatively well represented within the group it is noteworthy that no samian was found. As this distinctive red glossy table ware ceased to be imported after the mid 3rd Century AD (Webster 2005, 1) and its absence almost certainly reflects the generally late Roman date of this assemblage.

The fine wares that are present are all Late Roman in date and were manufactured domestically, within Roman Britain. These comprise a number of Nene Valley colour coat sherds from various jars and beakers (Tyers 1996, 173-174), a small number of Oxfordshire red slipped ware bowl pieces (Tyers 1996 175-178), also highly burnished Hadham (Herts) red and grey ware bowl fragments (Tyers 1996, 168-169).

*Specialist wares*

**B.1.10** It should be noted that in addition to samian no specialist wares such as amphora (Tyers 1996 85-105) or mortaria (Tyers 1996, 116-135) were found.

| Pottery fabric | Abbreviation | Sherd Count | Weight (g) | Weight (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sandy grey ware | SGW | 63 | 622 | 62.34 |
| Nene Valley colour coat | NVCC | 15 | 86 | 8.63 |
| Grey ware with oxidised surfaces and grog inclusions | GW(GROG)(OX SURFACES) | 4 | 85 | 8.53 |
| Sandy oxidised ware (gritty) | SOW(GRITTY) | 4 | 50 | 5.02 |
| Shell tempered ware | STW | 3 | 39 | 3.91 |
| Oxfordshire red colour coat | OXREDCC | 5 | 72 | 7.22 |
| Sandy oxidised ware | SOW | 6 | 22 | 2.21 |
| Hadham grey ware | HADGW | 2 | 13 | 1.30 |
| Hadham red ware | HADREDW | 2 | 8 | 0.80 |
| Total | | 103 | 997 | 100.00 |

*Table1: The Roman pottery fabrics, listed in descending order of weight*

*Summary*

**B.1.11** This is a small assemblage of later Roman pottery, primarily comprising of utilitarian coarse wares, with a small amount of fine table wares. Unfortunately the assemblage is in poor condition suggesting it has been subject to extensive post-depositional disturbance. Certainly none of the pottery had been deliberately placed, rather it had found its way into various pits probably in association with other small amounts of detritus which originated from a relatively affluent community.

**B.1.12** This assemblage forms part of a growing corpus of ceramic data from Godmanchester (Evans 2003; Lyons fth), including material from the adjacent site (Lyons 2001). It can be said with confidence therefore that this pottery assemblage is typical of the Roman town.

*Further Work*

**B.1.13** The potential for analysis is severely limited by the poor condition of this pottery, therefore no further work is recommended.

## B.2 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery

*by Carole Fletcher*

***Introduction***

**B.2.1** Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of 30 sherds, weighing 0.415 kg. The assemblage spans the Late 9th to mid 19th century, although the largest group by weight within this broad date range are the 18th-19th century fabrics. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.014kg. The material was recovered from ditches that form part of a linear quarrying scheme, which has disturbed medieval and earlier features redepositing the material within the fills of the quarry features. As a result, all of the pre-18th century material is likely to be residual.

**Methodology**

**B.2.2** The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) A *guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG 2001) act as a standard.

**B.2.3** Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types using where appropriate Cambridgeshire's type series (Spoerry forthcoming). All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

**B.2.4** ***Assemblage***

**B.2.5** Medieval pottery was recovered (from ditch **5)** including a single sherd of Lyveden 'A' ware and 10 sherds of Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware, indicating a late 12th-end 13th century date for the pottery from the ditch. Ditch **20**, context 22, produced an unprovenanced sherd of pottery that was not closely datable alongside a sherd of Post-medieval Redware (mid 16th-end 18th century).

**B.2.6** Ditch **27**, context 29, produced seven sherds of pottery (0.137kg) including sherds from a Refined White earthenware mocha-decorated mug and a sponge-decorated Pearlware cup or mug alongside Pearlware transfer-printed jug sherds and a plate rim. Overall the material dates to the early-mid 19th century.

**B.2.7** Three residual sherds, including a sherd of St Neots ware and East Anglian Redware, were recovered from pit **38**, context 37. This fill also produced a sherd from a Post-medieval black-glazed ware bowl and a 19th century Refined red earthenware black-glazed bowl alongside a slip-decorated Pearlware drinking vessel base and a Pearlware transfer-printed serving vessel base. The material dates to the early-mid 19th century.

**B.2.8** The assemblage is domestic in nature, the medieval sherds being residual, however they indicate low levels of medieval manuring or rubbish disposal. There are also low levels of post-medieval pottery deposition. However, the majority of the material relates to the early to mid part of the 19th century, representing rubbish disposal as part of the backfilling of the linear quarrying on the site.

| Context | Cut No. | Fabric | Basic Form | Sherd Count | Weight (kg) | Pottery Date Range |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6** | 5 | Lyveden 'A' ware | Bowl rim sherd | 1 | 0.032 | Mid 12th-end 14th century |
| | | Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware | Body sherd | 2 | 0.009 | Late 12th-end 13th century |
| **8** | 5 | Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware | Body sherd | 8 | 0.013 | Late 12th-end 13th century |
| **22** | 20 | Unprovenanced | Body sherd | 1 | 0.005 | Not closely datable |
| | | Post-medieval Redware | Bowl body sherd | 1 | 0.020 | Mid 16th-end 18th century |
| **29** | 27 | Pearlware transfer-printed | ?Jug body sherd | 2 | 0.022 | Late 18th-mid 19th |
| | | Pearlware transfer-printed | Plate rim | 1 | 0.028 | Late 18th-mid 19th |
| | | Pearlware sponge-decorated | Drinking vessel rim sherd | 1 | 0.013 | Early-mid 19th century |
| | | Refined red earthenware white-slipped and glazed internally | Bowl rim sherd | 1 | 0.056 | 19th century |
| | | Refined white earthenware slip-decorated mocha decoration unprovenanced | Drinking Vessel body sherd | 2 | 0.018 | 19th century |
| **37** | 38 | East Anglian Redware | ?Rim sherd | 2 | 0.020 | 13th-end 14th century |
| | | Pearlware slip-decorated | Drinking vessel base and body sherd | 3 | 0.114 | Late 18th-mid 19th |
| | | Pearlware transfer-printed | Serving vessel base sherd | 1 | 0.015 | Late 18th-mid 19th |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Post-medieval black-glazed ware | Bowl base sherd | 1 | 0.016 | Late 16th-end 17th century |
| | | Refined red earthenware black-glazed internally | Bowl base sherd | 1 | 0.019 | 19th century |
| | | St Neots | Body sherd | 1 | 0.003 | Late 9th-end 11th century |
| | | Unprovenanced | Body sherd | 1 | 0.012 | Not closely datable |
| **Total** | | | | **30** | **0.415** | |

*Table 2: Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery catalogue*

## B.3 Miscellaneous Finds

***Flint***

**B.3.1** A single flint flake was recovered from the fill (8) of ditch 5. This is an undiagnostic secondary flake. In all probability this is prehistoric but is residual and undatable (A Haskins *pers.comm*).

### B.3.2 Lava Quern

*by Sarah Percival*

A total of seven pieces of lava weighing 56g was collected from context 6. The scraps are extremely abraded and largely formless, with the exception of one piece which has a small area of surviving smoothed grinding surface. The pieces are not closely datable but may be Roman or medieval.

***Ceramic Building Material (CBM)***

**B.3.3** Three fragments of CBM were recovered. Two were from the fills (6 and 8) of quarry slot **5** and have been spot dated to the 19th century. The largest fragment (weighing 0.158kg) from the lower fill (37) of quarry pit **38** has been spot dated to the early 19th century and identified as Pantile (R Atkins *pers.comm*).

**B.3.4** A small amount (0.031kg) of oil shale and coal was recovered from the fill (37) of quarry pit **38.**

## Appendix C. Environmental Reports

### C.1 Environmental samples

*By Rachel Fosberry*

***Introduction***

**C.1.1** Two bulk samples were taken from features in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

**C.1.2** The features sampled were pits **5** and **20** contained Roman pottery but are most likely post-medieval.

***Methodology***

**C.1.3** The total volume (up to 20 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. 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. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification.

**C.1.4** 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).

***Results***

**C.1.5** Both of the samples contain charred plant remains albeit in small quantities. Sample 1, fill 8 of pit **5** contains a single charred grain that is elongated in shape and is most likely one of the hulled wheat varieties of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) or emmer (*T. dicoccum*). Sample 2, fill 21 of pit **20** contains two charred barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains, four wheat grains and six indeterminate grains. Both samples contain sparse quantities of charcoal.

**C.1.6** Pottery and animal bone fragments were recovered from the residues of both samples and a small fish vertebra is present in Sample 2.

| Sample No. | Context No. | Cut No. | Flot contents | Residue contents |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 5 | Single charred grain | Pottery, animal bone |
| 2 | 21 | 20 | Charred barley and wheat grains | Pottery, animal bone, fish bone |

*Table 3: Environmental samples*

***Discussion***

**C.1.7** In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant remains consist of small quantities of cereal grains that were all poorly preserved, either because of taphonomic factors or because they had been charred at a high temperature. Other plant remains such as chaff, legumes and weed seeds are entirely absent and the small quantities recovered are unlikely to be indicative of deliberate deposition. If further excavations are planned for the area, it is recommended that a targeted approach to sampling is adopted. The two samples from this site have shown that cereals are preserved and so it would be worth sampling any primary deposits of features such as pits, ovens and hearths.

**C.1.8** A single oyster shell was recovered from the fill (6) of ditch **5.**

## C.2 Animal Bone

*by Chris Faine*

**C.2.1** Thirty three gramms of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage consisted of 10 fragments of which three were identifiable to species. Context **25** contained no identifiable fragments. Context **8** contained a partial sheep/goat tibia with an adult third molar being recovered from context **41**. A single portion of cattle was recovered from context **19** in the form of an adult thoracic vertebra.

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## Appendix E. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### *Project Details*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OASIS Number | oxfordar3-202555 | | |
| Project Name | Land to the rear of 18-22 London Road, Godmanchester | | |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) Start | 19-01-2015 | Finish | 20-01-2015 |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | No | Future Work | No |

**Project Reference Codes**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Site Code | GOD LOR 15 | Planning App. No. | 1101607FUL |
| HER No. | CHER 4342 | Related HER/OASIS No. | |

**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

| | |
|---|---|
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4 |
| Development Type | Urban Residential |

### *Please select all techniques used:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation | ☐ Grab-Sampling | ☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| ☐ Aerial Photography - new | ☐ Gravity-Core | ☒ Sample Trenches |
| ☒ Annotated Sketch | ☐ Laser Scanning | ☒ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure |
| ☐ Augering | ☒ Measured Survey | ☐ Targeted Trenches |
| ☐ Dendrochronological Survey | ☒ Metal Detectors | ☐ Test Pits |
| ☐ Documentary Search | ☐ Phosphate Survey | ☐ Topographic Survey |
| ☒ Environmental Sampling | ☐ Photogrammetric Survey | ☐ Vibro-core |
| ☐ Fieldwalking | ☒ Photographic Survey | ☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| ☐ Geophysical Survey | ☐ Rectified Photography | |

**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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| ditches | Post Medieval 1540 to 1901 | | Select period... |
| | Select period... | | Select period... |
| | Select period... | | Select period... |

### *Project Location*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| County | Cambridgeshire | Site Address (including postcode if possible) | |
| District | Huntingdonshire | Land to the rear of 18-22 London Road, Godmanchester,Cambridgeshire. | |
| Parish | Godmanchester | | |
| HER | 4342 | | |
| Study Area | | National Grid Reference | TL 2474 7015 |

## *Project Originators*

| | |
|---|---|
| Organisation | OA EAST |
| Project Brief Originator | Kasia Gdaniec |
| Project Design Originator | Stephen Macaulay |
| Project Manager | Stephen Macaulay |
| Supervisor | Steve Graham |

## *Project Archives*

| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive |
|---|---|---|
| Location ...ccc stores | Location ...O A East | Location ...O A East |
| GOD LOR 15 | Accession ID ...GOD LOR 15 | Accession ID ...GOD LOR 15 |

### 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:**

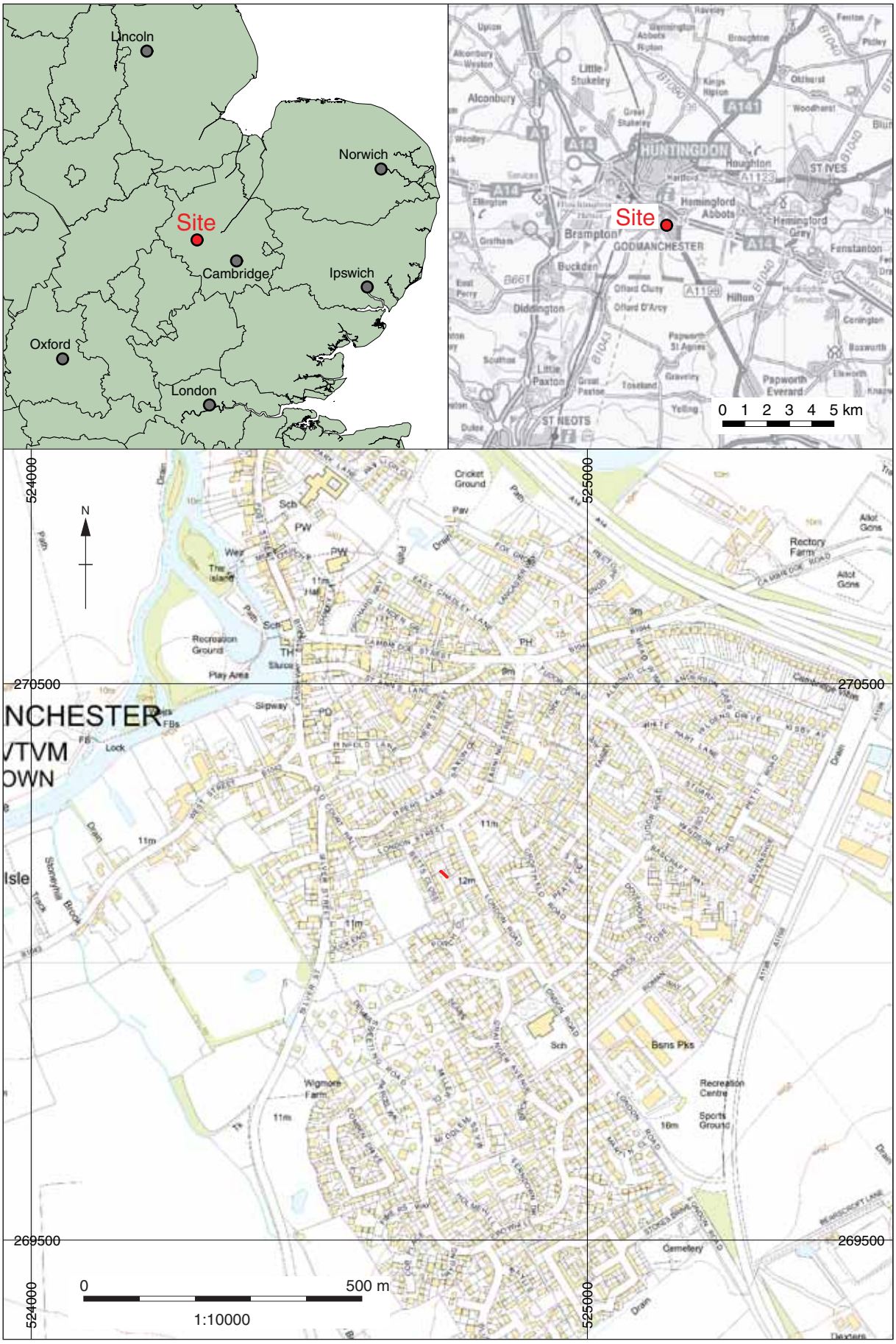


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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trench (red)

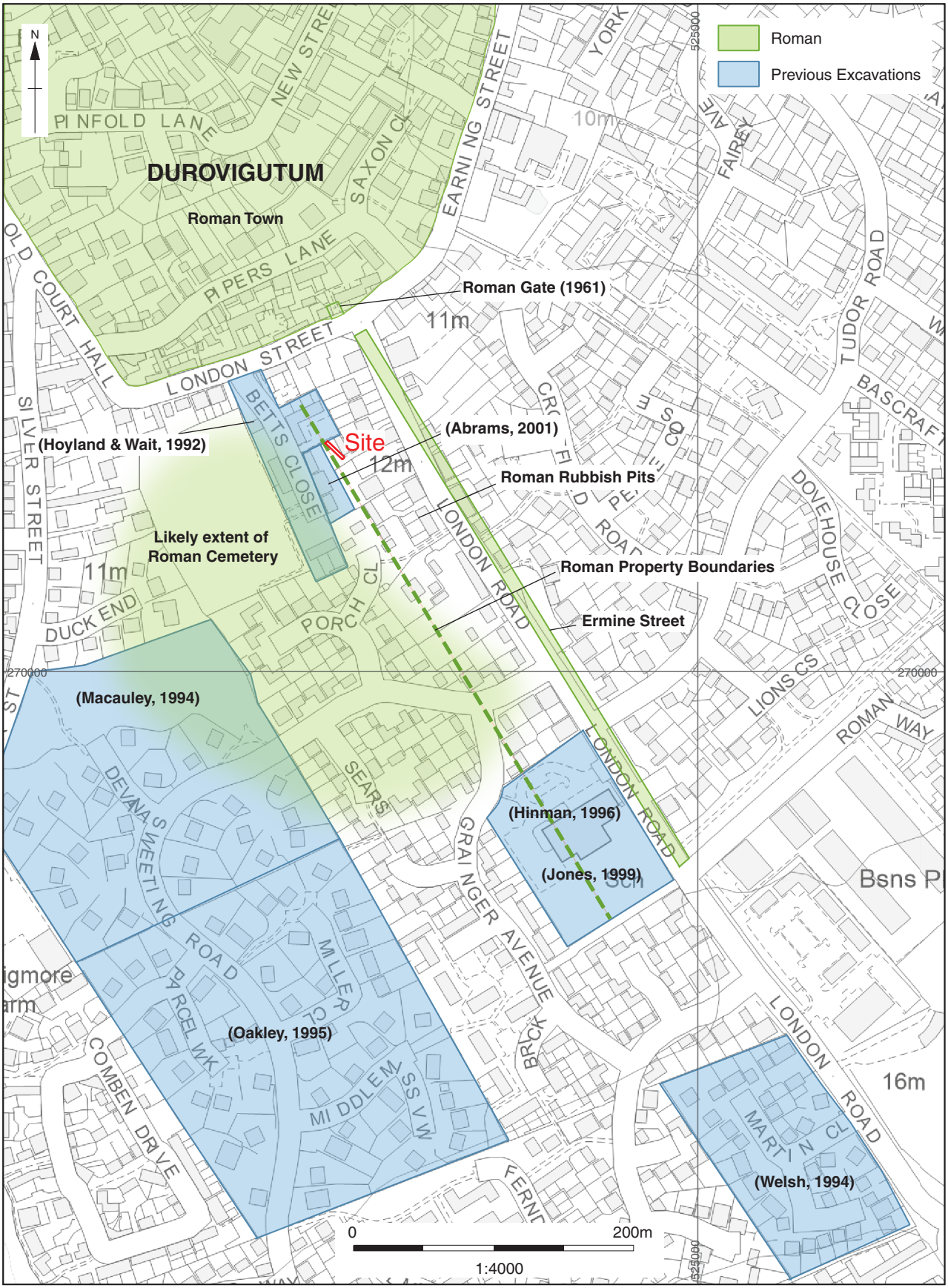


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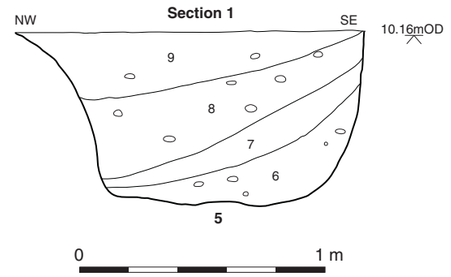
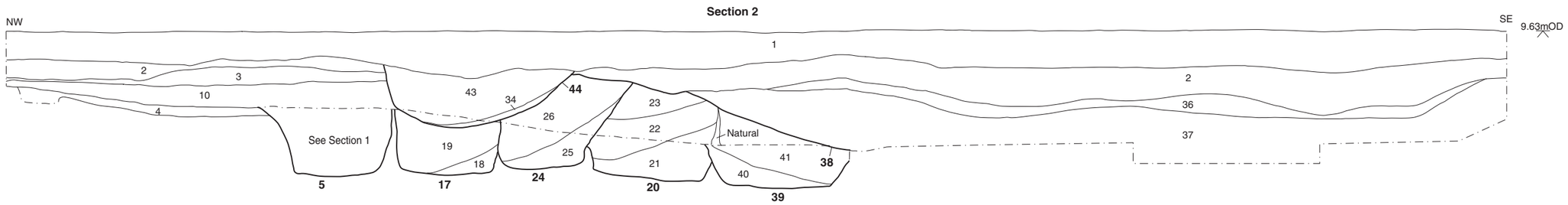
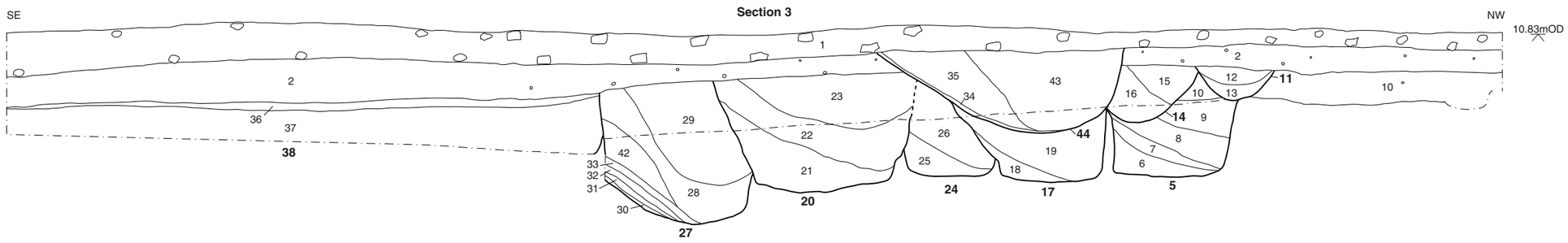
Figure 2: Site location in relation to other recently excavated sites

Figure 3: Trench location plan




Section 1 at 1:25




Section 2 & 3 at 1:50

Figure 4: Sections

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Plate 1: Evaluation trench from the south-west

Plate 2: Feature **5** from the south-west

Plate 3: Feature **20** from the north-east

Plate 4: Pit **38** from the south-west

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