# Land South of Higham Road Burton Latimer Northamptonshire



# Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2014

# Client: CgMs

OA East Report No: 1664 OASIS No: oxfordar3-189820 NGR: SP 904 738



## Land South of Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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#### Summary

Between 1st – 9th September 2014, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an evaluation on land south of Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire (SP 904 738). A total of 25 40m-long trenches were opened. Archaeology was uncovered on the western half of site, with Roman pits and a limestone constructed building being recorded. The building was circular in plan with evidence of significant burning during its demolition. The location and quality of the building would suggest that it was a Romano-British temple.





#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land south of Higham Road, Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire (SP 904 738; Fig. 1) in advance of a proposed residential scheme.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Lesley-Ann Mather of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 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 NCC, 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 British Geological Survey (BGS) records the geology on site as Stamford Member sandstone and siltstone on the east of the site and Northampton Sand Formation ironstone to the west (BGS Geology of Britain viewer http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html; accessed 12/09/14).
- 1.2.2 The site is gently undulating and sits at roughly 65mAOD at the north-west of site, rising to 80mAOD in the south-east. A series of ridges and troughs are located throughout the site, all aligned roughly east to west (Bourn 2014).

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A full archaeological background was written in the Desk Based Assessment, where Northamptonshire HER records within 1km of the site were appraised (*ibid*.). These results have been summarised below. The historic maps are not illustrated in this report, please see the Desk Based Assessment for these (Bourn 2014; figs 3, 4 & 5).

#### Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 Prehistoric activity within 1km of the site is sparse, with very few records on the NHER.
- 1.3.3 The earliest activity recorded near site is a scatter of Mesolithic flints, consisting of cores and flakes approximately 150m to the west of site (NHER 5507).
- 1.3.4 Evidence for later Bronze Age activity is also relatively limited. A possible Late Bronze Age pit alignment has been identified just beyond the 1km search radius to the northeast (5319/0/1), while possible Bronze Age flints have been found *c*.200m to the west of the site boundary (5363).



#### Roman

- 1.3.5 Recent archaeological investigations have identified a number of areas within the study area which contain significant Iron Age and Roman settlement activity.
- 1.3.6 The closest evidence identified was found on the north side of Higham Road where excavations uncovered a Roman settlement covering an area of *c*.2ha. The settlement contained several phases of activity extending in date from the 1st century to 4th century AD, incorporating multiple enclosures, a cemetery containing 45 inhumations, evidence for domestic structures and metalworking, and numerous waste pits and quarry pits. An extensive assemblage of finds was associated with the settlement, including a 3rd century AD coin hoard (1921).
- 1.3.7 A Roman coin has been recorded immediately to the south of the study site (5305).
- 1.3.8 Through a combination of aerial photography and excavation, a Late Iron Age/early Roman settlement was found *c*.750m from the northeast boundary of the site. Numerous ditch alignments and enclosures defined the settlement, including numerous pits and possible kilns (5319).
- 1.3.9 A geophysical survey has identified a third suspected Iron Age/Roman settlement *c*.900m to the southeast of the site (3310).
- 1.3.10 Crossing the study area on an approximately north to south alignment is the predicted course of the Roman road between Irchester and Kettering. Part of the route is defined by upstanding earthworks. The line of the road runs approximately 200m to the west of the site at its closest point (3141).
- 1.3.11 Several find spots associated with this period have been found in the south-west of the study area, represented by a small a scatter of Iron Age coins (5079/0/0) and Roman coins (7812/0/0).

#### Anglo-Saxon & Medieval

- 1.3.12 The NHER records no Anglo-Saxon remains within 1km of the study site.
- 1.3.13 Domesday Book contains multiple references to the settlement at Burton Latimer, which strongly implies that the settlement was established at some point during the Late Anglo-Saxon period.
- 1.3.14 The NHER records only a limited number of entries within the study area which relate to medieval activity. Evidence for medieval settlement activity is closely associated with the existing settlement at Burton Latimer, where earthworks associated with a possible medieval manor house (1966/5/2) and house platform (1966/0/1) are recorded, along with the 12th century Church of St Mary (1966/1).
- 1.3.15 Ridge and Furrow field systems have been identified on the north side of Higham Road (9815/0/10), and within a general area *c*.800m to the south-east of the site (9815/0/7). It is assumed that the study site lay within the open fields of Barton Latimer during this period.
- 1.3.16 Throughout the medieval period, Burton Latimer appears to have remained as a small settlement focused in the area of the High Street. The site is likely to have remained within the agricultural hinterland of the settlement as indicated by the ridge and furrow field system in close proximity to the site, and settlement evidence is not anticipated.

#### Post-Medieval & Modern

1.3.17 During the 15th to 18th century Burton Latimer remained a small rural settlement, with agricultural production continuing in the hinterland.



- 1.3.18 During the second half of the 18th century a Turnpike road was constructed following Higham Lane (7375).
- 1.3.19 An early cartographic view of the site is derived from Faden's map of 1779. No features are marked in the area of the site, and it is presumed that the site consisted of open agricultural land at this time.
- 1.3.20 The 1803 Burton Latimer Enclosure map depicts the area of the site in greater detail and shows that historically the site lay in Nether Field.
- 1.3.21 By the time that the 1884-85 Ordnance Survey (OS) map had been published, the site had taken on its current layout of three fields. The houses at the north-western corner of the site had not been built at this time. The site has remained essentially unchanged since the first edition OS map, although the southern end of the central field is marked as being a football ground in the 1920s and 1930s.
- 1.3.22 During the late 19th century and 20th century, the landscape around Burton Latimer saw extensive quarrying for ironstone. Multiple quarries, and associated tramways, were active in both the northern and southern areas of the study area (8432/2;8432/2/8;8456/1/7; 8456/1/1).]

#### Geophysical Survey

- 1.3.23 The geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Prestige 2014) recorded a number of probable and possible archaeological features.
- 1.3.24 Remains of ridge and furrow were identified across the site, along with a linear anomaly that matches a ditch shown on historic maps dating to 1901 in the north-west corner of site. Further ditches were identified, forming field systems bounding the ridge and furrow.
- 1.3.25 The clarity of the other possible archaeological features is diminished by the ridge and furrow, but near the western boundary a group of roughly circular anomalies thought to be cut features was identified.
- 1.3.26 All other anomalies were interpreted as being of a modern origin.

#### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thanks are extended to Lesley-Ann Mather of Northamptonshire County Council who monitored and visited the site. Rob Bourn of CgMs consulting liaised with the developer and commissioned the works. The site was managed by James Drummond-Murray. Fieldwork was directed by the author and undertaken by Emily Abrehart, Zoe Clarke, Kat Hamilton and Chris Swain. Steve Critchley metal detected all trenches and machine excavation was undertaken by Anthill Plant Hire.
- 1.4.2 Particular thanks are given to Bill Groome whom organised the use of his 360 excavator for trenches in the westernmost field.



#### 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.

#### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that a total of 25 trenches measuring 40m in length were to be excavated across site, targeting geophysical anomalies. A contingency of a further 12 trenches was in place if required.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 20 tonne tracked 360-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 GPS with Smartnet.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected 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 *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from features deemed to have potential for microand macro-fossil remains and/or from features with well stratified finds to date the feature.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were generally dry with occasional heavy rain showers.



# 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented by trench in number order. Trenches with no archaeology (Trenches 1-3, 8-14, 16-19 and 21-23) are not discussed. Feature and deposit descriptions, along with finds where present, are written in stratigraphic order, starting with the earliest. Full trench and context descriptions can be found in Appendix A, with specialist reports included as Appendices B and C..

#### **3.2** Trench 4 (Figs 2-4; Plates 1-5)

- 3.2.1 Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Plate 1) was located in the centre of the westernmost field, aligned north to south. The trench contained an enclosure ditch (30), a possible wall (35), a limestone floor (36), a demolition layer (37; equivalent to 40), a robber trench (39; Fig. 4), a possible beam slot (42), and a floor surface (43). All features were located within the central area of the trench, where geophysical survey had identified a circular anomaly.
- 3.2.2 Enclosure ditch **30** was 1.6m wide, 0.46m deep with a wide U-shaped profile (Plate 3). Basal fill (31) was a dark yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.17m thick, with rare ironstone inclusions. The upper fill (32) was a mid yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.37m thick, with common ironstone inclusions. No finds were recovered from the feature.
- 3.2.3 Wall **35** was aligned north-east to south-west before returning to run north-west to south-east. The feature was constructed of limestone fragments and light greyish yellow mortar, with evidence of *in-situ* burning. The feature appeared to be abutted by limestone floor 36.
- 3.2.4 Limestone floor 36 (Plate 2) was exposed for an area measuring at least 9m long and consisted of limestone fragments varying in size from 0.1m to 0.5m in diameter. The surface was overlain by demolition layer 37.
- 3.2.5 Floor surface 43 (Plate 5) was uncovered in a 1.25m section to the north of 36. The layer was a light greyish yellow sandy mortar overlying natural ironstone. The feature was cut by beamslot **42** and robber trench **39**.
- 3.2.6 Beamslot **42** was exposed for a length of 0.5m and measured 0.2m wide: it was not excavated. The fill (41) was a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. The feature cut floor surface 43.
- 3.2.7 Demolition layer 37 (=40) was 16.75m in total length, sealing all structural remains below. The layer was 0.11m thick and a dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent mortar, charcoal and limestone inclusions. The layer contained 117g of pottery, a Roman coin (SF2) and a hand forged nail (SF 1). The layer was truncated by robber trench **39**.
- 3.2.8 Robber trench **39** was 2.2m wide and 0.41 deep with a wide U-shaped profile (Plate 4). The basal fill (44) was a dark yellowish brown silty clay, 0.35m thick, with frequent charcoal and moderate limestone fragment inclusions. A single hand forged nail was recovered (SF3). The upper fill (38) was a dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.41m thick, with occasional limestone fragments. The feature truncated demolition layer 37 and floor surface 43.



#### **3.3 Trench 5** (Fig. 2)

- 3.3.1 Trench 5, aligned north-west to south-east, was located in the northern half of the westernmost field. The trench contained a pit (13), a gully (15), a tree throw (17), and a linear feature (33).
- 3.3.2 Pit **13** was sub-circular in plan, 1.5m in diameter and 0.38m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Its fill (14) was a mid brown silty sand, 0.38m thick with occasional ironstone fragments. Medieval green glazed pottery and slag was recovered from the fill.
- 3.3.3 Gully **15** was 0.45m wide, 0.1m deep and aligned east to west with a U-shaped profile. Fill 16 was a mid brown silty sand with occasional ironstone fragments. This feature is possibly the remains of a furrow.
- 3.3.4 Tree throw **17** was 1.15m in diameter, 0.19m deep with a bowl shaped profile. Fill 18 was a mid brown sandy silt with frequent ironstone inclusions.
- 3.3.5 Linear feature **33** was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, measuring 1m wide and with an excavated depth of 0.55m. Fill 34 was a mid greyish brown sandy clay with very frequent ironstone inclusions. A single sherd of heavily abraded Roman pottery was recovered from the top of the fill. Despite the latter, it probable that the feature was of geological origin.

#### **3.4 Trench 6** (Fig. 2)

- 3.4.1 Trench 6 was located in the north-west part of the westernmost field and aligned east to west. The trench contained a gully (**10**), a furrow (**12**) and a ditch (**29**), along with two unexcavated furrows.
- 3.4.2 Gully **10** was 0.8m wide, 0.25m deep and aligned north to south with a U-shaped profile. Fill 9 was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional ironstone inclusions.
- 3.4.3 Furrow **12** was 1.8m wide, 0.25m deep and aligned north to south with a bowl-shaped profile. Fill 11 was a mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate ironstone inclusions.
- 3.4.4 Ditch **29** was 1.9m wide, 0.65m deep and aligned north to south with a U-shaped profile. Fill 28 was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional iron stone inclusions.

#### **3.5 Trench 7** (Fig. 2 and Plates 6-7)

- 3.5.1 Trench 7 was the northernmost trench in the west field and aligned north to south. The trench contained three pits: **20**, **21** and **27**.
- 3.5.2 Pit **20** was revealed for 5m and was the width of the trench. It had an irregular profile and was 0.34m deep. Fill 19 was a dark bluish grey silty clay with frequent burnt limestone fragments throughout. Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill.
- 3.5.3 Pit **21** was sub-rectangular in plan, 2m in diameter and 0.55m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. Basal fill 22 was a mid reddish grey silty clay, 0.3m thick, with frequent ironstone and occasional limestone inclusions. Upper fill 23 was a dark brown grey silty clay, 0.25m thick with occasional charcoal. Animal bone and Roman pottery were recovered from the fill.
- 3.5.4 Pit **27** was sub-circular in plan, 2.6m in diameter and 0.72m deep with an irregular profile. Basal fill 26 was a mid brown silty sand, 0.26m thick, with frequent ironstone inclusions. Secondary fill 25 was a light brownish grey clayey silt, 0.34m thick, with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions. Roman pottery was recovered from the fill.



Tertiary fill 24 was a mid yellowish brown sandy silt, 0.24m thick, with frequent stone inclusions.

#### **3.6 Trench 15** (Fig. 5)

3.6.1 Trench 15 was located within the south part of the central field and aligned north to south. The trench contained a ditch (**46**), which was aligned north-east to south-west, 0.9m wide, 0.2m deep with a bowl shaped profile. Fill 47 was a mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions.

#### **3.7 Trench 20** (Fig. 6)

- 3.7.1 Trench 20 was located in the centre of the eastern field and aligned east to west.
- 3.7.2 Gully **5** was aligned north-west to south-east, 0.59m wide and 0.18m deep with a steep-sided and flat-based profile. Basal fill 7 was a mid greyish brown sandy clay, 0.18m thick, with occasional limestone and charcoal inclusions. A total of two highly pattinated worked flints was recovered from the fill. Upper fill 6 was a light brownish yellow silty clay, 0.06m thick, with occasional stone inclusions.

#### **3.8 Trench 24** (Fig. 6 and Plate 8)

- 3.8.1 Trench 24 was located in the north of the eastern field and aligned east to west. The trench contained four furrows, a ditch (1) and a pit (3).
- 3.8.2 Ditch **1** was aligned north to south, 1m wide and 0.22m deep with a rounded profile. Fill 2 was a mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments. The ditch truncated pit **3** and was in turn truncated by a furrow.
- 3.8.3 Pit **3** was sub-circular in plan, 0.55m wide and 0.22m deep with a rounded profile. Fill 4 was a mid brownish red silty clay with occasional limestone and charcoal fragments. The pit was cut by ditch **1**.

#### 3.9 Finds Summary

3.9.1 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from two pits in Trench 7 (**20** and **21**) and demolition spread 37 in Trench 4. The pottery dates from between the 2nd century to late 3rd century AD. A single coin was also recovered from demolition spread 37: a badly preserved copper alloy late 3rd century radiate. Less than half remained with an illegible reverse. A small portion of the bust and crown remained along with -AR-above, possibly representing Carausius (286-293 AD). Part of a post-medieval rumbler bell was also recovered, along with a hand forged nail and a sherd of medieval pottery.

#### 3.10 Environmental Summary

- 3.10.1 Two bulk samples were taken: one from pit 27, and another from a demolition spread (40). Both contained moderate amounts of preserved plant material, with low numbers of spelt wheat grain and chaff being preserved indicative of cereal processing within the vicinity of the site.
- 3.10.2 A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from pits **21** and **27**. The remains are from cattle and sheep and probably represent processing of animal carcasses for meat.



# 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The majority of trenches opened during the evaluation at land south of Higham Road, Burton Latimer indicate that the land has seen very little occupation or activity that is visible within the archaeological record. All archaeological remains of significance were located in the northern half of the westernmost field. The majority of the features recorded in the area (pits 20, 21, 27, and ditch 28) suggest a low level of activity, possibly on the edge of settlement. The evaluation has also shown that the geophysical survey undertaken across the site was relatively accurate, with features interpreted as archaeology proving to be so during trenching.

#### 4.2 Possible Romano-British Temple

- 4.2.1 The feature of most interest founding during the evaluation is the circular structure (**36**) found in Trench 4. From the limited excavations undertaken during the evaluation, it was found that the structure survived relatively well, with *in-situ* limestone floor foundations. Finds from the demolition layer would indicate the feature had fallen out of use by the late 3rd century AD.
- 4.2.2 The location of the structure might indicate it was a Romano-British temple or shrine. The structure is located on a level area of ground on the western slope of a hill near two springs, overlooking a small brook and situated roughly 200m east of the predicted route of the Roman road between Irchester and Kettering. Similarly, it is located approximately 400m to the south-west of a Roman settlement that was excavated two years ago, prior to construction of housing. Other Roman settlements are also located nearby, with one being located 900m to the south-east.
- 4.2.3 The structure bears similarity to other Romano-British temples located within the area. Circular temples have been found at Brigstock (Upex 2008) and Collyweston (English Heritage Scheduled Monument 348138).
- 4.2.4 Romano-British shrines are often found to have been built directly on top of an Iron Age precursor (Bédoyère 1991, Woodward 1992). The ditch (**30**) found just to the north of the structural remains, may be indicative of this, although in such a limited investigation it is difficult to substantiate this. No other possible earlier features were seen below the Roman remains in the interventions excavated.
- 4.2.5 The demolition or abandonment layer (37) contained a large amount of charcoal and fragments of burnt limestone. Likewise, some of the limestone within the structural remains was also burnt. This would indicate the building burnt down; whether deliberately or accidentally is not possible to say.
- 4.2.6 The fact that the field has been laid to grass for a long period has helped preserve the structure, as modern ploughing would have significantly damaged the remains. With the level of preservation seen in the evaluation, it is likely that the possible temple can help further understanding of Romano-British temple construction, use and abandonment.

#### 4.3 Conclusion

4.3.1 If the interpretation of the structure as a Romano-British temple is correct it would be of regional significance and as such has the potential to contribute to current research into Romano-British settlement and occupation in the area.



# APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General d	escription				Orientation		E-W
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.77
	void of archa of ironstone.	aeology.	Consists o	of soil and subsoil overlying	Width (m)		1.6
	in inorristorie.				Length (m)		40
Trench 2							1
General d	escription				Orientation		N-S
			Avg. depth	(m)	0.34		
Trench dev sandy clay	void of archa	aeology.	Width (m)		1.6		
oundy oldy	•		Length (m)		40		
Trench 3							·
General d	escription			Orientation		E-W	
				Avg. depth	(m)	0.37	
	void of archa of ironstone.	aeology.	Consists o	of soil and subsoil overlying	Width (m)		1.6
					Length (m)		40
Trench 4							
General d	escription				Orientation	rientation N	
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.53
				ucture – possibly a Roman lying a natural of ironstone.	Width (m)		1.6
temple. Oc				lying a natarar of ironotorio.	Length (m)		40
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
30	Cut	1.6	0.46	Ditch	-		-
31	Fill	-	0.17	Ditch	-		-
32	Fill	-	0.37	Ditch	-		-
35	Structure	0.7	-	Wall (?)	-		-
36	Layer	9	-	Limestone Foundations	-		-
37	Layer	9	0.11	Demolition Layer	Pottery & Coin	LC2	-EC4
38	Fill	2.2	0.41	Robber Trench	-		-
39	Cut	2.2	0.41	Robber Trench	-		-
40	Layer	7.75	0.11	Demolition Layer	Pottery	LC2	-EC4
41	Fill	0.2	-	Beam slot	-		-
42	Cut	0.2	-	Beam slot	-		-
43	Layer	-	0.04	Floor surface	-		-
45							



Trench 5							
General d	escriptio	n			Orientation	E	W
					Avg. depth (	<b>m)</b> 0.	37
overlying a				ossible ditch. Consists of soil	Width (m)	1.	6
erenying					Length (m)	4(	)
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
13	Cut	1.5	0.38	Pit	-	-	
14	Fill		0.38	Pit	Pottery, CBM	Mediev	al
15	Cut	0.45	0.1	Gully	-	-	
16	Fill	0.45	0.1	Gully	-	-	
17	Cut	1.15	0.19	Tree throw	-	-	
18	Fill	1.15	0.19	Tree throw	Animal Bone	-	
33	Cut	1	0.55	Ditch (?)	-	-	
34	Fill		0.55	Ditch (?)	Pottery	LC2-EC4	
Trench 6							
General d	escriptio	n			Orientation	E	W
					Avg. depth (m)		33
Trench co overlying a				nd ditch. Consists of topsoil	Width (m)	1.	6
					Length (m)	40	)
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
9	Fill	-	0.25	Gully	-	-	
10	Cut	0.8	0.25	Gully	-	-	
11	Fill	-	0.25	Furrow	-	-	
12	Cut	1.8	0.25	Furrow	-	-	
28	Fill	-	0.65	Ditch	-	-	
29	Cut	1.9	0.65	Ditch	_	_	



Trench 7						
General de	escriptior	າ	Orientation	N-S		
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Trench contained three Roman pits. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of ironstone.				Width (m)	1.6	
	ionstone.				Length (m)	40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
19	Fill	-	0.34	Pit	Pottery, Animal Bone	LC2-EC4
20	Cut	5m+	0.34	Pit	-	-
21	Cut	2	0.55	Pit	-	-
22	Fill	-	0.3	Pit	Animal Bone	-
23	Fill	-	0.25	Pit	Pottery, Animal Bone	LC2-EC4
24	Fill	-	0.24	Pit	-	-
25	Fill	-	0.34	Pit	Pottery, Animal Bone	LC2-EC4
26	Fill	-	0.24	Pit		
27	Cut	0.75	0.72	Pit	-	-
Trench 8						
General de	escriptior	า			Orientation	E-W
	· • • •		o · ·		Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Irench dev sandy clay		haeology.	Consists	of soil overlying a natural of	Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	40
Trench 9						
General de	escriptior	า			Orientation	N-S
<b>_</b>			<b>a</b>		Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Trench dev marly clay.		haeology.	Consists	of soil overlying a natural of	Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	40
Trench 10						
General d	escription	<u>ו</u>			Orientation	E-W
<b>_</b>				<b>,</b>	Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Trench dev a natural o			Consists	of soil and subsoil overlying	Width (m)	1.8
		· J ·			Length (m)	40
Trench 11						
General d	escriptior	1			Orientation	N-S
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Trench cor natural of c			1.2m wide	e. Consists of soil overlying a	Width (m)	1.8
	hay and li	UNSIONE.	Length (m)	40		



Trench 12								
General de	scription	1				Orientation		E-W
						Avg. depth	(m)	0.36
Trench deve ironstone a		haeology.	Consists of	of soil overlying a n	atural of	Width (m)		1.8
	nu ciay.					Length (m)		40
Trench 13								
General de	scription	1				Orientation	1	N-S
						Avg. depth	(m)	0.52
Trench deve a natural of		haeology.	Consists of	of soil and subsoil o	verlying	Width (m)		1.8
a natural of	ciay.					Length (m)		40
Trench 14								
General de	scription	1		Orientation		E-W		
						Avg. depth	(m)	0.3
Trench deve sandy clay.	oid of arcl	haeology.	Consists of	of soil overlying a na	atural of	Width (m)		1.8
Sanuy ciay.						Length (m)		40
Trench 15								
General de	scription	1				Orientation	Orientation N-	
						Avg. depth (m)		0.34
Trench cont natural of sa			y ditch. Co	onsists of soil overly	/ing a	Width (m)	lth (m)	
						Length (m)		40
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment		finds	C	late
46	Cut	0.9	0.2	Ditch		-	Pos	st-Med
47	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch		-	Pos	st-Med
Trench 16								
General de	scription	1				Orientation		E-W
<b>_</b>			• • •	<b>,</b>		Avg. depth	(m)	0.4
Trench devo clay.	old of arcl	haeology.	Consists (	of soil overlying a na	atural of	Width (m)		1.8
						Length (m)		40
Trench 17								
General de	scription	I				Orientation		N-S
<b>_</b>			• • •	· · · · ·		Avg. depth	(m)	0.31
Trench devo clay.	old of arcl	haeology.	Consists (	of soil overlying a na	atural of	Width (m)		1.8
						Length (m)		40



Trench 18							
General de	scription				Orientation	1	E-W
Trench dev	aid of arch		Consists o	f soil overlying a natural of	<b>0 1</b> ( <i>)</i>		0.4
clay.		lacology.	001131313 0	son overlying a natural of	Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		40	
Trench 19							
General de	scription		Orientation	1	N-S		
Tranch dow	aid of arch		Avg. depth	(m)	0.33		
clay.		laeology.	Consists o	f soil overlying a natural of	Width (m)		1.8
					Length (m)		40
Trench 20							
General de	scription		Orientation	1	E-W		
<b>-</b> .			0	<b>,</b> , , , , , ,	Avg. depth	(m)	0.55
Trench cont overlying a		0		of soil and subsoil	Width (m)		1.8
o ronying a		olay alla			Length (m)		40
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
5	Cut	0.59	0.18	Ditch	-		-
6	Fill	-	0.06	Ditch	-		-
7	Fill	-	0.18	Ditch	Flint		-
Trench 21							
General de	scription				Orientation		N-S
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Trench conf of soil and s				and 0.14m deep. Consists	Width (m)		1.8
		anying a r		nay.	Length (m)		40
Trench 22							
General de	scription				Orientation		E-W
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.4
Trench conf soil and sub				and 0.26m deep. Consists of	Width (m)		1.8
5011 and 501		ying a nat		y.	Length (m)		40
Trench 23							·
General de	scription				Orientation	1	N-S
	-				Avg. depth	(m)	0.7
				of topsoil overlying colluvial	Width (m)		1.8
layers exca	valed to a	depth of	1111.		Length (m)		40



Trench 24	L .					
General d	escriptio	n		Orientation	E-W	
Trench co	ntained or	e ditch a	Avg. depth (m)	0.4		
limestone					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Cut			Ditch	-	-
2	Fill			Ditch	Animal Bone	-
3	Cut			Pit	-	-
4	Fill			Pit	-	-
Trench 25	5					
General d	escriptio	n			Orientation	N-S
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of clay.				Width (m)	1.8	
0. 0.0 <i>.</i>					Length (m)	40



# APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

#### B.1 Metalwork

By Chris Faine

- B.1.1 Two metal finds were recovered from the evaluation. SF 2 is a badly preserved copper alloy late 3rd century radiate. Less than half remains with an illegible reverse. A small portion of the bust and crown remains along with -AR- above, possibly representing Carausius (286-293 AD). SF 5 is small concave portion of a post-medieval copper alloy crotal bell (1600-1800 AD). No pea or clasp remains but the portion shows the sunburst decoration typical of bells of this period, along with a cross pattee decoration that may represent a maker's mark.
- B.1.2 Hand forged nails were recovered from fill 44 and layer 37. The type of nail is longlived, but the likelihood is that it is of Roman date.

#### **B.2 Pottery**

#### By Alice Lyons

#### Introduction

- B.2.1 A total of 26 sherds, weighing 338g, of Romano-British pottery was recovered from two pits (**20**, **21**), a ditch (**33**), also a demolition layer (37=40), within Trenches 4, 5 and 7.
- B.2.2 The pottery is in a fragmentary and abraded condition and has an average sherd weight of only 13g.

#### Methodology

- B.2.3 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) and Tyers (2006) was used for referencing fabrics and forms.
- B.2.4 The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared (see end of this report). 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 gram and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. OA East curates the pottery and archive.

#### The Fabrics and Forms

- B.2.5 The majority of the pottery comprises utilitarian coarse wares the most common of which is a sandy grey ware (SGW) found in a limited range of jar/bowl and dish forms. Most are undecorated although two examples retained a high burnish (or polished) surface. On one SGW rim fragment a soot residue is adhering demonstrating it had been used as a cooking pot. Although the source of this material is not certain it is compatible with originating from the Hadham kiln industry in Hertfordshire which was not widely distributed until the 4th century AD (Tyers 1996, 168-169).
- B.2.6 Also relatively common are Sandy grey ware jars produced from clay containing a high level of silver mica content, present as a natural component. Further research would be required to establish if a micaceous clay source existed within Northamptonshire and its



hinterlands, however similar clays were successfully exploited within the Waveney Valley in north Suffolk (Tomber and Dore 1998, 184).

- B.2.7 Another common utilitarian coarse ware was manufactured from clay containing fossilised shell fragments. The Lower Nene Valley was known to have been a production centre for shell-tempered storage jars (Perrin 1996, 119–20) between the Late Iron Age and 3rd century AD, while Early Roman shell tempered wares were also produced at Bourne in Lincolnshire and Greetham in Humberside (Tomber and Dore 1998, 156). Distinctive lipped Dales ware shell tempered jars were made in the Lincolnshire area between the late 2nd and 3rd centuries. This material, however, is consistent with that produced in the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115) located c. 15km to the south-east of Burton Latimer and also more frequently distributed in the later Roman period.
- B.2.8 The small amount of Sandy oxidised wares found are visually identical to 1st and early 2nd century Verulamium white ware (Tyers 1996, 199-201). 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; kilns are suspected in Northamptonshire as the ware has commonly been found at Stanwick (Seager-Smith 2009, 19) and are known in the Nene Valley (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118) and Godmanchester (Evans 2003).

Fabric	CODE	Sherd count	Sherd weight (g)	Sherd weight (g)
Sandy grey ware	SGW	4	111	32.84
Shell tempered ware	STW	7	86	25.44
Sandy grey ware with micaceous inclusions	SGW(MICA)	4	69	20.41
Sandy oxidised ware	SOW	3	46	13.61
Nene Valley colour coat	NVCC	5	8	2.37
Sandy grey ware (black slip)	SGW(BS)	1	8	2.37
Hadham red ware	HAD RED W	1	7	2.07
Samian	SAM(CG)- LEZOUX	1	3	0.89
Total		26	338	100.00

Table 1: The Roman Pottery fabrics, listed in descending order of weight

- B.2.9 Fine wares are not well represented within the group. A small number of domestically produced finewares were identified, originating from large regional production centres. These comprise a small number of Nene Valley colour coat sherds from a single beaker (Tyers 1996, 173-174) and a single abraded Hadham red ware bowl fragment (Tyers 1996, 168-169). Also recorded was a tiny piece from an imported central Gaulish bowl, dated to between 120-190 AD (Webster 2005, 1-3).
- B.2.10 Absent form this assemblage are any specialist wares such as amphora (Tyers 1996 85-105) or mortaria (Tyers 1996, 116-135).

#### Discussion

B.2.11 This is a small assemblage of later Roman pottery, primarily comprising utilitarian



coarse wares, with a small amount of imported fine table wares.

- B.2.12 The assemblage is in poor condition suggesting it has been subject to extensive postdepositional disturbance and has not remained in its primary place of deposition. Certainly none of the pottery had been deliberately placed, rather it had found its way into the pit and ditch fill, also the demolition layer, probably in association with other small amounts of detritus which originated from a relatively affluent community.
- B.2.13 The assemblage therefore although small is an interesting glimpse into Romano-British life at Burton Latimer and adds to the growing corpus of data from Northamptonshire pertinent to this period.

#### Further Work

B.2.14 Additional work could be undertaken to more closely assign these pottery fabrics to their source of manufacture.



XNNBUL14

# Pottery Catalogue

Sample	Sample Context Cut	Cut	Trench	Feature	Fabric Family	Dsc	Form	Type	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Date
	19	20	7	PIT	SAM(CG)-	∍	BOWL		-	ę	
			_		LEZOUX						CZ
	19	20	7	PIT	SGW(MICA)	Я	JAR		1	13	LC1-C2
	19	20	7	PIT	SOW	В	JAR/FLAG		-	26	C2-C3
	23	21	7	PIT	NVCC		BEAK		2	ω	M/LC2
	23	21	7	PIT	SGW	۲	DISH	STRAIGHT-SIDED WITH A TRIANGULAR	<del>.                                    </del>	62	
	23	21	7	PIT	SGW	Ľ	WJAR		-	6	C2-C3
	23	21	7	PIT	STW	∍	JAR/BOWL		-	11	C2-C4
<del>.                                    </del>	25	21	7	PIT	SGW(BS)	ĸ	JAR		<del>.                                    </del>	œ	C2-C3
	25	21	7	PIT	SOW		JAR		-	17	C3-C4
	25	21	7	PIT	SOW	∩	JAR		-	3	C2-C3
	25	21	7	PIT	STW	D	JAR		3	46	LC3-C4
<del>.                                    </del>	25	21	7	PIT	STW	⊃	JAR		-	ი	C3-C4
	34	33	5	DITCH	SGW(MICA)	Ъ	DISH	STRAIGHT-SIDED WITH A TRIANGULAR	<del>.                                    </del>	12	
								KIM		_	MC2+
	37		4	DEMOLITION	HAD RED W		JAR/BOWL		<del></del>	7	C4
	37		4	DEMOLITION	SGW		JAR		2	40	MC2-C4
	37		4	DEMOLITION	SGW(MICA)	UB	JAR		2	44	LC1-C4
	40		4	DEMOLITION	STW	с	LID		<del></del>	15	C2-C3
	40		4	DEMOLITION LAYER	STW	ш	JAR		-	1	MC2-C4

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#### APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

#### B.3 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

- B.3.1 Two bulk samples were taken from features within the trenches in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of any further archaeological investigations.
- B.3.2 The features sampled were Roman pit **27** (main fill 25) and a dark demolition spread (40).

#### Methodology

- B.3.3 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.
- B.3.4 The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains is 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. Carbonised 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

B.3.5 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

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

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance

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



#### 4.3.1 Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Comment	Cereal	Chaff	Weed Seeds	Small Bone	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot
1	25	27	pit	20	main (second) fill of Roman pit	##	0	#	#	++	++	spelt grains and glume bases, dock seed
2	40		demolition spread	20	dark, charcoal- rich demolition spread	#	#	0	0	+	0	Spelt grain, spelt glume base, flax seeds.

Table 2: Environmental samples f

- B.3.6 Preservation is by carbonisation (charring) and is moderate with cereal grains and chaff elements present in both samples. Spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) grains and glume bases occur in low numbers (less than 15) in both samples. Sample 1, fill 25 of pit **27** also contains a single dock (*Rumex* sp.) seed and Sample 2 from demolition spread 40 contains occasional flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) seeds and a single seed of a plant belonging to the amaranthaceae family.
- B.3.7 The residues are devoid of artefacts although both residues contain flakes of hammerscale.

#### Discussion

- B.3.8 The charred plant assemblage from this site is predominantly composed of spelt wheat, a variety of hulled wheat that was favoured in Roman Britain. The grains are enclosed in a spikelet of tough chaff that requires parching and pounding to release the grain. The glume bases recovered in these samples are evidence of cereal processing although the light chaff was often used as fuel.
- B.3.9 The demolition spread contains the burnt remains of food with spelt wheat in addition to linseeds. The building from which this spread is thought to originate from has been tentatively identified as a temple. It is situated on the outskirts of a settlement which is often where Romans built their mausolea and they traditionally held feasts, often involving the cooking of food, in the area in front of these 'houses' for the dead. An interpretation of this sample as the remains of a ritual feast would be extremely tentative, especially due to the small size of the assemblage. If further excavations are planned for this site, a detailed sampling strategy should be employed to ensure maximum recovery of plant remains and the hope of understanding the nature and origin of this deposit.



## **B.4 Faunal Remains**

#### By Chris Faine

B.4.1 Thirty-four fragments of animal bone were recovered from the excavation of which 11 fragments identifiable to species. The total weight of the assemblage is 850g. The largest number of fragments was recovered from context 23 (pit 21), consisting of a fragmentary sheep mandible and nine portions of cattle cervical and lumbar vertebrae. A single portion of pig tibia was also recovered from demolition layer 37.

#### Conclusion

B.4.2 This is a small assemblage that most likely represents butchery waste from primary processing of complete carcasses. The majority of the material originates from adult animals most likely raised for meat.



# APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project De	etails							
OASIS Num	ber	oxfordar3-189820						
Project Nam	ne	Land South of Hig	ham Road, Bui	rton Latimer,	Northamptor	nshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork)		work) Start	01-09-2014		Fin	ish	09-09-20	14
Previous Wo	ork (by	OA East)	No		Fut	ture \	Work Un	iknown
Project Refe	erence	Codes						
Site Code	XNNBUL	_14		Planning	App. No.			
HER No.				Related I	HER/OAS	IS No	Э.	
Type of Proj	ect/Tec	chniques Use	d					
Prompt		Direction from	Local Planning	g Authority - F	PPG16			
Developmen	t Type	Rural Residen	tial					
Please sele	ect all	techniques	used:					
Aerial Photo	ography -	interpretation	Grab-Sa	mpling			Rem	ote Operated Vehicle Survey
Aerial Photography - new		new	Gravity-C	Core	🗙 Samp			ple Trenches
Annotated Sketch			Laser Scanning				Surv	ey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
			Measure	d Survey			Targ	eted Trenches
Dendrochronological Survey		Survey	Metal De	etectors			Test	Pits
Documentary Search		I	Phospha	ite Survey			Торс	ographic Survey
Environmental Sampling		ling	Photogra	ammetric Sur	vey		Vibro	o-core
Fieldwalking			Photogra	aphic Survey			Visua	al Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
Geophysica	I 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 Peri		Period	Period		Object			Period
Romano-Celf	tic Temp	Roman 4	43 to 410		Pottery			Roman 43 to 410
Ditch		Roman	43 to 410	(	Coin			Roman 43 to 410
		Select p	eriod					Select period
Ductoct								

#### **Project Location**

County	Northamptonshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Kettering	Higham Road Burton Latimer Northamptonshire
Parish	Burton Latimer	Nothamptonshire
HER	Northamptonshire	
Study Area	9.95ha	National Grid Reference SP 904 738

# Project Originators



Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Lesley Ann Mather
Project Design Originator	Rob Bourn
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Pat Moan

# Project Archives

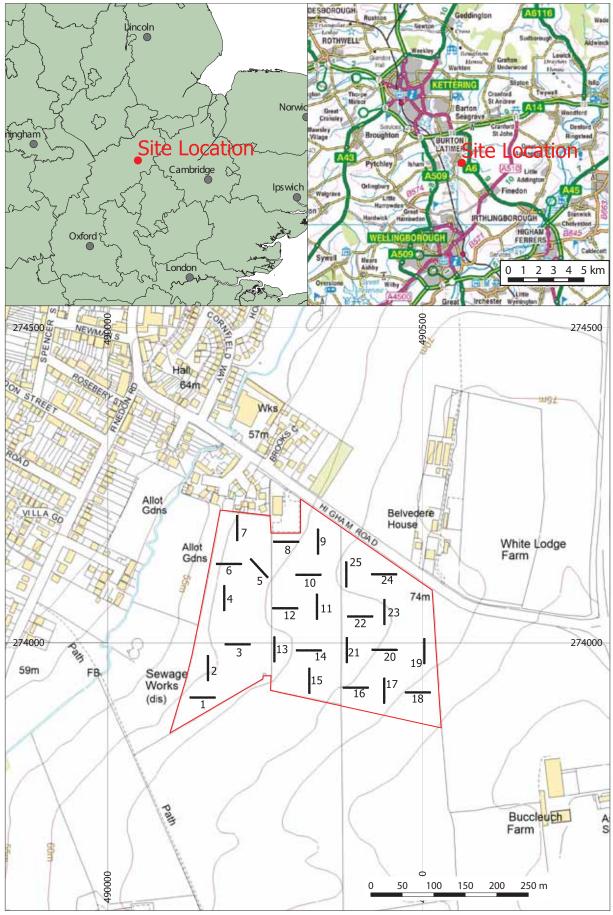
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
XNNBUL14	XNNBUL14	XNNBUL14

#### Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	$\mathbf{X}$		
Ceramics	$\mathbf{X}$		
Environmental	$\mathbf{X}$		
Glass	X		
Human Bones			
Industrial			
Leather			
Metal	$\mathbf{X}$		
Stratigraphic			
Survey			
Textiles			
Wood			
Worked Bone			
Worked Stone/Lithic	X		
None			
Other			

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

#### Notes:



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013. All rights reserved. Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)



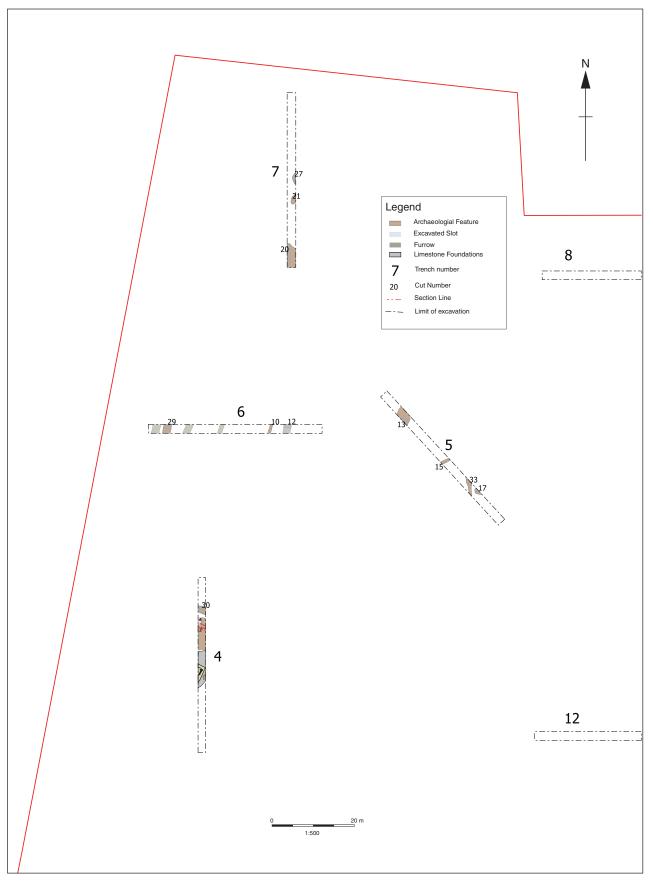


Figure 2: Plan of trenches in north-west area of site



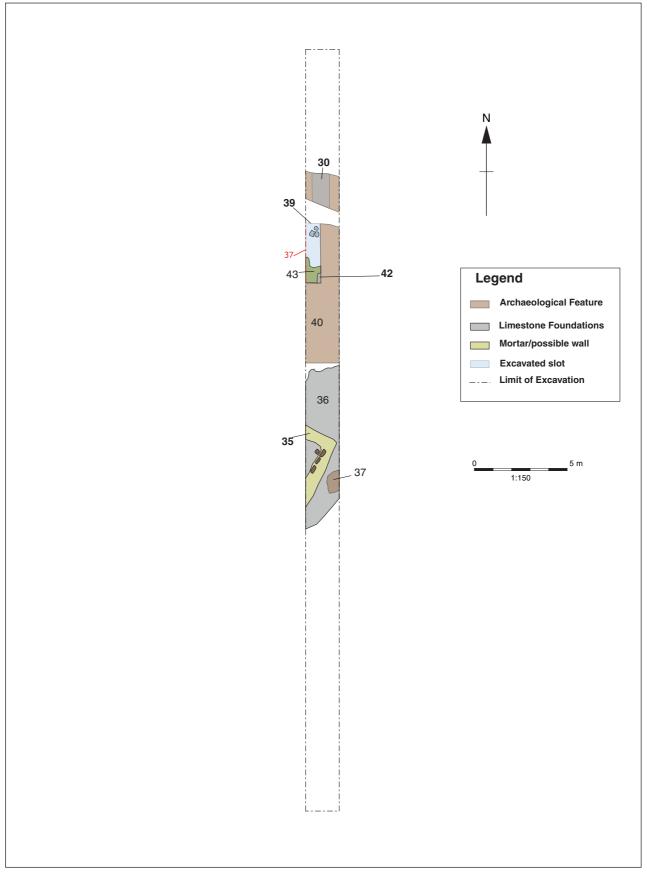


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 4



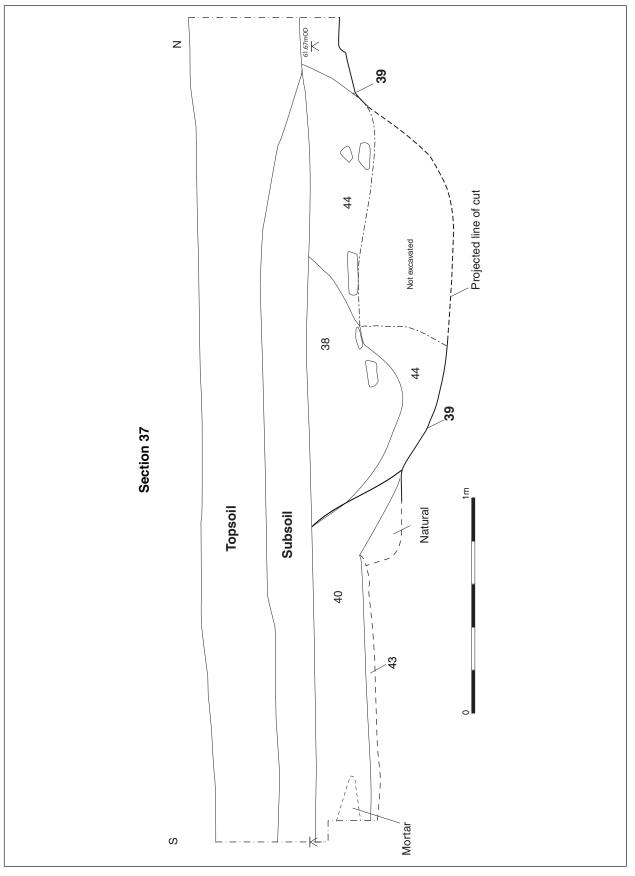


Figure 4: Section 37, Trench 4



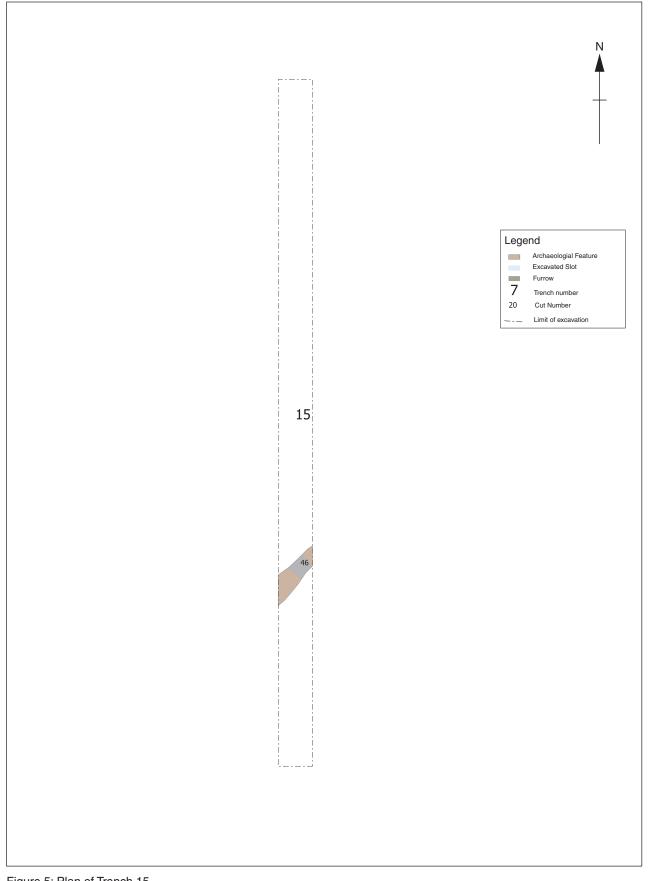


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 15



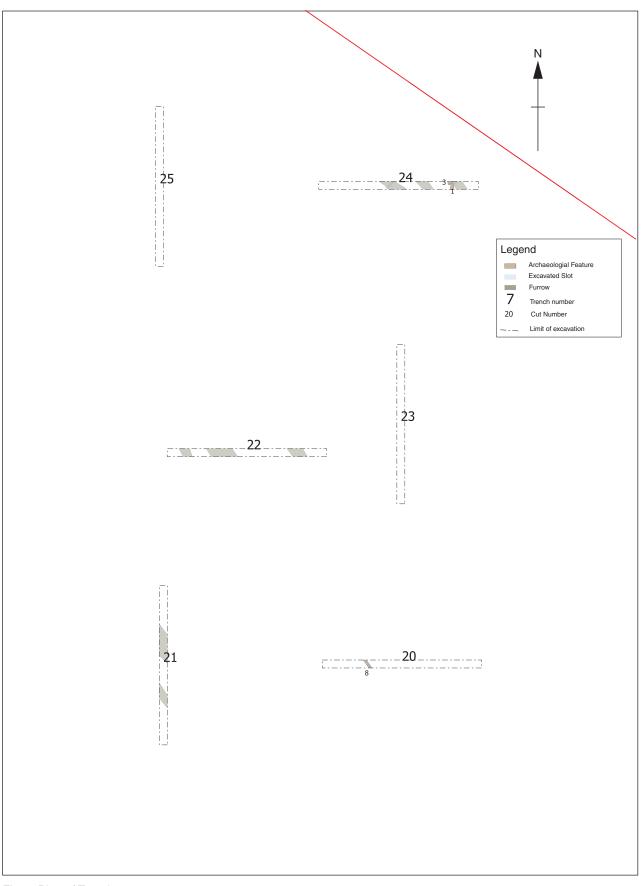


Fig. 6: Plan of Trenches 20-24



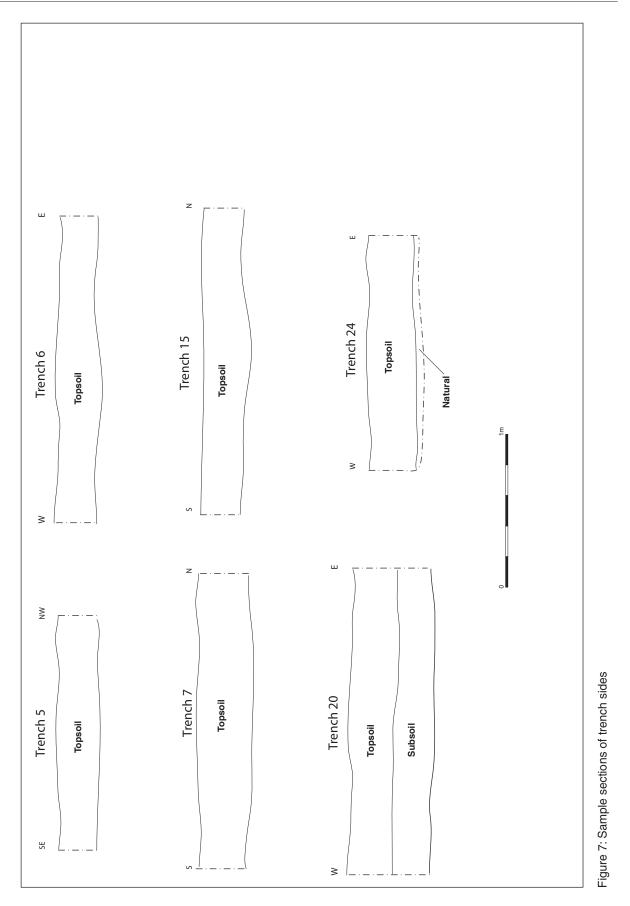






Plate 1: Trench 4, looking south



Plate 2: Limestone foundations 36, Trench 4





Plate 3: Ditch 30, Trench 4, looking west



Plate 4: Intervention though robber trench 39, showing floor surface 43, Trench 4





Plate 5: Floor surface 43, Trench 4, looking west



Plate 6: Pit 21, Trench 7, looking east





Plate 7: Trench 7, looking north



Plate 8: Trench 24, looking west



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