Excavation Report

Iron Age Settlement at Wesleyan Road Dogsthorpe Peterborough

Excavation Report

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OA East Report Number 1016

Iron Age Settlement at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Site Code: PET WER 07
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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Land at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough			
Short description	Between July and October 2007 the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CAM ARC) carried out an archaeological excavation at Land at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough. This was in response to an Archaeological Evaluation conducted during January 2007, which successfully isolated several areas of archaeological potential. A condition was placed on planning consent requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to any development. This specified the opening of four areas with a total area of c0.7ha. Archaeological evidence from two distinct periods was recorded during the course of the excavation. The first comprised 28 struck flints, a small quantity of burnt flint fragments and a single sherd of Beaker pottery dated to the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age. These were predominantly residual finds derived from the tertiary fills of features. The second period of activity took place in the Middle to Late Iron Age. A series of linear features, whose alignments suggested at least three phases of occupation on site and up to five ring gullies/roundhouses were identified. A number of discrete features were also recorded and of these the most notable were a number of quarry pits observed in Areas 4 and 3 and a particularly large well excavated towards the south of Area 4. No evidence for occupation later than the Pre-Roman Iron Age was recorded on the site.			
Project dates	Start	30/07/07	End	09/10/07
Previous work	PET WER 06 Report Number 938		Future work	No
Associated project reference codes	PET WER 07			
Type of project	Excavation			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Allotments			
Planned development	Residential			
Monument types / period	None			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period	Pottery, Loom weights, spindle whorl, HSR, Animal Bone			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Peterborough	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address	Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	0.7ha			
National grid reference	TF 1910 0160			
Height OD	Min OD	9.50m	Max OD	11.20m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council			
Project design originator	James Drummond Murray			
Director/supervisor	Chris Thatcher			
Project manager	James Drummond Murray			
Sponsor or funding body	BPHA			
ARCHIVES	**Location and accession number**		**Content (*e.g.* pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)**	
Physical	OA East		Pottery, HSR, Animal Bone, Fired Clay,	
Paper	OA East		Context Sheets, Indices, Plans, Sections, notes, management file	
Digital	OA East		Plans, sections, report, database	
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
Full title	Iron Age Settlement at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough			
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Summary

Between July and October 2007 the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CAM ARC), now OA East carried out an archaeological excavation at land at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough. This was in response to an archaeological evaluation conducted during January 2007, which successfully isolated several areas of archaeological potential. A condition was placed on planning consent requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to any development. This specified the opening of four areas with a total area of *c*.0.7ha.The excavation was centred on TF 1910 0160. The work was commissioned by BPHA.

Archaeological evidence from two distinct periods was recorded during the course of the excavation. The first comprised 28 struck flints, a small quantity of burnt flint fragments and a single sherd of Beaker pottery dated to the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age. These were predominantly residual finds derived from the tertiary fills of features.

The second period of activity took place in the Middle to Late Iron Age. A series of linear features, whose alignments suggested at least three phases of occupation on site and up to five ring gullies/roundhouses were identified. A number of discrete features were also recorded and, of these, the most notable were a number of quarry pits observed in Areas 4 and 3 and a particularly large well excavated towards the south of Area 4.

No evidence for occupation later than the Pre-Roman Iron Age was recorded on the site.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

Between July and October 2007 the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (CAM ARC), now OA East carried out an archaeological excavation at Land at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough. This was in response to an archaeological evaluation conducted during January 2007, which revealed important remains of an extensive Middle to Late Iron Age settlement. These included a possible farmstead with a number of field boundaries, a possible roundhouse and several discrete features including a kiln/industrial feature. The excavation was centred on TF 1910 0160. The work was commissioned by BPHA. The excavation was conducted in accordance with a design brief issued by Ben Robinson of Peterborough City Council and a specification by James Drummond Murray and Dr. Paul Spoerry of CAM ARC.

The aims of the excavation as laid out in the brief and specification were to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site. The site specific research aims are dealt with in Section 3 below.

1.2 Geology and Topography

The site lies on river terrace deposits and is relatively flat at around 11m OD, with a slight slope downwards towards the west.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site is located to the north of the historic settlement of Peterborough in the vicinity of known prehistoric and Roman settlement remains; furthermore, the deserted medieval hamlet of Cathwaite lies to the north and further medieval remains were uncovered during the construction of Paston Parkway.

Previous archaeological work undertaken at Wesleyan Road (Hatton 1999) produced no archaeological features or artefacts.

2.1 Prehistoric

Evidence of human activity in the immediate area included finds of Palaeolithic worked flint (HER 2169) together with later prehistoric worked flint (HER 22059). To the east of the development site Late Neolithic flint tools, flints and flakes had also been recorded.

2.2 Iron Age

According to the HER, Iron Age pottery (HER 2208) had been collected from the Wesleyan Road area.

Further afield, a number of large Iron Age settlements had been identified within the Nene and Welland valleys. An archaeological investigation at Eye, conducted by CAM ARC in 2000 (Casa Hatton 2000), revealed Middle Iron Age domestic occupation in the form of a roundhouse and boundary ditches. Similar settlement evidence was also uncovered at Eye Quarry, where evidence for a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement in the form of a roundhouse, four-post structures and pits of varying sizes was recorded (Gibson & White 1998).

2.3 Roman

A number Roman sites had also been investigated to the north of Dogsthorpe at Paston. In 1997 BUFAU (HER 50526) undertook an evaluation and excavation at Paston Reserves which revealed Roman boundary ditches and postholes. Associated with the enclosures was a considerable quantity of pottery and building material including Hypocaust tiles and painted plaster.

Another site to the north of the subject site was excavated by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust (HER 50529), which revealed Roman ditches relating to a settlement. Fragments of tegula, imbrex and box tile recovered there suggested a settlement of some status. This evaluation also revealed material related to the Car Dyke.

3 Aims and Objectives of the Excavation

The main aim of the project was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site. A number of specific aims and objectives were identified (Drummond Murray 2007), based largely on the results of the evaluation and surveys undertaken during 2006.

3.1 Site-Specific Research Themes

- To identify the date of origin and history of development of the site (phasing).
- Ascertain the function of the site and identification of main activities carried out.
- Identify any ‘zoning’ of activities in relation to topographic features (*e.g.* possible stream course) and other factors.

- Conduct background research to define the character of local contemporary activity.

- To characterise local environmental context – i.e. off-fen location of the settlement.

3.2 Regional/National Research Themes

- Patterns of continuity/change with emphasis on transitional periods.

- Character of the economy of the site, with emphasis on land-use changes in mixed farming practices and distribution.

- Dating and origin of field systems.

- Evidence for continued exploitation of the fen resources.

- Evidence for light industrial activity and craft production on site.

- Analysis of pottery and small finds to characterise trade links and cultural associations.

- Comparisons of the site with contemporary open and enclosed settlements across the region.

4 Excavation Methodology

4.1 Evaluation

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Peterborough City Council and a Specification prepared by CAM ARC. Fourteen trenches were excavated in order to define the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment site, which lay within an area of high archaeological potential.

Evidence for a Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead with at least three phases of development originating in the Middle Iron Age and continuing into the Early Roman period was recorded.

A section of ring ditch in Trench 6, perhaps forming an eaves-drip gully for a roundhouse, was one of the most significant finds from the site but also of significance was the density of field ditches that were encountered across the development area: their differing alignments and stratigraphic relationships implied a longevity of occupation and they appeared to have formed part of an Iron Age landscape with possibly more extensive settlement to the west.

A small number of pits were identified across the development area. Along with a kiln/industrial feature in Trench 7, from which seventy-two sherds of a single large Iron Age vessel that seemed to form a temporary lining were recovered. Burnt deposits and fired clay were also recorded in association with this feature.

4.2 Excavation

The evaluation had successfully isolated several areas of archaeological potential and a condition was placed on planning consent requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to any development. This specified the opening of four areas with a total area of c0.7ha (Fig. 2). The areas were as follows:

- **Area 1:** *c.*60m x 20m, adjacent to Trenches 1 and 2 from the evaluation.
- **Area 2:** *c.*40m x 10m in the north-west of the site in an area previously not investigated.
- **Area 3:** *c.*80m x 60m in the area of evaluation Trenches 6-10.
- **Area 4:** *c.*50m x 30m in the area of evaluation Trench 11.

The methodology stated that the location and relative dimensions of each area would be flexible and subject to review during the course of the excavation. The initial strategy was to open Areas 1, 2 and 4 first (with spoil stockpiled on Area 3), followed by Area 3 (with spoil stockpiled on previously excavated areas).

In the event it was necessary to make a number of changes to the excavation strategy. The stripping began in the southernmost part of the development with Area 4, which was excavated without deviation from the methodology. Once hand excavation of the features in this area had begun Area 2 was stripped, followed by Area 1.

The archaeological remains in Area 4 were investigated as a priority as it was this part of the site which the developers required access to first in order to set up their compound and begin work on the haul road across site. Subsequent to these works being completed to the satisfaction of the Archaeological Officer for Peterborough City Council this area was backfilled.

The plan of Area 1 had to be amended due to its location over a thicket which was found, upon inspection by an environmentalist, to contain a number of nesting birds who could not be disturbed for the duration. Furthermore, during the excavation of Area 1 a concrete platform was unearthed that was found to be overlying significant, modern brick built foundations aligned north to south and this obstacle came to form the

western limit of the area. A significant amount of modern disturbance was revealed, much of it apparently associated with the construction described above, and so, despite the area being smaller than originally designated by the methodology, it was decided, in consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Peterborough City Council, that no further investigation of this part of the site was necessary.

As a result of Area 1 being devoid of archaeological remains, and because it had been possible to stockpile spoil more efficiently than first thought, a decision was taken to begin the excavation of Area 3 at this stage. There was enough space to excavate approximately half the area and once Areas 2 and 4 had been backfilled the remainder of the area was stripped with the spoil from this part of the site stored immediately to the south.

5 Summary of Results

Evidence for human activity comprised features and deposits spanning the Mesolithic to Medieval periods, although features directly associated with settlement appeared to date predominantly to the Early Iron Age to Late Iron Age (*c* 700BC - *c* AD100).

5.1 Provisional Site Phasing

As with many rural sites very little complex stratigraphy was present, although several areas of intercutting ditches and pits were recorded across the site. The preliminary phasing presented in this work is largely based on stratigraphic relationships, spatial associations and, to a certain extent, similarity in alignment for linear features. Where possible this has been combined with dating evidence provided by stratified artefacts, primarily pottery. Two main periods have been provisionally identified, although these may be subject to refinement for analysis and publication:

Period 1. Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age (*c.*10, 000BC – *c*.3300BC). Twenty eight struck flints and a small quantity of burnt flint fragments were recovered during the excavation. These were predominantly derived from the tertiary fills of features.

Period 2. Middle to Late Iron Age (*c.*300BC – *c.*AD43). The majority of the datable features on site were dated to this period. These largely consist of linear features, whose alignments suggested at least three phases of occupation. Up to five ring gullies/roundhouses were identified. In Area 4 two phases of such occupation were recorded by the presence of two overlapping ring gullies. Of the pits, the most notable were a number of quarry pits observed in Areas 4 and 3 and a particularly large well excavated towards the south of Area 4.

5.2 Period 1: Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age (*c.*10, 000BC - *c.*3300BC)

A small amount of evidence for activity during this period was recovered during the excavation. However, much of this material was derived from the tertiary fills of features across the site and furthermore, the presence of material culture dated to the Iron Age within many of these fills led to the conclusion that they represented residual finds rather than *in situ* deposits. The evidence, by finds type, is discussed below.

5.2.1 Lithic Assemblage

The assemblage of struck flint was broadly concentrated in Areas 3 and 4 and consisted primarily of flakes and blades characteristic of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries.

Several of the pieces, for instance the flakes from contexts 689, 720 and 449, exhibited characteristics more attributable to Bronze Age or even Iron Age technologies.

Whilst there was an apparent concentration of lithic material on the high ground to the south of the development area, this probably did not represent evidence for a significant settlement, and there was certainly no evidence for flint scatters associated with primary flaking sites.

However, none of the pieces appeared to have been subjected to extensive post-deposition movement. The sole exception was a small pointed hand axe from context 499 (the subsoil removed from Area 1 to the north) which was slightly rolled with small spots of mineral staining in evidence that were indicative of some alluvial transportation, but even this was likely to have been minimal. It is therefore possible that whilst this piece was not worked *in situ*, significant primary flintworking deposits may survive within the vicinity.

In the northern part of Area 1 there was a marked change in the underlying geology from gravels to the south, to sandy silt deposits to the north. This may have represented the edge of a palaeochannel lying to the west of the site that continued on a northeast to southwest alignment through the western part of Area 3.

It seems likely that short term, ephemeral activity, including core reduction and tool use, was ongoing from the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and possibly continuing through to the Bronze Age or Iron Age. The inference that the site may have been subject to long term flintworking is supported by a small scraper from context 710, that had been retouched after it had started to recorticate (a process that would not begin for some considerable time after the flake had been originally struck) thus supporting the case that flintworking continued at the site subsequent to the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic periods. This is typical of

the extensive prehistoric remains that have been recorded around the western Fen edge in the vicinity.

5.2.2 Pottery

A single sherd of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age beaker pottery was recovered during the excavation but no other ceramic material dated to these periods was recorded. No evidence for the flint-tempered fabrics typical of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the region were recovered and this seems to corroborate the evidence from the lithic assemblage that activity on site during this time was sporadic and ephemeral.

5.3 Period 2: Middle to Late Iron Age (*c.*200BC - *c.*AD43)

5.3.1 Phasing

The evidence for settlement within the development area was dated overwhelmingly to the Middle to Late Iron Age. Within this timescale a number of phases of occupation were identified. These were deduced primarily from the alignments of the features on site, the dating of the artefacts recovered from them and, where they existed, the stratigraphic relationships between features.

The pottery evidence revealed two periods of occupation and within this framework a total of three phases were identified from the stratigraphic relationships recorded on site. These revealed a fairly fluid transition between phases of occupation rather than sharp delineations in land use and activities by period.

5.3.2 The Influence of Topography (Fig. 2)

The ground level on the site fell quite sharply towards the west of Area 3 in places by as much as 1.50m. This topographical pattern was repeated towards the north of Area 1 where the ground sloped away more gently. In this part of Area 1 there was a marked change in the natural deposits to bands of sand, interspersed with areas of silty gravel, from the clear gravels that were recorded across much of the rest of the development area. It is suggested that the topography of the site and change in natural deposits marked the route of a palaeochannel. It seems that the higher ground was favoured for the purposes of fixed habitation as the settlement evidence was broadly concentrated towards the south-eastern part of the development area.

5.3.3 Unphased Features (Fig. 2)

A number of the features could not be satisfactorily phased at this stage as a result of a combination of lack of finds and stratigraphic relationships by which to put them into context. This was primarily the case for the features around the edge of Areas 3 and 1. Typologically they were no different from those features that it was possible to attach to a phase and so it is assumed for the purposes of this assessment that they are indeed of Iron Age provenance. These are described below.

Ring Ditch 760

A ring ditch with an internal diameter of 7.50m was recorded on the low ground towards the west of Area 3. Six segments were excavated through the ditch initially (**760**, **762**, **764**, **799** & **801**) before it was 100% excavated in order to recover dating evidence but unfortunately none was recovered. The feature was sampled for phosphates by two transects that spanned the ring ditch. These revealed higher concentrations of phosphorus in the entrance and front sector of the house, compared to the interior and also outside of the structure on its north side, this pattern has also been encountered locally at Whittlesey Brick Pits Eye (Middleton, Appendix 9).

Pit Cluster

In the northernmost part of Area 1 a series of pits was excavated. These varied drastically in size from as little as 0.70m in width and 0.10m deep (**546**) to up to 2.95m in width and 0.60m deep (**629**). The fill of **546** (545) was sampled and upon analysis was found to contain a substantial assemblage of charred plant remains, including cereal grains, crop processing waste and charred weed seeds (Fosberry Appendix 8). Large quantities of burnt sheep bone were also recovered (Fosberry Appendix 8). The area surrounding the feature was of a distinctive pink colouration that was interpreted as evidence of *in situ* burning.

A small quantity of undiagnostic pottery was recovered from this area and it seems likely that the pits recorded in this part of the site represented activity across the lifespan of the settlement rather than a tightly dated event.

Inhumation 470

A poorly preserved skeleton (470) was excavated in the north-western part of Area 4. The body lay in a shallow sub oval cut (**417**) in a tightly flexed position on its right side, with the head in the east of the grave. Analysis of the remains revealed them to be of a mature adult male, at least 45 years old at death and suffering from Osteoarthritis in the right hip, lower spine and both wrists and from numerous pathologies associated with age. A single sherd of pottery recovered from the fill of the grave (416) was dated to the Iron Age period but it was not

possible to identify the specific phase to which the inhumation belonged.

5.3.4 Period 2, Phase 1: Middle Iron Age (c.200BC – c.100BC) (Fig. 3)

As stated above (5.3.2) the topography of the site played a significant role in determining the layout of the settlement. Excavation Area 4 was situated on high, fairly level gravels, that extended northwards through the eastern two thirds of Area 3 and the south-eastern half of Area 1. This terrace sloped away fairly sharply towards the north-west of Areas 1 and 3 and was marked by a change in the underlying geology to silty sand deposits, towards the north in Area 1, with sandy gravel recorded in the western part of Area 3.

The evidence for settlement was primarily located on this high ground with the earliest phase of occupation on the site concentrated towards the south and east of the development area. Phase 1 comprised of up to three roundhouses and an enclosure system whose basic layout would be adhered to despite minor alterations and sub-divisions throughout the life of the settlement.

*Ring ditches **442**, **401** & **733***

Three ring ditches were identified that stratigraphically dated to the earliest phase of occupation (**442**, **401**, **733**). Ditches **442** and **401** were situated in the south-eastern corner of Area 4. Ditch **442** was heavily truncated by later pitting and a possible boundary ditch: it also extended beyond the limit of the excavation area, and no internal features were therefore visible but it is estimated that this feature would have had an internal diameter of approximately 10m. Lying 8m to the south-west of this ring ditch was ditch **401**, of which only the north-western third survived. It is estimated that this would have had an internal diameter of between 5 and 6m and it may have formed an ancillary structure associated with roundhouse **442**. No archaeological features were recorded within the area encompassed by the ditch.

The third ring ditch (**733**) lay in the south-eastern corner of Area 3, approximately 50m to the north of **442**. Two segments of this structural cut were in evidence (**733** & **739**), and despite the fact that the north-western side (**739**) had not survived and was partially truncated by a later well, it was possible to ascertain that this feature would have had an internal diameter of between 12–13m.

The termini of **733** and **739** formed an east-facing entrance that was recorded as approximately 6m wide. A posthole (**745**) that was probably associated with this feature was excavated immediately to the south of the northern ditch segment whose primary fill contained generic Iron Age pottery.

As stated above there was quite significant truncation at this point and it is possible that other features akin to **745** did not survive within the entrance. It must also be considered that the ring ditch was originally cut from a higher level than that in evidence on site, and that its entrance would therefore have been narrower than 6m. Despite this, an entrance of this size would still be wider than expected for a dwelling and it is posited that this feature instead represented an animal corral, possibly with a line of posts across the entrance, of which posthole **745** was the only surviving remnant.

Enclosure 1

Lying to the west and between ring ditches **733** and **442** was a rectilinear enclosure. The southern segment of this feature extended from the western boundary of Area 4 on a north-west to south-east alignment for approximately 20m before terminating 4m from the limit of ring ditch **442**. Four segments were excavated through this part of the enclosure ditch (**479**, **434**, **490** and **431**) which revealed it to be upto 1.20m wide and 0.35m deep. A comparatively high concentration of domestic pottery was recovered from this portion of the ditch, which supports the inference that this part of the site, within which the putative roundhouses **401** and **442** lay, formed the core of the settlement.

The remainder of the enclosure was recorded to the north in Area 3. Two segments were excavated through this part of the enclosure (**163** & **783**), which revealed it to be approximately 1.00m wide and 0.25m deep. A section of ditch aligned perpendicular to that in Area 4 extended 10m from the southern boundary (**783**) before turning to run parallel (**163**) with its southern counterpart to within 1m of ring ditch **733**. At the point where it would have passed the southern apex of the ring ditch it was entirely truncated by a later ditch. This made it impossible to ascertain whether the enclosure terminated at this point or continued beyond the south-east corner of Area 4.

The last element attributed to this phase was a ditch aligned north-east to south-west, parallel with and 5m to the west of **783**. This appeared to form both a western boundary to the settlement and in conjunction with **783**, a possible droveway. Three segments were excavated through the ditch (**708**, **706** & **758**), which was up to 0.70m in width by 0.40m deep. The finds from this feature dated it to the earliest phase of occupation.

Overall a lower density of finds were recovered from this part of the settlement, suggesting that habitation did not extend into the northern part of the settlement and that this part of the site is more like to have served as an area given over to animal husbandry.

*Kiln/Industrial Features (**218**) & (**258**)*

A possible kiln or industrial feature (**218**) was recorded in Trench 6 during the evaluation stage. This lay to the west of Enclosure 2 and was key shaped in plan; up to 1.20m long and 0.45m deep. A large quantity of fired clay, pottery and charcoal was recovered from its fills (215, 216, 217, 252, 253, and 259). Fill 252 in particular produced seventy-three sherds from a single vessel of Middle Iron Age date, which may have formed some kind of lining for this industrial feature (Wadeson, Appendix 4). A possible second kiln (**258**) was recorded immediately to the west that was 0.80m wide, 0.32m deep and had concave sides and a flat base. This feature contained four charcoal laden fills (254, 255, 256 and 257). One sherd of Iron Age pottery was collected from the upper fill (254) of this feature. No pot wasters were recorded during either phase of the works, nor was there any evidence for metalworking apparent on the site. As a result the specific function of these features remains uncertain.

5.3.5 Period 2, Phase 2: Late Iron Age (c.100BC – c.1BC) (Fig. 4)

A second phase of Middle Iron Age occupation was identified from the stratigraphic relationships established during the excavation, during which a number of realignments of Enclosure 1, a shift in habitation and an extension of the settlement took place.

*Ring ditch **578***

A ring ditch was recorded in the north-eastern corner of Area 4 whose internal diameter would probably have been similar to that of **443**; the majority of this feature lay beyond the limit of the excavation and so it was not possible to ascertain its exact dimensions. The three sections excavated through the ditch (**578**, **594** & **627**) revealed it to be up to 0.50m in width by 0.12m deep. The ditch was found to contain a single fill, represented by 577, 593 & 626.

A second shallow gully (**576** & **625**) lay on the outside of the curve of the ring ditch. This feature extended approximately half the length of ring ditch, from its northernmost point, before either terminating or being entirely truncated away. It was similar in width and depth to **578** and a number of sherds of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from its fill (624) (Blinkhorn, Appendix 3). It is possible that the outer ditch represented a drip gully for the roundhouse represented by **578**.

Enclosure 1

The enclosure was still in use during this phase, albeit with a slightly adjusted layout to its northern half. The original north-west to south-east aligned segment of the enclosure appears to have fallen out of use in favour of a continuation of the ditch on a south-west to north-east alignment, the same as that represented by **783**. Two sections

were excavated through this part of the feature (**678, 751**), which revealed it to be up to 1.28m wide and 0.55m deep.

A northwest to southeast aligned boundary was in evidence during this phase. This comprised a ditch recorded overlying the route of **783** that continued beyond the southern limit of Area 3. The terminus of this feature (**690**) lay approximately 10m to the east of **751** thus forming the eastern edge of an entrance to the enclosure. It was an article in Contained within the fill of the terminus (689) was a rim sherd from an extremely large jar dating from the early 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD (Blinkhorn, Appendix 3). A comparatively high concentration of animal bone, predominantly cattle bone, was also recovered from 689 and it is suggested that perhaps this represented a closing deposit. A second section (**727**) was excavated through the ditch, which revealed a profile 1.30m in width and 0.39m deep. The pottery recovered from this feature was contemporary with that from 689.

Enclosure 2

Immediately to the north of the terminus of **678** lay a second enclosure whose south-western corner was located immediately adjacent to the droveway formed by **678** & **758**. The enclosure extended beyond the limit of the excavation, continuing on a south-east to north-west alignment to the west (**676**, **684**) and to the east in a south-west to north-east direction (**674** & **697**).

In the southern part of Area 1 a ditch was excavated that ran virtually parallel to **674**. It is suggested that this formed the northern boundary of this enclosure. The ditch (**666**) was approximately 1.50m across and 0.50m wide, its single fill (667) was largely truncated by a later recut.

Well 725

Approximately 3m to the north of ditch terminus **690** a sequence of intercutting pits was excavated. The earliest features in this sequence were pits **778** and **780**. It was not possible to record full profiles of these pits as they were largely truncated by two more extensive pits, **725** and **755**.

Pit **755** was a fairly shallow feature 2.20m in width and no more than 0.35m deep. This was superseded by a far larger cut (**725**), oval shaped in plan with a long axis measuring 3.30m and short axis of 2.80m. In section it was revealed to have a very steep sided profile, up to 1.92m deep, that tapered towards the base, where it was less than 0.30m wide. On the southern side of the pit was a shelf, approximately 0.50m below ground level, which extended 0.90m from the edge before dropping away sharply towards the deepest part of the cut, described above, in the northern half of the pit. At its base several flat stones were recorded pushed into the natural. A total of eight individual deposits filled the feature (717 – 724), these were homogeneous in

make up and appeared to have accumulated via natural silting and weathering. Pottery sherds were recovered from throughout the feature (717, 720 and 723) and these all dated to the early 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD (Blinkhorn, App.3). The almost shaft-like profile of the cut and evidence of gradual infilling over an extended period of time led to this feature being interpreted as a well.

Enclosure 3

A third enclosure was recorded in the south-eastern corner of Area 4. This feature extended beyond the limit of the excavation area and only its north western corner was visible. The profile of this feature was found to be very regular along its entire length with the four sections excavated through the ditch (**403**, **410**, **425** & **518**) all approximately 1.50m wide and 0.5m deep.

5.3.6 Period 2, Phase 3: Late Pre – Roman Iron Age (1BC – AD43) (Fig. 5)

The third phase of activity was marked by adjustments to Enclosures 2 and 3 and the construction of a new roundhouse immediately to the south of **578**, identified as part of Phase 2 (5.3.5).

*Ring ditch **445***

The final ring ditch recorded during the excavation lay to the southwest of roundhouse **578** (Phase 2), within Enclosure 1, which appeared to survive almost unaltered during this phase. The ditch had an internal diameter of approximately 10.50m (**439**, **445**, **447**, **475** & **477**).

The secondary fills contained a high concentration of charcoal and it is possible that these represented accumulations of material during the demolition or disuse phase of the ditch. The tertiary fill of **445** contained a large fragment of fired clay that was possible a remnant of a loom weight (Wadeson, Appendix 4).

Quarry pitting

A sequence of quarry pits was recorded 8m to the south of ring ditch **445**, the earliest cut in the sequence (**466**) was an oval shaped cut 6.80m long by 4.75m wide. The profile of the cut was very steep on its western side, with a slightly stepped profile to the east. The fills comprised a series of fairly poorly sorted deposits, suggestive of deliberate backfill and a number composed predominantly of gravel slumping from the sides of the feature. Two loom weight fragments were recovered from this feature, from fills 461 and 465 (Wadeson Appendix 4).

Pit **446** was truncated to the north-east by a second cut of similar size and proportions (**568**). The fills of this feature were similar in nature to those recorded in **446**, suggesting a similar pattern of excavation followed soon after backfill.

These features overlay an area of relatively pure gravel and it seems likely that it was for this very reason that the pits were excavated there; to maximise the amount of raw material extracted for the amount of effort that such a task would entail. This inference is corroborated by the fact that evidence for further quarry pitting (**766** & **771**) was recorded in an area of particularly clean gravel towards the centre of Area 3. Here, two intercutting pits were recorded, which although not as extensive as **446** and **568** appeared to have been dug specifically for the extraction of gravel.

Pit **771** was 3.70m in width by 0.51m deep, its three fills (772, 773 & 774) comprised poorly sorted gravel and infrequent silt and were probably the result of deliberate backfilling. This feature was superseded by pit **766**, which was similar in size being 3.30m wide and upto 0.75m deep. Four deposits filled this pit (767, 768, 769 & 770) and these too were contiguous with backfill soon after the initial excavation of the feature. A fragment of spindle whorl of the Danebury type was recovered from the penultimate fill of the pit (768): these are a relatively frequent occurrence on Iron Age sites and the example from this site was fairly small (Wadeson, Appendix 4).

Enclosure 2

This enclosure remained largely unchanged during the latter phase of occupation on site. Although a recut of ditch **666** was recorded in Area 1. The sections excavated through this ditch (**488**, **511**, **609**, **620**, & **668**) revealed it to be up to 1.00m in width by up to 0.50m deep. A fragment of a triangular loom weight was recovered from the single fill (487) of segment **488** (Wadeson, Appendix 4).

Enclosure 3

A realignment of the enclosure took place during this phase. The alignment of the eastern part of the ditch was shifted south so that it ran west north-west to east south-east out of the development area. Two sections were excavated through the ditch (**410** & **418**) whose profile and dimensions remained the same as the earlier phase (1.50m wide by up to 0.50m deep).

6 Assessment of Archaeological Potential

6.1 Statement of Potential

The written and drawn elements of the contextual record form the main components of the excavation data and are sufficient to form the basis of the site narrative. The main phases of activity on the site span the Mesolithic to Iron Age periods. Whilst all of these periods will be addressed by the aims and objectives of the post-excavation analysis,

the main areas of research will focus on the Iron Age period in Dogsthorpe, particularly further stratigraphic analysis of the site and documentary research of the area.

The greatest potential for fulfilling the original aims and objectives of the excavation set out in Section 3 lies in further analysis of the Iron Age enclosure and system and finds assemblage. Further study of the Iron Age settlement and field system within the wider topographical and archaeological context will also enhance understanding of the development and use of this landscape.#

6.2 Stratigraphic and Structural Data

6.2.1 Quantity of Written and Drawn Records

Area	PET WER 06 Evaluation	PET WER 07 Excavation
Type		
Context Register		11
Context numbers		429
Context records		429
Trench Record sheets	10	N/A
Level record sheets		3
Plan Registers		2
Plans at 1:10		2
Plans at 1:20		1
Plans at 1:50		69
Total Station Survey	1	1
Sections register sheets		4
Sections at 1:10		132
Sample Register sheets		17
Photo Register sheets		7
Black and White Films		3
Colour slide		4
Digital photographs		
Small finds register sheets		1

Table 1: Quantity of written and drawn records

6.2.2 Quantity of Environmental Samples

Environmental Samples	**PET WER 06 Evaluation**	**PET WER 07 Excavation**
Number of Samples	29	33
Flotated Samples	29	33

Table 2: Quantity of environmental samples

6.2.3 Quantity of Finds

Site/Area	PET WER 06 Evaluation	PET WER 07 Excavation
Type		
Flint	N/A	25 struck flints
Pottery	2.87kg	9.609kg
Fired Clay and Daub		3.283kg
Environmental Samples	29	33
Pollen Samples	N/A	8 Subsamples
Inhumations	N/A	1
Animal Bone	3.1kg	9.28kg
Phosphate Samples	N/A	24

Table 3: Quantity of Finds

6.2.4 Range and Variety

Cut features comprised ditches, pits, postholes a grave (inhumation) and a well. Deposits comprised predominantly feature fills.

Relatively little complex stratigraphy was encountered and features were mostly cut into the natural underlying geology.

6.2.5 Condition of the Excavation Area

The survival of the archaeological features on site was on the whole good, although horizontal truncation was in evidence in Area 1 as a result of modern construction. The depth of deposits recorded across site increased towards the west of Area 3 and north of Area 2 but overall very little modern disturbance down to the underlying geology was recorded despite the sites previous use for allotments.

6.2.6 Condition of the Primary Excavation Sources and Documents

The records are complete and have been checked for internal accuracy. Written and drawn records have been completed on archival quality paper and are indexed. All paper archives have been digitised into the individual site Access database. Site drawings have been digitised in AutoCAD. Site matrices have been drawn up for selected/more complex areas. All primary records are retained at the offices of OA East, Bar Hill. The site code PET WER 07 is allocated and all paper and digital records, finds and environmental remains are stored under thise site code.

The site data is of sufficient quality to address all of the project's Research Objectives and form the basis of further analysis and targeted publication of the key features, finds and environmental assemblages.

6.2.7 Survey Data

The excavation areas were located onto the Ordnance Survey with the aid of a Leica TCR705 Total Station Theodolite. All survey data is stored in digital format with the archive.

6.3 Artefact Assemblage Summaries

The following section summarises the potential of each artefact group with reference to the projects original Research Aims and Objectives (outlined in Section 3 above). The further work recommended for each artefact group is set out in Section 8 and the full reports are contained within the appendices.

6.3.1 Lithic Assessment (Appendix 2)

Excavations at the site recovered a small assemblage of 25 struck flints and a small quantity of burnt flint fragments, all of which are in relatively good condition and suggestive of short term, ephemeral occupation in the locality. The material was found residually within later contexts and was probably sourced from the local gravel terraces. It is dominated by pieces that were technologically most characteristic of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries but also includes a small pointed handaxe dated to the Lower Palaeolithic. The presence of a number of pieces that were struck subsequent to recortification is indicative of a continuation of flintworking at the site into the Bronze Age or even Iron Age.

The results will be integrated with the site phasing and a summary will be included in the publication report. This data will add to the general interpretation of site activities and has good potential to address the projects Site-Specific Research Themes (3.1). Furthermore, the assemblage does contribute to the broader understanding of the prehistory of the area, from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age.

6.3.3 Pottery Assessment (Appendix 3)

The pottery assemblage comprises 533 sherds with a total weight of 9609g. A range of fabrics are recorded, which indicates that there was no activity at the site before the Middle Iron Age, other than that represented by a single sherd of Beaker pottery, and that habitation on the site was exclusively limited to the early La Tène Iron Age to the immediate pre-Roman 'Belgic' Iron Age. Flint-tempered fabrics, typical of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the region, are entirely absent. The assemblage is typical of the lower Nene Valley, and has many parallels, particularly at the site at Weekley in Northamptonshire.

The results of the assessment will be included in the publication report. This data will add to the general interpretation of site activities and has

good potential to address the project's Research Objectives (3.1 & 3.2).

6.3.4 Daub and Fired Clay (Appendix 4)

A relatively small assemblage of 212 fragments of daub, fired clay and fired clay objects, weighing 3.283kg, was recovered from 35 contexts during the archaeological works. This includes the partial remains of a minimum of five triangular loom weights, and a fragment from a ceramic spindle whorl of Iron Age date. The remaining material is heavily abraded and consistsp of mainly very small fragments of daub and fired clay recovered from across the excavated area. Some of this material bears the impressions of wattles or withies, which indicates that the material was derived from the superstructure of buildings, ovens or hearths. The assemblage is typical of that associated with Iron Age domestic and agricultural activity on the site, including the production of woven cloth.

The assemblage is small and no further analysis is required. The results of the assessment will be included in the publication report and this data will add to the general interpretation of site activities. It has good potential to address the project's Research Objectives (3.1 & 3.2).

6.4 Environmental Remains

6.4.1 Analysis of the Human Remains (Appendix 5)

A single crouched inhumation was recorded during the excavation. The skeleton is that of a mature adult male, at least 45 years old at death. Preservation of the skeletal remiains is generally poor but Osteoarthritis was recorded in the right hip, lower spine and both wrists along with a number of other pathologies.

The results of the assessment will be included in the publication report. This data will add to the general interpretation of site activities. It has low potential to address the project's Research Objectives.

6.4.2 Faunal remains assessment (Appendix 6)

The faunal assemblage was extremely small and fragmented and was recovered from a variety of contexts including pits, ditches and layers. It was dominated by cattle and horse remains, but also included smaller quantities of sheep/goat and pig remains, and weighed a total of 14kg.

A limited programme of further analysis is recommended, the results of which will be integrated with the site phasing and a summary will be

included in the publication report. This data will add to the general interpretation of site activities and has moderate potential to address the projects Research Objectives.

6.4.3 Pollen Analysis of Sediments (Appendix 7)

A total of eight sub-samples of sediment were taken from five discrete spot samples and one monolith sample from quarry pit fills on the site. Six of these proved to be barren, demonstrating that pollen preservation above the water table was very poor. The pollen concentrations of the two remaining sub-samples indicate a post-clearance grassland and meadow environment with tall herb communities with no evidence of arable activity detected. The pollen assemblages fit well within the types of Iron Age landscapes known from Cambridgeshire.

The results of the assessment will be included in the publication report. This data will add to the general interpretation of site activities and has moderate potential to address the project's Research Objectives (3.1 & 3.2).

6.4.4 Environmental Assessment (Appendix 8)

Thirty-three bulk samples were taken from across the excavated area, predominantly from Iron Age ditches and pits. The majority of the samples were poor in terms of charred plant remains but small quantities of burnt bone, cereal grains, chaff, charcoal and weed seeds were recorded. The low abundance of charred material suggests that most of the samples represent general scatters of burnt debris rather than discrete purposeful deposits. One sample however did produce an assemblage of burnt sheep bone along with a substantial assemblage of charred plant remains including cereal grains and crop processing waste along with charred weed seeds that might be interpreted as an *in situ* deposit.

A single sample is recommended for further analysis: the results of this and the assessment will be integrated with the site phasing and a summary will be included in the publication report. This data will add to the general interpretation of site activities and has moderate potential to address the project's Research Objectives.

6.4.5 Phosphate Analysis (Appendix 9)

A series of samples was taken. These included three transects from Area 3. Two transects were taken across a roundhouse at the western extremity of the site; the third straddled the western boundary of Enclosure 2. Control samples were also taken to establish background levels of phosphate on the site. The results from the roundhouse indicate higher values of phosphorus in the entrance and front sector

of the house, compared to the interior, which may represent the residue of tread and hearth scatter.

The results of the assessment will be included in the publication report. This data will add to the general interpretation of site activities and has moderate potential to address the project's Research Objectives (3.1 & 3.2).

7 Updated Research Aims and Objectives

Completion of the post-excavation assessment has shown that all of the original aims and objectives of the excavation can be met through the analysis of the excavated materials. A number of new objectives have also been identified as a result of the assessment process, many of which will contribute to a variety of research themes at national, regional and local levels.

The following research objectives draw upon national (English Heritage 1997) and regional (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) research assessments and agendas. These will supplement the original Research Objectives outlined in Section 3 above.

7.1 Research Priorities

7.1.1 National (English Heritage 1997)

Briton into Roman (c 300 BC-AD 200)

Understanding the continuity in settlement, land use and social and economic organisation, between the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. In this case it is the apparent abandonment of the site during the Roman period and the reasons for this, that is of interest.

Settlement hierarchies and inter-action

Settlement hierarchies and inter-actions offer a productive way of developing our understanding of the complexity of past societies.

7.1.2 Regional

The development of the agrarian economy

Increasing agricultural production is probably the most important economic development in the Iron Age of the region. Evidence for the nature of the Iron Age agrarian economy in all parts of the region is therefore a high priority.

7.1.3 Local

- Study of the Late Iron Age landscape of the fen edge.
- Understanding the Iron Age origins of the settlement and abandonment during the Roman period.

7.2 Project Research Objectives

In the light of the potential established by the assessment, a number of revised aims and objectives have been defined to maximise the potential of the site data. The following are based on period specific aims.

To ascertain the nature of the economy of the site and local environment in the Iron Age through investigation of the evidence from this period.

- What evidence for the type of settlement can be inferred from the faunal, artefactual and environmental data?
- What evidence for mixed farming economy and local environment can be inferred from the faunal remains and environmental data?
- Is the pottery assemblage similar to that excavated at nearby contemporary sites, and if so what does this suggest about regionality and trade links?

To investigate the abandonment of the site at the end of the Iron Age period and explore the reasons for this.

- Analysis of the pottery, fired clay assemblage to determine the longevity of site use.
- Study of contemporary sites in the region to establish whether the apparent abandonment of the site in the Roman period is anomalous or does this fit into the general pattern for this period around Peterborough? Are there any factors specific to the site that may suggest why habitation on the site did not continue into the Roman period?

8 Methods Statements

The assessment and updated research objectives have identified the key areas for future analysis and wider dissemination through publication. The further work will aim to present a synthesis of the project results, concentrating on the Iron Age settlement and particularly its function.

The following section summarises which elements have been identified for full, partial or no further analysis in order to meet the potential of the

excavated data and the Updated Research Aims of the project. Detailed task lists are presented in Section 10. The project team members (and initials) are outlined in Table 5.

8.1 Full Analysis

8.1.1 Stratigraphic Analysis

Full but selective further stratigraphic analysis is required, concentrating on the following key sequences and areas:

- Finalise site groups and phasing, with particular emphasis on the Late Iron Age ditches and pits (CT).
- Full integration of the artefact dating and phasing (CT).
- Compilation of text sections for all features, ordered by phase, and group to enable interpretation and discussion (CT).
- Compilation of group, phase and site narrative (CT), and site phase/group plans to illustrate the development of the site (ILL).
- Full integration of the site stratigraphy, groups and phasing with that of the site immediately to the south to enable the interpretation and discussion of the settlement as a whole.

8.2 Partial Analysis

8.2.1 Environmental Remains

Sample 78 should be sent for detailed analysis by an Archaeobotanical Specialist (VF). This work will include species identification, data tabulation, outline interpretation of the results and recommendations for additional analysis and costing for any further work (VF).

8.2.2 Faunal Remains

Further analysis of body part distribution and ageing of the assemblage (CF) followed by full integration of the results of this work with the site phasing (CT).

8.3 Little/No Further Analysis

8.3.1 Miscellaneous Finds

The remaining finds assemblages require full integration into the results of the further analysis and adding final phasing of the report. These are generally relatively small assemblages where catalogues and appropriate levels of analysis have already been undertaken as part of the assessment process and will only require small amounts of work for publication. All of these assemblages have potential to address the research objectives and as such will provide the basis for summaries for the inclusion in the publication.

- **Flint assemblage:** Palaeolithic handaxe to be illustrated and the results of the assessment to be integrated with the site phasing including a summary of the assemblage, which will be included in the publication report.
- **Pottery Assemblage:** Twelve of the sherds to be illustrated and incorporated, along with the results of the assessment, with the site phasing and a summary, which will be included in the publication report.
- **Daub and Fired Clay:** Two of the loomweight fragments to be illustrated and incorporated, along with the results of the assessment, with the site phasing and a summary, which will be included in the publication report.
- **Human Remains:** A full written summary of the report will be included within any publication of data from the site.
- **Pollen Samples:** The results will be integrated with the site phasing and a summary will be included in the publication report.
- **Phosphate samples:** The results will be integrated with the site phasing and a summary will be included in the publication report.

9 Report Writing, Archiving and Publication

9.1 Report Writing

A full report will be compiled from the results of the further analysis detailed above.

9.2 Archiving

Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Cambridgeshire County Council in appropriate county stores under the Site Code PET WER 07. During analysis and report preparation, OA

East will hold all material and reserves the right to send material for specialist analysis.

The archive will be prepared in accordance with current OA East guidelines, which are based on current national guidelines.

9.3 Publication

It is proposed that the results of the project should be published in Northamptonshire Archaeology, under the title 'Iron Age Occupation at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough'.

10 Resources and Programming

In order to realise the site's full potential, to meet the original and updated project aims and research aims and research objectives, as well as to contribute to broader research topics, the following resources and programming are required to complete the analysis and reporting writing phases.

10.1 Staffing and Equipment

10.1.1 Project Team

Name	Initials	Project Role	Establishment
Chris Thatcher	CT	Project Officer	OA East
James Drummond Murray	JDM	Project Manager	OA East
Elizabeth Popescu	EP	Editor/Publications Manager	OA East
Crane Begg	CB	Report Illustrator	OA East
Gillian Greer	GG	Illustrate selected small finds and pottery	OA East
Chris Faine	CF	Animal Bone	OA East
Val Fryer	VF	Environmental samplel	Freelance
Illustrator	ILL	Digitise selected sections	OA East

Table 4: Project Team

10.2 Task Identification

Task No.	Task Description	Staff
Stratigraphic Analysis		
1	Finalise site phasing of key groups	CT
2	Disseminate final phasing to relevant specialists	CT
3	Compile archive report for archaeological sequence	CT
4	Write Period/Group text	CT
5	Review and collate results of specialist analysis	CT
6	Liaison with specialists	CT
7	Collate and review background evidence/research into comparative sites	CT
8	Write background text	CT
9	Write discussion and conclusions	CT
10	Produce synthesis for publication and collate/edit captions, bibliography appendices etc.	CT
11	Internal edit	EP/JDM
12	Incorporate internal edits	CT
13	Final edit	EP/JDM
14	Final edits and HER summary	CT
15	Collate/submit publication synthesis to appropriate journal	CT
16	Archiving	CT
Illustrations Tasks		
17	Compile list of illustrations/liaison with illustrators	CT
18	Produce plans/section/location drawings	ILL
19	Publication figure preparation	CB
20	Finds illustration (pottery, loom weights)	GG
21	Check/edit finds illustrations	CT/ILL
22	Project management	JDM/CT
Finds Analysis		
23	Animal Bone analysis and report	CF
24	Environmental sample analysis and report	VF
Meetings		
29	Post-Excavation Meetings	CT, JDM EP

Table 5: Task list

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) who commissioned and funded the archaeological work and Ben Robinson who monitored the Archaeological Work also Peter Sweeney of McCann Homes who project managed the groundworks on site. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray. Chris Thatcher and Spencer Cooper directed and supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of David Brown, Caoimhín Ó Coileáin, Chris Faine, James Fairbairn, Shannon Hogan, Ian Hogg, Jonathon House, Kevin Mallard, William Punchard, Gareth Rees, Daniel Wheeler, Rachelle Wood and Alasdair Rodney Wright. Site survey was carried out by Louise Bush. A number of specialists contributed to this report: Barry John Bishop, Paul Blinkhorn, Steve Boreham, Natasha Dodwell, Chris Faine, Rachel Fosberry, Dr Paul Middleton, Stephen Wadeson. The illustrations were produced by Gillian Greer and Louise Bush. The report was edited by Elizabeth Popescu.

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Appendix 1: Health and Safety Statement

OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992,* and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.

OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.

Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

Appendix 2: Lithic Assessment

By Barry Bishop

1 Introduction

Excavations at the above site recovered 25 struck flints and a small quantity of burnt flint fragments. This report quantifies and describes this material, discusses its significance and recommends any further work required for it to meet its full research potential. All of the material was found residually within later contexts.

2 Quantification

Context	Mis-struck flake	Flake	Blade	Axe	Scraper	Burnt Chunks (no.)	Burnt Chunks (wt:g)
169						1	1.2
171		1					
206	1	1	2				
244		1	1				
413			1				
443		1					
446						1	17
449		1					
499				1			
516		1					
550		1					
569 SF54		1					
667 SF55			1				
669		1					
689		1					
708 SF63			1				
710 SF65					1		
710 SF50					1		
710		2					
717 SF57			1				
720		1					
773 SF56					1		

Table 6: Quantification of Lithic Material by Context

2 Raw Materials

The raw materials used consist of fine-grained flint of varied colours, ranging from virtually opaque black and grey through to translucent light greys and browns. Cortex, where present, ranges from hard and weathered to smooth worn. The size of the resultant flakes are all small; with the exception of the axe (see below), no pieces exceed

50mm in maximum dimension. It is likely that all of the raw materials, even that used for the axe, were obtained from the local gravel terraces.

3 Condition

The assemblage is mostly in a good condition although some pieces do show minor chipping and abrasion, particularly to thinner edges, and several pieces are broken. This would be consistent with the residuality of the assemblage, although, with the exception of the handaxe, none of the pieces appear to have been subjected to extensive post-deposition movement. The axe is slightly rolled and has evidently witnessed some alluvial transportation, but even this is likely to have been minimal.

4 Description

The assemblage is small and recovered in low quantities from a variety of later features.

It includes a small pointed handaxe of Lower Palaeolithic characteristics. This is all-over bifacially flaked, the only cortex remaining being small patches around its butt, thus providing a comfortable handhold. It measures over 96mm in length, its tip having broken off in antiquity, 52mm in width and was 27mm thick, weighing 116g. It has been slightly rolled and exhibited small spots of mineral staining, suggesting it may have spent some time within alluvial gravel deposits.

No other truly typologically diagnostic pieces were identified although the remainder of the assemblage is dominated by pieces that were technologically most characteristic of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries. These include the blades, which contributed nearly 30% of the assemblage and which were all systematically produced, as well as some of the flakes, most of which are narrow, thin and competently struck. A few pieces, such as the flakes from contexts 689, 720 and 449, consist of short, thick hard hammer struck flakes with wide obtuse striking platforms, and these could potentially be later, Bronze Age or even Iron Age, in date. No cores were recovered but three retouched pieces were present. These all consist of scrapers. The implement from context 773 comprises a relatively short and thick flake with steep, scalar retouch undertaken on its right and distal margins and with lighter and shallower retouch on part of its left margin. SF 65 from context 710 appears to have been similar in size and in the nature and location of its retouch, but has split laterally down the middle. SF 50, also from context 710, consists of a small blade-like flake that has had a number of relatively shallow invasive flakes removed from its distal end after it had started to recorticate and presumably some considerable time after the flake was struck, thus supporting the case

that flintworking continued at the site subsequent to the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic periods.

5 Significance and Discussion

The presence of the handaxe is interesting; these have been found in some numbers from within the Nene Valley gravel terraces (*e.g*. Roe 1968, 34-39; 129-134; Roe 1981) although, in general, the Palaeolithic archaeology of these deposits remains poorly understood. That it is in only a slightly rolled condition raises a tantalizing possibility that significant primary context deposits may survive within the Quaternary deposits in the vicinity, although, as a residual find, the handaxe by itself has only a limited potential for further understanding this period.

The remainder of the assemblage indicated activity on the site during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and possibly later on during the Bronze Age or Iron Age, all of which would accord well with the rich and extensive prehistoric remains that have been recorded around the western Fen edge in the vicinity. The activities represented here included core reduction and tool use although the size of the assemblage would suggest that any such occupation was short term and ephemeral.

6 Recommendations

Due to the small size of the assemblage and paucity of diagnostic implements, this report is all that is required of the assemblage for the purposes of archive and no further analytical work is proposed. The assemblage does contribute to the broader understanding of the prehistory of the area, from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age, and should be noted in the local Historic Environment Record. A short description of the assemblage, preferably accompanied by an illustration of the Palaeolithic handaxe, should be included in any published account of the fieldwork.

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Appendix 3: Pottery Assessment

By Paul Blinkhorn

1 Introduction

The pottery assemblage comprised 533 sherds with a total weight of 9609g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 4.79. It comprised a range of fabrics which indicate that there was activity at the site from the early La Tène Iron Age to the immediate pre-Roman 'Belgic' Iron Age, c 175 BC – early/mid 1st century AD. It is an assemblage which is typical of the lower Nene Valley, and has many parallels, particularly at the site at Weekley in Northamptonshire. A sherd of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age beaker pottery was also present.

2 Fabrics

The following were noted:

F1: *Fine shell*. Sparse to moderate shell up to 5mm, most up to 2mm, rare to sparse sub-angular quartz up to 1mm. 143 sherds, 1270g, EVE = 1.13.

F2: *Coarse shell* up to 10mm. Rare to sparse sub-angular quartz up to 0.2mm. 225 sherds, 5802g, EVE = 1.19.

F3: *Sand and grog*. Moderate sub-angular quartz up to 1mm, most <0.5mm. Rare to moderate sub-rounded red grog up to 2mm. 2 sherds, 38g, EVE = 0.

F4: *Fine shell and sand*, wheel-thrown. Moderate sub-angular quartz up to 1mm, most <0.5mm. Rare to sparse shell fragments up to 2mm. 70 sherds, 971g, EVE = 1.02.

F5: *Grog-tempered*, wheel-thrown 'Belgic'. Rare to moderate sub-rounded red grog up to 2mm. 51 sherds, 1089g, EVE = 1.04.

F6: *Fine shell*, wheel-thrown. Sparse to moderate shell up to 2mm. 39 sherds, 398g, EVE = 0.41.

F7: *Sandy sparse shell*, wheel-thrown 'Belgic' Moderate sub-angular quartz up to 0.5mm, most <0.5mm. Sparse shell fragments up to 1mm. 2 sherds, 19g, EVE = 0.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 7. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem. The range of fabric types is typical of Late Iron Age sites in the Lower Nene Valley and its hinterland, comprising a variety of largely shelly, sandy or grogged fabrics, and combinations

thereof, such as those noted at Alma Road, Peterborough (Timby 2006, 24).

3 Chronology

The range of fabric types suggests that there was no activity at the site before the Middle Iron Age, other than that represented by the sherd of Beaker pottery. Flint-tempered fabrics, which are typical of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the region, are entirely absent.

A number of sherds were incised on the body, in a manner typical of the Scored Ware tradition (Elsdon 1992). Scored ware, which is commonly found on Middle – Late Iron age sites in the south-east midlands, particularly Northamptonshire, is thought to be of Middle Iron Age date, ie. 5th/4th – 1st centuries BC (Knight 2002, 134-6). A number of contexts at this site produced such pottery, some of which were without any associations with wheel-thrown wares, but the form of such vessels here is generally more typical of the Late Iron Age, being entirely ovoid or rounded (*ibid*. 134-5). Finger-nail impressed- and finger-tipped rims, a feature of the Middle Iron Age Scored Ware tradition (*ibid*. 134) are entirely absent. Certainly, the occurrence of Scored Ware alongside wheel-thrown wares does appear to be a feature of later Iron Age pottery assemblages in the lower Nene Valley (*ibid*. 134).

This assemblage appears to have close affinities with that from Weekley in Northamptonshire (Jackson and Dix 1987). For example, Ceramic Phase 1 (CP 1) at Weekley produced large quantities of wheel-thrown vessels in association with largely ovoid-form Scored vessels in shelly fabrics, and had associated radiocarbon dates which suggested a use-span of early 2nd century BC – 20AD. Wheel-thrown La Tène vessels with curvilinear decoration, which were noted at Weekley, were not present at this site, although this is most likely because it probably lies beyond the general distribution area of such pottery in the east midlands (Jackson and Dix 1987, fig. 32).

Ceramic Phase 2 (CP 2) at this site is typified by the presence of wheel-thrown 'Belgic' pottery which appears typical of the tradition, and the assemblage is similar to that from CP 2 at Weekley, where the horizon was dated to the immediate pre-Roman period, *ie* the early /mid 1st century AD (*ibid*. 77-8). At Weekley, CP 2 saw the first use of grog-tempered pottery, and the same is true of this site. When the degree of similarity of the two assemblages is considered, there appears no reason to suppose that Ceramic Phase 2 at this site has a significantly different chronology to that at Weekley.

It would appear therefore that this site was occupied from around the early 2nd century BC – early/mid 1st century AD.

4 The Pottery

4.1 CP 1, c. early 2nd century BC – early 1st century AD

The CP 1 assemblage comprised 232 sherds with a total weight of 3706g (EVE = 1.95). It comprised entirely the shell-based fabrics F1, F2, F4, and F6. No grog-tempered fabrics were noted. The occurrence by fabric type is shown in Table 7.

	No Sherds	Wt. Sherds (g)	EVE
F1	64	620	0.53
F2	77	2138	0.71
F4	53	597	0.49
F6	38	351	0.22
Total	**232**	**3706**	**1.95**

Table 7: Pottery occurrence by fabric type, ceramic phase 1.

All the scored sherds were in fabrics F1 or F2, apart from a single rimsherd in F4. It has been noted by the author at some other Iron Age sites in the region that the division between coarse and fine shell fabrics is related to vessel size, with the finer fabric more commonly used for smaller vessels. This also seems to be the case here; vessels with the fine shell fabrics F1 and F4 had mean rim diameters of 205mm and 230mm respectively, whereas the coarse shell F2 vessels had a much larger mean rim diameter, of 280mm.

A number of vessels from this ceramic phase were represented by large sherds, and some of them have parallels at Weekley. For example, a small, scored jar with a rounded form (Fig. DG1) is very similar to a number of vessels from Weekley (cf Jackson and Dix 1987 Fig. 31), as are some of the large ovoid scored vessels from this site (eg DG2, 3 and 5). A total of five sherds from this phase are recommended for illustration, these are listed below.

DG1: Context 435, fabric F1. Small rounded jar with scored surfaces. Uniform black fabric.

DG2: Context 720, fabric F2. Rim from large scored jar. Uniform black fabric, becoming brown on the lower outer surface.

DG3: Context 720, fabric F2. Rim from large scored jar. Uniform black fabric, becoming brown on the lower outer surface and rim.

DG4: Context 689, fabric F2. Rimsherd from extremely large jar. Dark grey fabric with uniform reddish-brown surfaces.

DG5: Context 773, fabric F2. Rim from large scored jar. Uniform black fabric, becoming brown on the lower outer surface.

4.2 CP 2, early/mid 1st century AD

This phase sees the introduction of 'Belgic' style wheel-thrown pottery, and also grogged fabrics F3 and F5, although shelly wares continue to be dominant. The assemblage comprised 212 sherds with a total weight of 4215g (EVE = 2.54), and the pottery occurrence by fabric type is shown in Table 8.

	No Sherds	Wt. Sherds (g)	EVE
F1	46	487	0.49
F2	93	2161	0.29
F3	2	38	0
F4	17	374	0.53
F5	51	1089	1.04
F6	1	47	0.19
F7	2	19	0
Total	**212**	**4215**	**2.54**

Table 8: Pottery occurrence by fabric type, ceramic phase 2.

Again, a number of vessels have direct parallels with examples from Weekley's Ceramic Phase 2. For example, the full profile of a 'slack'-profiled jar from contexts 563 and 564 (DG6) is virtually identical to a vessel from Weekley (*ibid*. figs. 38, no. 132), and was dated to around the middle of the 1st century AD.

The 'Belgic' style pottery here is generally very typical of the tradition. The carinated bowl from here (DG7) is very similar to two vessels from CP2 at Weekley (*ibid*. fig. 39, nos. 144 and 145), and there are a number of sherds with grooving and corrugation from here that are again paralleled at Weekley (*ibid*. fig. 37, nos. 116 and 118).

Some incised pottery was noted, such as the large vessel with combed swags (DG11), but most were simple, ovoid vessels with no decoration (*e.g*. DG9 and DG10). A large base sherd with multiple piercing is likely to be a fragment of a cheese-press (DG12).

DG6: Contexts 563 and 567, fabric F2. Full profile of jar with 'slack' profile. Uniform black fabric with brown patches on the inner surface.

DG7: Context 443, fabric F5. Full profile of wheel-thrown carinated bowl. Uniform grey fabric.

DG8: Context 437 and 443, F5. Non-joining fragments of a butt beaker with vertical combing. Light grey fabric with brown surfaces, some of the sherds burnt black.

DG9: Context 443, fabric F2. Rim from ovoid jar. Uniform black fabric.

DG10: Context 443, fabric F2. Rim from large ovoid jar. Grey fabric with light greyish-brown surfaces.

DG11: Context 460, fabric F2. Sherd from shoulder of a vessel with combed swags. Grey fabric with reddish-brown surfaces.

DG12: Context 510, fabric F2. Pierced base. Dark grey fabric with reddish-brown surfaces.

5 Recommendations

The assemblage is typical of the lower Nene Valley and its hinterland, comprising a variety of largely shelly, sandy or grogged fabrics. A total of 12 sherds, listed above (Sections 4.1 & 4.2) should be illustrated for the report but no further work is required.

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	F1		F2		F3		F4		F5		F6		F7		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
402	1	1	1	10											CP1
412	12	47													CP1
413							1	4							CP1
416			3	23											IA
419			1	43											IA
424	7	14													IA
431	1	2	2	25											IA
433			1	15											IA
435	11	172													CP1
437	15	48	1	27			2	39	11	121					CP2
443	1	3	49	686					8	276					CP2
444	3	5													IA
446	1	16	1	1											IA
449	1	12													IA
451											1	47			CP2
453			8	334			1	47	2	77					CP2
459	4	24	1	10											CP1
460	1	60	9	355			1	6	1	105					CP2
461									3	75					CP2
462	15	93					3	133							CP1
465			2	134											IA

	F1		F2		F3		F4		F5		F6		F7		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
473	1	3													IA
478	1	4													CP1
480	12	57					1	96	3	59					CP2
487			7	24			6	34	3	40					CP2
489			2	121			1	35							CP1
495	1	16													IA
497			1	225											IA
504							4	43							CP1
510			2	533			1	3	4	42					CP2
516	1	3													CP1
523			1	112											IA
532									1	46					CP2
534	1	2													IA
543							1	118							CP1
549	1	29	10	164			1	26							CP1
550	1	5	5	23									2	19	CP2
551	4	36							2	30					CP2
558							2	2							CP1
563	1	179	1	16											CP2
564	6	74	8	127	2	38									CP2
569	1	16	13	252											IA
596	4	21													IA
610	1	3													IA
621	2	6							1	24					CP2
624			5	18			1	2							CP1
631			1	16			19	67							CP1
641			1	18					2	20					CP2
658	3	19							3	127					CP2
667									2	7					CP2
669							1	7	1	2					CP2
673	1	2													IA
675			4	70											CP1
683											38	351			CP1
689			1	622											CP1
693	1	4													IA
695			1	7			4	142	2	12					CP2
696			1	16											CP1
700									1	5					CP2
709			2	4											CP1
710			1	4											CP1
717							1	8							CP1
718			5	42											IA
720			17	1004											CP1
723			3	18											CP1
726	6	108													CP1
726	8	60													CP1
734	1	1	1	11					1	21					IA
738			8	64											CP1
741			3	12											IA
744			1	24											IA

	F1		F2		F3		F4		F5		F6		F7		
Cntxt	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**Date**
750	1	26	1	52			8	83							CP1
753	2	53	1	27			1	3							CP1
756			3	131											IA
768			16	110											IA
773	1	8	9	129											CP1
777	1	2	1	109											IA
781	7	44													IA
814	9	21					10	73							CP1
828			1	5											CP1
Total	**143**	**1270**	**225**	**5802**	**2**	**38**	**70**	**971**	**51**	**1089**	**39**	**398**	**2**	**19**	

Table 9: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Appendix 4: Daub and Fired Clay

by Stephen Wadeson with contributions by Carole Fletcher BA AIFA

1 Introduction

A total of 212 fragments, weighing 3.283kg, of daub, fired clay and fired clay objects, from 35 contexts were recovered from the evaluation and subsequent excavations.

The assemblage contains the partial remains of a minimum of five triangular loom weights, these account for *c*.74% of the assemblages total weight, and a fragment from a ceramic spindle whorl all of Iron Age date. The remainder of the material recovered is heavily abraded and made up of mainly very small fragments of daub and fired clay with an average weight of only *c*.6g

These fragments of hardened clay were produced from local materials and used in the production of ovens, kilns and houses (Rigby and Foster 1986, 184, fig. 80). Several fragments bear the impression of wattles or withies that formed the superstructure of these buildings which helped to maintain their shape and reduce shrinkage during construction. The wattles and withies, made of twigs, then either rot or have been burnt, away. It should be noted is that fact daub is a soft porous material and is not as strong as CBM; only material that has been deliberately burnt survives in the soil (Lyons 2007).

2 Methodology

For this assessment the daub and fired clay was counted, weighed to the nearest whole gramme and classified by form. Fabric types were initially recorded using an alphanumerical indicator while abrasion and any evidence of re-use or burning were also recorded following the guidelines laid down by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2002).

3 The Assemblage

3.1 Daub and Fired Clay

Daub and fired clay was recovered from a variety of features across the excavated area. The majority were however recovered from ditches and includes the fragments of triangular loom weight (Table 10).

Only two small, abraded fragments of fired clay can be categorised as daub. These were recovered from pits **748** and **771** and produced in clay fabric 2; both fragments contain the partial remains of a rounded wattle impression varying in diameter. Due to the fragment size, however, it is impossible to identify the structures from which they came from.

The relatively small nature of the majority of fragments of fired clay and daub suggest that their deposition is due to reworking and later infilling of features rather than deliberate deposition after they were broken. This may not be completely true in the case of the loom weights as approximately two thirds of one triangular loom weight still remains (SF 44).

The most substantial fragment of fired clay recovered (0.135kg) came from the upper fill of ring ditch **445**. Although heavily abraded the fragment is possibly the remains of a weight however without diagnostic features this identification can not be substantiated.

	Ditch	Ring Ditch	Pit	Post Hole	Kiln & flue	Total
Daub & Fired Clay	17.5	26.6	39.0	2.5	14.4	**100**
Fired Clay Artefacts	7.1	0.00	80.4	0.00	12.5	**100**

Table 10: Fired Clay percentage by weight and by feature type.

Although the daub and fired clay assemblage is small, eight fabrics were identified and recorded (Table 11). The most common of these by weight is F4; accounting for 70.1% of the assemblage it was used mainly in the production of triangular loom weights (SF 44 and 45).

Fabric	Fabric Description	Fragment Count	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
F1	Moderately hard sandy fabric, abundant fine quartz, moderate quartz rare. Yellowish off white swirls and bands of clay mainly oxidized. Poorly mixed with numerous voids.	23	0.131	4.0
F2	Soft silty fabric, soapy feel with occasional to rare mica, moderate voids due to organic temper, occasional grog. Occasionally moderate irregular sub angular calcareous material. Colours vary from pale pink, completely oxidized to dull reds and partial reduced sherds. Contains creamy/yellow and dull red to grey swirls/bands when poorly mixed.	48	0.156	4.7
F3	Moderately hard fired fabric, common fine quartz <0.5mm, moderate quartz >1.0mm, common grog up to 1.0mm. Colour varies, creamy yellow/dull red swirls and bands, poorly mixed.	24	0.278	8.5

F3 Type	As F3 plus rare large lumps of calcareous material with occasional sub angular flints up to 5mm, moderate coarse up to 1.0mm and rare to occasional small calcareous material.	14	0.170	5.2
F4	Hard fired fabric, smooth to the touch with wiped surfaces on artefacts. Common quartz <0.5mm, occasional grog and calcareous material, rare large stones and flints up to 5mm. Surface varies from red/brown to dull yellow/brown to reduced dark grey with reduced margins and cores.	71	2.303	70.1
F5	Soft sandy fabric, common to abundant fine quartz, occasional moderate quartz, occasional grog. Very rare flint up to 2.0cm, occasional flint up to 2.0mm. Colour is dull red, mainly oxidised throughout with occasional cream/pink swirls and red patches.	26	0.099	3.0
F6	Hard fired sandy fabric, common fine quartz, abundant to common shell up to 1.0m, occasional shell up to 6.0mm and coarse quartz, rare flint up to 5.0mm. Colour varies from pale yellow/orange to pinkish/red grey surface with pale grey to pink/orange core.	4	0.088	2.7
F7	Hard fabric, common fine quartz <0.5mm, moderate coarse quartz >1.0mm, occasional lumps of stone up to 1.0cm with occasional angular flint up to 5.0mm. Moderate mica and calcareous material up to 1.0mm. Reduced dark grey to orange/brown surface with orange/red core	2	0.058	1.8

Table 11: Quantity and weight of fired clay and daub by fabric type.

The distribution of the fabric types by form is detailed in Table 12. Fabrics 1, 2, and 5-7 are present in small fragmentary pieces; only fabric F4 and to a lesser degree F3 have a significant presence on site and the nature of the artefacts manufactured in this fabric suggest that these fabrics are Iron Age in date.

Fabric	Daub	Fired Clay	Triangular Loom Weight	Spindle Whorl
F1		0.131		
F2	0.014	0.142		
F3		0.206	0.072	
F3 type		0.101	0.069	
F4		0.054	2.249	
F5		0.094		0.005
F6		0.088		
F7		0.058		

Table 12: Fabric types by form.

3.2 Loom weights

A total of five clay weights, mostly incomplete fragments were identified within the assemblage. These consist of the partial remains of two Iron Age triangular loom weights (SF 44 and 45) along with the fragmented remains of a further three clay weights, (SF 3, 4 and 60). No complete loom weights were recovered but fragments could be identified as such from the corners and perforation of fragments.

The weights were retrieved from several features across the site; the remains of SF 4 and SF 60 were recovered from ditches **247** and **488** while SF 3 was recovered from the fill of what was identified as a kiln and flue, **218**. The two most complete loom weights, SF 44, an almost complete triangular weight and SF 45 were both recovered from separate fills in quarry pit **466**.

Triangular loom weights were commonly found on rural sites across south-eastern Britain in the Iron Age and examples of the type identified in the assemblage (SF 44 and 45) have been recovered from Gorhambury, Herts (Neal *et al* 1990, fig. 145.1032), Weekly, Northants (Jackson & Dix 1988, fig. 28.103) and Caldecotte, Milton Keynes (Zeepvat, Roberts & King 1994, fig. 69.107). The potential uses of these clay weights have been discussed in detail in the Danebury report (Poole 1984, 121), but their identification as loom weights is now generally agreed. Soon after the Roman invasion, triangular loom weights disappear from the archaeological records (Wild 1970, 63).

It would appear that no specific fabric was used in their manufacture, the use of three fabrics (F3, F3 type and F4) in the production of the weights perhaps indicative of the scant regard given to such items. Of the three fabrics, however, the three most complete weights (SF 3, 44 and 45) were produced out of the hard fired, clay fabric F4 while SF 4 and SF 60 were made using clay fabrics F3 and F3 type respectively.

There appears to be no evidence of wear on any of the weights, although with some of the weights have broken along the perforations, an obvious weak point they would have been liable to break before obvious wear patterns developed. Evidence of wear patterns would have helped in assessing whether the triangular weights were suspended by one or more perforations at a time (Poole 1984, 403).

Illustrations

Fig: 1 PET WER 07, SF 44
Heavily burnt, large triangular loom weight fragment, rounded corners, produced in clay fabric 4, approximately two thirds remaining with one complete triangular face missing. Full dimensions can be established for the length for all three sides and max. thickness. The loom weight is pierced across only two of the three angles with circular-profile holes, a segment of one perforation remains complete. Full length of both perforations remain also. Side lengths 140mm, 133mm, 133mm Max thickness 67mm, Weight 0.971kg. Perforation dia. 13-15mm, Perforation lengths 69mm, 65mm. Quarry Pit **466**, (465) Iron Age

Fig: 2 PET WER 07, SF 45
Large triangular loom weight fragment, produced in clay fabric 4. Approximately two thirds of the weight remain, the majority of the missing third recovered at time of excavation but is to fragmented for reconstruction. No complete side or surface remains with a third side missing completely. The weight is pierced across two of the angles with circular-profile holes with neither piercing complete due to the weights overall incompleteness. The surviving corner is roughly rounded but is not pierced across the angle.
Max thickness 69mm, Weight 0.647kg. Perforation dia. 13mm.
Quarry Pit **466**, (461) Early/Mid 1st Century BC

PET WER 06, SF 3
Two joining fragments from a clay weight, most probably triangular in shape, produced in clay fabric 4. Partial remains of the face and side wall containing a large perforation in the side wall. Five further fragments recovered during excavation, same fabric, non joining but certainly part of the same artefact. Two fragments show the partial remains of similar sized perforations consistent with the one visible in the side wall. Weight 0.191kg.
Kiln & Flue **218**, (216) Middle Iron Age

PET WER 06, SF 4
Part of the face and side from a clay weight, most probably triangular in shape, produced in clay fabric 3. Partial remains of the side piercing are visible and circular in profile. Three further fragments recovered during excavation, same fabric, non joining but certainly part of the same artefact. One fragment contains the partial remains of a circular-profile hole. Weight 0.042kg. Perforation dia. 11mm.
Ditch **247**, (246) Iron Age

PET WER 07, SF 60
Fragment from the corner of a triangular loom weight, produced in clay fabric 3 type. Pierced through the triangular face across the angles, originally circular in profile the perforation now remains in cross section only. Weight 0.067kg. Perforation dia. 11mm.
Ditch **488**, (487) Early/Mid 1st Century BC

3.3 Spindle Whorl

Excavations produced the partial remains of a single, undecorated ceramic spindle whorl, SF 61 of Danebury type 3 (Poole 1984, 401). Found on many Iron Age sites, clay spindle whorls cover a wide range of sizes, the overall weight and depth of this fragment falling within the lower range for spindle whorls of this type. It is accepted that artefacts such as this example was used as spindle whorl but it may be argued that some of the smaller examples are beads (Poole 1984, 401).

Illustrations

PET WER 07, SF 61
Fragment of a clay spindle whorl, produced in fabric 5, Danebury type 3 (Poole 1984, 401). Spherical in shape with flattened ends, the partial remains of the central perforation is visible in cross-section. Height 21mm, Weight 0.005kg Perforation dia. 5mm.
Pit **766**, (768) Iron Age.

4 Conclusion

This is a relatively small assemblage the majority of which is made up of triangular loom weights alongside a number of daub and fired clay fragments. The material is associated with Iron Age domestic and agricultural activity on the site. The presence of a spindle whorl alongside the loom weights not only indicates the production of woven cloth on site, but access to flocks of sheep managed for their wool (Luff 1993, 18, 72, 82 & 131).

This kind of activity would have taken place within a structure or structures although the small amount of daub and fired clay recovered argues against there being any substantial structure built in this material.

5 Sampling Bias

The open area excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental and artefactual remains, there has also been some recovery of fired clay. These are small quantities of abraded fragments and have not been quantified, and serious bias is not likely to result.

Further Work

Due to the small size of the assemblage no further analysis is required unless further work is undertaken.

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Appendix 5: Human Remains Assessment

By Natasha Dodwell

1 Introduction and Methodology

The analysis of the poorly preserved skeleton, [470] is presented below.

Age was assessed by recording the degree of epithyseal fusion, the stage of dental development and attrition (Brown 1985, Brothwell 1981), and, the sex by traits on the pelvis and skull (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). The skeleton is extremely fragmentary; the largest fragment of bone (right femur shaft) measures only 98mm. Long bones survive as splinters of bone and very few joint surfaces are preserved. The thorax is represented by scraps of vertebrae and splinters of rib. Less than 25% of the pelvis and skull survive but enough traits could be examined to estimate the individuals' sex.

3 Discussion and Conclusions

The body had been laid in a tightly flexed position on its right side, with the head in the east of the grave. The right arm was extended and the left arm was flexed over the body with the hand over the right forearm.

The skeleton is that of a mature adult male, at least 45 years old at death. From the fragments of jaw that survive a minimum of 7 teeth had been lost prior to death. Slight to medium deposits of calculus were recorded on the twelve surviving teeth. Osteoarthritis was recorded in the right hip, lower spine and both wrists. Approximately half of the right femoral head is covered with small cysts or holes and has a polished, eburnated appearance. Similar changes were recorded in the acetabulum and result from bone rubbing directly against bone. Carpal bones in both the left and right hands, and several of the articulating facets in the lumbar vertebrae exhibit similar changes. An area of smooth, cream lamellar bone, indicative of a non-specific infection was recorded on the posterior of the right ilium.

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Appendix 6: Faunal remains assessment

By Chris Faine

1 Introduction

The total weight of bone recovered from the site is 14kg. The majority of this assemblage was recovered from Iron Age contexts, including pits, ditches and layers. In general the assemblage is well preserved albeit extremely fragmented. All of the bone forming the basis of this assessment was collected by hand and bone recovered from environmental samples is not covered in this report. At present there is no information regarding residuality and contamination. The faunal assemblage is currently stored at OA East offices, Bar Hill.

3 Assessment

Methods

The entire assemblage was scanned, with elements being identified to species where possible. Numbers of "countable" bones, ageable mandibles and measurable bones were recorded in Tables 13-15 below. The counting system was based on Davies (1992) and Albarella and Davies (1994).

Variety

The assemblage is dominated by cattle and horse remains, along with smaller numbers of sheep/goat and pig. The large number of horse remains can be attributed to the presence of two shattered mandibles (and hence loose teeth). A single dog metacarpal was also recovered.

Quantity

This is an extremely small assemblage, a fact exacerbated by the fragmentary nature of many of the elements.

4 Potential/Recommendations

As mentioned above this is an extremely small and fragmentary assemblage that would provide little information about wider settlement/animal husbandry in the in the area. Any further work would be limited and merely involve further analysis of body part distribution and possibly ageing.

References

Albarella, U and Davis, S.J.M. 1994 *The Saxon and Medieval animal bones excavated from West Cotton, Northamptonshire*. London: English Heritage AML Report 17/94.

Davis, S.J.M 1992 *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*, London: English Heritage AML Report 19/92

Countable bones				
Cattle	**Sheep/Goat**	**Pig**	**Other**	**Total**
39	8	2	18	67

Table 13: Number of countable bones (after Davis, 1992 & Albarella & Davis, 1994).

Ageable mandibles			
Cattle	**Sheep/Goat**	**Pig**	**Total**
4	0	0	4

Table 14: Number of ageable mandibles

Measurements				
Cattle	**Sheep/Goat**	**Pig**	**Other**	**Total**
28	5	1	11	45

Table 15: Number of measurements taken

Appendix 7: Pollen Assessment

By Steve Boreham

1 Introduction

This report presents the results of assessment pollen analyses from eight sub-samples of sediment taken from five discrete spot samples (Section 68) and one monolith sample (three tins) (Section 69) from a fill of quarry pit fill at **466**, Area 4.

Sample 64 (context 459) was taken from a mid-orange brown silty gravel representing the penultimate fill of the quarry pit. Below this, Sample 63 (context 460) was taken from a mid-grey brown sandy silt. Sample 65 (context 461) was taken from a mid-orange brown silty sand representing the main fill of the quarry. Sample 66 (context 462) was taken from a yellow orange sandy silt with gravel, which probably represented a slump of material into the quarry pit. Sample 73 (context 465) was taken from a mid-blue grey clay representing the primary fill of the quarry pit.

Sample 75 was represented by three tins. The basal sub-sample taken for pollen (36cm) was taken from the silty sediments of context 465 (30-60cm). Above this were the gravelly sediments of context 462 (60-70cm). The second pollen sub-sample (72cm) was taken from the silty material of context 461 (70-80cm). Above this was a gravelly unit (context 460), in turn overlain by a more silty unit (context 459) (90-110cm) from which a pollen sub-sample was taken at 93cm.

The eight sub-samples were prepared using the standard hydrofluoric acid technique, and counted for pollen using a high-power stereo microscope. The percentage pollen data from these 8 sub-samples is presented in Table 16.

2 Pollen Analyses

It is unfortunate that out of the eight sub-samples prepared for pollen from this site, six proved to be barren. This included four of the five sub-samples from Section 68 (discrete samples) and two of the three sub-samples from Section 69 (monolith sample 75). It seems that the pollen preservation in this quarry pit above the water table was very poor.

The pollen concentrations of the two remaining sub-samples varied between 16,180 and 21,358 grains per ml. Pollen counting was somewhat hampered by the presence of finely divided organic debris and the poor preservation of many fossil pollen grains (palynomorphs). Assessment pollen counts were made from single slides. Neither of the

two main sums achieved (50 & 26) exceeded the statistically desirable total of 300 pollen grains main sum. For this reason, great care must be used when interpreting these pollen signals.

Section 68 – Sample 73 – Cut 466 – context 465

This sub-sample produced a pollen signal dominated by grass (Poaceae) (48.0%), with a range of herbs including the lettuce family (Asteraceae (Lactuceae) (14.0%), the fat hen family (Chenopodiaceae) (2.0%), the cabbage family (Brassicaceae) (2.0%) and the disturbed ground indicator strapwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) (2.0%). Arboreal taxa were absent. Pollen of the emergent aquatic bur-reed was present (7.4%) being the only aquatic taxon represented. Fern spores together accounted for 14.0%, which taken with the elevated proportion of Asteraceae (both are resistant to destructive soil processes) may indicate that this pollen spectrum has been modified by post-depositional oxidation.

Section 69 – Sample 75 (36cm) – Cut 466 – context 465

This sub-sample produced a pollen signal dominated by grass (Poaceae) (50.0%), with a range of herbs including the lettuce family (Asteraceae (Lactuceae) (15.4%), the fat hen family (Chenopodiaceae) (7.7%) and strapwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) (7.7%). Arboreal taxa were represented by hazel (Corylus) (3.9%). Pollen of sedges (Cyperaceae) (7.7%) and bur-reed (3.7%) was also present. Fern spores were absent, although the elevated proportion of Asteraceae may again suggest some degradation of the pollen signal.

3 Discussion & Conclusions

Taken together, the two pollen samples (both from context 465) are rather similar in that they indicate a post-clearance grassland and meadow environment with tall herb communities. No evidence of arable activity was detected, and the presence of arable weeds and disturbance indicators could easily be attributed to trampling and poaching by animals. This pastoral landscape must have had scattered hazel scrub, perhaps managed for coppice. Damp and riparian (bank-side) environments are indicated by the presence of sedges, dock (*Rumex*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula*) and bur-reed. The low proportions of stinging nettle (*Urtica*) pollen in sub-sample 73 may indicate areas of faecal eutrophication nearby.

The quarry pit seems to have been surrounded by open grassland with a variety of local habitats. The relative lack of aquatic taxa suggests that open water was scarce or only seasonally present.

The preservation of pollen in material at or below the water-table at this site highlights the importance of careful sample selection in this type of investigation. Clay and silt-rich samples are usually worth preparing for

pollen, but in this case the extent of oxidation has rendered anything above the water table barren.

It is important not to over-interpret a pollen signal, particularly from assessment counts with low main sums. However, these pollen assemblages fit well within the types of Iron Age and Roman landscapes known from Cambridgeshire.

	459	460	461	462	465	75	75	75
	64	63	65	60	73	36cm	72cm	93cm
Trees & Shrubs								
Corylus					0.00	3.85		
Herbs								
Poaceae					48.00	50.00		
Cyperaceae					0.00	7.69		
Asteraceae (Asteroidea/ Cardueae) undif.					2.00	0.00		
Asteraceae (Lactuceae) undif.					14.00	15.38		
Chenopodiaceae	Barren	Barren	Barren	Barren	2.00	7.69	Barren	Barren
Cirsium					2.00	0.00		
Brassicaceae					6.00	0.00		
Filipendula					2.00	0.00		
Helianthemum					0.00	3.85		
Plantago lanceolata type					2.00	7.69		
Ranunculus type					2.00	0.00		
Rumex					2.00	0.00		
Urtica					2.00	0.00		
Veronica					0.00	3.85		
Lower plants								
Pteropsida (monolete) undif.					12.00	0.00		
Pteropsida (trilete) undif.					2.00	0.00		
Aquatics								
Sparganium type					7.41	3.70		
Sum trees					0.00	0.00		
Sum shrubs					0.00	3.85		
Sum herbs					86.00	96.15		
Sum spores					14.00	0.00		
Main Sum					50	26		
Concentration (grains per ml)	<1068	<1068	<1068	<1068	16180	21358	<1068	<1068

Table 16: Percentage Pollen Data

Appendix 8: Environmental Assessment

By Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction and Methods

Thirty-three bulk samples were taken from across the excavated area and were submitted for an initial appraisal. Features sampled were predominantly Iron Age ditches and pits.

The samples were soaked in a solution of Decon 90 for two weeks prior to processing in order to break down the heavy clay.

Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 17.

A further thirteen samples were taken specifically for pollen analysis.

2 Results

The results are recorded on Table 17. Preservation is by charring and is generally moderate. Charcoal fragments are present in most of the samples in varying quantities.

Burnt bone was recovered from Sample 78, Context 545 along with cereal grains, chaff, charcoal and weed seeds.

3 Discussion

The majority of the samples were poor in terms of charred plant remains. Several samples contained evidence of burning in the form of moderate quantities of charcoal but only ten samples contained cereal grains and six samples contained other charred plant remains. Two samples contained chaff elements in the form of *Triticum spelta* (Spelt) glume bases.

Sample 78 was originally thought to be a cremation and a substantial amount of burnt bone was recovered from the residue. The feature was an isolated pit that contained an area of pink colouration that may

be interpreted as evidence of in-situ burning. The burnt bones have since been identified as sheep by animal bone specialist, Chris Faine.

This sample also produced a substantial assemblage of charred plant remains that includes cereal grains and crop processing waste along with charred weed seeds that may have been associated with the crop plants.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

In summary, the majority of samples from this excavation produced a low abundance of charred material in the form of charcoal fragments with some cereal grains and a few weed seeds. This suggests that most of the samples represent general scatters of burnt debris rather than discrete purposeful deposits.

The exception is Sample 78. This particular sample merits detailed assessment and it is strongly recommended that they are submitted to Val Fryer (Archaeobotanical Specialist) for the completion of this work (to include species identification, data tabulation, outline interpretation and recommendations for additional analysis.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Flot Vol. (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >2mm	Weed Seeds	Small Bones	Flot comments	Residue Volume (ml)	Small animal bones	Large animal bones	Pottery	CBM	Residue comments
40	400	401	Ditch	5			+	+				600	0	0	0	0	some CPR, no finds, burnt flint in residue
41	413	410	Ditch	40			++	++				1200	+	+	+	0	lots of plant remains/CPR, burnt bone + and bone + in residue
42	416	417	Grave	30	+		+	+				1000	0	0	+	0	snail shells in residue, some CPR, some burnt bone
43	424	425	Ditch	25			+		+		1/2 vicia	2000	0	++	0	0	some burnt bone, large bones HSR. Reintegrated with main skeleton
44	432	425	Ditch	20			++					600	0	+	+	0	
45	433	434	Ditch	10	+		+	+				1600	0	+	+	0	possible flint flakes?, small fragment of glass
46	437	439	Ditch	30	+		++	+	+		Bromus/lolium	300	+	++	+	0	
47	440	442	Ditch	50			+					1800	0	+	0	0	
48	446	447	Ditch	20			+	+				3000	0	++	+	0	some burnt bone (5 %)
49	443	445	Ditch	20	++		++	++				250	+	++	+	0	flint, some burnt bone (5 %)
50	443	445	Ditch	10	+		++	++				3000	0	++	++	+	fired clay, some tiny potsherds in residue, some CPR, lots of burnt bone, lots of small bone shards in residue, some burnt flint in residue
51	454	455	Ditch	10			+	+		+		7000	0	+++	+	0	bones are burnt, some glass
52	473	475	Ditch	100							No cpr	1600	+	+++	+	+	fired clay or pottery?, some vivianite, tons of bone shards in residue, some burnt bone
53	476	477	Ditch	20							No cpr	5000	0	+	0	0	charcoal fragments in residue
54	480	482	Ditch	20	+		++	++				3000	0	+	++	0	

55	487	488	Ditch	1	+		+	+	+			12000		+	0	0	some burnt bone (10 - 15 %)
56	497	496	pot fill	1	+		+					2000		0	0	0	
57	510	511	Ditch	2	+		+					16000		+	0	0	
58	516	518	Ditch	5			+	+				6000		0	0	0	absolutely no finds
59	519	520	Pit	1							no cpr	00		0	0	0	
60	521	522	Pit	5			+					3000		0	0	0	
61	523	524	Pit	1							no cpr	1500		0	0	0	
62	525	526	Pit	1			+					4000		0	0	0	
76	465	466	Pit	1			+					10000		0	0	+	fired clay
77	461	467	Pit	1							No cpr	13000		0	0	0	absolutely no finds
78	545	546	cremation	150	++	++	+++	+++	++		Needs full analysis	24000		++	0	0	turned out to be sheep bones. Reintegrated with animal bone
79	552	548	Pit	2			+	+				3000		0	0	0	No finds
80	641	629	Pit	20			++	+	+		1/2 vicia	5000		+	+	0	
81	639	628	Pit	5			++	+				5000		+	+	0	
82	637	628	Pit	5			++	+++				2500		+	+	0	charcoal fragments present <5 %
83	631	632	Pit	5			+	+++				3000		0	0	0	flint flake
84	619	618	Ditch	1			+	+	+		vicia	3000		+	0	0	flint
85	667	666	Ditch	2		+	+	+			single glume base	14000		+	0	0	
86	689	690	Ditch	2							No cpr	10000		0	0	0	no finds

Table 17: CPR and Artefacts within flots

Appendix 9: Phosphate Assessment

Paul Middleton

1 Introduction

A series of samples were taken at an early stage of the excavation of Area 3 by the author and Richard Baker and on the basis of the results, further selective sampling was undertaken by the excavators, and submitted for analysis. This second set of samples, numbering 21 samples in total, was taken along three transects, one straddling the western boundary of a large enclosure in the eastern part of Area 3; the other two transects were taken parallel to each other across roundhouse **760** at the western extremity of the excavation of Area 3. Control samples were taken to establish background levels of phosphate on the site.

2 Method

The bulk samples were air dried, ground and sieved to 2mm mesh and processed under laboratory conditions. The prepared and weighed samples were treated to assess total phosphate levels, using a hydrochloric acid digestion method, adapted from Dick and Tabatabai (1977). The phosphate content of the samples was established colorimetrically by the standard molybdenum blue method, described by Murphy and Riley (1962) and quantified by reference to a standard curve. All phosphate levels are expressed in terms of mg. phosphorus per 100 g. soil.

3 Results

The results are presented in Table 18, below. Results from the enclosure transect do not give any clear indication of activity within the enclosure. The highest levels encountered along the transect lie outside the enclosure and the associated mean value for the enclosure's ditch fills, though higher than the control samples, will not support any interpretation connected with a particular use for the enclosure.

The results from the roundhouse are more interesting, in that they indicate higher values of phosphorus in the entrance and front sector of the house, compared to the interior. Higher values are also associated with the outside of the structure on its north side. These features of phosphate distribution have been encountered on other sites in the area, *e.g.* Whittlesey Brick Pits 1999 and Eye 2006, both sites excavated by Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The accumulation of phosphate rich soils in the entrance of the structure can perhaps be

explained by tread and hearth scatter, with the interior of the house kept relatively free of waste material. More intriguing is the focus of phosphate deposition on the north side of the entrance, particularly encountered and defined by more detailed sampling at Eye and hinted at here, on the Wesleyan Road site. Possible explanations could be a toss zone or a dump of material or pen/tethering point for animals.

Sample no.	Feature	Phosphate Mg.P per 100g. soil	Comment
7	Enclosure transect	96	Inside enclosure
8	Enclosure transect	82	Inside enclosure
9	Enclosure transect	42	Inside enclosure
10	Enclosure transect	42	Inside enclosure
11	Enclosure transect	38	Inside enclosure
12	Enclosure transect	60	Inside enclosure
13	Enclosure transect	48	Inside enclosure
14	Enclosure transect	104	Inside enclosure
15	Enclosure transect	132	Outside enclosure
16	Enclosure transect	38	Outside enclosure
17	Enclosure transect	132	Outside enclosure
18	Round house transect (west)	128	Outside enclosure
19	Round house transect (west)	74	Outside enclosure
20	Round house transect (west)	50	Outside enclosure
21	Round house transect (west)	68	Outside enclosure
22	Round house transect (west)	124	Outside enclosure
23	Round house transect (east)	88	Outside enclosure
24	Round house transect (east)	124	Outside enclosure
25	Round house transect (east)	142	Outside enclosure
26	Round house transect (east)	136	Outside enclosure
27	Round house transect (east)	132	Outside enclosure
Control	Round house transect (east)	61	Outside enclosure
Ring ditch	Round house transect (east)	50	Mean from 8 samples from ring ditch fill
Enclosure ditch	Round house transect (east)	103	Mean from 6 samples from enclosure lower ditch fills

Table 18: Phosphate Samples

4 Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Richard Baker for his assistance in the collection, preparation and analysis of the samples.

5 References

Dick, W.A. & Tabatabai, M.A. 1977 *An alkaline oxidation method for the determination of total phosphorus in soils,* Journal of Soil Science of America 41, 511 – 514

Murphy, J. & Riley, J.P. 1962 *A modified single solution method for the determination of phosphate in natural waters,* Analytica Chimica 27, 31 – 36

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Natural Features

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Deposit

Excavated Slot

Modern Deposit

Paleochannel

Cut Number 118

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut-Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number 118

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

Inclusions

Pottery

Convention Key

Figure 1: Site location

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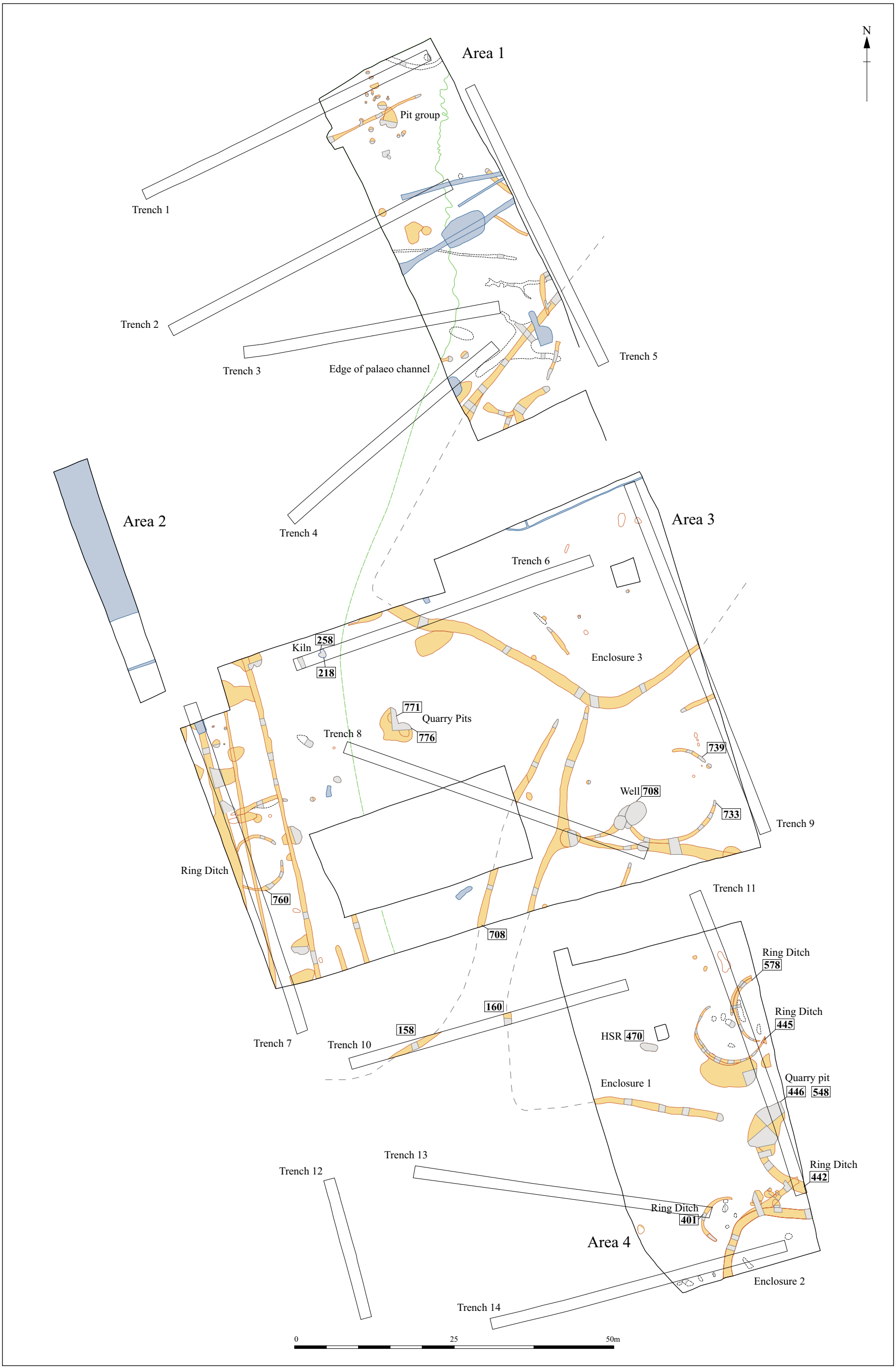

Figure 2: Plan of all features 1:600

Figure 3: Unphased features. Scale 1:600

Figure 4: Period 2, Phase 1:Middle Iron Age (c.200BC – c.100BC) Scale 1:600

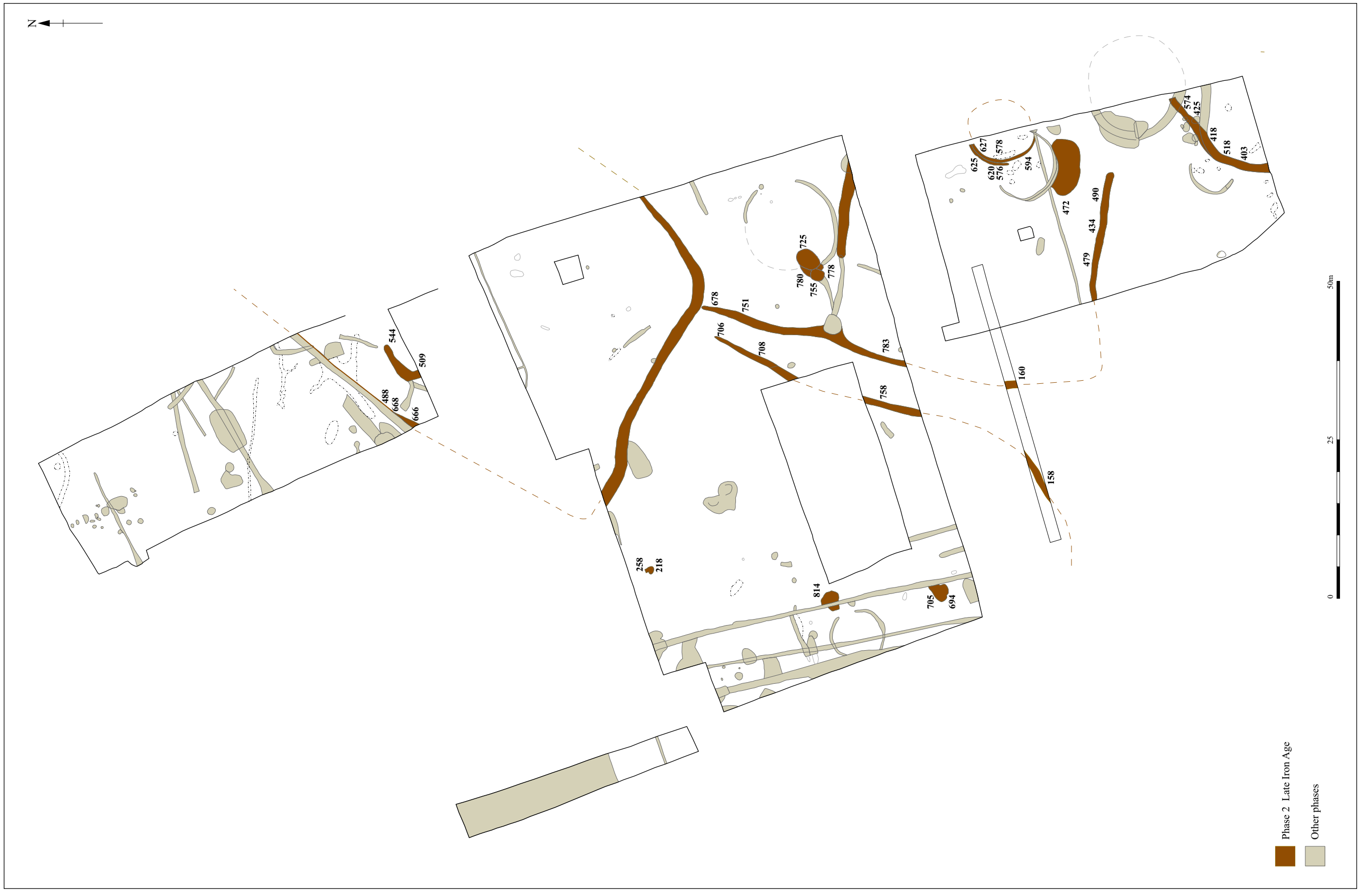

Fig.5: Period 2, Phase 2: Late Iron Age (c.100BC – c.1BC) Scale 1:600

Figure 6: Period 2, Phase 3: Late Pre – Roman Iron Age (1BC - AD43) Scale 1:600

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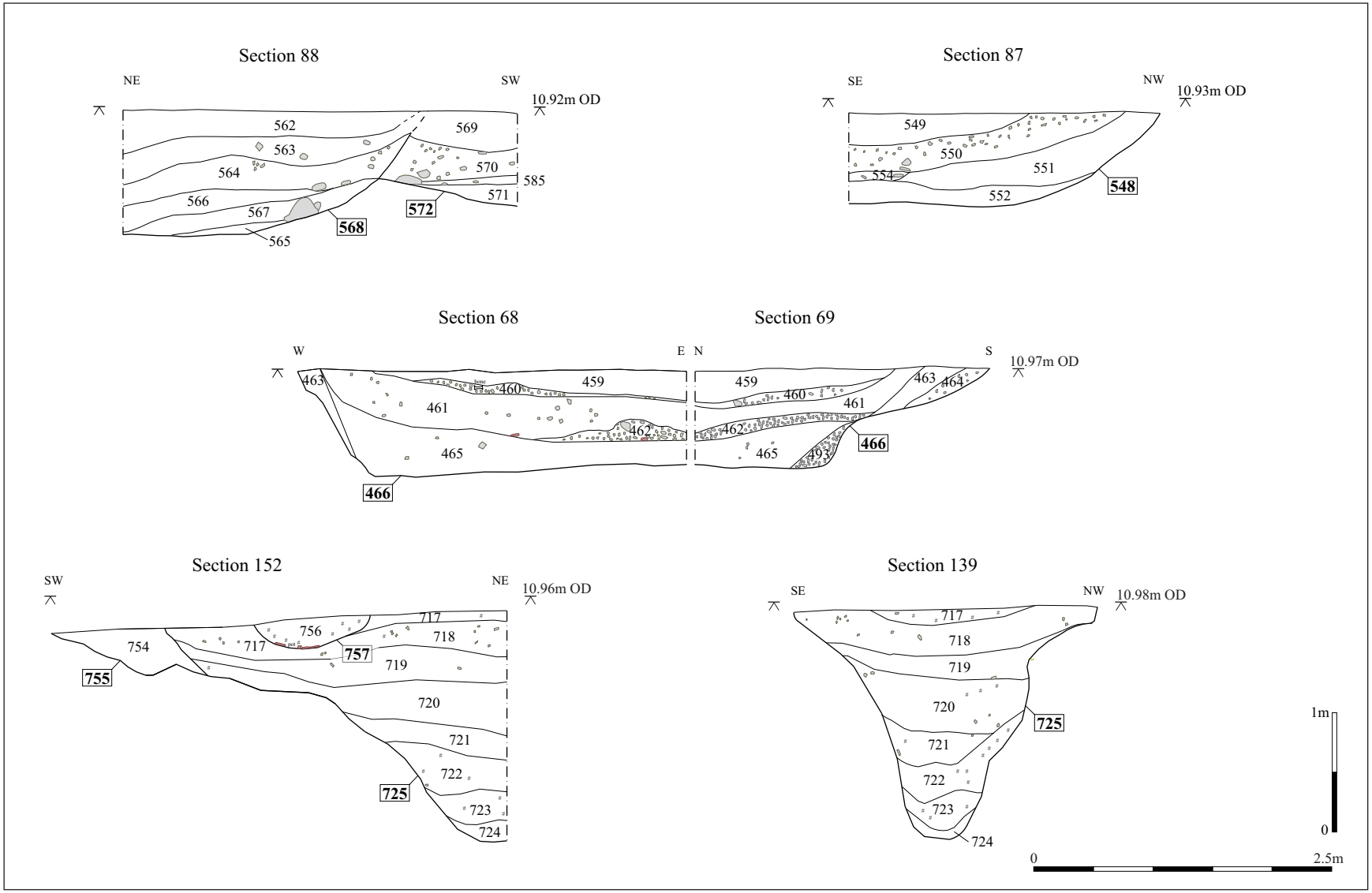
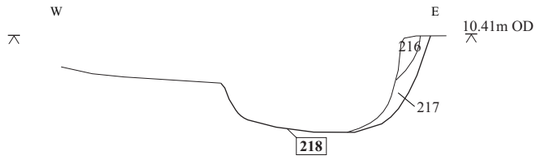


Figure 7: Sections (scale 1:50)

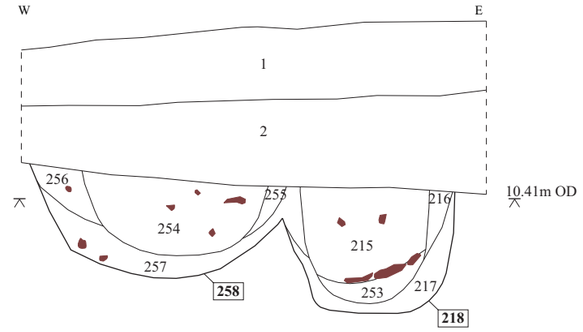
Plan 6

Section 45



Plan 15

Section 46



Plan 16

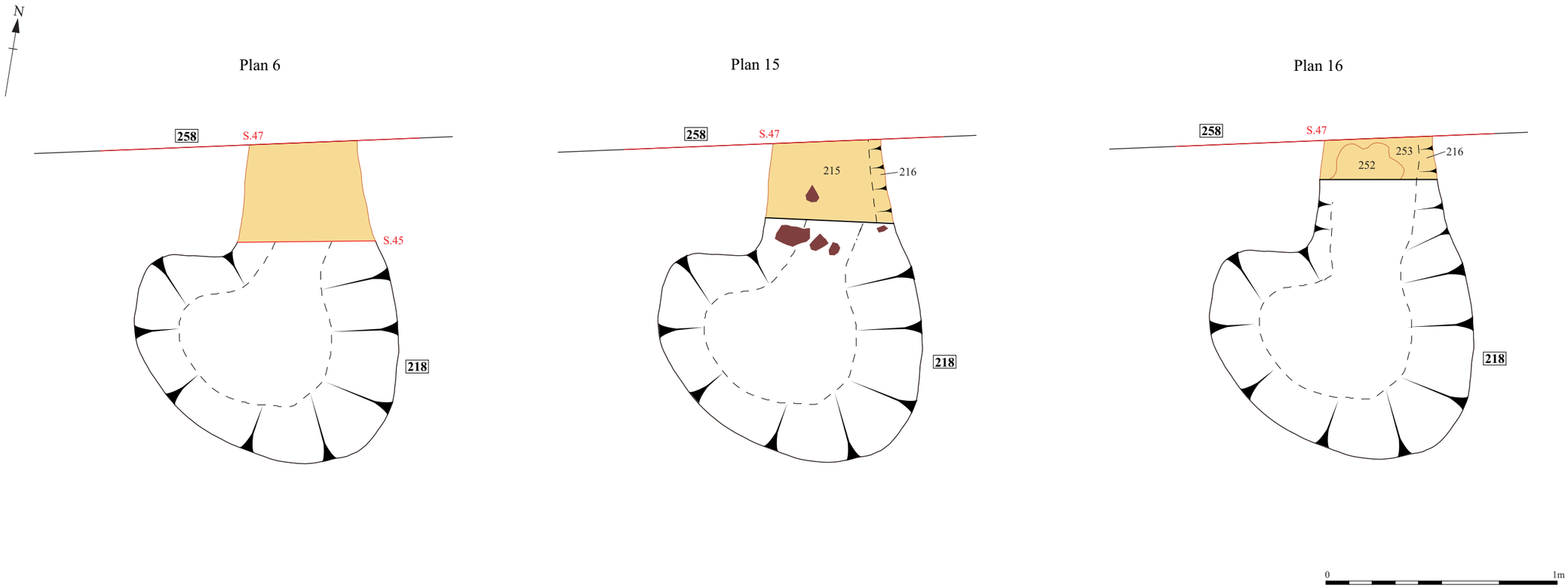


Figure 8: Kiln/Industrial features 218 and 258 (scale 1:20)

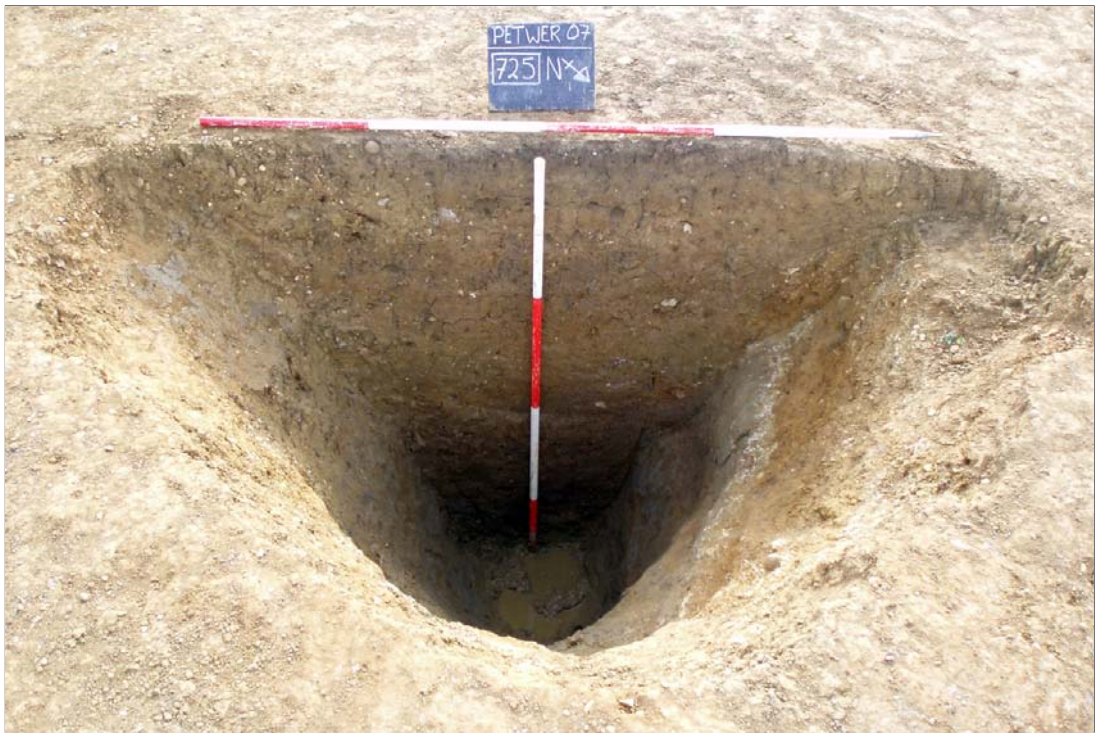


Plate 1: North east facing section of well 725

Plate 2: North east facing section of well 725 with third quadrant excavated

Plate 3: North facing section of quarry pit 548

Plate 4: Late Pre - Roman Iron Age rim sherd from large jar dating from the early 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD in ditch terminus 690

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