Beggarwood Park Community Facility and Car Park, Basingstoke

Archaeological Excavation Report

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Beggarwood Park Community Facility and Car Park, Basingstoke

Archaeological Excavation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council to undertake an archaeological excavation of the site of a proposed Community Facility and Car Park north of the Beggarwood housing estate, Basingstoke, Hampshire, SU 60036 48252. Guidance for the work required has been provided by David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council.

Limited excavations uncovered a small number of features, primarily of Roman date. Episodic earlier prehistoric activity is suggested by the presence of redeposited flint. A single Iron Age pit was excavated, alongside four Roman pits, three of which were intercutting, a Roman ditch, three undated postholes, and a further uncertain feature. Early Roman redeposited material was discovered, although the meagre ceramic evidence suggests Roman activity might have focused in the third century. No certain fourth century material was uncovered, although broad date ranges remain for much the Roman pottery. The small size of the ceramic assemblage precludes further analysis. The remains of a Roman neonatal inhumation were recovered, probably dating to the third century or before. Activity at the site might relate to a possible nearby Roman cemetery, although equally the periphery of a settlement might have been exposed.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council for commissioning this project. Thanks is also extended to David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council who monitored the work on behalf of for their advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker. The fieldwork was directed by Pete Vellet, who was supported by BJ Ware, Diana Chard and Vix Hughes. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Pete Vellet and Vix Hughes. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council to undertake an archaeological excavation of the site of a proposed Community Facility and Car Park.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref: 16/03180/BPA3). Guidance for the work required has been provided by David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process; this document outlines how OA will implement those requirements.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of the Beggarwood housing estate, Basingstoke, Hampshire (SU 60036 48252; Fig. 1). It is bordered to the south by Old Beggarwood Lane and to the west by Beggarwood Lane.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of a single arable field and lies around 160m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation of sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 71 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (http:// http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The area around the site has been extensively investigated since the 1980s in advance of residential development. This has revealed features from numerous periods, most significantly an Iron Age landscape comprising numerous enclosed settlements, as well as a deserted medieval village and church (Fig. 2).

Prehistoric Period

1.3.2 Two adult inhumations were discovered *c* 400m to the south-east of the site. Both were accompanied by Beakers, and one was additionally buried with a bronze awl (Teague 2012).

1.3.3 Within 1.3km of the site, three enclosure complexes that began in the Iron Age and continued in use into the early Roman period have been excavated (Site K: Fasham and Keevill 1995; Site B/C: Fasham and Keevill 1995; Howell and Durden 2005; Site F: Northamptonshire Archaeology 2002). A further enclosure dating solely to the Iron Age has also been discovered (Site A: Chapman 2006), alongside an early Iron Age open settlement with an overlying Roman enclosure complex (Site X/Y: Coe and Newman 1992). Evidence of further Iron Age and Roman activity has been

demonstrated by an evaluation covering *c* 10 hectares, *c* 500m to the north-west of the site (TVAS 2012).

1.3.4 A series of unexcavated cropmarks are known 100m to the NNW of the site (Coe and Newman 1992, fig. 1; Fasham and Keevill 1995, fig. 33). These have not been explored by excavation, although the morphology suggests that an Iron Age banjo enclosure is present within a multi-phased sequence of ditches. This interpretation is supported by the existence of a series of Iron Age enclosures in the immediate vicinity.

Romano-British

1.3.5 A number of the Iron Age enclosure complexes continued into the early Roman period, although evidence for their use beyond the first century AD is very limited. An evaluation 500m to the north-west of the site also only produced Roman material dating to the first century AD (TVAS 2012).

1.3.6 During the construction of community facilities immediately to the south-east of the site, a Roman urned cremation and five potentially associated vessels were discovered (Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society Newsletter 153, November 2000). These remains are indicative of an early Roman cremation burial tradition in Hampshire which can include large numbers of associated pottery vessels (e.g. Millett 1986). It was therefore thought possible that the current site may have been in the location of a Roman cemetery.

Medieval

1.3.7 A deserted church, graveyard and associated domestic features of 11th- to 15th-century date has been excavated 600m to the north-east of the site (Fasham and Keevil 1995). This is probably the village of Hatch. Little historical information is known about the site.

Undated

1.3.8 The remains of a young adult female were discovered 120m to the south of the site, initially during geo-technical excavations (AOC 2004). The grave cut was destroyed, and no additional features were encountered. The date of these remains are unknown.

2 EXCAVATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To mitigate the impacts of the proposed construction on any buried archaeological deposits or features.
ii. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
iii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
iv. To identify, recover and date any burials that are identified within the excavation area.
v. To contextualise the finding within the local and regional landscapes.
vi. To make available the results of the excavation

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the excavation were:

vii. To determine the presence or absence of the Roman cemetery and associated activity.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The excavated area totaled 0.13 hectares. This is within an area that will form the car park for new community facilities.

2.3.2 The area of excavation was set out by the client's contractor.

2.3.3 Removal of the overburden was undertaken by a suitably powered excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Removal of the overburden was undertaken in level spits of no more than 100mm down to the first archaeological horizon, or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

2.3.4 Once removal of overburden deposits was completed a digital pre-excavation plan showing any revealed features was produced using a GPS with sub 50mm accuracy.

2.3.5 A sufficient sample of revealed features was investigated by hand to establish their character and date, where possible. The focus was on establishing the date and nature of the features and how they might have functioned.

2.3.6 It was anticipated that if cremations, or inhumations, were encountered excavation and environmental sampling would have been undertaken in consultation with OA's Heritage Burial Services, under a license from the Ministry of Justice. Human remains were not recognised during excavation, although a single context producing bones from a neonatal individual were discovered during post-excavation.

2.3.7 Environmental samples were taken from datable features that exhibited potential to contain ecofacts.

2.3.8 No construction work was undertaken within the area of archaeological mitigation until the area was been signed off by David Hopkins after a site visit and via written communication.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the excavation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the archaeological features and deposits. The full list of deposits with dimensions and depths form the content of Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence was uniform across the excavation area. Natural geology of highly mixed clays and chalk, 1002, formed the upper portion of the solid chalk geology. This deposit was overlain by a subsoil, 1001, which in turn was overlain by topsoil, 1000. Archaeological features were all sealed by the subsoil and truncated the natural.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the excavation were generally good, and the site remained reasonably dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were moderately easy to identify against the underlying natural geology; however, a number of mixed patches of clays and chalk made identification more difficult in some cases (Plate 1).

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were focused in the western part of the site, with none present in the eastern side of the site (Fig. 3).

3.3.2 There were 10 or 11 negative, cut features visible within the site. These consisted of two postholes (1003 and 1023); two possible postholes (1009 and 1019=1011); four or five pits (1006, 1021, 1022, 1024 and possibly 1040), and two lengths of ditch probably originally from the same feature (excavated as 1015, 1017 and 1020).

Iron Age

3.3.3 Pit 1006 was circular in plan and contained two fills (Fig. 4; Plate 2). The sides were steep but the base undulated slightly, although this was likely to be a reflection of the geological variations beneath. The lower fill, 1007, was a mixture of redeposited subsoil and potentially topsoil. There was a very undulating and uneven horizon with the overlying fill 1008. This may reflect a dumped origin to the material or potentially the effects of root action on the two deposits. Fill 1007 contained two body sherds in a flint-tempered fabric that likely dates to the Iron Age, possibly the early Iron Age, alongside the tip of a quite fine arrowhead, probably a leaf shaped form of early Neolithic date, or a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of early Bronze Age date. The upper fill, 1008, was dark hued and appeared to derive from burnt and humic material discarded deliberately. Environmental evidence also suggests that the fill is Iron Age rather than belonging earlier in the prehistoric period. However, it was unclear whether the original function of the pit was for rubbish disposal or whether this was a secondary use. Fill 1008 contained very fine flint knapping chips and denticulate tool. It is likely that all of the flint in the pit is residual. Pit 1006 is the sole feature dated to the prehistoric period, although residual prehistoric flint was present in Roman

contexts 1016 and 1033. A number of other contexts produced possible prehistoric flint.

Roman

3.3.4 Probable pit 1040 was the first of three intercutting pits (Fig. 5). It had a flat bottom with gently sloping sides and was 0.10m deep. The sole fill, 1041, contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. This was cut by pit 1021 (Fig. 6; Plate 3). The pit was at least 5m north-south with a flat bottom, and up to 0.22m deep. The upper fill, 1029, was black in colour indicating an organic-rich deposit, or possibly evidence for burning. The fill contained 16 sherds of Roman pottery, an iron strip and possible tap slag.

3.3.5 Pit 1022 was circular in plan, measuring *c* 2.60m in diameter and 0.60m deep (Fig. 6; Plate 3). It had seven fills and was cut into the northern end of pit 1021. The second fill of the pit, 1031, contained the partial, fragmented remains of a human neonate, and no further finds. Upper fill 1033 contained Roman pottery including sherds dated between AD 240-300, three iron nail fragments and a number of flints, including an awl-like retouched flake.

3.3.6 Pit 1024 was located in the north-west corner of the site. It was elongated, measuring 5.70m long and 1.76m wide. It had a flat base and was 0.20m deep. The single fill, 1039, produced 23 sherds of pottery including four dating to the Iron Age, and Roman sherds indicating a date of AD 220-270. An undiagnostic piece of slag, three tile and two brick fragments dating to the Roman period were also discovered. Some of these were burnt, suggesting they were reused in a hearth or oven. It is likely that the fragments were brought in from a local villa or urban settlement.

3.3.7 Feature 1019=1011 was a possible oval posthole. It contained a single fill, 1018=1012, that contained two sherds of pottery broadly dated to the Roman period. The fill was greyer than the surrounding natural and was clearly distinct from it. The sediment was thoroughly mixed through and it as it was very shallow it was not possible to determine whether it was deliberate backfill or a more gradual accumulation. The deposit was probably affected by bioturbation and post-depositional processes, obscuring the original nature of the depositional environment.

3.3.8 Ditch 1015=1017 was aligned NNE-SSW and continued south beyond the site limits (Fig. 7). The ditch had a gentle V-shaped profile, and contained two fills. The lower fill, 1014, was probably derived from weathered natural edges and any stored adjacent deposits such as a bank and the exposed topsoil. This may indicate that the feature was open and left unmaintained for a time before being backfilled. The upper, main fill of the ditch, 1013, was composed of a greyish brown sediment distinct from the natural subsoil. A dense clustering of flint fragments was found along the central, linear axis of the ditch. The flints were medium sized (0.08-0.15m in diameter) and the majority were angular and appeared to have been broken, but there was no evidence of them having been burnt. They appear to indicate that the fill was a rapidly dumped deposit from a specific source, such as a bank or part of a structure. The fill contained pottery dating to between AD 43-150, an iron nail and six animal bones including three from caprines. The redeposited nature of the fill is also suggested by the later pottery

in fill 1016. Both 1015 and 1016 were from different interventions in the same ditch and are likely to have been the same fill.

3.3.9 To the north the ditch became shallower, where it was excavated as 1017. Although the plan at this point was consistent with a rounded terminus, it probably did not terminate here but petered out due to variations in the geology and the lesser depth to which it had originally been dug. The single fill, 1016, was consistent with 1013. This contained pottery dating to AD 150-410, as well as a redeposited end scraper.

3.3.10 After an interval of 2m to the north of the ditch, 1015=1017 appeared to continue as feature 1020. The feature was somewhat ambiguous and could be interpreted as an elongated pit. However, as the upper fill, 1025, was very similar in composition to 1013, in particular the nature of the fragmented flint inclusions, it is likely that the feature was part of a discontinuous section of ditch. Fill 1025 contained Roman pottery. The lower fills, 1026 and 1027, were consistent with weathered natural edges and some infilling with subsoil. This may indicate that the feature was open and left unmaintained for a time before being backfilled.

Undated

3.3.11 Posthole 1003 was small and circular, deliberately formed and contained two fills, neither of which contained any artefactual material. The lower fill, 1004, was thought to be the remains of deliberate packing material but may have been disturbed stones from the general infilling. The upper fill, 1005, was notably dark and this may have been derived from rotted organics but did not conform to a preserved postpipe.

3.3.12 Posthole 1023 was small and circular, deliberately formed and contained two fills, neither of which contained any artefactual material. The lower fill, 1037, was thought to be general infilling, either from initial levelling material or collapsed material as the post was removed. The upper fill, 1038, was notably dark and this may have been derived from rotted organics and burnt material which accrued within the upper part. There was no evidence of in situ burning and there was no preserved postpipe or packing material.

3.3.13 Feature 1009 was a possible posthole that was oval in plan and asymmetrical in profile. It contained a single fill, 1010, which yielded no artefactual material. The fill was very similar to the surrounding natural and was clearly derived from it. The feature may have been a variation in the natural as there were rounded hollows formed in the underlying chalks that have infilled with essentially geological deposits. This feature remains ambiguous, but the weight of evidence suggests it might be of natural rather than human origin.

3.4 Finds summary

3.4.1 Eighty-nine sherds of pottery were recovered from the excavations. Six dated to the Iron Age, and the remainder to the Roman period, majority with broad possible dates. However, a single sherd was dated before AD 150, two sherds dated AD 150-270, and

a further sherd dated AD 240-300. The assemblage was dominated by local fabrics, although its small size precludes meaningful interpretation.

3.4.2 A total of 115 pieces of struck flint were discovered. Earlier prehistoric items included the tip of an arrowhead, a denticulate tool, a scraper, an awl-like retouched flake, as well as a number of possible and probable broken bladelets. All appear to have been redeposited in later contexts. Debitage from breaking up flint nodules for use in a fire or perhaps construction was found. Burnt flint was also recovered, although it is unknown where this originated from.

3.4.3 Three tile fragments and a brick fragment all dating to the Roman period were found.

3.4.4 A single piece of chalk resembling a small, crude tessera was also found in a Roman context.

3.4.5 Three nail fragments, an iron strip or sheet, and further undiagnostic iron fragments alongside some slag were found in Roman contexts.

3.4.6 Approximately 40% of a neonatal individual was recovered from a Roman context.

3.4.7 Ninety-one animal bones were recovered, all from contexts dating to the Roman period. Recognised species included cattle, caprines and horse.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The ground and weather conditions were generally good with little perceivable impacts upon the results. The visibility and distinction of soils and cuts was generally good, although this varied in a few mixed patches of clays and chalk.

4.2 Excavation objectives and results

4.2.1 A specific objective of the excavation was to establish if a Roman cemetery existed at the site, as indicated by discoveries in the vicinity. The remains of a single Roman neonatal individual were discovered in a pit, showing the area was used for burial; however, this evidence alone is not enough to demonstrate the presence of a formal cemetery. Roman neonatal individuals tend not to be buried in cemeteries, and are instead more common on settlements and in other non-cemetery contexts (Millett and Gowland 2015, 173). Although a cemetery was not discovered within the excavated area, further evidence for Roman activity was uncovered. The type of activity that is represented at the site is still largely unknown; this is due in part to the limited size of the area explored.

4.2.2 The excavation was successful in demonstrating the presence or absence of archaeological features within the site, and the majority of these were dated.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 A small number of features were discovered in the limited area exposed. Redeposited earlier prehistoric flint suggests background activity of this date, and a single Iron Age pit on the edge of the excavated area also suggests further limited, undefined prehistoric activity. This complements the large amount of Iron Age activity known within the area. The small number of postholes did not form any discernible structure.

4.3.2 Roman ditch(s) 1015=1017 and 1020, coupled with pits 1021, 1022 and possibly 1024, form a linear arrangement on a NNE/SSW alignment, and comprise the majority of the recognised archaeological features. However, the function of these features is obscure as they are irregular and do not contain clear evidence for use.

4.3.3 The pits may have contained waste from an area of domestic activity that may have been associated with an undefined settlement or occupation in the area. Alternatively, the debris within the pits may relate to the known cremation in the area and could represent the ritualistic consumption of foods and fuel waste. The discovery of a neonate in pit 1022 does not necessarily show that the pit was excavated solely for burial as the individual was not placed on the base of the feature. As only a single neonate was found, no positive evidence was recovered from the site to indicate the presence of a cemetery. However, a cemetery might be present outside of the excavated area.

4.3.4 The limited assemblage of finds makes interpretation of the site difficult. The presence of Roman pottery, reused burnt tile, fragments of iron nails and a neonate burial suggests the site might have been a peripheral area to an undefined Roman settlement, or possibly a cemetery.

4.3.5 The extent of redeposition, coupled with the small pottery assemblage that often provided only broad dating evidence, makes precise phasing of the majority of the features difficult. Pottery dating from the early Roman period was recovered from a single context, 1013, although this material appears to have derived from elsewhere as the equivalent context, 1016, from a different intervention in the same ditch produced pottery dating to the middle or late Roman period. It therefore appears that the immediate area was not a focus for early Roman activity, although further sherds that might date to this period were recovered. All of the Roman activity within the vicinity of the site appears to date to the early Roman period. The presence of at least some pottery dating to the third century demonstrates the continued use of the area.

4.3.6 Two contexts produced pottery dating to the third century, 1039 and 1033. Along with the redeposited early Roman pottery in 1013, this is the best dated material. However, 1039 also produced Roman title that appears to have been brought from elsewhere and reused, casting doubt on the origin of the associated pottery. Context 1033 was the upper fill of pit 1022. This cut pit 1021, in turn cutting probable pit 1040. The sherds therefore cannot be used to accurately date the pit.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 It is difficult to assess the significance of the site given the limited area excavated and small number of features uncovered. All of the earlier prehistoric material was redeposited in later features, suggesting an undefined degree of background activity in the area. A single Iron Age pit might represent the edge of a settlement area, although might have been a more isolated feature in the landscape.

4.4.2 The majority of the features date to the Roman period, although the function of the pits and ditch is not known. These may also have been on the periphery of an area of settlement. No clear evidence has been discovered that suggests that the excavated features relate to a cemetery that may have been present in the vicinity, although this remains a possibility. Environmental samples did not provide firm evidence for the presence of pyre material. Further excavation in the area is required to better understand the nature of the Iron Age and Roman activity.

APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY AND DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-		Topsoil		-
1001	Layer	-		Subsoil		-
1002	Layer	-		Natural		-
1003	Cut	0.27	0.15	Posthole	-	Undated
1004	Fill	0.27	0.06	Fill of posthole 1003	-	Undated
1005	Fill	0.27	0.09	Fill of posthole 1003	-	Undated
1006	Cut	1.95	0.32	Pit	-	Iron Age
1007	Fill	1.95	0.09	Fill of pit 1006	IA pot; flint	Iron Age
1008	Fill	1.95	0.28	Fill of pit 1006	Flint	Iron Age
1009	Cut	0.39	0.35	Natural feature	-	-
1010	Fill	0.39	0.35	Fill of natural feature 1009	-	-
1011	Cut	-	-	Same as 1019	-	Roman
1012	Fill	-	-	Same as 1018	-	Roman
1013	Fill	1.28	0.27	Fill of ditch 1015	Ro pot; nail; bone; flint	Roman
1014	Fill	0.62	0.21	Fill of ditch 1015	-	Roman
1015	Cut	1.28	0.48	Ditch	-	Roman
1016	Fill	1.00	0.16	Fill of ditch 1017	Ro pot; bone	Roman
1017	Cut	2.00	0.16	Ditch	-	Roman
1018	Fill	0.68	0.14	Fill of posthole 1018	Ro pot	Roman
1019	Cut	0.68	0.14	Posthole	-	Roman
1020	Cut	1.95	0.29	Ditch	-	Roman
1021	Cut	1.70	0.22	Pit	-	Roman
1022	Cut	2.52	0.60	Pit	-	Roman
1023	Cut	0.42	0.24	Posthole	-	Undated
1024	Cut	1.76	0.20	Pit	-	Roman
1025	Fill	0.80	0.11	Fill of ditch 1020	Ro pot; bone	Roman
1026	Fill	0.80	0.05	Fill of ditch 1020	-	Roman
1027	Fill	0.80	0.12	Fill of ditch 1020	-	Roman
1028	Fill	1.70	0.08	Fill of pit 1021	-	Roman
1029	Fill	1.70	0.18	Fill of pit 1021	Ro pot; flint; slag; iron; bone	Roman
1030	Fill	0.38	0.16	Fill of pit 1022	-	Roman
1031	Fill	0.52	0.22	Fill of pit 1022	Inhumation	Roman
1032	Fill	0.96	0.28	Fill of pit 1022	-	Roman
1033	Fill	2.22	0.30	Fill of pit 1022	Ro pot; flint; iron; bone	Roman
1034	Fill	0.14	0.06	Fill of pit 1022	-	Roman
1035	Fill	0.50	0.20	Fill of pit 1022	-	Roman
1036	Fill	0.50	0.18	Fill of pit 1022	-	Roman
1037	Fill	0.29	0.17	Fill of posthole 1023	-	Undated
1038	Fill	0.34	0.12	Fill of posthole 1023	-	Undated
1039	Fill	1.76	0.20	Fill of pit 1024	Ro pot; Ro CBM; slag	Roman

1040	Cut	0.86	0.10	Pit	-	Roman
1041	Fill	1.20	0.10	Fill of pit 1040	Ro pot; bone	Roman

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.1.1 Eighty-nine sherds of pottery, weighing 1349g, were recovered from the site. The assemblage has been recorded in accordance with standard methodologies (Booth 2014; PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016). Within each context group, the pottery was sorted into fabrics and, where possible individual vessels based on rim. Sherds with decoration were also separated. Each 'family' of sherds was recorded by sherd count, weight in grammes and, in the case of rims, estimated vessel equivalents (EVE), which record the surviving proportion of the rim (eg 50% or 0.5 EVE if half the circumference of the rim is present). Fabric and form codes follow standard OA codes (Booth 2014), and reference was also made to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) and regional typologies (Young 1977; Lyne and Jefferies 1979). Quantification of the pottery by fabric is provided in Table 1.

Ware		Form	Sherds	Weight (g)	EVE
B	Unspecified black-burnished ware		2	9	
B11	Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1)		2	14	
B30	Wheel-made/imitation black-burnished ware	JA	1	27	0.04
E60	Flint-tempered fabric		6	61	
E80	Hampshire grog-tempered ware (HAM GT)		7	55	
M22	Oxfordshire white ware mortaria (OXF WH)	KE	1	47	0.06
O20	Sandy oxidised wares		6	75	
O20	Sandy oxidised wares	CD	4	39	0.21
O80	Coarse-tempered oxidised wares		7	292	
R	Unspecified reduced ware		5	7	
R10	Fine reduced ware		1	2	
R20	Sandy reduced ware		6	51	
R20	Sandy reduced ware	C	1	10	0.06
R30	Medium-sandy reduced ware		25	229	
R30	Medium-sandy reduced ware	C	2	20	0.13
R30	Medium-sandy reduced ware	CD	2	21	0.22
R39	Alice Holt/Farnham reduced ware (ALH RE)		3	185	
R39	Alice Holt/Farnham reduced ware (ALH RE)	CD	2	21	0.11
R39	Alice Holt/Farnham reduced ware (ALH RE)	CN	1	69	0.06
R90	Alice Holt/Farnham reduced ware (ALH RE)		5	115	
TOTALS			89	1349	0.89

Table 1. Summary of pottery from Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke. NRFRC codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) in brackets. Key: C unspecified jar; CD medium-mouthed jar; CN storage jar; JA straight-sided dish; KE bead-and-flanged mortarium

Description

B.1.2 Body sherds in a flint-tempered fabric (E60) collected from context 1007 are likely to date to the Iron Age, possibly as early as the early Iron Age. The earliest Roman-period pottery was tentatively identified in context 1013. A necked, medium-mouthed jar (CD) in fabric R39 may be a cordoned jar similar to Lyne and Jefferies (1979) class 1, which has a later 1st or early/mid 2nd century date.

B.1.3 A storage jar (CN) with a thickened, sharply everted rim in fabric R39 (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, type 3A.19) has a mid 2nd to mid/late 3rd-century date range and was recovered from context 1024. The pottery from context 1016 may also have been deposited during this period, but the diagnostic elements within the group – a body sherd in fabric B11 and a plain-rimmed, straight-sided dish (JA; the rim being delineated by a shallow groove) in fabric B30 – have longer date ranges and therefore potentially were deposited after *c* AD 250/270.

B.1.4 The latest pottery belongs to two groups dated to the mid/late 3rd century AD. Pottery indicative of this period includes a mortarium (KE) in fabric M22 (Young 1977, type M17) from context 1033 and, from context 1039, a burnished storage jar body sherd in fine sandy Alice Holt reduced ware (R39) and a jar (CD) with a flat, reeded rim (Lyne and Jefferies 1979, type 3A.20) in a sandier version of fabric R39. The Hampshire grog-tempered ware, also present in 1039, is consistent with this period.

B.1.5 The assemblage was dominated by local fabrics. The Alice Holt/Farnham industry lies some 15km south-east of Basingstoke, and inevitably its products have been identified within this assemblage (R39). Some of the pottery, typically undiagnostic body sherds, assigned the more generic code R30 may also derive from this source, if not from more local, as yet unidentified kiln sites. A hard-fired, granular fabric assigned to R20 and recovered from contact 1025 is very distinctive, containing frequent rounded quartz and black, possibly glauconitic, grains. The fabric may also have originated in the Farnham area, which is situated within a band of Upper Greensand, a potential source of the glauconitic inclusions. Hampshire grog-tempered ware (E80) arrived from south Hampshire; sources are known or suspected in the lower Test valley and Fareham (Lyne 2015, 38, 51). Other regional sources represented in the assemblage include the Oxford (M22) and Wareham/Poole regions (B11).

B.1.6 The absence of imported wares, particularly samian wares or amphora, seems remarkable, even for a low-status site, although this is likely to be due, at least in part, to the small size of the assemblage. Samian and amphorae sherds were recovered from the larger pottery assemblage at Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke (Timby 2011, table 1), but these amounted 23 sherds in a total assemblage of 2510 sherds, equivalent to a ratio of one imported sherd in every 100 sherds. On that basis, the absence of imported sherds in an assemblage of 89 sherds in the current assemblage is not surprising. Chronology is also likely to have a role, with the later Roman emphasis of the assemblage being at the end of or after the main period of importation to Britain of samian (Webster 1996, 2-3) and principal amphora types.

B.1.7 The assemblage was recovered largely from pits and interventions through ditches. Two sherds were collected from a posthole, and a further sherd was found in the

subsoil. The overall mean sherd weight (weight divided by count) was 15g, which is consistent with an assemblage that is fragmented, but not excessively so.

B.1.8 Evidence of use was seen in a body sherd from a jar in fabric B11. A white limescale-like deposit was recorded on the interior surface, suggesting that the vessel had been used to boil water. A medium-mouthed, everted rim jar (CD) in fabric O20 and the mortarium in fabric M22 are burnt, but it is difficult to be certain whether the burning was a result of use, for instance in cooking, or a post-breakage event before final deposition.

B.1.9 The assemblage is too small to gain a reliable picture of settlement status, but it is worth noting that, the imported wares apart, the assemblage is similar in terms of the range of fabrics to those recorded at the Park Prewett site (Timby 2011, table 1), interpreted as a rural site, though possibly one with a specialist, grain-processing, function (Coles *et al.* 2011, 70-1).

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.2.1 An unusual flint assemblage was recovered from this small excavation. The hand recovered assemblage amounted to just three pieces; however, four samples taken from three features added a further 112 pieces of struck flint and 165 pieces of burnt unworked flint weighing 1454g. The assemblage includes a genuine prehistoric element but many of the pieces recovered in samples probably relate to the utilisation of flint nodules for building or fire-related activities.

Description

B.2.2 One of the hand recovered flints was the tip of a quite fine arrowhead, invasively flaked over both sides. The exact form of the piece is unclear and although it is most probably a snapped leaf shaped form, it could also represent the tip from a barbed and tanged arrowhead. This piece was found in the lower fill (1007) of pit 1006, whose upper fill, 1008, contained 33 struck and 33 burnt unworked flint (588g). The assemblage comprised numerous very small flakes, fine knapping chips and one larger flint tool in darker flint. The tool was a denticulate formed on the end of a squat preparation flake and is probably residual. The remaining debitage is harder to explain as many of the flints appear to have originated from different cores and so do not look like the remains from a single knapping event that are often very rich in fine shatter. it more closely resembles the remains from the minor working of several nodules such as may relate to the breaking up of flint nodules for use in a fire or perhaps as construction material.

B.2.3 Ditch 1015/1017 produced flint from both the interventions. Ditch section 1015, fill 1013, produced a similar mix of presumably residual larger flakes alongside smaller flakes and fine knapping waste obtained from a bulk sample. The flint assemblage from

fill 2013 resembled the remaining flint-bearing fills in many ways and the assemblage may relate to the same processes described for 1008 above. Ditch fill 1016 was not sampled but hand recovery yielded a highly expedient end scraper on a large distal trimming flake. This piece had its retouch limited to just the left side of the distal end of the flake corresponding to an area of cortex. The cortex made the flake much thicker at this point, with the right side being much thinner and unsuitable for conversion into a scraper, but it did have signs of use damage along that edge.

B.2.4 Ditch 1021 contained another fill rich in small flake shatter and chips (1029). This fill was sampled and produced two broken bladelet forms alongside four small flakes and 25 knapping chips. Pit 1022 appeared to cut shallow ditch 1021, the pits upper fill, 1033, was very similar to ditch fill 1029 and also included an assemblage of small flakes and chips. This included more snapped bladelets as well as several larger flakes that are likely to have been residual as they did not look like accidently or expediently struck flakes from nodule shaping but were more regular in form and unburnt. One of these flakes had utilisation or limited retouched along its lower left and distal edges to form an awl like point.

Discussion

B.2.5 Although all the flint was recovered from Roman and possibly Iron Age contexts containing sherds of dated pottery, several flints recovered from here are clearly earlier in date. The most obvious example of this was the arrowhead tip, dated to either the early Neolithic or the early Bronze Age. Similarly, the denticulate from 1008, the end scraper from 1016 and the awl-like retouched flake from context 1033 as well as a few waste flakes are likely to be prehistoric in date. In addition to this, some of the broken bladelets look to be genuine attempts at blade production rather than accidentally struck examples that can often occur when nodules are being shaped into blocks for construction purposes. Overall, this earlier prehistoric assemblage was quite small and may simply relate to very episodic land use here rather than any more intensive activity focus. A similar pattern of limited and varied land use is indicated by the presence nearby of a Bronze Age barrow to the east of the site as well as limited levels of prehistoric activity of a domestic nature such as pits and ditches from several nearby excavations (OA 2017).

B.2.6 The hand recovered flint assemblage from the excavation was negligible. This raises issues regarding the richness of the assemblage recovered from samples taken. These samples were all from similar dark and often culturally-rich fills that may have been related to the same industrial process or processes. Given the presence nearby of a known Roman cremation cemetery (AOC 2004), it may be possible that these burnt pieces and fine chips could have related to pyre construction and the use of flint in fires. Alternatively, the flake and chip assemblage may have related to shaping or splitting of larger nodules so as to allow them to burn more evenly or spread heat more evenly when heated. They may even have simply been nodule trimming debris from utilising squared off nodules of flint as construction material. Such debris may have been collected up alongside other culturally-rich material and later incorporated into various features.

B.2.7 The burning of flint was clearly widespread on site. Although only 165 pieces weighing 1454g was recovered, all of this came from just four samples. The fills investigated were only partially sampled and would clearly have contained far more burnt flint. The key question is whether or not this burnt flint relates to prosaic domestic activity or was somehow related to pyre activity known from the adjacent excavations. Unfortunately, it is impossible to tell and the most likely explanation would probably have the burnt flint originating from a mix of both processes.

Methodology

B.2.8 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Category	1008	1013	1029	1033	Remainder
Flakes	13	9	4	4	
Blades	1		2	2	
Irregular waste	2			3	
Sieved chips	15	17	25	14	
Arrowhead					1
End scraper					1
Denticulate	1				
Retouched flake				1	
Total	32	26	31	24	2
Burnt unworked	33 (588g)	9 (37g)	40 (241g)	84 (598g)	
Burnt	3.12% (1/32)	7.69% (2/26)	16.13% (5/31)		0%
Broken	35.29% (6/17)	66.67% (6/9)	50% (3/6)	20% (2/10)	50% (1/2)
Retouched	5.88% (1/17)	0%	0%	10% (1/10)	100% (2/2)

Table 2. Flint assemblages from key contexts

B.3 Ceramic Buildings Material

By Cynthia Poole

B.3.1 Ceramic building material amounting to five fragments (442g) was recovered from a single context (1039). All the tile is of Roman date and is made in the same fabric. This is an orange red sandy clay containing a sparse scatter of fine-medium clear quartz sand and dark red ferruginous grits *c* 0.5-2mm in size. All the tiles had moulding sand over their bases of the same type as the coarser element within the fabric. The assemblage is recorded in Table 3 below.

B.3.2 The small assemblage comprises the most common varieties of Roman tile. They must have originated from a masonry building with a tiled roof, whilst the brick could have been used in walling, flooring or a hypocaust. However, the small quantity and evidence of re-use in the form of burning on some pieces suggests the tile represents secondary use on this site, brought in from outside probably from a local villa or urban settlement.

Context	No	Wt g	Form	Th (mm)	Description
1039	1	72	Tegula	22	Fragment from base edge of tegula with smooth upper surface, slightly rough irregular base and smooth slightly bevelled edge. A finger groove runs along the base of the flange, which has broken off. There is the merest hint of a type B or C cutaway (Warry 2006, 44-5, fig. 3.13). The edge and adjacent upper surface is lightly burnt grey, suggesting re-use in a hearth or oven.
1039	1	72	Tegula	26	Smooth upper surface and slightly rough base. A short straight length of shallow finger groove is likely to be that alongside the missing flange rather than a signature mark.
1039	1	30	Imbrex	18	Smooth even upper surface and flat slightly rough base. The tile is only very slightly curved suggesting the imbrex had a fairly angular profile.
1039	2	268	Brick	46	Joining fragments forming the edge of a Roman brick. The upper surface is flat and smooth, the rough with irregular depressions and the edge flat and slightly rough. The upper surface appears to be heat discoloured or lightly burnt suggesting reuse in a hearth floor.
Total	5	442			

Table 3. Summary of CBM

B.4 Metal

By I R Scott

B.4.1 There are a few iron objects and some iron fragments from this site all recovered from sieving of samples. There are also pieces of slag and cinder.

Context 1013 (1) **Nail**, complete nail with flat near circular head (2 x frags). Fe. L: 64mm. Sample <2>

Context 1029 (2) **Strip or sheet** fragment. Fe. 18mm x 17mm. Sample <3>

Context 1033 (3) **Nails**. One nail slightly domed sub-rectangular head incomplete. One nail with detached sub-rectangular head, almost complete (2 x frags), and one nail stem tip. Fe. L of near complete nail: c 42mm. Sample <4>

Context 1033 (4) **Undiagnostic iron fragments**. Comprise five small pieces and numerous tiny fragments most of which are magnetic. Some of the very small pieces may be hammerscale. Fe. Not measured. Sample <4>

The material from the sampling of context 1033 has the look of pyre deposit with nails and small amorphous pieces and tiny fragments of iron.

B.4.2 In addition to the metal objects there are few pieces of possible slag or cinder:

Context 1029 (5) **Slag**, possibly tap slag, but probably undiagnostic. Wt: 20g

(6) **Cinder or slag**. Undiagnostic. Three small pieces and one larger Wt: 20g

Context 1039 (7) **Slag**. Large piece, undiagnostic. Wt: 216g

(8) **Cinder**, small fragment. Wt: 5g.

The quantities of slag and cinder are very small and do not on their own provide evidence for metalworking on site.

B.5 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.5.1 A single piece of chalk was recovered from the upper fill of ditch 1020 (1025). This resembles a small tessera, although it is rather crude.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Charred Plant Remains

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 Four bulk soil samples were processed from the excavation at Beggarwood Lane, Basingstoke. Samples <1> (1008) from pit [1006], <3> (1029) from pit [1021] and <4> (1033) from pit [1022]. were collected from upper pit fills while sample <2> (1013) was collected from an upper fill of ditch [1015]. While sample <1> has been dated as prehistoric the remaining features have all been dated to the Roman period. It is thought that pit [1022] (sample <4>) may relate to the nearby cremation cemetery and include pyre material.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains. Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (e.g. Jacomet 2006), and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010). The charcoal from samples <3> and <4> is reported separately.

Results

C.1.3 Table 4 lists the taxa identified from each sample. Cereal grains were dominant in all samples, although the majority were fragmented with diagnostic areas of the grain largely missing or obscured as a result of burning. Glume wheat chaff was also common in all pit fills examined although again these were largely fragmented with important diagnostic features obscured by damage. A small number of glume base fragments were identifiable as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), and it would seem likely that the remainder of the cereals were also of this type.

Discussion

C.1.4 The material extracted from the flots is typical of material commonly found in Southern Britain during the Iron Age and early to middle Roman period. Together with 6-row hulled barley, spelt wheat was a staple crop in late Iron Age and Roman Britain, while bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) is only an occasional find in this period (Van der Veen 2016), and did not become a common crop until the Anglo-Saxon period. The wild seeds identified in the samples include common crop contaminants and plants which inhabit waste ground and field edges including dock, brome grass and vetch. The similarity in the assemblage from sample <1> to that in the later samples may indicate that the material derives from the Iron Age, rather than earlier in the

prehistoric period. The presence of glume wheat chaff and grain suggests that crop processing was taking place nearby, with chaff possibly used as fodder or fuel.

Sample No		**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Context No		1008	1013	1029	1033
Feature		1006	1015	1021	1022
Description		Upper pit fill	Upper ditch fill	Upper pit fill	Upper pit fill
Dates		700BC-AD43	AD43-150	AD43-410	AD240-300
Phase		Prehistoric	Early Roman	Roman	Mid/Late Roman
Volume (L)		37	35	36	36
Flot Volume (ml)		300	100	300	300
Cereal grain					
Triticum sp.	wheat	5		5	7
cf. Triticum sp.	cf. wheat	7	1	9	21
Cerealia	indet. cereal	28	5	27	140
Chaff					
Triticum dicoccum/spelta	emmer/spelt glume base	17	1	72*	45*
Triticum spelta	spelt glume base			5*	3*
Legumes, fruits & nuts					
cf. Prunus spinosa	blackthorn				4*
Wild species					
Ranunculus sp.	buttercup	1			1
Vicia/Lathyrus sp. >2 mm	vetch/vetchling/tare, etc			1	7*
Brassicaceae undiff.	cabbage family	1			
Rumex sp.	dock				2
Polygonaceae undiff.	knotweed family				3
Carex sp. (trigonous)	sedge, 3-faced			1	2
Bromus spp.	brome grass				1
Poaceae undiff.	grass, small			3	
Other					
Indet.	seed/fruit				1
*denotes number of fragments					

Table 4. Summary of environmental samples

C.2 Charcoal

By Julia Meen

C.2.1 Two of the bulk samples from Beggarwood Lane contained sufficient charcoal to warrant full analysis. These were both from contexts provisionally dated to the Roman period: the upper fill of pit 1021, and a possible pyre residue deposited into the top of pit 1022. Fifty fragments were selected from each sample and examined to identify species, initially on the transverse section using a stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification, and then on the radial and tangential sections using a Brunel Metallurgical SP-400BD microscope at up to x400 magnification. Identifications were made using the keys in Schweingruber (1990), Hather (2000) as well as online reference materials. Charcoal identifications for the two samples are given in Table 5.

C.2.2 The assemblage from pit 1021 comprised at least seven taxa, mostly shrubby trees such as hazel, field maple, buckthorn and Pomoideae type (a group of anatomically similar species including hawthorn, whitebeam, apple and rowan). Although all the taxa from this sample do grow in open woodland, they can also be found growing together in hedgerows. There is a lack of small roundwood in the assemblage, which suggests the material is not just gathered oddments, but an established hedgerow growing alongside a settlement could provide a convenient source of fuelwood and this interpretation could account for the relatively large number of taxa present. The large number of fragments (12) of buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) charcoal is fairly unusual, as it has been found relatively infrequently in charcoal assemblages and often in isolated or small quantities; the chalk geology around Beggarwood Lane would have well suited this calcareous-loving shrub.

C.2.3 The second analysed sample was thought to potentially derive from a cremation pyre. The charcoal was therefore examined with the aim of identifying whether particular fuels were favoured for the pyre, and to see if any pyre furniture or artefacts were present. The charcoal assemblage was similar to that from the first pit, in that it contained several taxa (hawthorn type, blackthorn, oak and ash), with a significant proportion from shrubby trees, although small roundwood was lacking. Although cremation pyres are sometimes dominated by a single charcoal species, and it has been suggested that in many cases a single tree may have been felled to create a pyre, this is by no means always the case and a diversity of charcoal assemblages from cremation deposits are known. The composition of the charcoal assemblage from pit 1022 does not therefore provide definitive evidence for whether it derives from a pyre: where fuel resources were scarce whatever wood was most readily available may have been collected.

	Sample Number	3	4
	Context Number	1029	1033
	Feature Number	1021	1022
	Feature Type	Upper Pit Fill	Possible pyre deposit
	Phase	Roman	Roman
	Sample Volume	36L	36L
Prunus spinosa L	blackthorn		2
Prunus cf *spinosa*	cf blackthorn		2
Prunus spp.	blackthorn/ cherry		4
cf *Prunus*	cf blackthorn/ cherry		1
Pomoideae	hawthorn type	17	17
cf Pomoideae	cf hawthorn type	1	
Pomoideae/*Prunus*			4
Rhamnus cathartica L.	buckthorn	12	
Quercus spp.	oak	5	8
Corylus avellana L.	hazel	2	
Acer campestre L.	field maple	1	
cf *Acer campestre* L.	cf field maple	1	
Fraxinus excelsior L.	ash	7 (h)	10
Indet		3	2
Indet diffuse porous		1	
Total		50	50

h = heartwood

Table 5. Summary of charcoal

C.3 Human Remains

By Helen Webb

Provenance

C.3.1 The remains of a single juvenile skeleton were recovered from deposit 1031 within large, sub-circular pit 1022. The pit measured 2.8m by 2.5m and had a total depth of 0.6m. Deposit 1031, a fairly compact, silty clay with frequent sub-angular stones, was the second earliest of seven distinct fills within the pit. The skeletal remains were not recognised as human during excavation, thus no comment was made upon the position or orientation of the skeleton. Dating evidence from the pit suggests the skeleton is Roman.

Osteological analysis results

C.3.2 Osteological analysis was undertaken in accordance with published guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004). The skeleton was approximately 40% complete, comprising the left and right mandible, left temporal bone, partial left and right arms,

left and right ribs, multiple vertebral arches and the proximal half of the of the right femur. Although highly fragmented, the bone surfaces were in good condition, exhibiting only slight, patchy surface erosion (Grade 1, McKinley 2004, 16).

C.3.3 The right humeral shaft was complete, allowing for measurement, and with a maximum length of 70mm this was in keeping with a neonate individual, around 40 weeks gestation to 1.5 months (Scheuer and Black 2000). Only two teeth, the left mandibular deciduous incisors, were present, the rest having been lost post mortem, but the level of crown development and the state of eruption was also consistent with a neonate (AlQahtani 2008). No attempt was made to estimate the sex of this juvenile skeleton, in accordance with accepted practice (Brickley 2004, 23).

C.3.4 It is worthy of note that most of the bones exhibited porous new bone growth, as may be deposited as a result of, for example, infection, metabolic disease or trauma. However, given the young age of the individual, and the diffuse and symmetrical distribution of the new bone deposits, it is more likely that this new bone represents appositional (normal) growth, which involves deposition of immature disorganised bone on the cortical surfaces (Lewis 2007, 135). No other bony abnormalities or pathological lesions were observed.

C.4 Animal Bone

By Lee Broderick

C.4.1 A total of 91 animal bones were recovered from the site, all associated with contexts dated to the Roman period (Table 6) and mostly collected by hand. Environmental samples were taken from some of the contexts and these were sieved at 10mm, 4mm and 2mm fractions, adding to the other data (Table 7).

C.4.2 The specimens were generally in poor condition at best but it was possible to identify cattle [*Bos taurus taurus*], caprines [sheep – *Ovis aries* and/or goats – *Capra hircus*], and horse (*Equus caballus*). Among the caprine remains were eight sheep specimens (all mandibular teeth of adult individuals). It was also noted that one of the large mammal specimens, probably belonging to cattle, had been burned. It is impossible to draw any further conclusions from such a small sample.

	AD43-150	AD240-300	AD150-410	AD43-410
domestic cattle		**3**		**1**
caprine	**3**	**1**		**3**
sheep				**8**
horse				**1**
large mammal	2	25	8	1
Total NISP	5	29	8	14
Total NSP	6	29	8	48

Table 6. Total NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) and NSP (Number of Specimens) figures per period from the site

	Sieved	Unsieved
Medium Mammal	2	**13**
Large Mammal	2	**39**
indet.	5	**30**
Total NISP	4	52
Total NSP	9	82

Table 7. NSP recovered from sieved and unsieved samples

	Burnt	Ageing data
domestic cattle		1
caprine		2
sheep		2
large mammal	1	
Total	1	5

Table 8. Non-species data recorded for specimens from the site

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
1013	6	16
1016	8	37
1025	7	31
1029	40	64
1033	29	78
1041	1	17

Table 9. NSP and total mass of specimens per context

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Beggarwood Park Community Facility and Car Park, Basingstoke
Site code:	A.2017.2
Grid Reference	SU 60036 48252
Type:	Excavation
Date and duration:	March 2017
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council to undertake an archaeological excavation of the site of a proposed Community Facility and Car Park north of the Beggarwood housing estate, Basingstoke, Hampshire, SU 60036 48252. Guidance for the work required has been provided by David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council. Limited excavations uncovered a small number of features, primarily of Roman date. Episodic earlier prehistoric activity is suggested by the presence of redeposited flint. A single Iron Age pit was excavated, alongside four Roman pits, three of which were intercutting, a Roman ditch, three undated postholes, and a further uncertain feature. Early Roman redeposited material was discovered, although the meagre ceramic evidence suggests Roman activity might have focused in the third century. No certain fourth century material was uncovered, although broad date ranges remain for much the Roman pottery. The small size of the ceramic assemblage precludes further analysis. The remains of a Roman neonatal inhumation were recovered, probably dating to the third century or before. Activity at the site might relate to a possible nearby Roman cemetery, although equally the periphery of a settlement might have been exposed.
Area of Site	1314m^2
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course, under the following accession number: A.2017.2.

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Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Site in relation to wider area

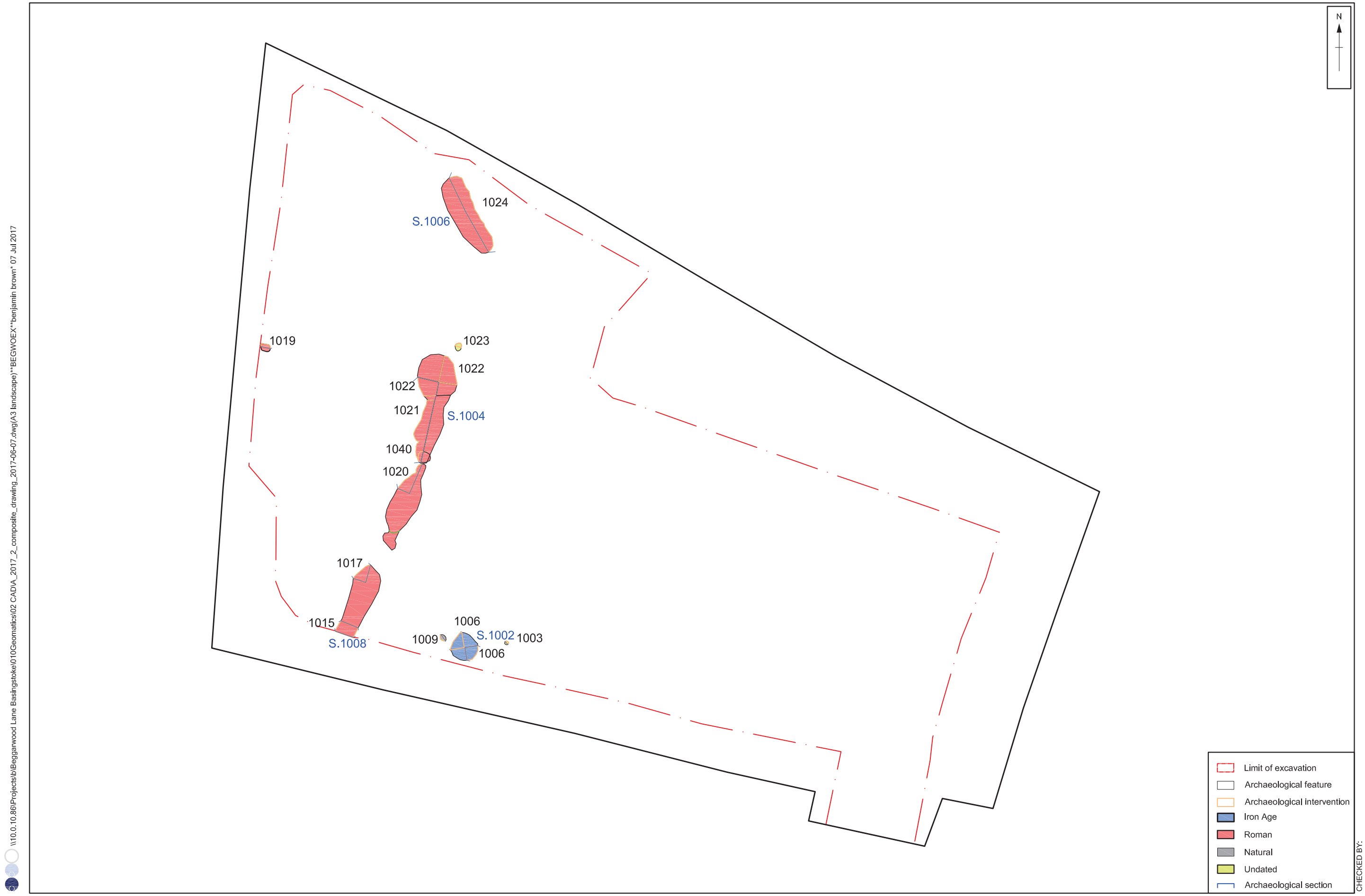

Figure 3: Phased plan of the excavations

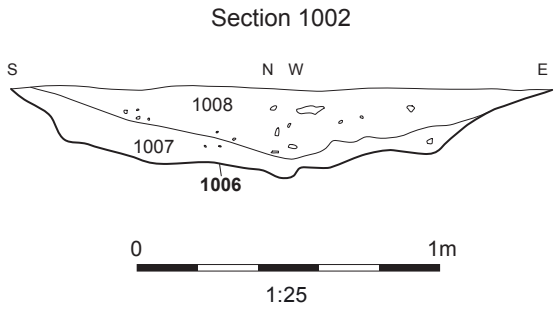

Figure 4: Section 1002, pit 1006

Section 1004

Figure 5: Section 1004, pits 1022, 1021 and 1040

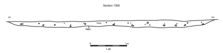

Figure 6: Section 1006, pit 1024

Section 1008

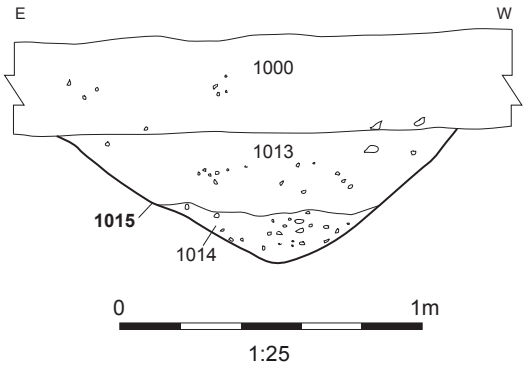

Figure 7: Section 1008, ditch 1015=1017

Plate 1: Site during stripping

Plate 2: Pit 1006

Plate 3: Pits 1022 and 1021

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