

Late Iron Age to Early Roman Settlement at Stratton Farm to Newspring Farm, Biggleswade



Excavation Report



July 2017

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Late Iron Age to Early Roman Settlement at Stratton Farm to Newspring Farm, Biggleswade

Archaeological Excavation

By Kathryn Blackbourn BA ACIfA

With contributions by James Fairbairn, Rachel Fosberry ACIfA, Ted Levermore BA, Alice Lyons BA MA MCIfA, Sarah Percival BA MA MCIfA, Ian Smith BA (Hons) MCIfA, Zoe Ui Choileáin MA MSc BBAO,

Editor: Aileen Connor BA ACIfA

Illustrator: Séverine Bézie BA MA

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Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Project Manager
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Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

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Summary

From the 2nd of May to the 30th of June 2016 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an excavation on land from Stratton Farm to Newspring Farm, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (TL 20534 43643 to TL 21146 40987). A watching brief was also conducted to the north of Edworth Road during November 2016.

A total of five areas were excavated across the site along the proposed pipeline route that ranged in size from 5m to 10m wide and 40m to 180m long. A total of 2396 sherds (weighing 23.85kg) of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery was recovered from site as well as post-medieval pottery. Area 1 was located in an area of cropmarks (HER 16157) which included evidence for a trackway. The excavation revealed ditches and pits, including the trackway ditches with a north-east to south-west alignment and was securely dated to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period. A single cremation was also uncovered in this area although a secure date was not obtained.

The ditches in Area 1 were on a varying alignment to those in Areas 2, 3 and 4. A complex settlement was recorded by cropmarks (HER 16823) immediately south-east of Area 3 and extending into the area. Some of the large enclosures were identified within the excavation although further features comprising ditches, structures and pits were also uncovered. The cropmarks did not show the settlement extending into Area 2 however the excavation identified a single structure, ditches and a large watering hole all thought to be part of this same settlement. The features identified in Area 3 comprised a number of enclosures and structures possibly of both domestic and agricultural use containing Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery. The majority of features originated in the Late Iron Age with some of the large ditches containing Early Roman pottery solely in their upper fills indicating an element of disuse at some point during the 1st century AD.

According to the HER data this recorded settlement was not expected to continue westwards into Area 4 where a separate settlement had been recorded (HER 16824). A cluster of Late Iron Age to Early Roman features were however identified at the north-east end of this area, on the same alignment as those seen in Area 3 suggesting a continuation of this settlement. A cobbled surface was also identified potentially having an agricultural function. The Late Iron Age to Early Roman settlement clearly didn't continue into Area 5 with a decline of features dating to this period and an increase in post-medieval furrows and ditches which were also seen truncating earlier features in Areas 2 to 4.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at land between Newspring Farm and Stratton Farm, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (Fig.1)
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by the Central Bedfordshire Archaeology Team (Oake 2016) supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Mortimer 2016).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by CBAT, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The geology on site comprises the Gault Formation – Mudstone with overlying superficial deposits of the Oadby member. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 1.2.2 The land rises ever so slightly from the western end of the route next to the A1 where the land sits at 43m OD and rises to the east nearest to Stratton Farm where the land measures 46.6m OD. To the east of Bibbys the land measures at 45.5m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following information has been drawn from the Bedfordshire HER (Fig. 2) and a number of evaluations and excavations in the area largely undertaken by Albion Archaeology (2003, 2004, 2015).

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 Cropmarks 900m north of the site signify a ring ditch most likely of a Bronze Age date (HER 16159). A Bronze Age spearhead consisting of copper alloy was discovered 300m west of the site (HER 18661).
- 1.3.3 A series of conjoined rectilinear enclosures with smaller separate enclosures were identified 750m west of Newspring Farm (HER 645). These enclosures are thought to be prehistoric in date and some of them lie within an area marked as 'Burnt Ground' on the 1838 tithe map.

Iron Age

- 1.3.4 A series of Iron Age features have been identified in the area, particularly around Stratton Farm. To the north of Stratton Farm an Iron age trackway was identified as cropmarks and later dated by excavations in 2003 (HER 16157). Excavations also revealed further features including ditches on varying alignments and pits containing Iron Age pottery (Albion Archaeology 2003). Other work in this area confirmed the presence of the trackway and the series of ditches already known in this area (Albion Archaeology 2004).

- 1.3.5 North of Stratton Farm, earthworks can be seen and are more extensive. Excavations here identified a ring ditch dating to the Bronze Age alongside settlement areas dated to the Iron Age but continue into the early Roman period. These areas appear to be formed of rural farmsteads (Albion Archaeology 2015).
- 1.3.6 The recent evaluation on land along the proposed pipeline route identified ditches of a late Iron Age date possibly related to the other features of this date around Stratton Farm (Bush 2016).

Roman

- 1.3.7 Directly east of Newspring Farm a series of cropmarks have been identified. These cropmarks comprise a north to south linear feature, rectilinear enclosures, a circular enclosure and quarry pits. Fieldwalking has produced Roman pottery from this area (HER 3547).
- 1.3.8 The suggested route of a Roman road that ran from Woburn to Dunton (HER 5342) can be seen 1km south east of Newspring Farm. Directly west of Newspring Farm is the route of the Roman road which run from Sandy to Godmanchester (HER 505).

Medieval and Post-medieval

- 1.3.9 Approximately 400m south-west of Stratton farm medieval ridge and furrow has been identified (HER 15661). Much of the ridge and furrow in the area has been destroyed by ploughing but a geophysical survey of this area shows an area that could be interpreted as ridge and furrow (WYAS 2002).
- 1.3.10 On Stratton business park, 400m north-west of the northern end of this site two pits dating to the late medieval or post-medieval period were uncovered and contained medieval and post-medieval pottery alongside metal objects (HER16162). These pits cut a ditch which was dated to the prehistoric period.
- 1.3.11 Medieval features and cropmarks have been identified 950m north of the site, just south of Dunton Lane. The series of linear cropmarks identified are thought to represent part of a pre-enclosure agricultural field system of ridge and furrow comprising field boundaries, a headland and a trackway (HER 17738). Concentrations of pottery have been uncovered from this area and during salvage recording post-holes, pits and ditches dating to the early medieval period were uncovered (Albion Archaeology 2002). This site is thought to relate to the expansion of the early medieval settlement at Stratton.
- 1.3.12 A medieval ampulla was discovered 500m to the west (HER 18648). It was made from lead and the chamber has relief moulded decoration on both sides.
- 1.3.13 In 1730 a field 400m north-west of the most westerly point of the site was recorded as 'Grand Burry' and may indicate the site of a former medieval manor house (HER 13932). Medieval features have been uncovered in the vicinity but none of which prove the presence of a manor (Albion Archaeology 2008). At this same time a number of other buildings were recorded here, including a former brickworks (HER 13934) and a malthouse (HER 13933). A barn is also recorded here (HER 13922).
- 1.3.14 Approximately 200m west of the site a copper alloy fragment probably from an S-shaped belt fastener dating to the 16th or 17th Century was found (HER 18597).
- 1.3.15 A gravel quarry pit was located 850m north-west of the site which dated to the post-medieval period (HER 2501). In 1838 the field 350m north-east of Newspring Farm was marked as clay pit field although no further evidence for a clay pit at this location has been found (HER 13927).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to extend thanks to Anglian Water Services for commissioning and funding the archaeological works. Thanks also to the land owners, in particular Mr and Mrs Tunnard and Mr Black.
- 1.4.2 The work on site was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Emily Abrehart, Matt Brooks, Jack Easen, Matt Edwards, Xosé Hermoso Buxán and Margaret Lenham. Site survey was undertaken by the author and Dave Brown. Machine excavation was carried out by Lattenbury Services. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and monitored by Martin Oake of CBAT.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Brief and Written Scheme of Investigation (Mortimer 2016).

2.1.2 The main aims of this excavation were

- To mitigate the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological remains. The development would have severely impacted upon these remains and as a result a full excavation was required, targeting the areas of archaeological interest highlighted by the previous phases of evaluation.
- To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

2.1.3 The aims and objectives of the excavation were developed with reference to National, Regional and Local Research Agendas (Bryant 2000, Going and Plouviez 2000, Oake 2007 and Medlycott 2011).

2.2 Regional and Site Specific Research Aims

2.2.1 A set of original research aims were identified prior to the excavation on site, further aims were identified upon excavation and both are listed below with reference to regional and local research agendas.

- The characterisation, chronology development, structure and organisation of rural settlement in the Iron Age and Roman periods (Bryant 2000: 16; Going and Plouviez 2000: 19; Oake 2007: 11 and Medlycott 2011: 31 & 47).
- Dating in the Iron Age and Roman periods, particularly the refinement of pottery dating (Bryant 2000: 16; Oake 2007: 10-11 and Medlycott 2011: 29).
- Transition between Iron Age and Roman periods (Medlycott 2011: 31). On sites of this period, does the evidence suggest a seamless transition or a change in use of the land or farmstead or continued occupation of the site but a change in building-types or agricultural practice?
- There are a wide variety of enclosure types, the character of which (domestic, agricultural, etc) is a matter for further research (Medlycott 2011:31)
- To establish the extent of the Iron Age settlement found during the evaluation phase
- To establish whether there is evidence for Roman activity after the 1st century AD

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Brief (Oake 2016) and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mortimer 2016)

2.3.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a 360 type excavator using a 2.2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.3.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

- 2.3.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.3.5 A total of five areas were excavated to cover the area of disturbance for the laying of a new water pipe. Areas 1 and 2 were situated on land to the east of Bibbys distribution centre, an area which had undergone previous works by Albion Archaeology (discussed above). The most northerly (Area 1) measured 5m by 95m. Directly south, Area 2 measured 5.5m by 40m. To the south of Bibbys distribution centre, on cropped farmland, was Area 3 which measured 9m by 150m. Finally to the west were Areas 4 and 5, the most easterly (Area 4) measured 10m by 165m and to the west was Area 5 which measured 10m by 180m.
- 2.3.6 An area measuring 165m by 15m was monitored, located north of Edworth Road, approximately 2.3km south of the excavation areas.
- 2.3.7 An area of topsoil stripping was also identified for archaeological monitoring on the western side of the A1 to the north of Edworth Road.
- 2.3.8 Environmental sampling took place on a number of features across the site, this included ditches, pits, ring gullys, post-holes, a water hole and a cremation.
- 2.3.9 The site conditions varied across the site, with rain leading to large patches of flooding, particularly in Areas 4 and 5. Deep features within Areas 2 and 3 also went below the water table making their excavation difficult. Field drains were common within Areas 3 to 5 and truncated a number of earlier features.
- 2.3.10 The results are supplemented by a context list (Appendix A), overall phase plans, in addition to a selection of sections and photographs. Cut features such as ditches or pits are shown in **bold** in the text. Finds and environmental remains are noted in the descriptions where relevant, with summaries provided at the end of the Section that give an overview of the specialist reports included as Appendices B and C. The excavation results are discussed within their wider context and with reference to the project's research aims and objectives in Section 4 aided by figures and plates.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A total of five areas were excavated following the route of the proposed pipeline (Fig. 3). These areas all varied in size but contained features dating to two main phases of activity; Late Iron Age to Early Roman and post-medieval. A variety of features were uncovered across the site including 60 ditches, 31 pits, beam slots, post-holes and ring gullies representing structures, a watering hole, a cobbled surface and a cremation. Furrows were also identified.
- 3.1.2 The features identified on site are largely attributed to a Late Iron Age and Early Roman phase of activity bar a small number of post-medieval and unphased features. The following section describes the results of the fieldwork by phase, with features being grouped where possible with relation to their wider archaeological context.

3.2 Late Iron Age to Early Roman (Phase 1 – 50BC to 75 AD)

- 3.2.1 The majority of the features uncovered on site have been attributed to a Late Iron Age to Early Roman phase and features from this phase are found in all five areas and the watching brief area indicating a large Late Iron Age and Early Roman presence which had already been suggested by the HER data for the surrounding areas. The features dated to this phase largely comprise features indicative of settlement, such as enclosures, structures and a cobbled surface.

Area 1 (Fig 4)

- 3.2.2 Only a small number of features were identified in Area 1 largely comprising ditches, pits and a cremation. Two of the ditches have been identified as forming part of a trackway recorded via earthworks (HER16157) that runs north-east to south-west through the area.

Trackway Ditches

- 3.2.3 Recorded by the HER via cropmarks was a trackway with a north-east to south-west alignment lined either side by a ditch running through Area 1. Ditch **319** ran along the northern side of the trackway and measured 2.1m wide and 0.36m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base (Plate 1, Section 113 Figure 10a). Its single fill (320) consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silt that contained 63 fragments of animal bone.
- 3.2.4 Ditch **342** lie to the south of the trackway and measured 2.2m wide and 0.52m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base (Plate 2, Section 127 Figure 10a). This ditch contained a single fill (343) that consisted of a dark brown grey sandy silt that contained 98g of Late Iron Age pottery and 26 fragments of animal bone, charred cereal grain and bromes were also recovered from this fill. This fill was cut by ditch **334**.

Ditches

- 3.2.5 Seven further ditches were identified throughout Area 1 the majority of which had a north-east to south-west alignment. At the northern end of the area was ditch **317** which was aligned roughly north-east to south-west and terminated within the excavation area at its north-eastern end. This ditch measured 0.7m wide and 0.27m deep. Its single fill (318) consisted of a mid brown grey silty sand that contained 14g of Late Iron Age pottery and 10 fragments of animal bone.

- 3.2.6 Ditch **315** was located 11m to the south-east and had a roughly north-east to south-west alignment. This ditch terminated within the excavation area at its south-western end and measured 0.5m wide and 0.18m deep and contained a single fill (316) which consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silt that contained 392g of Late Iron Age pottery.
- 3.2.7 Ditch **334** had a roughly east to west alignment and measured 0.84m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (335) contained six fragments of mammal bone.
- 3.2.8 Two parallel ditches were identified to the south of this (**336** and **338**) with a north-east to south-west alignment. Ditch **336** measured 0.55m wide and 0.16m deep. Its single fill (337) consisted of a mid reddish brown grey sandy silt that contained no finds. Ditch **338** measured 0.47m wide and 0.08m deep, and terminated within the excavation area. Its single fill (339) consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silt that contained 28g of Late Iron Age pottery.
- 3.2.9 Located 4.7m to the south-east was ditch **347** with a north-east to south-west alignment. It measured 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep and its single fill (348) consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silt that contained 6g of Late Iron Age pottery and a single fragment of animal bone.
- 3.2.10 At the southern end of the area was ditch **344** which was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 1.46m wide and 0.7m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (346) measured 0.4m thick and consisted of a light orange silty clay that contained 8g of Early Roman pottery and 13 fragments of animal bone. Overlying this was fill 345 that measured 0.3m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt.

Pits

- 3.2.11 Directly north of ditch **315** was pit **321** which measured 1.2m wide and 0.16m deep, its single fill (322) consisted of a mid grey brown silty sand.
- 3.2.12 Pit **313** was located 2.5m to the south and measured 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill (314) consisted of a mid red grey sandy silt that contained 97g of Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone. Charred cereal grain was also recovered from this fill.

Cremation

- 3.2.13 Immediately south of ditch **334** was cremation **332** that measured 0.43m wide and 0.08m deep with gently sloped sides and concave base (Plate 3, Section 122 Figure 10a). Its single fill (333) consisted of a dark grey silty sand that contained 321g of burnt bone that was primarily white suggesting all of the bone was exposed to a consistent heat (Appendix C.1).

Area 2 (Fig. 5)

- 3.2.14 Area 2 contained few features dating to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period including ditches, Structure 1 and a large watering hole. Three post-medieval furrows were also identified, two of which truncated the earlier features.

Ditches

- 3.2.15 At the southern end of Area 2 was ditch **305** that had a north to south alignment and measured 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep and contained a single fill (306). This fill consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay that contained a single fragment of cattle bone and 18g of Late Iron Age pottery.

- 3.2.16 The relationship between a watering hole and two ditches was uncertain, ditch **309** had a north-east to south-west orientation and measured 1m wide and 0.52m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Plate 4), its single fill (310) consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay that contained 86g of Late Iron Age pottery and 13 fragments of animal bone. This ditch was truncated on its northern side by ditch **311**. This ditch also had a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep with moderately sloped slides and a concave base. Its single fill (312) consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay that contained 310g of Late Iron Age pottery and 5g of Early Roman pottery and four fragments of animal bone.

Watering hole

- 3.2.17 The most prominent feature within this area was large watering hole **329** which was not fully uncovered and measured 8m long, 4m wide and 1.1m deep with sloped sides and a concave base (Sections 119, 120 and 121, Figure 10a). This watering hole contained two fills, the basal fill (331) measured 0.4m thick and consisted of a mid yellow brown clayey silt that contained 224g of Late Iron Age pottery and 19g of Early Roman pottery and 48 fragments of animal bone. Overlying this was fill 330 that measured between 0.9m and 1.1m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt that contained very little animal bone. Ditch **309** and watering hole **329** were truncated by post-medieval furrow **307**.

Structure 1

- 3.2.18 To the north-west the partial remains of a ring gully were uncovered (Structure 1), although truncated by a furrow. Three slots were excavated into this ring gully (**323**, **325** and **327**) and measured between 0.2m to 0.22m wide and 0.05m to 0.08m deep. This ring gully contained a single fill (324, 326 and 328) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt with rare stone inclusions. Fill 324 contained 22g of Late Iron Age pottery and was environmentally sampled but contained no preserved remains.

Area 3 (Fig. 6)

- 3.2.19 This area contained the most extensive archaeology, the majority of which dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman phase although a large post-medieval ditch was observed running through this entire area with a north-east to south-west orientation. Many of the features identified in this area were previously recorded as earthworks by the HER although further remains have also been identified. Ditches were a common features, with some of the larger examples forming the enclosures mapped by the HER alongside these are a number of structures and also pits all relating to settlement.

Enclosure Ditches identified via HER (Fig. 2)

- 3.2.20 Cropmarks revealed a ditch in the centre of Area 3 which is represented by ditch **126** which had a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and measured 3.6m wide and 0.24m deep. Its single fill (127) consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 140g of Late Iron Age pottery, 23g of Early Roman pottery and 26 fragments of animal bone.
- 3.2.21 Enclosure 1 was very clear via cropmarks and comprised two main ditches and later re-cuts. This enclosure has also been truncated by ditch **269**. The western side of this enclosure is represented by a ditch (**241**) with a north to south alignment and measuring 5.7m wide and 1.26m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Section 88, Figure 10b). This ditch contained three fills, the basal fills were 244 and 245. Fill 244 measured 1.06m wide and 0.8m thick, fill 245 measured 1.8m wide and 0.35m thick, both fills consisted of a light yellow orange silty clay with frequent angular stones.

These fills represented slumping events. Overlying this was fill 242 which measured 2.4m wide and 0.76m thick. It consisted of a dark yellow brown clayey silt that contained 1130g of Late Iron Age pottery and 66 fragments of animal bone. This part of the enclosure was later re-cut (**246**) where it measured 4.3m wide and 0.9m deep (Section 88, Figure 10b). This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (247) measured 4.1m wide and 0.6m thick and consisted of a very dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 10 fragments of animal bone, 57g of fired clay and an iron nail (SF 11). This fill was environmentally sampled and contained charred cereal grains, legumes and charcoal. Overlying this was fill 248 which measured 4.3m wide and 0.3m thick, this fill consisted of a mid grey brown silt that contained occasional stones and 257g of Late Iron Age pottery, 29g of Early Roman pottery, 29 fragments of animal bone, 77g of fired clay and 3g of oyster shell.

- 3.2.22 This ditch continued to the north (**258**) where it measured 3.9m wide and 1.4m deep with steep sides and a fairly concave base (Section 91, Figure 10b). Here the ditch contained three fills, the basal fill (259) measured 3.2m wide and 0.66m thick and consisted of a mottled mid grey orange clay with frequent medium angular stones. This fill contained Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery, 55 fragments of animal bone and 95g of fired clay kiln bars. Overlying this was fill 260 which measured 3.9m wide and 0.65m thick and consisted of a mid to dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 124g of Late Iron Age pottery and 32 fragments of seven fragments of animal bone. The uppermost fill (261) measured 3.7m wide and 0.4m thick and consisted of a light yellow brown clayey silt that contained frequent large angular stones. This fill contained 16g of Late Iron Age pottery and 62g of Early Roman pottery and animal bone and was cut by northern side of the enclosure (**262**) on its eastern side (Plate 6, Section 91 Figure 10b).
- 3.2.23 The northern side of Enclosure 1 (**262**) had a slightly north-west to south-east alignment and measured 1.2m wide and 1m deep with a steep north-west side and a concave base. This ditch contained three fills, the basal fill (263) measured 1m wide and 0.44m thick and consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 95g of Late Iron Age pottery and six fragments of cattle bone. This fill was environmentally sampled and contained a single charred cereal grain and a spike-rush. Overlying this was fill 264 that measured 1.1m wide and 0.34m thick, this fill consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt that contained 84g of Late Iron Age pottery, 31g of Early Roman pottery, two fragments of animal bone and 39g of a fired clay kiln bar. The uppermost fill 265 measured 1.2m wide and 0.24m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt with frequent large stone inclusions. This fill contained 292g of Late Iron Age pottery, seven fragments of animal bone and 90g of fired clay kiln bar fragments.
- 3.2.24 This part of the enclosure has then been re-cut (**266**) and its full dimensions were recorded as 3.3m wide and 1.12m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Section 91, Figure 10b). This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (267) measured 2.2m wide and 0.42m thick and consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt that contained 19 fragments of animal bone. Overlying this was fill 268 which measured 3.3m wide and 0.7m thick. This fill consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 192g of Late Iron Age pottery and 75g of Early Roman pottery and 11 fragments of animal bone.
- 3.2.25 At the eastern end of the Area a final enclosure ditch was identified via cropmarks with a north-east to south-west alignment. Ditch **279** measured 0.86m wide and 0.48m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (280) that consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt that contained 13g of Late Iron Age pottery, 11g of Early Roman pottery, 10 fragments of animal bone and 40g of tile. This appears to have been re-cut, ditch **271**

also had a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 0.9m wide and 0.44m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (272) that consisted of a mid to dark yellow grey clayey silt that contained 50g of Late Iron Age pottery and 20 fragments of animal bone. Post-medieval ditch **269** truncated this ditch.

Ditches

- 3.2.26 At the south-west end of the area was ditch **139** which had a roughly north to south alignment, it measured 2.94m wide and 0.74m deep with sharp sides and a concave base (Section 58, Figure 10a). The basal fills (150 and 151 most likely the same fill and also known as 155) consisted of a mid red brown silty clay which represented a slumping event. This ditch then appeared to have been re-cut (**153**) that measured 0.82m wide and 0.5m deep and removed some of the slump material. The fill of re-cut **153** is 154 (also known as 156) and consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt which contained both 719g of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery, 50 fragments of animal bone and 48g of fired clay. Overlying this was a final disuse fill (152 also known as 157) which measured 2.44m wide and 0.29m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay with no finds. This fill was environmentally sampled and contained spelt wheat, legume, bromes, darnel, mallows, blinks, ribwort plantain, grass, sheeps sorrel, clovers and rushes. These most likely occur as a result of being within close proximity to domestic dwellings.
- 3.2.27 Ditch **139** was truncated on its south-east side by ditch terminus **158** which also had a roughly north to south alignment and measured 1.54m wide and 0.33m deep. Its single fill (159) consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay that contained no finds.
- 3.2.28 Approximately 19m to the north-east was ditch **140** which had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 2m wide and 0.43m deep with sloped sides and a concave base. This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (141) measured 0.8m wide and 0.43m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay that contained 574g of Late Iron Age pottery and 35g of Early Roman pottery, 22 fragments of animal bone, 144g of fired clay and a fragment of copper alloy brooch (SF 8). Overlying this was fill 142 which measured 1.2m wide and 0.43m thick and consisted of a dark grey clayey silt that contained 139g of Late Iron Age pottery, 27g of Early Roman pottery, 53 fragments of animal bone, 103g of fired clay, 5 iron nails (SF 4, 5, 67 and 10) and 2g of oyster shell.
- 3.2.29 Ditch **132** had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 2.64m wide and 0.6m deep with moderate sides and a concave base (Plate 5, Section 53 Figure 10a). This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (138) measured 0.38m thick and consisted of a mottled dark brown grey and mid grey orange silty clay that contained 105g of Late Iron Age pottery and 15 fragments of animal bone. Overlying this was fill 133 which measured 0.25m thick and consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay that contained 1470g of Late Iron Age pottery, 143g of Early Roman pottery, 120 fragments of animal bone, 406g of fired clay and 3 iron nails (SF 2, 3 and 9).
- 3.2.30 Directly north was ditch **128** which had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 0.58m wide and 0.16m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (129) that contained no finds.
- 3.2.31 A series of truncated ditches were uncovered in the centre of Area 3 with a north-west to south-east alignment and are presumed to have terminated in the area where they were truncated by ditch **269**. Ditch **175** measured 1m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Section 62, Figure 10b). Its single fill (176) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt that contained 359g of Late Iron Age pottery and 9 fragments

of animal bone. This fill was environmentally sampled and contained a single barley grain.

- 3.2.32 Ditch **173** (also recorded as **197**) measured 0.76m wide and 0.26m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Section 62, Figure 10b). Its single fill (174) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt that contained 44g of Late Iron Age pottery and four fragments of animal bone. To the north-east ditch **186** was aligned north-west to south-east and appeared to terminate where truncated by ditch **269**. This ditch measured 0.85m wide and 0.3m deep, its single fill (187) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay that contained 82g of Late Iron Age pottery.
- 3.2.33 Curvilinear ditch **220** had a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment at the point of excavation but further south-west it curved to the east where it was aligned roughly east to west. This ditch measured 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a concave base and contained two fills. The basal fill (221) measured 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep and consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay that contained 110g of Late Iron Age pottery and five fragments of animal bone. Overlying this was fill 222 which measured 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep and consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay that contained 11g of Late Iron Age pottery and 17g of Early Roman pottery. This ditch was truncated at its northern end by ditch **218**. Ditch **218** had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep with sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (219) consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay that contained five fragments of animal bone.
- 3.2.34 Both these ditches were truncated by ditch **249** which had a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and measured 1.4m wide and 0.76m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This ditch contained three fills, the basal fill (250) measured 1m wide and 0.44m thick and consisted of a mid red brown clayey silt that contained animal bone. Overlying this was fill 251 which measured 0.74m wide and 0.28m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silty clay that contained 140g of Late Iron Age pottery and a fragment of animal bone. The uppermost fill (257) measured 0.92m wide and 0.38m thick and consisted of a mid red brown silty clay that contained 36g of Late Iron Age pottery and 13 fragments of animal bone. This fill was cut by ditch **252**.
- 3.2.35 Ditch **252** measured 1.3m wide and 0.46m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (253) measured 1.3m wide and 0.46m deep and consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay that contained no finds. Overlying this was fill 254 that measured 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep and consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt that contained 38g of Late Iron Age pottery and 8 fragments of animal bone.
- 3.2.36 Directly east was ditch **237** which had an unknown relationship with ditch **249**. Ditch **237** had a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and measured 1m wide and 0.46m deep with near vertical sides and a flat-ish base. This ditch contained a single fill (238) which consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt that contained 10g of residual Early Iron Age pottery, 156g of Late Iron Age pottery and 21 fragments of animal bone. This fill was environmentally sampled and contained a single spelt wheat grain.
- 3.2.37 At the north-west end of Area 3 was ditch **233** which had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 1m wide and 0.25m deep with sloped sides and a flat base. This ditch contained a single fill (234) which consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 177g of Late Iron Age pottery and 14 fragments of animal bone.
- 3.2.38 Directly north, ditch **277** was also aligned north-west to south-east and measured 2.2m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sides and flat base. Its single fill (278) consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt that contained 184g of Late Iron Age pottery and 7g of Early

Roman pottery and 14 fragments of animal bone. Further south-east this ditch was excavated and recorded as **281** where it measured 1.68m wide and 0.43m deep, its single fill (282) contained 34g of Late Iron Age pottery and seven fragments of animal bone. Both these ditches were cut by ditch **279**.

Pits

Pit group 1

- 3.2.39 Pit group 1 was located towards the north-western end of Area 3 and are within an area that measured 4.3m by 4m (Plate 7). Pit **200** was the most eastern of this group and measured 0.8m wide and 0.48m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. This pit contained two fills, the basal fill (226) measured 0.1m thick and consisted of a mid reddish brown clayey silt. Overlying this was fill 201 that measured 0.48m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt with frequent angular flint and occasional large stone inclusions and 6g of Late Iron Age pottery and 12 fragments of animal bone.
- 3.2.40 The southern most pit, (**223**) measured 0.5m wide and 0.32m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (224) measured 0.5m wide and 0.26m deep and consisted of a mid red brown silty clay. Overlying this was fill 225 that measured 0.5m wide and 0.06m deep and consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt that contained very small amounts of animal bone. Charred cereal grains were also recovered from this fill.
- 3.2.41 Directly north was pit **203** which measured 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep (Section 73, Figure 10a) and contained a single fill (204) which consisted of a dark grey clayey silt with charcoal inclusions and 1g of Late Iron Age pottery and two fragments of medium mammal bone. This pit was truncated by pit **207** which measured 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep (Section 73, Figure 10a). This pit contained two fills, the basal fill (208) measured 0.8m wide and 0.12m deep and consisted of a dark yellow grey silty clay. The uppermost fill (209) measured 1.1m wide and 0.28m deep and consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt that contained four fragments of large mammal bone. A single charred cereal grain was recovered from this fill.
- 3.2.42 Pit **210** was located to the north and measured 1m wide and 0.35m deep with sloped sides and concave base (Section 73, Figure 10a). This pit contained two fills, the basal fill (211) measured 0.7m wide and 0.1m thick and consisted of a mid yellow brown silty clay that contained nine fragments of animal bone. Overlying this was fill 212 which measured 0.25m thick and consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. This fill contained 54g of Late Iron Age pottery, five fragments of animal bone and a series of charred grains including dry land herbs.
- 3.2.43 Immediately to the east of these pits was pit **227** which measured 0.37m wide and 0.22m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (228) measured 0.12m thick and consisted of a mid red brown sandy silt. Overlying this was fill 229 that measured 0.1m thick and consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt that contained a single fragment of animal bone.

Other pits

- 3.2.44 At the western end of Area 3, to the east of ditch **139** was pit **179** that measured 0.42m wide and 0.2m deep, its single fill (180) consisted of a light brown grey silty clay that contained 1g of Late Iron Age pottery and one fragment of animal bone.
- 3.2.45 Pit **143** was located directly south west of ditch **132**. This pit measured 1.3m wide and 0.75m deep (Plate 8, Section 55 Figure 10a) and was most likely used for rubbish disposal. The basal fill (145) measured 0.27m deep and consisted of a light brown

yellow silty clay with frequent angular stones. This fill contained 421g of Late Iron Age pottery alongside five fragments of animal bone. Overlying this was fill 144 which measured 0.48m deep and consisted of a dark bluey grey clayey silt that contained 577g of Late Iron Age pottery alongside 32 fragments of animal bone, 105g of fired clay and a brooch spring (SF 12). This fill also contained a large assemblage of spelt wheat grains and other grains such as bromes, small seeded docks and clovers.

- 3.2.46 In the centre of Area 3 was pit **136** that measured 0.56m wide and 0.16m deep and contained a single fill (137) which consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay which contained 1g of Late Iron Age pottery. Pit **146** measured 1.22m wide and 0.26m deep with moderately sloped sides and a flat base (Plate 9). This pit contained a single fill (147) which consisted of a dark grey brown silty clay that contained 599g of Late Iron Age pottery, 13 fragments of animal bone and 196g of fired clay kiln furniture.
- 3.2.47 Approximately 10.5m to the north-east was pit **239** which measured 1m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a single fill (240) which consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 18g of Late Iron Age pottery.
- 3.2.48 To the east, pit **196** was located within a possible roundhouse and measured 1m wide and 0.68m deep with very steep sides and a concave base (Section 66, Figure 10b). This pit contained three fills, the basal fill (195) measured 0.5m wide and 0.28m deep and consisted of a mid yellow grey silty clay with frequent flint and stone inclusions. Overlying this was fill 194 which measured 1m wide and 0.3m deep which consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt and contained 53g of Late Iron Age pottery, 564g of Early Roman pottery and 12 fragments of animal bone. The uppermost fill (193) measured 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep and contained frequent flint and stone inclusions and represented a dump of re-deposited natural. This fill was cut by pit **181** (Plate 10).
- 3.2.49 Pit **181** measured 0.9m wide and 0.26m deep with a sharp northern side and a sloped southern side and a concave base (Section 66, Figure 10b). This pit contained two fills, the basal fill (182) measured 0.9m wide and 0.24m deep and consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal inclusions and 159g of Late Iron Age pottery, 25g of Early Roman pottery and a single cattle bone. This fill was environmentally sampled and contained spelt wheat and barley grains alongside small legumes, rushes, crop and pasture seeds. Overlying this was 192 which measured 0.5m wide and 0.04m deep and consisted of a light orangey yellow silty clay that was cut by ditch **197**.
- 3.2.50 Directly west was pit **188** that measured 1.35m wide and 0.3m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. Its single fill (189) consisted of a mid brownish grey silty clay with 3g of Late Iron Age pottery.
- 3.2.51 At the north-east end of the area was pit **235** which was truncated by ditch **233**. This pit measured 1.3m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a single fill (236). This fill consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 10g of Late Iron Age pottery and 14 fragments of animal bone.

Structures

Structure 2

Two slots were excavated into a ring gully which was only partially visible in the excavation area (Plate 11). Ring gully **124** measured 0.3m wide and 0.15m deep with sloped sides and a concave base (Section 49, Figure 10a). Its single fill (125) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay that contained 27g of Late Iron Age pottery and nine fragments of animal bone. To the west this ring gully was recorded as **130** where it

measured 0.3m wide and 0.13m deep, its single fill (131) contained three fragments of animal bone and 65g of fired clay.

Structure 3

- 3.2.52 Immediately north of Structure 2 was a section of curvilinear ditch. Ring ditch **216** (also recorded as **185**) that had a north north-east to south south-west alignment and measured 0.6m wide and 0.16m deep, its single fill (217) consisted of a dark grey brown silty clay and contained 170g of Late Iron Age pottery, a fragment of animal bone and 58g of fired clay.

Structure 4

- 3.2.53 Two slots were excavated into a square structure, only half of which was visible as the other half had been truncated by post-medieval ditch **269** (Plate 12). Beam slot **183** was aligned east south-east to west north-west and measured 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep with a u-shaped profile (Section 68, Figure 10a). This beam slot contained a single fill (184) which consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay that contained 194g of Late Iron Age pottery, 17 fragments of animal bone, 33g of possible Roman tile and 231g of fired clay including fragments of kiln furniture. A single spelt wheat grain was also recovered from this fill. Beam slot **199** was aligned north north-east to south south-west and measured 0.35m wide and 0.14m deep and contained a single fill (215). This fill contained 59g of Late Iron Age pottery and two fragments of animal bone.

Structure 5

- 3.2.54 A square structure formed of beam slots and post-holes was identified centrally within Area 3 and was partially truncated by post-medieval ditch **269**. Beam slot **161** (also known as **169**) had a north to south alignment and measured 0.32m wide and 0.15m deep with a U-shape profile (Section 59, Figure 10a). This beam slot contained a single fill (162) which consisted of light grey brown silty clay that contained 40g of Late Iron Age pottery, 5 fragments of animal bone and 5g of fired clay. To the south of this was post-hole **163** which measured 0.54m wide and 0.18m deep, its single fill (164) contained 1g of Late Iron Age pottery and 5 fragments of medium mammal bone. Beam slot **165** had an east to west alignment and measured 0.28m wide and 0.1m deep, its single fill 166 contained 8 fragments of animal bone. Post-hole **167** measured 0.63m wide and 0.3m deep, its single fill (168) contained 1g of Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone. The fills of beam slot **161** and post-hole **167** (162 and 168) contained barley grain and charcoal.

Structure 6

- 3.2.55 North-east of Structure 3 was ditch **148** which had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 1m wide and 0.52m deep with steep sides and a slightly v-shaped base. This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (160) measured 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep and consisted of a mid orange brown silty clay. Overlying this was fill 149 that measured 1m wide and 0.3m deep its fill consisted of a mid to dark brown grey clayey silt that contained 10g of Late Iron Age pottery and 2 fragments of animal bone. This ditch was seen curving at its eastern end where it was then truncated by post-medieval ditch **269**. This ditch continued to curve to become ditch **190**. Ditch **190** was aligned north north-east to south south-west and measured 0.45m wide and 0.23m deep. Its single fill (191) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt that contained 7g of Late Iron Age pottery and three fragments of sheep/goat bone.

Structure 7

- 3.2.56 Towards the north-east end of the area was three beam slots (**213**, **275** and **255**). Beam slot **213** was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 1.26m long, 0.36m wide and 0.16m deep. This beam slot contained a single fill (214) that consisted of a dark grey brown sandy silt that contained 24g of Early Roman pottery, five fragments of animal bone, 26g of fired clay and 2g of ceramic building material. This beam slot formed a 'T' shape with beam slot **275** which had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 0.3m wide and 0.06m deep. The single fill (276) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt that contained 25g of Late Iron Age pottery and a very small amount of animal bone. A single charred grain was also recovered from this fill.
- 3.2.57 Approximately 2.5m north-east was beam slot **255** which had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 0.38m wide and 0.16m deep. Its single fill (256) consisted of a dark grey brown sandy silt that contained 12g of Early Roman pottery and 5 fragments of animal bone.

Other features

- 3.2.58 Near to pits **136** and **146** was single post-hole **134** which measured 0.64m wide and 0.44m deep, its single fill (135) consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay that contained 8g of Late Iron Age pottery and a single fragment of sheep/goat bone.
- 3.2.59 Post-hole **205** was located by pit group 1 and measured 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (231) measured 0.08m thick. Overlying this was fill 232 which measured 0.12m thick and consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt. This post-hole was truncated by pit **207**.

Area 4 (Fig. 7)

- 3.2.60 Fewer features dating to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman phase were identified in this area although a concentration of activity has been identified at the north-east end, most likely directly related to the similar features identified in Area 3. No cropmarks were identified in this area however ditches, pits and a cobbled surface were uncovered. The post-medieval activity in this area increased with several furrows being present.

Ditches

- 3.2.61 At the eastern end of the area were two ditches. Ditch **43** was on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and measured 0.72m wide and 0.22m deep with sloped sides and a concave base. This ditch is thought to form part of a boundary or enclosure. Its single fill (44) consisted of a mid red brown silty clay that contained 23g of Late Iron Age pottery, two fragments of large mammal bone and 2g of oyster shell. Ditch **45** was located just to the north of ditch **43** and was aligned roughly east to west. This ditch measured 1.05m wide and 0.33m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (46) consisted of a mid red brown silty clay. Overlying this was fill 47 that consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay that contained 10g of Early Roman pottery and four fragments of large mammal bone. A relationship between these two ditches could not be observed due to truncation from a later furrow.
- 3.2.62 On the same alignment, located approximately 30m to the south-west was ditch **48** which potentially formed part of an enclosure or boundary. This ditch measured 1.06m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base (Plate 13, Section 18 Figure 10a), and contained two fills. The basal fill (49) measured 0.15m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown sandy clay. The uppermost fill (50) measured 0.25m thick and consisted of a dark grey brown sandy clay that contained 495g of Late Iron Age pottery, 77g of Early Roman pottery, a fragment of large mammal bone and 337g of fired clay including possible kiln furniture.

- 3.2.63 In the centre of Area 4 was ditch **69** which had a roughly north to south alignment and terminated within the excavation area. This ditch measured 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep with steep sides and a flatish base. Its single fill (70) consisted of a mid red brown silty clay that contained 61g of Late Iron Age pottery and a single spelt wheat grain. Truncating this was ditch **71**, on the same alignment. This ditch measured 0.65m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a single fill (72).

Cobbled surface

- 3.2.64 Between ditches **43**, **45** and **48** was a small area of cobbled surface. Cobbled surface **117** measured at least 6m long, 3.5m wide and 0.15m deep (Plate 14). The cobbles consisted of large sub-angular and sub-rounded compacted stones and flint with a mid brown grey clayey silt among them. Patches of frequent small gravels were present and the cobbled surface had been truncated in places, for example on its south-east side by post-medieval ditch **54**. Finds were recovered from these cobbles when cleaned and excavated (cleaning layer 116) and yielded 624g of Late Iron pottery and only 3g of Early Roman pottery. Late Iron Age/Early Roman tile (24g), 72 fragments of animal bone and 353g of fired clay some of which represented kiln furniture was also recovered.

Pits

- 3.2.65 Directly east of **117** was rubbish pit **51** that measured 0.76m wide and 0.2m deep. This pit contained two fills, the basal fill (52) measured 0.06m thick and consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt that most likely accumulated due to primary silting. Overlying this was fill 53 that measured 0.14m thick and consisted of dark grey brown silty clay. This fill contained 224g of Late Iron Age pottery, 5g of Early Roman pottery, six fragments of animal bone and oyster shell (3g).
- 3.2.66 Pit **56** measured 0.6m wide and 0.28m deep and contained a single fill (57) which consisted of a dark grey brown silty clay. Late Iron Age pottery weighing 74g, a medium mammal bone and 10g of fired clay was recovered from this fill. This pit was cut by ditch **58** which was aligned roughly east to west and measured 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep with sloped sides and a concave base and contained a single fill (59).
- 3.2.67 Pit **114** was not visible in plan and measured 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep and was heavily truncated. This pit contained a single fill (115). Pit **97** measured 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep and contained a single fill (98) that consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay. This fill contained six fragments of animal bone, a very small fragment (1g) of Roman glass and a single barley grain. Both these pits were truncated by pit **91** which measured 1.5m wide and 0.52m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (92) measured 0.12m thick and consisted of a mid grey orange sandy clay. Overlying this was fill 93 which consisted of a dark brown grey sandy clay that measured 0.4m thick and contained 585g of Late Iron Age pottery, 364g of Early Roman pottery, 47 fragments of animal bone, 331g of fired clay and 5g of oyster shell.
- 3.2.68 This fill was cut by pit **94** which measured 1m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a single fill (95) which consisted of a dark grey brown sandy clay that contained 43g of Late Iron Age pottery, 45g of Early Roman pottery, two fragments of animal bone, 51g of fired clay and fragmentary pieces of a copper alloy plate (SF 1). This fill was cut by pit **122** which measured 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with shallow sloped sides and a concave base and contained a single fill (123).
- 3.2.69 Pit **60** measured 1m wide and 0.2m deep, its single fill (61) consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silt that contained 6g of Early Roman pottery. South of this was ditch **100** that was aligned roughly east to west and measured 0.86m wide and 0.3m deep with

sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (101) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt that contained 10g of Late Iron Age pottery and 10g of fired clay.

Area 5 (Fig. 8)

- 3.2.70 Area 5 contained very little archaeology with the majority dated to the post-medieval period bar a pit and two ditches dated to the Late Iron Age.
- 3.2.71 Roughly in the centre of Area 5 was ditch **64** and **67**. Ditch **67** was roughly aligned north to south and measured 0.6m wide and 0.16m deep with sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (68) consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt. This fill was cut by ditch **64** (Section 25, Figure 10b). Ditch **64** was aligned north-west to south-east then curving towards the southern end to be aligned roughly north to south. This ditch measured 1.4m wide and 0.7m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (65) measured 0.3m thick and consisted of a light orange brown silty clay, this fill was overlain by fill 66 that consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt.
- 3.2.72 At the north-east end of Area 5 was pit **108** that measured 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep with sloped sides and a concave base (Plate 15). This pit contained a single fill (109) consisting of a mid bluey brown grey clayey silt that contained frequent large burnt stones and charcoal flecks, 7g of residual Early Iron Age pottery was also recovered.

Watching Brief (Fig. 9)

- 3.2.73 Ditch **350** was uncovered during the watching brief and is located approximately 2.3km south-west of the main excavation areas. This ditch measured 1.7m wide and 1.2m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This ditch contained five fills, the basal fill (351) measured 0.3m thick and consisted of a dark red grey sandy clay. Overlying this was 352 that measured 0.2m thick and consisted of a very dark grey silty clay. Fill 353 measured 0.3m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay that contained 27 g of Late Iron Age pottery and a single fragment of animal bone. Overlying this was fill 354 that measured 0.4m thick and consisted of a mid orange brown sandy clay that contained 108g of Late Iron Age pottery and six fragments of animal bone. The uppermost fill (355) consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay that contained 103g of Late Iron Age pottery and 10 fragments of animal bone.

3.3 Post medieval (Phase 2 – 1500-1750AD)

Area 2 (Fig. 5)

- 3.3.1 Area 2 contained three furrows, all on the same north-east to south-west alignment, one of which was identified during the evaluation (**26**) and the other was only recorded in plan. In the centre of Area 2, furrow **307** measured 1.7m wide and 0.17m deep that contained a single fill (308). This furrow had truncated ditch **309** and watering hole **329**.

Area 3 (Fig. 6)

- 3.3.2 Ditch **269** ran across the entirety of Area 3 and had a north-east to south-west alignment. Only one slot was excavated into it and it measured 2m wide and 0.4m deep. Its single fill (270) consisted of a dark grey brown silt and contained residual Late Iron Age pottery alongside 168g of post-medieval pottery, animal bone, 104g of CBM and 95g of 19th to 20th century glass. This ditch truncated a number of features on site including large boundary ditches and structures, a number of other features may have been completely destroyed.

Area 4 (Fig. 7)

- 3.3.3 A larger number of features dating to the post-medieval period were identified in Area 4 comprising furrows and ditches. Along the southern edge of the area at the northern end was furrow **54**, aligned north-east to south-west, it measured 0.88m wide and 0.08m deep, its single fill (55) consisted of a mid red brown silty clay that contained 7g of unidentifiable CBM. Nearly 50m south was furrow **118**, also aligned north-east to south-west and measured 1.3m wide and 0.16m deep and contained a single fill (119).
- 3.3.4 Ditch **269** was seen continuing from Area 3 into Area 4, again truncating a number of earlier features.
- 3.3.5 At the southern end of the area was ditch **62** with a north-east to south-west alignment, it measured 1.1m wide and 0.1m deep and contained a single fill (63).

Area 5 (Fig. 8)

- 3.3.6 Area 5 had very few features, most of which were post-medieval in date, largely comprising ditches and pits. At the south-western end of the area was ditch **39** which had a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep with moderate sides and a flat base. Its single fill (40) consists of a dark grey brown silty clay that contained 62g of modern pottery and 41g of modern glass. This ditch was truncated by ditch **41**, on the same alignment and measured 1.26m wide and 0.5m deep, with a single fill (42). Running parallel to this, 4m to the north was ditch **89**. This ditch measured 0.98m wide and 0.14m deep. Its fill (90) consisted of a mid reddish brown clayey silt. Ditch **110** appeared to truncate ditch **89** and had a north-west to south-east alignment. This ditch measured 0.4m wide and 0.16m deep and contained a single fill (111).
- 3.3.7 At the north-east end of the area was ditch **102** had a north north-west to south south-east alignment and measured 2.6m wide and 0.4m deep. Its single fill (103) consisted of a light orange brown silty clay and was cut by a field drain.

3.4 Unphased

- 3.4.1 A small number of features were not assigned a phase due to there being no dating evidence or these features could not be easily grouped with other features that did contain dating evidence.

Area 1 (Fig. 4)

- 3.4.2 Possible ice crack **340** was observed at the southern end of Area 1. It measured 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep with irregular sides and base and contained a single fill (341).

Area 3 (Fig. 6)

- 3.4.3 Pit **177** was located to the south-west of pit **143**. This pit measured 0.36m wide and 0.18m deep and its single fill (178) consisted of a dark grey brown silty clay. Ten metres to the north-east was pit **171** that measured 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep and contained a single fill (172).

Area 4 (Fig. 7)

- 3.4.4 Pit **81** measured 1m wide and 0.45m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (82) measured 0.45m thick and consisted of a dark blue grey silty clay. Overlying this was fill 83 that measured 0.4m thick and consisted of a mid orange brown silty clay.

- 3.4.5 To the north-east was pit **84** which measured 0.8 wide and 0.2m deep and contained two fills. Its basal fill (85) measured 0.18m deep and consisted of a mid brown orange sandy clay. The uppermost fill (86) measured 0.16m deep and consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silt.
- 3.4.6 Pit **79** measured 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a flatish base and contained a single fill (80). Ditch **100** was located in the centre of the site with a roughly east to west alignment, it measured 0.86m wide and 0.3m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (101) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt.

Area 5 (Fig. 8)

- 3.4.7 Within the centre of Area 5 was ditch **87** which had a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 0.55m wide and 0.22m deep with steep sides and concave base containing a single fill (88). Further east was ditch **106** with a north north-west to south south-east alignment and measured 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep with sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (107) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt.
- 3.4.8 Three further pits were located directly north of ditch **89**. The most westerly pit **77**, measured 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep and contained a single fill (78). Pit **75** measured 0.4m wide and 0.12m deep. Its single fill (76) consisted of a dark grey brown clayey silt that contained 9g fired clay, this fill was also environmentally sampled and contained barley and spelt wheat. Finally pit **120** which measured 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep with sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (121) consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt that contained no finds.

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 A wide range of finds were recovered from this site, the majority of which date to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period. Twelve metal objects were recovered, largely comprising iron nails however three copper alloy items were also recovered from three features (**94**, **140**, **143**) thought to represent brooch components.
- 3.5.2 A total of 2055 sherds of pottery (21228g) were recovered from a large number of features on site largely comprising pits and ditches. Four sherds were dated to the Early Iron Age and considered to be residual. The bulk of the assemblage dated to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods representing a standard domestic assemblage consisting of jar and bowl forms used for food preparation and larger jars for storage. A total of 19 sherds of pottery dating to the post-medieval and modern periods were also recovered from ditches **39** and **269**.
- 3.5.3 Seven fragments of glass were recovered from site, all but one dated to the 19th and 20th centuries with four fragments being recovered from ditch **269**.
- 3.5.4 Nine fragments (210g) of ceramic building material was recovered, consisting of largely abraded and fragmentary pieces dating to both the Roman and post-medieval periods. Fired clay was more abundant with 515 fragments (3657g) being recovered. The fired clay comprised a large quantity of amorphous fragments however some fragments were identified as possible kiln furniture including kiln bars and clay plates.

3.6 Environmental Summary

- 3.6.1 A single cremation (**332**) was uncovered in Area 1 that contained no dating evidence and 321g of burnt bone. The faunal assemblage comprised 1189 fragments (15.01kg) of bone comprising cattle, sheep/goat, pig, small to large mammal and horse. Cattle appears to be the most common and butchery was noted on a few examples including

a cattle bone recovered from fill 257 (**249**) with deep fine cut marks that are a result of dismemberment.

- 3.6.2 Thirty seven bulk samples were taken on site from a variety of features largely dating to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods, the samples taken indicated the presence of spelt, wheat and barley, typical of a Late Iron Age site. The weed seed assemblage points towards the use of pasture for harvesting hay and that areas of harvested fields were probably wet enough to support wetland species such as rushes.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Across the five areas of excavation a wide range of features were observed, largely comprising pits, ditches and structures indicative of settlement. Area 3 contained an area of dense archaeology and is the centre of activity which has been dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period which has previously been identified via cropmarks recorded by the HER (16823). This settlement activity is seen continuing to the north in Areas 1 and 2 and slightly to the west into Area 4. A handful of pottery dating to the Early Iron Age was recovered but considered to be residual. The majority of the pottery assemblage was dated to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period and the majority of features on site have therefore been attributed to a Late Iron Age to Early Roman phase with any sub phasing being difficult to ascertain although a small number of features could feasibly be suggested as having an Early Roman origin. Ditches and furrows dated to the post-medieval period were also identified with ditch **269** truncating a large number of Late Iron Age and Early Roman features in Area 3.
- 4.1.2 *The characterisation, chronology development, structure and organisation of rural settlement in the Iron Age and Roman periods needs more investigation (Bryant 2000: 16; Going and Plouviez 2000: 19; Oake 2007: 11 and Medlycott 2011: 31 & 47). A key aim of this excavation was to establish the characterisation, extent and date of the features that were first identified during the evaluation and is a theme that continues throughout the discussion.*

4.2 HER data

- 4.2.1 This area of Bedfordshire appears to have been occupied extensively throughout the Iron Age (Knight 1984) and in the areas surrounding Strattons Farm in particular, a number of cropmarks have been mapped and a number of possible settlements identified. This along with the extensive excavations that have also taken place, in particular to the north, has mapped the potential for Iron Age and Roman activity in this area. The excavation of five reasonably small areas allows us to discuss the reliability of using cropmarks and HER data to identify and date archaeological settlements.
- 4.2.2 Three settlements have been identified in the area (HER 16157, 16823 and 16824). The settlement to the north-east of Stratton Farm (HER 16157) comprised a series of linear cropmarks, most notably a trackway running north-east to south-west across the landscape which was dated by excavations as being Late Iron Age in date (Albion Archaeology 2003). The cropmarks identified this trackway continuing south-westwards towards Area 1 and beyond. Although no evidence for the trackway itself was identified, the two trackway ditches (**319** and **342**) were present within Area 1. The Late Iron Age pottery (98g) recovered from which confirming a Late Iron Age date.
- 4.2.3 There are a number of other ditches present within Area 1 which have not been identified via cropmarks. The features in this area largely comprised smaller ditches and therefore were unlikely to be visible as cropmarks. The density of Late Iron Age features at the site to the north-east was far greater than that seen in Area 1 and also produced evidence for earlier Iron Age features as well as some Bronze Age activity. Activity of this date is not seen in Area 1 and although the trackway between the two sites suggests it could be part of the same settlement, it may also be more suggestive of a shift of settlement during the Late Iron Age to the south where the larger of the three settlements have been identified (HER 16823).

- 4.2.4 A large series of complex cropmarks comprising large enclosures have been identified immediately south-east of Area 3. No excavations have previously taken place in this area and as with many cropmarks of this type a date of Iron Age to Roman was placed upon it. The excavation that took place at Area 3 certainly confirmed the presence of a dense area of settlement and that it did in fact date to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. A total of four ditches were identified via cropmarks within this area, all of which were confirmed during excavation. The most prominent was that of Enclosure 1 which forms the north-west corner point of a large enclosure potentially measuring 160m long and 80m wide according to the cropmark data. The ditches of this enclosure were certainly substantial, measuring 5.7m wide by 1.26m deep at its widest, and both having been re-cut at some point. A large number of finds were recovered from these ditches, including Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery, with the former being recovered largely from the basal fills and the later from the upper, disuse fills.
- 4.2.5 Two smaller ditches (**126** and **279**) were identified via the cropmarks and appear to represent small sub-enclosures on the northern and western sides of the main enclosure 1. Although the cropmarks don't seem to identify these ditches continuing it may be sensible to suggest that the smaller ditches present in this particular area continue to represent smaller sub enclosures, most likely square or rectangular in plan with a north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east alignment, within the vicinity of the larger rectangular enclosure. The cropmarks have also not identified the small discrete features which are located within the smaller enclosures, largely comprising structures and pits, indicative of occupation.
- 4.2.6 Within the vicinity of Area 4 a small settlement has been identified (HER 16824) although no cropmarks are shown to go into the excavation area. This settlement is represented by two large circular enclosures and are recorded as being separate from the settlement previously mentioned to the north-east. Late Iron Age to Early Roman settlement was however identified in Area 4, in particular at its north-east end where features such as ditches, pits and a cobbled surface were excavated. The ditches here followed the same alignment as those in Area 3 and most likely represent this same set of enclosures and settlement. The apparent concentration of these features at the north-east end would suggest that the features identified in Area 4 are a direct continuation of the previously mentioned settlement recorded as HER 16823. It is however feasible that the cropmarks identified as part of HER 16824 to the south are a separate settlement not identified during this excavation.
- 4.2.7 Areas 1 to 4 have identified a large number of features relating to the settlements mentioned above, yielding pottery of a Late Iron Age to Early Roman date. The features in Area 1 although of a contemporary date to those in Areas 2, 3 and 4 lie on a different alignment and is part of the settlement excavated to the north east by Albion Archaeology (2003) which may have even had an Early Iron Age origin, perhaps explaining the presence of a single undated cremation (**332**) in this area. The features identified in Areas 2, 3 and 4 are on a similar alignment and appear to be part of a large Late Iron Age and Early Roman settlement, notably Roman finds are lacking in Area 1 (2 sherds, 8g) and to the excavations to the north-east suggesting any Roman activity was situated around the settlement identified as HER 16823.

4.3 Settlement type and Chronology

- 4.3.1 One of the aims of the excavation was to further identify the limits of the Iron Age settlement uncovered during the evaluation and if possible to investigate what type of settlement was present. Medlycott (2011:31) notes that further research is needed into the variety of enclosure types present during the Iron Age and Roman periods and

whether their use is of a domestic or agricultural nature. The substantial quantity of ditches uncovered on site were often difficult to interpret due to the small area excavated. A number of these ditches represent boundaries and enclosures, structures are also present and their presence and nature allow for some discussion of their function.

- 4.3.2 The previous evaluation revealed features dating to the Late Iron Age however the excavation sought to establish whether there were further phases of Iron Age activity on site and whether the features in the Late Iron Age continued into the Roman period and beyond the 1st century AD. Only four sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the site, considered to be residual. The majority of features were dated to a Late Iron Age to Early Roman phase (50BC to 75AD), Medlycott (2011: 29) notes that further work needs to be undertaken with respect to dating in the Iron Age and Roman periods, particularly the refinement of pottery dating. The pottery assemblage recovered did not enable for more precise phasing to be undertaken. It may therefore be important to discuss whether the features themselves suggest any chronological changes, whether the features continue to be used or whether the site undergoes a change in use reflected in a change of building-types or agricultural practice (Medlycott 2011: 31).

Enclosures

- 4.3.3 Enclosure 1 consists of ditches **241**, **258**, **262** and **266**. Ditch **241** and **258** are the same ditch with a roughly north to south alignment (later re-cut **246**), the return of which is signified by **262** (later re-cut **266**) with a north-west to south-east alignment. These ditches contained large quantities of Late Iron Age pottery (2190g), particularly in their basal fills whilst the ditch was still in use. The upper fills which have started to accumulate as the ditch was going out of use contained Early Roman pottery alongside Late Iron Age pottery. This signifies the adoption of Early Roman pottery types whilst the enclosure was going out of use. The enclosure was evidently not maintained in the Early Roman period but the presence of pottery suggests that the enclosure may have continued to be open until the mid to late 1st century AD. A similar trend was identified on excavations of features to the north and east of the site (Albion Archaeology 2003: 17 & 2004: 18). The presence of Early Roman activity appears to decline to the east as only one Trench on an evaluation east of Stratton Farm yielded pottery dating to this period (Trench 1 in the south-west corner).
- 4.3.4 A second enclosure (Enclosure 2, not identified via cropmarks) can be suggested in Area 4 comprising ditches **43**, **45**, **48** and possibly **58**. These ditches are on similar north north-east to south south-west and a roughly east to west alignment, like many of the ditches identified on site. This enclosure appears to contain two features of a contemporary date, pit **51** contained 224g of Late Iron Age pottery alongside Early Roman pottery and animal bone and Oyster shell, perhaps signifying its use as a rubbish pit, although its fill contained no preserved plant remains. Cobbled surface **117** appears to have been truncated and its use is not immediately apparent although may represent a yard surface related to agricultural use, perhaps for the keeping of animals. However large quantities (624g) of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from these cobbles signifying close proximity to occupation of a contemporary date.

Structures

- 4.3.5 A number of structures were identified, the majority of which were in Area 3 with one in Area 2. None of these structures were seen in their entirety due to truncation or lying outside the excavation area. The identified structures varied in style, four of the structures were circular in plan, represented by ring gullies and ring ditches indicative of

roundhouses. The circular structures on site (Structures 1, 2, 3 and 6) varied in diameter between 5m and 14m and contained consistently low amount of Late Iron Age pottery (Structure 1 = 22g, Structure 2 = 27g, Structure 6 = 17g) but Structure 3 which contained 170g.

- 4.3.6 The remaining structures comprised beam slots and were square and potentially rectangular in plan. Two very similar Structures (Structure 4 and 5) were square in plan measuring between 2.5m squared and 3.5m squared, the only difference being that Structure 5 also comprised post-holes. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from both structures and have been interpreted as hayricks, supported by the environmental remains recovered across site with the weed seed assemblages hinting at the use of pasture for the harvesting of hay (Appendix C.4).
- 4.3.7 The final beam slot structure (Structure 7) was identified towards the north-east end of Area 3 and consisted of three beam slots (**213**, **275** and **255**) which were not fully exposed. Although none of the features identified on site have been solely dated to the Early Roman period it is worth discussing the potential for a handful of features being of an Early Roman origin even though this can't be said with certainty. Settlements change and move over time, this being true for the Late Iron Age to Early Roman transition. Of the seven structures identified on site, only one (Structure 7) contained Early Roman pottery (?g). Interestingly this structure was the only rectangular structure identified on site with the other being circular or square in plan.
- 4.3.8 Pit **196** contained 564g of Early Roman pottery and only 51g of Late Iron Age pottery signifying this pit must have originated in the Early Roman period. This is the largest assemblage of Roman pottery from a feature in the five excavated areas. Although it is clear that no Roman settlement is located within the excavated areas the presence of such a large quantity of pottery suggests the site is within close proximity and there is no evidence to suggest that there couldn't feasibly be a Roman settlement located to the south-east.
- 4.3.9 The lack of pottery dating to later than the 1st century AD is suggestive that although there was a presence of Early Roman activity in this area it is most likely that this settlement was eventually abandoned although a Roman presence is still identified in this area of Bedfordshire with the presence of Roman roads nearby (Greenway (HER 1456) to the south-east and the Sandy to Godmanchester Road (HER 505) to the west).

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The archaeological features uncovered during this excavation at Biggleswade have been firmly dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman periods and adds to a growing number of sites within this part of Bedfordshire dating to this period. The focus of settlement was clearly located within Area 3 previously identified via cropmarks (HER 16823) where settlement is also mapped as continuing to the south. These cropmarks however did not identify this particular settlement continuing to the west into Area 4 and to the north into Area 2. Although the cropmarks identified some of the larger enclosure ditches many smaller ditches, structures and discreet features could not be identified in this way. The settlement identified via cropmarks (HER 16157) within Area 1, and further north-east, comprised a trackway and its differing alignment to the features to the south suggests it is a separate settlement.
- 4.4.2 The lack of pottery dating after the 1st century AD signifies an abandonment of this settlement at this time or perhaps slightly earlier, also identifiable on the other sites

excavated in this area as the Roman presence in this part of Bedfordshire seems to see a move away from the locations previously inhabited during the Iron Age.

- 4.4.3 A number of sites in Bedfordshire dated to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period have been identified as comprising a linear row of small enclosures that are inter-cutting (Dawson 2000). These remains are thought to represent small dwellings with attached enclosures within a linear band of settlement and in some cases have evidence for being re-established a number of times (Dawson 2000). It is probable that the settlement identified in Area 3 as part of HER 16823 represents a settlement of this description.

APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Context | Same As | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Function | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Phase |
|---------|---------|-----|----------|----------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 36 | | 0 | layer | Topsoil | - | - | 0.3 | - |
| 37 | | 0 | layer | Subsoil | - | - | 0.2 | - |
| 38 | | 0 | layer | natural | - | - | - | - |
| 39 | | 39 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.8 | 0.2 | 2 |
| 40 | | 39 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.8 | 0.2 | 2 |
| 41 | | 41 | cut | ditch | Boundary | 1.26 | 0.5 | 2 |
| 42 | | 41 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.26 | 0.5 | 2 |
| 43 | | 43 | cut | ditch | Boundary | 0.72 | 0.22 | 1 |
| 44 | | 43 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.72 | 0.22 | 1 |
| 45 | | 45 | cut | ditch | Boundary | 1.05 | 0.33 | 1 |
| 46 | | 45 | fill | ditch | natural silting | 0.6 | 0.13 | 1 |
| 47 | | 45 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.05 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 48 | | 48 | cut | ditch | drainage | 1.06 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 49 | | 48 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.06 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 50 | | 48 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.8 | 0.25 | 1 |
| 51 | | 51 | cut | pit | rubbish? | 0.76 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 52 | | 51 | fill | pit | backfill | 0.76 | 0.06 | 1 |
| 53 | | 51 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.76 | 0.14 | 1 |
| 54 | | 54 | cut | furrow | agricultural | 0.88 | 0.08 | 2 |
| 55 | | 54 | fill | furrow | disuse | 0.88 | 0.08 | 2 |
| 56 | | 56 | cut | pit | ? | 0.6 | 0.28 | 1 |
| 57 | | 56 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.6 | 0.28 | 1 |
| 58 | | 58 | cut | ditch terminus | ? | 0.5 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 59 | | 58 | fill | ditch terminus | disuse | 0.5 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 60 | | 60 | cut | pit | ? | 1 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 61 | | 60 | fill | pit | disuse | 1 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 62 | | 62 | cut | ditch | drainage | 1.1 | 0.1 | 2 |
| 63 | | 62 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.1 | 0.1 | 2 |
| 64 | | 64 | cut | ditch | Boundary | 1.4 | 0.7 | 1 |
| 65 | | 64 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 66 | | 64 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.4 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 67 | | 67 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.6 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 68 | | 67 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.6 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 69 | | 69 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 0.7 | 0.18 | 1 |
| 70 | | 69 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.7 | 0.18 | 1 |
| 71 | | 71 | cut | ditch | ? | 0.65 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 72 | | 71 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.65 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 75 | | 75 | cut | pit | ? | 0.4 | 0.12 | ? |
| 76 | | 75 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.4 | 0.12 | ? |
| 77 | | 77 | cut | small pit | structural | 0.4 | 0.1 | ? |
| 78 | | 77 | fill | small pit | disuse | 0.4 | 0.1 | ? |
| 79 | | 79 | cut | pit | ? | 0.6 | 0.2 | ? |
| 80 | | 79 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.6 | 0.2 | ? |
| 81 | | 81 | cut | pit | ? | 1 | 0.45 | ? |
| 82 | | 81 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.4 | 0.45 | ? |
| 83 | | 81 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.5 | 0.4 | ? |

| Context | Same As | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Function | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Phase |
|---------|---------|-----|----------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 84 | | 84 | cut | pit | ? | 0.8 | 0.2 | ? |
| 85 | | 84 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.5 | 0.18 | ? |
| 86 | | 84 | fill | pit | disuse | 1.5 | 0.16 | ? |
| 87 | | 87 | cut | ditch | Boundary | 0.55 | 0.22 | ? |
| 88 | | 87 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.55 | 0.22 | ? |
| 89 | | 89 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.98 | 0.14 | 2 |
| 90 | | 89 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.98 | 0.14 | 2 |
| 91 | | 91 | cut | pit | ? | 1.5 | 0.52 | 1 |
| 92 | | 91 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.3 | 0.12 | 1 |
| 93 | | 91 | fill | pit | disuse | 1.5 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 94 | | 94 | cut | pit | ? | 1 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 95 | | 94 | fill | pit | disuse | 1 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 97 | | 97 | cut | ditch | ? | 0.7 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 98 | | 97 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.5 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 100 | | 100 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.86 | 0.3 | ? |
| 101 | | 100 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.86 | 0.3 | ? |
| 102 | | 102 | cut | ditch | Boundary | 2.6 | 0.4 | 2 |
| 103 | | 102 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2.6 | 0.4 | 2 |
| 106 | | 106 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 0.7 | 0.18 | ? |
| 107 | | 106 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.7 | 0.18 | ? |
| 108 | | 108 | cut | pit | rubbish? | 0.7 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 109 | | 108 | fill | pit | use? | 0.7 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 110 | | 110 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.4 | 0.16 | 2 |
| 111 | | 110 | cut | fill | disuse | 0.4 | 0.16 | 2 |
| 114 | | 114 | cut | pit | ? | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 115 | | 114 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 116 | | - | layer | cleaning layer | - | - | - | 1 |
| 117 | | - | layer | cobbled surface | external surface | 2.6 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 118 | | 118 | cut | furrow | agricultural | 1.3 | 0.16 | 2 |
| 119 | | 118 | fill | furrow | disuse | 1.3 | 0.16 | 2 |
| 120 | | 120 | cut | pit | ? | 0.8 | 0.2 | ? |
| 121 | | 120 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.8 | 0.2 | ? |
| 122 | | 122 | cut | pit | ? | 0.6 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 123 | | 122 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.6 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 124 | 130 | 124 | cut | gully | Ring gully | 0.3 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 125 | | 124 | fill | gully | disuse | 0.3 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 126 | | 126 | cut | ditch | boundary | 3.6 | 0.24 | 1 |
| 127 | | 126 | fill | ditch | disuse | 3.6 | 0.24 | 1 |
| 128 | | 128 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.58 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 129 | | 128 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.58 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 130 | 124 | 130 | cut | gully | Ring gully | 0.3 | 0.13 | 1 |
| 131 | | 130 | fill | gully | disuse | 0.3 | 0.13 | 1 |
| 132 | | 132 | cut | ditch | enclosure | 2.64 | 0.6 | 1 |
| 133 | | 132 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2 | 0.25 | 1 |
| 134 | | 134 | cut | Post-hole | structural | 0.64 | 0.44 | 1 |
| 135 | | 134 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.64 | 0.44 | 1 |
| 136 | | 136 | cut | pit | ? | 0.56 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 137 | | 136 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.56 | 0.16 | 1 |

| Context | Same As | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Function | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Phase |
|---------|------------|-----|----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 138 | | 132 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2.64 | 0.38 | 1 |
| 139 | | 139 | cut | ditch | boundary | 2.94 | 0.74 | 1 |
| 140 | | 140 | cut | ditch | boundary | 2 | 0.43 | 1 |
| 141 | | 140 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.8 | 0.43 | 1 |
| 142 | | 140 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.2 | 0.43 | 1 |
| 143 | | 143 | cut | pit | rubbish? | 1.3 | 0.75 | 1 |
| 144 | | 143 | fill | pit | disuse | 1.3 | 0.48 | 1 |
| 145 | | 143 | fill | pit | use | 1.3 | 0.27 | 1 |
| 146 | | 146 | cut | pit | ? | 1.22 | 0.26 | 1 |
| 147 | | 146 | fill | pit | disuse | 1.22 | 0.26 | 1 |
| 148 | | 148 | cut | ditch | enclosure | 1 | 0.52 | 1 |
| 149 | | 148 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 150 | | 139 | fill | ditch | slumping | 1 | 0.68 | 1 |
| 151 | | 139 | fill | ditch | slumping | 0.7 | 0.46 | 1 |
| 152 | | 139 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2.44 | 0.29 | 1 |
| 153 | | 153 | cut | ditch | enclosure re-cut | 0.82 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 154 | | 153 | fill | ditch | natural silting | 0.84 | 0.48 | 1 |
| 155 | | 139 | fill | ditch | natural silting | 1.5 | 0.28 | 1 |
| 156 | | 139 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.8 | 0.36 | 1 |
| 157 | | 139 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.32 | 0.36 | 1 |
| 158 | | 158 | cut | ditch terminus | ? | 1.54 | 0.33 | 1 |
| 159 | | 158 | fill | ditch terminus | disuse | 1.54 | 0.32 | 1 |
| 160 | | 148 | fill | ditch | primary silting | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 161 | 165 169 | 161 | cut | Beam slot | structural | 0.32 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 162 | | 161 | fill | Beam slot | disuse | 0.32 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 163 | | 163 | cut | Post-hole | structural | 0.54 | 0.18 | 1 |
| 164 | | 163 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.54 | 0.18 | 1 |
| 165 | 161 169 | 165 | cut | Beam slot | structural | 0.28 | 0.1 | 1 |
| 166 | | 165 | fill | Beam slot | disuse | 0.28 | 0.1 | 1 |
| 167 | | 167 | cut | Post-hole | structural | 0.63 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 168 | | 167 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.63 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 169 | 161 165 | 169 | cut | Beam slot | structural | 0.32 | 0.17 | 1 |
| 170 | | 169 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.32 | 0.17 | 1 |
| 171 | | 171 | cut | pit | ? | 0.5 | 0.16 | ? |
| 172 | | 171 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.5 | 0.16 | ? |
| 173 | 197 | 173 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.76 | 0.26 | 1 |
| 174 | | 173 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.76 | 0.26 | 1 |
| 175 | | 175 | cut | ditch | boundary | 1 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 176 | | 175 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 177 | | 177 | cut | pit | ? | 0.36 | 0.18 | ? |
| 178 | | 177 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.36 | 0.18 | ? |
| 179 | | 179 | cut | pit | ? | 0.42 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 180 | | 179 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.42 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 181 | | 181 | cut | pit | ? | 0.9 | 0.26 | 1 |
| 182 | | 181 | fill | pit | use? | 0.9 | 0.24 | 1 |
| 183 | 199 | 183 | cut | beam slot | structural | 0.35 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 184 | | 183 | fill | beam slot | disuse | 0.35 | 0.15 | 1 |

| Context | Same As | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Function | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Phase |
|---------|------------|------------|----------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 185 | 216 | 185 | cut | ditch | boundary | - | - | 1 |
| 186 | | 186 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.85 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 187 | | 186 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.85 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 188 | | 188 | cut | pit | ? | 1.35 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 189 | | 188 | fill | pit | disuse | 1.35 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 190 | | 190 | cut | ditch | roundhouse? | 0.45 | 0.23 | 1 |
| 191 | | 190 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.45 | 0.23 | 1 |
| 192 | | 181 | fill | pit | ? | 0.5 | 0.04 | 1 |
| 193 | | 196 | fill | pit | redeposition | 0.5 | 0.1 | 1 |
| 194 | | 196 | fill | pit | disuse | 1 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 195 | | 196 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.5 | 0.28 | 1 |
| 196 | | 196 | cut | pit | ? | 1 | 0.68 | 1 |
| 197 | 173 | 197 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.75 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 198 | | 197 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.75 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 199 | 183 | 199 | cut | beam slot | structural | 0.35 | 0.14 | 1 |
| 200 | | 200 | cut | pit | ? | 0.8 | 0.48 | 1 |
| 201 | | 200 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.8 | 0.48 | 1 |
| 203 | | 203 | cut | pit | rubbish? | 0.75 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 204 | | 203 | fill | pit | backfill | 0.75 | 0.15 | 1 |
| 205 | | 205 | cut | Post-hole | structural | 0.5 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 207 | | 207 | cut | pit | rubbish? | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 208 | | 207 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.8 | 0.12 | 1 |
| 209 | | 207 | fill | pit | disuse | 1.1 | 0.28 | 1 |
| 210 | | 210 | cut | pit | rubbish? | 1 | 0.35 | 1 |
| 211 | | 210 | fill | pit | use | 0.7 | 0.1 | 1 |
| 212 | | 210 | fill | pit | use | 1 | 0.25 | 1 |
| 213 | | 213 | cut | beam slot | structural | 0.36 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 214 | | 213 | fill | beam slot | disuse | 0.36 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 215 | | 198 | fill | beam slot | disuse | 0.35 | 0.14 | 1 |
| 216 | 185 | 216 | cut | ring gully | roundhouse? | 0.6 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 217 | | 216 | fill | ring gully | disuse | 0.6 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 218 | | 218 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 1.4 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 219 | | 218 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.4 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 220 | | 220 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 1.5 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 221 | | 220 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.7 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 222 | | 220 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.5 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 223 | | 223 | cut | Post-hole | structural | 0.5 | 0.32 | 1 |
| 224 | | 223 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.5 | 0.26 | 1 |
| 225 | | 223 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.5 | 0.06 | 1 |
| 226 | | 200 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.38 | 0.1 | 1 |
| 227 | | 227 | cut | Post-hole | structural | 0.37 | 0.22 | 1 |
| 228 | | 227 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.37 | 0.22 | 1 |
| 229 | | 227 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.37 | 0.1 | 1 |
| 230 | | 230 | cut | field drain | drainage | - | 0.5 | 1 |
| 231 | | 205 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.5 | 0.08 | 1 |
| 232 | | 205 | fill | Post-hole | disuse | 0.5 | 0.12 | 1 |
| 233 | | 233 | cut | ditch | ? | 1 | 0.25 | 1 |
| 234 | | 233 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1 | 0.25 | 1 |
| 235 | | 235 | cut | pit | ? | 1.3 | 0.25 | 1 |

| Context | Same As | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Function | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Phase |
|---------|---------|-----|----------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 236 | | 235 | fill | pit | disuse | 1.3 | 0.25 | 1 |
| 237 | | 237 | cut | ditch | ? | 1 | 0.46 | 1 |
| 238 | | 237 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1 | 0.46 | 1 |
| 239 | | 239 | cut | pit | ? | 1 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 240 | | 239 | fill | pit | disuse | 1 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 241 | 258 | 241 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 5.7 | 1.26 | 1 |
| 242 | | 241 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2.4 | 0.76 | 1 |
| 244 | | 241 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.06 | 0.8 | 1 |
| 245 | | 243 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.8 | 0.35 | 1 |
| 246 | | 246 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 4.3 | 0.9 | 1 |
| 247 | | 246 | fill | ditch | disuse | 4.1 | 0.6 | 1 |
| 248 | | 246 | fill | ditch | disuse | 4.3 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 249 | | 249 | cut | ditch | boundary | 1.4 | 0.76 | 1 |
| 250 | | 249 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1 | 0.44 | 1 |
| 251 | | 249 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.74 | 0.28 | 1 |
| 252 | | 252 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 1.3 | 0.46 | 1 |
| 253 | | 252 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.3 | 0.46 | 1 |
| 254 | | 252 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.1 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 255 | | 255 | cut | beam slot? | structural | 0.38 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 256 | | 255 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.38 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 257 | | 249 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.92 | 0.38 | 1 |
| 258 | 241 | 258 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 3.9 | 1.4 | 1 |
| 259 | | 258 | fill | ditch | disuse | 3.2 | 0.66 | 1 |
| 260 | | 258 | fill | ditch | disuse | 3.9 | 0.65 | 1 |
| 261 | | 258 | fill | ditch | disuse | 3.7 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 262 | | 262 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 1.2 | 1 | 1 |
| 263 | | 262 | fill | ditch | natural silting | 1 | 0.44 | 1 |
| 264 | | 262 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.1 | 0.34 | 1 |
| 265 | | 262 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.2 | 0.24 | 1 |
| 266 | | 266 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 3.3 | 1.12 | 1 |
| 267 | | 266 | fill | ditch | natural silting | 2.2 | 0.42 | 1 |
| 268 | | 266 | fill | ditch | disuse | 3.3 | 0.7 | 1 |
| 269 | | 269 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 2 | 0.4 | 2 |
| 270 | | 269 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2 | 0.4 | 2 |
| 271 | | 271 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 0.9 | 0.44 | 1 |
| 272 | | 271 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.9 | 0.44 | 1 |
| 275 | | 275 | cut | beam slot | structural | 0.3 | 0.06 | 1 |
| 276 | | 275 | fill | beam slot | disuse | 0.3 | 0.06 | 1 |
| 277 | 281 | 277 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 2.2 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 278 | | 277 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2.2 | 0.5 | 1 |
| 279 | | 279 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 0.86 | 0.48 | 1 |
| 280 | | 279 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.86 | 0.48 | 1 |

| Context | Same As | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Function | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Phase |
|---------|--------------------------|------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 281 | 277 | 281 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 1.68 | 0.43 | 1 |
| 282 | | 281 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.68 | 0.43 | 1 |
| 305 | | 305 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 0.6 | 0.28 | 1 |
| 306 | | 305 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.6 | 0.28 | 1 |
| 307 | | 307 | cut | furrow | agricultural | 1.7 | 0.17 | 2 |
| 308 | | 307 | fill | furrow | disuse | 1.7 | 0.17 | 2 |
| 309 | | 309 | cut | ditch | boundary | 1 | 0.52 | 1 |
| 310 | | 309 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1 | 0.52 | 1 |
| 311 | | 311 | cut | ditch | boundary | 1.8 | 0.6 | 1 |
| 312 | | 311 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.8 | 0.6 | 1 |
| 313 | | 313 | cut | pit | ? | 0.75 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 314 | | 313 | fill | pit | disuse | 0.75 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 315 | | 315 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.5 | 0.18 | 1 |
| 316 | | 315 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.5 | 0.18 | 1 |
| 317 | | 317 | cut | ditch terminus | boundary | 0.7 | 0.27 | 1 |
| 318 | | 317 | fill | ditch terminus | disuse | 0.7 | 0.27 | 1 |
| 319 | | 319 | cut | ditch | Trackway ditch | 2.1 | 0.36 | 1 |
| 320 | | 319 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2.1 | 0.36 | 1 |
| 321 | | 321 | cut | pit | ? | 1.2 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 322 | | 321 | fill | pit? | disuse | 1.2 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 323 | 325 327 | 323 | cut | ring gully | roundhouse? | 0.22 | 0.08 | 1 |
| 324 | | 323 | fill | ring gully | disuse | 0.22 | 0.08 | 1 |
| 325 | 323 327 | 325 | cut | ring gully | roundhouse? | 0.2 | 0.06 | 1 |
| 326 | | 325 | fill | ring gully | disuse | 0.2 | 0.06 | 1 |
| 327 | 323 325 | 327 | cut | ring gully | roundhouse? | 0.2 | 0.05 | 1 |
| 328 | | 327 | fill | ring gully | disuse | 0.2 | 0.05 | 1 |
| 329 | | 329 | cut | watering hole | watering holes | 4 | 1.1 | 1 |
| 330 | | 329 | fill | watering hole | disuse | 4 | 1.1 | 1 |
| 331 | | 329 | fill | watering hole | disuse | 4 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 332 | | 332 | cut | cremation | burial | 0.43 | 0.08 | 1 |
| 333 | | 332 | fill | cremation | burial | 0.43 | 0.08 | 1 |
| 334 | | 334 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.84 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 335 | | 334 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.84 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 336 | | 336 | cut | ditch | drainage | 0.55 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 337 | | 336 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.55 | 0.16 | 1 |
| 338 | | 338 | cut | ditch | drainage | 0.47 | 0.08 | 1 |
| 339 | | 338 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.47 | 0.08 | 1 |
| 340 | | 340 | cut | natural feature | ice crack | 0.8 | 0.4 | ? |
| 341 | | 340 | fill | natural feature | ice crack | 0.8 | 0.4 | ? |
| 342 | | 342 | cut | ditch | Trackway ditch | 2.2 | 0.52 | 1 |

| Context | Same As | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Function | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Phase |
|---------|---------|-----|----------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 343 | | 342 | fill | ditch | disuse | 2.2 | 0.52 | 1 |
| 344 | | 344 | cut | ditch | Boundary/enclosure | 1.46 | 0.7 | 1 |
| 345 | | 344 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.46 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 346 | | 344 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.05 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 347 | | 347 | cut | ditch | boundary | 0.75 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 348 | | 348 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.75 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 350 | | 350 | cut | ditch | boundary | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1 |
| 351 | | 350 | fill | ditch | slump | 0.5 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 352 | | 350 | fill | ditch | use | 0.4 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 353 | | 350 | fill | ditch | disuse | 0.7 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 354 | | 350 | fill | ditch | slump | 1.7 | 0.4 | 1 |
| 355 | | 350 | fill | ditch | disuse | 1.5 | 0.4 | 1 |

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metal work

By James Fairbairn

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 The small finds assemblage comprises twelve objects; a small broken copper alloy spring from a brooch of probable Roman date, a group of copper alloy fragments of indeterminate date, two small pieces of copper alloy plate and nine iron nails.

Copper Alloy

B.1.2 SF1 (Context 95). Two fragmentary pieces of copper alloy plate. The objects are amorously shaped and show no sign of decoration or embellishment. Thickness:0.2mm, Weight 0.60gms.

B.1.3 SF 8 (Context 141). The five small fragmentary pieces of copper alloy most probably part of a brooch dating to the late Iron Age or Roman period. The pieces are too small and corroded to positively identify what part of the brooch they were likely to have formed but one piece consists of two interlinked pieces from the body of the brooch. The combined weight of the fragments is 1.69gms.

B.1.4 SF 12 (Context 144). The object is an incomplete and fragmentary part of the spring fastening mechanism of a Roman brooch. The piece is formed as a coil, fashioned from a single piece of copper alloy wire. The size of the coil suggests that the brooch would have been small. Length: 16mm, Width 6mm, Thickness: 2mm, Weight: 0.90gms.

| Small Find Number | Context Number | Cut Number | Material | Object Name | Total No. of items | Other Comments |
|-------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 95 | 94 | Copper alloy | Plate | 1 | Fragmentary pieces |
| 8 | 141 | 140 | Copper Alloy | Brooch component | 1 | Fragment of brooch |
| 12 | 144 | 143 | Copper Alloy | Brooch spring | 1 | Brooch spring |

Table 1: Copper Alloy small finds

Iron nails

B.1.5 The iron objects from the site consist of hand wrought iron nails which are heavily corroded and mostly fragmentary. Three were found within in context 133, five within context 142, and one within context 247. All are of indeterminate date with the exception of small find 4 which is likely to be Roman in date and resembles a manning type1b.

B.1.6 SF 2 (Context 133). A hand forged Iron nail of indeterminate date. The nail has a bent rectangular shaft with a domed shaped head. The point is missing. The nail covered with iron corrosion and is reddish brown in colour. Length:48m, Thickness 6mm, Weight: 4.44gms.

- B.1.7 SF 3 (Context 133). A corroded and flattened and fragmentary piece of a hand wrought Iron nail. The fragment consists of a shaft with a blunt point. The head of the nail is missing. Length: 50m, Thickness: 8 mm, Weight: 5.28gms.
- B.1.8 SF 4 (Context 142). A complete hand wrought nail of probable Roman date. The object has a tapered rectangular shaft terminating in a blunt point. The head is domed and slightly off set. The style and dimensions of the nail conform closest to Manning type 1b. Length: 51m, Thickness: 6 mm, Weight: 5.52gms.
- B.1.9 SF 5 (Context 142). An incomplete hand wrought iron nail of probable Roman date. The object is heavily corroded and the rounded shaft is broken at 34mm from the flat domed circular head. The point of the nail is missing. Length: 58m, Thickness: 6 mm, Weight: 9.53gms.
- B.1.10 SF 6 (Context 142). A fragment from the shaft of a hand wrought Iron nail. The object is heavily corroded and bent, probably pre deposition. Length: 28m, Thickness: 6 mm, Weight: 2.75gms.
- B.1.11 SF 7 (Context 142). Two fragments from the shaft of a hand wrought iron nail. The shaft is rectangular in section and tapers towards a blunt point. Length: 50m, Thickness: 8 mm, Weight: 5.34gms.
- B.1.12 SF 9 (Context 133). A fragment from the shaft of a hand wrought iron nail. The shaft is rectangular in section. The point of the nail is missing. Length: 32m, Thickness: 7 mm, Weight: 4.48gms.
- B.1.13 SF 10 (Context 142). A fragment from the shaft of a heavily corroded hand wrought iron nail. The shaft is flattened rectangular in section and tapers to a blunt point. Length: 25m, Thickness: 10 mm, Weight: 2.86gms.
- B.1.14 SF 11 (Context 247). A small very corroded incomplete hand wrought Iron nail. The roughly circular head of the nail is present but the point is missing. The object is bent, probably pre deposition. Length: 32m, Thickness: 6 mm, Weight: 5.51gms.

| Small Find Number | Context Number | Cut Number | Material | Object Name | Total No. of items | Manning type |
|-------------------|----------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 2 | 133 | 132 | Fe (iron) | Nail | 1 | |
| 3 | 133 | 132 | Fe (iron) | Nail | 1 | |
| 4 | 142 | 140 | Fe (iron) | Nail | 1 | 1b |
| 5 | 142 | 140 | Fe (iron) | Nail | 1 | |
| 6 | 142 | 140 | Fe (iron)) | Nail | 1 | |
| 7 | 142 | 140 | Fe (iron) | Nail | 1 | |
| 9 | 133 | 132 | Fe (iron) | Nail | 1 | |
| 10 | 142 | 140 | Fe (iron) | Nail | 1 | |
| 11 | 247 | 246 | Fe (iron) | Nail | 1 | |

Table 2: Iron small finds

Discussion

- B.1.15 The copper alloy objects found during the excavation are all incomplete. Two of the objects (small finds 8 and 12) are likely to relate to personal objects such as jewellery or clothing accessories and are probably casual losses. The iron nails recovered from the

excavation are all utilitarian in nature. All are small and are unlikely to relate to any large structure. Only one, small find 4 showed any resemblance to a known style of Roman nail (Manning type 1b). the others are likely to be from the Roman period but are too fragmentary or corroded to be given a more certain date.

B.2 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

- B.2.1 A single shard from a white milk-glass, square or rectangular, basket-weave box or basket was recovered from ditch **39**. The fragment was recovered alongside 19th century pottery. Pit **97** produced the only fragment of Roman glass from the assemblage, unfortunately the vessel type from which the shard originated could not be identified. Ditch **269** produced shards from a thick-walled 19th to early 20th century cylindrical bottle, while two bottle shards were recovered as unstratified material, one a base of a Hamilton-type bottle which would have contained soda or mineral water, and a blue-green pharmaceutical bottle.
- B.2.2 The small shard of Roman glass was recovered from a Phase 1 pit, but was unlikely to have been deliberately deposited and may have been incorporated into the pit fill when it was truncated by later features. The post-medieval glass assemblage appears to be one of casual loss. The following catalogue acts as a full record and the glass may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

| Context | Cut | Count | Weight (kg) | Minimum No. of Vessels (MNV) | Description | Date |
|---------|------------|-------|-------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 40 | 39 | 1 | 0.041 | 1 | Press-moulded, opaque white glass (milk glass), partial wall and base of a square or rectangular vessel resembling a woven basket. The fragment is possibly part of a Sowerby Victorian white milk glass basket bowl. Pattern number 1174, (http://www.20thcenturyglass.com/glass_encyclopedia/victorian_glass/milk_glass.htm) | Late 19th-early 20th century |
| 98 | 97 | 1 | >0.001 | 1 | Small shard of blue-green optical or mould-blown vessel glass with shallow ribs. | Mid 1st-4th century |
| 270 | 269 | 4 | 0.095 | 1 | Shards of clear (slightly frosted/matt) glass with greenish cast, from a cylindrical, thick-walled embossed vessel. Surviving letters on separate shards of glass are M, EL. The thickness of the glass and the relatively narrow base suggest this is a soda or mineral water bottle. | 19th-early 20th century |
| 99999 | | 1 | 0.146 | 1 | Hamilton-type bottle. Base from a clear with a green cast, press-moulded (the mould seam is faint | 19th century |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|----------|--------------|----------|--|-------------------|
| | | | | | but can be observed at the base), ovate shaped soda or sparkling water bottle. The shard is slightly clouded and iridised; no embossed lettering is present. | |
| | | 1 | 0.023 | 1 | Partial base and wall of a blue-green glass bottle, ovoid in shape with two flat sides (ends). Pharmaceutical bottle. | 19th-20th century |
| Total | | 8 | 0.305 | 5 | | |

Table 3: Glass by context

B.3 Later Prehistoric and Early Roman Pottery

By Sarah Percival and Alice Lyons

Introduction and methodology

- B.3.1 A total of 2055 sherds, weighing 21228g, were collected. The assemblage is predominantly Late Iron Age dating to the late 1st century BC into the early to mid-1st century AD and including both handmade and wheel thrown vessels (Table 4). A smaller quantity of Early Roman pottery was also recovered which is contemporary with or contiguous to the Late Iron Age pottery. Four residual flint-tempered sherds are probably of Post Deverel-Rimbury date (Later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age). The pottery is severely abraded with an average sherd weight of only c. 10g.

| Ceramic Period | Sherd Count | Weight (g) | Weight (%) |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Earlier Iron Age | 4 | 17 | 0.08 |
| Late Iron Age | 1710 | 18589 | 87.57 |
| Early Roman | 341 | 2622 | 12.35 |
| Total | 2055 | 21228 | 100.00 |

Table 4: Quantity of pottery by ceramic period

Methodology

- B.3.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group and the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Barclay *et al* 2016). The total assemblage was studied and a catalogue prepared for the project archive. All sherds were counted, classified and weighed to the nearest whole gram. For the wheelmade pottery the surviving percentage of each rim was measured to provide an Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) calculation. All sherds were examined (if necessary using a hand lens; x20 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of the dominant inclusion type present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by main inclusions for prehistoric fabrics and the main letters of the title (*e.g.* Southern Gaulish samian = SASG) for the Roman fabrics. Vessel form was recorded and decoration and abrasion noted. A spot date is provided in the catalogue for each individual sherd and context.

Earlier Iron Age

- B.3.3 Four small abraded body sherds, weighing 17g, in an Earlier Iron Age flint-tempered fabric were recovered from two contexts, ditch **237** in Area 3 and pit **108** in Area 5. It is likely that the sherds are residual as they are severely abraded with an average sherd size of only 4g.

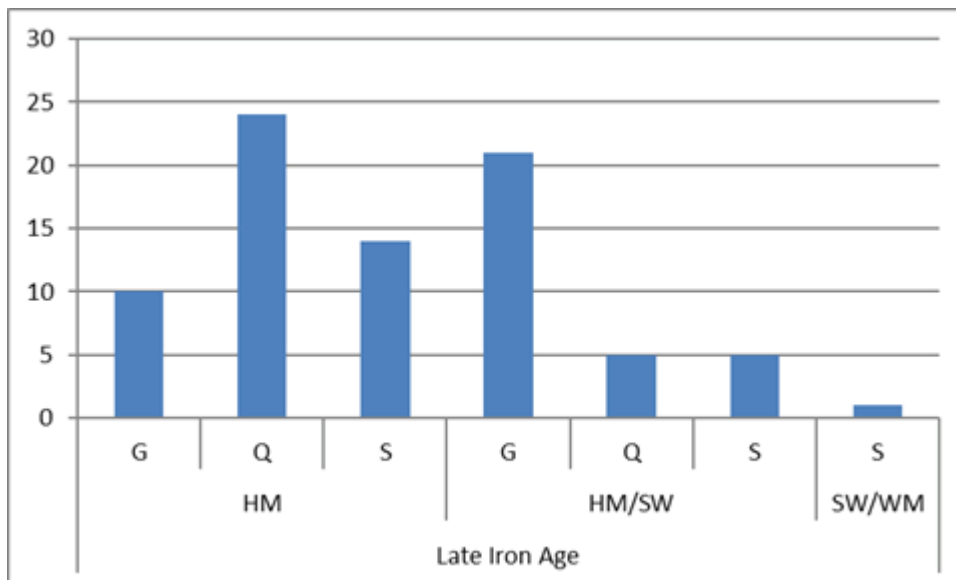
Late Iron Age

B.3.4 The Late Iron Age assemblage comprised 1,710 sherds weighing 18,589g and including rims from 80 vessels. Around 66% of the sherds are from handmade vessels, a further 30% are handmade but finished on the slow wheel leaving 4% which are wheel thrown. This pottery has the largest average fragment size within the assemblage at 10.9g.

Fabric

(Table 5)

B.3.5 Three main fabric groups are present, sandy, shelly and grog-tempered. Within the handmade assemblage sandy fabrics are most common, within the slow-wheelmade group grog predominates and within the wheelmade vessels the dominant fabric is shell, reflecting the shell-tempered transitional storage jars which largely form this group. The slow-wheelmade group includes carinated and wide-mouth jars typical of Thompson's grog-tempered Belgic forms which characterize the end of the Iron Age in the region (Thompson 1982).



Graph 1: Vessels by vessel rim count by main fabric type (G grog; Q sand and S shell) for handmade, slow wheel made and wheelmade vessels.

B.3.6 The range of fabrics compares well with contemporary assemblages from the region, the predominance of reduced grog-tempered handmade / slow wheel finished wide-mouth jars is noted at Broughton Manor Farm (Lyons 2014, 103) and at Biddenham Loop, to the southwest of Bedford, where high proportions of grog tempered and sandy fabrics were in use alongside shelly/fossiliferous limestone fabrics (Wells 2008 231). Wells also notes similar high quantities of grog / sand and shell fabrics locally at Kempston Church End and Ruxox (Parminter 2004).

| Fabric code | Fabric description | Quantity | Weight (g) | No. of vessel rims |
|-------------|--|----------|------------|--------------------|
| STW | Handmade and slow wheel made shell tempered ware with medium to common fine to moderate shell and plate like voids | 403 | 4766 | 15 |

| Fabric code | Fabric description | Quantity | Weight (g) | No. of vessel rims |
|--------------|---|----------|------------|--------------------|
| GTWGREY | Grog tempered ware with common dark grey sub-angular grog inclusions | 156 | 2481 | 7 |
| GTW | Grog tempered ware with common neutral sub-angular grog inclusions | 127 | 2246 | 10 |
| Q1 | Handmade sandy fabric with common rounded quartz | 202 | 1583 | 12 |
| STWFINE | Shell tempered ware with medium to common fine to moderate shell and plate-like voids | 80 | 804 | 2 |
| Q1VOIDS | Handmade sandy fabric with common rounded quartz with sparse elongated voids | 117 | 747 | 3 |
| GTWPALE | Grog tempered ware with common pale sub-angular grog inclusions | 76 | 863 | 6 |
| GTWSH | Grog tempered ware with common neutral sub-angular grog inclusions and sparse shell | 53 | 915 | 1 |
| GTWFINE | Grog tempered ware with common fine neutral sub-angular grog inclusions | 46 | 436 | 7 |
| QSH | Handmade sandy fabric with common rounded quartz with sparse shell | 64 | 753 | 5 |
| Q1mica | Handmade sandy fabric with common rounded quartz with moderate mica | 23 | 365 | 3 |
| S1 | Shell tempered ware with medium to common fine to moderate shell and plate like voids | 56 | 320 | 2 |
| Q1SH | Handmade sandy fabric with common rounded quartz with sparse shell | 31 | 318 | 1 |
| SANDY QU | Handmade/wheel made sandy fabric with common rounded quartz | 33 | 92 | |
| STWcoarse | Shell tempered ware with medium coarse shell and plate like voids | 26 | 213 | |
| GTWFINE GREY | Grog tempered ware with common fine dark grey sub-angular grog inclusions | 7 | 201 | |
| STWG | Shell tempered ware with medium to common fine to moderate shell and plate like voids | 17 | 193 | 1 |
| Q/Q1G | Handmade sandy fabric with sparse neutral grog | 34 | 291 | |
| Q1Ch | Handmade sandy fabric with sparse sub-angular chalk | 21 | 145 | |
| Q1FINE | Fine handmade sandy fabric | 11 | 121 | 1 |
| SOW | Sandy oxidised ware (SW/WM) | 19 | 99 | 2 |
| SGW (Q) | Sandy grey ware with visible rounded quartz grains (HM/SW) | 38 | 71 | |

| Fabric code | Fabric description | Quantity | Weight (g) | No. of vessel rims |
|--------------------|---|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| SGW | Sandy greyware (HM/SW) | 7 | 69 | |
| GROGFINE | Grog tempered ware with common fine neutral sub-angular grog inclusions | 3 | 57 | |
| Q1Qu | Handmade sandy fabric | 16 | 52 | |
| Q1Q | Handmade sandy fabric | 2 | 46 | |
| Q1coarse | Handmade sandy fabric | 1 | 44 | |
| QSG | Handmade sandy fabric | 12 | 44 | 1 |
| QGROGFINE | Sandy with fine grog | 2 | 42 | |
| GTWQ | Grog tempered ware with quartz grains | 2 | 36 | |
| QGS | Handmade sandy fabric with shell | 2 | 31 | |
| GW(FINE) | Fine grog tempered ware | 3 | 25 | |
| PGW | Early greyware (HM/SW) | 3 | 25 | |
| QGTW | Sandy fabric with common grog | 1 | 17 | |
| SHREDW(FINE)(MICA) | Fine micaceous sandy reduced ware | 7 | 15 | |
| Qshcoarse | Handmade sandy fabric | 1 | 14 | |
| STWVOIDS | Shell tempered ware with common large plate like voids | 2 | 13 | |
| QGSH | Sandy fabric with grog and shell | 1 | 10 | |
| GTWSANDY | Grog tempered fabric with common sand | 1 | 9 | |
| QF | Handmade sandy fabric | 1 | 9 | |
| SOW coarse | Coarse sandy oxidised ware | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Q | Sandy fabric | 1 | 1 | |
| U | Undiagnostic | 1 | 1 | |
| Total | | 1710 | 18589 | 80 |

Table 5: The Late Iron Age pottery fabrics, listed in descending order of weight (g)

Form

(Table 6)

- B.3.7 The most common form present is the rilled everted rim jar, often with a lid-seated rim (Thompson C7-1) most commonly in shell-tempered fabric (15 examples). Lid-seated vessels are also very common in the non-funerary assemblage from Biddenham Loop (Wells 2008, table 9.9). Petrological analysis of shell-tempered vessels found at Biddenham suggests that the clay was locally sourced perhaps indicating that these shell-tempered lid-seated jars and storage jars were being produced in the area. Other shell-tempered forms include slack-shouldered jars and 'S' profile and barrel-shaped jars which represent vessel types which continued in use from the mid Iron Age.
- B.3.8 Other common vessel forms found are exclusively made of grog and sand-tempered fabrics. Forms exclusively grog-tempered are the combed storage jars whilst forms more commonly grog-tempered but also made in sandy fabrics include the cordoned

and wide-mouth jars and bowls and everted necked jars which represent Thompson's 'grog-tempered Belgic' forms (Thompson 1982). A foot-ring base from a platter in sandy fabric and grog-tempered body sherds from a corrugated vessel were also found (Thompson 1982 G1 and B2-2).

- B.3.9 One jar base in fine grog-tempered ware has numerous drilled holes piercing the base and body of the vessel. Similar adapted jars have been found locally at Childerley Gate on the A428 (Abrams and Ingham 2008 fig.3.19) and may be associated with dairying (Lyons 2008).

| Type | No of vessels by rim count |
|--|----------------------------|
| Rilled Jar (Thompson C7-1) | 26 |
| Everted rim jar/bowl | 13 |
| Cordoned jar/bowl | 7 |
| Thompson B1-1 plain everted neck jars | 6 |
| Lid-seated storage jars with combed decoration | 4 |
| Ovoid jar | 4 |
| Bead rim jar | 3 |
| Thompson B3-8 narrow mouth cordoned jar | 2 |
| Barrel shaped jar with bead rim B5-3 | 2 |
| S profil jar | 2 |
| Slack shouldered jar | 2 |
| Upright neck slack shouldered jar | 2 |
| Thompson B1-3 plain everted rim | 1 |
| Thompson B3-4 round cordoned jar | 1 |
| Concave necked jar | 1 |
| Jar with cordon below rim | 1 |
| Thompson D1-1 cordoned bowl | 1 |
| Globular bowl no rim | 1 |
| Squat ovoid jar | 1 |
| Total | 80 |

Table 6: Number of vessels by rim count by vessel form

- B.3.10 The range of jar and bowl forms are typical of standard domestic vessels in use in the Late Iron Age in the region (Thompson 1982 Zones 7 and 8) and compare well with local assemblages from Biddenham Loop and contemporary sites along the A428 (Wells 2008; Lyons 2008).

Deposition

- B.3.11 Over 73% of the Late Iron Age pottery came from Area 3 with a further 17% being found on Area 4. Smaller assemblages came from Areas 1 and 2, representing 3% and 4% of the assemblage respectively. Unstratified pottery forms 0.66% of the assemblage and the remaining 1.27% came from ditch **350** (watching brief area).

B.3.12 The majority of the pottery from Area 3 came from ditches (72%) with a further 25% being collected from the fills of pits. The remainder of the sherds came from beam-slots, ring gullies, gullies and postholes. In Area 4 the pottery also came mostly from ditches and pits (47% and 33%) with the remainder from cobbled surfaces and cleaning. Areas 1 and 2 produced pottery from ditches, ditch termini and watering hole fills with very little from ring-gullies and pits. In all areas the composition of the assemblages is consistent through all feature types indicating that all were filled at a similar time from the same domestic source.

| Area | Feature | Feature Type | Quantity | Weight (g) | Weight (%) |
|------------|------------|----------------|----------|------------|------------|
| WB | 350 | Ditch | 36 | 238 | 1.28 |
| Area 1 | 313 | Pit | 1 | 97 | 0.52 |
| | 315 | Ditch | 80 | 392 | 2.11 |
| | 317 | Ditch terminus | 1 | 14 | 0.08 |
| | 338 | Ditch | 1 | 28 | 0.15 |
| | 342 | Ditch | 16 | 99 | 0.53 |
| | 347 | Ditch | 2 | 5 | 0.03 |
| Area 2 | 305 | Ditch | 6 | 18 | 0.10 |
| | 309 | Ditch | 8 | 85 | 0.46 |
| | 311 | Ditch | 30 | 310 | 1.67 |
| | 323 | Ring gully | 14 | 22 | 0.12 |
| | 329 | Watering hole | 31 | 274 | 1.47 |
| Area 3 | 124 | Gully | 13 | 50 | 0.27 |
| | 126 | Ditch | 19 | 150 | 0.81 |
| | 132 | Ditch | 241 | 2287 | 12.30 |
| | 134 | Post-hole | 3 | 8 | 0.04 |
| | 136 | Pit | 2 | 1 | 0.01 |
| | 140 | Ditch | 183 | 2002 | 10.77 |
| | 143 | Pit | 133 | 2579 | 13.87 |
| | 146 | Pit | 57 | 587 | 3.16 |
| | 148 | Ditch | 4 | 10 | 0.05 |
| | 153 | Ditch | 68 | 677 | 3.64 |
| | 161 | Beam slot | 5 | 40 | 0.22 |
| | 163 | Post-hole | 1 | 1 | 0.01 |
| | 167 | Post-hole | 1 | 1 | 0.01 |
| | 173 | Ditch | 4 | 44 | 0.24 |
| | 175 | Ditch | 34 | 349 | 1.88 |
| | 179 | Pit | 3 | 1 | 0.01 |
| | 181 | Pit | 1 | 30 | 0.16 |
| | 183 | Beam slot | 28 | 183 | 0.98 |
| 186 | Ditch | 2 | 82 | 0.44 | |

| Area | Feature | Feature Type | Quantity | Weight (g) | Weight (%) |
|---------|---------|-----------------|----------|------------|------------|
| | 188 | Pit | 1 | 3 | 0.02 |
| | 190 | Ditch | 1 | 7 | 0.04 |
| | 196 | Pit | 4 | 51 | 0.27 |
| | 199 | Beam slot | 4 | 53 | 0.29 |
| | 200 | Pit | 1 | 6 | 0.03 |
| | 203 | Pit | 3 | 1 | 0.01 |
| | 210 | Pit | 1 | 54 | 0.29 |
| | 213 | Beam slot | 2 | 25 | 0.13 |
| | 216 | Ring gully | 16 | 165 | 0.89 |
| | 220 | Ditch | 6 | 122 | 0.66 |
| | 233 | Ditch | 28 | 140 | 0.75 |
| | 235 | Pit | 9 | 10 | 0.05 |
| | 237 | Ditch | 2 | 156 | 0.84 |
| | 239 | Pit | 2 | 18 | 0.10 |
| | 241 | Ditch | 126 | 1089 | 5.86 |
| | 246 | Ditch | 44 | 912 | 4.91 |
| | 249 | Ditch | 9 | 166 | 0.89 |
| | 252 | Ditch | 1 | 38 | 0.20 |
| | 258 | Ditch | 40 | 487 | 2.62 |
| | 262 | Ditch | 18 | 464 | 2.50 |
| | 266 | Ditch | 12 | 171 | 0.92 |
| | 269 | Ditch | 3 | 123 | 0.66 |
| | 271 | Ditch | 7 | 51 | 0.27 |
| | 275 | Beam slot | 2 | 25 | 0.13 |
| | 277 | Ditch | 22 | 167 | 0.90 |
| | 279 | Ditch | 3 | 30 | 0.16 |
| | 281 | Ditch | 4 | 34 | 0.18 |
| Area 4 | 43 | Ditch | 14 | 25 | 0.13 |
| | 48 | Ditch | 15 | 495 | 2.66 |
| | 51 | Pit | 38 | 340 | 1.83 |
| | 56 | Pit | 8 | 74 | 0.40 |
| | 69 | Ditch | 110 | 1005 | 5.41 |
| | 91 | Pit | 52 | 618 | 3.32 |
| | 94 | Pit | 5 | 43 | 0.23 |
| | 100 | Ditch | 5 | 10 | 0.05 |
| | 116 | Cleaning Layer | 34 | 302 | 1.62 |
| | 117 | Cobbled surface | 17 | 322 | 1.73 |
| Unstrat | | | 13 | 123 | 0.66 |

| Area | Feature | Feature Type | Quantity | Weight (g) | Weight (%) |
|--------------|---------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Total | | | 1710 | 18589 | 100 |

Table 7: The Late Iron Age pottery quantified by Area and Feature

Early Roman

- B.3.13 A total of 341 early Roman pottery fragments, weighing 2622g were recovered, representing 11.7% of the total assemblage by weight. This assemblage represents a minimum of 77 fragmentary wheel made vessels. The pottery is severely abraded with an average sherd weight of under 8g.

Fabric

(Table 8)

- B.3.14 Nine broad Early Roman fabric groups were identified.

Coarse wares

- B.3.15 The most common fabric found is a locally produced utilitarian Sandy reduced ware, mainly used to produce a range of lid-seated (type 4.4) and wide mouthed jars (type 5.3), although a small number of other more specialist (but undiagnostic) vessels such as beakers and cups were also recorded. Other reduced wares comprise Shelly ware lid-seated jars (type 4.4) and a small number of grog-tempered jar/bowl fragments.
- B.3.16 Sandy oxidised fabrics were also recorded and used to produce a limited range of flagons (types 1.5; 1.9), beakers and jar/bowl vessels – one of which was carinated. Also found were locally manufactured Sandy red ware beaker fragments.

Fine wares

- B.3.17 Fine wares are scarce within the assemblage comprising two small scraps of south Gaulish samian (Tyers 1996, 112) and a further tiny fine grey ware beaker (Tyers 1996, 170-171).

Specialist wares

- B.3.18 Specialist wares are also unusual. Only a single fragment from a Spanish globular olive oil amphora was found (Tyers 1996, 87-89). Worthy of note, however, are the fragmentary remains of a Hofheim-type large collared flagon (type 1.5), which were domestically produced copies of Gaulish imports (Tyers 1996, 143, fig. 157, CAM 165) – in this instance only recovered from Pit 91.

| Fabric | Vessel | Sherd Count | Weight (g) | EVE | Weight (%) |
|--|---|-------------|------------|------|------------|
| Sandy reduced ware: SGW | Beaker (type 3.13), bowl, cup, dish (type 6.21), jar (type 2.1, 4.4, 5.3), jug or flagon, lid | 170 | 1346 | 0.88 | 51.33 |
| Sandy oxidised ware: SOW, OW, VER OW | Flagon (type 1.5, 1.9), beaker, jar/bowl | 117 | 602 | 1.43 | 22.96 |
| Shelly ware: STW | Jar/bowl (type 4.4) | 23 | 370 | 0.60 | 14.11 |
| Sandy red ware: SREDW | Beaker | 21 | 141 | 0.00 | 5.38 |
| Spanish Amphora: BAT AM | Amphora (DR20) | 1 | 129 | 0.00 | 4.92 |
| Reduced grey ware with common grog inclusions: GW GROG | Jar/bowl | 4 | 20 | 0.00 | 0.76 |

| Fabric | Vessel | Sherd Count | Weight (g) | EVE | Weight (%) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Miscellaneous colour coat: CC | Beaker | 2 | 6 | 0.00 | 0.23 |
| Samian: SAM SG | Cup, dish | 2 | 6 | 0.14 | 0.23 |
| Fine reduced grey ware: GW(FINE) | Beaker | 1 | 2 | 0.00 | 0.08 |
| Grand Total | | 341 | 2622 | 3.05 | 100.00 |

Table 8: The Roman pottery fabrics, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Type Series

Flagons

1.5. Hofheim type, single (Stead and Rigby 1986, 191) and double (*ibid*, 229) handled flagons with cylindrical necks and out-curved lips, triangular in section.

1.9. Cupped-rim flagon, plain rim (Perrin 1996, 159).

Narrow mouthed jars

2.1: Narrow-mouthed jar with rolled everted rim, rounded body and various cordons, with decoration on the neck, body and base of the vessel (Perrin 1996, 132; 222; 416; Perrin 1999, 328).

Beakers

3.13: Butt beaker (Stead and Rigby 1986, 339).

Medium mouthed jars

4.4: Jar with short angular neck, lid-seated or flattened rim (Perrin 1996, 387; Perrin 1999, 55).

Wide mouthed jars

5.3: Rounded jar with a reverse 'S' profile and a cordon on the neck (Perrin 1999, 46).

Dish

6.21. Open dish internal angle, incurving rim, flat or foot ring base (Perrin 1996, 28, 29, 30).

Amphorae

DR20: large globular form (principally olive oil containers) with two handles and thickened, rounded or angular rim, concave internally. Manufactured in Baetica in southern Spain (Tyers 1996, 87-89).

Deposition

B.3.19 The majority of the early Roman pottery was found within Areas 3 (67.5% by weight) with a further 19.5% being found on Area 4. Smaller assemblages came from Areas 1 and 2, representing 0.3% and 4.3% of the assemblage respectively. Unstratified pottery forms 8.4% of the assemblage.

B.3.20 The majority of the pottery from Area 3 came from ditches (43%) with a further 22.5% collected from the fill of pits. A small amount of pottery was also found in a beam-slot. In Area 4 the majority of pottery came from pits (16%).

B.3.21 In all areas the composition of the assemblages is consistent through all feature types indicating that all were filled at a similar time from the same domestic source.

| Area | Feature | Feature type | Quantity | Weight (g) | Weight (%) |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Area 1 | 344 | Ditch | 2 | 8 | 0.31 |
| Area 2 | 311 | Ditch | 1 | 5 | 0.19 |
| | 329 | Watering hole | 15 | 107 | 4.08 |
| Area 3 | 126 | Ditch | 3 | 23 | 0.88 |
| | 132 | Ditch | 21 | 143 | 5.45 |
| | 140 | Ditch | 35 | 380 | 14.49 |
| | 153 | Ditch | 4 | 28 | 1.07 |
| | 181 | Pit | 5 | 25 | 0.95 |
| | 196 | Pit | 34 | 564 | 21.51 |
| | 213 | Beam slot | 1 | 24 | 0.92 |
| | 220 | Ditch | 6 | 17 | 0.65 |
| | 246 | Ditch | 9 | 78 | 2.97 |
| | 255 | Beam slot | 1 | 12 | 0.46 |
| | 258 | Ditch | 22 | 353 | 13.46 |
| | 262 | Ditch | 2 | 31 | 1.18 |
| | 266 | Ditch | 4 | 75 | 2.86 |
| | 277 | Ditch | 1 | 7 | 0.27 |
| | 279 | Ditch | 2 | 11 | 0.42 |
| Area 4 | 116 | Cleaning layer | 1 | 2 | 0.08 |
| | 117 | Cobbled surface | 2 | 1 | 0.04 |
| | 45 | Ditch | 5 | 10 | 0.38 |
| | 48 | Ditch | 11 | 77 | 2.94 |
| | 51 | Pit | 3 | 5 | 0.19 |
| | 60 | Pit | 1 | 6 | 0.23 |
| | 91 | Pit | 98 | 364 | 13.88 |
| | 94 | Pit | 20 | 45 | 1.72 |
| Unstrat | | | 32 | 221 | 8.42 |
| Total | | | 341 | 2622 | 100 |

Table 9: The Early Roman pottery quantified by Area and feature

Discussion

B.3.22 The pottery represents a standard domestic assemblage predominantly consisting of jar and bowl forms used for food preparation with larger jars for storage. Fine ware (both domestic and imported), also specialist wares, are scarce. The pottery assemblage suggests comparable dating and activity to the small farmsteads excavated within the Biddenham Loop south-west of Bedford; Childerley Gate and Cambourne on the A428 and Caldecote Cambridgeshire (Luke 2008; Abrams and Ingham 2008; Wright *et al* 2009; Kenney and Lyons 2011) which were active from the 1st century BC into the mid to late 1st century AD. The dominance of shell-tempered rilled and lid-seated jars at the

sites suggests that these products were being locally produced for distribution amongst the farming communities for everyday use. The drilled pot bases found here and at Childerley Gate on the A428 perhaps indicate a common participation in dairying.

- B.3.23 The assemblage therefore, adds to the growing corpus of data within this vicinity which is helping to give a picture of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery use (and disposal) in the Biggleswade area.

Further work

- B.3.24 If it is decided to take this report to publication a more detailed examination of the fabrics and forms in the context of the site and surrounding region is recommended. A small number of sherds should be selected for illustration (x20) and a catalogue prepared (2 days).

B.4 Post-medieval Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

- B.4.1 A small assemblage of post-Iron Age pottery was recovered during the excavation, consisting of 19 sherds, weighing 0.449kg, representing a minimum of nine vessels. The assemblage contains both Roman and post-medieval pottery. The most complete vessel is a plant pot recovered from an unstratified context.

Methodology

- B.4.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) act as standards.
- B.4.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described Roman, medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

- B.4.4 Ditch **39** in Area 5 produced seven sherds of post-medieval pottery. Two sherds are from two different drinking vessels, including a Pearlware sherd decorated with green cut sponge decoration. The pottery dates to the 19th century.
- B.4.5 Ditch **269** produced post-medieval pottery and glass, alongside a sherd of pottery tentatively identified as Roman; this ditch truncated a number of earlier features and it is likely that this sherd of pottery originated from one of these truncated features. Finally, a fragmented plant pot was recovered from an unstratified context.

Conclusion

- B.4.6 The presence of a Roman sherd within the assemblage is not unexpected as the post-medieval ditch **269** truncated earlier features. However, levels of post-medieval pottery across the site are low, and are most likely the result of casual loss, perhaps by agricultural workers or general rubbish disposal across the area, perhaps from nearby

Victorian residences. The assemblage is most likely domestic in nature, with several sherds relating to the consumption of liquids. All sherds, except the unstratified plant pot, have been reworked, most likely due to later agricultural processes. The following catalogue acts as a full record.

| Context | Cut | Fabric | Basic Form | Sherd Count | Weight (kg) | Minimum Number of Vessels | Pottery Date Range |
|--------------|-----|---|---|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 40 | 39 | Bone China | Body sherd, unabraded | 1 | 0.004 | 1 | 1794-1900 |
| | | Pearlware | Body sherd and foot ring. Unabraded to moderately abraded | 2 | 0.041 | 1 | 1770-1840 |
| | | Pearlware | Jar body sherd and broken foot ring, moderately abraded | 2 | 0.006 | 1 | 1770-1840 |
| | | Pearlware with sponged or spattered decoration | Drinking vessel base with foot ring | 1 | 0.007 | 1 | 1800-1840 |
| | | Refined white earthenware with cut out sponged decoration | Drinking vessel rim sherd with green cut sponge decoration and external and internal painted line around the rim, diam 80mm | 1 | 0.008 | 1 | 1830-1900 |
| 270 | 269 | Post-medieval redware | Jar rim, externally thickened with thumb cordon below the rim. External brownish glaze, internal clear glaze, moderately abraded to abraded, diam 240mm | 1 | 0.081 | 1 | 1550-1800 |
| | | Post-medieval redware | Bowl rim, pale hard fired fabric, internal honey coloured glaze, abraded. | 1 | 0.061 | 1 | 1550-1800 |
| | | Fine micaceous sandy oxidised ware with pale grey core | Body sherd, moderately abraded to abraded | 1 | 0.026 | 1 | Roman 1st-4th century |
| Unstrat | | Horticultural ceramics | Plant pot, rim base and body sherds. 120mm diam rim | 9 | 0.215 | 1 | |
| Total | | | | 19 | 0.449 | 9 | |

Table 10: post-medieval pottery by context

B.5 Ceramic Building Material

By Ted Levermore

Introduction and methodology

B.5.1 Archaeological excavation produced a small assemblage of brick and tile from Areas 3 and 4 (9 fragments, 210g). The assemblage is fragmentary, abraded and intrusive representing little more than background noise in the landscape.

Methodology

B.5.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) will be used as reference for identification and dating.

B.5.3 The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held with the site archive. A summary of the catalogue can be found in Table 12.

Fabrics

B.5.4 This assemblage occupies four distinct fabrics; three in a sandy clay and one in a silty clay. Each fabric contains a distinct set of inclusions and/or tempers and was fired to a particular colour. As the assemblage is very small there is little to be said about the fabrics except that they represent a variety of clays, paste preparation or firing techniques from different eras and/or production locations. The fabric descriptions are as follows;

| Code | Colour | Matrix | Fine inclusions | Coarse inclusions | Moulding sand |
|------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| A | Orange | Fine Sandy Clay | occ quartz grains | rare ferrous chunks, sub rounded voids | Fine |
| B | Purple-Brown | Fine Sandy Clay | occ ferrous pellets, quartz grains | occ ferrous chunks, rare flint chunks, grit | No visible |
| C | Dark Orange | Coarse Sandy Clay | occ quartz grains, | occ rounded quartz grains, stone pellets | No visible |
| D | Mid Brown Orange | Fine silty Clay | occ rounded voids | occ ferrous pellets, rare angular flint, ferrous material, chalk lumps | None |

Table 11: Fabric types

Assemblage

B.5.5 The ceramic building material (CBM) assemblage comprises fragments of brick and flat tile, collected from six contexts in Areas 3 and 4. Some fragments were too fragmentary to be identified and as such were recorded as undiagnostic with no attributable date.

B.5.6 Ditch **270** and Layer **166** produced post-medieval/modern fragments of brick and tile. These were likely to be residual to these features, judging by their fragmentary nature. Two fragments of tile recovered from Beam Slot **184** and cleaning layer **116** (33g and 24g respectively) may be Roman in date. They were made in a silty fabric with calcareous and flint inclusions and appear to be of an early date. However, as with the other fragments they are abraded and fragmentary so further conclusions are not possible.

| Context | Cut | Area | Feature | Pottery Date | Form | Descr | CBM Date | Count | Weight (g) |
|---------|------------|------|-----------|--------------|--------|----------|--------------|----------|------------|
| 184 | 183 | 3 | Beam Slot | LIA | Tile | Fragment | ?Roman | 3 | 33 |
| 214 | 213 | 3 | Beam Slot | LIA - ERB | undiag | undiag | no date | 1 | 2 |
| 270 | 269 | 3 | Ditch | LIA | Tile | Fragment | Post Med | 1 | 9 |
| 270 | 269 | 3 | Ditch | LIA | Brick | Fragment | 18th? | 1 | 95 |
| 280 | 279 | 3 | Ditch | ERB-LIA | Tile | Fragment | ?Roman | 1 | 40 |
| 55 | 54 | 4 | Furrow | - | Undiag | Undiag | Not Date | 1 | 7 |
| 116 | - | 4 | Layer | LIA - ERB | Tile | Fragment | Post Med | 1 | 24 |
| | | | | | | | Total | 9 | 210 |

Table 12: CBM catalogue

Discussion

- B.5.7 This assemblage is fragmentary and largely post-medieval in date. The CBM recovered here is related to the discard of building material and subsequent dispersal through an agricultural landscape.
- B.5.8 All fragments should be considered for deselection.

B.6 Fired Clay

By Ted Levermore

Introduction and methodology

- B.6.1 Archaeological excavation, and samples, yielded 515 fragments of fired clay (3657g) from 5 areas. The assemblage comprises 274 amorphous pieces (750g) and 241 structural fragments (2907g). The latter group comprises fragments with flattened surfaces, wattle impressions or show signs of being hand-formed. Within the structural group are fragments of diagnostic objects, including Late Iron Age and Early Romano-British portable kiln furniture and a Late Iron Age loom weight. This assemblage was found throughout the site, not *in situ*, as a result of discard and dispersal activity.
- B.6.2 This report provides a quantified characterisation and assessment of the material by area.

Methodology

- B.6.3 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. Fragments from samples that weighed below 1g were ignored. Swan (1984) was used as reference for kiln furniture identification and terminology.
- B.6.4 The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel data sheet held with the site archive. A summary of the catalogue can be found in Table 13.

Fabrics

- B.6.5 The fired clay was assigned to nine fabrics, some of which are subgroups of broad fabric groups. These fabrics can be grouped into sandy clays and silty clays. Most fragments contain calcareous inclusions (shell or chalk) or voids from dissolved

calcareous inclusions, quartz sand and fragments of flint and grit. Although the exact source of the clays and tempering ingredients has not been proven for this assemblage, these are likely to have been naturally occurring in the clay. The poor sorting of the inclusions suggests minimal paste preparation, although organic matter (chaff?) may have been added to some of the clay recipes producing a more porous material and leaving linear and sub-linear impressions in the remaining ceramic.

- B.6.6 Further work regarding fabric characterisation and grouping would be required before any more could be said about the fabrics, although it would not be necessary here. As such they will not be mentioned in this assessment unless significant.

Assemblage

- B.6.7 514 fragments, 3649g, of fired clay were recovered from features across five areas. A single fragment, 8g, was collected and assigned to an unstratified context.

Area 1

- B.6.8 Three fragments, 6g, of amorphous and nineteen fragments, 61g, of structural fired clay were recovered from Area 1. The structural fragments were recovered from pit **314** and ditches **320** and **348**. Seven fragments were recovered from pit **314** (34g). They exhibit linear-rod impressions and are made in a very porous organic clay. This evidence combined suggests they are probably fragments of daub. Ditch **320** produced thin, 6mm, flattened fired clay fragments (10, 17g) that may derive from 'dome plates' used in Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery kilns. Ditch **348** produced two hand-squeezed clay fragments (10g) reminiscent of *ad hoc* props or spacers with no clear purpose but are often found in relation to light industry.

Area 2

- B.6.9 Four fragments (8g) of amorphous fired clay were collected from Ditches **306** and **312**. There is very little to be gleaned from these, although they share the same fabrics as many other fragments from this site.

Area 3

- B.6.10 A sizeable assemblage of fired clay was recovered from Area 3. These comprise 116 fragments, 412g, of amorphous and 137 fragments, 1745g, of structural fired clay. Almost all of this latter group could be attributed to diagnostic ceramic objects. The structural assemblage is mostly made up of fragments of portable kiln furniture of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British type (namely kiln bar fragments) and fragments of kiln oven-floor (slab-like plates). The amorphous portion of the assemblage from this area is very likely related to these objects. Included in the assemblage were 13 fragments of a probable Late Iron Age triangular loom weight. It was made in a distinctive sandy fabric tempered with stones and flint which make the fragments noticeably weighty (372g). The structural clay objects are catalogued in Table 13 below.

| Cut | Context | Structural type | Object Class | Object Form | Notes | Count | Weight (g) |
|-----|---------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| 130 | 131 | fs | - | - | fragments of a flattened clay object | 18 | 65 |
| 132 | 133 | fs | - | - | - | 4 | 34 |

| Cut | Context | Structural type | Object Class | Object Form | Notes | Count | Weight (g) |
|-----|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--|-------|------------|
| | | fs/c | ?Loom Weight | - | Possible fragments of a loom weight. Grit and gravel tempered clay object with large rounded face remaining. Two fragments show evidence of a central perforation. Judging by the fabric and the weight, it seems loom weighty | 13 | 372 |
| 140 | 141 | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | slab or bar | Fragments refit to form fragment of a large clay slab-like object. Faces have organic impressions. | 1 | 144 |
| | 142 | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | - | - | 4 | 52 |
| | | fs | - | - | fragments of flattened fired clay | 5 | 33 |
| | | fs | | | - | 3 | 18 |
| 143 | 144 | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | ?clay slab | Fragments of a hand formed flattened clay object. Similar to other rounded slab like objects in this assemblage. Two fragments formed of smaller refitting fragments. The larger has a flattened and reddish face remaining with organic impressions. The smaller fragment is probably the remains of the parallel face. The larger fragment has remnants of a perpendicular adjoining face. Both fragments together would give a thickness of ~30mm | 2 | 105 |
| 146 | 147 | fs/c | ?Kiln Furniture | - | Fragments of a clay object with flattened and curved surfaces, possibly reform to make a square-ish cross-section. A kiln bar? Very silty fabric, probably post-dep related | 32 | 196 |
| 153 | 154 | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | ?kiln plate | fragments of a flattened clay object | 10 | 48 |
| 161 | 162 | fs | - | - | - | 2 | 5 |
| 183 | 184 | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | ?kiln bar | Corner fragment of a clay object. Possibly part of a kiln bar as the fragment suggests a small square-ish cross-section. Smoothed and perpendicular faces. | 1 | 101 |
| | | fs | | | Fragments of flattened clay, probably faces from the clay object in this context | 5 | 42 |
| | | fs/c | ?Kiln Furniture | ?kiln bar | Corner fragment of a clay object. Possibly part of a kiln bar as the fragment suggests a small square-ish cross-section. Smoothed and perpendicular faces. | 1 | 45 |
| | | fs/c | | - | Fragments of one of the clay objects in this contexts | 14 | 43 |
| 213 | 214 | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | ?kiln bar | Fragments of a clay object with flattened surfaces, finger impression present | 6 | 26 |
| 216 | 217 | fs | - | - | - | 2 | 7 |

| Cut | Context | Structural type | Object Class | Object Form | Notes | Count | Weight (g) |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---|------------|-------------|
| | | fs/c/hf | ?Kiln Furniture | ?kiln bar | Fragments of a clay object. Many fragments refit to form half a square profile/cross section of an object 40mm across. Three faces remaining, fourth face is missing but object suggest a square-ish profile and therefore a kiln bar | 1 | 51 |
| 246 | 247 | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | plate or bar | Fragment of a clay object. Three surviving faces gives the object a thickness of 25mm. Fragment of a plate or bar? | 1 | 33 |
| | | fs | - | - | - | 3 | 24 |
| | 248 | fs/hf | ?Kiln Furniture | - | Fragments of at least one clay object. One fragment is seemingly pinched. | 6 | 77 |
| 258 | 259 | fs/c | Kiln Furniture | Kiln Bar | Fragment of a square cross-section kiln bar, possibly slightly tapered. Organic chaff impressions on the three remaining surfaces. | 1 | 95 |
| 262 | 264 | fs/c | Kiln Furniture | Kiln Bar | Fragment of a kiln bar. Two perpendicular faces with a rounded corner and a thumb impression | 1 | 39 |
| | 265 | fs/c | Kiln Furniture | Kiln Bar | Fragment of a kiln bar. Three faces remaining, create an almost complete square/oblong profile. One face is reduced. | 1 | 90 |
| Total | | | | | | 137 | 1745 |

Table 13: summary of diagnostic clay objects in Area 3 (fs=flattened surface, c=corner, hf=handformed)

Area 4

B.6.11 A moderate assemblage of fired clay was also collected from Area 4 (232 fragments, 1408). Within this assemblage 148 fragments, 315g, were amorphous pieces and 83 fragments, 858g, were structural fired clay. The diagnostic assemblage from Area 4 is very similar in form and fabric to that of Area 3. This group exhibit the flattened and hand-formed traits, as in Area 3. In terms of the Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British kiln-related objects there were fewer kiln bars and more slab-like clay plates identified. The amorphous portion of the assemblage from this area is very likely related to these objects. The structural clay from this area is summarised in Table 14 below.

| Cut | Context | Structural type | Object Class | Object Form | Notes | Count | Weight (g) |
|-----|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------|------------|
| 48 | 50 | fs/c | ?Kiln Furniture | ?Kiln Furniture | Fragments of at least one, maybe two, hand formed clay object | 38 | 203 |
| 48 | 50 | Fs/c | | | Fragments of an ?oblong clay object with flattened hand formed surfaces | 13 | 134 |
| 56 | 57 | Fs | ?Kiln Furniture | ?kiln plate | Flattened fragment, kiln plate? | 1 | 10 |
| 91 | 93 | fs/c/hf | ?Kiln Furniture | Clay Slab | Incomplete hand formed clay object. Remains of a corner of a clay slab. Two surviving perpendicular faces. Both are irregular with organic impressions. The concave adjoining face has remains of a corner at one end of the object. It was probably a clay slab intended for use in a kiln or oven. Fragments refit to form a clay | 1 | 58 |

| Cut | Context | Structural type | Object Class | Object Form | Notes | Count | Weight (g) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--|-----------|------------|
| | | | | | object. Fragment measurements recorded. | | |
| | | fs/c/hf | ?Kiln Furniture | Clay Slab | Incomplete hand formed clay object. Two surviving parallel faces. One is smoothed the other is irregular, these are joined by a perpendicular, slightly concave, face. The concave adjoining face has remains of a rounded corner at one end of the object. Suggesting the object was probably flattish and rounded. It was probably a clay slab intended for use in a kiln or oven. Organic impressions present across all faces. Fragments refit to form the clay object (glued), other several smaller fragment from the same object. Fragment measurements recorded. | 8 | 273 |
| 94 | 95 | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | ? | Fragment with a flattened but irregular surface, different object to same fabric into his context? | 1 | 10 |
| | | fs | ?Kiln Furniture | ? | Fragments of the same clay object, with remains of at least two faces. Very flat and smoothed. | 4 | 41 |
| 100 | 101 | fs | | | | 2 | 10 |
| - | 116 | c | | | A rounded face fragment of fired clay | 1 | 14 |
| | | fs | | | | 3 | 15 |
| - | 117 | fs | | | Fragments of a clay object with flattened surfaced. Different colouration to other objects. | 2 | 15 |
| | | Fs | | | | 3 | 8 |
| | | fs/c/hf | ?Kiln Furniture | Clay Slab | Incomplete hand formed clay object. Two surviving parallel faces. One is smoothed the other is irregular. These are joined by a perpendicular. The adjoining face has remains of a rounded corner at one end of the object. probably a clay slab intended for use in a kiln or oven. Organic impressions present across all faces, apart from the smoothed face. Rod impressions within the body often fabric. Fragments refit to form the clay object (glued). Fragment measurements recorded. Well fired and almost completely non-porous with a reduced grey core. | 1 | 235 |
| | | fs/hf | ?Kiln Furniture | ?clay slab | Fragments of a clay object. These fragments all have smoothed and flattened surfaces, where there are perpendicular faces the corners are abrupt and not rounded. Same fabric and style as the clay slab from this context, could they be from the same object or from a different more angular object. | 6 | 67 |
| Grand Total | | | | | | 83 | 858 |

Table 14: Summary of diagnostic clay objects in Area 4 (fs=flattened surface, c=corner, hf=handformed)

Area 5

- B.6.12 A modest assemblage of three pieces of fired clay (9g) were recovered from Pit **75** in Area 5. These comprise two amorphous fragments (1g) and a single flattened fragments (8g). There is very little to be gleaned from these, although they share the same fabrics as many other fragments from this site.

Discussion

- B.6.13 Taken in sum, the assemblage of fired clay collected at excavation represents a suite of Late Iron age to Early Romano-British activity at this site. Whilst none of the fragments were found *in situ* the diagnostic fragments identified provide probable evidence for structures related to habitation, for weaving activity and kiln-related industry. The amorphous fragments are far less informative. However considering their similarity in fabric and number found in relation to the structural fragments they provide evidence, at least, for bulk. The fired clay, then, represents typical domestic use and disuse of the site during the Late Iron Age and the Early Romano-British period.
- B.6.14 All amorphous fragments should be considered for deselection.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human bone

By Zoe Ui Choileáin

Introduction and Methodology

C.1.1 Excavations on the Iron Age settlement at Stratton farm in Biggleswade uncovered a single unurned, undated cremation burial **322**. The burial was within a pit 0.43m wide and 0.08m deep. The deposit was 100% sampled and the cremated bone analysed in accordance with national guidelines laid out by Brickley and McKinley (2004).

Results

C.1.2 There were no repeated elements within the cremated bone suggesting a minimum number of one individual. The robustness of elements are the only indication of age present and suggest an adult individual. All elements were present including skull and upper and lower limb bones.

C.1.3 The colour of the bone examined was primarily white suggesting that all of the bone was exposed to a consistent heat. Colour reflects the degree of heat attained during cremation, with bone that was exposed to the highest temperatures having a buff white appearance (Holck, 2008 110-115). All of the cremated bone displayed a mixture of transverse and curved transverse fractures and longitudinal fractures. Fractures like this are the result of bone heating then cracking as soft tissues and muscles shrink (Schmid 2008, 43).

C.1.4 Only 321g were recovered and the total bone weights are presented below. The highest percentage of bone was in the 5-10mm fraction and therefore limited information could be extracted.

Discussion

C.1.5 This is an isolated truncated cremation and therefore few conclusions can be made about funerary rites. Although the surrounding archaeological features are Late Iron Age in date a C14 date would be required to determine if it were contemporary with them.

| Cut | Deposit | Sample | >10mm frag weight (g) | 10-5mm frag weight (g) | 5-2mm frag weight (g) | Total Weight (g) |
|------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 332 | 333 | 42 | 34 | 201 | 86 | 321 |

Table 15: The cremated remains: weights and fragmentation

C.2 Animal bone

By Ian Smith

Introduction and methodology

C.2.1 The assemblage consists of 1189 fragments (weighing 15.01kg) of hand collected and sampled material. The samples are bagged by sample and context number. The hand collected material is clean and bagged by context number.

Dating

C.2.2 The faunal assemblage relates entirely to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period (50BC to 100AD). A small amount of post medieval material (from context 270) and material from (99999) has been excluded from consideration and does not appear in the tables. All other material is securely phased and was assessed.

Recovery and provenance

C.2.3 By volume the majority of the animal bone under consideration here was recovered by hand (Table 16) but material from 25 soil samples was also considered (Table 17). The majority of the contexts are ditch fills and it is considered unlikely that division into sub-phases will be possible (Mortimer pers comm).

| Hand collected | Total frags | Serjeantson zones 1996 | Fusion | Mandibular rows | Maxillary rows | Loose mandibular teeth | Loose maxillary teeth | Measurable specimens |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| cattle | 211 | 64 | 16 | 9 | 0 | 17 | 20 | 23 |
| large mammal | 413 | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| cattle/red | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| medium/ large mammal | 180 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| sheep/goat | 97 | 48 | 15 | 8 | 1 | 17 | 3 | 15 |
| medium | 203 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| pig | 20 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| horse | 46 | 16 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| dog | 13 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| small mammal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 1189 | 187 | 57 | 20 | 1 | 40 | 25 | 57 |

Table 16: Hand collected bones

| Sampled | Total frags | Serjeantson zones 1996 | Fusion | Loose tooth mandibular | Measurable specimens |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------|------------------------|----------------------|
| large mammal | 12 | | | | |
| medium/ large mammal | 97 | | | | |
| sheep/goat | 3 | 1 | | | |
| sheep/g/roe | 4 | 1 | | | |

| Sampled | Total frags | Serjeantson zones 1996 | Fusion | Loose tooth mandibular | Measurable specimens |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------|
| medium mammal | 53 | | | | |
| pig | 1 | | | 1 | |
| micro-mammal | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| amphibian | 21 | | | | |
| Grand Total | 199 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 |

Table 17: Sampled bones

Methods

- C.2.4 Hand collected and sampled fractions were assessed separately for countable ageable and measurable specimens following Baker and Worley (2014). Countable specimens here include all elements zoned by Serjeantson (1996). Vertebrae and ribs have been classed as “large” (cattle or horse sized) and “medium” (sheep size).
- C.2.5 Additionally, mandibular rows were counted as such if they included at least one in situ deciduous fourth premolar or permanent fourth premolar or any molar in addition to at least one other in situ tooth (to correspond with the teeth assessed for tooth wear by Grant 1982 and Payne 1973, 1987). Maxillary rows were counted where at least two teeth were present. Loose mandibular teeth (and corresponding maxillary teeth to reflect the presence of cranial parts) were also counted. Fusion state totals are of numbers of specimens (not numbers of “ends”) from amongst the scapulae, pelvis, major long bones, calcanei, metapodia and phalanges 1 and 2 (as in Silver 1969) that will produce at least one record (ie proximal or distal) of epiphyseal fusion. Specimens were counted as measurable if they included measurement points illustrated and defined in von den Driesch (1976) or Davis (1992, 1996).

Results

Preservation

- C.2.6 The majority of the assemblage is reasonably well preserved and is approximately comparable to Lyman (1994, 355) weathering stages 1 or 2 although a minority of specimens at more advanced stages of erosion are also present. There appears to be little evidence (in the form of longitudinal splitting for instance) for subaerial weathering. Burnt fragments, generally unidentified and small, comprise 2% of the bone fragments amongst the hand collected material and 25% of the soil sampled bone fragments. Gnawed fragments, (with obvious pitting at bone ends or signs of furrowing that probably relate to carnivore damage) comprise 5% of the hand collected material. Preservation in a majority of contexts is good enough for the recognition and recording of butchery including fine cut marks.

Species representation

- C.2.7 The range of species is limited and dominated amongst the hand collected material by cattle (*Bos taurus*), followed in descending order by sheep (*Ovis aries*), horse (*Equus* sp), pig (*Sus domesticus*) and dog (*Canis familiaris*) (Table 1). Amongst the hand collected fragments “large mammal” comprise 35%, cattle 18%, “medium mammal” 17%, “medium to large mammal” 15%, sheep/goat 8%, horse 4%, pig 2% and dog 1%.
- C.2.8 Amongst the sampled material the majority is identifiable only to the level of “large mammal”, “medium/large mammal” or “medium mammal”.

Non-metric traits

- C.2.9 Amongst the cattle mandibular third molars, one was noted from fill 238 (**237**) which had merely a small ridge instead of the usual hypoconulid (or third cusp). In four other hand collected specimens the hypoconulid is present.
- C.2.10 From context 212 (**210**) there are two fragmentary parts of a cattle skull that could be refitted in order to determine the skull type/frontal arch profile following Grigson (1976).

Butchery

- C.2.11 Obvious butchery includes a cattle astragalus in context 257 (**249**) with deep, fine cut marks that correspond to “TA-1” of Binford (1981) and undoubtedly relate to dismemberment and a cattle (incomplete) horncore chopped at the base from fill 176 (**175**) (cf Lauwerier 1988, 183 “horncore 1”). A scrupulous search for fine cut marks has not been conducted.

The mandibular evidence

- C.2.12 There are nine cattle mandibular rows (see “methods”) and eight from sheep/goat in addition to loose teeth from both species (Tables 18 and 19). A small number of suggested ages at death would result from examination and recording of the tooth wear stages. Some sheep/goat species determination is undoubtedly possible amongst the mandibular deciduous fourth and other premolars present. Two pig mandible parts can be sexed.

| Mandibular rows (at least two Grant 1982 teeth) | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Context | cattle | sheep/goat | pig | dog | Grand Total |
| 117 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 133 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 142 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 144 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 154 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 182 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 184 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 201 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 234 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 238 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 242 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 254 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 259 | 2 | | | | 2 |
| 272 | | 2 | | | 2 |
| 282 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 297 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 320 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 343 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Grand Total | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 20 |

Table 18: mandibular rows by context

| Loose tooth mandibular (count) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Context | cattle | sheep/goat | pig | horse | Grand Total |
| 93 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 133 | 1 | 4 | | | 5 |
| 142 | 2 | | | | 2 |
| 144 | 3 | 2 | | | 5 |
| 147 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 154 | 3 | | | | 3 |
| 162 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 184 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 191 | | 2 | | | 2 |
| 201 | | | 2 | | 2 |
| 211 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| 234 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 236 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 242 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 248 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| 259 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 267 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 268 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| 272 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 278 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 297 | 2 | | | | 2 |
| 310 | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Grand Total | 17 | 17 | 3 | 2 | 40 |

Table 19: Mandibular loose teeth by context

Fusion states

- C.2.13 A number of fusion states (Table 16) are available to be recorded but once divided by anatomical element they are insubstantial for each species.

Measurements

- C.2.14 Most of the potential measurements are from cattle and sheep/goat (38 measureable specimens from these two groups). Domestic stock from this period are often reported to be small but standard measurements (to provide data relating to this) are badly needed (Albarella 2007, 396).

The sampled microfauna

- C.2.15 The microfauna includes some amphibian bones from fill 268 (**266**). These include several tibiofibulae all of which (according to reference material checks) are probably from the Genus *Rana* and not *Bufo*. There are no fronto-parietals or ilia. One fragment from this context, possibly a midshaft tibiofibula, shows evidence (in the form of pitting) for predation.

Comparanda

- C.2.16 Cattle and sheep/goat are recorded in approximately equal numbers from a reasonably sized assemblage (2348 fragments) of comparable date from Stagsden (Oake *et al*

2007, 71; Roberts 2000). Other sites appear to have been dominated by cattle and sheep although the evidence appears variously insubstantial or poorly curated (Oake *et al* 2007, 71). With regard to bone condition across the region many groups of this date range are from neutral or acidic soils and in such condition the preservation is often variable. Indeed at many Iron Age sites across the region no bone at all survived or none was recovered (Glazebrook 1997, 31; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 45). Although a relatively small group, the assemblage has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the management, proportions, butchery and disposal of Iron Age domesticates for which the evidence is limited (3 to 10 sites in the eastern counties noted by Brown and Glazebrook [2000, 44]). The dating of much Iron Age and early Roman material from the area is problematic (Oake *et al* 2007, 67; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 14) and any additional evidence is thus valuable with regard to understanding the transition into the Roman period. As further small groups come to light, differences may emerge between rural and urban assemblages, with regard to species ratios and stock size for instance, within this transitional period.

Discussion

C.2.17 According to the species fragment counts, cattle are about twice as common as sheep/goat whereas if one looks at mandibular rows and loose teeth the ratio is approximately equal. The mandibular ratio is likely to be a more reliable indicator of the original species ratios. Cattle and sheep tend to dominate the species frequencies from local sites within the span of time represented by this assemblage (Oake *et al* 2007, 71). The proportions of sheep and cattle are undoubtedly subject to many taphonomic variables including disposal practices, the actions of carnivores and excavation recovery methods. They are also of interest with regard to changing proportions in the Iron Age and beyond (Albarella 2007) and with regard to differential disposal of cattle and sheep remains at different locations (near or away from round-houses for instance) across the cultural landscape (Wilson 1996). One might expect that the proportion of cattle will increase particularly in the towns after the Roman invasion. At present this assemblage may not be dated with enough precision to help resolve such hypotheses, although this might be achieved in the future. Material from ditches can be difficult to date precisely, and Biggleswade receives a specific mention in this regard within the Bedfordshire Research Agenda (Oake *et al* 2007, 67). The proportions of the main domesticates directly relate to, and are crucial to fully understanding many themes and questions raised by Murphy in the Research Agenda such as manuring, lynchet formation and phosphate ratios (Oake *et al* 2007, 79).

| Cut | Context | Species/Size | Total frags |
|-----|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| 43 | 44 | large mammal | 2 |
| 45 | 47 | large mammal | 4 |
| 48 | 50 | large mammal | 1 |
| 51 | 53 | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | cattle/red | 4 |
| 56 | 57 | medium mammal | 1 |
| 91 | 93 | pig | 1 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 6 |
| | | medium mammal | 9 |
| | | large mammal | 26 |
| | | horse | 3 |

| Cut | Context | Species/Size | Total frags |
|------------|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | cattle | 2 |
| 94 | 95 | medium mammal | 2 |
| 97 | 98 | medium mammal | 4 |
| | | large mammal | 2 |
| - | 116 | large mammal | 6 |
| - | 117 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 17 |
| | | medium mammal | 4 |
| | | large mammal | 25 |
| | | cattle | 19 |
| 124 | 125 | medium mammal | 9 |
| 126 | 127 | sheep/goat | 3 |
| | | medium mammal | 8 |
| | | large mammal | 10 |
| | | cattle | 5 |
| 130 | 131 | medium mammal | 3 |
| 132 | 133 | sheep/goat | 13 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 50 |
| | | medium mammal | 11 |
| | | large mammal | 17 |
| | | dog | 2 |
| | | cattle | 27 |
| 134 | 135 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| 132 | 138 | sheep/goat | 6 |
| | | medium mammal | 4 |
| | | large mammal | 5 |
| 140 | 141 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | medium mammal | 4 |
| | | large mammal | 14 |
| | | cattle | 3 |
| | 142 | pig | 2 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 7 |
| | | medium mammal | 12 |
| | | large mammal | 24 |
| | | cattle | 8 |
| 143 | 144 | sheep/goat | 6 |
| | | medium mammal | 6 |
| | | large mammal | 14 |
| | | horse | 1 |
| | | cattle | 5 |
| | 145 | pig | 2 |
| | | large mammal | 3 |
| 146 | 147 | medium/large mammal | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 7 |
| | | large mammal | 3 |
| | | cattle | 1 |
| 148 | 149 | medium mammal | 1 |

| Cut | Context | Species/Size | Total frags |
|-----|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | large mammal | 1 |
| 153 | 154 | sheep/goat | 10 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 13 |
| | | medium mammal | 2 |
| | | large mammal | 15 |
| | | cattle | 10 |
| 161 | 162 | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 3 |
| | | cattle | 1 |
| 163 | 164 | medium mammal | 5 |
| 165 | 166 | large mammal | 4 |
| | | cattle | 4 |
| 173 | 174 | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | cattle/red | 1 |
| 175 | 176 | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | cattle | 8 |
| 179 | 180 | medium mammal | 1 |
| 181 | 182 | cattle | 1 |
| 183 | 184 | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 1 |
| | | medium mammal | 4 |
| | | large mammal | 5 |
| | | cattle | 5 |
| 190 | 191 | sheep/goat | 3 |
| 196 | 194 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 2 |
| | | horse | 7 |
| | | cattle | 1 |
| 200 | 201 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | pig | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 4 |
| | | large mammal | 5 |
| | | horse | 1 |
| 203 | 204 | medium mammal | 2 |
| 207 | 209 | large mammal | 4 |
| 210 | 211 | pig | 1 |
| | | medium mammal | 2 |
| | | large mammal | 3 |
| | | horse | 3 |
| | | 212 | cattle |
| 213 | 214 | medium/large mammal | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 3 |
| 198 | 215 | large mammal | 2 |
| 216 | 217 | large mammal | 1 |
| 218 | 219 | sheep/goat | 1 |

| Cut | Context | Species/Size | Total frags |
|-----|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 3 |
| 220 | 221 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 3 |
| | | cattle | 1 |
| 227 | 229 | medium mammal | 1 |
| 233 | 234 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | pig | 5 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 1 |
| | | medium mammal | 4 |
| | | large mammal | 3 |
| 235 | 236 | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 6 |
| | | large mammal | 6 |
| 237 | 238 | medium/large mammal | 2 |
| | | horse | 14 |
| | | cattle | 5 |
| 241 | 242 | sheep/goat | 4 |
| | | pig | 2 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 17 |
| | | medium mammal | 6 |
| | | large mammal | 29 |
| | | dog | 3 |
| | | cattle | 5 |
| 246 | 247 | medium/large mammal | 6 |
| | | medium mammal | 4 |
| | 248 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 1 |
| | | medium mammal | 7 |
| | | large mammal | 6 |
| | | cattle | 4 |
| 249 | 251 | large mammal | 1 |
| 252 | 254 | sheep/goat | 3 |
| | | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 1 |
| | | cattle | 3 |
| 255 | 256 | medium mammal | 4 |
| | | large mammal | 1 |
| 249 | 257 | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 3 |
| | | large mammal | 5 |
| | | cattle | 3 |
| 258 | 259 | sheep/goat | 3 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 10 |
| | | medium mammal | 2 |
| | | large mammal | 24 |
| | | dog | 3 |

| Cut | Context | Species/Size | Total frags |
|------------|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| | 260 | cattle | 13 |
| | | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 17 |
| | | cattle | 12 |
| | 261 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | pig | 1 |
| | | dog | 4 |
| | | cattle | 1 |
| 262 | 263 | cattle | 6 |
| | 264 | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 1 |
| | 265 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 3 |
| 266 | 267 | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 8 |
| | | cattle | 9 |
| | 268 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | pig | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 2 |
| | | horse | 3 |
| | | cattle | 4 |
| 271 | 272 | sheep/goat | 6 |
| | | pig | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 3 |
| | | large mammal | 7 |
| | | cattle | 2 |
| 277 | 278 | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 2 |
| | | large mammal | 7 |
| | | horse | 1 |
| | | dog | 1 |
| | | cattle | 1 |
| 279 | 280 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 5 |
| | | cattle | 3 |
| 281 | 282 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | pig | 1 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 4 |
| 305 | 306 | cattle | 1 |
| 309 | 310 | sheep/goat | 2 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 10 |

| Cut | Context | Species/Size | Total frags |
|-----|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| 311 | 312 | medium/large mammal | 2 |
| | | medium mammal | 2 |
| 317 | 318 | medium/large mammal | 4 |
| | | horse | 6 |
| 319 | 320 | sheep/goat | 5 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 9 |
| | | medium mammal | 21 |
| | | large mammal | 25 |
| | | cattle | 3 |
| 329 | 331 | small mammal | 1 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 8 |
| | | medium mammal | 8 |
| | | large mammal | 24 |
| | | horse | 5 |
| | | cattle | 2 |
| 334 | 335 | medium/large mammal | 6 |
| 342 | 343 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | medium/large mammal | 5 |
| | | large mammal | 14 |
| | | horse | 1 |
| | | cattle | 5 |
| 344 | 346 | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | cattle | 12 |
| 347 | 348 | medium mammal | 1 |
| 350 | 353 | medium mammal | 1 |
| | | large mammal | 4 |
| | 354 | medium mammal | 2 |
| | 355 | sheep/goat | 1 |
| | | medium mammal | 5 |
| | | large mammal | 4 |

Table 20: Catalogue of animal bone by context

C.3 Shell

By Kathryn Blackburn

Introduction and methodology

C.3.1 A total of 15g of oyster shell was recovered from five contexts consisting of pits and ditches. The shells recovered are all edible examples of oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine, shallow coastal waters and intertidal zones (Winder 2011). The shell is relatively moderately well preserved and does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed. The shells were weighed and recorded by species, the minimum number of individuals was not recorded due to the small size of the assemblage.

| Context | Cut | Feature type | Shell type | Weight (g) | Area | Phase |
|---------|-----|--------------|------------|------------|------|-------|
| 44 | 43 | Ditch | Oyster | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| 53 | 51 | Pit | Oyster | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 93 | 91 | Pit | Oyster | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 142 | 140 | Ditch | Oyster | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 248 | 246 | Ditch | Oyster | 3 | 3 | 2 |

| Context | Cut | Feature type | Shell type | Weight (g) | Area | Phase |
|--------------|-----|--------------|------------|------------|------|-------|
| Total | | | | 15 | | |

Table 21: Shell by context

C.4 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and methodology

- C.4.1 Thirty seven bulk samples were taken during excavations of five areas along a pipeline route at Stratton Farm to Newspring Farm, Biggleswade. Features sampled are mainly from the Later Iron Age Settlement.
- C.4.2 The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

- C.4.3 For this initial assessment, one bucket (approximately 10 litres) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The total volume of the sample from cremation **332** was processed to ensure maximum retrieval of human remains.
- C.4.4 The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic residues prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Tables 1-5. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

- C.4.5 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

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

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

Results

- C.4.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor. The results are presented by phase and by area.

Late Iron Age and Early Roman

C.4.7 The majority of the samples were from deposits that are dated to the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods. Samples taken from Areas 1 and 2 are devoid of preserved plant remains other than occasional charcoal. This includes feature **329** which has been interpreted as a watering hole. There was no preservation by waterlogging evident in the sample although this was taken from upper fill 330.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Sample No. | | 37 | 40 | 41 | 43 |
| Context No. | | 314 | 324 | 330 | 343 |
| Cut No. | | 313 | 323 | 329 | 342 |
| Feature Type | | Pit | Ring gully | Watering hole | Ditch |
| Volume processed (L) | | 8 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| Area | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Volume of flot (litres) | | 20 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| cereal indet. caryopsis | indeterminate | 1 | | | 1 |
| Dry land herbs: | | | | | |
| <i>Bromus</i> sp. caryopsis | Bromes | | | | 1 |
| Estimated charcoal volume | | 2 | 2 | 0 | <1 |
| Charcoal <2mm | | ++ | ++ | | + |
| Charcoal >2mm | | ++ | + | | |

Table 22: Samples from Late Iron Age and Early Roman deposits in Areas 1 and 2

C.4.8 An area of Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity in Area 3 was extensively sampled. There appears to be a background scatter of charred grain which occurs in approximately half of the samples. There isn't a clear pattern of distribution; most charred remains are found as single poorly preserved cereal grains in the eastern half of the area in features that may be associated with buildings. The most noteworthy samples are from ditch **139** and pit **143**. Ditch **139** (fill 152) was located at the far west of the area and produced a charred plant assemblage that contains occasional grains of spelt wheat, along with three glume bases that are part of the outer husk that encloses the wheat grain in the cereal ear. There are also three legumes that are either vetches (*Vicia* sp.) or small peas (*Pisum/Lathyrus* sp.). The sample contains a moderate assemblage of charred seeds of weeds that include bromes and rye-grass (*Lolium* sp.) that are most likely to have been growing amongst the cereal crops in addition to seeds of weeds of pasture plants that may indicate the burning of hay such as grasses (*Poaceae*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*). A single seed of rush (*Juncus* sp.) is also present. Fill 144 of pit **143**, (approximately 20m east of ditch **139**) produced a similar charred plant assemblage.

C.4.9 A single sample taken from fill 182 of pit **181** located towards the centre of Area 3, this pit produced a very similar charred plant assemblage to that from ditch **139** and pit **143** which lay approximately 20m to the west. This sample also contains spelt wheat and barley grains in addition to small legumes, rushes, crop and pasture seeds. It is possible that these features are close in date.

| Sample No. | | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 21 | 20 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|-------|----------|-----|-----|-----------|----------|-------|-------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|----------------|-----|-----|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Context No. | | 131 | 133 | 135 | 144 | 145 | 162 | 168 | 176 | 152 | 182 | 184 | 201 | 225 | 238 | 209 | 212 | 250 | 247 | 259 | 263 | 268 | 276 | 278 |
| Cut No. | | 130 | 132 | 134 | 143 | 143 | 161 | 167 | 175 | 139 | 181 | 183 | 200 | 223 | 237 | 207 | 210 | 249 | 246 | 258 | 262 | 266 | 275 | 277 |
| Feature Type | | Ring gully | Ditch | Posthole | Pit | Pit | Beam-slot | Posthole | Ditch | Ditch | Pit | Beam-slot | Pit | Posthole | Ditch terminus | Pit | Pit | Ditch | Ditch recut | Ditch | Ditch | Ditch | Beam-slot | Ditch |
| Volume processed (L) | | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Volume of flot (litres) | | <1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 1 |
| Cereals: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. caryopsis | domesticated barley grain | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Triticum cf. spelta</i> L. caryopsis | Spelt Wheat grain | | | | 13 | | | | 4 | 12 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| cereal indet. caryopsis | indeterminate | | | | 6 | | | | | | 14 | | | 2 | | 1 | 4 | | 4 | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Chaff: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Triticum spelta</i> L. glume base | Spelt Wheat chaff | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Other food plants | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Legume 2-4mm | vetch/tare/small pea | | | | | | | | 3 | 9 | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 | | | | | |
| Dry land herbs: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Bromus</i> spp. caryopsis | Bromes | | | | 4 | | | | 6 | 9 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A. Love achene | Black bindweed | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> L. seed | Common poppy | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Lolium cf. temulentum</i> L. caryopsis | Darnel | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Malva</i> sp. nutlet | Mallows | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Montia fontana</i> ssp. seed | Blinks | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L. seed | Ribwort Plantain | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| medium Poaceae indet. [3-4mm] | Grass Family | | | | | | | | 7 | 9 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| <i>Rumex acetosella</i> L. achene | Sheep's Sorrel | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Rumex</i> sp. achene | small-seeded Docks | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| small <i>Trifolium</i> sp. (<1mm) seed | Clovers | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| trigonus <i>Carex</i> sp. (2-3mm) nut | Common / Slender Spike-rush | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| <i>Juncus</i> sp. seed | Rushes | | | | 3 | | | | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|---|----|---|----|---|---|---|
| Estimated charcoal volume | | 0 | 0 | <1 | <1 | 0 | <1 | <1 | 0 | <1 | 1 | <1 | 0 | 1 | <1 | <1 | 2 | 0 | <1 | 0 | <1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Charcoal <2mm | | | | + | + | | + | ++ | | + | ++ | + | | ++ | + | + | +++ | | + | | + | | | |
| Charcoal >2mm | | | | + | + | | | ++ | | | ++ | | | + | + | | +++ | | | | | + | | |

Table 23: Samples from Late Iron Age to Early Roman deposits in Area 3

C.4.10 Five samples were taken from deposits in Area 4. There is no preservation of plant remains in the pit fills and only single charred cereal grains are present in ditches **69** and **97**.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Sample No. | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Context No. | | 53 | 57 | 70 | 93 | 95 | 98 | 109 |
| Cut No. | | 51 | 56 | 69 | 91 | 94 | 97 | 108 |
| Feature Type | | Pit | Pit | Ditch | Pit | Pit | Ditch | Pit |
| Volume processed (L) | | 9 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Area | | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Volume of flot (litres) | | 2 | 2 | 1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| Cereals | | | | | | | | |
| Hordeum vulgare L. caryopsis | Domesticated barley grain | | | | | | 1 | |
| Triticum cf. spelta L. caryopsis | Spelt Wheat grain | | | 1 | | | | |
| Estimated charcoal volume | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table 24: Samples from Late Iron Age and Early Roman deposits in Area 4 and 5

C.4.11 *Unphased*

Three samples were taken from undated features in Area 1. Ditch **319** and pit **321** did not contain any preserved plant remains although pottery was recovered from the residue of fill 322 of ditch **319** which will assist with dating the deposit. Pit **75** yielded both barley grains and spelt wheat.

C.4.12 Cremation **332** produced 30ml charcoal from the main fill 333.

Discussion

C.4.13 The environmental samples from the five areas excavated between Stratton Farm to Newspring Farm have produced results that are consistent with the interpretation of the archaeology of the site in that the main focus of activity is seen in Area 3 and dates to the Late Iron Age. It is evident that spelt wheat and barley are common cereals that are being utilised and probably processed in this area. The weed seed assemblages hint at the use of pasture for the harvesting of hay and it is likely that areas of the harvested fields are damp enough to support wetland species such as rushes.

C.4.14 This initial assessment is based on the processing of one-bucket sub-samples that have produced small plant assemblages that have been fully quantified. Additional processing of remaining soil is likely to produced additional charred plant material but it is unlikely that the diversity of plant remains will increase significantly and such a restricted area of excavation precludes detailed interpretation.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------|------------|
| OASIS Number | oxfordar3-263644 | | |
| Project Name | Late Iron Age and Early Roman activity between the A1 and Strattons Farm, Biggleswade | | |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) Start | 02-05-2016 | Finish | 30-06-2016 |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | Yes | Future Work | Yes |

Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| Site Code | BEDFM2016.01 | Planning App. No. | |
| HER No. | BEDFM2016.01 | Related HER/OASIS No. | |

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

| Monument | Period | Object | Period |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| ditch | Iron Age -800 to 43 | pottery | Iron Age -800 to 43 |
| pit | Iron Age -800 to 43 | pottery | Roman 43 to 410 |
| cobbled surface | Iron Age -800 to 43 | animal bone | Iron Age -800 to 43 |

Project Location

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|--|----------------|
| County | Bedfordshire | Site Address (including postcode if possible) | |
| District | Central Bedfordshire | Stratton Farm Biggleswade Bedfordshire SG18 9SX | |
| Parish | Biggleswade | | |
| HER | Bedford | | |
| Study Area | 9500 sqm | National Grid Reference | TL 21146 40987 |

Project Originators

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Organisation | OA EAST |
| Project Brief Originator | Martin Oake |
| Project Design Originator | Richard Mortimer |
| Project Manager | Richard Mortimer |
| Supervisor | Kathryn Nicholls |

Project Archives

| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| The Higgins, Bedford | OA EAST | The Higgins, Bedford |
| BEDFM2016.01 | BEDFM2016.01 | BEDFM2016.01 |

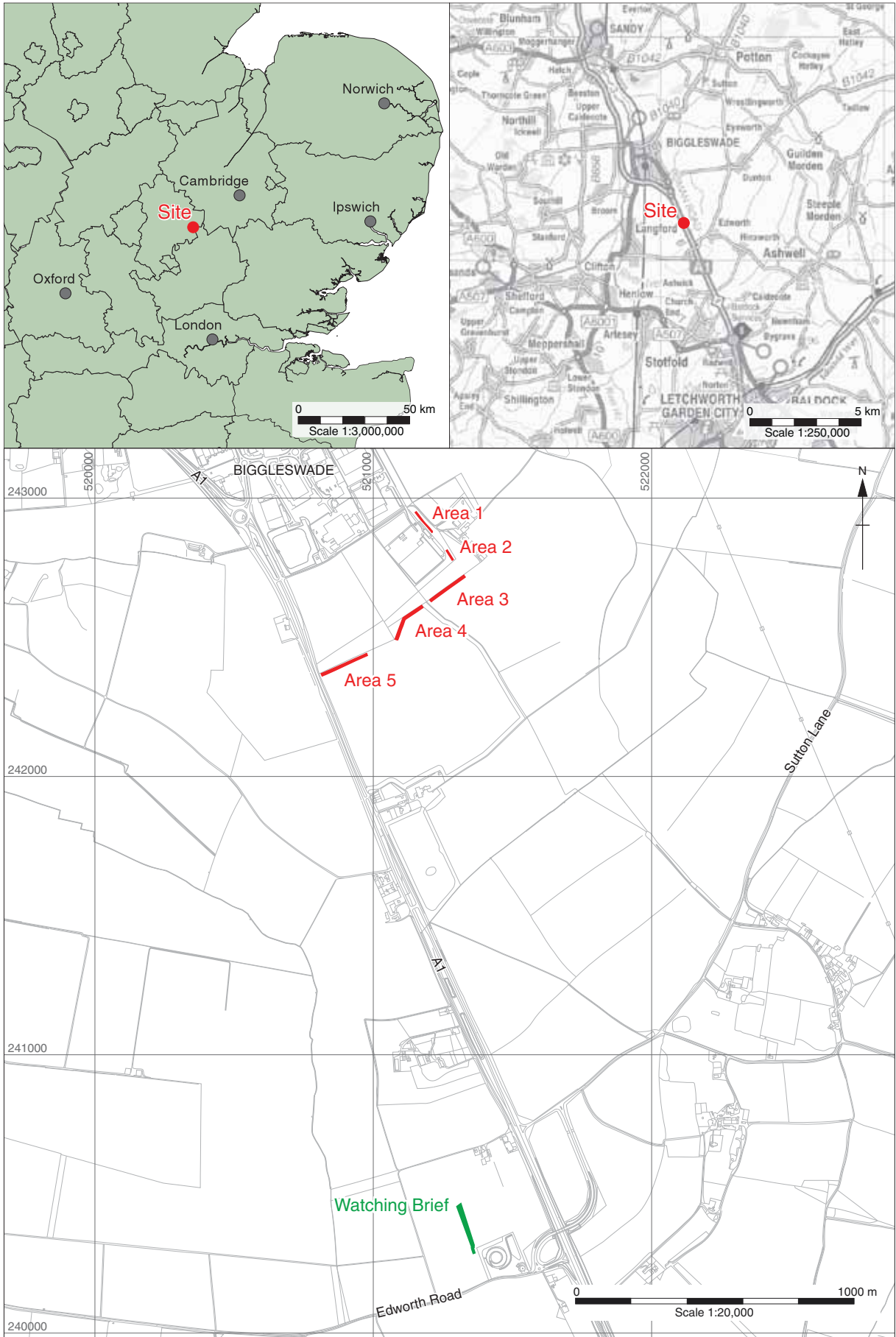
Archive Contents/Media

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

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

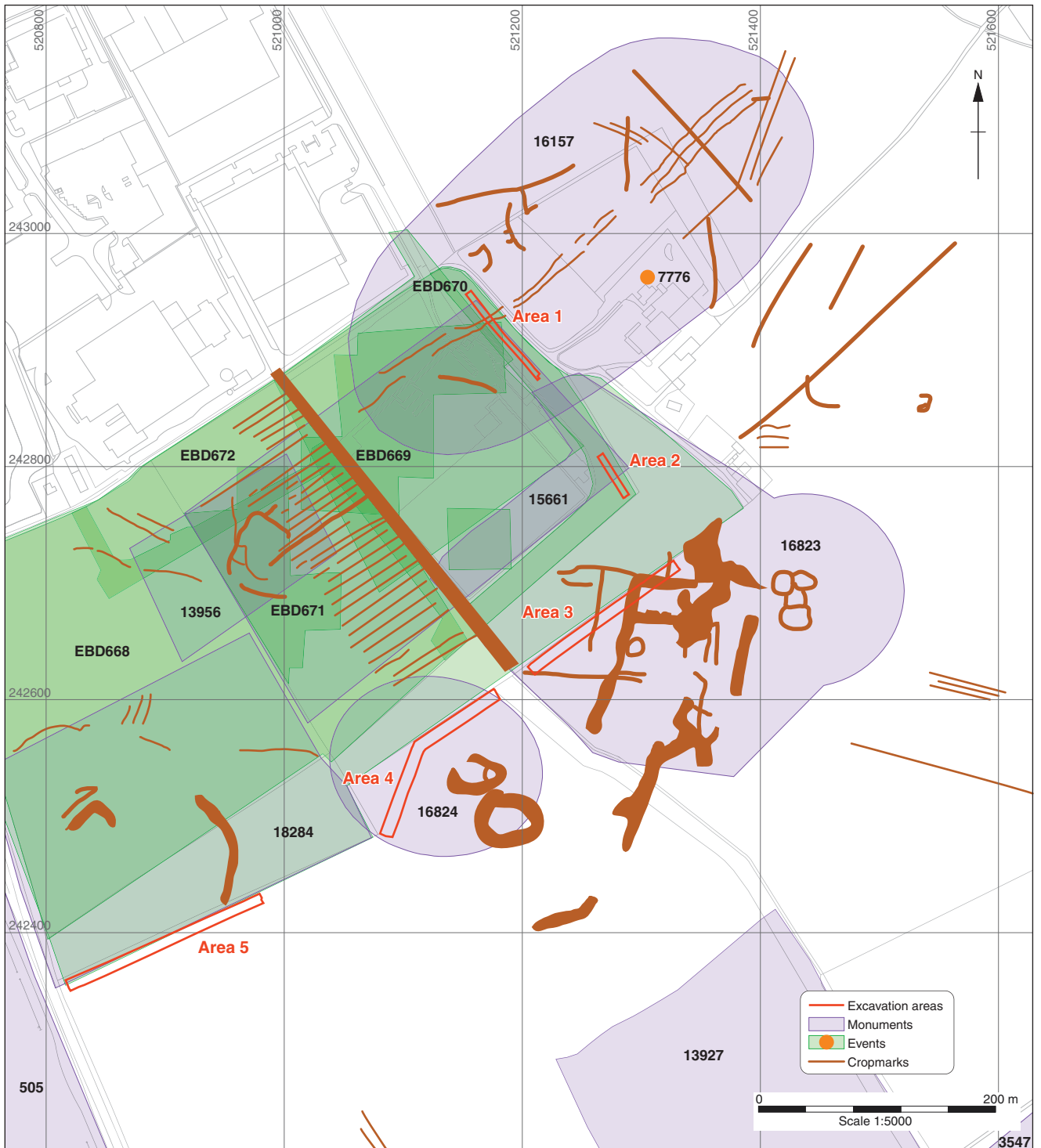
Notes:

fired clay - Roman
 bone- roman
 metal - roman
 glass- post-med
 pottery - post-med
 ditch - roman
 pit - roman



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Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: HER data

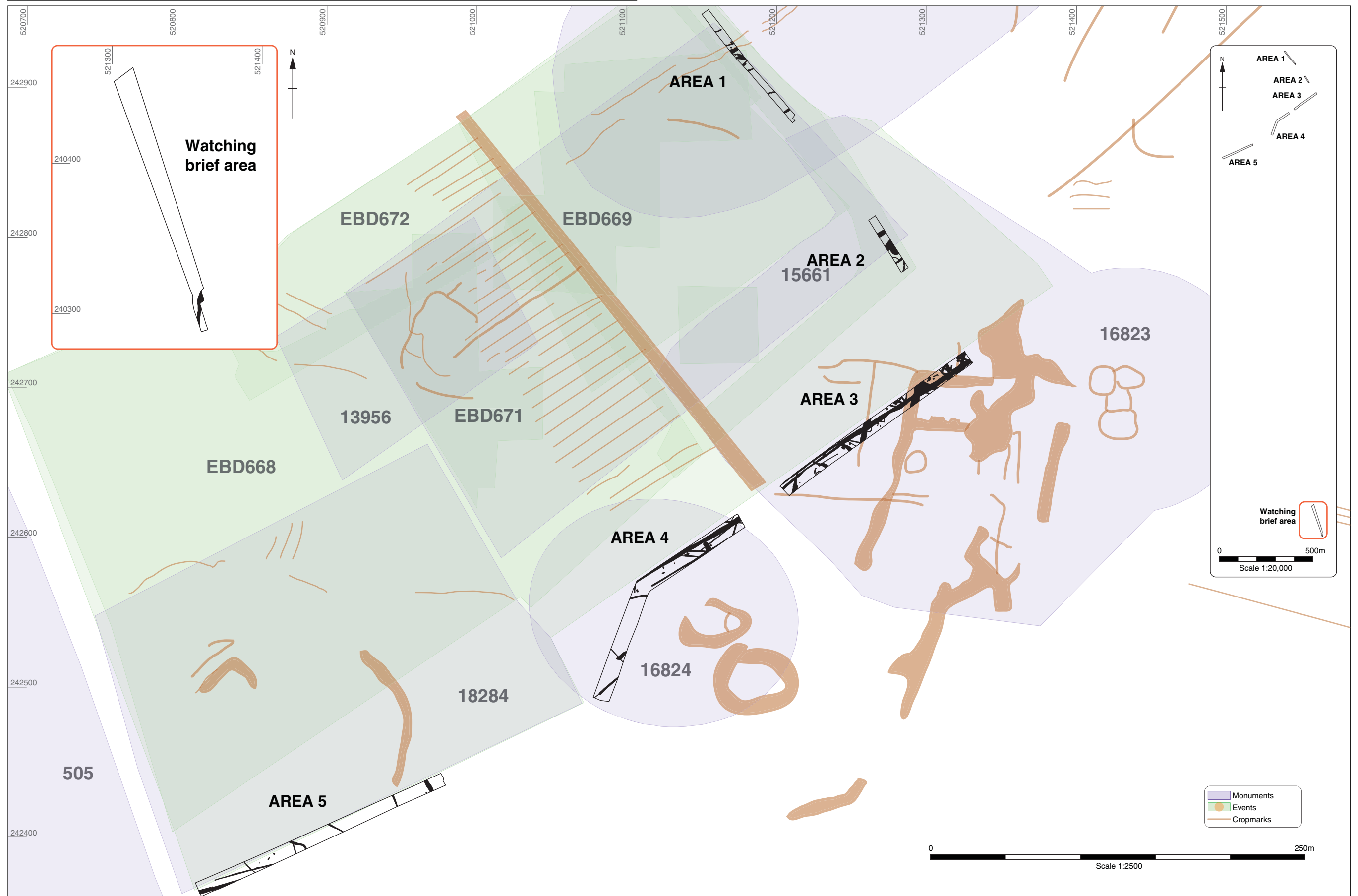


Figure 3: All area plan



Figure 4: Area 1



Figure 5: Area 2

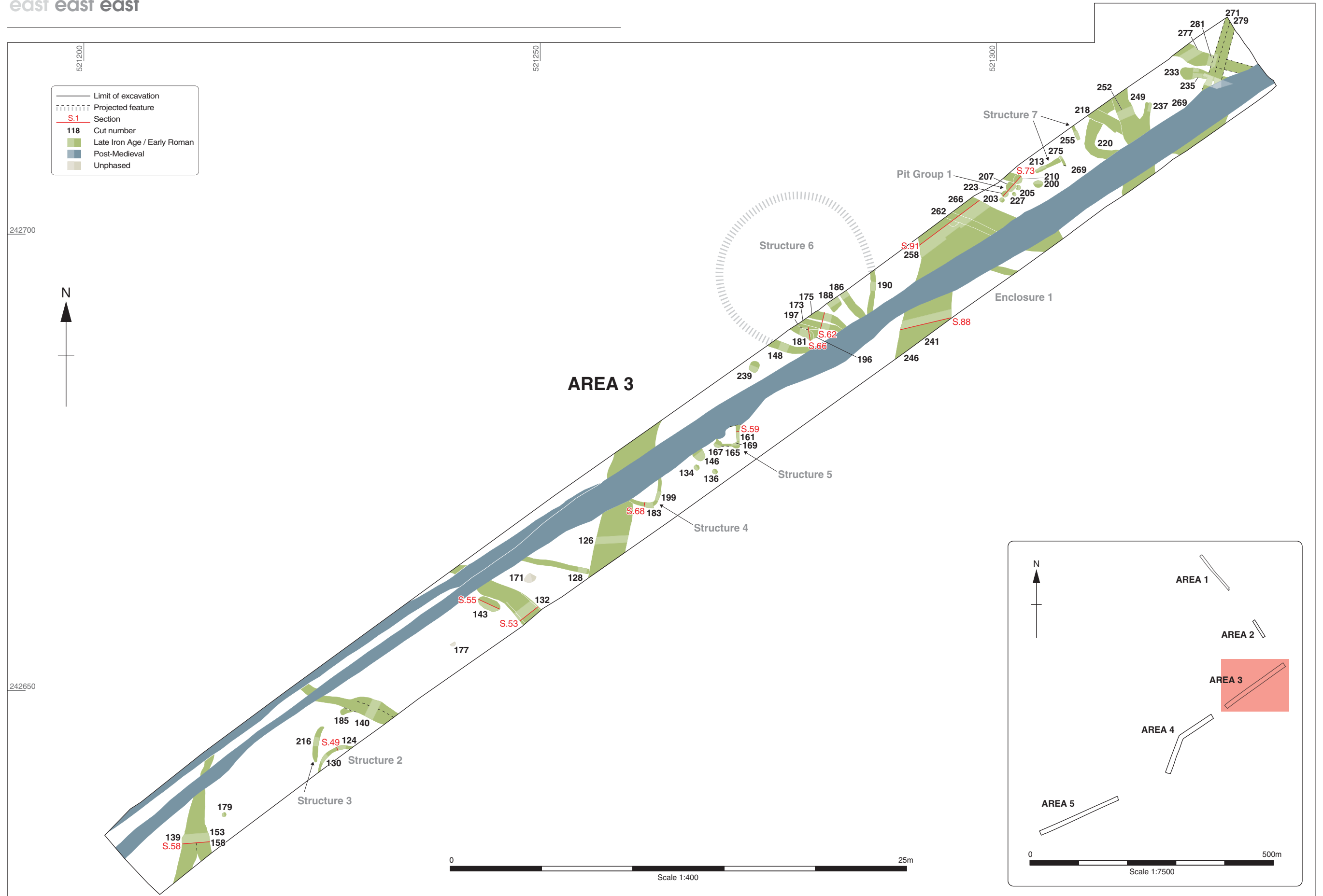


Figure 6: Area 3

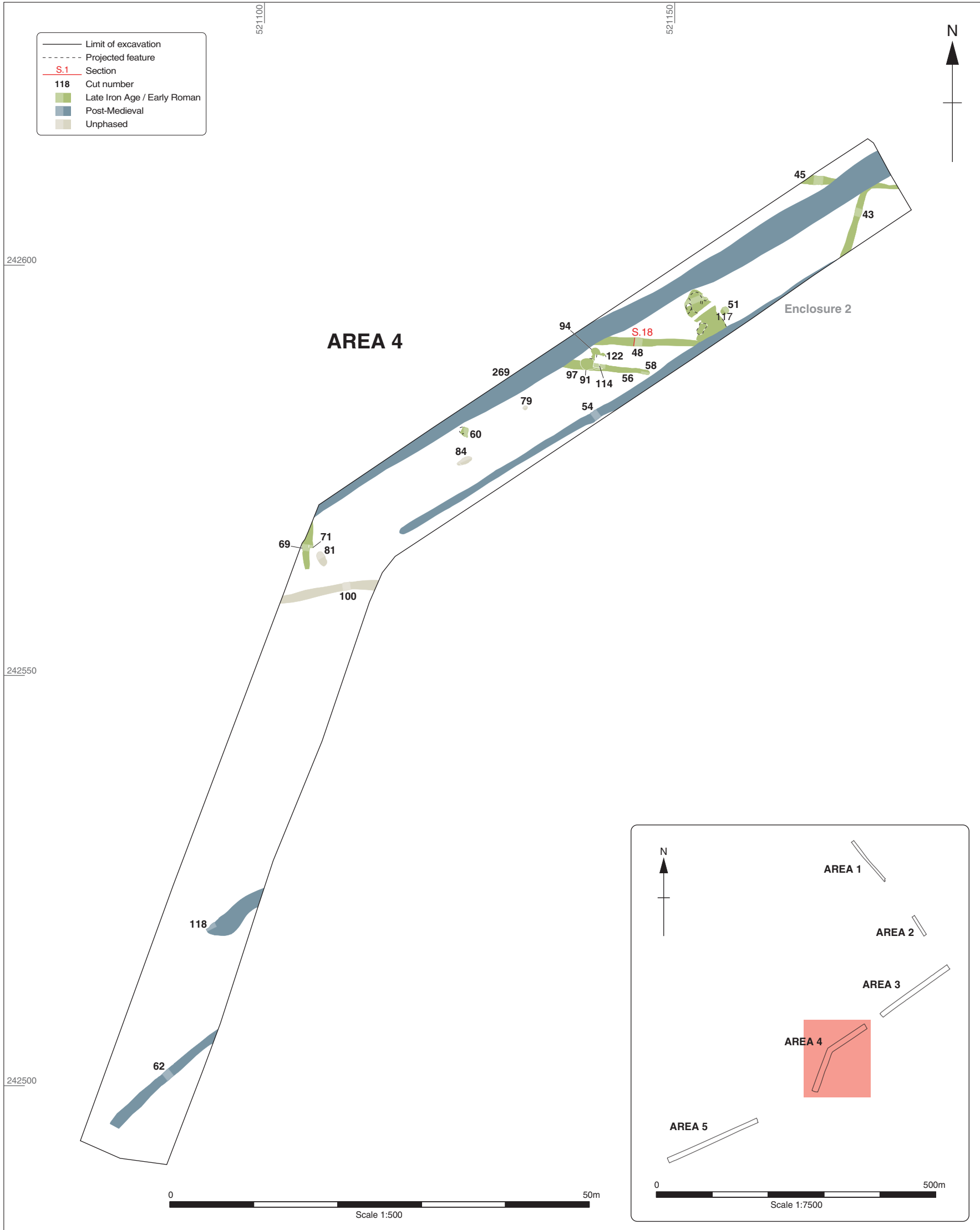


Figure 7: Area 4

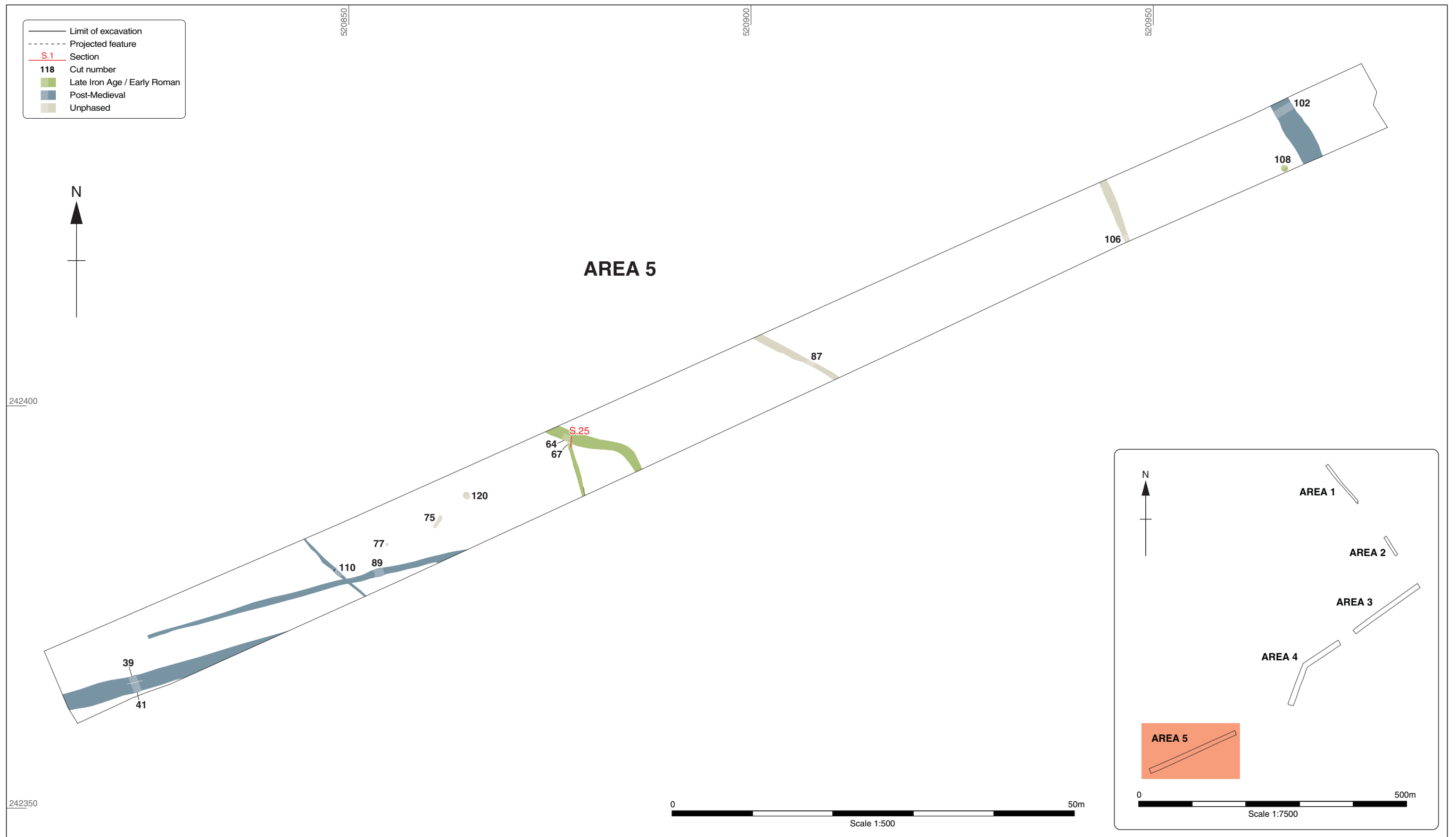


Figure 8: Area 5

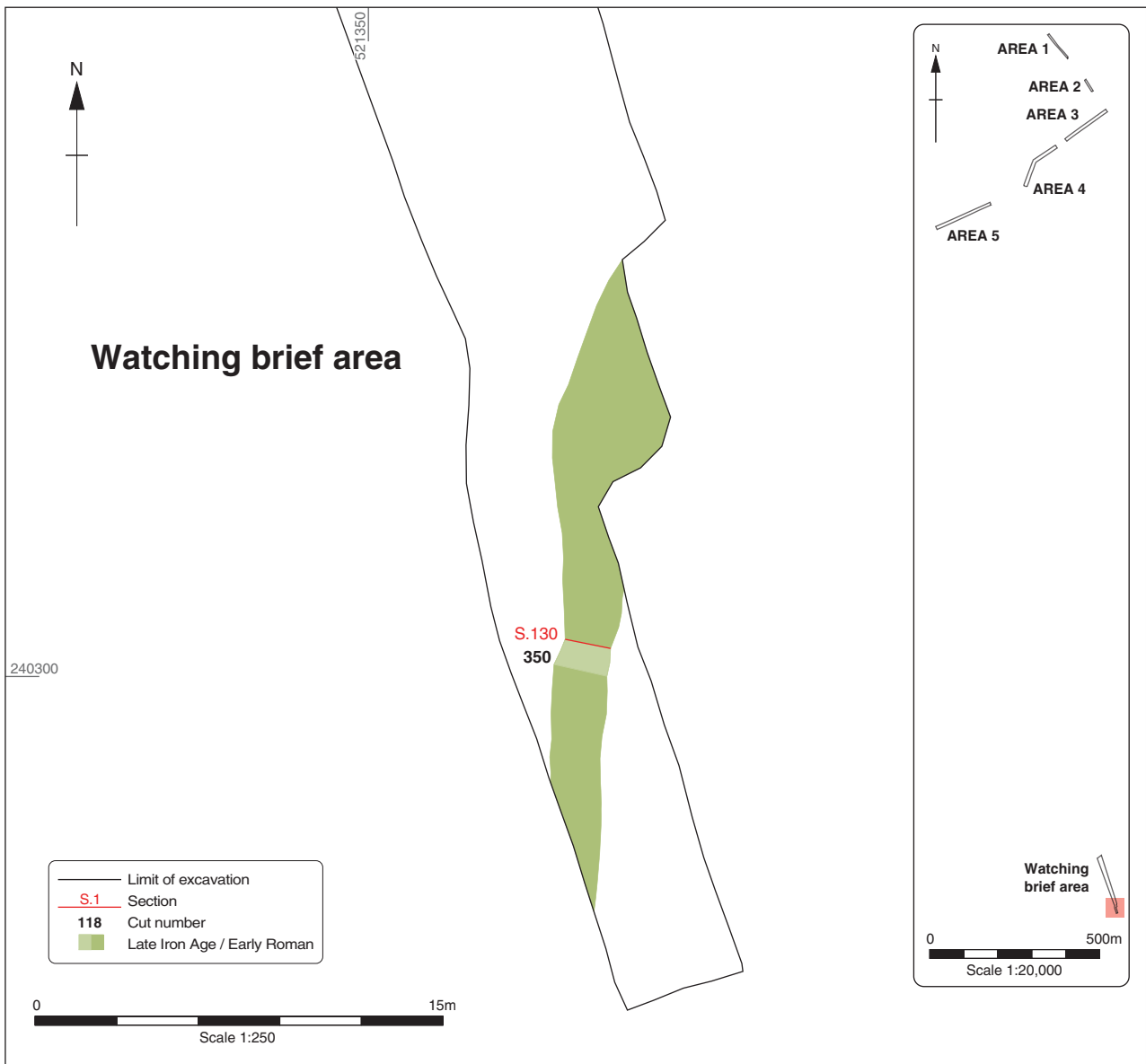


Figure 9: Watching brief area

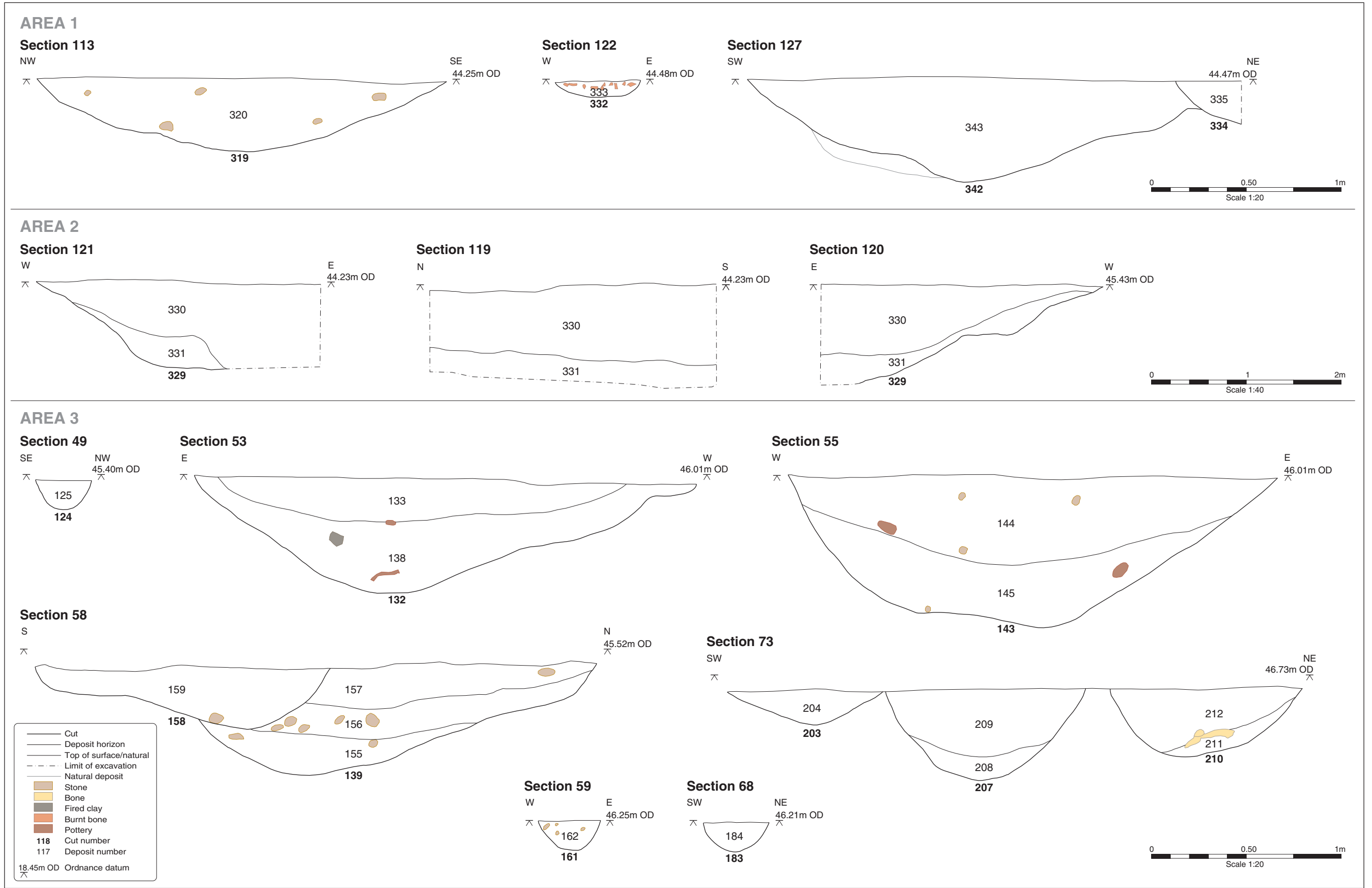


Figure 10a: Selected sections

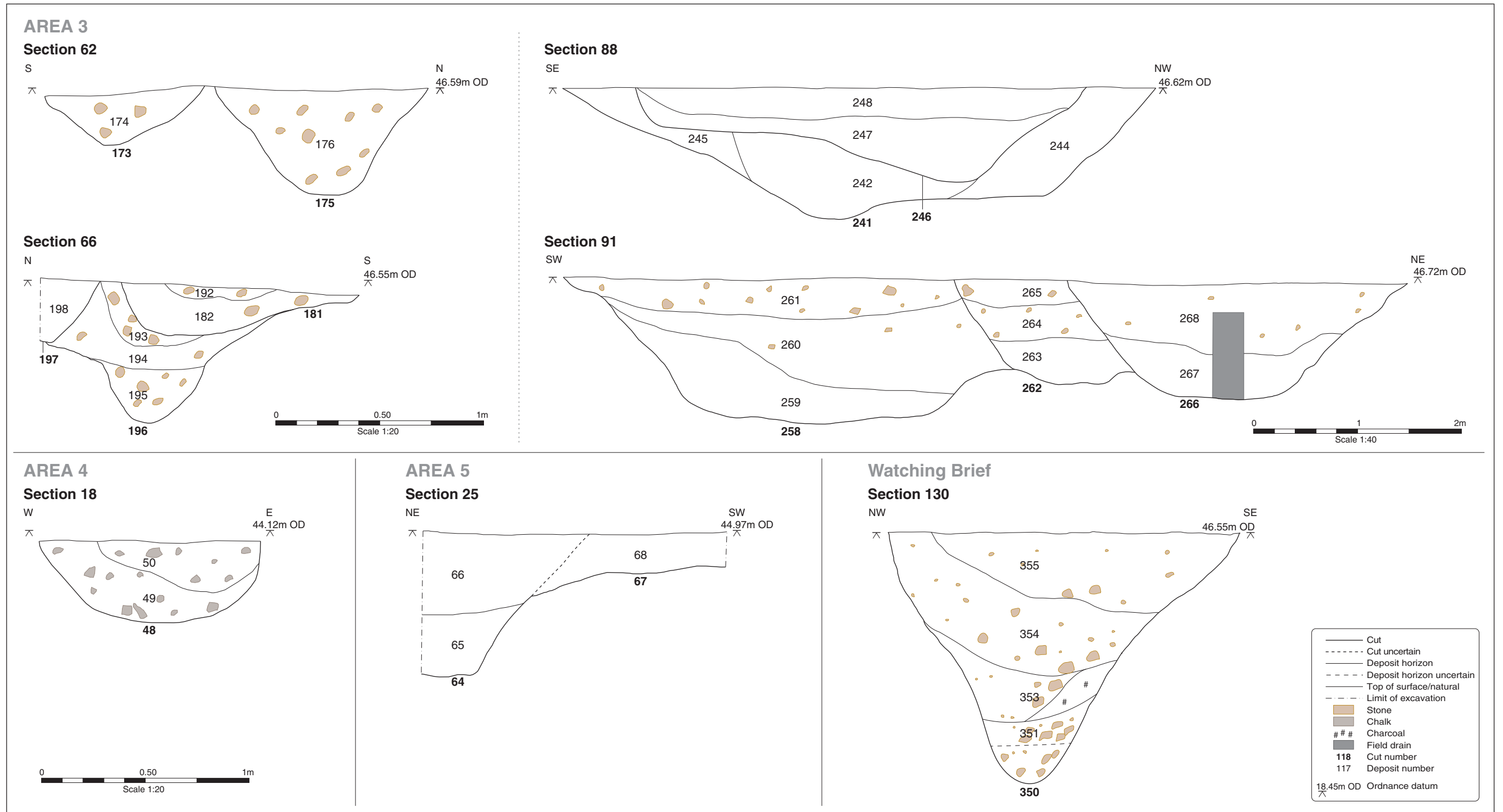


Figure 10b: Selected sections



Plate 1: Ditch **319**, Area 1 (Phase 1), looking north-east



Plate 2: Ditch **342**, Area 1 (Phase 1), looking west



Plate 3: Cremation **332**, Area 1 (Phase 1), looking north-west



Plate 4: Ditches **309** and **311** (Phase 1) with furrow **307** (Phase 2) Area 2, looking south-west



Plate 5: Ditch 132, Area 3 (Phase 1), looking north-west



Plate 6: Intercutting ditches 258, 262 and 266, Area 3 (Phase 1), looking west



Plate 7: Pit group 1 (207, 210, 223) Area 3 (Phase 1), looking north-west



Plate 8: Pit 143, Area 3 (Phase 1), looking north-east



Plate 9: Pit **146**, Area 3 (Phase 1), looking north-west



Plate 10: Pits **196** and **181**, Area 3 (Phase 1), looking east



Plate 11: Structure 2, Area 3 (Phase 1), looking north-west



Plate 12: Structure 3, Area 3 (Phase 1), looking north-west



Plate 13: Ditch **48**, Area 4 (Phase 1), looking east



Plate 14: Cobbled surface **117**, Area 4 (Phase 1), looking south-east



Plate 15: Pit **108**, Area 5 (Phase 1), looking south-east



Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIFA
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