

# A Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement near Cambourne Village College, HLF Young Roots Project Archaeological Report

**April 2018** 

**Client: Cambourne Village College** 

Issue No: 1

OAE Report No: 2193 NGR: TL 3083 5976







Client Name: Cambourne Village College

Document Title: A late Iron Age Romano British Settlement near Cambourne

Village College, HLF Young Roots Project

1

Document Type: Excavation Report

Report No: 2193

Grid Reference: TL 3083 5976
Site Code: CBNHLF17
Invoice Code: CBNHLF17
HER Event No: ECB 5420

OA Document File Location: X:\Active Projects\_UseKT\Cambridgeshire\CBNHLF17\_

Cambourne School HLF

OA Graphics File Location: X:\Active Projects\_Use KT\Cambridgeshire\CBNHLF17\_

Cambourne School HLF\Project Data\Graphics

Stolen Hacaulay

Issue No: 1

Date: April 2018

Prepared by: Chris Thatcher (Project Officer)

Checked by: Clemency Cooper (Community Archaeology Manager)

Edited by: Lawrence Billington (Project Officer)

Approved for Issue by: Stephen Macaulay (Senior Project Manager)

Signature:

#### Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

OA South
Janus House
OA East
OA North
J5 Trafalgar Way
Mill 3

Osney Mead Bar Hill Moor Lane Mills
Oxford Cambridge Moor Lane
OX2 0ES CB23 8SG Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800 t. +44 (0)1223 850 500 t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk w. oxfordarchaeology.com Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

©Oxford Archaeology Ltd i 15 May 2018





# A late Iron Age Romano British Settlement near Cambourne Village College, HLF Young Roots Project

# **Archaeological Report**

# Written by Chris Thatcher BA

# With contributions from Matt Brudenell BA PhD, Clemency Cooper MA MSc and Stephen Wadeson

# Illustrations by Gillian Greer BSc MCIfA

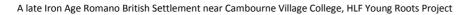
#### Contents

List o	of Figures		V
List o	of Plates		v
Sumr	mary		vii
Ackn	owledgements		viii
1	INTROD	DUCTION	1
1.1	Scope of work	<b></b>	1
1.2	Location, topo	ography and geology	1
1.3	Archaeologica	al and historical background	2
2	EVALUA	ATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	5
2.1	Aims		5
2.2	Methodology		5
3	RESULT	<sup>-</sup> S	6
3.1	Introduction a	and presentation of results	6
3.2	General soils a	and ground conditions	6
3.3	Trench 1 (Fig.	4)	6
3.4	Trench 2 (Fig.	5)	7
3.5	Trench 3 (Fig.	6)	8
3.6	Finds summar	γ	9
4	DISCUS	SION	10
4.1	Results		10
4.2	Interpretation	1	10
APP	ENDIX A	CONTEXT INVENTORY	12
APP	ENDIX B	FINDS REPORTS	14
B.1	Finds Quantifi	cation Totals	14



#### ${\tt A\ Late\ Iron\ Age\ Romano\ British\ Settlement\ Near\ Cambourne\ Village\ College,\ HLF\ Young\ Roots\ Project}$

			v.drait
		Cua (Copper Alloy) Artefacts	
B.3	Pottery		15
APP	ENDIX C	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS	24
C.1	Animal Bone	Catalogue	24
APP	ENDIX D	BIBLIOGRAPHY	25





# **List of Figures**

Fig.1 Site location map
Fig.2 All trenches plan
Fig.3 Site plan with overlay of CBNWCA15 trenches
Fig.4 Trench 1
Fig.5 Trench 2
Fig.6 Trench 3
Fig.7 Selected sections

# **List of Plates**

Working shot of Trench 1
Ditch <b>2100</b> , Trench 1
Working shot of Trench 2
Posthole <b>2202</b> , Trench 2
Mid-Late Iron Age scored ware pottery (ring gully <b>2212</b> , Trench 2)
Working shot of Trench 3
Working shot of south-east corner of Trench 3
Ditch 2315, Trench 3
Late Iron Age pottery with La Tene style decoration (pit <b>2312</b> , Trench 3)
Spindle Whorl (Ditch <b>2330</b> , Trench 3)

1



#### **Summary**

Between the 25<sup>th</sup> of September and the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2017 Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) carried out an excavation at the site of a well preserved Iron Age/Roman farmstead in a field to the south of Cambourne Village College (centred on National Grid Reference TL 3083 5976).

Three small trenches were excavated, which revealed a sequence of activity spanning the Middle Iron Age to later Roman periods within a discrete, enclosed settlement. The archaeological remains encountered, and their associated finds assemblages, are typical of those from other relatively low-status farming settlements belonging to this period from across the western claylands of Cambridgeshire.



#### **Acknowledgements**

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Cambourne Village College for commissioning this project. It was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund; thanks to the contribution of National Lottery players. We are also grateful to the landowners, Tom and Nigel Pearson of Manor Farm, for permission to excavate.

All aspects of excavating, recording and finds processing were undertaken by student volunteers from the Cambourne Village College Archaeology Club and accompanying staff. In particular, thanks are owed to Tim Jenner and Jessica Angell of the History Department and to the Principal Claire Coates for supervising and coordinating the project. Students from Monkfield Park Primary School, Hardwick & Cambourne Primary School and the Vine Inter-Church Primary School also helped to sieve the spoil heaps. A big thank you to all of the young people in Cambourne involved in the investigations who contributed their time and enthusiasm to the project.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Clemency Cooper who also organised the outreach on site. The fieldwork was directed by Chris Thatcher, who was supported by Adele Lord and Rona Booth. Survey was carried out by Adele Lord and digitizing was carried out by Gareth Rees. Special thanks are owed to Owen Hughes, Meghan French and Daniel Firth who also volunteered their help during the excavation.

Thank you to the teams of OA staff that packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton.



#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Cambourne is a rapidly growing new town, set to double in size in coming years. Extensive archaeological investigations have taken place ahead of the developments and revealed a regionally significant archaeological heritage little known to local residents. Between the 25th September and the 1st October 2017 Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) carried out a trial trench evaluation at the site of a well preserved Iron Age/Roman farmstead in a field to the south of Cambourne Village College (centred on National Grid Reference TL 3083 5976).
- 1.1.2 The project was initiated by students attending Cambourne Village College, the local secondary school, who formed their own extracurricular archaeology club after visiting an archaeological evaluation directly next to their school, carried out in 2015 as part of the West of Cambourne Development Scheme (CBNWCA15).
- 1.1.3 The students wanted to explore the archaeology and history of Cambourne and the surrounding area. This included visits to the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, a survey of Caxton Moats and the fieldwork described in this report.
- 1.1.4 Furthermore, the students were keen to share the results of their findings and develop the community's engagement with the archaeology of Cambourne through a range of activities aimed at local residents and pupils at the four feeder Primary Schools.

#### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 Cambourne lies in the Cambridgeshire Western Claylands. The underlying geology of this area is principally boulder clay, underlain by Ampthill Clay to the north (in the parishes of Conington, Elsworth and Boxworth) and by Lower Greensand to the east (in the parishes of Dry Drayton and Madingley). The excavated area lies on this boulder clay.
- 1.2.2 The development site was located at approximately 65-66mOD on a gentle south facing slope, to the south of Cambourne Village College. This is to the south of a plateau of high ground (57-70mOD) marking the north side of the Bourn Valley.
- 1.2.3 The modern A428 broadly follows the line of this plateau; previously an unmetalled track dating back to at least the Iron Age followed a similar route. The site itself was under arable farming, like much of the northern part of the Bourn Valley, this area is likely to have been used as agricultural land for much of its history.





#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 There have been numerous pieces of fieldwork in and around Cambourne over the past 20 years. The following background information is based upon information gathered by this work.

#### Cambourne New Settlement

- 1.3.2 Prior to the start of the Cambourne development little was known about the archaeology of the area. It had been assumed that the clay subsoil was not suitable for prehistoric agriculture and that the area had not been settled. The Victoria County History declared that the clay uplands of western Cambridgeshire were not suitable for arable agriculture until the Romans brought in a heavy plough capable of turning the intractable soils (VCH Cambridgeshire, I, 303).
- 1.3.3 Even as late as the turn of the millennium, *The Atlas of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire History* stated that the 'Heavy claylands in Huntingdonshire and western Cambridgeshire, although largely uninhabited, would also have had routes through them from earliest times' (Malim, Chapter 11 in Kirby and Oosthuizen 2000).

Early Prehistory

- 1.3.4 A series of excavations undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 1998, in advance of the development of the new town, revealed a landscape settled from the Bronze Age onwards. A small number of early prehistoric finds were found at Lower Cambourne and Knapwell Plantation. These included leaf-shaped arrowheads that would have been used by Early Neolithic hunters and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint tools including a plano-convex knife and a flint flake that may have been a scraper.
- 1.3.5 Three sites produced evidence for short-lived settlement and occupation from at least the Middle Bronze Age. These sites all lay close to ancient watercourses or within partly-silted palaeochannels, that had filled up by the Roman period (ECB 172 & 1252). Environmental samples from the sites at North Caxton Bypass, Mill Farm and Lower Cambourne demonstrated that much of the Mesolithic and Neolithic forest had been cleared by the Middle–Late Bronze Age.
- 1.3.6 During the Bronze Age, trackways were established linking the Cam and route of the later Icknield Way to the east with the Great Ouse to the west. One of these lay close to the route now taken by the A428. Evidence for Bronze Age activity included pottery and worked flint at Mill Farm (ECB1072) and roundhouses at North Caxton Bypass and Lower Cambourne.

Iron Age Settlement

- 1.3.7 During the Middle Iron Age, three small settlements grew up near the upper end of stream valleys at Lower Cambourne, Knapwell Plantation (ECB2312) and Little Common Farm (ECB1459). It seems that each valley had a farmstead surrounded by small field systems, which survived for perhaps two or more generations.
- 1.3.8 These farms seem to have mainly kept livestock, with cattle and sheep/goat the dominant species. There was also some evidence for cultivation of crops including spelt, emmer, and barley. At Lower Cambourne the settlement was enclosed by a



ditch that would have helped to prevent flooding of the site. The environmental evidence showed that the ditch was filled with water and had weeds growing in it. These sites were close together and linked by droveways and it is possible that some degree of agricultural communal labour existed.

Romano-British Settlement

- 1.3.9 Nine Romano-British settlements were discovered during the Cambourne development. Although they were not all active at the same time, they were spaced at regular intervals of *c*.400m, often close to streams or watercourses, in slightly sheltered positions. By and large they were small, short-lived farmsteads engaged in mixed agriculture, though pastoral farming dominated, as reflected in the increased number of droveways attributed to this period.
- 1.3.10 The layout and appearance of the farmsteads did not change significantly until the later 2nd century or possibly early 3rd century. At this time the settlements at Mill Farm, Knapwell Plantation, Jeavons Lane, Monk Field Farm, Lower Cambourne and The Grange replaced their earlier boundaries with sub-rectangular enclosures. Many of these sites continued to build roundhouses up till this point. At Lower Cambourne and Jeavons Lane the establishment of sub-rectangular enclosures also saw the appearance of sub-rectangular buildings.
- 1.3.11 This continuity from the Iron Age into the Roman period is reflected in the finds evidence, with typically Late Iron Age pottery forms enduring into the Romano-British period and no significant cultural change evident until at least the late 1st, perhaps even into the 2nd century.
- 1.3.12 There was not much evidence for trade and exchange, although small quantities of samian pottery and amphora-borne commodities, occasional glass vessels, and the more basic sorts of personal adornment were found. Overall, it seems likely that the settlements were of lower to middling status and were probably based on subsistence agriculture, at least until the late Romano-British period. This may be because of the clayland environment, which was prone to both seasonal waterlogging and drought. The human burials that were found support this idea, the individuals studied were physically robust and exhibited signs of prolonged hard work.
- 1.3.13 Much of this effort would have gone into the growing and consumption of crops and animal husbandry. Charred plant remains came from seven of the Romano-British sites. Lower Cambourne produced by far the largest assemblage of this date.
- 1.3.14 In fact, the settlement at Lower Cambourne was unusual in several ways; it was continuously occupied from the Iron Age through to perhaps the early 5th century (12 coins minted AD 388–402 were found). There were also a greater range of finds recovered from the site, which might indicate that it had a higher status.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement

1.3.15 There was little evidence for continuity of occupation on any of the sites at Cambourne after the end of the Roman period (AD 410), though it is probable that at least some activity continued in the 5th century, particularly at Lower Cambourne.



Early Saxon material, principally pottery, was present in small quantities at Lower Cambourne, Knapwell Plantation, Jeavons Lane, Monk Field Farm, and The Grange. Enclosures at these sites may have remained in use during the 4th century and these may have provided a focus for continued settlement in the 5th century. A few pits or, more probably, wells were dug at Lower Cambourne, while a substantial ditch forming a small C-shaped enclosure, may have remained sufficiently open to form a usable enclosure in the 5th century. The only other feature at Cambourne which might be attributed to the Saxon period was what has been interpreted as a hedgeline at Monk Field Farm.

- 1.3.16 Between the 6th and 12th centuries there is a gap in the archaeological record at Cambourne until the appearance of ridge and furrow agriculture. Domesday records that a large part of Bourn parish was held in 1086 by the sheriff of Cambridge, and there is evidence of a severe economic decline following the Norman Conquest, which might explain the paucity of archaeological evidence.
- 1.3.17 This pattern of decline at Cambourne and on the clay uplands of western Cambridgeshire continued into the medieval period. However, as the population increased, concentrated in the valleys, extensive areas of what was probably considered marginal land was brought into arable cultivation, with large, open fields established. In places, these survive today in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks. Around Cambourne this ridge and furrow has largely been ploughed flat by 20th century agriculture. The land along the north side of the Bourn valley was probably always regarded as unsuitable for arable agriculture and only cultivated when the demand for food could not be fulfilled by what could be produced in the arable fields in the lower part of the valley alone.

#### West of Cambourne Evaluation 2015

- 1.3.18 In 2015 a trial trench evaluation of land to the west of Cambourne was carried out by Oxford Archaeology East (Thatcher 2015). This revealed a sequence of activity spanning the Middle Iron Age to later Roman periods that included the settlement site that is the subject of this project (Figs. 1, 2 & 3, Zone B).
- 1.3.19 The areas of settlement identified included up to three Middle Iron Age to Early Roman enclosed sites in the southern and western parts of the site. A number of Roman features, including a very substantial ditch and metalled surface were recorded to the south that may have been part of the Roman site recorded by excavations at North Caxton Bypass (Figs. 1 & 2).
- 1.3.20 The settlement that is the subject of this report was the longest lived of any of the sites recorded in the evaluation, surviving from the Middle Iron Age (c.350-100BC) to the mid-2nd to 3rd centuries AD.
- 1.3.21 It was typical in form, character and finds assemblages of relatively low status farming settlements recorded across the western claylands of Cambridgeshire. The degree of preservation within the site was particularly good with evidence for cobbled surfaces, middens, very large ditched boundaries and structural remains representing the remains of roundhouses and other possible timber built structures.



#### 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this excavation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the area.
- 2.1.2 This project takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:
  - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3);
  - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8)
  - Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24)

#### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of three trenches were excavated (Figs. 1-6). The trenches were positioned within different parts of the known settlement site in order to provide a broad overview of the archaeological remains typically encountered during excavation projects. Their locations were determined through reference to the results of the West of Cambourne Evaluation (CBNWCA15) (Thatcher 2015).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Adele Lord using a Leica 1200 GPS with SmartNet.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and high resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Weather conditions on the site were good overall with bright and dry weather for the most part and occasional periods of wet weather. Ground conditions were good.



#### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below by trench. The cut numbers for features are presented in bold text, ie. (1234), fill numbers are given in standard text, ie. (4321). Each trench was assigned a block of 100 context numbers (2100-2199, 2200-2299, 2300-2399). Where possible, the features in each trench have been described from earliest to latest in order to help to characterise the stratigraphic sequence.

1

3.1.2 The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

#### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of clay was overlain by a silty clay subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

#### 3.3 Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

3.3.1 Trench 1 was located in the south-western part of the settlement site. It measured approximately 10m x 10m and was located over the line of Trench 129 from the CBNWCA15 evaluation (Figs. 3 & 4, Plate 1).

Middle to Late Iron Age Middens

3.3.2 A series of layers (2112, 2113, 2114 & 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118) were revealed that covered most of the trench. Layer 2112 contained a relatively large quantity of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery (c. 350BC-60AD) and animal bone. It is thought that these represent the remains of possible middens at the edge of the settlement. Similar deposits were recorded in this location during the previous evaluation. These contained large quantities of animal bone, fired clay and pottery dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age, between 350BC-60AD.

Ditches

- 3.3.3 Three ditches were also recorded in the eastern and southern part of the trench (2100, 2104 & 2106). Ditches 2100 and 2104 were both aligned north north-east to south south-west and were very similar in character and alignment to two ditches recorded during the previous evaluation; one of which contained pottery dating to AD40-100, the other Middle Iron Age pottery (350BC-100BC).
- 3.3.4 Ditch 2100 was 0.80m wide by 0.60m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 7, Section 405, Plate 2). It was filled by three deposits (2101, 2102 & 2103), the latter of which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery.



#### 3.4 Trench 2 (Fig. 5)

3.4.1 This trench was located on the north-western side of the settlement site. It measured approximately 15m x 10m and was located on the line of Trench 127 from the CBNWCA15 evaluation (Figs. 3 & 5, Plate 3).

Late Iron Age and Early Roman

Enclosure Ditch

3.4.2 A curvilinear ditch (**2216/2220**) was revealed crossing the trench on a north to south alignment. Two sections were excavated through this ditch revealing it to be on average 0.40m by 0.15m deep with a single dark grey brown silty clay fill that contained a small number of sherds of Late Iron Age pottery (100BC-60AD). This feature was probably an enclosure ditch that was also visible as a cropmark (Fig. 3) encompassing an area that included the eastern part of the trench.

Roundhouse

- 3.4.3 In the northern part of the trench were two curvilinear gullies (**2210** & **2212**). These features formed the southern arc of a roundhouse drip gully. It was not possible to discern a stratigraphic relationship between them but it seems likely that they represent two phases of a drip gully for a roundhouse with an internal diameter of approximately 10m, whose centre lay to the north of the trench.
- 3.4.4 Two sections of the inner ring gully were excavated (2212/2218) (Figs. 5 & 7, Section 421). These revealed that it was 0.50m wide by 0.20m deep and filled by a single, dark black, brown fill (2213/2219) from which Mid-Late Iron Age (Plate 5) and Early Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered. The outer ring gully (2210) was 0.40m wide x 0.10m deep and also contained a single fill (2211) that was very similar to 2213/2219 (Figs. 5 & 7, Section 421). These fills were homogeneous, which would tend to indicate that they had accumulated slowly as the ditch silted up.

Post holes

3.4.5 A number of post holes were revealed in this area (2200, 2202, 2204, 2206 & 2208). These features did not obviously form part of a single structure but might indicate the presence of buildings in this part of the site. The largest of these post holes (2202) contained several large fragments of quern stone (Plate 4) that had been reused as packing, presumably for a fairly substantial upright post.

Medieval/post-medieval

*Furrows* 

3.4.6 The latest features within the trench were two furrows that crossed the western and central part of the trench on north-east to south-west alignments, one of which (2223) was sample excavated in a 1m<sup>2</sup> test pit.





#### 3.5 Trench 3 (Fig. 6)

3.5.1 This trench lay in the north-eastern part of the settlement site. It measured 15m x 15m and was located on the line of Trench 128 from the CBNWCA15 evaluation. Trench 3 contained the most substantial archaeological remains revealed by the project (Figs. 3 & 6, Plate 6).

#### Late Iron Age/Early Roman

- 3.5.2 The earliest remains within this trench were several pits (2309, 2311 & 2313), a post hole (2323) and shallow gullies (2302/2304 & 2306) in its north-western part. Pits 2309, 2311 and 2313 were between 0.50m and 0.80m in width and up to 0.60m deep. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fills of 2311 and 2313 (2312 & 2314), including one piece bearing an unusual La Tene style decorative motif (Plate 9). Two further post holes and a narrow gully, that crossed the centre of the trench on a westerly, then north-westerly alignment, were also revealed. These features were not investigated during the project.
- 3.5.3 Shallow gully **2302** was aligned north-south to the east of the pits. It was 1m in width by only 0.12m deep and was filled by a single, homogeneous dark grey brown deposit, from which sherds of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery were recovered. A second possible gully (**2306**) extended westwards from **2302** for approximately 1m. The two features were very similar in shape and form and may well have represented a single feature, possibly a subdivision of a Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosure.

#### Enclosure Ditches

- 3.5.4 A much larger ditch appeared to truncate gully **2302** to the north. This feature was not investigated during the project but it appeared to be aligned north-west to south-east and was over 2m wide.
- 3.5.5 It was truncated by another relatively large ditch running southwards (2330) along the eastern side of the trench. In the southern part of the trench it turned onto a westerly alignment (2333), continuing beyond the western edge of the trench.
- 3.5.6 Ditch **2330** was 1m wide by 0.60m deep with very steep sides and a wide, flat base (Fig. 7, Section 416). It contained two fills (2331 & 2332) from which large quantities of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery and a spindle whorl (Plate 9) were recovered. Ditch **2333** was 1.30m wide by 0.60m deep with very steep sides and a wide, slightly concave base. It contained a single fill (2334) from which no finds were recovered (Fig. 7, Section 416 & Plate 8).
- 3.5.7 This ditch had been recut on two occasions (2335 & 2315; Fig. 7, Section 416). The fill of re-cut 2315 (2316) contained large quantities of Roman pottery with a date range spanning the 1st to 4th centuries AD.

Midden

3.5.8 An extensive spread of material obscured the corner of this ditch. Three 1m<sup>2</sup> test pits were excavated through the uppermost part of this layer (2317, 2319 & 2321) (Plate 7). Large quantities of Roman pottery with a date range spanning the 1st to 4th



centuries AD were recovered from this layer. The ditch and spread demarcated the south-eastern corner of an enclosure that extended to the north-west.

#### Medieval/post-medieval

**Furrows** 

3.5.9 The remaining features in Trench 3 were a possible ditch and two furrows, all of which lay on the same north north-east to south south-west alignment. These were not investigated and, based on the similarity of their alignment, it is possible that they were all, in fact, furrows.

#### 3.6 Finds summary

Small Finds

- 3.6.1 A small assemblage of metalwork was recovered. This included 2 fragments of copper alloy and 16 fragments of ironwork, all of which were recovered from features in Trench 3. Most are in poor condition, their form largely obscured by corrosion products.
- 3.6.2 Items in this small assemblage covered a wide date range from (potentially) the Late Iron Age to the Late Roman period. There is a small group of six nails. Hand-forged nails are effectively impossible to date, but most were found in association with Romano-British pottery.
- 3.6.3 Other notable small finds included half of a stone spindle whorl from Late Iron Age pit **2311** (Trench 3). This would have measured approximately 48mm in diameter when complete and has incised decoration of intersecting lines around its central perforation (Plate 10).

#### **Pottery**

- 3.6.4 The assemblage dates from the Mid to Late Iron Age to the late Roman period and consists of locally produced pottery. Overall, it is comparable to the evidence from the Cambourne New Settlement excavations, which although continuing into the Late Roman period, did see a sharp decline in activity in the mid Roman period.
- 3.6.5 The assemblage is typical of a rural, domestic site in terms of composition and character of the pottery. The range of fabrics identified suggests that most of its wares were procured from the immediate local area, which is a typical pattern especially in the LIA and Early Roman periods.

#### Animal Bone

3.6.6 The assemblage was mainly dated to the Iron Age and Early Romano-British period. It is dominated by cattle, followed in descending order by sheep/goat, pig and horse.



#### 4 DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Results

4.1.1 The results of this project add valuable information to the wider body of evidence for occupation of the upper part of the Bourne valley during the Middle Iron Age and Roman period. Taken in conjunction with the results of the CBNWCA15 evaluation (Thatcher 2015) it is possible to broadly characterise the settlement site to the south of Cambourne Village College as follows.

#### 4.2 Interpretation

A Middle Iron Age to Middle Roman farmstead

4.2.1 The site was occupied from the Middle Iron Age (c.350-100BC) to the mid-2nd to 3rd centuries AD, with the pottery suggesting that activity peaked in the mid 1st-mid 2nd century AD. It comprised a fairly small farmstead, situated in a favourable location on comparatively high ground, but in a slight dip in the landscape that may have provided some protection from the elements.

Boundaries

- 4.2.2 The settlement was enclosed by particularly large boundary ditches, with banks on their outer edge, that were at least 2m deep and in excess of 4m wide. These were long lived, originating in the Middle Iron Age period and with evidence that they stood open until the 2nd century AD. The fills of the ditches contained evidence for waterlogging, which might suggest that their large size was a result of the need to drain the wet ground.
- 4.2.3 The ditches also contained a large number of finds that helped to characterise the settlement. These included large pieces of stone and a large iron staple that probably came from Early Roman buildings. There was evidence for crop processing and possibly brewing in the form of charred plant remains and fragments of querns, and also a number of pieces of hearth lining and a possible smithing hearth bottom that indicate metalworking was undertaken at the site.

Trackway

4.2.14 One of the earliest recorded features of the settlement was a cobbled surface in the southern part of the site (Trench 129, Fig. 3). This may have represented a trackway leading to and from the farmstead; some evidence for further cobbling was uncovered to the south (Trench 125, Fig. 3). This was sealed by Middle/Late Iron Age midden deposits (Trench 1, Fig. 4).

Living and working

4.2.15 The settlement was divided into numerous smaller enclosures, ranging in date from the Middle Iron Age to the Early to Middle Roman period, that probably delineated the different parts of the site according to use. In the north-western part of the farmstead were at least two Late Iron Age roundhouse gullies (Trench 2, Fig. 5), indicating that perhaps this part of the settlement was where its inhabitants lived.



- 4.2.16 One of the post holes in Trench 2 contained several large pieces of a rotary quern stone. This provides evidence for the processing of cereal crops on site; once it became too worn it was broken up and used as packing to support an upright post, possibly part of a timber framed building.
- 4.2.17 The features and finds in the north-eastern corner of the settlement (Trench 3) suggested that this part of the farmstead was the focus of processing and production activities. Here, there was evidence for a relatively large, rectangular enclosure and spreads of material containing large quantities of pottery, a spindle whorl (Plate 9) and all of the metalwork and metalworking debris recovered during this project. A possible beamslot and postholes recorded in the vicinity during the previous evaluation suggest that there were structures in this part of the site.



# APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Ctxt	Tr	Category	Feature Type	Function	Cut	L (m)	B (m)	D (m)	Colour	Other Comments
2100	1	Cut	Ditch	?Drainage	2100	3.5	0.85	0.38		
2101		Fill	Ditch	Disuse	_	1	0.45	0.1	Mottled mid grey brown	Initial ditch fill
2102		Fill	Ditch	Disuse	1	1	0.56	0.1	Mid grey brown mottled	
2103		Fill	Ditch	Disuse		1	0.85	0.25	Mid grey brown	
2104		Cut	Ditch	?Use	2104	8	0.47	0.23	8· - / - · · · · ·	
					2104					
2105		Fill	Ditch	Disuse	2400	1	0.47	0.23	Light grey brown	
2106		Cut	Gully	?Drainage	2106	2	0.38	0.1		
2107		Fill	Gully	?Disuse		1	0.38	0.1	Light greyish brown	
2108		Layer	Buried soil	Occupation layer		10	17		Mid orangey brown	
2109		Cut	Ditch	?Drainage	2109	14	0.45	0.21		
2110		Fill	Ditch	Disuse		1	0.45	0.21	Mid grey brown	
2111		Layer	Buried soil	Occupation					Mid greyish brown	
2112		Cut	Midden	Disposal of rubbish	2112	4	1.24	0.31		
2113		Fill	Midden	Backfill/occupation waste		3.8	1.2	0.24	Dark greyish grey	Dug as two test pits, not bottomed appears to be over an older deposit
2114		Fill	Midden	? Disposal			1.02	0.15	Mid-orangey grey	
2115		Cut	Arbitary	Occupation spreads	2115	4.08 0.48	1.04	0.14	Mid granger brown	Day saction through first 0.1m of
2116		Layer	Spread	?Occupation				0.04	Mid orangey brown	Box section through first 0.1m of intercutting layers
2117		Layer	Spread	Occupation deposit		2.4	1	0.1	Mid brownish grey	Box section through multiple occupation layers, to a max depth of 0.14m
2118		Layer	Burried horizon	Occupation deposit		1.2	1	0.14	Mid orangey grey	Box section through multiple occupation layers to max depth 0.14m
2119		Cut	Post hole	?Structural	2119	0.34	0.3	0.09		
2120	2	Fill	Post hole	Demolition	2200	0.34	0.3	0.09	Dark grey brown	Dug into occupation layer ?(2118)
2200 2201	2	Cut Fill	Post hole Post hole	Contruction  Demolition	2200		0.44	0.26	Dark brown grey	?Possibly two features present ?Two features present
2201		Cut	Post hole	Construction	2202		0.58	0.26	Dark brown grey	100% excavated due to presence of
2203		Fill	Post hole	Demolition			0.58	0.16	Dark brown grey	quern stone at base
2204		Cut	Post hole	Construction	2204		0.35	0.16		
2205		Fill	Post hole	Demolition			0.35	0.16	Dark grey black	
2206		Cut	Post hole	Construction	2206		0.23	0.11		
2207		Fill	Post hole	Ddemolition			0.23	0.11	Dark brown grey	
					2200				Dark brown grey	
2208		Cut	Post hole	Construction	2208		0.35	0.12	5 11	
2209 2210		Fill Cut	Post hole Gully	Demolition ?Structural	2210	4	0.35	0.12	Dark brown grey	
2211		Fill	terminus Gully	Demolition		1	0.35	0.08	Dark brown grey	
2212		2211	terminus	?Structural	2212	5	0.45	0.14		Parallel to 2210
2212		Fill	Ring gully Ring gully	Demolition	2212	1	0.45	0.14	Dark brown grey	raianel to 2210
					2244				Dank brown grey	
2214 2215		Cut Fill	Ditch Ditch	?Construction ?Demolition	2214	3	0.5	0.3	Dark black grey	
2215		Cut	Ditch	?Construction	2216	3	0.5	0.23	Dark black grey	Same as 2214 not fully exc. slot through
2217		Fill	Gully	?Backfill		1				curvilinear ditch to north of slot 2214
2218		Cut	Gully	?Structural	2218	1.7	0.5	0.1		
2219		Fill	Gully	Disuse		1	0.5	0.1	Dark grey brown	
2220		Cut	Gully	Construction	2220	2	0.37	0.15		
2221		Fill	Gully	Demolition	2244	1	0.37	0.15	Mid brown grey	
2222		Fill Cut	Gully Arbitary	Disuse Testpit	2214 2223	1	0.2	0.06	Mid greenish grey	Test pit in northwest corner of area 2,
2223		Cut	Albitaly	1 CStpit	2223	1		0.13		?furrow
2224		Fill	Arbitrary	Testpit		1	1	0.15	Mid grey brown	
2300	3	Cut	Ditch	?Use	2300	1.15	0.8	0.24		



 $A \ late \ Iron \ Age \ Romano \ British \ Settlement \ near \ Cambourne \ Village \ College, \ HLF \ Young \ Roots \ Project$ 

2301	Fill	Ditch	Disuse		1.15	0.8	0.24	Mid brownish grey	
2302	Cut	Ditch	Use	2302	0.76	1.02	0.12		
2303	Fill	Ditch	Disuse		0.76	1.02	0.12	Mid greyish grey	
2304	Cut	Ditch	?Use	2304		0.6	0.27	6 / · · · · 6 /	
		terminus							
2305	Fill	Ditch	?Disuse			0.54	0.2	Mid greyish grey	
		terminus						8 / ·-·· 8 /	
2306	Cut	Ditch	Use	2306		0.56	0.21		
		terminus							
2307	Fill	Ditch	Disuse		1	0.56	0.21	Mid grey	
		terminus						,	
2308	Fill	Ditch	Disuse	2304		0.3	0.11	Light red brown	
		terminus							
2309	Cut	Pit	Use	2309	0.85	0.6	0.08		
2310	Fill	Pit	Disuse		0.85	0.6	0.08	Dark grey	
2311	Cut	Pit/posthole	?Structural	2311	0.7	0.57	0.32		
2312	Fill	Pit/posthole	?Disuse		0.7	0.57	0.32	Mid grey	
2313	Cut	Pit/posthole	?Structural	2313	0.52	0.55	0.11		
2314	Fill	Pit/posthole	Disuse		0.52	0.55	0.11	Light grey	
2315	Cut	Ditch	Boundary/enclosure	2315	6	1.24	0.42		
2315	Fill	Ditch	Disuse	2313	1	1.24	0.42	Dk grey brown	
2317	Cut	Arbitrary	Test pit	2317	1	1.24	0.42	DR gicy blowii	cut of test pit through top of spread
2317	Fill	Test pit	Deposit	2317	1	1		Dark grey	upper layer of midden/occupation dep.
2319	Cut	Test pit	Arbitrary	2319	1	1		Dark grey	Same as 2317
2319	Fill	Test pit	Deposit	2319					Same as 2318
2320	Cut	Test pit	Arbitrary	2321	1	1		Same as 2317	Sallie as 2316
2322	Fill	Test pit	Arbitrary	2321		1		Sallie as 2517	
2322	Cut	Pit/post	?Structural	2323		0.4	0.06		
2323	Cut	hole	!Structural	2323		0.4	0.06		
2324	Fill	Pit/posthole	Disuse			0.4	0.06	Dark grey	
2325	Layer	Spread	?Occupation layer			0.4	0.00	Light - mid reddish	
2323	Layer	эргсац	: Occupation layer					brown	
2326	Deposit	?Furrow	Unclear					Light grey	Unexcavated ?furrow
2327	Layer	Layer	?Natural					Light reddish brown	?Natural spread
2328	Cut	Post hole	Construction	2328				Ü	Unexcavated posthole
2329	Cut	Post hole	Structural	2329					Unexcavated posthole
2330	Cut	Testpit	Arbitrary	2330	1	1			1
2331	Fill	Testpit	Unknown					Mid brown grey	
2332	Fill	Testpit	Unknown		1	1		Dark greyish brown	?Ditch fill
2333	Cut	Ditch	?Enclousre	2333	1	0.36	0.38	<u> </u>	
2334	Fill	Ditch	Disuse		1	0.36	0.38	Mid greenish brown	
2335	Cut	Ditch	Enclosure?	2335	1	0.24	0.2	₩	
2336	Fill	Ditch	?Disuse		1	0.24	0.2	Mid greenish brown	
	I	1			1			<u> </u>	ı

1

15 May 2018 ©Oxford Archaeology Ltd 13



#### APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

# **B.1** Finds Quantification Totals

Material	Object Name	SF No.	Weight in kg	Sum Of Count
Ceramic	Vessel	inc's SF 46	7.080	745
	Fired clay		1.203	216
	Daub		0.065	1
	Spindle whorl	SF 47	0.008	1
Organic	Bone		3.815	627
	Shell		0.016	3
Antler	Artefact	SF 42	0.007	1
			0.070	3
Flint	Flint		2.321	15
	Artefact		0.043	1
Slag	Metal-working debris		0.646	60
			0.017	8
Stone	Quern	SF's 40 & 41	5.818	10
	?Artefact		4.949	1
			16.468	31
Chalk	Spindle whorl	SF 44	0.026	1
Lava	Quern	SF 50	0.795	1
	Stone		0.043	1
Coal			0.004	2
Charcoal			0.009	7
Total		•	43.403	1737

# B.2 Fe (Iron) and Cua (Copper Alloy) Artefacts

#### Fe (iron) Artefacts

SF No.	Context	Material	Object	No. Comments		Tr No.
45	2332	Fe (iron)	Artefact	6	?Fe Artefact(s) - ?Assoc. with SF57	3
48	2331	Fe (iron)	Artefact	1		3
49	2316	Fe (iron)	Nail	1		3
51	2322	Fe (iron)	Nail	1	Fragment of	3
52	2320	Fe (iron)	Artefact	1		3
53	2320	Fe (iron)	Nail	3		3
56		Fe (iron)	Artefact	1	?Fe Nail fragment	3
57	2332	Fe (iron)	Artefact	1	?Part of/Same as SF45	3
54		Fe;cua	Artefact	1	?Fe;Cua Artefact(s) - ?Assoc. with SF55	3

#### Cua (copper alloy) Artefacts

SF No.	Context	Material	Object	No.	Comments	Tr No.
43	2332	Cua (copper alloy)	Artefact	1	Cua ?Pin fragment	3
55	2332	Cua (copper alloy)	Artefact	1	?Assoc. with SF54	3



#### **B.3** Pottery

#### By Stephen Wadeson with Matt Brudenell

#### Introduction

B.3.1 A total of 687 sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery, weighing 6.468kg was recovered from evaluation trenches at Cambourne Secondary School, Cambridgeshire (CBNHLF17). Recovered from 21 different contexts, the majority of pottery c.73% by weight was recovered from test pits (504 sherds; 4.704kg). The assemblage is predominantly Roman in date (mid 1st to 4th centuries AD), however the assemblage also produced a significant quantity of M/LIA pottery, and a number of LIA/ER pottery sherds were also identified (Table 1). Overall the assemblage dates from the Mid to Late Iron age to later Roman period (M/LIA to 4th century AD).

Ceramic Period	Sherd Count	Weight(kg)	Weight (%)
Prehistoric (M/LIA)	132	1.371	21.2
Latest IA to Early Roman	36	0.609	9.4
Roman	519	4.488	69.4
Total	687	6.468	100.0

Table 1: Pottery by Ceramic Period

#### Methodology

- B.3.2 The pottery was analysed following guidelines recorded in *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group, Historic England 2016). The entire assemblage was studied; the sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups (Table 2), based on inclusion types present. Vessel forms (cup, dish, bowl) are also recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted.
- B.3.3 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

#### The Prehistoric Pottery

- B.3.4 The evaluation produced a moderate assemblage of prehistoric pottery (Table 1). Predominantly Late Iron age (LIA) in date a smaller quantity of Mid-Late Iron Age (M/LIA) pottery was recovered from two contexts; (2113) which produced four scored ware sherds (Plate 5) and, from (2213), two sherds (rim & wall) from a shell tempered (S1) vessel decorated in a late La Tene style (Plate 9).
- B.3.5 The prehistoric assemblage comprised sherds made in the Late Iron Age tradition, in terms of fabric and/or form, which in Cambridgeshire occur into the early Roman period (c.AD60) often alongside the early Roman and Romanising vessels (Anderson 2015).



B.3.6 Quartz fabrics the predominate group (Q1, Q2, and QC1) accounting for c.63% by weight, followed by shell tempered wares (S1), which although few, (27 sherds, weighing 0.333g) are heavy due to the larger size sherd size. A small number of grog tempered (G2) sherds are also assigned to the LIA, including SF46 (2213) two decorated sherds from a single vessel, which like the MIA vessel in (2113) was decorated in a late La Tene style. Grog tempered is more commonly associated with LIA/ER sherds/vessels however in this case the style of the decoration would suggest a later date.

#### Latest Iron Age to Early Roman Pottery

- B.3.7 The Latest Iron Age to early Roman assemblage is relatively small comprising of 36 sherds, weighing 0.069kg (Table 1) and accounts for 9.4% of the material recovered. The fabric used is Based on those by Anderson 2015, the fabrics are comparable with the fabric types identified in the Late Iron Age/early Roman component of the assemblage from the Cambourne New Settlement excavations, where grog tempered wares were the most common vessel type recovered (Jones 2009, 11).
- B.3.8 Vessels identified are typical of the period and include several sherds/examples of Gallo Belgic style/type cordoned jar and/or bowls.
- B.3.9 Grog temp sherds are the only fabric that can be firmly placed in this period however it is probably that some of the sandy quartz (Q1, QC1) and shell (S1) tempered sherds assigned to the M/LIA may also be of this date. However, the lack of diagnostic forms has made this identification difficult, therefore the sherds have been assigned to a LIA date.

#### **Roman Pottery**

- B.3.10 Principally a Roman assemblage (Table 1), a total of 14 broad fabric groups/families were identified of which two fabrics (SGW; STW) comprise the bulk of the assemblage (c.90% by weight). This ceramic group is distinctive in that it mostly comprises of early to mid-Roman coarse utilitarian vessels with a very small quantity of finer domestic wares.
- B.3.11 Overall the assemblage can be divided into three broad basic groups; coarse wares, fine wares (domestic and imported) and specialist wares. The largest group are coarse wares (c.94% by weight) comprised principally of unsourced, locally produced utilitarian domestic wares (reduced and oxidised), with Romanised, sandy grey wares, c.64% (by weight) accounting for much of the Romano-British pottery identified. This includes coarse and fine sandy variants comprising those with as well as without mica. While much of the coarse wares most likely originate from local Cambridgeshire sources, smaller quantities of Romano-British Shell tempered pottery (c.26% by weight) including the products of the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire, were identified (Tomber & Dore, 212).
- B.3.12 While the bulk of the sandy coarse ware assemblage cannot be assigned to a specific vessel type, a limited range of vessel types were identified and include forms typically associated with a mid-2nd to later 4th centuries AD, and include the BB2 inspired



- (Tyers 1996, 186-88) straight sided dish with a bead and flanged rim (type 6.17). Other forms identified include the medium mouthed globular jar (type 4.5) and globular beaker (type 3.7) as well as an early Roman Gallo Belgic style platter (type 6.21) produced in a micaceous sandy grey ware fabric (ADLC1-C2).
- B.3.13 Other coarse ware vessels present include products of the Horningsea kilns (18 sherds, weighing 183g) and include storage jar fragments (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116) which although produced throughout most of the Roman period, these jars are particularly common in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Evans, 1991).
- B.3.14 Imported fine wares are uncommon within the assemblage and consist entirely of a small quantity of samian (9 sherds; 0.016kg), principally Central Gaulish samian (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32) from Lezoux (AD120-200). The paucity of samian is typical of rural settlements in Britain (Willis 2003, 100). The small amount of samian recovered may also be due to the limited nature of the excavations.
- B.3.15 Specialist wares identified include a small quantity of mortaria sherds consisting of both Nene Valley oxidised ware mortaria forms (Perrin 1999, pp129-134), dating from approximately 2nd to 4th centuries AD and Oxfordshire white ware mortaria forms (Young 1977, 117-22), dating roughly from the mid-3rd to 4th century onwards. In addition, a limited number of sherds from a flagon, produced in a sandy grey ware with oxidised surfaces were identified.
- B.3.16 Domestically produced fine wares are limited, those identified consist mainly of Nene Valley colour coated wares (Tyers 1996, 173-175; Perrin 1999, 87) accounting for c. 1.2% (by weight) of the roman assemblage. Produced in the Lower Nene Valley and centred on the Roman town of Durobrivae (Water Newton) most sherds are undiagnostic beaker and castor box sherds which can be broadly dated from the mid-2nd to 4th centuries AD. In addition, a single base fragment from a colour-coated, straight sided bowl, typical of the later, 3rd to 4th century was identified. These 'fine wares' more closely resemble utilitarian wares, which are thicker and more substantial than the earlier Nene Valley fine wares of the mid-2nd early 3rd century (Perrin 1999, pp101-103) and date from the late 3rd/early 4th centuries onwards.

Fabric	Fabric Code	Form	Sherd Count	Wght (kg)	Wght (%)
Sandy grey ware	SGW	Bowl, Beaker, Dish, Jar/Bowl, Dish/Lid	331	2.662	41.16
Shell tempered ware	STW	Jar, Storage Jar	68	1.158	17.90
Grog tempered ware 2	G2	Cordoned & Carinated Jar/Bowl	30	0.516	7.98
Quartz tempered ware 1	Q1	Jar/Bowl	51	0.430	6.65
Quartz & calcareous tempered ware 1	QC1		47	0.410	6.34
Shell tempered ware 1	S1	Bowl	27	0.333	5.15
Sandy grey ware (mica)	SGW (mica)	Platter	16	0.219	3.39
Nene Valley oxidised ware	NVOW	Mortaria	2	0.146	2.26
Horningsea sandy grey ware	SGW (Horn)		12	0.133	2.06
Sandy oxidised ware	SOW		21	0.082	1.27

A Late Iron Age Romano British Settlement Near Cambourne Village College, HLF Young Roots Project

Fabric	Fabric Code	Form	Sherd Count	Wght (kg)	Wght (%)
Sandy reduced ware	SRW	Jar	7	0.054	0.83
Nene Valley colour-coated ware	NVCC	Beaker, Bowl, Dish, Castor Box	16	0.053	0.82
Horningsea type ware	HORN type	Storage Jar	6	0.050	0.77
Verulamium type ware	VER type	Bowl	6	0.048	0.74
Oxfordshire white ware	OXF WW	Mortaria	2	0.039	0.60
Black surface red ware	BSRW		9	0.030	0.46
Quartz tempered ware 2	Q2		4	0.027	0.42
White ware (unsourced)	MISC WW		5	0.025	0.39
Sandy red ware	SRedW		6	0.020	0.31
Samian, Central Gaul	CGSAM	Bowl	8	0.015	0.23
Grey ware (fine)	GW (fine)		8	0.011	0.17
Colour-coated ware (unsourced)	MISC CC		2	0.003	0.05
Sandy oxidised ware (fine)	SOW (fine)		2	0.003	0.05
Samian, Southern Gaul	SGSAM		1	0.001	0.02
Total	•	•	687	6.468	100.00

1

Table 2: Prehistoric & Roman Pottery Fabrics & Forms, in descending order of Weight (%)

#### Fabric Descriptions (Prehistoric & LIA/ERB only)

- G2 Moderate to common very small grog inclusions (up to 0.1mm), well sorted with silver mica.
- QC1 medium coarse sandy with moderate to common small, sub rounded calcareous inclusions, poorly sorted.
- Q1 Moderately coarse sandy ware with common silver mica.
- Q2 coarse sandy ware with common silver mica and rare to occasional red iron ore inclusions.
- S1 Frequent to abundant shell, well sorted.

#### Discussion

- B.3.17 The assemblage is fragmentary and moderately abraded suggesting that the majority of the sherds were not located at their primary site of deposition. The pottery has an average sherd weight (ASW) of c.9g. Many of the sherds have not retained their original surfaces or evidence of wear and use. The relatively poor condition of the pottery is attributed not only to the action of local soils but also post-depositional disturbance such as middening and/or manuring as part of the waste management during the Roman and post-Roman periods.
- B.3.18 The assemblage dates from the Mid to Late Iron Age to the late Roman period, M/LIA-AD300/400. The late Iron Age component of the assemblage consist mainly of undiagnostic body sherds with few identifiable forms in locally produced fabrics.
- B.3.19 The Roman pottery consists of locally produced (unsourced) utilitarian, Romanised sandy coarse wares and products of the Nene Valley industry. Vessel forms present indicate a domestic coarse ware assemblage



- B.3.20 Overall, the pottery demonstrates that there was activity from the end of the LIA to the later Roman period as is comparable to the evidence from the Cambourne New Settlement excavations, which although continuing into the Late Roman period, did see a sharp decline in activity in the mid Roman period (Seager Smith 2009, 14). The low levels of pottery recovered here however make all but the broadest dating difficult and the pottery spans the M/LIA to 4th century AD.
- B.3.21 The assemblage is typical of a rural, domestic site(s) In terms of composition and character of the pottery. The range of fabrics identified suggests that the site(s) procured most of its wares from the immediate local area, which is a typical pattern especially in the LIA and early Roman periods. However, the assemblage does imply that the site may have had access to goods outside of the local area, which may reflect the relative status/wealth of the site, although certainly in the early roman period, this also may reflect specific choices made by the people at the site.

#### Pottery Catalogue

Ctxt	Fabric	Dsc	Vessel Form/Type	Qty	Wgt (kg)	Date
2103	SGW (Fine)	U		1	0.002	MC1-C4
2103	SGW (Fine)	U		1	0.002	MC1-C4
2105	QC1	R		1	0.003	LIA
2105	QC1	R		1	0.003	LIA
2110	S1	U		2	0.008	LIA
2110	S1	U		2	0.008	LIA
2111	S1	D		1	0.015	LIA
2111	QC1	U		2	0.006	LIA
2111	S1	D		1	0.015	LIA
2111	QC1	U		2	0.006	LIA
2113	Q1	UR		23	0.102	LIA
2113	S1	R		1	0.009	LIA
2113	S1	U		1	0.004	LIA
2113	QC1	U		2	0.02	LIA
2113	QC1	R		1	0.003	LIA
2113	S1	U		2	0.012	LIA
2113	SGW	U		2	0.002	MC1-C4
2113	S1	RD		2	0.017	M/LIA
2113	Q1	UR		23	0.102	LIA
2113	S1	R		1	0.009	LIA
2113	S1	U		1	0.004	LIA
2113	QC1	U		2	0.02	LIA
2113	QC1	R		1	0.003	LIA

 ${\tt A\ Late\ Iron\ Age\ Romano\ British\ Settlement\ Near\ Cambourne\ Village\ College,\ HLF\ Young\ Roots\ Project}$ 

1

<u> </u>				۵.		
Ctxt	Fabric	Dsc	Vessel Form/Type	Qty	Wgt (kg)	Date
2113	S1	U		2	0.012	LIA
2113	SGW	U		2	0.002	MC1-C4
2113	S1	RD		2	0.017	M/LIA
2117	QC1	U		5	0.072	LIA
2117	Q1	В		1	0.041	LIA
2117	QC1	U		5	0.072	LIA
2117	Q1	В		1	0.041	LIA
2201	S1	В		1	0.024	LIA
2201	Q1	U		1	0.011	LIA
2201	S1	В		1	0.024	LIA
2201	Q1	U		1	0.011	LIA
2213	S1	D		4	0.093	M/LIA
2213	S1	R		1	0.013	M/LIA
2215	QC1	U		1	0.006	LIA
2217	S1	U		1	0.01	LIA
2217	Q1	U	BELGIC TYPE JAR/BOWL	3	0.025	LIA
2217	QC1	U		1	0.013	LIA
2217	STW	U		1	0.005	C1
2217	G2	R		1	0.009	C1
2301	SRW	В		2	0.028	MC1-C4
2301	SGW	U		1	0.008	MC1-C4
2301	SGW	R		1	0.01	MC1-C4
2301	SRW	R	MISC JAR	1	0.01	MC1-C4
2303	QC1	U		1	0.046	LIA
2305	SRW	U		4	0.016	C1-C4
2305	SGW	UR	MISC JAR/BOWL	3	0.019	MC1-
2305	BSRW	U		2	0.006	MC1-C4
2305	SGW	U		1	0.004	MC1-C4
2305	G2	UB		2	0.022	LIA/C1
2312	QC1	U		2	0.007	LIA
2312	G2	D		2	0.16	LIA
2314	S1	R		1	0.012	LIA
2314	Q1	U		1	0.006	LIA
2316	SGW (Fine)	U		2	0.003	MC1-C3
2316	SGW	U		1	0.002	MC1-C4
2316	CGSAM	R	BOWL	2	0.006	AD120- 200

 $A \ late \ Iron \ Age \ Romano \ British \ Settlement \ near \ Cambourne \ Village \ College, \ HLF \ Young \ Roots \ Project$ 

1

Ctxt	Fabric	Dsc	Vessel Form/Type	Qty	Wgt (kg)	Date
2316	STW	UB	MISC JAR	10	0.271	MC1-C4
2316	OXF WW	U	MORT - 7.8	1	0.016	MC3-C4+
2316	NVCC	U		1	0.006	LC3-C4
2316	NVCC	U	BEAKER - 3.0	5	0.009	M/LC2- C3
2316	SGW	UBR		36	0.236	MC1-C4
2316	SGW	U		8	0.028	MC1-C4
2316	SOW	U		1	0.003	C2-C3
2316	SGW (Orange Surface)	U	FLAGON - 1.0	1	0.004	MC1-C2
2316	SGW	R	GLOBULAR JAR - 4.5	1	0.013	MC1-C4
2316	SGW	R	?LID	1	0.007	C1-C4
2316	SGW	R	INTERNED RIM JAR - 4.4	1	0.017	MC2
2316	SGW	R	MISC JAR	1	0.005	MC1-C4
2316	SGW (Orange Surface)	U		1	0.008	MC1-C2
2316	SOW	U		1	0.002	MC1-C2
2316	MISC WW	U		1	0.002	MC2-C4
2316	Q1	U		1	0.014	LIA
2316	G2	U		2	0.014	C1
2316	STW	U	MISC JAR	10	0.155	MC1-C4
2316	STW	U		2	0.013	MC1-C4
2316	SGW	UB		7	0.051	MC1-C4
2318	NVCC	RU		4	0.006	MC2-C4
2318	MISC CC	U		1	0.002	MC2-C4
2318	MISC CC	R		1	0.001	MC2-C4
2318	NVCC	В	PLAIN RIM STRAIGHT SIDED DISH	1	0.022	C3-C4
2318	NVOW	U	MORT	1	0.041	C2-C4
2318	CGSAM	R		1	0.002	AD120- 200
2318	SGW (fine)	URB	PLATTER	13	0.214	MC1-C2
2318	STW	UR		4	0.028	MC1-C4
2318	SGW	URB	MISC JAR/BOWLS	162	1.432	MC1-C4
2318	OXF WW	U	MORT 7.8	1	0.023	MC3-C4+
2318	HORN TYPE	U	STORAGE JAR	1	0.009	C2-C3
2318	SOW	U		5	0.035	C2-C3
2318	GW (fine)	U		8	0.011	?MC1-C2
2318	SGW	R	BEAD & FLANGED DISH	1	0.011	MC3-EC4
2318	SGW (HORN)	U		2	0.017	LC1-C3
2318	VER TYPE	R	RILLED RIM BOWL -6.18.1	2	0.032	MC1

A Late Iron Age Romano British Settlement Near Cambourne Village College, HLF Young Roots Project

1 Dsc Vessel Form/Type Wgt (kg) Ctxt Fabric Qty Date 2318 SOW U 1 0.002 MC1-C4 2318 SGW R 1 0.012 MC2-LC3 2318 BSRW U 0.02 MC1-C4 6 BSRW 0.004 MC1-C4 2318 U 1 2318 SRedW U 2 0.005 MC1-C4 2318 SOW U 1 0.007 MC1-C4 2318 G2 UB 5 0.114 C1 2318 QC1 U 0.005 LIA 1 QC1 U 0.003 2318 1 LIA 2320 NVCC UDR **CASTOR BOX & BEAKER** 5 0.01 MC2-C4 2320 STW UR MISC JAR 10 0.105 C2-C4 2320 STW U S/JAR 12 0.214 MC1-C4 NVOW MORT 0.105 C2-C4 2320 В 1 2320 VER TYPE U 4 0.016 C2-C3 2320 HORN type U 3 0.024 LC1-C3 2320 Q1 U 1 0.005 LIA U 2320 MISC WW 3 0.018 MC1-C4 LC1-C3 2320 SGW U 10 0.079 2320 SOW U 1 0.003 MC1-C4 2320 SOW (fine) U 2 0.003 MC1-C4 2320 G2 UR CORDONED CARINATED JAR/BOWL 2 0.057 C1 BEAD & FLANGE BOWL 0.093 SGW MC3-C4 2320 R 2 2320 SGW R DISH 1 0.01 MC2-C4 AD120-2320 **CGSAM** U 2 0.002 200 2320 SGW UBR 24 0.166 MC1-C4 2320 SGW U 21 0.113 MC1-C4 STW U 0.259 2322 STORAGE JAR 8 C1-C2 2322 STW UB MISC JAR 11 0.108 C1-C4 2322 SGW (HORN) UR MISC JAR 10 0.116 LC1-C3 STORAGE JAR 0.017 2322 HORN type U 2 C2-C3 CHECK 2322 Q1 U 1 0.006 LIA SGSAM 0.001 AD70-110 2322 U 1 AD120-2322 CGSAM U 1 0.002 200 AD120-**CGSAM** R 1 0.002 2322 200 2322 SRedW U 4 0.015 C1-C4

A late Iron Age Romano British Settlement near Cambourne Village College, HLF Young Roots Project

	T					
Ctxt	Fabric	Dsc	Vessel Form/Type	Qty	Wgt (kg)	Date
2322	SOW	U		8	0.012	C1-C4
2322	SGW	UBR	BEAD & FLANGE BOWL, GLOB BEAKER - 6.17, 3.7	36	0.304	MC1-C4
2331	Q2	U		3	0.019	LIA
2331	G2	UR	BELGIC TYPE CORDONED JAR/BOWL	6	0.058	LIA/C1
2331	S1	U		6	0.025	LIA
2331	S1	R	BOWL	1	0.069	LIA
2331	Q1	UR		16	0.201	LIA
2331	QC1	UR		16	0.111	LIA
2331	SGW	UR		6	0.025	MC1
2331	SOW	UB		3	0.018	MC1
2331	SGW	R	LID SEATED JAR	1	0.003	MC1
2331	CGSAM	U		1	0.001	AD120- 200
2331	G2	U		1	0.011	LIA
2332	S1	UD		3	0.022	LIA
2332	QC1	UB		12	0.108	LIA
2332	G2	U	BELGIC TYPE CORDONED JAR/BOWL	1	0.025	C1
2332	Q1	UR		3	0.019	LIA
2332	Q2	U		1	0.008	LIA
2332	QC1	R		1	0.007	LIA
2332	MISC WW	U		1	0.005	C2-C3
2332	G2	URB		8	0.046	LIA/C1
Total		•		687	6.468	

Table 3: The pottery fabrics and forms, listed in context order

KEY: C - century, D - decorated body sherd, Dsc - description, U - undecorated body sherd, P - Profile. E - early, L - late, M - mid, IA - Iron Age, LIA - Late Iron Age

© Oxford Archaeology Ltd 23 15 May 2018



#### APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

#### **C.1** Animal Bone Catalogue

C.1 Animai Bone Catalogue							
Context	Material	Weight (kg)	Count	Comments	Trench		
2111	Antler	0.07	3		1		
2113	Bone	0.11	45	Burnt Bone			
2113	Bone	0.50	103				
2114	Shell	0.00	1				
2114	Bone	0.02	3				
2115	Bone	0.04	5				
2116	Bone	0.01	4				
2117	Bone	0.19	12				
2201	Bone	0.01	2	inc's x1 Burnt Bone frag			
2203	Bone	0.00	1	Burnt Bone, <1g in Wgt	2		
2203	Bone	0.22	4				
2212	Bone	0.03	7				
2213	Bone	0.02	9				
2215	Bone	0.43	34	inc's x2 Burntish frags			
2217	Bone	0.02	7	Burnt Bone			
2217	Bone	0.23	63				
2221	Bone	0.01	2				
2224	Bone	0.06	5				
2301	Bone	0.27	12		3		
2303	Bone	0.00	1				
2305	Bone	0.00	1	<1g in Wgt			
2307	Bone	0.00	3				
2312	Bone	0.03	7				
2314	Bone	0.01	5				
2316	Bone	0.00	1	Burnt Bone			
2316	Bone	0.17	35				
2317	Bone	0.03	6				
2318	Bone	0.16	27				
2320	Shell	0.02	2	Oyster Shell			
2320	Bone	0.11	32				
2322	Bone	0.05	21				
2322	Bone	0.06	16				
2331	Bone	0.02	5	Burnt Bone			
2331	Bone	0.50	56				
2332	Bone	0.01	4	Burnt Bone			
2332	Bone	0.01	2				
2332	Bone	0.23	31				
		l	l	I			



#### APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abrams, J. and Ingham, D., 2008 Farming on the Edge: Archaeological evidence from the Clay Uplands to the west of Cambridge. East Anglian Archaeology 123

Anderson, K., 2015 'The Late Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery' in Middle Iron Age to Roman Settlement at Land West of Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, OA East Report No: 1862

Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. H., Wood, I., 2016 A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group, (Historic England)

Brown, N, & Glazebrook, J, (eds). 2000 Research and Archaeology; a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda & strategy, East Anglian Archaeol, Occ Paper 8

Glazebrook, J, (ed) 1997 Research and Archaeology, A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1 resource assessment East Anglian Archaeol, Occ. Paper 3

Jones, G., P., 1999 'Late Iron Age Pottery' in Wright et al

Kirby, T & Oosthuizen, S, 2000 An Atlas of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire History

Medleycott, M, (ed) 2011 Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Paper 24, Assoc. of Local Government Archaeological Officers

Perrin, J.R., 1999 Roman Pottery from Excavations at and near to the Roman Small Town of Durobrivae, Water Newton, Cambridgeshire, 1956–58, Journal of Roman Pottery Studies

Seager Smith, R., 1999 'The Romano-British Pottery' in Wright et al

Thatcher, C 2015 Middle Iron Age to Roman Settlement at Land West of Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, Archaeological Evaluation. OA East Report 1862

Tomber, R & Dore, J., 1998 *The National Roman Fabric reference collection, A Handbook.* MoLAS Monograph 2

Tyers, P., 1996 Roman Pottery in Britain. Routledge

Willis, S., 2003 Class S, Samian Wares in Himman, M., *A Late Iron Age Farmstead and Romano-British site at Haddon, Peterborough*, British Arch Report 358, Archaeological Field Unit, Monogr. No. 2.

Wright, J., Leivers, M., Seager Smith, R., & Stevens, C., 2009 *Cambourne New Settlement, Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement on the Clay Uplands of West Cambridgeshire*. Volume 2: Specialist Appendices. Wessex Archaeology Report No. 23. Wessex Archaeology.

Young, C.J., 1977 *The Roman pottery industry of the Oxford region*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. British Ser. 43 (Oxford)





## Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House Osney Mead Oxford OX20ES

t:+44(0)1865 263800 f:+44(0)1865 793496

e:info@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

## **OA North**

Mill3 MoorLane LancasterLA11QD

t: +44(0)1524 541000 f: +44(0)1524 848606

e:oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

# **OAEast**

15 Trafalgar Way Bar Hill Cambridgeshire CB238SQ

t:+44(0)1223 850500 e:oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627

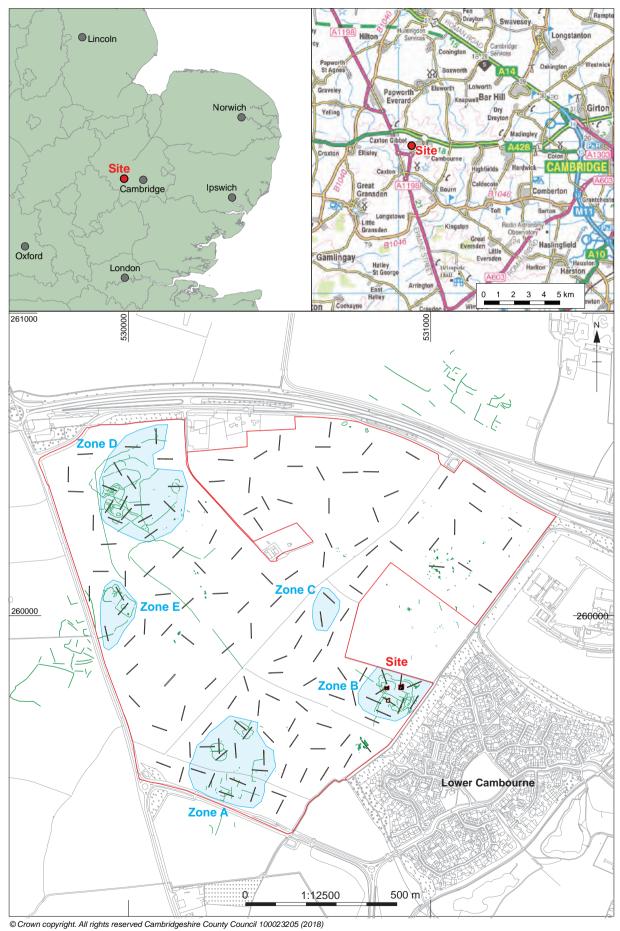


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological zones A-E (blue) in development area (red) with cropmarks (green)



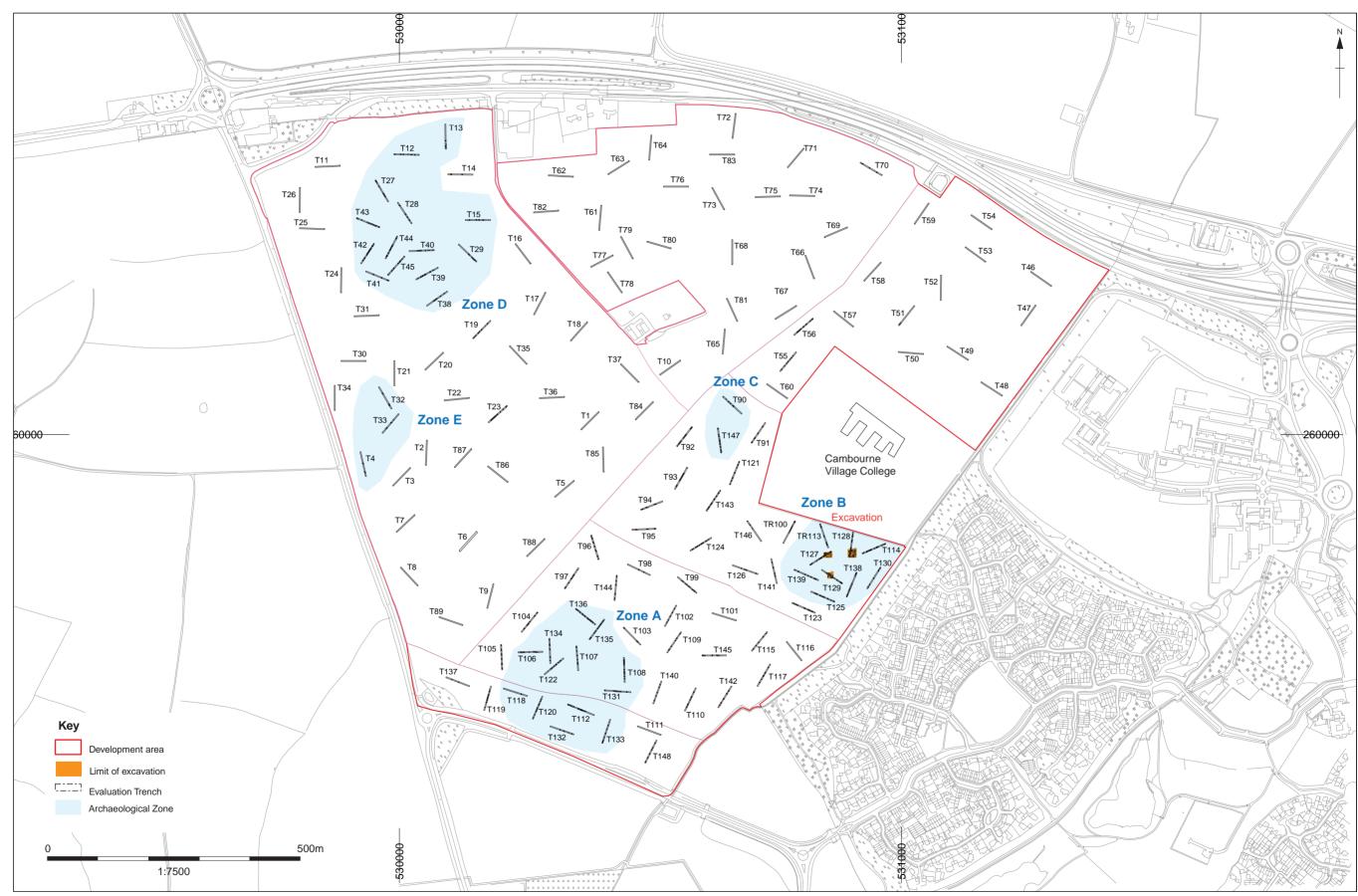


Figure 2: All trenches



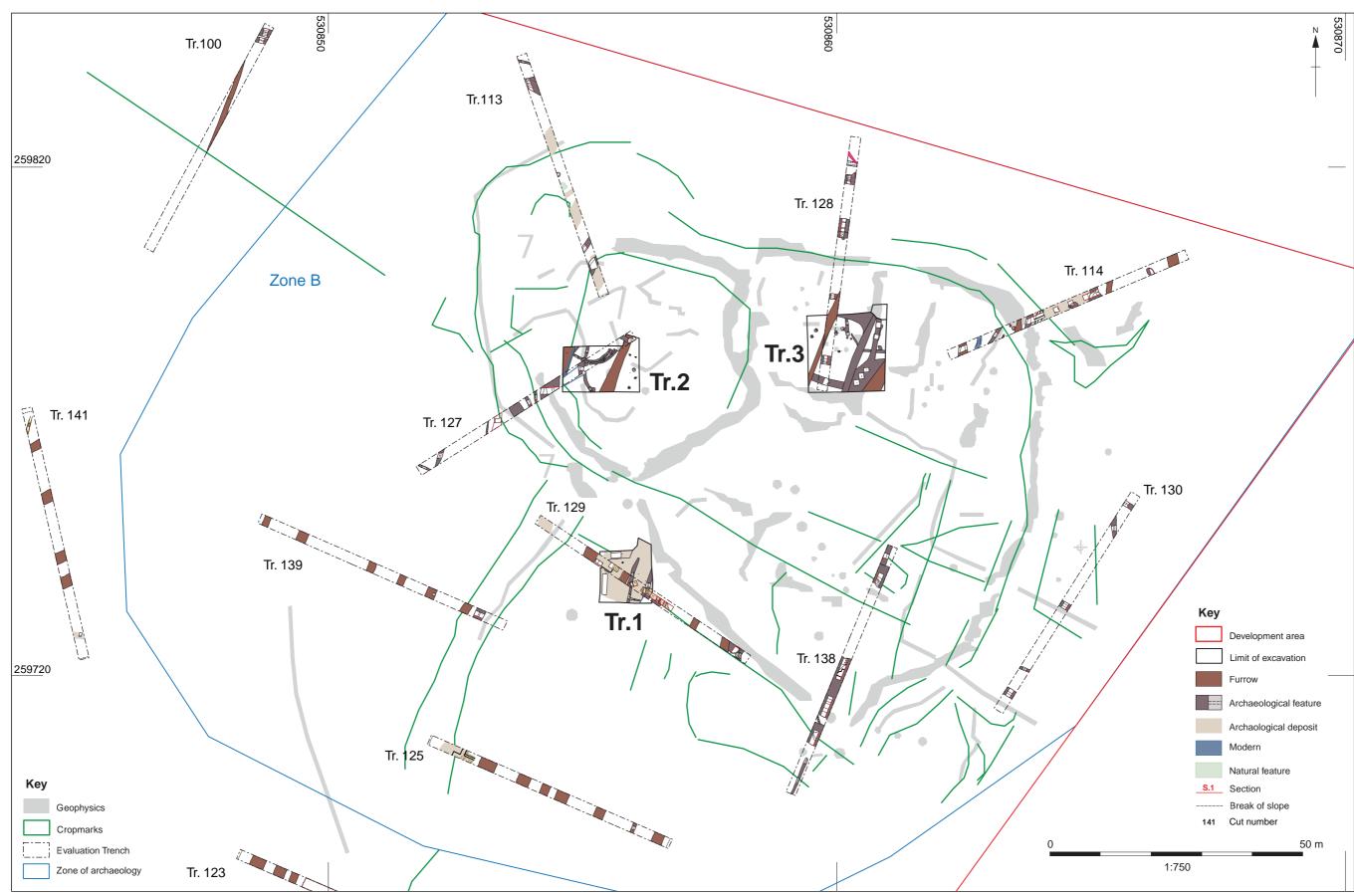


Figure 3: Site plan with overlay of CBNWCA15 trenches



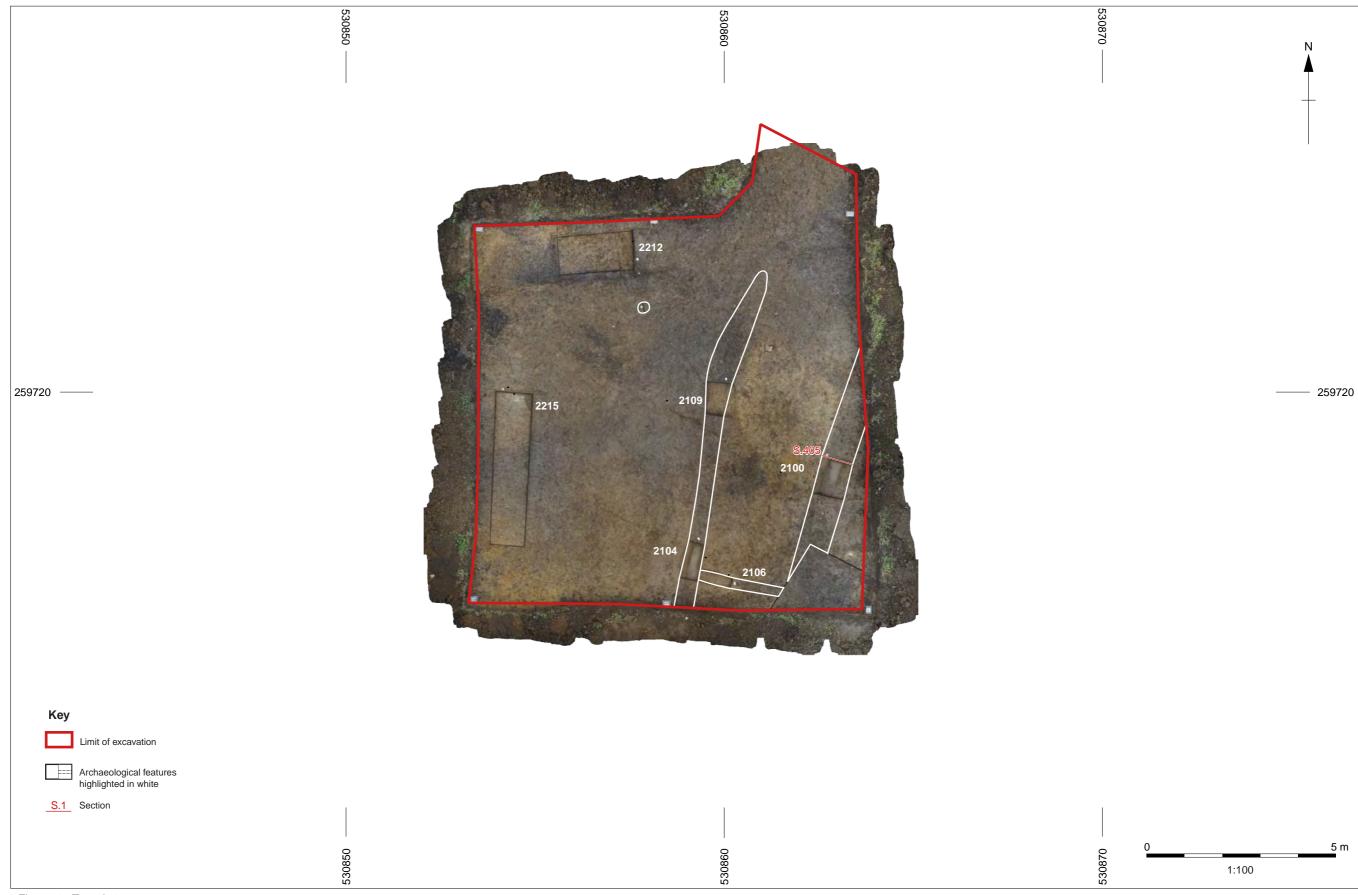


Figure 4: Trench 1



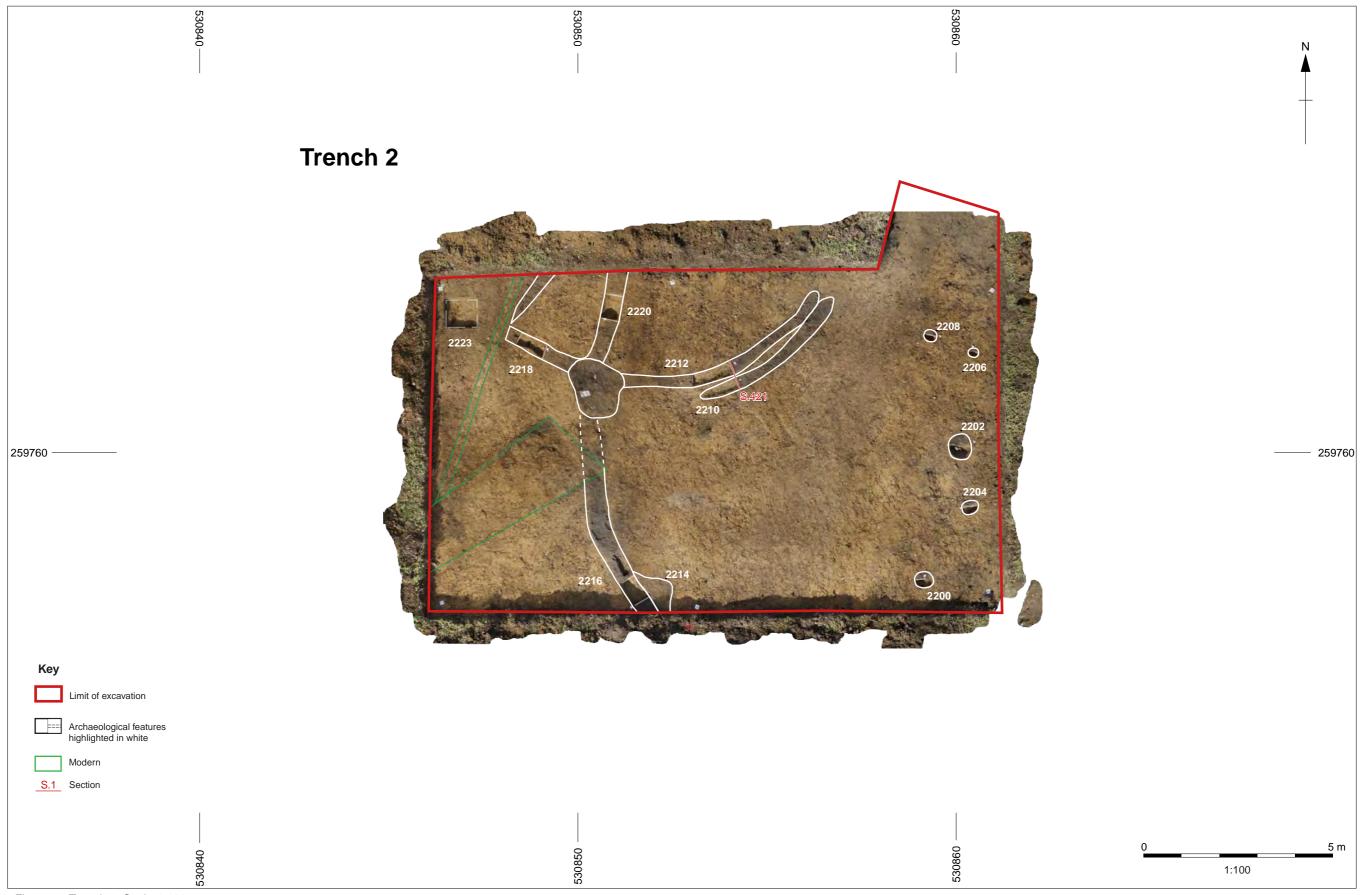


Figure 5: Trench 2 Scale 1:100





Figure 6. Trench 3. Scale 1:100



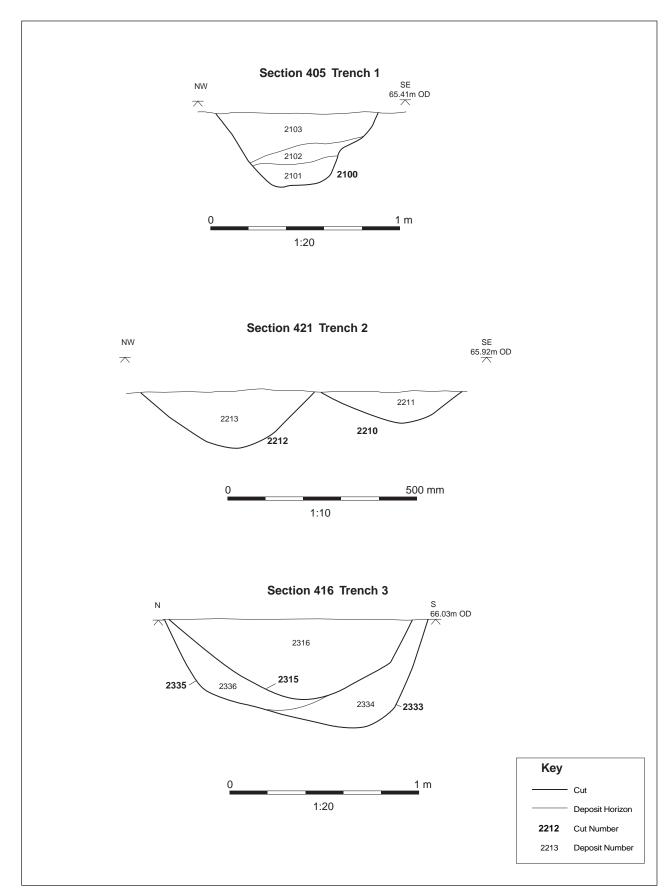


Figure 7: Selected sections. Scale 1:20 and 1:10

© Oxford Archaeology East Report Number 2193





Plate 1: Working shot of Trench 1



Plate 2: Ditch 2100, Trench 1





Plate 3: Working shot of Trench 2



Plate 4: Posthole 2202, Trench 2





Plate 5: Mid-Late Iron Age scored ware pottery (ring gully 2212, Trench 2)



Plate 6: Working shot of Trench 3





Plate 7: Working shot of south-east corner of Trench 3



Plate 8: Ditch 2315, Trench 3





Plate 9: Late Iron Age pottery with La Tene style decoration (pit 2311, Trench 3)



Plate 10: Spindle Whorl (Ditch 2330, Trench 3)





## Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House Osney Mead Oxford OX20ES

t:+44(0)1865 263800 f:+44(0)1865 793496

e:info@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

## **OA North**

Mill3 MoorLane LancasterLA11QD

t: +44(0)1524 541000 f: +44(0)1524 848606

e:oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com

# **OAEast**

15 Trafalgar Way Bar Hill Cambridgeshire CB238SQ

t:+44(0)1223 850500 e:oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com w:http://oxfordarchaeology.com



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627