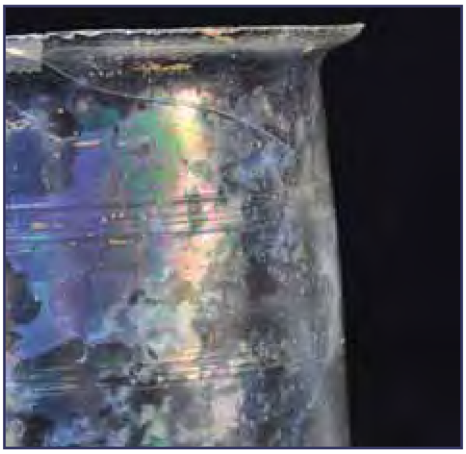

A Roman Road and Cremation Cemetery Walden Road Great Chesterford Essex

Excavation Report

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April 2018

Client: Enterprise Property Group Ltd

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A Roman Road and Cremation Cemetery, Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

Between 14th and 22nd August 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) carried out an excavation on land south of Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (TL 5127 4278). A small area measuring 30×30m was opened, targeting features found during the previous evaluation works, thought to be parts of a Roman field system. A pair of roadside ditches on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment were uncovered, along with boundary ditches relating to a field system extending to the south of the site. A small Early Roman cremation cemetery of six individuals and one foetal burial were located adjacent to the southern roadside ditch.

The results indicate a similar history for the road's use as to that of another road leading out of Great Chesterford previously excavated by OAE, which both mirrored the fortunes of the town, with the roadside ditches going out of use during the 3rd century AD. The cremation cemetery was situated on the edge of the road's southern ditch, within its own distinct plot. The cremations were relatively well furnished, and at least four of the 13 vessels associated with the burials showed evidence for 'ritual killing' in the form of pierced holes and clipped off rims or necks. No metalwork was found with the burials, although a fine glass drinking vessel was found associated with one.

A total of 9862g of Roman pottery was recovered from the features on site, including a number of complete or near-complete vessels from the cremation burials. Ceramic building material (619g), animal bone (2.6kg) along with an Iron Age and two Roman coins were also recovered from the excavation. Environmental results were relatively sparse, but indicated that spelt and barley were grown in the vicinity.

The route of the road can be traced in cropmarks and current boundaries from the Roman Small Town of Great Chesterford's eastern gate, c. 650m to the west-north-west of the site, heading towards Radwinter, a large Roman roadside settlement from where it most probably continued to Colchester.

Overall, the results of the small excavation, although limited in scope, add to the current understanding of the Roman road network around Great Chesterford and the burial practices undertaken in the area during the Early Roman period.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at land south-west of Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (TL 5127 4278) prior to the construction of 31 houses and associated infrastructure across the development area. A total of 0.09ha was stripped by machine, targeting an area where cut features were identified during evaluation.

1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2017) which was approved by Richard Havis of Essex County Council (ECC; Planning Application UTT/17/0816/DFO).

1.1.3 The work was designed to define the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area and preserve them by record in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is situated on a geology of New Pit Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer; http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html, accessed 23/08/17) and located at a height of approximately 43mOD. The site was on a slight plateau before dropping off towards the River Cam, located 300m south-west of the excavation area, and raising significantly to the north and east. The site prior to development had been part of a large back garden and caravan site belonging to bungalows fronting onto Walden Road.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The below archaeological and historical background provided below is based the background in the excavation's Written Scheme of Investigation (Drummond-Murray 2017). Clearly, the records from the Historic Environment Record indicate that the local landscape was well utilised during prehistory and history, with an especially rich Romano-British past. Due to the sheer amount of Historic Environment Records within the locality, not all are mentioned below, with only those nearby and pertinent described.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters (e.g. EHER's 13926, 4831 and 4804, respectively) are located nearby, indicative of at least visitation of the area during these periods. Possible round barrow cropmarks are also visible on aerial photography, suggesting this part of the Cam valley was utilised for burial during the Bronze Age. Recent evaluation and excavation at the new Uttlesford Crematorium Site, 1.9km north-east of the subject site uncovered two Bronze Age barrows and associated burials (EHER 4791). Similarly, directly south of the excavation area, ring ditches were identified on aerial photographs, two of which also had central pits (EHER 4803).

Romano-British

1.3.3 The most significant records within the area relate to the Roman Fort and Small Town of Great Chesterford (Fig. 2), a scheduled monument, located 800m north-west of the

subject site. A detailed monograph of the town was written by Medlycott (2011a) and has been referred to for the information below.

1.3.4 The earliest Roman settlement appears to be the Pre-Flavian fort, dating to the period following the Boudican revolt of AD 60. A settlement developed outside the southern gate of the fort, most likely based on the preceding Iron Age settlement. The fort was abandoned at the end of the 1st century AD and the settlement expanded into this area, incorporating a number of the fort's internal features. This settlement expanded considerably during the 2nd century, before going through a period of decline in the 3rd century. There was expansion again in the 4th century, leading to the construction of the town walls. The town is known to have been the economic focus of the surrounding area, and would have likely been the trade centre for Romano-British communities living within a radius of roughly 15km. Similarly, Great Chesterford was located in an area of strategic importance, which controlled the northern exit of the River Cam from Essex and a southern branch of the Icknield Way (Lyons 2011).

1.3.5 Due to the town being a major trade centre during much of the Romano-British period, the surrounding road network is extensive. The town was situated on a nodal point of the network, where the Cambridge, Braughing and Radwinter roads met at the crossing of the River Cam. Other roads are thought to exist, with proposed routes making up part of the Icknield Way Southern Route heading north-east towards Linton and Bartlow. Evidence for this road was found during previous works by OA East, 300m north of the subject site (Moan 2015).

1.3.6 Other Roman activity is seen outside of the town, including HER 46618, to the south-west of site, where Roman occupation was recorded during a watching brief and numerous cropmarks are seen extending along the lower slopes of the river valley to the south-east of site (HER 4803, 4794, 13926).

1.3.7 The Roman Temple is located 890m to the north-east of site (Fig. 2). The Temple has extensive views to the south and west and overlooks the site. The temple replaced the preceding Iron Age shrine in the late 1st or early 2nd century, possibly quite soon after the founding of the town (Medleycott 2011).

1.3.8 In the field directly south of the subject site, cropmarks were identified which included a double ditched trackway on a north-west to south-east alignment, interpreted as the possible route of the Roman road to Radwinter (EHER 4803).

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.9 A large Early Saxon cemetery (HER 4939, 13918) is located north-west of the Roman town (1.1km from the site). A total of 161 inhumations and 33 cremations were recorded during a rescue excavation in the 1950s, and at least a further 100 graves were presumed lost due to gravel quarrying prior to the excavation. Five other Saxon inhumations were recorded in land adjoining Great Chesterford churchyard (HER 4951).

1.3.10 The location of the Early Saxon settlement related to the burials is unknown and the excavations in the Roman town did not identify any evidence of later Saxon occupation, suggesting the town was not reoccupied. References to levelling operations in the Rectory Orchard 300m west of the subject site noted uncovering pottery of a Saxon description. This suggests a possible focus of settlement within this area.

1.3.11 A number of Anglo-Saxon inhumations were also found at the crematorium site to the north-east (EHER4791; Havis pers. comm.)

Medieval

1.3.12 Great Chesterford was small but rather prosperous during the medieval period, mainly due to the cloth trade. The medieval streets converged upon a central green about 200m west of the site, although the full layout of the town during the medieval period is unclear.

1.3.13 There are three records of medieval date nearby: a domed well at Brettanby Cottage, 300m north of the site (HER19048) and a small section of wall thought to relate to a late medieval/early post-medieval farm building (HER 45206, directly west of the site).

1.3.14 All Saint's Church (EHER13890) is also located 600m west of the subject site; the earliest surviving parts date to the 13th century, with numerous modifications and rebuilding phases during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Post-Medieval and Modern

1.3.15 Great Chesterford was in a period of decline during the post-medieval period, due to the collapse of the cloth trade. Cartographic evidence suggests the town expanded very little during the period. The green was infilled during the 16th century, although most buildings currently standing in the area are of 19th century date. Modern developments expanded the town greatly, with industrial development taking place to the north-east. A timber framed house at Manor Farm, located directly west of the subject site, was built in around AD 1500 and originally moated (EHER 25380).

1.3.16 Within 250m of the site, 16 of the records from the HER relate to post-medieval buildings of Grade II listing. These are located to the north-west of the site, mostly along High Street and Carmel Lane.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The site work was commissioned and funded by Enterprise Property Limited and managed by James Drummond-Murray (OAE). Excavation was directed by the author, with the assistance of Ro Booth and Ryan Neal. Site survey and photogrammetry was undertaken by Gareth Rees whilst figures were created by David Brown. Metal detecting of the area was undertaken by Steve Critchley. The site work was visited and monitored by Richard Havis from the Essex County Council Historic Environment Team. Thanks are also extended to the finds and environmental specialists who undertook analysis of the artefacts.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Original Excavation Aims

2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Drummond-Murray 2017).

2.1.2 The original 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.
- Identify if there was any phasing of the ditches
- Do the ditches represent the limit of Roman settlement for Great Chesterford.

2.2 Additional Research Objectives

2.2.1 The excavation showed that some of the original aims and objectives of the excavation stated above could be met through the analysis of the excavated materials.

2.2.2 The analysis process also identified new objectives drawn from the regional research assessment (Medleycott 2011b). These are outlined below.

- With the confirmation of the route of the road between Great Chesterford and Radwinter, can the route itself be further consolidated with the study of satellite imagery and current-day field boundaries.
- Do the cremations correlate with known examples from Great Chesterford and other nearby settlements.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The methodology used followed that detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Drummond-Murray 2017).

2.3.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a 360° type excavator using a 2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket. under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. Spoil was moved away from the excavation using a 9 tonne front-tip dumper.

2.3.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector by an experienced detectorist. 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. Feature locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and High quality digital photographs were taken of all features and deposits. Photogrammetry of the entire area was undertaken and detailed 3D models were created of the cremation area and form part of the digital archive.

2.3.5 Environmental samples were taken from any intervention where deposits were identified as having the potential of preserved charred plant remains or other ecofacts. Cremation vessels were 100% sampled and bulk samples taken from the cremation pits backfills.

2.3.6 Ground conditions after stripping were good and relatively dry, with any rain draining fast due to the chalk geology. Features and their edges were clearly visible, apart from some of the cremations, due to their position slightly higher in the sub-strata than the upper horizon of the natural geology, meaning that two were unfortunately truncated by machine during the initial stripping.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All features date to the Romano-British period (Period 1)and are described below, starting with the earliest. A feature number has been assigned to each feature where more than one intervention was excavated, consisting of the lowest cut number used during excavation.

3.2 Period 1.1: Features Pre-dating the Roadside Ditches (Pre *c.* AD100)

3.2.1 A single pit (**93**, Plate 1) was found on site that pre-dated the digging of the roadside ditches. This pit was located in the southern-most corner of the area and extended outside of it. The pit was seen for 1.5m and measured 1m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The feature was infilled with a single mid brownish grey sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions from which 452g of Roman pottery, 157g of animal bone and a single iron nail (SF 34) was recovered.

3.3 Period 1.2: Digging of the Roadside Ditches and Boundaries (*c.* AD100)

3.3.1 A total of four ditches on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment passed through the centre of the site and were associated with the route of the road (Fig. 3); three forming part of the northern limit and one for the southern. One of the northern ditches appears to be the original limit of the road (roadside ditch **46**) whilst the two directly north and parallel to it (boundary ditches **52** and **54**) appear to be a later re-iteration of the northern limit, or later boundaries respecting the route of the road, although no firm evidence for this sequence was revealed during excavation. The two main ditches delimiting the road's extent defined a route with a width of *c.* 8.3m. No evidence for a road surface were revealed, although it is thought to have been a packed-earth road, rather than having been metalled (see Section 4).

3.3.2 The northern roadside ditch (**46**; **13**, **56**, **71**, Fig. 5, S. 14, 18 & 24, Plate 2) was 0.98m to 1.6m wide and 0.39m to 0.58m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with light to mid greyish brown sandy silt fill which contained frequent flint inclusions and 26g of Roman pottery, 145g of ceramic building material along with a small iron object (SF 33) were recovered from the fill.

3.3.3 Ditches **52** (**11**, **52**, **58**, **64**, Fig. 5 S.16 & 22) and **54** (**9**, **54**, **60**, **66**, S.17, Plate 2) were smaller than their parallel counterpart (**46**), measuring 0.8m to 1.2m wide, 0.17m to 0.28m deep and 0.6m to 1m wide and 0.26m to 0.36m deep respectively. Both were filled with a mid yellowish brown sandy silt (10, 12, 53, 55, 59, 61, 65, 67) that contained 37g of Roman pottery (22g from **52** and 15g from **54**) and 2g of animal bone.

3.3.4 The southern roadside ditch (**31, 43**, **48**, Fig. 5 S.9, 13 & 15) was 1.5m to 1.64m wide and 0.6m to 0.64m deep with a profile varying between a U and V-shape. The ditch was infilled with light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt secondary silting deposits, measuring between 0.2m and 0.44m in thickness (32, 33, 45, 49, 50). A darker, more humic basal fill was recorded in the north-western-most intervention (**43**; fill 44); a dark brown sandy silt measuring 0.2m thick. A total of 1289g of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fills, along with 234g of ceramic building material, 4 iron nails and an iron object (SF's 9, 10, 11, 12 & 37), a single copper alloy Roman coin (SF 13), a fragment of worked bone (SF 33) and 1374g of animal bone. A later slump of cobbling, associated with the cremation cemetery was noted within one intervention (fill 51, ditch **48**) and is described in period 1.3.

3.3.5 Returning off the southern side of the southern roadside ditch (**31**) and truncating pit **93** was a ditch and possible hedgerow (**40** and **38**, Fig. 5 S12, Plate 1) on a north-east to south-west alignment. The possible hedgerow (**38**, **98**) was 0.5m to 0.6m wide and 0.1m to 0.2m deep with an irregular profile. The fill (39, 99) was a light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions, from which 5g of Roman pottery and 6g of animal bone was recovered. Ditch **40** (**95**) measured 0.8m to 1.1m wide and 0.49 to 0.5m deep with a U-shaped profile. The secondary fills (41, 42, 96, 97) were a light to mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. A total of 256g of Roman pottery, a copper alloy disc (SF 16), an Iron Age coin (SF 35) and 404g of animal bone was recovered from the fills. There was no clear relationship between ditch **40** and the hedgerow, and were most probably contemporary. Ditch **40** also appeared to be contemporary with the roadside ditch (**31**).

3.3.6 Extending off the western side of ditch **40** was a smaller ditch (**36** Fig. 5 S.11), running parallel with the southern roadside ditch. The small boundary was 0.35m wide and 0.16m deep, backfilled with a mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional flint inclusions (37) which contained 10g of Roman pottery and 6g of animal bone. The western end of the ditch joined with the terminus of a ditch running perpendicular to it (**34**, Fig. 5, S.10). This terminus extended for 2.6m and was 0.7m wide, 0.25m deep, with a U shaped profile, though its southern edge was quite irregular, possibly due to hedgerow rooting. The mid yellowish brown secondary fill (35) contained 36g of Roman pottery.

3.3.7 Generally, the pottery from the lower fills of the ditches shows a cutting and consolidation period for the ditches during the early to mid 1st century.

3.4 Period 1.3: The Cremation Cemetery (*c.* AD100-150)

3.4.1 Once the roadside ditches were delimiting the route of the road, a small cemetery of seven individuals was interred within the enclosure formed by the southern roadside ditch (**31**) and boundaries **40**, **36** and **34** (Fig. 4). Of the six cremations, four cut through a layer of colluvial material (62; Plate 3, full extent not illustrated), which overlay a small area of flint cobbling (63), whilst two (**79** & **81**) had clearly been truncated in antiquity and were found underneath the layer of flint cobbling. The best surviving cremations, with relatively undisturbed remains interred were found in cremation pits **73** and **77**. The remainder were extremely truncated and offered little stratigraphy.

3.4.2 Cremations **79** and **81** were located adjacent to the southern roadside ditch, east of the later, and better preserved, cremation **77**. Both of these earlier cremations were poorly preserved, with only the base of a single pottery vessel being found in each. Cremation pit **79** was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.31m in diameter and 0.03m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile. A total of 274g of an Early to Mid Roman pottery vessel (SF 28) survived in the cut and the vessel was filled with a mid brownish grey sandy silt (90) that contained 109g of cremated human bone. The cremation pit was backfilled with a mid yellowish brown sandy silt (80). Cremation pit **81** (Plate 4), directly to the east, was 0.28m in diameter and 0.1m deep, with 239g of a cremation vessel (SF 24) surviving within the pit. The vessel was backfilled with a mid brownish grey sandy silt (87) containing 78g of cremated human bone and the pit itself was backfilled with a mid brownish yellow sandy silt (82).

3.4.3 Both the cobbles and overlying colluvium survived over an area of 3.5m x 2.2m (Plate 3), and the cobbling slumped into the roadside ditch (**31**; intervention **48**) and was visible at the base of the ditches uppermost light brownish grey sandy silt fill (51; see Section 15). Within this layer of cobbles was 286g of Roman pottery, 240g of ceramic

building material, two iron nails (SF's 15 & 28) and 651g of animal bone. The overlying colluvial material (62) survived for 0.07m to 0.11m after machining and consisted of a mid brown sandy silt that contained 107g of Roman pottery and 31g of animal bone.

3.4.4 Of the four cremations that cut through the colluvium, one of the best preserved was located adjacent to the southern roadside ditch (**31**). This cremation (**77**, Fig. 5, P.26, Plate 5) was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.56m in diameter and 0.17m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. A total of three vessels were within the pit, two of which were semi-complete (SFs 29 & 30, Plate 6) and the other was near complete although broken in antiquity (SF 31). Two of the pots (SFs 29 & 30) were filled with mid brownish grey sandy silts (91 and 92); the fill of SF 30 (92) contained 896g cremated human bone. Underneath the larger pottery vessel (SF 29) was a deposit of cremated bone (265g), that may have been in a separate container which has later degraded, or may have also fallen from the vessel during backfilling in antiquity. The pit was backfilled with a mid yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional flint inclusions (78), from which a fragment of worked bone pin (SF 32) was recovered.

3.4.5 Centrally within the group was cremation pit **68** which measured 0.45m in diameter and 0.15m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. The pit was one of the highest stratigraphically out of the group, with the entire pit being cut into the collluvium, and only just 'scraping' the natural geology below. A pair of Roman vessels (SF 20, Plate 7; 511g, SF 40; 74g) was in the base of the pit, the largest of which (SF 20) contained a mid brownish grey sandy silt (70) and cremated human bone (161g). The pit was backfilled with a mid yellowish brown sandy silt with regular flint inclusions (69) from which a further 74g of another pottery jar (SF 40) was recovered.

3.4.6 Directly south-west was cremation pit **75** (Plate 8) which measured 0.44m in diameter and 0.08m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. A total of four Roman pottery vessels were within the pit (SFs 21; 743g, 22; 71g, 23; 87g and 39; 223g). Three were ancillary vessels (SFs 22, 23 and 39), one of which had been pierced prior to its interment, whilst the fourth (SF 21) was filled with a dark brown sandy silt (86) that contained 74g of cremated bone. The pit was backfilled with a mid yellowish brown sandy silt (76). A samian dish (SF 39) was recovered from this location during machining and most probably associated with this cremation.

3.4.7 The final cremation pit (**73**, Fig. 5, P.25, Plate 9) was located directly south of cremation pit **75** and north of ditch **36**, and measured 0.6m in diameter and survived to a depth of 0.15m, with a wide U-shaped profile. At least three vessels were within the pit, the lowest of which (SF 25; 987g) was backfilled with a dark brown sandy silt (88) which contained 655g of cremated human bone. Sat on top of this pot, forming a lid, was a samian dish that appeared to have been ritually broken (SF 26; 407g), which was filled with a dark brown sandy silt (89). Again, situated on top of this samian dish was a further pot (SF 27; 795g). The cremation pit was backfilled with a mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Further vessels were associated with this cremation, which were unfortunately disturbed during machine stripping of the site. A delicate decorated glass jar (SF 8, Plate 10) and a near complete flagon (SFs 7 & 42) were found within the spoil along with fragments of a small cup flagon (SF 41).

3.4.8 No metal objects were found directly associated with any of the cremations; the copper alloy disc (SF 16) that was recovered from ditch **40** (fill 42) was identified as either being part of horse tack or a box/casket fitting, and may well have formed part of an object interred with one of these cremation that was later disturbed, ending up within the upper infilling of the ditch as it fell into disuse in period 1.4.

3.4.9 The final feature associated with the cemetery was located directly east of cremation **73** and was the partial remains of an infant burial. This burial (**83**) was in a shallow pit measuring 0.3m long, 0.21m wide and 0.02m deep with a wide, shallow-U profile. The skeletal remains (SK84) were in a poor condition with only the right hand lower side of the skeleton surviving.

3.5 Period 1.4: Disuse of the Roadside Ditches

3.5.1 No features were cut within the area after the formation of the cremation cemetery. Pottery from the infilling roadside ditches indicates a disuse period for the ditches and possibly (but not categorically) the road during the 3rd century AD, with 1724g of 3rd to 4th century pottery being recovered from the upper fill (45) of ditch slot **43**.

3.6 Post-Roman Activity

3.6.1 No significant post-Roman activity was identified within the site, with a single intrusive coin of 1699 date being retrieved from ditch **31**. It should be noted, however, that the two ditches phased to period 1.2 (**52** and **54**) contained relatively small amounts of Romano-British pottery (37g in total), which could have been residual, indicating a later date for the ditches.

3.7 Finds Summary

3.7.1 A total of 9862g of Romano-British pottery was recovered, spanning the Early and into the Middle Roman periods. The pottery forming the cremation grave goods appears slightly later than that in the ditch fills, indicating a slightly later date for the cemetery. The overall assemblage contains more finewares than would be expected in a rural context, suggesting the pottery derives from more a more urban context, which is unsurprising given the close locality of the Roman town. Metalwork was quite rare from the site, with none recovered from the cremations, and most found in the form of nails. A single copper alloy object (SF16, ditch **40**) was identified as being either from horse tack or part of a box fitting, possibly deriving from one of the cremations. A small assemblage of undiagnostic fired clay and ceramic building material was also recovered from the ditches.

3.8 Environmental Summary

3.8.1 Seven individuals (six cremated and one foetal inhumation) were interred in the cemetery. The human skeletal remains were in relatively poor condition, with root etching evidence on the foetal inhumation (SK84), although the cremated remains were in better condition, having been protected from post depositional disturbance by their interment within pottery vessels. Only one of the cremated individuals could be sexed (female) and ageing data was limited, with all cremated remains identified as being adult.

3.8.2 The faunal remains (2.6kg recovered) consisted of 37 identifiable fragments, including cattle, pig, dog and horse. The minimal ageing data suggests that pigs were slaughtered at a young age for meat and cattle were likely also slaughtered for food around the 4 years of age mark. The dog was of lap-dog size, so presumably a pet, and the horse measured approximately 14 hands high at the shoulder. Some burnt faunal remains were also interred with two of the cremations, in the form of 2 fragments of sheep/goat femur and rib from cremation **77**.

3.8.3 Charred plant remains from the environmental samples were relatively poorly preserved, although spelt, barley and oats were identified in the flots along with single

seeds of grasses, knotgrasses and clover. The recovery of a box seed was surprising, although this was not charred and was probably intrusive.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1.1 Despite the small area excavated, the results add significantly to the data available on the Small Town of Great Chesterford's road network, clarifying the route of the road to Radwinter. Similarly, the excavation of a small, presumably family, cemetery adds to the evidence for burial rites during the period within the vicinity of Great Chesterford, the current data for which is often from antiquarian excavations.

4.2 Pre-Roman Activity

4.2.1 Prior to the route of the road being defined by its roadside ditches, there is evidence for some activity in the area, indicative of settlement and seen in the form of pit **93**. Despite being limited in scope, the evidence does suggest there is occupation nearby to the south-west of the area, possibly in the Latest Iron Age/Earliest Roman period.

4.3 The Roman Road network of Great Chesterford

4.3.1 The identification of the road leading from Great Chesterford to Radwinter during this excavation was an unexpected finding. The road had no evidence for metalling, but the ditches clearly delimited the route of a road, probably of packed earth, that led from what appears to be the eastern gate rather than southern gate of Great Chesterford (Fig. 2). This would have continued to Radwinter, the site of a substantial Roman roadside settlement (Moan 2017), and presumably carried on to Colchester. The location of the road itself is approximately 70m further north than the inferred route (EHER 7317), but is on the same alignment and lines up well with other cropmarks heading south-eastwards to Radwinter. Interestingly, the alignment of the ditches does appear to line up with a gap in the tree line 2.5km to the south-east (Plate 11). Progressing towards Radwinter, the road does appear to get 'lost' within the modern field boundaries, with few seeming to follow the alignment of the road. A single ditch cropmark can be seen in a field just south of Little Walden (TL 5421 4123, SMR47896) which lines up with the route of the road, although it cannot be seen either side of this large field, and it is more probable that the cropmark represents a post-medieval field boundary later infilled. Further to the south-east there are some boundaries which do line up well with the proposed route, south of Water End and heading towards Stocking Green (Fig. 6), the evidence for which has previously been identified as being part of a Roman road (Margary 1973 pp.243, route 300). Continuing on, this route then entered Radwinter at its northern end, and can be seen on a geophysical survey undertaken on the field north of the excavation undertaken by OAE (Moan 2017, fig. 13).

4.3.2 Recent developer funded archaeological investigation around Great Chesterford has shed some light on the Roman Small Town's road network (Fig. 2), with a further road (thought to be a Romanised section of the Icknield Way) leading north-eastwards from the eastern gate being identified prior to housing construction south of Stanley Road. The article and associated archive report (Moan 2014 & 2015) for that mitigation work provide detail on evidence for the regions roads and their form (packed earth versus metalled surface), and the form of the road identified at the Thorpe Lea site seems the same in form as the other road, with a ditch delimiting the route of the road, which showed no evidence of metalling.

4.3.3 A not dissimilar narrative between the two roads use can be inferred from the dating evidence, with the ditches being excavated at roughly the same time period (early second century AD), and the Radwinter Road would appear to fall into disuse around the same time as its counterpart, with pottery suggesting it was beginning to be

significantly infilled during the third century AD; a large assemblage of 1724g of third to fourth century AD pottery was recovered from the fill of the southern roadside ditch. These dates tie in well with the known fortunes of the Roman Small Town (Moan 2015).

4.3.4 Further inferences can be made from the pottery, with both sites having a high proportion of finewares, more-so than would be expected from a rural site, suggesting the extra-mural settlement of the Small Town was located nearby, and extended further than the currently thought limits (Medleycott 2011a). Both the Thorpe Lea and Stanley Road sites were located approximately 650m away from the town's eastern gate, indicating a significant spread of extra-mural settlement is possible for the town. The lack of current knowledge of the extra-mural settlement size is mainly due to a lack of developer funder archaeological works within the town of Great Chesterford (Medleycott 2011a), and research work mostly being concentrated on the walled town itself. The evidence from the past two OAE excavations may well indicate the spread of settlement was much larger than initially thought.

4.3.5 The environmental evidence from Thorpe Lea was not exceptional, but did give some idea of the local landscape during the period of the road's use. Spelt, oat and barely grains were recovered, giving a hint at what crops were being grown nearby, and the recovery of grass, knotgrass and clover seeds from the samples would indicate the area nearby to road was quite open with grassy verges. Similarly, faunal remains suggest cattle was the main animal resource in the local economy, along with some pig, and pack animals such as horses were in use; an assemblage very similar to those found at Stanley Road and Radwinter (Moan 2014 & 2017), as well as the majority of other Romano-British sites in the region. The age of the pig remains indicates they were slaughtered at a young age, and the cattle at around 4 years old, an age for slaughter typically seen during the Roman period. Dog remains were also found, and were the size of a lap-dog, indicating it was a pet rather than of use in a pastoral regime or as a guard dog. This could indicate relatively high status for some residents of Great Chesterford, as they were able to afford the keeping of a pet for pleasure rather than it requiring an economic use. This pattern is one coming to light in recent research, with evidence from dog remains showing a shifting attitude towards pet-keeping during the period, and possibly part of a phenomenon of conspicuous consumption of the elite, something identified during excavations at Silchester, Hampshire (Fulford & Clarke 2011, Mackinnon, pers. comm.).

4.4 The Cremation Cemetery

4.4.1 The uncovering of a small cemetery was also unexpected (Plate 12), but this small cemetery of seven individuals adds greatly to the site's narrative. Due to its small size (seven individuals), it would make sense to think this cemetery was used by one family group, forming a small plot on the road leading out of the town and its extra-mural settlement. Of the group, six were cremated, interred within pottery vessels and buried with ancillary pottery vessels and a glass drinking vessel. The other burial was that of a foetal inhumation, interred adjacent to one of the cremations.

4.4.2 Cremations was the preferred burial rite for the Romano-British population until around *c*. AD150, when inhumation began to take place in preference to cremation, due to changing beliefs and customs. The presence of a foetal inhumation alongside the cremated adult individuals suggests different burial rites were observed for younger members of a family, a pattern that is observed on other excavated cemeteries. Overall data would suggest that the transition from inhumation to cremation happened at approximately 6 months in age (Pearce 2000, pp. 126). One of the Great Chesterford

cemeteries which was recorded in the mid-19th century (near to the Roman Braughing Road; Fig. 2 EHER13932, Medleycott 2011a, pp.253 – the closest cemetery to this small Thorpe Lea example) was found to contain seven cremations and 25 child inhumations, and further afield, north-west of Cambridge at Vicars Farm, a group of eight 2nd century AD cremations were found alongside two neonate inhumations (Dodwell 2001).

4.4.3 Further osteological evidence is limited from the remains: Schmorl's nodes were identified on the individual from cremation **77** (a small protrusion on the spine, indicative of degeneration of the spine). The other information on the individuals must be taken from their grave goods and any burial rites that can be identified. Some burnt sheep/goat remains were found with cremation **77**, along with an unfired sheep incisor from **73**, the former of which could indicate an offering placed on the pyre with the individual. Similarly, the lack of charcoal within the burials and lack of pyre debris is noticeable, but cannot be seen as evidence for the pyre being some distance from the burial site; pyres in their nature are ephemeral and rarely seen in the archaeological record, unless the pyre forms an integral part of the burial itself, such as a bustum burial (*e.g.* the example recorded along the Covenham to Boston Pipeline, Bush 2014).

4.4.4 One of the most interesting burial rites seen within the Thorpe Lea cemetery is that of the 'ritual killing' of some of the vessels prior to deposition within the burials. This is a technique by which the pots are deliberately damaged or broken, a phenomenon observed at many other Romano-British cemeteries in the region such as the major cemetery at Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981) and the further works undertaken on it (Wallace lands; Anderson *et al* forthcoming), as well as being seen within the wider Roman Empire. At least four of the 13 vessels within the cremations at Thorpe Lea show evidence of this burial rite, with holes being drilled into some vessels and parts of the rims or necks of vessels being deliberately clipped off. Furthermore to this evidence, two of the vessels appear to be 'seconds' – though they were not wasters since they functioned as a vessel, they were clearly poorly made/fired, again something in evidence at the Skeleton Green cemetery, which says something about the selection of pots for cremations, demonstrating not all grave goods were selected for their aesthetic qualities.

4.4.5 Other intriguing evidence was seen in the cobbling and layer of soil interpreted as colluvium, overlying/truncating two cremations, and which the final four cremations and inhumation cut. Rather than colluvium in the true sense, it may be more of a surviving soil horizon. From the limited evidence of a layer of cobbling and this layer of soil, it could be suggested a small mound was located over the burial site, forming a marker for the cemetery; however inferring this does seem to be stretching the evidence. Clearly though, the area was altered, with the laying of cobbles near to the ditch and possibly forming some small area to commemorate the two individuals originally interred, before further cremation burials were interred within the area over the following century, whilst the road went out of use and the material began to slump into the roadside ditch.

4.5 Post-Roman Activity

4.5.1 The roadside ditches were out of use during the 3rd century, infilling completely. Very little evidence for activity after this was found on the site. The only possible activity could be ditches **52** and **54**, which were phased to period 1.2, but contained only small amounts of Roman material (37g of pottery), which may have been residual. This could mean the ditches are later (medieval?) and delineate a boundary that respected the

route of the earlier road. This seems unlikely, however, since the later (post-medieval) boundaries in the local area run perpendicular to the road's orientation, suggesting the route's alignment was no longer an influence of field systems in the post-Roman period. It seems more probable the ditches are Roman in date, and are two phases of recutting of the road's northern limit.

4.6 Significance

4.6.1 This small excavation has identified the route of the road leading to Radwinter from Great Chesterford, broadening our understanding of the towns road network, and adding to the bigger picture of the region's Romano-British landscape, particularly when looked at in conjunction with other recent developer funded works. Roman roads are often identified through cropmarks and modern boundary alignments from aerial photographs and the chance to excavate them is often limited, thus this opportunity to investigate a small part of the road is excellent, allowing for solid dating of the roads history and for consideration of this in the context of other dating evidence for Great Chesterford's Romano-British history.

4.6.2 Furthermore, the small cremation cemetery revealed during the works also adds greatly to local evidence for Romano-British burial rites around the outskirts of Great Chesterford; data that is relatively lacking, due to the numerous cemeteries that were dug during the 19th century. The identification of a foetal inhumation buried alongside the cremated individuals, along with the ritual killing of some of the pottery vessels also adds further evidence to burial rites that are becoming well known patterns within the Romano-British archaeological record.

Appendix A. Context Inventory

Ctxt	Cut	Master Number	Period	Cat.	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Thickness	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile	Work Phase
1	0	0	0	layer	Top Soil	0		0.2	Dark Grey Brown	clay silt	root action plus fints and chalk lumps	0.18-0.4							Eval
2	0	0	0	layer	Spread	0		0.3	mid yellowish brown	clay silt	sand lense chalk lumps flints and pebbles	0.12-0.5							Eval
3	5	0	0	fill	ditch	0	1.7	0.4	mid grey brown	clay silt	flints and pebbles and sasnd lenses								Eval
4	5	0	0	fill	Ditch fill	0	0.7	0.2	light yellowish brown	silty clay	flints/pebbles and sand lenses occasional chalk lumps								Eval
5	5	0	0	cut	ditch	0	1.7	0.6					linear	moderate	moderate	flat	SE-NW	U Shaped	Eval
6	8	0	0	fill	Ditch fill	0	1.2	0.2	light yellowish brown	clay silt	flints/pebbles sand lenses								Eval
7	8	0	0	fill	Ditch fill	0	1.2	0.1	mid brown	silty clay	sand lenses, flints/pebbles and chalk lumps								Eval
8	8	0	0	cut	ditch	0	1.5	0.35					linear	moderate	moderate	flat	NW-SE	wide shallow u shaped	Eval
9	9	54	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.68	0.36					linear	steep to moderate	moderate	concave	NW-SE	U Shaped	Eval
10	9	54	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.68	0.36	light brown	clayey silt	sand lenses flint nodules and chalk lumps								Eval
11	11	52	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.88	0.19					linear	35-40 moderate	moderate		NW-SE	U Shaped	Eval
12	11	52	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.88	0.19	light brown	clayey silt	sand lenses flints/pebbles and chalk lumps								Eval
13	13	46	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.98	0.39					linear	steep	moderate	concave	NW-SE	U Shaped	Eval
14	13	46	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.98	0.39	light brown	clayey silt	sand lenses angular flints and chalk lumps								Eval
15	15	0	0	cut	pit	0	1.25	0.1						steep	moderate	flat			Eval
16	15	0	0	fill	pit	0	1.25	0.1	light to mid brown	clayey silt	occassional flints chalk lumps and sand lenses								Eval
17	18	0	0	fill	ditch	0	0.61	0.23	mid yellowish brown	clay silt	flints/pebbles, chalk lumps and sand lenses								Eval
18	18	0	0	cut	ditch	0	0.61	0.23					linear	45-48	0.17m depth	0.15m wide	NW-SE	U Shaped	Eval

Ctxt	Cut	Master Number	Period	Cat.	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Thickness	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile	Work Phase
19	20	0	0	fill	ditch	0	0.57	0.22	same as 17										Eval
20	20	0	0	cut	ditch	0	0.57	0.22					linear	45-50	0.18m depth	flattish at 0.15m wide	NW-SE	U Shaped	Eval
21	22	0	0	fill	ditch	0	0.5	0.18	same as 17										Eval
22	22	0	0	cut	ditch	0	0.5	0.18					linear	45-46	0.12m depth	0.28m wide	NW-SE	U Shaped	Eval
23	24	0	0	fill	ditch	0			light to mid brown	clayey silt	chalk lumps, flints sand lenses and occassional charcoal lumps								Eval
24	24	0	0	cut	ditch	0							linear				e-w-sw		Eval
25	26	0	0	fill	ditch	0	0.9		light brown	clayey silt	flints and chalk lumps sand lenses occassional charcoal lumps								Eval
26	26	0	0	cut	ditch	0	0.9						linear				W-E		Eval
27	29	0	0	fill	ditch	0	1.45		see 3										Eval
28	30	0	0	fill	ditch	0			see 6										Eval
29	0	0	0	cut	ditch	0	1.45						linear				NW-SE		Eval
30	30	0	0	cut	ditch	0							linear				NW-SE		Eval
31	31	31	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1.64	0.6					linear	steep	sharp	flat	e-w	V shaped	Ex
32	31	31	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.1	0.44	light yellowish grey	sandy silt	abundant chalk flecks, frequent flint, rare charcoal smears	0.44m							Ex
33	31	31	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.64	0.18	light brownish grey	sandy silt	frequent chalk flecks, occasional flint, rare charcoal	0.18m							Ex
34	34	0	1.2	cut	ditch/gully terminus	0	0.7	0.25					linear	steep	moderate	concave	n-s	U-shaped	Ex
35	34	0	1.2	fill	ditch/gully terminus	0	0.7	0.25	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt	moderate chalk and flint	0.25m							Ex
36	36	0	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.35	0.16					linear	steep	moderate	concave	e-w	V- shaped	Ex
37	36	0	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.35	0.16	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt	moderate flint	0.16m							Ex
38	38	38	1.2	cut	hedge	0	0.6	0.1					linear	gentle	gentle	irregular	n-s	wide U-shaped	Ex
39	38	38	1.2	fill	hedge	0	0.6	0.1	light yellowish	sandy silt	rare flint	0.10m							Ex

Ctxt	Cut	Master Number	Period	Cat.	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Thickness	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile	Work Phase
									brown										
40	40	40	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1.1	0.49					linear	steep	sharp	concave	n-s	U-shaped	Ex
41	40	40	1.2	fill	ditch	0		0.13	light brownish grey	sandy silt	moderate chalk	0.13m							Ex
42	40	40	1.2	fill	ditch	0		0.36	mid brownishgrey	sandy silt	rare chalk and flint	0.36m							Ex
43	43	31	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1.5	0.6					linear	steep	sharp	flat	e-w	U-shaped	Ex
44	43	31	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.5	0.2	dark brownish yellow	sandy silt	occasional chalk flecks and flint	0.20m							Ex
45	43	31	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.5	0.4	mid brownish grey	sandy silt	frequent flint, stone and chalk flecks	0.40m							Ex
46	46	46	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1.3	0.54					linear	steep	sharp	flat	e-w	flat bottomed V-shape	Ex
47	46	46	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.3	0.54	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	frequent flint and flecks of chalk	0.54m							Ex
48	48	31	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1.52	0.64					linear	steep	sharp	V	e-w	V-shaped	Ex
49	48	31	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.6	0.14	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	abundant flint and chalk, very rare charcoal smear	0.14m							Ex
50	48	31	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.2	0.3	light yellowish grey	sandy silt	frequent chalk smears and small pieces, occasional flint and rare charcoal	0.30m							Ex
51	48	31	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.52	0.14	light brownish grey	sandy silt	abundant flint, rare charcoal smears, rare chalk pieces	0.14m							Ex
52	52	52	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.85	0.17					linear	gentle	gradual	irregular	e-w	U-shaped	Ex
53	52	52	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.85	0.17	light brownish yellow	sandy silt	occasional flint and chalk	0.17m							Ex
54	54	54	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.7	0.33					linear	steep	gradual	concave	e-w	U-shaped	Ex
55	54	54	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.7	0.33	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	occasional medium stones	0.33m							Ex
56	56	46	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1.6	0.54					linear	steep	moderate	concave	e-w	U -shaped	Ex
57	56	46	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.6	0.54	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	frequent flint and chalk	0.54m							Ex

Ctxt	Cut	Master Number	Period	Cat.	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Thickness	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile	Work Phase
58	58	52	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.8	0.18					linear	moderate	gradual	concave	e-w	U-shaped	Ex
59	58	52	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.8	0.18	light yellowish brown	sandy silt	occasional flint and chalk	0.18m							Ex
60	60	54	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.6	0.26					linear	steep	sharp	concave	e-w	U-shaped	Ex
61	60	54	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.6	0.26	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	occasional flint and chalk	0.26m							Ex
62	0	0	1.3	layer	colluviium	0		0.07	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	occasional charcoal, occasional flint	0.07m							Ex
63	0	0	1.3	layer	flint layer	1.2	1	0.1	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	Super-abundant flint (natural) , rare charcoal	0.10m							Ex
64	64	52	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1.2	0.28					linear	gentle	gradual	concave	e-w	V-shaped	Ex
65	64	52	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.2	0.28	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt	occasional flint	0.28m							Ex
66	66	54	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1	0.32					linear	steep	gradual	concave	e-w	U-shaped	Ex
67	66	54	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1	0.32	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	occasional flint	0.32m							Ex
68	68	0	1.3	cut	cremation pit	0		0.15					sub-circular	not known	not known	flattish with flint on base		not known	Ex
69	68	0	1.3	fill	cremation pit	0		0.15	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt	frequent flints, rare charcoal	0.15m							Ex
70	68	0	1.3	fill	cremation	0		0.15	mid brownish grey	sandy silt	human cremains	0.15n							Ex
71	71	46	1.2	cut	ditch	0	1.1	0.58					linear	steep	sharp	V	e-w	V-shaped	Ex
72	71	46	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.1	0.58	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	occasional flin and rare chalk	0..58							Ex
73	73	0	1.3	cut	cremation pit	0.6	0.5	0.15					sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave	?	U-shaped	Ex
74	73	0	1.3	fill	cremation pit	0.6	0.5	0.15	mid yellowish brown	sandy silt		0.15m							Ex
75	75	0	1.3	cut	cremation pit	0.44	0.3	0.08					sub-circular	gentle	gradual	concave	e-w	wide U-shaped	Ex
76	75	0	1.3	fill	cremation pit	0.44	0.3	0.08	mid yellowish	sandy silt		0.0.8m							Ex

Ctxt	Cut	Master Number	Period	Cat.	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Thickness	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile	Work Phase
									brown										
77	77	0	1.3	cut	cremation pit	0.67	0.56	0.17					sub-circular	gentle	imperceptible	concave	e-w	wide U-shaped	Ex
78	77	0	1.3	fill	cremation pit	0.67	0.56	0.17	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt	occasional flint, rare charcoal	0.17m							Ex
79	79	0	1.3	cut	cremation pit	0	0.31	0.03					sub-circular	imperceptible	imperceptible	concave		wide U-shaped	Ex
80	79	0	1.3	fill	cremation pit	0	0.31	0.03	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt	rare flint	0.03m							Ex
81	81	0	1.3	cut	cremation pit	0	0.28	0.1					sub-circular	gentle	imperceptible	concave		U-shaped	Ex
82	81	0	1.3	fill	cremation pit	0	0.28	0.1	mid brownish yellow	sandy silt	rare flint	0.10							Ex
83	83	0	1.3	cut	pit	0.3	0.21	0.02					sub-circular	imperceptible	imperceptible	concave		wide shallow U-shaped	Ex
84	83	0	1.3	HSR	skeleton	0													Ex
85	83	0	1.3	fill	pit	0		0.02	mid brownish grey	sandy silt	rare flint	0.02m							Ex
86	75	0	1.3	fill	cremation	0			dark brown	sandy silt	bone fragments								Ex
87	81	0	1.3	fill	cremation	0			mid brownish grey	sandy silt	rare flint, common bone								Ex
88	73	0	1.3	fill	cremation	0			dark brown	sandy silt	cremains, bone								Ex
89	73	0	1.3	fill	cremation	0			dark brown	sandy silt	cremains, bone								Ex
90	79	0	1.3	fill	cremation	0			mid brownish grey	sandy silt	moderate bone								Ex
91	77	0	1.3	fill	cremation	0													Ex
92	77	0	1.3	fill	cremation	0													Ex
93	93	0	1.1	cut	pit	0	0.5	1					indeterminate	vertical	sharp	flat	not known		Ex
94	93	0	1.1	fill	pit	0		1	mid brownish	sandy silt	abundant flint	1.00m							Ex

Ctxt	Cut	Master Number	Period	Cat.	Feature Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Thickness	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Profile	Work Phase
									grey										
95	95	40	1.2	cut	ditch	0	0.8	0.5					linear	steep	gradual	concave	ne-sw	U -shaped	Ex
96	95	40	1.2	fill	ditch	0	1.4	0.26	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt	occasional flint	0.26m upper fill							Ex
97	95	40	1.2	fill	ditch	0	0.8	0.24	mid ybrownish grey	sandy silt	frequent flint and chalk	0.24m							Ex
98	98	38	1.2	cut	hedge line	0	0.5	0.2					linear	imperceptible	imperceptible	flat	ne-sw	squared	Ex
99	98	38	1.2	fill	hedge line	0	0.5	0.2	mid yellowish grey	sandy silt	occasional chalk flecks	0.20m							Ex

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Metalwork

By Denis Sami

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of four copper alloy, eight iron and one lead object were recovered from the excavation. Of the copper alloy objects, two were coins, one a copper alloy disk and the final a brooch pin-catch.

B.1.2 The objects were quantified by material and typology using the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) data base as reference as well as Crummy (1983), Manning (1989) and Van Arsdell (1989). Objects were measured: Length (L), width (W), thickness (T) and weight (Wg). A catalogue sorted by SF number is listed below by material type.

B.1.3 The copper alloy artefacts, despite showing wear and patina, are in good condition, on the contrary iron objects are heavily encrusted and fragmented.

Copper Alloy

B.1.4 The coins cover a broad period spanning from the late Iron Age and Roman phases to 1699. A British Potin coin Class II (Van Arsdell 1989, no 135-139) was recovered from pit **93** (SF35); on the obverse a stylised profile of Apollo can be seen and on the reverse a bull. The coin dates to *c.* 80 – *c.* 45 BC and is the earliest artefact of the assemblage. Two Roman coins date to the mid and second half of the fourth century: a nummus of Constantius Gallus (351-354 AD, SF17, subsoil) and a nummus of Valens (367-375 AD; SF13, fill 51, ditch **48**). A farthing of William III dating to 1699 is the latest coin (SF18, fill 33, ditch **31**).

B.1.5 The copper alloy disc (SF16, fill 42, ditch **40**) is of Roman date and it may have been used as a furniture or a casket decoration. The Roman brooch pin-catch (SF19, fill 72, ditch **71**) is too small to be precisely identified, however it may belong to a Colchester derivative brooch dating to the early Roman period.

Coin Catalogue

SF13 (51, ditch **48**). A complete CuA copy nummus of Valens dating to the period 367-375 AD (Reece period 19)

OBV: DN VAL[E]N-[S PF AVG], pearl diademed, draped, cuirassed bust right

REV: [GLORIA RO-M]ANORVM, Emperor advancing right, holding a labarum and dragging a kneeling captive by the hair behind him.

Mint: Uncertain

Diameter.: 18.2 mm; T: 1.3 mm; Wt: 1.7 g

SF 17 (subsoil 2). A complete CuA nummus of Constantius Gallus dating to the period 351-354 AD (Reece period 18)

OBV: DN CON[S]TAN[TI-VS NOB CAES], bare-headed, draped, cuirassed bust right.

REV: [FEL] TEMP-REPA[RATIO], soldier standing left, spearing fallen horseman.

Mint: Uncertain

Diameter: 18 mm; Thickness: 1.4 mm; Weight: 2.4 g

SF18 (33, ditch **31**). A complete CuA William III farthing dating to 1699

OBV: [GU]LIELMUS [T]ERTIUS•, Laureate bust of William III facing right

REV: [BRIT]A[N] – NIA• [16]99, Britannia seated left holding a branch and spear, left arm on a shield.

Diameter: 22.4 mm; T: 1.7 mm; Wt: 5.4 g

SF 35 (97, pit **93**). A incomplete Iron Age CuA uninscribed British Potin Class II, dating to the period c. 80 - c. 45 BC (Van Arsdell, no 135-139)

OBV: head of Apollo left with pronounced pellet in the centre of head

REV: bull made of strait lines with pronounced pellet in the centre

Width: 13 mm; T: 1.6 mm; Wt: 0.7 g

Copper Object Catalogue

SF 16 (42, ditch **40**). Complete disc. Irregular slightly curved disc domed at the centre.

Diameter: 36 mm; T: 0.7 mm; Wt: 3.4 g.

SF 19 (72, ditch **71**). Incomplete brooch catch-plate. This small fragment consists only in the terminal part of the arch of a possible Colchester derivative brooch. The arch appears to be sub-circular and flanked by two grooves. The catch-plate is folded on one site.

L 120 mm; 13 mm; T:4 mm; Wt: 2.8 g.

Ironwork

B.1.6 Of the eight iron objects, SF's 9-12, 34, 37, 38 are nails (Manning 1989), whilst SF33 is possibly part of an agricultural tool.

Ironwork Catalogue

SF 9 (32, ditch **31**). Incomplete artefact. A long narrow bar with rectangular section. One end is truncate while the other end is possibly slightly expanded and circular. L: 44 mm; W: 6 mm; T: 3 mm

SF 10 (51, ditch **48**). Incomplete nail. Square section stem tapering at the end. The stem is bended forming a U form. L: 61 mm; W: 10 mm

SF 11 (51, ditch **48**). Incomplete nail. L shape with rectangular section tapering stem (Manning variation of type 4). L: 59 mm; W: 8 mm; T: 5 mm

SF 12 (51, ditch **48**). Incomplete nail. Tapering stem with square section. L: 50 mm; W: 5.5 mm

SF 15 (cobble layer 63). Two incomplete nails. Nail 1 has tapering stem with square section and remain head. L: 51 mm; W: 5.5 MM. Nail 2 has a tapering stem with rectangular section. L: 39 mm; W: 10 mm; T: 5.4 mm

SF 33 (72, ditch **71**). Incomplete unidentified artefact. Rectangular bar flat on one face and slightly convex on the other face. One end is truncated while the other is tapering forming a round angle. L: 90 mm; 37 mm; 7.4 mm

SF 34 (94, pit **93**). Two incomplete nails. Nail 1, long slightly tapering stem with square section. Sub-square head. L: 67 mm; W: 4 mm. Nail 2, Tapering stem with square section and sub-square head. L: 27 mm; W: 4 mm; W (head) 13 mm

SF 37 (45, ditch **43**). Incomplete nail. Tapering truncated at both ends stem with square section. L: 34 mm; W: 6 mm

SF 38 (cobble layer 63). Incomplete nail. Highly encrusted tapering stem with little remain of the head. L: 42 mm; 4 mm

Lead Objects

B.1.7 A single, unidentifiable lead object (SF14) was recovered from ditch slot **48** (ditch **31**), that had no identifiable characteristics, although is probably dross.

Discussion

B.1.8 This small assemblage adds little to the archaeological narrative of the site, although their recovery does aid in dating the features and provides evidence of possible structures in the vicinity (in the form of nails). It is recommended that the copper alloy disc (SF16) is illustrated for inclusion in any publication.

B.2 Glass

By Stephen Wadeson with Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 Excavations at Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex, identified a small cemetery of 6 cremations and a single infant inhumation, located within a small enclosure formed by the southern roadside ditch **31** and boundaries **40**, **36** and **34**. Located within this enclosure cremation pit **73**, the cremation was disturbed during machine stripping and a glass vessel (SF8) was found within the associated spoil. Although incomplete, enough of the vessel remains for identification.

B.2.2 Romano-British Glass Vessels: A Handbook (Price & Cottam 1998) was used as a general guide to standards in the completion of this report.

The assemblage

B.2.3 Associated with cremation pit **73** were the partial remains of a colourless cylindrical wheel cut cup (with flat base). The vessel has an out-turned rim edge, cracked off and ground, with a cylindrical straight body (see slightly tapering in). The flat base which thickens slightly towards the centre producing an uneven, slightly convex surface with a small central concavity (*ibid*.). Decoration consists of horizontal wheel cut lines below the rim and on the body. The cut lines are relatively evenly spaced over the body of the vessel, consisting of bands of wheel cut lines, the first of three lines, the second of two and that closest to the base is a single cut line.

B.2.4 The glass vessel was recovered from cremation pit **73**, which also contained five *in situ* ceramic vessels, including a cremation urn (SF25) containing cremated human remains. Creating a lid for the cremation urn was an incomplete samian Dr. 31 dish (SF26), with a complete makers' stamp on its basal interior ILLIVS.FEC. This can be assigned to the Central Gaulish (Lezoux) potter Illius who was active during the second half of the second century A.D. 150-190 (Hartley & Dickinson, 2009, 266). The samian dish was broken in antiquity as part of the burial ritual (See Appendix B.3, Going 1988). Located above the dish was a flagon (SF7). It is thought the glass vessel was associated with this flagon, also placed on top of the samian dish.

B.2.5 Occasionally present in burials, wheel cut beakers were the most commonly used glass drinking vessel form in Roman Britain during the early to mid-2nd century A.D. and were produced in a variety of forms and shapes (Cool & Price, 1995).

B.2.6 A number of parallel artefacts have been found in the region, and include:

- Heybridge, Elms Farm, Essex: Almost complete cup, from 2nd century Cremation Burial (Price, J., Cottam, S., 1998, 94-95);

- Braughing, Skeleton Green, Hertfordshire: Fragmentary, apparently without wheel-cutting, from Cremation Burial 45, dated to mid-late 2nd century AD (Price, J., Cottam, S., 1998, 95)

Glass Catalogue

SF8, (74, Cremation **73**) Partial remains of a free-blown cylindrical wheel-cut cup, in clear near-colourless glass. Approximately 45% of the vessel remains, providing a complete profile, the rim is out-turned, rim edge cracked off and ground. The cylindrical near-straight body is decorated with relatively evenly spaced horizontal wheel cut lines forming three bands, the first of three lines, the second of two and that closest to the base is a single cut line. The base angle is rounded and the base flat, thickening slightly towards the centre, producing an uneven, slightly convex surface with a small central concavity with ?circular wear lines on the underside of the base. There are frequent imperfections in the glass, most commonly small round and elongated bubbles. The surface of the cup is slightly iridescent and lightly weathered. Date: *c*.2nd century AD, primarily second and third quarters.

Height 61mm; Rim diameter 70mm (estimated vessel equivalent of 0.35); Base diameter 66.6mm (external); Wall thickness c.0.8mm; Weight 33g.

B.3 Pottery

By Katie Anderson

Introduction and methodology

B.3.1 The excavations at Walden Road produced an assemblage of Roman pottery totalling 598 sherds, weighing 9862g and representing a minimum of 41 vessels (MNV) and 23.21 EVEs (estimated vessel equivalent), of which 66.3% (by weight) comprises grave goods. All of the pottery was analysed and recorded in accordance with the Study Group for Roman Pottery guidelines (Perrin 2011), with extra information recorded for the cremation vessels where appropriate. For the purposes of this report the assemblage will initially be discussed as a whole, with a separate analysis and interpretation on the grave goods versus the non-grave goods to follow.

Assemblage Composition

B.3.2 The assemblage is predominately mid-Roman in date, with a date range of AD70-200, for most of the material, with an apparent peak in the 2nd century. AD, largely due to the grave goods which are discussed in detail below. The only exceptions to this are two 3rd century sherds recovered from Ditch **43**. The assemblage varies in condition with a moderately low mean weight of 16.5g, partly influenced by the grave goods, which due to predominately post-depositional damage, are fairly fragmented, although many can be refitted. The non-grave good assemblage has a lower mean weight of 11.9g, and generally comprises small to medium sized sherds, with little evidence for inter-context refitting.

B.3.3 A range of vessel fabrics were identified (Table 1), with Romano-British coarsewares accounting for the largest fabric group, representing 49% of the assemblage by count and 57.1% by weight (293 sherds, 5636g). Within this category, most of the wares are unsourced, comprising predominately coarse sandy greywares, oxidised wares and reduced wares. Many of these fabrics were noted as having micaceous and non-micaceous varieties, which reflects different sources of clay, since the mica is likely to have occurred naturally in the clays rather than being added specifically by the potters. Although most of these wares could not be sourced, it is likely that most were produced relatively locally to the site. The only sourced Romano-British coarsewares comprise five (225g) Horningsea wares and four Nene Valley white ware body sherds from a mortaria (fill 43, ditch **45**). Other fabrics of note are 18 shell-tempered sherds (1226g).

B.3.4 Romano-British finewares represent 41.8% of the assemblage by count and 34% by weight (250 sherds, 3347g). This figure is higher than those seen in domestic assemblages, where finewares typically account for no more than 10% of an assemblage. These vessels comprised primarily fine, sandy wares, including oxidised, whitewares and greyware varieties, 85% of which (by count) contained silver mica. The only sourced fineware comprises a small sherd (3g) from an early Colchester colour-coated beaker (fill 35, ditch **34**). However, the majority of the finewares are likely to have been manufactured in the local area.

B.3.5 Finally, imported wares represent 9.2% of the assemblage by count and 8.9% by weight (55 sherds, 879g). Again, this figure is somewhat higher than most contemporary settlement sites, which generally have fewer than 5% comprising imported wares. 93% of the imported pottery comprises samian, with products from South, Central and East Gaul represented. The majority of the samian assemblage comprises small sherds, many of which were noted as being abraded. There are however two partially complete (when refitted) vessels recovered from the graves and discussed in more detail below. The non-samian imported wares comprise two Central Gaulish colour-coated sherds (2g), one of which was from a roughcast decorated beaker and one Moselkeramik colour-coated sherd (1g) from an indented beaker (fill 45, ditch **43**) dating AD200-275, thus making this one of the latest dating sherds identified on the site.

B.3.6 The relatively high incidence of British finewares and imported wares encountered at this site could be assumed to be due to the presence of grave goods, which typically do include more fineware and imported vessels than a domestic assemblage. However, comparing the grave good assemblage to the non-grave goods shows very little difference in composition, and in fact the percentage of imported wares is higher for non-grave goods than for grave goods (12.2% compared to 6.6% by sherd count). It is possible of course that some of the material recovered from non-grave features represents truncated/disturbed graves and/or may be related to funerary, grave-side activities, which could have a different ceramic signature to Roman domestic contexts. However, it is also possible that this material does reflect a more settlement related assemblage, and that the higher than average number of finewares and imported wares is a reflection of the sites relative status and/or wealth, with its position on the outskirts of Great Chesterford Roman town resulting in a more 'urban' assemblage.

B.3.7 The assemblage is dominated by jars (Table 1), with a minimum of 24 different vessels identified. Vessels range in size from a small jar with a rim diameter of 10cm to a very large shell-tempered storage jar with a rim measuring 40cm in diameter. Jars were represented in both the grave good and non-grave good assemblage, in the case of the former jars were often utilised as the cremation urn. A minimum of five beakers were identified (48 sherds, 1223g), however this figure is based on the number of rims, and based on identifiable body sherds, it is clear that there are more beakers than represented by the rims alone, including the two Central Gaulish colour-coated sherds. Dishes are also represented by a minimum of five vessels, with a minimum of two bowls, two flagons and one cup.

Form	No.	Wt(g)	MNV	EVE
Beaker	48	1223	5	4.07
Bowl	6	78	2	0.35
Closed	81	639	1	1.82
Cup	2	18	1	0

Form	No.	Wt(g)	MNV	EVE
Dish	26	662	5	3
Flagon	42	794	2	3.72
Jar	264	5705	24	9.63
Mortaria	4	58	0	0
Open	19	188	0	0.52
Unknown	106	497	1	0.1
TOTAL	**598**	**9862**	**41**	**23.21**

Table 1: Quantification of Roman pottery by vessel form

B.3.8 There is more variation in vessel forms in the non-grave goods category, with bowls and cups and mortaria only featuring in non-grave features, albeit in small quantities (Chart 1). Likewise, flagons were only recovered from graves, which is not an uncommon pattern, with flagons generally accounting for less than 1% of a ceramic assemblage in non-funerary contexts (Anderson and Woolhouse 2016, 23). However, this figure is noticeably higher, including recent work on Wallace Lands, Hertfordshire), within which flagons represented 9.6% of the grave good assemblage (Anderson, Ridgeway and Hinman forthcoming.

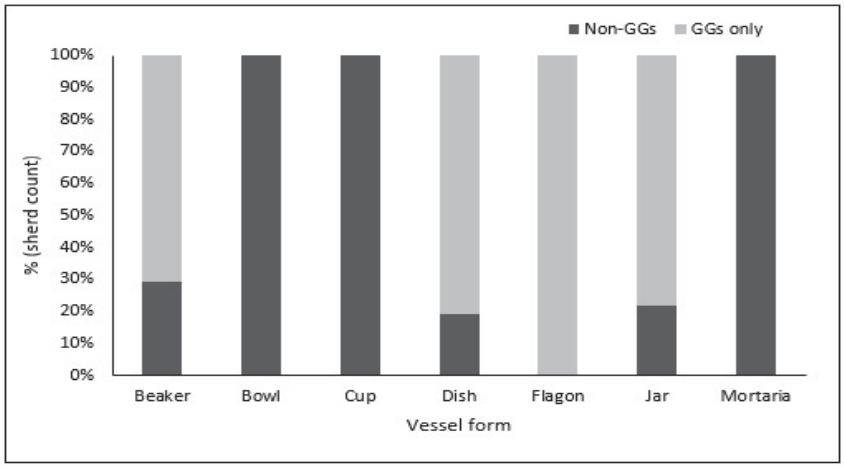

Chart 1: Percentages of main vessel forms for grave goods versus non-grave goods (sherd count)

Pottery from non-graves

B.3.9 A total of 251 sherds weighing 3077g (MNV 27, 5.07 EVEs) were recovered from non-grave features, the majority of which (57% by count) derive from ditches (Table 2). Ditch slot [43] contained the largest assemblage of material, totalling 79 sherds weighing 1738g (MNV 10, 1.87 EVEs), with a date range of AD150-250. Seven sherds of samian were recovered, including one sherd (24g) from a Central Gaulish Dr37 bowl with ovolo decoration, two sherds (18g) from an East Gaulish Dr33 cup and one sherd (5g) from a Dr31 dish.

B.3.10 A cobble layer (63), associated with the area of cremations, produced an assemblage of pottery totalling 29 sherds weighing 283g (MNV 1, 0.50 EVEs). This feature also has a relatively large number of samian sherds (11 sherds, 102g), all of which derive from the

South Gaulish kilns, although this material was very abraded and fragmented thus no vessel forms could be determined.

The Grave Vessels

B.3.11 In total 391 sherds, representing 13 vessels (6537g, 7.60 EVEs) comprise grave goods, recovered from six features. The cremation pits contained between one and five vessels, although some features were severely truncated, thus may not represent the complete assemblage. The composition of each assemblage is described below, with a summary table provided (Table 3). A further 28 sherds (248g, MNV 1, 0.54 EVEs) were recovered from the backfill of the cremation pits. None of this material derives from known grave goods and are likely to represent sherds accidentally caught in the backfilling of the features. The vessel forms utilised as grave goods follow a region pattern, comprising usually of a coarseware jar as the urn and then fineware ancillary vessels, although not all graves contained more than one vessel.

B.3.12 Of particular interest within this assemblage are the vessels which show evidence of being 'ritually killed' which is a technique by which the pots are deliberately damaged and/or broken prior to being place in the grave. The phenomenon has been observed at many Roman cemeteries in the region including Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981), Wallace Lands (Anderson *et al*, forthcoming), as well as the wider Roman empire. At least four of the 13 vessels have evidence of ritual killing, including post-firing holes and parts of the rims or necks of vessels deliberately clipped off. In addition to this, at least two of the vessels appear to be 'seconds' in that while not being waster since they could still function as a vessel, they were poorly made/fired. This again is in keeping with regional patterns, being observed for example at Skeleton Green and Wallace Lands (*ibid.*), but is an interesting aspect of pottery selection, demonstrating that not all grave goods were selected for their aesthetics.

Cremation Pit **68**

B.3.13 Two associated grave goods were deposited within cremation **68**, although at the time of excavation only one vessel was recognised. The pottery suggests a date range of AD100-200;

SF20 – A fine sandy micaceous greyware medium-sized necked jar (41 sherds, 511g) with a beaded rim. Combed on the shoulder and tooled horizontal lines near the base. Sooting on the shoulder. Not complete. Rim diameter 14cm. AD100-200

SF40 – A coarse sandy micaceous greyware small jar (ten sherds, 74g), necked, with a beaded rim (16cm). Not complete. AD70-200

Cremation Pit **73**

B.3.14 Five pottery vessels were recovered from cremation **73**, with an overall date of AD150-300. A 'ritually killed' samian dish (SF26) had been placed on top of cremation urn SF25 acting as a lid.

SF 7 – a fine, sandy micaceous whiteware flagon. Fabric similar to Verulamium whitewares but with common to frequent silver mica. Small oval, globular body (one sherd, 261g). Rim missing. Dents in the side, indicative of being a 'second'. This vessel has evidence of being 'ritually killed' - square post-firing hole in the side, handle seemingly snapped off prior to deposition and rim removed, possibly deliberately. AD 70-200.

SF 42 – a fine, sandy micaceous whiteware flagon (11 sherds, 90g). Same fabric and from to SF 7, but only body sherds and base of neck present. It is possible that the rim was deliberately removed as with SF 7. AD70-200.

SF 25 – Oxidised, white-slipped ware medium-sized jar (38 sherds, 987g). Flanged rim with groove on the rim. Rim diameter 20cm. Semi-complete. AD70-200.

SF 26 – Lezoux samian Dr 31 dish (14 sherds, 407g). Stamped on the base 'ILLIVS. FEC', potter Illius (identified by Stephen Wadeson -Hartley *et al* 2009, 266). Ritually killed, with part of the rim clipped off before deposition. AD150-190.

SF 41 – Oxidised, white-slipped ware flagon (13 sherds, 209g). Possibly Hadham white-slipped (Going in Wickenden 1988). Small cup-mouth flagon with a groove on the rim and single handle. Semi-complete. Ritually killed, with part of the rim deliberately clipped off before deposition. AD100-200.

Cremation Pit **75**

B.3.15 Four ceramic vessels were deposited within this grave, with a suggested date of AD160-200.

SF 21 – Coarse sandy micaceous whiteware jar (12 sherds, 744g). Medium-sized with a hooked, beaded rim (18cm diameter). Semi-complete although all of the rim is present. Similar fabric to Verulamium but with common silver mica. The surface of the vessel is quite lumpy/spalled indicative of being a 'second'. AD 70-200.

SF 22 – Fine sandy micaceous buff ware beaker (two sherds, 71g). Small beaker, with pedestal base. Some limescale on the interior. Partially complete – only lower part of the vessel remains. AD70-200.

SF 23 – Fine sandy micaceous oxidised, white-slipped ware closed vessel (12 sherds 744g). Only lower part of the vessel remains. One post-firing hole near the base – ritually killed. AD 70-200

SF 39 – Lezoux samian Dr31 dish (seven sherds, 223g), Stamp 'ELVILL' Potter Elvillus (identified by Stephen Wadeson – Hartley *et al* 2008, 350-351). Affected by post-depositional residues. Incomplete, but possibly ritually killed as some part of the base are quite jagged as if it has been deliberately broken. AD160-190.

Cremation Pit **77**

SF 29 – Fine sandy highly micaceous greyware – could be a Highgate Wood C vessel (eight sherds, 243g). Small, globular beaker. Semi-complete although no rim. AD100-160.

SF 30 – Fine sandy greyware beaker (24 sherds, 847g). Globular beaker with an angular shoulder, long neck and everted, thickened rim. Tooled chevron decoration. Very abraded surface. Almost complete. AD 70-150

SF 31 – Fine sandy micaceous reduced ware jar (43 sherds, 475g). Small with everted, rounded rim (20cm diameter). Abraded surface. AD70-200.

Cremation Pit **79**

B.3.16 A single vessel was recovered from cremation **79**, dating AD70-200

SF 28 – A black-slipped jar (52 sherds, 274g), very abraded. Only body sherds recovered. AD70-200

Cremation Pit **81**

B.3.17 Cremation **81** contained a single vessel, although two small finds numbers were allocated, the sherds are from the same vessel. AD70-200

SF 12 & 24 – A coarse sandy whiteware vessel, similar in fabric to Verulamium wares but with common silver mica. 20 sherds (234g) from a probable flagon, although only body sherds were recovered. AD70-200.

Discussion

B.3.18 The pottery from the site is comparable to several Roman sites Essex as well as sites in Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and further afield. However, given the nature of the assemblage the focus on this discussion is the grave goods. The pottery vessels utilised as grave goods are typical of funerary vessels found in association with Roman cremations in southern England (for example; Wallace Lands, Anderson *et al* forthcoming, Skeleton Green, Partridge 1981 and Baldock, Burleigh and Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2010, King Harry Lane, Stead & Rigby 1989, Stansted, Havis & Brooks 2004, Guilden Morden, Fox & Lethbridge 1925). Direct parallels can be made with cemeteries in the region as well as outside (e.g Westhampnett bypass, West Sussex, Fitzpatrick 1997). Several cemeteries have been identified at Great Chesterford, however these were not excavated or recorded by modern standards and thus there is limited information on the nature of the pottery vessels. That said, there are likely parallels in terms of vessel forms with at least some of the burials from the cemeteries excavated, including the Northern Cemetery (Medlycott, 2011: 95) and the South-Eastern Cemetery (*ibid*: 97).

B.3.19 The same restricted range of vessel forms were repeatedly used in cremation cemeteries in the Roman period, particularly in Essex and Hertfordshire, comprising a coarseware jar urns (at Great Chesterford a minimum of six) and often accompanied by one or more accessory vessels, most commonly flagons (A minimum of two), beakers (a minimum of three) and samian dishes (a minimum of two). This pattern is repeated on both small and large cemeteries in this region (and beyond) and attests to shared belief systems manifested in the composition of cremations in terms of the grave goods.

B.3.20 Perhaps the closest parallel in terms of size and composition is the cremation cemetery excavated at Great Dunmow (Wickenden 1988), Essex, approximately 20km south-east of the Thorpe Lea excavation. Although the cemetery from Great Dunmow was larger with 18 cremations identified, these appear to be contemporary with the Walden Road cemetery, dating between the later 1st and late 2nd century AD (*ibid*). A very similar repertoire of grave good vessels was recovered including samian Dr31 dishes, flagons, beakers and coarseware jars utilised as urns. The cemetery from Great Dunmow was interpreted as representing a family group (ibid), which also seems likely of this assemblage.

B.3.21 The evidence of at least five 'ritually killed' vessels within the Walden Road assemblage provides further evidence of more widely practiced ritual practices, with similar treatment of vessels noted at Skeleton Green (Partridge 1981), Wallace Lands (Anderson forthcoming), Great Dunmow (Going in Wickenden 1988: 22-23) and Guilden Morden (Fox & Lethbridge 1925), as well as further afield in Kent (Monaghan, 1983). Common forms of 'killing' include the stabbing of vessels (usually flagons), breaking of rims and necks (most often dishes, platters and flagons) and post-fining holes (closed vessels). Although the exact meaning of this pre-depositional treatment of the ceramic grave goods is debateable (if indeed there was a single explanation, *e.g.* Biddulph 2005), it is clear that there were commonly held views on not just the vessel forms that were used not just in the choice of vessels selected for use in cremation burials, but also the ritual treatment of some of the grave goods.

Conclusion

B.3.22 The Roman pottery from Walden Road provides an interesting and important mid-Roman assemblage, with evidence of funerary and domestic activity. The pottery is somewhat different from contemporary settlement assemblages, with higher proportions

of finewares and imported wares, which are not exclusively due to the cemetery. The non-grave goods may reflect funerary related activities, or truncated graves. It is also possible that this material reflects domestic activity, in which case the pottery is more reflective of an urban rather than rural assemblage, which would not be unexpected given the sites location.

B.3.23 The ceramic evidence suggests the site had its origins in the mid-late 1st century AD and peaked in use in the 2nd century AD, before this area of the site went into disuse at the end of the 2nd/early 3rd century AD.

B.3.24 This grave good assemblage provides important evidence of a small second century AD cemetery and demonstrates that the funerary customs and beliefs were part of wider held regional practices, identified in particular in Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire. This includes the vessel repertoires represented in the graves, the use of 'seconds' in graves and the 'ritual killing' of vessels.

Roman Pottery by Context

Context	*Cut*	*Feature Type*	*No.*	*Wt(g)*	*MNV*	*EVE*	*Spotdate*
32	31	ditch	1	4	0	0	AD70-200
33	31	ditch	3	12	0	0	AD50-100
35	34	ditch/gully terminus	3	36	0	0	AD50-150
37	36	ditch	3	10	0	0	AD50-150
39	38	ditch/hedge?	2	4	0	0	AD70-200
42	40	ditch	9	98	2	0.28	AD50-150
44	43	ditch	4	14	0	0	AD50-150
45	43	ditch	75	1724	10	1.87	AD200-400
47	46	ditch	1	8	0	0	AD70-150
49	48	ditch	2	8	1	0.1	AD70-150
50	48	ditch	10	75	1	0.38	AD70-160
51	48	ditch	7	40	0	0	AD70-200
57	56	ditch	1	18	0	0.4	AD50-150
62	62	colluvium	12	107	1	0.1	AD50-150
63	63	flint layer	29	283	1	0.5	AD70-120
65	64	ditch	3	22	0	0	AD90-200
67	66	ditch	1	14	0	0	AD50-200
69	68	cremation pit	51	585	2	1.99	AD100-200
74	73	cremation pit	93	2795	5	6.99	AD100-200
76	75	cremation pit	33	1125	3	4.5	AD100-200
78	77	cremation pit	95	1765	4	3.66	AD100-160
80	79	cremation pit	16	192	0	0	AD70-150
82	81	cremation pit	17	234	0	1	AD70-150
86	75	cremation	1	1	0	0	AD70-200
87	81	cremation	3	5	0	0	AD70-200
88	73	cremation	2	1	0	0	AD70-200
90	79	cremation	36	82	0	0	AD70-150
94	93	pit	67	449	9	1.37	AD70-200
96	95	ditch	16	142	2	0.07	AD140-200
97	95	ditch	2	9	0	0	AD50-200

Table 2: Pottery by context

Grave Goods Pottery Catalogue

Cut	*Context*	*Small Find No.*	*Fabric*	*No.*	*Wt (g)*	*Form*	*Decoration/Stamp*	*Ritually killed*	*Date*	*Comments*
79	80	28	Black-slipped - Medium coarse sandy micaceous ware	16	192	Jar - body sherds			AD70-150	Incomplete
81	82	24	Coarse sandy whiteware - like Verulamium whiteware but with common mica	17	234	Closed - probably a flagon			AD70-150	Incomplete
81	87	12	Coarse sandy whiteware - like Verulamium whiteware but with common mica	3	5	Closed			AD70-200	Sample 12 same as SF24
79	90	n/a	Black-slipped - Medium coarse sandy micaceous	36	82	Jar			AD70-150	Same as SF28
75	76	39	Samian - Lezoux	7	223	Dish - Dr31	Stamp 'ELVILL' Elvillus NOTS VOL.3 2008, pp350-351	Possibly bits clipped as jagged on base	AD160-190	Incomplete
77	78	30	Medium fine sandy greyware with rare small black inclusions	24	847	Beaker - globular with long neck and everted rim	Tooled chevron		AD70-150	Almost complete
77	78	29	Fine sandy, highly micaceous greyware	8	243	Beaker - Small globular	Three tooled lines		AD100-160	Semi-complete, no rim
77	78	31	Medium fine sandy reduced ware with common silver mica	43	475	Jar - small, necked, everted rim#	Rilled, cordon	Abraded	AD100-160	Semi-complete
73	74	26	Samian - Lezoux	14	407	Dish - Dr31	Stamped 'ILLIVS.FEC Die 3a? Illius NOTS Vol.4 2009, p266	Ritually killed	AD150-190	
73	74	7	Fine, micaceous whiteware with clean matrix, fine, well sorted, rare white and red inclusions	1	261	Flagon - small oval, globular body		small square punched hole in side. Dent in side-second?, handle snapped off	AD70-200	
73	74	42	Fine, micaceous whiteware with clean matrix, fine, well sorted, rare white and red inclusions	11	90	Flagon - body sherds		rim deliberately removed	AD70-200	Same fab abd form as SF7
68	69	40	Coarse sandy micaceous greyware	10	74	Jar - small, necked with beaded rim			AD70-200	Incomplete
68	69	20	Fine sandy greyware with common to frequent silver mica	32	489	Jar - medium, necked with beaded rim	Combed, lightly toolded		AD100-200	Incomplete
68	69	20	Fine sandy greyware with common to frequent silver mica	9	22	Jar - medium, necked.	Combed		AD100-200	Sample 9 - same as SF20
75	76	21	Coarse sandy whiteware, similar to	12	744	Jar - medium,	Vessel a bit		AD70-200	Semi-complete although

Cut	Context	Small Find No.	Fabric	No.	Wt (g)	Form	Decoration/Stamp	Ritually killed	Date	Comments
			Verulamium but with mica and grey core			necked, with hooked bead	lumpy/spalled - Second			all rim present but not body
73	74	41	Oxidised, white-slipped ware, rare small white 0.01mm inclusions, Hadham?	13	209	Flagon - small cup mouth, with groove in rim and single handle	WS	part of rim clipped off	AD100-200	Incomplete
73	74	27	Shell-tempered ware	11	795	Jar - flat base	Light combing		AD100-300	Incomplete
73	74	25	Coarse sandy oxidised ware with white-slip. Micaceous with occasional larger quartz (up to 0.5mm)	38	987	Jar - medium sized with flanged rim with groove	WS	burnt?	AD70-200	Semi-complete
75	76	23	Fine sandy micaceous white-slipped oxidised ware - grey core, oxidised margins. Occasional to common white chalk? Inclusions up to 2mm	12	87	Closed	WS	Post-firing hole	AD70-200	Not complete
75	76	22	Fine sandy micaceous buff ware with slight grey on half of core, but very fine/clean matrix	2	71	Beaker - small pedestal base			AD70-200	not complete

Table 3: Grave Goods

B.4 Fired Clay

By Ted Levermore

B.4.1 Archaeological work produced ten fragments (46g) of abraded fired clay from fill 53, Ditch **52**. All fragments were made in a silty clay with common calcine pellets and occasional flint and grit inclusions. The largest fragment had a flattened surface, the rest were rounded and amorphous. However, they were all part of one original unknown object.

B.4.2 The fired clay hold little informative potential and is recommended for discard.

Context	Cut	Feature	Form	Type	Count	Weight (g)
53	52	Ditch	s	fs	1	34
53	52	Ditch	a	-	9	12

Table 4: Fired Clay Catalogue (a=amorphous, s=structural, fs=flattened surface)

B.5 Ceramic Building Material

By Ted Levermore

Introduction and methodology

B.5.1 Archaeological work produced a small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM); 9 fragments, 617g. The assemblage comprised brick and tile fragments as well as heavily abraded amorphous pieces. Diagnostic fragments were assigned to the Roman and the late medieval to early post-medieval periods. This report will provide a quantified characterisation of the material.

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) formed the basis of reference material for identification and dating.

B.5.3 The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive. The catalogue can be found in Table 6.

Results

B.5.4 The material assessed was assigned to three fabrics (see Table 5). These fabrics are typical of ceramic building material, containing a variety of fine to coarse inclusions.

Code	Colour	Matrix	Fine inclusions	Coarse inclusions	Moulding sand	Comments
A	Mid orange	dense silt	occ. Rounded quartz	rare calc	coarse and calcy	Roman; some have grey cores
B	Mid orange to dark brown	fine sandy	common quartz and clay pellets	no vis	no vis	?Roman
C	Bright orange core, dull brown surfaces	fine sandy	common quartz, occ ferrous material	rare rounded stone	Medium	Med

Table 5: Ceramic Building Material Fabrics

B.5.5 The CBM was collected from ditch features and layer **63**. It comprised both brick and tile fragments. Seven fragments (390g) were likely Roman, including a tegula flange (Flange Form C after Warry 2006). A chamfered floor brick (157g) with remnants of a lime mortar on the base was collected, it is probably from the later Medieval to early post-medieval period. A small portion of this assemblage was undiagnostic due to heavy abrasion and was therefore uninformative. See summary catalogue in Table 6.

B.5.6 The assemblage is evidence for Roman and late Medieval activity. However, due to the high levels of abrasion and the small number of fragments that make up this assemblage, it is not possible to conclude that this site was the location for the original structures. The floor brick was the least abraded, so may suggest a more local structure.

B.5.7 The material is heavily abraded and holds little interpretive value for the site so is recommended for discard.

Context	Cut	Feature	Form	Descr	Date	Fabric	Frag No.	Weight (g)	Abrasion	L (mm)	W (mm)	Th (mm)	Edge Thickness (mm)	Flange Height (mm)	Comment
47	46	Ditch	Tile	tegula	Roman	A	1	97	moderate			12		35	Wedge shaped fragment of tile. Appears to be a poorly differentiated flange from a tegula, where the flange is actually a slope. Warry flange form C.
50	48	Ditch	undiag		?Roman	?A	1	4	severe						
51	48	Dicth	Brick	Floor	Lmed-Epmed	C	1	157	slight			34	33		Corner fragment of a floor brick, chamfer along one remaining side and perpendicular face is not. Sanded and sandy fabric. Fired to dull brown surface with bright orange core.
51	48	Dicth	undiag			?C	1	70	severe						
51	48	Dicth	?tile	?tessera	?Roman	?A	1	3	moderate						small squared fragment of CBM, poss originally tile. Squared=Tessera?
57	56	Ditch	undiag		?Roman	B	2	47	severe						
63	layer	flint layer	undiag		Roman	A	1	57	severe						
63	layer	flint layer	Brick		Roman	A	1	182	severe			34	38		Roman brick, may be very abraded tegula body. Has remnant edge face.

Table 6: Ceramic Building Material Catalogue

B.6 Worked Bone

By Denis Sami

B.6.1 A single identifiable worked bone object – a hair pin (SF32) was recovered from cremation **77** (fill 78). A further fragment of animal bone showing heavy wear patterns was also recovered from fill 45 of ditch slot **45** (ditch **31**). The hair pin is missing the head and so cannot be identified to type (see Crummy 1983: 19-25).

Catalogue

SF 32 (78, cremation **77**). Incomplete hair pin. Tapering, slightly swollen stem (diam. max: 2.7 mm). L: 44

SF 36 (45, ditch **45**). Incomplete unidentified. Fragment of animal bone showing a heavily worn clear extended cuts surface. L: 41 mm; W: 11 mm; 2 mm

Appendix C. Environmental Reports

C.1 Human Skeletal Remains

By Natasha Dodwell

Introduction

C.1.1 A total of six second century AD Romano-British urned cremation burials and a foetal inhumation burial were identified during excavations on land south of Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex.

C.1.2 A pair of roadside ditches ran across the site and this small burial group was situated adjacent to the southern roadside ditch, tucked into the side of a small enclosure (itself formed by the southern roadside ditch and two other ditches). Four of the cremation burials (**68**, **73**, **75** and **77**) cut through a layer of colluvium that overlay an area of flint cobbling; the cuts for these were very indistinct. A further two (**79** and **81**) had been truncated in antiquity and were found beneath the cobbling. The foetal inhumation, skeleton **84** lay immediately adjacent to cremation **73**.

Methodology

C.1.3 All human remains were excavated in accordance with IFA guidelines (McKinley and Roberts 1993) and analysed with reference to national recommendations (Brickley and McKinley 2004, Mays *et al* 2004).

C.1.4 Given the degree of truncation and disturbance of many of the burials (see below), in all but one case the cremated bone was allocated a unique context number and collected on site. Where the bone was contained in a vessel that could be lifted, the contents of the pot were excavated in the laboratory in 10cm spits.

C.1.5 All the soil from the cremation burials, including the backfills was kept and processed (wet sieved, passed through a series of graded, stacked sieves and sorted) as recommended by McKinley 2004. Where the 2-5mm residues were large, a proportion was sorted (25-50%) and a total bone weight for the fraction was extrapolated (*ibid*.). Any identifiable elements, such as teeth were extracted from the unsorted residues. The cremation vessel, SF30, was excavated in the laboratory in 10cm spits.

C.1.6 Both ageing and sexing of adults is dependent on specific traits on the pelvis and skull being present and it is rare that these survive the cremation process. Thus, for the cremated bone age was based on the degree of epiphyseal fusion and on the size and robustness of calcined fragments. Only bone from one feature, **73** could be tentatively sexed.

C.1.7 The immature inhumation (SK84) was aged using metrical data, specifically long bone length (Schaeffer *et al* 2009).

Preservation

C.1.8 The cremation burials ranged in depth from only 0.03m – 0.18m. All of the features had been truncated to a degree; burials **79** and **81** had both been truncated in antiquity and only the bases of the vessels survived, the others had been truncated by ploughing or during machine stripping. However, from context descriptions and photographs it is possible to say that, although truncated it is highly probable that all of the bone

originally interred in **73** and **77** is present (e.g. although a vessel is truncated, the bone is at the base of the pot and covered with a fill of redeposited natural).

C.1.9 The foetal skeleton, **84** was found on the trowelled surface and elements include the lower limbs, the right ilium and forearm, the left humerus, seven vertebrae and ten ribs (given the shallowness of the grave it is likely that the rest of the skeleton has been truncated). The body appeared to be positioned with the head at the north-west end of the cut. The surfaces of the surviving bones are etched with rootlets (grade 1-3, McKinley 2004 fig 6).

Results

C.1.10 Each of the cremation burials contained the (partial) remains of an adult with bone from **73** being tentatively sexed as female. The foetus, buried adjacent to this cremation burial was aged c.32-34 weeks. A summary of the cremation burials is presented below in Table 7.

C.1.11 In this small burial group, the total weight of bone (>2mm) in each burial ranged between 78g-1161g, with the weight in the two untruncated features ranging between 655-1161g, average of 913g. The weight of cremated bone (>2mm) recorded at modern crematoria ranges from 1001.5g – 2422.5g, depending on the sex of the individual and their skeletal robustness with an average of 1625.9g (McKinley 1993b). Whist the bone weight from **77** is within the modern range it is common that in archaeological burials, of all periods the weights of bone suggest that not all of the skeleton was collected from the pyre.

Cut	Cremation type	No. of accessory vessels	Age/Sex	Total weight >2mm	Pyre /grave goods	comments
68	Urned (SF 20)	1 (SF 40)	adult	161g		Some bone in the backfill
73*	Urned (SF 25)	4 vessels (SF's 7, 26, 41 and 42) & glass vessel (SF8)	Adult ? female	655g	Unfired sheep incisor	Samian dish acting as lid to cinerary urn. Some vessels 'ritually killed'
75	?urned	3 or 4 **(SF's 21, 22,23,39)	adult	74g		Heavily truncated/disturbed. Difficult to tell which vessel bone was in. Pots show evidence for 'ritual killing'
77*	Urned (SF 30)	2 vessels (SF29 and SF31)	adult	1161g	Burnt animal	Some bone and charcoal in the backfill. Schmorl's nodes.
79	Urned (SF 28)	0	adult	109g		
81	Urned (SF 12/24)	0	adult	78g		

Table 7: Cremation Burials

C.1.12 Cremated bone fragments at numerous points in the cremation/funerary process, during excavation and in post excavation (McKinley 1994). In this assemblage, despite the degree of disturbance and truncation the maximum bone length is relatively large, between 21.1mm-110.02mm (Table 8). In all but one burial (**79**), the majority of the bone is >10mm suggesting that the vessels may have provided a degree of protection from post burial breakage. The percentage of bone recovered in each fraction is dissimilar suggesting no deliberate breakage into uniform fragment sizes prior to burial.

Cut no.	Depth	SF no.	fill	spit	Largest frag	>10mm	5-10mm	2-5mm	Total weight		
[68]	0.15mm	20	(69)		18.91mm	4g	1g	1	6g	161g	
		20	(70)		62.2mm	95g	40g	20g*	155g		
[73]*	0.15m	backfill	(74)		49.5mm	18g	0	0g	18g	655g	
		26	(74)		21.1mm	1g	2g	0g	3g		
		25	(88)		66.8mm	503g	86g	45g	634g		
[75]	0.08m	21	(86)		48.19mm	53g	13g	8g	74g		
[77] *	0.17m	backfill	(78)		47.1mm	175	42	48g*	265g		1161g
		30	(92)	1	73.35mm	166	30	4	200	896	
				2	110.02mm	473	196	27*	696		
[79]	0.03mm	28	(90)		36.93mm	40	55	14	109g		
[81]	0.10mm	24	(87)		38.59mm	47	22	9	78g		

Table 8: Bone Fragmentation (denotes an untruncated feature, ** denotes fractions where only a proportion of the residue was sorted and the bone weight for the entire fraction was extrapolated)*

C.1.13 The majority of bone fragments are a buff white colour indicative of complete oxidisation and high pyre temperatures. A small quantity of bone from three burials, **68, 73** and **75**, was less well fired and a black/brown/blueish colour. These less well fired fragments were predominantly the proximal femora and shafts, and the internal skull elements with a dense coverage of soft tissue (McKinley 2008).

C.1.14 There was very little charcoal recovered from these burials. The lack of pyre debris, including charcoal does not necessarily mean that the pyre was some distance from the burials as suggested by Philpott (1991,8). The ephemeral nature of pyre sites, which would have been built on the ground surface means that it is likely that any evidence of a pyre site (heat would have penetrated only c.30-100mm) would have been truncated (McKinley 2000)

Discussion

C.1.15 The Roman town at Great Chesterford was surrounded by extra mural settlement and cemeteries. The burials, both cremations and inhumations were located within large formal cemeteries and, in small, scattered groups consisting of between one and five individuals (Medlycott 2011, pp. 99). This small early 2nd century burial group is another example of those already identified around the Roman town and, its position, tucked into the corner of an enclosure, adjacent to a road side ditch is again a typical positioning of the dead in the Roman landscape (Smith *et al* 2016).

C.1.16 Cremation was the preferred burial rite in the early Romano-British period (AD 43-150). The presence of a foetal inhumation amongst the adult cremation burials is interesting and suggests not only that different burial rites were afforded to younger individuals but that even those babies born pre-term were interred. Although foetal and neonate bones are inherently fragile they do survive the cremation process. Cremated individuals this young have been recorded e.g. at the Romano-British cemetery at St Stephens, Saint Albans (Mckinley unpub.) although they are rare. According to Pliny, writing in the 1st century AD a child who had not cut their teeth could not be considered for cremation (Pearce 2000, 126). Pearce also notes that the transition from inhumation to cremation from approximately 6 months of age is documented in a number of cemeteries from the Roman provinces. Unfortunately, the majority of cemeteries identified around the Roman town of Great Chesterford were excavated in the 1840's and 50's and records are poor; the description of the one closest to this roadside assemblage, at Braughing Road gives details only of seven cremations and twenty-five child inhumations

(Medlycott 2011, pp. 100 & 253). However, the phenomenon has been recorded locally to the north-west of Cambridge at Vicars Farm where a small 2nd century burial group of eight cremation burials and two neonate inhumations was excavated (Dodwell, 2001).

C.2 Faunal Remains

By Hayley Foster

Introduction and Methodology

C.2.1 This report details the analysis of the animal bone recovered from Great Chesterford, Essex. The assemblage was of a small size (2.6kg) and the number of recordable fragments totaled 37. Material from hand collection totaled 36 fragments and 1 from environmental samples. Animal bone was recovered mainly from ditches and pits. The species represented includes cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), horse (*Equus caballus*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), and dog (*Canis familiaris*).

C.2.2 The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick and Murray (2007) which was modified from Albarella and Davis (1996). This involves analysing and recording bones from the assemblage but omitting those fragments that are considered 'low grade' and not worthy of being counted. In order for an element to be recorded 50% of the diagnostic zone on a bone must be present. This method narrows down the assemblage so that fragmented elements are not counted multiple times. MNI (minimum number of individuals) was calculated for all species present. MNI estimates the smallest number of animals that could be represented by the elements recovered. For the main domestic mammals only, the atlas and axis were counted for vertebrae.

C.2.3 Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at Oxford Archaeology East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972), von den Driesch (1976) and Cohen & Serjeantson (1996) were used where needed for identification purposes.

C.2.4 Only one method of ageing was implemented when analysing the mammalian bone remains as no mandible wear stages (MWS) could be assigned. Fusion was recorded according to Silver (1970) for horse and dog, and Schmid (1972) for cattle, sheep and pig.

C.2.5 For all identified bones, butchery marks were recorded. Butchery marks were described as chop, cut or saw marks. Burning and gnawing was not recorded in this case as it was not applicable to any fragments.

C.2.6 Measurements were taken according to the specifications of von den Driesch (1976), Payne and Bull (1988) and Davis (1992). Estimated shoulder heights were calculated following Kiesewalter (1888) for horse and Harcourt (1974) for dog.

Results

C.2.7 The assemblage contains only a small amount of faunal material that dates to the British-Romano period. Cattle were the main species represented followed by horse. Horse remains mainly consist of loose mandibular teeth. The only bone fragment from environmental samples is a pig mandibular premolar.

C.2.8 The entire assemblage contained heavy root etching on the bone surface, which resulted in poor preservation. Fragmentation was moderate, with two complete long bones and several large pieces of bone recovered. There were no other taphonomic

processes present except one case of butchery evidence on a cattle atlas (ditch **48**) with a heavy chop mark through the anterior and proximal facet. This butchery evidence is likely an attempt of removing the head.

Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Total
19	1	4	11	2	37

Table 9: Number of Identifiable Fragments (NISP) per species

C.2.9 The ageing data that could be collected for the assemblage is minimal. The epiphyseal fusion data indicates that most of the identifiable bones have fused epiphyses, however there were two cases of unfused fragments. A pig pelvis acetabulum from ditch **42** has an unfused epiphysis, indicating an animal of less than 12 months, and a cattle radius from ditch **40** with an unfused distal epiphysis indicates an animal less than 42-48 months of age at death. There were no mandible wear stages that could be assessed for ageing.

C.2.10 Estimated shoulder heights could be calculated from one horse metacarpal with a height of 144.2cm and one dog humerus with a height of 26.8cm. Both bones were from ditch **43**.

Context	***Species***	***Element***	***No. of fragments***
42	Cattle	Radius	1
42	Cattle	Mandible	1
42	Cattle	Metatarsal	1
96	Cattle	Ulna	1
94	Cattle	First Phalanx	1
94	Sheep/Goat	Pelvis	1
94	Pig	Mandible	1
94	Pig	Loose Mandibular Premolar	1
94	Pig	Loose Mandibular Premolar	1
53	Pig	Pelvis	1
63	Cattle	Horn core	1
63	Cattle	Metacarpal	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Horse	Loose Mandibular Incisor	1
63	Cattle	Metatarsal	1
63	Cattle	Tibia	1
63	Cattle	Pelvis	1
51	Cattle	Second Phalanx	1
51	Dog	Mandible	1
51	Cattle	Axis	1
51	Cattle	Loose Mandibular M12	1
51	Cattle	Humerus	1
51	Cattle	Atlas	1
51	Cattle	Femur	1
45	Dog	Humerus	1
45	Cattle	Loose Tooth	1
45	Cattle	Femur	1
45	Horse	Metacarpal	1
45	Cattle	Astragalus	1

Table 10: Number of Identifiable fragments by context

Species	Element	Bp	SD	Bd	GL
Cattle	Tibia			57.6	
	Metacarpal			54.5	
	Metatarsal	42.8			
	Metatarsal	42.1	26.9		
	First Phalanx			31.3	
	Second Phalanx	29.1		23.4	44.7
Horse	Metacarpal	46.9	30.6		225
Dog	Humerus		8.6	204.4	85.9

Table 11: Measurement of faunal bone elements (mm)

Burnt Faunal Remains

C.2.11 Along with the main faunal assemblage, four fragments of cremated animal bone were recovered from cremation pit **77**. The bone is primarily represented by unfused sheep/goat femoral shaft and epiphyses fragments. The majority of the bone was recorded from context 78 which was the main fill of the pit. A fragment of sheep femur was recorded from context 92 which was the fill of a pot within the same burial (SF30) It is possible that this is representative of an offering either burnt on the funerary pyre or burnt separately and later buried with the individual.

Context	Element	Taxon	Weight (g)	No. Frag
78	Femur	Sheep/goat	4	1
78	Rib	Medium mammal	9	2
92	Femur	Sheep/goat	16	1

Table 12: Burnt faunal remains quantification

Discussion

C.2.12 At Great Chesterford, domestic mammals were the mainstay of the food economy, with cattle remains being the most well represented species. The minimal ageing data suggests that pigs were slaughtered at a young age for meat and cattle were likely also slaughtered for food around the 4 years of age mark. This is a common age for cattle to be slaughtered for meat in Roman towns (Maltby 2016).

C.2.13 Dogs and horses are species that were relatively common at Romano-British sites, from the metrical data the dog would be classified as lap dog size, not suitable for guarding or hunting, but kept as a pet. The horse would have been approximately 14 hands high at the shoulder, likely used for transport.

C.2.14 There was no evidence of wild animals or micro-mammals represented in the assemblage.

C.2.15 The small amount of data does not allow for solid interpretations about husbandry practices and dietary preferences at this site. The types of species present and the dominance of cattle correlates with the animal bones from the Roman Great Chesterford excavations in 1953-5 (Serjeantson, 1986).

C.3 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methodology

C.3.1 Seven bulk samples were taken during excavations at Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex from features dating to the Romano-British period and including a cremation cemetery. Samples were taken from four ditches and two pits.

C.3.2 The total volume 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 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 Table 1. 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 (2010) 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.3.3 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, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

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

Results

C.3.4 Preservation of by plant remains is by carbonisation but is extremely poor with only occasional charred grains and weed seeds preserved. Charcoal volumes within samples are also low including. those from cremation deposits.

C.3.5 The charred cereal grains are abraded precluding detailed identification. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) are present and a single spikelet fork of spelt (*T. spelta*) identifies this species. A fragment of oat (*Avena* sp.) may represent a cultivated or a weed variety and single seed of grasses (Poaceae), knotgrasses (*Polygonum* sp.) and clover (*Trifolium* sp.) are also present.

C.3.6 A well-preserved seed of box (*Buxus sempervirens*) was retrieved from the residue of Sample 19. This sample was taken from fill 94 of pit **93** which was cut by roadside ditch **31**. Box seeds are naturally black and it is not possible to ascertain the mode of preservation without breaking it open and destroying it. Because of this, it was decided

that the seed should be dissected and it was proven not to be carbonised, thus intrusive within the feature.

Sample No.		**5**	**6**	**7**	**9**	**10**	**16**	**18**	**19**	**20**
Context No.		32	42	45	69	57	78	59	94	62
Feature No.		**31**	**40**	**43**	**68**	**56**	**77**	**58**	**93**	**62**
Feature Type		Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Crem	Ditch	Crem	Ditch	Pit	Layer
Cereals:										
Avena sp. Caryopsis	Oats (wild or cultivated)									#
Hordeum sp. lcaryopsis	domesticated Barley grain			#		#	#			
Triticum sp. caryopsis	Wheat grain									#
Triticum spelta/dicoccum. caryopsis	Spelt/emmer wheat grain		#	#				##		
Cereal indet. caryopsis			#				##	#		
Chaff:										
Triticum spelta spikelt fork	Spelt chaff						#			
Dry land herbs:										
Buxus sempervirens L. seed	Box seed								#	
small Poaceae indet.< 2mm caryopsis	small-seeded Grass Family		#				#			
medium Poaceae indet. 3-4mm caryopsis	medium-seeded Grass Family							#		
Polygonum sp. Seed	Knotgrasses	#								
Trifolium spp.seed	*clover*		#							
Other plant macrofossils:										
Charcoal volume (ml)		<1	<1	5	<1	5	1	1	1	<1
Charcoal <2mm		+	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+
Charcoal >2mm				++		++				
Other remains:										
Molluscs		++	++	++	++	+++	++	++	++	++
Ceciliodes acicula	Burrowing snail	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Volume of flot (mls)		2	20	45	1	100	10	100	50	2
Roots		++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++++

Table 13: Quantification of ecofacts within samples taken

Discussion

C.3.7 The charred plant remains assemblage is one typical of a Romano-British site, with evidence for crops such as spelt and barley being grown in the vicinity, and grass/weed seeds indicating a relatively open landscape during the period.

C.3.8 The one unique part of the assemblage was the recovery of a box seed. This seed is now thought to be intrusive, due to it not being carbonised, but there is a slim chance that it has been preserved by other means as the sample was taken from approximately 1.2m below the present ground surface, which is considerable depth for the introduction of modern material through bioturbation.

C.3.9 Box seeds are not often found within the archaeological record; it is an evergreen shrub that thrives on calcareous soils and is considered to be native (Stace 2010, 122) although it does not become common until the Roman period. It's association with Roman funerary contexts was noted by antiquarians in the 19th century with local examples including box leaves from an inhumation burial at Chesterford, Essex

identified by Professor Henslow at the University of Cambridge (Lodwick 2017, 4) and, at Bartlow Hills Roman tumuli in Essex, box leaves and branches were found adhering to the base of a cremation urn and date to the late first/early second century (Gage 1839; Eckardt *et al*. 2009). These leaves are likely to have been preserved by metal-oxide association (Lodwick ibid) through the chance association of a metal object. Most reported cases of box survival is from waterlogged deposits in which leaves and box wood can be well preserved.

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Appendix E. Essex HER Summary Sheet

Site name/Address: Thorpe Lea, Walden Road, Gt Chesterford	
Parish: Great Chesterford	***District:*** Uttlesford
NGR: TL 51187 42736	***Site Code:*** GC62
Type of Work: Excavation	***Site Director/Group:*** *OA East*
Date of Work: 14th to 22nd August 2017	***Size of Area Investigated:*** 0.003ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	***Funding source:*** Commercial
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	***Related HER Nos:***
Final Report: *A Roman Road and Cremation Cemetery, Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex: Archaeological Excavation.* OA East Unpublished Report 2130	
Periods Represented: Romano-British	

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Between 14th and 22nd August 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) carried out an excavation on land south of Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (TL 5127 4278). A small area measuring 30x30m was opened, targeting features found during the previous evaluation works. A pair of roadside ditches on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment were uncovered, along with boundary ditches relating to a field system extending to the south of the site. A small cremation cemetery of six individuals and one infant burial were located adjacent to the southern roadside ditch, dating to the Middle Roman period.

A total of 9862g of Roman pottery was recovered from the features on site, including a number of complete or near-complete vessels from the cremation burials. Ceramic building material (619g), animal bone (2.6kg) along with an Iron Age and two Roman coins were also recovered from the excavation. Environmental results were relatively sparse, although indicated spelt and barley were grown in the vicinity.

The route of the road can be followed from the Roman Small Town of Great Chesterford, to the west-north-west of the site, running towards Radwinter, located to the east-south-east, a Roman roadside settlement.

Previous Summaries/Reports: *Thorpe Lea, Walden Road, Great Chesterford, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation.* OA East unpublished report 1954	
Author of Summary: Pat Moan	***Date of Summary:*** 05/04/18

Appendix F. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-313410		
Project Name	Thorpe Lea, Great Chesterford		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	14-08-2017	Finish	22-08-2017
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GC62	Planning App. No.	UTT/17/0816/DFO
HER No.	GC62	Related HER/OASIS No.	oxfordar3-256537

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☐ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Test Pit Survey
☒ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☐ 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	Roman 43 to 410	Glass	Roman 43 to 410
Pit	Roman 43 to 410	Pottery	Roman 43 to 410
Cremation	Roman 43 to 410	Cua Coins	Roman 43 to 410

Project Location

County	Essex	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Uttlesford	Thrope Lea, Walden Road Great Chesterford	
Parish	Gt Chesterford		
HER	Essex Historic Environment Services		
Study Area	300sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 51187 42736

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Richard Havis
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummon-Murray
Supervisor	Patrick Moan

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Saffron Walden Museum	OA East	Saffron Walden Museum
GC62	XEXTLC17	GC62

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☒	☐	☐
Glass	☒	☐	☐
Human Bones	☒	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☒	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☒	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

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

Notes:

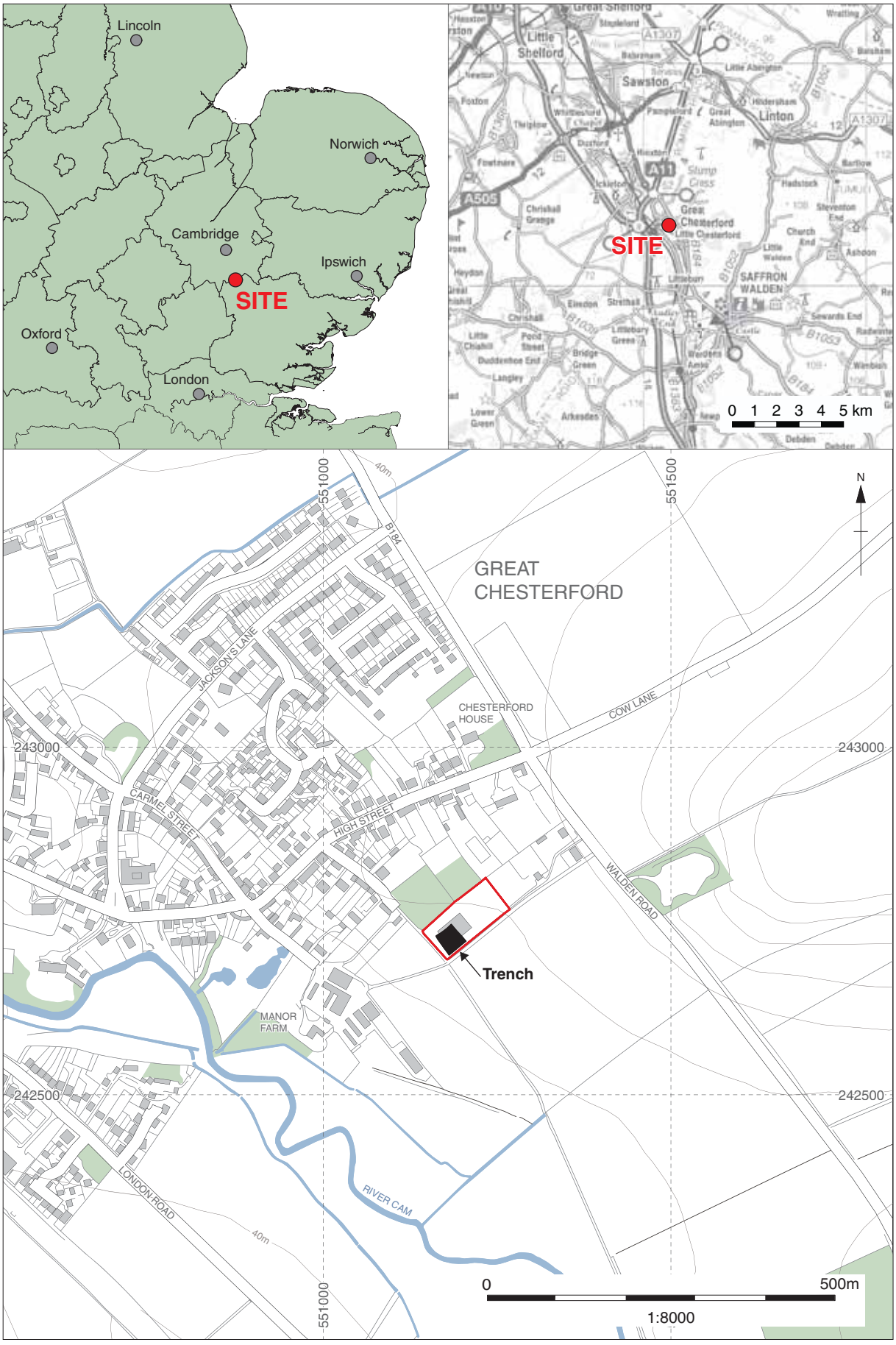

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trench (black) in development area (red)

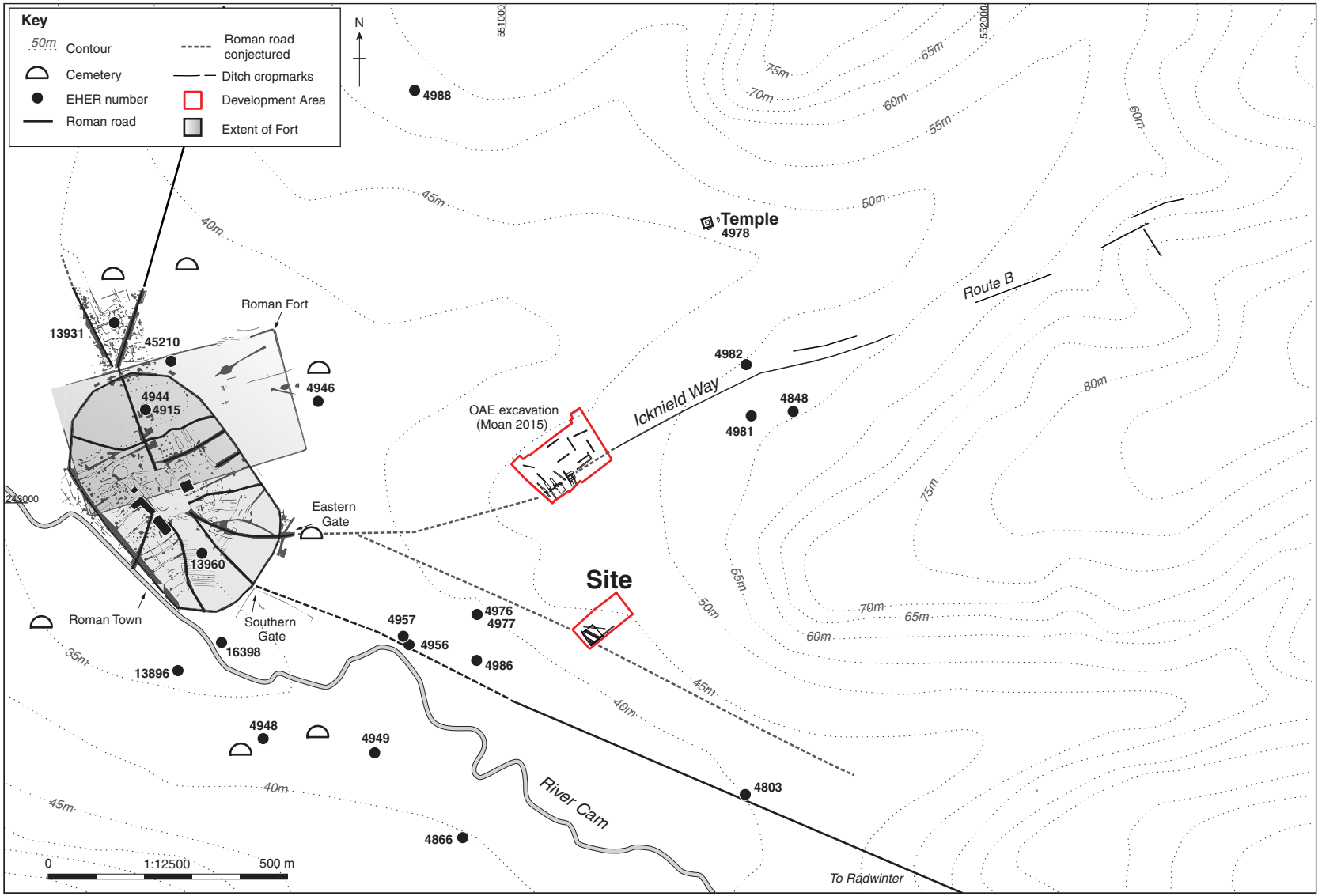

Figure 2: Site location within the Roman landscape, with previous nearby works, EHER numbers and cropmarks

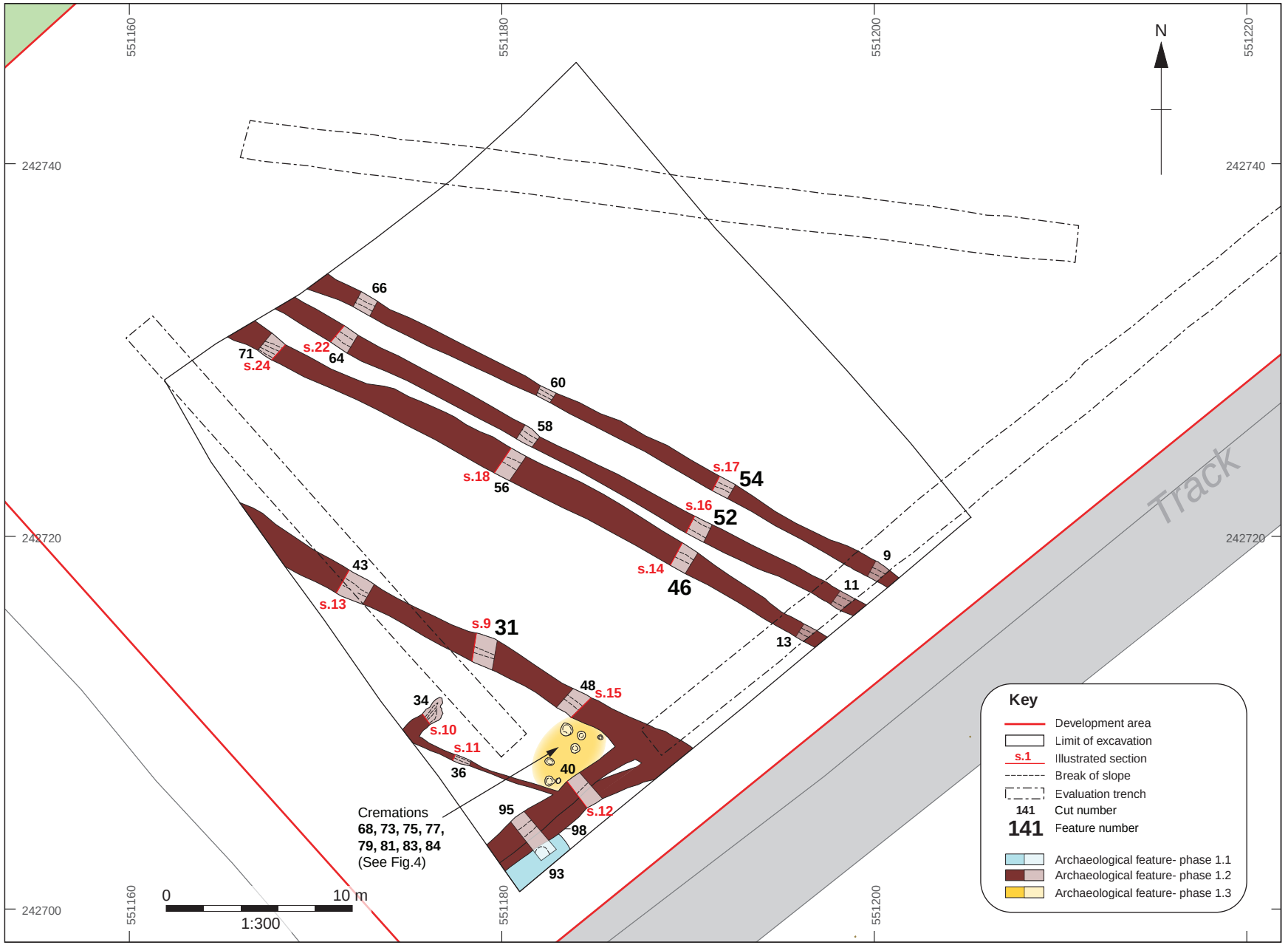

Figure 3: Multi-period site plan

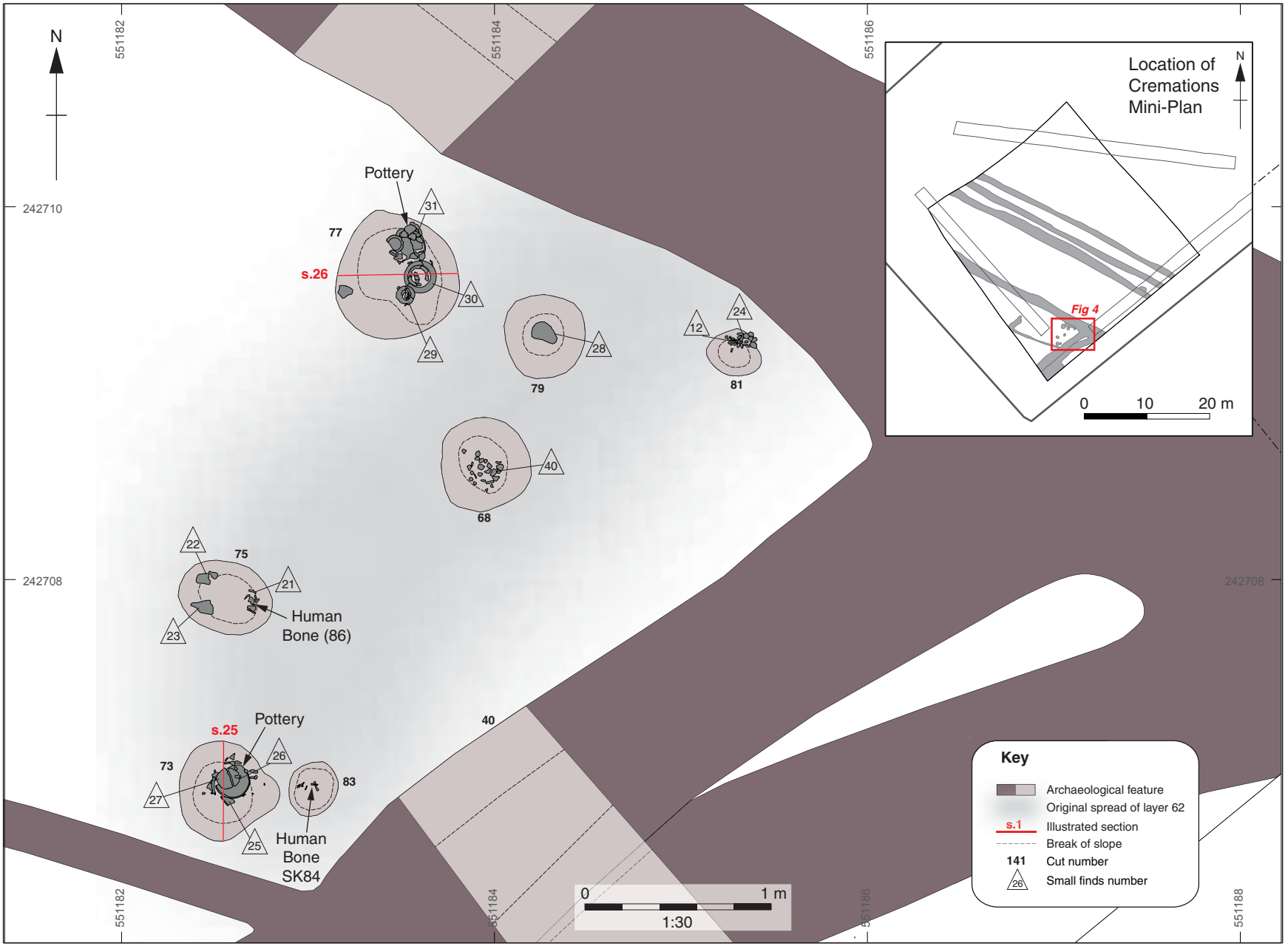

Figure 4: Cremations detail plan

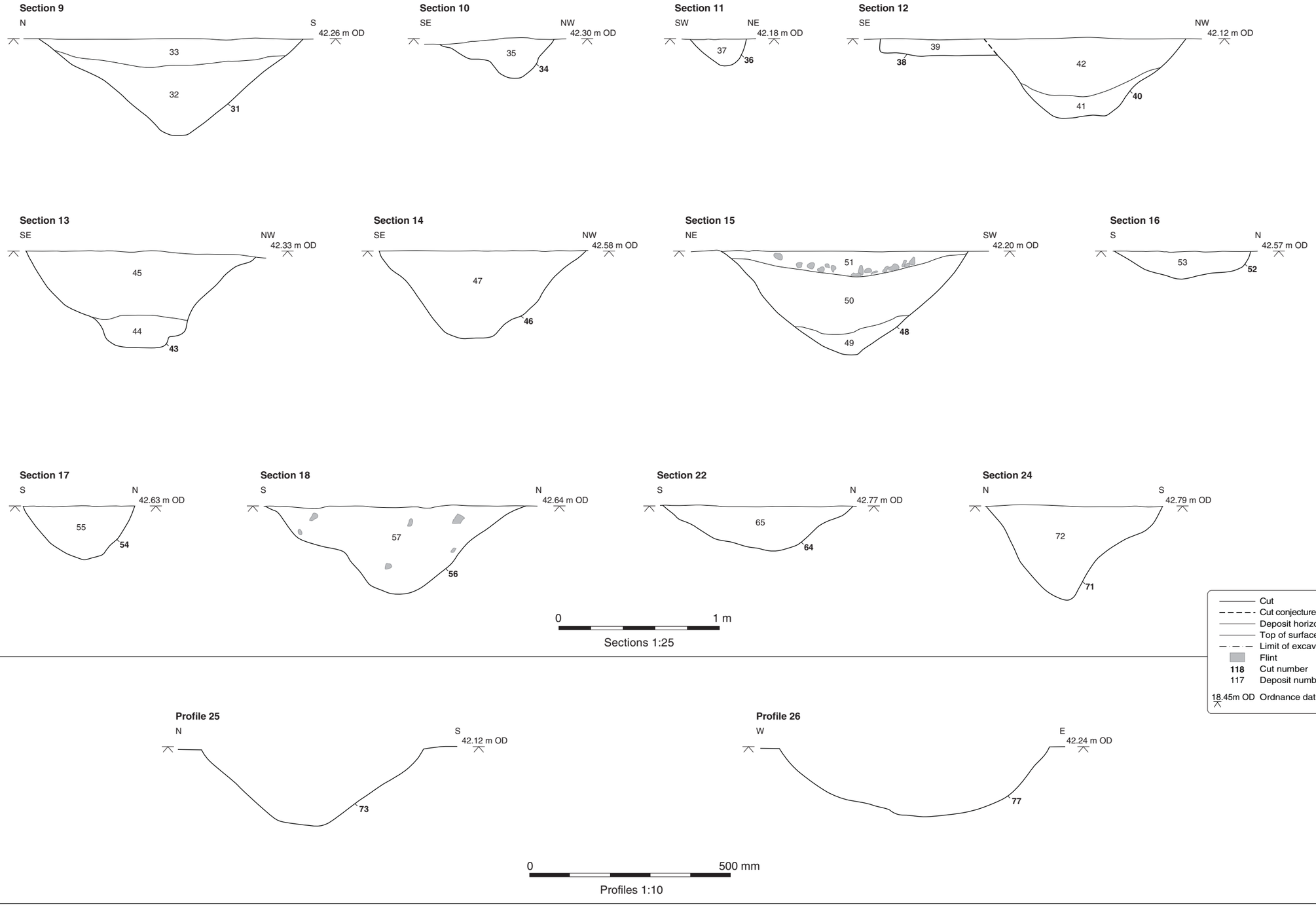

Figure 5: Selected sections and profiles

Figure 6: Google Earth image showing projected route of the road (white) directly north-west of Radwinter and possible boundaries aligning with it

Plate 1: Pit **93** and ditch **95**, looking south-west

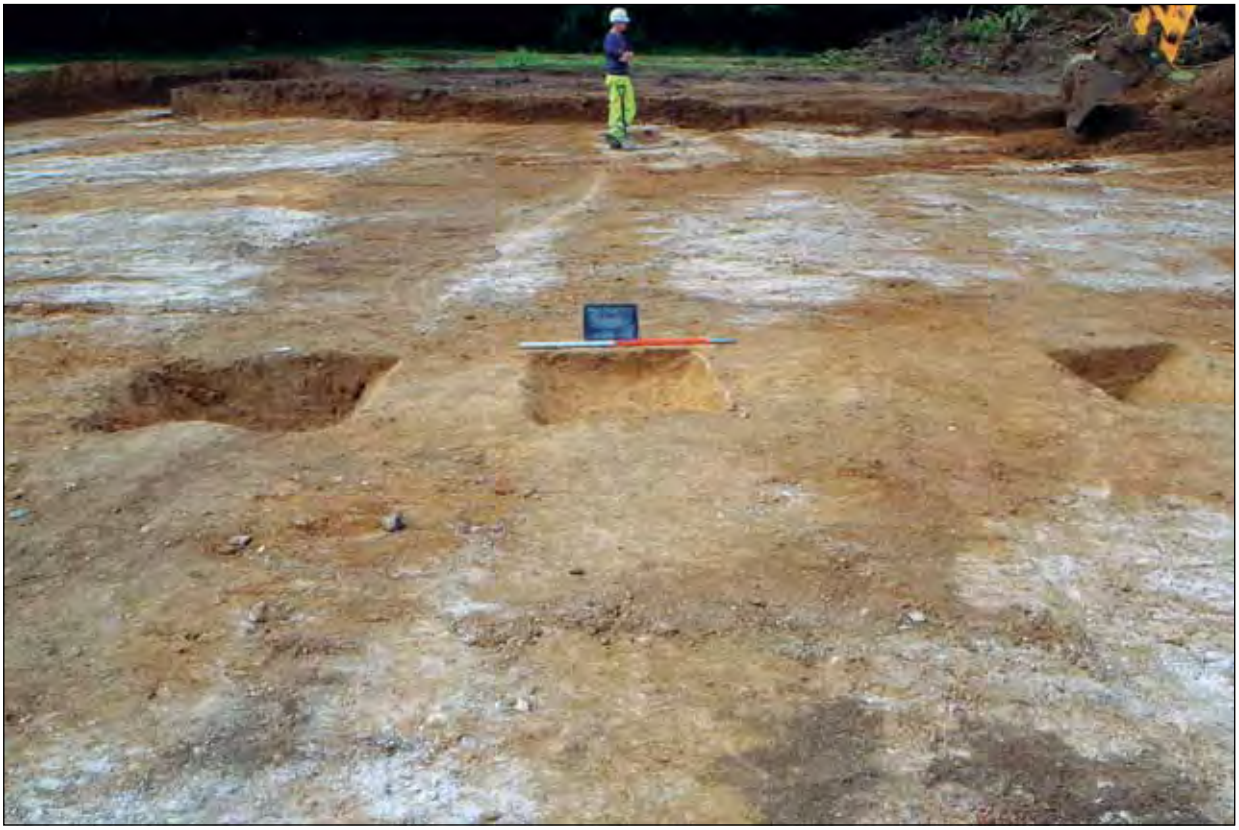

Plate 2: Northern roadside ditch **46** and parallel ditches **52** and **54**, looking north-west

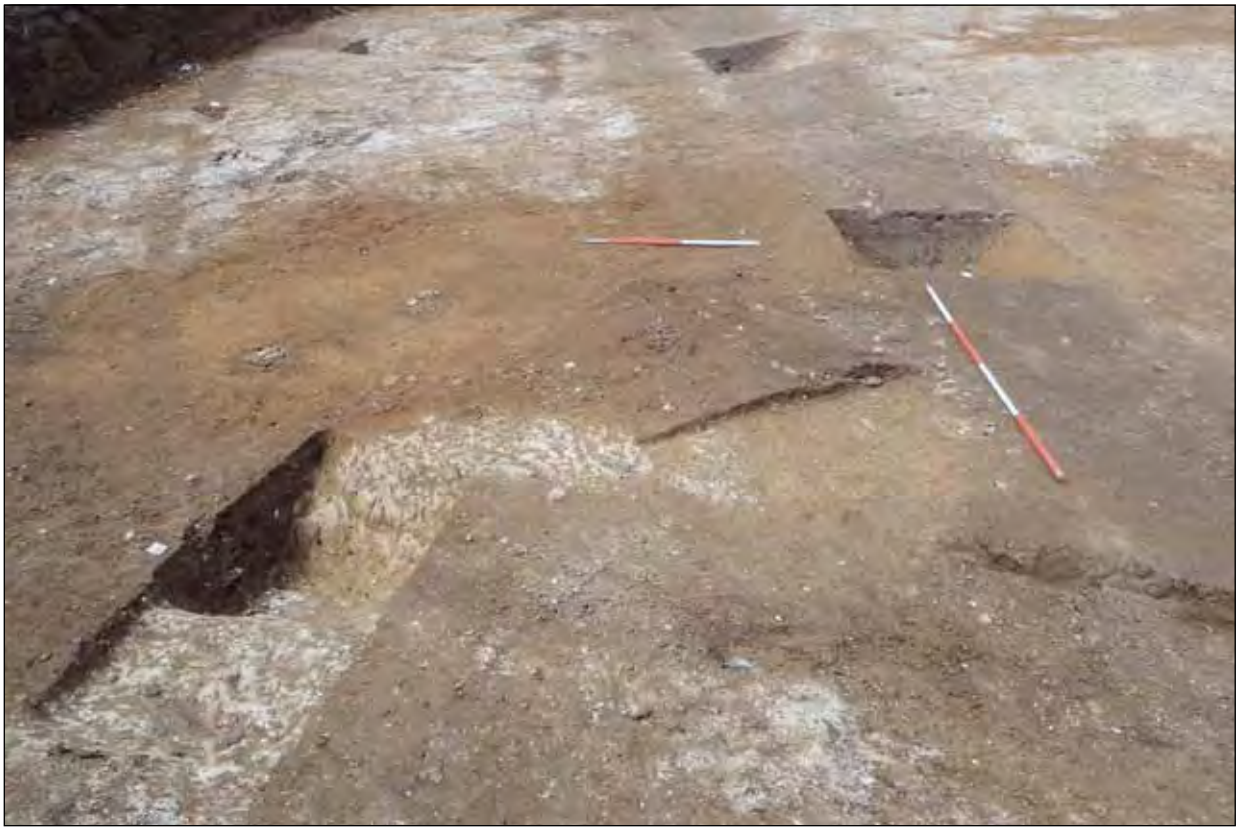

Plate 3: Cremations within area of colluvium/relict soil (62), looking south-west

Plate 4: Cremation **81**, looking north-west

Plate 5: Cremation **77**, looking east-south-east

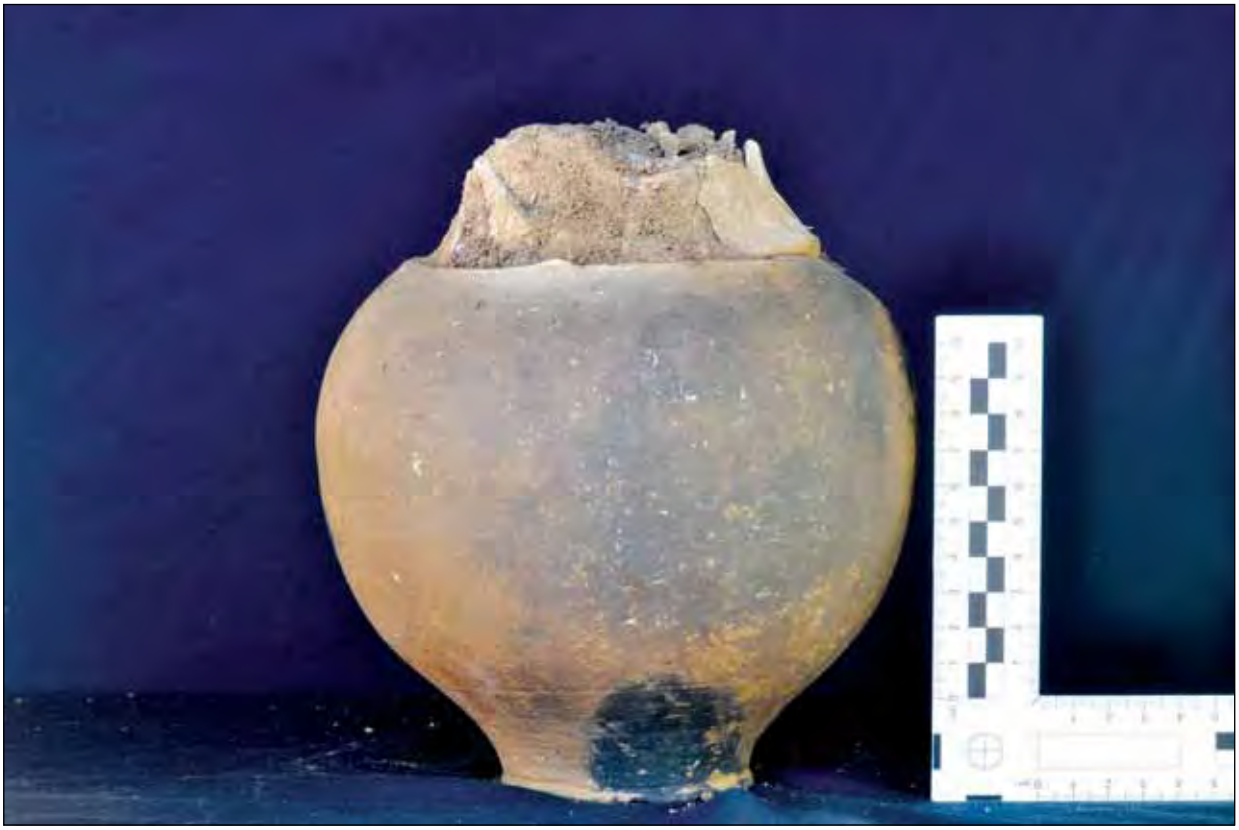

Plate 6: Small Find 30, from cremation **77**, prior to excavation

Plate 7: Excavation of Cremation **68**, looking west; Small Find 20 in foreground

Plate 8: Cremation **75** mid-excavation, looking east

Plate 9: Cremation 73, mid-excavation, looking north-west

Plate 10: Glass vessel (Small Find 7) from cremation **73**

Plate 11: Roadside ditches, looking south-east

Plate 12: Stripping of the area, looking north-north-west; note cremations in foreground

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