



Peterborough East & Paston Growth Archaeological Watching Brief Report

December 2018

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Peterborough East & Paston Growth
Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Written and illustrated by Stuart Ladd

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Plate 2 Ditch **1** (modern), looking east.

Plate 3 Roman (left) and prehistoric (right) pot sherds from topsoil.

Summary

Between the 5th – 10th December 2018, Oxford Archaeology East undertook a watching brief for an Anglian Water scheme at East Peterborough and Paston Growth, west of Newborough Road, Paston (TF 1999 0267).

The only archaeological feature encountered was a single modern ditch. Single abraded sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery were found in the topsoil.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Jo Everitt of Anglian Water for commissioning this project.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Matt Brudenell. The watching brief was undertaken by Stuart Ladd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Anglian Water to monitor top soil stripping west of Newborough Road, Paston, Peterborough, in advance of installation of a new water main.
- 1.1.2 A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the methods by which OA proposed to meet the requirements of the brief (Phillips and Brudenell 2018).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the east of Peterborough, between Newborough Road, the A47 and A15 (Fig. 1; NGR TL 1999 0267). Lying on a slight north facing slope, the north of the site is at c. 13m OD, reaching 15m OD at the southern boundary.
- 1.2.2 Undertaken as part of the installation of a 350mm water main, the work involved the stripping of top soil and the use of a trenching machine.
- 1.2.3 The bedrock geology is Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by River Terrace Deposits (British Geological Survey online map viewer viewer <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> accessed 01/11/18). The work exposed alluvial yellow clay silts, with occasional gravels across the northern half of the strip.
- 1.2.4 At the time of the work, the field had been left overgrown.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following summary is based on the background in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Phillips and Brudenell 2018).
- 1.3.2 Located 300m north of the site is the Roman Car Dyke (Scheduled Monument PE219), an artificial watercourse, part of a wider Roman transport and/or drainage system built during the Early Roman period.
- 1.3.3 An evaluation directly to the north of the current scheme (Porter 2016) encountered the edge of a Roman settlement, c. 130m south of Car Dyke. Features included pits, postholes and at least three phases of a north to south aligned boundary ditch, all of which contained significant amounts of high-status Roman pottery and Ceramic Building Material.
- 1.3.4 An evaluation to the north-east revealed pits and ditches of a Romano-British settlement, which contained a structure of some status dating to the later 3rd/4th centuries. Part of the cut for the south bank of the Car Dyke was also identified (Thomas and Wilkinson 1997).
- 1.3.5 Evaluation and excavation c. 700m to the west revealed part of a Late Iron Age and Roman farmstead to the south of Manor Drive (Ellis *et al.* 2001; Fletcher 2007 & 2008), consisting of ditched enclosures with evidence for structures nearby.

- 1.3.6 The site of a deserted medieval village, possibly Cathwaite (HER 50138), has been identified 700m to the west, while earth moving during the construction of Paston Parkway (HER 2222) revealed quantities of pottery, mainly dating to the 11th to 13th centuries.
- 1.3.7 A single trench excavated by OA East 215m to the north, for an earlier Anglian Water scheme (Paston Reserve Pumping Station), encountered no features and only post-medieval finds in the topsoil (Diffey 2015).
- 1.3.8 The first edition Ordnance Survey map depicts the site in relatively open countryside with the village of Paston c. 1.5km to the west. A pond and field boundary are shown within the field, with an old field boundary connecting it to the neighbouring, extant boundaries. The pond and boundary were still shown on OS maps from 1991-1993.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. Investigate and record archaeological features or deposits encountered during ground works.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Top soil was removed from a 5m wide strip under supervision of Anglian Water/Balfour Beatty ground workers using a 1.2m toothless ditching bucket with a JCB 3CX back actor. The strip was 300m long, typically reaching a depth of 0.3m. The entire strip was monitored by an archaeologist.

2.2.2 Within the southern third of the strip, there remained a shallow cover of ploughsoil. However, natural silts were increasingly visible across the northern part of the site.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Soil cover

3.1.1 A distinct subsoil layer was only visible in the southern third of the site, comprising dull brown silt up to 0.05m thick. Throughout the site, topsoil was c. 0.3m thick, which on the whole directly sealed natural silts and filled ploughscars (see Plate 1).

3.2 Post-medieval

3.2.1 A single modern ditch (**1**) was recorded (Plate 2). This was 3.5m wide, aligned west-north-west to east-north-east. It was filled with a very dark greyish brown humic silt with patches of redeposited natural clayey silt. It was not excavated.

3.2.2 Ditch **1** corresponds with a boundary that was still visible on Ordnance Survey maps in the 1990s.

3.3 Finds summary

3.3.1 Single sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery were recovered from the topsoil (Plate 3).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The visibility of ditch **1** demonstrated the potential for visibility of large features within the northern part of the strip. This suggests that no major features were present within the stripped area.
- 4.1.2 As plough scars were not removed and soil cover was frequently unexcavated in the south of the site, it is possible that smaller features might not have been visible if they were present within the stripped area.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 The lack of archaeological features and scant topsoil finds suggests that the Iron Age and Roman settlement features known to have lain closer to the Car Dyke (300m to the north and north-west) did not extend this far south-east.

APPENDIX A FINDS REPORTS

A.1 Pottery

- A.1.1 Insert all artefact reports here. Where appropriate these should be cross-references to the main body of the report, both in terms of results (i.e what was found in the features) and how the artefacts help with interpretation (e.g. with dating evidence).
- A.1.2 Two sherds of pottery were recovered (Plate 3).
- A.1.3 A single sherd (14g) of shell tempered prehistoric pottery was recovered from the topsoil. It was in a heavily abraded condition.
- A.1.4 A single rim sherd (12g) of Roman pottery in a sandy oxidised fabric was recovered from the topsoil. This was in an abraded condition.
- A.1.5 Both sherds are recommended for discard.

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Ellis, P., Coates, G., Cuttler, R. and Mould, C., 2001, *Four Sites in Cambridgeshire: Excavations at Pode Hole Farm, Paston, Lonstanton and Bassingbourn, 1996-7*, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit Monograph Series 4. BAR British Series 322.

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APPENDIX C OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-336472		
Project Name	Peterborough East and Paston Growth		
Start of Fieldwork	5th Dec 2018	End of Fieldwork	10th Dec 2018
Previous Work	None	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PETPAS18	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER Number	54226	Related Numbers	n/a
Prompt	Water Act 1989 & subsequent Code of Practice		
Development Type	Infrastructure		
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded		

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core | <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Modern (1901 to present)	Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
	Choose an item.	Pottery	Late Prehistoric (- 4000 to 43)
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Land west of Newborough Road Peterborough PE4 7AA
District	Peterborough	
Parish	Peterborough	
HER office	Peterborough City Council	
Size of Study Area	0.16ha	
National Grid Ref	TF 1999 0267	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Peterborough City Council
Project Design Originator	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Manager	Matt Brudenell
Project Supervisor	Stuart Ladd

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	N/A	N/A
Digital Archive	OA East	PETPAS18
Paper Archive	Peterborough Museum	PETPAS18

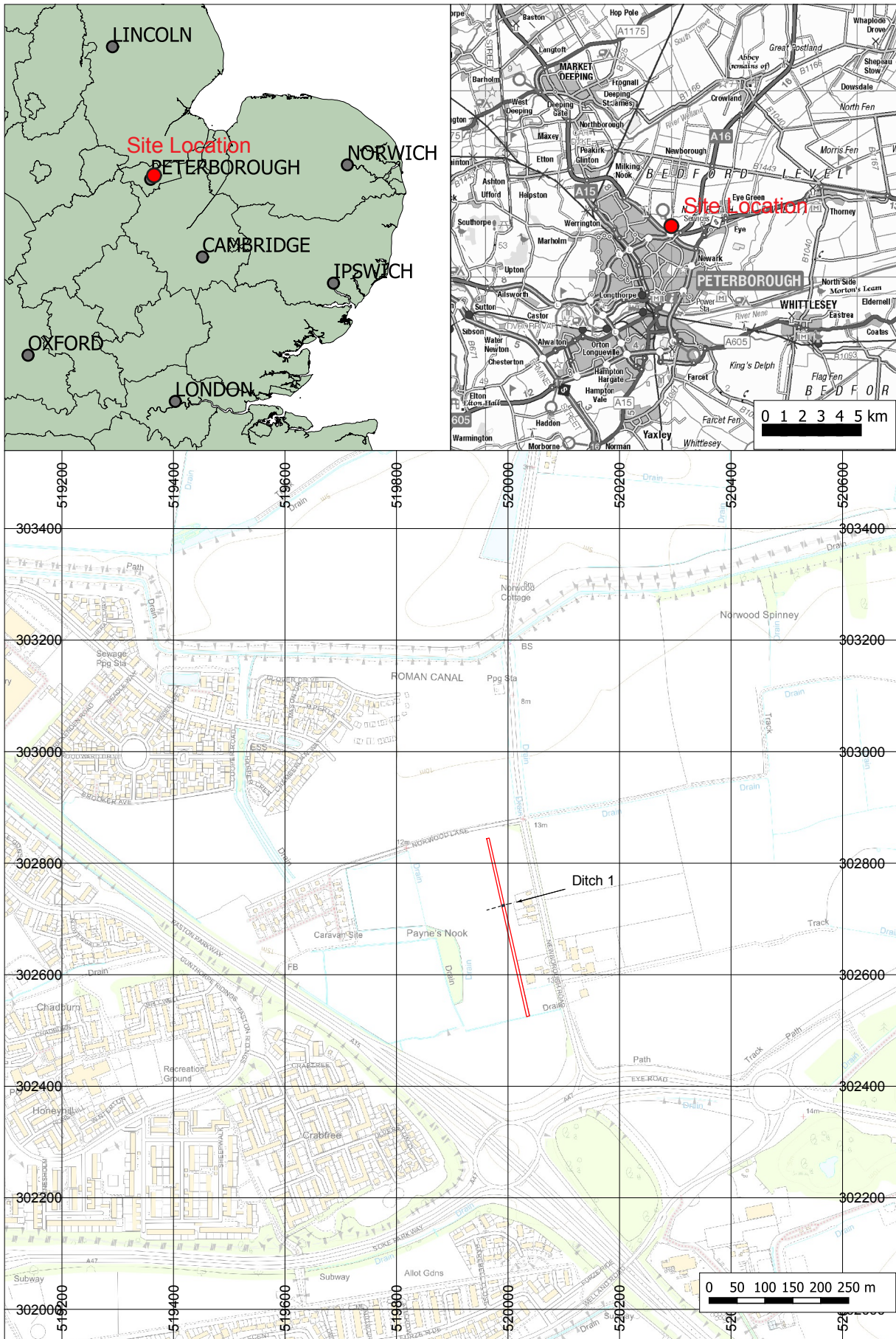
Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

Database	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Figure 1: Site location showing watching brief area (red) and modern ditch.



Plate 1: General view of the site, looking south.



Plate 2: Ditch 1 (modern), looking east.



Plate 3: Roman (left) and prehistoric (right) pot sherds from topsoil.



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