Grove Airfield, Grove, Oxfordshire

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

July 2019

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Grove Airfield, Grove, Oxfordshire

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology undertook an excavation on a 1.9ha plot of land at Grove Airfield, Oxfordshire, in advance of housing development. Five phases of activity were encountered. A field system and possible stock enclosures were marked by ditches dating to the middle Bronze Age. In the late Iron Age or early Roman period, the area became used for agricultural purposes once more with new land boundaries being dug and signs of habitation including a possible roundhouse. The settlement was reorganised around the beginning of the 2nd century AD and was enlarged in the 3rd century, having a more-formal rectilinear layout and several enclosed areas. By the 4th century, the settlement appears to have become more open and there was a shift towards intensive arable production and processing, signified by the construction of a large corndryer. The settlement was abandoned by the end of the 4th century. Three inhumations all probably Roman (though one may be Bronze Age) were buried in different parts of the site.

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The fieldwork was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Steve Lawrence and the post-excavation assessment was managed by Martyn Allen. The fieldwork was directed by Jim Mumford, who was supported by Ruben Alonso, Jody Bloom, Aidan Farnan, Andrea Forresu, George Gurney, Hadiqa Khan, Robert McIntosh, David Pinches, Emma Powell, Muhammed Quadir, Christopher Richardson, Jason Summers, Edward Tolley, Bethany Tucker, Peter Vellett and Katherine Webster. Metal-detecting was undertaken by John Gray. Survey and digitising was carried out by Aidan Farnan. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental samples under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Ltd to undertake a 1.9ha open-area excavation on the former World War II Grove Airfield. The preceding evaluation had identified an area with numerous features of Iron Age and Romano-British date that appeared to have formed parts of a rural settlement. The excavation was undertaken between August and November 2018. The site lies to the north of Wantage and to the south-west of Grove in Oxfordshire, centred at SU 3922 8948 (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the excavation was prepared by OA (2018a), based on a previous WSI by RPS Group (2017), which details the scope and the methodology for the archaeological works. The excavation has been undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: P12/V0299/O). Condition 10 reads as follows:

> a) Prior to any demolition and the commencement of development within the area shown in red on the attached plan (Archaeological Area Plan 1 dated 23 July 2014) a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating this to this archaeological area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
>
> b) Following approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation and prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development in the archaeological area (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

1.1.3 This document presents an assessment of the results of the excavation, providing a summary of the excavated features and the preliminary analysis of all finds and environmental remains, and provides an updated project design for post-excavation analysis and publication. This assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles identified in Historic England's guidance documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, specifically *The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (2006) and *PPN3 Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies within the Upper Thames Clay Vales, a belt of open, lowland farmland that extends between the chalk and limestone plateau of the Cotswolds to the north and the Chilterns, Berkshire Downs and Marlborough Downs to the south and east. The site lies only a few kilometres north of the slopes of the latter two.

1.2.2 This site is relatively flat at *c* 85m OD and some parts of the former airfield have been subjected to artificial levelling. The excavation area encloses approximately 1.9ha. This area slopes from a low point of 83.8m aOD along the eastern boundary to 85.2m aOD along the western limit.

1.2.3 The underlying solid geology comprises mudstone of the Gault Formation (BGS online). This is overlain to the north-west of the excavation area by sand and gravel of the Summertown-Radley sequence.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The Wantage and Grove area contains a considerable amount of archaeology, particularly dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods (OAA 2004). The archaeological background detailed below is adapted from information presented in the WSI (OA 2018a), which focusses on the results of successive evaluations of a 130ha area including the site by TVAS in 2006 and 2010 (TVAS 2006; 2010) and OA in 2018 (OA 2018b). Additional information on later Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British activity in the wider area is also presented.

2006 and 2010 TVAS evaluations

1.3.2 The 2006 evaluation consisted three *c* 30m trenches that contained archaeological remains. Trench 12 identified two parallel ditches 2.6m apart aligned north-west/south-east and interventions in these produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery and 15 fragments of animal bone. Trench 14 identified an east-west aligned ditch and a gully aligned north-south. Both contained small numbers of Iron Age pottery sherds and animal bones. Trench 15 contained a ditch and a pit or ditch terminus, both of which were spot-dated to the 2nd century AD.

1.3.3 The 2010 evaluation was undertaken for the road corridor and sports pavilion. It comprised seven trenches, including three to the north of 2006 evaluation Trench 15. Of these only one, to the south of the existing sub-station, produced archaeological remains in the form of a ditch and an oval pit, both of which produced small quantities of Bronze Age pottery.

2018 OA evaluation

1.3.4 A total of 34 trenches revealed features dating from the later Iron Age to the end of the Roman period. The focus of the activity, in the form of pits, postholes and ditches, was identified in the south-eastern part of the site, while several other ditches located beyond this area probably related to associated field systems. The results confirmed the probable presence of a rural settlement implied by the 2006 TVAS evaluation. The recovery of pottery, ceramic building material and animal bones suggests the presence of domestic activity, the pottery suggesting a fairly low-status rural settlement. This settlement does not appear to have extended further east, as contemporary remains were not found in the 2010 TVAS evaluation, which only produced evidence for Bronze Age activity (see above).

Later Bronze Age activity in the wider area

1.3.5 An evaluation at Stockham House, Wantage, 500m to the south of the site, encountered later Bronze Age ditches (OA 2012). A middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery has been found at St Mary's and St Gabriel's Schools, Wantage, 1.8km south of the site (Lewis 2016). Excavations at Monks Farm and Williams Holdings, 2km to the north-west of the site,

have uncovered middle Bronze Age settlement features and field boundaries (Brady 2017; OA forthcoming).

Iron Age and Romano-British activity in the wider area

1.3.6 The site lies *c* 600m to the west of the projected line of a Roman road that extended between Alchester and Marlborough (Cunetio). Much of this road is not well known, though its route to the north-east of the site is likely be followed by the modern A338 and probably connected somewhere to the east of Oxford with the north-south road between Alchester and Dorchester-on-Thames.

1.3.7 Several investigations to the south of the site have recorded evidence for later prehistoric and Roman activity. An excavation at Mably Way, Wantage, 400m to the south-west of the site, uncovered ditches of possible Roman date (OA 1998). The Stockham House evaluation, 500m to the south of the site, encountered settlement features and a burial from the middle Iron Age, and a Roman linear feature (OA 2012). Middle–late Iron Age activity has been identified at Stockham Farm, 850m to the south-west of the site, in the form of ditches that were interpreted as drainage features taking water away from the low-lying area (CA 2018). Occupation appears to have continued into the Roman period, though the character of the site showed little sign of change.

1.3.8 Excavations at Mill Street and Denchworth Road in Wantage, 1km to the south, have revealed remains of a roadside Roman settlement (Holbrook and Thomas 1996; Barber and Holbrook 2001). The earliest features at Denchworth Road comprised a metalled trackway with associated boundaries and pits dating from later 1st/early 2nd c AD. Around the same time at Mill Street there was two small timber buildings and a well. A thick cultivation horizon accumulated across part of the Denchworth Road site in the 2nd–3rd century AD, and a multi-roomed stone building was built sometime after AD 270. By the late 3rd century, one of the timber buildings at Mill Street was replaced by a square stone structure, which was interpreted as a tower granary. Further evidence of possible roadside settlement was more recently identified at Naldertown, about 100m north-east of the Mill Street/Denchworth Road area (OA 2018c).

1.3.9 A settlement dating between the early Iron Age and the Roman period is known at Crab Hill, 1.3km to the south-west (OA forthcoming). This site was excavated by OA in 2018 and is currently undergoing post-excavation analysis, but contains a series of Iron Age circular structures, Roman enclosures and a corndryer. A Saxon sunken-featured building is also present.

1.3.10 The Monks Farm and Williams Holdings excavations, 2km to the north-west of the site, have uncovered Romano-British settlement features and field boundaries (Brady 2017; OA forthcoming). Further evaluation trenching at Williams Holdings encountered Iron Age and Roman features (OA 2015; 2018).

1.3.11 A Roman villa is known from antiquarian excavations in the 1870s at Cranhill (now Cornhill), about 3km south-west of the site (Davey 1876). The villa building consisted of five rooms connected by a long corridor, with a hypocaust inserted at the southern end. The villa was located at the foot of the Berkshire Downs and enjoyed views over the Vale of the White Horse. Coins and pottery suggested occupation between the 2nd and the 4th centuries AD.

1.4 Original research aims and objectives

1.4.1 As stated in the WSI (OA 2018a, 5–6), the original research aims of the project were to:

i. Confirm the character of any remains present;

ii. Determine the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise;

iii. Define the archaeological remains to their full stratigraphic depth down to undisturbed geology;

iv. Recover geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental remains where present and where these have the potential to address specific research aims;

v. Recover suitable materials for scientific dating where appropriate;

vi. Produce a factual report, full archive and HER data submission; and

vii. Publish the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance.

1.4.2 More specific research aims were focussed on the Solent Thames research agenda (Hey and Hind 2014). These were reviewed throughout the excavation to inform strategies for intervention and recovery. The specific research aims that were considered at the beginning of the project include:

viii. 10.1: The recovery of samples to provide natural pollen and insect sequences to map environmental change;

ix. 10.3: Chronology, the recovery of artefacts and C14 samples to refine existing chronologies. This may be particularly useful where artefact-rich deposits relating to the Iron Age activity exist;

x. 10.4: Landscape and land use, the excavation data may address several of the specific points listed in this section. The excavation will focus on establishing continuity or cycles of activity/abandonment throughout the period range represented on site;

xi. 10.5: Settlement, similarly the site has the potential to address several of the specific questions raised in this section.

xii. 10.6: Social organisation, the form taken by above ground boundaries and how these may have existed into subsequent phases;

xiii. 10.7: The built environment, 10.7.4, sampling of Iron Age contexts targeting four-post structures and ditches where appropriate;

xiv. 10.13: Drivers and inhibitors of change. The site data may add to the study of this research question;

xv. 12.2: Inheritance, with both Iron Age and early Roman deposits, features and artefacts present the site has the potential to address the key area of socio-political change. Deposits form this period will be targeted for environmental sampling where appropriate deposits are present;

xvi. 12.3: Environmental evidence, sampling strategies will also aim to inform how the site worked in terms of its agricultural and pastoral operations.

xvii. 12.4: Landscape and land use, the site has the potential to address several of the specific topics within the theme; and

xviii. 12.6: Settlement, the site is situated on the clay lands within the Vale of the White Horse. Settlement within the clay lands is identified as a key area to investigate to balance he bias towards gravel extraction site in recent decades.

1.5 Fieldwork methodology

1.5.1 The excavation boundary enclosed an area covering approximately 1.9ha (Fig. 1). The work entailed a combination of detailed excavation and strip, map and sample investigation. The methods employed are presented below, following the statement outlined in the WSI (OA 2018a, 7–9). It was agreed from the outset that rather than adhering to a single, rigid methodology, a flexible approach would be taken, and an emphasis was placed on features or groups of features that clearly required greater attention in order to meet the specific research aims of the project (outlined above).

1.5.2 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (2014a) *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*, local and national planning policies, and the WSI.

1.5.3 Metal-detectors were used across the site after the trench was stripped, prior to hand-excavation of features. The resulting spoil from excavated features was also scanned. This was undertaken to ensure good recovery of metal items, including coins.

Detailed excavation

1.5.4 Excavation is the most comprehensive and detailed level of archaeological sampling, and where required on site the following methods were adhered to:

i. Excavate 20% of linear features with sampling of all terminals and intersections;

ii. Sample 50% of all pits and other discrete features as a minimum, with 100% excavation where deemed appropriate where structured deposits have been identified or other evidence of an unusual or otherwise significant nature;

iii. Excavate 100% of postholes and other structural remains, such as hearths, beamslots, internal pits, etc.;

iv. Excavate 100% of graves or other features/interventions containing human remains;

v. Environmental, geo-archaeological and other sampling (including sampling for scientific-dating techniques) to be carried out at an appropriate level in accordance with English Heritage guidance, and as recommended by the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor; and

vi. Detailed recording and reporting in accordance with the WSI (OA 2018a).

Archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS)

1.5.5 SMS investigation is broadly similar to detailed excavation but is less intensive. It is most appropriately applied to zones of archaeology characterised by landscape features such as former field boundaries and trackways, rather than central areas of settlement, industrial areas or ritual sites.

1.5.6 The main construction contractor undertook topsoil removal including sufficient subsoil removal/cleaning to allow clear identification of all archaeological features. The process was conducted under archaeological supervision and guidance using a mechanical digger. The archaeological supervisor had the authority to ensure that sufficient subsoil was removed to cleanly expose the surface with the first archaeological horizon. The exposed surface was planned and investigated by the monitoring archaeologists ahead of any further ground reduction. For instances where SMS investigation was deemed more appropriate, the following methods were applied:

viii. A minimum of one experienced archaeologist monitored two 360-degree mechanical excavators during site stripping, provided machines were working in close proximity and health and safety protocols were adhered to;

ix. All exposed features were marked with spray paint by the machine supervisors for surveying;

x. All archaeological features were planned pre-excavation for strategy review by RPS and the Planning Archaeologist, Hugh Coddington, ahead of further construction works that might affect archaeology within the areas;

xi. A representative selection of features was sample excavated and fully recorded (no more than 5% of linears and normally no more than 10% of the total number of tree-throw holes, pits and postholes); and

xii. Large features containing bulk homogenous fills were sampled by machine excavation subject to agreement with the Planning Archaeologist.

1.5.7 Following the stripping of designated site areas, OA provided a pre-excavation digital plan of features exposed. A site meeting between the Planning Archaeologist, the RPS Consultant Archaeologist, OA and the developer was then held to determine the appropriate level of recording in response to the exposed archaeology. At this stage, it was agreed that work in the 1.9ha area was to be flexibly divided between detailed excavation and SMS methods of investigation. The key variable that determined which methodology was employed was the relative complexity and significance of the archaeology exposed. SMS investigation was utilised in the first instance, undertaken where 'low-grade' features were apparent, as set out above. Areas identified as being of particular archaeological importance (ie settlement structures, enclosures or areas with specialised activities such as burials or industrial practices) were imposed with additional excavation within the stripped area by the Planning Archaeologist. To facilitate the SMS investigation, a rolling programme of archaeological recording was required. Archaeological works followed the stripping programme set out above and was signed off once completed prior to any further construction works in those areas.

1.5.8 While machine excavation was utilised where acceptable to investigate large ditch features (see SMS point xii above), this was only undertaken to supplement hand excavation and did not target complex intersections and multiple feature relationships. The main aim of machine excavation was to confirm ditch profiles and sequences, and to recover additional artefacts.

1.6 Project scope

1.6.1 The post-excavation analysis encompasses the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data generated by the excavation. Material from the evaluation has already been reported on (OA 2018b) and was not included.

1.6.2 The updated project design details the research aims of the project and proposes the method of publication of the final excavation report and the dissemination of the associated data, along with recommendations for retention and disposal of material and the accessioning of the material and data archives.

2 FACTUAL DATA: STRATIGRAPHY

2.1 General

2.1.1 The excavation revealed a considerable amount of archaeology including 451 interventions into cut features (ditches, pits, postholes, etc.), 18 structural contexts and three burial features (Table 1). A total of 64 grouped features, mostly ditches, were consolidated. The exposed features were widely distributed across the site (Fig. 2).

2.1.2 Five phases of activity were identified, including a middle Bronze Age phase and four consecutive late Iron Age/Roman phases. A summary of the archaeology in each phase is presented below.

Table 1: Summary of stratigraphic records and feature groups

Record/Feature type	No.
Ditch	332
Ditch fill	470
Pit	52
Pit fill	65
Posthole	55
Posthole fill	66
Waterhole	3
Waterhole fill	13
Well	1
Well fill	6
Furrow	1
Furrow fill	1
Tree-throw hole	7
Tree-throw hole fill	10
Layer	13
Surface	2
Stone floor	1
Wall	5
Masonry	1
Construction cut	5
Construction cut fill	8
Flue	2
Flue fill	4
Sunken structure	1
Structure	1
Robber Cut	4
Robber Cut fill	15
Grave	3
Grave fill	3
Skeleton	3
Grouped features	64
TOTAL	1217

2.2 Phase 1: Middle Bronze Age (Fig. 3)

2.2.1 The earliest features were concentrated in the western part of the site and comprised several small, mostly shallow ditches. Slightly curvilinear ditch 10061 extended over 143m across the full width of the site and contained only middle Bronze Age pottery, including sherds from a decorated cordon. Ditch 10041 post-dated ditch 10061 and followed a NE-SW alignment, at odds with later ditches in this area. Its western extent opened-up to form an elliptical-shaped enclosure. A subsidiary ditch (10056) that ran from its south side contained a large quantity of middle Bronze Age pottery. A possible second enclosure (10043) located to the south-east of the elliptical enclosure may have been contemporary as it appears to have been aligned with 10041. The only other feature of note was shallow pit 4253 which contained middle Bronze Age pottery.

2.3 Phase 2: Late Iron Age/Early Roman (Fig. 3)

2.3.1 Features dating to this phase of activity were largely pre-conquest, though it is possible that some continued in use into the later 1st century AD. Several ditches were identified, some possibly forming enclosures and trackways. The north-eastern extent of this activity appears to have been defined by ditch 10060 which ran on a different alignment to the rectilinear field boundaries of the later Roman phases. Waterhole 4391 was the only feature found to the north of this boundary.

2.3.2 A possible trackway delimited by ditches 10039/10047 and 10030/10053 led broadly NW-SE. Towards the southern end of the excavation, penannular gully 10029 potentially represented the position of an Iron Age roundhouse. It was replaced by a larger, irregular enclosure (10028) that had an opening on its east and south sides. Its substantial ditch contained a significant quantity of late Iron Age pottery. A rectilinear field arrangement was apparent to the west of this enclosure.

2.4 Phase 3: Early Roman (mid-1st to early 2nd century AD) (Fig. 4)

2.4.1 The dating evidence suggests that the late Iron Age settlement continued and was enlarged in the early Roman period. By this time, a more formalized arrangement can be discerned, comprising several large rectilinear enclosures or fields that contained several smaller enclosures. The western extent of this field system may have been delimited by ditch 10027 with internal divisions denoted by ditches 10025, 10022 and possibly by ditch 10015 to the north. The southern enclosure was subdivided by a fence (10058) with square enclosure (10020) located immediately to its east. The field to the north contained several small, adjoining sub-rectangular enclosures (10032, 10046 and 10045), potentially stock enclosures. Similar enclosures were located in the northern field (10010) and to the west of the field system (10031).

2.4.2 Two small penannular enclosures (10012 and 10054) probably represent roundhouses, which were positioned within the north field, and both contained Roman pottery. It is possible that these were established in the late Iron Age and continued in use post-conquest. To the south of these, a small square post-built structure (10004) may have been broadly contemporary.

2.4.3 Three inhumation graves attributed to this phase were distributed across the site, though the dating of each has not been firmly established. Grave 10003 contained an infant

and was buried within the area enclosed by the postholes of structure 10004. The burial may have been associated with the building, though this is not conclusive. Adult grave 4172 was located towards the south-eastern part of the site and was interred on a broadly E-W orientation, aligned on the axis of the surrounding field boundaries, and was possibly placed within an enclosure delimited by ditch 5076. No dating evidence was recovered from either grave fill.

2.4.4 The third grave (4181) was located to the west of the main settlement area. This also contained the body of an adult, buried in a crouched/prone position on a N-S alignment. No direct dating evidence was recovered from 4181. The tightly crouched position of the skeleton initially suggested that the burial was associated with the Bronze Age activity at the site. While this remains possible, the grave was found to cut pit 4198 which contained early Roman pottery. Romano-British crouched burials are not uncommon, though tend to be better represented in the early rather than the late Roman period (Smith 2018, 226–31). Late Iron Age/early Roman crouched burials have been identified at Gravelly Guy (Wait 2004) and Bernwood School, Barton (Gilbert 2005), both in Oxfordshire. One from the later was radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 20–240 (95.4% prob.), and a radiocarbon date from grave 4181 would prove equally invaluable.

2.4.5 Other notable features include a stone-lined well (5035) that may have been constructed during this phase. It was backfilled and robbed during the 2nd century.

2.5 Phase 4: Middle Roman (mid-2nd to early 3rd century AD) (Fig. 4)

2.5.1 The site was reorganised in the 2nd century but remained largely on the same alignment. The western boundary was moved further west and replaced by a larger ditch (10018) with corresponding ditches located on the eastern side (10019 and 10051). The southern boundary may have been marked by ditch 4164. The internal area was sub-divided by ditches 10019 and 10034, forming at least three enclosures. The central enclosure contained a smaller rectangular enclosure (10033/35) located near to its south-eastern corner.

2.5.2 To the north and apparently respecting internal enclosure 10033/35 was a rectangular post-built structure (10059). A second structure(s) on the same alignment (10006/7) was located immediately to its east, though this appears to post-date enclosure 10033/5. A third post-built structure (10008) aligned at right-angles to structure 10059 was probably contemporary.

2.6 Phase 5: Late Roman (mid-3rd to 4th century AD) (Fig. 5)

2.6.1 There appears to have been a reduction in activity at the site in the late Roman phase, which was confined to the eastern half of the site. The site may have been delimited to the north by substantial ditch 10009 and possibly to the east by ditch 10050. To the south were two small rectangular enclosures (10000 and 10036), one of which contained a large rectangular stone-built corndryer (10002). The structure comprised of two adjoining flues with rectangular chambers on either side. Pottery from its construction levels suggests that it dates no earlier than the mid–late 3rd century AD. A small penannular enclosure (10001) was found immediately to the north of enclosure 10036, which also contained late Roman pottery.

2.6.2 To the north a metalled track (5168) *c* 4.5m in width led approximately east-west through a gap in ditch 10050, possibly into an open courtyard. The metalling overlay a slight depression filled with dark grey silty clay (4698/5071) that containing pottery dated to the mid-3rd to 4th century and extended southwards and west from the metalling. Traces of further metalling or possibly an internal floor (4697) were revealed further to the west apparently delimited by shallow wall foundation 4760, probably a dwarf wall pertaining to a domestic structure. The building was possibly positioned within a small rectangular enclosure (10055), the lower fills of which contained pottery dated to the mid-3rd or 4th century.

2.6.3 To the north was an elliptical-shaped enclosure (10011) that was sub-divided at its western extent and possibly associated with penannular enclosure 10013. Pottery dating from the late 3rd or 4th century was recovered from the fill of the penannular feature. Enclosure 10011 was replaced by rectilinear enclosure 10037.

3 FACTUAL DATA: ARTEFACTS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The following finds were recovered:

Table 2: Summary of finds

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Prehistoric pottery	70	1090
Late Iron Age/Roman pottery	4255	80,343
Coins	38	—
Copper-alloy	9	119
Iron	51	2096
Lead	4	39
Glass	3	7
Worked bone	1	16
Worked flint	143	344
Worked stone	3	4803
Ceramic building material	75	11,712
Fired clay	125	4646

3.2 Prehistoric pottery *by Alex Davies*

3.2.1 A total of 15 contexts produced prehistoric pottery, comprising 70 sherds weighing 1090g. The vast majority was tempered with coarse or medium-grade calcinated flint. One context (4721) produced sherds in a fine-grade calcinated flint fabric, another context (4748) had sherds tempered with coarse shell, and a third context (4485) produced a grog-tempered sherd alongside a sherd with a coarse flint fabric.

3.2.2 The entirety of the assemblage appears to date to the middle Bronze Age. Context 4748 might be later (late Bronze Age or early Iron Age) as shell remained a common tempering agent in the region into the early Iron Age (eg Brown 2005). However, shell-tempered fabrics are also present in the middle Bronze Age in the region (eg Barclay 2009). The grog-tempered sherd in 4485 might be earlier, potentially dating anywhere between the late Neolithic and the early Bronze Age. Its association with a flint-tempered sherd makes it likely that the entire group is middle Bronze Age, but possibly belonging early in that period (Barclay 2009, 59). Overall, it is likely that all of the prehistoric pottery dates to the middle Bronze Age.

3.3 Late Iron Age/Roman pottery *by Kate Brady*

3.3.1 Some 4259 sherds of pottery weighing 80.4kg were recovered. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count and weight only, and rapidly scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, allowing each context group to be provisionally spot dated and the potential of the assemblage for further work to be assessed. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and group weight. Fabrics were assigned codes taken from OA's standard recording guidelines (Booth 2016), while forms were briefly described. The data were entered onto an excel spreadsheet, which is retained in the project archive.

3.3.2 The following fabrics were noted (codes in brackets are taken from Tomber and Dore 1998):

A11 South Spanish Amphora (BAT AM 1/ BAT AM 2)

B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1)

B30 Imitation black-burnished ware type fabrics

C10 Shell-tempered fabrics (general)

C11 Southern shell-tempered ware, probably Harrold (incl HAR SH)

E30 Late Iron Age/early Roman sand-tempered fabric

E60 Late Iron Age/early Roman flint-tempered fabric

E80 Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered fabric

F51 Oxford colour-coated ware (OXF RS)

F53 New Forest white or grey ware

F54 New Forest 'stoneware' fabric (NFO CC)

F57 New Forest oxidised ware (NFO RS2)

M22 Oxford white ware mortaria (OXF WH)

M31 Oxford oxidised mortaria with white slip (OXF WS)

M41 Oxford oxidized mortaria with red/brown colour-coat (OXF RS)

M50 Oxidised mortaria (general unsourced)

O10 Fine oxidised coarseware fabrics (general)

O20 Sandy oxidised coarse ware fabrics (general)

O80 Coarse-tempered (usually grog-tempered) oxidised fabrics

O81 Pink grogged ware (PNK GT)

Q10 Oxidised with white slip

Q21 Oxford white slipped ware

R10 Fine reduced ware

R20 Sandy reduced ware

R30 Medium sandy reduced ware

R50 Dark surfaced reduced fabric

R90 Coarse-tempered reduced ware (usually grog)

R95 Savernake ware (SAV GT)

S30 Central Gaulish samian ware (LEZ SA 2)

S32 Central Gaulish samian ware (Les Martres de Veyre) (LMV SA)

W10 Standard white fabrics (general)

W12 Oxford fine white ware (OXF WH)

W20 Sandy white fabrics

W22 Oxford sandy white ware

Late Iron Age to early Roman

3.3.3 A total of 8.2% of the assemblage by sherd count comes from groups that have been phased to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. The assemblage is dominated by E wares in sand, flint and grog-tempered fabrics. Forms included 'Belgic' jars (in fabrics E30 and E80) as well as coarse handmade bead rim jars in flint and grog-tempered wares. There were also some Romanised greyware fabrics in groups assigned to this stratigraphic phase which clearly date a small number of these contexts to the latter half of the 1st century. The coarse-tempered handmade vessels with everted or bead rims could date to the late Iron Age but were also made up until the end of the 1st century AD. A broad date for these, and body sherds in E wares where the form is not known, has been allocated.

Early Roman (mid-1st to early 2nd century AD)

3.3.4 Pottery from groups phased to the mid-1st to early 2nd century amounted to 25% of the assemblage by sherd count. Reduced coarsewares dominated the assemblage and there were still a small amounts of E wares in these groups. These fabrics were found alongside Savernake wares (R95) and a small number of oxidised wares and white wares, along with a very small amount of black-burnished ware (B11) which was present in the region from AD 120. Notable greyware forms included a large beaker with an inward sloping neck in fabric R30 (Young 1977, type R30) which is likely to date to the late 2nd century onwards and may be intrusive or may highlight a phasing issue. Also in fabric R30 was the complete profile of a straight-sided bowl with a chamfered base (Young 1977, type R52) which dated to the 2nd century. There was also a carinated bowl in a reduced fabric, which was found alongside a necked jar in fabric R30, probably dating to the mid-1st century. A curving-sided platter in R30 showed a Gallo-Belgic influence and dated to the mid to late 1st century. A small number of forms in E wares were identifiable and these included a carinated bowl in grog-tempered fabric (E80) with a grooved upper body and everted rim of mid-1st century date. A beaker in fine greyware (R10) was also recorded. There were several large storage jars in Savernake ware (R95) and similar coarse-tempered fabrics (R90), and a few rim sherds in fabric O80 suggest the presence of at least one oxidised equivalent. Imports found in contexts belonging to this phase were restricted to a small amount of Central Gaulish Samian ware dating to AD 120-200 (S30), including a bowl rim with barbotine leaf decoration.

Middle Roman (mid-2nd to early 3rd century AD)

3.3.5 Ten percent of the assemblage by sherd count belonged to groups phased to the mid-2nd to early 3rd century. This was a relatively small portion of the overall Roman assemblage and suggests a lower level of pottery disposal during this period, perhaps representing decreased activity levels. The group was dominated by sandy greywares (R30). Vessels represented by rims included a shallow bowl with an out-turned rim (Young 1977, type R71) of late 2nd to early 3rd century date, a straight-sided carinated bowl with out-turned rim (Young 1977 type R57) and a flat-rimmed bowl of mid-2nd to mid-3rd century date. There was also a lid or platter in a dark-surfaced fabric with a burnished surface (R50), possibly a form influenced by Central Gaulish prototypes. There was also a small cup in a similar, highly burnished greyware fabric. The assemblage again included vessels in coarse-tempered Savernake ware (R95) and similar fabrics (R90), including at least one storage jar and a bead-rimmed jar/bowl. The finer greywares (R10) included a possible poppy-head beaker of 2nd

century date. Oxidised vessels were mainly in finer fabrics (O10) including a probable beaker sherd with rouletted decoration. The greywares and oxidised wares were supplemented in this phase by a marked increase in black-burnished ware (B11), and several flat-rimmed bowls of mid-2nd to mid-3rd century date were recorded in this fabric. There was also a small amount of fine (W10) and sandy (W20) white wares, including a bowl in the latter fabric with an out-turned rim of 2nd to early 3rd century date. A small amount of shell-tempered ware was also recorded, but no forms were identified. Imports in this phase included at least four samian vessels, including a Drag. 18/31 dish and a Drag. 36 bowl with barbotine leaf decoration on the rim, both dating to the 2nd century. There was also a base, probably of a small cup, with an a partially surviving stamp on the inside of the base. The only other imports in this phase were a few sherds of South Spanish amphora (A11).

Late Roman (mid-3rd to 4th century AD)

3.3.6 Fifty-two per cent of the assemblage by sherd count belonged to groups phased to the late 3rd to 4th century. This was the largest group defined to phase and this ceramic phase was the most diverse with regards to fabrics and forms represented. Coarse greywares dominated but were supplemented by a large assemblage of Oxford colour-coated ware with several identifiable late Roman forms recorded in both fabrics. In fabric R30 there were several jars, including two different vessels with an almost identical burnished circle and line decoration. One of these was a narrow-necked form with a bifid rim paralleled in Young's (1977) Oxford corpus (type R18). There were also at least two straight-sided flat-rimmed bowls and dishes with plain rims, a flanged bowl and a flagon or bottle. Chunky storage jars in coarse greyware (R90) and oxidised ware (O80/O81) were also represented, but seemingly to a lesser extent than in earlier phases. One oxidised storage jar appeared to have red painted decoration. The phased group is also characterized by the appearance of Oxford colour-coated ware (F51), which was manufactured from around AD 240. Forms in fabric F51 included bowls, one of which was a Young (1977) type C49, and one which was a possible type C48 (with white paint on the flange). Several bowl body sherds had uniform wear patterns on the inside from use. There were at least two dishes and three flagons, including one in the most common Oxford colour-coated forms (Young 1977, type C8) and one of which had a wide disc-ringed neck. Oxford colour-coated mortaria were also recorded, with both a C97 form and a 4th-century C100 form identified. Oxford white ware mortaria were represented mainly by body sherds but there was also the rim of a type (Young 1977, type M18) of mid to late 3rd century date. A small number of other colour-coated and decorated sherds came from the New Forest industry (fabrics F53, F54 and F57). There was an increase in the amount of black-burnished ware in groups assigned to this phase and forms included a cooking pot with a widely splayed rim of 3rd century or later date. There were also at least two straight-sided dished with plain rims and a dropped-flange bowl dating to the mid-3rd century or later, which was heavily sooted. A smaller contribution was made by shell-tempered wares, but one identifiable form was a hook-rimmed jar, possibly from the South Midlands/Harrold industry (C11) and of 4th-century date. Imported fabrics in this phase were limited to a few South Spanish amphorae sherds (A11) but did include a possible base that may have been shaped and reused, perhaps as a candlestick.

3.3.7 Overall, the assemblage had a late Roman emphasis with the early Roman period also well represented. Although comparatively less intensive, at least in terms of the deposition of pottery, there was clearly much activity at the site in the middle Roman period. Pottery

condition was variable but generally good, with a mean sherd weight of 18.8g and with similar MSW values across the three Roman phases, suggesting that the pottery was not deposited far from its area of use and probably not redeposited many times after initial discard. Much of the material was slightly to moderately eroded, with variable but generally good preservation on surfaces. Several vessels showed evidence of use, with graffito, modification, wear and sooting noted.

3.4 Coins *by Paul Booth*

3.4.1 A total of 38 Roman coins were found (see Appendix A.2 for a detailed coin list). Only two were recovered from archaeological contexts, the remainder coming from the topsoil or subsoil, aided by the use of a metal detector. An eroded 1st–2nd-century dupondius was excavated from middle Roman ditch fill 4408 (ditch 10019) and an issue dating AD 321–323 was recovered from a late Roman construction cut.

3.4.2 In terms of dating, the coins fit a fairly standard pattern of coin loss on a rural settlement with a predominance of late Roman issues. Six were dated to the 1st or 2nd century AD, including four sestertii, one dupondius and an as. Ten mid–late 3rd-century radiates represent a fairly restricted group, while 21 coins dated to the 4th century, all of which were low-value denominations.

3.5 Small finds *by Ian R. Scott*

3.5.1 Small finds included the remains of objects of glass, worked bone, copper-alloy, iron and lead (Table 3).

3.5.2 The three pieces of glass comprised a small blue bead and two sherds of vessel glass.

3.5.3 The only worked bone object was a pin with a sub-spherical head, though the tip end was missing.

3.5.4 The copper-alloy objects (other than coins) included a Roman pin with spherical head and missing tip end, a Roman disc brooch, fragments of three early Roman bow brooches, a possible finger ring, a perforated sheet fragment, a Roman seal box and a post-medieval button.

3.5.5 The iron assemblage is unremarkable and is dominated by nails of varying sizes. Other objects include a possible blade fragment, two Roman boot plates, three groups of hobnails, a possible blade fragment, two bars/rods, a curved bar, a split spike loop, a possible blade fragment, a chisel or graver and a probable modern object.

3.5.6 Lead finds comprise a sheet fragment and a number of amorphous lumps.

Table 3: Small finds summary

Context	SF no.	Item	Date
4371	—	vessel glass	Roman
4373	—	blue glass bead	Roman
4691	4101	vessel glass	Roman
—	4063	bone hair pin	Roman
4001	4038	disc brooch	Roman
4014	4002	button	Post-medieval

Context	SF no.	Item	Date
4017	—	cu-alloy pin	Roman
4303	—	bow brooch	Early Roman
—	4016	bow brooch	1st century AD
—	4024	finger ring	Roman
—	4026	sheet fragment	
—	4028	bow brooch	Late 1st to 2nd century AD
—	4080	seal box	Roman
4014	4003	iron blade fragment	
4112	4045/4046	iron object	modern
4284	—	iron boot plate	Roman
4294	—	hobnails (x 15)	Roman
4360	—	iron blade fragment	
4360	4064	iron bar	
4371	4067	iron bar	
4373	4089	iron spike loop	
4376	4071	iron bar	
4426	—	iron blade	
4460	4092	hobnails (x24)	Roman
4695	4104	hobnail	Roman
—	4031	boot plate	Roman
—	4062	iron chisel	Roman
4014	4006	lead sheet	

3.6 Ceramic building material and fired clay

3.6.1 The ceramic building material assemblage (75 fragments) is essentially Roman in date and includes a number of large fragments of tegulae. Much of the fired clay (119 fragments) is also structural in nature. There is also a near-complete cylindrical loomweight of Bronze Age date (ctx 4500).

3.7 Worked stone

3.7.1 Much of the retained stone is unworked, but recognisable artefacts include a quern fragment (ctx 4290), a possible whetstone or polishing stone (ctx 4221), and a possible fragment of roofing stone (ctx 4452).

3.8 Worked flint *by Mike Donnelly*

3.8.1 The excavation yielded a small assemblage of 70 struck flints and 31 pieces of burnt unworked flint weighing 467g. The assemblage included some tools of probable Neolithic date alongside early prehistoric blade forms as well as undiagnostic debitage. Fine sieved chips made up a large percentage of the assemblage (61.43%) but could include mechanically struck pieces generated from flint cobbles and pebbles. Cores were absent but one crested flake attested to core working.

3.8.2 The assemblage was in a variable condition, with fresh (39.13%) and lightly damaged (43.48%) pieces dominating, but also a relatively high proportion of heavily damaged (13.04%)

fragments. Cortication varied considerably and levels of breakage and burning were relatively high.

3.8.3 The assemblage was largely recovered from ditch fills (61.43%), but pit fills (11.43%), a series of well fills (1.71%) and a waterhole (5.71%) all contained flints. In addition to this, three pieces were recovered from the subsoil (4.29%). Burnt, unworked material showed a similar pattern with material from ditches dominating (19 pieces, 402g), followed by a single posthole with five pieces (50g), pits (5 pieces, 11g) and the well (2 pieces, 4g). Overall, there is a very strong indication that most, or all of the flintwork is residual in later features.

4 FACTUAL DATA: ENVIRONMENTAL AND OSTEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

4.1 Human bones *by Lauren McIntyre*

4.1.1 Three inhumations were identified on site containing the remains of two adults and one infant. These have been provisionally dated to the early Roman phase. No formal assessment of the remains has been undertaken though a full analysis will be carried out at post-excavation stage.

4.1.2 In addition to the Roman inhumations, a disarticulated human femur was recovered from the fill (cxt 4336) of middle Bronze Age ditch 10016.

4.2 Animal bones *by Lee Broderick*

4.2.1 A total of 5362 specimens was recovered by hand. For the assessment, material from the Bronze Age and late Iron Age/early Roman contexts were examined according to OA guidelines, along with a sample recovered from a well dating to the 1st/2nd century AD. Environmental samples also produced animal bones sieved at 10mm, 4mm, 2mm and 0.5mm fractions. Five out of 17 bags of sieved specimens were assessed, following the same selection criteria.

4.2.2 The condition of the assemblage is generally good, though there are some signs that bones from the Bronze Age phase are in poorer condition. A rapid examination of the Roman material (not recorded here) suggests that it, too, is in good condition. This was also noted in the evaluation (OA 2018b).

4.2.3 Cattle (14 bones), sheep/goats (nine bones) and pigs (four bones) were represented in the Bronze Age phase, as was a single red deer specimen.

4.2.4 Cattle and sheep/goat remains were represented by 58 specimens each in the late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage, while horse bones were also fairly common (15 specimens). Dog and red deer bones were also present in this phase in low numbers.

4.2.5 The 1st-2nd century AD well produced a single (hand-collected) horse bone, while sieved samples included small rodent (voles and/or mouse), frog/toad and passerine specimens.

4.2.6 Out of 69 bags, 19 contained one or more specimens that had been gnawed by dogs, while burned bones and pathological specimens were absent. Butchery marks were observed on six specimens. A total of 49 specimens have the potential to provide ageing data, principally based on epiphyseal fusion, though a single caprine mandible was observed that could provide a mandible wear stage. Five specimens have the potential to provide biometric data.

4.3 Fish bone *by Rebecca Nicholson*

4.3.1 A pike bone was identified from well fill 4992 (sample 4025).

4.4 Marine shells

4.4.1 A total of 49 fragments of marine shell were recovered from the site. All of the shell comprises the remains of oysters.

4.5 Eggshells *by Rebecca Nicholson*

4.5.1 A very fragmented assemblage of 50 eggshell pieces (4g) were recovered from environmental samples taken from two fills of the late Roman corndryer (cxt 4370 [sample 4019] and cxt 4375 [sample 4020]). All the eggshell is thin-walled and white, and probably laid by a bird (?chicken) after the corndryer was used for its primary purpose.

4.6 Charred and waterlogged plant remains *by Sharon Cook*

4.6.1 Nineteen samples were taken for plant remains during the excavation (see Appendices B.1 and B.2). Of these, 14 were processed primarily for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR), while five came from potentially waterlogged deposits and sub-samples of these were processed and primarily for the recovery and assessment of waterlogged plant remains (WPR). All the samples derive from Late Iron Age/Roman features.

4.6.2 The condition of the charred material was very mixed, with a large amount of fragmented cereal grains, often present together with well-preserved grains in the same flot. A generally clinkered appearance together with missing testa is common although some grains show evidence of sprouting. The condition of the cereal is likely to reflect damage during the burning process. In particular, the cereal grain in the corndryer samples is in fairly mixed, perhaps due to the material being present for more than one firing.

4.6.3 The majority of identified cereal grains are wheat (*Triticum* sp.) although a few may be barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*) is present in small quantities. Chaff is present within the majority of the samples. While some is well preserved, much of it is very fragmented. A number of the better-preserved glume bases show prominent minor veins, wide-angled keel and wide bases associated with spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) but the majority are too fragmented to identify beyond glume wheat. Occasional oat awns are also present as well as a few fragments that are likely to be wheat or barley awns. Charred seeds from wild plants seem to be mainly species commonly found in assemblages of this type, such as cleavers (*Galium aparine*), vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) and docks (*Rumex* sp.). These are likely to represent crop contaminants.

4.6.4 Charcoal is present in all the samples, generally in good condition with little external encrustation and mineralization, but mostly exists as small fragments. Sample 4012, the fill of a posthole, contains the largest quantity of charcoal, some of which may be the remains of the original post, although the presence of some small roundwood indicates that some of the material is intrusive.

4.6.5 The waterlogged samples all contain abundant plant remains and while the majority of the wood is in poor condition, the seed assemblage contains a variety of remains that are mostly identifiable with a high potential to provide useful information about the environment around the site. The presence of nettle (*Urtica dioica*) seeds may indicate that the material within these flots represents the period when the well had been abandoned, as nettles are commonly observed on neglected disturbed ground. However, nettle has been cultivated at various times for food, herbal remedies, fabric and as a dye.

4.7 Insect remains and molluscs *by Sharon Cook*

4.7.1 Abundant insect remains were recovered from environmental samples taken from the five fills (4023-7) of the Roman well (see Appendix B.2). These require further analysis and

reporting to better understand the environment around this feature in the early Roman period.

4.7.2 A number of samples also produced a sizable mollusc assemblage. These have potential to provide valuable information about the environmental and land-use at the site.

5 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

5.1 Stratigraphy

5.1.1 The stratigraphic data have so far received a very general analysis to provide a broad phasing of the site. These data require further detailed examination to elucidate the sequence of change and the relationships between different features. More detailed analysis of the dating evidence, notably the pottery but also coinage and other finds, may help to clarify the contemporaneity of the built structures and the field boundaries.

5.2 Prehistoric pottery

5.2.1 The prehistoric pottery contributes to our understanding of the site in terms of phasing and the nature of activities that took place. Initial analysis suggests that much of the material was from middle Bronze Age enclosure systems, with a single additional pit and further material residual in later features. The middle Bronze Age ditches might be field boundaries, although the quantity of pottery from some of the features appears quite large and may represent some settlement or other activity.

5.2.2 The assemblage also has the potential to help further understand middle Bronze Age pottery in the region by comparing the forms and fabrics and associated radiocarbon dates (should any be taken) with other assemblages.

5.3 Late Iron Age/Roman pottery

5.3.1 Detailed recording of the late Iron Age and Roman pottery will allow the dating of context groups and the site sequence to be refined and finalised. Comparison of forms and fabrics with those from other sites and closer dating with reference to Young's Oxford corpus in particular will allow the assemblage from Grove Airfield to be located within its cultural context. The assemblage will make a useful contribution to the understanding of ceramic supply and use in the region. Comparative data will be sought from a range of local and regional sites, including the nearby recently excavated late Roman settlement at Williams Holdings, Grove (OA forthcoming a) and the late Iron Age to Roman settlement at Crab Hill (OA forthcoming b).

5.3.2 There is potential for the pottery to enable the refinement of the stratigraphic phasing as some anomalies are currently apparent, most notably where some late Roman forms have been recorded in contexts phased earlier. Alternatively, closer examination of the pottery groups and consideration of site formation processes may clear up these anomalies.

5.3.3 The pottery will contribute to questions of site status and function. Key measures include the ratio of dishes and bowls against jars (Evans 2001) and the relative proportions of fine and specialist wares (Booth 2004). A note will be made of evidence such as graffiti, modification, wear and burning that address questions of vessel use.

5.3.4 The assemblage has good potential to reveal patterns of deposition. Quantities and the typological composition of the pottery by feature type and phase will be examined. Analysis of mean sherd weights across the site may identify core and peripheral areas of activity within the site and point to modes of waste dispersal. This is particularly relevant here, as the high mean sherd weight suggests that the pottery was not deposited far from its site of use.

5.4 Coins

5.4.1 The coins provide a very useful sample that can aid in dating and phasing of features at the site. Although many were recovered using a metal detector and are essentially unstratified, the locations were recorded and will allow the coins to be associated with specific archaeological features. The assemblage can further contribute to discussion of coin use and distribution amongst rural settlements in this region.

5.5 Small finds

5.5.1 The small finds provide a small but useful array of artefacts that contribute to broader understanding of the character and function of the site. Further synthetic analysis should be undertaken to understand how the small finds fit into the wider pattern of artefact use in the region.

5.6 Ceramic building material and fired clay

5.6.1 The ceramic building material consists mostly of Roman material including a good assemblage of roofing tile. It provides evidence for structures and activities at the site, and the status of the settlement and its relationship to other sites in the region. It is currently unclear whether the CBM derives from the buildings identified at the site or derives from elsewhere for use in other structures such as the corndryer. This material requires full analysis and reporting. The fired clay assemblage includes both middle Bronze Age and Roman material, which also needs to be recorded in full and should form a separate report.

5.7 Worked stone

5.7.1 The worked stone assemblage is very small but should be fully written up with the final report.

5.8 Worked flint

5.8.1 The small worked flint assemblage is of minimal importance. The finds were residual and represented only a very low-level flint scatter. The likely date of the activity represented here was probably the later part of the Neolithic period, but it may be equally probable that the flints indicate limited activity spanning several periods. The limited tool inventory and near total lack of cores makes any more specific dating difficult and greatly reduces the interpretive value of the assemblage. It is of note that all three tools forms and some of the blade and flake debitage exhibit signs of use. This would probably indicate limited craft and/or domestic activity areas. Given the lack of associated features it is possible that these flints originated in a midden deposit or similar surface spread. Such assemblages are fairly common in the Oxfordshire area.

5.9 Human bones

5.9.1 All the human remains require full analysis and reporting to understand the burial practices undertaken at the site, and further research will be undertaken to consider them in their regional context.

5.10 Animal bones

5.10.1 The generally good level of preservation is likely to reflect to overall level of preservation. The middle Bronze Age assemblage will be recorded in full, as this is a period with very few good faunal assemblages. Other sites in Grove have recently been investigated with assemblages of this date (Brady *et al*. 2017; OA forthcoming b) which may provide useful comparisons.

5.10.2 The late Iron Age/early Roman sample assessed here is too small to make any specific comments about patterns of animal exploitation at the site, and it is important that the assemblage is analysed in full. Sheep/goats are ordinarily the most common domestic mammal on late Iron Age sites, though cattle are better represented in the Thames Valley during this period (Hambleton 1999). In parts of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire there is also growing evidence for horse playing an important role in the LIA and Romano-British economy (eg Broderick 2018; forthcoming). Closer attention should be given to the relative proportions of different taxa and the role they played in local husbandry practices. There appears to be a high degree of continuity between the late Iron Age and the Roman periods in the region, but further evidence would help to substantiate this.

5.10.3 Assuming that the Roman period material follows the same patterns as the earlier material (which the cursory examination suggests it should), there exists good potential in the assemblage for profiling the age of the caprine and domestic cattle, giving some indication into the subsistence strategy at the site (eg meat or dairy) and for biometric study of the horses. The Roman assemblage should be compared to published faunal assemblages from contemporary sites such as Ashville Trading Estate (Wilson *et al*. 1978), Farmoor (Wilson and Bramwell 1979), Gill Mill (Strid 2018) and the Bicester to Oxford rail link (Broderick 2018).

5.11 Fish bone

5.11.1 The pike bone will be incorporated with the other animal bone data in the post-excavation report.

5.12 Marine shells

5.12.1 The oyster shells provide information about the exploitation of marine resources during the Roman period, importantly at a site some distance from the coast. The material will be fully recorded and a report produced.

5.13 Eggshells

5.13.1 The eggshell does not appear to have been contemporary with the use of the late Roman corndryer in which it was found. Thus, further work on this material is not warranted.

5.14 Charred plant remains

5.14.1 Charring was the main mode of preservation of plant material. Earlier excavations to the north of this site include middle Bronze Age and Roman features (Brady *et al*. 2017; OA 2018d), and the analysis of the Roman samples from the current of excavation will provide a useful addition to the data recovered previously.

5.14.2 Oxfordshire as a county has been well studied, particularly in the Roman period. However, this research has largely concentrated upon the areas of the Thames Valley gravels. The Solent Thames Research Agenda specifies that the Vale of the White Horse requires better settlement pattern characterisation with an emphasis on economy, woodland extent and patterns of development and abandonment for the Roman period (Fulford 2014). Consequently, samples from this site have potential to add both to the local narrative of Grove itself and to the wider picture of the Roman south-east.

Late Iron Age/Early Roman

5.14.3 A single sample dates to the late Iron Age/early Roman phase. Sample 4014 came from the upper fill of ditch 4478, which is a part of group 10023. As the earliest dated sample, identification of the charred assemblage is warranted, although cereal remains are not abundant. The charcoal includes a small quantity of roundwood, and although clearly from a secondary deposit this would be worth documenting as a comparison to that recovered from other periods, and as an indicator of the trees or shrubs growing locally.

Early Roman (mid-1st to early 2nd century)

5.14.4 Three charred samples together with the five waterlogged samples all date to this period. Sample 4028 from ditch 5138 contains little potentially identifiable material while sample 4012 (posthole 4264) has good potential for charcoal identification, potentially including wood from the post itself, but little other material of significance.

5.14.5 Sample 4016 from pit 4513 has the best potential for analysis for this phase, with a variety of cereal remains and wild plant seeds present. Samples 4023 and 4025 would also merit further analysis to provide additional data for this period, although the identifiable remains are less abundant than in sample 4016.

Mid-Roman (mid-2nd to early 3rd century)

5.14.6 Two samples are dated to this period. Sample 4022 from posthole 4873, which is part of structure 10007, contains very little identifiable material and is not recommended for further work. Sample 4010 from enclosure ditch 4209 (group 10019) also contains little identifiable material and further analysis is not warranted.

Late Roman (mid-3rd to 4th century)

5.14.7 The majority of samples are associated with corndryer 10002 situated at the southern end of the site. Samples 4013, 4017, 4018, 4019, 4020 and 4021 all originated within either the corndryer structure itself or associated 'rake-out' pits. These are all rich in charred cereal remains and other seeds and will provide augment data recovered from late Roman features, including corndryers, excavated further north at Monks Farm and Williams Holdings. The inclusion of larger datasets both in terms of the number of samples and identifiable items (eg >100 items/sample) has been noted as important by van der Veen *et al*. (2007).

5.14.8 The charcoal from rake-out pit sample 4017 is worth recording as the only sample providing evidence of wood used as fuel for the corndryer.

5.14.9 The remaining samples 4000 (posthole 4158) and 4011 (waterhole 4256) contain little identifiable charred material and are not recommended for further work.

5.15 Waterlogged plant remains

5.15.1 The five waterlogged samples from early Roman well 5035 all contain abundant waterlogged remains. Since these are fairly consistent in composition it is recommended that three of these samples are analysed (4023, 4025 and 4027) to provide valuable information pertaining to the plants growing in the immediate vicinity together with any remains that may have been dumped in after the well has gone out of use. The archaeobotanical sampling and reporting of Roman rural sites with waterlogged preservation is noted as a research priority for the future by van der Veen *et al*. (2007).

5.16 Insect remains and molluscs

5.16.1 Insect fragments were common in samples from the early Roman well. It is recommended that the insect assemblages from the lower three samples are assessed by an archaeo-entomologist.

5.16.2 A number of samples were fairly abundant in molluscs and an assessment of these is warranted, since they have potential to provide some valuable information about the changing environment at the site. It would be useful to better understand changes in land-use patterns between the middle Bronze Age and through the Late Iron Age/Roman periods.

5.17 Overall potential

5.17.1 The excavation has produced evidence relating to middle Bronze Age land-use and Late Iron Age/Roman-British settlement and farming activity. The Bronze Age activity will contribute to current knowledge of contemporary sites in the region, notably contrasting it with well-known sites on the Upper Thames gravels. The Late Iron Age/Romano-British archaeology provides a similar opportunity, though the remains in this period appear to be comparably more intensive with several phases of occupation and potentially changes in the organisation and character of the settlement.

6 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

6.1 Revised research aims

6.1.1 The site has the potential to contribute to several of the specific research aims presented in section 1.4.2, which refer directly to the Solent Thames agendas for the later Bronze Age and Iron Age (Lambrick 2014) and the Roman period (Fulford 2014). The most relevant ones have been selected here in light of the information outlined above in order to focus the research criteria of the forthcoming post-excavation analysis.

Bronze Age

10.3 Chronology

6.1.2 Better understanding of the Bronze Age activity requires close examination of the pottery assemblage, which is relatively abundant. This should help to refine the period of occupation this phase, whether it was focussed on the middle Bronze Age or perhaps began earlier.

10.4 Landscape and land-use

6.1.3 Once better established, the dating of the earlier prehistoric activity will enable a more informed picture of the pattern of land-use at the site. Bronze Age features suggest the presence of field boundaries and enclosures, possibly representing areas for settlement and/or stock raising. Comparison of the organisation and layout of the site, and the finds and animal bone assemblages, with contemporary sites in the region is crucial for understanding the character of land-use represented here.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

12.2 Inheritance

6.1.4 As with the Bronze Age activity, establishment of a more refined chronology is crucial for understanding of the site in the late Iron Age and Roman phases. This will be better served by ceramic assemblages in this period. As pointed out in the research agenda (Fulford 2014, 179), there are no clear boundaries between what is 'Iron Age' and what is 'Roman' in the region, though it is evident that a major change occurred in the countryside, albeit over a potentially long period of time (from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD). Preliminary examination of the pottery assemblage suggests that occupation may have originated pre-conquest, though a more in-depth analysis of the ceramics is required.

12.3 Environmental evidence

6.1.5 It is evident from the phased plans of the site that the settlement developed considerably, undergoing a number of transformations, from the late Iron Age/early Roman phase to the late Roman phase. This appears to begin with a fairly low-level of activity signified by field boundaries and enclosures, followed by a more intensive period of activity with a very regular and organised settlement enclosure in the mid-Roman phase, to a more open pattern of land-use perhaps focussed on the processing of arable surplus. Closer examination of the animal bone and charred plant assemblages in each phase will help to characterise agricultural regimes and the extent to which these changed along with the clear changes in settlement organisation around the 2nd century AD and again in the later 3rd century.

Assessment of the waterlogged plant and insect assemblages from the early Roman phase will also enable a better understanding of the surrounding landscape in this period.

12.6 Settlement

6.1.6 Knowledge of Romano-British settlement patterns in this region is heavily biased towards the gravel terraces. The location of the site on the Upper Thames Clay Vales provides an opportunity to redress this imbalance. Comparison of this site with other known clayland sites is crucial in helping to characterise rural settlement patterns in this landscape zone. The long period of site-use and relatively well-defined chronology will aid in this analysis. The focus here must be placed on the layout and organisation of the settlement, patterns of agricultural practice and an assessment of the finds data to provide a better understanding of the position of the site within the local and regional settlement hierarchy.

12.8 Ceremony, ritual and religion

6.1.7 The presence of three inhumations provides opportunity to examine rural burial practices in a non-cemetery context. These have been preliminarily phased as 'early Roman', and their dates will hopefully be confirmed by radiocarbon dating. Environmental samples have been taken from the fills of the burials and these will be scrutinised for remains that may relate to the potential ritual use of plant and animals in these types of burials.

12.11 Crafts, trades and industries: pottery

6.1.8 The pottery assemblage has the potential to address research priorities outlined in the Solent Thames Research Agenda section (Fulford 2014, 182), particularly exploring the relationship between regional and local wares and their distribution to rural settlements, and these will also be considered during full analysis. In addition, the Study Group for Roman Pottery Research Framework for the study of Roman pottery in Britain (Willis 2003) outlines several priority research areas that are relevant to this site, notably section 4.5 on rural sites, 5.6 on pottery functions and 5.7 on site status, and these factors will be considered during full analysis.

6.2 Interfaces

6.2.1 The Grove Airfield excavation links directly to other current project being undertaken by OA in the Grove area, such as excavations at Monks Farm/Williams Holdings (Brady et al. 2017; OA 2018d) and Crab Hill (OA forthcoming b). Given the site's proximity to the Roman road (see section 1.3.9), the results of excavations at Mill Street (Holbrook and Thomas 1996), Denchworth Road (Barber and Holbrook 2001) and Naldertown (OA 2018c) will also need to be considered.

6.3 Methods statement

Stratigraphy

6.3.1 A general review of the stratigraphic data has been undertaken for this assessment. A more detailed analysis is required to fully establish the phasing of the features and a full archaeological description will be produced. The existing ArcGIS plan will be revised in the light of any clarifications and reinterpretations of the stratigraphic data and will be used as the basis for phase plans to be presented in the published report.

Prehistoric pottery

6.3.2 The pottery will be fully recorded following guidance of the PCRG (2010). A report will be produced that describes and discusses the material, considering how the pottery informs about activity at the site and how it adds to current understanding of similar regional material. At least two vessels will be illustrated.

Late Iron Age/Roman pottery

6.3.3 The pottery will be fully recorded in accordance with OA guidelines (Booth 2016) and *Study Group for Roman Pottery* (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016). Each context group will be sorted into coherent elements – individual vessels based on rim, fabric groups, pieces of intrinsic interest, etc. – and quantified by sherd count, weight, rim count and estimated vessel equivalents (EVE). A note will also be made of decoration and aspects of use, such as burning, use-wear, and modification. A spot-date will be assigned to each context group based on the dating of individual records. A selection of pottery showing the chronological and typological range of the assemblage will be illustrated. Pottery of intrinsic interest will also be selected. It is estimated that 15-20 drawings will be required.

Coins

6.3.4 The coins have been scanned fairly rapidly and additional work is required to confirm and refine the preliminary identifications. At least eight and possibly a further five coins require specialist cleaning by a conservator. On completion, an updated catalogue will be prepared, and this will form the basis of a report that expands on the information presented here and incorporates relevant comparative data from the region. A selection of the coins will be photographed.

Small finds

6.3.5 The ironwork that is encrusted with corrosion products will be subject to radiography. The hobnails require x-rays to confirm their identification and to confirm their numbers. A complete record of the full small finds' assemblage will then be made, building on and amending the assessment record. Some objects are of intrinsic interest, such as the copper-alloy pin, the brooches, the finger ring and the seal box, and these will be given particular attention with regards to their context, provenance, date and typology. These artefacts will be illustrated or photographed.

Ceramic building materials and fired clay

6.3.6 The ceramic building material and fired clay will be fully recorded in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). Material will be selected for discard and discarded during the recording by the specialist. A report will be prepared describing the assemblage. The material should be discussed in relation to the site and comparison made to assemblages from other sites in the locality and wider region.

Worked stone

6.3.7 No further analysis is required of the three worked stone items, though a more in-depth report will be written up, commenting on the potential provenance of the stone. The quern and whetstone will be photographed for publication.

Worked flint

6.3.8 No further analysis is required. The assessment report will be edited for incorporation into the final report.

Human bones

6.3.9 The three articulated skeletons will undergo full osteological analysis following published guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004; Mitchell and Brickley 2017). This will include an inventory of elements for each skeleton, estimation of age, sex and stature (where possible), calculation of post-cranial indices, identification of any non-metric traits, and identification of any dental and skeletal pathology and peri-mortem or post-mortem human or animal modification. The findings of the analysis will be compared and discussed in the context of other contemporary burial assemblages from the wider region.

Animal bones

6.3.10 The animal bones will be analysed following OA standard guidelines and using its skeletal reference collection to aid identification. Each fragment will be identified to taxon where possible, though non-identifiable specimens, such as long-bone shaft fragments, ribs and vertebrae, will be recorded as small, medium or large mammal. Identifiable specimens will be recorded according to element zone, which allows for minimum numbers of animals and minimum numbers of elements to be calculated (Serjeantson 1996). Animal bones from sieved samples will be weighed and counted, and the presence of identified taxa recorded.

6.3.11 Ageing data will be collected from the analysis of tooth wear patterns using Grant's (1982) criteria. These wear patterns will allow for estimated ages to drawn from comparisons with modern livestock data following the work of Jones and Sadler (2012) for cattle, Jones (2006) for sheep, and Hambleton (1999) for pigs. Horse ageing will be calculated from the measurement of crown heights (Levine 1982). Epiphyseal fusion of post-cranial elements will also be recorded, and age estimates calculated following Getty (1975).

6.3.12 Measurements will be taken using the standards of von den Driesch (1976). Withers' heights will be calculated using von den Driesch and Boessneck's (1974) formulae. Butchery marks will be recorded following Maltby's (2010) criteria. Evidence of burning will be recorded according to colour (eg black, grey or white, ie calcined). Gnawing marks will be recorded where present. Signs of pathology will be recorded in detail and diagnoses presented.

Archaeobotanical remains

6.3.13 The 10 flots selected for further analysis for charred plant remains (those scoring B or B/C in Appendix B.1), will be sorted and examined using a low-power binocular microscope at x10–x40 magnification. Flots particularly rich or of a very large size may be riffled (van der Veen and Fieller 1982) if appropriate. Identifications will be made by comparison to seeds held in OA's reference collection and published guides (eg Cappers *et al*. 2006; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains will follow Stace (2010).

6.3.14 The five flots selected for further analysis for charcoal (those scoring B/C in Appendix B.1), will be sorted for suitable material. Fragments >2mm will be fractured and examined in transverse section at x10–x40 magnifications for identification of the ring porous woods. Specimens of semi and diffuse-porous taxa will be examined in three planes at higher magnifications (x50–x400) using a Brunel metallurgical microscope to obtain final identifications. While ideally 100 fragments would be identified, in many cases this may not

be possible, and 30–50 fragments may be more achievable. Identifications will be made with the aid of keys in Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990).

6.3.15 Between three and five flots have been recommended for further analysis of waterlogged plant remains (those scoring B in Appendix B.2). These will be sorted and examined using a low-power binocular microscope at x10–x40 magnification. As the flots appear similar and originate from a single feature (well 5035), it is recommended that three alternate samples are initially analysed with the remaining two to be considered if these are likely to add further useful data for interpreting the site. The dried bulk flots for these samples should also be considered for examination in tandem with the wet flots, as they may contain material that is not present in the subsample.

6.3.16 Identifications will be made by comparison to seeds held in the OA's reference collection and published guides (eg Cappers *et al*. 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains will follow Stace (2010). As with the CPR material, any particularly large flots may be subsampled.

Insects and molluscs

6.3.17 The insect assemblages from the lower three samples from the well will be assessed by an archaeo-entomologist, and further analysis carried out as appropriate.

6.3.18 The mollusc assemblages from samples flagged as high in Appendix B.2 (excluding those from the corndryer assemblage) will be assessed to ascertain if there is any value in further analysis to provide additional data for understanding wider landscape use.

6.4 Publication and dissemination of results

6.4.1 Two reports will be produced in order to best disseminate the results of the investigations to a range of audiences.

6.4.2 A full digital report will be made available to download from OA's online library (https://library.thehumanjourney.net/). The report will comprise a detailed stratigraphic description, specialist reports on the artefactual and ecofactual material, and all associated data. The evidence will be brought together with a research-based discussion that will focus on the revised research aims outlined above (section 6.1) to provide an interpretation of the site in its regional context. A copy of the final report will be lodged with Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

6.4.3 A synthetic article based on the online report will be submitted for publication in the Oxfordshire county archaeological journal, *Oxoniensia*. This will include the salient elements of the online report, including the full discussion, but may not include some of the more technical elements of the specialist reports or some of the data tables.

6.5 Retention and disposal of finds and environmental evidence

Prehistoric and Late Iron Age/Roman pottery

6.5.1 The pottery assessed here has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis. Is it is recommended that all the pottery is retained following the advice set out in Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (PCRG 2010; PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

Coins

6.5.2 The coins represent a very useful assemblage that is not overly common from a rural settlement of this type. The coins should be conserved and accessioned with an appropriate museum.

Small finds

6.5.3 All the copper-alloy objects should be retained, as should all the iron artefacts of intrinsic interest after x-rays have been taken. The glass and the worked-bone item should also be retained.

Ceramic building materials and fired clay

6.5.4 Diagnostic fragments and a representative sample of the range of CBM and fired clay fabric types should be retained in the archive. The remaining material may be discarded, which will be undertaken by the specialist during recording.

Worked stone

6.5.5 The three worked stone artefacts should be retained in archive in case future work be required. All the unworked and burnt stone can be discarded.

Worked flint

6.5.6 The worked flints should be retained, and any unworked pieces should be discarded.

Human bones

6.5.7 The human bones represent a useful local rural assemblage and should be retained long term in the archive with an appropriate museum. This is reflected in the burial licence, issued under the 1857 Burial Act, by application to the Ministry of Justice.

Animal bones

6.5.8 The animal bone assemblage represents an important regional collection. Further scientific work can be targeted in the future, such as isotope and DNA analysis, should the opportunity arise. The assemblage should be fully retained and archived with the appropriate museum.

Environmental samples

6.5.9 The assessed flots should be retained until the end of the project when a more informed decision can be made about retention in the archive. Samples which have not been recommended for further work may have potential for radiocarbon dating, should that be required. Any extracted and identified material should be retained in the archive together with any unsorted flots that have been assessed as containing interpretable material.

6.5.10 CPR flots scored D for potential of both CPR and charcoal could be discarded at the end of the project providing no other material, such as molluscs, are present which may be worthy of archiving.

6.6 Ownership and archive

6.6.1 OA will retain copyright of all reports and the documentary and digital archive produced in this project. OA will maintain the archive to the standards recommended by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b), the Archaeological Archives Forum (Brown 2011), and Oxfordshire County Museums Service. The documentary archive has been

security copied. The finds and documentary archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service under the accession code OXCMS:2017.108. The digital archive will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The landowner's permission to donate the finds to this repository has been sought.

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APPENDIX A ADDITIONAL ARTEFACT DATA

A.1 Late Iron Age/Roman pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Group	Phase
4641	1	4	W20	10004	M1-E2C
4041	28	1362	R30. curving sided platter. Huge R95 storage jar slightly oxidised, W10	10010	M1-E2C
4318	1	10	R90	10012	M1-E2C
4338	4	92	R90, burnished cross hatched narrow band dec.	10012	M1-E2C
4129	4	35	R30	10014	M1-E2C
4143	2	13	R30	10014	M1-E2C
4152	9	94	flint temp preh?, R30, E30, O10, E60	10014	M1-E2C
4058	4	43	R90, R30, R20, W20	10015	M1-E2C
4067	20	503	R95, R30, R20, E60	10015	M1-E2C
4073	5	58	F51,O10, large beaker R30 with inward sloping neck, body not present but young (form R30) suggests L2C+	10015	M1-E2C
4490	17	52	R30, O10, C10, E80, R90, residual preh. (coarse flint)	10015	M1-E2C
4491	9	78	O80, C10, R30, R10, O20, B30	10015	M1-E2C
4574	4	42	M30 poss. oxf. with worn off slip? C10	10015	M1-E2C
4575	7	75	R20,E30, R30 E80	10015	M1-E2C
4926	6	122	E30, R90, O10, R30	10015	M1-E2C
4437	1	17	R30	10016	M1-E2C
4096	1	84	R95 oxidised surface	10020	M1-E2C
4097	14	111	R10 small jar, R95, R90	10020	M1-E2C
4235	1	18	R90	10020	M1-E2C
4252	4	25	R90, R30	10020	M1-E2C
4272	7	31	R30, O20	10020	M1-E2C
4274	1	179	W20 flat base jar	10020	M1-E2C
4275	7	111	F51, M41, R30, R20, O10	10020	M1-E2C
4312	1	8	O10? Very micaceous	10020	M1-E2C
5078	2	62	E50, R95	10020	M1-E2C
5086	3	16	R20, R30	10020	M1-E2C
5091	1	6	R30	10020	M1-E2C
4603	9	144	R90, E80, W20	10021	M1-E2C
4713	18	473	R90, R20, R50 high shouldered jar, R90 mixed fabric? (IA?) R10	10021	M1-E2C
4714	4	99	Preh.	10021	M1-E2C
4718	4	109	R30, R90, W20	10021	M1-E2C
4719	11	276	R30 jar, W20,	10021	M1-E2C
4729	7	109	LPRE?	10021	M1-E2C
4732	13	191	R30, R20, W10 (residual IA?)	10021	M1-E2C

4789	5	38	E80, E60	10021	M1-E2C
4790	33	473	R20, O20, R90/ R95, S30	10021	M1-E2C
4791	33	466	S30?, R90/R95, R30, R20 jar and jar/bowl	10021	M1-E2C
4811	64	874	R95, E80, E40, E60, no real Romanised fabrics	10021	M1-E2C
4933	1	6	E80	10021	M1-E2C
4969	3	105	R90, E50, E30	10021	M1-E2C
5061	35	936	R90/ R95, R30, R20, R50	10021	M1-E2C
5064	58	1820	R90, O30, E30, O10	10021	M1-E2C
5125	4	34	E80, O10	10021	M1-E2C
5126	2	38	E60	10021	M1-E2C
5127	3	57	R20, R95	10021	M1-E2C
4606	2	9	R20/B30	10022	M1-E2C
4667	25	482	R30 jar R20	10022	M1-E2C
5037	4	56	E80 R90? E30	10022	M1-E2C
5041	4	38	R95, W20, R20, R30	10022	M1-E2C
4389	1	4	C10	10023	M1-E2C
4528	12	365	O80? Coarse sand tempered storage jar	10023	M1-E2C
4569	6	213	W20, R20, R30, R90	10023	M1-E2C
4669	6	60	O80, R30, O10, W10	10023	M1-E2C
4737	1	37	R20	10023	M1-E2C
4827	2	9	E80	10023	M1-E2C
4940	1	8	E80	10023	M1-E2C
5049	10	24	O10, R10, E30?	10025	M1-E2C
4219	4	42	R90, O21 (Oxf.) E80, R20	10026	M1-E2C
4942	3	11	O10	10027	M1-E2C
4748	10	129	R90/ R95, R30, R20 residual preh. shell temp	10031	M1-E2C
4770	2	39	Preh. flint temp	10031	M1-E2C
4823	1	116	LPRE?ER? Coarse storage jar handmade	10032	M1-E2C
4824	1	21	E60	10032	M1-E2C
4825	1	18	W20	10032	M1-E2C
4928	1	33	R95	10032	M1-E2C
4929	4	44	W20 with reduced core, S30/S40	10032	M1-E2C
5077	1	10	E30	10034	M1-E2C
4756	4	27	W20, E80, B11, preh. residual. Mixed date	10045	M1-E2C
4757	16	327	E80 carinated bowl with grooved upper body and everted rim M1C, E80, R90/R95	10045	M1-E2C
4793	7	198	R30, R90	10045	M1-E2C
4577	8	78	R30, O20	10046	M1-E2C
4157	21	166	2 R30 large beakers (100-400), W20, S20	10054	M1-E2C

4398	3	9	R10	10054	M1-E2C
4247	1	3	R10	10058	M1-E2C
4027	34	271	R30, R95, E60, E80, W20, O20		M1-E2C
4028	5	56	R30, R90, R10 beaker, W10		M1-E2C
4076	3	21	R30, O20		M1-E2C
4081	3	17	F51, R30		M1-E2C
4107	11	144	W20, O80, R30		M1-E2C
4115	6	34	R90, R20 with glassy quartz grains S32		M1-E2C
4199	1	20	W20 prob Oxford base		M1-E2C
4225	1	14	R30		M1-E2C
4288	22	484	E60, R50 (1 sherd)		M1-E2C
4294	20	284	E30, R90, R95, R30, W10, W20, R10		M1-E2C
4348	5	114	R95 bead rm jar, R10, R20, R30		M1-E2C
4353	7	35	W20, R20, O20		M1-E2C
4359	1	9	E60		M1-E2C
4360	18	379	R90/95, W20, E30, R20, W12		M1-E2C
4399	6	132	R30, R90, C10		M1-E2C
4401	1	39	R30		M1-E2C
4417	2	44	R30, R90		M1-E2C
4422	1	21	R30		M1-E2C
4430	8	154	C10 flat base and body sherds		M1-E2C
4435	1	2	C10		M1-E2C
4474	1	6	R30		M1-E2C
4476	1	9	R30		M1-E2C
4477	1	3	W10		M1-E2C
4485	4	18	R30, W10 Preh residual flint and sand temp		M1-E2C
4486	6	57	R30, R90, R50		M1-E2C
4513	3	122	E30, R50, R30		M1-E2C
4513	8	63	R30		M1-E2C
4532	2	5	R30		M1-E2C
4534	2	17	R30, R90		M1-E2C
4540	1	3	R10		M1-E2C
4579	1	3	W20 poss. Ox parchment ware?		M1-E2C
4600	10	82	E30, E60, R30, R50?		M1-E2C
4704	2	30	R30, R50		M1-E2C
4787	6	59	O10, R90, E60, E80		M1-E2C
4809	20	849	LPRE, E80, E30, M-LIA, R37, R95		M1-E2C
4810	63	1732	R95, R90, E80, E30, no clear Romanised sherds prob. pre-conq. LIA-ER AD40-70?		M1-E2C

4839	1	4	R50		M1-E2C
4843	15	576	R30, R90, R95, R20 E80?		M1-E2C
4844	4	20	R95, LPRE		M1-E2C
4859	1	13	R30		M1-E2C
4867	28	517	R95, R30? But mainly R95 and E wares include E30		M1-E2C
4869	11	242	LIA carinated bowl, other prob LIA fabrics, R30 necked jar? AROUND CONQUEST		M1-E2C
4886	1	8	R20		M1-E2C
4965	1	54	R30		M1-E2C
4974	20	1088	R90, R95, B11, R30 includes large storage jar and bead rim bowl/ jars in R95		M1-E2C
4977	2	56	R95		M1-E2C
4980	7	219	R30 straight sided bowl with slightly beaded rim and chamfered vase. Whole profile – illus.) like Young R52, S30		M1-E2C
4982	3	163	R10 pedestal base, very micaceous with dark burnished surf. S30 base with pad like foot ring (drag 37?)		M1-E2C
4992	1	18	S30 rim with leaf dec.		M1-E2C
5002	4	65	R30, R90		M1-E2C
5030	6	65	R30, C10		M1-E2C
5039	2	33	W20, R50		M1-E2C
5039	2	33	O20, R30		M1-E2C
5071	3	44	R95, R30, C10		M1-E2C
5082	1	12	R30		M1-E2C
5096	6	57	R30, R20, E30 residual preh flint temp		M1-E2C
5123	11	268	M21, R95/ R95, O10, R10, R30, E80		M1-E2C
5137	1	69	R30		M1-E2C
5140	28	1573	S32?/ S20 O80 large storage jar, R30, R90/R95 R20		M1-E2C

A.2 Roman coin list

SF	CXT	DATE	Reece period	DEN/SIZE	OBV	REV	MINT	REF	WEAR	COMMENT
4004	4014	mid-late 3C?		?radiate 16-18mm	?	COM? [??victory l			/W	encrusted
4005		350-364??	18??	AE4 9-11mm	head r??					encrusted, poss FTR
4007	4014	350-364	18	AE4 12-13mm	head r	Fel Temp Reparatio, fallen horseman?			W/W	encrusted
4008		1-2C		sestertius 31mm	head r				EW/EW	and eroded
4011		286-293	14	radiate' 18mm	IMP C ALLECTVS P AVG, bare head r				SW/	rev encrusted and crumbling
4010a		364-378	19	AE3 16mm	head r	Gloria Exercitus			W/W	incomplete and eroding
4010b		4C?		AE3 16mm						very incomplete and eroding
4013		364-378	19	AE3 18mm	head r	GLORIA ROMANORVM			W/W	incomplete
4001	4014	later 3C		radiate 12-13mm	radiate head r	figure l			W/W	barbarous
4018		later 3C		radiate 15-16mm	radiate head r]OIO[	figure			W/VW	irregular
4020		350-364	18	AE3 17mm	head r	Fel Temp Reparatio, phoenix on pyre			SW/W	incomplete, irregular
4022		348-350	18	AE3 18mm	DN CONSTA [NS PF AVG	Fel Temp Reparatio, phoenix on pyre			SW/SW	rev partly encrusted
4027		3-4C		15mm						encrusted and crumbling
4029		1C		29-30mm	head r	figure			EW/EW	
4032		260-286		radiate 16-20mm	radiate head r	figure l			VW/VW	irregular - teardrop shape
4033		348-350	18	AE3 16mm	DN CONSTA NS PF AVG	Fel Temp Reparatio, phoenix on pyre			SW/W	
4034	4001	1-2C		sestertius 31mm						encrusted
4035	4001	141-161	7	sestertius 30-31mm	DIVA FAVSTINA	Aeternitas S C, aeternitas holding phoenix on globe and holding up skirt			W/VW	

SF	CXT	DATE	Reece period	DEN/SIZE	OBV	REV	MINT	REF	WEAR	COMMENT
4036	4001	330-335	17	AE3 16mm+	CON]STANTINVS PF A[VG	Gloria Exercitus, 2 standards			SW/SW	incomplete (no reverse legends)
4037	4001	later 3C		radiate 14-16mm	radiate	figure r with wreath			W/W	incomplete and eroding
4039		350-353	18	AE3 16-18mm	head r	Victoriae dd nn aug et cae			VW/VW	
4040		341-348	17	AE3 14mm	head r	VICTORIAE DD AV]GG Q N[N			W/W	
4041		337-341	17	AE3 15mm	FL IVL HE LENAE AVG	PAX PVBLICA			SW/SW	
4047		330-360?		AE3 14mm+	head r, poss]ANTI [	?			VW/VW	fragment
4048		3-4C?		20-21mm					EW/EW	totally eroded, possibly radiate
4049		later 3C		radiate 20mm	radiate head r	?victory l				encrusted
4050		330-335	17	AE3 14mm	CONSTANTINOPOLIS, head l	victory on prow			SW/SW	
4052		later 3C?		radiate? 17-19mm						encrusted
4053		181-182?	9	as 23-25mm	M ANTONINVS [COMMODVS] AVG?	?			VW/VW	obv legend not certain
4078		mid-late 3C?		radiate 20-21mm	radiate head r				VW/VW	encusted
4079		286-293	14	radiate 24-25mm	]CARAVSIVS[	PAX [AV]GGG	/P//C		SW/SW	but encrusted, reverse type obscured
4082		1C		sestertius 30mm	head r				W/	rev encrusted
4083a		335-341	17	AE3 13mm	head r	Gloria Exercitus 1 standard			W/W	obv eroding
4083b		341-348?	17	AE4 12mm?	DN CONS]TAN [S PF AVG				W/	rev and edges eroded
4084		332-333	17	AE3 17mm		victory on prow	TRP*	RIC VII Trier 548	SW/SW	obv still encrusted
4086		337-341	17	AE3 13mm+	head r	PAX [PVBLICA]				incomplete
4106	4698	321-323	16	AE3 17-18mm	head r	Beata Tranquillitas, altar	?PTR Trier		SW/SW	part encrusted
4107	4408	1-2C		dupondius/as 27mm	head r					eroding

APPENDIX B ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

B.1 Charred plant remains

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Date	Sample Vol (L)	Vol. (ml)	Charc.	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Mineral.	Mollusc	Notes	CPR	Charcoal
4000	4159	Fill of Posthole [4158]	Roman M3-4C	1	5	6 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm	+		+				Charcoal has slight external encrustation. Good condition but generally small in size – not >2mm in all dimensions. Rare roundwood present. Two fragments of indeterminate grain. Single *Rumex* sp. and *Chenopodium* sp. seeds. Small fragments of fuel ash slag.	D	C/D
4010	4213	Fill of Ditch [4209]	Roman M2-E3C	40	10	0 >4mm, 2 4-2mm	++	+++	++			++++	Occasional fine modern roots and insects. Charcoal generally small and few fragments. Grain is fragmented, clinkered and vitrified. Two frags likely to be wheat others indet. Fragments of glume base and oat awns. Uncharred *Chenopodium* sp. common. Seeds include *Vicia/Lathyrus*, *Rumex* sp. and *Lithospermum arvense*. Very rich in snails.	C	D
4011	4257	Fill of Waterhole [4256]	Roman M3-4C	37	14	4 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm	++	++	+++			+++	Charcoal in clean condition but small in size. Grain in poor condition but appears to be wheat. Glume base fragments present. Seeds include *Galium aparine*, *Chenopodium* sp. some of which are burnt, grass seeds, *Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex* sp. *and Carex* sp. Rich in snails.	C	C/D
4012	4265	Fill of Posthole [4264]	Roman M1-E2C	8	250	100+ >4mm, 500+ 4-2mm	++	++					Part scanned only. Charcoal in good clean condition. Includes knotty fragments and occasional roundwood. Grain is largely fragmented and non-identifiable. Occasional small glume base fragments. No	C/D	B/C

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Date	Sample Vol (L)	Vol. (ml)	Charc.	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Mineral.	Mollusc	Notes	CPR	Charcoal
													seeds in scanned portion. Fine modern roots.		
4013	4368	Fill of Rake-out Pit [4367] from Corndryer 10002	Roman M3-4C	36	20	4 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm	+++	+++	+++			+++	Charcoal has slight external encrustation but is generally clean although small in size. Rich in grain in very mixed condition – some good preservation but the majority is very fragmented. Some collapsed grains and one with coleoptile scar, predominantly wheat. Small glume base fragments common and coleoptiles also present. Seeds include *Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex* sp., grass seeds, and small Fabaceae. Snails are small in size.	B/C	C
4014	4500	Upper fill of Ditch [4478]	LIA-ER	36	25	24 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm	+		+++	++		+++	Modern roots and insect fragments. Charcoal is generally clean, includes occasional roundwood and knotty fragments. Grain is in poor condition but appears to include wheat. Seeds are mostly *Chenopodium* sp. some of which are modern. *Vicia/Lathyrus* and *Galium aparine* also present. Fragments of nutshell (not hazelnut) also some fruit stone fragments. Snails include *Cecilioides*.	B	B/C
4016	4512	Fill of Pit [4513]	Roman M1-E2C	40	35	1 >4mm, 11 4-2mm	+++	++	+++			+++	Charcoal generally small and partially externally encrusted. Grain is in poor condition but mostly identifiable. Appears to be mostly wheat with some oat/brome and possibly barley. Glume base fragments are generally small. Seeds include *Chenopodium* sp., *Galium aparine*, *Rumex* sp., and small grass seeds. Snails include *Cecilioides*. Modern roots.	B	C

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Date	Sample Vol (L)	Vol. (ml)	Charc.	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Mineral.	Mollusc	Notes	CPR	Charcoal
4017	4373	Fill of Rake-out Pit [4372] of Corndryer 10002	Roman M3-M4C	32	75	25+ >4mm, 100+ 4-2mm	+++	+++	+++	+		+++	Charcoal has some external encrustation but is generally good although fragments are thin. Grain in very mixed condition – appears to be mostly wheat – some grains are collapsed. Glume base fragments are generally small, coleoptiles are present. Oat awns and wheat/barley awns present. Seeds include large numbers of grass seeds. Also, *Rumex* sp., *Lithospermum arvense, Vicia/Lathyrus* and *Plantago lanceolata*. Fragments of fruit stone/nutshell (not hazelnut). Snails include *Cecilioides*. Modern roots common	B/C	B/C
4018	4451	Fill of S chamber of Corndryer 10002	Roman M3-M4C	18	20	0 >4mm, 1 4-2mm	+++	+++	++			+++	Charcoal is small in size. Material is very fragmentary. Grain is in poor condition, but some is identifiable – appears to be mostly wheat. Abundant glume base fragments. Coleoptiles noted. Oat awns present. Seeds include *Rumex* sp., and grass seeds. Snails include *Cecilioides.* Small quantity of modern roots.	B/C	D
4019	4370	Fill of Flue [4369] of Corndryer 10002	Roman M3-M4C	20	20	0 >4mm, 2 4-2mm	+++	+++	+++			+++	Abundant modern roots. Charcoal small in size. Material is very fragmentary. Grain is in poor condition, but some is identifiable – appears to be mostly wheat. Some collapsed grains present. Rich in glume base fragments. Coleoptiles noted. Oat awns present. Seeds include *Rumex* sp., and grass seeds. Snails include *Cecilioides*	B/C	D
4020	4375	Fill of Flue [4374] of Corndryer 10002	Roman M3-M4C	20	22	0 >4mm, 6 4-2mm	+++	+++	+++			+++	Abundant modern roots. Charcoal small in size. Material is very fragmentary. Grain is in poor condition, but some is identifiable – appears to be mostly wheat. Occasional	B/C	D

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Date	Sample Vol (L)	Vol. (ml)	Charc.	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Mineral.	Mollusc	Notes	CPR	Charcoal
													grains in very good condition. Some collapsed grains present. Abundant glume base fragments. Coleoptiles noted. Oat awns present. Seeds include *Galium aparine*, *Rumex* sp., grass seeds and *Vicia/Lathyrus*. Snails include *Cecilioides.*		
4021	4458	Fill of N chamber of Corndryer 10002	Roman M3-M4C	15	20	0 >4mm, 2 2-4mm	+++	++++	+++			+++	Material is very fragmentary. Fine modern roots present. Charcoal very small. Grain is largely fragmentary however some grains are in an identifiable condition – appear to be mostly wheat although oat/brome also present. Glume base fragments and coleoptiles and oat awns. Seeds include *Rumex* sp., *Chenopodium* sp., and grass seeds. Snails include *Cecilioides.*	B/C	D
4022	4874	Fill of Posthole [4873]	Roman M2-E3C	20	8	0 >4mm, 13 4-2mm	++		+++	+			Material is very fragmentary. Fine modern roots present. Charcoal very small. Grain is largely fragmentary – one or two grains have a wheat like appearance, but the majority is too fragmented to identify. Fruit stone present. Seeds include *Rumex* sp., *Galium aparine*, *Chenopodium* sp., and grass seeds.	C	C/D
4023	4980	Well	Roman M1-E2C	25	40	16 >4mm, 25+ 2-4mm	+++	++	+++				From bulk processed portion of WPR sample. Rich in WPR including woody fragments, fibrous plant material and seeds (see WPR table for details). Charred material includes charcoal in generally good clean condition. Cereal grain is in mixed condition with some grains well preserved – appear to be mostly wheat. Glume base fragments. Charred seeds include grass seeds, *Galium aparine, Rumex* sp.,	B/C	B/C

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Date	Sample Vol (L)	Vol. (ml)	Charc.	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Mineral.	Mollusc	Notes	CPR	Charcoal
													Chenopodium sp., and small Fabaceae. Rare insect fragments.		
4025	4992	Well	Roman M1-E2C	25	150	25+ >4mm, 50+ 4-2mm	+++	+++	+++			+	Part scanned only. From bulk processed portion of WPR sample. Rich in WPR including woody fragments, fibrous plant material and seeds (see WPR table for details). Charred material includes charcoal which is generally small in size but in clean condition. Cereal grain is in mixed condition with some grains well preserved – appear to be mostly wheat. Glume base fragments. Charred seeds include *Stellaria media*, *Galium aparine* and *Rumex* sp. Insect fragments present.	B/C	B/C
4026	4928	Well	Roman M1-E2C	7	50	9 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm	++	+++	++			++	From bulk processed portion of WPR sample. Rich in WPR including woody fragments, fibrous plant material and seeds (see WPR table for details). Hazelnut shell. Some seeds eg *Sambucus nigra* and *Valerianella dentata* not observed in the WPR portion scanned. Charred material includes small-sized charcoal in good condition. Cereal grain in mixed condition, some grains well preserved and mostly wheat. Occasional glume base fragments. Charred seeds include *Galium aparine* and grass seeds. Ostracods. Insect fragments including beetle elytra.	C	C/D
4027	4993	Well	Roman M1-E2C		75	9 >4mm, 25+ 4-2mm	++	+++	+++			++	From bulk processed portion of WPR sample. Rich in WPR including woody frags, fibrous plant material and seeds (see WPR table for details). Uncharred hazelnut shell. Also uncharred *Papaver* and *Fumaria*	C	C/D

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Date	Sample Vol (L)	Vol. (ml)	Charc.	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Mineral.	Mollusc	Notes	CPR	Charcoal
													officinalis not observed within the WPR portion scanned. Charcoal generally clean, some have external encrustation or metallic appearance, small size. Vivianite staining noted. Grain in mixed condition, some well preserved –mostly wheat plus some oat/brome. Some evidence of sprouting. Occasional rachis and glume base frags in very mixed condition. Charred seeds include grass seeds, *Montia fontana*, *Galium aparine, Stellaria media* and *Stellaria graminea*. Ostracods present. Insect fragments including beetle elytra.		
4028	5140	Fill of Ditch [5138]	Roman M1-E2C	40	5	0 >4mm, 0 4-2mm		++	+++			+++	Very little charred material. Charcoal is very small. Glume base fragments present, mostly small size. Seeds include *Rumex* sp., *Galium aparine* and grass seeds. Snails very common.	C	D
Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100) ++++=abundant (>100)															

B.2 Waterlogged plant remains

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Date	Sample Vol (L)	Vol. (ml)	Vol Scanned	Wood >2mm	Insect	Fruit/Nut	Seeds	Mineral.	Charred	Mollusc	Notes	WPR
4023	4980	Well	Roman M1-E2C	1	10	10ml	+	++		+++		+++		Abundant small degraded woody fragments (<2mm) and fibrous plant material. Charcoal including some frags >2mm and occasional roundwood. Charred grain in mixed condition plus rachis fragments and glume bases. Waterlogged seeds in mixed condition – include *Aethusa cynapium*, *Urtica dioica*, *Ranunculus acris/repens*, *Hyoscamus niger*, *Carex* sp., *Chenopodium* sp., and possible *Urtica urens*. Occasional insect fragments.	B
4024	4981	Well	Roman M1-E2C	1	30	10ml	++	++		+++		+++		Rich in degraded small woody fragments (<2mm) includes roundwood >2mm and fibrous plant material. Charcoal present. Charred grain includes one grain which appears to be in the glume. Waterlogged seeds in mixed condition – includes *Urtica dioica, Chenopodium* sp., *Ranunculus acris/repens*, *Stellaria media*, *Hyoscamus niger*, and *Aethusa cynapium*.Insect fragments including beetle elytra.	B
4025	4992	Well	Roman M1-E2C	1	75	10ml	++	++		+++		+++		Degraded small woody fragments (<2mm) and some larger fragments. Abundant fibrous plant material. Small quantity of charred material – mostly charcoal <2mm and occasional fragments of charred grain. Waterlogged seeds in mixed condition – include *Chenopodium* sp., *Stellaria media, Ranunculus acris/repens, Aethusa cynapium,* and *Carex sp. One seed of* cf *Sinapis arvensis. Daphnia ephippia* present. Some insect fragments including beetle elytra.	B

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Date	Sample Vol (L)	Vol. (ml)	Vol Scanned	Wood >2mm	Insect	Fruit/Nut	Seeds	Mineral.	Charred	Mollusc	Notes	WPR
4026	4982	Well	Roman M1-E2C	1	50	10ml	++	+++		+++		+++		Abundant degraded small woody fragments (<2mm) plus larger fragments and occasional roundwood >2mm and fibrous plant material. Charcoal mostly <2mm. CPR includes glume bases. Waterlogged seeds in mixed condition – include *Chenopodium* sp., *Stellaria media, Ranunculus acris/repens, Carex* sp., and *Hyoscamus niger. Daphnia ephippia* and ostracods present. Some insect fragments including beetle elytra.	B
4027	4993	Well	Roman M1-E2C	1	10	10ml	+	+++	+	+++		++		Occasional roundwood >10mm. Degraded small woody fragments (<2mm) common; some larger fragments and bark. Abundant fibrous plant material. Small quantity of charred material – mostly charcoal <2mm. Uncharred hazelnut shell. Waterlogged seeds in mixed condition – include *Chenopodium* sp., *Hyoscamus niger, Urtica dioica, Stellaria media, Ranunculus acris/repens,* and *Carex sp.* Ostracods present. Some insect fragments including beetle elytra.	B
Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100) ++++=abundant (>100)															

APPENDIX C HEALTH AND SAFETY

A.1.1 All OA post-excavation work will be carried out under relevant Health and Safety legislation, including the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974). A copy of the Health and Safety Policy can be supplied. The nature of the work means that the requirements of the following legislation are particularly relevant:

- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 – offices and finds processing areas
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992) – transport: bulk finds and samples
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992) – use of computers for word-processing and database work
- COSSH (1988) – finds conservation and environmental processing/analysis

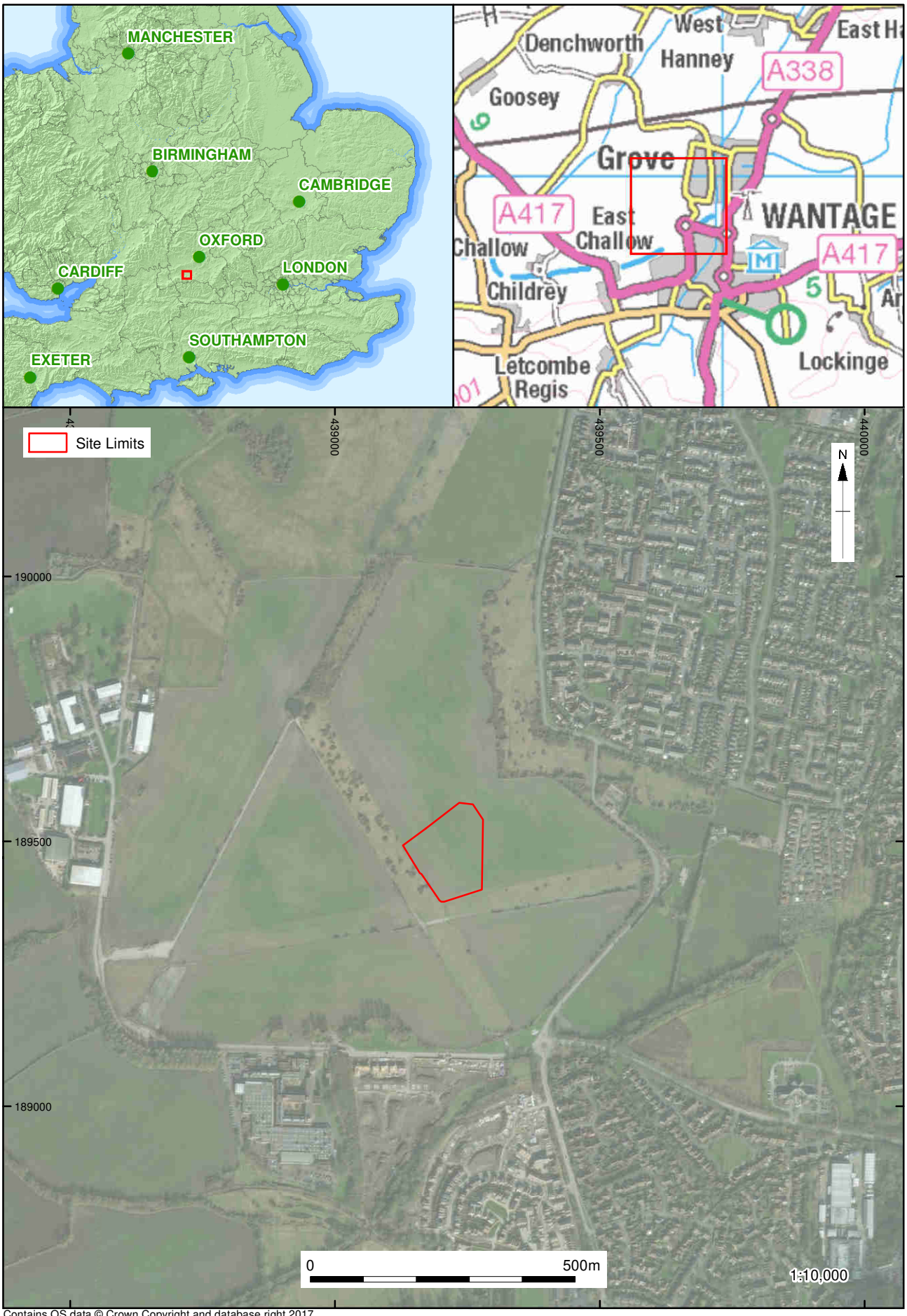

Figure 1: Site location

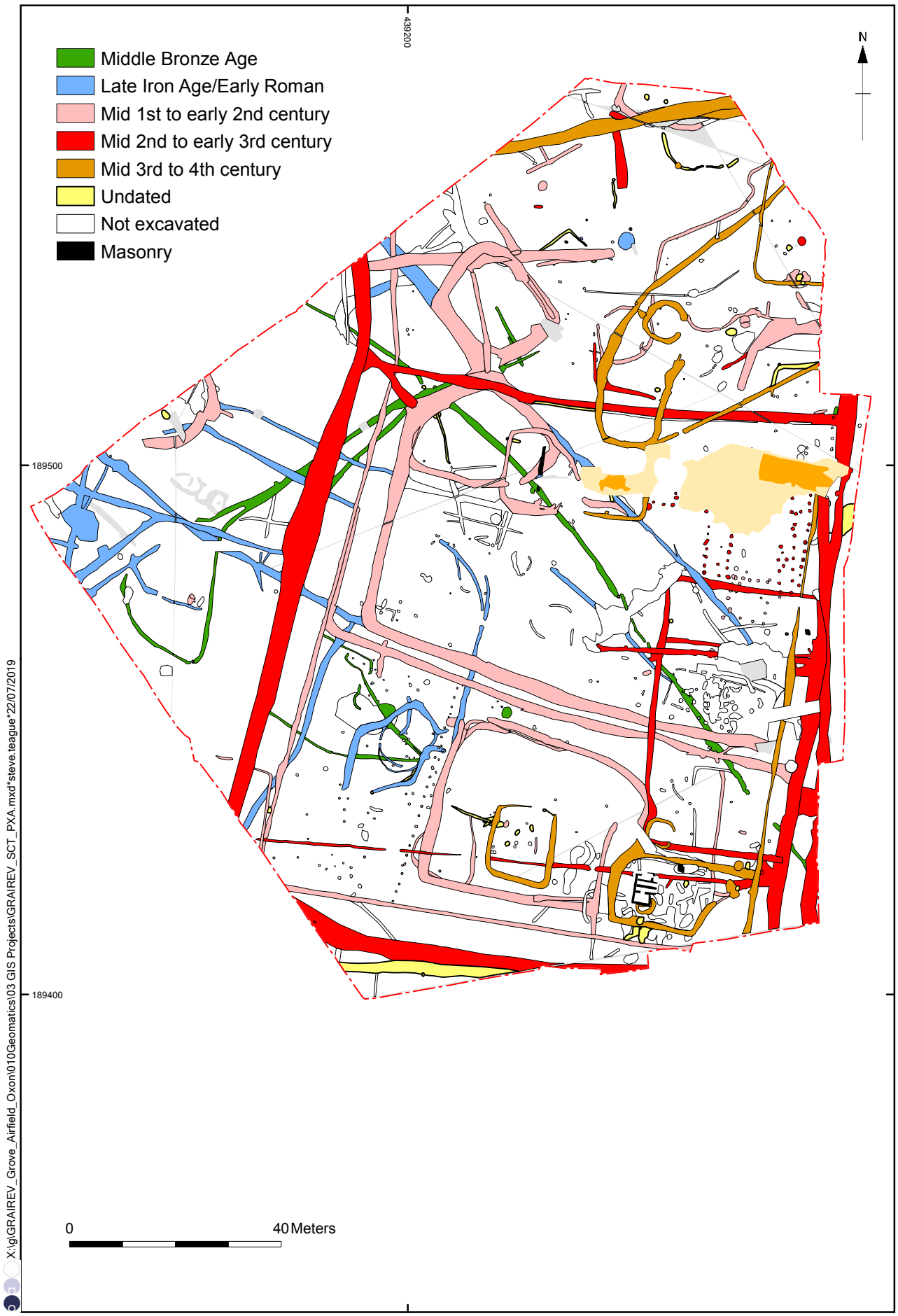

Figure 2: All phases

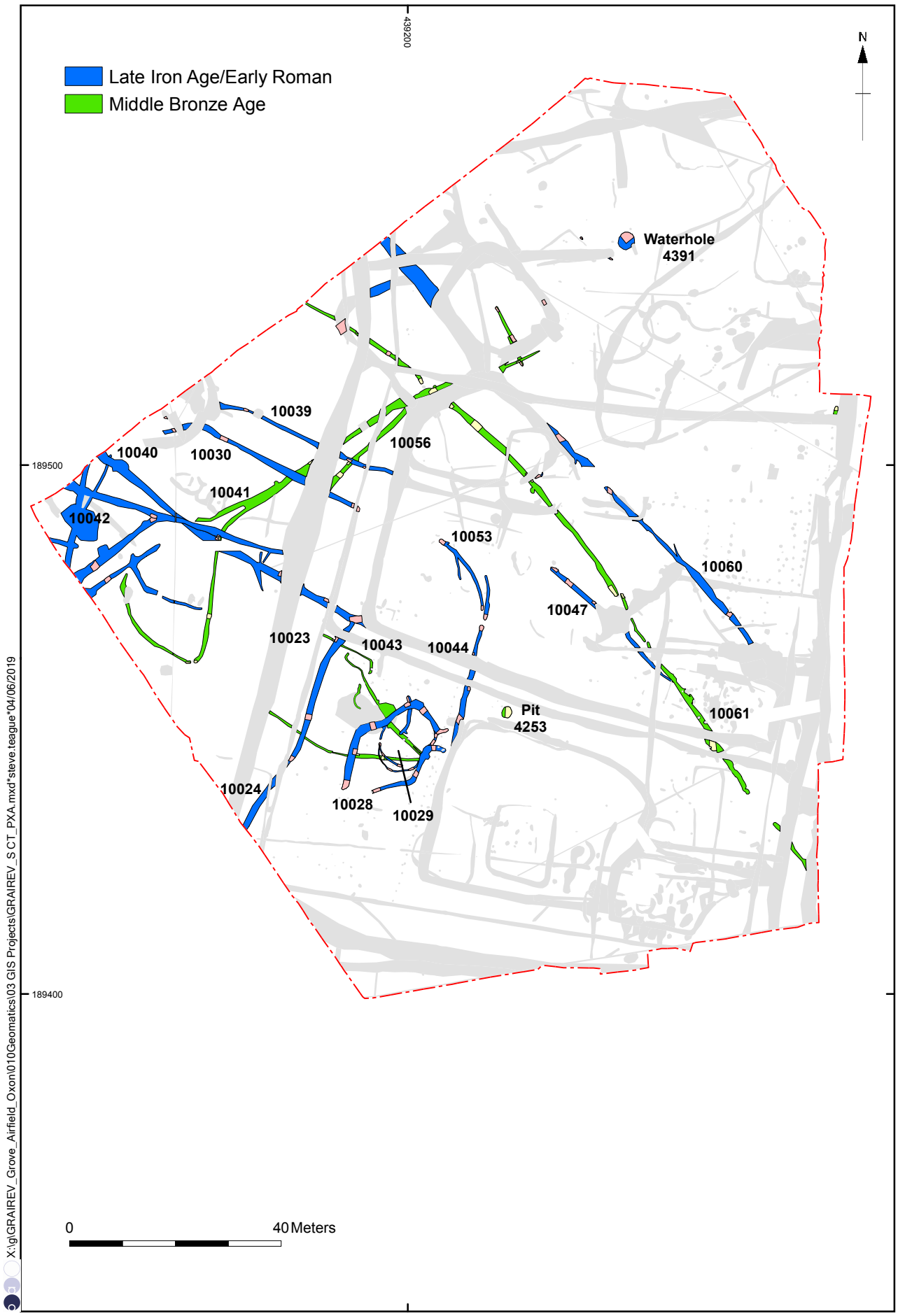

Figure 3: Pre-Roman phases

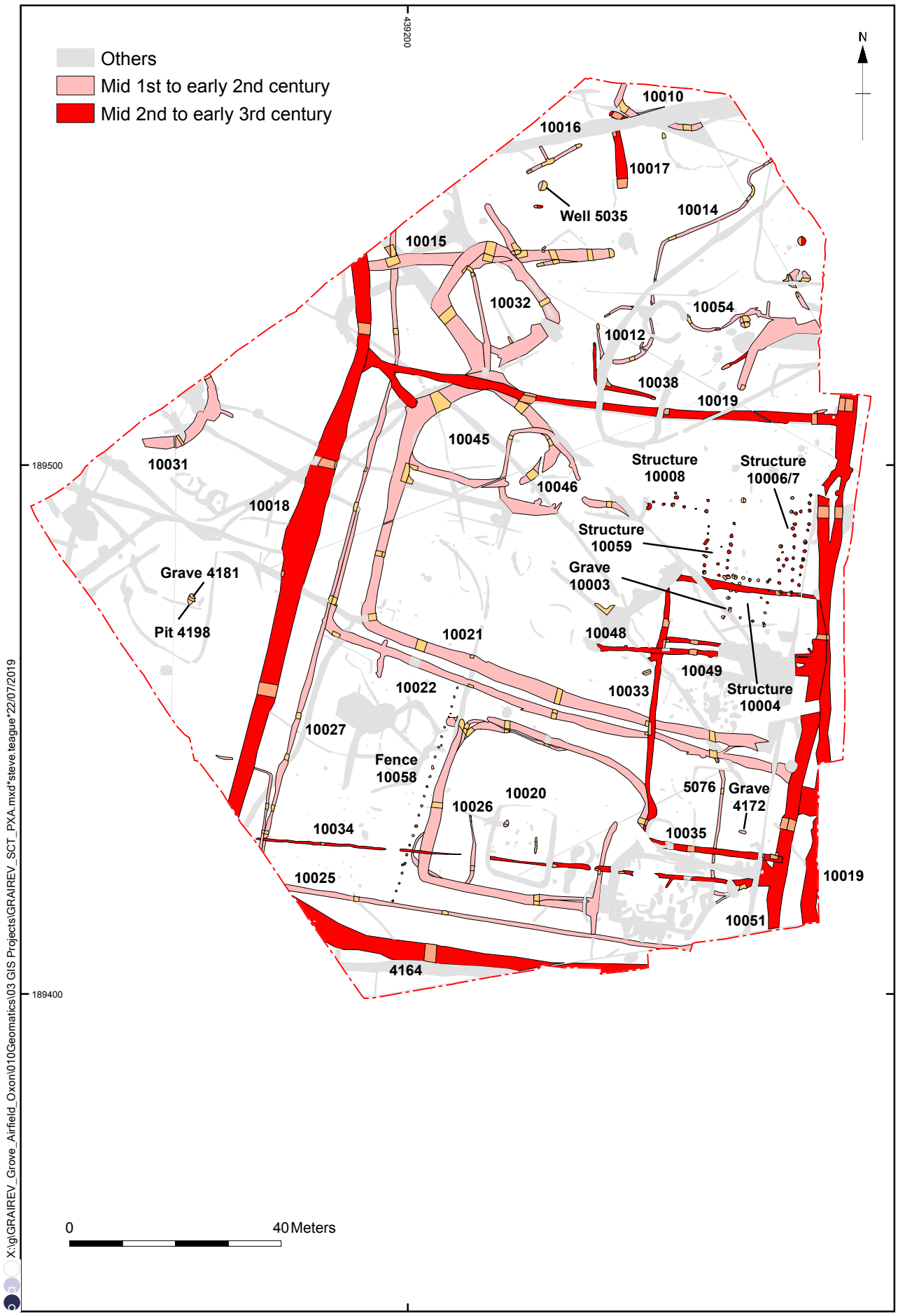

Figure 4: Earlier Roman phases

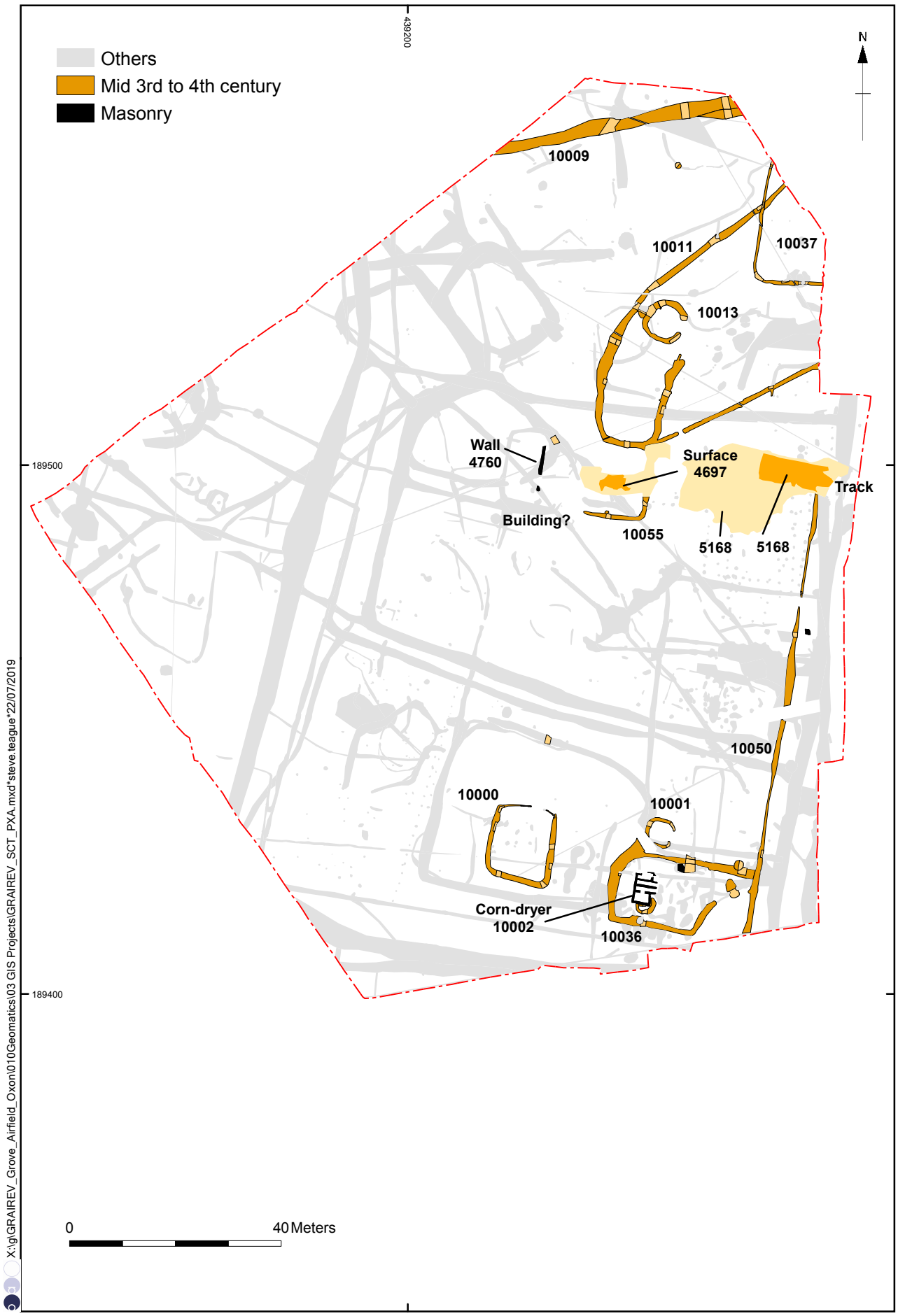

Figure 5: Later Roman

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