

An Archaeological Excavation of Roman Remains on Land at Johnston's Press Oundle Road Peterborough



Excavation Report



July 2016

Client: CgMs

OA East Report No: 1807

OASIS No: oxfordar3-219130

NGR: TL 1802 9731

**An Archaeological Excavation of Roman Remains on Land at Johnston's
Press, Oundle Road, Peterborough**

Archaeological Excavation

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Report Date: July 2016

Report Number: 1807
Site Name: Johnston's Press, Oundle Road, Peterborough
HER Event No:
Date of Works: June-July 2015
Client Name: CgMs
Client Ref: PG/19625/02
Planning Ref: 14/02012/FUL
Grid Ref: TL 1802 9731
Site Code: PETJPO15
Finance Code: PETJPO15
Receiving Body: Peterborough City Council

Accession No:

Prepared by: Robin Webb
Position: Supervisor
Date: 19 July 2016

Checked by: Name
Position: Job title
Date: Date
Signed:

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Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out on the former Johnston's Press site, 322-328 Oundle Road, Peterborough, NGR TL 1802 9731. This work took place ahead of residential development for 93 houses and their associated infrastructure. The excavation in the north-east corner of the development area followed the identification of Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman grave during an archaeological evaluation.

The development area covered 2.3 hectares, with the excavation covering 880m² in its north-east corner. An additional 210m² was opened up on the western edge of the main excavation area in order to ascertain the limits of archaeological activity.

The excavation revealed elements of the periphery of a later Iron Age enclosed farmstead and Middle to Late Roman linear farmstead. The fields were most likely paddock enclosures, with grassland seed and little cereal grain being recovered from features. The later activity included eight burials near the edges of fields, with domestic activity reducing in the area. Evidence for activity within the site spans from the Iron Age, through the Roman period – though with a break in the Early Roman period. There was limited post-medieval activity.

The inhumations that were recovered from the site were Late Roman and had variations in the ways in which they were buried. The graves were shallow, and the skeletons were fragmented due to ploughing across the site. All of the skeletons were recovered from clusters that were within a 20m² area of the site. Four of the skeletons were of young adult males, one of a young adult female, one of a 40-45 year old female, and two of adults of indeterminate gender. Overall preservation levels of the bones was poor, with high fragmentation levels and little of the bone surface remaining. Three of the graves were aligned south to north, two west to east, two north-west to south-east, and one south-west to north-east. Four of the graves contained iron nails around the edges, indicating the presence of coffins. The graves probably represent a small family burial area on the edges of a field system.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted on land at Johnston's Press, 322-328 Oundle Road, Peterborough, NGR TL 1802 9731 (Fig. 1). The work took place in advance of the residential development of the site (for 93 residential units and their associated infrastructure) under condition 3 of its planning consent (planning application reference 14/02012/FUL). The excavation area was focused in the north-east corner of the development plot following evaluation work carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) in May 2015 (Porter 2015). This evaluation identified features only in the north-east corner of the development area.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough City Council (PCC; Planning Application 14/02012/FUL), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Paul Gajos of CgMs Consulting (Gajos 2015).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on archaeological remains and to assist in defining the character and extent of those archaeological remains identified during the 2015 evaluation by PCA, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by PCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The bedrock geology of the site, as mapped by the British Geological Survey, is Kellaways Clay Member Mudstone overlying superficial deposits recorded as River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2015).
- 1.2.2 The site is situated at 12.1mOD along the eastern edge of the current excavation area, and slopes down to 11.8mOD on the western edge of the stripped area. The River Nene is located approximately 700m to the north of the current excavation area.
- 1.2.3 The development site is located to the south of Oundle Road, Peterborough, in the Fletton parish, and is bounded on the northern edge by residential properties. The site is approximately 1.75km to the south-west of Peterborough city centre. The area being redeveloped covers 2.3ha, centred on NGR TL 1802 9731, with the current excavation area covering 880m² with a contingency area of 210m². The parcel of land being developed has an irregular shape and is occupied by disused industrial buildings (the former Johnston's Press Ltd buildings). The excavation area forms a triangle in the north-east corner of the site on land that had been occupied by a car park.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background has been based upon the background information in Garwood (2014). The locations of the sites within 500m of the development can be seen on Fig 2.

General background

- 1.3.2 The location of the current site, on the well drained and archaeologically rich river gravels of the lower reaches of the Nene Valley, give a high potential for the recovery of prehistoric archaeological remains. These gravels have historically yielded significant assemblages of early

prehistoric flint tools, and the wider area around Peterborough provides a nationally important and archaeologically rich landscape with the extensive and long-lived Bronze Age agricultural, funerary and religious activities of Flag Fen to the east (Garwood 2014,12).

1.3.3 Although the site is currently within the parish of Fletton, prior to 1905 the parish existed as Woodston Urban parish, having been split from the civil parish of Woodston under the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1894 (Garwood 2014, 6)

1.3.4 The manor of Woodston was given by King Edgar (959-975) to Bishop Ethelwold of Winchester in exchange for other land. Subsequently, the manor was given to the Abbey of Thorney, which held the land until the dissolution of the monasteries (Jamison 1974,233). Woodston is now a largely residential district within the city of Peterborough whose mention in the Domesday Survey of 1086 names it as *Wodestun* (Williams and Martin 1992 cited in Allen and Clay 2010,3).

Early Prehistoric (to c.2500 BC)

1.3.5 The archaeological evidence that has been gathered for prehistoric activity within the area around the site comes primarily from antiquarian finds and from observations made during sand and gravel extraction works that were exploiting the river terrace gravels to its east during the early 20th century. These predominantly revealed Palaeolithic and Mesolithic material (Gajos 2015,3). This includes a Palaeolithic floor found between 1906 and 1914 by G.W. Abbott (HER 01656a; figure 2), and a collection of over 50 early or middle Acheulian hand-axes and a few Levallois flakes in a gravel pit (HER 01404; Fox *et al* 1974,198), both about 200m to the east of the current site. In this same area, about 150m to the east of the site, an assemblage of Mesolithic worked flints that includes flakes and flake blades, notched scrapers and blades (HER 01404a) were recovered; whilst about 250m to the south-east flint arrowheads were unearthed in 1910 on the western side of Woodston Cemetery.

1.3.6 About 1.6km to the south-west of the development area, possible Neolithic burial activity is represented by burial mounds on low lying land to the north of Orton Longueville (HER 01392, 01620; Casa-Hatton 2001,3)

Bronze Age (c.2500-800 BC)

1.3.7 During the Bronze Age, settlement along the Nene Valley has been shown, by the general distribution of finds, to have been distributed along the banks of the River Nene (Fox *et al* 1974, 207). Archaeological excavation on the site of the former British Sugar Works site, about 150m to the north-north-west of the current site, revealed evidence of Late Bronze Age domestic activity in the form of ditches; alongside gullies, pits and postholes of uncertain date (HER 51287, 51751, Westgarth 2005,3).

1.3.8 Burial patterns shifted during the Middle Bronze Age with cremations becoming the preferred type of burial over inhumations. Discovered during gravel extraction, about 350m to the north-west of the current site, near the Cross Keys Inn, was a Bronze Age cremation with Kimmeridge shale beads and an inverted collared urn over the ashes (HER 01716a). This was later disturbed by an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (HER 01716; Fox *et al* 1974, 206-7).

Iron Age (c.800 BC – AD 43)

1.3.9 The occupation of land on the gravel belt of the southern slopes of the Nene Valley followed the typical Iron Age pattern of being on valley gravels near a water course (Elrington 1978,29). The area saw the previous occupation pattern continuing, with Woodston and Fletton demonstrating Early Iron Age settlement, and the River Nene being used as part of the transport/communication network. Evidence of this has been demonstrated 150m to the south-west of the current site through a series of pits; finds that have been retrieved from gravel quarries, including pottery, animal bone and pot boilers alongside a hearth; and three or four

extended burials (HER 01711; Fox *et al* 1974, 209-10, 212-3). This continuation of settlement near the current site has been demonstrated within the area of the former British Sugar factory by an archaeological evaluation carried out in 2001 (HER 51166; Casa-Hatton 2001). This evaluation revealed two possible circular post-built structures, artefacts and a substantial ditch that were comparable with other Iron Age remains found in the general area (Casa-Hatton 2001,15; Gajos 2015,3).

- 1.3.10 By the Late Iron Age Peterborough lay on the borders of areas governed by three different tribes who appear to have formed part of a prosperous agricultural landscape: the Catuvellauni to the south, the Corieltavi to the north and west, and the Iceni to the east (Garwood 2014, 12).

Roman (AD 43-410)

- 1.3.11 The Nene Valley is rich in Roman remains, with settlements included at Castor, Longthorpe and Water Newton (*Durobrivae*) (Punchard 2008,4), and with Ermine Street (5.5km to the west) linking London to Lincoln and beyond (Taylor 1974,221). *Durobrivae* was located at the point where Ermine Street crosses the River Nene on the Fen edge, and became the largest industrial complex known in eastern Roman Britain (Garwood 2014,13; Mackreth 1995,151). It was a fortified garrison town that was established in the mid 1st century AD which began as a small five acre fort and gradually developed into a town that served the needs of the fort and travellers on Ermine Street (Garwood 2014,13). A second fort, designed to house half a legion, or about 3,000 soldiers, existed nearby at Longthorpe (Garwood 2014,13).
- 1.3.12 The pottery industry transformed the Nene Valley with the exploitation of the boulder clay, and was well established by the middle of the 2nd century, dominating pottery production in the area by AD 200 (Mackreth 1995,151). Kilns were built on the gravel banks close to Ermine Street, but sites extended 20 miles up and down the valley with the potters not staying settled in one spot for long. This was facilitated by the fuel provided by the wooded slopes to the north and south, and by the transport network provided by the River Nene and Ermine Street (Taylor 1974,221). Until the post-medieval period, the River Nene was tidal up to the point of *Durobrivae*, and as such provided an effective transport route, with pottery kilns around the line of the river, including at Longthorpe – about 1.5km to the north-west of the current site – and at Stanground – about 2.5km to the south-east – (Mackreth 1995,150,151; Wachter 1974,409, figure 87). Cemeteries were typically located immediately outside the settlements, as were the pottery kilns, workshops, rubbish pits and small dwellings (Taylor 1974,247).
- 1.3.13 Three sites in the vicinity of the development area have yielded coins: a hoard along Orton Avenue to the east (HER 01402), a group of 16 coins towards Fletton (HER 01643), and a coin was recovered in the late 19th century just to the north of the site, at Woodston Hill (HER 01415).
- 1.3.14 There were five large semi-rural buildings on the outskirts of *Durobrivae* – such as at Cirencester, Leicester or Great Casterton – with at least four of them being villas, and that at Castor village being on a larger scale (Mackreth 1995,152, 154). To the north-west of *Durobrivae* there is a noticeable gap in the settlement pattern that is likely to have been brought about by the reservation of the woodland area for the fuel needed for the pottery production and iron-smelting of the area (Mackreth 1995,151; 1996,232). Settlement in the area of the Nene Valley continued between the Iron Age and Roman periods, with an Iron Age farm located close to the Roman fort at Longthorpe, 2km to the north-west of the site (SAM 135; Casa-Hatton 2001,4). This fort had a fording place across the River Nene nearby (HER 04321) and further Roman occupation remains to the south of the river (Casa-Hatton 2001,4). Although the same areas were occupied between the Iron Age and Roman period, there was a slight shift in the

location – small villages moved onto higher ground than the earlier Iron Age settlements (Taylor 1974,250). Fletton and Woodston saw settlement from the 1st century (Taylor 1974,221).

- 1.3.15 Clay and gravel extraction throughout the 19th century in the area around the current site has revealed the remains of huts with pottery, pins and human remains (Taylor 1974,249). About 1.6km to the south-east of the development area clay digging revealed levelled floors, pits and 15 burials along with a pit containing Roman debris of oyster shell, animal bone, black soil, cinders, pottery, pins, bronze rings and coins (Taylor 1974,249-250). Within the development area, evidence of Roman rubbish disposal is seen by the finding of pits on the southern edge (HER 01407; Garwood 2014,13). Further evidence of Roman activity and settlement can be seen from the investigations made by the Peterborough Archaeology Group between 1997 and 1999 prior to the development of Lidgate Close to the west of the development area (HER 51165). These works revealed box tiles, *tegulae* and Roman building materials alongside metalled surfaces and the remains of a well and a possible oven. These, along with the tablewares and coarsewares that were recovered suggests the presence of a well developed farmstead and villa complex of the 3rd and 4th centuries AD (HER 51165; Garwood 2014,14).
- 1.3.16 The focus of Roman activity in the area around the development area is burial activity, with 14, possibly Roman, inhumation burials identified by G.W. Abbott in 1911 in a field to the north-west of the site (HER 01716b). Most of these graves did not contain burial goods, although those that did had beads, buckles, knives, keys, an ivory ring, and a ring (Garwood 2014,13). The potential for this area along Oundle Road and the lower slopes of the Nene Valley being a burial site or cemetery during the Roman period is reinforced with the three inhumation burials (HER 01405), probably of Roman date, and heavily disturbed late Roman 4th century skeletal remains (HER 10086) that were recovered from within the bounds of the development area. This would place the burial site or cemetery east of the Ermine Street crossing of the River Nene, and suggests that it may have served the settlements of Peterborough or *Durobrivae* (Garwood 2014,19).
- 1.3.17 Orton Longueville, 1.75km to the south-west of the development, was the site of a small farmstead that lasted from the later 1st century BC to the middle of the 2nd century AD, when the earthworks were incorporated into the Roman field system, and the corner of an enclosure used for a small cemetery of nine burials (Mackreth 2001).

Saxon (AD 410-1066)

- 1.3.18 Settlement again continued into the early-medieval/Anglo-Saxon period with a posthole structure and several pits to the north-west of the current site (Westgarth 2005,3) and a Saxon village in the form of 'huts', artefacts and human remains found on the eastern side of Oundle Road, about 200m to the east of the current site (HER 01656; (Casa-Hatton 2001,4). In addition, evidence of *grubenhausen* (sunken feature building) exists about 1.4km and 2.5km to the south-west of the development area (HERs 01806 and 0206). The area known as Woodston Cemetery to the north-west of the development area contained Anglo-Saxon vessels (HER 01416; Garwood 2014,14).
- 1.3.19 In contrast to the evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity on the southern bank of the River Nene, there is very little evidence for this on the northern bank.
- 1.3.20 Anglo-Saxon burial evidence is also prevalent to the south of the River Nene within the vicinity of the development area. To the west, a possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery of inhumation burials with grave goods that included iron weapons was reported during the excavation of a pipeline during World War 2 (HER 50386; Garwood 2014,14). About 350m to the north-west, on Woodstone Hill, a barrow found during sand extraction contained “excellent urns, pottery and ashes” (HER 52052; Garwood 2014,14).

Medieval (AD 1066-1500)

- 1.3.21 The medieval development of Woodston was linked to trade and transport and based on the agriculture of the area, with the village able to benefit from its proximity to the river and the medieval town of Peterborough (Casa-Hatton 2001,5). This is emphasised through the embargement point at Botolph Bridge, about 600m to the west, which allowed for the transport of stone from the quarries beyond Alwalton, to towns such as Cambridge (Casa-Hatton 2001,5; Kenny 1998,5).
- 1.3.22 In contrast to earlier periods, there is limited physical evidence of medieval settlement uncovered through evaluation works carried out in the area. Beyond that shown for the deserted medieval village at Botolph Bridge (also known as *Bottlebridge* or *Botuleuesbrige*; Kenny 1998,5), 900m to the west of the current site (HER 01805), there was an early medieval building about 800m to the east of the development area (HER 01631; Casa-Hatton 2001,4).
- 1.3.23 Instead, the medieval activity that has been uncovered relates to farming with boundaries and ridge and furrow, such as that identified about 600m to the south of the excavation area (HER 01408). A medieval cultivation layer and possible remains of ridge and furrow were also uncovered during an archaeological evaluation at the former British Sugar factory to the north (HER 51624; Garwood 2014, 15). This physical evidence is supported by aerial photographs of the area that show the survival of ridge and furrow to the south and west of the site (Gajos 2015,4). This suggests that the area around the development area existed as farmland that served the centre of medieval and post-medieval occupation focused further to the east around the Church of St Augustine and the historic core of Woodston (Garwood 2014, 15).
- 1.3.24 Documentary evidence, though, suggests that there was considerable settlement along Oundle Road to the east of the site (Casa-Hatton 2001,5). The meandering course of Oundle Road was able to serve the settlements of Yaxley, Farcet, Stanground, Fletton, Woodston, Botolph Bridge and Orton Longueville from the 12th century, forming a loop within the arms of the Nene and rejoining Ermine Street at Alwalton (Punchard 2008,6). This emphasises the focus of settlement activity further eastwards from the site in the parish of St Augustine, and can be seen with the 11th-16th century building remains and in-filled pond located to the south-east (HER 51482; Casa-Hatton 2009 cited in Allen and Clay 2010,3).

Post-medieval (AD 1500 to present)

- 1.3.25 Archaeological evidence for earlier post-medieval activity around the development area is scarce: it is limited to a few gun flints found amongst an assemblage of prehistoric flints to the east (HER 01404/01404a); timber structures consisting of postholes and gullies that produced sherds of 18th century pottery at the former British Sugar factory (HER 51621) and a bronze Louis Napoleon coin of 1853 found in a garden on Gordon Avenue to the south-east (HER 50600; Garwood 2014, 15).
- 1.3.26 Documentary and cartographic evidence shows that since the early 19th century the Woodston area remained as open farmland and water meadows before the gradual encroachment of housing from the southern edge of Peterborough. This spread of activity, the support of the railway and branch lines from the mid 19th century, and the exploitation of the abundant aggregate and clay deposits for brick making and construction brought extensive industrialisation of the area (Garwood 2014,16-17).
- 1.3.27 The current site, however, managed to avoid significant quarrying activity and development until the construction of the print works in the later 1960s (Gajos 2015,4). The northern boundary of the site lies on Oundle Road, whilst the western boundary can be seen in existence by the 1811 Inclosure map of Woodston parish amongst agricultural farmland (PM5/11 in Garwood 2014,16, figure 5). By the 1924 revised 25 inch OS edition (sheet 11.16 in Garwood 2014,16-17, figure 9) the area around the development site had become a mixture of allotments and gravel extraction

pits, whilst the six inch OS edition of 1969-71 (TL19NE in Garwood 2014,17, figure 11) is the first to show the now disused printworks on the development area (to the south-west of the current site).

- 1.3.28 The 19th and 20th centuries saw the industrialisation of the formerly rural parish, and the area to the south of Peterborough in general, with the presence of an artificial silk works, brick works, the British Sugar factory, a distillery, a cold storage building and the Fletton branch line. The London Brick Company was responsible for many of the finds during the 19th century with their exploitation of the clays and cornbrash in the area, and were the largest landowners in the parish (Victoria County History 1936 cited in Garwood 2014,15).

Previous archaeological work

- 1.3.29 An archaeological evaluation took place within the development area during April and May 2015 (Porter 2015). This work was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology and consisted of five evaluation trenches in the least disturbed areas of the site, located on the northern and southern edges of the development area. Four of these trenches did not reveal any archaeological evidence, whilst the sixth, in the north-east corner, identified a concentration of features. These consisted of five ditches, one of which contained Iron Age pottery; a pit containing Iron Age pottery; an undated posthole; and a grave cut containing human remains and that was thought to be of Roman date. The pit and posthole were thought to represent evidence of settlement in the vicinity of the site, whilst the ditches were thought to demonstrate phases of enclosure or field systems (Gajos 2015,4).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Persimmon Homes. The machine excavation was carried out by Rose Plant Hire, whilst archaeological hand excavation was carried out by Matthew Brooks, Paul Clarke, Toby Knight, Adele Lord, Kathryn Nicholls and Rebecca Pridmore. The site was supervised by Robin Webb, managed by Aileen Connor, and advice and monitoring was provided by Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough City Council.

2. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Brief and Written Scheme of Investigation (Gajos 2015, 5-6).

2.1.2 The main aims of this excavation were:

To mitigate the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological remains. The development would have severely impacted upon these remains and as a result a full excavation was required, targeting the areas of archaeological interest highlighted by the previous phases of evaluation.

To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record for deposition with an appropriate museum and HER, and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

To establish the spatial extent of the archaeological activity within the site.

To assess the site formation processes and the effects that these may have had on the survival and integrity of the archaeological features and deposits.

2.1.3 The aims and objectives of the excavation were developed with reference to the goals of the Regional Research Frameworks relevant to the area:

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3);

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8);

Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Framework for the East of England (Medleycott 2011).

2.2 Site Specific Research Objectives

2.2.1 The current project has the potential to add to the research priorities identified in the Revised Research Framework (Medleycott 2011) with regards to the Iron Age with aspects that include:

Dating and chronology

The Bronze Age/Iron Age transition

The Iron Age/Roman transition

Settlement types

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gajos 2015).

2.3.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a tracked 360° excavator using a 2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. Initial ground breaking was carried out with a pneumatic ground breaker to get through the hard standing tarmac across the site. This was then cleared with the ditching bucket before the overburden was removed. Subsoil was taken down in 0.1m spits until natural deposits or archaeological features were reached, whichever was the sooner. Two areas were opened up – the main excavation area located close to the northern and eastern boundaries of the site, and a second contingency area at the western end of the main area. The contingency

area was designed to continue on from the main area, but the presence of unmarked cables meant a gap of 1.5m was left.

- 2.3.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.3.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.3.5 A total of 111 samples were taken during the excavation of the site, and these included those taken from from the different areas of the skeletal remains that were uncovered. The samples not taken from the burials or cremations were taken as bulk samples of 20 litres each, or 100% of the fill if this was less than 20 litres, with a focus on features that did not contain artefacts or deposits that looked as though they might contain environmental material. The possible cremations had 100% of their deposits taken as a sample, and the inhumation burials had samples taken from the general grave fill below the body, by the skull, the chest, each of the hands and each of the feet, with additional soil being taken from the pelvis for the recovery of parasites. In cases where bones did not remain for areas of the body, samples were still taken from the area of the grave where it was expected the body would be in case the bone had deteriorated to such an extent that it did not survive.
- 2.3.6 The site was opened during a period of hot, sunny weather that continued throughout the excavation period. This meant that the ground remained compact and dusty, with the few periods of rain making little impact on the visibility of features. The constant sun meant that shadows were unavoidable in many of the photographs.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The Johnston's Press site was excavated in two regions in the north-eastern corner of the development area, all of which was overlain by a tarmac carpark (Fig 3; Plate 1). The excavation areas were separated by a 1.5m baulk that contained a cable, revealed during machining, that ran north to south across the site. This created the main excavation area of 880m², and the contingency area of 210m² to the west of the main area.

3.1.2 The excavation showed that human activity focused on the eastern side of the site (Plates 2 and 3), possibly extending outside the development area to the east. This activity consisted of cut features and deposits from the Iron Age and Roman periods, with additional evidence of post-medieval intrusions. There were also a handful of undated features around the edges of the two excavation areas. There was a degree of stratigraphy that demonstrated different phases of activity and re-use of features within the area. Also, discrete features respected previous activity. The results are presented chronologically and then by feature type in order to provide a narrative of the life of the site. The phases of activity represented on the site were:

Prehistoric

(a) **Phase 1: Prehistoric** (c.4,000-350BC; Fig. 4)

(b) **Phase 2: Later Iron Age** (c.350-50 BC; Fig. 5)

Roman

(c) **Phase 3: Middle Roman** (c.AD 150-410; Fig. 6)

(d) **Phase 4: Late Roman** (c.AD 300-410; Fig. 7)

Post-medieval

(e) **Phase 5: Post-medieval** (c.AD 1500-present; Fig. 8)

3.1.3 The natural deposits (004) of the site consisted of a mixed soft and friable dark red-brown clay and sand with frequent gravel patches. Cutting into the natural deposits were the archaeological features (discussed below in sections 9-12), and these were sealed by a plastic dark brown clay-silt subsoil (003). Modern activity had taken place across the site with the development of a car park across the area. The deposits that made up this disturbance consisted of a soft mid orange-yellow sand and sandstone levelling layer (002) – 0.09m deep in the south-west corner of the site, and ranging up to 0.45m deep in the north-east corner – which was sealed by a layer of tarmac (001).

3.2 Undated

3.2.1 Several features across the site could not be confidently dated due to the absence of material culture recovered from the deposits within them. Some could be relatively dated from the stratigraphic relationships that they had with features that contained pottery. These features were focused around the limits of the main excavation area, and included all of those in the contingency area.

Possible cremations

3.2.2 Two small pits (**188** and **189**; plate 4) were located by the southern edge of the excavation area, within the bounds of ditches **40**, **52** and **190**. These contained burnt material. They both had circular shapes in plan, although the profiles differed slightly: pit **188** had steep sides with a flat base, whilst pit **189** had gentle sides and an uneven base. Both were filled by similar deposits

which consisted of a friable black-grey and clay mix that included abundant fragments of charcoal (198 and 199 respectively). It is possible that these features were cremations but no burnt bone was recovered from either of them. However, pit **188** contained charred cereal grains which may have been associated with a funerary rite.

Ditches

- 3.2.3 The south-east corner of the excavation area revealed a 'horseshoe' shaped ditch (**110**, also excavated as segments **130**, **132**, **134**, **136** and **138**) that had gentle sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid green-brown silty sand (111). Its opening was to the north-west. This feature may have been used as an animal pen or shelter, perhaps relating to the field systems of either the later Iron Age or Roman phases of activity on the site.
- 3.2.4 The contingency area revealed a single ditch (**165**) that may have been utilised as a drainage channel as it was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, with gentle sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand (164) and continued to the north of the site, but appears to have terminated in the area disturbed by modern cabling as there was no sign of it in the main excavation area.

Pit

- 3.2.5 On the southern edge of the excavation area, a pit (**192**) was uncovered and did not appear to be associated with any feature. This pit cut into the top of later Iron Age ditch **190**. It had a circular shape in plan, gentle sides and a concave base, and was filled by a firm light green-grey clay (193). No artefacts were recovered from this pit.

Postholes

- 3.2.6 Across the site there were several postholes, most of which could not be dated as they were discrete features and did not contain artefacts.

Fenceline

- 3.2.7 The eastern edge of the excavation area revealed a series of postholes in a north to south alignment. They were all fully excavated but none contained any artefacts. Their alignment suggested that they may have formed a fence line, but further excavation to the east (under a current carpark) may reveal further associated postholes. All of these postholes were fairly uniform, with a circular shape in plan, steep – with nearly vertical sides – and a concave base. They were filled by friable dark grey-brown sandy silts.
- 3.2.8 The northern posthole (**97**, filled by 96) was located 0.5m from the north-eastern corner of the site. Continuing the line 2.8m to the south was posthole **99** (filled by 98), followed by posthole **101** (filled by 100) 2.4m to the south, posthole **109** (filled by 108) 4.6m further south, and with posthole **172** as the southernmost posthole, located 9.7m further south. Within this line there was the potential for postholes to be masked, as features existed over the locations where it may have been expected that other posthole would have been present. Ditch **186** may have masked such a feature between postholes **101** and **109**, and grave **105** may have cut away a posthole.
- 3.2.9 The only outlying posthole of this line was posthole **248**, which aligned slightly to the west of it, 2.4m north-north-west of posthole **172**. This posthole was circular in plan, with a 45 degree slope to the east and a shallow slope to the west, with a concave base, and was filled by a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (249).

Miscellaneous

- 3.2.10 Other undated postholes were located across the site, but these did not have clearly associated features, whether other postholes or features. These are outlined from the eastern side of the

site. The easternmost discrete posthole was posthole **54**, located to the south of ditch **81** and to the east of tree bowl **182**. This posthole had a sub-circular shape in plan, steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft light brown-grey silty sand (55). Located 1.3m to the south-south-west of posthole **54** was posthole **128**, which was circular in plan, had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey-brown silty sand (129). Further to the west was posthole **242**, 0.2m east of ditch **40**. This posthole was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a plastic grey clay (243).

3.2.11 Posthole **83**, cutting across later Iron Age ditch **81**, was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base, was filled by a soft mid grey-brown sandy silt (84). Although there are no clearly related postholes, it is near postholes **54** and **128** (which were undated, see paragraph 9.10 above).

3.2.12 The western side of the main excavation area contained a series of undated features that included postholes. The easternmost of these postholes was **22**, on the eastern edge of ditch **12**. This posthole was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a firm mid brown-grey silty sand (23). In the contingency area there were three postholes, the easternmost of which was posthole **163**, which was circular in plan with 45 degree sides and a pointed base, and was filled by a friable dark brown-grey clayey silt (162). Located 2m to the west of this was posthole **167** which was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark yellow-brown clayey sand (166). This posthole cut into a natural hollow (**169**) that had an irregular shape in plan, gentle sides and an irregular base, and was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand (168). To the north of posthole **167** was a further posthole (**161**) with a circular shape in plan, steep sides and a concave base, and that was filled by a friable dark grey-brown sandy silt (160).

3.3 Prehistoric

Phase 1: Prehistoric

3.3.1 The earliest features on the site did not provide any secure dating material, but can be phased as they were cut by later Iron Age features. These features are likely to represent the periphery of settlement activity as a series of three ditches related to a field system (**14**, **52** and **80**), two ditches forming part of an enclosure (**21** (Fig. 11, section5) and **221**), and one ditch that had an uncertain use (**63**). There was also a quarry pit (**69**) and pit (**180**), that was either drained by or fed into gully **157**.

Enclosure

3.3.2 The north-western quadrant of the main excavation area contained an enclosure ditch (**21**) that was recut in the later Iron Age as ditch **19**. The original phase of the ditch, represented by a shallow edge, had gentle sides and a base cut away by the later phases of activity. This ditch was filled by a friable dark greyish brown clayey silt (20), and appears to have been towards the terminus of the enclosure as there is no sign of it continuing to the east of ditch **40**. This enclosure may have been continued to the south-east, where a second prehistoric ditch (**221**) was heavily truncated by ditch **190**. Only a small portion of this ditch was evident, where it had gentle sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft light yellow-brown silty sand (223) that had been covered by a soft mid grey-brown sandy silt (222). The primary fill of this ditch was likely to have been the result of slumping in from its sides. No artefacts were recovered from this ditch.

Field system ditches

3.3.3 The pair of field system ditches were utilised a perpendicular alignment (ditch **14** running north to south, and ditch **80** running east to west). This suggests that they may have been part of the

same field system and intersected to the north of the excavation area. Ditch **14** (also excavated as segments **31** and **35**), towards the western end of the excavation area, was linear in plan. It had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark brown silty sand (13). There was an irregularity about its width, getting narrower towards the south, and it was truncated at its northern end by a Late Iron Age ditch (**19**). This ditch may have been utilised for drainage or for dividing land within an animal husbandry setting. Ditch **80**, on the northern edge of the site, was a terminus that had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid brown-grey silty sand (197). It was truncated on its southern edge by a Late Iron Age ditch (**81**).

Miscellaneous

Ditches

- 3.3.4 The prehistoric phase of activity on the site included ditches that did not have obvious functions. These were ditch **52** towards the southern edge of the excavation area, ditch **63** towards the northern edge, and gully **157** towards the north-eastern corner of the site. The first of these, ditch **52** (also excavated as segments **77** and **236**), had a slightly curvilinear shape in plan, with a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment at its western end becoming north-east to south-westerly at its northern end. It had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a friable mixed grey and brown sandy silt (53). This ditch was truncated at its western end by ditch **40** and by ditch **28** at its eastern end, and was cut across by ditch **190** and grave **224**.
- 3.3.5 The second prehistoric ditch that cannot be given a more specific date than pre-later Iron Age was ditch **63**. This ditch was aligned north-east to south-west, had 45 degree sides and a flat base, and was filled by a soft dark grey-brown sandy silt (62). It has been dated to this phase as it was truncated by a Late Roman ditch (**59**) at its northern end and cut across by later Iron Age ditches (**61** and **19**). It was also truncated by grave **8** and cut into by grave **227**.
- 3.3.6 The third of these ditches (**157**), much more on the scale of a gully, was linear and aligned north-west to south-east. It had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a firm mid orange-brown silty sand (158). No artefacts were recovered from this gully, but it was cut by ditch **90** at its northern end and ran into pit **180** at its southern end.

Pits

- 3.3.7 The north-east corner of the excavation area contained a circular pit (**180**) that intersected with gully **157**. This pit was shallow with steep sides, a flat base, and was filled by a compact dark brown-grey clayey silt (181). Animal bone was recovered from this pit. This pit was much more circular than any of the other pits on the site, and its fill was much darker. Its relationship with gully **157** suggests that the gully was used to either drain or fill the pit.
- 3.3.8 There was a single pit (**69**) that could be dated as earlier prehistoric by the fact that it was truncated by the earliest phase of the enclosure ditch **40**. This was likely to have been a quarrying pit dug in order to exploit patches of gravel in the natural soils of the site. It was sub-circular in plan, had gentle sides and a flat base. It was filled by a loose mid orange-brown silty sand (70) which is likely to have been a silting deposit.

Postholes

- 3.3.9 There were two postholes (**44** and **74**) which could be dated as being prehistoric. The northernmost of these, posthole **74**, was sub circular in plan with vertical sides a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey-brown silty sand (75). There were no features obviously related to the use of this posthole, although a curvilinear line is formed with gaps of about 5m by this posthole and postholes **44** and **242** to the south-west. Posthole **44**, was circular in plan, with vertical sides, a concave base, and was filled by a friable mid red-brown sandy silt (43). This posthole was cut across by the earlier phase of enclosure ditch **40**. Posthole **242**, though, was undated (see above in paragraph 9.10).

Phase 2: Later Iron Age

3.3.10 Later Iron Age features were identified across the site, and are likely to represent settlement fringe activity. This activity consisted of an enclosure (ditches **19** and **190**) with a series of miscellaneous ditches to the north-east (**61**, **81** and **184**) and a terminus (**78**; Plate 5). In addition, there was a series of storage pits (**85**, **115**, **121**, **230**, **234** and **240**).

Enclosures

- 3.3.11 There were two later Iron Age ditches (**19** and **40**, plates 6 and 7) that may represent parts of enclosures that existed across the site. These ran perpendicular to each other (**19** ran east to west, and **40** ran north to south). However, only one of them remained in use, with ditch **40** remaining open throughout the Roman and post-medieval periods. This ditch also appears to be a continuation of current property boundaries to the north.
- 3.3.12 The enclosure ditch that went out of use was ditch **19** (also excavated as segment **71**), which had steep sides and a slightly concave base. This ditch was filled by a series of deposits that began with a soft mid red-brown silty sand silting layer (18) which was overlain by a friable mid yellow-brown sandy silt (17) and a friable dark grey-brown sandy silt (15). The western end of ditch **19** had a layer of plastic mid red-brown burnt clay (174). This ditch was a recut of ditch **21** and perhaps represents the opening the ditch up again after a period of disuse lead to the boundary silting up. The line of this ditch was continued into the middle Roman period as ditch **202**, although on a much smaller scale and possibly as a boundary rather than an enclosure.
- 3.3.13 It is possible that the later Iron Age phase of this ditch formed part of an enclosure with undated ditch **190** (also excavated as segment **218**) to the south, with an entranceway on the corner. This ditch was aligned north to south at its northern end, and curved to align north-west to south-east before heading out of the excavation area to the south. The ditch had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid yellow-brown silty sand (220) that was overlain by a soft mid grey-brown sandy silt (191). This ditch contained animal bone and an iron double armed looped spike (small find 17). This ditch cut the earlier phase of the enclosure (ditch **221**).
- 3.3.14 These ditches (**19** and **190**) may have represented the corner of a farmstead enclosure that existed to the south-west of the excavation area, in an area truncated by services and modern buildings.
- 3.3.15 The second of these enclosure ditches was ditch **40** (also excavated as segments **46** and **65**). The earliest phase of this enclosure ditch dated to the later Iron Age, but its use continued in the Late Roman and post-medieval periods. The ditch was aligned north to south and ran across the middle of the excavation area. It had steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a primary deposit of a soft mid red-brown silty sand silting layer that had frequent mid yellowish red patches (39). The other fills of this ditch were from later phases that demonstrated the truncation of other features – such as deposit 39 sealing pit **69**; deposit 38 sealing ditches **19** and **52**, and posthole **44**; and deposit 37 sealing ditch **28** and pit **30**.

Storage Pits

- 3.3.16 This phase of activity on the site also demonstrated the presence of settlement activity in the form of what have been described as storage pits due to their size, profile, and the paucity of artefacts and ecofacts recovered from them. There were four of these features in the eastern half of the excavation area (**115**, **121**, **230** (Fig. 11, section 75) and **240**), with one additional pit that was left open into the Roman period (**85**, plate 8). One further pit (**234**) fits the profile but could not be dated due to the absence of artefacts recovered from it.
- 3.3.17 The southernmost of these features was pit **115**, which had an oval shape in plan, nearly vertical sides and a slightly concave base. This pit was filled by a friable pale brown-grey silty

sand (114), and contained pottery and animal bone. The westernmost of the features was pit **240**, which was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a mid orange-brown silty sand (241). The southern edge of this pit was truncated by grave **227**.

- 3.3.18 Two of the pits were cut by middle Roman ditches (pit **121** cut by ditch **28**, and pit **230** cut by ditch **202**). The first of these (**121**) had an oval shape in plan, vertical sides and a flat base, and was filled by a sequence of deposits: a friable dark grey-brown sandy silt (120) overlain by a soft mid red-brown silty sand (119), friable dark grey-brown sandy silt (118), and soft mid red-brown silty sand (117). All these fills were likely to have been silting deposits that built up whilst the pit was open. These in turn were overlain by a friable dark grey-brown sandy silt sealing deposit (116). The second of the pits was pit **230**, which was almost circular in plan, with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a firm dark grey-brown sandy silt (231) that contained a small amount of pottery and animal bone.
- 3.3.19 The pit that did not contain artefacts to give a secure date, pit **234**, was located between pits **230** and **240**, and had a sub-circular shape in plan, steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a firm mid grey-brown sandy silt (235).
- 3.3.20 A sixth pit (**85**) existed in the excavation area and appears, by its shape in plan and profile, to have been utilised for storage. This pit had a sub-circular shape in plan, vertical sides, and a flat base. It was filled by a friable mixed orange and grey-brown sandy silt (104) that incorporated a lump of firm green-brown clay (102) and was overlain by a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (103), a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (86), and a friable dark brown-grey silty sand (87). This pit was probably utilised for storage during the later Iron Age, but by the Roman period it may have been in an area of limited activity as only a small fragment of pottery was recovered from the second latest fill (86). This pit cut tree rooting (**182**) that contained residual prehistoric pottery.

Miscellaneous

Ditches

- 3.3.21 The western edge of the main excavation area revealed a linear ditch **12** (also excavated as segments **24** and **33**) that ran on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, and had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a friable dark red-brown sandy silt (11), and may have formed a boundary dividing fields enclosed by the ditches to the east. This ditch contained pottery at the northern end and animal bone at the southern end, and was cut across by a modern drain.
- 3.3.22 Within the excavation area there was also a series of features that could be dated to the later Iron Age, but whose function was unclear, largely due to the fragmentary nature of their remains. These consisted of ditches **61**, **78** (also excavated as segment **150**), **81** (also excavated as terminus **246**), **88** (also excavated as segment **153** (Fig. 11, section 49)) and **184**.
- 3.3.23 The westernmost was ditch **61**, aligned north-west to south-east, with 45 degree sides, a concave base and filled by a friable mid grey-brown sandy silty (60) that contained fragments of pottery. This ditch cut across ditch **63**, and ran into ditch **19**. The profile of this ditch suggests that it may have been used for drainage or cultivation.
- 3.3.24 The other two of these were narrow ditches on a roughly north to south alignment (**88**, and **184**). Ditch **88** (also excavated as segment **153**), to the east of ditch **61**, had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a firm mid green-brown silty sand (89) that contained pottery and animal bone. This ditch cut into a natural layer of soft mid red-brown silty sand (159), whilst its northern end was cut into by a Roman oven (**124**) and its eastern edge was truncated at both the northern and southern ends by ditch **90**. Further east was ditch **184**, which was on the edge of the excavation area, and was truncated at its northern end by ditch **186**. This ditch had steep

sides, a flat base, and was filled by a firm mid grey-brown silty sand (185) that contained pottery.

- 3.3.25 Two smaller ditches existed on an east to west alignment (**78** and **81**). These both terminated within the excavation area (ditch **78** at its western end, and ditch **81** at its eastern end) and were only visible in small stretches. Ditch **78** (also excavated as segment **150** (Fig. 11, section 48), and with the terminus excavated as segment **179** (figure 11, section 56)) gradually got wider further to the east. This ditch had 45 degree sides, a concave base, and was filled by a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (149) silting layer that was overlain by a soft black silty sand with frequent charcoal (148), a soft dark brown-grey sandy silt (147) and a friable mid grey-brown clay silt (79). The frequency of charcoal and the nature of deposit 147 within the terminus segment (where it was excavated as deposit 176) suggested that burning had taken place *in situ* as it continued to the very edges of the ditch rather than just within the fill. This burning may have been from the use of the terminus as a pre-cut 'pit' over which a clay superstructure was built for an oven, with its residue potentially ending up as part of the fill of the enclosure ditch to the north (**19**) as deposit 174. This ditch contained Iron Age pottery and animal bone in the upper fill (146). This ditch cut into ditch **21**, but was cut into on its southern edge by grave **5** and pit **152**, and was truncated at its eastern end by ditch **40**.
- 3.3.26 The second ditch on this alignment, ditch **81** (excavated as segment **246** at the terminus), had gentle sides, a slightly concave base, and was filled by a firm mid orange-brown silty sand (82) that contained pottery and animal bone.

Pit

- 3.3.27 There was a single pit (**152**) with an unidentified function which belonged to the later Iron Age phase of activity on the site. This pit was sub-circular in plan with gentle sides and a flat base, and was filled by a friable light grey-brown sandy silt (151) which contained pottery. This pit cut into the southern edge of ditch **78**.

3.4 Roman

Phase 3: Middle Roman

- 3.4.1 Middle Roman activity within the excavation area was limited to the presence of small scale domestic industry (oven **124** and its associated ditch **90**) and a field system (ditches **28**, **113** and **202**).

Industry

Oven

- 3.4.2 The potential for the excavated site to be on the periphery of a small scale industrial area is suggested through the presence of an oven base (**124**; Plate 9) in the north-east corner of the site. This oven was located at the very northern edge of the excavated area and had a keyhole shape in plan, gentle sides and a flat base. It was filled by a firm yellow-red burnt clay (125). The exact function of this oven could not be identified due to the limited plant remains that were recovered. However, if the kiln bars recovered from ditches **90** and **186** were associated with it the oven may date to the late Iron Age to early Roman period and may have been used for the production of pottery. Similar examples have been noted at the manufacturing centre at Water Newton.
- 3.4.3 A middle Roman ditch (**90**, also excavated as segment **155**) existed to the north of, and truncated was by, ditch **202** and continued to the north of the excavation area. It was curvilinear, but aligned broadly north to south, had fairly steep sides and a concave base and was filled by a firm mid orange-brown silty sand (91). Its proximity to the oven (**124**), and the presence of a

kiln bar within the fill of the ditch, suggest that it may have been used to allow the removal of waste from around the oven.

Field system

Ditches

- 3.4.4 The middle Roman phase of activity within the excavation area also comprised three ditches that may have formed part of a field system. This was formed through two linear ditches running parallel to each other (**28** and **202**), and a curvilinear ditch running perpendicular to these (**113**) towards the eastern edge of the excavation area. The parallel ditches (**28** and **202**) may have formed part of a driveway associated with a linear farming enclosure, with the curvilinear ditch representing part of the fields off to the sides.
- 3.4.5 Ditch **28** (also excavated as segments **42**, **123**, **140**, **208**, **216** and **245**), the southern of the two east to west aligned ditches, had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand redeposited natural (27) that was overlain by a friable dark grey-brown sandy silt (26). This ditch cut through the top of later Iron Age ditch **190** and pit **121**, and was cut through by ditches **40**, **210** and **214**, by pits **30** and **200**, and by grave **105**. Pottery was recovered from the eastern end of the ditch, whilst the western end had intrusive post-medieval roof tile. To the north, ditch **202** (also excavated as segment **232**) had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark red-brown silty sand redeposited natural (203) that was overlain by a firm dark grey-brown silty sand (204). This upper fill contained an *antoninianus* of Allectus, and was in use AD 293-6. This latter ditch continued along the line of enclosure ditch **19**, marking the shift in enclosure types either side of the Early Roman hiatus in the use of the site – from enclosed to linear farmstead.
- 3.4.6 Ditch **113** (also excavated as segments **210** and **212**) ran on a north-west to south-east alignment with a gentle curve creating a bulge towards the south-west. This ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a mid grey-brown silty sand (112) that contained Late Roman pottery and animal bone. Ditch **113** cut across ditch **28**, before terminating (segment **212**), and was cut through by the Late Roman posthole (**127**). Disturbance at the southern end led to clay pipe, glass and CBM being introduced into the fill of the ditch.

Miscellaneous

Postholes

- 3.4.7 The south-east corner of the excavation area revealed a posthole (**145**) that was truncated by a Late Roman ditch (**214**). This posthole had a circular shape in plan, had nearly vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft dark grey sandy silt postpipe (143) that was surrounded by a friable mid yellow-brown sandy silt post packing (144). Roman pottery was recovered from this posthole, along with post-medieval and modern pottery. It is likely that the postpipe was the result of animal burrowing down the posthole. It is unclear whether this feature was related to the two postholes to the east which were undated or the one to the south which was Late Roman.

Phase 4: Late Roman

Burial (figures 9 and 10)

Inhumations

- 3.4.8 There were eight inhumation burials within the excavation area that can be grouped into four different plots: a single grave (**5**) to the north-west of the intersection between ditches **28** and **40**; three intercutting graves (**8**, **93**, and **227**) enclosed to the north-east of the intersection between ditches **28** and **40**; a line of three graves (**196**, **205**, and **224**) enclosed to the south-east of the intersection between ditches **28** and **40**; and a single grave (**105**) by the eastern

edge of the excavation area, just cutting the northern edge of ditch **28**. Four of the graves (93, 105, 196 and 205) were Late Roman and had coffin nails.

- 3.4.9 The more isolated grave (**5**), to the north-west of ditches **28** and **40**, was sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a friable dark brown-grey sandy silt (7). This contained skeleton 6 which was an extended burial of an adult male in a supine position, with the skull face-up, the right arm flexed over the chest and the left arm flexed over the abdomen. Both hands were clenched as a fist, and the feet were out straight. The grave was aligned north to south, with the head at the northern end. No finds were recovered from the grave, but its northern end did cut later Iron Age ditch **21**.
- 3.4.10 The cluster of three intercutting graves suggests that there were different phases of use for the burial ground. Two of the interments (**93** and **227**) were discrete, with the third grave (**8**) cutting through them both. The first of these graves (**93**) was sub-rectangular in plan, aligned west to east, had steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a friable dark brown-grey clayey silt (95). This grave contained the skeleton (94) of a female aged between 40 to 45 years old which was in a flexed, supine position with the skull missing (although it would have been at the west end). Also missing were the ribs, shoulders, hands and upper vertebrae. The right arm was flexed with the hand by the left side of the waist, and the left arm flexed with the hand on the right side of the waist, whilst the legs were extended. There is likely to have been a coffin for this burial as iron nails were recovered from around the edges of the grave. Patches of burnt clay were recovered from the grave fill from where it had cut through oven remains (**200**), and an animal jaw was recovered from by the feet of the skeleton.
- 3.4.11 Aligned parallel with grave (**93**), and 0.4m to the north, was a grave (**227**) with a sub-rectangular plan, steep sides and a flat base. This grave contained skeleton 228, which was poorly preserved, and was filled by a compact dark brown-grey clayey silt (229). Little of the skeleton remained, with only the skull and legs present. The body, estimated to have been of an adult around 30-35 years old, would have been originally laid out with the head at the western end and the skull on its side and facing to the north. The legs were extended. This grave cut ditch **63** at its western end and contained very small fragments of pottery, possibly from where it cut the ditch.
- 3.4.12 The third grave (**8**) in this cluster was aligned north-east to south-west, with a sub-rectangular shape in plan, gentle sides and a flat base and was filled by a friable dark brown-grey clayey silt (10). This grave contained the poorly preserved skeleton (9) of an adult. The shape and size of the grave cut suggests that the body was lain out as a supine, extended burial, although it is difficult to say from the little that remains: part of the right arm and a few fragments of other bone. No artefacts were recovered from this grave, although it is later than the two east to west aligned graves (**93** and **227**) that it cuts.
- 3.4.13 The second group of three graves (**196**, **205**, and **224**) formed an alignment running north to south that points to the centre of graves **8** and **224**, with the graves themselves orientated south to north. The northernmost of these was grave **205**, which was rectangular in plan with nearly vertical sides and a flat base. This grave contained the poorly preserved skeleton (206) of a young male between 18 to 24 years old, and was filled by a friable dark brown-grey clayey silt (207). The body had been interred as a supine extended burial with the head on its side at the southern end facing to the west. The arms were flexed with the hands at the opposite elbow, whilst the legs were extended and the feet leaning slightly so that the toes pointed to the east. This grave again appears to have included a coffin, with iron nails recovered from levels both above and below the skeleton around the edges of the grave, whilst fragments of pottery were also recovered from the fill of the grave (207, Small find 13, Plates 10 and 11).

- 3.4.14 Located 0.5m to the south, on the same alignment, was grave **224** which was rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. This grave contained the poorly preserved skeleton (225) of a young female aged between 18 to 22 years old, and was filled by a loose mid grey-brown silty sand (226). The body was again lain in the grave in a supine extended position with the head at the southern end (although in this case on a fragment of quern stone acting as a stone 'pillow'). Large amounts of bone did not survive in this grave; though the skull was on its side facing to the north-west, the left arm was to the side of the body, and the legs were extended. Besides the quern stone, no other artefacts were recovered from this grave, although its position and alignment with graves **196** and **205** suggest that it was from the same phase of activity. This grave did, though, cut across ditch **52**, suggesting that the ditch was no longer open at the time of the burial.
- 3.4.15 Again, located 0.5m to the south and on the same alignment, was grave **196** which was sub-rectangular in plan with nearly vertical sides and a flat base. This grave contained the fairly well preserved skeleton (195) of a young male aged between 17 to 25 years old, and was filled by a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (194). The body was lain in the grave in a supine extended position with the skull on its side at the southern end and facing to the east. The arms were extended with the hands on the hips and curled up. The legs were likewise extended with the feet curled up. Within the fill of this grave were the disarticulated remains of a neonate, comprising parts of the skull, rib and humerus. The neonate skull fragment was recovered from higher up in the grave fill, whilst the other fragments were recovered from samples lower in the grave. This grave contained an almost complete pot (small find 7, Plate 12 and 13) that was lying on its side to the east of the head, a glass bead (small find 31) typical of the Roman period. There was also evidence of a coffin with a nail at the edge of the grave cut, again by the head, and traces of iron found along the western edge.
- 3.4.16 The final grave (**105**), located on the eastern edge of the site, was sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flat base, and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. This grave contained the skeleton (106) of a male aged between 17 to 25 years old, and was filled by a friable dark brown-grey clayey silt (107). The body was lain in a supine extended position with the skull on its side at the northern end and facing to the east. Both the arms and legs were extended and, although the hands did not survive, the feet were tipped to the side so that they pointed to the west. This burial again showed the presence of a coffin with iron nails recovered from around the edges of the grave. The grave also cut the northern edge of ditch **28**.

Enclosure

- 3.4.17 Enclosure ditch **40** was still been in use into the Late Roman period, when its fills sealed later Iron Age ditches **19** and **52**, and posthole **44**. The Late Roman fill of this ditch (38) was a soft dark grey-brown silty sand.

Miscellaneous

Ditches

- 3.4.18 Three Late Roman ditches were identified within the excavation area: ditch **186** as a terminus on the eastern edge; ditch **59** as a linear ditch across the middle of the northern half of the site; and ditch **214** as a curvilinear feature. Ditch terminus **186** had steep sides, a flat base, and was filled by a firm mid orange-brown silty sand (187). This ditch contained pottery, animal bone and a kiln bar (small find 6) that was likely to have been discarded from oven **124** that lay 5m to the north-north-west. This ditch extended to the east of the limit of excavation.
- 3.4.19 Extending to the north, beyond the limit of excavation, was linear ditch (**59**) which was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. This ditch had steep sides, a flat base, and was filled by a soft mid red-brown silty sand silting layer (64) that was overlain by a firm mid red-brown sandy silt (58). The ditch contained pottery and cut across ditches **63** and **19** at its northern end. The

ditch was truncated by a modern surface drain where it would have intersected with middle Roman ditch **28**, and it continued the line that was taken by later Iron Age ditch **190**. This ditch followed a perpendicular line to that taken by the linear farmstead ditches (**28** and **202**).

- 3.4.20 The south-east corner of the site contained a curvilinear ditch (**214**) that ran from a north to south alignment at its northern terminus and curved round to follow a north-west to south-east alignment at its southern terminus. This ditch had gentle sides, an irregular base, and was filled by a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (142). This ditch cut across ditch **28** at its northern end and posthole **145** towards its southern end.

Pits

- 3.4.21 A Late Roman pit (**30**) was located at the intersection between ditches **28** and **40**. This was sub-circular in plan, with 45 degree sides, an irregular base, and was filled by a friable dark grey-brown clayey silt (29). No artefacts were recovered from this pit, but a Roman date can be assigned to it due to the fact that it cut into ditch **28** (which contained Roman pottery) and was cut away on its eastern side by ditch **40** which, although had earlier phases, was still being used in the Late Roman and post-medieval periods.
- 3.4.22 Cutting into the northern edge of ditch **28** and cut by grave **93** was a small pit (**200**) that was sub-circular in plan with gentle sides, a concave base. This pit was filled by a friable dark brown-grey clayey silt (201) which contained burnt clay and burnt animal bone which may be the result of funeral rites associated with the burning of food.

Posthole

- 3.4.23 The south-east corner of the excavation area revealed a single Late Roman posthole (**127**) that cut through ditch **113**. This posthole had a circular shape in plan, with steep sides and a concave base, and was filled by a friable dark grey-brown silty sand (126). Pottery and animal bone were recovered from the posthole.

3.5 Post-medieval to Modern

Phase 5: Post-medieval

- 3.5.1 Post-medieval enclosure ditch **40** (discussed above) was evident across the site and had continued in use from the later Iron Age. The upper fill of the ditch (37) contained post-medieval pottery. This fill was a friable dark greyish brown sandy silt, and sealed ditch **28** and pit **30**.
- 3.5.2 A post-medieval pit (**57**) was located along the northern edge of the excavation area. This pit had a sub-circular shape in plan and had gentle sides and a concave base. It was filled by a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt (56) and contained pottery and glass. This pit cut the eastern edge of ditch **61**.
- 3.5.3 Post-medieval material also intruded into other features, with pottery being found in the disturbance in the southern end of Roman field system ditch **113**.

Modern

- 3.5.4 The excavated site was truncated by a series of modern features. These included three north to south aligned surface drains that were formed of concrete blocks visible in the tarmac (001). These were 1m wide and spaced 14m apart. The easternmost of these drains had a wider segment on its eastern side where extra water could be collected, and this cut into ditches **123** and **190**. This was likely to be a sump to collect water from the drains.

- 3.5.5 The south-west corner of the main excavation area contained a modern drain, with a manhole cover set in concrete that connected to pipes running north to south (to the south) and east to west (to the west). The western pipe cut through ditch **12** and headed towards the sump in the contingency area to the west.
- 3.5.6 Located between the eastern two surface drains was a modern pit that was rectangular in shape and was filled with the same soft mid orange-yellow sand and sandstone that formed the overburden (002). This cut into ditches **19** and **40**.
- 3.5.7 A single modern posthole was located in the main excavation area, cutting into the northern end of ditch **14**. Located towards the north-eastern corner of the main excavation area was an inspection hole that cut through ditch **88**.

3.6 Finds Summary

Metalwork

- 3.6.1 A small assemblage of metalwork was recovered from the site, with 54 fragments of iron and five of copper alloy.
- 3.6.2 The copper alloy included a single coin from AD 293-6 found in ditch **202**. The other copper alloy objects were undiagnostic, and included the pin from a large buckle, a further pin and two rods. One of these rods (small find 30) was recovered in association with grave 227, but it may have been intrusive rather than deliberately placed in the grave.
- 3.6.3 The ironwork that was recovered from the excavation area primarily consisted of Roman nails. These were from around the edges of the graves, and represent nails from the coffins. Only one other iron object was recovered from the area of excavation and this was a single double-armed loop-headed spike that was of a type common throughout the Roman period.

Glass bead

- 3.6.4 A single glass bead was recovered from grave **196**. This was of a type made throughout the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, but was at its most popular in the late Roman period.

Pottery

- 3.6.5 A total of 176 sherds of prehistoric pottery sherds, weighing 1.957kg, were recovered from eighteen excavated contexts. Eighty three percent of these came from ditches or ditch termini and were small and abraded, suggesting a secondary deposition into the features. The other 17% of the prehistoric pottery was recovered in a poor condition from pits. The assemblage comprises of typical utilitarian wares for food preparation and storage and the form and fabrics are comparable to the assemblages from the neighbouring settlement sites at Itter Crescent, Werrington and Cat's Water, Fengate (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming; Mackreth 1988, Pryor 1984). These suggest that there was nearby occupation from the late 2nd century BC to the early 1st century AD.
- 3.6.6 A total of 222 Roman pottery sherds, weighing 2.644kg, were recovered from 24 cut features, the majority of which were ditches, with some *in situ* pottery recovered from the graves. The pottery is in a moderately abraded condition. The majority of the pottery sherds that were recovered were from local coarse and fine ware fabrics produced within the Nene Valley, although there were a few sherds of imported central Gaulish table ware. The presence of Roman pottery from all of the phases of activity on the site suggests that there was a high level of post-depositional disturbance over the excavation area, although the majority did come from mid to late Roman features. The Roman pottery that was recovered is typical of the area and has parallels with the pottery recovered at Itter Crescent in Peterborough (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming).

3.6.7 A total of seven sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 0.115kg were recovered from features. The dates of these fragments ranged between the 17th century and the end of the 19th century. They represent material left in the fields from an agricultural environment, with bowl sherds that may have been used in dairying, and stoneware handles representing the consumption of liquids by those working in the fields.

Kiln bars

3.6.8 Five incomplete late Iron Age to early Roman kiln bars were recovered from two contexts – four from within ditch **186** and one from ditch **90**. These appear to have been dumped within the ditches after they had become broken rather than recovered *in situ*. The kiln bars were from pottery production, which was not uncommon in the surrounding area during the Roman period. The area around Water Newton within the Nene Valley was an important centre of production before the Roman conquest.

Quern stone

3.6.9 A single fragment of quern, weighing 1.727kg was recovered from the fill of grave **224**. One surface was smoothed by use and it is probably Roman. It was deposited under the head of the inhumation in this grave.

Summary of miscellaneous finds

3.6.10 Several miscellaneous artefacts were also recovered during the excavation. These included:

Glass

3.6.11 Two fragments of glass were recovered from two contexts. A modern green glass bottle neck weighing 0.057kg from the single fill of ditch **113** (112). The second was a shard of green glass, probably from a bottle, weighing 0.005kg from the fill of pit **57** (56).

Flint

3.6.12 A total of six flint flakes were recovered from five contexts during the excavation. Two flakes weighing a total of 0.007kg were recovered from undated ditch **24** (25). A single flake was recovered from the mid fill of Later Iron Age pit **46** (48), weighing 0.001kg. A further flake was recovered from the upper fill of Roman pit **85** (103) weighing 0.008kg, and may have been residual. A single flake weighing 0.004kg was recovered from Late Roman ditch **113** (112). Finally, a single flake of less than 0.001kg was recovered from the fill of Late Roman grave **205** (207).

Ceramic Building Material

3.6.13 A single fragment of post-medieval roof tile was recovered from the fill of ditch **232**, weighing 0.085kg. Three further fragments of CBM, weighing 0.037kg, were recovered from ditches but these were undiagnostic and could not be dated.

Clay pipe

3.6.14 Three fragments of clay pipe were recovered from two contexts. Within the upper fill of ditch **40** (37) was a single fragment weighing 0.003kg. Within the fill of ditch **113** (112) were two clay pipe stem fragments weighing 0.002kg, which may have been intrusive as there was a degree of post-medieval disturbance in the area of that ditch.

Baked Clay

3.6.15 A total of 461 fragments of fired clay, weighing 0.684kg, were recovered from ten excavated contexts. None of these pieces were identifiable, although 200 pieces had flattened surfaces suggesting that they may have been structural.

Stone

- 3.6.16 Two stones were recovered that may have been artefacts, but did not show clear signs of human working. The first was a slightly elongated sphere of limestone with a pitted surface that came from the sole fill of ditch **24** (25), weighing 0.025kg. The second was a small fragment of granite that had a flat upper and lower surface weighing 0.016kg and that came from pit **115** (114).

3.7 Environmental Summary

Human Skeletal Remains

- 3.7.1 Eight skeletons were recovered from the site and all individuals were determined to belong to the Roman Period. The presence of coffin nails in several graves suggest that they were from the later part of this period. The graves were shallow and many of the skeletons were fragmented due to ploughing. All of the graves were situated in a small cluster within a 20m² area of site.

Faunal Remains

- 3.7.2 A total of 2.402kg of animal bone was recovered from the excavation area representing a typical Later Iron Age and Roman faunal assemblage. The majority of this bone was recovered from pits and ditches that dated to the Later Iron Age and Mid Roman phases of activity, with a higher percentage coming from the Later Iron Age contexts. The collected assemblage primarily represents domestic animals, especially cattle and sheep, although bird and pig made up a proportion of the Iron Age population's diet.
- 3.7.3 The animal bone that was collected represents domestic waste with butchery marks and burnt bone created by cooking fires, perhaps related to the burnt clay evident on the site.
- 3.7.4 The lower proportion of pig bones and the appearance of horse bones within the Roman contexts are likely to represent the transition introduced from the continent whereupon horses became more commonly used as a domestic animal and cattle became more dominant as a preferred meat source (King 1999).
- 3.7.5 A total of 108 bulk samples were taken from the excavation at Johnston's Press, Peterborough. Of these, 73 were taken from the grave fills of 9 inhumations to ensure the complete retrieval of human remains, and the other 35 were taken from features such as ditches, pits and postholes. These were predominantly Iron Age features, with a few from Roman features, and with a few to try and retrieve dating material from undated features.

Environmental Samples

- 3.7.6 Of the 35 samples that were taken for the recovery of environmental remains, 23 contained only charcoal, and in most cases only a sparse amount. There were two exceptions to this: possible cremation **189** and posthole **145**, which both contained about 20ml of charcoal. Other samples were indicative of open grassland or pasture, with ditch **78** also containing evidence of rushes, suggesting dampness. Some samples showed the presence of cereals, but in such small quantities as to suggest that the grains were wind-blown into open features.
- 3.7.7 The majority of grains were recovered from Iron Age features, although with the only significant assemblage coming from the terminus of ditch **78**. This sparsity of grains continued into the Roman period, with examples only coming from one Roman feature: oven **124**. The paucity of plant remains from the Roman period suggests that there was less domestic activity within the later phases of the site.

Marine Molluscs

- 3.7.8 Two shells were recovered from the excavation, weighing a total of 0.01kg. These consisted of a fragment of oyster shell from which it was not possible to identify any cut marks or grooves from shucking (prising open the oyster), and a scallop shell. These came from the fill of Late Roman ditch **113** (112). The small assemblage recovered during the excavation means little can be said regarding shellfish consumption within the site, and it is likely that the mollusca evidence is residual material that has silted into features, possibly after being spread into fields for manuring.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The excavated site is likely to represent the peripheral area of a settlement, with activity that ran from the Iron Age through the Roman period, although with a break in activity during the Early Roman period. This settlement is likely to have declined towards the end of the Roman era, with the burials probably post-dating the period of settlement. The fact the site represents the periphery of a settlement is suggested by the absence of evidence for structures, and by the presence of field system and boundary ditches. Activity intensified through the Roman period with the presence of possible industrial activity and burials – the Romans typically buried their dead outside settlement areas. Except or an apparent hiatus in activity during the Early Roman period, there was a continuation in the use of the site, with the Iron Age boundaries being re-used as part of the Roman field system, and post-medieval activity continuing the use of the main north to south aligned ditch (40).

4.2 Settlement

4.2.1 The site showed no evidence of settlement structures, but did contain evidence of field systems. These fields are likely to have been associated with open grassland or pasture as suggested by the plant remains that have been recovered. The pottery sherds, being abraded and typically utilitarian vessels of forms and fabrics, and the fired clay recovered from later Iron Age ditches and pits, suggest the presence of a nearby settlement. This accords with evidence that has been found in the area, with Iron Age settlement likely to have been slightly closer to the river (to the north).

4.2.2 The Iron Age phase of this settlement is likely to have been as part of an enclosed settlement, before it developed into a linear farmstead (Smith 2013; 2015). In this instance – with the animal bone presence and the charred plant assemblage comprising of plants that are indicative of pasture, such as grass, clover and scentless mayweed – it is likely that it was pastoral farming that was focused on cattle and sheep. This was the primary activity in this area, as has been identified in observations from the bulk of British Iron Age faunal assemblages (Hambleton 1999, 14). The transition to Roman occupation of the nearby settlement brought an introduction of horse to the site as a domestic animal, with cattle becoming the dominant meat source. This can be seen through the slight shift in faunal remains. The cereal remains were an accidental accumulation of wind-blown refuse into the open features from further afield rather than representing locally grown crops.

4.2.3 The burnt deposits from within the Iron Age ditches may have been associated with the cooking of food. Burnt plant remains recovered from the terminus of ditch 78, although the presence of an oven could not be definitively identified. The proximity of cooking may also be suggested through the other burnt clay residues identified in ditch 19 and in pits 192 and 200. Iron Age domestic activity was focused away from the site, with limited remains recovered within the excavation area. Domestic activity reduced even more through the Roman period with a paucity of plant remains. This movement of domestic activity away from the site may suggest why burials came to be located there.

4.2.4 During the Roman period, a broad band of settlement ran north-east from *Durobrivae* to the edge of the Fens (to the east of the current site) (Mackreth 1996,xii figure 1, 232). This was possibly part of a dynamic pattern in which settlements had their foci of activity shifted from time to time, and many sites became abandoned (Mackreth 1996,233). The presence of butchery marks on the horse bone recovered from Roman features on the site suggests that any nearby settlement was not of high status. The general butchery and burnt bone evidence, and the

presence of a single worked bone awl for piercing hides and skins, suggests the dominance of domestic activity in the area. These settlements would have had burials associated with them, in larger cemeteries for more established towns, or in smaller familial burial grounds in the case of farmsteads (Jones 1975,133).

- 4.2.5 In the instance of this site, any nearby settlement is likely to have declined prior to the use of the area for human burial as the Period 4 pottery is extremely abraded, and there is an absence of the common ceramic types of the period (Oxfordshire and Hadham types). The graves contained the only two late Roman vessels that were not heavily abraded. This suggests that the vessels had been important to the graves' occupants. The nature of the decline of the settlement is comparable to that of the nearby Itter Crescent which no longer thrived by the end of the Roman period.

4.3 Burial

- 4.3.1 There is a relative paucity of evidence for Roman burials in the area, although it is presumed that every fort, city and town had its own associated burial grounds. The burial grounds that have been identified have been subject to little systematic excavation, and this has resulted in an incomplete map (Jones and Mattingley 2002,300). Roman cemeteries were built outside the city limits, often along the main roads that approached the settlement. Funerals were very public affairs that displayed the social status of the deceased and their heirs. As such, cemeteries were often located in very visible locations, such as on the crests of hills to demonstrate the permanence and dominance of the Roman presence over the landscape and native population (Simmonds *et al* 2008,123).
- 4.3.2 Roman funerary custom during the 1st to 3rd centuries was largely that of cremation, with some pre-Roman cemeteries continuing in use, such as at Guilden Morden (Elrington 1978,86). Inhumation became the dominant rite during the 3rd century, and the almost universal rite in the 4th century (Elrington 1978,88). In the same manner as the burials on the current site, cremations and inhumations can be found in both small groups and large cemeteries (Elrington 1978,88).
- 4.3.3 Inhumation burials were a later practice for the Romans, with some of the poorest resulting in the body placed in a hole dug in the ground, whilst richer graves used sarcophagi. The two more common burial practices, though, were cists sunk into the ground with walls of roughly coursed stone set around the skeleton and a slab placed on top; and two rows of *tegulae* (roofing tiles) leant over the corpse with terminal tiles at the ends of the body (Jones and Mattingley 2002,300-301). Barrows were also sometimes used for Roman burials, and in Britain they principally occurred in the tribal territories of the Cantiaci, Catuvellauni and Trinovantes (Jones and Mattingley 2002,301). By the 4th century AD it was becoming more common for rural Roman-British communities to have small burial areas, typically of familial groupings, with mixtures of gender and age (Smith 2013; Taylor 2001). The individuals found on the current site also showed variation in age and gender.
- 4.3.4 Urban cemeteries have been found to be sub-divided into discrete plots or enclosures by boundary ditches, often with clustering of the bodies (for example in London, Barber and Bowsher 2000 cited in Simmonds *et al* 2008, 125). Within these, it was common for graves in Romano-British cemeteries to be aligned according to pre-existing boundaries, and at right-angles to each other (Simmonds *et al* 2008,126).
- 4.3.5 The current site appears to have separate areas of burials – skeleton 6; skeletons 9, 94, 228; skeletons 195, 206, 225; and skeleton 106 – although it is unclear as to which ditches form the divisions between the plots. The cemetery at Wotton, Gloucester, had shifting plots with different phases of boundaries (Simmonds *et al* 2008,126). The choices for the locations of the burials appears to have coincided with location of ditches, and may represent the practice of

burying along the edges of land so that its use was not impinged upon, such as at Lynch Farm (Jones 1975,113): grave **5** lay on the edge of ditch **40**, graves **196**, **205** and **224** were close to ditch **40**, graves **8**, **93** and **227** were close to ditches **40** and **59** (and on the edge of disused ditch **28**) and grave **105** was close to ditch **214**.

- 4.3.6 As with the burials at Wotton, the current site shows a haphazard distribution of burials, with an element of deliberate organisation in places (Simmonds *et al* 2008,126) – skeletons 195, 206 and 225 were aligned and spaced evenly; skeletons 6 and 106 were aligned similarly north-north-west to south-south-east, skeletons 195, 206 and 225 were aligned south to north; and skeletons 94 and 228 were aligned west to east. The only exception to the general west to east or north to south alignments of the graves was the grave containing skeleton 9, which was lain north-east to south-west. In addition, although all of the graves were cut with a rectangular or sub-rectangular shape in plan, there were differences (where discernible from the state of preservation) in the placement of the bodies – skeletons 6, 94 and 206 had the arms placed over the front of the body, whilst skeleton 195 had the arms by the side of the body.
- 4.3.7 Higher status burials were made in prestige, visible locations closer to the roads that afforded the potential for display. As such, more modest burials would be made further away, and would have fewer grave goods (Simmonds *et al* 2008,217). Pottery was a common grave good for Roman burials, and this included fragments placed in the grave, as at War Ditches (Elrington 1978,88). The fact that few grave goods were recovered from the current site, and its location away from a road, suggests that the burials were of lower status individuals. The burials within the site were ostensibly very similar in their alignments and positioning of the body. Skeletons 195 and 206 being buried as these had grave goods (skeleton 195 had a nearly complete pot, whilst skeleton 206 was buried with fragments of pottery), and skeleton 225 having a stone 'pillow'. Pots placed in the graves implies that there was a belief in the provision of nourishment for the dead in the form of food and drink, which is indicative of a belief in the corporeal existence of the body after death (Simmonds *et al* 2008,138).
- 4.3.8 The burial of individuals on a west to east orientation, with the head to the west, has been suggested to relate to the remains of Christians, especially in cases where there is a coffin with no grave goods (Philpott 1991,239 cited in Simmonds *et al* 2008,139). There was only one interment on the current site that fits this criteria – grave **93** – although with grave **227** only lacks the evidence of a coffin. There was, though, the presence of coffins in other graves (**105**, **196** and **205**), and a paucity of grave goods on the whole. The coffins were represented through the preservation *in situ* of iron nails around the edges of the graves.
- 4.3.9 The current excavation site was not unusual in the variety of graves: although both larger scale cemeteries near Royston, Guilden Morden and Littlington, showed more variety in the burial rite (Elrington 1978,86, 88). Guilden Morden had inhumations orientated in different directions, many having no grave goods and some containing coffins; whilst Littlington contained burials with different alignments and included a mixture of tile cist, wooden box, flint enclosure and tile capped burials. The differences in the graves on the current site – in the alignment of the grave, the positioning of the body, the presence of grave goods, and the use of a coffin – suggests that the burials were not all contemporary (not least with the grave **8** cutting into graves **93** and **227**). As such, it may be suggested that they represent the gradual burial of individuals from the nearby farmstead, with the changes in burial demonstrating shifting beliefs and practices. The familial nature of the burials within the site is also suggested through comparison with a small plot of burials (thought to belong to a single family) lying alongside Arbury Road, Cambridge, where later phases of burial disturbed earlier ones in a manner that suggested that there was scant respect for the earlier bodies (Elrington 1978,88).

4.4 Industry

- 4.4.1 The excavation area revealed a limited amount of evidence for Roman industry within the area, consisting of an oven base and 12 fragments of kiln bars. This suggests that the site was not even on the periphery of any industrial activity, and that the activity in the area covered by the site was likely to be that of farming. The scale of the oven suggests that it was probably related to small scale industry, perhaps making use of the local boulder clay as part of domestic production. If the oven was used in conjunction with the kiln bars found on the site, its dating would be slightly earlier, the Late Iron Age – Early Roman period, just after the ditch that it cuts was filled in. Industrial activity is also suggested through the presence of cinder/clinker in three deposits across the site: (oven **124** (deposit 125), ditch terminus **179** (deposit 178), posthole **163** (deposit 162)). This suggests that it was desirable to deposit the waste from dangerous activities outside the main settlement area.

4.5 Significance

- 4.5.1 The site demonstrates the shift that took place between Iron Age enclosed farmsteads and later linear farmsteads (Smith 2013,10-12; Smith 2015,19) with the change in focus from the larger enclosure ditches (**19** and **190**) to the smaller linear ditches (**28**, **202**). Little evidence for the economy of any nearby settlement or farmstead was recovered as the excavated area only covered a small area, and appears to have been peripheral to any centres of activity. The later phase may have seen the use of a droveway (marked by ditches **28** and **202**) between the fields to the south (shown by ditch **113**), as at the site at Peterborough Business Park (Mackay 2002,19-20), before the site began to be used for the burials.
- 4.5.2 It may be suggested that the current site fits within the scope of smaller Romano-British farmstead burial grounds catering for the population working in the fields of the local vicinity. Additional burials located in the area surrounding the current site – for example HER10086 to the south of the development area, and HER1405 to the east of the excavated area. The individuals were mainly of the younger adult population, and they were interred towards the edges of fields in order to minimise the disruption to the working of the land.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Area 1 – Main excavation area

General description	Orientation	E-W
Main area of excavation containing a series of ditches, mainly orientated north to south and east to west. Also contained a north to south and east to west pit alignment, a posthole alignment on the eastern edge, and eight graves containing human remains. Consists of tarmac, overburden and subsoil overlying a natural of gravels and sands.	Avg. depth (m)	0.6
	Width (m)	19
	Length (m)	37

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
1	Layer	-	0.05	Tarmac across site	-	-	Modern
2	Layer	-	0.2	Overburden across site	-	-	Modern
3	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil across site	Copper alloy pin (SF10)	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	-
5	Cut	0.79	0.3	Grave cut	-	4	-
6	HSR	-	-	Skeleton in grave 5	-	4	-
7	Fill	0.79	0.3	Fill of grave 5	Ceramic vessel	4	-
8	Cut	0.35	0.18	Grave cut	-	4	-
9	HSR	-	-	Skeleton in grave 8	-	4	-
10	Fill	0.35	0.18	Fill of grave 8	Ceramic vessel, fired clay	4	-
11	Fill	1.1	0.38	Fill of ditch 12 = 25, 34	-	1	-
12	Cut	1.1	0.38	Cut of N-S ditch = 24, 33	-	1	-
13	Fill	0.32	0.08	Fill of ditch 14 = 32, 36	-	1	-
14	Cut	0.32	0.08	Cut of N-S ditch = 31, 35	-	1	-
15	Fill	1.93	0.18	Upper fill of ditch 19 = 72	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, fired clay	2	LIA
16	Fill	1.36	0.08	Fill of ditch 19	Animal bone, CBM, ceramic vessel, fired clay	2	LIA
17	Fill	1.1	0.42	Fill of ditch 19	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
18	Fill	0.76	0.18	Lower fill of ditch 19 = 73	-	2	-
19	Cut	2.18	0.87	Cut of linear ditch = 71	-	2	LIA
20	Fill	0.74	0.15	Fill of ditch 21	-	1	-
21	Cut	0.74	0.15	Cut of linear ditch	-	1	-
22	Cut	0.4	0.06	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
23	Fill	0.4	0.06	Fill of posthole 22	-	U	-
24	Cut	1.08	0.44	Cut of ditch = 12, 33	-	1	-
25	Fill	1.08	0.44	Fill of ditch 24 = 11, 34	Ceramic vessel, flint, stone	1	Prehistoric
26	Fill	0.78	0.12	Upper fill of ditch 28 = 41, 122, 141, 209, 217, 244	-	3	-
27	Fill	0.46	0.1	Lower fill of ditch 28	-	3	-
28	Cut	0.78	0.22	Cut of NW-SE ditch = 42, 123, 140, 208, 216, 245	-	3	Roman
29	Fill	0.76	0.08	Fill of pit 30	-	4	-
30	Cut	0.76	0.08	Cut of pit	-	4	-

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
31	Cut	0.92	0.16	Cut of ditch = 14, 35	-	1	-
32	Fill	0.92	0.16	Fill of ditch 31 = 13, 36	-	1	-
33	Cut	0.76	0.3	Cut of ditch = 12, 24	-	1	-
34	Fill	0.76	0.3	Fill of ditch 33 = 11, 25	Animal bone	1	-
35	Cut	0.45	0.11	Cut of ditch = 14, 31	-	1	-
36	Fill	0.45	0.11	Fill of ditch 35 = 13, 32	-	1	-
37	Fill	2.6	0.48	Upper fill of ditch 40 = 49, 66	Animal bone, ceramic tobacco pipe, ceramic vessel	5	LIA, Roman, post-medieval
38	Fill	0.88	0.24	Fill of ditch 40 = 48, 67	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	4	Late Roman
39	Fill	0.44	0.19	Lower fill of ditch 40 = 47, 68	-	2	-
40	Cut	1.6	0.92	Cut of N-S ditch = 46, 65	-	2-5	LIA
41	Fill	0.6	0.21	Fill of ditch 42 = 26, 122, 141, 209, 217, 244	-	3	-
42	Cut	0.6	0.21	Cut of NW-SE ditch = 28, 123, 140, 208, 216, 245	-	3	Roman
43	Fill	0.33	0.34	Fill of Posthole 44	-	1	-
44	Cut	0.33	0.34	Cut of posthole	-	1	-
45	VOID						
46	Cut	2.96	0.79	Cut of ditch = 40, 65	-	2-5	LIA
47	Fill	1.2	0.16	Fill of ditch 46 = 39, 68	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	-
48	Fill	2.96	0.52	Fill of ditch 46 = 38, 67	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, flint	4	LIA
49	Fill	2.96	0.19	Fill of ditch 46 = 37, 66	Ceramic vessel	5	Late Roman
50	VOID						
51	Duplicated number – cut of ditch 71				-	2	LIA
52	Cut	0.8	0.26	Cut of truncated ditch = 77, 236	-	1	-
53	Fill	0.8	0.26	Fill of ditch 52 = 76, 237	-	1	-
54	Cut	0.16	0.03	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
55	Fill	0.16	0.03	Fill of posthole 54	Animal bone	U	-
56	Fill	1.05	0.24	Fill of pit 57	Ceramic vessel, glass	5	Modern
57	Cut	1.05	0.24	Cut of pit	-	5	Modern
58	Fill	1.13	0.42	Fill of ditch 59	Ceramic vessel	4	Late Roman
59	Cut	1.13	0.46	Cut of N-S ditch	-	4	Late

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
							Roman
60	Fill	0.55	0.22	Fill of ditch 61	Ceramic vessel	2	LIA
61	Cut	0.55	0.22	Cut of NW-SE ditch	-	2	LIA
62	Fill	0.9	0.2	Fill of ditch 63	Animal bone	1	-
63	Cut	0.9	0.2	Cut of NE-SW ditch	-	1	-
64	Fill	0.4	0.16	Lower fill of ditch 59	-	4	-
65	Cut	2.5	1.08	Cut of ditch = 40, 46	-	2-5	LIA
66	Fill	1	0.2	Fill of ditch 65 = 37, 49	-	5	-
67	Fill	1.6	0.66	Fill of ditch 65 = 38, 48	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, copper alloy artefact (SF2)	4	LIA
68	Fill	1.6	0.42	Fill of ditch 65 = 39, 47	Animal bone, burnt bone, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
69	Cut	0.7	0.1	Cut of pit	-	1	-
70	Fill	0.7	0.1	Fill of pit 69	-	1	-
71	Cut	2	0.22	Cut of ditch = 19	-	2	LIA
72	Fill	2	0.22	Fill of ditch 71 = 15	-	2	-
73	Fill	0.9	0.16	Fill of ditch 71 = 18	Animal bone	2	-
74	Cut	0.16	0.3	Cut of posthole	-	1	-
75	Fill	0.16	0.3	Fill of posthole 74	-	1	-
76	Fill	0.85	0.26	Fill of ditch 77 = 53, 237	-	1	-
77	Cut	0.85	0.26	Cut of E-W ditch = 52, 236	-	1	-
78	Cut	0.1	0.07	Cut of ditch = 150, 179	-	2	IA
79	Fill	0.1	0.07	Fill of ditch 78 = 146, 175	Ceramic vessel	2	LIA
80	Cut	0.38	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	1	-
81	Cut	0.92	0.17	Cut of ditch = 246	-	2	LIA
82	Fill	1.1	0.17	Fill of ditch 81 = 247	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, fired clay	2	LIA
83	Cut	0.16	0.18	Cut of posthole within 81	-	U	-
84	Fill	0.16	0.18	Fill of posthole 83	-	U	-
85	Cut	0.55	0.62	Cut of pit	-	2	LIA
86	Fill	0.52	0.24	Fill of pit 85	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	Roman
87	Fill	0.44	0.2	Fill of pit 85	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
88	Cut	1.7	0.4	Cut of ditch = 153	-	2	LIA
89	Fill	1.7	0.4	Fill of ditch 88 = 154	-	2	-
90	Cut	0.9	0.2	Cut of ditch = 155	-	3	Roman

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
91	Fill	0.9	0.2	Fill of ditch 90 = 156	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	3	Roman
92	VOID						
93	Cut	0.58	0.26	Grave cut	-	4	Late Roman
94	HSR	-	-	Skeleton in grave 93	-	4	-
95	Fill	0.58	0.26	Fill of grave 93	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, fired clay, 11 iron nails (SFs 5, 22, 23, 24)	4	Late Roman
96	Fill	0.25	0.18	Fill of posthole 97	-	U	-
97	Cut	0.25	0.18	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
98	Fill	0.22	0.17	Fill of posthole 99	-	U	-
99	Cut	0.22	0.17	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
100	Fill	0.25	0.15	Fill of posthole 101	Ceramic vessel/fired clay	U	-
101	Cut	0.25	0.15	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
102	Fill	0.31	0.05	Lens in pit 85	-	2	-
103	Fill	0.54	0.24	Fill of pit 85	Ceramic vessel, flint	2	Roman
104	Fill	0.54	0.63	Fill of pit 85	Animal bone, burnt bone, ceramic vessel, fired clay	2	Roman
105	Cut	0.57	0.16	Grave cut	-	4	Late Roman
106	HSR	-	-	Skeleton in grave 105	-	4	Late Roman
107	Fill	0.57	0.16	Fill of grave 105	Ceramic vessel, iron nails (SFs 4, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32), slag	4	Late Roman
108	Fill	0.23	0.1	Fill of posthole 109	-	U	-
109	Cut	0.23	0.1	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
110	Cut	1.18	0.2	Master number for cut of curvilinear ditch = 130, 132, 134, 136, 138	-	U	-
111	Fill	1.18	0.2	Master number for fill of ditch 110 = 131, 133, 135, 137, 139	-	U	-
112	Fill	1	0.25	Fill of ditch 113 = 211, 213	Animal bone, CBM, ceramic tobacco pipe, ceramic vessel, flint, glass, shell	3	Late Roman
113	Cut	1	0.25	Cut of ditch = 210, 212	-	3	Roman

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
114	Fill	1.7	0.3	Fill of pit 115	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, stone	2	LIA
115	Cut	1.7	0.3	Cut of pit	-	2	LIA
116	Fill	1.14	0.16	Upper fill of pit 121	Animal bone	2	LIA
117	Fill	1.14	0.4	Fill of pit 121	-	2	-
118	Fill	1.14	0.17	Fill of pit 121	-	2	-
119	Fill	1.14	0.09	Fill of pit 121	-	2	-
120	Fill	1.14	0.1	Lower fill of pit 121	-	2	-
121	Cut	1.14	0.64	Cut of pit	-	2	LIA
122	Fill	0.67	0.14	Fill of ditch 123 = 26, 41, 141, 209, 217, 244	-	3	-
123	Cut	0.67	0.14	Cut of ditch = 28, 42, 140, 208, 216, 245	-	3	Roman
124	Cut	0.7	0.25	Cut of oven	-	3	-
125	Fill	0.7	0.25	Fill of oven 124	Animal bone, burnt bone, cinder/clinker, fired clay	3	-
126	Fill	0.3	0.3	Fill of posthole 127	Ceramic vessel	4	Late Roman
127	Cut	0.3	0.3	Cut of posthole	-	4	Late Roman
128	Cut	0.36	0.13	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
129	Fill	0.36	0.13	Fill of posthole 128	-	U	-
130	Cut	1.18	0.13	Cut of gully terminus = 110, 132, 134, 136, 138	-	U	-
131	Fill	1.18	0.13	Fill of gully terminus 130 = 111, 133, 135, 137, 139	-	U	-
132	Cut	0.65	0.19	Cut of gully = 110, 130, 134, 136, 138	-	U	-
133	Fill	0.65	0.19	Fill of gully 132 = 111, 131, 135, 137, 139	-	U	-
134	Cut	0.93	0.23	Cut of gully = 110, 130, 132, 136, 138	-	U	-
135	Fill	0.93	0.23	Fill of gully 134 = 111, 131, 133, 137, 139	-	U	-
136	Cut	0.46	0.2	Cut of gully = 110, 130, 132, 134, 138	-	U	-
137	Fill	0.46	0.2	Fill of gully 136 = 111, 131, 133, 135, 139	-	U	-
138	Cut	0.5	0.13	Cut of gully terminus = 110, 130, 132, 134, 136	-	U	-

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
139	Fill	0.5	0.13	Fill of gully terminus 138 = 111, 131, 133, 135, 137	-	U	-
140	Cut	0.94	0.15	Cut of ditch = 28, 42, 123, 208, 216, 245	-	3	Roman
141	Fill	0.94	0.15	Fill of ditch 140 = 26, 41, 122, 209, 217, 244	Ceramic vessel	3	Roman
142	Fill	2	0.1	Fill of ditch terminus 214 = 215, 238	Ceramic vessel	4	Roman
143	Fill	0.15	0.3	Postpipe in 145	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	3	Roman, post-medieval, modern
144	Fill	0.2	0.2	Fill of posthole 145	-	3	-
145	Cut	0.2	0.2	Cut of posthole	-	3	-
146	Fill	0.8	0.1	Upper fill of ditch 150 = 79, 175	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
147	Fill	0.75	0.16	Fill of ditch 150 = 176	-	2	-
148	Fill	0.34	0.04	Fill of ditch 150	-	2	-
149	Fill	0.36	0.06	Fill of ditch 150 = 178	-	2	-
150	Cut	0.8	0.32	Cut of E-W ditch = 78, 179	-	2	IA
151	Fill	0.34	0.06	Fill of pit 152	Ceramic vessel	2	LIA
152	Cut	0.34	0.06	Cut of pit	-	2	LIA
153	Cut	1.1	0.5	Cut of ditch = 88	-	2	LIA
154	Fill	1.1	0.5	Fill of ditch 153 = 89	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
155	Cut	0.8	0.3	Cut of ditch = 90	-	3	Late Roman
156	Fill	0.8	0.3	Fill of ditch 155 = 91	Ceramic kiln bar (4 fragments, SF21), ceramic vessel	3	Late Roman
157	Cut	0.2	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	1	-
158	Fill	0.2	0.2	Fill of ditch 157	-	1	-
159	Layer	-	0.15	Natural layer	-	-	-
160-169 in contingency area							
170	Fill	0.2	0.2	Fill of posthole 172	-	U	-
171	Fill	0.35	0.2	Fill of posthole 172	-	U	-
172	Cut	0.35	0.2	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
173	VOID						
174	Fill	1.18	0.08	Layer in ditch 19	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, fired clay	2	-

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
175	Fill	0.86	0.08	Upper fill of ditch terminus 179 = 79, 146	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
176	Fill	0.71	0.12	Fill of ditch terminus 179 = 147	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	-
177	Fill	0.58	0.09	Fill of ditch terminus 179	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, fired clay	2	-
178	Fill	0.48	0.06	Lower fill of ditch terminus 179 = 149	Animal bone, cinder/clinker, fired clay	2	-
179	Cut	0.86	0.35	Cut of ditch terminus = 78, 150	-	2	IA
180	Cut	1.16	0.12	Cut of pit	-	1	-
181	Fill	1.16	0.12	Fill of pit 180	Animal bone	1	-
182	Cut	1.7	0.16	Cut of tree rooting	-	-	-
183	Fill	1.7	0.16	Fill of tree rooting 182	Ceramic vessel	-	-
184	Cut	0.4	0.4	Cut of ditch	-	2	LIA
185	Fill	0.4	0.4	Fill of ditch 184	CBM, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
186	Cut	0.6	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	4	Late Roman
187	Fill	0.6	0.3	Fill of ditch 186	Animal bone, ceramic kiln bar (8 fragments SF6), ceramic vessel	4	Late Roman
188	Cut	0.38	0.19	Cut of pit (possible cremation)	-	U	-
189	Cut	0.38	0.13	Cut of pit (possible cremation)	-	U	-
190	Cut	1	0.6	Cut of ditch = 218	-	2	Roman
191	Fill	1	0.6	Fill of ditch 190 = 219	-	2	-
192	Cut	1	0.12	Cut of pit	-	U	-
193	Fill	1	0.12	Fill of pit 192	-	U	-
194	Fill	0.6	0.2	Fill of grave 196	Glass bead (SF31), ceramic vessel (SF7), iron nail (SF9)	4	Late Roman
195	HSR	-	-	Skeleton in grave 196	-	4	Late Roman
196	Cut	0.6	0.2	Cut of grave	-	4	Late Roman
197	Fill	0.38	0.16	Fill of ditch 80	-	1	-
198	Fill	0.38	0.19	Fill of pit 188	-	U	-
199	Fill	0.38	0.13	Fill of pit 189	-	U	-
200	Cut	0.53	0.2	Cut of pit (possible oven)	-	4	-
201	Fill	0.53	0.2	Fill of pit 200	Animal bone, burnt	4	-

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
					bone, fired clay		
202	Cut	0.8	0.6	Cut of ditch = 232	-	3	Late Roman
203	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of ditch 202	-	3	-
204	Fill	0.8	0.6	Fill of ditch 202 = 233	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, 3rd century AD coin (SF1)	3	Mid to Late Roman
205	Cut	0.76	0.48	Cut of grave	-	4	Late Roman
206	HSR	-	-	Skeleton in grave 205	-	4	Late Roman
207	Fill	0.76	0.48	Fill of grave 205	Ceramic vessel (SF 13), flint flake, iron nails (SFs 11, 12, 19, 20)	4	Late Roman
208	Cut	0.8	0.18	Cut of E-W ditch = 28, 42, 123, 140, 216, 245	-	3	Roman
209	Fill	0.8	0.18	Fill of ditch 208 = 26, 41, 122, 141, 217, 244	Animal bone, ceramic vessel, charcoal, copper alloy artefact (SF3)	3	Mid to Late Roman
210	Cut	0.6	0.22	Cut of N-S ditch = 113, 212	-	3	Roman
211	Fill	0.6	0.22	Fill of ditch 210 = 112, 213	Ceramic vessel	3	Mid to Late Roman
212	Cut	0.6	0.12	Cut of ditch terminus = 113, 210	-	3	Roman
213	Fill	0.6	0.12	Fill of ditch terminus 212 = 112, 211	-	3	-
214	Cut	0.68	0.06	Cut of ditch terminus = 239	-	4	Roman
215	Fill	0.68	0.06	Fill of ditch terminus 214 = 142, 238	-	4	-
216	Cut	0.42	0.17	Cut of ditch = 28, 42, 123, 140, 208, 245	-	3	Roman
217	Fill	0.42	0.17	Fill of ditch 216 = 26, 41, 122, 141, 209, 244	-	3	-
218	Cut	2.5	0.74	Cut of ditch = 190	-	2	Roman
219	Fill	2.5	0.6	Fill of ditch 218 = 191	Animal bone, iron artefact (SF17)	2	-
220	Fill	1	0.14	Fill of ditch 218	-	2	-
221	Cut	0.8	0.66	Cut of ditch	-	1	-
222	Fill	0.8	0.4	Fill of ditch 221	-	1	-
223	Fill	1.2	0.25	Fill of ditch 221	-	1	-

Area 1 – Main Excavation Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
224	Cut	0.77	0.22	Cut of grave	-	4	Roman
225	HSR	-	-	Skeleton in grave 224	-	4	Roman
226	Fill	0.77	0.22	Fill of grave 224	Quern stone (SF18)	4	Roman
227	Cut	0.54	0.08	Grave cut	-	4	Roman
228	HSR	-	-	Skeleton in grave 227	-	4	Roman
229	Fill	0.54	0.08	Fill of grave 227	Ceramic vessel, copper alloy artefact (SF30), fired clay	4	Roman
230	Cut	1.8	0.9	Cut of pit	-	2	LIA
231	Fill	1.8	0.9	Fill of pit 230	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
232	Cut	0.7	0.6	Cut of ditch = 202	-	3	Late Roman
233	Fill	0.7	0.6	Fill of ditch 232 = 204	Animal bone, CBM, ceramic vessel	3	Late Roman
234	Cut	1.5	0.4	Cut of pit	-	2	-
235	Fill	1.5	0.4	Fill of pit 234	-	2	-
236	Cut	0.75	0.36	Cut of ditch = 52, 77	-	1	-
237	Fill	0.75	0.36	Fill of ditch 236 = 53, 76	-	1	-
238	Fill	0.8	0.19	Fill of ditch terminus 239 = 142, 215	-	4	-
239	Cut	0.8	0.19	Cut of ditch terminus = 214	-	4	Roman
240	Cut	1.5	0.55	Cut of pit	-	2	LIA
241	Fill	1.5	0.55	Fill of pit 240	Animal bone, ceramic vessel	2	LIA
242	Cut	0.25	0.21	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
243	Fill	0.25	0.21	Fill of posthole 242	-	U	-
244	Fill	0.9	0.12	Fill of ditch 245 = 26, 41, 122, 141, 209, 217	-	3	-
245	Cut	0.9	0.12	Cut of ditch = 28, 42, 123, 140, 208, 216	-	3	Roman
246	Cut	0.85	0.15	Cut of ditch terminus = 81	-	2	LIA
247	Fill	0.85	0.15	Fill of ditch terminus 246 = 82	Ceramic vessel	2	Early Roman
248	Cut	0.7	0.07	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
249	Fill	0.7	0.07	Fill of posthole 248	-	U	-

Table 1: Contexts from the main excavation area

Area 2 – Contingency area		
General description	Orientation	E-W
Contingency area of excavation containing modern disturbance, a single ditch, three postholes and a natural hollow. Consists of tarmac, overburden and subsoil overlying a natural of gravels and sands.	Avg. depth (m)	0.6
	Width (m)	11
	Length (m)	10

Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Phase	Date
160	Fill	0.33	0.16	Fill of posthole 161	-	U	-
161	Cut	0.33	0.16	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
162	Fill	0.2	0.11	Fill of posthole 163	Cinder/clinker	U	-
163	Cut	0.2	0.11	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
164	Fill	0.46	0.13	Fill of ditch 165	-	U	-
165	Cut	0.46	0.13	Cut of ditch	-	U	-
166	Fill	0.4	0.17	Fill of posthole 167	-	U	-
167	Cut	0.4	0.17	Cut of posthole	-	U	-
168	Fill	1.75	0.2	Fill of natural hollow 169	-	-	-
169	Cut	1.75	0.2	Cut of natural hollow	-	-	-

Table 2: Contexts from the contingency area

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metal finds

By Chris Howard-Davis BA (Hons) MCIfA

Introduction

- B.1.1 Only a small assemblage of metalwork was recovered from the site, the majority being ironwork (54 fragments, c.90% of the entire group), with five items of copper alloy and one of glass.

Copper alloy objects

- B.1.2 There was a single coin (Small find (Sf) 1), an *antoninianus* of Allectus (AD 293-6) from Phase 3 ditch **202** (fill 204). Other copper alloy objects are effectively undiagnostic, Sf 3, from Phase 3 ditch **208** (fill 209) is probably the pin from a large buckle, Sf 2, from Phase 4 ditch **65** (fill 67) is again most likely to be a pin, but its poor condition precludes more refined identification. A very small fragment of rod (Sf 30) was found in association with Phase 4 grave **227** (fill 229) but it is not clear whether its relationship with the burial is fortuitous rather than intended. A fragment of rod from subsoil 3 (Sf 10) has been tentatively identified as the pin from a penannular brooch, if this is correct, the pronounced hump might suggest a late Iron Age or early Romano-British date (Fowler (1960) type A; Booth 2014).

The Ironwork

- B.1.3 The ironwork comprised mainly hand-forged nails of Manning's type 1b (1985), all around 75-90mm in length, and with head between 18-23mm in diameter. Most are associated with Phase 4 burials, and could well have been used in the construction of coffins or other grave linings. At least 12 nails (15 fragments; Sfs 5, 22-24) were associated with female skeleton 94 in grave **93** (fill 95). Nine of them were effectively complete, and eight were clenched at about 60mm from the top of the head, suggesting that the timbers through which they were driven were c 55mm in thickness. A single, slightly smaller example came from the same context, 74mm long, its clench suggested a timber thickness of c 45mm, implying that timbers of differing thickness were used in the same coffin. Although 23 nail fragments (Sfs 4, 25-29, 32) were associated with male skeleton 106, in grave **105** (fill 107) they were considerably more fragmentary. A further 15 nail fragments (Sfs 11, 12, 19, 20) were associated with male skeleton 206 in grave **205** (fill 207) and are, again, thought most likely to be the last indication of a timber coffin. A single fragmentary nail (Sf 9) was associated with skeleton 195 in grave **196**, and seems to have been used in the coffin base-board.
- B.1.4 Only one other type of iron artefact was represented, with a single double-armed loop-headed spike (Sf 17) coming from Phase 2 enclosure ditch **218** (fill 219). A common type throughout the Roman period (Manning 1985, 130), such objects are essentially undateable, and remain in use until the present day.

Catalogue of metalwork

The Copper alloy

Coin. Good condition. Radiate coin. *Antoninianus*. Allectus AD 293-6.

Obv: Radiate, draped and cuirassed bust, right. [IMP] C ALLECTUS PF AUG

Rev: Pax standing, left. Illegible, but probably PAX AUG
PETJPO15, Sf 1, fill 204, ditch **202**, Phase 3

Pin? Fair condition. Pin with rectangular section at one end, tapering round-section at the other, possibly a buckle pin
L: 48mm; W: 4mm; Th: 2mm; Diam: 3mm
PETJPO15, Sf 3, fill 209, ditch **208**, Phase 3

Pin? Fair condition. Square-sectioned fragment, original surfaces mainly lost.
L: 38mm; W: 2mm; Th: 1.5mm
PETJPO15, Sf 2, fill 67, enclosure ditch **65**, Phase 4

Rod. Fair condition. Very short fragment of round-sectioned rod.
L: 4.5mm, Diam: 2.5mm
PETJPO15, Sf 30, fill 229, grave **227**, Phase 4

Brooch pin? Fair condition. Thin, curved fragment of rod, possibly the pin from a penannular brooch with a humped pin.
L: 28mm; Diam rod: 1.5mm
PETJPO15, Sf 10, subsoil 3

The Ironwork

Double-armed looped spike. Fair condition.
L: 72mm; W across loop: 17mm
PETJPO15, Sf 17, fill 219, enclosure ditch **218**, Phase 2, x-ray K15/218

Eleven nails. Poor condition. Eight more-or-less complete, c 90mm in length. All complete examples are clenched at c 60mm, giving a wood thickness of c 55mm when head taken into account. Heads are all c 23mm in diameter. Two incomplete nails have smaller heads, at c 12mm diameter, and there is also one shaft fragment.
PETJPO15, Sf 5, fill 95, grave **93**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/218

Nail? Poor condition. Small bent fragment, possibly from the 'clench'.
L: 18mm
PETJPO15, Sf 22, fill 95, grave **93**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/218

Two nails. Poor condition. One is an almost complete nail, c 74mm long, clenched at c 50mm. Head c 18mm in diameter. Wood thickness c 45mm. The other is a fragment of shaft c 27mm long.

PETJPO15, Sf 23, fill 95, grave **93**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/218

Nail. Poor condition. Small shaft fragment.

L: 16mm

PETJPO15, Sf 24, fill 95, grave **93**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/218

Three nails. Poor condition. Two small shaft fragments and one partial shaft and head. Coffin nails?

L: 30mm; Diam head: 19mm

PETJPO15, Sf 4, fill 107, grave **105**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/219

Four nails. Poor condition. All small shaft fragments, c 17mm to c 24mm long.

PETJPO15, Sf 25, fill 107, grave **105**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/219

Nail. Poor condition. Head and partial shaft only.

L: 30mm, Diam head:18mm

PETJPO15, Sf 26, fill 107, grave **105**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/219

Nail. Poor condition. Small shaft fragment.

L: 20mm

PETJPO15, Sf 27, fill 107, grave **105**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/219

Eight nails. Poor condition. Small shaft fragments c 17mm to c 33mm long, one clenched.

PETJPO15, Sf 28, fill 107, grave **105**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/219

Nail. Poor condition. Two small shaft fragments and one poorly preserved head, probably a single nail.

L:18mm

PETJPO15, Sf 29, fill 107, grave **105**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/219

Nail. Poor condition. Small shaft fragment.

L: 23mm

PETJPO15, Sf 32, fill 107, grave **105**, Phase 4, found inside skull of Skeleton 106, x-ray K15/219

Nail. Poor condition. Head and partial shaft only.

L: 32mm; Diam head: 15mm

PETJPO15, Sf 9, fill 194, grave **196**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/218

Nail. Poor condition. Complete.

L: 58mm; Diam head: 13mm

PETJPO15, Sf 11, fill 207, grave **205**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/218

Nail. Poor condition. Shaft only.

L: 55mm

PETJPO15, Sf 12, fill 207, grave **205**, Phase 4, by right elbow of Skeleton 206, x-ray K15/218

Nail. Poor condition. Head and partial shaft.

L: 30mm; Diam head: 18mm

PETJPO15, Sf 19, fill 207, grave **205**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/218

Eleven nails Poor condition. All small shaft fragments, c 21mm to c 44mm long.

PETJPO15, Sf 20, fill 207, grave **205**, Phase 4, x-ray K15/218

B.2 Glass

By Chris Howard-Davis BA (Hons) MCIfA

Glass objects

- B.2.1 A single very small glass bead was associated with male skeleton 195, in Phase 4 grave **196** (fill 194). No more than 3.5mm in diameter and only 1mm long, this tiny discoidal bead, possibly cut from a larger cylinder has a very small central perforation (c.0.5mm in diameter). It appears to be an opaque pale green, but it is possible that the glass has deteriorated and this is not the original colour. Emerald green cylinder or cylinder segment beads (Guido 1978, 95) are a long-lived type, known throughout the Roman period and remaining relatively common in the Anglo-Saxon period. They were at their most popular, however, in the late Roman period, although this particular example is somewhat smaller than the characteristic late Roman form, which is c.4mm long.

Catalogue of glass

The Glass

Bead. Fair condition. Small discoid bead, probably cut from cylinder, with very small perforation. Original colour lost, now pale greenish.

Diam: 3.5mm; Ht: 1mm

PETJPO15, Sf 31, fill 194, grave **196**, Phase 4

B.3 Prehistoric Pottery

By Sarah Percival

- B.3.1 A total of 176 sherds weighing 1,957g were collected from eighteen excavated contexts (Table 3). The pottery is of Later Iron Age date (c.350BC -AD50). Rims are present from eight vessels. Mean sherd weight is 11g.

Feature	Feature type	Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	No of vessels
19	Ditch	15	40	342	1
		16	38	724	2
		17	2	32	
24	Ditch	25	3	2	
46	Ditch	47	1	1	
		48	1	2	
61	Ditch	60	13	48	
65	Ditch	67	4	55	1
78	Ditch	79	5	58	
81	Ditch	82	13	80	1
85	Pit	87	2	55	
115	Pit	114	1	15	
121	Pit	116	1	20	
150	Ditch	146	5	76	
152	Pit	151	1	9	1
153	Ditch	154	19	111	
179	Ditch terminus	175	6	73	
182	Natural feature	183	1	2	
184	Ditch	185	2	13	
230	Pit	231	4	124	
240	Pit	241	14	115	2
Total			176	1957	8

Table 3: Quantity, weight and number of vessels by rim count

Methodology

B.3.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes are prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusions present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted.

Fabric

B.3.3 The assemblage is overwhelmingly shell-tempered with shelly fabrics forming 97% of the total assemblage (Table 4). A small number of grog-tempered sherds, dating to the latest Iron Age to Iron Age Roman transition were also found.

B.3.4 The extensive use of fossil shell reflects the geology of the area which overlies Jurassic Cornbrash limestone with shelly mudstone deposits (BGS 2015). Within the shell-tempered group seven fabrics were identified (Table 4). This includes one fabric, STW, which continued in use into the late and transitional Roman period. The remaining fabrics S1 and S2, and variants of these, represent a continuum from coarse to fine inclusions, the shell in the coarser fabric S1 is largely unprocessed and includes pieces up to 4mm. A variant of this fabric (S1C) contains shell up to 8mm. A small number of

sherds in the coarsest fabric S1 have large platy or sub-angular voids in the external surfaces and body, indicating that shell or shelly-limestone inclusions have been lost. The majority of the assemblage is buff-orange coloured but some are reduced to a dark grey colour throughout (S1R).

Fabric	Fabric Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
S1	Common medium shell pieces in sandy clay matrix (up to 4mm)	129	1629
S1C	Common medium shell pieces in sandy clay matrix (up to 8mm)	2	80
S1R	Common medium shell pieces in sandy clay matrix (up to 4mm), reduced surfaces	24	95
S1V	Common medium shell pieces in sandy clay matrix (up to 4mm), common plate-like voids	1	4
S2	Moderate to common fine shell (less than 2mm) in fine clay matrix	6	28
SQ	Moderate medium to coarse shell pieces in sandy clay matrix (up to 6mm)	4	56
STW	Moderate to common fine shell (less than 2mm) in fine clay matrix (Romanising)	2	7
GTW	Common pale angular grog up to 2mm.	4	55
U	Undiagnostic	4	3
Total		176	1957

Table 4: Quantity and weight of Iron Age pottery by fabric

B.3.5 Shell rich fabrics form the major component of the contemporary assemblage from the nearby site at Werrington where a limited range of fine to coarse shelly fabrics formed the bulk of the assemblage alongside a small transitional shell with grog component (Mackreth 1988, 112). Similar shell fabrics were also found at the later Iron Age settlement at Cat's Water, Fengate (Pryor 1984, 134).

Form

B.3.6 Rims are present from eight vessels, all shell-tempered (Table 5). The most abundant form is the slack-shoulder jar with everted rim similar to examples from Werrington (Mackreth 1988, fig.25, 23). A barrel shaped with bead rim and is also found at Werrington (Mackreth 1988, fig. 25, 8) as is the ovoid neckless jar with direct rounded rim and scored surfaces (Mackreth 1988 fig.26, 60) which is particularly similar to examples from Haddon (Evans 2003b, fig.33, 5) and Weekley (Jackson and Dix 1987, fig.29, 2; fig.31, 36 and 48 and fig. 37, 98 and 103).

B.3.7 One large rim is from a large storage jar with concave neck and folded rim (Evans *et al.* 2003, fig.34, 12; Jackson and Dix 1987 fig. 39 146) and a sinuous 'S' profile jar was also recovered (Evans *et al.* 2003, fig.32, C14).

B.3.8 Grog-tempered body sherds found within the assemblage have finely combed surfaces comparable with examples from Haddon

Form type	Quantity	Weight (g)	No of vessels
Slack-shouldered jar with everted rim	5	115	3
Barrel-shaped bead rim jar Thompson C1-1	4	213	2
S profile jar/ bowl with rounded rim	1	5	1
Closed ovoid jar with direct simple rim	11	10	1
Rolled rim storage jar	1	44	1
Total	22	387	8

Table 5: Quantity and weight of Iron Age pottery by form

B.3.9 The forms compare well with the repertoire of domestic vessels found locally at later Iron Age sites such as Werrington, Itter Crescent and Cat's Water, Fengate suggesting a similar date for this assemblage (Mackreth 1988, Lyons *et al.* forthcoming, Pryor 1984)

Deposition

B.3.10 Finds from ditches and a ditch terminus provide 83% of the total assemblage. These sherds have a mean weight of 11g and are mostly small and abraded, in keeping with the likely secondary context of deposition within the ditch fills. Sherds were also collected from the fills of five pits (Table 3), though the assemblages from these features were small and also in poor condition, though the mean sherd weight here is 14g. A single sherd was also found in a natural feature.

Discussion

B.3.11 The small later Iron Age assemblage is formed of typical domestic utilitarian vessels used for food preparation and storage. The bulk of the later Iron Age pottery is identical in form and fabric to the contemporary assemblages from the neighbouring settlement sites of Itter Crescent, Werrington and Cat's Water, Fengate (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming; Mackreth 1988, Pryor 1984) suggesting occupation from the late 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD. The use of shell and grog fabrics is comparable to the neighbouring settlement sites at Werrington and Cat's Water, Fengate (Pryor 1984, 134) indicating that the pottery of the Peterborough region falls firmly within the shell tempered tradition characteristic of the Iron Age in the lower Nene Valley with limited grog-tempered fabrics being introduced in the later Iron Age (Mackreth 1988, 120).

B.4 The Roman Pottery

by Alice Lyons

B.4.1 A total of 222 Roman pottery sherds, weighing 2644g were studied. These fragments represent a minimum of 102 vessels or 3.07 estimated vessel equivalent (EVE). The pottery was recovered from a total of 24 cut features the majority of which are ditches, although *in situ* pottery from graves was also found (Tables 6 and 7). The pottery is in a moderately abraded condition with an average sherd weight of only 12g.

Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Ditch	102	1759	66.53
Grave	102	823	31.13
Posthole	13	55	2.08
Pit	3	7	0.26
Total	220	2644	100.00

Table 6: The pottery from feature type, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Cut Number	Feature	Sherd count	Weight (g)	EVE
5	Grave	9	12	0.00
8	Grave	1	3	0.00
40	Ditch	13	588	0.19
46	Ditch	1	4	0.00
59	Ditch	2	15	0.06
65	Ditch	9	85	0.00
85	Pit	3	7	0.00
90	Ditch	1	4	0.00
93	Grave	25	80	0.00
105	Grave	39	142	0.04
113	Ditch	15	85	0.00
127	Posthole	2	21	0.00
140	Ditch	4	31	0.09
145	Posthole	11	34	0.00
155	Ditch	6	53	0.17
194	Grave	4	293	1.00
202	Ditch	18	403	0.00
205	Grave	17	278	0.90
208	Ditch	11	200	0.44
210	Ditch	2	16	0.15
214	Ditch	2	7	0.00
227	Grave	7	15	0.00
232	Ditch	6	86	0.03
246	Ditch terminus	12	182	0.00
Total		220	2644	3.07

Table 7: The pottery listed by individual feature, listed by ascending cut number

Methodology

- B.4.2 The assemblage from the site was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a catalogue was prepared. Where necessary the sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x20 magnification) and all were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Vessel form was also recorded.
- B.4.3 All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed to the nearest whole gram, rim diameter and estimated vessel equivalent was also calculated (EVE: Orton 1975). Surface residues, decoration and levels of abrasion have all been recorded. A spot date has been provided for each individual sherd and context.
- B.4.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

The Fabrics and Forms

- B.4.5 A total of eight broad fabric groups were identified during this analysis (Table 8).

Pottery Fabric		Form	Sherd count	Weight (g)	EVE	Weight (%)
Nene valley colour coat	NVCC	Beaker, Castor box, jar, jug, dish	55	1258	2.21	47.58
Shell tempered ware	STW	Dish, jar, storage jar	83	661	0.31	25.00
Nene Valley grey ware	NVGW	Dish, jar, storage jar	38	341	0.18	12.90
Sandy grey ware	SGW	Cup, dish, jar, storage jar	26	285	0.17	10.77
Central Gaulish samian	SAM CG	Bowl	5	24	0.16	0.91
Nene Valley oxidised ware	NVOW	Mortaria	1	23	0.00	0.87
Grey ware, with common grog inclusions	GW(GROG)	Jar/bowl	7	19	0.00	0.72
Sandy white ware	SOW(GRITTY)	Jar, flagon, beaker	5	33	0.04	1.25
	Total		220	2644	3.07	100.00

Table 8: The Pottery fabrics and forms, listed in descending order of weight (%)

- B.4.6 The majority of the pottery are local coarse and fine ware fabrics produced within the Nene Valley (Perrin 1999). The predominance of this industry means other sources of fabrics are rare, although a small amount of imported central Gaulish table wares were found.
- B.4.7 The fabrics are described in alphabetical order below.
- Grey Ware, with common grog inclusions (GW(GROG)): 7 sherds, weighing 19g and representing 0.72% by weight of the total site assemblage*
- B.4.8 This has a dark brownish grey fabric with a similar or darker surface. It is quite a hard, soapy, hackly-fractured fabric with frequent very coarse (larger than 1mm) grog inclusions. This fabric was initially used to produce handmade forms in the Belgic style; however, its suitability for wheel production quickly established it as an Early Roman utilitarian ware (Rollo 1994b, p. 93).
- B.4.9 Form: Jar/bowl

Lower Nene Valley colour coat (NVCC): 55 sherds, 1258g, 2.21 EVE – representing 47.58% of the total assemblage by weight

B.4.10 The fabric is fired to a pale cream-to-orange colour with a wide range of coloured slips (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118; Tyers 196, 173-175). The Nene Valley industry was founded in the mid- 2nd century probably by Germanic potters and initially a limited range of beakers, in the Rhenish style, were produced. As the industry developed a wider range of pottery forms was produced including more utilitarian vessels (Perrin 1999, 87-106).

B.4.11 Forms: Beakers including corniced rimmed bag-shaped (Perrin 1999, no 123-130) and hunt-cups (Perrin 1999, no 131-138), Castor box (Perrin 1999 no 198-213), wide mouthed cordoned jar (Perrin 1999, no 281-282), pinch-necked jug (Perrin 1999, no 196), dishes with a bead rim (Perrin 1996, nos 216-221), also straight-sided dishes with a single groove under rim (Perrin 1999, nos 227-229) and flanged straight-sided dishes (Perrin 1999, nos 255-262).

Lower Nene Valley cream ware (NVOW): 1 sherd, weighing 23 g and representing 0.87% by weight of the total site assemblage

B.4.12 Hard, off-white fabric with light grey or pink core, often a brown or yellowish slip; inclusions of fine red-brown and black particles and variable amounts of quartz. Gritted with abundant crushed dark grey of black iron silicate slag (Tyers 1996, 127-129).

B.4.13 Form: mortaria

Lower Nene Valley grey ware (NVGW): 38 sherds, weighing 341g, 0.18 EVE and representing 12.90% by weight of the total site assemblage

B.4.14 Pale cream-to-pale grey sherds with a grey surface not dissimilar to the colour-coat fabric described above. This material was first produced in the second quarter of the 2nd century, continuing throughout the 3rd century, but appears to have ceased production in the first quarter of the 4th century (Perrin 1999, 78–87).

B.4.15 Forms: Dish with a bead rim (Perrin 1999, no 408), also straight-sided dishes with a single groove under rim (Perrin 1999, no 402), cordoned jar (Perrin 1999, no 368), storage jar with a rolled rim (Perrin 1999, nos 418-419)

Samian (SAM): A total of 5 sherds, weighing 24g, 0.16 EVE and representing 0.91% by weight of the total site assemblage.

B.4.16 A distinctive glossy red fabric, often decorated and used as high status table wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 25–41). A conservative range of plain central Gaulish samian was recovered.

B.4.17 Forms: Bowl Dr18/31 (Webster 1996, 32-35)

Sandy grey ware (SGW): 26 sherds, weighing 285g, 0.17 EVE and representing 10.77% of the assemblage by weight

B.4.18 This fabric group includes a broad range of quartz tempered fabrics. Generally, though the clay was tempered with moderate fine-medium quartz and fired in a reducing atmosphere to a mid-grey colour. Firing, however, is not always consistent, particularly in the early Roman material. The majority of this material was produced locally although cannot be assigned to specific source.

B.4.19 Forms: Cup (Perrin 1999, no 412), dish with bead rim (Perrin 1996, nos 417; 426; 449; 453; 455), jar, cordoned jar (Perrin 1999, nos 370-371) and storage jar.

Sandy oxidised wares (SOW GRITTY): a total of 5 sherds, weighing 33g, 0.04 EVE and representing 1.25% by weight of the total site assemblage

B.4.20 The majority of the material is similar to SGW (described above), but fired in an oxidizing kiln to a pale yellow to cream or buff colour. A significant proportion, however, is distinctive due to their gritty character and may originate from the Verulamium factories (Tomber and Dore 1998, 154; Tyers 1996, 199-201) or other more local sources such as Godmanchester (Lyons forthcoming) which produced similarly textured wares.

B.4.21 Form: Jar with multiple grooves on shoulder, also bi-fid rim (Perrin 1996, nos 592; 583; Perrin 1999, no 53), flagon, beaker

Shell tempered ware (STW): 83 sherds, weighing 661g, 0.31 EVE – representing 25% by weight of the total site assemblage

B.4.22 Most are brown-grey and are heavily tempered with fossil shell, which is a natural constituent of the clay. Where rim forms are lacking, it can be difficult to differentiate between the various possible manufacturing centres for shell-tempered wares in the Roman period. The Lower Nene Valley was known to have been a production centre for shell-tempered vessels, particularly storage jars, between the late Iron Age and 4th century AD (Rollo 1994, 91; Perrin 1996b, 119–20). The fabric is found equally in both handmade and wheel made versions.

B.4.23 Forms: Straight-sided dish with bead rim (Perrin 1999, no 491-492), flanged dish (Perrin 1999, no 487), neckless jar (Perrin 1999, no 467), storage jar (Perrin 1999, no 462-464).

The Pottery by Period

B.4.24 Roman pottery was recovered from all the site periods, which suggests a high level of post-depositional disturbance over the area of excavation (Table 9). The majority of pottery, however, was discovered in mid to late Roman features and it is the pottery from these periods that is summarised in some detail below.

Period	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
2: Later Iron Age	24	274	10.36
3: Mid-Roman	74	912	34.49
4: Late Roman	113	1216	46.00
5: Post-medieval to modern	9	242	9.15
Total	220	2644	100.00

Table 9: The pottery by period

Period 2: Later Iron Age

B.4.25 Twenty-four sherds, weighing 274g, of intrusive Roman pottery fragments were recovered from Later Iron Age deposits.

Period 3: Mid-Roman

B.4.26 The most common pottery within this period (by weight; Table 10) are handmade Nene Valley storage jar fragments with large rolled rims which were made over a long period between the end of the Iron Age and the 3rd century AD (Perrin 1996b, 119–20). Small numbers of undiagnostic jar fragments were also found, as well as a later Roman flanged dish (which may be intrusive).

- B.4.27 The most common pottery within the period (by sherd count) are Nene Valley colour coated vessel fragments. Bag-shaped beaker fragments with rouletted and barbotine decoration were identified, also Castor box (a form of tureen; Perrin 1999, 98-100) and dish fragments were recorded, the majority of which were made between the late 2nd and mid-3rd centuries AD.
- B.4.28 Also common are Sandy grey ware fabrics which were found in a limited range of forms including a cup, straight-sided dishes, globular jars and storage jars. Most of this material cannot be assigned to source but Nene Valley grey wares produced between the mid/late 2nd and early 4th century AD were identified.
- B.4.29 Oxidised wares were found in very small quantities and include a miscellaneous Sandy oxidised ware jar fragment and a Nene Valley cream ware mortarium body sherd lined with distinctive slag trituration grits (a form of mixing bowl; Tyers 1996, 127-129).
- B.4.30 Other coarse wares include a small number of early Roman grog tempered grey ware jar fragments which may be residual within the Period 3 features.
- B.4.31 Imported central Gaulish samian fine wares was found in small quantities within deposits of this period. Only plain ware dishes (type Dr18/31) were found, but this does indicate the inhabitants of this settlement had access to a limited amount of traded material.

Fabric	Form	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
STW	Flanged dish, jar, storage jar	10	289	31.69
NVCC	Dish, beaker, Castor box	20	256	28.07
SGW	Dish, cup, jar, storage jar	15	148	16.23
NVGW	Dish, jar, storage jar	17	144	15.79
SAM CG	Dish	5	24	2.63
NVOW	Mortaria	1	23	2.52
GW(GROG)	Jar	5	15	1.64
SOW	Jar	1	13	1.43
Total		74	912	100.00

Table 10: Period 3 Roman pottery, listed in descending order of weight (%)

Period 4: Late Roman

- B.4.32 The majority of pottery from this site was recovered from features dated to the late Roman period (Table 11).

Fabric	Form	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
NVCC	Beaker, dish, flanged dish, jar, jug	31	924	75.99
STW	Dish, jar, storage jar	60	180	14.80
NVGW	Jar	18	101	8.30
SOW	Jar	2	7	0.58
GW(GROG)	Jar/bowl	2	4	0.33
Total		113	1216	100.00

Table 11: Period 4 Roman pottery, listed in descending order of weight (%)

- B.4.33 Most common (by weight) are the late Roman Nene Valley colour coated vessels which included a small number of undiagnostic beaker fragments but mostly substantial straight-sided dish, globular jar and pinched-neck jug fragments. Indeed, this figure is boosted by the presence of two very similar almost complete dishes (sf7 and sf13),

placed as accessory vessels within inhumation burials **196** and **205** respectively. These dishes are very similar to previously published examples and can be dated to the late 3rd to 4th century AD (cf. Perrin 199, no 233). The dishes although almost identical have survived with differing levels of preservation.

- B.4.34 The other pottery that survives within late Roman features comprises the same limited range of fabrics as found within Period 3 (with the exclusion of samian ware), but other than the material from the graves survive only in very poor condition and indeed may be residual by this date.

Period 5: Post-Medieval to Modern

- B.4.35 A total of 9 sherds, weighing 242g of residual Roman pottery was found in Period 5 deposits.

Discussion

- B.4.36 This is a small, but largely stratified and well-recorded assemblage of pottery that spans the whole of the Roman period, with most dating between the mid-2nd and 4th centuries.
- B.4.37 It is noteworthy that the majority of the pottery assemblage were produced locally within the lower Nene Valley tradition (Perrin 1999) which included finer colour coated material, as well as shell and quartz tempered coarse wares. Indeed, the dominance of the local pottery industry resulted in few non-local products, although a small number of central Gaulish samian plain ware dishes were found. Specialist vessels were also extremely poorly represented, no amphora (Tyers 1996, 85-105) was found and only a single fragment of mortarium (Tyers 1996, 117-135).
- B.4.38 Of note are the two complete, almost identical, late Roman Nene Valley colour coated dishes found associated with inhumation burials (Plates 12 and 13). These may give a false impression in the ceramic record that pottery use was still common during the 4th century AD. The absence of distinctive late Roman red wares such as Oxfordshire and Hadham products (Tyers 1996, 175-178 and 168-169), combined with the extremely abraded nature of the Period 4 pottery (excluding the NVCC from graves) strongly suggests that the settlement did not thrive until the very end of the Roman era. It is possible, therefore, that the graves post-date the period of settlement.
- B.4.39 This range of fabrics and forms within this assemblage, however, appears typical of the area and has many parallels with the Roman pottery recently excavated at Ifter Crescent in Peterborough (Lyons forthcoming) – a settlement which also declined before the very end of the Roman era.

B.5 Post-medieval pottery

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- B.5.1 The evaluation produced a pottery assemblage of 7 sherds, weighing 0.115kg. The assemblage spans the 17th to the end of the 19th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is low-moderate at approximately 0.016kg.

Methodology

- B.5.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard for the post-Roman pottery.
- B.5.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types referencing, where possible, Cambridgeshire fabric codes. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

- B.5.4 The assemblage (Table 12) is post-medieval and was recovered from a range of features, including ditches. Enclosure ditch **40** is thought to be Iron Age in origin, however this ditch appears to have continued to be open and in use in later periods. The sherd of Metropolitan-type slipware, alongside a sherd of Post-medieval black-glazed ware, suggests at least a 17th century date for the disuse.
- B.5.5 Ditch **113** is part of a possible Roman field system, and the two sherds from post-medieval redware bowls are most likely intrusive, related to the 'disturbance' described by the excavator as occurring at the southern end of the ditch.
- B.5.6 Pit **57** is described as post-medieval and produced a single sherd from the handle of a mid 17th-end 18th century Staffordshire mottled ware drinking vessel.
- B.5.7 Post hole **145** appears to be Roman and is described as being truncated by a Late Roman ditch, however the post-pipe fill, 143, of **145**, produced two unabraded sherds from the handle of a Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire-type stoneware jug or drinking vessel. Dating to the 18th to 19th century, it would appear that these sherds are intrusive, the excavator suggesting they are the result of animal burrowing. They form almost 50% by weight of the pottery recovered from the feature and perhaps the relationship between ditch **214** and post pipe fill 143 should be reconsidered.

Conclusion

- B.5.8 The assemblage is too small to be certain of its character, although the material all dates to the 17th century or later. The bowl sherds may have been used in dairying, since the sherd of post-medieval black glazed ware/North Midlands earthenware appears to be from a large bowl or pancheon. The Staffordshire mottled ware and Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire-type stoneware handles may represent the consumption of liquids by those working in the fields. Overall, the material typifies background noise within an agricultural environment.

Pottery Catalogue

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range
37	40	Post-medieval black glazed ware/North Midlands earthenware	Bowl body sherd, internally glazed	1	0.057	17th century
		Metropolitan-type slipware	Body sherd with clear external and internal glaze, and external slip decoration	1	0.005	17th century
56	57	Staffordshire mottled ware	Drinking vessel handle (mottled brown glazed)	1	0.004	Mid 17th-end 18th century
112	223	Post-medieval redware	Bowl body sherd, internally glazed	1	0.016	Mid 16th-end 18th century
		Post-medieval redware	Bowl base sherd, internally glazed	1	0.003	Mid 16th-end 18th century
143	145	Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire-type stoneware	Jug or drinking vessel handle (glossy brown glaze)	2	0.03	18th-19th century
Total				7	0.115	

Table 12: Post-medieval pottery catalogue

B.6 Worked Stone

By Sarah Percival

B.6.1 A fragment of quern weighing 1,727g was recovered from the fill of grave **224**. The fragment is made of fine millstone grit and comprises about one fifth of a circular flat quern with a drilled central socket. The fragment has one surface smoothed by use and is probably Roman.

B.7 Ceramic Building Material

By Sarah Percival

B.7.1 A single fragment of post medieval roof tile was recovered from the fill of ditch **232**. The remainder of the pieces are undiagnostic and undatable.

Context	Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)	Spotdate	Feature	Feature type
112	Orange sandy speckled through with vacuoles	One surface	1	25	Undated	113	Ditch
185	Orange sandy speckled through with vacuoles	No surviving surfaces	1	7	Undated	184	Ditch
233	Fine orange with white rounded quartz inclusions	Roof tile	1	85	Post medieval	232	Ditch
233	Orange sandy speckled through with vacuoles	No surviving surfaces	1	5	Undated	232	Ditch
Total			4	122			

Table 13: Quantity and weight of ceramic building material by fabric

B.8 The Kiln Furniture

by Alice Lyons

- B.8.1 Five incomplete kiln bar fragments were recovered; four from within ditch **186** and another from ditch **90**. The bars were not recovered *in situ*, rather appear to have been dumped within ditches after they became broken. No certain kilns were discovered during this excavation, but it is possible that oven **124** may have been used to fire pottery as it is located nearby. If the oven was used to fire pottery, and thereby associated with the kiln bars, it would make it late Iron Age to early Roman in date.
- B.8.2 The bars are of a square-sectioned type with tapering ends made from clay mixed with abundant sand, sparse small quartz peddles and common organic matter. The clay has been roughly mixed and then rolled over (with a single seam) to form the tapering rectangular shape; there is no evidence that the bars were formed around a stick. When fired a reduced core with orange-grey partially reduced surfaces was produced.
- B.8.3 Of all the types of kiln furniture found, bars are the most common – while tapering or ‘cigar-shaped’ kiln bars have a distinct distribution centre around the Wash basin (Swan 1984, 62-63). These bars were used in kilns of La Tene III derivation (Woods 1974), whereby a central pedestal was placed within a sunken circular kiln from which the bars radiated (Swan 1984, 60-63, plate 20). The tapering design of the bars allowed the maximum number to be placed around a single pedestal. The bars varied in length and breadth as when the potter constructed the kiln old and new bars became mixed according to need and availability. When in place the bars would have provided a stable level stacking surface on which the pots could be successfully fired.
- B.8.4 Large numbers of kiln bars have been found at several other contemporary sites in the region which confirm that early Roman pottery manufacture was not uncommon within the landscape at this time, indeed the area around Water Newton within the Nene Valley area was an important centre of pottery production from before the conquest (Swan 1984, 95, Map 14). Notable nearby production, probably initiated by the Roman military, was taking place at the nearby Longthorpe military depot fort (Dannell and Wild 1987), also within settlements at Tort Hill West (Hancocks 1998) and Hadden (Evans 2003; Rollo 1994a).
- B.8.5 Bars of this type are a late Iron to early Roman technology (commonly pre-Flavian) – with other kiln floor designs generally replacing temporary kiln bars by the early 2nd century AD (Swan 1984, 63).

Catalogue

SF6a: Almost complete tapering kiln bar, 34mm by 34mm, 250mm surviving length. 187, ditch **186**.

SF6b: Centre section of tapering kiln bar, 36mm by 36mm, 104mm surviving length. Can see how the clay was rolled during manufacture. 187, ditch **186**.

SF6c: End section of tapering kiln bar, 27mm wide, 60mm surviving length. Burnt. 187, ditch **186**.

SF6d: Centre section of tapering kiln bar, 40mm wide, 52mm surviving length. 187, ditch **186**.

SF21: Centre section of tapering kiln bar, 40mm x 35mm, 75mm surviving length. 156, segment 155, ditch **90**.

B.9 Baked Clay

By Sarah Percival

B.9.1 A total of 461 fragments of fired clay weighing 684g were collected from ten excavated contexts (Table 14).

Feature type	Feature	Quantity	Weight (g)
Ditch	19	28	69
	81	8	16
	173	150	164
Ditch terminus	179	5	56
Grave	93	18	43
	205	3	11
	227	1	1
Oven	124	200	186
Pit	85	20	51
	200	28	87
Total		461	684

Table 14: Quantity and weight of baked clay by feature

B.9.2 The assemblage comprises 461 fragments weighing 684g in four fabrics (Table 15). No identifiable pieces were recovered though 200 fragments had surviving flattened surfaces and perhaps represent structural pieces. The remainder of the assemblage is undiagnostic. No pieces can be closely dated.

Fabric Descriptions	Quantity	Weight (g)
Coarse orange sandy, no visible inclusions	6	36
Dark unfired sandy clay with large rounded gravel >6mm	4	54
Orange swirled sandy clay with sparse shell plates	93	226
Pale vacuous fabric fine clay no visible inclusions	358	368
Total	461	684

Table 15: Quantity and weight of baked clay by fabric

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human Skeletal Remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction

C.1.1 This report presents the results of the analysis on eight skeletons recovered from the site. All individuals were determined to be Roman and the presence of coffin nails in several graves suggest them to be from the later Roman Period. The graves were shallow and many of the skeletons were fragmented due to ploughing and machining during the evaluation. All of the graves were situated in a small cluster within a 20m² area of site.

Methodology

C.1.2 The skeletons and disarticulated material were assessed in accordance with national guidelines set out by Mays *et al.* (2005) and with reference to standard protocols for examining human skeletal remains from archaeological sites (Brickley and McKinley, 2004; Buikstra and Ubelaker, 1994; Cox and Mays, 2000).

C.1.3 Completeness was recorded by noting the amount of the skeleton present as a percentage and assigning it to one of four categories as laid out in the table below.

C.1.4 Fragmentation was scored as either high (most bones fragmented and in pieces), moderate (approximately half of the skeleton has bones that are in fragments) or low (limited or few bones are fragmented).

C.1.5 Surface condition was assessed using the scoring system devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004) where the level of surface erosion on the bone was graded on a level between 0 and 5; grade 0 being no erosion and grade 5 being highly eroded.

C.1.6 All remains were aged using the methods laid out by Buckberry and Chamberlain (2002), Lovejoy *et al.* (1985) and Scheur and Black (2000).

C.1.7 Biological sex was estimated using the methods laid out by Buikstra and Uberlaker (1994).

C.1.8 Any dental conditions, pathology or bony abnormalities were recorded. Particular attention was given to the presence of any unusual conditions that might require detailed specialist examination and/or the application of analytical techniques, such as radiography and histology.

Results

C.1.9 The results are summarised in the table below (Table 16).

Skeleton number	burial type/position	Orientation*	Coffin	Age	Sex	Preservation	Pathologies
6	Supine, Extended	N-S	N	Adult	M?	fair	Healed periostitis on posterior surface of distal L Tibia
9	Supine, Extended	E-W	N	Adult	?	poor	Osteophytes on right elbow joint
94	Supine, Extended	NW-SE	Y	40-45	F?	fair	Slight Osteophytes on hip joints
106	Supine, Extended	N-S	Y	17-25	M?	poor	None visible
195	Supine, Extended	N-S	Y	17-25	M?	fair	Dental Caries
206	Supine, Extended	S-N	Y	18-24	M	poor	Dental Caries, Osteophytes on humeral and femoral heads
225	Extended, Supine	N-S	N	18-22	F?	poor	None visible
228	Supine, Extended	NW-SE	N	30-35	?	poor	None visible

Table 16: Inhumation results

*Position of the skull referred to first

- C.1.10 Overall preservation levels were poor with fragmentation levels being high and the surface condition of most bones grading a score of 3 or 4 on the McKinley (2004) scoring system. This had serious limitations on the preservation of any pathological evidence as in most cases there was very little of the original bone surface remaining. Soil acidity and root activity have had an effect on almost all of the remains including tooth enamel.
- C.1.11 This small assemblage consists of four males, two females and two skeletons of unknown sex. Overall the age range varied between young adult to prime adult however a higher proportion of the skeletons were determined to be within the young adult category.

Skeleton 6

- C.1.12 Skeleton 6 was isolated being slightly further away from the cluster cutting possible Iron Age ditch **150**. The skeleton was estimated to be a male adult however the remains were too truncated and fragmented for a more detailed age estimate. Overall surface condition was assessed to be fair with some detail being masked (Mckinley 2004, grade 3). Only a very limited amount of metric analysis was possible however a stature estimate was able to be made from the right tibia using Trotters regression methods (1970). This suggested a height of about 171-172cm for this individual. There was limited possibility to observe non-metric traits however ossicles (or extra bones) were observed at the lambdoid sutures on the skull and two non-metric traits were observed on the femurs. In general muscle attachments were slight except at the distal joint between the tibia and fibula where osteophytes were observed implying a stronger muscle attachment. Very little evidence of pathology or trauma was observed and this was limited to some possible healed periostitis on the posterior surface of the tibia at the distal end. The tibia is the most common places to observe periostitis and is often the result of a fall or a bump (Waldron 2009)

Skeletons 9, 94, 228

- C.1.13 Skeletons 9, 94 and 228 are within a small group of intercutting graves to the east of Skeleton 6.
- C.1.14 Grave **8** is the latest feature truncating graves **93** and **227**. Skeleton 9 within grave **8** was an adult however it was not possible to determine a more detailed age or sex as the remains were badly fragmented and damaged by soil conditions and root activity. The surface condition had been affected by erosion to the level that the majority of the bone was masked and some shape modification had occurred (McKinley grade 4) No metric or non-metric analysis was possible with this individual as the bone condition was too poor. Some small osteophytes or bone growths were present on the proximal joint surfaces of the right radius and ulna however no other pathology was evident.
- C.1.15 Grave **93** which contained skeleton 94 lay below grave **8** parallel to grave **227**. Both features truncate ditch **200** which is, again, possibly Iron Age. Skeleton 94 was estimated to be female and aged between 40 and 45 years old (Lovejoy *et al* 1985; Buckberry and Chamberlain 2002). Bone condition was slightly better with only part of the surface masked and no alteration to the overall shape of the bone (McKinley grade 2). Some metric analysis was possible upon the proximal and distal ends of the long bones. The size measured concurred with the estimate of female (Chamberlain 1994, 11; Bass 1987, 123). The only pathology observed were slight osteophytes upon the joint surfaces of the femoral head. Osteophytes are not always related to degenerative joint disease and could be associated with stronger muscle attachments (Rodgers and Waldron 1995). Moderate enthesophytes were observed on the femurs and humeri and slight enthesophytes were observed on the patella tibiae and calcaneus suggesting that this was a moderately robust individual (Hawkney 1998 and Robb 1998).
- C.1.16 Skeleton 228 was again in poor condition estimated to be an adult around 30 to 35 years old. Due to the poor condition of the remains this age estimate was taken entirely from the dental attrition noted (Brothwell 1981, Miles 1963). No sex estimation was possible for this individual. The bone surface was entirely affected by erosion and the shape of the bone was modified (McKinley 2004, grade 4). Fragmentation levels were high and no metric or non-metric analysis was possible. Again no pathology was visible due to the poor surface condition of the bone.

Skeletons 195, 225, 206

- C.1.17 This set of three graves **196**, **224** and **205** lie directly south of graves **8**, **93** and **227**. All three skeletons were buried south to north.
- C.1.18 Skeleton 195 from grave **196** was estimated to be a young male between 17 and 25 years old (Lovejoy *et al* 1985; Buckberry and Chamberlain 2002; Brothwell 1981; Miles 1963). A great amount of the surface condition was eroded but the general morphology of the bone was maintained (McKinley 2004, grade 3). Fragmentation was not as high on this individual and some limited metric analysis was possible. This included a stature estimate (Trotter 1970). The only pathologies noted were dental caries on the upper and lower left premolars. Some post-cranial non-metric traits were recorded. Moderate enthesophytes were recorded on the patella and tibia as well as strong muscle attachments on the tibiae. The fill of grave **93** also contained the disarticulated remains of a neonate. These comprised of skull, rib and humerus fragments most likely all from the same individual. It is possible that these remains represent a single burial truncating grave **93** however as the remains were recovered indirectly via sampling no trace of any grave was recorded.

- C.1.19 Skeleton 225 was a female aged between 18 and 22 years old. Preservation levels were again poor with all of the bone surface affected by some degree of erosion and modified bone shape (McKinley 2004, grade 4). Fragmentation was high however a stature estimate was possible on this individual (Trotter 1970). No pathology was visible however an unusual non-metric trait was observed in the skull with an ossicle or extra bone at the asterion suture point measuring 50mm by 29mm – larger than is usually observed.
- C.1.20 Skeleton 206 was a young male between 18 and 24 years old. Bone condition was again poor with all of the bone surface at least partially eroded and some modification to general morphology. Some limited metric analysis was possible on the long bones however a stature estimate was not possible for this individual. A small number of non-metric traits were observed including ossicles at the lambdoid and asterion suture points. This individual showed some limited evidence of osteophytes on the humeral and femoral heads. Again it is possible that this relates to robustity and general aging than joint disease (Rodgers and Waldron 1995). The upper right first premolar yielded signs of dental caries and there was ante-mortem tooth loss on the right mandible with the lower right second premolar and first and second molars missing. The healing sockets on the mandible indicated that the tooth loss had occurred more than twelve months before death (ref). No other pathology was observed.

Skeleton 106

- C.1.21 Skeleton 106 recovered from grave **105** was slightly more isolated being discovered to the east of grave **205**. This individual was estimated to be a male between the ages of 17-25 years old. Bone condition was again poor with all of the surface being at least partly eroded and the general morphology of the bone affected. Fragmentation was high. Very limited metric analysis was possible however this included a stature estimate (Trotter 1970). Non-metric traits were observed on the cranium again including ossicles at the lambdoid and asterion suture points. and no pathological conditions were observed.

Calcined Bone

- C.1.22 Several of the burials contained small fragments of calcined bone. None of the fragments were identifiable and could possibly represent animal bone. It is possible that these may represent grave goods however as several of the graves truncate Iron Age ditches we may simply be observing domestic waste.

Cut	Context	Calcined Bone	Coffin	Grave goods
5	7	-	-	-
8	10	3 fragments	-	-
93	95	2 fragments	yes	-
105	107	1 fragment	Yes	-
196	194	-	Yes	-
205	207	-	Yes	-
224	226	-	No	-
227	229	-	No	Iron Age pot?

Table 17: Presence of calcined bone and grave goods

Discussion

- C.1.23 Overall the nature of the remains was too fragmentary and the surface condition of these individuals was too poor to allow for many detailed observations to be made. Four of the eight burials showed evidence of Roman coffin nails. This was a practice which is often seen in the later Roman period and it is probable that these four graves date to this phase (Taylor 2001).
- C.1.24 The graves were primarily aligned east to west or south to north with grave **8** being south-west to north-east. While east to west is commonly seen as representing a Christian and therefore later burial rite, graves **196** and **205**, both of which contained evidence of coffins, were aligned south to north. The area of site where the graves are located is approximately 20m² and it is likely that this represents a small familial cemetery. These were becoming a more common method of burial for rural Romano-British communities during the fourth century AD (Taylor 2001). The site of Itter Crescent in Peterborough revealed a collection of 12 later Roman burials primarily all in the extended supine position and orientated west to east (Ui Choileain 2012).
- C.1.25 The dental health of the individuals was fairly good where it could be observed with surprisingly little dental attrition or caries. This is not overly common for a Roman population however rather than a good diet may merely represent the on average younger age of this collection. The dental caries observed upon skeletons 195 and 206 represent perhaps the most common dental disease in archaeological populations (Roberts and Manchester 2010 65). The types of pathologies noted on the bones were all fairly standard and represent the type of general injuries that can be observed in any archaeological assemblage.
- C.1.26 While there were no grave goods present to indicate a high class status nor are there any pathologies or funerary practices present which may indicate that these people were of a particularly lower class. It is most likely that this represents a small rural burial area as is commonly observed for Romano-British populations of this time (Taylor 2001, Smith, A 2014). The site is not unusual and is comparable to burial sites at the nearby Itter Crescent (Ui Choileain 2012) plus Clay Farm in Cambridgeshire (Loe 2012) and Radwinter (Ui Choileain 2015).

C.2 Faunal remains

By Zoe Ui Choileain with contributions by Emily Aberhart and Anthony Haskins

Introduction

- C.2.1 A total weight of 2.402kg of animal bone was recovered from the site.
- C.2.2 The majority of the bone was recovered from pits and ditches dated to the Later Iron Age and Mid Roman phases, with perhaps a slightly higher percentage of bone deriving from Later Iron Age contexts. A very small number of prehistoric features and Later Roman features produced bone.

Methodology

- C.2.3 All identifiable elements were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992). Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (Dobney and Reilly 1988). Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972) and France (2009). No measurements were taken as no bones were

complete. Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded where evident using the 0-5 scale devised by Behrensmeyer (1978).

Results

C.2.4 The results are summarised in the table below (Table 18).

Cut	Context	Feature	Date	Unidentified	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Cow	Horse	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Rodentia	bird	No of individuals represented
19	15	Ditch	Late Iron Age	2	2		1						2
	16			36	4								1
	17							3					1
33	34	Ditch	Undated	6									1
40	37	Ditch	Late Iron Age						3				1
	38					4						1	
46	47	Ditch	Late Iron Age	15			1		1				2
	48			40		1						1	
54	55	Posthole	Undated		5								1
63	62	Ditch	Prehistoric	4						1			1
65	67	Ditch	Late Iron Age			1	2					1	3
	68			6	2	2		2			2		
71	73	Ditch	Late Iron Age	4									1
81	82	Ditch	Late Iron Age	45	2		1		1				2
85	86	Pit	Late Iron Age	2									1
	87			2								1	
90	91	Ditch	Mid Roman	6					1				1
93	95	Grave	Late Roman		2								1
85	103	Pit	Late Iron Age									1	1
	104			2								1	
113	112	Ditch	Mid Roman	4			1		6			1	3
115	114	Pit	Late Iron Age	7	3	1	3						3
121	116	Pit	Late Iron Age	1	5								1
124	125	Oven	Mid Roman	35	2							2	2
145	143	Posthole	Mid Roman	1									1
150	146	Ditch	Late Iron Age						5				1
155	154	Ditch	Mid Roman	36		1	6		7				
173	174	Ditch	Undated	1									13
179	175	Ditch	Late Iron Age	1									1
	176			1								1	
	177			4								1	
	178			6								1	
180	181	Pit	Prehistoric	4									1
186	187	Ditch	Late Roman	1					5				1
200	201	Pit	Late Roman	6			3		2	24			2
202	204	Ditch	Mid Roman	19	3		1	1	3				4
208	209	Ditch	Mid Roman	1					1				1
218	219	Ditch	Late Iron Age		2			9				6	2
230	231	Pit	Late Iron Age	2	3					1			1
232	233	Ditch	Mid Roman	7	1		4					1	3
240	241	Pit	Late Iron Age	5	4		3		2	1			2

Table 18: Identifiable fragments and number of individuals represented

- C.2.5 There were no repeated elements from any species in any context therefore a minimum number of one individual is assumed for each species in any given context.
- C.2.6 While the fragmentation level was high, the surface condition of the bone was good (Behrensmeyer 1978, grade 1) with little detail being masked by erosion, gnawing or root activity and a large proportion of the bone recovered was identifiable to species.
- C.2.7 The most strongly represented species appeared to be cattle and sheep which were distributed evenly throughout Iron Age and Roman features. Pig and large birds were the next most common species noted which primarily appeared in Iron Age features. Only a very small amount of horse bone was recorded and this was recovered entirely from Roman features. As fragments of horse bone showed evidence of butchery marks it can be assumed that they are not representative of a high status animal.
- C.2.8 While an exact species could not be assigned for the bird bone, it could be narrowed to being from a large bird, most likely a goose or swan (Cohen and Serjeantson 1986).
- C.2.9 Butchery marks were noted on cattle bones and bird bones. An unidentified fragment of long bone from context (41) also showed signs of butchery marks. For the most part butchery marks present were represented by parallel short fine lines with a 'v'-shaped profile – such cut marks as are created by a knife (O'Conner 2000, 46). Deeper wider 'v'-shaped marks suggestive of chop marks that can be created by a cleaver or axe could be observed on a horse metapodial in context 204.
- C.2.10 Burnt bone was also recovered from several contexts. Both butchery marks and burnt bone indicate that this assemblage represents primarily domestic waste.
- C.2.11 Most interesting was a fragment of bird humerus from context 67 (SF33) which had been worked into a flat tool with a sharp point and polished. The tool was approximately 150mm long and 15mm at its widest point. Similar tools were found during excavations at Barleyfields, Fulbourn and they were often used for piercing hides and skins (Brown and Lichtenstein 2015, 64).

Cut	Context	Feature	Butchery	Pathology	Burning
19	15	Ditch		Cow metapodial gnawed	
	16		Long bone fragment with cut marks		
63	62	Ditch	Large mammal long bone with cut marks		
65	67	Ditch	SF33 large bird humerus worked to bone point.		
	68		Cut mark on cow metapodial		
85	104	Pit			Burnt fragment
113	112	Ditch	Possible cut mark on bird bone		
155	154	Ditch			Burnt pig phalange
179	177	Ditch			3 fragments, burnt, unidentified
	178				1 fragment, burnt, unidentified
200	201	Pit			Cow femur and 2 unidentified fragments, burnt
202	204	Ditch	Chop mark on horse metapodial		
232	233	Ditch			2 unidentified fragments, burnt.

Table 19: A summary of butchery, pathology and calcined bone

C.2.12 A small collection of calcined bone was recovered from the pits. There were no identifiable fragments present. Bone colour ranged from white to dark brown-black which suggests temperatures from 300 to 600 degrees Celsius. These are also most likely represent domestic waste.

Discussion and conclusion

C.2.13 The assemblage present primarily represents domestic animals with the addition of some small mammals from the rodentia category. Cattle and sheep are the most commonly represented. However it is evident that bird and pig made up a proportion of this population's diet, particularly during the Iron Age phase which accords with previous observations that cattle, pig and sheep make up the bulk of British Iron Age faunal assemblages (Hambleton 1999, 14). The bone would appear to primarily represent domestic waste with butchery marks and the level of burnt bone created by cooking fires being evident. The lower proportion of pig bones within the Roman contexts and the appearance of horse bones could represent the transition introduced from the continent whereupon horses became more commonly used as a domestic animal and cattle became more dominant as a preferred meat source (King 1999). Overall this is an interesting but typical representation of Later Iron Age and Roman faunal assemblages.

C.3 Mollusca

By Robin Webb

C.3.1 Two shells were recovered from the excavation, weighing a total of 0.01kg (Table 20). These consisted of a fragment of oyster shell from which it was not possible to identify any cut marks or grooves from shucking (prising open the oyster), and a scallop shell. These came from the fill of Late Roman ditch **113** (112). The small assemblage recovered during the excavation means little can be said of shellfish consumption within the site, and it is likely that the mollusca evidence is residual material that has silted into features, possibly after being spread into fields for manuring.

Context	Cut	Feature Type	Species	Weight (g)
112	113	Ditch	Oyster	2
			Scallop	8

Table 20: Mollusc quantification

C.4 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.4.1 One hundred and eight bulk samples were taken from the site. Seventy-three of the samples were taken from the fills of the graves of nine inhumations to ensure complete retrieval of human remains. The 35 bulk samples were taken from features such as ditches, pits and post holes that predominately date to the Late Iron Age which appears to have been the main phase of occupation of the site. A smaller number of bulk samples were taken from Roman features and several samples were taken from undated deposits with the aim of recovering dating material.

- C.4.2 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the types of ecofacts present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

- C.4.3 The methodology used varied depending on the context sampled. The total volume of all of the grave fills was processed to ensure maximum retrieval of human remains. The soil was wet-sieved through a 10mm, 4mm and 2mm mesh and each residue fraction was allowed to dry before sorting. The human remains were reintegrated with the hand-excavated material.
- C.4.4 The remaining bulk samples were processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic residues prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a list of the recorded remains are presented in Tables 5 and 6. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997). Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

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

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens ##### = 100+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and fired clay fragments have been scored for abundance

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

Results

- C.4.6 Of the 35 samples processed for the recovery of environmental remains, 23 contain charcoal only (Table 21). In most cases the charcoal volumes are sparse; the two exceptions are possible-cremation **189** (fill 199) and post hole **145** (fill 143) which both contain approximately 20ml charcoal.
- C.4.7 The more productive samples are listed in Table 22 and, of the deposits that can be dated, these are mostly Iron Age. Ditches **19** (fill 16) and **81** (fill 82) both contain grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.), oats (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), each present only as single specimens which cannot be considered significant as they may not be contemporary with the deposit sampled. Similarly ditch **65** contains only a single small pea/vetch (*Pisum/Vicia* sp.).
- C.4.8 Ditch terminus **179** contained four fills; the three lower fills 176, 177 and 178 were sampled. Primary fill 178 and secondary fill 177 contain almost identical deposits of charred plant remains. Weed seeds predominate in the assemblage and include several

species of grasses (Poaceae), clover (*Trifolium* sp.) blinks (*Montia fontana* (usually ssp. *Chondrosperma*)), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum* sp.), scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*), perennial flax (*Linum perenne*) and Common tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*). All of these plants are suggestive of open grassland/pasture. Seeds of rushes (*Juncus* sp.) also present within the assemblages may indicate that parts of the pasture were damp. Charred grain is also present but in low numbers and poorly preserved. A single seed of corn-cockle (*Agrostemma githago*) in fill 178 is likely to represent this plant growing amongst the cereals. It is of a similar size to the grain and was commonly extracted at the final stage of crop processing.

- C.4.9 Iron Age storage pit **85** was located towards the eastern area of the excavation and contained five fills, three of which were sampled. Single charred grains of wheat are present in each of fills 86, 87 and 103. A charred spelt (*T. spelta*) glume base (part of the tough outer chaff that enclosed the grain) was found in fill 87 along with a charred seed of chess (*Bromus* sp.) a weed plant that commonly grows with spelt wheat.
- C.4.10 The only Roman feature that contains charred plant remains is oven **124** which contained single burnt clay fill 125 that produced a single spelt wheat grain.
- C.4.11 Fill 198 of possible cremation pit **188** (undated) is charcoal-rich and also contains occasional charred cereal grains.

Sample No.	27	48	70	88	104	31	64	77	74	78	24	25	32	33	49	50	51	66	67	68	69	76	105
Context No.	73	104	174	231	247	91	143	204	187	201	23	011	096	098	108	116	120	158	160	162	166	199	243
Cut No.	71	085	173	230	246	90	145	202	186	200	22	012	097	099	109	121	121	157	161	163	167		242
Phase	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feature Type	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Post-hole	Ditch	Ditch	Oven	Post-hole	Ditch	Post-hole	Post-hole	Post-hole	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Post-hole	Post-hole	Post-hole	Crem ?	Post-hole
Volume processed (L)	10	9	9	9	9	8	9	7	7	9	3	10	8	6	10	9	9	9	3	2	8	18	6
Flot Volume (ml)	1	2	20	30	1	1	25	5	10	5	10	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	1	1	25	5
Charcoal <2mm	+	+		+	+	+	+++		+	+	+++	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+++	+
Charcoal >2mm					+												+	+				+++	
Large animal bones	#	#	#	#		#		#		#													
Pottery		#	#					#															
Fired clay		++ +	++ ++		+						+++												+

Table 21: Less-productive samples from PETJPO15

Sample No.		23	26	30	44	45	46	71	72	73	65	34	75
Context No.		016	068	082	086	087	103	176	177	178	125	100	198
Cut No.		019	065	081	085	085	085	179	179	179	124	101	
Feature Type		Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Pit	Ditch terminus	Ditch terminus	Ditch terminus	Oven / kiln	Posthole	Crementation?
Volume processed (L)		10	8	10	10	10	10	9	10	8	8	4	30
Flot Volume (ml)		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	25	20	2	1	80
Phase		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	0	0
Cereal grain													
Avena sp. Caryopsis	Oats [wild or cultivated]			#									
Hordeum vulgare L. caryopsis	domesticated Barley grain	#		#						#			#
Triticum sp. caryopsis	free-threshing Wheat grain	#			#	#				#		#	
<i>Triticum cf. spelta</i> L. caryopsis	Spelt Wheat grain							#			#		#
cereal indet. Caryopsis	unidentified cereal grain						#	#	#	###			#
Cereal chaff													
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Schübl. <i>glume base</i>	Emmer Wheat chaff									#			
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. <i>glume base</i>	Spelt Wheat chaff					#				#			
cereal indet awn									#				
Other food plants													
Legume <2mm	vetch/wild pea		#										
Legume 2-4mm	Pea/small bean												
Dry land plants													
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L. seed	Corncockle									#			
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> L./ <i>secalinus</i> L. caryopsis	Soft-brome/ Rye Brome					#							
<i>Chenopodiaceae</i> indet. seed	Goosefoot Family								#	#			
<i>Linum perenne</i> L. seed	Perennial flax								#				
<i>Montia fontana</i> ssp. <i>chondrosperma</i> (Fenzl) Walters seed	Blinks								#	#			
small <i>Poaceae</i> indet. [< 2mm] caryopsis	small-seeded Grass Family								#				
medium <i>Poaceae</i> indet. [3-4mm]	medium-seeded Grass Family								###	#			
large <i>Poaceae</i> indet. [>4mm] caryopsis	large-seeded Grass Family												
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L. achene	Knotgrass									###			
<i>Polygonum</i> sp. kernel achene	Knotgrasses kernel									#			
<i>Potentilla erecta</i> L. seed	Tormentil								#	#			

<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> ssp. <i>raphanistrum</i> L. mericarp	Wild Radish seed-case segment									#	#			
<i>Rumex</i> sp. Achene	small-seeded Docks									##	###			
large <i>Trifolium/Medicago</i> spp. [2-3mm] seed	large-seeded Clovers/Medics										#		#	
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> L.. Sch. Bip. achene	Scentless Mayweed									###	##			
Wetland plants														
<i>Juncus</i> sp. seed	Rushes									#	#			
Shrubs														
<i>Rubus</i> subgen. <i>Rubus</i> seed	Brambles									#				
Charcoal <2mm		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+++	+	+	+++
Charcoal > 2mm														+++
Large animal bones		##	##	##	#	#		#	#			###		
Pottery		##	#	#				#	#				#	#
Fired clay		+++	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	++++		

Table 22: Environmental samples containing charred plant remains

Discussion

- C.4.12 The environmental bulk samples from the site have low potential with regard to preserved plant remains. A scatter of cereal remains from Iron Age deposits most likely represents the accidental accumulation of wind-blown refuse within open features. The only significant assemblage of plant remains is found in Iron Age ditch terminus **179**. The contents of the primary and secondary fills of the terminus are very similar and probably represents the same deposit of charred material that has become mixed within the two fills by bioturbation. The presence of frequent burnt clay fragments and the indication of *in-situ* burning suggests that the ditch terminus was used as an oven. It would have been a convenient concave hole over which a clay superstructure could be constructed without the effort required to dig a pit. The charred plant assemblage is comprised of plants that are indicative of pasture such as grasses, clover and scentless mayweed which may be suggestive of hay that had been dried and used as fuel. Alternatively, the presence of pasture plants could represent turves cut from grassland (Hall and Huntley 2007, 213) which may have also been used within the super-structure of an oven as a clamp. The function of a possible oven is not obvious from the plant remains recovered. It could have been used for cooking food, including the baking of bread, or for small-scale grain drying. The cereal grains recovered are mostly degraded could be the result of repeated burning.
- C.4.13 The paucity of plant remains recovered from the middle and late Roman samples suggests that there was less domestic activity during these subsequent phases. Oven **124** may have had a domestic use that has left no traces.
- C.4.14 The samples have been fully assessed and, although two samples from ditch terminus **179** have produced a moderate assemblage of preserved remains, it is not considered that full quantification of the seeds will add to the interpretation of the deposit and no further work is recommended.

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-219130		
Project Name	An Archaeological Excavation of Roman Remains on Land at Johnston's Press, Oundle Road,		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	08-06-2015	Finish	03-07-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PETJPO15	Planning App. No.	14/2012/FUL
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	preconst1-210813

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Grave	Roman 43 to 410	Human bone	Roman 43 to 410
Ditch	Roman 43 to 410	Pot	Roman 43 to 410
Pit	Roman 43 to 410	Animal bone	Roman 43 to 410

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Peterborough	322-328 Oundle Road, Peterborough PE2 9QP
Parish	Peterborough	
HER	Peterborough City Council HER	
Study Area	761.29 sq m	National Grid Reference
		TL 1802 9731

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Rebecca Casa-Hatton
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Robin Webb

Project Archives

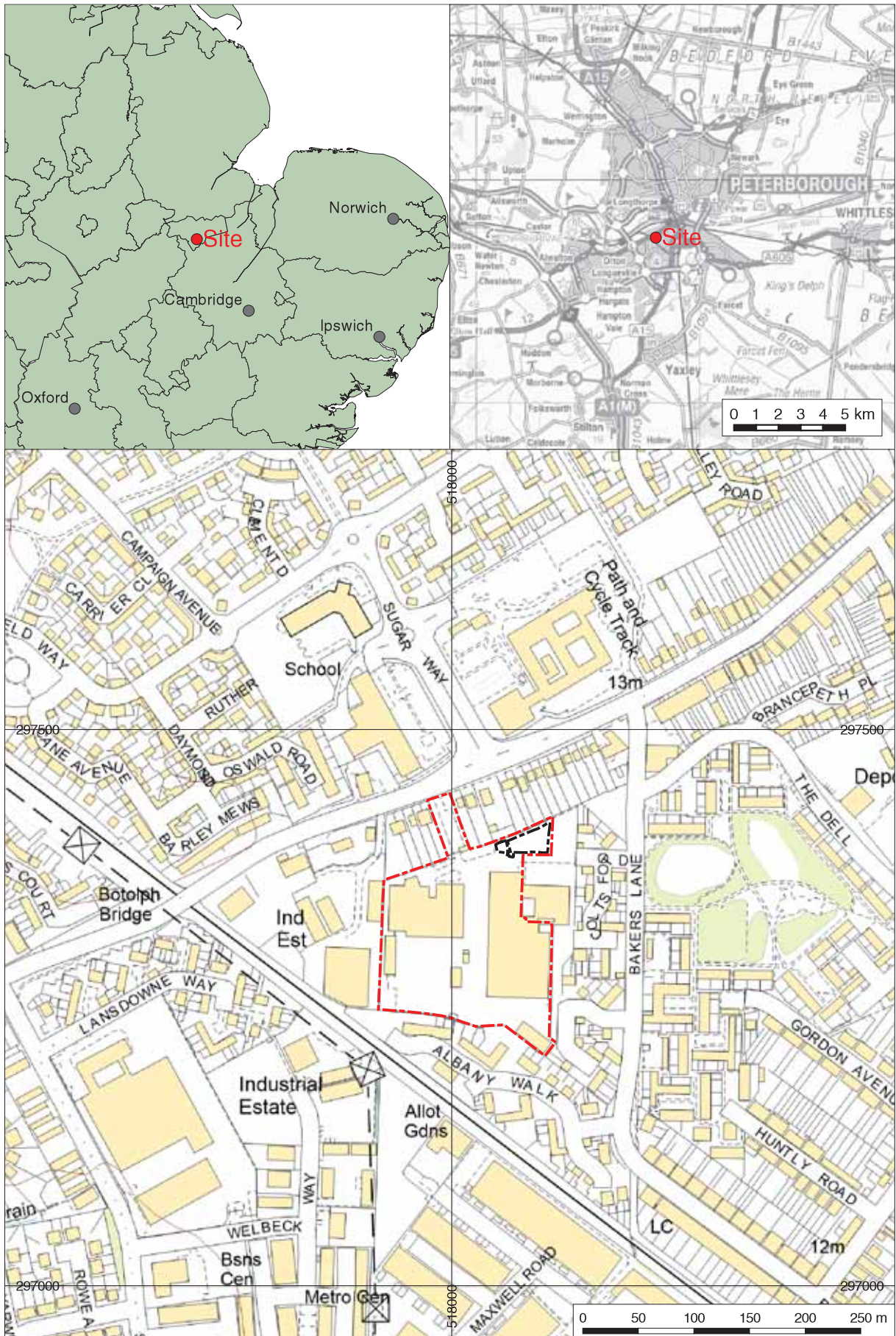
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Peterborough Museum	OA East	Peterborough Museum
PETJPO15	PETJPO15	PETJPO15

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:



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

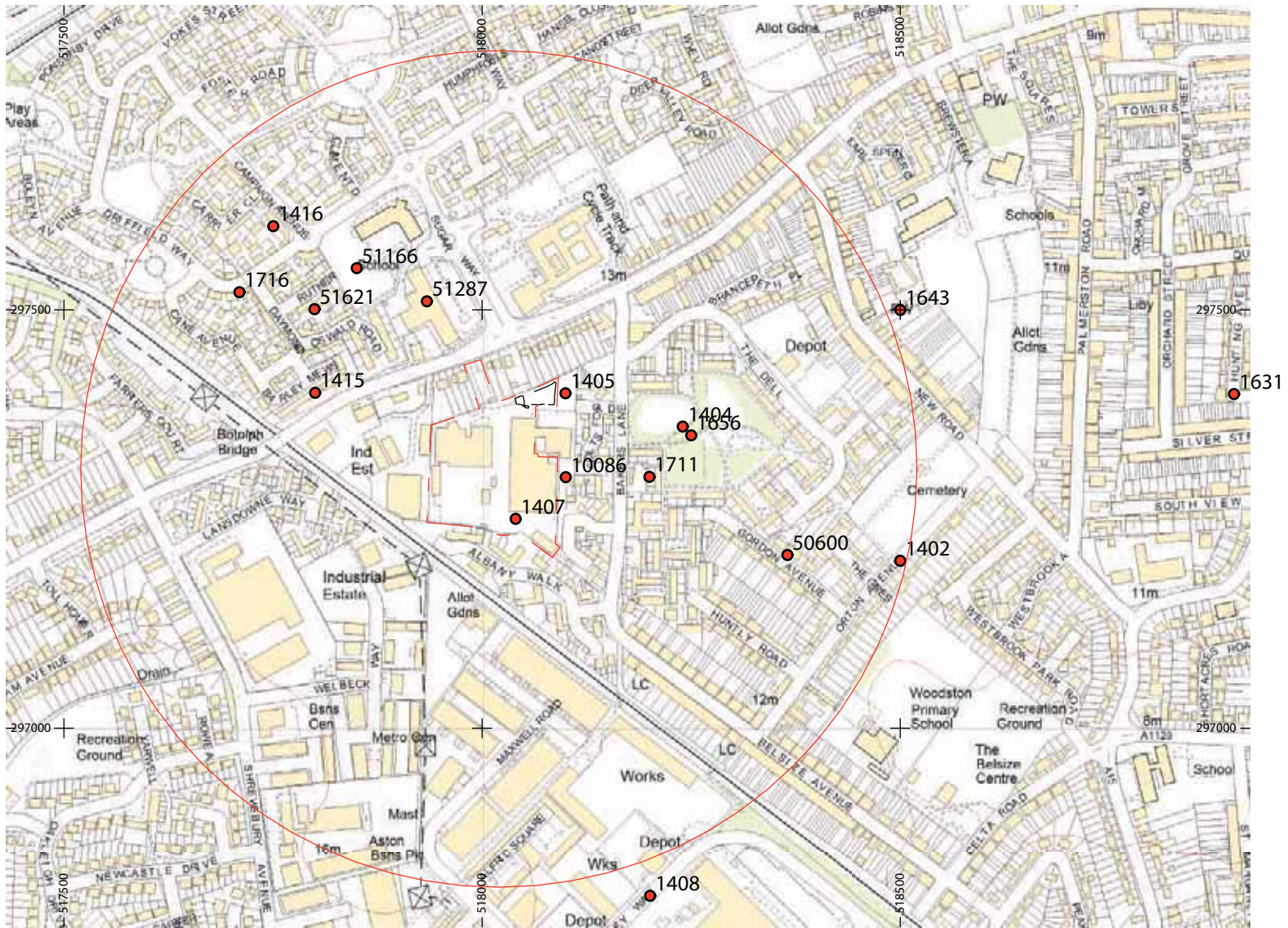


Figure 2: HER map for sites within a 500m radius of the site



Figure 3: Plan of site. Scale 1:150

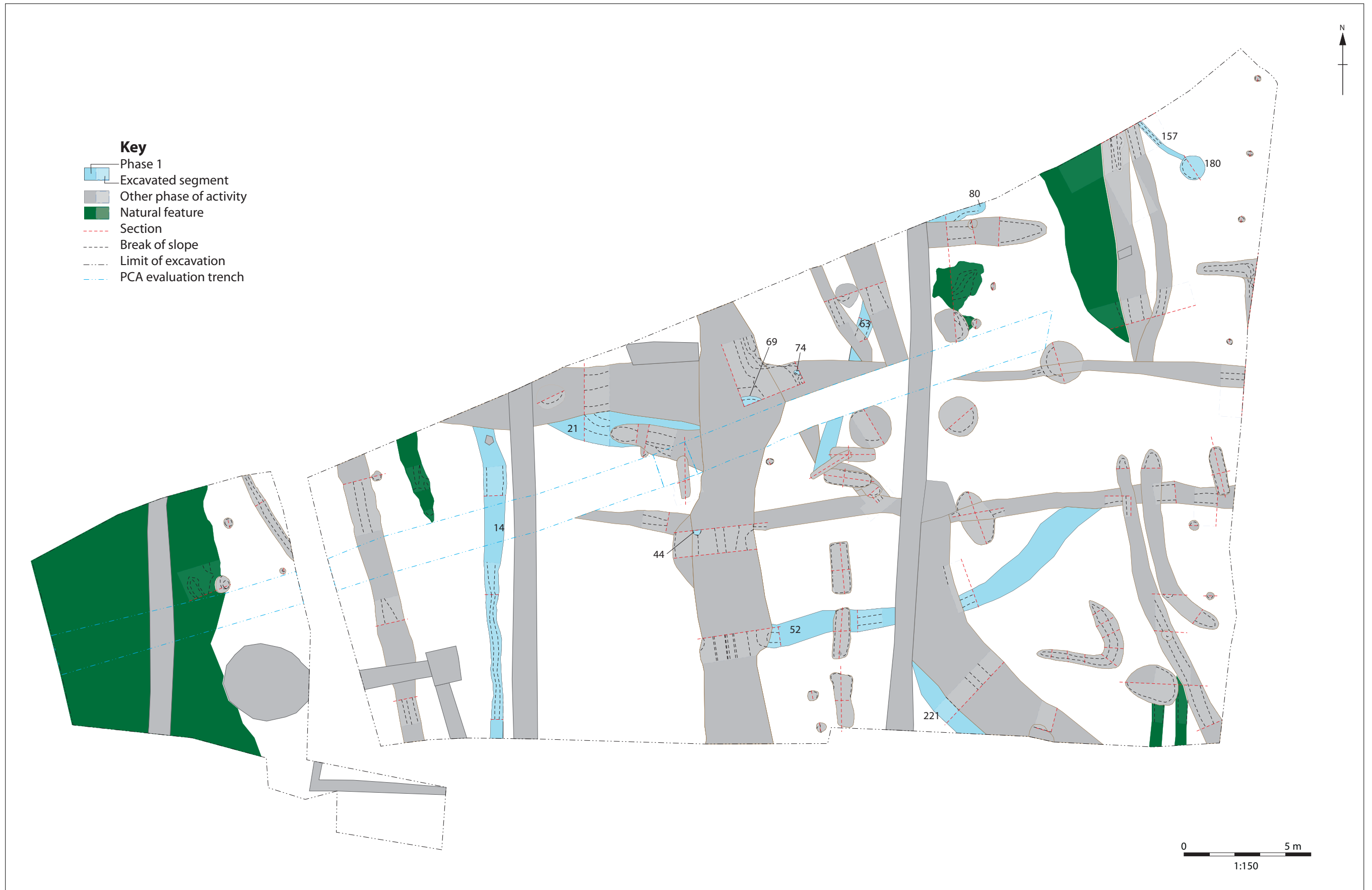


Figure 4: Plan of Phase 1 features. Scale 1:150

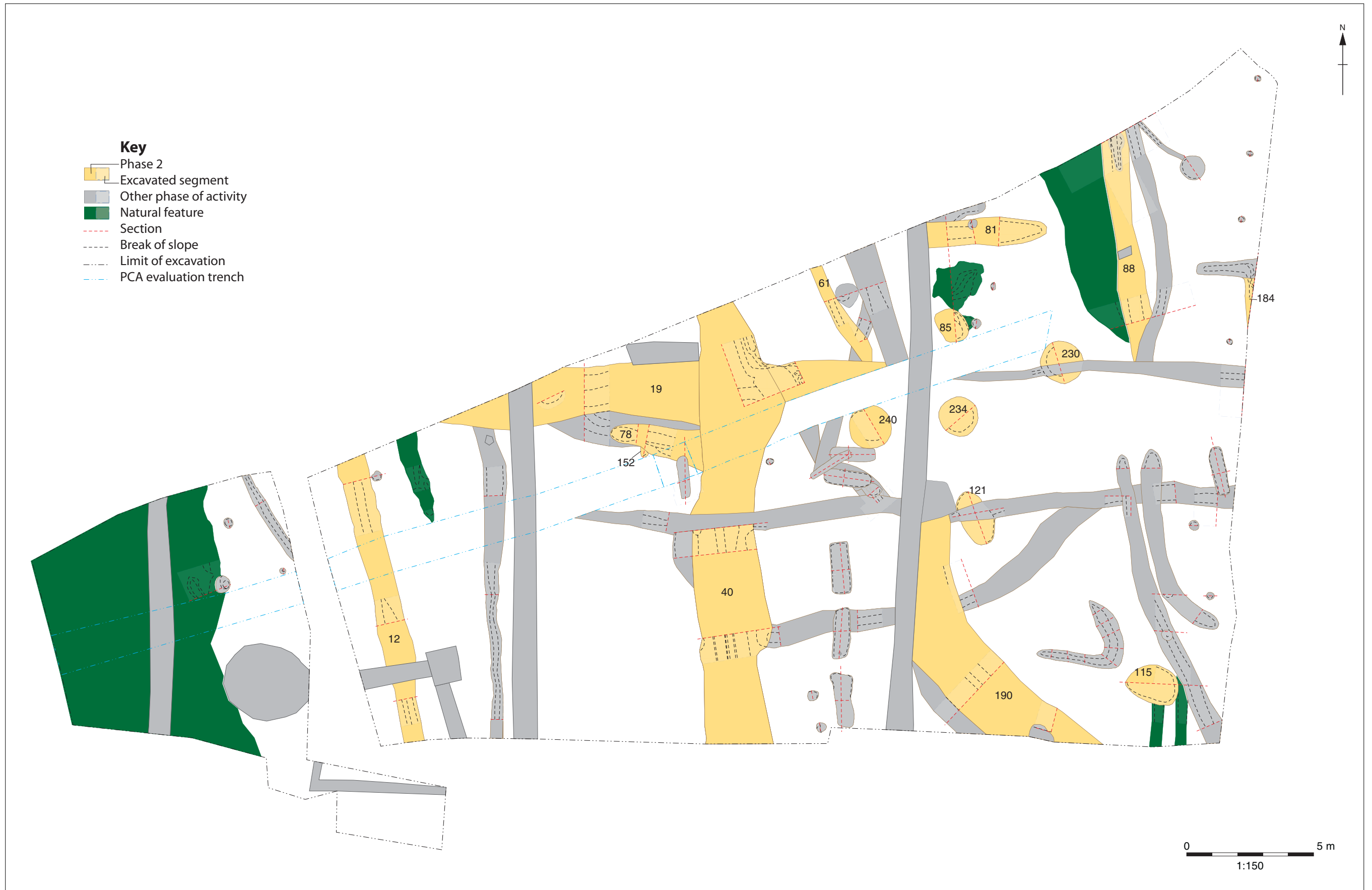


Figure 5: Plan of Phase 2 features. Scale 1:150



Figure 6: Plan of Phase 3 features. Scale 1:150



Figure 7: Plan of Phase 4 features. Scale 1:150



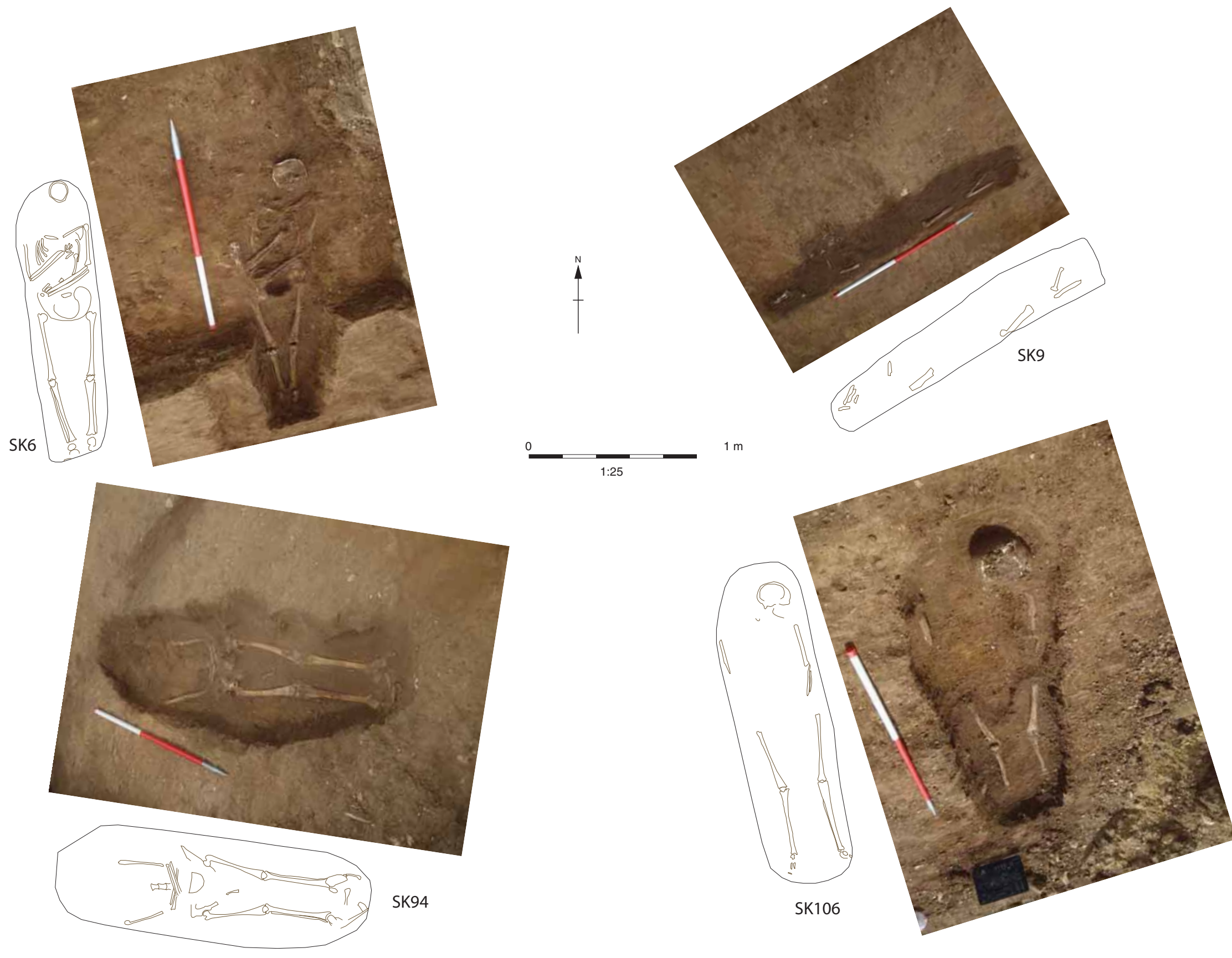


Figure 9: Detail of graves. Skeletons 6, 9, 94 and 106. Scale 1:25

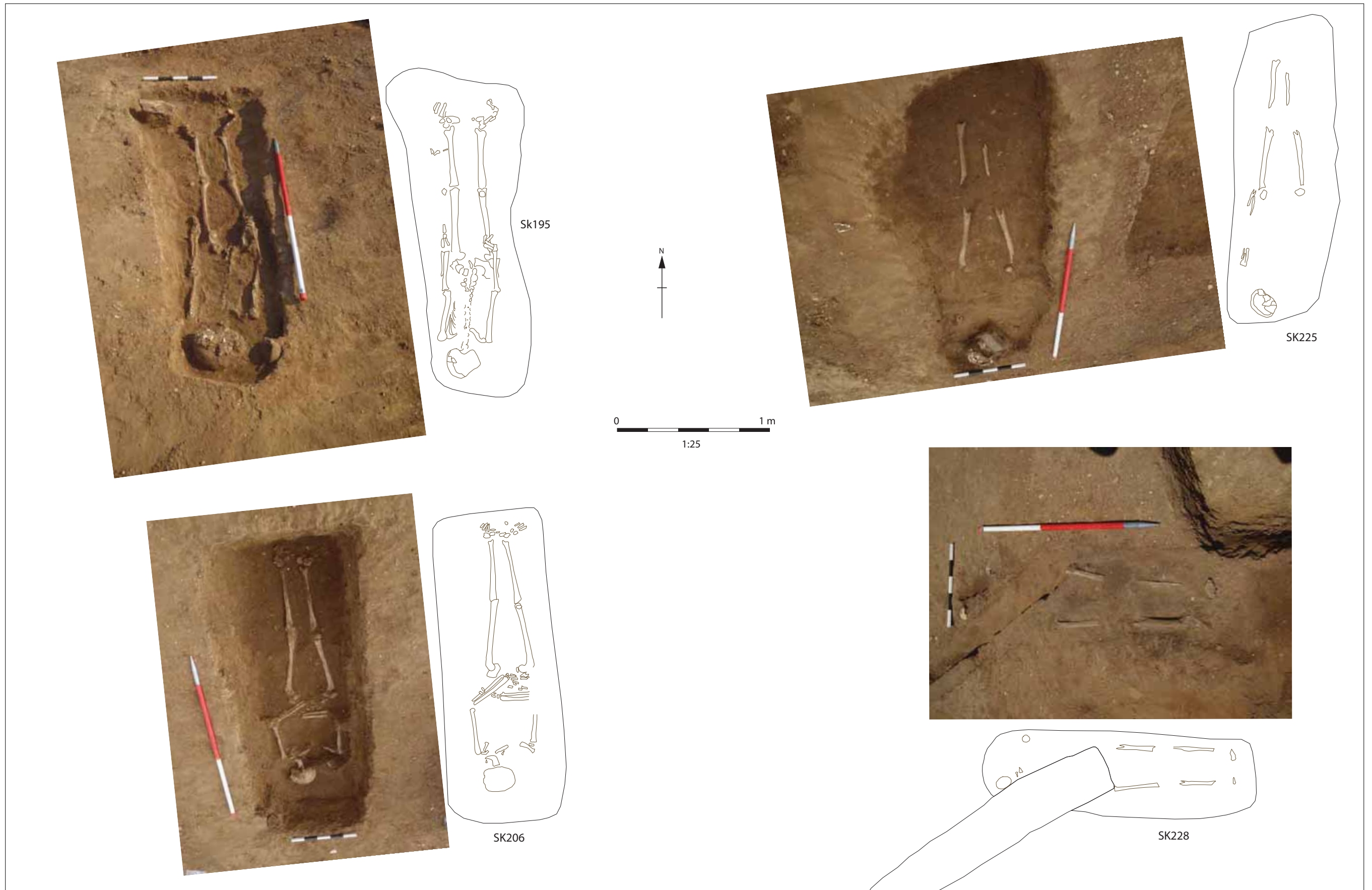


Figure 10: Detail of graves. Skeletons 195, 206, 225 and 228. Scale 1:25

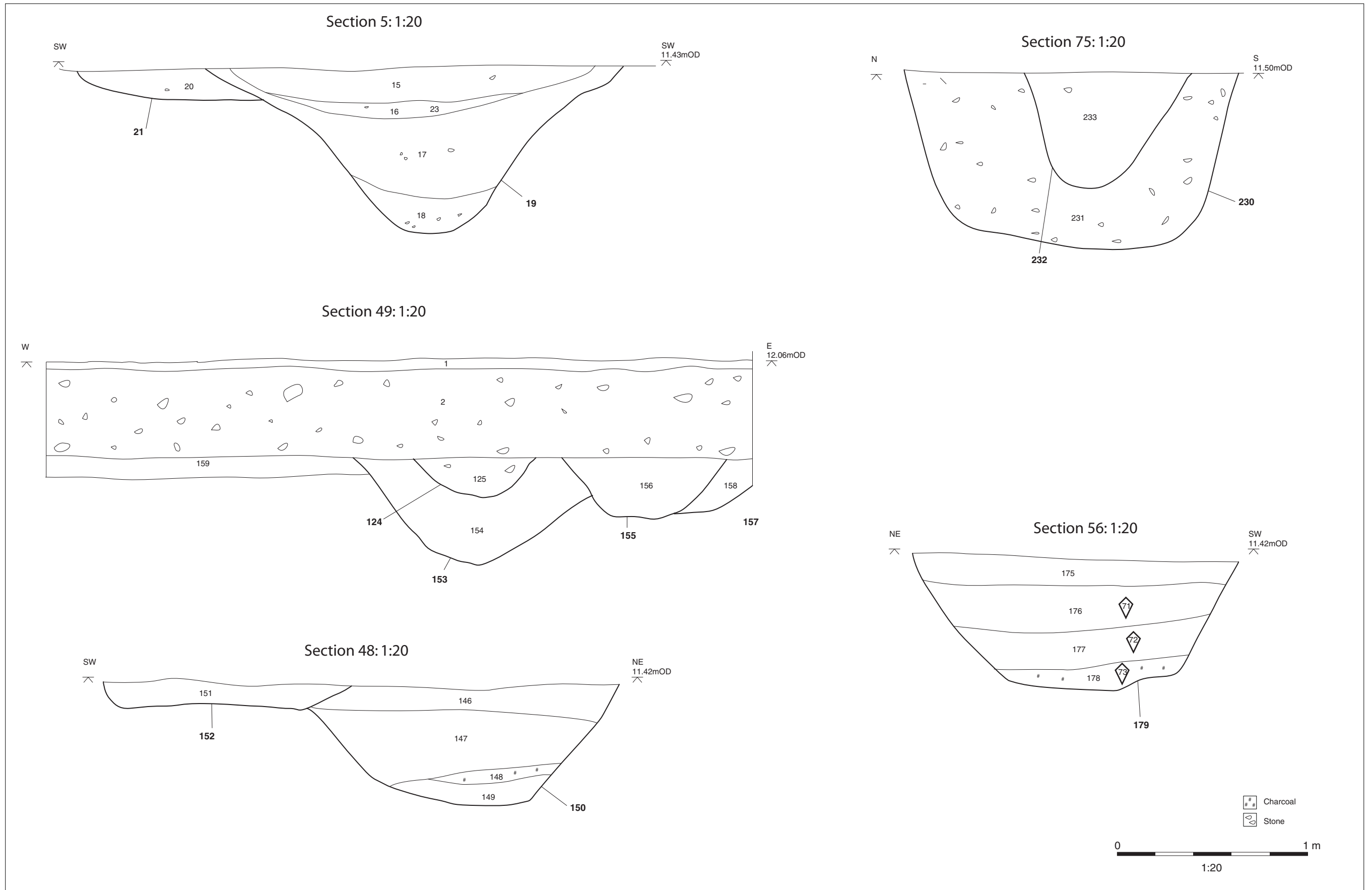


Figure 11: Selected sections. Scale 1:20



Plate 1: The site prior to excavation. Photograph taken from the south-west



Plate 2: The main excavation area. Photograph taken from the west



Plate 3: Overhead photograph of the main excavation area



Plate 4: Undated, possible cremations. Photograph taken from the west



Plate 5: Iron Age ditch 78, terminus with in situ burning. Photograph taken from the east



Plate 6: Iron Age enclosure ditch 19. Photograph taken from the east



Plate 7: Enclosure ditch 40. Photograph taken from the south



Plate 8: Iron Age storage pit 85. Photograph taken from the east



Plate 9: Roman keyhole oven. Photograph taken from the south



Plate 10: Profile of pottery vessel from grave 205 (Small find 13)



Plate 11: Pottery vessel from grave 205 (Small find 13)



Plate 12: Profile of pottery vessel from grave **196** (Small find 7)



Plate 13: Pottery vessel from grave **196** (Small find 7)



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