Excavation Report

Archaeological excavation on the site of The Bell public house, Eaton Socon

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Archaeological excavation on the site of The Bell public house, Eaton Socon

By James Fairbairn

With contributions by Alisdair Brooks, Barry Bishop, Steve Wadeson,

Rachel Fosberry HNC AIfA and Nina Crummy (BA FSA)

Editor: Aileen Connor BA ACIFA

Illustrator: Gillian Greer MCIfA BSc

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Client Name:	Bell Cornwell Associates
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Prepared by:	James Fairbairn
Position:	Supervisor
Date:	November 2015
Checked by:	James Drummond Murray
Position:	Manager
Date:	November 2015
Signed:	

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Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

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Summary

An archaeological excavation was conducted on land formally occupied by The Bell public house, Eaton Socon. St Neots. (TL 1691 5813) This was following an archaeological evaluation carried out by Oxford Archaeology East in October 2008.

The Archaeological excavation was carried out after the demolition of the Bell, but not before the steel structure and footings of the new drive through take away had been constructed. The erection of the sub structure and digging of footings along with associated drainage had a detrimental effect on the excavation process and its subsequent findings.

Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned by the client Bell Cornwell Associates to excavate an area of approximately 920sqm, this was in effect reduced to an area of 352sqm a loss of 568sqm.

The excavation revealed features dating to four phases of activity. The earliest phase consisted of a shallow Neolithic ditch. The second phase predominately dated to the mid 1st to later 3rd/4th centuries and consisted of ditches and pits thought to be part of the wider Romano-British agricultural estate identified in previous excavations to the North and West. Phases three and four of activity on the site were associated with The Bell public house and its outlying ancillary buildings.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted on the site of the former Bell public house, Eaton Socon, St Neots. TL 1691 5813.

1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application (0703933FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).

1.1.3 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 site lies (TL 1691 5813) on Second Terrace river deposits overlying Oxford Clay and is situated on the western bank of the Great Ouse. Historically the Bell Public House was situated in a small hamlet of Eaton Socon called Little End which lies immediately to the south of Eaton Socon village and approximately 2.5km south west of St Neots town centre. The site is now predominately surrounded by large scale industrial and commercial business units.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site lies on the gravel terraces on the western bank of the river Great Ouse, in a landscape known for its important prehistoric remains, both rural and settlement, and known to have been densely occupied in the Romano-British period.

The site lies immediately south of a large area of Romano-British rural activity and possible settlement that was excavated in 1997 (ECB 1963,1965-Gibson 2002). This included ditches, enclosures, evidence for temporary structures and craft processing. Most pertinently the report concludes that the centre of Romano-British occupation was probably immediately to the south of the excavated area (i.e. including the subject site). Similarly dated remains, although more characteristically field enclosures rather than occupation, are known from the area immediately to the south and west, which were subjected to evaluation trenching and excavation in 2001 by Wessex Archaeology (Gibson 2005) and a programme of strip, map and sample by Foundations Archaeology in 2006 (Hood 2007).

This area has also produced possible Neolithic activity in the form of a hearth (HER 00369) and Anglo Saxon occupation just to the north specifically a sunken featured building (ECB1963-Wessex Archaeology).

The site lies adjacent to the Great North Road, this formed the most important route northwards from London in the later 17th century and following centuries with upwards of 36 coaches passing through the town daily. Prior to that this route was secondary to the former Ermine Street.

1.3.2 The Bell Public House was located in the small Hamlet of Little End in Eaton Socon. This Hamlet grew up on the West side of The Great North Road Around the Bell and Crown public Houses. In 1860 the hamlet reached its peak with more than 160 residents, a shop, two large farms and two inns. In the 1930s and the 1960s the houses

alongside the road were demolished for a road widening scheme as the traffic increased on this busy highway to the North.

1.3.3 The first Bell inn still exists in the hamlet, now as a private residence. The building has Georgian origins, it remained a pub until when it 1840 became a farmhouse. Interestingly its intended functionality is still visible with its unsymmetrical appearance. The pub's name is thought to derive from the belief that the bell rested there on its way to be hung in the parish church.

1.3.4 The Bell public house was rebuilt in 1840 in a new location at the edge of the hamlet. This building was demolished in 1930 and the third property to bear this name was built behind this older building.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Bell Cornwell associates who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. I am also grateful for specialist advice from Rachel Fosberry, Stephen Wadeson, Carol Fletcher, Helen Fowler, Alasdair Brooks, Barry Bishop and Nina Crummy. Illustrations were produced by Louise Bush who also surveyed the site. Excavation assistance was provided by Gareth Reese, Jonathan Ley, Zoe Ui Choileán, Spencer Cooper and Rachelle Wood.

1.4.2 The brief for the Archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec, who visited the site and monitored the works.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this excavation was to preserve by record archaeological features and deposits within the development area. A further aim, if possible, was to link the findings from the Bell excavation with those from the 1997 Wessex Archaeology excavation to the north and the programme of Strip, Map and Sample carried out in 2006 by Foundations Archaeology to the south and west.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The original Brief and Specification aimed that an archaeological excavation of 0.08h should be undertaken. However, building works had already begun on the site prior to the start of archaeological works, it was therefore agree that the excavation should comprise a corridor around the outside of the building footprint and two small areas, one within and one adjacent to the east of the building (Fig. 1). Topsoil and subsoil were removed by a wheeled JCB-type excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision of a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.2.2 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.

2.2.3 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.

2.2.4 A total of thirty five environmental samples were taken from a variety of deposits from within the confines of the excavated area. These samples were used to investigate the quality of preservation and the quantity of charred remains, macro-fossils and land molluscs.

2.2.5 The site conditions were generally good with sunny and bright overcast conditions leading to good feature Identification. The loss of excavation area and the movement of heavy machinery around a very small site did mean the practical logistics of excavation became a particularly difficult procedure, but due to the help and assistance given on site by the site manager and contractors most of the problems were alleviated.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The findings of the excavation results are presented by phase below, (Fig 2). Four broad phases (periods) of activity have been identified: Phase 1, prehistoric; Phase 2, Roman; Phase 3, post-medieval; and Phase 4, modern. The Roman activity can be further sub-divided into three phases: Phase 3.1, late 1st – mid 2nd century; Phase 3.2, late 2nd – mid 3rd century; and Phase 3.3, 3rd – 4th century.

3.2 Phase 1 Prehistoric (Fig. 2; ditches 420, 510)

3.2.1 The earliest feature on the site was a small linear ditch **420 (410/414/437)** (Fig. 3; section18) containing flints thought to date from the later second or first millennium BC. The ditch was heavily truncated at the north east end by later features.

3.2.2 A short length of ditch (510) at the south-east corner of the excavation area may have been a remnant of a second ditch of prehistoric date. It was on a NNE-SSW orientation, 0.65m wide, 0.17m deep and perpendicular to **420** (but also on a very similar alignment to the later Roman ditches). It was filled with a mid yellowish grey silty sand (509) almost identical to the overlying deposit (502) which is interpreted as a possible buried soil. No finds were recovered from either the fill of 510 or layer 502, although Roman ditches clearly cut the latter. Layer 502 was confined to a relatively isolated area in the south-east corner of the site, Where excavated, the layer averaged approximately 50mm thick, its interface with the natural below was undulating and indistinct suggesting it had developed gradually.

3.3 Phase 2 Roman – AD43-AD419 (Fig 2)

3.3.1 The Roman features found on the southern area of the site were dominated by closely spaced ditches that lie on a broadly NNE-SSW orientation. (Plates 1 and 2), all of these lay to the south of a wide ENE-WSW ditch. A smaller enclosure ditch on a similar alignment was located to the north of this. Although the site was heavily truncated and little stratigraphy survived, pottery from the features has assisted in dividing the Roman features into three phases as described below. .

Phase 2.1 – Late 1st-Mid 2nd Century (ditches 544, 547, 549, 551, 553, 542, ?521, 424/428 and 561,)

3.3.2 The southern excavation area was dominated by parallel Roman ditches running on a NNE-SSW orientation. The most westerly of these (**544**) (section 56) was one of the smallest (0.50m wide x 0.18m deep), it was filled with a dark grey silty clay (543), finds from which included fragments of undiagnostic Roman pottery and small amounts of animal bone. The ditch continued as far north as, and was truncated by east-west orientated ditch **559** (Phase 4) which truncated an earlier (possibly Roman) ditch on a similar orientation (**561**). Approximately 11m to the east of **544** and parallel with it was ditch **521/525.** It was similar in both size and fill to **544** and it too contained only small sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery. These two may have been contemporary with each other. Ditch **553** (0.66m wide x 0.21m deep, Section 54) was equidistant between **544** and **521/525,** its very dark bluish grey clay fill (552) was distinctly different from the adjacent ditches and it produced 27 sherds of Roman pottery giving a suggested date of late 1st to mid 2nd century. These three ditches along with ditches **542** (0.6m wide x 0.18m deep), **547** (0.84m wide x 0.26m deep) and **424/488** (0.56m wide x 0.25m deep)

form a fairly regularly spaced (approximately 2.5m apart) linear pattern of ditches. All of the ditches were filled by a similar deposit, varying slightly from dark brownish grey to dark grey silty clay. Late 1st to Mid 2nd century pottery was also recovered from the fill (541) of ditch **542** and from the fill (423) of **424**. Similar, more extensive, examples have come to light on a growing number of sites within Cambridgeshire, for example just to the south of Cambridge (CBC and Bell Language School - Bush and Mortimer forthcoming), north of Cambridge (Phillips forthcoming), on the outskirts of Ely and closer to the current site at Loves Farm, St Neots (Hinman and Zant in press). In all of these cases these features have been interpreted as agricultural and all date to the early Roman period, appearing to go out of use by the middle of the 2nd century, a date that seems consistent with the examples excavated here. Some examples elsewhere have been shown to terminate in a perpendicular ditch on one or both sides and in this case it is possible that ditch 561 formed the northern boundary to this ditch system. Little of 561 was exposed and it produced no finds, however, its mid to dark greyish brown silty clay fill (560), its dimensions (0.7m wide x 0.32m deep) and its broadly U shaped profile are reasonably consistent with the NNE-SSW oriented ditches. It does not form a good right-angle with the latter, although this may not be such a problem as in examples elsewhere the "boundary ditch" is often more influenced by the local topography than by geometry. In evaluation trench 1, ditch 103 may be a continuation of ditch 561, it appeared to be earlier than ditch 101, which is certainly the same as ditch 521, suggesting that this east-west ditch belongs to an earlier phase of activity.

3.3.3 The ditch system observed here is complicated by the presence of re-cuts along two of the ditch lines; 553 and 424 were both replaced at least twice in a later phase (see Phase 2.2 below).

Phase 2.2 Mid 2nd to 3rd century

3.3.4 Possible Droveway

3.3.5 A pair of parallel ditches (484 and 517) may represent a narrow track (approximately 6m wide). Neither feature was observed as continuing into the northernmost part of the excavation area and it is assumed they either terminated, were truncated or turned prior to reaching it. The westernmost ditch (Ditch **484** (Section 35) contained Roman pottery within its lower fill and ran northwards again into the area of truncation. A larger ditch to the west **435** could also be considered to be an outer enclosure ditch has the same alignment and a similar profile to ditch **430** and ditch **457** (Section 26) in area **1.** Ditch **457** narrows significantly within area 2 this could be due to re-cutting of the possible enclosure ditch **450** (Section 24) further to the west. Ditch **517** located just to the east ran on a similar alignment and again may have Roman settlement associations. Worked flint was found within this ditch but this seems to be re-deposited (Appendix D).

3.3.6 Another series of small ditches **490**, **424** and **422** (Plate 9 and section 38)) were located 10m to the east, these were similar in size and depth to those to the west and could again be a series of drainage ditches associated with a probable Romano British settlement that would have been located close to the excavation. To the east of these more two more linear features, **499** and **501** (Section 39) seem to have terminated at ditch **430.** Although no artefactual evidence was found within the fills of these ditches their common orientation and similar profile strongly suggest a Roman date.

3.3.7 Roman features to the north of the building were far less evident, although the southern end of a possible enclosure was noted. A linear ditch **471** ran east and turned north

460 (Section 28) into the edge of excavation and could be a sign of further occupation to the north of The Bell. Nothing of Roman date was noted within this possible enclosure.

3.4 Phase 3 Post Medieval (fig 2)

3.4.1 Evidence for the post medieval occupation of the site was sparse and was limited to a few small pits and possible post holes that were probably associated with occupation close to the site

3.4.2 To the south of the linear Roman ditches two more post holes were recorded - features **529** and **540.** Feature **529** consisted of of a small steep sided pit with possible packing stone discovered in the base. Post hole **529** was similar in shape and contained post mediaeval brick and tile. A well of 19th century date was also found close to the edge of excavation. This was circular in shape and only partially excavated due to site and health and safety restrictions.

3.4.3 To the north of the steel structure was a series of inter-cutting ditches and small pits **437**, **439**. **443**, **445** and **447** (Plate 3 and 6). These were again considered to be of a post medieval in date and associated with The Bell public house or its out buildings. These were partially truncated by a linear east- west feature, ditch 406 that was dated to the 19th or 20th centuries.

3.5 Phase 4 modern (fig 2)

3.5.1 The modern features found during the excavation at the bell relate wholly to the most recent use of the site as a public house which had its earliest origins on the site in the 1840's

3.5.2 Modern service trenches were located to the north, west and east of the excavation area. A well **535** (Plate 7) of mid 19th century date was discovered against the edge of excavation in area 1 (Plate 8). this feature had deep sides and contained 19th and 20th century artefacts including parts of an enamelled jug (Appendix E) within its two fills (534 and 535). Excavation of the well was halted due to health and safety concerns.

3.6 Finds Summary

3.6.1 Lithics

The assemblage of worked stone is small and consistent with a small-scale domestic assemblage. It is generally unremarkable with all lithologies recognisable as commonly occurring in the general area during the Romano-British period.

3.6.2 Roman Pottery

The pottery consisted of a small assemblage of mainly locally produced utilitarian domestic ware from a modest settlement that probably existed close by but is as yet, undiscovered. The assemblage is consistent with that found on other Roman sites within West Cambridgeshire. Only a very small amount of the pottery was imported and consisted of central Gaulish Samian ware. The fine wares discovered were restricted to the late Romano-British period and mainly came from the Lower Nene valley and Oxfordshire potteries. The proximity to the production area of the Nene valley acts as a chronological indicator and not one of status. The assemblage spans a period from the mid 1st to the late 4th /5th suggesting continuous activity in the area throughout the Roman period.

3.6.3 Post Medieval Pottery

Thirty seven post medieval finds were recovered during the excavation stage. 24 sherds of pottery, 5 fragments of glass and 8 clay pipe stems. The overwhelming majority of finds are dated to the late 19th or early 20th century. All materials were British in manufacture. The later post-med refined wares originated in Staffordshire. One marked Soda water bottle was found and came from Newport Pagnell in Bucks approximately 30km away. None of the objects are unusual in their geographic distribution given the time period.

3.6.4 Metalworking

The only conclusive evidence for metalworking on or near the site was the smithing hearth base in context 556. This however represents secondary metalworking. The main concentration of slag was located in the south east corner of the site. It is clear that secondary metalworking was taking place near the excavation area possibly to the East or South East of the site.

3.6.5 Stone

The five items of worked stone include one possible saddle quern, one processor and three rotary quern fragments. The possible saddle quern is a large boulder (SF 39) from context 476. Its overall shape has not been modified, nor has the main surface been prepared, but it is smooth and slightly concave suggesting some possible use for grinding. Three rotary quern fragments include one of lava (401), one of Old Red Sandstone (SF 44, ctx 556) and a small probable fragment of Sarsen (SF 44, ctx 556). A fifth item is a cobble which has been utilised as a hone on two edges with a resulting flat smooth wear (477).

3.6.6 Small Finds

The assemblage is small. It consists of 34 items, the majority being of late post-medieval to modern date. Iron nails and low-value post-medieval coins account for a large proportion of the group.

3.7 Environmental Summary

The environmental processing showed that limited plant remains were present and preservation was both by carbonisation and water logging. The charred plant remains were dominated by cereal grain and charcoal fragments which may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking. The presence of charred grain along with other dietary refuse such as animal bone and pottery indicate culinary waste. Waterlogged samples suggest a localized landscape of disturbed ground within a wider wetland environment..

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.1 The site has provided evidence for prehistoric activity from the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Residual Neolithic flints were found in a Bronze Age ditch but adds to the Neolithic pit from Alpha Park which contained a broken red deer antler pick as well as Neolithic struck flints. One of the flints from The Bell was suggestive of leaf-shaped arrowhead manufacture.

4.1.2 The were two ditches on site, one of which was more certainly datable to the Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, the second is more tentative. The two could be seen within the wider landscape of field systems. The only exception was a small shallow ditch **420** which contained flints although not closely datable are of a type in use in the early first or second millennium BC making the ditch the oldest feature discovered during the excavation. 36 fragments of Bronze Age flint came from Prior's Gate but all were residual.

4.2 Roman

4.2.1 The results from the excavation at the former Bell public house can be seen within the wider expanse of Romano British settlement in this area. Excavations by Foundations Archaeology immediately adjacent (Alpha Park, Hood 2007) and a little further to the north by Wessex Archaeology (Priors Gate, Gibson 2005) produced similar remains (Fig 4) although no focal point of any settlement could be found. These two larger sites produced evidence for a Roman agricultural estate in the form of a field and enclosure system. At Priors Gate to the north a droveway ran northwards, presumably, to the Colmworth Brook. There was also two further watering holes present and fragmentary suggestions of structures. The evidence from Alpha Park was mainly limited to ditched fields and enclosures. The alignment of the ditches at The Bell closely matches those at the other two, in NN/E to SS/W direction and clearly forms part of the same agricultural system. Two ditches at The Bell may have formed another droveway. All three sites date predominantly from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD, with a 1st century field system re-established on a larger scale in the 2nd-3rd centuries with activity tailing off at the end of the Roman period.

4.2.2 Beyond this to the north the features seem to relate more to the post-medieval or modern periods and have associations with The Bell public house or its ancillary buildings that were present on the site until recently. Despite the limitations of the project, both in terms of scale and truncation, the site has produced evidence for agricultural activity spanning several centuries

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 Together with the other excavations carried out by Wessex archaeology and Foundations archaeology, the current site should add to what is known in this area of St Neots giving a wider picture of settlement and land use along the gravel terraces of the Great River Ouse.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Area 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Area 1 contained a Roman enclosure ditch other small linear ditches, pits and a posthole					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
					Width (m)	
					Length (m)	
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
425	Fill	1.4	0.1	Dark orangey brown silty clay	Pottery and Bone	1st- 4th Century AD
426	Fill	1.4	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
427	Layer	1.4	-	Cut of V shaped ditch	-	-
428	Fill	1.3	0.2	Dark orangey brown		
429	Fill	1.3	0.45	Dark silty clay	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD
430	Cut	1.3	0.65	Cut of Ditch		
460						
465	Fill		0.2	Dark brown silty clay		
466	Cut			Cut of heavily truncated ditch		
467	Fill	1.3	0.2	Dark orangey brown		
468	Fill	1.3	0.45	Dark silty clay	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD
469	Cut	1.3	0.65	Cut of Ditch		
470	Fill	0.75	0.2	Mid brownish silty Clay		
471	Cut	0.75	0.2	Partially excavated truncated ditch		
472	Fill	0.3	0.11	Mid blackish grey silt clay	Daub	
473	Cut	0.3	0.11	Cut of post hole		
474	Fill	0.45	0.1	Mid blackish grey silt clay		
475	Cut	0.45	0.1	Cut of shallow post hole/ pit		
518	Fill	0.3	0.28	Dark brown silty clay		
519	Cut	0.3	0.28	Cut of heavily truncated ditch		
528	Fill	0.46	0.3	Dark browny grey silty clay	Pottery	Post Mediaeval
529	Cut	0.46	0.3	Cut of Post hole		
530	Fill	0.8	0.45	Mid Brown sandy silty gravel	Brick	Post Mediaeval
531	Fill	0.3	0.06	Dark Grey silty clay		

532	Cut	0.8	0.45	Ovular steep sided pit		
533	Fill	2.8	1.7	Mid to light brown silty clay	Brick and ferrous metalwork	19th-20th Century
534	Fill	2.8	0.8	Dark grey silty clay		
535	Cut	1.8		Cut of Modern well only partially excavated		
536	Fill	0.8	0.2	Mid to light brown sandy silty clay		
537	Fill	0.8	0.25	Silty clay		
538	Cut	0.8	0.45	Cut of U shaped shallow ditch		
539	Fill	0.5	0.1	Light to mid brown silty clay	Brick and Tile	Post mediaeval
540	Cut	0.5	0.1	Small shallow post mediaeval pit		

Area 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Area 2 Contained a Large Roman enclosure ditch and a post mediaeval drainage ditch.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
					Width (m)	
					Length (m)	
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
455	Fill	1.4	0.1	Dark orangey brown silty clay	Pot and Bone	1st- 4th Century
456	Fill	1.4	0.5	Dark Grey silty	-	-
457	Cut	1.4	0.6	Steep V shaped cut of ditch	-	-
458	Fill	0.45	0.1	Mid to light brown silty clay	3 x Coin	18th C
459	Cut	0.45	0.1	Cut of shallow ditch		
570	Fill	0.28		Mid to light brown slity clay		
571	Cut	0.28		Almost completely truncated ditch		

Area 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Area 3 was situated on three sides of the steel structure, to the south, west and north. The area was dominated by ditches in the south and west and post mediaeval features to the north.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context	**type**	**Width**	**Depth**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**

no		(m)	(m)			
401	Fill	0.72	0.13	Light to mid brown silty clay	-Glass, brick and tile	19th-20th Century
402	Cut	0.72	0.13	Cut of modern ditch	-	-
403	Fill	0.5	0.23	Mid brown silty clay	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD
404	Cut	0.5	0.23	Cut of Roman ditch		
405	Fill	0.93	0.28	Dark reddish brown silty clay backfill of drain		19th-20th Century
406	Cut	0.93	0.28	Cut of modern drain		
407	Fill	0.5	0.18	Dark orangey grey silty clay		
408	Cut	0.5	0.18	Cut of undated shallow ditch		
409	Fill	0.38	0.1	Mid orangey grey silty clay		
410	Cut	0.38	0.1	Cut of shallow ditch		
411	Fill	0.38	0.05	Dark browney grey Silty clay		
412	Cut	0.38	0.05	Cut of an undated short shallow curvilinear ditch		
415	Fill	0.52	0.1	Dark grey brown silty clay	Coin	19th-20th Century
416	Cut	0.52	0.1	Shaped linear ditch associated with the public houses ancillary buildings		
417	Fill	0.93	0.28	Dark reddish brown silty clay backfill of drain	Glass	19th-20th Century
418	Cut	0.93	0.28	Cut of modern drain		
419	Fill	0.45	0.15	Mid browney grey silty clay	Flint	later second or first millennium BC
420	Cut	0.45	0.15	Small shallow u shaped linear ditch		
421	Fill	0.73	0.3	Mid Dark brown silty clay	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD
422	Cut	0.73	0.3	Cut of U shaped boundary/enclosure ditch		
423	Fill	0.56	0.25	Mid dark brown silty clay		1st- 4th Century AD
424	Cut	0.56	0.25	Cut of U shaped ditch		
431	Fill	0.4	3.6	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD
432	Fill	0.3	3.2	Mid to dark reddish brown clayey silt		
433	Fill	0.14	0.8	Dark greyish black silty clay	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD

434	Fill	0.2	0.8	Dark greyish black silty clay		
435	Fill	3.2	1.2	Large linear Ditch		
436	Fill	0.1	0.05	Mid greyish brown silty clay		
437	Cut	0.1	0.05	Cut of shallow U shaped ditch		
438	Fill	0.3	0.2	Dark orangey silty clay		
439	Cut	0.3	0.2	Cut of small shallow linear ditch. Heavily truncated		
440	Fill	0.7	0.14	Dark reddish brown clay silt		
441	Cut	0.7	0.14	Curved linear U shaped ditch cut		
442	Fill	0.3	0.09	Light brown grey silty clay		
443	Cut	0.3	0.09	Shallow curvilinear ditch		
444	Fill	0.39	0.21	Dark reddish brown silt		Post mediaeval
445	Cut	0.39	0.21	Cut of pit or post hole		
446	Fill	0.65	0.18	Dark reddish clay silt		
447	Cut	0.65	0.18	Cut of shallow pit or post hole		
448	Fill	0.62	0.18	Mid brown sandy silty clay	Pottery	Post mediaeval
449	Cut	0.62	0.18	Terminus of ditch		
450	Cut	0.8	0.2	Cut of ditch almost completely truncated by 435		
451	Fill	0.16	0.16	Mid to dark grey silty clay		
452	Cut	0.16	0.16	Sterile fill of post hole		
460	Fill	0.95	0.16	Dark blue grey clay silt		
461	Cut	0.95	0.16	Wide shallow u shaped curvilinear Roman boundary ditch	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD
462	Fill	0.9	0.17	Mid grey brown sandy silt		
463	Cut	0.9	0.17	Wide shallow u shaped curvilinear Roman boundary ditch		
470	Fill	0.75	0.2	Mid brownish grey silty clay		
471	Cut	0.75	0.2	Wide shallow u shaped curvilinear Roman boundary ditch		
483	Fill	1.7	0.5	Mid to dark grey silty clay	Pottery	1st-4th Century AD
484	Cut	1.7	0.5	Linear Roman ditch		
485	Fill	0.72	0.4	Dark greyish brown silty	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD

				clay		
486	Cut	0.72	0.4	Linear Roman ditch		
487	Fill	0.52	0.23	Mid greyish brown Silty clay	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD
488	Cut	0.52	0.23	Steep sided flat based Roman ditch		
489	Fill	0.26	0.2	Dark greyish brown silty clay	Pottery	1st- 4th Century AD
490	Cut	0.26	0.2	Steep sided Roman linear ditch		
491			0.5	Mid orangey brown subsoil layer covering most of area three		
492	Fill	1.5	0.32	Dark to mid grey silty clay	Pottery	1820-1900
493	Cut	1.5	0.32	Sub circular shallow pit		
498	Fill	0.38	0.09	Dark blue greyish silty clay		
499	Cut	0.38	0.09	Linear straight sided ditch		
500	Fill	0.4	0.31	Dark brownish blue grey silty clay		
501	Cut	0.4	0.31	Linear ditch		
502	layer		0.2	Mid yellowish grey spread of soil		
503	Fill	0.62	0.31	Mid brownish yellowy grey		
504	Cut	0.62	0.31	Modern pipe trench		
505	Fill	0.66	0.44	Dark grey silty clay	Pottery	1st-4th Century AD
506	Cut	0.66	0.44	Semi circular Roman pit		
507	Fill	0.23	0.18	Mid brownish grey sandy silt		
508	Cut	0.23	0.18	Cut of stake hole		
509	Fill	0.65	0.17	Mid yellowish grey silty clay sand		
510	Cut	0.65	0.17	Terminus of linear ditch		
511	Fill	0.15	0.1	Mid reddish brown silty clay		
512	Cut	0.15	0.1	Circular straight sided post hole		
513	Fill	0.4	0.1	Mid greyish brown silty clay		
514	Cut	0.4	0.1	Circular pit/post hole		
515	Fill	1.32	0.36	Mid yellowy greyish brown sandy silty clay	Flint	
516	Fill	1.06	0.06	Dark blueish grey silty clay		
517	Cut	1.32	0.42	Boundary or drainage ditch		

520	Fill	0.4	0.18	Mid brownish grey silty clay	Pottery	1st-4th Century AD
521	Cut	0.4	0.18	Shallow steep sided Roman drainage ditch		
522	Fill	1.1	0.09	Dark grey silty clay		
523	Cut	1.1	0.09	Sub circular pit		
524	Fill	0.4	0.08	Mid brownish grey silty clay		
525	Cut	0.4	0.08	Steep sided ditch heavily truncated by 523		
533					Pottery	20th century
541	Fill	0.6	0.18	Dark grey silty clay	Pottery	1st-4th Century AD
542	Cut	0.6	0.18	Small shallow ditch cut		
543	Fill	0.5	0.17	Dark grey silty clay	Pottery and bone	1st-4th Century AD
544	Cut	0.5	0.17	Cut of narrow enclosure ditch		
545	Fill	0.84	0.2	Dark grey reddish brown silty clay	Bone	
546	Fill	0.74	0.12	Mottled yellowy grey sandy clay		
547	Cut	0.84	0.26	Cut of drainage ditch		
548	Fill	1.2	0.22	Dark greyish brown sandy silty clay	Bone	
549	Cut	1.2	0.22	Shallow linear drainage ditch		
550	Fill	0.84	0.26	Dark reddish brown clay silt		
551	Cut	0.84	0.26	Cut of small shallow drainage ditch		
552	Fill	0.66	0.21	Dark blueish grey silty clay		
553	Cut	0.66	0.21	Cut of shallow linear drainage ditch		
554	Fill	1	0.2	Mid orangey grey sandy silt		
555	Cut	1	0.2	Shallow sub circular pit within enclosure		
558	Fill	1.02	0.59	Dark brownish grey silty clay	Brick and stone	Modern
559	Cut	1.02	0.59	Terminus of modern ditch cut		
560	Fill	0.7	0.32	Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay		

561	Cut	0.7	0.32	Post mediaeval ditch cut		

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Romano- British Pottery by Stephen Wadeson

Introduction and methodology

A total of 289 sherds weighing 3.162kg, of Romano-British pottery, from 40 contexts were recovered during excavations at The Bell, Great North Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire (STNBEG 08). The majority of the assemblage was recovered from ditches (*c.*98% by weight) with a further *c.*1.0% of pottery retrieved from pits (Table 1).

The majority of the pottery is significantly abraded with an average sherd weight of *c.*11g and many of the sherds have not retained their original surface finish. The poor condition of the pottery indicates high levels of post-depositional disturbance possibly the result of middening and/or manuring as part of the waste management during the Roman period (Lyons 2007) suggesting that the pottery was not found within its primary site of deposition.

Feature Type	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
Ditch	275	3.095	97.9
Pit	6	0.037	1.2
Subsoil/Layer	8	0.030	0.9
Total	**289**	**3.162**	**100**

Table 1: Romano-British pottery quantified by feature type.

Methodology

The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW) vessel form was also recorded.

The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

Quantification

All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted and a spot date has been provided for each individual sherd and context.

The Assemblage

Coarse Wares

Locally produced domestic coarse wares *c.*81% (by weight), account for the majority of the assemblage recovered from site.

The earliest coarse wares recovered from site are proto sandy grey wares dating from the mid 1st to early/mid 2nd century AD. The transition between hand made and wheel

made vessels of this type is a subject for research (Lyons in prep. 2008) and vessels of a similar type have been recovered from excavations at the nearby Loves Farm. Produced in both a fine and coarse fabric the experimental nature of the ware is typical of grey ware production at that time.

Fabric	Code	Sherd Count	Weight (Kg)	Weight (%)
Hadham red ware or Oxfordshire red colour coat	HAD/OX	2	0.008	0.3
Mancetter Hartshill mortaria	MHMO	2	0.116	3.7
Nene Valley grey ware	NVGW	7	0.022	0.7
Nene Valley oxidised ware	NVOW	1	0.054	1.7
Nene Valley colour coat	NVCC	13	0.278	8.7
Oxford white colour coat	OXWCC	1	0.014	0.4
Oxford red colour coat	OXRCC	4	0.138	4.4
Proto sandy grey ware (fine)	PROTO SGW (fine)	35	0.243	7.6
Proto sandy grey ware (coarse)	PROTO SGW (coarse)	4	0.041	1.3
Samian Central Gaul	SAMCG	5	0.009	0.3
Sandy grey ware	SGW	134	1.437	45.4
Sandy grey ware (calc)	SGW (calc)	2	0.024	0.8
Sandy grey ware (fine)	SGW (fine)	1	0.005	0.2
Sandy grey ware (gritty)	SGW (gritty)	3	0.046	1.5
Sandy grey ware (orange surfaces)	SGW (orange surfaces)	2	0.019	0.6
Sandy reduced ware	SRW	8	0.061	1.9
Shell tempered ware	STW	54	0.595	18.8
Sandy oxidised ware	SOW	10	0.044	1.4
Misc white ware	WW	1	0.008	0.3
Total		**289**	**3.162**	**100**

Table 2: Pottery quantified by fabric in alphabetical order.

Later sandy grey wares form the majority of the Romano-British pottery recovered from site representing in sherd count almost half of the assemblage *c*.49% by weight. Present in a wide range of forms including both jars and straight sided dishes they are typical of locally produced (but as yet unsourced) coarse wares. Pottery of this type is common in most domestic assemblages in this region throughout the Roman period.

In addition a further seven sherds *c*.1% by weight, of Nene Valley grey wares including a single rim sherd from a straight sided bowl were recovered from site. Only produced between the later 2nd century and the early 4th century (Perrin 1999, 112), there after their range of forms were produced in colour coated material. The introduction of Lower Nene Valley grey wares marks an important development in the use of grey wares in the Romano-British period as their manufacture established the sandy grey ware fabric as the main utilitarian ware in the region (Lyons 2008).

The second most common fabric used on site are Shell tempered wares accounting for c.19% (by weight) of the assemblage. The majority of these sherds are unsourced and can be difficult to date unless rims are present within the assemblage. It is certain however that the forms produced and their place of production changed throughout the Roman period. It is probable that much of early Roman shell tempered wares were produced in the Lower Nene Valley between the 1st and 3rd centuries (Perrin 1996).

Later forms identified include several sherds of South Midlands shell tempered wares (Tyers 1999, 192), dating from the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD. In the later Roman period shell tempered coarse wares such as these were often used as an alternative to utilitarian grey wares, indeed several of the sherds recovered are burnt on their external surfaces where they have been used as cooking pots.

A successful example of an industry producing wares of the type found identified has been recorded at the Harrold kilns, Bedfordshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115), although other more local kiln sites must have existed (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212).

The majority of the remaining coarse wares *c*.4% are made up of abraded sherds of sandy reduced and sandy oxidised wares the majority of which are undiagnostic.

Fine Wares

Only five, heavily abraded sherds of samian were identified (*c*.0.3%) within the assemblage. Produced at Lezoux (AD 120-200) in Central Gaul (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32) the sherds broadly date from the early Hadrianic to late Antonine periods. All five sherds are to small and fragmented for identification of vessel form and type.

The majority of fine wares retrieved are Nene Valley colour coated fine wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118) representing *c*.9% of the assemblage by weight and accounting for almost two thirds of the fine wares identified. Produced in the Lower Nene Valley most sherds are typical of the later, 3rd to 4th century. These fine wares more closely resemble utilitarian wares, which are thicker and more substantial than the earlier Nene Valley fine wares of the mid 2nd early 3rd century. Vessels present include both straight sided and flanged dishes, jars and beakers and includes single scale decorated beaker sherd dating from the mid 2nd to mid 3rd centuries AD.

Pottery from the Oxfordshire potteries including both Oxfordshire red colour coat (Tomber and Dore 1998, 174) and Oxfordshire white colour coated wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176) account for a further 2.5% (by weight) of the fine wares recovered.

Specialist Wares

Forms and fabrics traditionally associated with specialist wares are relatively rare within the assemblage and are limited to just four sherds of mortaria (*c*. 7% by weight). Dating from the mid 2nd to early 4th centuries AD, two sherds (3.7%) of Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria (Tomber and Dore 1998, 189) were identified within the assemblage along with a single burnt sherd of Nene Valley mortaria (1.7%) from the 3rd to 4th centuries AD (Tomber and Dore 1998, 119). In addition a single sherd of Oxfordshire red colour coat mortaria (1.9%) dated to the 3rd to early 5th centuries AD (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176) was recovered also.

Provenance

Nineteen individual fabrics were identified within the assemblage (Table 2). Dominated by locally produced sandy grey wares the majority of the these utilitarian coarse wares remaining largely un-sourced.

The majority of shell tempered coarse wares are un-sourced however much of the early Roman shell tempered wares were most likely produced in the Lower Nene Valley between the 1st and 3rd centuries (Perrin 1996). Later products are of a type similar to those produced at the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115).

Centred on the Roman town of *Durobrivae* (Water Newton) near Peterborough the Nene Valley industry produced both fine wares and coarse wares including Nene Valley grey wares (Perrin 1999, 78). Other fine wares identified within the assemblage include pottery from the Oxfordshire red ware industries (Tomber and Dore 1998, 174-76) while continental imports are restricted to a small quantity of Central Gaulish samian from Lezoux (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32).

Specialist wares are limited to just four sherds of mortaria and were imported from several domestic regional centres. Two of the four sherds identified were produced at the Mancetter-Hartshill potteries (Tomber and Dore 1998, 189) situated in the West Midlands around Mancetter and Hartshill on the Warwickshire/Leicestershire border (Tyers 1999, 123). In addition a single sherd was identified as coming from both the Oxfordshire red ware industry (Tomber and Dore 1998, 174-76) and from the Lower Nene Valley, Cambridgeshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 119).

Discussion

This is a relatively small Romano-British assemblage, largely recovered from stratified deposits, the fabrics and forms present are typical of a utilitarian domestic assemblages recovered from low order settlements within this region (Evans 2003, 105). Consistent with other Roman sites of this date within West Cambridgeshire the majority of the assemblage consists of locally produced utilitarian coarse wares (c.81%) manufactured between the mid 2nd and 4th centuries AD.

In addition a small quantity of early Roman proto sandy grey wares represent the earliest pottery identified from site. Dating from the mid 1st to early/mid 2nd centuries the majority of this pottery is found as a residual element in later contexts.

Specialist wares are poorly represented within this assemblage, however the presence of mortaria may indicate that the local population were adopting Romanised methods of food preparation, involving the grinding of herbs and spices and the production of sauces, or were simply becoming more affluent (Lyons 2008).

Continental imports during the Romano-British period are limited to a relatively small amount of residual, undecorated Central Gaulish samian (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32). The sparse use of imported wares typical of low order settlements within this region (Evans 2003, 105).

The late Romano-British character of this assemblage is confirmed by the lack of early Romano-British fine wares. The majority of the fine wares identified are late Roman and were imported from domestic production centres including colour coated wares from the Lower Nene Valley (Cambridgeshire) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118) and the Oxfordshire potteries (Tomber and Dore 1998, 174-76).

Accounting for the majority of the late Roman fine wares identified, the presence of Nene Valley wares, on this and other sites in the region is due to the proximity of the site to the production centres of the Nene Valley. This often results in the dominance of Nene Valley colour coats over other fine wares, as a result the presence of Nene Valley colour coats acts as a chronological indicator for the site rather than one of status.

The Romano-British assemblage spans a wide chronological period from the mid 1st to late 4th/early 5th century AD providing evidence of continuous activity in the area from throughout the Roman period. Although a small amount of the assemblage is early Roman the majority of the assemblage is mid to late Roman in date (mid 2nd-late 4th/early 5th century AD) and is consistent with the majority of Roman sites around

western Eynesbury and Eaton Socon dating from the late 3rd and 4th centuries (Spoerry 2000, 148).

Typical of low status utilitarian domestic assemblages within this region (Evans 2003, 105) the small number of sherds recovered during excavation is common on many sites and although not the focus of settlement itself would suggest there is an as yet un-located Romano-British settlement or farmstead nearby.

Sampling Bias

The open area excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental and artefactual remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery. These are small quantities of abraded sherds and have not been quantified, and serious bias is not likely to result.

Statement of Potential

Analysis of this ceramic assemblage combined with material from other contemporary assemblages in the area (Priors Gate, Gibson 2005; Eynesbury, M 2004) will allow for the progression of pottery studies in this region has the potential to answer some of the regional and national research aims addressed as part of this project.

Further Work

No further work is necessary on the assemblage unless further archaeological work takes place at the site, in which case it should be integrated into any future assessment and/or analysis.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Alice Lyons, OA East for her time, support and specialist knowledge of Roman pottery.

Era	Cut number	Feature	Context	Fabric	Dsc	form	dec	qty	wt	spot date	context date	
ERB	402	DITCH	401	PROTO SGW (coarse	U			1	11	MC1-C4	POST MED	RE
RB	402	DITCH	401	NVCC	U			1	2	LC2-C4	POST MED	RE
RB	404	DITCH	403	SGW	U			1	3	MC1-C2	MC1-C4	
ERB	404	DITCH	403	PROTO SGW (coarse	U			1	8	MC1-EC2	MC1-C4	
RB	404	DITCH	403	SRW	U			1	3	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	404	DITCH	403	SGW	U			3	8	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	422	DITCH	421	STW	U			2	35	MC1-C3	C3-C4	
ERB	422	DITCH	421	PROTO SGW (coarse	R	JAR		1	9	MC1-C2	C3-C4	BU
RB	422	DITCH	421	SGW	UB			9	46	MC1-C4	C3-C4	
RB	422	DITCH	421	SGW	R	DISH		1	13	C2-C4	C3-C4	BU
RB	422	DITCH	421	SOW	U			1	6	MC1-C4	C3-C4	
RB	422	DITCH	421	OX/HAD	U			1	2	MC3-EC5	C3-C4	?O HA
RB	422	DITCH	421	NVGW	R	DISH		1	1	MC2-C3	C3-C4	
ERB	424	DITCH	423	PROTO SGW (fine	U			3	14	LC1-MC2	MC1-C4	
RB	424	DITCH	423	SGW	U			1	3	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	424	DITCH	423	SGW	R			1	3	MC1-C2	MC1-C4	
RB	424	DITCH	423	SOW	R	BOWL/JAR		1	9	?C2-C3	MC1-C4	?LI SO
RB	424	DITCH	423	SGW	U			1	5	MC1- C2	MC1-C4	
RB	424	DITCH	423	SRW	U			1	9	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	SO
RB	427	DITCH	425	SGW	U			1	20	MC1-C4	C3-C4	BL/ SL
RB	427	DITCH	425	STW	U			1	25	MC1-C3	C3-C4	
RB	427	DITCH	425	SGW (gritty)	R	FLANGED DISH		1	24	MC3-C4	C3-C4	?BI SL
RB	427	DITCH	426	SGW	B			1	10	C2-C4	C2-C4	
RB	427	DITCH	426	MANCETTER-HARTSHILL	R	MORT		2	116	MC2-EC4	C2-C4	
RB	430	DITCH	428	STW	U			1	20	MC1-C3	C2-C3	
RB	430	DITCH	428	SRW	UB			2	21	C2-C4	C2-C3	
RB	430	DITCH	428	SGW	B			1	18	MC1-C2	C2-C3	BL/ SL ME SH
RB	430	DITCH	429	SGW (calc)	U			1	9	C2-C4	C2-C4	BL/
RB	569	PIT	431	SGW	R	DISH		1	18	C3-C4	C3-C4	
RB	569	PIT	431	STW	U			2	3	MC1-C4	C3-C4	
RB	435	DITCH	433	SGW	U	JAR		1	12	MC1-C4	C3-C4	
RB	435	DITCH	433	SGW	R	JAR		1	8	MC1-C4	C3-C4	
RB	435	DITCH	433	SGW	B	DISH		1	12	C3-C4	C3-C4	SO INS

Era	Cut number	Feature	Context	Fabric	Dsc	form	dec	qty	wt	spot date	context date	
												OU
RB	435	DITCH	433	NVCC	U			1	39	C4	C3-C4	
RB	435	DITCH	433	STW	U			1	7	MC1-C4	C3-C4	ALI LEA
RB	435	DITCH	433	SGW	U	JAR	BURNISHED	3	17	MC1-C4	C3-C4	FE CO INT
RB	457	DITCH	455	SGW	UR			4	27	C2-C4	C2-C4	SO LG
RB	457	DITCH	455	SGW (orange surface)	U			1	7	MC1-C4	C2-C4	
ERB	457	DITCH	455	SGW	U			1	5	EC1-C2	C2-C4	
RB	457	DITCH	455	STW	R	DISH/BOWL		1	11	C2-C4	C2-C4	?BU
RB	457	DITCH	455	SOW	R			1	9	C2-C3	C2-C4	?BU
RB	457	DITCH	455	CGSAM	U			2	5	C2	C2-C4	SLI BU INT
RB	457	DITCH	456	SGW	B			1	7	MC1-C3	C2-C3	SO
RB	457	DITCH	456	SGW	B			1	7	MC1-C3	C2-C3	?C
RB	457	DITCH	456	SGW	UR			2	19	MC1-C2	C2-C3	
RB	457	DITCH	456	NVGW	U			1	1	MC2-EC4	C2-C3	
RB	457	DITCH	456	STW	UB	S/JAR, JAR		5	128	C2-C4	C2-C3	SO LEA
RB	457	DITCH	456	SGW	UBR	DISH, JAR	BURNISHED LINES	9	185	C2-C4	C2-C3	
RB	461	DITCH	460	NVCC	R	JAR		1	13	C4	C4	
RB	461	DITCH	460	SRW	R	DISH		1	4	C2-C4	C4	
RB	466	DITCH	464	CGSAM	U			1	2	C2	C2	
RB	466	DITCH	464	STW	U	JAR		2	61	C2-C4	C2	FE CO
ERB	466	DITCH	464	PROTO SGW (fine	U		BURNISHED	1	23	LC1-MC2	C2	SO EX
ERB	466	DITCH	464	PROTO SGW (fine	R	DISH		1	7	LC1-C2	C2	
RB	466	DITCH	464	SGW	UBR	DISHES		9	146	MC2-C4	C2	SO CO
ERB	466	DITCH	465	SGW (fine)	U	JAR		1	5	MC1-C2	C2-C3	BL SL
RB	466	DITCH	465	STW	B	JAR		1	48	MC1-C3	C2-C3	FE INT
RB	466	DITCH	465	SGW	U			1	12	MC1-C4	C2-C3	
RB	466	DITCH	465	SGW	UR	JAR		4	86	C2-C3	C2-C3	?R SL CO INT
RB	466	DITCH	465	STW	U	JAR		1	4	MC1-C4	C2-C3	LE SH

Era	Cut number	Feature	Context	Fabric	Dsc	form	dec	qty	wt	spot date	context date	
RB	469	DITCH	467	STW	U	JAR		1	8	MC3-EC5	C3-C4	?H TY
RB	469	DITCH	467	NVOW	R	MORT		1	54	C3-C4	C3-C4	BU
RB	469	DITCH	467	OXRCC	U	MORT		1	60	C3-EC5	C3-C4	
RB	469	DITCH	468	NVCC	B	BEAKER		1	52	C3-C4	C3-C4	
ERB	479	DITCH	477	PROTO SGW (fine	U			1	14	LC1-MC2	C2-C4	
RB	479	DITCH	477	WW	U			1	8	MC1-C3	C2-C4	
RB	479	DITCH	477	STW	U	JAR		1	23	C2-C4	C2-C4	MC SH LE
RB	479	DITCH	477	OX/HAD	U			1	6	MC3-EC5	C2-C4	
RB	479	DITCH	477	SGW	UB			3	99	MC1-C3	C2-C4	SO INT
RB	479	DITCH	477	NVCC	U			2	65	C3-C4	C2-C4	
RB	479	DITCH	477	SRW	R	DISH		1	14	C2-C4	C2-C4	
RB	479	DITCH	477	SGW	UR	JAR		2	16	C2-C3	C2-C4	?S NV
RB	481	DITCH	480	SGW	UBR			6	92	MC2-C4	MC2-C4	
RB	484	DITCH	482	STW	UR	JAR		3	16	MC1-C4	MC1-C2	RIM LE BU
RB	484	DITCH	482	SGW (gritty)	R	JAR		1	21	MC1-C4	MC1-C2	
ERB	484	DITCH	482	PROTO SGW (fine	UB	JAR/BEA KER		5	92	LC1-MC2	MC1-C2	BL
ERB	484	DITCH	483	PROTO SGW (fine	U		SLASHED CORDON	4	14	LC1-MC2	C2-C4	
RB	484	DITCH	483	SGW	U			1	10	MC1-C4	C2-C4	SO INT AN EX
RB	484	DITCH	483	SGW	UR			4	30	MC1-C4	C2-C4	LID SL
RB	484	DITCH	483	STW	UR	JAR		2	26	C2-C4	C2-C4	RIM LE BU
RB	486	DITCH	485	SGW	UR	JAR		2	26	MC1-C2	C2-C3	
ERB	486	DITCH	485	PROTO SGW (fine	B			2	13	LC1-MC2	C2-C3	
RB	486	DITCH	485	SRW	UR	JAR		2	10	MC1-C4	C2-C3	
RB	486	DITCH	485	STW	UB			5	10	MC1-C4	C2-C3	SH LE
RB	486	DITCH	485	NVCC	U	BEAKER	SCALES	1	2	MC2-MC3	C2-C3	
ERB	486	DITCH	485	PROTO SGW (fine	U			3	12	LC1-MC2	C2-C3	
RB	486	DITCH	485	SOW	U			3	17	MC1-C4	C2-C3	
RB	488	DITCH	487	SGW	U			2	2	MC1-C4	C2	
RB	488	DITCH	487	SGW	U			2	17	LC1-EC2	C2	

Era	Cut number	Feature	Context	Fabric	Dsc	form	dec	qty	wt	spot date	context date	
RB	488	DITCH	487	SGW	R	DISH		1	19	MC2-C4	C2	
RB	488	DITCH	487	SGW (gritty)	U			1	1	MC1-C2	C2	
RB	490	DITCH	489	SGW	U			1	5	MC1-C4	C2-C4	
RB	490	DITCH	489	STW	U			1	3	MC3-EC5	C2-C4	SO INT HA TY
RB	490	DITCH	489	SGW	U			2	4	MC1-C2	C2-C4	
RB	490	DITCH	489	SGW	U			1	12	MC1-C4	C2-C4	LIM OU SU
RB	SUBSOIL	LAYER	491	STW	U			1	5	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	SH LE
RB	SUBSOIL	LAYER	491	SGW	U			2	3	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	SUBSOIL	LAYER	491	STW	U			3	7	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	SUBSOIL	LAYER	491	NVCC	U	? BEAKER	ROULLETED	1	3	C3-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	SUBSOIL	LAYER	491	SGW (orange surface)	U			1	12	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	493	PIT	492	SGW	U		LATTICE	1	6	MC1-C4	POST MED	RE
ERB	493	PIT	492	PROTO SGW (fine	U			1	6	LC1-MC2	POST MED	RE
RB	499	DITCH	494	CGSAM	U			2	2	C2	C2-C4	
RB	499	DITCH	494	NVCC	R	BEAKER		1	2	LC2-C3	C2-C4	
RB	499	DITCH	494	SGW	R	DISH		1	18	C3-C4	C2-C4	
RB	499	DITCH	494	SGW	UB			7	61	C2-C4	C2-C4	LIM ON INN SU
RB	499	DITCH	494	NVGW	U			2	8	MC2-EC4	C2-C4	
RB	499	DITCH	494	STW	UB			2	18	MC1-C4	C2-C4	?BA
RB	499	DITCH	494	SOW	UR			4	3	C2-C4	C2-C4	
RB	499	DITCH	495	SGW	UB	JAR		5	54	MC1-C4	C3-C4	
RB	499	DITCH	495	NVCC	B	DISH		2	19	C3-C4	C3-C4	
RB	499	DITCH	495	SGW	R	DISH		1	21	C2-C4	C3-C4	?N
RB	499	DITCH	495	STW	R	DISH/BOWL		1	23	MC3-EC5	C3-C4	?HA TY
RB	499	DITCH	495	OXRCC	U			1	16	C3-EC5	C3-C4	?O
RB	499	DITCH	496	STW	R			1	3	MC3-EC5	C3-C4	?HA TY
RB	499	DITCH	496	SGW	R	JAR		1	11	LC1-C4	C3-C4	SL
RB	499	DITCH	496	NVGW	U			2	5	MC2-EC4	C3-C4	
RB	499	DITCH	498	STW	R			1	6	MC3-EC5	C2-C4	?HA TY
RB	499	DITCH	498	SGW (calc)	R			1	15	MC2-EC4	C2-C4	

Era	Cut number	Feature	Context	Fabric	Dsc	form	dec	qty	wt	spot date	context date	
RB	501	DITCH	500	SGW	R			2	27	C2-C4	C3-C4	?LI
RB	501	DITCH	500	OXWCC	U			1	14	MC3-C4	C3-C4	
RB	501	DITCH	500	NVCC	R	FLANGE D DISH		1	17	MC3-C4	C3-C4	
RB	501	DITCH	500	SGW	U			2	10	C2-C4	C3-C4	SM CC SH SL
RB	506	PIT	505	STW	U			1	4	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	521	DITCH	520	SGW	U			1	4	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
ERB	542	DITCH	541	SGW	U			2	8	MC1-C4	LC1-MC2	
ERB	542	DITCH	541	PROTO SGW (fine	U			3	7	LC1-MC2	LC1-MC2	
RB	544	DITCH	543	STW	UB			14	101	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	ALI LE/
ERB	549	DITCH	548	PROTO SGW (fine	U			1	11	LC1-MC2	MC1-C4	
RB	549	DITCH	548	SGW	U			1	2	MC1-C4	MC1-C4	
RB	553	DITCH	552	SGW	UB	JARS		16	135	MC1-C2	MC1-C2	
RB	553	DITCH	552	SGW	U		WAVY LINE	1	4	MC1-C2	MC1-C2	
ERB	553	DITCH	552	PROTO SGW (fine)	UB			4	13	LC1-MC2	MC1-C2	
ERB	553	DITCH	552	PROTO SGW (fine	U			6	17	LC1-MC2	MC1-C2	
RB	469	DITCH	556	NVCC	R	FLANGE D DISH		1	64	C4	C4	
RB	466	DITCH	557	NVGW	U	JAR		1	7	MC2-EC4	MC2-C4	
RB	466	DITCH	557	OXRCC	U			1	28	C3-EC5	MC2-C4	?O
RB	568	DITCH	566	SGW	R	DISH		1	20	MC2-C4	C2-C4	BL/
RB	568	DITCH	566	SGW	U			1	5	C2-C4	C2-C4	
ERB	568	DITCH	566	PROTO SGW (coarse	U			1	13	MC1-C2	C2-C4	
RB	568	DITCH	566	SGW	UB			2	25	C2-C4	C2-C4	
RB	568	DITCH	566	OXRCC	U			1	34	C3-EC5	C2-C4	?O

B.2 Post-medieval Finds Assessment by Alasdair Brooks BA MA DPhil

Introduction

Thirty seven post-medieval finds were recovered from the excavation at The Bell public house, Eaton Socon (STN BEG 08). These included 24 sherds of pottery, five fragments of glass, and eight clay pipe stems. While traces of Georgian-period material culture pre-dating the current public house were uncovered during the initial site evaluation (Brooks 2008), the overwhelming majority of post-medieval finds recovered during excavation are late 19th- or early 20th-century in date.

Methodology

In the absence of standardised UK guidelines for the analysis of later post-medieval ceramics, the ceramic terminology and dating criteria used in this report were usually taken from the author's own book on the identification of later post-medieval ceramics (Brooks 2005), supplemented where necessary by Miller's guide to dating post-medieval finds (Miller 2000). This assessment does not contain minimum vessel counts or other more in-depth analytical techniques. Dates often refer to the traditional most common period of production rather than definitive start and end dates; the transition from creamware and pearlware to whiteware from c.1820-c.1830, for example, is a gradual process rather than a sudden shift from older types to the newer type. The 18th-century advent of increased ceramic standardisation through industrial mass-production often requires a different approach to later post-medieval ceramics than that used for earlier period (Brooks 2005: 22-24); sherd counts, for example, are usually preferred over sherd weights (and, in a full report, vessel counts over either).

The analysis of later post-medieval (post-1750) glass also lacks standardised guidelines. This report uses the *Parks Canada Glass Glossary* (Jones and Sullivan 1989), the US Bureau of Land Management and Society for Historical Archaeology bottle identification web page (Society for Historical Archaeology 2008; this webpage is hereafter referred to as the BLM/SHA guide), and the Heritage Council of New South Wales' *Early Australian Commercial Glass: Manufacturing Processes* (Boow 1991) as standard references, with the BLM/SHA guide used as the base reference where terminological differences exist between the three. A certain amount of caution must be used when using North American and Australian archaeological reference guides with British bottle assemblages, particularly as regards dating. Until a standard guide is written for the United Kingdom, these three sources cited here remain the best available archaeological sources so long as they are not approached uncritically.

Clay pipe stem terminology is taken from Bradley (2000).

Quantification and Description

Twenty four sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from eight contexts. Unlike the assemblage initial evaluation, which suggested that significant late 18th-century remains from an earlier Georgian-period occupation, the excavation stage only recovered 19th-century materials. The only contexts with diagnostically-dateable post-medieval materials are 405, 492, and 533. In each case the pottery is clearly 19th-century, containing whiteware, Bristol-glazed stoneware, and other 19th-century materials.

Context 533, a well, is the only context to contain more than four sherds, or more than two ware types. This context's assemblage clearly dates to the second half of the nineteenth century, and some of the fragments may well date from the early part of the 20th century.

Five fragments of post-medieval glass were recovered from three contexts. All of the glass is bottle glass, featuring a mixture of alcohol-, soda water- and pharmaceutical-related items (the latter in the form of a poison bottle marked 'NOT TO BE TAKEN'). With the possible exception of a potential 18th-early 19th hand-blown bottle base in context 401, all of the diagnostically-dateable glass dates to the second half of the 19th century through to the first couple of decades of the 20th century.

Only one of the bottles is diagnostically marked. This is a soda water bottle of the T&FJ Taylor firm of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire. Precise dates or the Taylor firm were not researched for this assessment, but the bottle is an egg-shaped soda water bottle typical of the second half of the 19th-century.

Eight clay smoking pipe stems were recovered from four contexts. None of the stems are diagnostically-marked, and clay pipe stem bore diameter dating is statistically worthless on an assemblage this size.

Provenance

All of the materials are British in manufacture, though precise point of origin is difficult to pin down. The later post-medieval refined earthenwares likely came from Staffordshire, while the marked soda water bottle originated some 30km away in Newport Pagnell, in northern Buckinghamshire. None of the objects seem in any way unusual in their geographic distribution given the time period.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

Taken as a whole, the assemblage indicates that the following contexts should be considered post-medieval: 102, 401, 405, 415, 417, 440, 448, 492, and 533. Of these, the following are definitely 19th-century and/or early 20th-century: 405, 417, 492, and 533. Of the remaining contexts, only 401 shows any sign of dating to an earlier period, and, depending on site stratigraphy, could potentially date from the 18th century; equally, the early glass base from that context could simply be residual in nature.

The post-medieval assemblage recovered from excavation, whether broken down into its individual material components or taken as a whole, is of no particular diagnostic interest. No evidence of the potential Georgian-period occupation suggested by the evaluation post-medieval pottery assessment was recovered, and no further analysis is considered necessary.

Ceramics (UGTP=Underglaze Transfer Print)

Context	ware type	decoration	form	date	sherds	notes
102	post-medieval redware	undecorated	unid hollow	c.1600-c.1900	1	more probably C18th-C19th
401	post-medieval redware	undecorated	unid hollow	c.1600-c.1900	1	more probably C18th-C19th
405	whiteware	UGTP - unid blue	jug	c.1840-c.1900	2	handle
	hardpaste porcelain	undecorated	cup	later 19th	1	
415	post-medieval redware	undecorated	unid hollow	c.1600-c.1900	4	more probably C18th-C19th
440	post-medieval redware	undecorated	unid hollow	c.1600-c.1900	1	more probably C18th-C19th
448	black-glazed redware	undecorated	unid hollow	c.1600-c.1900	1	as with redware, more probab
492	post-medieval redware	undecorated	unid hollow	c.1600-c.1900	1	this frag potentially slightly e redware
	whiteware	UGTP - willow blue	unid flat	c.1820-c.1900	2	
533	whiteware	UGTP - unid floral blue	plate	c.1850+	3	stylistically late, possibly eve
	stoneware, buff-bodied	bristol-glazed	bottle	c.1835+	1	
	whiteware	UGTP - willow blue	unid hollow	c.1820-c.1900	1	
	whiteware	flow blue	unid hollow	c.1835-c.1900	1	
	whiteware	undecorated	cup	c.1820+	1	base sherd; could be earlier 1
	bone china	undecorated	plate	C19th-C20th	1	
	redware	undecorated	flowerpot	C19th-C20th	2	

Glass

Context	colour	portion	type	marks	date	sherds	notes
401	dark green	base	alcohol		18th-early 19th	1	base incomplete, but larger diameter suggests earlier date
417	green aqua	base	soda	"[newpor]T PAGNELL / [w]ATER / [ta]YLOR'S / [carbo]NATED"	c.1850-c.1920	1	T&FJ Taylor of Newport Pagnell; precise dates would need additional research
	green aqua	body	unid	"[…]ED[…]"	C19th	1	

533	blue green	lip & body	pharma ceutical	"NOT TO BE TAKEN"	c.1850-c.1920	1 Victorian poison bottle
	aqua	body	soda		c.1870-c.1920	1 Codd stopper bottle
	aqua green	body	unid		C19th	2 misc body sherds

Clay pipes

Context	portion	date	frags.
102	stem	n/a	1
401	stem	n/a	3
440	stem	n/a	1
533	stem	n/a	3

Appendix C. Environmental Reports by Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

Thirty-five bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas of the site for the retrieval of plant remains, bones and artefacts.

Evaluation of this site had shown potential for the recovery of both charred and waterlogged plant remains

Features sampled include secure archaeological contexts within pits, ditches and post-holes.

Methodology

The volume of bulk soil samples collected was between 10 – 30L

Ten litres of each sample were processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flots were collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residues were washed through a 0.5mm mesh. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residues were passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, fish bone, charcoal, shell, etc..) and artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. Identifications were made by the author without comparison to the OA East reference collection and should be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant classification follows Stace (1997).

Quantification

Table x summarises the results obtained (at end of report)

Results

Preservation

The plant remains were preserved by both carbonisation and waterlogging.

Plant Remains

Cereals

Charred cereal grains were present in low quantities. They have been tentatively identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains based on their morphology. No chaff elements are present.

Weed seeds

Charred weed seeds were limited to a single flax (*Linum usitatissimun)* seed in Sample 35, Context 541.

Eleven samples were preserved by waterlogging and contained several uncharred seeds including elder (*Sambucus* sp.), water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subgenus *batracium),* nettle (*Urtica dioica*), bramble (*Rubus* sp.), dead nettle (*Lamium* sp.) and *Carex* sp. Nettle seeds were the most abundant.

Uncharred elder seeds occurred in the majority of the samples. It is not certain whether these seeds are modern or not. Elder seeds have an extremely tough outer coat (testa) and can resist decomposition for hundreds of years.

Ecofacts and Artefacts

The majority of the samples contain fragments of animal bone and occasional sherds of pottery

Sparse fragments of insects such as wings are present in Sample 16, Context 566.

Contamination

Modern roots were present in most of the samples

Discussion

The charred plant remains in this assemblage are dominated by cereal grains and charcoal fragments. The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires prior to being deliberately deposited or accumulating in features as general scatters of burnt refuse. The presence of charred grain along with other dietary refuse of animal bone along with pottery are indicators of domestic, culinary waste.

The waterlogged samples provide evidence of a local vegetation of disturbed ground and a wetland environment. The insect remains were sparse and fragmentary.

Conclusions and recommendations

In conclusion, the assemblage appears to represent mainly a natural accumulation of plant remains from local vegetation along with a small quantity of domestic waste. No further work on these samples is required.

Appendix D. Lithics Report by Barry Bishop

Introduction

The excavations at the above site resulted in the recovery of ten struck flints. This report quantifies and describes the material, comments on its significance and recommends any further work needed for it to attain its full research potential. Each piece of struck flint was examined by eye and X10 magnification and catalogued by context according to a basic typological/technological scheme, along with details of raw material, condition and, where possible, dating (see Appendix 1). All metrical descriptions follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification

	Decortication Flake	Flake	Blade	Blade-like flake	Conchoidal Chunk	Retouched
Ditch [420]	2	1	1	1		1
Ditch [517]		1			1	2

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material by Context

Struck flint was recovered from two features; six pieces from ditch [420] and four from ditch [517]. It forms a small assemblage that consists of flakes, blades, a conchoidally fractured chunk and three retouched implements (Table 1; Appendix 1).

Table X: Catalogue of Struck Flint

Context	Reference	Decortication Flake	Flake	Blade	Blade-like flake	Conchoidal Chunk	Retouched	Flint Colour	Cortex	Condition	Cortication	Suggested Date	Comments
419	SF25	1						Translucent Black	Gravel	Good	None	MBA-IA	
419	SF26				1			Translucent Brown	None	Slightly Chipped	Incipient	Meso/ENeo	
419	SF28	1						Translucent Black	Gravel	Good	None	MBA-IA	
419	SF29		1					Translucent Brown	None	Chipped	None	Undated	
419	SF30						1	Opaque brown	None	Slightly Chipped	None	MBA-IA	Edge retouch, crude retouching alo
419	SF7			1				Translucent Brown	None	Chipped	Incipient	Meso/ENeo	
515	SF22		1					Translucent Brown	Gravel	Slightly Chipped	None	M-EBA	
515	SF23						1	Translucent Brown	None	Slightly Chipped	None	ENeo?	Possible arrowhead blank? - Finely denticulated retouch along right do retouch around distal end of the rig
516	SF35						1	Translucent Brown	None	Slightly Chipped	None	ENeo	Arrowhead blank - snapped during
516	SF36					1		Translucent Brown	None	Slightly Chipped	None	Undated	Thermally disintegrated core

Raw Materials

The assemblage was manufactured from black and brown translucent flint with a single flake, from ditch [420], of opaque brown flint also present. The pieces are all small and none exceed 40mm in maximum dimension. Cortex is only present on three of the pieces and this is hard and smooth-rounded, indicating that the raw materials for these at least were obtained from alluvial gravel deposits, as are present in the valley floor to the east of the site.

Condition

The condition of the assemblage is variable although most pieces show some evidence of chipping and abrasion. This is mostly fairly light, however, and although most of this material is probably redeposited, it is likely to have been recovered from close to where it was originally discarded. Two flakes from ditch [420] are in an unabraded condition and it is possible that these, at least, may be broadly contemporary with the ditch's infilling.

Technology, Typology and Dating

The material from ditch [517] consisted of a narrow flake, a fragment from a core that had disintegrated during reduction and two retouched pieces. The retouched piece from context [516] (small find 35) consisted of a flake that had been thinned on both faces using invasive retouch. During the thinning, small step fractures had formed on one face and, whilst trying to rectify this, the flake snapped in half. This piece almost certainly represents the latter stages of making a leaf-shaped arrowhead. Interestingly, the snapped facet was subsequently lightly retouched to form a steep scraping-type edge. Context [515] (small find 23} produced an oval shaped flake that had a finely facetted striking platform. It has a steeply blunted right lateral edge and some evidence of invasive flaking, along with further slightly invasive flaking on its right ventral edge. Its distal had been broken off and tentatively may also represent attempts at manufacturing an arrowhead that was abandoned when the blank broke.

The assemblage of six pieces from context [419] included a blade and a blade-like flake, both of which were systematically produced and exhibiting incipient recortication, and can be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. In contrast, none of the other flakes show any evidence of recortication and they appear more crudely produced. They included a flake with rough retouch along both lateral margins and two decortication flakes that had possibly been struck from the same gravel pebble. None of these are closely dateable although they are perhaps most typical of later second or first millennium BC industries.

Significance and Recommendations

Although small in size, the assemblage indicates activity at the site during the Early Neolithic period, which included the manufacture of leaf-shaped arrowheads, and also during the later second or the first millennium BC. The evidence for the early flintworking was mostly contained within ditch [517] although the general condition of these pieces may indicate they were redeposited. The later flintwork came from ditch [420] and whilst clearly earlier pieces were also present, the later flintwork may be contemporary with the feature.

The multi-period dating of the assemblage, its technological characteristics and the use of raw materials is consistent with others found close-by, such as at Prior's Gate (Court nd), Alpha Park (Lamdin-Whymark nd), Eynesbury (Harding 2004) and at Loves Farm (Bishop forthcoming).

Due to the size of the assemblage no further analytical work would be productive. It does, however, contribute to the wider understanding of prehistoric landscape use in the region and a brief description of the assemblage should be deposited with the local Historic Environment Record and included as part of any published account of the fieldwork.

Appendix E Small Finds Report by Nina Crummy

Summary

The assemblage is small. It consists of 34 items, the majority being of late post-medieval to modern date. Iron nails and low-value post-medieval coins account for a large proportion of the group.

Condition

The objects are generally in a stable condition. The majority of the copper-alloy and lead objects are only lightly covered by corrosion products, but some are slightly more affected. Corrosion on the ironwork in general varies from a slight surface coating to a thicker encrustation incorporating some soil, but two hobnails from a waterlogged context are uncorroded.

Objects of all materials are packed to a high standard of storage in crystal boxes or polythene bags, supported by pads of foam. The bags and boxes are stored in airtight Stewart boxes with silica gel.

The assemblage

The assemblage is briefly catalogued in Appendix 1, where 'Category' given in the penultimate column refers to the functional categories defined in Crummy 1983 and 1988. The best-represented group is fasteners and fittings (11), with iron nails accounting in this instance for the entire body of items recovered from this category. This is typical of the majority of sites and cannot be used to characterise this one in any way.

The finds break down by material thus:

copper-alloy coins	7
other copper-alloy	3
iron	17
bone	2
wood	1
leather	3
ceramic	1
Total	**34**

The copper-alloy items are mainly late post-medieval to modern in date. The exceptions are two late Roman coins, but these are residual in contexts producing late post-medieval to modern material. The majority of the iron objects are nails. Late post-medieval to modern material is present among the other iron objects, such as a fragment of an enamelled plate or other vessel. There are a few diagnostically early items among the ironwork. They consist of 1) a tanged knife with a sharp angle between the tang and the back of the blade, a characteristic of Late Iron Age and Roman knives, 2) two hobnails from a waterlogged context, and 3) a barbed arrowhead of medieval date.

Post-Roman objects among the non-metal finds include part of the vamp from a leather shoe, an ivory knife handle and a ceramic fitting. The same context that produced the waterlogged iron hobnails also contained a fragment of a leather shoe sole and a piece of worked wood. A second sole fragment is of uncertain date, as is a worked offcut from a

cattle scapula. The latter is, however, most likely to be Roman as these thin flat bones were ideal for the manufacture of the square and triangular tablets used to weave braids and similar offcuts have been found in Roman contexts in Britain. They were also utilised for other reasons, and an Iron Age date cannot be ruled out.

Overall the early items in the assemblage provide little evidence that can be used for close dating or site characterisation, but they provide evidence for a range of craft activities – leather-working, carpentry and bone-working.

Summary catalogue

Copper-alloy

SF	Context	Identification	Conserve	Illustrate	Category	Date
9	111	flat button with integral loop (lead-alloy?)	-	-	1	post-medieval to modern
14	111	House of Constantine/House of Valentinian	y	-	-	4th century
15	111	bow-tie-shaped fitting	-	-	18	post-medieval to modern
16	111	illegible coin	y	-	-	3rd -4th century
21	111	small button with integral loop	-	-	1	post-medieval
5	415	halfpenny	-	-	-	18th-early 19th century
17	458	halfpenny	-	-	-	18th-early 19th century
18	458	George II, halfpenny	-	-	-	1727-60
19	458	farthing?	-	-	-	post-medieval
52	458	George II, halfpenny	-	-	-	1727-60

Iron

SF	Context	Identification	X-ray	Illustrate	Category	Date
46	102	hobnail	-	-	1	-
3	104	nail	-	-	11	-
8	111	sheet fragments	-	-	18	late post-medieval to modern
10	111	double-pointed curved object	y	?	18	-
11	111	nail	-	-	11	-
12	111	nail shank fragment	-	-	11	-
13	111	hobnail	-	-	1	-
6	417	tanged knife blade	y	y	10	Late Iron Age/Roman
40	456	amorphous lump	y	-	18	
45	456	2 hobnails (from waterlogged context)	-	-	1	Roman
42	464	?nail	y	-	11?	-
48	492	barbed arrowhead	y	y	13	medieval
49	492	nail shank fragment	-	-	11	-
50	494	2/3 nails	y	-	11	-
51	494	nail shank?	y	-	11	-
47	505	nail	-	-	11	-
53	533	rim fragment from enamelled vessel	-	-	4	modern

Bone

SF	Context	Identification	Conserve	Illustrate	Category	Date
4	401	ivory knife handle	-	y	10	post-medieval

43	556	worked scapula fragment	-	-	16	-

Wood

SF	Context	Identification	Conserve	Illustrate	Category	Date
20	456	?pole fragment, sawn at each end	-	?	18	-

Leather

SF	Context	Identification	Conserve	Illustrate	Category	Date
1	106	sole fragment	-	-	1	-
2	212	vamp fragment	-	-	1	post-medieval
-	456	fragment from layer of composite shoe/sandal sole, with nail holes	-	-	1	Roman

Ceramic

SF	Context	Identification	Conserve	Illustrate	Category	Date
41	467	curved fitting	-	-	18	late post-medieval or modern

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OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-66172		
Project Name	Archaeological Excavation on the site of the Bell Public House, Eaton Socon		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start 08-01-2009	Finish	23-01-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STNBEG08	Planning App. No.	07039333FUL
HER No.	ECB3108	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB3052/oxfardar3-51608

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☐ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Test Pit Survey
☒ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☐ Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditches	Roman 43 to 410	Pottery	Roman 43 to 410
Ditches	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Worked Stone	Roman 43 to 410
	None	Pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Huntingdon	The Bell, 37 Great North Road, Eaton Socon. PE1 98EN	
Parish	St Neots		
HER	Cambs		
Study Area	352sqm	National Grid Reference	TL16915813

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	CACPA
Project Design Originator	James Drummond Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Store	OA East	CCC Store
STNBEG08	STNBEG08	STNBEG08

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:

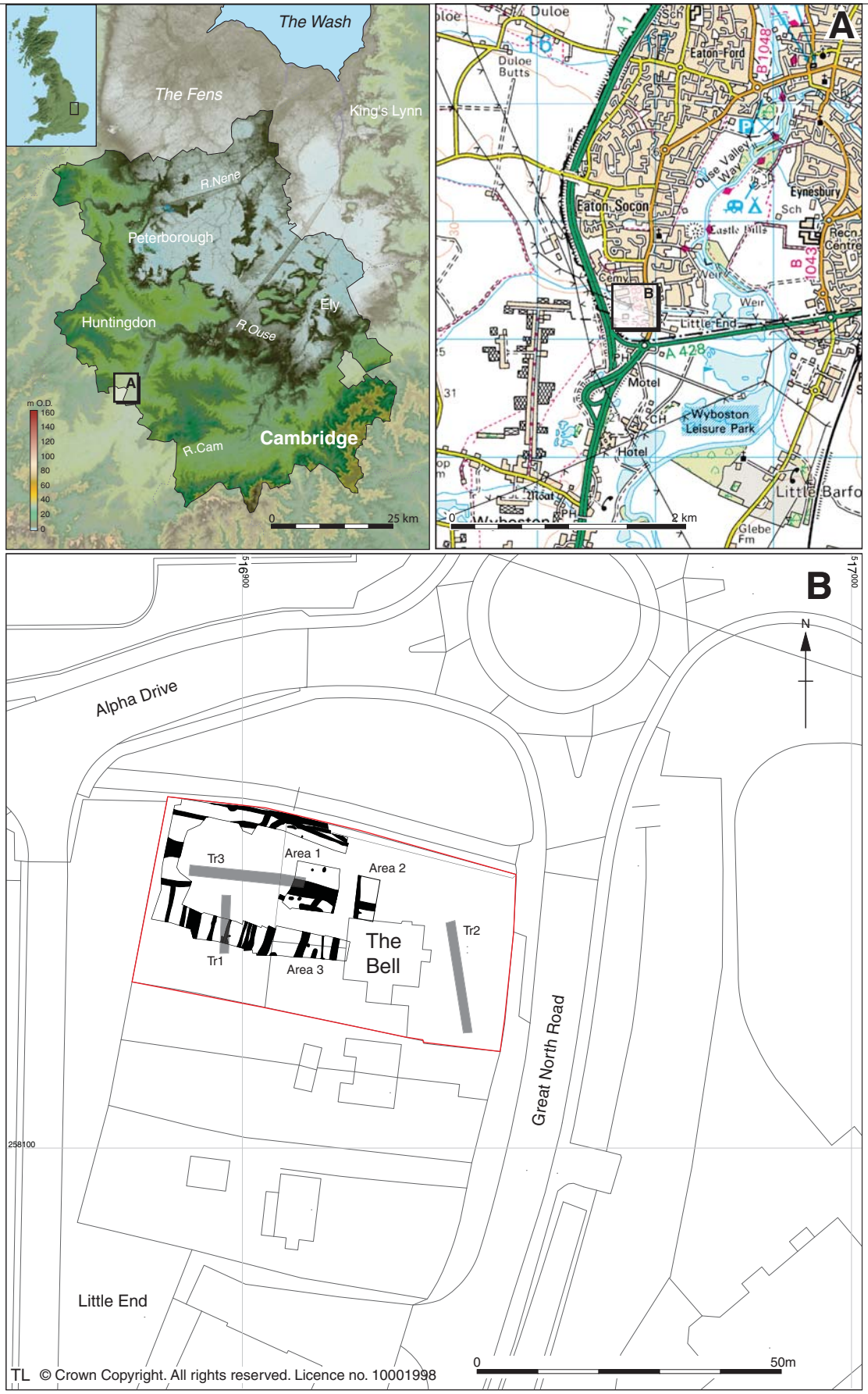

Figure 1: Location of excavation (black) with the development area outlined (red) and evaluation trenches (grey)

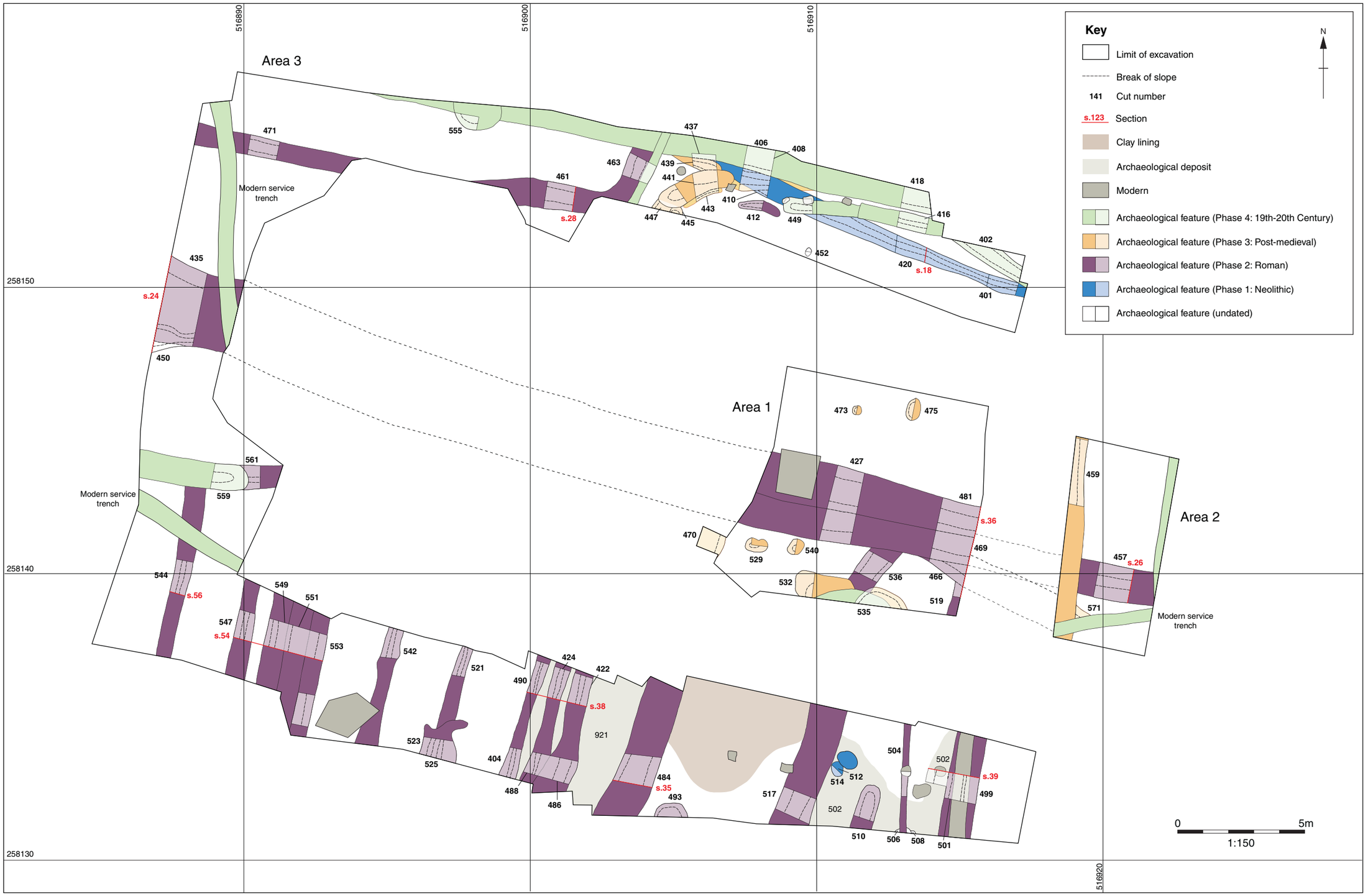

Figure 2: Excavation area

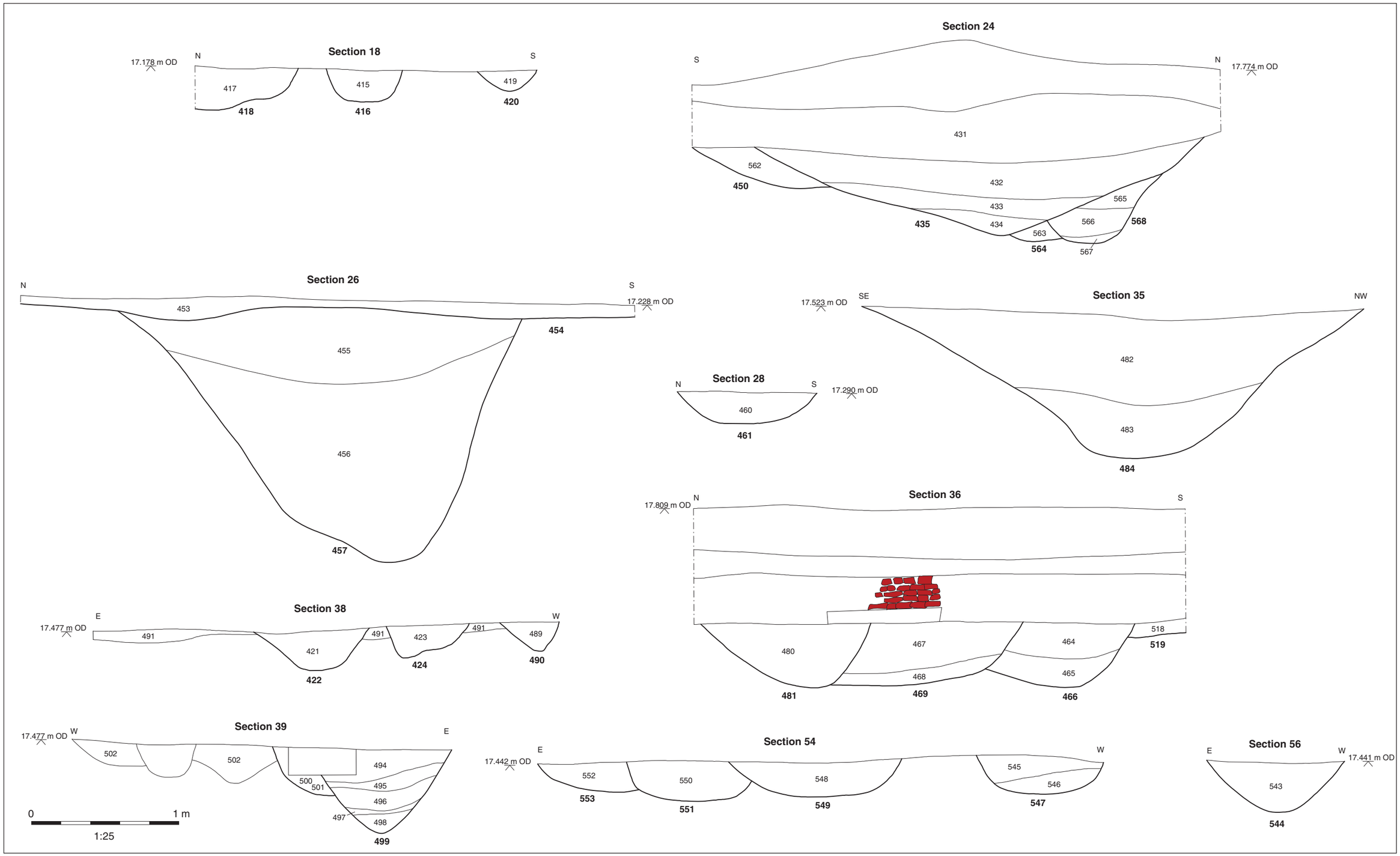

Figure 3: Selected sections

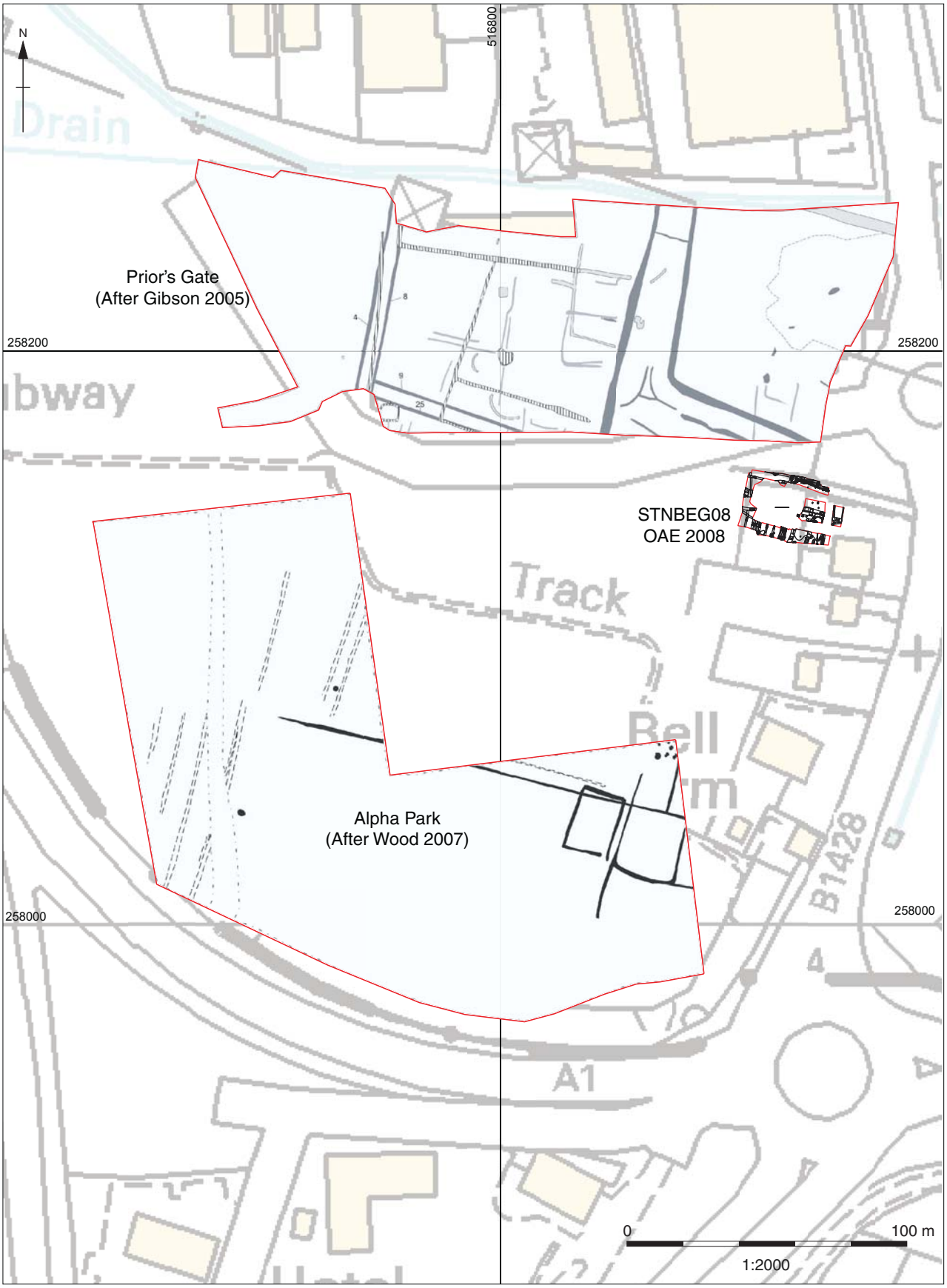

Figure 4: The Bell excavation in relation to other work in the area. Scale 1:2000

Plate 1: Machine stripping south side of the building


Plate 2: Western extent of area 3 with work beginning on ditch **450** and **435**

Plate 3: Northern arm of area 3

Plate 4: Machining within the structure

Plate 5: Excavated features to the north of area 3

Plate 6: Post medieval and modern features in area 3

Plate 7: Well **479** within the structure

Plate 8: Area 1

Plate 9: Roman ditches in area 3

Plate 10: Working shot of area 3

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

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