Early Romano-British Farmstead Remains at Land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Excavation Report

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Early Romano-British Farmstead Remains at Land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Excavation Report

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Summary

Between 12th June and 18th July 2019 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological excavation at land to the rear of 9-17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire. The 0.6ha excavation uncovered part of an Early Romano-British farmstead consisted of smaller rectilinear enclosures overlain by larger boundary ditches. The Romano-British remains were truncated by a later episodes of medieval marl quarrying, post-medieval agricultural furrows, modern boundary ditches and a pond. This site is an important addition to the pattern of known Romano-British settlements on the Wicken ridge which has hitherto been solely brought to light through fieldwalking survey and recent excavation at its western end facing the River Cam.

Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Adele Lord and Emily Abrehart, who were supported by Tom Collie, Isobelle Ward, James Green, Frances Wildmun, Rory Coduri, Matt Edwards, Eleanor Attwood, Chloe Gibson, Adrian Wellard and Cleve Roberts. Survey and digitising were carried out by Isobelle Ward supported by Sarita Louzolo. Drone photogrammetry was carried out by Sarita Louzolo. Steve Critchley undertook additional metal detecting of features on site. Machine excavation was carried out by LK Construction Ltd.

Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff who processed the finds and environmental remains under the management of Natasha Dodwell, and prepared for archive by Katherine Hamilton. Thanks are extended to the various specialists for their contributions.

Special thanks to Owen Hughes, Sarah Reed, Eleonore Percy, and Graham Barrett, who volunteered their time to help on site and the OA East Community Archaeology Manager Clemency Cooper, who coordinated between OA East and the volunteers throughout the project.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Between 12th June and 18th July 2019, OA East was commissioned by The Design Partnership to carry out excavation of a 0.6ha area to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire (TL 56404 71222; Fig. 1). These works were conducted in advance of the development of the site for residential use, along with supporting infrastructure and landscaping (Planning Application: 18/01433/FUM). The site is located on the north-west fringe of the historic village of Wicken and in an area with a number of known historical and archaeological sites and remains.

1.1.2 An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out by OA East in March 2019 (ECB5846; Lord 2019; Trenches 1-6). This investigation identified a fairly dense concentration of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British ditches and pits indicative of settlement activity. A possible pond was also uncovered.

1.1.3 The current excavation comprised the entirety of the development site and therefore encompassed the remains encountered in all of the evaluation trenches. The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC/HET 2019) outlining the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East (Moan 2019) detailing the methods by which OA East proposed to meet the requirements of the Brief.

1.1.4 This report deals solely with the 2019 excavation undertaken by OA East at the site. The previous phase of archaeological evaluation work on the site (Lord 2019) will be drawn into this report where it informs on the archaeological narrative of the site.

1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council Stores under the Site Codes ECB5846 (evaluation) and ECB5915 (excavation) in due course.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on a parcel of arable land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1) at a height of c.5m OD.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology beneath the site is mudstone of the Gault Formation with superficial deposits of Oadby Member diamicton present across its south-western edge (https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html, accessed 24/07/2019). The natural substrate exposed on the site following machine stripping comprised a *c*.50m wide band of chalk marl extending from north to south across the central part of the site flanked by orange brown silty clay on the east and west margins of the excavation (Plate 1).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A full search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) of a 1km radius centred on the excavation site was commissioned from CCC/HET (licence number 18-3812). The following section provides a summary of this record, with pertinent records shown on Fig. 2.

Later prehistoric (c.4000BC-AD50)

1.3.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity dating back to the Mesolithic period has been found nearby in the form of two tranchet flint axes, located *c.*750m (CHER 07067) and *c.*700m (CHER 07074) to the south-east. Later, Neolithic, finds in the vicinity include three flint axes found *c.*300m to the south-east (CHER 07066), *c.*600m to the north (CHER 07056) and *c.*900m to the north-west (CHER 07062) of the site. A selection of other flint tools dating to the prehistoric period were found *c.*700m to the south (CHER 07058).

Romano-British (c.AD50-410)

1.3.3 The artificial waterway of Wicken Lode (CHER 06817) is thought to possibly have a Roman origin. It leads north-eastwards from the River Cam to terminate on the southern edge of the village, approximately 700m to the south of the site. Roman occupation is evidenced by a cropmark of a possible Roman rectangular building identified via aerial photography and associated Roman coins (CHER 07071) located approximately 1km to the east. The coins comprised the reigns of Constantine the Great and Julius Caesar. In addition to this, a bronze Roman pendant was recovered *c.*750m to the south-east (CHER 07059) of the site.

Medieval (c.AD1066-1540)

1.3.4 The earthwork remains of Spinney Abbey Priory lie approximately 900m to the north-west of the site (CHER 07003). The priory was a house of Augustinian Canons and founded in 1227-8 and dissolved in 1449. A silver medieval coin (CHER 07069) was identified *c.*800m south-east of the site, and a number of finds of medieval pottery (CHER 07068 and CHER 07069A) were also identified in the vicinity. Extant medieval buildings are present in the historic core of the village to the east of the site (MCB 17335-6 and 17345-6). Trial trenches excavated at 11 Cross Green (*c.*855m to the south-east) contained features dating to the early medieval period, including a north-south ditch and an early medieval pit and other ditches. Pottery recovered from the features date to the 11th to 12th century (MCB 20067; ECB 4031; Wood 2013). A further site of trial trenching at 20A Chapel Lane (*c.*600m to the south-east) excavated three ditches and a hollow (MCB 26703; ECB 5406; Diggons 2018). The fill of one of the ditches contained sherds of medieval pottery, charcoal and a fragment of oyster shell.

Post-Medieval (c.AD1540-1750)

1.3.5 A house and outbuildings were established on the site of the former Spinney Abbey Priory in the post-medieval period (CHER 07003A). A windmill known as Smock Mill is

located in the village, approximately 850m to the south-east of the site. Wicken Windmill lies 950m to the south-east (MCB 22112).

Modern (c.1750-present)

1.3.6 The location of a former 19th century farmhouse (now demolished) belonging to America Farm is located immediately to the north-east of the site (MCB 22102).

1.4 Previous work

1.4.1 A total of six trenches were excavated within the development area of *c.*0.6ha during an archaeological evaluation in March 2019 (ECB 5846; Lord 2019). These trenches revealed a fairly dense concentration of Late Iron Age to Early Roman archaeological features, including numerous intercutting pits and ditches indicative of settlement activity. The features, as well as the topsoil and subsoil overburden, yielded a fairly sizeable assemblage of finds including *c.*1.2kg of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery, animal bone (several items showing evidence of butchery or working), fired clay, and modern ceramic building material.

2 EXCAVATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Original Research Aims

2.1.1 The original project aims and objectives were as follows:

2.1.2 The overall aim of the investigation was to preserve by record the archaeological evidence contained within the footprint of the site, prior to damage by development, and investigate the origins, date, development, phasing, spatial organisation, character, function, status, and significance of the remains revealed, and place these in their local, regional and national archaeological context.

2.1.3 Based on the results of the evaluation and the recommendations of the CCC/HET Brief, more specific aims and research questions for the site were formulated:

Settlement activity

2.1.4 To investigate the nature, extent, development and morphology of the settlement and occupation evidence on the site with reference to evidence for contemporary sites in this landscape.

- What evidence was there for Neolithic activity on the site, beyond that of residual struck flint and pottery?
- When did the Iron Age activity begin at the site and what was the duration of occupation?
- A single feature in Trench 6 contained purely Late Iron Age pottery, can coherent features dating purely from the Iron Age be identified on the site?
- What is the exact nature of the activity on the site and how close was it to the settlement?
- Do the changes in ditch orientation signify a change in land-use and can the date of these different ditch orientations be elucidated?

Transition from Iron Age to Roman

2.1.5 To contribute to an understanding of the Romanisation of the area during the transition between the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods.

- Can the continuity into the Roman period at the site be further defined? If so, how? Was this continuity manifested in the archaeological record (i.e., the form of structures, redefinition or boundaries and enclosures, continuity in faunal signature etc.)?
- Was there any evidence for activity on the site beyond the later 1st century AD? If not, why?

Economic activity

2.1.6 To examine the available evidence to reconstruct the economy of the site, with reference to the recovered floral and faunal remains and contribute to an understanding of the local and regional pattern of land-use, settlement and agricultural practices in this area.

- Can the finds and environmental assemblages aid in defining what, if any, craft activities were being undertaken at the site? Structural fragments of fired clay and pieces of worked bone could suggest specialist craftwork occurring in the vicinity.

Ceramic development

2.1.7 To examine the ceramic traditions and contribute to an understanding of local and regional ceramic developments for this area.

- How does the pottery assemblage compare to other contemporary assemblages in the area? Are there any imported/non-local wares to indicate the size/prosperity of the associated settlement?
- Can the pottery assemblage help to 'bench-mark' the character of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery assemblages from 'typical' rural settlements in Cambridgeshire?

Environment

2.1.8 To examine the environmental setting of the site, including the impact of human action on the local environment.

- Can agricultural land-use be modelled from the faunal and environmental record and other strands of evidence?

2.2 Revised Research Aims

Relevant research questions

2.2.1 Completion of the post-excavation assessment (Lord 2020) showed that only part of the original aims and objectives of the excavation could be met through the analysis of the excavated materials.

Settlement

- What is the exact nature of the activity on the site? How close is it to the settlement? Do the changes in ditch orientation signify a change in land-use and can the date of these different ditch orientations be elucidated? Can the continuity into the Roman period at the site be further defined?

Romanisation and transition

- Can the continuity into the Roman period at the site be further defined? If so, how? Is this continuity manifested in the archaeological record (i.e., the form of structures, redefinition or boundaries and enclosures, continuity in faunal signature etc.)? Is there any evidence for activity on the site beyond the later 1st century AD? Is there evidence in the wider area for why activity may have moved?

Economic activity and crafts

- What was the economic basis for the site? Can the finds and environmental assemblages aid in defining what, if any, craft was being undertaken at the site? Was any particular product imported or exported and if so how?

Material culture

- How does the pottery assemblage compare to other contemporary assemblages in the area? Are there any imported/non-local wares to indicate the size/prosperity of the associated settlement? Can the pottery assemblage help to 'bench-mark' the character of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery assemblages from 'typical' rural settlements in Cambridgeshire?

Environment

- Can agricultural land-use be modelled from the faunal and environmental record and other strands of evidence? Is there a wider scheme of land use that this site is part of?

2.3 Regional Research Aims

2.3.1 This excavation takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this 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 & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8)
- *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24)

2.4 Fieldwork Methodology

2.4.1 The methodology followed that outlined in the Brief (Stewart 2019) and detailed in the WSI (Moan 2019), which required that 0.6ha in total be machine stripped to the level of natural geology or the archaeological horizon.

2.4.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a tracked 360^{o} type excavator using a 2.1m wide flat bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.4.3 Site survey was conducted using a Leica RTK GPS supplemented with a TST system and photogrammetry using a DJI M V2 F550 Flame Wheel Hexacopter with control established using a Leica GS08 survey grade GPS.

2.4.4 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.

2.4.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and high-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.4.6 A total of 26 bulk samples were taken from the excavated features. These each totalled up to 40L and were processed by flotation at OA East's environmental processing facility at Bourn.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The 0.6 ha proposed development site was subject to open-area excavation. The phasing presented below is based on stratigraphy and spatial associations, with similarity of morphology of features also considered. Where possible this has been combined with dating evidence provided by stratified artefacts.

3.1.2 The archaeological excavation uncovered evidence of peripheral early-middle Romano-British settlement activity, including an earlier phase of small enclosures superseded by a later phase of larger boundary ditches that enclosed areas of pitting including a possible corn dryer. This group of features were located towards the northern edge of the plateau of the Wicken peninsula, to the north of which the land descends towards the fen and the historic Soham Mere. Evidence of late medieval extraction pits cut into the underlying chalk marl deposits were also observed across the site, in addition to post-medieval furrows and a more recent boundary ditch and pond depicted on historic OS maps.

3.1.3 Summary descriptions of the features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section, supplemented by a full context inventory presented in Appendix A, Table 4. Finds and environmental reports are provided in Appendices B and C respectively. An excavation plan showing all features and their allocated cut numbers is presented as Fig. 3. Phased excavation plans are given in Figs 4 to 6. Significant finds from Period 1 features have been plotted on Figure 4. Selected sections are included in Fig. 7, and a selection of photographs illustrating site conditions and various features are included as Plates 2 to 9.

3.1.4 Three main phases of activity have been identified:

Period 1: Early Romano-British (*c*.AD50-150)

Phase 1.1: enclosures

Phase 1.2: possible corn dryer, boundary ditches and pits

Period 2: Late medieval (*c*.AD1400-1540)

Period 3: Post-medieval and later features (*c*.AD1540 to present)

3.2 Residual material

3.2.1 A small assemblage of 12 worked flints of probable Neolithic or Bronze Age origin was recovered from the site. This material is likely to have derived from low level later prehistoric occupation activity in the vicinity of the site and subsequently reworked into Period 1-3 feature fills. The flintwork is fully described in Appendix B.4, but as this assemblage falls outside the scope of research aims for the project (see Section 2) the flintwork is not considered further.

3.3 General soils and ground conditions

3.3.1 The site, which was located on a peninsula of higher land within the larger fenland landscape, was also located on a very slight north-east facing slope. This slope continues down to Soham Mere. The excavation area revealed the upper horizon of the superficial Diamicton deposits (Plate 1). A *c*.50m wide band of chalk marl was observed which extended from north to south across the central part of the site. This deposit was flanked on the eastern and western margins of the excavation by orange brown silty clay. The natural geology was overlain by mid orange grey silty clay subsoil (700) which was in turn overlain with a dark brown grey topsoil. This subsoil/topsoil overburden was between 0.15-0.4m thick. Ground conditions throughout the excavation were dry with the archaeological features easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3.2 The subsoil (700) yielded an incomplete copper-alloy Roman continental plate brooch (SF 10), a copper-alloy medieval French stock jetton (SF 16) and a lead weight (SF 20). Two Post-medieval Redware pottery sherds (75g; dated to between 1550-1800) were also collected. The topsoil also produced an assemblage of complete and incomplete copper-alloy medieval artefacts including buckles (SFs 12, 15, 17, 18 and 22), a bar mount (SF 11) and a fastener (SF 23).

3.4 Phase 1.1: Early Romano-British (*c*.AD50-150)

Enclosures

3.4.1 The earliest evidence for early to middle Romano-British settlement activity was evident across the southern part of the excavation area. This first phase of activity consisted of part of a network of rectilinear enclosures which lay on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment (Fig. 4). The network continued beyond the western, southern and eastern limits of the development area to enclose an area of unknown extent. These enclosures were defined by an arrangement of 14 linear and L-shaped narrow ditches of similar morphology and containing similar mid to dark greyish brown silty clay fills (Table 1).

3.4.2 The ditch fills produced a total of 100 sherds (*c*.1kg) of predominantly Horningsea Grey ware jars and storage jars (64 sherds, 670g), centred on this fabric's date range of between c.AD80-150. The remaining courseware pottery fabrics consisted mostly 27 sherds (181g) of Reduced Grey ware along with seven sherds (16g) of Oxidised White ware in a wider range of jar, storage jar, bowl, beaker and flagon forms. A minor component was four basal sherds (64g) of an imported Gaulish Terra Nigra reduced ware platter stamped M.A. (App. Plate B.6.1). Two pieces (137g) of imported fine glossy red table wares were found which consist of a South Gaulish cup and a Central Gaulish dish.

3.4.3 The gaps between their parallel and perpendicular alignments probably represent the successive remodelling of this arrangement with some overrunning boundaries clearly replacing earlier divisions such as Ditch 906 having replaced Ditch 908. Only the full extent of one of these enclosures (defined by Ditches 740, 763, 810, 904 and 949) lay within the excavation area which encompassed an area of 60m by 20m.

			Dimensions		Finds		
Cut number	**Group Number**	**Fill Number(s)**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Roman Pottery No. sherds (g)**	**Faunal Remains (g)**	**Other finds/Enviro**
740	740	741	0.74	0.61	-	-	-
842	740	843		0.42	-	-	-
947	740	948	0.56	0.28	2 (3)	-	-
1004	740	1005	0.6	0.39	-	-	-
747	747	748	0.39	0.14	3 (21)		
1036	747	1037	0.21	0.14			
728	728	729	0.6	0.18			
738	728	739	0.48	0.19			
908	908	909	0.45	0.22	4 (24)	-	-
1017	908	1018	0.8	0.45	1 (130)	-	-
810	810	811	0.5	0.13	-	-	-
828	810	829	0.45	0.2	7 (58)	16	-
857	810	858	0.2	0.15	9 (68)	1	-
951	810	952	0.65	0.19	-	-	-
1000	810	1001	0.32	0.21	-	-	-
763	763	764	0.42	0.1	9 (139)	-	-
767	763	768	0.26	0.12	4 (67)	6	Spelt glumes
1002	763	1003	0.3	0.11	1 (1)	-	-
904	904	905	0.58	0.2	3 (32)	-	-
914	904	915	0.54	0.4	-	-	-
713	906	714	1	0.38	3 (31)		
906	906	907	0.6	0.36	4 (11)	-	-
1015	906	1016	0.28	0.28	3 (161)	1	-
801	801	802	0.6	0.24	1 (8)	5	-
813	801	814	0.65	0.17	-	-	-
916	801	917	0.36	0.21	-	-	-
949	949	950	0.34	0.12	-	-	-
996	949	997	0.32	0.11	-	-	-
998	949	999	0.43	0.15	-	-	-
832	832	833	1	0.27	-	21	-
932	832	934	1.94	0.44	35 (236)	165	
1013	832	1014	0.51	0.21	-	243	-
773	834	774	0.4	0.26			
830	834	831	0.54	0.15			
834	834	835	0.53	0.14			
838	834	839	0.6	0.24			
825	825	826, 827	0.5	0.4	15 (80)		
854	854	855, 856	0.6	0.24	-	20	-
1021	854	1022	0.56	0.4	-	-	-
1023	854	1024	0.62	0.25	-	-	-
				Totals	**104 (1067)**	**458**	

Table 1: Excavated interventions in Phase 1.1 (Roman) enclosure ditches

3.4.4 Although only a tentative interpretation, their layout on a broadly similar alignment might suggest the establishment on this site of a broadly contemporary set of small enclosures or paddocks associated with animal husbandry. The ditch profiles were relatively narrow and shallow U-shapes which is perhaps more indicative of the installation of fence-lines rather than ditched boundaries (Fig. 7a, Sections 41, 71, 116

and 117; Plate 2). The discontinuous form of these boundaries may be associated with the controlled movement of livestock associated with pastoral animal husbandry. The small number of identifiable faunal remains (293g) recovered from ditch fills comprised five fragments of cattle, two of sheep/goat and one of pig. Significant charred plant remains were limited to spelt (*T. spelta*) glume bases from an environmental sample taken from the fill of cut **767** of Ditch 763.

3.4.5 The only other notable find from this group of features was an incomplete Colchester derivative brooch (SF 19) from the fill of cut **1024** (Ditch 854). Ditches 747 and 832 contained a few small intrusive fragments of medieval pottery (77g) and tile (25g).

3.5 Phase 1.2: Early to Middle Romano-British (*c*.AD50-200)

Enclosures

3.5.1 The Phase 1.1 enclosure network was replaced by four larger enclosures defined by the sinuous course of more substantial boundary ditches (Ditches 730, 850 and 924), measuring up to 2.46m wide by 1.36m deep (Fig. 4; see Table 2 for summaries of the ditches). The disuse of the earlier arrangement of enclosures suggests a reorganisation of this possible farmstead took place during the Early Roman period.

3.5.2 Due to the size of these boundary ditches, their fills produced most of the Period 1 artefacts. A total of 754 sherds (*c*.7.3kg) of pottery was recovered, whose date range lay largely between the mid-1st to 2nd century AD. The courseware assemblage continued to be dominated by Horningsea Grey ware jars and storage jars (292 sherds, 3803g) and Reduced Grey ware jars, storage jars, bowls, beakers and dishes (348 sherds, 2534g). In addition, 111 sherds (771g) of Oxidised White ware flaggons, jars and mortaria were recovered. Furthermore, there was a single sherd (108g) of Colchester White ware mortarium. A single sherd (4g) of an Oxidised White ware beaker was also found. The *c*.5kg of animal bone excavated from thee fills was dominated by cattle with a possible lack of younger animals in the assemblage. There was a lesser proportion of sheep/goat present followed by scarcer remains of horse, pig and dog. Small quantities of charred cereal grain (predominantly barley with occasional wheat grains) were also found in the environmental bulk samples of deposits taken from Ditch 730 and Ditch 850 (Fig. 4). These grains may have possibly blown in from nearby corn drying activity (see Section 3.5.7). Furthermore, three fragments (*c*.2kg; SFs 31 and 32) of beehive quern made of puddingstone were found at the juncture of Ditches 850 and 730 (Fig. 4). The only further notable find from these features was a small fragment of vitrified hearth lining (possible smithing slag; 3g) from the fill of Ditch 850.

3.5.3 The three separate ditched boundaries which survived up to 2.46m wide and 1.36m deep and probably acted as both boundaries and drainage channels, although there was no evidence in the lower fills for waterlogged conditions. Two earlier ditch alignments (Ditch 850 and Ditch 924) were cut by a later alignment (Ditch 730). The later ditch truncated the earlier alignments after they had largely silted up (Fig. 7b, Section 121). There was no evidence for any associated internal/external banks or entranceways. Their presence and layout clearly demonstrate a reorganisation of the settlement.

			Dimensions		Finds		
Cut number	**Group number**	**Fill Number(s)**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Roman Pottery No. sherds (g)**	**Faunal Remains (g)**	**Other finds/Enviro**
730	730	731, 732, 733	1.78	0.74	100 (784)	504	-
803	730	804, 805, 812	1.72	0.62	14 (135)	635	-
808	730	809	0.7	0.54	-	178	-
900	730	901	1.8	0.8	51 (429)	615	-
953	730	954	2.2	0.7	9 (97)	5	-
979	730	980	0.65	0.36	3 (15)	25	
1029	730	1031, 1030	2.2	0.7	70 (523)	479	0.59kg (2 frags) pudding stone beehive quern
850	850	851	2.46	0.9	145 (1720)	1328	3g slag, 31g Oyster shell, Fe Nail
877	850	878, 879, 880	2	1.02	170 (2395)	86	
935	850	937, 936, 938	2.34	1.36	7 (33)	137	2 worked flints
967	850	968	0.84	1.1	39 (345)	77	
1032	850	1033, 1034, 1035	1.58	1.02	146 (859)	1149	1.2kg (1 frag) pudding stone beehive quern and a single worked flint
924	924	925		0.22			
926	924	927	1.85	0.65			
977	924	978	0.8	0.28			
				Totals	**754 (7335)**	**5218**	

Table 2: Excavated interventions in Phase 1.2 (Roman) boundary ditches

3.5.4 The ditches profiles differed between the irregular profile of Ditch 924 (Fig. 7a, Section 97) to the U-shape of Ditch 850 (Fig. 7a, Section 77; Fig. 7b, Sections 100 and 121) and more rounded V-shape of Ditch 730 (Fig. 7a, Section 37; Fig. 7b, Section 121; Plates 3 and 4). Each intervention encountered between one and three fills due to the weathering and silting up of their profiles. These fills generally composed of mid to dark greyish brown or brownish grey silty clay with varying gravel content.

Possible corn dryer and associated pits

3.5.5 The enclosed ground in the south-western part of the site contained evidence that this part of the possible farmstead was associated with crop processing; specifically corn drying and milling activities (Fig. 4). As described above, two of the excavated cuts into Ditches 730 and 850 yielded small volumes of charred cereal grain and fragments of quern (see Section 3.5.3). An elongated pit (**743**=**761**) lay on a north-north-west to south-south-east axis that measured 2.5m long, 0.42m wide and up to 0.27m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig. 7a, Section 43; Plate 5). The regularity of this feature in plan suggests it was excavated for a specific purpose, possibly as a flue for a corn drying

oven. An environmental sample of its mid grey silty clay fill (744=762) produced charred remains including a single grain of emmer wheat (*T. dicoccum*). The fill also yielded 11 sherds (160g) of pottery and animal bone fragments (10g).

3.5.6 This elongated pit was flanked by two sub-circular pits (**745** and **759**) with U-shaped profiles between 0.42-0.61m in diameter and 0.27-0.36m deep (Fig. 7a, Section 44). Each pit contained a single dark grey silty sand fill (746 and 760). An environmental sample of fill 746 produced a few charred cereal grains. The fills of these pits also yielded a combined total of 25 sherds (176g) of pottery, 435g of animal bone and 8g of oyster shell.

3.5.7 A larger pit (**987**) up to 2m in diameter and 0.32m deep lay 15m to the east of the possible corn dryer. It contained two fills of light brownish grey silty clay (988-9) which yielded a fragment (SF 30; 1030g) of beehive puddingstone quern (Fig. 4). The fills also produced 10 sherds (138g) of pottery and 41g of animal bone.

3.5.8 An intercutting group of three smaller pits (**959**, **972** and **974**) to the north of pit **987** produced 44g of burnt flint, 11 sherds (111g) of Horningsea and Reduced grey ware pottery along with 288g of animal bone.

Pits to the north of Ditch 730

3.5.9 A group of 15 discrete and intercutting sub-circular pits were also identified within the enclosed ground to the north of Ditch 730. Considering the tentative evidence for corn drying and milling activity to the south of Ditch 730 (see Section 3.5.7-9) it is of interest that a further pit (**992**) within this group produced slight evidence for a nearby oven or kiln. This pit measured up to 1.6m in diameter and 0.18m deep and contained a fill (993) consisting mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate gravel inclusions. This fill produced a fired clay kiln plate fragment along with five sherds (35g) of Horningsea and Reduced Grey ware pottery.

3.5.10 Approximately 12m to the west of pit **992**, the excavation of pit (**791**) produced a relatively large assemblage of 2nd to 3rd century Horningsea ware storage jar sherds (172 sherds, 3774g) along with a few sherds (13 in number, 100g) of Reduced grey ware and Oxidised White ware. Recovered from the upper fill, this quantity of pottery was notably more than other pits of this type and possibly indicates a deliberate deposit rather than gradual incorporation into the feature. This pit also contained a slightly burnt rectangular cobble (2237g) possibly used as a wall stone. The pit measured up to 1.1m in diameter by 0.45m deep and contained two fills (792-3) similarly consisted of mid to dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions (Fig. 7a, Section 58).

3.5.11 The remaining 13 pits (**701**, **703**, **705**, **789**, **840**, **863**, **866**, **869**, **871**, **873**, **895**, **897** and **994**) phased to this period mostly lay in a loose group to the north of pits **791** and **992**. They were of similar sub-circular morphology but varied considerably in size (0.35-2.6m in diameter by 0.12-0.55m deep; Fig. 7a, Section 81; Plate 6) and generally contained similar light to dark greyish brown silty clay fills with varying gravel content (702, 704, 706, 790, 841, 864, 867, 870, 872, 874, 896, 898 and 995 respectively). Six of these pits (**701**, **705**, **789**, **840**, **863** and **873**) produced a combined total of 47 sherds (388g) of Horningsea and Reduced Grey ware pottery (date range of mid-1st to 3rd

century AD). The only further notable find from this group of pits was a Colchester derivative brooch (SF 13) from pit **897** (Fig. 4).

Pits to the east of Ditch 850

3.5.12 A group of seven sub-circular pits (**723**, **726**, **771**, **775**, **821** (Fig. 7a, Section 65), **823** and **836**), which each measured between 0.3-3.4m in diameter and 0.12-0.72m deep, were revealed in the southern corner of the excavation area to the east of Ditch 850. Each pit contained between one and two backfills (724-5, 727, 772, 776, 822 and 837 respectively) generally consisting of mid-dark greyish brown silty/sandy clay or clayey silt with varying gravel content. Combined, these pits produced 15 sherds (50g) of pottery dominated by Horningsea and Reduced Grey wares, along with fragments of animal bone (111g) and a lead object (SF 14). Pit **726** contained a few charred grains of barley and wheat (Fig. 4).

3.5.13 After the close of the 2nd century, there does not appear to be any further evidence for remodelling of the Period 1 farmstead. Instead, the Phase 1.2 system of enclosure appears to have been abandoned with the site probably incorporated into a larger plot of agricultural farmland in a later Romano-British landscape which would eventually become the hinterland of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval village of Wicken.

3.6 Period 2: Late Medieval (*c.*AD1400-1540)

Marl pits

3.6.1 Period 1 features were truncated in the late medieval period by a large number of sub-circular and sub-square pits (34 in total, summarised in Table 3). These were mostly concentrated into three intercutting groups with a few outlying discrete examples (Fig. 5). The linear arrangement of two of these groups strongly suggest land divisions during this period had by this period had already taken on the dominant south-west to north-east orientation observed in the present-day landscape surrounding the site. Furthermore, the confinement of these pits to the north-west of the site also suggests the site extended across part of two properties (see Fig. 5). The pitting activity confined to the north-western property probably relate to the extraction of chalk marl underlying the site, either for use as a building material or for marling, a practise of adding lime-rich soil to more acidic soils.

3.6.2 The pit fills yielded small quantities of medieval and post-medieval ceramics, demonstrating this episode of marl quarrying occurred towards the end of the medieval period; probably during the 16th century transition into the post-medieval period. Both the pottery and other artefacts including metalwork, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone recovered from the pit fills were probably imported onto the site to be directly dumped as waste or reworked into the pit fills as a result of manuring. The abraded nature of most of pottery, with the notable exception of a some relatively large post-medieval Redware sherds, supports this. This waste material probably originated from middens of domestic material cleared from the nearby village.

		Dimensions		Finds		
Cut Number	**Fill Nos.**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Pottery No. Sherds (g)**	**Faunal Remains (g)**	**Other/ Enviro**
749	750	2.12	0.45	3 (15)		
781	782, 783	0.72	0.6	3(28)	4	Fe nail, 11g slag
784	785	0.28	0.18	-	-	
806	807	3.8	0.47	1 (32)		
844	845	1.86	0.56	6 (129)	26	7g oyster shell
846	847	1.84	0.42	-	-	-
848	849	1.2	0.3	-	-	-
861	862	1.3	0.62	1 (20)	6	
881	882	2.82	0.38	3 (22)	132	Cu A strap end
885	886, 887	1.88	0.76	1 (9)	8	1g fired clay, Fe Nail
888	889	1	0.55	5 (24)	58	Fe Nail
892	899	0.2	0.4	2 (10)	17	3g fired clay, 3g coal
902	903	1.72	0.56	4 (37)	11	
918	919	1	0.44	4 (18)	69	Fe Nail, cherry/sloe seeds
920	921	1	0.46	-	-	
930	931	1.76	0.52	3 (5)	26	poorly preserved Colchester derivative brooch (SF 27)
941	942	2.16	0.58	1 (19)		
943	944	2.3	0.56			
957	958	1.48	0.33	-	-	-
981	982	1.4	0.42			
1019	1020	0.98	0.38	-	-	-
794	795	0.85	0.33	-	-	-
815	816, 820, 1044	1.9	0.54	-	-	-
817	818	0.6	0.24	-	-	-
859	860	0.76	0.48			-
928	929	0.6	0.7	-	-	-
945	946	1.12	0.34	-	-	-
965	966	2.18	1.4	1 (11)	33	-
984	985, 986	2.52	0.72	-	4	148g fired clay
1027	1028	1.6	0.37		276	
1043	819	1.14	0.36	6 (54)		
			Totals	**45 (435)**	**638**	

Table 3: Excavated interventions in Period 2 (medieval) discrete features

3.6.3 A representative sample of the pits were excavated, and were found to measure between 0.6-4m wide by 0.26-1.4m deep with flat-based, U-shaped profiles (Fig. 7a, Section 74; Fig. 7b, Sections 83 and 100; Plates 7 and 8). These cuts predominantly contained a single backfill consisting of mid-dark brownish grey silty clay with varying gravel content.

3.6.4 Combined, the fills yielded a range of pottery fabrics from Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Essex and a single imported sherd from Raeren, the Netherlands (German Stoneware).

3.6.5 The largest single group of sherds (by count) are South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware (35 sherds, 0.264kg), followed by Medieval Ely ware (23 sherds, 0.202kg), while the largest group of sherds by weight are the Post-medieval Redwares (9 sherds, 0.329kg). A low number of East Anglian Redware sherds were also

recovered, including some East Anglian Redware Sgraffito sherds, East Anglian Redware (EAR), a generic term that can include Colchester-type wares amongst its products but is used where the industries have not been identified.

3.6.6 The most common fabrics were South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware and Medieval Ely ware along with fewer sherds of East Anglian Redwares, Grimston and Hedingham Fineware. Late Medieval and Transitional sherds were found alongside medieval South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware in pit **1043** and pit **941** contained only single, possibly intrusive sherd of post-medieval Redware. The assemblage appears to be domestic, although one dominated by jugs. The animal bone comprised fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse.

Waste pit 796

3.6.7 A notable isolated pit (**796**) in the south-east corner of the site presumably lay in a separate medieval property to that of the marl quarry pits to the north. It contained a varied assemblage of artefacts and ecofacts including: 27 sherds (216g) of medieval pottery, 102g of CBM, 55g of fired clay, an iron buckle (SF 7), an iron nail (SF 6), 249g of animal bone, 11g of oyster shell and 5g of mussel shell. The bulk soil samples of its two mid to dark brownish grey silty clay fills (797-8) yielded grains of barley and free-threshing wheat with occasional legumes and seeds of plants that were most likely harvested with the cereal crops. This assemblage probably represents the burying of domestic waste in the back plot of this property from a nearby dwelling.

3.7 Period 3: Post-medieval and later (*c.*AD1540-present)

Furrows

3.7.1 A set of four agricultural furrows (**707**, **710**, **723** and **777**) crossed the site on a south-west to north-east alignment, truncating the earlier features. These were regularly spaced approximately 15-17m apart and clearly relate to an episode of open field farming in the immediate hinterland of Wicken during the post-medieval period. Whereas the distribution of the medieval pits suggested the site may have straddled two separate properties across that period, the furrows rather indicate the site later lay within a single plot of land.

3.7.2 Interventions excavated into the furrows (cuts **707**, **710**, **723**, **751**, **757**, **765**, **769**, **777**, **799**, **883** (Fig. 7b, Section 83), **955**, **961**, **990**, **1009**, **1011** and **1042** (Fig. 7b, Section 100)) determined that they measured up to *c.*4m wide and *c.*0.4m deep with very shallow U-shaped profiles. Their fills generally consisted of sandy silty clay with some gravel inclusions in varying hues ranging from pale grey to dark brown. Finds recovered from these fills included 46 sherds (290g) of Roman pottery, eight sherds (45g) medieval pottery and four fragments (18g) of lava quern.

Modern field boundaries and trees

3.7.3 A modern boundary ditch (**852**, Fig. 7a, Section 77; = **1025**, Fig. 7b, Section 121) corresponds to a field boundary ditch that is detailed on the 1888 OS map (not reproduced in this report); this ditch ran north-east to south-west across site and was met by ditch **912** at right angles (Fig. 6). A roughly broken foundation stone (1098g) of

Melbourn Rock (chalk) was recovered from its fill. Both modern ditches appeared to be truncated by remains of tree root systems, of which one (**939**; Fig. 7b, Section 100) was excavated which produced a possible fragment of Roman tile or brick (129g). A further modern boundary (**922**) was uncovered in the southern corner of the site. A modern boundary ditch (unnumbered) was also partly revealed along the south-eastern boundary of the site with Hawes Lane.

Pond

3.7.4 Ditch **912** extended into an area believed to be a possible pond (**893**; Plate 9) within the grounds of the previously existing farmstead (MCB 22102) to the north-east of the development site. This sub-circular feature measured up to c.15m in diameter and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of c.1m. It contained a dark greyish brown silty clay fill (894) with orange mottling and occasional gravel inclusions. This fill produced 5 sherds (150g) of medieval to early modern pottery, the latest sherd of Creamware having a date range of between 1740-1830.

3.8 Finds summary

Introduction

3.8.1 The finds recovered the excavated features consisted of a few residual Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flints, Romano-British pottery, metalwork, fired clay kiln plate, worked stone, slag, animal bone and marine mollusc shell, medieval pottery, metalwork, ceramic building material (CBM) and a few sherds of post-medieval and later ceramics.

Metalwork (Appendix B.1)

3.8.2 A total of 55 fragments of metalwork were recovered relating to 33 objects. Four Roman brooches were recovered, three being common Colchester derivative brooches whilst one is a continental plate brooch. The remaining objects consist of various dressing and utilitarian accessories, common within the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Metalworking waste (Appendix B.2)

3.8.3 A total of four fragments (14g) of smithing iron slag were recovered through hand excavation, from two features on site. Whilst they are recovered from features dated to Period 1 (Romano-British) and Period 2 (medieval) they are not particularly diagnostic and are likely to have been dispersed over some distance.

Fuel remnants (Appendix B.3)

3.8.4 Six small pieces (17g) of coal were recovered from two pits. It is unclear as to where the coal originated from and is either domestic in origin or intrusive and relating to agricultural practices.

Flint (Appendix B.4)

3.8.5 A total of 12 worked flints were recovered from the excavation, alongside three fragments (68g) of burnt flint. The worked flint almost entirely consisting of simple hammer struck flakes with no obvious tools or retouching. Whilst nothing is strongly

diagnostic, they are likely to be Neolithic or Bronze Age in date and represent residual material caught up in the fills of later features. The burnt flint is likely to represent material inadvertently caught up within hearths/fire settings and could date to any period of the site's use.

Worked and building stone (Appendix B.5)

3.8.6 In total eight fragments of quern stone, including four fragments (2.98kg) of beehive puddingstone quern, and four fragments (0.18kg) of lava quern, were recovered from a total of four contexts across site. The seven fragments of building stone recovered are of local origin and are likely to have been used for un-mortared walls or foundations and are of probable Roman origin being fairly typical of the period.

Roman Pottery (Appendix B.6)

3.8.7 A total of 1282 sherds (14.43kg) of Early-to-Mid Roman pottery was recovered from the excavated features. It has been possible to establish that the pottery mostly consists of locally produced utilitarian coarse wares jars and storage jars (*c*. 98% by weight) associated with agrarian activities such as the small-scale storage of dried goods. The majority of the coarseware pottery (*c*. 67% by weight) is typical of production within the Horningsea manufacturing centre located only *c*.12km south-west; which recent analysis has demonstrated is typical for Early Roman fen-edge settlement in Cambridgeshire. Notably the interconnectedness of the site is reflected by the presence of imported Gaulish Terra Nigra and samian wares, also non-local British traded specialist wares (mortaria) and fine wares that are present in small quantities.

Post-Roman pottery (Appendix B.7)

3.8.8 The assemblage, consisting of 136 sherds (1.39kg) of largely abraded pottery, is dominated by jugs and largely appears domestic in nature.

Ceramic building material (Appendix B.8)

3.8.9 A total of 24 fragments (777g) consisted of fragmentary and abraded post-medieval to modern brick and tile fragments from a total of 10 distinct contexts were recovered. This assemblage is largely uninformative and likely to represent the discard of material into the modern agricultural landscape.

Fired/baked clay (Appendix B.9)

3.8.10 Hand excavation and collection gave rise to 34 fragments (411g) of fired/baked clay. Most of these were amorphous, unclassifiable, pieces, with some evidence of hand forming and more structural pieces. A single fragment from pit **992** (Period 1) showed evidence of organic impression and is likely to be a small body fragment of a later Iron Age to Early Romano-British kiln plate.

3.9 Environmental summary

Faunal remains (Appendix C.1)

3.9.1 The assemblage was of a small size, with 10.38kg of bone from hand-collection and from environmental samples. The number of recordable fragments that could be assigned to a phase totalled 131. The species represented include cattle (*Bos taurus*),

sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), horse (*Equus caballus*), dog (*Canis familiaris*), red deer (Cervus elaphus), and frog (*Rana temporaria*). The remains derived from ditches, pits and furrows. The remains from Period 1 form the largest proportion of the assemblage with cattle dominating (50%) followed by sheep/goat (21%), horse (14%), pig (6%), dog (6%) and frog (1%). There is very little ageing data for cattle, however all long bone epiphyses are fused, indicating a possible lack of young animals present. The dominance of cattle in the assemblage is typical for a Roman settlement in this region. Beef would have made up the most important part of the residents' diet. Sheep/goat would have been a secondary species for food, however from the ageing data it can be concluded they were probably exploited primarily for meat.

Mollusca (Appendix C.2)

3.9.2 A total of 15 marine shells or shell fragments were recovered from across all three phases of activity; however, there is no evidence on the shells to indicate how they have been consumed, nor is there a large enough quantity to indicate a meal. These remains do indicate an ability to gather food from sources outside the local vicinity.

Environmental bulk samples (Appendix C.3)

3.9.3 From the 26 bulk environmental samples taken from a variety of features across the site, there was a small quantity of charred cereals (including barley, spelt and wheat), weed seeds and legumes recovered. The low quantities of plant remains recovered preclude further and more detailed interpretation. Whilst species identified are consistent with those found on sites of occupation, they would normally be found in far higher quantities, suggesting that the focal point of any settlement activity was well beyond the edge of the excavated area.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Analysis of the features dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD provide the basis for investigating the project's research aims into aspects of the Romano-British remains (as set out in Section 2). The group of medieval marl extraction pits do not contribute to the specific research aims for the project but will nevertheless be discussed briefly to place them in their local and regional context. The post-medieval agricultural furrows and later features will not be discussed further.

4.2 Early Romano-British farmstead

Chronology

4.2.1 Although a proportion of the pottery excavated during the evaluation was dated to the 1st century AD, immediately prior to the Roman Conquest (see K. Anderson in Lord 2019, 18-20), there were no features excavated on the site to indicate the Early Romano-British settlement here grew out of any Late Pre-Roman Iron Age precursor. The synthesis by Smith and colleagues of the southern Cambridgeshire fen edge describes this environment as probably well-populated by the Late Iron Age (2016, 193), however, the CHER does not record any Iron Age findspots within at least 1km of the site. Indeed, the nearest remains consist of an Early Iron settlement uncovered at Dimmock's Cote Quarry, located *c*.2km to the northwest (Gilmour *et al*. 2013; CHER MCB 19798). The situation of the only dense surface scatter of Iron Age pottery and animal bone known in the locality lies within Wicken Fen, *c*.2.5km to the south-west of the site (CHER 05956; TL 547 694), suggesting settlements immediately prior to the Romano-British period may have gravitated towards slightly lower elevations along the flanks of the Wicken ridge.

4.2.2 The ceramic evidence from the site suggests that it was occupied between the mid-1st to the mid-2nd century. The pottery is almost entirely comprised of locally produced utilitarian course wares (67% Horningsea Grey ware, 23% Reduced Grey ware and 7% Oxidised White ware by weight). The duration of the farmstead's occupation is therefore largely determined by the character of the Horningsea Grey ware component, which is consistent with a date between c. AD 80-150. Recovery of four 1st century Colchester derivative brooches supports this assertion. Furthermore, the beehive shaped puddingstone quern fragments recovered from several features are of a form typically found in Conquest period or immediately post-Conquest period contexts and the main quarry sources of this stone are believed to have been largely exhausted before AD 100 (App. B.5.5).

4.2.3 Within the southern fen edge region, the highest instances of settlement abandonment in the archaeological record for the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, prior to those of the 4th century, lay towards the end of the 1st century, possibly as a result of the Claudian conquest or the Boudican revolt (Smith *et al*., 2016, 197). The evidence of settlement revealed at this site is therefore a significant find which appears to cover this period. The paucity of fine wares (only few sherds of samian and Terra Nigra along with two abraded sandy oxidised ware sherds from the evaluation)

and Colchester derivative brooches recovered from this site suggest at least a small degree of Romanising influence on the material culture of the settlement's inhabitants; typical for lesser Romanised farmsteads of the period as opposed to fully Romanised sites characterised by the presence of masonry buildings (for example see Hunn 1995, 80). The dominance of Horningsea jars and storage jars in the assemblage provides evidence for this site's connectivity within the local trading network to this ware's production zone on the River Cam, located *c*.12km to the south of Wicken (App. B.6.14). Recent analysis has demonstrated that during the Early Roman period the pottery from sites on the southern fen-edge were dominated by the products of this industry (App. B.6.14; Evans et al 2017, 80, fig, 3.22). The small number of mortaria sherds in the assemblage represent vessels traded from further afield within the province. The pottery clearly demonstrates the abandonment of this site around the end of the Early Roman period, although whether this represents an end of occupation or a shift of focus is unclear.

The local Romano-British settlement pattern upon the Wicken ridge

4.2.4 It has been observed that, within the 'well-excavated' Romano-British fen edge zone of Cambridgeshire, settlements occur at regular intervals of *c*.300-500m across this landscape (Smith *et al*. 2016, 193; Evans 2008, 181-6). This is certainly borne out by the series of well-spaced settlement sites described by the Fenland Project's Survey of Wicken which lie along the Cam Valley, *c*.2.3km to the west of the site (Fig. 8; Hall 1996, 76, fig. 37, nos 7-11). These evidence for these sites consists of a mixture of cropmarks, extant earthworks, traces of middens and surface finds scatters. Fragments of puddingstone quern, characteristic of early post-Conquest settlements, have been found at two locations north of Upware (CHERs 06942-3; Fig. 8). A recent excavation at Old School Lane, Upware, at the southern end of this group revealed extensive Mid to Late Romano-British rural settlement remains associated with agriculture which including a masonry-footed aisled building (Billington and Robinson-Zeki, forthcoming). Cropmarks at the northern end of this group of sites delineate enclosures and droves. To their south earthworks survive of rectangular paddocks and a pond. Pottery sherds recovered from the surface span the Roman period. To the east of this group, but still located upon the distinctive hammerhead-shaped western reaches of the Wicken ridge are two further sites which would have faced the marshland basin of Soham Mere (Fig. 8, nos 4 and 6). The nearest of these sites to Wicken (no. 4) is a large surface scatter of 3rd to 4th century pottery and metalwork including lead fishnet weights, a bronze ring and other miscellaneous bronze items. The smaller site to the north (no. 6) produced a mixture of Roman and later pottery surface finds.

4.2.5 To the east of this group of sites there is evidently a large expanse of ground devoid of known Romano-British remains along the Wicken ridge, an extent of some 3km, ending with the cropmark of a possible rectangular Roman masonry building (CHER 07071; Fig. 8). Placed within this gap, the current site is therefore an important addition in understanding the evolving settlement pattern of this period and to what extent different parts of the Wicken ridge were exploited for farming over this broad span of time. Whereas the current set of remains is clearly confined to between the mid-1st to mid-2nd centuries, the rich array of surface finds from the field-walked sites

to the west span the whole Romano-British period. This longevity is reflected in the surrounding wealth of cropmark and earthwork evidence. It is conceivable that early settlements later shifted and gravitated towards the River Cam as its importance in the regional trading network grew as the 2nd century progressed. The locality's importance in terms of trade may have been heightened by its place on the road network with a possible crossing of the river at this point suggested by Hall (1996, 76; see Fig. 8). The extensive settlement uncovered at Old School Lane, Upware appears to have been established no earlier than the mid-2nd century (Billington and Robinson-Zeki forthcoming). It has been postulated that Wicken Lode originated during the Romano-British period (Fig. 8). The connection of the eastern extent of the Wicken ridge to the River Cam would probably have stimulated a settlement shift in the site's locality, however, such a possibility must remain speculation for the present. It also remains open to speculation that the establishment of a fully Romanised farmstead or villa nearby, such as might be suggested for the possible rectangular masonry building (CHER 07071; Fig. 8) *c*.1km to the east of the site, would have instigated a reorganisation of the local settlement pattern.

Stratigraphic sequence

4.2.6 The stratigraphic sequence of the Early Romano-British features clearly delineates two sets of superimposed enclosure networks of differing morphology. Considering the narrow profiles of the ditches that defined the earlier phase, it is tempting to interpret these as a network of narrow trenches excavated for the installation of fences. The earlier phase of activity may therefore represent paddocks to pen livestock. This scenario would also best explain the multiple gaps in their circuits which would have perhaps allowed for the controlled movement of livestock and separation of animals for husbandry tasks.

4.2.7 The farmstead evidently witnessed a deliberate reorganisation whereby the possible network of paddocks was cleared to be replaced by a set of larger enclosures defined by substantial boundary ditches. There was evidence for the gradual evolution of this new system of land division, with Ditch 730 having truncated the silted-up profiles of Ditches 850 and 924. The sinuous appearance of these alignments is perhaps more suggestive of a continued theme of livestock keeping rather than forming part of a more regularly defined agricultural fields. The site is located upon relatively well-drained superficial marl deposits, therefore their primary function may also have deliberately protected spaces from livestock reserved for other activities such as crop processing (see below). There was no evidence for any entranceways between the enclosures which must have lain beyond the excavation limit as only a small portion of the farmstead was revealed.

Diet-based evidence for the inhabitants

4.2.8 Although there was no evidence for direct habitation or dwellings on this site, the recovery of *c*.13.5kg of utilitarian courseware pottery in a variety of jar, storage jar, bowl, beaker and dish forms and upwards of 5kg of animal bone waste from the boundary ditches and pits strongly suggests this part of the farmstead lay in close proximity to its domestic core. The composition of the bone assemblage indicates the meat diet of the inhabitants was typical for Romano-British settlements in this region.

Beef was the most important part of the diet followed by mutton/lamb with pork playing a minor role (App C.1.18). The *c*.50% versus *c*.20% split between cattle and sheep/goat remains at this site corresponds well with the bone assemblage from the Mid to Late Romano-British settlement excavated at Old School Lane, Upware (Billington and Robinson-Zeki forthcoming, 59). The farmsteads inhabitants would also have consumed dairy products from the milk produced by these animals.

4.2.9 Adjacent to the south-western boundary of the site lay a close group of one elongated and two sub-circular pits. Although only speculative, the elongated pit (**743**=**761**) may represent the remains of a flue associated with corn drying activity. The well-cut appearance of this feature in plan does suggest it was excavated for a specific purpose. Such flues which carried the hot air to the grain from an adjacent heat source on the surface would not itself display any evidence of *in situ* heating or burning. In the wider archaeological record, more extensive arrangements of 'flue-channel settings' excavated at Langdale Hale, Colne Fen were considered most likely to have been associated with the parching of grain (Evans 2013, fig. 2.26). It is conceivable this small pit group was also associated with crop processing/crop drying activity in a similar vein. The single fragment of emmer wheat and few charred cereal grains found in the two adjacent pits in this group provide only tentatively evidence for the plant-based diet of the inhabitants. However, the presence of cereal processing at this site is supported by further sparse assemblages of charred grain recovered from two of the slots excavated into the adjacent boundary ditches which were either blown or washed into each of their profiles from nearby. The recovery of puddingstone quern fragments from both one of the pits near to the possible corn drying flue and from the enclosure ditches also demonstrate the grinding of cereal grain, indicating flour production at this site. Querns in this material commonly occur within Early Romano-British agricultural settings for this purpose.

Craft activity-based evidence

4.2.10 The fill of pit **992**, located to the north of Ditch 730, produced a probable fragment of fired clay kiln plate of the kind normally associated with Late Iron Age or Early Roman pottery kilns. Such plates were probably used as part of a portable kiln floor. No further conclusions may be drawn from this piece other than to highlight the potential for an episode of pottery making nearby. Although only tentative evidence, this example is akin to the larger assemblage of residual kiln plate fragments recently excavated from the Mid to Late Romano-British rural settlement at Old School Lane, Upware; *c*.2.8km to the west of the site (T. Levermore in Billington and Robinson-Zeki forthcoming). Along with other types of portable kiln furniture, fragmentary kiln plates have also been recovered from the transitional 1st century AD site at Blackhorse Lane, Swavesey, located 20km further to the west along the Cambridgeshire Fen edge (Willis *et al.* 2008, 59). The fragment of possible smithing slag, burnt stone and mortaria from Period 1 features were not found in sufficient quantities to speculate on any further craft processes carried out by the farmstead's inhabitants.

4.3 Late medieval marl extraction pits

4.3.1 The groups of intercutting sub-rectangular and sub-circular pits appear to have been confined to the north-west of a medieval property division crossing the site on a south-

west to north-east alignment. This orientation reflects the current orientation of properties and fields on the north-western fringe of Wicken, suggesting the present pattern of land-division originated during the medieval period. To the south-east of this division lay an isolated pit that produced a mixture of domestic refuse, suggesting this feature functioned as a waste pit. Conversely, the dense concentrations of pits to the north were clearly excavated to extract the underlying outcrop of marl deposits extending through this part of the site.

4.3.2 The distribution of the majority of the extraction pits in rows is indicative of a systematic approach to this quarrying. The local demand for marl would have been driven by its two well-known uses in the region. Firstly, this carbonate-rich soil was spread across fields to lessen their acidity to boost productivity. This practice may have not fully developed until approximately the 16th century (App. B.7.14). Secondly, the locally available building material of Totternhoe Stone is a chalk rock whose Clunch blocks were cemented together with lime mortar produced from the locally available chalk or marl. The relatively late date of the pottery assemblage from the pits, with its high proportion of post-medieval Redware sherds discounts any possible relationship between marl quarrying at this site to supply lime for the construction of Spinney Abbey Priory, dissolved in 1449.

4.3.3 Marl quarry sites in the form of intercutting groups of sub-rectangular pits have been found across southern Cambridgeshire. These workings commonly date to between the 14th and 16th centuries. Large irregular shaped quarry pits were revealed during excavations of a medieval clunch-working site at Fordham Road, Isleham (Newton 2010, 109). Two neighbouring sites next to the Totternhoe Stone at Station Gate and Isaacson Road, Burwell encountered intercutting groups of marl pits alongside lime kilns (Clarke, forthcoming; Muldowney 2006; Muldowney 2008). The former site consisted intercutting groups of irregular shaped pits whereas the latter site was subject to a more systematic strip quarry layout. A close parallel to the current site was the group of sub-rectangular quarry pits found cut into the underlying chalk at Church End, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge; a major source of clunch in the county. These pits almost entirely occupied a 7-12m wide strip of land at the rear of a row of medieval properties (crofts) to the north-west of the church. Their form suggested to the authors that the pits represented individual extraction events of material as required (Cessford and Dickens 2005, 67, fig. 15). More recently, an extensive area of small sub-rectangular marl pits believed to have links with the building of St John's College, Cambridge was excavated at Scotsdales Garden Centre, Fordham (Clarke 2019).

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The remains uncovered by the OA East excavations at 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken are of local significance. The settlement remains provide a further example of Early Romano-British farming in the immediate post-Conquest fen edge landscape of Cambridgeshire. As to be expected, the layout of features and the artefacts/ecofacts from their fills demonstrate the central concern of this farmstead was the raising of livestock and processing of cereal grain. It is important that this post-conquest farmstead has been brought to light on the eastern part of the Wicken ridge near to

the village. Previous survey work in the parish had only identified settlements on its western extent, especially alongside the River Cam. Considering this site's more 'backwater' location away from the river, the dominance of Horningsea ware jars in the pottery assemblage, the casual loss of a few Colchester derivative brooches and presence of Gaulish pottery imports nevertheless demonstrate the inhabitants connectedness to the emerging local and regional markets of the province.

4.4.2 A question remains as to whether this site's 2nd century abandonment was merely the result of a shift in focus to a nearby location or signified a more widespread reorganisation of land-use on the Wicken ridge. Such change may have variously involved a general shift of later settlement to the banks of the River Cam, the postulated arrival of Wicken Lode during this period or the establishment of a fully Romanised farmstead or villa estate centred on the cropmark building east of the site. However, these speculations must await the chance of future discoveries in the vicinity of Wicken to be explored further.

APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
700	0	0		layer	natural	Subsoil						
701	701	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.35	0.12	u
702	701	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mottled mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones frequent charcoal flecks	0.35	0.12	
703	703	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1.54	0.24	irregular
704	703	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brownish grey	silty clay	occasional small subangular stone, occasional chalk		0.24	
705	705	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.68	0.34	wide u
706	705	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mottled dark brown grey	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones		0.34	
707	707	707	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				0.78	0.36	wide u
708	707	707	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	pale whitish grey	chalky clay	frequent small to medium subangular flint	0.3	0.14	
709	707	707	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent small to medium subangular and sub rounded flint	1.18	0.28	
710	710	710	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				3	0.26	flat based u
711	710	710	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mottled mid yellowish grey	silty clay	occasional small stones, occasional charcoal flecks		0.18	
712	710	710	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	dark brown	silty clay	frequent charcoal flecks, occasional small stones		0.04	
713	714	906	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				1	0.38	flat based u
714	714	906	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small stones, rare charcoal flecks		0.38	
723	723	723	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				1.74	0.34	wide shallow u
724	723	723	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mottled light greyish yellow	gravelly clay	snail shells throughout	3.24	0.31	
725	723	723	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid brown grey with rooting throughout	sandy clay	moderate well sorted flint	1.74	0.34	
726	726	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1.77	0.72	u

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
727	726	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid greyish brown	silty clay	frequent charcoal, moderate flint from top and middle	1.77	0.5	
728	728	728	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.6	0.18	u
729	728	728	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light yellowish brown	sandy clay	moderate flint	0.6	0.18	
730	730	730	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				1.78	0.74	v
731	730	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brownish grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium flint and sub rounded stones, rare snail shell		0.34	
732	730	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub rounded stones, frequent charcoal,		0.25	
733	730	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub rounded stones, rare charcoal		0.3	
734	734	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.84	0.56	u
735	734	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent flint	0.36	0.08	
736	734	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown silty clay	moderate flint, frequent charcoal	firm	0.84	0.48	
737	726	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	light grey	clay	frequent small chalk fragments	0.92	0.24	
738	738	728	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.48	0.19	u
739	738	728	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	rare small stones	0.48	0.19	
740	740	740	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.74	0.61	u
741	740	740	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown	silty clay	occasional small and medium sub rounded stones		0.61	
743	743	743	1.2	cut	pit	corn dryer?				0.4	0.18	u
744	743	743	1.2	fill	pit	corn dryer?	mid grey	silty sand	few medium stones	0.4	0.18	
745	745	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.61	0.36	u
746	745	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	dark grey	silty sand	few medium stones	0.61	0.36	
747	747	747	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.39	0.14	shallow u
748	747	747	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light yellowish brown	sandy silt	n/a	0.39	0.14	
749	749	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				2.12	0.45	u
750	749	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown grey	silty clay	infrequent small stones	2.12	0.45	
751	751	0	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				1.88	0.26	wide u

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
752	751	0	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid brown grey	silty clay	infrequent small stones	1.88	0.26	
753	753	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.16	0.49	wide flat u
754	753	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid light brown grey	silty clay		1.15	0.49	
755	755	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.3	0.26	u
756	755	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light brown grey	silty clay		1.3	0.26	
757	757	757	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				1.9	0.16	wide shallow u
758	757	757	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub rounded stones		0.16	
759	759	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.7	0.14	u
760	759	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	infrequent small stones	0.7	0.14	
761	761	743	1.2	cut	pit	corn dryer?				0.42	0.27	u
762	761	743	1.2	fill	pit	corn dryer?	mid grey	silty clay	few medium stones	0.42	0.27	
763	763	763	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.42	0.1	flat based u
764	763	763	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones		0.1	
765	765	757	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				0.3	0.18	flat based
766	765	757	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub rounded stones		0.18	
767	767	763	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.26	0.12	u
768	767	763	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	dark brownish grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub rounded stones		0.12	
769	769	757	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				0.54	0.22	flat based u
770	769	757	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones		0.22	
771	771	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1.42	0.032	wide u
772	771	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	clayey silt	frequent poorly sorted subangular and sub rounded flint all sizes	1.42	0.32	
773	773	834	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.4	0.26	shallow u
774	773	834	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium subangular and sub rounded stones	0.4	0.26	

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
775	775	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.42	0.34	deep U
776	775	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small to medium subangular flint	0.42	0.34	
777	777	0	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				1.1	0.13	
778	777	0	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent small stones	1.1	0.13	
781	781	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.72	0.6	
782	781	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light greyish white	chalky silt	occasional yellowy brown flecks		0.14	
783	781	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brownish grey	clayey silt	occasional pieces of medium sized flint		0.44	
784	784	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.28	0.18	u
785	784	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey	clayey silt	occasional pieces of medium sized flint		0.18	
786	786	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.8	0.72	u
787	786	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brownish grey	clayey silt	occasional pieces of medium sized flint		0.32	
788	786	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light brown grey	silty clay	occasional flecks of chalk		0.4	
789	789	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.72	0.32	u
790	789	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brownish grey	silty clay	infrequent small stones		0.32	
791	791	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1.1	0.45	wide open u
792	791	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small stones		0.25	
793	791	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brownish grey	silty clay	occasional small stones		0.2	
794	794	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.85	0.33	u
795	794	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown grey	silty clay	frequent small stones	0.85	0.33	
796	796	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				2.5	0.64	wide u
797	796	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey	silty clay	frequent medium stones	2.5	0.64	
798	796	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown grey	silty clay	frequent small subangular flint	2.1	0.46	
799	799	707	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				1.1	0.56	u
800	799	707	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	light greyish brown	silty clay	frequent small stones	1.1	0.56	
801	801	801	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.6	0.24	u
802	801	801	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones		0.24	
803	803	730	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				1.72	0.62	
804	803	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	silty clay	occasional medium sub rounded flint		0.26	
805	803	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small sub-angular stones		0.35	
806	806	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				3.8	0.47	wide u
807	806	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown grey	silty clay	infrequent medium sized stones	3.8	0.47	

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
808	808	730	1.2	cut	ditch	unknown				0.7	0.54	deep u
809	808	730	1.2	fill	ditch	backfill	dark brown grey	silty clay	infrequent small stones	0.7	0.54	
810	810	810	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.5	0.13	u
811	810	810	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brownish grey	clayey silt	occasional small stones	0.5	0.13	
812	803	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	light greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones		0.2	
813	813	801	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.65	0.17	wide u
814	813	801	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones		0.17	
815	815	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.9		u
816	815	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent small stones	1.9	0.54	
817	817	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.6	0.24	u
818	817	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light yellowish grey	silty sand	small infrequent stones	0.6	0.24	
819	1043	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent small stones and occasional flint	1.14	0.36	
820	815	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light blueish grey	clay		1.5	0.4	
821	821	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.88	0.38	u
822	821	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub-angular stones		0.38	
823	823	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.3	0.12	u
824	823	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown grey	clayey silt	occasional small stones	0.3	0.12	
825	825	825	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.5	0.4	
826	825	825	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	clayey silt	occasional small stones and flecks of chalk		0.3	
827	825	825	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey	silty clay	occasional small and medium stones and charcoal		0.4	
828	828	810	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.45	0.2	wide u shape
829	828	810	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	clayey silt	occasional small and medium stones	0.45	0.2	
830	830	834	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.54	0.15	
831	830	834	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones		0.15	
832	832	832	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				1	0.27	
833	832	832	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small sub-angular stones		0.27	
834	834	834	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.53	0.14	shallow u
835	834	834	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones		0.14	

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
836	836	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				3.4	0.36	wide u
837	836	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent medium stones	3.4	0.36	
838	838	834	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.6	0.24	wide v
839	838	834	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay		0.6	0.24	
840	840	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1.28	0.2	flat based u
841	840	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	dark grey brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones		0.2	
842	842	740	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary					0.42	u
843	842	740	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light yellowish grey	sandy silt	few small stones		0.42	
844	844	0	2	cut	pit	extraction					0.56	u
845	844	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent small to medium stones		0.56	
846	846	0	2	cut	pit	extraction					0.42	u
847	846	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent small to medium stones		0.42	
848	848	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.2	0.3	u
849	848	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light yellowish grey	silty clay		1.2	0.3	
850	850	850	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				2.46	0.9	u
851	850	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent chalk and moderate flint, charcoal and CBM	2.46	0.98	
852	852	852	3	cut	ditch	boundary				1.1	0.26	u
853	852	852	3	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey brown	silty clay	moderate chalk at edges	1.2	0.26	
854	854	854	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.6	0.24	u
855	854	854	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light greyish yellow	silty clay		0.6	0.24	
856	854	854	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown	silty clay		0.6	0.13	
857	857	810	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.2	0.15	v
858	857	810	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional flint	0.4	0.15	
859	859	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.76	0.48	u
860	859	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones	0.76	0.48	
861	861	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.3	0.62	steep u
862	861	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones		0.62	
863	863	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				2.6	0.55	wide u
864	863	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small and medium stones and flecks of chalk		0.3	

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
865	863	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey	silty clay	occasional small stones		0.25	
866	866	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1.6	0.38	wide u
867	866	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey	silty clay	occasional small stones		0.15	
868	866	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid greyish brown	silty clay	occasional small stones		0.2	
869	869	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.6	0.25	u
870	869	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey	silty clay	occasional small and medium stones		0.25	
871	871	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.5	0.35	
872	871	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brownish grey	silty clay	occasional small and medium stones	0.5	0.35	
873	873	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1	0.33	u
874	873	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium stones	1	0.33	
877	877	850	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				2	1.02	
878	877	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	light brown grey	silty clay	occasional subangular stone		0.25	
879	877	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones		0.48	
880	877	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones		0.53	
881	881	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				2.82	0.38	u
882	881	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light grey brown	silty clay	moderate amount of sub-angular stones all sizes	2.82	0.38	
883	883	0	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				4.38	0.22	u
884	883	0	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	light greyish brown	silty clay	moderate inclusions of subangular stones all sizes	4.38	0.22	
885	885	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.88	0.76	u
886	885	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	dark greyish brown	silty clay	moderate inclusions of sub-angular stones all sizes	1.88	0.3	
887	885	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	dark grey brown	silty clay	moderate inclusions of subangular stones all sizes	1.88	0.46	
888	888	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1	0.55	
889	888	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid greyish brown	silty clay	moderate inclusions mall to medium stones, occasional chalk	1	0.55	
890	890	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.8	0.46	u

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
891	890	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light brown	silty clay	moderate small to medium stone and flint, occasional chalk frags	0.8	0.46	
892	892	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.2	0.4	
893	893	0	3	cut	pit	pond						wide irregular u
894	893	0	3	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey with mid orange mottling	silty clay	occasional small to medium stones			
895	895	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.4	0.3	u
896	895	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid to dark greyish brown	silty clay		0.4	0.3	
897	897	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.54	0.32	u
898	897	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	moderate flint	0.54	0.32	
899	892	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light brown	silty clay	moderate small to medium stones and flint. Occasional chalk	0.2	0.42	
900	900	730	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				1.8	0.8	u
901	900	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium subangular stones		0.08	
902	902	0	2	cut	pit	extraction						u
903	902	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent flint, moderate chalk			
904	904	904	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.58	0.2	u
905	904	904	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey brown	silty clay	moderate inclusions of small-medium subangular stones, and rare charcoal frags	0.58	0.2	
906	906	906	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.6	0.36	narrow u
907	906	906	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown	silty clay	occasional small sub-angular stones		0.36	
908	908	908	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.45	0.22	narrow u
909	908	908	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown	silty clay	occasional small sub-angular stones		0.22	
910	910	852	3	cut	ditch	boundary				0.7	0.27	wide u
911	910	852	3	fill	ditch	silting	dk brown grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub rounded and subangular stones	0.7	0.27	
912	912	852	3	cut	ditch	boundary				0.62	0.2	wide u
913	912	852	3	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium sub rounded and subangular stones	0.62	0.2	
914	914	904	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.54	0.4	u

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
915	914	904	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	moderate amount of small subangular stones	0.54	0.14	
916	916	801	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.36	0.21	u
917	916	801	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light grey brown	silty clay	moderate amount of small subangular stones	0.36	0.21	
918	918	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1	0.44	u
919	918	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid yellow brown	silty clay	occasional chalk and flint	1	0.44	
920	920	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1	0.46	u
921	920	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid to dark grey brown	silty clay		1	0.46	
922	922	922	3	cut	ditch	boundary				0.66	0.36	u
923	922	922	3	fill	ditch	silting	mid yellowish brown	silty clay	moderate stones, rare charcoal	0.66	0.6	
924	924	924	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				0.25	0.22	u
925	924	924	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small stones, rare snail shell, and chalk	0.25	0.22	
926	926	924	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				1.85	0.65	u
927	926	924	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional small angular stone	1.85	0.65	
928	928	0	2	cut	pit	exctraction				0.6	0.7	u
929	928	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional chalk frag	0.7	0.6	
930	930	0	2	cut	pit	exctraction				1.76	0.52	u
931	930	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional small rounded stone	1.76	0.52	
932	932	832	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				1.94	0.44	
933	1042	0	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid brown grey	silty clay	very occasional small stone	1.94	0.44	
934	932	832	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light brown grey	silty clay	rare small round stone	0.4	0.14	
935	935	850	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				2.34	1.36	rounded v
936	935	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional small rounded stones		0.36	
937	935	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	rare small rounded stones		0.42	
938	935	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	very rare small rounded stone		0.34	
939	939	0	3	cut	Root disturbance	Tree				3.36	0.68	irregular
940	939	0	3	fill	Root disturbance	Tree	mottled greyish brown	silty clay	occasional stone	3.36	0.68	
941	941	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				2.16	0.58	

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
942	941	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light brown grey	silty clay	moderate amount of chalk	2.16	0.58	
943	943	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				2.23	0.56	u
944	943	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown grey	silty clay	very occasional small stones	2.3	0.56	
945	945	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.12	0.34	u
946	945	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey	silty clay	very occasinal small stone	1.12	0.34	
947	947	740	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.56	0.28	u
948	947	740	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown	loamy	moderate small stones, occasional chalk	0.56	0.28	
949	949	949	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.34	0.12	u
950	949	949	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare small subangular stones	0.34	0.12	
951	951	810	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.65	0.19	u
952	951	810	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare small subangular stones	0.65	0.19	
953	953	730	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				2.2	0.7	u
954	953	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium subangular stones		0.7	
955	955	723	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				0.14	0.08	
956	955	723	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	dark grey	silty clay	occasional small stone	0.14	0.18	
957	957	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.48	0.33	flat based u
958	957	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional sub-rounded flint		0.33	
959	959	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1.94	0.48	wide u
960	959	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	pale greysih brown	clayey silt	rare charcoal, occasional small subrounded stones	1.6	0.27	
961	961	710	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				1.86	0.13	wide shallow u
962	961	710	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid brown grey	silty clay	moderate small stones	1.86	0.13	
963	963	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.2	0.44	wide u
964	963	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	light grey brown	clayey silt	rare small subrounded stones	1.2	0.44	
965	965		2	cut	pit	extraction				2.18	1.4	wide u
966	965		2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare medium subangular stones	2.18	1.4	
967	967	850	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				0.84	1.1	wide u
968	967	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare medium sub-angular stones	0.84	1.1	
969	969	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.84	0.88	wide u

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
970	969	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare medium subangular stones	1.84	0.88	
971	959	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	dk brown grey	silty clay	rare small subangular and subrounded stones	1.85	0.22	
972	972	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.24	0.36	u
973	972	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	pale grey brown	clayey silt	rare small stones	0.24	0.36	
974	974	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.66	0.14	wide u
975	974	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	pale grey brown	clayeey silt		0.66	0.14	
976	974	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mottled dark orangey brown	clayey silt	rare small subangular stones	0.66	0.26	
977	977	924	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				0.8	0.28	u
978	977	924	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	moderate small stones, occasional chalk	0.8	0.28	
979	979	730	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				0.65	0.36	u
980	979	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown grey	silty clay	moderate small stones	0.65	0.36	
981	981	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.4	0.42	wide flat based u
982	981	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	pale brown grey	silty clay	occasional medium subangular flint and stone	1.4	0.42	
983	935	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	pale whitish grey	silty clay	rare small stones	0.5	0.26	
984	984	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				2.52	0.72	u
985	984	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey	silty clay	very occasional small round stone	2.52	0.24	
986	984	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	very occasional small round stones	2.52	0.66	
987	987	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				2.06	0.34	u
988	987	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	light brown grey	silty clay		2.06	0.18	
989	987	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	light brown grey	marly clay		2.06	0.32	
990	990	0	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				0.74	0.21	wide shallow u
991	990	0	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	dark grey ish brown	silty clay	moderate inclusiong of sub-angular stones	0.74	0.21	
992	992	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				0.36	0.18	u
993	992	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	moderate, small subangular stones	1.6	0.18	
994	994	0	1.2	cut	pit	unknown				1.36	0.15	u
995	994	0	1.2	fill	pit	backfill	light grey brown	silty clay	occasional small stones	1.36	0.15	
996	996	949	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.32	0.11	u

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
997	996	949	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light grey brown	silty clay	occasional small subangular stones	0.32	0.11	
998	998	949	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.43	0.15	u
999	998	949	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	light grey brown	silty clay	occasinoal small subangular stones	0.43	0.15	
1000	1000	810	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.32	0.21	u
1001	1000	810	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare small subangular stones	0.32	0.21	
1002	1002	763	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.3	0.11	u
1003	1002	763	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid brown	silty clay	occasional stones	0.3	0.11	
1004	1004	740	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.6	0.39	u
1005	1004	740	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional stones	0.6	0.39	
1006	1006	850	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.26	0.4	u
1007	1006	850	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	dark blue grey	sandy clay	occasional small stones	0.26	0.4	
1008	877	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	pale yellowish grey	silty clay	rare small subrounded stones	0.8	0.14	
1009	1009	707	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				0.28	0.14	u
1010	1009	707	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	dark grey brown	silty clay	moderat amount of small subangular stones	0.28	0.14	
1011	1011	707	3	cut	furrow	agriculture				0.37	0.17	u
1012	1011	707	3	fill	furrow	agriculture	mid grey brown	silty clay	moderate small subangular stones	0.37	0.17	
1013	1013	832	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.51	0.21	u
1014	1013	832	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	moderate small subangular stone	0.51	0.21	
1015	1015	906	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.28	0.28	u
1016	1015	906	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey brown	silty clay	occasional small stones	0.28	0.28	
1017	1017	908	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.8	0.45	v
1018	1017	908	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	occasional stones, rare chalk frag	0.8	0.45	
1019	1019	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.98	0.38	wide u
1020	1019	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	dark brown grey	silty clay	ocasional small subangular and subrounded flint	0.98	0.38	
1021	1021	854	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.56	0.4	u
1022	1021	854	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare small stones	0.56	0.4	
1023	1023	854	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.62	0.25	wide u
1024	1023	854	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid grey brown	silty clay	rare small stones	0.62	0.25	
1025	1025	852	3	cut	ditch	boundary				0.28	0.2	u
1026	1025	852	3	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	silty clay	occasinal small stones and flint	0.28	0.2	

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Category	Feature Type	Function	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Breadth	Depth	Profile
1027	1027	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.6	0.37	u
1028	1027	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey brown	silty clay	frequent small to med stones	1.6	0.37	
1029	1029	730	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				0.8	0.68	wide rounded v
1030	1029	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	dark blueish grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium subangular flint		0.14	
1031	1029	730	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	dark grey brown	silty clay	occasional small to medium subangular and subrounded flint	0.76	0.58	
1032	1032	850	1.2	cut	ditch	boundary				1.58	1.02	wide open u
1033	1032	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	dark brown grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium subrounded and subangular flint	1.28	0.74	
1034	1032	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid orangey brown	silty clay	frequent small to medium subangular and subrounded stones	0.32	0.26	
1035	1032	850	1.2	fill	ditch	silting	mid blueish grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium subangular to subrounded stones and flint	0.9	0.32	
1036	1036	747	1.1	cut	ditch	boundary				0.21	0.14	u
1037	1036	747	1.1	fill	ditch	silting	mid orangey brown	sandy silt	rare small stone	0.21	0.14	
1038	1038	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.45	0.21	u
1039	1038	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid brown grey	silty clay	very occasional small subrounded stone	0.45	0.21	
1040	1040	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				0.66	0.62	flat based u
1041	1040	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mid grey	silty clay	occasional small to medium flint and stone	0.66	0.62	
1042	1042	0	3	cut	furrow	agriculture					0.24	
1043	1043	0	2	cut	pit	extraction				1.14	0.36	wide flat based u
1044	815	0	2	fill	pit	backfill	mottled yellow gey	silty clay	rare small stones	0.8	0.28	

Table 4: Context inventory

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

by Denis Sami

Introduction

B.1.1 Excavation and surface metal detecting produced an assemblage of 55 fragments of metalwork relating to 33 individual objects (Table 5). Finds were recovered from ditches, pits, a pond and top/sub soils (Table 6). The assemblage consists in great part of dressing accessories dating to the Roman and medieval periods. A small group of artefacts fall within the horse equipment category and another is associated with the construction of timber structures. A single medieval jetton was also recovered. Eight fragments remain currently unidentified and undated (Table 7).

B.1.2 The overall preservation of finds is poor with fragments incomplete and heavily encrusted. The assemblage is most likely to be Roman and medieval/post-medieval in date.

Metal	No. Fragments	No Object
CuA	15	15
Fe	38	16
Pb	2	2
Total	**55**	**33**

Table 5: Quantification of artefacts by metal

Methodology

B.1.3 The metalwork was examined in accordance with the Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) metalwork finds standard based on the guidance of the Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS, Datasheets 104 and 108), the *Archaeometallurgy Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015) and the *Guidelines for the Storage and Display of Archaeological Metalwork* (English Heritage/Historic England 2013).

B.1.4 Mackreth's (2011) two volumes on Roman brooches in Roman Britain acted as a main catalogue and reference in the identification of the Roman brooches, together with Stead and Rigby's (1986) catalogue of Roman brooches from Baldock.

B.1.5 Egan and Pritchard's (2002) monograph on medieval dressing accessories was used as references in the identification and dating of the medieval artefacts.

B.1.6 Reference for the late medieval French jetton was found in Mitchiner (1988) vol. 1.

B.1.7 The metalwork assemblage was quantified using an Access database. All metal finds were counted and classified on a context by context basis. A summary catalogue of the Excel database is included below, organised by context number (Table 8).

Factual data

B.1.8 Eight fragments remain unidentified at this stage. The remaining objects are representative of dress accessories and utilitarian and multifunctional artefacts used

in everyday activity, possibly indicating domestic or agricultural activity in the vicinity (Table 6).

Artefact	No. Fragments	No Object
bar-mount	1	1
brooch	4	4
buckle	5	5
buckle plate	1	1
button	1	1
fastener	1	1
fitting	2	2
jetton	1	1
nail	28	10
strap-end	1	1
unidentified	8	4
weight	2	2
Total	**55**	**33**

Table 6: Quantification of metalwork by functional identification

B.1.9 The majority of objects were recovered from pits either of Roman or medieval/post-medieval date (Table 7).

Row Labels	No. Fragments	No Object
ditch	4	3
pit	36	15
pond	3	3
slump	1	1
subsoil	2	2
Top-spoil	9	9
Total	**55**	**33**

Table 7: Quantification of metalwork by archaeological feature

Copper-alloy objects

B.1.10 The group of four Roman brooches are of similar date, suggesting Early Roman activity on site (App. Plate B.1.1). SF 13 (fill 898, pit **897**), SF 19 (fill 1024, ditch **854**) and SF 27 (fill 931, pit **930**) are common Colchester derivative brooches, while SF 10 (from the subsoil) is a continental plate brooch with close parallel to a similar object found in Baldock (Stead and Rigby 1986: 120 fig. 49.144).

B.1.11 The remaining objects are late medieval/post-medieval buckles, a fastener and strap-end commonly documented in rural as well as urban contexts in the period spanning the 14th to the 16th centuries.

Iron objects

B.1.12 The majority of the iron artefacts are hand-forged nails similar to type 1 of Manning's (1989, 133) subdivision. Given the little variation in shape and forging techniques, nails are notoriously difficult objects to date and their chronology can only be assumed through associated datable finds. The large D shaped buckle (SF 7, medieval pit **796**) is possibly part of a modern horse harness and of similar chronology is the metal button (SF 9).

Lead objects

B.1.13 Of the two lead artefact recovered on site only SF 20 can by identified as a planoconvex weight with central narrow (4 mm) hole. These objects are most likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date although a Roman origin cannot the excluded.

Conclusion

B.1.14 This small assemblage offers very little opportunity to elaborate on the character of activity on the site. The assemblage can be clearly divided in two main chronological groups namely Roman and late medieval/post-medieval. The recovered brooches may indicate a site frequented by people in the 1st and early 2nd century AD. Resurgent activity in the late medieval/post-medieval period appears to be confirmed by the quantity of metal dressing accessories dating to the 14th-16th centuries.

Catalogue

SF	Context	Feature	Material	Artefact	Condition	Description	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Diam. (mm)	Weight (gr)	Spot date
1	727	pit	Fe	nail	incomplete	Tapering shaft with square cross-section	0	0	0	0	0	ROM/MOD
2	787	pit	Fe	unidentified	incomplete	Three lumps of metal encrustation	0	0	0	0	0	ROM/MOD
3	782	slump	Fe	nail	incomplete	A tapering shaft with square cross-section	0	0	0	0	0	ROM/MOD
4	788	pit	Fe	fitting	incomplete	A chest/casket fitting including part of a nail encrusted	0	0	0	0	0	ROM/MOD
5	797	pit	Fe	unidentified	incomplete	Three shapeless folded fragment of metal sheet possibly from a vessel	0	0	0	0	0	MED/ POSTMED
6	797	pit	Fe	nail	incomplete	Several fragments of tapering shafts some of which some are bent with square cross-section	0	0	0	0	0	ROM/MOD
7	797	pit	Fe	buckle	complete	A large D shape frame with square in cross-section axis and circular in cross-section loop	55.6	92.5	11.7	0	0	MED/MOD
8	851	ditch	Fe	nail	incomplete	A tapering shaft with square cross-section and circular flat head	0	0	0	0	0	ROM/MOD
9	913	pit	Fe	button	complete	A large and flat silver coated disc die-stamped with a wire loop to the back. The disk is decorated with a central incised eight points star surrounded by a wreath of oblique incised lines	0	0	11	31.3	14.3	MOD
10	99999	subsoil	CuA	brooch	incomplete	A four knobs plate brooch with a blue glass boss in in centre now missing	23.6	22.4	0	0	2.3	ROM
11	99999	topsoil	CuA	bar-mount	incomplete	lozengiforme bar-mount with a central iron rivet still attached	12.5	15.3	6.5	0	1.3	MED
12	99999	topsoil	CuA	buckle	complete	An oval framed buckle with ornate outside edge. The frame is decorated with two knops at each corner and a central constriction is covered by a grooved sheet roller	20.2	22.3	3.1	0	4	MED
13	898	pit	CuA	brooch	incomplete	A hinged Colchester derivative brooch with missing pin	34.2	27.6	0	0	7.82	ROM

SF	Context	Feature	Material	Artefact	Condition	Description	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Diam. (mm)	Weight (gr)	Spot date
14	882	pit	Pb	unidentified	incomplete	A shapeless lump od lead	31.6	17.7	4.5	0	0	ROM/MOD
15	99999	topsoil	CuA	buckle	complete	Oval frame with rectangular inside loop. The axis is narrowed at the centre to accommodate the pin loop. The preserved pin has a tapering shaft with oval cross-section	23.2	18.6	3.6	0	5.2	MED/ POSTMED
16	99999	subsoil	CuA	jetton	complete	A medieval French stock jetton struck for the Queen and her almonry. OB: Moor's head right with hair bound, +AVE MARIA GRATIA PLEN. REV: Double straneled arcuate cross fleury, central lis, AVE MA RI AG	0	0	0.3	19.1	0.56	MED
17	99999	topsoil	CuA	buckle	incomplete	Oval/D shape frame with incomplete rectangular inside loop. It is very oxidised but it seems the axis is narrowed at the centre to accommodate the pin loop. The preserved pin has a tapering shaft with oval cross-section	16.1	15.7	1.2	0	1.3	MED/ POSTMED
18	99999	topsoil	CuA	buckle plate	incomplete	A thin gilded strip of metal with two rivet holes at the opposite ends. Part of the recess and pin slot are visible	37.8	12.2	0.8	0	2.2	MED
19	1024	ditch	CuA	brooch	incomplete	A rear hook Colchester derivative brooch	55.1	28.2	0	0	12.98	ROM
20	99999	subsoil	Pb	weight	complete	A very flat planoconvex circular in plan weight with a 4 mm central hole	0	0	6.3	24.4	22.48	ROM/MED
21	99999	topsoil	CuA	unidentified	incomplete	A thin sheet of metal with two parallel rectangular holes. A rectangular strip of metal is fastened next to the rectangular holes through a small circular stud/fastener	42.3	22.1	0.3	0	5.19	MED
22	99999	topsoil	CuA	buckle	complete	A bent circular buckle with D shape cross-section and central axis	0	0	2.1	30.1	5.4	MED/ POSTMED
23	99999	topsoil	CuA	fastener	incomplete	An oval framed dress fastener with a bust on relief facing right. The fastener has its trapezoidal loop and hook missing	25.2	12.1	2.8	0	1.5	POSTMD
24	894	pond	Fe	nail	incomplete	Three fragments of tapering shafts with square and rectangular cross-section. These objects may be either nails or fittings	0	0	0	0	0	ROM/MOD
25	919	pit	Fe	nail	incomplete	Tapering shaft with square cross-section and sub-circular head	0	0	0	0	0	ROM/MOD
27	931	pit	CuA	brooch	incomplete	A poorly preserved possible double lug Colchester derivative brooch	40.3	12.4	0	0	3.54	ROM
28	931	pit	CuA	unidentified	incomplete	A shapeless lump of oxidised metal	0	0	0	0	2.1	?
28	882	pit	CuA	Strap-end	incomplete	A plain and poorly preserved strip of metal. Consistent part	55.1	12.1	0.4	0	2.8	MED

SF	Context	Feature	Material	Artefact	Condition	Description	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Diam. (mm)	Weight (gr)	Spot date
						of fabric survives riveted to the remaining of the strap-end						
33	1026	ditch	Fe	nail	incomplete	A tapering shaft with square cross-section and circular flat head	55	0	4.8	0	0	ROM/MOD

Table 8: Metalwork catalogue

B.2 Metalworking Waste

by Simon Timberlake

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 Just 14g (4 pieces) of iron smithing slag were recovered from this site (Table 9), consisting of a single small piece of vitrified hearth lining (VHL) and some slag smithing lumps (SSL).

B.2.2 The slag was identified visually using an illuminated x10 magnifying lens and compared where necessary with an archaeological slag reference collection. A dropper bottle containing dilute hydrochloric acid was used to confirm the presence or absence of calcite, whilst a magnet was used to help to determine the presence of wustite or free iron.

Catalogue and description

B.2.3 The small fragment of VHL and three small fragments of SSL were rather oxidised and fairly undiagnostic, though sufficiently so to confirm these as being the rather weathered product of secondary iron working. Just one of the pieces of SSL was magnetic, probably confirming the low presence of wustite and free iron and a higher percentage of fayalite.

Context	Cut No.	No. pieces	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Identity	Magnetic (0-4)	Type	Period	Notes
851	**850**	1	3	20	VHL	0-1	smithing	E/ MC2	fragment within a single ditch fill
782	**781**	3	11	12 + 15 + 27	SSL	1 + 3	smithing	C2	related fragments from a pit fill

Table 9: Catalogue of Iron Slag

Conclusion

B.2.4 It is difficult to say much about this very small and disparate amount of iron slag. Possibly this represents a small amount of residual smithing slag which may be Roman in date, but which is not particularly diagnostic of this. The degree of weathering present suggests that this has probably been dispersed over some distance, therefore there is no good evidence to conclude that ironworking was being carried out on site.

B.3 Fuel Remnants

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.3.1 Fragments of coal were collected by hand excavation from the site. Six small pieces weighing 0.017kg in total were recovered from two separate pits. The coal was weighed and rapidly recorded, with basic description and weight recorded in the text.

Factual data

Period 1: Romano-British

B.3.2 Pit **863** upper fill 865 produced three fragments of partially burnt black bituminous coal, weighing 0.014kg. Both lower fill 864 and upper fill 865 contained Roman pottery dated mid 1st to 2nd century; however, 865 also produced late medieval pottery, suggesting some degree of disturbance. Due to this, the coal cannot reliably be assigned to the Roman period, although it is widely attested that it was being used as a fuel during this period. Evidence shows that coal was used in Roman forts, by some blacksmiths (https://riseofcoalinbritain.wordpress.com/early-history-to-1066).

Period 2: medieval

B.3.3 Pit **892** contained three fragments of partially burnt black bituminous coal, weighing 0.003kg. The pit also produced medieval pottery including South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware (*c*.1150-1450).

Discussion

B.3.4 The coal fragments may be associated with metalworking, have originated in a domestic setting or are perhaps intrusive and relate to agricultural practices and the use of ploughing engines or traction engines from the mid-19th century.

B.4 Flint

by Lawrence Billington

Introduction and quantification

B.4.1 A small assemblage of 12 worked flints and three pieces of unworked burnt flint (68g) was recovered during the excavation. The assemblage has been catalogued according to a simple technological/typological scheme and is quantified by context in Table 10.

Context	**Cut**	**small find no.**	**Context type**	Primary flake	Secondary flake	Tertiary flake	Tertiary blade	Core	**Total worked**	unworked burnt count	unworked burnt weight (g)
938	**935**		Ditch		2				**2**		
1035	**1032**		Ditch			1			**1**		
827	**825**		Ditch		1				**1**		
819	**1043**		Pit							**1**	18
797	**796**		Pit	1					**1**	**1**	6
927	**926**		Ditch		1				**1**		
712	**710**		Ditch			1			**1**		
772	**771**		Ditch		2			1	**3**		
966	**965**		Ditch			1			**1**		
971	**959**		Pit							**1**	44

Context	Cut	small find no.	Context type	Primary flake	Secondary flake	Tertiary flake	Tertiary blade	Core	Total worked	unworked burnt count	unworked burnt weight (g)
778	**777**	29	Furrow				1		**1**		
Totals				1	6	3	1	1	**12**	**3**	68

Table 10: Basic quantification of the flint assemblage

Raw materials and condition

B.4.2 The entire assemblage is made up of flint and where cortical surfaces survive it appears to derive from small pebbles/cobbles probably derived from secondary sources of glacial/fluvial gravels.

B.4.3 Most of the struck flint displays a degree of edge-damage/rounding consistent with having seen a degree of post-depositional disturbance. The vast majority of the worked flint is recorticated ('patinated'), with opaque bluish to cream surfaces.

Distribution and deposition

B.4.4 All of the flint was recovered from the fills of cut features and was thinly distributed, deriving from eleven individual contexts, none of which produced in excess of three pieces of flint. At this stage of analysis, all of the flint is thought to represent residual material inadvertently caught up in the fills of later features.

Worked flint characterisation

B.4.5 The worked flint is made up almost entirely of unretouched removals, with no retouched or obviously utilised tools, alongside a single core (a minimally worked/tested cobble). Little of this material is strongly diagnostic; the majority of the removals are simple hard hammer struck flakes which are likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, whilst a single Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic blade was recovered from furrow **710** (intervention **777**).

Unworked burnt flint characterisation

B.4.6 The unworked burnt flint comprises three fragments of heavily burnt/calcined flint, including one relatively large cobble fragment from Roman pit **959**. The low densities in which this material occurs suggest it could represent material incidentally caught up in hearths/fire settings, as opposed to representing deliberately heated flint, and could date to any period of the site's use.

Conclusion

B.4.7 This small assemblage is of little intrinsic interest beyond indicating a low-level of 'background' prehistoric activity at the site.

B.5 Worked and Building Stone

by Simon Timberlake

Introduction and Methodology

B.5.1 A total of 6.33kg (15 pieces) of utilised stone were examined from this site, of which 2.986kg (x 8 pieces) consisted of worked stone (quern) and 3.344kg (7 pieces) of rough building or foundation stone. The stone was identified visually using an illuminated x10 magnifying lens and compared where necessary with an archaeological reference collection. A dropper bottle containing dilute hydrochloric acid was used to confirm the presence or absence of carbonate.

Worked stone

B.5.2 All of the worked stone (2.986kg) consisted of burnt and fragmentary quern, more than 98% of which (by weight) were composed of rim pieces from the upper stones of two different beehive puddingstone querns (SFs 30, 31 and 32; Table 11; App. Plate B.5.1). Non-refitting fragments from one of these querns (Quern 2) were found within two different Roman features (pit **987** and ditch **1029**). The two puddingstone querns were similar low-domed beehive types, although one was slightly larger than the other and possessed a slightly different lithology, therefore potentially a different source. Although the approximate diameters of these querns (or rotary handmills) could be calculated from the rim pieces no trace survived of the grain feed hoppers or the axial spindle hole(s), and nothing either of the handle slots. The use of these querns ranges from the Late Iron Age through to the Early Roman period, but most typically these forms tend to be Conquest or just post-Conquest in date (thus mid-1st century AD). A number of small undiagnostic burnt and weathered fragments of lava quern were recovered from the fill of furrow **707** (intervention **799**, though it was not possible to determine the parts of the stones that they came from. These are also likely to be Roman in date.

Context No.	Cut No.	SF no	Nos.	Wt (g)	Dimens. (mm)	Identity	Orig. diam. quern (mm)	Wear (0-4)	Geology	Source	Period	Burnt
800	**799**		4	18	15 - 20	lava quern			basalt lava	Mayen, German	C2	Y
988	**987**	30	1	1030	140x90x 80	puddingstone beehive quern	300	3	sillcrete conglome rate	Herts.?	MC1 – C2	Y
1031 a	**1029**	32	1	483	130x60x 75	beehive quern – part of same U/S as (988)	300	3	silcrete conglome rate	Herts.?	'EC2' ?	Y
1031 b	**1029**		1	65	35x35x3 5	-part of same as 1031a but not refitting			silcrete conglome rate	Herts?	same	Y
1033	**1032**	31	1	1390	155x90x 75	puddingstone beehive U/S	330	4	silcrete fine pebble conglom	Herts?	LC1 – MC2	Y

Table 11: Catalogue of worked stone

Building stone

B.5.3 Some 3.34kg (x7 pieces) of unshaped stone most probably utilised as building material for the construction of un-mortared walls or for the rubble foundations of structures was recovered from Roman pit **791** and modern ditch **912** (Table 12). These consisted of a rectangular cobble and some broken-up chalk – both of which are likely to be locally sourced. Little more can be said of them except that their use is likely to be Roman; such material being widely used on Roman settlements and commonly found within ditches as displaced rubble stone.

Context No.	Cut No.	Nos.	Wt (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Identity	Orig. size (mm)	Geology	Source	Period	Notes
793	**791**	1	2246	160x90x80	rectangular cobble used as wall stone?	same	trachy-andesite?	glacial erratic	E/ MC2	from pit fill – only slightly burnt
913	**912**	6	1098	40 - 145	roughly broken foundation stone		Melbourn Rock (Middle Chalk)	local	Modern	ditch fill

Table 12: Catalogue of building stone

Discussion

Hertfordshire Puddingstone (beehive) quern

B.5.4 Rotary beehive querns made of Hertfordshire Puddingstone (a Palaeocene silcrete conglomerate composed of well-rounded flint clasts) have a well-documented history in respect of their distribution and chronology (Curwen 1937 & 1941; Lovell & Tubb 2006; Green 2017, 14). These were almost certainly used and discarded at an earlier date than the general introduction of the flat-topped querns made of lava quern and Millstone Grit. The various sources of this largely residual and erratic puddingstone are spread across the southern edges of the Chilterns, particularly in the North Hertfordshire area between Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and St Albans. A Roman extraction site for these at which querns appear to have been manufactured was recently identified on an extant outlier of this rock (the Upnor Formation) at Collier's End near Ware in Hertfordshire (Lovell and Tubb *ibid*.). The deposit(s) there appear to have been largely exhausted and the industry in these querns finished by or before AD 100 (Green ibid.14; Major 2004, 2-4). Interestingly there are also reports of residual deposits of this stone as well as large glacial erratics within North Essex and Bedfordshire, any of which may have been worked more locally to manufacture querns.

Lava quern

B.5.5 Lava quern was being imported into Roman Britain from the quarries on the River Rhine at Mayen near Andernach via the ports of London and Colchester between the middle of the 1st century and the end of the 3rd century AD (Watts, 2002; Green, 2017). Residual Roman quern (as burnt and weathered pieces) is sometimes found within Early Saxon features, although Saxon lava quern often looks the same (in small fragments) as the former.

B.6 Roman Pottery

by Alice Lyons

Introduction

B.6.1 A total of 1282 sherds of early-to-mid Roman pottery, weighing 14427g (Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) 9.11), were recovered during excavations at the site. This assemblage represents a minimum of 233 individual vessels. Most of the pottery was found in contemporary Roman deposits (Period 1), although small amounts were present as a residual element in chronologically later layers (Periods 2 and 3; Table 13).

Period	Count	Weight (g)	Eve	ASW (g)	Weight (%)
1.1: Romano-British (c. AD50-200)	103	1151	0.84	11.0	7.98
1.2: Romano-British: possible corn dryer, boundary ditches and pits	1061	12287	7.00	11.5	85.17
2: medieval (AD1066 to 1500)	43	387	0.13	9.0	2.68
3: post-medieval and modern (AD 1500 to present)	75	602	1.14	8.0	4.17
Total	**1282**	**14427**	**9.11**	**11.3**	**100.00**

Table 13: The Roman pottery by Period

Condition of the pottery

B.6.2 The pottery was found in fragmentary condition and is severely abraded with an average sherd weight (ASW) of only *c*.9g. Few surface residues survive; only one external soot deposit was recorded. This high level of fragmentation and abrasion is consistent with dispersed midden material that has also been exposed to post-depositional disturbance – such as ploughing and/or the re-digging and cleaning of ditches. It is interesting to note that the Roman pottery recovered from later medieval, post-medieval and modern deposits has a significantly smaller ASW than pottery found in contemporary deposits, which reflects the continuation of abrasion processes.

Methodology

B.6.3 The pottery was assessed following the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Barclay *et al* 2016). The total assemblage was studied, and a full catalogue was prepared (in archive; summarized in Table 18). The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined based on inclusion types present. Vessel forms (jar, bowl) were recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. OA East curates the pottery and archive.

The pottery

B.6.4 Nine broad fabric groups of Roman pottery were identified within this assemblage (Table 14).

Fabric (abbreviation) *Published Reference*	Vessel	Count	Weight (g)	EVE	Weight (%)	EVE (%)
Horningsea grey ware (HOR RE) *Evans et al, 2017, 51-52; (RO2: jar/bowl; RO21 storage jar)*	Carinated bowl and jar, storage jar	650	9628	2.70	66.74	29.64
Reduced (grey) ware, with common sand quartz temper (GW (FINE); SGW; RW(Q))	Beaker, bowl, jar, storage jar	465	3236	4.43	22.43	48.63
Oxidised (white) ware, with common sand quartz temper (SOW)	Bowl, flagon, jar, mortaria, storage jar	144	961	1.73	6.66	18.99
Reduced (grey) ware, with common grog inclusions (RW(GROG))	Jar, storage jar	13	279	0.00	1.93	0.00
Gaulish samian (SAM) *Tomber and Dore 1998, 25-41*	Cup, dish	2	137	0.25	0.95	2.74
Colchester White ware (COL WH) *Tomber and Dore 1998, 133*	Mortaria	1	108	0.00	0.75	0.00
Terra Nigra (GAB TN 1) *Tomber and Dore 1998, 15*		4	64	0.00	0.44	0.00
Oxidised (white) ware, with common grog inclusions (OW(GROG))	Beaker, jar	2	11	0.00	0.08	0.00
New Forest Colour-coated ware (NFO CC) *Tomber and Dore 1998, 141*	Beaker	1	3	0.00	0.02	0.00
Total		**1282**	**14427**	**9.11**	**100.00**	**100.00**

Table 14: The Roman fabrics, listed in descending order of weight

The coarse wares

B.6.5 The earliest pottery within the assemblage is represented by a small number of reduced and oxidised grog-tempered beaker, jar and storage jar fragments which were locally produced Early Roman wares influenced by Gaulish technology and design that date between the mid-1st and early/mid-2nd century AD (Thompson 1982). The majority of the coarse wares, however, are fabrics and forms consistent with local production within the near-by Horningsea manufacturing centre (Evans *et al* 2017). A limited range of vessels were recorded within which wheelmade cordoned jars (Evans *et al* 2017, 65, fig 3.10, J15.1) and handmade storage jars (Evans *et al* 2017, 65, fig 3.10, J9.3) were common, a single example of a carinated bowl was also found (Evans *et al* 2017, 68, fig 3.12, B3.7). These vessels were rarely decorated, but some combed motifs were present. Production at Horningsea is known to have commenced in the Flavian period and this material is consistent with an AD 80-150 date (Evans *et al* 2017, 83). Smaller amounts of locally produced (but unsourced) reduced sandy coarse wares were also found, this slightly finer material was used to produce beakers of globular and butt-beaker type, in addition to a similar range of utilitarian vessels as those described above. Local, but unsourced, Sandy white wares were also well-represented within the group and were found in a range of vessels which include bowls, flagons, jars, storage jars and a mortarium (described below).

Stamped platter

B.6.6 Included within the coarse ware group and particularly worthy of note, as literate makers stamps survive relatively rarely within the ceramic record, is an imported Gaulish Terra Nigra reduced ware platter (Terra Nigra (GAB TN 1) Tomber and Dore 1998, 15). Only the base was recovered (four fragments, 64g) which has an impressed partial maker's stamp surviving which reads: .M.A. (App. B.6.1). The Early Roman Terra Nigra stamped platter base (described above) was recovered from Phase 1.1 Ditch 763

(cut 767, context 768) although it would have been old at the time of deposition and may have been residual or even an heirloom piece.

B.6.7 Consultation of the Gallo-Belgic pottery database suggests at least seven potters who included the letters MA in their stamp. Only one, however, has dotted initials; therefore, MARIO (potter 123) whose vessels have previously been recorded in Sheepen, Essex, seems the most likely candidate (Gallo-Belgic pottery database: internet edition (thehumanjourney.net) – viewed 13/01/2021). Although Mario's stamped work is not closely dated a pre-Flavian (AD79) date is likely.

Specialist wares

B.6.8 No amphora (Tyers 1996, 85-105) was recovered during excavations, although a fragment from a very large locally produced Sandy oxidised ware storage jar, that could have fulfilled a similar large-scale storage function, was recorded within a medieval pit (**786**). Two incomplete mortaria or mixing bowls (Tyers 1996, 117-135) were also found, both made in Sandy oxidised fabrics, with flint trituration grits of East Anglian-type; one has been tentatively assigned to the Colchester manufacturing centre.

Fine wares

B.6.9 Two pieces of imported fine glossy red table wares were found which consist of a South Gaulish cup (Dr35) cup and a Central Gaulish dish (Dr18/31), neither piece was stamped by its maker or decorated, so reflect the cheaper range of vessels imported during the later 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Tyers 1996, 105-116). The only other fine ware recorded is a small beaker fragment produced in the New Forest area which was found as a residual element in a Period 2 pit (**888**).

Pottery in the context of the site

B.6.10 The majority of the pottery was recovered from two large boundary ditches and smaller rectilinear enclosures, also pits and a possible corn dryer flue (Table 15). None of the pottery was deliberately placed, rather decaying and dispersed middens were incorporated into the features as they silt-up through time. Several of the ditch pottery groups were mixed with medieval and post-medieval pottery, perhaps indicating they were not finally backfilled until the early modern era.

Phase	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	EVE
1.1: Romano-British (c. AD50-150)	**ditch**	**103**	**1151**	**84**
1.2: Romano-British: possible corn dryer, boundary ditches and pits		**1061**	**12287**	**700**
	ditch	754	7335	606
	pit	296	4792	89
	corn dryer?	11	160	5
2: medieval (AD1066 to 1500)	pit	**43**	**387**	**13**
3: post-medieval and modern (AD 1500 to present)		**75**	**602**	**114**
	ditch	15	103	19
	furrow	47	347	15

Phase	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	EVE
	pit	13	152	80
Total		**1282**	**14427**	**911**

Table 15: The Roman pottery by feature (shaded lines are Period totals)

B.6.11 Two features groups have been selected to illustrate the character of the ceramic assemblage.

Period 1.2: cut 877 of Ditch 850 – early 2nd century AD

B.6.12 Cut **877** (deposit 880) of Ditch 850 contained 142 sherds, weighing 2076g (1.04 EVE) of Early Roman pottery, which represents *c*.14% (by weight) of the total site assemblage (Table 16). The group is dominated by Horningsea-type coarse ware jar and storage jar sherds, with unsourced Sandy grey ware jar sherds also present. Also present is a fragment from a traded Colchester white ware mortaria (mixing bowl). The pottery is significantly abraded, some of the material has been burnt, but due to the presence of storage jar sherds has a relatively large average sherd weight of over 14g.

Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (g)	EVE
Horningsea grey ware (HOR RE) Evans et al, 2017, 51-52; (RO2: jar/bowl; RO21 storage jar)	Jar, Storage jar	97	1611	1.04
Reduced (grey) ware, with common sand quartz temper (SGW)	Jar, Storage jar	40	293	0.00
Colchester White ware (COL WH) Tomber and Dore 1998, 133	Mortaria	1	108	0.00
Grand Total		**138**	**2012**	**1.04**

*Table 16: cut **877** of Ditch 850 Roman pottery assemblage*

Period 1.2: Pit 791 – early/mid-2nd century AD

B.6.13 Pit **791** (deposit 793) contained 185 sherds, weighing 3874g (0.00 EVE) of Early Roman pottery, which represents *c*.27% (by weight) of the total site assemblage (Table 17). The group is dominated by Horningsea-type coarse ware storage jar sherds, with unsourced Sandy grey ware jar sherds also present. A small scrap from a grog tempered oxidised ware flagon was also found. The pottery is significantly abraded, one example is leached, but due to the presence of large storage jar sherds has a very large average sherd weight of *c*.21g.

Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (g)	EVE
Horningsea grey ware (HOR RE) Evans et al, 2017, 51-52; (RO2: jar/bowl; RO21 storage jar)	Storage jar	172	3774	0.00
Reduced (grey) ware, with common sand quartz temper (SGW; GW(ORG)(SOFT))	Jar/bowl, storage jar	12	93	0.00
Oxidised (white) ware, with common grog inclusions (OW(GROG))	Flagon	1	7	0.00
Total		**185**	**3874**	**0.00**

*Table 17: Pit **791** Roman pottery assemblage*

Discussion

B.6.14 The early-to-mid Roman pottery recovered from excavations at Wicken is a moderately sized and well-recorded assemblage recovered from large boundary ditches and agricultural features possibly associated with a nearby (villa) farm. The pottery is fragmentary and has suffered from significant pre- and post-depositional disturbance resulting in a relatively small average sherd size which limits interpretation. It has been possible to established, however, that the pottery mostly consists of locally produced utilitarian coarse wares jars and storage jars (*c*.98% by weight) associated with agrarian activities such as the small-scale storage of dried goods. The majority of the coarseware pottery (*c*.67% by weight) is typical of production within the Horningsea manufacturing centre located only *c*.12km south-west; which recent analysis has demonstrated is typical for Early Roman fen-edge settlement in Cambridgeshire (Evans *et al.* 2017, 80, fig, 3.22). The recovery of a kiln plate within the fired clay assemblage (T. Levermore within this report), however, suggests some local (perhaps on-site) pottery production was also taking place. Notably the interconnectedness of the site is reflected by the presence of imported Gaulish Terra Nigra and samian wares, also non-local British traded specialist wares (mortaria) and fine wares that are present in small quantities.

B.6.15 The agrarian activity at Wicken was located in a busy Roman landscape situated on the Fen-edge, with also riverine and road route way connections (see main discussion section within this report) and perhaps formed part of a larger villa farm estate. The pottery appears to be largely typical of agrarian fen-edge use at this time, with hints of surplus wealth enabling the purchase of more expensive imported table wares and traded specialist vessels. It is interesting to note that it is close (only *c*.3km to the north-east) of the newly discovered large Roman settlement at Upware (Billington and Robinson-Zeki forthcoming), however, the fortunes of the Wicken settlement seemed to have declined in the mid-2nd century AD as the Upware settlement began to thrive.

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Fabric	DSc	Form	Quantity	Weight (G)	Spot date	Context Date
702	701	0	1.2	RO21	UB	SJAR	9	138	MC1-C3	MC1-C2
702	701	0	1.2	SGW	UDB	JAR	8	38	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
705	705	0	1.2	RO21	U	SJAR	5	39	MC1-C3	MC1-C2
705	705	0	1.2	SGW(BLUE)	U	JAR/BOWL	1	8	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
707	707	707	3	SGW(FINE)	U	BEAK	1	1	M/LC1-C2	M/LC1-MC2
707	707	707	3	SGW(Q)	R	JAR/BOWL	2	1	MC1-MC2	M/LC1-MC2
708	707	707	3	RO2	U	JAR	1	1	MC1-C3	MC1-C3
714	714	906	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	3	31	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
725	723	723	3	RO21	U	SJAR	1	6	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
725	723	723	3	RO2	U	JAR	1	13	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
725	723	723	3	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	3	18	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
727	726	0	1.2	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	1	2	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
727	726	0	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	JAR/FLAG	6	1	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
731	730	730	1.2	SGW	UD	JAR/BOWL	3	17	MC1-MC2	MC1-MC2
731	730	730	1.2	SGW(SANDW)	U	JAR	2	4	MC1-MC2	MC1-MC2
732	730	730	1.2	RO21	R	SJAR	1	146	M/LC1-EC2	M/LC1-EC2
732	730	730	1.2	SGW(BLUE)(MICA)	RUD	JAR	15	222	M/LC1-MC2	M/LC1-EC2
732	730	730	1.2	SGW(BSRW)	RUDB	JAR	43	258	MC1-EC2	M/LC1-EC2
732	730	730	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	UB	FLAG	36	137	MC1-C3	M/LC1-EC2
736	734	0	1.2	SGW(BLUE)	U	JAR	1	12	MC1-C2	MC1(WITH MED)
736	734	0	1.2	SGW	R	JAR	1	12	MC1	MC1(WITH MED)
736	734	0	1.2	SOW(Q)(ORANGE)	U	JAR	1	8	MC1-C2	MC1(WITH MED)
744	743	743	1.2	RW(GROG)(BS)	U	SJAR	1	70	E/MC1	E/MC1
744	743	743	1.2	RW(Q)	D	JAR	1	14	E/MC1	E/MC1
744	743	743	1.2	RW(Q)(OX SURFACES)	RU	JAR	2	8	E/MC1	E/MC1
746	745	0	1.2	SGW(MICA)	RUDB	JAR	21	161	MC1-E/MC2	MC1-E/MC2
746	745	0	1.2	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	3	14	MC1-C2	MC1-E/MC2
748	747	747	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	2	15	MC1-C3	MC1-C2
748	747	747	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	1	6	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
760	759	0	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	1	1	MC1-C3	MC1-C3
762	761	743	1.2	RO2(ORANGE)	RU	JAR	2	43	MC1-C2	LC1
762	761	743	1.2	GW(GROG)	D	JAR	1	11	E/MC1	LC1
762	761	743	1.2	GW(GROG)(SANDW)	U	JAR	1	6	E/MC1	LC1

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Fabric	DSc	Form	Quantity	Weight (G)	Spot date	Context Date
762	761	743	1.2	RW(Q)(HM)	U	JAR/BOWL	1	4	C1BC-ADEC1	LC1
762	761	743	1.2	SGW	U	BEAK	2	4	LC1-C2	LC1
764	763	763	1.1	RO21	U	SJAR	9	139	MC1-C3	MC1-C3
766	765	757	3	SOW(WS)	UB	BOWL	1	12	MC1-E/MC2	MC1-E/MC2
768	767	763	1.1	GAB TN 1	UB	PLATTER	4	64	E/MC1	EC2
770	769	757	3	SGW(MICA)	D	BEAK	1	4	LC1-EC2	LC1-EC2
776	775	0	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	1	3	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
782	781	0	2	RO2	U	JAR	1	3	C2-C3	C2(WITH MED)
782	781	0	2	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	1	4	MC1-C2	C2(WITH MED)
787	786	0	2	RO21	U	SJAR	1	8	MC1-C3	MC1-C3(WITH MED)
787	786	0	2	SOW(FLINT)	U	SJAR(AMPHORA CLASS)	1	12	C1-C3	MC1-C3(WITH MED)
788	786	0	2	RO21	D	SJAR	1	51	MC1-C3	MC1-C3(WITH MED)
790	789	0	1.2	RO21(ORANGE)	U	JAR	2	3	MC1-C3	MC1-C3
793	791	0	1.2	RO21	UDB	SJAR	65	2777	C2-C3	E/MC2
793	791	0	1.2	RO21	UDB	SJAR	107	997	C2-C3	E/MC2
793	791	0	1.2	OW(GROG)	U	NJAR/FLAG	1	7	MC1-C2	E/MC2
793	791	0	1.2	GW(ORG)(SOFT)	U	SJAR	1	26	C1-C2	E/MC2
793	791	0	1.2	SGW	U	JAR/SJAR	8	52	MC1-C2	E/MC2
793	791	0	1.2	SGW(OX EXTERNAL SURFACE)	UB	JAR/BOWL	3	15	MC1-MC2	E/MC2
800	799	707	3	RO2	U	JAR	1	1	MC1-C2	C2(WITH MED)
800	799	707	3	RO21	U	SJAR	4	23	C2-C3	C2(WITH MED)
802	801	801	1.1	SGW(MICA)(BLUE)	U	JAR	1	8	LC1-C4	LC1-C4
804	803	730	1.2	RO2	U	JAR/SJAR	5	34	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
804	803	730	1.2	RO21(ORANGE)	UB	SJAR	1	35	MC1-C3	MC1-C2
805	803	730	1.2	RO2	U	JAR/BOWL	2	10	MC1-C2	LC1-C2
805	803	730	1.2	RO21	U	JAR/SJAR	4	39	MC1-C3	LC1-C2
805	803	730	1.2	SGW(MICA)(BLUE)	U	JAR	1	15	LC1-C4	LC1-C2
805	803	730	1.2	SOW	U	FLAG	1	2	MC1-C3	LC1-C2
811	810	810	1.1	RO2	B	JAR	1	48	C2-C3	C2-C3
816	815	0	2	RO21	U	SJAR	1	12	MC1-C3	M/LC1
816	815	0	2	RO2	U	JAR	1	3	MC1-C3	M/LC1
816	815	0	2	GW(GROG)	U	SJAR	1	3	C1	M/LC1

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Fabric	DSc	Form	Quantity	Weight (G)	Spot date	Context Date
822	821	0	1.2	SGW	UB	DISH	1	12	MC1-EC2	MC1-EC2
824	823	0	1.2	RO2(ORANGE)	U	JAR	2	8	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
827	825	0	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	6	53	MC1-C2	M/LC1-C2
827	825	0	1.1	RO2(ORANGE)	U	JAR	1	12	MC1-C2	M/LC1-C2
827	825	0	1.1	SGW(BS)	RU	JAR/BOWL	8	15	M/LC1-C2	M/LC1-C2
829	828	810	1.1	RO2	UB	JAR	6	54	MC1-C3	MC1-MC2
829	828	810	1.1	SOW(Q)(FLINT)	U	JAR	1	4	MC1-MC2	MC1-MC2
837	836	0	2	RO2	U	JAR	3	10	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
841	840	0	1.2	RW(Q)	RU	JAR	6	84	MC1	MC1
845	844	0	2	SGW(Q)	U	JAR	2	9	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
851	850	850	1.2	SOW	RU	MORT	10	384	MC1-C2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	RO2	R	JAR	1	50	E/MC1	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	RO2	R	JAR	1	60	MC1-E/MC2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	RO21	R	SJAR	17	206	C2-C3	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	RO21(ORANGE)	U	SJAR	9	38	MC1-C2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	RO21(SGW SANDW)	RUD	JAR	55	355	MC1-MC2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	GW(GROG)	UD	JAR	6	110	E/MC1	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	RW(Q)(HM)	U	SJAR	8	197	C1BC-ADE/MC1	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	RW(Q)(OX EXTERNAL SURFACE)(HM)	U	JAR/BOWL	3	12	E/MC1	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	SGW(BLUE)	RU	JAR	10	82	M/LC1-C2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	SGW(FINE)	R	BEAK	2	3	MC1-C2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	SGW(Q)	R	JAR	1	25	MC1-C2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	SGW(SANDW)	R	JAR	11	118	MC1-C2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	SGW(SOFT)	U	JAR	4	6	M/LC1-C2	E/MC2
851	850	850	1.2	SOW(VER WH)	UH	FLAG	7	74	MC1-C2	E/MC2
853	852	852	3	GW FINE	D	BEAK	1	4	E/MC1	C2-C3
853	852	852	3	RO21	U	SJAR	1	30	C2-C3	C2-C3
853	852	852	3	GW(GROG)(SANDW)	U	JAR/BOWL	1	12	E/MC1	C2-C3
853	852	852	3	RW(Q)(HM)	U	JAR/BOWL	4	17	C1BC-ADE/MC1	C2-C3
853	852	852	3	SGW(SOFT)(WS)	U	JAR/BEAK	1	1	E/MC1	C2-C3
853	852	852	3	SGW	RU	JAR	2	9	LC1-C3	C2-C3
853	852	852	3	SGW	RU	JAR	2	15	LC1-C4	C2-C3

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Fabric	DSc	Form	Quantity	Weight (G)	Spot date	Context Date
853	852	852	3	SOW(Q)(ORANGE)	U	JAR	3	15	MC1-C3	C2-C3
858	857	810	1.1	SGW(BSRW)	D	SJAR	1	7	M/LC1-EC2	LC1-EC2
858	857	810	1.1	SGW(BLUE)(MICA)	RUD	JAR	4	39	LC1-C2	LC1-EC2
858	857	810	1.1	SGW	U	JAR	1	11	MC1-C2	LC1-EC2
858	857	810	1.1	SGW(BLUE)(MICA)	U	JAR/BEAK	1	1	LC1-C4	LC1-EC2
858	857	810	1.1	SGW(Q)	U	JAR	2	10	MC1-C2	LC1-EC2
864	863	0	1.2	RO2	RU	JAR	5	18	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
865	863	0	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	1	11	MC1-C2	MC1-C2(WITH MED)
865	863	0	1.2	SGW	U	JAR/BEAK	1	1	MC1-C3	MC1-C2(WITH MED)
874	873	0	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	2	6	MC1-MC2	M/LC1
874	873	0	1.2	GW(GROG)	U	SJAR	1	41	C1	M/LC1
878	877	850	1.2	RO21	U	SJAR	1	16	C2-C3	E/MC2
878	877	850	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	2	23	MC1-C3	E/MC2
878	877	850	1.2	RW(Q&ORG)(HM)	U	BOWL	1	8	C4-C1BC	E/MC2
878	877	850	1.2	SGW(Q)	U	SJAR	6	58	MC1-E/MC2	E/MC2
878	877	850	1.2	SGW	U	BEAK	17	50	M/LC1-MC2	E/MC2
879	877	850	1.2	RO21	R	JAR	1	164	C2-C3	C2-C3
880	877	850	1.2	RO21	RU	SJAR	24	286	C2-C3	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	RO21(ORANGE)	RU	SJAR	25	440	MC1-EC2	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	COL WH	UB	MORT	1	108	MC1-C2	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	RO21	R	SJAR	1	32	C2-C3	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	RO2	UD	JAR	3	23	MC1-C2	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	RO21(SGW SANDW)	RUD	JAR	28	528	MC1-MC2	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	RO21(SGW SANDW)	RUD	NJAR	13	271	MC1-MC2	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	RO21(WHITE)	U	JAR	3	31	C2-C3	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	SGW	U	JAR	4	46	MC1-C4	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	SGW(BLUE)	D	JAR	1	6	MC1-E/MC2	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	SGW(MICA)	U	SJAR	4	82	LC1-C4	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	SGW(MICA)(BS EXTERNAL)	U	JAR	4	37	LC1-C4	EC2
880	877	850	1.2	SGW(SOFT)	UB	JAR	27	122	M/LC1-C2	EC2
882	881	0	2	RO2	U	JAR	1	9	MC1-C2	MC1-C2

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Fabric	DSc	Form	Quantity	Weight (G)	Spot date	Context Date
887	885	0	2	RO2	U	JAR	1	1	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
887	885	0	2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	JAR/BOWL	2	3	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
889	888	0	2	RO2	U	JAR	4	16	MC1-C3	MC2(WITH MED)
889	888	0	2	NF CC	U	BEAK	1	3	MC2-C3	MC2(WITH MED)
889	888	0	2	SGW(MICA)(BS)	U	JAR	1	8	LC1-C4	MC2(WITH MED)
889	888	0	2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	JAR	1	3	MC1-C2	MC2(WITH MED)
896	895	0	1.2	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	3	12	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
901	900	730	1.2	RO21	U	SJAR	3	35	C2-C3	E/MC2
901	900	730	1.2	RO2	RU	JAR	8	119	M/LC1-C2	E/MC2
901	900	730	1.2	SGW(SANDW)(SOFT)	RUB	JAR	21	174	MC1-E/MC2	E/MC2
901	900	730	1.2	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	6	26	MC1-C2	E/MC2
901	900	730	1.2	SOW(SOFT)	U	FLAG	8	42	MC1-C2	E/MC2
901	900	730	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	RU	NJAR/FLASK	5	33	MC1-MC2	E/MC2
903	902	0	2	SGW(BLUE)	U	JAR/BOWL	1	6	M/LC1-C4	M/LC1-C3
903	902	0	2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	2	5	MC1-C3	M/LC1-C2
905	904	904	1.1	RO21	U	SJAR	3	32	MC1-C3	MC1-C3
907	906	906	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	4	11	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
909	908	908	1.1	SGW	RU	JAR	4	24	MC1-E/MC2	MC1-E/MC2
934	932	832	1.1	SGW(MICA)(BS)	R	CBOWL	1	31	M/LC1	LC1(WITH MED)
934	932	832	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	6	40	MC1-C2	LC1(WITH MED)
934	932	832	1.1	RO2(ORANGE)	U	JAR	7	47	MC1-C2	LC1(WITH MED)
934	932	832	1.1	RO2	UB	JAR	9	49	MC1-C2	LC1(WITH MED)
934	932	832	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	1	15	MC1-C3	LC1(WITH MED)
934	932	832	1.1	RW(Q)(OX SURFACES)(HM)	U	SJAR	1	16	C1BC-ADEC1	LC1(WITH MED)
934	932	832	1.1	SAM SG	U	CUP	1	7	LC1(FLAVIAN OR LATER)	LC1(WITH MED)
934	932	832	1.1	SGW(BSRW)	RU	JAR/BOWL	3	19	MC1-MC2	LC1(WITH MED)
934	932	832	1.1	SOW	U	FLAG	6	12	MC1-C3	LC1(WITH MED)
936	935	850	1.2	RO2	U	JAR/SJAR	3	22	MC1-C2	MC1-C2(WITH MED)
937	935	850	1.2	SOW(Q)	U	JAR	4	11	MC1-C3	MC1-C3
940	939	0	3	RO21	U	SJAR	3	49	MC1-C3	LC1-C2(WITHPMED)

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Fabric	DSc	Form	Quantity	Weight (G)	Spot date	Context Date
940	939	0	3	SGW	RU	JAR	3	59	MC1-C2	LC1-C2(WITH PMED)
940	939	0	3	SOW(FINE)	U	FLAG	3	8	MC1-C3	LC1-C2(WITH PMED)
940	939	0	3	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	1	1	MC1-C3	LC1-C2(WITH PMED)
940	939	0	3	SOW	R	FLAG	3	35	LC1-C2	LC1-C2(WITH PMED)
942	941	0	2	RO2	U	JAR	1	8	MC1-C2	MC1-C2(WITH PMED)
948	947	740	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	2	3	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
954	953	730	1.2	RO21(SGW OX SURFACES)	RU	SJAR	5	81	C2-C3	C2
954	953	730	1.2	SGW	U	JAR	1	8	MC1-C4	C2
954	953	730	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	3	8	MC1-C2	C2
960	959	0	1.2	RO2	UD	JAR	7	94	MC1-E/MC2	MC1-E/MC2
962	961	710	3	RO21(ORANGE)	U	SJAR	3	36	C2-C3	E/MC2
962	961	710	3	RO2	RU	JAR	19	121	MC1-C2	E/MC2
962	961	710	3	RO2	R	JAR	2	25	E/MC2	E/MC2
966	965		2	RO21	R	SJAR	2	110	C2-C3	C2(WITH MED)
966	965		2	RO2	UD	JAR	9	74	MC1-C2	C2(WITH MED)
966	965		2	SGW(BLUE)(MICA)	U	JAR	1	5	LC1-C4	C2(WITH MED)
966	965		2	SOW	U	JAR	1	11	MC1-C2	C2(WITH MED)
968	967	850	1.2	RO2	UB	CBOWL	38	339	E/MC1	MC1-
968	967	850	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	1	6	MC1-C2	MC1
971	959	0	2	SGW(Q)	D	JAR	1	4	MC1-E/MC2	MC1-E/MC2
973	972	0	1.2	SGW(FINE)	U	BEAK	1	1	LC1-C2	LC1-C2
975	974	0	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	2	12	MC1-MC2	MC1-MC2
980	979	730	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	3	15	MC1-C3	MC1-C3(WITH MED)
988	987	0	1.2	RO2	U	JAR/SJAR	9	128	MC1-C3	MC1-C2
988	987	0	1.2	SGW(Q)(BLUE)	B	DISH	1	10	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
991	990	0	3	RO21(SGW OX SURFACES)	U	SJAR	1	45	C2-C3	E/MC2
991	990	0	3	RO2	U	JAR	4	27	MC1-MC2	E/MC2
991	990	0	3	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	2	13	MC1-C2	E/MC2
993	992	0	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	4	28	MC1-C3	MC1-C3

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Fabric	DSc	Form	Quantity	Weight (G)	Spot date	Context Date
993	992	0	1.2	SOW(Q)(ORANGE)	U	JAR	1	7	MC1-C3	MC1-C3
995	994	0	1.2	SGW(SANDW)	U	JAR	3	5	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
1003	1002	763	1.1	RO2	U	JAR	1	1	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
1007	1006	850	1.1	RO21	UD	SJAR	2	99	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
1016	1015	906	1.1	RO2	R	JAR	1	154	LC1-C2	LC1-C2
1016	1015	906	1.1	RO2	UD	SJAR	2	8	C1-C3	LC1-C2
1018	1017	908	1.1	SAM CG	P	DISH	1	130	E/MC2	E/MC2
1020	1019	0	2	SGW(MICA)(BS)	U	JAR/BEAK	1	6	M/LC1-C2	M/LC1-C2
1030	1029	730	1.2	RO2	R	SJAR	1	107	C2-C3	C2
1030	1029	730	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	4	18	MC1-C2	C2
1030	1029	730	1.2	SGW(BLUE)(MICA)	U	JAR/BEAK	1	3	LC1-C4	C2
1030	1029	730	1.2	SGW(BS)	UD	BEAK	2	36	E/MC1	C2
1030	1029	730	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	1	4	MC1-C2	C2
1031	1029	730	1.2	RO21	D	SJAR	1	22	C2-C3	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	8	107	MC1-C3	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	RO2	U	JAR/BOWL	3	13	MC1-C2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	RO4	RU	JAR	9	77	MC1-E/MC2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	OW(FINE)	U	BEAK	1	4	MC1-C2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	RW(Q)(SANDW)	R	JAR	1	34	MC1-C2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SGW	UB	JAR	2	8	MC1-C2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SGW(MICA)(BS)	R	BOWL	1	7	M/LC1-EC2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SGW	RU	JAR	5	24	MC1-C2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SGW(SANDW)(SOFT)	U	JAR/BEAK	1	5	MC1-E/MC2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SGW(Q)	RU	JAR	2	15	MC1-C2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	6	11	MC1-C2	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	11	21	MC1-C3	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SOW	U	FLAG	4	4	MC1-C3	EC2
1031	1029	730	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	6	3	MC1-C3	EC2
1033	1032	850	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	1	4	MC1-C2	LC1-MC2
1033	1032	850	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	7	73	MC1-C3	LC1-MC2
1033	1032	850	1.2	SGW(BLUE)(MICA)	U	JAR	26	111	LC1-C4	LC1-MC2
1033	1032	850	1.2	SGW(BSRW)	RUD	JAR	68	236	MC1-MC2	LC1-MC2
1033	1032	850	1.2	SGW(MICA)(BS)	U	BOWL	2	30	M/LC1-C2	LC1-MC2
1033	1032	850	1.2	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	2	14	E/MC1	LC1-MC2

Context	Cut	Group	Period	Fabric	DSc	Form	Quantity	Weight (G)	Spot date	Context Date
1033	1032	850	1.2	SGW(CALC)	R	JAR	1	11	MC1-C2	LC1-MC2
1033	1032	850	1.2	SOW(ORANGE)	U	FLAG	1	1	MC1-C2	LC1-MC2
1033	1032	850	1.2	SOW(Q)(ORANGE)	R	NJAR	2	45	M/LC1-C2	LC1-MC2
1034	1032	850	1.2	RO2	U	JAR	1	4	MC1-C2	MC1-C2
1035	1032	850	1.2	RW(Q)(HM)	D	SJAR	1	8	C1	MC1
1035	1032	850	1.2	SGW	D	BEAK	1	6	MC1	MC1
1035	1032	850	1.2	SGW	RU	JAR	4	60	MC1-C2	MC1
1035	1032	850	1.2	SGW(SANDW)(BS)	RUD	JAR	17	149	MC1-EC2	MC1
1035	1032	850	1.2	SGW(SOFT)(WS)	RU	BEAK	4	44	E/MC1	MC1
1035	1032	850	1.2	SGW(BS)	RU	JAR	3	25	M/LC1	MC1
1035	1032	850	1.2	SOW(Q)(ORANGE)	U	JAR	3	21	MC1-C2	MC1
1035	1032	850	1.2	SOW(Q)(BS)	UD	JAR	2	17	MC1-C2	MC1

Table 18: Summary pottery catalogue

B.7 Post-Roman Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.7.1 Archaeological works produced a moderately sized hand-excavated medieval and post-medieval pottery assemblage (Table 22). The assemblage is largely of medieval date, although there are some post-medieval and early modern sherds present.

Methodology

B.7.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards.

B.7.3 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 post-medieval types, using Cambridgeshire fabric types where possible (Spoerry 2016). The Museum of London fabric series (MoLA 2014) acts as a basis for post-1700 fabrics. All sherds have been counted, classified by fabric, weighed on a context-by-context basis and fully recorded in an Access database. Where material was recovered from samples, it was only considered where no other pottery was recovered. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Factual Data

B.7.4 An assemblage of 136 sherds, weighing 1.392kg, was recovered, representing a minimum number of 86 vessels (MNV). The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded, the average sherd weight is low, at approximately 0.010kg. This weight is, in part, due to some relatively large Post-medieval Redware sherds and unabraded Creamware sherds, without which the average sherd weight falls to approximately 0.008kg, indicating the medieval assemblage has undergone considerable reworking.

B.7.5 The 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.

B.7.6 Fabrics present in the full assemblage (listed in Table 19) are mainly East Anglian, with a low number of sherds from the industrial midlands and a single sherd of imported pottery. The production centres identified include Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Buckinghamshire, Essex and Staffordshire. The generic Post-medieval Redwares may be from Essex or from Ely's riverside post-medieval pottery industry (Cessford, Alexander and Dickens 2006). The largest single group of sherds (by count) are South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware (35 sherds, 0.264kg), followed by Medieval Ely ware (23 sherds, 0.202kg), while the largest group of sherds by weight are the Post-medieval Redwares (9 sherds, 0.329kg). A low number of East Anglian

Redware sherds were also recovered, including some East Anglian Redware Sgraffito sherds, East Anglian Redware (EAR), a generic term that can include Colchester-type wares amongst its products but is used where the industries have not been identified.

Full Name	Fabric Code	Count	MNI	Weight (kg)	% by weight
Brill/Boarstall ware	BRIL	1	1	0.001	0.1
Creamware	CREA	7	3	0.094	6.8
East Anglian Redware Sgraffito (fine)	EARSG (F)	7	2	0.026	1.9
East Anglian Redwares	EAR	16	7	0.065	4.7
Grimston Glazed ware	GRIM	2	2	0.027	1.9
Hedingham Fineware	HEDI	2	2	0.081	5.8
Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware	HUNEMW	1	1	0.006	0.4
Late Grimston-type ware	GRIL	1	1	0.004	0.3
Late Medieval and Transitional	LMT	5	4	0.098	7.0
Late Medieval Ely ware	LMEL	10	6	0.073	5.2
Medieval Ely ware	MEL	23	16	0.202	14.5
Medieval Sandy Greyware	MSGW	2	2	0.033	2.4
Medieval Sandy ware	MSW	8	5	0.031	2.2
Post-medieval Black-Glazed Redwares	PMBL	1	1	0.020	1.4
Post-medieval Redwares	PMR	9	8	0.329	23.6
Raeren Stoneware	RAER	1	1	0.015	1.1
South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware	SEFEN	35	21	0.264	19.0
Staffordshire-type Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	STBRS	1	1	0.003	0.2
Unidentified	UNID	4	2	0.020	1.4
Total		**136**	**86**	**1.392**	

Table 19: Pottery fabrics present in the total assemblage

B.7.7 Vessels present are domestic in nature, jugs being predominant by weight and count, then bowls, with jars also well-represented (Table 20). Sherds from a single Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware drinking vessel were recovered from pond **893**. Sooted sherds are uncommon, possibly due to the levels of reworking the pottery has undergone.

Basic Form	Count	MNI	Weight	% by Weight
Bowl (including dishes)	15	11	0.374	26.9
Bowl/Jar	2	2	0.100	7.2
Drinking vessel	1	1	0.020	1.4
Jar	20	13	0.271	19.5
Jug	46	30	0.396	28.4
Undiagnostic	51	29	0.231	16.6
Total	**135**	**86**	**1.392**	

Table 20: Vessel forms present in the total assemblage

B.7.8 The bulk of the material was recovered from 32 stratified contexts. The unphased material comprises 29 sherds, weighing 0.200kg, MNV 11, recovered from two contexts (subsoil layer 700 and medieval pit **796**). The phased assemblage is therefore 106 sherds, weighing 1.176kg, MNV 75.

B.7.9 The majority of the assemblage (by weight) was recovered from Phase 2 (medieval *c*.1050-1500/1550), with an average sherd weight of 0.009kg (Table 21). The remainder, with the exception of ?intrusive medieval sherds from Phase 1, was recovered from Phase 4 (post-medieval and modern *c*.1500/1550-1900), with a higher average sherd weight of 0.014kg.

	MNV	Count	Weight (kg)	% Weight of total assemblage
Period 1: Roman (AD 43 to 410)	17	26	0.178	15.1
Period 2: Medieval (1066-1500)	39	51	0.515	43.8
Period 3: Post-medieval and Modern Post Medieval to Modern (1500 to present)	19	30	0.483	41.1
Total phased assemblage	**75**	**107**	**1.176**	

Table 21: Count and weight of pottery by phase for phased assemblage

B.7.10 There is some degree of residuality and intrusiveness within the phases. The medieval material recovered from features in Phase 1 would appear to be intrusive if the phasing is correct, while the medieval pottery recovered from Phase 3 features is clearly residual. However, the broad nature of the phases and the longevity of certain ceramic industries masks any subtleties of the assemblage, therefore residuality and intrusiveness are not addressed further in any detail.

Period 1: Romano-British

B.7.11 An intrusive medieval assemblage was recovered from various features, including ditches **934**, **936**, **979** and gully **747**, and also several pits (**726**, **734** and **863**). Pottery produced includes South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware, medieval Ely ware, Late Medieval Ely ware and, from pit **747**, fragments from an East Anglian Redware Sgraffito jug.

Period 2: Medieval

B.7.12 The medieval assemblage is not large and derives from a moderate range of sources, including Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Essex and a single imported sherd from Raeren, now in the Netherlands, but most commonly referred to as a German Stoneware. The assemblage appears to be domestic although one dominated by jugs. There are no sooted sherds, this may be in part due to the level of abrasion with any sooting deposits having been destroyed.

Pits

B.7.13 The pottery assemblage was recovered entirely from pits (**749**, **781**, **806**, **844**, **861**, **885**, **888**, **892**, **902**, **918**, **930**, **941**, **965** and **1043**), some of which may have been, the excavator suggests, for either the production of lime, or for marling. 'Marl was used as a form of fertiliser to revive the soil. it improved the water-holding capacity of the soil, helped to make nutrients more readily available to plants, caused the soil to have a more open and friable structure'. (http://peninsulapartnership.org.uk/abd/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/The-Marl-Pits-of-West-Sussex-by-Emma-Jeffery.pdf. p3).

B.7.14 Marling, it would appear, has been undertaken since Roman times, as referenced by Pliny and again referred to in the 13th century in leases. However, Jeffery suggests that the practice did not fully develop until approximately the 16th century (*ibid* p3-4).

B.7.15 The largest assemblage (by weight) recovered from the pits was from pit **844**, which contained six sherds of pottery weighing in total 0.129kg; the largest number of sherds recovered was seven, from pit **786** (0.073kg). Most of the pits produced five sherds or fewer. The pottery is mostly moderately abraded to abraded, with some exceptions, including the only imported ware recovered from the post-Roman assemblage, a sherd

from a Raeren Stoneware vessel (*c*.1480-1610) recovered from pit **881**, alongside South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware and Medieval Ely ware. Other fabrics present in the pits included South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware and Medieval Ely ware, the most common fabrics, East Anglian Redwares, Grimston and Hedingham Fineware; the sherds are mostly from jugs. Late Medieval Ely ware was recovered from pit **918** and, in addition, pit **1043** produced two Late Medieval and Transitional sherds alongside medieval South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware and pit **941** contained only a single sherd of Post-medieval Redware, which may be intrusive or indicate the longevity of the marling practice.

Period 3: Post-Medieval to Modern

B.7.16 This phase produced, by weight, a similar sized assemblage to that of Phase 2, approximately 41% by comparison with approximately 43% respectively. However, the phase produced fewer sherds, from only seven features, six ditches and tree throw **939**, which produced a single sherd from a Late Medieval and Transitional bowl (*c*.1450-1600).

B.7.17 Furrow **757** produced only medieval sherds. These are a single sherd from a Medieval Ely ware jug six South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware sherds and one East Anglian Redwares sherd. Modern ditch **852** and pit **939** include Late Medieval and Transitional ware sherds in their assemblages; ditch **852** also contained a single sherd of Staffordshire-type Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware (*c*.1690-1730).

B.7.18 Pond **893**, ditches **910** and **912** assemblages included Post-medieval Redwares (c.1550-1800) and Creamwares (c.1740-1830) including part of a Creamware chamber pot from ditch **912**. This suggests the latest act of deposition to be prior to the mid-19th century.

Discussion

B.7.19 After the Roman activity discussed elsewhere (Appendix B.6), the site appears to have lain undisturbed until the medieval period, when deposition of low levels of domestic refuse recovered from the medieval and earlier features is likely to have originally happened. The level of abrasion of the medieval assemblage suggests it underwent a high degree of reworking, thus the material may represent manuring scatters, that later became incorporated into the marling pits, if that was their function. None of the pottery is specialised and, apart from the lack of sooting, appears to be a domestic assemblage, one dominated by jugs rather than jars. This may relate to the medieval industrial activity suggested by the excavator and may explain the higher incidence of jugs which may have contained liquid to quench a thirst or to quench a flame.

B.7.20 The post-medieval assemblage is less abraded; however, it still very probably represents the dispersal of domestic rubbish, and what could be more domestic than a chamber pot, not as a deliberate event but due to more casual discard of broken things with some level of reworking for the post-medieval Redwares and the 18th-19th century assemblage.

B.7.21 None of the assemblage demonstrates any evidence of a direct relationship with Spinney Abbey Priory, which lies approximately 900m to the north-west of the site

(CHER 07003; Fig. 2); however, the Creamware sherds may relate to the demolished buildings at America Farm located immediately to the north-east of the site (MCB 22102; Fig. 2) .

Catalogue

Period	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Count	MNI	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date
Sub-soil	700		PMR	Bowl	1	1	0.032	1550-1800
			PMR	Jar	1	1	0.043	1550-1800
1	734	**734**	LMEL	Jug	3	2	0.034	1350-1500
	737	**726**	MEL		1	0	0.001	1150-1350
	748	**747**	EAR		1	0	0.006	1200-1400
			SEFEN	Jar	2	1	0.010	1150-1450
			BRIL	Jug	1	1	0.001	1200-1500
			EARSG (F)	Jug	4	1	0.018	1350-1500
			MEL	Jug	2	2	0.011	1150-1350
	800	**799**	MSW		3	2	0.007	1150-1500
			MEL	Bowl	1	1	0.024	1300-1400
	865	**863**	GRIL	Jug	1	1	0.004	1350-1500
			LMEL	Jug	2	2	0.010	1350-1500
	934	**932**	SEFEN	Jug	2	1	0.031	1150-1450
	936	**935**	SEFEN	Jar	1	1	0.008	1150-1450
	980	**979**	MSW		1	1	0.004	1150-1500
			SEFEN		1	1	0.009	1150-1450
2	750	**749**	MEL		1	1	0.004	1150-1350
			SEFEN	Jar	1	1	0.009	1150-1450
			EAR	Jug	1	1	0.002	1200-1400
	782	**781**	MEL		1	0	0.001	1150-1350
			MSGW	Jar	1	1	0.024	1150-1500
			EAR	Jug	1	1	0.003	1200-1400
	787	**786**	SEFEN		1	1	0.009	1150-1450
			GRIM	Jug	1	1	0.012	1200-1500
			MEL	Jug	3	1	0.02	1150-1350
			MEL	Jug	1	1	0.003	1300-1400
	788	**786**	MEL	Bowl	1	1	0.029	1150-1350
	797	**796**	EAR		3	1	0.011	1200-1400
			LMEL		1	0	0.003	1350-1500
			MSGW		1	1	0.009	1150-1500
			SEFEN		3	0	0.006	1150-1450
			UNID		3	2	0.018	1150-1500
			LMEL	Bowl	3	1	0.020	1350-1500
			SEFEN	Jar	1	1	0.015	1150-1450
			EAR	Jug	6	1	0.029	1200-1400
			EARSG (F)	Jug	3	1	0.008	1350-1500
			SEFEN	Jug	3	1	0.022	1150-1450
	807	**806**	SEFEN	Jug	1	1	0.032	1150-1450
	819	**1043**	LMT		1	1	0.006	1450-1600
			SEFEN		3	1	0.002	1150-1450
			LMT	Bowl	1	1	0.029	1450-1600
			SEFEN	Jug	1	1	0.017	1150-1450
	845	**844**	MEL		1	1	0.006	1150-1350
			UNID		1	0	0.002	1150-1500
			MEL	Bowl/jar	1	1	0.026	1150-1350
			MEL	Jar	1	1	0.019	1300-1400

Period	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Count	MNI	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date
			GRIM	Jug	1	1	0.015	1200-1500
			HEDI	Jug	1	1	0.061	1150-1350
	862	**861**	HEDI	Jug	1	1	0.020	1150-1350
	882	**881**	MEL		1	0	0.002	1150-1350
			SEFEN		1	1	0.005	1150-1450
			RAER	Jug	1	1	0.015	1480-1610
	886	**885**	SEFEN		1	1	0.009	1150-1450
	889	**888**	HUNEMW		1	1	0.006	1050-1200
			SEFEN		1	0	0.003	1150-1450
			SEFEN	Jar	1	1	0.010	1150-1450
			EAR	Jug	1	1	0.004	1200-1400
			MEL	jug	1	1	0.001	1150-1350
	899	**892**	MSW		1	1	0.004	1150-1500
			SEFEN		1	1	0.006	1150-1450
	903	**902**	MEL		2	1	0.024	1150-1350
			SEFEN	Jar	2	1	0.013	1150-1450
	919	**918**	MSW		1	0	0.002	1150-1500
			SEFEN		1	1	0.004	1150-1450
			LMEL	Jug	1	1	0.006	1350-1500
			MEL	Jug	1	1	0.006	1150-1350
	931	**930**	EAR		2	1	0.004	1200-1400
			SEFEN	Jar	1	1	0.01	1150-1450
	942	**941**	PMR	Bowl	1	1	0.019	1550-1800
	966	**965**	MSW		0	1	0.011	1150-1500
3	758	**757**	MEL	Jug	1	1	0.005	1150-1350
	853	**852**	MSW		1	0	0.003	1150-1500
			STBRS		1	1	0.003	1690-1730
			LMT	Bowl	2	1	0.028	1450-1600
			MEL	Jar	2	1	0.015	1300-1400
	884	**883**	SEFEN		6	3	0.034	1150-1450
			EAR	Jug	1	1	0.006	1200-1400
	894	**893**	CREA		1	1	0.001	1740-1830
			MEL		1	1	0.005	1150-1350
			PMR	Bowl	2	1	0.05	1550-1800
			PMR	bowl/jar	1	1	0.074	1550-1800
			PMBL	Drinking vessel	1	1	0.020	1580-1700
	911	**910**	CREA		1	1	0.001	1740-1830
			PMR	Bowl	1	1	0.086	1550-1800
	913	**912**	PMR	Bowl	1	1	0.022	1550-1800
			CREA	Jar	5	1	0.092	1740-1830
			PMR	Jar	1	1	0.003	1550-1800
	940	**939**	LMT	Bowl	1	1	0.035	1450-1600
Total					**135**	**86**	**1.392**	

Table 22: Pottery by period, context and cut

B.8 Ceramic Building Material

by Ted Levermore

Introduction and Methodology

B.8.1 Archaeological excavation produced a small assemblage (24 fragments, 777g) of Ceramic Building Material (CBM). The assemblage comprises post-medieval to modern

brick tile fragments and a single fragment of possible Roman tile. All were fragmentary, abraded and largely uninformative.

B.8.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis of reference material for identification and dating.

B.8.3 The quantified data are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive.

Assemblage

B.8.4 The fragments recovered were collected from the disuse fills of ten features. The catalogue is summarised in the table below (Table 23). This assemblage is severely abraded and as such is largely uninformative. The presence of post-medieval fragments of CBM is usually related to discard of the material into the modern agricultural landscape. Later material is therefore often intrusive to archaeological features and represents little more than background noise.

Context	Cut	Feature	Group	Phase	Form	Descr	Date	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Comment
748	**747**	Gully		1	Tile	Flat	Med-Pmed	2	25	slight	Edge fragment of a 1/2 inch flat tile made in a reduced shelly fabric. Fairly neatly formed faces, irregular arrises.
797	**796**	Pit			Tile	Flat	Med-Pmed	3	78	mod	Fragments of oxidised fine sandy half inch tile; similar to med-pmed pot fabrics
797	**796**	Pit			Tile	Flat	Med-Pmed	1	24	Mod	Fragment of half inch flat tile; grey core and orange faces. Similar to SEFEN potting clays.
841	**840**	Pit		1	Tile	Field Drain	Pmed-Mod	1	33	Mod	Fragment of field drain made in an orange silty extruded clay
853	**852**	Ditch	852	3	Undiag	Undiag	Pmed-Mod	2	4	Severe	Fragments of undiagnostic material made in yellow gault clays
882	**881**	Pit		2	Tile	Flat	Med-Pmed	1	7	severe	Abraded fragment of tile similar to (748)
894	**893**	Pond		3	Brick	Frags	Pmed-Mod	3	202	Mod	Fragments of pink-orange gault brick
913	**912**	Ditch	852	3	Undiag	Undiag	Pmed-Mod	3	55	severe	Fragments of undiagnostic material made in yellow gault clays
940	**939**	Tree Throw		3	Tile	Thick	?Roman	1	129	Mod	Fragment of thick tile/thin brick. Possibly Roman. Made in a bright orange compact fabric, with a reduced grey upper bed with wiping evidence and a fine sanded base.
1026	**1025**	Ditch	852	3	Brick	Frags	Pmed-Mod	2	79	Mod	Some mortar accretions visible
1026	**1025**	Ditch	852	3	Brick	Frags	Pmed-Mod	2	97	Mod	

Context	Cut	Feature	Group	Phase	Form	Descr	Date	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Comment
819	**1043**	Pit		2	Undiag	Undiag	Pmed-Mod	3	44	Severe	Fragments of undiagnostic material made in yellow gault clays

Table 23: Summary CBM catalogue

B.9 Fired Clay

by Ted Levermore

Introduction

B.9.1 Excavation work on site recovered 34 fragments (411g) of fired clay. This assemblage comprised mostly amorphous pieces with no discernible features with a small fraction of more 'structural' pieces with flattened surfaces and signs of hand-forming. A possible fragment of Early Romano-British portable kiln furniture was recorded. Generally, this material was moderately to severely abraded and undiagnostic.

Methodology

B.9.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive.

Results of Analysis

Fabrics

B.9.3 Five fabrics were recorded from this small assemblage (Table 24). All fabrics could be considered as deriving from local sandy clays with varying amounts of sand minerals, grit and clay inclusions. Varying degrees of paste preparation and different clay sources are evident.

Code	Colour	Matrix	Fine inclusions	Coarse inclusions	Mixing	Comments
F1	Dull red and brown	very fine sandy	common very fine sandy material, some mica	occ rounded voids and sandy flecks	Well	Soft
F2	Mid orange-brown	Compact fine sandy	occ dark grit	rare sub-angular flint	Well	Soft
F3	Mid Pink-Orange	Compact fine sandy	common very fine sandy material, some mica	rare rounded voids	Well	Common grass and grain surface impressions
F4	Dull light brown	Compact fine sandy	occ sandy material	occ sandy material	Well	Hard
F5	Oranges, Browns	Coarse Sandy	common sandy material	occ sandy material	Mod	Coarse and friable

Table 24: Fired clay fabrics

Assemblage

B.9.4 The fired clay assemblage was collected from 14 pit and ditch features. The material was mostly severely abraded, rounded and uninformative even when structural features like exacted surfaces were present. The only noteworthy fragment was a small fragment of 12mm thick pink-orange fired clay with organic impression (grass and grain) rich faces from pit **992**. It is likely to be a small body fragment of a later Iron Age to Early Romano-British kiln plate.

Discussion

B.9.5 The material recovered is heavily abraded and fragmentary. There is very little that can be drawn from the assemblage in sum or individually. The assemblage can only be regarded as the detrital remains of prehistoric and possibly later activity on or near the site.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal remains

By Hayley Foster

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 This report details the analysis of the animal bone recovered from the site. The material has been divided into 3 periods, which date to the Early Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval and later. The majority of material is from Period 1. The assemblage was of a small size, with 10.38kg of bone from hand-collection and from environmental samples. The number of recordable fragments that could be assigned to a phase totalled 131 (Table 31). The species represented include cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), horse (*Equus caballus*), dog (*Canis familiaris*), red deer (Cervus elaphus), and frog (*Rana temporaria*). Remains derived from ditches, pits and furrows.

C.1.2 The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick and Murray (2007) which was modified from Albarella and Davis (1996). NISP (number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (minimum number of individuals) were calculated for all species present. MNI estimates the smallest number of animals that could be represented by the elements recovered. For the main domestic mammals, only the atlas and axis were counted for vertebrae.

C.1.3 Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at Oxford Archaeology East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972) and von den Driesch (1976) were used where needed for identification purposes.

C.1.4 Two methods of ageing were implemented when analysing the mammalian bone remains. These methods include observing dental eruption and wear and epiphyseal fusion. When analysing tooth wear of sheep/goat, tooth wear stages by Payne (1973) were implemented. Tooth wear stages by Grant (1982) were implemented when assessing wear for cattle and pig. Higham (1967) mandibular wear stages (MWS) were assigned to loose mandibular M3s and mandibles with the innermost tooth still present. The Higham wear stages are used to estimate a minimum age of an individual animal. The state of epiphyseal fusion is determined by examining the metaphysis and diaphysis of a bone. Fusion was recorded according to Silver (1970) and Schmid (1972) for cattle, sheep and pig.

C.1.5 For all identified bones, butchery, gnawing and burning marks were noted where present.

C.1.6 Measurements were taken according to von den Driesch (1976), using digital callipers and large bones were measured using an osteometric board. Withers' heights of sheep were calculated using Teichert (1969).

Results

C.1.7 The faunal assemblage is generally in a fair condition with moderate levels of fragmentation. Cattle overwhelmingly dominated the assemblage followed by sheep/goat, however there were a variety of species represented (Tables 25).

C.1.8 Measurements were carried out where possible (Table 29-30), however as fragmentation was relatively high, very few elements were suitable for measurement. Only one estimated wither's heights could be calculated for a sheep.

C.1.9 The composition of the faunal material was mostly comprised of cranial elements (including mandibles, maxillae, loose teeth and horn cores) and extremities (including phalanges, metapodia, carpals and tarsals), making up 70% of the overall NISP. This evidence could suggest the disposal of primary butchery waste by removing the head and feet and some meaty joints transported elsewhere. However, this is probably the result of a preservation and recovery bias as all main elements were recovered to some degree. Denser bones such as metapodia, mandibles and teeth are more durable and less susceptible to taphonomic destruction. The pattern of representation exhibits a trend that larger taxa are over-represented in hand-collected recovery whereas those fragments from environmental samples show a bias toward smaller species. There appears to be no significant disposal patterns established as faunal remains were retrieved from a variety of features from across the site.

Species	NISP	NISP%
Cattle	68	51.5
Sheep/Goat	29	22.7
Pig	7	5.3
Horse	18	13.6
Dog	7	5.3
Frog	1	0.8
Red Deer	1	0.8
Total	**131**	**100.0**

Table 25: Number of identifiable fragments (NISP) from Wicken

C.1.10 The remains from the Early Romano British period form the largest proportion of the assemblage with cattle dominating (Table 26). There is very little ageing data for cattle, however all long bone epiphyses are fused, indicating a possible lack of young animals present. Hamshaw-Thomas (2000) has argued that the shift towards cattle from sheep, from the Iron Age is associated with an agricultural intensification, caused by social changes. At Romano-British sites cattle were used for dairying, traction and they were commonly slaughtered for meat around four to eight years of age (Maltby, 2016). The frequency of cattle again rose in Period 3 with cattle consisting of 62.5% of the assemblage (Tables 26-28).

C.1.11 Sheep/goat are present in all periods but are best represented in Period 1 (20.8%). During the Roman period, sheep were often slaughtered for meat, at the end of their immaturity, around 18-36 months, and those sheep that were adults were exploited for wool production (Maltby, 2016). The limited ageing data suggests sheep/goat were slaughtered around 18-28 months of age at death, with also the presence of a young sheep/goat less than 6-8 months of age, based on an unfused scapula.

C.1.12 Horse remains were also present in all periods. A horse aged to 20-24 months of age at death in Period 1.

Species	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle	50	52.1	4	36.4
Sheep/Goat	20	20.8	2	18.2
Pig	6	6.3	1	9.1
Horse	13	13.5	2	18.2
Dog	6	6.3	1	9.1
Frog	1	1.0	1	9.1
Total	**96**	**100.0**	**11**	**100**

Table 26: Number of identifiable fragments (NISP) and minimum number of individuals (MNI) from the assemblage by Period 1

Species	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle	8	42.1	1	25.0
Sheep/Goat	8	42.1	1	25.0
Pig	1	5.3	1	25.0
Horse	2	10.5	1	25.0
Total	**19**	**100.0**	**4**	**100.0**

Table 27: Number of identifiable fragments (NISP) and minimum number of individuals (MNI) from the assemblage by Period 2

Species	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle	10	62.5	1	20.0
Sheep/Goat	1	6.3	1	20.0
Horse	3	18.8	1	20.0
Dog	1	6.3	1	20.0
Red Deer	1	6.3	1	20.0
Total	**16**	**100.0**	**5**	**100.0**

Table 28: Number of identifiable fragments (NISP) and minimum number of individuals (MNI) from the assemblage by Period 3

C.1.13 Pigs played a minor role and comprised 5% of the overall assemblage. Pigs would have been slaughtered before reaching adulthood, instead been killed when reaching an optimum weight around 2-3 years of age. Pigs are found in smaller amount on rural roman sites versus urban sites (Maltby, 2016).

C.1.14 Dog remains are present in Period 1 and 3, dog remains are not uncommon at Roman sites, and would have been kept as guard animals and pets.

C.1.15 Other animals represented by a single fragment include a red deer antler from furrow **799** and a frog from ditch **935**.

C.1.16 Taphonomic processes include three examples of carnivore gnawing from Period 1, including carnivore tooth puncture evidence. There is also one case of burning of a sheep pelvis that is calcined (ditch **850**).

Discussion

C.1.17 In all phases, cattle were numerically predominant over sheep, with the relative sizes of cattle and sheep carcasses, beef would contribute much more to the diet of the residents than lamb or mutton.

C.1.18 At Hawes Lane, domestic mammals were the mainstay of the food economy, with cattle and sheep/goat remains being the most well represented species. The dominance of cattle in the assemblage is typical for Roman settlement sites. Beef would have made up the most important part of the residents' diet. Sheep/goat would have been a secondary species for food, however from the ageing data it can be concluded they are likely exploited primarily for meat. The size of the assemblage unfortunately does not allow for solid interpretations to be made regarding farming practices however, the limited data provides a brief glimpse into husbandry practices and the human-animal relationship at the settlement.

C.1.19 In a regional context, the assemblage from Hawes Lane is fairly typical of a Roman settlement assemblage in this region of east Cambridgeshire. Assemblages tend to contain a wide variety of species with cattle being the dominant food source. The Roman phases of the zooarchaeological assemblage from Upware (Foster, forthcoming) contained cattle comprising 49.3% of the NISP, followed by sheep/goat and horse. The representation of the main domesticates in comparable percentages highlight that the settlements may have a similar economy in regards to husbandry practices.

Retention, dispersal and display

C.1.20 As the animal remains from this assemblage are dateable to consecutive phases, it would be recommended that the assemblage be retained as it can add to the regional picture of diet and husbandry practices in Cambridgeshire.

Cxt	Cut	Phase	Element	Species	GL	Bd	Bp	SD	HTC	BT	GLm	EWH (cm)
1031	1029	1.2	Tibia	Cattle		60.4						
851	850	1.2	Tibia	Sheep/Goat		21.8						
804	803	1.2	Humerus	Cattle		67.4			37.7	64.9		
851	850	1.2	Metacarpal 1	Cattle		60						
746	745	1.2	Metatarsal 1	Sheep/Goat		21						
732	730	1.2	Metacarpal 1	Cattle		61.4						
731	730	1.2	Metacarpal 1	Sheep/Goat		19.8						
731	730	1.2	Radius	Sheep/Goat	140.5	23.1	24.6	13.1				56.5cm
731	730	1.2	Humerus	Sheep		24.8			15.7	23.7		
829	828	1.1	Metatarsal 1	Sheep/Goat		22.3						
732	730	1.2	Metatarsal 1	Horse			39.2					
851	850	1.2	Metatarsal 1	Cattle			42.5					
901	900	1.2	Metatarsal 1	Horse			47.3	25.9				

Cxt	Cut	Phase	Element	Species	GL	Bd	Bp	SD	HTC	BT	GLm	EWH (cm)
1035	1032	1.2	Metatarsal 1	Cattle			39.4					
760	759	1.2	Astragalus	Cattle							72.4	

Table 29: Table of Measurements (mm)

Abbreviation	Description
GL	Greatest length
Bd	Greatest breadth of distal end
BT	Greatest breadth of trochlea
HTC	Height of trochlea
Bp	Greatest breadth of proximal end
GLm	Greatest length of medial half (in astragalus)
SD	Smallest breadth of diaphysis
EWH	Estimated Wither's Height (in cm)

Table 30: Abbreviations for table of measurements

Context	Cut	Phase	Species	Element
708	707	3	Cattle	Femur
708	707	3	Cattle	Loose Mandibular Tooth
725	723	3	Cattle	Humerus
725	723	3	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
731	730	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
731	730	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
731	730	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
731	730	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
731	730	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
731	730	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
731	730	1	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpal 1
731	730	1	Sheep/Goat	Radius
731	730	1	Sheep/Goat	Ulna
731	730	1	Sheep/Goat	Scapula
731	730	1	Sheep	Humerus
732	730	1	Cattle	Humerus
732	730	1	Cattle	Metacarpal 1
732	730	1	Horse	Metatarsal 1
744	743	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Maxillary Tooth
746	745	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
746	745	1	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsal 1
760	759	1	Cattle	Metacarpal 1
760	759	1	Cattle	Astragalus
768	767	1	Cattle	Loose Mandibular Tooth
793	791	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
793	791	1	Sheep/Goat	Metacarpal 1
797	796	2	Cattle	Phalanx 2
797	796	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
797	796	2	Pig	Mandible
800	799	3	Red Deer	Antler
804	803	1	Cattle	Humerus
804	803	1	Cattle	Humerus
804	803	1	Cattle	Mandible
804	803	1	Horse	Mandible

Context	Cut	Phase	Species	Element
805	803	1	Cattle	Loose Mandibular Tooth
809	808	1	Horse	Tibia
829	828	1	Sheep/Goat	Metatarsal 1
845	844	2	Cattle	Loose Mandibular Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Calcaneus
851	850	1	Cattle	Humerus
851	850	1	Cattle	Loose Mandibular Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Loose Mandibular Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Metacarpal 1
851	850	1	Cattle	Loose Mandibular Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Metacarpal 1
851	850	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
851	850	1	Cattle	Metatarsal 1
851	850	1	Cattle	Metacarpal 1
851	850	1	Dog	Mandible
851	850	1	Dog	Loose Mandibular Tooth
851	850	1	Dog	Cranium
851	850	1	Horse	Loose Mandibular Tooth
851	850	1	Horse	Loose Maxillary Tooth
851	850	1	Horse	Loose Mandibular Tooth
851	850	1	Horse	Pelvis
851	850	1	Horse	Loose Mandibular Tooth
851	850	1	Sheep/Goat	Pelvis
851	850	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Maxillary Tooth
851	850	1	Sheep/Goat	Tibia
855	854	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
858	857	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
862	861	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
865	863	1	Dog	Mandible
880	877	1	Pig	Mandible
882	881	2	Cattle	Metacarpal 1
884	883	3	Cattle	Calcaneus
889	888	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
889	888	2	Sheep/Goat	Radius
889	888	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
901	900	1	Cattle	Humerus
901	900	1	Cattle	Phalanx 2
901	900	1	Cattle	Radius
901	900	1	Horse	Metatarsal 1
903	902	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
907	906	1	Pig	Loose Mandibular Tooth
931	930	2	Cattle	Phalanx 1
934	932	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
936	935	1	Pig	Humerus
937	935	1	Frog	Tibia
937	935	1	Cattle	Loose Mandibular Tooth
940	939	3	Cattle	Mandible
940	939	3	Cattle	Horn Core
954	953	1	Sheep/Goat	Radius
954	953	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Maxillary Tooth
962	961	3	Cattle	Metatarsal 1
962	961	3	Cattle	Phalanx 1
962	961	3	Horse	Loose Maxillary Tooth
962	961	3	Horse	Pelvis

Context	Cut	Phase	Species	Element
963	963	2	Horse	Loose Maxillary Tooth
966	965	2	Cattle	Humerus
966	965	2	Horse	Atlas
968	967	1	Cattle	Metacarpal 1
968	967	1	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
973	972	1	Cattle	Tibia
980	979	1	Cattle	Axis
980	979	1	Sheep/Goat	Femur
988	987	1	Horse	Radius
1007	1006	1	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
1014	1013	1	Cattle	Radius
1026	1025	3	Cattle	Loose Maxillary Tooth
1026	1025	3	Cattle	Ulna
1026	1025	3	Dog	Cranium
1026	1025	3	Horse	Loose Mandibular Tooth
1028	1027	2	Cattle	Femur
1028	1027	2	Cattle	Metatarsal 1
1028	1027	2	Cattle	Phalanx 2
1028	1027	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
1028	1027	2	Sheep/Goat	Loose Mandibular Tooth
1030	1029	1	Cattle	Femur
1030	1029	1	Cattle	Scapula
1031	1029	1	Cattle	Tibia
1031	1029	1	Cattle	Horn Core
1031	1029	1	Dog	Cranium
1031	1029	1	Dog	Ulna
1033	1032	1	Cattle	Mandible
1033	1032	1	Sheep/Goat	Scapula
1034	1032	1	Cattle	Radius
1034	1032	1	Cattle	Humerus
1034	1032	1	Horse	Pelvis
1034	1032	1	Horse	Astragalus
1034	1032	1	Horse	Mandible
1034	1032	1	Pig	Loose Mandibular Tooth
1034	1032	1	Pig	Loose Mandibular Tooth
1034	1032	1	Pig	Loose Mandibular Tooth
1035	1032	1	Cattle	Scapula
1035	1032	1	Cattle	Humerus
1035	1032	1	Cattle	Metatarsal 1

Table 31: List of Identifiable fragments

C.2 Mollusca

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 15 marine shells or shell fragments weighing 0.064kg were collected by hand from ditches and pits during the archaeological works. The shells recovered are edible examples of oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine and shallow coastal waters, and mussel *Mytilus edulis* from intertidal zones. The shell is relatively poorly preserved but does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed; however, some have suffered post-depositional damage.

Methodology

C.2.2 The shells were weighed and recorded by species, with right and left valves noted, when identification could be made, using Winder (2011) as a guide. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage from most features. The shell is recorded in Table 32.

Factual Data

Period 1: Romano-British

C.2.3 Shell was recovered from ditch **850** and pits **726** and **745**, with ditch **850** and pit **745** both producing fragments of oyster shell and a single fragment of mussel shell coming from pit **726**. The upper fill of the latter feature produced a single sherd of late medieval pottery which is presumably intrusive.

Period 2: Medieval

C.2.4 Shell was recovered from a single pit (**844**), which produced a single near-complete small left valve; the pit also produced a small assemblage of medieval pottery (c.1200-1350).

Period 3: Post-medieval and Modern

C.2.5 A single incomplete mussel shell was recovered from furrow **723**, which also produced Roman pottery.

Unphased

C.2.6 Ditch **675** produced the largest assemblage of shell from the site, with three fragments of oyster shell and four fragments of mussel shell, weighing in total 0.016kg.

Discussion

C.2.7 This is too small an assemblage to draw any but the broadest conclusions, in that shellfish were reaching the site from the coastal regions, indicating trade with the wider area. The mollusca recovered from the features are few in number, representing general discarded food waste of both Roman and medieval date.

C.2.8 No oyster shells showed evidence of shucking damage, in the form of a small 'V' or 'U'-shaped hole on the outer edge of the left or right valve. This damage is likely to have been caused by a knife during the opening, or 'shucking', of the oyster, prior to its consumption indicating the oysters were eaten raw. The mussels recovered may have been gathered accidentally with the oysters or were deliberately collected. There are not enough shells of any species to represent a meal.

Shell Catalogue

Context	Cut	Species	Common name	Habitat	No. of shells or frags.	No. of right valves	No. of left valves	No. of indeterminate shells	Description	Total weight (kg)
725	**723**	*Mytilus edulis*	Mussel	Intertidal zone	1	1	0	0	Incomplete right valve	0.001
737	**726**	*Mytilus edulis*	Mussel	Intertidal zone	1	0	1	0	Incomplete left valve	0.001

Context	Cut	Species	Common name	Habitat	No. of shells or frags.	No. of right valves	No. of left valves	No. of indeterminate shells	Description	Total weight (kg)
746	**745**	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	2	1	0	0	Incomplete medium right valves, broken post-depositionally, slight survival of horny scale on the larger fragment	0.008
797	**796**	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	3	1	1	0	Partial medium right valve, broken into two fragments Fragment of small left valve	0.011
797	**796**	*Mytilus edulis*	Mussel	Intertidal zone	4	1	2	1	Partial right valve Two partial left valves Fragment of indeterminate handedness	0.005
845	**844**	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	0	1	0	Near complete small left valve damaged on ventral edge	0.007
851	**850**	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	3	1	0	0	Thick incomplete medium right valve, broken into three fragments post-depositionally	0.031
Totals:					**15**	**5**	**5**	**1**		**0.064**

Table 32: Mollusca Catalogue

C.3 Environmental Samples

by Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.3.1 Twenty-six bulk environmental samples were taken from the fills of features within the excavated area rear of 9-17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire in accordance with the sampling strategy for this site which aimed to maximise the recovery of ecofacts and artefacts from all feature types, phases and areas. The longevity of the excavation allowed selected samples to be assessed and feedback to be given with the result that the sampling strategy could be reviewed and adapted, and additional material could be obtained if required.

C.3.2 Samples taken during the evaluation (Craven 2019) indicated that preservation of plant remains was limited to occasional occurrences of carbonised remains.

C.3.3 Samples were taken from layers and deposits that are thought to be Roman and medieval in date. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether environmental remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value to address the research aims of the project with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

C.3.4 The samples were pre-treated with a solution of sodium carbonate to break down the heavy clay matrix prior to processing by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type

equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.3.5 The samples were processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic residues prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 33.

C.3.6 Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al*. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.3.7 For the purpose of this assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

4.4.3 # = 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100 specimens

C.3.8 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as molluscs have been scored for abundance:

4.4.4 + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant, U=untransformed

Results

C.3.9 Preservation of plant remains is predominantly by carbonisation (burning) and is generally poor with limited density and diversity. Charcoal volumes are consistently low and does not appear to have survived the flotation process as several of the samples were described on excavation as having charcoal visible. All of the samples contain rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts and the blind snail (*Ceciloides acicula*), believed to be a post-Roman introduction (Evans 1972) is present in several samples, including those dated to the Roman period.

Period 0 – Unphased/Undated

C.3.10 Two samples were taken from undated features but did not produce any preserved remains.

Phase 1 – Romano-British (AD 43 to 410)

C.3.11 Fourteen samples were taken from Roman deposits. Charred plant remains are scarce and are restricted to small quantities of grain, predominantly barley with occasional wheat grains. A single grain of emmer wheat (*T. dicoccum*) has been identified by its characteristic morphology in Sample 16, fill 744 of ditch terminus **743** and spelt (*T. spelta*) glume bases are present in Sample 19, fill 768 of gully **767**. Charred weed seeds are rare and include bromes (*Bromus* sp.) and other grass (Poaceae) species.

Phase 2 – Medieval (1066-1500)

C.3.12 Nine samples were taken from medieval deposits. Apart from sample 24 (from pit **796**) preserved plant remains are restricted to occasional poorly preserved cereal grains along with untransformed seeds of elder in ditch **1006** and cherry/sloe (*Prunus* sp.) in pit **918**.

C.3.13 Sample 24, fill 797 of pit **796** in the south-east of the site contains grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) with occasional legumes and seeds of plants that were most likely harvested with the cereal crops such as of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), the mustard/cabbage family (*Brassica* sp.), nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*). Occasional seeds of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and Great Fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) suggest the use of these wetland plants as fuel. Untransformed seeds of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) are considered likely to be contemporary.

Phase 3 – Post Medieval to Modern (1500 to present)

C.3.14 A single sample from ditch **723** is devoid of preserved remains.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Group no.	Feature Type	Period	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Tree/Shrub macrofossils	Snails	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery
11	724	**723**	-	natural	0	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	++++	0	0
20	772	**771**	**771**	ditch	0	14	20	0	0	0	0	0	++++	<1	0
10	702	**701**	-	gully	1	20	10	##	0	0	#	0	+++	1	##
13	727	**726**	-	pit	1	14	40	#	0	0	0	0	+++	<1	0
14	732	**730**	**730**	ditch	1	14	30	##	0	0	#	0	0	<1	###
15	741	**740**	**740**	ditch	1	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	+++	<1	0
16	744	**743**	**743**	ditch terminus	1	14	20	#	0	0	0	0	++	<1	0
17	746	**745**	-	pit	1	16	10	#	0	0	0	0	++	<1	0
19	768	**767**	**763**	gully	1	16	10	#	#	0	#	0	++	<1	##
21	776	**775**	-	posthole	1	18	20	0	0	0	0	0	+++	0	#
23	792	**791**	-	pit	1	16	20	0	0	0	0	0	++		#
26	851	**850**	**850**	ditch	1	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	+++	<1	#
27	858	**857**	**810**	gully	1	18	30	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	#
31	937	**935**	**850**	ditch	1	17	5	#	0	0	#	0	+++	<1	0
32	960	**959**	-	pit	1	18	15	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	#
35	1007	**1006**	-	ditch	1	16	20	0	0	0	0	###u	++++	<1	0
18	750	**749**	-	pit	2	14	10	#	0	0	0	0	++	<1	0
22	787	**786**	-	pit	2	17	25	0	0	0	0	0	+++		#
24	797	**796**	-	pit	2	17	40	##	0	#	##/#u	#u	+++	5	#
25	807	**806**	-	pit	2	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	+++	<1	0

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Group no.	Feature Type	Period	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Tree/Shrub macrofossils	Snails	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery
28	846	**845**	-	pit	2	17	20	#	0	0	#	0	++	<1	#
29	903	**902**	-	pit	2	17	5	#	0	0	0	0	+++	0	0
30	919	**918**	-	pit	2	17	5	#	0	0	0	#/#u	+++	0	0
33	985	**984**	-	pit	2	16	20	0	0	0	#	0	++	<1	0
34	986	**984**	-	pit	2	17	20	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0
12	725	**723**	**723**	Furrow	3	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	++++	0	0

Table 13: Environmental Samples

Discussion

C.3.15 The environmental samples from this site have produced a small assemblage of charred grain, legumes and weed seeds that are indicative of cultivation and consumption, but the small quantities recovered preclude further interpretation. The identification of the hulled wheat species, spelt and emmer, are typical for Roman occupation sites but are usually recovered in larger quantities when associated with settlements. The poor preservation on this site may be due to the clay soils or it may reflect a more pastoral use in the Roman period.

C.3.16 Similarly, the low quantities of plant remains from the medieval and post-medieval deposits suggest that the land was not occupied. It is possible that the charred plant remains are the result of manuring.

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-412013
Project Name	Early Romano-British Farmstead Remains at Land to the rear of 9-17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire, PXA and Updated Project Design

Start of Fieldwork	12/06/2019	End of Fieldwork	18/07/2019
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB5915	Planning App. No.	18/01433/FUM
HER Number	ECB5915	Related Numbers	ECB5846

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐ Aerial Photography – interpretation	☒ Open-area excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Part Excavation	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Field Observation	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Full Excavation	☐ Recorded Observation	☐ Test-pit Survey
☐ Full Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Watching Brief
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Salvage Excavation	

Monument	Period
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pit	Roman (43 to 410)
Pit	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Pond	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Gully	Roman (43 to 410)
Furrow	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Post hole	Uncertain
Pit	Uncertain

Object	Period
Bone	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
CBM	Roman (43 to 410)
Bone	Roman (43 to 410)
Cu Brooch	Roman (43 to 410)
Flint	Early Bronze Age (- 2500 to - 1500)
Nail	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Quern	Uncertain

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire
District	East Cambs
Parish	Wicken
HER office	Cambridge County Council
Size of Study Area	0.6ha
National Grid Ref	TL 56404 71222

Address (including Postcode)

Land to the rear of 9-17 Hawes Lane, Wicken,
Ely,
Cambridgeshire
CB7 5ZW

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart CCC HET

Project Design Originator	Louise Moan OA East
Project Manager	Louise Moan OA East
Project Supervisor	Adele Lord OA East

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB 5915
Digital Archive	OA East	WICHLA19
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 5915

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☒
Ceramics	☒	☒	☒
Environmental	☒	☒	☒
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☒	☒	☒
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☒	☒
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☒	☒	☒
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☒	☒
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☒	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☒
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☒	Map	☐
Survey	☒	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
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		Report	☒
		Sections	☒
		Survey	☐

Further Comments

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

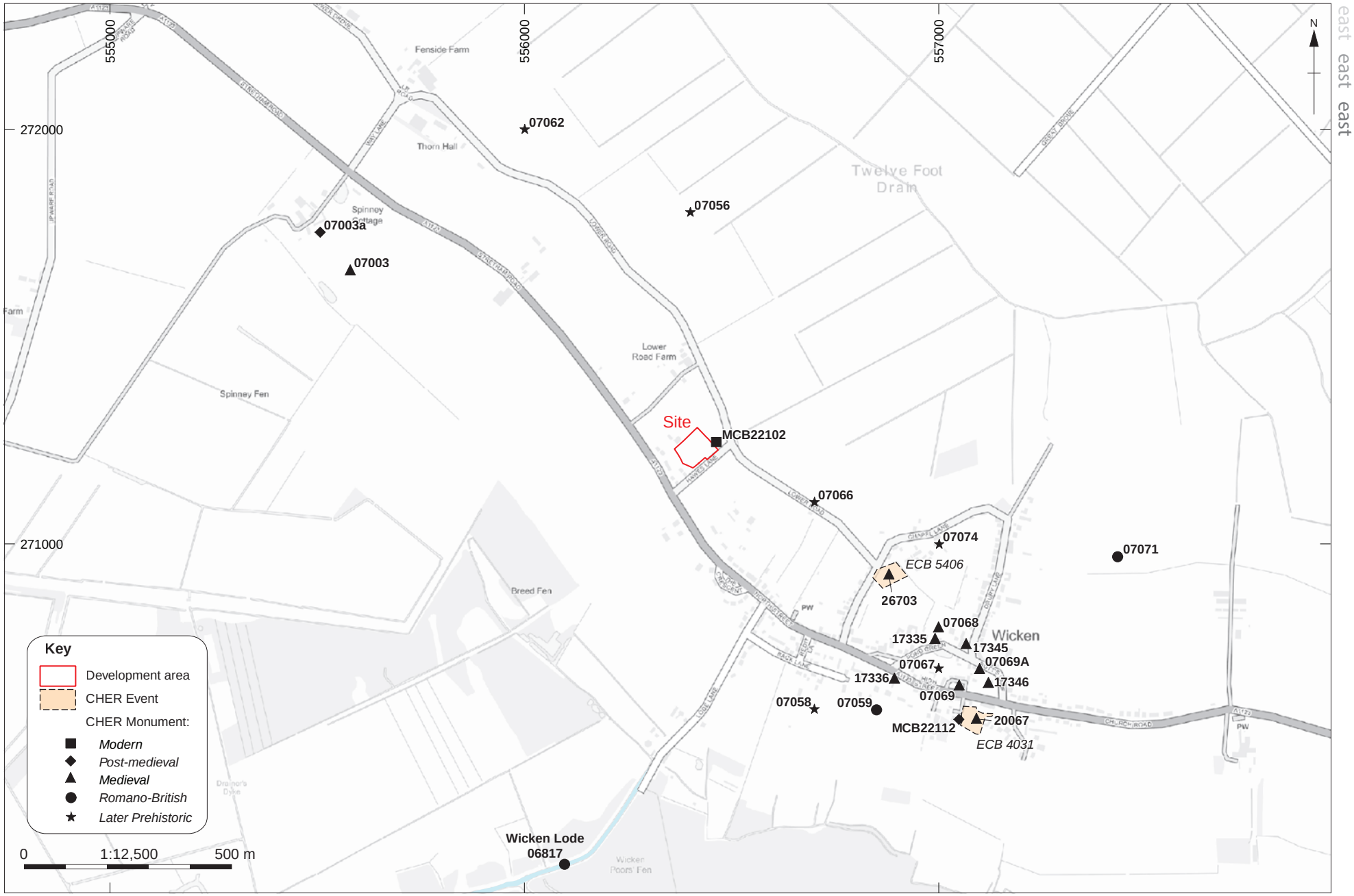


Figure 2: CHER entries

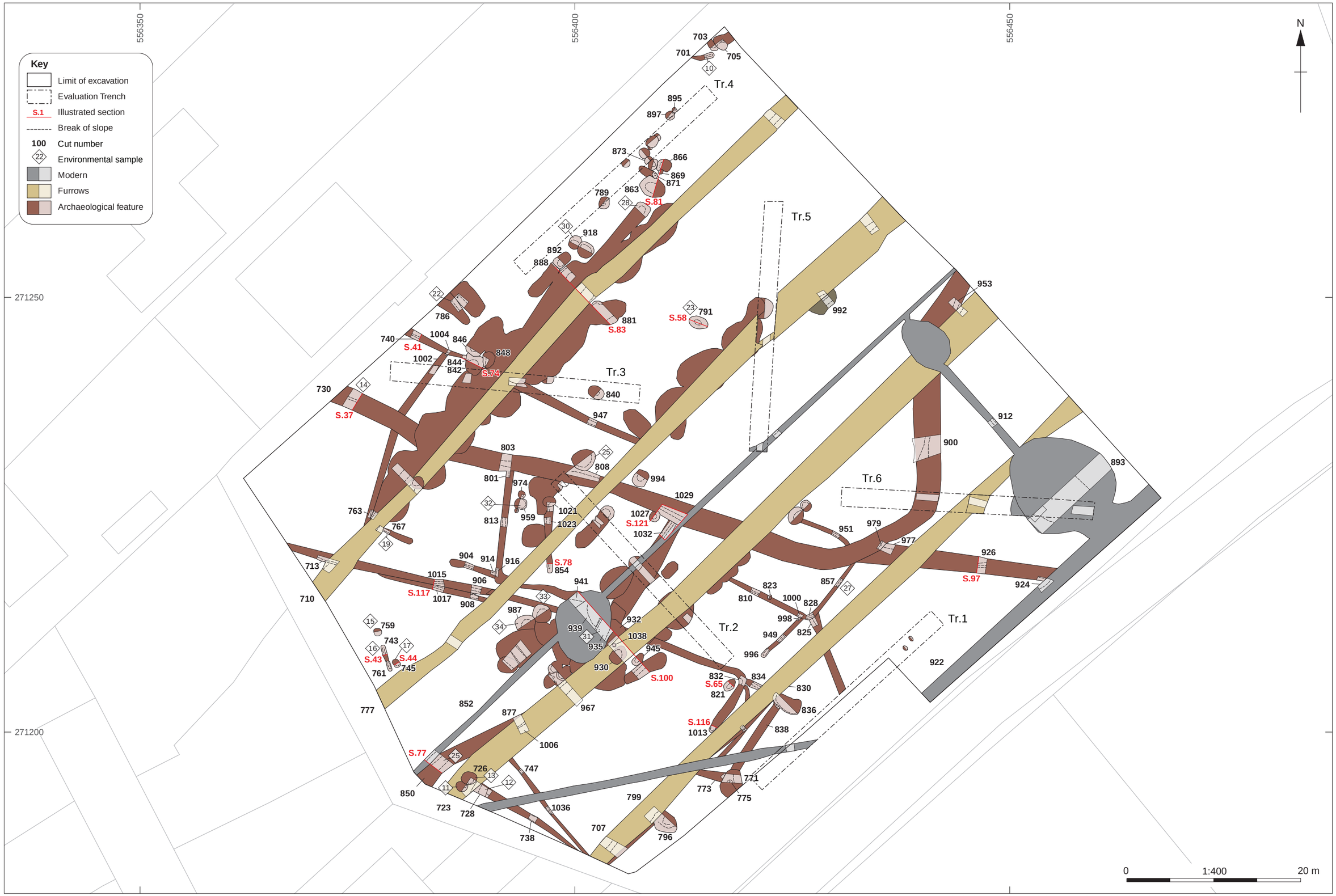


Figure 3: Excavation plan

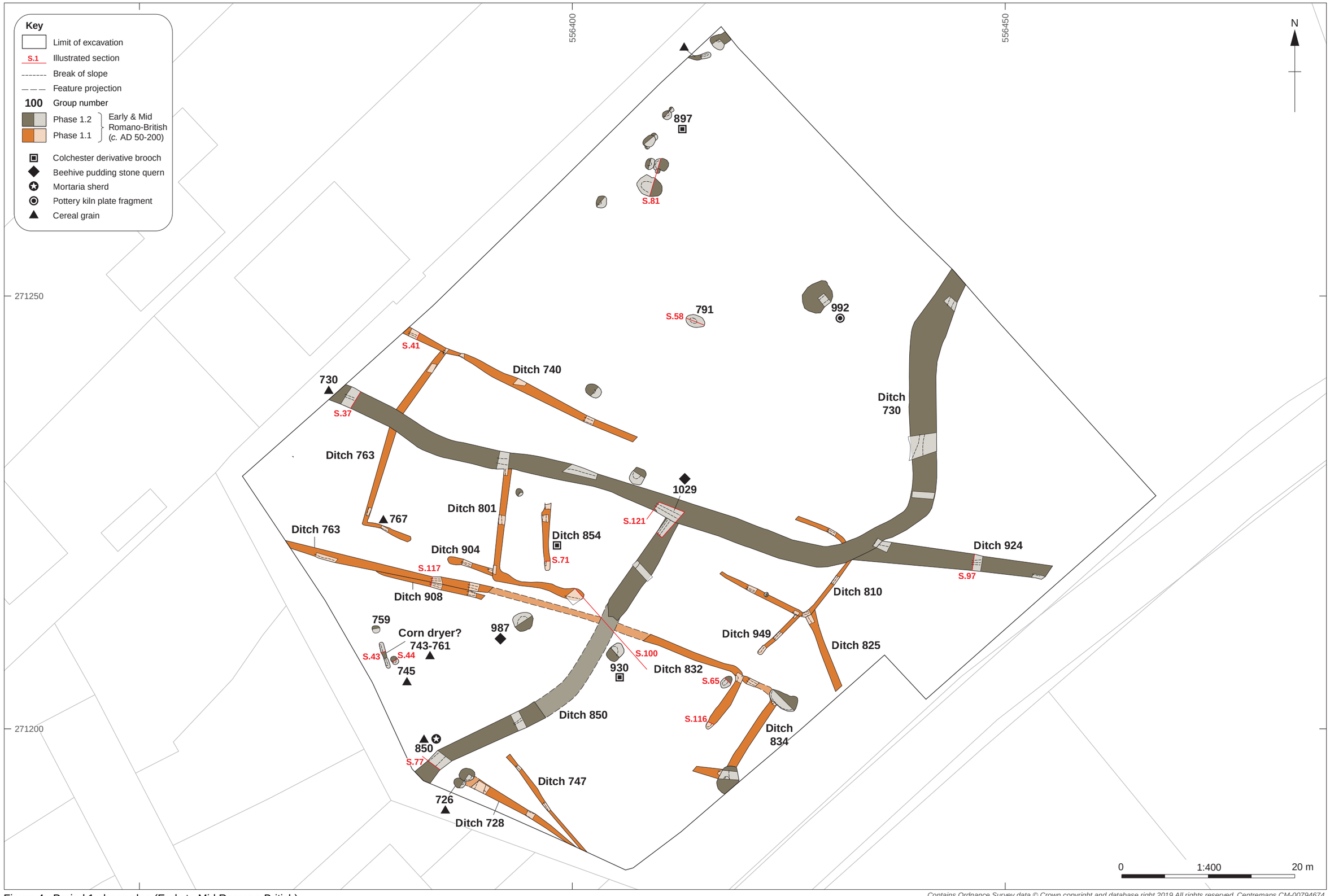


Figure 4: Period 1 phase plan (Early to Mid Romano-British)

Key
- Limit of excavation
- S.1 Illustrated section
- Break of slope
- Feature projection
- 100 Group number
- Period 2: medieval (c. AD 1150-1500)
- Previous phase

556400
556450
271250
271200
N
786
844
846
S.74
844
S.83
Plot boundary?
Marl Pits
984
S.100
0
1:400
20 m

Figure 5: Period 2 phase plan (medieval)

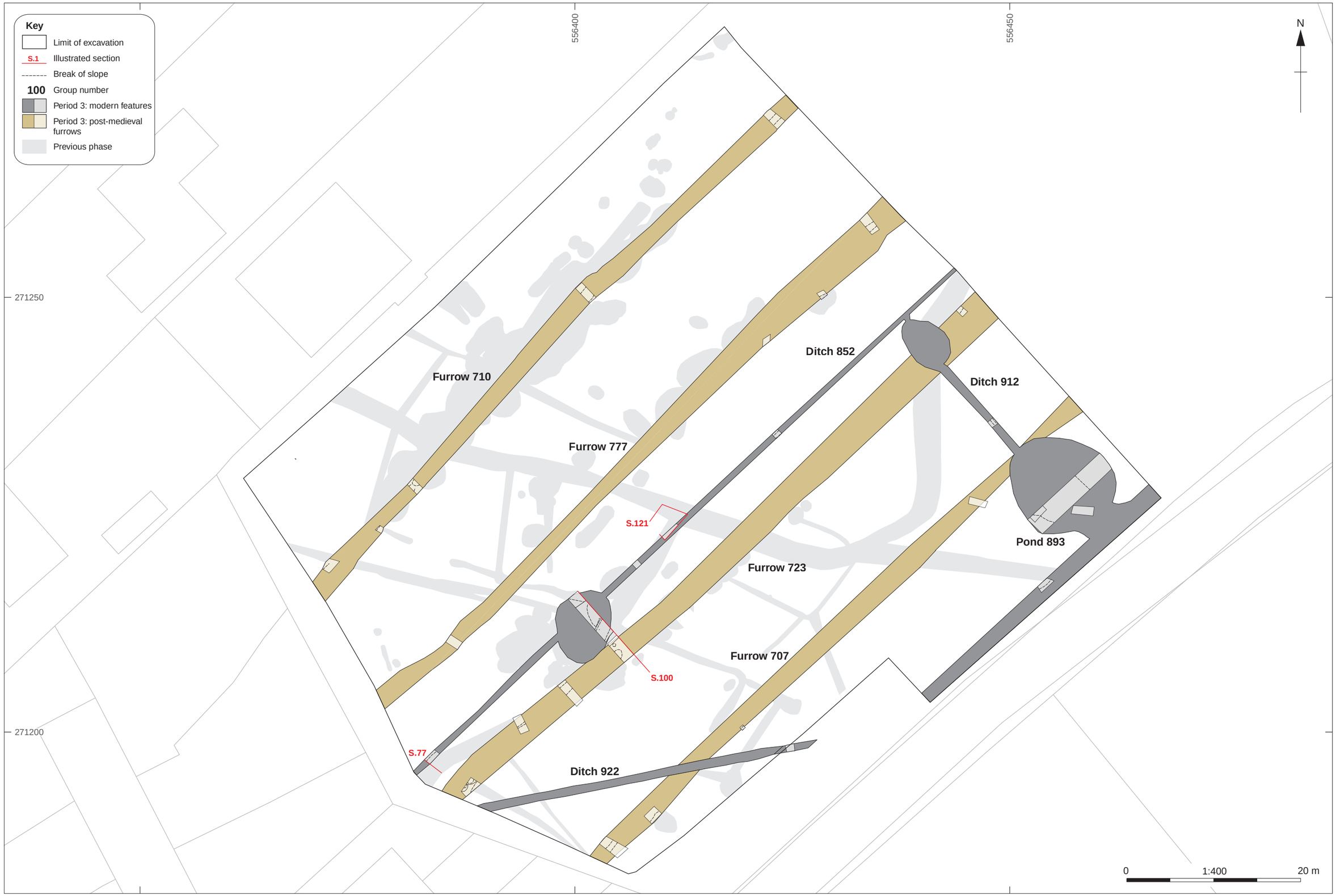
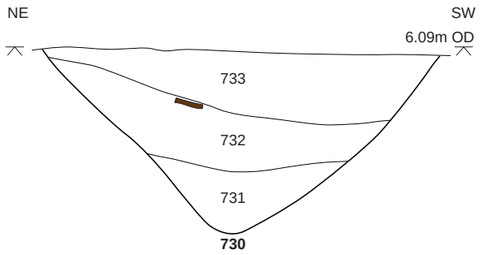


Figure 6: Period 3 phase plan (post-medieval and modern)

Section 37



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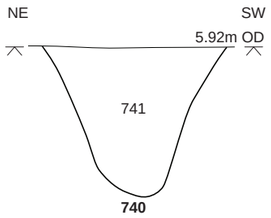

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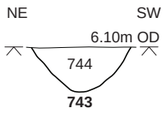

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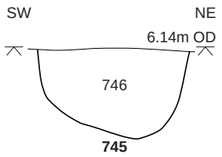

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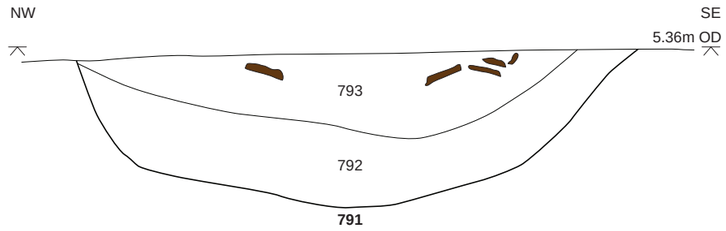

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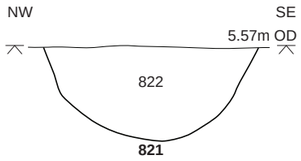

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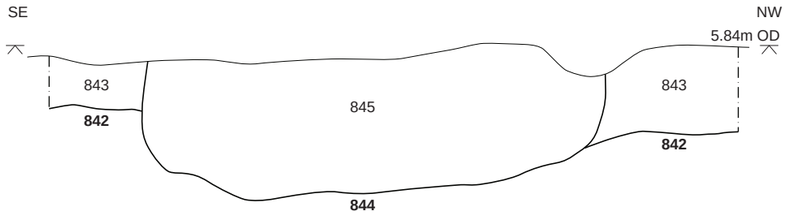
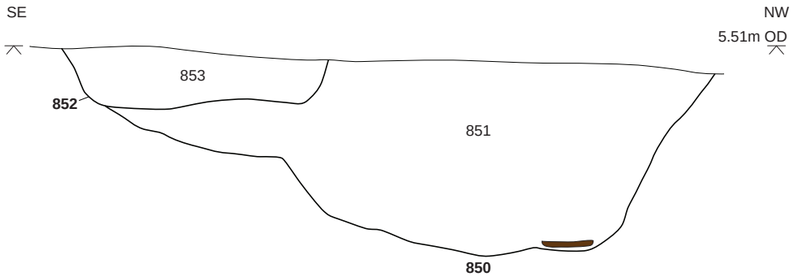
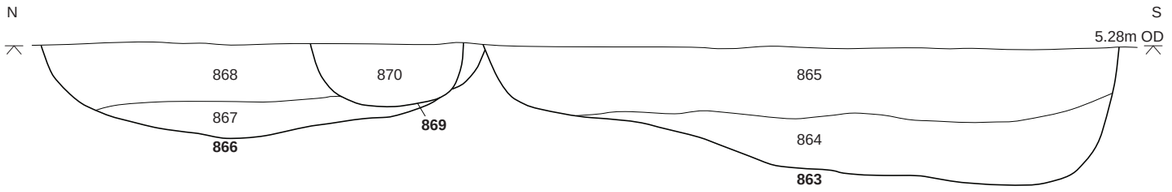


Section 71

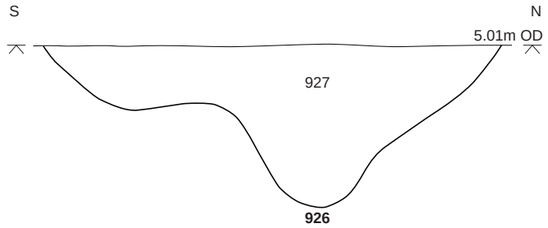
Section 77



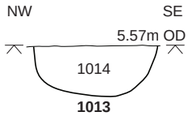
Section 81



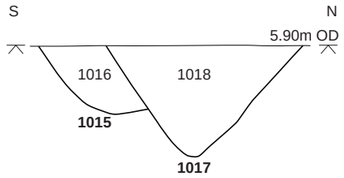
Section 97



Section 116



Section 117



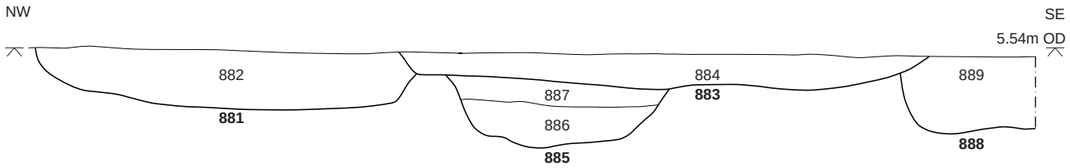
0 1:25 1 m

Key

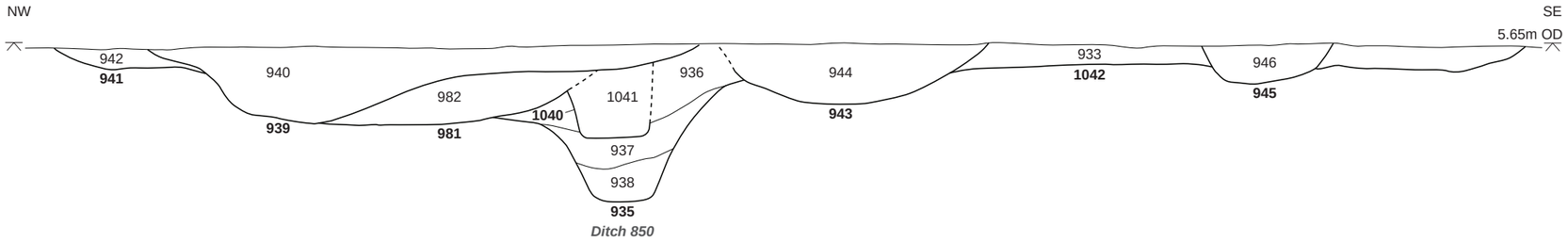
- Limit of Excavation
- Top surface
- Cut / conjectured
- Deposit Horizon conjectured
- Break in Section
- **117** Cut Number
- 116 Deposit Number
- Pottery
- 11 Small find
- 32.26 m OD Level

Figure 7a: Selected sections (sheet 1 of 2)

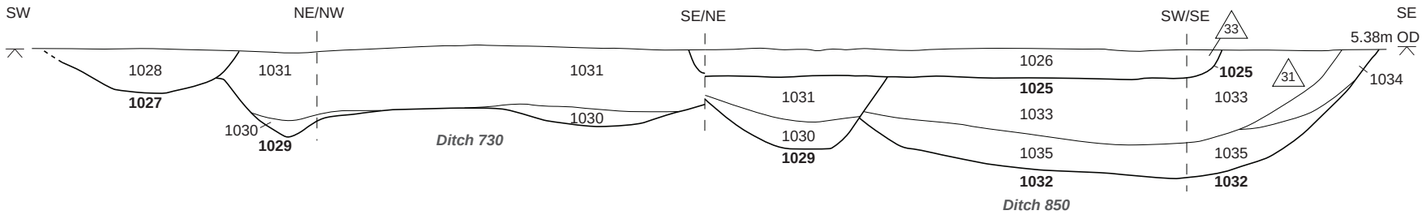
Section 83

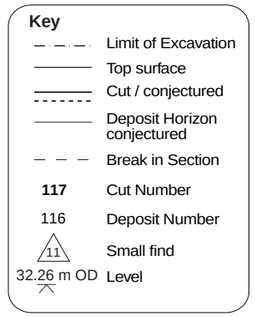


Section 100



Section 121





0 1:50 2 m

Figure 7b: Selected sections (sheet 2 of 2)

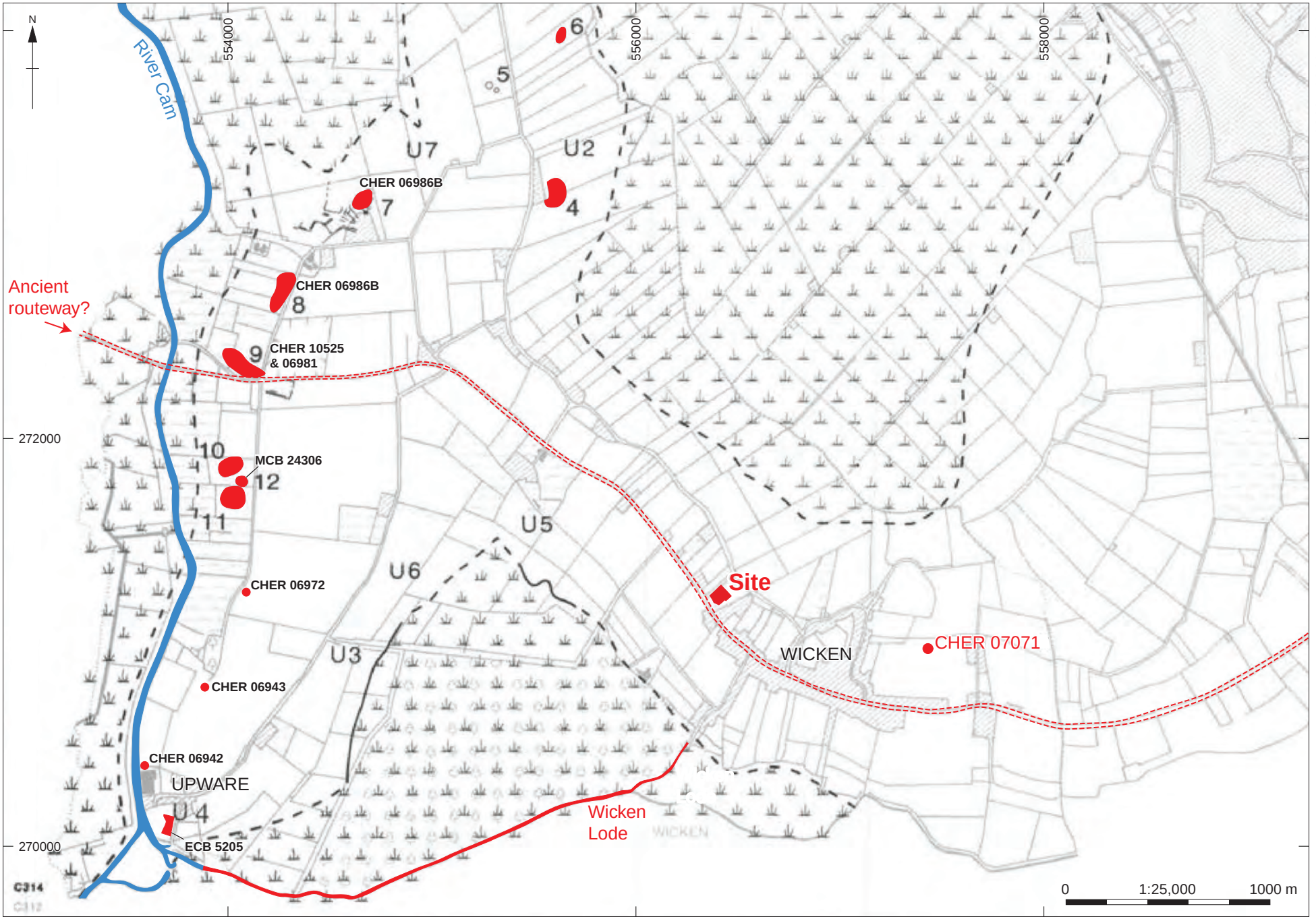


Figure 8: The site in relation to the Fenland Project No. 10 map of Roman sites in Wicken (Hall 1996, fig. 37), with selected CHER references

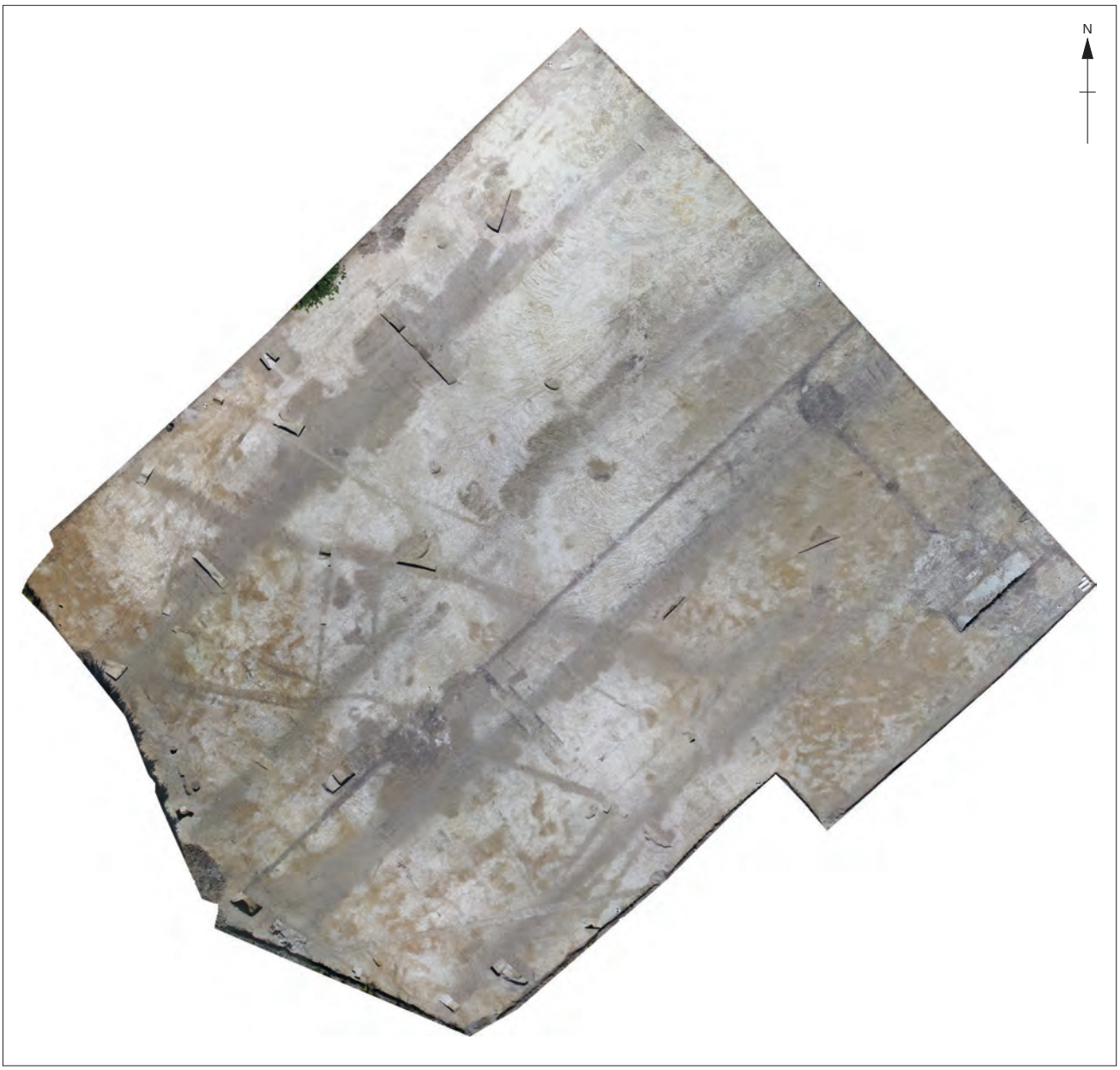


Plate 1: Orthographic photo of site

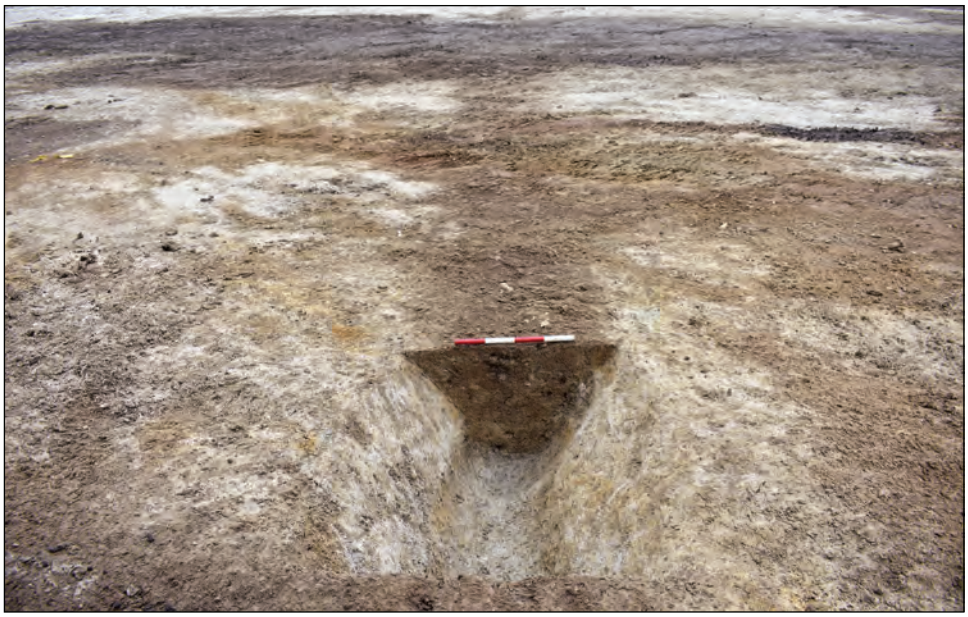


Plate 2: Phase 1.1 Ditch **740**, looking south-east

Plate 3: Phase 1.2 Ditch 730 (**730**), looking east

Plate 4: Phase 1.2 Ditch 730 (**900**), looking north

Plate 5: Phase 1.2 possible corn dryer **743**=**761** with pits **745** and **759**, looking north

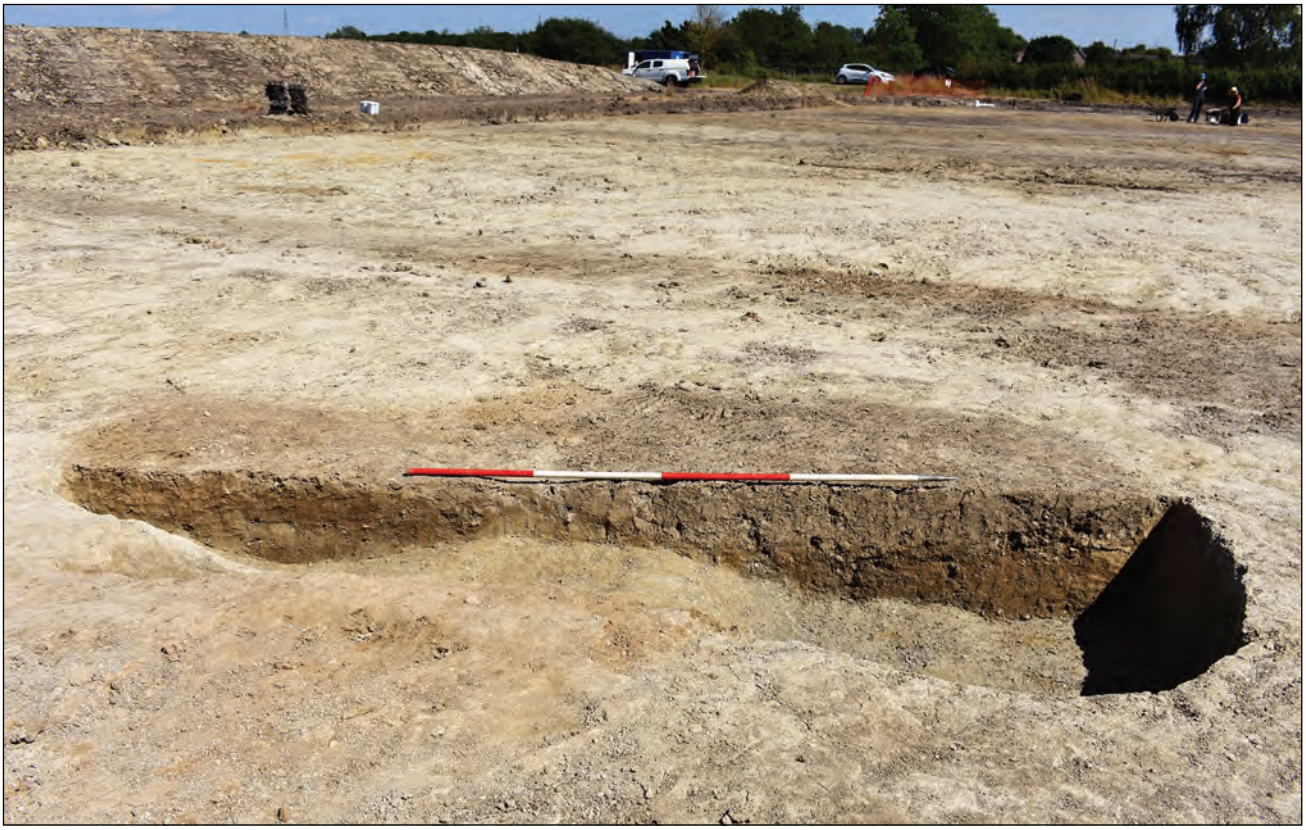


Plate 6: Phase 1.2 pits **863**, **866** and **869**, looking east

Plate 7: Period 2 marl pits **846** and **848**, looking north

Plate 8: Period 2 marl pit **984**, looking south-east

Plate 9: Period 3 pond **893**, looking north-west

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