

Middle Iron Age Remains at Biggin Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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Summary

From the 28th February to the 29th March 2019 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out an open-area excavation on land north of Biggin Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire (TL 2771 8470, Fig.1). The excavation area measured 0.51ha within a larger site (approximately 9ha) earmarked for residential development.

Previous archaeological works on the site, in the form of a geophysical survey and a trial trench evaluation, had revealed rectilinear features consistent with an enclosure and field boundary ditches, along with finds dating from both the Middle Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

This investigation confirmed these earlier results by revealing the partial remains of a probable small farmstead comprised of two sub-square enclosures, two ring gullies associated with roundhouses, a field boundary ditch and two pit groups - all relating to broadly contemporary Middle Iron Age activity, with some evidence of later recutting during the Late Iron Age/Early Roman periods. The faunal remains recovered were also consistent with small-scale pastoral activity.

Evidence of an earlier presence was provided by one pit containing Early Bronze Age pottery, a small amount of residual Middle Bronze Age pottery recovered from the boundary ditch and several pits which contained only Early Iron Age pottery.

Significant modern truncation associated with the 20th century airfield was revealed across the site.



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The project was managed for OA East by Liz Muldowney. The fieldwork was directed by Neal Mason, who was supported by Leanne Robinson Zeki, Matt Edwards, Ed Cole, Anne-Laure Bollen, Alison Doughty and Will Lewis. Survey and digitising was carried out by Thomas Houghton and Sarita Louzolo. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OAE staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 From the 28th February to the 29th March 2019 OA East carried out an open-area excavation on land north of Biggin Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire (TL 2771 8470, Fig.1). This work was commissioned by CgMs Heritage on behalf of their clients BDW Trading Limited and took within a larger site earmarked for residential development. The original requirement for a 0.47ha excavation area was subsequently extended to the south-west, to 0.51ha, to investigate the degree to which archaeological remains had been truncated by disturbance associated with the airfield.
- 1.1.2 This investigation was a continuation of archaeological work on the site following a geophysical survey (Fortuny 2017) and a partial trial trench evaluation in 2017 (Malric-Smith 2017, Fig.1). The latter was completed by OA East in 2019 (Mason 2019) concurrently with this excavation. The previous evaluation was halted due to the location of a gas main being uncertain at the time, the information was subsequently provided to OA East prior to the 2019 evaluation.
- 1.1.3 This assessment has been conducted in accordance with the principles identified in Historic England's guidance documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, specifically *The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide (2006) and PPN3 Archaeological Excavation* (2008).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on the edge of the Cambridgeshire Fens, and is located on the southwestern edge of the current settlement at Ramsey. It lies on slightly higher ground than the current settlement core at around the 15m contour (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development is currently arable farm land, although until the 1990s it had fallen partly within the boundaries of RAF Upwood. Structures and infrastructure associated with the USAF use of the airfield in the post-World War 2 period had been sited within the development area boundary but had been demolished in the late 20th century. The development area is bounded to the east by residential development and elsewhere by arable farmland. Biggin Lane divides the northern and southern halves of the development area at the transition point from a road associated with dwellings to the east to a farm access track to the west.
- 1.2.3 Bedrock geology for the development area has been mapped as Oxford Clay Formation
 Mudstone, with superficial deposits recorded as Oadby Member Diamicton till.
 (British Geological Survey 2019).

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The following is a summary of the relevant information derived from 1km radius search around the site from the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record (CCCHER) (Fig.2).

Prehistoric



1.3.2 There is very limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Biggin Lane site. A Bronze Age palstave (02810) was recovered as a surface find approximately 200m to the north-east.

Iron Age & Roman

- 1.3.3 The 2017 partial evaluation (MCB25457) identified Middle Iron Age ditches likely to form the eastern side of rectilinear enclosures and boundaries extending beyond the development area to the west. No clearly later Iron Age activity was identified but Roman pottery was recovered from one ditch, indicating probable limited Romano-British use of the area.
- 1.3.4 Similarly dated Early to Middle Iron Age pits were recorded 300m to the north during an evaluation (MCB20288). A Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British settlement was recorded approximately 1km to the south-east at Owl End (10115).
- 1.3.5 Romano-British ditches were also recorded in an evaluation within the confines of the former RAF Upwood, 600m to the south (MCB19643).

Medieval

- 1.3.6 There are several medieval sites in the vicinity of the development area, predominantly within the current town of Ramsey to the north-east (HER entries not illustrated in Fig.2). The closest is immediately to the south of Biggin Lane, within the boundary of the former air base, and comprises the site of a medieval hospital and of the 16th century Biggin House (01033).
- 1.3.7 At Owl End a deserted medieval village dating from the 12th to 13th centuries was recorded at the site of the earlier Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement (10115).
- **1.3.8** Within Ramsey itself there are numerous remnants of the medieval settlement including ditches (CB15308, MCB16326); pits (MCB20326); buildings (MCB17333, MCB16664) and walls (MCB17478).

Modern

1.3.9 The development area lies within the outer limits of the former RAF Upwood (CB15153, 02785). Aerial photographs from 1945 show an access route and two aircraft dispersal pens in the northern part of the site and storage areas in the southern parcel, possibly for fuel. These features are still present on the 1972 Ordnance Survey maps. The airbase was in use by the USAF until the 1990s, when it was decommissioned.

Previous fieldwork

1.3.10 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was carried out in 2016 (Thornton 2016), followed by a geophysical survey in 2017, carried out over the wider development area (Fortuny 2017; MCB25458; Fig. 3). This magnetometry survey, as well as mapping areas of airfield disturbance and anomalies corresponding to furrows revealed in this investigation, identified linear anomalies to the north which formed rectilinear enclosures and boundaries. The subsequent partially-completed evaluation, carried



- out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Malric-Smith 2017), revealed ditches corresponding to these anomalies which were found to be of a Middle Iron date, as well as modern features and demolition rubble associated with the airfield.
- 1.3.11 The evaluation was completed by OA East in 2019 (ECB5744 evaluation phase) at the same time as this investigation on land immediately adjacent to this site, south of Biggin Lane. The results consisted mainly of modern disturbance associated with the previous airfield and several undated features. Aside from one pit containing heavily leached prehistoric or Roman pottery on the western side of the area, no other features were identified which may have been associated with the largely Middle Iron Age remains revealed during this excavation.

1.4 Original research aims and objectives

Aims of the excavation

- 1.4.1 The overall aim of the investigation was to preserve by record the archaeological evidence contained within the footprint of the development area, 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.
- **1.4.2** Based on the results of the evaluation and the recommendations of the brief, more specific aims and research questions were formulated:
 - To investigate the character, economy and morphology of the Middle Iron Age site.
 - Contribute to the understanding of the pattern of Middle Iron Age settlement and land use in Huntingdonshire.
 - To investigate the reasons for the decline of the site.
 - To investigate possible land use in the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Research frameworks

- **1.4.3** This excavation took place within, and will contribute to, the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:
 - Glazebrook J. (1997). Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers
 - Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. (2000). *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8.
 - Medlycott, M. (2011). Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24.



1.5 Fieldwork methodology

- 1.5.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Brief for Archaeological Investigation (Thomas 2018) and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Muldowney 2018).
- 1.5.2 The excavation area was set out, and the archaeological features planned, using a Leica survey-grade GPS fitted with 'SmarNET' technology, with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- **1.5.3** Machine excavation was carried out by a 360° type excavator using a 2m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- **1.5.4** 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.
- **1.5.5** All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Feature locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour digital photographs were taken where appropriate.
- 1.5.6 Thirty-three bulk samples were taken to investigate the possible survival of micro- and macro-botanical remains (Appendix C). These samples were targeted to include all feature types and discernible phases, as well as deposits which displayed obvious potential for environmental analysis.

1.6 Project scope

1.6.1 This assessment deals solely with the excavation phase undertaken on this site. The previous evaluation phases have been reported on separately, however reference is made to these earlier stages of work where appropriate.



2 FACTUAL DATA: STRATIGRAPHY

2.1 General

2.1.1 The following stratigraphic records were created during the excavation (Table 1). An abbreviated context inventory can be found in Appendix A.

Record type	Number
Context registers	6
Context numbers	182
Section registers	2
Sections	74
Sample registers	6
Soil samples	33
Small finds registers	1
Digital photograph registers	5
Digital photographs	319

Table 1: Quantification of records

2.1.2 Remains and artefacts dating from the Early Bronze Age to the Roman period were uncovered during the excavation, in addition to the previously known modern remains associated with the former site of RAF Upwood (Fig.4). Consequently, the results have been divided into five phases of activity as follows:-

Phase 1: Early – Middle Bronze Age (c.2500 – c.1200 BC)

Phase 2: Early Iron Age (c.800 – c.350 BC)

Phase 3: Middle Iron Age (c.350 – c.50 BC)

Phase 4: Late Iron Age – Early Roman (c.50 BC – c.AD 170)

Phase 5: Post-medieval - Modern (c. AD 1500 - post AD 1900)

- 2.1.3 The principal findings of the investigation comprised the remains of a Middle Iron Age farmstead. This consisted of the partially revealed remains of two sub-square enclosures, one complete and one partial ring gully associated with roundhouses, a boundary ditch and a pit group within one of the ring gullies.
- 2.1.4 Evidence of activity from other periods included several earlier prehistoric pits, along with the recutting of one enclosure ditch during the Early Roman period. This was accompanied by significant modern truncation by the previously known airfield remains of RAF Upwood, predominantly concentrated in the south-western corner of the site.
- **2.1.5** Of note is the fact that the enclosure ditches revealed broadly agreed with the interpretation of the geophysical survey results in the western half of the site (Fig. 3).
- **2.1.6** The features were generally filled with dark grey-brown deposits resulting from infilling by natural processes.

2.2 Phase 1: Early – Middle Bronze Age (c.2500 – c.1200 BC)

2.2.1 The only feature belonging to this phase was sub-circular pit 632, which contained Early Bronze Age pottery (six sherds, 74g, Appendix B.4), located in the west of the



site. Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery (one sherd, 3g) was recovered from pit **624** and possible Middle Bronze Age pottery (four sherds, 13g, Appendix B.5) was recovered from ditch **502**, both of which were dated as Middle Iron Age (Phase 3); therefore the pottery is considered residual. Nonetheless, these residual finds illustrate a Bronze Age presence on or near to the site.

2.3 Phase 2: Early Iron Age (c.800 – c.350 BC)

2.3.1 The features belonging to this phase consisted of three pits revealed along the western boundary of the site which contained only Early Iron Age pottery (500, 505 (Fig.5, Section 27), 661, Appendix B.5). Pit 500 (Plate 1) produced a small amount of fuel ash slag (Appendix B.2), the result either of metalworking or the burning of dung. Given that no slag was recovered from any other features, nor were there any secondary indications of metalworking, it is probable that this material was the result of dung burning.

2.4 Phase 3: Middle Iron Age (c.350 – c.50 BC)

- 2.4.1 This phase consisted of the partially revealed remains of two sub-square enclosures, both of which included heavily truncated ditch segments hinting at earlier versions. Of particular note is the fact that the Enclosure 1 ditch truncated earlier ditches on the same alignments along its northern and eastern arms (539, 673 respectively Earlier Enclosure 1), while the Enclosure 2 ditch truncated an earlier curvilinear spur (582, 593) which turned to the south, towards the centre of the site and ditch 630 along its eastern arm (Earlier Enclosure 2).
- 2.4.2 Enclosure 1 (Fig.5, Section 48, Plates 2 & 5) measured approximately 40m north-east to south-west by at least 30m north-west to south-east, while the ditch measured between 1.9-5.8m wide and 0.7-1.24m deep with a generally wide U-shaped profile. Within the fills (including the earlier ditch segments) were assemblages of Middle Iron Age (205 sherds, 2.698kg) and Early Roman pottery (82 sherds, 1.103kg, Appendix B.6), the latter belonging to a later phase of activity (see Phase 4 below).
- 2.4.3 Enclosure 2 (Fig.5, Sections 31 & 57, Plate 4) measured approximately 30m north-east to south-west by at least 22m north-west to south-east. The enclosure ditch measured between 1.24-1.6m wide and 0.54-0.85m deep with generally rounded V-shaped profiles. Within the fills (including the earlier truncated segments) was an assemblage of 54 sherds (539g) of Middle Iron Age pottery.
- 2.4.4 Also uncovered was one complete ring gully associated with a roundhouse. It was approximately 12m in diameter, with the entrance facing to the east just inside of which were two post holes (Roundhouse 1, Fig.5, Section 62, Plate 3). Measuring up to 0.61m wide and 0.22m deep, the gully contained 12 sherds (66g) of Middle Iron Age pottery.
- 2.4.5 Another partial ring gully was revealed against the western limit of the site (Roundhouse 2). This heavily truncated feature also measured approximately 12m in diameter, with the gully measuring up to 0.5m wide and 0.11m deep. The fills contained 13 sherds (112g) of Middle Iron Age pottery.



- 2.4.6 In the north-western part of the site, within Enclosure 2, two ditches (640 & 650), which extended broadly eastwards from the western limit of the site, had the superficial appearance of another possible ring gully. The relatively short distance between them (approximately 9m), and the fact that they were not truly curvilinear, means that the function of these features remains uncertain.
- 2.4.7 A probable boundary ditch (502), aligned with the enclosures, was revealed running across the northern portion of the site. This ditch produced a mix of Middle Bronze Age (4 sherds, 13g), Middle Iron Age (3 sherds, 8g) and Late Iron Age pottery (6 sherds, 19g), but probably belonged to Phase 3 given its parallel alignment with the northern side of Enclosure 2.
- 2.4.8 A group of eight pits (Pit Group, Phase 3) were also revealed in the south-western corner of the site, which appear to be also of a broadly Middle Iron Age date. These pits were generally sub-circular in form and were located within Roundhouse 2, with which they may have had an association. The generally solitary fills produced a total 13 sherds (326g) of Middle Iron Age pottery.
- 2.4.9 Approximately 10m to the south another pit (659) was also found to contain Middle Iron Age pottery (one sherd, 4g).

2.5 Phase 4: Late Iron Age – Early Roman (c.50 BC – c.AD 170)

- 2.5.1 Possible Late Iron Age pottery (totalling 38 sherds, 218g) was recovered from several features which principally belonged to the previous phase. In some cases this may represent evidence of continuity of use. Stratigraphically the only area where this was clear was in the recutting of the northern arm of the Enclosure 1 ditch (at intervention 561), and in the southern arm of the enclosure ditch (identified in the extension to the excavation area to the south), where intervention 667 contained no pottery belonging to an earlier period. In both cases, the Late Iron Age pottery (122 sherds, 2.068kg) was accompanied by Early Roman pottery (82 sherds, 1.103kg), thus highlighting two distinct areas of activity from this phase.
- **2.5.2** Pit **551**, on the south-western boundary of the site contained one sherd (4g) of Early Roman pottery.

2.6 Phase 5: Post-medieval - Modern (c. AD 1500 - post AD 1900)

- **2.6.1** Five heavily truncated furrows were revealed extending from the western limit of the site towards the south-east. These features are on a similar alignment to anomalies interpreted as agricultural in the geophysical survey (Fig.3).
- 2.6.2 Several features were identified as being associated with the former airfield. These comprised eight square and sub-circular discrete features clustered around the northern branch of Enclosure 1 which contained modern metallic and concrete surface finds. The exact function of these features is unknown but they may have been footings for former airfield structures. In the north-eastern corner of the site, two linear features contained similar finds and may have been associated with fuel or electricity cables running towards an aircraft dispersal pad identified on historic aerial photography immediately to the east. The final area of modern truncation consisted of a large sub-circular feature measuring approximately 38m by 20m in the southern



portion of the site. This was identified as the location of another dispersal pad on historic aerial photography. The excavation area was extended with a machine-bucket width spur running to the south to determine the extent of this truncation and to investigate whether the Enclosure 1 ditch continued beyond it.



3 FACTUAL DATA: ARTEFACTS

3.1 General

3.1.1 The following finds were recovered:

Material	Number	Weight (kg)
Metalwork	3	-
Slag	18	0.076
Worked and burnt flint	54	0.013
Bronze Age pottery	11	0.90
Early Iron Age pottery	21	0.250
Middle Iron Age pottery	160	1.454
Late Iron Age pottery	174	2.487
Roman pottery	81	1.071
Burnt stone	12	1.099
Ceramic building material	1	0.74
Fired/Baked clay	52	0.453
Worked bone	1	-
Animal bone	87	10

Table 2: Finds data

3.2 Metalwork (Appendix B.1)

3.2.1 Three fragments of hand forged nails were recovered from ditch **502** (Phase 3). Given their poor condition and generic form they are difficult to date precisely. However, given that they were from the upper fill of this ditch they are probably intrusive postmedieval or modern artefacts.

3.3 Slag (Appendix B.2)

- 3.3.1 Eighteen fragments of slag, weighing 0.076kg, were collected by hand from the site. Entirely deriving from pit 500, the assemblage consists of four small irregular fragments of undiagnostic possible fuel ash slag and 14 fragments of a mid grey, sandy, slightly vesicular conglomerate, similar to degraded lava quern. The larger components of the irregular fragments are a mix of small pieces of fuel ash slag and (seen under the microscope) occasional small areas of dark red-brown vesicular slag and occasional spherical slag, either within the matrix or attached to the more obvious slag fragments.
- 3.3.2 Predominantly non-metallic, the slag fragments exhibit no magnetism. Pit **500** produced only Early Iron Age pottery (*c*.800-350 BC), 15 sherds weighing 0.213kg. Therefore, the fuel ash slag is either the result of metalworking or the burning of dung in the Iron Age period. Given that no slag was recovered from any other features, nor were there any secondary indications of metalworking, it is probable that this material was the result of dung burning.

3.4 Worked & burnt flint (Appendix B.3)

3.4.1 A total of 52 worked flints and two fragments of unworked burnt flint (13g) were recovered from the excavations. A large proportion of the worked flint, 37 pieces,



- came from the heavy residues of environmental samples, and this material is dominated by small chips and flake fragments.
- 3.4.2 The assemblage is generally in fairly good condition, although minor edge damage/rounding is ubiquitous reflecting the recovery of most of the flintwork as residual material which has had a complex post-depositional history. A small proportion of the assemblage is recorticated ('patinated') to a light blue colour.
- 3.4.3 The flint was recovered exclusively from the fills of cut features, and aside from a small assemblage of flintwork from Phase 1 pit 632, all of this material comes from Phase 3 and 4 deposits and is likely to represent residual material.

3.5 Bronze Age pottery (Appendix B.4)

3.5.1 The excavation produced a small amount of prehistoric pottery, totalling 11 sherds, weighing 90g with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 8.2g. The assemblage is primarily of Early Bronze Age date, with some sherds which may be Middle Bronze Age. This pottery was recovered from three contexts, relating to two pits (624 & 632) and a ditch (502). Much of the material is fragmentary and moderately abraded, however that from context 633 (fill of 632) is noticeably more fresh suggesting that these sherds were located near to or at their primary site of deposition.

3.6 Iron Age pottery (Appendix B.5)

- 3.6.1 An assemblage of Iron Age pottery totalling 354 sherds (4175g) was recovered from the excavation, displaying a MSW of 11.8g. The pottery was recovered from a total of 43 contexts relating to 35 cut features and ranged in date from the Early Iron Age through to the Late Iron Age period, with the majority being of Middle Iron Age (160 sherds, 1.454kg, c. 350-50 BC) and Late Iron Age (173 sherds, 2.469kg, c. 50 BC- AD 50) date and a small amount of Early Iron Age origin (21 sherds, 252g, c. 600-350 BC).
- 3.6.2 The pottery is in a moderate/stable condition, and the assemblage contains a range of partial and complete vessel profiles. Small sherds (<4cm in size) dominate, but most are relatively 'fresh' and unabraded. Dating is therefore largely based on the character of the fabrics and their comparison with material from larger published assemblages from the Cambridgeshire Fenland area.

3.7 Roman pottery (Appendix B.6)

- 3.7.1 A total of 82 sherds of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery, weighing 1089g (1.22 Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE)) was recovered which represents a minimum of 31 individual vessels. The pottery is fragmentary but has survived in relatively large pieces with an average sherd weight of 13g. Ceramic material was recovered from three interventions (561, 602, 667) within ditched Enclosure 1, also a pit (511).
- 3.7.2 The majority of the assemblage consists of locally produced utilitarian Early Roman coarse wares that date between the mid-1st and early/mid-2nd century AD. This material includes two wheel-made grey ware jar fragments with grog (pre-fired pottery) as a common mixer within the clay; one of the jars is cordoned (Thompson 1982, B3). The main part of this assemblage (by weight) consists of wheel made shelly ware medium mouthed globular jars, commonly with a ledged lid-seated rim which



- often retain a soot residue which indicates they were used over an open flame, probably as cooking pots.
- 3.7.3 This is a small stratified (primarily) Early Roman locally produced coarseware pottery assemblage, with small quantities of ceramic material (amphora and samian) imported from the wider Roman Empire.

3.8 Burnt Stone (Appendix B.7)

3.8.1 A small assemblage (12 pieces, 1.099kg) of unworked, mostly burnt, stone fragments was recovered mostly from ditches across the site in Phases 3, 4 and 5. Due to their unworked nature the most that can be said is that some or all of these pieces may have formed parts of hearths. The only exception was an irregular fragment of highly vesicular stone, possibly scoria (0.070kg). The feature from which this was recovered is associated with the former airfield and scoria is used in both landscaping and drainage works.

3.9 Ceramic building material (CBM) (Appendix B.8)

3.9.1 A single fragment of modern brick (74g) was collected from context 669, ditch 667, in Enclosure 1. It bears a fragmentary frog stamp — "PHOR-" — which identifies it as a London Brick Company 'Phorpres' Fletton facing brick, produced after AD 1900. It is intrusive to Enclosure 1, probably brought to site through local demolition or agricultural processes.

3.10 Fired/Baked clay (Appendix B.9)

- **3.10.1** The excavation phase on site recovered 52 fragments, 453g, of fired clay. This assemblage comprises both amorphous pieces with no discernible features (42 fragments, 158g) and more 'structural' pieces with flattened surfaces and signs of hand-forming (10 fragments, 295g). No diagnostic objects are present. Generally, this material is moderately to severely abraded.
- 3.10.2 The fired clay assemblage was collected from contexts associated with Earlier Enclosure 1, Enclosures 1 and 2, Roundhouse 2 and ditch 650, pits 500, 598, 659, 661, 665 and post hole 626. The majority of the material was collected from the enclosure contexts, specifically those related to cuts 557 and 561. The material was mostly severely abraded, rounded and uninformative even when structural features (such as exacted surfaces) were present. The only noteworthy fragment was a remnant face and rounded lipped edge from ditch 606, Enclosure 1. However, its original form is unclear.

3.11 Worked bone (Appendix B.10)

3.11.1 An incomplete bone needle (SF 11, from ditch **681**, Enclosure 1) has been cut from a cattle-sized long bone and probably from the side of the bone, which provides it with a lightly curved profile. It has been roughly shaped, with a pointed apex at the head and a tapering shaft; the lower part of the shaft has fractured away. The needle has not been finished and it is possible that it was discarded when the lower part of the shaft fractured away, in the course of shaping it. The needle belongs to Class 1 from



Danebury, which spanned the entire Iron Age, and is particularly useful in showing its sequence of manufacture.



4 FACTUAL DATA: ENVIRONMENTAL AND OSTFOLOGICAL FVIDENCE

4.1 Animal bone by Hayley Foster

- 4.1.1 The assemblage is of a small size, with 10kg of bone from hand collection and from environmental samples. Only 4 fragments came from environmental samples and 83 from hand collection. The species represented include cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis/Capra), sheep (Ovis aries), horse (Equus caballus), pig (Sus scrofa), dog (Canis familiaris), frog (Rana aurora), red/fallow deer (Cervus/Dama), field vole (Microtus agrestis) and mouse (Mus musculus). Animal bone was recovered from features dating to the Early Iron Age (Phase 2), Middle Iron Age (Phase 3) and Late Iron Age to Early Roman (Phase 4).
- **4.1.2** The assemblage is in a fair condition with moderate levels of fragmentation. Material was mainly recovered from Enclosure 1 and small amounts of bone from ditch **502**, Enclosure 2 and Roundhouses 1 and 2. The vast majority of faunal material was retrieved from features dating to the Middle Iron Age phase.
- 4.1.3 The element distribution of the assemblage overwhelmingly shows that the majority of faunal remains were made up of cranial and foot elements, comprising over 65% of the assemblage, indicating primary butchery, in which the head and feet were removed initially and disposed.
- 4.1.4 At Ramsey, domestic mammals were the mainstay of the food economy, with cattle and sheep/goat remains being the most well represented species. The size of the assemblage unfortunately does not allow for interpretations to be made regarding farming practices; however, the limited data would suggest that cattle, sheep/goat and pigs were slaughtered primarily for meat and cattle were probably reared close by.

4.2 Environmental samples by Rachel Fosberry

- **4.2.1** Thirty-three bulk samples were collected from the site, of which nineteen were selected for an initial assessment based on spatial distribution, phasing and context.
- 4.2.2 Preservation of plant remains is extremely poor which is most likely due to the clay content of the soils. Occasional remains preserved by carbonisation (charring) were found in Sample 5, fill 501 of pit 500 which contains a single charred brassica (*Brassica* sp.) seed and approximately 10ml of charcoal. This sample also contains fuel ash slag that may be indicative of the burning of dung or metalworking. Two charred cereal grains are present in Sample 23, fill 571 of ring gully 570 (Roundhouse 1).



5 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

5.1 Stratigraphy

5.1.1 Given the relatively small scale of this rural site it is difficult to draw significant conclusions regarding the wider context. However, it represents a good example of a Middle Iron Age farmstead and comparisons can be made with other similar sites nearby. The evidence of Late Iron Age/Early Roman recutting also allows for some conclusions regarding land-use continuity and change.

5.2 Metalwork

5.2.1 The fragments of hand-forged nails have no potential to contribute to the research objectives as they are not closely dateable and probably represent post-medieval/modern intrusions into ditch **502** (Phase 3).

5.3 Slag

5.3.1 The slag assemblage is fragmentary, and has little direct significance, other than to indicate metalworking or, more probably, the burning of dung.

5.4 Worked and burnt flint

5.4.1 This small assemblage has little potential to contribute to the research aims of the project. The assemblage appears to attest mainly to Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity at the site – and much of it may be broadly contemporary with Phase 1 pit **632**, and may indicate the presence of surface scatters of artefacts which have subsequently been disturbed by later features.

5.5 Bronze Age pottery

5.5.1 The assemblage is of relevance as it shows an earlier prehistoric presence on the site. However, the small size of this assemblage precludes detailed discussion.

5.6 Iron Age Pottery

- 5.6.1 Owing to its small size, the Early Iron Age pottery assemblage has a limited potential beyond that of helping to date activity at the site. However, this group can still contribute to a wider characterisation of later prehistoric pottery assemblages in the Fenland area, and provided comparative data on fabrics, methods of surface treatment, decoration and ceramic technology.
- 5.6.2 Of particular significance are the Middle and Late Iron Age assemblages, which include several key groups containing partial and complete vessel profiles. The assemblages comprise a medium number of scored sherds (15% by count) and reflect the geographic position of the site on the periphery of the main Scored Ware-zone distribution (Elsdon 1992). The Late Iron Age assemblage also contains refitting fragments of an offset neck cordoned bowl, which is considered a Romanising type and can be dated AD 10-65 (Thompson 1982). The two assemblages can therefore be compared to further explore how ceramics changed across the Middle and Late Iron Ages, and could help build a more detailed understanding of ceramic development in this part of the Fenland region.



5.7 Roman pottery

5.7.1 Archaeological excavations on this site previously have found a similar range of pottery (Anderson 2017) which suggests that this material is typical for this area at this time. This assemblage, therefore, adds to the growing corpus of pottery known from the site and aids our understanding of how it was used and deposited.

5.8 Burnt stone

5.8.1 The andesite, micaceous sandstone and sandstone are not significant. The scoria is an unusual find, however, it was recovered from a modern feature associated with the airfield, and its presence is not significant. The assemblage has no potential to aid local, regional and national research priorities.

5.9 Ceramic building material (CBM)

5.9.1 The assemblage is of little archaeological significance and has been fully recorded.

5.10 Fired/baked clay

5.10.1 The assemblage is of little archaeological significance and has been fully recorded.

5.11 Worked bone

5.11.1 The bone needle is unlikely to address any specific research aims, however the fact that it was discarded before completion means that it illustrates an intermediate stage of manufacture and is therefore of interest.

5.12 Animal bone

5.12.1 The material is a good representation of a mostly Iron Age domestic faunal assemblage. The data represents a modest quantity of identifiable animal bone. When viewed against data from contemporary sites in Cambridgeshire, it can be stated that in terms of taxa representation the assemblage mostly conforms to regional patterns, albeit that cattle were noticeably better represented here than at some other sites. Conducting spatial analysis would allow for further interpretations and comparisons to be made on the types of faunal material coming from specific features. Collecting full biometric data would allow for comparison to be made with other similar assemblages in the area and to determine if there were any changes in size of the main domestic species retrieved.

5.13 Environmental samples

5.13.1 The initial assessment of environmental samples from this site indicates that preservation of plant remains is poor and has low potential to aid the interpretation of the features sampled. The recovery of two charred grains from the roundhouse ring gully cannot be considered as significant as they are probably derived from wind-blown refuse and may not be contemporary with the building.

5.14 Overall potential

5.14.1 Given the relatively small scale of this rural site it is difficult to draw significant conclusions regarding the wider context. However, it represents a good example of a



Middle Iron Age farmstead and comparisons can be made with other similar sites nearby. The evidence of Late Iron Age/Early Roman recutting also allows for some conclusions regarding land-use continuity and change.

5.14.2 The site has produced multi-period finds dating from the Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman periods. The highest potential can be attached to the Middle and Late Iron Age pottery assemblage recovered from the enclosure and boundary ditches, as well as the roundhouse ring gullies and various pits concentrated in the south-western corner of the site. Through comparison, the two assemblages have some potential to explore how ceramics changed across the Middle and Late Iron Ages on the site.



6 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

6.1 Revised research aims

6.1.1 As well as being shaped by the initial results of the excavation, the revised research aims and objectives are partially based on those in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

The Iron Age agrarian economy

What does the relative predominance of cattle bone at Ramsey say about the nature of the agrarian practices taking place at the site?

6.1.2 When viewed against data from contemporary sites in Cambridgeshire, it can be stated that in terms of taxa representation the assemblage mostly conforms to regional patterns, however cattle were noticeably better represented at Ramsey. Further biometric and spatial analysis may allow conclusions to be drawn as to the scale of differences in practice when compared to other contemporary Iron Age farmsteads in the region.

Iron Age pottery sequences

What do the Middle and Late Iron Age pottery assemblages contribute to the overall understanding of pottery sequences in the Fenland region?

6.1.3 The assemblages contained sufficient diagnostic examples to allow for a thorough comparison to be made. Further analysis could contribute towards a more detailed understanding of ceramic development in this part of the Fenland region.

Middle Iron Age settlement forms

What does the configuration of the roundhouses and enclosures indicate about settlement forms in the Middle Iron Age Fenland region?

6.1.4 The farmstead revealed during this investigation is of a type well-represented in the region. Comparisons with other examples could contribute to the general understanding of Middle Iron Age rural settlements.

6.2 Methods statement

Stratigraphic analysis

6.2.1 Context, finds and environmental data will be analysed with reference to site plans and topographic data. The specialist information will be integrated to aid in dating and to complete a more detailed phasing of the site. A full stratigraphic narrative will be produced, integrating the results of specialist analysis.

Illustration



6.2.2 The existing CAD plans will be updated with any amended phasing and additional sections informing the site narrative will be digitised. Any finds recommended for illustration will be hand drawn and then digitised, or where appropriate photography of certain finds-types will be undertaken.

Documentary research

6.2.3 Primary and published sources will be consulted using the CHER, aerial photographs and comparable sites both locally and nationally, in order to place the site within in its archaeological context with respect to the revised research aims. This evidence will be collated and where relevant reproduced in the full report.

Artefactual and environmental analysis

6.2.4 All the artefacts and environmental remains have been assessed with recommendations for further analysis given in the individual specialist reports. Further work will entail the following:

Metalwork

No further work is required.

Slag

• The identification requires confirmation by an appropriate specialist in early metalworking slags and, if confirmed, its significance discussed.

Worked and burnt flint

 Material from any further bulk soil samples should be integrated into the catalogue and full excavation report.

Bronze Age pottery

• The assemblage has been fully recorded and no further work is recommended.

Iron Age pottery

- All the prehistoric pottery should be subject to full analysis, focussing on forms, fabrics, method of surface treatment, vessel use, patterns of vessel fragmentation and deposition.
- The attribute data should be presented in a fully quantified archive pottery report.
- The main focus of the analysis should be on the Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age assemblages and their affinities with contemporary groups from the surrounding area.

Roman pottery

No further analysis or illustration is recommended for this assemblage.

Burnt stone

No further work is required.



Ceramic building material

• No further work is required.

Fired/baked clay

No further work is required.

Worked bone

• The item should be fully illustrated for any full analysis and/or future publications.

Animal bone

The assemblage should be subject to full analysis and reporting.

Environmental samples

 It is considered that the remaining unprocessed samples are unlikely to be productive based on the initial results, although they could be processed for artefact retrieval if required.

6.3 Publication and dissemination of results

- 6.3.1 Following approval of the Post-Excavation Assessment Report by CCCHET, it will be lodged with the CHER and available online at the ADS and on the OA Library (https://library.thehumanjourney.net/).
- 6.3.2 A full analysis report will be produced which will include detailed specialist reports for those categories of artefacts and ecofacts that require it, along with finds illustrations. This will allow for detailed analysis of the Iron Age pottery (see 5.6.2 above and Appendix B.5) and animal bone (see 5.12.1 above and Appendix C.1) assemblages in particular, as recommended in the assessment.
- **6.3.3** Following completion of the full analysis report, the intention is to publish the findings as a short note in the *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*. While the archive report will detail in full the stratigraphic sequence of the excavations and the specialist work, the aim of the article will be to focus on the Middle Iron Age findings.

6.4 Retention and disposal of finds and environmental evidence

6.4.1 Retention/disposal recommendations for the various finds assemblages are detailed in the respective specialist appendices and summarised below.

Assemblage	Retain/discard
Metalwork – hand-forged nails	Discard
Slag	Discard/Retain after identification
	confirmation and specialist recommendation
Worked and burnt flint	Retain
Bronze Age pottery	Retain
Iron Age pottery	Retain
Roman pottery	Retain
Burnt stone	Discard
CBM	Discard



Fired/baked clay	Discard
Worked bone	Retain
Animal bone	Retain
Environmental flots	Discard

Table 3: Finds and environmental retention/discard summary

6.5 Ownership and archive

6.5.1 OA East will retain copyright of all reports and the documentary and digital archive produced in this project (unless the client has reserved copyright). OA East will maintain the archive to the standards recommended by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), the Archaeological Archives Forum (Brown 2011) and all standards specified by CCCHET. Excavated material and records will be deposited with, and curated by, Cambridgeshire County Council Stores under the Site Code ECB5744. A digital archive will be deposited with OA Library/ADS. Cambridgeshire County Council requires transfer of ownership prior to deposition.



7 TEXT RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

7.1 Project team structure

7.1.1 The project team is set out in the table below:

Name	Intials	Organisation	Role
Liz Muldowney	LM	OA East	Project management
Neal Mason	NM	OA East	Project Officer
Tom Phillips	TP	OA East	Post-excavation project management
Simon Timberlake	ST	Freelance	Slag specialist
Lawrence	LB	OA East	Flint specialist
Billington			
Carlotta	CM	OA East	Iron Age ceramic specialist
Marchetto			
David Brown	DB	OA East	Illustrator
Hayley Foster	HF	OA East	Faunal remains specialist
Rachel Fosberry	RF	OA East	Archaeobotanist
Katherine	KH	OA East	Archives Supervisor
Hamilton			

Table 4: Project Team

7.2 Task list and programme

7.2.1 The programme of work of six months will commence on confirmation of the approval of the Post-Excavation Assessment report by CCHET, the final analysis report will then be submitted for approval.

7.2.2 A task list is presented below.

Task no.	Description	Performed by	Days
1	Project management	LM	2
2	Team meetings	LM/TP/NM	0.5
3	Liaison with specialists	LM/TP/NM	0.5
Stage 1	Stratigraphic Analysis		
	Stratigraphic Narrative		
4	Update database and digital plans/sections to	NM	1
	reflect any changes		
5	Finalise site phasing	NM	0.5
6	Finalise groups	NM	0.5
7	Add final phasing and groups to database	NM	1
8	Compile overall stratigraphic feature text and	NM	4
	site narrative to form the basis of the		
	full/archive report		
9	Review, collate and standardise results of all	NM	3
	final specialist reports and integrate with		
	stratigraphic text and project results		
10	Write discussion	NM	2
Stage 2	Artefacts		
11	Identification of slag to be confirmed and	ST	0.2
	significance, if any, to be recorded		



Task no.	Description	Performed by	Days
12	Add any further flintwork recovered from additional sample processing to catalogue and an overall summary produced for the full excavation report	LB	1
13	Iron Age pottery: full analysis and produce report	CM	3
Stage 3	Osteological and Environmental		
14	Faunal remains: Full analysis and produce full report	HF	2
15	Process and report upon remaining samples (if required)	RF	4
Stage 4	Illustration		
16	Select sections for illustration	NM	0.25
17	Select plates for inclusion	NM	0.25
18	Illustration of bone needle	TBC	0.5
19	Produce site phase plans, sections, plates and other figures	DB	2.5
Stage 5	Archiving		
20	Compile paper archive	KH	1
21	Archive/delete digital photographs	KH	1
22	Compile/check and deposit material archive	KH	1

Table 5: Task list



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APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Category	Cut	Feature Type	Function	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth
500	cut	500	Pit	use	2		0.54	0.17
501	fill	500	Pit	disuse	2		İ	0.17
502	cut	502	Ditch	boundary	3		1.39	0.5
503	fill	502	Ditch	silting/disuse	3			0.24
504	fill	502	Ditch	silting/disuse	3			0.26
505	cut	505	Pit	use	2		0.72	0.31
506	fill	505	Pit		2			0.31
507	cut	507	pit/posthole	use	3		0.26	0.1
508	fill	507	pit/posthole	silting/disuse	3		İ	0.1
509	cut	509	pit/posthole	use	3		0.35	0.11
510	fill	509	pit/posthole	disuse	3			0.11
511	cut	511	Pit	use	3		0.9	0.08
512	fill	511	Pit	disuse	3			0.08
513	cut	513	Ditch	enclosure boundary	3	Enclosure 2	1.6	0.85
514	fill	513	Ditch	silting/disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.21
515	fill	513	Ditch	slumping	3	Enclosure 2		0.48
516	fill	513	Ditch	silting/disuse	3	Enclosure 2		
517	VOID	0	VOID	VOID				
518	VOID		VOID	VOID				
519	cut	519	Furrow	agricultural			0.88	0.33
520	fill	519	Furrow	silting/disuse				0.33
521	521	521	ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 2	0.78	0.16
522	fill	521	ring gully	disuse	3	Roundhouse 2		0.16
523	cut	_	ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 2	0.4	0.07
524	fill	_	ring gully	disuse	3	Roundhouse 2		0.07
525	cut	_	Ditch	enclosure boundary	3	Enclosure 2	1.44	0.57
526	fill	525	Ditch	silting/disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.11
527	fill	525	Ditch	slumping	3	Enclosure 2		0.46
528	fill	525	Ditch	silting/disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.46
529	i e	529	pit/posthole	use/structural	3	Pit Group	0.31	0.19
530	fill	_	pit/posthole	disuse	3	Pit Group		0.19
531	cut	531	pit/posthole	use/structural	3	Pit Group	0.3	0.1
532	fill	531	pit/posthole	disuse	3	Pit Group		0.1
533		.	pit/posthole	use/structural	3	Pit Group	0.35	0.1
534	fill	533	pit/posthole	disuse	3	Pit Group		0.1
535	cut	535	pit	use	3	Pit Group	0.7	0.2
536	fill	535	pit	disuse	3	Pit Group	İ	0.2
537	cut	537	ditch	boundary	3		1.24	0.25
538	fill	537	ditch	silting/disuse	3			0.25
539	cut	539	ditch terminus	enclosure	3	Earlier Enclosure	0.73	0.11
540	fill	539	ditch terminus	slumping	3	Earlier Enclosure		0.06
541	fill	539	ditch terminus	silting	3	Earlier Enclosure		0.07
542	cut	542	nit	unknown	+		0.67	0.15



Context	Category	Cut	Feature Type	Function	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth
543	fill	542	pit	unknown				0.15
544	cut	544	tree throw	natural		Natural	0.93	0.15
545	fill	544	tree throw	natural		Natural		0.07
546	fill	544	tree throw	natural		Natural		0.08
547	cut	547	ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 2	0.5	0.09
548	fill	547	ring gully	disuse	3	Roundhouse 2		0.09
549	cut	549	pit	use	3	Pit Group	0.31	0.07
550	fill	549	pit	disuse	3	Pit Group		0.07
551	cut	551	post hole	structural	3	Pit Group	0.3	0.07
552	fill	551	post hole	disuse	3	Pit Group		0.07
553	cut	553	post hole	structural	3	Pit Group	0.25	0.21
554	fill	553	post hole	disuse	3	Pit Group		0.21
555	cut	555	slot	structural	5		0.23	0.18
556	fill	555	I	silting/disuse	5			0.18
557			ditch	enclosure	3	Enclosure 1	5.8	0.98
558	fill	557	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.2
559	fill		ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.54
560		557	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1	İ	0.26
561	cut	561	ditch	recut enclosure	4	Enclosure 1	4.62	0.7
562	fill	561	ditch	recut fill	4	Enclosure 1		0.7
563		563	VOID	VOID				
564	cut	564	ring gully terminus	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.53	0.22
565	fill		ring gully terminus	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1		0.22
566			ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.61	0.21
567			ring ditch	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1	1	0.21
568			ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.4	0.14
569			ring gully	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1	0	0.14
570			ring ditch terminus	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.7	0.2
571			ring ditch terminus	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.7	0.2
572			ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.49	0.12
573			ring gully	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.13	0.12
574			ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.66	0.13
575			ring gully	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.00	0.13
576			ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.38	0.05
577			ring gully	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.56	0.05
578			ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.49	0.05
579			ring gully	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.43	0.05
580			ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.35	0.09
581			ring gully	silting/disuse	3	Roundhouse 1	0.55	0.09
582			Ditch	enclosure	3	Earlier Enclosure	0.77	0.03
302	cut	362	Ditter	enciosure	3	2	0.77	0.0
583	fill	582	Ditch	disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure		0.22
584	fill	592	Ditch	disusa	3	Earlier Enclosure	<u> </u>	0.38
364		302	DICH	disuse	٦	2		0.58
585	cut	585	Ditch	enclosure boundary	3	Enclosure 2	1.72	0.78
586		_	Ditch	bank material or	3	Enclosure 2	1 2.7.2	0.22
555			j= ··	disuse				3.22



Contact	Catagori	Cut	Eastura Turas	Function	Phoso	Crour	Droadst	Donth
Context 587	Category		Feature Type Ditch		Phase	-	Breadth	
587		1	Ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.18
-	1	585		disuse	3	Enclosure 2	1 1 1	0.44
589		-		use	3	1	1.1	0.16
590	1	589		disuse	3			0.16
591		589		disuse	3			0.16
-	VOID	_	VOID	VOID	0			
593	cut	593	Ditch	enclosure	3	Earlier Enclosure 2	1.06	0.5
594	fill	593	Ditch	disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure 2		0.13
595	fill	593	Ditch	disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure 2		0.37
596	cut	596	Ditch	boundary	3		1	0.32
597	fill	596	Ditch	silting/disuse	3			0.32
598	cut	598	Pit	use	3		0.7	0.21
599	fill	598	Pit	disuse	3			0.21
600	cut	600	Ditch	enclosure	3	Earlier Enclosure 1	0.77	0.19
601	fill	600	Ditch	silting/disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure		0.19
602	cut	602	Ditch	enclosure	3	Enclosure 1	4	0.28
603	1	602	Ditch	deliberate backfill	3	Enclosure 1		0.28
604			ring gully	roundhouse	3	Roundhouse 2	0.4	0.11
605			ring gully	disuse	3	Roundhouse 2		0.11
606		_	Ditch	enclosure	3	Enclosure 1	4.4	1.24
607		-	Ditch	basal fill	3	Enclosure 1		0.28
608		 	Ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.08
609		_	Ditch	slump	3	Enclosure 1		0.1
610			Ditch	slump	3	Enclosure 1		0.2
611		-	Ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.42
612		_	Ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.34
613	1	1	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.34
614		614	<u> </u>	unknown	<u> </u>	Lifeiosare 1	0.35	0.08
615				1			0.55	0.05
616		614 614	I:	disuse		<u> </u>		0.03
617		_	post hole	modern	5	<u> </u>	0.31	0.12
		_	post hole		-	<u> </u>	0.51	
618			<u> </u>	silting	5	Enclosure 2	1 20	0.12
619		_	ditch	enclosure boundary	3		1.36	0.6
620		-	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 2	<u> </u>	0.18
621		_	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 2	<u> </u>	0.2
622	-	-	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.14
623		1	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.1
624	1	624	I.	use	3		0.56	0.25
625		624	I.	disuse	3			0.25
626			post hole/pit	structural	3		0.44	0.38
627			post hole/pit	disuse	3			0.38
628			post hole	use			0.5	0.12
629	fill	628	post hole	disuse				0.12



Context	Category	Cut	Feature Type	Function	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth
630	cut	630	ditch terminus	enclosure boundary	3	Earlier Enclosure 2	0.32	0.05
631	fill	630	ditch terminus	disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure		0.05
632	cut	632	pit	use	1		0.8	0.21
633	fill	632	pit	disuse	1	Ī		0.21
634	cut	634	ditch	enclosure boundary	3	Enclosure 2	1.24	0.54
635	fill	634	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.12
636	fill	634	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.18
637	fill	634	ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 2		0.24
638	cut	638	ditch	enclosure boundary	3	Earlier Enclosure 2	0.66	0.22
639	fill	638	ditch	disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure 2		0.22
640	cut	640	curvilinear ditch	possible structure	3		0.46	0.12
641	fill	640	curvilinear ditch	disuse	3			0.12
642	cut	642	post hole	structural	3	Roundhouse 1	0.4	0.13
643	fill	642	post hole	disuse	3	Roundhouse 1		0.13
644	cut	644	post hole	structural	3	Roundhouse 1	0.35	0.19
645	fill	644	post hole	disuse	3	Roundhouse 1		0.19
646	cut	646	post hole	structural	3	Pit Group	0.18	0.25
647	fill	646	post hole	disuse	3	Pit Group		0.25
648	cut	648	ditch terminus	enclosure boundary	3	Earlier Enclosure 2	0.38	0.06
649	fill	648	ditch terminus	disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure 2		0.06
650	cut	650	curvilinear ditch	possible structure	3		0.45	0.1
651	fill	650	curvilinear ditch	disuse	3			0.1
652		0	VOID	VOID	0			
653	cut	653	curvilinear ditch	possible structure	3		0.96	0.31
654	fill	653	curvilinear ditch	disuse	3			0.31
655	cut	655	ditch	enclosure/boundary	3		1	0.13
656	fill	655	ditch	silting/disuse	3			0.13
657	cut	657	slot	unknown	5		0.2	0.14
658	fill	657	slot	backfill	5			0.14
659	cut	659	Pit	unknown	3		0.5	0.14
660		659		disuse	3			0.14
661		661		unknown	2		0.58	0.29
662		661		disuse	2			0.29
663		663	Pit	unknown	3		0.77	0.13
664	fill	663	Pit	disuse	3			0.13
665		665		unknown	3		0.71	0.11
666		665		disuse	3			0.11
667			Ditch	enclosure	4	Enclosure 1	2.6	0.74
668			Ditch	disuse	4	Enclosure 1		0.36
669			Ditch	disuse	4	Enclosure 1		0.18
670	fill	667	Ditch	disuse	4	Enclosure 1		0.26
671	cut	671	modern airfield disturbance	made ground	5		2.7	0.22



Context	Category	Cut	Feature Type	Function	Phase	Group	Breadth	Depth
672	fill	671	modern airfield disturbance	made ground	5			0.22
673	cut	673	Ditch	enclosure	3	Earlier Enclosure 1	0.9	0.06
674	fill	673	Ditch	disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure 1		0.06
675	cut	675	Ditch	enclosure	3	Enclosure 1	1.9	0.9
676	fill	675	Ditch	use	3	Enclosure 1		0.14
677	fill	675	Ditch	use/disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.4
678	fill	675	Ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.3
679	cut	679	ditch terminus	enclosure	3	Earlier Enclosure 1	0.48	0.14
680	fill	679	ditch terminus	disuse	3	Earlier Enclosure 1		0.14
681	cut	681	Ditch	enclosure	3	Enclosure 1	0.5	0.24
682	fill	681	Ditch	disuse	3	Enclosure 1		0.24

Table 6: Context Inventory



APPENDIX B ARTEFACT ASSESSMENTS

B.1 Metalwork by Denis Sami

Introduction

B.1.1 Three fragments of hand forged nails were recovered from the excavation of ditch 502 (Phase 3). These fragments probably date to the post-medieval or modern periods (Table 7).

Methodology

- B.1.2 The metalwork was assessed according to OA East metalwork finds standards following the suggestions of the Historical Metallurgy Society (2012), Datasheets 104 and 108; Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for Best Practice (Historic England, 2015) and the 2013 Guidelines for the Storage and Display of Archaeological Metalwork by English Heritage.
- B.1.3 The metalwork assemblage was quantified using an Access database. A single Excel spreadsheet was used to enter details and measurements of each single artefact. All metal finds were counted, weighted when relevant and classified on a context by context basis. The catalogue is organised by context number.

Factual data

B.1.4 The fragments are small in size, extremely poorly preserved and covered in a thick dusty encrustation. Given the little variation in size, form and forging technique from the Roman to modern periods, hand forged nails are difficult items to date. In this instance, more specific dating is not possible.

Statement of potential

B.1.5 These fragments have no potential to answer the project research objectives.

Recommendations for further work

B.1.6 No further action is needed for these finds.

Retention, dispersal and display

B.1.7 These fragments can be dispersed.

Catalogue

SF	Context	Feature	Artefact	Description	Spot date
10	504	Ditch 502	nail	Three fragments of tapering shaft with	Modern
				sub-square cross section possibly from the	
				same nail.	

Table 7: Metalwork catalogue



B.2 Slag by Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 Eighteen fragments of slag, weighing 0.076kg, were collected by hand from the site. The slag was weighed and rapidly recorded, with basic description and weight recorded in the text. All identifications at this stage are provisional.

Factual data

B.2.2 Pit 500 (Phase 2) produced four small irregular fragments of undiagnostic possible fuel ash slag and 14 fragments of a mid-grey, sandy, slightly vesicular conglomerate, similar to degraded lava quern. The larger components of the irregular fragments are a mix of small pieces of fuel ash slag and (seen under the microscope) occasional small areas of dark red-brown vesicular slag and occasional spherical slag, either within the matrix or attached to the more obvious slag fragments.

Discussion

B.2.3 Predominantly non-metallic, the slag fragments exhibit no magnetism. Pit **500**, from which they were recovered, produced only Early Iron Age pottery (*c*.800-350 BC), 15 sherds weighing 0.213kg. Therefore, the fuel ash slag is either the result of metalworking or the burning of dung in the Iron Age period. Given that no slag was recovered from any other features, nor were there any secondary indications of metalworking, it is probable that this material was the result of dung burning.

Statement of potential

B.2.4 The slag assemblage is fragmentary, and has little direct significance is uncertain, other than to indicate metalworking or the burning of dung.

Further work

B.2.5 This identification requires confirmation by an appropriate specialist in early metalworking slags and, if confirmed, its significance discussed. Otherwise this statement acts as a full record for the archive and no further work is required, beyond what is noted above and summarising the information for publication.

Retention, dispersal and display

B.2.6 The slag should be retained until such time as identification is confirmed, after which the specialist should advise on retention, dispersal and display.

Task list

Description	Performed by	Days
Identification of slag to be confirmed and	Simon Timberlake	0.2
significance, if any, recorded		

Table 8: Slag task list



B.3 Worked and Burnt Flint by Lawrence Billington

Introduction and quantification

- B.3.1 A total of 52 worked flints and two fragments of unworked burnt flint (13g) were recovered from the excavations. A large proportion of the worked flint, 37 pieces, came from the heavy residues of environmental samples, and this material is dominated by small chips and flake fragments.
- B.3.2 The flint was recovered exclusively from the fills of cut features, and aside from a small assemblage of flintwork from Phase 1 pit **632**, all of this material comes from Phase 3 and 4 deposits and is likely to represent residual material.
- B.3.3 The assemblage has been catalogued according to a simple technological/typological scheme and is quantified by context here in Table 9.

Cut	Context	Sample	Context type	Group	Phase	Chips	Irregular waste	Secondary flake	Tertiary flake	Tertiary blade	Core	Scraper	Total worked	Unworked burnt count	Unworked burnt weight (g)
511	512	7	Pit		3		1						1		
557	558		Ditch	Enc' 1	3			1					1		
557	560		Ditch	Enc' 1	3									1	6
557	559		Ditch	Enc' 1	3					1			1		
561	562		Ditch	Enc' 1	4			1	2				3	1	7
570	571		Ring gully	-	3						1		1		
589	590	35	Pit	-	3		1	2					3		
593	595	16	Ditch	Earlier Enc' 2	3			1					1		
596	597		Ditch		3							1	1		
598	599	17	Ditch		3	10			1				11		
606	610		Ditch	Enc' 1	3				3				3		
619	620	33	Ditch	Enc' 2	3				1				1		
624	625		Pit	-	3			1					1		
626	627		Posthole/pi t	-	3			1	1				2		
632	633	30	Pit	-	1	8	1	4	1				14		
642	643	32	Posthole	RH 1	3	1		2					3		
659	660		Pit		3				1				1		
667	670		Ditch	Enc' 1	4			1					1		
675	676	36	Ditch	Enc' 1	3	2		1					3		
			Totals	•		21	3	15	10		1	1	52	2	13

Table 9: Quantification of the flint assemblage

Raw materials and condition



- B.3.4 The assemblage is made up of flint which appears to derive exclusively from secondary sources, with surviving cortical surfaces largely indicating the sue of fluvially transported cobbles. Similar material appears to dominate the very large Mesolithic/Neolithic assemblage derived from intensive fieldwalking at Honey Hill, some 4km to the west and it has been suggested that such flint could have been sourced relatively locally (Edmonds et al 1999, 52).
- B.3.5 The assemblage is generally in fairly good condition, although minor edge damage/rounding is ubiquitous reflecting the recovery of most of the flintwork as residual material which has had a complex post-depositional history. A small proportion of the assemblage is recorticated ('patinated') to a light blue colour.

Characterisation

- B.3.6 The only feature to produce a probably contemporary assemblage of flintwork was pit **632**, associated with Early Bronze Age pottery. The fourteen flints from this feature were all recovered from an environmental sample and are overwhelmingly dominated by undiagnostic chips and small flake fragments measuring under 15mm in size and representing knapping debris. The few larger flakes derive from a simple flake based technology consistent with an Early Bronze Age date. No retouched or obviously utilised material was present.
- B.3.7 The remainder of the flint assemblage derives from Phase 3 and 4 features and although it is possible that some of the material reflects flintworking during the Iron Age occupation of the site, the technological traits of the material and its condition suggest it is more likely to be earlier, residual Neolithic/Bronze Age flintwork incidentally incorporated into the fills of later features.
- B.3.8 The assemblage includes one blade-based removal (from ditch 557, Enclosure 1) which is probably of Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date, but the remainder of the material is more consistent with a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date, consisting of simple, generalised, flake based material dominated by squat/broad partly cortical flakes and small chips and spalls. The only retouched tool is a neatly retouched short end scraper from ditch 596 (502, Phase 3), whilst a single small irregular flake core was recovered from ring gully 570 (Roundhouse 1).

Statement of potential

B.3.9 This small assemblage has little potential to contribute to the research aims of the project. The assemblage appears to attest mainly to Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity at the site – and much of it may be broadly contemporary with Period 1 pit 632, perhaps indicating the presence of surface scatters of artefacts which have subsequently been disturbed by later features.

Recommendations

B.3.10 No further work is required on the flint assemblage, although given the relatively high proportion of flintwork recovered from environmental sampling the flint recovered from any additional samples processed during the analysis stage should be added to



the catalogue presented here. A summary of the assemblage, based on this report and the updated catalogue should be included in the full excavation report.

B.4 Bronze Age Pottery by Nick Gilmour

Introduction

- B.4.1 The excavation produced a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery, totalling 11 sherds, weighing 90g with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 8.2g. The assemblage is primarily of Early Bronze Age date, with some sherds which may be Middle Bronze Age. The quantities of pottery, together with their date and fabric, are shown in Table 10.
- B.4.2 The assemblage was recovered from three contexts, relating to two pits and a ditch. Much of the material is fragmentary and moderately abraded; however, that from context 633 (pit 632, Phase 1) is noticeably more fresh suggesting that these sherds were located near to or at their primary site of deposition.

Context	Cut	Feature phase	Fabric	Spot Date	No sherds	Weight (g)
504	502	3	S1	MBA	4	13
625	624	3	G2	EBA	1	3
633	632	1	G1	EBA	6	74
Total					11	90

Table 10: Bronze Age pottery quantification

Methodology

- B.4.3 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2011). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gramme) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd type was recorded, along with evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim, shoulder and/or other diagnostic features, the vessel was categorised by ceramic tradition (Grooved Ware, Collared Urn etc.)
- B.4.4 All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (136 sherds); sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' (66 sherds), and sherds over 8cm in diameter will be classified as 'large' (12 sherds). The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held with the site archive.
- B.4.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

Sampling bias

B.4.6 The excavation was carried out by hand and feature selection made through standard sampling strategies. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk



samples have been processed for environmental and artefactual remains, there has also been no pottery of this date recovered.

Bronze Age pottery fabrics

- B.4.7 A total of three different fabrics is present in this pottery assemblage. These fabrics are all listed below:
 - S1: Moderate to common plate-like voids from leached shell. All shell has been leached leave light 'corky' sherds.
 - G1: Moderate fine and medium grog (>3mm) in a sandy clay matrix.
 - G2: Rare fine grog in a sandy clay matrix.

Early Bronze Age pottery

- B.4.8 A single sherd of pottery (3g) was recovered from context 625, a fill of pit **624**. This body sherd is in fabric G2 and is decorated on the exterior surface. The decoration consists of horizontal cord-impressed lines, with fine comb impressed chevrons. This decoration is diagnostic of the Beaker ceramic tradition. The fabric of this sherd is also typical for Beaker ceramics in this region.
- B.4.9 Context 633, a fill of pit **632** produced 6 sherds (74g) of Early Bronze Age pottery. This pottery is all in fabric G1 and is probably from the same vessel. A surviving fragment of the rim of shows that this had a simple, upright, rounded form. There is a finger impressed horizonal line c.20mm below the rim on the exterior. This gives an initial impression of a collar. A single base sherd is of plain flat form. The rim form and simple decoration are characteristic of the Early Bronze Age. All the sherds from this pit are probably from the same small urn, with the rim diameter measured as 14cm.

Middle Bronze Age pottery

B.4.10 A total of four sherds (13g) of pottery was recovered from context 504, within ditch 502. These sherds are undecorated and from the body of a vessel. There form is not diagnostic. However, the fabric is typical of Middle Bronze Age ceramics in this region. Due to the small size of the sherds, and lack of diagnostic form, it cannot be certain that these sherds are of Middle Bronze Age date. Fabrics with shell inclusions are also common during the Middle Iron Age in this region, making it possible these sherds are actually later in date.

Discussion

B.4.11 This is a relatively sized assemblage, the majority of which was recovered from stratified pit and ditch deposits. It is of relevance as it shows an earlier prehistoric presence on the site. However, the small size of this assemblage precludes detailed discussion.

Recommendations for further work

B.4.12 The assemblage has been fully recorded and no further work is recommended.



Retention, dispersal and display

B.4.13 All the material should be retained.

B.5 Iron Age Pottery by Carlotta Marchetto

Introduction

- B.5.1 An assemblage totalling 354 sherds (4175g) of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the excavation, displaying a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 11.8g. The pottery was recovered from a total of 43 contexts relating to 35 cut features/interventions (Table 11). The pottery ranged in date from the Early Iron Age through to the Late Iron Age period, with the majority being of Middle Iron Age (160 sherds, 1.454kg, c. 350-50 BC) and Late Iron Age (173 sherds, 2.469kg, c. 50 BC- AD 50) date and a small amount of Early Iron Age origin (21 sherds, 252g, c. 600-350 BC).
- B.5.2 The pottery is in a moderate/stable condition, and the assemblage contains a range of partial and complete vessel profiles. Small sherds (<4cm in size) dominate, but most are relatively 'fresh' and unabraded. Dating is therefore largely based on the character of the fabrics and their comparison with material from larger published assemblages from the Cambridgeshire Fenland area.
- B.5.3 This assessment report provides a general characterisation of the assemblage with basic quantification (counts and weights) of the material by context and date. It also provided a statement on significance and series of recommendations for further recording, analysis, publication and retention.

				No			
Context	Cut	Feature	Group name	sherds	Wt (g)	Date	Phase
501	500	Pit		4	16	EIA?	2
501	500	Pit		1	4	EIA	2
501	500	Pit		1	1	EIA?	2
501	500	Pit		1	44	EIA	2
501	500	Pit		1	8	EIA	2
501	500	Pit		7	140	EIA	2
506	505	Pit		1	6	EIA	2
516	513	Ditch	Enclosure 2	1	3	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	3	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	5	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	9	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	5	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	18	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	18	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	5	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	9	MIA	3
522	521	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	15	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	2	6	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	4	28	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	20	121	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	2	41	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	2	19	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	1	1	MIA?	3



				l M-			
Context	Cut	Feature	Group name	No sherds	Wt (g)	Date	Phase
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	2	17	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	2	157	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	2	6	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	1	6	MIA	3
528	525	Ditch	Enclosure 2	1	29	MIA	3
530	529	Pit/Posthole	Pit Group	2	85	MIA	3
530	529	Pit/Posthole	Pit Group	3	104	MIA	3
536	535	Pit	Pit Group	1	8	MIA	3
536	535	Pit	Pit Group	2	22	MIA	3
536	535	Pit	Pit Group	4	95	MIA	3
538	537	Ditch	Tit Group	1	3	MIA	3
538	537	Ditch		1	3	MIA	
538	537	Ditch	Poundany1	2	5	MIA	3
548	547	Ring Gully	Boundary1 Roundhouse 2	1	11	MIA	3
548	547	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	1	4	MIA	
554				1	12		3
	553 557	Post hole	Pit Group Enclosure 1	2		MIA	3
558		Ditch		+	9	MIA	3
558	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	6	MIA	3
558	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	5	MIA	3
558	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	18	MIA	3
558	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	9	MIA	3
558	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	12	MIA	3
558	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	3	MIA	3
559	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	13	MIA	3
559	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	23	MIA	3
559	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	13	MIA	3
559	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	2	MIA	3
559	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	9	MIA	3
559	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	2	MIA	3
560	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	23	MIA	3
560	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	11	MIA	3
560	557	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	3	MIA	3
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	13	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	6	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	6	45	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	3	9	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	16	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	12	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	4	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	3	25	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	5	12	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	2	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	7	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	3	13	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	4	LIA	4
562	561	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	5	LIA	4
565	564	Ring Gully terminus	Roundhouse 1	1	14	MIA	3
565	564	Ring Gully terminus	Roundhouse 1	2	4	MIA	3



				No			
Context	Cut	Feature	Group name	sherds	Wt (g)	Date	Phase
571	570	Ring Ditch terminus	Roundhouse 1	1	2	MIA	3
571	570	Ring Ditch terminus	Roundhouse 1	1	5	MIA	3
571	570	Ring Ditch	Roundhouse 1	2	4	MIA	
571	570	terminus Ring Ditch	Roundhouse 1	2	29	MIA	3
571	570	terminus Ring Ditch	Roundhouse 1	2	2	MIA	3
3/1	370	terminus	Noundhouse 1	2	2	IVIIA	3
573	572	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 1	1	6	MIA	3
584	582	Ditch		1	8	MIA	3
584	582	Ditch		1	15	MIA	3
586	585	Ditch	Enclosure 2	1	30	MIA	3
588	585	Ditch	Enclosure 2	1	15	MIA	3
595	593	Ditch		2	9	MIA	3
595	593	Ditch		4	29	MIA	3
595	593	Ditch		1	2	MIA	3
595	593	Ditch		1	9	MIA	3
599	598	Pit		1	2	MIA	3
599	598	Pit		1	3	MIA	3
597	596	Ditch		2	5	LIA?	3
597	596	Ditch		1	4	LIA?	3
597	596	Ditch		2	4	LIA?	3
597	596	Ditch		1	6	LIA?	3
605	604	Ring Gully	Roundhouse 2	2	10	MIA	3
608	606	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	10	MIA	3
608	606	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	2	MIA	3
608	606	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	4	MIA	3
608	606	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	6	MIA	3
610	606	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	31	MIA	3
610	606	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	5	MIA	3
612	606	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	1	MIA	3
621	619	Ditch	Enclosure 2	1	8	MIA	3
623	619	Ditch	Enclosure 2	7	27	MIA	3
623	619	Ditch	Enclosure 2	2	17	MIA	3
623	619	Ditch	Enclosure 2	1	7	MIA	3
625	624	Pit	Lifelosure 2	1	2	MIA	3
625	624	Pit		1	7	MIA	3
625	624	Pit		1	1	MIA	3
627	626	Post hole/Pit		1	10	MIA	3
627	626	Post hole/Pit		2	4	MIA	3
627	626	Post hole/Pit		2	6	MIA	3
649	648	Ditch terminus	Enclosure 2	1	1	MIA	3
651	650	Curvilinear ditch	LIICIOSUI C Z	1	11	MIA	3
651	650	Curvilinear ditch		1	4	MIA	3
654	653	Curvilinear ditch		1	6	LIA?	
654	653	Curvilinear ditch		2	20	LIA?	3
660	659	Pit		1	4	MIA	3
662	661	Pit		2	21	EIA	3
				+		†	
662	661	Pit		1	7	EIA	2



Contout	Cut	Footure	Croup name	No	\A/+ (~\	Doto	Dhasa
Context 662	Cut 661	Feature Pit	Group name	sherds 2	Wt (g) 5	Date EIA	Phase
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	37	LIA	2
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	37	LIA	
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	11	LIA	4
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	8	LIA	4
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	23	433	LIA	4
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	20	1.168	LIA	-
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	20	1.108	LIA	4
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	129		
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	8	LIA LIA	4
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	23	LIA	
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	26	LIA	4
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	18	LIA	4
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	3	25	LIA	4
669	667	Ditch		5	54	LIA	4
			Enclosure 1	2			4
669	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	_	134	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	35	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	14	154	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	3	168	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	5	176	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	20	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	6	183	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	59	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	5	46	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	89	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	22	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	4	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	37	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	10	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	15	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	3	27	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	25	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	15	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	3	24	LIA	4
670	667	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	3	LIA	4
674	673	Ditch	Earlier Enclosure 1	3	10	MIA	3
676	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	7	MIA	3
676	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	1	MIA	3
677	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	2	MIA	3
677	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	1	MIA	3
677	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	4	MIA	3
677	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	17	MIA	3
678	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	9	LIA?	3
678	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	7	128	LIA?	3
678	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	2	LIA?	3
678	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	9	LIA?	3
678	675	Ditch	Enclosure 1	2	35	LIA?	3
682	681	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	3	MIA	3
682	681	Ditch	Enclosure 1	1	9	MIA	3



Context	Cut	Feature	Group name	No sherds	Wt (g)	Date	Phase
Totals				354	4175		

Table 11: Iron Age pottery quantification by context

Methodology

- B.5.4 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2011). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gramme) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (wheel-made or handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers.
- B.5.5 Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim and shoulder, the vessel was also categorised by form. Early Iron Age vessels were classified using a form series devised by M. Brudenell (Brudenell 2012), and the class scheme created by John Barrett (1980). The Middle Iron Age-type forms were codified using the series developed by JD Hill (Hill and Horne 2003, 174; Hill and Braddock 2006, 155-156). The Late Iron Age vessels were classified using Isobel Thompson's (1982) catalogue, and her alphanumeric codes, prefixed with TH-.
- B.5.6 All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (249 sherds; 70%); sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' (92 sherds; 26%), and sherds over 8cm in diameter were classified as 'large' (13 sherds; 4%). The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held in the project archive.

Assessment of Early Iron Age pottery

B.5.7 The assemblage comprises 21 sherds of pottery (252g) with a MSW of 12g. The pottery derives from three contexts relating to three pits (**500**, **505**, **661**).

Assemblage characteristics and key groups

- B.5.8 The assemblage contains sherds in a range of fabrics, all typical of pottery groups dating to the Early Iron Age in the Cambridgeshire region (Brudenell 2012). These include shelly wares, sandy wares and flint tempered fabrics. The majority of the sherds are made in a shelly tempered fabric (91% by count).
- B.5.9 Based on the total number of different rim and rim and shoulder identified, the Early Iron Age is estimated to contain two different vessels: one rim and one complete vessel profile. The complete profile belongs to a weakly shouldered jar (Form G), decorated with a double row of fingernail on the shoulder. One small rim from context 662 is burnished and decorated with incised chevrons on the neck.



- B.5.10 Decoration is present on 11 sherds (195g). A range of applications and techniques typical of the Early Iron Age are evident, with fingertip and nail applications on the shoulder. One coarse-ware sherd displays a vertical grooved decoration, and one fineware burnished rim has an incised chevron decoration on the neck.
- B.5.11 The Early Iron Age pits contained small assemblages of material weighing less than 250g. These comprise fewer than 20 sherds. The assemblages are dominated by fragments from individual vessels, with pit 500 containing the jar (vessel n. 1), and pit 661 the fine-ware sherd with chevron decoration (vessel n. 28). Pit 505 contains one decorated body sherd.

Assessment of Middle Iron Age pottery

B.5.12 The assemblage comprises 160 sherds of pottery (1454g) with a MSW of 9.1g. The pottery derives from 34 contexts relating to 27 features/labelled interventions. These comprise three pits, one pit/posthole, two post holes, 16 ditches and five gullies. Six interventions are associated with two roundhouses and contain 25 sherds (178g). All the sherds derive from Phase 3 features (ditch, pits, post holes and ring gully).

Assemblage characteristics

- B.5.13 The assemblage contains sherds in a range of fabrics, all broadly typical of pottery groups dating to the Middle Iron Age in the Fenland area. They include a mix of sandy wares and shelly wares, with inclusions of organic matter and occasionally flint. In total five basic fabric groups have been distinguished. Shelly ware fabrics constitute around 77% of the pottery by weight. Pottery with a mix of shell, flint and chalk accounts for 63% of the material, with other shelly wares having a mix of shell and sand (9%), shell and chalk (4%), and sand with dissolved shell (1%). A less various mix is seen in the sandy ware fabrics (23% by weight). Sherds with just sand account for only 8% of the material. The other sandy wares have inclusions of organic matter (14%), or flint (1%).
- B.5.14 Based on the total number of different rims and bases identified, the Middle Iron Age is estimated to contain a minimum of 22 different vessels: 16 different rims and 6 different bases. Most vessels have simple flat-topped, rounded or externally thickened rims. Partial vessel profiles are relatively common (12 identified), with the vast majority being neckless barrel-shaped jars/bowls and slightly globular pots with no distinct neck zone but a clearly defined rim (Hill Form K and L). Other types include small slack-shouldered or round-shouldered vessels with short upright or out-turned rims (Hill Form A and D). Measurable vessel rims (6 in total) have a range of dimeters from a minimum of 6cm to a maximum of 26cm, and belong to small to medium-sized pots. Vessel of this size are likely to have been everyday cooking and serving pots, although only two retain traces of carbonised residue. In general, however, residues are very rare in the assemblage, with only 10 sherds having residue recorded (140g).
- B.5.15 Decoration is present on 24 sherds (475g). Applications include fingertip and nail treatments or tool impressions on the rim-top of vessels, with 9 of the 22 vessels rims in the assemblage decorated. Scoring is the only other type of 'decoration', with 21 sherds (388g) displaying scoring characteristic of the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition (Elsdon 1992).



Key groups

B.5.16 The Middle Iron Age pits yielding pottery contained small assemblages of material weighing less than 350g. These comprise fewer than 20 sherds. Larger groups derived from the enclosures (98 sherds, 823g). These constitute the key groups and contain 12 of the 22 different vessels represented in the Middle Iron Age assemblage, with three form assigned vessels. An assemblage of 25 sherds (178g) derived from Roundhouses 1 and 2. The group contains five different vessels with three form assigned vessels. Roundhouse 1 comprises a small bowl/cup with fingernail decorations on the rim top (Hill Form A).

Assessment of Late Iron Age pottery

B.5.17 The assemblage comprises 173 sherds of pottery (2469g) with a MSW of 14.3g. The pottery derives from six contexts relating to five ditches. The majority of the pottery was from ditch 667 (122 sherds, 2068g) and ditch 561 (29 sherds 173g). In total, just 13 sherds (183g) derived from ditch 675. A further nine sherds (45g) were recovered from ditches 596 and 653. Ditches 561 and 667 contain Early Roman pottery. A total of 151 sherds (2241g) derive from Phase 4 contexts (87% of the pottery by count), whilst 22 sherds (228g) are interpreted as intrusive in Phase 2 contexts (13% by count).

Assemblage characteristics

- B.5.18 The Late Iron Age assemblage is characterised by sherds in grog, sand and shell fabrics. Shelly wares dominate (125 sherds, 2067g), followed by those with grog (34 sherds, 310g) and then sandy wares (14 sherds, 92g). Shelly ware fabrics constitute around 84% of the pottery by weight. Grog-tempered fabrics constitute around 12% of the assemblage, with grog and sand and fine grog. The rest of the sherds are in sandy fabrics (3% by weight). The material comprises both handmade and wheel-made wares.
- B.5.19 The majority of the assemblage is of handmade sherds. Fabric types overlap with those of the Middle Iron Age, though handmade grog tempered wares are also present. The wheel-made sherds include a neck cordoned bowl (TH-D1-1) dating to the c. 1st century AD. The assemblage contains a minimum of 13 different vessels. Most vessels have simple flat-topped or rounded rims; the cordoned bowl presents an everted rim with flattened lips. Partial vessel profiles are the same as the Middle Iron Age assemblage (Hill form K and L), with the only exception for the cordoned bowl.
- B.5.20 Decoration is present on 45 sherds (561g). Applications include cordon or groove and fingernail on the rim-top of one vessel. Scoring is the only other type of 'decoration', with 32 sherds (445g) displaying scoring characteristic of the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition. All the scored sherds derive from ditches 561 and 667 and are associated with Early Roman pottery. This could suggest that scored ware pottery may have continued to be made into the 1st century AD (Elsden 1992).

Key groups

B.5.21 The majority of the Late Iron Age pottery derived from Enclosure 1 (164 sherds, 2424g). This constitutes the key group and contains all the vessels represented in the Late Iron Age assemblage, with three form-assigned vessels.



Statement of potential

- B.5.22 The pottery dates to the Early, Middle and Late Iron Age, suggesting activity at the site throughout much of the 1st millennium BC. The majority is of handmade Middle and Late Iron Age-type, which has a currency between c. 350 BC AD 50. Although the pottery assemblage is relatively small, the presence of multiperiod pottery could suggest a use of the settlement from the Early Iron Age to the Roman period.
- B.5.23 Owing to its small size, the Early Iron Age pottery assemblage has a limited potential beyond that of helping to date activity at the site. However, this group can still contribute to a wider characterisation of later prehistoric pottery assemblages in the Fenland area, and provided comparative data on fabrics, methods of surface treatment, decoration and ceramic technology.
- B.5.24 Of particular significance are the Middle and Late Iron Age assemblages, which include several key groups containing partial and complete vessel profiles. The assemblages comprise a medium number of scored sherds (15% by count) and reflect the geographic position of the site on the periphery of the main Scored Ware-zone distribution (Elsdon 1992). The Late Iron Age assemblage also contains refitting fragments of an offset neck cordoned bowl, which is considered a Romanising type and can be dated AD 10-65 (Thompson 1982). The two assemblages can therefore be compared to further explore how ceramics changed across the Middle and Late Iron Age, and could help build a more detailed understanding of ceramic development in this part of the landscape.

Recommendations for further work

- B.5.25 All the prehistoric pottery should be subject to full analysis, focussing on forms, fabrics, method of surface treatment, vessel use, patterns of vessel fragmentation and deposition. The attribute data should be presented in a fully quantified archive pottery report. The main focus of the analysis should be on the Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age assemblages and their affinities with contemporary groups from the surrounding area.
- B.5.26 The Middle and Late Iron Age pottery is worthy of publication, with a brief mention of the Early Iron Age pottery recommended. Publication should provide a summary version of the archive pottery report, combined with illustrations of a selection of form-assigned vessels and other diagnostic features sherds.

Retention, dispersal and display

B.5.27 None of the material should be considered for dispersal until the phasing is complete and all pottery has been analysed. It may be appropriate to disperse residual material after the production of an archive pottery report.

B.6 Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery by Alice Lyons

Introduction

B.6.1 A total of 83 sherds, weighing 1107g (1.22 Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE)) of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery was recovered which represent a minimum of 31



- individual vessels. The pottery is fragmentary but has survived in relatively large pieces with an average sherd weight of 13g.
- B.6.2 Ceramic material was recovered from three Phase 4 excavated segments (**561**, **602**, **667**) within the later phases of ditched Enclosure 1, as well as pit **511** (Table 12).

Feature	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Ditch: Enclosure 1	82	1103	99.64
Pit 511	1	4	0.36
Total	83	1107	100.00

Table 12: Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery quantified by feature

Methodology

B.6.3 The pottery was analysed following the national guidelines (Barclay *et al* 2016). The total assemblage was studied, and a catalogue was prepared (Table 14). 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 also recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gramme and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. OA East curates the pottery and archive.

The pottery

B.6.4 Seven fabrics were identified (Table 13).

Fabric Name: abbreviation Published reference	Form	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
Shell Tempered ware: STW	Jar, storage jar	22	417	37.67
Sandy reduced (grey) ware: SGW	Carinated bowl, jar	44	372	33.60
Spanish amphora: BAT AM Tomber and Dore 1998, 84	Amphora (DR20)	2	197	17.80
Sandy oxidised (white to red) ware: SOW; SREDW	Flagon, jar, beaker	11	77	6.96
Grey ware with common grog temper: GW(GROG)	Jar	2	23	2.08
Reduced ware with common flint inclusions: RW(FLINT)	Conical cup	1	18	1.62
Central Gaulish samian: SAM Tomber and Dore 1998, 30	Dish	1	3	0.27
Total		83	1107	100.00

Table 13: The pottery fabrics and forms, listed in descending order of weight (%)

The coarse wares

B.6.5 The earliest material comprises several low fired Iron Age vessels which have survived as a residual element within the ditched Enclosure 1. These vessels are handmade, also low-fired; one is a neckless shelly ware jar, the other a flint tempered coarse ware conical cup.



- B.6.6 The majority of the assemblage, however, consists of locally produced utilitarian Early Roman coarse wares that date between the mid-1st and early/mid-2nd century AD. This material includes two wheelmade grey ware jar fragments with grog (pre-fired pottery) as a common mixer within the clay; one of the jars is cordoned (Thompson 1982, B3). The main part of this assemblage (by weight) consists of wheel made shelly ware medium mouthed globular jars, commonly with a ledged lid-seated rim which often retain a soot residue which indicates they were used over an open flame probably as cooking pots. A single large Shelly ware storage jar fragment was also found. In addition, Sandy grey ware vessel fragments are relatively well-represented and although they are nearly all undiagnostic jar/bowl body sherds, one carinated bowl was recorded (Thompson 1982, E1).
- B.6.7 Supplementing these coarseware reduced (grey) vessels are a small number of oxidised (white, orange or red) fragments. Wheelmade jars were the most common form, a small number of flagon and beaker fragments were also found.

Fine wares

B.6.8 Fine table wares are notably scarce within this assemblage. Only one small scrap of an imported central Gaulish samian dish, dating from the late 1st to 2nd century AD, was recovered from the fill of the ditched enclosure.

Specialist wares

B.6.9 Also found within the enclosure ditch are two joining sherds from a Spanish olive oil amphora (DR20). These vessels were imported into Britain from the late Iron Age until the mid-3rd century AD, with supply peaking in the 2nd century AD (Tyers 1996, 87-89).

Discussion

- B.6.10 This is a small stratified (primarily) Early Roman locally produced coarseware pottery assemblage, with small quantities of ceramic material (amphora and samian) imported from the wider Roman Empire. The community who deposited this material therefore had access to a local market where a range of ceramic vessels were available to trade.
- B.6.11 The material was nearly all found within one large enclosure ditch which suggests this feature may have been excavated in the early to mid-1st century AD but had fallen from use by the mid-2nd century as no pottery post-dating this period was found.
- B.6.12 Archaeological excavations on this site previously have found a similar range of pottery (Anderson 2017) which suggests that this material is typical for this area at this time. This assemblage, therefore, adds to the growing corpus of pottery known from the site and aids our understanding of how it was used and deposited.

Recommendations for further work

B.6.13 No further analysis or illustration is recommended for this assemblage.

Retention and display



B.6.14 This is a small assemblage which could possibly be considered for dispersal into a teaching or reference collection. It will not merit formal display.

The Roman pottery

Context	Cut	Group	Feature	Era	HM/WM	Fabric*	Dsc	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Spot date
512	511		pit	ER	НМ	SREDW	U	JAR/BOWL	1	4	E/MC1
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	LIA/RB	SW	BAT AM	U	AMPH	2	197	C2BC- ADC3(C2)
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SAM	RU	DISH	1	3	MC1-C2
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	RU	JAR/BOWL	9	34	MC1-C2
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	U	JAR/BOWL	1	4	MC1-C2
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	UB	JAR/BOWL	4	50	MC1-C2
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SOW	U	JAR	5	14	C2-C3
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SREDW	R	BEAK	1	4	MC1-C2
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	ROB SH	RU	JAR	6	50	MC1-E/MC2
562	561	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	STW	RU	JAR	4	38	MC1-E/MC2
603	602	Enclosure 1	ditch	RB	WM	SOW	RUB	JAR	3	39	C2-C3
603	602	Enclosure 1	ditch	RB	WM	STW	U	JAR	2	28	MC1-C4
669	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	GW(GROG)	R	JAR	1	3	MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	GW(GROG)	R	JAR	1	20	E/MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	LIA	НМ	RW(FLINT)	R	CUP/DISH	1	18	C1BC- ADE/MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	UB	JAR	4	39	MC1-C2
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	U	JAR	1	10	MC1-C2
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	R	JAR/BEAK	1	6	MC1-C2
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	UB	JAR	1	51	MC1-C2
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	U	JAR	4	48	MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	LIA/ER	WM	SGW	RUD	JAR/BOWL	14	86	E/MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	D	CBOWL	1	3	E/MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	R	BEAK	1	10	MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SGW	R	JAR	1	19	MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	LIA/ER	НМ	SGW	U	JAR	2	12	E/MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	SOW	U	FLAG	1	16	MC1-C3
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	STW	R	SJAR	1	151	MC1-C2
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	LIA	НМ	STW	RU	JAR	5	124	E/MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	LIA	НМ	STW	U	JAR	1	8	E/MC1
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	ER	WM	STW	U	JAR	1	6	MC1-C2
670	667	Enclosure 1	ditch	LIA	НМ	STW	U	JAR	2	12	E/MC1

Table 14: Roman pottery catalogue

KEY: B = base, C=century, D = decorated body sherd, Dsc = description, E=early, ER = Early Roman, HM = handmade, IA = Iron Age, L=late, M=mid, R = rim, U=undecorated body sherd, WM = wheel made

B.7 Stone by Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

^{*}For full fabric names see Table 13



B.7.1 A small assemblage of unworked stone fragments was largely recovered from ditches across the site in Phases 3, 4 and 5. Simplified recording only has been undertaken, with material type, basic description and weight recorded in the text. The stone and archive are curated by OA East, until formal deposition or deselection.

Factual data

- B.7.2 Phase 3 (Middle Iron Age (c.350-c.50 BC)): Ditch **606** contained three pieces of stone, firstly, an irregular, broken piece of grey sandstone with prominent crystal formations (0.452kg), originally part of a larger piece. The breaks appear old, the surfaces and breaks are somewhat sooted and it may have been used in a hearth. Also recovered were a partial rounded micaceous sandstone cobble (0.296kg) and an irregular fragment of micaceous sandstone (0.132kg), both fire-reddened, cracked and unworked.
- B.7.3 Ditch **675** produced an irregular fragment of a dense, mid grey, fine grained igneous rock (0.042kg).
- B.7.4 Phase 4 (Late Iron Age-Early Roman (*c*.50 BC-*c*.AD 170)): Ditch **561** produced five fragments of stone, a fragment from a fire-reddened, rounded micaceous sandstone cobble (0.011kg), an irregular fragment of burnt sandstone (0.007kg) and three sub-rectangular fragments of what is tentatively identified as andesite (0.089kg).
- B.7.5 Phase 5 (Phase 5: Modern (post-AD 1900)): Slot **657** produced an irregular fragment of highly vesicular stone, possibly scoria (0.070kg). The feature from which the scoria was recovered is associated with the former airfield and scoria is used in both landscaping and drainage works.

Discussion

B.7.6 The andesite, micaceous sandstone and sandstone are not significant. The scoria is an unusual find, however, it was recovered from a modern feature associated with the airfield, and its presence is not significant.

Statement of potential

B.7.7 The assemblage has little potential to aid local, regional and national research priorities.

Further work

B.7.8 This statement acts as a full record for the archive and no further work is required.

Retention, dispersal and display

- B.7.9 The stone may be deselected prior to archive deposition.
- B.8 Ceramic building material by Ted Levermore

Introduction



B.8.1 A single fragment of modern brick (74g) was collected from Context 669, Ditch 667 (Phase 4), in Enclosure 1. It bore a fragmentary frog stamp – "PHOR-" – which identifies it as a London Brick Company 'Phorpres' Fletton facing brick, produced after 1900. It is intrusive to Enclosure 1 probably brought to site through local demolition or agricultural processes.

Statement of potential

B.8.2 The assemblage is of no archaeological significance.

Recommendations for further work

B.8.3 This material has been fully recorded. It should be considered for discard.

B.9 Fired/baked clay by Ted Levermore

Introduction

B.9.1 The excavation phase recovered 52 fragments, 453g, of fired clay. This assemblage comprises both amorphous pieces with no discernible features (42 fragments, 158g) and more 'structural' pieces with flattened surfaces and signs of hand-forming (10 fragments, 295g). No diagnostic objects are present. Generally, this material was moderately to severely abraded.

Methodology

B.9.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gramme. 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. A summary of the catalogue can be found in Table 17.

Results of analysis

Fabrics

B.9.3 Four fabrics, and two subsets, were recorded from this small assemblage (Table 16). All fabrics could be considered as deriving from local silt clays with varying amounts of sand, grit and calcareous inclusions. The main differences were between the silty clays with few to no inclusions and those with densities of calcareous material. Varying degrees of paste preparation and different clay sources are evident. The larger group, F1, is likely to be a scale or inclusion density within the same unrefined clay source.

Code	Matrix	Fine inclusions	Coarse inclusions	Comments
		rare fine grit, occ	common coarse to very coarse	Calc pellet rich clay, coarse. Soft.
		fine calc flecks	sub-angular calc chunks, less	Orange, Yellow-Browns.
F1	Soft Silty		common sub-rounded to sub-	
			angular white flint/stone, rare dark	
			grit	



F1a	Soft Silty	rare fine grit, occ fine calc flecks	few coarse calc inclusions	Finer inclusions, similar inclusion density. Oranges.
F1b	Compact Silty	rare fine grit, occ fine calc flecks	few to rare rounded to sub- rounded coarse calc, rare sub- angular flint and dark grit	Fine inclusions, few coarse, harder fired. Mid Orange, Yellow-Browns
F2	Compact Silty	occ quartz and grit	rare quartz and sub-angular grit, rare sub-angular voids	Compact, fine sanded clay. Mid Orange
F3	Compact Silty	rare very fine grit and ?quartz	rare to no coarse inclusions	compact, no inclusions - refined clay? Mid to Dark Grey-Brown
F4	Fine Sandy	very common quartz and grit	occ flint and coarse quartz and grit	High fired fine sandy clay, mid to dark grey-browns

Table 15: Fired clay fabrics

Assemblage

- B.9.4 The fired clay assemblage was collected from contexts in the Earlier Enclosure 1, Enclosures 1 and 2, Roundhouse 2 and ditch 650, pits 500, 598, 659, 661, 665 and Post hole 626. The majority of the material was collected from the enclosure contexts, specifically those related to cuts 557 and 561. The material was mostly severely abraded, rounded and uninformative even when structural features like exacted surfaces were present.
- B.9.5 The only noteworthy fragment was a remnant face and rounded lipped edge from Ditch **606** (Phase 3), Enclosure 1. However, its original form is unclear.

Discussion

B.9.6 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 is simply the detrital remains of prehistoric and possibly later activity on or near the site.

Statement of potential

B.9.7 The assemblage is of little archaeological significance.

Recommendations for further work

B.9.8 This material has been fully recorded. It should be considered for discard.

Group	Feature	Context	Cut	Fragment type	Structural type	Fabric	Notes	Count	Weight (g)
Earlier									
Enclosure 1		674	673	Amorphous	-	F1b	-	2	9
		558	557	Amorphous	-	F1a	-	2	11
		558	557	Structural	fs	F1a	-	1	8
		559	557	Amorphous	-	F1b	-	4	15
	560	557	Amorphous	-	F1a	-	1	5	
		560	557	Amorphous	-	F1b	-	4	22
Enclosure 1		560	557	Amorphous	-	F3	-	1	6
		562	561	Amorphous	-	F1a	-	6	22
		562	561	Amorphous	-	F1b	-	4	22
		562	561	Amorphous	-	F2	-	1	5
		562	561	Amorphous	-	F3	-	1	8
		610	606	Structural	fs/hf	F2	Fragment survives with a single face and a raise	1	50



Group	Feature	Context	Cut	Fragment type	Structural type	Fabric	Notes	Count	Weight (g)
							rounded lipped edge		
							(probably circumferential).		
							Handforming and digit impressions evident.		
							Original form unclear.		
							Fragment with curved		
		678	675	Structural	fs	F1b	flatted surface, exacted.	1	23
Enclosure 2		620	619	Amorphous	-	F2	-	1	2
Lifelosure 2		649	648	Amorphous	-	F2	-	1	1
		522	521	Amorphous	-	F1a	-	1	1
Roundhouse 2		522	521	Amorphous	-	F2	-	1	4
		548	547	Amorphous	-	F2	-	1	3
	Ditch	651	650	Amorphous	-	F3	-	1	8
	Pits	599	598	Amorphous	-	F1a	-	3	1
							high fire fragment with		
		504			,		organic impressions in a		•
		501	500	Structural	fs	F4	flattened surface	1	9
Ungrouped							Fairly large fragments with curved flattened surface,		
Oligioupeu		501	500	Structural	fc/hf	F1	made in a coarse calcy	6	205
					fs/hf		fabric. No original form.		
		660	659	Amorphous	-	F2	-	3	5
		662	661	Amorphous	-	F2	-	2	5
		666	665	Amorphous	-	F2	-	1	2
	Post								
	Hole	627	626	Amorphous	-	F2	-	1	1
							Grand Total	52	453

Table 16: Summary fired clay catalogue

fs = flattened surface, hf = hand-forming

B.10 Worked bone by Ian Ridder

Introduction and description

B.10.1 An incomplete bone needle (SF 11, from ditch **681**, Enclosure 1, Phase 3) has been cut from a cattle-sized long bone and probably from the side of the bone, which provides it with a lightly curved profile. It has been roughly shaped, with a pointed apex at the head and a tapering shaft; the lower part of the shaft has fractured away. The needle has not been finished. On either side of the head there are indentations marking the position of the perforation, but it was never cut. It is possible that the needle was discarded when the lower part of the shaft fractured away, in the course of shaping it. Longitudinal manufacturing marks from the smoothing of the shaft can be seen on both sides.

Classification

B.10.2 The needle belongs to Class 1 from Danebury, which spanned the entire Iron Age. The class is defined by a pointed apex and a shaft that is longer than the head (Sellwood 1984, 380). It formed the most common class of needle at Danebury and is well-represented elsewhere, although bone needles from Cambridgeshire sites tend to



have fractured about the perforation and their head forms are often unclear, as at Trumpington, for example (Riddler 2018, 225).

Discussion

B.10.3 The needle is particularly useful in showing its sequence of manufacture. The object has been cut from the bone and roughly shaped, with a clear indication that it was to have a pointed apex. The location of the perforation had been marked on both sides but the bone has not been pierced, and attention seems to have been concentrated instead on shaping the needle from the head to the point, before returning to the perforation. The section would probably have remained rectangular, although it might have been rounded, and the sinuous edges would have been pared down, if the needle had not fractured and been discarded.

Statement of potential

B.10.4 The bone needle is unlikely to address any specific research aims, however the fact that it was discarded before completion means that it illustrates an intermediate stage of manufacture and is therefore of interest.

Recommendations for further work

B.10.5 The item should be fully illustrated for any full analysis and/or future publication.

Retention, dispersal and display

B.10.6 It should be retained with the physical archive for deposition with the appropriate stores.

SF	Context	Feature	Artefact	Description	Dimensions
11	682	Ditch 681	Incomplete bone needle	Cut from a cattle-sized long bone and roughly trimmed to provide a pointed apex and a tapering shaft of rectangular section. Traces of an attempt to pierce the bone to provide a perforation on both sides at the head. Lightly curved in profile, following the natural curve of the bone. Lower part has fractured away.	L 76mm, estimated original length 87mm, Width 8mm.

Table 17: Worked bone catalogue



APPENDIX C ANIMAL BONE & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

C.1 Animal bone by Hayley Foster

Introduction and Methodology

- C.1.1 This assessment details the analysis of the animal bone recovered from land north of Biggin Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire. The assemblage is small, with 10kg of bone from hand collection and from environmental samples. Only 4 fragments came from environmental samples and 83 from hand collection. The species represented include cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis/Capra), sheep (Ovis aries), horse (Equus caballus), pig (Sus scrofa), dog (Canis familiaris), frog (Rana aurora), red/fallow deer (Cervus/Dama), field vole (Microtus agrestis) and mouse (Mus musculus). Animal bone was recovered from features dating to the Early Iron Age (Phase 2), Middle Iron Age (Phase 3) and Late Iron Age to Early Roman (Phase 4).
- 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).
- C.1.3 Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at OA East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972) and von den Driesch (1976) were used where needed for identification purposes.
- C.1.4 When analysing tooth wear of sheep/goat, tooth wear stages by Payne (1973 and 1987) 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 third molars and mandibles with the innermost tooth still present. Epiphyseal fusion was recorded according to Silver (1970) and Schmid (1972) for cattle, sheep and pig.

Results of analysis

- C.1.5 The assemblage is in a fair condition with moderate levels of fragmentation. Material was mainly recovered from Enclosure 1 and small amounts of bone from ditch **502**, Enclosure 2 and Roundhouses 1 and 2. The vast majority of faunal material was retrieved from features dating to the Middle Iron Age phase (Phase 3).
- C.1.6 Cattle made up the highest percentage of the NISP (52.9%) followed by sheep/goat (23.0%). Cattle ageing data revealed that cattle were 28-50 months according to mandible wear ageing, however the epiphyseal fusion data displayed the presence of a neonate animal, suggesting evidence of breeding occurring on site or in close proximity.

	Phase 2		Pł	nase 3	Pł	nase 4	Total	Total%
Species	NISP	NISP%	NISP	NISP%	NISP	NISP%	NISP	NISP%
Sheep/Goat	1	16.7	16	23.9	3	21.4	20	23.0
Cattle	1	16.7	36	53.7	9	64.3	46	52.9
Horse			4	6.0	1	7.1	5	5.7
Pig	2	33.3	9	13.4			11	12.6
Dog					1	7.1	1	1.1
Frog			1	1.5			1	1.1



	Pł	nase 2	Pł	nase 3	Pł	nase 4	Total	Total%
Mouse			1	1.5			1	1.1
Red Deer/Fallow Deer	1	16.7					1	1.1
Field Vole	1	16.7					1	1.1
TOTAL	6	100.0	67	100.0	14	100.0	87	100.0

Table 18: Number of identifiable specimens (NISP) and minimum number of individuals (MNI) of the total assemblage.

- C.1.7 Sheep/goat were the second most well represented species, predominantly retrieved from Enclosure 1. The epiphyseal fusion data indicated most elements contained an unfused epiphyses and that there was a presence of sheep/goat less than 18-28 months of age at death. The data suggests that sheep/goat were more likely to have been kept for meat opposed to secondary products such as milk and wool.
- C.1.8 Pigs were minimally represented. Remains were mainly cranial elements from Enclosure 1. No mandible wear data could be obtained from the fragmented mandibles retrieved.
- C.1.9 Horse remains were only present in Phases 3 and 4 and represented by only five specimens.
- C.1.10 Other mammals including dog, field vole and a mouse were all represented by one specimen and a single fragment belonging to a frog.
- C.1.11 The element distribution of the assemblage overwhelmingly shows that the majority of faunal remains were made up of cranial and foot elements, comprising over 65% of the assemblage, indicating primary butchery, in which head and feet were removed initially and disposed.
- C.1.12 In the Iron Age period on site, cattle were numerically predominant over sheep, with the relative sizes of cattle and sheep carcasses, beef would have contributed much more to the diet of the residents than lamb or mutton. In general sheep/goat are usually better represented in Iron Age faunal assemblages versus cattle, however as the assemblage is a small sample size that should be taken into consideration.
- C.1.13 At Ramsey, domestic mammals were the mainstay of the food economy, with cattle and sheep/goat remains being the most well represented species. The size of the assemblage unfortunately does not allow for interpretations to be made regarding farming practices; however, the limited data would suggest cattle, sheep/goat and pigs were slaughtered primarily for meat and cattle were probably reared close by.

Statement of potential

C.1.14 The material is a good representation of a mostly Iron Age domestic faunal assemblage. The data represents a modest quantity of identifiable animal bone. When viewed against data from contemporary sites in Cambridgeshire, it can be stated that in terms of taxa representation the assemblage mostly conforms to regional patterns, albeit that cattle were noticeably better represented at Ramsey. Conducting spatial analysis would allow for further interpretations and comparisons to be made on the types of faunal material coming from specific features. Collecting full biometric data



would allow for comparison to be made with other similar assemblages in the area and to determine if there were any changes in size of the main domestic species retrieved.

Recommendations for further work

Description	Performed by	Days
Take measurements, complete full recording and data analysis.	Hayley Foster	1
Write Report	Hayley Foster	1

Table 19: Recommendations for further work on the animal bone assemblage

Retention, dispersal and display

C.1.15 It would be recommended that the assemblage be retained as it can add to the regional picture of diet and husbandry practices in this area of Cambridgeshire.

C.2 Environmental samples by Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.2.1 Thirty-three bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated area at Biggin Lane, Ramsey and nineteen were selected for an initial assessment based on spatial distribution, phasing and context. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

- C.2.2 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.
- C.2.3 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 21.
- C.2.4 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. Carbonised 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.2.5 For the purpose of this assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

Results

- C.2.6 Preservation of plant remains is extremely poor which is most likely due to the clay content of the soils. Occasional remains preserved by carbonisation (charring) are present in Sample 5, fill 501 of pit 500 which contains a single charred brassica (*Brassica* sp.) seed and approximately 10ml of charcoal. This sample also contains fuel ash slag that may be indicative of the burning of dung or metalworking. Two charred cereal grains are present in Sample 23, fill 571 of ring gully 570.
- C.2.7 Ostracods (small bivalve crustaceans) and calcified seeds of duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) recovered from Samples 19 (fill 608 of ditch 606) and 36 (fill 676 of ditch 675) indicate the boundary ditch contained water at some point, probably seasonally. No waterlogged remains have been preserved.
- C.2.8 Several of the residues contain fragments of bone that are too small and degraded for identification. Pottery was recovered from several of the residues, some of which were from contexts that are undated. This pottery was incorporated into the ceramic assemblage before analysis by the relevant specialists.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Phase	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charred seeds	Ostracods	Duckweed	Charcoal Volume (ml)	Pottery
5	501	500	2	Pit	9	10	0	#	0	0	10	##
6	538	537	3	Ditch	18	2	0	0	0	0	0	#
7	512	511	4	Pit	16	2	0	0	0	0	<1	#
8	528	525	3	Ditch	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	#
16	595	593	3	Ditch	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	##
17	599	598	3	Pit	16	2	0	0	0	0	<1	#
19	608	606	3	Ditch	12	2	0	0	####	#	<1	0
20	565	564	3	Ring Gully	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	#
23	571	570	3	Ring Gully	16	2	#	0	0	0	<1	#
28	625	624	3	Ditch	18	10	0	0	0	0	2	0
29	627	626	3	P/H	8	1	0	0	0	0	<1	#



30	633	632	1	Pit	14	20	0	0	0	0	<1	#
32	643	642	3	P/H	18	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	620	619	3	Ditch	16	2	0	0	0	0	<1	##
35	590	589	3	Pit	17	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	676	675	3	Ditch	14	2	0	0	####	###	<1	#

Table 20: Environmental samples

Discussion and statement of potential

- C.2.9 The assessment of environmental samples from this site indicates that preservation of plant remains is poor and has low potential to aid the interpretation of the features sampled. The recovery of two charred grains from the Roundhouse 1 ring gully cannot be considered as significant as they are most likely derived from wind-blown refuse and may not be contemporary with the building.
- C.2.10 It is considered that the remaining samples are unlikely to be productive based on these initial results, but they could be processed for artefact retrieval if required.



APPENDIX D

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- D.1.1 All OA East post-excavation work will be carried out under relevant Health and Safety legislation, including the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974). A copy of the Health and Safety Policy can be supplied. The nature of the work means that the requirements of the following legislation are particularly relevant:
 - Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 offices and finds processing areas
 - Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992) transport: bulk finds and samples
 - Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992) use of computers for word-processing and database work
 - COSSH (1988) finds conservation and environmental processing/analysis



APPENDIX E Project Details	OASIS RE	PORT FOR	M						
OASIS Number	oxfordar3-3	oxfordar3-370214							
Project Name		Age Remains	at Biggir	Lane, F	Ramse	, Cam	bridgeshire		
•									
Start of Fieldwork	28/02/2019	ı	End o	f Fieldw	ork		29/03/2019		
Previous Work	Yes		Future Work				No		
			_						
Project Reference Codes			<u>_</u>						
Site Code	ECB5744		Planning App. Number			per	16/01530/OUT		
HER Number	ECB5744		Relate	ed Num	bers		preconst1-298609		
Prompt	Planning	g condition							
Development Type		esidential							
Techniques used (tick all	y -	- ⊠ Open-area ex - new □ Part Excavatio □ Part Survey □ Recorded Obs □ Remote Oper Survey		on		Syste Syste Surv Test	age Record ematic Field Walking ematic Metal Detector vey E-pit Survey Eching Brief		
Monument	Period		Object			F	Period		
Pit	Early Bronze A		Pottery				Early Bronze Age (- 2500 to		
	2500 to - 150						1500)		
Ditch	Middle Iron A	.ge (-	Pottery				Middle Iron Age (- 400 to -		
	400 to - 100)						.00)		
Pit	Middle Iron A	.ge (-	Pottery			L	ate Iron Age (- 100 to 43)		
Dital	400 to - 100)	410)	D. II) /42 +- 410\		
Ditch Insert more lines as appr	Roman (43 to	(410)	Pottery			F	Roman (43 to 410)		
ilisert illore illies as appi	орпасе.								
Project Location									
_	Cambridgeshire			Addre	ss (inc	luding	Postcode)		
	Huntingdonshire				Lane,		,		
	Ramsey	-			Ramsey,				
		ambridgeshire County Counc			Huntingdon,				
		storic Environment Team			Cambridgeshire PE26 1NB				
	(CHET)								
-	0.47ha								
	TL 2771 8470								

Project Originators

Organisation Project Brief Originator Project Design Originator Project Manager Project Supervisor

OA East
CHET
Liz Muldowney (OA East)
Liz Muldowney (OA East)
Neal Mason (OA East)



Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Cambridgeshire County Council	ECB5744
	stores	
Digital Archive	OA East	RASBIG19
Paper Archive	Cambridgeshire County Council	ECB5744
	stores	

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork asso	ociated
Animal Bones Ceramics Environmental Glass Human Remains Industrial Leather Metal Stratigraphic Survey Textiles Wood Worked Bone Worked Stone/Lithic None Other				
Digital Media Database GIS Geophysics Images (Digital photos) Illustrations (Figures/Plates Moving Image Spreadsheets Survey Text Virtual Reality		Paper Media Aerial Photos Context Sheets Correspondence Diary Drawing Manuscript Map Matrices Microfiche Miscellaneous Research/Notes Photos (negatives/prints/sli Plans Report Sections Survey	ides)	

Further Comments

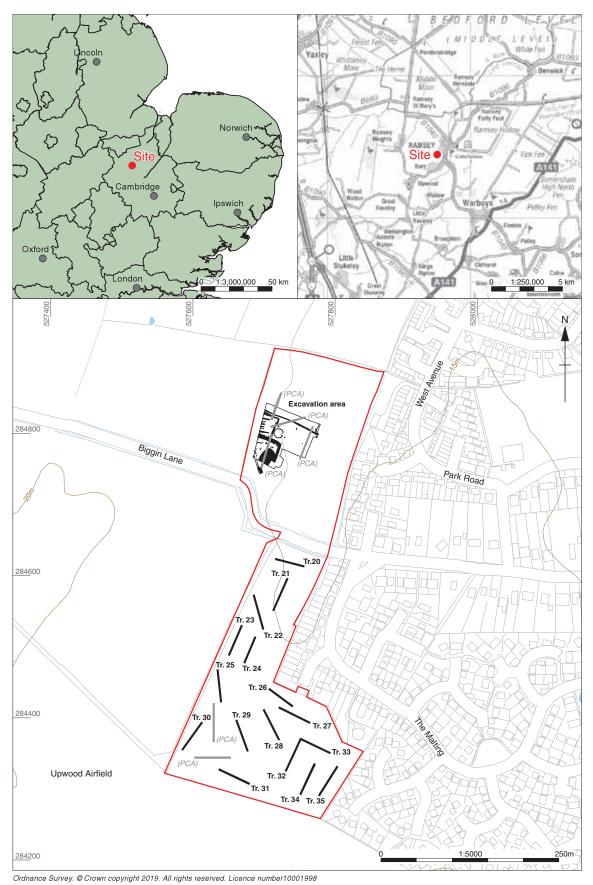


Figure 1: Site location map with development area outlined (red), OAE excavation area and evaluation trenches (black) and PCA evaluation trenches (grey)

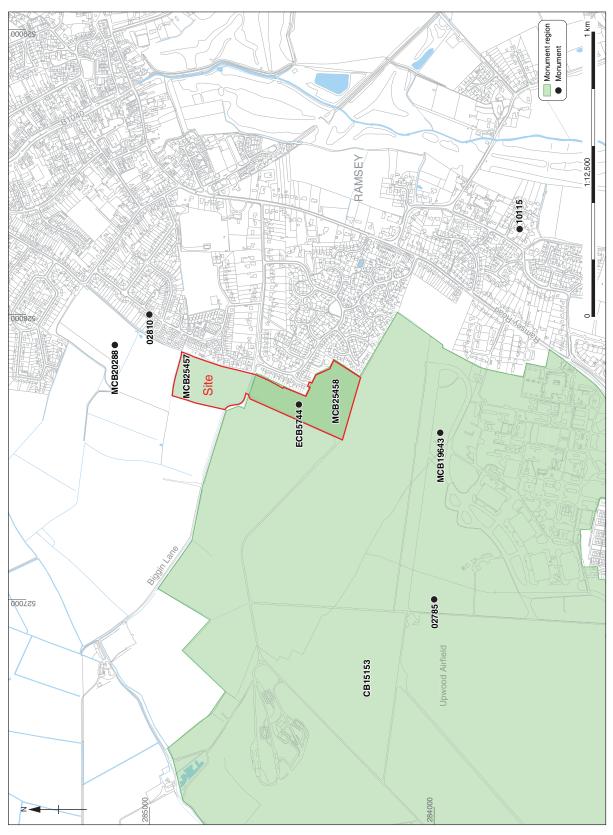


Figure 2: Selected HER entries derived from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)





Figure 3: Geophysical survey (after Fortuny 2017)

Report Number 2317

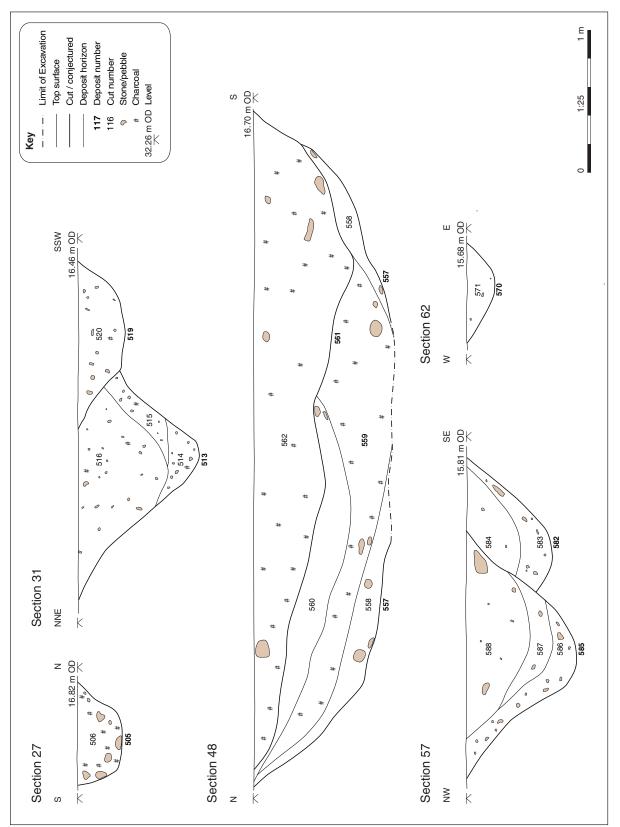


Figure 5: Selected sections





Plate 1: Early Iron Age pit 500, looking west



Plate 2: Enclosure 1 ditch, looking north-west





Plate 3: Round House 1, looking south-south-west



Plate 4: Ditches 634 and 638 of Enclosure 2, looking south-south-west





Plate 5: Enclosure 1 ditch cut by modern airfield disturbance, looking south-south-west





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