



# Aragon and Sackville Close, Cambridge

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

March 2023

**Client: RPS (on behalf of Hill Group)**

Issue No: 3

OA Reference No: 2652

NGR: TL 45352 61373 and TL 45294 61261





Client Name: RPS (on behalf of Hill Group)  
Client Ref No.: 27461  
Document Title: Aragon and Sackville Close, Cambridge  
Document Type: Evaluation Report  
Report No.: 2652  
Grid Reference: TL 45352 61373 and TL 45294 61261  
Planning Reference: 22/00583/FUL  
Site Code: ECB7053  
Invoice Code: CAMARA23  
Receiving Body: Cambridgeshire County Council  
Accession No.: ECB7053

OA Document File Location: <https://files.oxfordarchaeology.com/nextcloud>  
OA Graphics File Location: <https://files.oxfordarchaeology.com/nextcloud>

Issue No: 3  
Date: March 2023  
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## Aragon and Sackville Close, Cambridge

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## Summary

Between 27th February 2023 and 3rd March 2023, Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation on two neighbouring residential development areas at Aragon Close and Sackville Close, Cambridge (TL 45352 61373 and TL 45294 61261). A total of eight 6m long trenches, which represented a 5% sample area of the overall site.

The evaluation revealed several ditches and pits in both investigation areas. Six of the ditches were on a north-east to south-west axis to suggest they were part of the same overall boundary ditch alignment, possibly a roadside ditch defining the route of Akeman Street. The dating evidence suggests activity on the site dates from the mid 2nd to late 4th century AD.

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank RPS (on behalf of Hill Group) for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Lu Speariett who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Andrew Greef. The fieldwork was directed by Matthew Edwards, who was supported by Toby Knight and Willow Major. Survey and digitising was carried out by Daria Adamson. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision 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 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS (on behalf of Hill Group) to undertake a trial trench evaluation at two neighbouring sites at Aragon Close and Sackville Close.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 22/00583/FUL). A brief was set by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET) and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

#### *Site location*

- 1.2.1 The proposed development is situated within the King's Hedges Ward to the north-west of Cambridge (Fig. 1). The two sites occupy near identical plots at the centre of Aragon Close and Sackville Close. Each of the proposed development areas are roughly square in shape. They are currently used for vehicle parking across the eastern half of the site, with car garages located in the south-east corner, and an open grassed space across the western half of each site. A number of protected mature trees are present (particularly within the western half of each site).
- 1.2.2 The sites are located within a mostly built-up part of King's Hedges, with a recreation ground located approximately 25m to the north-west of each plot. The south-eastern boundary of this recreation area follows the line of a Roman Road (Akeman Street).

#### *Topography*

- 1.2.3 Made ground is expected to be present beneath the concreted parts of each site (approximate depth of 0.7m according to window samples taken on site). The current elevation of the concreted parts of each site is mostly level, at 12.5m to 12.8m OD.

#### *Geology*

- 1.2.4 The underlying geology is comprised of Gault Formation – mudstone, with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits – sand and gravel (British Geological Survey viewer, <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>, viewed January 2023).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development is located in an area of dense Romano-British activity and has the potential to reveal significant Iron Age to Roman archaeological remains.
- 1.3.2 The following section provides a summary of the archaeological background for the area surrounding the site, with a particular focus on the later prehistoric and Romano-British remains. This draws on information obtained through a 1km radius search of

the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). The location of CHER sites is shown on Fig. 2.

### *Earlier prehistoric*

- 1.3.3 A few local sites have produced Mesolithic and Neolithic finds, although mostly as objects incorporated into the fills of later features. These include Mesolithic flakes and a blade from a Bronze Age ditch at Harris Road 0.9km to the south-west (MCB 19296, not illustrated) and Neolithic flint recovered from undated features excavated 0.5km to the north at the Unex Lands (CHER 15603).

### *Iron Age*

- 1.3.4 The site lies in the vicinity of the defensive Late Iron Age ringwork at Arbury Camp and evidence of Iron Age field systems pre-dating phases of villa building have been uncovered at King's Hedges School (CHER 05421B). Iron Age enclosures, roundhouses and metal working evidence have been recorded at the Manor Farm excavations in the immediate vicinity of the site (CHER 05414, 05413, 05422A, 05419A) with the closest features comprising several Iron Age pits only 50m to the north-east of Aragon Close (CHER 05416A).

### *Romano-British*

- 1.3.5 The main feature of the Romano-British landscape is represented by a stretch of Akeman Street between Cambridge and Littleport to the north (Margary Route 23b). This road is also called Mere Way along the boundary between the parishes of Milton and Impington. Occupation off the Roman road has been widely recorded to the north-east of the development site at Manor Farm (CHER 05434, 05419, 05415, 05420, 05422), where villa buildings and other remains have been the subject of investigations since the 1950s. More recent interventions in the same area at King's Hedges School have revealed two phases of the Roman villa dating to the later 4th century and associated features (CHER 05421B).
- 1.3.6 Many burials have been recorded in the vicinity of the development area. Directly to the south of Sackville Close, during the initial construction of King's Hedges in the 1970s Roman inhumations including wooden coffins were found in the area that is now Chapman Court (CHER 05213). Further inhumations have been recorded along the line of Akeman Street both north of Aragon Close (CHER 05413) and further to the south on the other side of Arbury Road (CHER 05288, 05429, 05427, 05425).
- 1.3.7 Fragments of a Roman sculpture were recovered 400m south-west of Aragon Close at Arbury Road (CHER 08066).

### *Early medieval*

- 1.3.8 Few features of Anglo-Saxon date have been recorded in the vicinity with features of probable Saxon date recorded at King's Hedges School (CHER 05421A) and a single pit containing Saxon pottery was recorded at Arbury Road (CHER 05424A).

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### ***Medieval and later***

- 1.3.9 The area would have been primarily in agricultural use from the medieval period onwards with numerous instances of ridge and furrow recorded in the archaeological record (CHER 05435A, 05465, 05413B, 05415B, 05527A).
- 1.3.10 During the late 19th and 20th centuries the landscape to the south of the site was steadily developed as Cambridge expanded, with the site ultimately forming part of the King's Hedges estate.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains;
- ii. to provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits;
- iii. to provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits;
- iv. to set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions; and
- v. to provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of eight trenches measuring 6m long and 1.8m wide were excavated. This approximated to a 5% sample of the proposed development areas. Trenches were located to avoid site constraints and ensure adequate coverage across the construction areas. During the evaluation, the locations and dimensions of some of the trenches was modified due to site obstructions, services, and modern disturbance.
- 2.2.2 Service plans were checked before work commenced on site. Before trenching, the footprint of each trench was scanned by a qualified and experienced operator using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate.
- 2.2.3 Trial trenches were excavated by a wheeled JCB-type excavator to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first. A toothless ditching bucket with a bucket width of 1.8m was used to excavate the trenches.
- 2.2.4 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. However, the site had a surface layer of concrete slabs overlying a consolidation layer of brick rubble. As a result, topsoil and subsoil could not be kept separate as such deposits were either absent or else indistinguishable. Trenches were not backfilled without the approval of the CHET advisor.
- 2.2.5 Some archaeological levels were at depth so safe excavation procedures were followed to ensure that trenches were safe to enter. This included excavating features to a depth of no greater than 1m.
- 2.2.6 Bucket samples of 90 litres of excavated soil were taken from each trench to characterise artefactual remains in the topsoil and other soil horizons above the

archaeological level. Metal detecting was carried out in the areas of all trenches prior to and during their excavation.

- 2.2.7 All features were investigated and recorded to provide an accurate elevation of archaeological potential, whilst at the same time minimising disturbance to archaeological structures, features, and deposits. All relationships between features or deposits were investigated and recorded.
- 2.2.8 Investigation slots through all linear features were at least 1m in width. Discrete features were half-sectioned.
- 2.2.9 Surveying was carried out with a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica GS16) fitted with “smartnet” technology providing an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 2.2.10 Bulk samples (up to 40 litres or 100% of context) were taken from a range of site features and deposits to target the recovery of plant remains, fish, bird, small mammal, and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. Environmental samples were taken from well-stratified, datable deposits.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental data are given in Appendices B and C.

### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The trenches were excavated through the car parks of Aragon Close and Sackville Close. In both cases, a layer of remnant topsoil (absent in Trenches 4 and 7, but present elsewhere) was present which sealed the underlying archaeological features and deposits. The topsoil was overlain by a layer of brick rubble which, in turn, was overlain by concrete slabs.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 There were eight trenches in total: four in Aragon Close and four in Sackville Close (Fig. 3). Archaeological features were recorded in all trenches.

### 3.4 Trench 1 (Aragon Close)

3.4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4) was shortened to 5m in length due to a lack of space for the machine excavator and the need to avoid trees. It was aligned north-west to south-east and contained two ditches located centrally within the trench.

3.4.2 Ditch 9 (Fig. 6, Section 4; Plate 1) was aligned north-east to south-west. It measured at least 0.9m wide and at least 0.3m deep. It had gentle sides and a concave base. Its fill (10) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay. It contained no finds. It was cut on its eastern side by parallel ditch 6 (Fig. 6, Section 4; Plate 1) which measured 1.54m wide by 0.56m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The basal fill (7) measured 0.18m thick and consisted of a mid brownish grey sandy silt. It contained 123g of Roman pottery dating to the late 2nd-4th century AD and also some animal bone. It was overlain by a mid yellowish brown clayey silt (8) which measured 0.4m thick and produced 31g of Roman pottery dating to the late 2nd-4th century AD and 528g of ceramic building material. Some animal bone was also recovered. An environmental sample taken from this fill produced a single unidentifiable cereal grain and small quantities of glass and pottery fragments.

### 3.5 Trench 2 (Aragon Close)

3.5.1 Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4) was 6m long and on a north-east to south-west alignment. It contained one ditch (50), aligned north-east to south-west, which measured a least 0.7m wide and at least 0.24m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its full profile was not excavated; the feature itself was only partially exposed and extended

underneath the baulk of the trench. Its fill (51) was a mid yellowish brown sandy silt and produced a single sherd (7g) of Roman pottery that was dated to the 2nd-4th century AD.

### 3.6 Trench 3 (Aragon Close)

3.6.1 Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4) was 6m long and aligned north-west to south-east. It contained one pit (**100**; Plate 2) located in the south-eastern part of the trench which measured at least 1.3m wide and at least 0.28m deep with gentle sides and a flat base. Its full profile was not excavated; the pit was partially exposed and extended underneath the baulk of the trench. It was filled with a mid greyish brown sandy silt (101) that contained 1216g of Roman pottery, largely consisting of amphora, including a handle fragment (Plate 5) displaying an "L.Q.S." stamp dating to the mid to late 2nd century AD. An environmental sample taken from this fill produced fragments of legume and charcoal in addition to small quantities of mammal bone and struck flint. Hammerscale was also present in very low quantities.

### 3.7 Trench 4 (Aragon Close)

3.7.1 Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4) was 6m long and on a north-west to south-east alignment. It contained one ditch (**150**; Fig. 6, Section 3) situated in the north-western part of the trench which measured at least 1m wide and 0.36m deep. Its full profile was not excavated; the ditch was partially exposed and extended underneath the baulk of the north-western end of the trench. Its fill (151) was a mid greyish brown sandy silt which produced two sherds (27g) of Roman pottery that were both dated to the 2nd-4th century AD. Some animal bone was also recovered.

### 3.8 Trench 5 (Sackville Close)

3.8.1 Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 5) was aligned north-east to south-west and contained one ditch (**300**). The trench had to be moved from its original location due to the presence of an abandoned vehicle. This trench was also reduced in size to 4m long by 2.4m wide. The relocation of this trench affected the locations of both Trench 6 and Trench 7.

3.8.2 Ditch **300** (Fig. 6, Section 5; Plate 3) was located at the northern end of the trench. It was aligned east to west and measured at least 0.95m wide and 0.52m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its full profile was not excavated and extended underneath the baulk of the trench. It was filled with a mid orangey brown silty sand basal fill (301) which measured 0.15m thick. It was overlain by a dark brown sandy silt (302), which measured 0.37m thick, and contained 114g of Roman pottery dating to the late 2nd-4th century AD, in addition to 94g of ceramic building material. Some animal bone and oyster shell were also recovered. An environmental sample taken from this fill produced occasional unidentifiable cereal grains and negligible charcoal along with small quantities of pottery, animal bone, and ceramic building material.

### 3.9 Trench 6 (Sackville Close)

3.9.1 Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 4) was shortened to 5.25m in length due to the relocating of Trench 5. It was on a north-east to south-west alignment and contained a ditch and a pit.

3.9.2 Ditch **350** (Fig. 6, Section 6) was aligned north-east to south-west and measured at least 0.5m wide and 0.7m deep. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (351) was a light yellowish brown silty clay that produced 255g of Roman pottery, including a single sherd of mortaria, dating to the mid 3rd-4th century AD along with some animal bone. It was cut by pit **352** (Fig. 6, Section 6), which measured at least 1.5m wide and 0.7m deep with steep side and a concave base. It was filled with a mid greyish brown silty clay (352) and contained 987g of Roman pottery, including a sherd of a strainer (Plate 6). This assemblage has been dated to the 3rd-4th century AD. Some animal bone and oyster shell were also recovered.

### 3.10 Trench 7 (Sackville Close)

3.10.1 Trench 7 (Figs 3 and 5) was moved due to the relocating of Trench 5 and Trench 6. It was 6m in length and aligned north-west to south-east. It contained one small pit (**400**) situated at the south-eastern end of the trench, which measured at least 0.63m wide and 0.16m deep with gentle sides and a concave base. The full profile was not excavated due to the feature extending underneath the baulk of the trench. Its fill (401) was a mid greyish brown sandy clay that contained no finds.

### 3.11 Trench 8 (Sackville Close)

3.11.1 Trench 8 (Figs 3 and 5) was 6m in length and aligned north-west to south-east. It was moved due to the presence of a modern drain and contained two ditches.

3.11.2 Ditch **450** was located at the north-western end of the trench. It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured at least 0.8m wide and at least 0.5m deep. Its fill (451) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay which contained 341g of Roman pottery dating to the late 2nd-4th century AD along with some animal bone. It was excavated by a test pit which revealed a later ditch (**452**) on a parallel alignment. This ditch measured at least 0.8m wide and at least 0.5m deep. It was filled with a dark blueish grey silty clay that produced 275g of Roman pottery dating to the late 2nd-4th century AD and 330g of ceramic building material. A single fragment (746g) from a large rotary quern or small millstone was also recovered and dated by its association to the pottery with which it was found. Some animal bone was also recovered. An environmental sample taken from this fill produced a small quantity of unidentifiable cereal grains and occasional weed seeds and fragments of pottery, glass, and burnt flint.

### 3.12 Finds summary

#### *Pottery*

3.12.1 A total of 113 sherds (3376g) of wheel made Roman pottery was recovered from nine features across seven trenches. The sherds were moderately to heavily abraded and the assemblage broadly dates to the mid 2nd to late 4th century AD. The pottery was recovered from ditches and pits and the assemblage consisted of a variety of forms from some of the larger British industries such as the Nene Valley alongside a small quantity of imported wares.



### *Non-building stone*

3.12.2 A single sub-rectangular piece (746g) of buff-grey relatively fine-grained sandstone was recovered from ditch **452** in Trench 8. It has been identified as a fragment from a large rotary quern or small millstone and dated by its association with the Roman pottery with which it was found (mid 2nd-4th century AD).

### *Ceramic building material*

3.12.3 A small assemblage (952g) of ceramic building material was recovered from features across the site: two fragments (528g) of different tiles were recovered from ditch **6** in Trench 1; a single fragment (94g) of thin tile was recovered from ditch **300** in Trench 5; and a single fragment (330g) of Roman brick was recovered from ditch **452** in Trench 8.

### *Coins*

3.12.4 A single copper-alloy Roman Dupondius of Antoninus Pius (AD 138-160) was recovered from subsoil (context 4) in Trench 4.

### *Animal bone*

3.12.5 A small assemblage of hand-collected animal bone totalling 97 fragments (3066g) was recovered from the site. The faunal remains were recovered from six ditch interventions and a single pit which produced Roman pottery broadly dating from the mid 2nd-4th century AD. The assemblage is well preserved and comprises mostly cattle remains, with low counts of domestic fowl, equids, cat and sheep/goat.

### *Mollusca*

3.12.6 A total of 47 fragments (495g) of poorly preserved oyster shell were recovered from four features across three trenches. The largest group was recovered from ditch **300**, which produced 35 fragments.

### *Environmental remains*

3.12.7 Four bulk samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 1, 3, 5, and 8 which yielded small quantities of unidentifiable cereal grains and occasional fragments of legume. Weed seeds and fragments of charcoal were also present in some of the samples. Overall, plant material within the samples is sparse which suggests that there is limited potential for the preservation of such material at the site.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are considered reliable. Archaeological features were clearly visible against the natural geology.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The objectives laid out in Section 2.1.1 were met during the evaluation.

4.2.2 Eleven archaeological features were shown to be present. Of these, eight were ditches of varying dimensions and three (**100**, **352** and **400**) were probable pits, although this was not confirmed as these features were only partly exposed against the edges of Trenches 3, 6, and 7 respectively. Three ditches (**350**, **450** and **452**) were considerably deeper.

4.2.3 Almost all of the pottery from the ditches and pits encountered at Aragon and Sackville Close dates from the mid 2nd-4th century AD. A dupondius of Antoninus Pius (AD 138-160) was also recovered from subsoil in Trench 4. No structural features were revealed by the trenches. However, several fragments of somewhat abraded brick and roof tile were identified on site to suggest the presence of Roman structures in the general vicinity. Overall, the finds assemblages suggest the features relate to Middle to Late Roman activity on the site.

### 4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Lying within a known area of dense Roman remains, The groups of features revealed by the trenches at Aragon and Sackville Close probably represent further roadside activity during the Romano-British period.

4.3.2 Six of the ditches (**6/9** (Trench 1), **150** (Trench 4), **350** (Trench 6) and **450/452** (Trench 8)) lay on the same south-west to north-east alignment, a course which runs parallel with the Roman road of Akeman Street, c.40m to the north-west of the site (Fig. 3). Therefore, it is possible this alignment represents a continuous roadside ditch.

4.3.3 The results complement previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Akeman Street which have encountered settlement remains and inhumation burials (see Section 1.3.5-7). Roadside occupation has been recorded to the north-east of the site, at Manor Farm (CHER 05434, 05419, 05415, 05420 and 05422), where villa buildings and associated remains have been investigated since the 1950s. More recent interventions at the nearby King's Hedges School revealed two phases of Roman villa dating to the late 4th century AD.

### 4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation has encountered a locally significant group of Romano-British remains. Several ditches and pits were revealed by the trenches which contained a broad range of artefacts and ecofacts dating from the mid 2nd to late 4th century AD. Six of the ditches possibly formed part of a continuous roadside ditch defining the route of Akeman Street to the north-west.

4.4.2 This site has good potential to add to our growing understanding of Roman sites within this part of Cambridge and whether roadside activity is related to the nearby villa site at King's Hedges School.

## 4.5 Archiving

4.5.1 If no further work is required at the site then some elements of the finds assemblage will be discarded on the recommendations of the individual specialists and the remaining material will be prepared and boxed ready for depositing (as set out in the Written Scheme of investigation). If further work on the site are to take place then the site archive will be retained by OA until the completion of these works (including post-excavation work).

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of mid brown clayey silt subsoil, dark brownish grey clayey silt remnant topsoil, and a consolidation layer of modern brick rubble which was, in turn, overlain by concrete slabs. Natural geology of mid reddish brown clayey silt.					Length (m)	5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.67
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.14	Concrete slab surface	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.24	Brick rubble consolidation	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.11	Remnant topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
6	Cut	1.54	0.56	Ditch	-	-
7	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of ditch 6	Pot, bone	
8	Fill	-	0.40	Fill of ditch 6	Pot	
9	Cut	0.90+	0.30+	Ditch	-	-
10	Fill	-	0.30+	Fill of ditch 9	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of mid brown clayey silt subsoil, dark brownish grey clayey silt remnant topsoil, and a consolidation layer of modern brick rubble which was, in turn, overlain by concrete slabs. Natural geology of mid yellowish brown silty clay.					Length (m)	6
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Concrete slab surface	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.09	Brick rubble consolidation	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.11	Remnant topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
50	Cut	0.70+	0.24+	Ditch	-	-
51	Fill	-	0.24+	Fill of ditch 50	Pot	

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one pit. Consists of mid brown clayey silt subsoil, dark brownish grey clayey silt remnant topsoil, and a consolidation layer of modern brick rubble which was, in turn, overlain by concrete slabs. Natural geology of mid yellowish brown silty clay.					Length (m)	6
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.16	Concrete slab surface	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.14	Brick rubble consolidation	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.10	Remnant topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
100	Cut	1.30+	0.28+	Pit	-	-
101	Fill	-	0.28+	Fill of pit 100	Pot	

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of a concrete slab surface overlying a layer of brick rubble consolidation. This, in turn, overlay mid brown clayey silt subsoil. Natural geology of mid yellowish brown silty clay					Length (m)	6
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.11	Concrete slab surface	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Brick Rubble consolidation	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
150	Cut	1.0+	0.36	Ditch	-	-
151	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of ditch 150	Pot	

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of mid brown clayey silt subsoil, dark brownish grey clayey silt remnant topsoil, and a consolidation layer of modern brick rubble which was, in turn, overlain by concrete slabs. Natural geology of mid yellowish brown sandy silt.					Length (m)	4
					Width (m)	2.4
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.13	Concrete slab surface	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.14	Brick rubble consolidation	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.12	Remnant topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
300	Cut	0.95+	0.52+	Ditch	-	-
301	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of ditch 300	-	-
302	Fill	-	0.37	Fill of ditch 300	Pot, bone, shell	

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a ditch and a pit. Consists of mid brown clayey silt subsoil, dark brownish grey clayey silt remnant topsoil, and a consolidation layer of modern brick rubble which was, in turn, overlain by concrete slabs. Natural geology of mid yellowish brown silty clay.					Length (m)	5.25
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.12	Concrete slab surface	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.10	Brick rubble consolidation	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.30	Remnant topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
350	Cut	0.50+	0.70	Ditch	-	-
351	Fill	-	0.70	Fill of ditch 350	Pot, bone	
352	Cut	1.50+	0.70	Pit	-	-
353	Fill	-	0.70	Fill of pit 352	Pot, bone, shell	

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one pit. Consists of a concrete slab surface overlying a layer of brick rubble consolidation. This, in turn, overlay mid brown clayey silt subsoil. Natural geology of mid yellowish brown sandy silt.					Length (m)	6
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.12	Concrete slab surface	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.14	Brick rubble consolidation	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
400	Cut	0.63+	0.16	Pit	-	-
401	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of pit 400	-	-

Trench 8						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of mid brown clayey silt subsoil, dark brownish grey clayey silt remnant topsoil, and a consolidation layer of modern brick rubble which was, in turn, overlain by concrete slabs. Natural geology of mid yellowish brown sandy silt.					<b>Length (m)</b>	6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.9
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.16	Concrete slab surface	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.13	Brick rubble consolidation	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.13	Remnant topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
450	Cut	0.80+	0.50+	Ditch	-	-
451	Fill	-	0.50+	Fill of ditch 450	Pot	-
452	Cut	0.80+	0.50+	Ditch	-	-
453	Fill	-	0.50+	Fill of ditch 452	Pot, quernstone	-

## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Coins

*By Denis Sami*

#### *Introduction and methodology*

B.1.1 A single copper-alloy Roman Dupondius was recovered from trench 4, context 4. The coin is worn and oxidised, but it was possible to identify it to type. The Roman Imperial Coinage (RIC) volume 3 was used as reference in the identification of the coin.

#### *Results*

B.1.2 Antoninus Pius as Caesar. (138 AD). Rome, Dupondius.

B.1.3 Reverse: Bare head right. [IMP T AELIVS CAE – SAR ANTONINVS]

B.1.4 Obverse: Pietas, veiled, standing right, raising right hand and holding incense box in left above lighted and garlanded altar. [PIE – TAS], S – C across field, [TRIB POT COS] around

B.1.5 Weight: 12.4g

B.1.6 Diameter: 26mm

### B.2 Pottery

*By Kathryn Blackburn*

#### *Introduction*

B.2.1 A total of 113 sherds (weighing 3376g) of Roman pottery was recovered from nine features across seven trenches. The sherds were moderately to heavily abraded and the assemblage broadly dates to the mid 2nd to late 4th century AD and comprised only wheel made vessels. The pottery was recovered from ditches and pits and the assemblage consisted of a variety of forms from some of the larger British industries such as the Nene Valley alongside a small quantity of imported wares.

#### *Methodology*

B.2.2 The pottery was analysed following the national guidelines (Barclay *et al* 2016) and with reference to the national fabric series (Tomber and Dore 1998) and Tyers (1996). Forms were identified using the Roman Pottery Vessel Type Series Constructed for the A14 MoLA Headland Project (Lyons 2020). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Vessel forms were recorded and vessel types cross-referenced and compared to other examples. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. OA East curates the pottery and archive.

## The pottery

B.2.3 The pottery was recovered from nine features; seven ditches and two pits. Fifteen pottery fabrics were identified and although locally produced coarsewares formed part of the assemblage Romano-British finewares were also recorded including examples from the Nene Valley, Oxfordshire and Colchester (Table 1). Imported wares also formed 35.87% of the assemblage by weight and all sherds were wheel made. A wide range of forms were present; particularly amongst the Nene Valley colour coated ware. Jars were the most common, however specialised wares such as Amphora, mortaria and a single example of a strainer also formed part of the assemblage.

Fabric	Forms	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
AMP Amphora (Tyers 1996, 87)	Dressel 20	10	1211	35.87
BURN Burnished ware	?	2	5	0.15
COLC Colchester colour coated ware (Tyers 1996, 167)	Jar/Bowl	4	83	2.46
LRSB Late Roman shelly ware	Jar	3	204	6.04
NVCC Nene Valley colour coated ware (Tyers 1996, 173)	Jar, bowl, dish, beaker and strainer	21	436	12.91
OXMO Oxfordshire white ware mortaria (Tyers 1996, 129)	Mortaria	8	345	10.22
OXRS Oxfordshire red slipped ware (Tyers 1996, 175)	Jar and bowl	6	102	3.02
SGW Sandy grey ware	Jar and bowl	19	483	14.31
SGW (Black) Sandy grey ware with black surfaces	Jar and bowl	4	40	1.18
SGW (Burn) Sandy grey ware with burnished exterior	Jar	1	16	0.47
SGW (OX) Sandy grey ware with oxidised surfaces	Jar	6	66	1.95
SHEL Shelly ware	Jar	6	117	3.47
SHEL (Black) Shelly ware with black surface	Jar and dish	16	219	6.49
SOW Sandy oxidised ware	Jar	6	48	1.42
WW White ware	?	1	1	0.03
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>3376</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 1: Pottery by fabric type

## Results

B.2.4 Roman pottery was recovered from nine features across seven trenches. The pottery will be discussed below by trench.



*Trench 1*

- B.2.5 Two fills of ditch **6** yielded pottery. A total of nine sherds (123g) were recovered from fill 7 which included locally produced sandy grey ware jars. Four sherds (31g) of pottery was recovered from fill 8 and included a mix of burnished ware, sandy grey ware and a shelly ware jar. These sherds have been dated to the late 2nd to 4th century AD.

*Trench 2*

- B.2.6 Fill 51 of ditch **50** yielded a single sherd (7g) of sandy grey ware dated to the 2nd to 4th century AD.

*Trench 3*

- B.2.7 Trench 3 contained a single pit (**100**) which contained 11 sherds (1216g) of pottery, largely consisting of Amphora. The amphora appears to be part of a Dressel 20 vessel and includes a handle fragment displaying the makers mark L.Q.S. and has been dated to the mid to late 2nd century AD.

*Trench 4*

- B.2.8 Just two sherds (weighing 27g) were recovered from fill 151 of ditch **150**. These comprised a sherd of a shelly ware jar and a sherd of sandy grey ware both dated to the 2nd to 4th century AD.

*Trench 5*

- B.2.9 Fill 302 of ditch **300** yielded ten sherds (114g) of pottery. This included two sherds (29g) of Nene valley colour coated ware jar with a dark brown slip, a sherd (21g) of sandy oxidised ware and six sherds (64g) of shelly ware jar and dish. These sherds have been dated to the late 2nd to 4th century AD.

*Trench 6*

- B.2.10 Trench 6 yielded pottery from a ditch and a pit. Ditch **350** yielded 11 sherds (255g) of pottery including two sherds (79g) of Nene Valley colour coated ware bowl and beaker, six sherds (102g) of Oxfordshire red slipped ware bowl and jar, a single sherd (19g) of Oxfordshire white ware mortaria and two sherds (55g) of sandy grey ware jar. This assemblage dates to the mid 3rd to 4th century AD.

- B.2.11 A total of 32 sherds (987g) of pottery was recovered from fill 353 of pit **352**. The pottery dates to the 3rd to 4th century AD and comprised sandy grey ware, sandy oxidised ware and shelly ware jars. Romano-British finewares were recovered including two sherds (41g) of Colchester colour coated ware and seven sherds (164g) of Nene Valley colour coated ware in a variety of forms with varying slip colours, most noteworthy is a sherd of strainer with an orangey red slip. Other specialist wares were also present in the form of Mortaria from Oxfordshire, these sherds included body and rim sherds of a bead and flange vessel.

*Trench 8*

- B.2.12 Two ditches within Trench 8 contained Roman pottery. Ditch **450** yielded 15 sherds (341g) including sherds from a Late Roman shelly ware storage jar and Nene Valley and Colchester colour coated ware jar or bowl. These sherds have been dated to the late 2nd to 4th century AD.

B.2.13 Fill 453 of Ditch 452 contained 18 sherds (275g) of pottery also dating to the late 2nd to 4th century AD. This assemblage included seven sherds (119g) of Nene Valley colour coated ware dish, sandy grey ware, sandy oxidised ware and shelly ware jars and a single sherd (53g) of Late Roman shelly ware storage jar.

### Conclusion

B.2.14 Although the assemblage is moderate in size it indicates the presence of domestic activity during the mid 2nd to the 4th century AD. Although locally produced coarsewares formed part of the assemblage there are a large proportion of British finewares as well as specialist and imported wares.

B.2.15 In terms of number of sherds, Nene Valley colour coated ware was the most prominent within the assemblage and included a variety of forms including a single sherd of a small strainer. Mortaria were also present within the assemblage although in this case appear to have derived from Oxfordshire indicating trade links with parts of southern Britain. Most noteworthy were the fragments of amphora including the handle bearing the makers stamp of L.Q.S. The amphora itself is believed to have derived from Spain containing olive oil and the makers stamp has also been recorded on vessels from Vindolanda and Colchester. Although the vessel itself is thought to date to the mid to late 2nd century AD it could be that the feature it was recovered from may be later in date as vessels such as these would likely have been used for a prolonged period.

B.2.16 Further work at the site could produce a larger and similar assemblage to what was recovered during the evaluation with the potential to identify more specialist and imported wares.

### Illustration

B.2.17 If further work goes ahead the amphora makers stamp and the Nene Valley colour coated strainer should be illustrated as part of a final report.

### Catalogue

Trench	Fill	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric	Dsc	Form	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Spotdate	Context Date
1	7	6	Ditch	SGW (Black)	B	Bowl	2	26	C2-C3	LC2-C4
1	8	6	Ditch	BURN	U	?	1	4	C2-C4	LC2-C4
1	7	6	Ditch	SGW	U	Jar	1	49	C2-C4	LC2-C4
1	7	6	Ditch	SGW (Black)	U	Jar	2	14	C2-C4	LC2-C4
1	7	6	Ditch	SGW (OX)	U	Jar?	2	20	C2-C4	LC2-C4
1	7	6	Ditch	SGW	U	Jar	1	7	C2-C4	LC2-C4
1	7	6	Ditch	SGW	U	Jar	1	7	C2-C4	LC2-C4
1	8	6	Ditch	SGW	U	Jar	1	13	C2-C4	LC2-C4
1	8	6	Ditch	SGW	U	Jar	1	1	C2-C4	LC2-C4
1	8	6	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	R	Jar	1	13	LC2-C4	LC2-C4
2	51	50	Ditch	SGW	U	?	1	7	C2-C4	C2-C4
3	101	100	Pit	AMP	Handle	Amphora	1	508	MC2-LC2	MC2-LC2
3	101	100	Pit	AMP	U	Amphora	9	703	MC2-LC2	MC2-LC2

Trench	Fill	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric	Dsc	Form	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Spotdate	Context Date
3	101	100	Pit	SGW	R	Jar	1	5	C2-C4	MC2-LC2
4	151	150	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	R	Jar	1	19	C2-C4	C2-C4
4	151	150	Ditch	SGW (OX)	U	?	1	8	C2-C4	C2-C4
5	302	300	Ditch	NVCC	R	Jar	1	21	MC2-C4	LC2-C4
5	302	300	Ditch	NVCC	U	Jar	1	8	MC2-C4	LC2-C4
5	302	300	Ditch	SOW	U	Jar	2	21	C2-C4	LC2-C4
5	302	300	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	R	Jar	1	23	LC2-C4	LC2-C4
5	302	300	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	R	Dish	1	14	C2-C4	LC2-C4
5	302	300	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	U	Jar	4	27	C2-C4	LC2-C4
6	353	352	Pit	OXMO	U	Mortaria	1	68	C3-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	NVCC	U	Beaker	1	7	MC2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	NVCC	U	Jar/Bowl	2	36	MC2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	COLC	U	Jar/Bowl	2	41	MC2-C3	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SHEL (Black)	U	Jar	4	50	C2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SHEL	R	Jar	1	11	C2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SGW	R	Jar	1	79	C2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SGW	U	Jar	1	75	C2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SOW	U	Jar	1	10	C2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SHEL	U	Jar	1	29	C2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	NVCC	U	Bowl	3	87	MC2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SOW	R	Jar	1	11	LC2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SGW	B	Jar	1	55	C2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SGW	R	Bowl	1	30	MC3-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SHEL	R	Jar	1	27	LC2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SHEL	R	Jar	1	16	LC2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SHEL	U	Jar	1	6	LC2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	SGW	R	Jar	1	57	C2-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	OXMO	R	Mortaria	3	242	C3-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	OXMO	U	Mortaria	3	16	C3-C4	C3-C4
6	353	352	Pit	NVCC	U	Strainer	1	34	MC2-C4	C3-C4
6	351	350	Ditch	NVCC	U	Bowl/Dish	1	61	MC2-C4	MC3-C4
6	351	350	Ditch	NVCC	U	Beaker	1	18	C3-C4	MC3-C4
6	351	350	Ditch	SGW	R	Jar	1	39	C2-C4	MC3-C4
6	351	350	Ditch	SGW (Burn)	U	Jar	1	16	C2-C4	MC3-C4
6	351	350	Ditch	OXRS	R	Bowl	1	20	MC3-C4	MC3-C4
6	351	350	Ditch	OXRS	R	Bowl	1	17	MC3-C4	MC3-C4
6	351	350	Ditch	OXRS	B	Jar	4	65	MC3-C4	MC3-C4
6	351	350	Ditch	OXMO	U	Mortaria	1	19	C3-C4	MC3-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	LRSH	R	Jar	2	151	C3-C4	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	SGW	U	?	1	1	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	SOW	U	?	1	5	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	SGW (OX)	R	Jar	2	24	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	BURN	U	?	1	1	C2-C4	LC2-C4

Trench	Fill	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric	Dsc	Form	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Spotdate	Context Date
8	451	450	Ditch	NVCC	U	Jar/Bowl	2	43	MC2-C4	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	SHEL	B	Jar	1	28	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	R	Jar	1	24	LC2-C4	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	R	Jar	1	20	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	COLC	U	Jar/Bowl	2	42	MC2-C3	LC2-C4
8	451	450	Ditch	NVCC	U	Jar/Bowl	1	2	MC2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	NVCC	U	Dish	4	22	MC2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	NVCC	B	Dish	3	97	MC2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	SGW	U	Jar	3	38	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	SGW	U	Jar	1	15	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	SGW	U	?	1	5	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	SOW	R	Jar	1	1	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	SGW (OX)	R	Jar	1	14	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	WW (pink)	U	?	1	1	C1-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	R	Jar	1	21	LC2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	SHEL (Black)	R	Jar	1	8	C2-C4	LC2-C4
8	453	452	Ditch	LRSB	U	Jar	1	53	C3-C4	LC2-C4

Table 2: Summary pottery catalogue

## B.3 Ceramic building material

By Ted Levermore

### Introduction

B.3.1 A small assemblage of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was recovered from Trenches 1, 5 and 8; 4 fragments, 952g. The fragments comprise Roman brick and tile found in conjunction with pottery of the period.

### Methodology

B.3.2 The material was analysed in accordance with the *Oxford Archaeology Guidelines for the Sampling, Recording and Discard of Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay*. The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. The relevant data is described in text and shown Table 3.

### Assemblage

#### *Chronology and character*

B.3.3 The assemblage comprises Roman brick and roof tile in a number of fabrics. The fabrics and character of this material is typical of rural Cambridgeshire CBM assemblages of the Roman period; they show a preference towards fine sandy fabrics with rare coarse inclusions. The material is moderately abraded and was found

amongst the pottery assemblage, pointing to the detrital character of a discard assemblage.

Code	Description
RB1	Mid orange with red margins and a light-grey core. Compact silt, common mica, rare fine sandy grit; occ to common fine to coarse red ?clay flecks and pellets and rare coarse quartz grains.
RB2	Dull brown with an orange core. Compact fine sandy, common quartz and mica with occasional coarse quartz, flint chunks and red-brown clay flecks. Rare instances of coarse sub-angular orange ?grog pellets.
RT1	Dull red-brown with dark grey core. Compact fine sandy, common quartz, occ mica with occasional coarse rounded quartz, red ?clay pellets and burnt/dark ?organic pellets. Very rare pebbles of dark stone.
RT2	Light to Dull brown. Compact fine sandy, quartz and mica alongside rare sandy minerals with occasional dark grit, flint and calc flecks.

*Table 3: Ceramic building material fabrics*

*Distribution*

B.3.4 The assemblage was recovered from trenches in both areas.

Trench 1

B.3.5 Two fragments of different tiles were recovered from ditch context 8 off Aragon Close. This context produced an abraded edge of a thin brick/thick tile (284g) made in a soft orange micaceous fabric with common reddish flecks and pellets (RB1, TH:30mm). It was well made, has a smoothed upper face and a fine sanded base with occasional coarse white coarse inclusions. The context also produced the edge of a thinner dull brown tile (244g), possibly from a tegula (RT1, 25mm). It has a rough moulded form, smoothed upper, irregular base and edge with some knife trimming. It retains a fine quartz moulding sand.

Trench 5

B.3.6 A single abraded fragment of thin tile (94g) was recovered from ditch context 302, off Sackville Close. This fragment only retains one face (a wiped surface) but it is likely to have had a complete thickness c.20mm. It is made in a light brown sandy fabric (RT2) similar to the amphora fabric seen amongst the pottery assemblage.

Trench 8

B.3.7 A single fragment of Roman brick (330g) was recovered from ditch context 453, off Sackville Close. This large, abraded chunk retains its sanded base (fine quartz) and a probable edge face, it retains a thickness of c.40mm but is likely to exceed 45mm in original size. It is made in a compact sandy fabric containing quartz and probably CBM grog (RB2).

**Discussion**

- B.3.8 This material is fragmentary and somewhat abraded and is contemporary with the pottery assemblage recovered.

*Retention, dispersal, or display*

- B.3.9 The assemblage has been fully recorded and described. There are no fragments that require illustration or photography. The fragments may be considered for dispersal.

## **B.4 Non-building stone**

*By Carole Fletcher*

*Introduction and methodology*

- B.4.1 A single fragment from a large rotary quern or small millstone was recovered from Trench 8. The functional category used is defined by Crummy (1983, 1988) and is either Category 4: Household utensils and furniture or Category 12: Objects associated with agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry. The stone was identified visually using a x10 magnifying lens and simplified recording only has been undertaken, with material type, basic description and weight recorded in the text of this report. The stone and archive are curated by OA until formal deposition or dispersal.

*Assemblage*

- B.4.2 Trench 8: A single sub-rectangular piece of buff-grey relatively fine-grained sandstone was recovered from ditch **452**. Part of the stone's outer edge survives, and the stone's diameter is 600mm or larger. It is uncertain if this is an upper or lower stone. The grinding surface has surviving concentric grooves, the most prominent of which is approximately 7mm wide and 3mm deep, while the shallowest is 1mm deep and the grooves are approximately 10mm apart. The other surface is relatively well-dressed, and the outer edge is rounded.
- B.4.3 The upper surface is possibly lightly pecked and may have been reused, while the lower face is somewhat convex and smooth, with a slight lip. The outer edge survives, however, the fragment is too small to be certain of the stone's diameter (0.746kg, 110 x 105 mm, thickness 36-40mm).

*Discussion*

- B.4.4 The sandstone quern/millstone fragment is likely to have originated in a setting strongly linked to agriculture. The assemblage itself is fragmentary and dated by its association with the 2nd-4th century Roman pottery which it was recovered.

*Retention, dispersal or display*

- B.4.5 The quern/millstone fragment should be retained.

## APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Animal bone

*By Joshua White*

#### *Introduction*

C.1.1 A small assemblage of hand-collected animal bone totalling 97 fragments (weighing 3,066g) was recovered during the archaeological evaluation at Aragon and Sackville Close, Cambridge. The faunal remains were recovered from six ditch interventions and a single pit, which all produced Roman pottery broadly dating from the mid-2nd to late 4th century AD. The assemblage is well preserved and comprises mostly cattle remains, with low counts of domestic fowl, equids, cat and sheep/goat. Although the assemblage has limited potential due to its small size, it is able to provide some broad insights into the animal husbandry regime practiced at the site during the Romano-British period.

#### *Methodology*

C.1.2 The bones were recorded using the methodology of McCormick and Murray (2007), modified from Albarella and Davis (1996), with the assemblage quantified using the number of identified specimens (NISP) method. Data was recorded into a *Microsoft Excel* worksheet which forms part of the digital archive.

C.1.3 Bones were recorded to groups, such as medium mammal, large mammal or medium-large mammal where identifications to taxa could not be made due to a lack of diagnostic features. The refitting of fragments clearly deriving from the same specimen was undertaken, with refitting specimens only counted once. Age-at-death was estimated either through analysis of tooth wear and eruption, or the state of epiphysial fusion. Teeth were assessed using data given by Payne (1973), Habermehl (1975) and Halstead (1985), with fusion rates recorded using data from Smith (1968) and Silver (1969).

C.1.4 Evidence for butchery was recorded, noting the type such as cut, chopped or sawn along with its location on a specimen. A note was also made of animal gnawing and bone that had been burnt. Biometric calculations followed guidelines set by Von den Driesch (1976) using digital calipers, with withers heights assessed through data published by Foch (1966).

#### *Results*

C.1.5 The animal bone is well preserved with minor levels of surface erosion, although a fair degree of fragmentation has occurred through a combination of processing in antiquity and damage caused during excavation. Butchery marks are relatively common and are predominantly seen on the cattle remains. Both chop and cut marks are present, with a cattle metacarpal from pit **352** demonstrating evidence of skinning. Three specimens in the assemblage show evidence of canid gnawing, possibly suggesting butchery waste was not rapidly buried. Although dog remains are not

present in the assemblage, such marks do demonstrate their presence at the site during the Romano-British period.

C.1.6 The assemblage is quantified by NISP in Table 4 and a full catalogue is provided in Table 5.

Taxa	NISP	NISP % (ident.)
Cattle	33	82.5
Equid	2	5
Cat	2	5
Domestic fowl	2	5
Sheep/goat	1	2.5
Large mammal	31	-
Medium mammal	1	-
Medium-large mammal	9	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>81</i>	-

Table 4: Quantification of the animal bone assemblage by taxa (NISP)

C.1.7 Cattle (*Bos taurus*) are the most numerous taxa present in the assemblage, accounting for 82.5% of the identifiable bone (NISP). Their remains are mostly represented by cranial and lower limb elements, suggesting the assemblage mainly consists of primary butchery waste, although upper limb elements are also present. The predominance of cattle may reflect their economic importance at the site during the Romano-British period or may simply reflect the improved survival and recovery rates afforded to cattle compared with other fauna. Maltby (1985) has demonstrated that the remains of large ungulates are recovered in greater numbers from ditches, compared to ovicaprid bones, which conversely experience better rates of survival and recovery from discrete features such as pits and postholes. It is possible that such factors may have influenced the sample from this site, which was mostly recovered from ditches.

C.1.8 Only a small sample is available through which to investigate the ages at which cattle died. The epiphyseal fusion data indicates that a large proportion of animals reached over three and a half to four years, possibly suggesting that some animals were exploited for dairy and traction. This is supported by one mandible from ditch **300** which indicates an animal aged between four to eight years at the time of its death. In contrast, a further mandible from the same ditch comes from an individual aged between 15 to 18 months at the time of its death, clearly demonstrating that cattle were also reared for their primary products such as meat and hides. A cattle metacarpal from ditch 452 indicates a withers height of 116cm.

C.1.9 Other taxa are present in low numbers. Equid (*Equus*) remains consist of a proximal phalange from an animal aged over 13-15 months from pit **352** and an astragalus from ditch intervention **06**. Cat (*Felis catus*) remains include a mandible from ditch intervention **06** (from an animal aged over 4-5 months) and a radius from ditch intervention **452** (from an individual aged over 4-8 months). Sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*) are represented by only a single fragment of maxilla from a mature animal, recovered from ditch **452**. Bird remains consist of two domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) humeri from ditch intervention **06**.



## Discussion

- C.1.10 Despite the small size of the animal bone assemblage recovered from the site, some general conclusions can be made about the pastoral economy practiced during the Romano-British period in the immediate environs and the depositional practices of the community once present at the site. Cattle appear to have been of primary economic importance and appear to have been exploited both for primary and secondary products. Animals used for the production of dairy and in traction were most likely also slaughtered at the end of their useful lives. This picture broadly fits the regional evidence for this period, which indicates cattle formed the mainstay of the pastoral economy (Allen 2017). As to whether the predominance of cattle in the assemblage directly reflects the makeup of the animal populations at the site in the past, or simply results from taphonomic variables, is unclear.
- C.1.11 Other taxa are present in low numbers and consequently their respective roles at the site in the past cannot be fully assessed. It is likely that domestic fowl and ovicaprids occasionally contributed to the diets of people at the site and equids were likely used for riding and other traction related work. The cat remains are of interest and their role in pest control may suggest the presence of domestic or agricultural buildings in the near vicinity.
- C.1.12 The presence of both primary and secondary butchery waste in the assemblage suggests that the carcasses of animals were both processed and consumed in the immediate vicinity, with butchery waste deposited into open ditches. However, it appears that minimal effort was put into the actual burial of waste, with a notable proportion of the assemblage having been gnawed by canids, suggesting waste remained available to scavengers (most likely dogs).

## Retention and dispersal

- C.1.13 The animal bone from the site should be retained as it will compliment any faunal remains assemblages recovered from the site in the future.

Trench	Cut	Context	Feature	Taxa	Element	Count
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Humerus	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Radius and Ulna	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Cervical Vertebra	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Cervical Vertebra	6
1	6	7	Ditch	Large mammal	Unidentifiable	14
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Humerus	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Tibia	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Loose max. tooth	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Metacarpal	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Large mammal	Tibia	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Domestic fowl	Humerus	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cat	Mandible	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Domestic fowl	Humerus	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Metatarsal	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Medium mammal	Pelvis	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Ulna	1
1	6	7	Ditch	Cattle	Skull	1
1	6	8	Ditch	Cattle	Loose max. tooth	1
1	6	8	Ditch	Large mammal	Sternum	1
1	6	8	Ditch	Large mammal	Rib	1

Trench	Cut	Context	Feature	Taxa	Element	Count
1	6	8	Ditch	Medium-large mammal	Rib	2
1	6	8	Ditch	Equid	Astragalus	1
4	150	151	Ditch	Medium-large mammal	Unidentifiable	1
5	300	302	Ditch	Cattle	Mandible	1
5	300	302	Ditch	Cattle	Mandible	1
5	300	302	Ditch	Cattle	Loose mand. tooth	1
5	300	302	Ditch	Cattle	Loose mand. tooth	1
5	300	302	Ditch	Cattle	Loose mand. tooth	1
5	300	302	Ditch	Cattle	Intermediate phalange	1
5	300	302	Ditch	Medium-large mammal	Unidentifiable	3
5	300	302	Ditch	Cattle	Mandible	2
5	300	302	Ditch	Large mammal	Skull	6
5	300	302	Ditch	Cattle	Tibia	1
6	350	351	Ditch	Cattle	Mandible	1
6	350	351	Ditch	Cattle	Mandible	1
6	352	353	Pit	Large mammal	Humerus	1
6	352	353	Pit	Cattle	Metacarpal	1
6	352	353	Pit	Large mammal	Unidentifiable	4
6	352	353	Pit	Cattle	Radius	1
6	352	353	Pit	Cattle	Metacarpal	1
6	352	353	Pit	Equid	Proximal phalange	1
8	450	451	Ditch	Medium-large mammal	Unidentifiable	1
8	450	451	Ditch	Large mammal	Unidentifiable	2
8	452	453	Ditch	Cattle	Metacarpal	1
8	452	453	Ditch	Cattle	Metapodial	1
8	452	453	Ditch	Large mammal	Unidentifiable	1
8	452	453	Ditch	Ovicaprid	Maxilla	1
8	452	453	Ditch	Medium-large mammal	Unidentifiable	2
8	452	453	Ditch	Cat	Radius	1

Table 5: Summary animal bone catalogue

## C.2 Mollusca

By Joshua White

### Introduction and methodology

- C.2.1 A total of 47 fragments (495g) of poorly preserved oyster shell were retrieved during the excavation.
- C.2.2 Each specimen was scanned to identify species, with the valve side noted along with any modification/butchery marks or evidence of parasitic infestation. The assemblage was recorded using a modified version of the methodology set out by Winder (2011). The molluscs were quantified by context and MNI (minimum number of individuals). Data was recorded into a *Microsoft Excel* spreadsheet which forms part of the digital archive.

### The assemblage

- C.2.3 Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shells were recovered from ditch interventions **300**, **450** and **452** (Trenches 5 and 8) and pit **352** (Trench 6). The largest group was recovered from ditch intervention **300**, which produced 35 fragments, translating to 12 MNI. As a whole, the assemblage consists of 24 individual mollusca (MNI). No notches or cut

marks are present across the assemblage and five specimens show evidence of minor parasitic infestation in the form of grant sponge burrows (*Cliona celata*).

### **Discussion**

C.2.4 The mollusc assemblage from the site is small and relatively uninformative but does indicate the consumption of oysters at the site in the Romano-British period. The low quantities at which they were recovered suggests that shellfish formed only a small part of people's diets. This likely relates to the inland setting of the site, with the nearest accessible coastal waters either c. 65km to the north around The Wash or c. 67km to the south-east around the Colne and Blackwater estuary. The recovered oysters were most likely transported upriver and accessed through local markets.

### **Retention and dispersal**

C.2.5 The oyster shells can be dispersed prior to deposition of the site archive.

## **C.3 Environmental remains**

*By Martha Craven*

### **Introduction**

C.3.1 Four bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas at Aragon and Sackville Close, Cambridge, in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 1, 3, 5 and 8 from deposits that are thought to be Roman in date.

### **Methodology**

C.3.2 The total volume (up to 16L) of each of the samples was 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.

C.3.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 6. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and OAE's reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

### **Quantification**

C.3.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

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

xxx

C.3.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as snail shells have been scored for abundance:

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Key to table:

f=fragment

### Results

C.3.6 Plant material within the samples is sparse. Preservation of archaeobotanical remains is through carbonisation (charring) and the material is in a relatively poor condition. The samples all contain frequent relatively well-preserved snail shells.

#### Trench 1

C.3.7 Sample 1, fill 8 of ditch **6**, contains a single unidentifiable cereal grain only. Finds recovered from the sample consists of small quantities of glass and pottery fragments.

#### Trench 3

C.3.8 Occasional medium sized (4-2mm) legume (Fabaceae) fragments and charcoal fragments were recovered from Sample 2, fill 101 of pit **100**. A small quantity of mammal bones and struck flint was also noted in the sample. Hammerscale was also present but in such low quantities that it is unlikely to be indicative of metal-working taking place in the vicinity of the feature.

#### Trench 5

C.3.9 Sample 3, fill 301 of ditch **300**, contains occasional unidentifiable cereal grains and negligible charcoal. Occasional pottery, mammal bone and ceramic building material was recovered from the sample.

#### Trench 8

C.3.10 A small quantity of unidentifiable cereal grains were recorded in Sample 4, fill 453 of ditch **452**, alongside occasional weed seeds consisting of possible knotweeds (*Polygonum sp.*) and buttercup (*Ranunculus sp.*) seeds. Finds from the sample include small amounts of pottery fragments, glass and burnt flint.

Trench Number	Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Snails from flot	Charcoal Volume(ml)	Pottery	Small Mammal Bones	Large Mammal Bones	CBM	Burnt fFlint	Struck flint	Glass	Hammerscale
1	1	8	6	Ditch	16	150	#	0	0	+++ +	0	#	0	0	0	0	0	#	0

3	2	101	100	Pit	16	10	0	#f	0	+++	<1	0	#	#	0	0	#	0	+
5	3	301	300	Ditch	16	50	#	0	0	+++	6	#	0	##	#	0	0	0	0
8	4	453	452	Ditch	16	50	#	0	#	+++ +	15	##	0	0	0	#	0	#	0

Table 6: Environmental samples

### Discussion

C.3.11 The sparsity of plant remains within the samples suggests that there is limited potential for the preservation of such material at this site.

C.3.12 Unfortunately, due to the lack of material recovered it is difficult to make many inferences regarding plant usage at this site. The small quantity of plant remains recovered from the sampled features are likely to be a background scatter of refuse which has unintentionally been incorporated into the features; perhaps blown in by the wind. It is possible that this area was not a focus of agricultural processing or domestic activity but it may also be the case that the site's geology is not conducive to the preservation of plant remains. The weed seeds recovered are typical of arable and ruderal environments and are likely to have been accidentally harvested alongside the cereals. The presence of quern stone fragments in ditch **452** hint at the possibility of cereal processing taking place in the vicinity but no evidence of this is reflected in the plant remains found.

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## APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-514290		
Project Name	Aragon Close and Sackville Close		
Start of Fieldwork	27/02/2023	End of Fieldwork	03/03/2023
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Yes

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMARA23	Planning App. No.	22/00583/FUL
HER Number	ECB7053	Related Numbers	

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

### Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling          | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new            | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning         | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey        | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey          | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors        | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey       | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling              | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey    | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography  |   |

Monument	Period
Ditch	Roman
Pit	Roman
	Choose an item.

Object	Period
Pottery	Roman
Animal bone	Roman
Coin	Roman
CBM	Roman

Insert more lines as appropriate.

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Aragon Close and Sackville Close Cambridge CB4 2SU
District	Cambridge	
Parish	Cambridge	
HER office	CHET	
Size of Study Area	0.48ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 45352 61373 and TL 45294 61261	



### Project Originators

Organisation	OAE
Project Brief Originator	Lu Speariett (CHET)
Project Design Originator	RPS
Project Manager	Andy Greef
Project Supervisor	Matthew Edwards

### Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB7053
Digital Archive	ADS	ECB7053
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB7053

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	X	X	X
Ceramics	X	X	X
Environmental	X	X	X
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	x	x	x
Stratigraphic		X	X
Survey		X	X
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	x	x	x
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Digital Media

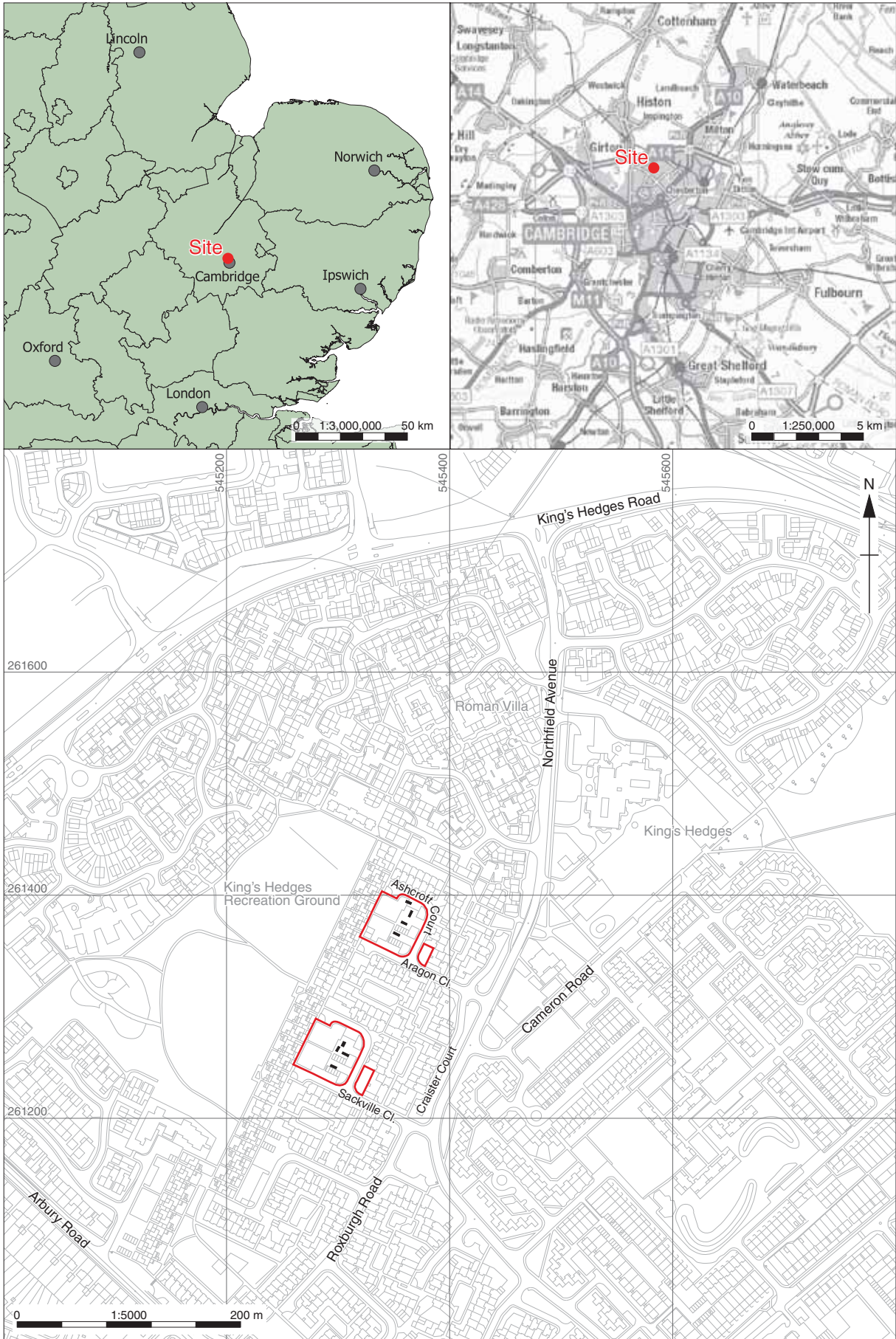
Database	X
GIS	X
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	X
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	X
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	X
Text	X
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	X
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	X
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	X
Report	X
Sections	X
Survey	X

### Further Comments





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





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Figure 3: Overall site plan

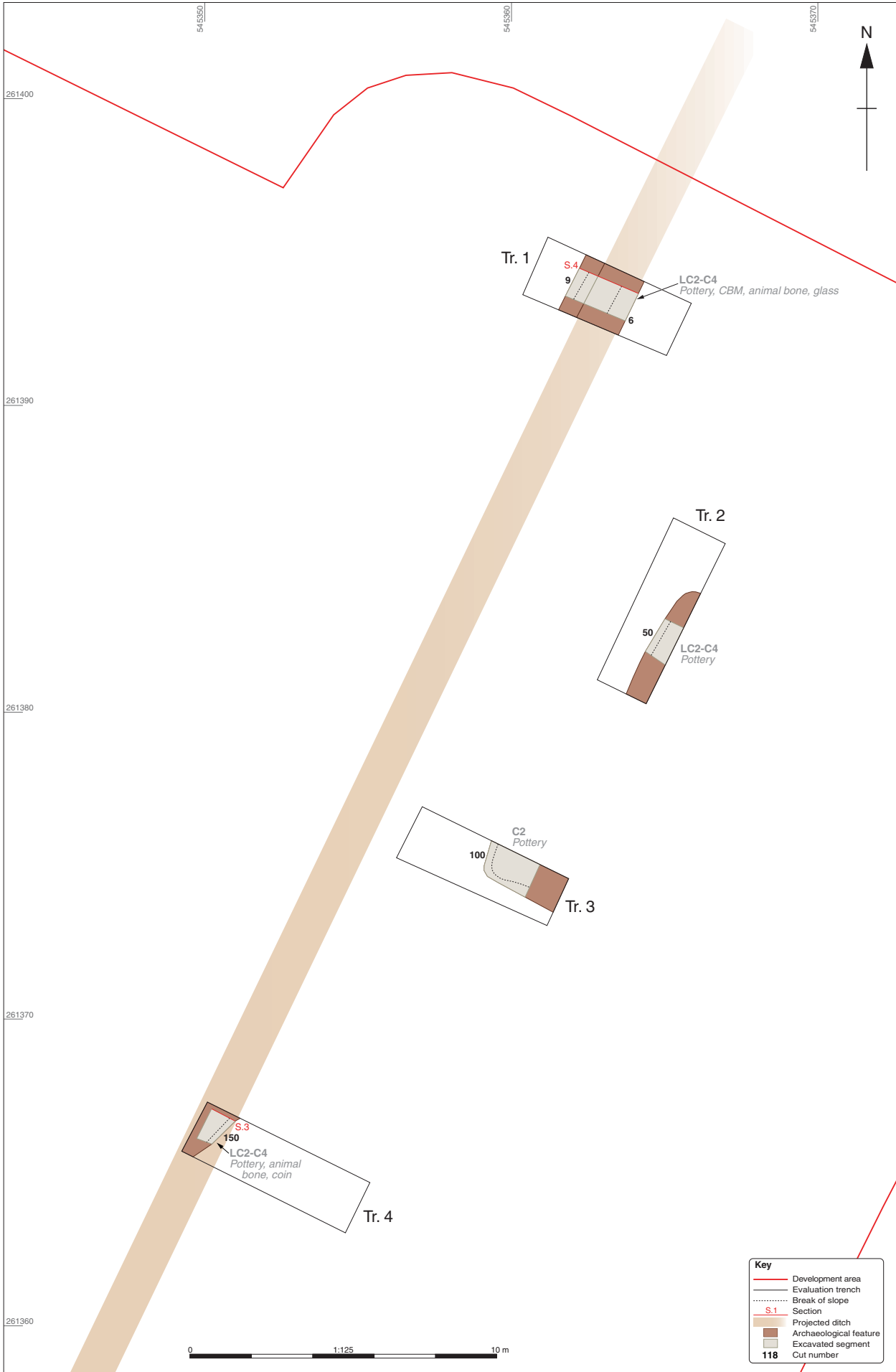


Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Aragon Close)

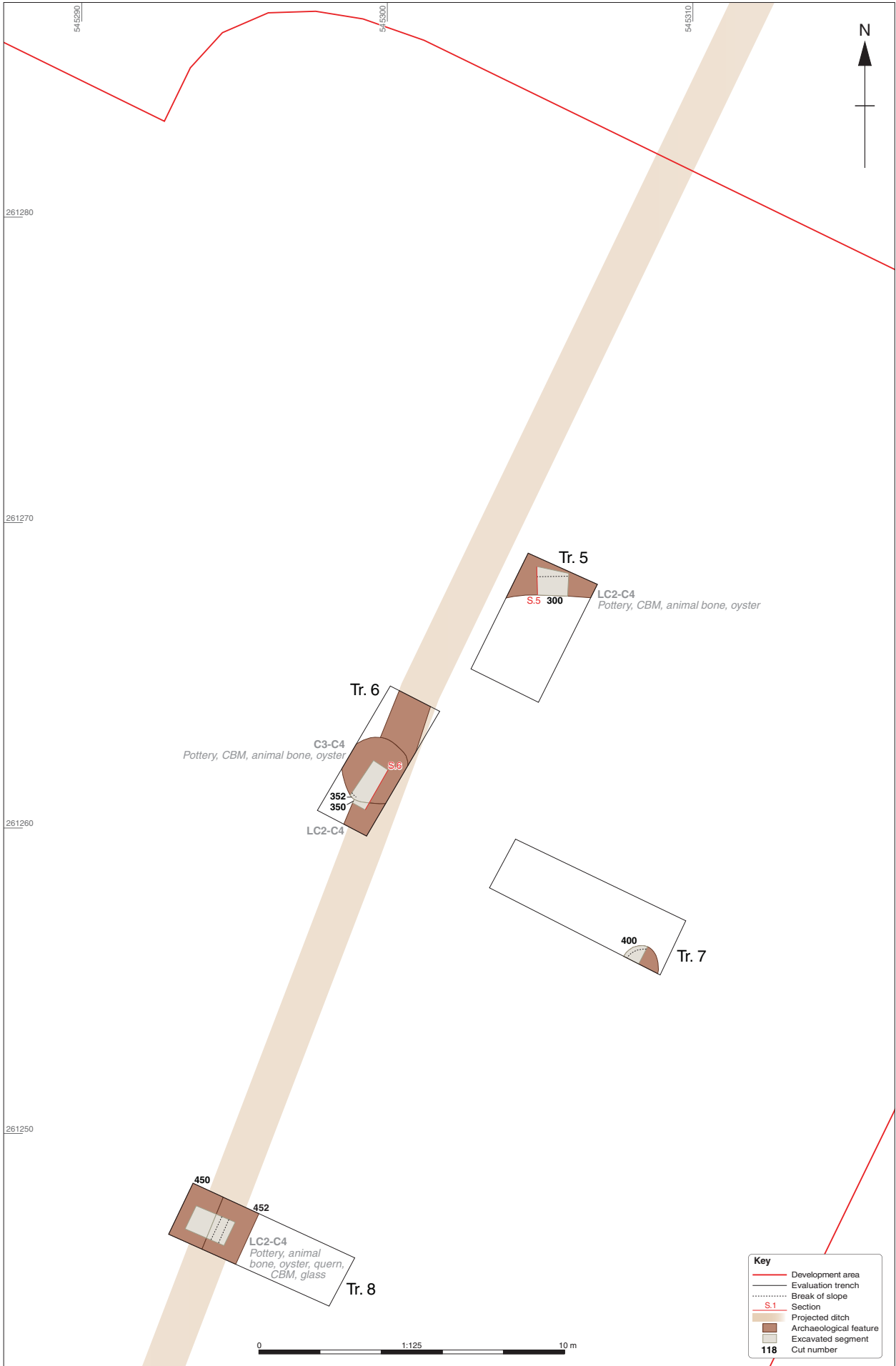


Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trenches 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Sackville Close)

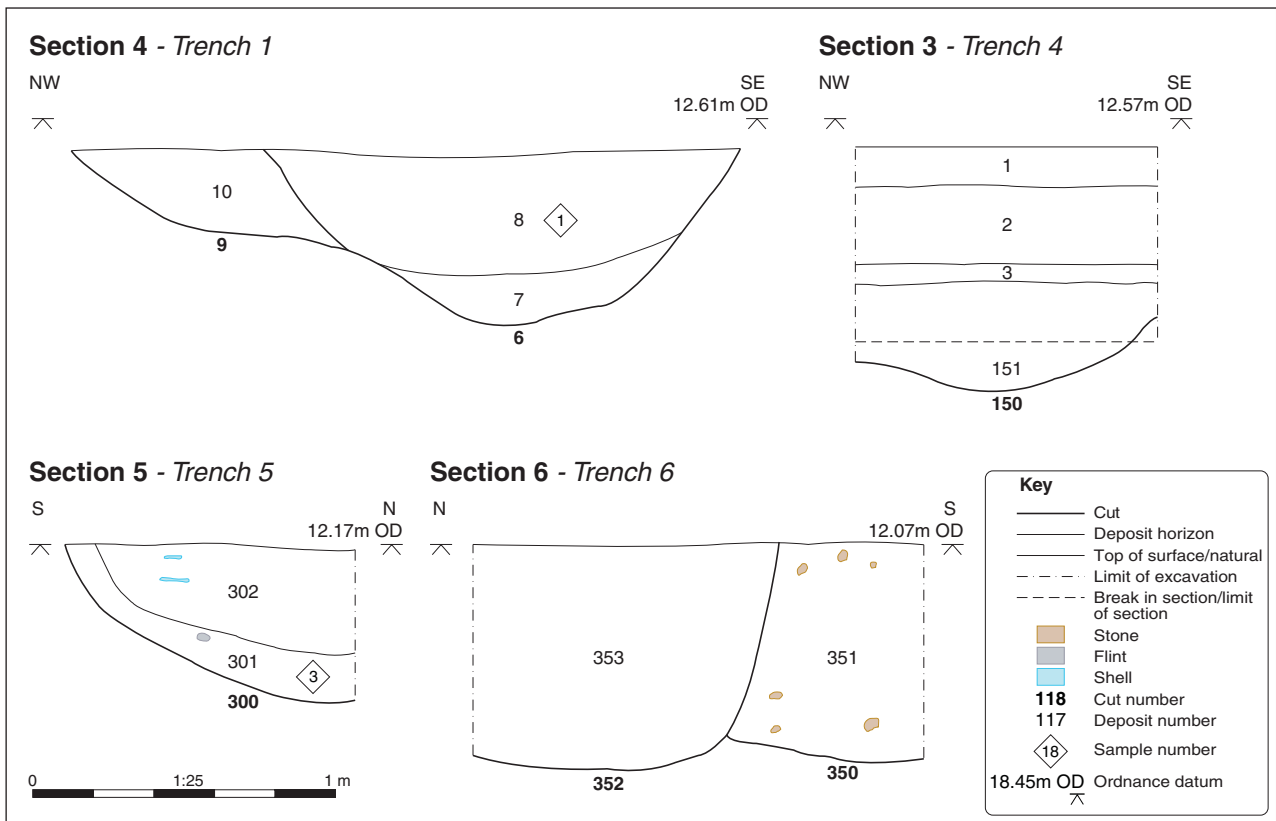


Figure 6: Selected sections





Plate 1: Ditch 6 and Ditch 9, Trench 1, from the north-east



Plate 2: Pit 100, Trench 3, from the south-west



Plate 3: Ditch **300**, Trench 5, from the east



Plate 4: Trench **6**, from the south-west



Plate 5: Stamped Roman amphora from pit **100**, Trench 3



Plate 6: Strainer from pit **352**, Trench 6



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