

Prehistoric Activity and Medieval Quarrying at 2 Park Close, Yaxley



Excavation Report



September 2013

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Prehistoric Activity and Medieval Quarrying at 2 Park Close, Yaxley

Archaeological Excavation


By Gareth Rees BA MA AIfA

With contributions by Carole Fletcher BA AIfA and Rachel Fosberry AIfA

Editor: Aileen Connor MIfA, Chris Thatcher BA

Illustrator: Stuart Ladd BA MA PIfA

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Position: Senior Project Manager
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Oxford Archaeology East,

15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oeast>

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Summary

Between the 30th July and the 2nd August 2013 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological excavation on the former hostel site at 2 Park Close, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire (TL 8160 9249). An excavation area measuring 33m by 16m was opened in an area where previous work had identified possible prehistoric activity.

Prehistoric, Roman and medieval artefacts were recovered from the site but the bulk of the activity appeared to have occurred in the medieval period. A sherd of Early Bronze Age pottery and several lithics recovered from a pit indicate prehistoric activity. The presence of postholes in the south-west corner of the site may represent prehistoric settlement was located here, however, with only a small number of artefacts recovered it is not possible to say conclusively.

Roman pottery tended to occur residually in medieval contexts and probably represents a background scatter of Roman material in this area.

In the medieval period the land in the development area was exploited for its sand and gravel resource by strip quarries, located mainly in the western part of the site. These pits had mainly been backfilled and contained few finds. However, one pit contained a large amount of medieval pottery indicating that domestic activity may have been occurring nearby.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at 2 Park Close, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire (Figure 1; TL 18604 92483).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 0901684FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Connor and Stocks-Morgan 2013).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).
- 1.1.4 This excavation followed an evaluation of three trenches which uncovered three pits thought to date to the Early Iron Age (Clarke 2013). An excavation area (c.33m x 16m) was targeted in the southern part of the site in order to investigate the nature of occupation in this area.
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area consisted of an area of c.0.25ha (approx. 50m x 50m) that was formerly the location of a hostel, which has since been demolished. The level of the ground had been built up during the construction of the hostel to create a relatively flat site that sloped from 17m in the north of the plot to 16.70m at the south. The natural topography sloped from east to west.
- 1.2.2 The site lies in an urban setting with a health centre bounding the east, a school to the north, residential housing to the south and a recreation ground to the west.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the proposed development site comprises Oxford Clay Formation overlain by drift deposits of Glaciolacustrine clay, silt and sand (B.G.S. Accessed 5/08/13). The old course of the river Nene is located 0.5km south of the proposed development area where it is joined by Yaxley Lode. The current course of the Nene runs 5km to the north of the site.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site is located within Yaxley Parish in the historic county of Huntingdonshire 5km south of Peterborough. The proposed development area lies 700m to the east of the medieval core of the village. The medieval village of Yaxley was located to the north-west of the fen on the higher ground around a Manor House and St Peter's Church. The church of St Peter is mentioned in the Domesday survey of AD 1086 but the current building was constructed between the 13th and 15th century. The village, dating from the 10th century, was known as 'Geakeslea' or 'laceslea' and was one of the earliest and most important possessions of the Benedictine monastery of Thorney who held the whole of Yaxley as one manor. After the dissolution of the abbey, Yaxley manor passed to the Crown (Page et al. 1936).
- 1.3.2 A search of currently known archaeological sites and find spots within 1km of the proposed development area was carried out during the evaluation stage of works (Figure 2; Clarke 2013). The results of this search are reproduced below.

- 1.3.3 The CHER search identified twenty three MCB 'monument' locations within the search area, generating twenty five separate records in total. These records include thirteen ECB 'Event' records pertaining to previous investigation phases. Many of these records relate to monuments and investigations within the medieval village core, mostly lying 1km south-west of the site. Additionally there are sixteen designated (listed) structures, the majority being medieval and post-medieval buildings within the two phases of historic village core that lie to the south-west of the site.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.4 The earliest evidence of human activity in the area comes from a palaeolithic hand-axe found 400m to the south-west of the current site (CHER01419). Later prehistoric material was recovered from a pit at Vicarage Farm 1km to the west (Begg 1993; CHER11336A). Lithics dating from the Neolithic period have been recovered from the higher ground in Yaxley parish indicating Fen edge activity in this period (CHER01428).
- 1.3.5 A Mid/Late Iron Age to Late Roman settlement was identified during excavations carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology and Oxford Archaeology East on adjacent plots, approximately 600m to the east of the present site (CHER 16368; Taylor and Chapman 2005, Brown 2008, Phillips 2011). The settlement was relatively large covering an area in excess of 250m by 125m with limits not found for any period (Phillips 2011, fig. 6). Evidence for Late Iron Age occupation was found in both areas and comprised several large sub-rectangular enclosures, three of which contained roundhouses. A number of unenclosed roundhouses were also recorded. The enclosures were linked by boundary ditches aligned roughly north north-west to south south-east. The subsequent Roman settlement, which included an early-mid 2nd century pottery kiln, continued into the 4th century.

Roman

- 1.3.6 Yaxley is located close to the major Roman route of Ermine Street which lies 2.9km to the west of the proposed development area. Several sites have produced evidence of significant activity in the Roman period. Pottery has been collected from surveys at Manor Farm (CHER01409) and Hog Fen (CHER01418) whilst an evaluation to the north of Manor Farm recovered 2nd century pottery (Hughes and Jones 1998; CB15469).
- 1.3.7 Two kiln sites have been uncovered in the area, one at Cow Bridge Farm (CHER00996; CHER01628) and one at the Old Library site on Broadway (Atkins and Lyons 2012, CHER 19632). Excavations by OA East at this site, 1km to the west of the proposed development area, provided evidence of a previously unknown Roman settlement or farmstead dating to the mid to late 1st century A.D. The most significant finds were the remains of a demolished kiln and a large assemblage of pottery dating to approximately AD 70. The kiln was producing grey ware sand tempered vessels in new forms such as cordoned and carinated jars and bowls as well as platters. A pottery cheese press and samian ware sherds were also recovered. There was also evidence for the cultivation and processing of spelt wheat and waste from the primary butchery of sheep and cattle.

Medieval

- 1.3.8 In spite of the probable Saxon origins of the settlement there has been no Saxon archaeological material recovered from Yaxley. Medieval remains focused around the site of a 12th century manor house which stood just under 1km to the south-west, although excavations have yet to identify its precise location (Regan 1998; CB15470). These remains include ridge and furrow (CHER01427), fishponds (CHER01028A) and earthworks (MCB15873).

- 1.3.9 The growth of the medieval settlement, some of which survives as earthworks (CHER02738), was associated with the Yaxley Lode (MCB16924) which linked the Yaxley hythes with Whittlesey Mere.
- 1.3.10 A site, probably dating to the medieval period, was uncovered 200m to the west of the proposed development area. This consisted of pits and ditches as well as a post-medieval cobbled surface (Barlow and Thompson 2010; MCB19286).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Coombes Direct who commissioned and funded the work. Aileen Connor managed the project and edited the report. Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council wrote the brief for archaeological works and monitored the works. Steve Morgan, Steve Graham, Pat Moan and Edmund Palka provided excavation assistance whilst Carole Fletcher, Chris Faine and Rachel Fosberry provided specialist advice. Stuart Ladd produced the illustrations.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this excavation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 2.1.2 The evaluation had uncovered evidence for possible Iron Age settlement activity within the proposed development area. The excavation aimed to define the extent and character of this activity as well as adding to regional research agendas relating to the nature of the agrarian economy and settlement function and morphology in the Iron Age (Medlycott 2011, 29).
- 2.1.3 During excavation it became clear that the majority of features uncovered dated from the medieval period. Subsequently, the excavation also aimed to establish how the activity on the current site related to the medieval settlement of Yaxley, particularly the relationship between the village and what appeared to be a rural site (Medlycott 2011, 29).

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that an open area excavation was conducted in the area of archaeological significance. This area was located across the southern half of the plot.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket 2.10m wide.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica 1200 d.G.P.S.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Fifteen environmental samples of 10 or 20 litres were taken during excavations in order to assess the quality and preservation of charred remains and macro-fossils.
- 2.2.7 The site conditions were generally good. The overburden varied in depth from 1m at the east of the excavation to 0.45m at the north-west of the excavated area. The footings and the services of the hostel were still *in-situ* but had not truncated the archaeological level by more than 0.20m. Removal of the concrete footing revealed archaeological features directly below.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results of the excavation are discussed below by feature type from west to east across the site (Figure 3; Plate 1). Similar features have been grouped for easy of description. The majority of features dated to the medieval period. A comprehensive listing of all contexts excavated including width, depths and soil descriptions can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 As with many formerly rural sites very little complex stratigraphy was present, although the archaeological remains were moderately dense and inter-cutting pits were recorded. Chronological phasing has not been assigned for the purposes of the presentation of results due to many features containing no finds and the possibility of residuality of earlier material. Features are discussed in term of their possible phasing in section 4 (below). Feature groups have been defined based on stratigraphic and spatial associations as well as ceramic dating, where possible.

3.2 Postholes

- 3.2.1 A total of six postholes (**100, 102, 104, 106, 110 & 116**) were uncovered in the south-western corner of the site (Plate 2). The postholes, which were circular in plan with steep sides, varied in width from 0.25m to 0.40m and in depth from 0.06 to 0.25m (Figure 4, section 110). They were filled with mid greyish brown silts. Environmental samples from these features produced a large amount of charcoal and burnt animal bone. Two of the postholes contained small sherds of pottery that dated to no later than the Early Roman period (Appendix B1).

3.3 Pits

Pits 138 and 140

- 3.3.1 Two inter-cutting pits (**138, 140**) were located in the north-western part of the site. Both were sub-rounded with steep sides and flat bases (Figure 4, section 138). They were filled with light grey brown compacted silts. The southernmost pit (**138**) contained a sherd of Beaker pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age (Appendix B1).

Pit Group 1

- 3.3.2 A group of seven pits (including pit **13**, excavated during the evaluation) were located in the north centre of the site. Four of these were inter-cutting whilst three were discrete. Pit **122**, measuring 1.05m in diameter and 0.33m deep, was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 4, section 122). This pit was not directly related to any others and complete excavation of it fills revealed no artefacts.
- 3.3.3 Pit **146**, measuring a maximum of 1.20m in diameter and 0.20m deep, also had no relationships with other pits. It was sub-rectangular in plan with sharp sides and a flat base. It was filled by a firm clayey silt containing a moderate amount of gravel inclusions and no datable artefacts.
- 3.3.4 Four inter-cutting pits (**112, 114, 136 & 144**) lay between the discrete features. The two earliest pits (**114 & 144**) were sub-circular in plan and measured in excess of 3m in diameter and 0.2m deep. They had flat bases and moderately sloping sides. Pit **144** contained a worked lithic that may have been prehistoric in origin, as well as a sherd of pottery dating to no later than the Early Roman period. Moderate quantities of gravel in the fills of these pits may be indicative of deliberate backfilling after excavation.

3.3.5 Pit **112**, which truncated pit **114**, measured 3.3m long, 1.8m wide and 0.3m deep. It was sub-circular in plan with moderately steep sides and a flat base (Plate 3). A piece of coal recovered from the backfill may indicate that this pit dated to the medieval period or later. No other artefacts were recovered.

3.3.6 Truncating pits **112** and **144** was pit **136**, which was sub-circular in plan and had a similar form to the other pits in this group. It was 1.9m long, in excess of 1.25m wide and 0.3m deep, with steep sides and a flat base and contained no artefacts.

Pit Group 2

3.3.7 This group contained four discrete pits, including pit **9**, uncovered during the evaluation. Pit **109** was partially exposed under the south-eastern baulk. It measured 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep and contained a firm, mid reddish brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions and a sherd of abraded medieval pottery. An environmental sample produced a small amount of charcoal, animal bone and hammer-scale.

3.3.8 Pits **119** and **121** measured up to 1m in diameter and 0.29m deep and were circular in plan with steep sides and concave bases (Figure 4, section 119). They were filled by firm, dark reddish brown sandy silts. A large sherd of Lyveden-Stanion ware pottery was recovered from pit **119**, dating it to the early 13th to the end of the 14th century. An environmental sample produced the remains of charred wheat grains.

Pit Group 3

3.3.9 Located to the east of the trench, this group consisted of three pits, two of which inter-cut. Pit **155**, measuring 2.4m long and 0.31m deep, was sub-circular in plan and steep sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, a gravel rich basal fill which appeared to have derived from deliberate backfilling and a tertiary fill accumulated after abandonment. No datable artefacts were recovered from this pit, however an environmental sample produced a small amount of charcoal, animal bone and hammer-scale.

3.3.10 Located to the south-east of pit **155**, pit **153** was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.20m in diameter and 0.30m deep. It contained a firm, silty clay fill with no datable artefacts and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base.

3.3.11 Pit **151** truncated pit **153** to the south-west. It measured 1.3m in diameter by 0.29m deep and was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 4, section 151). The dark grey brown, firm gravelly fill of this pit contained Lyveden-Stanion ware pottery dating from the medieval period as well a sherd dating from the Roman period. Charred cereal, charcoal and animal bone were recovered from an environmental sample (21) taken from this feature.

Pit Group 4

3.3.12 Approximately 1.50m to the north-west of Pit Group 3, two sub-rounded inter-cutting pits were located. The largest and stratigraphically earliest of the two was pit **143**. This pit, measuring 3.50m in diameter and 0.20m deep, had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a dark reddish brown clayey sand fill with moderate gravel inclusions maybe indicating that it had been at least partially backfilled. The remains of five different Lyveden-Stanion ware vessels were recovered from this pit (Appendix B1) along with faunal remains from horse, pig and cow. This type of deposit is indicative of domestic rubbish deposition in a back garden plot. Grains and a pea were recovered from an environmental sample (19).

3.3.13 Pit **143** was truncated to the west by pit **159**. Measuring 1.42m in diameter and 0.22m deep, pit **159** had steep sides and a concave base and contained no datable artefacts. Charred cereal and charcoal were recovered from environmental sample 24 along with frog bones, indicating that the pit may have been left open for a while after use.

Pit Group 5

- 3.3.14 This group consisted of three discrete pits. The most southerly pit (**149**), measuring 2.10m long, 1.30m wide and 0.25m deep, was sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and a concave base (Plate 4). It contained a gravelly, mid grey brown firm silty clay fill from which medieval pottery (12th-14th century) was recovered.
- 3.3.15 Located 2m to the north, pit **129** was sub-circular in plan with gradually sloping sides and a concave base (Figure 4, section 129). It had been truncated by the footing of the hostel. It contained a mid grey brown firm silty clay which may have derived from natural infilling. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.
- 3.3.16 Located to the east, pit **131** was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Measuring 1.50m long, 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep, this pit contained a gravelly mid grey brown firm silty clay which contained pottery dating to the medieval period. It is likely that some of this fill was deliberately deposited and may have included refuse.

Pit Group 6

- 3.3.17 A series of inter-cutting pits located along the north-eastern limit of excavation may represent a medieval pitted boundary or strip quarrying (Plate 5). Up to ten pits were identified in this group but only four were excavated in order to characterise the features.
- 3.3.18 Pit **127** measured 2m in diameter and was 0.26m deep. It was sub-rounded in plan with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a large amount of gravel in its fill (126), possibly indicating that it was deliberately backfilled.
- 3.3.19 A sub-circular pit (**125**) truncated pit **127** to the north-east. This pit, measuring 1.80m in diameter and 0.20m deep had gradually sloping sides and a concave base and contained pottery dating to the medieval period as well a fragment of Roman tegula tile.
- 3.3.20 Located in the north-east corner of the site was pit **135**. This feature truncated pit **133**, which measured 1.90m in diameter and 0.20m deep and had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Its gravelly backfill, indicative of deliberate infilling, contained no artefacts.
- 3.3.21 The later pit (**135**), measuring in excess of 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep, was sub-circular in plan with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained pottery dating to the medieval period.

3.4 Finds Summary

Pottery and CBM

- 3.4.1 A small pottery assemblage totalling 51 sherds, weighing 1.033kg, was recovered from 12 contexts. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded. The average sherd weight from individual contexts is moderate at approximately 20g.
- 3.4.2 In addition, a single fragment of ceramic building material weighing 0.085kg was recovered. The fragment is Roman, most likely from a Tegula, and no other ceramic building material was recovered from the site.

Lithics

- 3.4.3 A further two flint artefacts were recovered which were of similar type to the five collected during the evaluation.

3.5 Environmental Summary

Environmental samples

- 3.5.1 Fifteen bulk samples were taken from prehistoric and medieval deposits. Two samples taken during the evaluation phase each produced a single charred wheat grain showing

that charred plant remains were preserved although not abundant. Targeted sampling during subsequent excavation has not produced sufficient further material to aid interpretation of the features sampled.

Faunal remains

- 3.5.2 Four pieces of well preserved animal bone were recovered, three of which could be identified to species. The species represented were horse, cow and pig, none of which showed evidence of butchery.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Prehistoric

- 4.1.1 Artefacts dating to the prehistoric period have been recovered from both the evaluation and excavation stages of work at 2 Park Close. These consist of seven worked flints which have been dated to the Iron Age (Haskins 2013) and a single sherd of Beaker pottery dating to the earlier Bronze Age. Although it is possible that these finds were deposited residually in later pits there was no evidence of contamination or later material. Prehistoric material from the excavation was concentrated to the west of the site, where six undated postholes were also located. The postholes were situated in the corner of the site and although they may have formed part of a structure, the overall plan of any such building was not clear.
- 4.1.2 Early Bronze Age material culture is not common in the local area, with the closest similar find being a sherd of Beaker pottery from excavations in Farcet (Thompson et al. 2005). However, Fen edge locations similar to that which Yaxley occupies, have well documented evidence of prehistoric settlement, for example Must Farm (Evans et al. 2005), Bradley Fen (Gibson and Knight 2006) and Stonald Field (Gibson and Knight 2002), and so it is likely that it may have occurred on this site also.

4.2 Medieval

- 4.2.1 The majority of features uncovered during the excavation can either be dated to the medieval period by ceramics or are closely associated with those that were. The pits tended to have broad flat bases stopping below a fine sandy gravel lens in the natural geology. It is likely that these pits were targeted to quarry this material and once a seam had been hit, small scale strip quarrying took place. Several isolated pits may have represented 'blank' quarry pits where the seam was not identified. These features were at least partially backfilled, perhaps with material from subsequent excavations nearby. With the exception of pit **143**, there was not a large amount of domestic waste dumped in the pits. This tends to suggest that the pits were not dug specifically for refuse, as was common in the medieval period.
- 4.2.2 A concentration of pits (Pit Group 6) along the north-east boundary of the site may indicate that this was the location of a boundary. Similar linear quarry features have previously been identified along boundaries in the medieval period (eg. Fletcher 2006; 2008) although they tend to be associated with refuse in domestic contexts.

4.3 Conclusion

- 4.3.1 Excavations at 2 Park Close, Yaxley, have uncovered evidence for activity in the prehistoric and medieval periods. Evidence for occupation of the site in the Bronze and Iron Age is tentative, however it is clear that there was a presence here in later prehistory.
- 4.3.2 The location of Yaxley on a promontory just above Whittlesey Mere, over looking the former course of the River Nene, would have made it an attractive location for prehistoric settlement. Despite this, there is a notable scarcity of sites around Yaxley, particularly those dating to the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age; especially when compared with the high density of remains located around Whittlesey and the Flag Fen basin. The results of these investigations and those at Float Fish Farm, Farcet are therefore of note as they provide rare examples of evidence for prehistoric activity in this part of the Fen edge.

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- 4.3.3 Quarrying on the site in the medieval period is of interest due to the location of this plot outside of the medieval village core. Quarrying for local construction material would often take place at a more central location, such as those found at the High Street, Sutton and the High Street, Wimblington. This may imply that there was medieval rural occupation close to the site, sporadically quarrying for sand and gravel for use in construction and repairs.
- 4.3.4 The inference that rural occupation may have been located nearby is supported by the domestic waste recovered from the backfill of one of the pits; it is unlikely that this refuse would have been carried far before being disposed of. If a farm building was nearby it may have been providing food and materials to Yaxley village. Identification of similar sites outside of the medieval core will add weight to narratives relating to the interaction of settlements with their hinterland during this period.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Cat.	Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
100	100	cut	posthole	0	0.3	0.25					circular	near vertical	sudden	flat
101	100	fill	posthole	0	0.3	0.25	mid blackish grey	silt		firm				
102	102	cut	posthole	0	0.3	0.25								
103	102	fill	posthole	0	0.3	0.25	mid greyish brown	silt		firm	circular	steep	imperceptible	v-shaped
104	104	cut	posthole	0	0.4	0.15								
105	104	fill	posthole	0	0.4	0.15	mid brownish grey	silt		firm	circular	steep	gradual	v-shaped
106	106	cut	posthole	0	0.3	0.15					circular	steep	gradual	flat
107	106	fill	posthole	0	0.3	0.15	light greyish brown	silt		firm				
108	109	fill	pit	0		0.4	dark red brown	sand silt	medium angular stones- random-frequent	firm				
109	109	cut	pit	0	1.6	0.4					circular	steep	sharp	concave
110	110	cut	posthole	0	0.4	0.2					circular	steep	gradual	v-shaped
111	110	fill	posthole	0	0.4	0.2	mid greyish brown	silt		firm				
112	112	cut	pit	0	1.85	0.35					sub-circular	steep and straight	sharp	flat
113	112	fill	pit	0	1.85	0.35	mid greyish brown	fine clay stony silt	mod angular flint <100mm	firm				
114	114	cut	pit	3	1.8	0.3					sub-circular	Moderate/fairly straight	moderate	Unknown/flat
115	114	fill	pit	3.3	1.8	0.3	dark/mid greyish brown	fine sandy clayey silt	moderate angular flint	firm				
116	116	cut	posthole	0	0.25	0.06								
117	116	fill	posthole	0	0.25	0.06	mid greyish	silt		firm	circular	steep	gradual	flat

Context	Cut	Cat.	Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
118	119	fill	Pit/ posthole	0		0.29	dark red brown	sand silt	small-medium and stones-frequent-random	firm				
119	119	cut	Pit/ posthole	0	1	0.29					circular	steep	sharp	concave
120	121	fill	Pit/ posthole	0		0.22	dark red brown	sand silt	small-medium angular stones-random-frequent	firm				
121	121	cut	Pit/ posthole	0	0.9	0.23					circular	steep	sharp	concave
122	122	cut	pit	1.05	0.95	0.33					sub-circular	fairly straight and steep	sharp	flat
123	122	fill	pit	105	0.95	0.33	mid brownish grey	fine clayey sandy silt	mod flints-<60mm-angular clay	firm				
124	125	fill	pit	0	1.8	0.2	mid brownish grey	silt		firm				
125	125	cut	pit	0	1.7	0.2					sub-circular	gentle slope	gradual	concave
126	127	fill	pit	0	2	0.26	mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm				
127	127	cut	pit	0	2	0.26					sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
128	129	fill	pit	0	1.2	0.25	mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm				
129	129	cut	pit	0	1.2	0.25					sub-circular	gentle slope	gradual	concave
130	131	fill	pit	0	1.1	0.4	mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm				
131	131	cut	pit	1.5	1.1	0.4					sub-circular	steep	sharp	concave
132	133	fill	pit	0	1.9	0.2	dark reddish brown	silty	clay	firm				
133	133	cut	pit	0	1.9	0.2					sub-circular	gentle slope	gradual	concave

Context	Cut	Cat.	Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
134	135	fill	pit	0	0.8	0.15	mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm				
135	135	cut	pit	0	0.8	0.15					sub-circular	gentle slope	gradual	concave
136	136	cut	pit	1.9	1.25	0.3					sub-circular	moderate/ slightly concave	fairly sharp	flat
137	136	fill	pit	1.9	1.25	0.3	mid brown	fine sandy clayey silt	mod angular flint <60mm	firm				
138	138	cut	pit	0	1.7	0.2						steep	sharp	flat
139	138	fill	pit	0	1.7	0.2	light greyish brown	silt	flint	hard				
140	140	cut	pit	0	1.3	0.3						steep	sharp	flatish
141	140	fill	pit	0	1.3	0.3	light greyish brown		silt	hard				
142	143	fill	pit	0	3.5	0.2	dark red brown	clayey sand	small-large angular stones- moderate-random	firm				
143	143	cut	pit	0	3.5	0.2					sub-circular	moderate	moderate b.o.s	concave
144	144	cut	pit	3.1		0.2					sub-oval	moderate/ concave	fairly sharp	flat
145	144	fill	pit	3.1		0.2	mid brown	fine sandy clayey silt	mod angular flints <40mm	firm				
146	146	cut	pit	1.2	1	0.2					sub-oval	moderate/ concave	short	flat
147	146	fill	pit	1.2	1	0.2	mid brown	fine sandy clayey silt	mod angular flints <50mm	firm				
148	149	fill	pit	2.1	1.3	0.25	mid greyish brown	silty	clay	firm				
149	149	cut	pit	2.1	1.3	0.25					sub-rectangular	steep	sharp	concave
151	151	cut	pit	0	1.3	0.29					sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat



Context	Cut	Cat.	Type	Length	Breadth	Depth	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base
152	151	full	pit	0	1.3	0.29	dark greyish brown	silty clay	chalk+gravel moderate	firm				
153	153	cut	pit	0	1.2	0.3					sub-circular	moderate	gentle	concave
154	153	fill	pit	0	1.2	0.3	mid yellowish brown	silty clay	chalk and gravel, common	firm				
155	155	cut	pit	0	2.4	0.31					sub-circular	steep	moderate	flat
156	155	fill	pit	0	2.4	0.31	mid yellowish brown	silty clay	gravel common	firm				
157	155	fill	pit	0	1.2	0.2	light yellowish brown	silty clay		firm				
158	159	fill	pit	0		0.22	dark red brown	sand silt	medium angular stones, unworked flint-random-moderate	soft				
159	0	cut	pit	0	1.42	0.22					circular	steep	sharp	concave

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

By Carole Fletcher with Roman Pottery Identification by Stephen Wadeson

Introduction

B.1.1 Archaeological works produced a small pottery assemblage of 51 sherds, weighing 1.033kg, recovered from 12 contexts. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded. The average sherd weight from individual contexts is moderate at approximately 20g. In addition, a single fragment of ceramic building material weighing 0.085kg was recovered from pit **125**. The fragment is Roman, most likely from a Tegula, and no other ceramic building material was recovered from the site.

B.1.2 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the summary catalogue by context are:

Fabric	Full name	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (kg)	% of Assemblage by weight
BOUB/BAST	Bourne-Baston-type Oolitic ware	1	0.008	0.8
LYST	Lyveden-Stanion glazed ware	37	0.974	94.3
MEL	Medieval Ely ware	2	0.009	0.9
PREHIST	Low fired Fine Quartz Temper Bronze Age Beaker	1	0.005	0.5
RSCW	Roman Sandy Coarseware	2	0.019	1.8
RSOW	Roman Sandy Oxidised ware	1	0.005	0.5
SHW	Shell Tempered ware	4	0.008	0.8
UNPROV	Unprovenanced	3	0.005	0.5

Table 1: Fabrics present

Methodology

B.1.3 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

B.1.4 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis. The archives are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

B.1.5 The majority of the features produced only small quantities of pottery and for some features the only pottery recovered was from samples, this material is small and abraded and although a date has been attached to these sherds where possible, for the smallest sherds this date may not be a reliable means of dating the feature.

B.1.6 Two postholes produced pottery, of these posthole **100** could not be reliably dated. The feature produced a single small sherd of shell tempered fabric which may be latest Iron Age or early Roman, but this is uncertain. Posthole **101** produced two sherds of pottery, a small sherd of Roman Sandy coarseware (1st-4th century) and a small fragment of Shell Tempered ware that could not be closely dated. It is possible that both of these

postholes are Roman, however the sherds are all small and abraded and may be residual.

- B.1.7 Pit **138** produced a decorated sherd from a Bronze Age beaker. No other pottery was recovered from this feature and the sherd, though small, was not heavily abraded and may date the pit.
- B.1.8 A single pit (**144**) from Pit Group 1 produced pottery. The small sherd weighs 0.004 kg and is possibly latest Iron Age or Early Roman but could not be firmly dated. Two features from Pit Group 2 produced pottery. From pit **109**, two small sherds were recovered, an abraded sherd tentatively identified as Ely ware and a small fragment of Shell Tempered ware that could not be closely dated. Pit **119** produced a moderate to large sherd from a Lyveden-Stanion ware jug, dating the fill of the feature to the early 13th to the end of the 14th century.
- B.1.9 Pit **151** from Pit Group 3, produced three sherds of pottery, a sherd from a Lyveden-Stanion ware jug and a small fragment of Shell Tempered ware which is probably medieval. Also present as a residual element is a single sherd of Roman Sandy Oxidised ware.
- B.1.10 The largest group of pottery in the assemblage was recovered from Pit Group 4. Fill 142 of pit **143** contained fragments from a minimum of five Lyveden-Stanion ware vessels, the majority of which are jug sherds, mainly basal and wall sherds, including two sherds and a fragmented rod handle from a biconical jug and rim sherds from a separate vessel. Much of the oolitic material from the sherds has been leached and with the exception of the large base sherd, the remainder are moderately abraded. One unglazed body sherd showed signs of sooting. A single sherd of Roman Sandy coarseware is present as a residual element. The fill of the pit can be dated from the early 13th to the end of the 14th century.
- B.1.11 Two pits from group 5 produced pottery, although only a single sherd in each case. Pit **149**, contained a body sherd from a Bourne-Baston-type oolitic ware dating from the mid 12th to the end of the 14th century, while pit **131** produced a single undiagnostic sherd of Medieval Ely ware (mid 12th to mid 14th century). Pit group 6 also had two features that contained pottery, both producing fragments of Lyveden-Stanion Glazed ware vessels dating the features' backfilling to the early 13th to the end of the 14th century.

Discussion

- B.1.1 Medieval vessel forms present on the site are predominantly jugs, rather than jars which would be expected on a rural medieval site. The pottery recovered from pit **143** dominates the assemblage and the remainder of the material would suggest lower levels of occupation or rubbish deposition. It is unclear why there are so many sherds from five or more Lyveden-Stanion ware vessels as these vessels are incomplete and it seems unlikely that this is their place of primary deposition. The presence of prehistoric and Roman pottery indicates activity on or near the site during these periods.
- B.1.2 The pottery recovered is domestic in origin, with vessels used for storage and serving of liquids with some food preparation. These sherds appear to represent rubbish deposition from the early 13th to the end of the 14th century. No late medieval pottery was recovered, suggesting the site had fallen out of use by the end of the 14th century.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight (kg)	Assessment date range
101	SHW		1	0.002	Not closely datable, could be latest Iron Age or later
108	SHW		1	0.004	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
	MELT		1	0.003	
111	RSCW		1	0.001	Not closely datable, could be 1st-4th century or later
	SHW		1	0.001	
118	LYST	Jug	1	0.040	Early 13th-end of the 14th century
124	LYST	Jug	1	0.006	Early 13th-end of the 14th century
130	MEL		1	0.006	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
134	LYST		2	0.024	Early 13th-end of the 14th century
139	PREHIST	Beaker	1	0.005	Bronze Age
142	LYST	Jug	13	0.377	Early 13th-end of the 14th century
	LYST	Biconical jug	8	0.291	
	LYST	Jar	2	0.028	
	LYST	Jug	1	0.076	
	LYST	Jug	1	0.061	
	LYST	Jug	5	0.015	
	LYST	Jug	1	0.016	
	LYST	Jug	1	0.025	
	RSCW		1	0.018	
	UNPROV		1	0.004	
	UNPROV		2	0.001	
145	UNPROV		1	0.004	Not closely datable, could be latest Iron Age or later
148	BOUB/BAST		1	0.008	Mid 12th-end of the 14th century
152	RSOW		1	0.005	Early 13th-end of the 14th century
	SHW		1	0.001	
	LYST	Jar	1	0.015	

Table 2: Pottery Summary

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.1.1 Fifteen bulk samples taken from deposits dating from prehistoric and Medieval deposits during excavations at 2 Park Close, Yaxley. Two samples taken during the evaluation of this site each produced a single charred wheat grain showing that charred plant remains were preserved although not abundant. Targeted sampling during subsequent excavation has not produced sufficient further material to aid interpretation of the features sampled.

Methodology

- C.1.1 The total volume (up to twenty litres) of each of the samples were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred 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. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997).

Quantification

- C.1.1 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

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

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

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

Results

- C.1.1 The flots are predominantly comprised of fine sand with variable amounts of wood charcoal. Charred plant remains occur rarely; Occasional charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are present in Sample 16, fill 118 of pit/post hole **119**, Sample 23, fill 157 of pit **155** and Sample 24, fill 158 of pit **159**. The grains are poorly preserved and have been identified as wheat by their characteristic morphology. Sample 19, fill 142 of pit **143** contains two indeterminate grains in addition to a cotyledon of a legume, possibly pea (*Pisum sativum*).

Discussion

- C.1.2 The paucity of charred plant remains recovered from the site at 2 Park Close, Yaxley are insufficient to add any information about the site other than that there is evidence of burning in the form of charcoal and the occasional wheat grains are evidence of culinary waste. The fragment of pea was recovered from pit **143** and is consistent with a medieval date. It doesn't appear likely that settlement is close to the excavated area. It must be noted that sandy soils are not conducive to good preservation of plant remains although charred material usually survives if in abundance.



Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Comments	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Legumes	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Large animal bones	Pottery	Magnetic residues	Residue comments
1	11	13	pit	20	Possible IA pit fill	17	10	#	0	++	0	0	0	0	No finds
2	6	7	pit	20	Possible IA pit fill	17	10	#	0	+	0	0	0	0	No finds
10	101	100	post hole	10	Post hole with charcoal	9	50	0	0	+++	++	0	+	++	Burnt bone +++
11	103	102	post hole	5	Post hole	5	10	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	
12	105	104	post hole	5	Post hole	5	5	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	
13	107	106	post hole	7.5	Post hole	5	2	0	0	++	++	0	0	+	
14	111	110	post hole	10	Post hole	10	2	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	
15	108	109	pit	20	Sand silt fill of post hole contains lots of unworked flint and 2x IA pot.	20	5	0	0	+	0	+	0	++	
16	118	119	pit	20	Sand silt fill of possible post hole - no dateable finds in fill. Traces of charcoal.	16	2	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	
17	139	138	pit	10	Pit with BA pot	10	1	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	
18	141	140	pit	10	Pit cutting [138]	10	1	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	
19	142	143	pit	20	Sand clay fill of large quarry pit containing charcoal and medieval pot.	15	5	#	#	+	0	+	0	+	
20	123	122	pit	20	Fill of small extraction pit of	20	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	



Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Comments	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Legumes	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Large animal bones	Pottery	Magnetic residues	Residue comments
					unknown date.										
21	152	151	pit	10	Backfill of pit [151]	8	5	#	0	+	0	++	0	+	
22	154	153	pit	10	Backfill of pit [153]	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	
23	157	155	pit	10	Secondary silting in top of pit [155]	10	1	#	0	+	0	++	0	+	
24	158	159	pit	20	Pit fill - sand silt. No dateable material.	15	15	#	0	+	0	0	+	+	Amphibian bone +

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-156455		
Project Name	2 Park Close, Yaxley		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	30-07-2013	Finish 02-08-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work No	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	YAXPAC13	Planning App. No.	0901684FUL
HER No.	ECB4010	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB3999

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
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Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pits	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Postholes	Uncertain	pottery	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
pits	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43	animal bone	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Cambs	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Hunts	2 Park Close Yaxley Peterborough PE7 3 1W	
Parish	Yaxley		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	0.25ha	National Grid Reference	TL 8160 9249

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Gareth Rees

Project Archives

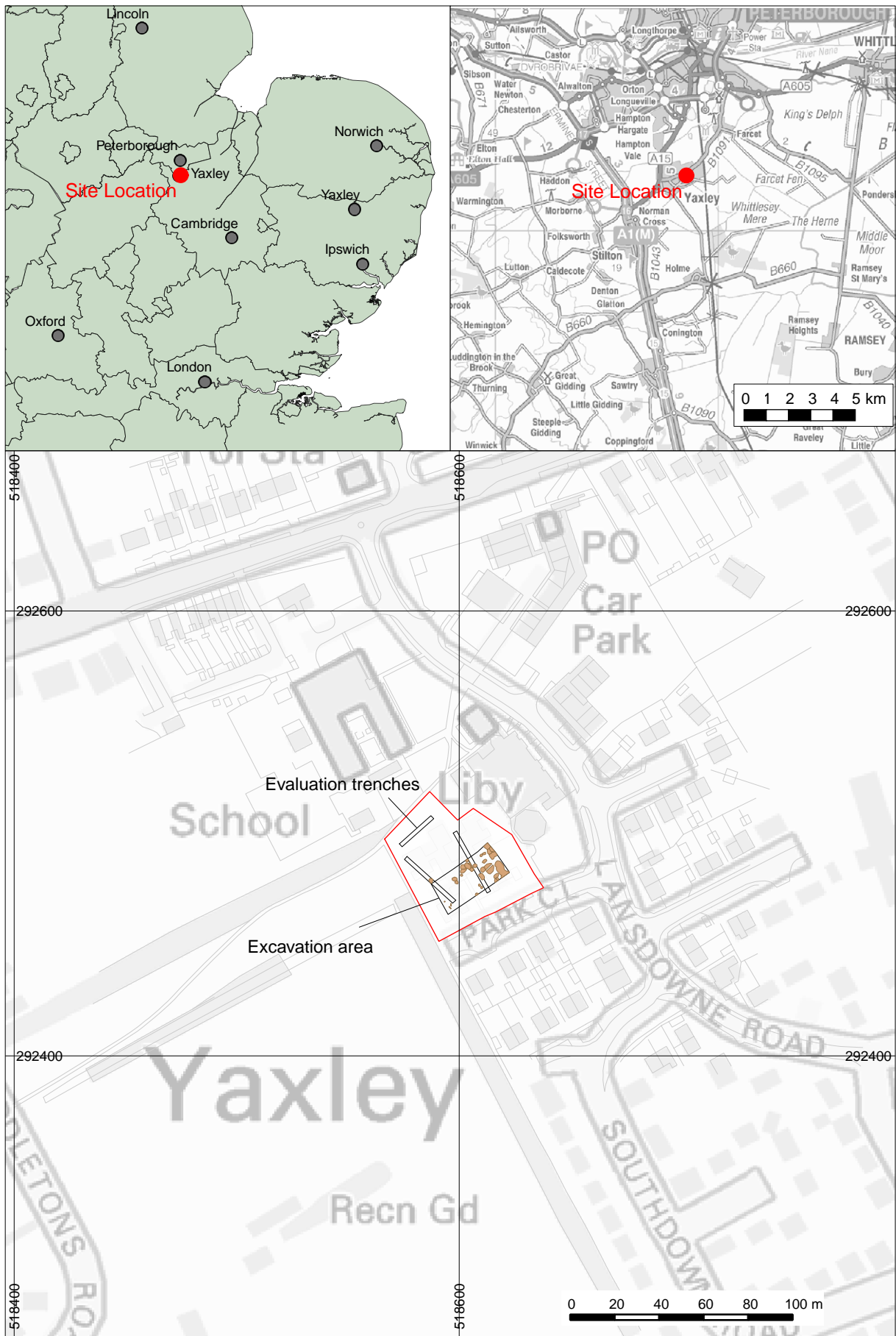
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OA East	OA East	OA East
YAXPAC13	YAXPAC13	YAXPAC13

Archive Contents/Media

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Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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

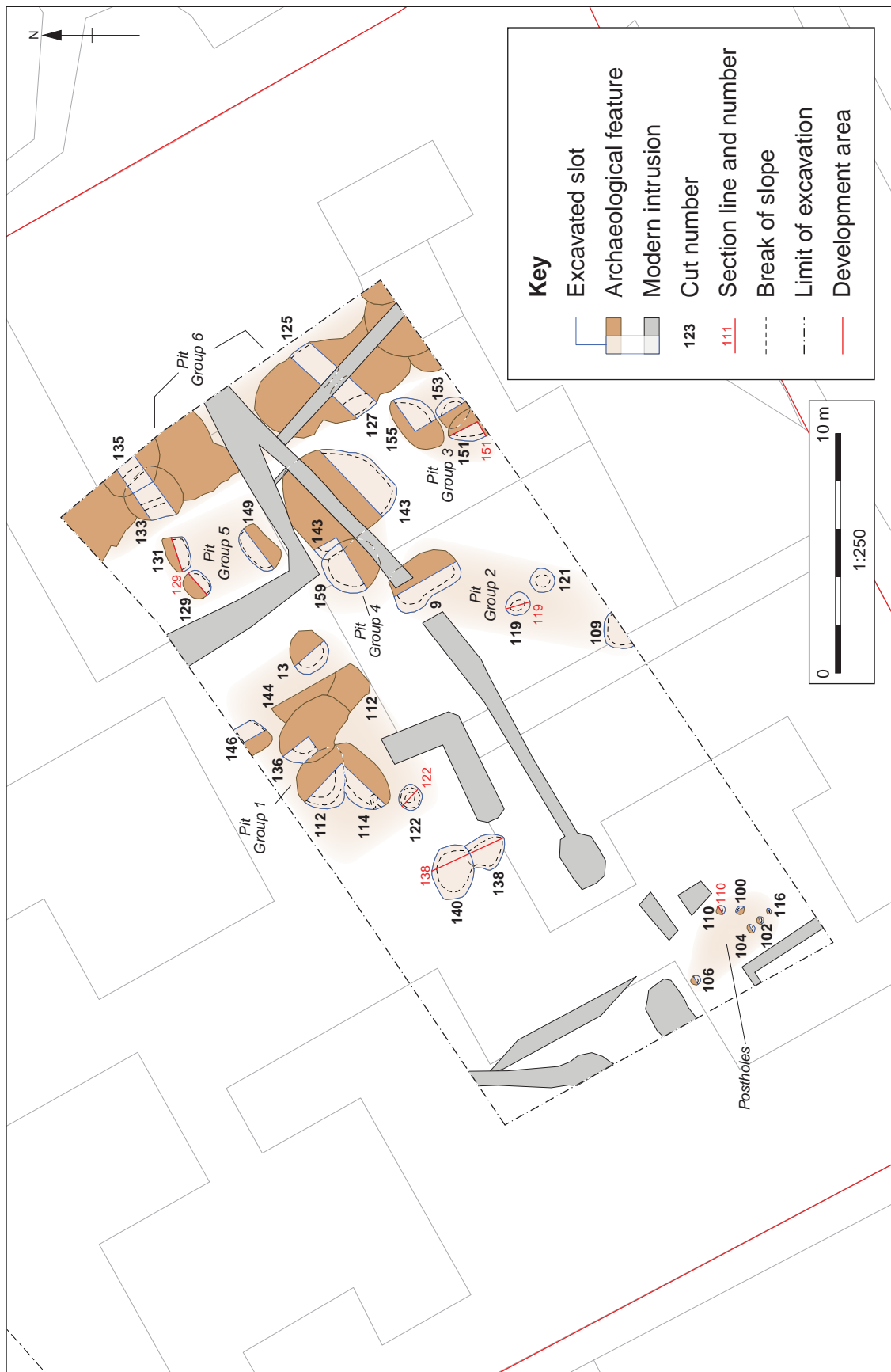


Figure 3: Site plan (all features)

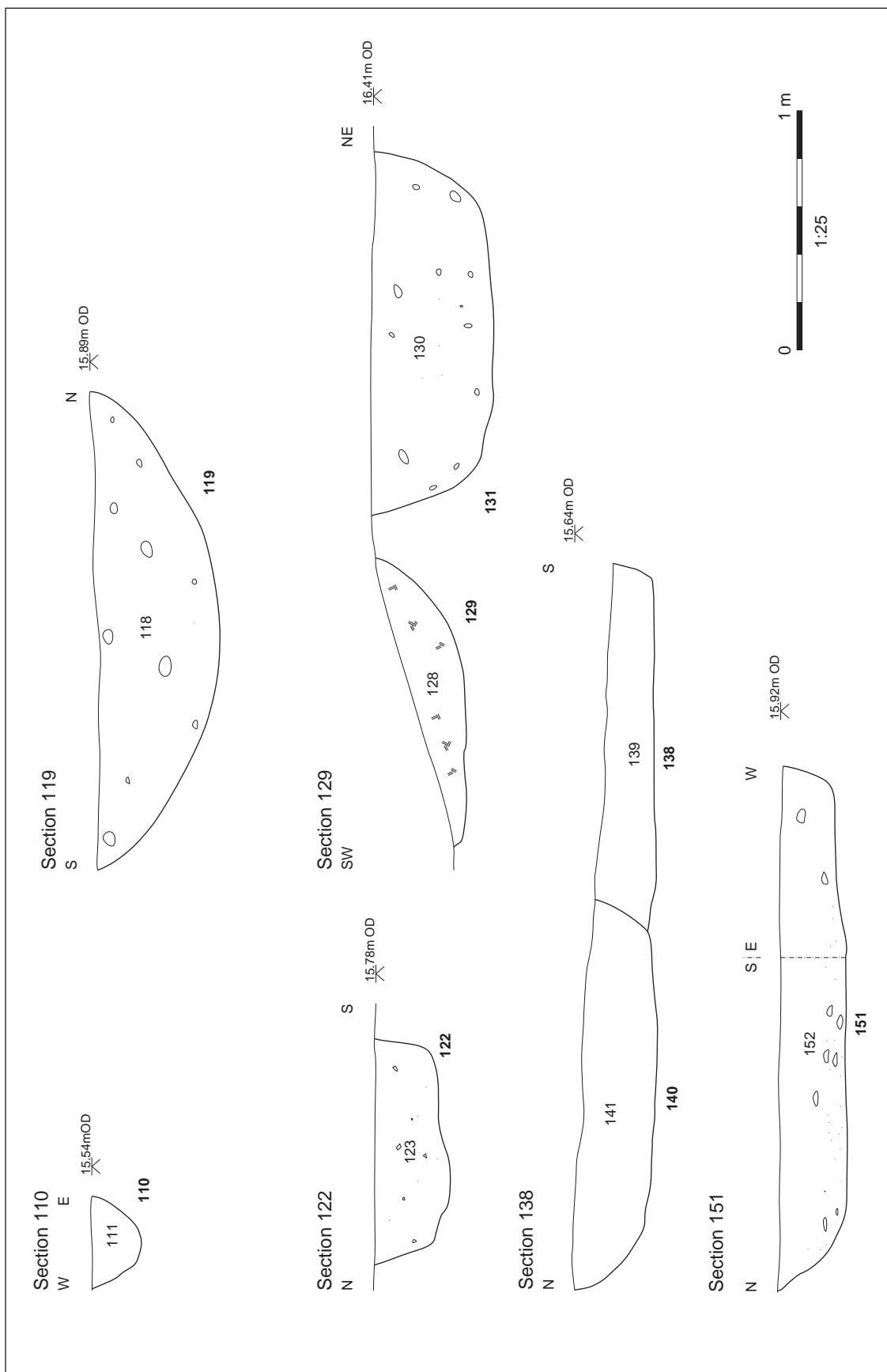


Figure 4: Selected section drawing



Plate 1: View of trench post-excavation, facing south-east



Plate 2: Postholes, facing north



Plate 3: Quarry pit 112, facing north-east



Plate 4: Pit 149, facing south-east



Plate 5: Pit Group 6, inter-cutting quarry pits, facing south



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

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

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
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