The Proposed Great Gidding New Primary School, Winwick Road, Great Gidding, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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February 2009

Client: Cambridgeshire County Council

OA East Report No: 1092
OASIS No: oxfordar3-55122
NGR: TL 1160 8287

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Report Title

Archaeological Evaluation

At

The Proposed Great Gidding New Primary School, Winwick Road,

Great Gidding, Cambridgeshire

By James Fairbairn

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Report Date: February 09

Report Number:	1092
Site Name:	Great Gidding New Primary School
HER Event No:	ECB 2932
Date of Works:	November 08
Client Name:	Cambridgeshire County Council (Capita Symonds)
Client Ref:	
Planning Ref:	pre-planning
Grid Ref:	Cambs TL 11608287
Site Code:	GID NPS 08
Finance Code:	GID NPS 08
Receiving Body:	CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No:	TBA
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Summary

Following on from a geophysical survey by Pete Masters of Cranfield University Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned to undertake a limited evaluation (34 square metres of trenching) on land proposed for a new primary school in the Cambridgeshire village of Great Gidding TL 11608287. This evaluation was designed to look at the date, depth, state of preservation and significance of the remains revealed by the Geophysics. The results revealed two ditches containing Romano-British Pottery and an area of building material also of Romano-British date probably relating to a farmstead or other building located on or close to the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 A limited and targeted archaeological evaluation was conducted at the location of the proposed Great Gidding New Primary School, TL 1160 8287.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the date, character and state of preservation of archaeological remains already revealed within the proposed redevelopment area by Geophysical Survey, and in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). This small-scale trenching was strictly targeted and was not intended as an evaluation of the entire development area. The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the further treatment of the archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 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

The solid geology underlying the site is Oxford Clay, but alluvial deposits from the Alconbury Brook were also encountered. (Worssam & Taylor 1969,BGS sheet 188).

1.2.1 The site lies at 38m OD at the bottom of a relatively broad valley with the high ground, rising to the north and east to *c*. 65m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site is immediately adjacent to an area of extant ridge and furrow, the remains of medieval cultivation (CHER 11648, MCB 13692), which occupy the northern part of the large field. There are slight earthwork features on the site itself, representing ditches, a trackway or culverted ditch, and possible ponds. Further extant ridge and furrow is located on the same side of the Brook to the north (MCB 13668) and across the Brook to the southwest (MCB 13669).

1.3.2 The site is located 250m south of the medieval parish church (CHER 00932), with remnants of earthwork medieval settlement to its north (MCB 1181) and a medieval moated site lies immediately to the southeast of the development area (CHER 01015, MCB 1282).

1.3.3 The stretch of the Alconbury Brook that runs along the western boundary of the site is very straight and has clearly been canalised, perhaps as a leat for a water mill of some form at its south.

1.3.4 Earlier archaeological remains are also present within the area, with Iron Age activity recorded along a pipeline to the west side of the Brook (CHER CB14661) and a findspot of Neolithic material within the village to the east (MCB 1195).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Jonathan Moules and Matthew Hucklesby of Capita Symonds who commissioned and funded the archaeological work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council (Schools). The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. James Fairbairn carried out the evaluation with the assistance of Dave Brown and Tom Lyons. The site was surveyed by Taleyna Fletcher using a Leica GPS. The illustrations were produced by Crane Begg. Richard Mortimer edited the report. The brief for the archaeological work was written by Andy Thomas who also monitored the evaluation.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the nature, date, quality, condition and significance of surviving archaeological deposits within the development area already identified by Geophysical Survey.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Four small trenches with a total area of 34 square metres were excavated. Trenches 1 to 3 were targeted on known archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey and trench 4 was placed close to the Alconbury Brook to look at possible alluvial deposits related to its earlier, pre-canalised courses.

2.2.2 Environmental constraints were put on the evaluation in the form of newt protection fencing which encompassed all excavated areas. No newt sightings were made during the construction of the fencing or the evaluation.

2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.4 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS which is located on the ordnance survey grid. Levels were also recorded at the top and bottom of each trench and on section drawings with the GPS. Drawn plans were incorporated with the survey data to accurately plot the position of the trenches.

2.2.5 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.

2.2.6 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.

2.2.7 A Total of 80L of bulk soil samples were collected

The total volume of each sample was processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. For full methodology see Appendix C1.

2.2.8 The conditions on site were cold and wet. A high water table and intermittent rain led to all excavated areas flooding. Access to the site was hindered by cattle feeding equipment. The newt protection scheme also hindered excavation due to restricted spoiling areas within the newt fencing.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Trench 1 was located over a large ditch identified during the geophysical survey and was 5m long and 3m wide. It was oriented northeast to southwest.

3.1.2 Trench 2 was located immediately west of Trench 1, over a ditch thought possibly to be of a separate phase or period. Trench 2 was 6m long, 4.80m wide at its widest point and oriented northeast to southwest

3.1.3 Trench 3 was located to the south over an anomaly identified by geophysics that was thought could represent a possible kiln or oven. Trench 3 was 5.0m long and 4.5m wide.

3.1.4 Trench 4 was located to the west, close to the Alconbury Brook, to investigate the sequence of alluvial deposits produced by the flood waters of the Brook prior to canalisation. Trench 4 was 1.83m long and 2.00m wide.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 The feature revealed in Trench 1 was a large Iron Age or Romano British ditch (**108**) with a later Romano-British re-cut (**105**) (Fig 4, Section 4)**.** A topsoil (101), consisting of a dark brown/grey silty clay material overlay a greyish brown clay subsoil (102), which in turn overlay a subsoil ditch fill interface (103); these had a cumulative depth of 0.60m.

3.2.2 Directly below this was cut **105**, a possible shallow re-cutting of **108**, though it may also simply represent the uppermost infilling of the hollow at the top of the ditch. **105** had a depth of approximately 0.50m and a width of 2.60m with a steeply sloping edge at the west and gently sloping edge to the east – this shallow profile, with a bank rising to the west, would perhaps suggest the latter interpretation. It was filled by 104, a brown silty clay with very similar characteristics to the subsoil layer above. This fill contained amounts of small stones and gravel, and relatively large amounts of Romano-British pottery with some residual Late Iron Age material (7 out of the 49 Sherds recovered). The Romano-British material dates broadly to the late 2nd to 4th centuries.

3.2.3 The uppermost fill of ditch **108** immediately below **105** consisted of a mid brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of stones and gravels (106). Below this, the main fill of ditch **108** again consisted of a mid brown clay mixture with frequent inclusions of stones and gravel (107). The small assemblage of pottery (5 Sherds) recovered from this fill can be dated slightly earlier than that from 104 at perhaps the early to mid 2nd century. Ditch **108** was augured in two locations to give a profile and an approximate depth of 2.50m from modern ground level (see Figure 4).

3.2.4 Another possible ditch or recut was recorded in section towards to eastern edge of **108.** This feature (110) had a width of 0.55m and a depth of 0.38m, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (109) consisted of a dark brown silty clay mixture containing moderate amounts of gravel but no artefacts.

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 revealed a single ditch (**206**). It was sealed by a greyish/brown silty grey subsoil (202) and a dark brown silty clay topsoil (201) which existed to a cumulative depth of 0.50m. Between these and the ditch fills was a band of soil (203), similar to 202 but with substantially more gravel and pea grit. Exact dimensions of the ditch were

difficult to ascertain but the depth was augured to approximately 2.00m below modern ground level. The ditch was at least 4.80m wide with a gently sloping western edge. Only two fills were recorded above the waterline. The latest of these (204) consisted of a dark grey silty clay fill. Four sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from this fill. Fill 205 below was similar in all characteristics to fill 204 but slightly darker. No finds were recovered from the relatively small area excavated. The pottery from the upper fill of this feature, like that within the upper fill of ditch **108**, dates to the late 2nd to 4th centuries.

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 A possible wall footing along with flue tile and wall plaster strongly suggest that a building existed on this part of the site in the Romano British period.

3.4.2 A discrete area of building stone was uncovered in the southwest corner of the trench. The stones (304) had an extent of 1.2m x 1.1m and consisted of irregular pieces of unworked stone which were loosely placed. Though uncertain, the alignment of the footing appeared to be northwest to southeast, broadly similar to the majority of the ditches on the geophysics plot. A single small iron nail (SF1) was found within these stones. (See Table1).

3.4.3 A clay floor or foundation surface (305) consisting of a hard light yellow-brown clay with blue green lenses had been pressed down into some of the building stones. The extent of the deposit was limited to the northern edge of the stonework and covered an area of just 0.30m x 0.50m. A small area of this foundation surface showed some slight signs of heating or burning.

3.4.4 Layer 303 consisted of a rough gravel surface that partially overlay the building stone. This gravel layer had no clear edges or coherent shape and had a maximum depth of 0.20m, it was dark brown in colour and contained frequent small pebbles and pea gravel. Two pottery sherds, dating to the 1st to 3rd centuries, and a small amount of yellowy brown mortar were recovered from within the gravel. This layer did not appear to be deliberately deposited and is perhaps more likely to be part of a demolition layer associated with the building.

3.4.5 A layer of firm orangey brown silt (306) was exposed on the eastern side of the trench. This deposit was left in situ due to the constant flooding of the trench as to remove it in such conditions would have been damaging. However, fired clay and some CBM fragments were seen.

3.4.6 A subsoil layer (307) covered the whole area of Trench 3. This layer consisted of a loose dark brown clayey silt ranging in depth from 0.10m to 0.24m. It contained a single sherd of 1st to 3rd century pottery, fragmented oyster shell and small amounts of CBM, including three pieces of painted wall plaster. Although the plaster pieces were small in size, the fact that they were relatively intact would again suggest that any building on site would have lain very close to Trench 3. This subsoil layer sealed all other archaeological features.

3.4.7 A mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil (302) and a dark brown silty clay topsoil (301) lay directly over (303) and had a cumulative depth of 0.50m.

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 A large test pit measuring 2.0m x 2.0m was dug close to the canalised water course known as the Alconbury Brook. This pit was dug to assess the level and condition of

alluvial or colluvial deposits close to the stream. The pit was machine dug to a depth of 1.50m.

3.5.2 A loose gravel deposit or layer (406) was found in the base of the test pit, it was light orangey brown in colour and consisted of fine and medium gravels. This deposit could indicate the presence of possible river terrace or river bed gravels which may in turn suggest that when the site was occupied, one course of the stream could have lain slightly to the east of the present day Alconbury Brook.

3.5.3 Overlying the gravel were two very similar subsoil layers (404 & 405), both consisted of firm dark grey clayey material containing occasional charcoal flecks. 405 existed to a maximum depth of 0.40m and 404 to a maximum depth of 0.30m. A small Roman coin was recovered from an environmental sample taken from 405, this coin has been dated to the late 3rd to late 4th century AD (William Wadeson pers. comm.). The only discernible difference between these two layers was that 405 was slightly darker.

3.5.4 A firm light yellowy brown silty clay layer (403) overlay 404 with a maximum depth of 0.40m. This layer contained no finds but did contain occasional charcoal flecks. This was sealed by mid grey silty clay subsoil (402) and a dark reddish brown silty clay topsoil (401). These had a cumulative depth of 0.40m.

3.6 Finds Summary

3.6.1 The finds assemblage suggests the site was occupied from the Late Iron Age through perhaps to the third century with a possible farmstead or other building lying at the south of the site in the 2nd or 3rd centuries. The presence of the building is suggested by the discovery of a wall footing, flue tile, painted wall plaster and other CBM in Trench 3. The Romano-British pottery assemblage is indicative of wares associated with a farmstead or small settlement. The fine wares recovered were a mixture of imported and locally produced materials, and considering the close proximity of the Roman trading centre of Water Newton this is not surprising. Animal bones recovered during the evaluation consist of pig, cow and sheep/goat, all with signs of butchery. A recovered sheep/goat mandible showed signs of periodontal disease, usually associated with a hard gritty diet or the advanced age of the animal.

3.7 Environmental Summary

3.7.1 The environmental samples taken show evidence of burnt cereal grains and domestic culinary waste. These grains may have been burnt during processing, storage or cooking. Artefacts found within the samples include domestic pottery and a small Roman coin in a sample taken from 405. The environmental evidence again points to the excavated areas being part of a low level domestic site.

4 Discussion and conclusion

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The evaluation at the proposed Great Gidding Primary School site has produced evidence for a farmstead or other occupation site in the Romano-British period occupying the site perhaps from the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age to the 3rd Century AD.

There is evidence for at least one building in the form of a wall footing with associated finds of wall plaster, fragments of box flue tile and other CBM. The pottery evidence supports this interpretation with at least one dump of domestic pottery and finer wares being recorded in the upper fill of a ditch. The nature of the ditches recorded, large and deep, with domestic spreads in their upper fills, suggests that they were enclosure ditches, possibly related to domestic buildings or other activity. Given the location of the site, adjacent to both the Alconbury Brook and a possible early road (see below), it is possible that the development site represents part of a larger Romano-British settlement that could comprise of farmsteads and perhaps mills etc. linked to the Brook.

4.1.2 Given the small pottery assemblage recovered during the excavation, and its poor condition, it might be assumed that the settlement was of a relatively low status.

4.1.3 The phasing of the ditches is uncertain; due to flooding only the two uppermost fills in both ditches could be excavated. However, the big early ditch in Trench 1 (**108**) contained a small 2nd century pottery assemblage, whereas the upper fill (or fill of recut **105**), along with the upper fill of the ditch in Trench 2, contained later, 2nd - 4th century assemblages. While the site was clearly also occupied in the Late pre-Roman Iron Age - sherds of Iron Age pottery formed a residual part of the assemblage in the ditch **108** – no features were excavated that could be assigned to this early phase.

4.1.4 The silty clay topsoil and subsoil covering the site existed to a combined depth of between 0.50m and 0.60m. They covered a buried medieval ploughsoil that was most apparent in Trench 4. This ploughsoil had a greater depth towards the west of the site (up to 0.80m), probably the result of the addition of alluvial flood silts along the part of the field closest to the Alconbury Brook. At the base of Trench 4 was a sandy gravel, probably river terrace gravels or the bed of one of a pre existing river course.

4.1.5 A study of local maps has revealed what is now an abandoned road or trackway, still existing in part as a hollow way leading from the church, which would once have been the chief route between Great Gidding and the village of Clopton which lies six kilometres to the south west. This same road can be traced as far as Ermine Street approximately seven kilometres to the east and so gives a direct link between Great Gidding and the main Roman town and trading centre at Water Newton.

4.1.6 The canalisation of the Alconbury Brook immediately adjacent to the site suggests that the area has had some industrial significance, perhaps with water mills at its southern end, where the modern road now turns to the south. While this may be a Medieval or later development, the closeness of the Roman building and settlement to the brook could suggest that this industrial link has greater antiquity.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 Considering the poor weather, and the access and environmental restrictions on the evaluation, considerable evidence was forthcoming suggesting that at least one building, set within a system of enclosure ditches, existed on or very close to the evaluated area. The quantity and quality of the finds and environmental assemblages, however, do not suggest a particularly high status site, the few imports within the assemblage perhaps indicative of the relative closeness of the site to Ermine St.

4.2.2 The possible existence of an early road fronting the settlement to the north adds to what is known of Great Gidding and its place in the wider historical landscape.

4.3 Recommendations

4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench 1 contained a single large ditch with a possible later central re-cut.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.22
					Width (m)	3.00
					Length (m)	5.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
100	Layer	-	0.28	Dark brown, silty clay topsoil		modern
101	Layer	-	0.22	Greyish brown clay subsoil		
102	Layer	-	-	Natural		
103	Layer			Subsoil / ditch interface		
104	Fill	2.90	0.60	Grey brown silty clay fill of **105**	Pottery. Nail, Small find 2	2nd - 4th Century
105	Cut	2.90	0.60	Re-Cut of ditch		
106	Fill	0.90	0.20	Mid Brown silty clay fill of ditch **108**		
107	Fill	1.40	0.30	Mid brown silty clay fill of ditch **108**	Pottery	2nd C
108	Cut	4.50	2.50	Ditch		
109	Fill	0.55	0.38	Fill of ditch **110**		
110	Cut	0.55	0.38	Cut of a curvilinear ditch		
Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	
Trench 2 consisted of a large ditch containing two visible fills.					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.00
					Width (m)	4.80
					Length (m)	6.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
201	layer		0.20	Dark brown silty clay topsoil		modern
202	layer		0.30	Greyish brown silty clay subsoil		
203	Layer		0.40	Greyish Brown silty clay subsoil containing gravel		
204	Fill	2.50	0.45	Dark grey silty clay fill of ditch **206**	Pottery	2nd - 4th Century

205	Fill	1.50	0.10	Dark silty clay fill of ditch **206** just visible above waterline		
206	cut	4.80	2.0	Cut of a curvilinear ditch		

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	
Trench 3 contained evidence for a Romano-British building.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.70
					Width (m)	4.5
					Length (m)	5.0
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
301	Layer		0.20	Dark brown silty clay topsoil		
302	Layer		0.30	Mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil		
303	Deposit	1.50	0.12	possible gravel surface with flecks of yellowy brown lime mortar.		1st - 3rd C
304	Deposit	0.29	0.08	Possible building stone	Nail. Small find 1	1st - 3rd C
305	Deposit	0.40	0.06	Possible clay floor or foundation surface		
306	Layer	1.75	0.10	Possible demolition layer	Wall Plaster	
307	Layer		0.24	Subsoil layer	CBM, Pottery, Wall Plaster	1st - 3rd C

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	
A test pit dug close to the present day Alconbury Brook					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.45
					Width (m)	*
					Length (m)	*
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
401	Layer		0.10	A dark red brown silty clay topsoil		
402	Layer		0.30	A mid grey brown silty sub soil		
403	Layer		0.40	A light yellowy brown silty clay subsoil		
404	Layer		0.48	A mid to dark grey clay silt	SF 3	

405	Layer		0.30	A dark grey silty clay layer containing occasional charcoal flecks	Coin. Small	Late 3rd - 4th Century
406	Deposit		0.25	A loose light brown orange sandy gravel.		

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery By William S. Wadeson

INTRODUCTION

A total of sixty-one sherds weighing 1.039kg of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were recovered from five contexts during the excavation of evaluation trenches at Great Gidding, New Primary School, Cambridgeshire (GID NPS 08). The majority of the assemblage was recovered from ditches 88.5% (by weight) with a smaller amount of pottery recovered from layers 11.5%.

The majority of the pottery is abraded with some severely abraded sherds and has an average sherd weight of *c*.17g. The relatively high average sherd weight however is due to the presence of twenty-one substantial shell tempered storage jar and smaller jar sherds weighing 0.638kg. Without the inclusion of these sherds the average sherd weight is reduced to *c*.10g. The poor condition of some of the pottery indicates high levels of post-depositional disturbance possibly the result of middening and/or manuring as part of the waste management during the Roman period (Lyons 2004).

Period	Quantity	Quantity(%)	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
Iron Age	7	11.5	0.143	13.8
Roman	54	88.5	0.896	86.2
Total	**61**	**100.0**	**1.039**	**100.0**

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by period (in chronological order)

Methodology

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

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

Quantification

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

The Assemblage

Iron Age Pottery

Excavations produced seven residual sherds (0.143kg) of late Iron Age and Late Pre Roman Iron Age pottery. These include a single reduced sherd from a storage jar with combed decoration dating to the late Iron Age. The interior surface of this sherd is coated with a layer of limescale and suggests that the vessel was at some time used as a container for water.

The remaining six sherds, all date to the late pre Roman Iron Age and are produced in either a shell tempered or sandy reduced fabric. Mainly undecorated one sherd contains a single row of three linear lines with chevron motif above which a second joining sherd contains the partial remains of a suspension hole.

Although it is difficult to draw conclusions from so few sherds this may represent early occupation on, or close to, the area of excavation.

Romano-British Pottery

Of the remaining assemblage fifty-four sherds, 0.896kg are of Romano-British date. The majority of these, forty-two sherds, 0.859kg are locally produced domestic coarse wares, while the remaining twelve sherds, 0.037kg are made up of specialist and fine wares from both domestic and continental sources.

The most common coarse ware fabric by weight (0.547kg) are shell tempered wares dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. While the source of these vessels is unknown, production is most likely local with many of the forms of the type produced in the Nene Valley. A mixture of jars and storage jars several of the storage vessels sherds show evidence of an interior slip, added in an attempt to make the vessel water tight.

In addition excavation produced twenty-one sherds of grey wares (0.260kg) consisting of both domestic unsourced sandy grey wares of probable local manufacture (0.080kg) and Nene Valley grey wares (0.180kg) (Perrin 1999, 78-87). Produced between the late 2nd and early 4th centuries AD the manufacture of Nene Valley grey wares was an important development in the use of grey wares in the Romano-British period, their introduction establishing the sandy grey ware fabric as the main utilitarian ware in the region (Lyons 2008).

A further three sherds of coarse ware pottery were recovered from the assemblage, and includes a barbotine decorated rim sherd from a Nene Valley oxidised ware (Perrin 1999, 108) flanged bowl dating to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century.

Only eight sherds of fine wares were identified within the assemblage and include both domestic and continental produced wares. These include a single sherd of Central Gaulish samian from the rim of a Drag. 31 bowl (Webster 1996, 34) and a single, gold mica dusted sherd consistent with a Central Gaulish fine ware import (Tyers 1999, 142). Locally produced fine wares include four sherds of Nene Valley colour coated wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118). Produced in the Lower Nene Valley and centred on the Roman town of Durobrivae (Water Newton) they include a single rouletted rim sherd from a castor box lid and a rouletted body sherd from a beaker both dating from the late 2nd century to the late 4th century AD. In addition a single sherd of Oxfordshire Red Colour Coat ware was identified (Tomber & Dore 1998 174). The remains of a beaker the sherd is decorated *en barbotine* and dates from the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD.

Specialist ware identified consist of four small body sherds from a DR20/Peacock and Williams Class 25 amphora (Tomber and Dore 1998, 84). Produced in Baetica (Southern Spain) this vessel type dates from the late Iron Age to the end of the 3rd century AD. Amphorae is generally poorly represented in low order settlements in East Anglia and its presence here may reflect the closeness of the site to Ermine Street (Lyons 2008).

Provenance

All Iron Age and LPRIA fabrics within the assemblage are locally produced coarse wares, their production centres as yet unknown.

The Romano-British fabrics are a mixture of local and non local origin with the majority of the assemblage, including all shell tempered and sandy grey wares comprised of unsourced, locally produced utilitarian coarse wares.

All Nene Valley wares including both coarse and fine wares were imported from the domestic regional centres of the Nene Valley, centred on Durobrivae (Water Newton), near Peterborough while other domestic fine wares identified include a single sherd from the Oxfordshire potteries.

Continental imports includes a small amount of Dressel 20 amphorae from the Roman province of Baetica, southern Spain, while fine wares include samian from Lezoux, Central Gaul and a sherd of Central Gaulish fine micaceous ware from the middle Loire Valley.

Discussion

This is a small predominantly Romano-British assemblage with a smaller element of transitional Iron Age material present. Comprised mainly of locally produced coarse wares and Roman colour coat wares it is typical of a late Roman utilitarian domestic assemblage in this area (Evans 2003, 105).

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

The assemblage spans a wide chronological period from the late Iron Age to the late 4th century suggesting continuous activity in the area over a long period of time. The small number of sherds recovered during excavation however is common on many sites, and suggests there is an as yet unlocated Romano-British settlement or farmstead nearby.

The majority of this assemblage however dates from the late 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Further Work and Methods Statement

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

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THE POTTERY CATALOGUE

Context	Fabric	Des.	Form(s)	Quantity	Weight (g)	Decoration	Spot Date	Context Date	Comments
104	STW	UR	JAR, S/JAR	14	411		C1-C3	LC2-C4	INTERIOR SLIP, NV TYPE
104	STW (grog)	U	JAR	1	45		LPRIA		RESIDUAL, ? SOOTING
104	STW	U	JAR	2	46	INCISED CHEVRON	LPRIA		RESIDUAL, 1x SUSPENSION HOLE, ?IA PARALLELS
104	NVGW	UBR	JAR, DISH	10	173	BURNISHED	LC2-EC4		1 x OVERFIRED
104	NVGW	U	JAR	1	7		LC2-EC4		BURNT
104	NVCC	U	BEAKER, NM/ JAR	3	11	ROULETTED	LC2-C4		
104	CGSAM	R	DRAG. 31	1	3		M-LC2		

			BOWL						
104	SGW	UR	JAR	6	49		C2-C4		1x ?STANGROUND 1x SOOTING
104	NVOW	R	FLANGED DISH	1	21	BARBOTINE ON RIM	LC2-MC3		BURNT
104	NVOW	U		1	1		LC2-MC3		SOURCED NENE VALLEY
104	SGW	U	JAR	2	22		C2-C4		LOST SURFACE FINISH, ?NV
104	SRW	R	JAR	1	4		LPRIA		RESIDUAL
104	SRW (calc)	R	JAR	1	6		LPRIA		RESIDUAL
104	SRW	U	S/JAR	1	17		LPRIA		RESIDUAL
104	RW (grog)	U	S/JAR	1	25	COMBING	LIA		RESIDUAL, LIMESCALE ON INTERIOR
104	SOW	U	BOWL	1	8	?BARBOTINE LINE	?C2-C4		
104	?OXCC	U	BEAKER	1	2	BARBOTINE DOT	MC3-C4		? OXFORD
104	?MISC	U		1	3	GOLD MICA DUSTED	LC1-EC2		?IMPORT, UNSOURCED
107	SGW (limestone)	U	JAR	1	26		E-MC2	E-MC2	HAND MADE, PROTO GW
107	AMP	U	DRESSEL 20	4	5		LIA-C3		

204	STW	UR	JAR, LID SEATED JAR	2	21		C1-E/M2	LC2-C4	
204	NVCC	U	CASTOR BOX LID	1	4	ROULETTED	LC2-LC4		
204	MISC COLOUR COAT	U	CUP, DR.33 COPY	1	9		LC2-C4		SAMIAN COPY, ?N/HANTS
303	STW	U	S/JAR	1	65		C1-C3	C1-C3	INTERIOR SLIP, NV TYPE
303	SGW (grog) (reduced surfaces)	U		1	5		C1-MC2		
307	STW	U	S/JAR	1	50	COMBING	C1-C3	C1-C3	

Key: C=Century, E=Early, M=Mid, L=Late. R=Rim, U=Undecorated body sherd, D=Decorated body sherd, B=Base.

TABLE 1 OTHER FINDS

Context	Find	Quantity	Small Find No
104	Nail	1	2
304	Nail	1	1
306	Wall Plaster		
307	Wall Plaster		
307	Flue Tile, CBM		
405	Coin	Late Roman Coin	3

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples Rachel Fosberry

A total of eight bulk samples were taken form a variety of features within the confines of the evaluated area. The results of the flotation of these samples show that significant plant remains are preserved by carbonisation.

Introduction

Eight bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Features sampled include secure archaeological contexts within a single ditch, several layers and a test pit with three spits.

Methodology

The volume of bulk soil samples collected was 10 litres. The total volume of each sample were processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flots were collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residues were washed through a 1mm mesh. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residues were passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, fish bone, charcoal, shell, etc..) and artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. Identifications were made by the author without comparison to the OA

East reference collection and should be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant classification follows Stace (1997).

Quantification

Table 2 summarises the results obtained

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Feature Type	Flot contents	Residue Contents
1	307		layer	Charcoal, charred grass/straw, culm node, spelt glume base	Animal bone, pot, fired clay, glass, charcoal
2	107	108	ditch	sparse charcoal only	Animal bone, pot,burnt bone
3	103		layer	charcoal, spelt glume base, weed seed	Animal bone, small bone, pot, fe nail,
4	204		layer	charcoal, cereal grains spelt glume base	Animal bone, small bone, pot, fired clay
5	203		layer	charcoal, cereal grains	Pot
6	403		test pit	vitrified charcoal	Slag, coal
7	404		test pit	vitrified charcoal	coal
8	405		test pit	vitrified charcoal	coin

Results

Preservation

The plant remains were preserved by carbonisation.

Plant Remains

Cereals

Charred cereal grains are present in low quantities in Samples 4 and 5. Evidence of cereal chaff in the form of culm nodes and glume bases occurs in Samples 1, 3, and 4. The glume bases have been identified as Spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*).

Weed seeds

The only weed seed recovered in this assemblage occurs in Sample 3 and has been identified as stinking mayweed (*Anthemis Cotula*).

Ecofacts and Artefacts

The majority of the samples contained fragments of animal bone and occasional sherds of pottery. Vitrified charcoal/coal is common throughout.

A small coin was retrieved from the residue of Sample 8 (405). This has been tentatively identified as Roman (S. Wadeson pers comm).

Contamination

Modern roots were present in most of the samples

Discussion

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

Stinking mayweed is a plant that typically grows on heavy clay soils and may have been a crop contaminant.

Sample 8 was from the lowest fill of the test pit and did contain some waterlogged roots however, the flots of all three samples from the test pit were remarkably similar in appearance.

Conclusions and recommendations

The preliminary appraisal of a selection of samples from this site have shown that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains, however the low density of charred plant macrofossils in this assemblage limits interpretation of the features sampled.

If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and possible weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

Bibliography

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Appendix D Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

Only 6 countable bones were recovered from the evaluation at Great Gidding primary school, with 12 fragments not identifiable to species. Identifiable material was recovered from three contexts. Context **104** contained a portion of butchered cattle calcaneus along with partial sheep/goat, cattle and pig mandibles. The caprine and pig mandibles came from animals around 4-6 and 1- 1 ½ years of age respectively. No ageing was possible in the case of the cattle mandible. Interestingly the sheep/goat mandible showed evidence of periodontal disease and overgrowth of the 1st premolar following the loss of the first molar, a pathology type commonly seen in ruminant mandibles (Davies, 2005). Contexts **117** & **204** contained a portion of butchered sheep/ goat tibia and mandible respectively. The assemblage is extremely small and no further work is required.

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar-55122		
Project Name	Evaluation at Great Gidding Proposed New Primary School		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	10-11-2008	Finish	14-11-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GIDNPS08	Planning App. No.	None
HER No.	ECB 2932	Related HER/OASIS No.	None

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Public Building

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☐ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☒ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☒ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☒ Metal Detectors	☒ Test Pits
☒ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☒ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

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
Ditch	Roman 43 to 410	Coin	Roman 43 to 410
Ditch	Roman 43 to 410	CBM	Roman 43 to 410
Building?	Roman 43 to 410		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Hunts	Land 250m to the south of the parish Church	
Parish	Gt Gidding		
HER	Cambs		
Study Area	34sqm	National Grid Reference	TL11608 8287

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	CAPCA
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs County store	OA East	Cambs County Store
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...GIDNPS08	Accession ID ...GIDNPS08

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:

Convention Key

Figure 1: Location of trenches (black)

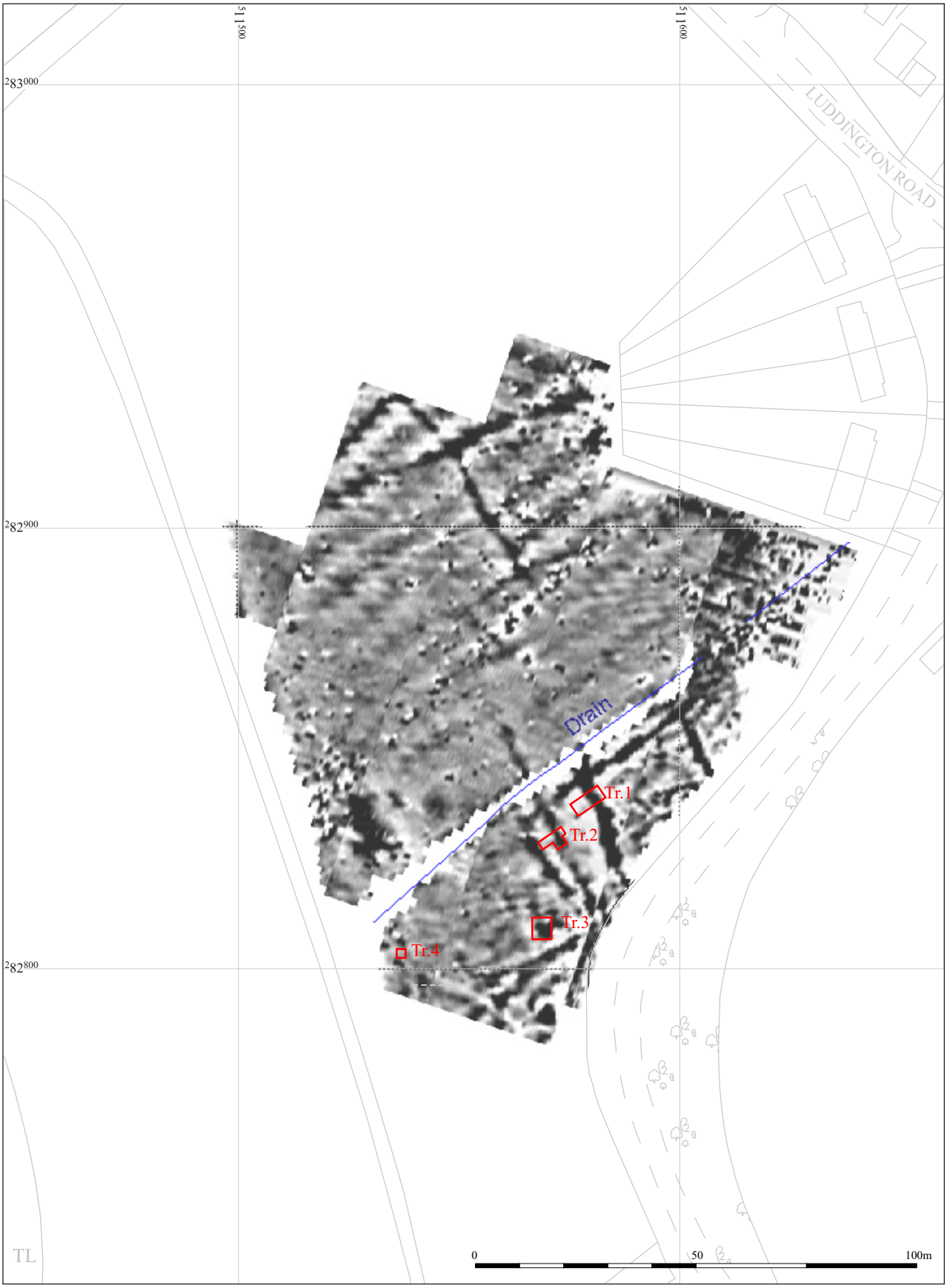

Figure 2: Geophysics results combined with trench plan

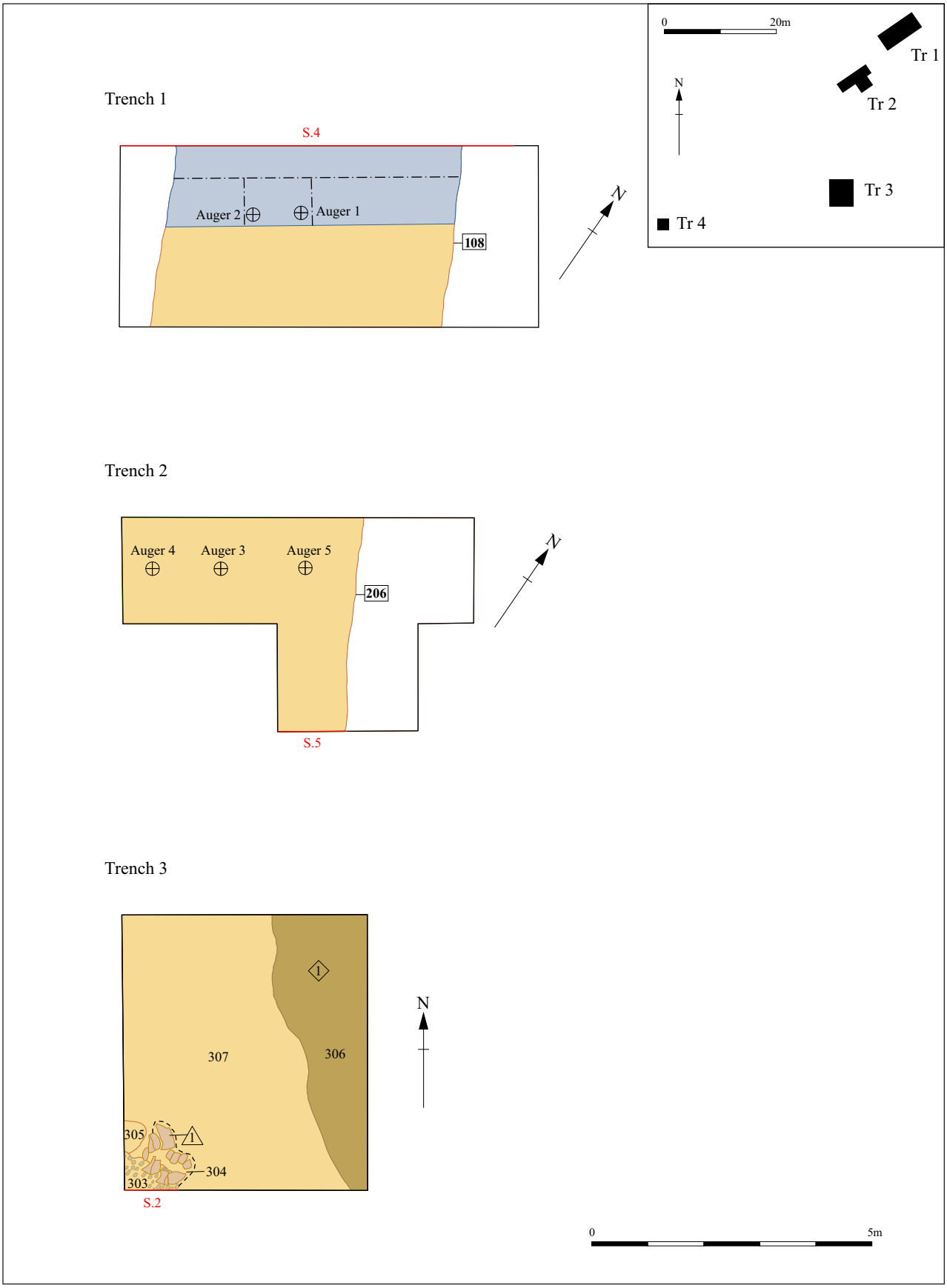

Figure 3: Trench plans at 1:100

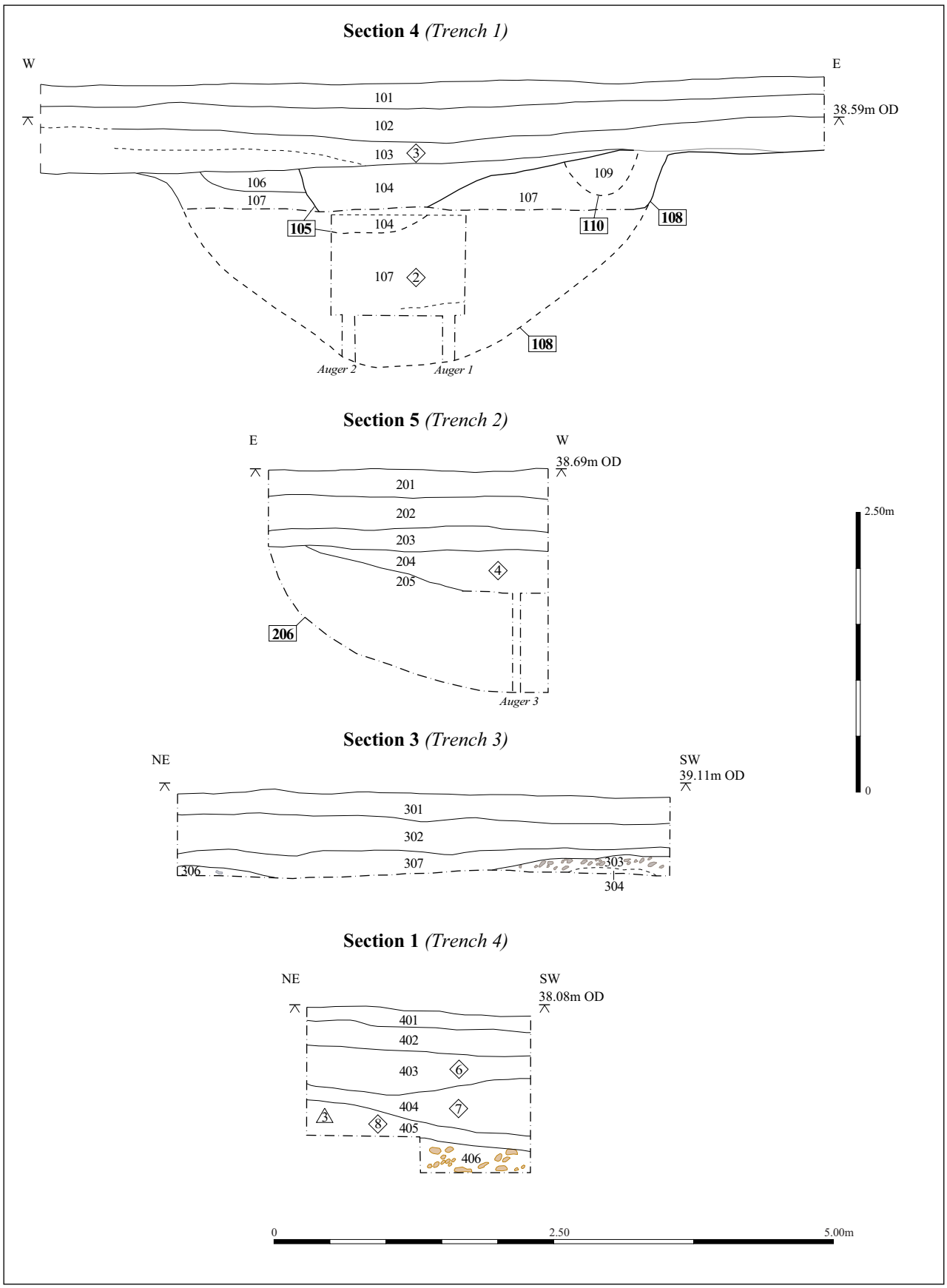

Figure 4: Section drawings, at 1:50.

Plate 1: Stonework in trench 3

Plate 2: Trench 4

Plate 3: Trench 1 looking North

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