An Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation at Godmanchester Primary School

JIGSAW Cambridgeshire Community Excavation

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

An Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation at Godmanchester Primary School

By James Fairbairn

With contributions by Steve Wadeson, Carole Fletcher and Chris Faine

Editor: Stephen Macaulay

Illustrators: Stuart Ladd and Dave Brown

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Position:	Supervisor
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Checked by:	Stephen Macaulay
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Signed:	.....

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Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

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Summary

Between the 11th and 15th of June 2012 and following a Geophysical survey carried out by Pete Masters of Cranfield university Oxford Archaeology along with pupils, parents and staff of Godmanchester Primary School excavated three trenches within the school field that lies adjacent to the modern B1044 and on the supposed route of the Roman Ermine Street. Romano-British rubbish pits and two post holes were noted in trench two and trench three produced evidence of redeposited gravel layers again dating to the Roman period. The gravel layers may be associated with either the Ermine Street or the Roman Cambridge road known as the Via Devana.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Godmanchester Primary School. Centred on TL 24460 70828

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by [author] of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application [add reference number]), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

1.1.3 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 site lies to the north of the Roman town of *Durovigutum* Godmanchester and East of the Great River Ouse and adjacent to the B1044. The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of 10m OD The school field belongs to Godmanchester Primary School and is presently laid to lawn.

1.2.2 The underlying geology consists of first/second terrace deposits (sands, silts and gravels) approximately 200m east of the Great Ouse

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Durovigutum - The Thriving Strongpoint

1.3.1 The only classical geographical work which mentions the Roman name for Godmanchester is the seventh-century Ravenna Cosmology, in which the name ***Duro viguto*** (R&C#101) occurs between the entries for *Durolitum* (near Romford, Greater London) and *Durobrivae* (Water Newton, Cambridgeshire). The *duro* component of all of these names is Celtic in origin, meaning 'strength' or 'a strongpoint'; the name *Duro-vigutum* possibly means 'the thriving strongpoint', the suffix perhaps stemming from the Latin verb *vigeo* 'to thrive, flourish' or 'lively'. The modern name gives no clue as to what the original Romano-British town was called.

1.4 Roman Godmanchester

1.4.1 The school is located at the centre of a triangular parcel of land with the Roman town at its south and Roman roads to east and west, within an area of known Roman burial and settlement activity. Inhumations, artefacts and settlement features have previously been found beneath paths and car parks within the school grounds and beneath the netball court immediately to the south of the new development area (MCB 12329). These observations extend the area of known occupation northwards from archaeologically investigated areas beneath recent developments at Pavilion Close and The Parks (ECB542, 543 and 544). Ceramic and metalwork evidence suggests dates of the 1st to 2nd centuries AD for the earliest roadside activity in this area, which may have developed around the widespread digging of gravel pits which would have been necessary to prepare the roads and for general construction work within the new town. Inhumation cemeteries appear to occupy much of the area in the 2nd to 4th centuries (e.g. MCB14699 and 12455) and the discovery of kilns at Pavilion Close indicate that a

ceramic industry was located here between the 2nd and 3rd centuries. An account of the extra-mural settlement, burial and industrial archaeology of Godmanchester has been recently published (Jones, A (ed.). 2003. BAR British Series 346).

The School field is situated just north of core area of the Roman town of *Durovigutum*, on or near the supposed line of Ermine Street, the great trunk road to the north, and the Cambridge to Sandy road. Extensive published material is available regarding the development of the town and the long history of archaeological work that has taken place, most notably Green (1977).

The importance of Godmanchester during the Roman period was primarily geographical as it controlled the crossing of the river Great Ouse. Roman forces moving north along the line of Ermine Street had established a legionary fort at Godmanchester within a year of the invasion of AD 43. The fort was abandoned within a few years as the frontier moved north, but an associated civilian settlement or *vicus* survived. During the Flavian period (AD 69-96) the *vicus* expanded and flourished with occupation concentrated along Ermine Street and the cross roads in the town centre, immediately to the east of the development area.

By the Hadrianic period (AD 117-38) a *mansio* and baths were designed and built in the centre of the town, to the north of the cross-roads, on the western side of Ermine Street. These were very large and elaborate buildings reflecting, in both their design and furnishings, the progressive Romanisation of the inhabitants. *Mansiones* were originally connected to the imperial postal service, providing overnight accommodation and fresh horses. This role later expanded to include facilities for other imperial travellers and later served as both a police post and a tax collection centre. The Godmanchester *mansio* as eventually built was one of the largest in Britain, at over 100 metres long, including stabling. Both mansio and baths were substantially built with masonry walls and were half-timbered above the ground floor. Floors were tessellated and walls were of painted plaster.

Somewhat later (shortly after c. AD 200) the town centre was redesigned and a formal basilica or town hall was built, in front of the western side of Ermine Street, approximately 50m north-west of the subject site. The presence of a basilica indicates that Godmanchester may have achieved the formal status of *Vicus*, with a legal constitution and rights of self-government (possibly following an edict of Caracalla in AD 214 which granted Roman citizenship to all free-born members of the community).

West of the *mansio* and possibly associated with it was a small temple apparently dedicated to a god named Abandinus, not known elsewhere and so possibly a local deity.

Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the subject site includes a watching brief undertaken during the redevelopment of the front plot in 1978 (Green, in prep.), that revealed a boundary ditch (potentially of 2nd century date), rubbish pits (1st and 2nd century date) and possible foundation slots for a timber-framed building. This was interpreted as a back yard plot belonging to tenements fronting onto Pinfold Lane, with the usual domestic rubbish pitting and other activities associated with such a location.

A small excavation in the garden of No. 5 New Street in 1977 uncovered five phases of Roman occupation including 1st century rubbish pits and a latrine, a 2nd century boundary ditch perpendicular to Ermine Street and a 3rd century shop fronting on to the road.

An evaluation c.100m to the north-west of the development area (Hinman 1998a) revealed

a well preserved sequence spanning the late prehistoric and Roman periods with particularly strong evidence, in the form of structures, enclosures and rubbish pits, for the expansion of the town in the 3rd to 4th centuries.

Small investigations at Pinfold Lane (Hinman 1998b) revealed structural features on the same alignment as the mansio and bath house.

1.5 Post Roman Godmanchester

1.5.1 Post Roman Godmanchester like many other places nationally suffered decline during the fifth century to such an extent that it would have been virtually unrecognisable to a resident of the Roman town visiting two centuries later.

1.5.2 A small number of people continued to live in and around the town during the Anglo-Saxon period eking a living from the land. It is debatable whether these people were descendants of the Germanic tribes spreading in from the east or were the remnants of the Romano-British society adopting the culture and customs of the invaders.

1.5.3 Traces of Anglo Saxon settlement have been recorded in the town along the line of Ermine Street and notably at the cardinal distribution park where Roman features were succeeded by early medieval settlement comprising of six early Grubenhauser an associated field system and post holed structure. Gibson, C; Murray, J. (2003).

1.5.4 The growth of Godmanchester was eclipsed by its neighbour, Huntingdon during the Anglo Saxon period and the middle ages. The Domesday entry (1086) records a sizeable rural community of eighty villagers, sixteen small holders, with three mills, a priest and a church. Possibly a population in the region of four hundred in all.

1.5.5 The lack of market a place and the layout of the Roman town is probably responsible for the curious layout of the present street plan along with Godmanchester's status as a self governing manor held by the king. Places with a more hands-on landlord often went through radical town planning during the early middle ages, often acquiring a grid like pattern. Examples can be seen at Bury St Edmunds, Ely and St Ives. Godmanchester was administered by a local committee and underwent no such transformation but never the less prospered throughout this period with the population reaching around two thousand during the early fourteenth century, a figure that would not be equalled until the early twentieth century.

1.5.6 In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Godmanchester acquired some grand buildings reflecting the tastes of local prominent families. One of these Island Hall lies directly opposite the evaluation area. The school and playing fields are located within the original grounds of Island Hall, a Georgian red brick house built in the 1740,s for John Jackson Esquire, the Receiver for Huntingdon. Test pit one lies just to the west of a line of cottages demolished when the house was constructed. Trenches two and three were located on what was a formal garden area. Photographic evidence shows that two grass tennis courts existed to the rear of the school playing field during the Edwardian period. These were short lived and disappeared soon after.

1.6 Acknowledgements

1.6.1 The author would like to thank the staff and pupils and parents of Godmanchester Primary School for their hard work and interest during the four day excavation. In particular the headmaster Mr Philip Ellington for his “hands on” approach to the dig and Deputy head Ms Ann Jackson who organised the digging Rota. James Fairbairn directed the excavation assisted by Pete Boardman, Jemima Woolverton and Jo

Richards. Site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees. This excavation was initiated by Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Community Archaeology Project, co-ordinated by Jo Richards, Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Community Archaeology Officer, and Jemmima Woolverton, Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Community Archaeologist.

Every child (approximately 300) and over 60 older volunteers were able to work on site and experience practical archaeology.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological evaluation 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 area of the school field

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Turf was stripped using a mechanical stripper. All test pits were hand excavated by pupils, staff and volunteers under constant supervision of archaeologists from OA east.

2.2.2 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Reese using Leica GPS equipment.

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 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.

2.2.5 Site conditions were dry and warm.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Pits are discussed in numerical order.

3.2 Test pit 1

3.2.1 Test pit one was situated at the eastern extremity of the school field and parallel to the B1044 and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.25m. This area was opened primarily for the pupils, parents and staff of the school to excavate and sieve the top and upper garden subsoil (100 and 101). The aim was to recover pottery and other artefacts relating to either the cottages that occupied the area and that were demolished in the 1740's when Island house was constructed or the Romano-British occupation of the area. A large amount of pottery and ferrous metal was recorded within the sub and topsoils. These were a mixture of residual Roman pottery and medieval pottery mixed with examples of pottery from the post medieval and modern periods.

3.3 Test pit 2

3.3.1 Test pit two was located to the east of test pit one and parallel to the modern pathway. It measured 7.3m in length and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.7m. Sondages were dug at each end of the trench.

3.3.2 The western sondage was excavated to a depth of 0.95m where two steep sided post holes **218** and **221** were encountered (see plan 2 & section 200). The two post holes contained a soft greenish grey material 216 and 219 thought to be a post pipe. Surrounding this was a mid greenish grey silty sand 217 which contained rare small stones. The latter fill contained no finds and the post holes most likely relate to a garden feature or fence that once stood on the spot. A firm greenish grey silty sand subsoil 203 sealed both post holes. This layer contained pottery, bone and glass dating from the Roman through to the twentieth century. This subsoil layer was overlain buy a a dark clay silty sandy subsoil 202 and capped by a topsoil and turf 201.

3.3.3 The eastern sondage proved to be more interesting with evidence of two Roman rubbish pits **205** and **213,** truncating earlier layers that also showed evidence of Roman occupation sealed by a compacted gravel surface (215). The sondage was dug to a maximum depth of 1.40m where water was encountered. The earliest layer recorded was a mid to light greenish grey silty clayey sand 208 that contained Romano-British pottery and oyster shell. A layer of dark silty clayey sand (207) overlay 208 thatcontained moderate amounts of shell and lenses of charcoal; possibly discarded contents from a meal cooked in the vicinity. Above this another layer of mid to light greenish grey silty clayey sand (206) was recorded. Again this layer contained pottery dating to the Roman period. These layers were sealed by a lower subsoil (203) of dark grey sandy silt that contained a mixture of Roman pottery and post medieval pottery, glass and ferrous metals. The area was sealed by a layer of a dark sandy silty garden subsoil (202) and a topsoil and turf 201.

3.3.4 These layers were truncated on both sides by later pits. The first of these pits, **205** was located to the east of the layers described above and contained a single fill 204 this consisted of a mid yellowy green grey silty clay sand mix which is thought to have been a single episode of dumping. Within this fill a small amount of Roman pottery was

found. To the west of the layers another pit was recorded. This had three distinct fills. The earliest of these (212) consisted of a soft greenish grey silty sand that contained rare small stones but no finds. Above this was another layer (211) of different material. This consisted of a firmer mid orangey brown clayey sand that contained more and larger stones than the layer below. No finds were recovered from deposit 211. The uppermost layer of the pit (210) did contain a small amount of Roman pottery and animal bone within its mottled yellow silty sandy fill. None of the features in test pit two were excavated to the lower limits so it is difficult to give an accurate assessment of the their usage but given that the fills seen in pits **205** and **213** seem to be deliberate backfill rather than a slow silting process it is assumed that the pits were probably dug to extract material, most probably sand and gravel and filled in fairly soon after.

3.3.5 A compacted yellowy brown sandy gravel (215) with a depth of 0.20m was also recorded in test pit two. It covered almost approximately a third of the sondage at the eastern end of the test pit but did not extend as far as the western sondage. (plate 2.) the reason for this could be that the alignment of the gravel layer lay outside the area of the western sondage or it may have been completely truncated at this point. This layer or surface had been truncated by by the later pits **205** and **213**. both of which are datable to the Roman period.

3.4 Test pit 3

3.4.1 Test pit three was located to the rear of the school playing field and on or near the supposed line of Ermine Street. The test pit showed indications of dumped materials rather than specific features such as the pits recorded in test pit two. The maximum depth of the test pit was 1.3m. At this depth an orangey yellowy sand (310) was noted. This may have been a natural layer of sand or a deposition of material. Health and safety requirements dictated that this would be the limit of excavation. Towards the eastern end of test pit three a small dump of yellowy brown sand (308) was recorded. A layer of dark grey silty soil (307) covered the gravel dump 308. This layer although 0.70m at its thickest contained no finds and was in turn covered by a layer of dark grey sandy silt (311) which contained some shell but no other artefacts. Another dump yellowy brown sandy gravel was recorded sealing 311 and abutting 307. This sandy dump of material did contain finds of mussel shell and pottery which was dated to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD. A larger dump of Yellowy brown sandy gravel (306) that contained Romano British pottery dating to 3rd and 4th centuries AD and discarded animal bone and shell, probably food or butchery waste. Another artefact found within 306 was a large fragmentary piece of a small Iron knife blade also of Roman origin (SF1).

3.4.2 The common Roman knife or *culter* was (as is the example from the school) generally straight on the cutting edge and curved on the back. The handles were often made of wood but sometimes bone. Bone handles were sometimes ornately carved. Bronze handles are also not uncommon. The example found in context 306 represents a more utilitarian type with the presence of a tang suggesting a wooden handle would have been more likely. It weighed 43gms and was 110mm in length including tang. If complete the extrapolated length of the knife would have been approximately 160mm. The blade measured 32mm at its widest point with a maximum thickness of 4mm and a minimum thickness at the blades edge of 1mm. A post medieval subsoil layer (305) consisting of a dark brown sandy silt that contained shell and pottery of a medieval and post medieval date. This was sealed by a modern top soil and turf (304).

3.5 Finds Summary

Roman pottery

3.5.1 The small assemblage of pottery and other artefacts found during the test pit excavations at Godmanchester Primary School consist of all most solely of locally produced domestic and utilitarian wares, suggesting that the area was close to a settlement and that small existing pits that probably a result of quarrying were used for the discarding of rubbish. The relatively large amount of Gritty oxidised wares many of an identical form, also suggest the presence of a nearby kiln. The lack of fine wares found during the test pitting suggest that any settlement would have been of a low status. Test pits will only give a small indication of what actually exists in any given area and it could be that the pits recorded at the school are actually much deeper and much larger than is realised. Further excavations would perhaps reveal larger quantities of pottery and other artefacts. The pottery assemblage is considered residual in nature as it mainly found within layers that also contained later pottery and artefacts

Roman metalwork

3.5.2 The only piece of metalwork to be positively identified was a fragmentary part of a small knife (culter) which would have been a domestic object commonly used throughout the Romano- British period. Numerous small nails were collected from the top and subsoil layers but none could be identified as being manufactured during the Roman period.

Medieval and Post medieval pottery

3.5.3 The post mediaeval pottery found during the test pit evaluation was found exclusively in the upper subsoil and topsoil layers. Again this is thought to be residual in nature with 12 different fabrics being recorded with some of the earlier pieces such as the sherds of Huntingdonshire Fen sandy ware jug (context 203) being locally produced .

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The three areas of excavation at Godmanchester Primary School gave evidence of Romano-British occupation in the immediate vicinity. Test pits two and three revealed both periodic dumping of Roman refuse in the form of food waste (oyster shell) and discarded Romano-British pottery. A distinct possibility of road construction within the bounds of the school field was also found, this was recorded in the form of compacted sand and gravel surfaces which had been cut through by the later rubbish pits. The size of these pits also suggests the possibility of gravel extraction for the construction or maintenance of the roads happening on the school site.

To prove that either of the two main Roman roads, Ermine Street or the Cambridge road the Via Devana crossed the school playing field would need further archaeological excavation but the evidence found during the excavation does suggest this is a strong possibility of either a Roman road or workings associated with its construction or maintenance.

The results from test pit one showed evidence of the cottages that existed on the site up until the 1740s when they were demolished to make way for the construction of Island House a few metres to the west. Brick tile and ferrous metalwork relating to the

medieval and post medieval period were found in large amounts within both the topsoil and subsoil.

Little evidence was found for the formal gardens that existed on the site during the Victorian and Edwardian periods. This may be due to the fact that major truncation or ground disturbance happened during the landscaping of the school . Photographs show that most of the fields were lain to lawn with a small gravel path called a *parterre* circling a central flower bed and to the rear of the site two grass tennis courts were only in use for a short period.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 Numerous excavations have revealed a large amount of information about Godmanchester in the Roman Period but most of this has been from work carried out within the walls of the Roman town. The excavation at the primary school although small in scale does give a further insight of settlement and activity outside the walls of Durovigutum and as such adds to the greater picture of life in and around the town during the Roman period.

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**	N-S
Trench 1 was located at the western edge of the school field adjacent to the B0144					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	15
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
100	Layer	-	0.15	Dark brown sandy silty topsoil	Pottery ,Glass	Roman to Modern
101	Layer	-	0.25	Dark brown sandy silty topsoil	Pottery, glass, bone, ferrous and non ferrous metals	Roman to Modern

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 2 was located parallel to the modern pathway forming a disjointed T shape with trench 1					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.7
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	7.3
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
201	Layer	7.3	0.15	Very dark clayey sandy silt turf	-	Modern
202	Layer	7.3	0.3	Dark reddish brown, sandy silt. Subsoil	Pottery, glass, ferrous metals , bone	Roman to modern
203	Layer	7.3	0.25	Mid to dark greyish green subsoil.	Pottery, glass, shell, ferrous and non ferrous metals	Roman to modern
204	Fill	0.75	0.42	Mid yellowy greenish grey silty sand.	Pottery and shell	Roman
205	Cut			Cut of pit	-	Roman
206	Fill	0.6	0.2	Mid to light greenish grey silty clayey sand.	Pottery	Roman
207	Fill	0.15	0.58	Charcoal soil and oyster	Shell,charco	Roman

				shell dump	al	
208	Fill	0.6	0.2	Greenish grey silty clay sand	Shell	Roman
210	Fill	0.38	0.18	Mottled greenish yellow silty clay sand	Bone	Roman
211	Fill	0.8	0.2	Mid orangey clayey silty sand	-	
212	Fill	0.58	0.8	Greenish grey,silty sand	-	
213	Cut			Pit	-	
214	Layer	0.8	0.15	Compacted yellowy gravel & sand	-	
215	Layer	0.1	0.2	Compacted yellowy brown sandy gravel	-	
216	Fill	0.1	0.2	Dark greenish grey sandy silt	-	
217	Fill	0.2	0.2	Mid greenish grey silty sand	-	
218	Cut	0.2	0.2	Cut of posthole	-	
219	Fill	0.1	0.15	Mid to light yellowish sandy gravel	shell	Roman
220	Fill	0.4	0.35	Mid greenish yellow silty sand	Pottery	Roman
221	Cut			Cut of post hole		Roman

Trench 3

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 3 was located to the rear of the school field and on the supposed line of Ermine Street	**Avg. depth (m)**	1.3
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	1.4

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
301	Layer	0.7	0.1	Very dark clayey sandy silt turf	-	
302	Layer	0.9		Yellowy brown sandy gravel	-	
303	Layer	1.2		Reddish brown silty sandy silt.	-	
304	Layer	0.1	2.4	Very dark clayey sandy silt turf	-	
305	Layer	2.4	0.38	Dark brown silty sand	Pottery, glass, shell, ferrous and non ferrous metals	Post Medieval
306	Layer	0.8	0.4	Mid brown gravely silt	Pottery,	Roman

					bone and shell	
307	Layer	1.2	0.7	Dark grey silty soil		
308	Layer	0.5	0.1	Yellowy brown sand	-	
309	Layer	0.7	0.38	Yellowy brown sandy gravel	Pottery, shell	Roman
310	Layer		0.68	Yellowy sandy gravel	-	-
311	Layer	0.38	0.4	Dark grey sandy silt	Shell	Roman

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Latest Iron Age, Early Roman and Roman-British Pottery

By Stephen Wadeson

Introduction

Recovered alongside post Roman pottery, a small assemblage of Early Roman and Romano-British pottery totaling 260 sherds, weighing 4.871kg with an estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) of 5.40 were recovered during the excavation of test pits at Godmanchester (Table 01). The majority of this material is Romano-British and can be broadly dated to the mid 2nd to 4th century AD with a significant quantity of early Roman pottery also recovered. A single, possible sherd of Saxon pottery was also identified.

The majority of the pottery recorded comprises of locally produced utilitarian coarse wares, specifically unsourced sandy grey wares (*c.* 48% by weight) and shell tempered wares (*c.* 15% by weight).

Pottery within the assemblage is fragmentary, with the majority of the sherds significantly abraded with limited evidence of surface finishes or residues surviving. The condition of the pottery can be attributed not only due to the action of local soils but also post-depositional disturbance possibly the result of middening and/or manuring as part of the waste management during the Roman and post-Roman periods. As a result the pottery has an average sherd weight of *c.* 18g suggesting that the majority of the sherds were found close to their primary site of deposition.

Ceramic Period	Qty	Qty (%)	Wgt (kg)	Wgt (%)	EVE	ASW (g)
Early Roman	64	24.62	1.522	31.25	3.11	23.7
Romano-British	195	75.00	3.328	68.32	2.29	17.1
Saxon	1	0.38	0.021	0.43	0.00	21.0
Total	**260**	**100.00**	**4.871**	**100.00**	**5.40**	**17.7**

Table 01: Quantity and weight of pottery by ceramic period.

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.

The Romano-British Pottery

Coarse Wares

A total of twenty Romano-British pottery fabrics were recovered during excavations, some in small quantities (Table 02). The main fabrics are discussed below.

The bulk of the assemblage is of an utilitarian nature with mainly unsourced locally produced domestic coarse wares (reduced and oxidised), specifically sandy grey wares accounting for the majority of the assemblage. Pottery of this type is common in most domestic assemblages in this region throughout the Roman period. These utilitarian wares are primarily used for the small scale storage of dry goods. Some vessels were used for both cooking and serving of food as illustrated by the identification of carbonised residues on the surfaces of several of the sherds recovered.

Sandy grey wares (*c*. 48% by weight) account for the majority of the assemblage. Most of the sherds are undiagnostic however where vessel types could be assigned the majority of sherds are jars including rim sherds from several wide mouthed jars, including cordoned and carinated examples. Other vessel types identified include plain and flanged rim bowls, alongside a local copy of a butt beaker (Thompson 1982, type G5-2) and a globular beaker with an inverted rim.

The second most common fabric were shell tempered wares accounting for a further *c*. 15% of the assemblage. The majority of these sherds are unsourced and can be difficult to date unless rims are present.

Vessels identified include several thick storage jars alongside several small utilitarian jar forms. While it is certain that the shell tempered forms produced and their place of production changed throughout the Roman period it is probable that much of Roman shell tempered wares were produced in the Lower Nene Valley between the early 2nd and 3rd centuries (Perrin 1999, 116-124). Later vessels identified include wares of the type manufactured at the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115) although other more local kiln sites will have existed (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212).

The third most common fabric type is Gritty oxidised ware (*c.* 6% by weight). This utilitarian fabric is commonly found in the western fen basin during the Roman period and is visually identical to 1st and early 2nd century Verulamium white ware (Tyers 1996, 199-201), but is known to have been produced into the 2nd and 3rd centuries in the Northampton region and at Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire (Martin and Wallis 2006, 3.7.1, iii and iv).

Within this assemblage vessels identified consist of medium mouthed jar forms as well as a handle from a small flagon or jug and a carinated bowl with a reeded rim.

Fine Wares

Imported fine wares are rare within the assemblage and comprise of a small quantity of Gaulish samian (0.32 EVE) accounting for *c.* 5% by weight of the total assemblage. The majority of the vessels identified consist of plain ware forms, specifically cups and dishes with only a single fragment from a mould decorated vessel recovered. This sherd is abraded and only a small fragment of beaded border is identifiable. The earliest material identified is early Roman South Gaulish samian from La Graufesenque (AD50-110) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 28), includes cup forms Drag. 27 and Drag. 35. The majority of the samian (*c.* 4% by weight) is from Central Gaul and includes material from the kilns at both Les Martres-de-veyre (AD100-120) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 30) and Lezoux (AD 120-200) (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32), including two examples of vessels with potters stamps on their basal interior. The earliest is from Les Martres, a Drag. 18/31 dish containing the partial stamp reading [VIT]ALIS M S F which is associated to Vitalis iii (AD100-125). The second example is from Lezoux and consists of a complete stamped base and footring from a form Drag 33 cup and reads MA.SV.ETIc and is associated with the early to mid Antonine potter Mansuetus ii (AD 155-170). Worthy of note is that this sherd has also been been trimmed at the junction of the wall and base for reuse possibly as a lid

Nene Valley colour coated wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118) account for a further *c.* 4% of the assemblage by weight. Produced in the Lower Nene Valley and centered on the town of Durobrivae (Water Newton) the industry was started in the mid 2nd century (Tyers 1996, 173-175; Perrin 1999, 87). Forms identified within the assemblage consist of sherds from a variety of beakers ranging in date from the mid 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Forms identified include roughcast, folded and unspecific beaker types. Decoration of these vessels include roulleting, under the slip barbotine scroll and over the slip white painted decoration. Only a few sherds are typical of the later, 3rd to 4th century vessels. These fine wares more closely resemble utilitarian wares, which are thicker and more substantial than the earlier Nene Valley fine wares of the mid 2nd early 3rd century and include the bases of several miscellaneous jars.

The presence of Nene Valley wares, on this and other sites in the region however is due to the proximity of the site to the production centers of the Nene Valley and as a result should act as a chronological indicator for the site rather than one of status.

Also present was a small amount of Hadham red wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151) and Oxfordshire red colour coat wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 174). Late Roman in date these fabrics were produced by the domestic market to replace samian, which by the 3rd century AD ceased to be imported into Britain. Imported into northern East Anglia from the end of the 3rd century, trade continued into the early 5th century AD (Lyons 2004).

Specialist Ware

Forms and fabrics traditionally associated with specialist wares are poorly represented within this assemblage. A small quantity of amphorae (5 sherds) representing *c.* 12% by weight, was recovered While a small amount could not be assigned to source, the majority of the material (3 sherds; weighing 0.458kg), was of the globular Dressel 20 type (Peacock and Williams 1986, class 25) from Baetica, Southern Spain (Tomber and Dore 1998, 84-6) commonly used to transport olive oil.

No mortarium sherds were recovered and only a single partial handle from a flagon/jug was identified.

Saxon Pottery

A single sherd of hand made quartz tempered fabric with a slightly burnished external surface was recovered from context 305. The sherd has tentatively identified as early to middle Saxon.

Fabric	Fabric Code	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)	EVE
Sandy grey ware	SGW	141	2.315	47.53	3.07
Shell tempered ware	STW	30	0.739	15.17	0.37
Amphora	AMP	5	0.569	11.68	0.25
Gritty oxidised ware	GBW	18	0.294	6.04	0.53
Nene Valley colour coated ware	NVCC	21	0.180	3.70	0.00
Central Gaulish samian - Lezoux	CGSAM LZ	7	0.145	2.98	0.09
Sandy oxidised ware	SOW	10	0.123	2.53	0.06
Nene Valley grey ware	NVGW	3	0.083	1.70	0.00
Sandy reduced ware	SRW	3	0.076	1.56	0.25
Central Gaulish samian - Les Martres	CGSAM MV	1	0.058	1.19	0.00
Grey ware (Fine)	GW (Fine)	2	0.057	1.17	0.00
Hadham red ware	HADRW	3	0.053	1.09	0.30
South Gaulish Samian	SAMSG	3	0.046	0.94	0.23
Horningsea sandy grey ware	HORN SGW	5	0.041	0.84	0.05
Black surface red ware	BSRW	3	0.030	0.62	0.20
Oxfordshire red colour coat	OXRCC	1	0.030	0.62	0.00
Pink grog tempered ware	PINK GROG	1	0.016	0.33	0.00
Nene Valley oxidised ware	NVOW	1	0.008	0.16	0.00
Miscellaneous white ware	MISC WW	1	0.004	0.08	0.00
Sandy oxidised ware (Fine)	SOW (Fine)	1	0.004	0.08	0.00
	Total	**260**	**4.871**	**100.00**	**5.40**

Table 02: The early Roman and Romano-British pottery quantified by fabric and listed in descending order of percentage of weight.

Conclusion

Godmanchester (known as Durovigutum during the Roman period) held a strategic position on the main north-south Roman road of Ermine Street where it crossed the River Great Ouse. The excavation of a site on the periphery of Roman Godmanchester is uncommon and the site examined here is of interest as it lies approximately 250m to the north of Roman Godmanchester, and lies adjacent to the projected line of Ermine Street.

Sandy grey wares and shell tempered wares form the majority of the assemblage by weight. Also common are the locally produced Gritty oxidised wares, several of which are almost identical and may have originated from a near by kiln. Although specialist wares such as amphora, flagons and mortarium are poorly represented within the assemblage fine wares are not uncommon specifically Nene Valley colour coated wares however imported Gaulish samian, is poorly represented and very little of the very latest Roman fine wares were recovered.

Situated on Ermine street and the River Great Ouse, Godmanchester was ideally located to receive traded ceramics from Roman Britain and the wider empire. The

range of fabric and forms found during excavation suggests activity from mid 1st to 4th century AD relating to the Romano-British town of Durovigutum.

Acknowledgments

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The Early Roman, Romano-British and Saxon Pottery Catalogue

Period	Context	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Fabric Date	Context Date
ERB	202	GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	2	0.02	MC1-C2	SUB SOIL
		PINK GROG	1	0.02	MC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.00	LC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
		SGW	1	0.00	MC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC1-MC2	
RB	202	AMP	1	0.18	LIA-C3	
		HADRW	1	0.00	LC3-C4	
		HORN SGW	1	0.00	LC1-C2	
		NVCC	1	0.00	MC3	
		SGW	23	0.07	MC1-C3	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
		SOW	6	0.02	MC1-C4	
		STW	1	0.01	?MC1-C4	
		STW	5	0.02	MC1-C4	
ERB	203	BSRW	1	0.01	MC1-MC2	SUB SOIL
		BSRW	1	0.01	MC1-MC2	
ERB	203	GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.01	MC1-C2	SUB SOIL
		GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
		GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.02	MC1-C2	
		GW (Fine)	1	0.01	MC1-MC2	
		SGSAM	1	0.03	AD43-110	
		SGW	1	0.07	MC1-C2	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC1-C2	
		SGW	1	0.00	LC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
		SGW	1	0.08	MC1-E/MC2	
		SGW	1	0.07	MC1-C3	

RB	203	AMP	1	0.04	LIA-C3	
		CG SAM LZ	1	0.04	AD120-200	
		HORN SGW	1	0.02	LC1-C2	
		HORN SGW	1	0.01	LC1-C2	
		NVCC	1	0.01	MC2-LC3/EC4	
		NVCC	1	0.01	MC2-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.01	MC2-LC3/EC4	
		NVCC	1	0.01	LC2-E/MC3	
		NVCC	1	0.00	MC2-C3	
		NVCC	1	0.00	MC2-LC3/EC4	
		NVCC	1	0.00	C3-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.01	MC2-C4	
		NVGW	1	0.01	MC2-LC3/EC4	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC2+	
		SGW	1	0.03	MC1-C2	
		SGW	1	0.25	MC1-C2	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.03	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C4	
		SGW	4	0.10	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.00	MC1-C3	
		SGW	1	0.00	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC2+	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.03	C3-C4	
		SGW	5	0.08	MC1-C4	
		SGW	28	0.27	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC1-C4	
		SOW	1	0.01	MC1-C4	
		STW	1	0.01	LC2/EC3-C4	
		STW	9	0.18	C1-C3	
		STW	2	0.02	MC1-C4	
ERB	204	SGW	1	0.01	MC1-MC2	LC3-C4
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
ERB	204	SGW	1	0.02	MC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.06	MC1-C2	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC1-C2	
RB	204	AMP	1	0.07	LIA-C3	LC3-C4
		NVCC	1	0.04	LC3-C4	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC2	
		SGW	2	0.09	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C4	
		SRW	1	0.02	MC1-C2	
SAXON	305	SRW	MC2	0.02	C5-MC9	SUB SOIL

ERB	305	GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.01	MC1-MC2	SUB SOIL
		GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
		SGSAM	1	0.00	AD50-110	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC2+	
		SGW	1	0.04	M/LC1	
		SGW	1	0.01	?MC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
		SGW	1	0.04	MC1-E/MC2	
		STW	1	0.02	C1-C3	
RB	305	HORN SGW	2	0.01	LC1-C2	
		NVCC	2	0.01	C3-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.00	LC2-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.00	C3-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.00	LC2-EC3	
		NVGW	1	0.02	MC2-C3	
		SGW	6	0.11	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.03	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.00	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.05	MC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C4	
		SRW	1	0.04	MC1-C2	
ERB	306	GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	4	0.04	MC1-MC2	LC3-C4
		GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.02	MC1-MC2	
		GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.05	MC1-MC2	
		GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.06	MC1-MC2	
		GW (Fine)	1	0.05	M/LC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.01	MC1-C3	
		SGW	3	0.05	MC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC1-C2	
		SOW	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
		STW	1	0.02	C1-C3	
RB	306	NVCC	1	0.00	MC2-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.01	C3-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.01	C3-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.06	LC3-C4	
RB	306	NVGW	1	0.06	MC2-LC3	LC3-C4
		CGSAM LZ	1	0.01	120-200AD	
		CGSAM LZ	1	0.00	120-200AD	
		SGW	4	0.04	MC1-C2	
		SGW	7	0.06	MC1-C4	
		STW	1	0.07	M/LC2-C4	

ERB	309	BSRW	1	0.01	MC1-C2	C3-C4
		GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.03	MC1-C2	
		GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	1	0.01	MC1-C2	
		SGSAM	1	0.01	50-110AD	
		STW	1	0.04	C1-C3	
		STW	3	0.06	C1-C3	
RB	309	AMP	1	0.04	LIA-C3	
		NVCC	1	0.00	MC2-C3	
		CGSAM LZ	1	0.04	150-200AD	
		CGSAM LZ	1	0.00	120-200AD	
		SGW	2	0.01	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.02	MC1-C4	
		STW	1	0.03	?C3-C4	
		STW	1	0.01	LC2/EC3-C4	
ERB	99999	GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	2	0.02	MC1-C2	UNSTRATIFIED
		SGW	1	0.04	MC1-MC2	
		SGW	1	0.03	E/MC2	
		SOW	1	0.05	MC1-C2	
		STW	1	0.22	C1-C3	
RB	99999	AMP	1	0.24	LIA-C3	UNSTRATIFIED
		CGSAM LZ	1	0.05	AD155-170	
		CGSAM MV	1	0.06	AD100-125	
		HADRW	1	0.02	LC3-C4	
		HADRW	1	0.04	LC3-C4	
		MISC WW	1	0.00	MC2-C4	
		NVCC	1	0.01	C4	
		NVOW	1	0.01	MC2-C4	
		OXRCC	1	0.03	LC3-C4	
		CGSAM LZ	1	0.00	120-200AD	
		SGW	1	0.04	MC3-EC5	
		SGW	7	0.05	MC1-C4	
		SGW	1	0.14	MC1-E/MC2	
		SOW	1	0.03	MC1-C4	
		SOW (Fine)	1	0.00	C2-C3	
		STW	1	0.01	M/LC2-C4	
		STW	1	0.01	C1-C4	

B.2 Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Medieval and post medieval pottery were recovered from all sub soil and topsoil layers of all three trenches. The following fabrics were represented and were single sherds unless otherwise listed.

Context	Fabric	Date range
4.4 203 203	Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire stoneware	1650-1850
305	Staffordshire White salt-glazed	1730-1770
203	Staffordshire slip ware x 4	1600-1700
305	Post-medieval Red ware drinking vessel	1600-1800
305	Post medieval Red ware skillet handle	1500-1700
203	Post-medieval Red ware bowl x 12 refitting	1500-1700
203	Post-medieval Red ware x 2 refitting	1500-1800
203	Post-medieval Black-glazed base	1600-1700
305	Bourn B/D type bunghole pitcher	1450- 1600
305	Late medieval Reduced ware bowl	1350-1500
203	Late medieval Reduced	1350-1500
203	Huntingdonshire Fen Sandy ware jug	1175-1300

A rounded piece of Barnack limestone was recovered from GPS12 (203). 0.15kg of 17th-18th century clay pipe stems, a 0. 42kg flat stone and 1.76kg of undiagnostic small and somewhat abraded body sherds were also recovered. A number of these were used for educational/teaching purposes, and the remainder were discarded.

APPENDIX C. FAUNAL REMAINS

By Chris Faine

Forty fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation with 28 fragments identifiable to species. The total weight of the assemblage was 2.6kg. Five contexts contained identifiable material (context **311** contained none). The largest number of identifiable fragments was recovered from context **203** consisting largely of cattle sheep and pig remains. The cattle assemblage was mostly adult lower limb elements such tibiae, metapodia and tarsal fragments. A juvenile femur was also recovered. A distal tibia from this context displayed numerous cut marks on it's proximal end. Sheep remains from **203** consisted of partial humerii along with a juvenile femur and tarsal bones. Pig remains are limited to single ulna and radius fragments along with a partial mandible from animal around 1 to 1 ½ years of age at death. Context **202** contained portions of cattle vertebrae, calcaneus and an intact jackdaw ulna. A single adult cattle astragalus and sheep tibia was recovered from context **204**. Material from context **305**

included sheep scapula, tibia and metacarpal fragments, along with portions of cattle ribs. A partial cattle metacarpal and ulna were recovered from context **309**.

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APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-152110		
Project Name	Test pit evaluation at Godmanchester Primary School		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	11-06-2012	Finish	15-06-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GODJIG12	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Development Type	Not Recorded

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
Pits	Roman 43 to 410	Pottery	Roman 43 to 410
	Select period...	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
	Select period...	Pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	Park Lane, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire
District	Huntingdon		
Parish	Huntingdon		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	12sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 24460 70828

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	Steve Macaulay
Project Manager	Jo Richards
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
GODJIG12	GODJIG12	GODJIG12

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:

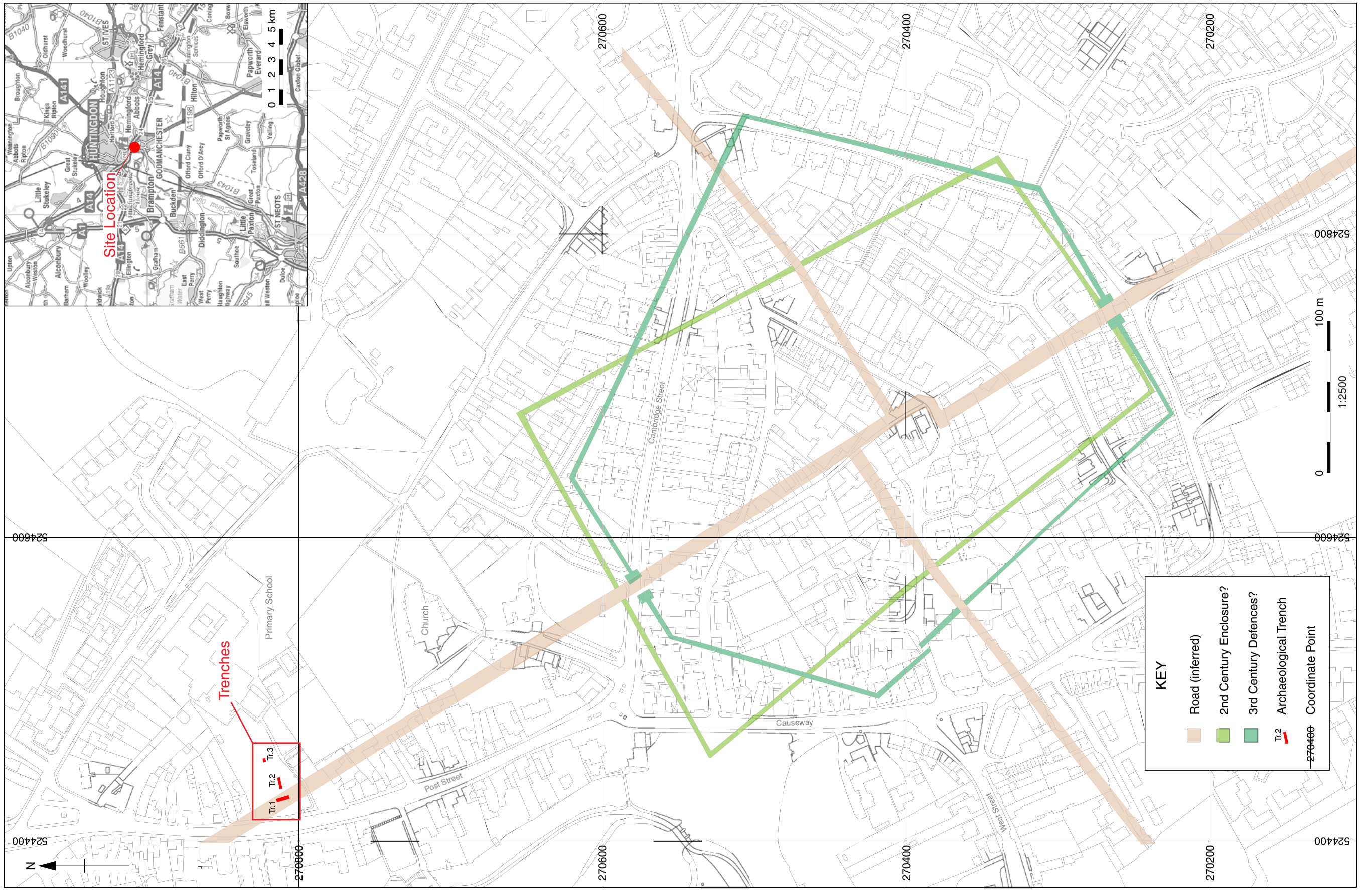

Figure 1: Site location showing trenches in relation to the site of Roman Godmanchester

Figure 2: Plans of trenches 2 and 3

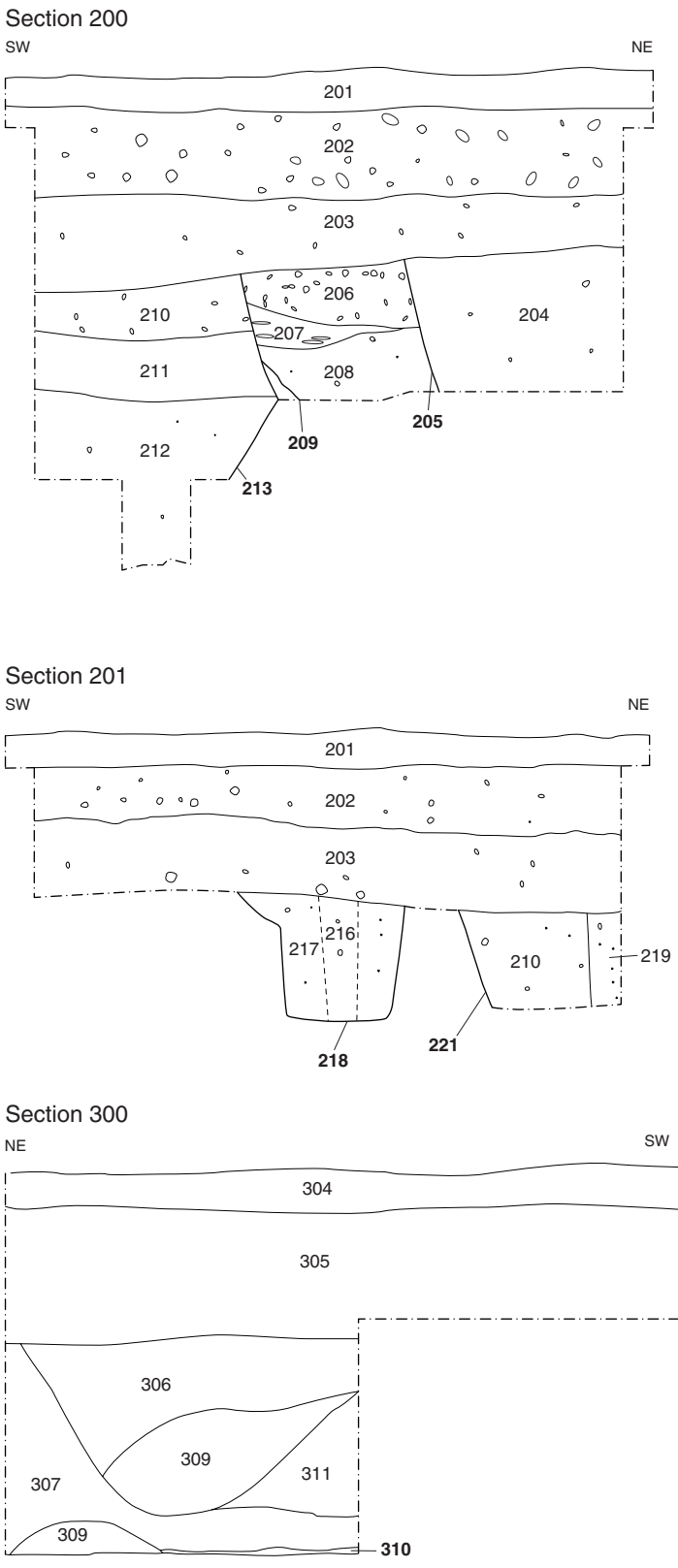

Figure 3: Section drawings

Plate 1: Trench 1

Plate 2: Trench 2

Plate 3: Trench 3

Plate 4: Section 300

Plate 5: A young volunteer next to trench 2

Plate 6: A member of OA East staff looking for finds with the Mayor and volunteers

Plate 7: Head teacher Philip Ellington lends a hand

Plate 8: A young volunteer sieving for finds in trench 1

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
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com