

A Community Archaeology Excavation at Fane Road Allotment Site, Fane Road Peterborough



Excavation Report



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A Community Archaeology Excavation at Fane Road Allotment Site, Fane Road, Peterborough

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

Between 12th May and 13th June 2014 a community excavation, co-ordinated by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East), was carried out on land at the Fane Road Allotments, Peterborough (TL 518 301) as part of a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Three small excavation areas were opened, cleaned and planned and although only minimal excavation was undertaken, further evidence of the Iron Age settlement was found along with a continuation of the villa complex first excavated in 2011 by OA East. The finds range from a small Roman glass bead and several copper alloy brooches to many kilogrammes of Roman mortar and ceramic building material (CBM), as well as fragments of painted wall plaster; deriving from the various phases of villa building (including a bath house) extending to the north.

The Community Excavation included a range of different opportunities for both visitors and participants alike. In addition to learning excavation and recording skills, participants also took part in finds processing and attended a number of lunch-time talks covering a range of topics. The site was also open to visitors and there were a number of organised tours, open days and exhibitions. Details of all the associated events can be found in the OA East HLF Evaluation report (David-Crawford-White 2015).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological Community Excavation was co-ordinated by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) at the Fane Road allotment site, Fane Road, Peterborough (TF18230 01822; Fig. 1) during May and early June 2014. This excavation formed part of a multi-faceted heritage project funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, awarded to the Fane Road Allotment Association and the Friends of Itter Park in 2013.
- 1.1.2 The project was born out of the unexpected discovery of a previously-unknown Iron Age settlement and Roman villa during an evaluation and subsequent excavation by OA East in 2011-2012 (Henley *et al.* 2011). This fieldwork, which was located at Itter Crescent adjacent to the Fane Road allotments, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes (East Midlands) and undertaken in advance of a residential development. Further details of the Romans of Fane Road heritage project are provided in an Evaluation Report (Crawford-White 2015), while the Itter Crescent excavations, with the results of the Community Excavation incorporated, will be published as an Oxford Archaeology monograph in the near future (Lyons *et al.* Forthcoming).
- 1.1.3 One of the main project aims was to engage the people of Peterborough in their heritage by delivering a programme of wide-ranging and inclusive events and learning opportunities (built around the Community Excavation) to suit individuals of all ages and abilities. The Community Excavation took place from Monday 18th May until Sunday 8th June: a total of 20 days over a 21 day period. Additional preparation and recording time for OA East staff was allowed for at the beginning and end of the community element of the project.
- 1.1.4 The Community Excavation was designed to provide a very 'hands on' archaeological learning experience for the members of the Fane Road Allotment Association and the general public living in Peterborough and the surrounding areas. The excavation targeted areas to the south of the villa discovered by OA East in 2011-2012, with the aim of identifying if the remains of the villa, particularly a possible south wing, continued into this area.
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with Peterborough City Museum in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies at approximately 11m OD with the underlying geology recorded as predominately Limestone of the Cornbrash Formation with River Terrace deposits on the far east of the site (British Geological Society (BGS) Sheet 158). Within the excavation areas, the soils were typically disturbed through cultivation and consisted of dark silty clay to an average depth of 0.30m.
- 1.2.2 All of the excavation areas were located within various allotment plots, some of which were under cultivation whilst others lay dormant. A new housing development extends to the immediate north of the site, on the main site of the Itter Crescent Roman villa excavated in 2011-2012. The nearest watercourse lies approximately 600m to the north-east.

- 1.2.3 The southern extent of the villa appeared to have survived as a slight mound in excavation Area 1; and was clearly evident after the stripping of the overburden in this area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following background is largely based on that included in the Post-Excavation Assessment (Henley *et al.* 2012) and a desk based assessment (DBA) for the Itter Crescent excavation (Flitcroft 2011). The latter was produced prior to the 2011 OA East evaluation and was based on a search of the Peterborough City Historic Environment Record (HER) covering an area extending over a 1km radius from the centre of the site (Flitcroft 2011, fig. 1).

General

- 1.3.1 Before the evaluation took place, Peterborough City HER contained no records relating to archaeological sites or finds from the Itter Crescent/Fane Road area itself. The majority of the records relate to finds of artefacts, including Roman pottery and coins, made prior to the extensive development of the area in the 1960s and 1970s, all located at some distance to the west of the study area.

Early Prehistoric: Palaeolithic-Bronze Age

- 1.3.2 There are five records relating to prehistoric finds within the search area. They include a Palaeolithic hand axe (HER 2211/50129), a Neolithic worked flint arrowhead (HER 2205), a Bronze Age arrowhead (HER 2218) and a small group of early prehistoric worked flints (HER 51932).

Iron Age

- 1.3.3 Iron Age findspots include an Iron Age coin (HER 2220) and a spearhead (HER 2206). Excavations at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe (HER 51461, 51933), 800m south-east of the study site, revealed three phases of settlement spanning the Middle to Late Iron Age.

Roman

- 1.3.4 Extending along the Nene Valley, approximately 7km to the south-west of Itter Crescent/Fane Road, are the best known Roman archaeological remains of the area (Henley *et al.* 2012, fig. 2). These were serviced by a network of Roman roads, including Ermine Street and the Fen Causeway, with river crossings identified at *Durobrivae*, Gunwade Ferry, Longthorpe and Botolph Bridge.
- 1.3.5 The Roman town of *Durobrivae* (SAM 130) lay to the south of the River Nene on the line of Ermine Street. Extensive Roman remains found nearby at Castor include the 'palace' or *praetorium* (SAM PE93). The military forts at Longthorpe (SAM PE135), Water Newton (SAM 130) and Sutton Cross (SAM PE138) all lay relatively close to the subject site. Strung out along River Nene and Ermine Street to the south-west of Itter Crescent/Fane Road were various villas, including those at Mill Hill, Castor (SAM PE128), Sibson Hollow (SAM PE126) and Sutton Field (SAM PE125). Limited investigation has also been conducted on another villa to the north of Oxey Wood, Upton (SAM PE132).
- 1.3.6 Within Peterborough itself, the remains of possible high status buildings (including destruction debris and a mosaic floor) have been found relatively close to the site (see Lyons *et al.* forthcoming and Henley *et al.* 2012, fig. 2).

- 1.3.7 Roman findspots recorded in the HER include two Roman coins (HER 50424, 52107) to the west and north-west of the Itter Crescent/Fane Road site. A single piece of Roman tile or *tessera* was found approximately 400m to the north (HER 50599), while a small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from medieval features during archaeological investigations at Paston Rectory (HER 50502). A larger group of coins and Roman pottery is reported to have been found 100m west of the study site in 1912 (HER 2203).

Late Saxon

- 1.3.8 Paston is thought to have developed as a village settlement in the Late Saxon period; 11th-century carved stones (HER 2244b) are incorporated into the medieval parish church of All Saints (HER 2244). A small quantity of Late Saxon pottery was recovered during excavations at Paston Rectory (HER 50502/51299).

Geophysical survey (Masters 2015; Appendix A)

- 1.3.9 An earth resistance survey was undertaken on April 20th 2014 as part of the Romans of Fane Road Heritage Lottery funded project. The survey highlighted some significant anomalies indicating possible wall foundations relating to the Roman villa complex on this site. Other anomalies recorded probably indicate the presence of ditches and pits.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to acknowledge the numerous people who took part in the excavation, David Crawford-White for facilitating the event and the members of the Fane Road Allotment association who had so much enthusiasm for what lies under their feet. Full lists of those involved in the organisation of the Romans of Fane Road heritage project are provided in the project evaluation report (Crawford-White 2015). Thanks are also extended to Alex Fryer for helping to compile the reports on the shell, plaster and tesserae found during the excavation. Rebecca Casa-Hatton visited the site and monitored the work. Louise Bush and Pat Moan carried out the survey work and Stephen Macaulay managed the project.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 One of the main objectives of this excavation was to provide instruction in the processes of archaeological excavation to members of the Fane Road Allotment Association and the general public who had signed up for the Community Excavation.
- 2.1.2 Learning opportunities included site set up; geophysical survey; pre-excavation planning; excavation and recording. These skills were learnt whilst investigating the remains of the known Iron Age settlement and Romano-British villa site initially identified on the adjacent Itter Crescent site. A detailed account of the community involvement can be found in the Project Evaluation report by Oxford Archaeology East (Crawford-White 2015).
- 2.1.3 The main research objective of the Community Excavation was to reveal more of the Iron Age and Roman remains related to the discoveries at Itter Crescent and to further understand the origins, layout, extent and development of this important site.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 It was decided through consultation with Dr Rebecca Casa-Hatton, the Peterborough City Archaeologist, Stephen Macaulay and James Drummond-Murray (Senior Project Managers at OA East) that due to the emphasis being placed on the community element, and that those participating would have little or no experience in archaeological practise, that it would be advisable not to undertake too many interventions across the excavation site.
- 2.2.2 With this in mind it was decided to open three small areas:
- Area 1 (Fig. 2) was sited directly south of the villa discovered in 2011-12 and measured approximately 10m x15m;
 - Area 2 (Fig. 2) was situated south of Area 1. The presence of a medium pressure gas main meant that an exclusion zone had to be imposed between Areas 1 and 2;
 - Area 3 (Fig. 2) was located on an existing allotment located to the south-west of the main excavation area (Area 1).
- 2.2.3 On-site excavation strategy consisted mostly of cleaning and exposing existing surfaces and walls without removing too much of the villa's *in-situ* remains. For example, in the main excavation trench (Area 1), the area was divided into transects and starting at the northern end of each, a team of volunteers removed overburden and cleaned around the exposed archaeological features. In other areas (2 and 3) where there was significant truncation, test pits were excavated within the Areas to target stone rubble seen during machining.
- 2.2.4 Where archaeological interventions were undertaken it was in areas of the site that were considered to be of a less complex nature, *i.e.* external surfaces, or areas located away from the complex internal structure of the building(s). The presence of a medium pressure gas pipeline that crossed the allotment site on an east-west orientation dictated the location of some of the trenches and meant that some trenches (notably Area 2) could not be fully investigated.
- 2.2.5 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled 360°-type excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.

- 2.2.6 The site survey was carried out by using a Leica GS 08. During the monitoring of the excavation it was decided that where possible the GPS could also be used to plan the exposed features. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.7 The work took place in dry to very wet conditions. Environmental samples were taken from relevant features and metal-detecting was undertaken throughout the excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Two main phases of occupation were identified during the Community Excavation and these have been broadly dated to the Iron Age and Romano-British to Early Saxon periods (Figs 3 - 4). Some post-Roman activity was also identified. Features assigned to the Roman period probably represent a number of sub-phases dating to the Mid Roman (c. 2nd century), Mid to Late Roman (c. mid 2nd century to mid 4th century) and Late Roman/Early Saxon (c. mid 4th-5th century), based on the analysis of the main Itter Crescent excavation to the north. However, in accordance with the Community Excavation methodology, few features were fully-exposed or excavated and as such most features and deposits have not been fully characterised in terms of their extents, dimensions, stratigraphic relationships or date. Full interpretation and discussion of the features and sub-phases and how they relate to the overall Iron Age settlement and development of the villa complex will be included in the forthcoming publication (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming).
- 3.1.2 Iron Age evidence was only revealed in the trench in Area 1. This was in the form of curvilinear gullies and pits. Evidence for Roman occupation was exposed in Areas 1, 2 and 3, where features and artefacts were discovered that link these areas of excavation to the that of the Romano-British villa and Iron Age settlement found at Itter Crescent to the immediate north (Henley *et al.* 2012; Lyons *et al.* forthcoming). Further details of contexts, artefacts and ecofacts from the current excavation can be found in Appendices B-C.

3.2 Phase 1: Later Iron Age (late 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD) (Fig. 3)

Area 1

Possible roundhouse gullies

- 3.2.1 A small gully **116/175/197** was recorded in the very north-eastern corner of the site and may be the remains of a drip gully of a roundhouse. This steep-sided feature was 0.25m deep and had a truncated width of 0.32m (Fig. 5, s.11 and Plate 1). It was filled with a dark brown silty clay (196) that contained pottery dated to the later Iron Age.
- 3.2.2 A probable continuation of this feature could be seen just to the south (Fig. 3), where a small curvilinear feature **212** was recorded but not excavated. Both were sealed by an external surface (121/204), that is probably of Roman origin (see below).
- 3.2.3 Located a few metres to the south-west of **212** was another curvilinear feature or possible gully (**203**), that measured 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep. To the west it was sealed beneath Roman occupation layers (see below). It was filled with a dark brown sandy clay silt (202) that contained loose stones and a small amount of ceramic building material that was probably intrusive from the overlying layers.
- 3.2.4 To the immediate north of gully **203** was another smaller curvilinear feature (**206**). This would have been of a much smaller circumference than the others uncovered in this area. It measured 0.30m wide and had a depth of 0.18m. The single mid to light brown sandy silt contained no finds.

Pits

- 3.2.5 Pit **199**, located to the south of gully **197**, measured 0.32m deep with a steep side to the north (Fig. 5, s.13 and Plate 1). The western side of the feature was unexcavated. The pit was filled with a dark brown clay silt (198) that contained large fragments of Iron Age loomweights (Appendix C).
- 3.2.6 Feature **201** truncated pit **199** on its northern side (Fig. 5, s.13 and Plate 1). This feature had steep sides and measured 0.55m deep and had a width of 0.90m. Its single dark silty fill (200) contained loose stones and a small amount of Iron Age pottery. It is possible that **201** was another gully or pit associated with the Iron Age settlement but too little was exposed to determine this. The small area investigated indicated that feature **201** was truncated by a shallow ditch or gully **203** (see above).
- 3.2.7 Part of small, shallow pit (**119**) was revealed to the north of **203** and between gullies **212** and **206**: although undated, it was also sealed beneath the stoney layer (121/204) associated with the later villa (see below). The pit was only partially excavated but it could be seen that it measured 0.8m wide and had a depth of 0.20m. It was steep sided and filled with a dark grey brown silty material (118) that contained a few small stones in addition to fragments of loomweight.
- 3.2.8 Although only a small area was investigated on this side of Area 1, it is clear that Iron Age features were sealed beneath the Roman occupation layers, the density of which suggests that further features of this date are likely to survive beneath the later layers across the area.
- 3.2.9 Pit (**195**) relating to the Iron Age phase of occupation was found in the western part of Area 1. This feature, revealed in the north-west corner of the area, was sub-circular in plan and had gradually-sloping, irregular sides. It had a diameter of 1.50m and a depth of 0.80m. The fill (194) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay that contained a few fragments of animal bone and a small amount of Late Iron Age pottery (Appendix C). The presence of this feature provides further evidence that Iron Age remains may extend beneath the Roman levels across the excavation area and beyond. This was again seen further to the west where further fragments of Iron age loomweights were recorded in pit **128**. This feature had steep sides a fairly flat base and contained a single brown silty fill (129) as the other Iron Age features in the area was sealed by the remains of an exterior surface.
- 3.2.10 Evidence of another possible small steep sided gully **122** was noted at the along the northern edge of the excavation area (S3). It had a width of 0.30m and a depth of 0.35m. The Brown silty clay fill (123) contained a small amount of pottery and bone. Due to the feature being at the northern edge of excavation it is not possible to be certain of any orientation

3.3 Phase 2: Roman (Figs 3 and 4)

Area 1 (Fig. 3 and Plate 1)

- 3.3.1 A fairly complex sequence of Roman features and deposits was revealed in this area, sealing the Iron Age features described above. Many of these feature can be related to the various phases of Roman villa revealed during the Itter Crescent excavations, although as most of these elements were only partly exposed, definition of stratigraphic relationships and recovery of associated dating evidence was often not possible.

Features include wall foundations and remnants of a hypocaust system, in addition to interior and exterior surfaces and a possible base of a garden feature.

Wall foundations of a room and possible corridor (Phase 2.1)

- 3.3.2 Perhaps the earliest elements of the Roman villa revealed within Area 1 were the remnants of two L-shaped wall foundations (167/168 and 165/166) that were aligned parallel to each other in the northern part of the area (Fig. 3; Plates 9 and 12).
- 3.3.3 The more westerly of these is interpreted as being the southern extension of a room forming the end of the west range of the masonry villa phase identified in the 2011 excavation and dated to the 2nd century AD (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming). Measuring 0.50m wide, the north-south segment of the wall (**167**) was exposed for 2.5m before turning west for 4.2m (**168**) and terminating with some large stones close to a (later) pilae stack (**218**; see below). There is some indication that the larger stones at the terminal of wall **167** may have been part of a door or entrance into the room, although again this might relate to the later use of the room. Here, the small stones within the neat 'herringbone' pattern of limestone surviving in wall **167** were compressed and worn when compared to the rest of the wall. Interestingly, 2m to the north of this compressed area was another worn area (173), characterised by smaller stone and gravel pieces, again compressed and possibly indicating an opposing entrance or passageway. To the east of this was a possible internal feature or surface (170, see below).
- 3.3.4 Located approximately 1.8m to the east of wall **167** was the foundation of a similarly-constructed stone wall (**165**), which also had a westwards extension (**166**). This had also been robbed, but it was possible to discern that the remaining stonework had been laid in a herringbone pattern. This is likely to have been the continuation of the wall defining the corridor/verandah associated with the first masonry phase of the villa. Uncovered in the Itter Crescent site to the north, the corridor ran the length of the eastern side of the main western range of villa buildings.
- 3.3.5 Remnants of a limestone surface laid in a herringbone design (221) may have been contemporary with this phase; it was subsequently built on with pilae stacks (see below).

Later use and remodelling of the room and associated features (Phase 2.2)

- 3.3.6 A change in use for this room in the later Roman period (late 2nd to 4th century) was suggested by what appears to have been the cutting away of the south-west corner wall and the insertion of a series of pilae. Possibly contemporary with this was a triangular piece of *in situ* masonry which measured 2m long and 2m wide (**170**). Combined, these may have formed part of a hypocaust system of a different design to that seen in the main bath house suite to the north and may indicate that this room was redesigned to be a Tepidarium or warm room. Too little of the room was excavated to be certain of this interpretation or the sequence of building phases.

Pilae stacks

- 3.3.7 Six separate pilae stacks (**215-220**; Fig 3 and Plate 8) were found within the internal area of the room. The pilae were groups of tile columns or stacks that would have supported the floor and allowed heat from the hypocaust system to circulate beneath the floor and up through the walls. The alignment and spacing of these stacks suggest that there were at least two and possibly three phases of pilae construction which in

turn hints at a major remodelling of the villa rooms in this area. The rubble backfill (221) which surrounded the pilae consisted of a notable amounts of ceramic building material which included a large curvilinear piece of internal decorative plaster work probably belonging to an arch that had a painted surface (Plate 21). This original surface had at some point had been re-rendered and repainted. The second coat of plaster or render was thick enough to further suggest that significant decoration or re-modelling of the rooms had taken place.

- 3.3.8 Pilae stack group **215** was the largest and best preserved of the six groups/stacks. It consisted of eight separate tile stacks bonded with mortar and which extended over an area measuring 1m x 0.40m.
- 3.3.9 Three separate stacks (**217**, **219** and **220**) were located 0.40m to the east of **215** and consisted of individual stacks of single tiles bonded with mortar; the tallest stack survived to a height of 0.15m.
- 3.3.10 The southernmost group (**218**) was slightly different from the others in that it had a superior finish which could be seen on its west facing side. The stack survived to a height of 0.28m and consisted of five separate layers of pilae tiles bonded by mortar. Originally there would have been four stacks of tiles to a pilae but only three remained here.
- 3.3.11 Another large tile (**216**) was located 0.40m to the west. This would have been the base of the stack onto which the four towers of tiles would have been placed, mirroring pilae **218**. These pilae probably relate to a later phase of the villa as they encroached on the footprint of the south-west corner of the room/building.

Internal features (Fig. 3 and Plate 9)

- 3.3.12 A curvilinear-shaped feature **169/170/171** was noted being contained within the room formed by wall **167**. This feature measured 2m x 2m and contained limestone pieces laid in a similar pattern to the wall. However, larger pieces of stone had been faced by the smaller pieces along the north arm of the feature. The function of this feature is uncertain but given its close proximity to an area that was known to be heated it is possible that it could be the remnants of an alcovéd seating area. This feature is superficially similar to features uncovered in the area of the main bath house in the 2011 excavations (see Lyons *et al* forthcoming).

Possible remodelling of the eastern corridor (Fig 3 and Plate 6) (Phase 2.2)

- 3.3.13 Wall **164**, measuring 3m in length and 0.50m wide, was located to the immediate east of wall **165** and probably represents the widening of the corridor. It had also been robbed but the stonework was clearly laid in a similar herringbone pattern to that surviving in **165**.

Large building/room

- 3.3.14 Evidence of a large rectangular room or building was found in the southern part of Area 1, mostly represented by robber trenches that had removed walls, a remnant of wall, and an internal surface. The foundations probably date to the latest phase of Roman villa remodelling during the mid 2nd to mid 4th century AD, while the robber trenches date to the final phase of abandonment and collapse in the mid 4th to 5th century (Lyons *et al*. forthcoming). Only small parts of this building were exposed, making interpretation of the plan and function of this area difficult.

West wall: robber trenches **152** and **207** (Fig. 3; Fig. 5, s.7 and Plate 8)

- 3.3.15 A possible early robber cut (**152**) was partially exposed in the western wall line and was found to have a depth of 0.9m and a truncated width of 0.9m (Fig. 5, s.7). It contained a single fill (151) comprising an orangey yellow silty sand material that contained rubble stone and ceramic building material. This may have been an initial cut designed to rob stone from the underlying masonry wall or surface 149.
- 3.3.16 This was truncated by a much larger robber trench (**207**) which ran north to south for possibly 9m before turning at 90° towards the east, from where it appeared to continue for a further 5m. The steep-sided cut measured 1.5m wide and had a maximum excavated depth of 1m. This was not the base of the robber trench but due to health and safety reasons it was not excavated any deeper. Its size indicates that the wall had been substantial. The fill of the trench consisted of a mixture of a dark grey silty sand (153) that contained large stones and rubble mixed with a moderate amount of ceramic building material. A small amount of Roman pottery was found within the upper parts of the cut; any structural stone work had presumably been salvaged for use elsewhere. A thin deposit of greeny grey cess like material (136) with a thickness of 0.05m had slumped into the eastern side of the trench.

South wall: robber trench **143** (Fig. 3 and Fig. 5, s. 17)

- 3.3.17 Evidence for the location of the south wall of this building may be represented by another possible robber trench (**143**). This feature was slightly wider at 2.2m than the western arm, but had a very similar profile, with an excavated depth of 0.75m. Again it was not possible to excavate to the very base of the trench for health and safety reasons.
- 3.3.18 Although more discernible fills were noted in the backfill of this southern arm, all were thought to be related to the robbing of the wall and backfill of the trench. The lowest of these fills (145) consisted of a dark brown sandy silty clay with a maximum thickness of 0.30m from which no finds were recovered. Above this was a thinner deposit of reddish dark grey ash and sand. This burnt material would most probably have originated from the heat-affected layers associated with the heated room to the north. A small amount of ceramic building material and bone was recorded within this fill.
- 3.3.19 The main, uppermost backfill deposit (137) had a maximum thickness 0.60m and was very similar in character to the fill of the intervention in the western arm of the robber trench (153, see above). A large amount of stone rubble containing ceramic building material and small amounts of pottery and shell were present within the fill. No large structural pieces of stone remained, although it is possible that these survive in the lower unexcavated parts of the robber trench.

East wall: masonry **163** (Fig. 3)

- 3.3.20 A c.3.5m-long north to south section of limestone wall foundation (**163**) probably formed the eastern wall of the building, although too little was exposed to be certain. Combined, these form a large room measuring approximately 12m by 7m. Very little was exposed of this wall but it appeared to have been of similar size and construction to other walls in the vicinity.

Internal deposits

- 3.3.21 Internal deposits relating to this villa building/room were also revealed in plan. The most notable of these was a thin dark brown to dark grey layer (105; Fig 3 and Plate 8) that was thought at first to be residue from the hypocaust system. After cleaning and

sampling, however, it was re-interpreted as a probable foundation layer relating to a floor surface that would have been laid here.

3.3.22 The layer had a maximum thickness of 0.10m and contained occasional fragments of charcoal along with moderate amounts of ceramic building material and occasional pieces of opus signinum and painted plaster. Other finds include structural fittings associated with the villa buildings, ranging from nails, a hinge and a side bolt to shards of window glass; an iron whittle-tanged from this context is of 17th century date and was presumably intrusive. In addition to these finds, partial sheep/goat and pig skeletons were found alongside other small animal bones, while environmental analysis revealed the presence of charred grains of wheat and barley which suggest this material was more likely to have originated from the malting process rather than a furnace heating the hypocaust system (Appendix C). The western extent of this material fused into a compressed white grey ash layer (112) which again had been used as a foundation or base layer. This layer had a maximum thickness of 0.12m and contained a small glass bead (sf 82). Other patches of heat-affected material (e.g. 114) may be part of this layer or may have been associated with debris from the hypocaust system to the north.

3.3.23 Remnants of stoney or rubble deposits were also partly exposed in the southern part of the room, probably equivalent to 149, and may relate to former surfaces.

Possible apsidal room and external features to the west (Fig 3)

3.3.24 Located c.2.5m to the west of this building, in an unexcavated area of the site, was a curvilinear spread of stoney material (unnumbered) that may represent a robber trench relating to a possible apsidal building or room. Too little was exposed to allow further interpretation, although it is not dissimilar to a building attached to the bath house of the main villa range to the north (see Lyons *et al.* forthcoming).

3.3.25 A shallow, roughly square-shaped cut (**102**; Fig. 3 and Plate 7) measuring 1.2m x 1m was located to the south-west of the possible apsidal structure. It had a maximum depth of 0.20m and was filled with a weakly-cemented light yellow sandy clay (103). The eastern side of the feature was covered in a mid greyish brown silty clay (104). that contained small stones and traces of gravel. This feature may have formed the base or hard standing for a garden feature or statue.

External features to the east (Fig. 3 and Plate 9)

3.3.26 Extending to the east of the villa building were the remnants of an external surface (204/121) comprising small, irregular and poorly-sorted limestone fragments pressed into the underlying soil, and sealing the Iron Age features described above. The stones, which spread over an area of approximately 4sqm and up to 0.2m thick, were on average between 0.01m and 0.02m in size. This may have been a bedding layer for a surface or pavement forming a courtyard area, although no traces of any surface material survived (apart from areas of peagrit): presumably this would have robbed away and reused elsewhere.

Area 2 (Fig. 4 and Plates 14-17)

3.3.27 Area 2 was located to the south-west of Area 1 in an area that was until recently used for dumping rubbish collected from the allotments. The trench measured 13.5m x 14.5m. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m. Two test pits (1 and 2) were excavated in this area which revealed Roman and later deposits.

Stone surface 147/191/141 (Fig. 4 and Plates 15 and 16)

- 3.3.28 A stone layer was revealed in the base of the two test pits and is probably the same as that uncovered adjacent to wall **139** (141, see below). Within Test Pit 1 it measured 2m x 1m and consisted of pieces of compacted angular and sub-angular shaped stones (147). As with the external surface recorded in Area 1 (204) there was no surviving top dressing or surface. In Test Pit 2 the layer (191), which was identified 0.9m below the ground surface, was made up of more fragmentary stone than was found in Test Pit 1, but it is likely that they formed part of the same surface, the full extent of which is unknown. A further spread of limestone (141) was revealed in the north-west corner of the area, to the south of wall **139**, suggesting that the surface was quite extensive.
- 3.3.29 If this layer of compacted stone was a garden path or an exterior surface than its relative depth (at 1.2m lower in ground level) below the villa remains to the north-west suggests some form of garden terracing, perhaps steps or a graduated path leading away from the south wing of the villa.
- Wall 139* (Fig. 4 and Plate 17)
- 3.3.30 The far western corner of this area had been heavily truncated by the laying of the gas pipeline, but despite this the remnants of a wall were revealed below subsoil layer 146. A 2.6m section of the wall was cleaned and the backfill (130) on the northern side of the wall removed.
- 3.3.31 The wall had a roughly east to west orientation, with a thickness of 0.75m and a height of 0.45m. It was constructed from roughly laid pieces of limestone. The orientation and position of the wall and its proximity to the gas main made any further exploration impossible. Any future work carried out in the vicinity, for example by a gas contractor, might reveal further evidence of this wall/structure in this area.
- 3.3.32 The backfill (130/111) on the northern side of the wall consisted of a compacted brownish yellow silty clay that contained limestone pieces, most probably collapse from the wall, along with pottery, ceramic building material and oyster shell.
- 3.3.33 A spread of poorly sorted stones abutted the wall on its southern side. This layer (141) had a thickness of 0.10m and had no discernible edges. Overlying these stones (140) was a compacted dark grey brown silty material (140) this had a thickness of 0.11m and contained a few tiny fragments of bone and a small amount of crushed ceramic building material. A possibility existed that the stone (141) layer may have been the remains of a path abutting the wall **139** but a small intervention 142 showed that the spread of stones were to thin a layer to be associated with a pathway.

Area 3 (Fig. 2; Fig. 5, s.9 and Plate 18)

- 3.3.34 Area 3 was located 40m to the south-west of the main excavation areas, in a location that in the previous year had been subject to a small test pit measuring 1m x 2m. The frequency of finds recovered from the test pit suggested that it might have been located on the edge of a midden or rubbish dump. The subsequently enlarged test pit measured 1.5m x 3.2m and was stepped and dug to a maximum depth of 0.90m. This revealed evidence of a possible Roman wall (158) and cobbled surface at the base of the trench (159).

Cobbled surface 159 and wall 158

- 3.3.35 A linear group of well sorted cobbles and pieces of limestone (159) was exposed, extending along the southern edge of the test pit. This was between 1.25 and 1.40m

wide and 0.10m thick. The cobbles were sub-circular and rounded with an average size of 0.9 to 0.12m.

- 3.3.36 Adjacent to and possibly abutted by the surface were the remnants of a possible wall (158) that were recorded in the north facing section of the test pit. This was fragmentary and indeterminately bonded, but was solid enough to suggest that it was the foundation of a wall. The stones were irregularly shaped and of a moderately large size, between 0.15 and 0.24m. Although undated the wall and associated surface are likely to have been part of the outer Roman villa complex extending southwards.

3.4 Phase 3: Late Roman/Saxon

- 3.4.1 Although described above, as they define the plan of the villa buildings, most of the robber trenches and later rubble layers (including the backfill (221) around the pilae) date to the period following the abandonment of the villa. They presumably relate to its collapse/demolition and the salvaging of stone and other building materials for use elsewhere – similar and more extensive evidence was found during the main Itter Crescent excavations to the north.

Inhumation (Fig. 3 and Plates 7 and 8)

- 3.4.2 Probably also dating to this phase was a partial skeleton (110) and a collection of semi-articulated remains that were found within a feature (108) located within the former building/room in Area 1. Disarticulated remains were also recovered from backfill layers or as unstratified finds (see App. D). The partial skeleton was that of an adult male of between 35 and 39 years of age; it showed signs of trauma relating to a life of hard physical activity.

3.5 Phase 4: Post-Roman

- 3.5.1 Overlying the Roman and later levels was a series of layers mostly representing subsoil (e.g 102; 146) and topsoil or cultivation layers (e.g 101; 155) that were overlain by dumped deposits and intrusions associated with the use of the allotments. In Area 1 this typically comprised a 0.22m-thick sandy silty clay subsoil layer (102) overlain by a dark clay silt topsoil (101) that was 0.20m thick.
- 3.5.2 In the test pits within Area 2, however, the stone surface and wall were overlain by a layer of grey silty loam (134) that was 1m thick. This layer was unusual when compared to other soils in any of the excavation areas. It was a fine “garden soil” that looks to have been collected and sorted to produce such a material. The character of this deposit raises the possibility that this may have been a cultivation soil relating to a possible garden area to the south of (and possibly contemporary with a later phase of use) the villa. Alternatively it is possible that this build up of material might be a headland relating to medieval or post-medieval ploughing. Within this layer of soil, Roman pottery, tesserae and ceramic building material were recovered from just above the stone layer (147). Similarly in Area 3, a c. 0.2m-thick deposit of dark brown clay silt (156) containing a thin lens of charcoal overlay the structural remains. Noted within this layer were small pieces of bone and ceramic building material. This was overlain by a disturbed subsoil layer (155) above which was the allotment cultivation soil (154).

3.6 Finds Summary

- 3.6.1 A small amount of unstratified flint was discovered on the site, broadly dated to the Neolithic to Bronze Age period (Appendix C), but the vast majority of finds retrieved during the Community Excavation were related to the every day occupation of the site

in the Roman period. In addition, pottery and loomweights were recovered from the sealed Iron Age deposits and features in Area 1.

- 3.6.2 Most of the Roman finds derive from cleaning layers and are therefore not from secure contexts. The largest component of the assemblage is ceramic building material and this was found spread across all the excavated areas. A moderate amount of Roman pottery was also found, some within the layers of demolition material. Other finds include glass, metal items, painted wall plaster and tesserae (Appendices C1-C9).

3.7 Environmental Summary

- 3.7.1 Human skeletal remains were recovered along with small quantities of animal bone and shell. Environmental samples were taken from layers and feature fills but produced fairly sparse remains (Appendices D1-4).

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The discovery in 2011 of the Iron Age settlement and Roman villa complex at Itter Crescent provided an excellent opportunity for further work to be undertaken by a community group on allotment land to the south of this excavation. The background and description of the Iron Age and Roman occupation of the site is described and discussed in the full publication text (Lyons *et al.* Forthcoming), within which the results of the Community Excavation will be incorporated.
- 4.1.2 This was clearly a long-lived and large villa complex that was presumably owned by wealthy individuals who could invest in significant remodelling and extension projects over its lifetime. The relationship between the Iron Age settlement and the first proto timber villa, the location of this villa in terms of the road network and proximity to Durobrivae and the fens, its subsequent development and implications for who might have lived here are just some of the questions that will be explored in the forthcoming publication.
- 4.1.3 Due to the complexity of the archaeology found during the Itter Crescent excavation it was decided that the Community Excavation would concentrate on cleaning and characterisation rather than full excavation. The main aims were to reveal more of the villa's plan and possibly more of the Iron Age settlement that pre-dated the villa: both of these aims were met.

4.2 Iron Age settlement

- 4.2.1 Further evidence of the extent of the Iron Age settlement was identified beneath the Roman levels in Area 1 located to the immediate south of the 2011 excavation. This was in the form of possible roundhouse gullies and a number of pits, several of which contained later Iron Age pottery and fragments of loomweight. Only small areas were exposed and the density of Iron Age features revealed indicates that these remains may be quite extensive in this part of the site.

4.3 Roman villa buildings

- 4.3.1 Various phases relating to the southwards continuation of the villa complex were also evident, with structural remains being revealed just below the cultivated soils of the allotments. A limestone paved area revealed beneath the pilae of a later phase of the villa (see below) in Area 1 may suggest that this had been an external courtyard associated with the first phase of timber villa identified to the north. No Early Roman pottery was recovered from this area (or anywhere within the Community Excavation), but this is perhaps a reflection of the limited excavation that was undertaken here.
- 4.3.2 In terms of structural evidence, the earliest Roman remains appear to have been fragmentary L-shaped limestone wall foundations (167) revealed in the northern part of Area 1. These appear to have been associated with the first phase of masonry villa that replaced or extended the timber villa at some point in the 2nd century AD (Lyons *et al.* forthcoming). This evidence is significant as previously it had been thought that this phase of the villa had four rooms, but the Community Excavation has demonstrated that there was another room to the south. Although only partially excavated, the structural remains indicate that this room was of a similar size to the other square rooms in the villa, measuring c. 5.5m wide by 5.6m long. All the evidence for use of this room was destroyed by later remodelling of this part of the complex to become a bath suite. A robbed out wall foundation (166), of similar construction, found to the east of

the room represents the continuation of a corridor or verandah that ran the length of the villa. The area to the east and south appears to have been an external courtyard with a stone surface that had presumably been removed during subsequent episodes of robbing.

- 4.3.3 Evidence of major remodelling was found, represented by at least two phases/groups of pilae stacks that had been inserted into the south-western part of the room (removing the south-west corner wall), along with other masonry elements that may have been related to a hypocaust system. The presence of pilae and recovery of pieces of internal decorative plaster indicate that this room had been converted into a hot room, perhaps part of a bath suite similar to that found in the main villa complex to the north, which in turn suggests that there must have been another furnace located nearby. As was found in the main excavation, the corridor or verandah to the east was probably widened at the same time, represented by a new wall foundation positioned to the immediate east of wall **165**.
- 4.3.4 A final phase of major remodelling was indicated by the creation of a new large room or building directly to the south of the possible bath suite. The plan of this building was largely represented by a substantial robber trench, the size of which suggests that this structure may have been of more than one storey. Its footprint measured 12m by 7.5m and was defined by robber trenches on the west and south, with upstanding footings the east side. Within the building was a large spread of material that is thought to have been the foundation for a floor (105), although it may be a later deposit. It was burnt in appearance and contained a wide variety of finds (many of them originating from the structure of the villa) spanning the Roman to post-medieval periods (see Appendix C). Combined, this evidence suggests that this layer may represent demolition debris possibly laid as a foundation or bedding layer for a floor, although it is also possible that it was a destruction layer that post-dated the use of villa.
- 4.3.5 The orientation and size of this building is similar to the northern pavilion building revealed in the main excavation to the north. Its position adjacent to the bath suite indicates that it would have been used by the villa-owner's family or their honoured guests.
- 4.3.6 Located 2.5m to the west of this building a curvilinear masonry feature was recorded and although not excavated, it is suggested that this may have formed the foundation of an apsidal room that may have joined to the new building. Beyond this was the foundation for a garden feature or statue, which provides further tangible evidence in terms of reconstructing the layout of the formal and informal spaces within the villa complex.

Southern/external areas

- 4.3.7 Smaller excavations undertaken in Areas 2 and 3 to the south of Area 1 also revealed wall foundations and stone surfaces that were probably related to the villa. Too little of these was exposed to enable a fuller interpretation, although the distance from the main villa (up to 40m) indicates that this may have been an area of workshops or auxiliary agricultural buildings – perhaps even terraces for gardens or cultivation. A possible interpretation is that the walls in Area 2 may represent the continuation of the villa's perimeter wall that was found in the main Iter Crescent excavation (see Lyons *et. al* forthcoming for further discussion).

4.4 The abandonment of the villa

Robbing and re-use as a cemetery

- 4.4.1 Evidence related to the demise of the villa was found in the form of demolition rubble and robber trenches – the latter targeting the stone and other building materials for use elsewhere. In addition, the discovery of another inhumation and various disarticulated skeletal elements adds to similar remains found during the main excavation to the north. Here a small inhumation cemetery was found with several of the burials being placed within the robbed-out villa wall foundations. Although the skeleton from the Community Excavation has not been dated, radiocarbon dates for those from the main villa excavation span the late 4th/5th century to the 9th century AD and it is likely that the Fane Road skeleton was broadly contemporary with these..

Medieval to modern use

- 4.4.2 Following the abandonment of the cemetery in the Mid Saxon period it seems that the site of the villa became agricultural land – possibly used for pasture given the general lack of medieval and later finds. The presence of large amounts of rubble would have made this land unsuitable for ploughing. In Area 2 the presence of a thick fine soil layer is as yet unexplained: it may represent a cultivation deposit or possibly a headland associated with ploughing to the south. In more recent times the site has been given over to allotments which effectively preserved the remains of the villa and Iron Age settlement *in situ* until they were revealed by OA East in 2011.

4.5 Conclusion

- 4.5.1 The Community Excavation not only revealed further important remains of the Itter Crescent Iron Age settlement and Roman villa, but also provided a rare opportunity for the local community to gain hands-on archaeological experience of both theoretical and practical techniques of excavation, spanning all stages of the project. The full range of learning opportunities and types of training are described in the Project Evaluation report, which also provides feedback on the numerous different elements of this heritage project (Crawford-White 2015). The feedback for the Community Excavation was overwhelmingly positive and shows that the local community are committed to their heritage and would welcome any similar projects in the future.

4.6 Significance

- 4.6.1 In terms of archaeological significance, this project has clearly demonstrated the good survival of both Iron Age and Roman remains beneath the Fane Road allotments. Much of this can be directly related to the remains within the main excavation to the north and as such have significantly contributed to the understanding of the extent and layout of the various phases of occupation. The Iron Age settlement was clearly almost as extensive as the Roman one, and the main range of villa buildings has been shown to continue further south than previously suspected – although no evidence of a south wing was found. Also of note is the discovery of the additional structural remains and surfaces some 40m to the south of the main complex, indicating that other ancillary structures (possibly including a continuation of the perimeter wall) may be located beneath the Fane Road allotments. It is also possible that further Saxon burials are present, given the presence of a grave and several disarticulated remains found during the Community Excavation.

4.7 Future work

- 4.7.1 There is scope for much more research-led fieldwork to be carried out on the Iron Age and Roman villa site at Fane Road. This could be accomplished with more community involvement, perhaps as part of a local archaeology group, under the guidance of professional archaeologists. Further work could focus on a re-examination of the excavation area (Area 1) to try to answer specific research questions. These might include further investigation to expose more of the Iron Age settlement and to determine whether the Early Roman proto-villa extended this far south. It would also be useful to further define the sequence, date and plan of the room/additional buildings in this area and the phases of remodelling to create the bath-suite. In terms of the wider context, it might be possible to try and ascertain the outer limits of the villa complex by digging a further series of test pits within the allotment site.

APPENDIX A. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

**GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF LAND AT
FANE ROAD ALLOTMENTS,
PETERBOROUGH**

Cranfield Forensic Institute Report No. 96

Peter Masters

**June 2014
Amended January
2015**

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIG. 1: Location plan, scale – 1:1500

FIG. 2: Plan showing Itter Road excavation and the proposed area of community excavation with geophysics area superimposed (blue outline)

FIG. 3: Resistance Survey results, scale 1:500

FIG. 4: Interpretation of results, scale 1:500

ABSTRACT

An earth resistance survey was carried out at Fane Road Allotments, Peterborough in April 2014. The survey was a heritage lottery funded project for the Peterborough residents to learn about geophysical survey techniques and to assist with the survey of the proposed area for a community excavation.

The results revealed some significant archaeological anomalies. In the north-west quadrant of the survey area indications of wall foundations were highlighted in the resultant images. These may relate to the Roman villa that appears to extend in this direction.

Linear low resistance anomalies were also detected indicating either robber wall trenches or ditches. To the east of the north-south linear anomaly, three individual low resistant anomalies were recorded denoting the presence of probable pits.

In the western half of the survey area, high resistance anomalies were detected possibly indicating wall foundations/rubble spreads or more likely to reflect modern debris.

The whole area is sub-divided by a linear low resistance anomaly denoting a service pipe trench.

No further anomalies were detected that appear to relate to the Roman archaeology on this site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An earth resistance survey was undertaken on behalf of Oxford Archaeology East as part of a Heritage Lottery Funded project called Romans of Fane Road (Fig 1). The survey was carried out at Fane Road Allotments, Peterborough in April 2014.

The aim of this survey was to provide a unique opportunity for a group of Peterborough residents to learn about geophysical survey techniques and to assist with the survey of the proposed community excavation site at Fane Road allotments.

The survey methodology described in this report was based upon guidelines set out in the English Heritage document ‘*Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*’ (David, 2008).

2.0 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located to the north of the city centre of Peterborough (Fig 1: NGR TF 1823 0181). The site is located on the south-east side of Ramsey and 10 miles south-east of Peterborough.

The site is currently under grass and is divided by a concrete track. The area of investigation is bounded on the north side by new housing development whilst to the east, west and south the ground is divided into individual plots within the allotments.

The underlying geology is comprised of limestone (Geological Map data © NERC 2014).

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Previous archaeological excavations at Itter Road Crescent in 2011 (OAE 2013) revealed the remains of a Roman villa and associated ditched enclosures adjacent to the allotments (Fig 2).

Test pits carried out by the Peterborough residents to the south of the proposed area for the community excavation revealed further remains relating to the findings at Itter Road.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Resistance survey

Resistivity survey measures the electrical resistance of the earth's soil moisture content. A twin probe configuration is normally used, which involves the pairing of electrodes (one current and one potential), with one pair remaining in a fixed position (remote probes), whilst the mobile probes measure resistivity variations across the survey grids. Resistance is measured in ohms, and this method is generally effective to a depth of approximately 1m.

Features such as wall foundations are usually identified as high resistance anomalies, as well as rubble spreads, made surfaces (i.e. yards and paths) and metalled roads and track ways. In contrast, low resistance values are normally associated with water-retentive features such as large pits, graves, ditches, drains and gulleys.

The resistivity survey was carried out using a Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter with a twin probe array configuration in mobile probe spacing of 0.5m. The zigzag traverse method of survey was used, with 1m wide traverses across a 20m x 20m grid.

The data was processed using *Archeosurveyor v.2*. It was despiked to remove extremely high readings caused by poor contact with the ground surface. The enhanced data was high and low passed filtered in order to remove near surface geology and other trends as well as give it a smoother graphical appearance. The results are plotted as greyscale and trace plot images (Figs 2-3).

5.0 INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS (Figs. 2-4)

The resistance survey covered an area of approximately 0.16ha. A number of significant anomalies were recorded and these are discussed below.

A linear low resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, blue line) dissects the area of survey denoting the presence of a known gas main running through the site.

A short rectilinear high resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, **1**) was detected in the north-west corner of the survey area, possibly indicating the outline remains of wall foundations. Immediately to north, excavations revealed the outline remains of a corridor Roman villa. This anomaly may relate to the southern end of this complex.

To the east of anomaly **1**, a high resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, **2**) was recorded in the resultant image probably indicating further wall foundations associated with the Roman villa. However, the anomaly was detected in close proximity to the chain linked fence forming the boundary between the new residential area and the allotments suggesting that this may be of modern origin.

A sub-circular shaped high resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, **3**) was detected indicating the presence of building rubble or near surface geology comprised of limestone deposits.

Two low resistant linear anomalies (Figs 2 & 3, **4**) possibly denote ditches although they appear to not correlate with the excavated evidence to the north. The north-south aligned linear anomaly could indicate a robber wall trench.

To the east of anomaly 4, three individual low resistant anomalies (Figs 2 & 3, **5**) may denote the presence of pits.

Immediately to the south of the service trench, a series of short linear and rectilinear high resistance anomalies (Figs 2 & 3, **6**) possibly denote wall foundations. Close to the south-west corner of the survey area, a large sub-oval shaped low resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, **7**) was detected probably denoting the presence of a large pit or is more likely to be of more recent origin relating to allotment activities.

In the north-east corner of the survey area, a rectilinear high resistance anomaly (Figs 2 & 3, **8**) was recorded probably denoting the presence of a wall foundation.

Three further high resistance anomalies (Figs 2 & 3, pink outlines) denote modern disturbances or zones of compact ground.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The survey has highlighted some significant anomalies indicating possible wall foundations relating to the Roman villa complex on this site. Other anomalies recorded probably indicate the presence of ditches and pits.

Based on the survey results, it can be concluded that the areas of investigation proved to indicate the locations of the possible buildings associated with the known Roman villa adjacent to this site. Without further investigations the interpretations of the detected anomalies remain inconclusive.

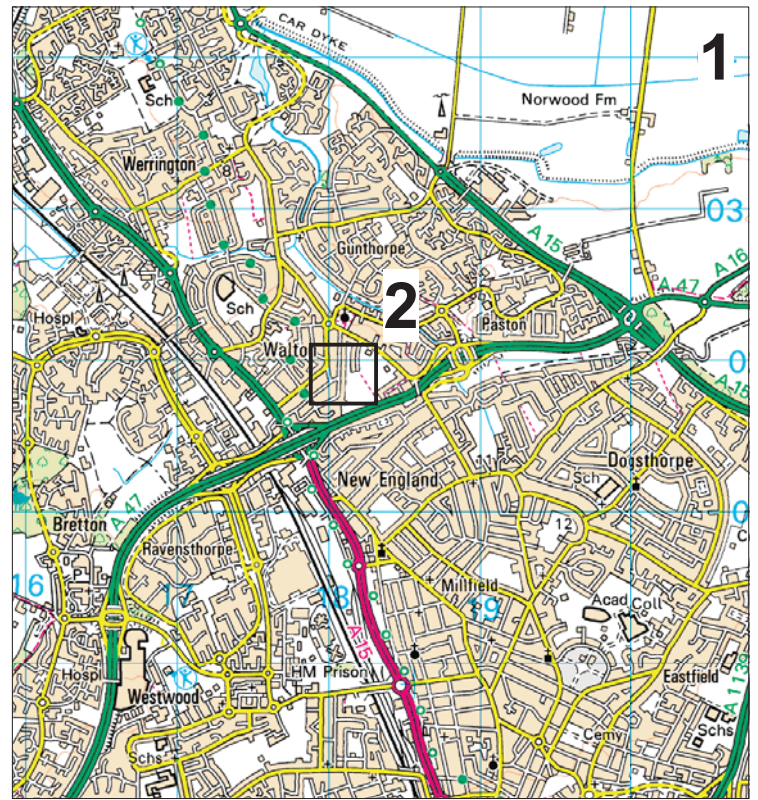
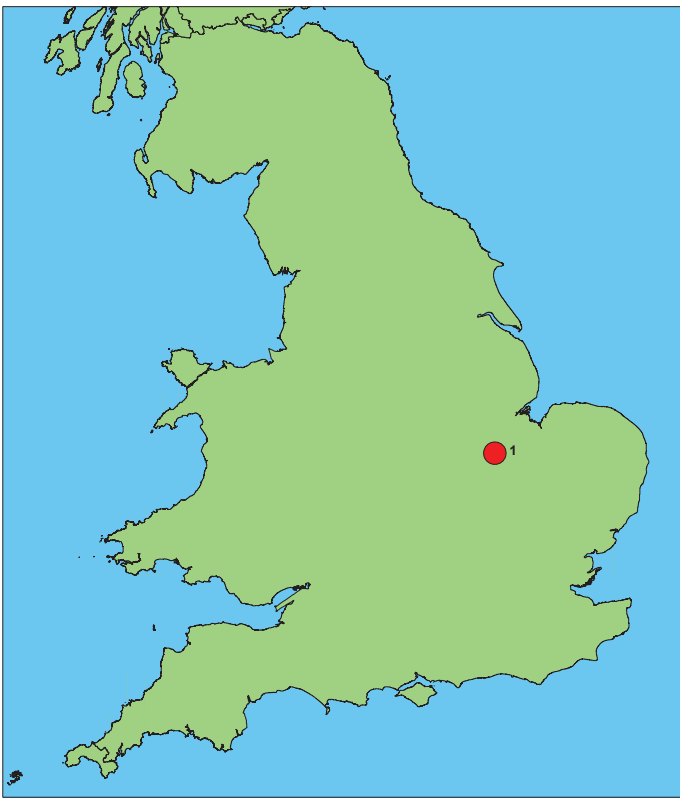
7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

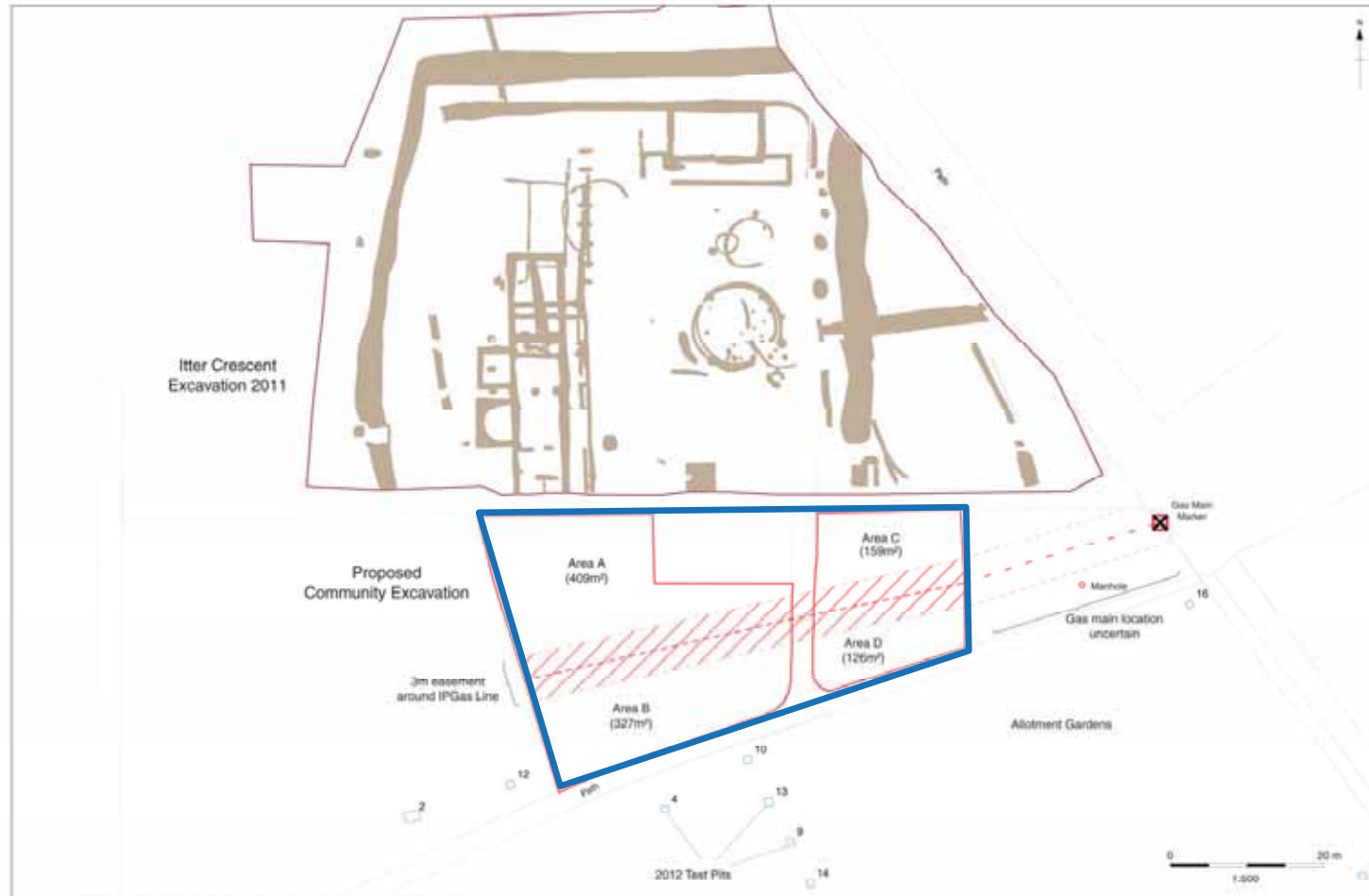
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Fig. 1 - Location map, scale - 1:2,500



Plan of proposed community excavation showing previous excavation and test pits

Fig 2 – Plan showing Itter Road excavation and the proposed area of community excavation with geophysics area superimposed (blue outline)