



Land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 9th and 11th March 2019 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire (centred TL 56404 71222).

A total of six trenches were excavated within the development area of c.0.6ha, located at the edge of a plateau of higher ground to the north-west of the village. These trenches revealed a fairly dense concentration of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British archaeological features, including numerous pits and ditches indicative of settlement activity, along with a modern service trench and a possible pond.

The features, as well as the topsoil and subsoil overburden, yielded a fairly sizeable assemblage of finds, including 1.24kg of Late Iron Age to Middle Roman pottery (c.AD0- 150), animal bone (several items showing evidence of butchery or working), fired clay and modern ceramic building material.

Overall, the archaeological works have confirmed the presence of preserved archaeological remains across the entirety of the site.

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The project was managed for OA East by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Adele Lord, who was supported by James Green and Anne-Laure Bollen. Survey and digitising was carried out by Sarita Louzolo and Isobelle Ward.

Thank you to the teams of OA staff that processed the finds and environmental remains under the management of Natasha Dodwell. The report was edited by Graeme Clarke and prepared for archive by Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 OA East was commissioned by The Design Partnership to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1, TL 56404 71222), ahead of a proposed residential development.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 18/01433/FUM). A Brief was set by Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Stewart 2019) outlining the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by OA East detailing the methods by which OA East proposed to meet the requirements of the Brief (Moan 2019).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located towards the northwestern edge of the village of Wicken, approximately 3.5km south-west of Soham. The proposed development consists of c.0.6ha of land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, which is bounded to the south by Hawes Lane, to the west by residential property, to the east by lower road and to the north by open arable farmland and gardens.
- 1.2.2 The proposed site lies on a slight north-east facing slope, between 6.6m and 5.6m OD. The site is currently undeveloped grassland, having been used for arable farming historically.
- 1.2.3 The site is situated on a bedrock geology of Gault Formation Mudstone with superficial deposits of Oadby Member Diamicton present across the south-western edge (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>, accessed 15/04/2019).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) of a 1km radius centred on the evaluation site was commissioned from CCC HET (under licence number 18-3812). The following is a summary based on the results of the CHER search, with pertinent records shown on Fig. 1.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity dating back to the Mesolithic period has been found nearby in the form of two tranchet flint axes, located c.750m (CHER 07067) and c.700m (CHER 07074) to the south-east. Later Neolithic finds in the vicinity include three flint axes found c.300m to the south-east (CHER 07066), c.600m to the north (CHER 07056) and c.900m to the north-west (CHER 07062) of the site. A selection of other flint tools dating to the prehistoric period were found c.700m to the south (CHER 07058).

Roman

- 1.3.3 Roman occupation is evidenced by a cropmark identified via aerial photography and associated Roman coins (CHER 07071) located approximately 1km to the east. In addition to this, a bronze Roman pendant was recovered c.750m to the south-east (CHER 07059) of the site.

Medieval and post-medieval

- 1.3.4 The remains of Spinney Abbey Priory lie approximately 900m to the north-west of the site (CHER 07003). Excavations to the south-east of the site revealed medieval and post-medieval features (ECB 4980, ECB 5406 and ECB 4031). A silver medieval coin (CHER 07069) was identified c.800m south-east of the site, and a number of medieval pottery finds (CHER 07068 and CHER 07069A) were also identified in the vicinity.
- 1.3.5 The location of a former 19th century farmhouse (now demolished) is located immediately to the north-east of the site (MCB 22102).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aim of this evaluation was to establish the character, date, and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The Written Scheme of Investigation (Moan 2019) set out aims to:

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

2.2 Research frameworks

2.2.1 This evaluation took place within, and will contribute to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

- i. Glazebrook J. (1997). *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3.
- ii. Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. (2000). *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8; and
- iii. Medlycott, M. (2011). *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 A total of six trenches were opened, providing a 5% sample of the development area. A 10m buffer zone was adhered to ensuring the machine was kept away from overhead power cables at the western end of the site.

2.3.2 All machine excavation took place under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.3.3 Trial trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first. A toothless ditching bucket with a bucket width of 2m was used

- to excavate the trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.
- 2.3.4 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavations. Trenches were backfilled once approved by CCC HET.
 - 2.3.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. A bucket sampling exercise was also undertaken whereby 90 litres of soil from each soil horizon was hand sorted to characterise the artefact content.
 - 2.3.6 All archaeological features were recorded using OA East pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
 - 2.3.7 A register was kept of the trenches, features and photographs. All features have been issued with unique context numbers.
 - 2.3.8 Sections of features were drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. All sections were tied in to Ordnance Datum and the site plan was surveyed into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
 - 2.3.9 All site drawings include the following information: site code, scale, section number, orientation, date and initial of the archaeologist who prepared the drawing.
 - 2.3.10 Site survey was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS (Lecia GS08) fitted with "Smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.

3 RESULTS

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. Trench plans and selected sections illustrating the findings can be found in Figures 2 to 4. A selection of photographs of trenches and excavated features can be seen in Plates 1 to 15. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds and environmental reports are presented in Appendices B and C.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated *e.g.* pit **102** is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch **304** is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of pale yellowish grey clay was overlain by a mid-grey yellow subsoil, which measured 0.07m to 0.18m in thickness, in turn overlain by a 0.31m to 0.49m thickness of dark grey brown topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout, however, features in Trenches 2 to 6 extended below the water table and quickly filled with water. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all six trenches, as described below.

3.4 Trench 1

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3, Plate 1), located in the south-east of the development area, measured 28m in length and was 2m wide, on a north-east to south-west alignment. A single modern service trench and two possible postholes were uncovered. No artefacts were recovered from this trench.
- 3.4.2 Modern service trench **103** (Fig. 3, Section 7), located at the south-west end of the trench, was aligned east to west and measured 0.83m wide and 0.74m deep. A single mottled mid grey brown deposit (109) of sandy clay was excavated and found to be the backfill for pipe 104.
- 3.4.3 Postholes **105** and **107** (Fig. 3, Plate 2) were located at the north-east end of the trench. They were found to be between 0.6m and 0.64m wide and have total depths of between 0.08m and 0.12m, with shallow sloping sides and slightly concave bases. A single deposit of dark orange brown silty clay was excavated from both features (106 and 108). No artefacts were recovered.

3.5 Trench 2

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3, Plate 3), located in the south-east of the development area, measured 28.8m in length and 2m wide, on a north-west to south-east alignment. Six pits and two ditches were revealed within this trench. Two modern iron nail fragments were recovered from the topsoil.

- 3.5.2 At the south-eastern end of the trench lay pit **218**, which was found to be 2.5m wide and 0.42m deep. It had gently sloping sides and a slightly irregular concave base, from which a single deposit (219) of mid brown silt was excavated. No artefacts were recovered.
- 3.5.3 Five metres to the north-west of pit **218** lay a group of intercutting features. Ditch **215** (Fig. 3, Section 15) was 2.76m wide, with steeply sloping sides, aligned north-east to south-west. The ditch was only excavated to a depth of 0.5m – the decision was made to cease excavation at this point due to the severe ingress of water from the high water table. Unfortunately, the feature could not be augered because it was not available at the time of fieldwork. However, extrapolation from the width of the ditch and the angle of its sides would suggest that this ditch was probably around 1.2m deep in total. Ditch **215** contained at least three fills, the earliest of which (220) was at least 0.12m thick mid-yellow brown chalky silt. This deposit was overlain by fill 216, a light brown chalky silt with an excavated depth of 0.1m. Deposit 217 was the uppermost deposit and consisted of a mid-brown clayey silt from which 12g (five fragments) of fired clay was recovered along with 61g of animal bone. An environmental sample taken from this upper fill did not produce anything of note. This ditch was truncated to the north-west by pit **211**.
- 3.5.4 Pit **211** (Fig. 3, Section 15) was 1.4m wide and 0.38m deep with steep sides and a flat base. A single deposit (212) of light brown chalky silt was excavated but no artefacts were recovered from this fill. This pit was truncated by ditch **213**.
- 3.5.5 Ditch **213** (Fig. 3, Section 15) was aligned north-east to south-west, measured 0.64m wide and 0.33m deep, and had steep sides with a concave base. A single deposit (214) of dark brown silt was excavated from which no artefacts were recovered.
- 3.5.6 To the north-west pits **207** (Fig 3, Section 13) and **209** (Fig. 3, plate 4) were found to be between 1.26m and 1.12m wide with depths of between 0.42m and 0.44m. Both features had steep sides with concave bases from which single deposits of light brown chalky silt (208 and 210) was excavated. The relationship between these features was nearly impossible to distinguish due to the similarity of their deposits. A total of 10g (two sherds) of medieval pottery was recovered from fill 208 of pit **207**.
- 3.5.7 At the very north-western end of the trench lay a further two pits that extended beyond the limit of the trench. Pits **203** and **205** (Fig. 3, Section 12) were found to be between 1.1m and 1.64m in width, 0.38m deep and had steep sides with flat bases. A single deposit of light brown chalky silt (204 and 206) was excavated from each feature. A total of 132g of animal bone, including a single fragment with butchery marks, was recovered from the upper deposit (206) of pit **205**. Pit **203** was probably truncated by pit **205**.

3.6 Trench 3

- 3.6.1 Located in the west of the development area, Trench 3 measured 28.7m in length and 2m wide, on an east to west alignment (Figs 2 and 4, Plate 5). It revealed a series of five pits, a ditch and a single gully. Bucket sampling of the topsoil produced 66g of mid 12th-mid 15th century pottery from the topsoil.

- 3.6.2 Pit **304** (Fig. 4, Plate 6), located at the eastern end of the trench was 1.42m wide by 0.19m deep, with gentle sides and a concave base. A single deposit (305) of mid brownish grey silty clay was excavated from which 158g (16 sherds) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British (c.AD40-70) pottery was recovered along with 35g of fired clay; one of which is likely to be a structural piece. An environmental sample was taken due to the presence of charcoal fragments but did not produce anything else of note.
- 3.6.3 Sub-circular pit **306** (Fig. 4, Plate 7), located 5m west of pit **304**, extended under the northern baulk of the trench. It measured 2.7m long and 0.88m wide with gently sloping sides and a concave base from which a single deposit (307) of mid grey brown silty clay was excavated. A single sherd (7g) of Hedingham Fineware (mid 12th-mid 14th century) was recovered from the fill.
- 3.6.4 Towards the centre of the trench lay a series of intercutting features that extended for 7m in total and into which a section was excavated at each end. Along the eastern edge of this group, a sequence of intercutting pits was revealed, the earliest of which was pit **312** (Fig. 4, Section 11). This pit was found to be 1.1m wide, 0.32m deep and was largely truncated by pits **314** and **316** to the north and west. Pit **312** had steeply sloping sides with a flat base from which a single deposit (313) of mid brownish grey silty clay was excavated. No artefacts were recovered.
- 3.6.5 Pit **314** (Fig. 4, Section 11), truncated pit **312**, and was in turn truncated to the north by pit **316**. This pit was found to be 1.52m long and 0.42m wide by 0.46m deep. It had steep sides to the west and a more moderate slope to the east with a flat base, from which a single deposit (315) of mid brown grey silty clay was excavated. The finds assemblage consisted of two sherds (8g) of post-medieval (15th to 18th century) pottery, 12g (two sherds) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery (c.AD40-150), a residual sherd (7g) of Neolithic pottery, 3g of fired clay and 5g of burnt flint. An environmental sample taken from the fill of pit **314** contained a single degraded weed seed.
- 3.6.6 Pit **316** (Fig. 4, Section 11), extended under the northern baulk of the trench but was found to be 1.78m wide and 0.22m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base, from which a single deposit (317) of mid grey brown silty clay was excavated. No artefacts were recovered. An environmental sample was taken due to the presence of some charcoal fragments, but nothing else of note was recovered.
- 3.6.7 On the west edge of the intercutting pits lay ditch **310**, into which a 1m-long section was excavated. It was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, with steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.49m deep. The ditch was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay (311). A single sherd (4g) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British (c.AD40-170) pottery was recovered from the fill.
- 3.6.8 Gully **308** (Fig. 4, Section 3) was located towards the western edge of the trench, on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, and measured 0.64m wide and 0.12m deep. It had gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base from which a single

deposit (309) of mid orange brown silty clay was excavated and produced 111g (one sherd) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery (c.AD70-150).

3.7 Trench 4

- 3.7.1 Located at the northern edge of the development area, Trench 4 measured 29.5m in length, 2m wide and was aligned north-east to south-west (Figs 2 and 4, Plate 8). A group of six pits were uncovered in the north-eastern half of the trench. Bucket sampling of the topsoil produced two sherds of late medieval to post-medieval (18th-20th century) pottery. A fragment of ceramic building material (246g) was also collected from the topsoil.
- 3.7.2 Pit **409** (Fig. 4, Plate 9) was the most south-westerly feature of the group and was 0.79m wide by 0.2m deep with steep sides and a flat base. A single deposit (410) of mid grey brown silty clay was excavated from which 95g (nine sherds) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery (c.AD40-100) was recovered. Directly to the north-east of pit **409** were intercutting pits **411** and **413**.
- 3.7.3 Pit **411** (Fig. 4, Plate 10) was the earlier of two intercutting pits and measured 1.08m wide by 0.4m deep, with steep sides and a slightly concave base. Two deposits were excavated from this feature: the basal fill (412) consisted of light greyish brown silty clay (0.1m thick) whilst the upper fill (415) was a dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.3m thick. An environmental sample taken from this deposit produced a single charred wheat grain. No artefacts were recovered.
- 3.7.4 Pit **413** (Fig. 4, Plate 10) truncated pit **411** on its south-eastern side and extended under the baulk section to the south-west. It had steep sides with a flat base and measured 0.68m wide by 0.4m deep. A single deposit (414) of dark brownish grey silty clay was excavated from which a single sherd (9g) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery (c.AD40-100) was recovered along with 23g of animal bone.
- 3.7.5 To the north-east of pits **413** and **411** were three intercutting pits (**403**, **405**, and **407**). Pit **403** was the most southerly of the three (Fig. 4, Section 4). It measured 0.78m wide and 0.21m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. A single deposit (404) of mid brownish grey silty clay was excavated, but no artefacts were recovered. This feature was truncated to the north by pit **405**.
- 3.7.6 Pit **407** (Fig. 4, Section 4) was the most north-eastern feature in the trench. It measured 0.54m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sloping sides and a flat base. A single deposit (408) of mid brownish grey silty clay was excavated, from which 11g (three sherds) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery (c.AD30-70) and 27g of animal bone was recovered. This pit was truncated to the south-west by pit **405**.
- 3.7.7 Pit **405** (Fig. 4, Section 4) was the latest feature in this sequence of intercutting pits. It measured 1.28m wide and 0.5m deep and had steep sloping sides with a concave base. A single deposit (406) of dark brownish grey silty clay was excavated from which 542g (21 sherds) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery (c.AD70-150) was recovered. In addition, this fill produced 105g of animal bone, a fragment of which displayed multiple parallel butchery marks.

3.8 Trench 5

- 3.8.1 Located in the northern part of the development, Trench 5 measured 29m in length by 2m wide and was aligned north to south (Figs 2 and 4, Plate 11). A single gully and two pits were uncovered.
- 3.8.2 Pit **506** (Fig. 4, Plate 12) was the northernmost of the features encountered in Trench 5. It measured 2.3m wide and 0.34m deep from which a single deposit (507) of dark brownish grey silty clay was excavated. A total of 41g (four sherds) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery (c.AD40-100) was recovered.
- 3.8.3 Gully **504** was located to the south of pit **506**. It measured 0.84m wide and 0.14m deep on a north-east to south-west alignment, with gentle sides and a concave base. A single deposit (505) of mid grey brown silty clay was excavated from which a single fragment (64g) of animal bone was recovered which displayed evidence of having been worked along the anterior surface.
- 3.8.4 Pit **508** (Fig. 4, Section 19) was located at the very southern end of the trench and extended under the baulk section. This feature measured at least 1.2m wide and 2m long by 0.4m deep. It had steep sloping sides and a concave base from which a single deposit (509) a dark greyish brown silty clay was excavated. Two fragments (68g) of post-medieval (16th-18th century) pottery, 339g of CBM and two residual worked flints (55g) were recovered from the fill.

3.9 Trench 6

- 3.9.1 Located in the east of the development area, this trench measured 29m long and 2m wide on an east to west alignment, and uncovered a ditch, a possible furrow and probable pond (Figs 2 and 3, Plate 13).
- 3.9.2 Towards the western end of the trench lay ditch **605** (Fig. 3, Plate 14) that measured 2m wide and 0.74m deep. It had steep, but slightly stepped, sides and a narrow concave base from which two deposits were excavated. Fill **606**, a mid-yellowish grey silty clay, was the lower of the two deposits and had a maximum thickness of 0.12m. The upper deposit (**607**), a dark brownish grey silty clay, had a maximum thickness of 0.64m from which 258g (27 sherds) of Late Iron Age pottery (c.AD0-50) was recovered along with 24g of animal bone and two worked flints. An environmental sample was taken of this fill which produced a small number of ostracods which would indicate the presence of water.
- 3.9.3 Three metres to the east of ditch **605**, was possible furrow **603** (Fig. 3). This feature measured 2.28m wide by 0.1m deep, with gentle sides and a slightly concave base. A single deposit (**604**) of dark brownish grey clay was excavated from which 58g of ceramic tile and 212g of animal bone was recovered.
- 3.9.4 Probable pond **608** (Fig. 3, Plate 15) extended across the eastern part of the trench. A 2m by 1m test pit was dug into the eastern end of this feature to a depth of 0.4m, upon where excavation was halted due to the presence of several large tree roots the belief that the feature being investigated was of such a size and depth that it could not

be sufficiently understood it in a test pit. Furthermore, communications with the local farmer verified that a large, deep pond used to be extant in this location. The feature could not be augered because it was not available at the time of fieldwork. A single deposit (609) of mottled brownish grey clay was identified in the test pit, from which total of 124g of modern CBM was recovered.

3.10 Finds summary

- 3.10.1 Metal detecting recovered two small iron nails of probable modern date from the topsoil in Trench 2 (Appendix B.1).
- 3.10.2 Residual prehistoric finds recovered from Late Iron Age to Early Roman features include two worked flints (Trench 6; Appendix B.2) and a sherd of Neolithic pottery (Trench 3; Appendix B.3).
- 3.10.3 A total of 1.24kg (85 sherds) of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British (c.ADO-150) pottery was recovered from 10 features across the site (Appendix B.4), with features from Trench 4 producing the majority (657g) of this assemblage. The pottery largely dates to Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British period, with a clear concentration dating from the mid-1st century AD.
- 3.10.4 Post-Roman pottery (Appendix B.5) was recovered in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5. Only Trenches 2, 3 and 5 produced pottery from sealed contexts. A total of 10 of moderately abraded sherds (177g) was recovered and spans the late medieval to the post-medieval periods (c.mid 12th-18th century). Fragments of burnt coal shale (7g) were also collected from a pit in Trench 3 (Appendix B.6).
- 3.10.5 A small assemblage of CBM consisting of 11 fragments (965g) was also recovered (Appendix B.7), of which 485g was collected during bucket sampling of the topsoil, in Trenches 2, 4 and 6. The majority of this building material is post-medieval in date. A total of five fragments (50g) of fired clay (Appendix B.8) was also recovered from Trenches 2 and 3. The pieces were mostly amorphous; however, a structural piece was recovered from pit **304**.

3.11 Environmental summary

- 3.11.1 The animal bone assemblage (Appendix C.1) comprises 46 fragments (648g) of cattle and horse remains. There are two examples of butchery marks on pieces recovered from pits in Trenches 2 and 4; with indications of bone working on fragments recovered from Trench 5.
- 3.11.2 A total of six environmental samples (Appendix C.2) were taken from the features. Three samples were found to contain very small quantities of poorly preserved charred plant remains, probably as a result of the highly alkaline nature of the underlying geology beneath the site.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Archaeological features were clearly visible, distinguished by their pale-mid grey colours, within the evaluated trench areas. The overlying soil horizons were also clearly visible against the natural geology, which was characterised by its pale yellowish grey colour. Both the archaeological and natural deposits were free draining, with some features extending below the water table.
- 4.1.2 Therefore, the results of the evaluation trenching are considered to have a good level of reliability.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area as set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (see Section 2.1 above; Moan 2019).
- 4.2.2 The evaluation revealed a fairly dense amount of archaeology across the site, including evidence for Late Iron Age to Romano-British domestic activity, with multiple pits and two ditches containing Late Iron Age to Romano-British pottery. A single feature, believed to be a pond dated to the late 19th century was also uncovered, in addition to a modern service trench.

4.3 Interpretation

Prehistoric

- 4.3.1 Two fragments of worked flint and a single fragment of burnt flint were recovered from features in Trenches 3 and 6. These features also contained Romano-British pottery and fired clay, and in the case of ditch **606**, a single sherd (7g) of Neolithic pottery. Although the prehistoric assemblage is small and likely to be residual, it does indicate that there may be potential for low-level prehistoric activity within the development area.

Late Iron Age to Roman

- 4.3.2 The evaluation has identified an area of Late Iron Age to Mid Roman (early 1st to mid/late 2nd century AD) activity within the study area. A series of intercutting pits and two ditches yielded an artefact assemblage of locally produced coarseware vessels dominated by jars, indicative of settlement activity.
- 4.3.3 The majority of features on the site were discrete and intercutting pits. A total of seven pits (**304, 314, 405, 407, 409, 413** and **506**) produced Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery. These mostly measured between 0.42-1.78m wide and 0.19-0.46m deep with similar flat based U-shaped profiles. Pit **405** contained the largest collection of artefacts comprising 542g of Early Romano-British pottery, butchered bone, and several large river pebbles.

- 4.3.4 Three ditches **310**, **605** and **215**, were also observed within the trenches on differing alignments to the current field boundaries. Ditch **605**, which contained the earliest pottery assemblage on the site (c.AD0-50), may possibly represent the easternmost boundary associated with the settlement activity and may have also provided drainage to the area. There is no evidence of this ditch being re-cut which implies that this feature was well maintained and was probably backfilled in the Late Iron Age rather than Early Romano-British period. It is possible that the settlement focus shifted to the north and west with the establishment of a later arrangement of boundaries and enclosures represented by ditches **310** and **215** and gullies **308** and **504**.

Medieval and post-medieval

- 4.3.5 There is evidence within the Historic Environment Record of a 19th century farmhouse (MCB 22102) named as “America Farm” on the 1886 edition of the OS map to the immediate north-east of the proposed development area. Visible on the 1951 edition OS map (<https://maps.nls.uk/view/94815934>, accessed on 18/04/2019) is a small feature that may be a pond; before this date only a pump is recorded at the farm. Several local farmers in conversations with the author, stated that this farm also had a small pond on the premises to “enable the washing of horses’ feet”. It was removed when the farm buildings were demolished sometime between 1951 and 1958. This would fit with the evidence seen within the test pit **608** at the eastern end of Trench 6.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 This evaluation identified an area of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British settlement activity concentrated in the north-western part of the site. The character and composition of the pottery assemblage recovered from features is largely typical of a Roman rural settlement in Cambridgeshire. Although no evidence for buildings was seen in the development area, fired clay of a structural nature was recovered from pit **304**.
- 4.4.2 The Roman remains found are an important addition to the Historic Environment Record, which has the nearest activity Roman activity being recorded c.750m to the south-east (CHER 07059). Therefore, these findings are of some significance within the local landscape.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 1 contained a single modern ditch and two possible postholes. Archaeological features at the north-east end were overlain by subsoil and topsoil, at the south-west deposits were sealed by topsoil only. All deposits overlay natural geology of pale yellowy grey chalky clay.					Length (m)	28
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.47
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Cut	0.83	0.74	Ditch	-	Modern
104	Fill			Pipe	-	Modern
105	Cut	0.45	0.08	?posthole	-	-
106	Fill	0.25	0.08	?posthole	-	-
107	Cut	0.37	0.12	?posthole	-	-
108	Fill	0.18	0.12	?posthole	-	-
109	Fill	0.83	0.74	Ditch backfill	-	Modern

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench two contained six pits, and two ditches. Features were overlain by topsoil and subsoil, overlying natural geology of pale yellowish grey chalky clay.					Length (m)	28.8
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	Fe Nails	Modern
201	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	0.76	0.38	Pit	-	-
204	Fill	0.4	0.38	Pit	-	-
205	Cut	0.88	0.38	Pit	-	-
206	Fill	0.57	0.38	Pit	Bone	-
207	Cut	1.26	0.44	Pit	-	-
208	Fill	1.26	0.44	Pit	Pottery	12th-mid 15th century
209	Cut	1.12	0.42	Pit	-	-
210	Fill	1.12	0.42	Pit	-	-
211	Cut	1.4	0.38	Pit	-	-
212	Fill	1.4	0.38	Pit	-	-
213	Cut	0.64	0.33	Ditch	-	-
214	Fill	0.64	0.33	Ditch	-	-
215	Cut	2.76	0.5	Ditch	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench two contained six pits, and two ditches. Features were overlain by topsoil and subsoil, overlying natural geology of pale yellowish grey chalky clay.					Length (m)	28.8
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
216	Fill	1.8	0.5	Ditch	-	-
217	Fill	2.76	0.36	Ditch	Bone, Fired clay	Undated
218	Cut	1	0.42	Pit	-	-
219	Fill	1	0.42	Pit	-	-
220	Fill	1	0.42	Ditch	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 3 revealed a singly gully, five pits and a possible ditch. Features were overlain by topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of pale yellowish grey chalky clay, subsoil is not present in the western end of the trench.					Length (m)	28.7
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
301	Layer	-	0.49	Topsoil	Pottery, CBM	-
302	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
304	cut	1.1	0.19	pit	-	-
305	fill	1.1	0.19	pit	Pottery, Fired Clay, CBM	AD40-70
306	cut	0.85	0.23	pit	-	-
307	fill	0.85	0.23	pit	Pottery	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
308	cut	0.64	0.12	gully	-	-
309	fill	0.64	0.12	gully	Pottery	AD70-150
310	cut	1	0.49	?ditch	-	-
311	fill	1	0.49	?ditch	Pottery	AD40-150
312	cut	1.1	0.32	pit	-	-
313	fill	1.1	0.32	pit	-	-
314	cut	0.42	0.46	pit	-	-
315	Fill	0.42	0.46	pit	Pottery, Burnt Flint, CBM	AD40-150, Neolithic, 15th-16th century
316	cut	1.78	0.22	pit	-	-
317	fill	1.78	0.22	pit	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 4 contained six discrete pits. Features were overlain by topsoil and subsoil, overlying natural geology of pale yellowish grey chalky clay.					Length (m)	29.5
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	CBM, pottery	18th-20th century
401	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
403	cut	0.78	0.21	Pit	-	-
404	fill	0.78	0.21	Pit	-	-
405	cut	1.28	0.5	Pit	-	-
406	fill	1.28	0.5	Pit	Pottery, bone	AD70-150
407	cut	0.54	0.2	Pit	-	-
408	fill	0.54	0.2	Pit	Pottery, Bone	AD30-70
409	cut	0.79	0.2	Pit	-	-
410	fill	0.79	0.2	Pit	Pottery	AD40-100
411	cut	1.08	0.4	Pit	-	-
412	Fill	1.1	0.1	Pit	-	-
413	Cut	0.68	0.4	Pit	-	-
414	Fill	0.68	0.4	Pit	Pottery, Bone,	AD40-100
415	Fill	1.06	0.3	Pit	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench 5 revealed a single gully and two pits. Features were overlain by topsoil and subsoil, overlying natural geology of mid yellowish grey clay.					Length (m)	29
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
501	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
504	Cut	0.84	0.14	Gully	-	-
505	Fill	0.84	0.14	Gully	Bone	-
506	Cut	2.34	0.34	Pit	-	-
507	Fill	2.34	0.34	Pit	Pottery	AD40-100
508	Cut	1.2	0.4	?Pit	-	-
509	Fill	1	0.4	?Pit	CBM, Pottery, Worked Flint	Mid 16th-end of 18th century

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 6 contained a single ditch, possible furrow and a probable pond. Stratigraphically these were overlain by topsoil and subsoil, overlying natural geology of pale yellowish grey chalky clay.					Length (m)	29
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	CBM	-
601	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	cut	2.28	0.1	?Furrow	-	-
604	fill	2.28	0.1	?Furrow	Bone, CBM (Tile)	-
605	cut	2	0.74	Ditch	-	-
606	fill	2	0.12	Ditch	-	-
607	fill	2	0.64	Ditch	Pottery, Bone, Worked Flint	AD0-50
608	cut	2	0.38	?Pond	-	-
609	fill	2	0.38	?Pond	CBM	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Denis Sami

Assemblage

- B.1.1 Two incomplete hand forged nails were recovered from topsoil layer 200 during the excavation of Trench 2. The finds are of probable modern date.
- B.1.2 Finds are assessed according to the Oxford Archaeology East finds standard. The catalogue is organised by small find number (SF) and measurement such as length (L) width (W), thickness (Th) and weight (Wg) are reported. Features, identification and description of finds are also included in the catalogue together with a spot date chronology.
- B.1.3 Given their limited variation in shape, size and forging techniques, nails are difficult to date. Considering the associated ceramic and the stratigraphical provenance of the two fragments, a modern date is most likely.

Context	Feature	Description	Length (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Spot-date
200	Top-soil	Two tapering shafts with square cross-section and missing heads	57.4 41.3	4.9 5.1	MOD

Table 1: metalwork catalogue

B.2 Flint

By Lawrence Billington

Assemblage

- B.2.1 Two worked flints and a single fragment of unworked burnt flint were recovered during the evaluation fieldwork. The fill (607) of ditch **605** (Trench 6) produced two minimally worked cores; one a naturally split cobble with a few short flake removals from one end, and the other a cobble from which a series of broad flakes have been removed from a natural striking platform. Neither of these pieces are chronologically diagnostic. Pit **314** produced a single fragment of unworked burnt flint weighing 4.9g (from fill 315).

Conclusion

- B.2.2 The flint assemblage from the site is small and of very limited potential, although the worked flint does indicate the presence of some prehistoric activity on the site.

B.3 Neolithic Pottery

By Katie Anderson

Assemblage

- B.3.1 A single, residual body sherd of Neolithic flint-tempered pottery, weighing 7g was recovered alongside Roman pottery from context (315), Trench 3 (Brudenell pers. comm.)

B.4 Late Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery

By Katie Anderson

Introduction

- B.4.1 The assemblage recovered from the evaluation comprises 85 sherds weighing 1241g and representing a minimum of eight vessels (MNV) and 2.09 EVEs (estimated vessel equivalent). The pottery dates from the Late Iron Age to the mid-Roman period (c.AD0-150). All of the pottery was analysed and recorded in accordance with the Study Group for Roman Pottery guidelines (Perrin 2011) and the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group guidelines (2009). This report provides quantification and characterisation of the pottery, as well as a brief discussion on the distribution of material across the evaluation.

Assemblage Chronology

- B.4.2 The earliest material dates to the Late Iron Age, although the nature of the material suggests this pottery dates to the latter stages of this period, c. early to mid-1st century AD. This material represents 31.7% of the assemblage by sherd count (27 sherds, 290g), although the majority of the assemblage dates to the Early to Mid-Roman period (AD30-150), accounting for the remaining 68.3% by sherd count (58 sherds, 951g). The pottery suggests a peak in activity in the mid to later 1st century AD, and indicates that the site was in use, seemingly without hiatus during this time. Therefore, the assemblage is considered as a whole, rather than separate Late Iron Age and Roman elements.

Context	Cut	Trench	No.	Wt (g)	MNV	EVE	Context spot date
305	304	3	16	158	1	0.32	AD40-70
309	308	3	1	111	1	0.11	AD70-150
311	310	3	1	4	0	0	AD40-150
315	314	3	2	12	1	0.11	AD40-150 with 1 pre
406	405	4	21	542	2	0.65	AD70-150
408	407	4	3	11	0	0	AD30-70
410	409	4	9	95	1	0.45	AD40-100
414	413	4	1	9	0	0	AD40-100
507	506	5	4	41	1	0	AD40-100
607	606	6	27	258	1	0.45	AD0-50
TOTAL			85	1241	8	2.09	

Table 2: All Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery by context

Assemblage Character

- B.4.3 The assemblage comprises primarily small and often abraded sherds, reflected in the relatively low assemblage mean weight of 14.6g. However, there are a small number of medium-sized sherds, comprising two rim sherds from large Horningsea greyware jars. A limited range of fabrics were identified, comprising exclusively coarse, sandy wares, with or without silver mica (Table 3). With the exception of the two Horningsea greyware jar rims, the remainder of the assemblage is unsourced, however, the composition of the fabrics indicate much of the pottery is likely to derive from the immediate local area.
- B.4.4 The Late Iron Age tradition pottery is characterised by coarse, sandy reduced wares, often with silver mica (fabrics Q1 and QM1, Table 3). Where it was possible to determine the nature of pottery manufacture, these vessels were all wheel-turned or wheel-finished, although technique could only be established in 26% of the Late Iron Age sherds. The majority of this material comprises non-diagnostic body sherds, with just one vessel form identified. This consists of a QM1 everted rim jar (two sherds, 54g), with a cordon on the shoulder and tooled horizontal bands around the body, recovered from fill 607, pit 605, Trench 6. The vessel form is Late Iron Age in tradition, however, the fabric and its manufacture on the potter's wheel suggests production at the end of the Late Iron Age. Other examples of the most common fabric group QM1 occurred in Late Iron Age/early Roman contexts, supporting the view that this assemblage peaked in the mid-1st century AD. The Roman element of the assemblage is dominated by coarse, sandy greywares (again are micaceous and non-micaceous varieties), including the two sherds of Horningsea greyware. The only finewares comprise two small abraded fine, sandy oxidised ware sherds from context (607), Trench 6.

Fabric Code	Fabric	No.	Wt (g)	MNV	EVE
BLKSL	Black-slipped ware (unsourced)	1	26	0	0
CSGW	Coarse sandy greyware (unsourced)	16	191	1	0.45
CSMGW	Coarse sandy micaceous greyware (unsourced)	9	95	1	0.45
CSOX	Coarse sandy oxidised ware (unsourced)	9	111	2	0.11
CSRDU	Coarse sandy reduced ware (unsourced)	3	13	0	0
FSOX	Fine sandy oxidised ware (unsourced)	2	2	0	0
HORNGW	Horningsea greyware	2	355	2	0.31
Q1	Coarse sandy ware, with rare to occasional large quartz up to 1mm	2	64	0	0.35
QM1	As Q1 but with common silver mica	41	384	2	0.42
TOTAL		85	1241	8	2.09

Table 3: Quantification of Iron Age and Roman pottery by fabric

- B.4.5 A minimum of eight vessels were identified, based on the number of unique rims present. This comprises seven jars, including the two wide-mouth, everted rim Horningsea vessels. The remaining jars consist of primarily necked, everted rim varieties. Rim diameters range from 10cm to 30cm, reflecting a range of different functions. Two partially complete jars (when refitted) were recovered from contexts (305), Trench 3 and (406), Trench 4, suggesting that these vessels had not moved far from where they had been broken. The only other vessel form identified comprises a

coarse sandy oxidised ware lid, with a short, everted rim, from context 315, pit **314**, Trench 3.

- B.4.6 Decoration is limited to two burnished vessels, one combed jar and one body sherd from a coarse, sandy oxidised ware body sherd, with pin-prick chevron decoration (context (406), Trench 4). One vessel has sooting on the rim (410), and one sherd has part of a possible, post-firing perforation (607).

Distribution of Pottery Summary

- B.4.7 Pottery was recovered from four trenches in varying quantities (Table 4), representing ten contexts. The quantities of pottery recovered suggest that while the features within Trenches 3-6 do not represent settlement core, they are likely to represent the periphery of a settlement. Trenches 3 and 4 comprised four contexts that contained pottery, while Trenches 5 and 6 contained just a single feature that produced pottery. The majority of the assemblage (66% by sherd count) was recovered from pits, with a further 33% from ditches and the remaining 1% from a gully. All contexts contained small assemblages of pottery, comprising fewer than 30 sherds.

Trench	No. of contexts with pot	No	Wt (g)	MNV	EVE	Date Range
3	4	20	285	3	0.54	Early Roman to mid-Roman
4	4	34	657	3	1.1	Late Iron Age/Early Roman to mid-Roman
5	1	4	41	1	0	Early Roman
6	1	27	258	1	0.45	Late Iron Age
TOTAL	10	85	1241	8	2.09	

Table 4: Quantification and date range of Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery by Trench

- B.4.8 There is limited evidence for chronological shifts in focus, although the single feature in Trench 6, produced solely Late Iron Age pottery, while Early Roman material was recovered from the feature in Trench 5. Trench 4 produced material spanning the Late Iron Age/early Roman to mid-Roman period, with a similar chronology for Trench 3, although there were no Late Iron Age/early Roman elements.

Discussion

- B.4.9 Overall, the pottery demonstrates that there was activity from the early 1st century AD to the mid/late 2nd century AD, with the pottery suggesting a peak in the mid-1st century AD. The pottery is indicative of a domestic assemblage, comprising coarseware vessels, dominated by jars. The range of fabrics are indicative of locally made wares, including the two Horningsea greyware vessels, which can be considered local, due to the relatively close proximity of the site to the production area. The quantity of material suggests that the features exposed in the evaluation trenches are on the periphery of a settlement, which appears to have gone out of use in the mid-later 2nd century AD, although whether this represents an end of occupation or a shift of focus is unclear.

B.5 Post-medieval Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

- B.5.1 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage of moderately abraded to abraded sherds (ten sherds weighing 0.177kg), recovered from topsoil in Trenches 3 and 4, and pits in Trenches 2, 3 and 5.
- B.5.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), and The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards. However, a simplified method of recording has been undertaken, with fabric, basic description, weight and count recorded in the text, using, for fabric classification of medieval sherds, Cambridgeshire fabric types (Spoerry 2016), and for all post-medieval types, the Museum of London fabric codes, where possible (MoLA 2014). The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage

- B.5.3 Pit **207** in Trench 2 produced an abraded body sherd (0.003kg) from a South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware vessel (mid 12th-mid 15th century) and an abraded body sherd (0.007kg) from an Unprovenanced glazed ware jug (late 12th-14th century).
- B.5.4 Trench 3 produced four sherds of pottery, from the topsoil a moderately abraded to abraded base sherd (0.066kg) from an internally glazed Post-medieval Redware jar (mid 16th-end of 18th century). Pit **306** contained a single abraded sherd (0.007kg) from a Hedingham Fineware jug (mid 12th-mid 14th century); below the clear external glaze, traces of slip decoration survive. The final feature in Trench 3 to produce post-Roman material was pit **314**, which contained two abraded sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered alongside Roman material. A single moderately abraded rim sherd (0.008kg), upright and externally beaded (diameter 120mm, EVE 8%), with internal mottled green glaze, from a Late Medieval and Transitional jug (15th-16th century). The second sherd is a moderately abraded body sherd (0.011kg) from an internally glazed Post-medieval Redware bowl (mid 16th-end of 18th century).
- B.5.5 Two sherds were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 4: an unabraded flat base sherd (0.005kg) from a Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware vessel (18th century) and a moderately abraded body sherd (0.002kg) from a Refined White Earthenware vessel (late 18th-20th century).
- B.5.6 In Trench 5, pit **508** produced two sherds of post-medieval pottery, an abraded body sherd (0.063kg) from an internally glazed Post-medieval Redware bowl (mid 16th-end of 18th century) and a small, moderately abraded sherd (0.005kg) from a Staffordshire-type combed slipware (mid 17th-early 18th century) press-moulded bowl.

Discussion

- B.5.7 The pottery present is a mix of periods, as might be expected on the edge of a long-lived village. The medieval material is relatively abraded and probably represents manuring scatters which may have become incorporated into earlier features or later features, while the presence of a post-medieval material including a large sherd from a Post-medieval Redware bowl in Trench 5 suggests there may be some additional post-medieval rubbish deposition, which may have subsequently been disturbed by later activity, possibly ploughing.

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.5.8 Should further work be undertaken, the pottery should be incorporated into any later catalogue. Further work is likely to produce additional pottery, although the sherds are likely to be sparsely distributed. The sherds may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

B.6 Fuel by-products

By Carole Fletcher

Assemblage

- B.6.1 Fragments of burnt shale (coal shale) weighing 0.007kg were collected by hand during the evaluation, from pit **314** in Trench 3, which also produced post-medieval pottery (c.1550-1800).

Discussion

- B.6.2 The presence of the burnt shale may be fuel residues (coal shale) from post-medieval domestic hearths or later residues from a steam-powered ploughing or threshing engine and may be intrusive.

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.6.3 The burnt shale is fragmentary, and its significance is uncertain, other than to possibly indicate modern disturbance. Should further work be undertaken, additional fuel residues fragments may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the burnt shale may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

B.7 Ceramic Building Material

By Ted Levermore

Introduction and methodology

- B.7.1 Archaeological evaluation work recovered eleven fragments (965g) of ceramic building material (CBM), collected from features in Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6. The assemblage was

moderately to severely abraded, containing tile and brick pieces. The assemblage was late medieval to modern in date.

- B.7.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) formed the basis of reference material for identification and dating. The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive.

Results

Trench 3

- B.7.3 Fragments of modern field drain (144g) were collected from the topsoil in this trench. The forms were made in a refined clay and extruded.

Trench 4

- B.7.4 A large fragment of CBM was collected from the topsoil in this trench (246g). It was made in a cream coloured silty clay. Abrasion has removed all diagnostic evidence. It may have derived from a brick.

Trench 5

- B.7.5 Pit **508** produced a large fragment of brick (339g). It was made in a light orange-brown, compact silty clay. The remaining upper bed was wire cut, the other remnant faces were coarsely sanded. Its thickness could be measure at 66mm (2 ½ inches). It bears resemblances to late medieval bricks made in Essex and East Anglia.

Trench 6

- B.7.6 A fragment of modern field drain was collected from the topsoil (97g). Furrow **603** and pond **608** both produced fragments of medieval to post-medieval flat tile (57g and 82g respectively). Both measured around ½ inch thick.

Statement of potential and further work

- B.7.7 Most of the material derives from topsoil layers or late features. It is likely this material was brought to the site for agricultural purposes and in the case of field drains for a specific function. The material was heavily abraded and fragmentary. This assemblage has little archaeological significance.
- B.7.8 This material has been fully recorded. This material and report should be consulted when/if excavation work produces more CBM. After which it can be discarded.

B.8 Fired Clay

By Ted Levermore

Introduction and methodology

- B.8.1 Archaeological evaluation work recovered nine fragments, 50g, of fired clay, from Trenches 2 and 3. Much of the material was amorphous (seven fragments, 20g) and a

smaller portion was recorded as 'structural' (two fragments, 30g). The largest of the structural pieces had a wattle or rod impression within the body of the fragment. The assemblage offers little contribution to archaeological interpretation.

- B.8.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on an Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive. A summary of the fired clay catalogue is in Table 5.

Results

- B.8.3 As stated above, the material is of little archaeological significance. It can only be considered as the detrital remains of prehistoric to medieval domestic and light industrial activity. The fabrics and spread of the material was limited and therefore the material can be considered as deriving from similar sources. Fragments of note were the structural pieces from pit **304**, Trench 3.

Statement of potential and further work

- B.8.4 The material was undiagnostic and has little archaeological significance. The presence of this material in Trenches 2 and 3 may indicate a concentration of activity.
- B.8.5 This material has been fully recorded. This material and report should be consulted when/if excavation work produces more fired clay. After that it should be considered for discard. The weight should be retained.

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric group	Fragment type	Structural type	Abrasion	Notes	Perforation Diameter (mm)	Small <4cm	Medium 4-8cm	Large >8cm	No. Fragments	Weight (g)
2	217	215	Ditch		a		severe			5			5	12
3	305	304	Pit		s	w	severe	Larger fragment has remnant perforation or rod impression	~15	2			2	30
3	305	304	Pit		a		severe			1			1	5
3	315	314	Pit		a		severe			1			1	3

Table 5: Fired clay catalogue

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction and methodology

- C.1.1 A small assemblage of animal bone weighing 590g and totalling twenty countable fragments was recovered from the evaluation at Hawes Lane, Wicken. The fragmentation levels are high however seven specimens can be identified to taxon. The majority of the identifiable specimens are cattle bone and date to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. All material was recovered from ditches and pits and is hand collected. Thirteen fragments are recorded as large mammal. This is included in Table 7.
- C.1.2 All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Preservation condition was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004 14-15).

Results

- C.1.3 The surface condition of the bone on average is good representing 1-2 on the scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (*ibid*). This means some patchy erosion on the bone is observable. NISP (Number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (Minimum number of individuals) are summarised for each taxon in Table 6:

Taxon	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle (<i>Bos Taurus</i>)	6	85.71	1	50
Horse (<i>Equus caballus</i>)	1	14.29	1	50
Total	7	100	2	100

Table 6: NISP and MNI for animal bone assemblage

- C.1.4 Two taxa are identifiable. Eighty-five percent of the assemblage is cattle and dates to the Roman period. A single horse tibia was recorded from post-medieval furrow **603**. Both taxa have an MNI of 1. There is no gnawing observable on the bone. Aging potential is entirely through fusion data; all bone is fused.
- C.1.5 Butchery is observable on three fragments of bone. A fragment of long bone from pit **405** has four horizontal chop marks across the anterior surface. A cattle femur from undated pit **205** has evidence of two chop marks at the distal end. Perhaps most interesting, however, is a cattle astragalus from undated gully **504**. A deep groove is observable on the anterior face which is more suggestive of bone working than butchery for domestic uses.

Conclusion and recommendations for further work

- C.1.6 Cattle bone dominates the Roman assemblage and the majority of the bone is probably domestic waste. This is a small scrappy assemblage; however, the presence of possible bone working is interesting. Should further excavations be undertaken on this site it is recommended that the worked bone be considered for further analysis.

Trench	Cut	Context	Type	Phase	Taxon	Element	Weight	Count
2	205	206	pit	undated	Cattle	Femur	41	1
2	205	206	pit	undated	Cattle	Femur	53	1
2	205	206	pit	undated	Large mammal	Scapula	10	1
2	215	217	ditch	undated	Cattle	Humerus	32	1
2	215	217	ditch	undated	Large mammal	Vertebra	13	1
4	405	406	pit	LIA-ERB	Cattle	Tibia	75	1
4	405	406	pit	LIA-ERB	Large mammal	Long bone	16	1
4	407	408	pit	LIA-ERB	Large mammal	Long bone	27	4
4	413	414	pit	LIA-ERB	Cattle	Metapodial	23	1
5	504	505	gully	undated	Cattle	Astragalus	64	1
6	603	604	furrow	Post-med	Horse	Tibia	212	1
6	605	607	ditch	LIA-ERB	Large mammal	Long bone	24	6
Totals							590	20

Table 7: Total weight, count and taxa present per feature

C.2 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.2.1 Six bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 from deposits that are thought to be Late Iron Age to Roman in date.

Methodology

C.2.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (up to 15L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf -type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.2.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.2.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

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

C.2.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

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

C.2.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor; many of the flots contain rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts.

Results

C.2.7 Only three samples from this site contain charred plant remains. A single charred wheat grain (*Triticum sp.*) was recovered from Sample 4, fill 412 of pit **411** (Trench 4). Sample 2, fill 315 of pit **314** (Trench 3) contains a single weed seed which was too poorly preserved for positive identification. All the samples from the site contain a small quantity of charcoal.

C.2.8 All the samples contain a moderate to large quantity of well-preserved snails. Sample 5, fill 607 of ditch **605** (Trench 6), contain a small amount of ostracods, which indicate the presence of water.

C.2.9 Sample 1, fill 305 of pit **304** (Trench 3), and Samples 2 and 5 contain pottery fragments.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Ostracods	Snails	Small Bones	Charcoal Volume (ml)	Pottery
2	6	217	215	Ditch	15	25	0	0	0	++++	#	0	0
3	1	305	304	Pit	15	10	0	0	0	+++	0	<1	##
3	2	315	314	Pit	14	25	0	#	0	+++	0	<1	#
3	3	317	316	Pit	14	35	0	0	0	+++	0	<1	0
4	4	412	411	Pit	12	5	#	0	0	+++	0	<1	0
6	5	607	605	Ditch	15	20	0	0	+	++++	0	<1	##

Table 8: Environmental samples

Statement of potential and further work

C.2.10 The recovery of a small amount of charred grain, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site and it is possible that the charred plant remains could be intrusive, further indicated by the presence of rootlets in both samples.

C.2.11 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-349068		
Project Name	Land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire		
Start of Fieldwork	09/04/2019	End of Fieldwork	11/04/2019
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WICHAW19	Planning App. No.	18/01433/FUM
HER Number	ECB5846	Related Numbers	

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

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

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

Monument Period

Pit	Roman (43 to 410)
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)
Pit	Uncertain
Ditch	Uncertain
Pond	Uncertain
Gully	Uncertain
?post hole	Uncertain
Ditch	Modern (1901 to present)

Object Period

Pottery	Late Iron Age (- 100 to 43)
Bone	Uncertain
CBM	Modern (1901 to present)
Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pottery	Modern (1901 to present)
Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Bone	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Bone	Roman (43 to 410)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Land to the rear of 9 to 17 Hawes Lane, Wicken, Ely Cambridgeshire CB7 5ZW
District	East Cambs	
Parish	Wicken	
HER office	Cambridge County Council	
Size of Study Area	0.6ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 56404 71222	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart CCC HET

Project Design Originator	Louise Moan OA East
Project Manager	Louise Moan OA East
Project Supervisor	Adele Lord OA East

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB 5846
Digital Archive	OAE	WICHAW19
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 5846

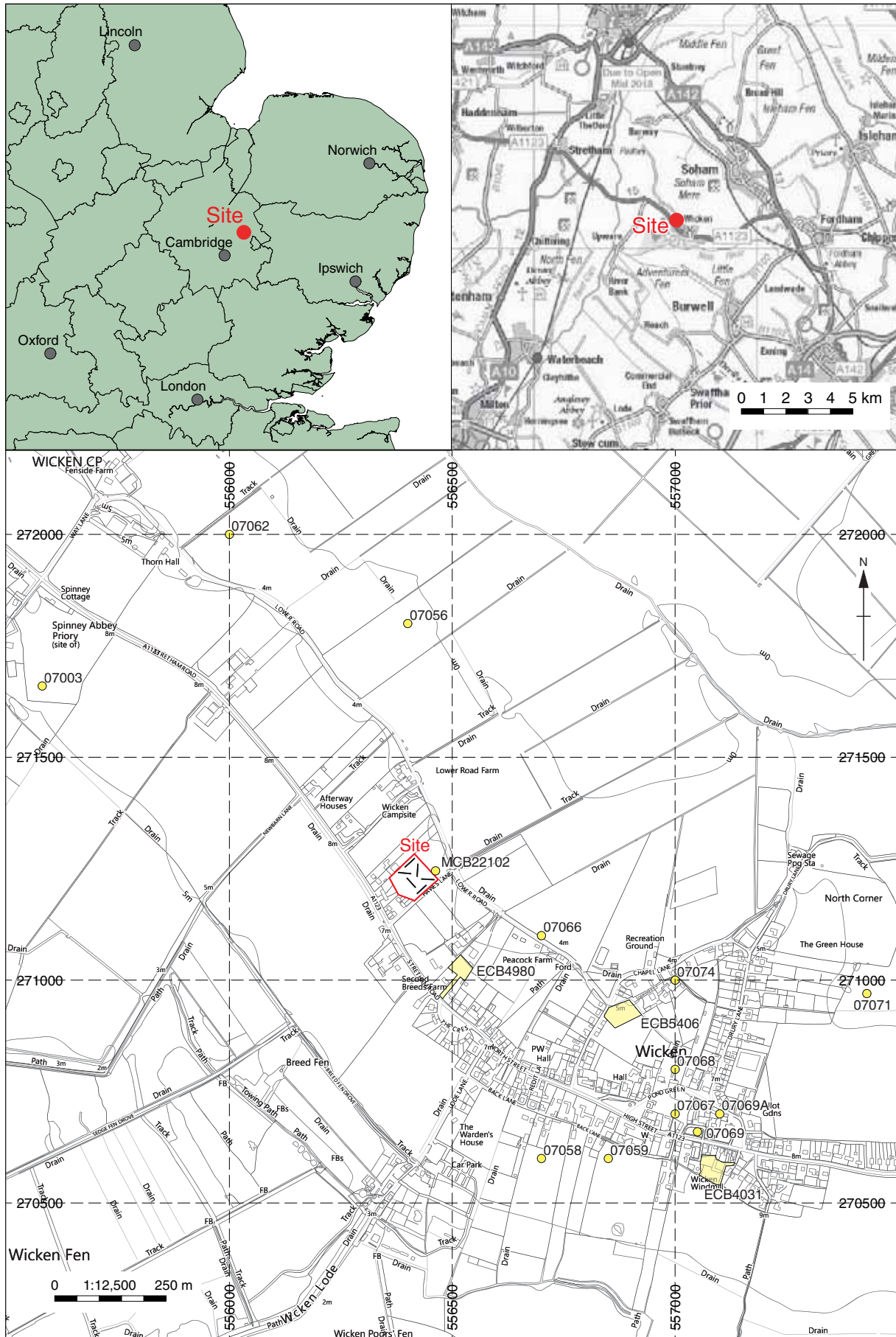
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Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

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



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Figure 1: Site location map showing development area (red) and archaeological trenches (black), with selected HER data



Figure 2: Trench location plan with all features

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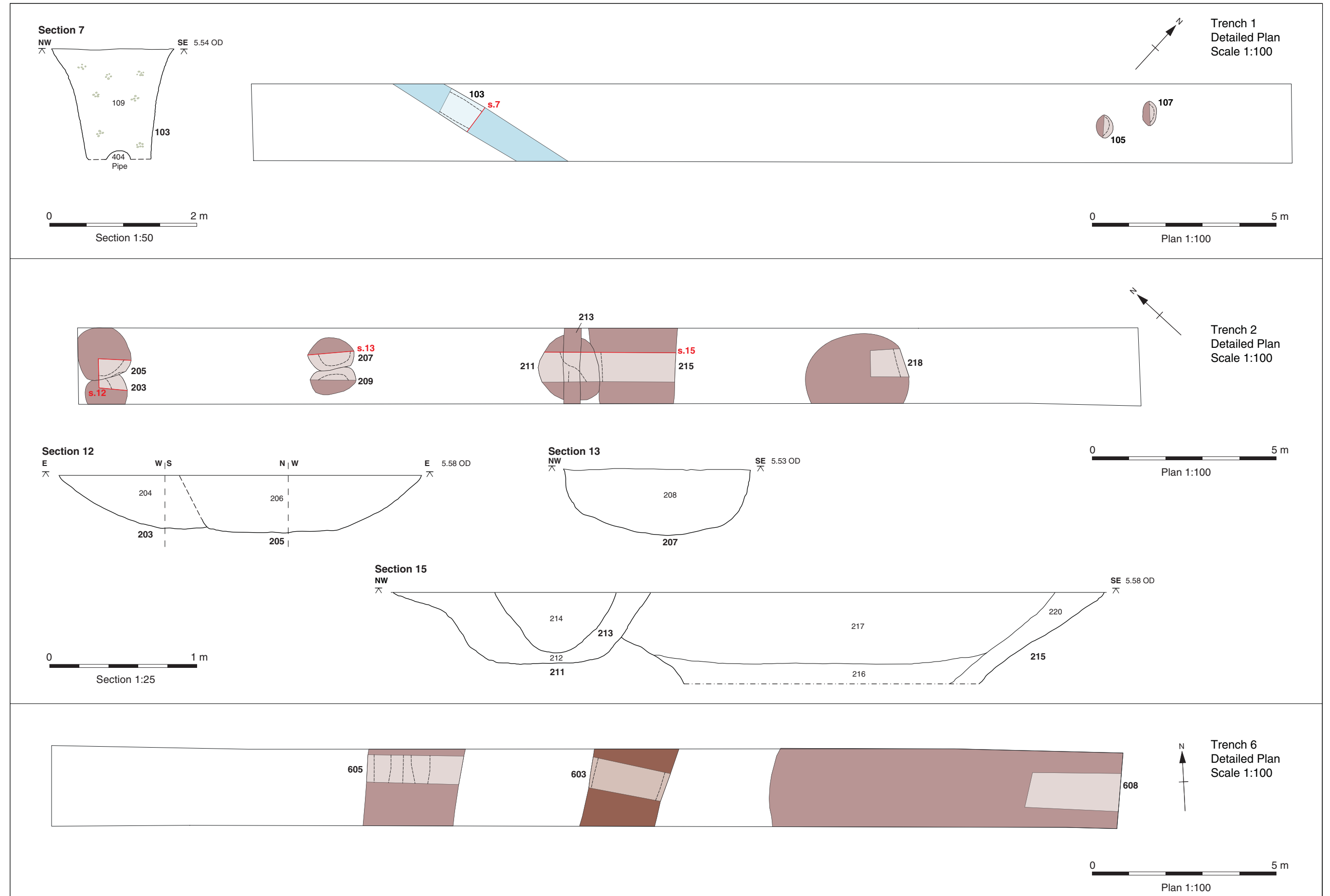


Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2 and 6, detailed trench/feature plans and sections

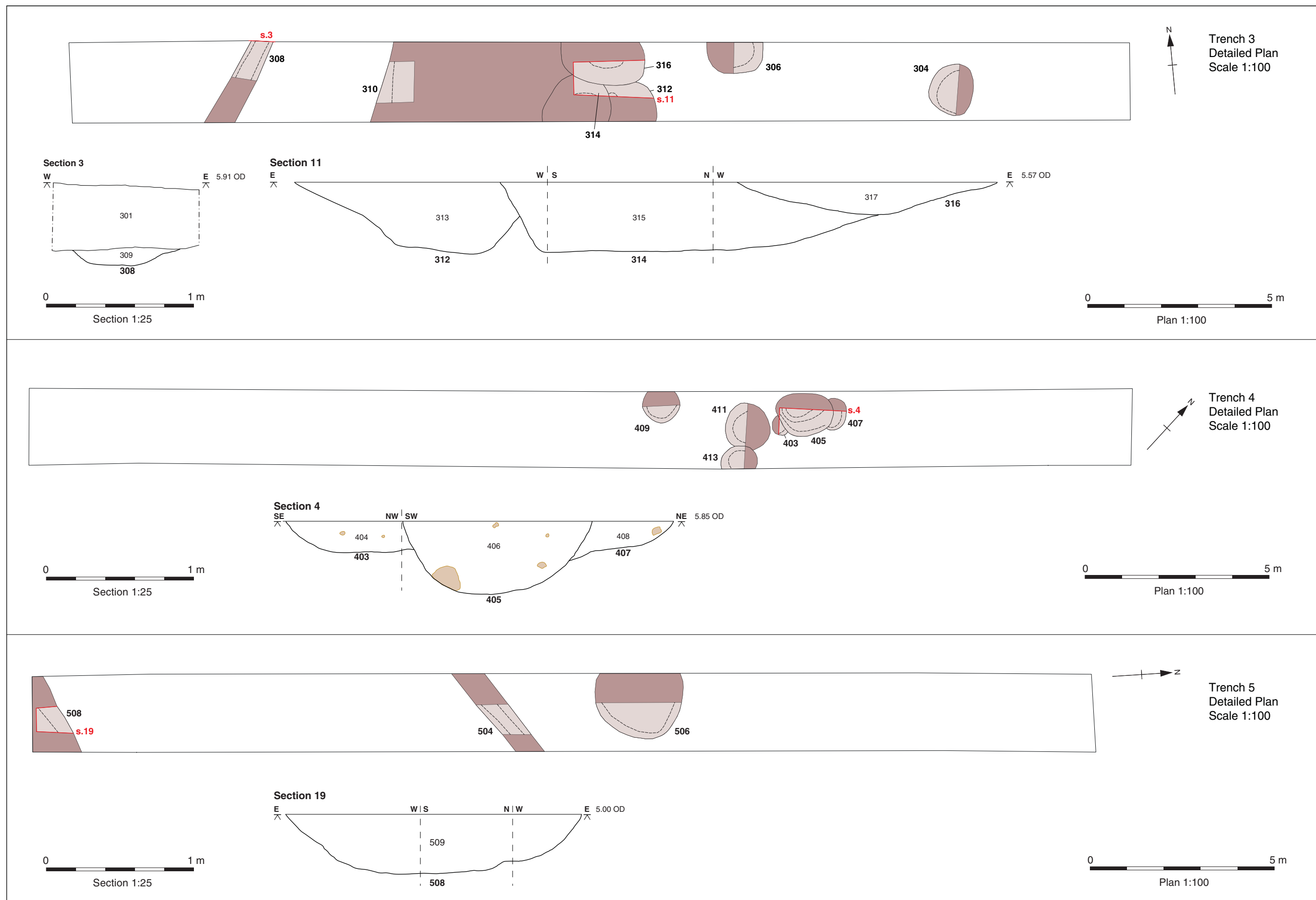


Figure 4: Trenches 3, 4 and 5, detailed trench/feature plans and sections



Plate 1: Trench 1 viewed from the south-west



Plate 2: Postholes **105** and **107**, viewed from the north-east



Plate 3: Trench 2 viewed from the south-east



Plate 4: Pit **209** viewed from the north-east



Plate 5: Trench 3 viewed from the east



Plate 6: Pit **304** viewed from the west



Plate 7: Pit **306** viewed from the south



Plate 8: Trench 4 viewed from the north-east



Plate 9: Pit **409** viewed from the south-east



Plate 10: Intercutting pits **411** and **413**, viewed from the south-west



Plate 11: Trench 5 viewed from the south



Plate 12: Pit **506** viewed from the east



Plate 13: Trench 6 viewed from the east



Plate 14: Ditch 605 viewed from the south



Plate 15: Pond **608** viewed from the north



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