Nastend, Eastington, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Excavation Report

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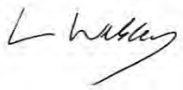
Signature:	

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Nastend, Eastington, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Excavation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation at Nastend, Eastington, Gloucestershire in November and December 2018. Previous geophysical survey and evaluation had indicated that part of a complex of enclosures dating from the Iron Age and Roman period lay within the site. The excavation uncovered a pit containing a prehistoric worked flint, and more extensive evidence for occupation during the late Iron Age/early Roman period and up to the 2nd century AD. Three phases of enclosure were identified within the area of the site including a late Iron Age phase, an early Roman phase (AD 50-120) and 2nd century phase (AD 120-200). The exact form of the late Iron Age/Roman enclosures was unclear as much of the central and northern part of the site appeared to have been truncated by modern ploughing. The truncation of the site had also removed any internal features of the enclosure although a piece of fired clay with a wattle impression found in a late Iron Age ditch suggested the presence of an oven structure nearby. Several environmental samples indicated that wheat was grown locally during the late Iron Age and during the 2nd century. The animal bone from late Iron Age/Roman contexts indicated the presence of cattle and sheep/goat remains with fewer specimens of pig, horse, dog and rodent.

The pottery from the site consisted mainly of Malvern area fabrics in the late Iron Age, while Severn Valley ware was subsequently dominant. The Seven Valley ware includes two vessels which were clearly ‘seconds’. These appear to be identical in fabric to a similar ‘second’ or waster vessel from Hunts Grove, Quedgeley, located 5km north of the site. This may indicate that there was a relatively local production of Severn Valley pottery in the area.

Three sherds of intrusive medieval pottery were found within the Roman ditch groups 205 and 204. These may have originated from a medieval furrow which itself had probably been truncated.

Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Ben Slader, who was supported by Ben McAndrew, Rachel Sisman, Thomas Oliver, Adam Moffat, Tamsin Jones, John Carne and Lauren Basnett. Survey and digitising was carried out by Conan Parsons, Diana Chard and Charles Rousseaux. The post-excavation programme was managed by Paul Booth. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Geraldine Crann and Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson and Sharon Cook and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Robert Hitchins Ltd, in consultation with CgMs Heritage to undertake an excavation at the site of a proposed balancing pond (for flood prevention) which is part of a wider development. The area of excavation comprised a 0.5ha rectangular area of land and two linear areas (for service runs) that were stripped, mapped and sampled.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref. 14/0810/OUT). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by CgMs Heritage (CgMs 2017) and was agreed with Stroud District Council to enable the satisfactory discharge of the condition of planning permission. This report details how the condition of planning permission was fulfilled. The work complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is situated to the east of the hamlet of Nastend, in Eastington parish (NGR: SO 79208 06196: Fig. 1). At the time of excavation, the site consisted of an arable field. The site is bounded to the west by Nastend Lane, to the north and south by agricultural fields and to the east by a stream with a large industrial estate beyond. The stream is a tributary of the River Frome which is located *c* 1km south of the site.

1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 183 to 210 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. There are no superficial deposits mapped for the site although River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel are mapped 0.3km south-west and south-east of the site (British Geological Survey 2019).

1.3 Previous archaeological work on the site

Geophysical survey 2012 by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy

1.3.1 A magnetometer survey of the site and vicinity was conducted in 2012 by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy. This survey identified a possible sub-rectangular enclosure and several linear features in the area of the present site and to the south (Fig. 3).

Evaluation in 2013 (Headland Archaeology)

1.3.2 In 2013, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken in support of the current planning application (Headland Archaeology 2013). The works comprised the excavation of 175 trenches across 100ha of land including the area of the site. Trenches 97–9 of the evaluation were located on or partially on the site (Fig. 3). While Trench 97 was devoid of archaeological features, Trenches 98 and 99 recorded the highest concentration of features across the wider development area (see below). Within the wider evaluation

area, Trench 115 (*c* 300m south-west of the site) also recorded evidence for limited Roman activity. There was also widespread evidence for medieval/post-medieval agricultural activity in the form of furrows and field boundaries. These agricultural features mostly produced 17th century and later dating evidence.

1.3.3 Features recorded in Trenches 98 and 99 included ditches 9801, 9901 and 9907. Ditch 9801 was aligned NE-SW and was 2.4m wide and 0.70m deep with sloping sides and a flat base. This ditch contained 3rd-century pottery within its lowest fill and 1st-century pottery within its upper fill. Ditch 9901 was 1m wide and 0.41m deep with sloping sides and a rounded base and contained no dating evidence. Ditch 9907 was 2.10m wide with a V-shaped profile and contained middle to late Iron Age and Roman pottery. The position of ditches 9801, 9901 and 9907 corresponded approximately with the enclosure identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 3). Two undated pits were also recorded. These ditches and pits may have been part of a late Iron Age/Roman enclosure which probably had several phases of use. Trench 99 was extended to the north-west to investigate possible internal features within the enclosure. Two ditches (9909 and 9913) and two pits (9911 and 9915) were recorded within this extension. Two pieces of 11th-century pottery were recorded from the surface of ditch 9909. This might suggest that some of these features are of later date. Alternatively, the pottery could be intrusive and may be the result of agricultural activity such as manuring (Headland Archaeology 2013, 13-15).

1.4 Archaeological and historical background

1.4.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the desk-based assessment previously produced (CgMs 2012), and has been summarised below along with background from several other sources.

Prehistoric period (c 450,000 BC-AD 43)

1.4.2 In 2013 a ditch containing small fragments of later prehistoric pottery was found *c* 800m south-east of the site (Oxford Archaeology 2013). Apart from this prehistoric pottery and ditch, no confirmed prehistoric activity has been recorded in the immediate area.

1.4.3 A number of Iron Age farmsteads were located in the wider area, some of which were also occupied during the Roman period (see below).

Romano-British period (AD 43-410)

1.4.4 The site is located 12km south-south-west of the major Roman fortress and later settlement of Gloucester (Fig. 2). It lies 2.3km south-east of a Roman road which linked Gloucester to Bath and a branch section which Margary thought continued to Seamills near Bristol (Margary 1973, 140, roads 541 and 541a). Another Roman road intersected the first *c* 2.3km north-west of the site. This road is thought to have linked the Corinium (Cirencester) to Aquae Sulis (Bath) road to the south with a crossing of the River Severn located *c* 10km north-west of the site (Margary 1973, 144-5, road 543).

1.4.5 Several Roman settlements and villas have been identified within 10km of the site. These include the late Iron Age settlement and Roman villa of Frocester (100 BC–AD 500), a farm at the M5 motorway, Eastington (AD 100-400), a settlement and iron production site at Fox's Field, Ebley (AD 1-400) and a farm and iron production site at Stonehouse Wharf (AD 250-400) (data from the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain database 2016). In addition, an evaluation at Bristol Road, Stonehouse, found 1st-2nd century AD ditches (which formed part of an enclosure) and a possible trackway located 800m south-east of the present site (Oxford Archaeology 2013) (Fig. 2).

Early medieval period (AD 410-1066)

1.4.6 It is likely that the manors of Alkerton (Eastington) and Stonehouse were in existence prior to the Domesday survey of 1086.

1.4.7 During the evaluation two Saxo-Norman (11th century) pottery sherds were found in the centre of the late Iron Age/Roman enclosure. These may represent intrusive finds, perhaps resulting from manuring.

Medieval period (AD 1066-1536)

1.4.8 The manors of Alkerton (Eastington) and Stonehouse, both close to the site, were listed in the Domesday survey of 1086. The manor of Stonehouse had 34 households and the smaller manor of Eastington had 13 households (Palmer 2019).

1.4.9 During the medieval period the site was located at the eastern edge of the parish of Eastington which also included the settlement of Alkerton. The medieval parish of Eastington had four hamlets: Churchend, Nupend, Nastend and Westend. Churchend, located 1km south-west of the site, may have been the earliest settlement in the parish. This hamlet was formed close to the site of the medieval manor house and the settlement includes the Grade II* listed parish Church of St Michael (HE: 1152811) which was built by the 14th century, probably on the site of an earlier church. The present site is located to the east of the hamlet of Nastend which documentary evidence suggests was in existence by 1447 (Morgan and Smith 1972, 123-7).

1.4.10 The desk-based assessment noted the presence of ridge and furrow within the area of the site and the vicinity. These linear features were plotted from aerial photographs and were aligned E-W and NW-SE across the site (CgMs 2012). Several linear features on this alignment were identified in the area of the site during the 2013 geophysical survey, and are likely to be the remains of ridge and furrow (Fig. 3).

1.4.11 It is likely that during the medieval period the site was used as agricultural land associated with the manor of Alkerton (later Eastington) and the hamlet of Nastend by the 15th century or earlier.

Post-medieval period (AD 1536 to present)

1.4.12 During the post-medieval period, it is likely that the site continued to be used as agricultural land to the east of the hamlet of Nastend. Six houses are mentioned in documentary evidence dating to 1594 (Morgan and Smith 1972, 123-7). This hamlet

also includes Nastend Court (now Grade II* listed Nastend House, HE 1090556) which was built in the late 16th century. The site is located to the east of the late 18th-century Nastend Green Farmhouse (HE 1152945) and to the south-east of the late 18th century Nastend Farmhouse (HE 1090555).

1.4.13 Aside from the rearrangement of some of the field boundaries the Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th-early 20th century show little change in the use of the site as part of an agricultural field. Modern satellite imagery indicates that the site may have been subjected to heavy ploughing. This may have impacted upon the medieval ridge and furrow and perhaps earlier features on the site.

2 EXCAVATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims and objectives

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the excavation were to mitigate the effect of development on the surviving buried archaeological remains within the defined mitigation area through archaeological investigation and recording, analysis of the excavated data, publication of the results, and deposition of an ordered project archive with an appropriate local museum.

2.1.2 The project should inform the development and implementation of local, regional and national research agendas with specific reference to The Archaeology of South West England, South West Archaeological Research Framework, Resource Assessment and Agenda (Webster 2007). It is apparent from the archaeological works undertaken in the immediate area that the site was considered to have potential to contribute to wider research in connection with the late Iron Age and Roman rural landscape by

- Providing a better understanding of agricultural, social and economic life of rural areas that have so far had only limited consideration (and will only be advanced through defining a wider set of research aims).

2.1.3 These aims tie in with the regional research framework (Webster 2007, 286-7), particularly research aim 29 (improve our understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement) and research aim 34 (improve our understanding of early Roman settlement).

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 These were to establish a relative and absolute chronological framework for the site and establish the date, form, function, evolution and economic status of the activity previously identified on the site by assessment and evaluation. Priority was to be given to establishing an overall plan of the site and determining the various phases and subphases of activity, in order to address the following questions:

I. What is the evidence for Iron Age activity and use of the site, what is its form and function, at what date did it commence, how does it develop and how can it be related to other recorded activity in the area?

II. What is the evidence for Roman occupation activity on the site and at what date did it commence, how does it develop, what was its status and how does it relate to other recorded activity of this period in the area?

III. Was Iron Age/Roman occupation entirely domestic/agricultural in character or is there evidence for industrial activity, and if so, what industries were taking place?

IV. Is there any evidence for Saxon/early medieval activity on the site and at what date did it commence and how does it develop?

V. Is the character of medieval activity on the site entirely agricultural or is there evidence for domestic/industrial uses, and if so, what is their form and function?

VI. How does this evidence relate to the adjacent pattern of settlement, such as the hamlets of Nastend and Nupend, and what can it add to our understanding of their establishment and development?

VII. What is the evidence for post-medieval/modern activity on the site, how does it develop and was it purely agricultural in character or is their evidence of other uses?

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The area excavated (Area B in the WSI) covered *c* 0.5ha, consisting of a rectangular area in the northern part of the site and two linear strips to the south of it. These were a pipe trench running south-east from the south-east corner of the main area, and a WNW-ESE-aligned cable trench running across the entire width of the site just to the south.

2.3.2 Those areas that contained archaeological features were recorded digitally using a total station theodolite/GPS to produce a base plan.

2.3.3 Once archaeological deposits had been exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand as agreed with Nick Cooke at CgMs and Charles Parry at Gloucestershire County Council. The exposed surface was sufficiently clean to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. The level of hand excavation of features was as outlined within the approved WSI (CgMs 2017) and in accordance with OA's recording system. Upon agreement that excavation was completed satisfactorily the site was signed off and the excavation area was backfilled.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the excavation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the archaeological remains by chronological phase. Finds reports are presented in Appendix A and the environmental reports are presented in Appendix B. An overview of the results of the excavation is shown on Figure 3. More detailed plans of the site are shown on Figures 4 and 5 and sections are shown on Figure 6. Illustrated pottery is shown on Figure 7.

3.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence was uniform across the site with natural of mottled brown-orange silty clay with lenses of blue-grey clay (102). This was overlain by a layer of orange-brown silty clay subsoil (101) which varied in thickness between 0.10 and 0.45m. In turn this was overlain by a layer of dark grey, loose, clayey silt topsoil (100) that was 0.10-0.35m thick.

3.2 Phase 1: Early prehistoric period

3.2.1 Pit 111 was oval in plan and was 1.66m long by 1.56m wide and 0.27m deep, with a concave base. This pit had two fills, lower fill 113 and upper fill 112, both brown silty clays. The upper fill contained a snapped flint blade of possible Neolithic date, though it is not certain whether this is contemporary with the pit or residual. Elsewhere on the site, a flint scraper also of possible Neolithic date was recovered as a residual find from the subsoil.

3.3 Phase 2: Late Iron Age/early Roman period (200 BC-AD 50)

Ditch 109/103

3.3.1 Ditch 109 and later recut 103 were located towards the south of the site within the cable trench (Fig. 3). Both ditches were aligned north-south and are likely to form the western boundary of the enclosure that was identified during the geophysical survey and evaluation (Fig. 3).

3.3.2 Ditch 109 was 0.78m deep and was truncated on the western side by later ditch 103 (Fig. 3; Fig. 6: Section 100; Plate 1). This ditch contained one fill (105), a grey-brown silty clay which contained 38 sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Ditch 103, which had removed most of ditch 109, was 2.2m wide and 1.02m deep with moderately steep sides and a stepped then flat base (Fig. 3; Fig. 6: Section 100). It contained five grey silty clay fills (104, 110, 106, 107 and 108), and fills 104, 106 and 107 each contained one or two sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. The upper fill contained four sherds of pottery dating to *c* AD 50 which suggests that the top of the ditch finally silted up towards the later part of the late Iron Age. Six fragments of fired clay were found in ditch 109 and recut 103. One piece weighing 62g from ditch 109 had a partial wattle impression indicating that it may have derived from the superstructure of an oven.

3.3.3 Two environmental samples were taken from ditch 103. Sample 2 was taken from the middle fill of the ditch (106) and Sample 1 was taken from the uppermost fill (108). Both samples contained charcoal and wheat chaff which may have been windblown. Sample 1 also contained hazelnut shell and a very small quantity of wheat cereal grain.

Pit 114

3.3.4 Oval pit 114 was located towards the north of the site and was 1.29m long by 0.88m wide and 0.19m deep (Fig. 4; Fig. 6: Section 102; Plate 2). The pit had shallow sides and a concave base and contained two brown silty clay fills (116 and 115). Basal fill 116 contained no dating evidence but upper fill 114 contained one sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery.

3.4 Phase 3: Early Roman period (AD 50-120)

Ditch Group 205

3.4.1 Ditch group 205 was located in the south-eastern corner of the main excavation area. It had a north-south aligned section (183) before turning eastward to run east-west (199, 187 and 195) (Fig. 5). The ditch varied in width from 1.78-2.4m in cuts 183, 199 and 195 to 1.3m in 187. The ditch was recorded as deeper towards the west at 0.35m in cut 183 (Fig. 6: Section 130) tapering down to only 0.17m deep in cut 195 (Fig. 6: Section 136; Plate 3). This may be due to later truncation activities such as ploughing.

3.4.2 The ditch had a concave base with steep to regular sides and only one brown silty clay fill (184, 200, 188 and 196) in each intervention. Two of the fills contained early Roman pottery, one sherd in fill 184 and 22 sherds in fill 196. Fill 188 in cut 187 also contained two sherds of medieval pottery which is very likely intrusive and suggests that this part of the ditch may have been disturbed by a medieval furrow. This part of the ditch (187) was also cut by later ditch group 204 (Fig. 6: Section 131; Plate 4).

3.4.3 One environmental sample was taken from group 205. Sample 5 of fill 200 came from cut 199. This contained material smaller than 2mm which could not be identified with certainty.

3.5 Phase 4: 2nd century AD (AD 120-200)

Ditch Group 204

3.5.1 This ditch was also located in the south-eastern corner of the main excavation area site and cut earlier ditch group 205 (Fig. 6: Section 131; Plate 4). It was aligned WNW-ESE and comprised cuts 189, 125, 193, 185 and 191 from north-west to south-east (Fig. 5). The north-western end of the ditch (189) was cut by NNE-SSW ditch 131 (Fig. 5; Fig. 6: Section 132).

3.5.2 This ditch varied in width from 0.4m at the north-western end (189) increasing to 0.7-0.9m wide within cuts 125, 193 (Fig. 6: Section 135) and 185. The widest part of the ditch was 1.52m at cut 191 towards the southern end (Fig. 6: Section 134). The ditch was 0.25-0.27m deep in interventions 189, 193, 185 and 191 from north-west to

south-east. The only exception was at cut 125 where the ditch was recorded as 0.40m deep. As with ditch group 205 this ditch may have been truncated by later activity on the site and may have originally been far deeper. In addition, the north-western end of the ditch is likely to have been cut by a modern land drain. The ditch was not observed further to the north-west it may have been truncated in this area by later activity. The ditch had a concave base and a moderately steep profile and contained one brown silty clay fill (190, 126, 194, 186 and 192) within each of the interventions (Plate 5 – 191).

3.5.3 Three cuts of the ditch (125, 193 and 191) contained dating evidence within the fills (126, 194 and 192 respectively). Fill 126 of cut 125 contained four sherds of 2nd century AD pottery and fill 194 of cut 193 contained 31 sherds of 2nd century AD pottery. Fill 192 of cut 191 contained 14 sherds of pottery dating to the late 1st to mid 2nd century (AD 50-150).

3.5.4 Two environmental samples were taken from ditch group 204. Sample 3 from fill 126 of cut 125 contained charcoal and several wild plant species and Sample 4 from fill 194 of cut 193 contained charcoal, wheat chaff and wild seeds.

Ditch 131

3.5.5 Ditch 131 was aligned NNE-SSW and cut the north-western end of ditch group 204 (Fig. 5; Fig. 6: Section 132). This ditch was 1m wide and 0.2m deep with a flat base and steep sides. It contained a single grey-brown clay fill (132), which produced seven sherds of pottery dating to the 2nd century. It therefore may have gone out of use and silted up around the same time as ditch group 204.

3.5.6 Ditch 131 appears to almost match the alignment of a feature that was recorded on the geophysical survey heading NNE-SSW then NE-SW (Fig. 3). It is possible that ditch 131 may have connected to the northern corner of the enclosure to the south.

Linear feature 127

3.5.7 Feature 127 was located towards the north-east of the site and was aligned NE-SW (Fig. 4). This feature was 2.82m long, 0.28m wide and 0.12m deep with uneven sides and an irregular base. This feature contained one fill (128), a brown silty clay which contained four sherds of 2nd century pottery.

3.5.8 This feature, as with ditch 131, is in alignment with a feature recorded on the geophysical survey. This might suggest that shallow linear feature 127 was an almost fully truncated ditch which originally formed part of an extension to the enclosure to the south.

3.6 Undated features

Ditch/furrow 123

3.6.1 Ditch 123 was located towards the south-eastern end of the cable trench (Fig. 3). This ditch was aligned NE-SW and was 4.65m wide and 0.81m deep with shallow sides and

a concave base (Fig. 7: Section 105; Plate 6). The feature had two fills, lower fill 124 and upper fill 133, both brown or orange silty clays. Neither contained dating evidence.

3.6.2 This profile of this feature rather like that of a furrow as it is very wide. However, it does not match the alignment of the possible furrows recorded on the geophysical survey which were NW-SE or east-west aligned. Its interpretation remains uncertain.

Postholes

3.6.3 A cluster of six small postholes was located in the northern part of the main excavation area (166, 168, 170, 172, 174 and 176) (Figs 4 and 6). These postholes were oval or circular in plan and were typically 0.2-0.3m diameter with steep sides and a concave base. They each contained one fill, an orange-grey clay (Plate 7).

3.6.4 These small postholes do not appear to form a coherent structure, although postholes 166, 174 and 176 appear to be in an approximate NW-SE alignment. As they are small they are more likely to represent a small wooden structure than part of a building.

Pits

3.6.5 Two undated pits were located towards the north-east of the site (Fig. 4).

3.6.6 Circular pit 152 was 0.74m across and 0.14m deep with gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It had one fill (153), a brown-grey silty clay.

3.6.7 Pit 163 was 0.97m wide and 0.15m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. This pit had one fill (164) which contained a few fragments of fired clay.

Tree-throw holes and hedge lines

3.6.8 A number of natural features including tree-throw holes were observed across the site (Figs 4 and 5). Sub-circular features 117, 120, 129, 140, 142, 145, 147, 148, 156 and 197 were interpreted as tree-throw holes. Two former hedgerow lines were also identified including 134/138/145 towards the north of the site and 136/150 towards the north-east of the site (Plate 8). These features were all characterised as tree-throw holes or hedge lines as they had irregular profiles, sterile and homogeneous fills and no dating evidence.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1.1 The site appears to have been subjected to modern truncation in the form of ploughing and the digging of several land drains. The thickness of the subsoil and topsoil appeared to vary across the site and this may suggest why the features towards the south-east of the site were in a better state of preservation.

4.1.2 The site was occupied during the late Iron Age/early Roman period and up to the 2nd century. The 2012 geophysical survey and the 2013 evaluation indicated that the site may have been part of a larger complex of enclosures dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods.

4.1.3 Ditch 109 and later recut 103 appear to have been the earliest features on the site and are likely to have formed the western side of an Iron Age enclosure. The pottery suggests that ditch 103 had silted up by *c* AD 50 as four late Iron Age/early Roman sherds were found in the upper fill of this ditch. It is likely that an oven was located within or near to the late Iron Age enclosure as a piece of fired clay with a wattle impression was found within late Iron Age ditch 109. A subsequent early Roman enclosure (ditch group 205) was created to the north and this ditch contained pottery dating from AD 50-120. This enclosure appears to have gone out of use during the 2nd century as ditch group 204 cut the earlier Roman enclosure ditch group 205 on a different alignment (NW-SE). It is unclear if ditch 205 formed part of an enclosure or was a more discrete boundary/drainage feature, nor is its relationship with features 131 and 127 (through 204 was cut by 131) at all certain. Ditch 131 might have projected from the north corner of the late Iron Age enclosure to the south but this is speculative. Ditch group 204, ditch 131 and feature 127 contained pottery dating to AD 120-200.

4.1.4 The precise form and phasing of each of the enclosures is unknown as the two principal ditches (group 204 and group 205) were only recorded in the south-eastern corner of the main excavation area. It is likely that the rest of the site may have been truncated by modern ploughing. This is demonstrated by ditch 131 which was only 0.20m deep and may have continued north-east as indicated by the geophysical survey (Fig. 3). It is likely that there were more enclosure ditches and internal features of the settlement but these may have been truncated.

4.1.5 The pottery from the site consisted mainly of Malvern area fabrics in the late Iron Age, while Severn Valley ware was subsequently dominant. The Seven Valley ware includes two vessels which were clearly 'seconds'. These appear to be identical in fabric to a similar 'second'/waster vessel from Hunts Grove, Quedgeley, located 5km north of the site (OA forthcoming). This may indicate that there was a relatively local production of Severn Valley pottery in the area.

4.1.6 The environmental samples provide evidence for agricultural activity. Late Iron Age/early Roman ditch 103 contained small quantities of wheat chaff and cereal grain while 2nd-century ditch 204 contained wheat chaff and weed seeds. The animal bone from late Iron Age/Roman contexts indicated the presence of cattle and sheep/goat remains with fewer specimens of pig, horse, dog and rodent. Sheep may have been

bred on or near the site as a neonatal lamb was found. A cattle mandible showed indications of skinning and a horse metacarpal also showed signs of butchery and pathology. Broadly the results of the environmental analysis reveal that the site may have had a mixed agrarian economy during the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

4.1.7 The site is located within 5km of a number of Roman sites that appear to be focused on the River Frome. It is not known whether the River Frome was navigable during the Roman period. The site lies 2.3km south-east of the intersection of the Gloucester to Bath and the Cirencester to Bath Roman roads and 12km south-west of the major Roman fortress and later settlement of Gloucester (Fig. 2). Several of the other known sites in the area appear to have been used in the late Iron Age and into the Roman period. For example the settlement and late Roman villa complex at Frocester Court located 3km south of the site was occupied from 100 BC to AD 500 and Fox's Field located 3km east of the site was occupied from the beginning of the 1st century AD to the end of the 4th century.

4.1.8 No evidence of Saxon activity was found and only three small sherds of medieval pottery dating to *c* 1350-1550 were found. These three sherds were very probably intrusive at the intersection of ditches 185 and 187 (groups 205 and 204 respectively). Ditches 204 and 205 were both of Roman date. It is likely that a furrow had truncated ditches 185 and 187 depositing medieval sherds within earlier contexts. No clear trace of this furrow was found and it may be that it was in turn also truncated by modern ploughing. The geophysical survey identified furrows located 50m south of the site so it is very likely that the area was used as arable farmland during the medieval period. The site is located to the east of the hamlet of Nastend which documentary evidence suggests was in existence by 1447.

APPENDIX A FINDS REPORTS

A.1 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction

A.1.1 Some 130 sherds (2113g, 1.71 REs) of later prehistoric and Roman pottery were recovered, recorded and analysed. This total includes 27 sherds (163g) of pottery from sieved soil samples. The assemblage was recorded using the OA system for late prehistoric and Roman pottery (Booth 2014), in line with recently published national standards (PCRG *et al*. 2016), with sherds assigned to subgroups or individual fabrics/wares within major ware classes (for recent application of this system in a Gloucestershire context see eg Booth 2016; Biddulph 2018). Quantification of wares within individual context groups was by sherd count and weight. Vessel types were quantified by rim equivalents (REs) and a vessel count (MV) based on rim sherds. Details of decoration were recorded, as well as evidence of use and reuse where identifiable.

A.1.2 The assemblage spanned the later part of the Iron Age and the early Roman period, with no material certainly later than the 2nd century AD. The pottery was in reasonable condition with a mean sherd weight of 16.3g including the sieved material, though surface condition was variable. Abrasion was not consistently recorded, however, but heavily worn sherds were scarce.

Fabrics/wares

A.1.3 The fabrics present are listed in Table 1 below, in order within the series of major ware groups defined by the OA system on the basis of significant common characteristics. The main ware groups are: 'Belgic type' (broadly in the sense of Thompson 1982, 4-5), usually grog-tempered, fabrics (E); 'Romanised' oxidised coarse wares (O); 'Romanised' reduced coarse wares (R); black-burnished ware (B); and calcareous (particularly shell- and limestone-tempered) and other wares (C). This last group overlaps with a final group of coarse tempered fabrics particularly associated with the Malvern area (G). In addition, a relatively small group of hand-made fabrics, most of which were probably also related to the C20 and G20 groups, were recorded in terms of their principal inclusion types in the manner normally employed within the OA pottery recording system for prehistoric material where definition in terms of ware groups is often not appropriate. A comparison between these ware groups and 'fine and specialist' wares (cf Booth 2004) is irrelevant here since the latter group was only represented by single sherds in each of two mortarium fabrics.

A.1.4 Within these classes there are hierarchically arranged subgroups, usually defined on the basis of inclusion type, and individual fabrics/wares are then indicated at a third level of precision, both levels of subdivision being expressed by numeric codes. Thus O40 is a general code for Severn Valley wares, while O41 is a specific early Severn

Valley Ware product. For the bulk of the present assemblage fabric identification was at the intermediate level of precision. Most of the material was in fabrics whose specific sources are unknown or uncertain. Attribution of sherds to ware groups or to individual fabrics was on the basis of macroscopic inspection, with frequent but not universal use of the binocular microscope at x10 or x20 magnification.

A.1.5 Relatively summary fabric descriptions or labels are given in Table 1, although some are more detailed. More comprehensive descriptions can be found in the project archive and/or in the handbook to the National Roman Pottery Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). Fabric codes from the latter, where relevant, are shown in the table in bold.

Table 1: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabric codes and descriptions

Ware Code	Description	Quantities		
Mortaria		No.	Weight (g)	Res
M15	Central Gaulish (**CNG OX**)	1	50	
M50	Oxidised, moderate coarse sand and iron oxide inclusions, large angular quartz trituration grits. Local/regional?	1	323	
'Belgic type' wares				
E80	Grog-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics (**SOB GT**)	4	28	0.09
Oxidised 'coarse' wares				
O20	Sandy oxidised coarse ware fabrics (general)	2	14	0.02
O40	Severn Valley ware (general) (**SVW OX 2**)	26	672	0.54
O41	Organic tempered Severn Valley ware	8	110	0.16
Reduced 'coarse' wares				
R10	Fine reduced 'coarse ware' fabrics (general)	9	31	
R20	Sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics (general)	3	9	
R30	Medium/fine sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics (general)	7	28	
R49	Reduced Severn Valley ware	10	345	0.47
Black-burnished wares				
B11	Dorset BB1 (**DOR BB 1)**	2	31	
Calcareous wares etc				
C10	Shell and calcareous limestone-tempered fabric	11	50	0.12
C20	Limestone-tempered fabrics (general)	7	14	0.01
Malvern fabrics				
G20	Malvern fabrics (general)	1	1	
G25	Malvern limestone fabric (Peacock 1968, fabric B1)	32	391	0.27
Other handmade fabrics (see text below)				
?Grog, organic and quartz	GVA3/4 -	6	16	0.03
TOTAL		130	2113	1.21

Fabric/ware groups

A.1.6 Quantification of the fabrics/wares by the three principal measures is presented in Table 1. The size of the assemblage means that consideration of relative quantities in

percentage terms is largely meaningless. The two most important components are Malvernian and related fabrics, principally the limestone-tempered fabric G25, but perhaps including the calcareous limestone fabric C20 as well, and Severn Valley wares. The latter, including reduced versions (with further, less confidently identified examples accounting for all the sherds recorded as reduced fabric R30) accounted for 33.8% of sherds but 53.3% of the assemblage by weight (figures excluding R30).

A.1.7 A breakdown of pottery quantities in terms of the sequence of principal linear features is presented in Table 2. The first three groups show the chronological development of the assemblage quite clearly. The fills of the late Iron Age enclosure ditches 109 and 103 contained primarily Malvernian fabric G25, including fragmentary rim sherds from four jars of typical form with simple slightly everted rims. Associated were sherds in a shell and calcareous limestone fabric (C10), probably all from a single medium-mouthed jar (Fig. 7, No. 1). Fragments of late Iron Age/early Roman 'Belgic type' ware (E80) were also present, and a single sherd of Severn Valley ware came from the uppermost fill of the ditch recut 103.

Table 2: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery per group

	Enclosure 109/103		Enclosure Group 205		Ditch Group 204		Ditch 131		Other	
Ware Code	No.	Weight (g)	No.	Weight (g)	No.	Weight (g)	No.	Weight (g)	No.	Weight (g)
M15									1	50
M50					1	323				
E80	2	20			2	8				
O20			1	2					1	12
O40	1	8	4	18	20	643	1	3		
O41			1	7	7	103				
R10			3	13	6	18				
R20			3	9						
R30					7	28				
R49			1	5	4	32	5	308		
B11					2	31				
C10	11	50								
C20			6	12					1	2
G20										
G25	31	389			2	3				
GVA3/4					6	16				
TOTAL	**45**	**467**	**19**	**66**	**57**	**1205**	**6**	**311**	**3**	**64**

A.1.8 Ditch group 205, to the north, probably belonging to a separate enclosure, produced only a very small group of (also small) sherds, notable principally for the absence of fabric G25 and for the range of fabrics which indicates a ceramic phase more diverse and later in date than that from enclosure 109/103. The later ditch, group 204, which cut 205, produced much the most substantial feature assemblage from the site, amounting to 43.8% of sherds and 57% by weight. These included Malvern fabric G25

and the possibly related fabric GVA3/4, both presumably residual here, and a substantial proportion of Severn Valley wares. Severn Valley ware vessel forms present were a straight-sided tankard (or less likely, a carinated bowl) (Fig. 7, No. 3) and a second, similar vessel, both in organic tempered fabric O41, and a narrow-mouthed jar (Fig. 7, No. 2). A large base sherd from an oxidised mortarium with coarse angular quartz trituration grits was also present. The source of this vessel is uncertain. In broad character it appears comparable to products of the Minety kilns, but the fabric appears to be sandier than is typical for that industry. There is no trace of a white or cream slip, but it is possible that such a surface could have been completely eroded. The overall character of this group suggests a 2nd-century date, and a probable terminus post quem of *c* AD 120 is indicated by the presence of two sherds of black-burnished ware, though in this region the fabric could appear before this traditional date for the expansion of its distribution, as suggested at nearby Frocester (Timby 2000, 135).

A.1.9 Towards its western end ditch group 204 was cut by a roughly north-south aligned ditch 131. This produced only six sherds of pottery, five of which were from a narrow-mouthed jar in reduced Severn Valley ware (Fig. 7, No. 4). This vessel is very similar to No. 2 from ditch group 204, which would not be remarkable except that both are in an identical version of Severn Valley ware with prominent clay pellets and both were recorded as 'seconds' with warped rims. In neither case was the distortion of the rim sufficient to qualify the vessels as wasters, but their coincidences of fabric, form and condition suggest that they might have derived from a fairly closely adjacent production site in the Severn Valley tradition.

A.1.10 The only notable component of the rest of the pottery is the sole imported vessel in the assemblage, a mortarium in a Central Gaulish fabric (M15), for which a 2nd-century date is certain. This came from fill 128 of an elongated feature 127, interpreted as a possible tree-throw hole, located in the north-eastern part of the excavated area.

Discussion

A.1.11 The range of fabrics is characteristic for the region in the later Iron Age and early Roman period, with a Malvern area source prominent in the late Iron Age, and Severn Valley ware dominant subsequently. Although limited in quantity, the evidence for relatively local production of Severn Valley ware is of interest, and is supplemented by the occurrence of a medium-mouthed jar, apparently in an identical fabric and heavily overfired, from a 2nd-century context (6184) at Hunts Grove, Quedgeley, 5km north of the present site (OA forthcoming). Together these vessels certainly suggest Severn Valley ware production south of Gloucester, though to suggest that the site in question might have lain between the two findspots of sub-standard kiln products is probably overoptimistic.

A.1.12 Given the size of the present assemblage, close dating is impossible and detailed local comparison is of limited value. The evaluation of the present site produced 47 Iron Age sherds (equivalent to OA Malvernian fabric G25) and 22 Roman sherds said to range in date from the 1st to the 4th century (Headland Archaeology 2013, 24-6).

A.1.13 A further evaluation just over 1km distant to the SSE produced another small assemblage (194 sherds, weighing 3304g). Here the later Iron Age component consisted of a single sherd of fabric G25, but grog-tempered fabric E80 suggested activity from about the mid 1st century onwards. The assemblage was dominated by Severn Valley and black-burnished wares but south-western micaceous fabric R85 was also quite well-represented and indicated occupation at least into the 3rd century, although it was thought that the majority of the assemblage dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries (Booth 2013). Preliminary assessment suggests that the assemblage from Hunts Grove, mentioned above, is very similar to that from the present site and conforms to a regional pattern in which the pottery from later prehistoric and early Roman sites is dominated by Malvernian limestone fabrics and Severn Valley wares.

A.1.14 The major local later prehistoric and Roman pottery assemblage is that from Frocester Court, which lies less than 4km to the south (Timby 2000). The chronological range and the variety of fabrics present there are both inevitably much wider than at the present site, but the general later Iron Age and early Roman trends are consistent. 'Malvernian' and related limestone fabrics dominate the later prehistoric material, while the description of Frocester fabric 3 – limestone- and fossil-shell-tempered wares – corresponds well with the character of the material grouped as fabric C10 in the present assemblage. As at the present site Severn Valley ware is a key component at Frocester, but is less dominant than here because of the presence at Frocester of significant late Roman occupation and corresponding assemblages in which black-burnished ware and the south-western micaceous fabrics were even more important (for a clear presentation of this see Timby 2017, 321, fig. 7.24).

Catalogue of illustrated vessels (Fig. 7):

1. Fabric C10 jar with short, thickened, out-turned rim. Context 105, enclosure ditch 109.
2. Fabric O40 narrow-mouthed jar with cordon at base of neck and grooves on shoulder. Context 194, ditch 193, group 204.
3. Fabric O41 tankard (or possibly tall carinated bowl) with grooves below rim and on lower body. Context 192, ditch 191, group 204.
4. Fabric R49 narrow-mouthed jar similar to No. 2. Context 132, ditch 131.

A.2 Medieval pottery

By John Cotter

A.2.1 Three sherds of medieval pottery (weight 14g) were recovered from two contexts. These were recorded using medieval fabric codes from the alphanumeric Bristol Pottery Type (BPT) series and their abbreviated alphabetic name codes (Cotter 2017).

A.2.2 Context 186 produced one sherd (5g) of oxidised orange sandy Malvernian ware (MALV, BPT197) dated *c* 1350-1550, from the lower wall of a wide thin-walled cooking pot or bowl. The internal surface is covered with a partly decayed green glaze. The external surface is unglazed and shows slight sooting from use. Located in the Malvern Chase area of Worcestershire (Vince 1977), the industry began in the 13th century but finds of the ware only become common throughout the Severn estuary (as at Bristol)

after *c* 1380 (Cotter 2017). As Eastington is close to the river Severn, and further up the river than Bristol, it may have been receiving Malvernian wares slightly earlier, perhaps from *c* 1350.

A.2.3 Context (188), dated *c* 1350-1550, produced two sherds (9g). The smaller sherd (2g) is very probably from the same Malvernian ware vessel as in context 186 above, but is visibly more abraded. The larger sherd (7g) is also very abraded externally but appears to come from the basal angle and lower wall of a separate Malvernian ware cooking pot, also sooted externally. This has a much coarser, dark brown, unglazed fabric with prominent Malvernian grits up to 3mm across. Its coarseness might suggest an earlier date than the smaller sherd, perhaps from the 13th or 14th century.

A.3 Fired clay

By Paul Booth

A.3.1 Fourteen amorphous fragments (93g) of fired clay were recovered, including material from sieved samples. The fragments were mostly oxidised and hard fired. The majority (by weight – six fragments, 79g) came from fills of the late Iron Age enclosure ditch 109 and its recut 103. The single piece from the former ditch, weighing 62g, had no surviving surfaces but a poorly preserved partial impression of a wattle suggests that it might have derived from the superstructure of an oven. A similar origin is possible for all the other fragments but their small size precludes meaningful interpretation.

A.4 Worked flint

By Mike Donnelly

A.4.1 Two worked flints were recovered. One is an expedient end scraper on a regular flake with parallel dorsal scars, recovered from the subsoil (context 101). The other is a snapped blade, recovered from fill 112 of pit 111. Both are probably early in date with a Neolithic date being most likely.

APPENDIX B ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

B.1 Charred plant remains

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

B.1.1 Five samples were processed for the retrieval of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts. Samples 1 and 2 are from a late Iron Age/early Romano-British boundary ditch (context 109) while samples 3 and 4 are single fills from a 2nd-century Roman ditch (group 204). Sample 5 is from the single fill of a ditch of early Roman date (group 205).

B.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety at OA using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was scanned using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to identify cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

B.1.3 Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (Jacomet 2006), identification of wild plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

Results

B.1.4 Table 3 lists the charred taxa identified from each sample. All five samples produced small flots with the majority of material in each case largely comprising modern material such as roots, straw and uncharred seeds. The charred material in all the samples is generally small in size (<2mm) and sample 5 contains only material smaller than 2mm.

B.1.5 The small quantity of grain is in generally poor condition, 'clinkered' and in some cases partially vitrified as a result of burning. The few glume bases from wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) cannot be further identified due to their small size and fragmentary condition. Occasional non-cultivated plant seeds are likely to be crop contaminants or the remains of weeds and other material cleared from peripheral areas.

Table 3: Charred plant remains

Sample No	Detail	1	2	3	4	5
Context No		108	106	126	194	200
Group		109	109	204	204	205
Description		Upper fill of ditch 103	Middle fill of ditch 103	Single fill of ditch 125	Single fill of ditch 193	Single fill of ditch 199
Phase		LIA/ERB	LIA/ERB	Roman 2nd C	Roman 2nd C	ERB
Volume (L)		40	36	20	32	30
Flot Volume (ml)		14	5	2	8	5
Flot scanned		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Charcoal	>4mm		+		+	
	2-4mm	++	++	+	++	
Cereal grain						
cf *Triticum* sp.	cf. wheat	2#				
Cerealia	indet cereal	1#	2#		4#	
Chaff						
Triticum dicoccum/spelta	emmer/spelt glume base	11#	3#		6#	
Fruit/Nut etc						
Corylus avellana	hazelnut	2#				
Wild Species						
Fabaceae				1#		
Vicia/Lathyrus sp. >2 mm	vetch/vetchling/tare, etc	2#				
Vicia/Lathyrus sp. <2 mm	vetch/vetchling/tare, etc	4#	1#	2#	17#	
Rumex sp.	docks	2	1		1	
Galium aparine	cleavers				1	

Sample No	Detail	1	2	3	4	5
Poaceae	grass seeds (various)	6#	1	1	6#	
Other						
Indet.	seed/fruit	3#			3#	
Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100) ++++=abundant (>100)						
# = Item is fragmented						

Discussion

B.1.6 It is difficult to draw any firm conclusions with regard to environment or economy for this site with such sparse evidence. The infrequent and fragmentary nature of the charred material may be an indication that the features sampled are at some distance from the original source, perhaps largely windblown.

B.1.7 The similarity in flot composition between the late Iron Age/early Romano-British samples and those from the 2nd century may indicate continuity in agricultural practices, but the evidence is slight at best and sample 1, as an upper ditch fill, may have incorporated some later material during infilling.

B.2 Animal bone

By Martyn Allen

Introduction

B.2.1 A total of 121 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site, plus a further 62 specimens from sieved samples. Only material from late Iron Age/Roman contexts were analysed, with the best dated coming from 1st- or 2nd-century AD features. Cattle and sheep/goat remains were the most common taxa present, with fewer specimens of pig, horse, dog and rodent present. The condition of the remains was generally good with most specimens surviving well. The assemblage was analysed using the author's comparative skeletal collection, with reference to standard recording criteria for animal bones.

General description of the remains

B.2.2 Cattle remains accounted for 22 specimens from contexts with 19 recorded as sheep/goat (Tables 4 and 5). Of the latter, one horncore specimen was from a sheep, while no specimens were conclusively identified as goat. Cattle and sheep/goat bones were recovered in small numbers from a range of contexts. Several elements were represented for cattle, including skull, trunk and long bones. A much higher proportion of the sheep/goat assemblage consisted of tooth fragments, and this is certainly a reflection of taphonomic effects impacting on the less-robust bones of sheep. Three

pig bones were identified, one each from contexts 104, 107 and 108. These consisted of mandible, radius and astragalus elements respectively.

B.2.3 Three horse bones were also identified, including two metacarpals from context 108. One of these was notably long and slender and may have come from a mule, though this is unproven. Four dog bones were all recovered from sieved samples from context 194. These consisted of foot bones and a tooth specimen. The remains suggest the presence of a particularly small dog, though none of the specimens were measurable. Two rodent bones were identified, including one from a sieved sample.

B.2.4 The remainder of the assemblage were skull, vertebra, rib and long-bone shaft specimens that could not be identified to species, though most if not all likely to derive from the taxa discussed above.

B.2.5 There were few specimens from which to gather ageing data. Most of the long bones derived from domestic mammals that had reached maturity. A sheep/goat metapodial from context 105 derived from a neonatal animal, suggesting the presence of a breeding flock nearby. A proximal sheep/goat femur from context 108 had not undergone epiphyseal fusion, and similarly neither a proximal cattle femur from context 104.

B.2.6 Butchery marks were restricted to two specimens. A cattle mandible from context 104 had cut marks on the buccal surface made during skinning, while a horse metacarpal from the same context had cuts on medial and lateral sides of distal shaft and on the medial side of proximal shaft.

B.2.7 The butchered horse metacarpal was the only specimen in the assemblage with signs of pathology. This consisted of a thin layer of periostitis over the surface of the cortical bone, particularly on the anterior surface. The aetiology of this pathology is uncertain, but it can be caused by a reaction to the animal's hoof striking a hard surface for a prolonged period.

Conclusion

B.2.8 The animal bone assemblage is too small for any firm conclusions regarding animal husbandry at the site. The presence of a breeding flock is evidenced by the bone of a neonatal lamb, while the butchered horse bone suggests that this animal had been skinned, though it is uncertain whether horse meat was being consumed. The slender nature of this bone possibly means that it derived from a mule rather than a horse, though this would need to be confirmed by biometric analysis.

Table 4: Number of hand-collected animal bone specimens by context

Taxon	104 LIA/ Roman	105 LIA/ Roman	106 LIA/ Roman	107 LIA/ Roman	108 m-l 1st C AD	192 l. 1st-mid 2nd C AD	126 2nd C AD	194 2nd C AD	196 Roman	Total
cattle	4	1	1	3	3	2	2	4		20
sheep/goat		2	2		1	1		3	3	12
sheep				1						1
pig	1			1	1					3
horse	1				2					3
rodent			1							1
large mammal	17	1		26	8	2	6			60
medium mammal			1			5		1		7
unidentified						14				14
total	23	4	5	31	15	24	8	8	3	121

Table 5: Number of animal bone specimens from sieved samples

Taxon	108	126	194	Total
cattle	1		1	2
sheep/goat	4		2	6
dog			4	4
rodent	1			1
large mammal		4		4
medium mammal	17		1	18
small mammal	1			1
unidentified	3	6	17	26
Total	27	10	25	62

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APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Nastend, Eastington, Gloucestershire
Site code:	OARA18
Grid reference:	SO 79208 06196
Type:	Excavation
Date and duration:	12 November–14 December 2018
Area of site:	0.5ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, pending identification of a suitable repository.
Summary of results:	The excavation uncovered a pit containing a prehistoric worked flint, and more extensive evidence for occupation during the late Iron Age/early Roman period and up to the 2nd century AD. Three phases of enclosure were identified within the area of the site including a late Iron Age phase, an early Roman phase (AD 50-120) and 2nd century phase (AD 120-200). The exact form of the late Iron Age/Roman enclosures was unclear as much of the central and northern part of the site appeared to have been truncated by modern ploughing. The truncation of the site had also removed any internal features of the enclosure although a piece of fired clay with a wattle impression found in a late Iron Age ditch suggested the presence of an oven structure nearby. Several environmental samples indicated that wheat was grown locally during the late Iron Age and during the 2nd century. The animal bone from late Iron Age/Roman contexts indicated the presence of cattle and sheep/goat remains with fewer specimens of pig, horse, dog and rodent. The pottery from the site consisted mainly of Malvern area fabrics in the late Iron Age, while Severn Valley ware was subsequently dominant. The Seven Valley ware includes two vessels which were clearly ‘seconds’. These appear to be identical in fabric to a similar ‘second’ or waster vessel from Hunts Grove, Quedgeley, located 5km north of the

site. This may indicate that there was a relatively local production of Severn Valley pottery in the area.

Three sherds of intrusive medieval pottery were found within the Roman ditch groups 205 and 204. These may have originated from a medieval furrow which itself had probably been truncated.

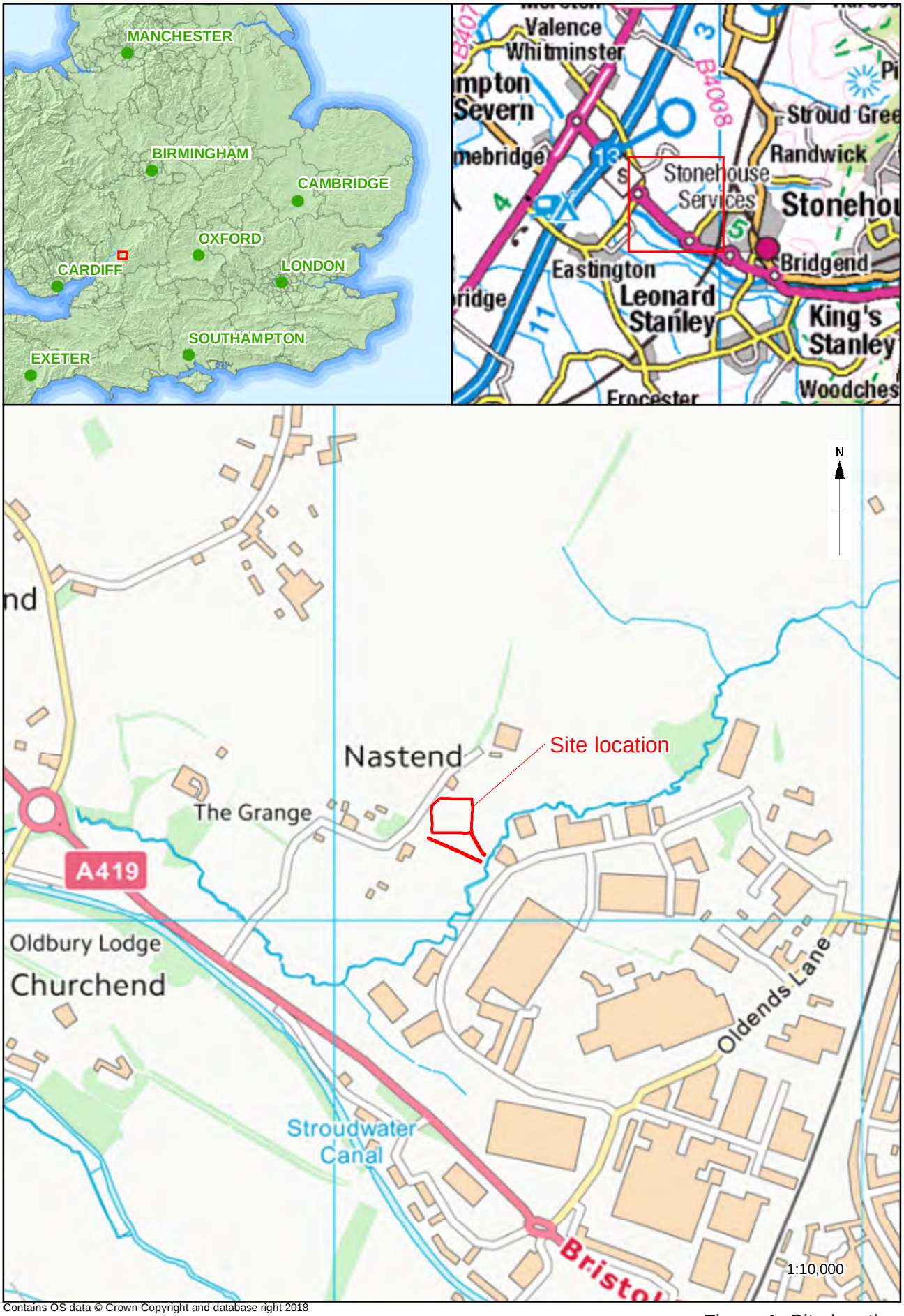

Figure 1: Site location

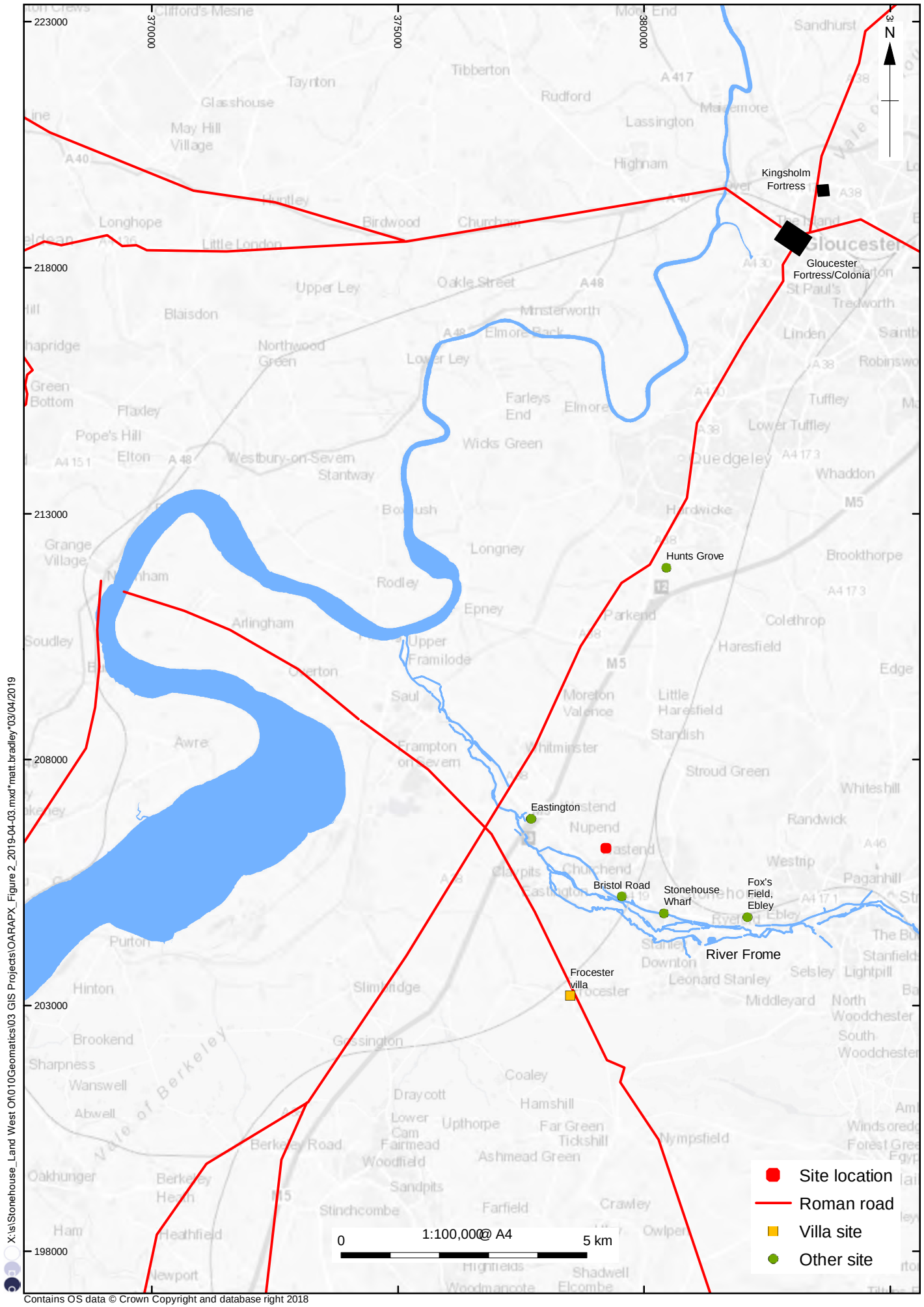

Figure 2: Roman sites mentioned in the text

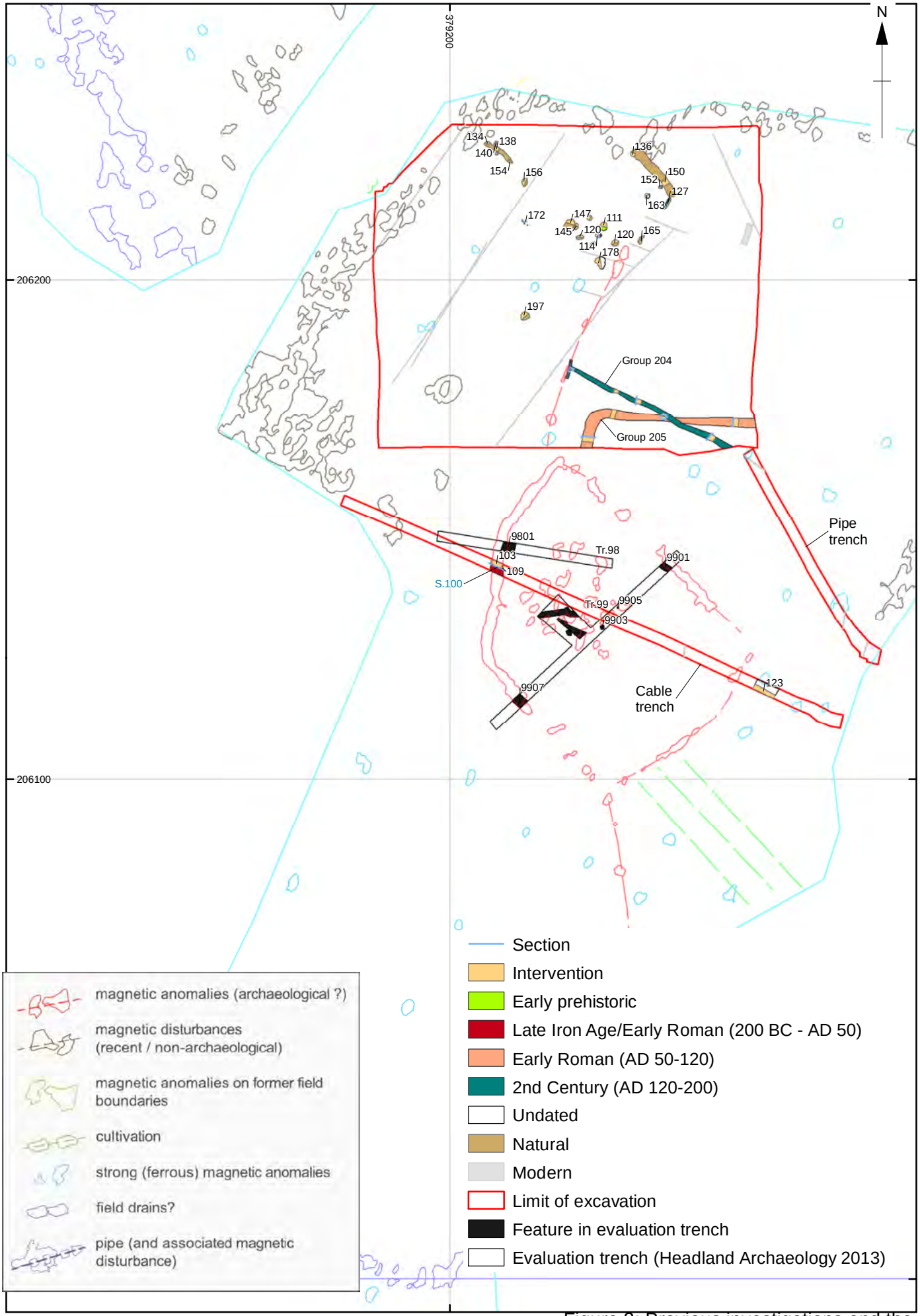

Figure 3: Previous investigations and the results of the 2018 excavation

Figure 4: Plan of the north of the site

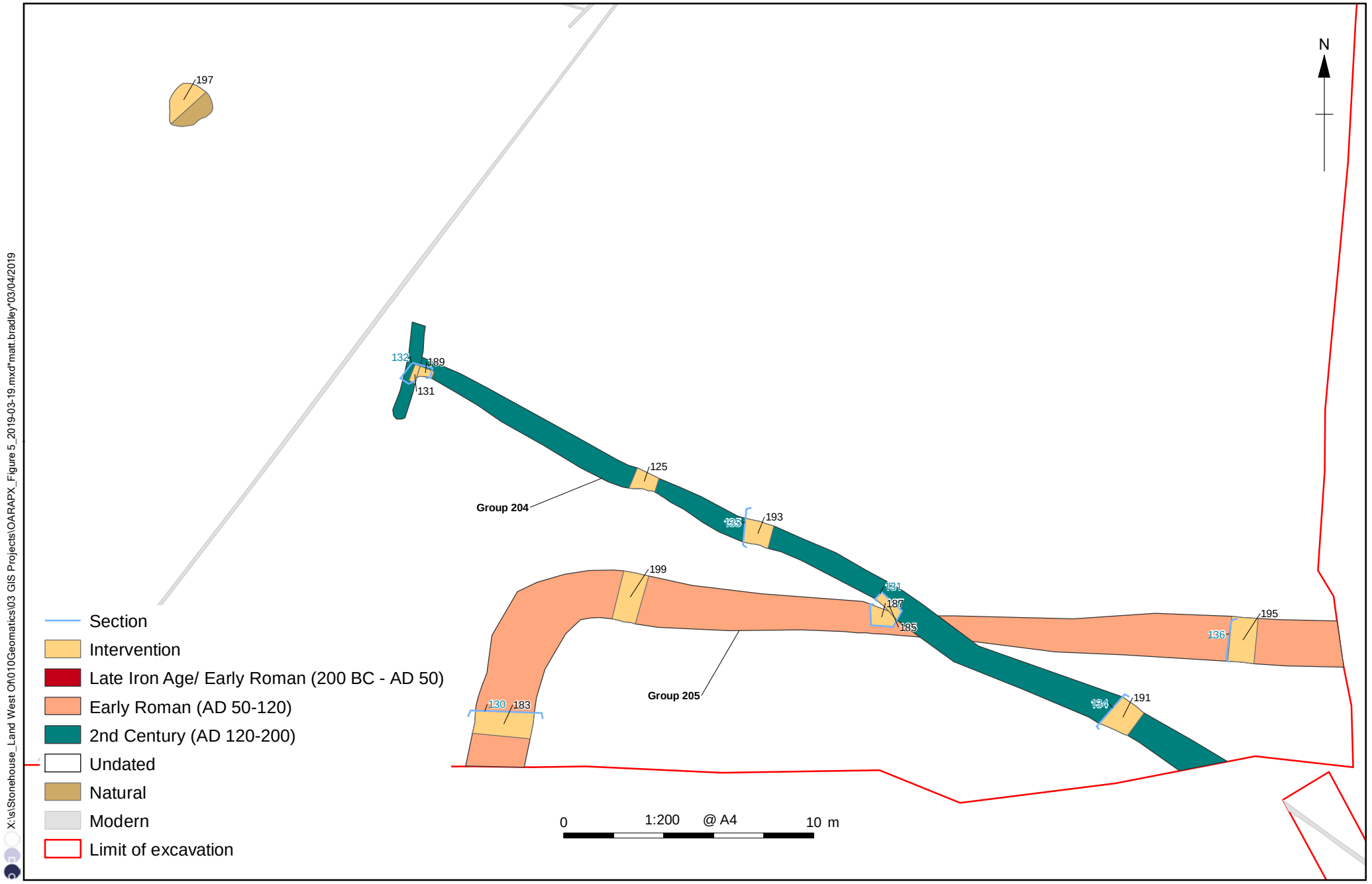

Figure 5: Plan of the south side of the site

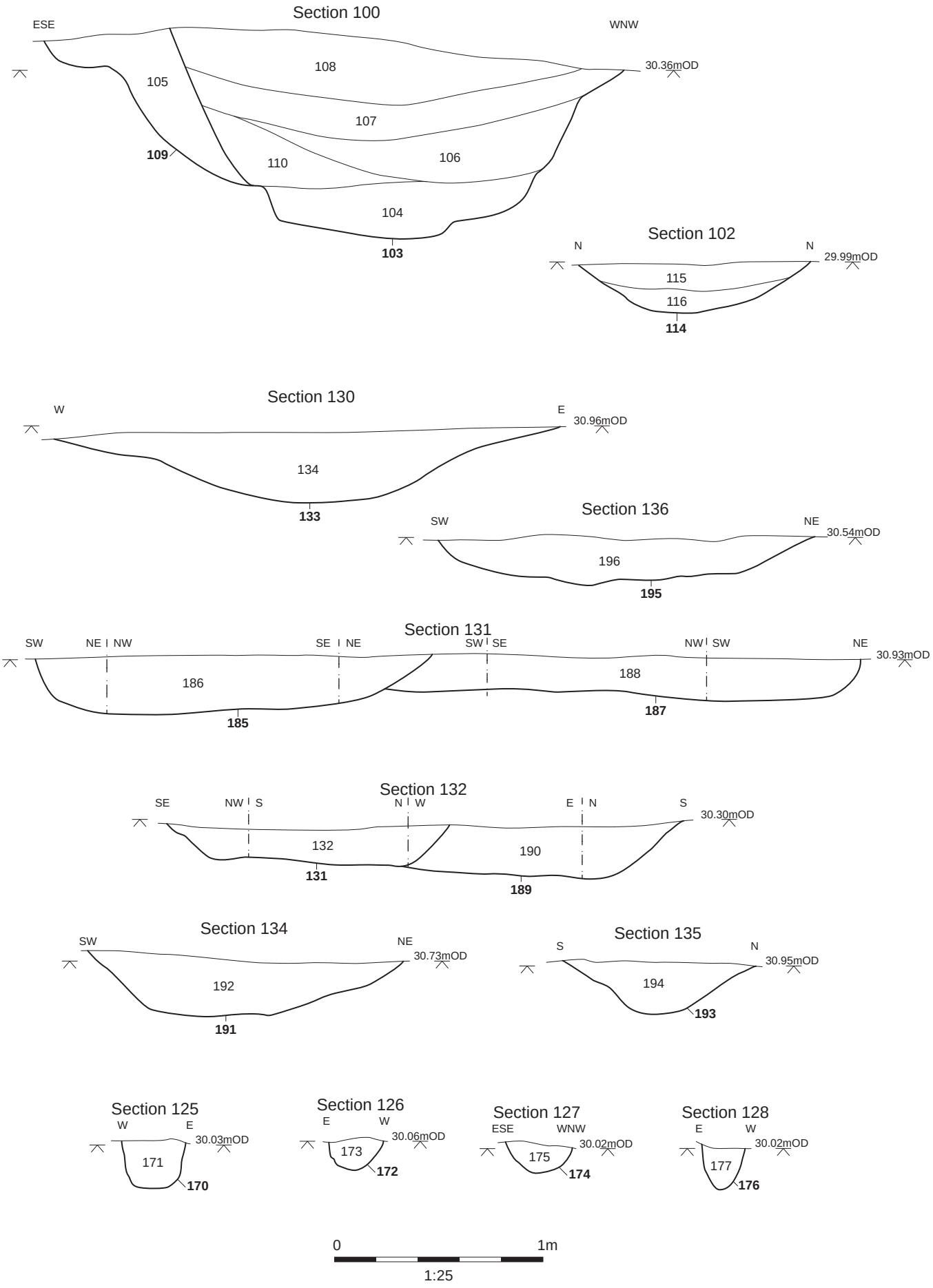

Figure 6: Selected sections

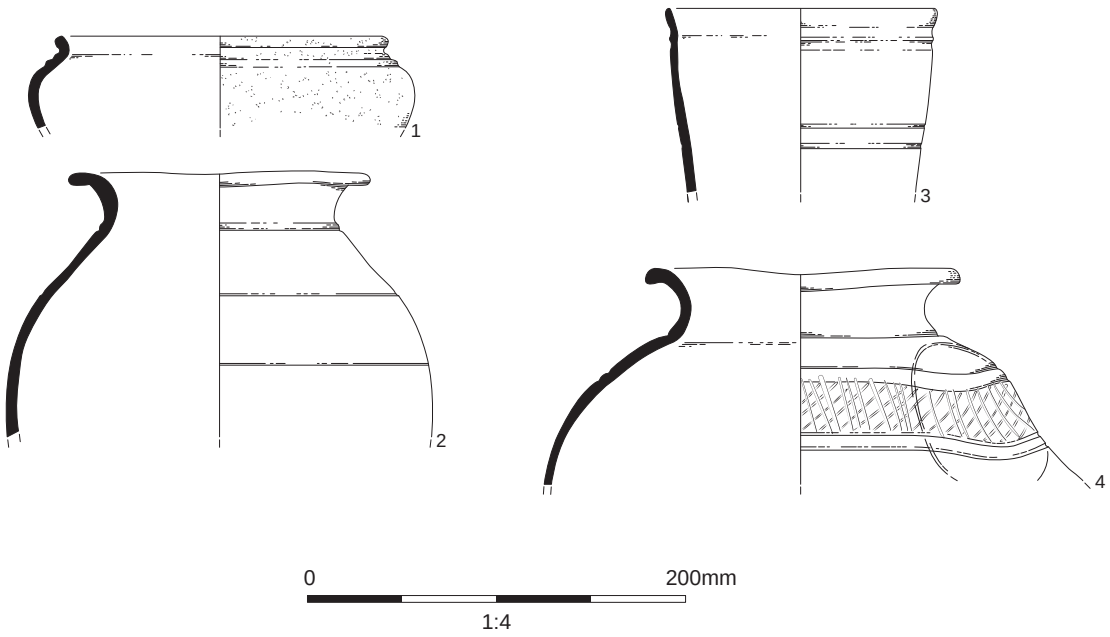

Figure 7: Roman pottery 1 - 4

Plate 1: Ditch 103/109 facing south

Plate 2: Pit 114 facing west

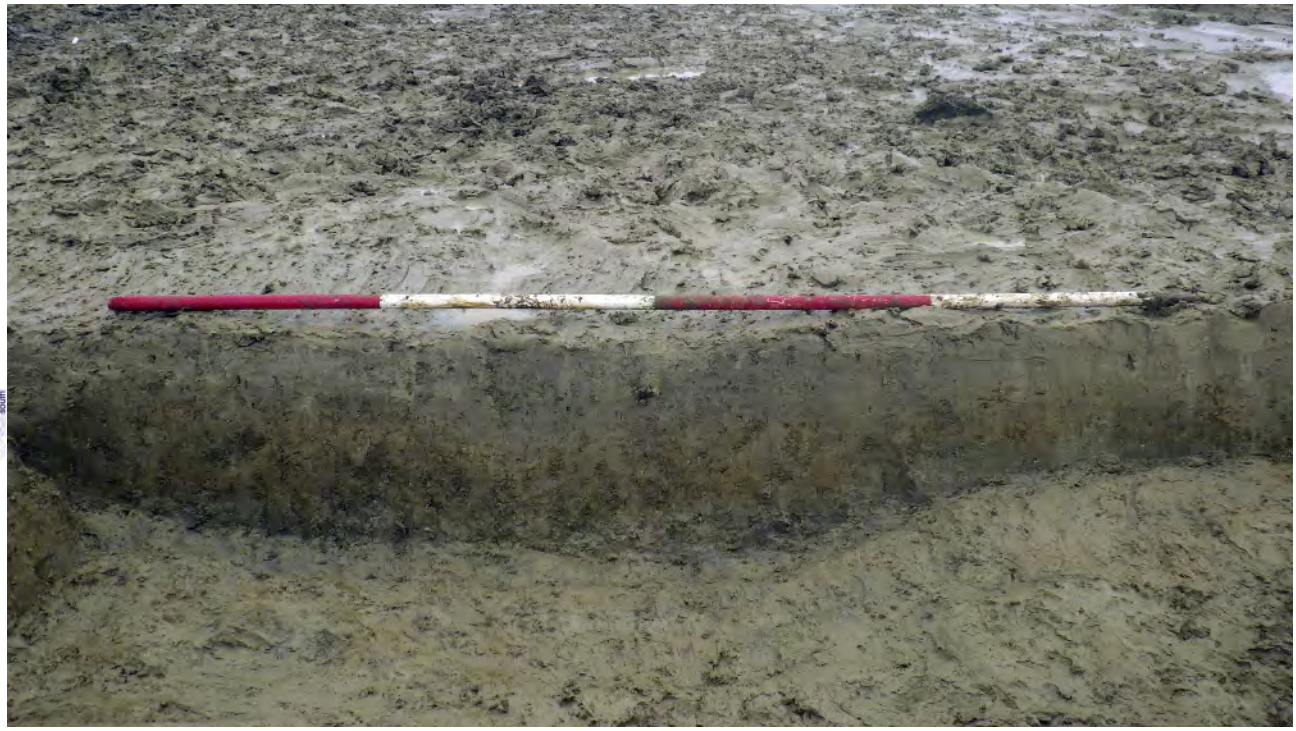

Plate 3: Ditch 195 (Group 205) facing west

Plate 4: Ditches 185 and 187 (Group 204 and 205) facing south-east

Plate 5: Ditch 191 (Group 204) facing north-west

Plate 6: Ditch/furrow 123 facing south

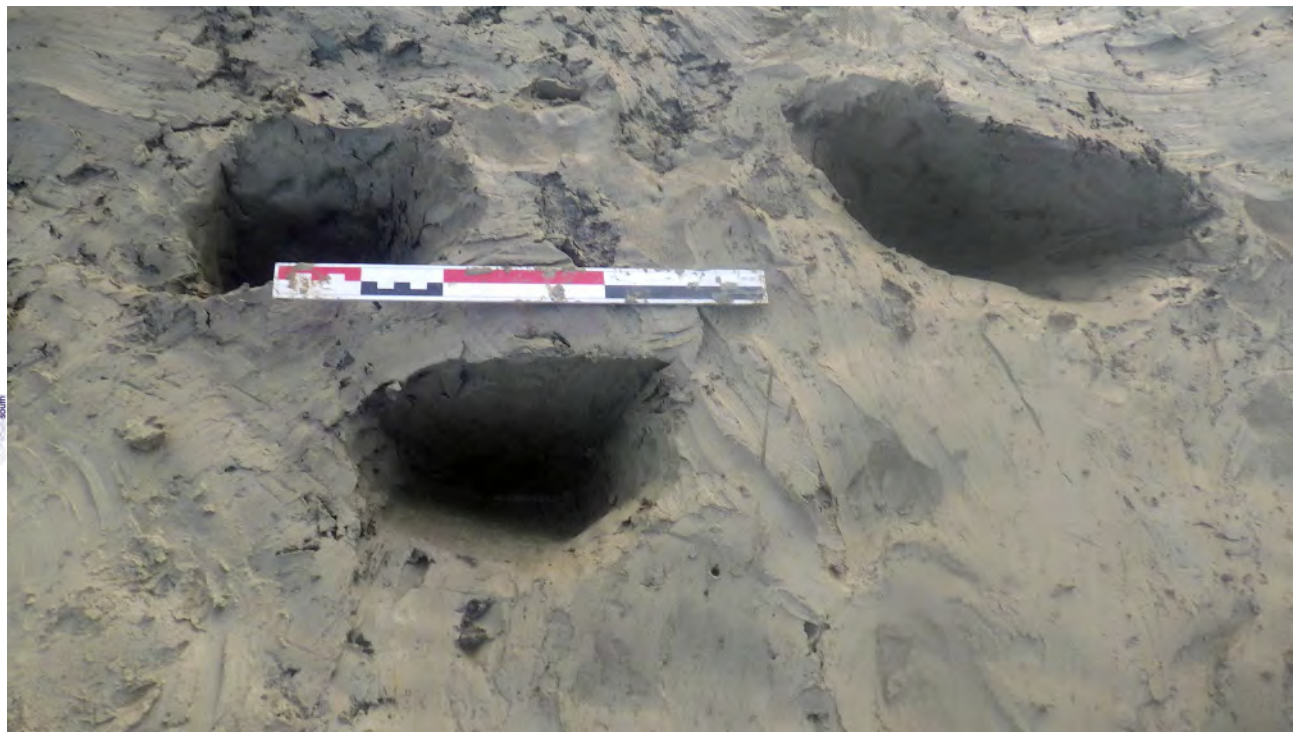

Plate 7: Postholes 170, 172 and 174 facing west

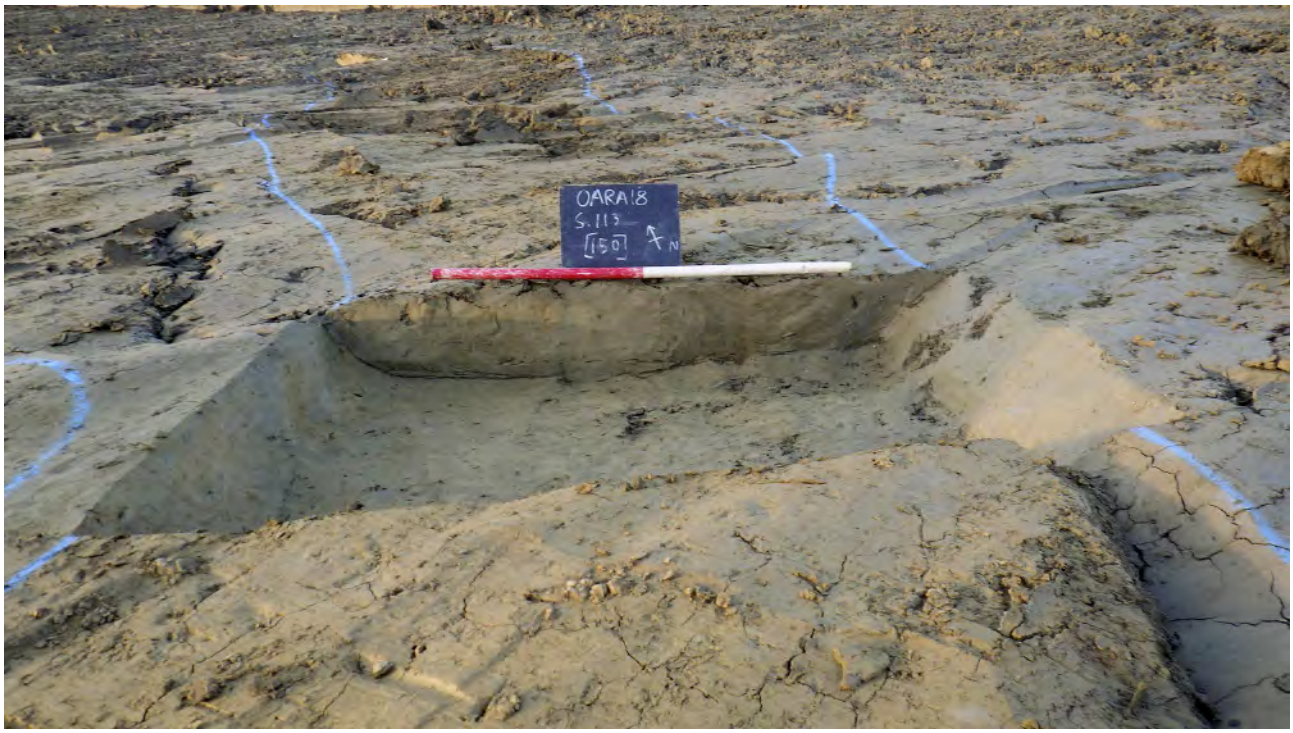

Plate 8: Linear 150 facing north-west

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