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1 SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology, on the site of the Anglian Regional Co-Operative Society Depot at Westfield Road, Peterborough. A total of nine trenches were opened. Of these, four were sterile, whilst another three revealed truncation by late 19th century quarrying. Towards the south-west corner of the site Trench 3 revealed an Iron Age ditch and post holes and one Roman feature while Trench 4 revealed a series of Roman features including the remains of at least one building.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site location

The site lies in the north-western part of Peterborough, enclosed on the north side by Westfield Road, and on the east by the railway running north from Peterborough Station (once known as the Great Northern Railway). Centred on National Grid Reference TL 1820 9970, the area under evaluation lies immediately to the west of site upon which the first phase of the evaluation was carried out. The area is a maximum of 160 metres north-south and 140 metres east-west. This area is currently in use by the Anglian Regional Co-Op Society as a vehicle depot. A number of warehouse buildings are still standing on site, with most of the area being under a compacted gravel and hardcore surface.

2.2 Planning background

A planning application has been submitted to the local planning authority for the redevelopment of the site by Boden Projects Ltd. Due to the fact that the site had potential for the survival of archaeological remains, an archaeological evaluation of the site was requested by the local planning authority. This was in order that the effect of the proposed development on any archaeological remains could be adequately assessed. A methodology for such an evaluation was agreed with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section on behalf of the local planning authority.

2.3 Archaeological background

A desktop assessment of the site has been prepared by AOC Archaeology *Archaeological Impact Assessment (Draft 1) of Westfield Road, Peterborough - April 1996*. The assessment identified the site as having been the area where significant finds of Roman date had been made between 1875 and the 1890's when the site was reputedly subject to quarrying for limestone. Workmen uncovered a large quantity of Roman material which was collected and recorded by local antiquarians. This material included coins of 1st to 4th Century AD, pottery, including fine wares, bronze rings and brooches, tile, animal bone, human burials, a particularly fine bronze torc and a Roman bronze equestrian statue. In addition to the artefacts, several larger archaeological features were observed and recorded; in particular, the remains of a ditch and bank orientated east-west across the southern part of the site and described as 40 feet wide with a small ditch along its southern side.

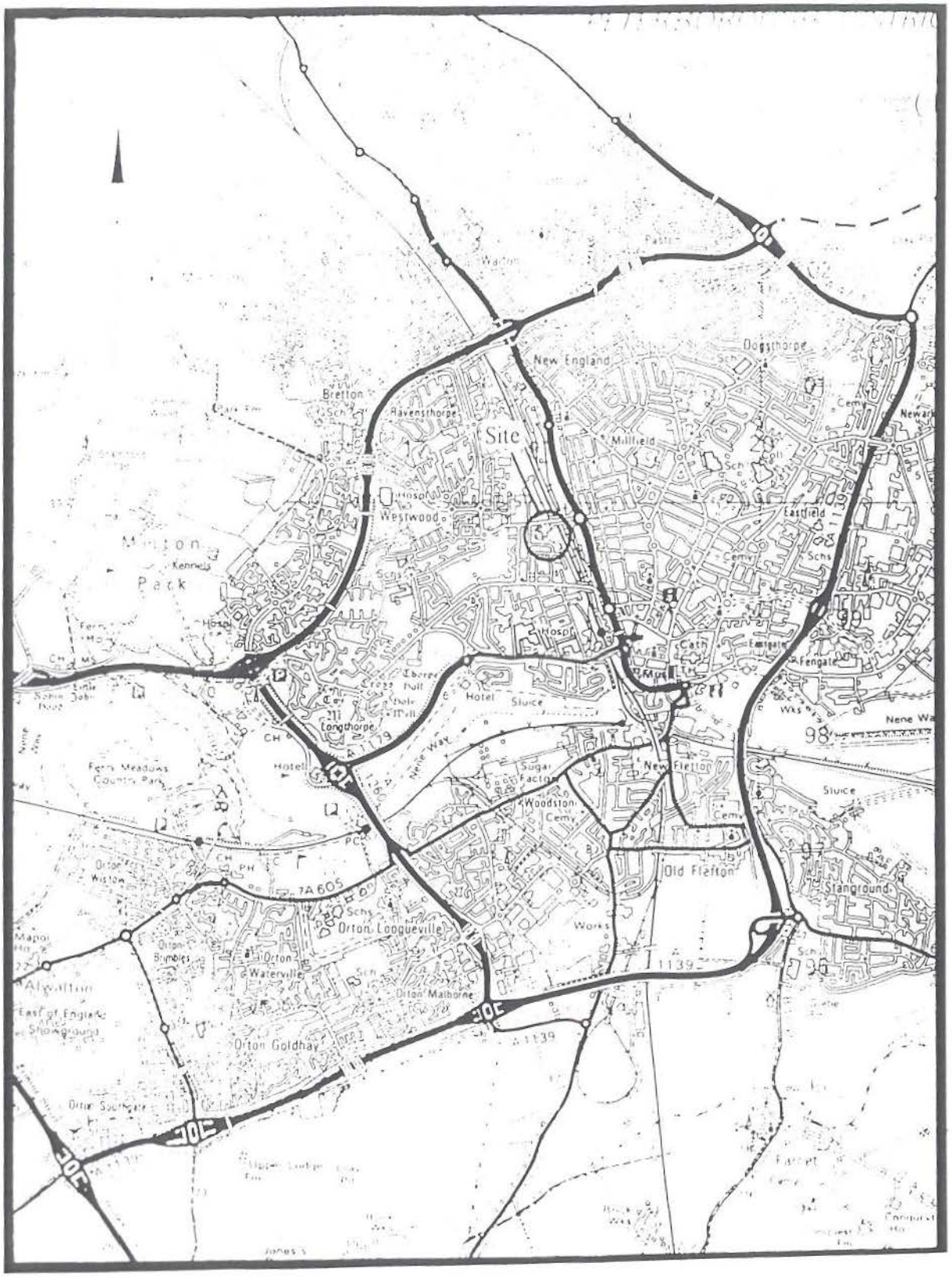


Figure 1 Site location

The area of Roman remains is known to extend further than the limits of the Phase I development site with material having been found during quarrying to the east of the railway, and to the south of the site during the construction of the Fulham Road Old People's flats, where excavation revealed post holes, wall footings and gravel floors.

From observations by the workmen involved with the quarrying on the east side of the railway and published by Walker (The Traces of the Roman Occupation Left in Peterborough and the Surrounding District, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, New Series V, 58, 1899), it would appear that the majority of the Phase I development site lies immediately outside an area enclosed by the large ditch and bank referred to above. This is inferred from the observation that it turned 'at a sharp angle to the south in the direction of the river'. North of this enclosed area c. forty burials were located, the majority to the east of the railway but the richer burials to the west in the proposed development area. In addition two wells were located to the east of the railway, while the only other features recorded within the Phase I development site were a ditch in close association with the burials, and a horse burial. It seems therefore, that the Phase I development site contained a large boundary to a settlement to the south, possible settlement remains in the extreme southern part of the site and a cemetery to the north of that settlement. It is possible that the boundary to the cemetery was the ditch seen in close association with the burials and that, therefore, the cemetery did not extend very far north.

From the results of the desktop assessment, and in particular the cartographic evidence of 1886, it was assumed that large areas of potential Roman remains would have been destroyed by quarrying. Map evidence associated with present boundaries were thought to show the extent of this.

In addition to the Roman remains map evidence indicated the sites of four lime kilns, along the west edge of the Phase I development area, dated to the late 19th century with associated trackways and buildings.

The majority of the Roman remains were thought to have lain in the eastern part of the site where Phase I development is taking place. The extent of the quarrying and kilns are again thought to be confined to this part of the development area. An archaeological evaluation of the Phase I area was undertaken through the excavation of seven trenches. The results of the evaluation (*An Archaeological Evaluation of the Site of Proposed Development at the Co-Op Site, Westfield Road, Peterborough*. AOC Archaeology, October 1996) are summarised here.

No evidence was found, within the bounds of the evaluation, to support the presence of Roman remains on the site. It was suggested that the remains were limited and may well have been destroyed by the quarrying. Only two of the trenches, at the extreme south and north-east limits of the site, found evidence for quarrying. A trench on the western side of the Phase I development area found evidence associated with the burning of limestone in an area were a kiln had been postulated from documentary sources.

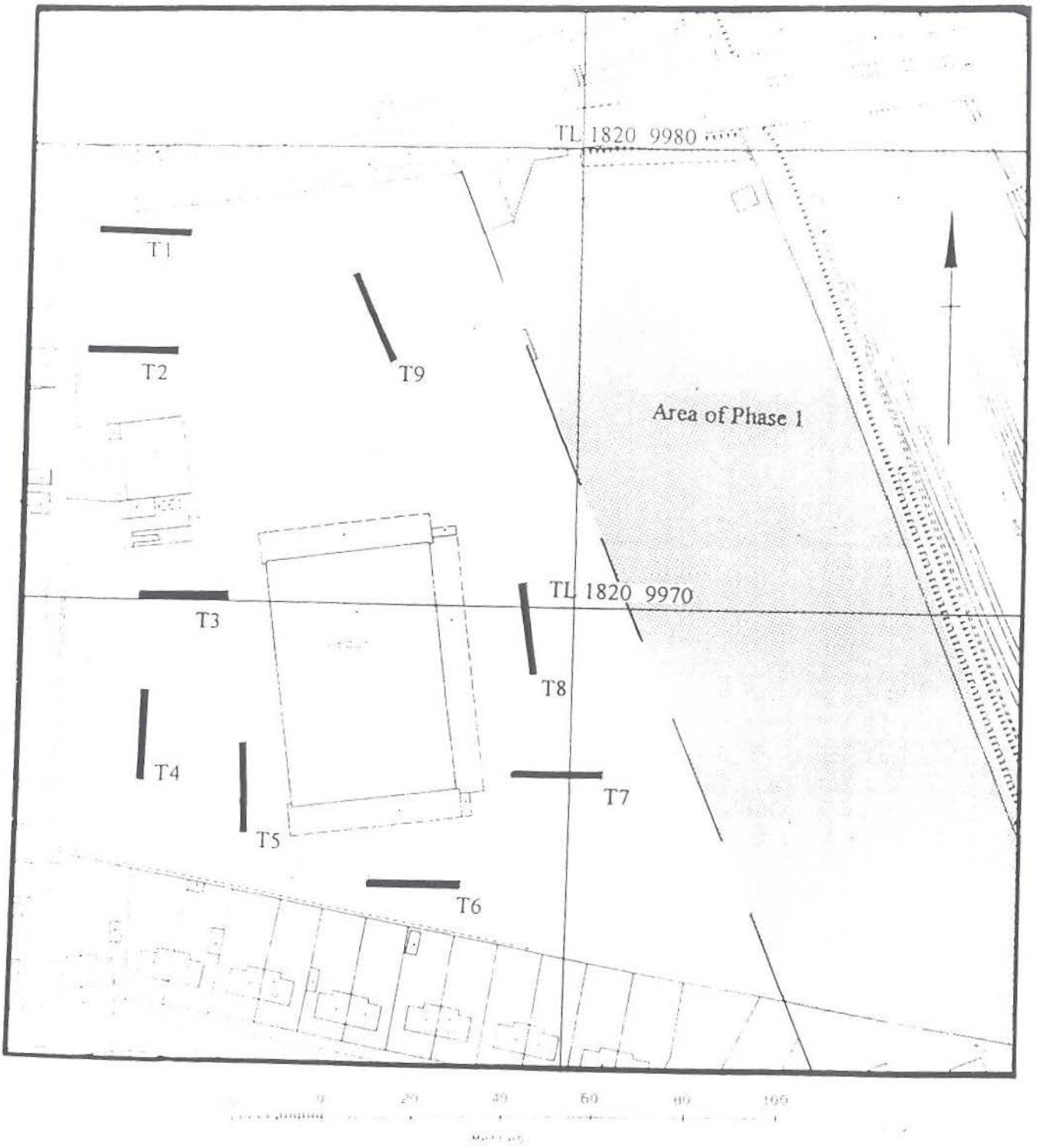


Figure 2 Trench location

Excavation of the same trench on the west side of the Phase I area revealed a ditch orientated WNW-ESE. From its fill material five shell-tempered pottery sherds were recovered. While this fabric is not dissimilar from a local late Roman pottery fabric, the presence of decoration in the form of one finger impression suggests that this material derives from the early or middle Iron Age. The presence of this pottery associated with fragments of animal bone suggests some form of Iron Age activity in the area which may be present on the proposed Phase II development area. The presence of such a quantity of artefacts may be indicative of the ditch being associated with settlement as opposed to it being a field boundary.

2.4 Aims of the Investigation

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of an archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits
- In particular for the Roman period the evaluation to address the following issues:

Are there any traces associated with the supposed settlement thought to lie further east and known to be to the south-east. Remains may survive in the Phase II development area as quarrying is thought not to have extended this far west?

Given the type of remains of this period previously recorded and discussed above, any deposits present are likely to be ditches associated with contemporary field systems.

Are there further remains of the Iron Age period? Is it possible to characterise the remains? Are they associated with field systems or settlement? If the latter, are there enclosures present with or without houses, are storage pits/structures present? Is there zoning of use across the site?

- To assess the impact of the present buildings on any remains present. If remains are present they are expected to lie at a horizon c.150-400mm below present ground level.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research design

A scheme of investigation for the second phase of the site was designed by AOC Archaeology and approved by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section on behalf of the local planning authority, with the agreement of the applicant. The evaluation was to involve the excavation of nine trenches all 1.65 metres wide by 20 metres long. Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were located within the foundation footprints of the proposed buildings, whilst Trenches 3, 8 and 9 were located on proposed car park areas. There was provision made to relocate trenches if this was required to allow for access and to avoid concrete slab.

All undifferentiated material was to be machine-excavated by a JCB equipped with a toothless bucket to the surface of either any significant archaeological remains or to natural deposits. The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits which might better be excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation, or might warrant preservation *in situ*, would not be compromised.

Provision was made in the project design for post-excavation funding to provide for Level 3 analysis and reports as outlined in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991).

The work was carried out to the standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

The trench locations were established by a surveyor from Gallifords, on behalf of Boden Projects Ltd. Trenches were in their agreed positions with the exception of Trench 1 which was moved 10 metres west , Trench 5 which was moved 5 metres west and Trench 7 which was moved 6 metres east. All three trenches were moved to allow for continued access to the Co-Op depot.

The trenches were initially machine dug using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were machine excavated either to a level where archaeological deposits were encountered, or to natural deposits. In most trenches additional machining was carried out to investigate the natural deposits.

Standard AOC Archaeology recording techniques were used throughout involving the completion of written trench and context sheets for each deposit, cut or structure encountered, along with scale plans and/or section drawings where appropriate. Levels for each context were established relative to a height above Ordnance Datum, based on two temporary bench marks, the heights of which were established from a benchmark on the building on the north side of Westfield Road. A full photographic record was also made, using black and white and colour slide film.

4 RESULTS

The results of the evaluation are described below. The results have been presented either by individual trench or grouped together were trenches revealed similar sequences. Relevant figures are referred to where appropriate.

Trenches 1 and 2

The lowest recorded deposit in both trenches was a mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions appearing at approximately 15.50 metres OD in both trenches. This natural deposit was machine excavated a further 0.15 metres deeper. Overlying this in both trenches was a mid brown friable clayey silt (1/002 and 2/002) with occasional stone inclusions. The thickness of this deposit varied between 0.35 metres and 0.52 metres in Trench 1 and 0.23 metres and 0.30 metres in Trench 2. This appeared to be a subsoil with little evidence of any disturbance or use other than an area of diesel contamination encountered at the east end of Trench 2. It is possible that it is a ploughsoil. Both trenches were sealed by the current compacted surface which consisted of mixed gravel, asphalt, brick and concrete.

Trench 3 (Figures 3 and 4, Plates 1 and 2)

The lowest recorded deposit was a mid brownish orange slightly silty clay (3/003) with very occasional small stone inclusions appearing at 15.23 metres OD. This natural deposit was recorded across the entire length of the trench. This deposit was cut by a series of archaeological features. 11 metres from the east end of the trench a wall feature was encountered. This consisted of three associated contexts. An area of the trench about a metre wide was extended 2 metres to the south to ascertain the nature and orientation of this feature. The decision was made, in consultation with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section, not to excavate any of the feature as a better understanding would be reached by full excavation at a later date. Within the area exposed the feature was hand-cleaned and dating evidence was retrieved. The main part of the wall (3/014) was orientated north-north-west/south-south-east and consisted of rough hewn, sub angular limestone blocks which appeared to be set into the natural (3/003) rather than sitting in a cut. This was either the butt end or a doorway to the north while the wall continued south beyond the limits of the trench. There was no apparent coursing suggesting that this was the very base of the foundation with some of the more randomly positioned blocks being the result of collapse or demolition. There was some patches of degraded pale yellow mortar, but the exposed area of the wall appeared to be of a dry stone construction rather than mortared. In the south portion of the trench extension the surface of another wall (3/015) was exposed which was orientated east-south-east/west-north-west and appeared to be butting 3/014, although this relationship was not clear. This wall was of a similar construction as wall 3/014, except that the stones were smaller in size. Between these two walls a mixed layer (3/016) was exposed which consisted of a compact sandy silt clay and a mixture of limestone, tile fragments, plaster and mortar flecks and lumps. This deposit was hand cleaned but was not excavated, although some dating evidence was collected including pottery, CBM and a glass fragment. The tile and mortar

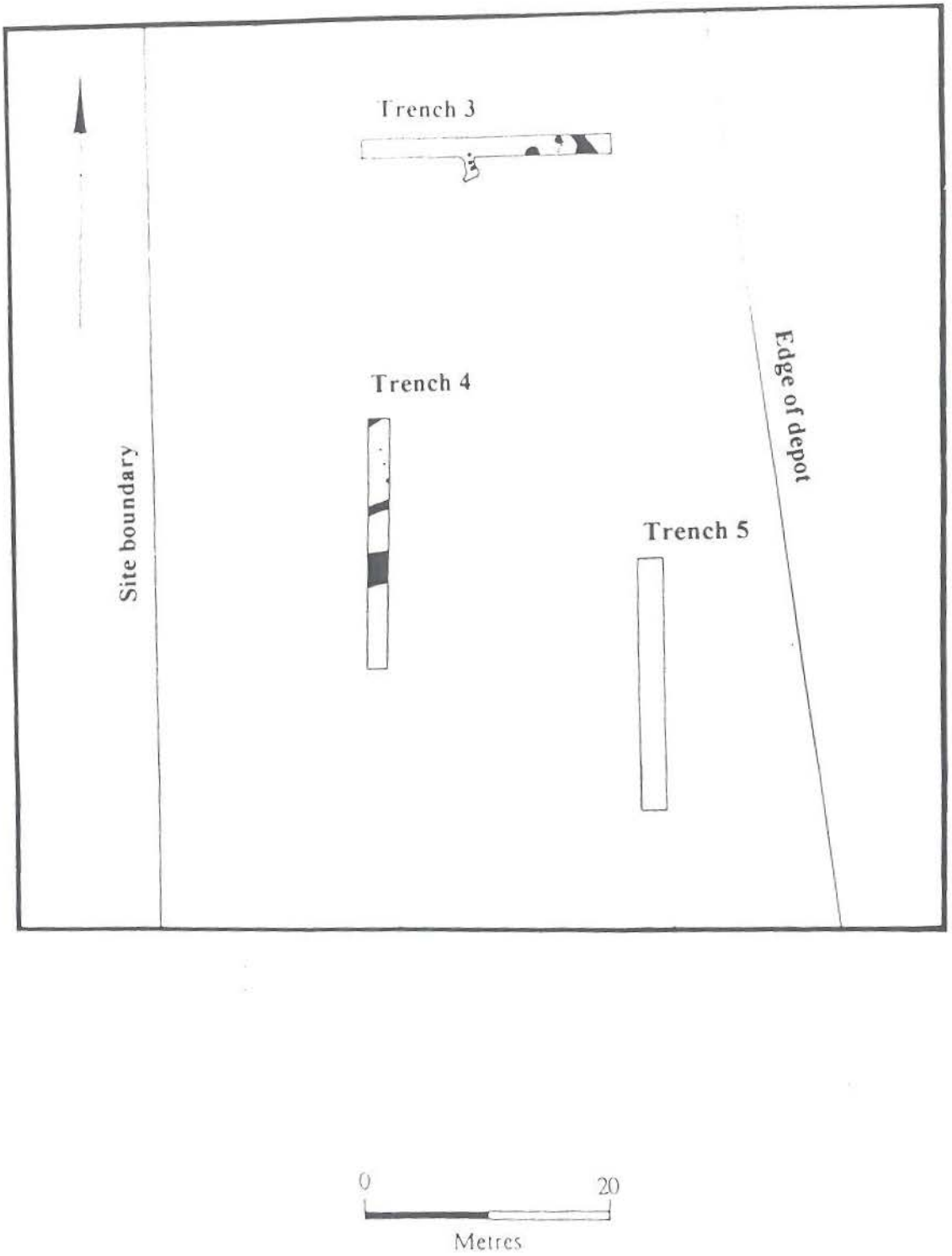


Figure 3: Trenches 3 and 4 showing feature alignment

suggested it was possibly a surface associated with the walls which had fallen into disuse along with these walls

At the east end of the trench a ditch (cut 3/010) orientated north-north-west/south-south-east was exposed. This was 1 metre wide and 0.42 metres deep, with a fairly sharp, even break of slope onto an irregular base. It was filled with a firm dark greyish brown clayey silt (3/011) with occasional medium stone inclusions. This fill was uniform throughout suggesting that it had been infilled rather than silted up. The ditch cut by a circular post pit (cut 3/012) on the western edge. This cut had a steep break of slope to a tapered base. It was filled with a firm mid greyish brown clayey silt (3/013) with frequent limestone placed within the cut and acting as packing for a post. A central post pipe was defined by the limit of these stones although the fill of the post hole was uniform throughout the feature. This was very similar to two other post pits also recorded in this trench. The largest of these was 5.2 metres from the eastern end of the trench. The cut (3/004) for this was rounded with a diameter of 0.95 metres, with a steep break of slope becoming more gradual to a rounded base at a depth of 0.55 metres. This was filled with a firm mid greyish brown clayey silt (3/005) and frequent sub angular limestone. These limestone blocks were deliberately and carefully placed to provide a firm foundation for a fairly substantial post. These packing stones formed a well defined circle around the post pipe (3/006) which was filled with a dark greyish brown clayey silt with very occasional small stone inclusions. This was 0.33 metres in diameter, and was 0.70 metres deep to a tapered base. Between those two post pits described above was one other, an equal distance between them and slightly further to the north. This sub circular cut (3/008) was 0.57 metres in diameter with a gradual break of slope to a rounded base at a depth of 0.19 metres. This post pit was both smaller and shallower than the other two encountered. This was filled with a firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent sub angular limestone inclusions although there was no visible post pipe. To the south of this feature were a series of shallow depressions (3/007) in a north-south alignment. The exact nature of these depressions was unclear, but it was possible they were traces of a fence line.

Sealing all these features was a mid grey brown clayey silt (3/002) with occasional small stones and modern brick fragments along with some sherds of post medieval pottery. Whilst this was obviously disturbed, it was also directly over the wall feature so it likely that this was the origional soil rather than an imported make up layer. Sealing this was the existing surface (3/001) which consisted of tarmac and the associated brick and rubble make-up.

The finds collected from this trench give a clear Roman date, and this small area produced an interesting selection of features possibly associated with a Romano British farmstead.

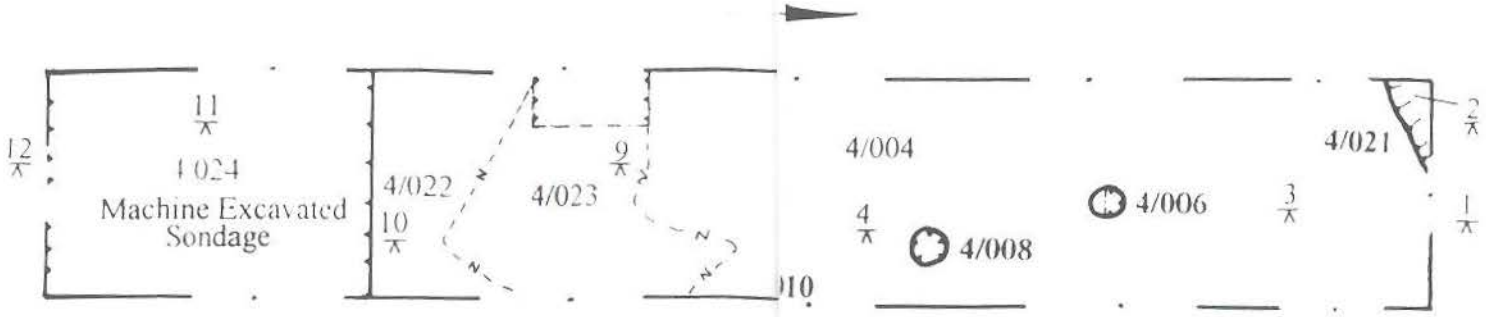
Trench 4 (Figures 3 and 5)

The lowest recorded deposit was a light yellowish brown sand and limestone natural (4/024) seen in a machine excavated sondage at the south end of the trench at 14.15 metres OD. Overlying this was a mixed deposit consisting of a mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel and a friable mid brown silty clay (4/025). This mixed deposit was seen in the section of the machine excavated sondage and was quarry infill the same as the sequence seen in Trenches 6, 7 and 8. Overlying this was another layer of friable mid brown silty clay

(4/023) from which clay pipe stem fragments were collected during test excavation into this deposit. Overlying this was a redeposited mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel (4/022) which was also part of the quarrying infill. This deposit was cut by a fairly regular "V" shaped cut (4/016) orientated east-west across the trench. The primary fill of this feature was a fairly compact mid brown sandy silt (4/015) with occasional stone inclusions. Overlying this was a mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel (4/014) which was in turn below the upper fill, 4/013, which had the same matrix as 4/015. Whilst some of the finds from these fills were of a Roman date, clearly post-medieval clay pipe stem fragments and pottery were also retrieved. This feature was probably associated with the quarrying, supported by the late finds and the nature of the fills. The residual Roman pottery suggests that this quarrying activity had truncated at least some potential archaeological remains.

The north edge of cut 4/016 was cutting into a mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel (4/004) which extended along the remainder of the trench to the north. Unlike similar deposits described above, this was an undisturbed natural deposit. It was not possible to machine excavate a sondage at the north end of the trench without destroying archaeological deposits, but it is likely that this context was overlying the limestone natural 4/024 which was recorded in the southern end of the trench. This deposit was cut by a number of archaeological features. Whilst these were not stratigraphically related, some of them were obviously associated with each other.

An east-west orientated feature was revealed crossing the trench 7.5 metres from the northern limit. The cut for this ditch was 0.76 metres wide by 0.40 metres deep with a gradual break of slope to a flat fairly regular base. The primary fill of this ditch was a firm mid grey brown silt (4/019) with occasional small to medium gravel and limestone inclusions. Overlying this were fills 4/017 and 4/018. These both had the same matrix (differentiated due the division created by the latest fill 4/011) being a dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions. 4/017 and 4/018 were against the north edge of the cut and the south edge respectively. The latest fill (4/011) was a fairly loose mid to dark brown clayey silt with frequent stone inclusions. The stones within the matrix were mostly medium to large with a combination of fairly flat angular and sub-angular limestone and rounded flint. This stones were "mixed" within the fill with a moderate amount of disarticulated animal bone. Whilst the soil matrix of this fill was very similar to both 4/017 and 4/018 it was clearly differentiated by the stone and bone, and this was very clear in section, with the stone appearing to fill a vertical slot which ran right to the base of the origional cut. The shape in section does not look like a recut but like infill suggesting that a beam was removed from here, which could have formed part of a fairly substantial building. Three pottery sherds were collected from context 4/011, all of which were of an Iron Age date. On the northern edge one stake hole (4/026) was excavated to a depth of 0.12 metres. This was straight driven with a blunted, tapered base and a mid greyish brown clayey silt fill. No other associated stake holes were found, this one was presumably associated with the ditch. To the north of these features were three post holes in a north-north-west/south-south-east alignment. The most northerly of these (cut 4/006) was 2.10 metres from the north baulk, and the most southerly (cut 4/010) was 4.90 metres. The other post hole (cut 4/008) was fairly central, and on alignment with the other two. It was possible that a further post hole (or post holes) was lost under the eastern baulk to the south, but to the north no further post holes were evident on this alignment suggesting termination at this point or a turn in alignment to the west or to the east. The cuts of post holes 4/008 and 4/006 were both rounded in plan with a regular "U" shaped cut in section.



Levels

	RL
1	15.75
2	14.76
3	15.01
4	15.11
5	15.09
6	14.83
7	15.04
8	14.46
9	14.58
10	14.51
11	14.01
12	15.67

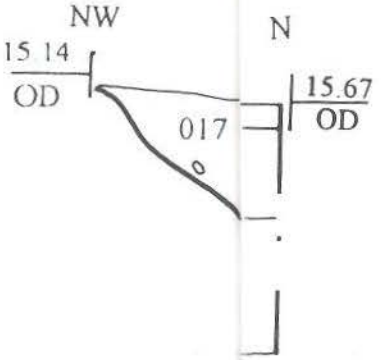


Figure 5 Plan of Trench 4 and related s

Cut 4/010 was also "U" shaped in section, but was more oval in plan All three were approximately 0 20 metres in depth The fills of all three post holes were identical, being filled with a mid grey-brown sandy silt All three had very high levels of charcoal inclusions with occasional small fired clay fragments Pottery was collected from the fill of 4/010 and these three small sherds proved tobe Iron Age in date.

In the very north-east corner of Trench 4 a small portion of a cut feature (4/021) was recorded Due to the small area seen, it is unclear whether this is a pit or a ditch The portion was fully excavated revealing a steep break of slope along a sub linear edge, not enough of the feature was exposed to reveal any of the base. The fill was a mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions. Finds collected from this fill were of a clear Roman date. Sealing all of the above sequence was a fairly compact mid brown clayey silt (4/003) with very occasional post-medieval pottery collected. It appeared from the photographs that cut 4/021 was in fact partially cutting through this layer, implying that this Roman feature was cut from a higher level than those of the Iron Age period. To clarify the exact point at which this feature was cut from would require more exposure of the feature and this would be a question to answer during any further work. It is possible that this feature is of a more recent date with the pottery being residual. 4/003 was sealed by a layer of loose sand and brick rubble (4/002) which was 0.27 metres thick.. This made ground was in turn sealed by the existing compacted gravel and asphalt surface (4/001).

Whilst the south end of this trench was truncated by quarrying activity similar to that encountered in Trenches 6, 7 and 8, the remainder of the trench revealed archaeological features of both Iron Age and Roman date.

Trench 5

The lowest recorded deposit was a light yellowish brown sand and limestone natural seen in machine excavated sondages at either end of the trench at 14.15 metres OD. This was below another natural deposit, 5/005, which was a mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel natural approximately 0.27 metres thick. Overlying this was friable mid brown silty clay (5/003), 0.35 metres thick, with occasional gravel inclusions. This was a buried subsoil, possibly a ploughsoil, and proved to be sterile, with no traces of any disturbance or use. Sealing this was a greenish brown silty clay (5/002) with frequent brick, concrete and gravel inclusions. There was also frequent lenses of burning and of diesel contamination throughout. This appeared to be a modern, mixed make-up and demolition layer, and was below the existing surface (5/001) which consisted of tarmac and compacted brick fragments and mortar make-up. This surface was sealing one modern concrete pipe casing (5/004) orientated east-west across the trench and cutting 5/002. This was left *in situ*.

Trench 6

The lowest recorded deposit was a mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel (6/005) appearing at approximately 14.00 metres OD. This was machine excavated a further 0.40 metres in the east end of the trench. Cutting this deposit were four features numbered 6/006, 6/007, 6/008 and 6/009 from west to east. Of these, only 6/006 was regular in shape with a shallow " U" shaped cut orientated north-east/south-west across the western end of

the trench. The other three features were all irregular in shape and both 6/008 and 6/009 were seen to be below 6/005. The fills of all these features were identical to each other, and also to the overlying deposit, 6/004. This was a dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions which was 0.61 metres thick. Overlying this was a mid greyish brown clayey silt (6/003), 0.37 metres thick, with moderate charcoal, brick and stone inclusions. This was sealed by a brownish yellow sand, gravel, brick and rubble layer (6/002) which was 0.28 metres thick. This was below the existing thin (0.05 metres) turf and topsoil layer (6/001).

It is clear that the lowest recorded deposit in this trench was a redeposited natural, rather than undisturbed. This is proven by the fills of features 6/008 and 6/009 going below 6/005, as well as the section seen in the machine excavated sondage in the eastern end which clearly showed mixing between 6/005 and 6/004. The identical nature of the fills of the features recorded and the sealing deposit 6/004 proves that rather than being cut features these are lenses within the infilling, and also part of a redeposition sequence. The late post medieval finds recovered from these features and the known limestone quarrying, suggest that everything below 6/003 is in fact infilling of quarry pits. The machine excavated sondage was not of a sufficient depth to clarify true natural in this trench, but it was deep enough to conclusively prove that any potential archaeology had been truncated by quarrying activity. It would appear that 6/003 and 6/004 represent a later phase of levelling, probably associated with the existing development.

Trenches 7 and 8 (Figure 6)

The lowest recorded deposit in both Trenches 7 and 8 was a light yellowish brown sand and limestone natural (7/010 and 8/007) appearing at 13.45 metres OD in Trench 7 and at 13.74 metres OD in Trench 8. This was over machined in a sondage in both trenches to confirm this was undisturbed rather than redeposited natural. Overlying this in both trenches was a sequence of redeposited layers. In Trench 7 a total of eight layers were recorded (contexts 7/002 to 7/009). These consisted of redeposited natural limestone as described above (7/003 and 7/006), redeposited mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel (7/004, 7/007 and 7/009) or redeposited mid brown clayey silt (7/002 and 7/005). Layer 7/008 was very similar to 7/004 etc. but was redder in colour. All of these layers showed a clear tip from west to east. This is best illustrated in figure 6 which shows a sample of the section in this trench. Sealing these redeposited layers was a 0.40 metres thick layer of mid brown friable sandy silt (7/001) top soil with occasional gravel and brick inclusions.

Trench 8 revealed a similar sequence of redeposited layers. Overlying the natural limestone 8/007 was a mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel (8/003). As in Trench 6, the section in the machine excavated sondage at the south end of the trench clearly showed mixing between 8/003 and a mid brown clayey silt the same as 8/004. Overlying 8/003 was a mid brown clayey silt (8/004) which in plan had a similar appearance to those "features" encountered in Trench 6. This was below 8/005, a black deposit consisting of charcoal and burnt material along with frequent post medieval pottery and glass, a sample of which was collected. This was in turn sealed by a clayey sand deposit (9/006) with frequent gravel inclusions. Overlying this was a dark brown clayey silt (8/002), which was 0.60 metres thick, with occasional brick and gravel inclusions. Sealing this was a recently disturbed dark brown clayey silt. This deposit was the same as 8/002 except it had clearly been

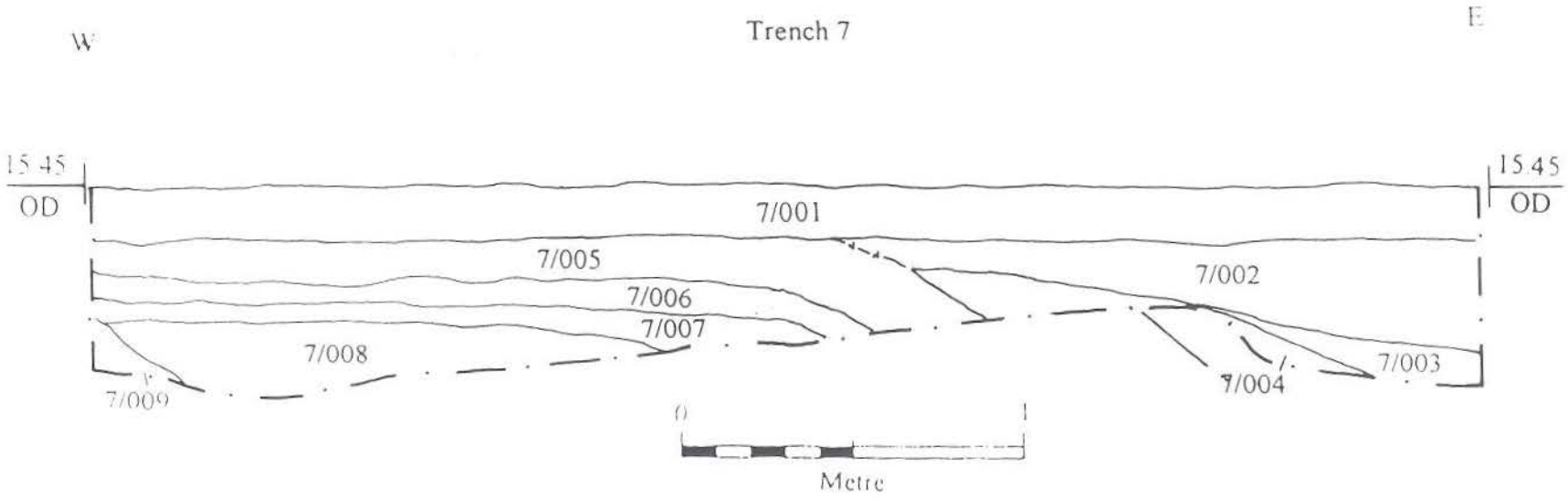


Figure 6 South facing section, Trench 7

recently "turned" as it was mixed with various occasional demolition debris like concrete, plastic and metal. As in Trench 6, the sequence revealed in both these trenches was the result of quarry pit infilling. Finds collected from 7/003, 8/004 and 8/005 were all of a clearly late post-medieval date. The clear tip lines revealed in the section of Trench 7 indicate that the trench lies on the edge of a large quarry pit continuing to the east. The depth of truncation revealed in these two trenches clearly shows that any potential archaeological remains would have been quarried away.

Trench 9

The lowest recorded deposit was a light yellowish brown sand and limestone natural (9/005) appearing at 14.08 metres OD. This was below another natural deposit, 9/005, which was a mid orange brown clayey sand and gravel natural approximately 0.45 metres thick. Overlying this was a mixed deposit (9/002) approximately 0.20 metres thick. This deposit was a fairly compact greenish brown silty clay with frequent brick, mortar and gravel inclusions. This was cut by three east-west orientated wall cuts (9/003). These cuts were all infilled with mixed demolition debris and were very recent, being part of the warehouse building which had been demolished in the last year. The most northerly of these cuts was excavated by machine to a depth of 14.18 metres OD, where it was cutting into the limestone natural 9/005. Sealing the entire trench was a layer of crushed hardcore (9/001) which had been laid by the contractors to level the area. All potential archaeological deposits were clearly truncated in this trench. The subsoil layer encountered in the majority of the trenches had been truncated by 9/002 which appeared to be ground make-up for the recently demolished building.

5 FINDS (see Appendix B)

The finds collected from the majority of the trenches were clearly post medieval in date. Pottery and clay pipe fragments provided a clear date for the late quarrying activity on site. The finds collected from Trenches 3 and 4 were of most interest. The finds were from two well defined periods, being either Roman or Iron Age. Fossil shell-tempered wares collected from Trench 4 dated both the ditch and post holes to the Iron Age, and were likely to be of an early Iron Age date. Both the pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) collected from the feature at the north end of trench 4 and from some of the features in Trench 3 was all clearly dated to the Roman period. The majority of the pottery assemblage were locally produced Nene Valley wares , all dating from the late second to third century. A few imports were present including a single sherd of Central Gaulish samian ware and a number of burnt amphora sherds imported from Southern Spain. The quality of these wares is very typical of a Roman domestic assemblage from a fairly well-appointed establishment, and this is further supported by the presence of a flue tile suggests the possibility of a heated building in the vicinity.

6 CONDITIONS

The weather was generally cold but dry during the course of the evaluation. This did not affect the archaeological works.

7 CONCLUSIONS

This second phase of works proved that quarrying activity did extent into the western portion of the development site. Trenches 6, 7 and 8 all revealed quarrying to a depth that would have truncated any potential remains. Trenches 1, 2 and 9 to the north of site were sterile with no trace of either quarrying or archaeological activity. Likewise Trench 5 was also sterile. The Phase 1 evaluation revealed a similar pattern with Trenches 4 and 7, to the north and south of the Phase 1 area, showing signs of quarrying whilst Trenches 1, 3, 5 and 6 revealed neither archaeological nor quarrying activity. These two phases of work clearly showed that the site had suffered truncation due to quarrying, but it was also apparent that this quarrying was spread across the site with no real pattern, and therefore it would be difficult to predict which of the areas not investigated thus far would also be affected.

The information gathered from these trenches defined a much smaller area of archaeological activity which was revealed in Trenches 3 and 4. The results from these two trenches show two clear phases of activity. Trench 4 revealed a series of well dated early Iron Age features with a date contemporary with the ditch recorded in Trench 2 of the phase one evaluation. The types of features encountered would normally be associated with a structure or palisade and a fence line and together with the fairly high concentration of artefacts recovered indicates that these features may well be associated with a settlement on the site. It is likely that remains of an Iron Age date would extend below the existing warehouse between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 trenches, as shown by the maximum truncation by the demolished warehouse over Trench 9, Phase 2, at 14.99 metres OD, the surface of the Iron Age ditch in Trench 2, Phase 1, at 14.70 metres OD and the archaeological horizon in Trench 4, Phase 2, at circa 15.11 metres OD. These recorded levels are of sufficient height for any potential cut archaeological remains eg. pits, ditches etc. below the existing warehouse to survive truncation.

The Roman features encountered in Trench 3 are of particular interest. Known Roman activity in the area was focused to the eastern side of site, where a cemetery and large ditch, probably a settlement enclosure, were discovered during the late 19th century quarrying, and to the south of site where occupation evidence was discovered during recent building construction. The building stone foundations, apparent heating system indicated by the flue tile, possible mortar floors and plaster walls and window glass together with the quality of the imported pottery recorded in Trench 3 appears to show a fairly high status Roman building outside these limits. It is likely that this was a fairly well-appointed farmstead outside of the main area of occupation, a part of which this evaluation has revealed. The fact that Trenches 1, 2 and 5 were all sterile suggests that it was a fairly isolated settlement, and, as Trench 4 shows, was positioned upon the site of an earlier Iron Age settlement.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation did successfully highlight the area of archaeological potential on this site. It proved that much of the area had suffered truncation by quarrying or was sterile. Consequently these areas would not need further investigation. It is clear that the south-west portion of the site will require further work to fully understand and define the nature and extent of the archaeological remains discovered in Trenches 3 and 4. An open area excavation would be required to achieve this, bearing in mind the known sterile or truncated areas.

Whilst any decision regarding further archaeological investigation must rest with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section, it is the recommendation of the author and AOC Archaeology that further work is required, and that this should take the form of a suitably targeted open area excavation which would be sufficient to ascertain the extent of the archaeological remains under threat from development.

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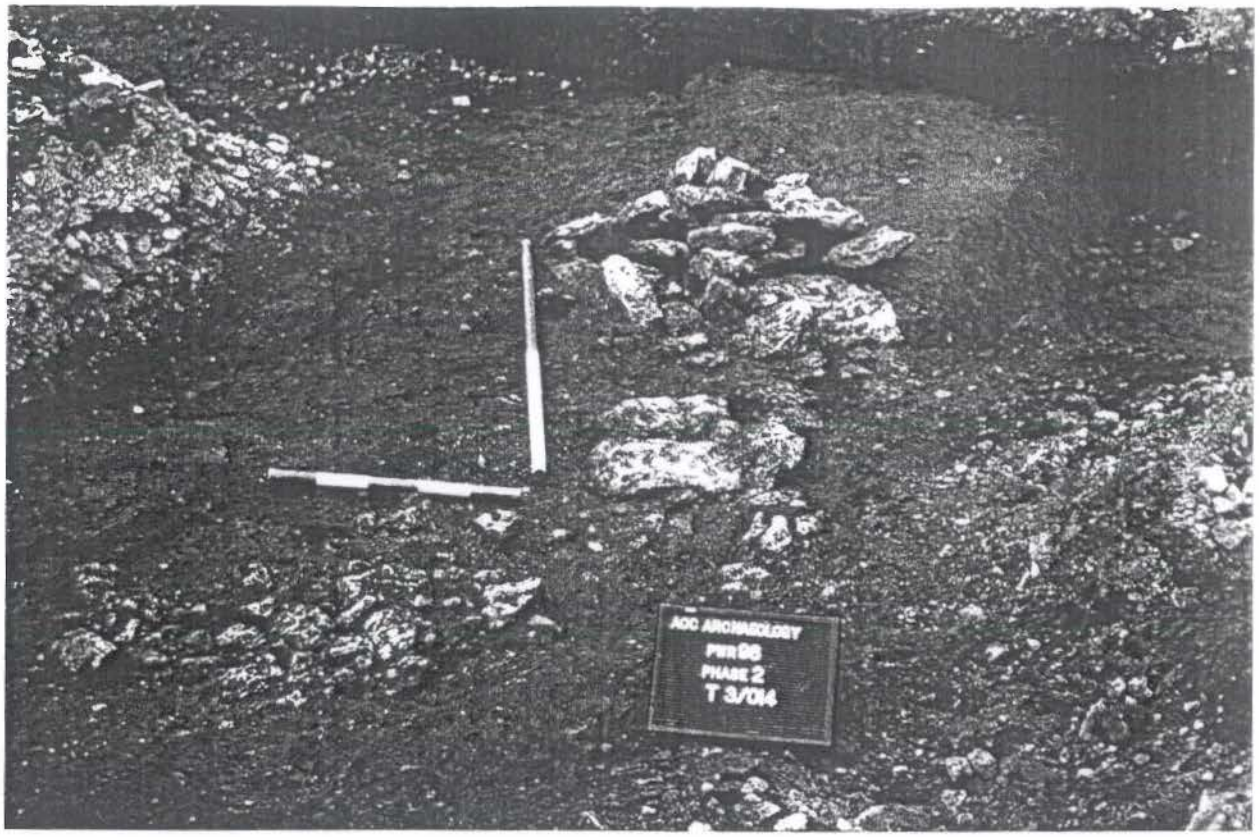

Plate 1: Wall feature (3/014), Trench 3. Looking north-north-west.

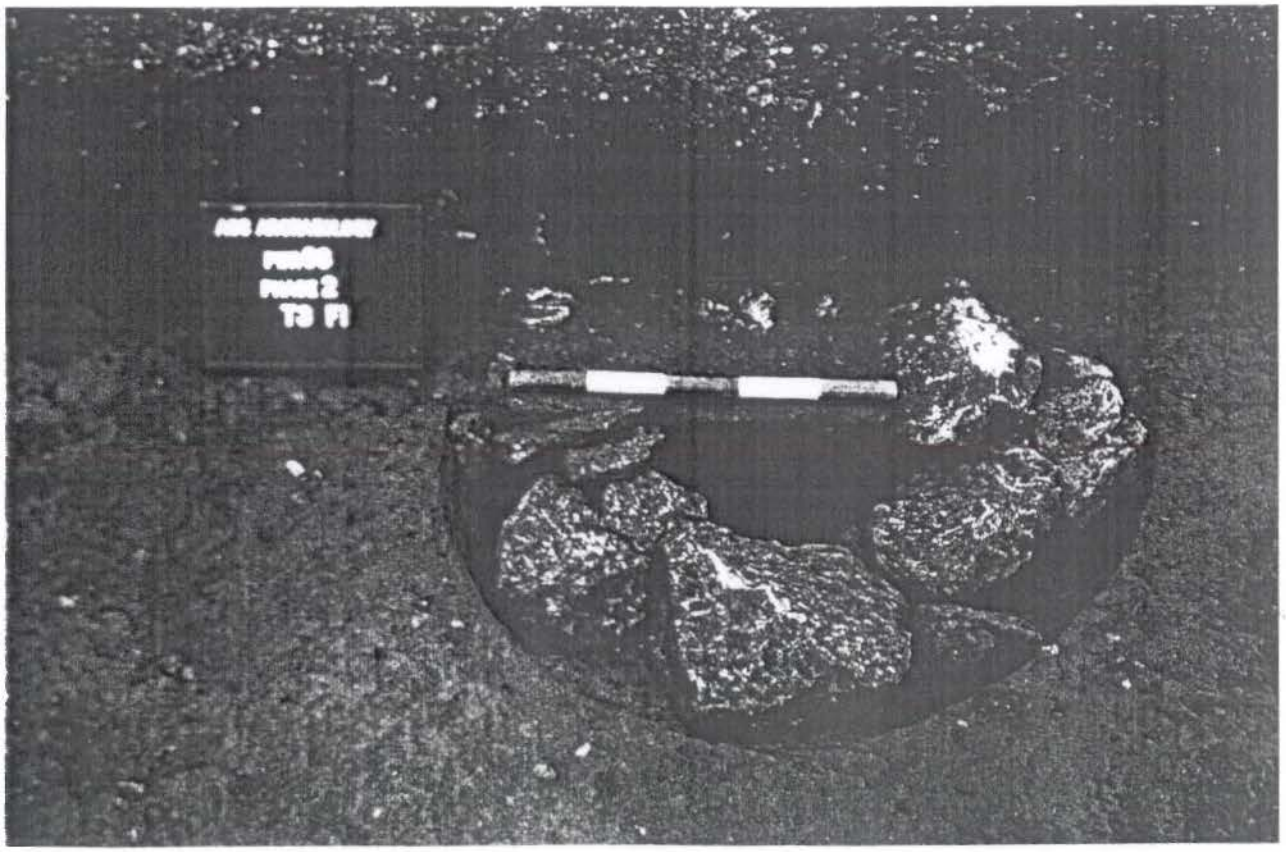

Plate 2: Post Pit, cut 3/004, Trench 3. Looking south.

APPENDIX A

List of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
1/001	Mixed hardcore, current surface	Trench	Trench	0.3 m	-
1/002	Subsoil/Ploughsoil	Trench	Trench	0.52 m	-
1/003	Natural sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	-	-
2/001	Mixed hardcore, current surface	Trench	Trench	0.35 m	-
2/002	Subsoil/ploughsoil	Trench	Trench	0.3 m	-
2/003	Natural sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	-	-
3/001	Tarmac/hardcore, current surface	Trench	Trench	0.18 m	-
3/002	Subsoil/ploughsoil	Trench	Trench	0.19 m	-
3/003	Natural sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	-	-
3/004	Post pit cut	0.45 m	0.45 m	0.55 m	-
3/005	Post pit fill and packing	0.45 m	0.45 m	0.55 m	Pot, bone
3/006	Post pipe (for post pit cut 3/004)	0.33 m	0.33 m	0.55 m	-
3/007	Post impressions?	0.2 m	0.1 m	0.04 m	Metal
3/008	Post pit cut	0.66 m	0.57 m	0.19 m	-
3/009	Post pit fill	0.66 m	0.57 m	0.19 m	-
3/010	Ditch cut	Trench	1.00 m	0.42 m	-
3/011	Ditch fill	Trench	1.00 m	0.42 m	Pot, bone
3/012	Post pit cut	0.75 m	0.75 m	0.6 m	-
3/013	Post pit fill	0.75 m	0.75 m	0.6 m	Pot
3/014	Wall, nnw/sse orientated section	2.02 m	0.4-0.9 m	-	-
3/015	Wall, se/nw orientated section	0.9 m	0.43 m	-	-
3/016	Mixed, possibly a surface?	0.45 m	0.3 m	-	Pot, CBM, glass, mortar, plaster

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
4/001	Mixed hardcore, current surface	Trench	Trench	0.06 m	-
4/002	Sand and rubble, made ground	Trench	Trench	0.27 m	-
4/003	Subsoil/ploughsoil, disturbed	Trench	Trench	0.3 m	Pot
4/004	Natural sand and gravel	Trench	Trench	-	-
4/005	Post hole fill	0.19 m	0.19 m	0.14 m	-
4/006	Post hole cut	0.19 m	0.19 m	0.14 m	-
4/007	Post hole fill	0.20 m	0.20 m	0.13 m	-
4/008	Post hole cut	0.20 m	0.20 m	0.13 m	-
4/009	Post hole fill	0.20 m	0.20 m	0.10 m	Pot, bone
4/010	Post hole cut	0.20 m	0.20 m	0.10 m	-
4/011	Ditch fill, beam slot infill ?	Trench	0.4 m	0.52 m	Pot, bone
4/012	Ditch cut	Trench	0.76 m	0.52 m	-
4/013	Upper fill of quarrying feature	1.15 m	1.0 m	0.24 m	Pot, clay pipe, CBM
4/014	Fill of quarrying feature	Trench	1.9 m	0.12 m	-
4/015	Lower fill of quarrying feature	Trench	0.7 m	0.2 m	Pot, CBM, clay pipe
4/016	Cut for quarrying feature	Trench	2.5 m	0.56 m	-
4/017	Fill of ditch cut 4/012	Trench	0.14 m	0.4 m	-
4/018	Fill of ditch cut 4/012	Trench	0.21 m	0.48 m	-
4/019	Primary fill of ditch cut 4/012	Trench	0.8 m	0.18 m	-
4/020	Fill of cut 4/021	0.6 m	0.55 m	0.42 m	Pot, bone, metal
4/021	Cut for a ditch or pit?	0.6 m	0.55 m	0.42 m	-
4/022	Quarrying backfill deposit	4.5 m	Trench	-	-
4/023	Quarrying backfill deposit	1.9 m	Trench	-	Clay pipe, glass
4/024	Limestone natural	Trench	Trench	-	-
4/025	Mixed quarrying backfill deposit	9.0 m	Trench	approx. 0.4 m	-
4/026	Stake hole, associated with cut 4/012	0.06 m	0.06 m	0.12 m	-

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
5/001	Mixed hardcore/tarmac, current surface	Trench	Trench	0.25 m	-
5/002	Mixed demolition/dumping layer	Trench	Trench	0.32 m	-
5/003	Subsoil/ploughsoil	Trench	Trench	0.35 m	-
5/004	Modern pipe casing	Trench	0.4 m	0.3 m	-
5/005	Sand/gravel natural	Trench	Trench	0.27 m	-
5/006	Limestone natural	Trench	Trench	-	-
6/001	Turf and topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.05 m	-
6/002	Sand, gravel and brick made ground	Trench	Trench	0.28 m	-
6/003	Mixed overburden	Trench	Trench	0.37 m	-
6/004	Quarrying infill	Trench	Trench	0.61 m	-
6/005	Sand/gravel natural	Trench	Trench	-	-
6/006	Quarrying feature	7.0 m	1.5 m	0.2 m	Pot, clay pipe
6/007	Quarrying feature	1.04 m	0.5 m	0.07 m	-
6/008	Quarrying feature	1.4 m	0.5 m	0.07 m	Pot, clay pipe
6/009	Quarrying feature	2.0 m	0.7 m	0.09 m	-
7/001	Recent topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.4 m	-
7/002	Quarrying infill-topsoil	4.5 m	Trench	0.8 m	-
7/003	Quarrying infill-limestone natural	4.1 m	Trench	0.3 m	-
7/004	Quarrying infill-gravel/sand natural	1.1 m	Trench	0.3 m	-
7/005	Quarrying infill-topsoil	14.4 m	Trench	0.4 m	Clay pipe, pot
7/006	Quarrying infill-limestone natural	13.5 m	Trench	0.2 m	-
7/007	Quarrying infill-sand/gravel natural	13.0 m	Trench	0.14 m	-
7/008	Quarrying infill-redder gravel/sand natural	3.9 m	Trench	0.48 m	-
7/009	Undisturbed sand/gravel natural	Trench	Trench	-	-
7/010	Undisturbed limestone natural	Trench	Trench	-	-

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds
8/001	Disturbed topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.2 m	-
8/002	Quarrying infill-topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.6 m	-
8/003	Quarrying infill-sand/gravel natural	Trench	Trench	0.4 m	-
8/004	Quarrying infill-topsoil	4.6 m	Trench	-	Pot, clay pipe
8/005	Quarrying infill- mixed burnt deposit	1.7 m	0.5 m	-	Pot, glass
8/006	Quarrying infill-light clayey sand deposit	5.4 m	Trench	-	-
8/007	Undisturbed limestone natural	Trench	Trench	-	-
9/001	Crushed brick, levelling	Trench	Trench	0.2 m	-
9/002	Mixed make-up	Trench	Trench	0.2 m	-
9/003	3, e-w orientated, modern wall cuts	Trench	1.7 m	1.2 m	-
9/004	Sand and gravel natural	Trench	Trench	0.45 m	-
9/005	Limestone natural	Trench	Trench	-	-

APPENDIX B

FINDS REPORTS

Pottery Report Jane Timby

A moderately small assemblage of 133 sherds, 2464g in weight was submitted for assessment the material was recovered from nine contexts with the largest group comprising some 103 sherds from ditch fill 3/011. Seven of the contexts produced five or less sherds thus limiting the dating potential for these features. Roman wares from the two post-medieval contexts (4/015 and 8/005) appears to be broadly contemporary with the material from the Roman contexts. Most of the wares date to the Roman period, in particular the third century. Two contexts produced shell-tempered sherds which, although superficially similar to the Roman wares, do not fit into a Roman typology. Provisionally it is suggested that these might be of early Iron Age date.

The pottery (no. of sherds) is summarised by ware type and context in Table 1 and quantified by context in Table 2.

?EARLY IRON AGE

Two rim sherds with squared tops and concave upper walls in thin-walled handmade, fossil shell-tempered ware, accompanied by three body sherds in a similar fabric from 4/009 and 4/011 are probably of early Iron Age date.

ROMAN

Most of the sherds belong to the Roman period and would appear to be mainly local products in circulation from the late second to third century. A range of fabrics are present, mainly from the Nene Valley industries. Imports are limited to a single scrap of Central Gaulish samian from 4/015 and several burnt amphora sherds from ditch 3/011. These came from a Dressel 20 olive oil amphora imported into Britain from Southern Spain from the 1st to 3rd century AD. Local fine wares included Nene Valley colour-coated wares (LNVCC) in production from the late second to third centuries and a painted ware, possibly from Northamptonshire, from 4/013. The coarsewares are dominated by shell-tempered wares (CWSHEL) and Nene Valley grey wares (LNVGW). The former is a long-lived industry dating from the first to fourth century. The latter, characterised by pale grey surfaces and a white core, appears to date to the later second and early third century (Marney 1989, 178, fabric 12).

Although the assemblage is perhaps too small to make much comment on its status, the combination of finewares, food preparation vessels and cooking and serving vessels is very typical of a Roman domestic assemblage from a fairly well-appointed establishment. the absence of traded products from the large late Roman regional industries might be taken a evidence of abandonment before the fourth century.

Reference

Marney, P T, 1989, *Roman and Belgic Pottery from excavations in Milton Keynes*, Buckinghamshire Archaeol Soc mon 2

Key to fabric codes (Table 2)

DR20 - Dressel 20 amphora
LH - shell and limestone-tempered ware (Iron Age)
LNVCC - Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware
LNVGW - Lower Nene Valley greyware
LOCBW - local black ware (= Marney 1989, fabric 9)
MORT - mortaria (various)
PAINT - painted ware
SAMCG - Central Gaulish samian
SHEL - fossil shell-tempered ware (= Marney 1989, fabric 1)
SL - sand and limestone-tempered ware (Iron Age)
WW - whitewares (various)

TABLE 2: POTTERY BY CONTEXT

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	WT	NO	COMMENT
3/005	LNVGW		8	1	
3/005	SHELL		10	1	
3/011	DR20		1217	22	BURNT
3/011	LNVCC	JAR/BEAKER	59	9	
3/011	LNVGW	JAR, BOWL	254	35	
3/011	LOCBW		17	1	
3/011	MORTI		163	1	NO GRITS
3/011	SHELL	JAR	515	32	
3/011	WW		28	3	
3/013	LNVCC		30	1	
3/013	LNVGW		6	2	
3/013	LOCBW	DISH	18	2	WAVY L DECOR
4/009	LH		2	1	
4/009	SHELL	JAR	7	2	RIM
4/011	SHELL	JAR	20	2	RIM
4/011	SL		1	1	
4/013	LNVGW		5	1	
4/013	PAINTW		19	1	
4/013	WW		4	1	
4/015	LNVCC		18	4	
4/015	LNVGW		4	1	
4/015	MORT2		18	1	
4/015	SAMCG		1	1	
4/015	SHELL		6	3	

4/020	MORT3		15	1	NENE VALLEY
4/020	SHELL		18	2	
4/020	TILE		0	0	X1
8/005	LNVGW		1	1	
TOTAL			2464	133	

Ceramic Building Material Naomi Crowley

INTRODUCTION

The evaluation produced 23 fragments of ceramic building material dating to the Roman period. The material was recorded by context, fabric and form. Two fabrics were identified and have been assigned fabric numbers for the purpose of this report.

FABRICS

Fabric 1
Orange-red coloured fine fabric containing occasional quartz and larger flint inclusions.

Fabric 2
Red coloured, with grey coloured reduced core, containing frequent shell fragments and occasional quartz.

SUMMARY OF THE MATERIAL

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Comment
3/016	1.00	Brick	3.00	Lydion brick, 32 mm thick, signature mark.
3/016	1.00	Flue tile	10.00	Combed with square vent, 18 mm thick.
3/016	2.00	Brick	2.00	32 and 40 mm thick.
3/016	2.00	Flue tile	4.00	Round vent, 13 mm thick.
4/013	1.00	Tegula roof tile	1.00	Abraded
4/013	1.00	Fragment	1.00	Abraded
4/015	1.00	Fragment	2.00	Very small

CONCLUSIONS

All the material dates to the Roman period and is likely to be locally produced If further brick and tile is produced by excavation it could be more closely dated by comparing the fabrics to material from other excavations in the area The presence of flue tile in context 3/016 suggests the possibility of a heated building in the vicinity and further excavation may produce remains of a substantial building