

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Country Court Care Group

October 2019



LAND OFF SPLASH LANE CASTOR, PETERBOROUGH.

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

A Pascoe

LAND OFF SPLASH LANE, CASTOR, PETERBOROUGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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Report Production Details:

Issue No.	Status:	Editor	Issue Date
1	Draft for client review	R Trimble & D Trimble	31/10/2019
2	Draft for curator review	R Trimble & D Trimble	31/10/2019
3	Final Issue	R Trimble & D Trimble	05/11/2019

LAND OFF SPLASH LANE, CASTOR, PETERBOROUGH

Site Code : CASL19
Planning Application No.: 18/01634/R4FUL
NGR: 512215 298174
OASIS ID: withamar1-372177
Event No.: EPB898

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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LAND OFF SPLASH LANE, CASTOR, PETERBOROUGH.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology at Splash Lane, Castor, Peterborough. The project was commissioned by Country Court Care in compliance with a condition of planning permission relating to the proposed construction of a new care home facility. The site is currently occupied by a disused sports centre and associated parking areas.

The site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area, on the outskirts of the modern village of Castor which overlies a high-status Roman building which is protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument. The site of the Roman town of Durobrivae lies immediately to the south of the site and is also a Scheduled Monument. Previous archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of the construction of the sports centre recorded extensive Roman remains including two aisled barns thought to have been associated with the high-status building.

The six trenches excavated as part of the current project revealed that the site was probably heavily truncated during previous episodes of construction. Residual Roman brick and tile was found alongside modern bricks and plastic bags within a layer used to backfill a depression which extended across the entire area of investigation. It seems likely that the area was truncated during previous groundworks on the site, probably during construction of the disused Woodlands Sports Centre.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a proposed 68-bedroom care unit at the disused Woodland Sports Centre at the end of Splash Lane, Castor, Peterborough. The project was commissioned by Country Court Care Group in response to a condition attached to planning permission granted by the Peterborough City Council. Archaeological fieldwork was completed during the period 21st August 2019 to 27th August 2019.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

The Village of Castor, in the administrative district of Peterborough Unitary Authority, lies *c.* 7km east of the centre of Peterborough and 15km south-east of Stamford.

The proposed area of development is located on the south side of the village, on the site of the disused Woodlands Sports Centre at the end of Splash Lane. At the time of the evaluation the area comprised a 2.5 hectare area occupied by an astroturf sports pitch and the buildings of the former sports centre to the north-west and areas of car parking to the east. The area subject to the trial trenching was restricted to the 0.6 hectare astroturf covered sports pitch located on the south side of the site. Further investigation may be necessary on the remainder of the application area, depending on the impact of the development. The complex is centred on NGR 512215 298174.

Topographically, the site is located on a bedrock of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, overlain by a superficial geology of River Terrace Deposits, sand and gravel (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.htm).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Information provided by the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service indicates that the site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area, close to the historic core of Castor to the north (Scheduled Monument 1006877) and north-west of an industrial suburb of Roman Durobrivai (Scheduled Monument 1006864).

Castor has a long history of archaeological research with reports of the discovery of Roman material in the village dating back as far as the 17th century. In the 1820s the antiquarian Edmund Artis embarked on a programme of excavation and recording of ruined Roman walls extant at the site which led him to conclude that a large and opulent Roman 'Praetorium' represented by a single unified structure was present in the village. The walls of this structure surround the present-day parish church and appear to form a villa like range with shorter wings at each end. The remains of two bathhouses have been located a little further to the south.

The core of the complex is now protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument (No 1006877) The listing description describes the site as having massive wall foundations which were visible in the 19th century, leading antiquarian writers to suppose that Castor was the site of a walled Roman town. Artis carried out large scale excavations and recovered the plans of a number of substantial Roman buildings which he interpreted as the remains of a single large courtyard villa. Later analysis favoured the view that the remains were of fragments of a series of houses arranged on and around the rising ground. One of the buildings was considered by Artis to be a temple and this is accepted by M.J.T Lewis who stated that "The massive nature of the podium and the plan of the building makes the interpretation as a temple well-nigh certain," and she considered the site to represent a group of small houses spread round a temple of classical type. Further excavation has been carried out on the site, and buildings, including the bathhouse, have been re-investigated. There seems to be some measure of agreement that the buildings are associated with the pottery industry. The buildings probably represent a series of detached houses erected about AD 250 on terraces in the hillside, facing south, around a rectangular court or garden. Many of the rooms were heated and were decorated with painted wall plaster and mosaics by the Durobrivan school. It has been suggested the complex may have been a "Praetorium" erected by a guild, using the profits of the pottery industry. However, recent research suggests the complex may well have had an administrative function connected with the Fenland, an area of land thought to have possibly been under state control and that such a large structure may well be beyond the finances of a guild (Upex, 2011).

Scheduled Monument 1006864 protects the remains of the Roman town of Durobrivae (Water Newton) which lies approximately 200m to the south-east of the proposed development area. Investigations by E.T. Artis in the 1820s and more recent work has identified settlement along Ermine Street and evidence of pottery industries.

Since Artis's work there have been a number of investigations and excavations which have discovered more ranges of buildings which appear to be part of the 'Praetorium'. and in 2010 Channel IV's Time Team conducted further investigations to clarify certain aspects of the phasing and interpretation of the site. This met with limited success in terms of the phasing but several buildings in the complex were accurately mapped (Wessex Archaeology 2011). Investigations in advance of and during development at Castor Barns approximately 100m to the north of the proposed developed identified remains of Roman date which included walls and a possible hypocaust. In additions pits, ditches and post holes of Roman date were recorded.

Investigations were undertaken in advance of the construction of the now disused sports centre, but are unfortunately unpublished. However, the following comments were provided by the City Archaeologist.

'Archaeological excavations carried out in the early 1980s prior to the construction of the leisure complex for Pearl Assurance revealed two Roman aisled barns, possibly forming part of the palace (PE SM 93). One of the buildings was substantial. Mortared limestone was found and four square deeply founded post pads were arranged to give an aisle c 4.5m wide and individual bays 2.5m wide. An external wall was located on the West, North and East sides, but it had been robbed leaving only rubble and fragments of mortar. Also found was a fragment of polished Alwalton marble and large amounts of tile. The position of this building indicated that it could have formed part of the West wing of the range of buildings of the palace. Of the second aisled building all that was seen was a rectangular configuration of large, stone packed post settings. Two parallel ditches were revealed, presumably flanking the access to the palace. One of these produced a hoard of some 50 bronze coins in poor condition dated to the 4th century. The investigation was never published. Subsequently, the contractor reported a cremation burial in a Nene Valley Colour Coated barbotine pot of late 2nd – early 3rd century, and the possible remains of a further building (no further information).'

During the 7th century a nunnery dedicated to St Kyneburgha was established at Castor and the monastic enclosure can be traced in the village road layout. The dedication of the site to St Kyneburgha continued into the 12th century, when the existing church was built. A dedication inscription survives above the southern door to the chancel and is dated to 1124 (Robinson 1999). Nineteenth century maps show a possible moated site located on the north-west of the proposed development area. Later mapping suggests that the feature was backfilled by the 1970's.

4.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

The development proposal is for a new 68-bedroom care home and change of use of the disused sports centre to form an assisted living unit and a community hub.

Acting on advice from the Peterborough City Archaeologist the local planning authority requested a programme of trial trenching to meet the requirements of a condition of planning permission. The investigation was designed to assess the condition, significance and date of any archaeological remains which survive on the site. Depending on the results of the trial trenching further mitigation measures may be required. The results of the trial trenching detailed in this report relate only to the area of the astroturf sports pitch. Further investigation of the remainder of the site may be required but will be described in a separate report.

5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 6th August 2019, were to:

- *provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.*
- *assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*
- *provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.*
- *provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.*

- *provide information for accession to the Peterborough Historic Environment Record (HER).*

6.0 METHODOLOGY

Six trenches were excavated, each measuring 1.6m wide and 30m in length (Figs 2 and 3). Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, provisional trench locations were agreed with the Peterborough City Council Planning Archaeologist, focussing upon those areas most likely to be affected by development groundworks.

Topsoil and other recent deposits were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trench bases and representative samples of the trench sides were subsequently cleaned by hand, prior to the part-excavation of features and deposits of potential archaeological origin, to ascertain character, extent and date.

Excavated features were recorded through drawn plans and sections at a scale of 1: 20. This record was augmented by colour photographs and written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. All trenches and reference points used in planning were located by survey grade GPS.

7.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3-6)

Trench 1 (Fig. 4. Section 1. Plate 1)

Trench 1 was located on the north side of the site, aligned east to west and 30m long and 1.6m wide. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m in two sondages positioned at each end of the trench. The shallowest part of the trench was 0.38m deep. Natural deposits were not revealed.

The earliest deposit recorded was a compact, 0.65m thick, dark grey clay silt (103) containing occasional charcoal (Fig 4, Section 1). Four Roman roof tile fragments a single sherd of Bourne D ware pottery, one 19th to 20th century brick fragment and six fragments of land drain were recovered from the deposit. Fragments of tarmac and plastic bag recovered from the layer indicate that the earlier material was residual. The upper levels of the trench comprised a sequence of brownish orange sand (102), compact stone (101) and a surface layer of modern tarmac (100). These layers formed the make-up and surfacing deposits of the sports pitch.

Trench 2 (Figs. 1 & 5. Sections 4, 7, 8, 9. Plate 3)

Trench 2 was situated to the south of Trench 1 and aligned north-east to south-west. It was 1.6m wide and 30m long and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.35m in a sondage at the south-west end

The earliest deposit identified was a natural, compact mid brownish-orange sand (206), recorded in the sondage at a depth of 1.12m. The natural was cut by a partially visible feature [205] which was possibly the edge of a machine cut (Fig 5, Section 9). The feature was filled by a compact dark grey clay silt (203), from which two fragments of Roman Tegula, charcoal and a piece of modern plastic bag were recovered. In the lower levels of the trench two isolated deposits, (204) and (207), of dark grey sandy gravel were interpreted as lenses of material within deposit (203). Layers of sand (202), stone (201), and tarmac (200) occupied the upper levels of the trench comprising make-up and surface layers for the sports pitch.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4. Sections 2, 5. Plate 2,4,6)

Trench 3 was located on the north-west side of the site, to the west of Trenches 1 and 2. Aligned north to south it was 1.6m wide by 30m long and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m in sondages located at each end. The minimum depth of the trench was 0.48m.

A natural deposit of firm mid yellow orange sand with occasional gravel was recorded at a depth of 1.2m below current ground level, at the base of the sondage at the south end of the trench. The natural was truncated by a feature [304] which had concave sides and a rounded base (Fig. 4. Section 5. Plate 4) and is likely to be the edge of a machine excavated cut. The cut was at least 0.37m deep and continued to the north below the lower limit of excavation. It was filled by a compact dark grey silt (303) with occasional charcoal and gravel from which two fragments of Roman box-flue tile, two fragments of Roman brick, two modern (19th -20th century) bricks, modern tile and a fragment of plastic bag were recovered. The upper sequence of deposits in the trench consisted of sand (302), stone (301) and tarmac (300) which formed the makeup layers and surface of the sports pitch.

Trench 4 (Fig. 5. Section 6, plate 5)

Trench 4 was 30m long by 1.6m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m. Aligned north to south, it was situated to the east of trenches one and two and to the north of Trench 5.

Natural mid-yellow brown sand and gravel (404) was recorded at a depth of 1.2m in a sondage excavated at the south end of the trench. The natural was overlain by a dark grey clay silt (403) with occasional charcoal, from which two fragments of Roman box-flue tile and a single fragment of Roman tile were recovered. Contained within the same deposit were fragments of 19th century brick and two land drain fragments. The upper sequence in the trench comprised sand (402), stone (401) and tarmac (400) forming the make-up layers of the sports pitch.

Trench 5 (Fig.4 & 6. Sections 3, 11, 12, 13. Plate 8, 9)

Trench 5 was 30m long by 1.6m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m in a sondage at the south-east end. It was located at the south-east corner of the site and aligned north-west to south-east.

The mid-brownish-orange gravel and sand (505) natural was recorded at a depth of 0.66m (Fig 6. Section 13. Plate 9) at the south-east end of the trench and at 1.2m at the north-western limit of excavation (Fig. Section 11. Plate 8). Overlying the natural was a compact mid-greenish-yellow clay (504) followed by a compact dark grey clay silt (503). This layer was followed by a made ground deposit of mottled orangey grey silty sand (506). The upper levels of the trench were formed of sand (502), stone (501), and tarmac (500) which formed the make-up and surface of the sports pitch.

Trench 6 (Fig. 5. Section 10. Plate 7)

Trench 6 was 30m long by 1.6m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m in a sondage located at the limit of excavation. It was aligned north to south and was located at the north-east edge of the site.

The earliest deposit recorded was a natural deposit of loose mid yellow-brown sand and gravel (605) noted in the sondage at the south end of the trench. The natural was overlain by a compact dark grey silty gravel (604) with occasional lenses of yellowish-brown silty sand and occasional ceramic building material fragments. This layer was sealed by a compact dark grey clay (603) from which two tiles, three tegula and a single ridge tile of probable 16th to 18th century date were recovered. The latest three

deposits in the trench were sand (602), stone (601) and tarmac (600) which formed the make-up layers and surfaces for the sports pitch

8.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Overlying the natural in all the trenches was a dark grey clayey silt from which modern finds and fragments of plastic bag were recovered. The base of the layer was identified in Trench 6 only, where it was recorded overlying the natural at a depth of 0.92m below current ground surface. In Trench two it was recorded at the lower limit of excavation at 1.12m. In the remainder of the trenches the layer was recorded just under one meter below current ground level.

The deposit ranged in thickness from between 0.23m up to 0.7m and appeared to fill an extensive hollow which extended over the area of investigation. The line of truncation identified at the southern end of Trench three is probably a machine cut to this feature. The presence of Roman, post-medieval and modern finds indicates a mixing of material during the backfilling of the feature which may have occurred during the construction of the sports centre complex.

Evidence from the current Archaeological investigation suggests that any potentially significant archaeological remains have, in all probability, been seriously truncated by the previous construction work on the site. It is possible that surviving traces may be located below the levels of disturbance, but this would be less likely to be affected by the proposed development. No evidence of any archaeologically significant deposits comparable to remains reported by previous investigations on site have been located during the recent work. The presence of Roman finds on the site could be due to residual remains nearby or in the vicinity, or such remains being imported with the layer forming a build up deposit below the sports pitch formation layers.

A geophysical survey undertaken by Durham University to the south of the site revealed the major roads of Ermine Street, Kings Street, other tracks and streets associated with extensive areas of settlement (Archaeological Services, Durham University, 2018). This activity seems to be focused to the south of their survey area, towards the River Nene, with anomalies falling off near to the current investigation. This could indicate that the archaeological remains identified during previous investigations in advance of construction of the sports centre are associated with the palatial building at Castor rather than the Roman town.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Country Court Care Group, for their interest and support in ensuring the successful completion of this project. Thanks, are also due to Dr Anne Irving for the Ceramics report, Gary Taylor for the other finds report and to the City Archaeologist for Peterborough for assistance in locating background information for the site.

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11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: CASL19

PLANNING APPLICATION No.:18/01634/R4FUL

FIELD OFFICER: A Pascoe

NGR: 512215 298174

CIVIL PARISH: Castor

EVENT NUMBER: EPB898

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 21st August 2019 to 27th August 2019

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: County Court Care

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: TBC

ACCESSION DATE: -

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	36
Plans at Scale	0
Section Drawings at Scale [1:10]	1
Section Drawings at Scale [1:20]	12

Black and White photographs	81
Digital Photographs	93
Set of Site Notes	4

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: View of Section 1 looking north. Scale 1 x 1m.



Plate 2: View of Section 2 looking east. Scale 1 x 1m.



Plate 3: View of Section 4 looking south-east. Scale 1 x 1m.



Plate 4: View of Section 5 looking west. Scale 1 x 1m.



Plate 5: View of Section 6 looking east. Scale 1 x 1m.



Plate 6: View of Section 7 looking north-west. Scale 1 x 1m.

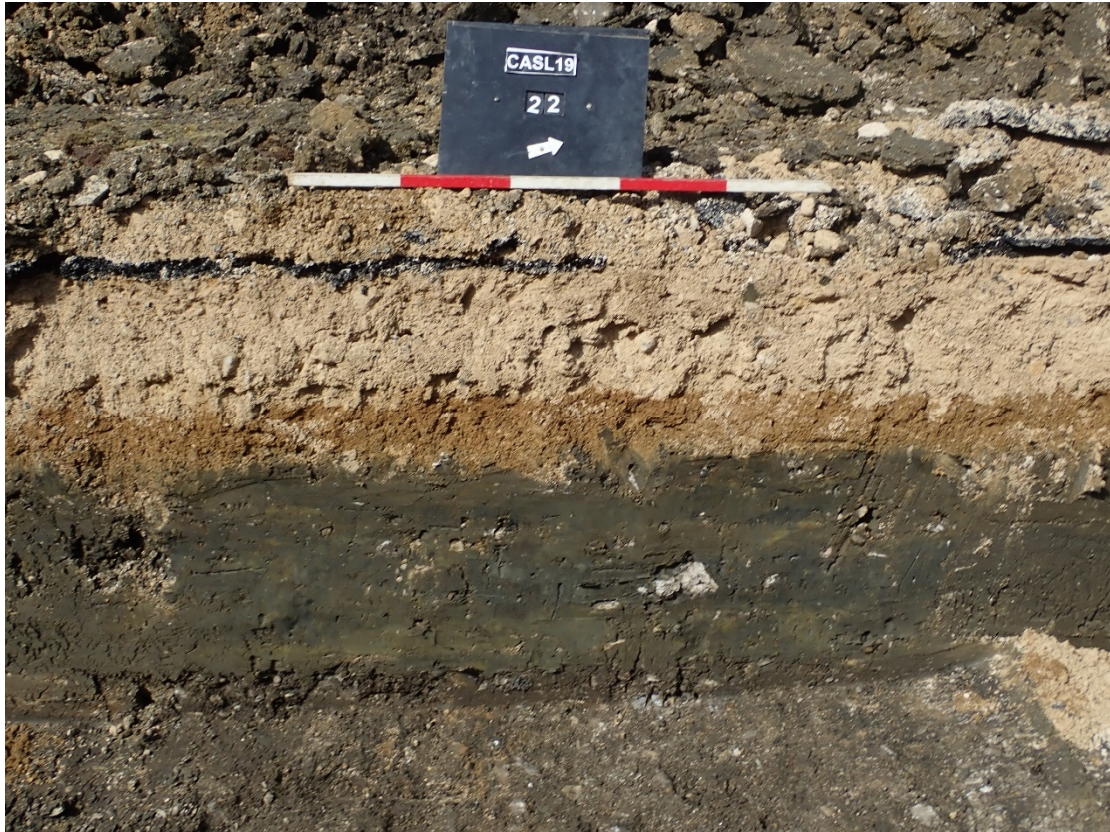


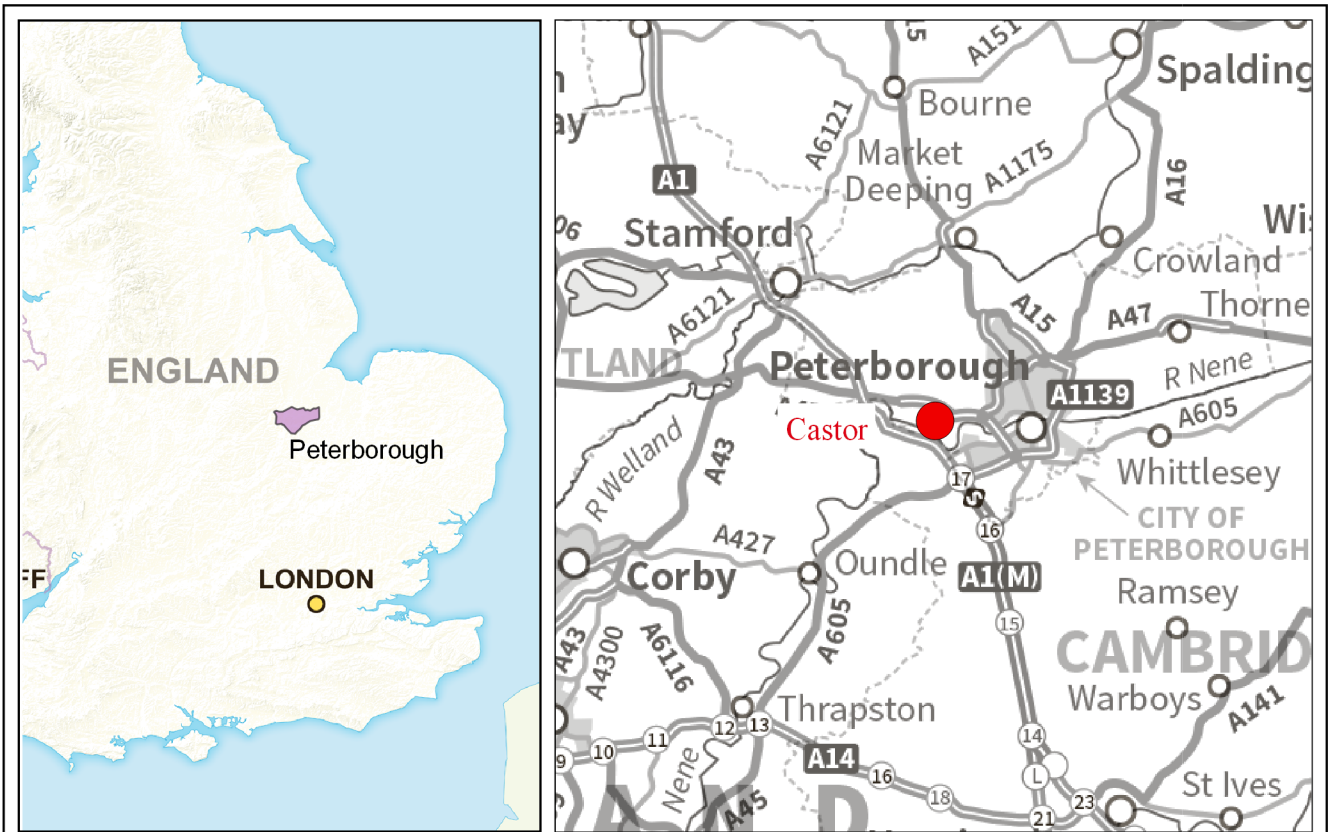
Plate 7: View of Section 10 looking west. Scale 1 x 1m.

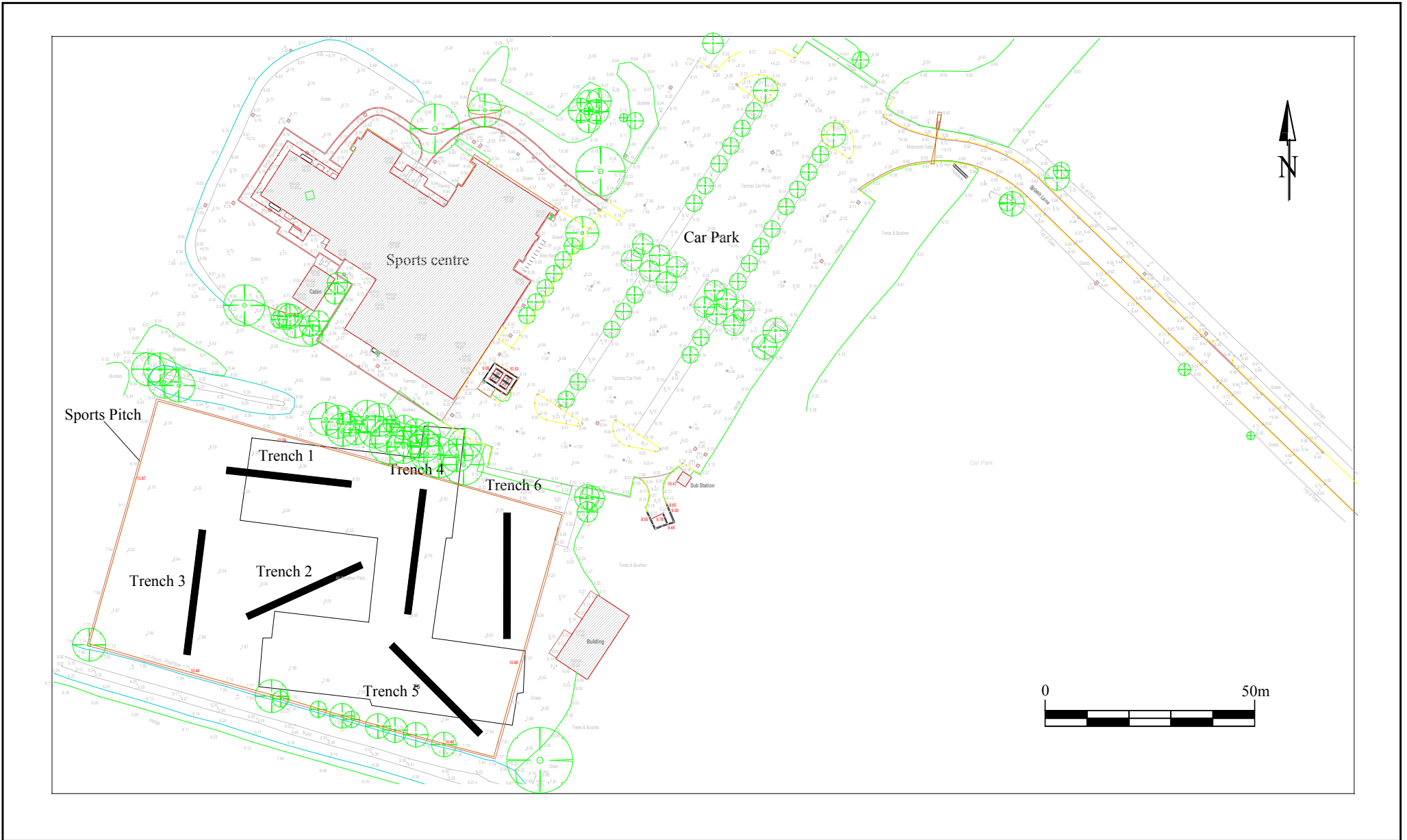


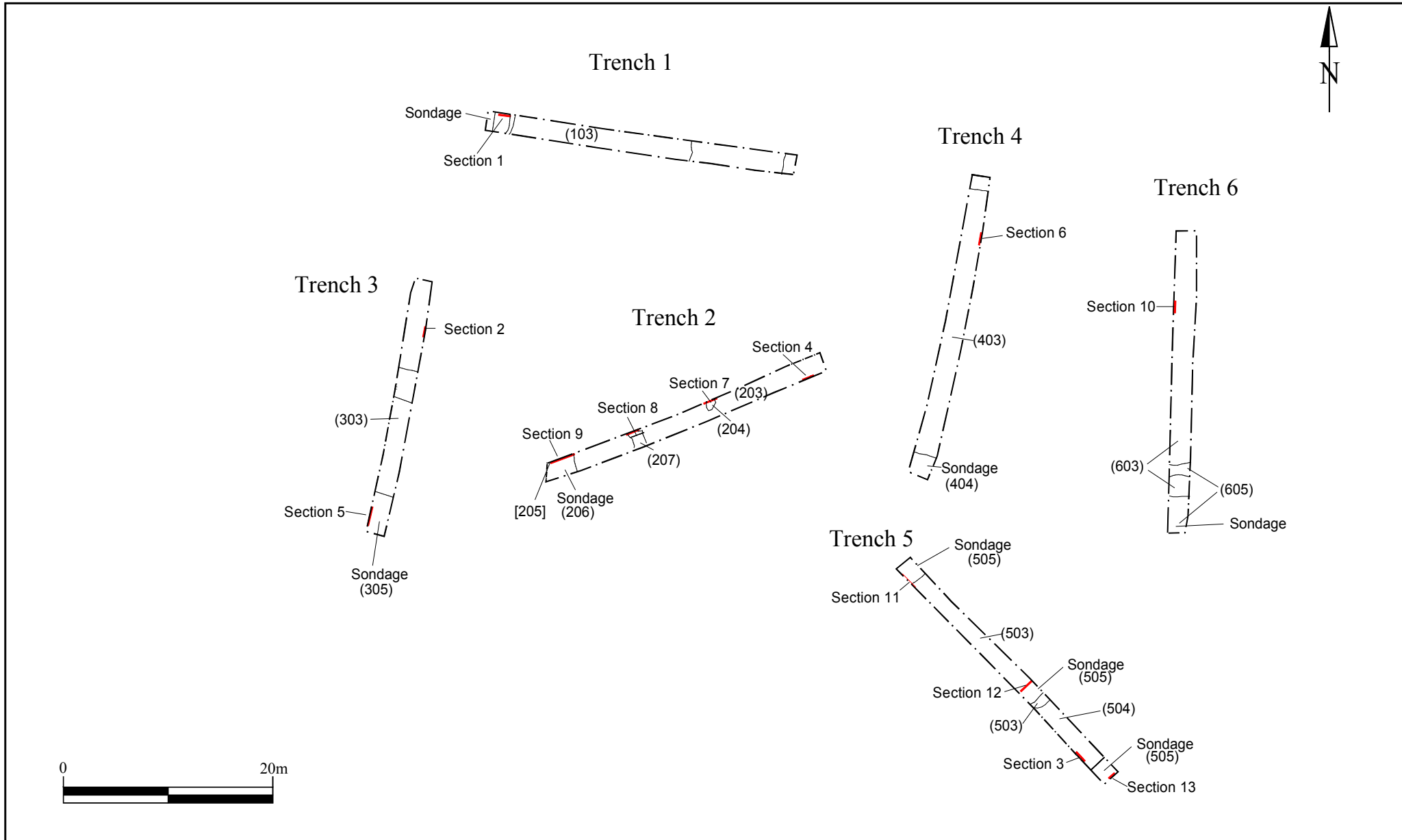
Plate 8: View of section 11 looking south-west. Scale 1 x 1m.

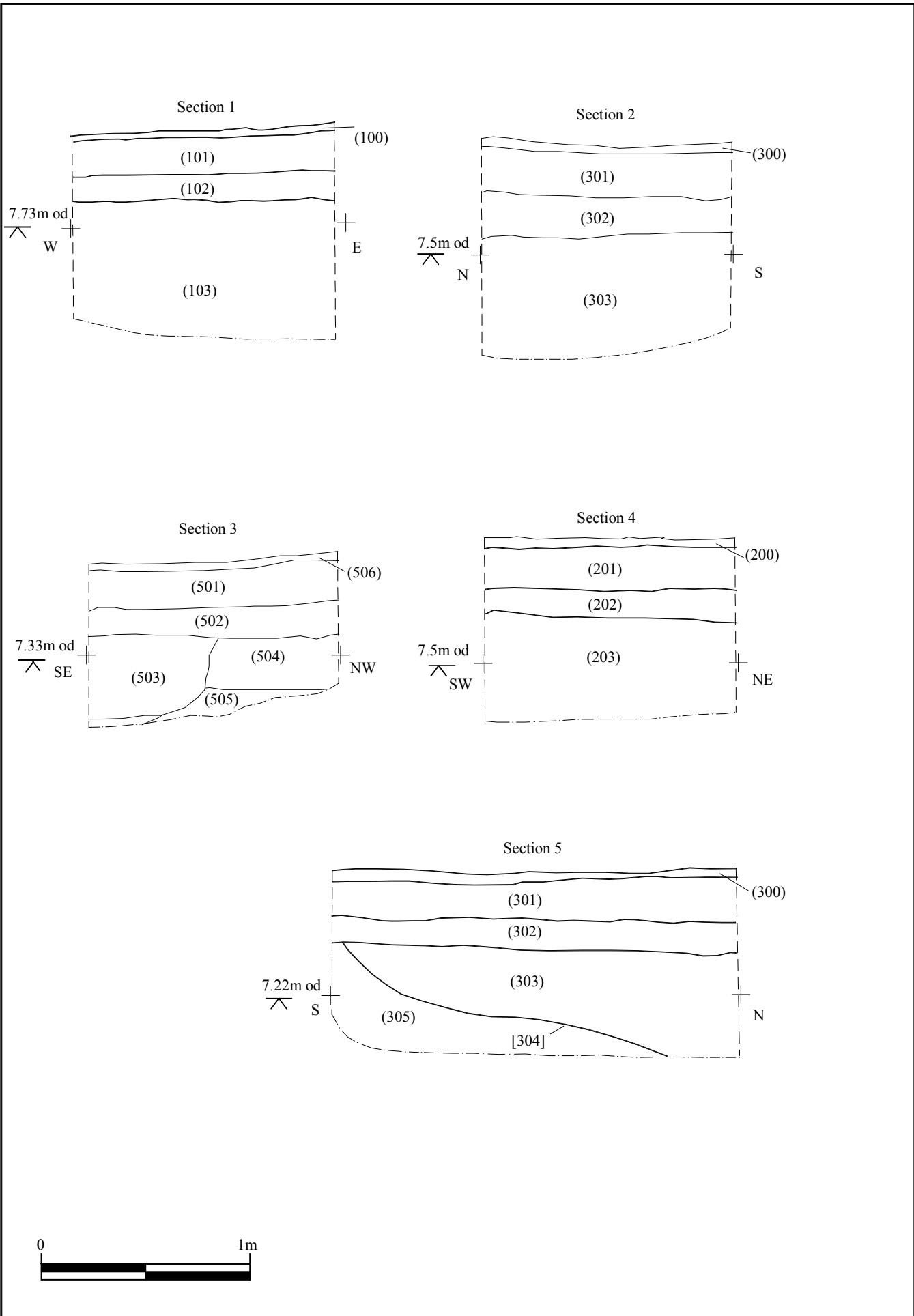


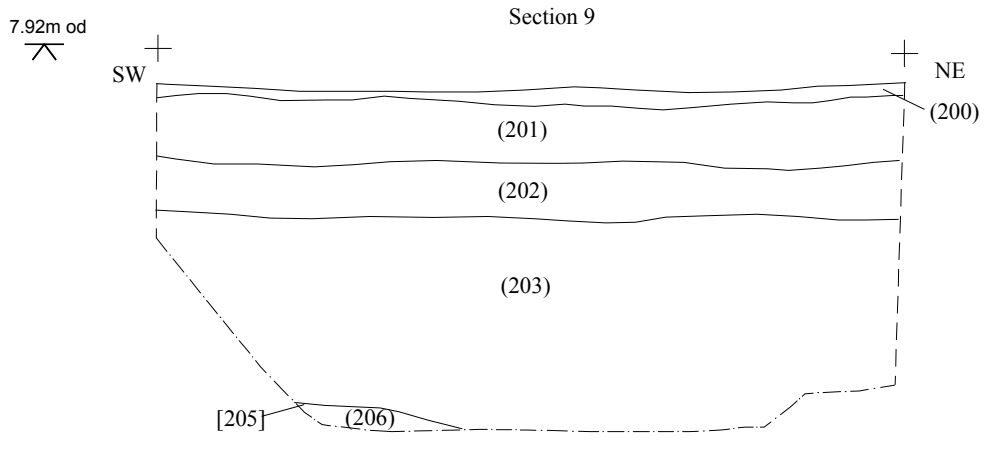
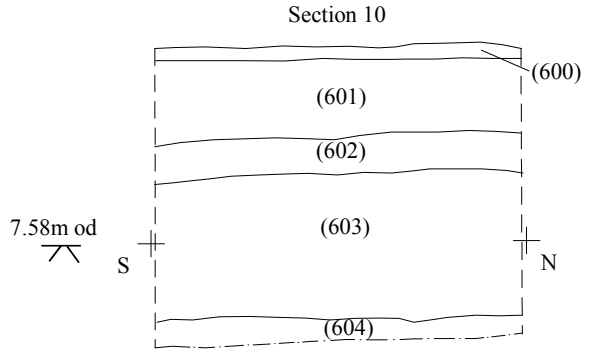
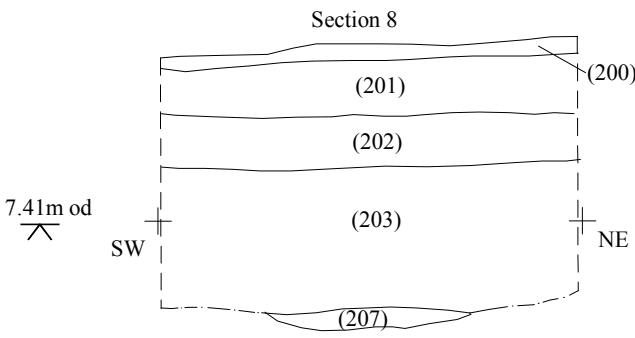
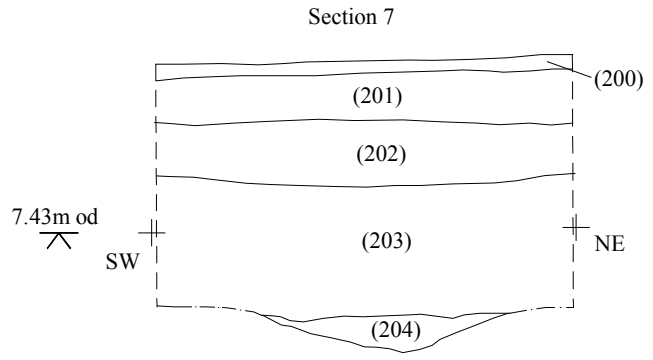
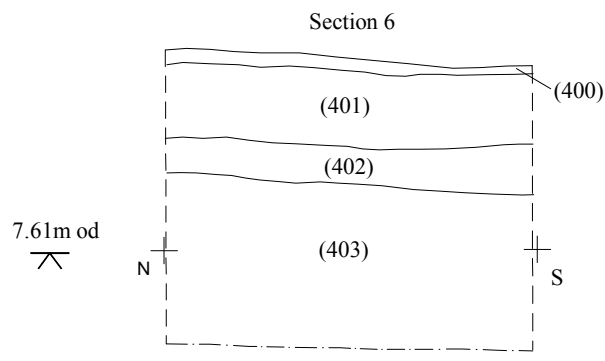
Plate 9: View of Section 13 looking south-east. Scale 1 x 1m.

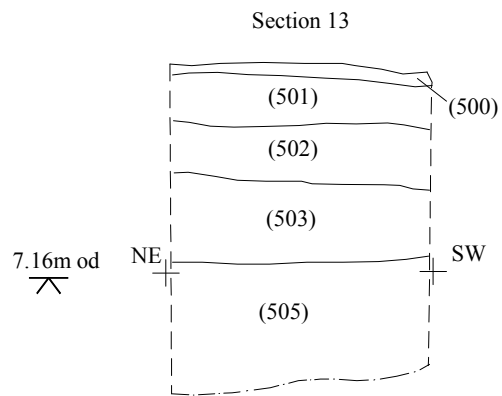
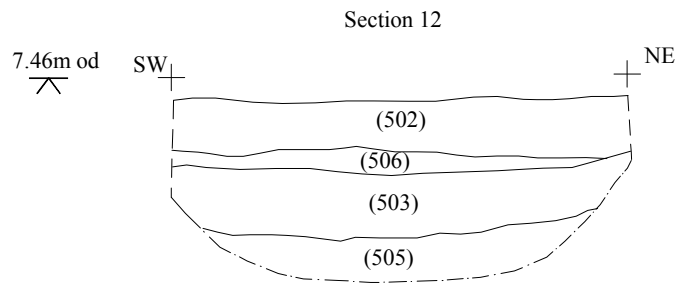
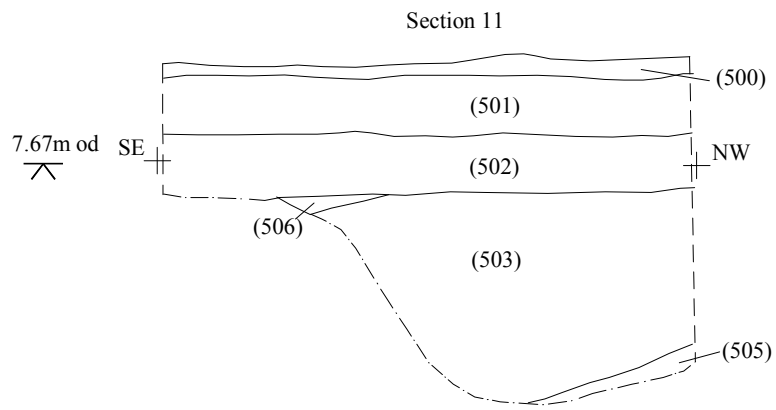












APPENDIX A – CONTEXT SUMMARY

context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Deposit	Modern tarmac deposit covers site. 0.03m thick.	Modern floor surface.
101	Deposit	Compact light-yellow gravel sand with frequent small stone. 0.17m thick.	Hard core stone layer, modern levelling.
102	Deposit	Firm mid brownish orange sand. 0.19m deep.	Modern builders sand levelling deposit.
103	Deposit	Compact dark grey clay silt with occasional charcoal. Occasional pottery, modern ceramic building material, plastic and tarmac located to the base of the fill. 0.57+m deep.	Mixed backfill deposit, probably modern levelling deposit.
200	Deposit	Modern tarmac deposit. same as (100). 0.04m thick.	Modern floor surface. Same as (100)
201	Deposit	Compact light-yellow gravel sand with frequent small stone. 0.2m thick.	Hard core stone layer. Levelling deposit. Same as (101).
202	Deposit	Firm mid brownish orange sand. 0.19m deep.	Modern builders sand levelling deposit. Same as (102).
203	Deposit	Compact dark grey clay silt with occasional Ceramic Building Material fragments, charcoal and gravel, plastic located to the base. 0.48m+ deep.	Mixed backfill deposit, probably levelling deposit. Same as (103).
204	Deposit	Compact dark grey sandy gravel. Plastic located in fill. 0.12m thick.	Backfill/ levelling deposit. Similar to (207)
205	Cut	Irregular in plan with moderate sides and irregular base. Filled by (204).	Cut of levelling layer, quarry cut?
206	Deposit	Compact mid brownish orange sand. 0.08m+ deep.	Natural sand.
207	Deposit	Compact dark grey sandy gravel. 0.08m +deep.	Backfill/ levelling deposit. Similar to (204).
300	Deposit	Modern tarmac deposit. 0.04m thick.	Modern floor surface.
301	Deposit	Compact light-yellow gravel and sand with frequent small stones. 0.2m thick.	Hard core stone layer. Levelling deposit.

302	Deposit	Firm mid brownish orange sand. 0.2m thick.	Modern builders sand levelling deposit.
303	Deposit	Compact dark grey clay silt with occasional charcoal, gravel and ceramic building material fragments, plastic bag found to the base. 0.58m+ deep.	Modern backfill / build up deposit.
304	Cut	Irregular concaved in plan with moderate sides and concaved base. Filled by (303).	Possible cut of pond or cut from quarrying.
305	Deposit	Firm mid yellow orange sand with occasional gravel. 0.5m+ thick	Natural.
400	Deposit	Modern tarmac layer.	Modern floor surface.
401	Deposit	Compact light-yellow gravelly sand with frequent small stones. 0.24m thick.	Hard core stone layer. Levelling deposit.
402	Deposit	Firm mid brownish orange sand. 0.14m thick.	Modern builders sand levelling deposit.
403	Deposit	Compact dark grey clay silt with occasional charcoal and ceramic building material fragments. 0.56m+ thick.	Modern mixed levelling/backfill deposit.
404	Deposit	Loose mid yellow brown sand and gravel. 0.3m = thick.	Natural.
500	Deposit	Modern tarmac layer.	Modern floor deposit.
501	Deposit	Compact light-yellow gravelly sand with frequent small stones. 0.22m thick.	Hard core stone layer. Levelling deposit.
502	Deposit	Compact mid brown orange sand. 0.16m thick.	Modern builders sand levelling deposit.
503	Deposit	Compact dark grey clay silt. 0.4m thick.	Modern mixed levelling / backfill.
504	Deposit	Compact mid greenish yellow clay. 0.26m thick.	Clay mixed backfill layer.
505	Deposit	Compact mid brownish orange gravel and sand. 0.12m+ thick.	Natural.
506	Deposit	Compact mottled orangey grey silty sand. 0.08m thick.	Backfill levelling deposit.
600	Deposit	Modern tarmac layer.	Modern floor surface.
601	Deposit	Compact light-yellow gravel and sand with frequent small stones. 0.28m thick.	Hard core stone layer. Levelling deposit.
602	Deposit	Compact mid brownish orange sand. 0.16m thick.	Modern builders sand. Levelling deposit.
603	Deposit	Compact dark grey clay silt. 0.49m thick.	Modern mixed levelling deposit.

604	Deposit	Compact dark grey silty gravel with occasional ceramic building material fragments. Occasional lenses of yellowish-brown silty sand. 0.10m thick.	Modern backfill / levelling deposit.
605	Deposit	Loose mid yellow brown sand and gravel. 0.1m+ thick.	Natural.

Appendix B

THE CERAMIC FINDS

Dr Anne Irving

POTTERY

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). A single sherd, weighing 4g was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the pottery is included in Table 1.

Results

Table 1, Archive of the Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description
103	BOU	Bourne D ware	Jug/jar	1	1	4	BS	

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2002). A total of 32 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 5,550g was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2.

Results

Table 2, Archive of the Ceramic Building Material

Cxt	Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
103	BRK	Brick	1	335	Stamped 'BRI...'; deep frog; extruded	19th to 20th
103	MODDRAIN	Modern land drain	6	309	Sewer pipe	19th to 20th
103	RTIL	Roman tile	4	222	Abraded; ?ID	Roman
203	TEG	Tegula	2	755	Same tile; flange	Roman
303	BOX	Roman box tile	2	139	Abraded; one with combing/finger marks	Roman

Cxt	Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
303	BRK	Brick	2	1182	Deep frog; extruded	19th to 20th
303	MODTIL	Modern tile	1	254	Pierced	19th to 20th
303	RBRK	Roman brick	2	1128	Same brick	Roman
403	BOX	Roman box tile	2	117	Abraded; one with combing/finger marks	Roman
403	BRK	Brick	1	184	Deep frog; extruded	19th to 20th
403	MODDRAIN	Modern land drain	1	32	Sewer pipe	19th to 20th
403	MODDRAIN	Modern land drain	1	36		18th to 20th
403	RTIL	Roman tile	1	157		Roman
603	RID	Unidentified ridge tile	1	29	?ID or LERTH	16th to 18th?
603	RTIL	Roman tile	2	581		Roman
603	TEG	Tegula	1	65		Roman
603	TEG	Tegula	2	25	Flakes; ?ID	Roman
		TOTAL	32	5550		

CONTEXT DATES

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comment
103	19th to 20th	
203	Roman	
303	19th to 20th	
403	19th to 20th	
603	16th to 18th?	

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2002, *Ceramic Building Material Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from https://www.archaeologicalceramics.com/uploads/1/1/9/3/11935072/ceramic_building_material_guidelines.pdf

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Appendix C

The Finds

By Gary Taylor

Artefacts recovered during investigations at Splash Lane, Castor, Peterborough, are reported, below.

The finds were examined and reported in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2014).

The Glass

Introduction

A single piece of glass weighing 6g was recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile, the glass is in good condition.

Results

Context	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
603	Colourless window	1	6	20 th century

Provenance

The glass was recovered from a mixed levelling deposit in Trench 6 (603).

Discussion

A fragment of a modern, 20th century, window glass was recovered.

Potential and Recommendations

Other than providing tentative dating evidence the glass is of limited potential and can be discarded.

References

ClfA, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Abbreviations

ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

Appendix D – Oasis Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: withamar1-372177

Project details

Project name	Castor, Splash Lane. Archaeological Trial Trenching
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Witham Archaeology at Splash Lane, Castor, Peterborough. The project was commissioned by Country Court Care in compliance with a condition of planning permission relating to the proposed construction of a new care home facility. The site is currently occupied by a disused sports centre and associated parking areas. The site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area, on the outskirts of the modern village of Castor which overlies a high-status Roman building which is protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument. The site of the Roman town of Durobrivae lies immediately to the south of the site and is also a Scheduled Monument. Previous archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of the construction of the sports centre recorded extensive Roman remains including two aisled barns thought to have been associated with the high-status building. The six trenches excavated as part of the current project revealed that the site was probably heavily truncated during previous episodes of construction. Residual Roman brick and tile was found alongside modern bricks and plastic bags within a layer used to backfill a depression which extended across the entire area of investigation. It seems likely that the area was truncated during previous groundworks on the site, probably during construction of the disused Woodlands Sports Centre.
Project dates	Start: 21-08-2019 End: 27-08-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	CASL19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	EPB898 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH CASTOR Castor, Splash Lane
Postcode	PE5 7DH
Study area	2.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 12215 98174 52.569432312161 -0.344107347646 52 34 09 N 000 20 38 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.75m Max: 7.47m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Andy Pascoe
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery
Physical Archive ID	TBC
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"

Digital Archive recipient	Nottingham City Museums and Galleries
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Glass", "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images vector", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey", "Ceramics", "Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land off Splash Lane, Castor, Peterborough
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pascoe, A
Other bibliographic details	323
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Witham Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire
Description	A4 Comb Bound
Entered by	Dale Trimble (info@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	31 October 2019

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