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**LONDON ROAD,
GODMANCHESTER,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS 1997-8**

**POST-EXCAVATION
ASSESSMENT**

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
Project No. 488
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**LONDON ROAD, GODMANCHESTER, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS 1997-8
POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT**

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LONDON ROAD, GODMANCHESTER, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS 1997-8

Post-Excavation Assessment

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POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

1.0: SUMMARY

This report summarises the results of excavations at London Road, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, and provides proposals to bring the fieldwork results to publication.

The earliest phase of activity (Phase 1) was mainly represented by a pit containing 68 sherds of Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery, and 550 fragments of worked flint. Further fragments of prehistoric pottery and worked flint items were found more widely within Romano-British contexts. The earliest phase of Romano-British activity (Phase 2) is dated to the 1st-2nd century, during which time plot boundaries were laid out parallel to Ermine Street (to the east of the site). The main flourish of Roman activity is dated to the late 2nd-3rd century (Phase 3), during which time further ditched enclosures were dug to the west of the road frontage. These enclosures contained a timber-framed building, wells and other features, including rubbish-pits and a number of hearths or ovens. In the final phase of Romano-British activity (Phase 4), dated to the late 3rd-4th centuries, the roadside ditched enclosures went out of use, and new roadside plots were defined. Although the activity in this phase was marked by less intensive activity than the previous phase, further pits and industrial features, possibly including tanning pits, hearths and ovens were in use. Perhaps the latest Romano-British feature was a roadside ditch, dug along the west side of Ermine Street. Later, in the medieval and post-medieval periods, the site was used for agriculture.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

2.1: Background to the project

The 1997-8 excavations investigated an area totalling 3050 square metres at London Road, on the southern outskirts of Godmanchester (centred on NGR. TL ~~72497~~699: Figs. 1-2). The site is located on the west side of London Road, which runs roughly parallel with, and slightly to the west of, Roman Ermine Street. The first stage of archaeological investigations comprised a desk-based assessment of secondary historical sources, and an earthwork survey, followed by trial-trenching (Hinman 1996). The evaluation also examined areas in the south of the site which were excluded from the scope of the excavations, which were targeted to investigate areas within the footprint of a new Primary School.

The excavations reported upon here were commissioned by the Education Property Section of Cambridgeshire County Council.

2.2: Aims

The main objective of the 1997 and 1998 excavations was to preserve the Roman settlement remains 'by record' and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site in the Romano-British period.

The detailed aims of the 1997 and 1998 excavations (BUFAU 1997) were:

- 1) To determine the date and nature of prehistoric activity on the site.
- 2) To examine the layout of the prehistoric settlement, to consider the evidence for the structured deposition of artifacts, and to determine the evidence for industrial activity.
- 3) To define a model of the spatial and chronological development of the Romano-British roadside settlement.
- 4) To determine the economy, and in particular the industrial functions of the settlement.
- 5) To consider the chronological and economic relationship between the settlement and the Roman town of Godmanchester.
- 6) To consider the chronological and economic relationship between the settlement and the rural hinterland of Godmanchester, in particular from the finds and environmental evidence.
- 7) To examine the evidence for the decline and abandonment of the settlement.
- 8) To compare the chronology, layout and economy of this roadside settlement with other roadside settlements on a regional, or possibly a national, basis.

2.3: Methodology

The excavations examined areas measuring 3050 square metres in total. These areas were stripped of topsoil by a 360 degree mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision. The removal of overburden was undertaken as a two-stage process. The first stage involved the removal of post-medieval and medieval ploughsoils, to expose the underlying horizons. Following hand-cleaning, planning and recording at this first machined horizon, the exposed redeposited roadside bank material, and destruction deposits were further machined to expose the underlying features and deposits at their uppermost horizons, and the subsoil. Following the second stage of machining, this lower machined horizon was hand-cleaned, and a base-plan of features and deposits was prepared. The plan provided the basis for the excavation strategy. Excavation of some of the deeper negative features (e.g. ditches and wells) was restricted by safety considerations. Hand excavation was hampered by repeated disturbances caused by trespassers using metal detectors digging to recover metal finds.

A total of three areas (designated Areas A1 to A3) was investigated along the road frontage in 1997, together with the area to the rear (Area B). The further area investigated in 1998 (Area A4), towards the modern road frontage, was dug following the removal of a hedge.

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-formas for contexts and features. Plans were prepared at scales of 1:50 and 1:20, as appropriate, and sections were drawn at

scales of 1:20 and 1:10. Monochrome print and colour slide photographs were also taken.

The records and finds from the evaluation stage of the project were not available for consultation in Birmingham during the preparation of this assessment.

Subject to the approval of the landowner, it is proposed to deposit the paper and finds archive in a store approved by the County Archaeology Office of Cambridgeshire County Council.

3.0: RESULTS

3.1: Phasing

Four phases of activity have been defined by preliminary stratigraphic analysis and spot-dating of the finds, as follows:

Phase 1	Neolithic and Bronze Age activity.
Phase 2	Early Romano-British activity (1st-2nd century).
Phase 3	Romano-British activity (later 2nd-3rd century).
Phase 4	Later Romano-British activity (later 3rd-4th century).

3.2: Phase 1: Neolithic and Bronze Age activity

The only datable Phase 1 feature identified during the excavation was a small circular pit (F104: Fig. 4), measuring 0.70m in diameter, cut into the gravel subsoil (1012). This feature contained 550 flint fragments, including a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead, and two possible post-packing stones. A total of 68 sherds of prehistoric pottery was also recovered from this feature. Of these, 61 were Neolithic in date, representing three vessels, and seven may belong to the Bronze Age/Iron Age.

In addition, a total of 153 flint items was found either singly or in small groups of up to four items within Romano-British contexts, or in the ploughsoil. Features F110.01, and F184.01, contained a total of four early Neolithic sherds in similar fabrics to the material from feature F104. Single sherds of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery were found in features F110.02, F150 and in layer 1122. With the exception of material from layer 1122, the prehistoric pottery appeared to be concentrated in Areas 2 and 3.

3.3: Phase 2: Early Romano-British activity (1st-2nd century)

The earliest Romano-British activity comprised the layout of one or more ditched plots to the west of the Ermine Street frontage (located to the east of, and parallel with the long axis of the area excavated), defined by ditches. The Phase 2 activity was mainly concentrated within the southern part of the area excavated, and did not extend significantly to the west of the contemporary ditched boundaries. Other evidence of Phase 1 and 2 activity may have been scoured out by later features.

Possibly the earliest Romano-British feature was a north-south aligned boundary ditch (F195, F203: Enclosure 1, Fig. 4), measuring 1m in width. Traces of possible re-cuts (F204, F205: Fig. 4) were recorded along part of its length, in the south of the excavated area. The possible northward continuation of this feature (Fig. 3) was probably scoured-out by later ditches F179 and F110 (Fig. 3), dug on a similar alignment. The alignment of feature F195 may have been continued to the north of an entry-gap by ditch F130, which butt-ended just inside the northern edge of the excavation (Fig. 3). This butt-end may have defined the northern side of an entrance, possibly also defined on its southern side by post-hole F103, a possible gatepost (Fig. 3). As so defined, ditches F130 and F195 may have formed the western side of a ditched enclosure dug on the eastern side of the road whose other sides lay outside the excavated area. A similar ditched enclosure, with an entry-gap further defined by post-holes, was identified by Green to the north of the London Road site, on the east side of Ermine Street (information from H. J. M. Green). Enclosure 1 ditch F195 may have been contemporary with an east-west aligned ditch (F190: Fig. 4), recorded for a length of 18m, which was cut both to the east and west of feature F195, although this cannot be proven because of disturbance by a later ditch (F188).

A later Phase 2 re-alignment of the roadside enclosures (and possibly by implication also of Ermine Street) is indicated by the excavation of northeast-southwest aligned ditch F182/F188 (Enclosure 2, Fig. 4), which cut the earlier Phase 1 enclosure ditches (F195 and F190), both now backfilled. This later, re-aligned Phase 2 boundary, which may have formed the eastern side of Enclosure 2, was recorded for a distance of 36m, but its southern limit was not found within the area excavated. Traces of re-cutting (F183, F207: Fig. 4) were recorded in the south of the area excavated. It is possible that the line of ditch F182/F188 may have been continued to the north of a possible entry-gap by a further ditch (F229: Fig. 3), which was slightly sinuous in plan.

The remaining Phase 2 features were mainly located within Enclosures 1 and 2, and comprised two ovens (F107, F114: Fig. 3), located in the extreme north of the area excavated, three pits (F186-7, F191: Fig. 4) located to the south of Phase 2 east-west ditch F190, and two small pits (F230, F240: Fig. 3) to the east of ditch F230. The Phase 2 features located outside Enclosures 1 and 2 comprised a shallow northwest-southeast-aligned gully (F111: Fig. 4), and a post-hole (F185: Fig. 4).

TABLE 1: Phase 2 features, dating evidence

(all pottery dating)	
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Pottery date range</i>
F195, F103, <u>F182</u> , F240 and F185	1st-2nd century
<u>F188</u> , F114, F186	late 1st-2nd century
<u>F107</u>	mid-late 2nd century
F130 and <u>F188.01</u> , <u>F188.02</u>	late 2nd-3rd century
<u>F183</u>	1st-early 2nd century
F229	1st-early 3rd century
F230	2nd-3rd century date
<u>F207</u>	late 1st-early 2nd century

Underlined features form part of pottery key groups.

3.4: Phase 3: Romano-British activity (later 2nd-3rd century)

This phase represents the most intensive Romano-British activity on the site. Once again, the majority of the Phase 3 features were located within a re-cut north-south-aligned ditched boundary, which formed the eastern side of an enclosure (Enclosure 3), adjoining the Ermine Street frontage. The northern butt-end of a further enclosure (Enclosure 4) was recorded in the south of the site. The Phase 3 features included ovens, hearths, pits, wells, and a timber-framed building. Phase 3 features were cut into the subsoil, and into the backfills of the Phase 1-2 features. For simplicity, the enclosure ditches are described first, followed by a summary of the internal features, roughly from north to south.

Enclosures 3 and 4

The main Phase 3 feature was an L-shaped enclosure (Enclosure 3), its western side and long axis aligned north-south (F179: Figs 3-4), cut just inside the western edge of the excavated area. Its east-west-aligned southern side (F184/F256: Fig. 4), which cut backfilled Phase 2 ditch F188, was located in the south of the excavated area. Although no relationship could be established between ditches F179 and F184/F256 because of disturbance by an intervening Phase 4 ditch (F110), these ditches are presumed to be contemporary, as is suggested by the thickening of ditch F184/F256 towards the suggested junction with ditch F179 to the east, the radius recorded on the innermost edge of ditch F184 close to the suggested point of junction, and the absence of evidence for the continuation of east-west ditch F184/F256 to the west of ditch F179. Part of the eastern side, and the full length of the southern side of this enclosure were recorded at excavation; its northern side, and the southern limit of its western side, lay outside the excavated area.

The western side of this enclosure appeared to respect the alignment of the earlier Phase 2 boundary ditch F188, although the later ditch was located approximately 7.5m to the west (measured centre-to-centre). However, the Phase 3 ditch appeared to

curve slightly to the northwest towards its northern terminal. It appeared to be cut following the line of a natural break of slope, which was more pronounced in the north of the excavated area, where the ditch also appeared to be more deeply-cut. Ditch F179 was cut to a U-shaped profile, and was recorded for a length of 46m. Its line was continued to the north of an entry-gap, measuring 11m in width, by ditch F113 (Fig. 3), which terminated in a rounded butt-end just inside the northern edge of the excavated area. It is suspected that this Phase 3 entry-gap was also in use during Phase 2 because there was no backfilled ditched boundary crossing it, although there was no trace of the southern side of this feature because of re-cutting in Phase 3.

The southern ditch of Enclosure 3 (F184/F256) was U-shaped in profile, and appeared to respect the approximate position of Phase 2 east-west ditch F190, being cut roughly 2m to the south of the earlier, backfilled feature. Phase 3 ditch F184/F256 was recorded for a length of 26m, and terminated to the east in a round-ended butt-end (F256). It is not known if this terminal defined the eastern end of this side of the enclosure, or, alternatively, the eastern side of an entrance.

Two possible ditched sub-divisions were located within the interior of Enclosure 3. One may have been formed by mainly north-south aligned ditch F210 (Fig. 3), which may have formed a mainly north-south aligned later Phase 3 sub-division of Enclosure 1. Although heavily disturbed by later Phase 3 pit digging, it is possible that east-west aligned ditch F196/F218 (Fig. 3), dug for a distance of 24m to the east of the western enclosure ditch (F179), could have been associated. Two reasons for this hypothesis are suggested. Firstly, there was no evidence of a continuation of this ditch to the west of the enclosure, and secondly because the eastern terminus of ditch F196 was flush with the eastern terminus of the southern enclosure ditch (F184/F256), dug 15m to the south. Although heavily disturbed by pitting, ditch F196 probably consisted of two contiguous segments cut following slightly different orientations, and of differing profiles (U-shaped in the west, F196; near-vertically-sided in the east, F218). No relationship between ditches F179 and F196 could be observed because of disturbance by Phase 4 ditch F110.

Enclosure 4

The main Phase 3 feature recorded to the south of Enclosure 3 was the round-ended northern terminal of north-south aligned ditch F180 (Fig. 4), recorded for a distance of 8m in the extreme south of the excavated area. This ditch may have defined the northern limit of the western side of a further enclosure (Enclosure 4), located to the south of Enclosure 3, and positioned approximately 8m to the east of the western side of Enclosure 3. Ditch F180 was U-shaped in profile, and measured a maximum of 5.8m in width and 2m in depth. Layers of slumped material (1177, 1182) accumulated in the base of the ditch were sealed by backfill material, comprising deposits of brown clay-silt (1157, 1161, 1162).

The possible entry-gap between the northern terminal of Enclosure 4 ditch (F180) and the southern side of Enclosure 3 (F184/F256), measuring 4m in width, may have been 'closed' by round-ended gullies (F198-F200: Fig. 4), cut on two different alignments. The earliest of these gullies (F200) was aligned northwest-southeast, and measured

3m in length. This feature was cut by northeast-southwest-aligned gully F199, which was in turn truncated by the excavation of gully F198, measuring 5m in length, following approximately the same northwest-southeast alignment as gully F200. Gully F198 probably post-dates the abandonment of Enclosure 4 since it was cut into the uppermost fills of that feature. No trace of any associated features, such as post-holes, was found within the excavated segments of these gullies, which were backfilled with silt-sand.

Features within Enclosure 3

For simplicity, the features within, and possibly contemporary with, Enclosure 3, are described in groups, from north to south.

Northern feature group (Fig. 3)

One of the earliest Phase 3 features in the north of the area excavated was east-west aligned ditch F131, which was cut by a later ditch (F125), following a similar alignment. The western end of a curvilinear, roughly east-west-aligned ditch (F125), recorded in the extreme north of the area excavated, was cut flush with the northern terminal (F113) of the Enclosure 3 entrance. Later activity in this area is represented by gullies F124 and F172, pits F132 and F129, and north-south aligned ditches F117 and F210.06, all cutting ditch F125. North-south ditch F117 could have formed a re-positioning of the western side of Enclosure 3, to the north of the entry-gap. The southern terminal of ditch F117 was cut by post-pit F115, which may be interpreted as a possible gatepost. A further, slightly curvilinear, east-west aligned ditch (F143/F127), located to the south of ditch F125, also terminated to the west, approximately 4m inside Enclosure 3. This ditch was also cut by north-south ditch F210.05. Ditch F127 was cut by post-hole F126, which also cut a circular pit (F122), to the north; ditch F143 was cut by pit F158. Other pits were cut nearby (F108, F121), including a group of intercutting features (F168-F170).

A group of features of industrial, or possible industrial, use, including pits and hearths or ovens was located to the south of ditch F143/F127, and to the north of Structure 1, adjoining the southern side of the western entrance to Enclosure 3. Pit F257 was cut by feature F258, rectangular in plan, with vertical sides, and a flat base, which is interpreted as a possible quenching tank. This feature group included three oval hearths (F112, F136, F138), backfilled with charcoal-rich clay; the backfills of feature F138 also contained fragments of clay lining, possibly burnt *in situ*. A small circular hearth (F262) was also located nearby. A group of post-holes (F141, F260-1, F263-4) adjoining the hearth or oven group was probably associated. To the east of this feature group was north-south aligned gully F259, which was cut by ditch F210.

Structure 1 (Fig. 3)

Structure 1, located in the east of the excavated area, was the only building identified. This building was of timber-framed construction, defined by beam-slots and other internal features cut into the subsoil, and by a gravelled floor surface. This building was rectangular in plan, measuring 12m along its long axis, and positioned at a right-

angle to the Ermine Street frontage. Parts of the western (F233), and presumed eastern (F165), sides of this building were identified, but its northern and southern walls were not found. It is possible that the southern side of the building was defined by the southern ends of the beam-slots defining its western and eastern sides (F233, F165), and could have been partly open. The building was divided off-centre into two rooms by beam-slot F277, which was slightly mis-aligned with the eastern and western external walls. Room 1, in the front of the building, measured 7.2m in width internally, and Room 2 to the rear measured 3.4m in width internally (both measured east-west).

A disturbance (F154) in the subsoil surface in the north of Room 1 may be associated with the grubbing-out of a tree-root. The gravel floor (F147) of Room 1 sealed the subsoil (1012), and the backfilled disturbance (F154). The surface was cut by a scatter of post-holes (F148-9, F155, F162-4); post-hole F156 was cut into the backfill of disturbance F154. The floor of Room 1 was resurfaced with a further layer of gravel (1110: not illustrated), sealing the backfilled post-holes and hearths, and the eastern wall of this room was re-positioned (F152) slightly to the west of its original location (F165). In Room 2, in the rear of the building, a layer of grey-brown silt-sand clay (1288: not illustrated), measuring 0.05m in depth, overlying the subsoil (1012), may have formed a trampled earth floor surface. The beam-slot (F233) defining the rear wall of this room was cut by post-hole F234; other nearby post-holes (F235, F238, F239, F244), all cut into surface 1288, could be associated with later, Phase 3 activity, possibly post-dating the abandonment of Structure 1.

Features to the south of Structure 1

A rectangular well (F159), located immediately to the south of Structure 1 was probably associated. This feature could not be fully excavated for reasons of safety, and its upper fills were truncated by Phase 4 ditch F100. The well measured a maximum of 2m by 2.5m in plan, and was probably originally vertically-sided and lined with timber planks, although no trace of this lining had survived. A second well (F142), 10m south of the building may also have been associated. It was circular in plan, and measured a maximum of 1.7m in diameter, and may also have been originally lined with timber planking as was suggested by its vertical sides.

Other Phase 3 features (Fig. 3), comprising the western terminal of a narrow, east-west-aligned gully (F178), an adjoining pit (F177), a post-hole (F228), two large pits (F269, F270), together measuring a maximum of 8m in diameter, and an oval pit (F225), were also located to the south of Structure 1. Further to the south was a roughly-circular, vertically-sided pit (F217: Fig. 4), measuring approximately 8m in diameter, cut into the eastern edge of north-south aligned ditch F210. Two vertically-sided, small slots (F214, F214A), dug into the base of pit F217 (Fig. 4), were probably associated with its use. East-west ditch F196/F218, a possible internal division within Enclosure 3, was cut by pits F232 and F227. The latter was cut by circular pit F222; pit F232 was cut by pit F197, which was in turn cut by pit F201.

The majority of the Phase 3 features located to the south of east-west ditch F196/F218 comprised hearths or ovens, and this ditch may have been intended to form the

northern boundary of this mainly industrial zone (Fig. 4). One probable oven base was represented by a circular deposit of heat-shattered stone (F249), measuring 1m in diameter. The hearths and ovens were oval (F192, F224, F243), circular (F245, F255), or keyhole-shaped (F255A) in plan. Oven F243 contained quantities of redeposited burnt red clay lining material. The fills of this oven/hearth group contained quantities of charcoal, and flecks of burnt clay lining material. A vertically-sided oval pit (F206) dug to the northeast of oven F192, may be interpreted as a possible water tank, perhaps originally lined with clay, associated with the hearth group, and used for quenching. Hearth F245 was joined to the west by a narrow gully (F278). Two gulleys (F250, F253) aligned southwest-northeast, and northwest-southeast respectively were probably associated with the use of this group of industrial features. The gully fills contained quantities of charcoal and some burnt clay fragments. Gully F250 contained a post-hole (F251), and gully F253 was cut by hearth F224 and terminated in pit F276. Post-holes (F221, F241, F254, F273 and F274) positioned around the Phase 3 hearths or ovens were probably associated.

The remaining features in this area comprised three circular or oval pits (F194, F209, F275), and a well (F193), cut into the backfills of Phase 3 oven F192 and later backfilled with rubbish. The well was rectangular in plan, and its vertical sides were probably originally retained by timber planks. Pit F209 was cut into Phase 3 industrial feature F242.

The backfilled group of industrial features to the north of Structure 1, and of hearths and ovens to the south of ditch F196/F218, was sealed by a layer of charcoal-rich silt (1337: not illustrated).

Features outside Enclosure 3

Phase 3 activity was mainly focused within Enclosure 3. An exception was a group of features located immediately to the west of the enclosure, towards the centre of the area investigated. The earliest feature in this group (Fig. 3) was the eastern terminal of an east-west-aligned gully (F139), recorded for a distance of 4m. This gully was cut by a small, circular pit (F231), which was in turn truncated by the excavation of a further small pit (F226). To the south of Enclosure 3 (Fig. 4) were dug two pits (F246-7), together measuring a maximum of 8m in diameter. These pits probably post-dated the backfilling of the southern Enclosure 3 ditch (F184/F256).

TABLE 2: Phase 3 features, dating evidence

<i>Feature/group</i>	<i>Pottery/other dating evidence</i>
Enclosure ditches	
Enclosure 3, F179, F184.01 and F113 F184.02, southern ditch	late 2nd-3rd century coin of Geta as Caesar (AD209-212)
Enclosure 3 internal ditches F210.06 and <u>F196</u>	2nd-3th and late 2nd-3rd century respectively
Enclosure 4, F180 and F198 F180	late 2nd-3rd century pottery. coin of Hadrian (AD 117-138) coin of Severus Alexander (AD 222-235) coin of Valens/Valentinian (AD 374-378)
<u>F210.04, F210.05</u>	2nd century
Northern internal feature group	
<u>F125</u>	2nd century
F124, <u>F143, F157, F122</u>	2nd century
F113 and F115	late 2nd-3rd century
<u>F168</u>	late 2nd-early 3rd century
Industrial features F258 and F141 F264	2nd-3rd century 1st-3rd century
F112 and F138	late 2nd-3rd century
F233 (Structure 1)	late 2nd-3rd century
F234 and F235	late 1st-2nd century
F239	2nd century
<u>F158</u>	2nd century
Features to south of Structure 1	
F177, F217, F178 and F201	late 2nd-3rd century
F228 and F227	2nd-3rd century
F214	late 1st-2nd century
F197	3rd century
F269	coin of Constantine I as Caesar (AD 307), coin of ?Antoninus Pius
F270	
<u>F197</u>	3rd century
<u>F194</u>	2nd century
Southern group of industrial features	
F249, F224	2nd-3rd century
F243, F250, F194 , F242 and F209	late 2nd-3rd century
F245	3rd century pottery.
Well <u>F193</u>	coin of Tetricus I (AD 273+), late 3rd century pottery
Features outside Enclosure 3	
F139, <u>F226</u> and F247	late 2nd-3rd century
Underlined features form part of pottery key groups.	

3.5: Phase 4: Later Romano-British activity (later 3rd-4th century)

The Phase 4 features were cut into the subsoil, and into the backfilled Phase 1-3 features.

Some of the earliest Phase 4 activity may have involved the backfilling and levelling of the disused Phase 3 features, possibly including Structure 1, which had gone out of use by the beginning of this phase. Lengths of the Phase 3 Enclosure 3 ditch F179, internal ditch F210 (Fig. 3) in the north of the enclosure, and ditch F218 (Fig. 4) towards the south of Enclosure 3 went out of use, were backfilled and levelled. A possible Phase 3 re-cut (F160) of ditch F210 was also identified. Phase 3 wells F142 and F159 (to the south of Structure 1) were also backfilled early in Phase 4 (Fig. 3).

The backfilled Phase 3 western ditch of Enclosure 3 (F179) was re-cut (F110: Figs. 3-4) in Phase 4, following the same approximate north-south, alignment, but positioned slightly to the east of the former, abandoned boundary. Ditch F110 may have formed the western side of a further enclosure (Enclosure 5), the remaining sides of which lay outside the excavated area. This ditch was re-cut (F118-F120: Fig. 4) towards the south of the excavated area. The entry-gap along the western side of Phase 3 Enclosure 3 continued to be respected in Phase 4; the northern terminal of ditch F110 was cut flush with the northern terminal of Phase 3 Enclosure 3 ditch F179 (Fig. 3). A post-hole (F102) cut towards the southern side of this entrance may represent the slight re-positioning of the Phase 3 possible gatepost (F103). At excavation no trace was found of a continuation of the ditched boundary to the north of this entrance, unlike the Phase 2-3 enclosures, which implies that the latest, Phase 4 entry-gap was the broader feature.

A number of features was dug within Phase 4 Enclosure 5 (ditch F110). Three large, flat-based, and vertically-sided, pits (F133-F135, Fig. 3) were cut in the northeast of the excavated area. The pit sides were relatively unweathered, suggesting either the presence of a lining, or alternatively their rapid backfilling. This pit group was backfilled with deposits containing ash and charcoal.

Phase 4 activity was also concentrated towards the southern excavated part of the Enclosure 5 interior (Fig. 4). Sub-circular pit F220 was dug into the subsoil, and Phase 4 pit F248 was dug into the subsoil. The only Phase 4 feature to the south of Phase 3 Enclosure 3 was a shallow, east-west-aligned gully (F181). This Phase 4 industrial feature group was sealed by layers of charcoal-rich silt (1258-1260: not illustrated).

The backfilling of Phase 3 well F159 may have been preparatory to the cutting of an east-west-aligned ditched boundary (F100), which cut across Enclosure 5 ditch F110, and was also recorded for a distance of 7m to the west of, and outside, Enclosure 5. Ditch F100/F307 was U-shaped in profile, with traces of a slot in its base. Ditch F100 was backfilled with grey-brown silt-clay-sand deposits. A re-cut (F308) of ditch F100 was recorded in the extreme east of the area investigated.

Probably the latest episode of Phase 4 activity was the cutting of a north-south aligned ditch (F145/F305: Fig. 3), later re-cut (F306) slightly to the east, both adjoining the contemporary Ermine Street road frontage (to the east of the excavated area). A Phase 4 oval pit (F271: Fig. 3) was cut into the backfills of ditch F145.

The Phase 4 features were sealed by a deposit derived from the weathering of the roadside bank (1005: not illustrated), measuring a maximum of 0.4m in depth, in turn sealed by the medieval ploughsoil (1001: not illustrated), which was overlain by a layer of post-medieval ploughsoil (1000).

TABLE 3: Phase 4 features, dating evidence

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Pottery/ other dating</i>
<u>F160</u> and F210, and F246	late 3rd-4th century
F126 and F159	4th century
F100.01 and F100.02	residual late 2nd-3rd century
<u>F100.03</u>	late 3rd-4th century
F100.04 and F206	4th century pottery
F110.04	coins of Trajan (AD 98-117), and Valentinian I (AD 364-375)
F145.01	residual late 2nd-3rd century
F110.01, <u>F110.02</u> , <u>F110.05</u> , <u>F110.06</u> and F102	3rd-4th century
F110.00, F133, F220, F248, F181	late 3rd-4th century
<u>F102</u>	coin of the Tetrarchy (AD 284-305)
F210.06	late 3rd-4th century coin of the House of Valentinian (AD 364-383)
<u>F133</u>	illegible coin of 3rd-4th century date and 3rd-4th century
F220	coin of Trajan (AD98-117).
<u>F248</u>	late 3rd-4th
F206	4th century

Underlined features form part of pottery key groups.

4.0: ASSESSMENTS

4.1: Stratigraphic/structural data

As described above, most of the features and deposits excavated can be dated to the late 1st-4th century. In addition, one pit (F104) contained a large quantity of early prehistoric pottery, and flint artifacts. The majority of the feature fills contain datable pottery, although much of this material is probably residual. The archaeological features mainly comprise ditches, pits, and post-holes. Part of one timber-framed building was identified. The other features identified comprise wells, hearths or ovens, and larger, vertically-sided pits, possibly associated with industrial activity. Some overall horizons, comprising spreads of destruction deposits and collapsed roadside bank material, were also recorded.

4.2: Artifactual data

4.2.1: Flint by Lynne Bevan

A total of 710 humanly-struck flint items was recovered, the majority of which, over 550 items, including a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead, came from a single feature (pit F104, fill 1016), which also contained three large stone fragments (see below). With the exception of the arrowhead, no formal tools were apparent at initial inspection. The remaining 160 flints were found either singly, or in small groups of up to four flints, redeposited mainly in Romano-British features elsewhere on the site.

The large concentration of flint from F104 included flints of all sizes ranging from fairly large chunks and cores to very small flakes. Such a large and comprehensive collection from a primary deposit offers the opportunity to study all aspects of the core reduction process, perhaps providing the opportunity for refitting, and further study will provide insights into a Neolithic flint industry which constitutes the earliest evidence for human activity on the site. Further work on this collection is recommended, to comprise a full catalogue, illustration of the arrowhead, with a view towards placing the material from feature F104 within a geographical, chronological and cultural context.

4.2.2: Prehistoric pottery by Ann Woodward

A total of 75 sherds of prehistoric pottery was identified. Of these 65 were of Neolithic date, three were of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date and seven may derive from the Bronze Age or Iron Age periods. The seven Bronze Age or Iron Age sherds were abraded and came from the upper fill (1068) of pit F104, the lower fill (1016) of which contained 61 sherds representing three vessels of Neolithic date. Two of these were unabraded rim portions of thin-walled, probably carinated bowls, one large and one smaller, tempered with ill-sorted, angular quartzite fragments. Such vessels belong to the Early Neolithic bowl tradition. This pottery was associated with the Neolithic flint assemblage, including a leaf-shaped arrowhead, described in Section 4.2.1 above. Seven other fills of Romano-British features contained single sherds of Early Neolithic or Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age pottery, dated

according to the fabrics only.

Prehistoric pottery was also recovered from feature fills during the evaluation (Last 1997). However, the vessels represented in these cases were decorated, and belonged to the Grooved ware or Beaker traditions of the Late Neolithic and/or Early Bronze Age.

The small group of pottery from the excavation confirms the presence of Neolithic activity suggested by the flint assemblage. The Early Neolithic bowls are a significant contribution to the corpus of such vessels in the county and the region. They merit full description and discussion, including petrological study, and should be discussed in relation to related pottery from local and regional sites such as Fengate, Etton, Shippea Hill, Hurst Fen and Briar Hill.

4.2.3: Romano-British small finds by Lynne Bevan

Ceramic Object

A small, circular, bowl-shaped ceramic object (F206, 1221) with a broken base was recovered which might have fulfilled one of a number of possible functions, that of a candle holder being the most logical in view of the pinched base which appears to have been broken from a larger object. Other possibilities include a votive pot or a crucible. Careful cleaning and further research is recommended for this object, including a search for artifactual parallels, descriptive cataloguing and illustration. Comparison with pottery fabrics from the site is also recommended.

Copper Alloy

A total of 14 copper alloy objects was recorded, including: two bow brooches (F110, 1091 and 1047), an ornamental buckle (F102,1006), a broken bracelet with an incised design and perforated terminal (F100.03, 1082), part of a broken pair of tweezers (F136, 1081), a bun-shaped pin head with a broken shaft (1409, metal detector find), and fragments from two other broken pin shafts (F142, 1103; F200, 1231). Other finds comprised part of a broken pin shaft or brooch pin (F145, 1096), two rectangular-sectioned strips (1000, topsoil), a large fragment of folded plate (1001, cleaning layer), and three small fragments of plate (F100.02, 1079).

Further research is recommended upon the brooches (by Donald Mackreth), and the buckle, bracelet and pin head. Full cataloguing and publication of these items is appropriate, including illustration of one of the brooches and the buckle, and a summary listing only of the remaining items by feature/context.

Iron objects

The 20 iron items consisted of a broken knife blade (F210, 1231), a key (1037, metal detector find), a stylus (F206, 1220), a possible linchpin (F122, 1057), an 'L'-clamp (1037, metal detector find), part of a possible cleaver blade (1000, topsoil), a possible latch-lifter (1000), a rod (1000), 161 nails and 11 corroded fragments. In addition, a

total of 439 fragments of smithing slag was recovered. Further work is recommended only for the knife blade, key, stylus and linch-pin, ideally including X-rays for the linch-pin and also for the unidentified rod-shaped object and possible latch-lifter. Only a summary listing of the other material by context is required.

Lead

One fragment of sheet lead was recovered, for which no further work is recommended.

Worked Bone

Three bone pins (F122, 1057; F193, 1198; layer 1265) and two pin shaft fragments (F201, 1218; layer 1112) were recovered. A catalogue of these objects, all of which are well-represented in published material, is recommended as well as illustration.

Fired Clay

Eleven fragments of fired clay were recovered, eight of which came from one feature, a probable oven/hearth (F107). No further work is recommended on this material.

Stone

Fragments from four quernstones (layer 1031; F114, 1040; layer 1032; F210.06, 1060) were recovered, for which geological identification is required. In addition to these artefacts, a circular stone ball (F194, 1232) and three large stone fragments were recovered. The large stones were post-packing in the Neolithic feature (F104). Examination of this non-worked material is also recommended, to ascertain if the objects might have been used for any purpose prior to deposition.

Glass

Eleven fragments of Roman glass were recorded, of which ten were from blue green bottles and other vessels, and one was a fragment of window glass. None of these fragments is sufficiently diagnostic to provide specific dating information and no further action is recommended beyond a summary listing by feature/context.

Brick and Tile

A total of 138 fragments of tile and six fragments of brick was recovered. Several fragments of diagnostically-Roman material, such as *tegulae* and box flue, were identified among the tiles. No further work is recommended for this small assemblage.

4.2.3: Romano-British pottery by Jane Evans

Introduction

A total of 11,403 sherds of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the 1997 and 1998 excavations. Most of the pottery was, as might be expected, more fragmentary and abraded than the material associated with the kilns excavated at The Parks, Godmanchester, although variations were noted between features at the London Road site. The entire assemblage from London Road was scanned and spot dated for this assessment.

Dating

The majority of the pottery was locally produced, with relatively little shelly ware, Nene Valley grey or colour-coated ware, and very little Black-Burnished ware. Many of the context assemblages were small, and good diagnostic dating evidence was often therefore sparse. It was easier to characterise the early Roman (Phase 2: late 1st-2nd century) and late Roman (Phase 4: late 3rd-4th century) groups, than it was the groups attributed to the middle Romano-British period (Phase 3: late 2nd-3rd century).

Characteristically early (Phase 2) Roman fabrics and forms included grog-tempered and shell/grog-tempered wares, often in Belgic-derived forms; fine sandy grey wares, often with black surfaces; grey wares decorated with rustication, barbotine dots, stabbing, rouletting, and occasionally London ware type motifs; forms in white ware similar to those associated with The Parks Kiln 1; occasional mica-dusted ware; samian forms such as Dr 15/17, Dr 27, Dr 29, Dr 18/31R, Curle 11; shelly ware jars, sometimes with combed decoration; and jars in shelly ware or grey ware with rebated rims.

The middle Roman (Phase 3) assemblages were harder to characterise, particularly as high levels of residuality were evident in many contexts. One defining feature was the presence of Nene Valley colour-coated ware, another, the absence of the characteristically-later forms that defined the Phase 4 Roman group. However, in a number of cases assemblages which otherwise appeared to date to the late-1st or 2nd century were given a *terminus post quem* of late-2nd-3rd century on the basis of one or two sherds of Nene Valley colour coated ware. Some more-closely-datable beaker forms were noted amongst the Nene Valley colour coats, which usually had barbotine decoration under, rather than over, the slip; and samian forms such as Dr 33, Dr 36, Dr 38, Dr 31/31R also provided more reliable dating. Very occasionally, dating evidence was provided by BB1 flat rimmed or groove rimmed bowls.

Residuality continued to be a problem in the late Roman (Phase 4) groups. These were characterised by the presence of flange-rimmed bowls in BB1 or, more commonly, copied in grey ware. BB1-type plain rimmed dishes were also more common in this group. Nene Valley colour-coated wares included beakers with barbotine decoration over the slip, and a range of bowls, wide-mouthed jars and flange-necked flagons characteristic of the late 3rd or 4th century. The colour coats on a number of sherds also had the sheen characteristic of later Nene Valley wares. Very occasional sherds of

Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware were also noted.

Significance

Like the assemblage from The Parks Godmanchester, the London Road assemblage will provide a body of data which will contribute to broader studies of the development, function, and internal morphology of the Roman small town at Godmanchester. This not only has implications for our understanding of Godmanchester, but also for our understanding of small towns more generally. Once the pottery from Godmanchester has been characterised, it will also be possible to study the town in its broader regional context. The pottery so far assessed is, for example, quite distinct from assemblages to the north of Godmanchester on the route of the A1 (Annette Hancocks, pers. comm.). The possibility that this relates to Godmanchester's location in relation to *civitas* boundaries would make an interesting area of study. For these reasons it is important that the recording methodology for the London Road assemblage is compatible with that used for The Parks.

A comprehensive form series needs to be produced for Godmanchester. Much of the pottery from London Road is fragmentary, and better examples of many of the forms undoubtedly exist in other assemblages. A fabric series has already been produced for the Rectory Farm site (Colin Wallace, pers. comm.), and this will be used as the basis for recording the London Road assemblage.

An important aspect of the London Road excavation is the stratigraphic sequence it provides. The prime aim of post-excavation analysis will be, therefore, to establish a chronological framework for the Godmanchester pottery, and to assess changes in fabrics and forms from the late-1st to early-2nd century, through to the late-3rd or 4th century. The assemblage also provides 'use' assemblages which can be compared with contemporary 'production' assemblages from The Parks site, setting the latter in a much better context.

The high level of residuality in the assemblage has been noted above. For this reason, and to target resources more closely to fulfill the stated research aims, a number of representative key groups have been selected for study, totalling 40% of the entire assemblage. The criteria for selection include: low levels of obviously residual material; good survival in terms of sherd size and the presence of form sherds, and good stratigraphic sequences. Analysis of this sample will also, it is hoped, provide a statistically-valid body of data to be compared with the other Godmanchester assemblages. The mortaria from the key groups will be reported upon by Lindsay Rollo and Kay Hartley (stamps), and the samian will be reported upon by Steve Willis.

4.2.4: Coins by Roger White

A total of 29 coins was assessed.

The coins were cleaned mechanically where the surface was stable to allow identification. The condition of the coins varied from poor to good, with the majority

easily legible after only light cleaning. Surfaces of the coins tended to be soft, especially when surface soil had to be removed to read the legends or observe details of design. One coin (SF13, F133, 1078) is corroded into a lump and needs conservation. Others all need cleaning by a conservator to stabilise them for long-term preservation and to remove some corrosion products still adhering to the surface. Given these problems, the identifications in the table are not absolutely secure in all cases.

A total of 29 coins was provisionally identified, ranging in date from the mid-late-1st century to the last quarter of the 4th. Of these, nine came from unstratified contexts and a further six were the result of metal detecting on site. The remaining 14 coins came from stratified contexts. These coins ranged in date from Trajan to the House of Valentinian.

The unstratified group was similar in date range and condition to those found in stratified contexts confirming the overall pattern of coin use on the site but there were apparently considerable losses from the overall coin profile due to metal detecting during the excavation by trespassers. Although these losses may have been significant in terms of numbers, they do not appear to have distorted the overall pattern of the profile which still contains very worn 1st and 2nd century coins, irregular issues of the mid-late-3rd century and the mid-4th century and good quality coins of 2nd to 4th century date. Two coins in particular may be singled out for comment in terms of condition and type. Both are London mint issues, the first of Licinius (layer 1030, SF 4) and the second of Constantine as Caesar (F269, 1261 SF54). These are both in excellent, virtually-unworn condition but with minor products of corrosion adhering. The Constantine coin is an especially rare specimen as a site find.

This small group of coins provides a comprehensive selection of coins from a typical Romano-British rural assemblage. The coins will need to be identified more securely for which conservation work will be required as a prior condition. Further work is required to refine understanding of the assemblage through comparison with other sites in the area and within Roman Britain in general.

TABLE 4: The coins

<i>Con.</i>	<i>Fea.</i>	<i>SF no.</i>	<i>Emperor</i>	<i>Apx Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Condition</i>
w/s		35	Gratian	367-83	AE3	Fair
w/s		36	Valentinian I	364-75	AE3	Good
w/s		37	Tetricus I	268-73	Antonin.	Fair
w/s		40	H. of Constantine	337-40	AE4	Fair
w/s		45	Gratian	367-83	AE3	Good
w/s		46	Barbarous radiate	273+	Antonin.	Fair
w/s		47	Vespasian?	1st cent.	Dup.	Very worn
w/s		49	Vespasian?	1st cent.	Dup.	Very worn
w/s		50	H of C./H of V.	mid-late 4th	AE3	Fair
1006	F102	3	Tetrarchy	284-305	Follis	Fair
1030	Layer	4	Licinius I	308-24	Follis	Fine
1037 MD			Tetricus I	268-73	Antonin.	Fair
1037 MD			H.of Valentinian	364-83	AE3	Fair
1037 MD			illegible			
1037 MD			H.of Constantine	346-8	AE4	Fair
1037 MD			Valentinian I	364-75	AE3	Good
1037 MD			Valens/Valentinian	364-78	AE3	Good
1060	F210.06	10	H. of Valentinian	364-83	AE3	Fair
1078	F133	13	illegible	73-4th		corroded
1094	F100.04	22	Valentinian I	364-75	AE3	Good
1094	F100.04	23	Trajan	98-117	Dup.	Good-fine
1162	F180	26	Hadrian	117-38	Den.	Good
1169	F184-02	27	Geta (Caes.)	209-12	Den.	Good
1177	F180	28	Severus Alexander?	222-35	Dbl. den.	Good
1177	F180	29	Valens/Valentinian	364-78	AE3	Fair
1214	F193	34	?Tetricus I?	273+	Antonin.	Poor
1254	F220	53	Trajan	98-117	Sest.	Fair
1261	F269	54	Constantine I (Caes)	307	AE2 Foll	Fine
1290	F270	58	Antoninus Pius?	2nd cent.	Sest.	Very worn

4.2.5: The animal bone by Andy Hammon

Details of the animal bone are provided in Tables 5-7.

Hand retrieval of animal bone may lead to the importance of the major domesticates being over emphasised by a recovery bias. This bias favours the larger bones from the larger mammals, at the expense of the smaller bones from the larger mammals and bones from the smaller mammals, birds, fishes and amphibians. Taphonomic considerations may have also caused a bias, with differential post-depositional preservation of different bones and species (Nicholson 1996). Residuality is likely to be a significant factor within the assemblage.

TABLE 5: Countable animal bones

<i>Species</i>	<i>Phase 2</i>	<i>Phase 3</i>	<i>Phase 4</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Cattle	7	65	60	132
Sheep/Goat	2	34	32	68
Pig	1	4	17	22
Other	13	123	142	278
TOTAL	13	123	142	278

TABLE 6: Ageable mandibles

<i>Species</i>	<i>Phase 2</i>	<i>Phase 3</i>	<i>Phase 4</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Cattle	1	1	2	4
Sheep/Goat	1	6	10	17
Pig	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	2	7	13	22

TABLE 7: Measurable bones

<i>Species</i>	<i>Phase 2</i>	<i>Phase 3</i>	<i>Phase 4</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Cattle	2	15	13	30
Sheep/Goat	2	10	8	20
Pig	0	0	2	2
Other	2	8	6	16
Bird	1	1	1	3
TOTAL	7	34	30	71

The preservation of bone surfaces (cortical integrity) throughout the assemblage demonstrated considerable uniformity. Preservation varied between moderate and good. Good preservation was characterised by bone surfaces that had suffered little exfoliation and abrasion, whereas moderately-preserved material had more rounded edges. Fragmentation was relatively high (demonstrated by the number of loose teeth), but was generally consistent with that usually noted from Romano-British assemblages. Fragmentation was indicative of the material mostly having derived from butchery and kitchen refuse. Moderate levels of dog gnawing were observed.

The number of 'countable' bones, ageable mandibles and measurable bones from the assemblage is summarised by phase in Tables 5-7. This system was based on a revised version of the system proposed by Davis (1992) and Albarella and Davis (1994).

This system considers a selected suite of anatomical elements as 'countable'. Briefly these skeletal elements are: all distal long bones, where at least 50% of the articular surface is present; the proximal end of the ulna and phalanges, where at least 50% of the articular surface is present; the ischial segment of the acetabulum, the atlas and axis; all mandibular and maxillary incisors, pre-molars and molars where at least half of the occlusal surface is intact; the skull (zygomaticus) if relatively intact.

The presence of 'non-countable' elements, such as antler and horn-core, was also noted. Any 'non-countable' elements from unusual species or pathological specimens were also noted. For the purposes of assessment no attempt has been made to

distinguish between sheep and goat. This will be attempted during the final report. Mandibular fragments are considered to be ageable when there are two teeth present with recognisable wear. The wear stages defined by Grant (1982) were used for cattle and pig, whereas Payne (1973 & 1987) was used for sheep/goat teeth. Measurements vary depending on anatomical element and species involved. For the most part these measurements followed Von den Driesch (1995).

No animal bone was recovered from the Phase 1 feature. The Phase 2-4 animal bone assemblage was dominated by the major domesticates (cattle, sheep and pig). Cattle were the predominant species with, on average, half as many sheep/goat. Pig only occurred in low numbers. Dog and horse were relatively abundant. Pig, horse and dog were all slightly more numerous in Phase 4.

The only domestic bird species noted from the site was chicken. The only other bird species identified from the assemblage was rook/crow (F194/ 1205). A 'non-countable' goose specimen was also noted from feature F210.06 (1060). Several wild species were identified from London Road, including hedgehog (feature F108), and frog/toad (feature F197).

Horse lower limb bones with knife marks on them were noted from two features (F223/ 1261; feature F110.02/ 1106). This butchery pattern is indicative of the animals having been skinned.

A variety of pathological specimens was recorded. A semi-complete, but 'non-countable', cattle skull with a small occipital perforation and a cattle first phalanx with extensive new bone growth were noted from feature F210.06/ 1060. A cattle mandible from feature F218/ 1243 had an abscess between the P4 and M1. Feature F229/ 1275 included a complete cattle acetabulum, which had a 'hole' through it (the pubis/illial segment) and eburnation on the articular surface.

Potential

The assemblage has several areas of potential. The species composition, levels of fragmentation, and butchery evidence noted from this assemblage are all fairly typical for a Romano-British rural assemblage, which is interesting in the context of a quasi-suburban site. It will therefore be possible to compare it to other small assemblages of a similar nature. Analogous sites that may be used include, Stamford Road, Oakham, Leics. (Hammon 1998), Paston Reserve, Peterborough, Cambs. (Hammon forthcoming), Great Holts Farm, Boreham, Essex (Albarella 1997) and Colchester, Essex (Luff 1993).

The pathological conditions noted may help to determine the nature of cattle utilisation. It should be possible to partially reconstruct the animal husbandry of London Road, putting the site in to its regional and cultural context, which would aid the overall site interpretation.

Recommendations

The hand-retrieved animal bone deserves full investigation. A greater emphasis should be placed on interpreting the material from Phases 3 and 4, due to the very small size of the Phase 2 assemblage.

Other bone

Part of a human skeleton was unlawfully removed by trespassers from the excavated area, following completion of the excavation. Since neither the location, nor details of its precise archaeological context, are known, further study of the remains is not considered appropriate. These remains are held at BUFAU, with remainder of the excavation archive.

4.3: Environmental data

4.3.1: Charred plant remains by Lisa Moffett

Samples for charred plant remains were taken at the excavator's discretion from contexts which were potentially datable. The contexts sampled were from Phases 2-4. A total of 31 samples was taken from 29 feature fills, including ovens, pits, ditches, gullies and wells. The samples were processed using water flotation. The floating fraction was decanted onto a 500 μ sieve and the residues were wet-sieved onto a 1mm sieve. The flots were air dried at room temperature and bagged when fully dry.

The flots were scanned by the author using a low power microscope at up to x20 magnification. The aim of the scanning was to rapidly assess the potential of the material for further analysis. Some preliminary identifications were made but these were done quickly and without reference to modern comparative specimens and should therefore be regarded as only provisional. It is likely that some items, especially small seeds, may have been overlooked by the scanning process. All of the flots had some modern root material and there were frequent snail shells which may also be modern. The results of the assessment are given in Table 8 below.

Nearly all of the samples had some charred plant remains present. Of the samples assessed, two produced quite abundant remains, 17 samples had moderate amounts of material, 12 samples were either poor in charred remains or produced none. Most of the charred material represented remains of cereals, including barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), spelt (*Triticum spelta*), and one sample also produced emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). Weeds included a number of plants commonly found associated with cereal remains such as dock (*Rumex* sp.), tare/vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), small-seeded legumes (*Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium*), fat hen/goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and grasses (Poaceae). There also seemed to be consistent presence of plants that are associated with wet or damp ground, such as spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis*), sedge (*Carex* sp.) and great fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), a plant of wet, base-rich soils (Stace 1997).

It is recommended that the samples with moderate and abundant amounts of charred plant remains be fully analysed to retrieve the most informative assemblage from the site from the different phases.

TABLE 8: Charred Plant remains

Feature	Context	Type	S (1)	S (2)	S (3)	FA	Notes
Phase 2							
F107	1019	oven	16	33	14	yes	Moderate amounts of wheat, barley, with some weed seeds including cf. <i>Bromus</i> , <i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i> , <i>Avena</i> sp, and <i>Poaceae</i> .
F107	1029	oven	16	29	13	yes	Moderate amounts of wheat, a spelt glume base, some weed seeds including <i>Rumex</i> sp, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> .
F107	1025	oven	8	12	12	no	Moderate amounts of wheat, a spelt glume base, some weed seeds including <i>Poaceae</i> and cf. <i>Apiaceae</i> , a possible tuber fragment
F114	1040	oven	10	25	13	yes	Moderate amounts of wheat, barley, cereal, a glume base and some weed seeds including <i>Carex</i> sp. and <i>Galium</i> sp.
F114	1040	oven	7	13	13	no	Same as above sample.
F188.01	1172	?	11	25	13	yes	Moderate numbers of glume bases, some hulled barley grains and a range of weed seeds including, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium</i> , <i>Avena</i> sp., <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Eleocharis</i> , <i>Lithospermum arvense</i> , <i>Cladium mariscus</i> , cf. <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> . Also a tree/shrub bud.
F187	1170	pit	10	14	14	yes	Moderate amount of barley, wheat, cereal, glume bases including spelt, and weed seeds including <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i> , <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> .
F187	1170	pit	11	26	0	no	Same as above sample.
F190.01	1188	gully	20	20	10	no	Small amount of cereal, wheat, glume bases including spelt, and a seed of <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> .
F230	1277	ditch	11	25	12	no	A glume base and a seed of <i>Cladium mariscus</i> .
Phase 3							
F115	1044	pit	21	15	15	no	Few grains of cereal and wheat.
F129	1069	pit	20	60	18	yes	Some glume bases, cereal grains and weed seeds including <i>Cladium mariscus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> and <i>Carex</i> sp.
F136	1081	pit	11	20	20	no	Small amounts of cereal grains, a few spelt glume bases, a couple of weed seeds including <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> and <i>Cladium mariscus</i> .
F157	1118	ditch	28	40	13	yes	Moderate amounts spelt glume bases, wheat and cereal grains, and weed seeds including <i>Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp, <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> .
F158	1124	ditch	10	80	14	yes	Moderate numbers of wheat grains (some germinated) and weed seeds including <i>Galium</i> sp., <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium</i> , <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> .
F159	1126	well	19	10	10	yes	Moderate amount of wheat, barley and cereal grains and spelt glum bases, weed seeds including <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> and <i>Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium</i>
F179	1156	ditch	10	5	5	no	Small amount of glume bases, wheat and <i>Poaceae</i>
F184.02	1169	ditch	12	10	10	no	Small amount of cereal, <i>Poaceae</i> and a fragment of <i>Corylus</i> .
F193	1198	well	19	28	12	yes	Moderate amount of wheat, cereal, glume bases including spelt, weed seeds including <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> and <i>Cladium mariscus</i> .
F184.01	1174	ditch	9	10	10	no	Small amount of cereal, a spelt glume base, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> .
F197	1237	pit	11	70	15	yes	Very abundant glume bases of spelt with some emmer, also wheat grains, and weed seeds including <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Avena</i> sp., and <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> .
F224	1248	hearth	17	10	10	no	No charred plant remains
F197	1242	pit	22	80	14	yes	Abundant glume bases including spelt, wheat and cereal grains, weed seeds including <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium</i> , <i>Carduus/Cirsium/Centaurea</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp.
Phase 4							
F133	1078	?	19	50	13	yes	Moderate amounts of cereals and weeds including <i>Rumex</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> .

F100.02	1099	ditch	18	22	10	no	Small amount of poorly preserved cereal grain.
F142	1103	pit	21	140	17	no	A few <i>Poaceae</i> only.
F206	1222	pit	nr	40	13	yes	Moderate amount of glume bases including spelt, wheat, cereal, weed seeds including cf. <i>Eleocharis</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Galium</i> sp., <i>Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium</i> , <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Poaceae</i> .
F142	1269	pit	20	31	10	no	Small amount of cereal, glume bases including spelt, weed seeds including <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Avena</i> sp., a <i>Poaceae</i> culm node, a fragment of <i>Corylus avellana</i> .
F142	1278	pit	12	30	14	no	A small amount of glume bases, seeds of <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Avena</i> sp., a fragment of <i>Corylus avellana</i> .
F248	1302	pit	10	110	15	yes	Moderate amount of glume bases including spelt, and weed seeds including <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Thlaspi arvense</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium</i> , <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Plantago</i> sp., <i>Cladium mariscus</i> , also a barley rachis.
F248	1303	pit	10	30	12	yes	Moderate amount of wheat, cereal, and weed seeds including <i>Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium</i> , <i>Plantago</i> sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp. and <i>Poaceae</i> , also a fragment of <i>Corylus avellana</i> .

KEY: S (1) - sample size, in mls; S (2) = Flot size; S (3) = Amount scanned in mls.; FA= further analysis ?

5.0: UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

5.1: Introduction

Overviews of work in the town have been published by Green (1975), by Burnham and Wachter (1990) and by Esmonde Cleary (1997) and Smith (1987) for the extra-mural area. Brown (1995) has also provided a study of the small Roman towns of eastern England, including a review of recent work (Burnham 1995). A more recent survey of the Romano-British period in East Anglia (Glazebrook 1997, 37), has highlighted the need for further work to elucidate the morphology and settlement history of Romano-British small towns, and the importance of large-scale excavation to address these issues. A similar plea has also been made by Millett (1995, 33 and figs 4.1-4.3), in the context of studying the patterning of such settlements, and their disparate social and economic functions, on a regional level.

Writing in 1987 Esmonde Cleary (1987, 85) noted that 'evidence for occupation outside the town is nowhere unequivocal'. Since that date a number of important excavations has taken place outside the town, including at the A14/A605 junction (Wait 1993), and at Rectory Farm (information from Colin Wallace), in addition to The Parks (Jones 1998) and the London Road excavations.

Much of the work undertaken to date in the town and its immediate environs has been conducted on a small scale. A recently-initiated project to bring to publication the unpublished work from the town and its immediate environs will provide useful data for comparison with the results of the excavation at London Road. The data from London Road can also be usefully compared with the results of excavation in the northern suburbs of the town, at The Parks, in 1998, and it is intended that both reports will be published in the same volume.

A number of research themes are considered briefly below.

- Prehistoric origins. Although the evidence for early prehistoric activity is limited, it nevertheless adds to the growing database concerning the Neolithic/Bronze Age context of Godmanchester and its environs (e.g. Evans 1997, Wait 1993, Malim and Mitchell 1993, Jones 1995).
- Settlement origins and chronology. Preliminary analysis suggests that the roadside settlement was occupied in the extended period from the later 1st-century and into the 4th century. Comparison can be made between this roadside sequence, the evidence from other sub-urban excavations outside Godmanchester, and elsewhere, as well as the excavated sequences from within the town itself.
- Sequence of roadside settlement layouts. A number of changes in layout, represented by ditched boundaries, have been identified. This sequence can be usefully compared with the excavated data provided by Green's work to the north of the site at 8a London Road/ London Road Farm. The sequence from the 1997-8 excavations can also be compared with the sequence of replanning within the town itself; Green's work has suggested that the urban and suburban sequences may be successfully inter-related.
- Economy. The excavations of 1997-8 have provided evidence of hearths and ovens, possibly related to crop-processing, or small-scale ironworking. Other industries represented include possible tanning, and slight evidence for pottery production. Investigations within the town have provided extensive evidence of such small-scale industrial activity (e.g. Green 1975, Burnham and Wachter 1990).
- Relationship with hinterland. Within the areas excavated during 1997-8, the feature density was perceived to decrease from north to south. The largely negative results of work undertaken to the south of the site (both to the east and west of Ermine Street), suggests that the excavated area was located towards the southern limits of the roadside settlement. This is supported by the evidence from an evaluation to the south of the site, on the east side of Ermine Street (Coates 1998). Burnham and Wachter (1990) note that at Godmanchester 'the fringes around the urban core appear to merge imperceptibly with the countryside', for example around Rectory Farm. This hypothesis requires to be tested by comparison between the London Road excavation results, and those from other areas on the periphery of urban Godmanchester (e.g. Wait 1993), to attempt to characterise these peripheral areas.

Furthermore, Wait (1993, 94) and others have suggested that some of the rural farms in the area immediately surrounding the town may have been managed by people living in the towns. The importance of examining settlements in relation to their hinterlands has recently been re-stated by Glazebrook (1997, 37), and by Millett (1995, 30), who have argued for research to investigate how small towns functioned in relation to the surrounding landscapes, rather than engaging in devising classificatory schemes which he considers have the effect of 'divorcing' the small towns from their surrounds. Esmonde Cleary has noted that Godmanchester was one of the few towns where an attempt has been made to relate a town to its surroundings, although he noted that the hypothesis presented was 'so flawed', because of reliance upon evidence for a 2nd-century division of land

around the town into regular strips (Esmonde Cleary 1987, 86). Burnham (1995, 10) has urged for further research to examine the degree of economic interaction between towns and their surrounds.

- Relationship of roadside settlement with town/function of Godmanchester as a market centre. Many of the buildings in the urban area of Godmanchester were laid out in strips, similar in arrangement to medieval tofts, many being associated with agricultural features such as drying racks and hearths (e.g. Rodwell and Rowley 1975, fig. 7). Godmanchester was an important market centre, possibly also functioning as a centre for the administration of imperial estates in the Fens (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 45). The evidence from Godmanchester (as elsewhere), suggests a transition from a village/*vicus* in the early Roman period, to a small town, functioning as a market centre, perhaps depending upon specialised activities, and with a possible official function (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 128; Burnham 1995, 10). Further analysis may suggest if the roadside industrial activity was undertaken for domestic use, or for trading. The evidence from the London Road site suggests that this extra-mural area continued to function after the town was provided with defences, perhaps in the late 3rd-century.
- 4th century activity/evidence for abandonment. A change in roadside settlement layouts by the early 4th-century was marked by the abandonment of the earlier ditched enclosure boundaries. The area continued to be used for ?industrial activity, possibly on a smaller scale. Still later in that century, ditches were cut towards the road frontage; these marked the last use of the site. No evidence of Saxon activity was provided by the excavation. The data for this last period of Romano-British activity should be compared with information from other excavations within the town and its suburbs, and in the region, in the 4th century.
- Regional (and wider) comparison. The chronology, layout, economy, and evidence for the roadside settlement should also be studied on a regional, and possibly a national, basis. For Godmanchester the main Roman small towns for comparison would be *Durobrivae* (Mackreth 1995), Sandy, Bedfordshire (Dawson 1995), Cambridge, Towcester, the recently-published roadside settlement at Tort Hill (Ellis *et al.* 1998), and also perhaps outside the region, with extra-urban settlements in small towns where the suburbs have been intensively studied (e.g. Ilchester, Somerset, Leach 1982, 1987, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, Leach forthcoming, Meole Brace, Shropshire, Hughes 1994, and Alcester, Warwickshire, Mahany 1994, Cracknell and Mahany 1994).

5.2: Updated project design

With the exception of part of aim 2 (insufficient early prehistoric features were identified), the main objectives of the excavation were achieved.

The original project design can be refocused as follows:

- 1) To establish the date and nature of prehistoric activity.
- 2) To define model of the chronological and spatial development of the Roman roadside settlement.
- 3) To consider the evidence for the economy, and possible industrial functions, of the roadside settlement.
- 4) To consider the chronological and economic relationship between the roadside settlement and the town of Godmanchester.
- 5) To consider the possible relationship between the roadside settlement and the rural hinterland of Godmanchester.
- 6) To examine the evidence for the decline and abandonment of the roadside settlement.
- 7) To compare the chronology, layout and economy of the settlement with other roadside settlements on a regional, and possibly a national, basis.

6.0: PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS

It is proposed to publish the report as part of a volume in the British Archaeological Reports (British Series), entitled 'Excavations in Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire 1997-8'. British Archaeological Reports have agreed to publish the report in principle. The provisional layout and lengths of the individual contributions are given below.

Text

LONDON ROAD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS 1997

Summary (500 words)

Introduction (2000 words)

Aims and methodology. The site and its context.

Results (6000 words)

Description and interpretation of the evidence by phase. 4 plates, 2 tables.

Finds

Flint (1000 words, 1 figure)

Prehistoric pottery (1000 words, 1 figure)

Romano-British small finds (1000 words, 1 figure)

Coins (1000 words, 1 table)

Animal bone (1000 words, 1 table)

Charred plant remains (1000 words, 1 table)

Romano-British pottery (4000 words, 3 tables, 2 figures)

Discussion and conclusion (3000 words)

Figures

1A Location of Godmanchester

1B Location of London Road (and other sites investigated)

2 Areas A1-A2: main Phase 1-4 features

3 Area A3: main Phase 1-4 features

- 4 Simplified phase plans
- 5 Sections
- 6 Detailed plan of Structure 1
- 7 Prehistoric pottery
- 8 Flint
- 9 Romano-British small finds
- 10 Roman pottery
- 11 Roman pottery

TOTAL: 21500 words; 11 figures, 7 tables, 4 plates.

7.0: TASK LIST

The task numbers below give the initials of the individual responsible for the completion of the task, and the number of days allocated.

- 1) Stratigraphic analysis/detailed notes for specialists, (AEJ 2 days)
- 2) Roman pottery (AH, 44 days); mortaria (L. Rollo); samian (S. Willis).
- 3) Prehistoric pottery (AW, 1.5 days: DW - petrological study 0.5 day)
- 4) Flint (LB, 2 days)
- 5) Romano-British small finds (LB, 3 days)
- 6) Coins (RW, 1 day)
- 7) Animal bone (AH, 6 days)
- 8) Charred plant remains (WS, 7 days)
- 9) Preparation of drawing roughs (structural text: AEJ, 2 days)
- 10) Preparation of illustrations (ND, 11 days)
- 11) Preparation of first draft of introduction and results (AEJ 2 days)
- 12) Library research (AEJ 1 day)

MONITORING POINT 1. PREPARATION OF STRUCTURAL TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS, AND FIRST DRAFT OF SPECIALISTS REPORTS, AUGUST 1999.

- 13) Editing/correction to specialists reports (AEJ 0.5 day, PE 1 day)
- 14) Preparation of first draft of discussion (AEJ 2 days)
- 15) Editing of first draft (PE 1 day)
- 16) Corrections to first draft (AEJ 0.5 day)

MONITORING POINT 2. COMPLETION OF FIRST DRAFT, EDITED BY BUFAU, OCTOBER 1999.

- 17) Submission of text for external refereeing
- 18) Preparation of excavation and research archives (AEJ, 1 day)
- 19) Final corrections to text (AEJ 0.5 day; final corrections to illustrations, ND, 1 day)
- 20) Submission of text to BAR
- 21) Corrections to text/proofs (AEJ 0.5 day)
- 22) Deposition of archive (AEJ)

KEY: AEJ= A. Jones; AH= A. Hancocks, Roman pottery; AW= A. Woodward, prehistoric pottery; DW= D. Williams, petrological study of prehistoric pottery; LB= L. Bevan, flint/small finds; RW= R. White, coins; AH= A. Hammon, animal bone; ND= N. Dodds, illustrator; PE= P. Ellis, editor; WS= W. Smith, charred plant remains.

8.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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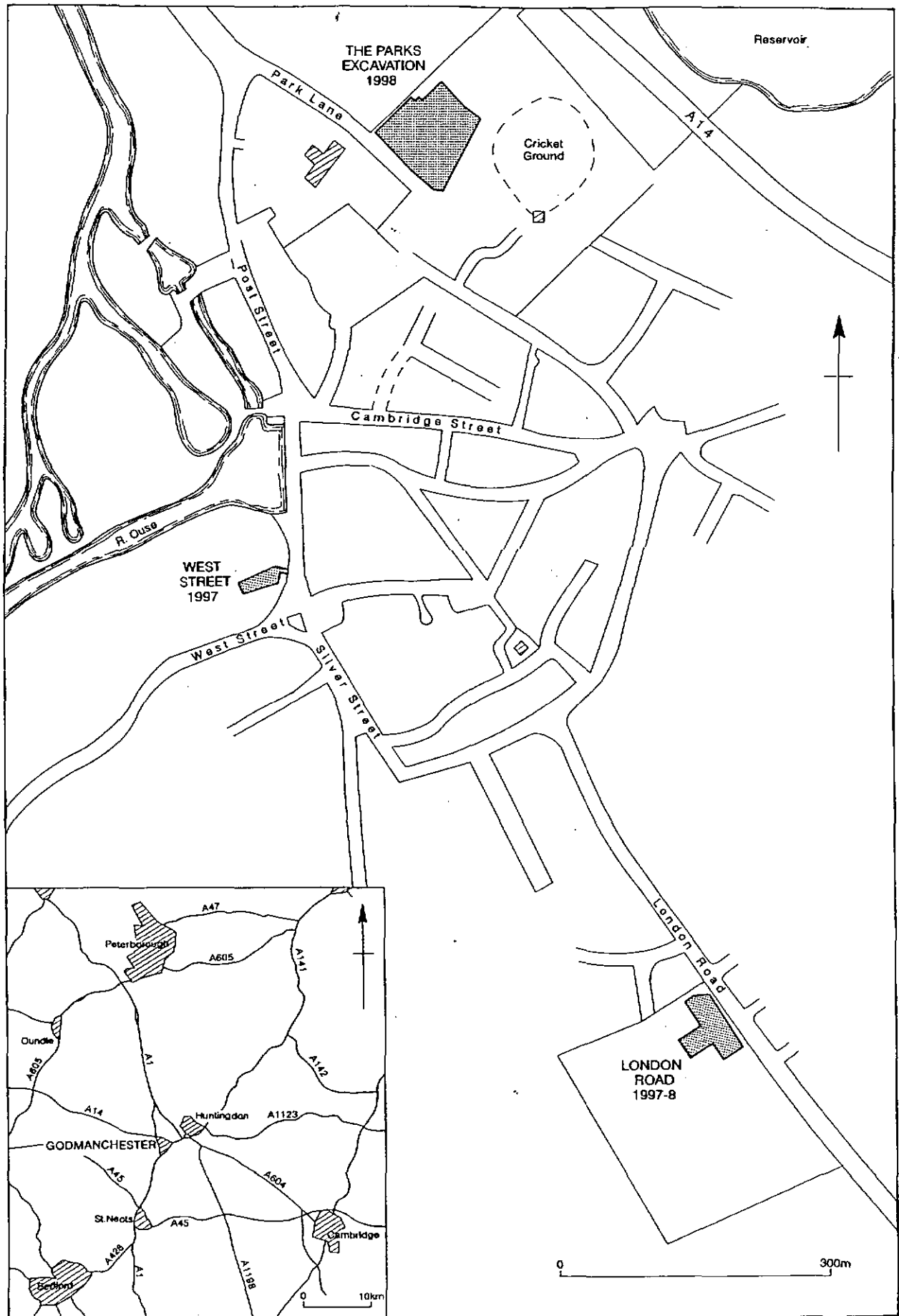


Fig. 1

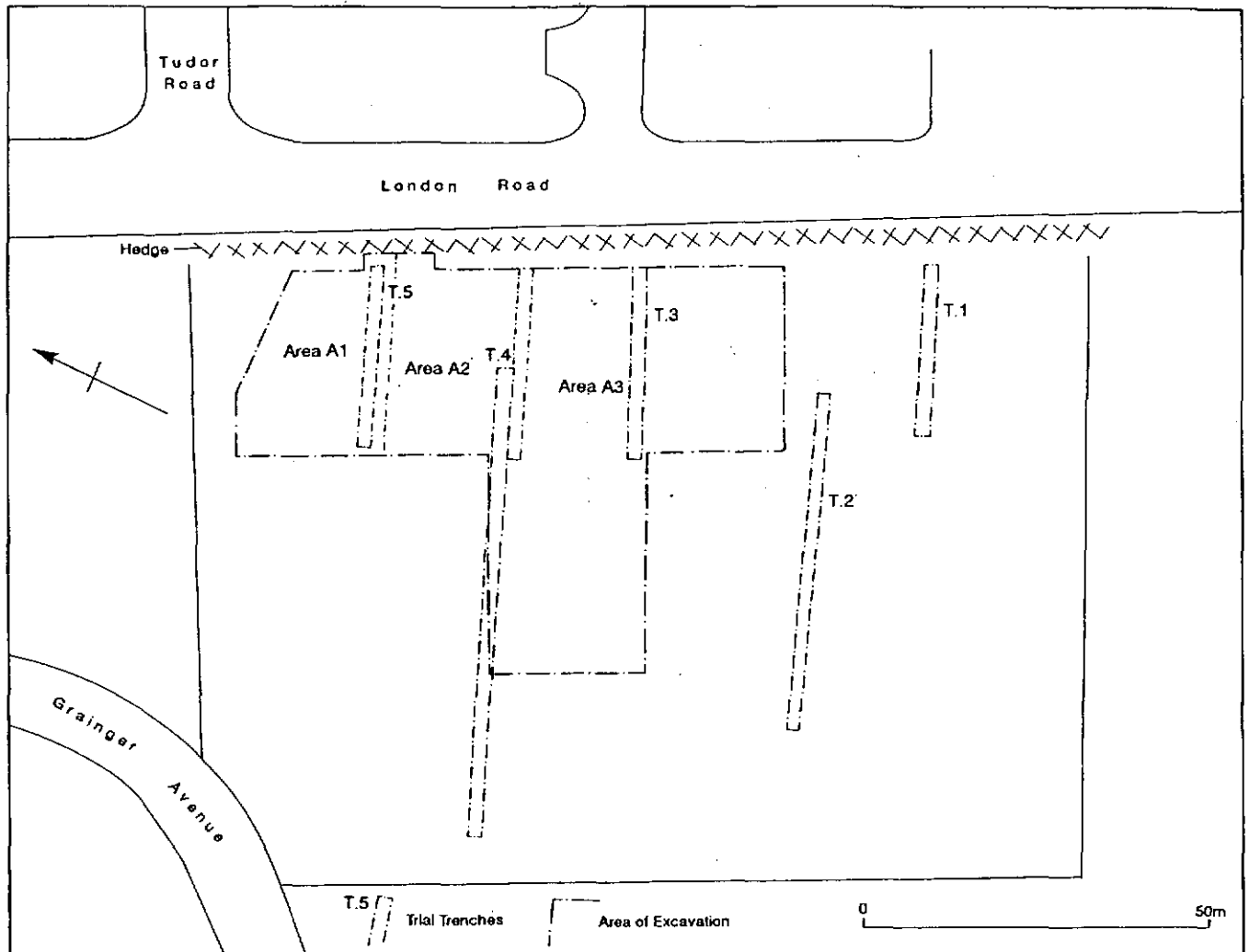


Fig. 2

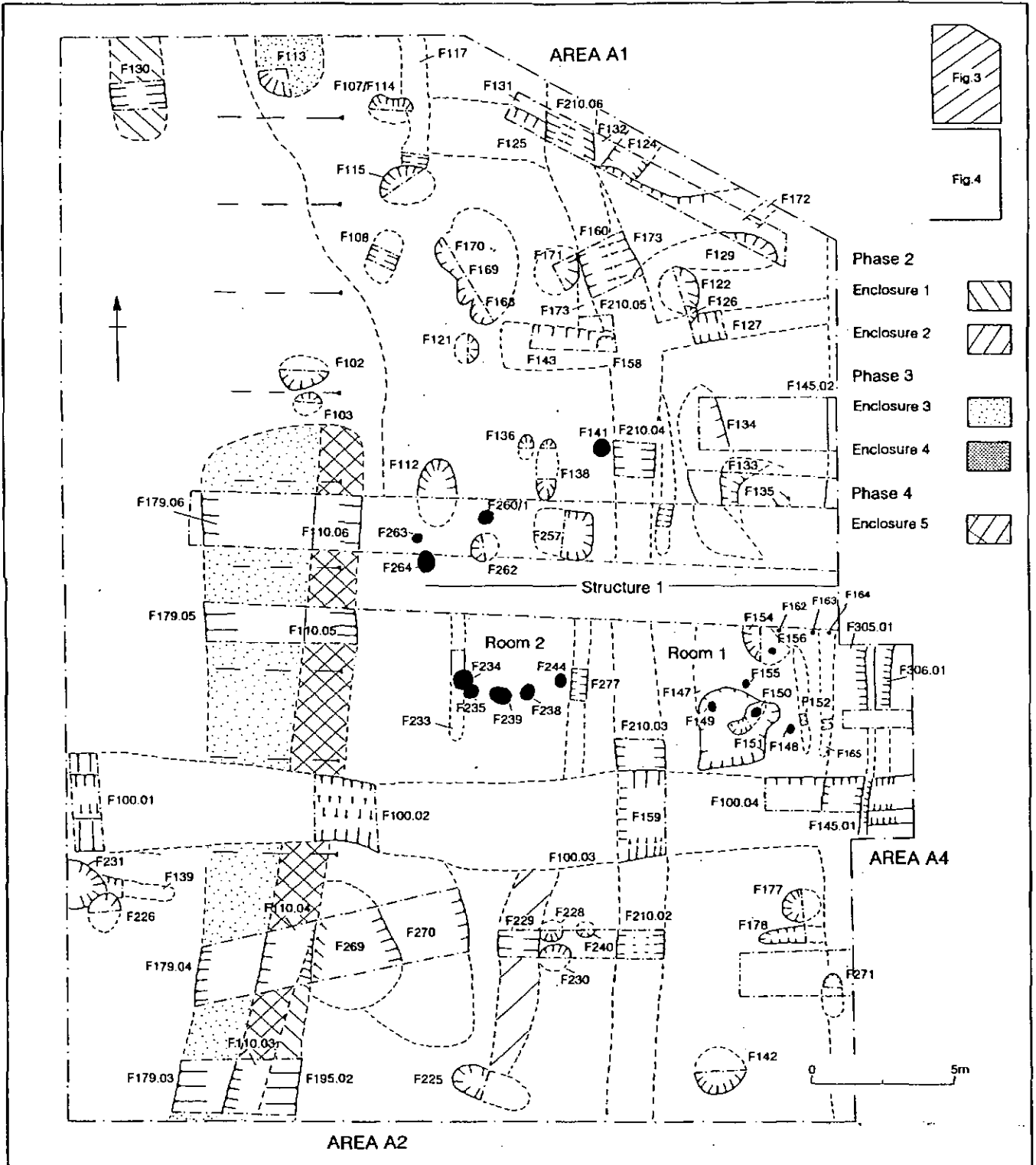


Fig. 3

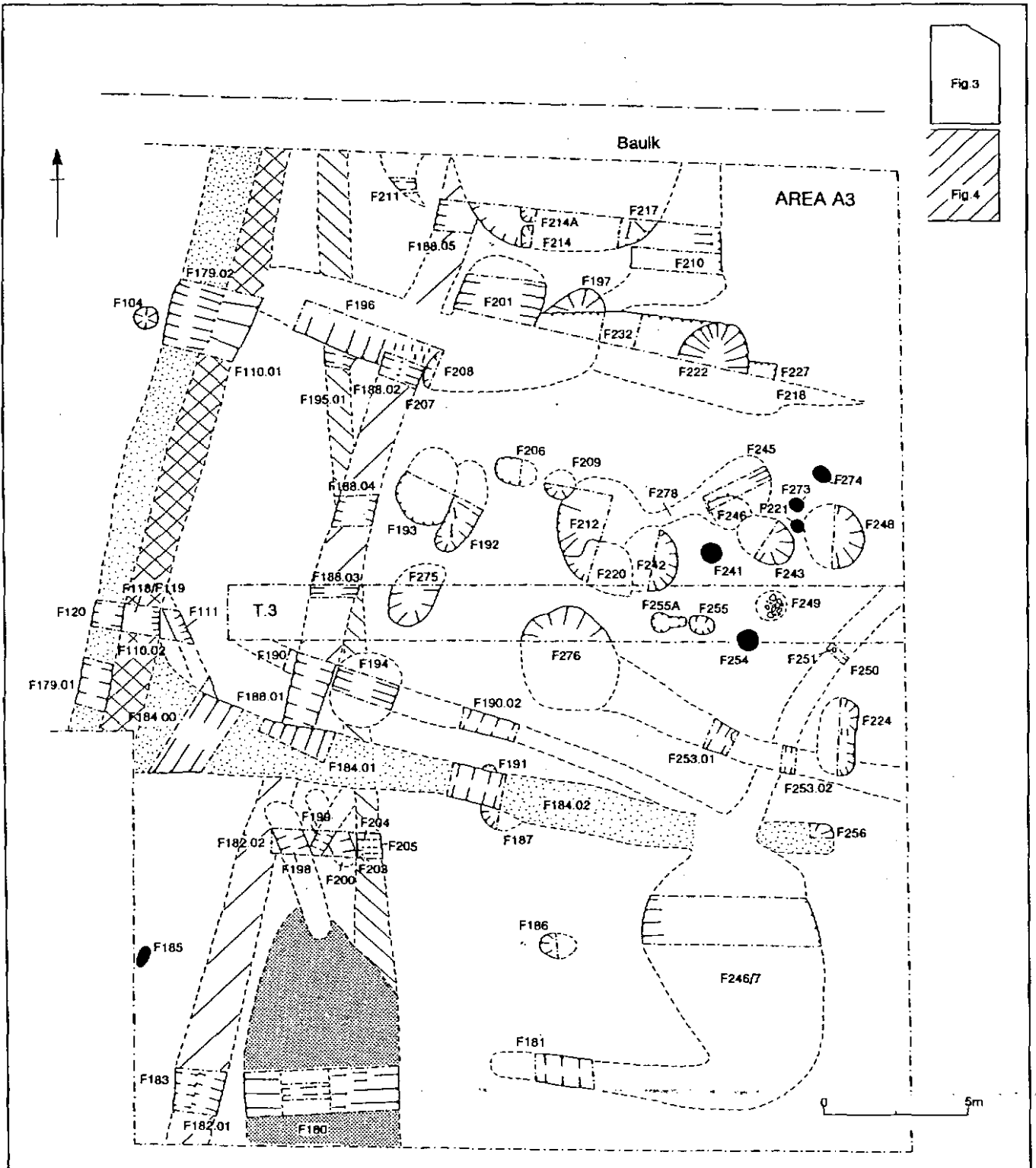


Fig. 4