

MOLA Headland Infrastructure | Version 1

MOLA HEADLAND

INFRASTRUCTURE

AFOR16

OASIS: headland4-266946

Cambridgeshire Event Number: ECB4800

Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

Prepared for the A14 IDT

Date: 16th December 2016

Version 1



Client: A14 IDT

Grid Reference: TL 189 747 – TL 409 612

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Schedule

Fieldwork dates: 1st August 2016 – 18th October 2016

Report dates: 16th December 2016

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A14 CAMBRIDGE TO HUNTINGDON IMPROVEMENT SCHEME TRIAL TRENCHING EVALUATION

SUMMARY

MOLA-Headland Infrastructure undertook part of the Phase 1 archaeological investigations (a trial trenching evaluation) for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme. The work was commissioned by the A14 IDT, and formed part of the enabling works programme.

Trenches were excavated in thirty-three areas across the scheme, in fields which will be used for borrow pits, flood compensation areas, and haul roads. This followed programmes of geophysical survey, cropmark analysis, and earlier phases of trenching.

Archaeological remains were uncovered in twenty-five areas across the scheme. Many of these comprised medieval furrows and post-medieval / modern field boundaries or drains, reflecting the agricultural use of much of the land in the past 1000 years. Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains were also uncovered in thirteen areas.

The earliest activity identified was the phase of tree-clearance, thought to date to the Neolithic – Bronze Age, in S1-006. It is also possible that the banjo-shaped enclosure in S3B-006 may be of Mid Iron Age date (if it is indeed a banjo enclosure), although no dating evidence was retrieved to confirm this.

The earliest evidence for settlement was dated to the Late Iron Age and was uncovered in four areas. This comprised an enclosure-system in S1-006; a ring gully in S3A-003; a series of pits in S4-002; and a rectilinear enclosure in S4-017.

The next dated phase of settlement belonged to the 1st century AD (transitional Iron Age – Romano-British). This comprised a large circular enclosure in S2-003; and a double-ditched circular settlement enclosure in S4-012.

Evidence for Early Roman $(1^{st} - 2^{nd} \text{ century AD})$ settlement was uncovered in four areas. This comprised enclosure ditches on the outskirts of the settlement core in S1-005; a network of ditches and pits in S2-008; rectilinear enclosures in S3B-006; and the southern part of a settlement in S4-019.

The latest dated Romano-British settlement belonged to the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ centuries AD, and was uncovered in three areas. These were the ladder settlement in S1-005; the rectilinear settlement in S1-006; and the ladder settlement in S2-003.

Evidence for the field systems and other external associated activity surrounding the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement sites was also uncovered. This included field boundaries and drainage gullies in S1-005, S1-006, S1-009, S2-003, S2-006, S3B-006, S4-002, and S4-003.

Medieval and post-medieval remains were uncovered across the scheme, mainly associated with the agricultural use of the land. This included agricultural furrows, likely medieval in date; and post-medieval

field boundaries and drainage ditches. Other post-medieval remains included the brick wall of a cottage or outbuilding in S4-003, a trackway in S1-009, and quarrying and disturbance associated with the widening of the A1 in S1-007.

Undated archaeological remains were revealed in S3B-003, S3B-008, and S3B-009. Those in S3B-003 comprised ditches, pits and post-holes and are likely to be related to settlement. Those in S3B-008 and S3B-009 comprised pits and ditches, and may be associated with activity on the outskirts of settlement.

Pottery was the most common artefact recovered during the trenching, and comprised a mix of fabrics and forms, including locally-made pottery, regionally-traded, and continentally-imported pottery. Other finds included ceramic building material and a wide range of small finds, including coins, tessera, glass, a ring, and a hairpin.

The environmental evidence retrieved from the various settlements provides a picture of relatively typical Iron Age and Romano-British economies and environments. The cereal grains are consistent with the crop choices commonly found on Iron Age and Romano-British sites in the south-east of England; and the animal bone recovered mainly represents post-consumption and butchery waste, focused on beef and mutton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

MOLA – Headland Infrastructure (MHI) were commissioned by the A14 IDT to undertake part of the Phase 1 archaeological investigations (a trial trenching evaluation) for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme. This project, run by Highways England, aims to improve the A14 trunk road in Cambridgeshire between Ellington (on the western outskirts of Huntingdon) and Milton Junction (on the Cambridge Northern Bypass).

Two phases of archaeological mitigation work were set out in the A14 Environmental Statement (Highways Agency) and detailed in a 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (Neustadt 2015 a-d). Phase 1 of the archaeological mitigation work comprised a programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching (across the whole route), and Phase 2 will comprise geoarchaeological assessment and analysis, earthwork survey, photographic survey, targeted excavation, and strip map and sample excavation.

This report details the results of the MHI 2016 trial trenching evaluation, part of the Phase 1 work. This follows on from previous trial trenching evaluations carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Patten, Slater and Standring 2010), Wessex Archaeology (Jones and Panes 2014), and COPA (Clarke, Pullen, Coyne and Buczak, 2016). The MHI phase of trial trenching was carried out in areas not previously subject to trenching, particularly floodplain compensation areas, soil storage areas, borrow pits, and compound sites.

The archaeological evaluation works were required to be completed in advance of the Development Consent Order (DCO) confirmation, to confirm the scope of archaeological mitigation excavations.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The A14 Improvement Scheme involves work on a route approximately 36km long, between Ellington (TL 189 747) and Milton Junction (TL 409 612) (Illus 1). It includes widening the A1 between Alconbury and Brampton; a new southern bypass to the south of the existing A14 between Brampton and Swavesey; and widening the existing A14 between Swavesey and Girton.

Topographically the route of the scheme is gently undulating, from between 10m AOD immediately to the south-east of Fenstanton, rising to approximately 40m AOD as the scheme crosses Ermine Street, before gently descending to about 10m AOD at the River Ouse. Beyond this the ground level generally rises again.

The solid geology of the scheme mainly comprises clay - the mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation in the western part of the scheme; the mudstone of the West Walton Formation / Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation towards the central part of the scheme; and the Gault Formation in the eastern part.

The superficial deposits identified across the scheme include River Terrace deposits and alluvium (particularly around Alconbury Brook in the western part of the scheme); and diamicton of the Oadby member in certain areas towards the centre of the scheme.

The majority of the scheme crosses arable fields, with small dispersed farmsteads.



Thirty-three parcels of land were subject to trial trenching in this phase of work (Illus 2). The table below details each of these, with the number of trenches, location, grid reference, geology, topography, presence of watercourses, and land use.





Area	No. of	Location	Grid Reference	Geology	Topography	Watercourses	Land Use
	trenches						
S1-001	7	Directly west of A1;	TL 189 747	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 15m		Arable Field
		south of Alconbury		by River Terrace Deposits	AOD		
		junction					
S1-005	11	Directly east of A1;	TL 192 734	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 15m	Alconbury	Arable Field
		south of Alconbury		by River Terrace Deposits	AOD	Brook	
		junction (south of					
		Brooklands Farm)					
S1-006	25	Directly west of A1;	TL 191 726	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 15m	Brook to south	Arable Field
		north of A14		by alluvium (southern half)	AOD		
S1-007	5	North of A14; east of	TL 193 727	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 10m	Brook to south	Arable Field
		A1		by alluvium	AOD		
S1-009	27	Directly west of A1;	TL 182 721	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 10m	Alconbury	Arable Field
		north of A14		by alluvium	AOD	Brook	
S2-002	8	West of A1; south of	TL 189 715	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Land rising to		Arable Field
		A14 (south-west of		by River Terrace Deposits	the west: 10 –		
		Brampton Hut services)			15m AOD		
S2-003	33	West of A1; around	TL 193 705	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 15m		Arable Field
		Lodge Farm Cottage		by River Terrace Deposits	AOD		
S2-005	4	West of A1; north of	TL 196 693	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 20m		Arable Field
		Brampton interchange		by River Terrace Deposits	AOD		
S2-006	54	East of A1; north of	TL 201 694	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 15m		Arable Field
		Buckden Road		by River Terrace Deposits	AOD		
S2-008	4	East of A1; north of	TL 200 691	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 15m		Arable Field
		Buckden Road		by River Terrace Deposits	AOD		
S2-009	2	East of A1; south of	TL 200 689	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 20m		Arable Field
		Buckden Road		by River Terrace Deposits	AOD		
S2-010	4	South of Brampton;	TL 208 686	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Flat land: 15m		Pasture
		north of Lodge Farm		by River Terrace Deposits	AOD		
S2-012	8	East of Buckden; north	TL 204 675	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain	Land rising to	Ponds to east	Arable Field





Area	No. of trenches	Location	Grid Reference	Geology	Topography	Watercourses	Land Use
		of Mill Road		by River Terrace Deposits	west: 15 – 20m AOD		
S3A-002	6	West of Silver Street	TI 244 680	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by Oadby Member	Flat land: 40m AOD		Arable Field
S3A-003	20	West of Ermine Street; north of Depden Farm	TL 256 678	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by Oadby Member	Small rise in land in centre: 35m AOD	Pond in centre of field	Arable Field
S3A-005	17	West of Ermine Street; south of Depden Farm	TL 259 677	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by Oadby Member	Flat land: 40m AOD		Arable Field
S3A-007	31	West of Ermine Street; south of Depden Farm	TL 258 675	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by Oadby Member	Flat land: 40m AOD		Arable Field
S3B-001	7	East of Ermine Street	TL 271 677	Oxford Clay Formation	Flat land: 25m AOD		Arable Field
S3B-003	6	East of Ermine Street; between Lattenbury Farm and Topfield Farm	TL 282 676	Oxford Clay Formation	Flat land: 15m AOD	Drain to north	Arable Field
S3B-006	29	West of Hilton Road	TL 303 679	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by River Terrace Deposits	Flat land: 5m AOD	West Brook to north	Arable Field
S3B-008	1	South of West End Road; north of Connington Road	TL 316 677	Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by River Terrace Deposits	Flat land: 10m AOD		Arable Field
S4-001	11	West of Cambridge Services	TL 342 657	West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation	Land rising to SW: 30 – 35m AOD	Ditch to south	Arable Field
S4-002	62	West of Cambridge Services	TL 341 652	Kimmeridge Clay Formation, overlain by Oadby Member	Land rising to south: 35 – 40m AOD	Ditch to south	Arable Field
S4-003	20	West of Cambridge Services	TL 348 650	Kimmeridge Clay Formation, overlain by Oadby Member	Land rising to south: 25 – 35m AOD	Ditch to south	Arable Field







Area	No. of trenches	Location	Grid Reference	Geology	Topography	Watercourses	Land Use
S4-004	3	Directly south of A14; west of Cambridge Services	TL 352 659	Kimmeridge Clay Formation, overlain by Oadby Member	Flat land: 15m AOD		Arable Field
S4-008	1	South of A14; east of Robins Lane	TL 371 646	West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation	Flat land: 15m AOD		Arable Field
S4-009	3	North of A14; east of Hill Farm Cottages	TL 372 648	West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation	Flat land: 15m AOD	Ditch to north	Arable Field
S4-012	79	North of A14; east of Dry Drayton Road	TL 401 630	Gault Formation	Flat land: 10m AOD	Two ditches (centre and eastern side)	Arable Field
S4-014	7	South of A14; east of Dry Drayton Road	TL 398 622	Gault Formation	Flat land: 15m AOD		Arable Field
S4-015	5	South of A14; behind Crematorium	TL 403 622	Gault Formation	Flat land: 15m AOD		Arable Field
S4-017	9	West of The Avenue	TL 404 618	Gault Formation	Flat land: 15m AOD		Arable Field
S4-018	13	East of The Avenue	TL 406 616	Gault Formation	Flat land: 15m AOD	Ditch to east	Arable Field
S4-019	13	South of A14; west of A428	TL 409 612	Gault Formation	Flat land: 15m AOD	Ditch running N-S through it	Arable Field

 Table 1: Description of each area (location, geology, topography, and land use)

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A number of studies have been undertaken for the previous A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton scheme and the current A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon scheme. These outline the archaeological background of this area in detail:

- Air Photo Services, 2014. *A14 Cambridge to Huntington Improvement Scheme, Cambridgeshire:* Brampton TL 195 720 to Fen Drayton TL340 370; Assessment of Aerial Photographs for Archaeology (August 2014)
- Anderson, K, Hall, D. & Standring, R. 2009, *A Fieldwalking Survey of the Proposed A14 Route between Ellington and Girton.*
- Bartlett, A. D. H. 2009, A14 Improvement Ellington to Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire. Report on Archaeogeophysical Surveys of Areas GP1 to GP7 (2008) and Proposed Reservoir Sites (2009).
- Bartlett, A. D. H. 2009, *Brampton Lodge, Brampton, Cambridgeshire. Report on Archaeogeophysical Survey, 2009.*
- Bunn, D. 2008, Gradiometer Survey: A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvements.
- COPA, 2016. A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme: Early Works Programme Archaeological Evaluation Report.
- Marsh, B, Biggs, M and Wright, A 2010 Geophysical Survey Report Mill Common, Huntingdon.
- Patten, R. Slater, A. & Standring, R (Cambridge Archaeological Unit). 2010, *A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton: An Archaeological Evaluation 2009.*
- Sabin, D. J. 2004. *Geophysical Survey Report A14 Improvements: Ellington to Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire.*
- Wessex Archaeology, 2014. A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvements Geophysical survey and Archaeological Trial Trenching. Archaeological Evaluation Report (Volumes I, II and III).
- Wessex Archaeology, 2014. A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvements Geophysical survey and Archaeological Trial Trenching. Detailed Magnetometer and UAV Survey.

Evidence for earlier prehistoric activity is limited along the scheme. Individual pits with Neolithic flints and pottery have been uncovered to the west of Brampton (COPA 2016, 10) (CAU 2012, 88) and east of the Great Ouse (CAU 2012, 93). These demonstrate the scattered utilisation of the area during the Neolithic. The remains of a Bronze Age barrow was investigated during CAU's trial trenching between the River Ouse and the B15514 (CAU 2012, 91).

The archaeological remains identified across the scheme mainly comprise evidence for Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains. These are particularly concentrated on the gravel areas in the western part of the scheme (to the west and south of Brampton), and have been identified through cropmark analysis, geophysical survey, and previous trial trenching. There is also evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement on the clay in the eastern part of the scheme, although these are fewer and less complex.

There is more limited evidence for early medieval activity along the scheme. There are known centres of activity within Huntingdon (e.g. the Danish Burgh and a cemetery at White Hill), however there is less overall evidence for early medieval activity. Previous phases of trial trenching have revealed some evidence for Saxon settlement in the western part of the scheme - CAU's trial trenching uncovered grubenhauser to the west of the A1 and south of Brampton Road (CAU 2012, 88), and COPA's trial trenching revealed a possible centre of Saxon settlement slightly to the north of here (COPA 2016, 11). It is likely that large parts of the land were utilised as agricultural land on the outskirts of the settlements.

This pattern continued into the medieval and post-medieval periods, when the majority of evidence is contained within the main historic settlements, and the areas outside of this were used for agriculture.

Table 2 below outlines the information known about the archaeology present in each area trenched.





Area	Geophysical Surveys	Cropmarks	Previous Trenching (in area or	Other Information
			directly associated with area)	
S1-001	Ridge and furrow across field.			Upstanding ridge and furrow
				earthworks present across field.
S1-005	Ladder settlement in southern part of			
	area. Concentration of activity in centre			
	of area (removed from scope).			
S1-006	Pits and ditches shown, aligned NE-SW	Settlement aligned NE-SW through		
	through centre of field. Probable IA –	centre of field (shows better than on		
	RB settlement.	geophysics). Probable IA – RB settlement.		
S1-007				
S1-009	No features shown.			
S2-002	No features shown.		CAU (Site 1 – to east):	
			palaeochannel, ditch representing	
			northern limit of Iron Age	
			settlement.	
			Wessex (land parcels 1144 and 1145	
			- to east): no archaeology close to	
			site.	
S2-003	Large enclosure shown in northern part		CAU (Site 2): Late Iron Age	
	of area. Ladder settlement to the south.		rectilinear system with pits.	
	Other ditches surrounding these two		Wessex (land parcel 1137): 8	
	settlements. Probable IA – RB		ditches.	
	settlement.		COPA (Plot 24 – just to the north):	
			Middle-Late Iron Age curvilinear	
			enclosures (eastern field); Iron Age,	
			Roman, Saxon and medieval field	
			systems and settlement (western	
			field).	
			CAU (Site 3 – to the south): Three	
			phases of Romano-British	





Area	Geophysical Surveys	Cropmarks	Previous Trenching (in area or	Other Information
			directly associated with area)	
			settlement activity, comprising	
			rectilinear enclosures.	
S2-005	No features shown.			
S2-006	No obvious features shown.		COPA (Plot 28): Prehistoric (undated) enclosures / field systems in the western part. CAU (Area B2): Middle – Late Iron Age pits and ditches in the western part. CAU (Site 9): Late Iron Age / Romano-British enclosures, ditches, trackway, quarrying in eastern part. Wessex (land parcel 1131): Iron Age	
52.009	No obvieve features shown		ditches and pits in eastern part.	-
52-006	No obvious realures shown.			
52-009	No leatures shown.			
S2-010	No obvious features shown.			
52-012	Area of noise towards western part of			
C24 002	Didee and furnew encode field			
S3A-002	Ridge and Turrow across field.			
S3A-003	Small ring guily in INE part of field.			
S3A-005	No obvious features shown.		CAU (Area D): no evidence for	
624 007			Roman activity.	
S3A-007	No obvious features shown.		CAU (Area D): no evidence for Roman activity.	
S3B-001	Ridge and furrow across field.			
S3B-003	A few linears.		Wessex (Land parcel 1098 – directly	
			to the north): undated ditches.	
S3B-006	Lots of dense activity / disturbance.	Palaeochannels in western part of field;	COPA (Plot 76 – directly to the	
		trackway running N-S through centre;	south): Roman ditches and pits, on	





Area	Geophysical Surveys	Cropmarks	Previous Trenching (in area or	Other Information
			directly associated with area)	
		banjo enclosure towards centre;	outskirts of settlement (thought to	
		enclosure-system (likely Roman) in NE	be to the north).	
		part of field.	CAU (Site 22 – to the south):	
			palaeochannels.	
			Wessex (land parcel 1095 – to the	
			south): Roman ditches and pits.	
S3B-008			Wessex (land parcel 1086 – to east):	
			Iron Age roundhouse, Saxon	
			inhumation.	
S4-001				
S4-002				
S4-003				
S4-004			Wessex (land parcel 1068): no	
			archaeological remains.	
S4-008			COPA (Plot 130): post-medieval /	
			modern field boundaries.	
S4-009	No features shown.			
S4-012	Circular double-ditched enclosure (IA?)			
	in SW part of field.			
S4-014				
S4-015	No obvious features shown.			
S4-017	Rectilinear enclosure (IA) in eastern part			
	of field.			
S4-018	No obvious features shown.			
S4-019	No obvious features shown.		CAU (Site 20, just to the north):	
			Romano-British settlement and	
			agriculture, formed by a network of	
			linears and dark earth deposits.	

Table 2: Known archaeology in each area



2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 GENERAL

The methodology followed was outlined in the five WSIs (one for each section) (Neustadt 2015a-d).

The general aim of the trial trenching was to gather additional information on the extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of archaeological deposits at locations which have not been previously investigated by trial trenching.

This was to identify the presence of any archaeological remains within areas that may be impacted upon by the proposed scheme, to provide data to inform the requirements for further archaeological investigations.

The objectives for the trial trenching were:

- To identify the presence or absence of any buried archaeological remains along sections of the scheme in order to determine the limits of targeted excavation areas;
- To identify, investigate and record any such archaeological remains;
- To establish the preservation of any buried remains and provide a chronology of the archaeological phasing; and
- To disseminate the results through reporting that will inform the requirement for further work.

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited in the Cambridgeshire Store (Event Number: ECB4800) to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit (CIfA 2014a). An online OASIS form has been completed and will be ultimately submitted with the approved version of the report (OASIS ID: headland4-266946).

2.2 SPECIFIC

More specifically, the Research Frameworks for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011) include the following research questions, which may be addressed through the results of this work:

- Iron Age settlement: "Distribution, density and dynamics need further study: zonation of use/internal spaces, interaction with hinterland, location with ref to topography and geology, resources, communication routes, etc" (Medlycott 2011, 31).
- Iron Age agrarian economy: "Evidence for the nature of the Iron Age agrarian economy... including agrarian landscape such as trackways, drove routes, and fields. Specific priorities for excavation and analysis include: 1) Charred grain and animal bone from settlements; 2)



Micromorphological analysis of agricultural soils; 3) Palaeoecological analysis of dated buried soils." (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 17).

- Iron Age / Roman transition: "Understanding both the continuity of Iron Age into Roman settlement and the 2nd-century 'Romanisation', identifying continuity as well as new settlement structure and land use which develops across the region at this time and explanations for this at site, landscape and political levels. Some regions show evidence of reorganisation several decades after the Roman Conquest". (Medlycott 2011, 47).
- Iron Age / Roman transition settlement: "investigation of a range of Iron Age and Early Roman settlements for which the ground-plans are recovered and which have good evidence for chronology and agriculture." (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 16).
- Iron Age / Roman transition settlement: "The tendency to assign a (late) Iron Age/Roman date to undated rectilinear enclosures and fields primarily on the basis of their morphology, needs further investigation, including ground-truthing" (Medlycott 2011, 31).
- Iron Age / Roman transition agriculture: "Sites spanning the Iron Age-Roman transition should have a particularly high priority so far as faunal remains studies are concerned, to assess the extent to which the conquest affected patterns of production" (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 21).
- Iron Age / Roman transition agriculture: "What are the relative proportions of cereals and livestock and is there a changing dynamic throughout the period?" (Medlycott 2011, 31).
- Roman rural settlements: "What forms do the farms take, and is the planned farmstead widespread across the region? What forms of buildings are present and how far can functions be attributed to them? Are there chronological/regional/ landscape variations in settlement location, density or type?" (Medlycott 2011, 47).
- Roman food: consumption and production: "Further work is needed on rural sites, characterising activities associated with crop cleaning, malting and storage" (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 21).
- **Roman landscapes:** "Are the massive relict landscape systems of fields of Roman or earlier date, as has been claimed?" (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 21).

3. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out between the 1^{st} August and 18^{th} October 2016. In total, 537 trenches were excavated across the scheme, in 33 land parcels. The majority of the trenches were 50m in length by 1.8 - 2m in width (except Trenches 97, 101, 102, 104, 106, 107, 482, and 483 which were 20m by 5m; and Trench 559 which was 10m in length).

The trenches were set out in accordance with the agreed trench layout plan in the WSI using a Trimble GPS device. The trenches were kept to their proposed position wherever possible, and agreed with the consultant and curator when they had to be moved (due to utilities or ecological issues). Illus 2 shows the final position of all of the trenches.

A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden under direct archaeological supervision. Potential archaeological features were excavated by hand.

Investigation of archaeological remains was undertaken through hand excavation. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified archaeological or potentially archaeological remains were investigated and recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

All trenches, spoil heaps, and features were metal detected.

Bulk environmental samples were taken of features, in line with the overarching sampling strategy. Other environmental sampling methods, including pollen samples, cores, and kubiena tins, were taken where appropriate. This was through the on-site advice of Mary Ruddy, geoarchaeologist.

3.1 RECORDING

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014b) and was in line with the approved WSI (Neustadt 2015a-d). All trenches and contexts were given a unique number. All recording was undertaken on pro forma recording sheets which conform to archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

A plan of the trenches and features across the entire site was recorded digitally using a Trimble GPS device.

A full photographic record was taken using digital photography and incorporating black and white print photographs where appropriate. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.



4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in Appendix I. Contexts are identified numerically by trench (i.e. Trench 01: (0101), Trench 02: (0201)) with cuts indicated by square brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. Selected technical detail is utilised below in order to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating that is completed and presented in this report.

Archaeological remains were exposed in twenty-five areas across the scheme (Illus 2). Eight areas contained no archaeological remains (S2-005, S2-009, S2-012, S3A-002, S3B-001, S4-004, S4-014, and S4-015). Three areas contained undated archaeological remains (S3B-003, S3B-008, and S3B-009). Eight areas only contained the remains of medieval furrows or post-medieval / modern agriculture (S1-001, S1-007, S2-002, S2-010, S3A-005, S3A-007, S4-001, and S4-018). Where significant archaeology was revealed, it mainly comprised Iron Age and Romano-British remains (uncovered in thirteen areas), much of which was associated with settlement.

The earliest activity was the phase of tree-clearance, thought to date to the Neolithic – Bronze Age, in S1-006. A relatively small number of Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints were also recovered during the trenching, mainly from the western part of the scheme (S1-006 and S2-003). These comprised cores, tools, and debitage indicating that there was some general earlier prehistoric activity in this area. It is also possible that the banjo-shaped enclosure in S3B-006 may be of Mid Iron Age date (if it is indeed a banjo enclosure), although no dating evidence was retrieved to confirm this.

The earliest evidence for settlement was dated to the Late Iron Age. This was uncovered in four areas: S1-006 (enclosures to the south-west of the later settlement); S3A-003 (a ring gully positioned on top of the ridge); S4-002 (a series of pits with substantial quantities of pottery); and S4-017 (a rectilinear enclosure).

Evidence for 1st century AD settlement (transitional Iron Age – Romano-British); was uncovered in two areas: S2-003 (a large circular enclosure with evidence for roundhouses, wells, and pits); and S4-012 (a double-ditched circular enclosure with evidence for roundhouses and internal divisions).

Evidence for Early Roman ($1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD) activity was uncovered in five areas: S1-005 (enclosure ditches on the outskirts of the settlement core); S1-006 (quarrying for the construction of the adjacent Roman road); S2-008 (ditches and pits in a small area); S3B-006 (Roman rectilinear enclosures and a trackway); and S4-019 (the southern part of a settlement which was identified in previous trenching).

Evidence for mid-later Romano-British settlement ($3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ century AD) was uncovered in three areas: S1-005 (the ladder settlement in the southern part of the plot); S1-006 (the well-preserved remains of settlement adjacent to the A1 including occupation layers); and S2-003 (a rectilinear ladder settlement).



There was also evidence for the field systems and activity surrounding the main settlement sites in five areas: S1-009 (two Romano-British drainage gullies); the southern part of S2-003 (field boundaries and drainage gullies); S2-006 (field boundaries and a quarry pit); S4-002 (an Iron Age field boundary); and S4-003 (Early Roman drainage gullies).

Medieval and post-medieval remains were uncovered in a number of areas, mainly associated with the agricultural use of the land. This included agricultural furrows, likely medieval in date, in 11 areas (S1-001, S1-005, S2-002, S2-006, S2-008, S2-010, S3A-003, S3A-005/007, S3B-006, S4-017, and S4-018). Post-medieval field boundaries and drainage ditches were also uncovered in 11 areas, many of which are identifiable on historic maps (S2-002, S2-006, S3A-003, S3A-005, S3A-005, S3A-007, S3B-003, S3B-006, S4-001, S4-002, S4-012, and S4-019). Other post-medieval remains include the brick wall of a cottage or outbuilding in S4-003, a trackway in S1-009, and quarrying and disturbance associated with the widening of the A1 in S1-007.

Undated archaeological remains were revealed in S3B-003, S3B-008, and S3B-009. Those in S3B-003 comprised ditches, pits and post-holes and are likely to be related to settlement. Those in S3B-008 and 009 comprised pits and ditches and may be associated with activity on the outskirts of settlement.

4.2 TRENCH RESULTS

4.2.1 S1-001

Seven trenches were excavated in this area. Trench 006 was moved slightly to the north-east to avoid the overhead cables. The earthwork remains of medieval agricultural furrows were present across the field.

The stratigraphy in the trenches comprised a dark grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (0.35m thick), over a mid grey-brown clay subsoil (0.3 - 0.45m thick), over the natural geological deposit. The natural geology in the northern part of the field was a brown-grey clay with occasional chalk and flint, whereas a yellow sandy-gravelly-clay were exposed in the south-western part of the field. This change in geology is in the position of the apparent linear shown on the geophysics.

The upstanding earthwork remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation were evident across the field, aligned north-south (matching what is shown on the geophysical survey plots). The remains of the furrow bases were also present within the trenches, spaced approximately 3.5-4m apart, and filled with a grey-brown clay fill.

4.2.2 S1-005

Eleven trenches were excavated in this area (Illus 3). The positions of these trenches were altered from the original plan because there was a change in scope such that the central portion of this area (where the geophysical survey showed dense archaeological remains) was excluded from the flood



compensation area. Therefore, only the trenches in the northern and southern parts of this area were excavated.

The stratigraphy of these trenches comprised a grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.35m thick), over an orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (0.15 - 0.3m thick), over the natural yellow-brown sandy / silty clays.

Agricultural furrows, aligned east-west, were identified across the area. A number of these were investigated: [1705]/[1707]; [1807]; [2705]; [2809]; [2811]; and [3005]. These were generally around 1-2m wide by 0.2-0.4m deep, had sloping sides and a flat base, and were filled with a grey brown silty-clay fill. They were positioned approximately 15m apart.

The remains of a Romano-British ladder settlement was identified in the southern part of this area, dated to the 4th century. Ditches associated with the earlier settlement core to the north were also identified and dated to the 1st – 2nd centuries AD. This demonstrates that there was a change in settlement pattern over the course of the Romano-British period, with the settlement in the 1st – 2nd centuries AD concentrated in the (unexcavated) core and comprising dense curving enclosures, which were later replaced by the rectilinear ladder settlement to the south.

Significant quantities of pottery were recovered from the features in this area (particularly the ladder settlement), and included bowls, dishes, jars, cup, and a lid. Iron nails and pieces of antler veneer (which might have been attached to boxes or furniture) were also retrieved from the ladder settlement, and provide an insight into the type of settlement which existed here. Cereal grains and animal bone (mainly sheep / goat and cattle) were also recovered.

Romano-British activity on the outskirts of the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century settlement

There was evidence for $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century Romano-British activity to the north of the central settlement core. This comprised two ditches (shown by the geophysical survey as forming part of the enclosures projecting out of the settlement core) and a pit, dated to the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ centuries AD.

Ditch [1805] was aligned N-S and is shown on the geophysical survey as part of a rectilinear enclosure aligned NNW-SSE out of the central settlement core. Pottery recovered from the fill of this ditch was dated to the late $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD.

Ditch [1809] was aligned NE-SW and is shown on the geophysical survey as part of a curving enclosure ditch on the edge of the settlement core. Pottery recovered from this ditch was dated to the mid to late 1st century AD, and included a piece of samian ware. Cattle and dog bone were also recovered.

The pit [1811] was positioned just to the north of [1809], and may have been a rubbish pit outside the settlement, also containing pottery dated to the late $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD.

4th century Romano-British ladder settlement

Part of a ladder settlement was identified in Trenches 28 and 29, fitting the results of the geophysical survey. The remains comprised part of the NE-SW external boundary to the settlement [2905]; alongside a series of NW-SE aligned ditches forming the internal divisions within the settlement: [2805], [2807], and [2813]. Dating evidence suggests this settlement was utilised in the 4th century.

Ditch [2905] is shown on the geophysical survey as the eastern boundary to the ladder settlement (Illus 3A). It measured 1.16m wide by 0.26m deep, had concave sides and base, and was filled with a grey-brown sandy-silt fill. Pottery recovered from the fill of this ditch was dated to the mid-late 1^{st} century and $3^{rd}-4^{th}$ century.

Ditches [2807] and [2813] were aligned E-W within the ladder settlement, and represent divisions within it. They measured 0.85 - 1.68m wide by 0.32 - 0.38m deep, were filled with a brown-grey silty-clay fill, and were positioned *c*.25m apart. Ditch [2805] was positioned adjacent to the internal division [2807] and so may have functioned as a drainage gully or a recut of the internal division.

Pottery from ditches [2805] and [2807] were dated to the 1st and 4th centuries AD, and pottery from ditch [2813] was dated to the 1st century. Overfired pieces of ceramic material were also recovered from ditch [2807] and may be associated with industrial or domestic work. A significant number of cereal grains were also recovered from the fill of ditch [2807], alongside cattle and horse bones.

A short stretch of ditch, [2907], was positioned inside the settlement. It measured 0.4m wide by 0.25m deep. Pottery dated to the 4th century was recovered from the fill of this feature, alongside a sherd of brick, floor or hypocaust tile, a possible core fragment, two iron nails, and animal bone (cattle, pig, sheep / goat, and game). Two antler veneer pieces, which may have been attached to boxes or furniture were also recovered from the fill of this ditch.

No discrete features (pits, post-holes, hearths, etc) were identified within the ladder settlement.

Features external to the ladder settlement

A few features were identified to the west of the ladder settlement, including a ditch [2605]/[2711], two gullies [2607] and [2707], and a post-hole [2709]. No features are shown on the geophysical survey in this area, however its position between the ladder settlement to the east and the settlement core to the north makes it likely that they are associated with these settlements. Ditch [2605] and [2711] form part of the same E-W aligned ditch, measuring 1.1m wide by 0.1 - 0.25m deep, terminating in Trench 26, and with post-hole [2709] cut into it. Pottery recovered from the post-hole was dated to the 1st century. This ditch may have formed a boundary. Ditches [2607] and [2707] were smaller, measuring 0.35 – 0.41m wide by 0.1 - 0.13m deep, and may have been drainage gullies.

To the south of the ladder settlement was a relatively large NW-SE aligned ditch: [3205] / [3305]. This ditch measured 1.35 - 2.3m wide by 0.46 - 0.55m deep and had a grey-brown silty-clay fill. It is shown on the geophysical survey as a short stretch of ditch, although not obviously connected to any other



features. Although undated, it may also be associated with the Romano-British settlement activity to the north.

4.2.3 51-006

Twenty-five trenches were excavated in this area (to the north of the A14 and west of A1) – sixteen to the north of the post-medieval ditch and nine to the south (Illus 4).

The stratigraphy of these trenches comprised a dark grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (0.3 - 0.35m thick), over a grey-brown silty-clay subsoil (0.15 - 0.5m thick), over the natural geology – a mix of sands, gravels, and clay. Alluvial deposits, dark grey silty-clay, were revealed in the trenches in the southern part of the area (Trenches 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, and the southern half of 53), 0.3m thick. These were within the floodplain of Alconbury Brook.

There was a concentration of archaeological features in these trenches, supporting the evidence from aerial photographs (as cropmarks) and the geophysical survey. This comprised a phase of tree-clearance; Late Iron Age – Early Roman settlement around Trenches 52-55; $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century quarrying in Trench 50; and $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ century Romano-British settlement in Trenches 48-51.

The material culture retrieved from the features in this area clearly demonstrates the presence of two phases of settlement. Significant quantities of pottery (mainly $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century and $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ century) were recovered, with a range of forms (amphora, jars, bowls, and mortaria) and fabrics (grog-tempered ware, shell-gritted ware, grey and dark grey coarse wares, LNVCC, and regionally-traded wares such as HORNGW, black-slipped ware, open-textured ware and BAETAM). Other finds, particularly from the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ century settlement, included coins, opus signinum with embedded tessera, glass, nails, a ring, and a hairpin all indicating more than basic utilitarian activity. The ceramic building material, including roof tile and box flue tile, demonstrates that buildings were present.

The environmental evidence also suggests that foodstuffs from abroad were being imported for the later settlement, alongside the rearing and eating of animals. Sheep / goat and cattle were the most common type of animal bone, and were more frequently found in the features associated with the later settlement.

Neolithic – Bronze Age tree clearance

A systematic process of tree-clearance across this area was evidenced by the presence of burnt treebowls. These were shown to be of earlier date than the Romano-British settlement activity, as treebowls [5410] were truncated by the Romano-British boundary ditch [5421]. Although none of the investigated tree-bowls contained dating evidence, the presence of Neolithic – Bronze Age flints in this area suggests this phase of tree clearance may have been dated to that period.

A sample of the tree bowls were investigated – [5233] and [5410]. They were shown to be irregularshaped with uneven bases and irregular sides, and contained silty and sandy-clay fills with frequent charcoal inclusions.



Late Iron Age – 1st century settlement (Trenches 52-55)

A concentration of Late Iron Age -1^{st} century settlement features were identified in Trenches 52-55 (Illus 10). This fits what is shown on the geophysics and as cropmarks, where a rectilinear enclosure is shown. This is positioned on the slightly higher ridge of land, away from the floodplain to the south.

A large boundary ditch was identified in Trench 54 – [5421] (Illus 12 and 13). This forms part of the external NE-SW boundary shown on the cropmarks and geophysics at the edge of the settlement complex. It measured 4.5m wide, by 1m+ deep (not bottomed), had a concave base and sides, and contained multiple deposits - a mixture of sandy-clays and gravelly-sandy-silts with gravel, charcoal, and flint inclusions, representing silting both whilst the ditch was in use and after it fell into disuse. Three rim sherds, of Late Iron Age date, were recovered from the fill of this ditch. Cattle bone was also recovered, including a single fragment of shaped and polished animal long bone mid-shaft.

Other smaller ditches were identified in the trenches, aligned NE-SW and NW-SE. These would have formed the internal divisions within the settlement. Ditches [5207] and [5230] were aligned NE-SW, measured between 1.45 and 2.07m wide by 0.6 - 0.7m deep, had concave sides and bases, and silty-clay fills with gravel, chalk and charcoal inclusions. Pottery recovered from the fills of these ditches was dated to the Late Iron Age – 1^{st} Century AD. Ditch [5433] was aligned NW-SE and measured 1.45m wide by 0.58m deep. It had sloping sides and a flat base, and two silty-clay fills. Pottery and lining material recovered from the fill of this ditch was also dated to the Late Iron Age – 1^{st} century AD.

Smaller linear gullies, which may have been for drainage, were identified in some trenches within the settlement. These included features [5220], [5226], and [5436]. Pottery recovered from [5436] was dated to the 1st century AD.

Curvilinear gully [5426] and [5435] may be the remains of a roundhouse drip gully. This was curvilinear, aligned NNW-SEE, measured 0.31m wide by 0.09 - 0.2m deep, and contained clayey-silt fills (including a charcoal-rich lens). Pottery recovered from ditch [5426] was dated to the mid-late 1^{st} century – 2^{nd} century. This ditch truncates ditch [5433], suggesting there is phasing of activity within the settlement.

A number of post-holes, which would have formed part of buildings, were uncovered in Trenches 52, 53, and 54. There was a cluster of five post-holes towards the centre of Trench 52: [5210], [5212], [5215], [5217] and [5222], which may represent the remains of a building (Illus 11) Pottery recovered from [5217] was dated to the Late Iron Age – 1^{st} century AD. The single post-hole [5306] may have been associated with the adjacent ditch [5310]; and post-hole [5415] is potentially associated with the curvilinear ditch [5426].

A small pit was also investigated – [5224]. This measured 1.47m long by 0.56 - 0.6m wide by 0.56m deep. It was sub-circular in plan with a flat base and concave sides, and with brown-grey sandy-clay fills. Although undated, its location suggests it was associated with the settlement activity.

Late Iron Age – 1st century activity outside settlement core

Features were also identified directly outside the main settlement core, in Trenches 55, 56, and 57. These comprise smaller ditches and gullies [5508], [5605], [5607], and [5705]. Many of these were undated, although they are likely to be related to the Late Iron Age / 1st century activity. They were likely used for drainage, draining the water away from the settlement on the higher ridge of land out onto the surrounding floodplain.

A north-south aligned ditch is shown on the geophysical survey running across Trenches 40 and 45. This was identified in the trenching – [4505]/[4506] and [4005]. It measured 1.4 - 2.2m wide by 0.41 - 0.65m deep, and had a yellow-grey clayey-silt fill. This may have been a field boundary, forming part of the agricultural landscape outside of the settlement.

A few other ditches were identified in Trenches 39 and 45 - [4508], [4512], [3905], [3907] and [3910]. These were aligned east-west, and measured between 0.7 and 1.04m wide by 0.37 - 0.7m deep. These may have been drainage ditches.

There is also an indication that there were kilns on the outskirts of the settlement activity, as possible kiln debris was retrieved from ditch [4512].

$1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century Romano-British quarrying (Trench 50)

There were a series of intercutting quarry pits in Trench 50, sealed by the Romano-British occupation / demolition layer discussed below (Illus 7). These quarry pits [5007], [5028], [5033], [5036], [5038], [5040], [5047] and [5049] were revealed in the test-pits excavated through the occupation / demolition layer, and so it is difficult to establish their full shape and size. However, some of the pits were at least 1.1m deep, and were filled with yellow-red-brown sandy-silt backfill (with gravel, chalk, and charcoal inclusions).

Pottery recovered from the fills of these quarry pits was dated to the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD, earlier than the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ century settlement remains in this area. A significant quantity of pottery was recovered from context (5004), the fill of pit [5007], with a wide date range and including a large shell-gritted rim sherd, which may be from an oven. Decorated samian ware, dated to the 2^{nd} century, was also recovered from the fills of these quarry pits; a small sherd of Roman glass from pit [5040]; and fired clay from [5038].

These pits have been interpreted as quarry pits; potentially quarrying for gravel for the construction of the adjacent Roman road (on the line of the current A1), before the establishment of the Romano-British settlement.

3rd – 4th century Romano-British settlement (Trenches 48-51)

A later phase of settlement $(3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ centuries AD) was uncovered in Trenches 48- 51 (Illus 5). This is shown on the geophysical survey as a rectilinear enclosure system, continuing under the A1. The



remains uncovered in the trenching comprised the internal boundaries of the settlement, plus a dark occupation / demolition layer sealing features.

Ditches [4806], [4808], [4811], [4814], and [5011] formed part of the internal divisions within the settlement. Ditches [4808] and [5011] were aligned NE-SW, and measured 1.75 - 3.5m wide by 0.75 - 0.93m deep. The other three ditches were aligned E-W and measured 1.51 - 2.05m wide by 0.53 - 0.75m deep.

Three pits were identified within the enclosures – [5107], [5109], and [5013] (Illus 6). These measured c.0.6m in diameter by 0.1 - 0.5m deep, and were filled with silty-sand fills. The fill of pit [5109] contained an iron hobnail. Pit [5013] had a dark grey-black fill with frequent charcoal and burnt clay inclusions and so may have had an industrial function.

A dark brown-grey clayey-sandy-silt occupation / demolition layer was observed across Trenches 50 and 51 ((5104), (5110), (5112), (5114), (5119), (5123), (5020), (5021), (5022), (5041), and (5050)), and was investigated via a series of $1m^2$ test-pits (Illus 8 and 9). The layer was between 0.12 and 0.42m thick, and has been interpreted as the remnants of an occupation / demolition layer - a mixture of floor surfaces and demolition deposits. There was evidence of in situ burning of this layer (contexts 5020, 5021, 5110, 5114, and 5123).

Significant quantities of pottery were recovered from this layer (particularly contexts 5020, 5050, 5119, and 5123), and were broadly dated to the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ centuries AD. This included a mix of types of pottery - mortaria, dishes, jars, and bowls. Numerous other finds were recovered, including four 4^{th} century coins (Illus 14a); glass from (5114) and (5119); a later Roman bone hairpin from (5104); a copper ring from (5123); iron hobnails from (5020) and (5021); and an iron staple from (5110). Other finds were retrieved from the overburden of these trenches, including a $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ century copper-alloy finger ring (Illus 14b); a lead weight and lead patch; and an iron ring. Ceramic building material, including five roof tile sherds, a box flue tile, and lining material, were also recovered from this layer and demonstrate the existence of buildings here. A lump of opus signinum, with tessera embedded in it, was also recovered from the occupation layer (Illus 14c), and demonstrates the presence of mosaic floor surfaces in this area. Environmental evidence recovered from this layer included two peas, a possible lentil, and an indeterminate fruitstone, possibly indicating the importing of foodstuffs from abroad. Cattle, sheep / goat, and horse bones were recovered from this layer, and a chicken bone from (5119).

Underneath this occupation layer were make-up / consolidation layers ((5105), (5111), (5112), (5115), (5116), (5117), (5118), (5121), (5125), (5126), (5131), and (5132)), a mixture of light yellow / grey / brown clayey-sandy-gravel deposits with gravel, chalk, charcoal and manganese inclusions. These layers were between 0.09m and 0.58m thick. Pottery recovered from these layers was also dated to the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ centuries. They have been interpreted as consolidation layers for the settlement activity.

In places, evidence for activity was revealed beneath the occupation / demolition layer – potentially related to the earlier phase of settlement. This includes a possible oven or hearth (5127), which measured 0.6m by 0.15m by 0.05m deep, and was filled with a loose grey-red-black silty-ash fill. The

fills of other features, (5053), (5055), (5056), (5058), (5113), (5122), (5128), (5133) were also identified, with pottery generally dated to the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ centuries. This included a significant quantity of pottery from (5058) which derived from six different vessels, and a particularly interesting face pot. It has been suggested this feature may be associated with ritual activity.

Layers of Roman dumping (5129), (5131), (5132), and (5135) were identified in the test-pits beneath the occupation / demolition layer. Finds from these deposits included 2nd and 4th century pottery, including samian ware and a Hadham oxidised bowl. A single fragment of fish bone was also recovered from dumping layer (5129).

Evidence for activity outside the settlement enclosure was uncovered in Trench 49 and the southern part of Trench 53. This comprised a series of ditches and gullies: [5308], [53510], [4905], [4908], [4911], and [4913]. These would have been used to drain water away from the settlement into the surrounding floodplain.

4.2.4 S1-007

Five trenches were excavated in this area, on the eastern side of the A1. No archaeological remains were present in any of these trenches.

The stratigraphy comprised a dark grey-brown clayey-silt topsoil (0.3m thick), over made ground deposits (yellow-brown / grey-brown silty-sands) between 0.15 and 0.6m thick, over the natural geology (a compact light yellow-brown clay). No made-ground was observed in Trench 549, the northern-most trench, where the stratigraphy comprised topsoil over a yellow-brown silty-clay subsoil, 0.15m thick, over the natural geology. Six sherds of pottery, likely late $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century in date, were recovered from the subsoil in this trench and demonstrate the general Romano-British activity in this area.

The made-ground deposits are associated with modern activity - either the 20th century widening of the A1, or modern gravel-quarrying (which the current farmer remembers in this area).

4.2.5 S1-009

Twenty-seven trenches were excavated in this area, to the north-west of the A1/A14 interchange at Brampton Hut. Two gullies (likely Roman in date) and a post-medieval trackway were identified. No other archaeological remains were present in the trenches.

The stratigraphy of these trenches comprised a dark brown-grey silty-clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m thick), over a mid grey-brown silty-clay subsoil (0.3 - 0.4m thick), over the natural geology - orange-brown clays, sands, and gravels. Alluvial deposits, orange-brown-grey clays, were observed in the trenches in the southern part of the area (Trenches 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 87, and 88), between *c*.0.4 and 0.7m thick. This area sits within the floodplain of the Alconbury Brook.

Two ditches, thought to be Romano-British drainage gullies, were revealed and investigated – [7206] and [8407]. Both of these were sealed by the alluvium. Ditch [7206] was aligned NE-SW, measured 0.69m wide by 0.23m deep, had a concave base and sides, and a blue-grey silty-clay fill with flint and gravel. Two sherds of pottery, of probable late $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century date, were recovered from the fill of this ditch. Ditch [8407] was aligned NW-SE, measured 0.82m wide by 0.23m deep, had sloped sides and a concave base, and a brown-grey clay fill with gravel inclusions. These would have been drainage gullies, and their presence close to the settlement revealed at S1-006 suggests they were associated with this.

The remains of a possible trackway, likely post-medieval in date, was revealed in Trenches 77 and 83, running N-S across the site. This might have run across the field up to the house and farm on the hill to the north, although is not shown on any historic maps from the 1880s OS Map. It comprised a gravel surface (7305) / (8305) directly underneath the topsoil, *c*.0.25m thick, overlying a make-up layer *c*.0.5m thick (7506) / (8306). There was also a ditch on the western side of the surface [7508] / [8308], aligned N-S, measuring 2.4 - 3.5m wide by 1.5m deep, filled with a blue-grey silty-clay.

4.2.6 52-002

Eight trenches were excavated in this area. Medieval agricultural furrows and a post-medieval field boundary were revealed and investigated. This is similar to the results from the previous trenching to the east – Wessex's trenching uncovered no archaeological remains close to this site; and CAU's trenching (also to the east) uncovered a single ditch representing the northern limit of the Iron Age settlement.

The stratigraphy in these trenches comprised a grey-brown sandy-silt topsoil (0.3m thick), over an orange-brown sandy-silt subsoil (0.05m - 0.1m thick), over the natural geological deposit – a red-brown clayey-sand with gravel patches. Colluvial deposits were observed in Trenches 90, 92, and 93, an orange-brown silty deposit approximately 0.4m thick, underlying the subsoil and over the natural geology. These trenches were positioned at the base of the hill (rising to the west).

The remains of agricultural furrows were identified in Trenches 89, 91, and 93. These were aligned NW-SE, measured 2m wide, and were spaced approximately 6m apart. They were filled with an orange-brown sandy-silt fill.

Ditch [9505] was located at the southern end of Trench 95. It was aligned NE-SW, measured 1.05m wide by 0.26m deep, and was filled by a compact grey-brown clayey-silt. This ditch is not identifiable on the First Edition Ordnance Survey or later mapping, however the arrangement of fields in the area makes it likely that it was a previous field boundary (continuing straight across from the boundary to the south-west). It may also represent an earlier boundary of activity, as COPA's trenching revealed a concentration of archaeological activity to the south of this boundary (COPA's Plot 24).

4.2.7 52-003

Twenty-eight trenches were excavated in this area. Significant archaeological remains were identified in these trenches, particularly in the northern part of the field where a large 1st century sub-circular settlement enclosure was identified; in the central-southern part where a later Romano-British (4th century?) ladder settlement was identified; and in the south where the remains of field systems were identified (Illus 15).

These remains match the results of the geophysical survey. It also fits with the results of previous trenching, as CAU's Site 2 was positioned in the centre of this area and uncovered a Late Iron Age rectilinear system with pits.

This general area, to the west of the A1 south of Brampton Hut Services, contains dense Late Iron Age – Romano-British settlement remains. COPA's trenching in plot 24, just to the north of this site, uncovered Middle-Late Iron age curvilinear enclosures (in the eastern field); and Iron Age and Roman settlement and field systems (in the western field). CAU's site 3, to the south of this site, contained three phases of Romano-British settlement activity. This site is therefore positioned within a wider landscape of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, such that a broader understanding of how settlement changed over time can be gained.

Significant quantities of pottery were recovered from this area (second only to S1-006). The limited range of fabrics (mainly grog-tempered wares, with one regionally-traded ware and one Continental import) and forms (mainly jars, with one beaker, two flagons, and a possible amphora) suggests mainly utilitarian activity and occupation. There were few other finds from this area, further demonstrating the utilitarian nature of the activity.

A relatively large collection of animal bone was recovered from features in this area (particularly from the 1st century settlement enclosure), This was mainly cattle, pig, and sheep / goat.

The remains of agricultural furrows were revealed across this area, aligned NE-SW and positioned c.8m apart. A sample of these were investigated – [9605] and [11522]. They measured c.2m wide by 0.06m deep, had sloped sides and a flat base, and a brown-grey silty-clay fill. They would have formed part of the medieval agricultural landscape.

The remains of a post-medieval / modern field boundary was also identified - hedgerow [10007]. This measured 2m wide by 0.66m deep and had an uneven base and irregular sides. It is not shown on the 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey or later mapping.

1st century sub-circular enclosure

The geophysics identified the remains of a large sub-circular enclosure in the northern part of this area, with an approximate diameter of 60m (Illus 16). This enclosure was identified in the trenching, alongside evidence for more general settlement activity (pits, post-holes, a well, and possible roundhouses). The dating evidence suggests it is a 1st century settlement.

The remains of the large sub-circular enclosure ditches were identified in Trenches 101 and 102: ditches [10109] and [10206] (Illus 18). These ditches measured between 1.3 and 2.45m wide by 1.5m deep (depth established through augering). They had sloping sides and a concave base, and were filled with multiple grey / yellow-brown silty and sandy-clay fills which formed both through silting of the ditch whilst it was open and deliberate backfilling following the enclosure's abandonment. No features were identified within the interior of the enclosure (although only a small area was opened within the interior).

Significant quantities of pottery were recovered from the fills of this enclosure (53 sherds in 10104, 69 sherds in 10107), which were dated to the mid-late 1st century AD. A sherd of brick, floor or hypocaust tile was recovered from the fill of [10206], demonstrating the existence of buildings here. A block of ferrous slag, probably a smithing hearth bottom, was recovered from the fill of [10109], suggesting that iron smithing was carried out nearby. A single grape seed was also recovered from the fill of ditch [10109].

The geophysics shows a number of linear features projecting off the main enclosure, some of which were identified in the trenching – [9717], [10614], [10310], and [10317] (Illus 17 and 23). These ditches measured 3.4 - 4m wide by 1.45m deep (depth established through augering). They had concave - flat bases and sloping sides, and were filled with multiple grey-brown and yellow-brown silty-clay deposits. Significant quantities of pottery, dated to the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD, were retrieved from the fills of these - 71 sherds from (10606), 106 sherds from (10607), and 56 sherds from (10608). These ditches formed divisions within the landscape outside of the main enclosure. Animal bone, mainly cattle, was also retrieved from the fills of [9717] and [10614].

Evidence for settlement activity was uncovered in the trenches around the central enclosure. This includes a well, quarry pit, smaller pits, curvilinear ditch (potentially part of a roundhouse), and other ditches.

The well [10227] was located just to the east of (outside) the main enclosure ditch (Illus 20 and 22). It measured 1.8m in diameter by 1.2m+ deep (not bottomed), with steep vertical sides. The water table was reached *c*.1m beneath machined-level. Two backfill deposits (10225) and (10226), comprising a mixture of sandy-clay, silty-clay, and gravelly-clay, were investigated within the well. Pottery recovered from the well was dated to the 1st century AD. Charred and uncharred plant remains, including elder fruit, bedstraws and nutlets of the knotweed and dead-nettle families, and a piece of bone with evidence of canine gnawing, were also retrieved from the fill of the well.

A curvilinear ditch was investigated outside the enclosure - [10209] / [10213] / [10216] / [10229] (Illus 19). This measured 0.6 - 0.9m wide by 0.2 - 0.42m deep, had sloped sides and a concave base, and was filled with a brown-grey silty-clay fill. Pottery recovered from this feature was dated to the mid-1st century AD. Small pieces of ferrous slag and fuel ash slag were also recovered from the fill of this ditch, along with a fragment of worked (sawn) red deer antler. The ditch may have formed part of a roundhouse.

A quarry pit was identified outside the settlement enclosure – [10221] (Illus 21). It was oval-shaped, measured $1.07m + X \ 1m$ by 0.9m deep, and had irregular concave sides and bases. It was filled with four silty-sand and gravel fills, with charcoal and manganese inclusions. This may have been used for extraction of gravels for construction.

Other smaller pits were also identified outside the settlement enclosure: [9611], [9709], [10224], and [10605]. These pits were sub-circular in shape, measured between 0.96 - 2m by 0.37 - 1.6m, by 0.12 - 0.35m deep, and were generally filled with grey-brown silty-clay fills with gravel and charcoal inclusions. They may have been used for storage or as rubbish pits. Pit [9709] contained pottery dated to the 2nd century, and pit [10605] contained 1st century pottery. Pit [9611] was slightly different, as contained a grey-black silty-clay fill with frequent charcoal inclusions, which may indicate it had an industrial function.

A few post-holes were also identified in this area – [10113], [10312], [10315], and [10707]. None of these formed obvious buildings or fence-lines, but they would have all been associated with buildings outside the main enclosure. They measured between 0.3 and 0.6m in diameter by 0.12 - 0.24m deep, with grey brown silty-sandy-clay fills.

Other smaller ditches were identified in the area immediately outside the main enclosure. Some of these may have acted as boundary ditches within the landscape, whilst others may have functioned as drainage ditches. The ditches which likely functioned as boundaries include [9607]/[9609], [9719], [9721], and [10211]. These measured between 2m and 2.78m wide by 0.1 - 0.34m deep, and had grey-brown silty-clay fills. Pottery recovered from them was dated to the Late Iron Age – 2^{nd} century AD, and included part of an amphora. Animal bone, particularly cattle, pig, and sheep / goat, was also recovered from the fills of these. The probable drainage ditches include [9613], [9705]/[9711], [9707]. These measured 0.7 - 0.9m wide by 0.12-0.21m deep, and had silty-clay fills. Pottery from ditch [9711] was also dated to the 1^{st} century.

A cremation was identified and lifted in Trench 110 - [11005] - outside the main settlement core. The cremation was positioned in a sub-circular pit, filled with a brown-black clayey-sand with frequent charcoal. It comprised 170g of almost-fully calcined bone, including part of a left temporal bone and the root of a premolar tooth. The age and sex of this individual could not be ascertained.

1st century Romano-British field systems and activity outside settlement

The geophysics identified another area of ditches – potentially forming field systems – around Trenches 113 and 117, and in the far southern part of the area. The trial trenching revealed a series of ditches and gullies, which formed part of this field system. Dating evidence from these features places them in the 1st century, and therefore associated with the settlement to the north.

In the western part of the area, two east-west ditches, likely field boundaries, were identified – [11709] and [11711]/[11713]. These measured 2.2m wide by 0.84m deep. They were filled with a light brown-grey silty-gravelly clay. Pottery from [11711] was dated to the mid-late 1st century AD. A prehistoric flint tool was also recovered from ditch [11709].
In the southern part of the area were two ditches which were also probably field boundaries – [12106] and [12310]/[12313]. Ditch [12106] was aligned N-S, measured 1.5m wide by 0.46m deep, with two gravelly and clay fills. Ditches [12310]/[12313] were aligned NW-SE – [12310] was a re-cut of [12313], measured 1.35m wide by 0.9m deep, had sloped sides and an uneven base, with a grey-brown clay fill.

Other smaller gullies were identified on a variety of alignments – [11305] aligned NW-SE; [11705] aligned NW-SE; and [11707] aligned NE-SW. These measured 0.5 – 0.6m wide by 0.06 - 0.15m deep, and had orange-brown silty-clay fills. 1st century pottery was recovered from ditch [11707]. It is likely that these were drainage gullies.

Another two cremations were identified in Trench 120 – [12005] and [12007]. They were circular in plan with concave sides and bases. They were filled with a black sandy clay with gravel, charcoal and flint inclusions. Cremation [12005] contained 1g of calcined bone (unidentifiable); and cremation [12007] contained 88g of calcined bone including cranial bone, tooth roots, and phalanx. Nineteen sherds of grey, dark grey, and cream coarse fabrics, of late $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century date, were present with cremation [12005]. A Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age flint knife was also recovered from the fill of cremation [12005].

Later (4th century?) Romano-British ladder settlement

The geophysics identified a ladder settlement in the southern part of the area. The remains of this were identified in Trench 115. This is thought to be of later date than the settlement in the northern part of this area, partly because of its morphology (the more rectilinear system), but also because of the 4th century pottery recovered from pit [11506], although other dating evidence suggests a 1st century date. Further excavation will elucidate this.

Ditches [11509] and [11515] were aligned NW-SE at the northern end of the trench, parallel and adjacent to each-other. These formed the external boundary of the ladder settlement. Ditch [11509] measured 1m wide by 0.52m deep; and ditch [11515] measured 0.7m wide by 0.52m deep. They had sloping sides and flat bases, and were filled with silty-clay deposits. A prehistoric flint tool was recovered from ditch [11509]. No other dating evidence was recovered from either of these ditches.

A series of ditches was identified within the ladder settlement, which may have formed internal divisions – [11520], [11529], and [11531]. These were aligned NW-SE / E-W, and measured c.1.7m wide by 0.55m deep, with sloped sides, a flat base, and silty-sand fills. Mid-late 1st century pottery and animal bone (pig) was recovered from ditch [11520].

Three pits were identified – [11506], [11525], and [11527] (unexcavated). Pit [11506] measured 0.54m in diameter by 0.41m deep, had two silty-sandy-clay fills with gravel and charcoal inclusions, and contained pottery from the 1st and 4th centuries including a rim sherd of regionally-traded Oxfordshire red slip ware. Pit [11525] measured 0.66m by 0.3m by 0.68m deep, with two sandy-silty-clay fills. These pits would have been storage or rubbish pits.

A single post-hole was also identified – [11517]. This measured 0.48m in diameter by 0.31m deep, with a brown silty-clay fill with gravel, chalk, manganese, and charcoal inclusions. This demonstrates the presence of buildings in this area.

The enclosure ditch [10705] may also be associated with the ladder settlement. It was aligned on a slightly different alignment (more E-W than NW-SE) suggesting it may belong to a different phase of activity, however it is shown on the geophysics as rectilinear in shape, in contrast to the curving shapes of the enclosure to the north. The ditch measured 4m wide by 1.1m deep, had sloping sides and a concave base, and six silty-clay fills with gravel, charcoal and flint inclusions. Finds recovered from this ditch were dated to the mid-1st century.

4.2.8 52-005

Four trenches were excavated in this field. The fifth (Trench 124), could not be excavated as the gas pipeline could not be crossed. No archaeological remains were present in these four trenches.

The stratigraphy comprised a grey-brown sandy-silt topsoil (0.2m thick), over an orange-brown sandy-silt subsoil (0.1m thick), over the natural geology – an orange-brown gravelly-silty-sand.

4.2.9 52-006

In total, sixty trenches were excavated in this area (the original fifty-four plus an additional six along the western boundary) (Illus 24). The majority of these trenches contained no archaeological remains. An area of Late Iron Age / Early Romano-British activity was identified in Trench 135.

The stratigraphy in the majority of these trenches comprised a dark brown clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m thick), over an orange-brown sandy silt subsoil (0.1 - 0.25m thick), over the natural geological deposit, a dark brown sandy-silt with frequent gravels. Subsoil was not present in all the trenches, being absent in Trenches 131, 132, 133, 138, 141, 142, 143, 156, 169, 178, and 179.

The remains of agricultural furrows were observed across some of the trenches; running N-S in Trenches 129, 130, 132, 133, 136, 137, 138 140, 145, and 153; and E-W in Trenches 154, 157, 158, 159, 164, 165, 166, 169, 172, 178, and 179. This reflects the different alignment of furrows in different fields. The furrows were 2m wide and spaced approximately 8m apart. Slots were excavated in furrows [13508], [15904], [16404] and [16304] to confirm their interpretation.

The remains of field boundaries and hedgerows relating to the post-medieval and modern agricultural landscape were also revealed. Ditches [13204] and [13908] were aligned N-S and were part of the field boundaries shown on the 1888 and 1901 OS Maps. They had been backfilled by the time of the 1926 Map. A corner sherd of a brick or tile, possibly 18th century in date, was recovered from the fill of ditch [13204]. Feature [13706] formed part of a more modern hedgerow.

Another undated ditch [13906] was investigated. This was aligned NW-SE, measured 1m wide by 0.32m deep, had concave sides and a flat base, and two silty-clay fills. No finds were retrieved from this ditch and it is not shown on historic mapping. It may have been a drainage ditch associated with the agricultural use of the land

Iron Age / Romano-British activity

An area of Iron Age / Romano-British activity was identified in Trench 135, comprising two curvilinear ditches and a large quarry pit (Illus 25). Fired clay and pottery, dated to the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century, was recovered from these features, all of a fairly utilitarian type and much of which was a crude, poorly sorted brown ware. A post-hole with Late Iron Age / Romano-British pottery was also investigated in Trench 175.

[13511] and [13513] formed a slightly curving NE-SW ditch, measuring 0.75m wide by 0.32 - 0.38m deep, with sloped sides and a flat base, and two sandy-silty-clay fills with gravel, chalk, and charcoal inclusions (Illus 27). Post-hole [13516] was cut into this ditch, suggesting that it had a structural function. It may have been a small enclosure.

Another slightly curvilinear ditch [13519] was investigated to the south of this. This measured 0.83m wide by 0.45m deep, had sloped sides and an uneven base, and two grey-brown silty-clay fills with gravel, burnt clay, and pottery dated to the mid-1st century. This may also have formed part of a small enclosure.

A large pit [13521] was also investigated in this trench (Illus 26 and 28). This was sub-circular in plan, measured 1.4m+ by 1.2m by 0.6m deep, with sloping sides and a concave base, and a brown-grey silty-clay fill with gravel, chalk, charcoal, animal bone, fired clay, and $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century pottery. This has been interpreted as a quarry pit.

A single post-hole was investigated in Trench 175: [17505]. This measured 0.55m in diameter by 0.09m deep. Pottery (Late Iron Age / 1st century) and flint was recovered from it, and a Late Neolithic flint tool. This was the only Iron Age / Romano-British feature identified in this area.

4.2.10 52-008

The four trenches in this area revealed a focus of Romano-British activity ($1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD), including boundary ditches, drainage gullies, post-holes, and pits (Illus 28 and 29). This was particularly focused in Trenches 181, 182, and 183, with the single ditch in Trench 184 potentially functioning as the boundary to the activity.

This focus is related to the Iron Age and Romano-British activity revealed in the area by previous trenching. To the west, COPA investigated prehistoric enclosures and field systems (Plot 28), and CAU's trenching revealed Middle – Late Iron Age pits and ditches (Area B2); and to the east CAU uncovered Late Iron Age / Romano-British enclosures, ditches, trackways and quarrying (Site 9), and Wessex Archaeology revealed Iron Age ditches and pits (land parcel 1131).

The pottery recovered from this area was mainly jars in reduced grey wares, of 1st-2nd century date, indicating utilitarian activity and occupation. Few other finds were recovered from this area. A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered from the trenches in this area which mainly derived from cattle and sheep / goat.

Interestingly, the dating evidence recovered from Trench 183 (the eastern trench) was slightly later ($2^{nd} - 3^{rd}$ century) than that recovered from Trenches 181 and 182 ($1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century). This might suggest that there were subtle shifts in the focus of settlement over time.

The agricultural furrows in this area were aligned NNE-SSW: [18209], [18211], and [18213]. These measured 0.66 - 0.89m wide by 0.1 - 0.32m deep, had concave sides and base, and grey-brown silty-clay fills. They were positioned approximately 5m apart.

There were a number of large ditches in this area, which functioned as divisions within areas of settlement. Many of these were aligned N-S: [18109], [18112]/[18114], [18116], [18205], [18305], [18311], [18315], and [18317] (Illus 31 and 33). They measured between 0.95m and 2.4m wide, by 0.3 – 0.78m deep, had sloped bases and sides, and grey-black silty-clay fills. Some of these, particularly in Trench 183, were positioned adjacent to each-other, and may represent re-cuts of the same boundaries. Pottery recovered from the fills of these ditches was generally dated to the 1st – 2nd century AD, and included a samian dish from central Gaul with a damaged stamp. The remains of a possible kiln/oven/pit lining was retrieved from ditch [18112], hinting at the presence of industrial activity in the vicinity. An abundant quantity of cereal grains, and spikelet forks, were also recovered from ditch [18109], potentially indicating the storage of cereals. A 1st-2nd century copper alloy toilet instrument, possibly an earscoop, was retrieved from the fill of ditch [18311].

Smaller ditches and gullies were investigated on a variety of alignments across these trenches – [18107], [18118], [18207], and [18307]. These measured between 0.4m and 0.7m wide, and 0.08 - 0.23m deep, with concave sides and bases and grey-brown silty-clay fills, and were also broadly dated to the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ centuries. Some of these may have functioned as drainage gullies. Others, particularly [18107] may represent structural beam-slots (as it was positioned adjacent to a post-hole). Pottery recovered from this feature was dated to the mid-late 1^{st} century AD.

Two post-holes were investigated in Trench 181 - [18121] and [18123] (Illus 32). These measured 0.41 - 0.75m in diameter by 0.16 - 0.35m deep and were filled with a brown-grey silty-clay. Pottery recovered from the fill of [18123] was dated to the mid-late 1^{st} century. The presence of these post-holes suggests there were buildings in the area.

An irregular-shaped pit [18105] was positioned towards the eastern end of Trench 181. This measured 2m+ by 0.9m+ by 0.12m deep. This may have been a storage pit, and contained pottery dated to the late $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD.

Ditch [18405] was the only feature in Trench 184. It was aligned N-S, measured *c*.3m wide by 0.4m deep, and was filled with a grey-brown clayey-silt deposit. There was no evidence for other activity to the east of this, suggesting it functioned as a boundary to the settlement activity.



4.2.11 52-009

The two trenches in this area, to the south of Buckden Road, revealed no archaeological remains.

The stratigraphy comprised a dark grey-brown sandy topsoil (0.32 - 0.34m thick), over a yellow-brown sandy subsoil with gravel and chalk inclusions (0.3 - 0.4m thick), over the natural geological deposit – a yellow-brown sandy-clay with gravel, chalk, and manganese.

4.2.12 S2-010

Four trenches were excavated in this area. They were moved slightly from their original positions, because of the overhead cables and presence of badger sets. The remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation was observed, but no other archaeological remains were present in these trenches.

The stratigraphy in these trenches comprised 0.2 - 0.3m of grey-brown silty-clay topsoil, over a thick (maximum 0.65m) deposit of light red-brown silty-sand subsoil, over the natural geological deposit. This was a red-brown silty-sand with patches of gravels and clay.

The remains of NW-SE aligned ridge-and-furrow cultivation was observed cutting through the subsoil. This matches the alignment of the upstanding earthwork remains of ridge-and-furrow present in the field to the west (see separate report for the earthwork survey of these).

4.2.13 52-012

The eight trenches in this area were excavated. Those in S2-011, to the north of the brook, were not excavated due to access issues. No archaeological remains were present.

The stratigraphy comprised a dark brown clayey-sandy-silt topsoil (0.26 - 0.4m thick), over the yellowbrown clayey-sandy-silt subsoil (maximum of 0.1m thick), over the natural geology – a yellow-brown sandy-silt with chalk and gravel inclusions. No subsoil was present in Trenches 199, 200, 201, and 202, the trenches in the southern end of the field.

4.2.14 S3A-002

No archaeological remains were present in the six trenches excavated in this field, to the west of Silver Street.

The stratigraphy comprised topsoil (a dark grey brown clay, approximately 0.3m thick), over subsoil (a grey-brown silty-clay with some flints, *c*.0.25m thick), over the natural geological deposit (a blue-grey silty-clay with patches of chalk and flints).

4.2.15 S3A-003

Twenty trenches were excavated in this area, to the west of Ermine Street (Illus 34). Three of the original trenches could not be excavated as they were positioned underneath overhead power lines – two of these were moved to the north-east and south-west of Trench 211 to gain a clearer understanding of the archaeology revealed here. The remains of a Late Iron Age ring ditch was uncovered in Trench 211, positioned on a higher area of land.

The stratigraphy in these trenches comprised grey-brown clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m thick), over orangebrown silty-clay subsoil (0.1 - 0.2m thick), over the natural geology – a grey-brown silty-clay with chalk and flint inclusions. There was no subsoil deposit in Trench 213.

The remains of furrows (aligned NW-SE), associated with medieval agriculture, were observed across the field. A sample of these was investigated; furrow [20905] measured 1.34m wide by 0.14m deep, had shallow sides and a flat base, and a brown silty-clay fill.

The cuts for post-medieval field drains were also observed in many trenches. One of these was investigated: [22705]. This was aligned NW-SE, measured 0.67m wide by 0.15m deep, had a flat base and near-vertical sides, and a yellow-brown silty-clay fill.

Late Iron Age ring ditch

The remains of a ring ditch, shown on the geophysical survey, was investigated in Trench 211. This was of Late Iron Age date, and was positioned on an area of higher ground. Associated ditches were exposed in Trenches 212 and 219 (Illus 35).

Ditches [21109] and [21105] formed the northern and southern sides of the ring ditch. Ditch [21109] measured 0.67m wide by 0.32m deep, had sloping sides and a concave base, and a grey-brown siltyclay fill (Illus 36). Ditch [21105] was a terminus. It measured 1.5m wide by 0.4m deep with sloping sides, a sloped base, and was filled with a similar grey-black silty-clay fill (Illus 37). This may have been one side of the entrance. Both ditches contained pottery dated to the Late Iron Age, including a jar in shell-gritted ware. Animal bone, including cattle, pig, and sheep / goat, were also retrieved from the fills of these ditches.

A single pit [21107] was exposed within the ring ditch. This was circular, had sloped sides and a flat base, and was filled with a dark grey clay with charcoal and manganese inclusions. No other features were revealed within the ring ditch.

Ditch [21206] was exposed to the south of the ring ditch, aligned NW-SE (Illus 38). This measured 1.4m wide by 0.26m deep, had sloped sides and a concave base, and two grey-brown / black-grey silty-clay fills. It also contained pottery dated to the Late Iron Age, in shell fabric and a crude red-brown fabric. This is likely to be associated with the ring ditch, potentially dividing the land around it.



Two small NE-SW aligned ditches were also investigated in Trench 219: [21905] and [21907], directly to the east of the ring ditch. These measured 0.51 - 0.67m wide by 0.16 - 0.19m deep, had sloped sides and bases, and a brown silty-clay fill with charcoal, chalk, flint, and gravels. Gully [21905] contained 1st century pottery. They are also likely to be associated with the ring ditch, and their smaller size suggests they may have been drainage features.

4.2.16 S3A-005 / S3A-007

Forty-four trenches were excavated in this area. The remains of medieval – modern agricultural practices were exposed in some of these trenches (field boundaries, furrows, drains, and dumps of material). No evidence for earlier activity was uncovered, despite the positioning of this area adjacent to Ermine Street. This matches the results of CAU's trenching in this area (Area D), which also did not uncover evidence for Roman activity.

The stratigraphy comprised topsoil (dark brown silty-clay 0.25m thick), over subsoil (grey-brown clayey-silt 0.1 - 0.25m thick), over the natural geology (grey silty-clay with patches of chalk and flint). Colluvial deposits were observed in the western end of Trench 230 and in the northern end of Trench 231, 0.5m thick.

The remains of furrows were observed in some of the trenches, matching the alignments shown on the geophysical survey. One of these was investigated in Trench 237, [23705]. It was aligned NW-SE, had a shallow concave profile, measured 0.5m wide by 0.09m deep, with a grey-brown silty-clay fill.

The remains of two field boundaries were investigated – [23905] and [26105]. Both of these were shown on historic maps, from the 1880s First Edition Ordnance Survey Map through to the 1955 Ordnance Survey Map. They had been backfilled by the time of the 1977 Ordnance Survey Map. Boundary [23905] was aligned ENE-WSW, had a U-shaped profile, measured 1.85m wide by 0.5m deep, and was filled with a grey-brown silty-clay. A fragment of a modern broken ploughshare was recovered from the fill of this ditch. Boundary [26105] was aligned NW-SE, on a line with the extant hedgerow.

Three drains were excavated in Trenches 234, 235 and 239 – [23405], [23505] and [23905]. They measured between 0.6 and 0.95m wide by 0.15 - 0.25m deep, had U-shaped profiles, and grey-brown clay fills. Drain [23905] contained fragments of post-medieval tile.

A modern dump, with modern brick, tile, and asbestos, was uncovered in Trench 233, [23305], exposed for 15m along the length of the trench.

4.2.17 S3B-001

Seven trenches in this area were excavated. No archaeological features were present in any of these trenches. A possible feature was investigated in Trench 282, but was shown to be a tree-bowl which was irregularly shaped with visible rooting.



The stratigraphy in these trenches comprised a dark brown-grey clayey-silt topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m thick), over the red-grey-brown silty-clay subsoil (0.15 - 0.45m thick), over the natural geology – a red-brown silty-clay with flints, chalk patches, and patches of gravels.

4.2.18 S3B-003

Six trenches were excavated in this area (Illus 39). A cluster of undated features were exposed in the eastern part of the field, potentially associated with the features exposed by Wessex Archaeology in their trenching to the north (land parcel 1098).

The stratigraphy comprised a dark brown-grey clayey-silt topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m deep), over a dark greybrown clayey-silt subsoil (0.1 - 0.2m thick), over the natural geological deposit – a light brown-orange sandy-clay with gravels.

The remains of a field boundary [28605] was identified on a N-S alignment across Trench 286. This measured 1.7m wide by 0.8m+ deep, and was filled with a dark brown-grey silty-clay fill, with pieces of CBM and metal. This boundary is not shown on any historic maps from the 1880s OS onwards.

One of the ditches in Trench 289 is thought to be modern – [28907]. This is because of its square shape, vertical sides and flat base, and fill. This would have been associated with the agricultural activity on the site.

Undated features in eastern part of area

A number of undated features were exposed in Trenches 288, 289, and 290 in the eastern part of the field (Illus 40 and 41). They comprised ditches and post-holes and may be associated with previous settlement. They are likely to be associated with the undated ditches and pits identified by Wessex Archaeology in their trenches directly to the north (land parcel 1098).

The remains of three ditches were investigated – [28805], [28909], and [29005]. Ditch [28805] was the largest, potentially acting as the boundary for the activity to the east. It was aligned NW-SE, measured 1.5m wide by 0.5m deep, and was filled with a grey-yellow-brown silty-clay. Ditch [28909] was smaller (0.83 wide by 0.23m deep) and was aligned north-south – potentially functioning as an internal division or for drainage. Ditch [29005] may have been the remains of a roundhouse, as it was curved in plan, measured 0.34m wide by 0.23m deep, and was filled with a brown-grey clayey-sand.

Three post-holes were investigated in Trench 289: [28905], [28918], and [28920]. These were all circular / sub-circular in shape, measured 0.35 - 0.45m in diameter by 0.11 - 0.25m deep, and were filled with a grey-brown clayey-sand. They were positioned on a broadly NW-SE line, spaced *c*.5m apart. They may have formed part of a fence-line.

There was also a pit [28914] (Illus 42). This was sub-circular, with sloped sides and a sloped base, and four clayey-silt fills.

4.2.19 S3B-006

Twenty-nine trenches were excavated in this area – the twenty-five trenches proposed in the original scope, plus an additional four along the western side of the area (Illus 43). Trenches 313, 314, and 315 had to be moved because of the overhead power lines; Trench 314 was moved *c*.30m to the west; Trench 313 moved to form a T-shape with Trench 295 (thereby picking up the sub-circular 'banjo' enclosure identified via cropmarks); and Trench 315 moved to form an extension of Trench 292 to identify the trackway.

Archaeological remains were present in the majority of these trenches, matching that shown on aerial photographs as cropmarks. This included a focus of Romano-British ($1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century) settlement around Trenches 307, 308, and 309 with the remains of enclosures (large ditches), smaller gullies, and pits; a trackway in Trench 292; the south-western part of an undated sub-circular enclosure in Trench 313 (potentially an Iron Age banjo enclosure); and palaeochannels in the western part of the area.

The evidence concurs with that from previous trenching programmes in the area. COPA trenched the field directly to the south (Plot 76) and uncovered Roman ditches and pits, interpreted as being positioned on the outskirts of the settlement to the north. Wessex Archaeology also trenched this area (land parcel 1095) and also uncovered Roman ditches and pits. CAU's trenching to the south-west (Site 22) uncovered palaeochannels.

The material culture recovered included pottery in seven fabric types, with reduced grey wares predominating. Utilitarian jars were the most common vessels, and the pottery was mainly of $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century date (although with some earlier and later sherds). A late 1^{st} century bow brooch was also recovered from the area of settlement. A relatively small quantity of animal bone was recovered, of a mix of types (cattle, sheep / goat, pig, dog, and horse). This was mainly from Trenches 307 and 308, the area of settlement.

The remains of furrows, orientated NNE-SSW were present in many of the trenches. Some of these were excavated: 29214; 30005; 31307; 30205; 30207; 30105; 30109; 29905; 30007; 30405; 30407; 31007; 30809; 30821; 31605. They were generally around 1 - 1.5m wide by 0.2 - 0.3m deep, had sloping sides and a concave base, and grey-brown silty-clay fills. One of these, [31605] contained tile.

The remains of post-medieval field boundaries were also revealed – [29705] and [31607]. These were both aligned north-south, and formed part of the field boundaries shown on historic maps from the 1880s OS map up to the 1970s. Some of the other gullies may be associated with the post-medieval agricultural landscape - [31005], for example, contained post-medieval pottery. The fill of a hollow in Trench 317, [31705], also contained post-medieval pottery.

Palaeochannels

Palaeochannels were recorded in Trenches 291, 294 (Illus 45), 560, 562, and 563 in the western part of the area – [29106]/[29110]/[29116]; [29410]; [56006]/[56010]; [56209] and [56305]. This matches the cropmarks, which show large dark winding channels. This also fits with the results from CAU's



trenching to the south-west (Site 22), which identified palaeochannels in five trenches, on a rough N-S alignment, and between 10 - 20m wide. A geoarchaeological assessment was made of these palaeochannels (see section 4.4.2).

The palaeochannels comprised blue-grey and brown silty-clay deposits with gravel inclusions. They measured between 1.35m and 11m wide, by 0.26m - 0.6m deep. Many of the palaeochannels contained more than one deposit.

A piece of 1st century pottery was recovered from fill (56008), from palaeochannel [56010]. This suggests that these palaeochannels were open in the Early Roman period, helping to provide part of the landscape context for the Early Roman activity in this area.

Two pieces of pig bone was also recovered from the fill of the palaeochannel [29115]. Cattle bone was retrieved from the fill of palaeochannel [56010].

Parallel ditches were revealed either side of the palaeochannels in Trench 291 (ditches [29121] and [29112]/[29123]) and 294 (ditches [29405] and [29407]) (Illus 45). These ditches measured *c*.1.9m wide by 0.5m deep, had near-vertical sides and a flat base, and grey-blue silty-clay fills. The ditches around the palaeochannel in Trench 291 are visible as cropmarks. They are likely to have been used for water management. No finds were recovered from the fills of these ditches.

1st – 2nd century Romano-British Enclosures in north-eastern area

There was a concentration of activity around Trenches 307, 308, 309, and 312 in the north-eastern part of the area (Illus 46). This comprised a series of ditches making up the rectilinear enclosures shown on cropmarks, and pits. Dating evidence suggests these were of Early Roman ($1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century) date.

Ditch [30711] formed an external boundary to the enclosure (Illus 48 and 49). This was aligned northsouth, measured 2.74m wide by 0.95m deep, and had sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with five silty-clay fills with gravel inclusions. Pottery recovered from the fills of this enclosure ditch were dated to the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ centuries AD, and included jars in grey wares. Cattle and pig bones were also recovered from the fills of this ditch.

Ditches [31207]/[31209]/[31211]/[31213] may form the eastern boundary to the enclosures, aligned NE-SW at the eastern extent of activity (Illus 51). These four ditches were intercutting, and measured 5m wide by 0.65m deep, with sloping sides and a concave base, and filled with grey-brown silty-clay.

A number of other ditches which functioned as internal divisions within the enclosures were revealed: [30705] (Illus 47); [30811]; [30813]; [30815]; [30819]; [30908]; [30910]; [30912]; [30916]; and [30922]. Many of these were aligned east-west. They measured 1 - 1.1m wide by 0.34 - 0.4m deep, had sloping sides and flat bases, and silty / sandy-clay fills. Only ditch [30705] contained datable material – pottery dated to the 2^{nd} / 3^{rd} century.

Three smaller linear gullies were identified within the enclosures: [30713], [31205] and [31215]. They measured 0.57 - 0.65m wide by 0.1 - 0.23m deep. They likely functioned as drainage gullies.

Other gullies inside the enclosure were slightly curving, and so may represent the remains of roundhouse drip gullies. Gully [30807] was an example of this, measuring 0.7m wide by 0.12m deep, with sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a grey-brown clayey-sand fill. Gully [30821] may be another similar example.

Three medium to large sized pits were investigated in this area: [30805] (Illus 50); [30905]; and [30920]. These were sub-circular in plan, measured between 1.3m and 2m in diameter by 0.24 to over 1.2m deep, and were filled with grey-brown silty / sandy clays. They may have functioned as storage or rubbish pits. Pottery recovered from [30805] was dated to the mid-1st – 2nd century. A near-complete copper alloy bow brooch was also recovered from pit [30805], likely to be of later 1st century date (Illus 53). An additional two smaller pits were identified but not investigated: [30914] and [30918].

Activity on outskirts of settlement

There was evidence for activity outside of the main Romano-British settlement. This mainly comprised individual gullies: [29205], [29216], [29305], [29505], [31305], [29805], [30107], [29910], [30411], [31405], [31407], [31410], [31412], [31414], [31416], [31707], and [31709]. They were aligned on varying alignments, and were generally 0.6 - 1m wide by 0.1 - 0.3m deep. Only gully [30005] contained datable material – pottery dated to the 2nd century. It is likely that these functioned as drainage gullies and field boundaries across the wider landscape away from the settlement core.

Romano-British Trackway

The trackway shown on cropmarks running across the area was identified in Trench 292: [29207] and [29209] (Illus 44 and 44A). These ditches were aligned NE-SW and positioned 5m apart. They measured 1.76 - 1.8m wide by 0.54 - 0.56m deep, had sloped sides and a concave base, and were filled with a grey-brown silty-clay. There was no indication of any surface between the two trackway ditches.

No datable finds were recovered from either of these ditches. However, their location in a landscape of Romano-British activity makes it most likely that they are of similar Romano-British date.

The cropmarks suggest the trackway continued to the south, however there is no indication of it continuing to the north (because of the presence of the West Brook and ponds). These ponds (backfilled quarry pits?) are 20th century in date (not shown on the 1927 OS Map, but present in part by the 1958 OS Map), and so it is likely the trackway did once continue to the north. It seems most probable that it connected with the A14.



Undated sub-circular 'banjo' enclosure

The remains of the south-eastern part of the sub-circular 'banjo' enclosure shown on cropmarks was uncovered in Trench 313 – [31313] (Illus 52). This ditch was aligned NW-SE, measured 2.6m wide by 0.84m deep, and had sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with five silty-clay fills, with gravel, manganese, chalk, and flint inclusions.

No finds were recovered from the fill of this ditch. Its morphology, apparently a banjo, suggests it may be of Middle Iron Age date, but this has not been confirmed by the trenching.

The enclosure itself measures *c*.25m in diameter, with a projecting entrance on its eastern side. The cropmarks show a few discrete pit-like features within the interior of the enclosure, although none of these were identified in the trenching. It is positioned away from the centre of settlement activity to the north-east, with no other obvious archaeological features in close proximity to it.

4.2.20 S3B-008

One trench, Trench 318, was excavated in this area revealing two small shallow undated pits.

The stratigraphy comprised a dark brown-grey silty-clay topsoil (0.3m thick), over a grey-brown clay subsoil (0.2m thick), over the natural geology – a grey-orange clay.

Two small shallow pits were investigated: [31806] and [31808]. They were both oval-shaped, measured 0.45m and 0.63m in diameter by 0.05m and 0.08 deep respectively, and were filled with a brown-grey-orange silty-clay. No finds were recovered from either pit.

Wessex Archaeology's trenching in the area directly to the east uncovered the remains of an Iron Age roundhouse and a Saxon inhumation (land parcel 1086). It is therefore possible that these pits may be associated with Iron Age or Saxon activity in the area.

4.2.21 54-001

Eleven trenches were excavated in this area (within Borrow Pit 5). A series of N-S and E-W aligned drains were exposed in some of these trenches. No other archaeological remains were revealed.

The stratigraphy comprised dark brown-grey silty-clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m thick), over a dark greybrown silty-clay subsoil (between 0.1 and 0.6m thick), over the natural geological deposit – a compact brown grey and blue grey clay with chalk.

A number of north-south and east-west aligned ditches were exposed in Trenches 326, 328, and 329, a continuation of those seen in S4-002. One of these was investigated: [32606]. This measured 1.2m wide by 0.3m deep, had sloping sides and a flat base, and two silty-clay fills. These have been interpreted as part of the post-medieval drainage system.

4.2.22 54-002

Sixty-two trenches were excavated in this area (in Borrow Pit 5) (Illus 54). The majority of the trenches contained no archaeological remains. An area of Iron Age activity was identified in Trench 333, and an Iron Age ditch in Trench 365.

The stratigraphy of these trenches comprised dark grey-brown topsoil (0.2 - 0.3m thick), over a mid grey-brown silty-clay subsoil (between 0.1 and 0.6m thick), over the natural geological deposit – a compact light brown-grey and blue clay with chalk.

The remains of N-S and E-W aligned gullies were identified across the field, and were investigated in places: [33006], [33405] and [39405]. These measured 0.55 - 0.78m wide by 0.1 - 0.2m deep, and had straight sides and flat bases. Relatively recent-looking animal bone was recovered from the fill of these. They have been interpreted as part of the post-medieval drainage system.

Late Iron Age activity

A concentration of Iron Age activity was identified in the north-western end of Trench 333, comprising a large pit, four smaller pits, three post-holes, and a gully (Illus 55). This area of activity is positioned in the upper corner of the field, on relatively high land. The dating evidence recovered from these features points to a Late Iron Age – 1st century date, although evidence for Bronze Age activity was uncovered in pit [33323].

The large pit [33310] measured 3.4m in diameter by 1.04m deep (Illus 56 and 58). It had sloping sides, a V-shaped base, and four banded silty-clay fills. Large amounts of charcoal and bone (sheep / goat) were present in many of these fills. Lithics and pottery (mainly with grog and shell inclusions) were also recovered from the pit. The pottery recovered was mainly dated to the Late Iron Age $- 1^{st}$ century AD, alongside a sherd of Bronze Age pottery decorated with horizontal bands of cord-impressed chevrons. This pit is likely to have been a rubbish pit, based on the quantities of material recovered from it.

Pit [33315] was cut into the top of the large pit [33310]. It had a diameter of 0.65m, was 0.11m deep and had sloping sides and a flat base. Its two fills comprised primary silting of black-brown clayey silt from which frequent pottery was recovered, and an upper yellow-red clay backfill. The pottery from this pit was also dated to the Late Iron Age – 1st century AD.

A NE-SW aligned gully [33317] was investigated at the north-western edge of the activity. This measured 0.72m wide by 0.12m deep, had sloping sides and a flat base, and a grey-brown clayey-sandy-silt fill. No other features were identified to the NW of this gully, and so it might have functioned as the boundary to the activity.

Three smaller intercutting pits were investigated to the south-west of the large pit. Pit [33305] measured 0.7m in diameter by 0.3m deep, had sloped sides and a tapered base, and was filled with a grey brown clay, with pottery dated to the mid-1st century AD and sheep / goat bone. Pit [33325]



measured 0.73m by 0.5m by 0.17m deep, had sloping sides with a V-shaped base, and a brown-black clayey-silt fill. This was cut by pit [33323], which measured 1.2m in diameter by 0.19m deep. This pit had a flat base and sloping sides, and a brown-grey clayey-silt fill. These pits may have been rubbish pits.

Two post-holes cutting pit [33323] were investigated – post-holes [33319] and [33321]. These were both circular, measured 0.28 - 0.30m in diameter by 0.14 - 0.16m deep, and had grey brown clayey-silt fills with charcoal, gravel, and chalk inclusions. Post-hole [33319] contained pottery dated to the 1st century AD. The presence of these post-holes suggests structural activity indicative of settlement.

A single post-hole, [33312], was positioned to the south-east, away from the concentration of activity. This was circular, measured 0.22m in diameter by 0.14m deep, and had a grey-black clayey silt fill. It is likely that this was associated with the adjacent Iron Age activity.

Away from the concentration of activity in Trench 333, was a ditch terminal in Trench 365: [36505] (Illus 59). This was aligned NE-SW, was slightly curving, measured 1.2m wide by 0.13m deep, had sloped sides and a flat base, and was filled with a brown-grey clayey-silt with burnt clay and charcoal inclusions. 1st century AD pottery was recovered from its fill. This was the only Iron Age feature identified in S4-002 outside of Trench 333, and is likely to have formed part of field systems away from the area of concentrated activity in Trench 333.

4.2.23 54-003

Eighteen trenches were excavated in this area, in the north-eastern part of Borrow Pit 5 (Illus 60). The majority of the trenches contained no archaeological remains. The remains of Early Roman field systems were identified around Trenches 397-405, in the southern part of the area on a higher ridge of land.

The stratigraphy of these trenches comprised a dark grey-brown clay topsoil (c.0.3m deep), over a mid-brown silty-clay subsoil with chalk and flint (between 0.1 - 0.6m deep), over the natural chalk-rich clay at the top of the slope and dirtier boulder clay towards the bottom of the slope.

A north-south aligned brick wall was exposed crossing Trench 408: [40804]. This measured 0.4m wide by 0.17m high. The deposits to the west of the wall were siltier than the natural geology, and may represent the interior of a building. The building is not shown on the 1880s Ordnance Survey or later mapping, so may be earlier in date than this (potentially 18th or early 19th century). It may have been a barn or outbuilding associated with the Vine Row cottages to the east.

Early Roman field systems on the ridge

The Early Roman activity was concentrated in Trench 405, where there were two parallel NW-SE aligned gullies: [40505] and [40507], positioned *c*.3m apart; and a NNW-SSE aligned large gully [40512], 2m to the north (Illus 61). The gullies [40505] and [40507] measured 0.38 - 0.67m wide by 0.08 - 0.09m deep, had sloping sides and flat-concave bases, and light grey brown clay fills. Ditch



[40512] measured 1m wide by 0.37m deep, had sloped sides and an uneven base, and four silty-clay fills. Burnt animal bone, including cattle, pig, and horse, were recovered from contexts (40508) and (40509), and may represent a lens of material derived from a bonfire or domestic fire used to dispose of refuse.

A number of smaller gullies were identified in the surrounding trenches: [39705], [39805], [39807], [39905], [39907], [40005]. These were aligned NW-SE and NE-SW, generally had sloping sides and bases, and measured between 0.32 - 0.6m wide by 0.11 - 0.16m deep. Ditch [39905] was slightly larger (0.79m wide by 0.21m deep). These features were filled with a grey-brown silty-clay, with chalk and flint inclusions. The only one of these features to contain dating evidence was gully [39705], which contained two sherds of coarse brown ware and two of dark grey ware, dated to the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century AD pottery. Gully [39805] also contained a sherd of (likely) Roman glass.

4.2.24 54-004

Three trenches were excavated here, on the southern side of the A14 to the west of Cambridge Services. No archaeological remains were revealed in any of these trenches.

The stratigraphy comprised a dark brown clay topsoil (0.2m thick), over a grey-brown silty-clay subsoil (0.3 - 0.35m thick), over the natural geology – a yellow-brown and blue-brown clay with gravels and flints.

4.2.25 54-008

One trench, Trench 423, was excavated in this area. There were no archaeological remains in this trench.

The stratigraphy comprised a dark brown-grey silty-clay topsoil (0.3m thick), over a mid-light greybrown clay subsoil (0.1m thick), over the natural geology – a mid-light grey and orange clay.

4.2.26 54-009

Three trenches were excavated in this area. Two linear gullies, likely drainage gullies, were investigated in Trench 422.

The stratigraphy in these trenches comprised a dark brown-grey silty-clay topsoil (0.2 - 0.4m thick), over the grey-brown clay subsoil (0.2 - 0.25m thick), over the natural geology – a grey-orange clay deposit.

Two shallow undated drainage gullies were investigated in Trench 422: [42205] and [42207]. These were aligned NE-SW, measured 0.3m wide by 0.07 - 0.09m deep, and were filled with a brown-grey clay. No finds were recovered from these gullies. They were adjacent to each-other, and likely functioned as drainage gullies in the medieval / post-medieval agricultural landscape.

4.2.27 S4-012

Eighty-one trenches were excavated in this area, on the northern side of the A14 and east of Dry Drayton Road (Illus 62). The remains of an Iron Age settlement site was revealed in the south-eastern part of this area. The majority of the other trenches contained no archaeological remains.

The stratigraphy of the trenches in this area comprised grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (0.2 - 0.25m thick), over mid-brown silty-clay subsoil (0.1 - 0.3m thick), over the natural geology – compact blue-grey clay with flints and sand patches.

The remains of two post-medieval field boundaries were identified across this area. Ditches [46203] and [46304] formed part of a NE-SW aligned field boundary (continuing into Trench 476), shown on historic Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1880s until the 1970s. By the time of the 1983 OS Map the ditches had been infilled. The boundary ditch measured 1.5m wide by 0.86m deep, and was filled with a light brown-grey silty-clay. Ditch [45005] also formed part of a field boundary, aligned NE-SW and measuring 1.5m wide by 0.33m deep. No dateable finds were recovered from the ditch, and it is not shown on maps from the 1880s onwards, suggesting it belongs to an earlier phase of field system.

The remains of post-medieval / modern drainage was also revealed. Ditch [47915] formed part of a N-S aligned feature, measuring 0.8m wide by 0.5m deep potentially functioning as a drainage ditch. It was not shown on any historic mapping. Features [48110] comprised numerous modern drains and gullies within a spread.

Late Iron Age (1st century) settlement enclosure

The remains of a Late Iron Age double-ditched circular enclosure was revealed in the south-eastern part of this area, around Trenches 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 497, and 498 (Illus 63). This supports the results of the geophysical survey.

The enclosure measured *c*.65m in diameter. The geophysics also showed internal features, such as ditches and pits. Artefactual evidence recovered from the enclosure suggests it is of 1st century AD date. The pottery was mainly coarse dark grey ware, with some shell-gritted ware, and all were jars or bowls. The vessels were mainly of utilitarian form, suggesting relatively basic settlement activity. Fired clay was present in Trench 479, demonstrating the existence of buildings. Significant quantities of animal bone were also retrieved from this area; mainly cattle, pig, and sheep / goat.

The outer enclosure ditch was identified along its western side as ditches [49707] (Illus 67), [49811]/[49814] (Illus 65), and potentially [48112]. There was no indication of the outer enclosure ditch along the western side of the feature, either on the geophysics or in the trenching. It may have never existed, or it may have been removed though more-recent land-use (ploughing or changes to the landscape).

The outer enclosure ditch was 2.41 - 2.95m wide by 0.71 - 1.4m deep. It had a varied profile. On the eastern side its top half was shallow, stepping to a steeper slope towards the bottom with a channel at

the base. On its western side it had a more even 45° slope. This suggests erosion on its eastern side and the potential presence of water in its base. Ditch [49811] was a recut of [49814], indicating continued maintenance of the enclosure over time. There was also an indication of drainage gullies outside of the main ditch, with ditch [49709] potentially having this function.

The outer enclosure ditch was filled with three silty-clay fills, with gravel, chalk, flint, and charcoal inclusions. These fills would have formed through gradual silting of the ditch over time. Mid-1st century pottery was recovered from all of these ditches, mainly dark grey wares. An incomplete dog skeleton was recovered from the fill of [49707], and a single fragment of shaped and polished animal long bone.

The inner enclosure ditch was identified in two places – Trench 479 (ditches [47909]/[47911]) and Trench 480 (ditches [48007]/[48009]/[48011]) (Illus 66). The ditch was only excavated in Trench 480 where it was shown to be *c*.5m wide by at least 1.1m deep (continuing beyond the limit of excavation). It had two recuts [48009] and [48007], indicating continued maintenance over time. It had sloped sides and a concave base. Ditch [48015] may have functioned as an external drainage ditch.

The inner enclosure ditch was filled with grey-brown silty-clay deposits, with gravel, chalk, and charcoal inclusions. Again, mid-1st century AD pottery was recovered from all of these ditches. Fragments of fuel ash slag were recovered from the fills of ditches [48007] and [48009], suggesting that iron smithing was being carried out in the vicinity. Significant quantities of animal bone, including cattle, sheep / goat, pig, horse, and dog, were also recovered from the inner enclosure ditch.

The geophysical survey showed the presence of projecting linear features outside of the main enclosure – two of which were identified: [49805]/[49807] and [47905]/[47907]. Ditches [49805]/[49807] were aligned NE-SW adjacent to each other. Ditch [49805] was the main ditch, measuring 1.44m wide by 0.44m deep; with [49807] being a smaller shallow ditch (potentially for drainage) adjacent to it. Ditches [47905]/[47907] were not shown on the geophysics, but may be another example of these, with [47905] being the main ditch and [47907] the drainage ditch. Mid-1st century pottery was recovered from ditches [49805]/[49807].

Evidence for settlement activity was uncovered within the enclosure. This included one pit, three gullies, which may be the remains of roundhouse drip gullies, and two ditches which are likely to be internal divisions.

Pit [48213] was irregular-shaped, measured 0.79m by 0.57m by 0.12m deep, had an uneven base and sloped irregular sides. It was filled with a grey-brown silty-clay containing burnt clay, animal bone, and pottery dated to the 1st century AD. It may have functioned as a storage pit.

Curving gully [48211] may be the remains of a roundhouse drip gully. It measured 0.52m wide by 0.11m in depth, had sloped sides and an uneven base, and two silty-clay fills. Ditch [47913] may also be the remnants of a curving gully, positioned within the enclosure.

Four ditches may have been internal divisions within the enclosure – [48206], [48209], [48306], and [48005]. Ditch [48206] was aligned NE-SW, measured 1m wide by 0.3m deep, and was filled with two silty-clay fills (Illus 64). Its relationship with [48209] is currently unknown. Ditch [48209] was aligned ENE-WSW, measured 1m by 0.58m deep, with vertical sides and a concave base, and had a light orange-brown silty-clay fill. Ditch [48306] was aligned NE-SW, measured 0.4m wide by 0.4m deep, and was filled by two clay fills containing charcoal, chalk, and burnt clay. Ditch [48005] was aligned NW-SE, measured 0.5m wide by 0.4m deep, and was filled with a silty-clay. All of these contained 1st century pottery and animal bone mainly comprising cattle and pig.

Iron Age – Romano-British activity on outskirts of settlement

Limited evidence for Iron Age – Romano-British activity on the outskirts of the settlement was uncovered. This comprised three NE-SW aligned gullies in Trenches 454, 455, and 456: [45405], [45407], [45505], [45507], [45509], [45605], [45607] and [45609]. These have been interpreted as drainage gullies. They measured 0.3m in wide by 0.17 - 0.34m deep, and were filled with a yellow-brown clayey-silt with gravel and chalk inclusions. Late 1^{st} century – 2^{nd} century pottery was recovered from gullies [45405] and [45407].

4.2.28 54-014

In total, seven trenches, in a NW-SE aligned line, were excavated along the proposed line of the local access road between Oakington Road and The Avenue. No archaeological remains were present in any of these trenches.

The stratigraphy comprised a dark grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m thick), over the yellowbrown silty-clay subsoil (0.1 - 0.3m thick), over the natural geology – grey clay with patches of chalk and gravels. The natural geology was different in Trench 553, a brown-orange sandy-clay.

4.2.29 S4-015

Five trenches were excavated in this area, behind the crematorium. No archaeological remains were revealed in any of these trenches.

The stratigraphy comprised a grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.35m thick), over a grey-brown / orange-brown sandy-silty-clay subsoil (0.08 - 0.2m thick), over the natural geology – a compact grey and orange clay with gravel, chalk, and pebbles. The natural geology in Trench 511 was slightly different comprising gravelly sandy clay.

4.2.30 54-017

Nine trenches were excavated in this area (Illus 68). The archaeological remains of an Iron Age rectilinear enclosure were exposed around Trench 520 (matching the result of the geophysical survey), and E-W aligned furrows were revealed across the field. No other archaeological remains were identified.



The stratigraphy of these trenches comprised a dark grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (c.0.3m thick), over a mid-orange-brown sandy subsoil (0.1 - 0.25m thick). This in turn overlay the natural geology, a mid-light grey clay with orange-brown sandy-clay and gravel patches. No subsoil was observed in eastern trenches 516-521.

East-west aligned furrows were identified in some of the trenches in this area, reflecting medieval agricultural practices and matching the results of the geophysical survey. One of these was investigated: [51904]. It measured 0.9m wide by 0.1m deep, had concave sides and an uneven base, and was filled with a grey-brown clayey-silt.

Late Iron Age rectilinear enclosure

The geophysical survey identified a rectilinear enclosure, aligned N-S adjacent to The Avenue (Illus 69). It measured *c.*25m N-S by *c.*30m E-W, with an internal dividing ditch. It is positioned in apparent isolation, with no other adjacent or associated activity. It has been interpreted as a small settlement enclosure.

This enclosure was revealed and investigated in the trenching, in Trench 520, and shown to be of Iron Age date. Two ditches, [52005] and [52008], formed the northern and southern boundaries of the enclosure, and a terminus [52011] was revealed towards the centre. No discrete features were revealed within it.

The dating points to a Late Iron Age – 1^{st} century date for the enclosure. Coarse dark grey ware was the most common type of pottery, and storage jars were the most common type of vessel, with some jars and bowls. All of this pottery was of utilitarian form. Animal bone (cattle and sheep / goat) were also retrieved from these features, and the presence of fuel ash slag suggests that some iron smithing may have been carried out in the vicinity.

The enclosure ditches [52005] and [52008] (Illus 69a) were aligned WNW-ESE, measured 1.8 - 2.4m wide by 0.5 - 0.65m deep, and had a flat base and irregular sides. They were filled with two brown-grey clayey-silt fills, with gravel, chalk, and charcoal inclusions. Pottery recovered from both of these ditches was dated to the Late Iron Age – 1^{st} century AD. These were clearly shown on the geophysical survey, and formed the main external boundaries to the enclosure.

The ditch terminal [52011] (Illus 69b) was aligned NE-SW, measured 0.86m wide by 0.2m deep, and had sloped sides and a concave base. This also had two brown-grey silty-clay fills with gravel and charcoal inclusions, and pottery dated to the Late Iron Age -1^{st} century. This is shown on the geophysical survey as part of an internal division within the enclosure, continuing to the north-west. No continuation was revealed in the trenching.

To the south-west of the enclosure, in Trench 519, an individual pit was investigated [51906]. This was circular, measured 0.8m in diameter by 0.19m deep, had concave sides and a flat base, and a brown-grey silty-clay fill. Pottery dated to the mid-1st century was recovered from this pit, suggesting it is associated with the Iron Age enclosure in Trench 520.

4.2.31 S4-018

Thirteen trenches were excavated in this area. The majority of the trenches contained no archaeological remains (supporting the results of the geophysical survey). Only a pit and E-W aligned furrows were revealed.

The stratigraphy in the trenches in this area comprised a grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m thick), over a patchy green-orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (0.1 - 0.3m thick), over the natural geological deposit, a compact blue-brown-grey / orange-brown clay with patches of gravels and chalk.

The remains of E-W aligned furrows were identified across the field, matching the results of the geophysical survey and the alignment of furrows in the adjacent field (S4-017). One of these was investigated, [53107], and shown to measure 1.35m wide by 0.1m deep with sloping sides and an uneven base. It was filled with a yellow-brown silty-clay.

An undated pit was also revealed and investigated in Trench 531 – [53105]. This was sub-circular (1.4m X 1.2m), 0.12m deep, had stepped sides and an uneven base, and a brown-grey silty-clay fill. It was undated. However, the fact that there were no other archaeological remains in close proximity suggests that it is probably associated with post-medieval agriculture.

4.2.32 54-019

Thirteen trenches were investigated in this area, just to the south of where the A14 becomes the M11 (Illus 70). Romano-British ditches, related to the settlement site excavated by the CAU just to the north (Site 20), were revealed in the northern-most trenches. No other archaeological remains, aside from a hedgerow in Trench 541, were revealed elsewhere.

The stratigraphy of these trenches comprised a grey-brown silty-clay topsoil (0.25 - 0.3m thick), over an orange-brown silty-clay subsoil (0.2 - 0.3m thick), over a compact blue-grey clay natural deposit with chalk inclusions. Subsoil was not observed in Trenches 541, 542, and 543.

The remains of a hedgerow was identified in Trench 541, [54106]. This was aligned E-W with a V-shaped base, stepped sides, and a brown grey silty clay fill. This is shown as a field boundary on Ordnance Survey historic maps from the 1880s up until the 1980s.

Romano-British (2nd century) settlement

Romano-British settlement remains were uncovered in the northern trenches in this area. This comprised a N-S aligned ditch, with E-W divisions running off it. The dating evidence suggests a 2nd century date. It is associated with the Romano-British settlement remains uncovered during CAU's trenching just to the north (Site 20).

The finds included significant quantities of regionally-traded pottery and Continental samian wares, suggesting more than basic utilitarian occupation and activity. Reduced grey wares and oxidised buff pink and reddish-yellow wares were the most common fabrics. A limited collection of animal bone, deriving from cattle and horse, was also recovered from the features in this area.

A north-south aligned ditch was observed in Trenches 535, 536, 537 and 538 ([53508], [53510], [53514], [53518], [53605], [53705], and [53805]) for a distance of *c*.150m, curving slightly to the west at its southern end. It was not observed in Trench 539, suggesting it terminated to the north of this. The ditch measured *c*.0.7 - 0.9m wide by 0.17 - 0.38m deep, and had a concave-flat base and sloped sides. It was filled with a grey-brown silty-clay, with gravel, chalk, charcoal, and flint inclusions. Pottery recovered from the fills of this ditch dated to the 1st - 2nd century. This ditch may have continued to the north and formed the central spine of a ladder settlement.

There was a more concentrated area of activity in the northern half of Trench 535 (Illus 71), with three ditches aligned east-west running off the main north-south ditch: [53506] / [53520], [53512], and [53516]. The northern ditch [53506]/[53520] was the largest, measuring 2.9m wide by 0.55m deep, with sloped sides and a concave base, and a grey-brown silty clay fill. Pottery recovered from this ditch was 2nd century in date. This included a Lower Nene Valley colour-coated beaker and dish, a samian dish from East Gaul, and a Ludovici Sa dish. This may have been a boundary ditch to the settlement activity to the north. Ditches [53512] and [53516] were smaller (0.6–1.5m wide by 0.2-0.3m deep), with sloped sides and concave bases, and grey-brown silty clay fills. Ditch [53516] contained possible 1st century pottery. These may have functioned as drainage ditches outside the centre of settlement.

The trenches further to the south did not contain any archaeological remains.

4.3 FINDS

4.3.1 Pottery, Rob Perrin

An assemblage of 3644 sherds, weighing a little over 31 kilos and with an Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE), based on rims, of 19.29 was recovered from 220 contexts in 62 trenches. The pottery was recorded by fabric and vessel form was also noted where identifiable, providing an additional quantification measure. Many of the trenches only contain a few sherds with trenches 50 and 51 containing the most (Table 3). Post-medieval pottery also occurred in five of the contexts and modern in two. Twenty-seven contexts contained pieces of fired clay, including a possible firebar. The contexts include 127 ditches, five gullies, 16 pits, eight quarry pits, 11 layers, five occupation layers, five postholes, one well and one cremation.



Trench	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%	Vessels	%
14	6	0.2	43	0.1	0.12	0.6	1	0.5
17	1		26	0.1			1	0.5
18	44	1.2	165	0.5	0.16	0.8	3	1.6
27	2	0.1	14					
28	29	0.8	232	0.7	0.26	1.3	2	1.1
29	30	0.8	214	0.7	0.39	2.0	3	1.6
31	4	0.1	23	0.1				
39	7	0.2	36	0.1	0.04	0.2	1	0.5
45	9	0.2	38	0.1			1	0.5
48	12	0.3	156	0.5	0.14	0.7	2	1.1
49	55	1.5	247	0.8	0.39	2.0	5	2.6
50	558	15.3	5905	19.0	6.3	32.7	51	26.8
51	599	16.4	4978	16.0	4.22	21.9	39	20.5
52	30	0.8	219	0.7	0.05	0.3	1	0.5
54	16	0.4	137	0.4				
55	1		4					
72	2	0.1	16	0.1	0.04	0.2	1	0.5
96	96	2.6	1123	3.6			1	0.5
97	42	1.2	330	1.1	0.49	2.5	3	1.6
100	10	0.3	51	0.2				
101	123	3.4	2900	9.3	0.82	4.3	5	2.6
102	84	2.3	366	1.2	0.60	3.1	4	2.1
105	4	0.1	56	0.2				
106	236	6.5	1995	6.4	1.33	6.9	12	6.3



Trench	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%	Vessels	%
107	50	1.4	531	1.7	0.32	1.7	4	2.1
115	4	0.1	27	0.1	0.23	1.2	2	1.1
117	6	0.2	21	0.1				
120	19	0.5	93	0.3				
135	57	1.6	385	1.2			12	6.3
140	14	0.4	83	0.3	0.03	0.2	21	11.1
175	17	0.5	97	0.3	0.05	0.3	1	0.5
181	101	2.8	542	1.7	0.48	2.5	5	2.6
182	26	0.7	145	0.5			1	0.5
183	26	0.7	264	0.8	0.11	0.6	3	1.6
211	118	3.2	564	1.8	0.04	0.2	1	0.5
212	18	0.5	64	0.2				
219	6	0.2	16	0.1				
292	1		4					
294	10	0.3	40	0.1				
300	1		74	0.2				
307	113	3.1	922	3.0	1.23	6.4	7	3.7
308	19	0.5	43	0.1				
316	2	0.1	33	0.1				
333	373	10.2	2558	8.2			1	0.5
365	16	0.4	74	0.2				
397	4	0.1	6					
450	1		4					
454	9	0.2	52	0.2				

Trench	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%	Vessels	%
479	9	0.2	29	0.1				
480	121	3.3	1117	3.6	0.69	3.6	9	4.7
481	3	0.1	18	0.1				
482	26	0.7	273	0.9				
483	8	0.2	13					
497	26	0.7	212	0.7	0.05	0.3	1	0.5
498	54	1.5	419	1.3	0.17	0.9	4	2.1
519	13	0.4	72	0.2				
520	300	8.2	2302	7.4	0.18	0.9	5	2.6
535	64	1.8	568	1.8	0.36	1.9	8	4.2
536	1		4					
537	1		10					
549	6	0.2	9					
560	1		110	0.4			1	0.5
Total	3644		31072		19.29		190	

Table 3: A14 Trench pottery quantification

Fabrics

The fabrics are classified according to principle inclusion or firing method (Table 4). Those with specific inclusions comprise mainly grog-tempered and shell-gritted, together with some with mixtures of grog, shell and limestone inclusions. The other pottery is sand-tempered and varies in texture from fine to coarse, depending on the amount of sand grains in the fabric. All the fabric categories occur in a wide range of colours and the sand-tempered fabrics have been grouped on the basis of whether they were fired under oxidised or reduced firing conditions. The main oxidised fabrics are cream, buff, pink and reddish-yellow while grey, dark grey and black are the principal reduced fabrics. The brown, dark brown and reddish-brown coloured fabrics reflect firing variations, most probably with reduced firings. Pottery from known regional and continental sources is classified according to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). The samian ware has been examined by



J.M.Mills and sections of her report has been integrated into the text as appropriate. Table 4 gives the amounts of each fabric and their percentage of the total.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Bronze Age	1		11			
Open texture	5	0.1	23	0.1	4	0.2
Flint?	16	0.4	100	0.3	5	0.3
Grog	510	14	5762	18.5	289	15
Grog, buff pink, grey core	11	0.3	60	0.2	20	1.0
Grog, cream	3	0.1	29	0.1	5	0.3
Grog and shell	324	8.9	2395	7.7	4	0.2
Grog, shell, limestone	14	0.4	48	0.2		
Shell	362	9.9	4631	14.9	206	10.7
Shell and limestone	3	0.1	54	0.2		
Shell?	1		4		4	0.2
Limestone	1		24	0.1		
Black	4	0.1	26	0.1		
Black, coarse	7	0.2	126	0.4	19	1.0
Black slipped	9	0.2	57	0.2	26	1.3
Grey	54	1.4	422	1.4	64	3.3
Grey, coarse	292	8	2246	7.2	168	8.7
Dark grey	15	0.4	135	0.4	8	0.4
Dark grey, coarse	777	21.3	5129	16.5	302	15.7
Brown	56	1.5	364	1.2		
Brown, coarse	23	0.7	83	0.3	28	1.4
Dark brown	100	2.7	392	1.3		



Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Dark brown, coarse	27	0.7	186	0.6	10	0.5
Reddish-brown	101	2.8	455	1.5		
Reddish-brown, coarse	143	4	1112	3.6	53	2.7
Buff pink	97	2.7	663	2.1	25	1.3
Buff pink, coarse	98	2.7	569	1.8	34	1.8
Cream	41	1.1	297	1	39	2.0
Cream, coarse	45	1.2	384	1.2	91	4.7
Reddish-yellow	45	1.2	155	0.5	24	1.2
Reddish-yellow, coarse	89	2.4	559	1.8	51	2.6
CC, dark reddish-brown cc	1		14		22	1.1
HORNGW	1		119	0.4		
HADOX	4	0.1	134	0.4	12	0.6
HADOX?	1		570	1.8	100	5
LNVCC	151	4.1	1529	4.9	202	10.5
LNVCC?	4	0.1	42	0.1	4	0.2
LNVGW?	8	0.2	137	0.4		
LNVWH	6	0.2	73	0.2	13	0.7
OXF, HADOX	2	0.1	134	0.4		
OXF, HADOX, HARS	3	0.1	36	0.1	10	0.5
OXFRS	7	0.2	112	0.4	16	0.8
OXFRS?	1		7	0.0	11	0.6
OXFWH	1		25	0.1	9	0.5
LEZSA2	11	0.3	85	0.3	12	0.7
RHZSA	2	0.1	86	0.3	18	0.9



Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
BAETAM	31	0.8	709	2.3		
BAETAM?	36	1.0	235	0.8		
GALAM?	2	0.1	31	0.1		
Total	3644		31072		1929	

Table 4: A14 Fabric quantification

There is the usual variation in the fabric percentages relating to sherd count, weight and rim EVE, mainly due to the vessel types occurring in the various fabrics. No one fabric dominates, with grog-tempered, shell-gritted, grey and dark grey wares all being well represented. The relatively high grog and shell fabric total is largely due to one near complete (but very broken) vessel in one pit.

The variations in the grog-tempered and shell-gritted ware colours may reflect date, with those in black and reddish-brown possibly being earlier than the others. The oxidised (pink, buff) grog-tempered ware, usually with a grey core, is a distinctive fabric commonly termed 'pink grogged ware' (Booth and Green 1989, Taylor 2004). The cream grog-tempered ware is also distinctive both because of its colour and also because it is usually much harder fired than other grog-tempered wares. The surface colour differences in the reduced grey wares may have been deliberate rather than just variations in the firing and could also, as with the variation in the coarseness of the fabrics, reflect different sources. The oxidised fabrics also have finer and coarser versions, but the colours of the paler fabrics are sometimes less distinct, with some sherds having a mixture of cream, buff and pink. The fabric termed 'open texture' is one where the matrix is poorly sorted with noticeable voids.

The regionally-traded wares occurring are Lower Nene Valley colour-coated, white ware and, possibly grey ware (LNVCC, LNVWH, LNVGW?), Oxfordshire red-slipped and white wares (OXFRS, OXFWH) and Hadham oxidised (reddish-yellow) ware (HADOX). Specific local wares are Horningsea grey ware (HORNGW) and Harston red colour-coated ware (HARS). The pottery produced on the continent comprises samian ware from Central (LEZSA2) and East Gaul (RHZSA) and amphora from Spain (BAETAM) and, possibly, Gaul (GALAM). LNVCC is the most common of the regionally-traded wares which, collectively, account for around 9% and continental wares just under 4% by weight.

Forms

Vessel form was noted where possible and was based mainly on rims and diagnostic sherds; 190 vessels were recorded. Table 5 shows their occurrence by fabric. Jars account for 60%, jars or bowls 10%, and dishes and bowls another 17%. Jars occur in almost all the fabrics other than the regionally-traded and continental wares. Twelve are storage-jar size, mostly in grog-tempered and shell-gritted wares, although two are in a coarse dark grey ware and one in HORNGW. Five other jars are lid-seated, another three are narrow-mouthed and two in shell-gritted ware have undercut rims. Most of the jars or bowls in fabrics other than LNVCC have plain rims and those in LNVCC are of a wide-



mouthed type. Flanged bowls and plain-rimmed dishes occur in LNVCC and a coarse grey ware and there are imitations of samian ware Drag 38 bowls in OXFRS, possibly HADOX and a fabric which may be OXFRS, HADOX or a more local source (HARS). Another OXFRS vessel is an imitation of a samian ware Drag 36 dish. The coarse buff pink ware bowl is a carinated form with a reeded rim and the lid in the same ware has a stepped profile. The LNVCC lid has a hole in the top. The samian ware forms are a Drag 37 bowl, Drag 31 and LudSa dishes and a Drag 33 cup. The vessels include at least one BAETAM amphora and another possible amphora of Gaulish (GALAM) origin. One large shell-gritted ware rim sherd has a flat top and may, in fact, be from an oven.

Fabric	Jar	J/B	В	D	B/D	Cup	BKR	J/BKR	F	М	Lid	Total
Flint?	1											1
Grog	22	2					1					25
Grog, buff pink, grey core	2											2
Grog, cream	1											1
Grog and shell	2	1										3
Shell	24	3										27
Shell?	1											1
Black		1										1
Black, coarse	1	1										2
Black slipped	1											1
Grey	6		1									7
Grey, coarse	14		1	1	1							17
Dark grey	1											1
Dark grey, coarse	18	2	1						1			22
Brown, coarse	1	1						1				3
Dark brown, coarse		1										1
Reddish-brown, coarse	3	2										5
Buff pink			1						1			2
Buff pink, coarse	3		1	1					1		1	7



Fabric	Jar	J/B	В	D	B/D	Cup	BKR	J/BKR	F	М	Lid	Total
Cream	1											1
Cream, coarse	4				1				1			6
Reddish-yellow	1	1							1			3
Reddish-yellow, coarse	5											5
СС									1			1
HORNGW	1											1
HADOX			1									1
HADOX?			1									1
LNVCC	2	5	2	7	1		3		1		1	22
LNVCC?				1								1
LNVWH										3		3
OXF, HADOX			1				1					2
OXF, HADOX, HARS			1									1
OXFRS			2	1								3
OXFRS?										1		1
OXFWH										1		1
LEZSA2			1	2	1	2						6
RHZSA				2								2
Total	115	20	14	15	4	2	5	1	7	5	2	190

 Table 5: A14 Fabric/ Vessel form quantification

KEY: J/B = Jar or Bowl; B = Bowl, D = Dish, B/D = Bowl or Dish; BKR = Beaker; J/BKR = Jar or Beaker; F = Flagon; M = Mortarium

The vessels occur with a wide range of decorative techniques and motifs. External combing, combstabbing, scoring and rilling is common, especially on grog-tempered and shell-gritted jars and rim finger-tipping is also present on some grog-tempered, shell-gritted, coarse dark grey and coarse reddish-brown jars. One grog-tempered jar has a horizontal cord impression and another sherd has bands of cord-impressed chevrons. Rouletting, barbotine and white-painted decoration occur on LNVCC vessels and the OXFRS imitation Drag 36 has white-painted decoration on its rim; a grog-



tempered ware butt beaker also has rouletting. Some reddish-yellow ware sherds have a cream slip. Fragments from a bead-rimmed jar in a coarse cream fabric include a sherd with applied decoration forming an eye, the nose and part of an eyebrow of a face.

Sources

A Roman kiln, apparently producing sandy wares in varying colours, was found to the south near Brampton on the route of the A1 (R. Seager Smith, pers. comm.). The firebar from Trench 106, possible kiln debris in Trench 45, and a coarse dark grey rim sherd with a firing blister from Trench 50 may be further evidence for pottery production in the vicinity. Numerous Roman kiln sites are known around Cambridge at Teversham (Gibson and Lucas 2002), Addenbrooks (Webley and Anderson 2008), Cherry Hinton (MacKenny-Hughes 1902c, 1902d; Lethbridge 1948, Hartley 1960, White 1960, Evans, J 1990), Jesus Lane, Cambridge (MacKenny-Hughes 1902b), Arbury Road, Cambridge (Frend 1954, 1958), Milton, Cambridge (Swan 1984, fiche 237) Horningsea (MacKenny-Hughes 1902a, Walker 1912, Evans, J 1991, Pullinger and White 1991, Newton and Peachy 2012). One storage jar sherd is a definite Horningsea (HORNGW) product, and much of the reduced wares are likely to have been produced in the Horningsea or other Cambridge-area kilns. Kilns in Godmanchester (Evans, C J 2003) were producing grey wares and oxidised white wares and kilns at Stowe, Buckinghamshire (Booth 1999) are one source for the pink grogged ware; the harder cream grog-tempered ware may also be from a source further to the west. Most of the grog-tempered and shell-gritted wares can be considered to be of local origin and the kilns at Harrold, Bedfordshire (Brown 1994) are another possible source for the shell-gritted ware, especially later types. Kilns found at Harston (HARS) to the south-west of Cambridge produced red-slipped wares similar to OXFRS (Bird and Young 1981, Pullinger and Young 1981) and one near Duxford (Anderson and Woolhouse 2016) appears to have been mainly producing oxidised flagons.

Date

The earliest sherd is that with the bands of cord-impressed chevrons which can be dated to the Bronze Age (Trench 333). The pottery with fabrics containing limestone or a mixture of grog and shell and grog and limestone inclusions probably date to the late Iron Age or earlier and some of the coarse wares in black, brown and dark brown colours may also be of this date. Some of the grog-tempered and shell-gritted wares probably date to the mid-1st century, but grog-tempered ware continued in use into the 2nd century and shell-gritted ware was used throughout the Roman period. Most of the oxidised wares are likely to date to the late 1st to 2nd centuries and the reduced wares include types ranging in date from the later 1st to the 3rd or 4th centuries. The OXFWH and LNVWH mortaria are of later 2nd to mid-3rd century date, while the plain-rimmed dishes and flanged bowls are 3rd to 4th century in date. The imitations of samian ware forms are most likely to be of 4th century date. Pink grogged ware outside of its core area is mainly 3rd or 4th century in date and the samian ware and amphora all belong to the 2nd century. Overall, therefore, the pottery ranges in date from the late Iron Age to the 4th centuries, though the amount of definite 3rd century pottery is limited.



The Areas

The trenches have been grouped into 33 areas of which 14 contained pottery. Table 6 shows the amount of pottery and number of vessels for the trenches in each area. Three areas have very little pottery and no vessels and one area has significantly more pottery than the rest. The mean sherd weight (MSW) of the pottery has been calculated to provide additional information on the nature of the activity or occupation in the areas.

Area	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%	Vessels	%
S1-TT-005	116	3.2	717	2.3	93	4.82	10	5.3
S1-TT-006	1287	35.3	11720	37	1114	57.75	99	52.1
S1-TT-007	6		9					
S1-TT-009	2		16		4	0.21	1	
S2-TT-003	674	18.5	7493	24.1	379	19.65	31	16.3
S2-TT-006	88	2.4	565	1.8	8	0.41	3	1.6
S2-TT-008	153	4.2	951	3.1	59	3.06	9	4.7
S3A-TT-003	142	3.9	644	2.1	4	0.21	1	
S3B-TT-006	147	4	1226	3.9	123	6.38	8	4.2
S4-TT-002	389	10.7	2632	8.5			1	
S4-TT-003	4		6					
S4-TT-012	257	7	2137	6.9	91	4.72	14	7.4
S4-TT-017	313	8.6	2374	7.6	18	0.93	5	2.6
S4-TT-019	66	1.8	582	1.9	36	1.87	8	4.2
Total	3644		31072		1929		190	

Table 6: A14 Area pottery quantification



Area S1-TT-005

Six trenches in Area S1-TT-005 contain pottery (Table 7).

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
17	1	26		1	26.0
18	44	165	0.16	3	3.8
27	2	14			7.0
28	29	232	0.26	2	8.0
29	30	214	0.39	3	7.1
31	4	23			5.8
Total	116	717	0.93	10	

Table 7: Area C1 TT (OF Tranchas n	otton (and vocco	augntification and	notton (MC)//
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Three fabrics, grog-tempered, shell-gritted and LNVCC account for two-thirds of the pottery (Table 8). OXFRS and the OXF/HAD/HARS fabric are other regionally-traded wares and LEZSA2 the only continental import.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Grog	42	36.2	147	20.5	0.07	7.5
Grog and shell	1	0.9	5	0.7		
Shell	20	17.2	145	20.2	0.16	17.2
Grey	3	2.6	23	3.2	0.09	9.7
Grey, coarse	1	0.9	13	1.8		
Dark grey	5	4.3	61	8.5		
Pink buff	1	0.9	26	3.6		
Pink buff, coarse	5	4.3	43	6.0		
Cream	2	1.7	5	0.7		
Reddish-yellow	7	6.0	11	1.5		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	3	2.6	11	1.5		



Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
LNVCC	20	17.2	172	24.0	0.39	41.9
OXF, HAD, HARS	3	2.6	36	5.0	0.10	10.8
OXFRS	2	1.7	17	2.4	0.12	12.9
LEZSA2	1	0.9	2	0.3		
Total	116		717		0.93	

Table 8: Area S1-TT-005 Fabric quantification

The 10 vessels (Table 9) comprise five bowls or dishes, three jars, one cup and one lid. The shellgritted jar has an undercut rim and one of the bowls and the dish are imitation samian ware types – an OXFRS Drag 36 with white-painted rim scrolls and a Drag 38 in the OXF/HAD/HARS fabric. The LNVCC bowl or dish may also be an imitation of a Drag 38 and the LNVCC lid has a 'steam' hole (cf Howe, Perrin and Mackreth 1980, fig. 6, 72). A sherd of LNVCC has external white-painted decoration, but no internal colour-coat, suggesting it is from a closed rim form, such as a flagon or narrowmouthed jar. The coarse pink buff ware bowl is a carinated form with a reeded rim and the grey ware bowl also has a reeded rim.

Fabric	Jar	В	D	B/D	Cup	Lid	Total
Grog	1						1
Shell	1						1
Grey		1					1
Pink buff, coarse		1					1
LNVCC	1			1		1	3
OXF, HAD, HARS		1					1
OXFRS			1				1
LEZSA2					1		1
Total	3	3	1	1	1	1	10

Table 9: Area S1-TT-005 Fabric/Vessel form quantificationKEY: B = Bowl, D = Dish, B/D = Bowl or Dish

The fabrics and forms suggest two periods: 1st to 2nd century and 4th century with little of the pottery obviously dating to the 3rd century. The latest, from Trenches 28 and 29, is associated with a Romano-



British ladder settlement and the earliest, linked to a settlement to the north, is in Trench 18. The range of fabrics and forms, despite the small amounts, suggests mixed activity and occupation, especially in the later period. Apart from Trench 17 which had just one sherd, the MSW of below 10g is quite low, indicating that the pottery has been churned around before being deposited in the features.

Area S1-TT-006

Nine trenches in Area S1-TT-006 contain pottery (Table 10). The trenches contain a significant proportion of the total pottery and vessels from the trenches and areas as a whole, including the two (50 and 51) which have the most of all the trenches. The range of fabrics and forms suggests mixed activity and occupation associated with two settlements, one late Iron Age to early Roman and another of 3rd to 4th century date, together with some 1st to 2nd century quarrying (Trench 50).

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
39	7	36	0.04		5.1
45	9	38		1	4.2
48	12	156	0.14	2	13.0
49	55	247	0.39	5	4.5
50	558	5905	6.3	51	10.6
51	599	4978	4.22	39	8.3
52	30	219	0.05	1	7.3
54	16	137			8.6
55	1	4			4.0
Total	1287	11720	1114	99	

 Table 10: Area S1-TT-006 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

The Area S1-TT-006 trenches also contain the greatest number and range of fabrics (Table 11). Grogtempered ware, shell-gritted ware, grey and dark grey coarse wares and LNVCC are all common. There are a number of other regionally-traded wares in addition to LNVCC and the contexts contain all the sherds of various fabrics from the trenches and areas as a whole including HORNGW, Black slipped ware, open-textured ware and BAETAM. Most of the fabrics occur in contexts in Trenches 50 and 51. Trenches 45, 50, 51.52 and 54 all contain pieces of fired clay, including possible kiln debris in Trench 45. Trenches 51 and 52 also contain post-medieval or modern pottery.



Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Open texture	5	0.4	23	0.20	4	0.4
Grog	109	8.5	691	5.90	74	6.6
Grog, buff pink, grey core	11	0.8	55	0.5	20	1.8
Grog, cream	3	0.2	29	0.3	5	0.4
Grog and shell	5	0.4	25	0.2		
Shell	162	12.6	1946	16.6	151	13.6
Shell and limestone	2	0.2	44	0.4		
Black	4	0.3	26	0.2		
Black, coarse	2	0.2	49	0.4	4	0.4
Black slipped	9	0.7	57	0.5	26	2.3
Grey	37	2.9	241	2.1	37	3.3
Grey, coarse	218	19.1	1566	13.4	81	7.3
Dark grey	3	0.2	25	0.2		
Dark grey, coarse	171	13.3	1455	12.4	150	13.5
Brown	4	0.3	8	0.1		
Brown, coarse	15	1.2	36	0.3	12	1.1
Dark brown, coarse	7	0.5	37	0.3		
Reddish-brown, coarse	25	1.9	184	1.6	17	1.5
Buff pink	52	4.1	500	4.3	25	2.2
Buff pink, coarse	75	5.9	388	3.3	34	3.1
Cream	36	2.8	278	2.4	39	3.5
Cream pink, coarse	43	3.4	363	3.1	91	8.1
Reddish-yellow	15	1.2	41	0.4		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	16	1.2	128	1.1	33	3.0



Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
HORNGW	1	0.1	119	1		
HADOX	4	0.3	134	1.1	12	1.1
HADOX?	1	0.1	570	4.9	100	9.0
LNVCC	130	10.1	1353	11.5	163	14.6
LNVGW?	6	0.5	42	0.4		
LNVWH	6	0.5	73	0.6	13	1.2
OXF, HADOX	2	0.2	134	1.1		
OXFRS	5	0.4	95	0.8	4	0.4
OXFWH	1	0.1	25	0.2	9	0.8
LEZSA2	7	0.5	36	0.3	10	0.8
BAETAM	31	2.4	709	6.1		
BAETAM?	36	2.8	235	2		
Total	1287		11720		1114	

 Table 11: Area S1-TT-006 Fabric quantification

The Area S1-TT-006 trenches also contain the greatest number and range of vessels (Table 12), including at least one BAETAM amphora; most of the vessels again mainly occur in trenches 50 and 51. The jars or bowls in the black and coarse black fabrics and two of those in grog-tempered ware have plain rims; that in the black fabric has scratched diagonal lines. The LNVCC jars or bowls are all wide-mouthed types. Lid-seated jars occur in cream grog-tempered and shell-gritted wares and one shell-gritted jar has an undercut rim. Another shell-gritted jar and the HORNGW jar are of storage-jar size while the Black slipped ware jar, the coarse reddish-brown ware jar and the one of the grey ware jars are of narrow-mouthed type. One coarse dark grey ware jar sherd has incised horizontal rilling and a coarse grey ware jar sherd has a combed chevron decoration.

Flanged bowls occur in LNVCC and a coarse grey ware and the coarse dark grey ware bowl has a triangular rim. A HADOX? bowl is an imitation of a samian ware Drag 38 and one of the OXFRS bowls may be of similar form; the buff pink ware bowl may be an imitation of a Drag 30. The LEZSA2 bowl is a Drag 37; J.M. Mills provides the following description:

The ovolo looks like Rogers B208, although there are no very clear impressions as this sherd is from the section of the bowl where the ovolo overlaps at the beginning/end of the decoration, coupled with small-ish beads, astragalli at the ends of the vertical beaded dividers, and small medallions. This is


most like the work of the Hadrianic- early Antonine potters who used this ovolo including Docilis, and the Quintilianus group of potters.

All of the LNVCC dishes and the coarse grey ware dish have plain rims and the LNVCC dish or platter is a wide vessel with an upright, externally-grooved rim (cf Howe, Perrin and Mackreth 1980, fig. 7, 88). One of the LNVWH mortaria is a bead and reeded flange type and another is a reeded hammer-head type. Trench 50 (5004) contains the large shell-gritted ware rim sherd with a flat top which may be from an oven. The most intriguing vessel from the area, however, is the face pot (5058). This comprises non-joining fragments from a bead-rimmed jar in a coarse cream fabric including a sherd with applied decoration forming an eye, the nose and part of an eyebrow of a face. The eye is ovoid with a central circular 'pupil', the eyebrow is decorated with diagonal lines and the nose is a simple narrow curve. All the raised parts of the face and the external rim of the jar are sooted.

Fabric	Jar	J/B	В	D	B/D	BKR	D/PL	J/BKR	F	Lid	М	Total
Grog	5	2										7
Grog, buff pink, grey core	2											2
Grog, cream	1											1
Shell	15											15
Black		1										1
Black, coarse		1										1
Black slipped	1											1
Grey	3											3
Grey, coarse	7		1	1	1			1				11
Dark grey, coarse	4		1						1			6
Brown, coarse								1				1
Reddish-brown, coarse	1											1
Buff pink			1						1			2
Buff pink, coarse	3			1						1		5
Cream	1											1
Cream coarse	3				1				1			5
Reddish-yellow									1			1

Fabric	Jar	J/B	В	D	B/D	BKR	D/PL	J/BKR	F	Lid	М	Total
Reddish-yellow, coarse	3											3
HORNGW	1											1
HADOX			1									1
HADOX?			1									1
LNVCC	1	5	2	6		2	1		1			18
LNVWH											3	3
OXF, HADOX			1			1						2
OXFRS			2									2
OXFWH											1	1
LEZSA2			1	1	1							3
Total	51	9	11	9	3	3	1	2	5	1	4	99

Table 12: Area S1-TT-006 Fabric/Vessel form quantification

KEY: J/B = Jar or Bowl; B = Bowl, D = Dish, B/D = Bowl or Dish; BKR = Beaker; D/PL = Dish or Platter; J/BKR = Jar or Beaker; F = Flagon; M = Mortarium

Trenches 39, 45, 49, 52, 54 and 55 have the earliest pottery dating from the Iron Age to the mid-1st century, although 49, 52 and 55 also have some dating to the late 1st to 2nd centuries. Trench 51 has most of the 3rd-4th century pottery, probably mostly 4th century, along with earlier material. The pottery from Trench 48 is of late 1st to 2nd century date and that from Trench 50 is more mixed with a lot of 1st to 2nd century pottery together with some which is 4th and, possibly, 3rd century in date.

Of the 25 features in Trench 50 with pottery, Pit 5004 has the most (63 sherds, 1721g, 1.65 EVEs, 7 vessels) but a wide date range including early and late material. Sherds from this feature appear to be from the same vessels occurring in Pit 5006 and Ditch 5009. Two layers, 5020 and 5050, have reasonable amounts of pottery (respectively, 89 sherds, 434g, 0.58 EVEs, 7 vessels; 53 sherds, 715g, 0.58 EVEs, 6 vessels). The pottery in 5020 is of mixed date with 2nd and 4th century material while 5050 has more of 4th century date with earlier pottery. Feature 5058 is of particular interest as it contains many sherds (141 sherds, 1165g, 1.66 EVEs) from six different vessels, five jars - three coarse grey ware, one coarse cream ware and one cream ware, and a buff pink ware flagon, together with sherds from a LNVCC beaker. The coarse cream ware jar is the face pot. It is possible that these pots were associated with a grave or some type of ritual deposit. The decorated samian ware Drag 37 from Quarry Pit 5046 is dated AD125-60 and a samian ware dish or bowl base from Quarry Pit is of 2nd century date.



Trench 51 has 15 features with two occupation layers having the most pottery. 5119 (339 sherds, 1907g, 0.92 EVEs, 13 vessels) is of mixed date with definite later pottery including LNVWH mortaria and a plain-rim dish, a wide-mouthed jar or bowl and a flanged bowl in LNVCC. 5123 (92 sherds, 829g, 0.76 EVEs, 8 vessels) has more of the later pottery, including three LNVCC plain-rimmed dishes. Dump 5129 (43 sherds, 537g, 0.36 EVEs, 2 vessels) has 2nd and 4th century pottery including samian ware dating to AD120-200 and a HADOX bowl. Another HADOX bowl, an imitation of a samian ware Drag 38, occurs in 5128 and is near complete, apart from its base and bits of its rim.

Trench 50 has the highest MSW of the trenches containing more than just a few sherds, probably reflecting the number of vessels which are more substantially complete and may, therefore, have not moved far from their point of usage. The rest of the trenches have a MSW below 10, again indicating that the pottery has been churned around before being deposited in the features. Certainly, a lot of the pottery in Trench 51 occurs as small sherds, suggesting considerable disturbance to the deposit.

Area S1-TT-007

Only one trench, 549, has any pottery, recovered from a subsoil deposit (54902) and comprising six sherds (9g) of coarse reddish yellow ware, probably of late 1st to 2nd century date.

Area S1-TT-009

Trench 72 contains one ditch, 7205, in which there is one sherd from a coarse dark grey ware jar and another sherd in a coarse cream ware. These are probably of late 1st to 2nd century date.

Area S2-TT-003

The 11 trenches with pottery in this area have the most pottery after Area S1-TT-006 (Table 13). All bar 51 sherds are from the ditches. The limited range of fabrics and forms suggests mainly utilitarian activity and occupation. Trenches 96, 97, 102, 106, 107, 115 and 117 all contain pieces of fired clay, including a possible firebar in Trench 106.

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
96	96	1123		1	11.7
97	42	330	0.49	3	7.9
100	10	51			5.1
101	123	2900	0.82	5	17.5
102	84	366	0.6	4	15.2
105	4	56			14.0



Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
106	236	1995	1.33	12	8.5
107	50	531	0.32	4	10.6
115	4	27	0.23	2	6.8
117	6	21			3.5
120	19	93			4.9
Total	674	7493	3.79	31	

 Table 13: Area S2-TT-003 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

The trenches contain pottery in just under half of the total fabric groups (Table 14). Grog-tempered ware predominates with only one regionally-traded ware (OXFRS?) and one continental import (GALAM?) being represented. Shell-gritted ware is the next most common fabric, followed by reduced grey wares and oxidised reddish-yellow wares.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Flint?	1	0.1	7	0.1		
Grog	327	48.5	4690	62.6	205	54.1
Grog and shell	8	1.2	55	0.7	4	1.1
Shell	128	19.0	1352	18.0	17	4.5
Shell?	1	0.1	4	0.1	4	1.1
Black, coarse	5	0.7	77	1.0	15	4.0
Grey	6	0.9	78	1.0		
Grey, coarse	22	3.3	194	2.6		
Dark grey	4	0.6	44	0.6	8	2.1
Dark grey, coarse	49	7.3	337	4.5	45	11.9
Dark brown, coarse	20	3.0	149	2.0	10	2.6
Reddish-brown	1	0.1	23	0.3		
Reddish-brown, coarse	16	2.4	121	1.6	11	2.9

MOLA HEADLAND INFRASTRUCTURE

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Buff pink	27	4.0	80	1.1		
Cream, coarse	1	0.1	7	0.1		
Reddish-yellow	22	3.3	99	1.3	24	6.3
Reddish-yellow, coarse	32	4.7	124	1.7	3	0.8
CC, dark reddish-brown cc	1	0.1	14	0.2	22	5.8
OXFRS?	1	0.1	7	0.1	11	2.9
GALAM?	2	0.3	31	0.4		
Total	674		7493		379	

Table 14: Area S2-TT-003 Fabric quantification

The vessel form range is limited with jars predominating (Table 15), five of which are storage-type. Some of the jars are decorated with combing or scoring, one has a horizontal band of comb-stabbing and another a horizontal band of notches; one shell-gritted jar has finger-tipping on its rim and shoulder. The grog-tempered beaker, of butt-beaker form, has rouletted decoration, and this vessel, together with the two flagons and the possible GALAM? amphora attest at least some activity beyond basic utilitarian.

Fabric	Jar	J/B	BKR	F	Total
Grog	14		1		15
Grog and shell	1				1
Shell	3				3
Shell?	1				1
Black, coarse	1				1
Dark grey	1				1
Dark grey, coarse	2				2
Dark brown, coarse		1			1
Reddish-brown, coarse	1				1
Reddish-yellow	1	1			2



Fabric	Jar	J/B	BKR	F	Total
Reddish-yellow, coarse	1				1
CC, dark reddish-brown cc				1	1
OXFRS?				1	1
Total	26	2	1	2	31

Table 15: Area S2-TT-003 Fabric/Vessel form quantification

KEY: J/B = Jar or Bowl; BKR = Beaker; F= Flagon

Much of the pottery in the S2-TT-003 trenches is of 1st century date, with some possibly being of Iron Age date; this derives from a large sub-circular settlement enclosure. There is some probable 2nd century pottery in Trenches 97 and 102 and a little 4th century pottery in Trenches 101 and 115, probably linked to the ladder settlement in the southern part of the area. Two ditches in Trench 101 and three in Trench 106 contain the most pottery: 101004 (53 sherds, 939g, 0.09 EVEs, 1 vessel), 101007 (69 sherds, 1954g, 0.73 EVEs, 4 vessels), 106006 (71 sherds, 544g, 0.12 EVEs, 3 vessels), 106007 (106 sherds, 627g, 0.95 EVEs, 5 vessels), 106008 (56 sherds, 814g, 0.26 EVEs, 4 vessels). The cremation in Trench 120 (12004) contains 19 sherds (93g) of grey, dark grey and cream wares, all coarse fabrics, probably of late 1st to 2nd century date.

The MSW for the trenches varies considerably with 101, 102 and 105 having quite high numbers and another two, 96 and 107, having a figure of over 10g. This suggests that while some of the pottery has been mixed around, at least some may not have travelled far from the area of usage, especially that in Trenches 101, 102 and 105.

Area S2-TT-006

Three trenches in Area S2-TT-006 contain pottery: 135, 140 and 175 (Table 16). There are only six fabrics - grog-tempered, shell-gritted, possible flint-gritted, coarse reddish-brown, coarse dark grey and a crude, poorly sorted brown ware, the latter accounting for over half the total pottery. The vessels are all utilitarian and comprise a flint-gritted? jar with a plain rim, and jars or bowls with plain rims in shell-gritted and coarse reddish-brown ware. The pottery is all of 1st century date, with the brown ware possibly being earlier. Trench 135 contains some fired clay. The MSW of well below 10g is quite low, indicating that the pottery has been churned around before being deposited in the features.

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
135	57	385		1	6.8
140	14	83	0.03	1	5.9



175	17	97	0.05	1	5.7
Total	88	565	0.08	3	

Table 16: Area S2-TT-006 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

Area 52-TT-008

Area S2-TT-008 also has three trenches containing pottery, 181-3 with Trench 181 having the most (Table 17). Trench 181 contains some fired clay or tile.

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
181	101	542	0.48	5	5.4
182	26	145		1	5.6
183	26	264	0.11	3	10.2
Total	153	951	0.59	9	

Table 17: Area S2-TT-008 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

Less than a quarter of the total fabrics are represented with reduced grey wares accounting for twothirds by sherd count (Table 18). Eight of the vessels are jars, six in reduced grey ware, including a lidseated jar, another lid-seated jar in coarse reddish-yellow ware with a white-slip, and one grog and shell ware jar. The other vessel is a LEZSA2 Drag 31 dish dated AD140-200, with a damaged, unreadable stamp. The grog and shell ware jar is probably Iron Age to 1st century in date, but the rest of the pottery would fit a late 1st to 2nd century date range. With the exception of the LEZSA2 dish, the pottery all suggests mainly utilitarian activity and occupation. Apart from Trench 183, the MSW of well below 10g is quite low, indicating that the pottery has been churned around before being deposited in the features.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Grog	3	2.0	4	0.4		
Grog and shell	24	15.7	143	15.0		
Shell	3	2.0	33	3.5		
Grey	5	3.3	63	6.6	0.18	30.5
Grey, coarse	39	25.5	314	33.0	0.11	18.6
Dark grey, coarse	53	34.6	134	14.1	0.15	25.4



Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Reddish-brown, coarse	7	4.6	134	14.1		
Buff pink	5	3.3	13	1.4		
Cream	2	1.3	8	0.8		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	10	6.5	59	6.2	0.15	25.4
LEZSA2	2	1.3	46	4.8		
Total	153		951		0.59	

Table 18: Area S2-TT-008 Fabric quantification

Area S3A-TT-003

Area S3A-TT-003 again has three trenches, 211, 212, 219, containing pottery from three ditches and a gully; Ditch 211, a ring ditch, has the bulk of the material (Table 19).

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
211	118	564	0.04	1	4.8
212	18	64			3.6
219	6	16			2.7
Total	142	644	0.04	1	

 Table 19: Area S3A-TT-003 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

The features contain pottery in only four fabrics (Table 20) with a large proportion being a dark brown ware with some shell inclusions. The reddish-brown ware is a crude, poorly sorted fabric with black internal surface. The only vessel, a jar, is in shell-gritted ware. The pottery is probably all late Iron Age in date. *The* MSW of below 5g is very low, indicating that the pottery has been subject to considerable disturbance.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Grog and shell	2	1.4	7	1.1		
Shell	20	14.1	184	28.6	0.04	100



Dark brown	100	70.4	392	61		
Reddish-brown	20	14.1	61	9.5		
Total	142		644		0.04	

Table 20: Area S3A-TT-003 Fabric quantification

Area S3B-TT-006

Nine trenches in Area S3B-TT-006 contain pottery (Table 21). Trench 307 contains most of the pottery, derived from four ditches.

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
292	1	4			4.0
294	10	40			4.0
300	1	74			74.0
307	113	922	1.23	7	8.2
308	19	43			2.3
316	2	33			16.5
560	1	110		1	110
Total	147	1226	1.23	8	

 Table 21: Area S3B-TT-006 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

Only seven fabrics are represented, with reduced grey wares predominating (Table 22). The eight vessels are all utilitarian jars including a coarse grey ware narrow-mouthed jar and storage jars in shell-gritted ware and grog-tempered ware; the latter is decorated with crude scoring. The pottery is of mixed date, mainly late 1st to 2nd century and associated with a Romano-British settlement, but with some which is earlier and some possibly later; some other trenches (310, 317) in Area S3B-TT-006 contain post-medieval pottery. Only one of the trenches, 307, has enough pottery to make the MSW figure meaningful Its MSW of below 10g is quite low, indicating that the pottery has been mixed around.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Grog	25	17.0	221	18.0		
Shell	2	1.4	116	9.5		



Grey, coarse	56	38.1	469	38.3	0.85	69
Dark grey, coarse	60	40.8	309	25.2	0.38	31
Reddish-yellow	1	0.7	4	0.3		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	2	1.4	33	2.7		
LNVGW?	1	0.7	74	6.0		
Total	147		1226		1.23	

Table 22: Area S3B-TT-006 Fabric quantification

Area S4-TT-002

Only two trenches, 333 and 365, in Area S4-TT-002 contain pottery (Table 23) with most coming from four pits in Trench 333, especially Pit 33314.

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Vessels	MSW
333	373	2558	1	6.9
365	16	74		4.6
Total	389	2632	1	

 Table 23: Area S4-TT-002 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

The features contain nine fabrics (Table 24) including a sherd of Bronze Age pottery decorated with horizontal bands of cord-impressed chevrons and a sherd of possible flint-gritted ware. The largest proportion of the pottery is in a fabric with grog and shell inclusions and other sherds have limestone inclusions in addition to grog and shell. The only vessel is a jar or bowl in the grog and shell fabric with finger-tipping on its rim and shoulder; many small sherds may be part of the same vessel. The reddish-brown and reddish-yellow wares are crude, poorly sorted fabrics. The pottery, apart from the Bronze Age sherd, is all late Iron Age in date; the possible flint-gritted sherd may be early to mid-Iron Age. Trench 333 contains fired clay. Trench 333 has a lot of pottery but the MSW is still below 10g is quite low, indicating that the pottery has been churned around.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%
Bronze Age	1	0.3	11	0.4
Flint?	1	0.3	3	
Grog and shell	284	73	2160	82.1



Grog, shell, limestone	14	3.6	48	1.8
Shell	4	1	6	0.2
Reddish-brown	80	20.6	371	14.1
Reddish-brown, coarse	3	0.8	7	
Reddish-yellow, coarse	2	0.5	26	1
Total	389		2632	

Table 24: Area S4-TT-002 Fabric quantification

Area 54-TT- 003

The only trench in this area, 397, only contains two sherds of a coarse brown ware and two of dark grey ware, all from a gully (39704). The coarse brown ware is probably dates to the 1st century and the dark grey ware to the 2nd century.

Area S4-TT-012

Nine trenches containing pottery were excavated in Area S4-TT-012 (Table 25). The features in the trenches with the most pottery are all ditches.

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
450	1	4			4.0
454	9	52			5.8
479	9	29			3.2
480	121	1117	0.69	9	9.2
481	3	18			6.0
482	26	273			10.5
483	8	13			1.6
497	26	212	0.05	1	8.2
498	54	419	0.17	4	7.8
Total	257	2137	0.91	14	

 Table 25: Area S4-TT-0012 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW



A coarse dark grey ware is the most common of the fabrics (Table 26), but it is possible that some of the sherds might also have some grog temper; some have a few lumps of limestone in the matrix. Much of the shell-gritted ware occurs as small pieces and some of the inclusions appear to be burnt. Pieces of the buff wares may be fired clay or even tile. Fired clay is present in Trenches 455 and 479 and post-medieval pottery in Trench 481.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Grog	1	0.4	2	0.1	0.03	0.1
Shell	5	1.9	155	7.3	0.15	8.0
Shell, limestone	1	0.4	10	0.5		
Grey	3	1.2	17	0.8		
Grey, coarse	9	3.5	73	3.4	0.08	3.8
Dark grey	1	0.4	2	0.1		
Dark grey, coarse	159	61.9	1294	60.6	0.34	66.5
Brown, coarse	6	2.3	44	2.1	0.16	2.3
Reddish-brown, coarse	50	19.5	431	20.2	0.15	22.2
Buff pink	13	5.1	50	2.3		
Buff, coarse	4	1.6	13	0.6		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	5	1.9	46	2.2		
Total	257		2137		0.91	

Table 26: Area S4-TT-012 Fabric quantification

All of the vessels are jars or jars or bowls. Jars with plain rims occur in the coarse brown ware and the coarse dark grey ware and there is also a storage jar in the latter fabric. Jars or bowls occur in the same two fabrics and shell-gritted ware and there are other jars in grog-tempered ware, coarse reddish-brown ware and grey ware. The shell-gritted ware and coarse dark grey ware jars or bowls have rim finger-tipping decoration and other coarse dark grey ware sherds have incised horizontal grooves or combing, while the grog-tempered ware jar has a horizontal cord impression. Most of the pottery appears to date to the late Iron Age to the 1st century and is linked to an Iron Age settlement site, with some probably being of late 1st to 2nd century date.

The vessels are all utilitarian forms. Most of the trenches have small amounts of pottery, but the MSW of even that with quite a lot of material has a figure below 10g. As with the other areas, this suggests that much of the pottery was subject to disturbance before being deposited in the features.

Area S4-TT-017

Two trenches, 519-20, in Area S4-TT-017 contain pottery with most coming from six ditches in Trench 520 (Table 27).

Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
519	13	72			5.5
520	300	2302	0.18	5	7.7
Total	313	2374	0.18	5	

 Table 27: Area S4-TT-017 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

Only four fabrics occur, with a coarse dark grey ware again accounting for the bulk of the pottery (Table 28). Most of the shell-gritted ware and about a third of the coarse dark grey ware by weight relates to storage jars in these fabrics. The other three vessels are jars or bowls in shell-gritted ware, coarse dark grey ware and coarse reddish-brown ware; the vessel in the latter has rim finger-tipping decoration. Some of the inclusions in the shell-gritted ware appear to be burnt. The pottery appears to date to the late Iron Age to the 1st century and is associated with a rectilinear enclosure; the few coarse reddish-yellow ware sherds are possibly of late 1st to 2nd century date. The vessels are all utilitarian forms. Ditch 52003 in Trench 520 contains fired clay. The MSW is below 10g even in the trench with the bulk of the pottery, again indicating that the pottery has been churned around.

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Shell	10	3.2	641	27.0	0.03	16.7
Dark grey, coarse	270	86.3	1565	65.9	0.08	44.4
Reddish-brown, coarse	31	9.9	160	6.7	0.07	38.9
Reddish-yellow, coarse	2	0.6	8	0.3		
Total	313		2374		0.18	

Table 28: Area S4-TT-017 Fabric quantification

Area S4-TT-019

Three trenches, 535-7, in Area S4-TT-019 contain pottery (Table 29).



Trench	NoSh	Wgt (g)	Rim EVE	Vessels	MSW
535	64	568	0.36	8	8.9
536	1	4			4
537	1	10			10
Total	66	582	0.36	8	

 Table 29: Area S4-TT-019 Trenches pottery and vessel quantification and pottery MSW

The fabrics include a significant amount of regionally-traded wares (LNVCC, LNVCC?, LNVGW?) and continental samian wares (LEZSA2, RHZSA). Otherwise reduced grey wares and oxidised buff pink and reddish-yellow wares are the most common fabrics (Table 30).

Fabric	NoSh	%	Wgt (g)	%	Rim EVE	%
Shell	3	4.5	24	4.1		
Grey, coarse	17	25.8	115	19.8	0.04	11.1
Dark grey, coarse	5	7.6	18	3.1	0.08	22.2
Reddish-brown, coarse	7	10.6	31	5.3		
Buff pink, coarse	14	21.2	125	21.5		
Reddish-yellow, coarse	11	16.7	115	19.8		
LNVCC	1	1.5	4	0.7		
LNVCC?	4	6.1	42	7.2	0.04	11.1
LNVGW?	1	1.5	21	3.6		
LEZSA2	1	1.5	1	0.2	0.02	5.6
RHZSA	2	3.0	86	14.8	0.18	
Total	66		582		0.36	

Table 30: Area S4-TT-019 Fabric quantification

Three of the vessels are in samian ware comprising RHZSA Drag 31 and Ludovici Sa dishes and a LEZSA2 Drag 33 cup. Two others are a beaker in LNVCC and a dish with a bead rim in possible LNVCC. The remaining vessels are a coarse buff pink ware flagon and jars in coarse grey ware and coarse dark grey ware. The Drag 31 dish is dated AD140-200, the Ludovici Sa dish AD170-230 and the Drag 33 cup AD120-200. The LNVCC beaker, the LNVCC? dish and the coarse buff pink ware



flagon are also 2nd century in date and most of the other pottery is probably also of similar date. The variety of forms and the presence of regionally-traded wares and continental samian wares suggests more than basic utilitarian occupation and activity and is linked to a settlement site just to the north. Two of the trenches only contain a single sherd each, but the MSW in the other trench is again below 10g indicating considerable mixing of the pottery before it was deposited in the features.

Summary, conclusions and assessment of potential

The trial trench excavations covered a wide area in a landscape which existing evidence shows was quite densely occupied in the past. It is not surprising, therefore, that the excavations revealed Iron Age and Roman occupation, although this was confined to certain areas, as only 62 of a total 537 trenches excavated in 14 of the 33 land parcels contained Iron Age or Roman pottery and, moreover, over half of the areas only produced small amounts of pottery.

The earliest activity would appear to be late Iron Age or earlier and occupation continued throughout the Roman period, though it may have lessened in the 3rd century. The main areas with Iron Age pottery are S3A-TT-003 and S4-TT-002. Iron Age to 1st century pottery occurs in areas S1-TT-006, S2-TT-003, S4-TT-012 and S4-TT-017. 1st and 2nd century pottery is in features in areas S1-TT-005, S1-TT-006, S1-TT-007, S1-TT-009, S2-TT-003, S2-TT-008, S3B-TT-006, S4-TT- 003, S4-TT-012, S4-TT-017 and S4-TT- 019.The latest Roman pottery, of 4th century date, is in areas S1-TT-005, S1-TT-006 and S2-TT-003; some of this pottery may be 3rd century. The assemblage contains a wide range of locally-made, regionally-traded and continental pottery and a variety of both utilitarian and specialised forms, suggesting differing types and levels of activity and occupation. The areas with the widest range of locally-made, regionally-traded and continental pottery and, it is assumed, a wider range and levels of activity and occupation are S1-TT-005, S1-TT-006, S3A-TT-019. By contrast, areas S2-TT-006, S3A-TT-003, S3B-TT-006, S4-TT-002, S4-TT-012 and S4-TT-017 only have utilitarian activity or occupation. Other areas have indications of more than basic utilitarian activity or occupation.

The mean sherd weights are below 10g for most of the trenches. The EVE figures are also low for all the trenches apart from Trench 51, and the only other trenches with an EVE over 1 are Trenches 106 and 307. Similarly, the vessel numbers are low apart from Trenches 50, 51 and 140 and only Trenches 106 and 135 also had vessel numbers over 10. These figures indicate a high degree of post-depositional attrition and, with the exception of some of the features in these trenches, the pottery is unlikely to have derived from many nearby features.

The activity is clearly of local and regional importance but none of the feature assemblages warrant further study in their own right. In terms of any future investigations, areas S1-TT-007, S1-TT-009, S2-TT-006, S4-TT-003 and S4-TT-019 have little value, with areas S1-TT-006, S2-TT-003, S4-TT-002, S4-TT-012 and S4-TT-017 having the most potential. Of particular interest ceramically is the fragment of a face pot from 5058 and any future excavation in this area should be aware that it and the vessels accompanying it may have derived from a specific feature, perhaps a cremation, burial or other ritual deposit. This sherd should be photographed and illustrated and a number of other vessels of intrinsic interest in other fabrics could be illustrated.



4.3.2 Ceramic Building Material, Pat Chapman

Roman ceramic tile

This assemblage of 61 tile sherds weighs 4.2kg (Appendix III). It ranges from small fragments to quite large body sherds, but in small numbers from each context. Many sherds are very abraded and some have lost all their surfaces. Twelve sherds have features indicating that they are from Roman tiles, and they are made in fabrics very similar to most of the body sherds.

Half of this assemblage, 33 sherds weighing 1.93kg, including the diagnostic tiles, comes from trenches 50 and 51.

The fabrics are gradations of fine sandy to sandy silty clay in orange to orange-brown with a grey core. A few are made in a sandy red-brown, dark orange or dark red clay and nine are made with a shelly fabric, including one imbrex and two box flue tiles. Three sherds are made with very fine silty, slightly soft, buff to buff pink clay.

There are five roof tile sherds: two tegulae, 18mm and 25mm thick, with flat topped flanges come from occupation layer (5041) and unstratified from trench 51; three curved imbrex tiles, one 15mm thick and made in a shelly fabric from occupation layer (5020) and two, 25mm thick, made with very fine buff silty clay with traces of an orange surface come from occupation layer (5050).

Unusually, there are more box flue (tubuli) tile sherds, seven in all, than other types: one from fill (5014); the rest from trench 51, two unstratified and from occupation layer (5123), consolidation layer (5126), and dumping layer (5129). They are 15-28mm thick with both broad and narrow straight combing. Two sherds still retain some partial blackening, one from the occupation layer (5123), which also includes an overfired body sherd, and another sherd from the dumping layer (5129) with the blackening lying over traces of white mortar/plaster.

The two tiles, 35mm thick or more, made with hard fine orange silty clay which could be regarded as brick, floor or hypocaust tiles come from contexts other than in trenches 50 and 51. One sherd comes from fill (2906) in ditch [2907], and one from fill (10204) in ditch [10206].

There is the corner sherd of a brick or tile, 65mm thick and over 110mm wide, from fill (13203) in ditch [13204] It is made with the very hard pale orange silty clay fabric, with inclusions of occasional lumps of white clay up to 20mm thick. While this could be part of a commonly used Roman lydion brick/tile, it is also possible that this could be a post-medieval brick of c.18th century date.

Fired clay

This is a collection of 936 fragments, weighing 4.7kg, varying from tiny fragments to large chunks. There is a range of fabrics, some very similar to the tile fabrics, which suggests that some fired clay could be tile fragments.

None of the material resembles typical daub from wattle and daub walling, the possible wattle impression in two pieces from fills (3904) from ditch [3905] and (9608) from ditch [9609] are not particularly convincing.

There are the remains of possible kiln/oven/pit lining from four contexts. The two large pieces of grey, slightly soft silty sandy clay from fill (18110) in ditch [18112] comprise one item, 100x100mm and up to 50mm thick, with a dark red to black edge consistent with exposure to heat, and the other item is 60mm wide and 55mm deep with a slight convex curve and flattish top.

Other possible lining material includes overfired dark red-brown pieces with brown uneven surfaces from the occupation layer (5020). The pieces from fill (5428) from ditch [5433], are hard pale orange silty clay, some with smooth flat surfaces, others squeezed into irregular shapes. Fragments, probably from one piece, in fill (10006), 30mm thick, are roughly-mixed orange silty clay with a smooth grey surface. Similar material in fill (10104) from ditch [10109] has burnt brown soil adhering to the orange silty clay, probably from the side of feature it originated from. Two large irregular dark red-brown sandy lumps from subsoil (2802) and (4805) from ditch [4806], the lump from the latter measuring 50x60x45mm, could be the remains of brick or tile. Pieces from what was probably originally one piece of hard sandy brown clay, over 40mm thick, with a black core comes from fill (1806).

Pieces overfired to cindery red and black from fill (2806) from ditch [2807] may also be associated with some industrial or domestic work. Small irregular pieces in small amounts from various contexts have been exposed to heat, not necessarily high temperatures.

A large proportion of this assemblage would appear to be the debris associated with domestic or small scale industrial activity involving heat.

Coal

From the subsoil (51102) was a coal brick 85mm wide by 80mm thick and 195mm+ long, weighing 1285g, with flat surfaces and vertical sides.

4.3.3 Small Finds, Michael Marshall

A small assemblage of Roman small finds and glass was examined. Although small the assemblage is diverse in both date and character, probably representing Roman activity from at least the 1st century to the 3rd, if not the 4th, century AD and including a small group of personal objects (dress accessories, toilet implements, and hobnails that may be from shoes) as well as some domestic material and structural and miscellaneous fittings. A few less diagnostic fittings are undated and could as easily date to other periods.

Stylistically the bow brooch and the toilet instruments are early Romano-British types most typical of East Anglia and adjacent areas of central and southern England as might be expected. The assemblage includes evidence for both probable male (large finger ring) and female (hairpin) dress. The signet ring is somewhat unusual and, as it is corroded, will require further research after cleaning.



It is an object of reasonable if not highest quality and as signet rings were used to seal correspondence could reflect the presence of a literate individual. The domestic assemblage is very small but there are some hints of moderate or higher status with evidence for decorative furniture and reasonably good quality glass vessels which are noteworthy in a rural context.

Two glass vessel fragments and eight small finds will require illustration for any planned publication. Two finds require investigative conservation to clarify details and/or to prepare them for illustration.

Glass

Six fragments of Roman glass were recovered weighing less than 5g (Appendix VI). Despite the very small quantity there are some hints of vessels of some quality with some decorated sherds and some in good quality colourless and yellow-brown glass as well as more utilitarian naturally-coloured blue-green. Because of the small size of the fragments only one vessel, from (5119), can be assigned to a form and that somewhat tentatively. This is a probably from a bowl with a curved out and cracked off rim and wheel cut decoration. Vessels in this tradition are known in colourless glass during the 2nd–4th century but this example in naturally coloured glass is quite unusual and will require further research at analysis.

Copper-Alloy

Dress accessories

A copper alloy bow brooch was recovered from context (30804), SF 30801 (Appendix VII). Bow brooches are clothes fasteners and this type was probably used by both men and women. Harlow-type Colchester derivatives appear in the immediate aftermath of the Roman invasion of southern England and are typical of the south-east, particularly common in Essex, Suffolk and Hertfordshire but not infrequent further west into Hampshire and further north into Cambridgeshire (Mackreth 2011, 50–2). They are typically dated to the 2nd half of the 1st century AD but the fall-off curve in context dates suggests they may have remained in use into the early 2nd century in some areas (ibid, 250, chart 7).

A copper-alloy nail cleaner was recovered from context (05132), SF 5105 (Appendix VII). Nail cleaners are a typical form of Romano-British toilet instrument (probably used by both men and women) deriving from Late Iron Age types and remaining popular during the Roman period in Britain but not elsewhere in the Empire. Baldock nail cleaners are most common in Hertfordshire and neighbouring central and eastern English counties north of the Thames. The type is probably a post-conquest development but is certainly present before AD 65/70 and survives well into the 2nd century AD (Eckardt and Crummy 2008, 65–6, fig 29). This object requires cleaning and x-raying to check for decoration which may allow it to be assigned to a subtype.

A copper-alloy toilet instrument, perhaps an earscoop, was recovered from context (18309) (Appendix VII). Enamelled chatelaine brooches/toilet sets are a well-known Romano-British type whose distribution is concentrated in Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire and which probably date to the later 1st



and 2nd century AD (Eckardt and Crummy 2008, 171–3, cf fig 112, no. 1153 for a close parallel from Cowbridge).

A copper-alloy finger ring was recovered during metal-detecting of Trench 50, SF5006 (Appendix VII). Signet rings served as both jewellery and a practical tool allowing individuals to impress intaglios into the wax seal on documents. They were worn by both men and women. Exploration of the owner's identity based on size alone is complicated by the number of variables involved (e.g. age, sex, gracility, finger/joint on which worn) but in terms of modern ring sizes this example would be more likely to be marketed to adult males. Perhaps as Cool (1983, 277–8) group XXV which she suggests are predominantly of 3rd or 4th century date but it is more robust than most members of this group. Further typological identification must await x-rays and investigative conservation.

An additional undated copper-alloy ring was recovered from context (5123) (Appendix VII).

Iron

An undated iron buckle was recovered from context (2812) (Appendix VIII).

Three small iron hobnails with domed heads were recovered from Trenches 50 and 51 (Appendix VIII). The most common source of these during the Roman period were shoes and sandals with nailed soles (van Driel Murray 2001). Their presence may therefore indicate the adoption of this style of dress but more detailed interpretation is impossible based on single disarticulated finds.

Three undated iron fittings were recovered – a ring from Trench 51; a hooked fitting from Trench 479; and a staple from Trench 51 (Appendix VIII).

A tiny iron sheet fragment was also recovered from context (2810) (Appendix VIII).

Bone and antler

Dress accessories

A bone hairpin was recovered from context (05104) (Appendix IX). As the head is missing this pin, used to secure Roman female hairstyles, cannot be assigned to specific type. However, the relatively short swelling shaft of this example places it within the later Roman pin tradition of pins with swelling shafts and expanded heads (as Greep 1983, group B) of various shapes (eg Crummy 1983, 19–25, types 3–6) which is known from c AD 150 and is common from around AD 200.

Household objects and furniture

Two antler veneer pieces were recovered from context (2906) (Appendix IX). These two pieces are probably both examples of antler veneer although only the first is truly diagnostic. This material is most common in the later Roman period (3rd and 4th centuries AD) when it was often attached to boxes and other pieces of furniture. The use of antler becomes more common towards the end of the

Roman period supporting the likelihood of a late date. Larger groups of similar veneer are known from a number of sites including the 3rd century cemetery at Brougham, Cumbria (Greep 2004) and a workshop producing similar material has recently been identified at South Shields (S. Greep pers. comm.).

Bulk iron

Eight iron nails of Manning's (1985) type 1b were retrieved during the trenching – from contexts (48106), (2906), (5119), (5128), (5123), and (50701) (Appendix X). These are simple handmade nails with square-sectioned shafts and flat circular or sub-circular heads. They are not closely datable and were in use from the Iron Age and common from the Roman period until almost the present day.

Twenty iron nail shaft / bar fragments were also recovered during the trenching (Appendix X).

An iron object or concretion was recovered from context (5213) (Appendix X).

Lead

Lead repair patch

(5002) SF 5002

Complete; Dia: 30mm Wgt: 45.0g. Circular base with flat underside; circumferential groove retains vestiges of a reduced ceramic fabric. This lead patch would presumably have been used to repair a hole in the base of a ceramic vessel.

Lead ?weight

(5002) SF 5002

Complete; Dia: 20mm Height: 15mm Wgt: 20.3g. Roughly made conical object with slightly off centre vertical perforation through apex, underside flat. Function unclear, may be a weight or ?packing like a lead cone from Stonea Grange, Cambridgeshire (Jackson and Potter 1996, fig 122, 61).

4.3.4 Coins, Julian Bowsher

Seven coins were retrieved during the trenching (Appendix XI). These were mainly from S1-006, Trenches 50 and 51 – two from context (5104); one from context (5123); one from context (5132); one from context (5041); and two from context (5002). The majority of these were 4^{th} century in date.

4.3.5 Lithics, Julie Lochrie

The lithics were visually assessed with microscopic assessment, where appropriate with magnifications up to x10, x20 or x60. They were assessed and catalogued per bag by context, material type, quantity, description and condition. The lithics were identified within broad categories: core, flake, blade, chip, tool, indeterminate or natural. None of the assemblage has been discarded but natural flint is marked as such in the catalogue. Additional information where useful is provided in the description field.

A total of 607 lithics, weighing 1882g, were retrieved from 52 contexts across 30 trenches. Individual weights and counts per context can be found in the full catalogue (Appendix V). Lithics were retrieved from Area S1-005, S1-006, S2-003, S2-006, S2-008, S3A-003, 3B-006, S4-002, S4-003 and S4-012. Of the 607 lithics, 561 were natural or indeterminate pieces.

The assemblage has elements datable to the Neolithic, the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age and Neolithic to Bronze Age. The condition of most of the lithics is abraded and patinated. The condition of the assemblage point towards residuality. Exceptions to this include fresh examples from contexts (5021), (5043), (5114), (5123), (5223), (11704), (11706), (11710), (12004), (13705), (17504), (21104), (29115) and (30004). However, flint is durable and unless it is moved over larger areas, exposed to the elements or waterlogged, the patination and abrasion can be slight.

The lithics assemblage is disparate with small quantities found in each area and trench. The range of types present in the assemblage is summarised in table 31. There are few cores and a high ratio of tools; overall there is not a high enough quantity to allow analysis of industry technology. Many of the tools are found unaccompanied by other debitage which suggests they are from chance loss, discard or been greatly moved from original place of deposition.

Area	S1-	S1-	S2-	S2-	S2-	S3A-	S3B-	S4-	S4-	S4-	Total
	005	006	003	006	008	003	006	002	003	012	
Trenches	27,	48,	100,	137,	181	211,	291,	333	405	480,	
	28,	50,	101,	175		212	298,			497,	
	29	51,	106,				300,			498,	
		52,	115,				307			520	
		54,	117,								
		55	120								
Core	1	-	2	-	-	-		-	-	-	3
Blades	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
Flakes	1	8	2	1	-	4		-	-	5	21
Chips	-	8	1	-	-	-		-	-	-	9
Tool	-	4	4	2	-	-		-	-	-	10
Indet./	14	156	32	4	7	6	91	4	236	11	561
Natural											
Total	16	177	41	7	7	10	92	4	236	17	607

Table 31: Lithic types by area and trench

Datable elements are present in (5043), (5227), (5505), (10004), (12004), (13705) and (17504). These are mostly later Neolithic to early Bronze Age in date although pieces from (5047), (5505) and (10004) could be from earlier in the Neolithic. They include a tool with evidence for both flake and blade reduction, a distal end blade scraper and an edge retouched piece with trapezoidal section. The later Neolithic to early Bronze Age examples include edge retouched pieces with facetted platforms (5227 and 17504) and two knives (12004 and 13701).



As the lithic assemblage currently stands it has no potential for further analysis. The spot dating already carried out indicates areas of potential prehistoric activity. If further material is found during mitigation they should be reunited and analysed as part of any larger assemblage.

4.3.6 Metalworking Debris and Other Slag, Andy Chapman

Five trenches, 101, 102, 378, 480 and 520 and, produced small quantities of ironworking debris, 470g, and fuel ash slag, 280g.

In trench 101, context (10104) contained half of an oval to circular block of ferrous slag, weighing 285g, with a convex lower surface and a slightly concave upper surface, 73mm wide and originally at least of a similar length. This is probably a smithing hearth bottom, indicating that iron smithing had been carried nearby.

In trench 102, context (10112) produced two small pieces of undiagnostic ferrous slag, weighing 50g, and four small lumps of fuel ash slag, weighing 25g.

In trench 480, context (48006) produced 35g, as multiple small fragments of light grey, highly vesicular fuel ash slag. Context (48008) produced 200g of fuel ash slag, comprising a large irregular lump, 90mm long by 70mm thick, with some fluid surfaces, and some small fragments. Fuel ash slag is produced in high temperature burning, but does not necessarily derive from metalworking.

In trench 520, context (52003) produced two small lumps of fuel ash slag weighing 20g.

The small quantities of ferrous slag suggest that some iron smithing was being carried out, but not iron smelting, with the fuel ash slag either related to this activity, as in trench 102 where both types were present, or derived from other high temperature burning.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL

4.4.1 Bulk Samples, Angela Walker

Bulk samples were subjected to flotation in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 μ m sieve and once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. All samples were scanned using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al.* (2006) and Zohary *et al.* (2012), nomenclature for wild taxa follows Stace (1997).

For clarification, the specific requirements of the contract given below were adhered to:

• Both organic and non-organic residues were dried under controlled conditions.

- Dried inorganic fractions (retents) were sorted for small finds or any non-buoyant palaeoenvironmental remains, and scanned with a magnet to pick up ferrous debris such as hammerscale.
- The dried organic fraction was assessed under a light microscope to identify the range of species or other material on a presence/absence basis, the degree of preservation of the bio-archaeological material and the rough proportions of different categories of material present.
- Suitable samples for radiocarbon dating have been identified in Appendices XIII and XIV.

Cereal Grain

Cereal grains were rare to abundant in 40 contexts across 19 trenches from all excavated areas and were present in samples taken from a range of feature types spanning a number of periods (Appendices XIII and XIV).

Species present included; hulled barley (*Hordeum distichon/H. vulgare*), spelt (*Triticum spelta*) wheat and bread/club (*Triticum* c.f. *aestivo-compactum*) wheat.

The grains exhibited mixed levels of preservation which ranged from poor to very poor with evidence of distortion, fragmentation and eroded surfaces. Due to the poor level of preservation it will not be possible to identify many of the specimens beyond the categories of barley indet (*Hordeum* sp.), glume wheat indeterminate, wheat indeterminate and cereal indeterminate.

Cereal grains consistently occurred in low numbers across a range of feature types and periods. There were only 2 deposits in which abundant numbers (> 50) of grains occurred these were; context (2806) the fill of ditch [2807] assigned to the 4th century Romano-British ladder settlement in S1-005; and Context (18108) the fill of ditch [18109] assigned to the 1st – 2nd century AD settlement activity in S2-008.

The assemblage of cereal grains in isolation does not offer any significant information relating to site economy other than possible crop choices, though the range of species present is consistent with the spectra of crops commonly associated with Iron Age and Roman sites in the south east of England (Parks 2012).

Cereal Chaff

Cereal chaff remains were rare to abundant in 10 contexts across 8 trenches (Appendices XIII and XIV). The samples derived from a range of feature types spanning a number of periods.

Chaff remains recovered were predominantly glume bases though spikelet forks were abundant in context (18108) the fill of ditch [18109].



Both the glume bases and spikelet forks were fairly well preserved though nearly all the remains recovered exhibited some degree of abrasion.

Apart from the abundant chaff remains present in ditch [18109] all other occurrences were few in number and so offer little information other than the possible presence of glume wheat at the sites identified.

In terms of the forthcoming mitigation phase the areas with abundant cereal chaff are of particular interest and maybe indicative of features of further interest on either side of the trial trenches.

Other Charred Plant Remains

Weed 'seeds' (here used to include seeds, fruits, achene, caryopses etc) were rare to common in 30 contexts across 17 trenches (Appendices XIII and XIV).

The weeds taxa present were representative of 2 environment types; arable fields/disturbed ground and wetlands.

Arable and disturbed ground taxa present included; grasses (Poaceae), wild pea/vetches (*Lathyrus/Vicia*), wild radish (Raphanus raphanistrum), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), bedstraws (*Galium* sp.), plantains (*Plantago* sp.) and nutlets of the dead-nettle family (Lamiaceae).

Wetland taxa present included; knotweeds (*Persicaria* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp.), and nutlets of the knotweed family (Polygonaceae).

Of the weeds present, larger grasses were the most frequently occurring taxa in terms of number of contexts observed in and number of specimens observed.

Context (05020) interpreted as a layer, contained a single pea (*Pisum* sp) and a possible lentil (cf. *Lens culinaris*) as well as a large legume indeterminate seed. A single pea was also recovered from context (05021); Layer.

A single grape (Vitis sp.) seed was recovered from context (10107) the backfill of ditch [10109].

Other charred plant remains recovered included; a charred elder (*Sambucus nigra*) fruit from context (05129) Roman dumping layer, an indeterminate fruit stone fragment from context (5114) occupation layer, and an indeterminate fruitstone from ditch [10109].

Given the low volume of material from in this category it provides little scope for further interpretation. In terms of the forthcoming mitigation phase the areas with the legumes and grape are of particular interest and maybe indicative of features of further interest on either side of the trial trenches.



Uncharred Plant Remains

Un-charred 'seeds' were present in the majority of samples assessed, after careful consideration, and with the exception of one sample, they were determined to be a modern intrusive component and were therefore not considered further.

The sample from context (10226) the fill of well [10227] contained both uncharred and charred plant remains. Given the feature type and the potential for the presence of uncharred material that was contemporary with the charred plant remains the decision was made to include them in the assessment.

Uncharred 'seeds' present in well [10227] included; elder fruit, which was the dominant taxa type from this feature as a whole (charred and uncharred), bedstraws and nutlets of the knotweed and dead-nettle families.

Given the low density of material from in this category it provides little scope for further interpretation.

The abundance of elder fruit in Well [10227] is most likely due to the presence of elder trees within proximity to the feature and its importance should not be over emphasized.

Charcoal

Wood charcoal was rare to abundant in 72 contexts across 32 trenches, with fragments up to 22 mm in diameter. Charcoal was recovered from all excavated areas and was present in samples taken from a range of feature types spanning a number of periods.

The charcoal recovered exhibited mixed levels of preservation ranging from unabraded and well preserved to abraded and heavily fragmented.

Charcoal comprised oak and non-oak species and was present as rectilinear, roundwood (twig) and stem fragments.

Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) was present in context (10107) back fill of ditch [10109] and was identified microscopically by the twisted and pitted nature of its stems.

Partially charred twig fragments (to 47 mm) were recovered from Context (10226) fill of well [10227].

Charcoal is generally of most value when it relates directly to the function of a feature, for example from *in situ* burning, hearths, furnaces or structural timber. Where samples of a sufficient size and quantity are recovered, charcoal analysis can inform on the species of timber used for specific purposes, the local environment and when supplemented with radiocarbon dating, temporal change. The majority of charcoal in this assemblage derives from secondary deposition, i.e. not the result of *in situ* burning and therefore does not relate to the original function of the feature. However, evidence of possible in situ burning was present in 7 contexts from area \$1-006 which includes layers (05020) and



(05021) assigned to $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century quarrying and occupation layers (05119), (05110), (05114) and (05123) and context (05124) burnt layer assigned to the $3^{rd} 4^{th}$ century Romano-British settlement.

Discussion

The assemblage of cereal grains in isolation does not offer any significant information relating to site economy other than possible crop choices, though the range of species present is consistent with the spectra of crops commonly associated with Iron Age and Roman sites in the south east of England (Parks 2012).

The presence of weed seeds in conjunction with cereal remains suggests that the two grew together in the same fields, with the seeds as contaminants of the cereal crop. The weed assemblage was characterized by a number of larger seeds and traditional societies often find it difficult to separate these from the grain by sieving, winnowing etc. The suggestion is that the majority of samples are essentially the remains of a largely cleaned cereal product that was burnt during food preparation or while in storage. Cereal chaff was also encountered and this too could have been contaminants of a largely cleaned crop. An alternative explanation might indicate mixing of waste fractions with cleaned grain after charring or the burning of whole ears. The chaff and cereal rich assemblage from the ditch [18109] could provide indirect evidence for the storage of cereals in their ears. The assemblage from this particular feature could be the result of an accidental conflagration event from which the material was disposed of in the ditch.

The presence of peas and lentil alongside the cereal grains (as well as the weed seeds) offers potential insight into crop processing at the site. The charred plant assemblage is composed of material that is of a similar size and does not contain any cereal chaff or smaller weed seeds. This suggests that it is likely to be the remains of the final product i.e. the cleaned cereal grains and peas, and the most likely explanation for its charring is during an accident or conflagration in the kitchen thereafter finding its way into the various features from which the current samples derive.

Lentils and grape were among the new foods that were imported to Britain during the Roman period, though the distribution of lentil tends to be concentrated in the south-eastern part of the country (Van der Veen *et al.* 2008). Both lentil and grape were part of a sub group of foods that were either never grown in Britain or were only grown on a small scale or with difficulty (*ibid*). Evidence of viticulture in the form of vine bedding trenches was found at the sites of Grendon and Wollaston in the Nene Valley (Meadows *et al.* 2009) so this remains a possibility at the A14 Road Scheme.

The charcoal present currently suggests that a range of habitats were exploited, including, oak and non-oak species and potentially *Calluna* heath. When considered together with charcoal recovered from features across the excavated areas the assemblage could provide information on the character of the local landscape and species selection, and when compared with charcoal from all periods represented could provide information on temporal change.

In terms of the forthcoming mitigation phase the areas with the legumes (contexts (05020) and (05021)), grape (context (10107)) and cereal chaff (context (10108)) are of particular interest and



maybe indicative of features of further interest on either side of the trial trenches and so it is important to ensure that a suitable sampling strategy is implemented.

4.4.2 Geoarchaeological Assessment of Palaeochannels in S3B-006, Mary Ruddy

The site lies on the upper Ouse floodplain where Pleistocene terrace gravels overlie sedimentary mudstone bedrock (variously Oxford Clay Formation West and undifferentiated Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation). The entire area is flat, low-lying, and approximately a kilometre away from the mapped alluvial channels of the Great Ouse and its tributaries. The canalised West Brook follows the southwest to northeast route of West End road and lakes (eg Fen Drayton Lakes), reservoirs and brooks (eg Hall Green Brook, Lake Brook) are a common feature of the landscape (approximate NGR 529782.69, 267303.682).

A site visit was made by MOLA Geoarchaeology on the 15/09/2016 to investigate and sample a number of archaeological evaluation trenches with possible evidence of palalaeochannels including:

- Tr 291
- Tr 294
- Tr 560

Trenches were observed and palaeochannels machine excavated with a toothless digging bucket. General observations on the landscape position and context were made and sediments described.

A single monolith tin was taken through palaeochannel sediments in Tr291. This was located and levelled by GPS on site. At least 3x 20ltr 'bulk' samples (to complement the monolith tin sample) were to be taken down-profile after the site visit respecting context boundaries.

All samples were marked on 1:10 scale section drawing and kept with the site plans.

The monolith sample was taken to the MOLA Geoarchaeology stores in London while bulk samples and records kept with the MOLA/Headland site archive.

Three trenches where possible palaeochannels were observed were machine excavated. Two of these appeared to be channel features (Tr291 and Tr560) and one (Tr294) a natural feature.

Tr294

Tr294 appeared less well-defined both in plan and on excavation and is likely to represent the remnants of a tree bole rather than a channel. Photographs were taken during excavation that revealed narrow, alluvial soil-filled grooves with no discernible distribution pattern. Overall the feature was poorly delimited and insubstantial.



Tr560

Tr560 revealed a deeper feature with an asymmetric profile (steep 'north' side, low-gradient 'south' side) that, on the basis of this shape alone, may have the potential to be an archaeological feature such as an enclosure or drainage ditch rather than a natural channel. Within the gravels beneath this trench animal remains (large mammal jaw - considered to be from a cow) were uncovered. This bone did not appear fossilised and may have become part of the gravel through soil creep prior to alluviation. There is a possibility that Pleistocene megafaunal remains could be found reworked and incorporated into the terrace gravels and the bone should be examined.

Tr291

The palaeochannel in Tr291 was a wide, shallow feature (c 8m across, c 0.5m deep) that was sampled by monolith <291 01> and bulk sample <tbc>. The sediments filling all observed features were described as:

(29115) a very firm-compact mid-brown grey silty clay with occasional to common small-medium and large poorly sorted inclusions of mainly chalk and flint. Desiccation cracks, roots / burrows and ped structures all visible.

Interpretation: this type of sediment almost universally filled the features across the site. It appears to be an accretionary alluvial floodplain soil, possibly forming over an extensive period of time (long residence time) and comprising a surface gley. These soils are likely to have formed within fine-grained sediment (silts/clays) deposited on the floodplain during times of spate / overbank flooding. Initially the ground may have been poorly drained (see below) and colonised by wetland vegetation and used as productive grazing ground, but artificial drainage (a ditch system) would have enabled eg arable cropping and other farming. The sediments are clearly weathered, with orange and black colouration from iron and manganese minerals visible, and contain clastic material that suggests inputs from other sources such as bioturbation and surrounding human activity (from topsoil 291 01 and subsoil horizons 291 02). The age of the alluvial soil may vary between features, but is likely to have built up from the Iron Age onwards.

(29117) firm-moderately compact mid-brown grey clay sand with orange mottling and occasional dark organ brown staining and white chalky inclusions. Sand is coarse. Staining is iron and manganese–derived.

Interpretation: very weathered sandy soil developing in coarse alluvial floodplain material. 'Primary fill' of palaeochannel and interface between alluvial fill and terrace.

Terrace gravels were described as:

(29103) moderate-compact very yellow/orange very sandy gravel with grey bands and white flint clasts. Sand is coarse, gravel is small-large moderately sorted sub-angular flint.

Interpretation: the terrace gravels, although fairly free-draining, comprise a minor aquifer holding groundwater. They appear to be undifferentiated 1st and 2nd terrace (British Geological Survey BGS 1:50 000 series, sheet 187).

Conclusions

Across the Hilton Road site and wider area the landscape is a low-lying alluvial floodplain. The archaeological features and shallow channels are filled with an accretionary allluvial floodplain soils that may have accumulated from the Iron Age onwards. The sediment is entirely minerogenic, ie contains no organic material, is weathered and has undergone pedogenesis (soil formation).

The preservation of ecofacts such as plant remains and pollen is therefore likely to be poor. Ostracods are likely to survive and would probably indicate semi-terrestrial nature of the depositional environment. Diatoms are likely to have undergone dissolution or physical damage (abrasion). The potential for environmental reconstruction is therefore fairly low. The 'bulk' samples taken following the geoarchaeological visit in Tr 291 could be used to assess the level of archaeobotanical preservation that will inform future sampling strategy.

4.4.3 Animal Bone, Alan Pipe

This report deals with all hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone from the A14 trenching evaluation.

Animal bone was hand-collected from 161 contexts, and wet-sieved from 170 samples. This was recorded in terms of weight (kg), estimated fragment count, faunal composition, measurable and complete bone, modification, and recovery of evidence for age at death; epiphyses and mandibular (lower jaw) tooth rows. Context and sample groups were generally small; ranging between 0.001-1.241kg, but generally mainly less than 0.500 kg with fewer than 50 fragments.

The animal bone context and sample groups are summarised in Appendix XIV.

The assemblage produced 35.442 kg, estimated 5613 fragments; of hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone. This was generally assessed as in 'moderate' or more rarely 'good' preservation with surface damage and, generally severe, fragmentation often sufficient to obscure fine surface details or to prevent identification of species, skeletal element or body side.

The bone groups largely represent post-consumption and butchery waste derived from preparation, consumption and disposal of beef, mutton and, to a lesser extent, pork with only very sparse evidence for fish, poultry and game. It was quantitatively dominated by adult cattle *Bos taurus* (89 context/sample groups) and sheep/goat *Ovis aries/Capra hircus* (86 context/sample groups) with sparser representation of adult pig *Sus scrofa* (22 context/sample groups) and no definite recovery of goat *Capra hircus*. There was only a single recovery of poultry, chicken *Gallus gallus* from [5119], and no evidence for domestic goose or domestic duck. Recovery of very young, foetal, neonates or infant, animals was negligible.

Other domesticates were sparsely-represented; adult horse *Equus caballus* (from 21 context/sample groups) and dog *Canis lupus familiaris* (in six context/sample groups); including an incomplete dog skeleton from [49704], with no recovery of cat F*elis catus*.

Exploitation of wild game species was indicated by fragments in only four context/sample groups; with fragments of red deer *Cervus elaphus* antler from [2902], [2906], [97004] and [10212] only. There were no other wild, commensal or scavenger species with the exception of rare fragments of frog or toad bone and small mammal teeth.

Single fragments of human infant bone were recovered from two context/sample groups; [48006] and [48212], only; identification of these was verified by MOLA human osteologists.

Context group [5129] included a single fragment of fish bone, the only evidence for fish from the whole assemblage. This is a damaged but identifiable pharyngeal (throat) bone of a freshwater species of the carp family Cyprinidae.

There was no numerically significant recovery of amphibians or very small wild and commensal mammals such as mice; respectively seen as single fragments in six and four context/sample groups.

The assemblage offers rather limited potential for further determination and study of age at death, with 204 epiphyses and 36 mandibular (lower jaw) tooth-rows. Metrical evidence was very sparse, with only 15 measurable bones, including seven complete limb long bones suitable for calculation of estimated stature.

Clear tool mark evidence was noted on estimated 12 butchered fragments with even sparser evidence for industrial activity, 'working'; with only nine fragments, including sawn red deer antler, mainly from [10212], and single fragments of shaped and polished animal long bone mid-shaft from [5417] and [49705]. There was no definite evidence for skinning or working of cattle or sheep/goat horn.

Evidence of burning was abundant, with at least 820 fragments showing combustion at high temperatures. There was only a single definite example of canine gnawing, from [10225], and none for rodent gnawing. Similarly, evidence of pathological change was negligible with cattle tarsals from [5053] showing fusion, perhaps indicating a working animal.

This assemblage is moderate in terms of sample size and general fragmentation and surface condition. As a result, the potential for further study of meat diet and waste disposal is considerably limited and only a relatively small fraction, perhaps 10% of the fragment count, will definitely repay further identification and analysis, with particular emphasis on selection of carcase-part and age-group relating to consumption and disposal of beef, mutton, lamb and pork; and to a very minor extent, fish, poultry and game.

This assemblage is of some local significance in terms of composition of the meat diet with respect to species, carcase-part selection and age, and subsequent waste disposal, as well as disposal practices relating to horse and dog carcases and waste produced by primary processing and industrial activity.

4.4.4 Human Bone, Dave Henderson

Burnt and calcined bone was recovered from five contexts; (11004), (12004), (12006), (40508) and (40509) (Appendix XV). None of the burnt material was recovered from intact vessels. Contexts (40508) and (40509) comprised faunal bone only, as far as could be determined.

All whole earth samples were passed through a series of sieves of 10 mm, 5 mm and either 2.5 mm or 1 mm mesh size, and the retents from each fraction sorted to extract the bone.

Because of the small weight of bone recovered from the other contexts, it appears that if the human material had originally been deposited as complete cremations, they were subsequently heavily truncated.

Context (11004) yielded a total of 170 g of bone, almost all fully calcined, that is, burnt white, indicating it had been subjected to sustained exposure to temperatures in excess of 800degree Celsius (Lyman 1994, 386). Small parts of the interior of some fragments remained black. Most of the material was fragmented to pieces smaller than 2.5 mm maximum dimension (69% by weight) with just 8% over 10 mm. Part of a left temporal bone and the root of a (lower right?) premolar tooth were identified. None of the material was suitable for determining age or sex of the individual, although it appears that they were adult.

Context (12004) produced around 1g of fully calcined bone, none identifiable, but consistent in form with human anatomy.

Context (12006) contained 88g of material, fully calcined. The 10 mm and 5 mm fractions (31g) produced 7g of cranial bone, identifiable as human. The 2.5 mm fraction yielded three partial tooth roots and part of an intermediate phalanx (toe).

No further analysis is required on this assemblage as it will not be possible to determine age, sex or health data from the small amount of material.



5. CONCLUSIONS

The trial trenching revealed a range of archaeological remains across the scheme, as well as identifying areas where archaeological remains do not exist.

Summary of archaeological remains

The most common remains identified during this phase of trial trenching were of Late Iron Age – Romano-British date, uncovered in thirteen areas. Much of this was related to settlement.

The earliest phase of activity identified across the scheme was the phase of tree-clearance, thought to date to the Neolithic – Bronze Age, in S1-006. A relatively small number Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints were also recovered during the trenching, mainly from the western part of the scheme (S1-006 and S2-003) and comprising cores, tools, and debitage. It is also possible that the banjo-shaped enclosure in S3B-006 may be of Mid Iron Age date (if it is indeed a banjo enclosure), although no dating evidence was retrieved to confirm this.

The earliest evidence for settlement was dated to the Late Iron Age, uncovered in four areas. This comprised an enclosure-system in S1-006; a ring gully in S3A-003; a series of pits in S4-002; and a rectilinear enclosure in S4-017.

The next dated phase of settlement belonged to the 1st century AD (transitional Iron Age – Romano-British). This comprised the large circular enclosure in S2-003; and the double-ditched circular settlement enclosure in S4-012.

Evidence for Early Roman $(1^{st} - 2^{nd} \text{ century AD})$ settlement was uncovered in four areas. This comprised enclosure ditches on the outskirts of the settlement core in S1-005; a network of ditches and pits in S2-008; rectilinear enclosures in S3B-006; and the southern part of a settlement in S4-019.

The latest dated Romano-British settlement belonged to the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ centuries AD, uncovered in three areas. This was the ladder settlement in S1-005; the rectilinear settlement in S1-006; and the ladder settlement in S2-003.

On some sites, there was evidence for more than one phase of settlement activity from the Late Iron Age through to the 4th century AD. In S1-005 there was evidence for 1st-2nd century and 3rd-4th century settlement; in S1-006 there was evidence for Late Iron Age-1st century activity and 3rd-4th century settlement; and in S2-003 there was 1st century and 3rd-4th century settlement.

Evidence for the field systems and other activity surrounding the settlement sites was also uncovered. This included field boundaries and drainage gullies in S1-005, S1-006, S1-009, S2-003, S2-006, S3B-006, S4-002, and S4-003.



Medieval and post-medieval remains were uncovered across the scheme, mainly associated with the agricultural use of the land. This comprised medieval agricultural furrows and post-medieval field boundaries and drainage ditches. Other post-medieval remains include the brick wall of a cottage or outbuilding in S4-003, a trackway in S1-009, and evidence for recent quarrying and disturbance associated with the widening of the A1 in S1-007.

Undated archaeological remains were revealed in S3B-003, S3B-008, and S3B-009. Those in S3B-003 comprised ditches, pits and post-holes and are likely to be related to settlement. Those in S3B-008 and 009 comprised pits and ditches, and may be associated with activity on the outskirts of settlement.

Pottery was the most common artefact recovered during the trenching, and comprised a mix of fabrics and forms, including locally-made pottery, regionally-traded, and continentally-imported pottery. S1-005, S1-006, S4-019 contained a wide range of types of pottery (local, regional, and continental) and are therefore likely to have had the widest range of activity and occupation; whereas S2-006, S3A-003, S3B-006, S4-002, S4-012, and S4-017 only had utilitarian vessels. Other finds included ceramic building material, particularly at S1-006 where roof and box flue tiles indicate the presence of buildings. A wide range of small finds, including coins, tessera, glass, a ring, and a hairpin, were also recovered from S1-006, indicating that this was potentially a wealthy settlement site.

The environmental evidence retrieved from the various settlements provides a picture of relatively typical Iron Age and Romano-British economies and environments. The cereal grains are consistent with the crop choices commonly found on Iron Age and Romano-British sites in the south-east of England; the presence of lentils and grapes suggest that foodstuffs were imported from the wider Roman Empire; and the charcoal recovered shows that a range of habitats were exploited (including oak, non-oak and potentially heathland). The animal bone recovered mainly represents post-consumption and butchery waste, focused on beef and mutton, with some pork, and very little evidence for fish, poultry or game. This provides an indication of the types of animals being kept and eaten, and was most common at the more productive settlement sites (particularly S1-006, S2-003, and S2-012). Evidence for tool-marks was only recorded on 12 fragments of bone, such that little can be said about animal husbandry.

Efficacy of previous investigative methods

The archaeological remains identified supported the results of previous work, most notably the geophysical surveys and cropmark analysis. The only areas where unexpected remains were identified were S3B-003 (undated ditches and pits); S4-002 (the pits in Trench 333); S4-003 (the 1st century activity on the hill); and S4-019 (the continuation of the Romano-British settlement from the north). In the case of S4-002 and S4-003, this is partly because geophysical surveys were not carried out

Preservation of archaeological remains

The quality of preservation of remains across the scheme was generally good. The overburden comprised topsoil (generally a grey-brown silty-clay *c*.0.25 - 0.3m thick), over subsoil (yellow-brown



silty-clay). This subsoil was not present in all trenches across the scheme, and varied from between 0.1 – 0.6m thick. The subsoil sealed the archaeological remains (excepting post-medieval remains).

More recent agricultural practices, particularly ploughing, have truncated the remains to an extent, such that only the basal remains of ditches and pits were revealed. The remains of post-holes and floor surfaces may have been removed through these agricultural practices. This is with the exception of S1-006, where the remains of occupation surfaces, and the underlying consolidation deposits, were revealed.

The potential for waterlogged remains was generally low. The water table was not reached in any of the slots excavated (with the exception of the well in S2-003), and so it is unlikely that waterlogged material (leather etc) would survive. This is with the exception of the well, and it is possible that other wells exist on the settlement sites which may have good potential for waterlogged material.

Stratified deposits were identified in S1-006, where the occupation / demolition layer overlay features (in one trench), and earlier quarry pits (in another trench). This is the only area where such stratified deposits were observed.

Landscape context of archaeological remains

The investigation of these settlement sites provides an indication of how the wider Iron Age – Romano-British landscape was organised in this part of Cambridgeshire. The results of this trial trenching evaluation can therefore be fed into the results from the excavation of other Iron Age / Romano-British settlement sites in the area, most notably those excavated during the works along the A428 (Abrams and Ingham 2008). They can also be connected with other trackways and routes across the landscape.

The settlement sites were uncovered on both the clay and gravel geology. There was, however, a slight bias towards settlement on the gravels – all of the sites in Sections 1 and 2 are positioned on River Terrace deposits, as is S3B-006 (another focus of settlement). Some settlement sites were, however, located on the clay, particularly S4-012, S4-017, and S4-019.

Other topographic and landscape factors appear to have influenced the location of the settlement sites. Many sites were located on higher ridges of ground, noticeably S1-006, S3A-003, and S4-002. Others were located adjacent to watercourses, such as S1-005 adjacent to the Alconbury Brook, S1-006 just to the north of the continuation of Alconbury Brook, and S3B-006 adjacent to West Brook and previous palaeochannels.

Significance of archaeological remains

Table 32 outlines each heritage asset identified (in chronological order and separated by area), and assigns them a significance linked to local, regional, and national research agendas.



In general, the Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains are considered to have medium significance of regional interest. This is because of the information they can provide about settlement patterns in the region, how settlement was laid out, and how this changed over time.

Some of the areas are considered to have high significance of regional interest, because of the preservation of remains within them. In particular, the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ century remains at S1-006; the 1^{st} century settlement at S2-003; and the 1^{st} century settlement at S4-012, are considered to have high significance of regional interest because of their better preservation, denser and more complicated remains.

The remains of Iron Age and Romano-British agricultural remains, on the outskirts of the settlement centres, are considered to have low significance of regional interest. This is because of the information they can provide about how the land around the settlements was utilised, the processes of agricultural production, and how this changed over time.

The medieval and post-medieval agricultural remains are considered to have low significance of local interest. They help further our understanding of the layout and use of the landscape in these periods, but do not change our understanding of this.

Heritage Asset Number	Area	Heritage Asset	Significance of asset
1	S1-006	Neolithic tree clearance	Low significance of regional interest
2	S1-006	Late Iron Age – 1 st century settlement	Medium significance of regional interest
3	S3A-003	Late Iron Age – 1 st century ring gully	Medium significance of regional interest
4	S4-002	Late Iron Age – 1 st century pitting	Medium significance of regional interest
5	S4-017	Late Iron Age – 1 st century rectilinear enclosure	Medium significance of regional interest
6	S2-003	1 st century settlement (sub-circular enclosure)	High significance of regional interest
7	S4-012	1 st century settlement (double-ditched circular enclosure)	High significance of regional interest
8	S1-005	$1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century activity on outskirts of settlement	Low significance of regional interest
9	S2-008	$1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ century settlement (ditches and pits)	Medium significance of regional interest
10	S3B-006	1 st – 2 nd century settlement (rectilinear enclosures)	Medium significance of regional interest
11	S4-019	1 st – 2 nd century settlement (continuation of settlement to north)	Medium significance of regional interest



Heritage Asset Number	Area	Heritage Asset	Significance of asset
12	S1-006	1 st – 2 nd century quarrying	Low significance of local interest
13	S1-005	3 rd – 4 th century ladder settlement	Medium significance of regional interest
14	S1-006	3 rd – 4 th century settlement (rectilinear enclosures)	High significance of regional interest
15	S2-003	3 rd – 4 th century ladder settlement	Medium significance of regional interest
16	S1-005, S1-006, S1- 009, S2-003, S2-006, S3B-006, S4-002, S4-003, and S4-012	Iron Age – Romano-British agricultural remains	Low significance of regional interest
17	S1-001, S1-005, S2- 002, S2-006, S2-008, S2-010, S3A-003, S3A-005/007, S3B- 006, S4-017, and S4- 018	Medieval agricultural furrows	Low significance of local interest
18	S2-002, S2-006, S3A-003, S3A-005, S3A-007, S3B-003, S3B-006, S4-001, S4-002, S4-012, S4-019 S4-019	Post-medieval agricultural remains	Low significance of local interest

Table 32: Heritage assets identified and their significance

How the archaeological remains address wider research questions

The results from the trial trenching evaluation have addressed many of the research questions outlined in the regional research agendas, as discussed in Section 2.2. The planned excavation of these sites will enable a clearer understanding of these to be gained.

An understanding of the morphology of the settlement sites has been gained. There was a mixture of types of settlement sites – large circular and sub-circular ditched enclosures (S2-003 and S4-012); rectilinear enclosure systems (S3B-006); ladder settlements (S1-005, S1-006, and S2-003); individual ring gullies (S3A-003); individual rectilinear enclosures (S4-017); and areas of pitting (S4-002). In general, the circular enclosures were of earlier date (1st century) than the rectilinear enclosure systems (1st – 2nd century), with the ladder settlements being of latest date (3rd – 4th century). An understanding of their form has been gained through the results of the trial trenching combined with the geophysical


surveys and cropmark analysis. This contributes to research questions concerning Iron Age and Romano-British settlements.

Evidence for internal features within the settlement, including probable roundhouses, storage and rubbish pits, and post-holes representing buildings, were uncovered on most of the settlement sites. A well was also uncovered in S2-003; and the remains of occupation surfaces in S1-006. These provide a clearer indication of the layout of settlement activity within the sites, further contributing to research questions concerning Iron Age and Romano-British settlement sites.

Sites S1-005, S1-006, and S2-003 are particularly interesting as demonstrate more than one phase of settlement activity from the Late Iron Age through to the 4th century AD. In S1-005, activity on the outskirts of the central (unexcavated) settlement core was dated to the $1^{st} - 2^{nd}$ centuries AD, with the ladder settlement to the south being dated to the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ century. Similarly, in S1-006, the settlement remains in the western part were dated to the $1^{st} - 4^{th}$ century, with those to the east (the more rectilinear enclosures) dated to the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ centuries. In S2-003, the earlier large sub-circular enclosure was dated to the 1^{st} century, with the ladder settlement to the south possibly dating to the $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ centuries. This demonstrates the changes which were taking place over this period, potentially as a result of Romanisation in the 2^{nd} century (highlighted in the research agendas (Medlycott 2011, 47)). It will be interesting to consider why there were these changes in settlement forms - whether it was the same social groups moving, or whether it was as a result of incomers.

Many of the areas contained both the remains of settlement and the adjacent agricultural activity – particularly in S1-005, S1-006, S2-003, S3B-006, and S4-012 where the remains of field systems were identified around the settlement sites. This means that an understanding of how the surrounding agricultural economy worked in conjunction with the settlement sites can be gained – something which is highlighted in the research agendas.

The artefactual assemblage mainly comprises pottery, with some ceramic building material, coins, metalwork, glass and lithics. These have provided a clear indication of the types of settlement in the different areas – with some areas having more utilitarian finds than others, particularly S1-006 which contained a wide variety of finds and pottery types. This furthers our understanding of the nature of settlement and activities taking place, as well as answering questions concerning the Iron Age and Romano-British transition, technologies, and trade-links.

The environmental assemblage has provided an indication of the agricultural economy of the settlement sites, contributing to our understanding of crop choices (fairly typical for the south of England), animal husbandry (focusing on cattle and sheep / goat), and how and where foods were processed and stored. An understanding of the importing of certain foodstuffs from the continent has also been gained. This contributes to research questions concerning the agrarian economy and how it may have changed over the course of the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

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