SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Suffolk County Council

Long Melford Primary School

Long Melford, Suffolk

Client:
County Council Properties

Date:
June 2016

LMD 192
Archaeological Excavation and Analysis Report Volume 1 v0.6 (Report)
SACIC Report No. 2015/027
Author: Rob Brooks
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Long Melford Primary School, Long Melford

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HER Information

Site Code:	**LMD 192**
Site Name:	**Long Melford Primary School**
Report Number	**2015/001**
Planning Application No:	**B/11/01406**
Date of Fieldwork:	**16th July – 1st August, 2012**
Grid Reference:	**TL 864 453**
Oasis Reference:	**suffolkc1-119792**
Curatorial Officer:	**Jude Plouviez and Dr Abby Antrobus**
Project Officer:	**Rob Brooks**
Client/Funding Body:	**County Council Properties**
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Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Date:	06/06/2016
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Summary

Phases of evaluation, excavation and monitoring fieldwork were carried out in 2011 and 2012 prior to the construction of an area of playground and a classroom block at the primary school in Long Melford, Suffolk. This report provides the final analysis of the site archive following on from the assessment, detailing the further work that has been carried out in accordance with the recommendations set out within the earlier report (Brooks, 2013). The significance of the data is analysed and discussed. Further dissemination of the results is required within a journal. In this instance a summary will be submitted for inclusion in the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

The site is located within the centre of Long Melford, flanked by the medieval High Street to the west and by the school and a modern housing estate to the north, east and south. Prior to these works the site had remained largely undisturbed as part of the school playing fields, although trees and a modern pond had slightly disturbed the archaeological horizons in places.

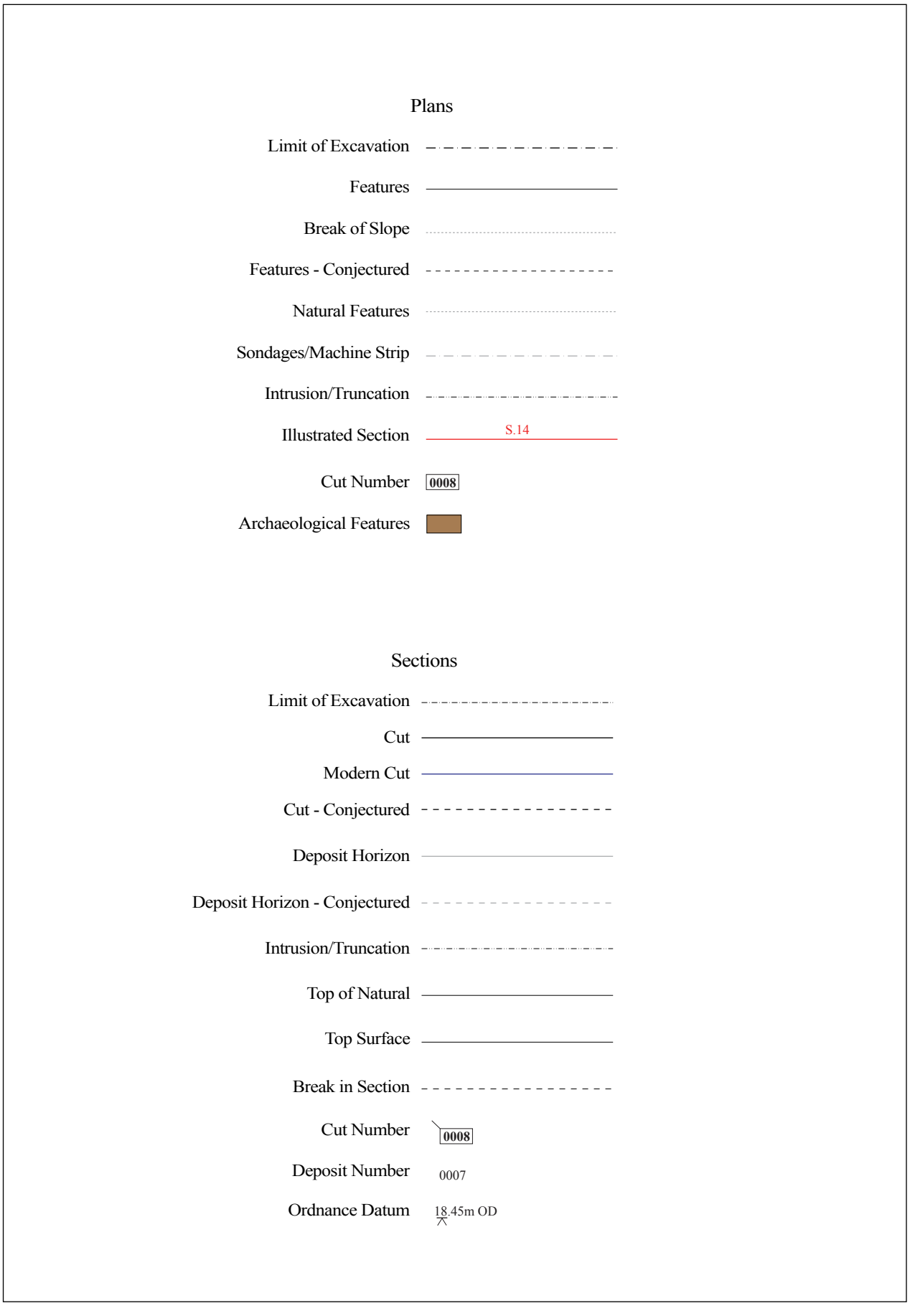
The recognised phases of occupation include the Mesolithic and Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, late Iron Age to early 1st century, mid 1st-early 2nd century, and early/mid 2nd-3rd century. The Iron Age-early Roman activity is only represented by residual finds, while the later occupation consisted of four burials, pits, ditch systems and postholes. These produced pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM), worked flint, burnt flint, lava quern stone, fired clay and shell, as well as some unusual metal-working debris (including crucible and rare tuyère fragments). Non-funerary small finds included an Iron Age silver Cunobelin coin, a fragment of a Roman mirror, an awl, a clamp (possibly associated with metal-working), a goad, a weight and a mount, as well as a medieval buckle and a post-medieval coin and ring. The environmental residues produced charcoal, evidence of crop cultivation and processing, and metal-working residues.

The most unusual features on site were the three grave cuts (containing the remains of four individuals) and the cremation burial, dating from the 1st/2nd to 3rd centuries. The cremation contained an adult within an urn and three vessels (probably forming a dining set) that may have been interred within a wooden box. One of the inhumations produced two samian dishes and a flagon and also contained a skull fragment of a child

alongside the main burial of an adult female. An inhumation of an adult male produced a single jar/flask and a hairpin (which was probably residual) with nails indicating a coffin. These two inhumations were buried within large rectangular cuts, far bigger than required for a coffin. The final grave was within a smaller cut and only contained the partial remains of an adult with no grave goods, but it was aligned consistently with the female burial.

Small quantities of residual Neolithic (or Mesolithic) and Early Bronze Age flint were also recovered from the site, although the majority of the worked flint was most probably later prehistoric, mainly found alongside Iron Age pottery within the fills of Roman features. Only occasional unstratified medieval and post-medieval finds post-dated the Roman occupation of the site.

Drawing Conventions



1. Introduction

An evaluation, monitoring and excavation were carried out at the site of Long Melford Primary School, in Long Melford village centre (Fig. 1) and these works uncovered evidence mainly of later prehistoric and Roman activity (Brooks, 2011 and 2013). The post-excavation assessment recommended that a further stage of analysis was required, mainly focusing on finds analysis (and any reworking of the phasing ensuing from this), which is now covered in this report. Publication of the results within the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History* (PSIAH) will also form a part of this final stage of works. This report is split into two volumes, with the second (on CD) containing the appendices to accompany the first.

The report was commissioned by Suffolk County Council Properties and produced by Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC), formerly Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Field Team. It has been prepared in accordance with the relevant Brief and Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1). The report is consistent with the principles of Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE), notably Project Planning Note 3 Archaeological Excavations (English Heritage, 2008). Special thanks are given to Jude Plouviez (formerly of SCCAS Conservation Team) for agreeing to help with the editing this report.

The principal aims of the report are as follows:

1. To summarise and reassess the results of the archaeological fieldwork based on the full analysis of the finds and stratigraphic archive as recommended in the assessment report
2. To detail the post-excavation work that has been undertaken in both the assessment and analysis stages
3. To discuss the site in relation to the research aims defined in the assessment report
4. To provide a general discussion as appropriate touching on topics including, but not limited to Romanisation, ritual and religion, responses to Roman rule and population changes, and the Iron Age to Roman transition, which are highlighted as regional research topics (Medlycott, 2011)
5. To synthesise the results of the fieldwork to allow for publication of the site in the PSIAH

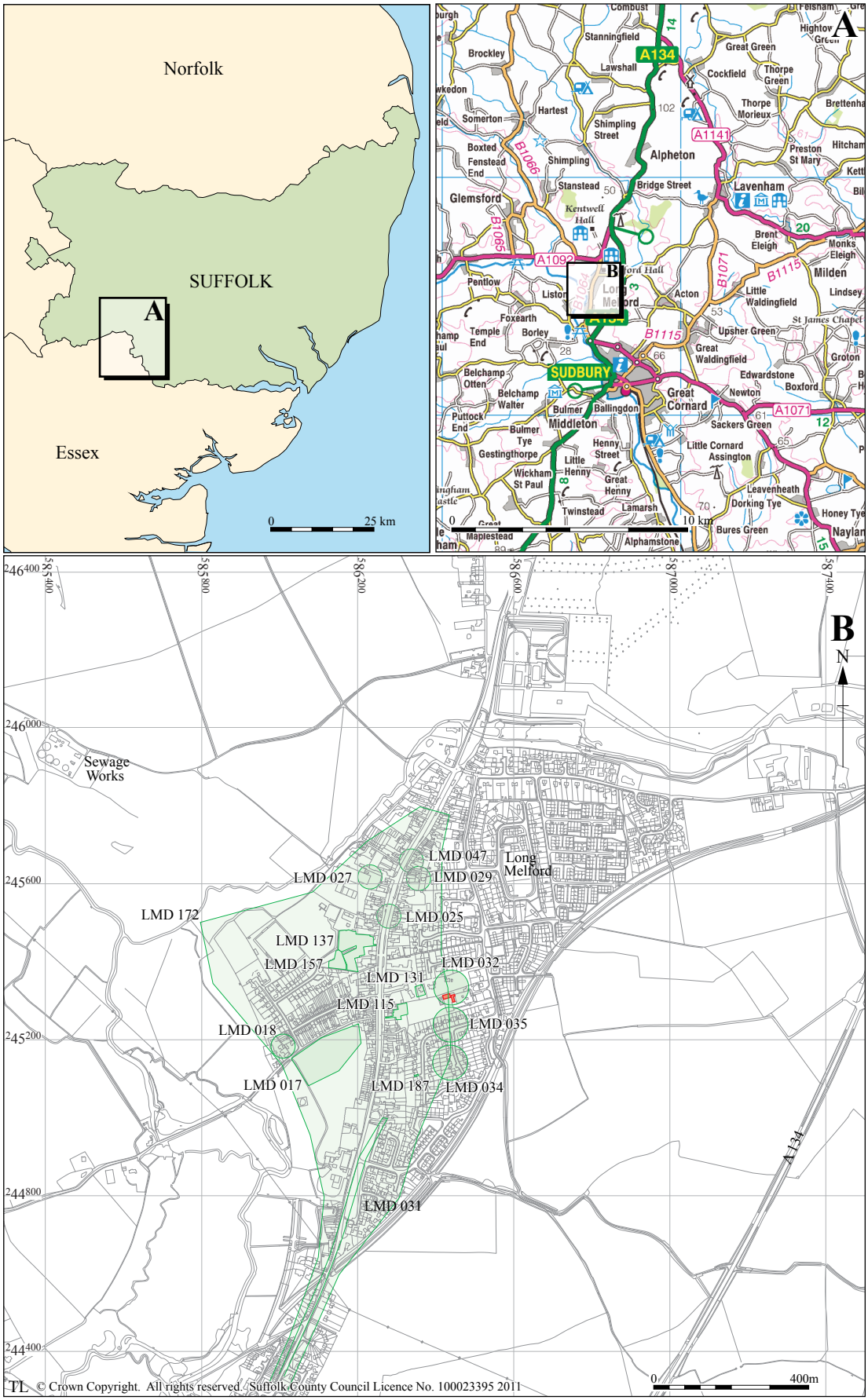


Figure 1. Location map, showing development areas (red) and HER sites mentioned in the text (green)

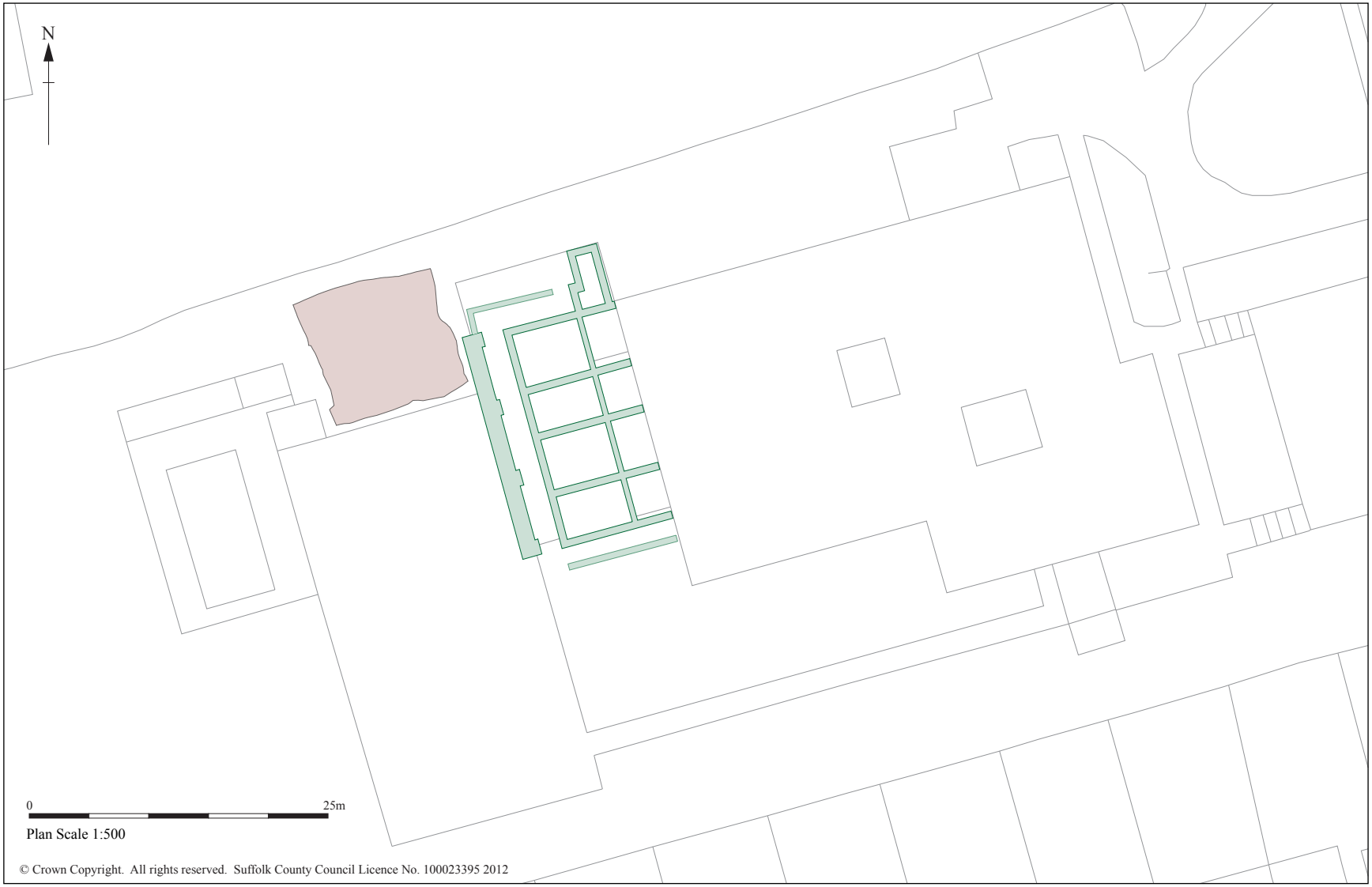


Figure 2. Plan locating the monitoring trenches (green) and areas of excavation (brown)

2. The Excavation

2.1 Site location

The site is located at Long Melford Primary School, to the east of Hall Road and immediately west of Cordell Road, in Long Melford village centre, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The site was centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 864 453 and encompassed an area of approximately 220sqm. The site lies on the western edge of a housing estate, with the historic High Street 155m to the west.

2.2 Geology, topography and recent land use

The geology of the area consists of a superficial polymict deposit of silt, sand, clay and gravel, overlying bedrock formations of Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk and Culver Chalk (BGS, 2015). On site, the geology presented itself as firm pale yellow to mid orange sandy-silt, with occasional outcrops of greyish-orange clayey-silt.

The site was largely level, with spot heights at ground level varying from 35m to 35.4m above the Ordnance Datum. Most of this variation related to the recently built-up ground levels near the school building, from which there is a slight slope down to the west. In the wider area the site lies on an east to west slope down to the River Stour, 800m to the west, whilst to the north the ground slopes away slightly to Chad Brook, a Stour tributary approximately 500m away.

According to the Suffolk County Council Landscape Character Assessment (SCC, 2015), the site lies in an area of rolling estate farmlands, with typical characteristics of:

1. Gently sloping valley sides and plateau fringes
2. Generally deep loamy soils
3. An organic pattern of fields modified by later realignment
4. Important foci for early settlement
5. Coverts and plantations with some ancient woodland
6. Landscape parks with a core of wood pasture
7. Location for mineral workings and related activity, especially in the Gipping valley
8. To the east is an area defined as ancient rolling farmlands and to the west as valley meadowlands.

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

2.3.1 Long Melford's archaeological background

The village of Long Melford is well-recorded as being an area of substantial later Iron Age and as a Roman small town, with medieval occupation following Hall Street (which roughly follows the route of a Roman road – see LMD 031, Fig. 1). The road was partially excavated in an area at the southern end of the village, revealing a south-south-west to north-north-east alignment with associated ditches. The path of the road to the north of what is now Clopton's Drive remains undetermined (Avent and Howlett, 1980). On its known trajectory the road would pass through or very close to the primary school site. A further Roman road possibly enters the village on an east to west alignment from the east.

In the later Iron Age, Long Melford fell within the area of tribal influence of the Trinovantes, whose range spread across Essex and south Suffolk. The Trinovantes became associated with the Catuvellauni towards the end of the later pre-Roman Iron Age, whose initial focus had been towards the west, around Hertfordshire. Both groups had links with the expanding Roman Empire, particularly with northern Gaul. These tribal cultures continued to play a role within the period of Roman rule, although Romanised and continental behaviours were forthcoming.

Since the 1960s a range of Roman archaeological evidence has been recorded in the parish, with almost all groundworks having produced features and finds of Roman provenance. The most notable nearby site is a large structure at Liston Lane, probably a bathhouse, which is recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) as LMD 017 (Scheduled Ancient Monument SF90). This building was associated with 1st to 2nd century Roman finds and is located *c.*250m to the west of the school. Although very little archaeological work has been carried out on the site, it is known to have a tessellated floor. The position of the primary school development lies on the eastern boundary of the known Roman settlement and therefore it was considered possible that any potential archaeological remains might contribute to defining the extent of the Roman settlement.

Although there is late Iron Age occupation around Long Melford, the origins of the Roman town are partly thought instead to stem from a military presence, due to the discovery of a sword at the site of 'land adjacent to the Bramertons' (LMD 131), as well as pottery imports usually associated with the Roman army in the first century (Plouviez, J., pers. comm., 2013).

Within the excavation, a cremation, as well as three grave cuts (containing the remains of four individuals) were recorded. All of the burials, excluding one of the inhumations produced grave goods. As these findings add to the significant collection of Roman burials within Long Melford, a summary is included below of other relevant funerary contexts in the village (Fig. 1 and Table 1).

HER Code, site name and location	**Description**
LMD 018, St Catherine's Road/Liston Lane	Records indicate a grave containing an adult female, whilst associated groundworks in the immediate area produced a piece of mid 1st to late 2nd century pottery as well as several other typical occupation finds.
LMD 025, Hall Street, 240m north-west of the site	An undated but probably Roman inhumation was recorded to the east of Hall Street, 240m north-west of the site
LMD 027, Old Country Club, 370m north-west of primary school	An urned cremation, dated as Roman, was discovered that also produced a pottery flask and samian sherds.
LMD 029, Woollards Garden, 300m north-west of the site	The grave of a young female was recorded, with a large range of grave goods, comprising bronze bracelets, a bronze ring, a jet ring, three amber beads, a bronze cylindrical mount, glass vessel fragments, three coffin nails, and two 3rd-4th century colour coated beaker bases.
LMD 047, Chantry House, 330m north of primary school	A later Iron Age cremation (probably indicating the local burial traditions) contained a Belgic urn with a dish, dated to the first half of the 1st century AD.
LMD 115, Little St. Mary's, 130m west of the school	Six Roman adult burials, as well as one infant were recorded on this site. These were aligned with their heads roughly to the west and one was in a stone coffin, which was made from imported limestone. Stone coffins are particularly rare, with only two having been recorded from burials in Colchester (Crummy, Crummy and Crossan, 1993). The burials are dated as 4th century and overlaid 1st – 3rd century domestic occupation deposits of pits, structural deposits and layers (LMD 115). The alignments of the burials, as well as the treatment of the body associated with the coffin suggest a Christian burial tradition, although the presence of grave goods indicates that earlier practices were still respected (Boulter, 1997). Stone coffins are likely to imply status (Philpott, 1991).
LMD 137/157, Almacks sites, 280m west of primary school	These works recorded a mid-late 2nd century coffined burial of a young female, with grave goods including a Colchester beaker and a hare brooch. The site lay to the west of the route of the Roman road and it is thought that structures may have flanked the road, with domestic features such as pits and the burial to the rear of the buildings. The occupation evidence appears to begin in the first century, peaking in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, with a decline in the late 3rd to 4th century.
LMD 160, 14 The Limes, 180m north-west of school	A single female burial, this time of an adult in old age along with a fragment of another adult femur were excavated from a single grave cut. The grave produced two pots of mid-2nd century date and was aligned roughly west to east (head to west), mirroring a ditch that was immediately to its south-east. Four pits were also recorded on the site and excluding the grave, the features dated from the later Iron Age to the early 2nd century.

Table 1. Details of sites with burials as shown on Figure 1

2.3.2 General trends in burial practice

A very brief overview of burial traditions nationwide is given below, in conjunction with trends recorded in East Anglia, with particular attention paid to the excavations at Colchester and Stansted airport.

Burial traditions nationwide

Cremations

For much of the country cremation is the most visible late Iron Age burial tradition from around 50 BC onwards, with a transition to inhumation practices from as early as the mid 2nd century. This reflects a more general shift in behaviour across the western Roman Empire in the late 3rd and early 4th centuries, when 'cremation burial continued only as a minority rite' (Cooke, 1998, 246). There are many ways in which cremations were distinctively treated and these often differ between individual burials, from cemetery to cemetery, or region to region. These differences follow a number of themes, e.g. within cists, boxes or caskets, and the use of urns, the presence (or not) of other grave goods and their differing typologies, as well as the significance of any grave goods or deposits and any other recordable treatment of the individual.

Grave goods

Grave goods are often used to study distinctive pre-Christian burial traditions (although it must be noted that their inclusion in burials is reduced, but not entirely restricted by the introduction of Christianity), because they appear to show recognisable trends and survive whilst other rites may not leave any archaeological traces. In south-east England grave goods are more regularly found than in the rest of the country and are often pottery vessels (either urns, and/or other vessels). When these are found they are typically interpreted as table/dining sets, which might include beakers, flagons, dishes, bowls or plates. Beyond this though, the significance of grave goods is not necessarily clear and their presence can be hard to interpret given the sometimes limited evidence. However, the concepts of dining/table sets as vessels for the deceased to use in the afterlife, as well as for use in grave side feasting events seem like logical suggestions, whilst other grave goods must distinguish some level of status or meaning as inferred by those burying the individual. Items included in cremations are often noted as either

unused, damaged to differing degrees, or repaired, but it is not always clear whether these conditions are necessarily deliberate or incidental. There also appears to have been a shared link or a transferral of cultural traditions from the continent (particularly Gaul) that influenced cremation and inhumation customs. The selection of particular vessel types and whether they are upright or inverted also appears to be a specific and significant behaviour recognised both within cremations and inhumations (Richenda Goffin, pers. comm., 12/10/2015).

In general, grave goods are relatively infrequent in inhumations compared to cremations, but there is a noticeable correlation between the geographical areas that provide grave goods in cremations as well as in inhumations. These concentrations are therefore again usually located in the south-east, and they often appear to consist of table/dining sets, but in general the inclusion of items in inhumations declines in the 3rd century, possibly indicating a Romanisation of burial rites. However, a notable example of later inhumations including grave goods is that of Blood Hill (Bramford, Suffolk), where three individuals (two children and a woman, possibly a mother with her children) were found with a pot, several pieces of jewellery (beads, a bone pin, an armlet, two anklets, head dresses for both of the females, and a finger ring), and possible evidence for having been clothed. The particular care afforded to these 3rd-4th century burials may however relate to the fact that the adult female and at least one of the children were murdered (Anderson, Crummy and Sommers, unpublished). Whatever the case, this is clear evidence that there was a level of flexibility in burial treatment, despite general trends. Another visible trend relates to the positions of grave goods within inhumations, which again varies by region (Philpott, 1991).

Inhumations

The earliest Roman inhumation burials are often found in the south-east of England (e.g. the unusual 1st-2nd century infant burial at Coggeshall), although even in this part of the country early-mid 2nd century inhumations are somewhat unusual. A more pronounced national shift to inhumation burials occurs in the later 2nd century, particularly in major towns and garrisons, which may again relate to the introduction of continental burial traditions. Bodies were typically buried supine and extended, with only rare examples being buried otherwise, in a manner that appears to represent the

singling out of individuals (possibly criminals or social outcasts), rather than defined traditions or trends.

The use of wooden or stone coffins in burials is not common (with two wooden coffins recorded on this site and a stone example uncovered at the LMD 115 site in Long Melford), although it appears to depend upon status and/or localised behaviours.

Regional burial behavioural patterns

Transition from cremations to inhumations

This is a brief overview of formal burial traditions recorded at the Stansted airport cemetery (Havis and Brooks, 2004 and Cooke, Brown and Phillpotts, 2008) and settlement excavations as well as from the Colchester cemeteries (Crummy, Crummy and Crossan, 1993). A common theme recognised within both sets of data is that as expected early to mid-Roman burials were nearly always cremations. A change took place somewhere between the 2nd to 3rd century, but this is by no means an instantaneous transition, with cremations and inhumations occurring concurrently for some time. The latest possible cremation recorded at Colchester occurs sometime after 240, with the earliest inhumations falling somewhere between 150 and 275. At Stansted only four inhumations were recorded (all were late Roman), whilst the cremations were from the 1st and 2nd centuries.

Urns, coffins and grave goods

A seemingly prominent tradition recorded at Colchester was the use of containers in all recorded cremations (usually a pot, but sometimes a glass vessel or a casket). However, this is unfortunately largely a reflection of recording bias, because many of the cremations were excavated as part of antiquarian investigations, with those cremations without grave goods/containers being disregarded. However at Stansted less than half of the cremations were urned and those that were tended to be both pre-Flavian (AD 69-96) and better furnished with other goods. Another recorded pattern at Stansted was the regularity with which flagons, drinking vessels, platters, dishes and bowls were used as grave goods, as well as the apparent links between certain grave goods and status. It was also noted that the quality of pottery interred in burials was

usually higher than the equivalent material found on the nearby associated settlement sites.

The treatment and condition of grave goods is another area that is touched on for Stansted (Havis and Brooks, 2004). For example, it is pointed out that some vessels included in the cremations appear to have been somewhat burnt (presumably on the funeral pyre), whilst others appear to possibly have been 'killed' (broken or smashed to varying degrees), as also recorded at Great Dunmow in Essex (Going, 1988). The presence of largely unworn foot rings on samian vessels is also a recognised trend, indicating new or rarely used items. Such behaviours and traditions are recorded to varying degrees across the region and the country, and also on the continent.

It was notable at Colchester that of the well-recorded inhumations at least 90% were buried in coffins (how much of this again relates to antiquarian recording bias is unclear). On the occasions where skeletons without coffins were recorded, their positioning and treatment often indicated that they were possibly of lower or different social status, e.g. positioned away from the main concentration of burials or laid in unusual positions. At Stansted only four inhumations were recorded; two by the settlement area and the other two by the earlier cremation burials.

The layout of burials

Burials in many Roman cemeteries as well as more isolated burials are often aligned in relation to certain earlier or contemporary features, notably roads (which were often flanked by ditches within which inhumations are sometimes placed) and boundaries. This is very prominent at Colchester, where early inhumations appear to respect such features, whilst the 4th century Christian burials were simply aligned east to west. The shift to east-west alignments also heralded the introduction of greater organisation in the cemetery layout. At Scole the placing of inhumations next to roads, boundaries and other liminal areas was also recorded, where it was suggested that such activity represented traditions continuing from the Iron Age, more than a newly introduced Romanisation of behaviour (Ashwin and Tester, 2014).

2.3.3 Map evidence for the site

There is no evidence on the First, Second or Third editions of the Ordnance Survey maps for the past occupation of the site, which reveal only that it was part of a field system in the late 19th century through to the early 20th century.

2.3.4 Previous work relating to the site

The evaluation in October 2011 produced evidence for the extension of the later Iron Age and Roman settlement (LMD 172, Fig. 1) found within much of Long Melford, here represented by ditches, pits, and soil layers, with finds mainly consisting of pottery and animal bone. The greater quantities of features and finds were uncovered within Trench 1, which was the position for the playground extension. Following the evaluation, the excavation (the results of which are described in this report) was commissioned.

3. Methodology and circumstances of the fieldwork

The works were carried out in accordance with Policy HE12.3 of Planning Policy Statement 5. Due to the results of the evaluation, a Brief for an excavation in the area of the playground and a monitoring in the area of the classrooms was issued by SCCAS Conservation Team, along with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by SCCAS Field Team (Appendix 1).

The excavation, over an area of approximately 145sqm was carried out from the 16th July – 1st August, 2012, whilst the monitoring took place throughout April, May and June, 2012. The area of the playground was excavated on the basis that the ground level reduction required for the foundations of the surface, as well as the removal of a tree and an infilled pond liner, would directly truncate the archaeological levels in some areas, or not leave enough overburden to protect them. However the levels of risk posed by the foundation trenches of the new classroom, as well as the lower intensity of archaeological deposits in this area, meant that a continuous archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was sufficient. Three trenches for access ramps in the same area were also monitored (Fig. 2).

During the monitoring works, topsoil and other overburden was stripped by a mechanical excavator using a toothed bucket and archaeological features and deposits were recorded using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 0100–0109 (0001-0025 having been used during the evaluation). Within the area of the excavation, topsoil was stripped using a toothless bucket and any archaeological contexts were recorded using a sequence numbers in the range of 0200-0314 (Appendix 2). Linear features were sample-excavated between 30% and 100% and all other feature types were excavated fully. Most features were drawn in plan (1:10 or 1:50, Figs. 3-5) and section (1:20) on sheets of gridded drawing film. Written records (context descriptions, etc.) were made on *pro forma* context sheets. A digital photographic record was made, consisting of high-resolution .jpg images of sections and some plans, as well as working/site shots. Metal detecting was undertaken across all of the features and spoil by an experienced detectorist. Selected deposits were sampled for environmental analysis.

The Brief and Specification for the excavation required a public outreach element to the project. Pupils from the primary school were visited by SCCAS FT Outreach Officer Duncan Allan, who ran various activities and showed the pupils some of the finds from the site. The local historical society also visited the excavation and was given a site tour by Andrew Tester.

Site data has been input into an MS Access database combined with the evaluation data and recorded using the County HER code LMD 192. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-119792 – Appendix 3) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit). The finds have been archived with SCCAS in Bury St Edmunds and the remainder of the archive will be deposited with SCCAS following the approval of this report and the completion of the journal article, being currently held by SACIC in its Needham Market offices.

4. Results

4.1 Introduction

This description of the features and their associated finds is based on a full interpretation of the site data. The ditches have been assigned to group numbers based on the limited stratigraphic relationships across the site, their layout, as well as the dating from the artefacts and radiocarbon dates. The presence of the well-dated burials, have provided a good framework around which to develop site phasing, as have the relatively substantial levels of pottery recovered from some of the other contexts.

Ditch groups are referred to as DGs. All of the excavated features on site are shown on Figures 3-6, with grave plans and a plan of the horse burial illustrated on Figures 7-9.

The five phases on the site are recorded as:

- Phase 1 – Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age
- Phase 2 – Iron Age
- Phase 3 – Late Iron Age to early/mid 1st century Roman
- Phase 4 – early Roman
- Phase 5 – Roman burials – early/mid 2nd – 3rd century

4.2 Phase 1 – Mesolithic/Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (10000 BC – 1500 BC)

Activity dated to this period is represented by a small number of residual struck flints. This includes a single blade, which is earlier Neolithic or Mesolithic, and a few other pieces of a similar date. A later Neolithic to Early Bronze Age scraper is also present, along with the majority of the struck flint, which is Late Bronze Age/Iron Age and discussed below.

4.3 Phase 2 – Iron Age (800 BC – AD 43)

No features have been positively dated to the Iron Age, with evidence for activity in this period consisting of pottery and worked flint. However, some features are included in the very late Iron Age (LIA)/early Roman transitional phase discussed in Section 4.4 – Phase 3.

The Iron Age finds consist of hard hammer struck flint debitage of a style associated with the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age, as well as thirty-five sherds of pottery, weighing 475g (dated from the earlier to middle/late Iron Age) from fourteen contexts. The flint was usually found redeposited with Roman pottery, whilst the Iron Age pottery was consistently recovered as residual material in Phase 3, 4 and 5 contexts, which contained LIA-early Roman, and Roman pottery.

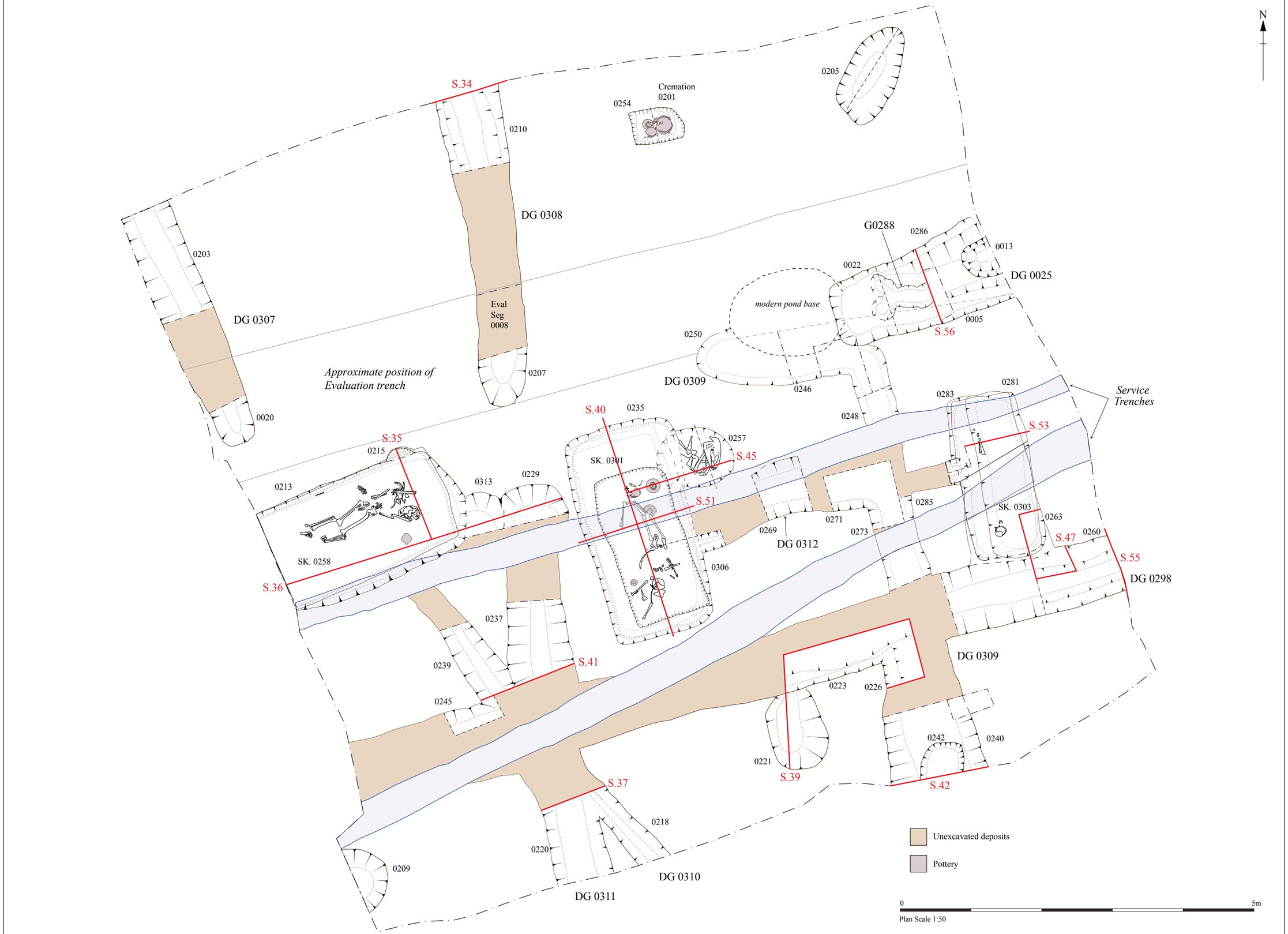


Figure 3. Plan of excavated area

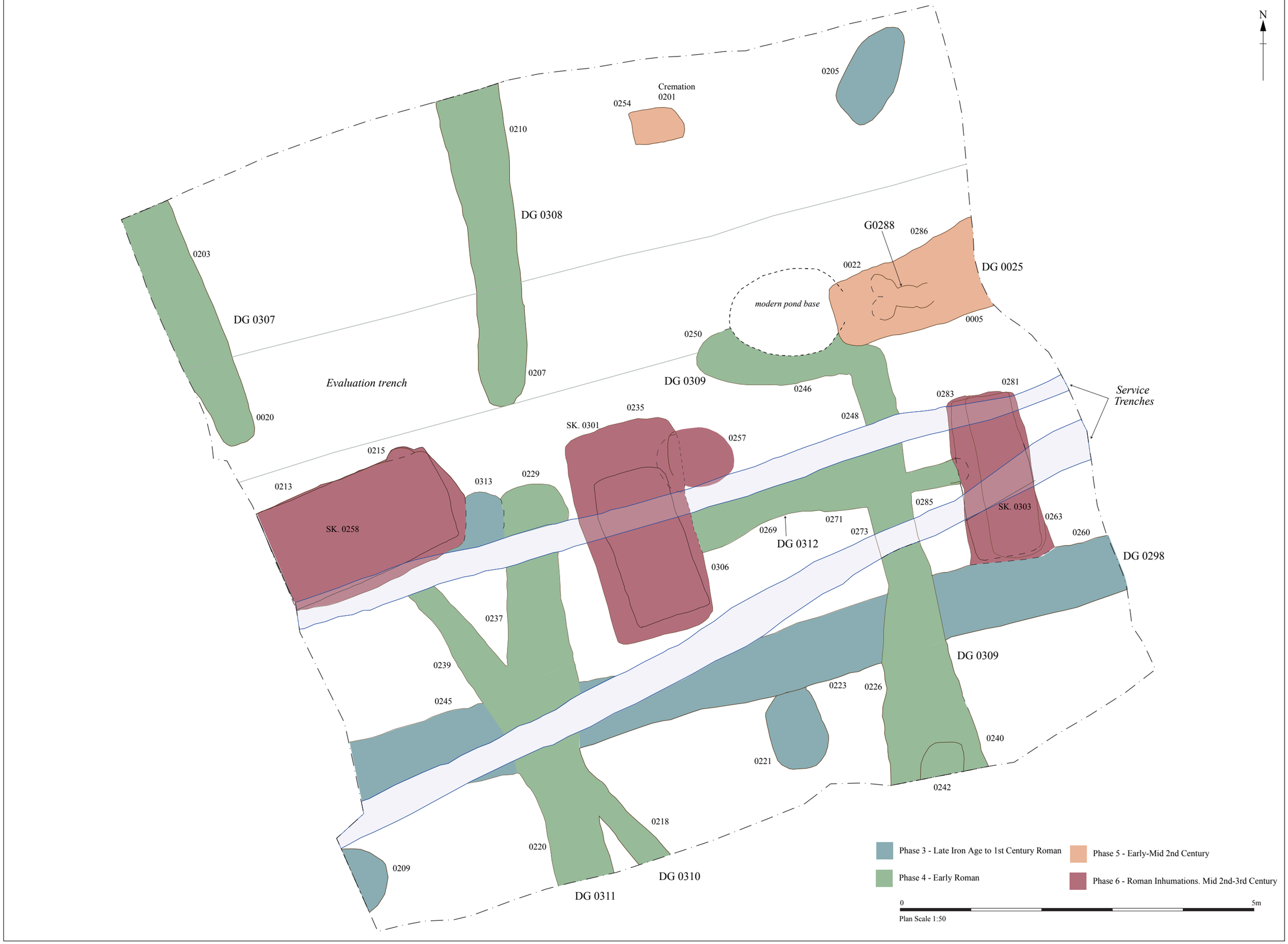


Figure 4. Phase plan of site

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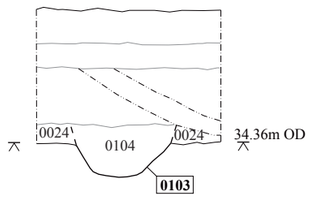

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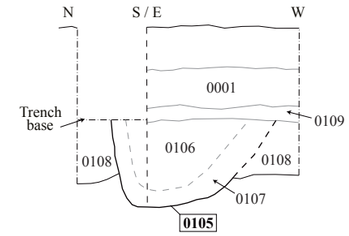

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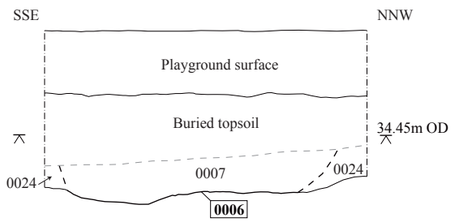
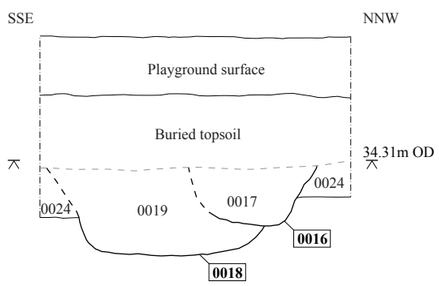
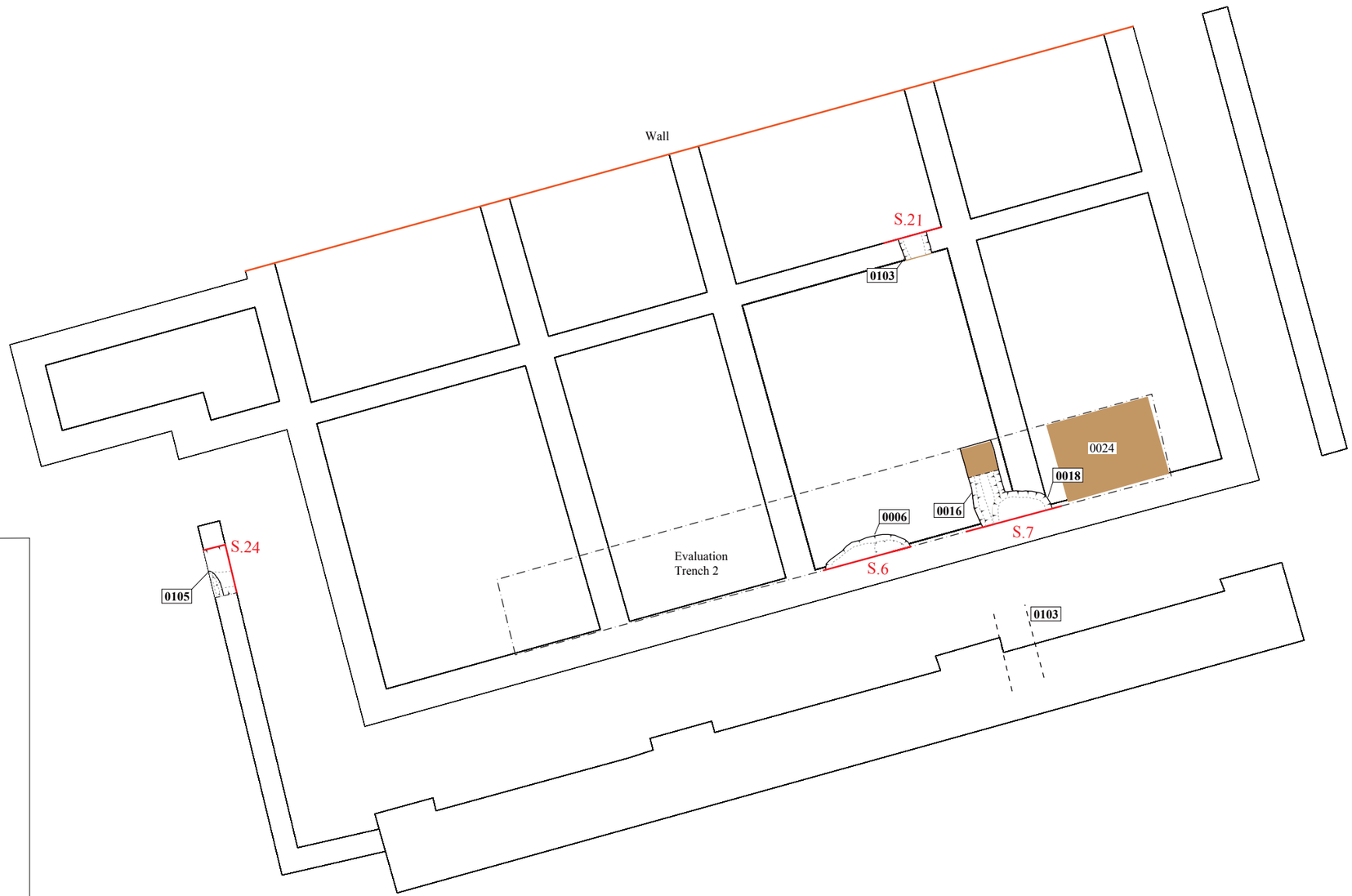


S.7



Section Scale 1:40



Plan Scale 1:75

Figure 5. Monitoring trenches plan and sections

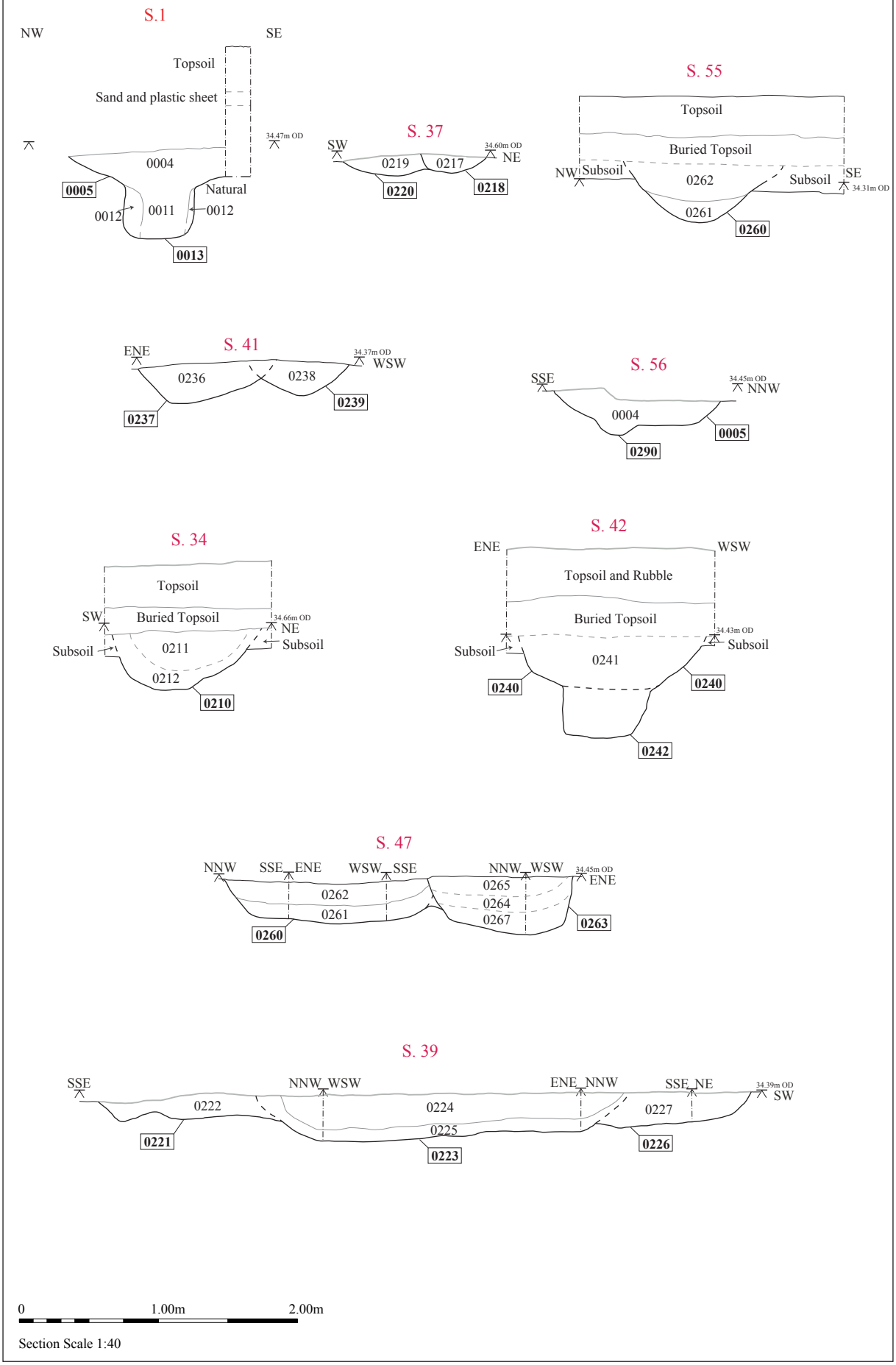


Figure 6. Selected feature sections

4.4 Phase 3 – Late Iron Age to 1st century Roman (*c.*100 BC – early/mid 1st century)

All of the features recorded on the site are assigned to the LIA-mid 1st century AD, the mid-later first century into the early second century or the 2nd to 3rd century (with these latter contexts described in Sections 4.5 and 4.6). There is a degree of continuation and overlap in the Late Iron Age to 3rd century phases of occupation and as such they should not be seen as wholly separate episodes of activity.

Those features described in this phase are differentiated from the later phases on the basis of the slightly earlier finds that they produced, but also in the case of ditch group (DG) 0298, its spatial organisation as it is unlikely that it would have been positioned in such close proximity to the various ditches recorded in Phase 4. However, given DG 0298's similar alignment with DG 0312 from the later phase, there was clearly some recognition in Phase 4 of the earlier feature (possibly a shallow impression of the feature remained) and/or the overall alignment system that it represented.

4.4.1 Pits and a ditch

Pits 0205, 0209, 0221 and 0313

Pit 0221 was cut on its northern edge by ditch group 0298 (Sec. 39 – Fig. 6). It was roughly oval in plan, measuring >1.3m x 0.7m x 0.2m and filled with brownish-grey and orange clayey-sand 0222, which contained four sherds of LIA-*c.*AD 60-70 pottery (23g), one fragment of heavily abraded intrusive post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM), fragments of fired clay, thirteen iron nails, as well as worked and burnt flints.

An elongated oval pit, 0205, measuring 1.4m long x 0.28m deep, with variable sides and a concave base produced three sherds of Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery (7g) and twelve fragments of LIA-*c.*AD 60/70 pottery (517g), as well as fired clay, worked flint and burnt flint from greyish-brown silty-sand fill 0204. The pottery was slightly abraded, indicating that the pit may be part of the early Roman sub-phase described in Section 4.5.

In the south-west corner of the site a partially uncovered rounded cut was recorded as pit 0209. It measured 1m x >0.45m x 0.24m deep and the fill 0208 produced no finds. However the cut is tentatively thought to be contemporary with the other LIA/early Roman activity on site due to the similarity of its grey-brown/yellow-brown silty-sand fill to the other pits from this phase.

A small possible pit was recorded as cut 0313 and was cut by Phase 6 grave 0213 and Phase 4 DG 0311. It was not fully visible in plan, being truncated by these features to the east and west and by a service trench to the south, but it had a curving northern edge. In profile the cut had concave sides and a flat base and the pit measured >0.55m >0.5m x 0.15m deep. The fill was greyish-brown silty-sand with no finds.

Pit 0018 (evaluation)

An irregular, poorly-defined pit 0018 was found on the west side of Trench 2. It had steep sides and a fairly flat base, but it was particularly ill-defined on its southern edge, where it ran into disturbed subsoil layer 0024. The mid orangish-grey sandy-silt fill, 0019, produced pottery dated to the later Iron Age to *c*.AD 60-70, along with worked flint and animal bone. It was not possible to identify the pit again in the monitoring phase of works.

Ditch group 0298

The only ditch within this phase was ditch group (DG) 0298. This consisted of cuts 0223, 0245 and 0260 (Secs. 39, 47 and 55 – Fig. 6). It had moderately steeply sloping edges and a slightly concave base, with maximum dimensions of 0.85m wide x 0.27m deep. The fills, 0224, 0244, 0261 and 0262 were a mixture of dark brownish-grey to mid-dark orangish-grey silty-sand that produced worked flint, animal bone, CBM and an iron nail. However, of particular interest were the crucible and tuyère fragments recovered from this ditch, which are evidence for copper and bronze working (SFs 1048 and 1055-1058). Also recovered from the fills was a selection of pottery that suggested a slightly earlier date for the ditch than the others on site. The assemblage consisted of fourteen sherds of early to late Iron Age pottery (227g) and fifty-one sherds of LIA to *c*.AD 60/70 pottery (1042g). The position of the ditch (relative to the ditches in Phase 4)

also tended to indicate that it was from a slightly different phase as it did not correspond with any of the terminus cuts to the north.

4.5 Phase 4 – early Roman (mid 1st – early 2nd century)

Most of the feature cuts are ditches. These cuts are all fairly similarly dated by their pottery, with only subtle differences, but this combined with the slight variations in alignments and stratigraphy may suggest a marginally extended period of activity.

Throughout Phases 3-5 eight ditches ran across the excavation area on roughly north to south and east to west alignments, with another on a north-west to south-east path. Seven of the ditches are included in this phase (Figs. 3-7). The ditches are either parallel or run at right angles to each other and five of them terminate in close proximity, indicating that they were either open at the same time, or that they respected boundaries or entrances perhaps still marked by other features such as hedges or fences. This shows that they were closely dated and any distinctions between these and the ditches in Phases 3 and 5 are probably only reflective of sub-phases of activity, rather than wholly separate periods of occupation on the site.

4.5.1 Ditches and a posthole

Ditch group 0307

DG 0307 was north to south aligned and recorded as cuts 0020 and 0203. In the evaluation no finds were recovered from cut 0020, but during excavation cut 0203 produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery (9g), as well as five sherds of LIA *c.*AD 60/70 and early Roman pottery (12g) from fill 0202, as well as fired clay and worked flint, suggesting a 1st century to early Roman date. Cut 0203 was 0.78m wide x 0.2m deep with mid grey-brown sandy-silt fills 0021 and 0202 and had concave sides with a slightly concave base.

Ditch group 0308

Ditch group 0308 comprised cuts 0008, 0207 and 0210, and was on a similar alignment to DG 0307 and 0309 (Sec. 34 – Fig. 6). It produced a total of seven sherds of early-late

Iron Age pottery (67g), forty-one sherds of LIA-AD 60/70 pottery (766g), one sherd of LIA-early Roman (23g), seven sherds of early Roman pottery (9g), one sherd of LIA-early 2nd century (14g), and five sherds of mid/late 1st-2nd/3rd century pottery (13g). The fills generally consisted of mid-dark grey-brown sandy-silt. The cut had concave sides and a concave base and measured up to 1.06m wide and was a maximum of 0.42m deep.

Ditch group 0311

Ditch groups 0311 and 0308 were aligned, with a gap of just over one metre between their termini indicating an entrance. Ditch 0311, which was made up of cuts 0220, 0229 and 0237, had concave sides and flat to concave bases, with dimensions of up to 0.85m wide x 0.14m deep (Secs. 37 and 41 – Fig. 6). The fills, 0219, 0228 and 0236, were similar to those of DG 0308, consisting of mid-dark grey-brown sandy-silts. Pottery recovered from this ditch consisted of sixteen LIA-AD 60/70 sherds (216g), nine mid/late 1st-early 2nd century sherds (114g), three early Roman sherds (9g) and two Roman sherds (8g).

Ditch group 0309 and posthole 0242

Ditch group 0309 was very closely aligned with DG 0308 and 0311, but was often shallow and in places disturbed. It turned to the west at its northern end and then terminated close to the termini of DG 0308 and 0311, suggesting an association. In profile it had moderately sloping irregular concave sides and a concave base (Secs. 39 and 42 – Fig. 6). The fills were mid-dark brownish-orangish-grey sandy-silts and in total produced nine sherds of LIA-AD 60/70 pottery (45g), one sherd of early Roman pottery (4g) and twelve sherds of Roman pottery (48g), as well as worked and burnt flint, fired clay and lava quern stone.

A fairly large posthole was recorded as 0242 within the base of cut 0240 and may have been truncated by it (Sec. 42 – Fig. 6). The cut was 0.67m long x >0.38m wide x 0.35m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained mid grey silty-sand fill 0243, mottled with orange sand, which produced two sherds of LIA-early Roman pottery (20g), one sherd of late 1st-end century pottery (5g) and two sherds of Roman pottery (14g), fired clay and worked and burnt flint.

Ditch 0016/0103 (evaluation and monitoring)

Within evaluation Trench 2 and the monitoring of the footings for the new playground a ditch was recorded on a south-west to north-east alignment, identical to DGs 0298 and 0312 in the excavation (Fig. 5). Ditch 0016 ran straight across Trench 2 and had steep sides and a fairly flat base and appeared to cut pit 0018 (Sec. 7). Fill 0017 was mid brownish-grey sandy-silt and contained animal bone and pottery dated to the early-late 2nd century. Where recorded as cut 0103 in the monitoring, this feature was 0.34m deep x 0.68m wide, with steep concave sides and a slightly concave base (Sec. 21). The fill was pale yellowish-brown sandy-silt with stones and occasional charcoal flecks, recorded as 0104. This produced one Iron Age pottery sherd (14g), six sherds of LIA-AD 60/70 pottery (12g) and nine sherds of Roman pottery (55g), and CBM. No other features were recorded within the footing trenches for the classroom block, but a single pit and soil layer were recorded as 0105 and 0108 in a ramp trench to the north (Sec. 24).

Ditch group 0310

Ditch group 0310 ran on a north-west to south-east alignment across the site from the southern edge. It appeared to possibly terminate within and cut grave 0213, but this was very unclear as it was quite shallow and the area was root disturbed. There were also no clear stratigraphic relationships between the ditch and either DG 0298 or 0311. Where excavated in cut 0239 it produced two sherds of LIA-early Roman pottery (26g), one sherd of mid 1st-early/mid end pottery (24g) and ten sherds of Roman pottery (47g), as well as CBM and worked flint. It had a shallow, concave profile, measuring up to 0.46m wide x 0.13m deep in cut 0218 (Secs. 37 and 41 – Fig. 6).

Ditch group 0312

Ditch 0312 was shallow, irregular and quite disturbed by a modern service trench. Where excavated with grave cut 0283 it had become poorly defined and was only 0.3m wide. It was thought on site to have cut the grave, although this would suggest that the inhumation was particularly early, and it is thought more likely that there was simply some disturbance within the grave. Elsewhere the ditch was up to 0.8m wide, with a concave base and sides. It was excavated as cut 0269, 0271, 0285 and 0306, but only fill 0270 produced finds, comprising six sherds of LIA-AD 60/70 pottery (50g) and two

sherds of Roman pottery (13g) and animal bone. The fills, 0268, 0270 and 0284 were dark brownish-grey sandy-silt, whilst 0305 was a mixed orangish-grey deposit.

4.5.2 Pits and other features

Pit/posthole 0105 and layer 0108

Within one of the ramp footing trenches associated with the new classroom, a pit or posthole was recorded as 0105, cutting through dark soil layer 0108 (interpreted on site as a possible occupation deposit). The pit was >0.84m long x >0.22m wide x 0.58m deep and contained a basal fill of orange and brown clayey-sand, 0107, which produced no finds. Above this, fill 0106 produced six sherds of LIA-AD 60/70 pottery (53g) and three Roman sherds (6g), one fragment of CBM and three worked flints, and was dark orangish-brown clayey-sand. The cut had steep to near-vertical sides and a slightly sloping base. Layer 0108 was a 0.42m deep deposit of mid-dark brown clayey-sand that produced one LIA-AD 60/70 sherd (41g) and one Roman pot sherd (12g) and it overlaid the natural geology.

Pit 0006 (evaluation)

Emerging from the west edge of Trench 2 was a shallow pit recorded as 0006 (Sec. 6 – Fig. 5). It appeared to be oval in plan with a NNW-SSE alignment and fairly steep sides coming to a slightly irregular base. The fill, 0007, was difficult to define from disturbed subsoil layer 0024, but it produced seven sherds of pottery that were given a mid-late 1st century date. It was not possible to identify the cut again in the monitoring phase of works.

4.6 Phase 5 – early-mid 2nd century

4.6.1 Cremation burial evidence

Cremation 0201/0254

(Figs. 3, 4 and 7, Pl. 1)

Details

Dimensions: 0.74m x 0.5m x 0.1m deep

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Container for burial: Urn for the remains, probable wooden container and clay lining

Sex/age: Male(?)/middle-aged or older

*Spot date: c.*AD 117-150

Radiocarbon date:

68.2% probability –	95.4% probability –
AD 234-263 (24.2%)	AD 141-197 (7.6%)
AD 276-329 (44.0%)	AD 209-346 (87.8%)

Description

Introduction: The single cremation found on the site produced a set of ceramic vessel grave goods as well as a cinerary urn containing the cremated bone of a middle-aged or older individual who was probably male. The cremation was dated to the early to mid 2nd century (although the radiocarbon date spans into the 4th century). The burial was recorded under group number 0201 and cut number 0254 (Pls. 1 and 10, Figs. 3, 4 and 7). Unlike the inhumations, this burial did not intersect with any other features and was possibly deliberately respected the nearby ditches. The style of the cremation, in terms of its grave goods and possible use of a wooden container indicates a very classical/Romanised funeral rite, according to Taylor (2001).

Construction and fill: The cremation had been constructed in a somewhat elaborate manner. Sub-rectangular pit 0254 had originally been dug on a roughly east to west alignment. It was subsequently lined with a deposit of greyish-yellow clay which was up to 0.1m thick and recorded as 0253. This material must have been imported to the site as there were no pure natural clay deposits recorded (although clay geology is present nearby, e.g. at Bull Lane, *c.*500m to the north). An organic container was inserted into

the pit (leaving a rectangular depression) to house the urn and other vessels, and a series of nails recovered from the edges of this (at least five could be clearly identified) suggests that it was a wooden box. Another argument is that these represent nails from a coffin or other wood that was burnt on the funeral pyre. However, there is no indication that they were heated or associated with any charcoal.

The fill from inside the clay lining, recorded as 0252, was dark brown firm clayey-silt, with small and medium varied flints, as well as one fragment of sheep/goat bone and an unidentified copper alloy fragment, recorded as SF 1060 (0.03g). This was made up of the decomposed wooden funerary container, any material that it housed and any other matter that had fallen into the cremation.

Cinerary urn and grave goods

Four pottery vessels found within the cremation consisted of the cinerary urn, a flagon, a beaker and a samian dish (Pls. 1 and 10). Excluding the dish, each of the vessels had suffered fairly extensive post-depositional damage during the machine stripping of the site. None of the pots were inverted, suggesting that they may have contained food and drink when buried. However, it is interesting to note that both the handles had become detached in antiquity from the samian dish and that one was recovered from the fill of the cinerary urn during its post-excavation processing. It is thought very unlikely that the handle had snapped off post-deposition and become integrated into the urn fill through natural purposes, with the most likely premise being that it became incorporated deliberately within the urn fill during the burial rite.

SF 1043 The urn was positioned at the east end of the cremation. As with the other vessels in the burial, this had been quite badly damaged during excavation, but did not appear to have moved noticeably from its original position. A single broken handle from SF 1046 was recovered whilst the fill of the urn was being removed during post-excavation. The pot is dated as mid/late 1st-2nd/3rd century.

SF 1044 Positioned in the south-west corner of the cremation, the flagon was *in-situ*, despite having suffered damage during the site strip. This vessel had a white deposit in places on its inner surface and a possible lime deposit on parts of its exterior, similar to a vessel from grave 0302. This vessel is dated as mid 1st/early 2nd-early 3rd century.

SF 1045 The beaker was positioned in the north-west corner of the burial, on top of the samian dish (SF 1046) and is dated as late 1st-2nd century.

SF 1046 In the north-west corner of the cremation's clay lining, the samian dish was recovered, with SF 1045 placed on top of it and the flagon to the south/slightly overlying the dish. Neither of the two original strap handles were still attached to the side of the dish, but one was recovered from the contents of the urn (SF 1043). The dish is dated as Hadrianic (AD 117-138).

4.6.2 Non-funerary contexts

Ditch group 0025, posthole 0013 and posthole group 0288

One ditch was recorded in this phase as DG 0025, which was distinctive from those in Phase 4, given its stratigraphy, form in plan and apparent incorporation of a number of postholes (Figs. 3 and 4). The ditch was excavated as cuts 0005, 0022 (evaluation contexts) and 0286 with concave sides and a concave base (Sec. 56 – Fig. 6). Where it terminated (cut 0022), the ditch had a sub-rectangular form, that differentiated it from the other ditch termini in the earlier phases. It contained mid greyish-brown sandy silt fills that produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery (8g), twenty-six sherds of LIA-AD 60/70 pottery (185g), twenty-three sherds of 1st/late 1st-2nd/3rd century pottery (221g) and sixty-six sherds of Roman pottery (585g). The ditch measured 1.1m wide x 0.37m deep. It is worth noting that the only other ditch cut on site that incorporated a posthole was DG 0309, which terminated close to DG 0025 and on a similar alignment. However, DG 0025 cut the northern edge of DG 0309, indicating that they were from at least different sub-phases of occupation, although they potentially represented similar types of activity and continuity.

In the base of DG 0025 was posthole 0013, which had steep sides and a flat base (fully illustrated in Brooks, 2011). It was *c*.1.05m long, following the line of the ditch and contained two deposits, consisting of post-packing fill 0012 and the main fill 0011, which produced six sherds of LIA-AD 60/70 pottery (86g), three sherds of mid 1st-2nd century pottery and ten Roman sherds (58g), along with five nails. Its relationship with the ditch was unclear, and it may have been a contemporary post, specifically positioned within the cut (Sec. 1 – Fig. 6).

To the west of cut 0013, a further line of possible shallow postholes was recorded as cuts 0290, 0292, 0294 and 0296 (Sec. 56 – Fig. 6). These formed up to four roughly circular features in plan, measuring from 0.22-0.39m wide x 0.25-0.43m long x 0.13-0.18m deep. The cuts were all somewhat irregular, with shallow to steep sides and slightly concave bases. None of the cuts had a clear relationship with DG 0025 and all were filled with mid brownish-grey silty-sand that produced no finds.

Plate 1. Cremation group 0201 (facing north, 0.3m and 0.4m scales)

4.7 Phase 6 – Roman inhumations – mid 2nd-3rd century

4.7.1 Inhumation burial evidence

Grave 0213 and posthole 0215

(Figs. 3, 4 and 7, Pl. 2)

Details

Dimensions: >2.16m x 1.55m x 0.6m deep
Orientation: ENE-WSW
Container for body: Coffin (indicated by the presence of coffin nails)
Skeleton number: 0258
Height: 1.717m/5' 7-8"
Sex/age: Male/middle aged
Body position: Supine, hands by torso/waist, skull displaced to left humerus. Head to ENE end.
Spot date: 2nd – 3rd century
Radiocarbon date: AD 126-216 (68.2% probability) or AD 83-323 (95.4% probability)

Description

Cut: A large rectangular grave cut, on a similar west-south-west to east-north-east alignment as DGs 0298 and 0312. The western edge extended beyond the limit of excavation and the cut was notably large, as was the case with grave 0235/skeleton 0301, even though both inhumations were in coffins/containers. In profile the cut had near-vertical to vertical sloping sides, which were in places slightly concave, with a sharply curving break of slope to the flat base.

Skeletal arrangement: The skeleton was largely intact, but various elements were missing or had moved somewhat. Most noticeably the skull had shifted lower and to the left hand side of the ribcage/left humerus, while the right hand though largely articulated, was to the right of the main skeletal assemblage. The layout of the skeleton is thought to have been affected by coffin collapse, decomposition of the body and possibly root or animal disturbance.

Fills: Two fills were recorded within the cut. The uppermost fill, recorded as 0214, was mid to light brown silty-sand and produced a near complete pot and a hairpin (SFs 1042 and 1047 – discussed below), as well as fifty-one mid 1st-early 2nd century pottery sherds (810g), four worked flints, eleven heated flints, twenty-six pieces of cattle, sheep/goat and other mammal bones, and one piece of fired clay. Much if not all of this material was clearly residual or redeposited. The lower horizon of fill 0214 was hard to define against basal fill 0274, presumably because they were backfilled at the same time and because of the collapse and shift of the coffin and skeleton. Fill 0274 was up to 0.25m thick and recorded as dark brown sandy-silt that produced a further small find (a smith's punch – SF 1062). Other finds from this deposit consisted of 114 sherds of Late Iron Age-mid/late 1st century and 2nd century pottery (1125g), two fragments of CBM (89g), one piece of fired clay, forty-seven iron nails, eleven worked flints and sixty-five pieces of cattle, sheep/goat and other mammal bone (409g). The relatively dark colouration of the fills is noted as being unusual as it was unlike the natural sand and silt geology that would have been excavated if the grave had been cut into an undisturbed area and backfilled with the same material. This suggests that the grave was cut through a feature (or features, such as DG 0310) containing darker material, which was then used to also backfill the hole. Organic grave goods could also have been incorporated, but there was no definitive proof for this.

Coffin evidence: A minimum number of forty-seven nails were recovered from this grave, forming several alignments. Their positions could only be plotted roughly as many were intermingled with the skeleton, whilst the dry and compacted grave fill resulted in most of the remainder being dislodged from their original positions during excavation (as such the positions of plotted nails on the grave plan are representative, rather than fully accurate). However, it was clear that parallel lines of nails mirrored the alignment of the skeleton; one to the south-east of and slightly away from the remains, whilst the other ran the length of the right hand side, interspersed with the bones. Two further alignments of nails were also recorded; one curvilinear arrangement beyond the limit of the feet and one running north from the right humerus. Given the positions of the nails, the right hand, the skull and the general misalignment of the skeleton, it appears that the coffin had collapsed and that the body had moved quite significantly as well (Fig. 7). It is possible that some the disturbance was also caused by animal or root

interference. This grave contained the most nails, although grave 0235/0302 contained at least seventeen nails, probably also signifying the presence of a coffin or open box.

Posthole 0215: A small possible posthole cut, located near the northern corner of the grave was recorded as 0215, and appeared to be cut by the grave. It had a rounded northern edge and concave sides, and measured >0.39m x >0.12m x 0.12m deep. The fill was mid brown silty-sand 0216 and produced no finds. As very little of this feature was revealed, it is unclear if it was a true cut, or perhaps the result of disturbance or natural processes.

Grave goods and other small finds

Three small finds were retrieved from this grave, but it is likely that only the pottery jar was actually a deliberately deposited grave good. The levels of disturbance (from the coffin collapse) within the grave made it unclear whether this had originally been placed upright, inverted, or on its side.

SF 1042 A narrow-necked pottery jar was excavated at the lower horizon of upper fill 0214, located just outside of the coffin/the southern line of nails, to the left of the skeleton, lying on its side (Pl. 11). Given the amount of movement associated with the coffin and the skeleton, this may not have been the pot's original location (it may have been on the coffin lid, given that nails were recorded underneath it). The jar is of a mid/late 1st-2nd/3rd century date and the rim had a single chip missing.

SF 1047 At the far northern edge of the cut a late 1st-2nd century hairpin (SF 1047) was excavated that had lost its tip, from the lower horizon of fill 0214. This is of the type Cool Group 3 sub-group A (Cool, 1991, 148-182). It is unclear, given its position, whether this was buried purposefully within the grave, or had become incorporated accidentally, but the latter option seems more likely.

SF 1062 A bronze smith's punch was retrieved from basal fill 0274, but this may also be residual. The piece is in two parts, is heavily corroded and roughly square in section. It may be related to the metal-working activity suggested by other earlier finds from the site.

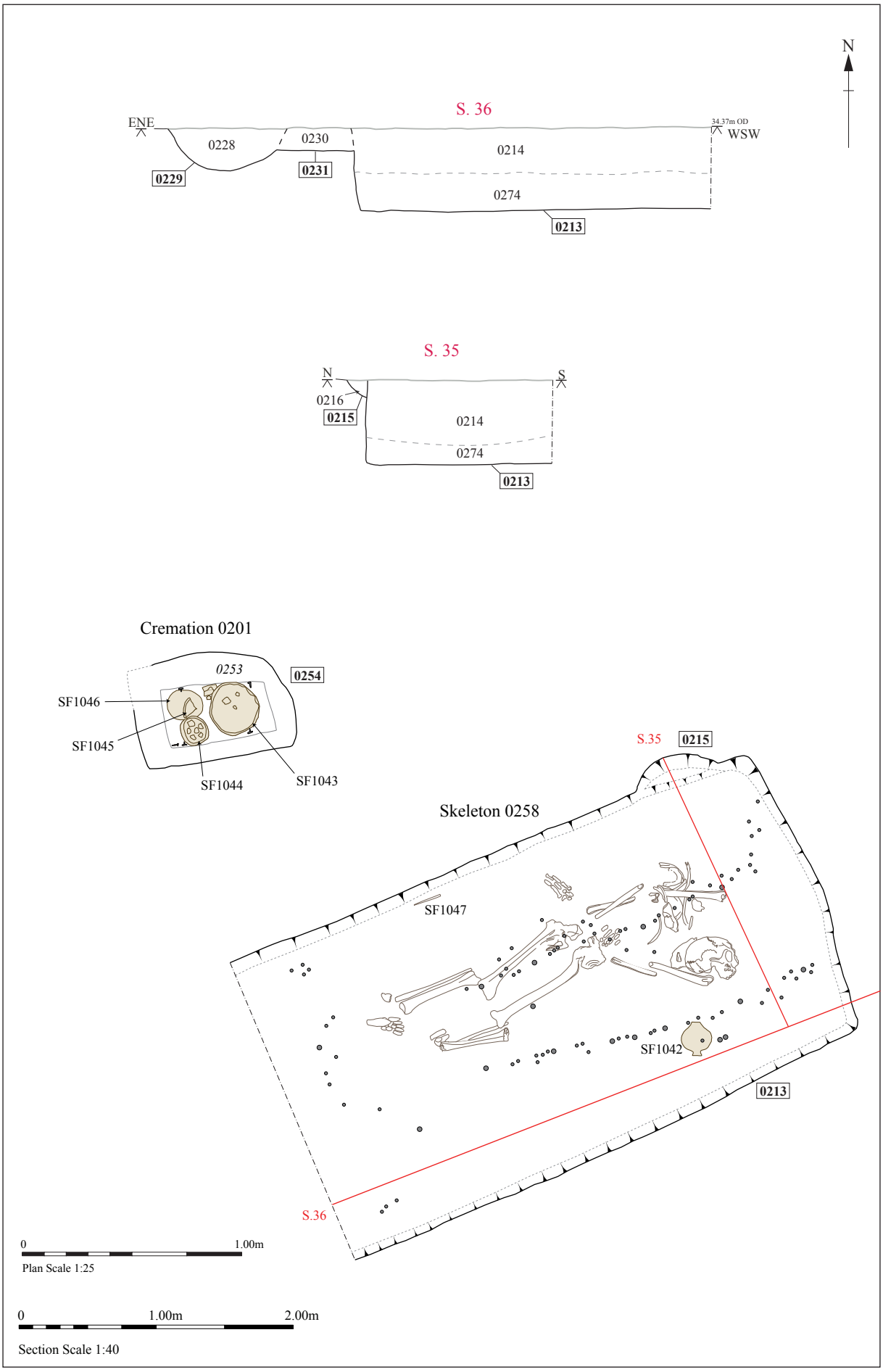


Figure 7. Cremation 0201 and grave 0213 plans and sections

Plate 2. Skeleton 0258 in grave 0213 (facing south-west, large scales are 1m long, smaller scales have 0.1m increments)

Grave 0235/0302 and horse burial pit 0257

(Figs. 3, 4 and 8, Pls. 3-7)

Details

Dimensions: 0235 – 3.05m x 1.6m x 0.7m deep
0302 – 2.15m x 1.2m x up to 0.77m deep

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Container for body: Open box structure/coffin (indicated by the presence of nails and the stratigraphy)

Skeleton numbers: 0301a (main skeleton) and 0301b/SF 1053 (child's skeletal fragments)

Height for 0301a: 1.65m/5' 5"

Sex/age for 0301a: Female/young to middle-aged

*Age for 0301b/SF 1053: c.*4 years

Body positions: Supine, located entirely within cut 0302, but heavily disturbed, with the left tibia and fibula angled up and away from the body, one rib located across the top of the skull, the left ulna located to the south-west of the skull, and the humeri at right angles to the body. Some remains of the hands were located by the torso. The head was located at the SSE end of the grave. Skull fragment 0301b/SF 1053 was found alongside the skull of 0301a (Pl. 6). The remainder of the child's skeleton (one femur and teeth) was only identified post-excavation.

Spot date: AD 160 – early 3rd century

Radiocarbon date for skeleton 0301a: 49 BC – AD 24 (68.2% probability) or 101 BC – AD 62 (95.4% probability)

Radiocarbon date for horse burial: AD 74-131 (68.2% probability) or AD 56-214 (95.4% probability)

Description

Cuts and alignments: Large, rectangular grave cut 0235 was aligned on a north-north-west to south-south-east axis similar to grave 0283, and DGs 0309 and 0311. It had a similar profile to the other inhumations, with steep sides and a flat base. During the excavation of this feature, a further very clear, but smaller rectangular cut on the same alignment was recorded as grave 0302, within 0235 (see Sections 40 and 51 – Fig. 8). This was positioned a little off centre (to the south) within the larger feature (0235 was

both longer and wider, though in places not quite as deep). The skeletal remains, grave goods and coffin nails were located entirely within the later ‘cut’ (0302), showing that they were associated with this. It was clear that 0302 was a separate event within the burial sequence. It is theorised that after the initial excavation of 0235 (dug shortly beforehand in preparation for the burial) it may have been quite substantially backfilled, with this relatively loose material possibly retained by a shroud, leaving the necessary space for the placing of both bodies, coffin and grave goods. Alternatively, an open topped box structure may have been used to retain the backfilled material around the edges, with the human remains then placed and the box structure then being shut and the remainder of the grave backfilled. The depression/trampling caused by the placing of a wooden container could account for the slight extra depth of cut 0302 in places.

A theory was formulated to explain similar large burial cuts when they were encountered at the Butt Road cemetery. Here it was suggested that those without a family plot but who wished to be buried with their relatives could essentially book a spot by pre-excavating it and marking its edges with mounds created from the soil excavated from the burial pit. It would then be maintained until the required burials had taken place (Crummy, Crummy and Crossan, 1993, 98). A further level of interpretation was added by Taylor. This added that the large size of the earlier cut was in order to permit the careful sequential interring of a group, allowing for burial without disturbing the first inhumation (2001). However, this does not explain why only the two burials were present (one being possibly residual as well), fairly tightly packed together within the grave. A less likely interpretation is that a large initial grave cut may have been dug prior to the ground freezing in winter, to allow for multiple interments. However, being only needed for the child and adult inhumations it was largely backfilled.

Skeletal remains: The main and most intact skeleton was recorded as 0301a, aligned with the skull at the southern end of the grave cut and excavated in basal spit 0300. Much of the adult skeleton appeared to have shifted to quite a degree, post-deposition. For example, the plan indicates that one of the ribs was recovered lying directly across the top of the skull, at some distance away from the ribcage, whilst what appears to be the left humerus had also moved significantly from its natural position, being located to the south-west of the skull. Also, the right humerus was at a right angle to the body, overlying its associated radius and ulna, whilst the radius and ulna of the left arm was

raised and close to the skull, parallel to the humerus. Whilst the layout of the skeleton had probably come about as the body decomposed and as the coffin collapsed, the high levels of disturbance recorded here may be the result of some other process, perhaps root or animal disturbance. However, the initial excavation of this grave did not fully recognise the number of bones present from the child burial (detailed below), which may help to partially explain the seemingly disturbed layout.

Plate 3. Mid-excavation photo, showing grave 0302 with dark fill and the orange fill of 0235 (facing west-south-west, 1m scale)

A fragment of skull, a right femur shaft and two teeth (0301b/SF 1053), thought to be from a *c.*4 year old child were also recovered with skeleton 0301a (Pl. 6). Only the skull fragment was identified as being from a different individual during excavation (positioned close to the skull of the main burial), with the remainder separated out during post-excavation. The inclusion might be a deliberate choice if the pair were in some way related in life. This does not explain the significant shortage of the child's remains though, unless being more fragile they were more prone to decomposition. These fragments could also be from an earlier burial within the same feature, or could possibly indicate the accidental incorporation of material from an unrelated burial/ context during backfilling.

Fills: Details of the finds (excluding grave goods) from the fills in this grave are given in Table 2. The uppermost layer was a dark grey-brown silty-sand, 0231, interpreted as a buried topsoil layer that had either slumped or been specifically backfilled into the cut. Under this fill was deposit 0232, a mid orange-brown silty-sand which made up the main backfill of cut 0302. This overlaid a mid-dark grey-brown silty-sand layer recorded as 0233. The basal deposit of cut 0302 was 0300. This was an arbitrary 0.1m thick spit consisting mainly of fill 0233, but which was given a different number as it was also slightly mixed with fill 0232 and because separating the fills became more awkward around the skeleton. This contained the skeletal remains as well as a flagon (SF 1051) two stamped samian dishes (SFs 1049 and 1050) and iron nails (the latter being located around the body). In total 111 sherds (2254g) of residual pottery were recovered from the fills of grave 0302. This material was somewhat mixed, including a small assemblage of abraded later Iron Age pottery, alongside material of mid 1st-later 2nd century date that was less worn. Worked flint, CBM, fired clay and heated flint were also recovered from these fills.

The single fill of feature 0235 was recorded as 0234, 0289 and 0304, which looked as if it had been cut through by grave 0302 or abutted its edges and which was found along the inner edge of the earlier cut from the top of the profile to the base. This deposit, though given three fill numbers (to represent the different sections it was recorded in) was consistently described as mid brownish-orange firm silty-sand, with occasional chalk flecks and moderate levels of small flints, and it produced thirty fragments (317g) of animal bone (where recorded as 0289 along the northern edge of the grave and where the deposit as at its most substantial). The deposit was much closer in appearance to the surrounding natural geology than fills 0231, 0232 and 0233 of inner cut 0302. Before it became clear that there were two ‘cuts’ (0235 and 0302) being excavated, fill 0234/0289/0304 was interpreted as the slumping sides of the grave where cut 0235 had partially collapsed in on itself after excavation.

Context and position	Interpretation	Finds
0234, 0289 and 0304, basal/only fill from cut 0235	Redeposited natural deliberate backfill	- 0234 – None - 0289 – Animal bone – thirty fragments (298g) of equid, unidentified mammal, sheep/goat and pig/boar - 0304 – None
0231, upper fill of cut 0302	Ancient topsoil horizon, slumped into top of grave	- Pottery – eighty-six sherds (1004g), pre-Roman, Late Iron Age-AD 60/70 and E-L 2nd century - Animal bone – twenty-eight fragments (461g) of cattle, equid, sheep/goat, pig/boar and unidentified mammal - Two fragments of CBM (1167g), fifteen pieces of fired clay, four worked and twenty-five heated flints
0232, main backfill of 0302, below 0231	Mixed geological and occupation deposit	- Pottery – sixty-seven sherds (1202g), Roman - Animal bone – forty-eight fragments (665g) of cattle, equid, sheep/goat, pig/boar, bird and unidentified mammal - Two pieces of CBM, one piece of fired clay, twelve worked and five heated flints
0233, lowest separately recorded fill of 0302, below 0232	Somewhat organic occupation deposit	No recorded finds – collected under 0300.
0300, mixed basal 0.1m deep spit within 0302	Mainly consists of 0233, with some of 0232	- Pottery – thirty-six sherds (1788g), Iron Age, Late Iron Age-AD 60/70, Roman, mid 1st-early 2nd century - Animal bone – Nineteen fragments (337g) of cattle, equid and mammal bones - Two pieces of fired clay, twenty pieces of iron (seventeen of which are definitely nails), four heated and three burnt flints - Grave goods (see below) and skeletal remains

Table 2. Finds from grave 0235/0302 (whole ceramic grave goods detailed below)

Excluding contexts 0234/0289/0304, fills 0231-0233/0300 appeared to be a mixture of material, including some clearly partially organic mixed sandy fills that were possibly the remnants of earlier feature and their fills that had been disturbed during the excavation of the grave.

Open box/coffin evidence: Twenty iron fragments were recovered from the grave, of which at least seventeen were nails. The plan shows these scattered around the adult skeleton and they may indicate that the bodies had been placed within a coffin. Further nails may not have survived in the soil conditions on site and some iron fragments that were initially collected and then quantified were shown to not be nails on closer inspection. A single nail (SF 1052) was recovered from near the chin of the adult skeleton that has what appears to be human bone attached to the shaft. Given that both skeletons were located within cut 0302, and if both are contemporary then they may have been interred within the same container. Such behaviour has been recorded previously around the country, such as at Bow, London, where a mid 3rd-late 4th century burial of two adults were contained within a stone coffin (Schwab, 1973).

Grave goods and other small finds

Pl. 12

Three vessels, recorded as small finds were retrieved from this burial and are recognised as grave goods (Pls. 4, 5 and 12). They were placed within the basal fill/spit (0300), by the lower legs/feet of the body.

SF 1049 A stamped samian bowl (AD 150-175), found inverted and close to the north-east corner of cut 0302. The bowl was whole and showed little or no use wear.

SF 1050 A stamped samian dish (AD 160-200), partially covered by the legs (although this may have happened post-deposition) and placed inverted. This item had small chips in places, indicating possible use wear, or damage during or after deposition.

SF 1051 A coarseware flagon (SF 1051 – early 2nd-early 3rd century). As with the dish, this showed possible use wear in the form of small chips. It was found on its side, in the area of the feet, but it was unclear how the flagon had been placed originally.

Horse burial pit

The incomplete remains of a horse (0256 – 173 fragments, 4156g) had been buried in a pit, recorded as 0257 (Pl. 7). The remains include the skull, a few vertebrae and the partial remains of two legs and make up 82.38% of the total number of equid fragments from the site. Whilst the legs appeared to be articulated, as did the skull and the vertebrae, the two groups of bones were not adjacent to each other. However, their positioning suggested that they might have been positioned to mimic articulation/a natural pose. The surviving skeletal material was only slightly smaller than the pit itself, suggesting that the feature was specifically dug to house them. Nine further equid bone fragments were also recovered from the fills of grave 0235/0302, with twenty-eight fragments from other features across the site.

The pit measured 0.94m x 0.84m x 0.32m deep and contained fill 0255, which was mid-dark greyish-brown silty-sand, similar to fills 0231 and 0233 within grave 0302. In plan, the cut was roughly circular, with steep concave sides and a concave base. Finds from the pit included twenty-seven sherds (290g) of LIA-*c.*AD 60/70 pottery, as well as worked flint.

The feature truncated lower fill 0234 of grave 0235 (Section 45, Fig. 8), but did not make contact with the fills of cut 0302 (that contained the human remains and grave goods), so the sequence of the pit and upper cut 0302 could not be defined. As such it is possible that the pit is no older than the later cut and its fills, which fits (if loosely) with the radiocarbon date from the horse remains of AD 56-214. With this in mind and considering the similarity of the pit fill to grave fills 0231 and 0233, as well as the proximity of the features, the burial of the horse may have been a burial rite associated with the inhumation. However, this is speculative and the pit and horse may simply just be evidence of disposal of part of the carcass. However, this does not explain what was done with the remainder of the equid remains, or why they were separated from those recovered in the pit.

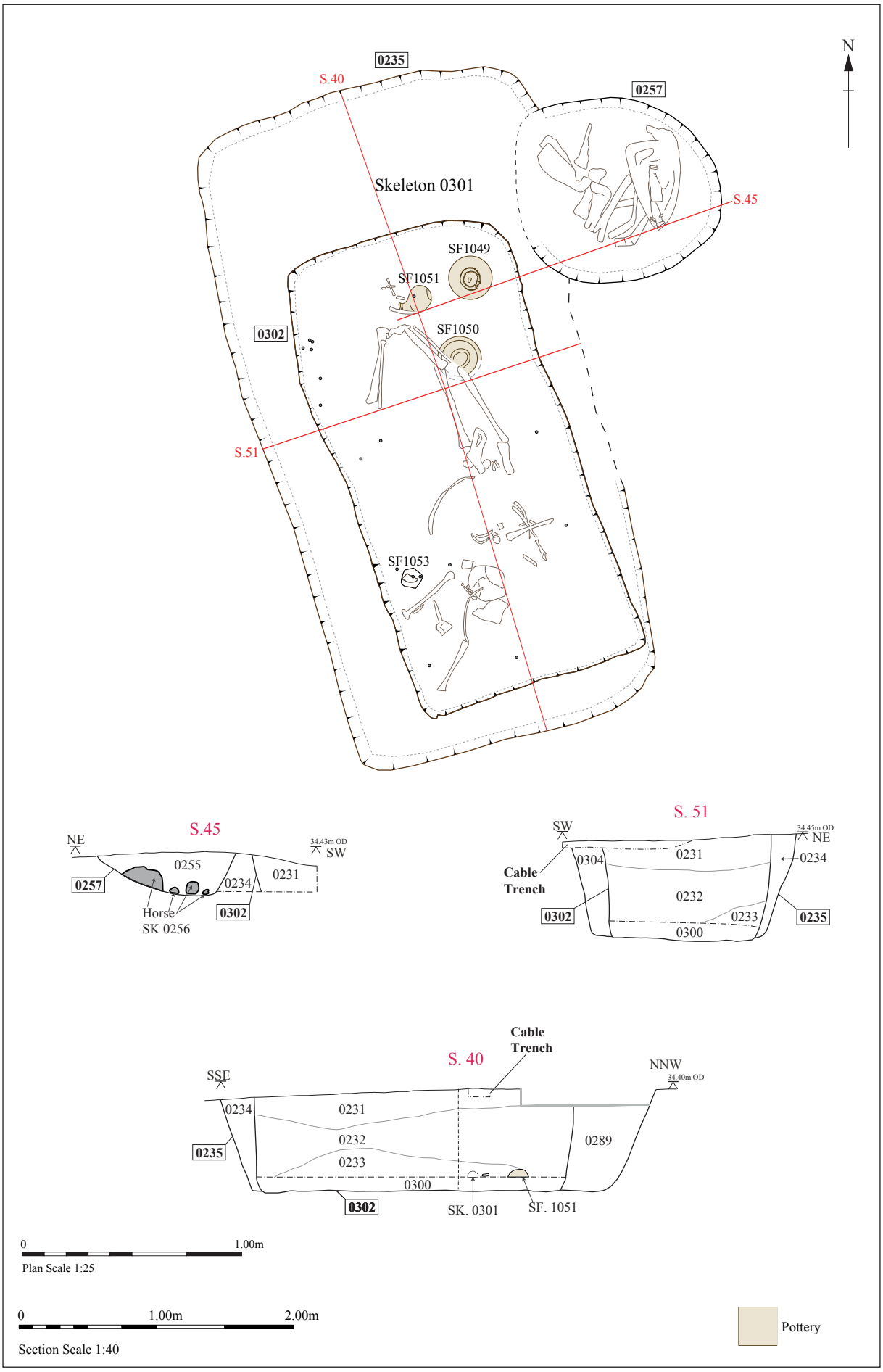


Figure 8. Grave 0235/0302 and pit 0257 plans and sections

Plate 4. Skeleton 0301a in grave 0235/0302 (facing south-east, 1m and 2m scales)

Plate 5. Skeleton 0301a in grave 0235/0302 (facing north-west, 1m and 2m scales)

Plate 6. Skull fragment SF 1053, from skeleton 0301b, adjacent to skeleton 0301a (facing north, 0.4m scale)

Plate 7. Burial of horse skeleton 0256 within pit 0257 (facing east, 0.4m and 0.5m scales)

Grave 0283 and pit 0263/0281

(Figs. 3, 4, 6 and 9, Pls. 8 and 9)

Details

Dimensions: 2.32m x 1m x 0.43m deep

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Container for body: No evidence

Skeleton number: 0303

Height: Uncertain

Sex/age: Female(?)/middle aged+

Body position: Appears supine, head to SSE

Date: 2nd – 3rd century (based on alignment similar to grave 0235/0302)

Radiocarbon date for skeleton:

68.2% probability –
AD 76-143 (55.2%)
AD 155-168 (5.9%)
AD 195-209 (7.1%)

95.4% probability -
AD 66-225 (95.4%)

Description

Cut and relationships: A further grave cut with an identical alignment to grave 0235, and DGs 0309 and 0311 was recorded as 0283. It was rectangular, with vertical sides and a fairly flat base that sloped somewhat towards the centre. The cut for this grave was markedly smaller than the large cuts for 0213 and 0235. The grave truncated DG 0298, but was itself cut by feature 0263/0281 (Pl. 8). Its relationship with DG 0312 was unclear in section (with 0312 recorded on site as possibly cutting 0283), but the ditch group was almost certainly earlier, taking into account the overall phasing of the site, the date range of the other inhumations and the finds evidence from the ditch.

Fill: The cut contained a single fill of mid greyish-yellow silty-sand, which was recorded as 0282. Burnt flint, as well as four sherds (42g) of late Iron Age to early Roman/AD 60/70 pottery and three sherds of Roman pottery (22g) were recovered from the fill, with the pottery varying from being slightly abraded to abraded. No grave goods were recovered from the grave, but three nails were retrieved. Given the presence of nails across the site, such a small number could well be residual, rather than evidence for a coffin.

Skeleton: Skeleton 0303 was that of a middle-aged+ female, and although only a small amount of the skeleton survived (comprising the skull and pieces of the lower legs), this appeared to be largely *in-situ,* surviving at the base of the feature, with the skull at the southern end of the cut.

Plate 8. Grave 0283 with skeleton 0303 in brownish-orange fill, truncated by pit 0263/0281 with darker fill to middle/right (facing north-north-west, 1m scale)

Pit 0263/0281

Cutting grave 0283 was a sub-rectangular/linear feature, aligned roughly north to south, mirroring the grave fairly closely in size and shape in plan. It measured *c.*2.4m long x *c.*0.75m wide x 0.48m deep (making it slightly longer than grave 0283, in places deeper, but not as wide) and had steep sides and a relatively flat base. It was originally interpreted as part of a posthole and recorded as 0263, before its full extent was excavated and it was re-numbered as 0281. However, its parallels in size, shape and alignment to the grave cut tended to indicate that it was in some way associated. Three fills are associated with 0263 and 0281, recorded as 0264, 0265, 0267 and 0280. They varied from orange-grey to grey-brown silty-sand, with 0265 and 0267 producing seven sherds of slightly abraded to abraded LIA-AD 60/70/early Roman pottery (157g), along with iron nails, burnt flint and animal bone.

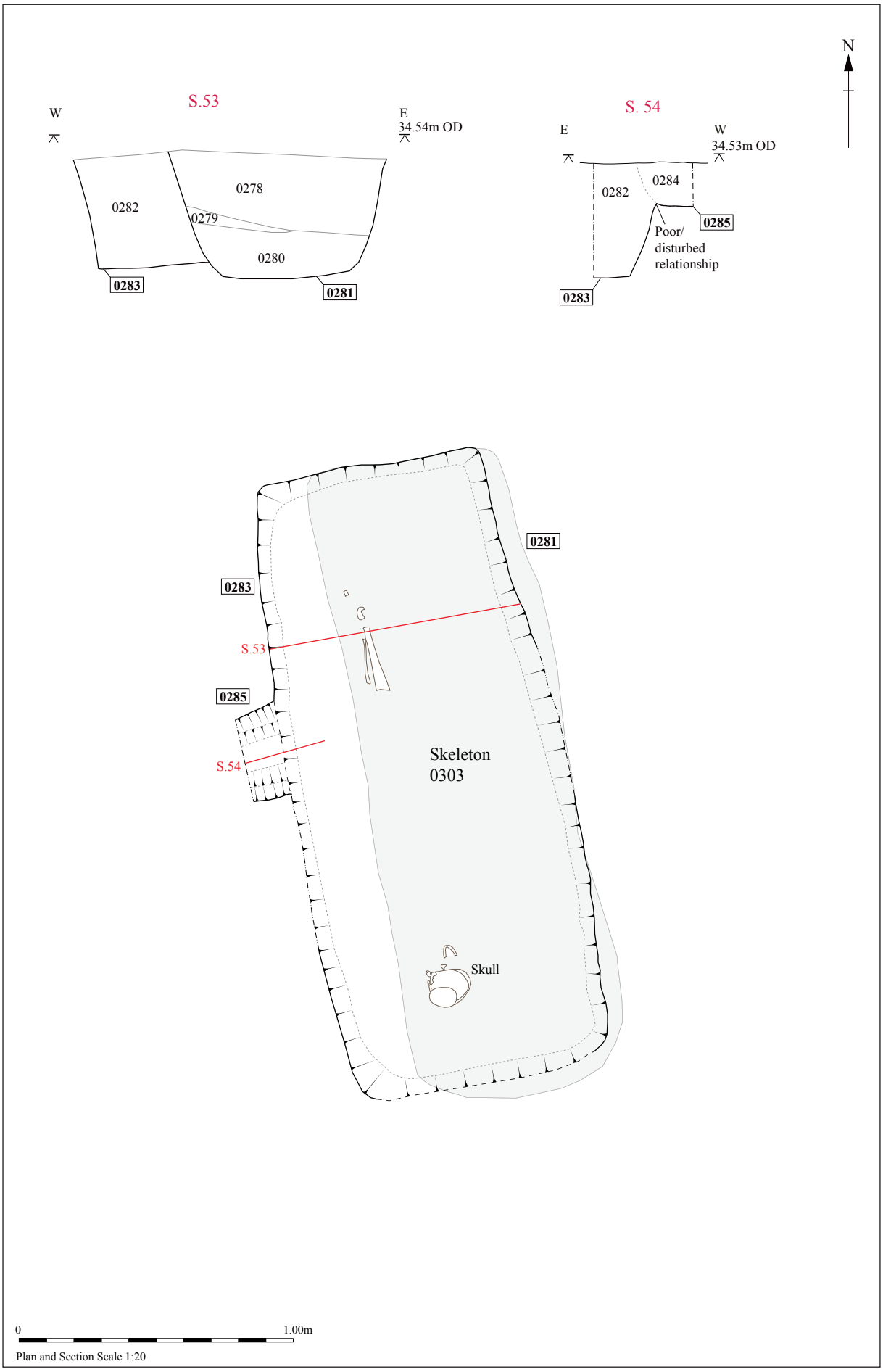


Figure 9. Grave 0283 and pit 0263/0281 (greyed outline) plan and sections

Plate 9. Skeleton 0303 in grave 0283 (facing south, 0.5m and 1m scales)

5. The finds evidence

Andy Fawcett and Stephen Benfield

5.1 Introduction

Bulk finds were retrieved from burials (three inhumation graves and one cremation), ditches, pits, postholes, soil layers and as unstratified collection. The quantities of finds collected from the evaluation, monitoring and excavation are shown in Table 3. Relevant finds retrieved as part of the environmental sampling strategy have also been included. The finds are listed by context in Appendix 4.

Find type	No	Wgt/g
Pottery	1005	13759
CBM	20	1753
Fired clay	46	142
Worked flint	84	1502
Burnt flint	127	292
Lava quern stone	53	44
Iron nails	144	854
Animal bone	884	10187
Shell	3	13
Total	**2366**	**28546**

Table 3. Bulk finds quantities

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Introduction

In total 1005 sherds weighing 13759g with a total EVE of 11.56 were recorded from the evaluation, monitoring and excavation. Some of the pottery recovered from the environmental samples has not been utilised and this lesser amount is reflected in the pottery totals within the report below. The assemblage is predominantly dated to the LIA/Roman period with a small quantity of prehistoric pottery also identified. No post-Roman pottery is present within the assemblage. An overview of the pottery is presented below and a complete contextual breakdown of the pottery assemblage can be seen in Appendix 5.

5.2.2 Methodology

All of the pottery has been examined at x20 vision and allocated to fabric groups. Codes have been assigned to these groups using the Suffolk fabric series (SCCAS) and form types (where possible) have been recorded using the Suffolk form types series (unpub.) which is supplemented by Going's Chelmsford catalogue (1987) and other publications where necessary. All of the pottery has been recorded by sherd count, weight and EVE.

Iron Age

Fourteen contexts contained residual sherds of pottery dating from the earlier to Middle/Late Iron Age. These include four grave fills (0231, 0232, 0274 and 0300), eight ditch fills (0104, 0202, 0224, 0228, 0244, 0262, 0277 and 0299) one pit (0204) and the unstratified context 0200. Table 4 shows a breakdown of the identified fabrics and their respective quantities.

Fabric	Code	No	%	Wgt/g	%	EVE	%
Handmade flint tempered ware	HMF	3	8	7	1.5	-	-
Handmade grog tempered ware	HMG	2	6	12	2.5	-	-
Handmade grog/organic tempered ware	HMG/O	2	6	33	7	-	-
Handmade grog/sand tempered ware	HMG/S	2	6	36	7.5	-	-
Handmade sand tempered ware	HMS	14	40	247	52	0.09	41
Handmade sand/organic tempered ware	HMSO	12	34	140	29.5	0.13	59
Totals		**35**	**100**	**475**	**100**	**0.22**	**100**

Table 4. Prehistoric pottery quantities

The majority of contexts in which the Iron Age pottery occurred contained less than four sherds, the only exception being ditch fill 0224 which held seven. All of these contexts also contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age/Roman period. The condition of the prehistoric pottery is variable ranging from quite abraded to only slightly so. Only three jar rim fragments were recorded, one with a flat and everted rim (ditch fill 0224) and two in Thompson's C8 style (1982), one of which has decorated incised lines the other stabbing at the neck.

Late Iron Age and Roman

Andy Fawcett and Stephen Benfield

In total there are 1086 sherds of Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman pottery with a combined weight of 13,118g. The pottery was recovered from three burials (two graves

and a cremation) which included placed vessels and from the fill of ditches, pits, post-holes and layers together with some unstratified material. The placed pottery vessels from the burials are listed and discussed separately from the general site assemblage. A full detailed catalogue of all of the pottery is listed within Appendix 5.

5.2.3 Pottery from burials

Introduction

Eight placed pottery vessels were recovered from a cremation 0254 and two inhumation burials 0213 and 0235. These comprise two grave groups and a single pot. Residual or incidental pottery sherds were also recovered from grave fills including that of a third grave 0283. All of the placed pottery vessels were allocated an individual small find (SF) number. The pottery from the grave fills is briefly listed and discussed in relation to the date of each burial.

Cremation 0201/0254

Placed pottery vessels

The cremation group 0201/0254 is composed of four pots consisting of a jar, used as an urn containing the cremated human bone (SF 1043), flagon (SF 1044), beaker (SF 1045) and Central Gaulish samian dish form Dr 42 sh (SF 1046) (Fig. 10, nos. 1-4 and Pl. 10). The vessels have all suffered damage to varying degrees, much of this clearly acquired post-depositionally, but the sherds themselves display little abrasion. Although the cremation set consists of 122 sherds with a weight of 1726g, these mostly belong to the jar and thereafter the flagon. For both the jar and flagon the bases of the vessels are intact but their upper halves are smashed with a large percentage missing. Only fourteen percent of the jar rim survives and none of the flagon neck and rim. The beaker is also incomplete although a whole profile survives. The samian dish has some damage. Originally it would have had two handles, but both were broken off, with one recovered from the cinerary urn during the post-excavation removal of the urn's contents. It is thought to be very unlikely that the placement of this handle occurred post-deposition, i.e. as the result of natural processes after the interment of the cremation (Rob Brooks, pers. comm. 13/01/2015). The group as a whole can be dated to the Hadrianic-early Antonine period (*c*.AD 117-150).

SF 1043 (Fig. 10, no. 1) Jar (Fabric BSW). Necked jar with undercut rim and row of stab decoration around shoulder. Jar is similar to larger storage jar form G45.1 (Going, 1987). Base and part of lower body intact, part of upper body present as sherds, with rim and shoulder sherd (not joining). Breaks indicate this is primarily recent damage and the pot was probably whole when placed with the burial. Some abrasion to areas of the body surface. Black surfaces with red-brown fabric core, micaceous fabric. Date: Mid/late 1st-2nd/3rd century.

SF 1046 (Fig. 10, no. 2) Samian dish form Dr 42 sh, decorated with barbotine leaves around the rim (Central Gaul, Fabric SACG). Whole pot, but with an area of the rim at one end of the strap handle on one side of the dish broken away as two joining sherds. The rim sherds were recovered with the vessel but the strap from that side of the dish is missing. The strap handle from the other side broke away as two joining sherds and was recovered with the cremation urn (SF 1043). The form is current in the Flavian-Hadrianic period. Date: Hadrianic.

SF 1045 (Fig. 10, no. 3) Beaker (Fabric GMG). Squat body with everted rim and body decorated with barbotine dots applied in close fitting panels. Single grooved above separating plain neck area. Similar to Going form H51.1 (1987). Moderately fine, grey fabric. Broken. Base with large body sherd (joining), other body sherds and rim sherd (not joining). Breaks indicate this is primarily recent damage and the pot was probably whole when placed with the burial. Date: Late 1st-2nd century.

SF 1044 (Fig. 10, no. 4) Flagon (Fabric COLB). Base and lower body intact, upper body broken into sherds (joining), neck, rim and handle missing. Presumed whole when placed with burial. Buff fabric, probably a Colchester product. Internal white scale(?) deposit and traces of a white lime(?) based deposit on external surfaces which are possibly the remains of a slip coating, but as similar deposits are noted on accessory vessels from other burials here it is probably a natural accretion. Date: Mid 1st/early 2nd-early 3rd century.

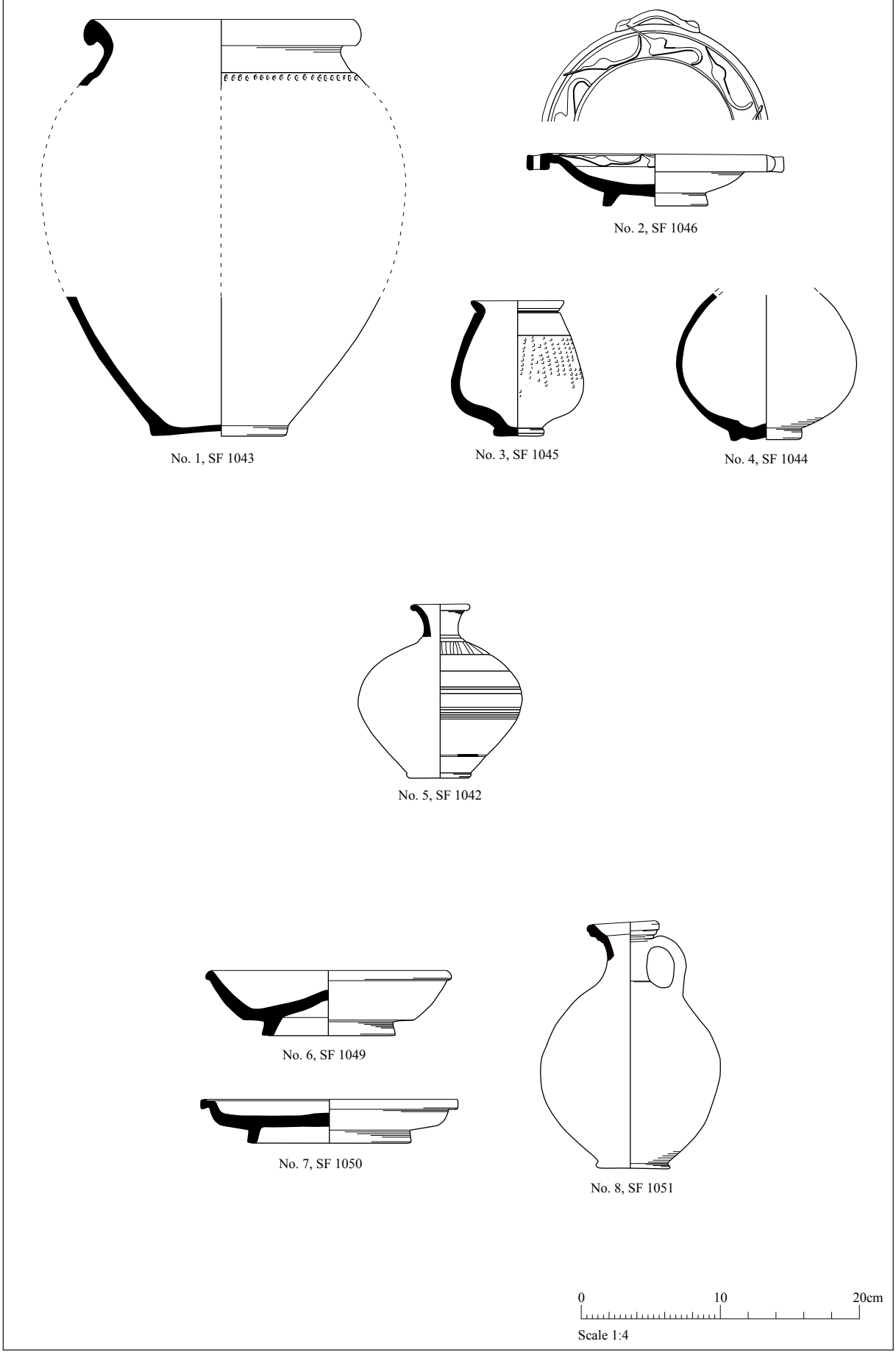


Figure 10. Pottery vessels from Roman burials (cremation 0201/0254 - nos. 1-4, grave 0213 - no. 5, and grave 0235/0302 - nos. 6-8)

Plate 10. Roman pottery vessels from cremation 0201/0254

Grave 0213

This grave cut is situated to the west of the site and contained two fills (0214 and 0274).

Placed pottery vessel

A narrow-necked jar (SF 1042) was recovered from fill 0214 as a whole pot (Fig. 10, no. 5 and Pl. 11). This was a short distance from the left hand shoulder of the skeleton and was possibly located outside of the coffin. There is damage to the rim and probably two adjacent sherds are missing (not recovered from the grave fill). The sherd edges suggest this is old damage, probably acquired or made before the pot was placed in the grave (it should be noted that two holes made near the neck are due to damage during excavation). There is a low, broad cordon or bulge at the base of the neck which is decorated with faint, spaced, vertical burnished lines. The vessel is not easily closely dated, but the decoration on the low cordon suggests it is probably Going form G38 (1987) which appear throughout the Roman period. The shape of the body with a shoulder indicates an earlier rather than later Roman date and a broad mid/late 1-2nd/3rd century date is suggested. The residual pottery from the grave fill (0214) confirms a date in the 2nd century or later for the burial.

> **SF 1042** (Fig. 10, no. 5) Narrow-necked jar (or flask) (Fabric BSW). Whole pot with old damage to rim. Broad, low cordon or slight bulge at the base of the neck decorated with faint, spaced, vertical burnished lines. Burnished band around body below. Two narrow grooves around girth and narrow group of grooves around lower wall. Dark grey surface and red-brown fabric core. Date: Probably mid/late 1st-2nd/3rd century.

Residual pottery from the grave fill

A total of 153 sherds of pottery (1537g) with an EVE of 1.09 are also present within the two fills, most of which show only slight abrasion. The remaining pottery in fill 0214 is dated from the mid 1st to early 2nd century. Lower fill 0274 contains 2nd century pottery with a significant amount of residual material from the Late Iron Age/mid-late 1st century.

Plate 11. Roman pottery vessel from grave 0213

Grave 0235/0302

Grave 0235/0302 contained three fills (0231, 0232 and 0300). The grave was disturbed at the top.

Placed pottery vessels

Three whole and contemporary pots were present in fill 0300. These consist of a buff coloured coarseware flagon (SF 1051) and two samian vessels (SF 1049 and SF 1050) (Fig. 10, nos. 6-8 and Pl. 12). The flagon has a cup mouth and is of form Cam 156; broadly dated to the early 2nd-early 3rd century (CAR 10, 475). There is a patchy, white lime(?) based deposit on the surface primarily around the area of the base of the handle and the neck/body join. The samian vessels, a bowl (Dr 31) and a dish (Ludowici Tg), are more closely dated as both have name stamps of Central Gaulish potters operating in the mid-late Antonine period, Laxtucissa (AD 150-175) and Advocisus (AD 160-200). Overall, the group of placed pottery vessels can be closely dated to the period after AD 160 and probably not later than early 3rd century, indicating a probable late Antonine date for the burial. This dating is not contradicted by the residual pottery recovered from the grave fill.

SF 1049 (Fig. 10, no. 6) Samian bowl (Central Gaul, Fabric SACG), form Dr 31. Whole and complete, little or only limited signs of any use wear with the slip remaining across most of the base of the foot ring. Some slight, hard encrusting of soil internally on the central basal rise and in a line internally on one side of the bowl wall. Centrally placed complete potter's name stamp LAXTVCISF, Laxtucissa (die 5-a) dated AD 150-175 (Hartley and Dickinson Vol. 5, 31-33).

SF 1050 (Fig. 10, no.7) Samian dish (Central Gaul, Fabric SACG) form Ludowici Tg. Whole, but with small chip missing from the rim edge and from the lip of rim on opposite side of the dish, both ancient breaks as they are partly covered by a fine-speckled white lime(?) based deposit which also occurs across the surfaces of the dish. Small flake from rim top also missing in another place. These missing sherds were not recovered and are presumed not to have been present in the grave. The overall appearance of the damage is slight or minimal. Some abrasion to surfaces, possibly some from use, but much is a fine speckled flaking of the surface coat. Some wear to slip on footring base. Centrally placed complete potter's name stamp ADVOCISM Advocissa (die 4-a) dated AD 160-200 (Hartley and Dickinson Vol. 1, 75-79).

SF 1051 (Fig. 10, no. 8) Flagon, form Cam 156 (COLB). Whole and complete, buff coloured fabric. It is noted that there is a white lime(?) based deposit on the surface primarily around the area of the base of the handle and neck/body join; this is uneven in thickness and does not appear to be the remains of a slip coating. Dated early 2nd-early 3rd century.

Residual pottery from the grave fill

A total of 111 sherds of pottery with a total weight of 2254g and an EVE of 1.91 was recovered as residual sherds from the three main fills. The pottery in 0231 (39 sherds, together weighing 814g) exhibits variable abrasion and is of a mixed date. Two groups appear to be present, the first dated from the Late Iron Age to around the late 1st century and the second from the early to late 2nd century. Pottery associated with fill 0232 (44 sherds, together weighing 1111g) is dated from the mid to later 1st century. The majority of the sherds in this fill only display slight abrasion. The lower fill contained a further twenty-eight sherds (329g) and these too are also dated from the mid to later 1st century. Only the residual Iron Age sherds within this fill show significant abrasion, whilst the Roman sherds are only slightly abraded.

Grave 0283

This was located on the east of the site and contained a single fill (0282). No placed pots were present and only seven loose, residual sherds (64g) were recovered from the grave fill. The sherds, which are small and variably abraded, are dated from the mid to late 1st century.

Plate 12. Roman pottery vessels from grave 0235/0302

Discussion

The Roman burials add to a small number excavated from sites in Long Melford. Pottery previously recovered from inhumations includes single, placed Colchester colour-coated beakers of 2nd and 2nd-3rd century (Craven, 2008 and 2012), suggesting that the burial rite of inhumation was not unusual here from the Antonine period. The pottery recovered as placed pots with the burials here consist of a group of four vessels dated to the Hadrianic-early Antonine period from a cremation 0245, a group of three vessels dated to the late Antonine period from an inhumation 0235, and a single pot broadly dated as mid 1st-2nd/3rd century from inhumation 0213.

The types of pottery vessels are typical of those commonly found to have been put with burials, especially burials from minor settlements and rural areas, in the south and east of England. The vessel types are primarily associated with the serving of food and drink; that is a bowl, flagon, beaker and small narrow-necked jar/flask and dishes. This is common to many Roman period accessory pots placed in graves (Philpott, 1991, 32 and 104-05). A jar was used to contain the burnt bone from the cremation, 0254, which is also common in burials of this type.

The samian recovered is of some interest. The inclusion of plain samian vessels despite, or possibly because of the Gallo-Roman associations of this fine table ware, is more typical of burials, minor settlements and rural areas than the major urban centres (Willis, 2011, 222) although the reasons for this patterning are not fully understood. In general, cup and dish forms are preferred for use as accessory grave pots and there is a disproportionate number of worn, damaged or repaired pots amongst these. There is also some tendency for samian to appear as ‘sets’ of related forms, or to be paired. To some extent the samian here reflects this observed general pattern. The types included are dishes with a single bowl form Dr 31 which is not particularly deep or bowl-like. Both dishes show signs of use or wear, although the bowl appears relatively unused by comparison. Also two of the pots were found together in one burial, 0235, in an informal pairing of two open forms (dish, bowl). While not commonly placed with graves surrounding the major settlements, samian may have a greater social value in more rural areas and the inclusion of these vessels in two of the graves could suggest a certain standing for the individuals.

Of the five complete pots, there is old damage on three of them, SF 1046 from cremation 0254, SF1042 from inhumation 0213 and SF1050 from inhumation 0235. This consists of damage to rims where sherds have been chipped out of the edge. The fact that the missing sherds were not recovered from the grave suggests that the pots have been damaged prior to being placed in them. This appears to follows a pattern of damage to pots which has been recorded from other Roman burials, notably at Great Dunmow, Essex and Broughing, Hertfordshire (Going, 1988) and has been interpreted to represent a deliberate act of breakage relating to funeral rites.

The clearest example of probable deliberate damage, prior to placement with the burial, is the small narrow-necked jar (SF 0142). Here, what appear to be two adjacent sherds are missing from the rim and this would compromise the function of the vessel. The samian dish SF 1050 is also damaged, but it is noted that there are other pieces chipped from the rim, presumably in earlier use, and the function of the pot is not affected. The samian dish SF 1046 is also damaged. However, there is considerable post-depositional damage to other pots with this cremation and the pieces from one of the breaks were recovered indicating this represents part of the general post-depositional damage. The missing strap handle could be deliberate damage, but is also an area relatively sensitive to breakage anyway and the function of the pot is not particularly compromised. It can be noted that one of the deliberately damaged pots from Great Dunmow is of this same form and the damage has selectively removed that part of the rim which includes one of the strap handles (Wickenden, 1988, fig. 20, 58).

Overall, it appears likely that some of the pots represent either damaged pots selected for the burial, or that some vessels had been deliberately damaged prior to burial, notably the small narrow-necked jar (SF 0142). This is supported by the occurrence of a damaged pot in each of the burials, although some of the pots were clearly buried as whole, undamaged vessels. Alternatively it is possible that those burying the dead did not want to part with their better quality vessels. Whatever the case, the relatively common occurrence of damaged vessels in burials in the north-western area of the Iron Age Trinovantian/Catuvallaunian border suggests that there is a specific funerary practice followed in this area and which relates to communities associated with the minor settlements and rural areas rather than the major urban centres.

5.2.4 Pottery from non-funerary contexts

Excluding the placed pots from burials, a total of 961 pottery sherds with a combined weight of 11,833g and a total EVE of 7.98 were recovered. The pottery (including the pottery from the evaluation phase) is quantified by fabric type in Table 5.

Fabric	Code	No.	%No.	Wt(g)	% Wt	EVE	% EVE
Imported finewares							
La Graufesenque samian ware	SASG	9		288		0.14	
Lezoux (category 2) samian ware	SACG	1		11			
Gallo-Belgic terra nigra	TN	1		6			
Gallo-Belgic terra rubra	TR	1		1			
North Gaulish fine white ware	WF	1		3			
Sub-total		**13**		**309**		**0.14**	
Local and Regional finewares							
Romano-British mica dusted ware	MIC	3		102			
Local and Regional coarsewares		0					
Colchester white/buff ware	COLB	10		110		0.07	
Nene Valley white ware	NVWM	1		32			
Sub-total		**14**		**142**		**0.07**	
Unsourced coarsewares (local or regional)							
Miscellaneous black burnished wares	BB	1		9			
Black surfaced/Romanising wares	BSW	125		904		1.51	
Miscellaneous buff wares	BUF	17		55		0.04	
Grey micaceous wares (black surface)	GMB	12		104		0.15	
Grey micaceous wares (grey surface)	GMG	101		867		0.89	
Grey micaceous wares (buff-oxidised)	GMO	3		12			
Grog tempered wares (Belgic)	GROG	492		6050		3.74	
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	61		461		0.68	
Miscellaneous red coarsewares	RX	42		265		0.13	
Unspecified shell tempered ware	SH	5		60		0.05	
Storage jar fabrics	STOR	72		2894		0.58	
White-slipped oxidised wares	WSO	1		3			
Miscellaneous white slipped ware	WSX	1		2			
Miscellaneous white ware	WX	1		5			
Sub-total		**934**		**11691**		**7.77**	
Total		**961**		**11833**		**7.98**	

Table 5. Roman fabric quantities (excluding burial pots)

Although a number of features were disturbed, the pottery clearly shows that the main phase of activity, as represented by the most closely dated pieces, occurred between the late 1st century BC and the late 1st century AD. The larger part of this assemblages exhibits only slight abrasion. The date range of pottery for contexts in the fill of cut features, ditches (twenty-three), pits (six) and post-holes (two) is shown in Table 6.

Date range	Context total
LIA	1
LIA – *c.*AD 60/70	15
Mid - late 1st C	12
Mid 1st – early 2nd C	1
Roman	3
Total	**31**

Table 6. Range of pottery spot dates for non-funerary contexts

The fabric types and their respective quantities in relation to the assemblage are typical of the Late Iron Age and later 1st century. Although the fineware contribution is very low, there is a small quantity of South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) samian (Fabric SASG) and two instances of imported Gallo-Belgic ware (Fabric TR and Fabric TN).

Unsourced coarsewares dominate this assemblage and in particular grog-tempered wares (Fabric GROG) and Romanising Black surfaced wares (Fabric BSW). Together these two fabrics account for almost 80% of the entire assemblage. Only one context, ditch fill 0244, is possibly entirely Late Iron Age in date (late 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD) as it contained exclusively grog-tempered pottery. At the end of its currency grog-tempered ware straddles the conquest period and unfortunately the low number of form types and their indistinct nature means that, of themselves, these cannot be placed either side of the conquest period. The presence of Fabric BSW (or other Roman fabrics) in contexts alongside grog-tempered wares is taken to denote a post-conquest (Roman) date.

Recognisable types of pot or numbered vessel form types recovered from these contexts are very limited. Twelve, out of the total of thirty-one, contained only body sherds. A further twelve contained only a single identifiable sherd from a long-lived jar form (alongside body sherds). Another three also produced only sherds from jars which can be assigned to two different types. The largest group of sherds identifiable to specific forms is from pit fill 0278 with a total of four, consisting of two jars, a flagon and a lid. Apart from these latter two forms, the only other class of vessel present within this assemblage is one bowl and four beakers.

Ditch fill 0206 contained a grog-tempered (GROG) combed storage jar body sherd (SF 1039). The sherd (86g) had been partly cut down to form the start of a circular shape for a spindle whorl, and the centre had unsuccessful (partial) piercings on both sides, before being presumably abandoned.

Discussion

The high number of grog-tempered pottery sherds and the constant occurrence and condition of sherds of residual Iron Age pottery throughout all different types of feature indicates a significant phase of activity/occupation on or adjacent to the site in the Late Iron Age (late 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD). A number of the features possibly originate in the Late Iron Age, but in the absence of clear contexts from this period the nature of the site during the Late Iron Age is obscure; although the activity here appears relatively low key in comparison with the subsequent Roman period. The presence of small quantities of Gallo-Belgic imports, while of themselves not closely datable either side of the early conquest period, indicate that at least some of the occupants were able to acquire some ceramic goods which would be circulating at the higher status end of the social scale in the early-mid 1st century AD. A few imported Gallo-Belgic sherds have also been recovered from other recent excavation sites in the town at Land to the rear of 'Almacks' (LMD 137) and 14 The Limes (LMD 160). These sites, together with Land off New Road (LMD 165) have also produced moderate quantities of Late Iron Age type grog-tempered pottery.

In terms of the closely dated pottery deposited, the most intense phase of activity on the site is in the early post-conquest period of the mid to late 1st century AD. This can be seen from the presence of Romanised and Roman pottery fabrics which are spread over a variety of features (ditches, pits, postholes) as well as the unstratified assemblage.

From the early 2nd century this activity scales down considerably and the site appears to be given over primarily to burial as closely dated pottery of 2nd century date or later is confined to placed burial pots, sherds from grave fills and unstratified sherds. The pottery from three of the burials (a cremation and two inhumations) indicates they are of Hadrianic-Antonine date. Fairly typical of burials associated with rural or small-medium size settlements, these included plain samian vessels. Several pots are also damaged, probably deliberately as the type of damage (principally sherds broken from rims) is similar to that recorded on some grave pots from other sites in the region, notably Dunmow (Essex) and Broughing (Hertfordshire) (Going, 1988). A third inhumation burial 0283 had no accessory vessel and is not closely dated, but is probably of Antonine date or later.

No earlier closely dated burials have been located in recent excavations (above) in what are assumed to be the rear of plots along a Roman road, so that the location of earlier burials is not known. The location of the 2nd-3rd century burials could imply a change in the nature of the settlement in the Hadrianic-Antonine period, but their relation to the nature or layout of the early and mid Roman settlement here is not well understood as the settlement itself is only vaguely defined at present.

No pottery which can be closely dated to the late Roman period of the mid third or fourth century was present among the assemblage. This appears consistent with a general pattern as only a very few sherds of identified late Roman pottery have been recovered from recent excavations (such as Land to the rear of 'Almacks' – LMD 137), possibly implying a contraction or change in the nature of the settlement in the course of the 3rd century.

5.3 Ceramic building material

5.3.1 Introduction

CBM was recorded in thirteen contexts, ditch fills 0104, 0238, 0244, 0247, 0249, 0277, grave fills 0231, 0232, 0274, pit fills 0222, 0278, posthole 0106 and the unstratified context 0200. With the exception of three pieces the remainder of the assemblage (seventeen fragments) are dated to the Roman period. The overall condition of the group may be described as being small and abraded. The assemblage consists of fragments of roof tile and brick, as well as unidentifiable pieces. None of the contexts contained more than three fragments.

5.3.2 Methodology

All of the CBM has been examined at x20 vision and split into fabric groups and these have been assigned fabric codes which are currently used by SCCAS. The CBM has also been catalogued by number, weight and where possible, dimensional information has been recorded. A full contextual breakdown of the CBM can be seen in Appendix 6.

5.3.3 Roman

The Roman CBM group consists of eight tile, one roof tile, four brick and four unidentifiable fragments. These were recorded in eleven of the contexts with CBM; the exceptions being pit fill 0222 and the unstratified context 0200.

The fragmentary nature of the tile pieces means they cannot be closely identified in terms of function. Of those few pieces where the depths could be measured, the variations suggest a mixture of wall and roofing fragments. Only one roof tile fragment could be positively identified though, and this is a shattered piece of imbrex from ditch fill 0249. Two brick depths were measurable (32 and 35mm), which is at the lower end of the depth range for Roman brick (Fawcett, unpub.).

In general the Roman CBM fragments are fully oxidised and occur in a medium sandy fabric with either clay pellets (mscp) or red iron ore (msfe); both of the fabrics also frequently contain sparse large flint.

There is no clear pattern in the distribution of the Roman CBM, and as already mentioned, there are few fragments per context. The CBM, in stark contrast to the pottery which always occurs alongside it, is generally in a poor state of preservation indicating that it has gone through several cycles of deposition. Although the CBM may have originated from some form of structure in the area, its presence at this location is probably as a result of reuse and/or redeposition (such as manuring).

A similar sized assemblage of Roman CBM was recorded at the evaluation stage of the project (Fawcett, 2011). The fragments from this phase were also small and abraded and in a corresponding range of fabrics.

5.3.4 Post-medieval

The unstratified context 0200 contained a single fragment of post-medieval peg tile. The fragment is oxidised and contains ferrous inclusions (msfe). The same context (as well as pit fill 0222) contained single (much abraded) unidentifiable pieces dated to the same period.

5.4 Fired clay

A small assemblage of fired clay was recorded in eleven contexts, pit fills 0204, 0222, 0278, ditch fills 0206, 0241, 0287 and grave fills 0214, 0231, 0232, 0274 and 0300. A full contextual breakdown of the fired clay from the excavation can be seen in Appendix 7.

The fired clay is predominantly in a poor state of preservation, being considerably abraded. Several of the pieces exhibit small areas of an irregular/flat surface which are mostly buff-coloured. Only one small fragment in pit fill 0278 displayed a partial rod mark; no other marks or impressions are present on any of the other pieces.

The majority of the fired clay is oxidised with a small number being buff-coloured. All of the pieces are in a medium sandy fabric (ms) which mostly contain ill-sorted calcite (msc), chalk (msch) or clay pellets (mscp).

Although the condition of the fired clay is poor, the presence of irregular/flat surfaces on some of the pieces and the general lack of wattle impressions suggests that many fragments may be derived from possible ovens or hearths.

The assemblage is distributed across the site (and in every instance it is accompanied by Roman pottery); however it is most frequent within the fills of graves 0213 and 0302. Its general condition suggests that this was already residual material before it became part of the backfill for these features.

A single fragment of fired clay represents a possible loomweight fragment (SF1054). This was recorded in grave fill 0300 (42g). It has an oxidised fabric and is medium sandy with common chalk (msch). It displays three buff flat/irregular outer surfaces which form a roughly lozenge/triangular end. On one of these the possible remains of a central hole can be seen. Pottery from the context is dated to the early Roman period.

The fired clay assemblage is directly comparable, in all aspects to the small number of pieces recovered at the evaluation stage of the project (Fawcett, 2011).

5.5 Worked flint

Sarah Bates

5.5.1 Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded by context in an Access database table. The material was classified by category and type (see database tables) with numbers of flints and numbers of complete, corticated, patinated and hinge fractured pieces being recorded and the condition of the flint being commented on. Additional descriptive comments were made as necessary. Non-struck flint was included in a separate column in the database but has mostly been discarded.

5.5.2 The assemblage

A total of eighty-four struck or shattered flints, a tiny fragment of burnt flint and a probable building fragment were recovered from the site. The flint is summarised in Table 7 and listed by context in Appendix 8. The flint is predominantly quite dark grey in colour with occasional lighter or mottled pieces. Cortex, where present, is mostly cream or slightly orangey cream coloured and is often quite coarse. Some surfaces have become patinated prior to the use of the flint (usually lightly but a few pieces have a glossy white surface) and the overall impression given by the cortical and patinated surfaces is that broken gravel nodules were used as raw material. The assemblage exhibits little sign of post-depositional patination.

Type	Number
Single platform flake	3
Core fragment	1
Tested piece	3
Struck fragment	3
Shatter	6
Flake	37
Blade	1
Spall	9
Chip	4
End scraper	1
Piercer	1
Retouched flake	2
Retouched fragment	1
Utilised flake	10
Utilised blade	1
Utilised fragment	1
Total	**84**
Burnt fragment	1
Building fragment	1

Table 7. Summary of the flint by type

Three single platform flakes cores are present. The example in pit fill 0222 is a very small, chunky and abraded piece. The others in ditch fill 0227 and grave fill 0232, are thermal or patinated cortical fragments which have been struck, a few times only, from one side. There is also a small fragment which is probably from a core in ditch fill 0251, two tested angular fragments in grave fill 0232 and another tested patinated fragment in ditch fill 0241.

Two struck fragments, possibly from cores, are also present in the unstratified context 0102 and grave fill 0274. The latter piece is burnt. Six irregular shattered fragments were found. Another piece of flint, which is heavily abraded, stained and orangey brown in colour, is probably non-struck.

Thirty-seven unmodified flakes are present. These are predominantly hard hammer struck irregular pieces. The flakes are generally quite small to medium-sized with a few slightly larger pieces. However overall, they are notably 'larger' than some in other later prehistoric assemblages examined by the author, and suggest that it was not difficult to find moderately-sized fragments of flint suitable for use. 78% percent of the flakes are complete and 70% are cortical (although only three flakes, or 8%, are entirely cortical primary flakes). Four flakes have cortex on their platform although none have abraded platforms indicative of core preparation. Only one flake is patinated post-deposition. One small thick flake has abraded pebble type cortex. A small number of spalls and chips were also recovered; some of them from soil samples. Most of the debitage is sharp or quite sharp.

Only two pieces have been classified as formal tool types; a small longish ovate flake, in grave fill 0274, has its distal end neatly retouched as a scraper. A very small thick fragment from a flake, from the unstratified context 0102, has two sides abruptly retouched to a small protruding but quite stubby point.

There are totals of three and twelve retouched and utilised pieces respectively. A small neat ovate flake has slight retouch of its distal end in ditch fill 0241 and an irregular flake, in grave fill 0232, which may be of thermal origin, is broken but has part of a retouched edge surviving. There is also a small thick fragment with cortical and patinated surfaces and possible crude retouch in the topsoil layer 0100. Utilised pieces

include a small narrow pointed blade with slight edge utilisation in pit fill 0278; it is also the only piece in the assemblage to exhibit an abraded platform edge. A medial fragment (grave fill 0274), from another possible blade, also has at least one utilised edge. A blade-like flake is utilised in grave fill 0300 and there are a few quite small neat utilised flakes, for instance in grave fill 0232 and ditch fill 0241. There are also some more irregular edge-utilised flakes and fragments which are clearly hard hammer struck. They include pieces with broad or wide platforms in the unstratified context 0200, grave fill 0300 and pit fill 0204. A thermal fragment with edge damage that may be use-related was noted in posthole fill 0243.

An unstratified (0102) battered fragment with mortar adhering to its surface is probably a building fragment.

5.5.3 Distribution

Most of the flint was recovered from the fills of excavated features (numbers of flints from features based on group and feature numbers provided at assessment). A summary of this data can be seen in Table 8.

Feature Type	Number
Grave	34
Ditch	27
Pit	15
Posthole	1
Topsoil	1
Unstratified	8

Table 8. Flint by feature type

Almost 30% of the flint was from the fills of two Roman graves, 0302 and 0213. Flint was also found along with Roman pottery in four pits, seven ditches and a posthole. A small number of flints were from unstratified contexts (including one piece from the topsoil).

5.5.4 Discussion

A single blade has an abraded platform and this is likely to be of an earlier Neolithic (or Mesolithic) date; a few other small quite neat pieces might also be of a similar date. A neatly retouched end scraper is probably of later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

Most of the flint, however, is hard hammer struck debitage which is generally quite irregular in nature. Much of this is likely to be of a later prehistoric date. The irregular minimally utilised 'cores', hard hammer struck debitage, use of thermally fractured and/or patinated flint and (apart from the scraper) the presence of miscellaneous retouched and utilised pieces all indicate the expedient use of flint generally associated with the later Bronze Age and Iron Age (Butler, 2005, 189, and Humphrey, 2007).

Almost all of the flint was found in features dated by ceramic evidence to the Roman period with four of the ditches and one grave also containing possible later Iron Age artefacts in their fills. The flint is residual in the Roman features but was recovered in fairly significant numbers from the site. Its similar nature and sharp unpatinated condition suggest that much of the flint probably dates to the same later prehistoric period, which is possibly represented by other finds from the site, or to a period of activity not suggested by other evidence. It might also be the case that later prehistoric features or concentrations of material were disturbed by the digging of features during the Roman period.

A few flints appear to be residual indicators of activity during the Neolithic period or Bronze Age. They have no potential for further analysis. Other material which is likely to be of a later prehistoric date was also found, most of it residually in Roman contexts where it had been accidentally incorporated within the fills of graves and other features. Much of this material is similar in nature and although there is little potential for further analysis, the flint is of interest as it represents activity at the site during the later prehistoric period and might be contemporary with the other Iron Age finds.

5.6 Burnt flint/stone

Virtually the entire collection of burnt flint/stone was retrieved via the sampling strategy. The flint was recovered from three ditch fills (0202, 0241 and 0262), four pit fills (0204, 0222, 0278 and 0280), five grave fills (0214, 0231, 0232, 0282 and 0300) and one post-hole (0243).

Overall the individual flint pieces are small and predominantly coloured from white to grey. This colour range is often associated with the ‘pot boiling’ process which has been linked to the preparation and processing of food. Smaller amounts of the burnt flint are

coloured red to orange indicating that they may have been connected with a fire event, either natural or man-made. There is no correlation in colour or size between the different types of fills in which the flint occurs.

In every instance the burnt flint is accompanied by LIA/Roman pottery, although with the exception of pit fill 0280 and grave fill 0282, prehistoric worked flint is also present. However, there is no evidence that any of the burnt flint/stone can be associated with the Roman cremation and its distribution across the site suggests that it simply represents residual prehistoric activity on or around the area.

5.7 Lava quernstone

All of the lava quern stone fragments were recovered from ditch fill 0249, which also contained a small quantity of Roman pottery. The fragments are very small and in most cases considerably worn. Occasional surface areas survive, but these are too minute for analysis. Equally due to fragmentation, no depth measurements could be undertaken. The pieces are probably Rhenish, a type of stone which was imported to East Anglia in the Roman period, and then from the middle Saxon through to the post-medieval periods.

5.8 The small finds

Faye Minter

5.8.1 Introduction

The objects in this assemblage range in date from Late Iron Age to modern, with the majority belonging to the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods (Appendix 9). They derive from burials, pits and ditch fills.

There were 159 small finds recovered in total. One is dated to the later Iron Age, one to the medieval period, two are post-medieval period and the remainder are Roman. The small finds associated with the burials will be discussed separately. The remainder of the finds will be discussed below by period. Each object is allocated to a functional category, using those defined in Crummy (1983). Categories represented in this

assemblage are: 1, dress accessories; 2, toilet instruments; 6, weighing equipment; 10, tools; 11, structural fittings; 15, metal-working; 18, miscellaneous.

The functional spread of small finds is broad, but is skewed by the presence of burials. If the grave deposits and nails associated with burials are excluded, as well as the medieval and later objects, then the Late Iron Age and early Roman assemblage points to a rural and working environment with the principal activities being stock rearing, as demonstrated by the discovery of an iron goad (SF 1059) and metal-working. Of particular interest is SF 1041, an iron clamp or large set of tweezers. No parallel could be found but it is likely that this object would have had a specialised function, perhaps connected to the metal-working activities on site (Pl. 13).

5.8.2 Small finds from the burials

Introduction

The three inhumation burials and the single cremation burial all had iron nails present; for the inhumations it is presumed that these represent the only remains of wooden coffins which have survived post-depositional processes. However, post-depositional collapse and distortion of the coffins, as well as difficult conditions during excavation meant that the excavators felt that many of the nails were no longer *in situ*; therefore they were given group small find numbers per grave and not consistently plotted, which makes any attempts at coffin reconstruction difficult.

The minimum number of nails per grave was calculated on the basis of heads remaining in addition to an inspection of the site records. All the nails were X-radiographed to form a basic, durable record. They were quantified and measured where appropriate. As an overall assemblage the nails appear to be fairly complete, although this does vary from grave to grave, with grave 0213 having the most nails and also the most complete examples. Corrosion is generally heavy, but varies in scale from moderate to very heavy.

The number of nails in each grave varied, from a minimum of forty-seven in grave 0213 to a minimum of three from grave 0283, as did the length of complete or near- complete nail shafts, which overall range from 39.22mm to 69.88mm, and the head diameters,

which overall range from 9.61mm to 19.59mm. These differences suggest that coffin construction was by no means uniform, although it must be born in mind that the survival of very low numbers of nails, as in grave 0283, may be due to lack of preservation or post-depositional disturbance.

The nails from each individual coffin appear to be of roughly consistent size, especially those from grave 0213. Both Clarke at Lankhills (1979, 332) and Crummy at Butt Road, Colchester (1993, 34), have suggested that nails for individual coffins were made in batches as necessary and this may also be the case here.

The nails were classified where possible using Manning's typology (1985, 134-137, Pl. 63) on the basis of head types and shank sections. The vast majority of the nails were classified as Type 1B, which are square to rectangular sectioned nails with a flat or pyramidal circular head, perpendicular to the shank and are less than 150mm in length. Manning Type 1B nails are very common in Roman Britain and are found in large quantities on a range of sites (Manning, 1985, 136).

The presence of the nails and therefore a coffin, cannot be used to date the burials and while cremation was the more common funerary rite in early Roman Britain (late 1st – early/mid 2nd century) inhumations with wooden coffins are known from some sites, for example from the Eastern cemetery of Roman London (Barber and Bowsher, 2000, 317, Table 6). By the later 2nd century inhumations were often within a coffin (Philpot, 1991, 53).

The only other metal small finds within the burials were; SF 1047, from grave 0213, an incomplete copper alloy Roman hairpin of Cool Group 3 sub-group A (Cool, 1991, 148-182). It was found outside the probable coffin area on the north edge of the grave cut within its top fill, and therefore is perhaps most likely to be residual and cannot be proven to be part of the funerary rite, especially as the individual buried was a man. However, there is always the possibility that the hairpin was deliberately deposited at the time of burial. SF 1062, also from grave 0213, is a possible smith's iron punch, which is likely to be residual and associated with the metal-working in the area. Finally, SF 1060 from cremation burial 0254, is a tiny curvilinear copper alloy fragment, which may have been part of the head of a stud originally, although too little now survives to be sure.

Cremation burial 0254

Nails

SF 1064 The minimum number of nails from this grave was five and the complete and near-complete examples ranged in length from 31.46mm to 58.26mm, with an overall average of 43.97mm. All identifiable nails were of Manning Type 1 B (Manning, 1985, 134-137).

The nails in this burial could derive either from wooden objects burnt on the pyre or from timber used to construct it or possibly from a wooden container. The cremation was within a funerary urn, so does not therefore appear to have been buried directly in a wooden container or casket as known from elsewhere (Philpot, 1999, 12-20). However box burials, where the cremated remains are placed within an urn and then within a wooden box are also known (Philpot, 1999, 18-19) and in the Eastern cemetery of Roman London 27% of the urned cremations had secondary containers of wood (Barber and Bowsher, 2000, 107). Therefore, the use of a secondary wooden container could be a possibility in this case, especially as the nails were found around the edges of cut 0254. However, unfortunately no wood staining or other evidence of a wooden container appears to have been found during the excavation.

Unidentified object

SF 1060 A tiny flat curvilinear copper alloy fragment with central circular hole, also incomplete.
Diameter: 5.87mm, thickness 0.36mm, weight: 0.03g
Context: 0252, within cremation 0254

Inhumation burial 0213

Nails

SF 1063 The minimum number of nails from this grave was forty-seven and the complete and near complete examples ranged in length from 39.22 mm to 69.88mm, with an average shank length of 55.85mm. All identifiable nails were of Manning Type 1B (Manning 1985, 134-137). One example has had its shank rolled up into a tight coil; the reasons for doing this are unknown, as is its position within the grave, which if known may have shed some light onto why it was treated in this way.

The nails from this grave were plotted, although it is not known which nail is which or their orientation. From the plan it is possible to see that the nails were broadly aligned in two opposing rows, and mostly therefore deriving from along the sides rather than the ends of the coffin. This is unusual as it is thought that nails tend to cluster around the corners of a coffin and more generally at the coffin ends (Powell, 2010, 326).

The skeleton is disturbed and is no longer wholly within the rows of nails which presumably delimit the coffin, and it therefore appears that post-depositional disturbance has caused the body and the coffin to move in opposite directions; it is therefore likely that the nails may have also moved somewhat as a result.

It has been suggested elsewhere that graves which have produced large numbers of nails may have had an additional wooden lining, however in these cases the distinction between the coffin and the outer chamber was clear in plan, which is not the case here. Another reason for many nails being used could be if there was an ornate coffin lid or wooden structure above the coffin. However, the excavator has commented that the nails appeared to be roughly at the same level as the body or perhaps slightly below (pers. comm.), so this does not seem likely to have been the case, as if this were they would have been expected to have been found above the body. There are examples of later coffins using many nails, such as those at Lankhills of Powell Type F, however, these were less frequent and the use of many nails does not seem to have been the norm (Powell, 2010, 326).

Hair pin

One copper alloy hairpin was found in this grave (SF1047). It is an incomplete copper alloy Roman hairpin, missing its tip due to old breaks. This pin is similar to pins of Cool Group 3 sub-group A, (Cool, 1991, 148-182), the decoration of the head being cut into the top of the shank. The sub-type is thought to date from the 1st to 2nd century AD. Similar examples are known from elsewhere in the region, such as one from Beck Row, Mildenhall, and Colchester (Crummy in Bales, 2004, 30) and they may have been made in this region.

SF1047 An incomplete copper alloy Roman hairpin. The pin has a delicately moulded head, of the same width as the shaft, with a flat top and curved unit below. The shaft is circular in section and tapers towards the terminal end.
Length: 103.46mm, width: 1.9mm, weight: 1.65g
Context 0214, within grave 0213

Punch

One small incomplete smith's punch was found within this grave, (Manning 1985, 10-11, A 31-32). It is most likely to be residual and associated with the metal-working in the immediate area, rather than being part of the funerary rite.

SF1062 Complete iron punch, now in two parts, much corroded but roughly square in section
Length: 43.49mm, Width: 9.97mm, Thickness: 9.60mm, weight: 11.24g
Context 0262, within grave 0213

Inhumation burial 0235/0302

Nails

SF1065 The minimum number of nails from this grave was seventeen and the complete and near-complete examples ranged in length from 10.17mm to 56.85mm, with an average of 33.34mm and the majority falling between *c*.23mm and *c*.56mm. Most of the identifiable nails are of Manning Type 1 B (Manning, 1985, 134-137). The only other identifiable type of nail may be of Manning Type 7. Two probable Type 7 nails were found in grave 0302. These nails have a short tapering shank and wide flat discoidal head; they are often called tacks and although their function is uncertain they seem unlikely to be intrusive as they were found in basal fill 0300.

SF1052 There was a further iron nail from fill 0303, within 0302 which has an individual small find number (SF1052). It is a corroded Manning Type 1B (Manning, 1985, 134-7), which is bent at a right angle in its centre and measures 45.82mm in shank length. It has human bone adhering to the shank below the circular flat head.

Inhumation burial 0283

Nails

SF1064 The minimum number of nails from this grave was three and the complete and near-complete examples ranged in length from 35.44mm to 50.96mm, with an overall average of 45.43mm. All identifiable nails are of Manning Type 1B (Manning, 1985, 134-137).

5.8.3 Small finds from contexts other than burials

Iron Age

A silver unit of Cunobelin was recovered from the fill of ditch 0237 (SF 1032). It dates to early in his reign, probably *c.*AD 10-20. It is very similar to a silver unit of Cunobelin from Camulodunum, now in the British Museum, and to a copper alloy antiquarian find (Hobbs, 1996, 128, no. 1856; Van Arsdell, 1989, 1947-1; Hawkes and Hull, 1947, 136, no. 14; Evans, 1864, xxii, 14).

SF 1032 Obverse: two intertwined bull-headed serpents and a double border of intertwined pellet lines. Reverse: displays a winged horse left, which may have had the legend CVNO below it but which is now too worn to see clearly (Hobbs 1996, 128, no 1856).
Weight: 1.12g, Diameter: 12.94mm
Context 0236, fill of ditch 0237

Roman

Toilet, surgical or pharmaceutical instruments

Mirror

A small fragment of a mirror (SF 1031), with one worn but original slightly curvilinear edge

SF 1031 Fragment of rectangular shape from a Roman mirror in shiny copper alloy (speculum) brittle high-tin bronze, one face polished smoother than the other, one surviving original edge, which is slightly curvilinear. It could have been a maximum of *c.*170mm in diameter when complete, although the fragment is rather small to be certain.
Length: 34mm, Width: 15.5mm, Thickness: 1.41mm, Weight: 4.17g
Context 0200, unstratified

Fastenings and fittings

The assemblage of fastenings and fittings is dominated by iron nails, all of which are likely to be broadly Roman in date.

Nails

Several nails or nail fragments were found in Late Iron Age or early Roman features: pits 0221 and 0281 and ditches 0223 and 0263.

The nails were given group small find numbers per context and not consistently plotted. The minimum number of nails per context was calculated on the basis of heads remaining in addition to inspection of the site records. All the nails were X-radiographed to form a basic, durable record. They were quantified and measured where appropriate. Where they are sufficiently complete to identify to type, the vast majority belong to Manning's type 1B, the most common form of Roman nail (Manning, 1985, 134). These are square to rectangular sectioned nails with a flat or pyramidal circular head, perpendicular to the shank and are less than 150mm in length. A single example of a type 2 nail was identified; this is the second commonest type and has a rectangular-sectioned shank with a triangular head with marked shoulders (Manning, 1985, 135, Fig. 32). Type 2 nails could be driven into wood so as to conceal their heads, making them invisible from a distance (Manning, 1985, 135).

Where the nails are from ditches they probably come from fences, gates or other wooden structures used for stock control.

> **SF 1070** The minimum number of nails from this ditch was one, as one fragment with a head survives with two smaller shank fragments. The fragment with a head is 41.64mm in length and of Manning Type 1B (Manning, 1985, 134-137).
> Context 0267, fill of ditch 0263

> **SF 1071** The minimum number of nails from this pit was five and the complete and near-complete examples ranged in length from 51.58mm to 71.59mm. All identifiable nails are of Manning Type 1B (Manning, 1985, 134-137).
> Context 0278, fill of pit 0281

SF1072 The minimum number of nails from this pit was two, one is 41.01mm in length and of Manning Type 1B (Manning, 1985, 134-137) and the other is 28.28mm in length and of Manning Type 2 (Manning, 1985, 134-135).
Context 0280, fill of pit 0281

SF 1068 The minimum number of nails from this pit was two, 52.68mm and 27.50mm in surviving length. Both nails are of Manning Type 1 B (Manning, 1985, 134-137).
There are a further 2 nails from this context, which were discovered in a sample. One has a head, is 64.63mm in length, and probably of Manning Type 1B, although very corroded, and there are also five shank fragments, ranging from 23.20mm to 43.55mm in length.
Context 0222, fill of pit 0221

SF 1067 The minimum number of nails which was unstratified was six and the complete and near-complete examples range in length from 38.27mm to 56.99mm. All nails are of Manning Type 1 B (Manning, 1985, 134-137).
Context 0200, unstratified

Tools

Awl

One complete iron awl (SF 1069) was found. It is of a conventional Roman type, with a square section and it tapers to either end. Awls are leatherworking tools, the sharp point often becoming blunt following sustained use, as is the case here. It is of Manning Type 4 b, which is the commonest form of Roman awl (Manning, 1985, 40, Pl. 16, E16).

SF 1069 Complete iron awl, square in section and tapering evenly to a sharp point, with a rounded apex
Length: 72.55mm, Width: 8.19mm, Thickness: 7.30mm, weight: 12.25g
Context 0262, fill of ditch 0260

Clamp

An unusual clamp or tweezers (Pl. 13) with large flared blades was found, for which no published parallel is known, but which is likely to have been used as a tool of some kind; Nina Crummy has commented:

> '…that as instead of narrowing to a fine edge, the grips are the same thickness at the ends as on the blades, suggesting that it was most likely to have been used as a clamp. They are slightly longer than the idiosyncratic copper alloy tweezers with wide claw-like grips and distinctive La Tène style lipped spring loop found in a brooch at Kettleburn, Caithness, and some 35 mm longer than the asymmetric copper alloy tweezers with wide blades made by the early 1st-century AD continental bronzesmith Agathangelus (Coleman and Hunter, 2002, 93-4; Gostenčnik, 2002; Eckardt and Crummy, 2008, 155, 158, 160).'

SF 1041 A complete corroded iron clamp or large tweezers, consisting of two arms with a circular suspension loop at their apex. Each arm flares from 12.05mm at its top to 59.96mm at its terminal. The terminals are triangular-shaped and their ends are curved inwards and downwards.
Length: 120.83mm, Width: 59.96mm, weight: 108.83g
Context 0224, fill of ditch 0223

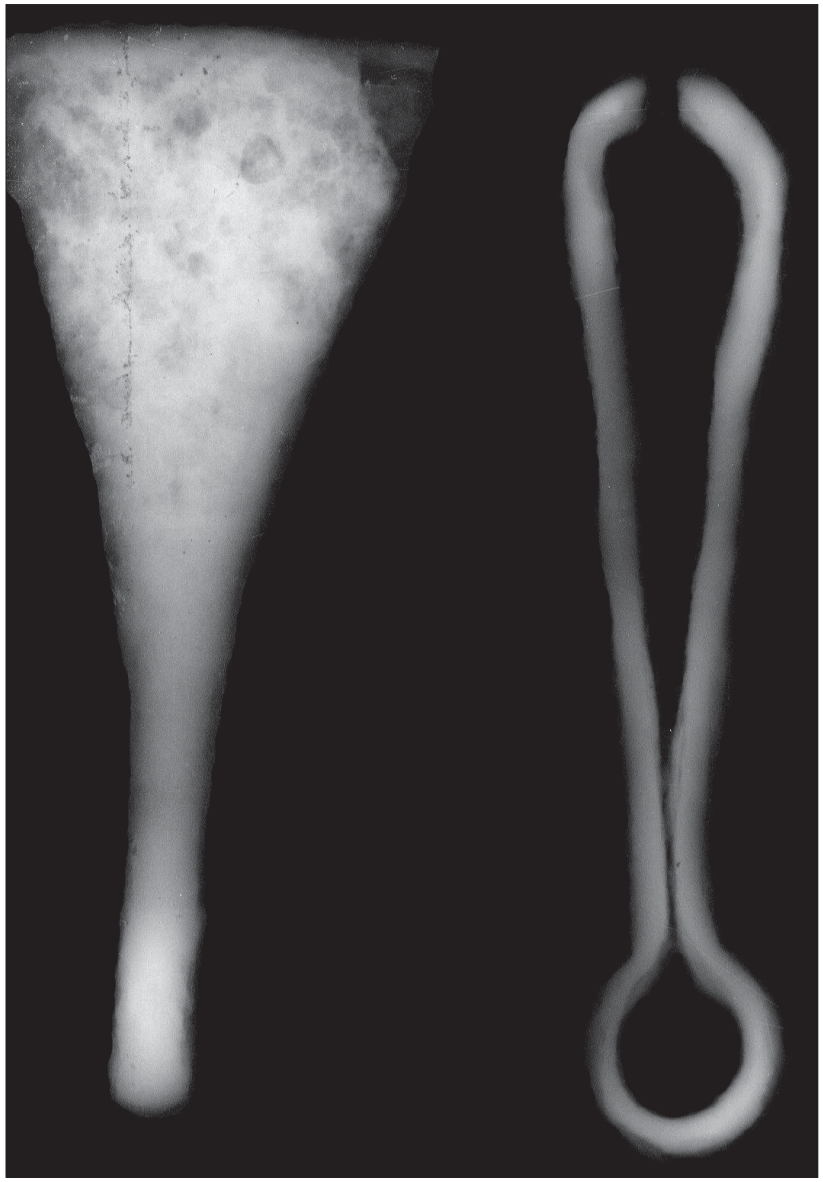


Plate 13. SF 1041 iron clamp or tweezers (x-ray, from fill 0224, ditch 0223, 120.83mm long x 59.96mm wide)

Plate 14. SF 1048 Tuyère fragments (from fills 0227, 0262, 0277 and 0299, DG 0298, scale in 1cm increments)

Objects associated with transport

Goad

A complete iron goad was recovered, formed from a thin rod coiled into two turns and turned up at the top to form a spike. Similar goads come from many sites, such as Verulamium, where a very similar example was found in a mid-2nd century context (Manning in Frere, 1972, 169-170, Fig. 62, no. 21). There are also several mid-2nd century examples from Baldock (Stead and Rigby, 1986, 152-153, Fig. 66, no. 514-516). The goad would have been placed at one end of a wooden rod and used to coerce oxen into movement from a plough or vehicle.

> **SF 1059** Iron goad, consisting of a curved band with a flat base and short spike of square section protruding from it.
> Length: 40.93mm, Width: 17.08mm, weight: 6.99g
> Context 0200, unstratified

Objects employed in weighing and measuring

Weight

Date unknown, but likely to be Roman and as it was found within pit 0281 which is situated on the edge of the area that produced metal-working debris, it may therefore relate to the same activity.

> **SF 1034** A flattened circular lead weight
> Diameter: 13.88mm, Thickness: 8.93mm, weight: 10.89g
> Context 0279, fill of pit 0281

Objects of unknown date or uncertain function or identification

Possible Roman mount

A copper alloy mount (SF1033) of possible Roman date was unstratified. It is similar in style and construction to sheet Roman mounts such as examples from Wanborough, where several shallow sheet copper alloy domes were found with everted rims and lead solder on their reverse. They are believed to have been used to cap large iron nails (Hooley, in Anderson, et al, 2001, 78-79, Fig. 30, no. 16). This mount is also reminiscent

of harness *phalerae*, such as one from Caerleon, although most examples also have integral shafts or loops on the back face for attachment, which SF1033 does not have. However it may have been the central element of a larger *phalera*. They are dated to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD (Chapman, 2005, 133, no. Tc04).

SF 1033 Circular copper alloy mount, now bent, with a raised rim which extends downwards and a small central circular boss. The back face has a grey probable lead solder adhering to it.
Diameter: 33.07mm, Thickness: 1.59mm, weight: 3.43g
Context 0200, unstratified

5.8.4 Medieval

Buckle

This form of buckle was in use from the late 12th to the late 14th centuries (Egan and Pritchard, 1991, 76-77, Fig. 46, no. 319). The metal used for this buckle underwent compositional analysis (see section 5.9).

SF 1030 A fragmentary medieval oval buckle frame with a narrowed and offset bar and an expanded outer edge.
Length: 24.40mm, width: 13.71mm, weight: 4.40g
Context 0200, unstratified

5.8.5 Post-medieval

Coin

A Charles I rose farthing 1625-49 (North, 1975, 140, no. 2291) was found, likely to be a stray loss during the post-medieval period.

SF 1020 Obverse; CAROLVS DG MAG BRI single arched crown with two sceptres in saltire through it. Reverse; FRAN ET HIB REX Single rose surmounted by single arched crown, mm- mullet.
Diameter: 13.44mm, weight: 0.89g
Unstratified

Ring

SF 1021 Complete copper alloy ring, D-shaped section, probably post-medieval or modern, curtain ring/ strap loop.
Diameter: 19.27mm, Hoop thickness 1.97mm, Weight: 1.10g
Unstratified

5.9 Metal-working remains: a technical report

Harriet White

5.9.1 Introduction

A collection of metal-working debris was recovered from the fills of a single ditch (DG 0298) and a pit (0221). The material included crucible fragments, fired clay pieces and small pieces of metal residues, broadly dated to the later Iron Age/early Roman period. Another item selected for analysis was SF 1030, which was unstratified but identified as a medieval buckle fragment (Crummy, 2013). The material was analysed using a portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (pXRF) to determine the nature of the alloy being worked at the site, and to investigate if and how the fired-clay fragments relate to the metal-working process. The medieval buckle fragment was included in the analytical program to determine its composition.

5.9.2 Methodology

Portable XRF was used to undertake the compositional analysis of the crucible surfaces and fired clay fragments. The system used was an Olympus Innov-X Delta Premium operated at 40kV. The data were collected using ‘Mining Plus’ and ‘Soils’ mode to reflect the range of elements deemed likely to be present. Both the internal and external surfaces of the crucibles were analysed. This is because some elements such as copper or lead are mobile in the burial environment and so if they were present in similar concentrations on both surfaces their presence may reflect post-depositional contamination. If these elements were isolated on the internal surfaces only, or in significantly higher concentrations on the internal surface than the external surface, then they can be more likely attributed to crucible use. In each case the metals detected were present only on the internal surface meaning that they relate to use. Analysis of a selection of the metal residues (SF1030, 1038, 1040, 1061) was carried out on their un-

abraded surfaces. The data collected are therefore effectively qualitative and relate to the composition of the corroded surfaces and not the original metal composition. In the case of copper alloys, the copper may corrode preferentially meaning elements such as tin and lead appear enriched. Nonetheless, enough information can be gained to assign metal to alloy type.

5.9.3 Results and discussion

The four crucible fragments (SFs 1055, 1056, 1057 and 1058) each had metallic residues on the internal surfaces only and in each case copper, tin and lead were detected in concentrations of up to 20% showing that they were all used for melting bronze (Table 9).

SF	Context	Object	Metallic elements present
1056	0224	Crucible fragment	Cu, Sn, Pb
1058	0262	Crucible fragment	Cu, Sn, Pb
1057	0277	Crucible fragment	Cu, Sn, *Pb*
1055	0299	Crucible fragment	**Cu**, Sn, *Pb*
1048	0299	Tuyère fragments	**Cu**, *Sn*, *Pb*

Table 9. Metals detected on the crucible and tuyère fragments (using pXRF analysis)
The relative amounts are indicated by font type: bold = major (>10%), plain = minor (1–10%) and italics = trace (<1%)

Because lead is the more volatile element it is likely to be over-represented in the crucible fabrics. In the small concentrations detected (between 0.2 to 1.5% only) its presence should be thought of as incidental and not deliberately added to the charges to create leaded-bronzes (bronzes are considered ‘leaded’ if they contain >4% lead (Bayley and Butcher, 2004)).

The fired clay fragments (SF 1048) have hollowed cores that in at least one piece show some evidence of having been angled. Their internal surfaces are oxidised while their external surfaces show some reduction and vitrification. Copper, tin and lead were detected in concentrations of between 0.2 and 11% on the external vitrified areas only (Table 10). One possible interpretation is that these are mould fragments. However, used moulds would be reduced on their internal surfaces due to the contact with hot metal. Because the vitrification, reduction and metal traces are present on the external surfaces only, the mostly likely explanation is that they are tuyère fragments (SF 1048, Pl. 14). The crucibles would have been covered with charcoal and heated from above

(Bayley and Rehren, 2007), and the tuyères positioned over the top with the nozzles pointing downwards directing the air flow from bellows into the charcoal. The traces of metals detected on the nozzles are caused by the volatilization of the metals being melted in the crucibles (for example Dungworth and Bayley, 1999). Tuyères are less likely to survive archaeologically than crucibles since they did not need to be fired before use. While many Iron Age sites do provide evidence for copper alloy working, mostly in the form of crucible fragments, tuyères are generally under-represented. Morris (1996, Tables 5.5 and 5.6) for example, lists nearly seventy Iron Age sites in England and Wales which produced evidence for bronze working. Of those, only six produced fragments identified as tuyères or possible tuyères.

Though qualitative, compositional data from the metal pieces are given in Table 10 to show their relative differences.

SF	Context	Object	Cu	Ag	Sn	Sb	Pb
1061	222	Spillage	66		32		1
1040	224	Spillage	99	<1			<1
1038	299	?Spillage/melted brooch	99	<1			<1
1030	Unstratified	Buckle fragment	96	1		1	2

Table 10. Relative compositions of the metal residues/artefacts (determined by qualitative pXRF) The data given are means of 3 analyses and expressed as wt.%

Of the later Iron Age/early Roman metallic residues, only one piece (SF 1061) is bronze. The tin concentration is overestimated here due to the effects of copper depletion; it would have originally been much lower. The presence of a small amount of lead shows consistency with the metallic traces detected in the crucibles and tuyère fragments, and supports the notion that lead was not an intentional addition to the alloys being melted. SF 1038 and 1040 are both copper with impurities of silver and lead. The compositions of the metal spillages and residues on the crucibles and tuyère fragments are consistent with the late Iron Age/early Roman dating; while brass objects began to appear in Britain in the late Iron Age due to increasing continental contacts, bronze was the standard copper alloy throughout the Iron Age and into the early Roman period (Dungworth, 1996, and Bayley et al, 2008).

SF 1030 was determined to be impure copper with small amounts of lead, silver and antimony. Analysis of numerous medieval dress accessories (buckles, strap ends,

mounts and so on) show unalloyed copper was commonly used in their manufacture (Egan and Pritchard, 2002).

5.9.4 Summary

Though fragmentary, the metallurgical waste recovered from the excavations show copper and bronze was worked at the site during the later Iron Age/early Roman period. The metal contaminants present on the external surfaces of the tuyère fragments link them to the bronze-melting crucible fragments. The composition of the 13th to 14th century buckle fragment is typical of metal dress accessories of the period. Fragments of flake and spherical hammerscale were also detected in many of the environmental samples, indicative of iron smithing.

6. The environmental evidence

6.1 Human bone

Sue Anderson

6.1.1 Introduction

Human skeletal remains were recovered from one cremation and three inhumation burials and these are discussed below, with further details and measurements recorded in Appendix 10.

6.1.2 Cremation 0254

Introduction

Cremated bone was recovered from two contexts within grave 0254, the contents of pot SF 1043 and additional fragments from bulk Sample 20.

Methodology

Bone was collected as two bulk samples and each was sieved into four fractions (<2mm, >2mm, >4mm and >10mm). The bone was sorted into five categories: skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb, and unidentified. All fragment groups were weighed to the nearest tenth of a gram, and those in the first four categories were also counted to provide an average fragment weight. Measurements of maximum skull and long bone fragment sizes were also recorded. Observations were made, where possible, concerning bone colour, age, sex, dental remains and pathology. Identifiable fragments were noted. Methods used follow the Workshop of European Anthropologists (WEA, 1980) and McKinley (1994 and 2004).

The cremated bone

Table 11 shows the bone weights and percentages of identified bone from the burial, and the proportions of bone identified from the four areas of the skeleton (skull, axial, upper limb, lower limb). Expected proportions are provided based on McKinley (1994, 6).

Area	Total no.	Total wt./g	% identified	% expected
Skull	185	128.5	25.0	18.2
Axial	179	127.3	24.8	20.6
Upper limb	48	84.3	16.4	23.1
Lower limb	85	173.5	33.8	38.1
Total identified	**497**	**513.6**	**58.1**	**-**
Unidentified	-	371.1		
Total		**884.7**		**-**

Table 11. Percentages of identified fragments out of total identified to area of skeleton

The total weight is within the typical range for a well preserved cremation burial. However, Mays (1998, Table 11.2) notes that the combusted weight of an adult skeleton has a mean of around 1500g for females and 2300g for males. The quantity of bone in this assemblage therefore represents only about a third of the combusted weight of an average adult male skeleton.

The degree of fragmentation was moderate, as reflected in the identification rate of 58.1%. The largest fragment of skull was 45mm across. The largest individual piece of long bone was a fragment of humerus shaft, 56mm long. Much of the unidentified fraction was less than 20mm in length.

The majority of bone in this group was fully calcined, oxidised and cream or pale buff in colour. The presence of a high proportion of oxidised bone indicates firing temperatures in excess of *c*.600°C (McKinley, 2004, 11). There was a small proportion of white bone, some of which was abraded, and this also tended to be blue-grey in places (internally or in thin patches externally). Ribs were particularly affected, but there were also pieces of scapula and long bones with this colouration. It is possible that some of the abraded fragments could belong to a second individual included by accident from a previously used pyre site, or they may be fragments of animal bone which formed part of the pyre goods.

Identifiable fragments of limb bones were under-represented in the assemblage, with cranial and axial fragments being over-represented. It has been suggested that 'it should be possible to recognise any bias in the collection of certain areas of the body after cremation' (McKinley, 1994, 6). However there is also some bias inherent in the identification of elements, as fragments of skull, femur and tibia are often more readily identifiable than other bones. These figures therefore can only provide a rough guide to

what was originally collected. However, in this case a relatively high proportion (58.1%) of the bone was identifiable, and it appeared that a high proportion of the long bones were missing. The ‘unidentified’ material contained some fragments of limb bone shafts and there were very few fragments of the ankles and feet. Tooth root fragments were present, but not as frequently as might be expected in a well-preserved burial. This may indicate poor collection of the remains following cremation, rather than loss of material after burial.

Identifiable pieces in this group included cranial vault including part of the occipital, temporal, frontal bone (glabella and lateral part of left orbit); pieces of vertebrae including vertebral facets, large fragments of several vertebral bodies (mainly lumbar and one sacral segment); a large quantity of rib fragments, pieces of the ischial tuberosities, humerus head and distal end, proximal radius, large pieces of ulna shaft, three proximal phalanges, femur shaft and tibia shaft. There was no evidence to suggest that the bone from the two contexts in this burial represented more than one individual.

Fragments of the occipital, glabella and temporal indicated that the skull was robust and, despite shrinkage of bone in the pyre, the finger phalanges and ischial tuberosities were large, so it is suggested that the individual was probably male. The cranial sutures were still partly open (mainly in the lambdoid region) though some had fused but were still patent. The tooth roots were fully formed. Traces of degeneration on the vertebrae suggest that the individual was middle-aged or older at the time of death.

Areas of pitting and new bone growth on the external surfaces of several cranial vault fragments may be evidence for inflammatory changes to the bone, perhaps the result of a scalp infection. At least one vertebral body showed signs of degenerative joint disease in the form of osteophytes.

Other material

A small fragment of unburnt animal bone was included in the >10mm fraction from the pot. It was abraded but could have been worked.

The presence of several shells of the tiny burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* amongst the bones in the pot may indicate that some flesh was still present on the bones when collected from the pyre. Examples of this subterranean snail were also found amongst the sampled material.

Summary and discussion

The burial contained the remains of one individual, a male in middle age or older. Unusually for a Roman cremation burial, there were a high proportion of large fragments in the assemblage, and the low proportion of limb bones is unusual for a cremation burial of any period. The total weight of bone indicates that the skeleton was far from complete. This may be due to poor collection following the cremation ritual, poor preservation of incompletely cremated material following burial, or a token collection of remains for burial. Perhaps the size of the pot determined how much material was collected from the pyre.

A sample of bone was selected for radiocarbon dating prior to analysis.

6.1.3 Graves 0213, 0235/0302 and 0283

Introduction

Three graves (inhumation burials) were excavated, all containing remains of skeletal material (Appendix 1). Two skeletons were near-complete and the third appears heavily disturbed by a later feature. The bones are dated to the Roman period by association with pottery and other finds.

Method

Measurements were taken using the methods described by Brothwell (1981), together with a few from Bass (1971) and Krogman (1978). Sexing and ageing techniques follow Brothwell (1981) and the Workshop of European Anthropologists (WEA, 1980), with the exception of adult tooth wear scoring which follows Bouts and Pot (1989). Stature was estimated according to the regression formulae of Trotter and Gleser (Trotter, 1970). All systematically scored non-metric traits are listed in Brothwell (1981), and grades of

cribra orbitalia and osteoarthritis can also be found there. Pathological conditions were identified with the aid of Ortner and Putschar (1981) and Cotta (1978).

Number of individuals

The three burials represented three individuals, but grave 0235 also contained the disarticulated fragments of a fourth individual.

Condition

The bones ranged from poor to fair condition. All three skeletons had been affected to some degree by erosion, and bone surfaces and joints were generally eroded or lost. Very few bones of the torso of any of the skeletons had survived.

Demographic analysis

The suggested ages and sexes of the four individuals are listed in Table 12.

Grave cut	Skeleton number	Sex	Age
0213	0258	Male	Middle-aged
0235/ 0302	0301a	Female	Young/middle-aged
N/A	SF 1053 0301b	-	*c*.4 years
0283	0303	?Female	Middle-aged+

Table 12. Age and sex

Although small, the group appears to represent a ‘normal’ population, comprising adults of both sexes and a child.

Metrical and morphological analysis

Tables of measurements and non-metric traits for the articulated skeletons are provided in the Appendix. Very few long bones were intact and most were eroded. All three adult skulls had suffered from post-mortem erosion and compression and few measurements were possible.

It was possible to calculate height for two skeletons, the male (0258) and the younger female (0301a). The man had an estimated living stature of 1.717m (5' 7½") and the female was 1.650m (5' 5") tall.

Cranial measurements for the male suggested that he had a dolichocranial (long, narrow) skull.

The skeletons were scored for non-metric traits, small genetically-determined anomalies in the skeleton, wherever possible, but two were assessable for only a few traits and no particularly unusual anomalies were found. Skeleton 0258 had an ossicle at the lambda and 0303 had retained the metopic suture, but these traits were not present in the other skulls. The lower right canine of skeleton 0301a was double-rooted.

Pathology

Dental analysis

All three adult individuals had complete or partial dentitions surviving, and there were two teeth belonging to the juvenile. Tooth wear was generally within the expected range for the age of each individual, although uneven wear on the lower left molars of 0258 and the upper left canine of 0303 could indicate that the teeth had been used in a habitual activity. Calculus was moderate to heavy in 0258, slight in 0301a and moderate in 0303. The latter had deposits of calculus on the occlusal surfaces of the lower right molars, suggesting that the missing upper molars may have been lost ante-mortem (no alveolar bone survived). Abscesses were present around the upper right second and third molars of 0258, and had caused enlargement of the sockets. Only one tooth, out of fifty-seven surviving across the whole group (prevalence 1.8%), was carious, the upper right first premolar of 0303.

Degenerative disease

Degenerative joint disease affected the male and the younger female; no joint surfaces survived in the older woman.

In male 0258 this was in the form of new bone growth at joint margins and along some muscle attachments. The ankles were most affected and possible flattening of the talus may indicate that there had been chronic stress on these joints which had resulted in the degenerative changes seen. The right hip joint also had osteophyte growth and an area of porosity suggestive of early osteoarthritis. Only the first and second cervical vertebral bodies survived, and both had osteophytes.

A large porotic area in the right sacro-iliac joint, and a smaller one on the left, of female 0301a suggested Grade II osteoarthritis, and osteophytes were also present on the bodies of all four surviving lower thoracic vertebrae.

Metabolic and nutritional disorders

All three adults could be assessed for the presence of cribra orbitalia, a condition linked with iron deficiency anaemia. There was slight porosity on both sides in male 0258, but neither of the females was affected.

Both females had new bone growth on the internal surface of the frontal bone, possibly indicating hyperostosis frontalis interna, although only small patches were present on the younger woman. In 0303 the bone was thickened (Pl. 15) and new bone growth was also present around the sagittal sinus and left side of the occipital. This condition has been linked with post-menopausal women, although its aetiology is uncertain.

Plate 15. Surface of the inner table of the frontal bone in 0303
The irregular surface of the inner table of the frontal bone is indicative of hyperostosis frontalis interna.

Summary and discussion

Four individuals were identified in the three graves, comprising a small child, a young/middle-aged female, an older ?female and an older male. Six sites with Roman inhumation burials have previously been recorded in the town, and three of these (nine burials) were recorded by the present author (Anderson 1997; 2005; 2006). The nine burials comprised seven adults (four male, three female) a sub-adult of *c.*16 years, and an infant. The other three (HER sites LMD 018, LMD 025 and LMD 029) yielded a single burial each, all of which were adults and two of which were female. Thus, of the sixteen inhumation burials excavated in the area to date, only 19% were of children and only 12.5% were under five years of age.

The bodies from the present site were incomplete, generally having lost the less robust areas of the skeleton through post-mortem decay. Only a few measurements could be recorded, but it was possible to estimate stature for the male and one of the females.

The former was of average stature for the Roman period, the latter slightly above average for a woman. Two of the other Long Melford sites provided stature estimates: the males were between 5' 4" and 5' 8" and the females between 5' ¼" and 5' 4".

Non-metric traits were only partially recorded due to the poor preservation of many of the relevant skeletal areas, and it was not possible to suggest any genetic relationships from the results. The same was generally true of the other Long Melford sites. Of the more unusual traits recorded across the sites, skeleton 0258 from the School site had a posterior atlas bridge on the left, whilst the female from The Limes (LMD 160) had the same trait on the right. Unfortunately most of the other skeletons from the town have not been assessable for this trait, although a female from Little St Mary's (LMD 115) did not have it.

Overall, the dental health of this group was good with only one example of tooth decay and one individual with abscesses. Caries was generally much higher in Roman groups, although the six skeletons from Little St Mary's (LMD115) also showed little evidence for cavities – only three teeth out of 101 were affected, a prevalence of 2.9%. Another rural group from RAF Lakenheath had a dental caries prevalence of 6.5% (Anderson forthcoming). However, ante-mortem tooth loss was significantly more common in the LMD 115 group, and abscesses were also more frequent than in the School group.

There was some evidence of physical stress amongst the group. Enamel hypoplasia suggestive of childhood illness or malnutrition was seen in one individual, and there was a mild case of iron deficiency anaemia. Long-term trauma to the ankle joints of the male may have been the cause of his degenerative joint disease in later life, although the presence of new bone around several joints suggested he may have been a 'bone former' (Rogers and Waldron 1995, 53). The two women may both have been peri- or post-menopausal, as evidenced by changes to the internal surfaces of their skulls.

Overall the group appears to represent a normal population with no particularly unusual traits or pathological conditions.

6.2 Faunal remains

Julie Curl

6.2.1 Introduction

A total of 10,126g of faunal remains was recovered from the excavation and monitoring. The most frequently recorded remains were those of equids, with the assemblage also producing elements of the main food mammals (bovids, porcine and ovicaprids), small quantities of bird and a single probable beaver bone.

All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn working and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context with additional counts for each species identified, counts were also taken of bone classed as 'countable' (Davis, 1992) and measureable bone following Von Den Driesch (1976). A basic catalogue is included in the written report (Appendix 11) and the full database is available in the digital archive.

6.2.2 The assemblage – provenance and preservation

The animal bone assemblage amounts to 10126g and consists of 1006 fragments. The material examined largely consisted of hand-collected material which represented 97% by weight, with and additional 312g (3 %) produced from sieved samples.

Over 45% of the assemblage (by weight) was produced from pit fills, with 29% recovered from ditch deposits and nearly 25% from grave fills, less than 1% was recovered from a posthole and a cremation. Quantification of the animal bone assemblage by feature type, spot date and weight can be seen in Table 13 and by fragment count in Table 14. The bulk of the faunal remains are associated with finds of a Late Iron-Age to early Roman date range.

Feature Type	Context spotdate and weight					Feature Total
	?Late Iron-Age	Late Iron-Age	?Early Roman	Early Roman	Undated	
Cremation		4g				**4g**
Ditch		2699g	185g	94g		**2978g**
Grave	461g	665g	118g	82g	1164g	**2490g**
Pit		4309g		300g	43g	**4652g**
Posthole				2g		**2g**
Spotdate Total	**461g**	**7677g**	**303g**	**478g**	**1207g**	**10126g**

Table 13. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature type, spotdate and weight

Feature Type	Context spotdate and fragment count					Feature Total
	?Late Iron-Age	Late Iron-Age	?Early Roman	Early Roman	Undated	
Cremation		1				**1**
Ditch		310	41	38		**389**
Grave	28	48	32	57	172	**337**
Pit		245		26	6	**277**
Posthole				2		**2**
Spotdate Total	**28**	**604**	**73**	**123**	**178**	**1006**

Table 14. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature type, spotdate and fragment count

Generally, the assemblage is in reasonable to good condition. Some fragments show slightly more wear and might suggest residual remains or exposure and weathering prior to burial. A good deal of fragmentation had occurred as a result of butchering, although it can be noted that bones which could provide metrical data (following Von den Driesch, 1976) for estimation of stature, breed and sex are present.

Small amounts of burnt bone were recorded from grave and pit fills. Canid gnawing was seen in at least five fills. One fill produced bone that may have been gnawed by a small canid, cat or mustelid (polecat, weasel or stoat).

6.2.3 General butchering

Butchering was noted throughout much of the assemblage (although little was seen on the equid remains) with a variety of primary and secondary butchering evidence seen. Butchering was also seen on one less common species, notably on the probable beaver bone indicating utilisation of this wild species.

6.2.4 Species range and modifications and other observations

At least six species were recorded. In terms of element count, the most frequently recorded species were equids, with bones of one skeleton in one pit fill and remains seen in ditch and grave fills. Remains of the main food mammals were seen throughout. Single bones of birds were seen in two features. A single bone that is probably from a beaver was recovered from pit 0281. The bone shows the animal had been butchered, demonstrating its probable use for meat and fur.

Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature type, species and species element count (NISP) is presented in Table 15.

Species	Feature Type and NISP					
	Cremation	Ditch	Grave	Pit	Posthole	Species Total
Bird		1	1			**2**
Beaver(?)				1		**1**
Cattle		32	28	6		**66**
Equid		12	19	179 (of which 173 are from pit 0257)		**210**
Mammal		316	262	86	2	**666**
Pig/boar		10	7	4		**21**
Sheep/goat	1	18	20	1		**40**
Feature Total	**1**	**389**	**337**	**277**	**2**	**1006**

Table 15. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by species, feature type and NISP

6.2.5 Pathologies

Several pathologies were noted including an ossified haematomata on an equid bone, signs of strain on bovid leg bones and probable arthritis.

6.2.6 Summary and discussion

Overall, the animal bone assemblage appears to be of mixed origin, including butchering and food waste. There are numerous bones of an equid in one pit (0257) which may be from a burial or they may represent 'ritual' waste. While a bone which is probably from a beaver is not positively identified (although likely) it can be noted that there are several archaeological finds of beaver in East Anglia (Coles, 2006), however their remains are nonetheless unusual

6.3 Plant macrofossils and other remains

6.3.1 Evaluation plant macrofossils and other remains

Val Fryer

Introduction

The evaluation in 2011 at Long Melford Primary School recorded a limited number of features of probable Late Iron Age to early/mid Roman date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit and ditch fills.

Methodology

The samples (numbered 1-5) were bulk floated by SCCAS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 12. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded.

Results

Cereal grains and seeds of common weeds were present at a low to moderate density within all five assemblages. Preservation was generally quite poor, with many of the grains being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Barley (*Hordeum sp*.) and wheat (*Triticum sp*.) grains were recorded, with wheat occurring most frequently. The majority of the wheat grains were of an elongated 'drop' form typical of spelt (*T. spelta*), although a small number of more rounded hexaploid type forms were also noted. Spelt chaff was recorded within all but Sample 5. Oat (*Avena sp*.) awn fragments were present within the assemblages from Samples 2 (pit 0006) and 4 (ditch 0016), and the same samples also contained detached sprouts from germinated grains. Although cereals were deliberately germinated as part of the malting process, the density of material within the current assemblages is so low that it is considered most likely that accidental germination, probably as a result of inadequate storage conditions, is represented.

Seeds of common segetal weeds and grassland plants were present throughout, although mostly as single specimens within an assemblage. Taxa noted included scarlet pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), brome (*Bromus sp*.), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), small legumes (Fabaceae), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), small grasses (*Poaceae*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), dock (*Rumex sp*.) and chickweed (*Stellaria media*). A single spike-rush (*Eleocharis sp*.) nutlet, noted within the assemblage from Sample 3 (ditch 0008), was the sole wetland plant macrofossil recorded. Small hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments were present within all but Sample 3. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout along with pieces of charred root or stem, but other plant macrofossils were absent.

Fragments of black porous and tarry material, all of which were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, were recorded within all five assemblages. Bone fragments were also present throughout, and were especially common within the assemblage from Sample 5 (pit 0018 – Fig. 5). Although small pieces of coal were noted, it was considered most likely that these were later contaminants within the features from which the samples were taken.

Conclusions

In summary, although all five assemblages are relatively small and somewhat limited in composition, it would appear that they are most likely to be derived from small deposits of mixed refuse including charred cereal processing or storage waste and domestic detritus. The abundance of material (most particularly wheat chaff) within the

assemblage from ditch 0016 (Sample 4) may indicate that this feature was close to a focus of agricultural activity, although it should be noted that during the Roman period, cereal processing waste was commonly used as tinder/fuel for a range of domestic and light 'industrial' purposes.

6.3.2 Excavation plant macrofossils and other remains

Lisa Grey

Introduction

Seventeen samples from the excavation were presented and a summary of these can be seen in Table 16. They have been dated as LIA to early/mid Roman with some middle-late Iron Age finds found at the site (Rob Brooks, pers. comm.).

This report will discuss the type and quality of preservation of organic (mainly botanical) remains and any inorganic materials in the samples.

Sample	Fill	Cut	Feature Description
10	0202	0203	Ditch
11	0204	0205	Pit
14	0214	0213	Upper grave fill
15	0222	0221	Pit
16	0241	0240	Ditch
17	0243	0242	Posthole at base of ditch
18	0231	0235	Top of grave fill
19	0232	0235	Grave fill below <18>
20	0252	0254	Cremation pit
21	0255	0257	Pit containing partial horse skeleton
22	0274	0213	Basal fill of grave
24	0262	0260	Upper fill of ditch
25	0289	0235	Outer fill of grave (backfilled natural?)
26	0300	0302	Basal fill of grave
27	0278	281	Top fill of pit
28	0280	0281	Basal fill of pit
29	0282	0283	Soil from around skeleton 0303 skull

Table 16. Sample descriptions

Sampling and processing methods

Sampling, flotation and residue sorting was carried out by the client. Processing was carried out using a flotation tank with a 300 micron mesh sieve (Anna West, pers. comm.). Each sample was completely processed.

The flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10x to 40x. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetic material (e.g. hammerscale). All data was recorded onto paper record sheets for tabulation. These sheets are kept with the author's archive and copies available on request.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck, 1947, Cappers et al., 2006, Charles, 1984, Fuller, 2007, Hillman, 1976 and Jacomet, 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace, 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. All items have been given estimated levels of abundance.

Results

Quality and type of preservation of the plant macrofossils

Plant macrofossils preserved by charring were present. Evidence of bioturbation by root action and soil fauna (i.e. the subterranean snail *Ceciliodes acicula*) were found in all samples apart from grave fills 0214, 0300 and 0282. Waterlogged preservation was not noted for any of the contexts sampled. Many uncharred, unmineralised seeds were present, dominated by those of common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis L.*), but they are likely to be intrusive. They have been recorded in the tables but not included in this report. A full breakdown of the plant macrofossils by context can be seen in Appendix 12.

The charred plant remains were recorded. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman and Jones, 1990, and Campbell et al., 2011). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979). Charring leaves a carbon skeleton resistant to biological and chemical decay (Campbell et al., 2011).

The charred plant remains

Charcoal fragments of identifiable size (>4mm^2) were recovered from most samples with the highest number in Sample 18 (fill 0231, cut 0235, top of grave fill). Charred twig fragments were found in low numbers in Samples 14, 15, 22, 26 and 29.

Charred cereal grains were present in all samples apart from 20, 26 and 28. Most were present in Samples 10, 11 and 25. Most of them were wheat (*Triticum sp*.) grains. Samples 11, 15, 17, 21 and 29 contained grains that resembled spelt/bread wheat (*T. spelta/aestivum*). Barley (*Hordeum sp*.) was found in six samples with most in samples 10. Grains well-preserved enough to be clearly hulled and straight were found in Samples 15 and 22. Only one fragment of cereal chaff was found and that was a wheat glume base in Sample 20.

Charred seeds were present in low numbers in Samples 11, 14 and 21. These were the same size as or smaller than cereal grains and were seeds of plants of disturbed or cultivated ground.

Faunal material in the flots

Shells of the subterranean snail *Ceciliodes acicula* were found in every sample apart from 14. Mammal bone fragments were common in every sample. Several samples contained calcined bone with most of these in cremation pit 0254 (Sample 20).

Inorganic material

Magnetic material was common in all samples. Most of these were flakes and lower numbers were spheroidal hammerscale. Spheroidal hammerscale is formed when droplets of hot slag are expelled during welding and primary smithing and flake hammerscale is formed by mechanical or thermal shock when iron is forged (Starley, 1995). Slag, pot, fired clay, burnt flint, iron, copper and nails were present in the residues of many of the samples.

Biases in recovery, residuality and contamination

Bioturbation was observed in each sample.

Concluding summary and key points

Seventeen samples, taken from features dated as LIA-early/mid Roman were taken. Identifiable charred grains, seeds and charcoal were present and thinly spread across all features but it is unlikely that they can be linked to any feature or activity. However evidence of metal-working was present within the material.

6.4 Shell

The Roman grave fills 0232 and 0300 both contained small and considerably abraded fragments of oyster shell.

6.5 Radiocarbon dating

6.5.1 Introduction

Samples of human bone from the cremation burial (0254) and three inhumation burials (0213, 0235/0302 and 0283), together with a sample of bone from an equid skeleton buried in pit 0257 were submitted for radiometric (C14) dating. The results are listed in Table 17 and the detailed dating certificates are reproduced as Appendix 13.

Feature	Feature type	Context	Sample	Sample code	C14 date	Calibrated (94.5%)	Finds spot dates
0254	Cremation	0252	Human bone	SUERC-52052 (GU33463)	1768 ±29 BP	AD 141-197 (7.6%) – AD 209-346 (87.8%)	*c*.AD 117-150
0213	Burial	0258	Human bone	SUERC-52053 (GU33464)	1856 ± 29 BP	AD 83-232	2nd-3rd century
0235/ 0302	Burial	0301a	Human bone	SUERC-52054 (GU33465)	2016 ± 31 BP	101 BC-AD 62	AD 160-early 3rd century
0283	Burial	0303	Human bone	SUERC-52058 (GU33466)	1878 ± 31 BP	AD 66-225	N/A
0257	Pit (horse skeleton)	0256	Horse bone	SUERC-52502 (GU33597)	1892 ± 28 BP	AD 56-214	N/A

Table 17. Radiocarbon (C14) dating results by feature

6.5.2 Discussion

The C14 dating results for the burials (cremation and inhumations) and the equid bone, span the Late Iron Age to the mid 4th century (quoted at 95.4% probability).

Two of the burials (0254 and 0235/0302) have groups of associated pottery vessels which can be closely dated and are considered to provide relatively close dating for the burials. The pottery dating of cremation 0254 (Hadrianic-early Antonine) falls partly within the overall calibrated (C14) date, but the overlap is at the very earliest part of the dating range which spans the period AD 141-346 (quoted at 95.4% probability). It is noted that this C14 date range is spilt between two dates (Table 17). The earlier, at AD 141-197, is rather more compatible with the dating of the pottery recovered. The other C14 determination, for burial 0235/0302, is at odds with the pottery dating. The pottery clearly dates to at least the middle of the 2nd century or later (dated *c*.150-200 AD), while the calibrated (C14) date range (at 95.4% probability) would suggest a later Iron Age-early Roman date, not later than the 1st century AD.

While the reason for the mismatch in dating (between the pottery and C14) is not clear, overall the C14 dating, taken in conjunction with the pottery dating, allows the interpretation that all of the burials probably date to the mid Roman period of the 2nd-3rd century and most probably none are of late Roman (4th century date). Also, buried equid 0257, which is otherwise undated, is likely to date to the same general period (early-mid Roman) as the cremation and inhumation burials.

7. Overall Discussion

Rob Brooks and Stephen Benfield

Excavation of the site at Long Melford Primary School produced a significant selection of notable finds and features. The foremost of these were Roman (with little activity after the 3rd century), but these were accompanied by limited levels of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age material as well. There are few finds from the post-Roman period. Apart from a piece of peg-tile of medieval or later date, there are only limited metal finds consisting of a medieval buckle, dated to the 13th-14th century, and a post-medieval period ring and coin (rose farthing) of Charles I.

The earlier Roman evidence indicates that whilst the excavation area may not have been within the densest part of the settlement core, it was part of the town and subsequently the location of various ditch boundaries (probably for property demarcation and/or livestock husbandry) and a number of small pits that were partially backfilled with refuse. The finds indicate that the area or the general vicinity was relatively near to a number of industrial and agricultural activities, such as metal-working, crop processing and livestock husbandry and butchery. The quantities and types of finds suggest that domestic dwellings were likely to be in relatively close proximity, although the low levels of CBM suggests that any buildings may not have incorporated significant quantities of such material (unlike elsewhere in the town), or were some distance away. The final use of the site appears to be for burials, being thereafter apparently deserted sometime in or after the third century.

Prehistory

The prehistoric remains consist entirely of finds recovered from later features. The Mesolithic-early Neolithic material is made up of worked flints in relatively low quantities, which generally indicate local occupation. Most of the flint work is Iron Age (or possibly Late Bronze Age), consisting of hard hammer struck flint debitage, probably associated with the pottery dated to the earlier to middle/later Iron Age. This shows local settlement of the type recorded previously in Long Melford, but the absence of associated cut features makes it difficult to characterise this period any more distinctly. Other residual finds of heat-affected (burnt) stone can also be associated with prehistoric activity here. More closely dated is a small quantity of hand-made pottery sherds which are of Iron

Age date. The use of flint-temper in some sherds indicates an early-middle Iron Age date, while others which are sand or grog-tempered can be dated to the middle-late and late Iron Age. All of these sherds were residual in later dated features.

The pottery assemblage includes a relatively large proportion of grog-tempered ware of late Iron Age 'Belgic' type and a small number of Gallo-Belgic imports, which might also date to this period. While much or all of this pottery is, or appears to be essentially residual, it indicates a significant phase of activity in the Late Iron Age and/or immediate post conquest (Roman) period. Also from this phase is an Iron Age coin (SF 1032), a Cunobelin unit (dated AD10-20), from a ditch fill associated with pottery dated to the early Roman period. Together with the Gallo-Belgic imports this could indicate a settlement of some significance in relation to other nearby communities. However, in the absence of contexts which can be securely assigned to this period, the nature of the occupation in this area during the late Iron Age remains obscure.

Later Iron Age-Roman occupation

The later Iron Age period into the early Roman period saw the site's peak of activity, as recorded elsewhere in Long Melford, although here non-funerary activity appears to have largely stopped by the early-mid 2nd century, with burials continuing during the mid 2nd-3rd century. This is in contrast with sites such as Almacks (LMD 137/157) west of the High Street, where features dating to the 3rd century were recorded. The purpose of the non-funerary contexts is not entirely clear due to the small size of the site, but the ditches probably indicate property boundaries and a series of entrances, with the sporadic postholes within them functioning as supports for fences. The similar alignments of the ditches and the presence of a series of ditch termini in this area that respected each other tends to suggest continuity of relatively long-standing features.

Interestingly in comparison to the relatively limited number and range of features, the artefactual and environmental evidence points at a varied set of local Late Iron Age to early Roman activities. Although sometimes limited in number and often otherwise abraded or broken, the finds assemblage on the one hand reflects typical domestic refuse, usually in the form of pottery and animal bone. However, there are also indications of arable and pastoral farming, leather-working and bronze and iron smithing (with the latter pointing to nearby metal-working, including possible ovens or hearths

somewhere in the locale). Of all these categories the metal-working is particularly significant as it suggests more complex, perhaps semi-urban activity, as might be expected in a large settlement. The bronze-smithing debris is of a type consistent with a late Iron Age/early Roman date and was recovered as scattered residual pieces and from samples, consisting of crucible fragments, pieces from a tuyère, a type of clamp (possibly used for handling either the crucible or newly cast objects) and small pieces of metal residues, primarily copper alloy. Such metal-working would have been carried out very close to the site, however given the lack of direct evidence such as smithing hearths it was unlikely to have been carried out directly on the development area. Taking into account the fragility of the tuyère and crucible fragments though, they are unlikely to have travelled far as it is improbable that they would have survived and that they would have ended up in the same ditch. A smith's punch (SF 1062) was also found (this time in the fill of a 2nd-3rd century inhumation burial), and hammerscale residue was recovered from various samples, which would indicate iron smithing. The evidence for metal-working goes to further reinforce Long Melford's claim to be a relatively substantial and important local settlement.

The excavation evidence also suggests that the projected extent of the settlement (admittedly only represented as a somewhat arbitrary delimiter in the HER) may extend further to the east. However, without knowing the exact positions of the Roman roads in this area, it is still difficult to fully establish where the settlement core of the town is likely to have been. It is also worth noting that occupation clearly continues on longer in some areas of Long Melford than elsewhere, making defining a consistent occupied zone difficult. However, the 1st century settlement evidence is known to be quite extensive and there is intense Late Iron Age to early Roman activity at the LMD 115 and 131 sites, *c.*50-150m to the west.

The finds from the site and the nature of the features here are significant in helping to understand the morphology of the Roman settlement at Long Melford. The metal-working debris, burials and the bone waste all suggest that the site adjoined the main settlement area, perhaps being the back gardens or the beginnings of fields and paddocks, with light industrial use, possibly from the Late Iron Age and more clearly in the Roman period. The metal-working might somewhat confuse the definition of the main settlement here though, as industry on the edges of towns often appears to blur

the margins with the surrounding agricultural land, as it results in apparent spikes of activity being present in these otherwise more peripheral areas (Burnham and Wacher, 1990). The burials, dating to the 2nd-3rd century, also indicate an area somewhat on the edge of the main settlement (Burnham and Wacher, 1990: 31). On this site they also tend to suggest a change in the usage of this area and perhaps its abandonment for general occupation. No features clearly post-date the burials and there is little indication of any activity on the site from the 3rd century onwards. This might point to a change in the nature of the Roman settlement in this particular area in the late Roman period. Of interest is the presence for 4th century burials close by at LMD 115 though, which may indicate that the domestic settlement area was shifting westwards, or contracting.

The burials

At some point in the 2nd century four burials were interred on the site. These appear to fall within the period of the early-mid 2nd century AD to mid 3rd century AD, with none appearing to date to the late Roman period (4th century). Grave goods were found with three of the four burials, whilst two of the inhumations had clear evidence for coffins/open box containers and in the case of the cremation, probably a wooden container as well as the urn.

Several traits of the inhumations and cremation have a broader significance and contribute to the wider themes highlighted in Section 2.3 and in Medlycott (2011). The burials contained a range of grave goods and display various different funerary rites, showing them to be suitable for comparison with other burials around the region and further afield, as well as adding to the collection already recorded in Long Melford.

Although the body of data is small, the burials reflect the wider funerary traditions and how they were changing throughout the Roman period. This is visible in terms of the transition from cremation to inhumation burial, here apparently occurring around the mid 2nd century, making it comparable with larger Roman centres, such as Colchester (e.g. at the Butt Road cemetery – Jude Plouviez, pers. comm., 02/11/2015).

Grave goods

The types of pots with the burials, being eating and drinking vessels, are typical choices (Philpott, 1991) and they seem to reflect Long Melford's status as a Romanised/ continentally-influenced community. The vessels appear to reflect a literal or symbolic provisioning of goods to the dead either for the afterlife, or the journey there, and/or as part of a graveside meal shared amongst mourners.

The provision and range of grave goods is similar to other sites and suitable for wider comparison. For example, the cremation was afforded a good but not unusual assemblage of pottery (although the probable presence of a wooden box, as well as the clay lining for the grave show quite particular treatment of this individual). While samian vessels are less frequently found among burials at large towns, they are more common in inhumations and cremations at rural sites and small towns (Willis, 2011, 222). It is recorded at these smaller sites that samian makes up a lower proportion of general pottery assemblages than at bigger urban centres. As such it may be that the selection of this type of pottery for use in burials in the more rural areas reflects an attempt at a more conspicuous, high status burial rite, as the material represents something more unusual and presumably expensive. The better furnished of the inhumations has a similar provision of grave goods to the cremation, including the two samian vessels and a further flagon, and although the male inhumation has a different set (despite being potentially contemporary) the size of his grave also indicates some level of status.

The condition and position of the grave goods is of note. Most appear to indicate obvious signs of use or modification pre-burial (either in general usage or as part of the funerary rites) in the forms of wear, the presence of some sort of lime(?) deposit on three vessels (though this could be natural), and what may be deliberate breakage. The latter may suggest ritual damage similar to that seen at Great Dunmow, Essex (Going, 1988). However, at least one of the samian vessels appeared to be unused. The use of broken goods may symbolically mark the ending of the vessel's life to coincide with that of the buried individual, while new items may be a recognition of the individual's status, or that of those burying them. Alternatively, slightly broken or worn goods could have simply belonged to the individual during their lifetime, with new items included as the gift of a better, higher status object to be used in the time ahead in the afterlife. Of the vessels whose original placement seemed most likely to be undisturbed, the cremation

vessels were all placed upright suggesting that they were buried containing food and drink, whilst the dishes from grave 0235/0302 were inverted. The latter were also positioned around the feet of the skeleton, along with the flagon. It is unclear how this flagon, or the jar from grave 0213 had originally been positioned. They would both have been prone to tipping over, or rolling, but it is doubtful that they could have moved too great a distance from their original positions. As nails were recovered from under the jar, it may have been placed on the lid of the coffin originally (Jude Plouviez, pers. comm., 02/11/2015).

In the two larger graves, what appears to be relatively high levels of other finds (i.e. material that was not clearly definable as grave goods, such as pottery sherds, animal bone fragments, etc.) were recovered. It is thought that these assemblages largely represent residual material and that the quantities are merely reflective of the greater amounts of fill present in the graves, as opposed to the shallow ditches and pits that make up most of the other features (and thus subsequently appear to have comparatively low levels of finds). The animal bone could be evidence of consumable grave goods, or the end result of grave side feasting, but this is considered unlikely given that there was so much other background material in the grave fills as well. The nature of the fills these finds were recovered from, being quite mixed and organic could be taken to suggest the deliberate inclusion of organic grave goods. However, both graves were excavated through earlier features, which are probably the source of these relatively dark, organic-looking deposits.

As there were no grave goods present with the smallest inhumation grave, this may have been the burial of someone with different beliefs or status, or that the mourners treated the individual differently for any number of reasons. However, the disturbance/ potential robbing of this grave could well have destroyed or removed any placed artefacts.

The horse remains

The horse burial was possibly associated with one of the more richly furnished graves. If it is assumed that the equid remains were deliberately placed with the burial, this may be further indication of a certain degree of status. Horses, according to Cross, were not regularly consumed in Romanised settlements as the Romans tried to discourage the

general consumption of horsemeat from quite an early period (2011). As the archaeological record for Long Melford tends to indicate a town with Roman military origins and a clearly Romanised and/or continentally influenced finds assemblage, it is unlikely that horses were being killed for consumption. Therefore the remains found here are unlikely to be general butchery waste, but a deliberate inclusion (indeed of the 210 equid bone fragments found on the site, only two were recorded with possible cut marks). On occasion horses were possibly being consumed though as 'ritual meat', but as there are no butchery marks on this equid skeleton this is unlikely. It is also notable that the included portions of the horse's skeleton were partially articulated and laid out in such a way as to mimic a somewhat naturalistic position, which suggests that they were deposited with at least some care, rather than simply dumped. There are also records that pets or prized animals were sometimes slaughtered for inclusion with burials and therefore this might be representative of such behaviour (Toynbee, 1971). However, it should not be ignored that on Roman sites, large quantities of livestock bones are quite regularly found articulated and therefore these remains may simply represent the deposition of a carcass.

The placement of the equid remains within what appears to be a deliberately small pit suggests that the feature was dug specifically. This may have been in order to simply bury the decomposing remains quickly, or because a specific effort was being made to bury these remains with some care. Whatever the case, the cut's stratigraphic relationship to larger, earlier grave cut 0235 is identical to that of the smaller grave cut (0302, which contained the human remains), i.e. they both cut grave 0235, reinforcing the theory that the horse and human burials could be related. Accordingly, this stratigraphy also makes the pit later than all of the remaining non-funerary contexts on the site too (excluding perhaps pit 0263/0281), furthering the idea that it could be a funerary related feature, rather than one associated with the earlier phase of pits and other features on the site.

Positioning of the burials

The alignments and positioning of the burials relative to the earlier features is clearly prominent. The early cremation is isolated from the ditches and pits, perhaps having been dug while some of these features were still open or recognisable, whilst the inhumations appear to have both closed off and/or mirrored the ditches. The latter

burials could therefore mark an end to the site's use for non-funerary activity. It is, however not unusual to see earlier inhumations (typically before the introduction of Christian rites), echoing the layout of surrounding features, usually roads. This does not represent a purely Roman behaviour, as such similar patterns are also sometimes recognised in Iron Age burials (Ashwin and Tester, 2014).

Grave cuts, fills and later interference

Of further interest is the provision of large graves for two of the burials. Unnecessarily large cuts (in terms of simply containing the human remains) had been excavated for these inhumations. Whilst the size of the cuts are possibly symbols of status, they may also have functioned to allow for the interment of further family members and/or for the provision of grave goods, or to allow for easier access to the grave (as suggested for the multiple burial at Blood Hill, in Anderson, Crummy and Sommers, unpub.).

An additional and uncommon characteristic recorded in one of the burials, namely the apparent disturbance of a grave, is of interest. The excavation of pit 0263/0281 through grave 0283 may have resulted in the almost complete disinterment of the skeleton and any grave goods. The positioning and shape of the pit across the grave matches relatively closely, which suggests a deliberate targeting of the burial. Whether this was the case or not, the excavation clearly did not stop at/respect the burial.

8. Conclusions and recommendations

Whilst the site has not on its own provided enough information to fully address burial practices in Roman Long Melford, even this relatively small sample has highlighted an interesting series of funerary practices. These range from the more common rites recorded across the country and elsewhere, such as the incorporation of dining sets of grave goods and the use of coffins, to the somewhat poorly-understood activity surrounding the apparent disturbance of one grave on the site. The burials also go some way to highlight the potential for further locations in the village to produce funerary remains, even in areas typically assumed to be dominated by domestic, agricultural or industrial activities. Given the relative density of burials recorded here, further groundworks within the school grounds or in the projected extent of the Roman settlement (and even beyond) should be considered as having the potential for significant Roman burials. This is particularly important to consider given that despite evaluation works having been carried out across the development area, there was no indication of any burials being present until the area was excavated. The school grounds in particular may contain such remains given those also found at LMD 115 and the density of Roman occupation archaeology at LMD 131, just to the west.

The site has also uncovered evidence for a number of other domestic, agricultural and industrial activities in the vicinity. Whilst the former two categories are perhaps to be expected, the range and preservation of material, even on a site that seems to be slightly on the outskirts of the main core of the settlement is worthy of note. More significantly, the presence of metal-working debris is of particular interest and again emphasises the importance and size of Long Melford as a relatively significant Roman settlement.

Although the extent and character of the town is not yet fully understood, it is hoped that further work will be undertaken in the future and a synthetic review of the Roman archaeology of Long Melford will be produced, assimilating the results of this report. If further work is undertaken to analyse this site, it is recommended that bone from grave 0235/0302 be given a second radiocarbon dating analysis to ascertain if there truly is a discrepancy between the pottery dates and radiocarbon dates. Also, a further date from the child’s skeleton found therein would help to explain the relation between the two individuals.

9. Archive deposition

As of October 2015, the finds archive has been deposited with SCCAS Conservation Team. SACIC will deposit the remainder of the site archive with SCCAS when this report has been accepted, as listed below:
Paper archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds
Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Long Melford\LMD 192 primary school
Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HLA-HLZ\HQK 90-99, HQL 1-99, HQM 1-99 and HQN 1-18
Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds. Store Location: K/123/2

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Jonathan van Jennians processed the finds and Stephen Benfield and Andy Fawcett reported on the finds and environmental evidence, with contributions by Sarah Bates (worked flint), Faye Minter (small finds), Harriet White (metal-working remains), Sue Anderson (human remains), Julie Curl (faunal remains) and Lisa Grey (plant macrofossils and other remains). The environmental samples were processed by Anna West. Graphics were produced by Crane Begg, Gemma Bowen, Beata Wieczorek-Oleksy and Michael Green.

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