cambridgeshirearchaeology
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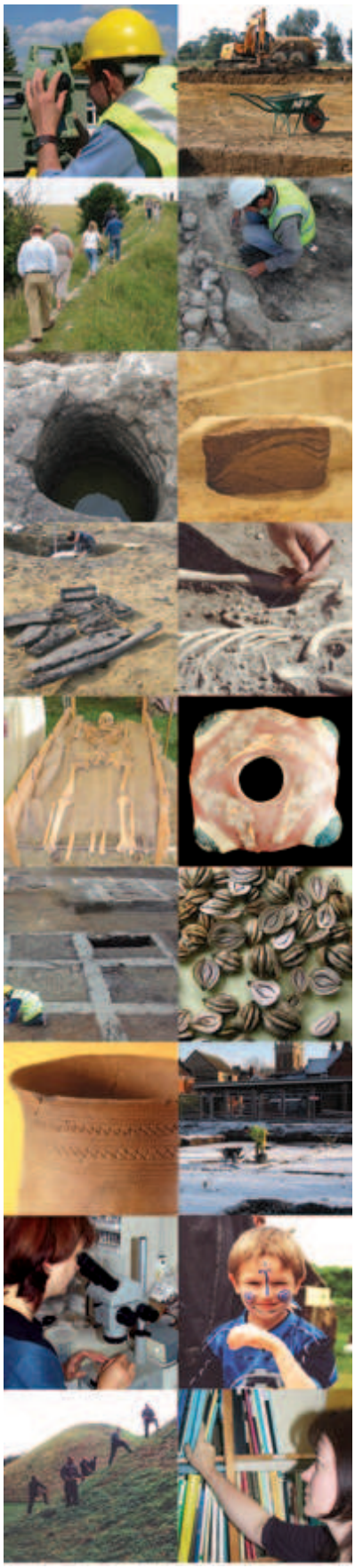

CAM ARC Report Number 935

# Roman Remains at 8 New Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire

## An Archaeological Evaluation

Tom Phillips

March 2007

Cambridgeshire County Council
Environment & Community Services

Commissioned by Exchange Developments

**CAM ARC Report Number 935**

# Roman Remains at 8 New Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire

## An Archaeological Evaluation

Tom Phillips BA

With contributions by Nina Crummy BA FSA, Chris Faine MA MSc BABAO, Rachel Fosberry HNC (Cert Ed) AEA, Alice Lyons BA MIFA and Cathy Tester

Site Code: GOD NES 06
CHER Event Number: 2491
Date of works: 6th-7th & 21st-22nd February 2007
Grid Ref: TL 5246 2704

| Status | Approved | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Author | Tom Phillips | | |
| Checked By | Paul Spoerry | | |
| Authorised By | Paul Spoerry | | |

Editor: Paul Spoerry BTech Hons PhD MIFA
Illustrators: Andy Corrigan BA and Louise Bush MA

## CAM ARC OASIS Report Form

**OASIS Number:** 25249

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PROJECT DETAILS** | | | | |
| Project name | Evaluation at 8 New Street, Godmanchester | | | |
| Short description | Machine stripping of a 10m trench revealed deeply stratified Roman remains up to 1.5m below modern ground level. Several discrete features such as pits and ditches were excavated. These in turn were sealing layers and other features. Two test pits at either end of the trench determined the depth of archaeology. The site was particularly rich in finds; pottery, bone and oyster shell were all abundant and there were several metal objects. The results were not unexpected given the site location in the centre of Roman Godmanchester | | | |
| Project dates | Start | 06/02/07 | End | 07/02/07 |
| Previous work | No | | Future work | unknown |
| Associated project reference codes | GODNES 06, HER Event No. ECB 2491, Planning Application no. 0602981FUL | | | |
| Type of project | Field Evaluation: Targeted trenches, Environmental Sampling. Development type: Urban residential. PPG16 condition | | | |
| Site status | Area of Archaeological importance | | | |
| Current land use (list all that apply) | Garden | | | |
| Planned development | residential | | | |
| Monument types / period (list all that apply and use thesaurus of monument types) | Roman settlement/town | | | |
| Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply and use MDA object thesaurus) | Roman pottery, Roman coins, composite copper object | | | |
| **PROJECT LOCATION** | | | | |
| County | Cambridgeshire | Parish: Godmanchester | | |
| HER for region | Cambs | | | |
| Site address (including postcode) | 8 New Street, Godmanchester, PE29 2JQ | | | |
| Study area (sq.m or ha) | 30 sq m | | | |
| National grid reference | Easting (6 figure) | TL 524675 | Northing (6 figure) | 270434 |
| Height OD | Max OD 10.51m | | Min OD 10.37m | |
| **PROJECT ORIGINATORS** | | | | |
| Organisation | Cambridgeshire County Council, CAM ARC | | | |
| Project brief originator | Kasia Gdaniec | | | |
| Project design originator | Paul Spoerry | | | |
| Director/supervisor | Tom Phillips | | | |
| Project manager | Paul Spoerry | | | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Exchange Developments | | | |
| **ARCHIVES** | **Location and accession number** | | **Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)** | |
| Physical | Cambridgeshire County Store | | Pottery, animal bone, shell, small finds, | |
| Paper | Cambridgeshire County Store | | context sheets, site registers, plans, photos | |
| Digital | CAMARC | | photos | |
| **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | | | | |
| Full title | Roman Remains at 8 New Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire | | | |
| Report number | 935 | | | |
| Series title and volume | | | | |
| Page numbers | ? | | | |
| Author(s) | Tom Phillips | | | |
| Date | March 2007 | | | |

## Summary

Between 6th and 7th and 21st and 22nd of February 2007 CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 8 New Street, Godmanchester. A single trench, 10 metres in length, was excavated, revealing stratified Roman remains including pits, boundary ditches and layers dating predominantly to the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

The site was particularly rich in artefacts, including coarse and fine ware pottery, glass and a unique copper alloy key or knife handle surmounted by the upper body and head of an animal, interpreted as a crocodile. This possible votive offering coupled with the remains of at least three adult dogs found in a pit tie in with the existing evidence of religious life in the town.

The density of archaeology was not unexpected given the location, in the centre of Roman Godmanchester, immediately adjacent to Ermine Street. It is possible the subject area is a backyard plot for a property fronting on to the main road.

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# 1 Introduction

Between 6th and 7th and 21st and 22nd of February 2007 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the rear of 8 New Street, Godmanchester.

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application 0602981FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly Archaeological Field Unit).

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

# 2 Geology and Topography

The site lies on Oxford Clay beds, overlain by 1st and 2nd Terrace and gravel deposits of the Great Ouse system. (British Geological Survey 1975).

The trench varied between 10.37m OD at the northern end and 10.51m OD at the southern end.

# 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The development is situated in the core area of the Roman town of *Durovigutum*, close to the town centre and virtually on the cross roads of Ermine Street, the great trunk road to the north, and the Cambridge to Sandy road. Extensive published material is available regarding the development of the town and the long history of archaeological work that has taken place, most notably Green (1977).

The importance of Godmanchester during the Roman period was primarily geographical as it controlled the crossing of the river Great Ouse. Roman forces moving north along the line of Ermine Street had established a legionary fort at Godmanchester within a year of the invasion of AD 43. The fort was abandoned within a few years as the frontier moved north, but an associated civilian settlement or *vicus*

survived. During the Flavian period (AD 69-96) the *vicus* expanded and flourished with occupation concentrated along Ermine Street and the cross roads in the town centre, immediately to the east of the development area.

By the Hadrianic period (AD 117-38) a *mansio* and baths were designed and built in the centre of the town, to the north of the cross-roads, on the western side of Ermine Street. These were very large and elaborate buildings reflecting, in both their design and furnishings, the progressive Romanisation of the inhabitants. *Mansiones* were originally connected to the imperial postal service, providing overnight accommodation and fresh horses. This role later expanded to include facilities for other imperial travellers and later served as both a police post and a tax collection centre. The Godmanchester *mansio* as eventually built was one of the largest in Britain, at over 100 metres long, including stabling. Both mansio and baths were substantially built with masonry walls and were half-timbered above the ground floor. Floors were tessellated and walls were of painted plaster.

Somewhat later (shortly after c. AD 200) the town centre was redesigned and a formal basilica or town hall was built, in front of the western side of Ermine Street, approximately 50m north-west of the subject site. The presence of a basilica indicates that Godmanchester may have achieved the formal status of *Vicus*, with a legal constitution and rights of self-government (possibly following an edict of Caracalla in AD 214 which granted Roman citizenship to all free-born members of the community).

West of the *mansio* and possibly associated with it was a small temple apparently dedicated to a god named Abandinus, not known elsewhere and so possibly a local deity.

Previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the subject site includes a watching brief undertaken during the redevelopment of the front plot in 1978 (Green, in prep.), that revealed a boundary ditch (potentially of 2nd century date), rubbish pits (1st and 2nd century date) and possible foundation slots for a timber-framed building. This was interpreted as a back yard plot belonging to tenements fronting onto Pinfold Lane, with the usual domestic rubbish pitting and other activities associated with such a location.

A small excavation in the garden of No. 5 New Street in 1977 uncovered five phases of Roman occupation including 1st century rubbish pits and a latrine, a 2nd century boundary ditch perpendicular to Ermine Street and a 3rd century shop fronting on to the road.

An evaluation c.100m to the north-west of the development area (Hinman 1998a) revealed a well preserved sequence spanning the late prehistoric and Roman periods with particularly strong evidence, in the

form of structures, enclosures and rubbish pits, for the expansion of the town in the 3rd to 4th centuries.

Small investigations at Pinfold Lane (Hinman 1998b) revealed structural features on the same alignment as the mansio and bath house.

## 4 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that a 5% sample of the development area be opened for investigation; but owing to the small plot size and complex remains, a larger 12% sample trench was opened up.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CAM ARC's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Seven environmental samples were taken from various features and layers to investigate the possible survival of micro- and macro-botanical remains (see Appendix 5).

Site and weather conditions were good. The water table was encountered at the southern end of the trench at a depth of 1.6m.

## 5 Results

The trench was approximately 9.5m in length, orientated north-east to south-west. It was excavated by machine down to the first recognisable *in situ* Roman deposits (Fig. 2). A full context summary can be found in Appendix 1.

## 5.1 Test Pits

Two test pits were excavated within the trench to determine the depth and nature of archaeology, one across the trench at the northern end and a second against the western baulk at the southern end.

### 5.1.1 Test Pit 1

Test pit 1 at the northern end reached a maximum depth of 1.52m below modern ground level, at which point natural geology was encountered (Plate 1). The natural geology consisted of a yellowish brown clay; there was no evidence of river gravels. The earliest archaeological deposit, layer 114 (Fig. 3; sections 1 and 2) was a brownish grey sandy silt, 0.26m in depth, containing no finds. This may represent a pre-Roman buried soil.

Layer 113, a brownish yellow compacted sandy silt sealed it. This layer was visible in parts across the surface of the northern end of the trench and could represent a make up layer.

Possible pit **112** was only visible in section. It was u-shaped in profile, measuring 0.44m wide and 0.33m deep. Its fill (111) was a dark greyish brown sandy silt containing five sherds of 3rd to 4th century pottery and oyster shells. This date is problematic considering pit **112** is earlier in the sequence than ditch **106**=**108** but contains later pottery.

Layers 114 and 113 and pit **112** were all truncated by ditch **106**=**108** which was orientated north-east to south-west, and ran across the trench. It was linear in plan with a u-shaped profile, measuring 0.7m wide and 0.39m deep. Its single fill (105=110) was a yellowish brown silty clay. It contained a near complete small flagon and other pottery all dating to between the 2nd and 3rd centuries, and CBM (Ceramic Building Material). There was also a copper alloy and iron object (SF2) that has been interpreted, after conservation and inspection, as a knife or key handle or the terminal of a piece of furniture. The handle was surmounted by the upper body and head of an animal and has been interpreted possibly as a crocodile (Plate 3). A full report on this high status object can be found in appendix 6.

### 5.1.2 Test Pit 2

Test pit 2 at the southern end of the trench reached a depth of 1.6m below modern ground level, at which point incoming water became a problem and excavation was stopped (Plate 2). Fills 127=131, 126=130, and 125=129 may all belong to a single large feature, possibly a ditch or quarry, which is not visible in plan. All three comprised a yellowish brown silty sand and only 125=129 contained any pottery, a few sherds dating 2nd to 3rd century.

Sealing 125=129 was layer 124=128, a greyish brown silty sand measuring 0.11m thick. It contained a large amount of late 2nd to 3rd century pottery and oyster shell. This layer may represent an episode of levelling.

## 5.2 Other Features

Layer 113 has been described above. It was truncated by unexcavated ditch **137** which was orientated north-east to south-west. It extended 1.5m from the eastern baulk before being truncated by later features. Surface finds consisting of 3rd century pottery were collected from its fill (136).

Truncating fill 136 was unexcavated pit **135**. Only partially visible it appeared to be sub circular in plan. Five fragments of late 2nd to 3rd century pottery and oyster shell were recovered from the surface of its fill (134).

Layer 118 occupied a large area in the south of the trench and may equate to layer 124=128. Surface finds were collected including the stamped base of a samian cup from central Gaul, dating to the 2nd century (SF3). Pit **135** and layer 118 were both truncated by ditch **106**=**108** which has been described above.

Three other excavated features also truncated layer 118. Pit **104** was located in the south of the trench, slightly obscured by the eastern baulk. Sub circular in plan it measured 0.85m in diameter and 0.2m deep. Its fill (103) was a greenish brown clayey silt that contained Roman pottery dating to the late 2nd or early 3rd century, a large quantity of dog bone and oyster shell. A sherd of 1st to 2nd century Roman glass (SF1), part of a handle from a storage vessel, was also retrieved.

Pit **120** was located approximately 0.75m to the north of **104**. It was sub circular in plan and measured 0.66m in diameter and 0.13m deep. Its fill (119) was a dark brownish black silty clay with burnt patches that contained part of a large storage jar dated 2nd to 3rd century. There was evidence of lime on the inside suggesting this vessel was used to store or heat water.

Gully **123** was located directly to the west of pit **120**, orientated north-west to south-east. It extended approximately 0.75m from the western baulk before terminating and measured 0.2m wide and 0.15m deep. Its fill (122) was a dark brown silt that contained seven sherds of early to mid 3rd century pottery and oyster shell.

In the north of the trench unexcavated pit **133** was partially visible extending from the western baulk. It was approximately 0.5m in diameter. Surface finds of late 2nd to 3rd century pottery sherds

including storage jars and a dish were recovered from its fill (132), as well as a considerable amount of CBM.

Ditch **115** appeared to be late in the sequence. It ran north-west to south-east across the middle of the trench, truncating ditch **106**=**108** and layer 118. It had a flat based u-shaped profile, meausuring 0.72m wide and 0.28m deep. Its fill (116) was a dark greyish brown clayey silt that contained a considerable amount of late 3rd to 4th century pottery, bone, CBM and oyster shell. Significantly sherds of pottery from the fill joined with sherds in layer 102 (see below) suggesting the ditch backfill and sealing layer are contemporary.

Sealing everything was layer 102, a mid brown sandy silt measuring up to 0.3m deep. It contained a considerable amount of 3rd century pottery including fragments of cups, bowls and jars, as well as a fragment of glass of indeterminate date and CBM. It may represent a layer of disturbed or agricultural soil.

Layer 102 was sealed by subsoil 101, a mid brown silty sand measuring 0.34m deep. Two coins, both from the subsoil, were retrieved from the spoil heap whilst metal detecting. One was a 3rd century Barb-Radiate of Claudius Gothicus II and the other was a 4th century House of Constantine. Both clearly belong to an earlier context but have been disturbed through cultivation.

The subsoil was sealed by modern topsoil 100, a dark greyish brown silty sand measuring up to 0.4m deep.

## 6 Discussion

The limited area of the evaluation makes it difficult to place the results in a wider context but certain assumptions can be made. The overall depth and density of archaeology discovered suggests occupation on the site over a prolonged period. This is not surprising given the location of the site in the centre of Roman Godmanchester close to public buildings such as the basilica and next to Ermine Street where occupation was most dense. The artefacts suggest a predominantly 2nd to 3rd century date which corresponds with the continuing expansion of the town, beginning in the Flavian period and carrying on in to the 3rd century with the construction of the basilica. The site appears to decline in use during the late 3rd and 4th centuries. The ceramic assemblage (Appendix 2) had a surprisingly high proportion of fine wares (such as samian and Nene Valley colour coated wares), more than would be expected for a local farmstead.

As the 1978 watching brief at the front of the property suggested the subject area may represent a backyard plot. The frequency of bowls, storage jars and dishes in the ceramic assemblage supports this theory as does the environmental and faunal evidence. Cereals such as spelt

wheat were being locally utilised although only in small quantities. Deposits of domestic refuse comprising cereal grains, scattered butchery waste and mussels were also present.

Layer 114, stratigraphically the earliest deposit in the sequence, may be pre-Roman or very early Roman in date as it was far more sterile compared to later features and layers. However, sample 5, taken from layer 114, contained both animal and fish bone and hammerscale, similar residues to all the samples on the site, suggesting occupation and industry was already occuring when this layer formed. The early fills or layers in the southern test pit (125-127) had a similar appearance to 114 and may be of a similar date.

Ditches **106=108** and **115** follow an ordinal pattern with the two main roads in Godmanchester. Ditch **106=108** appears to be perpendicular to Ermine Street and could represent a property boundary dividing up plots of land along the main road during a time of expansion in the 2nd century (Fig. 4). Green (1977: 9) describes a linear plan to the town with many buildings placed lengthwise to the street, each in its own compound with boundaries marked by ditches or fences. Ditch **115**, possibly parallel to Ermine Street, may perform a similar function, either subdividing an already established plot or revising the arrangement of plot divisions in a later phase.

The presence of 58 bone fragments from at least 3 adult dogs in pit **104** (see Appendix 3) draws a parallel with a group of 30 pits found outside the kitchen of the *mansio* in 1970 (Green, in prep.). Nearly every pit had two dogs buried at the bottom and in many cases only part of the carcass was present. Green suggests they were buried for sacrificial purposes. In Cambridge a series of at least 13 deep shafts dating to the 3rd and early 4th centuries were discovered inside the Roman town. Each contained the burial of a mature dog of fox terrier size and the remains, often only a few bones, of an infant burial (Alexander and Pullinger 2000). Miranda Green (1992) has suggested deep shafts are used to communicate with the Otherworld with dog/hounds acting as guardians for the infant after death. Clearly these are quite elaborate burials and pit **104** may simply be a rubbish pit but given its proximity to those at the mansio a ritual context can also be considered.

The copper alloy handle surmounted by a possible Nile crocodile is a unique object. Representations of crocodiles are rare in the Roman world and rarer still in Britain with only two recorded, both from 1st century lamps depicting a crocodile fighting a lion. It has been suggested the object may simply have been discarded once the iron part had broken off or that it may be a votive offering given its location on land close to the temple (see Appendix 6). Also noted is the possibility that to a Roman citizen in Godmanchester who had never seen a crocodile, the animal may have represented a dog or horse.

This ties in more satisfactorily with local customs, especially those related to dogs as mentioned above.

## 7 Conclusions

This evaluation has successfully shown, despite a small sample area, that the proposed development sits in an area of deeply stratified Roman archaeology with artefacts such as samian pottery, glass and an ornate copper object suggesting relatively high status. These *in situ* archaeological deposits sit below topsoil, subsoil and disturbed layer 102, at a depth of 0.75m below modern ground level in the north of the trench (9.6m OD) and 0.8m in the south (9.66m OD).

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Exchange Developments who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Paul Spoerry, the site was excavated by the author, Will Punchard and Dan Wheeler. Illustrations were by Andy Corrigan, the pottery was examined by Alice Lyons and Cathy Tester, faunal remains were looked at by Chris Faine, the glass was identified by Stephen Wadeson and Rachel Fosberry examined the environmental evidence. Emma Hogarth of Colchester Museums conserved the copper object and Nina Crummy conducted a study of it. Paul Spoerry edited the report.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec, whilst Andy Thomas visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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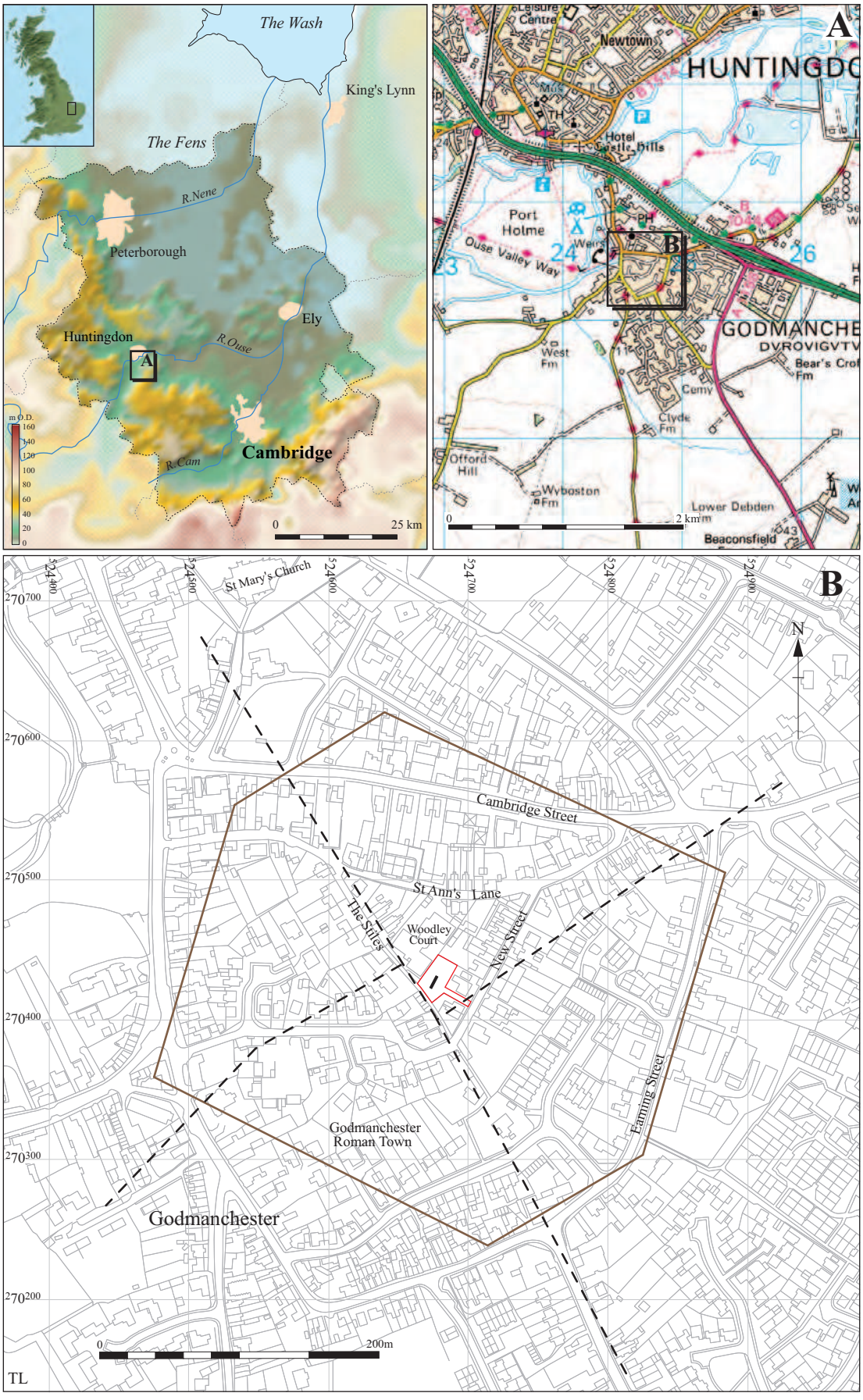




*Figure 1 Location of trench (black) with the development area outlined (red), with Green's plan of walls (brown) and major streets from the Roman town overlain (Green 1977)*

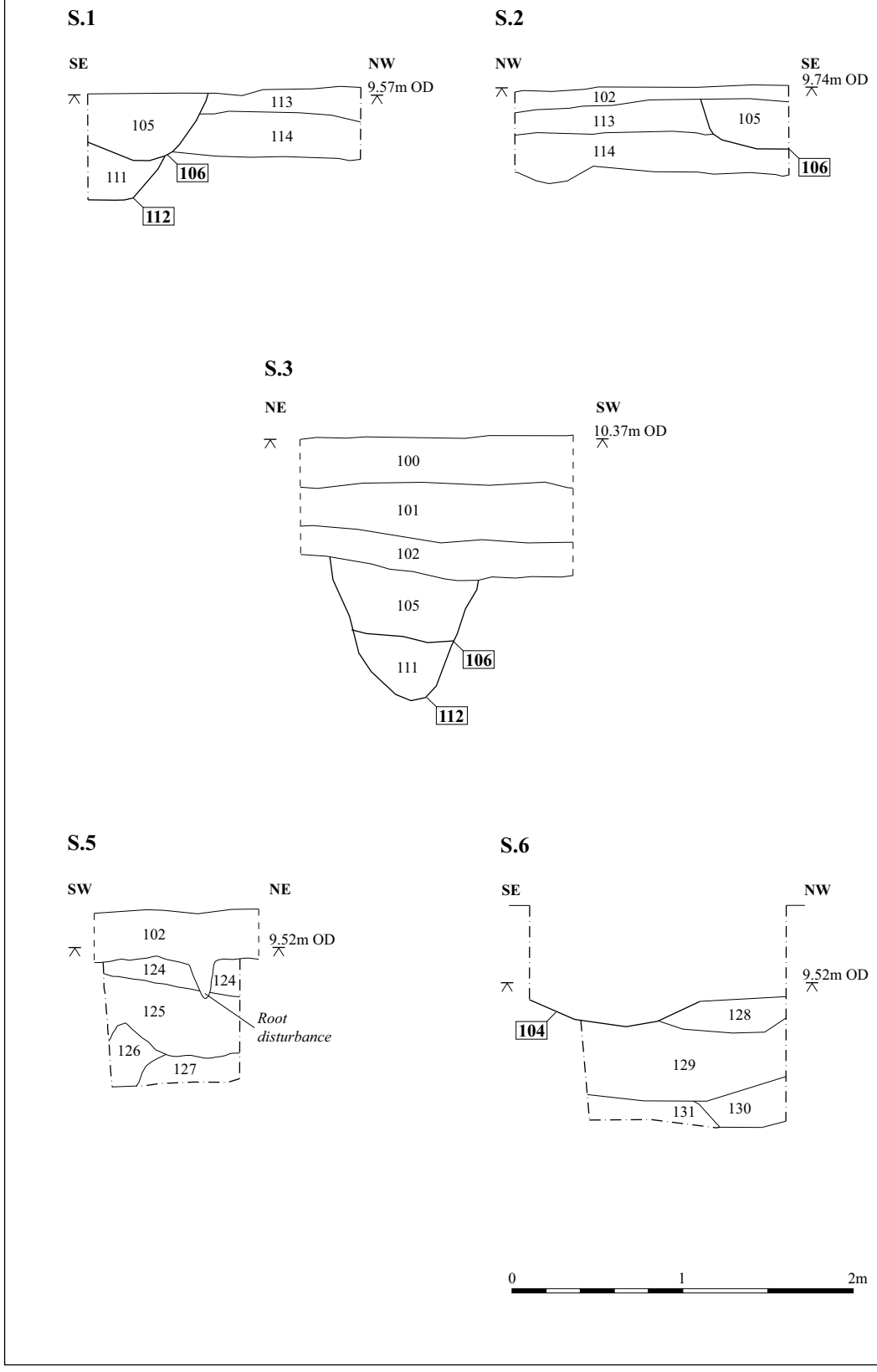


*Figure 3: Section drawings*


*Figure 2: Trench plan*

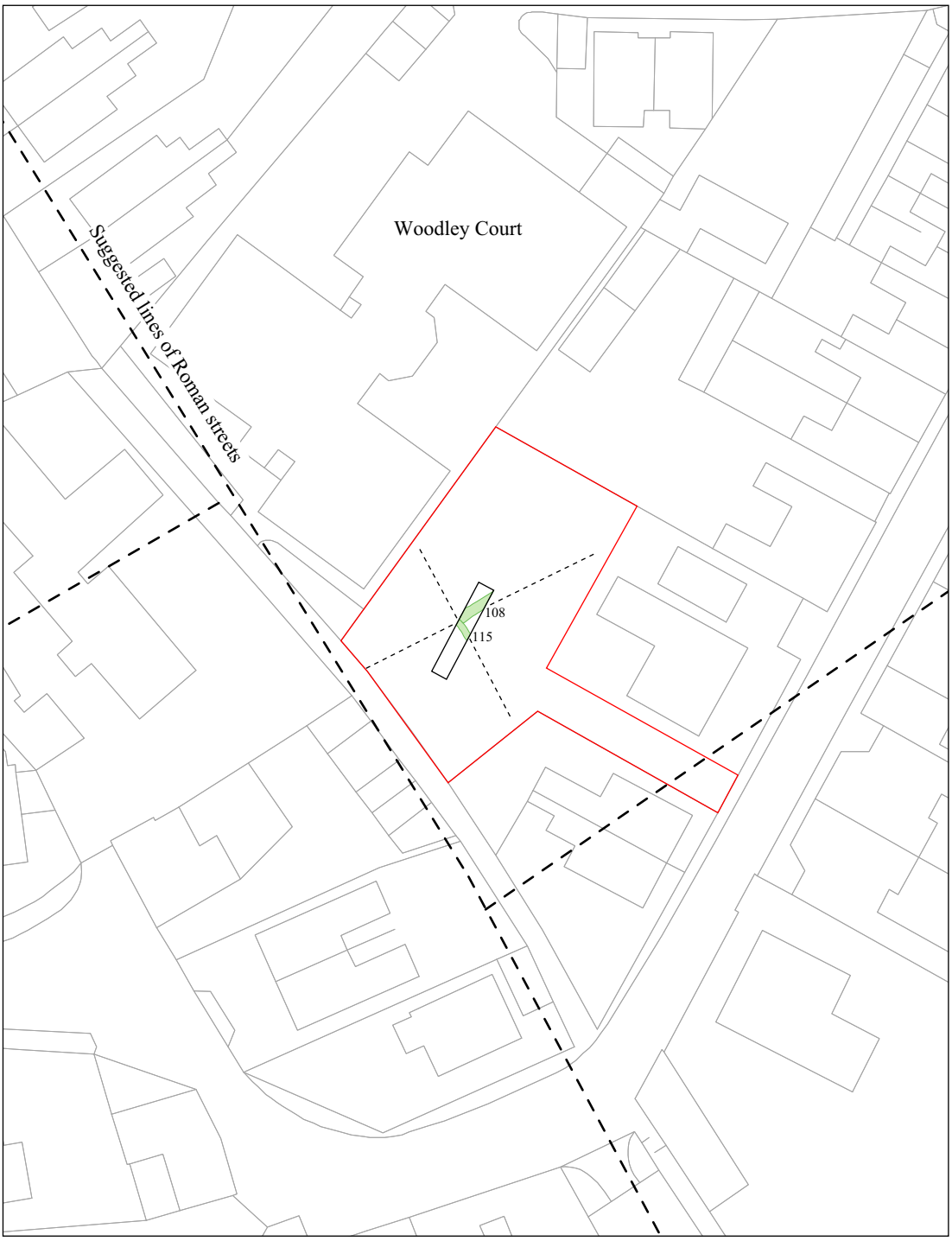


*Figure 4: Close up of trench showing the alignment of ditches with suggested major Roman streets (after Green 1977)*


*Plate 1: Trench looking south-west with Section 1 in the foreground*


*Plate 2: Test pit 2 looking north-west*

*Plate 3: Copper alloy handle with zoomorphic terminal*

## Appendix 1: Context Summary

| Context | Same as | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Colour | Fine component | Coarse component | Shape in Plan | Side | Break of Slope | Base |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | | 0 | layer | accumulation | dark greyish brown | silty sand | | | | | |
| 101 | | 0 | layer | accumulation | mid brown | silty sand | | | | | |
| 102 | | 0 | layer | accumulation | mid brown | sandy silt | occasional pottery, occasional charcoal | | | | |
| 103 | | 104 | fill | pit | greenish brown | clayey silt | frequent pottery, animal bone and oyster shell, occasional charcoal | | | | |
| 104 | | 104 | cut | pit | | | | sub-circular | steep | gradual | concave |
| 105 | 110 | 106 | fill | ditch | yellowish brown | silty clay | occasional gravel inclusions | | | | |
| 106 | 108 | 106 | cut | ditch | | | | linear | steep | sharp | flat |
| 107 | | | void | | | | | | | | |
| 108 | 106 | 108 | cut | ditch | | | | linear | steep | sharp | flat |
| 109 | | 108 | fill | ditch | dark brown | clayey silt | occasional gravel and larger stones | | | | |
| 110 | 105 | 108 | fill | ditch | yellowish brown | silty clay | occasional gravel inclusions | | | | |
| 111 | | 112 | fill | pit | dark greyish brown | sandy silt | occasional charcoal and oyster shells, rare pottery | | | | |
| 112 | | 112 | cut | pit | | | | ? | steep | gradual | flat |
| 113 | | 0 | layer | | brownish yellow | sandy silt | rare pottery | | | | |
| 114 | | 0 | layer | | brownish grey | sandy silt | | | | | |

| Context | Same as | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Colour | Fine component | Coarse component | Shape in Plan | Side | Break of Slope | Base |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 115 | | 115 | cut | ditch | | | | linear | steep | sharp | flat |
| 116 | | 115 | fill | ditch | dark greyish brown | clayey silt | frequent pottery, bone and shell, occasional gravel | | | | |
| 117 | 136 | 0 | fill | ditch | dark brown | | | | | | |
| 118 | | 0 | layer | | yellowish brown | clayey silt | occasional pottery | | | | |
| 119 | | 120 | fill | pit | dark brownish black | silty clay | occasional gravel | | | | |
| 120 | | 120 | cut | pit | | | | sub-circular | shallow | gradual | concave |
| 121 | | 120 | fill | pit | reddish brown | sandy silt | | | | | |
| 122 | | 123 | fill | gully | dark brown | silty clay | frequent oyster shell, occasional pottery | | | | |
| 123 | | 123 | cut | gully | | | | | steep | sharp | concave |
| 124 | 128 | 0 | layer | | greyish brown | sandy clay | frequent pottery and oyster shell | | | | |
| 125 | 129 | 0 | fill | ? | orangey brown | silty sand | occasional pebbles, rare pottery | | | | |
| 126 | 130 | 0 | fill | ? | yellowish brown | silty sand | occasional flint pebbles | | | | |
| 127 | 131 | 0 | fill | ? | greyish yellow | gravel | frequent gravel | | | | |
| 128 | 124 | 0 | layer | | greyish brown | sandy clay | frequent pottery and oyster shell | | | | |
| 129 | 125 | 0 | fill | ? | orangey brown | silty sand | occasional pebbles, rare pottery | | | | |
| 130 | 126 | 0 | fill | ? | yellowish brown | silty sand | occasional flint pebbles | | | | |

| Context | Same as | Cut | Category | Feature Type | Colour | Fine component | Coarse component | Shape in Plan | Side | Break of Slope | Base |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 131 | 127 | 0 | fill | ? | greyish yellow | gravel | frequent gravel | | | | |
| 132 | | 133 | fill | pit | dark brown | clayey silt | pottery and shell from surface | | | | |
| 133 | | 133 | cut | pit | | | | circular | not excavated | not excavated | not excavated |
| 134 | | 135 | fill | pit | dark brown | clayey silt | pottery and shell on surface | | | | |
| 135 | | 135 | cut | pit | | | | sub-circular | not excavated | not excavated | not excavated |
| 136 | 117 | 137 | fill | ditch | dark brown | | | | | | |
| 137 | | 137 | cut | ditch | | | | linear | not excavated | not excavated | not excavated |

*Table 1: Context information*

# Appendix 2: The Pottery

by Alice Lyons

## 1 Introduction

A total of 328 sherds, weighing 12.773kg (6.85% EVE), of Romano-British pottery were recovered during the excavation of a small trench at New Street, Godmanchester. This pottery is relatively fresh, with an average sherd size of *c*. 39g. Evidence for use and wear has survived, indicating low levels of post-depositional disturbance (such as middening, ploughing and water damage). The pottery found was almost exclusively Roman, although one modern terracotta fragment (16g) was also identified.

Godmanchester (known as *Durovigutum* during the Roman era) held a strategic position on the main north-south Roman road of Ermine Street where it crossed the River Ouse. The site examined here is of particular interest as it lies just to the east of a known m*ansio* (rest-house for official travellers using the imperial post service) (*curus publicus*) and bath house.

The majority of dateable pottery originates from the mid-to-late Roman period (late 2nd to early/mid 3rd centuries) and consists of locally produced coarse and fine wares, a significant proportion of which were produced locally and in the Lower Nene Valley at *Durobrivae* (Water Newton, Cambridgeshire) *c*. 30km to the north, also located on Ermine Street. A significant amount of samian, imported mostly from Central Gaul during the 2nd century was also found (see below).

The majority of the assemblage (*c*. 40% by weight) was recovered from pits (Table 2), although a similar quantity (*c*. 36%) was recovered from a layer (102) that sealed most of the features on site. A significant amount of pottery was also recovered from ditches (*c*. 22%).

| Feature | Quantity | Weight (kg) | EVE | Weight (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pits | 91 | 5.077 | 1.53 | 39.75 |
| Layers | 134 | 4.655 | 4.17 | 36.45 |
| Ditches | 89 | 2.836 | 1.06 | 22.20 |
| Unstratified or unallocated | 7 | 0.137 | 0.00 | 1.07 |
| Gully | 7 | 0.068 | 0.09 | 0.53 |
| **Total** | **328** | **12.773** | **6.85** | **100.00** |

*Table 2: The feature types from which the assemblage was retrieved, listed in descending order of pottery weight (%)*

## 2 Methodology

The assemblage was assessed in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared.

The sherds were examined using a magnifying lamp (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW). Vessel form was recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted.

## 3 The Romano-British pottery

A total of twenty-one Romano-British pottery fabrics were recovered during this project, some in very small quantities. The main contributors are discussed below.

### 3.1 Coarse wares

Sandy oxidised wares form the most common class of coarse ware. The data is slightly skewed, however, by the presence of a large storage jar in this fabric that accounts for the majority of the fabric weight. The source of this storage jar is unknown but is probably local, while the presence of limescale on the internal surface of the vessel suggests it has been used to store water over a considerable period.

| Fabric | Code (Table 5) | Vessel types | Quantity | Weight (kg) | EVE | Weight (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sandy oxidised ware | SOW | Bowl, dish, flagon, medium mouthed jar and storage jar | 44 | 3.930 | 0.44 | 30.77 |
| Shell tempered ware | STW | Medium mouthed jar, storage jar | 47 | 2.016 | 0.27 | 15.78 |
| Gritty oxidised ware | OW(GRITTY) | Medium mouthed jar | 33 | 1.903 | 2.75 | 14.90 |
| Sandy grey ware | SGW | Flanged dish, jar, medium mouthed jar, narrow mouthed jar, wide mouthed jar | 78 | 1.641 | 1.42 | 12.85 |
| Black burnished ware 2 | BB2 | Jar and medium mouthed jar | 45 | 0.991 | 0.53 | 7.76 |
| Samian | SAM | Bowl, cup, dish, platter | 20 | 0.721 | 0.51 | 9.84 |
| Nene Valley colour coat | NVCC | Beaker, flagon, hunt cup, medium mouthed jar | 24 | 0.625 | 0.71 | 4.89 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nene Valley cream ware | NVCW | | 9 | 0.301 | 0.00 | 2.36 |
| Black burnished ware 1 | BB1 | Dish | 5 | 0.180 | 0.08 | 1.41 |
| Amphora | AMP | | 2 | 0.148 | 0.00 | 1.16 |
| Black surfaced red ware | BSRW | Medium mouthed jar | 4 | 0.131 | 0.05 | 1.03 |
| Horningsea reduced ware | HORN | | 2 | 0.047 | 0.00 | 0.37 |
| Sandy grey ware (micaceous) | SGW(MICA) | | 3 | 0.041 | 0.00 | 0.32 |
| Grey ware (hand made) | GW HM | | 1 | 0.028 | 0.00 | 0.22 |
| Fine grey ware | GW(fine) | | 2 | 0.019 | 0.00 | 0.15 |
| Sandy grey ware (Calciferous) | SGW(CAL) | | 2 | 0.017 | 0.00 | 0.13 |
| Nene Valley grey ware | NVGW | Medium mouthed jar | 3 | 0.009 | 0.09 | 0.07 |
| Nene Valley oxidised ware | NVOW | | 1 | 0.009 | 0.00 | 0.07 |
| Stanground grey ware with orange surfaces | STAN | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 0.009 | 0.00 | 0.07 |
| Colour coat (unsourced) | CC | | 1 | 0.004 | 0.00 | 0.03 |
| White ware | WW | | 1 | 0.003 | 0.00 | 0.02 |
| **Total** | | | **328** | **12.773** | **6.85** | **100.00** |

*Table 3: The Romano-British pottery quantified by fabric and listed in descending order of percentage of weight*

The second most common fabric (by weight) was Shell tempered wares, produced in the Lower Nene Valley (Perrin 1999, 116-124) between the early 2nd and 4th centuries. Five individual storage jars were found in this fabric that was suitable for use in industrial workshops and domestic kitchens. A medium mouthed jar was also found. Although no limescale or soot was found on these vessels, several were decorated with combed designs and one with a herringbone design.

Of particular interest is the third most common fabric type (by weight), Gritty oxidised ware. This utilitarian fabric is commonly found in the western Fen basin during the Roman period (Lyons forthcoming) and is similar to a product of the *Verulanium* industry but is also known to have been produced in other Northamptonshire kiln sites (Martin and Wallis, 2006, 3.7.1, iii and iv). However, these wares may also have been produced locally, as gritty wares similar to those manufactured at *Verulanium* (Tyers 1996, 199-201) have been found associated with kilns in the immediate locality (400m to the north at Park Lane; HER 01537). Within this assemblage we see three very similar medium mouthed jars, all sooted, that appear to be a graduated set (one large and two smaller vessels). These vessels were all recovered from sealing layer 102. It is very unusual to find coarse ware 'sets' and this may indeed reflect the uniformity of local production.

Sandy grey wares are only the fourth most common fabric within this assemblage (12.85% by weight). In most domestic assemblages in this region this fabric is usually one of the most common and that this is

not the case here indicates that this assemble is atypical. Medium mouthed jars with a simple everted rim are the most common form, many of which are burnished. These vessels are local imitations of Black burnished ware 2 (BB2) forms (Tyers 1996, 186-187). A more typical BB2 fabric (*ibid,* 187 (notes)) was also found (7.76%) frequently in the same vessel form, with a simple everted rim. It is possible that these wares were produced in Kent or Essex, although a more local unknown production site is also possible.

## 3.2 Fine wares

### Samian by Cathy Tester (SCCAS)

A total of twenty sherds of samian weighing 721g and representing nineteen vessels from south, central and east Gaulish production centres were collected from six features during the excavation. The quantities by fabric are shown in Table 4.

| Fabric | Code | No | %No | Wt | %Wt | Eve | % Eve |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Gaulish samian | SASG | 1 | 5.0 | 118 | 16.4 | 22 | 18.8 |
| *Total South Gaulish samian* | | 1 | 5.0 | 118 | 16.4 | 8 | 6.8 |
| Central Gaulish samian (Les Martres) | SAMV | 2 | 10.0 | 18 | 2.5 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Central Gaulish samian (Lezoux) | SACG | 16 | 80.0 | 536 | 74.3 | 76 | 65.0 |
| *Total Central Gaulish samian* | | 18 | 90.0 | 554 | 76.8 | 76 | 65.0 |
| East Gaulish samian (Rheinzabern) | SARZ | 1 | 5.0 | 49 | 6.8 | 11 | 9.4 |
| *Total East Gaulish samian* | | 1 | 5.0 | 49 | 6.8 | 11 | 9.4 |
| **Total samian** | | **20** | **100.0** | **721** | **100.0** | **117** | **100.0** |

*Table 4: The Samian pottery quantified by source of origin and listed in descending order of percentage of weight*

The earliest material is south Gaulish, from La Graufesenque. The single form identified is a Dr 18 platter dating from the Flavian Period (AD 70-100). It has a partial (unidentifiable) stamp on the basal interior.

The largest proportion of the samian comes from central Gaul and belongs to the 2nd century. The earliest is Trajanic (AD 100-120) from Les Martres-de-Veyre and is represented by two decorated Dr 37 bowls. One in a panel design with bead row divisions is typical of the fine, closely spaced detail of Les Martres decorative schemes.

The majority of the central Gaulish samian, represented by fifteen vessels, is Hadrianic or Antonine and comes from Lezoux. Earlier forms are two Dr 18/31 dishes which are Hadrianic or early Antonine (AD 120-150/160). Later forms are Antonine (AD 140-200) and include five Dr 33 cups. One has a maker's stamp on its basal interior which reads "S E [ ] V.S.F" (Servus *fecit* [made this]). A Ludowici type Tg platter and type Tf cup or small bowl are also Antonine. The cup features part of a rosette-shaped maker's stamp on its basal interior.

Fragments from five Dr 37 bowls are Hadrianic or Antonine (AD 120-200). Three of them are decorated, two in a panel design and the other with a winding scroll scheme which is typical but not exclusive of mid or late Antonine decorative schemes.

East Gaulish samian belongs to the later 2nd to mid 3rd centuries and includes a single vessel from Rheinzabern, a Dr 37 bowl decorated with a large hound or bear figure and plant motifs. This piece is typical of the widely spaced character of Rheinzabern designs.

Apart from burning in some cases, the condition of the samian is good. The average weight of the sherds and the presence of complete vessel profiles suggest that the assemblage has not been through a long deposition cycle and represents a fairly cohesive group of mainly 2nd century material.

### Other fine wares

Nene Valley colour coated fine wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118) are also well represented and constitute 4.89% of the assemblage by weight. Bag shaped beakers are common, including one Hunt Cup fragment, dating from the mid-to-late 2nd to early 3rd centuries. Later more chunky utilitarian Nene Valley colour coats are largely absent from this assemblage. It is also worthy of note that other late Roman fine wares such as Oxfordshire red colour coat (ibid, 176) and Hadham red wares (ibid, 151), were also not found.

## 3.3 Specialist wares

Fabrics and forms traditionally viewed as specialist wares are very rare within this assemblage. Two tiny fragments of amphora were recovered, one of which may be a DR21-2/Peacock & Williams Class 7 vessel (Tomber and Dore 1998, 104). This sherd has been re-used as a surface for grinding after the amphora was broken. The other fragment is miscellaneous.

No mortarium pieces were found and only two flagons were identified (one in a Sandy oxidised fabric the other in a Nene Valley colour coat).

# 4 Discussion

This is a small, well preserved assemblage that is closely datable and largely recovered from stratified deposits.

Although it is clearly not a typical utilitarian domestic assemblage as recovered from farmsteads in the region (Lyons forthcoming; Lyons in prep; Evans 2003, 105) it does contain a similar range of fabrics to that excavated in the locality previously (Frend 1968).

This assemblage contains a relatively small proportion of Sandy grey ware fabrics as Sandy oxidised ware and Shell tempered storage jars form the majority of the assemblage by weight. Also common are the locally produced Gritty oxidised ware utilitarian jars, several of which are almost identical and may have originated from a near by kiln.

Although specialist wares such as amphora, flagons and mortarium are poorly represented within this assemblage, fine wares are common – particularly central Gaulish samian imported during the 2nd century. Nene Valley colour coated beakers are also frequently recorded, but the very latest Roman fine wares are not found within this assemblage.

Situated on Ermine Street and the River Great Ouse Godmanchester was ideally located to receive traded ceramics from Roman Britain and the wider empire. The range of fabrics and forms found during this excavation suggests this site declined in use during the later 3rd and 4th centuries, although activity did continue on a smaller scale until the end of the Roman period.

Analysis of this ceramic assemblage is relevant to the research aims of this region and will add to our understanding of this small town (Going 1997, 37) and religious complex (*ibid*, 40). Analysis of this assemblage is also relevant to the research aims of the Study Group for Roman pottery which directly identifies Godmanchester as key to understanding the production of Oxidised gritty wares in this region (Martin and Wallis, 2006, 3.7.1, iii and iv).

## 5 Pottery Catalogue

**Key:** C=century, E=Early, M= Mid, L=Late. R= rim, U= undecorated body sherd, D= decorated body sherd, B= base. The key to the fabric codes is shown in Table 3.

| Context | Fabric | DSC | Form | Quantity | Weight (g) | Decoration | Spot date | Context date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 102 | AMP | UB | Amphora | 1 | 145 | | ? | E/MC3 |
| 102 | BB2 | D | | 19 | 387 | | MC2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | BB2 | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 18 | | C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | BB2 | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 8 | | C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | BB2 | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 13 | | MC2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | CC | U | | 1 | 4 | | C2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | GW HM | U | | 1 | 28 | | C2 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | GW(FINE) | UD | | 2 | 19 | Compass circles | E-MC2 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | NVCC | R | Beaker | 3 | 95 | | LC2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | NVCC | U | | 6 | 92 | Paint | C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | NVCC | B | | 1 | 43 | | LC2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | NVCC | B | | 1 | 15 | | LC2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | NVCW | U | | 5 | 70 | | C3-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | OW (GRITTY) | RU | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 481 | | LC2-C4 | E/MC3 |

| Context | Fabric | DSC | Form | Quantity | Weight (g) | Decoration | Spot date | Context date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 102 | OW (GRITTY) | RU | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 449 | | LC2-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | OW (GRITTY) | RU | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 375 | | LC2-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | OW (GRITTY) | UB | | 16 | 314 | | LC2-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SACG | R | Cup | 1 | 39 | | Antonine | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SACG | B | Cup | 1 | 43 | | Antonine | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SACG | B | Bowl | 1 | 85 | | Hadrian-Antonine | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SASG | P | Platter/dish | 1 | 118 | | Flavian | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SAMV | R | Bowl | 1 | 10 | | Trajan (100-125) | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SACG | R | Dish/platter | 1 | 16 | | Hadrian-early Antonine (125-150) | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SACG | D | Bowl | 1 | 17 | | Hadrian-Antonine | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SARZ | R | Bowl | 1 | 49 | | LC2-MC3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SGW | RUDB | Jar | 9 | 168 | Burnished | MC2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SGW | U | | 6 | 83 | | LC1-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SGW | R | Flanged dish | 1 | 29 | | C3-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SGW (MICA) | B | | 1 | 28 | | MC2-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SOW | R | Medium mouthed jar | 2 | 26 | | LC2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SOW | U | | 1 | 29 | | C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | SOW | D | | 1 | 36 | Burnished | C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | STW | UB | | 4 | 129 | | C2-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | STW | RD | Storage jar | 18 | 764 | Combed herringbone | C1-C4 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | STW | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 51 | | M/LC2-EC3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | STW | UB | | 4 | 102 | | C2-C3 | E/MC3 |
| 102 | TERRACOTTA | R | Flower pot | 1 | 16 | | C18-20 | E/MC3 |
| 103 | NVCC | RU | Beaker | 2 | 4 | | LC2-EC3 | LC2-EC3 |
| 103 | NVGW | RU | Medium mouthed jar | 2 | 5 | | LC2-EC4 | LC2-EC3 |
| 103 | OW(GRITTY) | U | | 1 | 11 | | C2-C3 | LC2-EC3 |
| 103 | WW | U | | 1 | 3 | | C2-C4 | LC2-EC3 |
| 105 | OW (GRITTY) | U | | 2 | 65 | | C2-C4 | C2-EC3 |
| 105 | SGW | U | | 1 | 23 | | C2-C4 | C2-EC3 |
| 105 | SOW | U | | 1 | 16 | | C2-C4 | C2-EC3 |
| 105 | SOW | UB | Flagon | 1 | 451 | | C2-EC3 | C2-EC3 |
| 109 | BB2 | RUB | Jar | 12 | 382 | Burnished | C2-C3 | MC2-C3 |
| 109 | SGW | U | | 1 | 6 | | C1-C4 | MC2-C3 |
| 109 | SGW(CAL) | U | | 1 | 11 | | C1-C4 | MC2-C3 |
| 109 | SOW | P | Dish | 1 | 20 | | MC2-C3 | MC2-C3 |
| 109 | STAN | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 9 | | C2-C3 | MC2-C3 |
| 109 | STW | U | | 1 | 5 | | C1-C4 | MC2-C3 |
| 110 | NVCC | D | Hunt cup | 1 | 9 | | LC2-E/MC3 | LC2-E/MC3 |

| Context | Fabric | DSC | Form | Quantity | Weight (g) | Decoration | Spot date | Context date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 110 | OW (GRITTY) | U | | 3 | 43 | | C2-C3 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SACG | B | Bowl | 2 | 91 | | Mid to late Antonine | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SACG | B | Platter | 1 | 103 | | M/LC2 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SACG | B | Cup | 1 | 3 | | Antonine | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SGW | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 18 | | C2-C3 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SGW | D | | 1 | 9 | Cordon of comb point pricks | MC2-MC3 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SGW | D | | 1 | 5 | Burnish cross-hatch | MC2-C3 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SGW | D | | 1 | 9 | High burnish | MC2-C3 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SGW | U | | 17 | 285 | | C2-C3 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SGW | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 7 | | C2-C3 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SGW (MICA) | D | | 1 | 4 | Barbotine dot | E-MC2 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 110 | SOW | R | Bowl | 1 | 23 | | MC2 | LC2-E/MC3 |
| 111 | BB1 | UB | | 2 | 17 | Burnished | C1-C4 | C3-C4 |
| 111 | NVCC | UB | | 1 | 58 | | C3-C4 | C3-C4 |
| 111 | OW (GRITTY) | U | | 1 | 3 | | C2-C4 | C3-C4 |
| 111 | STW | U | Storage jar | 1 | 26 | | C1-C4 | C3-C4 |
| 116 | BB1 | B | Dish | 1 | 81 | Burnished cross-hatch | C2 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | BB1 | U | | 1 | 55 | | C2 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | NVCC | UH | Flagon | 1 | 120 | | LC3-C4 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | NVCC | U | | 2 | 48 | | C3-C4 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | NVCC | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 28 | | ?C4 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | OW (GRITTY) | U | | 1 | 30 | | C2-C4 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | SACG | R | Bowl | 1 | 5 | | Hadrian-Antonine | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | SACG | B | Cup | 1 | 9 | | Antonine | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | SACG | B | Dish | 1 | 15 | | Hadrian-Antonine | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | SAMV | B | Bowl | 1 | 8 | | Trajan (100-125) | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | SGW | R | Wide mouthed jar | 1 | 30 | | MC2-MC3 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | SGW | U | | 12 | 174 | Burnished | C2-C3 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | SGW (MICA) | B | | 1 | 9 | | MC2-C4 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | SOW | U | | 1 | 22 | | C2-C4 | LC3-C4 |
| 116 | STW | UD | Storage jar | 2 | 120 | Combed herringbone | C1-C4 | LC3-C4 |
| 117 | NVCW | B | | 1 | 194 | | C3-C4 | C3 |
| 117 | SACG | R | Bowl | 1 | 29 | | C2 | C3 |
| 117 | SGW | D | Narrow mouthed jar | 1 | 172 | Neck cordon, filled with burnished | C3-C4 | C3 |

| Context | Fabric | DSC | Form | Quantity | Weight (g) | Decoration | Spot date | Context date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | vertical lines | | |
| 118 | SACG | P | Cup | 1 | 55 | | Antonine | C2 |
| 119 | SGW | U | | 3 | 34 | | C2-C4 | C2-C3 |
| 119 | SOW | RUDB | Storage jar | 32 | 3273 | Combed | C1-C3 | C2-C3 |
| 119 | STW | U | | 1 | 20 | | C1-C4 | C2-C3 |
| 122 | AMP | U | | 1 | 3 | | C1-C3 | E-MC3 |
| 122 | BB2 | D | | 1 | 9 | Burnished | MC2-C4 | E-MC3 |
| 122 | NVCC | R | Beaker | 1 | 1 | | LC2-EC3 | E-MC3 |
| 122 | NVCC | U | | 2 | 42 | | C3-C4 | E-MC3 |
| 122 | NVGW | U | | 1 | 4 | | LC2-C4 | E-MC3 |
| 122 | NVOW | U | | 1 | 9 | | C2-C4 | E-MC3 |
| 124 | BB2 | RD | Medium mouthed jar | 6 | 55 | Burnished, incised wavy lines | LC2-C3 | LC2-C3 |
| 124 | NVCW | U | | 1 | 3 | | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 124 | SGW | U | | 4 | 56 | | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 124 | STW | D | Storage jar | 4 | 108 | Combed | C1-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 125 | SGW (BLUE) | U | | 1 | 2 | | C2-C4 | C2-C3 |
| 125 | SGW(CAL) | B | | 1 | 6 | | C2-C4 | C2-C3 |
| 125 | SOW | U | | 2 | 6 | | C1-C3 | C2-C3 |
| 132 | BB1 | R | Dish | 1 | 27 | Burnished cross-hatch | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | BB2 | U | | 3 | 20 | | LC2-C3 | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | BSRW | R | Medium mouthed jar | 4 | 131 | Burnished | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | HORN | U | | 2 | 47 | | C3 | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | NVCW | U | | 1 | 27 | | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | OW (GRITTY) | RU | Medium mouthed jar | 5 | 92 | | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | SACG | R | Cup | 1 | 13 | | Hadrian-Antonine | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | SACG | R | Dish/platter | 1 | 13 | | Hadrian-early Antonine (125-150) | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | SGW | P | Medium mouthed jar | 10 | 376 | | LC2-C3 | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | SGW | D | | 1 | 11 | Burnished | LC2-C3 | LC2-C3 |
| 132 | STW | RUD | Storage jar | 10 | 675 | | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 134 | BB2 | D | | 1 | 99 | Burnished cross-hatch | LC2-C3 | LC2-C3 |
| 134 | OW (GRITTY) | B | | 1 | 40 | | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 134 | SGW | U | | 1 | 9 | Burnished | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 134 | SGW | R | Medium mouthed jar | 1 | 27 | | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 134 | STW | U | | 1 | 16 | | C2-C4 | LC2-C3 |
| 136 | NVCC | UB | | 2 | 70 | | C3-C4 | C3-C4 |
| 136 | NVCW | U | | 1 | 7 | | C2-C4 | C3-C4 |
| 136 | SGW | B | | 1 | 13 | | C3-C4 | C3-C4 |
| 99999 | SGW | D | | 2 | 95 | Burnished cross-hatch | MC2-C3 | MC2-C3 |
| 99999 | SOW | U | | 1 | 28 | | C1-C3 | MC2-C3 |

*Table 5: Pottery catalogue*

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# Appendix 3: Faunal Remains

by Chris Faine

## 1 Introduction and Methods

A total of 80 "countable" bones were recovered from the New Street site with 52 fragments being unidentifiable to species (37.9% of the total sample). Fragments were obtained from a variety of features including pits, ditches and occupation layers. The condition of the assemblage is extremely good, with the majority of fragmentation being attributed to butchery rather than any taphonomic processes.

## 2 Methodology

All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. All elements identifiable to species and over 25% complete were included in the database. Loose teeth, caudal vertebra and ribs without proximal epiphyses were noted but not included in any quantification. Elements not identifiable to species were classed as "large/medium/small mammal" but again not included in any quantification. Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Tooth wear was assessed using Grant (1982). Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of the number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see table 6).

Any instances of butchery were noted and recorded using a separate table from the main database. The type of lesion, its position, severity and direction were all noted. The presence of any further taphonomy, i.e. burning, gnawing etc was also noted. A separate table for any pathology, giving the position and type of lesion was also used.

## 3 The assemblage

The broad species distribution for the entire site can be seen in table 6. The largest number of fragments was recovered from pit fill 103. These consisted of 58 fragments from at least three adult dogs and comprised a wide variety of elements including examples of all long bones, vertebrae, metapodials and cranial elements. Metrical analysis was possible on two individuals, the largest of the pair having a withers height of around 50cm. This is of similar dimensions to a number of specimens found on sites nearby in Godmanchester (Harcourt 1972). One of the third metatarsals of this specimen showed extensive new

bone growth on the proximal epiphysis indicating a possible infection. The second individual that could be measured had a withers height of only 30cm. This is extremely small for an adult dog and is comparable with other small specimens from York road and Causeway lane, Leicester (Baxter 2002) and Thistleton, Rutland (Ibid). Other measurements of the available elements suggest similar dimensions. The smaller specimen consists of both femora and tibiae along with a single radius, ulna, humerus and calcaneus. The profile of many of these long bones is extremely bowed and it remains to be seen whether this is due to pathology rather than breeding (however the lack of any lesions on the epiphyses suggests the latter cause). It is worth noting also that the left hand long bones from this smaller specimen are on average 2-3mm longer than on the right. The third adult individual is represented by a single left mandible. Aside from the dog remains context 103 also contained portions of butchered cattle mandible, vertebrae and humerus, along with a heavily gnawed sheep/goat metacarpal and radius.

The remaining identifiable fragments were all recovered from various ditch fills. Context 105 contained fragments of adult butchered sheep/goat humerus and cattle scapula. Context 109 contained portions of butchered cattle mandible and pig maxilla. No teeth were recovered from the cattle mandible. However, the pig maxilla was found to have come from an individual around 2-3 years of age. Ditch fill 110 (contemporary to 105), contained butchered cattle remains from at least one adult individual aged around 2- 3 years old. Fragments of butchered cattle and sheep/goat metacarpi were recovered from ditch fill 116. A single rodent mandible identified as wood mouse was recovered from layer 114 (sample 5).

## 4 Discussion

The faunal sample from the ditch fills is extremely small and scattered and most likely represents scattered domestic butchery waste. Of more interest are the dog remains present in pit fill 103. As mentioned above the presence of dog remains in similar pit contexts were also recorded in excavations associated with a nearby Roman *mansio* (Harcourt 1972). There some 58 individual animals were identified, with a wide range of withers heights encompassing both extremes of size seen in the New Street assemblage. Whilst the presence of isolated dog remains in pits of this date is not unusual, their presence in so many contexts on that site, and in the single pit found during this evaluation, suggests something more than accidental deposition in the case of the New Street assemblage. It remains to be seen whether the morphology of the smaller individual from context 103 is attributable to breeding or pathology, although as mentioned above there are parallels from other contemporary sites (Baxter 2002).

| | NISP | NISP% | MNI | MNI% |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dog (*Canis familiaris*) | 58 | 72.5 | 3 | 21 |
| Cattle (*Bos*) | 16 | 20 | 5 | 36 |
| Sheep/Goat (*Ovis/Capra*) | 4 | 5 | 4 | 29 |
| Pig (*Sus scrofa*) | 1 | 1.25 | 1 | 7 |
| Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) | 1 | 1.25 | 1 | 7 |
| | | | | |
| **Total:** | **80** | **100** | **14** | **100** |

*Table 6: Species distribution for the entire assemblage*

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## Appendix 4: Other Finds

| Context | Material | Object Name | Weight in Kg | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 102 | Ceramic | Ceramic Building Material | 0.469 | |
| 102 | Ceramic | Fired clay | 0.02 | |
| 102 | Shell | | 0.039 | |
| 103 | Ceramic | Fired clay | 0.006 | From sample 1 |
| 103 | Shell | | 0.005 | From sample 1 |
| 105 | Shell | | 0.058 | |
| 109 | Shale | | 0.014 | |
| 109 | Shell | | 0.161 | |
| 110 | Ceramic | Ceramic Building Material | 0.309 | |
| 110 | Lava | | 0.014 | |
| 110 | Shell | | 0.274 | |
| 111 | Shell | | 0.018 | From sample 3 |
| 116 | Ceramic | Ceramic Building Material | 0.142 | |
| 116 | Shell | | 0.06 | |
| 119 | Slag | | 0.012 | From sample 6 |
| 122 | Shell | | 0.022 | Mussel shell |
| 122 | Shell | | 0.353 | Oyster shell |
| 132 | Ceramic | Ceramic Building Material | 1.074 | |
| 132 | Shell | | 0.032 | |
| 134 | Shell | | 0.034 | |

*Table 7: Other finds quantification*

| Small Find No. | Context | Material | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 103 | Glass | Part of handle from a storage vessel, 1st to 2nd century |
| 2 | 105 | Composite Cu Alloy | Probably a key or knife with a handle of possible zoomorphic form. Provisionally dated 2nd-early 3rd century |
| 3 | 118 | Samian | Base of a vessel with stamp |
| 4 | 110 | Cu | Small stud |
| 5 | 110 | Fe | Nail |
| 6 | 110 | Pb | Indeterminate fragment |
| 7 | 101 | Cu | Coin, 3rd century Barb-Radiate, Claudius Gothicus II |
| 8 | 101 | Cu | Coin, 4th century, House of Constantine |
| 9 | 102 | Glass | Curved body fragment from a vessel of indeterminate form |
| 10 | 109 | Fe | Indeterminate fragment |
| 11 | 109 | Fe | Hob nail from sample 2 |
| 12 | 111 | Fe | Hob nail from sample 3 |
| 13 | 103 | Fe | Hob nail from sample 1 |
| 14 | 103 | Fe | Nail from sample 1 |

*Table 8: Small finds information*

# Appendix 5: Environmental Remains

by Rachel Fosberry

## 1 Introduction and Methods

Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Up to ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted in Table 9.

## 2 Results

The results are recorded in Table 9.

| Sample Number | Context Number | Cut Number | Context Type | Flot contents | Residue contents |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 103 | 104 | Pit | Cereals, Legume, weed seeds | Bone. Pot, Oyster shell, Fe, Hammerscale |
| 2 | 109 | 108 | Ditch | Cereals, wetland seeds | Bone, fishbone, pot, Oyster shell, Fe, Hammerscale |
| 3 | 111 | 112 | Ditch/pit | Weed seeds and cereals | Bone, fishbone, pot, Mussel shell, Fe nail, Hammerscale |
| 4 | 113 | | Layer | Weed seeds | No artefacts |
| 5 | 114 | | Layer | Weed seeds | Bone, fishbone, Hammerscale |
| 6 | 119 | 120 | Pit | Cereals, culm nodes, weed seeds | Bone, Hammerscale, Fuel-ash slag |
| 7 | 121 | 120 | Pit | Cereal grain and legume | Bone, Hammerscale |

*Table 9: Environmental sample results*

Preservation is by charring and is generally poor to moderate. Charcoal fragments are present in most of the samples in varying quantities however most of the samples contain charred remains that appear vitrified. Cereal grains are present in most of the samples and include *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and *Triticum* sp. (wheat). Charred seeds of common weed plants are present in low densities and include, *Papaver* sp. (poppy), *Cladium mariscus* (saw-sedge), *Scirpus* sp. (bull

rush) and *Rumex* sp. (dock). Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets are present in most of the samples.

## 3 Conclusions and Recommendations

The grains of crop plants, namely wheat and barley, dominate the plant remains present in these samples. The absence of glume bases precludes accurate identification of wheat species however two distinct morphological forms were noted indicating spelt wheat (elongated/droplet form) and free-threshing wheat (rounded and more compact). Although they are present in small quantities, they do indicate that cereals were being locally utilised, although possibly not to any great extent. These grains, along with other dietary remains, namely animal bone and mussels and the occasional pea/bean, are probably derived from low-density deposits of domestic refuse and/or hearth waste.

Hammerscale is indicative of the smithing process and is present in almost all of the samples in the form of flake hammerscale, which is produced when iron is forged. A single spheroid of hammerscale that results from the primary smithing of iron bloom and also during the welding process was recovered from sample 7.

Two fragments of non-metallic slag are present in sample 6, which also contains a substantial quantity of carbonised twigs. Cereals and chaff are also present in this sample, which represents the contents of a large vessel recovered from pit **120**. It is likely that the remains of a fire/hearth were swept into this vessel and then disposed of in the pit. Whether the charred remains are from a domestic or an industrial hearth is unclear.

The low densities of plant remains from the site are not considered to merit full analysis. If further excavations are planned for this area, it is recommended that a schedule for environmental sampling should be appended to the updated project design and would include targeted sampling for metalworking residues.

## Appendix 6: The Copper Alloy Handle

by Nina Crummy

### 1 Description

A copper-alloy rectangular-section openwork handle, with a zoomorphic terminal and the remains of a round-section iron tang preserved in the lower part was recovered from ditch fill 105 (SF2; Plate 3). It measured 75mm in length, with a maximum width of 28mm. The base is in the form of a double plinth, now riven with cracks where the corroding iron tang has expanded and forced the metal apart. Above it the handle is open on all four sides, with column-shaped openings on the broad sides and plain rectangular ones on the narrow sides. Part of the iron tang remains exposed in the openings, and traces of iron corrosion suggest that it originally ran to the upper end, although it did not penetrate the terminal, which consists of a plinth, with round punchmarks in the grooves, surmounted by the head and upper body of an animal. The jaw and mouth of this creature are long and the muzzle blunt, with wide nostril slits. The eyes are shown by angled grooves and the ears, which are set at the level of the mouth, by ring-and-dot motifs. Two punched dots link the ears to the corners of the mouth. The face is smooth, but a row of round punchmarks above the eyes mark the beginning of lateral bands in the skin or pelt that are formed into a crest at the back. The chest of the animal projects forward beyond the muzzle, with its midline marked by a row of punched dots. There is a matching, but slightly shorter projection at the back below the crest, and the shoulders are indicated on the sides. The lower edge of each shoulder is marked by a row of round punchmarks, and another row runs across the top and down the chest to meet its central row at the edge.

### 2 Discussion

Although the crest of this creature could be seen as a stiff equine mane and its long jaw as dog-like, its overall appearance is of neither horse nor dog, but of some Nilotic beast. The long jaw and nostril slits can be seen as crocodilian, and the unusual ring-and-dot ears are a fair match for those of the crocodile, which has mere oval flaps of skin lying behind the eyes. The lateral grooves of the creature's skin also resemble the banded scaly plates of the Nile crocodile.

Representations of crocodiles are rare in the Roman world (Toynbee 1996, 218-20) and even rarer in Roman Britain. None are listed in surveys of cult objects from the province (M. Green 1976; 1978), but two 1st century lamps, one from Colchester and one probably from London, show a lion fighting a crocodile (Bailey 1988, 84, Q1518; Crummy in Orr 2006). Egyptian deities and their animal emblems are

similarly scarce in Britain, and are generally, although not exclusively, confined to large towns (M. Green 1976, 57-8; 1978, 28). In Egypt the crocodile god Suchos was a water deity linked to Osiris, although he could be also seen as an embodiment of Seth and so had connotations of the underworld. That the iron tang of the Godmanchester handle was visible in the open central section may indeed be a reference to Seth, whose bones were considered to be made from iron ore (Lurker 1980, 42, 109). In the Roman period in Egypt Seth had an apotropaic function and was invoked for his ability to subordinate supernatural powers (Frankfurter 1998, 55, 115).

The Godmanchester handle is unlikely to have been made locally and may even be of continental manufacture. The rectangular section, decorated top and round iron tang suggest that it comes from a key of tumbler-lock type (*cf.* Kaufmann-Heinimann 1998, 104, no. 217, 109, no. S207), but it may alternatively be a decorative vehicle fitting or the terminal of a piece of furniture; it is also small enough to be a knife handle. There is no reason to suppose that it is earlier or later than the 2nd to 3rd century date-range suggested by its context. Apotropaic images on key handles are not unusual, with lions, other large felines and rams appearing to be the animals most commonly depicted, no doubt chosen as symbols of strength and aggression and also for their otherworldly powers, while the range of animals used on knife handles is wider (von Mercklin 1940, Tafn 35, 38, 39; Henig 1984; Kaufmann-Heinimann 1998, 32-7). The use of a Nilotic beast would be appropriate in either group of artefacts.

The handle can be seen as exotic within the context of both Godmanchester and Roman Britain. Although it may simply have been discarded when the iron element became detached, it may have been valued for its imagery and reused as a votive, as may have been the case with some spatula handles in the shape of busts of Minerva, particularly examples from Woodeaton in Oxfordshire, and Sole in Hampshire (Crummy 2003, 16). Votives were not only deposited at shrines and temples but on adjacent land in open pits and ditches and shallow scrapes in the ground, their proximity to the sacred area being considered sufficient to render them effective (Crummy 2006, 56). Green has argued that the cult objects from Godmanchester are notable for the limited range of sky and earth deities they represent (H. J. M. Green 1986, 36), which would make this item anomalous as a votive, but the crocodile's association with water would make it an appropriate offering to the town's river god, Abandinus (*ibid.*, 39, 42). One further possibility is that, even if conceived by the bronzesmith as reptilian, this somewhat ambiguous animal was seen in Godmanchester as either a dog or a horse. Both animals have chthonic and healing aspects through their associations with deities such as Nodens and Epona and the dog seems to have played a particular prominent rôle in the religious life of the town (*ibid.*, 48).

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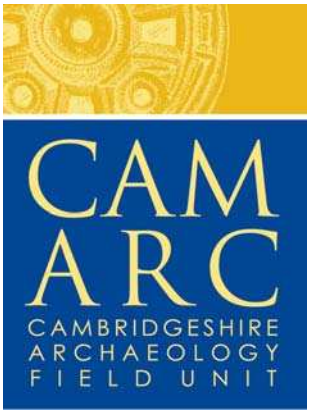


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