

**LAND AT UFFINGTON ROAD
BARNACK
PETERBOROUGH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

Project: UB1579
OASIS id: albionar1-83634

Document: 2010/98
Version 1.1

Compiled by	Checked by:	Approved by
David Ingham	Gary Edmondson	Drew Shottliff

21st December 2010

Produced for
CgMs Ltd

On behalf of:
David Wilson Homes (South Midlands)



Contents

Preface	3
Structure of the Report	3
Version History	3
Non-Technical Summary	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Site Location and Description	5
1.3 Archaeological Background	5
1.4 Project Objectives	6
2. METHODOLOGY	7
3. RESULTS	9
3.1 Neolithic Pits	9
3.2 Pottery	10
3.3 Non-ceramic Finds	12
4. CONCLUSION	15
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	16

List of Tables

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by fabric

Table 2: Summary of non-ceramic finds from the Neolithic pits

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Extent of archaeological works and all features

Figure 3: Grooved Ware pottery from vessels P1 – P7

The figures are bound at the back of the report.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The project was managed for Albion Archaeology by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager) and David Ingham (Project Officer), both of whom also undertook the fieldwork. All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the project by Simon Mortimer of CgMs Ltd, who was responsible for overall management of the archaeological works on behalf of David Wilson Homes (South Midlands). The project was monitored initially by Ben Robinson and then by Rebecca Casa-Hatton, both of the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service (PCCAS).

This report was prepared by David Ingham, with analysis of the pottery by Sarah Percival (NAU Archaeology) and the flint by Holly Duncan. It was edited by Gary Edmondson and approved by Drew Shotliff.

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 OAS
☎: 0300 300 8141
Fax: 0300 300 8209
e-mail: David.ingham@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com*

Structure of the Report

Section 1 is an introduction to the project, the methodology for which is described in Section 2. The results of the fieldwork are presented in Section 3, with their significance discussed in Section 4. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	17th December 2010	n/a
1.1	21st December 2010	Incorporating comments from consultants



Non-Technical Summary

Outline planning permission was granted in November 2006 for a residential development on land adjacent to Uffington Road, Barnack, Peterborough. Barnack is rich in archaeological evidence from all periods, and known remains include a cursus surrounded by ten ring ditches, and a Roman villa (Steane 1974). The village itself has Anglo-Saxon origins, with the church thought to date back as far as the 9th century. Few remains are known in the immediate vicinity of the development area, however, which is likely to have been agricultural land during the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods, before residential development of the land in the mid-20th century.

A condition on the outline permission required a programme of archaeological investigation to be instigated prior to development, which would be carried out in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved in advance by the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Ltd, on behalf of the developer David Wilson Homes (South Midlands), to carry out the archaeological investigations.

An initial stage of trenching was carried out, in line with the agreed WSI. The discovery of two pits containing Neolithic pottery in one of the trenches led to detailed monitoring of subsequent development groundworks, excavation of a 10x15m area surrounding the pits, and excavation of further archaeological trenches to the north. No further archaeological remains were identified in these operations. The pits are of regional significance.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

Outline planning permission was granted in November 2006 for a residential development with associated access, parking and external works on land adjacent to Uffington Road, Barnack, Peterborough. Condition C6 on the outline permission required a programme of archaeological investigation to be instigated prior to development, which would be carried out in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI: CgMs 2009) approved in advance by the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service (PCCAS). Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Ltd, on behalf of the developer David Wilson Homes (South Midlands), to carry out the archaeological investigations.

Discussions with Ben Robinson of PCCAS determined that the initial stage of the archaeological mitigation programme would involve the excavation of two archaeological trenches, with provision for further investigation should significant archaeological features or deposits be uncovered. A watching brief on the groundworks was consequently undertaken, along with excavation of further archaeological trenches to investigate the extent and context of the archaeological remains revealed in the initial trenching and to examine the archaeological potential of other parts of the development site. This report presents the results of both stages of the archaeological works.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The development area is approximately 1.4 hectares in extent, at *c.* 25 m OD, and lies on the northern edge of Barnack. It is bounded on its northern and western sides by open fields, to the east by Uffington Road, and to the south by modern housing development. The site is centred at NGR TF 0761 0537 (Figure 1).

The Soil Survey of England and Wales 1:625,000 soil map (1983) indicates that the underlying soils of the area comprise the river terrace and lacustrine gravel of the Badsey 2 association, consisting of fine, well-drained, calcareous soils over limestone gravel. The surface geology comprises clayey sands and gravel.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

A detailed archaeological background to the site is presented in a separate desk-based assessment (CgMs 2007).

Barnack is rich in evidence for prehistoric activity, the earliest of which is a cursus surrounded by ten ring ditches (Steane 1974). Two crop-mark sites that are likely to be prehistoric have been identified near the development area: an enclosure, a linear feature and a ring ditch *c.* 460m to the north-east; and two ring ditches *c.* 210m to the east.

Extensive Roman activity is known in the area around Barnack, including a Roman villa (Steane 1974) and Ermine Street Roman road, which passes to the south-west. However, few remains of Roman origin have been discovered in close proximity to the development area, the main one being quarrying at The Hills and Holes *c.* 350m to the south-west. This was the source for the stone known as Barnack rag, which



was used in the construction of many buildings from the Roman period until *c.* 1700.

The village of Barnack has Anglo-Saxon origins. It appears to have grown up around the Church of St John the Baptist, *c.* 350m south-west of the development area; the village is mentioned in Domesday, and the church is thought to date back as far as the 9th century. The development area is likely to have been agricultural land during the Saxon and medieval periods, with the nearest known medieval remains lying 175m away. There appears to have been no change in the land's use for agriculture until houses were built along the Uffington Road in the mid-20th century, with the western side of the development area used as gardens.

1.4 Project Objectives

The aims of the fieldwork were as follows:

- identify any evidence for the survival of buried archaeological remains on the site which may be affected by development;
- establish the extent, depth, character, quality, function, state of preservation and date of any archaeological remains;
- provide further information on the historic character of the development site and the development of Barnack;
- assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits encountered;
- place the remains within their local, regional and national context;
- produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum; and
- provide information for accession to the Peterborough City HER.



2. METHODOLOGY

The excavation of the initial trenches took place on 4th–5th October 2010. The strategy agreed with the PCCAS consisted of two 50m-long trenches on the line of the access road in the western part of the land parcel. This was beyond the area of disturbance associated with construction and subsequent demolition of the mid-20th century houses. However, as the site had not been fully cleared of protected wildlife species by the ecologists, it was necessary to make minor alterations to the trenches, to avoid potential habitation areas. Trench 2 was also extended eastwards in order to fully investigate the archaeological features revealed therein (Figure 2).

A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket was used to open the trenches, under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits, and the spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts both visually and with a metal detector. The bases and sides of both trenches were cleaned by hand as necessary.

Following review of the initial trenches with the PCCAS, monitoring of the subsequent groundworks took place between 18th October and 9th November 2010. Overburden was removed to a depth of *c.* 0.3m across the site; this periodically exposed the top of the geological deposits where the overburden was shallowest, but was mostly not deep enough to do so. Archaeological observation was then carried out on the excavation of *c.* 0.6m-wide footings for six house plots and a *c.* 2.4m-wide trench for a storm drain (Figure 2 – red feature), all of which extended below the top of the geological deposits.

A brief lull in the construction programme enabled further trenches to be opened in the northern half of the site, with one 20m-long trench and two 12.5m-long trenches excavated (Figure 2, Trenches 3a–c). An area of 10x15m to the west of the archaeological features in Trench 2 was also mechanically stripped under archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological horizon, in order to determine if any additional features were present.

Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. They were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2, and 300 for the subsequent investigations. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (CgMs 2009).

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

- IfA *Code of Conduct
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field
Evaluation*
- Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edition, 2001)
- ALGAO (east) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*
- English Heritage *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*



Rebecca Casa-Hatton of the PCCAS inspected the trenches prior to their backfilling and monitored the implementation of the agreed mitigation strategy.



3. RESULTS

Modern disturbance due to the site's residential development in the mid-20th century was mostly limited to the street frontage where the houses were formerly located. The majority of this disturbance related to service trenches and manholes, e.g. [306] (Figure 2) which penetrated into the geological strata. Disturbances across the rest of the site were isolated and shallow, and included the remains of a hedgerow [304], which appears on the 1975 OS map and postdates the 1952 map. Traces of modern bonfires were revealed in the western part of the site, immediately below the grass.

Below the modern disturbance was a mid-dark brown cultivation soil 0.3m thick, which contained modern debris (202) on Figure 2; Section b. This generally overlay a subsoil although in parts of the north-west quadrant of the site, no subsoil was present; the cultivation soil lying directly above the geological strata. The depth of soil increased sharply to *c.* 1m at the eastern edge of house plots 1–4 (Figure 2), although the reason for this is uncertain.

In the vicinity of Trench 2, a lower cultivation soil (203) was revealed, 0.34m below the existing ground level. The slightly orangy mid brown clayey silt (203) was up to 0.38m thick (Figure 2; Section b). The only finds were at the interface with the underlying pits. This deposit is not reliably dated, though the colour would suggest that it is of some antiquity.

The only significant archaeological remains identified were two small pits in Trench 2 (Figure 2).

3.1 Neolithic Pits

Two pits [206]/[212] and [208]/[210] some 0.2m apart were revealed in the northern part of Trench 2 and its subsequent extension to the east (Figure 2). The northern pit [206]/[212] was slightly larger at 0.6m across with a sub-square form in plan; whilst the southern pit had a more circular form and measured 0.5m across. The pits were faintly detected at a depth of 0.4m below the present ground level, towards the base of an old cultivation soil (203), (Figure 2; Section b). However, it was only at a depth of 0.5m that the pits were clearly defined (Figure 2: Photograph 1). In section the pits were up to 0.25m deep with roughly concave profiles, although the southern pit [208]/[210] had a more angular form (Figure 2; Section b). The northern pit contained an initial fill 0.03m thick composed of mottled yellow brown silty clay (214), which was probably derived from erosion of the lower edges of the pit. The profile of this deposit, extending across the base of the pit (Figure 2: Section a) may suggest that it accumulated in wet conditions.

The main/sole fills of the two pits were similar, grey brown clay silts. This material appears to have been deliberate backfill as it contained numerous sherds of Grooved Ware pottery, (see 3.2 below). During excavation, it was observed that the pot sherds recovered from the upper parts of the pits tended to be smaller and in poorer condition, probably due to subsequent ploughing in antiquity, which formed the overlying deposit (203). The presence of conjoining sherds of Grooved Ware spread across the two pits indicates that they were infilled contemporaneously in the Neolithic period. The pottery was not distributed evenly within or between the



pits - the northern pit [206]/[212] contained more pottery, with the western half of that pit containing the majority of the assemblage.

The pit fills contained few other inclusions, comprising a small assemblage of struck flints as well as occasional small stones, included burnt flint and burnt waterworn pebble fragments (see 3.3 below). The fills were 100% sampled for recovery of artefacts and any ecofacts. The samples failed to yield any significant archaeobotanical remains — sparse hazelnut shell fragments, occasional tiny fragments of unidentified bone, mostly calcined, and a small amount of charcoal were recovered. However, the presence of demonstrably modern seeds from these samples, as indicated by their state of preservation, puts into question the origin of the material. It is possible that the numerous wormholes, which passed through the fills, allowed intrusive material to enter. No substantial fragments of bone were recovered from the pit fills.

3.2 Pottery

An assemblage of Grooved Ware comprising 240 sherds (781g) was recovered from pits [206]/[212] and [208]/[210]. The assemblage contains the remains of at least six vessels, many elaborately decorated, though all sherds are heavily abraded. The mean sherd weight is small — only 3g — though this is somewhat biased by the inclusion of pottery recovered from soil samples.

3.2.1 Methodology

The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1992 and 1997). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of dominant inclusion types present. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion type: ‘F’ represents flint; ‘G’ grog; and ‘Q’ quartz. Vessel form was also recorded: ‘R’ represents rim sherds; ‘B’ base sherds; ‘D’ decorated sherds; and ‘U’ undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted.

3.2.2 Fabric

Six fabrics were identified in two fabric groups, one grog-tempered and the other sandy (Table 1). Grog-tempered fabrics predominate, making up over 94% of the assemblage (738g). The remainder of the sherds contain fine quartz-sand as the dominant inclusion. The various grog-tempered fabrics contain a range of other inclusions, principally small quantities of shell visible as plate-like voids, sparse angular flint and sparse rounded quartz pieces up to 5mm long.

Fabric	Fabric Description	Quantity	% Quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
G1	Grog, sand. Common small sub-angular grog, moderate fine sand	179	74.6%	531	68.0%
G2	Grog, shell, sand. Common small sub-angular grog, moderate plate-shaped voids, moderate fine sand	31	12.9%	147	18.8%
G3	Grog, sand, flint. Common small sub-angular grog, moderate fine sand, sparse medium angular flint	4	1.7%	38	4.9%



Fabric	Fabric Description	Quantity	% Quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
G4	Grog, sand, quartz. Common small sub-angular grog, moderate fine sand, sparse medium rounded quartz >5mm	3	1.3%	20	2.6%
G	Uncertain grog-tempered	18	7.5%	2	0.3%
Q1	Common fine sand.	3	1.3%	31	4.0%
Q2	Common fine sand, sparse medium angular flint	2	0.8%	12	1.5%
Total		240	100.0%	781	100.0%

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by fabric

The range of fabrics found is very similar to those identified within the Grooved Ware assemblage from the enclosure ditch and small filled pits associated with the later phases of the causewayed enclosure at Etton, four miles east of Barnack (Pryor 1998, 161), and from Site 4 at Over, Cambridgeshire (Garrow 2006, 102). The fabrics at all three sites are predominantly grog-tempered, though the use of shell alongside grog seems more common at Etton and Over.

3.2.3 Form

The Grooved Ware was recorded using the typology originally developed by Ian Longworth for the large assemblage from Durrington Walls (Longworth 1971), which divides the tradition into the four substyles of Clacton, Woodlands, Durrington Walls and Rinyo, based on decorative traits and formal characteristics (Longworth 1971, 55–9). More recently, some adjustments have been made to Longworth's typology, such as the proposed merging of the Clacton and Woodlands styles into one chronologically consecutive tradition (Garwood 1999).

The Uffington Road assemblage comprises the highly fragmentary remains of Grooved Ware vessels each represented by a small number of sherds. No complete profiles are available to allow accurate reconstruction of vessel profile; however, form and decoration are characteristic of the Durrington Walls substyle (Longworth 1971, 242). Sherds from a range of vessels are present, from large thick-walled forms to small fine vessels. Rims from six vessels were recovered, though the actual number of vessels represented within the assemblage is likely to be higher. Base sherds with flared base angles (Figure 3; 3: P3) and four inturned rims (Figure 3; 1, 4, 6 and 7: P1, P4, P6 and P7) suggest barrel-shaped forms, characteristic of the Durrington Walls substyle (P3: Longworth 1971, 56). Other diagnostic traits include the presence of rims with internal moulding (Figure 3; 5: P5), vertical plain pinched-out cordons which divide the body of the vessel into panels (Figure 3; 2, 3 and 7: P2, P3 and P7), and the use of incised decoration to form panels filled with multiple lines (Figure 3; 1, 6: P1, P6).

A range of decorative techniques are present within the assemblage. Pinched-out cordons are found on thirty-two sherds from at least three vessels (Figure 3; 2, 3 and 7: P2, P3 and P7). Decoration formed from sharp incised grooves is present on one vessel (P6), and shallow stab-and-drag forming filled panels is found on another (Figure 3; 1: P1). Fingertip-impressed rustication, characteristic of the Durrington Walls substyle, is only found on one sherd. One vessel (P4) appears to be undecorated.



One sherd (P1) (Figure 3; 1) has a hole drilled through the vessel wall, perhaps post-firing, suggesting that it has been repaired. Similar repair holes were seen on the Grooved Ware from Over (Garrow 2006, fig. 6.23) as well as at Durrington Walls (Longworth 1971, 154, fig. 43).

The decorative traits and forms found at Uffington Road are also found within other Welland Valley assemblages, principally that from Etton but also and to a lesser extent from Barholm (Simpson 1993). The shallow incised decoration (P1) is found at Etton (Pryor 1998, fig. 207: GW27), as is the pinched rim (Pryor 1998, fig. 207: GW27). Pinched-out cordons are found at both Etton (Pryor 1998, fig. 209: GW33) and Barholm (Simpson 1993, fig. 11: P20). Pryor notes that the Etton assemblage is also of the Durrington Walls substyle, with some elements characteristic of Longworth's Woodlands substyle (Pryor 1998, 213), whilst Barholm is defined as being of the Clacton/Woodlands substyle (Simpson 1993, 21).

3.2.4 Deposition

All the pottery was recovered from two adjacent pits. The poor condition and highly fragmentary nature of the sherds is consistent with the material's having been stored for some time in 'pre-pit contexts' (Garrow 2006) before redeposition into the pits during backfilling. Joining sherds from the same vessel are present in both pits, for example vessel 1 (P1), and non-joining sherds from several vessels are found distributed between the fills of each pit. This again suggests that the pits' fills have come from a common source. The pottery within the pits does not appear to have been placed or structured, though some degree of selection of material — perhaps highly decorated sherds — seems plausible (Garrow 2006, 114). Garrow notes that Grooved Ware is commonly found in isolated or paired pits, and examples of these have been found at Over (Garrow 2006) and at Flixton on the Suffolk/Norfolk border (Percival 2004). In some pit pairs, the distribution of pottery between the pits is uneven with one pit being empty or perhaps containing other material such as freshly struck flint. The results from Barnack confirm this uneven distribution, although both pits contain pottery.

3.3 Non-ceramic Finds

A small assemblage of non-ceramic finds, in the main comprising flint, was retrieved from the fills of two pits, [206/212] and [208/210]; this is summarised in Table 2. Most of this material was recovered from the northern pit. Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from hand excavation, the remaining assemblage was recovered from environmental samples. The following terms are used in describing the flint.

Term	Definition
Flake	Struck debitage greater than 20mm
Spall	Struck debitage, less than 20mm
Chip	Fragment less than 20mm
Shatter	Miscellaneous fragment of greater than 20mm, possibly resulting from flint knapping



3.3.1 Northern Pit [206/212]

No non-ceramic finds were found within the primary fill (214) of this pit. Two flints were recovered from hand excavation of the main fill on the east side of the northern pit (213). These comprised a tertiary flake, in an opaque mottled grey flint, with damage to both the proximal and distal ends (length 53.6mm) and a small hard hammer struck possible spall (length 17.9mm) in a grey-brown flint. The latter while having a prominent bulb of percussion had extensive damage to the proximal end and lacked any striking platform. Burnt unworked flint (7.8g) and a burnt waterworn sandstone pebble (155g) were also recovered during excavation.

Environmental sample <4> from context (213) yielded ten possible spall in grey and brown flint. In addition, 31 fragments of between 5mm and 10mm length, and c. 52 of less than 5mm length were found. These did not retain clear signs of working.

A single tertiary flake fragment in grey lightly mottled flint was recovered from hand excavation of the main fill (207) on the west side of the pit. The bulb of percussion and striking platform are damaged; the distal end has a hinge fracture and two hard-hammer struck removals are present on the dorsal surface.

Environmental sample <1> from context (207) yielded a second tertiary flake in a slightly darker grey flint containing occasional imperfections. This has several narrow bladelet-like removals on what is presumed to be its dorsal surface and remains of a hinge fracture, likely to have resulted from encountering a flaw in the flint. However, there is no striking platform, this and the adjacent lateral edge are heavily battered/bruised, and there are very shallow multi-directional scars on the ventral surface suggesting either this flake had been 'knocking around' for some time before its eventual deposition or had been plough damaged. Two possible spall in pale brown flint and 62 chips, generally of less than 5mm were also recovered from the same environmental sample. These display no obvious signs of working and were of the same flint as the two possible spall pieces. Three pieces of burnt unworked flint weighing 12.2g were also found within the same sample <1>.

3.3.2 Southern Pit [208/210]

No non-ceramic finds were hand collected from this pit; the assemblage described derived from environmental samples. The assemblage from the northern half of the pit (fill 209) was retrieved from environmental sample <3> and comprises a single possible flint spall (5mm by 3mm) in light grey flint retaining a bulb of percussion; a flint chip (9mm by 3mm) with no obvious signs of working surviving; two joining pieces of burnt sandstone pebble (37.1g); and a tiny magnetic flake (2mm by 2mm). The fill (211) of the southern half of the pit (environmental sample <2>) contained an unworked fragment of dark grey, occasionally mottled, flint nodule (19.9g), cortex remaining on about half the surface. Three grey flint 'chips' one measuring 5.5mm by 9mm and two c. 2mm by 2mm were also found, none of them retained any evidence of working. Six tiny fragments, weighing 0.1g, of possibly burnt, decomposing copper-coloured material (decomposing mineral or copper alloy?) were also found. It is possible that this material was derived from one of a series of recent bonfires, which were revealed immediately below the grass in Trench 2. These bonfires contained the partially melted remains of several non-ferrous metals, including electrical wire.



Northern Pit	Eastern half (213)	Tertiary flint flake (1) Possible flint spalls (11) Flint fragments (83) – no obvious signs of working Burnt unworked flint Burnt waterworn sandstone pebble
	Western half (207)	Tertiary flint flakes (2) Possible flint spalls (2) Flint chips (62) – no obvious signs of working Burnt unworked flint
Southern Pit	Northern half (209)	Possible flint spall (1) Flint chip (1) – no obvious signs of working Burnt waterworn sandstone pebble
	Southern half (211)	Flint chips (3) – no obvious signs of working Unworked flint nodule fragment (1) Tiny fragments of decomposing copper-coloured material

Table 2: Summary of non-ceramic finds from the Neolithic pits
(Number of items in brackets)

3.3.3 Summary of non-ceramic finds

The three tertiary flakes from the northern pit all had damage, which masked defining features of humanly worked flint. The flakes would appear to have been ‘knocking around’ for some time prior to deposition. The possible spall pieces retained bulbs of percussion but lacked any striking platform. These and the tiny unworked chips retrieved from samples are in different coloured flint from the flakes and may be naturally derived, as there is no evidence for in situ knapping in the form of primary and secondary flakes. The southern pit, despite sampling, produced very limited quantities of flint and only one tiny possible spall. Other non-ceramic finds include a piece of unworked flint and a sandstone fragment, which had been exposed to fire. The ecofact samples recovered small quantities of carbonised hazelnut shell and calcined bone, as well as modern seeds. The origin of the copper-coloured material is uncertain. All of these materials had been in contact with fire. Whilst it is likely that some of the material is likely to be intrusive, being derived from the modern bonfires, Garrow (2006, 109) notes that hazelnut shells are often found in Grooved Ware pits, sometimes in considerable quantities.



4. CONCLUSION

The programme of archaeological mitigation has revealed two adjacent pits containing sherds of Grooved Ware, dating to the Neolithic period. These remains are of regional significance, and highlight the potential for the survival of further isolated, early prehistoric remains on the northern edge of Barnack.

Both pits were discovered during the initial stage of archaeological trenching. Observation of the subsequent groundworks failed to reveal any further pits, and Garrow's observation that Grooved Ware is commonly (though not exclusively) found in isolated or paired pits (Garrow 2006) suggests that these two existed in isolation. The pottery's abraded nature suggests that it was accumulated on the surface in middens prior to deposition, suggesting the presence of a small, probably temporary settlement. It is not clear if animal bone had originally been present, though leaching of the shell inclusions in the pottery suggests that soil conditions may not have been conducive to the preservation of bone. A small amount of calcined bone was recovered, though it is not clear if this was intrusive being derived from the modern bonfires. Modern seeds managed to enter the pit fills, possibly due to the abundance of wormholes.

The Uffington Road site, lying close to the watershed of two major river systems, is a typical location for Grooved Ware activity, which is often located overlooking a major riverine routeway (Cleal 1999, 5). The assemblage appears to be broadly of the Durrington Walls substyle, similar to Grooved Ware from Etton (Pryor 1998), Over (Garrow 2006), Flixton (Percival 2004), and the recently excavated assemblage from Linton, Cambridgeshire (Percival 2007). The assemblage has many characteristics of the Durrington Walls substyle, although some elements which distinguish the substyle at its site-type in Wiltshire are missing, perhaps indicating some regional variation within the Grooved Ware substyle. The assemblage's similarity to Grooved Ware found at Etton and Barholm may indicate that it belongs to a localised, shell-tempered derivative of the Durrington Walls substyle, proposed by Pryor as having been present in the region around the Welland Valley (Pryor 1998, 213).

Deposition of the pottery, spread between the fills of paired pits, is highly characteristic of Grooved Ware sites and comprises redeposited material, principally pottery, which had been stored elsewhere before eventual deposition. The placement of the pottery within the pits shows none of the formal structuring seen in some Grooved Ware assemblages such as Balfarg Riding School in Fife (Mercer 1981), being informal or unstructured (Garrow 2006). Dating is uncertain; however, the lack of formal structuring perhaps indicates that it belongs to the latter period of Grooved Ware currency of 3000–2000BC (Garwood 1999, 157).



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ALGAO (east) 2002: *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, EAA Occasional Paper 14
- CgMs 2007: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Land at Uffington Road, Barnack, Peterborough (unpublished report)
- CgMs 2009: Specification for Archaeological Mitigation. Land at Uffington Road, Barnack, Peterborough (unpublished report)
- Cleal, R. 1999: 'The What, Where, When and Why of Grooved Ware' in R. Cleal, and A. MacSween (eds), *Grooved Ware in Britain and Ireland*, Neolithic Studies groups Seminar Papers 3.1–8 (Oxford)
- English Heritage 1991: *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition (London)
- Garrow, D. 2006: *Pits, Settlement and Deposition during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in East Anglia*. BAR British Series 414 (Oxford)
- Garwood, P. 1999: 'Grooved Ware in Southern Britain; Chronology and Interpretation', in R. Cleal and A. MacSween (eds), *Grooved Ware in Britain and Ireland*, Neolithic Studies Group Seminar Papers 3 (Oxford), 145–76
- IfA 2008a: *Code of Conduct*
- IfA 2008b: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*
- Longworth, I. 1971: 'The Neolithic Pottery', in G.J. Wainwright and I.H. Longworth, *Durrington Walls Excavations 1966 to 1968* (London), 48–155
- Mercer, R. 1981: 'The Excavation of a Late Neolithic henge-type enclosure at Balfarg, Markinch, Fife, Scotland', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* 111, 163–71
- Percival, S. 2004: *The deposition of Grooved Ware pottery at Flixton Park Suffolk* (unpublished MA dissertation, Southampton University)
- Percival, S. 2007: *The Prehistoric Pottery from Linton Village College, Cambridge* (unpublished NAU Archaeology report for Oxford Archaeology East)
- Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group 1992: *Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*. PCRG Occasional Paper 2 (revised 1997)
- Pryor, F. 1998: *Etton: Excavations at a Neolithic causewayed enclosure near Maxey, Cambridgeshire, 1982–7*, English Heritage Archaeological Report 18 (London)



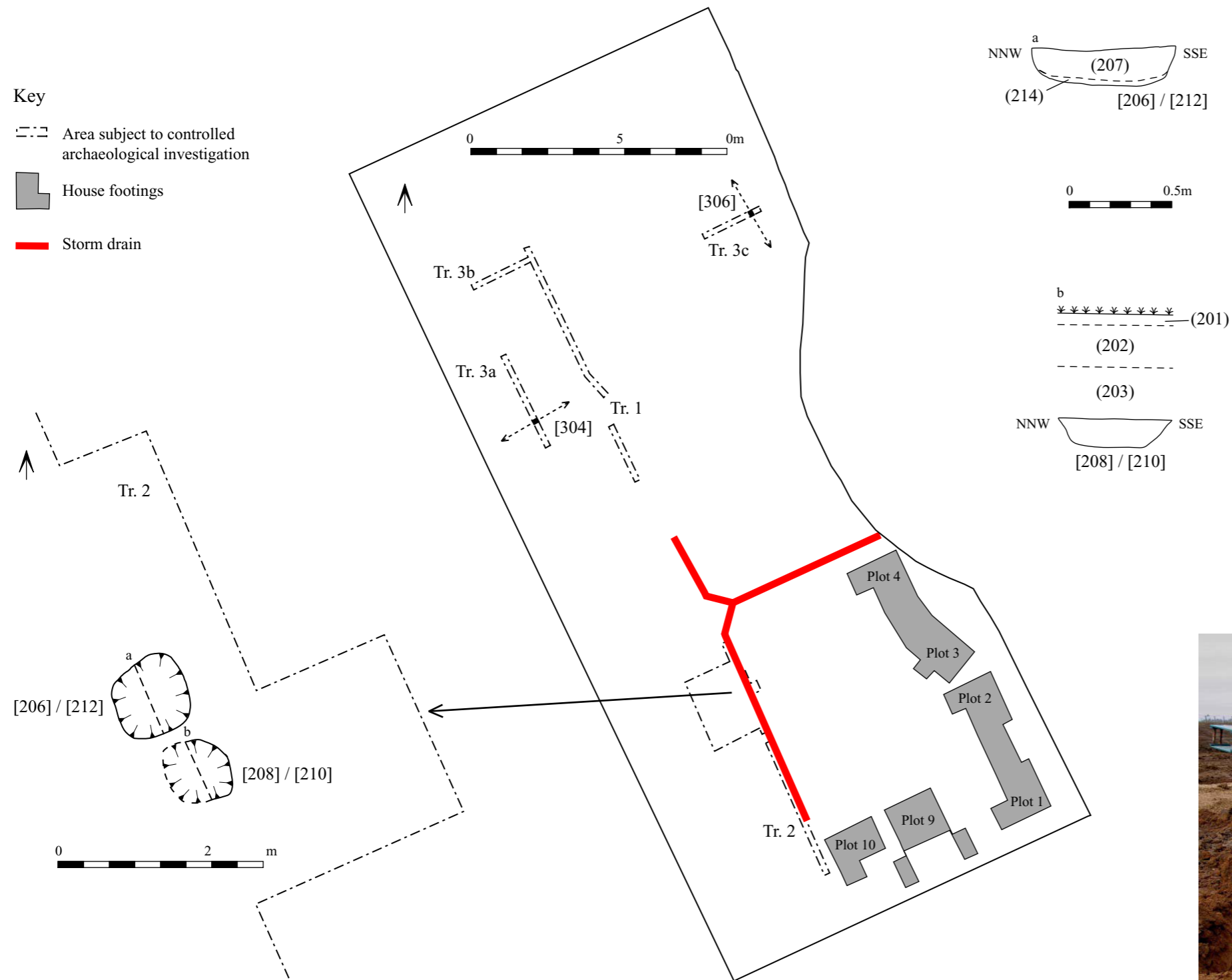
Simpson, W.G. 1993: 'The excavation of a Late Neolithic settlement at Barholm, Lincolnshire', in W.G. Simpson, D.A. Gurney, J. Neve, and F.M.M. Pryor, *The Fenland Project, Number 7: Excavations in Peterborough and the Lower Welland Valley 1960–1969*, East Anglian Archaeology 61 (Peterborough), 617–28

Steane, J.M. 1974: *The Northamptonshire Landscape* (London)



Figure 1: Site location

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



Photograph 1: northern pit [206] / [212], viewed from the east. Scale 0.25m



Photograph 2: machining of trench for storm drain

Figure 2: Extent of archaeological works and all features



1- vessel P1



2 - vessel P2



3 - vessel P3



4 - vessel P4



5 - vessel P5



6 - vessel P6



7 - vessel P7

Figure 3: Grooved Ware pottery from vessels P1 – P7

Catalogue No.	Fabric	Description	Feature
1	G1	Rim from tub- or barrel-shaped vessel with incised decoration	[208/210]
2	G1	Decorated body sherd with pinched cordons	[206/212]
3	G1	Base with pinched cordons	[206/212]
4	Q1	Rim from closed vessel	[206/212]
5	G1	Rim with cordon around interior	[208/210]
6	G1	Rim from barrel-shaped vessel with cordon on neck	[206/212]
7	G2	Rim from barrel-shaped vessel with possible pinched decoration	[206/212]