



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological excavation on land north of
Stratford Road, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire
November-December 2011



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 12/12

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS: 145179	
Project title	Archaeological Excavation on land north of Stratford Road, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire, November-December 2011		
Short description	In November and December 2011, an archaeological excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, on land north of Stratford Road, Deanshanger. The works identified a trackway and ditches dating from the late 1st century to early 2nd century AD, which were contemporary with enclosures recorded to the south. They went out of use in the early 2nd century, possibly as part of land reorganisation with the establishment of the villa to the south. Remnant traces of medieval ridge of furrow field cultivation were present in Area 3.		
Project type	Excavation		
Previous work	DBA, Geophysical Survey and Trial Trench Evaluation		
Current land use	Arable		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Roman		
Significant finds	Pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Northamptonshire		
Site address	Deanshanger, Stratford Road		
Easting Northing	SP 7693 3977		
Area (sq m/ha)	3.9, excavated 0.7ha		
Height aOD	70maOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor		
Project Design originator	Myk Flitcroft CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke (NA)		
Project Manager	Ian Meadows (NA) Myk Flitcroft (CgMs)		
Sponsor or funding body	Redrow Homes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	14/11//2011		
End date	05/12/2011		
ARCHIVES	Location	Contents	
Physical	NA offices	Flint, Pottery, animal bone, slag	
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital	DHS11	Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological excavation on land to the north of Stratford Road, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire, November-December 2011		
Serial title & volume	12/12		
Author(s)	Jason Clarke		
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION ON LAND NORTH OF
STRATFORD ROAD, DEANSHANGER, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2011**

Abstract

In November and December 2011, an archaeological excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting, on land north of Stratford Road, Deanshanger. The works identified a trackway and ditches dating from the late 1st century to early 2nd century AD, which were contemporary with enclosures recorded in previous works to the south. They went out of use in the early 2nd century, possibly as part of land reorganisation associated with the establishment of the Roman villa, which lies to the south. Remnant traces of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation were present in one area.

1 INTRODUCTION

In November to December 2011 an archaeological excavation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land north of Stratford Road, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7693 3977 Fig 1). The works were carried out for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Redrow Homes (South Midlands). The areas of excavation were located to examine features identified in a trial trench evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2010).

The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2011) and the Project Methodology prepared by CgMs Consulting (2011) in accordance with the Brief issued by the Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor (NCC 2011).

The objectives of the excavation were to expose and record the archaeological features identified in the western, southern and eastern areas of the site. To provide and adequately detailed project report, placing the investigations findings in their local and regional context. To disseminate and publish the project results and to prepare an ordered archive for future deposition.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

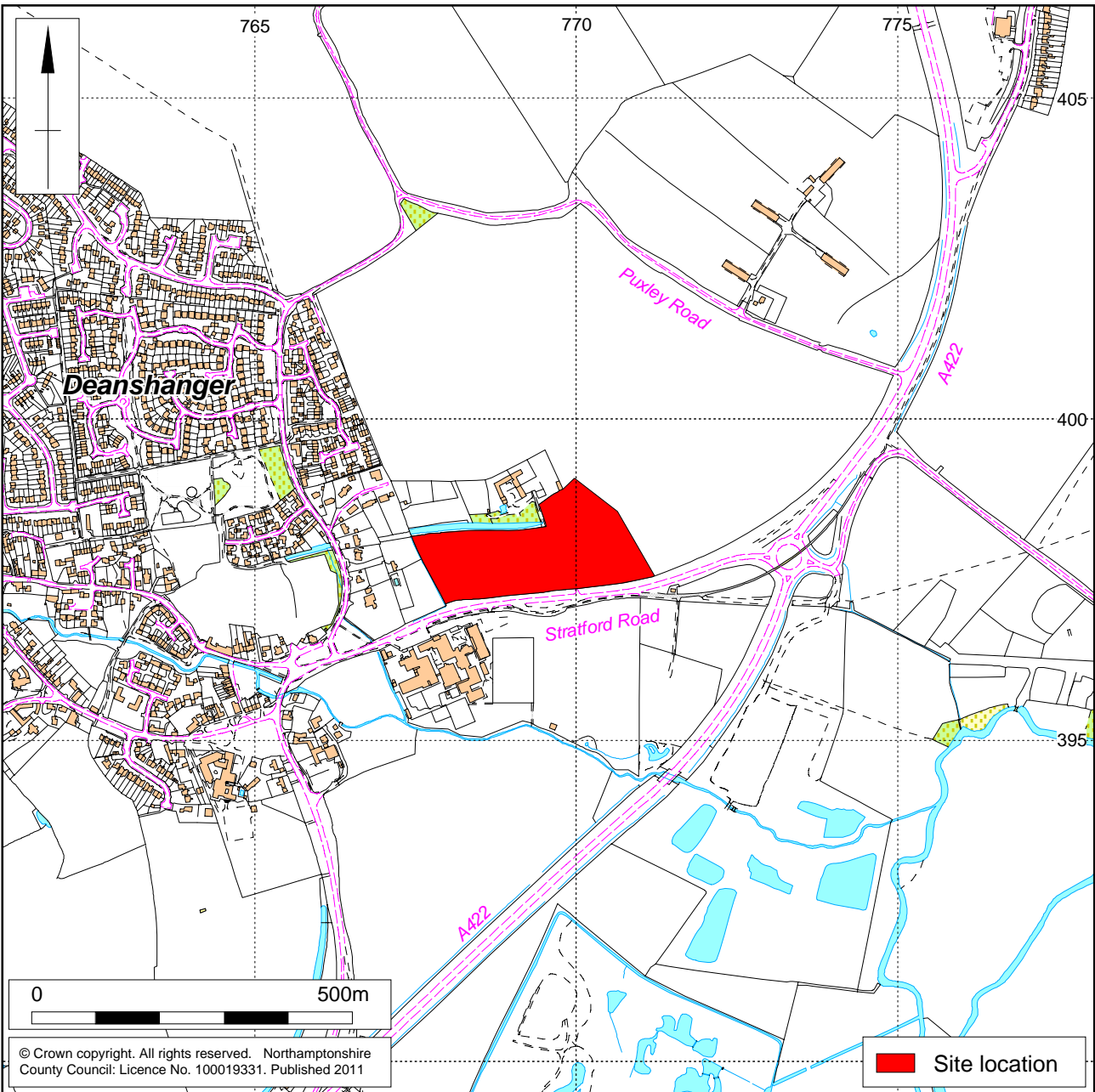
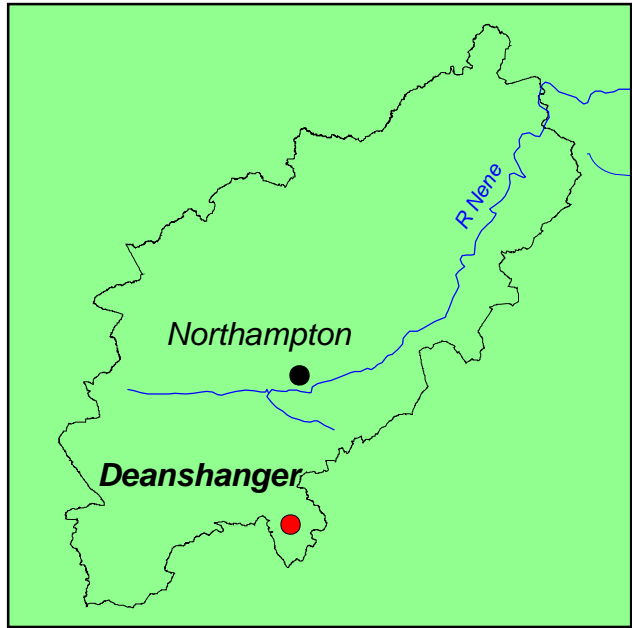
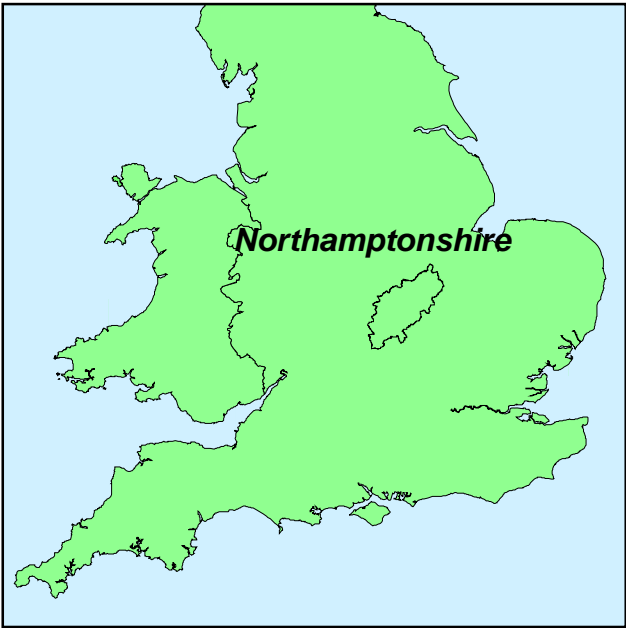
Location

The development site lies on the east side of the village of Deanshanger, within South Northamptonshire. It lies to the north of Stratford Road, with the road forming the southern boundary of the site. The site is bounded by a small field to the west and by further arable land to the east; its northern boundary is formed by the disused Grand Union Canal Buckingham Arm and by properties at Northfields.

Topographically the development site was located on a slight west facing slope at an average height of 70m aOD.

Geology by Steve Critchley

The solid geology is composed of rocks belonging to the Lower Jurassic Lias Group and the Middle Jurassic Great Oolite Group. The oldest rocks are siltstones and mudstones of the Lias Group probably belonging to the Whitby Mudstone Formation unconformably overlain by the Great Oolite Group Rutland Formation. The latter is made up of calcareous sandstones and siltstones of the Stamford Member and shelly limestones and calcareous mudstones of the Wellingborough Member.



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

Areas 1 and 2

Both these smaller excavation areas had been cut into a sandy calcareous tufa. This material has formed during the late Holocene by the input of base rich sandy material derived from the weathering and subsequent decalcification of the Stamford and Wellingborough Formations and possibly from the Blisworth Limestone Formation which overlies these beds and outcrops further upslope. The underlying impervious Lias Group mudstones and glacial tills in part has allowed the localised development of base rich groundwaters, springs or seeps and along with a restricted topographical drainage system encouraged the formation of tufa deposits.

Area 3

The bulk of the superficial geology consisted of Mid Pleistocene glacial tills observed to be composed of stiff grey to grey brown clays with numerous incorporated clasts of chalk, flint, sandstone and limestone with occasional exotic clasts of igneous and metamorphic rock types. The general clast size ranged from pebble to fist size with some individual clasts, particularly those composed of quartz arenites and orthoquartzites, measuring 20 to 30 cms in diameter. Overlying the tills and in part partially incorporated into them by periglacial action, were thin layers of orange to dark brown coarse pebbly glacial sands and gravels. The main exposure of these gravels is mapped just to the east of the excavation area and the exposures noted within the site were likely to be of periglacially reworked slope deposits derived from this material.

Although blurred by weathering and decalcification some relict periglacial features such as the sand filled remains of ice wedges were noted within the tills along with an overlying accumulation of fine silty clayey solifluction deposits within the down slope section.

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

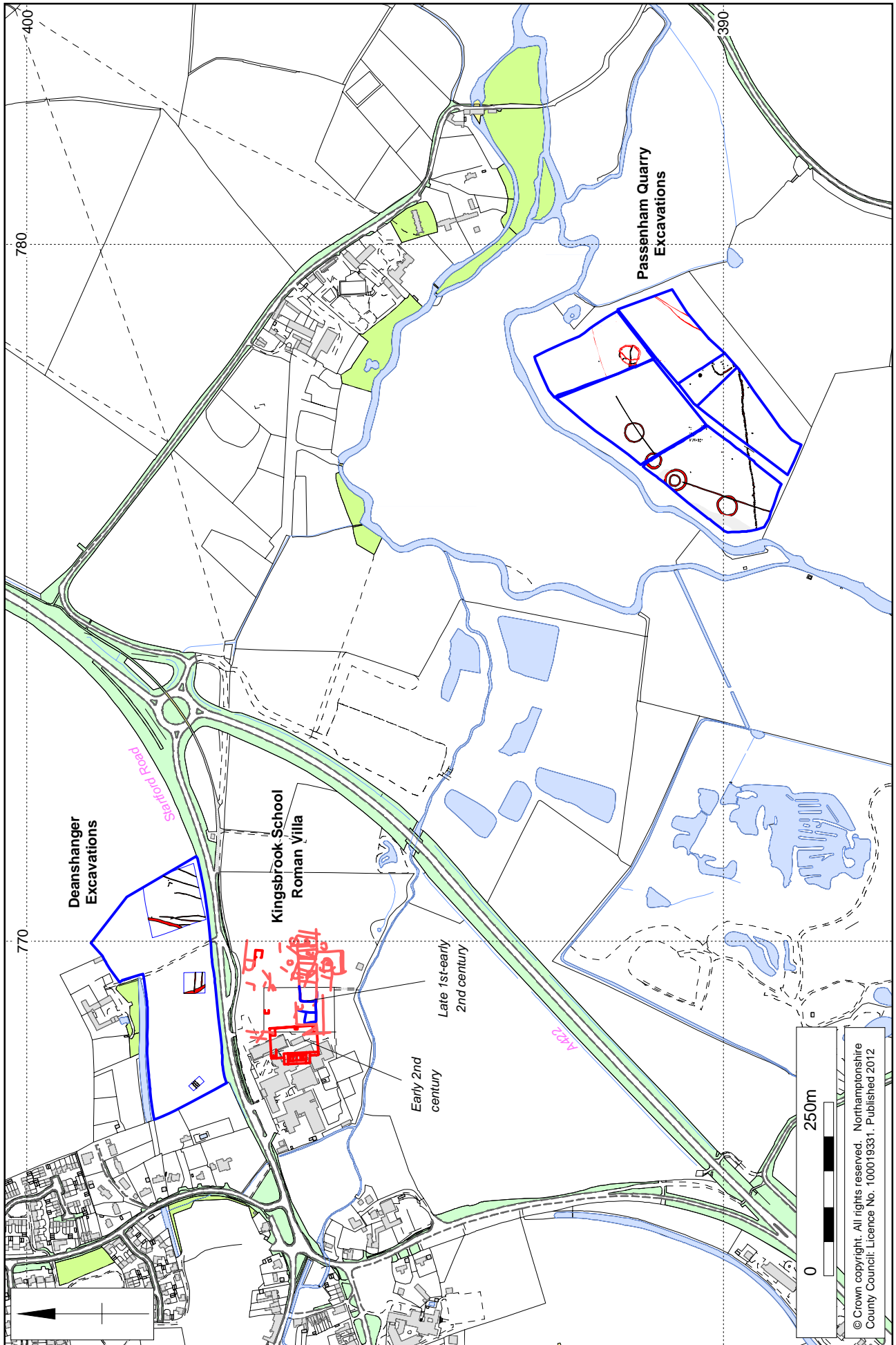
The archaeological potential of the site has been evaluated through a series of studies and investigations undertaken to support decision-making on the planning application:

- Archaeological desk-based assessment, Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2009)
- Geophysical survey, Pre-Construct Geophysics (PCG 2010)
- Trial trenching, Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2010)

Desk-based assessment

The desk-based assessment identified that the site had potential for the presence of late prehistoric and Roman period remains (CA 2009). Immediately east of the site cropmark evidence suggested the presence of late prehistoric settlement, with three probable enclosures and an associated field system interpreted from aerial photographs. Late prehistoric activity has also been recorded in archaeological investigations south of the site, in the area east of Kingsbrook School. Roman settlement, including a substantial villa complex, is also recorded at Kingsbrook School (Brown 2006, Fig 2). The proximity of the development site to the villa raised the potential for Roman remains to lie within the site, with elements of a field system associated with the settlement being particular likely.

The desk-based assessment additionally concluded that the north part of the development site was likely to contain buried archaeological evidence for the former Buckingham Arm of the Grand Union Canal (constructed 1801, disused 1938).



Scale 1:7500 (A4)

The development area in relation to the surrounding archaeological landscape

Fig 2

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Geophysical survey

A magnetometer survey was commissioned to provide additional information on the presence, extent and nature of any previously unidentified archaeological remains within the development site (PCG 2010).

The survey confirmed the line of the Buckingham arm of the canal and identified slight traces of relict medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

Linear anomalies in the east of the site possibly indicated ditches associated with early settlement. In the west of the site a number of discrete ditches were identified along with other anomalies interpreted as potential pits or areas of burning.

Trial trenching

A programme of archaeological trial trenching was commissioned to evaluate the sites archaeological potential more fully and to establish the character, quality, date and extent of surviving archaeological remains. A total of nine trenches were excavated (CA 2010).

The evaluation recorded a small number of archaeological features, comprising ditches, pits, furrows and a spread of stone. A possible ring gully and a nearby ditch, in Trench 9, in the east of the site both contained Roman pottery. Roman pottery was also recovered from a ditch in Trench 4, in the central part of the site.

Two undated parallel ditches were recorded in Trench 1, at the west end of the site. Between these ditches were possible wheel ruts. A spread of stone was recorded in the west-facing section of the trench. Although these features were undated they were considered possible evidence for a postulated Roman road. The trial trenching report does, however, additionally note that the features might represent a post-medieval trackway (CA 2010).

A wide shallow feature in the eastern part of the site and not fully exposed in Trench 8 contained a sherd of probable early/middle Anglo-Saxon pottery, suggesting that the feature might be a sunken-featured building.

Post-medieval material was recovered from a large pit in Trench 3, one of three pits in this trench, in the west of the site. Further post-medieval material was recovered from a ditch in Trench 2, 40m north of Trench 3.

The trial trenching established that anomalies identified in the geophysical survey were sometimes, but not always, present as archaeological features. Conversely a number of archaeological features were revealed, including the suggested Roman road or trackway that had not been identified in the survey.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Three areas of open area excavation were investigated. They were targeted on features recorded in the trial trench evaluation (CA 2010).

The site specific objectives were:

Possible Roman road, to:

- Confirm the dating and interpretation of the probable road or trackway features identified in Trench 1 of the evaluation;
- Establish, if possible, a date of construction/alteration;
- Establish how the remains within the site relate to the local regional road network and how it relates to other sections of road in the sub-region area in terms of dating and construction methods.

Iron Age and Roman enclosures and other remains:

- Any evidence within the development site for pre-Roman settlement/activity, or do the remains relate solely to activity contemporary with the adjacent villa site;
- Establish the date of creation/use/ abandonment of these enclosures;
- Examine the nature of activities within the field/enclosure (crop production, animal stockading, crop processing);
- Interpret remains within the development site in the context of known activity site in the surrounding area.

Possible Saxon activity:

- Confirm the interpretation and context of the early/middle Saxon pottery recovered from trench 8 of the evaluation;
- Establish the extent and nature of Saxon period activity;
- How do Saxon period remains within the development site relate to the earlier Roman activity within the site and surrounding area?

The excavation areas were positioned using a Leica system 1200 GPS.

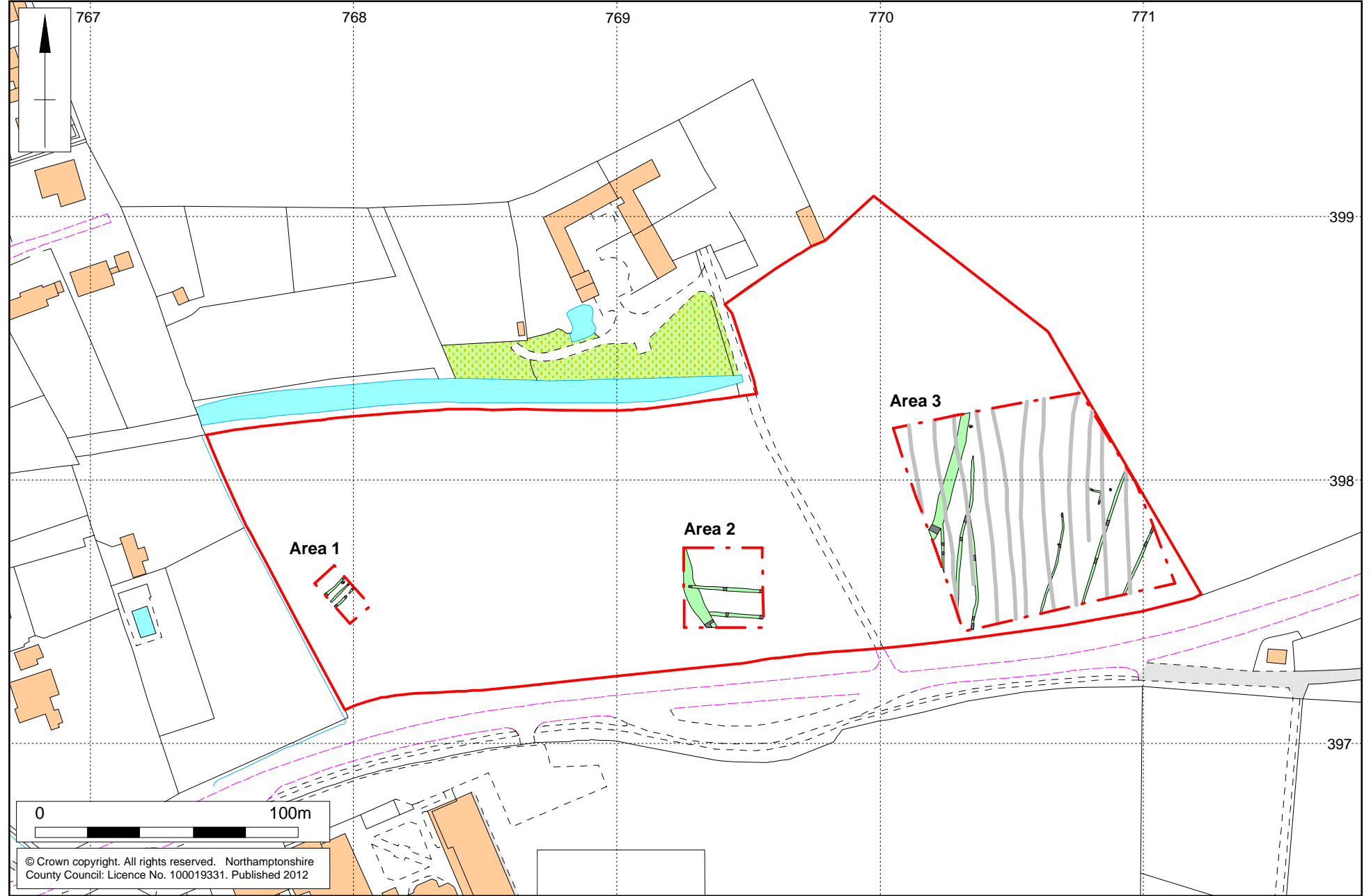
A 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:50 and 1:100 and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

All works were monitored by Northamptonshire County Council County Archaeological Advisor and conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008).

Scale 1:2000 (A4)

Areas of excavation

Fig 3



4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 The excavation areas

Three excavation areas were opened to expand the results of the trial trench evaluation (Fig 3). To the west, Area 1 was 20m long by 10m wide, and was centred on Trench 1 of the evaluation. In the middle of the development, Area 2 was 30m square and was centred on Trench 4. To the east, Area 3 was 85m long by 75m wide, encompassing Trenches 7, 8 and 9.

4.2 Area 1: Gullies and drain

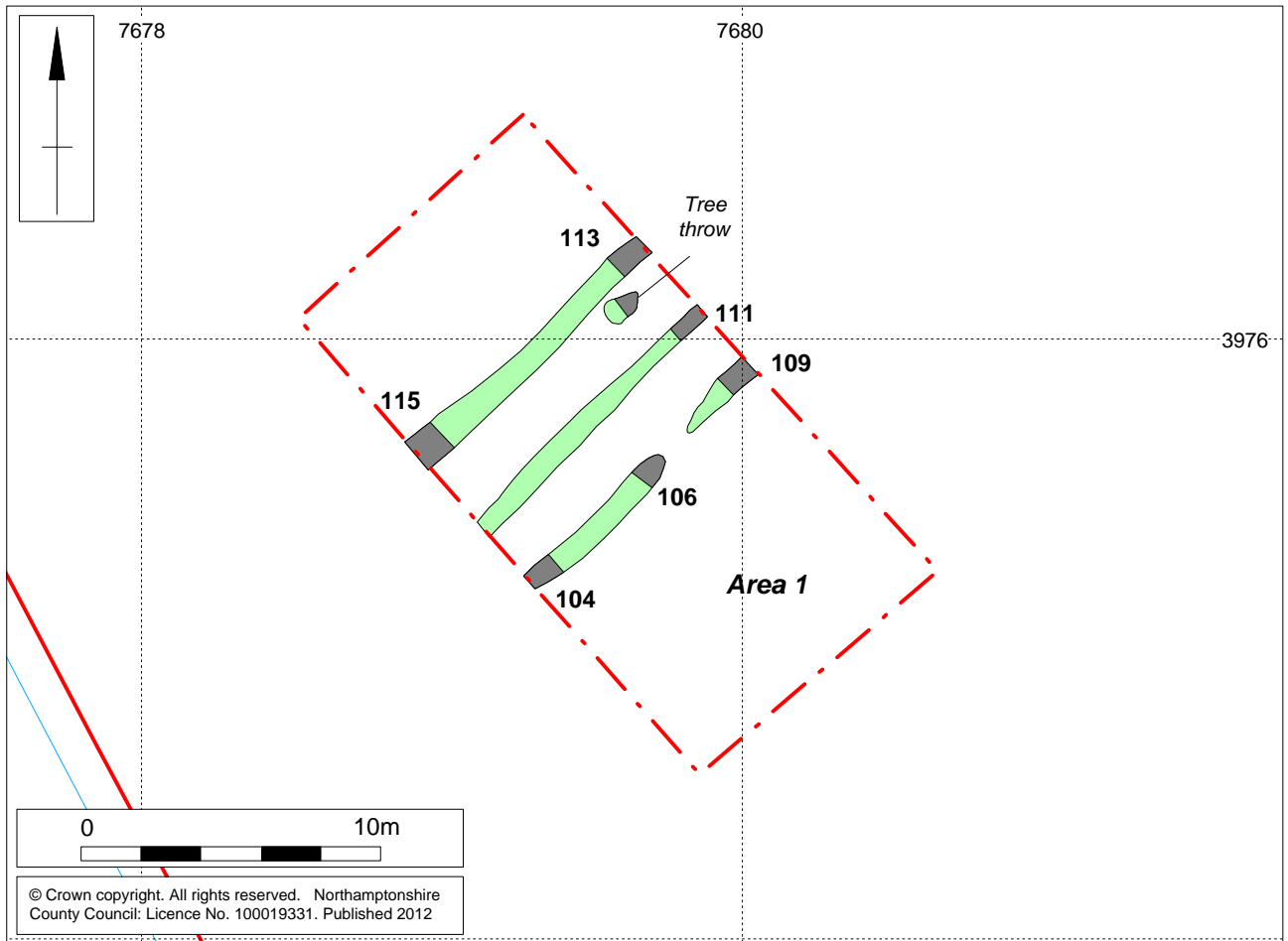
Area 1 was located in the west of the development site (Figs 3 and 4), and was positioned to examine the possible Roman road recorded in Trench 1 of the evaluation. Two undated gullies and a post-medieval drain were present.

In the middle of the excavation area there was a gully, aligned north-east to south west [104]/[106], 0.50m wide by 0.15m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig 5). The fill of light grey-brown sandy clay (105)/(107) contained no finds. The gully terminated to the north-east but to the south-west it continued beyond the limits of excavation.

To the north-west there was a gully [113] [115], aligned north-east to south-west, 0.80m wide by 0.20m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig 5). The fill of dark grey-brown sandy clay (112)/(114) contained no finds. The gully extended beyond the limits of the excavation.

Between the gullies there was a drain [111], 0.60m wide by 0.10m deep, with a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig 5). The fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments and contained a single sherd of 19th century pottery, which was noted but not retained. The drain continued beyond the limit of excavation.

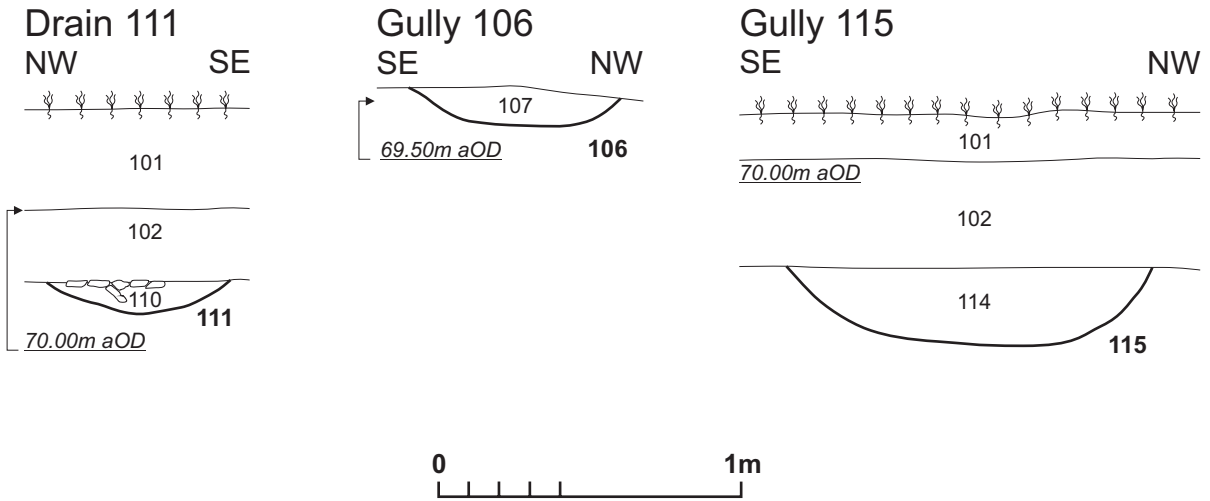
Plough scars on the same alignment as the gullies and drain were also present. Ceramic land drains were also found.



Scale 1:250 (A4)

Area 1, plan Fig 4

Area 1



Drain 111



Gully 106



Gully 115

4.3 Area 2: Roman ditches

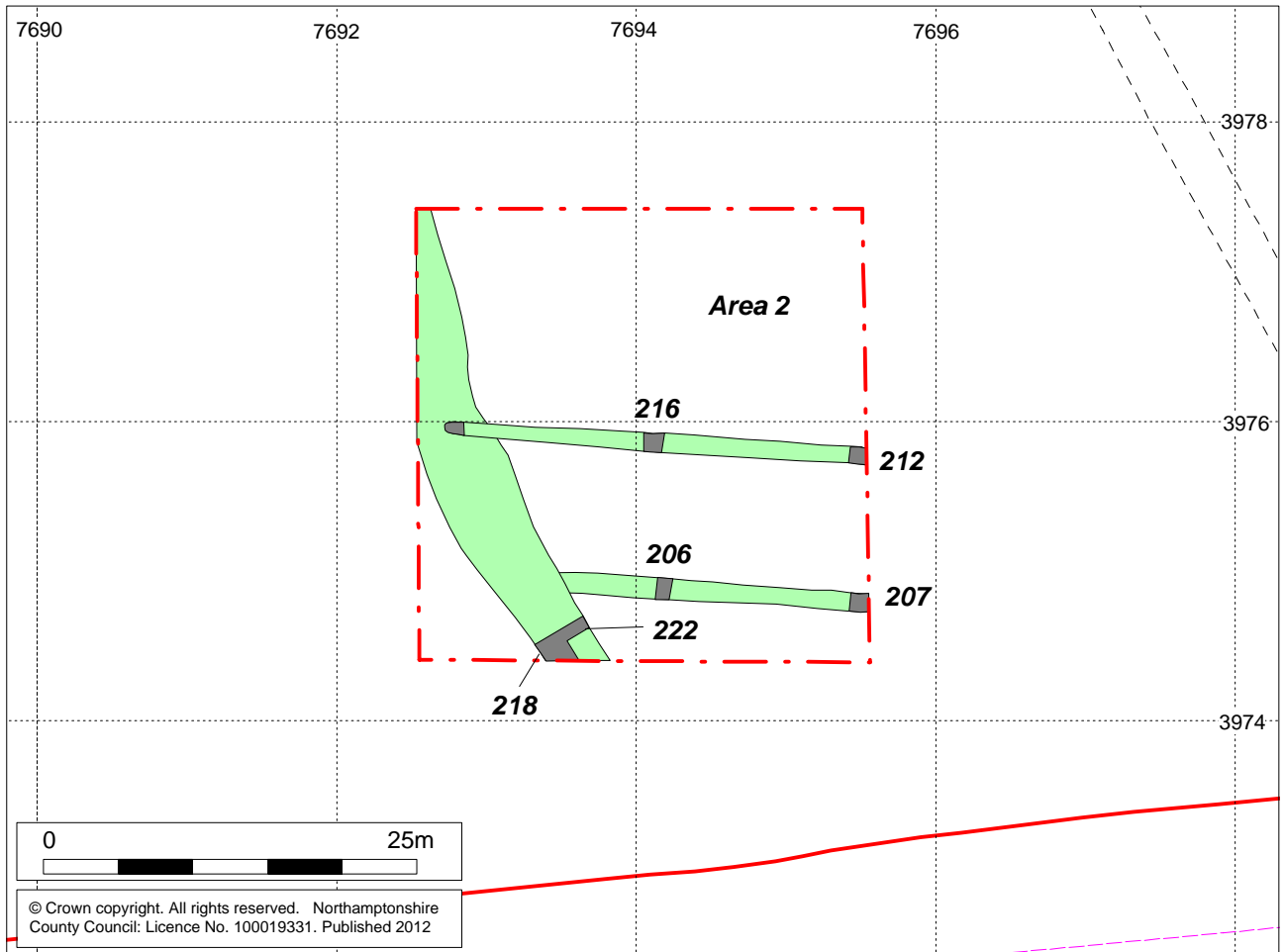
Area 2 lay in the middle of the proposed development site (Figs 3 and 6) and was positioned to examine a Roman ditch found in Trench 4 of the evaluation.

Roman ditches

A ditch [206]/[207], aligned east to west, 1.50m wide by 0.20m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile, lay in the southern part of the area (Fig 7). The primary fill of mid orange-brown sandy clay (205)/(208) was overlain by mid grey-brown sandy clay (206) (209), Roman pottery and animal bone was recovered from the upper fill (209). The ditch continued beyond the limits of excavation to the east and was cut by ditch [222] to the west.

Gully [218] and ditch [222]/[226] were aligned north-west to south-east. The gully was 0.60m wide and 0.37m deep, with a V-shaped profile (Fig 7). The fill of mid grey-brown sandy clay (217) contained no finds. It was truncated on its eastern side by ditch [222], which was 3.55m wide and 0.72m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile (Fig 7). The primary fill of dark orange-brown silty clay (221), contained late Roman pottery of late 1st to early 2nd century date and animal bone. It was overlain by a backfilled deposit of light yellow-grey sand (220). The final fill was a silting deposit of dark brown-grey silty clay (219). The ditch continued to the north-west where a moderate amount of 19th or early 20th-century brick and tile was dumped in the upper layer (P Chapman, this report). The brick and tile were probably wasters from a small brick kiln located outside the excavation area.

Ditch [211]/[212]/[216], 1.0m wide and 0.50m deep, was aligned east-west (Figs 6 and 7). The primary fill of light grey-brown silty clay was overlain by light brown sandy clay (215), from which no finds were recovered. The ditch continued to the east, beyond the limits of excavation, but to the west it cut ditch [222] and terminated. Although no finds were recovered from the excavated sections, late 1st to early 2nd century Roman pottery was recovered from the same ditch during the trial trench evaluation (CA 2010).

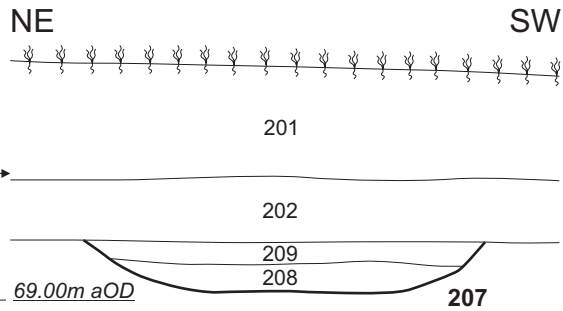


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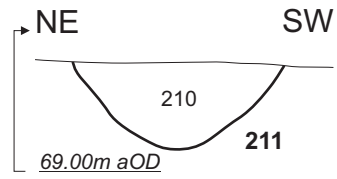
Area 2, plan Fig 6

Area 2

Ditch 207



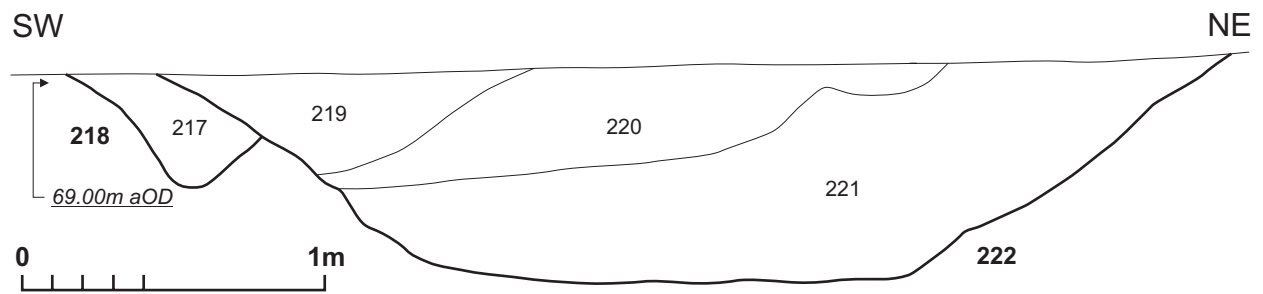
Ditch 211



Ditch 216



Ditches 218 and 222



Ditch 207



Ditch 216



Ditches 222 and 218

4.4 Area 3: Roman ditches and trackway

Excavation in Area 3, to the east (Figs 3 and 8), investigated Roman and Anglo-Saxon features, and a possible ring ditch located in Trenches 7-9 of the evaluation (CA 2010). The presence of Anglo-Saxon features and a ring ditch was not supported by the excavation.

Trackway

To the west there was a metalled track way [336], aligned north-west to south-east, 3.50m wide and composed of compacted stone including limestone fragments, rounded stones and gravel (337). This hard surface was overlain by dark grey-brown silty clay (338). The deposits contained Roman pottery of late 1st to early 2nd century date; fired clay; and horse, sheep, and cattle bone including the exceptionally large animal, described below. The trackway was truncated by agricultural activity to the north, where it was overlain by thinner subsoil (Figs 9 and 10).

Small enclosure

Two small gullies [348] and [350] formed an L-shape at the top of a south-facing slope. The two gullies were 3m long, possibly defining two sides of a truncated sub-rectangular enclosure. The fills produced quantities of domestic waste, particularly pottery. The gully forming the eastern side [350] had a shallow U-shaped profile, 0.60m wide by 0.19m deep (Figs 9 and 10). The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (349) contained pottery dated to the late 1st to early 2nd centuries. The gully forming the north side [348] had a shallow U-shaped profile, 0.53m wide by 0.10m deep (Figs 9 and 10). The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (347) contained pottery of the late 1st to early 2nd centuries.

Roman ditches

Five ditches were on general north-south alignments (Fig 8). Lying west of the trackway [336] there was a sinuous ditch [316]/[341], aligned north-east to south-west, 1.20m wide by 0.10m deep with a broadly shallow U-shaped profile. The fill of mid yellow-brown silty clay (315) (340) was weathering derived silting, which contained three sherds of late 1st to 2nd-century Roman pottery. The stratigraphic relationship between this ditch and ditch [318]/[325] was unclear.

Ditch [318]/[325] was aligned north-south, 1.40m wide by 0.45m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile. The fill of mid brown silty clay (317) (324), was weathering derived silting (Figs 9 and 10). Towards its southern end, at the base of the south-facing slope, there was a dumped deposit of limestone fragments and gravel, probably used to consolidate a wet area. Pottery from the late 1st century to 2nd centuries, and animal bone was recovered from the stone deposit.

To the east, ditch [305]/[331]/[333] was aligned north-east to south-west, 0.50m wide by 0.20m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile (Figs 9 and 10). The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (304) (330) (332) contained frequent stone inclusions towards the base of the deposit. Pottery, of the late 1st to 2nd centuries, and cattle bone was recovered. The presence of stones at the base of the fill perhaps suggests the ditch may have been for drainage. The ditch was cut by a sub-circular pit [329] that contained pottery of the same date.

To the east of the small enclosure, ditch [307]/[320] was aligned north-east to south-west, 1.0m wide and 0.40m deep with a U-shaped profile, which was observed in Trench 9 of the evaluation (CA 2010) (Figs 9 and 10). The fill of mid grey-brown silty clay (306)/(319) contained pottery of the late 1st to early 2nd centuries. The ditch continued beyond the limits of excavation.

Further east, ditch [314]/[323] was aligned north-east to south-west, 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile (Figs 9 and 10). The fill of mid orange-brown silty clay (313)/(322) contained late 1st to 2nd-century Roman pottery and cattle bone. The ditch continued beyond the limits of the excavation

Other features

At the west of the excavation area, gully [311] was aligned north to south, 0.70m wide by 0.10m deep with shallow concave sides leading to flat base. Its fill of dark orange-brown silty clay, resulting from weathering derived silting, contained no finds. No stratigraphic relationship could be observed between the gully and trackway with which it merged to the north, perhaps indicating they are contemporary and possibly used for drainage.

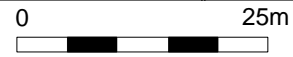
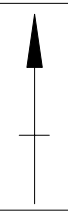
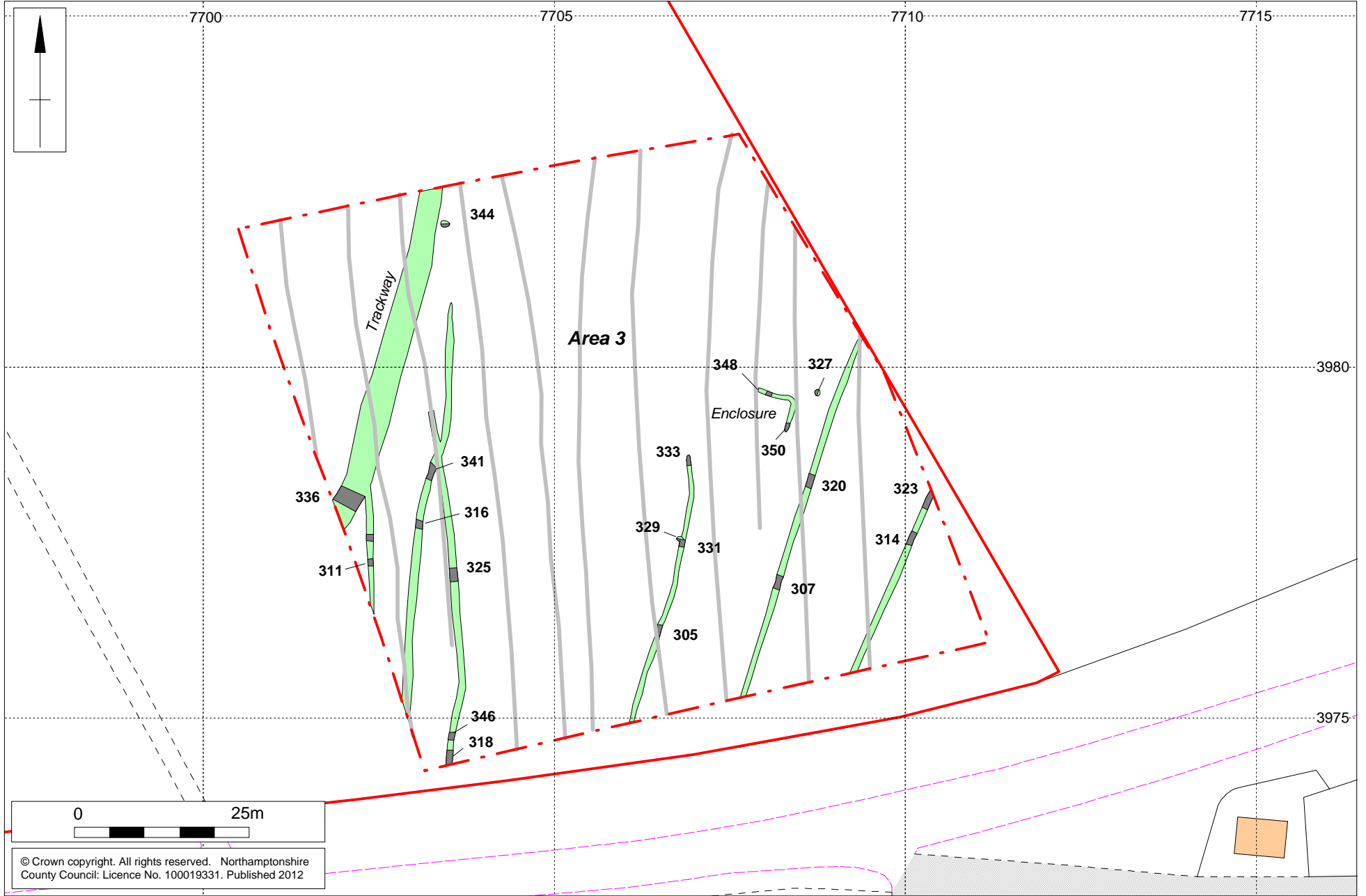
To the west of the small enclosure was a sub-circular pit [327], 0.90m in diameter and 0.23m deep. The fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (326) contained cattle bone.

At the northern limit of excavation and to the east of the trackway, there was a sub-circular pit [344], 1.15m in diameter and 0.10m deep, cut into the clay natural. The fill comprised burnt rounded stones, burnt clay and charcoal (343).

Medieval plough furrows of the ridge and furrow cultivation system traversed the site from north to south, and seems to have truncated the archaeology to the north where the subsoil was thinner.

Scale 1:750 (A4)

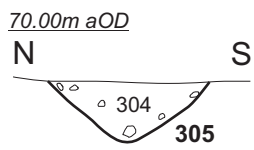
Area 3, plan Fig 8



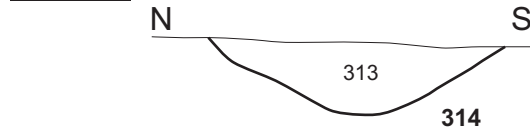
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Area 3

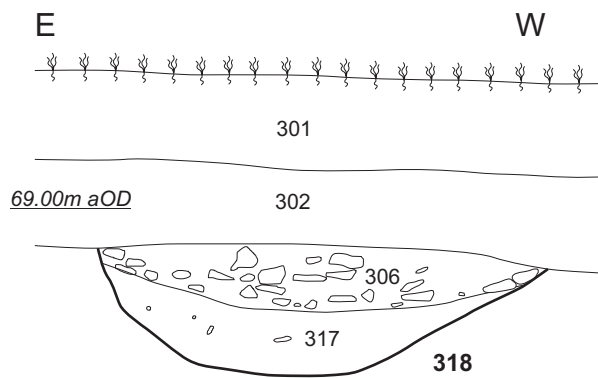
Ditch 305



Ditch 314



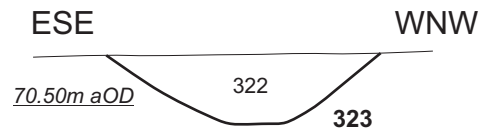
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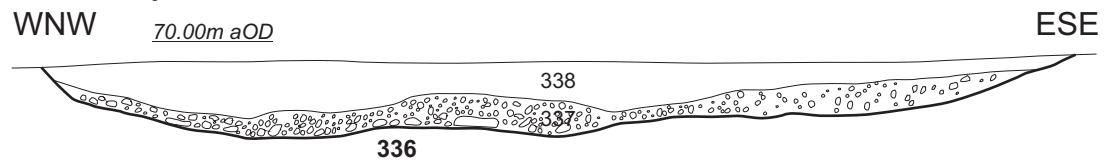
Ditch 320



Ditch 323

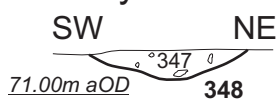


Trackway 336

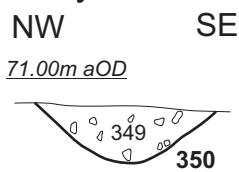


Small enclosure

Gully 348



Gully 350





Ditch 305



Ditch 314



Ditch 318



Ditch 320



Ditch 323



Trackway 336



Small enclosure gully 350



Small enclosure gully 348

5 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Worked flint by Andy Chapman

The fill (349) of a Roman gully [350] contained three residual flints. There are two small bladelets, SF14 & 15, measuring 27x11mm and 29x9mm, both broken and displaying edge damage. They are in a pale brown flint with a white to pale grey surface patination, and are most likely to be of a late Mesolithic date. There is also a small flake with miscellaneous edge retouch in a grey glassy flint.

5.2 The pottery by Rob Perrin

Some 821 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing just under 6.3kg and with an estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) of just under 8 were recovered.

Fabrics

The pottery was recorded using simple fabric classifications, based on principal inclusion or firing technique, together with known imported wares. The fabrics represented are grogged, shell-gritted, grey, oxidised and cream, together with imported South and Central Gaulish samian ware (SGS, CGS). Where possible, the fabrics are related to those noted in the report on the pottery from the 2004-05 excavations on the Kingsbrook School Roman villa (Timby 2006). Table 1 gives the proportions of pottery by principal fabric:

Table 1: Quantification of the Roman pottery

FABRIC	Sherds	%	weight (g)	%	rim %	%	base %	%
grogged	247	30.09	2342	37.26	258	32.37	128	26.89
Shell	204	24.85	1842	29.30	123	15.43	21	4.41
Greys	282	34.35	1404	22.34	267	33.50	151	31.72
oxidised	29	3.53	350	5.57	36	4.52	73	15.34
Cream	26	3.17	183	2.91	12	1.51	93	19.54
SGS	32	3.9	159	2.53	95	11.92	10	2.10
CGS	1	0.12	6	0.095	6	0.75		
Totals	821		6286		797		476	

A number of sub-types occur in the grogged wares, mostly oxidised, of which a pink/oxidised ware with a grey core and a soft oxidised ware are the most recognisable. A dark brown grogged ware also occurs. Timby similarly notes variety in the grog-tempered wares from the villa with oxidised (OXGR) being the most common; a darker 'black' ware (BWGR) is also represented (*op. cit.* 73, fabric 9).

Some of the oxidised grogged ware conforms to the category known as 'pink grogged ware'. This ware was first defined in the analysis of Roman pottery from excavations in Towcester (Brown 1982, Woodfield 1983) and discussed in more detail in the report on Roman pottery from excavations in Milton Keynes (Marney 1989); the ware is considered to be an important regional production (PNK GT - Tomber and Dore 1998, 210) Its presence in the pottery from Deanshanger is not surprising as research into this distinctive fabric, and the discovery of kilns for its production in Stowe Park, Buckinghamshire, places Deanshanger within the core zone for its distribution and usage (Booth and Green 1989, Booth 1999, Taylor 2004).

The grey wares comprise a range of fabrics with varying visual characteristics likely to reflect different firing conditions rather than separate sources. Timby also notes grey ware varieties including black sandy wares (*ibid.* 73, BW, fabric 7) and grey sandy wares (*ibid.* 73, GW fabric 12). The oxidised and cream wares also occur in more than one fabric and it is possible that some may be products of the Verulamium potteries. Timby identified Verulamium products (*ibid.* 73, VER WH, fabric 4) and other oxidised wares (*ibid.* 73, BUFF, fabric 6 and OW, fabric 12).

The appearance of the shell-gritted wares also varies, with vessels having either oxidised or dark brown surfaces and, occasionally, different fabric core colours. The hardness of the fabrics also differs. Timby notes a number of shell-gritted fabrics in the villa assemblage (*ibid.* 73, SHELL, fabric 17).

The only other fabrics occurring in the 2011 assemblage are imported samian ware from South and Central Gaul. These, not surprisingly, were also represented in the villa assemblage (*ibid.* 73, fabric 1).

Forms

The vessel forms were recorded using simple form codes. In terms of the coarse wares, jars are the only vessel type in the shell-gritted wares and jars of various types also dominate the grogged and grey ware assemblages. Indeed, the only other vessel forms in the coarse ware assemblage as a whole are a curved sided, plain rim dish and a small, campanulate, lid seated bowl in grey ware, a possible platter, a jar or bowl and a bead and flanged mortarium in oxidised ware (the latter is probably a Verulamium product, cf Wilson (fig 111, 2651), a jar or bowl in cream ware, and a lid and two jars or bowls in grogged ware. The samian ware forms are all dishes or bowls. Most of the jars are either lid seated or have curved rims and many in the grey and grogged wares have neck or girth grooves, or both; one other grogged ware jar has traces of incised shoulder decoration. One grey ware jar has six holes which were pierced in its base after firing.

Date

The vessel forms as a whole, together with the absence of obvious Iron Age material, as well as regional and continental imports, such as black burnished ware and colour coated wares from the Lower Nene Valley, Cologne, Central Gaul, the Rhineland and Oxfordshire, suggests a late 1st to early 2nd century date range for most of the assemblage. This dating fits that for the Phase 1 ditch systems which were recorded within the area excavated in 2004-05 (Brown 2006, 67, 77) and suggests that the features found to the north in 2011 were part of the same overall land division.

Sources, function and status

It is likely, with the exception of the imported samian ware and some possible Verulamium products, that most of the pottery was locally produced. The kilns at Stowe, about 10 kilometres to the west of Deanshanger, producing pink grogged ware have already been mentioned, and there are known kiln sites within a 15 kilometre radius of Deanshanger at Towcester, Biddlesden, Wappenham, Caldecotte/Bow Brickhill, Walton and Syresham (Swan 1984, 134, 145) which together produced a range of grey and oxidised wares. The location of the Deanshanger villa close to a Roman road (Margery 171), which joined Watling Street to the east, would also have potentially given access to other products being distributed along that major route. The Roman town of Towcester itself, less than 15km from the site via the Roman roads, would have been another potential source for ceramics and other goods.

The pottery has a low average sherd weight of around 7.7g, less than that from the 2004-05 villa excavations (around 12.3g, Timby, *op. cit.* 73), indicating that the material

had been lying around for some time before it was deposited. Only two of the ditch deposits produced assemblages weighing more than a kilo, suggesting that the activity in the areas from which the pottery derived was low scale. The coarse ware and vessel form range suggests that most of this activity was very basic, utilitarian and agricultural, although a hint of higher status is provided by the samian ware, the proportion of which is as high as that found in the 2004-05 villa excavations (Timby, *ibid.* 74). Interestingly, the evidence from previous excavations gives the impression that the villa was not particularly luxurious itself (Brown 2006, 78).

5.3 Roman finds by Ian Meadows

There were two coins, both from Area 3. The first, SF2 from fill (310) of ditch [311], is a small copper alloy coin, 11.5mm in diameter, one face of which bore the faint outline of a 4th-century bust around which the legend was illegible. The reverse was illegible and although faint traces could be discerned the reverse type was not clear. The ditch is dated to the late 1st to 2nd century suggesting the coin is intrusive.

The other coin, SF7 from topsoil (301), is a copper alloy coin 16mm in diameter. The flan is nearly 2mm thick, suggesting it has been cast as opposed to struck, possibly a contemporary copy. The surface features are illegible on one face but on the other the very faint outline of a wolf is present indicating that the prototype was an URBS ROMA issue dating to the second quarter of the 4th century.

5.4 Roman building material by Pat Chapman

Tile

There is one very abraded *tegula* roof tile sherd, weighing 191g, from fill (306) of ditch [318]. It is made from hard brownish-red fine sandy clay. The remnant flange has a lower angled cutaway, possibly dating up to 180AD as it is similar to the type B cutaway illustrated by Warry (2007).

From fill (304) of ditch [305] there are 12 fragments of a body sherd, at least 32mm thick and weighing 139g, and made from orange-brown sandy clay with very frequent sub-rounded gravel up to 6mm. This may come from a floor tile.

Fired clay

Just six small fragments of fired clay, weighing 68g, come from features dated to the Roman period. The two fragments from fill (313) ditch [314] have been subject to intense heat as they have been vitrified on one surface. The remaining fragments, from fill (338) of trackway [336], fill (347) of gully [348] and fill (349) of gully [350] are hard, irregularly-shaped and made from orange-brown sandy clay.

Stone

One tiny fragment of limestone from fill (304) of ditch [305] is, naturally or otherwise almost a cube, measuring c 20mm by 15mm by 15mm.

5.5 Post-medieval building material by Pat Chapman

Brick

There are the remains of 12 bricks, a fused lump of five bricks and two distorted lumps from fill (223) of ditch [226], and one fragment from fill (221) of ditch [222], together weighing 9.7kg. Seven of these bricks and a fused lump are characteristic of being overfired, as they are very hard, purple-black, with some exposed surfaces vitrified to green, and one brick very hard cindery orange with a black core. They are all 45mm to 50mm (1¾ to 2 inches) thick, two bricks are 110mm and 115mm (4⅜ to 4½ inches) wide. The fused lump comprises the distorted remains of five hard mauve bricks, fused together with mortar, with surface vitrification. The two other lumps are barely recognisable bricks and mortar, distorted, vitrified, hard and grey.

The other five bricks and the fragment are between 48mm and 58mm thick (1⅞ to 2¼ inches) and one is 108mm wide (4¼ inches). The fabrics are hard fine silty sandy brown clay, slightly coarse sandy clay red slightly overfired, dense coarse sandy orange-brown clay, cindery orange-brown clay and very hard fine orange clay with buff streaks. The latter has the paw print of a large dog.

The overfired bricks have been reused several times and so must have come from a kiln or similar, the remaining bricks could be from the exterior of such a structure or discarded remnants.

Ceramic roof tile

The roof tile comprises 22 sherds from fill (223) of ditch [226], and 15 fragments from fill (221) of ditch [222], all weighing 4329g. Twenty of the sherds from ditch [226] come from plain flat roof tiles, probably nib tiles as there is one sherd with a nib but none with pegholes. The other two sherds come from plain ridge tiles. The tiles are 13-17mm thick. The fifteen fragments from fill (221) are most likely from one tile, 10mm thick, made from slightly coarse orange clay.

The main fabric, for 12 sherds including the ridge tiles, is hard fine sandy bright orange clay. The remaining sherds are made from hard fine to coarse sandy reddish-orange clay, hard fine silty orange-brown clay and hard fine sandy brownish-orange clay.

Stone

One piece of limestone from fill (223) of ditch [226], 20mm thick and surviving to c 90mm by 90mm, has mortar adhering to one side.

The brick and roof tile are broadly datable to the post-medieval period, probably from the 18th to early 20th centuries.

5.6 Metalworking debris by Andy Chapman

There are two small pieces of undiagnostic ferrous slag, weighing 55g, from the fill (317) of ditch [318]. They may be indicative of local iron working, probably smithing.

There is also a small piece of ferrous slag, apparently mixed with some copper, weighing 65g, from the fill of a furrow.

5.7 Medieval and post-medieval finds by Ian Meadows

There are ten iron and copper alloy finds, probably reflecting agricultural processes such as manuring and casual loss, the full list can be seen in Appendix 2. The one datable medieval find, SF1 from fill (223) of ditch [226], is a copper alloy buckle with a

near rectangular frame and a broken rearward positioned cross bar represented by two small stubs. The piece is 19mm long, 21mm wide at the furthest bar and 18mm wide at the near bar, the outer bar was decorated with a swelling near its centre and a 'shoulder' at either side. Buckles of this type were recovered from 14th and 15th century contexts in London. There is also part of a buckle plate SF2 from subsoil (302) and the fragment from another, (SF10) from a furrow, which could also be of medieval date.

Of the seven post-medieval finds, three are of interest. A copper alloy jetton, 21mm in diameter, has on one face the legend HANNIS KRAUWINCKLE IN NV indicating it was produced in Nuremberg by Hannis Krauwinkle who was operating from about 1586 and died in 1635. The obverse legend reads GOTES GABEN SOL MAN LOB (One should praise God's gifts). The upper half of a cast copper alloy spherical bell (SF12), probably a plain version of a crotal bell as there was no trace of a fixing for a 'clapper', came from topsoil (301). The bell has a 22mm diameter hemisphere, 18mm deep, surmounted by two broken lugs from a cast suspension loop. An iron blade fragment, 70mm long and up to 19mm wide, thinning from about 2mm on one edge to a cutting edge on the other, broken at both ends is probably part of a table knife, SF13 from subsoil (302).

The remaining finds comprise a nail, possibly part of another and two copper alloy objects.

5.8 Animal bone by Philip L Armitage

Number of bones and species identified

A total of 139 animal bone elements/fragments hand-collected from twelve contexts (ditch fills) were submitted for assessment. Cattle/cattle-sized bones comprised 36% of the total, with sheep/goat & sheep/goat-sized bones forming 17%. Horse was represented by two bones (1%), with the balance (46%) of the assemblage comprising highly fragmented bone material of indeterminate taxa/anatomy. No bird, fish, amphibian or reptile species were represented.

Taphonomy and condition of the bone

The condition/state of preservation of the bones ranged from fair (moderate) to poor, with the latter showing evidence of leaching/corrosion. Alternate episodes of wetting and drying whilst the bones were buried also appeared to have rendered many of them brittle; resulting in fragmentation *in situ* in antiquity and/or breakage during excavation/post-excavation handling. Two specimens (both of cattle) had been gnawed by dogs: an astragalus from 322 and a calcaneum from 338. The astragalus in addition exhibited evidence of butchery (chopping). A chopped cattle rib from 326 provided the only other evidence of butchery in the assemblage.

Ageing

The part cattle cranium with horn cores (very much fragmented) (context 338) came from an adult medium-horned animal (sex indeterminate). Based on tooth wear in the sheep mandible (also from context 338) the age at death in this animal was assessed at 1 to 2 years (criteria of Payne 1973).

Size

Using the system of von den Driesch (1976) the following measurements were taken on the cattle metatarsus from 223:

Maximum distal epiphyseal width (Bd)	67.6mm
Distal shaft width (DWS)	60.0mm

The Deanshanger animal was notably very much larger/more robust than those cattle found at other Roman sites throughout Britain – even the exceptionally large cattle from Elms Farm, Essex, documented by Albarella *et al* (2008). The splayed appearance of the distal end of the Deanshanger animal suggested it might have derived from a plough ox.

Interpretation of the bone assemblage

The animal bone assemblage from Deanshanger represents discarded waste from the butchering and consumption of farm livestock, together with bones of horses.

5.9 Charred plant macrofossils, mollusc shells and other remains by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Soil samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch/gully fills and from pit [344]. Seven were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by NA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope and the plant macrofossils, mollusc shells and other remains noted are listed in Table 2. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997) for the plant macrofossils and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells. All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were abundant within all seven assemblages along with occasional seeds and arthropod remains.

Results

With the exception of charcoal/charred wood fragments, which were present throughout, plant macrofossils were exceedingly scarce, and of those recovered, most were very poorly preserved. The cereal grains in particular were severely puffed and very fragmentary, probably as a result of both combustion at very high temperatures and prolonged exposure prior to deposition.

Cereal grains were noted within the assemblages from samples 3 (gully [310]), 4 (ditch [305]), 6 (pit [344]) and 7 (ditch [350]). Few were identifiable, although sample 4 did include a possible specimen of wheat (*Triticum* sp.). A single glumed wheat type spikelet base was noted within the assemblage from sample 3 along with a cotyledon fragment of an indeterminate small pulse, which was the only weed seed recorded. The assemblage from sample 2 (ditch [212]) included a very high density of stonewort (Characeae) oogonia which, if contemporary with the ditch fill, indicate that the feature was largely undisturbed by trampling cattle or other livestock.

Other remains were very scarce, although small pieces of coal were noted within each assemblage. However, it was considered most likely that all were intrusive within the features from which the samples were taken. The black porous and tarry residues were all probably derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains including cereal grains.

Mollusc shells were recorded within all but samples 6 and 7, with significant assemblages being noted within the assemblages from samples 1 (ditch [222]) and 2. Although some specimens retained good coloration and delicate surface structuring, possibly indicating that they were later contaminants, many shells were bleached and pitted, strongly suggesting that they were contemporary with the feature fills. All four of Evans (1972) ecological groups of land taxa were represented along with shells of a limited range of freshwater obligate species.

Conclusions

In summary, plant macrofossils are generally scarce within these assemblages, and those which are present are mostly very poorly preserved. This would appear to indicate that, during the early Roman period, the sampled features were entirely peripheral to any foci of either domestic or agricultural activity, with the ditches probably facilitating land drainage or acting as field boundaries. The few plant remains which are recorded are almost certainly derived from a low density of wind-dispersed detritus, all of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. The mollusc assemblages from samples 1 and 2 indicate that ditches [222] and [212] were situated within an area of short turfed, open grassland. Minimal areas of shade, probably in the form of shrubby bushes, are indicated and the ditches themselves were almost certainly seasonally damp or semi-permanently water filled. The assemblage from feature [344] is surprisingly limited, probably indicating that the pit was only used on one single occasion.

Table 2: Charred plant macrofossils and mollusca

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context No.	221	213	310	304	313	343	349
Feature No.	222	212	309	305	314	344	350
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Gully	Ditch	Ditch	pit	Ditch
Plant macrofossils							
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	-	-	-	xcf	-	-	-
(spikelet base)	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Cereal indet. (grains)	-	-	X	xfg	-	xcffg	xcffg
Fabaceae indet.	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Charcoal <2mm	xx	X	xxx	xx	X	xxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	-	X	xx	X	-	xx	X
Charcoal >5mm	-	-	X	X	-	-	X
Charred root/stem	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Characeae indet.	-	xxxx	-	-	-	-	-
Other remains							
Black porous 'cokey' material	-	X	X	X	-	X	-
Black tarry material	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Bone	-	-	-	X	-	X	-
Burnt/fired clay	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Fish bone	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Small coal frags.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Small mammal/amphibian bones	-	-	xpmc	-	-	-	-
Mollusc shells							
Woodland/shade loving species							
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Aegopinella</i> sp.	xx	X	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Clausilia</i> sp.	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Zonitidae indet.	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Open country species							
<i>Helicella itala</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Helicidae indet.	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	xx	X	-	X	-	-
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	xxxx	xxx	X	X	X	-	-
<i>V. costata</i>	xcf	X	-	-	-	-	-
<i>V. excentrica</i>	xcf	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>V. pulchella</i>	X	X	xcf	-	-	-	-
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	xx	xx	X	X	X	-	-
Catholic species							
<i>Cepaea</i> sp.	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	xx	xx	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	xxxx	xxxx	X	-	-	-	-
Marsh/freshwater slum species							
<i>Carychium</i> sp.	xx	xx	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.	xx	xx	X	-	-	-	-

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Context No.	221	213	310	304	313	343	349
Feature No.	222	212	309	305	314	344	350
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Gully	Ditch	Ditch	pit	Ditch
Plant macrofossils							
Marsh/freshwater slum species							
<i>L. truncatula</i>		x	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vertigo angustior</i>	xx	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freshwater obligate species							
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	xx	xxxx	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Aplexa hypnorum</i>	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bithynia</i> sp.	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lymnaea palustris</i>	xcf	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Succinea</i> sp.	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
Sample volume (litres)	40	40	40	40	40	30	40
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare fg = fragment pmc = possible modern contaminant

6 DISCUSSION

Although Area 3 was traversed by medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, the majority of archaeological features had not been greatly affected. The excavations confirmed the presence of Romano-British occupation that can be characterised as a rural agricultural settlement.

The possible Roman road suggested in Trench 1 of the evaluation was proved by further investigation to be post-medieval gullies and a drain. The use of the gullies were also probably for drainage as the geology of Areas 1 and 2 showed the ground was likely to have been wet with localised springs.

Apart from residual finds of three Mesolithic flints, evidence of occupation of the site began in the late 1st century AD with the establishment of ditches and a trackway. They were contemporary to the first phase of enclosures to the south (Brown 2006) and were probably part of the same land division.

The large ditch in Area 2 was probably a boundary that may have been a feature within the landscape for a long time, the deposition of late 19th to early 20th-century brick and tile in its top suggests it remained as an earthwork at this time.

The width of the trackway in Area 3, 3.4m, suggests it would have been used by both pedestrian and cart traffic. The exact course of the trackway beyond the limits of excavation is not known but it may have linked the enclosures to the south to an as yet unidentified settlement to the north.

The three ditches to the east in Area 3 were aligned in the same direction and evenly spaced at 15m apart. The ditches traversed the south facing downwards slope and were possibly used for drainage, all were similarly infilled and went out of use in the early 2nd century when they were used for the deposition of domestic waste.

The main settlement focus appears to be to south with the establishment of enclosures in the late 1st century AD, contemporary with the features recorded in Areas 2 and 3. The lack of features in the west of the development area is probably due to the ground conditions being wet and this is reflected in the geology. The geology changes in the eastern area to clay, where the majority of features were located, including prehistoric enclosures located to the east of the site.

The economy of the area was probably rural mixed agriculture, with evidence of crop production from the remains of an exceptionally large animal that was probably a plough ox. The possible ring ditch recorded in Trench 9 of the evaluation was part of a small Roman enclosure, possibly for stock. The area appears have gone out of use in the early 2nd century possibly as part of land reorganisation with the establishment of the Kingsbrook school villa to the south.

No evidence of the Anglo Saxon sunken featured building, suggested in Trench 8 of the evaluation was present in Area 3 of the excavation. Later land use was represented by medieval ridge and furrow cultivation that traversed Area 3 from north to south.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Area	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
1			m aOD	aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.35m thick	
102	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.25m thick	
103	Natural	Mid orange-grey sandy clay		
104	Cut of gully	U-shaped profile, fill (105)	0.52m wide, 0.17m deep	
105	Fill	Light grey-brown sandy clay		
106	Cut of gully	U-shaped profile, fill (107). Same as [104]	0.66m wide, 0.15m deep	
107	Fill	Light grey sandy clay		
108	Fill	Mid brown-grey sandy clay		
109	Cut of gully	V-shaped profile, fill (108)	0.27m wide, 0.18m deep	
110	Fill	Mid brown-grey sandy clay, with frequent limestone fragment inclusions		
111	Cut of drain	U-shaped profile, fill (110)	0.58m wide, 0.10m deep	
112	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy clay		
113	Cut of gully	U-shaped profile, fill (112)	0.80m wide, 0.18m deep	
114	Fill	Dark grey-brown sandy clay		
115	Cut of gully	U-shaped profile, fill (114)	1.20m wide, 0.26m deep	

Area	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
2		TL	m aOD	aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay	0.35m thick	
202	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.25m thick	
203	Natural	Mid yellow-brown clay		
204	Fill	Light grey-brown sandy clay	1.50m wide 0.11m deep	
205	Fill	Light orange-brown sandy clay	1.50m wide 0.07m deep	
206	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, fills (204) (205)	1.50m wide, 0.18m deep	
207	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, fills (208), (209)	1.30m wide, 0.17m deep	
208	Primary fill	Mid orange-brown sandy clay	1.14m wide, 0.10m deep	Roman pottery
209	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy clay	1.30m wide, 0.08m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
210	Fill	Light grey sandy clay		
211	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, fill (210)	0.70m wide, 0.29m deep	
212	Cut of ditch	V-shaped profile, fills (213) (214)	0.88m wide, 0.41m deep	
213	Primary fill	Light grey-brown sandy clay	0.57m wide, 0.29m deep	Sample 2
214	Fill	Light brown sandy clay	0.88m wide, 0.20m deep	
215	Fill	Light grey sandy clay		
216	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, fill (217)	1.25m wide, 0.40m deep	
217	Fill	Mid grey silty clay, cut by [222]		
218	Cut of gully	V-shaped profile, fill (217)	0.60m wide, 0.37m deep	
219	Fill	Dark brown-grey silty clay	1.15m wide, 0.36m deep	
220	Fill	Light yellow-grey sand, redeposited natural	1.45m wide, 0.32m deep	
221	Primary fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay	2.95m wide, 0.72m deep	Pottery, animal bone, sample 1
222	Cut of ditch	Concave sides leading to a flat base, cuts (217), fills (219-221)	3.55m wide, 0.72m deep	
223	Dumping deposit	Dump of tile, brick, kiln lining in ditch [226]	1.70m wide, 0.10m deep	Brick, tile, kiln lining, fe nail (SF1), stone

Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
224	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Tile
225	Fill	Mid yellow sand, re-deposited natural		
226	Cut of ditch	Not fully excavated, same as [222]		

Area	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth & height of natural
3		TL	m aOD	m aOD
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Mid brown sand clay	0.30-0.40m thick	
302	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy clay	0.10-0.40m thick	
303	Natural	Mid orange-brown clay till		
304	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, sample 4, stone
305	Cut of ditch	Shallow V-shaped profile, fill (304)	0.53m wide, 0.20m deep	
306	Fill of [318]	Limestone rubble backfill	1.48m wide, 0.22m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
307	Cut of gully	U-shaped profile, fills (308), (309),(310)	1.10m wide, 0.33m deep	
308	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.26m wide, 0.13m deep	
309	Fill	Mid brown silty clay	0.46m wide, 0.33m deep	
310	Fill	Mid brown silty clay	0.71m wide, 0.31m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone, Coin (SF 2)
311	Cut	Shallow U-shaped profile, fill (312)	0.73m wide, 0.09m deep	
312	Fill	Dark orange-brown silty clay		
313	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, animal bone, sample 5, fired clay
314	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, fill (313), same as [323]	1.0m wide, 0.24m deep	
315	Fill	Mid yellow-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
316	Cut of gully	Shallow U-shaped profile, fill (315)	1.25m wide, 0.11m deep	

Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
317	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, overlaid by (306)	1.35m wide, 0.21m deep	slag
318	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, (306), (317)	1.48m wide, 0.43m deep	
319	Layer	Mid grey-brown hill wash/subsoil overlying (306)	0.20m deep	
320	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, fill (321)	0.91m wide, 0.34m deep	
321	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
322	Fill	Mid orange-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, animal bone
323	Cut of ditch	Shallow U-shaped profile, fill (322)	0.91m wide, 0.24m deep	
324	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
325	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, fill (324), same as [318]	1.20m wide, 0.13m deep	
326	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Animal bone
327	Cut of pit	Sub-circular, U-shaped profile, fill (326)	0.91m dia, 0.23m deep	
328	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
329	Cut of pit	Sub-circular, U-shaped profile, fill (328), cuts (330)	1.01m wide, 0.20m deep	
330	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
331	Cut of gully	U-shaped profile, fill (330)	0.45m wide, 0.12m deep	
332	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
333	Cut of gully	U-shaped profile, fill (332), same as [331]	0.50m wide, 0.07m deep	
334	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery
335	Cut of ditch	Truncated U-shaped profile, fill (334)	0.65m wide, 0.08m deep	
336	Cut of trackway	Shallow U-shaped profile, fill (337), (338)	3.42m wide, 0.29m deep	
337	Surface	Tightly packed stone metaled surface	3.30m wide, 0.27m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone
338	Fill	Dark brown sandy clay	3.42m wide, 0.26m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone, fired clay
339	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay	1.62m wide, 0.12m deep	Roman pottery, animal bone

Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
340	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay	0.81m wide, 0.17m deep	
341	Cut of gully	Shallow U-shaped profile, fills (339), (340), same as [316]	1.62m wide, 0.22m deep	
342	Layer	Gravel consolidation layer over ditch [318]		
343	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Sample 6
344	Pit	Sub-circular, shallow U-shaped profile Fill (343)	1.15m diam, 0.12m deep	
345	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay		
346	Pit	U-shaped profile, fill (345), same as [318]	0.82m wide, 0.16m deep	
347	Fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, fired clay
348	Cut of gully	Shallow U-shaped profile, fill (347)	0.53m wide, 0.10m deep	
349	Fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay		Roman pottery, flint (SF 14-16), fired clay
350	Cut of gully	U-shaped profile, fill (349)	0.60m wide, 0.19m deep	
351	Cut of ditch	U-shaped profile, fill (352)	0.83m wide, 0.08m deep	
352	Fill	Mid brown silty clay		
353	Cut of drain	Stone-lined	0.50m wide	
354	Fill	Limestone fragments lined		

APPENDIX 2: CATALOGUE OF OTHER FINDS by Ian Meadows

SF1 A 49mm length of a square cross sectioned iron nail comprising a 15 x 13mm flattened head and a slightly tapering shank up to 9mm across. Fill (223) of ditch [226].

SF3 A copper alloy buckle with a near rectangular frame and rearward positioned cross bar, now broken and represented by two small stubs. The piece was 19mm long, 21mm wide at the furthest bar and 18mm wide at the near bar, the outer bar was decorated with a swelling near its centre and a 'shoulder' at either side. Buckles of this type were recovered from fourteenth and fifteenth century contexts in London. Furrow.

SF4 A 60mm long, 6mm diameter, circular cross sectioned shank of iron. It is unclear if it was part of a nail or other item. (302)

SF6 A part of a plain buckle plate 24mm long and 9mm wide, both narrow ends are broken but one appears to have the start of the fold that would have wrapped around the buckle. (302)

SF8 An irregular lump of copper alloy 30mm x 30mm and up to 5mm thick of uncertain origin. Furrow.

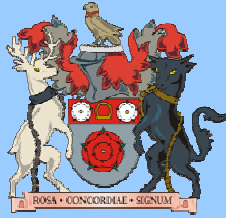
SF9 A copper alloy comprising a 20mm long piece of curving metal of oval cross section 6 x 4mm the ends of which were worn and smooth indicating they were not broken. At the top of the arch there was an irregular sub circular area about 17mm across with a rough upper surface. It is unclear what the piece may have been from but a post medieval date seems likely. (302)

SF10 A fragment of 1mm thick copper alloy strip 19mm long and up to 11mm wide. At the slightly wide end part of a possible central channel was present such as might accommodate a pin from a buckle suggesting this is a fragment of a buckle plate. Furrow

SF11 A copper alloy jetton 21mm diameter. On one face the legend HANNS KRAVWINCKLE IN NV indicates it was produced in Nuremberg by Hanns Krauwinkle who was operating from about 1586 and died in 1635. The obverse legend reads GOTES GABEN SOL MAN LOB (One should praise God's gifts). Furrow

SF12 The upper half of a cast copper alloy spherical bell, probably a plain version of a crotal bell as there was no trace of a fixing for a 'clapper'. The piece was represented by a 22mm diameter hemisphere 18mm deep surmounted by two broken lugs from a cast suspension loop. (301)

SF13 An iron blade fragment 70mm long and up to 19mm wide which thins from about 2mm on one edge to a cutting edge on the other. The piece is broken at both ends but one end does not have a cutting edge for about 15mm and may be part of the tang that would have extended between the two plates of the handle. The piece is probably part of a table knife. (302)



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