WHITEMOOR MARSHALLING YARD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION ARCHIVE REPORT

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

REVISION SCHEDULE			
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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. were commissioned by Wardell Armstrong LLP, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation and subsequent open area excavation of land at the former Whitemoor Marshalling Yard, March, Cambridgeshire in June 2010. The work was undertaken at the request of Kasia Gdaniec, Senior Archaeologist, of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice service (CAPCA), and forms a condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Planning Application No. F/02006/09/CW) for the redevelopment of the site as a National Track Materials Recycling Centre (NTMRC). This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) and its successor PPS5: *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE6).

A previous archaeological appraisal of the site (Jacobs 2008) demonstrated that the site had considerable archaeological potential in terms of its proximity to known Romano-British sites, whilst the 19th and 20th century railway yards themselves were considered to be of regional and national significance. A topographic survey of the site undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Railton 2010a) emphasised the survival at surface and sub-surface level of many of the structures associated with the railway yards. As a result of this potential CAPCA required that a scheme of archaeological investigation, consisting of an archaeological evaluation and subsequent open area excavation, should take place prior to the redevelopment of the site. This work programme was laid out in a CAPCA combined brief for archaeological evaluation and investigation (Gdaniec 2009).

The archaeological evaluation and subsequent open area excavations were undertaken over 10 weeks between the 21st June and 27th August 2010. The evaluation involved the excavation of 65 trenches, totalling 6500m^2 of excavation. Significant archaeological remains were identified in several areas of the site, including the south-western corner (Area C), the north-eastern corner (Area O) and in the central part of the site (Areas I and J). In general terms, the archaeological remains consisted of concentrations of Romano-British features that survived later developments in several areas of the site, together with the remains of parts of the railway yard infrastructure that had escaped the post-closure programme of demolition and salvage. Of particular interest were a series of Romano-British features believed to be associated with the Fenland Causeway Roman Road and the remains of two 20th century railway turntables.

Following the completion of the trial trench evaluation, a programme of archaeological mitigation, consisting of a series of open area excavations, was immediately implemented. The open area excavations focussed upon an area of intense probable Romano-British activity in the vicinity of Trenches 32 and 35, on the northern end of the Gravity Hump, on the Romano-British ditches identified at the southern end of the

site along with a substantial trackway, and on the full excavation of both the railway turntables.

The series of probable Romano-British pits that were identified in the vicinity of Trenches 32 and 35 may have been used for gravel extraction. Reassessment of the Romano-British features excavated on the south side of the site has led to the conclusion that the excavated remains are unlikely to represent the Fen Causeway Roman road as originally suggested. Instead they appear to be an agglomeration of later features, relating to the development of a Romano-British field system.

In terms of later activity, the mitigation confirmed that the brick and concrete structures of both railway turntables survived substantially intact below ground level, although the turntable arms and any associated machinery had been removed when the turntables had been decommissioned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Helen Martin-Bacon of Wardell Armstrong LLP for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Kasia Gdaniec, Senior Archaeologist, of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice service, for her assistance throughout the project. Further thanks are extended to David Porter and the staff of Cheetham Hill Construction for their help during the project. Finally, warm and grateful thanks are extended to the staff of March Museum and to Barry Howlett for sharing their experience and recollections of the site.

The archaeological field evaluation and subsequent open area excavation were undertaken by Nigel Cavanagh, Helen Noakes, Mike McElligott, Sue Thompson, Charles Rickaby, Annie Anderson, Tony Liddell, Kevin Mounsey, Iain McGregor and Ailsa Westgarth. The report was written by Nigel Cavanagh and the drawings were produced by Helen Noakes, Nigel Cavanagh, Mike McElligott, Jocelyn Strickland and Tony Lidell. The environmental sample analysis was by Don O'Meara. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. Matthew Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd, edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 In June 2010, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. were invited by Wardell Armstrong LLP to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation and subsequent open area excavation on land at the former Whitemoor Sidings Marshalling Yard, March, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4123 9873; Figures 1 and 2), in advance of the redevelopment of the site as the National Track Materials Recycling Centre.

1.1.2 The proposed development area lies approximately 1 km to the north of the town of March. It is bounded to the west by Hundred Road, to the south by the Norwoodside industrial park, to the north by HM Prison Whitemoor and to the east by the newly-developed Network Rail yard (Figure 1). The study area consisted of the partially cleared and derelict remains of the former railway marshalling yard which, at the time of the evaluation, was under a cover of scrub vegetation. The site is centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference TL 4123 9873.

1.1.3 A previous archaeological appraisal of the site (Jacobs 2008) demonstrated that the site had considerable archaeological potentially in terms of its proximity to known Romano-British sites, whilst the 19th and 20th century railway yards themselves were considered to be of regional and national significance. A topographic survey of the site undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Railton 2010a) emphasised the survival at surface and sub-surface level of many of the structures associated with the railway yards. As a result of this potential Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice service (CAPCA) required that a scheme of archaeological investigation, consisting of an archaeological evaluation and subsequent open area excavation, should take place prior to the redevelopment of the site. This work programme was laid out in a CAPCA combined brief for archaeological evaluation and investigation (Gdaniec 2009).

1.1.4 All stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the project design provided by North Pennines Archaeology (Railton 2010b) and generally accepted best practice.

1.1.5 This report outlines the works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Wardell Armstrong LLP, for an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the study area (Railton 2010b). Following acceptance of the project design by Kasia Gdaniec, Senior Archaeologist, CAPCA, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION AND EXCAVATION

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 65 trenches covering 6500m^2 of the 21.7ha site. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to target both specific remains of the marshalling yard infrastructure and less obviously disturbed parts of the site where there was the increased likelihood of the survival of earlier sub-surface archaeological features. Following the completion of the trial trench evaluation, a programme of archaeological mitigation, consisting of a series of open area excavations, was immediately implemented. These focussed upon the area of the Fenland Causeway Roman Road, an area of intense probable Romano-British activity in the vicinity of Trenches 32 and 35, on the northern end of the Gravity Hump, and on the full excavation of both the railway turntables. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 Turf, topsoil and modern overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2003).

2.2.4 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F.Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director).

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within the March Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, WMY-A, CP 971/10 and WMY-AB, CP1258/10.

2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology and CAPCA support the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S** (**OASIS**) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project, under the unique identifier northpen3-103346.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1.1 The site lies approximately 1km to the north of March town centre. It is bounded to the east by the recently-constructed Network Rail Track Materials Distribution Centre, to the south by Commercial Road Industral Estate, to the west by Hundred Road and to the north by HM Prison Whitemoor. The site consists of the derelict remains of the former marshalling yard, which at the time of the evaluation was under a coverage of scrub vegetation.

3.1.2 The underlying geology of the area consists of glaciofluvial 'boulder clays' and subsequently gravels that overlie mixed Ampthill clay and subsequently limestone and sandstone (SSEW 1984).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.2.1 ***Introduction:*** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, particularly Jacobs (2008), and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area.

3.2.2 ***Prehistoric (pre c.43 AD):*** the earliest evidence for occupation of the March area is a collection of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools discovered in the 1920s near Gaul Road, 2km south-west of the proposed development site which were supplemented by discoveries made during fieldwork in the late 1970s and early 1980s (Jacobs 2008). Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic worked flints were also recovered during a recent evaluation to the west of Hundred Road. During this late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic period March was an island, surrounded by shallow salt water lagoons that may have been exploited for wildfowl and fish. During the Early Bronze Age, the land around the March island was subjected to a major inundation, leading to prolonged periods of isolation from the mainland. Bronze Age sites and finds are therefore confined mostly to the higher ground of the larger fen islands and the fringes of the mainland. The inundation was followed by the beginnings of peat growth, a process which continued into the Iron Age. Most of the marine deposits surrounding the islands developed a covering of peat and a number of sites dating from this period are known, including Flaggrass Hill (a raised part of the March island) located 1km north-east of the site. As well as producing salt from the brackish water in the remaining tidal lagoons, this site may also have exploited a river channel that existed at this time as a transport link to nearby settlements on Stonea Island to the south (*ibid*).

3.2.3 Although transport and communications during the Iron Age were dependant mostly on boats, timber trackways were constructed between many of the fen islands, including a predecessor of the Roman Fen Causeway which linked the mainland at Fengate with Denver in Norfolk (Malim 2000, 11).

3.2.4 ***Roman (43AD-400AD)***: Roman-British activity in the area is characterised by the construction of a fort at Grandford, approximately 2km to north-west of March, in response to the Boudiccan revolt of AD 61. The Fen Causeway appears to have been established or developed as a major supply route at around this time.

3.2.5 The fertile fen silts around March were extensively farmed during the Roman period and a large number of cropmarks representing a widespread system of field ditches are known from the area surrounding the site. Closer to the site, investigation of cropmarks on the west side of Hundred Road revealed the presence of a number of field ditches, although no dating evidence was recovered. Comparison to similar sites in the region suggests that they are Roman in date (Hall 2004, 3). Salt production continued into the Roman period as is evidenced by the discovery of a settlement and saltern during excavations at Longhill Road, 180m north-east of the site. This site may have been established during the late Iron Age and lasted until the early third century AD when it may have been abandoned due to changes in water level (Atkins 2003). Evaluations carried out in advance of Phase 1 of redevelopment at Whitemoor revealed the truncated remains of occupation sites dating from the early Romano-British Period.

3.2.6 ***Medieval (400AD-1485):*** the name March is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *'Merc'*, a derivation of the Old English '*Maerc'*, meaning *'(the place at the) boundary'* (Mills 1991, 318). No Saxon finds are known from March itself, although this may be a result of the movement of the main settlement focus approximately 3km to the south to its present position in the pre-Conquest period as a result of fenland drainage and improvement schemes instigated by the Abbots of Ely. In the post-Conquest period Ely became a cathedral city in 1109 with extensive estates in the area. The settlement pattern in this period was characterised by dispersed villages and isolated farmsteads, especially across the more accessible silt land around the former fen islands such as March and Wisbech. Further drainage improvements and river canalisations stimulated the growth of water-borne trade and by the 16th century March had developed into a minor port (Hall 2000, 38; Pugh 1967, 117).

3.2.7 ***Post-Medieval (1540–1901):*** the early post-medieval period is characterised by the continuing improvement and drainage of the fens, most notably

through the General Drainage Act of 1600. However, March itself failed to prosper, biannual fairs and a market that were granted in 1670 having lapsed by 1790 (Pugh 1967, 116). In these conditions, the arrival of the railway in 1847 gave the impetus to a rapid expansion of March into a thriving market town.

3.2.8 ***Modern (1901 to Present):*** in 1923, The Great Eastern and Great Northern Railway companies became part of the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER). LNER invested heavily in the Whitemoor site due to the continued growth in freight traffic through East Anglia to London. In 1929, LNER established Britain's first bi-directional gravity 'hump' marshalling yard at March, which used gravity and an innovative hydraulic breaking system to allow carriages to enter the sidings, where they were sorted automatically for transfer to their destinations. The yard was one of the biggest and busiest in Britain (possibly Europe), capable of holding up to 3,311 wagons at any one time, and employing 25% of the population of March. The establishment of the 'Down' yard on the site of the proposed development area further increased capacity to 8,000 wagons.

3.2.9 Further development took place at Whitemoor during the Second World War, with capacity being further increased in response to wartime demand.

3.2.10 The post-war period was marked by the decline of the yard in response to competition from road transport. The yard finally closed in the early 1990s when many of the railway structures were demolished. The post closure history of the site has been characterised by general dereliction and the salvage of railway materials, most notably the removal of the actual rail sidings themselves.

3.3 WHITEMOOR MARSHALLING YARD

3.2.9 An archaeological desk-based assessment for the proposed development has also been completed by Jacobs, as part of an environmental impact assessment for the Proposed National Track Materials Recycling Centre (NTMRC) (Jacobs 2008).

3.2.10 In 2010 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook a topographic survey of land at the former marshalling yard as an initial stage of archaeological investigation, in order to help inform a subsequent trial trench evaluation of the site (Railton 2010a). It was recognized that there were significant structural and archaeological remains associated with the development and functioning of the Whitemoor Marshalling Yard within the proposed development area, which constituted an important archaeological and cultural heritage resource. The industrial remains included the truncated remains of the gravity hump, control cabin and retarders, building

foundations, turntables and rail lines, inspection/examination tunnels and ash pits.

3.2.11 The topographic survey identified a number of 19th and 20th century earthworks and structures which were directly related to the former Whitemoor Marshalling Yards. These included the foundations of the Loco Repair Shed/Engine Shed, Running Shed, Water Cooling Tank, Examination Tunnel, and the Locomotive Oil Fuelling Plant, which are recorded on plans of the former railway sidings. Two railway turntables, a number of inspection pits, sections of rail track and concrete/brick structures were also identified, as well as a number of modern concrete railway platforms and floor surfaces.

3.3.12 A number of earthworks were identified which correspond to the locations of 19th century railway sidings, as shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map of the site. The most notable feature was an earthwork platform which crosses the centre of the proposed development area and formed part of the bi-directional gravity hump. There was no visible evidence for the Fen Causeway Roman Road or other early features at the site. However, it was considered possible that evidence for these survives sub-surface beneath the 19th/20th earthworks of the former marshalling yard, or elsewhere across the site.

3.3.13 A series of WWII air raid shelters were also identified, which have previously been recorded in some detail (Wardell Armstrong 2009). Five of the shelters were simple brick-built surface bomb shelters, with a reinforced roof. One shelter is of a different design, with L-shaped entrance and an escape hatch.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken between the 21st June and the 30th July 2010. A total of 65 50m long archaeological trial trenches were excavated (Figure 2).

4.1.2 Following the completion of the trial trenching, a programme of archaeological mitigation was undertaken. The mitigation was undertaken between the 2nd August and the 27th August 2010 and consisted of the open excavation of four areas; an 80m x 20m area focused upon Trenches 32 and 35, the full excavation of both turntables and the excavation of Area C.

4.1.3 As part of an on-going programme of environmental mitigation and amphibian capture, the site had been divided a series of discrete fenced areas (Areas A to Q). Accordingly, a rolling programme of archaeological investigation was followed, with the trenches in a particular area being excavated, recorded and backfilled before the subsequent area was investigated. For this reason the results of the evaluation are presented in area order.

4.1.4 In the following text, contexts within rounded brackets ( ) are deposits, whilst those in square brackets [ ] are cuts. Contexts enclosed within chevrons < > are structures. The context descriptions are included in Appendix 1

4.2 AREAS A AND B

4.2.1 Areas A and B were located at the southern end of the site. A total of four trenches (Trenches 1 to 4) were excavated in this part of the site.

4.2.2 ***Trench 1 (Figure 3):*** Trench 1 was located in the western part of Area A and was aligned from north to south. This part of the site was formerly occupied by a large engine shed, known as the *"old shed"*, which is shown on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map of the site. The trench was sited to investigate the survival of internal features associated with the building.

4.2.3 In accordance with the Project Design, the overburden and backfill was removed to expose the surviving railway structures, which were left *in-situ*.

4.2.4 Excavations revealed natural clay deposits at a depth of 0.60m (4.90m AOD). The natural clay was truncated by the construction of a series of east-to-west aligned walls (Plate 1). The walls appeared to represent two phases of construction, the earlier of machine-moulded red bricks and the later of reinforced concrete.

4.2.5 The earlier brick-built phase of construction consisted of 11 walls, the southernmost of which, <123> and <124>, ran on a parallel alignment approximately 1.14m apart. A third wall <121> was situated 3.15m to the north of <123> and a fourth <120> was situated 1.14m to the north of <121>.

4.2.6 Two further brick walls, <109> and <110>, were situated in the centre of the trench. Wall <109> was situated 1.22m to the north of <110>. A further east-to-west wall <108> was situated 4.07m to the north of <109> whilst in the northern end of the trench two further walls, <103> and <104> ran on a parallel alignment 1.50m apart. Two walls of C-shaped plan, <105> and <118> appeared to be of a same build as the parallel walls, whilst a fragment of brick floor <101> that was situated at the northern end of the trench also appeared to be part of the original build.

4.2.7 The later phase of construction consisted of a series of concrete walls and structures. In the southern part of the trench, a wall <122> appeared to have been inserted between walls <123> and <121>. Further to the north, a structure <118> was capped by a layer of concrete <119> and appeared to have been superced by an inserted sunken floor <117>. To the north of <117> lay a 4.80m wide concrete structure that consisted of two slab floors <113> and <112> together with associated revetting walls <111> and <114> and a further wall to the south <115>. The floor surface incorporated a series of rectangular concrete footings set with iron bolts that represented a track bed (Plate 2).

4.2.8 ***Discussion***. the parallel walls identified in Trench 1 followed the alignment of the roadways and sidings that are depicted to the east of the "*old shed*" on the 1948 plan. Clearly, the excavated structures are the continuation of the roadways within the building itself and probably represent back-filled inspection pits associated with engine maintenance.

4.2.9 The "*old shed*" remained an effective and functional part of the infrastructure at Whitemoor until relatively late in the history of the site, and in the post-war period a second engine shed was established immediately to the north. This structure first appears on the 1966 Ordnance Survey map of the site and, with this mind, the phase of concrete construction evident in Trench 1 probably represents the upkeep and modernisation of the facilities of the *"old shed"* to the standard of those in the new building.

4.2.10 All the structures in Trench 1 were backfilled with a mixture of clinker, railway ballast and modern demolition rubble. It was clear that all machinery associated with the shed had been removed and the *"old shed*" itself demolished down to floor level.

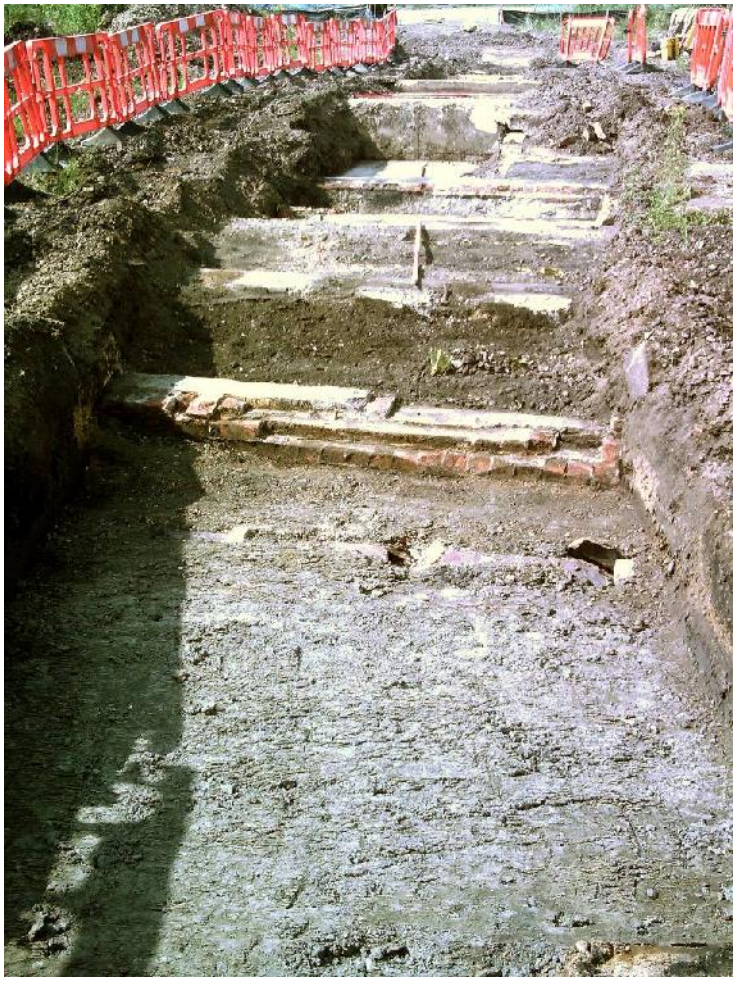

Plate 1: Trench 1. Facing north.

Plate 2: Floors 113 and 112. Facing east.

4.2.11 ***Trench 2 (Figure 4):*** Trench 2 was located immediately to the east of Trench 1 and was aligned from east to west. Only a limited amount of archaeological work could take place in the trench because the eastern half of rapidly filled

with groundwater (Plate 3). The western half of the trench remained dry, as a 3m wide unexcavated baulk in the centre of the trench prevented the western end from flooding.

4.2.12 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m (4.90m AOD) revealing natural clay deposits (202). The natural clays were cut in the western half of the trench by a massive modern excavation that extended beyond the limits of the trench. This was backfilled by broken concrete slabs, scrap metal and building rubble and clearly related to the recent demolition and clearance of the site following the closure of the marshalling yard. Two small cut features [206] and [208] were also identified in this part of the trench. These were both filled by silty sand and fragments of railway sleeper (207) and (209) and were of minimal archaeological interest.

4.2.13 Features in the western part of the trench were sealed by a mixed deposit of sand, clinker and ash (201), which in turn was sealed by a modern topsoil (200).

Plate 3: Trench 2, Showing Groundwater. Facing West.

4.2.14 In the eastern part of the trench, the clay deposit (202) was sealed by a deposit of railway ballast (211) and it was clear that the trench itself followed the alignment of a former track bed. At the eastern end of the trench a north-south aligned ceramic service pipe <204> was associated with

the track bed and ran into two east-west aligned concrete drain ducts <210> that were visible at surface level, running parallel to the trench baulks. A 1.35m x 1.25m brick-built stanchion <203> was also identified in the base of the trench, together with a similar concrete structure <205> that measured 0.70m x 0.50m. The function of these structures was not clear.

4.2.15 ***Trench 3 (Figure 5):*** Trench 3 was located close to the south-eastern boundary of the site and was aligned from east to west. The trench was sited in order to investigate the remains of several small buildings which are shown on the 1948 map as *'cycle shed'*, *'clothing store'*, *'pay clerk's office'* and the *'shed master's office'*.

4.2.16 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m (5.10m AOD) revealing mixed natural clay (318). This deposit (318) was cut by two electricity cable cuts [331] and [332] that were situated in the eastern part of the trench. A third modern cut [311] was situated towards the centre of the trench. The cut [311] was 0.38m wide and 0.30m deep and was backfilled by a silty deposit (312) that contained modern glass and brick fragments.

4.2.17 Backfill deposit (312) was cut by a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed foundation cut [313] that contained a north to south aligned brick wall <315>. The wall was 0.22m wide and was constructed of machine-moulded red bricks that measured 0.11m x 0.08m x 0.22m in size. The wall was built in stretcher bond and survived to a height of two courses.

4.2.18 Brick wall <315> appeared to be the western wall of an 18m long building represented by southern wall <317>, northern wall <316>, eastern wall <330> and interior walls <325>, <324> and <319> (Plate 4). All the walls were of similar construction and materials, with <319> and <324> incorporating short longitudinal stub walls that may have supported a floor surface. A concrete foundation raft <321> was observed beneath wall <319>.

4.2.19 There were no floor surfaces located within the apparent rooms of the building, which were backfilled by modern demolition rubble (336). This would suggest that the excavated remains represented only the foundation courses of a building that had been demolished down to sub-floor level.

4.2.20 The remains of a second building were located in the western part of the trench. This structure consisted of a 0.24m wide brick-built wall <300> that ran on a east-west alignment. A north-south aligned wall <337> formed a return to wall <300>. Two floor surfaces <304> and <306> appeared to occupy the interior of the building defined by walls <337> and <300> (Plate 5). Floor <304> consisted of rectangular flags stones, the largest of which measured 0.80m x 0.60m. The floor was laid on a bedding layer of sand (303) and had been badly damaged by the insertion of two later drains, <302> and <301>.

Ad hoc repairs to the floor surface were evident in an irregular concrete patch <305>.

4.2.21 Floor <306> was situated immediately to the east of floor <304> and was constructed of proprietary floor bricks that incorporated a non-slip incised diamond pattern in their upper surfaces. The floor had been damaged by a modern cut [309] that contained an electricity cable (310).

4.2.22 The westernmost 6m of Trench 3 consisted of a concrete slab platform <338> that was visible at surface level and which extended to the east of the trench. The surface appeared to butt wall <337>.

4.2.23 The excavated remains in Trench 3 clearly corresponded to the range of buildings marked on the 1948 plan, which incorporated the Clothing Store, the Pay Clerk's Office and the Shed Master's Office. However, all the excavated structures had been demolished down to foundation level, and in consequence there was very little evident which indicated their former function. A rail track is shown on the 1948 map, situated immediately to the north of the buildings and it thus seems likely that the buildings were associated with a railway platform, represented by surface <338>. A casual walk-over of ground to the west of the trench did not identify any remains of the cycle shed, which was probably a wooden hut or similar insubstantial structure constructed onto surface <338>.

Plate 4: Walls 317, 316, 319 and 315. Facing West.

Plate 5: Floors 304 and 306. Facing East.

4.2.24 ***Trench 4 (Figure 6):*** Trench 4 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and was aligned from north-east to south-west. (Plate 6). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.88m (4.50m AOD) revealing natural mixed clay and sand (410). Three sondages were excavated into the natural deposits, the complex interleaved sequence of sands, gravels and clays revealed in the sondages confirming the fluvial origin of the natural geology in this part of the site (Plate 7).

4.2.25 Deposit (410) was cut by two modern brick-built soakaways <402> and <405> and their associated north-south aligned drains [403] and [406]. Soakaway <402> was truncated by an east-west aligned cut [400] that contained a cast-iron water pipe (401). All the observed features probably relate to the drainage of the railway sidings leading to the old shed that are shown on the 1948 plan, but were otherwise of minimal interest.

4.2.26 The observed features were sealed by a 0.15m deep deposit of sandy gravel subsoil (408). This appeared to be of relatively modern origin and contained extensive lenses of redeposited natural gravel. This was indicative that a substantial amount of levelling had occurred in this part of the site as part of the construction of the railway sidings. Deposit (408) was sealed by modern topsoil (409).

Plate 6: Trench 4. Facing south-west.

Plate 7: Trench 4, Sondage 2 showing mixed Natural Sands, Gravels and Clays 410. Facing North-east.

4.3 AREA C

4.3.1 Area C was situated in the south-western part of the site. A total of six trenches were excavated in this area (Trenches 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 26). Trenches 7 and 12 were sited in order to examine concrete structures that were visible at ground level and which were thought to relate to a series of administrative buildings shown on the 1948 plan. In addition, Trench 7 was sited so as to intercept the presumed alignment of the Fen Causeway Roman Road, as were Trenches 9 and 11.

4.3.2 ***Trenches 8, 9 and 11:*** Trenches 8, 9 and 11 were all devoid of archaeological features. They exhibited a similar stratigraphy of natural clays at a depth of approximately 0.30m to 0.5m, sealed by a thin, 0.20m deep deposit of silty clay subsoil. In all three trenches the subsoil was sealed by a modern topsoil deposits of ashy clinker that represented a bedding deposit for rail sidings in this part of the site.

4.3.3 ***Trenches 7, 12 and 26:*** Trenches 7, 12 and 26 all revealed significant archaeological remains, both in terms of the Roman road and its associated features (Trenches 7, 12 and 26) and in terms of the railway administrative buildings (Trench 7). Accordingly, a mitigation strategy was devised by Wardell Armstrong LLP, in consultation with Kasia Gdaniec, Senior Archaeologist, CAPCA, and Network Rail, and Area C was subjected to an open area excavation. The results from Trenches 7, 12 and 26 are trench 25 into the results of this work (See Section 5 below).

4.4 AREAS D AND E

4.4.1 Areas D and E were situated to the north of Areas A and B. A total of eight trenches (Trenches 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20) were excavated in this part of the site).

4.4.2 ***Trench 10 (Figure 7):*** Trench 10 was located at the southern limit of Area E and was aligned from north to south (Plate 8). The trench was sited along one of the presumed routes of the Fenland Causeway Roman road.

4.4.3 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.02m (4.20m AOD) revealing mixed natural sand and clay deposits (1012). In the southern part of the trench, the mixed sands and clays were sealed by a more homogenous silty clay deposit (1006), similar to that observed in Areas A and B. Deposit (1006) was also of natural origin and probably represented the change from a drier to a wetter, more riverine, palaeoenvironment that extended to the south.

4.4.4 Deposit (1012) was cut by a shallow linear cut feature [1007]. The cut [1007] was aligned from east to west and was 0.90m wide and 0.10m deep. The

feature had a concave profile and was filled by silty clay that contained fragments of animal bone (1008).

4.4.5 In the northern part of the trench, deposit (1012) was sealed by a silty subsoil deposit (1013). In the southern part of the trench, deposit (1013) had been removed and a 0.25m levelling layer of redeposited natural gravels (1005) had been laid on the upper surface of (1006). Deposit (1005) was in turn sealed by a 0.15m deep deposit of ash and railway clinker (1003) and a layer of hardcore (1004). Deposit (1004) was sealed by a 0.05m deep deposit of sand (1002) that acted as a bedding layer for a concrete floor surface <1001>. The floor was sealed by a thin layer of loose stone chippings (1011).

4.4.6 The concrete floor and bedding layers probably formed part of the post-war engine shed that was established to the north of the *"old shed".*

4.4.7 Modern services encountered in Trench 10 included ceramic field drains and a large metal pipe that fed into a large subterranean concrete tank situated immediately to the west of the trench. These features, together with floor <1001> probably relate to a water tank shown on the 1947 plan of the site. Trench 10 was sealed by a thin deposit of silty topsoil (1000).

Plate 8: Trench 10. Facing North.

4.4.8 ***Trench 13 (Figure 8):*** Trench 13 was aligned from north to south (Plate 9) and was sited along the more northerly of the presumed routes of the Roman road.

4.4.9 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.82m (4.56m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (1302). The clay (1302) was cut by an east to west aligned ditch [1303]. This feature had steeply-sloping sides, a concave base and was 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep. Ditch [1303] was filled by silty clay (1304) and had been cut away on its southern side by a later ditch [1305] that ran on a parallel alignment. Ditch [1305] had a steeply-sloping, stepped v-shaped profile and measured 2.0m x 0.60m deep. It was filled by a complex sequence of silty clay deposits (1306), (1308), (1309), (1310) and (1311) that probably a gradual silting-up of the feature over an extended period of time.

4.4.10 The features in Trench 13 were sealed by a 0.40m deep deposit of sandy clay subsoil (1301). At the northern end of the trench, deposit (1301) acted as a bedding layer for a 0.05m thick concrete surface <1307>. Whilst there was no indication as to the purpose of this structure, it was clear that it formed part of the rail yard infrastructure. Surface <1307> was sealed by a topsoil deposit of railway clinker and ash (1300).

Plate 9: Trench 13. Facing South.

4.4.11 ***Trench 14 (Figure 9):*** Trench 14 was located approximately 100m to the east of Trench 13. It was aligned from north to south (Plate 10) and was again sited along the presumed route of the Roman road.

4.4.12 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m (4.56m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (1404). Deposit (1404) was cut by an east to west aligned ditch [1401]. The ditch [1401] was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep, with a steeply-sloping, concave-based profile. It was filled by silty sand (1402).

4.4.13 A modern field drain cut, containing a ceramic field drain, was also identified in Trench 14.

4.4.14 The features in Trench 14 were sealed by a 0.20m deep deposit of sandy clay subsoil (1403). This was sealed by a topsoil deposit of railway clinker and ash (1400).

Plate 10: Trench 14. Facing South.

4.4.15 ***Trench 15 (Figure 10):*** Trench 15 was located to the south-east of Trench 13 and ran on a parallel alignment (Plate 11). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m (3.73m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (1502).

The clay (1502) was cut by an east to west aligned ditch [1503]. The ditch was 2.0m wide and 0.60m deep, with a gently-sloping, concave-based profile (Plate 12). It contained a basal fill of clay (1505) and an upper fill of silty clay (1504). It is likely that the ditch was a continuation of Ditch [1303].

4.4.16 A modern metal service pipe was also identified in Trench 15.

4.4.17 The features in Trench 15 were sealed by a 0.20m deep deposit of sandy clay subsoil (1501). This was sealed by a 0.30m deep modern topsoil deposit of railway clinker and ash (1500).

Plate 11: Trench 15. Facing South.

Plate 12: Cut 1503. Facing West.

4.4.18 ***Trench 16 (Figure 11):*** Trench 16 was situated 12m to the east of Trench 15 and was aligned from north to south (Plate 13). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m (3.75m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (1602). The natural sandy clay was sealed in the western part of the trench by a 0.18m deep deposit of silty clay (1608) that may have represented a remnant of buried cultivation soil (Plate 14). No finds were recovered from the soil (1608), which appeared to occupy a natural depression or undulation in the surface of the natural (1602).

4.4.19 The buried soil (1608) was cut by a linear feature [1605] that ran on a south-east to north-west alignment. The ditch [1605] was 1.10m wide and 0.30m deep, with moderate to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by silty clay (1604) that contained fragments of ceramic field drain.

4.4.20 The features in Trench 16 were sealed by a 0.25m deep deposit of sandy clay subsoil (1601). This deposit was truncated by a deep modern excavation that was situated in the centre of the trench. This feature was backfilled with railway clinker and ash (1603) and was not fully excavated due to flooding. The modern backfill deposit (1603) was cut by a modern service trench [1606] that contained a concrete-armoured drain <1607>. The drain <1607> was sealed by a 0.30m deep modern topsoil deposit, which again largely consisted of railway clinker and ash (1600).

Plate 13: Trench 16. Facing East.

Plate 14: Sondage Excavations Through Deposit 1608. Facing West.

4.4.21 ***Trench 17 (Figure 12):*** Trench 17 was situated 38m to the south of Trench 16 and was on a parallel alignment (Plate 15). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m (4.55m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (1702). The natural clay (1702) was cut by a linear feature [1705] that ran on a south-east to north-west alignment. This feature [1705] contained a terracotta field drain and was backfilled with silty clay (1706). The backfill deposit (1706) was sealed by a 0.25m deep deposit of sandy clay subsoil (1701) that extended over the trench. This deposit (1701) was cut by a modern boundary or drainage ditch [1703] that was filled by silty sand (1704) which contained wood fragments and modern glass. Backfill deposit (1704) was sealed by a 0.30m deep modern topsoil deposit of railway clinker and ash (1700).

Plate 15: Trench 17. Facing West.

4.4.22 ***Trench 19 (Figure 13):*** Trench 19 was situated 36m to the north of Trench 16 and ran on a parallel alignment. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m (4.21m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (1905).

4.4.23 In the western part of the trench, the natural sandy clay (1905) was cut by a series of shallow parallel 0.30m wide, 2.0m long linear features [1906] that represented the infilled impressions of a series of railway sleepers. The impressions were filled with silty clay (1907) and crossed the trench in a north-west to south-east alignment. The historical map data suggests that sidings had been laid out in this part of the site by *circa* 1887, and it is possible that the sleeper impressions may date to this early phase of development.

4.4.24 The sleeper impressions were sealed by a sandy subsoil deposit (1901) and a thin layer of ashy clinker topsoil (1900). The topsoil (1900) was cut to the west by a massive modern excavation [1904] that was backfilled by redeposited clays (1903), chalky hardcore (1902) and redeposited mixed natural sands and clays (1908) containing 19th to 20th century material. This feature occupied the western 17m of the trench and extended to the west

beyond the limits of the trench. It probably represented a backfilled quarry associated with gravel extraction for use as a levelling deposit or ballast elsewhere on the site (Plate 16).

Plate 16: Working Shot Showing Backfilled Modern Excavation 1904. Facing East.

4.4.25 ***Trench 20 (Figure 14):*** Trench 20 was situated 26m to the north of Trench 19 and was aligned from south-west to north-east (Plate 17). The trench was sited over the southern end of an earthwork that ran parallel to the former gravity hump.

4.4.26 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m (5.10m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (2002). In the western part of the trench, deposit (2002) was cut by the rounded terminal of a shallow ditch [2010]. The ditch [2010] was 0.44m wide and 0.17m deep, with a gently-sloping, concave-based profile. It was filled by sandy clay (2009).

4.4.27 A second ditch [2003] ran on a parallel alignment 9.40m to the north-east of [2010]. The ditch was 0.40m wide and 0.18m deep, with a steeply-sloping profile and concave base. It was filled by silty clay (2004).

4.4.28 Deposits (2010) and (2004) were sealed by silty sand subsoil (2001). The subsoil (2001) was sealed by a series of mixed silty clay (2008), clinker (2007)

and silty sand (2006) levelling layers, above which was situated a 0.70m deep deposit of crushed chalk hardcore (2005). Deposit (2005) was situated at a height of 5.65m AOD and ran for approximately 21m. It formed the foundation level of the earthwork mound, which was formed from redeposited material (2012). This was sealed by a shallow modern clinker topsoil (2000). The mound itself clearly represented a railway feature, probably originally acting as a raised bed for a series of tracks.

Plate 17: Trench 20.Facing West.

4.5 AREA F

4.5.1 Area F was situated in the south-eastern part of the site to the east of the gravity hump earthwork. A total of five trenches (Trenches 63, 64, 65, 5 and 6) were excavated in this area. The trenches were sited over the projected alignments of cropmarks which were identified to the east of the site.

4.5.2 ***Trench 63 (Figure 15):*** Trench 63 was situated in the northern part of the area and was aligned south-west to north-east (Plate 18). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m (4.06m AOD) revealing natural silty clay (6308). This deposit (6308) was truncated by two brick-built structures <6302> and <6303> that were situated in the north-eastern part of the trench. The two structures were situated 4.20m apart and ran on parallel north-west to south-east alignments. The materials and construction were similar to those observed in structures <5302> and <5402> in Area O (see below). From

the available historic mapping data it is likely that <6302> and <6303> represented the walls of a southern goods trans-shipment shed that was established by *circa* 1887.

4.5.3 A north-to south aligned ditch [6305] ran to the west of wall <6303>. The ditch [6305] was 0.90m wide and 0.38m deep, with a steeply-sloping V-shaped profile. The silty clay fill (6304) was heavily contaminated with diesel.

4.5.4 The silty clay fill deposit (6304) was cut by a modern service trench containing a cast iron pipe. This feature, and a service cut immediately to the east that contained a ceramic pipe, ran parallel to wall <6303> and probably represented services associated with the trans-shipment shed.

4.5.5 A final feature [6307] was noted towards the south-western end of the trench. This feature proved to be a 0.55m wide, 0.15m deep ditch cut with a concave profile. The cut [6307] was filled by silty clay (6306) and was of probable modern origin in that it ran parallel to walls <6302>, <6303> and the associated service trenches.

4.5.6 All the features in Trench 63 were sealed by silty subsoil (6301) and topsoil (6300).

Plate 18: Trench 63. Facing East.

4.5.7 ***Trenches 64 and 5 (Figure 16):*** Trenches 64 and 5 were excavated as a continuous trench with a length of 100m. The trench was aligned from north-west to south-east and was located immediately to the east of the gravity hump earthwork.

4.5.8 The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m (4.05m AOD) revealing deposits of natural sands and clays (6406=501). No archaeological features were revealed in the base of the trench. However, the natural deposits were cut by a series of shallow concave depressions [6404=507] that were visible in the western trench baulk. The depressions were filled with deposits of ashy clinker (6405=508). As with the features observed in Trench 19 [1906] it was clear that the depressions represented the imprint of sleepers associated with a former rail track that had been laid onto stripped upper surface of the natural sands and clays. Again, it is likely that the sleeper impressions relate the early phase of development of the site in the later 19th century.

4.5.9 The infilled sleeper beds were sealed by deposits of ashy clinker (6403=506) and sand (6402=502). Deposit (502) was cut by a large railway soakaway drain [509] that contained modern broken brick (510). This feature was similar to one observed in Trench 57 and appeared to serve a later track bed, which was represented by layers of hardcore (6401=504), (503) and the existing topsoil deposit of ashy clinker (6400=502=501).

4.5.10 ***Trench 6*****:** Trench 6 formed a T-junction with Trenches 64 and 5 and was aligned from south-west to north-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m (4.04m AOD), revealing natural sandy clay (601). The clay deposit (601) was sealed by a 0.20m deep deposit of ashy clinker (603) that probably represented a track bed. This was sealed by a 0.12m deep layer of hardcore (602) which acted as a bedding for a later track bed, represented by clinker topsoil deposit (600).

4.5.11 Three modern services, a ceramic drain and two iron pipes, were the only features observed in Trench 6.

4.5.12 ***Trench 65:*** Trench 65 was situated 25m the east of Trench 5 and ran on a parallel alignment. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m (4.00m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (6502). This was sealed by a 0.45m deep deposit of mixed hardcore, ash and clinker (6501). Deposit 6501 was sealed by a silty clinker topsoil deposit (6500).

4.5.13 A large modern service trench, containing an iron pipe, was observed in Trench 65. No archaeological features were observed.

4.5.14 None of the archaeological features identified in Area F correlated to the projected features identified as crop marks. It was clear that the original

subsoil and topsoil coverage in this part of the site had been removed prior to the laying out of the marshalling yard railway sidings.

4.6 AREA G

4.6.1 Area G was situated immediately to the north of Areas D, E and F. Seven trenches (Trenches 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31 and 62) were excavated in this area.

4.6.2 ***Trench 21 (Figure 17):*** Trench 21 was situated at the southern boundary of Area G and was aligned from north to south (Plate 19). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.72m (3.30m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (2103). This clay deposit (2103) was cut to the north by a large modern excavation [2104] that was backfilled by tip deposits of mixed chalk and silt (2102) and redeposited clays, ash and clinker (2101). The excavation [2104] represented a backfilled quarry and was almost certainly a continuation of quarry [1904].

4.6.3 Deposits in Trench 21 were sealed by a modern topsoil deposit of ash, silt and clinker (2100).

Plate 19: Trench 21. Facing South.

4.6.4 ***Trenches 22 and 23:*** Trenches 22 and 23 were situated in the south-western corner of Area G and were sited in order to investigate the remains of a railway turntable that had been identified by the topographical survey.

4.6.5 Excavation proved the remains of the turntable to be well-preserved and substantial. In consequence, a programme of archaeological mitigation was required by CAPCA and the structure was fully excavated and recorded.

4.6.6 The results of the full excavation are given in Section 5 of this report (See below).

4.6.7 ***Trenches 24 and 25 (Figure 18):*** Trenches 24 and 25 were located to the north-east of Trenches 22 and 23 and were sited in order to investigate the remains of railway inspection pits identified by the previous topographic survey. Trench 24 was aligned from south-west to north-east, at right angles to the presumed alignment of the inspection pits, a total of nine of which were exposed in the trench (Plate 20). Trench 25 was set at right angles to Trench 24, exposing the full length of one of the inspection pits (Plate 21).

4.6.8 Trench 24 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m (3.60m AOD) revealing natural sandy clays (2459). At the north-eastern end of the trench, a 0.12m deep deposit of original sandy subsoil (2548) sealed this deposit (2459).

4.6.9 Trench 25 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m (3.50m AOD) revealing natural sandy clays (2514). These were cut in the northern part of the trench by a 0.70m wide, 0.10m deep ditch cut [2508]. The ditch [2508] had a bowl-shaped profile and was filled by silty clay (2509).

4.6.10 In Trench 24, deposits (2458) and (2459) were truncated by the construction of the brick-built inspection pits. It was clear that in terms of both their construction and materials, the pits were identical. Each had been set in a vertical-sided, flat bottomed foundation cut [2413=2409], [2402=2407], [2425=2421], [2429=2435], [2419=2415], [2442=2437], [2444=2449], [2451=2456], [2506=2507]. These contained concrete foundation rafts, four of which, <2464=2465>, <2462>, <2468=2469> and <2466=2467>, were partially exposed during the excavation.

4.6.11 The foundation rafts acted as bedding layers for pairs of parallel north-west to south-east aligned walls:- <2410> and <2412>, <2403> and <2404>, <2424> and <2422>, <2430> and <2432>, <2416> and <2418>, <2438> and <2440>, <2445> and <2447>, <2452> and <2454>, <2503> and <2505>. Brick floors <2411>, <2405>, <2423>, <2431> , <2417>, <2439>, <2446>, <2453>, <2504> were laid between the side walls, so that the inspection pits were entirely brick-lined.

4.6.12 One of the inspection pits was fully exposed and excavated within Trench 25. The pit had an overall length of 17.25m and width of 2.20m, with an internal width of 1.14m. The side walls <2503> and <2505> were constructed of machine-moulded, dark red-black bricks, laid in a bond that alternated two courses of stretchers with one course of headers. The walls were 0.58m wide and were constructed to a height of 0.76m above the floor level of the pit. The upper course of bricks facing the interior of the pit were bull-nosed, whilst those facing outwards were flat faced.

4.6.13 A series of evenly-spaced rectangular impressions ran along the entire length of both side walls. The impressions measured 0.34m x 0.34m and were spaced 0.40m apart. The impressions incorporated the remains of iron fixing bolts, and from several in-situ examples observed in Trench 24, it was clear that the impressions represented the fixing points for track shoes which had supported rails running along the length of the walls.

4.6.14 The floor of the pit <2504> was constructed of moulded bricks identical to those used in the walls. The floor level had a gradual fall from north-west to south-east, whilst the brickwork itself had been laid with a concave camber that progressively steepened to the south-east. At the south-eastern end of the pit, the floor drained into a north-east to south-west aligned drain that probably also served the remaining pits. The drain was covered by an iron inspection hatch that also formed the lowest of three access steps into the pit, the remaining two being brick-built and incorporated into the south-eastern end wall <2512> of the pit (Plate 22). A similar flight of brick steps <2513> formed the north-western wall of the pit.

4.6.15 All the pits exposed in Trenches 24 and 25 were backfilled by deposits of sand, clinker, rubble and redeposited soils (2401), (2406), (2408), (2414), (2420), (2428), (2434), (2436), (2443), (2450), (2457), (2427), (2426), (2433), (2448), (2441), (2455), (2502). The backfill deposits were sealed by thin ashy clinker topsoil (2400) and (2500).

Plate 20: Trench 24. Facing East.

Plate 21: Trench 25. Facing South-east.

Plate 22: Trench 25. Detail Showing Access Steps and Metal Drain Cover. Facing South-east.

4.6.16 ***Trench 31 (Figure 19):*** Trench 31 was orientated from north-west to south-east and was located in a depression between a linear earthwork to the west and the gravity hump to the east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m (4.05m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (3202). This was sealed by a 0.30m deep deposit of silty sand subsoil (3201) and a 0.50m deep deposit of modern ashy clinker topsoil (3200).

4.6.17 Only modern services were encountered in Trench 31. This consisted of two ceramic field drains and a ceramic pipe that incorporated a brick-built manhole.

4.6.18 ***Trench 62:*** Trench 62 was located 78m to the east of Trench 31 and was aligned from north-west to south-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.78m (4.41m AOD), revealing natural sandy clay (6201).

4.6.19 The clay deposit (6201) was sealed by 0.05m deep layer of subsoil (6204). This was in turn sealed by a 0.18m deep layer of redeposited sandy gravel (6203). Deposit (6203) was sealed by layers of ashy clinker (6202) and (6200). No archaeological features were encountered.

4.7 AREA H

4.7.1 Area H was situated along the western boundary of the site. A total of four trenches (Trenches 27, 28, 38 and 40) were excavated in this area.

4.7.2 ***Trench 27 (Figure 20):*** Trench 27 was located at the southern boundary of the area and was aligned from south-west to north-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m, revealing natural silty clay (2702). This was sealed by silty sand subsoil (2701) which had been truncated by the construction of a concrete foundation raft <2703>. Foundation <2703> appeared to be the continuation of a concrete surface that had been mapped during the topographical survey to the north of the trench. It was sealed by a silty modern topsoil (2700).

4.7.3 ***Trench 28 (Figure 21):*** Trench 28 was aligned from north to south and was sited over a concrete surface feature visible at the eastern edge of Area H. Excavations were carried out to a maximum depth of 0.70m (3.90m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (2801) to the north and south of the concrete structure <2802>. Structure <2802> was 19.70m long and consisted of the base and walls of a large water tank. The wall survived to a height of 0.55m, whilst the floor incorporated a 1.25m x 1.25m rectangular drain or sump <2803> that contained a large iron pipe, evidently draining away to the east. The sump <2803> was backfilled with modern refuse (2804).

4.7.4 To the south and north of structure <2802>, the natural sandy clay (2801) was sealed by a modern clinker and hardcore subsoil (2805) that was sealed by ashy clinker topsoil (2800).

4.7.5 ***Trench 38 (Figure 22):*** Trench 38 was aligned south-west to north-east and was situated 74m to the north of Trench 28. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m (4.02m AOD) revealing natural silty clay (3804). Deposit (3804) was cut by a north-west to south-east aligned ditch [3805]. The ditch was 0.76m wide and 0.24m deep, with a moderate to steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a basal fill of silty clay (3806) and an upper fill of sandy silt (3807).

4.7.6. The ditch [3805] was sealed by sandy subsoil (3803), modern hardcore (3802) and ashy clinker topsoil (3800).

4.7.7 ***Trench 40:*** Trench 40 was located at the northern end of Area H and was aligned from north to south. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m (4.26m AOD) revealing natural clay (4001). In the north of the trench, this deposit (4001) was sealed by a 30.0m long, 0.20m deep deposit of crushed chalk hardcore (4002) that probably represented a former track bed. The hardcore deposit (4002) was sealed by a modern deposit of ashy clinker topsoil (4000).

4.8 AREA I

4.8.1 Area I was situated to the east of Area H. A total of six trenches were located in this area (Trenches 29, 29A, 30, 32, 33 and 61).

4.8.2 ***Trench 29 (Figure 23):*** Trench 29 was aligned from south-west to north-east and was sited over the surface remains associated with the large maintenance shed shown on the 1946 site plan. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m (3.90m AOD) revealing natural clay (2956). At the eastern end of the trench deposit (2956) was sealed by a layer of fractured chalk hardcore (2906=2912) that may have represented an early track bed.

4.8.3 The hardcore deposit (2906=2912) was truncated by the construction of a series of eight inspection pits and ancillary structures that were associated with the maintenance shed (Plate 23).

4.8.4 The construction of the inspection pits was very similar to those observed in Trenches 24 and 25. Each pit was constructed within a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed foundation cut, three of which [2905], 2907] and [2915] were exposed during the excavation. Each foundation cut contained two parallel north-west to south-east aligned brick walls <2901> and <2902>, <2908> and <2909>, <2916> and <2917>, <2926> and <2927>, <2931> and <2932>, <2936> and <2937>, <2941> and <2942>, <2946> and <2947>. The paired walls were set 1.15m apart and brick floors <2904>, <2910>, <2918>, <2928>, <2933>, <2938>, <2943> and <2948> had been laid between them. As with the examples observed in Trenches 24 and 25, the inspection pit floors had a concave profile, and sub floor drains <2954> and <2955>, both sealed by perforated iron covers, were exposed in the easternmost two pits.

4.8.5 The brickwork of the pit walls was again identical to that observed in Trenches 24 and 25. The top course of brickwork incorporated bull-nosed bricks which faced the interior of the pit, whilst the tops of the walls incorporated track shoe impressions and fixing bolts that had originally secured rails running along the length of the walls.

4.8.6 The easternmost of the three pits appear to have been situated to the east (ie outside) the maintenance shed. The eastern wall of this structure was represented by a foundation cut [2924] that contained a concrete foundation raft <2958> and a stepped brick foundation <2957>. Wall <2957> ran parallel to the inspection pits and incorporated a short dog-leg to the north-east.

4.8.7 The wall <2957> was butted on its western side by a brick floor <2925>. The floor surface was level with the tops of the inspection pits and represented the floor of the demolished maintenance shed.

4.8.8 Brick floors <2930>, <2935>, <2940>, <2945> and <2950> were laid between the remaining five inspection pits, which lay within the footprint of the building. Again, the floors were laid at the surface level of the pits and represented the original floor level within the building (Plate 24). All the floors were constructed of bricks similar to those used in the inspection pits.

4.8.9 Five of the inspection pits had been backfilled by demolition deposits (2904), (2911), (2919), (2929), (2934) whilst the remaining three, which were situated at the western end of the trench, had been deliberately filled with clean railway ballast (2939), (2944) and (2949). The upper courses of the walls of two of the pits, <2941> and <2942>, <2946> and <2947> had been removed and replaced with longitudinal timber sleepers, each of which bore the impressions of metal track shoes. These modifications and the ballast infills indicate that the western three inspection pits had all gone out of use during the operational life of the building, but that the tracks they served remained in use until the final demolition of the building.

Plate 23: Trench 29. Facing East.

Plate 24: Floor <2930>. Facing South-east.

4.8.10 ***Trench 29A (Figure 24):*** Trench 29A was situated to the north of Trench 29 and was aligned from north to south. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m (3.74m AOD) revealing natural clay (2956) in the southern part of trench. This was sealed by a 0.10m deep deposit of chalk hardcore (2959) and ashy clinker topsoil (2900).

4.8.11 The northern part of the trench was occupied by a large concrete slab floor <2960>, this being a continuation of the floor boiler fitters' and wasters building that was visible at surface level to the east and which was recorded during the topographic survey. The floor <2960> contained a manhole [2961] that gave access to a series of iron pipes. This was backfilled by a deposit of rubble and modern rubbish (2962).

4.8.12 ***Trench 30 (Figure 23):*** Trench 30 was situated to the south of Trench 29 and ran on a parallel alignment. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m (3.92m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (3010). The natural clay (3010) was sealed by a 0.10m deep silty clay subsoil (3003). A 0.17m deep layer of chalky hardcore (3002) overlay (3003) and probably represented an early track bed. Deposit (3002) was sealed by mixed ashy clinker, clay and redeposited sand deposits (3001) which had been truncated to the west by the construction of a series of six inspection pits.

4.8.13 Each pit was constructed within a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed foundation cut, five of which [3004], [3011], [3019], [3027] and [3037], were exposed during the excavation. Each foundation cut contained two parallel north-west to south-east aligned brick walls <3005> and <3006>, <3012> and

<3013>, <3020> and <3021>, <3028> and <3029>, <3038> and <3039>, <3046> and <3047>. The paired walls were set 1.15m apart and floors <3007>, <3014>, <3022>, <3030>, <3040> and <3048> had been laid between them. Five of the pits had brick floors with concave profiles, whilst the westernmost had a flat concrete floor.

4.8.14 The construction of the inspection pits was very similar to those observed in Trenches 24, 25 and 29, with the side walls and floors being constructed of dark, machine-moulded bricks. However, the upper part of the walls consisted of 0.20m thick concrete beams, each of which bore the iron fixing bolts and characteristic impression of track shoes. The concrete beams had evidently been damaged, dislodged and, in several cases, removed during the salvage of the rails and track plates and from this it was clear that the beams were not keyed into the lower brick-built sections of the walls. They would therefore appear to have been later repairs or alterations to the pits, rather than part of the original build (Plate 25).

4.8.15 Brick-built floors <3044> and <3050> were laid to each side of the westernmost pit. These were flush with the upper levels of the walls and represented the continuation of the internal floors of the maintenance shed.

4.8.15 The inspection pits were backfilled by modern demolition and rubble deposits (3008), (3018), (3023), (3031), (3041) and (3049). These were sealed by ashy clinker topsoil (3000).

Plate 25: Trench 30. Detail of Inspection Pit Showing Concrete Construction and In-Situ Track Shoes. Facing South.

4.8.16 ***Trench 32:*** Trench 32 was situated 60m to the north of Trench 30 and ran on a south-west to north-east alignment. The trench was excavated to a

maximum depth of 1.0m (4.58m AOD) revealing natural sandy gravel (3200). Two prehistoric pit features were identified within the trench and as a result of these, and similar discoveries in Trench 35 (Area J see below) a mitigation strategy of an open area excavation was devised. The results from Trenches 32 and 35 are incorporated into the results of the open area excavation, which are presented below in Section 5.

4.8.17 ***Trench 33 (Figure 25):*** Trench 33 was orientated from north-west to south-east and was situated close to the north-eastern end of Trench 29. The trench was excavated along the length of one of the inspection pits, exposing the side walls <3301> and <3302>, the concave brick floor <3303> and the northern cross-wall <3304> (Plate 26). Two sub-floor brick-built drains <3305> and <3306> were identified in floor <3303>. Both drains incorporated perforated sheet metal covers.

4.8.18 The inspection pit was backfilled with modern rubble (3300) and continued into Trench 29, where it was recorded as walls <2902> and <2901>. The pit terminated immediately to the south of Trench 29 and had an overall length of 53.85m.

Plate 26: Trench 33. Facing North.

4.8.19 ***Trench 61:*** Trench 61 was situated to the east of the gravity mound earthwork and was aligned from north to south. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.77m (4.47m AOD) revealing natural clays (6102). These were sealed by a 0.14m deep deposit of silty sand subsoil (6101) and a 0.26m deep deposit of ashy clinker topsoil (6100). No archaeological features were noted in the trench.

4.9 AREA J

4.9.1 Area J was situated immediately to the north of Area I and contained five trenches (Trenches 34, 35, 36, 37 and 39).

4.9.2 ***Trench 34 (Figure 26):*** Trench 34 was located 20m to the north of Trench 33 and was aligned from south-west to north-east. The trench was sited to investigate the remains of a probable inspection shed, which were visible at surface level and which were recorded as part of the previous topographic survey.

4.9.3 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m (3.36m AOD) revealing natural sandy clays (3402). These were sealed by a modern ashy clinker topsoil (3400) that acted as a bedding layer for the concrete slab floor of the inspection tunnel <3401>.

4.9.4 ***Trench 35:*** Trench 35 was situated 35m to the east of Trench 34 and was aligned from north-west to south-east. A series of prehistoric features were identified within the trench, which was subsequently incorporated into an open area excavation as part of the site mitigation strategy.

4.9.5 The results from Trench 35 are included in the results of the open area excavation (see Section 5).

4.9.6 ***Trench 36 (Figure 27):*** Trench 36 was located 40m to the north of Trench 34 and was aligned from south-west to north-east. The trench was sited to investigate the earthwork feature that ran parallel to the gravity hump earthwork.

4.9.7 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m (3.36m AOD) revealing natural sandy clays (3602). These were sealed in the centre of the trench by a deposit of chalk hardcore (3601) that probably represented an early track bed. Deposit (3601) formed the base of the existing earthwork mound, which was formed from redeposited natural soils (3603). Deposit (3603) and the remainder of the trench were sealed by a modern ashy clinker topsoil (3600).

4.9.8 ***Trench 37 (Figure 28):*** Trench 37 was located 7.5m to the west of Trench 36 and was aligned from north-west to south-east.

4.9.9 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m (3.72m AOD) revealing natural sandy clays (3702) that were sealed by a 0.10m deep deposit of sandy subsoil (3701). Deposit (3701) was sealed in the northern part of the trench by a 0.12m deep deposit of chalk hardcore (3703) that probably represented an early track bed. This deposit (3703) and the remainder of the trench were sealed by a 0.38m deep modern ashy clinker topsoil (3700).

4.9.10 ***Trench 39 (Figure 29):*** Trench 39 was located 13m to the north of Trench 37 and was aligned from south-west to north-east.

4.9.11 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m (3.82m AOD) revealing natural sandy clays (3902) that were sealed by a 0.38m deep deposit of sandy subsoil (3901). The subsoil (3901) was overlain by three discontinuous 0.12m deep deposits of chalk hardcore (3903), (3904) and (3905) that represented early track beds. The westernmost deposit, (3905) bore the cinder-filled impressions [3906] of railway sleepers. The track beds were sealed by a 0.38m deep modern ashy clinker topsoil (3900).

4.10 AREA K

4.10.1 Area K was situated immediately to the north of Area J and contained five trenches (Trenches 41, 42, 43, 44 and 45).

4.10.2 ***Trenches 41 and 42:*** Trenches 41 and 42 were located in order to investigate the remains of the northern railway turntable. This structure was partly visible at surface level and was recorded during the topographic survey. It is thought to date to *circa* 1946.

4.10.3 Excavation of the trenches demonstrated that the structure of the turntable survived almost intact below ground level Accordingly, a mitigation strategy involving the full excavation and recording of the turntable was implemented. The results from Trenches 41 and 42 are therefore incorporated into the results of the full excavation (see Section 5 below).

4.10.4 ***Trench 43:*** Trench 43 was located 38m to the east of the turntable and was aligned from north to south.

4.10.5 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m (3.84m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (4302). Deposit (4302) was sealed by a 0.34m deep deposit of sandy subsoil (4301). This was in turn sealed by a 0.33m deep silty topsoil (4300).

4.10.6 No archaeological features were noted within the trench.

4.10.7 ***Trench 44:*** Trench 44 was located 21m to the west of Trench 43 and was aligned from north to south.

4.10.8 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.88m (3.81m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (4402) that was sealed by a 0.25m deep deposit of sandy subsoil (4401). This was in turn sealed by a 0.24m deep silty topsoil (4400).

4.10.9 No archaeological features were noted within the trench.

4.10.10 ***Trench 45:*** Trench 45 was located 30m to the north of Trench 43 and was aligned from north to south.

4.10.11 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.11m (3.69m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (4502) that was sealed by a 0.20m deep deposit of sandy subsoil (4501). This was in turn sealed by a 0.20m deep silty topsoil (4500).

4.10.12 No archaeological features were noted in the trench.

4.11 AREA L

4.11.1 Area L was situated to the north of Area K. Three trenches (Trenches 46, 58 and 59) were located in this area

4.11.2 ***Trench 46 (Figure 30):*** Trench 46 was located to the north of Trench 45 and was aligned approximately from north to south. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m (3.60m AOD) revealing natural sands and gravels (4608). These were cut by two shallow ditches [4602] and [4604] that ran on parallel east-west alignments.

4.11.3 The first ditch [4602] was the more southerly of the two features. It was 0.70m wide and 0.40m deep, with a steeply sloping, concave based profile. It was filled by sandy clay (4603).

4.11.4 The second ditch [4604] was situated 3.80m to the north of ditch [4602] and was 0.76m wide and 0.43m deep. It also had a steeply-sloping, concave-based profile and was filled with sandy clay (4605). This fill deposit (4605) was truncated by a recut [4606] to the ditch, which was filled by silty clay (4607).

4.11.5 Deposits (4603) and (4607) were sealed by a 0.22m deep deposit of silty clay subsoil (4601). This was sealed by a 0.40m deep ashy clinker topsoil (4600).

4.11.6 Modern features encountered in Trench 46 consisted of two terracotta field drains and a concrete-armoured pipe which appeared to be associated with the railway oil storage depot, the remains of which were situated immediately to the west of the trench.

4.11.7 ***Trench 58:*** Trench 58 was located 90m to the west of Trench 46 and was aligned from north to south.

4.11.8 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.81m (4.44m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (5802) that was sealed by a 0.50m deep deposit of sandy gravel subsoil (5801). This was in turn sealed by a 0.2m deep ashy clinker topsoil (4400).

4.11.9 No archaeological features were noted within the trench.

4.11.10 Modern features encountered in Trench 58 consisted of two terracotta field drains.

4.11.11 ***Trench 59:*** Trench 59 was located 25m to the north of Trench 58 and ran on a similar alignment.

4.11.12 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m (4.40m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (5902). This deposit (5902) was sealed by a 0.50m deep deposit of silty clay subsoil (5901). This was in turn sealed by a 0.30m deep ashy clinker topsoil (5900).

4.11.13 No archaeological features were noted within the trench.

4.11.14 Modern features encountered in Trench 59 consisted of two terracotta field drains.

4.12 AREA M

4.12.1 No trenches were located in Area M, this part of the site being set aside as a nature reserve and consequently not being threatened by the proposed development.

4.13 AREA N

4.13.1 Area N was situated to the north of Area L. A total of five trenches (Trenches 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51) were excavated in this area.

4.13.2 ***Trench 47:*** Trench 47 was located in the north-western corner of Area N and was aligned from north to south. The trench was located on a raised plateau that appeared to represent a stepped, lower level of the gravity hump earthwork.

4.13.3 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.76m (3.14m AOD) revealing natural clays (4702) at the northern end of the trench. These were sealed by a 0.25m deep silty clay subsoil (4701) that was sealed by a 0.25m deep deposit of ashy clinker (4703) that represented the level of the original railway track beds in this part of the site. This deposit (4703) was sealed by a 0.90m deep deposit of redeposited natural clays, silts and gravel (4704) which represented the made ground of the gravity mound. This was sealed by a 0.20m deep deposit of ashy clinker topsoil (4700) which represented the later track beds established on the gravity hump.

4.13.4 ***Trench 48 (Figure 31):*** Trench 48 was located 18m to the south of Trench 47. As originally planned the trench was to be aligned from east to west across the existing earthwork of the gravity hump. However, this did not prove feasible given that the main part of the gravity hump at this location was in excess of 18m wide and 4m high. The trench was therefore excavated on a similar alignment to Trench 47 on the stepped plateau on the western side of the main gravity hump ridge.

4.13.5 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.45m (3.65m AOD) revealing a 0.30m deep deposit of ashy clinker (4803) that equated to deposit (4703). Deposit (4803) was sealed by a 0.40m deep layer of chalk hardcore (4802) and a 0.40m deep deposit of silty clay (4801), both of which represented part of the gravity hump make-up. Deposit (4801) was sealed by a modern ashy clinker topsoil (4800).

4.13.6 ***Trench 49 (Figure 32):*** Trench 49 was located to the west of the gravity hump and was aligned from south-west to north-east.

4.13.7 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m (3.47m AOD) revealing natural sandy gravel (4902) that had been cut by the construction of two brick-built walls <4903> and <4904>. The walls were of similar build and consisted of machine-moulded red bricks laid in an alternate header and stretcher bond. The walls were 0.70m wide and survived to a maximum height of eight courses.

4.13.8 Situated between the walls was a 0.80m wide, 0.50m deep ditch cut of concave profile [4905]. The ditch [4905] was filled by diesel contaminated silty clay (4906).

4.13.9 The archaeological features were sealed by a 0.35m deep deposit of silty gravel subsoil (4901) and ashy clinker topsoil (4900).

4.13.10 ***Trench 50:*** Trench 50 was located to the south of Trench 49 and ran on a parallel alignment .

4.13.11 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.05m (3.62m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (5002) that was sealed by a 0.35m deep deposit of silty clay subsoil (5001). This was in turn sealed by a 0.30m deep ashy clinker topsoil (5000).

4.13.12 No archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

4.13.13 ***Trench 51 (Figure 33):*** Trench 51 was situated to the north of Trench 49 and was aligned from south-east to north-west. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m (3.38m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (5102) that was cut by two linear features [5104] and [5107] that proved to be substantial ditches.

4.13.14 The northernmost ditch [5104] was aligned from east to west. It was 2.0m wide and 0.95m deep, with a steeply-sloping V-shaped profile. The feature contained a 0.20m deep silty clay basal fill (5105) and an upper fill of clay (5103).

4.13.15 The second ditch [5107] ran broadly parallel to ditch [5104], but a western extension to the trench showed that it turned to the south just beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch [5107] was 2.0m wide and 0.60m deep, with a gently-sloping, concave-based profile. It was filled by sandy clay (5106) which yielded two small sherds of probable Romano-British pottery.

4.13.16 Ditches [5102] and [5107] were sealed by a 0.24m deep silty clay subsoil (5101) and ashy clinker topsoil (5100).

4.14 AREA O

4.14.1 Area O was situated in the extreme north-eastern corner of the site. A total of 5 trenches (Trenches 53 to 57) were excavated in this area.

4.14.2 ***Trench 53 (Figure 34):*** Trench 53 was located close to the northern boundary of the site and was aligned from north-east to south-west. The trench was in an area formerly occupied by an inter-war railway trans-shipment shed (Plate 27).

4.14.3 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m (3.69m AOD) revealing natural silty clay (5309). The deposit (5309) was cut by a north to south aligned linear feature that proved to be a 0.42m wide, 0.22m deep ditch cut [5308]. The cut [5308] had a moderate to steeply-sloping, concave-based profile (Plate 28) and was filled by a homogenous deposit of silty clay (5307). No finds were recovered from deposit (5307).

4.14.4 Deposit (5307) was cut by a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed foundation cut [5303] that ran along the entire eastern length of the trench. The cut [5303] contained a concrete foundation raft <5305> onto which was constructed a substantial brick-built wall <5302>. The wall <5302> was 0.46m wide and 0.56m in height and was constructed of machine-moulded red bricks laid in English bond. It was clear that the wall <5302> represented the eastern wall of the trans-shipment shed, the shed itself having been demolished down to ground level.

4.14.5 A series of six rectangular concrete pads <5306> were partially exposed running along the western trench edge. The pads were approximately 1.70m long and were situated 1.60m to the west of the wall <5302>. The most likely explanation of the pads is that they formed stanchion bases for roof supports associated with wall <5302>.

4.14.6 The archaeological features in Trench 53 were sealed by a 0.15m deep modern ashy gravel subsoil (5301) which was in turn sealed by a topsoil deposit (5300) formed from railway ballast and humic material derived from the acid grassland vegetation cover.

Plate 27: Trench 53. Facing North.

Plate 28: Cut 5303. Facing North.

4.14.7 ***Trench 54 (Figure 35):*** Trench 54 was situated immediately to the south of Trench 53 and was aligned from south-west to north-east.

4.14.8 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.73m (3.77m AOD) revealing natural silty clay deposits (5401). A north to south aligned linear feature [5403] was identified in the western part of the trench. This proved to be shallow (0.08m deep), with a width of 0.50m and a concave profile. The silty sand fill (5404) contained quantities of mollusc shells and the likelihood is that the feature represented a natural watercourse.

4.14.9 A brick-built wall <5402> was located in the western part of the trench (Plate 29). This structure ran on a parallel alignment to the wall exposed in Trench 53 and was of identical construction and materials. Three concrete pads <5405> were located in the vicinity of the wall <5402>, two to the west and one to the east. These features were again identical to the structures observed in Trench 53 and, together with wall <5402>, represented a continuation of the trans-shipment shed.

4.14.10 The features in Trench 54 were sealed by a 0.20m to 0.70m deep deposit of railway clinker and ballast (5400), the upper surface of which supported a patchy covering of acid grassland vegetation. As with Trench 53, the natural clays were sealed by obviously modern deposits associated with the rail yard and from this it was clear that the original topsoil and subsoil cover in

this part of the site had been removed as part of the ground levelling prior to the laying out of the railway sidings.

Plate 29: Trench 54. Facing East.

4.14.11 ***Trench 55 (Figure 36):*** Trench 55 was located in the centre of Area O and was aligned from north-west to south-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m (3.63m AOD) revealing natural sand and clay (5501). Deposit (5501) was cut by a number of modern services including an electricity cable, iron pipe and drains. A deep modern excavation that had been backfilled with concrete railway sleepers, was exposed at the north-western end of the trench (Plate 30). The natural sands and clays were sealed by a 0.50m deep deposit of modern clinker and railway ballast (5500), there being no original topsoil or subsoil coverage.

Plate 30: Trench 55. Facing South-west.

4.14.12 ***Trench 56 (Figure 37):*** Trench 56 was situated to the south of Trench 55 and was aligned from east to west (Plate 31). The trench was located immediately to the west of a concrete surface which was evident at ground level.

4.14.13 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.63m (3.86m AOD) revealing natural deposits of silty clay deposits (5605). Deposit (5605) was cut by 0.40m wide, 0,20m deep gully [5601]. The gully [5601] was probably a continuation of feature [5403] and was filled by a deposit of silty sand (5602) that contained numerous mollusc shells.

4.14.14 A small sub-oval feature [5603] was situated to the east of the gully [5601]. The feature measured 0.26m x 0.17m x 0.02m deep, with a shallow concave profile, and may have represented a truncated posthole. It was filled by silty sand (5604) that contained mollusc shells.

4.14.15 Modern services evident within Trench 56 included metal pipes, an electricity cable and modern ceramic drains. As with Trenches 54 and 55, the services followed a broad north-east to south west alignment which mirrored that of the former railway sidings.

4.14.16 The features in Trench 56 were sealed by a deposit of modern railway clinker and ballast (5600), there being no original subsoil or topsoil surviving in this part of the site. Excavation showed that the concrete floor to the east of the trench <5606> had been constructed directly onto the clinker surface,

and hence represented a relatively late railway structure. No evidence survived as to its purpose.

Plate 31: Trench 56. Facing West.

4.14.17 ***Trench 57 (Figure 38):*** Trench 57 was located to the south of Trench 56 in the south-eastern corner of the cultivated field and was aligned from north to south (Plate 32). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m (4.06m AOD) revealing natural sand and clay (5716). This was cut by a number of archaeological features.

4.14.18 A west to east aligned linear feature [5711] was situated in the southern part of the trench. This had a maximum width of 0.80m and depth of 0.22m, with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 33). The feature contained a basal fill of sandy clay (5712) and an upper fill of silty clay (5710).

4.14.19 A second ditch [5709] ran 2.60m to the north of the first [5711] on a parallel alignment. This ditch [5709] was 1.90m wide and 0.50m deep, with a steeply-

sloping profile and a concave base. It was filled by a deposit of silty clay (5708).

4.14.20 A third ditch [5705] was situated immediately to the north and was 1.0m wide and 0.35m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile. It was filled by a deposit of silty clay (5706). The ditch was cut to the south by ditch [5709] and was also truncated by a modern ceramic drain [5707] that had been laid along the line of the ditch.

4.14.21 A pit of probable sub-circular plan [5701] was located to the north of the ditch [5705]. Pit [5701] was 1.0m long, 0.80m wide and 0.50m deep, with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by silty clay (5702) and had been cut away to the north by a 4.20m long, 1.20m wide modern pit [5713] that contained silty clay (5714).

4.14.22 The clay deposit (5174) was cut by a modern land drain [5703] that contained a ceramic pipe (5704). Drain [5703] ran on a north-south alignment and fed into a later east-west aligned concrete-armoured drain [5715]. Other modern services noted in Trench 57 included ceramic field drains and a large modern soakaway drain filled with broken modern bricks.

4.14.23 All the features in Trench 57 were sealed by a modern topsoil deposit of railway clinker, ash and railway ballast (5700).

Plate 32: Trench 57. Facing North.

Plate 33: Cut 5711. Facing North-west.

4.15 AREA P

4.15.1 No trenches were excavated in Area P, which was entirely filled by a soil stock pile.

4.16 AREA Q

4.16.1 Area Q was situated to the west of Area O and the north of Area N. One trench (Trench 52) was excavated in Area Q.

4.16.2 ***Trench 52 (Figure 39)***: Trench 52 was aligned from north-west to south-east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m (3.81m AOD) revealing natural sandy clay (5201). The only archaeological features encountered were several clinker-filled impressions of railway sleepers, together with a modern crushed brick soakaway drain that was probably associated with track beds in this part of the site. The deposit (5201) was sealed by a 0.28m deep ashy clinker topsoil (5200). There was no surviving subsoil, this evidently having been removed at the time the track beds were laid out.

5. OPEN AREA MITIGATION EXCAVATION RESULTS

5.1 AREA 32/35

5.1.1 Following the identification of a number of probable prehistoric features in Trenches 32 and 35, an 80m x 20m open area excavation was undertaken, focussed upon Trench 35 and the eastern end of Trench 32 (Figure 43).

5.1.2 The northernmost group of features identified within the open area excavation consisted of two intercut pits, [142] and [3517]. The earlier of the two [142], had a sub-oval plan, with a width of 0.37m, a length of 0.67m and a depth of 0.32m (4.37m AOD). It had a steep-sided, concave-based profile and was filled by sandy silt (143).

5.1.3 The fill (143) was cut to the east by the second pit [3517], which was sub-circular, with a diameter of 1.14m and a depth of 0.16m (4.52m AOD). It was filled by silty clay (3516).

5.1.4 A third small pit [3515] was situated immediately to the south of pit [3517]. Pit [3515] had a sub-oval plan and measured 0.93m x 0.64m x 0.19m deep (4.49m AOD). It had an irregular profile and was filled by sandy clay (3514).

5.1.5 A fourth small pit [104] was situated 5.0m to the east of pit [3517]. Pit [104] was sub-oval in plan, with a length of 1.15m, a width of 0.77m and a depth of 0.27m (4.41m AOD). It was filled by sandy silt (105).

5.1.6 A large sub-circular pit [172] was situated 12.0m to the south of pit [3517]. This feature had a diameter of 4.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m (3.30m AOD). The feature had a steeply-sloping, V-shaped profile that appeared to funnel down towards a more constrained, vertical sided profile at the centre (Plate 34). Although the feature could not be fully excavated due to the presence of groundwater flooding, its size and morphology suggested that it may have been the mouth of a well. However, no timber shoring or lining was found to support this theory.

5.1.7 The pit [172] was filled by a 0.48m deep basal deposit of sandy clay (193) that contained fragments of animal bone. This was sealed by a 0.44m deep deposit of sandy clay (191), above which was situated a 0.22m deep organic sandy clay fill (190) that contained animal bone and charcoal. This deposit (190) was sealed by a 0.36m deep sandy clay upper fill (173).

Plate 33: Cut 172. Facing South.

5.1.8 A curvilinear cut feature [145] was identified approximately 7.50m to the south-east of pit [172]. The cut [145] proved to be 0.23m deep 4.15m AOD and 0.90m wide, with a moderately-sloping concave profile. The feature was identified running in a broad north-south alignment for a distance of approximately 6.0m and was filled by sandy clay (144).

5.1.9 The curvilinear feature [145] was cut to the north by a large pit cut of sub-oval plan [149]. This feature measured 3.0m x1.60m x 0.34m deep (4.09m AOD) and was filled by sandy clay (148).

5.1.10 The sandy clay fill (148) was cut to the north by a second large oval pit [147]. This feature measured 1.80m x2.0m x 0.40m deep (4.13m AOD) and was again filled by sandy clay (146).

5.1.11 The pit [147] was cut at its northern end by a probable post-medieval field boundary ditch [159=3513].

5.1.12 The field boundary ditch [159=3513] ran on a north-west to south-east alignment and was 0.84m wide, with a moderately-sloping V-shaped profile that was 0.32m deep (4.25m AOD). It was filled by sandy clay (158=3512).

5.1.13 Cut [145] was truncated at its southern end by a small pit [3511] that had a sub-oval plan and was aligned approximately east-west. The feature was 1.23m wide, 1.34m long and 0.28m deep (4.28m AOD), with a shallow concave profile. It was filled by sandy clay (3510).

5.1.14 The pit fill (3510) was truncated to the north by a second pit [3509] that had a sub-circular plan, with a diameter of 1.60m and a depth of 0.25m (4.31m AOD). It was filled by sandy clay (3508).

5.1.15 Three further intercutting pits [161], [157] and [124] were located 3.20m to the east of pits [3511] and [3509]. The earliest pit, [124] was sub-oval in plan, with a length of 2.20m, a width of 1.61m and a depth of 0.22m (4.21m AOD). The feature had a shallow concave profile and was filled by sandy clay (125).

5.1.16 This deposit (125) was cut to the north by pit [157]. This feature again had a sub-oval plan, with dimensions of 1.30m x 1.40m x 0.33m deep(4.16m AOD). It had a shallow concave profile and was filled by sandy clay (160).

5.1.17 The clay deposit (160) was cut to the north by the final pit in the sequence [161]. This had a diameter of approximately 1.38m and a depth of 0.27m (4.18m AOD), with a steeply-sloping, concave-based profile. It was filled by sandy clay (162).

5.1.18 All three fill deposits (125), (160) and (162), were very similar in composition and appearance. It is therefore likely that the pit sequence was dug and then backfilled in quick succession.

5.1.19 A further pit [122] was situated to the south of pit [124] and was of sub-oval plan that measured 2.0m x 1.50m x 0.26m deep (4.53m AOD), with moderate to steeply-sloping sides and an irregular base (Plate 35). The feature was filled by sandy silt (123).

Plate 35: Cut 122. Facing North.

5.1.20 Two further small pits, [3507] and [3505], were situated 1.40m to the south of pit [3510].

5.1.21 The first pit [3507] was sub-oval in plan and was on a north-south alignment. The feature measured 1.56m x 0.70m x 0.34m deep (4.26m AOD). It had a shallow profile and was filled by sandy clay (3506).

5.1.22 The second pit [3505] measured 1.90m x 0.96m and was orientated north-south. It had a sub-oval plan and a shallow, concave profile that was 0.20m deep (4.34m AOD). The feature was filled by sandy gravel (3504).

5.1.23 Six closely grouped features [174], [156], [167], [169], [154], [152] were situated immediately to the south of these pits.

5.1.24 Pit [174] was sub oval and measured 1.40m x 0.70m x 0.20m deep (4.30m AOD). It had a moderately-sloping bowl-shaped profile. It was filled by silty clay (175).

5.1.25 Pit [156] was situated immediately to the east of [174]. The feature had a sub-oval plan, with a length of 2.05m, a width of 1.30m and a depth of 0.30m (4.19m AOD). It had a moderate to steeply-sloping concave-based profile and was filled by clay silt (171).

5.1.26 Pit [167] had a sub-oval plan, with dimensions of 1.60m x 1.20m x 0.26m deep (4.22m AOD). It had a steeply-sloping profile, a concave base, and was filled by clay silt (168).

5.1.27 Deposit (168) was cut to the north by a later pit [169]. Pit [169] was sub-oval in plan, with a length of 0.90m, a width of 0.50m and a depth of 0.20m (4.26m AOD). It had a moderately-sloping bowl-shaped profile, and was filled by clay silt (170).

5.1.28 Deposit (168) was also cut to the south by a later pit [154] that was sub-circular, with a diameter of 1.50m and a depth of 0.16m (4.32m AOD). It had a gradual to steeply-sloping profile, a concave base, and was filled by clay silt (155).

5.1.29 Deposit (155) was truncated to the south by a later pit [152] that was sub-oval in plan, with a diameter of 1.70m and a width of 1.60m. The feature was 0.20m deep (4.24m AOD) and had a moderate to steeply-sloping profile and a concave base. It was filled by a deposit of clay silt (153) that contained a flint flake.

5.1.30 Pits [174], [156], [167], [169], [154] and [152] had a similar morphology and contained similar fills. As with pits [124], [157] and [161], it is likely that the features were excavated and then backfilled in rapid succession.

5.1.31 Pit [152] was truncated by a curvilinear feature [120] that may have been a continuation of [145]. Feature [120] was aligned roughly north to south and was 3.85m long. It was 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep (4.26m AOD), with a steep to vertical profile and a concave base. The fill (121) consisted of clay silt.

5.1.32 Two features [140] and [150] were located approximately 3.5m to the west of pit group [174], [156], [167], [169], [154] and [152]. Pit [140] was oval in plan,

with a length of 1.35m and a width of 0.95m. The feature had a shallow, bowl-shaped profile that was 0.20m deep (4.36m AOD). The single fill (141) consisted of silty clay.

5.1.33 Pit [150] was situated to the east of [140]. It had a diameter of 0.60m and a shallow, concave profile that was 0.08m deep (4.39m AOD.) The single fill (151) consisted of silty clay.

5.1.34 A further group of three intercutting features [185], [183] and [187], were located 2.40m to the east of pit group [174], [156], [167], [169], [154] and [152].

5.1.35 Pit [187] was not excavated, but was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 1.80m. The sandy clay fill (186) was cut to the north by pit [183]. This was a large sub-oval feature that measured 4.20m x 3.40m x 0.40m deep (4.45m AOD). It had a moderately-sloping profile, an uneven base and was filled by sandy clay (182).

5.1.36 The deposit (182) was cut to the north-west by pit [185]. This feature was again sub-oval in plan, with a length of 2.86m and a width of 2.34m. The feature was not excavated and was filled by sandy clay (184).

5.1.37 A south-west to north-east aligned ditch [128] was situated 7.0m to the south of pit group [185], [183] and [187]. The ditch ran across the site for a distance of 12.0m before ending in a rounded south-western terminal [163]. The cut [163] was 0.90m wide and 0.34m deep (4.27m AOD), with a steeply-sloping U-shaped profile (Plate 36). It was filled by silty clay (164). A second segment [165]/ (166) that was excavated through the ditch exhibited a similar profile and depth.

Plate 36: Ditch Terminal Cut 163. Facing East.

5.1.38 Two sub-oval pits [130] and [188] were situated immediately to the south of the ditch [128]. Pit [130] was 1.25m long and 0.80m wide, with a shallow concave profile that was 0.05m deep (4.51m AOD). It was filled by silty sand (131). Pit [188] was slightly smaller and measured 1.10m x 0.70m x 0.10m deep (4.43m AOD). It was filled by sandy silt (189).

5.1.39 A small circular feature [132] was situated 1.40m to the south of [130]. This feature had a diameter of 0.28m and a depth of 0.08m (4.47m AOD), with a steeply sloping profile and concave base. It was filled by sandy silty (133) and probably represented an isolated post-hole.

5.1.40 Two pits [126] and [3205] were located to the south of posthole [132]. The first pit [126] was sub-circular, with a diameter of 1.30m and a depth of 0.34m (4.26m AOD). The feature had moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by sandy silt (127).

5.1.41 The second pit [3205] was also sub-circular in plan but was slightly smaller, with a diameter of 1.0m and a depth of 0.50m (4.13m AOD). It had steep to vertical sides, a concave base and was filled by homogenous silty clay (3206).

5.1.42 A final feature [3203] was situated to the south-east of [3205]. This feature was sub-circular in plan, with a depth of 0.60m (4.09m AOD). It had a steeply-sloping profile and concave base and was filled by a single deposit of silty clay (3204).

5.1.43 ***Discussion:*** in general terms, the archaeological remains uncovered within the open area excavation consisted of series of intercutting sub-circular and sub-oval pits. The features were all sealed by modern clinker topsoil, there being no original subsoil coverage. It is therefore likely that they had suffered some degree of vertical truncation during the establishment of the railway yard, this fact accounting for the relatively shallow depth of the features. All the fills were relatively similar in composition, with little obvious organic content. Whilst a sequence of excavation could be discerned within each group, the similarity of the fills and the morphology of the features suggests that they represented a single phase of archaeological activity, perhaps relating to the quarrying of gravel. Limited pottery finds from several features would suggest that this activity was Romano-British in date.

5.2 AREA C

5.2.1 Following the identification of significant linear features in Trenches 7, 12 and 26, Area C was subjected to a large open area excavation that covered a total area of 5850m^2 (Figure 44).

5.2.2 The excavation revealed a series of six linear features that were thought to relate to the Fenland Causeway Roman Road. These consisted of two parallel north-west to south-east aligned ditches [333] and [330] that represented a main trackway, together with two parallel south-west to north-east aligned ditches [300] and [304] to the south of the main trackway, which appeared to represent a subsidary track. To the north of the trackway, a single linear feature [419] ran on a similar alignment to ditches [300] and [304], whilst a final ditch [343] was situated to the west of ditch [300].

5.2.3 ***Pre-Roman Ditch:*** the earliest feature encountered during the excavation was a south-west to north-east aligned ditch [343] that was situated in the south-western part of the excavation area. It was located approximately 8.0m to the west of ditch [300], the two features running together to intersect at a point approximately 4.5m to the south of ditch [330]. Three segments [341], [335] and [355] were excavated through the ditch.

5.2.4 The cut of segment [341] was 0.50m wide and 0.40m deep (4.36m AOD), with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by clay silt (342).

5.2.5 The cut of segment [335] was 0.75m wide and 0.48m deep (3.75m AOD), with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by shallow deposits of clay silt (336), silty clay (337) and silt (338). An apparent re-cut of the ditch [324] truncated deposit (338). The re-cut [324] had a moderate to steeply-sloping profile, a concave base and was 0.35 deep. It was filled by deposits of silty clay (325), sandy silt (326), and clay silt (327).

5.2.6 The cut of segment [355] was 1.15m wide and 0.63m deep (4.16m AOD). It had a steeply-sloping, concave-based profile. A 0.05m deep slump deposit of sandy silt (376) lay along the western edge of the cut and was sealed by a 0.26m deep deposit of clay silt (366). This was in turn sealed by a 0.30m deep deposit of silty clay (367) and an upper fill of sandy silt (368).

5.2.7 This deposit (368) was cut to the west by ditch segment [354] of ditch [300] (see below).

5.2.8 Ditch [343] pre-dated the other linear features in Area C, with the ditch fills appearing markedly less organic. It is likely that the feature may be of Bronze Age date and may be an outlying feature associated with Bronze Age activity noted immediately to the west of the site, on the western side of Hundred Road (Hutton and Standring 2008).

5.2.9 ***Roman Road Ditches 330 and 333:*** Ditches [330] and [333] ran on a parallel alignment and were spaced approximately 6.0m apart. The ditches were situated between the northern and southern estimated projections of the line of the Fenland Causeway Roman Road and it was initially believed that these represented the roadside ditches flanking the road.

5.2.10 ***Ditch [333]:*** The northern ditch [333] was identified running across Area C for a distance of 62m. A total of 5 segments [357], [381], [1204], [369] and [406] were excavated across the ditch. In addition to these, the ditch was also identified in section within an additional trench that was excavated 4.35m to the east of the Area C excavation boundary at the request of Kasia Gdaniec, Senior Archaeologist, CAPCA.

5.2.11 The cut of ditch segment [357] was 3.40m wide and 1.0m deep (3.23m AOD). The ditch had a wide, shallow lip on its southern edge that sloped gently towards the main body of the ditch, which had a steeply-sloping, concave-based profile.

5.2.12 The ditch contained a 0.60m deep basal fill of sandy clay (356). A 0.10m deep deposit of sandy clay and pebbles (321) filled the shallow eastern lip of the cut and possbily represented metalling that had slumped into the ditch. This deposit (321) was sealed by a sequence of shallow sandy clay (322), clay silt (320) and silty clay (329), (317) deposits. The latest fill (317) appeared to be relatively modern, with a high organic content and, together with the

underlying sequence of fills, was indicative of a prolonged period of natural post-abandonment silting (Plate 37).

Plate 37: Ditch Segment 357. Facing East.

5.2.13 The ditch fill (317) was sealed by a 0.10m deep silty clay subsoil (345). As had been observed in other parts of the site, the depth of subsoil coverage had been much reduced by later levelling activities associated with the construction of the marshalling yard. The deposit (345) was sealed by a 0.10m deep deposit of ashy clinker (319), above which was situated a thin modern topsoil (318). Existing ground level in this part of the site was 4.55m AOD.

5.2.14 The cut of ditch segment [381] was situated approximately 10m to the east of ditch [357]. The ditch was 3.90m wide and 0.86m deep (3.35m AOD). The ditch profile again had an extended shallow lip on its southern edge, with the main body of the ditch having steeply-sloping sides and a somewhat irregular base.

5.2.15 The basal fill of the ditch (380) was 0.60m deep and consisted of sandy clay. A 0.10 deep deposit of sandy clay and pebbles (382) filled the shallow lip of the ditch. As observed in ditch segment cut [357], this deposit probably represented metal from the track surface which had slumped into the ditch. In this case, however, deposit (382) also extended across the entire ditch, sealing basal fill (380) which must therefore have represented the gradual silting of the ditch during lifetime of the trackway (Plate 38).

Plate 38: Ditch Segment 381. Facing West.

5.2.16 The deposit (382) was sealed by post-abandonment silting deposits of silty clay (378) and (377).

5.2.17 The cut of ditch segment [1204] was situated approximately 20m to the east of [381] and was excavated and recorded in Trench 12 as part of the initial evaluation. Here, the ditch was 1.70m wide and 0.70m deep (3.26m AOD), with a steeply-sloping profile and concave base. There was no obvious lip to the cut, as had been observed in segments [357] and [381].

5.2.18 Only a single silty clay fill (1205) was identified within the ditch, which was excavated under exceptionally dry conditions. However, a 0.20m deep deposit of silty clay and gravel (1206) was identified in section extending from the southern edge of ditch [1204] to the northern edge of ditch [330]. The deposit appeared to have a gentle camber and represented the survival of a fragment of in-situ road surface. The gravel deposit (1206) was situated at a level of 4.46m AOD and was sealed by a 0.10m deep silty clay subsoil (1201) and a thin modern topsoil (1200). Existing ground level at this location was 4.56m AOD.

5.2.19 The cut of ditch segment [369] was situated to the east of [1204]. The ditch survived to a maximum width of 2.70m, the northern edge being truncated by the concrete foundation beam of a wartime air-raid shelter. The ditch had a moderate to steeply sloping profile, with marked lips on both the southern and northern sides. The base was concave and the ditch was 0.66m deep (3.62m AOD).

5.2.20 The ditch contained a 0.30m deep basal fill of sandy clay (375) that contained sherds of Romano-British pottery. This deposit (375) was sealed by a 0.20m deep deposit of silty clay (374) and an upper fill of clay silt (373).

5.2.21 Ditch segment cut [406] was located at the eastern boundary of the excavation area. The ditch at this location was 2.60m wide and 0.70m deep (3.57m AOD), with a steeply-sloping profile and concave base. The basal fill (404) consisted of sandy clay that contained sherds of Romano-British pottery. Deposit (404) was sealed by silty clay (403) and an upper fill of fine clay (402).

5.2.22 A continuation of ditch [333] was noted in both the western and eastern sections of the subsidiary trench to the east of the excavation area. The east facing section of the ditch [411] was 3.60m wide, with a steeply-sloping profile, whilst in the west-facing section the ditch appeared 4.0m wide, with a similar profile. In both cases, the full depth of the feature could not be discerned due to floodwater within the trench. In both sections, the ditch was filled by deposits of sandy clay (410) and fine clay (409). In both cases, the ditch was sealed by a fine clay subsoil (408) that may have been formed by flooding or standing water, and a modern deposit of ashy clinker (407).

5.2.23 ***Projected Alignment of Ditch [333]:*** the identification and excavation of Ditch [333] in Area C was significant in that it allowed the results of the archaeological trial trenching to be reassessed and re-interpreted in several key locations. Projecting a broad east-west continuation of the alignment of the ditch across the site, it became clear that the ditch [1305] in Trench 13 may also have been part of the trackside ditch. As with segments [357] and [381], this feature had an apparent lip or step on its southern side and a complex sequence of post-abandonment fills. Further to the east, the ditch may be represented by feature [1503] in Trench 15, by the apparent buried soil (1608) in Trench 16. A further ditch was revealed in Trench 18, although this was very truncated and the relationship is uncertain (see Figure 2).

5.2.24 ***Ditch 330:*** Ditch 330 was situated approximately 6.0m to the south of the northern ditch [333]. A total of four segments [331], [706], [422] and [1202] were excavated across the ditch.

5.2.25 The cut of ditch segment [331] was located at the western edge of the excavation. The ditch was 1.15m wide and 0.54m deep (3.37m AOD). It contained a 0.30m deep basal fill silty clay (332) and an upper fill of similar material (334).

5.2.26 The cut of ditch segment [706] was located approximately 10.0m to the east of [331] and was excavated and recorded in Trench 7 as part of the initial evaluation. The cut [706] was 1.35m wide and 0.65m deep (3.56m AOD),

with a steeply-sloping profile and U-shaped base. The feature contained a single silty clay fill (707).

5.2.27 The cut of ditch segment [422] was located to the east of [706]. The ditch was 2.30m wide and 0.54m deep (3.74m AOD). It was filled by silty clay (423).

5.2.28 The clay deposit (423) was cut by an elongated sub-oval pit [344]. This feature was 2.40m long and 1.0m wide, with a bowl-shaped profile that was 0.20m deep (3.60m AOD). No finds were recovered from the silty clay fill (340).

5.2.29 The cut of ditch segment [1202] was 1.20m wide and 0.50m deep (3.56m AOD), with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of silty clay (1203).

5.2.30 A continuation of this ditch [330] was identified in plan within the footprint of the supplementary trench to the east of Area C. However, it was not identified in evaluation Trenches 15 and 17.

5.2.31 ***Surfacing:*** very little survived of any surface between ditches [330] and [333]. A 0.22m deep gravel and silt deposit was observed in section in Trench 12 between ditches [1204] and [1202]. The deposit had a marked camber and was situated at a maximum height of 4.46m AOD, directly overlying the natural subsoil. Following the stripping of the Area C open area, further patches of gravel surfacing (412) were noted. Test pits cut into the surface showed it to be 0.12m deep and situated at a mean level of 4.40m AOD.

5.2.32 ***Ditch 300:*** Ditch 300 was one of two parallel-aligned south-west to north-east ditches that were located in the southern part of Area C. Four segments [308], [704], [312] and [354] were excavated across the feature.

5.2.33 The southernmost segment [308] was 1.10m wide and 0.52m deep (3.53m AOD), with a steeply-sloping, concave-based profile. The silty clay basal fill (309) was truncated by a probable re-cut [301] that contained two silty clay fills (302) and (303).

Plate 39: Ditch Segment 308. Facing North-east.

5.2.34 The second segment [704] was located to the north-east of the first. It was 1.05m wide and was 0.30m deep (3.67m AOD), with a steeply-sloping profile and concave base. No trace of a re-cut was observed, the ditch being filled by a single deposit of silty clay (705).

5.2.35 The third segment was [312] was situated to the north-east of segment [704] and was 1.60m wide and 0.52m deep (3.73m AOD). The ditch exhibited a more gradual profile than those that had already been observed and was filled by two deposits of silty clay (314) and (313) (Plate 40).

5.2.36 Segment [354] cut the upper fill (368) of segment [355] and had a moderately-sloping V-shaped profile and a concave base. It was 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep (4.31m AOD) and was filled by deposits of silty clay (361), (362) and 363). The upper fill (363) was truncated by an apparent re-cut of the ditch [364] that contained a single deposit of sandy silt (365).

Plate 40: Ditch Segment 312. Facing North-east.

5.2.37 ***Ditch 304:*** Ditch 304 ran on a parallel alignment to the east of [300]. Three segments [702], [306] and [310] were excavated through the ditch.

5.2.38 The first segment [702] was 0.95m wide and 0.48m deep (3.70m AOD) with a steeply sloping U-shaped profile. It was filled by a single deposit of silty clay (703).

5.2.39 The second segment [306] was situated to the north-east of [702] and was 1.35m wide and 0.54m deep (3.80m AOD), with a very pronounced steeply-sloping V-shaped profile (Plate 41). It was filled by a single deposit of silty clay (307).

Plate 41: Ditch Segment 306. Facing South-west.

5.2.40 The final ditch segment [310] was 2.75m wide and 0.40m deep (3.94m AOD). The profile had wide shallow lips on both sides, probably indicative of flooding or standing water, whilst the central part of the ditch, which was 0.70m wide, has a steeply-sloping profile and concave base. The segment was filled by silty clay (311).

5.2.41 Two further segments, [347] and [358], were excavated at the intersection of ditches [300] and [330] and the intersection of [304] and [330]. Segment [347] established that ditch [300] curved to the west to continue as ditch [330], whilst segment [358] showed that ditch [304] turned to the east and also continued as ditch [330]. Ditch [330] was itself discontinuous, forming a T-junction between the main trackway [330] and [333] and a subsidiary track represented by ditches [300] and [304].

5.2.42 ***Ditch 419:*** A final linear feature [419] was located to the north of ditch [333]. Three segments [2602], [390], [420] were excavated through this feature.

5.2.43 The first ditch segment [2602] was 0.40m wide and 0.16m deep (3.53m AOD), with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by silty clay (2603).

5.2.44 The second ditch segment [390] was 0.95m wide and 0.30m deep (3.75m AOD), with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by silty clay (391). An apparent re-cut of the ditch [392] had a similar profile and was again filled by silty clay (393).

5.2.45 The third ditch segment [420] was 0.75m wide and 0.43m deep (4.09m AOD), with a steeply-sloping U-shaped profile. It was filled by silty clay (421).

5.2.46 A final segment was excavated at the south-western end of [419]. This could not be fully excavated or recorded due to severe flooding, but it was possible to establish that ditch [419] ended in a rounded terminal approximately 5m to the north-east of its projected intersection with ditch [333].

5.2.47 ***Later Features- Railway Buildings*:** two parallel east-west aligned walls <709 and <708> were identified in Trench 7, along with a concrete road or yard surface <710>. Following the stripping of the open area, it became clear that <709> and <708> formed part of a 64.4m long, 11m wide range of brick-built foundations <305> (Plate 42). Situated immediately to the north of the foundations was a 64m long, 9.0m wide concrete surface <316>.

Plate 42: Building Foundations 305. Facing West.

5.2.48 The range of building foundations clearly relate to a range of railway buildings that are shown on the *circa* 1948 plan of the site. Reading from west to east, these are marked as the *"cycle shed"*, *"first aid room"*, *"enginemen's mess room"*, *"oil and tool stores"*, *"booking on lobby and locker room"* and *"shed foreman, rota clerks and timekeepers"*. The concrete surface to the north of the foundations represented the east-west access road, which led from a main entrance to the site on the western site boundary. Conversations with former railway employees (Howlett *pers. comm.* 2010) have outlined the process by which, at the start of the working day, engine

crews would arrive, sign out the tools and equipment necessary to start and maintain their engines and be assigned to a particular engine and route. In this context, the presence of a *"cycle shed"* gains a particular significance in that the majority of the workforce of several thousand regularly cycled to work.

5.2.49 The lack of any surviving floors within the remains of the buildings made it obvious that the structures themselves had been demolished down to foundation level. In consequence, there was little surviving that hinted at their previous function. However, finds which were recovered from the topsoil during the stripping of Area C were interesting in that they included a preponderance of railway pottery, old billycans, teapots, ceramic wick holders from railway lanterns, meat paste and other comestible jars, an old tin lunchbox and other similar items consistent with the welfare and administrative functions of the buildings. This could be contrasted, for example, with the area of the former inspection pits, where the dominant finds tended to be discarded tools and broken glass engine valve gauges.

5.3 TRENCH 18

5.3.1 Following identification of the trackways and ditches in Area C, a final 50m trial trench (Trench 18) was excavated in the south-eastern part of the site in order to confirm the projected alignment of the trackway, originally believed to be the Fen Causeway Roman road.

5.3.2 Natural clay subsoil was encountered in Trench 18 at a height of 4.11m AOD. A shallow truncated ditch of concave profile [250] was identified in the trench (Figure 45). This ditch [250] had a width of 1.20m and a depth of 0.20m. It was filled by silty clay (251).

5.3.3 The clay deposit (251) was sealed by a 0.30m deep buried subsoil deposit (252). This was sealed by approximately 1.50m of redeposited natural material, gravel and railway clinker (253) which had been used to level this part of the site.

5.4 TURNTABLE 1

5.4.1 Turntable 1 (Figure 46) was situated in Area G. Although the actual date of construction of the turntable was not known prior to the excavation, it was thought to have gone out of use when the larger, northern turntable (Turntable 2) was constructed in *circa* 1946.

Plate 43: Turntable 1. Aerial View. Facing South.

5.4.2 Excavation revealed that the turntable structure survived substantially intact (Plate 43). It was set within a 23m diameter circular construction cut [2204] that truncated the sandy natural clay (2301) and overlying clinker and ash subsoil (2302). The structure consisted of a 20.70m diameter concrete floor <2202> that had a conical profile that sloped steeply towards the centre. The floor had been laid in sections, with the joints between each segment clearly visible.

5.4.3 Following the example of Turntable 2 (see below) the centre of the floor almost certainly originally contained a substantial concrete stanchion supporting the central pivot or bearing for the rotating turntable arm. However, this structure could not be identified and the centre of the turntable, which had been flooded to a depth of 1.50m, could not be completely drained of water. Again, following the example of Turntable 2, it would seem likely that the central pivot was destroyed or removed during the salvage of the turntable arm for scrap, and that this process had also destroyed a sub-floor drain in the centre of the turntable, leading to the flooding.

5.4.4 A 0.66m wide level concrete platform <2207> ran around the circumference of floor <2202>. This acted as the foundation for the circular enclosing wall of the turntable <2201>. The enclosing wall was 11 courses in height and was formed of machine-moulded red bricks that measured 0.22m x 0.11m x 0.08m. The wall was laid in a stretcher bond and was 0.48m wide. The wall had an inner diameter of 22.0m. A 2.10m long, 0.80m wide dogleg <2214> in

the southern circuit of the wall appeared to represent an inspection pit from which the turntable mechanism could be viewed

5.4.5 The wall <2201> and floor <2202> represented the turntable sub-structure, forming a "well" in which the actual turntable arm, carrying a section of track, would rotate. No trace of the turntable arm survived, the likelihood being that the arm was constructed predominantly of steel and/or timber and so was salvaged when the turntable fell out of use.

5.4.6 Whilst the turntable arm and central pivot were both missing, a number of interesting constructional details of the turntable were observed. A 0.10m wide, 0.05m deep open drain [2205] ran around the circumference of concrete platform <2207>, close to the inner face of wall <2201>. A series of short radial drains [2206] connected [2205] to the sloping part of the floor <2202>.

5.4.7 A series of rectangular machine-cut timber uprights <2208> were embedded in the surface of concrete platform <2207>. The timbers were arranged in a radial pattern and had been sawn off at the level of the concrete surface. It is likely that the timbers originally supported a radial track or rail that ran around the inner circumference of wall <2201>. This structure would in turn have supported the ends of the turntable arm as it rotated.

5.4.8 At three points along the circumference of wall <2201>, the upper course of bricks was interrupted by the insertion of 0.50m wide, 2.50m long timber beams <2209>. Each beam contained the remains of metal fixings. Situated immediately below each of the beams were a series of four small (0.10m x 0.10m) rectangular openings <2210> in the inner face of the wall (Plate 44). Iron fittings could be seen within the holes and it is likely that these represented the other ends of the fixings visible in the upper surfaces of the timbers. Rectangular concrete pads <2211> were incorporated into the platform surface <2207> immediately in front of openings <2210> and each of these contained the remains of iron fixing bolts <2212>.

5.4.9 To the exterior of the turntable, three 1m wide, 0.20m long concrete and brick-built plinths <2213> were situated immediately behind the timbers <2209>. It was thus clear that the timbers and associated plinths represented the three points at which track ways entered the turntable, whilst the concrete and iron fixings in the interior of the structure probably represented the remains of the locking mechanism by which the turntable arm was correctly aligned with the track ways.

Plate 44: Interior of Turntable 1, Showing Beam 2209, Openings 2210 and (foreground) Concrete Pad 2211. Facing South-east.

5.4.10 A final interesting feature was the discovery of a graffito which had evidently been scratched into the wet concrete surface <2207>. This dated the construction of the turntable to September 1932.

5.4.11 Following the removal of the turntable arm and its associated machinery, Turntable 1 had been deliberately backfilled with a mixture of modern broken brick and railway clinker (2200). This deposit was remarkably homogenous and the bricks appeared to have come from a nearby structure that been demolished at about the same time.

5.5 TURNTABLE 2

5.5.1 Turntable 2 (Figure 47) was situated in the northern part of the site. A construction blueprint, dated 1944, exists for this structure, which appears to have superceded Turntable 1.

5.5.2 Turntable 2 consisted of a large circular construction cut [4204] that truncated the natural sandy clays (4101) and the overlying 0.40m deep silty clay subsoil (4102). Set within the cut [4204] was a conical concrete floor <4202> which dipped sharply towards the centre of the structure (Plate 45). The Floor <4202> acted as a foundation for the circular turntable wall <4201> which was constructed of brick. As might be expected, the internal diameter of Turntable 2 (21.34m) was larger than that of Turntable 1, the increased size allowing it to accept larger railway engines.

Plate 45: Turntable 2. Aerial View. Facing South.

5.5.3 Whilst the construction of Turntables 1 and 2 were broadly similar, the two structures differed in some respects. Firstly, the floor <4202>, which was again constructed in sections, appeared to be less well-preserved than the floor in Turntable 1, the centre section giving the appearance of having subsided somewhat. This may reflect the use of an insufficient quantity, or poorer quality, of concrete. At the centre of the floor, the concrete support <4203> for the turntable pivot bearing remained in situ. The support was a massive octagonal structure with a diameter of 2.50m and a height of 1.20m (Plate 46). Its upper surface bore the impression of a 1.15m diameter circular mounting and a series of fixing bolts, but the pivot bearing itself had been removed. The sides of the structure bore the imprints of horizontal timber plank shuttering. This kind of poured concrete construction is most commonly seen on pillboxes, air raid shelters and other World War II civil defence structures and its use in this context highlights the wartime or immediate post-war date of the structure.

5.5.4 Running along the circumference of the floor <4202>, close to the inner face of the turntable wall <4201> were a series of roughly-applied concrete "blobs" <4205>, each of which incorporated the remains of four fixing bolts <4206> and the impression of a metal track shoe (Plate 47). A number of re-used iron rails <4207> were embedded vertically in the floor <4202> and, together with the concrete and iron track fixings, these appeared to be the remains of supports for a circular rail that originally ran round the inner circumference of the turntable, supporting the rotating turntable arm.

Plate 46: Pivot Support 4203. Facing South.

Plate 47: Concrete Fittings 4205 and (left foreground) rail <4207>. Facing South.

5.5.5 The enclosing wall <4201> survived to its full height of nine courses (1.10m) and was constructed of frogged, machine-moulded red bricks laid in alternate header and stretcher bond, capped with a top course of edge-laid headers. The wall was 0.30m wide, being stepped out on the exterior side below the level of the top course. The wall was markedly less substantial than the Turntable 1 wall and this may reflect the shortage of suitable building materials in the immediate post-war period. As with Turntable 1, the circuit of the wall incorporated a dog-leg that formed a rectangular inspection pit.

5.5.6 The wall <4201> incorporated two iron and concrete structures that appeared to represent the locations where track ways entered the turntable. Each structure consisted of a 3.30m long, 1.20m wide concrete plinth <4208> and <4209>, into which was set a rectangular iron fitting <4210> and <4211>. The fittings <4210> and 4211> appeared to be of a box-like construction and measured 0.30m x .40m x 2.80m. The upper surfaces had cast diamond-pattern non-slip surfaces and incorporated two smaller plates with track-fixing bolts (Plate 48). Immediately behind the plates, and in line with them, the concrete plinths incorporated rectangular holes that housed short upright iron girders that were flanked by track fixing bolts.

Plate 48: Fitting 4211. Facing West.

5.5.7 The fittings <4210> and <4211> were visible in the elevations of wall the <4201>. Each incorporated four circular holes, together with a raised fixing loop, that faced the interior of the turntable (Plate 49).

Plate 49: Fitting 4210. Facing North.

5.5.8 Two further features were visible in the inner face of the turntable wall. These were two 2.70m long concrete structures <4213> and <4214> that each incorporated four small rectangular holes <4215>, similar to those observed in the wall of Turntable 1. Once again, iron fittings were visible in each of the holes. Structures <4213> and <4214> extended 1.0m beyond the exterior face of <4201>. There were indications that the upper layer of concrete on the structures themselves and the upper courses of the wall <4201> above them had both been laid as part of a later phase of remodeling, and from this it could be inferred that <4213> and <4214> represented the original position of tracks that were subsequently replaced by those associated with <4210> and <4211>.

5.5.9 The final structure of interest associated with Turntable 2 was a timber walkway <4216> that ran around the exterior of the structure (Plate 50).

5.5.10 The walkway <4216> was 1.0m wide and consisted of radially-laid planks which were formed from cut-down railway sleepers. Where the walkway had been damaged it was possible to see that one end of the radial timbers rested on the step in the exterior brickwork of the enclosing wall <4201>, whilst the other ends rested on longitudinal sleepers that were laid in a rough concentric circle around the turntable. The walkway was fastened

together by long hand-wrought nails that were probably manufactured on site.

Plate 50: Detail of Walkway 4216. Facing West.

5.5.11 As originally constructed, Turntable 2 was not motorized, but was turned by hand (Howlett, *pers. comm.* 2010) the careful balancing of the turntable allowing a locomotive to be turned with relatively little effort. The walkway <4216> thus formed the track around which the operatives turning the arm would walk.

5.5.12 As with Turntable 1, all of the machinery associated with Turntable 2 had evidently been salvaged when the structure fell into disuse. The interior had then been backfilled with a mixture of demolition rubble, broken concrete and ashy silt (4200).

5.6 GRAVITY HUMP STRUCTURE

5.6.1 A 20m x 20m area at the extreme northern end of the Gravity Hump was excavated as part of the agreed Mitigation strategy (Figure 52). The Excavation revealed the remains of a brick and concrete structure <424> that measured 6.5m x 3.0m. The structure <424> appeared to have been built in two phases and consisted of a southern concrete foundation raft <425> that supported a rectangular grey brick surface <426> that contained a rectangular drain or manhole <427>. A rectangular concrete beam <428>, perhaps, protecting a buried drain or pipe, extended from the eastern side of foundation <425>.

5.6.2 The northern part of the structure <424> consisted of an open-ended rectangular enclosure that was made of red, moulded bricks <429>. Four large iron bolts <430> were set into the brickwork, suggesting that the structure probably acted as a machinery base.

5.6.3 No machinery remained in situ and the purpose of structure <424> thus remained unclear. However, its location on the gravity hump suggests that it was part of the railway control and switching apparatus.

Plate 51: Structure 424. Facing South.

6 FINDS

6.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

6.1.1 A total of 216 finds were recovered during the evaluation and excavation. In general terms, the recovered material fell into two broad categories; Romano-British pottery associated with ditches and pits, and pottery, glassware and metal-work relating to the 20th century railway yards (Table 1).

6.1.2 The Romano-British assemblage was relatively small, but the majority of the material was recovered from secure archaeological contexts in Areas 32/35 and Area C. A full specialist assessment report of the material is presented in Section 6.2 below.

6.1.3 The modern material included numerous railway-related items, and NPAL would like to extend their sincere thanks to Mr. Barry Howlett, a former worker at the yard, who kindly identified many of the more esoteric finds. Most of the railway finds were recovered during topsoil stripping or were surface finds that were collected as they were encountered. The remainder were recovered from the backfill of railway features, most notably the two turntables and the inspection pits. As far as could be ascertained, all of the material dated to the 20th century, when the railway yards reached their zenith. Some of the material, most notably the marked pottery, pre-dated the nationalisation of the railways in 1947, whilst the diagnostic British Railways items clearly post-dated this. The majority of the material represented discarded detritus that had accumulated across the site and was therefore of little use in dating and phasing the railway structures.

6.1.4 In addition to the retained finds, a number of large items that were too heavy or bulky to transport were recorded, photographed and offered to March Museum (Table 2).

6.1.5 The retained finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F. Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director). The metalwork was placed in a stable environment and was monitored for corrosion.

Table 1: List of Finds Recovered During the Evaluation and Excavation

WMY-A					
Trench	**Context**	**Description**	**Qty**	**Weight (kg)**	**Period**
C	U/S	Lightbulb 'British Railways'	1	0.037	Modern
C	U/S	Plastic lamp shade	1	0.06	Modern
C	U/S	Plastic soap dish	1	0.011	Modern
C	U/S	Bottle glass- brown	1	0.006	Modern
C	U/S	Signal lamp glass- rad, blue	4	0.053	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- meat paste	1	0.066	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic jar- 'W.P. Hartley's Label FMF'	1	0.054	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'BTCS, Dudson Hanley, England 62'	1	0.08	Modern
C	U/S	Pottery	2	0.061	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'BTCS, Dudson Hanley, England 62'	1	0.036	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'LNER' in block letters	2	0.062	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'BR-(R?))'	1	0.005	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- ''LNER' in script	3	0.088	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'Price Kensington'	1	0.209	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- ' Royal Doulton, LNER'	1	0.068	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'Swinnerton's LTD, Hanley'	1	0.021	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'CST BTC'	1	0.05	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- '…Genuine…'	1	0.037	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'Real Irons-'	1	0.011	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic plate- 'Swinnerton's LTD, Hanley'	1	0.047	Modern
C	U/S	Ceramic plate- 'Dudson Brothers LTD'	1	0.084	Modern
C	U/S	Glazed stonewear	1	0.132	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- Milk, 'Safety first, Milk Assn'	1	0.309	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- Salad cream (still inside)	1	0.236	Modern
C	U/S	Rail nail- Fe	1	0.328	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- Brylcreem	2	0.315	Modern
C	U/S	Track shoe bolt- Fe	1	0.328	Modern
C	U/S	Wheel- Fe	1	1.047	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- metal cap	2	0.541	Modern
C	U/S	Tool- Fe	1	0.796	Modern
C	U/S	Carbon arc lamp electrodes	10	0.693	Modern
C	U/S	Fe hooks (shunters' pole)	5	1.736	Modern
C	U/S	Hand shovel- Fe	1	2.65	Modern
C	U/S	Large spanner- Fe	1	10.3	Modern
C	U/S	Signal lamp lens	1	0.045	Modern
C	U/S	Seat belt buckle	1	0.048	Modern
C	U/S	Oil lamp wick adjuster	4	0.116	Modern
C	U/S	Plastic □agon tag- 'Empty to Oakamoor'	1	0.018	Modern
C	U/S	Sardine tin	1	0.033	Modern
C	U/S	Track shoe bolt- Fe	1	0.714	Modern
C	U/S	Mattock head- Fe	1	1.927	Modern
C	U/S	Entrenching tool	1	1.211	Modern
C	U/S	Brass trivet incorporating a 1915 penny	1	0.24	Modern

Trench	Context	Description	Qty	Weight (kg)	Period
C	U/S	Coupling- U/S	1	0.673	Modern
C	U/S	Rail nail- Fe	1	0.317	Modern
C	U/S	Brass railway carriage handle-	1	1.517	Modern
C	U/S	Rail key- Fe	1	0.573	Modern
C	U/S	Thin metal rod	1	0.081	Modern
C	U/S	Square metal fitting	1	1.471	Modern
C	U/S	Coffee pots (billycans)- metal and enamel	2	0.464	Modern
J	U/S	Rail key- oak	2	0.812	Modern
J	U/S	Spanner- Fe	1	0.77	Modern
2	U/S	Valve wheel- Fe	1	0.921	Modern
3	300	Car starter handle	1	0.854	Modern
11	1101	Glass bottle- ointment	1	0.095	Modern
11	1101	Glass bottle- medicine	4	0.475	Modern
11	1101	Glass bottle- ink?	1	0.066	Modern
14	1400	Ceramic mug- 'LNER' in block letters	1	0.021	Modern
14	1400	Auger- Fe	1	0.462	Modern
14	1400	Linked coupling- Fe	1	0.164	Modern
14	1400	Glass bottle- Milk, 'Dairy Crest'	1	0.362	Modern
24	2463	Lightbulb 'British Railways'	5	0.094	Modern
24	2428	Handle- Fe	1	0.344	Modern
25	2502	Engine connecting rod- Fe	1	0.449	Modern
25	2502	Track shoe bolt- Fe	1	0.684	Modern
25	2502	Rod- Fe	1	0.911	Modern
25	2502	Bolt- Fe	2	0.855	Modern
25	2502	Track shoe- Fe	2	0.932	Modern
27	2700	Ceramic mug	3	0.073	Modern
27	2700	Ceramic jar	1	0.095	Modern
27	2700	Glass bottle- medicine	2	0.248	Modern
27	2700	Glass jar- brown, square	1	0.342	Modern
27	2700	Bottle glass- clear, '-RTINI'	1	0.035	Modern
27	2700	Glass bottle- Brylcreem	1	0.107	Modern
27	2700	Glazed pottery- white	2	0.197	Modern
29a	U/S	Pottery	2	0.055	Modern
29a	U/S	Washer- metal	1	0.006	Modern
29a	U/S	Glass pressure gauge tubes	1	0.043	Modern
29a	U/S	Pipe joint- metal	2	1.056	Modern
29a	U/S	Luggage tags- plastic, 'British Railways'	1	0.005	Modern
29a	U/S	Object- Fe	1	0.841	Modern
32	3204	Flints	2	0.018	Prehistoric
38	3806	Flints	3	0.009	Prehistoric
41	4100	Rail nail- Fe	1	0.351	Modern
41	4100	Bolt- Fe	1	0.328	Modern
41	4100	Shims- Fe	2	0.165	Modern
51	5106	Pottery	4	0.006	Roman
57	5702	Flints	11	0.161	Prehistoric

WMY-B					
Trench	**Context**	**Description**	**Qty**	**Weight (kg)**	**Period**
C	U/S	Ceramic mug- 'T.H. Lawley Co LTD. London E.C. 1'	1	0.043	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- Meat paste	3	0.23	Modern
C	U/S	Glass pressure gauge tubes	6	0.227	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- Salad cream	1	0.234	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- milk, 'Gaywood Dairy'	1	0.461	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- milk, 'A. Harradine, Regent Dairy, March'	1	0.349	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- milk, 'Safety first, Milk Assn'	1	0.323	Modern
C	U/S	Glass bottle- milk, '…Regent Dairy…'	1	0.471	Modern
C	303	Pottery	1	0.004	Roman
C	307	Fired clay	1	0.006	undated
C	307	Flint	1	0.002	Prehistoric
C	311	Samian ware	11	0.01	Roman
C	340	Pottery	1	0.006	Roman
C	340	Slag	1	0.164	IA/RB
C	348	Flint	1	0.002	Prehistoric
C	351	Pottery	1	0.016	Roman
C	356	Pottery- Incised handle	1	0.03	Roman
C	375	Black-slipped earthenware	2	0.012	Roman
C	385	Flint	1	0.003	Prehistoric
C	385	Pottery	1	0.011	Roman
C	385	Pottery	4	0.009	Roman
C	404	Pottery	11	0.245	Roman
32/35	105	Flint	3	0.005	Prehistoric
32/35	123	Pottery- rim	1	0.006	Roman
32/35	126	Microlith	1	0.001	Prehistoric
32/35	128	Flint	1	0.008	Prehistoric
32/35	143	Flint	5	0.045	Prehistoric
32/35	143	Pottery	2	0.001	Roman?
32/35	160	Flint	2	0.011	Prehistoric
32/35	171	Flint	3	0.009	Prehistoric
32/35	171	Pottery	1	0.002	Roman
32/35	171	Pottery	2	0.006	Roman
32/35	177	Flint	2	0.003	Prehistoric
32/35	179	Flint	4	0.004	Prehistoric
32/35	204	Daub	1	0.013	Roman
32/35	3516	Pottery	10	0.021	Roman
32/35	3517	Flint	5	0.005	Prehistoric

Table 2: List of Recorded Large Finds offered to March Museum

Trench	Context	Description	Qty	Period
Area B	U/S	Al train window bar, marked "BR"	1	Post 1947
Area C	U/S	Fe perforated disc; for setting fires beneath	1	Modern
		frozen stream engines		
Area C	U/S	Fe, fireman's shovel	1	Modern
Area D	U/S	Fe, galvanised watering can, stamped "BR"	1	Post 1947
Area D	U/S	Fe door/lid, marked "Train Lighting Distribution	1	Post 1947
		Box Type BRF 3, BR"		
Area H	U/S	Inflatable rubber dunnage (packing cushion)	1	Modern
Area H	U/S	Plastic safety helmet, marked "BR"	1	Post 1947
Area O	U/S	Fe funnel and hook	1	Modern
Trench 3	300	Fe spanner;	1	Modern
Trench 7	700	Fe Pinch Bar (waggon lever)	1	Modern
Trench 7	700	Fe railway shovel;	1	Modern
Turntable 1	2200	Wooden chocks for securing rails	4	Modern
Turntable 1	2200	Fe spanner	1	Modern
Trench 24	2406	Fe door, marked "Propane Gas B A A "	1	Modern
Trench 24	2426	Fe engine boiler bar	1	Modern
Trench 24	2433	Fe chisel-ended bar	1	Modern
Trench 24	2441	Fe waggon brake shoe	1	Modern
Trench 24	2455	Fe chisel-ended bar	1	Modern
Trench 24	U/S	Fe track shoe, marked "1947 L1/LNER"	1	Modern
Trench 24	U/S	Fe waggon coupling, marked "BR"	1	Post 1947
Trench 41	4100	Fe, galvanised bucket	1	Modern

6.2 ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY Section Authored By DR J. EVANS AND DR P. MILLS

6.2.1 ***Introduction:*** Following an initial assessment report on the Romano-British pottery produced by Blaise Vyner (in Cavanagh 2011), Dr P Mills, in association with Dr J Evans, prepared a report on the pottery which is included below. The material was examined in July 2012. There were 38 sherds of pottery and four sherds of fired clay in total (Table 3).

6.2.2 ***Nature of the assemblage:*** most of the sherds are small and many are abraded, suggesting that the material may to some extent be residual. This is probably a domestic assemblage.

6.2.3 ***Sources of the pottery present:*** Five sherds of the pottery would appear to be in the reduced hand-made Iron Age tradition, or earlier date. The 32 sherds identified as Roman comprise a single sherd from a lower Nene Valley colour coated ware 'Castor box', two sherds in oxidised fabrics, 18 sherds in wheel-made reduced wares, of which 14 were in Horningsea fabric, 10 sherds of Samian and two sherds in whiteware.

Table 3: List of prehistoric and Romano-British ceramics

Context	Feature	Fabric	Fabric Description	Part	Form	Sherds	MNR	Date
123	Pit 122 Area 32/35	O00	Oxidised with moderate sand	Rim	Globular jar with stubby fairly straight rising everted rim	1	1	C1-EC2?
171	Pit 156 Area 32/35	P00	Hand made with coarse sand and calcareous inclusions	Body		1		IA?
303	Ditch 300/ Re-cut 301 Area C	W00	Whiteware with traces of red slip	Rim	Flange Bowl	1	1	C1-C2
311	Ditch 304/310 Area C	S00	Samian	Body	?Dr. 37	10		120-200
340	Pit 344 (Cutting ditch 330) Area C	O00	Oxidised with moderate sand	Body		1		Roman
351	Posthole 350 Area C	R00	Reduced with moderate sand and some calcareous inclusions	Base	jar	1		
356	Ditch 333/357 Area C	W00	Whiteware	Handle	Triple cordoned Flagon Handle	1		C1-C2
375	Ditch 333/369 Area C	R02	Horningsea	Body		1		Flavian - C4
385	'Road' Deposit Area C	F01	LNV CC	Body	Rouletted sherd from Castor box	1		160+
385	'Road' Deposit Area C	R00	Reduced	Body		2		
385	'Road' Deposit Area C	R02	Horningsea	Rim and Body	necked jar with everted rising thickened rim	2	1	Flavian - C4
404	Ditch 333/406 Area C	R02	Horningsea	Body		10		Flavian - C4
404	Ditch 333/406 Area C	R02	Horningsea	Base		1		Flavian - C4
3516	Pit 3517 Area 32/36	D00	Fired Clay			4		
3516	Pit 3517 Area 32/36	P00	Handmade with grog temper	Body		1		
5106	Ditch 1507 Trench 51	P00	Black handmade with large quartz and abundant flint temper	Body		3		IA?

6.2.4 ***Range of vessel types:*** Forms represented by rims included a globular jar in an oxidised fabric, a necked jar in Horningsea fabric, and a flanged bowl in whiteware. Other forms evidenced include a Horningsea jar base and a whiteware flagon handle and a Castor box in lower Nene Valley colour coated ware. The small size of the assemblage means that detailed analysis is not possible, and that further work would not yield any more detailed results. Apart from the putative prehistoric material there is no obvious pre-Flavian component to the assemblage, and there is no evidence of any later Roman pottery deposition.

6.2.5 Whilst the assemblage is too small to be say anything meaningful about supply, of note is the absence of calcareous tempered wares (present at Stonea at 22.6% by weight in the mid- to late second century; and at 30.6% by weight in the Antonine – early 3rd century phase). The occurrence of material from Horningsea is over represented compared to Stonea (Cameron 1996), where it is present at 7% by weight during the Antonine phase, compared to Lower Nene valley Greyware, absent here, which is present at Stonea (Cameron 1996) at 17% by weight.

6.2.6 Gwladys Monteil comments that the samian is heavily abraded, but may be a Dr. 37 form. The date range is likely to be 120-200.

6.2.7 ***Discussion:*** The ditches on the south side of the site in Area C contained pottery as follows: The main northern ditch (333) contained 1st to 2nd century pottery (context 356) and 2nd-4th century pottery (contexts 375 and 404). Subsidiary southern ditches (304)/(310) contained Samian of broadly 2nd century date (context 311). Subsidiary ditch 300 contained 1st - 2nd century pottery (context 303), whilst a pit cutting ditch (330) contained Roman-period pottery (context 340). On the basis of this it would seem unwise to attempt to establish a chronological primacy for any particular feature, or to identify a ditch sequence on the basis of the ceramic material alone. Limited finds from the pits in Area 32/35 appear to date to 1st to 2nd century, although some possible Iron Age ceramics are also present.

6.2.8 ***Conclusions:*** This work broadly confirms the information provided in the assessment report, in particular it confirms that most of the pottery cannot be used to establish a tighter chronological framework for the site, or for most specific features within it. Additionally, reassessment of Roman-period features in Area C has led to the conclusion that the remains excavated are unlikely to represent evidence for the Fenland Causeway as originally suggested (Cavanagh 2011, 10), instead these appear to be an agglomeration of features, beggining with a boundary ditch, which later becomes incorporated into a system of fields and local tracks.

6.3 MODERN POTTERY

6.3.1 The modern pottery assemblage was dominated by factory-made earthernwares and china of various types, most of which was recovered during the topsoil-stripping of Area C. Of particular interest were mugs and other tableware transfer printed with the letters *"LNER*". Two versions were noted, one with a plain design block capitals (perhaps from the workers' canteen) and the other with a more decorative cursive script. Several of these sherds preserved the maker's stamp. Two manufacturers were noted, *"Royal Doulton"* and *"Swinnertons Ltd, Hanley"*. A similar mug, transfer printed with the letters "*BR*", presumably dated from slightly later.

6.3.2 Other mug sherds were undecorated, but had the makers' mark *"BTCS, Dudson Hanley, England 62"* the latter part of the mark seeming to indicate the year of manufacture (1962). These were in a heavy stoneware fabric, with a plain grey/blue finish that is best described as "utilitarian". A plate sherd in an identical fabric had a slightly different mark, with the British Rail logo surrounded by the legend *"Dudson Brothers Ltd, Vitrified Stoneware"* and the date stamp *"5-70*".

6.3.3 The final marked items were two fragments of a stamped ceramic Hartley's preserve jar, of early to mid 20th century date. The stamp on the base read *"[only] genuine be[ar]ing W.P. Hartley's Label"*.

6.3.3 The pottery assemblage was essentially domestic in nature and consisted mostly of mugs and plates. The fact that the majority of material was recovered from Area C would seem to indicate that it originated within the range of buildings shown on the 1948 map (Structure <305>, see above), which included the "*engine mens' mess room*".

6.4 LITHICS Section Authored By David Jackson

6.4.1 The lithic assemblage recovered during the excavation was comprised of 33 pieces. However, of the 33 pieces within the assemblage, only 13 were confidently identified as resulting from human action, the remaining 20 pieces being identified as either definitive or probable natural fractures.

6.4.2 The worked component of the assemblage was largely comprised of struck flakes with a single possible blade fragment. The possible blade fragment was produced on mottled tan flint and retained two dorsal scars, forming a central dorsal arête. However, the proximal end, which would have retained the striking platform, could not be analysed as only the distal portion was present. It is also possible that the piece retains evidence of use-wear along the right lateral margin, although this could have also occurred as a result of post-depositional processes. The possible blade fragment measured

28.07mm in length, 22.63mm in width and 4.10mm in thickness, and was recovered from the fill of pit [3517].

6.4.3 The remaining struck flakes within the assemblage were all classified as débitage as no secondary working could be identified. All stages of the manufacturing process were represented within the assemblage as primary, secondary and tertiary flakes were all present. However, this is not surprising as most, if not all of the assemblage had been produced from either black or tan pebble flint. This type of raw material is common within the area, with pebble flint occurring naturally within the local clays and gravels, probably being deposited by ice sheets moving south from the east coast of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire where raw material sources are abundant.

6.4.4 Unfortunately, it was difficult to assign the worked component of the assemblage to any particular period or lithic technology as not enough information could be retrieved during the analysis. However, it is highly unlikely that the lithic assemblage is associated with any of the Romano-British features as stone-tool production became an insignificant technology after the Bronze Age. This indicates that the lithic assemblage is residual and was not recovered *in-situ*. The presence of the possible blade fragment suggests that part of the assemblage could date to the Early Neolithic when blade technology was at its most prevalent. However, based on the minimal results obtained during the lithic analysis, this must remain speculative.

6.5 METAL WORK

6.5.1 A wealth of metal artefacts were recovered during the works, all of which dated to the 20th century and related to the railway usage of the site.

6.5.2 It was clear that most of the larger railway metalwork (in particular rails and signalling equipment) had been salvaged for scrap. In this respect, the entire site was liberally strewn with the large railway bolts that had been used to affix the track shoes and rails to the wooden sleepers. Several typical examples of these were retained.

6.5.3 Of particular interest amongst the surviving metalwork assemblage were several corkscrew-shaped iron hooks that were evidently designed to fit a long wooden handle. These were identified by Mr. Howlett as *shunters' poles*, the hooks being used to snag waggon couplings as a means of directing and controlling wagons as they were dispensed to various sidings via the gravity hump. Other tools included outsized spanners, firemens' shovels, a British Rail watering can, a bucket and a 2m long heavy iron *pinch bar*, a type of lever used to help move waggons by hand (Plate 51).

Plate 52: Iron Pinch Bar.

6.5.4 Other metal finds of interest included fragments of waggon brake shoes, engine flue bars, an engine connecting rod, an engine watering funnel and the maker's plaque from a goods waggon. Also recovered were a number of enameled tin billycans, each with a lid and carrying handle, that are thought to have held hot drinks for the engine drivers. The final finds of interest were a number of small tinplate winders, each with an oval ceramic surround, which were identified as the adjustable wick holders from railway oil lanterns.

6.6 GLASS

6.6.1 Glass finds were again mostly associated with the railway yard and consisted of a variety of comestible jars (Bovril, salad cream, Shiphams Meat Paste), milk bottles, medicine bottles and *"Brylcreem"* jars. The milk bottles were of some interest, one being marked *"Get the best quality milk, English butter, double cream, fresh eggs from The Regent Dairy March. Cambs"* in transfer-applied red lettering. A second was embossed *"Buy Harradine's accredited milk, A. Harradine Regent Dairy March"*. This bottle was designed to be closed by a waxed card stopper and was the earlier of the two (probably early to mid 20th century), the red marked bottle being designed for a foil cap and hence somewhat later in date.

6.6.2 There was also a variety of material that was more obviously railway related, including coloured signal lamp lenses, lantern lenses, train light

bulbs marked "*BR*" and a series of 15mm, circa 250mm long glass open-ended glass tubes. All the tubes appeared to have been broken and were identified by Mr. Howlett as steam engine pressure gauge glasses.

6.7 MISCELLANEOUS

6.7.1 Miscellaneous finds included a plastic "*BR*" safety helmet, British Rail waggon tags, a lampshade from a railway carriage, and a soapdish. Also recovered were a number of 15mm diameter, 0.20-0.30m long pointed carbon rods. These have been encountered by the current author before in the context of the excavation of a World War 2 anti-aircraft searchlight position and are the carbon electrodes from a high-powered electrical arc lamp.

6.7.2 To the north of Area C a dump of large rubber items were identified on the surface. One was retained for photography and recording, and proved to be a 1.55m x 1.23m oval inflatable object, similar in size and shape to a small rubber dinghy. The item was identified as an *inflatable dunnage*, in effect a large inflatable cushion that was used to pack fragile items within goods vans (Plate 52).

Plate 53: Inflatable Rubber Dunnage.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 During the course of the archaeological fieldwork 81 soil samples were taken, of which 75 were processed, the remainder being from deposits deemed non-archaeological. Samples were taken to extract material that may aid the understanding of the depositional history of these contexts. This could include evidence of human activity that may have left preserved archaeological material during the prehistoric or historic periods. As well as anthropogenic evidence the remains of wild plants may allow inferences to be made regarding the local environment. In particular, due to the artefactual assemblage collected from this area, evidence of activity during the Romano-British period was considered possible in the soil samples processed.

7.1.2 The methodology employed required that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components: the flot, the residue, the clay-silt and the sand-silt. The sample was manually floated and sieved through a 'Siraf' style flotation tank. In this case the residue and the flot are retained while the sand-silt-clay components are filtered out. The sample was flotted over a 1mm plastic mesh, into which the residue was collected, then air-dried and sorted by eye for any material that may aid our understanding of the deposit. This included charred plant remains, bones, pottery, burnt clay and charcoal. Charcoal fragments larger than 1cm x 1cm was retained for later analysis or for use in radiometric dating. The residue samples were also scanned with a hand magnet to retrieve forms of magnetic material. This was done to retrieve residues of metallurgical activity, in particular hammer scale, spheroid hammer scale, fuel-ash slag and vitrified material which might be indicative of other high temperature non-metallurgical processes. Processing procedures and nomenclature follows the conventions set out by the Archaeological Datasheets of the Historical Metallurgical Society (1995) and the English Heritage Centre for Archaeological Guidelines publication (2001).

7.1.3 An experienced environmental archaeologist examined all of the dried residues. It was appreciated from the assessment phase that the heavy clay soils may in some cases not allow a completely efficient separation of the charred organic remains from the inorganic residue. In this case much of the chaff and some grains may be retained in the residue. Therefore it was seen as a priority that as little of this material be lost as possible.

7.1.4 The washover was dried slowly and scanned at x40 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these was

undertaken by comparison with filamentous reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at North Pennines Archaeology and by reference to relevant literature (Cappers et al. 2010), (Berggren 1981), (Jacomet 2006). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

7.1.5 Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of organic remains that may produce a valuable suite of information, in respect of the depositional environment of the material, thus enabling assessment of anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy associated with the features from which the samples are removed. In this case the sandy, well-drained, base rich nature of the soil would be suitable for the preservation of charred plant remains and bone (should mineral replacement occur to offset the leeching of calcium from deposited bones material).

7.1.6 Sample numbers appear in brackets thus < >, whilst context numbers appear in brackets thus ( ) for all analysis and discussion below. All material (organic and inorganic), which may aid in the understanding of these deposits has been recorded in Table 6 (for the evaluation WMY-A) and Tables 7A and 7B (for the excavation WMY-B) in the appendix. Three samples (no. 2, WMY-A and nos. 23 and 41, WMY-B) were not processed as they were from non-archaeological deposits). For material from the residue the relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 3 (highest). Cereals are counted in terms of the number of individuals counted. The other plant remains have been recorded on a scale from A-E. This is calculated as; A=1, B=2-10, C=11-30, D=30-100, E=c.100+. The exception being unidentified seeds, where the numbers of unidentified species is given, rather than their relative abundance.

7.1.7 For the purposes of clarity the references to 'seeds' identified here refer to the seed or fruit structures unless otherwise stated; that is to say the propagule or disseminule structures. No cereal grain was recovered and therefore does not concern this report. Carex nutlets are classed as either lenticular or trigonus, though further identification was not undertaken. As these plants did not occur with particularly high frequency, and as they generally indicated wet environments it was not thought that a more detailed examination would improve our knowledge of the context in which these remains occur.

7.2 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION SAMPLES (WMY-A)

7.2.1 Sample **(1) <5307>** came from the fill of the deep ditch cut **[5308]**. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of chert and flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials,

consisting of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of wood fragments with moderate amounts of moss. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots), *Montia fontana* (blinks) and Polygonaceae *sp.* (knotweed family) seeds also present.

7.2.2 Sample **(3) <5602>** came from the fill of deep gully **[5601]**. It contained moderate amounts of seashells, low amounts of magnetic materials and slag. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The seashell consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The slag consisted of three fragments less than 3cm in size. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of charcoal fragments with moderate amounts of snail shells, as well as infrequent numbers of *Rubus spp.* (bramble berry family) and *Urtica dioica sp.* (stinging nettle) seeds were also present.

7.2.3 Sample **(4) <5604>** came from the fill of feature **[5603]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials, seashells and slag. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment made up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The seashell consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The slag consisted of 2 fragments less than 3cm in size. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of wood fragments with moderate amounts of charcoal, as well as infrequent insect and small snail shell remains.

7.2.4 Sample **(5) <5708>** came from the fill of ditch **[5709]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and small snail shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals and lower frequencies of hammer scale. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of small snail shells with moderate amounts of filamentous roots. High frequencies of *a Lemna* sp.(duckweed) seeds were present.

7.2.5 Sample **(6) <5706>** came from a silty clay fill of ditch **[5705]**. It contained low amounts of bone, cinder and magnetic materials. The bulk of the heavy

residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots.

7.2.6 Sample **(7) <5710>** came from an upper fill of silty clay from linear feature **[5711]**. It contained low amounts of cinder and magnetic materials. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The slag consisted of 4 fragments (all less than 3cm). The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal.

7.2.7 Sample **(8) <5712>** came from a basal fill of sandy clay from linear feature **[5711]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and slag. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts hammer scale, spheroidal hammer slag and naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The slag consisted of 4 fragments less than 2cm in size. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal.

7.2.8 Sample **(9) <5702>** came from a pit of probable sub-circular plan **[5701]**. It contained low amounts of pottery, magnetic materials and small snail shell. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The pottery consisted of one fragment less than 1.5cm in size, with an orange colouration. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of wood fragments with moderate amounts of snail shells. As well as a high frequency of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and moderate number of *Montia fontana* (blinks), low numbers of *Rumex sp.* (docks) seeds and a possible M*alvaceae sp.* (mallow family) and were also present.

7.2.9 Sample **(10) <1604>** came from the fill of ditch **[1605]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials, small snail shells, slag and wood (waterlogged). The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the

second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The slag consisted of one fragment (less than 2cm). The wood fragments consisted of two fragments less than 2cm in size. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of moss and snail shells. As well as a high frequency of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and unidentified seeds were present. Moderate amounts of *Carex sp.* (sedge) and infrequent numbers of *Rumex sp.* (docks) seeds were recovered.

7.2.10 Sample **(11) <1504>** came from an upper fill of silty clay of ditch **[1503]**. It contained low amounts of filamentous roots and slag. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The slag was limited to one small fragment under 1cm in size. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots.

7.2.11 Sample **(12) <1505>** came from a basal fill of clay of ditch **[1503]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material, filamentous roots and small snail shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of snail shells.

7.2.12 Sample **(13) <1008>** came from the fill of shallow linear ditch **[1007]**. It contained moderate amounts of bone, and low amounts of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The bone is identified as being the fragmented sections of one left humerus and radius, as well as one right ulna of a sheep. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of cinder and an infrequent quantity of snail shells. High frequencies of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) seeds were present.

7.2.13 Sample **(14) <1402>** came from the fill of silty sand in ditch **[1401]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material and slag. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The

magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag and low frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The slag remains is limited to one fragment less that 3cm in size. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of charcoal. Infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) seeds were present.

7.2.14 Sample **(15) <1304>** came from the fill of silty clay in ditch **[1303]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material and small snail shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragments makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of snail shell and a moderate quantity of charcoal. As well moderate amounts of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and two *Poaceae* grains, both heavily charred were recovered, but not identified beyond the family *Poaceae*.

7.2.15 Sample **(16) <1306>** came from the fill of a sequence of silty clay deposits of ditch **[1305]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material, slag and small snail shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts, hammer scale slag with naturally occurring magnetic material. The slag remains is limited to one fragment less that 1cm in size. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of snail shells and a moderate quantity of charcoal.

7.2.16 Sample **(17) <1308>** came from the fill of a sequence of silty clay deposits of ditch **[1305]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic residue. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts, hammer scale slag with naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of charcoal. As well moderate amounts of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and one *Rumex* (docks) achene fragment.

7.2.17 Sample **(19) <3204>** came from the fill of sub-circular pit **[3203]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted

of high frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material and low frequencies of hammer scale slag. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of charcoal. Moderate numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots), as well as infrequent amounts of *Poaceae* grains and *Asteraceae sp.* (daisy family) seeds were recovered.

7.2.18 Sample **(20) <3206>** came from the fill of sub-circular pit **[3205]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of high frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material and low frequencies of hammer scale slag. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. Infrequent numbers of *Montia fontana* (blinks) and *Rubus* spp. (bramble berry family) seeds were recovered.

7.2.19 Sample **(21) <4603>** came from the fill of ditch **[4602]**. It contained low amounts of seashells and small snail shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The seashell content consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of snail shells. As well as infrequent amounts of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Sambucus nigra* (elderberry) seeds.

7.2.20 Sample **(22) <4605>** came from the fill of ditch **[4604]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic residue consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of charcoal.

7.2.21 Sample **(23) <5103>** came from upper fill of linear feature **[5104]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic residue and seashells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of high frequencies of hammer scale slag and low frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The seashell content consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of charcoal.

7.2.22 Sample **(24) <5105>** came from basal fill of linear feature **[5104]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of small snail shells and a moderate quantity of filamentous roots. As well as moderate amounts of *Leman sp.* (duckweed) and *Ranunculaceae sp.* (buttercup) seeds.

7.2.23 Sample **(25) <5106>** came from the fill of a probable Romano-British ditch **[5107]**. This sample contains very little residue (material >1mm). This may suggest this fill was deposits under low energy conditions, where water borne sands, silts and clays were gradually deposited into this feature. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of small snail shells and insect remains. As well as moderate amounts of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Persicaria sp.* (knotweeds) seeds.

7.2.24 Sample **(26) <4607>** came from the fill of recut ditch **[4606]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragment makes up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of charcoal and small snail shell.

7.2.25 Sample **(27) <1205>** came from the fill of a ditch **[1204]**. It contained high amounts of bone, accounting for the majority of the deposit. Low quantities of magnetic material and small snail shells were also viable. The rest of the heavy residue consisted of coarse angular and sub-rounded flint fragments. The bone is identified as being fragments of cattle skull, including fragments of horn core. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of small snail shells. As well as moderate amounts of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent numbers of *Persicaria sp.* (knotweeds) seeds.

7.2.26 Sample **(28) <705>** came from the fill of ditch **[704]**. It contained high amounts of bone, accounting for the majority of the deposit. Low quantities of magnetic residue were also viable. The rest of the heavy residue consisted of flint fragments, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded fragments. The

bone is identified as being bovine jaw and teeth. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of small snail shells and charcoal. As well as infrequent amounts of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) seeds.

7.3 RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATION SAMPLES (WMY-B)

7.3.1 Sample (**1**) <**131**> came from the fill of pit [130]. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as moderate amounts of small twigs and infrequent amounts of insect remains and snail shell. High numbers of Chenopodiaceae sp. (goosefoots) and infrequent numbers of Montia fontana (blinks) and Urtica dioica (stinging nettle) seeds were also present.

7.3.2 Sample **(2) <141>** came from the fill of oval pit **[140]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. Moderate numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) were present.

7.3.3 Sample **(3) <133>** came from the fill of a small circular feature **[132]** probably an isolated post-hole. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and a moderate quantity of charcoal.

7.3.4 Sample **(4) <151>** came from the fill of shallow pit **[150]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and charcoal. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones. Flint fragments make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots

and a moderate quantity of charcoal. Infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) seeds were also present. One unidentified seed was also recovered.

7.3.5 Sample **(5) <164>** came from the fill of ditch **[163]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and bones. Low quantities of magnetic residue were also viable. The rest of the heavy residue consisted of flint fragments, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded in nature. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and an infrequent quantity of snail shell. High numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent *Silene L. sp.* seeds. One heavy charred unidentified seed was also recovered.

7.3.6 Sample **(6) <125>** came from the fill of sub-oval pit **[124]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as moderate numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.7 Sample **(7) <160>** came from the fill of sub-oval feature **[157]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as moderate numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and a single fragment of *Silene sp.* seed.

7.3.8 Sample **(8) <162>** came from the fill of a pit **[161]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal.

7.3.9 Sample **(9) <144>** came from the fill of a curvilinear cut feature **[145]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and sea shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts, hammer scale slag with

naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The seashell consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal. As well as moderate numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.10 Sample **(10) <146>** came from the fill of large oval pit **[147]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts, hammer scale, spheroidal hammer slag and naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.11 Sample **(11) <105>** came from the fill of sub-oval pit **[104]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of insect remains. As well as infrequent numbers of *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.12 Sample **(12) <148>** came from the fill of large pit **[149]** of sub-oval plan. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of moss. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.13 Sample **(13) <158>** came from the fill of ditch **[159]**. It contained low amounts of charcoal, cinder, magnetic materials and filamentous roots. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale slag and low frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as high numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent *Rubus* spp. (bramble berry

family), *Sambucus nigra* (elderberry), *Rumex sp.* (docks) and *Montia fontana* (water chickweed) seeds.

7.3.14 Sample **(14) <166>** came from the fill of ditch segment **[165]** a part of the ditch **[128]**. It contained low amounts of burnt clay, magnetic materials and filamentous roots. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts, hammer scale slag and naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal. As well as high numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) seeds.

7.3.15 Sample **(15) <143>** came from the fill of sub-oval pit **[142]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. Low quantities of magnetic residue were also viable. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.16 Sample **(16) <3206>** came from the fill of sub-circular pit **[3205]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.17 Sample **(17) <127>** came from the fill of sub-circular pit **[126]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts hammer scale slag and naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal. As well as high numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.18 Sample **(18) <190>** came from an organic sandy clay in pit **[172]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted

of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts hammer scale slag and naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.19 Sample **(19) <193>** came from a deep basal deposit of sandy clay in pit **[172]**. It contained moderate amounts of seashell. Low amounts of bone and magnetic materials were present. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The seashell content consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of small snail shell.

7.3.20 Sample **(20) <191>** came from the fill of deposit of sandy clay within pit **[172]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and sea shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The seashell content consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as infrequent numbers of *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.21 Sample **(21) <173>** came from the fill of a sandy clay upper fill form pit **[172]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of small snail shell. As well as infrequent numbers of *Sambucus nigra* (elderberry) and *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) seeds.

7.3.22 Sample **(22) <153>** came from the fill of a large sub-oval pit **[152]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the

second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of small snail shells. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.23 Sample **(24) <303>** came from the fill of recut **[301]** of ditch segment **[308],** part of ditch **[300]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and filamentous roots. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal and infrequent small snail shells. As well as high amounts of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent numbers of *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.24 Sample **(25) <184>** came from the fill of sub-oval feature **[185]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of charcoal and small snail shells. As well as moderate numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.25 Sample **(26) <189>** came from fill of pit **[188]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as moderate numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds.

7.3.26 Sample **(27) <182>** came from the fill of the sandy clay base in sub-circular pit **[183]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots moderate amounts of charcoal and infrequent

small snail shells. As well as moderate numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and infrequent *Montia fontana* (blinks) seeds, *Rubus* spp. (bramble berry family) and *Carex* (sedge).

7.3.27 Sample **(28) <302>** came from a basal fill of recut ditch segment **[301],** part of ditch **[300]**. It contained low amounst of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots moderate amounts of charcoal and infrequent small snail shells. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) seeds.

7.3.28 Sample **(29) <303>** came from upper fill of recut ditch segment **[301],** part of ditch **[300]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag as well as lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots moderate amounts of charcoal.

7.3.29 Sample **(30) <307>** came the fill of ditch segment **[306],** part of ditch **[300]**. It contained low amounts of cinder, magnetic materials and slag. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic material. The slag was limited to one fragment (less than 1cm in size). The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots moderate amounts of charcoal. As well as infrequent numbers of *Rubus* spp. (bramble berry family) and *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) seeds.

7.3.30 Sample **(31) <192>** came from the fill of pit **[172]**. It contained low a amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of chert and flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots.

7.3.31 Sample **(32) [312]** came from the lower fill of a slot in ditch **[300]**. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate charcoal fragments.

7.3.32 Sample **(33) <251>** came from the fill of shallow truncated ditch **[250]**. It contained moderate amounts of seashell. Low amounts of magnetic materials were also present. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of high frequencies of hammer scale slag and low frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The sea shell consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and infrequent numbers of small snail shells. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) seeds.

7.3.33 Sample **(34) <314>** came from fill of ditch segment cut **[312]** part of ditch **[300]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and small snail shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of small snail shells and infrequent insect remains.

7.3.34 Sample **(35) <313>** came from the fill of cut **[312]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material and filamentous roots. Low quantities of magnetic residue were also recovered. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with infrequent amounts of insect remains. As well as infrequent numbers of *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) and *Asteraceae sp.* (daisy family) seeds.

7.3.35 Sample **(36) <317>** came from the fill of ditch **[357]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material and filamentous roots. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic

material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as infrequent numbers of *Asteraceae sp.* (daisy family) seeds.

7.3.36 Sample **(37) <332>** came from the basal fill silty clay cut of ditch segment **[331]**, of ditch **[330]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of chert and flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with infrequent amounts of small snail shell.

7.3.37 Sample **(38) <340>** came from the fill of pit **[344]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of snail shells and infrequent insect remains. As well as infrequent numbers of *Lathyrus sp.* (vechling) seeds.

7.3.38 Sample **(39) <349>** came from the fill of ditch **[347]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and small snail shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag with lower frequencies of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of small snail shells. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots) and *Galium sp.* (bedstraw) seeds.

7.3.39 Sample **(40) <348>** came from the primary fill of ditch **[347]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials, filamentous roots and a small fragment of wood (less than 2cm) wood. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of roughly equal parts hammer scale, spheroidal hammer slag and naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots),

Rubus spp. (bramble berry family) seeds. One *Atiplex sp.* fruit with intact perianth was recovered, likely a modern inclusion due to its preservation.

7.3.40 Sample **(42) <360>** came from the fill of cut **[358]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials and filamentous roots. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of insect remains and small snail shells.

7.3.41 Sample **(43) <368>** came from the fill of ditch segment **[354]** of ditch **[300]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with moderate amounts of insect remains.

7.3.42 Sample **(45) <325>** came from basal fill of ditch **[324]**. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with infrequent amounts of charcoal.

7.3.43 Sample **(46) <327>** came from upper fill of ditch **[324]**. It contained low amounts of charcoal, magnetic material and filamentous roots. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with infrequent amounts of charcoal. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots).

7.3.44 Sample **(47) <373>** came from the fill of ditch **[369]**. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots with infrequent amounts of charcoal. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots).

7.3.45 Sample **(48) <374>** came from the fill of ditch segment **[369]** from ditch **[333]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots).

7.3.46 Sample **(49) <375>** came from the basal fill of ditch segment **[369]** from ditch **[333]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic materials, sea shells and small snail shells. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The seashell consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and moderate amount of snail shells.

7.3.47 Sample **(50) <366>** came from a segment taken from the fill of ditch **[355]**. It contained low amounts of magnetic material and filamentous roots. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic material. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots and moderate amount of snail shells. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots).

7.3.48 Sample **(51) <376>** came from a segment taken from the basal fill of ditch **[355]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots. As well as infrequent numbers of *Chenopodiaceae sp.* (goosefoots).

7.3.49 Sample **(53) <393>** came from the fill of ditch **[392]** a recut of ditch **[390]**. It contained a low amount of magnetic material. The bulk of the heavy residue consisted of flint nodules, mainly angular and sub-rounded fragments. Stones, mainly coarse angular and sub-rounded sandstones, make up the second most common component of the heavy residue. The magnetic

material consisted of naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The flot matrix consisted of a high amount of filamentous roots.

7.4 DISCUSSION OF THE PLANT REMAINS

7.4.1 Cereal grains were found in none of the 75 processed samples.

7.4.2 Though a range of wild plant remains were recovered from these samples the frequency of material present is not extensive. The material is generally poorly preserved and represented varieties that have been noted elsewhere as indicative of poor preservation (Kenward et al. 1986). In this case the durable seeds of Chenopodiaceae species, Rubus species and Montia fontana species occur most commonly. A number of filamentous intrusions were also noted. The appearance of Montia fontana (blinks) suggests strem sides or seasonally wet areas while the Lemna species (duckweed) seeds point to open bodies of fresh water as might be found in a shallow pond of in a water filled ditch. The general picture that emerges from this site is of an open landscape with limited scrub land, (represented by infrequent elder remains) with the ditch at least periodically full of standing water.

7.5 DISCUSSION OF THE HEAVY RESIDUES

7.5.1 ***Metal Working:*** The procedure for examining magnetic residues follows from standard methods (English Heritage 2001). The material collected was mainly naturally occurring magnetic minerals with extremely low amounts of hammer scale and spheroidal hammer slag (in many cases the total number of fragments totalled less than 20 individual pieces). All samples produced samples of magnetic material of less than 1gram. The small and light nature of this material and its ability to be easily blown by the wind means it can be found some distance from where actual metal working was taking place. This suggests iron-working activity did not take place in the immediate vicinity of this area.

7.5.2 ***Bone:*** bone fragments were found in varying amounts throughout five samples, and were examined for their zooarchaeological potential. However, their fragmentary nature did not allow identification in the majority of cases. Three contexts contained indefinable remains <13> (1008) sheep <27> (704) cattle <28> (1205) cattle. The material recovered is not of zooarchaeological significant, except as evidence of the low frequency of the material across the site as a whole from the contexts examined.

7.5.3 ***Pottery:*** one of the 75 samples (9) <5702> contained pottery, with dimensions less than 1.5cm. It is not likely that the examination of this material by a specialist would yield any more information that already provided by the analysis of the material recovered during the fieldwork.

7.5.4 **Snail shells:** fourteen of the 75 samples contained shells in varying amounts, from one or two shells to contexts containing approximately a hundred. No sampling occurred specifically for snail shells which were observed lining the bottom of a number of the ditches. The shells recovered from the samples vary in quantity but don't offer sufficient volumes for a detailed farther analysis (Davies 2008).

7.5.5 ***Seashells:*** nine of the 75 samples contained shells in varying amounts. The sea shell consisted of whole and broken valves, of bivalve form molluscs. What molluscs can be identified were Oyster, Mussel, Cockles and Venerids spp. (Venus clams) all of which had economic interest as foodstuffs. Considering the location of the site on the Fenland it's possible they were deposited geologically during the fenlands salt marsh period. There is no evidence of opening on any shells within the assemblage. Alternatively the remains could represent waste from their exploitation as foodstuffs. It is likely any further excavation will provide a moderate sized shell assemblage of similar characteristics.

7.6 CONCLUSIONS

7.6.1 The samples recovered from the project did not produce a wide suite of botanical evidence. Samples were frequently contaminated with material that is likely to be modern and incorporated into the current archaeological levels by bioturbation or human activity near the site.

7.6.2 The archaeological interpretation suggests a Romano-British agrarian landscape, in which rectangular field systems bounded by drainage ditches flanked the route of the Fenland Causeway Roman Road and its subsidiary tracks. What is interpreted in the botanical remains is a lack of evidence of human activity, in the vicinity of the contexts examined, which would preserve botanical material so often recovered from archaeological sites. There is a no evidence of charred cereals, with desiccated wild plants making up the only recovered remains. What does complement the interpretation is the aquatic species Montia fontana (blinks) and Lemna (duckweed) found within a number of ditches. This supports the use of these features as drainage for the surrounding field system. The limited artificial remains both in the soil samples and amongst those recovered on site, sustain the suggestion of little anthropogenic impact. The wild species recovered are indicative of an open landscape with limited scrub land, which could fit the margins of a field system.

7.6.3 Excavations in 2008 (Adams and Unger 2008) deals with a site in Town End, March. Town End is in close proximity to a Romano-British site north of March and it is likely the Roman activity there was contemporaneous with

activity uncovered at the Whitemoor site. It is clear from this site that archaeobotanical remains (Cereal, asparagus seeds, fruit stones) can be preserved from the area around March. In the case of the contexts examined here it could be suggested that the likelihood of recovering these useful archaeobotanical assemblages roughly correlates with the proximity of the context to the central area of the settlement, or structures. As the area being examined at Whitemoor is on the periphery of the Roman settlement it is therefore not unexpected to see such a sparse assemblage. The main anthropogenic impact in this case being the clearance of the open landscape and digging of drainage ditches.

7.6.4 The recovery of only one piece of pottery (less than 2cm in size) also supports the idea that there was no large settlement in close proximity to the area under investigation. Considering the large volumes of Roman pottery that can be recovered from even rural settlements the low quantities here may reflect that this area lay at the periphery of the main centres of domestic activity.

7.6.5 At this stage it is not recommended that further work be undertaken on the samples from this site. The positioning of the site does not seem related to any concentration of human activity. The preservation of wild plant remains appears to be generally poor and it is not likely that further work would reveal more information regarding the vegetational history of this site.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at Whitemoor Sidings, March, Cambridgeshire, 65 trenches were excavated, covering 6500m^2 of the proposed development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to provide a representative sample of the development area. Following the completion of the evaluation, a series of mitigation excavations were undertaken in order to further investigate and preserve by record archaeological features encountered during the evaluation. The significant archaeological features dated in the main to the Romano-British and modern periods, with a single feature being of possible prehistoric date.

8.2 ***Prehistoric Activity***: prehistoric activity on the site was confined to the identification of a pre-Romano-British ditch [343] that was located in the south-western part of the site. This feature is perhaps best understood in the context of Bronze Age linear features, associated pits and cremations which were recorded during an archaeological evaluation to the west of Hundred Road, March, immediately to the west of the current site (Hutton and Standring 2008). It is probable that the ditch represented an outlying element of this prehistoric activity. Similarly, north-west to south-east aligned Bronze Age ditches, pits and post holes were encountered to the east of the current site during an archaeological evaluation in advance of the redevelopment of the eastern part of the railway sidings (Hall 2004). Limited evidence for prehistoric activity has also been forthcoming from Norwood Road, March, to the south-west of the current site (Cooper 2007) and Jobs Lane, March, to the south (Adams and Unger 2008). The available evidence thus suggests that the higher land of March island was quite extensively exploited in the prehistoric period. However, it is likely that prehistoric activity was confined to the drier March gravels, whilst the heavier clays were avoided. This would explain the paucity of prehistoric features on the current site, much of the central and western part of which consists of glaciofluvial clays.

8.3 ***Romano-British:*** Romano-British features consisted of a series of pits that were located in the central part of the site, together with the substantial boundary features in the southern part of the site. There were also traces of Romano-British activity in the northern part of the site, with apparent Romano-British linear features being encountered in Trench 52. In addition, linear features in Trenches 57 and 46 may also have been of Romano-British date.

8.4 As with the prehistoric activity, the Romano-British activity observed on the current site should be viewed in the context of the wider landscape. Romano-British ditches have been located to the east of the current site (Hall 2004), to the south-west (Cooper 2007) and to the west of Hundred Road (Hutton and Standring 2008). At the latter site, additional features in the form of pits and a watering hole that had probably been re-dug on a number of occasions were similar to features observed in Area 32/35. Evidence of Romano-British rural settlement has been forthcoming from sites such as Wimblington Road (Cooper 2003) to the south and Longhill Road, March to the north-east (Atkins 2003). Both these sites, which lie respectively on the southern and north-eastern limits of March Island, have also provided evidence of Romano-British salt production. A clear picture is thus emerging of a Romano-British agrarian landscape, in which rectangular field systems bounded by drainage ditches flanked the route of the Fenland Causeway Roman Road and its subsidiary tracks.

8.5 The Area C excavation revealed a series of ditches which demonstrate the development of the Romano-British landscape. The most substantial ditch (333) contained ceramic material dating from the 1st-2nd century and to the 4th century, suggesting a long period of use. The size of the ditch indicated that this was a substantial boundary feature. The pottery evidence was insufficient to precisely date the sequence of ditches. However, the principal ditch (333) is the largest of the east-west features and runs unbroken across the site. This northerly ditch could be identified as far east as Trench 18, whilst no trace of the southern ditch (330) was identified to the east of Area 2. This would suggest that ditch (333) was the earliest feature in this area, with the southern ditches (300), (304) and (330) being added at a later date to form a T-junction. These ditches are indicative of a field system, which was established around an existing boundary ditch (333), also providing access tracks between the fields.

8.6 Interestingly, the northeast to southwest trackway corresponded to the alignment of the Fen Causeway Roman Road, and broadly followed the more southerly of the two routes projected from crop marks to the west of the site. The initial interpretation was that this trackway was indeed a section of the Fen Causeway Roman road, which was established in the 1st or early 2nd century AD (Fincham 1998, 26). However, reassessment of the Romano-British features excavated has led to the conclusion that the excavated remains are unlikely to represent the Fen Causeway Roman road as originally suggested. Instead they appear to be an agglomeration of later features, relating to the development of a Romano-British field system. The northern ditch in particular was more substantial than those usually associated with Roman roads. However, it is certainly possible that these

boundary features respected (and therefore may have post-dated) the alignment of the Fen Causeway Roman road.

8.7 ***Post-medieval:*** post-medieval features were limited to a system of drainage ditches and field drains that were encountered across the site. These clearly relate to the improvement and drainage of the land. They thus reflect the post-medieval agricultural usage of the site prior to the establishment of the marshalling yards in the 19th century.

8.8 ***Modern:*** modern archaeological features of interest were the remains of the infrastructure of the former railway marshalling yard. The remains of early trackbeds were noted at several locations, for example in Trenches 19, 64 and 5, and it is likely that these related to the earliest phases of development of the site in the latter part of the 19th century. However, these remains consisted only of the ash-filled impressions of uprooted railway sleepers, together with deposits of chalk bedding material. Indeed, it is notable that no in-situ rails or sleepers were encountered in any part of the site.

8.9 With the exception of the early track beds, the excavated and recorded railway features dated to the intensive and extensive development of the railway yards in the 20th century. Of particular interest were the two backfilled turntables and the inspection pits, but other railway features that survived below ground level included the remains of two trans-shipment sheds, administrative buildings, locomotive workshops and water tanks. In general, all the railway structures had been demolished down to foundation level and the associated machinery and fittings salvaged, so that there was very little diagnostic evidence left of their original functions.

8.10 Whilst a number of railway structures, notably the turntables, had been demolished and backfilled during the working history of the site, many others had been demolished after its closure. Both the blackout tunnel and the gravity hump control tower, for example are visible in footage of the yard taken in the 1980s. The necessary dismantling and clearance of the site after its closure is thus a timely reminder of the fragile survival and rapid decline that faces derelict industrial structures after they have outlived their usefulness.

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APPENDIX 1: TABLES

Table 4: List of Contexts issued during the Evaluation.

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 1		
100	Structure	Wall
101	Structure	Wall
102	Structure	Floor
103	Structure	Wall
104	Structure	Wall
105	Structure	Wall
106	Structure	Wall
107	Deposit	Floor
108	Structure	Wall
109	Structure	Wall
110	Structure	Wall
111	Structure	Wall
112	Structure	Floor
113	Structure	Wall
114	Structure	Wall
115	Structure	Wall
116	Deposit	Rubble
117	Structure	Floor
118	Structure	Wall
119	Structure	Concrete slab
120	Structure	Wall
121	Structure	Wall
122	Structure	Wall
123	Structure	Wall
124	Structure	Wall
125	Deposit	Rubble
126	Deposit	Rubble
127	Deposit	Modern backfill
Trench 2		
200	Deposit	Topsoil (0.10m)
201	Deposit	Subsoil (0.25m)
202	Deposit	Natural
203	Structure	Brick stanchion
204	Structure	Ceramic drain
205	Structure	Concrete stanchion
206	Cut	Modern pit
207	Deposit	Fill of 206
208	Cut	Modern pit

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 2		
209	Deposit	Fill of 208
210	Structure	Concrete duct
211	Deposit	Railway ballast
Trench 3		
300	Structure	Wall
301	Structure	Drain
302	Structure	Drain
303	Deposit	Bedding layer for 304
304	Structure	Flagstone floor
305	Structure	Concrete patch to 304
306	Structure	Brick floor
307	Deposit	Rubble
308	Structure	Concrete floor
309	Cut	Filled by 310
310	Deposit	Fill of 309
311	Cut	Filled by 312
312	Deposit	Fill of 311
313	Cut	Foundation cut for 315
314	Deposit	Backfill of 313
315	Structure	Wall
316	Structure	Wall
317	Structure	Wall
318	Deposit	Natural
319	Structure	Wall
320	Cut	Foundation cut for 319
321	Structure	Foundation raft
322	Cut	Foundation cut for 324
323	Deposit	Backfill of 322
324	Structure	Wall
325	Structure	Wall
326	Cut	Foundation cut for 325
327	Deposit	Backfill of 326
328	Cut	Foundation cut for 330
329	Deposit	Backfill of 328
330	Structure	Wall
331	Cut	Electricity cable cut
332	Cut	Electricity cable cut
333	Deposit	Topsoil (0.10m)
334	Deposit	Subsoil (0.25m)
335	Deposit	Backfill of 320
336	Deposit	Demolition Backfill
337	Structure	Wall

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 3		
338	Structure	Concrete platform
Trench 4		
400	Cut	Drain filled by 401
401	Deposit	Fill of 400
402	Structure	Brick soakaway
403	Cut	Drain filled by 404
404	Deposit	Fill of 403
405	Structure	Brick soakaway
406	Cut	Drain filled by 407
407	Deposit	Fill of 406
408	Deposit	Subsoil (0.15m)
409	Deposit	Topsoil (0.40m)
410	Deposit	Natural
Trench 5		
500	Deposit	Topsoil (0.10m)
501	Deposit	Clinker
502	Deposit	Clinker
503	Deposit	Hardcore
504	Deposit	Hardcore
505	Deposit	Bedding layer
506	Deposit	Clinker
507	Cut	Group no: Sleeper beds filled by 508
508	Deposit	Fill of 507
509	Cut	Drain filled by 510
510	Deposit	Fill of 509
Trench 6		
600	Deposit	Topsoil (0.35m)
601	Deposit	Natural
602	Deposit	Hardcore
603	Deposit	Clinker
Trench 7		
700	Deposit	Topsoil (0.10m)
701	Deposit	Subsoil (0.30m)
702	Cut	Ditch filled by 703
703	Deposit	Fill of 702
704	Cut	Ditch filled by 703
705	Deposit	Fill of 702
706	Cut	Ditch filled by 703
707	Deposit	Fill of 702
708	Structure	Wall
709	Structure	Wall
710	Structure	Concrete slab

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 7		
711	Deposit	Natural
Trench 8		
800	Deposit	Topsoil (0.25m)
801	Deposit	Subsoil (0.25m)
802	Deposit	Natural
Trench 9		
900	Deposit	Topsoil (0.10m)
901	Deposit	Subsoil (0.30m)
902	Deposit	Natural
Trench 10		
1000	Deposit	Topsoil (Information not available)
1001	Structure	Concrete floor
1002	Deposit	Bedding layer
1003	Deposit	Clinker
1004	Deposit	Hardcore
1005	Deposit	Levelling layer
1006	Deposit	Natural
1007	Cut	Filled by 1008
1008	Deposit	Fill of 1007
1009	Structure	Same as 1001
1010	Structure	Same as 1001
1011	Deposit	Hardcore
1012	Deposit	Natural
1013	Deposit	Subsoil
Trench 11		
1100	Deposit	Hardcore
1101	Deposit	Natural
1102	Deposit	Subsoil (0.18m)
Trench 12		
1200	Deposit	Topsoil (Information not available)
1201	Deposit	Subsoil (Information not available)
1202	Cut	Filled by 1203
1203	Deposit	Fill of 1202
1204	Cut	Filled by 1205
1205	Deposit	Fill of 1204
1206	Deposit	Possible road surface
Trench 13		
1300	Deposit	Topsoil (0.24m)
1301	Deposit	Subsoil (0.40m)
1302	Deposit	Natural
1303	Cut	ditch filled by 1304
1304	Deposit	Fill of 1303

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 13		
1305	Cut	Ditch
1306	Deposit	Fill of 1305
1307	Structure	Concrete floor
1308	Deposit	Fill 0f 1305
1309	Deposit	Fill 0f 1305
1310	Deposit	Fill 0f 1305
1311	Deposit	Fill 0f 1305
Trench 14		
1400	Deposit	Topsoil (0.30m)
1401	Cut	Ditch filled by 1402
1402	Deposit	Fill of 1401
1403	Deposit	Subsoil (0.20m)
1404	Deposit	Natural
Trench 15		
1500	Deposit	Topsoil (0.30m)
1501	Deposit	Subsoil (0.20m)
1502	Deposit	Natural
1503	Cut	Ditch filled by 1504, 1505
1504	Deposit	Upper fill of 1503
1505	Deposit	Basal fill of 1503
Trench 16		
1600	Deposit	Topsoil (0.50m)
1601	Deposit	Subsoil (0.25m)
1602	Deposit	Natural
1603	Deposit	Modern backfill
1604	Deposit	Fill of 1605
1605	Cut	Ditch filled by 1604
1606	Cut	Filled by 1607
1607	Structure	Concrete drain, fill of 1606
1608	Deposit	Buried soil
Trench 17		
1700	Deposit	Topsoil (0.40m)
1701	Deposit	Subsoil (0.25m)
1702	Deposit	Natural
1703	Cut	Filled by 1704
1704	Deposit	Fill of 1703
1705	Cut	Filled by 1706
1706	Deposit	Fill of 1705
Trench 19		
1900	Deposit	Topsoil (0.18m)
1901	Deposit	Subsoil (0.60m)
1902	Deposit	Fill of 1904

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 19		
1903	Deposit	Fill of 1904
1904	Cut	Filled by 1902, 1903, 1908
1905	Deposit	Natural
1906	Cut	Filled by 1907
1907	Deposit	Fill of 1906
1908	Deposit	Fill of 1904
Trench 20		
2000	Deposit	Topsoil (0.35m)
2001	Deposit	Subsoil (0.25m)
2002	Fill of 1904	Natural
2003	Cut	Ditch filled by 2004
2004	Deposit	Fill of 2003
2005	Deposit	Bedding layer
2006	Deposit	Levelling layer
2007	Deposit	Levelling layer
2008	Deposit	Levelling layer
2009	Deposit	Fill of 2010
2010	Cut	Ditch filled by 2009
2011	Deposit	Dump layer
2012	Deposit	Mound deposit
Trench 21		
2100	Deposit	Topsoil (0.81m)
2101	Deposit	Fill of 2104
2102	Deposit	Fill of 2104
2103	Deposit	Natural
2104	Cut	Filled by 2102, 2101
Trench 22		
2200	Deposit	Rubble backfill
2201	Structure	Turntable Wall
2202	Structure	Floor
2203	Deposit	Backfill of 2204
2204	Cut	Foundation cut
2205	Cut	Drain within 2207
2206	Cut	Drain within 2207
2207	Structure	Concrete Platform
2208	Structure	Timber supports (group no)
2209	Structure	Timber beams (group no)
2210	Structure	Openings within 2201 (group no)
2211	Structure	Concrete pads (group no)
2212	Structure	Iron fixings within 2211 group no)

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 22		
2213	Structure	Brick and concrete plinths (group no)
Trench 23		
2300	Deposit	Topsoil (0.10m)
2301	Deposit	Natural
2302	Deposit	Cinder/ Clinker
Trench 24		
2400	Deposit	Topsoil (0.36m)
2401	Deposit	Backfill
2402	Cut	Foundation cut
2403	Structure	Wall
2404	Structure	Wall
2405	Structure	Floor
2406	Deposit	Backfill
2407	Cut	Same as 2402
2408	Deposit	Backfill
2409	Cut	Foundation cut
2410	Structure	Wall
2411	Structure	Floor
2412	Structure	Wall
2413	Cut	Same as 2409
2414	Deposit	Backfill
2415	Cut	Foundation cut
2416	Structure	Wall
2417	Structure	Floor
2418	Structure	Wall
2419	Cut	Same as 2415
2420	Deposit	Backfill
2421	Cut	Foundation cut
2422	Structure	Wall
2423	Structure	Floor
2424	Structure	Wall
2425	Cut	Same as 2421
2426	Deposit	Backfill
2427	Deposit	Backfill
2428	Deposit	Backfill
2429	Cut	Foundation cut
2430	Structure	Wall
2431	Structure	Floor
2432	Structure	Wall
2433	Deposit	Backfill
2434	Deposit	Backfill

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 24		
2435	Cut	Same as 2429
2436	Deposit	Backfill
2437	Cut	Foundation cut
2438	Structure	Wall
2439	Structure	Floor
2440	Structure	Wall
2441	Deposit	Backfill
2442	Cut	Same as 2437
2443	Deposit	Backfill
2444	Cut	Foundation cut
2445	Structure	Wall
2446	Structure	Floor
2447	Structure	Wall
2448	Deposit	Backfill
2449	Cut	Same as
2450	Deposit	Backfill
2451	Cut	Foundation cut
2452	Structure	Wall
2453	Structure	Floor
2454	Structure	Wall
2455	Deposit	Backfill
2456	Cut	Same as 2451
2457	Deposit	Backfill
2458	Deposit	Subsoil
2459	Deposit	Natural
2460	Structure	Wall
2461	Cut	Foundation cut
2462	Structure	Foundation raft
2463	Deposit	Backfill
2464	Structure	Foundation raft
2465	Structure	Same as 2465
2466	Structure	Foundation raft
2467	Structure	Same as 2466
2468	Structure	Foundation raft
2469	Structure	Same as 2468
Trench 25		
2500	Deposit	Topsoil (0.30m)
2501	Deposit	Subsoil (0.20m)
2502	Deposit	Backfill
2503	Structure	Wall
2504	Structure	Floor
2505	Structure	Wall

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 25		
2506	Cut	Foundation cut
2507	Cut	Same as
2508	Cut	Filled by 2509
2509	Deposit	Fill of 2508
2512	Structure	Wall
2513	Structure	Wall
2514	Deposit	Natural
Trench 26		
2600	Deposit	Topsoil (0.35m)
2601	Deposit	Subsoil (0.40m)
2602	Cut	Ditch filled by 2603
2603	Deposit	Fill of 2602
2604	Deposit	Natural
Trench 27		
2700	Deposit	Topsoil
2701	Deposit	Subsoil
2702	Deposit	Natural
2703	Structure	Foundation raft
Trench 28		
2800	Deposit	Topsoil (0.20m)
2801	Deposit	Natural
2802	Structure	Concrete water tank
2803	Structure	Drain within 2802
2804	Deposit	Fill of 2803
2805	Deposit	Clinker/Hardcore
Trench 29		
2900	Deposit	Topsoil (0.25m)
2901	Structure	Wall
2902	Structure	Wall
2903	Structure	Floor
2904	Deposit	Rubble backfill
2905	Cut	Foundation cut
2906	Deposit	Chalk hardcore
2907	Cut	Foundation cut
2908	Structure	Wall
2909	Structure	Wall
2910	Structure	Floor
2911	Deposit	Rubble backfill
2912	Deposit	Chalk hardcore
2913	Number not assigned	
2914	Number not assigned	

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 29		
2915	Cut	Foundation cut
2916	Structure	Wall
2917	Structure	Wall
2918	Structure	Floor
2919	Deposit	Rubble Backfill
2920	Deposit	Backfill of 2905
2921	Deposit	Backfill of 2907
2922	Deposit	Backfill of 2915
2923	Deposit	Backfill of 2924
2924	Cut	Foundation cut
2925	Structure	Workshop floor
2926	Structure	Wall
2927	Structure	Wall
2928	Structure	Floor
2929	Deposit	Rubble backfill
2930	Structure	Workshop floor
2931	Structure	Wall
2932	Structure	Wall
2933	Structure	Floor
2934	Deposit	Rubble backfill
2935	Structure	Workshop floor
2936	Structure	Wall
2937	Structure	Wall
2938	Structure	Floor
2939	Deposit	Ballast backfill
2940	Structure	Workshop floor
2941	Structure	Wall
2942	Structure	Wall
2943	Structure	Floor
2944	Deposit	Ballast backfill
2945	Structure	Workshop floor
2946	Structure	Wall
2947	Structure	Wall
2948	Structure	Floor
2949	Deposit	Ballast backfill
2950	Structure	Workshop floor
2951	Structure	Concrete floor
2952	Number not assigned	
2953	Number not assigned	
2954	Structure	Drain
2955	Structure	Drain

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 29		
2956	Deposit	Natural
2957	Structure	Workshop wall
2958	Structure	Foundation raft
2959	Deposit	Hardcore
2960	Structure	Concrete floor
2961	Cut	Manhole within 2960
2962	Deposit	Backfill of 2961
Trench 30		
3000	Deposit	Topsoil (0.27m)
3001	Deposit	Dump deposit
3002	Deposit	Hardcore layer
3003	Deposit	Subsoil (0.24m)
3004	Cut	Foundation cut
3005	Structure	Wall
3006	Structure	Wall
3007	Structure	Floor
3008	Deposit	Rubble backfill
3009	Deposit	Backfill of 3011
3010	Deposit	Natural
3011	Cut	Foundation cut
3012	Structure	Wall
3013	Structure	Wall
3014	Structure	Floor
3015	Deposit	Backfill
3016	Deposit	Backfill of 3019
3017	Deposit	Backfill
3018	Deposit	Same as 3002
3019	Cut	Foundation cut
3020	Structure	Wall
3021	Structure	Wall
3022	Structure	Floor
3023	Deposit	Rubble backfill
3024	Deposit	Backfill of 3027
3025	Deposit	Backfill
3026	Deposit	Same as 3002
3027	Cut	Foundation cut
3028	Structure	Wall
3029	Structure	Wall
3030	Structure	Floor
3031	Deposit	Rubble backfill
3032	Deposit	Backfill of 3037
3033	Deposit	Backfill

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 30		
3034	Deposit	Backfill of 3045
3035	Structure	Concrete foundation raft
3036	Structure	Concrete foundation raft
3037	Cut	Foundation cut
3038	Structure	Wall
3039	Structure	Wall
3040	Structure	Floor
3041	Deposit	Rubble backfill
3042	Number not assigned	
3043	Deposit	Backfill
3044	Structure	Floor
3045	Cut	Foundation cut
3046	Structure	Wall
3047	Structure	Wall
3048	Structure	Floor
3049	Deposit	Rubble backfill
3050	Structure	Floor
3051	Deposit	Backfill
3052	Structure	Wall
3053	Structure	Concrete foundation raft
Trench 31		
3100	Deposit	Topsoil (0.75m)
3101	Deposit	Subsoil (0.34m)
3102	Deposit	Natural
Trench 32		
3200	Deposit	Natural
3201	Deposit	Topsoil (0.35m)
3202	Deposit	Subsoil
3203	Cut	Pit filled by 3204
3204	Deposit	Fill of 3203
3205	Cut	Pit filled by 3206
3206	Deposit	Fill of 3205
Trench 33		
3300	Deposit	Rubble backfill
3301	Structure	Wall
3302	Structure	Wall
3303	Structure	Floor
3304	Structure	Wall
3306	Structure	Drain
3306	Structure	Drain

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 34		
3400	Deposit	Subsoil
3401	Structure	Concrete floor
3402	Deposit	Natural
Trench 35		
3500	Deposit	Ashy clinker
3501	Deposit	Chalk hardcore
3502	Deposit	Topsoil (0.26m)
3503	Deposit	Subsoil (0.18m)
3504	Deposit	Fill of 3505
3505	Cut	Pit filled by 3504
3506	Deposit	Fill of 3507
3507	Cut	Pit filled by 3506
3508	Deposit	Fill of 3509
3509	Cut	Pit filled by 3508
3510	Deposit	Fill of 3511
3511	Cut	Pit filled by 3510
3512	Deposit	Fill of 3513
3513	Cut	Ditch filled by 3512
3514	Deposit	Fill of 3515
3515	Cut	Pit filled by 3514
3516	Deposit	Fill of 3517
3517	Cut	Pit filled by 3516
3518	Deposit	Natural
Trench 36		
3600	Deposit	Topsoil (0.41m)
3601	Deposit	Chalk hardcore
3602	Deposit	Natural
3603	Deposit	Modern made ground
Trench 37		
3700	Deposit	Topsoil (0.41m)
3701	Deposit	Subsoil (0.11m)
3702	Deposit	Natural
3703	Deposit	Chalk hardcore
Trench 38		
3801	Deposit	Topsoil (0.10m)
3802	Deposit	Modern made ground
3803	Deposit	Subsoil (information not available)
3804	Deposit	Natural
3805	Cut	Ditch filled by 3806, 3807
3806	Deposit	Basal fill of 3805
3807	Deposit	Upper fill of 3805

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 39		
3900	Deposit	Topsoil (0.10m)
3901	Deposit	Subsoil (0.38m)
3902	Deposit	Natural
3903	Deposit	Chalk hardcore
3904	Deposit	Chalk hardcore
3905	Deposit	Chalk hardcore
3906	Cut	Sleeper impressions
Trench 40		
4000	Deposit	Topsoil (0.30m)
4001	Deposit	Natural
4002	Deposit	Hardcore layer
Trench 41		
4100	Deposit	Topsoil (0.17m)
4101	Deposit	Natural
4102	Deposit	Subsoil (0.20m)
Trench 42		
4200		
4201	Structure	Turntable wall
4202	Structure	Turntable floor
4203	Structure	Bearing plinth
4204	Cut	Foundation cut
4205	Structure	Concrete rail fittings (group no)
4206	Structure	Iron fixing bolts (group no)
4207	Structure	Iron rails (group no)
4208	Structure	Concrete plinth
4209	Structure	Concrete plinth
4210	Structure	Iron fitting
4211	Structure	Iron fitting
4213	Structure	Concrete plinth
4214	Structure	Concrete plinth
4215	Structure	Holes within 4213 and 4214 (group no)
Trench 43		
4300	Deposit	Topsoil (0.30m)
4301	Deposit	Subsoil (0.34m)
4302	Deposit	Natural
Trench 44		
4400	Deposit	Topsoil (0.24m)
4401	Deposit	Subsoil (0.20m)
4402	Deposit	Natural
Trench 45		
4500	Deposit	Topsoil (0.20m)
4501	Deposit	Subsoil (0.20m)

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 45		
4502	Deposit	Natural
Trench 46		
4600	Deposit	Topsoil (0.35m)
4601	Deposit	Subsoil (0.38m)
4602	Cut	Ditch filled by 4603
4603	Deposit	Fill of 4602
4604	Cut	Ditch filled by 4605
3605	Deposit	Fill of 4604
4606	Cut	Re-cut of 4604
4607	Deposit	Fill of 4606
4608	Deposit	Natural
Trench 47		
4700	Deposit	Topsoil (0.25m)
4701	Deposit	Subsoil (0.25m)
4702	Deposit	Natural
4703	Deposit	Ashy clinker track bed
4704	Deposit	Gravity mound make-up
Trench 48		
4800	Deposit	Topsoil (information not available)
4801	Deposit	Gravity mound make-up
4802	Deposit	chalk hardcore
4803	Deposit	Ashy clinker track bed
Trench 49		
4900	Deposit	Topsoil (0.25m)
4901	Deposit	Subsoil (0.35m)
4902	Deposit	Natural
4903	Structure	Wall
4904	Structure	Wall
4905	Cut	Ditch filled by 4906
4906	Deposit	Fill of 4905
Trench 50		
5000	Deposit	Topsoil (0.25m)
5001	Deposit	Subsoil (0.35m)
5002	Deposit	Natural
Trench 51		
5100	Deposit	Topsoil (0.12m)
5101	Deposit	Subsoil (0.24m)
5102	Deposit	Natural
5103	Deposit	Upper fill of 5104
5104	Cut	Ditch filled by 5103, 5105
5105	Deposit	Basal fill of 5104

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 51		
5106	Deposit	Fill of 5107
5107	Cut	Ditch filled by 5106
Trench 52		
5200	Deposit	Topsoil (0.20m)
5201	Deposit	Natural
Trench 53		
5300	Deposit	Topsoil (0.17m)
5301	Deposit	Subsoil (0.15m)
5302	Structure	Wall
5303	Cut	Foundation cut for 5302
5304	Deposit	Backfill of 5303
5305	Structure	Concrete foundation raft
5306	Structure	Concrete stanchions
5307	Cut	Ditch filled by 5308
5308	Deposit	Fill of 5307
5309	Deposit	Natural
Trench 54		
5400	Deposit	Topsoil (0.40m)
5401	Deposit	Natural
5402	Structure	Wall
5403	Cut	Filled by 5404
5404	Deposit	Fill of 5403
5405	Structure	Concrete foundation raft
Trench 55		
5500	Deposit	Topsoil (0.35m)
5501	Deposit	Natural
Trench 56		
5600	Deposit	Topsoil (0.25m)
5601	Cut	Filled by 5602
5602	Deposit	Fill of 5601
5603	Cut	Filled by 5604
5604	Deposit	Fill of 5603
5605	Deposit	Natural
5606	Structure	Floor
Trench 57		
5700	Deposit	Topsoil (0.35m)
5701	Cut	Filled by 5702
5702	Deposit	Fill of 5701
5703	Cut	Drain filled by 5704
5704	Deposit	Fill of 5703
5705	Cut	Ditch filled by 5706
5706	Deposit	Fill of 5705

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 57		
5707	Cut	Drain filled by 5704
5708	Deposit	Fill of 5709
5709	Cut	Ditch filled by 5708
5710	Deposit	Upper fill of 5711
5711	Cut	Ditch filled by 5710, 5712
5712	Deposit	Basal fill of 5711
5713	Cut	Filled by 5714
5714	Deposit	Fill of 5713
5715	Structure	Concrete drain
5716	Deposit	Natural
Trench 58		
5800	Deposit	Topsoil (0.50m)
5801	Deposit	Subsoil (0.20m)
5802	Deposit	Natural
Trench 59		
5900	Deposit	Topsoil (0.30m)
5901	Deposit	Subsoil (0.50m)
5902	Deposit	Natural
Trench 61		
6100	Deposit	Topsoil (0.26m)
6101	Deposit	Subsoil (0.14m)
6102	Deposit	Natural
Trench 62		
6200	Deposit	Topsoil (0.45m)
6201	Deposit	Natural
6202	Deposit	Clinker
6203	Deposit	Re-deposited gravel
6204	Deposit	Subsoil
6205	Cut	Ditch filled by 6206
6206	Deposit	Fill of 6205
Trench 63		
6300	Deposit	Topsoil (0.13m)
6301	Deposit	Subsoil (0.42m)
6302	Structure	Wall
6303	Structure	Wall
6304	Deposit	Fill of 6305
6305	Cut	Ditch filled by 6304
6306	Deposit	Fill of 6307
6307	Cut	Ditch filled by 6306
6308	Deposit	Natural
Trench 64		
6400	Deposit	Topsoil (0.15m)

Context Number	Context Type	Description
Trench 64		
6401	Deposit	Hardcore
6402	Deposit	Bedding layer
6403	Deposit	Clinker
6404	Cut	Group no: Sleeper beds filled by 6404
6405	Deposit	Fill of 6404
6406	Deposit	Natural
Trench 65		
6500	Deposit	Topsoil (0.11m)
6501	Deposit	Subsoil (0.46m)
6502	Deposit	Natural

Table 5: List of Contexts issued during the Excavation.

Context Number	Context Type	Description
104	Cut	Pit filled by 105
105	Deposit	Fill of 104
120	Cut	Gully filled by 121
121	Deposit	Fill of 120
122	Cut	Pit filled by 123
123	Deposit	Fill of 122
124	Cut	Pit filled by 125
125	Deposit	Fill of 124
126	Cut	Pit filled by 127
127	Deposit	Fill of 126
128	Cut	Ditch master no.
130	Cut	Pit filled by 131
131	Deposit	Fill of 130
132	Cut	Pit filled by 133
133	Deposit	Fill of 132
140	Cut	Pit filled by 141
141	Deposit	Fill of 140
142	Cut	Pit filled by 143
143	Deposit	Fill of 142
144	Deposit	Fill of 145
145	Cut	Gully filled by 144
146	Deposit	Fill of 147
147	Cut	Pit filled by 146
148	Deposit	Fill of 149
149	Cut	Pit filled by 148
150	Cut	Pit filled by 151
151	Deposit	Fill of 150
152	Cut	Pit filled by 153
153	Deposit	Fill of 152
154	Cut	Pit filled by 155
155	Deposit	Fill of 154
156	Cut	Pit filled by 171
157	Cut	Pit filled by 160
158	Deposit	Fill of 159
159	Cut	Ditch filled by 158
160	Deposit	Fill of 157
161	Cut	Pit filled by 162
162	Deposit	Fill of 161
163	Cut	Ditch terminal filled by 164. Part of 128
164	Deposit	Fill of 163

Context Number	Context Type	Description
165	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 166. Part of 128
166	Deposit	Fill of 165
167	Cut	Pit filled by 168
168	Deposit	Fill of 167
169	Cut	Pit filled by 170
170	Deposit	Fill of 169
171	Deposit	Fill of 156
172	Cut	Pit filled by 193, 191, 190, 173
173	Deposit	Upper fill of 172
174	Cut	Pit filled by 175
175	Deposit	Fill of 174
182	Deposit	Fill of 183
183	Cut	Pit filled by 182
184	Deposit	Fill of 185
185	Cut	Pit filled by 184
186	Deposit	Fill of 187
187	Cut	Pit filled by 186
188	Cut	Pit filled by 189
189	Deposit	Fill of 188
190	Deposit	Fill of 172
191	Deposit	Fill of 172
193	Deposit	Basal fill of 172
250	Cut	Ditch filled by 251
251	Deposit	Fill of 250
252	Deposit	Subsoil
253	Deposit	Ash/clinker
300	Cut	Ditch master no.
301	Cut	Re-cut of 308. Filled by 203, 303
302	Deposit	Basal fill of 301
303	Deposit	Upper fill of 301
304	Cut	Ditch master no.
305	Structure	Railway building foundations
306	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 307. Part of 304
307	Deposit	Fill of 306
308	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 309. Part of 300
309	Deposit	Fill of 308
310	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 311. Part of 304
311	Deposit	Fill of 310
312	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 314, 313. Part of 300
313	Deposit	Basal fill of 312
314	Deposit	Upper fill of 312
316	Structure	Concrete surface. Same as 710

Context Number	Context Type	Description
317	Deposit	Upper fill of 357
318	Deposit	Modern topsoil
319	Deposit	Modern ash/clinker
320	Deposit	Fill of 357
321	Deposit	Fill of 357
322	Deposit	Fill of 357
324	Cut	Re-cut of 335. Filled by 325, 326, 327
325	Deposit	Basal fill of 324
326	Deposit	Secondary fill of 324
327	Deposit	Upper fill of 324
328	Deposit	Same as 327
329	Deposit	Fill of 357
330	Cut	Ditch master no.
331	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 332, 334. Part of 330
332	Deposit	Basal fill of 331
333	Cut	Ditch master no.
334	Deposit	Upper fill of 331
335	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 336, 337, 338. Part of 343
336	Deposit	Basal fill of 335
337	Deposit	Secondary fill of 335
338	Deposit	Upper fill of 335
340	Deposit	Fill of 344
341	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 342. Part of 343
342	Deposit	Fill of 341
343	Cut	Ditch master no.
344	Cut	Pit filled by 340
345	Deposit	Subsoil
354	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 361, 362, 363. Part of 300
355	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 376, 366, 367, 368. Part of 343
356	Deposit	Basal fill of 357
357	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 356, 321, 322, 320, 329, 317
361	Deposit	Basal fill of 354
362	Deposit	Secondary fill of 354
363	Deposit	Upper fill of 354
364	Cut	Re-cut of 354
365	Deposit	Fill of 364
366	Deposit	Fill of 355
367	Deposit	Fill of 365
368	Deposit	Upper fill of 355
369	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 375, 374, 373. Part of 333
373	Deposit	Upper fill of 369
374	Deposit	Secondary fill of 369

Context Number	Context Type	Description
375	Deposit	Basal fill of 369
376	Deposit	Basal fill of 335
377	Deposit	Upper fill of 381
381	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 380, 382, 378, 377. Part of 333
382	Deposit	Secondary fill of 381
390	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 391. Part of 419
391	Deposit	Fill of 390
392	Cut	Re-cut of 390. Filled by 393
393	Deposit	Fill of 392
398	Deposit	Topsoil
402	Deposit	Upper fill of 406
403	Deposit	Secondary fill of 406
404	Deposit	Basal fill of 406
406	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 404, 403, 402. Part of 333
407	Deposit	Modern topsoil
408	Deposit	Subsoil
409	Deposit	Upper fill of 411
410	Deposit	Basal fill of 411
411	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 410, 409. Part of 333
412	Deposit	Gravel surfacing
419	Cut	Ditch master no.
420	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 421. Part of 419
421	Deposit	Fill of 420
422	Cut	Ditch segment filled by 423. Part of 330
423	Deposit	Fill of 423
424	Structure	Railway Building
425	Structure	Concrete Foundation. Part of 424
426	Structure	Brick Surface. Part of 424
427	Structure	Manhole within 426
428	Structure	Concrete Beam. Part of 424
429	Structure	Brick and Concrete. Part of 424
430	Structure	Fe fittings within 429

Table 6

TABLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR: Whitemoor Sidings, Cambridgeshire, WYM-A

Sample	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Context	5307	5602	5604	5708	5706	5710	5712	5702	1604	1504	1505	1008	1402	1304	1306	1308	3204	3206	4603	4605	5104	5105	5106	4607	1205	704
Volume processed (litres)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Volume of retent(ml)	2000	3800	400	400	150	150	250	900	1500	1500	2300	3500	400	200	3500	400	1200	1800	5000	1000	200	1300	50	100	500	500
Volume of flot (ml)	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
Samples suitable for radiocarbon dating																										
Residue contents (relative abundance)																										
Bone/teeth, burnt bone																										3
Flint/chert	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Magnetic Residue	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	
Pottery								1																		
Stones/gravel		2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2
Snail shells				1				1			1			2	1				1						1	
Shells		2	1																1		1					
Slag		1	1			1	1		1	1			1		1					2						
Cinder					1	1																				
Wood and bark (waterlogged)									1																	
Modern roots										1	1															1
Flot matrix (relative abundance)																										
Charcoal		2	2			2	2		2				2	2	2	2	2			2	2			2		2
Modern roots	3	3		2	3	3	3		3	3	3	2	3			3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
Small twigs	2																									
Woody plant parts			3																							
Insect remains			1																				2			
Fragments of wood	1							3																		
Moss									2																	
Small snail shells			2	3				2	2		2			3	3				2			3	2		2	2
Cinder												3														
Plant remains (relative abundance)																										
Asteraceae sp. (sunflower family)																	A									
Carex sp. (sedge)									B																	
Chenopodioideae sp. (goosefoots)	C							D				B	B	B			B		A				B		B	A
Lemnoideae sp. (duckweed)				D		D		B														B				
Montia fontana (water chickweed)	B																	A								
Persicaria sp. (smartweeds)																							A			
Poaceae (Grasses)														B			A									
Polygonaceae sp. (knotweed family)	A																								A	
Ranunculaceae sp. (buttercup)																						B				
Rubus spp. (bramble berry family)		A																A								
Rumex sp.(docks)								A	B							A										
Sambucus nigra (elderberry)																			A							
Urtica urens (small Nettle)		A																								
Unidentified sp.																		1								

Table 7a

TABLE 7A: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR: Whitemoor Sidings, Cambridgeshire, WHY-B

Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Context	131	141	133	151	164	125	160	162	144	146	105	148	159	166	143	3206	127	190	193	191	173	153	203	184	189	182	302	303	307
Volume processed (litres)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Volume of retent(ml)	4800	2200	1500	1000	2200	2000	2200	800	1100	1100	2200	2300	1200	1000	3100	1500	900	200	4000	1000	1000	1700	2400	4700	100	1000	300	100	250
Volume of flot (ml)	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
Samples suitable for radiocarbon dating																													
Residue contents (relative abundance)																													
Bone/teeth, burnt bone					1														1										
Burnt clay														1															
Charcoal				1									1																
Flint/chert	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Magnetic Residue	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stones/gravel	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sea shell									1										2	1									
Modern roots													1	1		1		1					1		1		1		1
Cinder													1																1
Slag																													1
Small snail shell																													
Wood and bark (waterlogged)																													
Flot matrix (relative abundance)																													
Charcoal			2	2				2	2	2				2			2	2					2	2		2	2	2	2
Modern roots	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Small twigs	2																												
Woody plant parts																													
Insect remains	1										2												1	2		1	1		
Fragments of wood											2																		
Moss												2																	
Small snail shells					1														3		2	2			2				
Leaf litter																													
Plant remains (relative abundance)																													
Amaranthaceae sp. (amaranth family)		A																								A			
Asteraceae sp. (sunflower family)																													
Atriplex sp. (saltbush)																													
Carex sp. (sedge)																										B			
Chenopodioideae sp. (goosefoots)	C	B		B	B	B	A		C	A		B	D	C	B	B	C	A			B	B	E	B	B	B	B		
Galium sp.(bedstraw)																													
Lathyrus sp. (vetchlings)																													
Montia fontana (water chickweed)						B						A			A	A	B	B		A		B	B	A	B	B			
Malvaceae sp. (mallow family)									A	A	A																		
Rubus spp. (bramble berry family)													B													A			A
Rumex sp.(docks)													B																
Silene sp. (carnation family)	A				B		A																						
Sambucus nigra (elderberry)													A								A								
Urtica dioica (stinging nettle)	A			A																									A
Unidentified sp.					1																								

Table 7b

TABLE 7B: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS FOR: Whitemoor Sidings, Cambridgeshire, WHY-B

Sample	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	42	43	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	53
Context	192	311	251	314	313	317	332	340	349	348	360	368	325	327	373	374	375	366	376	393
Volume processed (litres)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Volume of retent(ml)	1000	50	1500	100	200	150	50	900	800	350	500	150	100	50	1500	200	1000	250	1500	150
Volume of flot (ml)	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
Samples suitable for radiocarbon dating																				
Residue contents (relative abundance)																				
Bone/teeth, burnt bone																				
Burnt clay																				
Charcoal														1						
Flint/chert	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Magnetic Residue	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
Stones/gravel	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Sea shell			2														1			
Modern roots		1	1		1	1			1	1	1			1				1		
Cinder																				
Slag																				
Small snail shell				2					1								1			
Wood and bark (waterlogged)			1							1										
Flot matrix (relative abundance)																				
Charcoal		2						2					1	1	1					
Modern roots	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	3
Small twigs																				
Woody plant parts																				
Insect remains				1	1			1			2	2								
Fragments of wood																				
Moss																				
Small snail shells			2	2			2	2	2		2						2	3		
Leaf litter																				
Plant remains (relative abundance)																				
Amaranthaceae sp. (amaranth family)																				
Asteraceae sp. (sunflower family)					A	A										A				
Atriplex sp. (saltbush)										A										
Carex sp. (sedge)																				
Chenopodioideae sp. (goosefoots)			A						A	A					A	B		A	A	
Galium sp.(bedstraw)									A											
Lathyrus sp. (vetchlings)								A												
Montia fontana (water chickweed)																				
Malvaceae sp. (mallow family)																				
Rubus spp. (bramble berry family)										A										
Rumex sp.(docks)																				
Silene sp. (carnation family)																				
Sambucus nigra (elderberry)																				
Urtica dioica (stinging nettle)					B															
Unidentified sp.																				

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES