ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT BACKGATE COWBIT LINCOLNSHIRE COBG11

Work Undertaken For
Ashley King Developments

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

QUALITY CONTROL

BACKGATE
COWBIT
LINCOLNSHIRE
(COBG11)

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire, in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.

The area is archaeologically sensitive, located close to the medieval core of Cowbit and within an area rich in archaeological remains of Late Iron Age and Romano-British date. Fieldwalking and geophysical survey had previously recovered Romano-British pottery from the surface of the adjacent field and identified anomalies within the site itself which were thought likely to be of archaeological origin.

Evaluation of the site has identified archaeological remains of Iron Age to Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. The Roman deposits relate to domestic or agricultural use associated with nearby settlement. Pottery, animal bone, a triangular loomweight were among the artefacts of Iron Age to Roman date recovered, along with possible Roman wall plaster.

Roman pottery from features close to the Backgate frontage is characteristic of high status dining. If the wall plaster is of Roman date a building of some stature is likely to the source.

At the southwest corner of the site Roman deposits are likely to be associated with a small Roman settlement in the adjacent field to the south, first identified during fieldwalking undertaken in 2001.

Medieval and post medieval deposits include features which probably formed part of a wider system of land division comprising closely spaced west to east aligned ditches.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate'* (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Ashley King Developments to undertake archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development on land at Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire. The Planning Archaeologist of Lincolnshire County Council had advised that a pre-determination programme of trial trenching was required to inform on the archaeological implications of development at the site.

The evaluation was undertaken between the 10th and 19th July 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Cowbit is located approximately 8km south of Spalding in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire (Figure 1).

The investigation area lies approximately 500m southeast of Parish Church of St. Mary, Cowbit (Figure 2). The site forms an approximately 1.3 hectare area located west of Backgate, centred at National Grid Reference TF2651 1785, at a height of

around 3m OD.

Local soils are of the Stockwith Series, comprising silty over clayey calcareous alluvial gley soils. (Robson 1990, 28). The landscape is generally level but some very low undulations indicating the lines of former creek systems are visible in the general area (Hayes and Lane 1992, Figure 107).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

This area of the Fenland has been examined during two major archaeological surveys, those undertaken by Hallam as part of a study of the Roman Fenland (Hallam 1970) and more recently by Hayes and Lane (1992) as part of the Fenland Survey. Therefore, a well defined picture of the changing settlement patterns, environmental change and local topography has been established.

Cowbit parish is located at the junction of the silty clays of Deeping Fen and the so-called Wash silts. It lies on the wide levees of a prehistoric course of the river Welland.

The pre-Flandrian ground surface lies buried beneath a sequence of peats and silts deposited during the Holocene. The earliest deposits are peats deposited in freshwater conditions at around 6000BP. Three further organic horizons are known within a predominantly elastic sequence of clay, silt and fine sand (Shennan and Alderton 1994). Surface deposits at the site comprise silts or very silty clays deposited within a salt marsh environment. Traces of a possible broadly northwest-southeast trending extinct saltmarsh creek were noted on the site.

Numerous Iron Age and Roman pottery scatters were found in the Wash during the Fenland Survey (Hayes and Lane 1992). Subsequently, one saltem, at Tollbar Drove, 1.8km northeast off Backgate, was excavated and the second of three phases of saltmaking was dated by radiocarbon to 195-95ca1 BC (Lane 2000). Closer to the proposed development, Roman settlements and salterns are known some 0.6km to the southeast (Hayes and Lane 1992, fig. 107). Recently, Roman settlement features were recorded during development some 300m to the south (Rayner 2003) (Figure 8).

The site was included within a larger area subject to non intrusive geophysical survey and fieldwalking undertaken by Archaeological Project Services in 2001 (Lane 2001). The fieldwalking identified a distinct and relatively dense cluster of Roman-British pottery sherds in the field immediately to the south of the area of proposed trenching. An area of dark soil visible on an aerial photograph coincides with the scatter. The soil mark continues southwards into another area of known Roman settlement, little more than 300m distant.

The geophysical survey of the site identified a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin within the area of proposed trenching, including linear trends which it was thought might represent enclosure ditches or field boundaries, and also a number of discrete features which may have resulted from archaeological disturbance.

Archaeological evaluation undertaken along Curlew Drive approximately 100m to the south found no archaeological features of Roman date although pottery was noted in the area (Malone 2002)

More recent investigations undertaken in advance of the construction of the A1073 realignment identified a Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement within 250m to the east of the proposed development (Peachey 2011). A possible building of beam slot construction was identified associated with relatively high status pottery. Evidence of salt making in the form of briquetage fragments was also

recovered.

Evidence for further 1st to 2nd century Roman occupation in the area, along with evidence for iron smithing activity, was identified during recent archaeological monitoring at the southern end of Backgate (Mellor 2009).

Cowbit village evolved in the 13th century near the junction of the drove road leading to the fen from Spalding, and Stone Gate, the third in the series of early medieval fen banks which protected the silt land towards Spalding from the winter floods (Hayes and Lane 1992, 174).

The church of St Mary which dates from *c.* 1400 is likely to mark the centre of the historic village and is located approximately 500m to the northwest of the application area at the junction of Stonegate and the old A1073 on Barnack Road. St. Mary's Church is believed to have been built by Prior de Moulton of Spalding in *c.* 1400, though possible remains of an earlier church may be found in enormous stones reused in the south porch walls and the heads from a corbel table reused in the chancel roof (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 235).

Cowbit is first referred to in 1267 as *Coubiht*, from the Old English *cū* meaning '*a cow*' and '*byht*' meaning a bend, a '*bight*'. This gives a topographical derivation denoting a bend in the River Welland that partially encloses pasture for cows (Cameron 1998, 34).

The western part of the parish lies in Cowbit Wash, an area of Washland formed during deliberate repositioning of the river Welland in the mid 17th century.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information for the Planning Archaeologist to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological remains present on the site and to establish whether further archaeological excavation is required to preserve the archaeological resource by record.

The objectives of the work were to:

- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Trial trenching was used to determine the location, nature and density of archaeological features present on the site.

The trial trenching arrangement and layout had been specified in the brief prepared by the Planning Archaeologist of Lincolnshire County Council as twelve trenches, each 20m long and 1.60m wide, with up to 40m

of additional trenching being reserved for the further investigation of significant features or areas. These twelve trenches were targeted on anomalies of possible archaeological origin identified in previous geophysical survey of the site (Lane 2001).

The trenches were positioned using a Thales Z-Max GPS and a Geodolite Total Station.

Trench 1, at the east of the site, was reduced in length to 12.4m to avoid damage to a large concrete manhole.

The extra trenching allocation was utilised to clarify the nature of several features and deposits, and to slightly extend trenches where partial features were exposed. The eastern end of Trench 10, southern ends of Trenches 11 and 6, and western end of Trench 8 were extended to expose the full width of ditches identified in these trenches. A small right-angled projection was opened in Trench 12 to clarify the form and nature of archaeological features here (Figure 3). An additional trench (13) was located close to Trenches 11 and 7.

Removal of overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision using a toothless ditching bucket.

The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 1 was a layer of soft light yellowish-brown laminated alluvial silt (117=104).

An elongated oval feature [100] was located in the eastern half of this trench. It was 1.46m long and 0.39m wide, although was unexcavated and of uncertain nature. At the machined surface it contained a fill of soft light to mid greyish-brown silt (101).

Features [109] & [118]

Deposits at the western end of this trench were investigated, and comprised at least two separate features, [109] and [118] (Plates 2 & 3).

Possible pit [109] was not fully exposed in plan but was over 0.94m by over 0.50m wide and 0.40m deep with moderately steep, gently concave sides. The earliest excavated fill of this feature was (110), a light to mid brownish-grey silt, apparently formed by gradual silting, perhaps in wet conditions. Sealing this was (111), a dark blackish-grey charcoal-rich silt, perhaps a mixture of silt deposited in wet environment and dumped domestic waste.

Pottery retrieved from feature [109] comprised 47 sherds of Romano-British pottery of Mid 3rd to Late 3rd century date (Beeby, Appendix 2). Much of this material is highly abraded and the average sherd weight low. Despite this the pottery also has a homogeneous date range suggesting a similar period of deposition.

The assemblage of charred plant remains retrieved from processing of an environmental sample from fill (111) pit [109] is almost certainly indicative of crop processing (Fryer, Appendix 3). However, the use of crop processing waste of a fuel is known during the period and the sample also contained shell fragments, over fifty pieces of small mammal bone and also bird and amphibian bone. Objects which may be semi-mineralised peas\pulses were also retrieved.

Truncating pit [109] was a wider feature [118] (Plates 2 & 3). This was over 5m by over 1.5m wide and 0.39m deep. It contained a mid to light grey silt (105), sealed by a mottled mid grey and orange-brown silt (112).

Twenty sherds of Romano-British pottery of similar date to that from Pit [109] were retrieved from the fills of this wider feature. Three pieces were from (105) and represent surface finds from cleaning or machining. The other twenty were recovered from an environmental sample from context (115).

A piece of plaster was also retrieved from context (115) and indicates the presence of a building if the context is securely Roman.

A sherd of 13th to 14th century medieval pottery was recovered from this trench during machining and is thought to derive from either the surface of (105) or (112). This, along with the small sherd size and the abraded character of the ceramics does leave open the possibility that the Roman material is residual.

Recent features and deposits

A north-south aligned ceramic drain [102] was recorded near the centre of Trench 1, whilst a further service [106] at the west end of the trench aligned on a concrete manhole.

A 0.46m thick topsoil of dark grey silt (114) with occasional pebbles was recorded in Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

Natural alluvium in this trench comprised a soft light yellowish to pinkish silt (210)

Ditch [202]

A 2m wide north-south aligned probable ditch [202] was identified near the centre of Trench 2, but was unexcavated (Plate 4). It contained a soft dark bluish-grey silt (203) from which eight sherds of third century pottery and several fragments of animal bone were recovered.

Features [211] & [204]

The edge of an amorphous feature [211] or features of uncertain nature was identified a short distance to the north of ditch [202]. This feature [211] was over 2.30m by over 0.36m wide, extending beyond limit of excavation. It contained a soft mid to dark grey silt (208).

Feature [211] was clearly truncated by [204], a north-south aligned pit or ditch terminus, which was over 1.80m long, 1.50m wide and over 0.19m deep with a rounded end at the north, moderately steep concave sides and a flat to gently concave base (Plates 4 & 5). It contained a fill of mid greyish-brown mottled silt (205) from which two sherds of mid 2nd to late 3rd century pottery were recovered.

Recent features and deposits

A 0.55m wide square feature [206] at the west end of Trench 2 contained brick structure 207. Although this was of uncertain nature it was most likely related to a former service.

A north-south aligned service trench near the eastern end of Trench 2 [200] aligned with a concrete manhole to the south.

Topsoil (209) comprised a soft dark grey silt with occasional pebbles.

Trench 3 (Figure 4)

Alluvial silt in Trench 3 was soft light yellowish-brown with 'rusty' and greyish mottles (301).

Ditch [309]

A 2.94m wide north-south aligned ditch [309] was recorded in this trench. It was unexcavated but contained fills of light grey and light yellowish-brown silts (306, 307 & 308), some of which contained occasional snails shells, at the machined surface (Plate 6).

Post hole [304] and animal grave [302]

A 0.16m by 0.17m wide square post hole [304] was recorded near the western end of Trench 3. This was unexcavated but its character was consistent with a recent date. It contained a soft dark to mid grey silt with light yellow mottles (305).

Approximately 0.40m west of post hole [304] was a northwest-southeast aligned elongated feature [302]. This was over 0.83m long and 0.45m wide with a rounded end at southeast, extending beyond limit of excavation to northwest. This was unexcavated, but contained a patchy soft dark to mid grey, light grey and light yellow mottled silt (303), within which frequent animal bones were evident, a sample of which were collected and which indicate the burial of a sheep or goat (Cope Faulkner, Appendix 2) in recent times. Fill (303) appeared to comprise a mixture of redeposited natural (301) and redeposited topsoil (300), probably indicating the rapid deliberate backfilling of a grave.

Feature [311]

A patch of burnt wood (310), probably marking the location of a bonfire, was recorded at the eastern end of this trench. This deposit was contained within an amorphous cut which extended beyond limit of excavation, but was over 0.35m by over 0.20m wide. Deposit (310) was unexcavated.

Topsoil (300) was a soft mid greyish-brown (darker where moist) silt with rare fragments of ceramic building material.

Trench 4 (Figure 4)

Alluvium here comprised a soft mid orange-brown silt with light greyish-brown mottles (402).

A single 1.16m wide northeast-southwest aligned ditch [403] was recorded in Trench 3. This contained fill (404), a soft light grey silt with orange-brown patches (Plate 7).

Topsoil in this trench (401) comprised a soft mid greyish-brown silt.

Trench 5 (Figure 4)

Alluvium to topsoil deposit sequence

A sondage was opened by machine in Trench 5 to test the sequence and character of alluvial deposits in this area of the site (Plate 8).

The earliest deposit encountered was (502), a soft mid grey, variously brownish-grey, yellowish-grey, grey and greyish-blue clay with moderately frequent thin laminations of light whitish-yellow silt, with distinct blue clay horizon near top of deposit.

Sealing this was (501), soft light yellowish-brown with light grey mottles silt with thin laminations, many of more grey material. This deposit had occasional intrusive lenses of mid grey silt resulting from bioturbation from topsoil (500) and occasional intrusive lenses of light grey silt, presumably from more ancient

bioturbation, and was 0.60m thick

Silt (501) was of broadly the same composition alluvium encountered at the machined level in each of the thirteen trenches.

Topsoil in Trench 5 was a 0.34m thick soft mid greyish-brown (dark where moist) silt with rare tiny coal fragments,

Trench 6 (Figure 5)

Alluvial silt (602) was recorded at the machined surface of this trench, and comprised a soft light yellow, light grey and light orangey-brown silt which was approximately 0.45m thick.

Excavation of features in this trench allowed layer (602) to be bottomed, and beneath this was (612), a soft mid greyish-brown silty clay, which was over 0.20m thick

Ditch [603]

A ditch [603] was investigated at the southern end of this trench. This was southeast-northwest aligned, 2.40m wide and 0.32m deep with a gently concave base (Plate 10).

The earliest fill of [603] was (604), a soft 0.21m thick light brownish-grey silt which had probably formed by gradual silting in base of ditch. Sealing this was (605), a 90mm thick soft dark blackish-grey organic-rich silt with a peaty character indicating a vegetation layer formed when the ditch was open and subsequently buried, probably having been both formed and buried in moist conditions. Fill (614) sealed this, and was a soft light yellowish-brown 50mm thick silt with pinkish-grey mottles. This fill appeared to be very similar to natural silt (602) and may have represented a slump in from the sides of ditch or a flooding episode following vegetated phase represented by (605). Above this was (615), a 70mm thick soft mid to dark grey silt, possibly reflecting gradual silting of ditch at the end of its use.

Ditch [607]

East-west aligned ditch [607] was 1.74m wide and 0.70m deep. Its sides were stepped at the top, with a steep slope below this becoming near-vertical nearer to its base with an indistinct but flattish base (Plate 9).

The earliest fill of ditch [607] was (608), a 50mm thick soft mid brownish-grey silt with frequent tiny black flecks, perhaps representing silting along with decayed organic matter from vegetation within the ditch. Sealing this was (609), a 0.19m thick soft mid to light mottled orange-brown and light to mid grey silt with occasional charcoal. This fill may have been formed by gradual silting over time, including some redeposited natural silts perhaps washed or slumped in from the sides of the ditch.

A change of slope in the profile of the ditch above fill (609) may indicate a re-cut at this level, although this was uncertain. Above this was (610), a 0.29m thick soft mid to dark grey silt with mid orange-brown mottles and occasional black flecks. The grey colouration may indicate some organic inclusion, perhaps from degraded vegetation within the ditch.

The latest excavated fill of ditch [607] was (611), a 0.30m thick soft mottled light yellowish-brown, mid orange-brown, light grey and mid to dark black patchy silt. This fill included laminated patches, perhaps indicating water inundation, the ditch perhaps having become infilled through flooding.

Topsoil (600) was a soft dark greyish-brown silt with occasional white flecks and black flecks, possibly of charcoal and fired clay.

Unstratified finds from Trench 6 include a sherd of 16th century pottery.

Trench 7 (Figure 5)

Machining revealed that Trench 7 was positioned along the length of an infilled east-west ditch [702], with natural alluvial deposits only being visible within a machine-dug sondage near the centre of this trench.

Naturally-deposited clay (700) was a firm light grey layer, which was sealed by (701), a soft light pinkish-grey laminated alluvial silt, which was over 0.24m thick

Ditch [702] was over 1.50 wide and contained several fills of silt and clayey silt, which are detailed in Appendix 1. The continuation of this ditch was also identified in Trench 13, and a section across it was recorded in Trench 11 (Figure 7), where the fill sequence was more clearly evident.

A topsoil of soft dark greyish-brown silt sealed the fills of ditch [702].

Trench 8 (Figure 5)

Naturally-deposited clay was identified in the deeper hand excavations in this trench, and comprised a firm to moderately soft mid orange-brown with mid grey mottles silty clay (803). Sealing this was (802), a friable mid orange-brown silt with light greyish-brown mottles.

Ditch [804]

A north-south aligned ditch [804] was excavated at the western end of Trench 8. This was 2.00m wide and 1.04m deep with moderately steep to near-vertical slightly stepped sides and a concave base (Plate 12).

Its earliest fill (808) was a 0.18m thick friable light brown silt with orange-brown mottles, probably formed by gradual silting in moist conditions. Sealing this was (807), a 0.30m thick firm light grey clayey silt with orange-brown mottles, also probably formed by gradual silting in wet conditions. Nine sheds of 3rd century pottery were retrieved from (807), including a large piece of a double handled flagon (Drawing 1, Appendix 2) which is likely to represent primary deposition within the ditch and therefore a degree of secure dating. Processing of environmental samples from this ditch recovered seeds indicative of seasonal or possibly semi-waterlogged conditions in the ditch.

Above this was (811) a friable light greyish-brown silt with orange-brown mottles which was 0.23m thick and was probably formed by gradual silting within the ditch including redeposited natural slumped in from sides. Fill (806) was a 0.10m thick firm to friable light grey slightly clayey silt with orange-brown mottles, which may have been the same as fill (811). Sealing (806), fill (810) was a 90mm thick friable very dark black silt, either containing dumped charcoal, perhaps dumped hearth waste or organic material, possibly representing a buried vegetation layer within ditch [804] (Plate 12). Two further fills (818) and (809) of greyish-brown and orange-brown mottled silts were recorded within ditch [804], and these may represent the final silting up of the now-disused ditch.

Features [815] & [816]

Two amorphous features [815] and [816] were recorded at the eastern end of Trench 8.

Feature [815] was over 5.12m by over 0.80m wide and 0.19m deep with moderately steep to gently sloping irregular sides and a moderately flat to gently concave base. The interpretation of this was uncertain, but may have been an irregular pit or perhaps a naturally-formed hollow subsequently used for the casual disposal of waste (Plate 11). The earliest

excavated fill of [815] was (814), a 60mm thick moderately firm to moderately soft mid greyish-brown clayey silt with orange-brown mottling and moderately frequent mottles of light yellowish silt. This deposit may have been water-lain or at least deposited in moist conditions. Sealing this was (813), a 0.15m thick friable light greyish-brown silt with orange-brown mottles, also possibly laid down in wet conditions. The latest excavated fill was (812) a very dark brown to black silt, which was 0.11m thick. This appeared to be a dumped deposit, probably of hearth waste mixed with some gradual silting. A single sherd of late 2nd-mid 3rd century pottery was recovered from deposit (812).

What was possibly a similar feature [816] extended beyond the eastern end of this trench, and was over 1.40m by over 1.25m wide. This was unexcavated but contained a soft light grey silt (817).

Topsoil (801) was a 0.36m thick friable mid to dark brown silt.

Trench 9 (Figure 5)

Alluvium (901) in this trench was a soft light yellowish-brown silt.

A single ditch was identified [907], which was east-west aligned and 1.80m wide (Plate 13). This was probably a continuation of ditches [607] and [1018] and was unexcavated (Figure 7).

Fills of soft mid grey silt with brown, yellow and bluish-grey mottles were recorded at the edges of this ditch (902 & 906). Within these fills were soft light grey silts with yellow and bluish-grey mottles (903 & 905). At the centre of ditch [907] was fill (904), a soft mid grey silt with brown, yellow and bluish-grey mottles.

Topsoil (900) was 0.35m thick soft mid brownish-grey silt.

Trench 10 (Figure 6)

Alluvium (1002) was a soft light orange silt with brown, white and yellow mottles.

Ditch [1003], linear features [1009], [1010] & [1013]

At the northeastern end of Trench 10 was a northwest-southeast aligned ditch [1003] which had moderately steep sides, possibly convex near top and concave below and a concave base (Plate 16). A distinctive feature of this ditch was that some of its fills (1012) and (1010) apparently extended continuously beyond the southwestern edge of the ditch, to form layers which extended over a wider area. The earliest excavated fill of [1003] was (1004), a 0.15m thick soft light grey silt with orange mottles and occasional clayey laminations especially near the base of this deposit. This fill may have formed through gradual silting in wet conditions. Sealing this, (1005) was a 0.13m thick friable light to mid grey silt with lens of redeposited natural (1002). This seemed to represent gradual silting and also included redeposited natural silt washed in from the sides of the ditch. The next fill of [1003] was (1011), a soft light grey silt which was up to 0.10m thick. This formed a continuous layer beyond the edges of ditch [1003], apparently forming a buried soil layer (Plate 16). Above this, and also occurring within and beyond the edge of ditch [1003] was (1012), a 80mm thick friable light yellowish-orange silt with grey mottles. The composition of this layer was similar to natural alluvial silts at the site and might potentially represent a flooding event but this was uncertain. Sealing deposit (1012) within ditch [1003] was (1006), a 70mm soft dark black slightly clayey silt. This highly organic fill apparently represented vegetation within ditch [1003] which was subsequently buried and preserved. Above this was (1007), a 0.11m thick soft light to mid brownish-grey silt with light yellowish and pinkish-brown mottles. This fill may

reflect relatively rapid burial of fill (1006), possibly through deliberate backfilling, although possible rudimentary laminations within (1007) may indicate deposition due to raised water level. The latest recorded fill of [1003] was (1008), a 0.25m thick soft mid greyish-brown silt with orange-brown mottles, probably resulting from gradual silting.

Just to the southwest of ditch [1003] was a parallel linear feature [1009], a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature which was over 1.00m long, 0.14m wide and at least 80mm deep with steep and straight sides and a flat to concave bas (Plates 15 & 16). This was filled by deposit (1011), the possible buried soil layer which also formed fills of both ditch [1003] and linear [1010].

Approximately 1.50m southeast of [1009] was a similar and parallel feature [1010], this was over 1.00m long, 0.11m wide and at least 80mm deep with steep, straight sides and a flat to concave base (Plates 15 & 16), and was again apparently filled by deposit (1011).

Features [1009] and [1010] were very similar to one another and were probably associated. The interpretation of these features is far from certain, but they could potentially be a pair of wheel ruts. Alternatively, the relatively straight sides and bases of these features could suggest some structural association, although the dearth of artefacts from this part of Trench 10 argues against this, unless a fence of palisade is represented.

A third parallel small linear feature [1013] was also identified a short distance to the southwest, although this was slightly larger than [1009] and [1010]. Linear [1013] was over 1.50m long, 0.22m wide and 0.20m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Plate 16), but was of uncertain interpretation. It contained fill (1014), a 0.20m thick soft light grey silt which was of very similar composition to (1011). Sealing this was fill (1015), a 70mm thick soft light yellow silt, which was of very similar compositon to (1012).

The similarities of alignment and in the fills of features [1009], [1010] and [1013] suggest that these may be contemporary, although this is uncertain.

Ditches [1016] and [1018]

A northwest-southeast aligned ditch [1016] was identified near the centre of Trench 10, and was over 1.50m long and 0.80m wide (Plate 14). It contained (1017), a soft light grey silt.

This ditch was apparently truncated by an east-west aligned ditch [1018]. This ditch was over 3.10m long and 1.36m wide (Plate 14), and was probably a continuation of ditches [907] and [607] identified in other trenches (Figure 7). It contained fills of grey silt with occasional fired clay and charcoal (1019), (1020) and (1021). A sherd of Mid 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered from (1019) as well as single piece of Late 18th century date.

Topsoil (1001) was a 0.35m thick soft mid brownish-grey silt with occasional pebbles.

Trench 11 (Figure 6)

A moderately firm mid grey and bluish-grey mottled clay (1103) was the earliest identified naturally deposited layer in this trench. Sealing this layer was (1102), a 0.65m thick soft light to mid yellowish-brown alluvial silt with grey and orange mottles.

A single ditch [1104] was identified in this trench. As it was thought to be of recent date, a machine slot was excavated across this ditch in order to record its profile (Plate 17). Ditch [1104] was east-west aligned, 4.95m wide and over 0.95m deep with fairly gently sloping sides near top and moderately steep sides below. Despite

machine excavation this ditch was not bottomed in order to maintain a safe working depth within the trench. This ditch was apparently the same as that encountered in Trenches 7 & 13, as [702] and [1304].

The earliest fill of this ditch was (1105), a 0.21m thick soft mid bluish-grey silt, the colour and composition of this deposit indicating deposition in wet, anaerobic conditions. Sealing this, fill (1106) was a dark brownish-black peaty silt which was over 0.29m thick, and which probably represented buried vegetation layer. Fill (1107) was a mid brown silt with dark brown and light yellowish mottled. The mottled nature of this deposit might indicate that it represents material deliberately backfilled within the ditch, although this is uncertain. The latest fill of [1104] was (1109), a soft mid greyish-brown silt with moderately frequent burnt wood flecks especially in upper part of deposit. This deposit probably represents the final gradual silting of ditch but may include some deliberate backfilling. A sherd of Late 18th century drinking bowl or cup with a blue hand painted design was recovered from context (1109)

A 0.35m thick topsoil of soft mid greyish-brown silt (1101) sealed the fills of ditch [1104].

Trench 12 (Figure 6)

Alluvium in Trench 12 was (1201), a soft light yellowish-brown silt with small light grey mottles.

Features [1202] & [1208]

An eastnortheast-westsouthwest aligned amorphous elongated lozenge-shaped feature [1202] was over 4.00m long, over 1.55m wide and 0.34m deep. It had fairly gently sloping sides which were slightly steeper towards its gently concave base (Plates 18, 19 & 20). This feature was of uncertain interpretation. It may have been man-made although could perhaps have been naturally-formed in wet conditions. In either case it appeared to have been used for the casual disposal of domestic waste. The earliest clear fill of [1202] was (1204) a soft light pinkish grey silt with orange mottles and moderately frequent 'rusty' mottles, which was difficult to distinguish from alluvium (1201). This deposit might represent the initial silting within feature [1202] in wet conditions. Sealing this was (1205), a soft light bluish-grey silt with moderately frequent 'rusty' mottles, the composition of which suggested that was formed through natural silting, possibly in a wet environment. Fill (1203) was a 20mm thick soft mid bluish-grey silt with black flecks and mottles with frequent burnt wood fragments. This deposit contained much charcoal and charcoal-rich silt, and probably represents detritus food processing or cooking activities of some kind (Fryer, Appendix 3). Numerous fish and small mammal bones were recovered from processed environmental samples and the abundant charcoal retrieved indicated the use of wood or wood\charcoal as fuel. Unfortunately dateable ceramics were not recovered from this feature although a few fragments of fired clay were recovered. However, loomweight of Iron Age or Roman type was recovered from nearby feature 1208 which contained very similar fills to [1202] (see below).

Sealing (1203) this was (1213), a 20mm thick soft mid grey and bluish-grey silt with laminations implying fluctuating water levels and possibly flooding. The latest excavated fill of [1202] was (1206), a light pinkish-brown silt with occasional 'rusty' mottles and occasional mid grey mottles intrusive from topsoil (1200) through bioturbation. This probably formed thorough gradual silting in wet conditions.

Immediately to the south of feature [1202] was a second similar feature [1208] (Plates 18 & 20). This second amorphous lozenge-

shaped feature was 2.50m long and over 0.88m wide. This was extremely similar to [1202] and the sequence of fills evident at the machined surface in both was apparently near-identical, indicating that these features were probably directly contemporary. A silt deposit (1207) apparently formed the earliest fill of both features, and it may be that a single feature is represented. However as the extent of (1207) was uncertain due to its similarity to alluvium (1201) and [1208] remained unexcavated, this was uncertain. Deposit (1207) was a soft light yellow and pinkish-grey mottled silt with moderately frequent 'rusty' mottles. This was possibly the earliest fill of both [1202] and [1208], although might represent leaching and staining of alluvium (1201) from the proximity of the fills of [1202] and [1208]. Deposit (1207) was probably the same as fill (1204).

As [1208] was unexcavated the sequence of fills was unclear, although in plan these appeared to be very similar to the sequence of fills within [1202], and most fills of [1208] had clear equivalents in [1202]. The fills of [1208] are detailed in Appendix 1. Among these was deposit (1211) from which a fired clay triangular loomweight (Plate 1, Appendix 2) with wear from a suspension cord at its apex was recovered. This is of a type common in Iron Age and early Roman contexts.

Feature [1224]

A further amorphous feature [1224] was recorded at the west end of Trench 12. This was of uncertain shape, over 2m by over 1.60m wide and may perhaps have been of a similar character to [1202] and [1208], although this was uncertain. It contained various fills of grey to pinkish silts, some of which contained burnt wood flecks (1225), (1226) & (1227).

Ditches [1214] and [1220]

A northwest-southeast aligned ditch was recorded at the east end of Trench 12 (Plate 18). This was 2.08m wide and unexcavated, but contained various fills of grey silt at the machined surface, some of which contained occasional snail shell (1215), (1216), (1217), (1218) and (1219). These fills are detailed in Appendix 1.

Less than 2m to the west of ditch [1214] was a further ditch [1220]. This was northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned and 1.78m wide but was also unexcavated. It contained various fills of grey silt which are detailed in Appendix 1 (1221), (1222) & (1223).

Topsoil in Trench 12 was a 0.45m thick soft (firm when dry) mid greyish-brown (mid to dark where moist) silt.

Trench 13 (Figure 6)

Natural alluvium (1302) was a soft light orange-brown with light greyish-brown mottles silt.

A single feature [1304] was identified in this trench, a continuation of the ditch also identified in Trenches 7 & 11 as [702] and [1104] (Figure 7).

This east-west aligned ditch [1304] was over 0.60m wide and contained a mid to dark brown silt with occasional shell (1303).

Topsoil (1301) was a 0.35m thick friable mid greyish-brown silt.

6. DISCUSSION

The various fine grained naturally derived alluvial silts and clays recorded across the site which are stratigraphically earlier than the archaeological remains represent deposition in a tidal environment and date to a major marine incursion which probably occurred during the Late Bronze Age (Hayes and Lane 1992)

The earliest archaeological remains at the site are of the Iron Age to Romano British periods and are, in the main, likely to date to the second and third centuries AD. These mainly comprise ditches and pits recorded across the site but concentrations of Roman deposits appear to be at the southwest corner and east end of the area of investigation, at least in terms of artefact recovery.

Iron Age to Roman artefacts retrieved from the site included pottery, fired clay, animal bone, a loomweight and possible wall plaster. These indicate domestic activities associated with settlement on, or close to, the site. Analysis of environmental samples indicates cooking or food processing activities and probably processing of arable crops. It is possible that ditch [804] in Trench 8 has remained partially waterlogged since the Roman period. However, there is evidence to suggest that much of the Roman material in Trench 1 may be residual.

It is likely that the features and deposits of Roman date recorded at the southwest corner of the area of investigation are associated with a small settlement marked by a scatter of pottery identified during fieldwalking in the adjacent field to the south (Lane, 2001). The 3rd century artefacts and deposits recorded in trenches adjacent to Backgate probably relate to a separate settlement. In general the evidence appears characteristic of disposal of domestic and agricultural waste from nearby settlement. The pottery from Trench 1 is suggestive of high status dining, which may account for the presence of the piece of wall plaster which could only derive from a building of some stature, although the dating of this plaster is uncertain.

Other undated ditches recorded across the site may be of Roman date.

The ditch recorded on Trenches 10, 9 and 6 is probably of medieval or later date, whilst a further parallel ditch recorded in Trenches 11, 13 & 7 was of post-medieval to recent date. Neither of these ditches is depicted on early Ordnance Survey maps. However, the alignment of these features matches those extant along Backgate and it seems probable these ditches were decommissioned in post-medieval to recent times to create a larger parcel of land.

Anomalies thought to represent archaeological features on the geophysical survey undertaken in 2001 were not present and it is thought that these probably relate to natural differentiation with the natural silts on the site.

7. CONCLUSION

Trial trenching at Backgate Cowbit has recovered evidence for domestic settlement of Roman date on, or close to, the site. Material suggestive of a high status 3rd century Roman settlement was recovered in the trenches adjacent to Backgate. Deposits of Roman date concentrated at the southwest corner of the site are probably associated with a small farmstead in the adjacent field to the south.

Evidence from environmental samples indicates possible crop processing, food processing or cooking activities and the presence of waterlogged organic material.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Ashley King Developments who commissioned this investigation. The work was co-ordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

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Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor
CAD Illustration: Vicky Mellor
Post-excavation analysis: Vicky Mellor & Dale Trimble

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)

OS Ordnance Survey

Figure 1 General location map

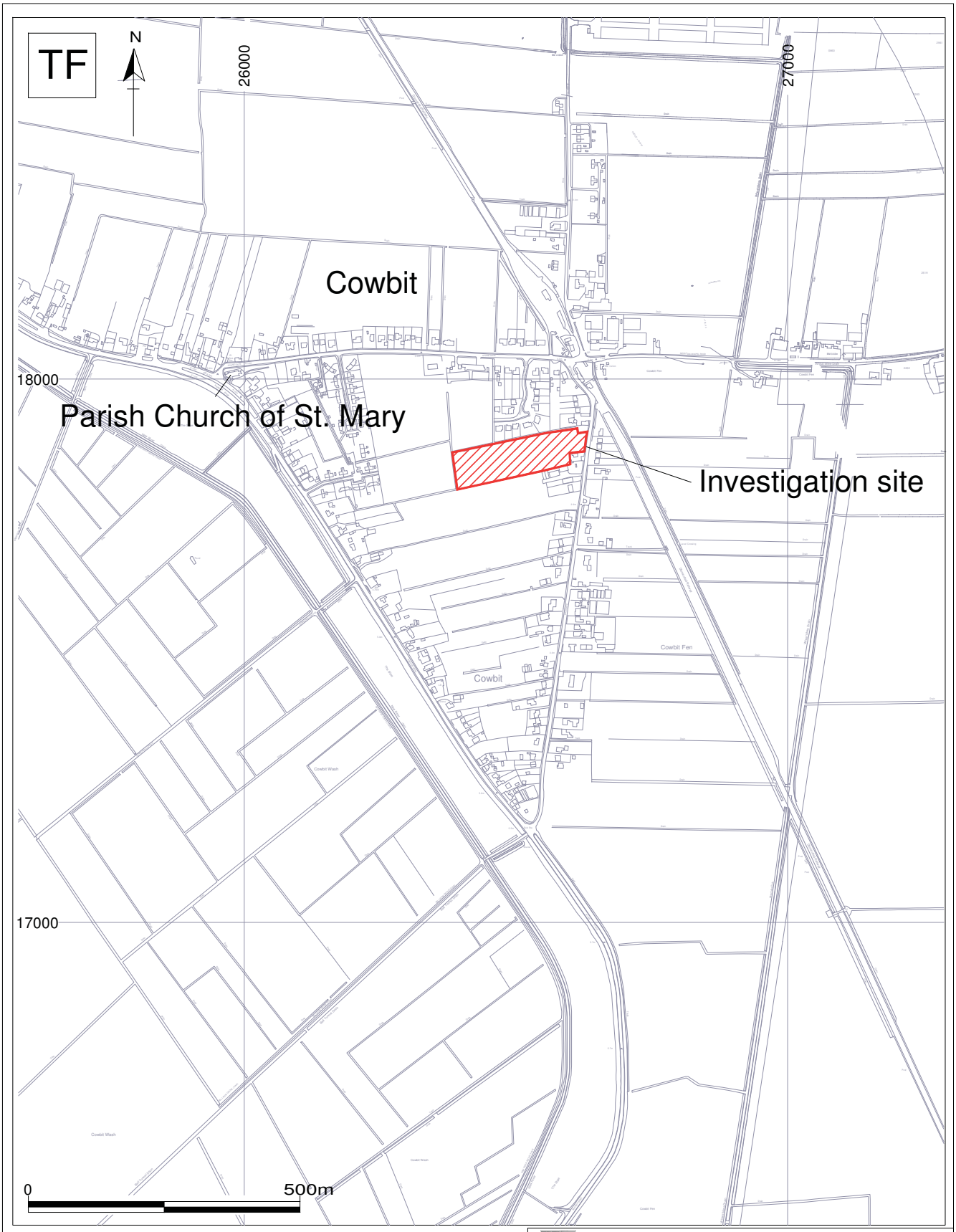

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Figure 2 Site location

Figure 3 Trench location plan

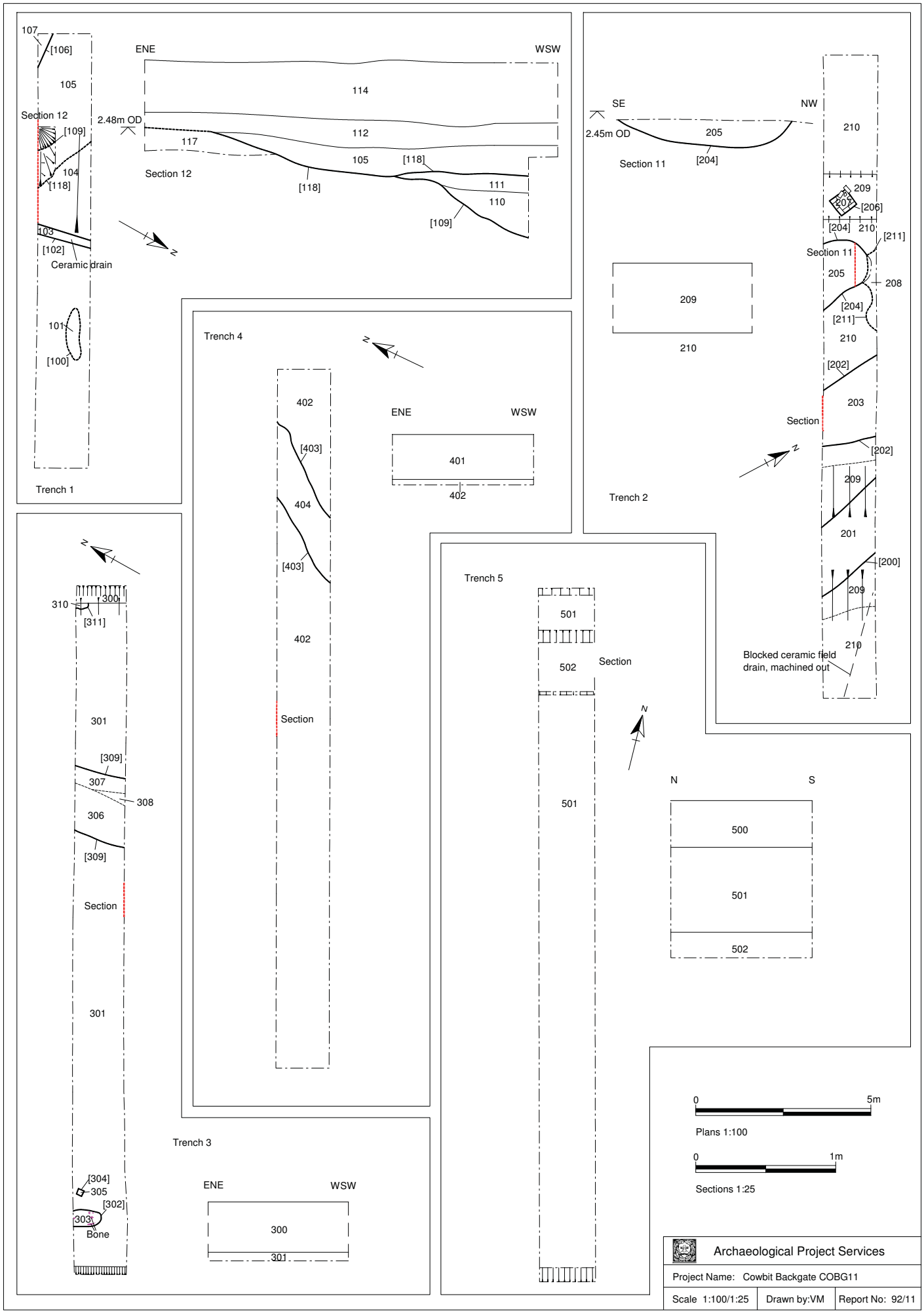


Figure 4 Plans and sections, Trenches 1-5

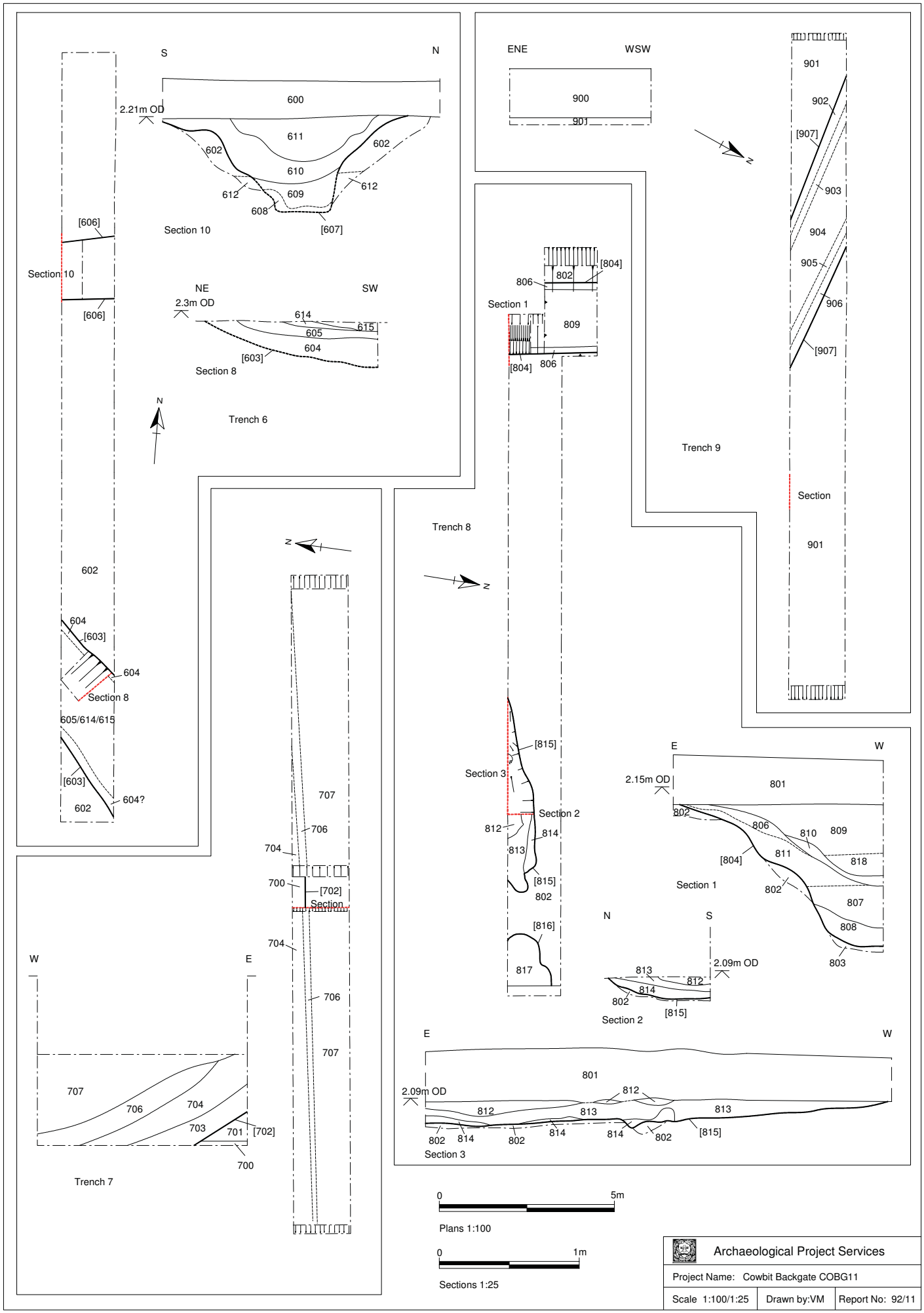


Figure 5 Plans and sections, Trenches 6-9

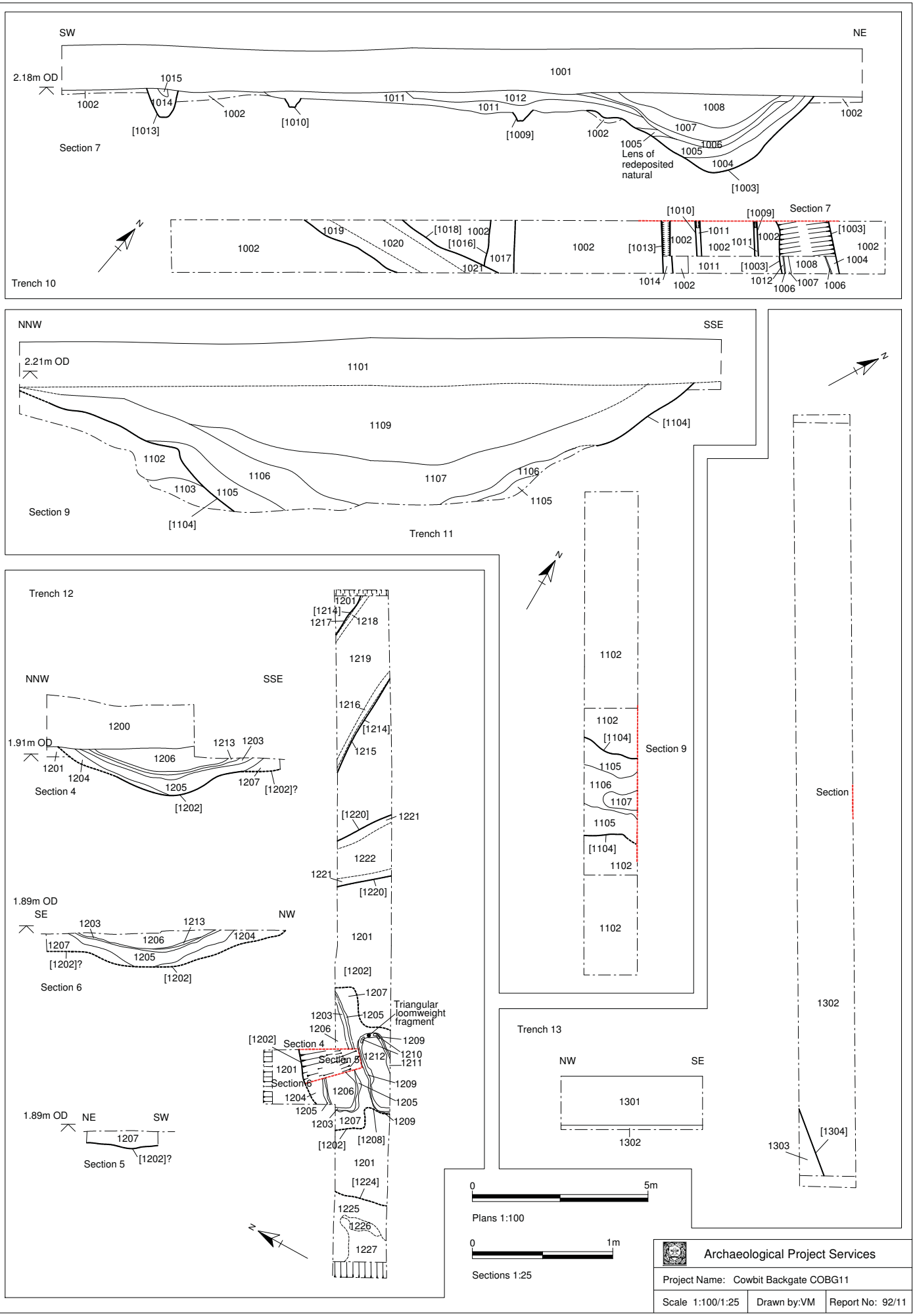


Figure 6 Plans and sections, Trenches 10-13

Figure 7 Trench plan showing archaeological features

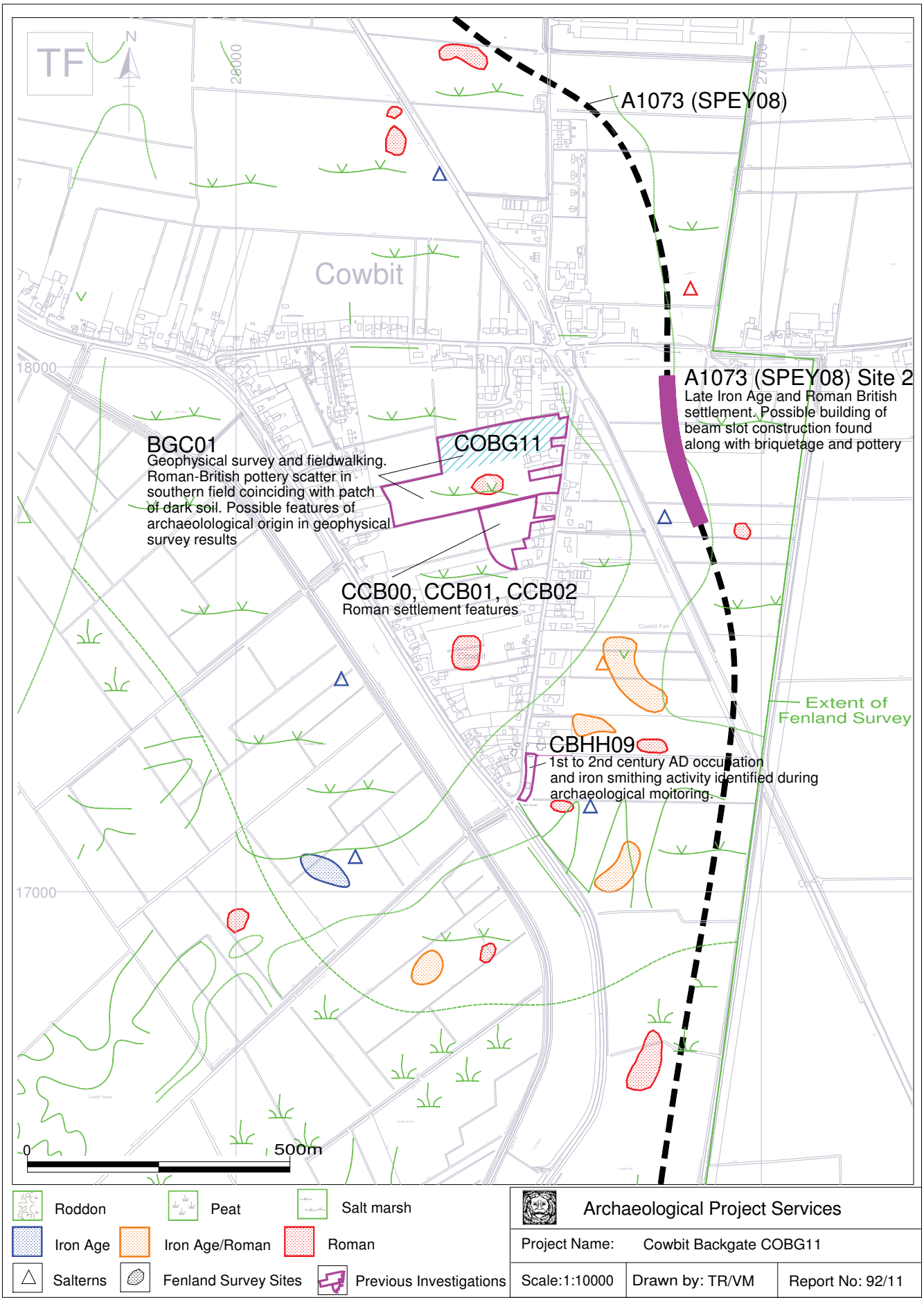


Figure 8 Selected known Iron Age and Roman archaeological sites in vicinity of Cowbit (after Hayes and Lane 1992, Malone 2002, Mellor 2010, Peachey 2011 & Rayner 2003)

Plate 1 General view of site from southwest corner of field, looking eastnortheast

Plate 2 Trench 1, possible pit [109] and wide feature [118], Section 12, looking southeast

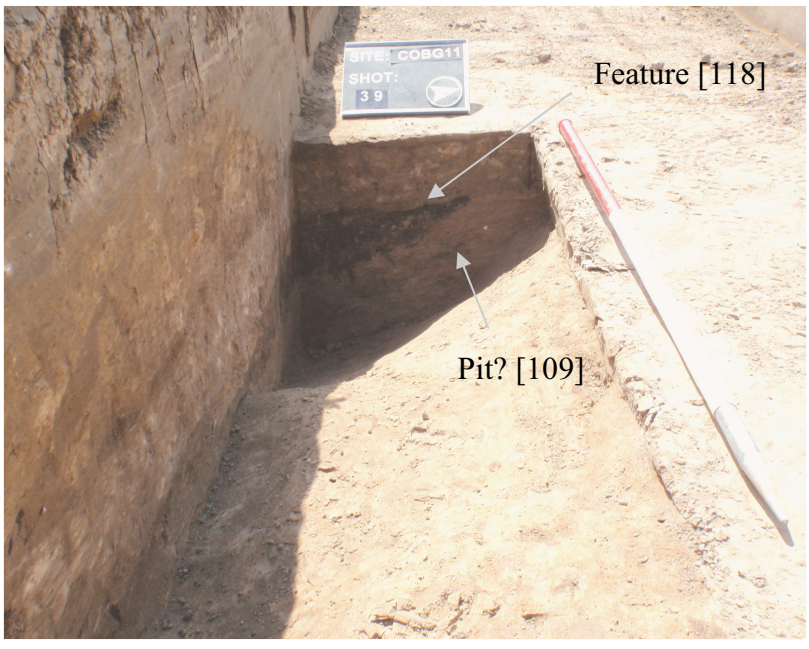


Plate 3 Trench 1, possible pit [109] truncated by wide feature [118], looking southwest

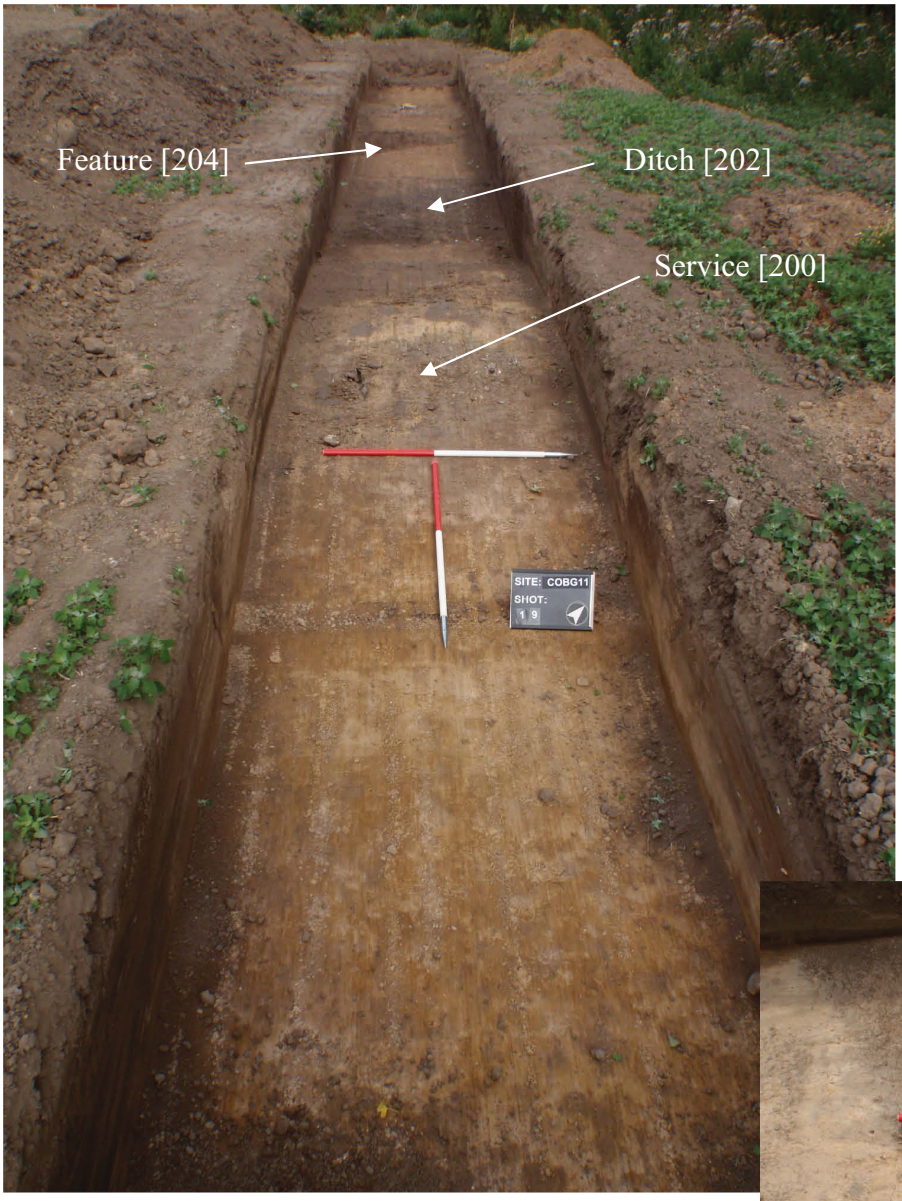


Plate 4 Trench 2, general view of trench, looking northwest

Plate 5 Trench 2, feature [204], Section 11, looking south

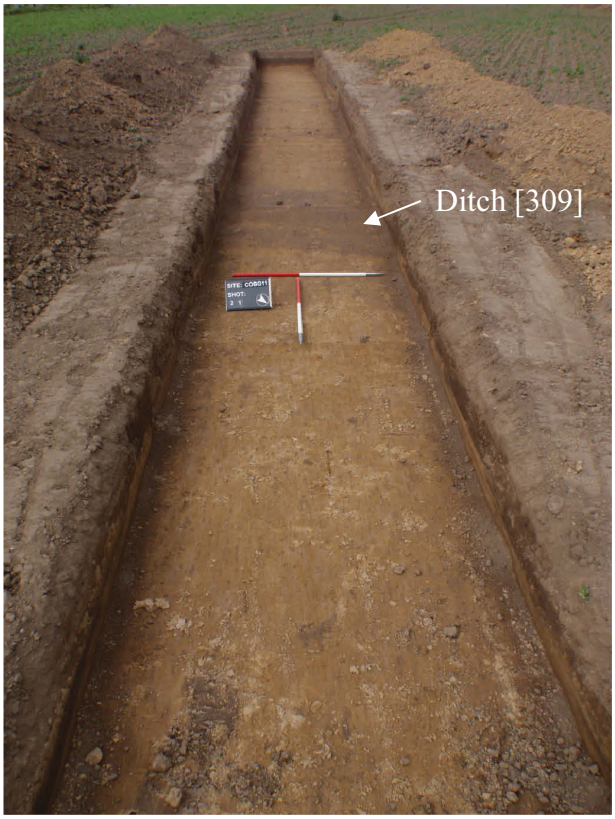


Plate 6 General view of Trench 3, looking southeast

Plate 7 General view of Trench 4, looking west

Plate 8 Trench 5, Representative section showing alluvial deposits, looking east

Plate 9 Trench 6, ditch [607], Section 10, looking west

Plate 10 Trench 6, ditch [603], Section 8, looking northwest

Plate 11 Trench 8, feature [815], Section 2, looking east

Plate 12 Trench 8, ditch [804], Section 1, looking south

Plate 13 General view of Trench 9, looking northeast

Plate 14 General view of Trench 10, looking northeast

Plate 15 Trench 10, linear features [1010] and [1009], Section 7, looking northwest

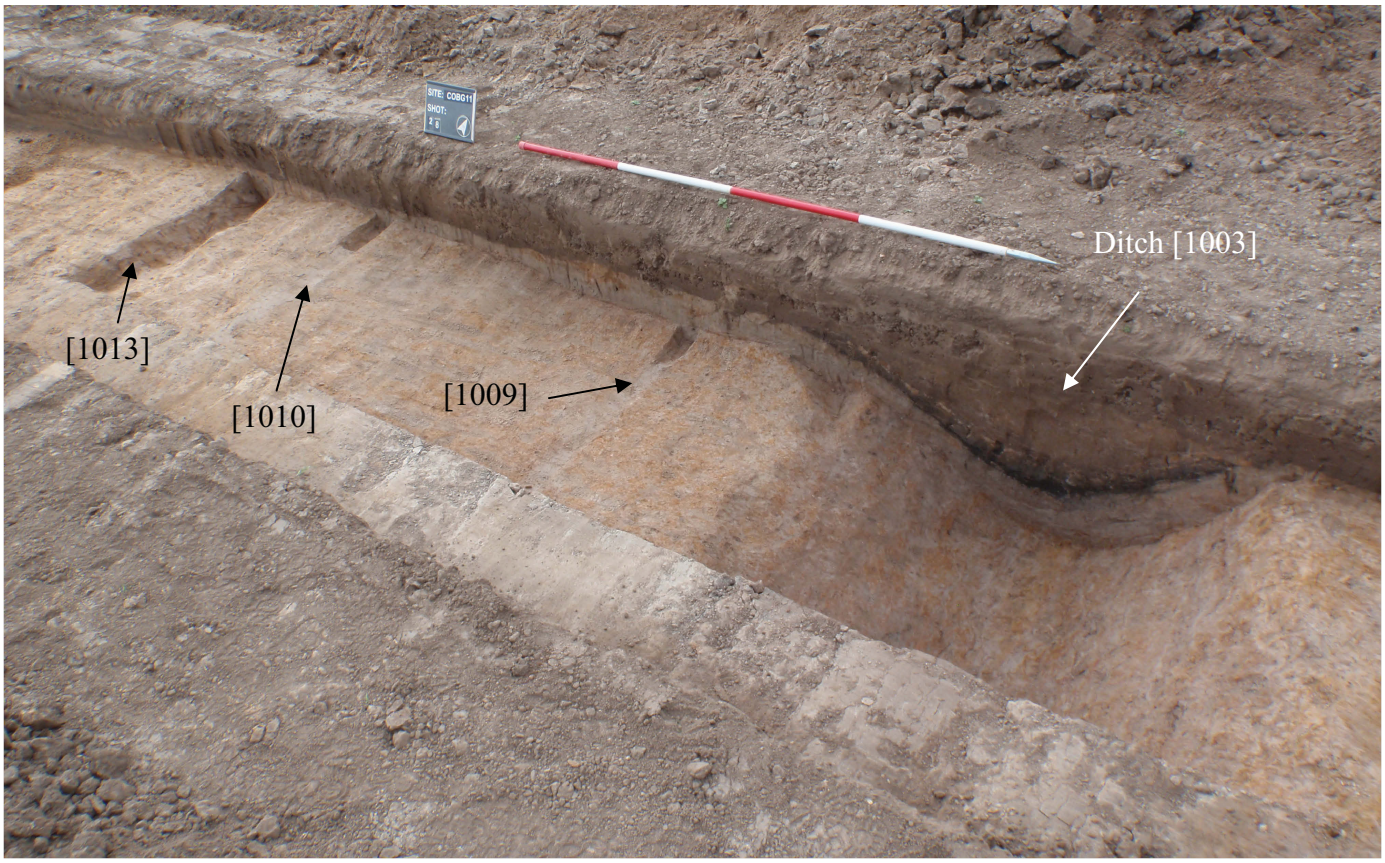


Plate 16 Trench 10, ditch [1003] and linear features [1013], [1010] and [1009], Section 7, looking northwest

Plate 17 Trench 11, Ditch [1104], Section 9, looking northeast

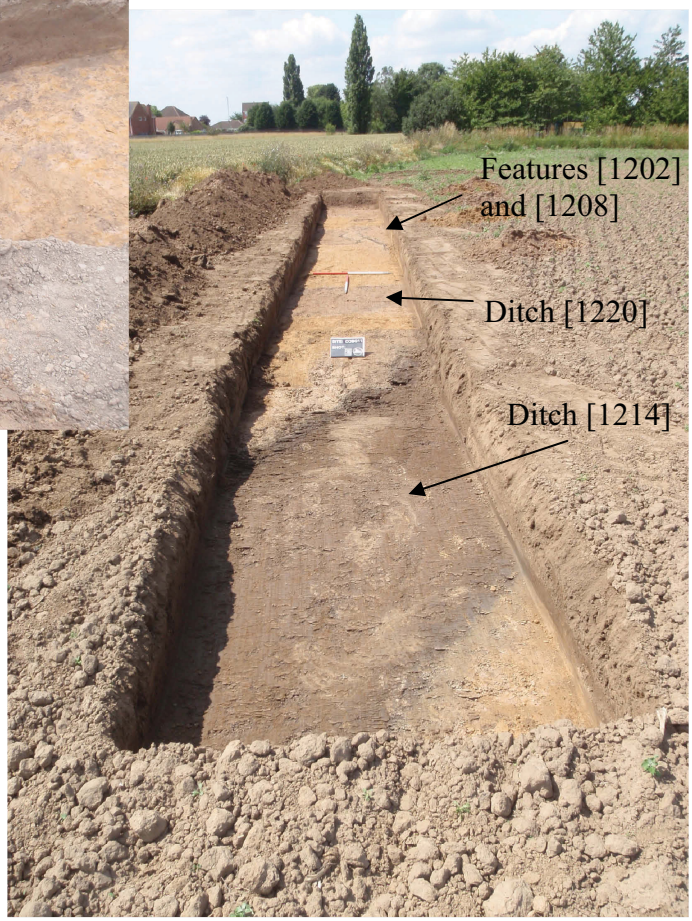


Plate 18 General view of Trench 12, looking southwest

Plate 19 Trench 12, partially-excavated feature [1202], charcoal-rich fill (1203), Section 4, looking northeast

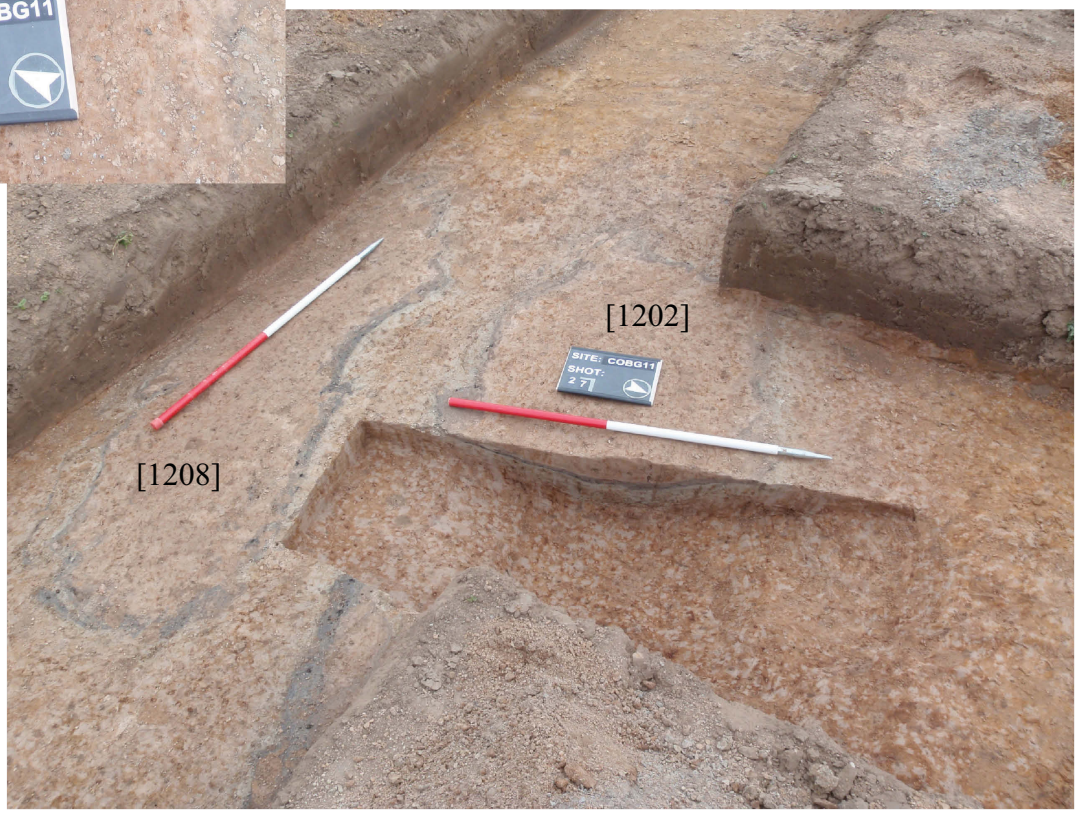


Plate 20 Trench 12, features [1202] and [1208], Sections 5 & 6

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Unstratified finds from site	
002	Unstratified pottery retrieved from *c.* ½ way between Trenches 10 & 12	

Context	Description	Interpretation
100	Elongated oval feature 1.46m long and 0.39m wide	Unexcavated feature of uncertain nature
101	Soft light to mid greyish-brown silt	Fill of unexcavated feature [100]
102	North-south aligned linear feature, 0.25m wide	Cut for drain or field drain
103	Soft light to mid greyish-brown silt with yellowish patches, also contained ceramic drain	Fill of drain cut [102]
104	Soft light yellowish-brown mottled silt	Slightly stained surface of natural silts, same as 117
105	Soft mottled mid to light grey silt with occasional charcoal, 0.20m thick	Deposit within possible cut [118]
106	East-west aligned linear feature, not fully exposed in plan	Cut of service trench aligning on concrete manhole to west
107	Soft mid greyish-brown silt	Fill of service trench [106]
108	Unstratified finds from Trench 1	
109	Feature not fully exposed in plan, over 0.94m by over 0.50m wide and 0.40m deep with moderately steep, gently concave sides	Feature, possibly a pit but not fully exposed in plan
110	Soft light to mid brownish-grey silt, 0.32m thick	Earliest excavated fill of feature [109], apparently formed by gradual silting in wet conditions, also containing some domestic waste
111	Soft dark blackish-grey silt with frequent charcoal, 0.13m thick	Charcoal-rich fill of feature [109], perhaps a mixture of silt deposited in wet environment and dumped domestic waste
112	Soft mottled mid grey and orange-brown silt, 0.20m thick	Deposit within possible feature [118], possibly a pocket of buried soil rather than a fill but uncertain
113	Pottery retrieved from surface of 105 during machining, deriving from either 105 or 112	
114	Soft dark grey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.46m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
115	Finds retrieved from 105 during environmental sampling adjacent to excavated slot	
116	Finds retrieved from 111 during environmental sampling adjacent to excavated slot	
117	Soft light yellowish-brown silt with laminations visible in section, over 0.55m thick	Naturally deposited alluvial silts
118	Possible large feature over 5m by over 1.5m wide and 0.39m deep	Possible wide feature or perhaps hollow overlying earlier feature or features including [109]

Context	Description	Interpretation
200	North-south aligned linear feature, 1.65m wide	Cut of service trench aligning on concrete manhole to south
201	Soft light greyish-brown, dark grey and light yellowish-brown patchy silt with pebbles, rubble, charcoal and plastic	Fill of service trench [200]
202	North-south aligned linear feature, 2m wide, unexcavated	Ditch, unexcavated
203	Soft dark bluish-grey silt with occasional ceramic building material, pottery and animal bone noted at machined surface	Fill of ditch [202]
204	North-south aligned elongated feature extending beyond limit of excavation to south, over 1.80m long, 1.50m wide and over 0.19m deep with rounded end at north with moderately steep concave sides and a flat to gently concave base where seen. Over-excavated at northern edge.	Pit or ditch terminus
205	Soft mid greyish-brown mottled silt, 0.19m thick. As feature over-excavated, some finds from 205 may derive from 208	Fill of pit or ditch terminus [204]
206	Square feature, 0.55m by 0.55m wide	Cut for brick structure 207 of uncertain nature but most likely related to a former service

Context	Description	Interpretation
207	Post-medieval to modern bricks, at least a single course of bricks in single thickness around all four edges of feature [206], each brick 230mm x 100mm x 70mm	Brickwork within feature [207], of uncertain function
208	Soft mid to dark grey silt	Fill of feature [211]
209	Soft dark grey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.50m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
210	Soft light yellowish to pinkish silt	Naturally deposited alluvial silts
211	Amorphous feature or features of uncertain extent and nature, over 2.30m by over 0.36m wide, extending beyond limit of excavation, clearly truncated by [204]	Feature or features of uncertain nature, unexcavated

Context	Description	Interpretation
300	Soft mid greyish-brown (darker where moist) silt with rare fragments of ceramic building material, 0.36m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
301	Soft light yellowish-brown with rusty and greyish mottles silt, over 60mm thick	Naturally deposited alluvial silts
302	Northwest-southeast aligned elongated feature, over 0.83m long and 0.45m wide with rounded end at southeast, extending beyond limit of excavation to northwest.	Feature, unexcavated, possibly animal grave
303	Soft dark to mid grey, light grey and light yellow mottled silt, very patchy, frequent bone evident at surface	Fill of feature [302], apparently a mixture of redeposited natural (301) and redeposited topsoil (300), probably backfill of animal grave
304	Square feature 0.16m by 0.17m across with sharp corners	Post hole, unexcavated
305	Soft dark to mid grey silt with light yellow mottles	Fill of post hole [304]
306	Soft light grey silt with light yellow mottles	Fill of ditch [309], probably same as (307)
307	Soft light grey silt with light yellow mottles	Fill of ditch [309], probably same as (306)
308	Soft light yellowish-brown silt with occasional snail shell	Probable fill of ditch [309], although could be patch of natural showing through other fills of ditch
309	North-south aligned linear feature, 2.94m wide	Ditch, unexcavated
310	Soft dark black silt (burnt wood) within [311]	Patch of burnt wood probably marking location of a bonfire, within possible cut [311]
311	Amorphous feature extending beyond limit of excavation, over 0.35m by over 0.20m wide	Possible cut for bonfire

Context	Description	Interpretation
401	Soft mid greyish-brown silt	Topsoil of ploughed field
402	Soft mid orange-brown with light greyish-brown mottles, silt	Naturally deposited alluvial silts
403	Northeast-southwest aligned linear feature, 1.16m wide	Ditch, unexcavated
404	Soft light grey with orange-brown patches silt	Fill of ditch [403]

Context	Description	Interpretation
500	Soft mid greyish-brown (dark where moist) silt with rare tiny coal fragments, 0.34m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
501	Soft light yellowish-brown with light grey mottles silt with thin laminations, many of more grey material, occasional intrusive lenses of mid grey silt resulting from bioturbation from topsoil (500) and occasional intrusive lenses of light grey silt, presumably from more ancient bioturbation, 0.60m thick	Naturally deposited alluvial silts
502	Soft mid grey, variously brownish-grey, yellowish-grey, grey and greyish-blue clay with moderately frequent thin laminations of light whitish-yellow silt, with distinct blue clay horizon near top of deposit, over 0.18m thick	Naturally deposited clay with silt, possibly deposited in ancient salt marsh conditions, possibly same as (612), (700), (803) and (1103)

Context	Description	Interpretation
600	Soft dark greyish-brown silt with occasional white flecks, black flecks possibly of charcoal and fired clay flecks, 0.40m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
602	Soft light yellow, light grey and light orangey-brown silt,	Naturally deposited alluvial silts

Context	Description	Interpretation
	0.45m thick	
603	Southeast-northwest aligned linear feature, 2.40m wide and 0.32m deep with a gently concave base	Ditch
604	Soft light brownish-grey silt, 0.21m thick	Earliest excavated fill of ditch [603], probably formed by gradual silting in base of ditch
605	Soft dark blackish-grey organic-rich silt, 90mm thick	A fill of ditch [603] with peaty character indicating vegetation layer formed and buried in moist conditions during use of open ditch
607	East-west aligned linear feature, 1.74m wide and 0.70m deep, stepped at top, steep slope below this becoming near-vertical near base with an indistinct but flattish base	Ditch, probably same as [907] and [1018]
608	Soft mid brownish-grey silt with frequent tiny black flecks, 50mm thick	Earliest excavated fill of ditch [607], perhaps silting along with decayed organic matter from vegetation within ditch deposited in moist conditions
609	Soft mid to light mottled orange-brown and light to mid grey silt with occasional charcoal, 0.19m thick	A fill of ditch [607], perhaps gradual silting over time including redeposited natural silts perhaps washed or slumped in from sides of ditch
610	Soft mid to dark grey and with mid orange-brown mottles silt with occasional black flecks, 0.29m thick	A fill of ditch [607]. This very distinct grey deposit may be contained within a re-cut although this is uncertain. Grey colouration indicates some organic inclusion, perhaps degraded vegetation within ditch.
611	Soft mottled light yellowish-brown, mid orange-brown, light grey and mid to dark black patches silt, 0.30m thick	Latest excavated fill of ditch [607], comprising mottled silts with curious laminations in places, possibly indicating water inundation
612	Soft mid greyish-brown silty clay, over 0.20m thick	Natural clay, comparable to (502) , (700), (803) and (1103)
613	Unstratified finds from Trench 6	
614	Soft light yellowish-brown with pinkish-grey mottles silt, 50mm thick	A fill of ditch [603], appearing to be very similar to natural silt (602) and possibly representing slump in from sides of ditch or flooding episode following vegetated phase represented by (605)
615	Soft mid to dark grey silt, 70mm thick	A fill of ditch [603], possibly gradual silting of ditch in disuse phase

Context	Description	Interpretation
700	Firm light grey clay, over 30mm thick	Natural clay, comparable to (502), (612), (803) and (1103)
701	Soft light pinkish-grey laminated silt, over 0.24m thick	Naturally deposited alluvial silts
702	East-west aligned linear feature, over 1.50m wide	Ditch, same as [1104] and [1304]
703	Soft light grey clayey silt with occasional lenses of light pinkish-grey silt, 0.18m thick	A fill of ditch [702]
704	Firm dark greyish-brown silt with frequent snail shells and almost peaty material at base, 0.38m thick	A fill of ditch [702], including evidence of buried vegetation layer
706	Soft light orange-grey silt with lenses of light grey clay, 0.15m thick	A fill of ditch [702], possibly deliberate backfilling of ditch
707	Soft mixed mid brown silt, grey clay, greyish-brown silt and light grey silt with occasional flecks of ceramic building material and black flecks, 0.57m thick	A fill of ditch [702], probably from deliberate backfilling of ditch
708	Soft dark greyish brown silt	Topsoil

Context	Description	Interpretation
801	Friable mid to dark brown silt, 0.36m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
802	Friable mid orange-brown with light greyish-brown mottles silt, over 0.70m thick	Naturally deposited alluvial silt
803	Firm to moderately soft mid orange-brown with mid grey mottles silty clay, over 0.13m thick	Natural clay, comparable to (502), (612), (700) and (1103)
804	North-south aligned linear feature, 2.00m wide and 1.04m deep with moderately steep to near-vertical slightly stepped sides and a concave base	Ditch
806	Firm to friable light grey with orange-brown mottles slightly clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Fill of ditch [804], possibly same as similar deposit (811), probably formed by gradual silting of ditch in

Context	Description	Interpretation
		moist conditions
807	Firm light grey with orange-brown mottles clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Fill of ditch [804], probably gradual silting in wet conditions and including dumped domestic waste
808	Friable light brown with orange-brown mottles silt, 0.18m thick	Earliest excavated fill of ditch [804], probably formed by gradual silting in moist conditions
809	Friable mid greyish-brown with orange-brown patches silt, 0.37m thick	Latest excavated fill of ditch [804], perhaps representing final silting of ditch
810	Friable very dark black silt, 90mm thick	Fill of ditch [804], either containing dumped charcoal, perhaps dumped hearth waste or organic material, possible a buried vegetation layer within ditch
811	Friable light greyish-brown with orange-brown mottles silt, 0.23m thick	Fill of ditch [804], probably formed by gradual silting within ditch including redeposited natural slumped in from sides
812	Friable very dark brown to black silt, 0.11m thick	A fill of feature [815], dumped deposit probably of hearth waste mixed with gradual silting
813	Friable light greyish-brown with orange-brown mottles silt, 0.15m thick	A fill of feature [815], possibly silting, laid down in wet conditions
814	Moderately firm to moderately soft mid greyish-brown with orange-brown mottling clayey silt with moderately frequent mottles of light yellowish silt, 60mm thick	Fill of feature [815], possibly water-lain or at least deposited in moist conditions
815	Amorphous feature, over 5.12m by over 0.80m wide and 0.19m deep with moderately steep to gently sloping irregular sides and a moderately flat to gently concave base	Feature of uncertain nature, possibly an irregular pit or perhaps a naturally-formed hollow used for casual disposal of waste
816	Amorphous feature, over 1.40m by over 1.25m wide	Feature, perhaps of similar character to [815], unexcavated
817	Soft light grey silt	Fill of feature [815]
818	Friable mid to dark greyish-brown with orange-brown patches silt, 0.13m thick	Fill of ditch [804], similar to but slightly darker than overlying deposit (809)

Context	Description	Interpretation
900	Soft mid brownish-grey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
901	Soft light yellowish-brown silt, over 50mm thick	Naturally deposited alluvial silt
902	Soft mid grey with brown, yellow and bluish-grey mottles silt	A fill of ditch [907]
903	Soft light grey with yellow and bluish-grey mottles silt	A fill of ditch [907]
904	Soft mid grey with brown, yellow and bluish-grey mottles silt	A fill of ditch [907]
905	Soft light grey with yellow and bluish-grey mottles silt	A fill of ditch [907]
906	Soft mid grey with brown, yellow and bluish-grey mottles	A fill of ditch [907]
907	East-west aligned ditch, 1.80m wide	Ditch, probably same as [607] and [1018], unexcavated

Context	Description	Interpretation
1001	Soft mid brownish-grey silt with occasional pebbles, 0.35m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
1002	Soft light orange with brown, white and yellow mottles silt	Naturally deposited alluvial silt
1003	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature with moderately steep sides, possibly convex near top and concave below with a concave base	Ditch, distinctive in that ditch fills (1012) and (1010) apparently extend continuously to form layers beyond edge of ditch
1004	Soft light grey with orange mottles silt with occasional clayey laminations especially near base of deposit, 0.15m thick	Earliest excavated fill of ditch [1003], perhaps gradual silting in wet conditions
1005	Friable light to mid grey silt with lens of redeposited natural (1002), 0.13m thick	A fill of ditch [1003], probably representing gradual silting including redeposited natural silt washed in from sides of ditch
1006	Soft dark black slightly clayey silt, 70mm thick	A highly organic fill of ditch [1003], apparently representing vegetation within ditch, subsequently

Context	Description	Interpretation
		buried and preserved
1007	Soft light to mid brownish-grey, light yellowish and pinkish-brown mottled silt, 0.11m thick	A fill of ditch [1003], reflecting relatively rapid burial of fill (1006), possibly through deliberate backfilling although possible rudimentary laminations within (1007) may indicate deposition due to raised water level
1008	Soft mid greyish-brown with orange-brown mottles silt, 0.25m thick	Latest excavated fill of ditch [1003], probably resulting from gradual silting
1009	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, over 1.00m long, 0.14m wide and at least 80mm deep with steep and straight sides and a flat to concave base	Linear feature of uncertain interpretation. Very similar to and probably associated with feature [1010]. Potentially could be pair of wheel ruts. Could be associated with a structure, although the lack of artefacts in the vicinity of these features argues against this.
1010	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, over 1.00m long, 0.11m wide and at least 80mm deep with steep, straight sides and a flat to concave base	Linear feature of uncertain interpretation. Very similar to and probably associated with feature [1009]. Potentially could be pair of wheel ruts. Could be associated with a structure, although the lack of artefacts in the vicinity of these features argues against this.
1011	Soft light grey silt, 0.10m thick	Layer, apparently buried soil layer also continuous with and indistinguishable from fills of linear features [1009] and [1011] and ditch [1003], and treated as a single continuous layer.
1012	Friable light yellowish-orange with grey mottles silt, 80mm thick	Layer of uncertain interpretation, sealing possible buried soil (1011) and forming a fill of ditch [1003]. Composition similar to natural alluvial silts and might potentially represent a flooding event but uncertain.
1013	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, over 1.50m long, 0.22m wide and 0.20m deep with steep sides and a concave base	Linear feature of uncertain interpretation. Parallel and close to features [1009] and [1010] with which it might be associated, but uncertain. Could potentially be a further possible structural element but very uncertain.
1014	Soft light grey silt, 0.20m thick	Fill of linear [1013], of very similar composition to (1011)
1015	Soft light yellow silt, 70mm thick	A fill of linear [1013], of very similar composition to (1012)
1016	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, over 1.50m long and 0.80m wide	Ditch, unexcavated
1017	Soft light grey silt	Fill of ditch [1016]
1018	East-west aligned linear feature, over 3.10m long and 1.36m wide	Ditch, unexcavated, probably same as [907] and [607]
1019	Soft mid to dark grey silt with occasional fired clay and charcoal	Fill of ditch [1016], possibly same as (1021) Finds from 1018 may be from 1019, 1020 or 1021
1020	Soft light to mid grey silt with occasional fired clay and charcoal	Fill of ditch [1018]
1021	Soft mid to dark grey silt with occasional fired clay and charcoal	Fill of ditch [1018], possibly same as (1019)

Context	Description	Interpretation
1101	Soft mid greyish-brown silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
1102	Soft light to mid yellowish-brown with grey and orange mottles silt, 0.65m thick	Naturally deposited alluvial silt
1103	Moderately firm mid grey and bluish-grey mottled clay	Naturally deposited clay with silt, possibly deposited in ancient salt marsh conditions, possibly same as (502), (612), (700) and (803)
1104	East-west aligned linear feature, 4.95m wide and over 0.95m deep with fairly gently sloping sides near top, moderately steep sides below	Ditch, same as [702] and [1304]
1105	Soft mid bluish-grey silt, 0.21m thick	Earliest excavated fill of ditch [1104], colour and

Context	Description	Interpretation
		composition indicate deposition in wet, anaerobic conditions
1106	Soft dark brownish-black peaty silt, over 0.29m thick	Fill of ditch [1104], probably representing buried vegetation layer
1107	Soft mid brown with dark brown and light yellowish mottled silt, 0.28m thick	Fill of ditch [1104], reason for mottled nature of this deposit uncertain, possibly indicating rapid backfilling with mixed material but uncertain
1109	Soft mid greyish-brown silt with moderately frequent burnt wood flecks especially in upper part of deposit, 0.68m thick	Latest excavated fill of ditch [1104], probably representing final gradual silting of ditch but possibly including some deliberate backfilling.

Context	Description	Interpretation
1200	Soft (firm when dry) mid greyish-brown (mid to dark where moist) silt, 0.45m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
1201	Soft light yellowish-brown with small light grey mottles silt	Naturally deposited alluvial silt
1202	Eastnortheast-westsouthwest aligned amorphous elongated lozenge-shaped feature, over 4.00m long, over 1.55m wide and 0.34m deep with fairly gently sloping sides, slightly steeper towards base, gently concave along length	Elongated feature, possibly man-made although could be naturally-formed in wet conditions. Used for casual disposal of domestic waste. Very similar to and almost certainly directly contemporary with [1208], possibly both being part of single feature
1203	Soft mid bluish-grey with black flecks and mottles silt with frequent burnt wood fragments, 20mm thick	Fill of feature [1202], containing much charcoal and charcoal-rich silt, probably dump of hearth waste from nearby settlement. Equivalent to (1211), a fill of adjacent feature [1208]
1204	Soft light pinkish grey with orange mottles silt with moderately frequent 'rusty' mottles, 0.14m thick	Probable fill of feature [1202], very similar to alluvium (1201) and probably formed in wet conditions. Possibly initial silting within feature in wet conditions
1205	Soft light bluish-grey silt with moderately frequent 'rusty' mottles, 0.12m thick	A fill of feature [1202], with composition suggesting formed through natural silting, possibly in wet deposition environment, equivalent to (1209), fill of adjacent feature [1208]
1206	Soft light pinkish-brown silt with occasional 'rusty' mottles and occasional mid grey mottles intrusive from topsoil (1200) through bioturbation, 0.19m thick	Latest excavated fill of feature [1202], probably formed through natural silting in wet conditions, equivalent to (1212) a fill of adjacent feature [1208]
1207	Soft light yellow and pinkish-grey mottled silt with moderately frequent 'rusty' mottles, 0.12m thick	Deposit of uncertain nature, possibly the earliest fill of both [1202] and [1208], although could possibly represent leaching and staining of alluvium (1201) from proximity to fills of [1202] and [1208]
1208	Eastnortheast-westsouthwest aligned amorphous lozenge-shaped feature, 2.50m long and over 0.88m wide	Elongated feature, possibly man-made although could be naturally-formed in wet conditions. Used for casual disposal of domestic waste. Very similar to and almost certainly directly contemporary with [1202], possibly both being part of single feature, Unexcavated
1209	Soft light bluish-grey silt with moderately frequent 'rusty' mottles	A fill of feature [1208], equivalent to (1205), fill of adjacent feature [1202]
1210	Soft light blue and light yellowish-brown mottled silt	A fill of feature [1208], possibly same as (1212)
1211	Soft mid bluish-grey with black flecks and mottles silt with frequent burnt wood fragments	Fill of feature [1208], containing much charcoal and charcoal-rich silt, probably dump of hearth waste from nearby settlement. Equivalent to (1203), a fill of adjacent feature [1202]
1212	Soft light pinkish-brown silt with occasional 'rusty' mottles and occasional intrusive mid grey mottles	A fill of feature [1208], equivalent to (1206) a fill of adjacent feature [1202]
1213	Soft mid grey and bluish-grey, 20mm thick	A fill of feature [1202], apparently water-lain silt with laminations implying fluctuating water and possibly flooding. No clear equivalent within [1208] although this may be due to [1208] being unexcavated and therefore fill sequence uncertain
1214	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, 2.08m wide	Ditch, unexcavated

Context	Description	Interpretation
1215	Soft light grey silt	Fill of ditch [1214], possibly same as (1217)
1216	Soft mid to dark grey silt	Fill of ditch [1214], possibly same as (1218)
1217	Soft light grey silt	Fill of ditch [1214], possibly same as (1215)
1218	Soft mid to dark grey silt	Fill of ditch [1214], possibly same as (1216)
1219	Soft mid grey with yellow and 'rusty' mottles silt with occasional shell	Fill of ditch [1214]
1220	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 1.78m wide	Ditch, unexcavated
1221	Soft mid to dark grey silt with 'rusty' mottles	Fill of ditch [1220], possibly same as (1223)
1222	Soft light pinkish-grey silt with 'rusty' mottles	Fill of ditch [1220]
1223	Soft mid to dark grey silt	Fill of ditch [1220], possibly same as (1221)
1224	Feature of uncertain shape, over 2m by over 1.60m wide	Feature, perhaps of similar character to [1202] and [1208] but very uncertain
1225	Soft mid grey silt with pinkish mottles	Fill of feature [1224]
1226	Soft mid grey silt with occasional 'rusty' mottles and burnt wood flecks	Fill of feature [1224]
1227	Soft light pinkish-grey silt with 'rusty' mottles and occasional black flecks, possibly of burnt wood	Fill of feature [1224]

Context	Description	Interpretation
1301	Friable mid grayish-brown silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil of ploughed field
1302	Soft light orange-brown with light greyish-brown mottles silt, over 30mm thick	Naturally deposited alluvial silt
1303	Friable mid to dark brown silt with occasional shell	Fill of ditch [1304]
1304	East-west aligned linear feature, over 0.60m wide	Ditch, unexcavated, same as [702]and [1104]

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004), using the codes developed for the city of Lincoln archaeological unit (Darling and Precious, forthcoming) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of 94 sherds from 69 vessels, weighing 1445 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1 with a summary of pottery by fabric type in Table 2 below. A small number of tiny pottery fragments and flakes from Sample 4 have also been noted. These are largely undiagnostic and weigh far less than 1 gram each, adding no useful information and making any statistical analysis of the data misleading. For this reason these are listed in Supplementary Archive catalogue 1, after the main archive, at the end of this report. Larger diagnostic pieces removed from Sample 4 are included within the archive table.

Condition

The material is generally very fragmentary and this is reflected in the moderately low average sherd weight of just16 grams. However, even this is a little misleading as the majority of pieces are actually smaller than this. Sherds from a single vessel, a double handled flagon from context (807) are much larger than most, artificially elevating the overall figure. Without the inclusion of the flagon, the average weight is a much more representative 11.7 grams. There are no cross-context vessels.

A high proportion of the material is sooted, abraded and sometimes also burnt. Sooting can be indicative of use over a hearth or fire, although here this could have been caused by post depositional burning, perhaps during rubbish disposal.

Dating

The pottery is exclusively of mid to late 2nd or 3rd century date. Most of the pottery from Trench 1 is likely to belong to the mid to late 3rd century AD.

See Table 1 below for a summary of dating and average sherd weights listed by context. Generally speaking, 1-20 grams is a low (fragmented) weight; whilst 20-30 would usually be seen as a moderate weight.

Table 1, Summary of Dating, Origin and Sherd Weight

Tr	Cxt	Cut	Feature Type	Dating	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Av. W(g)
N/A	001	N/A	N/A	Unstratified	2	2	19	9.50
1	108	N/A	N/A	Unstratified	4	4	99	27.75
	111	109	Pit?	Mid 3rd-Late 3rd Century	36	28	211	5.86
	116		Pit?	Mid 3rd-Late 3rd Century	11	10	93	8.45
	105	118	Wide Feature	(Mid 2nd-Late 3rd) Cxt same as 115 so dated Mid Late 3rd to Late 3rd Century	3	3	14	4.66
	115		Wide Feature	Mid Late 3rd-Late 3rd Century	17	11	247	14.53
2	203	202	Ditch	3rd Century	8	6	220	27.5
	205	204?	Pit or Ditch	Mid 2nd-Late 3rd Century	2	2	15	7.5
3	305	304	US	Mid 2nd-Late 3rd Century	1	1	6	6

8	807	804	Ditch	3rd Century	9	1	491	54.55
	812	815	Hollow or Pit	Late 2nd-Mid 3rd Century	1	1	30	30
				Total	**94**	**69**	**1445**	**-**

Results
See Table 2 below for a breakdown of pottery classified by fabric and Table 3 in the range section for a breakdown of forms. There is a good range of types, although Nene Valley products predominate.

Table 2, Summary of the Roman Pottery

Fabric	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Fine (Oxidised)	CC	Undifferentiated Colour Coated Ware	1	1	2
	NVCC	Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	22	13	613
	NVCC1	Early Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	1	1	1
	NVCC2	Late Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	6	4	16
Fine (Reduced)	NVGCC	Nene Valley Grey Colour-Coated Ware	4	3	38
Oxidised	NVPA	Nene Valley Parchment Ware	1	1	30
	OX	Miscellaneous Oxidised Ware	1	1	1
	OXGRIT	Coarse Oxidised Fabrics with Large 'Gritty' Inclusions	1	1	8
	BUFFIN	Fine Buff Fabrics	1	1	5
	COLC2	Late Colchester Colour Coated Ware	2	1	8
Reduced	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey Ware	8	8	82
	GREYC	Miscellaneous Coarse Grey Ware	1	1	8
	GRFF	Fairly Fine Grey Ware	3	3	19
	NVGW/?*	Nene Valley Grey Ware/?*	29	21	297
Grog	IAGROG?	Iron Age Grog Tempered Wares?	1	1	1
Shell	SHEL	Undifferentiated Shell-Tempered Wares	8	6	215
Amphora	AMPH?	Miscellaneous Amphorae?	1	1	1
	DR20L	Dressel 20 Amphora (Late Fabric)	3	1	100
		Total	**94**	**69**	**1445**

*Includes one or more uncertain fabric identifications

Provenance
Most of the Roman pottery came from two features in Trench 1, including a possible pit [109] and wide feature [118]. Ditch [202] and pit or ditch [204]? in Trench 2 yielded material. In addition, ditch [804] and hollow or pit [815] in Trench 8 produced sherds from single vessels.

Range
There is a surprisingly wide range of forms including a number of types associated with Romanised high status dining. There are fragments from at least one, possibly two amphora including a 3rd century Spanish Globular Dressel 20 type (DR20). Additionally there is a very high proportion of beakers (at least 21.7% of the total by vessel count) and two flagons.

Table 3, Summary of Forms

Form Class	Cname	Form	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Amphora	A/?	Amphora	Amphora/?	4	2	101
Closed	CLSD	Closed	Closed Form	5	5	38
	F	Flagon	Unclassified Flagon	1	1	45
	FX2		Two Handled Flagon	9	1	491
	BK	Beaker	Unclassified Beaker	13	11	33

Form Class	Cname	Form	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
	BKBARB		Beaker with Barbotine Decoration	1	1	2
	BKEV		Beaker with Everted Rim	1	1	1
	BKFN		Beaker Funnel Necked	2	1	8
	BKFO		Folded Beaker	1	1	1
	JBK	Jar or Beaker	Unclassified Jar or Beaker	11	7	134
	J/?*	Jar	Unclassified Jar/?	5	5	63
	JL		Large Jar	2	2	64
	JLS		Lid seated Jar	1	1	12
	JNN?		Narrow Necked Jar?	2	1	13
Open *or* Closed	JB	Jar or Bowl	Unclassified Jar or Bowl	2	2	19
	JBL		Large Jar or Bowl	2	2	79
	JBWME		Wide Mouthed Jar or Bowl - Eastern England Type	1	1	13
Open	OPEN/?*	Open	Unclassified Open Form/?*	2	2	33
	BFB	Bowl	Bead and Flange Rim Bowl	1	1	8
	BFBL		Low Bead and Flange Rim Bowl	1	1	8
	BFL		Bowl with Flat Flanged Rim	1	1	10
	BSEG		Segmental Bowl	1	1	30
	BD	Bowl/Dish	Unclassified Bowl or Dish	4	4	38
	DTR	Dish	Dish with Triangular Rim	2	1	35
Other	U	Undiagnostic	Undiagnostic of Form	17	12	34
	ZCLIB?	Misc	Small Ceramic Oven or 'Clibanus'?	2	1	132
			Total	**94**	**69**	**1445**

*Includes one or more uncertain form identifications

Trench 1

By far the most material came from possible pit [109] and wide feature [118]. Material from both is heavily abraded and much is also heavily burnt. However, the pottery does have a homogenous range of dates suggesting a similar period of deposition. It is possible that the material accumulated in the features over a period of time perhaps being washed in after rubbish disposal activities over a number of years.

Pit? [109]

The range from [109] is dominated by fine Nene Valley colour coated (NVCC, NVCC1, NVCC2) and Grey wares (NVGW, NVGCC). There are at least four vessels in the characteristic late colour coat fabric NVCC2, produced from around the mid 3rd century AD. The additional presence of eight vessels in standard Nene Valley Greyware (NVGW) support a date before the 4th century for this context.

The only other piece of special note from this feature is a rim from a large everted rim jar in a miscellaneous greyware fabric (GREY). This form is clearly related to the types produced at Horningsea near Cambridge and found throughout the fenland areas of Cambridgeshire, where they largely seem to date to the 3rd century (Cameron, 1996. 452, *c.f.* fig 158.11). Similar forms were undoubtedly produced elsewhere, including the Nar Valley in northwest Norfolk (Peachey, unpublished, no page number). This vessel is unlikely to a local product and neither is it within the repertoire of the Nene Valley producers suggesting a regional import from further afield.

Wide Feature [118]

The pottery from feature [118] is very similar in nature to that from [109]. The presence of a greyware (GREY) bead and flanged bowl, in addition to at least eight vessels in Nene Valley greyware, indicates a later 3rd century date here. This also yielded three heavily burnt fragments from late Dressel 20 amphora.

Trench 2
A ditch [202] and a pit or ditch, possibly [204], yielded material in Trench 2. Pieces of note include possible fragments from a shell tempered ware (SHEL) Clibanus or mobile oven (ZCLIB?) and a single piece of late Colchester colour coat ed ware (COLC2), probably from a Colchester type 407 beaker. Both vessels came from [202]. Clibani ovens are rare but are being increasingly recognised in assemblages from Cambridgeshire and southern Lincolnshire, although their use and wider distribution is yet to be understood (Perrin, 1999, 124, *c.f.* fig 74). The presence of a sherd of 3rd century late Colchester colour coat is particularly interesting, suggesting links with interregional trade. This fabric is very rare in Lincolnshire and as it is contemporary with similar types from the Nene Valley, it is hard to see why it should be imported into this region.

Trench 3
A single unstratified sherd of Nene Valley Greyware came form Trench 3.

Trench 8
Sherds from just two vessels were recovered from this trench. An exceptional example of a double handled flagon (FX2) in NVCC (Drawing 1), from ditch [804], is of special note. This vessel which has fine, well tooled rouletting across the lower body is far more ornate than most vessels of this type. It is likely to be an item of primary deposition within the feature, giving a good date for the ditch deposit.

A segmental bowl (BSEG) in Nene Valley Parchment ware (NVPARC), dating to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century was also retrieved from hollow or pit [815].

Previous Roman Assemblages from Cowbit
Previous work in Cowbit has a produced a large amount of Late Iron Age and Roman ceramic material, suggesting the presence of an important small settlement at that time. The material from COBG11 is notable in that it is generally later in date than that recovered during previous investigations, representing some of the latest material recovered from the village. The pottery from this evaluation, particularly that from Trenches 1-2 dates to the second half of the 3rd century AD in contrast to other assemblages such as that from CBG00/CBG01, which mostly dated to the 1st to early 3rd centuries (Precious, 2001, appendix 4).

Potential
The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage. A single vessel has been chosen for illustration as it is an unusually ornate example of it's type.

Further investigation at the site may help throw light on the poorly understood later 3rd century AD in Cowbit.

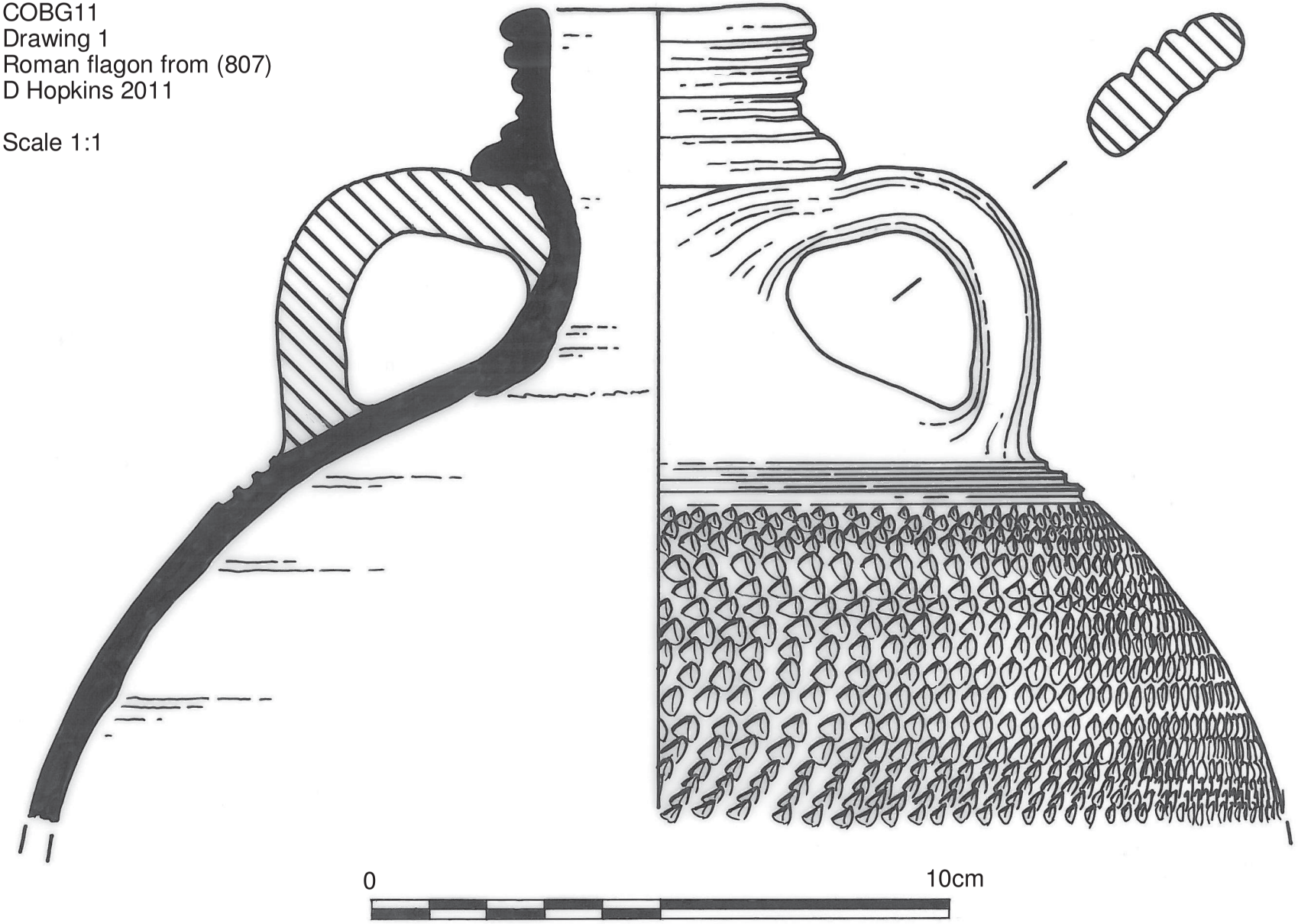
Table 4, Illustrated vessels

Dr	Cxt	Fabric Cname	Fabric Full Name	Form Cname	Form Full Name	Context Date
1	807	NVCC	Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	FX2	Flagon with Two Handles	3rd Century

Summary
A small group of Roman pottery, mostly of later 2nd or 3rd century date, was recovered during the evaluation. This is a higher status assemblage containing vessels associated with Romanized drinking/dining activities and some regional imports. Such material suggests the existence of a military, administrative and or villa establishment nearby rather than simple low status settlements connected with subsistence agriculture. Features yielding material were concentrated within Trenches 1, 2 and 8.

COBG11
Drawing 1
Roman flagon from (807)
D Hopkins 2011

Scale 1:1



POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Irving

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of 24 sherds from 24 vessels, weighing 239 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 2, with a summary in Table 5. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period.

Condition

The pottery is in fairly fresh condition.

Results

Table 5, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cname	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W (g)
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	2	2	16
BOU	Bourne D ware	1350	1650	6	6	58
BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B, C, E, F and G	1150	1400	10	10	121
DERBS	Derby Stoneware	1830	1900	1	1	20
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	1	1	11
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	1	1	3
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900	1	1	7
PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1900	1	1	1
STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1670	1800	1	1	2
			TOTAL	**24**	**24**	**239**

Provenance

Most of the pottery is unstratified, although single sherds came from the fills of ditches [1016] and [1104] along with two sherds from feature [118].

Range

The pottery is typical for assemblages from this area.

Potential

All the pottery is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required.

Summary

A small mixed group of pottery was recovered from the site.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Anne Irving

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of five fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 135 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an

Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 6

Condition
All the brick and tile is in poor condition and three fragments show signs of burning and vitrification.

Results
Table 6, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
001	RID	Ridge tile	Calcareous	1	68	Burnt and vitrified	?
115	BRK	Brick	Fine sandy	1	38	Burnt and abraded	?
305	CBM	Ceramic Building Material		1	1	Clinkered	?
1109	BRK	Brick		1	8		18th to 20th
1109	BRK	Brick		1	20	Abraded	18th to 20th

Provenance
Two fragments of early modern brick came from (1109) ditch [1104], an undated piece came from (305) fill of post hole [304] and a single undated piece was retrieved from (115), fill of feature [118]. The remaining material was unstratified.

Summary
A small collection of ceramic building material, some of which is undateable, was recovered from the site. The material has limited potential for further analysis and is suitable for discard.

FIRED CLAY
By Anne Boyle

Introduction
All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*.

Methodology
The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and weighed within each context. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in Table 7

Condition
All the fragments are in poor condition.

Results
Table 7 Fired Clay Archive

Cxt	Samp	Sub type	NoF	W (g)	Description
105		FCLAY	1	1	Salt bleached?
111		FCLAY	1	2	Soot
111	<4>	FCLAY	38	7	Tiny frags
116		SURFACE	3	30	Heat affected/bleached surface
1203	<1>	FCLAY	14	6	Tiny Frags

Provenance
Fired clay was retrieved from features [109], [118] and [1202].

Summary
Small fragments of fired clay were retrieved from three features on the site. No further work is required on this material.

FAUNAL REMAINS
By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction
A total of over 387 (298g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance
The animal bone was retrieved from the fills of pits (111, 116 and 812), the fills of ditches (203 and 1109), the fills of amorphous features (115 and 1203), an animal burial (303) and as unstratified finds (108).

Condition
The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

Results
Table 8, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
108	sheep/goat medium mammal medium mammal	molar humerus vertebra	1 1 1	4 6 1	
111	large mammal large mammal	scapula ?tibia	1 1	19 33	
111<4>	Various Mollusc – cockle, mussel	- shell	>50 10	28 1	mainly fragments of mammal bone but includes small bird and amphibian minute fragments
115	cattle large mammal large mammal cockle	incisor humerus unidentified shell	1 1 4 1	32 6 5 1	
116	large mammal large mammal	rib long bone	2 2	14 14	 one burnt
203	cattle large mammal large mammal oyster	phalange rib long bone shell	1 1 1 1	22 2 7 2	
303	sheep/goat sheep/goat sheep/goat sheep/goat sheep/goat sheep/goat sheep/goat	tibia femur pelvis vertebra metatarsus tarsals phalanges	2 3 1 3 2 5 2	33 7 4 3 6 4 1	all from same juvenile animal
812	cattle large mammal unknown	maxilla long bone unidentified	5 1 1	12 4 1	
1109	large mammal sheep/goat	vertebra astragalus	1 1	11 6	
1203	medium mammal	unidentified	13	4	all burnt
1203<1>	various	-	27	5	mainly fragments of mammal bone with some small to medium bird
1203<1>	fish	various	242	4	mainly small fish but includes some larger examples
1203<1>	shell		9		

Summary
Most of the dated contexts indicate that cattle was the predominant livestock at the site during the 3rd century. However, sheep/goat were also present, though in much smaller numbers if the material from (303) is discounted. This latter context contains many of the hind leg bones of a juvenile sheep which may have died through disease and has the appearance of being relatively recent in date. Apart from this burial, most of the bone is likely to represent food waste.

A considerable amount of fish bone was also present and is mainly small, probable freshwater, fish. A few larger bones may indicate that larger fish were arriving at the site, although whether this is via the Welland is unknown. The feature from which this was obtained contained hearth waste suggesting that some of the fish may have been consumed at the site. It is undated but is broadly similar to another feature which was dated to the Iron Age to Roman periods.

The bone is archive stable and should be retained as part of the site archive. If further work is undertaken at Cowbit, the assemblage may warrant re-examination in light of new discoveries.

GLASS
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
Five pieces of glass weighing a total of 24g were recovered.

Condition
Although naturally fragile, all of the glass is in good condition. One piece exhibits severe iridescent decay.

Results
Table 9, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	Bottle, very heavy iridescence	1	3	17th-18th century
111<4>	Colourless fragment	1	<1	
707	Colourless window glass	2	19	20th century
1109	Pale green window glass	1	2	18th-early 19th century

Provenance
The glass was recovered as unstratified material (001), from a pit fill (111), and from ditch fills (707, 1109).

Range
There is a mixture of window and vessel glass, with pieces from windows being more common. With the exception of one unidentifiable fragment all of the glass is post-medieval to early modern.

Potential
The window glass may indicate the presence of early modern structures in the area. The glass provides some dating evidence but is otherwise of limited potential.

CLAY PIPE
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition
All of the clay pipe is in good condition, though slightly abraded.

Results
Table 10, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
001		1	2			3	19	2 stems, 1 bowl Oswald general Type 6, 1660-80	17th century

Provenance
The clay pipe was all recovered as unstratified material. They are likely to have manufactured fairly locally, perhaps in nearby Spalding.

Range
There is one bowl and 2 stems and all are probably of 17th century date.

Potential
As unstratified material the clay pipe is of very limited potential.

OTHER FINDS
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
Fourteen other finds weighing at total of 453g were recovered.

Condition
The other finds are generally in good condition but the metal items are corroded and some of them are encrusted.

Results
Table 11, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
002	Iron?	Ferrous concretion	1	25	
108	stone	Roof slate, Welsh? 19th-20th century	1	3	19th-20th century
	stone	Road surfacing material, bitumen-covered stones, 19th-20th century	2	48	
115	Fire residue	Cinders, slagged	3	12	
	plaster	Plaster/mortar, off-white	1	15	
116	Fire residue	Cinder, slagged	1	4	
	iron	nail	1	9	
704	Iron?	Ferrous concretion	2	2	
707	iron	nail	1	1	
1211	Fired clay	Triangular loomweight, wear from suspension cord at apex	1	334	Iron Age-early Roman

Provenance
The other finds were recovered as unstratified material (002, 108), from a feature (115), pit fill (116), and ditch fills (704, 707).

Range
Most of the other finds are metal or fire residues. There is also a piece of plaster which could be Roman but could equally be late post-medieval.

Part of a triangular fired clay loomweight, in several connecting fragments, was recovered. Loomweights of this form occur widely across southeastern Britain, south of the Humber, on Iron Age sites (Elsdon and Barford 1996, 330). However, at Newton on Trent, about 15km west of Lincoln, loomweights of this same triangular form were found in an early-mid 2nd century Roman pottery kiln (Field and Palmer-Brown 1991, 49) and were clearly being made and in use in the early Roman period.

Potential

The other finds are generally of limited potential, though the piece of plaster, if Roman, suggests the proximity of a building. The loomweight indicates that fabric weaving took place on site during the Roman period.

Plate 1. Triangular Lommweight (1211) from Trench 12

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Roman Pottery

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
1	105	BUFFIN	BK		1	SOOT EX		BS; POSS ABRADED CC?	1	5
1	105	NVGW	U		1	ABR		FLAKE	1	1
1	105	NVGW	BD		1	SPALLED		BS	1	8
1	105	ZDATE						(M2-L3C) SEE ZZZ		
1	105	ZZZ						SAME CXT AS 115 SO DATED M3-L3C		
1	108	NVCC	J		1	V ABR; BURNT		RIM	1	12
1	108	NVCC	BK	BG GIRT H	1	SL ABR		BS	1	5
1	108	NVGW	JBL		1			BASE; V THICK WALLED VESS; BWM OR JL?	1	64
1	108	NVGW	JB		1	ABR		BASE	1	18
1	108	ZDATE						U/S		
1	111	AMPH?	A?		1	V ABR		FRAG; SAMPLE 4	1	1
1	111	GREY	U		1	BURNT		BS	1	3
1	111	GREY	BFB		1	ABR; SOOT		RIM; POSS BFBL BUT BEAD MISSING	1	8
1	111	GREY	J		1			BS	1	2
1	111	GREY	JB		1			RIM FRAG; SAMPLE 4	1	1
1	111	GRFF	CLSD		1			BS	1	9
1	111	IAGROG?	U		1			BS; SAMPLE 4; V THIN WALLED VESS	1	1
1	111	NVCC	DTR		1	SOOT OB; ABR RIM		RIM TO LWALL; J	2	35
1	111	NVCC	U		1	ABR		BS	1	2
1	111	NVCC	BK		1			BS; SAMPLE 4	1	1

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
1	111	NVCC	BKEV		1	ABR		RIM; SAMPLE 4	1	1
1	111	NVCC1	BKFO		1			BS; POSS CONTINENTAL; SAMPLE 4	1	1
1	111	NVCC2	BK		1			BS	2	1
1	111	NVCC2	BK		1	ABR		BASE	1	5
1	111	NVCC2	BK		1			BS; 3C FABRIC; SAMPLE 4	2	3
1	111	NVGCC	OPEN?		1	BURNT		BS; THICK WALLED	1	26
1	111	NVGW	U		1	V ABR; PART BURNT		FRAGS; SAMPLE 4	5	5
1	111	NVGW	BK		1	ABR		BS; SAMPLE 4	1	2
1	111	NVGW	CLSD		1	ABR		BS	1	7
1	111	NVGW	JBK		1			BS	1	2
1	111	NVGW?	U		1			BS	1	5
1	111	NVGW?	BFL		1	ABR; BURNT?		BS; POSS GREY; SAMPLE 4	1	10
1	111	OX	U		1	V ABR		FRAG SAMPLE 4	1	1
1	111	OXGR	CLSD		1			BS	1	8
1	111	SHEL	U		1	LEACH; BURNT; ABR		BS	1	6
1	111	SHEL	J?		1	ABR; LEACH INT		BS	1	25
1	111	SHEL	JL		1	SOOT INT		BS	1	27
1	111	SHEL	JNN?	COR D NECK	1	ABR		RIM; BS; SAMPLE 4	2	13
1	111	ZDATE						M3-L3C		
1	111	ZZZ						SAME AS 115		
1	115	DR20L	A		1	BURNT; ABR; SOOT EX		BSS; FLAKE; OXIDISED FAB; VERY POOR COND; SALT SURFACE	3	100
1	115	GREY	JBK		1			BS	1	3
1	115	GREYC	J		1	BURNT; SALT INT?		BS	1	8
1	115	NVCC	BK		1			BS	1	1
1	115	NVCC	BK		1			BS	1	1
1	115	NVGW	BK		1			BS	1	2
1	115	NVGW	BD		1	ABR		BASE	1	10
1	115	NVGW	JBK		1			BS	1	2
1	115	NVGW	JBK		1	ABR		BS	1	2

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
1	115	NVGW	JBK		1	FE DEP; ABR		BASES; BSS; J	5	110
1	115	NVGW	BFBL		1	BURNT		RIM	1	8
1	115	ZDATE						M3-L3C		
1	115	ZZZ						SAME CXT AS 105		
1	116	CC	BKBARB	BAS	1			BS; NVCC2 OR PAKCC?; V SANDY; OVERSLIP BARBOTINE SCROLL WORK; M3+	1	2
1	116	GREY	JL	B EX	1	BURNT		RIM; EVERTED RIM; HORNINGSEA 'TYPE' JAR; FINER GREY FAB; NVGW?; CF STONEA FIG 158.111	1	37
1	116	GRFF	U		1			BS	1	1
1	116	NVCC	BD		1			BS	1	10
1	116	NVCC	CLSD		1	ABR INT; SPALLED SLIP		BS	1	8
1	116	NVCC	U		1			RIM FRAG	1	1
1	116	NVCC2	OPEN		1			BS	1	7
1	116	NVGCC	U		1			BSS	2	5
1	116	NVGW	J		1	V ABR; SOOT OB		RIM	1	16
1	116	NVGW	JBK		1	SOOT OB		BS	1	6
1	116	ZDATE						M3-L3C		
1	116	ZZZ						SAME CXT AS 111		
2	203	COLC2	BKFN		1			RIM; PROB COLCHESTER TYPE 407; FS	2	8
2	203	GREY	JBL		1			BS' POSS JBWME	1	15
2	203	GREY	JBWME		1	ABR; SPALLED		BS	1	13
2	203	NVCC	F		1	ABR INT		BS	1	45
2	203	NVGCC	BK	DOUBLE BG GIRTH	1	ABR INT		BS	1	7
2	203	SHEL	ZCLIB?		1	SALT INT; ABR		BSS; POSS CLIBANI - CF JPRS8 FIG 74 OR JS	2	132
2	203	ZDATE						3C		
2	205	NVGW	U		1	V ABR		BS; SURFACELESS	1	3
2	205	SHEL	JLS		1			RIM; SQUARED OFF RIM	1	12
2	205	ZDATE						M2-L3C		
3	305	NVGW	CLSD		1			BS	1	6

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Form	Dec	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
3	305	ZDATE						M2-L3C		
8	807	NVCC	FX2	ROUZ ; BGS	1	SL ABR SLIP	1	RIM TO GIRTH WITH HANDLE; BSS; HANDLE; FINELY MADE; CF STONEA FIG 152.21-ALTHOUGH THIS EXAMPLE ARE FAR FINER	9	491
8	807	ZDATE						3C		
8	812	NVPA	BSEG	PO	1	BURNT; SOOT		RIM TO UWALL; AS JPRS8 FIG 67.348-52; PAINTED BLOBBY LINES ON RIM	1	30
8	812	ZDATE						L2-M3C		
N/A	001	GRFF	JBK		1			BS	1	9
N/A	001	NVGW	BD		1			BS	1	10

Archive catalogue 1a , Undiagnostic Pottery from Samples

Context	Fabric	Sample Number	Count
111	CR?	4	1
111	NVCC	4	10
111	MISC	4	8
111	SHEL?	4	3
		Total	**22**

Archive catalogue 2, Post Roman Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
001	BL		Jar/ bowl	1	1	8	BS	Abraded	17th to 18th
001	BOU	Slightly Sandy	Jar/ bowl	3	3	34	BS		15th
001	BOU	Sandy + ca	Jar/ bowl	1	1	11	BS	?ID	14th to 15th
001	BOUA	A	Jar/ bowl	1	1	10	BS		Mid 12th to 14th
001	BOUA	B	Jar	3	3	14	BS		Mid 12th to 14th
001	BOUA	C	Jar/ bowl	1	1	10	Base		Mid 12th to 14th
001	MEDLOC	Fine to medium sandy; light firing	Jug	1	1	3	BS	Incised line; white slip on light firing oxidised body; fabric similar to BOU	14th to 15th
001	NOTS		Hollow	1	1	7	BS		19th
001	STMO		Hollow	1	1	2	BS		18th
108	BL		Jar/ bowl	1	1	8	BS		17th to 18th
108	BOU	Smooth + ca	Jug/ jar	1	1	12	BS	Internal soot	14th to 15th
108	BOUA	B/C	Bowl	1	1	20	Rim	Round everted rim; abraded; stabbed	13th to 14th
108	BOUA	C	Jar/ bowl	1	1	10	BS		Mid 12th to 14th
108	DERBS		Hollow	1	1	20	BS	?ID	19th
108	GRE		Bowl	1	1	11	Rim		17th
113	BOUA	B	Jug	1	1	38	Rim with lip	Worn outer surface	13th to 14th
115	BOUA	B	Jar/ bowl	1	1	7	BS	Soot	Mid 12th to 14th
613	BOU	Slightly Sandy	Jar/ bowl	1	1	1	BS	CU speckled glaze	16th

1019	BOUA	B	Bowl	1	1	12	Rim	Rounded flared rim; fe concretion	Mid 12th to 14th
1109	PEARL		Cup/ drinking bowl	1	1	1	BS	Handpaint blue	Late 18th

Appendix 3

THE ENVIRONNMENTAL SAMPLES

By Val Fryer

AN EVALUATION OF THE PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM BACKGATE, COWBIT, LINCOLNSHIRE (COBG11)

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August 2011

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Cowbit, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS), recorded a limited number of features of possible Iron Age/Romano-British to medieval date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within ditch [804] (trench 8, samples 2 and 3), pit [109] (trench 1, sample 4) and feature [1202] (trench 12, sample 1), with four samples being submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by APS, and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Although a small number of de-watered plant remains were noted during processing, the flots were air dried prior to sorting to facilitate transportation. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Both charred and de-watered plant remains were recorded, with the latter being denoted within the table by a lower case 'w' suffix. Sample 4 also contained a moderate density of mineralised spheroids, some of which had the appearance of semi-mineral replaced pulses of pea/bean type. However, no hila were visible and, when broken, the internal structure did not show any well-defined cotyledons. The true nature of these objects has yet to be fully explored, but it is possible that they could be related to whatever was occurring within or near pit [109] during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Results

Cereal grains and seeds of dry land herbs and wetland/aquatic plants were recorded within all four assemblages, although mostly at a low to moderate density. Preservation was generally quite poor, with many of the grains and seeds being puffed, distorted and fragmentary, probably as a result of both high temperatures during combustion and prolonged exposure of the material prior to burial.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, all as single specimens within an assemblage. Spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases were moderately common within the assemblage from sample 4 along with occasional bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes. A possible cotyledon fragment from an indeterminate large pulse (Fabaceae) was also noted within the same assemblage.

Weed seeds were moderately common within the assemblage from sample 4, but were rare elsewhere. Segetal and grassland herbs occurred most frequently, with taxa noted including brome (*Bromus* sp.), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), medick/clover/trefoil (*Medicago/ Trifolium/Lotus* sp.), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). De-watered and charred wetland/aquatic plant seeds were present throughout, with taxa noted including club-rush (*Bolboschoenus/Schoenoplectus* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), pond weed (*Potamogeton* sp.) and water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subg. *Batrachium*). De-watered duck-weed (*Lemna* sp.) seeds and rush (*Juncus* sp.) fruits were common within the assemblages from samples 2 and 3 (both from ditch [804]). Charcoal/charred wood fragments were common within the assemblages from samples 1 and 4 but were rare elsewhere.

Small assemblages of terrestrial and freshwater obligate mollusc shells, including some burnt specimens, were also noted within samples 1 and 4. Other remains were scarce, but did include fragments of bone and fish bone (some of which were burnt/calcined), minute pieces of coal and waterlogged/de-watered arthropod remains.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although plant macrofossils are relatively scarce, they do appear to be of some significance to the overall interpretation of the site and its component features. Pit [1202] is one of a pair of adjacent lozengiform pits, the exact nature of which is not fully understood at present. However, the recovered assemblage would appear to indicate that water and/or other materials (including, possibly, meat and fish) might have been stored or heated within these features. Wood/charcoal would appear to have been the principal fuel used, although the presence of burnt snail shells may indicate that other plant remains were also being used for kindling or fuel, particularly those gathered from the edges of brackish streams or littoral contexts. The assemblages from ditch [804] are both extremely small. However, the presence of both duck-weed seeds and rush fruits probably does indicate that the ditch was at least seasonally wet and possibly even semi-permanently water filled. The composition of the assemblage from pit [109] is almost certainly indicative of material derived from cereal-processing refuse, where the grain was being grown on land which had probably been recently been tilled from an area of damp grassland. However, it should be noted that such material need not necessarily be indicative of primary cereal production as, during the Roman period, processing waste was commonly used as fuel for a variety of domestic and light 'industrial uses and was often traded as such.

Although the current assemblages are small (0.1 litres in volume or less), they clearly illustrate that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon in this area of Cowbit. In addition, these results do complement others recorded from earlier excavations within the immediate vicinity. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed and dated contexts recorded during excavation.

Reference

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Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare fg = fragment w = waterlogged/de-watered b = burnt

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Context No.	**1203**	**807**	**808**	**111**
Feature No.	**1202**	**804**	**804**	**109**
Feature type	**Feature**	**Ditch**	**Ditch**	**?Pit**
Trench	**12**	**8**	**8**	**1**
Cereals and other food plants				
Avena sp. (grain)				xcf
Hordeum sp. (grains)	x			xcf
Triticum sp. (grains)				xcf
(rachis node)				x
T. spelta L. (glume bases)				xx
T aestivum/compactum type (rachis node)				x
Cereal indet. (grains)				x
Large Fabaceae indet.				xcffg
Dry land herbs				
Bromus sp.				x
Chenopodium album L.				xw
Chenopodiaceae indet.		xw	xw	x
Fabaceae indet.				x
Galium aparine L.				x
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.				xx
Plantago lanceolata L.				x
Poaceae indet.				x
Polygonum aviculare L.				x
Ranunculus sp.				x
Rumex sp.				x
Sonchus asper L.		xw		
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
Rubus sp.		xcfwfg		
Wetland/aquatic plants				
Bolboschoenus/Schoenoplectus sp.	x			x
Carex sp.				xx
Eleocharis sp.				x
Lemna sp.		xxw	xw	xw
Juncus sp.		xw	xw	xw
Potamogeton sp.			xw	
Ranunculus subg *Batrachium* (DC)A.Gray			xw	
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	x		xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx			xxx
Charcoal >5mm	xxx			x
Charred root/stem			x	x
Waterlogged root/stem		xx	xx	xx
Indet.culm nodes				x
Indet.seeds				x
Mollusc shells				
Terrestrial species				
Acanthinula aculeata	xcfb			
Cochlicopa sp.	x			
Trichia hispida group				x
Vallonia sp.				x
V. costata				x
Freshwater obligate species				
Hippeutis sp.	x			
Hydrobia ulvae	x			
H. ventrosa	x xb			
Planorbis planorbis	x			
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x			x
Bone	x xb			xb
Burnt/fired clay	x			x
Burnt stone				x
Cladoceran ephippia		xw	xw	xw
Fish bone	x xb			x
Mineral concretions	x			
Mineral spheroids	xx			
Ostracods			x	
Siliceous globules	x			
Small coal frags.	x			x
Waterlogged arthropod remains		x	x	x
Vitreous material				x
Sample volume (litres)	**18**	**20**	**20**	**28**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 1. Plant macrofossils and other remains from Backgate, Cowbit, Lincolnshire

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.*(004).
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and briquetage.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Daily record sheets
3	Photographic record sheets
10	Trench Sheets
68	Context record sheets
6	Context register sheets
1	Section register sheets
1	Plan register sheet
19	Plan drawing sheets
11	Section drawing sheets
1	Environmental sample register sheet
4	Environmental sample record sheets

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2011.118

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: COBG11

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.