

Land South of Wilberforce Road, Cambridge.

An Archaeological Excavation Report



Matthew Collins

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Executive Summary

Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) excavated two open-areas on Land to the South of Wilberforce Road, Cambridge in order to 'preserve by record' the archaeology of the site prior to its redevelopment into student accommodation. The excavation was carried out between 24th May and 17th June 2022 and identified archaeological remains primarily dating to the Romano-British period. The main feature recorded within the site was the Romano-British road 'Akeman Street' and its associated road-side ditches which extended across both two excavated areas. Within the northern-most of the two areas (Area 1), the upper layers of the road, comprising the sandy sub-layer and gravelled/metalled surface partially survived, although they had been truncated by later furrows and other activity, whilst within the southern area (Area 2), these layers had been completely removed by later activity. Aside from furrows and other more recent archaeological features, the remaining feature of note was a partially preserved post-Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon burial which had been placed within the sub-layer of the road within Area 1.

Introduction

Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) were commissioned by St. Johns College, Cambridge (c/o Savills) to undertake open-area excavations on land south of Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, CB3 0EQ, prior to the sites redevelopment into new college accommodation, along with access and landscaping (Planning Reference: 21/02052/FUL). The excavation took place between the 24th May and 17th June 2022, with a further one day of Monitoring carried out on the 12th July 2022.

The archaeological works were undertaken in compliance with the Design Brief issued by the Senior Archaeologist at Cambridgeshire County Council (Gdaniec 2021) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wiseman 2021) issued by the CAU and agreed by Cambridgeshire County Council in the discharge Condition 30 parts (a) and (b) (Planning reference 21/02052/CONDA). It also follows an Archaeological Statement. Interim Statement of Potential issued by the CAU and agreed by Cambridgeshire County Council in the discharge Condition 30 part (d) (Planning reference 21/02052/CONDI). The CAU assigned Site Code is WFR 22 and the Cambridgeshire HER identifier is ECB 6777.

This Archaeological Excavation Report has been produced to address the first element of Condition 30 part (e). Following this will be preparation of the physical and digital archaeological archives ready for deposition at accredited stores approved by the Local Planning Authority, and submission of a publication report (to be completed within two years of the completion of fieldwork).

Location, Topography and Geology

The entire Proposed Development Area (PDA) covers an area of approximately 1.45 hectares, with the open-area excavations discussed in this report covering c.0.11 hectares within its south-eastern quadrant. The PDA is located at the southern end of Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, with Cambridge University Sports Ground positioned directly to the west, and centred on TL 43500 58430 (Figure 1). At the time of excavation, the site was unoccupied, having been cleared of former farm buildings, trees and areas of scrub, although a disused bungalow and large shed were still present within the southern half of the PDA.

The modern ground surface within the PDA slopes downwards from the north from a height of 14.50m OD along the northern edge, to 9.50m OD along the southern one. Underlying geology comprised of Gault Formation clay.

Project Aims and Methodology

The primary objective of the open-area excavation programme was to mitigate the impact on archaeological remains, via preservation by record, of any archaeological evidence within the areas defined by the previous evaluations (Brittain 2020, 2021). The project also aimed to investigate the origins, date, development, character, function and significance of the remains revealed, and place these in their local, regional and wider archaeological context as outlined within the WSI (Wiseman 2021)

and with reference to the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (2021, <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

To achieve this, two areas (Area 1 and Area 2), which were positioned within the footprint of two proposed buildings were excavated. Although, these areas were reduced in size from the original plan (in consultation with the Senior Archaeologist from Cambridgeshire County Council) due to the presence of live services including mains electric and water, and tree preservation zones (Figure 2). Area 1 was initially machined to the top of a layer previously classed as colluvium (Brittain 2020), which was subsequently test-pitted by hand to investigate its provenance, and then removed by machine exposing the underlying geology. Area 2 was machined to the underlying geological level without the need for any investigation of overlying deposits.

Tarmac, topsoil and underlying deposits were removed under the direct supervision of an experienced archaeologist using a 22-ton tracked excavator equipped with a 2.10m wide ditching bucket, supported by a 10-ton dump truck. All exposed subsoil was metal detected for non-ferrous objects prior to removal, and all the removed deposits were placed in separate stacks within the western half of the PDA. After machining the archaeological areas were planned digitally using GPS, and all identified features were scanned with a metal-detector for all metals. Subsequent excavation of all features was carried out using hand-tools, with one and two metre slots excavated in linears at suitable intervals; pits and postholes half-sectioned and natural/ambiguous features tested. A drone survey was also carried out. All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation and with the recommendations of FAME (Allen & Holt 2010) and in accordance with a site-specific risk assessment and the CAU Health and Safety policy.

Recording Methodology

Recording of archaeological Features and Deposits followed a CAU designed system that was developed for extensive rural projects. The system assigns feature numbers, **F.**, to stratigraphic events such as ditches, pits and postholes (50+); Whereas Context numbers [100+] were assigned to the cut (where appropriate) and fills of each archaeological feature (ditch slot, half-section of pit etc.) and deposits (layers, surfaces etc.). All sections were drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20 scale; bulk environmental samples were taken where appropriate; and a digital photographic archive (including photography from a drone) was also assembled.

Archaeological Background

The PDA is situated within a rich historical and archaeological landscape (Figure 3) and this section of the report aims to place the site within that landscape by first discussing previous archaeological work within the PDA itself, and then briefly summarising the known sites within the local area.

Previous Work

The PDA has previously been subject to both a Desk-Based Assessment (Appleby 2013) and three phases of archaeological trenched evaluation (Roberts 2013 and

Brittain 2020, 2021). The Desk Based Assessment (DBA) highlighted the potential route of Roman Akeman Street (not to be conflated with the separate Roman Akeman Street which linked St. Albans with Cirencester) through the PDA and the later development of the Cambridge West Fields and St. John's New Farm/Grange Farm, which occupied much of the site from the early 19th century to recent times (Figure 4). The initial evaluation carried out in 2013 recorded only post-medieval/modern features related to the farm. However, the later 2020 evaluation recorded the presence of the Roman road, which comprised of parallel roadside ditches together with a surviving gravelled/metalled surface and an underlying sandy sub-layer which cambered down on either side of the road. Partially overlaying this was a further layer interpreted as colluvium. This evaluation also recorded remains relating to the farm including evidence for former buildings, and a large number of artefacts such as glazed pottery and clay tobacco pipe. These were concentrated within the western half of the PDA, outside of the Areas of archaeological interest excavated here.

The PDA and Surrounding Area

Limited prehistoric activity has been recorded within close-proximity to the PDA, with most of the known sites located towards the east on the gravel terraces of the River Cam. However, excavations 400m to the northwest (ECB 5209), which straddled the junction between a low-lying gravel ridge and Gault clay, recorded worked flints dating from the later Neolithic as well as a Middle Bronze pit cluster and two further pits dating to the Early Iron Age, indicating a prehistoric presence within this landscape (Brittain & Evans 2018).

Iron Age and Romano-British activity is, however, well attested to within the vicinity of the PDA. This includes a large settlement located 450m to the west of the PDA (MCB 26827) across which cropmarks and geophysics have highlighted a large area incorporating enclosures and trackways. The north-eastern periphery of this settlement (at the point closest to the PDA) was subject to an open-area excavation (ECB 5209, Brittain & Evans 2018) which yielded a trackway system, the edge of several enclosures, and pottery kilns dating to the 1st-2nd century AD.

Along the projected line of Roman Akeman Street, several Romano-British inhumations have also been recorded within the area, including a single set of remains 220m to the northeast (MCB 22989); a further single burial 550m to the northeast (CHER 04928) which also included several grave goods; and a group of at least eight individuals dating to both the mid Romano-British and the Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon periods located some 630m northeast of the PDA, which also yielded grave goods including a ring-necked flagon dating to the 2nd century AD (CHER 05049A).

A further inhumation has also been recorded 500m to the southeast of the site (EHNMR 1334404) although the date for this burial is debateable and is potentially Anglo-Saxon in origin. Known Anglo-Saxon activity is located further to the east, closer to the River Cam, and it is considered that there is a low potential for further activity dating to this period within the PDA.

During the medieval and post-medieval period, the PDA and surrounding area were part of the Cambridge 'West Fields' and are described in greater detail in the DBA

(Appleby 2013). The records indicate that this area broadly remained agricultural land with limited settlement activity until recent times, with an evaluation (EHNMR 149270) 240m east of the PDA yielding no archaeological features or deposits indicating the mixed potential for further discoveries within the immediate vicinity.

Project Archive

This open-area excavation produced varying quantities of archival material as outlined in Tables 1 and 2 below and presented in Appendices 1 to 7. All documentary records and accompanying artefacts have been assembled into a catalogued archive in line with Appendix 6 of MoRPHE (Lee, 2006) and, at the time of writing, are being stored at the CAU offices.

Archive Item	Total Number
Excavated Archaeological Features	14
Archaeological Contexts	47
Bulk Environmental Samples	8
Graphic Sheets	5
Archive Files	1

Table 1: Archive

Artefact Type	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery Sherds*	11	31
CBM	27	1006
Fired Clay	2	18
Human Bone	143	1536
Animal Bone	9	115
Metal objects	5	40
Oyster Shell	19	60
Road Cobbles	4	2837
Tobacco Pipe	8	28
Total	228	5671

Table 2: Artefact Total

*Includes Roman pottery recovered from the evaluation Phase

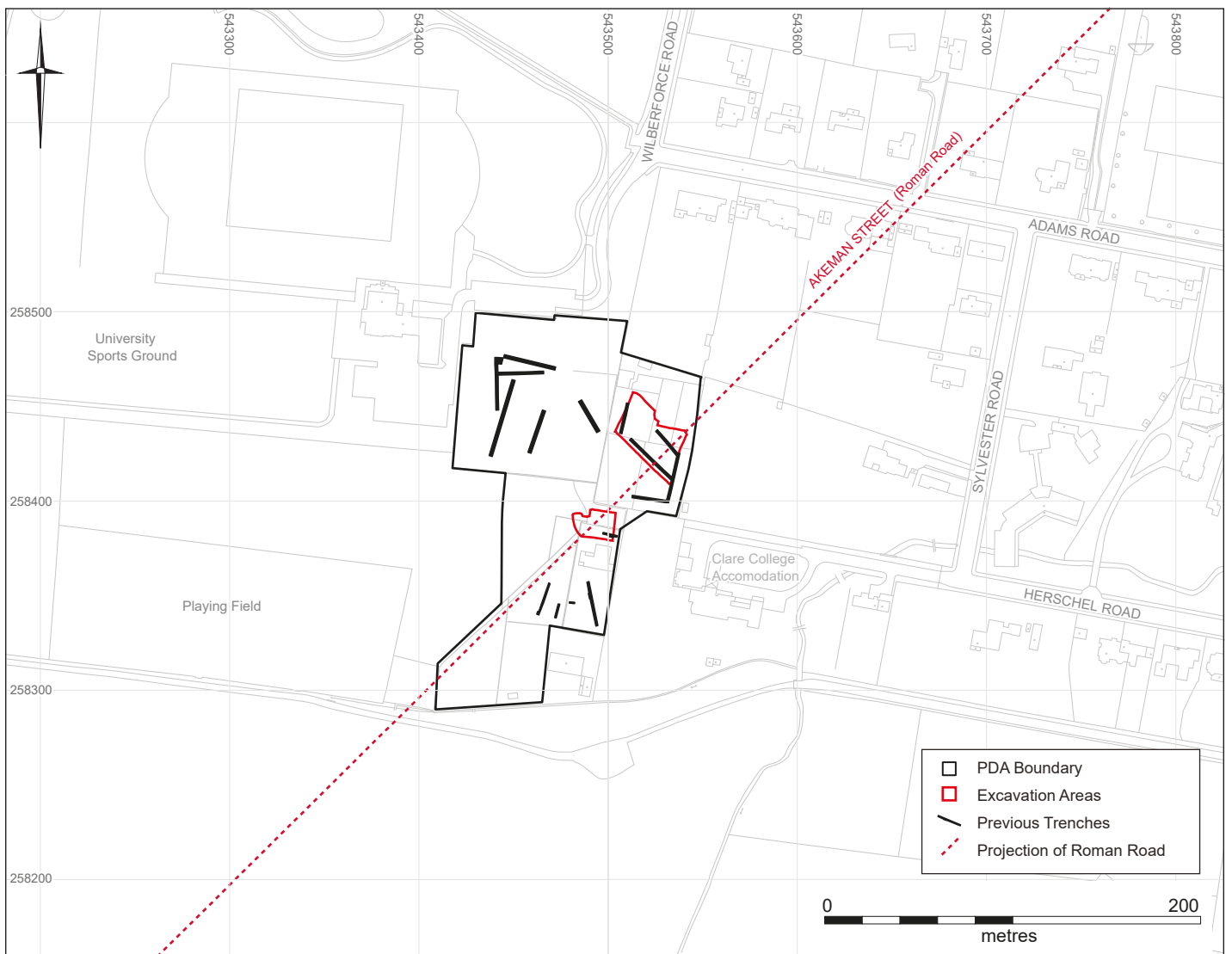
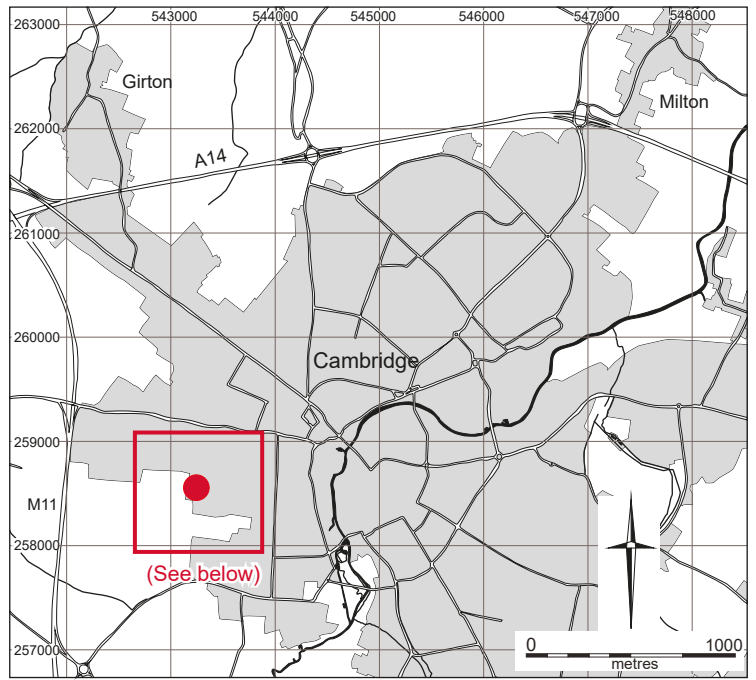
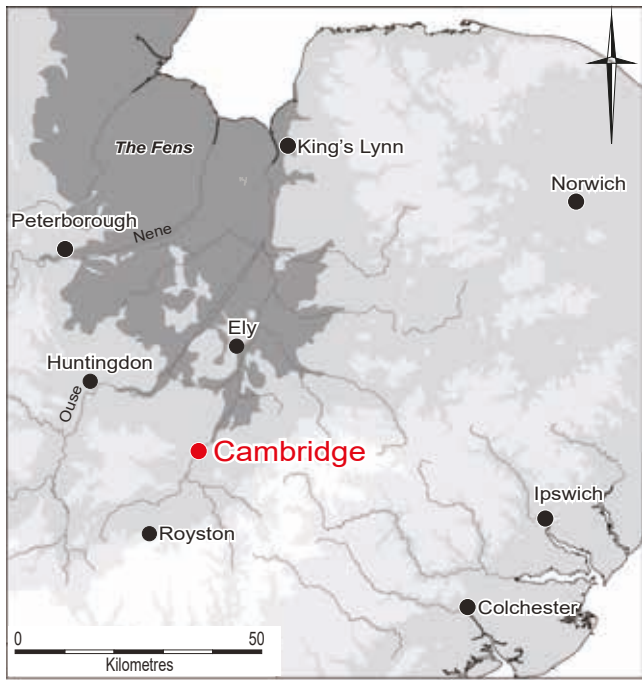


Figure 1. Site Location

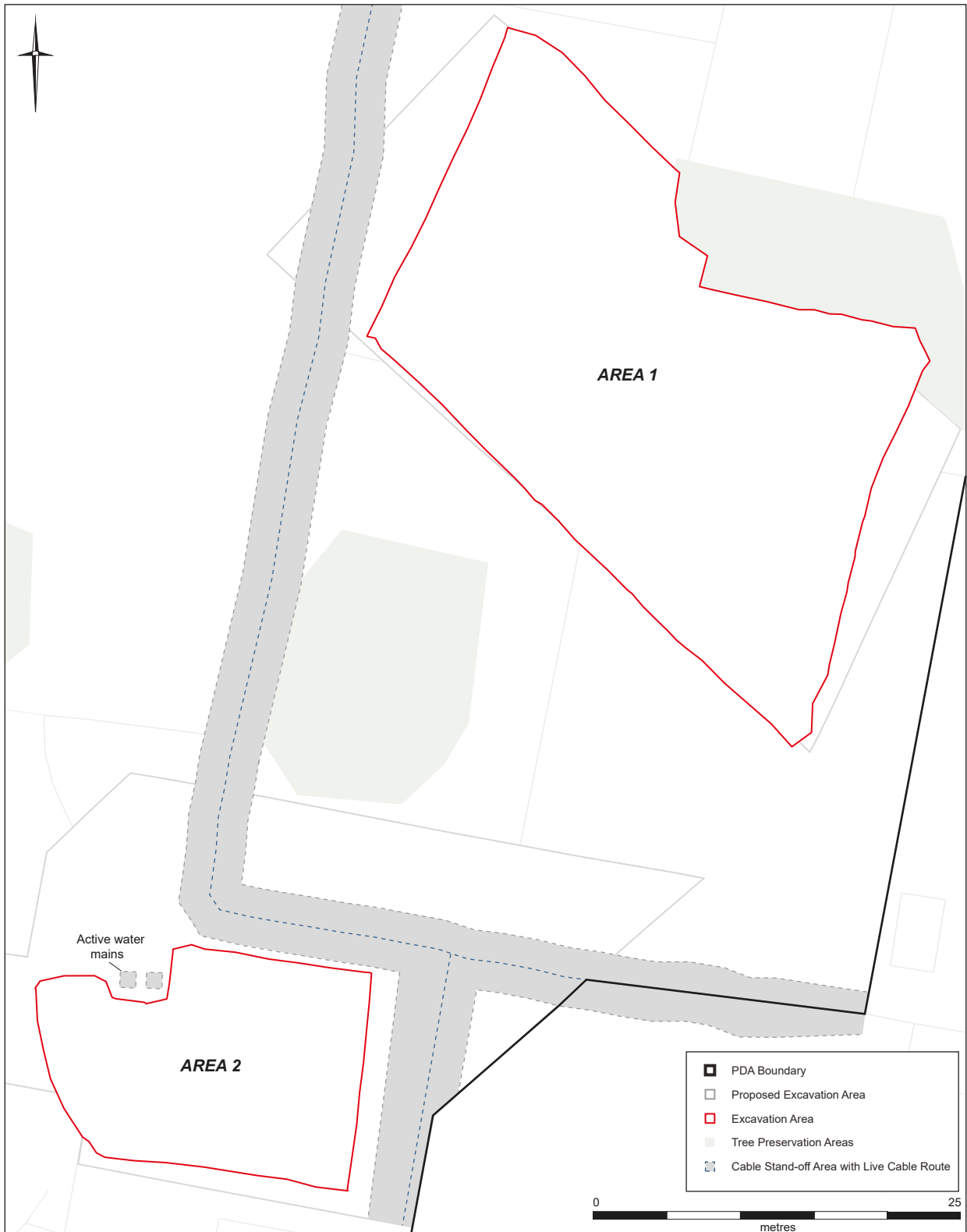


Figure 2. Archaeological Site Constraints

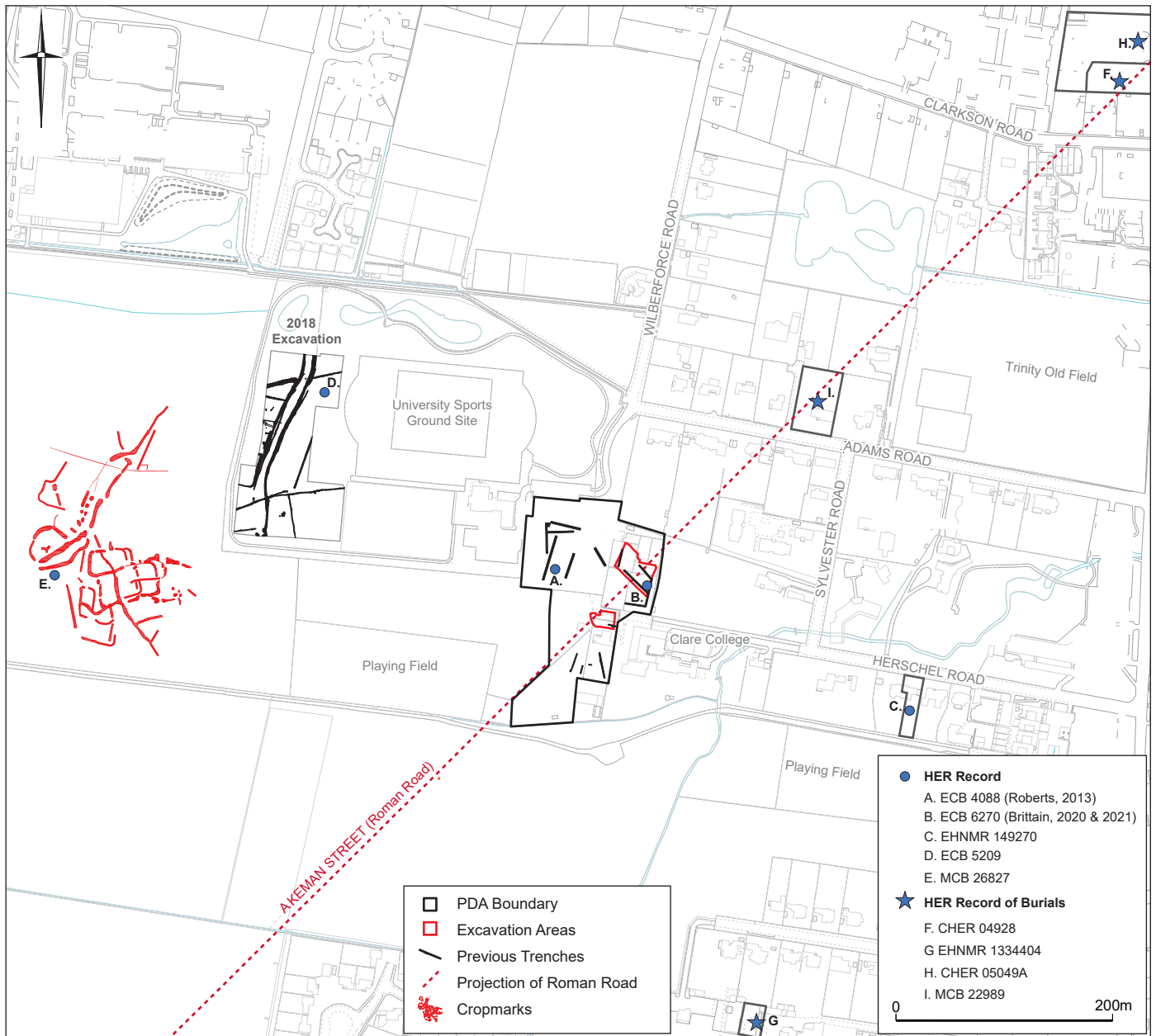
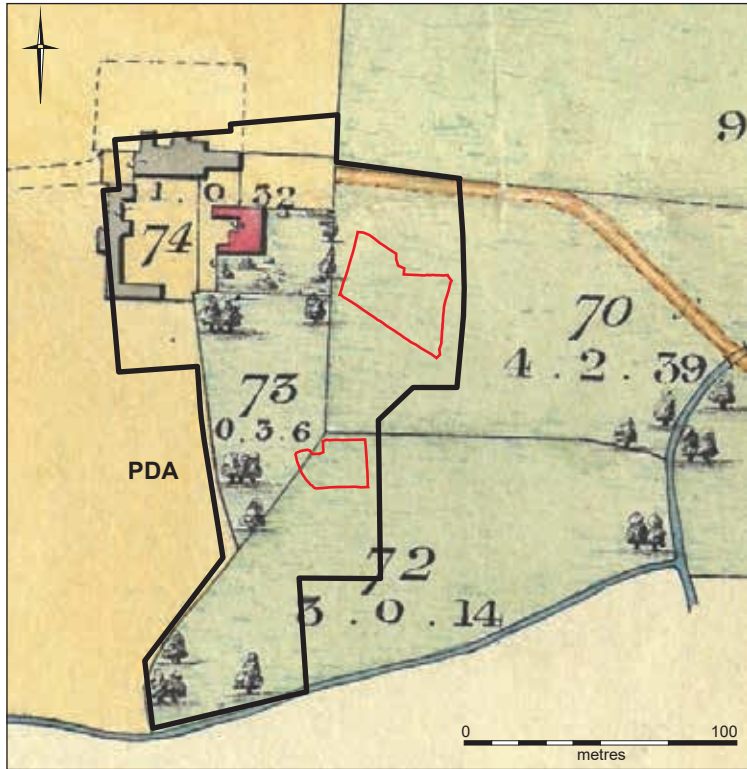
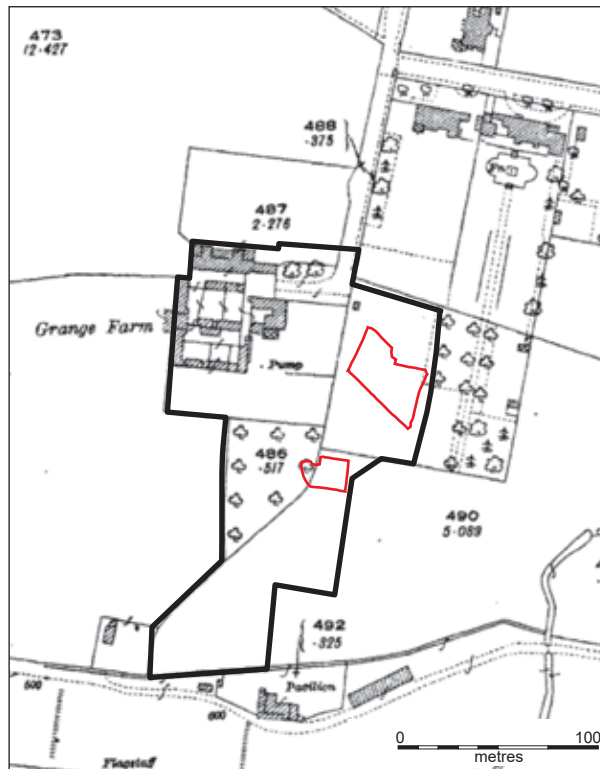


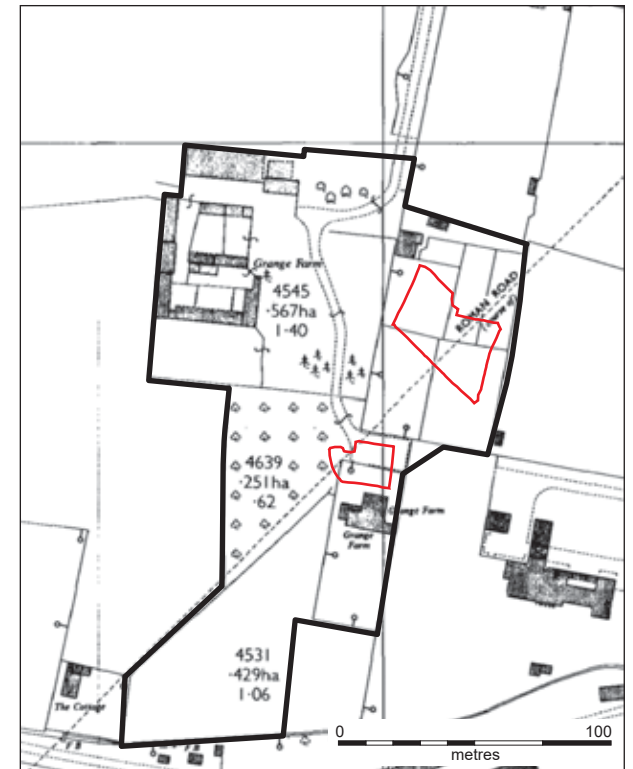
Figure 3. Roman Akeman Street showing selected HER data and excavation results in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development Area (PDA)



1866 Lease map



1920 OS map



1970 OS map

- PDA Boundary
- Excavation Areas

Figure 4. Historic Mapping Showing the PDA Boundary and Excavation Areas

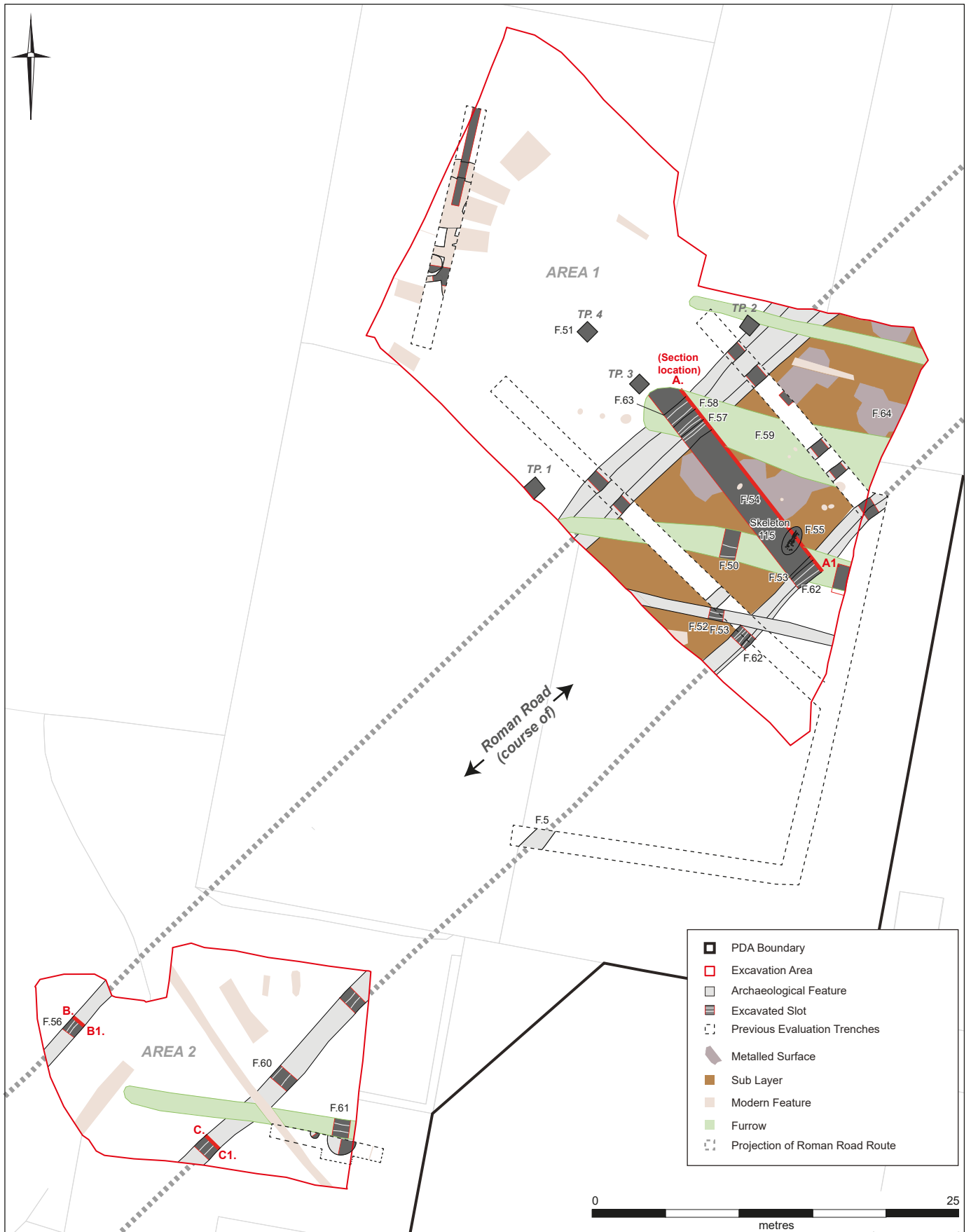


Figure 5. Site Excavation Areas

Results

Based on the results of the earlier phases of archaeological evaluation (Roberts 2013, Brittain 2020, 2021), it was decided that two areas (Area 1 and Area 2, Figure 5) corresponding to the proposed footprint of two accommodation blocks would be subject to further investigation to '*preserve by record*' the section of Roman Akeman Street that crosses these areas. The results from the two areas are presented individually below. Broadly however, the excavation of both areas confirmed the route of the Roman road, with Area 1 containing the best-preserved section, with a partial metalled surface overlaying a sandy sub-layer, and a buried soil, which cambered down on either side to a set of roadside ditches. In Area 2 the road layers had been truncated away by modern activity, although the roadside ditches did survive. Aside from the road, a partial post-Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon inhumation was also recorded, although this had been heavily truncated by a medieval/post-medieval furrow. The only other features recorded in both areas were related to medieval/post-medieval agricultural activity and the more recent St. Johns New Farm/Grange Farm.

Due to the discovery of the burial, the demolition of the modern dwelling (a bungalow) was monitored after the main excavation had been completed in order to record any further remains which may have survived within the foundations. The monitoring determined that the foundations and associated services of the bungalow had removed any archaeological remains.

Area 1

Area 1 was a roughly rectangular-shaped excavation measuring 850m² in total and centred on TL 543522 258432. It targeted an area previously evaluated in 2020 (Brittain 2020) that had identified a surviving stretch of Roman Akeman Street. Removal of the topsoil revealed patches of surviving gravelled/metalled surface along the projected line of Roman Akeman Street together with a pale to mid brown silty clay deposit which had previously been classed as a colluvium layer. As per the excavation brief (Wiseman 2021) four hand-dug 1m² test-pits were excavated across Area 1 to investigate this layer's provenance. This layer, **F.51**, was shown to be between 0.10m and 0.15m deep and contained a small number of artefacts ranging in date from the Roman to post-medieval periods. This layer was deemed to be subsoil rather than colluvium and was subsequently machined off.

Roman Akeman Street

As previously stated, a northeast-southwest orientated section of Roman Akeman Street (**F.54**) was preserved within Area 1 and was visible for 25.80m. It comprised of two sets of roadside ditches separated by approximately 11m. Between the two sets of ditches was a preserved/buried layer of former sub/topsoil overlain by a sandy sub-layer, which in turn was topped with a thin layer of compacted gravel forming a metalled road surface (Figure 6). Much of the metalled surface had been removed by post-medieval furrowing and other later agricultural activities, although areas of it did survive, and most of the underlying layers were also still present.

To demonstrate the roads full profile and the relationship between its various elements and later features, a two-metre-wide slot was hand excavated across the best-preserved portion of it, as seen in Figure 6. This slot demonstrated that the western side of the road was marked by three intercutting ditches, which included **F.57**, **F.58** and **F.63**. These ditches indicate this section of the road received periodic maintenance, with ditches being recut/replaced as they silted up. Ditch **F.57** was the latest in this sequence, and the most easterly of the three. It cut parallel ditch **F.58** and in turn was cut by furrow **F.59**. **F.57** was marginally the most substantial of the three ditches along this side of the road, measuring 0.84m wide, 0.43m deep, and contained a small assemblage of artefacts including a single animal bone fragment (4g) and five pieces of oyster shell (9g), perhaps demonstrating the casual disposal of food waste by people utilising the road. Ditch **F.58** lay between **F.57** and **F.63** (which it cut) and was 0.83m wide and 0.30m deep, with no artefacts recovered from it. **F.63** was the earliest ditch in the sequence (and most westerly) and was also the least substantial, measuring 0.78m wide and 0.15m deep. It too contained no artefacts. All three ditches were infilled with similar pale to mid grey silty clay which contained few inclusions, and a bulk environmental sample from **F.57** also contained no archaeobotanical remains, although a small assemblage of snail shells was identified within it.

The eastern side of the road was marked by intercutting, parallel ditches **F.53** and **F.62**. Ditch **F.53** was the latest (and most westerly) of these two features and averaged 1m wide and 0.30m deep. It contained a single sherd of Romano-British local coarse-ware pottery (4g), although a bulk environmental sample taken from it yielded no archaeobotanical remains and only a small assemblage of snail shells. Earlier ditch **F.62** was of a similar size and measured at least 0.95m wide and up to 0.30m deep and contained no artefacts. Both features were infilled with similar mid grey sandy silt and were cut by furrow **F.50**.

Between the two sets of ditches were a series of layers constituting the make-up of the road. The basal layer, situated over the natural clay geology, was likely a former sub/topsoil on which the road was constructed. This layer consisted of mid grey silty clay measuring 0.10m deep and contained no artefacts. Overlaying this was a sandy sub-layer, presumably purposely placed to raise the level of the road and provide a bedding material for the metalled surface. It comprised of pale to mid brown sandy clay up to 0.23m deep and contained no artefacts. A bulk environmental sample taken from this deposit yielded only a small number of uncharred, probably intrusive cereal grains, but no other remains. The final (upper) layer was the metalled surface which mostly comprised of a thin deposit (0.05m deep) of purposely placed and compacted fine-medium sized gravel which would have formed the road surface. A single small area of compacted larger river cobbles was also present in this layer, and may have formed part of a road repair, although this is conjecture.

Post-Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon

Buried within the sub-layer along the eastern side of the Roman road, a single partial inhumation, **F.55** was identified, excavated and recorded (Figure 7 and Appendix 2). This burial, due to its position within the road was initially believed to be Romano-British in date, however subsequent radiocarbon dating of the remains indicate the body dates to the mid-5th century AD (calibrated to 461 AD +/- 22 years). The burial

appeared to have been orientated northeast-southwest in a supine position, and there was no visible evidence for a grave cut. The upper half of the burial had unfortunately been removed by furrow **F.50**, although enough survived of the lower half to indicate the individual was probably a young/middle aged adult (18-30 years old) male, around 169cm tall. The cause of death was indeterminate. Further consideration of this individual is presented in the Discussion section of this report.

Post-medieval and Modern

Several post-medieval and modern features were identified, planned and in some instances excavated within Area 1. All of these were deemed to derive from agricultural activity, likely relating to Grange Farm and its precursors.

Of the three furrows that cut across Roman Akeman Street within Area 1 two were partially excavated and recorded (**F.50** and **F.59**) whilst the third remained unexcavated. **F.50** and **F.59** were broad, shallow features averaging 2.56m wide and 0.14m deep with a typical furrow profile of steep sides and flat base. All three were infilled with similar dark grey silty clay. The furrows cut through the upper road layers removing the metalled surface from much of the area (Figure 4), and penetrated the sub-layer, partially truncating inhumation **F.55**. They also cut through the subsoil (**F.51**), but the process of removing this layer from the western side of the Roman road also truncated away the furrows. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from these features including four fragments of animal bone (42g), 17 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM; 107g), two sherds of pottery (14g), five fragments of oyster shell (37g) and five pieces of clay tobacco pipe (21g).

Post-medieval ditch **F.52** extended parallel to furrow **F.50** and was likely a post-enclosure field boundary associated with Grange Farm. The 1920 and 1970 historic OS mapping (Figure 3) both suggest the presence of a field boundary in **F.52**'s approximate location, which was not visible on the earlier mapping, indicating the ditch was quite modern and was likely backfilled in the relatively recent past. It was a relatively insubstantial feature measuring 0.75m and 0.24m deep with steep sides and a flat base and was infilled with friable, topsoil derived dark grey clay silt. As with the furrows it cut over the Roman road removing parts of the metalled surface and partially cut into the sandy sub-layer.

Towards the western edge of Area 1 were a series of large, modern rectangular pits which were previously identified within a trench during the earlier evaluation (Brittain 2021). Due to their obviously modern nature none of them were excavated during this program of works, although several modern artefacts including brick, wire and plastic were observed in the upper fills confirming their provenance.

Area 1 Feature Descriptions

F.50. Furrow that extended across the Area and cuts Romano-British road **F.54** and truncated grave **F.55**. It had a visible length of 19.50m and two slots were excavated within it. It contained a total of two post-medieval pottery sherds (14g), one animal bone fragment (13g), 13 pieces of CBM (69g), two oyster shells (10g) and five fragments of tobacco pipe (21g).

Cut [102]. 1m slot measuring 2m wide, 0.10m deep with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Fill [100] was a mid to dark grey silty clay that contained two pottery sherds (14g), one animal bone fragment (13g), 13 pieces of CBM (69g), two oyster shells (10g) and five fragments of tobacco pipe (21g).

Cut [109]. 1m slot measuring 1.25m wide, 0.11m deep with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Upper fill [108] was mid grey silty clay with no artefacts. Basal fill [110] was pale to mid grey silty clay with no artefacts.

F.51. Area 1 subsoil layer that extended across the whole area. Four 1m² test-pits were hand excavated into it which contained a total of five pottery sherds dating from the Roman and post-medieval periods (6g), eight pieces of CBM (879g) and a single iron nail (7g).

Test-pit [100] was 0.10m deep and consisted of pale to mid brown silty clay with no artefacts.

Test-pit [103] was 0.15m deep and consisted of pale to mid brown silty clay. It contained three pottery sherds (2g).

Test-pit [104] was 0.15m deep and consisted of pale to mid brown silty clay. It contained two pottery sherds (4g), eight pieces of CBM (879g) and a single iron nail (7g).

Test-pit [107] was 0.15m deep and consisted of pale to mid brown silty clay with no artefacts.

F.52. East-west orientated ditch that extended across Area 1 and was visible for 13.30m. It cut through Romano-British road **F.54** and roadside ditches **F.53** and **F.63**. Cut [106] was a 1m slot that measured 0.75m wide, 0.24m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Fill [105] was dark grey silty clay that contained a single animal bone fragment (22g), two pieces of fired clay (18g) and three fragments of tobacco pipe (7g).

F.53. Northeast-southwest orientated roadside ditch positioned along the eastern side of the road that crossed Area 1 and had a visible length of 17m. It cut parallel ditch **F.62** and was cut by furrow **F.50** and ditch **F.52**. A single sherd of pottery (4g) was recovered from it.

Cut [112]. 2m slot which cut **F.62** and measured 0.68m wide, 0.23m with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Fill [111] was mid brown silty clay that contained no artefacts.

Cut [134]. 1m slot which cut **F.62** and measured 1.30m wide, 0.36m deep with moderately steep sides a slightly rounded base. Upper fill [132] was mid brown silty clay that contained a single pottery sherd (4g). A bulk environmental sample from this fill yielded no charred cereal grains or other seeds, no charcoal, and a moderate number of molluscs. Lower fill [133] was pale to mid brown silty clay which contained no artefacts.

F.54. Northeast-southwest orientated Romano-British road (Akeman Street) which extended across both excavated areas (Figure 5). Within Area 1 it visibly measured 26m long and 11m wide and was cut by furrows **F.50** and **F.59** and ditch **F.52**.

2m slot excavated across the whole road. Layer [123] comprised the gravelled/metalled surface measuring 0.05m deep. A sample of the stone comprising part of the road surface was kept for analysis (four pieces, 2837g). Layer [113] comprised the sandy sub-layer which measured 0.23m deep and consisted of pale to mid brown sandy clay from which no artefacts were recovered. Layer [122] comprised an underlying buried soil which measured 0.10m deep and

consisted of mid grey silty clay which contained no artefacts. A bulk environmental sample taken from this fill yielded no charred cereal grains or other seeds, a very small quantity of cereal grains and no molluscs.

Layer [143]. Irregular shaped area of surviving gravelled/metalled road surface which measured 3.40m long and 2m wide, (unexcavated).

F.55. Post-Roman human inhumation buried within the sandy sub-layer of the Romano-British road **F.54** (Figure 5). The upper half of the skeleton had been truncated by furrow **F.50**. Surviving grave cut [116] measured 1.20m long, 0.50m wide, 0.10m deep with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. It was infilled with [114] which was pale to mid grey silty clay. A bulk environmental sample taken from this fill yielded no charred cereal grains or other seeds, a very small quantity of charcoal and a moderate number of molluscs. The skeletal remains were recorded as [115].

F.57. Northeast-southwest orientated roadside ditch within Area 1, positioned along the western side of the road. It had a visible length of 23.40m. It cut parallel ditch **F.58** and was cut by furrow **F.59**. Cut [119] was a 2m slot which measured at least 0.84m wide, 0.43m deep with steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Upper fill [120] consisted of mid grey silty clay, which contained five oyster shell fragments (9g). Lower fill [121] consisted of pale to mid grey silty clay which contained a single animal bone fragment (4g). A bulk environmental sample take from this fill yielded no charred cereal grains or other seeds, a very small quantity of charcoal and a moderate number of molluscs.

F.58. Northeast-southwest orientated roadside ditch within Area 1, positioned along the western side of the road. It had a visible length of 23.40m. It cut parallel ditch **F.63** and was cut by ditch **F.57** and furrow **F.59**. Cut [126] was a 2m slot that measured 0.83m wide, 0.30m deep with moderately steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Upper fill [124] consisted of mid grey silty clay which contained no artefacts, whilst lower fill [125] was pale to mid grey sandy clay which also contained no artefacts.

F.59. East-west orientated furrow within Area 1 that cut over road **F.54** and roadside ditches **F.57**, **F.58** and **F.63**. It visibly measured 16m long and was truncated away towards the west. Cut [129] was a 2m slot 3.12m wide and 0.18m deep with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Fill [128] consisted of dark grey silty clay that contained three animal bone fragments (29g), four pieces of CBM (38g) and three oyster shells (27g).

F.62. Northeast-southwest orientated roadside ditch within Area 1 positioned along the eastern side of the road. It was recut by parallel ditch **F.53** and was truncated by furrow **F.50** and post-medieval ditch **F.52**. It visibly measured 17m long.

Cut [142]. 2m slot cut by ditch **F.53**. It measured at least 0.95m wide, 0.30m deep with moderately steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Fill [141] consisted of mid brown silty clay which contained no artefacts.

Cut [146]. 1m slot cut by ditch **F.53**. It measured at least 0.35m wide, 0.27m deep with moderately steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Fill [145] consisted of mid brown silty clay and contained no artefacts.

F.63. Northeast-southwest orientated roadside ditch within Area 1 positioned along the western side of the road. It was recut by parallel ditch **F.58** and truncated by furrow **F.59**. A 23.40m length of the ditch was exposed in Area 1. Cut [144] was recut by ditch **F.58**. It measured at least 0.78m wide, 0.15m deep with shallow sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. Fill [127] consisted of mid grey silty clay that contained no artefacts.

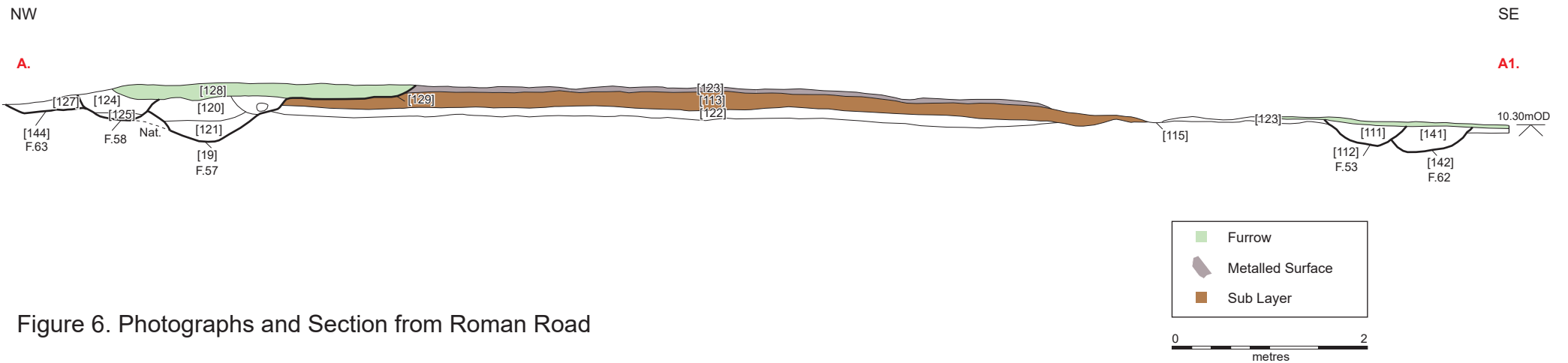
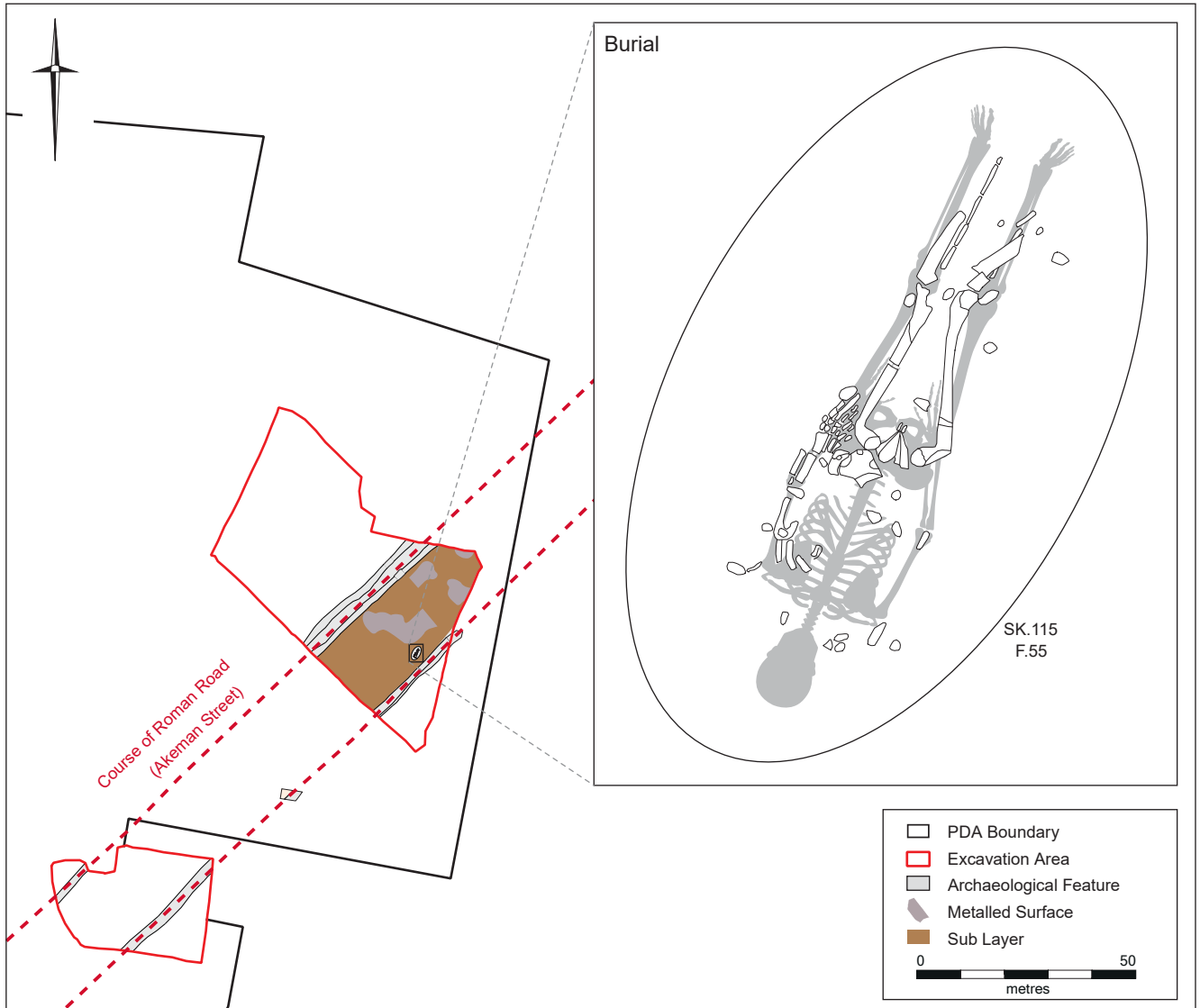


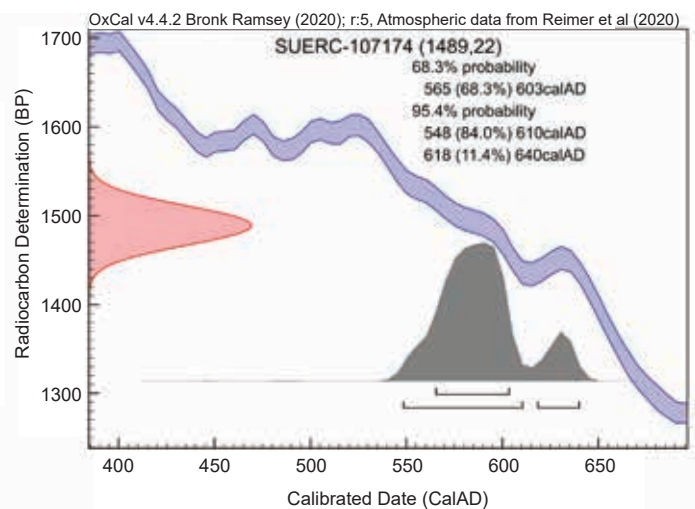
Figure 6. Photographs and Section from Roman Road



a) Excavations at Wilberforce Road showing the Roman roadside ditches and heavily disturbed burial



b) Photograph of Inhumation F.55



c) Calibrated Date of Inhumation F.55 = 461AD +/- 22 years

Figure 7. Post-Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon Burial

Area 2

Area 2 was an irregular shaped area measuring 280m² in total and centred on TL 543494 258387. Due to the presence of a bungalow, its associated services, driveway and garden, this part of the PDA had previously only been evaluated by a short 5m long trench located outside of the projected line of Roman Akeman Street (Trench 12; Brittain 2021). This excavation revealed Area 2 was much more heavily disturbed by modern activity than Area 1, with deep brick rubble foundations underneath the former driveway removing any evidence for topsoil, subsoil or surviving layers associated with Roman Akeman Street. Across the rest of the area, a topsoil was still evident, however once this was removed mixed layers of rubble and other modern disturbances were exposed which lay directly over the natural geology, demonstrating that any previously surviving road layers and subsoil had also been truncated.

Whilst no surviving road layers remained, two roadside ditches (**F.56** and **F.60**) were recorded and aligned with two of the ditches (**F.58** and **F.53**) identified within Area 1 (Figure 5). In addition, there were several post-medieval and modern features in this area and are discussed in greater detail below.

Roman Akeman Street

Two parallel roadside ditches approximately 11.50m apart were recorded within Area 2. The western-most of these, **F.56**, aligns with ditch **F.58** located in Area 1 and is likely the same feature. It was 0.90m wide, 0.25m deep, infilled with mid grey silty clay and contained no artefacts. A bulk environmental sample taken from it contained no archaeobotanical remains. The eastern ditch **F.60** (Figure 8) aligned with ditch **F.53** within Area 1 and is also likely to be the same feature. It was a slightly larger feature than **F.56** and averaged 1.24m wide and 0.23m deep and was infilled with mid brown silty clay. A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from it including three pottery sherds (7g) and nine fragments of oyster shell (14g) which again hints at the casual disposal of food waste, possibly by people utilising the road. The lack of recuts or earlier roadside ditches suggests this section of the road may have not undergone the same level of maintenance/reworking as that in Area 1. Although it is also possible shallower ditches were truncated away with the road layers, and at this stage, unfortunately, there is no evidence to ascertain which scenario is most likely.

Post-medieval and Modern

A single post-medieval furrow, **F.61**, was identified within Area 2. This feature measured 1.29m wide, 0.25m deep, was infilled with dark grey silty clay and contained a small assemblage of artefacts including three animal bone fragments (47g) and two pieces of CBM (20g). It was parallel to the furrows within Area 1 and was likely part of the same open field farmed as part of the Cambridge West Fields. It cut over ditch **F.60** and in turn was cut by a modern service trench. Also located in this area were two large, modern rectangular features together with two elongated modern pits. All these features were test excavated and shown to contain modern ceramic, wire and other metalwork, glass and plastic, proving their provenance. Beyond planning them these features were not recorded further.

Area 2 Feature Descriptions

F.56. Northeast-southwest orientated roadside ditch within Area 2, positioned along the western side of road (Figure 7). It visibly measured 6.50m long. Cut [118] was a 1m slot which measured 0.90m wide, 0.25m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. Fill [117] was mid grey silty clay and contained no artefacts. A bulk environmental sample taken from this fill yielded no charred cereal grains or other seeds, a very small quantity of charcoal and a moderate number of molluscs.

F.60. Northeast-southwest orientated roadside ditch within Area 2 positioned along the eastern side of the road. It had a visible length of 18m and was cut by furrow **F.61** and a modern service (Figure 8).

Cut [131]. 1m slot which measured 1.26m wide, 0.26m deep with moderately steep sides and a slightly rounded base (Figure 8). Fill [130] consisted of mid brown silty clay that contained a single Romano-British pottery sherd (2g). A bulk environmental sample taken from this fill yielded no charred cereal grains or other seeds, no charcoal and a moderate number of molluscs.

Cut [136]. 1m slot which measured 1.31m wide, 0.17m deep with moderately steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Fill [135] consisted of mid brown silty clay that contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery (5g) and nine fragments of oyster shell (14g).

Cut [138]. 1m slot which measured 1.41m wide, 0.26m deep with moderately steep sides and a slightly rounded base. Fill [137] consisted of mid brown silty clay that contained no artefacts.

F.61. East-west orientated furrow within Area 2 which cut over ditch **F.60** and was cut by a modern service. Cut [140] was a 1m slot which measured 1.29m wide, 0.25m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. Fill [139] consisted of dark grey silty clay which contained three animal bone fragments (47g) and two pieces of CBM (20g).



Area 2. Ditch F.60 from NE

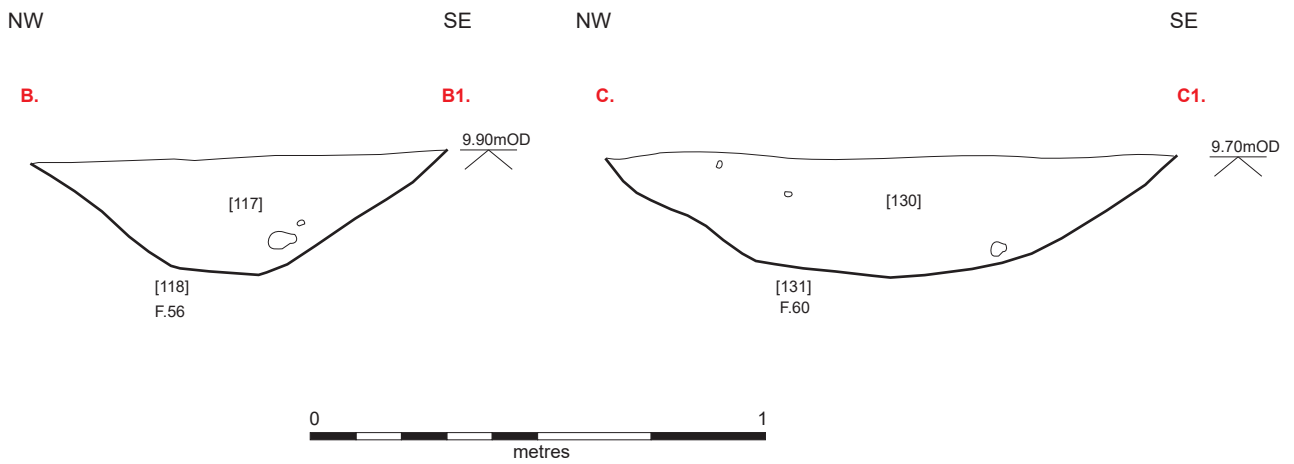


Figure 8. Photograph and Sections From Area 2

Discussion

In keeping with the evaluation and Desk Based Assessment results (Appleby 2013, Roberts 2013, Brittain 2020, 2021) no evidence was recorded within either of the excavated areas for any activity dating prior to the Romano-British period.

The excavations did, however, identify an important section of Roman Akeman Street which was the main route linking Roman Cambridge (known as '*Duroliponte*') and its environs (Figure 9), with the major Roman road Ermine Street, at Wimpole Lodge to the southwest, and the Norfolk coast via the Isle of Ely to the northeast (Davies 2008). This road was likely built and utilised from the 2nd century AD onwards, with some anecdotal evidence suggesting at least parts of it may be based on an earlier prehistoric/Iron Age trackway, (Walker 1910), although no evidence for an earlier trackway was identified here. The evidence from this site indicates this section of Akeman Street followed the typical Roman construction techniques for (non-major) roads, with a cambered sub-layer created between two sets of parallel ditches (using material likely predominantly derived from the ditches) which raised the road from the surrounding ground-level and allowed surface water to drain into the adjacent ditches, keeping the road drier and more stable. It was then capped with a compacted metallised/gravelled layer to provide a more hard-wearing travelling surface. The style of construction identified here closely matched that recorded within other archaeological excavations across Akeman Street, such as at Landbeach, Cambridgeshire (Macaulay, 1997) where the road intersected with a Romano-British farmstead, indicating standardised construction techniques were being utilised along its length.

Whilst the sub-layer was likely derived from the ditches, the gravel constituting the metallised surface of the road would have had to have been brought to the site. This material would probably have been quarried/sourced nearby, potentially from the River Cam gravel terraces to the east, as this material would not be transported over great distances, and certainly the stones used in the road repair were typical of river cobbles derived from this type of source.

Due to the paucity of dateable artefacts recovered from the roadside ditches and the layers of the road itself during this excavation, it is difficult to determine from the results when the road was constructed and when it eventually fell out of use. It is also worth noting at this point that the archaeobotanical results from the bulk samples were extremely poor, providing few clues as to the state of the local environment whilst the road was in use, or any material for potential radiocarbon dating. This is likely the result of the distance from known settlement activity, equally it could be the result of poor preservation conditions due to local geology and soil types.

The lack of any other archaeological features dating from the Romano-British period within this excavation is perhaps surprising given the position of a large Late Iron Age and Roman farmstead/settlement located to the west of the development area (MCB 26827, ECB 5209, Brittain & Evans 2018) that, given its significance, would almost certainly have had a trackway linking it to Akeman Street, as well as an outfield system and other activity. The fact no such features were encountered suggests these links are located elsewhere, and aside from the route of the road, the immediate environs

around the development area were considered extremely peripheral. This is further supported by the lack of archaeological remains from the nearby evaluation at EHNMR 149270 (Figure 3).

The 5th century burial within the sub-layer of the road is a rare and interesting find, particularly given the lack of any known nearby contemporary settlement activity. A similar instance of a 5th century burial within the line of a Romano-British trackway was recorded during the Northstowe Phase 1 excavations (Aldred & Collins 2021) where a deviant burial had been placed within a pit cut into the track. In this instance, however, the trackway had clearly fallen out of use, whereas at Wilberforce Road this may not be the case. Unfortunately, it is difficult to gauge the condition of Akeman Street by the 5th century AD, and it is unknown how much of the metalled surface survived, or whether the roadside ditches would have been silted up by this point. It is also possible that whilst the road itself may have remained passable, roadside 'creep' of bordering hedge-lines would have narrowed its course, perhaps explaining why the burial is placed within the road-line, rather than outside it. Either way, regardless of the roads condition, the presence of a post-Roman burial along the route of the road indicates some connection to it, with the most likely scenario that it remained in-use into the post-Roman period.

Several other burials have been identified in close-proximity to the road in the local area including a group of Romano-British and Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon inhumations 630m to the northeast (CHER 05049A); a single Romano-British inhumation 550m to the northeast (CHER 04928), and a further single Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon burial 220m to the northeast (MCB 22989). A further probable Anglo-Saxon inhumation was also recorded 500m to the southeast of the site (EHNMR 1334404), although this individual was not located close to the projected line of Akeman Street.

The presence of the 5th century AD burial cut into the body of the road, rather than along its edge, would suggest that it's importance, and therefore upkeep, had diminished with at least a constriction to it width. The road, however, may well have persevered in some form until the advent of agricultural changes in the later medieval period, which saw the Cambridge West Fields come under open-field ridge and furrow agriculture (Oosthuizen 2006). Certainly, given that the furrow system cut over the road surface on a completely different alignment, the road had completely fallen out of use by this time.

Conclusion

This excavation presented a rare opportunity to investigate one of the main recorded roads into Roman Cambridge and has allowed us to confirm its presence, understand how it was constructed, and the exact route it took. It has also provided a hint that the route-way probably continued in use into the post-Roman period, with a male being buried alongside it sometime in the 5th century AD.

The findings here could contribute to the East of England Early Anglo-Saxon research agenda, in particular '*E-Sax 03: What happened in the fifth century?*' (2021, <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>). The findings may also contribute to a larger study of 5th century Anglo-Saxon burials and their association with pre-established routeways, particularly on the fringes of Roman settlements. Although, due to the level of preservation of the burial here, these contributions would be limited

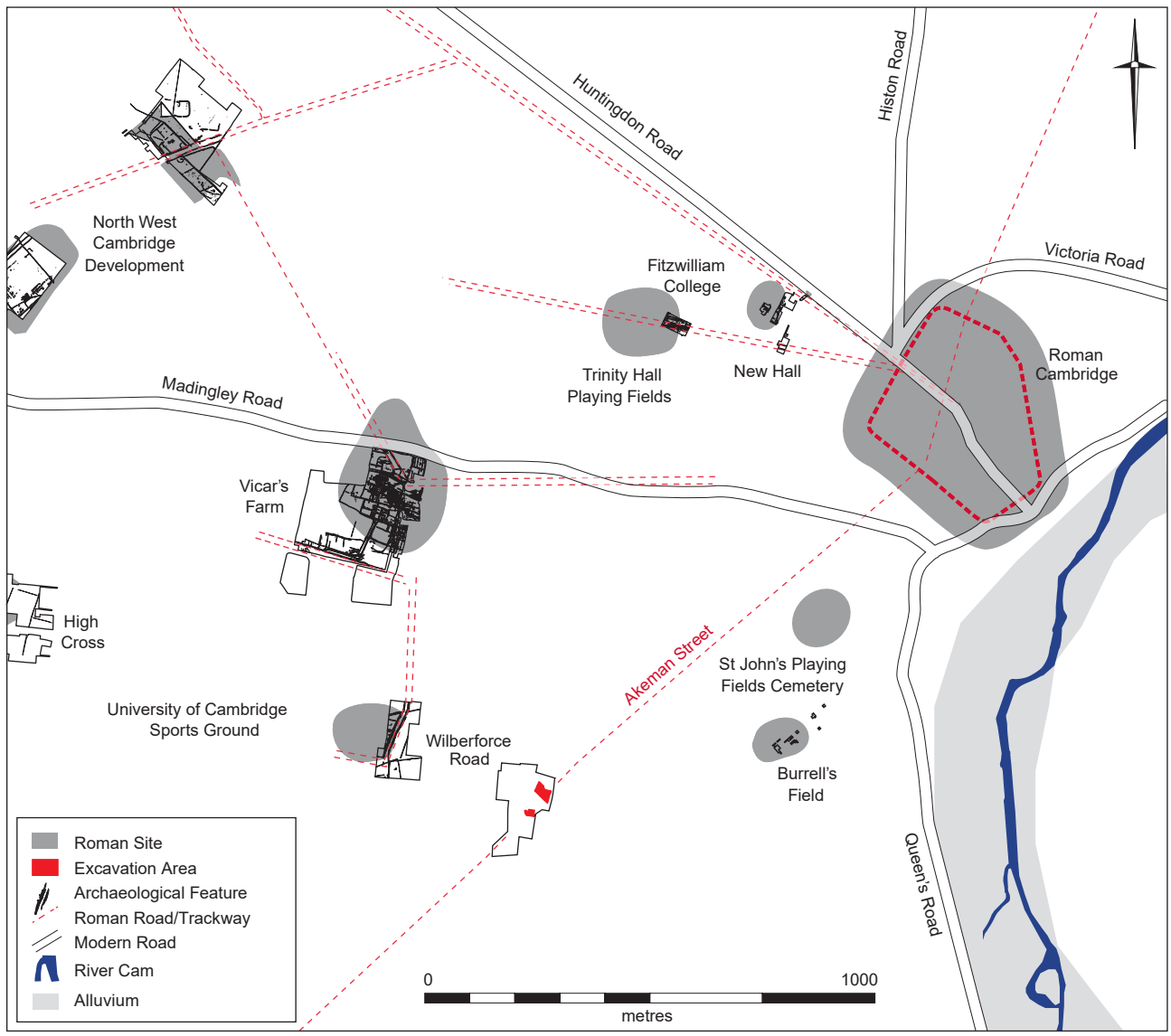


Figure 9. Romano-British Sites in the Wider Area

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Pottery *Katie Anderson (CAU)*

The excavations produced a very small assemblage of pottery totalling eight sherds weighing 16g, with an additional three sherds (17g) deriving from the evaluation phase of work (Table 3). The assemblage comprised of small, heavily abraded body sherds, the majority of which were likely to be residual. Due to the size and condition of the pottery, the majority of the sherds could only be broadly dated as ‘Romano-British’.

Introduction and Methodology

The assemblage of Roman pottery totalled eleven sherds of pottery weighing 33g, including three sherds (17g) which derived from the evaluation phase of work. All the pottery was analysed and recorded in accordance with the Study Group for Roman Pottery guidelines (Perrin 2011). The fabric series is based on a combination of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) and the CAU series (unpublished). This report provides full quantification and analysis of the Roman pottery.

Assemblage Composition

The pottery assemblage is predominately very small and abraded, with a very low mean weight of 3g. Due to the size and condition of the sherds, much of the material can only be broadly dated as Romano-British. Five sherds (25g) derived from the Roman roadside ditches, comprising of two fine sandy oxidised wares (**F.60**) and one black-slipped sandy ware (**F.53**). The additional two sherds were recovered from the roadside ditches during the evaluation phase of work, comprising of a Horningsea oxidised ware sherd (15g) from **F.5**, Trench 6 (equivalent of **F.53**) and one coarse sandy oxidised sherd (1g) from **F.1**, Trench 6 (equivalent of **F.63**).

The remainder of the assemblage was derived from the subsoil test-pits and totalled five sherds weighing 7g. These comprised of two sandy, black-slipped wares (5g), one coarse sandy grey-ware sherd (1g) and two fine sandy oxidised ware sherds (1g). An additional South Gaulish samian body sherd (1g) was also recovered from the subsoil of evaluation Trench 9. The latter sherd is the only imported ware within the assemblage and is also the only sherd which can be more closely dated than ‘Romano-British’ with the fabric indicating a date range of AD50-100, although this sherd is residual.

The range of fabrics was very limited and was dominated by unsourced coarse sandy wares. The only sourced wares within the assemblage are the Horningsea oxidised ware sherd and the South Gaulish samian sherd. The assemblage comprised of undiagnostic body sherds, with no rim or base sherds present, thus no vessel forms could be identified. There are also no decorated sherds within the assemblage and there is no evidence for use-wear.

Context	Ft.	Feature Type	Archaeological Period	Fabric	No.	Wt. (g)	Form	Date
135	60	Roadside Ditch	Roman	Fine sandy oxidised ware	1	1	Unknown	AD50-400
103	51	Subsoil Test Pit	med/post-med	Fine sandy oxidised ware	2	1	Unknown	AD50-400
103	51	Subsoil Test Pit	med/post-med	Black-slipped ware	1	2	Unknown	AD50-400
104	51	Subsoil Test Pit	med/post-med	Black-slipped ware	1	3	Unknown	AD70-400
104	51	Subsoil Test Pit	med/post-med	Coarse sandy greyware	1	1	Unknown	AD50-400
130	60	Roadside Ditch	Roman	Fine sandy oxidised ware	1	3	Unknown	AD50-400
132	53	Roadside Ditch	Roman	Black-slipped ware	1	5	Unknown	AD70-200
2	0	Subsoil Test Pit	post-medieval	South Gaulish samian	1	1	Unknown	AD50-100
1	1	Roadside Ditch	Roman	Coarse sandy oxidised ware	1	1	Unknown	AD50-400
11	5	Roadside Ditch	Roman	Horningsea oxidised ware	1	15	Unknown	AD70-400

Table 3: Roman Pottery Catalogue

Discussion

The assemblage represents no more than a background presence during the Roman period, and it is likely that much of the pottery assemblage derived from middening or later manuring of the site. The condition of the pottery limits any precise dating, with the samian sherd recovered from the evaluation phase of work the only closely dateable pottery.

The fabrics are dominated by unsourced sandy wares, with the single Horningsea oxidised sherd recovered during the evaluation the only sourced coarseware.

Statement of Potential and Discard

The Roman pottery assemblage is of limited importance, due to the size and condition of the assemblage. Much of the pottery is residual and even the sherds derived from Roman features are small and, heavily abraded, thus limiting any meaningful discussion of date and function of the site. Therefore, it is recommended that all the material can be discarded after the production of the archive report.

Introduction

This report details, and characterises, a single, truncated post-Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon inhumation from the 2022 excavations at Wilberforce Road, Cambridge.

Methodology

Sex estimation was accomplished by identifying the dimorphic dimensions of the pelvis using methods outlined by Buikstra et al. (1994). Metric dimensions supplemented these estimations following data outlined by France (1998). Age at death estimation was based on the degree of epiphyseal and apophyseal union (Cunningham et al. 2016), and skeletal degeneration (Calce 2012). The level of fragmentation was assessed using the specialist's own scoring system. Stature was estimated using data compiled by Trotter (1970) with reference to the femur. Stages of preservation followed the notation system developed by Mckinley (2004: 16). Bone dimension was measured using an osteometric board and a 150mm digital sliding calliper (with a resolution of 0.01mm and accuracy of $\pm 0.02\text{mm}$). The skeleton was studied for any salient traumatic and pathological change referencing paleo-pathological and modern clinical examples.

Results

Burial **F.55** appeared to have been orientated northeast-southwest in a supine position, and there was no visible evidence for a grave cut. The upper half of the burial had unfortunately been removed by furrow **F.50**, although likely had a stature of c.168.98cm. This was a young – middle aged adult. The remains were highly fragmented, consisting of 143 pieces (1536g), and none of the elements could be completely refitted. Fragment sizes mostly ranged between 10-200mm with diagenetic processes impacting on bone survival. Bone condition demonstrated medium preservation, whereby most of the bone surface was affected by some degree of erosion; general morphology was, however, maintained but detail of parts of the surface were masked by erosive action.

Provenance of the material

The inhumation was located just east of where Furrow **F.50** intersects Roman Road, Akeman Street, **F.54** approximately 4m west from the edge of excavation. Radiocarbon dating of a piece of bone from the burial returned a calibrated date of 461 AD +/- 22 years.

Discussion

This probable young middle-aged adult male likely had a femoroacetabular impingement in the left hip, which is a condition where extra bone grows along one, (or both), of the bones that form the hip joint, giving them an irregular shape. On this inhumation it was characterised by a contour abnormality at the femoral head-neck

junction. Although there are variable causes, in clinical settings, it is usually considered a patho-mechanical alteration, attributed for example, by persistent supraphysiologic (excessive) motion or a high impact trauma.

Statement of potential

The inhumation has the potential to contribute to the wider study of post-Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon burials and their relationship to Roman roads and established networks.

Summary

This small-scale excavation produced an assemblage of animal bone totalling 11 fragments and weighing 118g. The faunal material was recovered with associated Romano-British pottery and most likely represents remains of domestic activities, although given the paucity of the material this was likely to have been some distance away.

Introduction and Methodology

Of the assemblages 11 assessable specimens, only four were possible to assign to species level. Three main domesticates were positively identified.

The assemblages NISP and MNI values as well as the weights were all used in quantifying the material. The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of Identifiable Specimens). Also recorded was the diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. MNI was established using the most abundant skeletal element, considering the left and right specimens, as well as zones occurring in more than one element. Additionally, size and age were also considered. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and the reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Grahame Clark Zooarchaeology Laboratory at the Department of Archaeology in Cambridge. Those fragments impossible to assign to species level were categorised to size (cattle/red deer sized, pig/sheep/goat sized and rodent sized). Ageing of the assemblage employed both mandibular tooth wear (following Matschke 1967, Payne 1973, Grant 1982 and Levine 1982) and fusion of proximal and distal epiphyses (Silver 1969, O'Connor 1989).

This report offers quantification and characterisation of the assemblage, the statement of potential and recommendations for further work.

Assemblage Character and Summary

Recovered from seven contexts in total, this small assemblage only produced four specimens identified as cow, sheep/goat and pig (Table 4). The unidentified cattle-sized and sheep-sized elements were also noted. In its entirety, the faunal material came from Romano-British contexts.

Discussion

Other than stating the range of species, it is difficult to discuss the assemblage any further, given its small size.

Taxon	NISP
Cow	1
Sheep/goat	2
Pig	1
Sub-total to species	4
Cattle-sized	5
Sheep-sized	2
Total	11

Table 4: Number of Identified Specimens

Statement of Potential

The assemblage is quantitatively insignificant and holds limited potential for further study or to contribute to our understanding of the sites occupation and animal use. The assemblages' small size also prevents any further work, or consideration of the elements of this assemblage.

Introduction

Six bulk samples were chosen for processing to assess the potential and quality of preservation of plant remains from Wilberforce Road, Cambridge. Sample 2 was fill from around an inhumation (**F.55**), whereas samples 4 (**F.57**), 5 (**F.54**), 7 (**F.56**) and 8 (**F.53**) were taken from roadside ditches, and Sample 5 was taken from the basal road layer (**F.54**). All were of Romano-British origin.

Methodology

The total volume of the six samples was 83L and they were processed by flotation using a modified Siraf-type flotation tank to recover any preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any remaining artefacts that may be present. A 300µm nylon mesh was used to collect the flot and the heavy residue in a 1mm nylon mesh and then both were air-dried. The residue was then sieved through a 4mm sieve and both >4mm and <4mm residues were scanned for materials.

Quantification

For this assessment, any charcoal was recorded by volume (ml). Intrusive material, such as roots, and molluscs will be recorded by abundance using occasional (1-10), moderate (11-50) and abundant (51+). For any cereal grains or seeds, a scoring of + (1-10), ++ (11-50), +++ (51+) will be used (Table 10).

Results

All results are recorded on Table 5 below. Sample 2, [114] **F.55**, contained occasional roots with no carbonised plant remains with minimal flecks of charcoal. An additional two small fragments of charcoal, approximately 5mm in length, were recovered from >4mm residues. Sample 4, [121] of **F.57** contained moderate amounts of roots with no carbonised plant remains and mostly flecks of charcoal. A small number of snail shells were recovered from >4mm residues. Sample 5, [122] of **F.54** contained occasional roots with flecks of charcoal. An additional four small fragments of charcoal, between 4-7mm in length, were recovered from >4mm residues. Sample 6 [130] of **F.60** contained occasional roots and a small number snail shells from >4mm residues. Sample 7 [117] of **F.56** contained abundant roots and a small number of snail shells. In addition, a single fragment of charcoal, approximately 10mm in length and several snail shells were recovered from >4mm residues. Sample 8 [132] of **F.53** contained abundant roots and a small number snail shells. In addition, small pieces of coal and moderate numbers of snail shells were recovered from >4mm residues. None of the roots showed signs of charring and no seeds or grains, including wild species, were identified.

Discussion

The samples from Wilberforce Road were relatively sterile with only a small amount of charcoal present. In combination with the lack of cereal grains or seeds, this suggests a poor level of preservation on site and a location some distance from settlement or other more intensive activities. The small quantity of charcoal present is likely to be too small for radiocarbon dating, with the possible exception of the larger fragment recorded from Sample 7 [117] **F.56**.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Sample Volume (L)	Cereal Grains	Charcoal volume (ml)	Intrusive Material	Snail Shell
2	114	55	Inhumation	13	0	<1	Occasional	Moderate
4	121	57	Roadside Ditch	12	0	<1	Moderate	Moderate
5	122	54	Base Road Layer	12	0	<1	Occasional	None Present
6	130	60	Roadside Ditch	14	0	0	Occasional	Moderate
7	117	56	Roadside Ditch	16	0	<1	Abundant	Moderate
8	132	53	Roadside Ditch	16	0	0	Abundant	Moderate

Table 5: Bulk Environmental Sample Results

Appendix 5 – Oyster Shell
Christopher Boulton (CAU)

From across the two excavation areas a small assemblage of oyster shell totalling 19 fragments weighing 60g was recovered. Five of the fragments (37g) were excavated from post-medieval furrows **F.50** and **F.59**, whilst the remaining 14 fragments (23g) were found within the Romano-British roadside ditches **F.57** and **F.60** (Table 6).

Whilst this is a relatively small assemblage, the oyster shell recovered from the Romano-British contexts does demonstrate oyster was being traded and consumed within the area during this period; with the shell disposed of by people utilising the road.

Feature	Feature Type	Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Type	Period	Area
50	Furrow	101	2	10	Oyster	Post-medieval	Area 1
57	Roadside Ditch	120	5	9	Oyster	Romano-British	Area 1
59	Furrow	128	3	27	Oyster	Post-medieval	Area 1
60	Roadside Ditch	135	9	14	Oyster	Romano-British	Area 2

Table 6: Oyster Shell

Summary

Six metal objects weighing 43.97g were recovered from metal detecting, hand excavation and environmental sampling. The material comprised of objects made from copper alloy, lead and iron. The dateable material is all post-medieval and all of the assemblage has been fully assessed and recorded into a spreadsheet (Excel).

This report provides quantification and summary of the metalwork and highlights its potential to contribute further to the narrative of the site.

Assemblage Composition

Post-medieval

There were three objects that were post-medieval in date, (Table 7). This included a heavily worn George III halfpenny (S.F.2), which had been inscribed on the reverse with the initials 'T.E' and underlined; as well as a copper alloy button (S.F.3) and post-medieval lead bottle stop (S.F.1).

Undated

There were three iron objects that were heavily corroded and fragmentary, and not independently dateable. This included a nail fragment recovered from the Roman road **F.54** [122], as well as a possible nail stem fragment from medieval/post-medieval feature **F.51** [104]. A further piece of undiagnostic wire (SF.4) was also recovered through metal detecting.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

This is a small assemblage of metal objects, most of which are unstratified. The dateable material is all post-medieval and is typical of background metal detected assemblages. The material has little potential to contribute further to the interpretation of the site. The assemblage has been fully assessed and no further work is required. It is recommended that the iron objects are discarded once the project is complete.

S.F. No.	Test Pit	Feature	Context	Feature Type	Site Phasing	Metal type	Object type	Material date	Description	Diameter (mm)	Weight (g)
2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cu alloy	Coin	AD 1760-1820	Halfpenny, George III; heavily worn. Inscribed on reverse: 'T.E' and underlined.	27.1	6.63
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Cu alloy	Button	18 th /19 th century	Plain, flat, round button with wire loop. Backmark: TREBLE GILT STANDd. COLOUR	15.8	2.2
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Lead	Bottle stop	Post-medieval	Near-complete hammered bottle stop, round and domed with concentric circles around a central dot; lip on base. Probably from a vanity case or similar.	43	24.72
-	N/A	54	122	Road	Roman	Iron	Nail	Undated	Small nail fragment.	N/A	0.09
-	3	51	104	Subsoil Test Pit	Medieval/post-medieval	Iron	?nail	Undated	?nail stem fragment, square section.	N/A	9.02
4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Iron	Undiagnostic - wire	Modern(?)	Undiagnostic wire with round section, bent; function unknown.	3	1.31
Total										43.97	

Table 7: Summary of Metalwork

Appendix 7 – Post-medieval Artefacts

A small assemblage of post-medieval artefacts including ceramic building material, fired clay and clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the Wilberforce Road excavations and are outlined below. These objects were mostly recovered from the subsoil and furrows and are considered typical background activity for the period.

Ceramic Building Material
Ros Quick (CAU)

Summary

The excavations produced a small assemblage of 29 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1018g from five medieval/post-medieval features. The material is all post-medieval or probably post-medieval in date, comprising pieces of brick as well as several small undiagnostic fragments of tile.

Introduction and Methodology

The material was fully quantified and assessed in line with the guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Material Group (2002) and entered into a spreadsheet (Excel). Fabrics were identified and grouped visually using a x10 hand magnifier. This report provides quantification and summary of the CBM and highlights its potential for further study.

Assemblage Composition

29 pieces of post-medieval brick and tile weighing 1018g were recovered from five medieval/post-medieval features, (Table 8). There were no complete examples, and the material is mostly small, with a mean fragment weight of 35g.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

This is a small assemblage of post-medieval CBM consisting of small pieces of brick and fragments of undiagnostic tile. The material is all redeposited and offers little potential to contribute further to the interpretation of the site. The material has been fully recorded and assessed and no further work is required. It is recommended that all of the material is discarded once the project is complete.

Feature	Context	Area	Feature Type	CBM type	Material Date	Fabric Description	Description	Thickness (mm)	Quantity	Weight (g)
50	101	1	Furrow	Undiagnostic tile	Post-medieval	Hard fired, fine clay matrix, no visible inclusions	Small undiagnostic fragments		8	26
						Fired, sandy matrix	Small undiagnostic fragments	12	3	38
					?post-medieval	Hard fired, fine sandy clay matrix	Small undiagnostic fragments		3	6
51	104	1	Subsoil Test Pit	Brick	Post-medieval	Hard fired, partly vitrified, dense clay matrix, no visible inclusions	4 pieces of post-medieval brick; lime mortar adhering to surfaces and edge.	53	4	660
						Fired, fine silty clay matrix, no visible inclusions	4 pieces of post-medieval brick		4	220
52	105	1	Ditch	Undiagnostic tile	Post-medieval	Hard fired, dense and fine clay matrix, no visible inclusions	Small undiagnostic fragment		1	8
59	128	1	Furrow	Brick	Post-medieval	Hard fired, coarse sandy clay matrix	2 pieces of post-medieval brick		2	25
				Undiagnostic tile	?post-medieval	Hard fired, sandy clay matrix, no visible inclusions	Small undiagnostic fragment	12	2	14
61	139	2	Furrow	Undiagnostic tile	Post-medieval	Hard fired, fine clay matrix, swirled cream and orange	Small undiagnostic fragment	13	1	12
					?post-medieval	Hard fired, sandy clay matrix, no visible inclusions	Small undiagnostic fragment		1	9
Total									29	1018

Table 8: Summary of CBM

Fired Clay
Ros Quick (CAU)

Summary

The excavations produced a single piece of undiagnostic fired clay weighing 11g from medieval/post-medieval ditch **F.52** [105]. This report provides quantification and assessment of the fired clay, as well as highlighting its potential for further study.

Assemblage Composition

A single amorphous piece of fired clay was recovered from medieval/post-medieval ditch **F.52** [105] weighing 11g. It is low fired and consists of a porous, fine sandy matrix. The fragment is not independently dateable and is of unknown origin.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

This is a small piece of redeposited and undiagnostic fired clay of unknown date and origin. It offers little further potential to contribute to the interpretation of the site. The piece has been fully recorded and no further research is required. It is recommended that the piece is discarded once the project is complete.

Tobacco Pipe
Matthew Collins (CAU)

A small assemblage of eight fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem weighing 28g was recovered from post-medieval furrow **F.50** and ditch **F.52**, (Table 9), both of which were located within Area 1. No further research is required, and it is recommended that the assemblage is discarded once the project is complete.

Feature	Feature Type	Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Period
50	Furrow	101	5	21	Post-medieval
52	Ditch	105	3	7	Post-medieval

Table 9: Clay Tobacco Pipe

Appendix 8 – Feature and Context List

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Shape/Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Primary Fill Type	Profile	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
50	Furrow	101	Fill	-	-	-	-	4.3.6	-	BN, CBM, PT, SH, TP	medieval/post-medieval
50	Furrow	102	Cut	E-W	1m slot	2.00	0.10	-	1.1	-	medieval/post-medieval
50	Furrow	108	Fill	-	-	-	-	3.3.6	-	PT	medieval/post-medieval
50	Furrow	110	Fill	-	-	-	-	2.3.6	-	None	medieval/post-medieval
50	Furrow	109	Cut	E-W	1m slot	1.25	0.11	-	1.1	-	medieval/post-medieval
51	Subsoil Test Pit	100	Layer	Square	1m slot	1m slot	0.10	2.3.6	N/A	None	medieval/post-medieval
51	Subsoil Test Pit	103	Layer	Square	1m slot	1m slot	0.15	2.3.6	N/A	PT	medieval/post-medieval
51	Subsoil Test Pit	104	Layer	Square	1m slot	1m slot	0.15	2.3.6	N/A	CBM, MT, PT	medieval/post-medieval
51	Subsoil Test Pit	107	Layer	Square	1m slot	1m slot	0.15	2.3.6	N/A	None	medieval/post-medieval
52	Ditch	105	Fill	-	-	-	-	5.3.6	-	BN, FC, TP	medieval/post-medieval
52	Ditch	106	Cut	E-W	1m slot	0.75	0.24	-	3.1	-	medieval/post-medieval
53	Roadside Ditch	111	Fill	-	-	-	-	3.2.6	-	None	Romano-British
53	Roadside Ditch	112	Cut	NE-SW	2m slot	0.68	0.23	-	2.1	-	Romano-British
53	Roadside Ditch	132	Fill	-	-	-	-	3.2.6	-	PT	Romano-British
53	Roadside Ditch	133	Fill	-	-	-	-	2.2.6	-	None	Romano-British
53	Roadside Ditch	134	Cut	NE-SW	1m slot	1.30	0.36	-	2.2	-	Romano-British
54	Road	113	Layer	NE-SW	2m slot	7.30	0.23	2.2.7	-	None	Romano-British
54	Road	122	Layer	NE-SW	2m slot	7.30	0.10	3.3.6	-	None	Romano-British
54	Road	123	Layer	NE-SW	2m slot	7.30	0.05	gravel surface	-	ST	Romano-British

Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Context Type	Shape/Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Primary Fill Type	Profile	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
54	Road	143	Layer	Irregular	3.40	2.00	N/A	gravel surface	-	None	Romano-British
55	Human Burial	114	Fill	-	-	-	-	2.3.6	-	None	Anglo-Saxon
55	Human Burial	115	Skeleton	NE-SW	>1.20	0.50	-	-	-	BN	Anglo-Saxon
55	Human Burial	116	Cut	NE-SW	>1.20	0.50	0.10	-	1.0	-	Anglo-Saxon
56	Roadside Ditch	117	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.3.6	-	None	Romano-British
56	Roadside Ditch	118	Cut	NE-SW	1m slot	0.90	0.25	-	3.3	-	Romano-British
57	Roadside Ditch	120	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.3.6	-	SH	Romano-British
57	Roadside Ditch	121	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	2.3.7	-	BN	Romano-British
57	Roadside Ditch	119	Cut	NE-SW	2m slot	>0.84	0.43	-	3.2	-	Romano-British
58	Roadside Ditch	124	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.3.6	-	None	Romano-British
58	Roadside Ditch	125	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	2.3.7	-	None	Romano-British
58	Roadside Ditch	126	Cut	NE-SW	2m slot	0.83	0.30	-	2.2	-	Romano-British
59	Furrow	128	Fill	E-W	-	-	-	5.3.6	-	BN, CBM, SH	medieval/post-medieval
59	Furrow	129	Cut	E-W	2m slot	3.12	0.18	-	1.1	-	medieval/post-medieval
60	Roadside Ditch	130	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.2.6	-	PT	Romano-British
60	Roadside Ditch	131	Cut	NE-SW	1m slot	1.26	0.26	-	2.2	-	Romano-British
60	Roadside Ditch	135	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.2.6	-	PT, SH	Romano-British
60	Roadside Ditch	136	Cut	NE-SW	1m slot	1.31	0.17	-	2.2	-	Romano-British
60	Roadside Ditch	137	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.2.6	-	None	Romano-British
60	Roadside Ditch	138	Cut	NE-SW	1m slot	1.41	0.26	-	2.2	-	Romano-British
61	Furrow	139	Fill	E-W	-	-	-	5.3.6	-	BN, CBM	medieval/post-medieval
61	Furrow	140	Cut	E-W	1m slot	1.29	0.25	-	2.1	-	medieval/post-medieval
62	Roadside Ditch	141	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.2.6	-	None	Romano-British
62	Roadside Ditch	142	Cut	NE-SW	2m slot	>0.95	0.30	-	2.2	-	Romano-British
62	Roadside Ditch	145	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.2.6	-	None	Romano-British
62	Roadside Ditch	146	Cut	NE-SW	1m slot	>0.35	0.27	-	2.2	-	Romano-British
63	Roadside Ditch	127	Fill	NE-SW	-	-	-	3.3.6	-	None	Romano-British
63	Roadside Ditch	144	Cut	NE-SW	2m slot	0.78	0.15	-	1.2	-	Romano-British

Primary Fill Types:

Shade	No.	Colour	No.	Composition	No.
Pale	1	Orange	1	Sand	1
Pale/Mid	2	Brown	2	Silty Sand	2
Mid	3	Grey	3	Sandy Silt	3
Mid/Dark	4	Black	4	Silt	4
Dark	5			Clay Silt	5
Very Dark	6			Silty Clay	6
				Sandy Clay	7
				Clay	8

Slot Profile Types:

Sides	No.	Base	No.
Not visible in slot	0	Not visible in slot	0
Shallow	1	Flat	1
Moderate	2	Slightly Rounded	2
Steep	3	Rounded/Concave	3
Vertical	4	V-shaped/pointed	4
Undercutting	5	Irregular	5
Irregular	6		

Acknowledgements

Client: The work was commissioned by St. Johns College, Cambridge University c/o Savills who were represented by Kier Dixon

St. John's College, Cambridge
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CB2 8PA

Groundworks Contractor: Lattenbury Services Ltd.

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CHET: The excavation was monitored on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET) by Kaisha Gdaniec

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Archaeological Contractor: The excavations were carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU).

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Project Director: Matthew Collins

Site Survey: Jonathan Moller

Excavation Team: Marlena Cygan and Rachel Thomas, with staff also provided by Past to Present Archaeology.

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Oasis Form

OASIS ID (UID)	cambridg3-511721
Project Name	Open Area Excavation at Land South of Wilberforce Road, Cambridge
Sitename	Land South of Wilberforce Road, Cambridge
Activity type	Open Area Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	ECB 6777
Planning Id	21/02052/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for Work	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project Dates	24-May-2022 - 17-Jun-2022
Location	Land South of Wilberforce Road, Cambridge
	NGR: TL 43500 58430
	LL: 52.205419377753, 0.098558294671127
	12 Fig: 543500,258430
Administrative Areas	Country: England
	County: Cambridgeshire
	District: Cambridge
	Parish: Cambridge, un-parished area
Project Methodology	Open-area excavation which aimed to 'identify, assess, excavate and record' any archaeological features, remains and deposits within the limits defined within the PDA by the previous evaluations.
Project Results	The excavation identified archaeological remains primarily dating to the Romano-British period. The main feature recorded within the site was the Romano-British road 'Akeman Street' and its associated road-side ditches which extended across both of the two excavated areas. Within the northern-most of the two areas (Area 1), the upper layers of the road, comprising the sub-layer and graveled/metaled surface partially survived, although they had been truncated by later furrows and other activity, whilst within the southern area (Area 2), these layers had been completely removed by later activity. Aside from furrows and other more recent archaeological features, the remaining feature of note was a partially preserved post-Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon burial which had been placed within the sub-ballast of the road within Area 1.
Keywords	Road - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	St. Johns College, Cambridge
HER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for	Matthew, Collins
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECB 6777
Archives	

Addendum

Further to the Oasis record, the results from this excavation have the capacity to contribute to questions raised within East of England Regional Research Framework (Medlycott 2011) as outlined below. These questions may also inform the basis for an Updated Project Design (UPD) defining the goals of any future Publication.

Regional Research Framework	Research Question Identifier	Research Question	Research Agenda
East of England	E-Sax: 03	What happened in the fifth century?	Further study and comparative analysis of these remains and those from other sites.
East of England	Other Questions	What is the relationship between 5 th century burials and pre-established route-ways?	Further study and comparative analysis of these remains and those from other sites.