



Land to the rear of 68-82 North Street, Stilton, Huntingdonshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

April 2021

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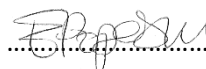


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Land to the rear of 68-82 North Street, Stilton, Huntingdonshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

From the 8th to 12th of March 2021 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an evaluation at land to the rear of 68-82 North Street, Stilton, Cambridgeshire (TL 16274 89870). A total of 16 trenches measuring 50m in length were excavated across the site, nine of these trenches were devoid of archaeology. Within the remaining trenches a series of furrows were identified with a north-east to south-west alignment and had been previously identified by a geophysical survey conducted at the site. These furrows appeared to be concentrated in the northern part of the site and although very few finds were recovered from their fills, they most probably date to the medieval to post-medieval period.

A single ditch was uncovered in Trench 12 which had a north to south alignment. A fragment of metal working debris was recovered from its fill and an environmental sample identified a single carbonised grain alongside charcoal. This ditch may represent a field boundary, although its date is uncertain.

The only other feature recorded on site was a modern ditch in Trench 16.

Very few finds were recovered from features and topsoil across the site and included two sherds of Roman pottery, three fragments of ceramic building material, a piece of flint, a piece of metal working debris, a fragment of animal bone and a single fragment of glass.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology East by Chris Thatcher. The fieldwork was directed by Kathryn Blackburn, who was supported by James McCallum and Stephanie Mathews. Survey and digitising was carried out by Valerio Pinna and Sara Alberigi. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) was commissioned by RPS to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of land to the rear of 68-82 North Street, Stilton, Cambridgeshire (TL 16274 89870; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 20/02362/REM). A brief was set by Kasia Gdaniec (2021) and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OAE (Thatcher 2021) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OAE implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the north-east edge of Stilton and comprises a single agricultural field, currently used for arable cultivation, bordered by the A1(M) road to the east, and North Street and private properties to the west. To the north is a modern farm complex, partly used as a light industrial unit, and to the south is a small grass paddock. The site boundaries are defined by a combination of fencing and hedgerows.

1.2.2 The site is broadly flat at c.15m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). It is located on a band of siltstone and sandstone of the Kellaways Sand Member, with mudstone of the Kellaways Clay Member along the eastern edge. The very western tip of the site is located on mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation. There are no recorded superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2014; British Geological Survey accessed 15/03/21).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following provides a summary of the archaeological background for the area surrounding the site, based on a 1km search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER; Fig 2) and drawn from the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) Limited (2018).

Prehistoric

1.3.2 There are two records of unstratified prehistoric finds within the wider study area. Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Flint flakes and cores were recorded during an archaeological investigation (ECB2499) c.500m to the east. An Early Bronze Age thumbnail scraper (CB14698) was found during fieldwalking (ECB2190) c.900m to the west.

Roman

1.3.3 A number of finds and features dating to the Roman period have been recorded within 1km of the site. The site lies immediately to the east of the approximate line of Ermine Street Roman road (CB15034), part of which was identified by evaluation (ECB1556)

c.330m to the north (CHER 11797). The remains comprised two flint cobble layers overlying made ground, with no roadside ditches. Evaluation and excavation some 500m to the north, recovered 10kg of later Roman pottery, stone roofing slates and blocks thought to indicate the presence of a settlement nearby, along with a 2nd to 3rd century AD enclosure with a stone-surfaced yard area (ECB1576, CHER 11925). These remains were noted to lie up to c.0.5-0.6m beneath medieval plough soils and a relatively thin layer of hill wash.

1.3.4 Spreads of Roman pottery and an associated occupation, thought to relate to rural settlement, were identified (MCB17147) c.500m to the east. These included a hearth and floor surface, kiln bars and two coins. A subsequent additional phase of investigations (ECB2499) identified three kilns – for tile and pottery production (MCB17466) and a hearth and floor surface. Two inhumations of either Roman or immediately post-Roman date were also recorded. Outside of the excavations, a geophysical survey recorded further possibly contemporary buried remains to the north-east, including kilns and ditches.

1.3.5 Unstratified finds of Roman pottery, a 2nd century coin and two fragments of tile (CB14698) were recovered c.900m to the west. A gradiometer survey (ECB2190) was undertaken in this location, which identified anomalies of potential archaeological significance.

Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

1.3.6 The putative location of an Anglo-Saxon wapentake (CHER 11831) - meeting place - lies c.815m to the north of the site. To the east, an oval enclosure (MCB17466), encompassing a raised area of land, produced no dating evidence or internal features and may represent either a hermitage or part of a post-Roman settlement.

1.3.7 Finds of two unstratified fragments of Anglo-Saxon pottery (CB14698) were recovered c.900m to the west, suggesting the presence of related features or deposits nearby.

Later medieval

1.3.8 The majority of records dating to the medieval period are for ridge and furrow within the wider area (CHER 09933, 09937, 11925, 09934, 11620, 10197, 10497 & ECB1489). A medieval field boundary and hollow way (CHER 09935) lie c.400m to the north of (ECB1556), with another (CHER 09934) located c.300m to the south. A headstone (CHER 01576) was found c.500m to the south-west of the site. A total of 20 fragments of medieval pottery (CB14698) were found c.900m to the west, possibly resulting from manuring deposits. An evaluation (ECB457), c.400m to the south, located a 'sparse' number of medieval pits and ditches (CB14635).

Post-medieval

1.3.9 Multiple records for post-medieval remains are recorded in the wider study area. These include a post-medieval quarry pit (CHER 11797) and earthwork platform (CHER 09936) located some 400m to the north of the site during an archaeological evaluation (ECB1556). A geophysical survey (ECB3381) of the Norman Cross Camp was undertaken in 2009, c.950m to the north. This recorded anomalies relating to various structures associated with the prison camp, including hospital buildings and guard

towers, were identified. A later, now demolished, WWII military depot (CB15173) was positioned in the locality of Norman Cross Camp.

- 1.3.10 A collection of stray finds (CB14698) were found c.880m to the west, including six pieces of post-medieval glass, five fragments of post-medieval pottery and five fragments of clay pipe.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To ground truth geophysical results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered
- ii. To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains
- iii. To provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- iv. To provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
- v. To set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions
- vi. To provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI (Thatcher 2021), approved by CHET, and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (2014a) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.
- 2.2.2 A total of 16 trenches measuring 50m long and 2m wide were excavated across the development area (Fig. 3). Excavation was undertaken using a 20 tonne 360-type mechanical excavator using a 2m wide ditching bucket. All machine excavation was monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.2.3 Features were excavated by hand in accordance with the WSI. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets and plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales. Photographs were taken of all trenches using a DSLR camera.
- 2.2.4 Surveying was conducted using a Leica GS08 dGPS system fitted with "smart-net" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 2.2.5 The spoil heaps of every trench were metal detected by a competent detectorist, only very modern metalwork was recovered and this was discarded on site. Bucket sampling was also conducted with 50L of topsoil and 40L of subsoil from each trench sifted through to recover any finds, of which some were recovered and are recorded below.
- 2.2.6 A single sample was taken from a ditch of an unknown date, no other deposits were suitable for environmental sampling.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of light grey and orange yellow clay was overlain by a mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil consisting of a dark grey brown clayey silt.

3.2.2 A single sherd (15g) of Roman pottery and three fragments (weighing 209g) of ceramic building material was recovered from the topsoil (1400) of Trench 14.

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, at the time of machining the trenches remained dry. During hand excavation wet weather led to some trenches becoming waterlogged. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 A total of 16 trenches were excavated, each measuring 50m in length and 2m wide (Fig. 3). Of these, nine were devoid of archaeology (Plate 1 and 2). The remaining trenches largely contained a series of furrows on a north-east to south-west alignment. A modern service ditch was identified in Trench 16 and a single ditch with a roughly north to south alignment was recorded in Trench 12.

3.4 Trenches containing furrows

3.4.1 Many of the trenches within the northern part of the site contained a series of furrows on a north-east to south-west alignment. Where present, a single furrow was excavated within each trench.

Trench 2

3.4.2 Trench 2 was located in the north-west corner of the site and had a north north-east to south south-west orientation. At its northern end was furrow **203** which measured 1m wide and 0.09m deep with gently sloped sides and a flat base. Its single fill (204) consisted of a dark yellow brown clayey silt and contained a single fragment of large mammal bone.

Trench 3

3.4.3 To the east was Trench 3 which had a north-west to south-east orientation, at its northern end was furrow **302** which measured 0.89m wide and 0.06m deep with imperceptible sides and a flat base. Its single fill (303) consisted of a mid orange brown clayey silt.

Trench 5

- 3.4.4 Along the western edge of the site was Trench 5 which had a north north-west to south south-east orientation. Furrow **502** measured 1.82m wide and 0.08m deep with shallow sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 3). Its single fill (503) consisted of a mid orange brown clayey silt and contained an undiagnostic flint core fragment weighing 80g.

Trench 7

- 3.4.5 Trench 7 had a north-west to south-east orientation and contained furrow **703** which measured 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloped sides and a concave base (Section 70300, Fig. 4; Plate 4). Its single fill (704) consisted of a light grey brown clayey silt.

Trench 8

- 3.4.6 Immediately to the east was Trench 8 which had a north to south orientation. At its southern end was furrow **803** which measured 1.06m wide and 0.06m deep with gently sloped sides and a concave base (Section 80300, Fig.4). Its single fill (804) consisted of a light grey brown clayey silt.

3.5 Trench 12

- 3.5.1 Located along the eastern edge of the site was Trench 12 which had a north-west to south-east orientation and contained a single ditch. Ditch **1203** had a roughly north to south alignment and measured 0.49m wide and 0.21m deep with sloped sides and a concave base (Section 120300, Fig. 4; Plate 5). Its single fill (1204) consisted of a dark yellow brown clayey silt and contained a single fragment of metal working debris (35g). An environmental sample of this fill identified a single carbonised wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) and occasional fragments of charcoal.

3.6 Trench 16

- 3.6.1 Trench 16 was located in the south-east corner of the site with a north-west to south-east orientation. This trench contained a modern service ditch (**1603**) which had a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 1.06m wide and over 0.34m deep (Section 160300, Fig. 4; Plate 6). The ditch was not fully excavated as a service pipe lay in its base: the ditch contained a single fill (1604) which consisted of a dark orange brown clayey silt and contained a fragment of modern glass (127g).
- 3.6.2 A single fragment of Roman pottery (weighing 18g) dating to the 1st century AD was recovered from the topsoil (1600) of this trench.

3.7 Finds and Environmental summary

- 3.7.1 A small quantity of finds were recovered from features and topsoil across the site. This included two sherds (33g) of Roman pottery, three fragments (209g) of ceramic building material, a single fragment (35g) of metal working debris, a flint core (80g), a fragment of large mammal bone and a fragment of modern glass (127g).
- 3.7.2 A single environmental sample was taken from ditch **1203** and contained a single carbonised wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) and occasional fragments of charcoal.

4 DISCUSSION

4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 The evaluation identified a series of furrows on a roughly north-east to south-west alignment within the northern part of the site which had been previously identified by a geophysical survey (Morgan 2018). Very few datable finds were recovered from these features, however a broad medieval to post-medieval date is likely due to their alignment with field boundaries observed on the earliest OS maps (1883). Ridge and furrow has also been extensively recorded within the wider area (CHER 09933, 09937, 11925, 09934, 11620, 10197, 10497 & ECB1489).
- 4.2.2 The modern ditch observed in Trench 16 also appears to correspond with a boundary ditch observed on the 1883 OS map, although the presence of a service within the ditch indicates that it was recut more recently than the late 19th century.
- 4.2.3 A solitary ditch was recorded in Trench 12, on a north to south alignment. It is probable that this ditch represented a field boundary. The recovery of just a single piece of metal working debris from its fill precludes secure dating of this feature.
- 4.2.4 The dearth of other features and finds suggests that there was no occupation within the immediate vicinity of this site.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The features identified during the evaluation indicate that the site has had a solely agricultural use.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural consists of a light grey yellow clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained a series of furrows with a NE-SW alignment. Natural consists of a light grey yellow clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.43
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	-	1	0.09	Plough Furrow	-	Med/PM
204	Fill	203	1	0.09	Secondary Fill	Mammal bone	Med/PM
Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained a series of furrows with a NE-SW alignment. Natural consists of a light grey yellow clay, overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.44
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
302	Cut	-	0.89	0.06	Plough Furrow	-	Med/PM
303	Fill	302	0.89	0.06	Secondary fill	-	Med/PM
304	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 4							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural consists of a light orange yellow clay overlain by topsoil.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.25

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 5							
General description					Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench contained a series of furrows with a NE-SW alignment. The natural geology of yellow orange clay was overlain by subsoil and topsoil.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.44
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
502	Cut	-	1.82	0.08	Plough Furrow	-	Med/PM
503	Fill	502	1.82	0.08	Secondary fill	Flint	Med/PM
504	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 6							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. The natural geology consisted of a mid yellow orange clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 7							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained a series of furrows with a NE to SW alignment. The natural geology consisted of a mid yellow clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Cut	-	1.2	0.1	Plough Furrow	-	Med/PM
704	Fill	703	1.2	0.1	Secondary Fill	-	Med/PM
Trench 8							
General description					Orientation		N-S
					Length (m)		50

Trench contained a series of furrows with a NE to SW alignment. The natural geology consisted of a mid yellow clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
803	Cut	-	1.06	0.06	Plough Furrow	-	Med/PM
804	Fill	803	1.06	0.06	Secondary Fill	-	Med/PM
Trench 9							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. The natural geology consisted of a mid yellow clay which was overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	-	0.15-0.2	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 10							
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consists of a mid yellow orange clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	-	0.25-0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	-	0.05-0.2	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 11							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench was devoid of archaeology. The natural geology consisted of a mid yellow grey clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	-	0.1-0.2	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 12							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	

Trench contained a single ditch with a N to S alignment. The natural geology consisted of a mid orange grey clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1203	Cut	-	0.49	0.21	Ditch	-	IA/Rom?
1204	Fill	1203	0.49	0.21	Secondary Fill	Slag	IA/Rom?
Trench 13							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consisted of a mid orange grey clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.47	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	-	0.28-0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	-	0.15-0.2	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 14							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consisted of mid yellow orange clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	-	0.3	Topsoil	Pot and CBM	-
1401	Layer	-	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 15							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consisted of mid orange clay					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	-	0.3-0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	-	0.2-0.3	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 16							

General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology and contained a service ditch. The natural geology consisted of a mixed yellow clay and orange gravel overlain by subsoil and topsoil					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		2
					Avg. depth (m)		0.55
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	-	0.32	Topsoil	Pot	-
1601	Layer	-	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1603	Cut	-	1.06	0.34	Modern ditch	-	Mod
1604	Fill	1603	1.06	0.34	Deliberate Backfill	Glass	Mod

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Flint

By Rona Booth

- B.1.1 A possible core fragment (weighing 80g) was recovered from the base of furrow **503**. It is very worn and not particularly diagnostic. The piece is fully recorded and if further work is carried out at the site, then it should be incorporated into the report.

B.2 Metal working debris

By Kathryn Blackburn

- B.2.1 A single piece of iron slag, weighing 35g was recovered from the fill of ditch **1203** and may date to as early as the Iron Age or Roman periods.

B.3 Roman Pottery

By Kathryn Blackburn

Introduction

- B.3.1 An assemblage of Roman pottery totalling two sherds, weighing 33g was recovered, representing a minimum of 2 individual vessels. Varying levels of abrasion occurred on these sherds and they range in date from the 1st to 2nd century AD and have an average sherd weight of 16.5g.

Methodology

- B.3.2 The pottery was analysed following the national guidelines (Barclay *et al* 2016) and with reference to the national fabric series (Tomber and Dore 1998) and also Tyers (1996). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Vessel forms were recorded and vessel types cross-referenced and compared to other examples. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. OA East curates the pottery and archive.

The Pottery

- B.3.3 Two pottery fabric types were identified (Table 1) and the assemblage comprises locally made coarse ware jars.

Fabric Type	Forms	No. Sherds	Weight (g)
SGW (GROG) Sandy grey ware with grog temper	Jar	1	18
SGW (OX) Sandy grey ware with oxidised surface	Jar	1	15
Grand Total		2	33

Table 1: Roman pottery by fabric family

Results

- B.3.4 Roman pottery was recovered from two features from two trenches across the site. A single sherd (weighing 15g) of the base of a sandy grey ware jar with oxidised surfaces was recovered from the topsoil (1400) of Trench 14.
- B.3.5 A single sherd (weighing 18g) of a hand made jar in a sandy grey ware with grog tempered fabric, was recovered from the topsoil (1600) of Trench 16. This sherd dates to the 1st century AD.

Conclusion

- B.3.6 The two fragments of Roman pottery indicate that some Roman activity may have been present within the vicinity of the site; however no features were dated to this period.

B.4 Ceramic Building Material

By Kathryn Blackbourn and Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- B.4.1 Three fragments (weighing 209g) of ceramic building material were recovered from the topsoil (1400) of Trench 14. Two of the fragments were a red orange fabric with rare large chalk inclusions. Both fragments have one flat surface and are probably fragments of brick of a post-medieval date. The remaining fragment is a light pink orange fabric with occasional small chalk fragments with all surfaces heavily abraded. A post-medieval date is probable.

B.5 Glass

By Kathryn Blackbourn

- B.5.1 A single fragment of the base of a modern clear glass jar, weighing 127g, was recovered from fill 1604 of modern ditch **1603**. The fragment of glass is modern in date and likely dates the deliberate backfilling of the ditch.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 One bulk sample was taken from a feature within the evaluated area at North Street, Stilton, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The sample was taken from ditch **1203**, which is unknown in date.

Methodology

C.1.2 The sample was soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (8L) of the sample was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the sample was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.1.3 The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and OAE's own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

C.1.5 # = 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

Results

C.1.6 Sample 1, fill 1204 of ditch **1203** (Trench 12), contains a single carbonised wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) and occasional fragments of charcoal. This sample was devoid of any molluscs.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Trench No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal Volume (ml)
1	1204	1203	12	Ditch	8	5	#	1

Table 2: Environmental samples

Discussion

- C.1.7 The recovery of a carbonised wheat grain and small quantity of charcoal indicates that there is potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. However, it is difficult to make predictions based on a single sample from the site.
- C.1.8 The small quantity of plant remains recovered is likely to represent a background scatter of refuse material from the surrounding area.
- C.1.9 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Zoe Ui Choileáin

Introduction

- C.2.1 Fill 204 (furrow **203**) contains a single fragment of large mammal long bone. The fragment is weathered and best represents a grade 3 on McKinley's scale (2004). This means the majority of the surface of the cortical bone is eroded.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name: Land to the rear of 68-82 North Street, Stilton, Huntingdonshire
Site code: STLNST21
Grid Reference TL 16274 89870

Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 8th March – 5 days

Area of Site

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OAE, 15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, CB23 8SQ, and will be deposited with CCC in due course, under the following accession number:

Summary of Results: A number of furrows on a north-east to south-west alignment were identified alongside a single undated ditch and modern ditch. Finds were scarce.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-419234
Project Name	Land to the rear of 68-82 North Street, Stilton, Huntingdonshire

Start of Fieldwork	08/03/21	End of Fieldwork	12/03/21
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STLNST21	Planning App. No.	20/02362/REM
HER Number	ECB 6581	Related Numbers	

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument Period

Ditch	Uncertain
Ditch	Modern (1901 to present)
furrow	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Object Period

bone	Uncertain
flint	Late Prehistoric (- 4000 to 43)
glass	Modern (1901 to present)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) 68-82 North Street Stilton Peterborough PE7 3RU
District	Huntingdon	
Parish	Stilton	
HER office	Cambridge	
Size of Study Area		
National Grid Ref	TL 16274 89870	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	Chris Thatcher
Project Manager	Chris Thatcher
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Blackburn

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB 6581
Digital Archive	OAE	STLNST21
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 6581

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media

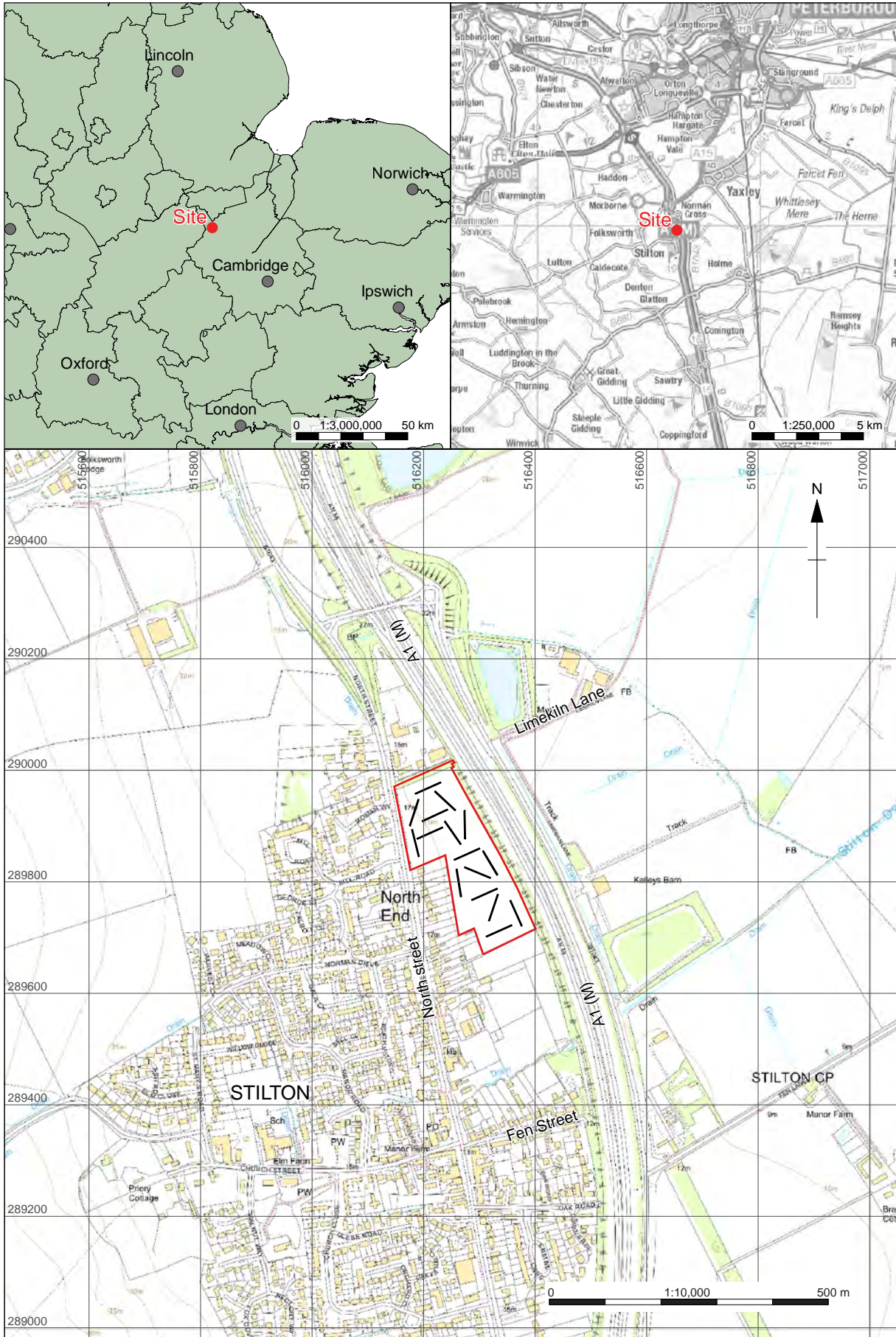
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Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>

Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matrices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)



Figure 2: ChER entries mentioned in the text



Figure 3: Site plan with geophysics results (EDP, 2008 - Pag. 37)

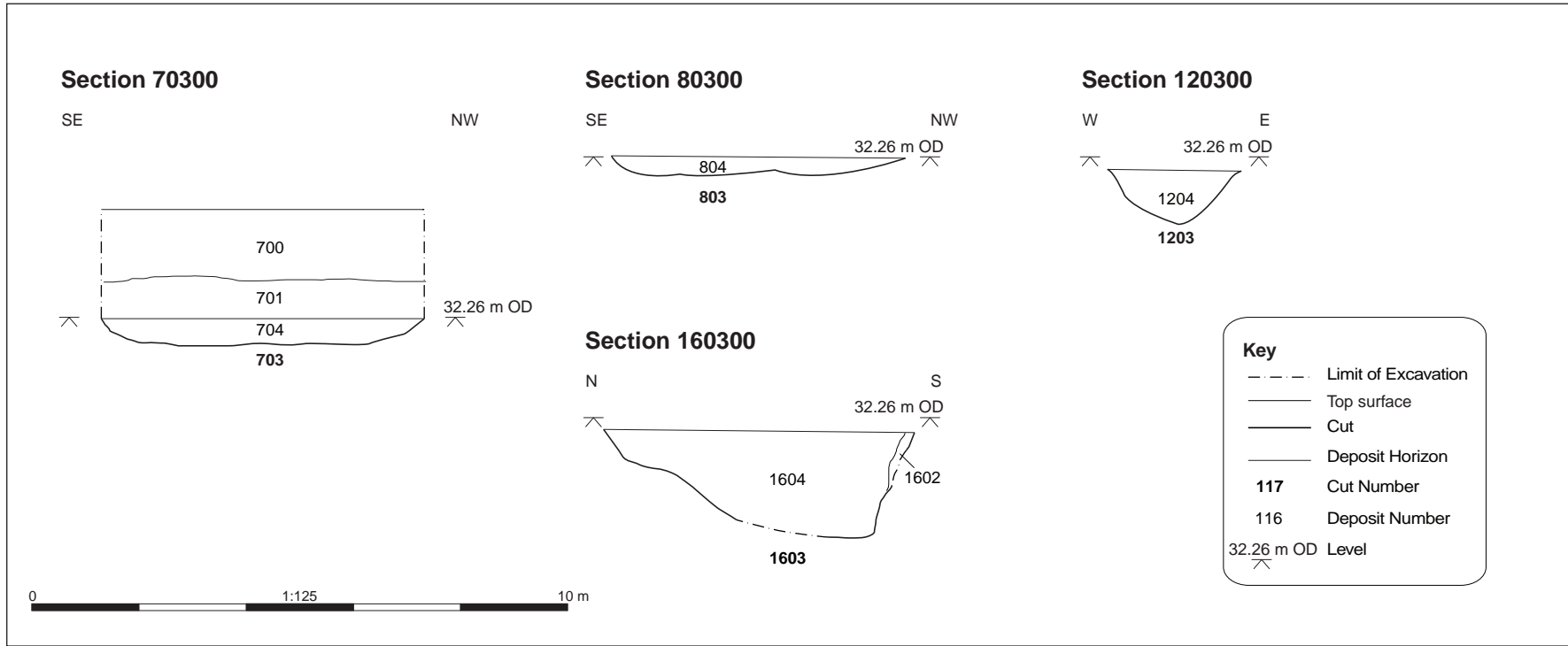


Figure 4: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 6, looking north-east



Plate 2: Trench 3, looking south-east



Plate 3: Furrow 502, Trench 5, looking north-east



Plate 4: Furrow 703, Trench 7, looking south-west



Plate 5: Ditch **1203**, Trench 12, looking north north-west



Plate 6: Ditch **1603**, Trench 16, looking north-east



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